



Fritz Haber Institut der MPG

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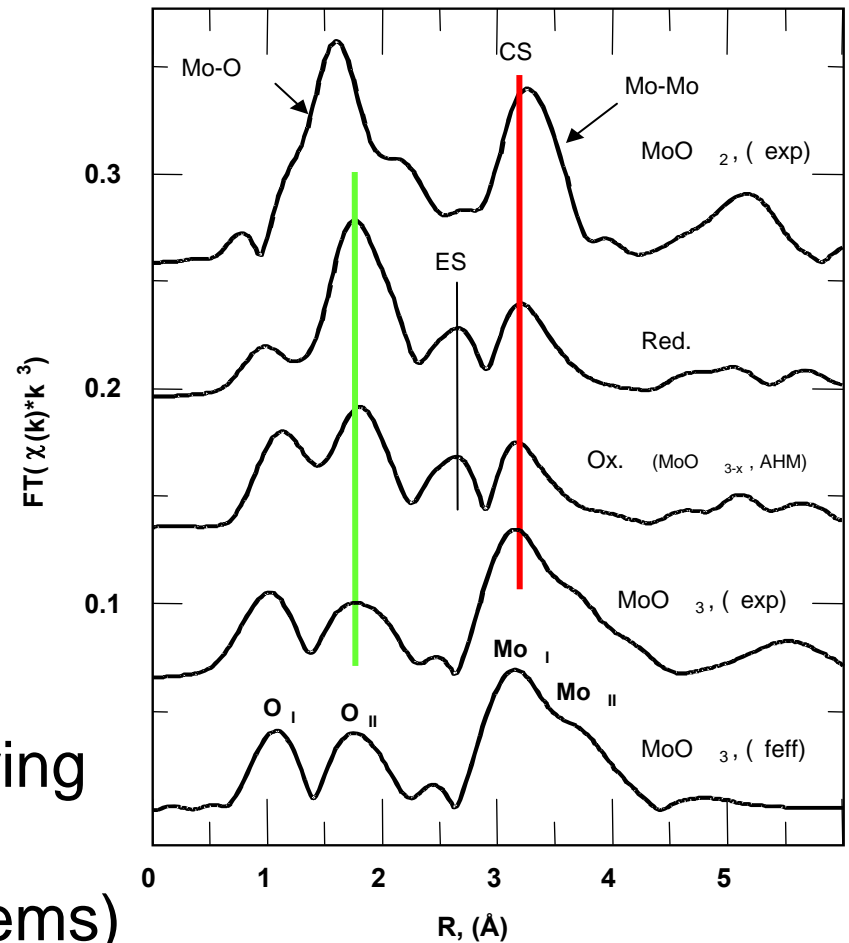
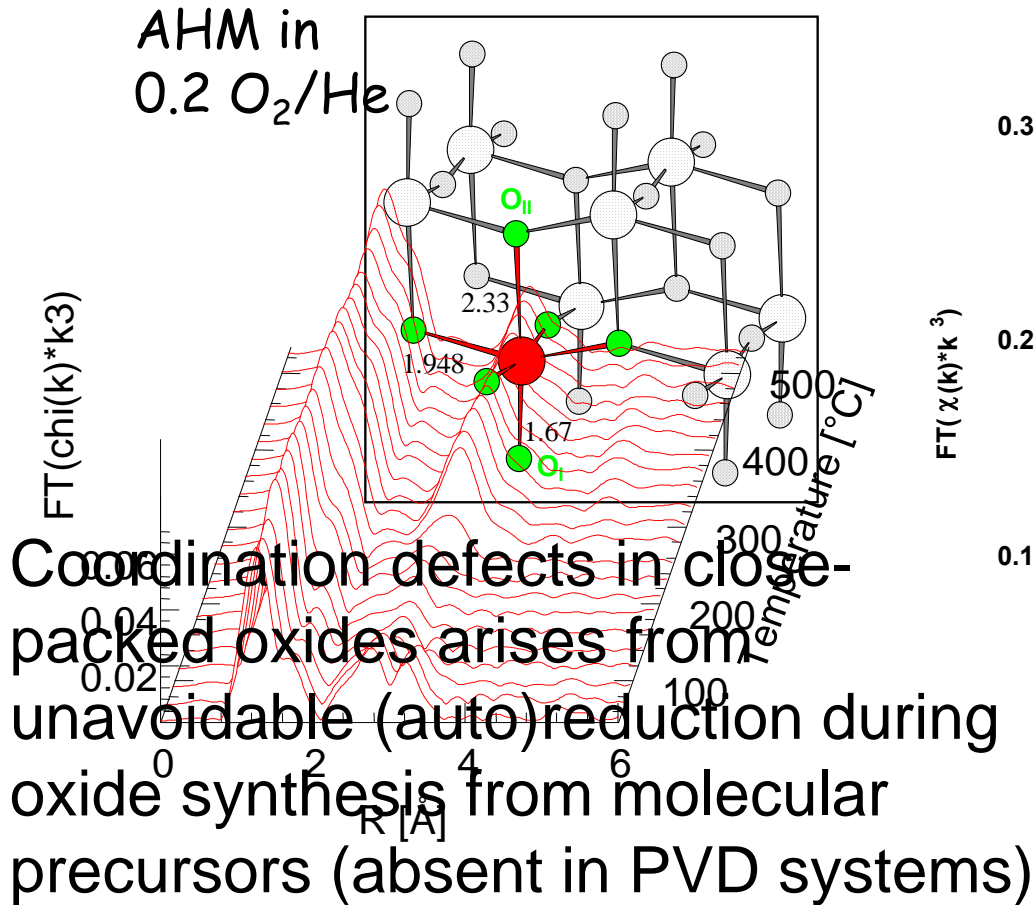


Catalytic Materials

- Catalysts are dynamically behaving matrices containing metastable minority structural elements called “active sites” (**Taylor**).
- Most of it is not active (bulk).
- Even most of the surface (**Langmuir**) is not active.
- Active are high energy structures deviating from the equilibrium system: “defects”.
- There are many types of defects besides the surface (complexity).



Identification of defects in polycryst. MoO₃



The function of a catalyst:

The single crystal approach (G. Ertl)

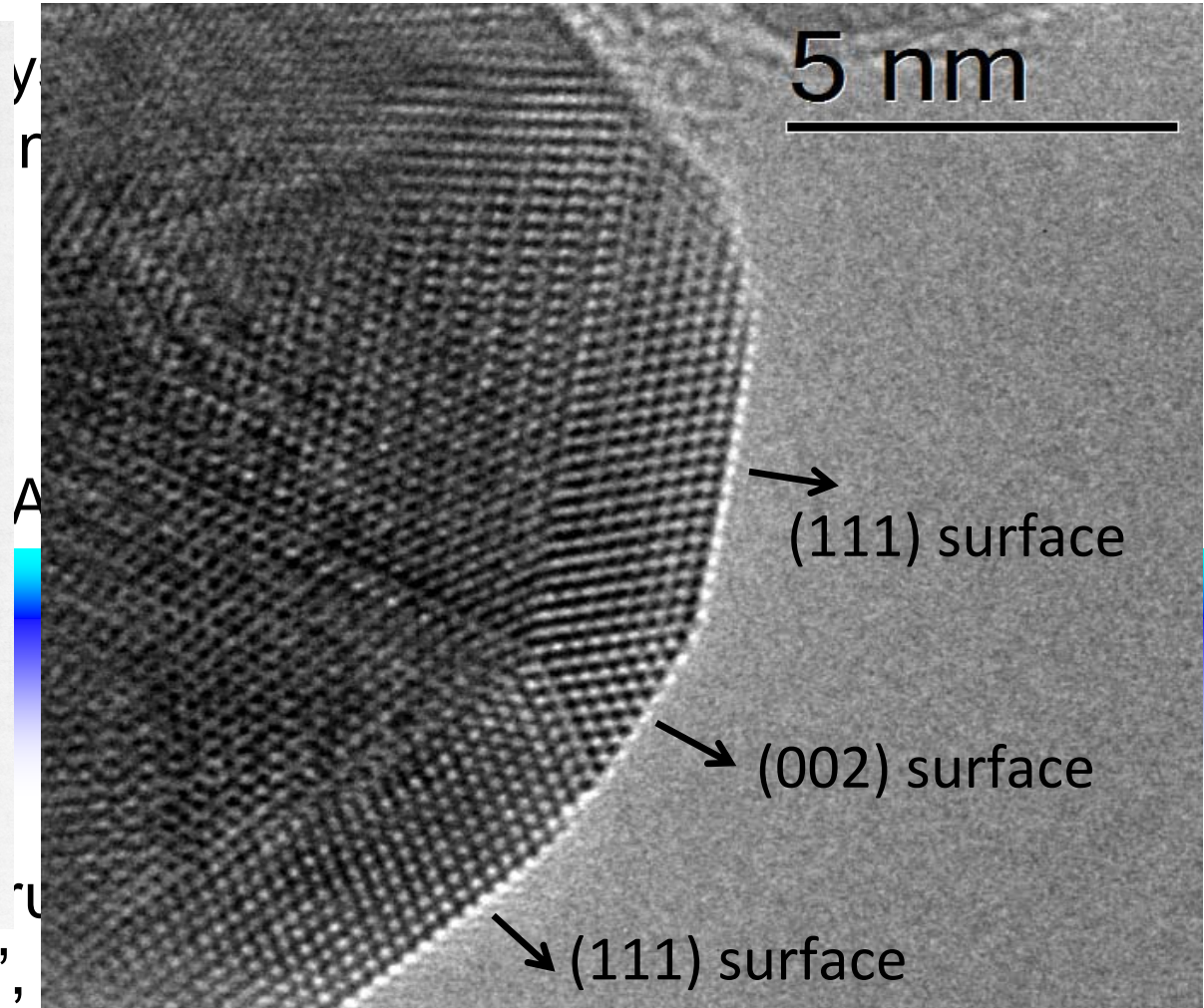
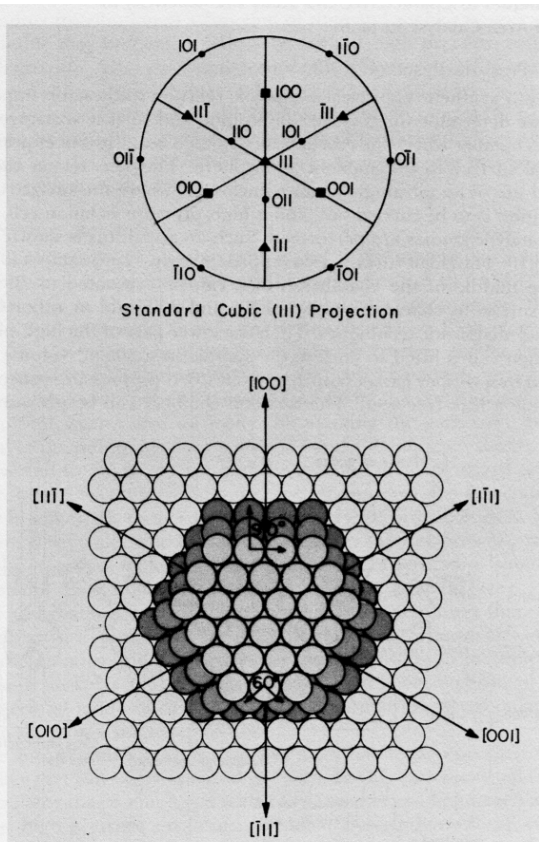


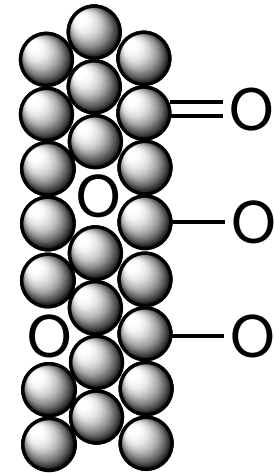
Figure 8.9. Catalyst particle viewed as a crystallite, composed of well-defined atomic planes.

Bulk is "irrelevant",



Di-oxygen as oxidant

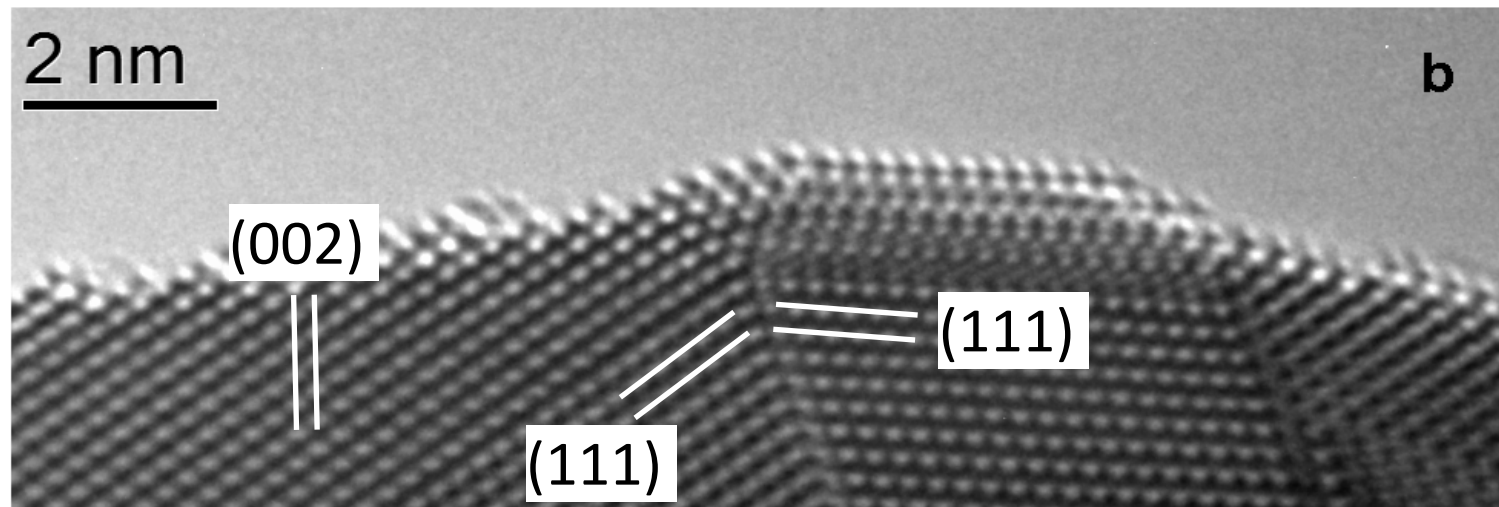
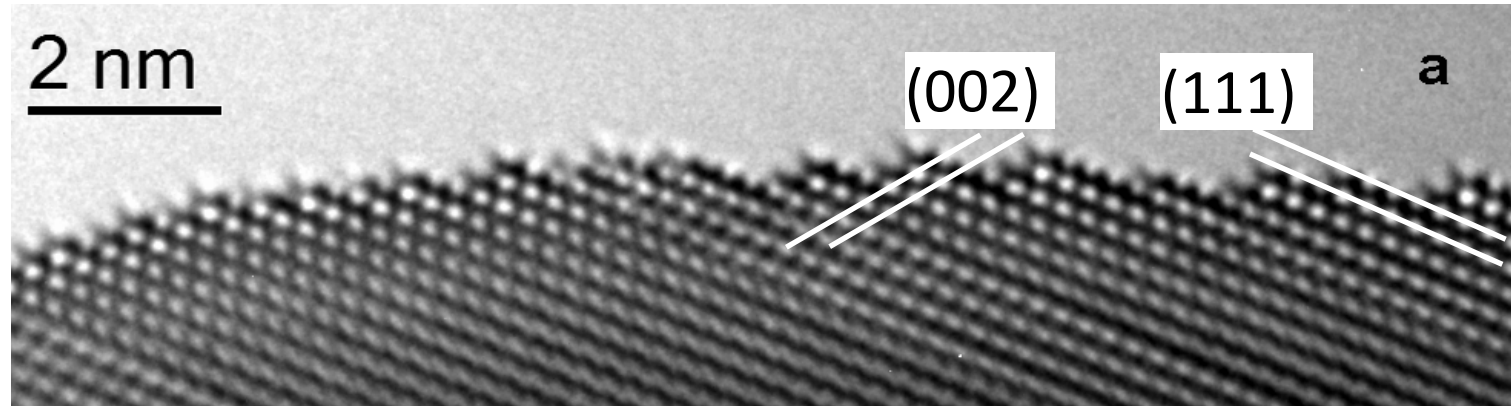
- Atomic chemisorbed oxygen (created typically in UHV) is amphoteric in redox properties: at “virtual pressure” → sub-surface
- Sub-surface oxygen is not reactive but
 - Polarizes the surface for adsorption
 - Restructures the surface by incorporation (autocatalytic)
 - Segregates to the surface as **O 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)
 - Protonates via OH oxygenates



With metals



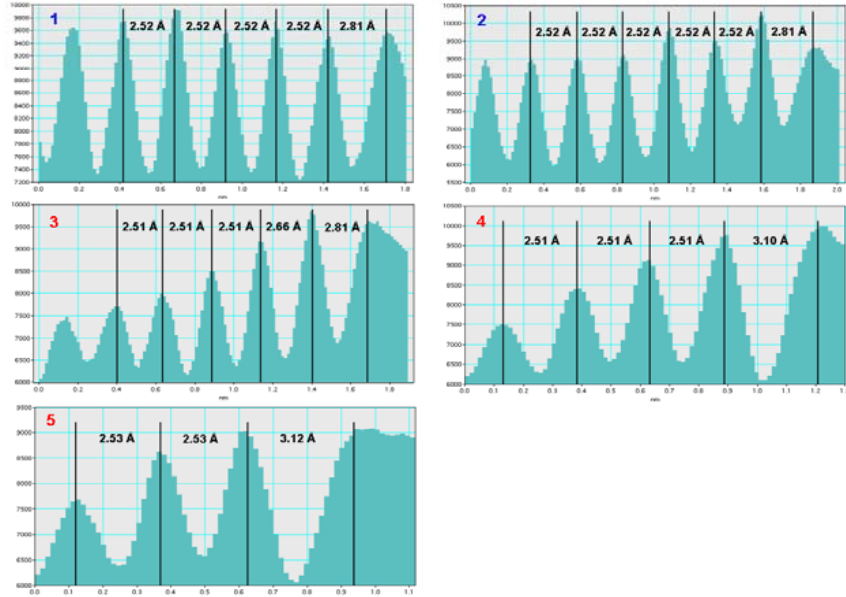
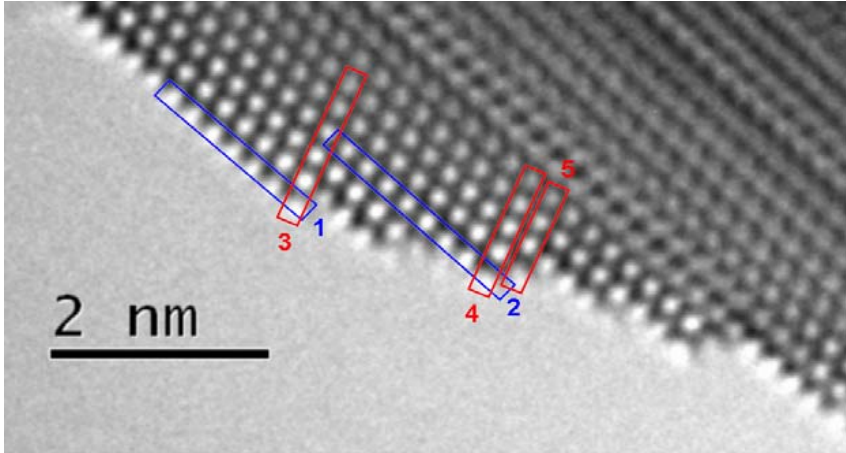
Surface termination: Ag_{nano}



