

CONF-8311150 SUMMS

# **Proceedings of the Fifth Meeting on Basic Heterogeneous Catalysis Surface Science Research**

**November 7-9, 1983  
National Bureau of Standards  
Gaithersburg, MD**

Published: March 1984



**U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Basic Energy Sciences  
Office of Chemical Sciences  
Office of Materials Sciences  
Washington, D.C. 20545**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
II. DISCUSSION SUMMARY. . . . .	3
III. PROJECT SUMMARIES	
IV. APPENDIX	
Program . . . . .	97
Attendance List . . . . .	99
Project Summaries:	
Bartholomew, Calvin H. . . . .	5
Brigham Young University	
Metal-Support Interactions: Their Effects Upon Adsorption, Electronic, and Activity/Selectivity Properties of Cobalt in CO Hydrogenation	
Bell, Alexis T. . . . .	7
Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory	
Catalytic Hydrogenation of CO: Catalysis by Supported Metals	
Biloen, Paul . . . . .	9
University of Pittsburgh	
The Carbonaceous Ad-Layer as Rate Controlling Factor in CO/H <sub>2</sub> Catalysis	
Bradley, E. B. . . . .	11
University of Kentucky	
A Fundamental Study of Catalysis Using Laser Raman, Infrared, Auger Electron Spectroscopy and Low Energy Electron Diffraction	
Brenner, Alan . . . . .	13
Wayne State University	
Synthesis, Static, and Reactive Characterization of Supported Organometallics	
Boudart, M. . . . .	15
Stanford University	
Catalytic Gasification of Carbon	
Butt, John B . . . . .	17
Cohen, Jerome B.	
Burwell, Robert L., Jr.	
Northwestern University	
The Properties of Supported Metal Catalysis	
Casey, Charles P . . . . .	19
University of Wisconsin	
Mechanistic Studies Related to the Metal Catalyzed Hydro- genation of Carbon Monoxide to Hydrocarbons	

Coleman, Robert V. . . . .	21
University of Virginia	
Spectroscopy of Surface Adsorbed Molecules	
Ekerdt, John G. . . . .	23
The University of Texas	
Study of Synthesis Gas Conversion Over Metal Oxides	
Falconer, John L. . . . .	25
University of Colorado	
Promoter Modifications of Catalytic Activity and Selectivity	
Gerstein, B. C. . . . .	27
Ames Laboratory	
Zeolites; Characterization and Catalyses of Methanol Conversion	
Goodman, D. Wayne . . . . .	29
Sandia National Laboratories	
Reaction Kinetics Over Single Crystal Catalysis	
Greene, E. F. . . . .	31
Brown University	
Interaction of Molecules With Surfaces	
Gruen, D. M. . . . .	33
Argonne National Laboratory	
Structure of Adsorbate Layers and Electronic Configurations of Metal Clusters	
Haaland, David M. . . . .	35
Sandia National Laboratories	
FT-IR Catalyst Studies	
Haller, Gary L. . . . .	37
Yale University	
Selectivity, Activity and Metal-Support Interactions of Group VIII Bimetallic Catalysts	
Hansen, Robert S. . . . .	39
Ames Laboratory	
Catalytic Reactions Associated with Coal Liquefaction and Fuel Synthesis	
Heinemann, Heinz . . . . .	41
Somorjai, G. A.	
Bell, A. T.	
Fish, R. H.	
Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory	
Chemistry and Morphology of Coal Liquefaction	
Henrich, Victor E. . . . .	43
Yale University	
The Role of d-Electrons in Chemisorption and Metal-Support Interactions Studied by Electron Spectroscopy	

