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PROBE MOLECULE STUDIES: ACTIVE SPECIES IN ALCOHOL SYNTHESIS. TENTH QUARTERLY REPORT, JANUARY 1993--MARCH 1993

PITTSBURGH UNIV., PA. DEPT. OF CHEMICAL AND PETROLEUM ENGINEERING

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PROBE MOLECULE STUDIES: ACTIVE SPECIES IN ALCOHOL SYNTHESIS

10th Quarterly Report January 1993 - March 1993

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March 1993

Prepared for the U.S. Department of Energy under Grant No. DE-FG22-90PC-90305

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1. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF WORK

The goal of this research is to develop a better understanding of the mechanisms of formation of alcohols and other oxygenates from syngas over supported catalysts. Probe molecules are added in situ during the reaction to help delineate reaction pathways and identify reaction intermediate species. The key of our study is to investigate how the species generated by these probe molecules interact with surface species present during oxygenate formation.

The catalysts chosen for this investigation is $Co/Cu/ZnO/Al_2O_3$. Detailed motivations for studying this system as well as using CH_3NO_2 as the probe molecule were given in a previous report^[1].

2. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

(A) X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) experiments were carried out on calcined and reduced samples of Co(0%)/Cu/ZnO and Co(10%)/Cu/ZnO catalysts.

(B) The extent of reduction of the copper and cobalt phases in the Co(0, 5 and 10%)/Cu/ZnO catalysts was estimated from XPS, TPR, and XRD results^[2].

(C) A Co(5%)/Al₂O₃ catalyst was prepared to be used as a base catalyst for the study of probe molecule addition.

(D) CO hydrogenation under the same conditions used before^{II} was conducted over the Co(5%)/Al₂O₃ catalyst as well as a Co/Cu/ZnO/Al₂O₃ catalyst (ZC45) prepared by coprecipitation method^{II}.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF TECHNICAL PROGRESS

(A) XPS Experiments

The calcined and reduced samples of Co(0%)/Cu/ZnO and Co(10%)/Cu/ ZnO catalysts were studied by XPS. Figure 1 shows the XPS patterns of Cu 2p







Figure 1. XPS Patterns of Cu 2p and Co 2p in (a) oxidized and (b) reduced samples of Co(0%)/Cu/ZnO and Co(10%)/Cu/ZnO catalysts.

and Co 2p in both oxidized and reduced catalysts. Table 1 lists both the measured and the reference values of photoelectron (2p, 3/2), Auger energy and the Auger parameter for Cu. Both Cu 2p peak shape and the Auger parameters indicate the reduction to copper metal. It is clearly shown by the results of this study that copper was completely reduced in both samples prior to the reaction and cobalt was only partially reduced in the 10% Co catalyst.

		and the second	
nple	2p 3/2	Auger Energy	α
wt% of Co		(LMM)	
0	933.76	569.04	1851.32
10	934.1 4	569.23	1851.51
0	923.42	567.75	1851.27
10	932.67	568.04	1851.23
per ^[4]			
u	932.67	567.95	1851.32
1 ₂ O	932.40	569.80	1849.40
10	933.80	568.70	1851.70
	nple wt% of Co 0 10 0 10 10 per ^[4] tu 12 0	nple $2p 3/2$ wt% of Co0933.7610934.140923.4210932.67per ^[4] 32.67 4_2O 932.4010933.80	nple $2p 3/2$ Auger Energywt% of Co(LMM)0933.76569.0410934.14569.230923.42567.7510932.67568.04 per^{t4} u 932.67 a_2O 932.40569.8010933.80

Table 1. Measured and reference values of photoelectron, Auger energy and Auger parameter (α) for Cu.

(B) Estimation of the Reduction Extent of Copper and Cobalt Phases.

Both the XRD^[2] and XPS results show that in the reduced samples of Co(0, 5 and 10%)/Cu/ZnO catalysts, copper was completely reduced. Using this information (100% reduction of copper phase), the reduction extent of cobalt in the cobalt containing catalysts was estimated from the H₂ uptake amounts obtained by temperature programmed reduction^[2]. The results are listed in Table 2. It is shown that the cobalt phase $(-o_3O_4)$ in the 5% Co catalyst was nearly completely reduced but in the 10% Co catalyst only partially

reduced.