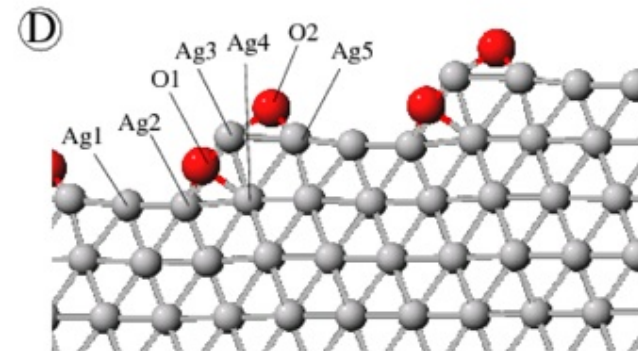
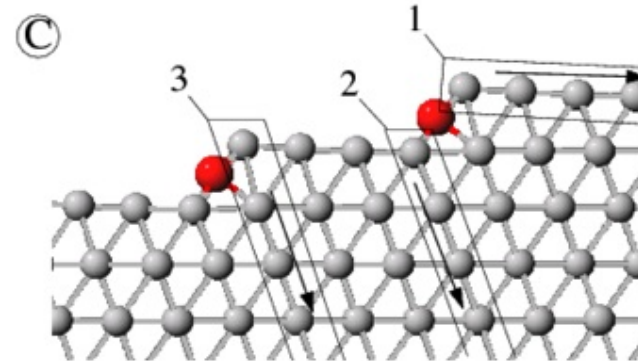
Two strategies relating to good (a) and poor (b) catalysts



Ultrastructure



oxygen-adsorbed (100) step

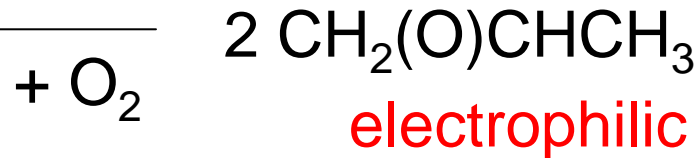


T. Jakob
M. Scheffler

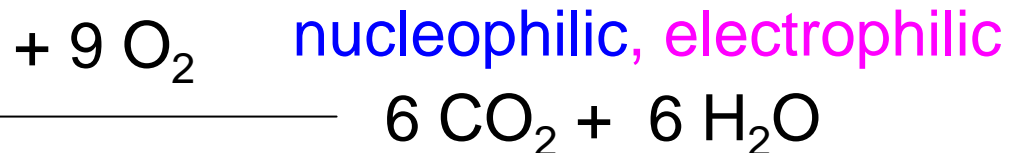


Propylene oxide: A demanding oxidation

473 - 523 K



excess nucleophilic oxygen
needed for adsorption of
substrate (rate)

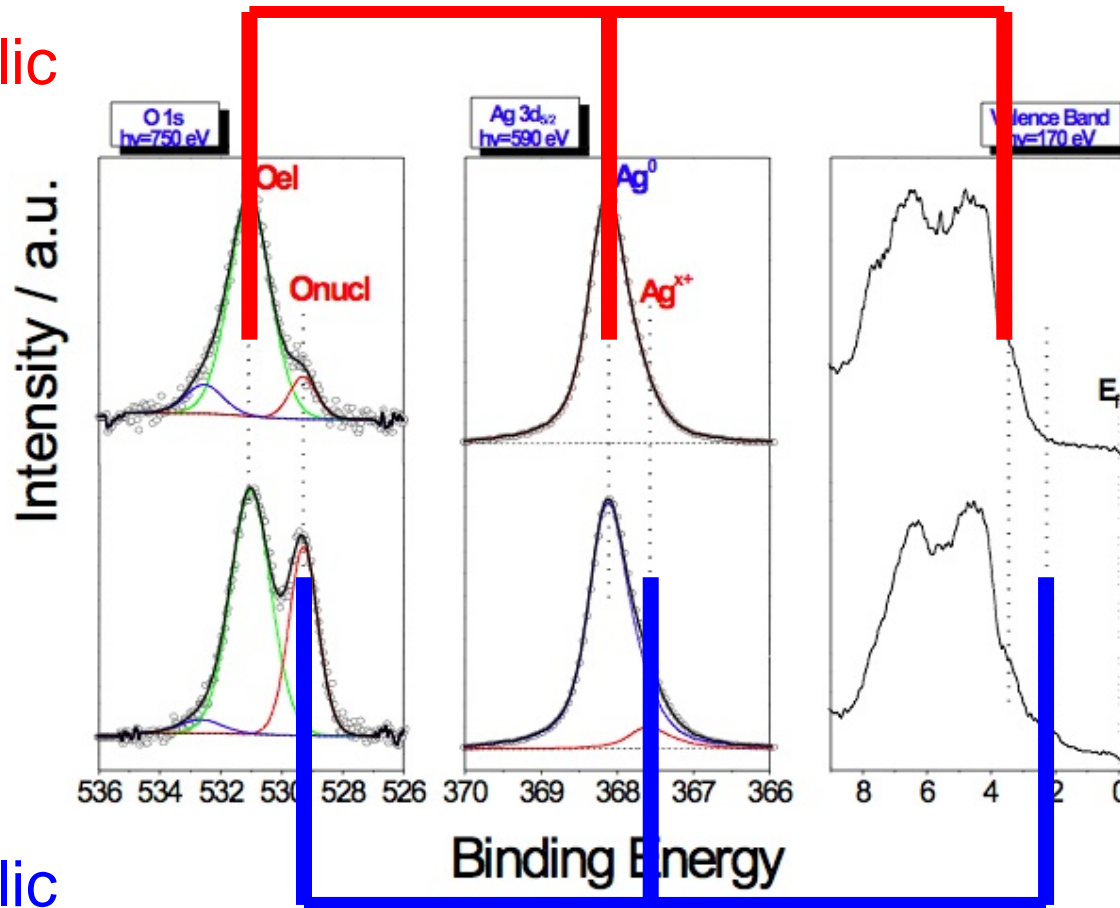


Ag, promotion by chlorine
Structurally labile system, instable performance



Multifunctional oxygen

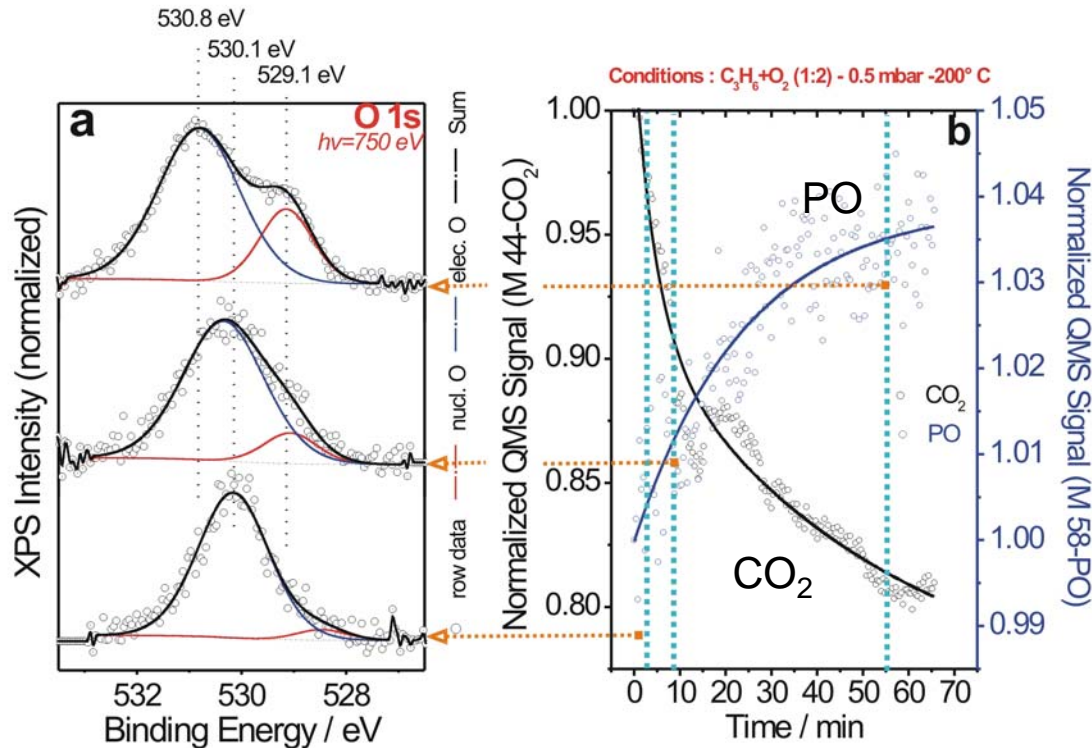
electrophilic



nucleophilic



Structure-function correlation in Ag: PO formation



Auto-formation of selective electrophilic oxygen by gradual intercalation of sub-surface oxygen in Ag

Ag nano, 473 K, 0.5 mbar, 1:2 C₃H₈:O₂
Total oxygen content "0.2 ML"

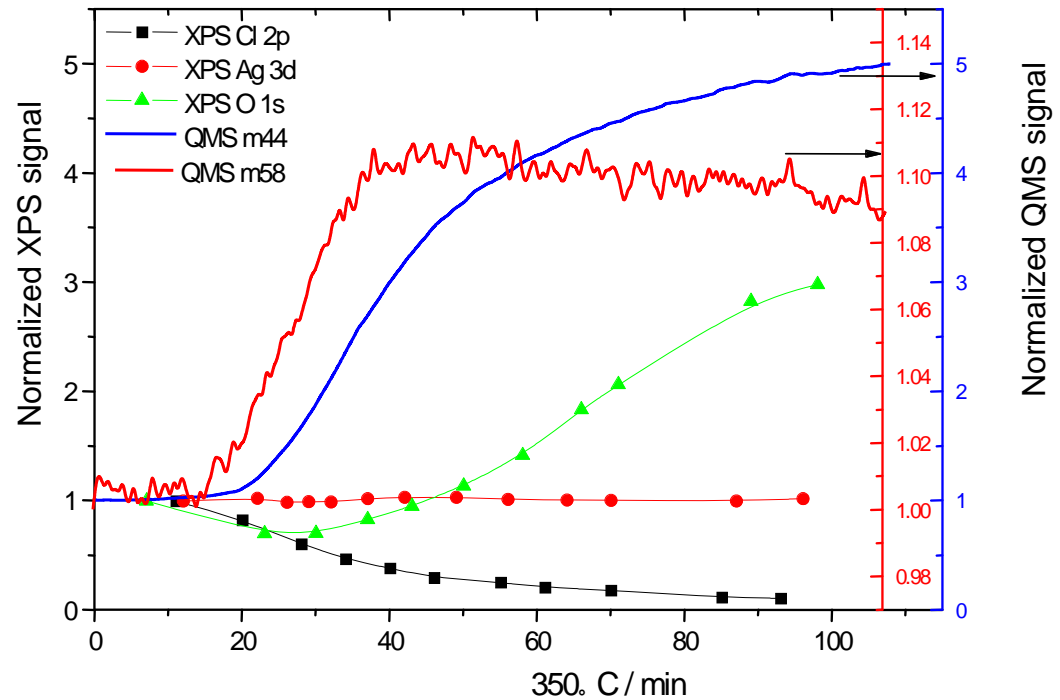
[www: fhi-berlin.mpg.de](http://www.fhi-berlin.mpg.de)



The function of a promoter

Chlorine is an effective but not sustained promoter

Chlorine is covered
under fresh Ag
surface: after 45 min
tos: loss of
promotion

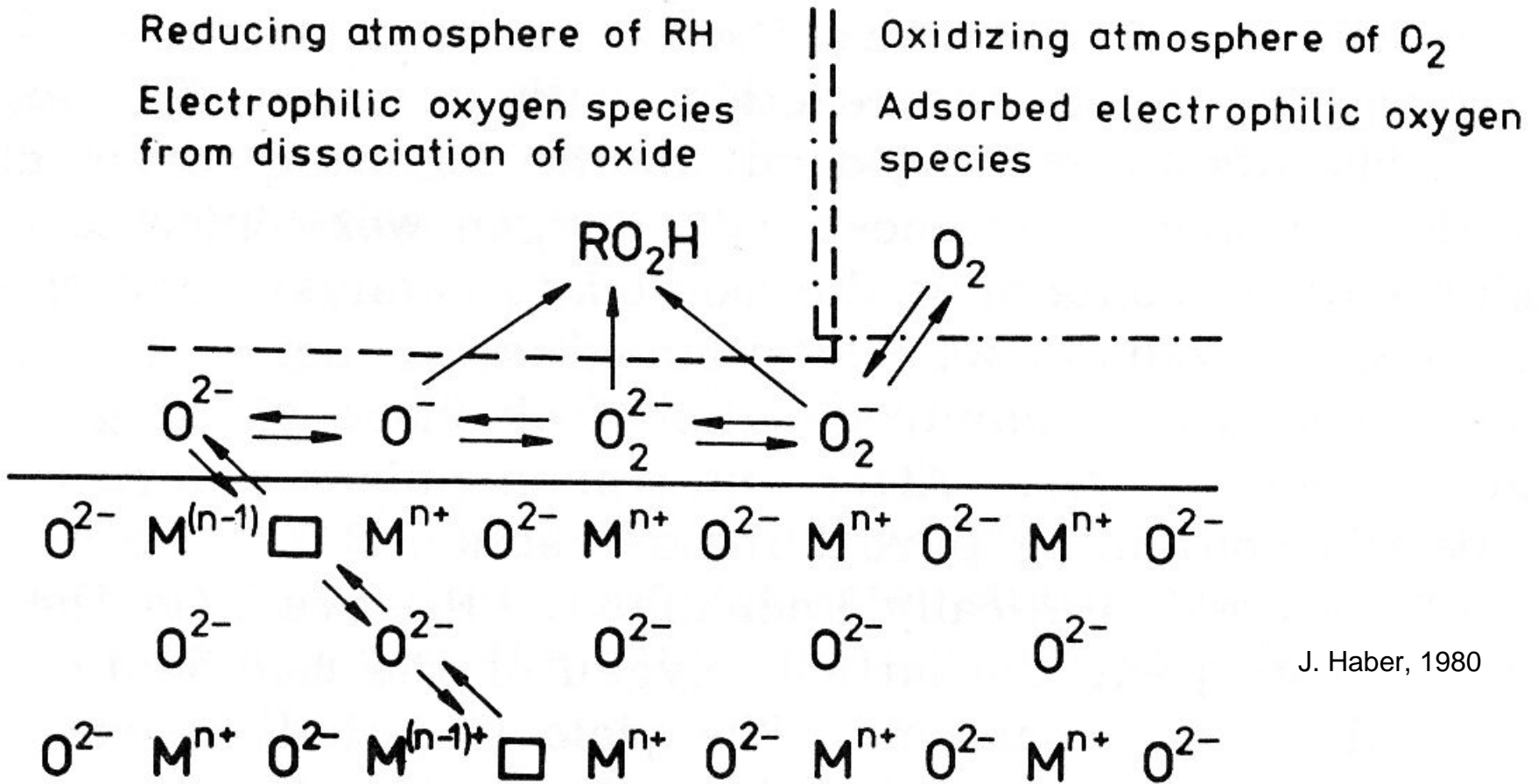


Limits of the single crystal approach: the selectivity challenge

- In selective oxidation the traditional “Mars van Krevelen” mechanism assumes participation of lattice oxygen (Haber et al.)
- Structural deactivation of metals and oxides (sintering) suggests active bulk
- Equally active surface sites are inconsistent with specific probe counting experiments (Fe/NH₃ 4.5%) and disagree with the Taylor model of an active surface (checkerboard)
- Numerous equilibration and activation phenomena of catalysts under operation conditions (also hydrogenation)
- The “living catalyst”(Trifiro, Centi) that “digs its own bed towards activity” (Ertl)



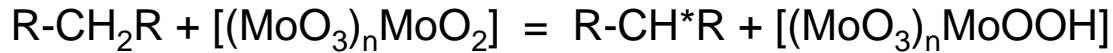
Tutorial: MvK Mechanism



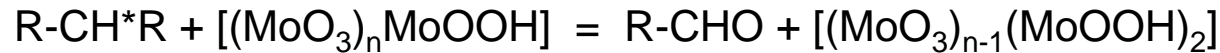
J. Haber, 1980



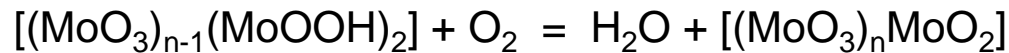
In situ NEXAFS (Mo K-edge) during oxidation of propene