Hercules, David M. . . . .	45
University of Pittsburgh	
Studies of Supported Metal Catalysts	
Iton, Lennox E. . . . .	47
Argonne National Laboratory	
Studies of Zeolites	
Klier K. . . . .	49
Simmons, G. W.	
Lehigh University	
Mechanisms and Controlling Characteristics of the Catalytic Oxidation of Methane	
Kung, Harold H. . . . .	51
Northwestern University	
Solid State, Surface and Catalytic Studies of Oxides	
Lichtenberger, Dennis L . . . . .	53
University of Arizona	
Chemical Activation of Molecules by Metals: Experimental Studies of Electron Distributions and Bonding	
Lunsford, Jack H . . . . .	55
Texas A&M University	
Catalysts and Mechanisms in Synthesis Reactions	
Madey, Theodore E. . . . .	57
Kelley, Richard D.	
National Bureau of Standards	
Structure and Reactivity of Chemisorbed Species and Reaction Intermediates	
Madix, Robert J . . . . .	59
Stanford University	
Molecular Beam Studies of the Dynamics and Kinetics of Heterogeneous Reactions on Single Crystal Surfaces	
Muetterties, Earl L . . . . .	60
Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory	
Surface Chemistry - Application of Coordination Principles	
Overbury S. H. . . . .	61
Oak Ridge National Laboratory	
Heterogeneous Catalysis Related to Energy Systems	
Pearson, Ralph G . . . . .	63
Barrett, Paul H.	
University of California-Santa Barbara	
Reactions of Metal Atoms and Clusters in Low Temperature Matrices	

Rathke, J. W . . . . .	65
Klinger, R. J.	
Argonne National Laboratory	
A New Catalytic Pathway for Methanol Synthesis	
Reucroft, P. J. . . . .	67
De Angleis, R. J.	
University of Kentucky	
&	
J. Bentley	
Oak Ridge National Laboratory	
Structural Characterization of Dispersed Metal Catalysts	
Rieke, Reuben D . . . . .	69
The University of Nebraska-Lincoln	
Studies on Unusually Reactive Metal Powders. Preparation of	
New Organometallic and Organic Compounds Including Potential	
New Catalysis	
Riley, Stephen J . . . . .	71
Parks, Eric K.	
Wexler, Sol	
Argonne National Laboratory	
Chemical Reactions of Transition Metal Clusters	
Rosynek, Michael P. . . . .	73
Texas A&M University	
Properties of Lanthanide Oxides as Supports for Transition	
Metal Catalysts	
Rye, R. R. . . . .	75
Houston, J. E.	
Sandia National Laboratories	
Auger Electron Spectroscopy	
Schrader, Glenn L. . . . .	77
Ames Laboratory	
Spectroscopic and Kinetic Characterization of Metal Oxide	
and Sulfide Catalysts	
Sham, T. K. . . . .	79
Carr, R.	
Brookhaven National Laboratory	
Electronic Structures of Solids and Their Surfaces	
Somorjai, G. A. . . . .	81
Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory	
Catalytic Hydrogenation of CO: Catalysis on Well-Character-	
ized Surfaces	
Spicer, Leonard D. . . . .	85
University of Utah	
Dynamic and Mechanistic Studies of Catalytic Reactions Using	
Photochemical Probes	

Stencel, John M . . . . .	87
Pittsburgh Energy Technology Center	
Vibrational Spectroscopic Studies of Coal Conversion Catalysts	
Suib, Steven L. . . . .	89
University of Connecticut	
Highly Dispersed Metal Atoms in Zeolites	
Vannice, M. Albert . . . . .	91
The Pennsylvania State University	
A Study of Metal-Support Interactions in Ni, Pd, Pt Catalysts	
Wise, Henry . . . . .	93
SRI International	
Adsorption Thermodynamics and Surface Transport of Metal Catalyst Poisons	
Yates, John T., Jr. . . . .	95
University of Pittsburgh	
Infrared Studies of the Influence of Alkali Metals on the C-O Bond in Chemisorbed Carbon Monoxide	

DOE

HETEROGENEOUS CATALYSIS RESEARCH MEETING

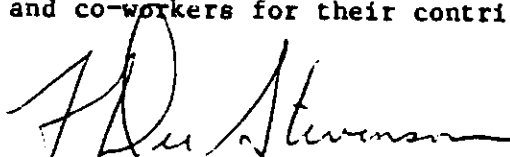
Office of Basic Energy Sciences

1. Introduction

This report summarizes the proceedings of the fifth DOE/BES meeting on basic heterogeneous catalysis and surface science research which was jointly sponsored by the Division of Chemical Sciences and the Division of Materials Sciences. Participants in this meeting included researchers from the DOE Laboratories, University researchers currently receiving BES support for catalysis and/or surface science research, and representatives from DOE Headquarters Divisions.

The meeting was held primarily to (1) acquaint each participant, including the DOE administrative staff, with the research being currently supported, (2) to identify the most recent notable accomplishments, and (3) to focus attention on the needed but unanswered technical and scientific questions. Because of time limitations, only part of the principal investigators present were able to give a review of their research.