The evidences of complete reduction of copper suggest that surface Cu° is the active element for methanol formation and the suppression of methanol by addition of cobalt^[2] seems mainly caused by blocking the surface Cu°. The partial reduction of cobalt in the Co(10%)/Cu/ZnO catalyst might be the reason why the increase of hydrocarbon formation with increased loading of Co from 5% to 10% was insignificant.

Catalysts (wt% of Co)	H ₂ -U] (μmol/		Co Reduction (%)	
	Measured	Calcu	ılated [*]	
	$CuO+Co_3O_4$	CuO	$\rm Co_3O_4$	
0	5.10	5.10	-	-
5	5.91	4.85	1.13	94.2
10	5.90	4.59	2.26	58.1

Table 2. Estimation of the reduction extent of cobalt phase in Co(5 and 10%)/Cu/ZnO catalysts from the TPR data.

* Assuming 100% reduction of copper.

(C) Preparation of $Co(5\%)/Al_2O_3$.

In the attempt to distinguish the behavior of probe molecule on Co surface from Cu surface, a Co(5%, wt)/Al₂O₃ catalyst was prepared by wet impregnation of α -Al₂O₃ (1 m²/g) with cobalt nitrate. The pretreatment for this catalyst followed the same procedures as for the impregnated Co/Cu/ZnO catalysts^[5].

(D) CO Hydrogenation over the $Co(5\%)/Al_2O_3$ and ZC45.

CO hydrogenation reaction was conducted under the same conditions

used before (500 psig, 290 °C, GHSV=6000~60000 hr⁻¹)^[2] over both the Co(5%)/ Al_2O_3 catalyst and a Co/Cu/ZnO/ Al_2O_3 catalyst (ZC45) prepared by coprecipitation method.

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The steady state CO hydrogenation data over $Co(5\%)/Al_2O_3$ catalyst is reported in Table 3 with the data obtained over Co(5%)/Cu/ZnO catalyst^[2] for comparison. As expected, the catalyst made mainly hydrocarbons. This result suggests that this catalyst is a good candidate for studying the behavior of probe molecule addition to CO/H_2 over Co° surface.

PRODUCTS	ACT	IVITY	SELECTIVITY		
	Co(5%)/Al ₂ O ₃	Co(5%)/Cu/ZnO	Co(5%)/Al ₂ O ₃	Co(5%)/Cu/ZnO	
	µmol/	g-cat/min	<u>%</u> ,	umol	
OXYGENATES:	14.5	26.6	2.3	76.4	
CH,OH	10.8	23.9	1.7	68.7	
CH-OCH-	0.0	⁻ 0.8	0.0	2.3	
CH_CH_OH	3.3	1.5	0.5	4.2	
CH_CH_CH_OH	0.4	0.4	0.1	1.2	
CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
HYDROCARBONS:	618.5	8.2	97.7	23.6	
CH₄	515.8	5.3	81.5	15.3	
C,H ₄ +C ₂ H ₆	41.3	1.9	6.5	5.4	
C ₃ + HCs	61.4	1.0	9.7	2.9	
CO ₂ :	43.3	16.3			
TOTAL:	676.3	51.1			
	Carbon conversion, %				
	2.5	1.5			

Table 3. Steady State Data of the CO Hydrogenation over Co(5%)/Al₂O₃ and Co(5%)/Cu/ ZnO/Al₂O₃ at 500 psig; 290°C; H₂:CO = 80:40 (cc/min); GHSV = 6000~60000 hr⁻¹.

* CO₂ is not included.