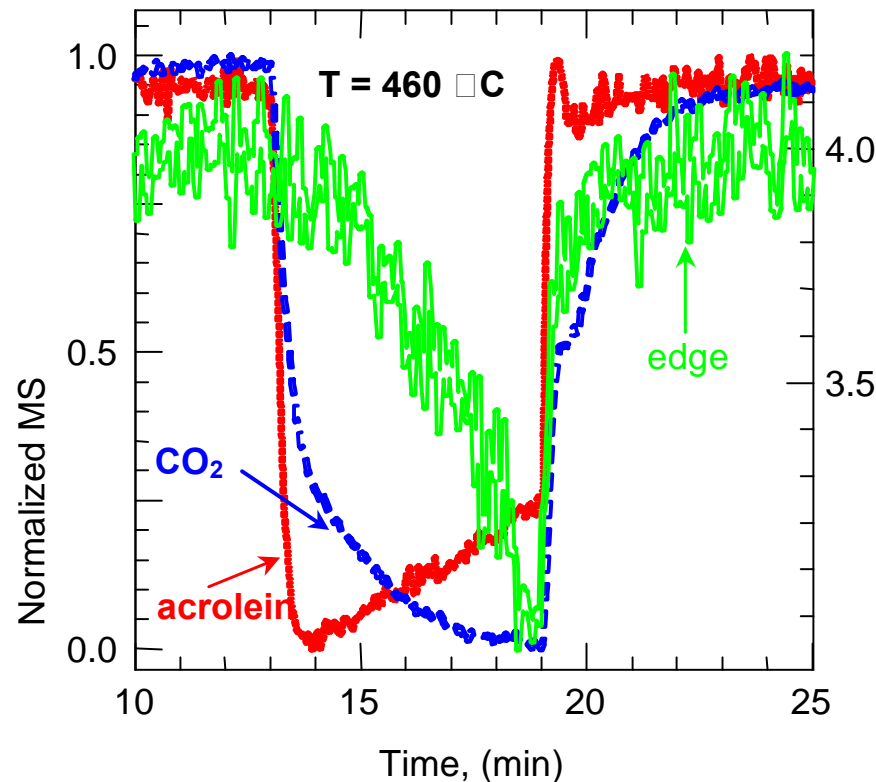
(1) Activation



(2) Reaction



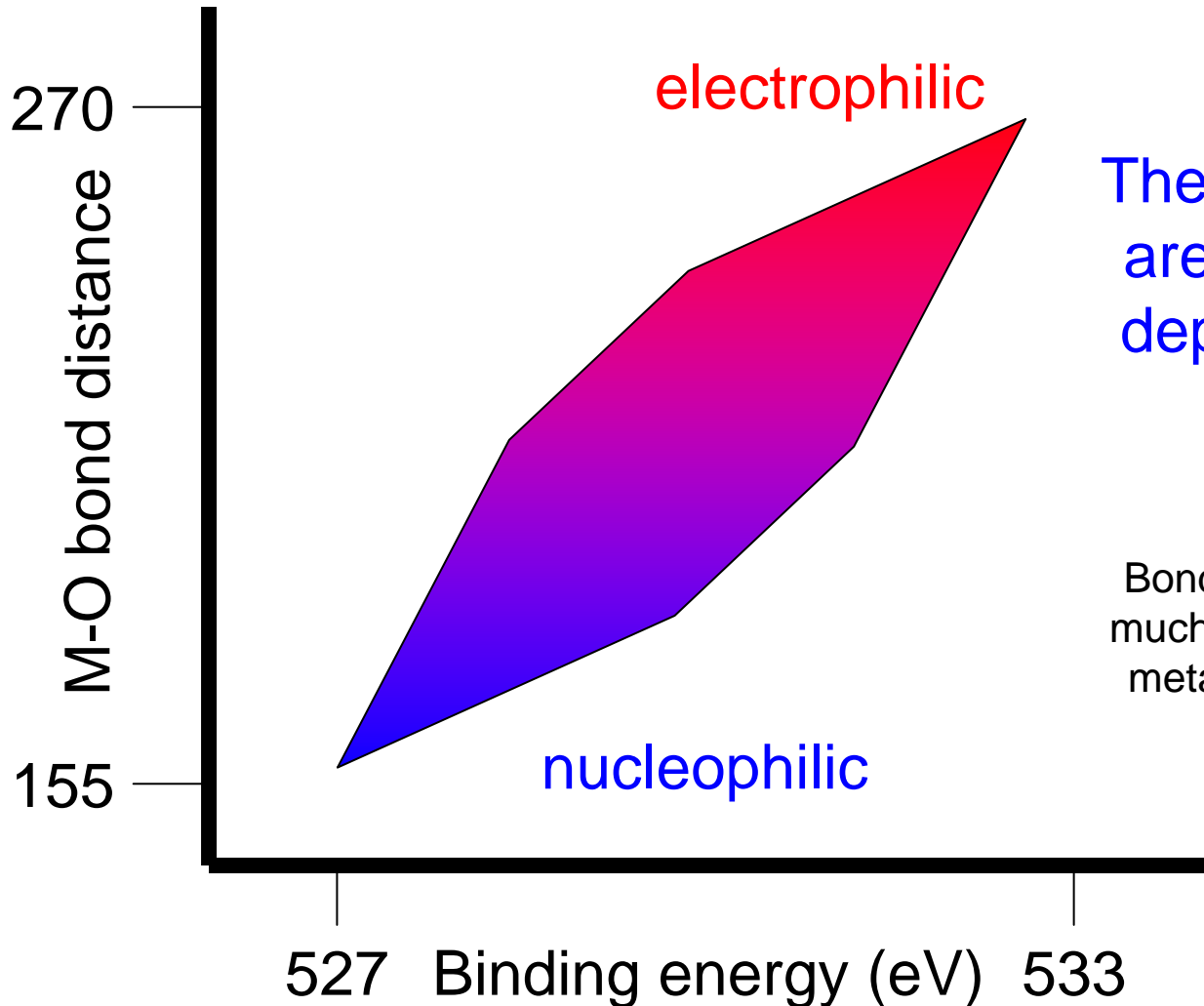
(3) Regeneration



T. Ressler et al.
J. Cat. 1995



Reactive oxygen

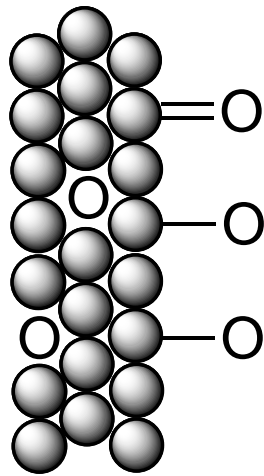


The redox properties are continuous and depend on the M-O polarization

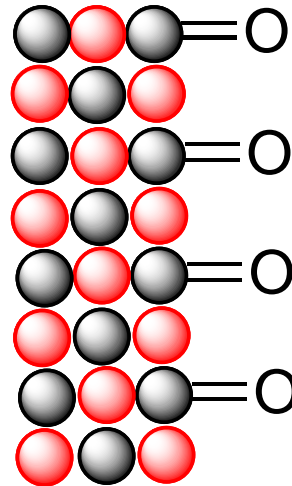
Bond distances in oxides much better known than in metals (with sub-surface states)



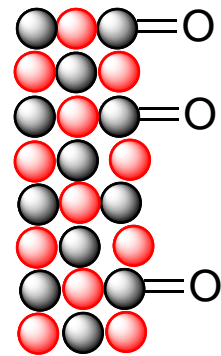
Nucleophilic vs electrophilic oxygen



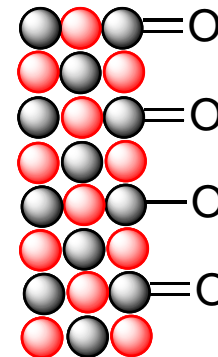
With metals



With oxide



“surface lattice”

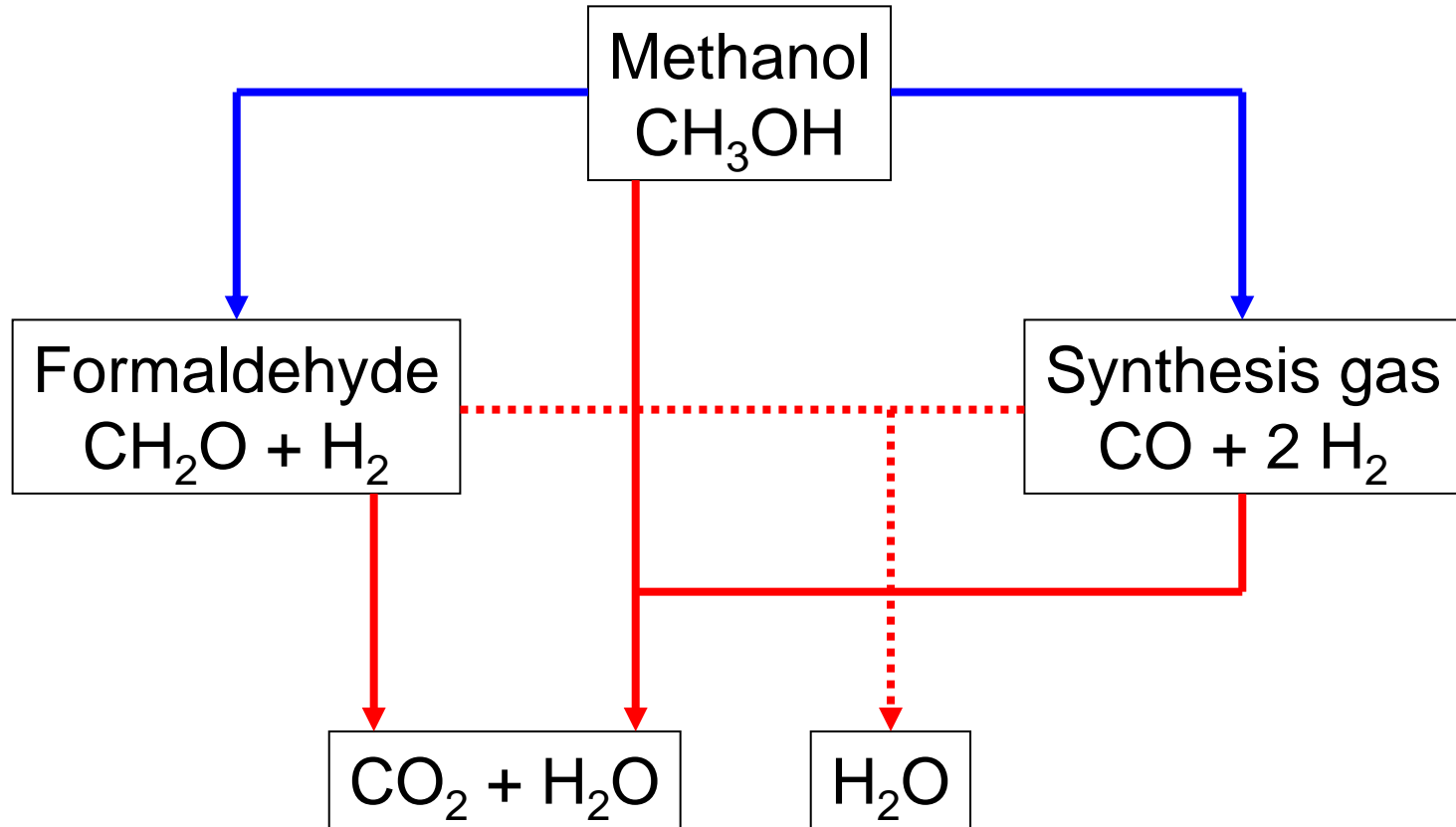


“gas phase”

The 0.5 O₂
issue



Reaction network



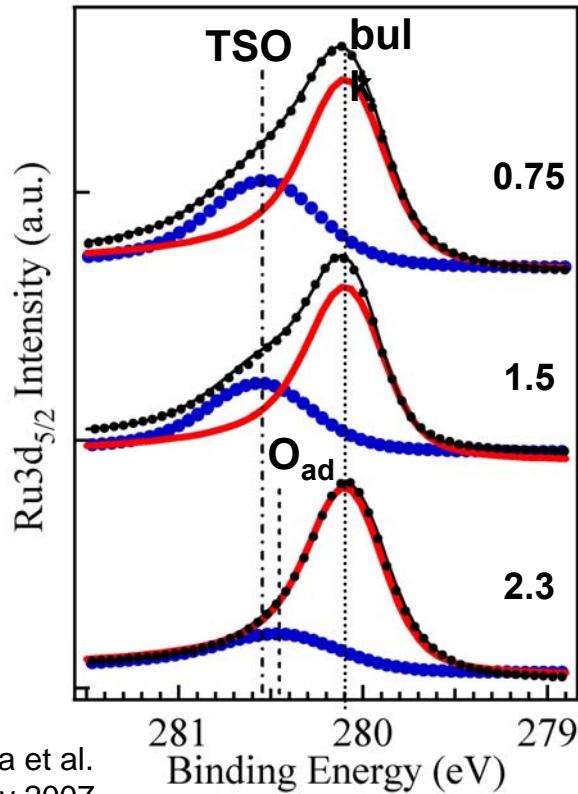
Selectivity: dehydrogenation of MeOH
oxygen addition to C
equilibrium shift by hydrogen oxidation



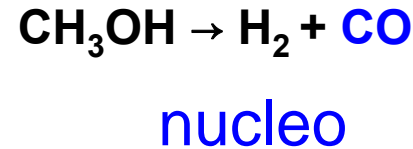
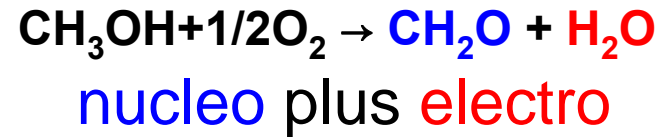
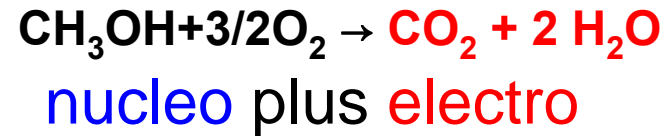
Multiple reaction control: chemical potential of gasphase: RuO₂

Ru 3d_{5/2}
In-situ PES

CH₃OH:O₂
mixing ratios:



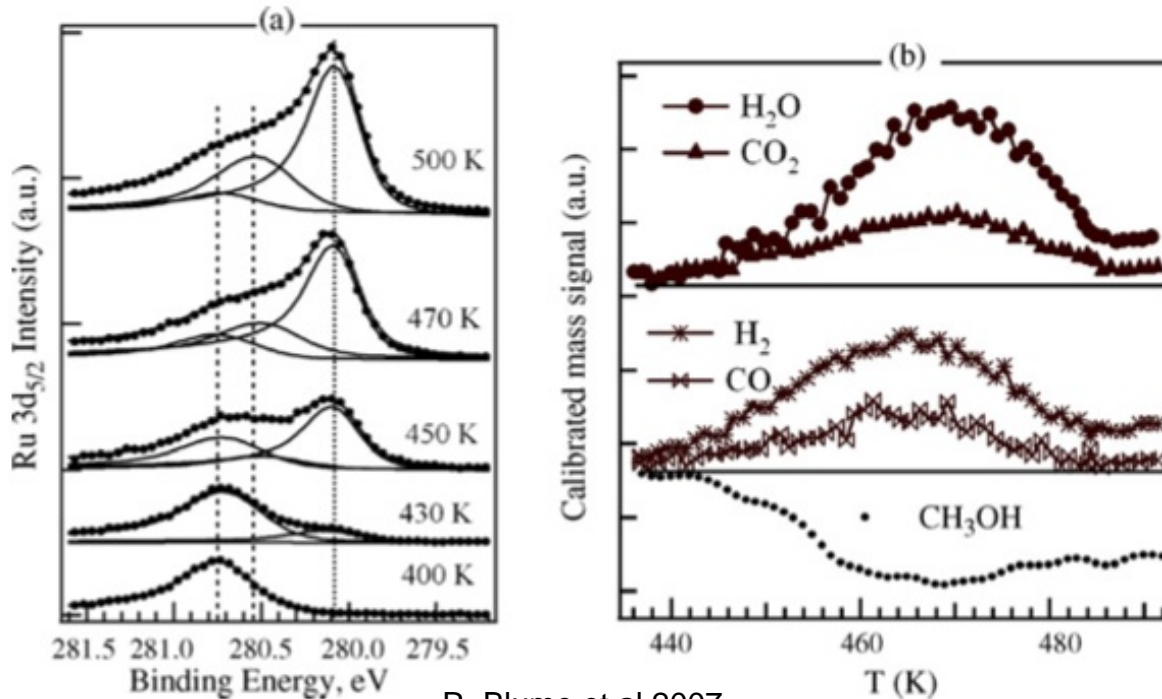
dominant reaction pathway:



M. Kiskinova et al.
Catal. Today 2007



Multiple reaction control: dynamics of oxidation state



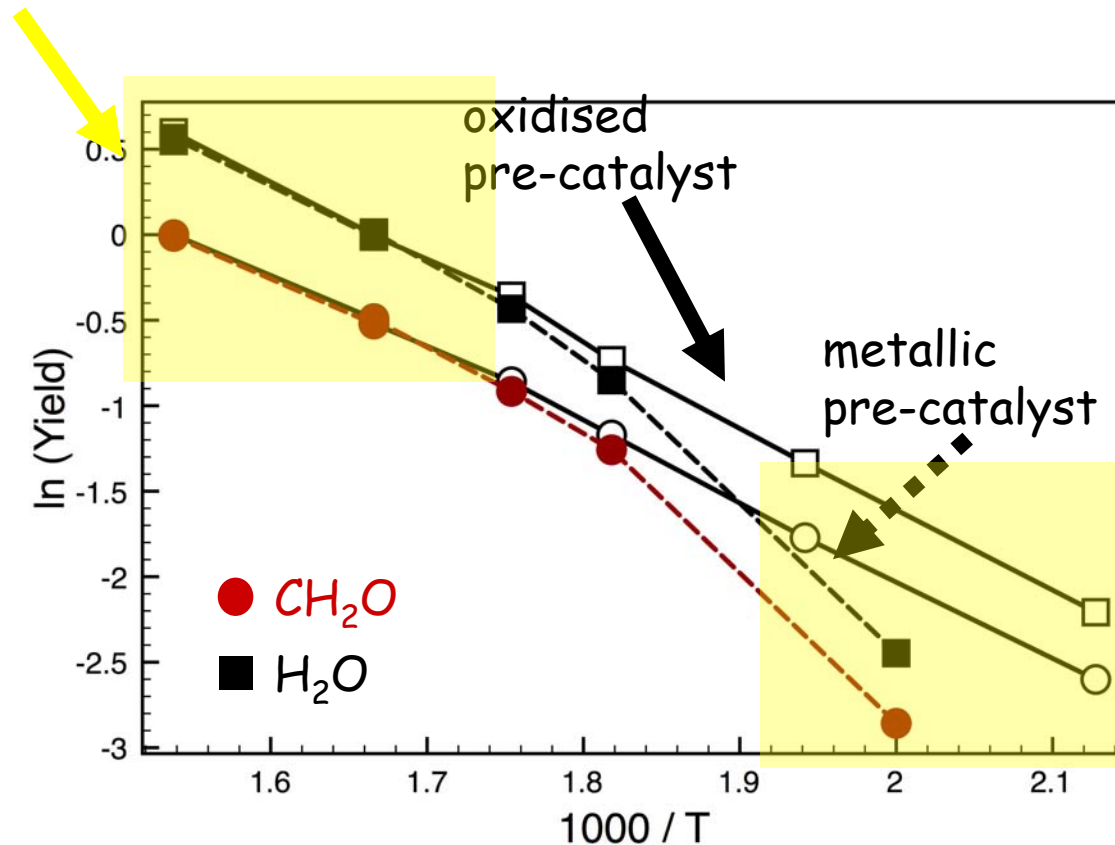
R. Blume et al 2007

Reaction of RuO₂ with MeOH without gas phase oxygen leads to dehydrogenation before activation of lattice oxygen and to combustion (“blast furnace reaction”) at higher T



MeOH oxidation over Ru_xO_y

Same catalytic active state independent of Ru pre-catalyst

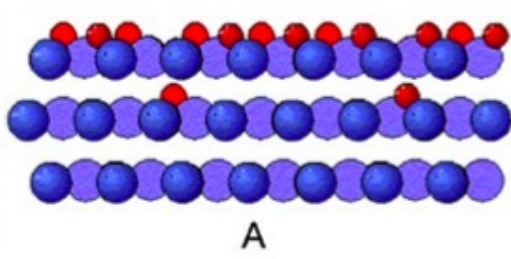


Deviation from straight line for metallic pre-catalyst:

activation barrier for oxygen incorporation

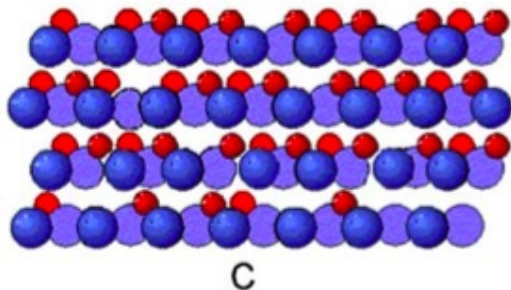
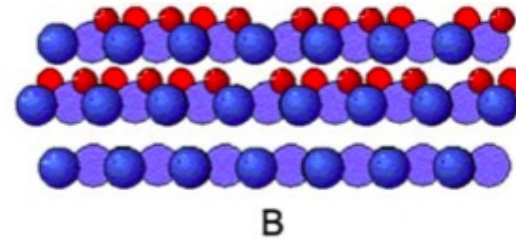