Following the presentations, the industrial representatives commented on industrial research needs, after which there was a discussion on surface science and its potential contribution to catalysis. Summary of the discussion period was prepared by Dr. Robert P. Eischens of the Division of Chemical Sciences and is included in the Summary of this report. Brief project summaries constitutes the balance of this report. Special thanks go to Bob Eischens for organizing this meeting and for the report summary and, also, to each participant and co-workers for their contributions.



F. Dee Stevenson  
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## Discussion Summary

Because of the direct relationship between heterogeneous catalysis and energy, and because of the scientific opportunities in this field, support of basic catalysis research by DOE's Office of Basic Energy Sciences has expanded significantly during the last decade. Currently this large and diverse catalysis program is a representative cross section of the goals and accomplishments of basic catalysis researchers in the United States. Forty-six research descriptions were submitted for the meeting. There was not sufficient time for oral presentations on all of the projects. Therefore emphasis was placed on topics such as metal-support interactions and surface science where the numbers of projects warranted mini-symposia to be organized within the overall meeting format.

Metal-support interactions have been of interest since G.-M. Schwab focussed attention on this concept about four decades ago. Schwab limited the definition of metal-support effect to cases where the support was a semiconductor, such as alumina, and the effect could be attributed to transfer of electrons at the metal-semiconductor interface. This definition excluded effects due to differences in the particle size of the supported metal or to formation of difficultly reduced mixed oxides. Over the intervening years there were many examples of the modification of catalytic activity of supported metals. However, none of these examples were sufficiently well established to be widely accepted as attributable to metal-support effects as defined by Schwab. This was changed by Tauster's discovery of the modification of platinum on titania which he attributed to electron transfer although not precisely in the semiconductor-metal context as visualized by Schwab. Most of the metal-support effect presentations in the meeting directly, or by implication, were based on acceptance of Tauster's electron transfer mechanism. However, Henrich reported results suggesting that, under strong reducing conditions, rhodium disappears from the surface of Rh/TiO<sub>2</sub> samples by diffusion of the rhodium into the support or by migration of the support over the surface of the rhodium. This mechanism would not be considered a metal-support effect so the question of metal-support interactions is not yet satisfactorily answered.

Representatives of industry were invited to attend the meeting and participate in the discussions. The discussion of "An Industrial View of Current Catalysis Research" benefited from the productive contributions of John Larson, Mordecai Shelef, Sam Tauster, John Peri, and Mike Kelley. The objective of the BES catalysis program is to gain information pertinent to and understanding of the fundamental aspects of catalysis rather than attempting to discover and develop better catalysts. The consensus of the industrial representatives was in accord with this concept of the proper role of BES sponsored research.

The discussion of which types of surface science are of most value to catalysis research was led by Alex Bell, Dave Hercules, John Yates, and Marv Poutsma. Specific support was given to the need to study catalyst surfaces while reactions are in progress. The vibrational spectroscopies, infrared and Raman, are most easily applicable to such studies. Electronic spectroscopies, such as Auger and XPS, were cited as having special utility because they could be applied to practical catalysis such as used for hydrodesulfurization. Marv Poutsma indicated that solid state NMR has a promising potential in catalysis studies. There was general agreement with this evaluation of the potential of NMR.



Two of the objectives of this series of heterogeneous catalysis meetings have been to acquaint industrial researchers with the BES program and to expose the BES sponsored investigators to the views of catalysis experts from industry. Because of the limited emphasis on publication of industrial work, it is difficult for academic researchers to become acquainted with the science underlying the strengths of the nations industrial catalysis effort. These strengths have led to the development of some of the world's greatest industries and have made possible American leadership in catalysis. Academic institutions have contributed by providing the sophisticated trained manpower which is essential for successful industrial research. As not constituted, DOE grants for academic research appear to be sufficiently flexible to support exposure of faculty and students to work in industrial laboratories for periods of a few months. It is hoped that methods can be devised to utilize such temporary transfers to improve the interaction between industrial and academic catalysis workers.

Earl Muettert was scheduled to make a presentation at this meeting. He made many significant contributions to DOE catalysis programs and gave promise of many more. He will be sorely missed.



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