Robert Schlögl Fritz-Haber-Institut der MPG

#### VANADIUM OXIDES IN SELECTIVE OXIDATION CATALYSIS: DYNAMICS







#### FUNDAMENTALS







#### The function of a catalyst: The single crystal approach







#### Bulk lattice oxygen vs surface lattice oxygen







# Di-oxygen as oxidant

- Atomic chemisorbed oxygen (created typically in UHV) is amphoteric in redox properties: at "virtual pressure" → sub-surface
- Sub-surface oxygen is not reactive but
  - Polarizes the surface for adsorption
  - Restructures the surface by incorporation (autocatalytic)
  - Segregates to the surface as O nucleo
  - Polarizes atomic oxygen into O electro
- Electrophilic oxygen
  - Oxidizes functional substrates (CO, olefines)
  - Creates all oxygenate organic molecules
- Nucleophilic oxygen
  - Activates C-H bonds into functional substrates
  - Creates basicity and binds water (OH)



#### With metals





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### Catalyst material science



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### Catalyst dynamics







#### Consequences

- Active catalysts cannot be prepared: precursors activate in chemical potential of reactants.
- {Structure} of the precursor controls composition and structure of the active phase.
- Analysis of fresh precursors and ex situ allow limited conclusions about active state.
- The same precursor will catalyze different processes under different conditions: screen and optimize operation conditions as much as precursor compositions.





### CASE STUDY: V<sub>X</sub>O<sub>Y</sub> IN VPO FOR BUTANE OXIDATION





### Butane oxidation: the challenge





J.-C. Volta, (2000)







### VPP structure: crystal?







#### Order and activity







### VPO The mystery of a reaction



#### Bulk structural dynamics: The V<sup>5+</sup> component





#### In-situ XPS of VPO in Riser Mode

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#### How much of a catalyst is "active" in steady state ?



Reversible modifications of a fraction of the surface





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#### Electronic Structure: EELS vs NEXAFS Spatial vs surface sensitivity



### Dynamics of the active phase



#### **MODEL CATALYSTS**







#### Surface organometallic synthesis: V-SBA 15 as active model



#### Support effects: "silica" How sensitive are detection methods?



#### Two impregantion methods on powder and mesoporous silica



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### The activated state



Freund et al., Surf. Sci. 539, 2003

XPS sees a local coordination similar to pyramidal but with a reduced electron density than in  $V_2O_5$  giving rise to a relaxation shift ("naked V atom")



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#### 0.8V/SBA 15: propane adsorption



Per surface area, the V-containing catalyst adsorbed more propane.  $\rightarrow \Delta n_{ads} \sim 0.5 \ \mu mol/m^2$  Si-OH + Si-O-V-OH / V-O-V-OH  $\rightarrow$  not detectable in the IR spectrum

#### 10<sup>10</sup> sites per mm<sup>2</sup>





### **Reaction pathway**



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### **Reaction pathway**



### V-SBA15: a functional model





# CONSEQUENCES OF A CASE STUDY: $V_XO_Y$ AS CATALYST



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#### What have we learnt







# Termination





Analytical challenge of identification: only in situ, sub-monolayer

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### **Compositional dynamics**







### Catalyst dynamics





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#### Active sites in a high performance catalyst

- An active heterogeneous catalyst contains adaptive sites for reaction.
- They adapt their structure according to the local chemical potential and guarantee selective operation on progressively more reactive adsorbates.
- The complex structure of the precursors is required to fix the chemical potential of the active phase in the reaction environment.





#### Coupling of transformation and material



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#### Dynamics: Formation and regeneration of adaptive sites



#### M1 phase in $C_3H_8$ selective oxidation



Activity scales not with SA (001); nature of active sites?



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## "Atomic oxygen" on silver







# Theory of Ag-O interaction



J. Schnadt, 1 A. Michaelides, 2 J. Knudsen, 1 R. T. Vang, 1 K. Reuter, 2 E. Ltgsgaard, 1 M. Scheffler, 2 and F. Besenbacher 1 PRL 2006 Department of Inorganic Chemistry www: fhi-berlin.mpg.de





### Defects: Oxo-philicity







#### Mo-V compounds for C3,C4 oxidation