Chemical dynamics: metastability



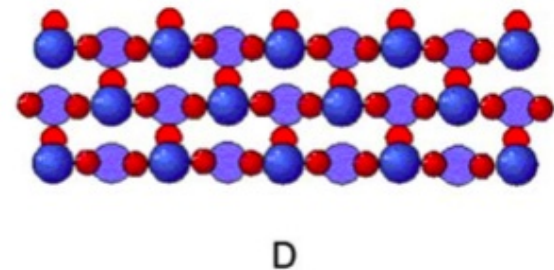
At low potential: metal plus dissolved species ("dirt")

At slightly elevated potential: "trilayer" (theory)

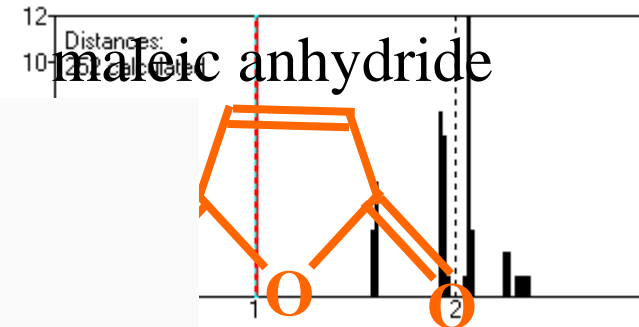


At potentials beyond the "pressure gap": sub-oxide, sub-surface oxide, TSO (HP-XPS)

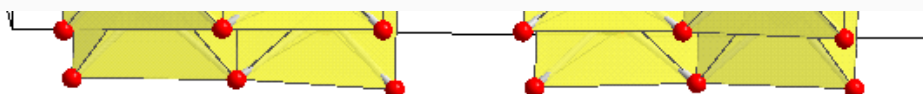
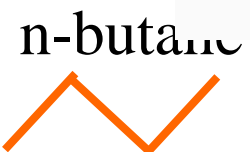
At high potential: oxide; when defective nucleo and electrophilic



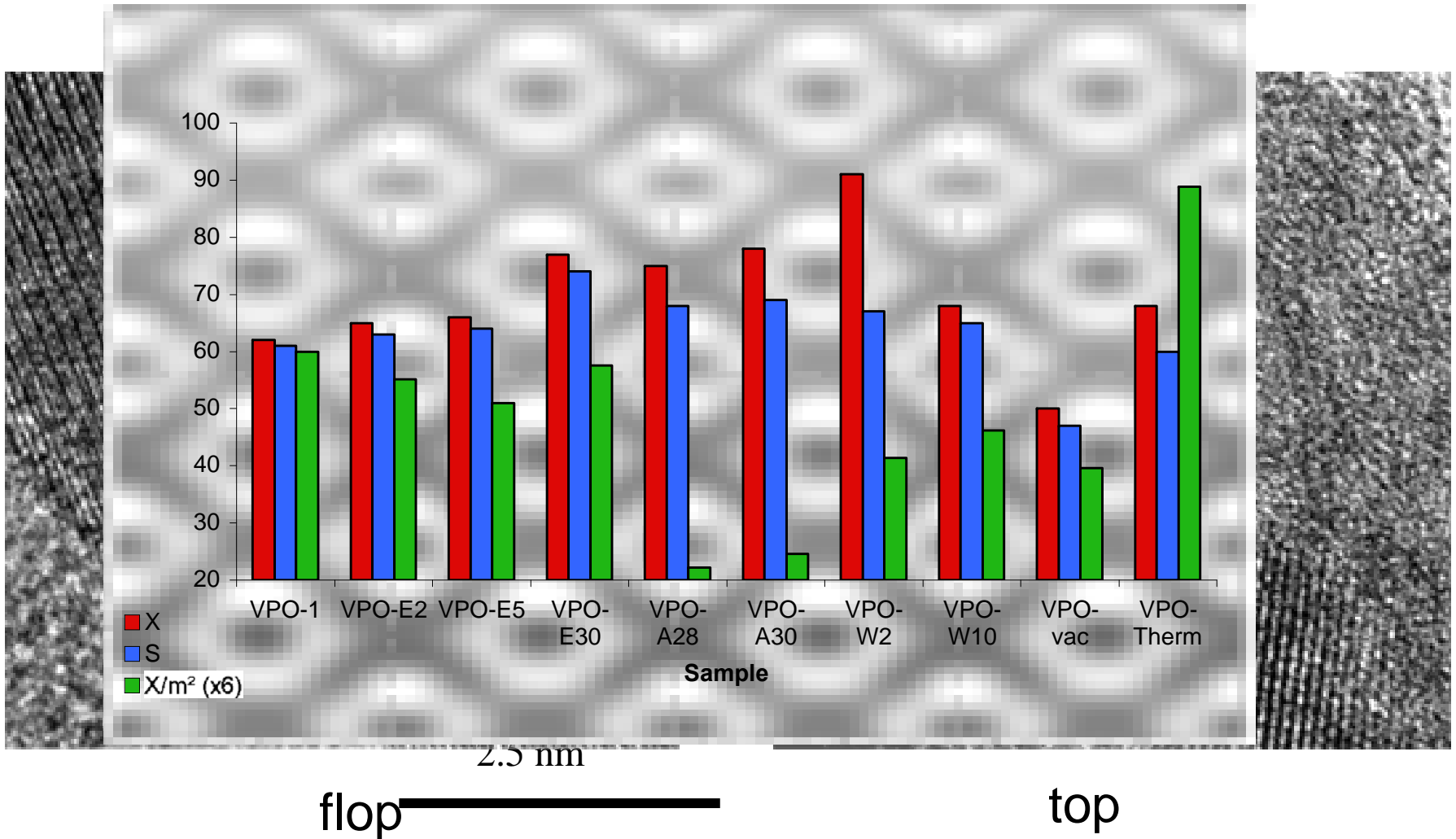
Butane oxidation: VPP structure



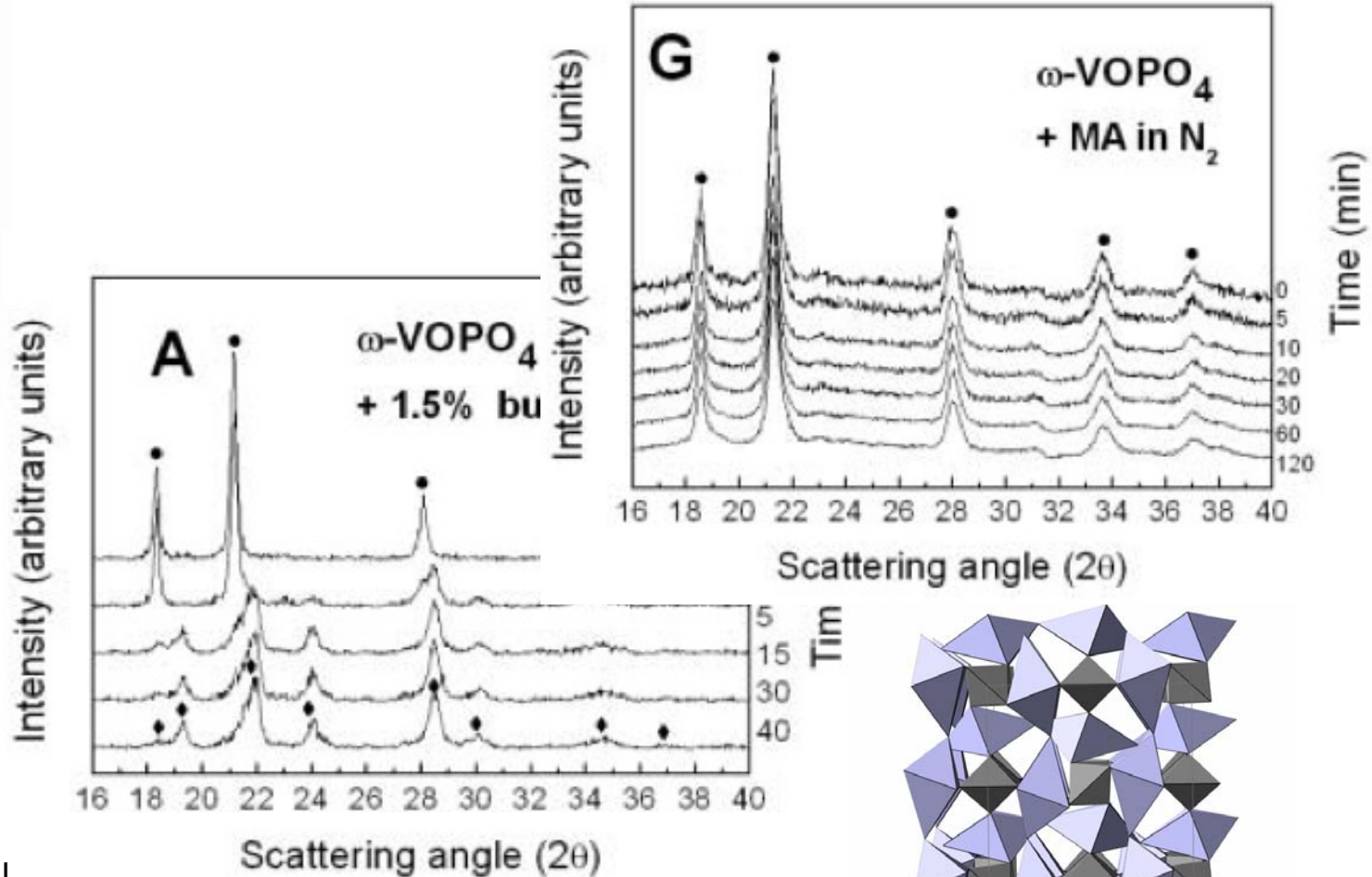
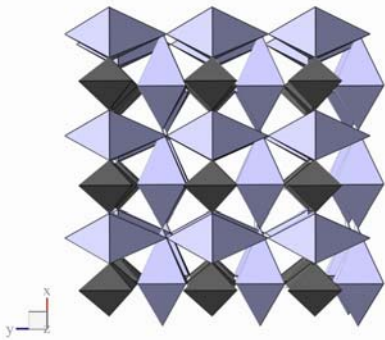
Nguyen et al.
Mat. Res. Bull., 1995



Order and activity



Bulk structural dynamics: The V^{5+} component

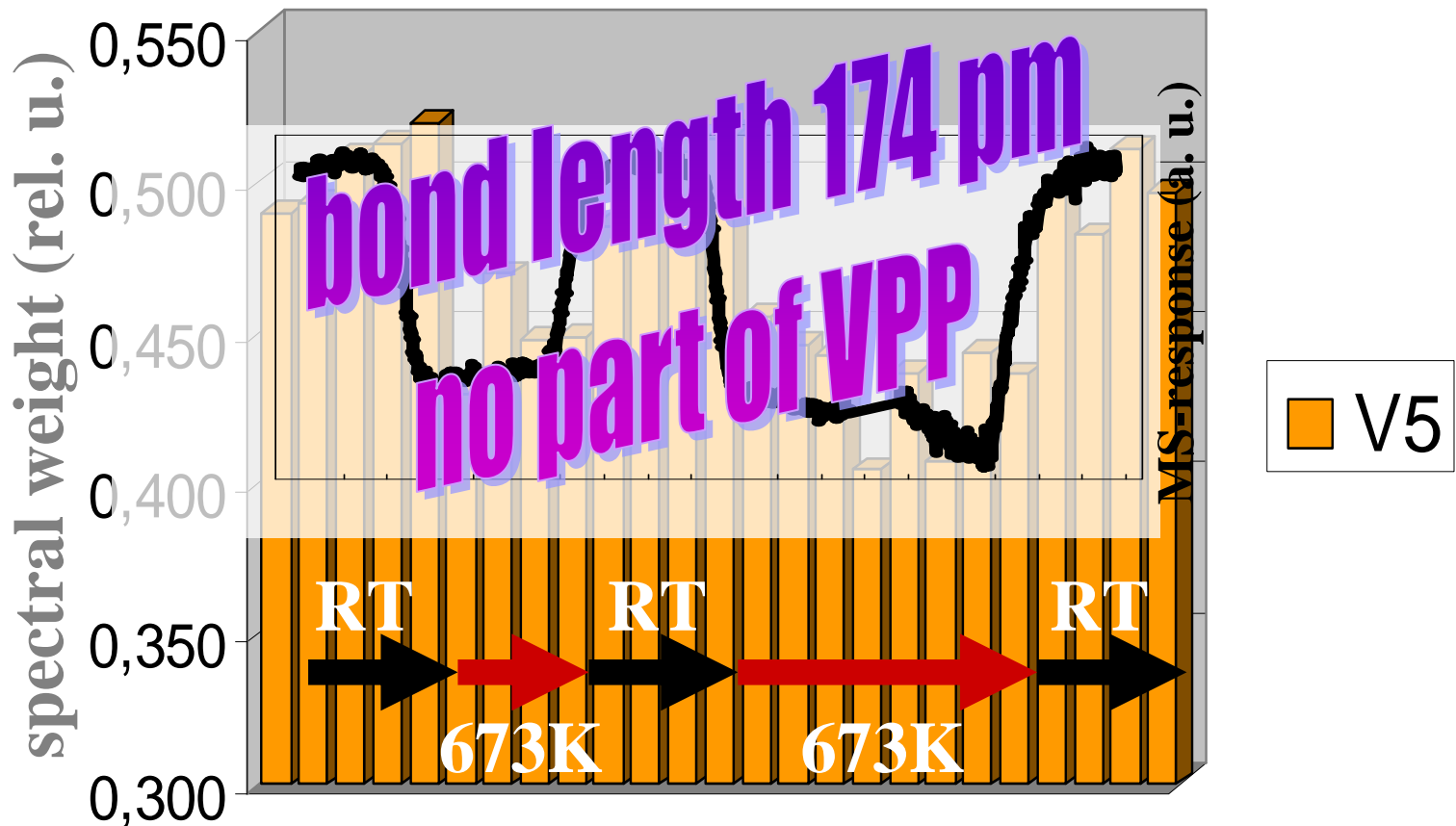


G. Hutchings et al
Science, 2006



Surface: Dynamics of the active phase

In situ NEXAFS at the V LIII edge in butane oxygen:
Partial yield detection

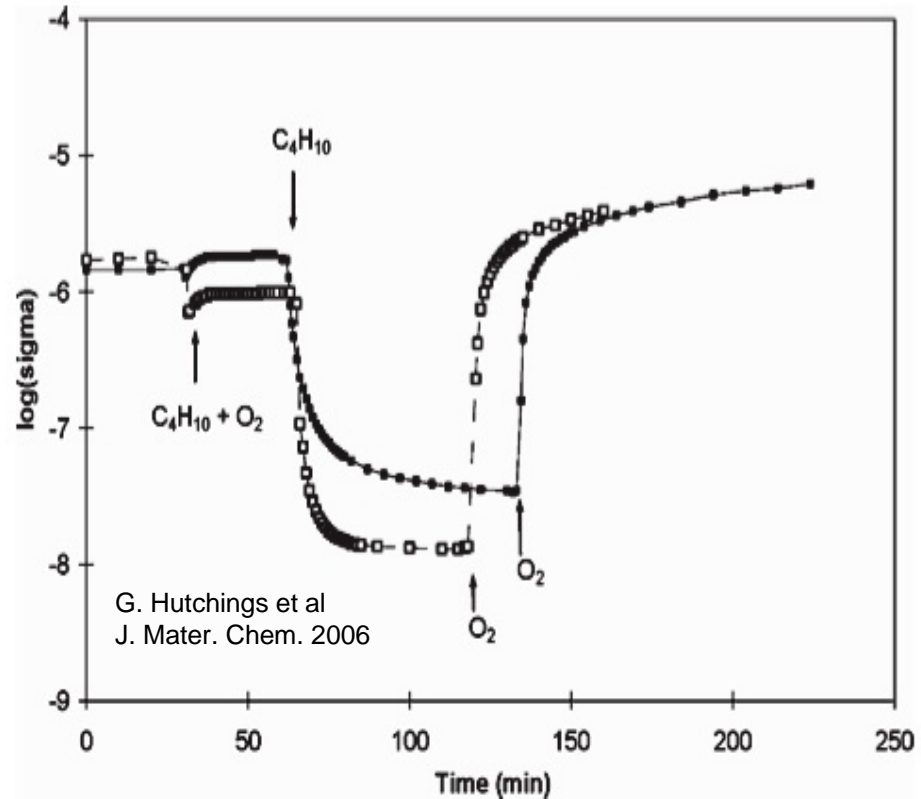
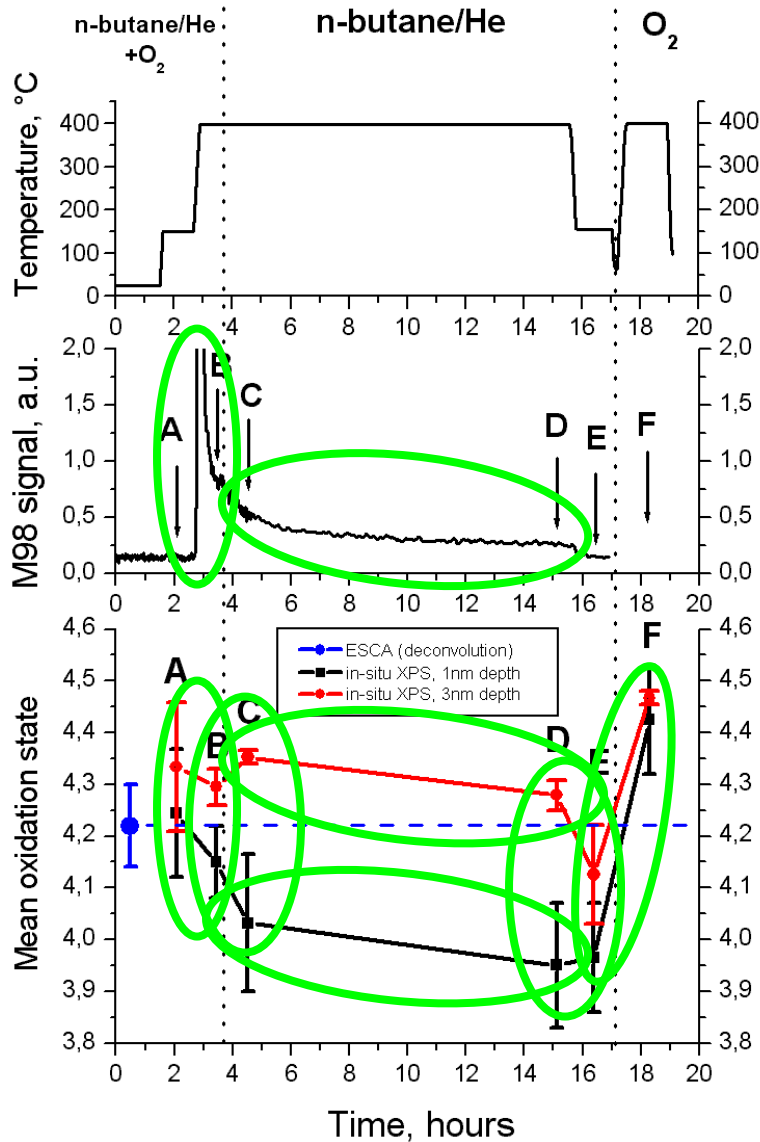