The Co/Cu/Zn/Al catalyst prepared by coprecipitation (ZC45) has an atomic ratio of the metals Co : Cu : Zn : Al = 0.5 : 1.0 : 1.25 : 1.1, and contains 10.6 wt% Co. The steady state data of CO hydrogenation over this catalyst is presented in Table 4 and 5. In Table 4, it is compared with the published data over a Co/Cu/Al catalyst (with Co : Cu : Al = 1.05 : 1.0 : 2.01) which was prepared in a similar way^[3]. It shows that under our condition (290°C, 500 psig) the overall activity of ZC45 was comparable to that of Co/Cu/Al under higher pressure (735 psig) and at lower temperature (275 °C). The most significant difference in selectivity was in methanol formation which might be due to the different Co:Cu ratios and different reaction temperatures. In Table 5, the reaction data obtained with ZC45 is compared with the data obtained with Co(10%)/Cu/ZnO catalyst prepared by impregnation method^[2]. It shows that the activities for higher alcohols and hydrocarbons over ZC45 (Cu:Co=2) were only slightly higher than those over the Co(10%)/Cu/ZnOcatalyst (Cu:Co~3), but ZC45 produced much less methanol than the Co(10%)/ Cu/ZnO catalyst. Thus the higher selectivities observed for higher alcohols as well as hydrocarbons were mainly caused by suppression of methanol.

Conditions for Co/Cu/Al	cataly	st:				
P = 735 psig	, T =	275 °C,	GHSV =	5000 hi	-1, CO:	$H_2 = 2.$
ACTIVITY (µmol-C/g-cat/min)			SELEC (wi	TIVITY : %)		
	HC	Alc	сн _з он	C2+OH	CH4	C2+HC
98.0	46.0	54.0	29,2	24.8	16.4	29.6
Conditions for Co/Cu/Zn/Al (ZC45): $P = 500 \text{ psig}, T = 290 \text{ °C}, \text{ GHSV} = 6000 \text{ hr}^{-1}, \text{ CO:H}_2 = 2.$						
ACTIVITY			SELEC	TIVITY		
(μ mol-C/g-cat/min)			(w	t %)		
	HC	Alc	сн _з он	C2+OH	CH4	C2+HC
98.4	61.8	38.2	4.1	34.1	18.9	42.9

Table 4. CO hydrogenation data over Co/Cu/Zn/Al (ZC45) and Co/Cu/Al^[3]

PRODUCTS	ACTIVITY			SELECTIVITY*			
	ZC45	10%-Co		ZC45	10%-Co		
	µmol	mol/g-cat/min			%, <u>umol</u>		
OXYGENATES:	8.6	25.5		37.0	67.3		
СН₃ОН	4.2	22.3		18.1	58.9		
CH3OCH3	0.0	0.2		. 0.0	0.4		
CH ₃ CH ₂ OH	3.1	2.1		13.3	5.6		
CH3CH2CH2OH	0.8	0.8		3.5	2.1		
CH3CH2CH2CH2OH	0.5	0.1		2.1	0.3		
HYDROCARBONS:	14.7	12.4		63.0	32.7		
CH ₄	7.9	9.6		33.8	25.4		
C ₂ H ₄ +C ₂ H ₆	3.0	2.0		12.7	5.3		
C ₃ + HCs	3.8	0.8		16.5	2.0		
COż	55.5	20.1					
TOTAL:	78.8	57.9					
•	Carbo	Carbon conversion, %					
	2.1	1.7					

Table 5. Steady State Data of the CO Hydrogenation over ZC45 and Co(10%)/Cu/ZnO $/Al_2O_3$ at 500 psig; 290°C; H_2 :CO = 80:40 (cc/min); GHSV = 6000~60000 hr⁻¹.

* CO_2 is not included.

4. PLANS FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

The following experiments are planned for the next reporting periods:

a) CO hydrogenation reactions over a series of Cu/Co/Cr catalysts prepared by coprecipitation method by Murty's group^[6]. Comparing the activities and selectivities within the series and with the ZC45, a catalyst producing the most C_{2^+} alcohols will be selected for further mechanistic study by probe molecule addition.

b) Studies of probe molecule addition over the selected catalyst and the $Co(5\%)/Al_2O_3$.

c) Characterization studies of the selected catalyst and the $Co(5\%)/Al_2O_3$.

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