(Formal) oxidation state

- Chemical concept, in fluid phase reaction as electrochemical redox equivalents in integers countable
- In solids not rigorously defined
- Multiple spectroscopic proxies with uncertainties in “calibration” (shifts)
- Complex structures and phase mixtures yield non-integer values
- Sensitive fingerprint for redox states of solids



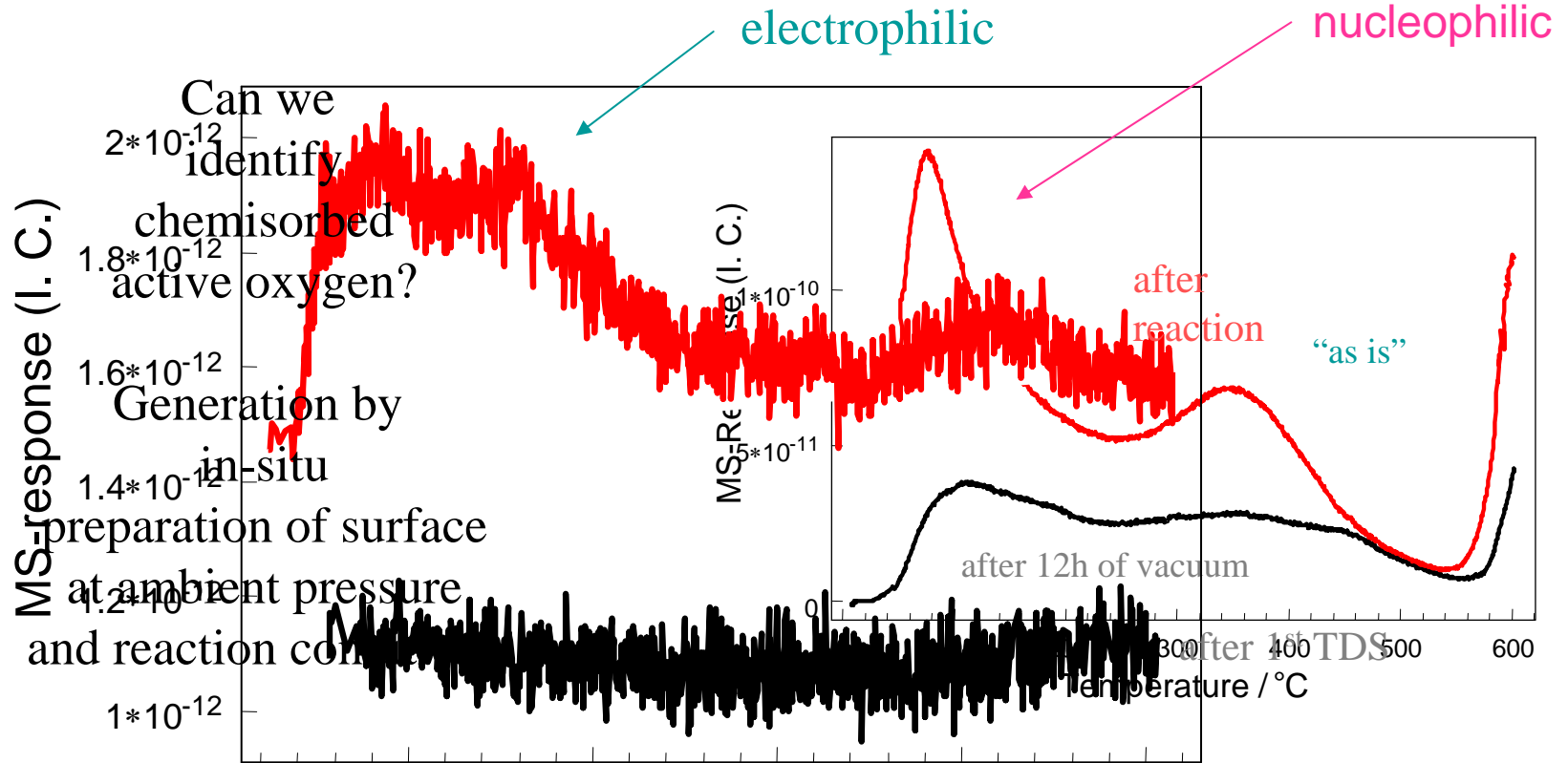
In-situ XPS of VPP in Riser Mode



1

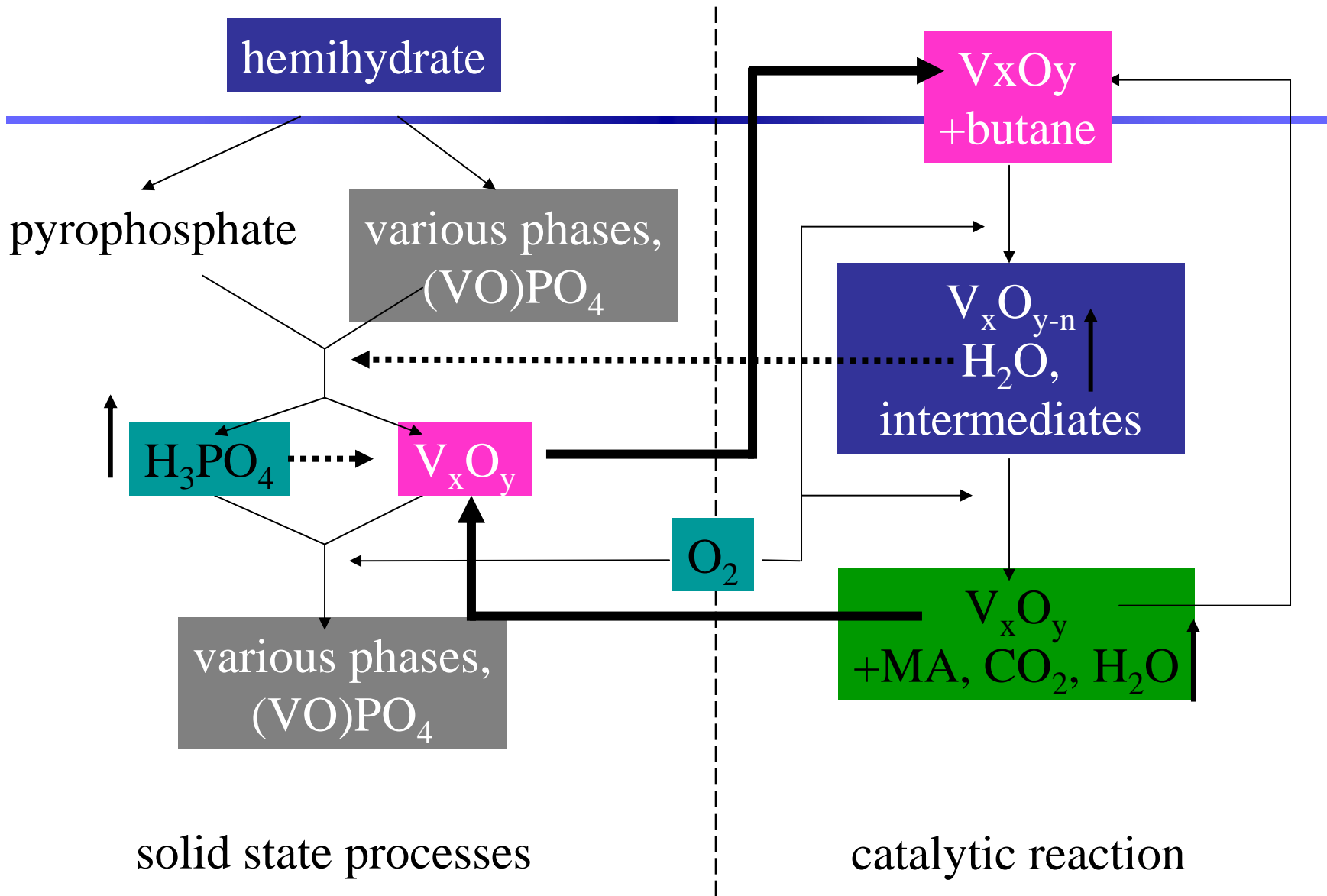


Active oxygen on VPP: TDS

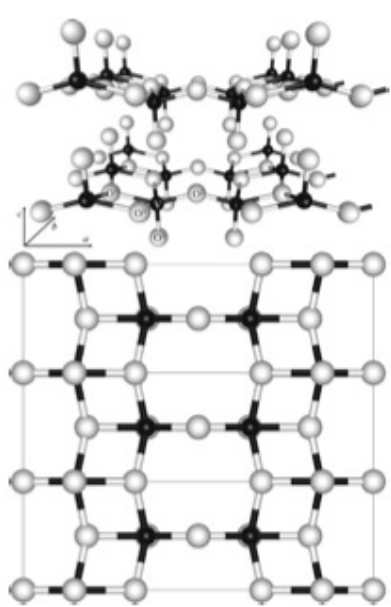


Strong influence of vacuum treatment both for water and oxygen desorption traces. Solid state dynamics!

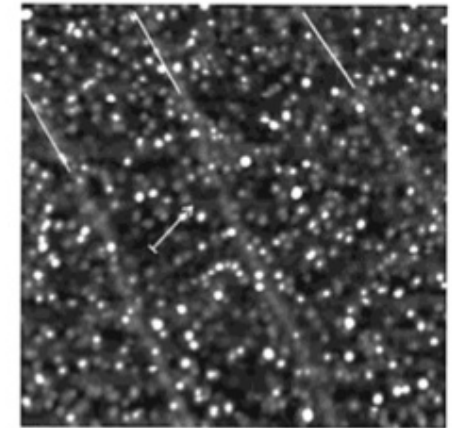
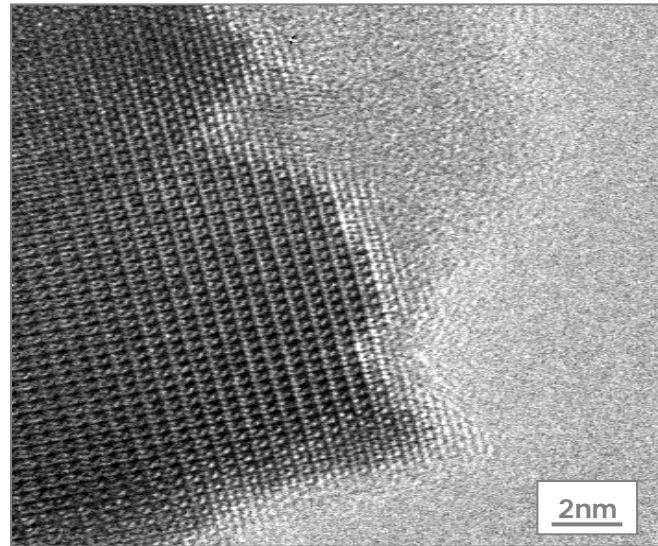
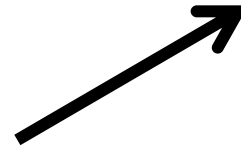
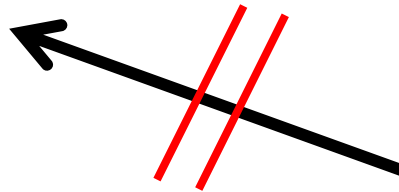
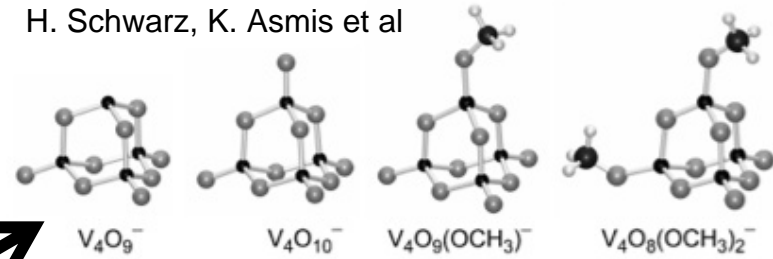




What have we learnt



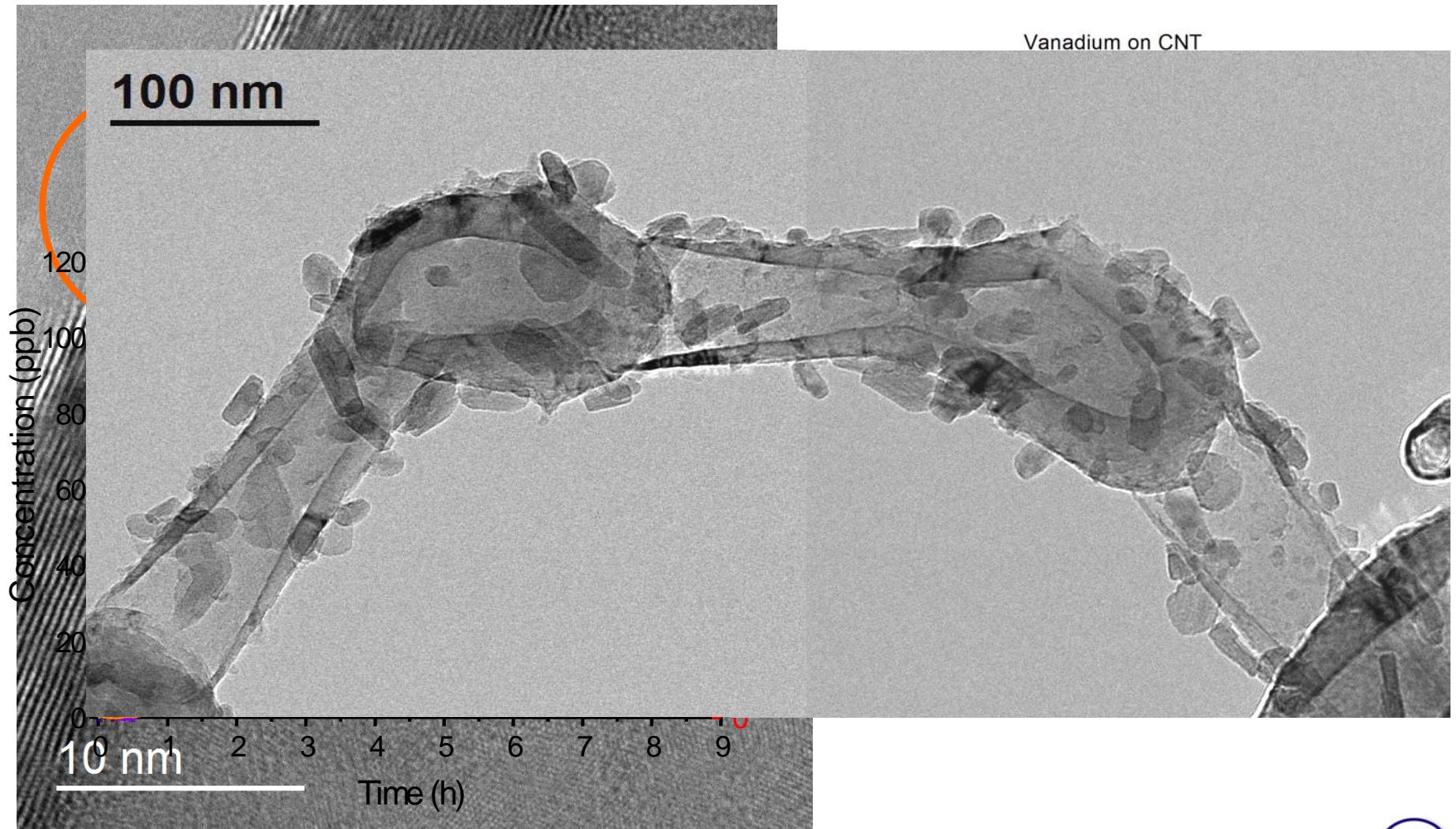
H. Schwarz, K. Asmis et al



H.J. Freund et al



Clusters: where the reactive surface ends



Selectivity: An optimization challenge

Sustainable supply?

Green chemistry!

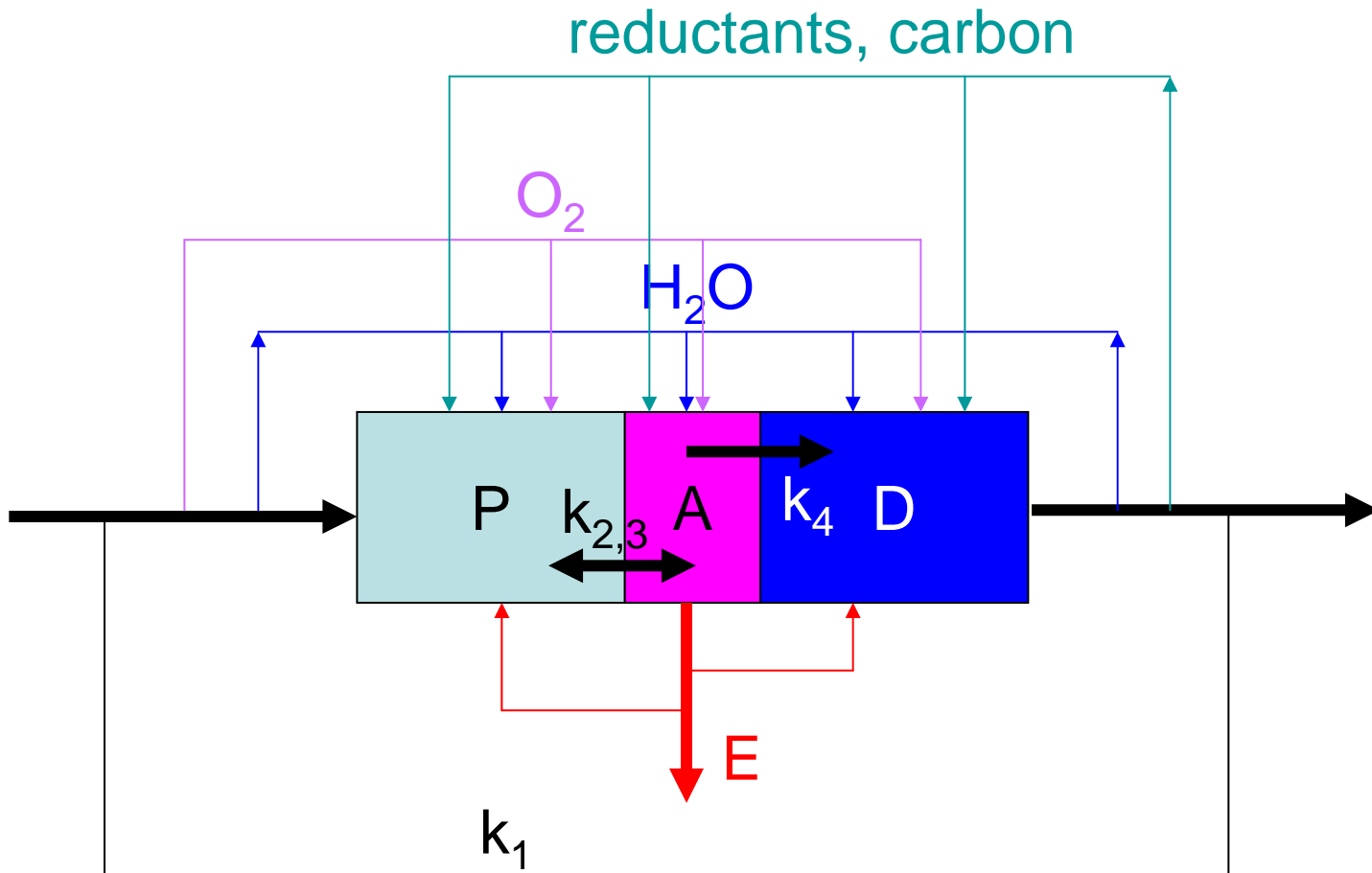
Renewables or coal?



The system: Why in situ analysis?

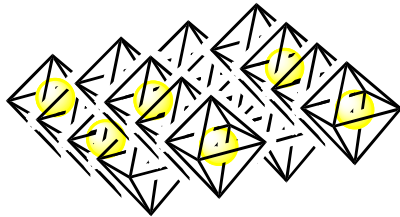
Multiple feedback loops with different effects
on different functional parts of the catalyst

Care with reductionistic approach

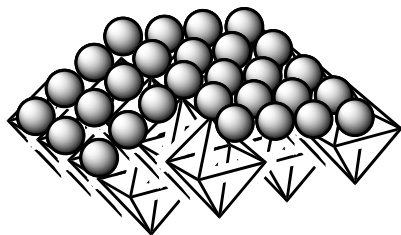


The non-rigid (dynamical) catalyst

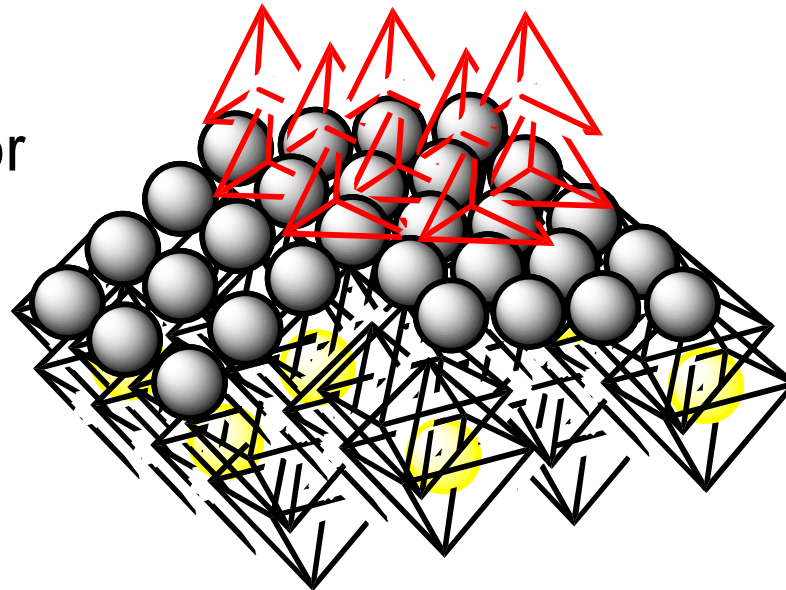
The chemical diversity (in metals) arises from reactants driving the dynamics by their reactions



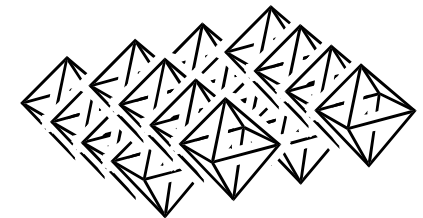
bulk insulator



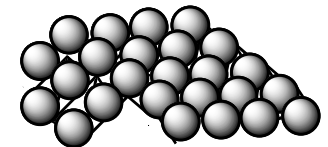
metal-insulator assembly



active phase



conductor



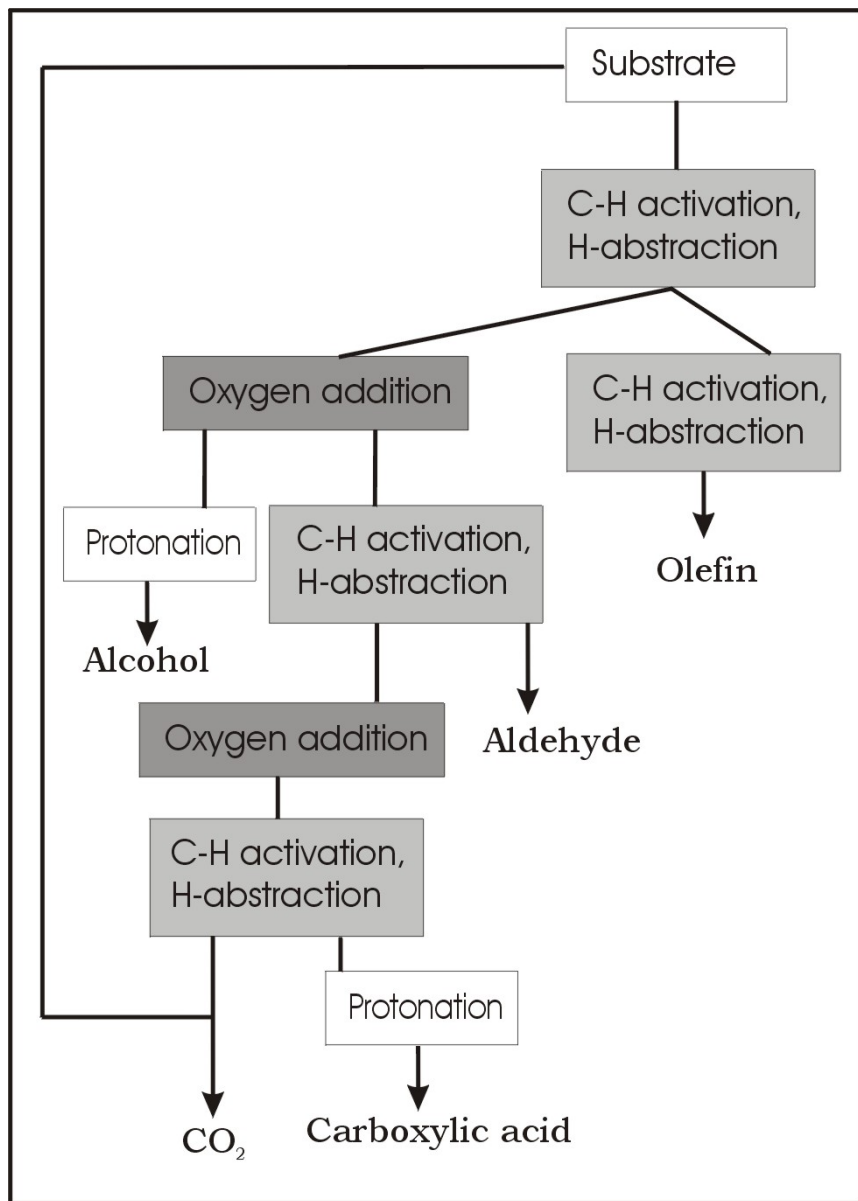
segregate



Make things as simple as possible -
But not simpler
(A. Einstein)

Thank You

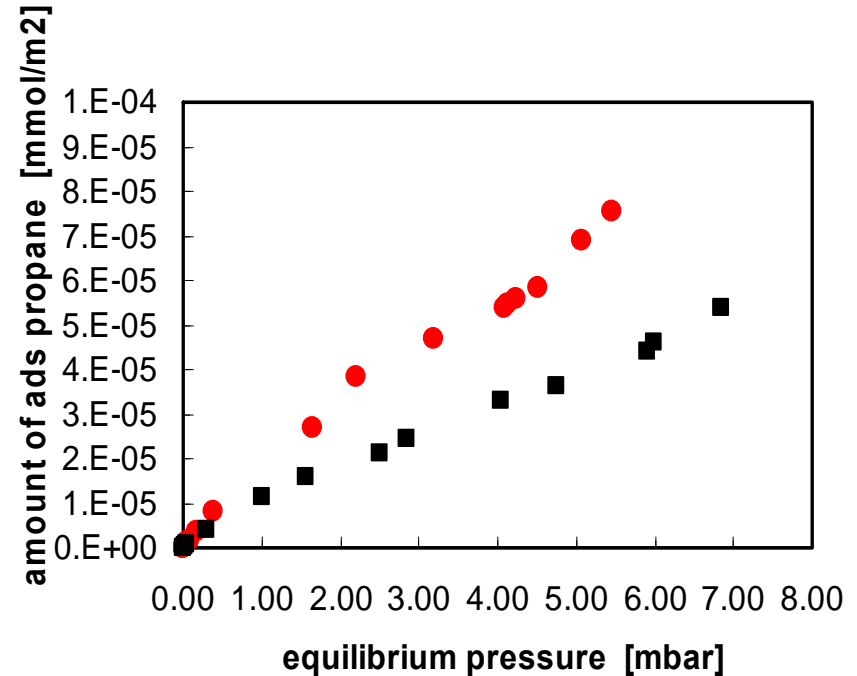
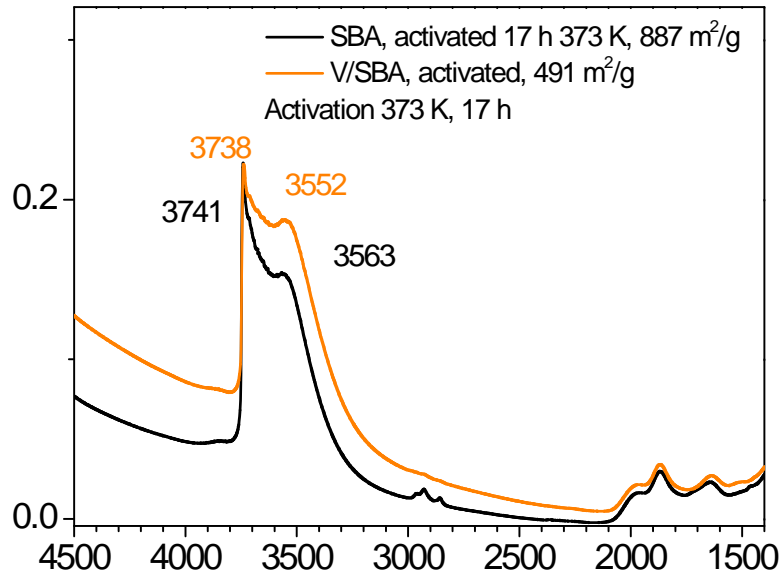
Catalysis is a fascinating challenge
and not a “mature technology”



A medium-complex scenario: Selective Oxidation



0.8V/SBA 15: propane adsorption



Per surface area, the V-containing catalyst adsorbed more propane.

$$\rightarrow \Delta n_{\text{ads}} \sim 0.5 \mu\text{mol/m}^2$$

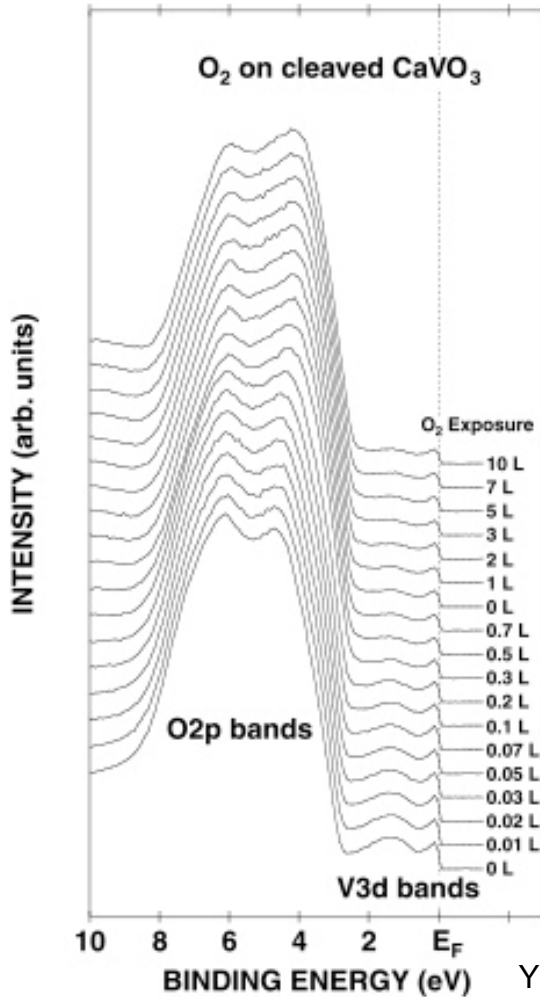


→ not detectable in the IR spectrum

10^{10} sites per mm²

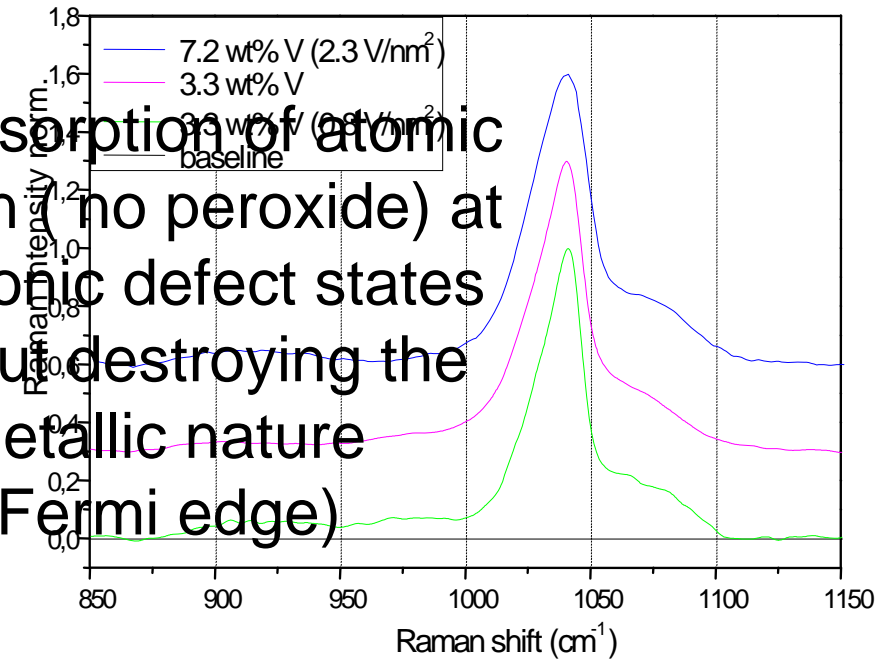


Nature of the active state



Y. Aiura et al. SS 2001

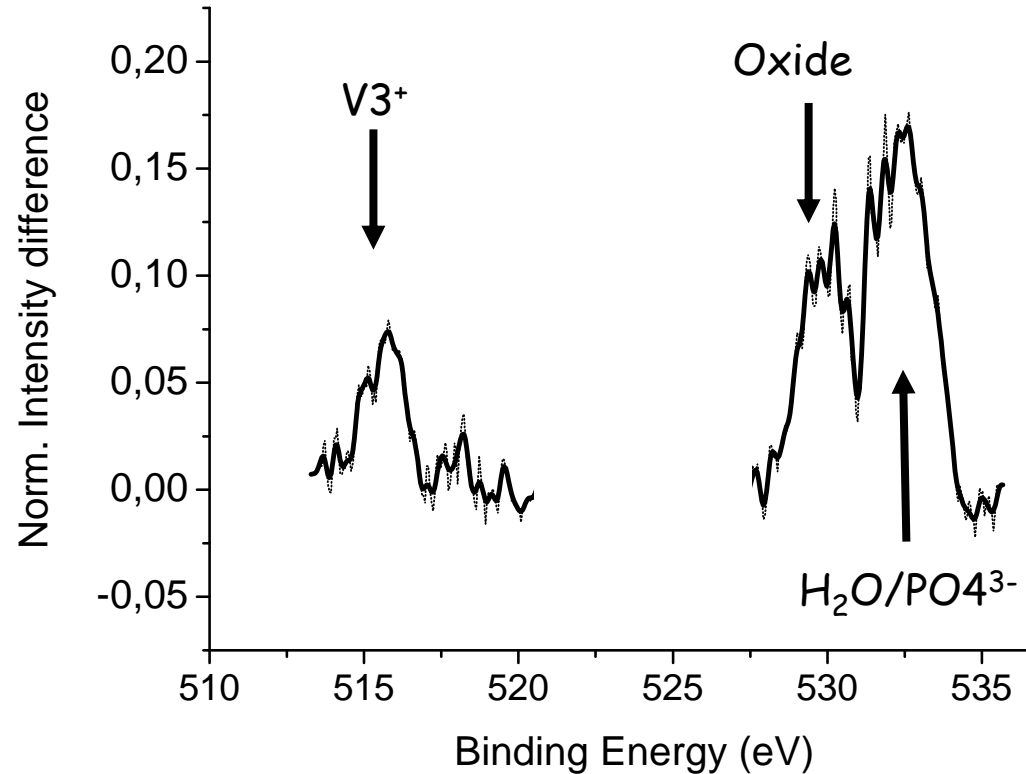
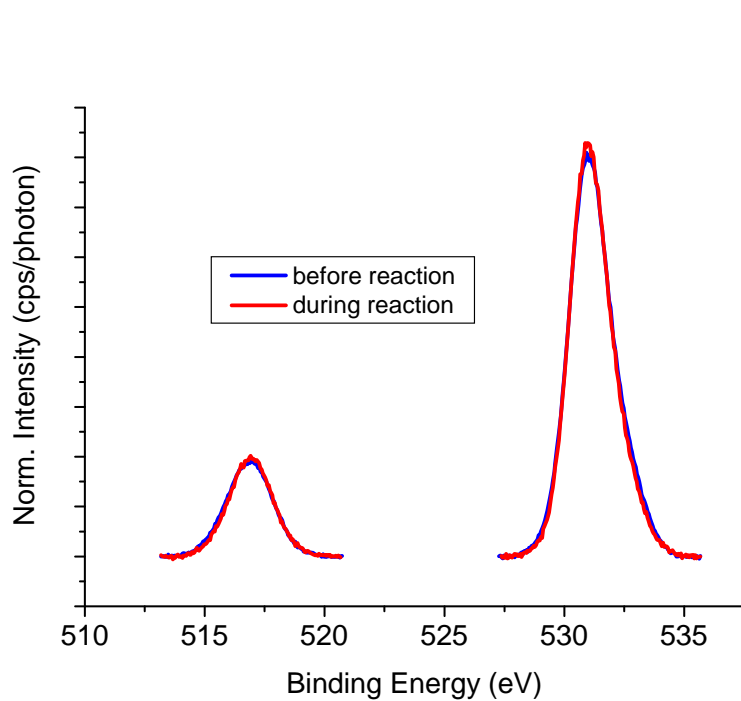
Chemisorption of atomic oxygen (no peroxide) at electronic defect states without destroying the metallic nature (Fermi edge)



Anisotropy of the V=O groups



How much of a catalyst is “active” in steady state ?

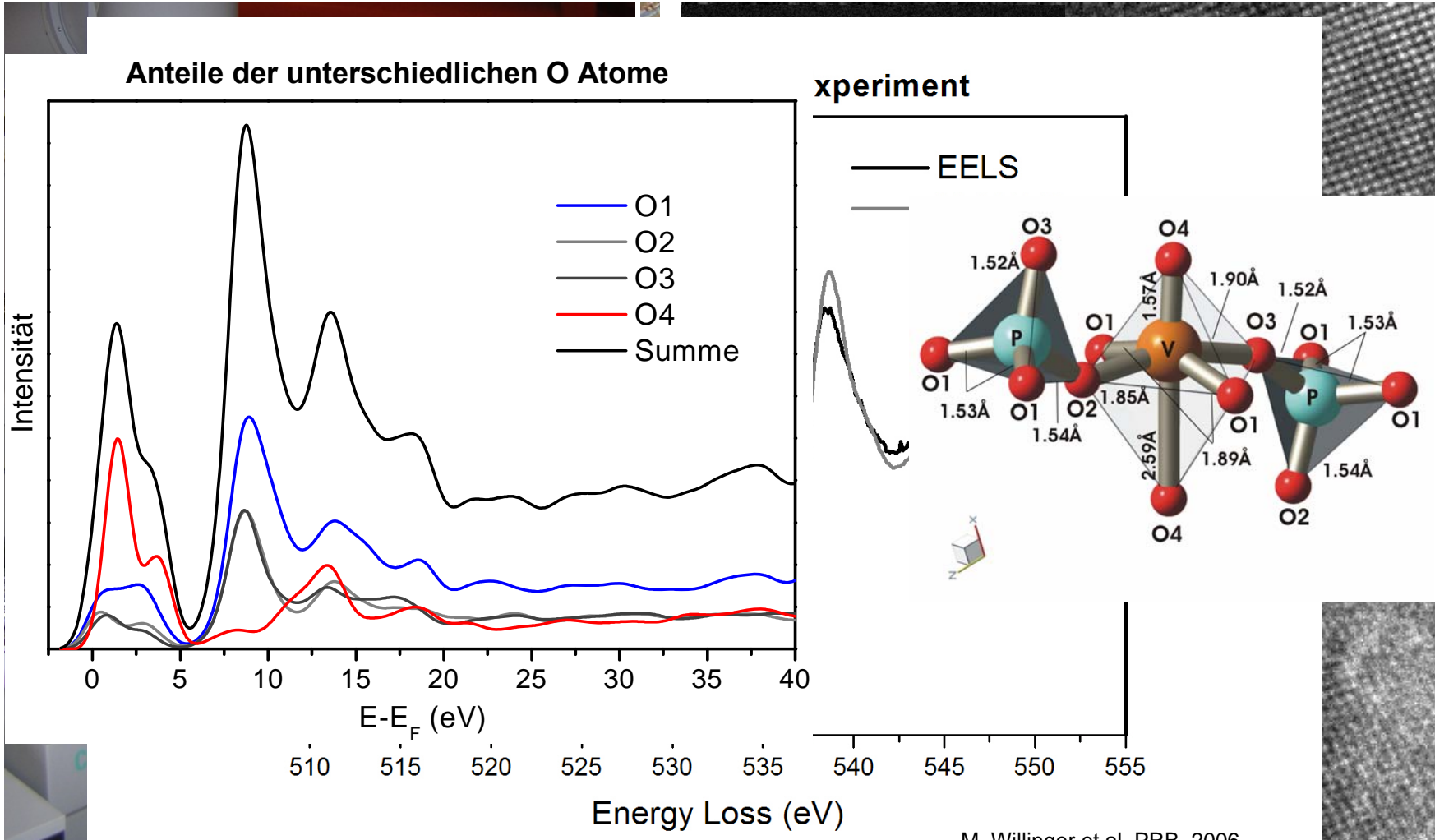


Reversible modifications of a fraction of the surface



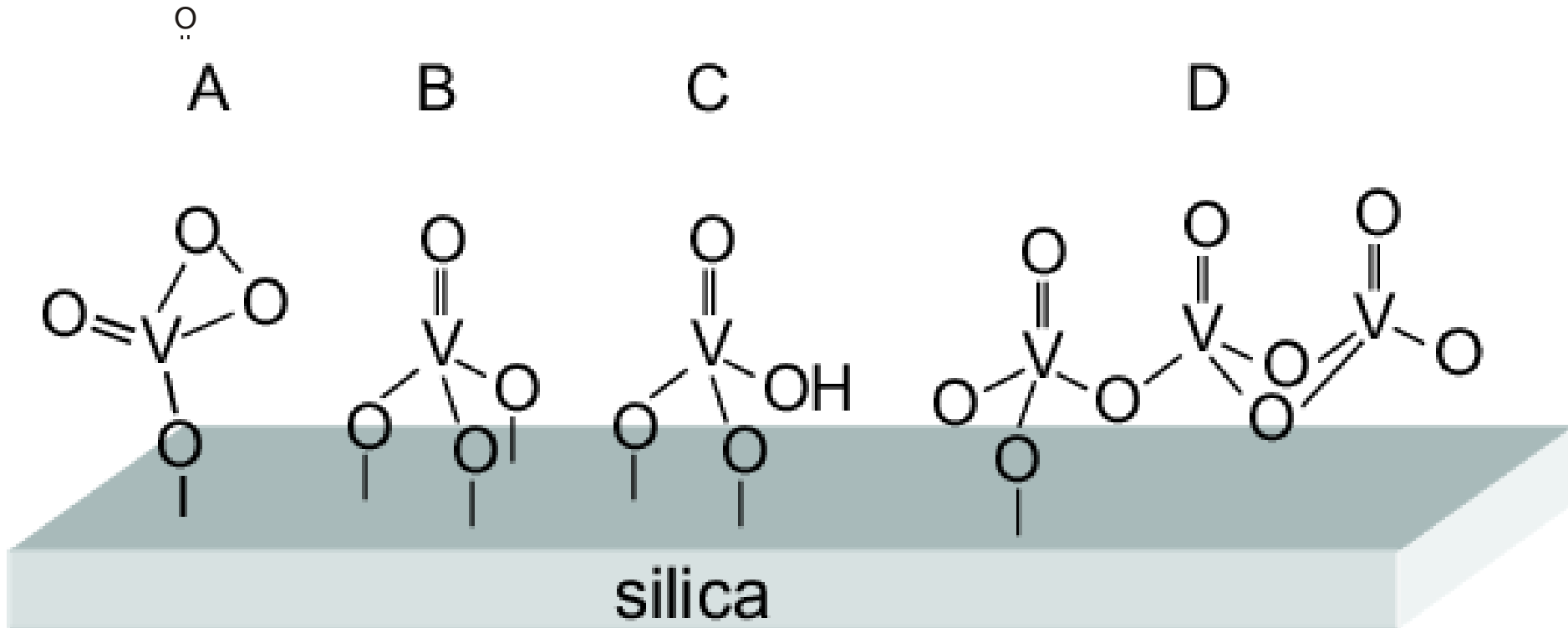
Electronic Structure: EELS vs NEXAFS

Spatial vs surface sensitivity



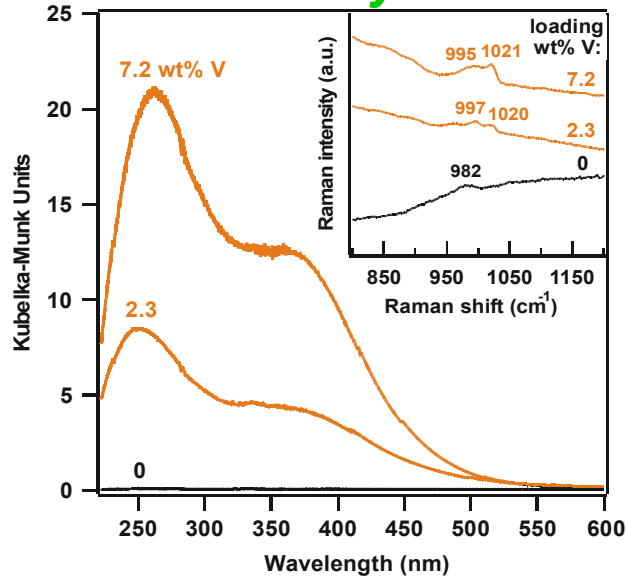
M. Willinger et al. PRB, 2006

What is active

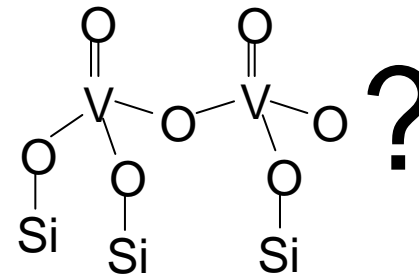
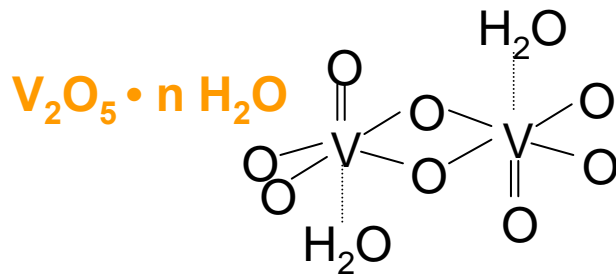
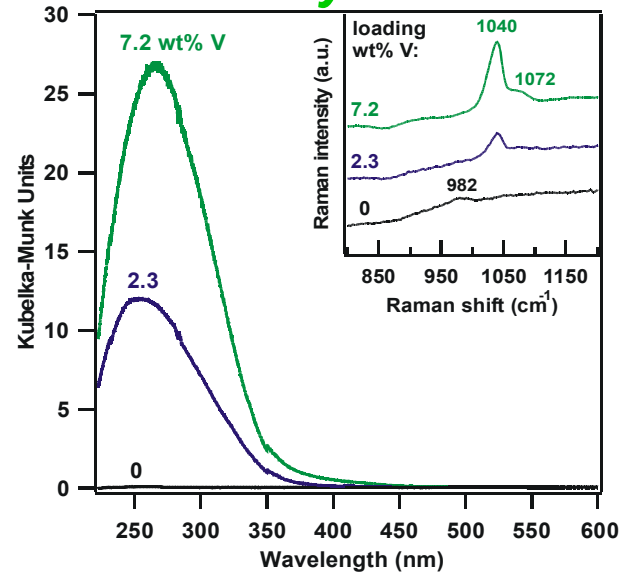


V_xO_y-SBA 15 “Activation” generation of active sites

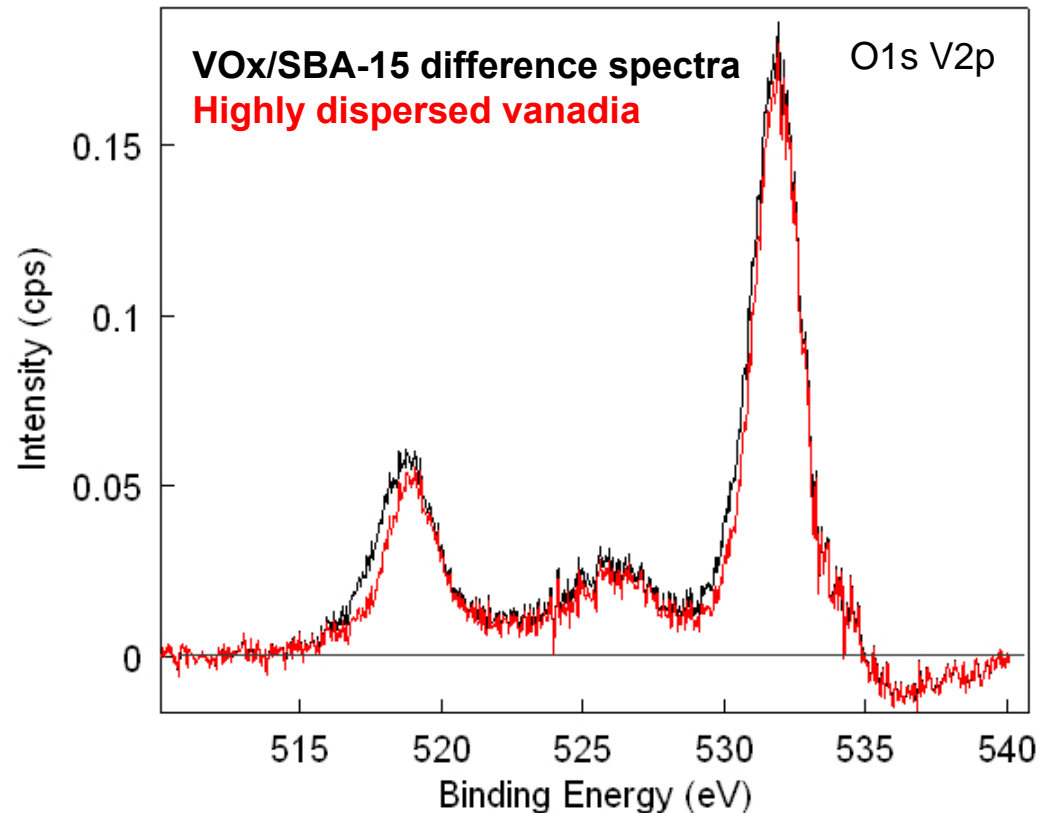
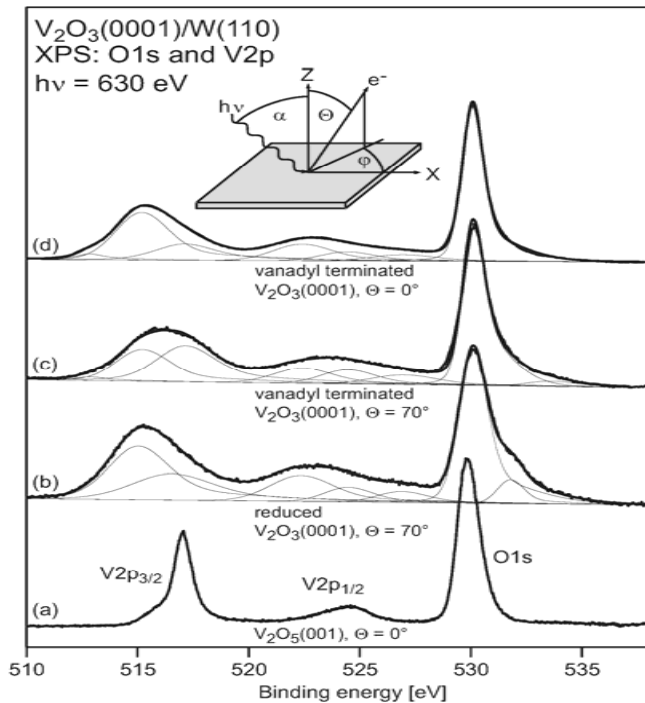
‘as is’: hydrated



dehydrated



The activated state



Freund et al., Surf. Sci. 2003

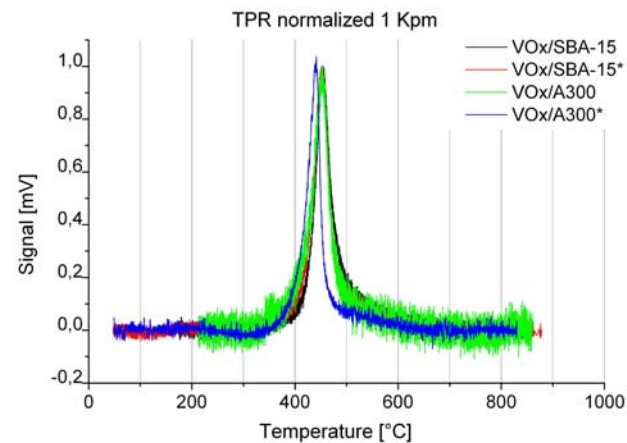
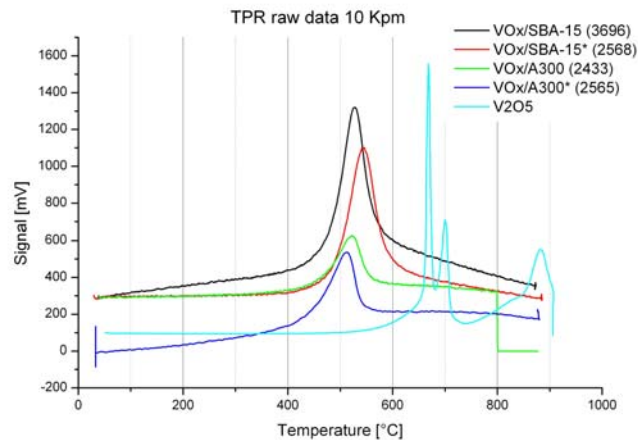
XPS sees a local coordination similar to pyramidal
Electronically isolated from common Fermi edge
Modified oxygen atoms at support interface (?)



[www: fhi-berlin.mpg.de](http://www.fhi-berlin.mpg.de)

Propane ODH V-SBA

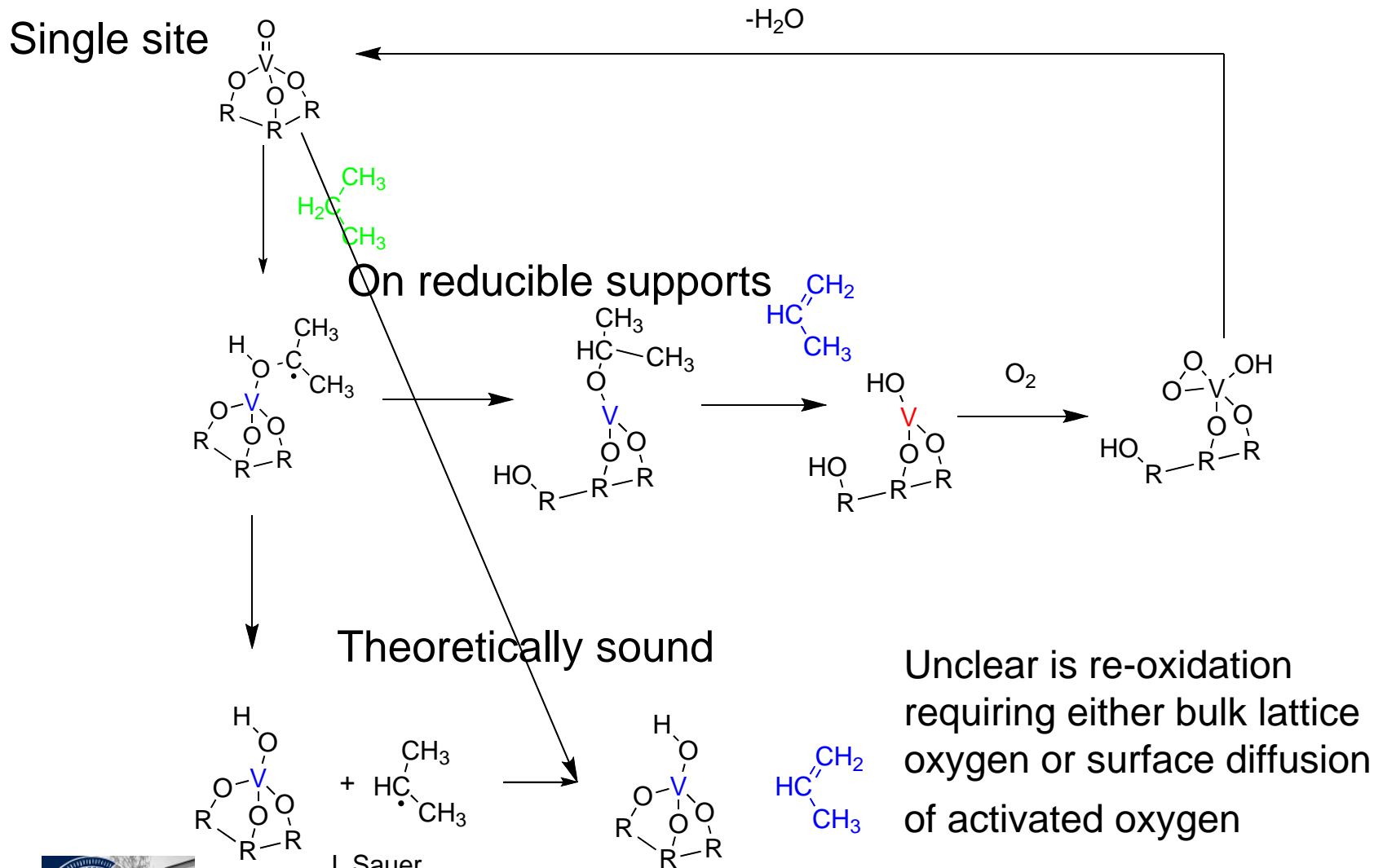
500°C	C₃H₈ Conversion (%)	Time on stream (min)	GHSV (h⁻¹)	Selectivity (%) C₃H₆	acrolein	acetone	CO_x
SBA-15	0	120/240	18000- 6000	0	0	0	0
VOx/SBA-15 (3wt% V)	1	120/240	18000	90	10	0	0
	4	120/240	12000	81	12	7	0
	11	120/240	6000	47	11	6	36



R. Schomäcker et al



Reaction sequences I



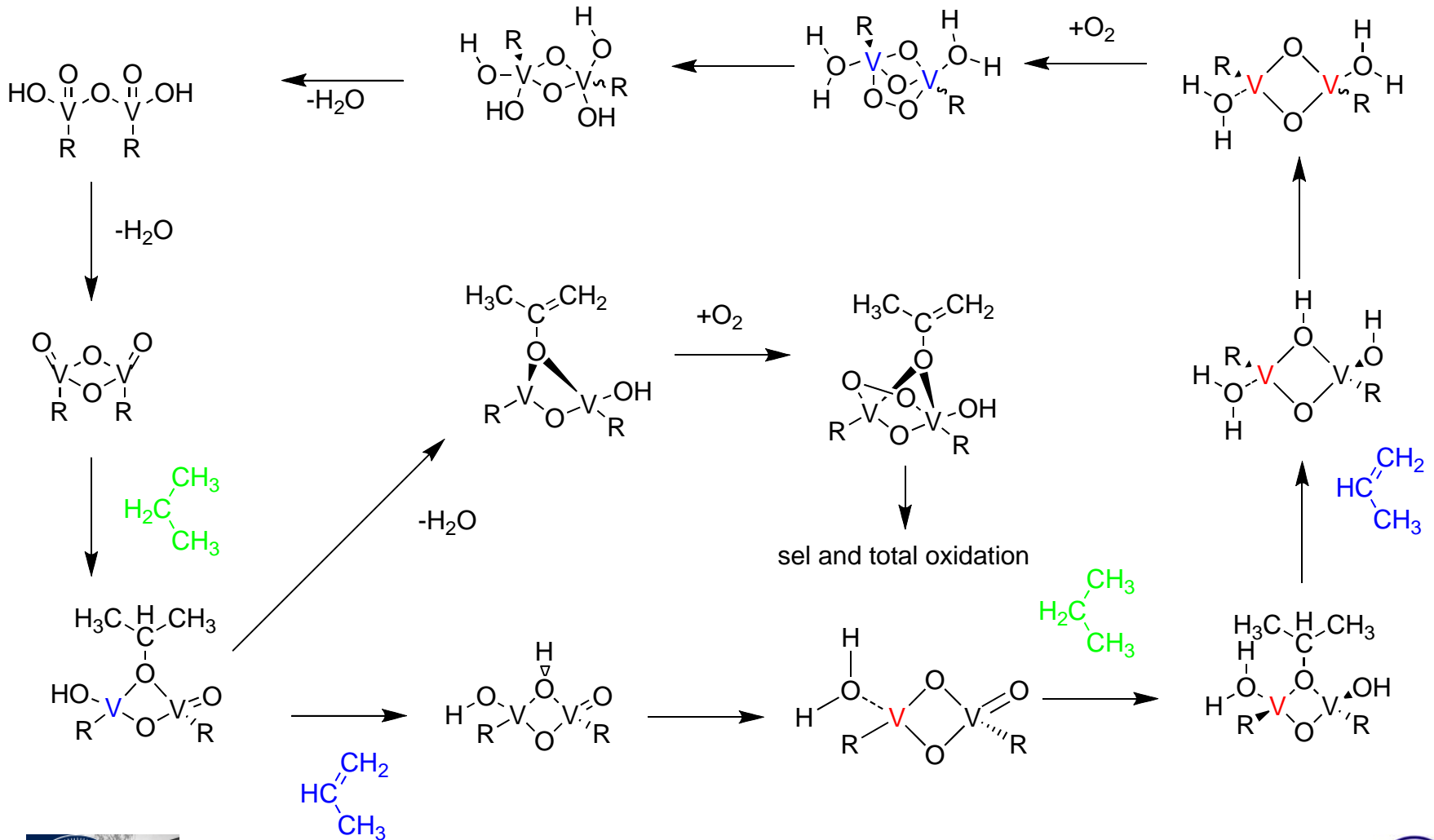
J. Sauer

J. Phys. Chem 2007

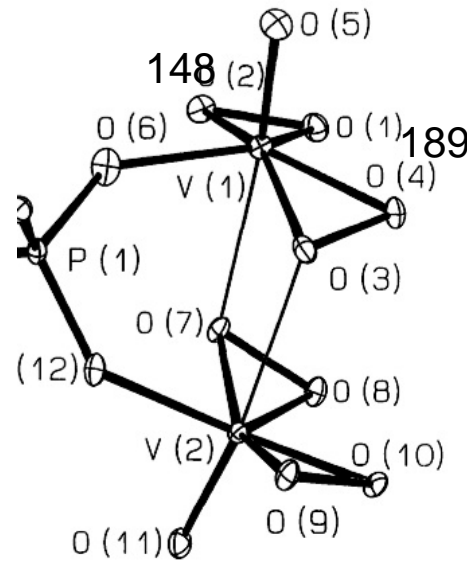
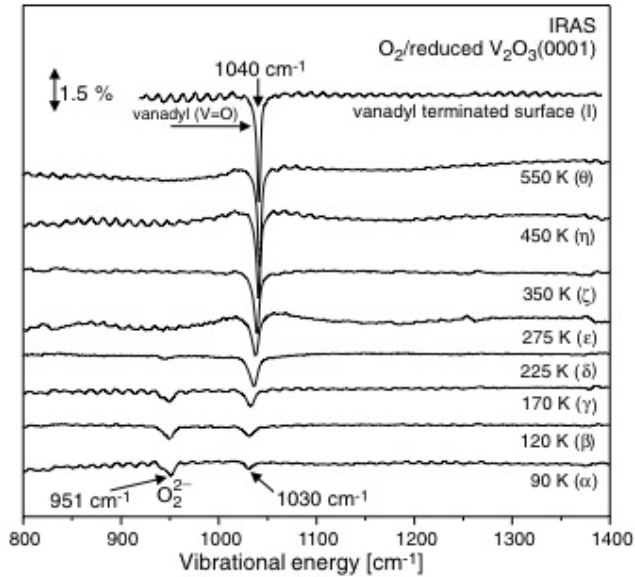
[www: fhi-berlin.mpg.de](http://www.fhi-berlin.mpg.de)



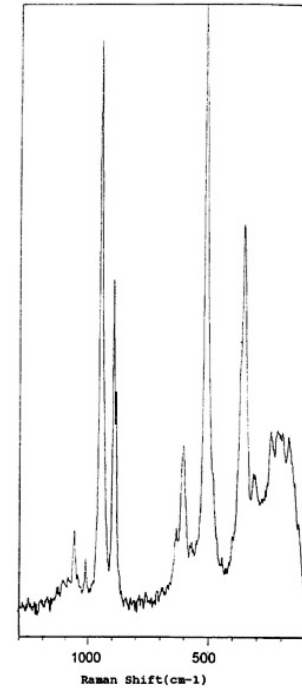
Reaction sequences II



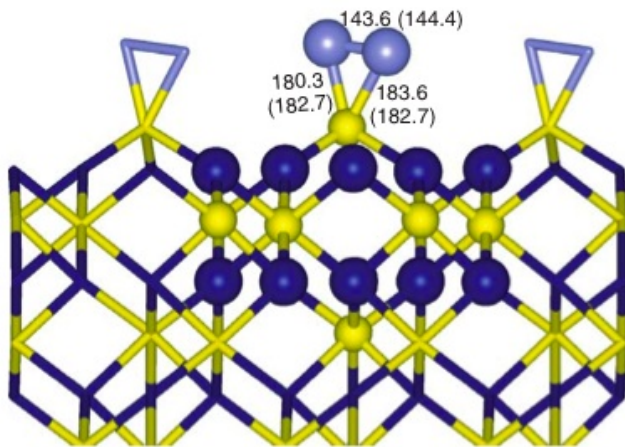
The peroxo species in reference data



P. Schwendt et al
Polyhedron, 1996



Vanadyl-peroxoide is a well-characterised reactive species

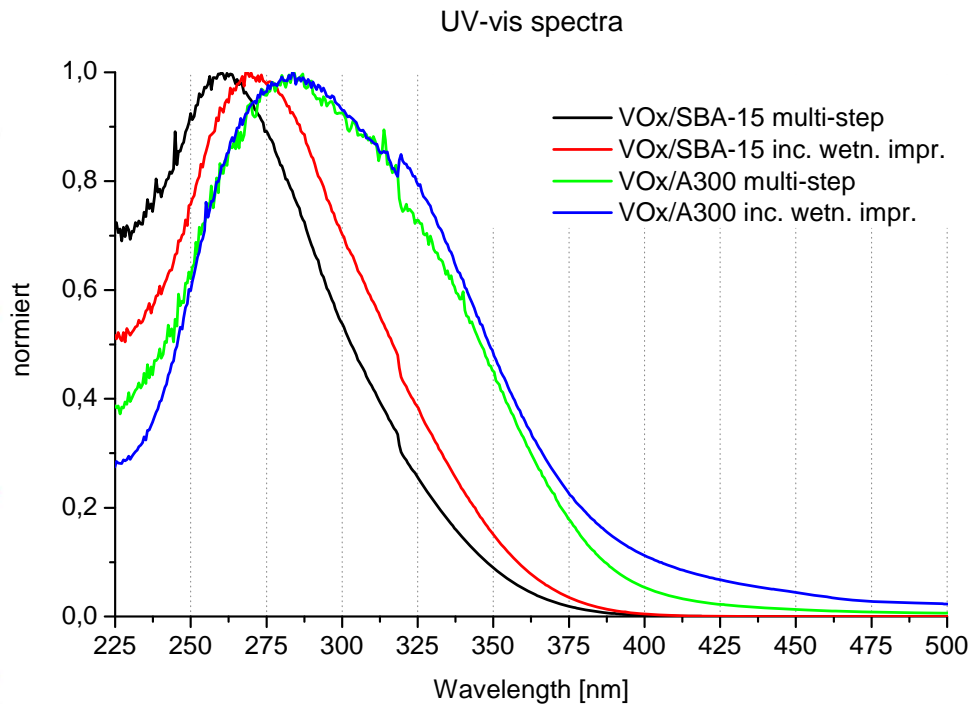
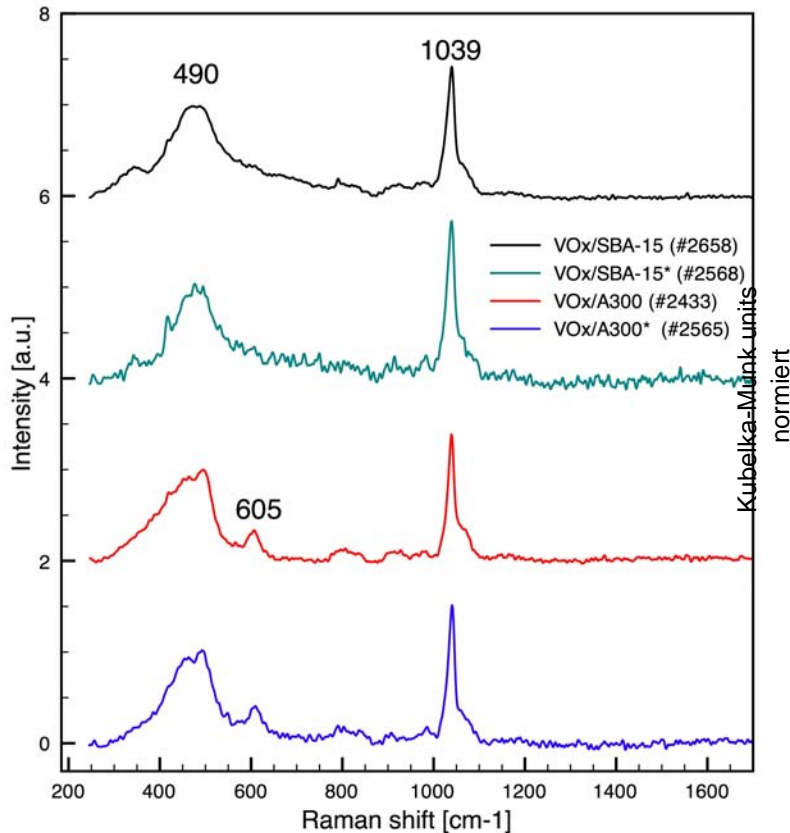


Freund, Sauer et al
Surf. Sci 2006



Support effects: "silica"

How sensitive are detection methods?

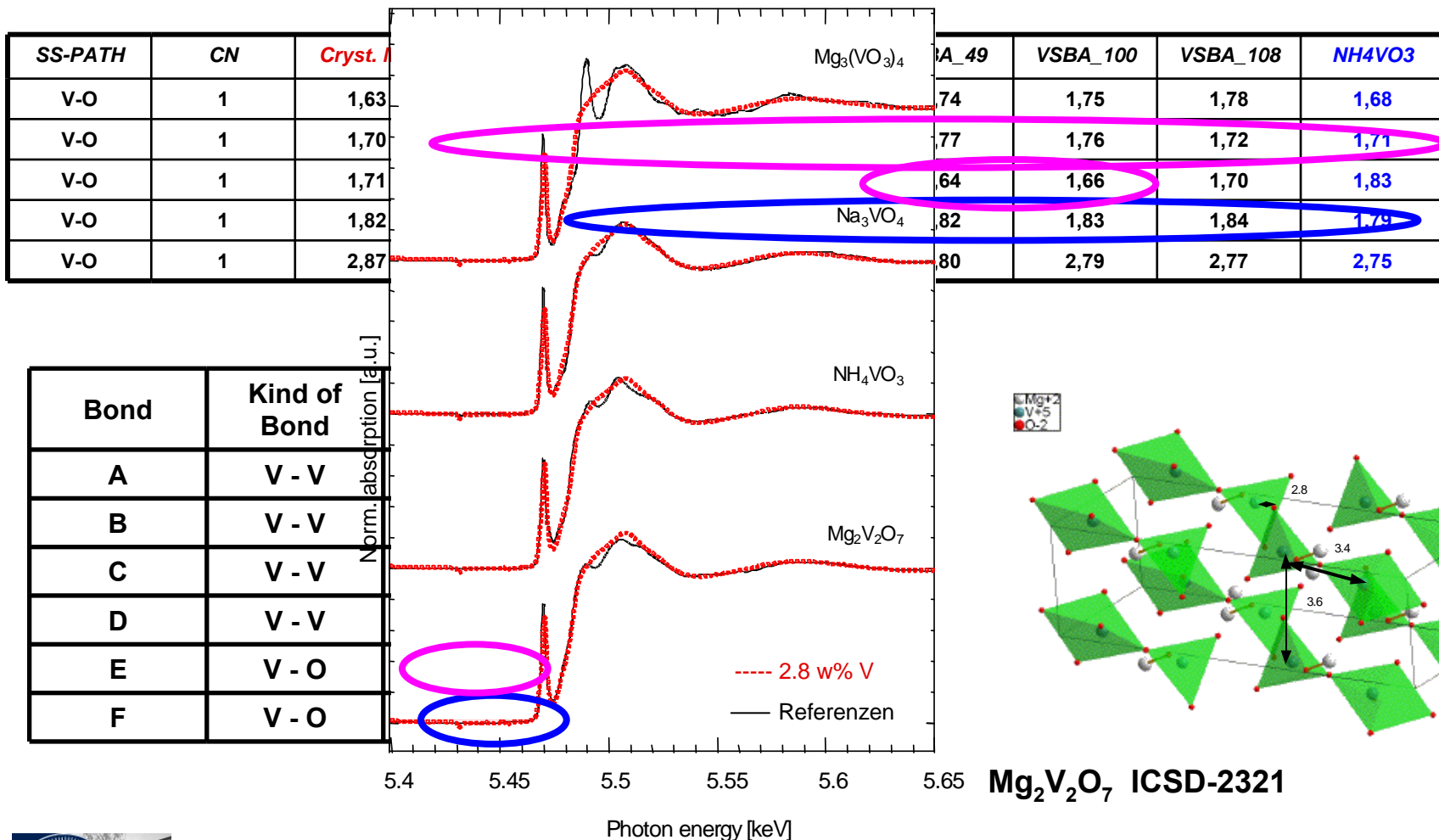


Two impregnation methods on powder and mesoporous silica



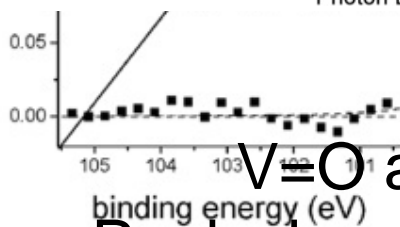
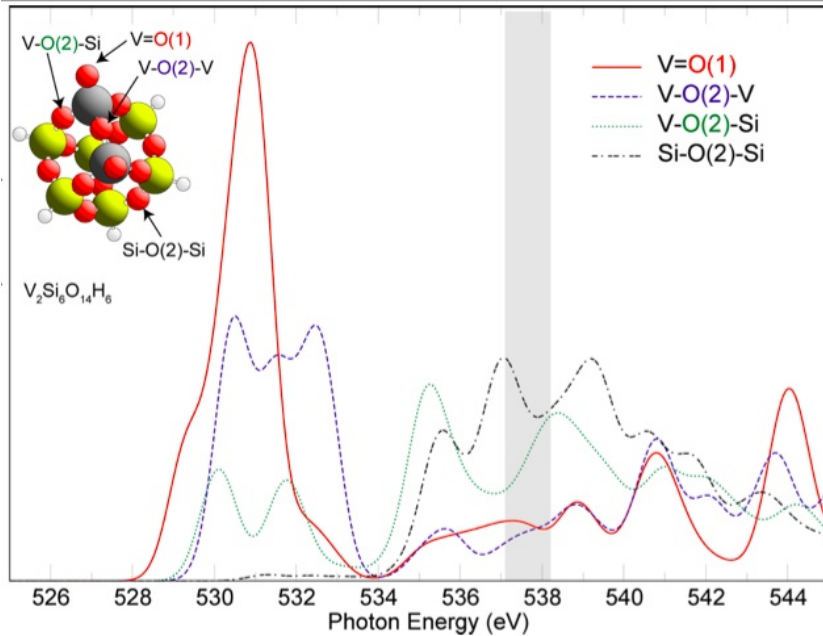
EXAFS what can we learn about oligomerisation?

A. Walter, T. Ressler, TUB



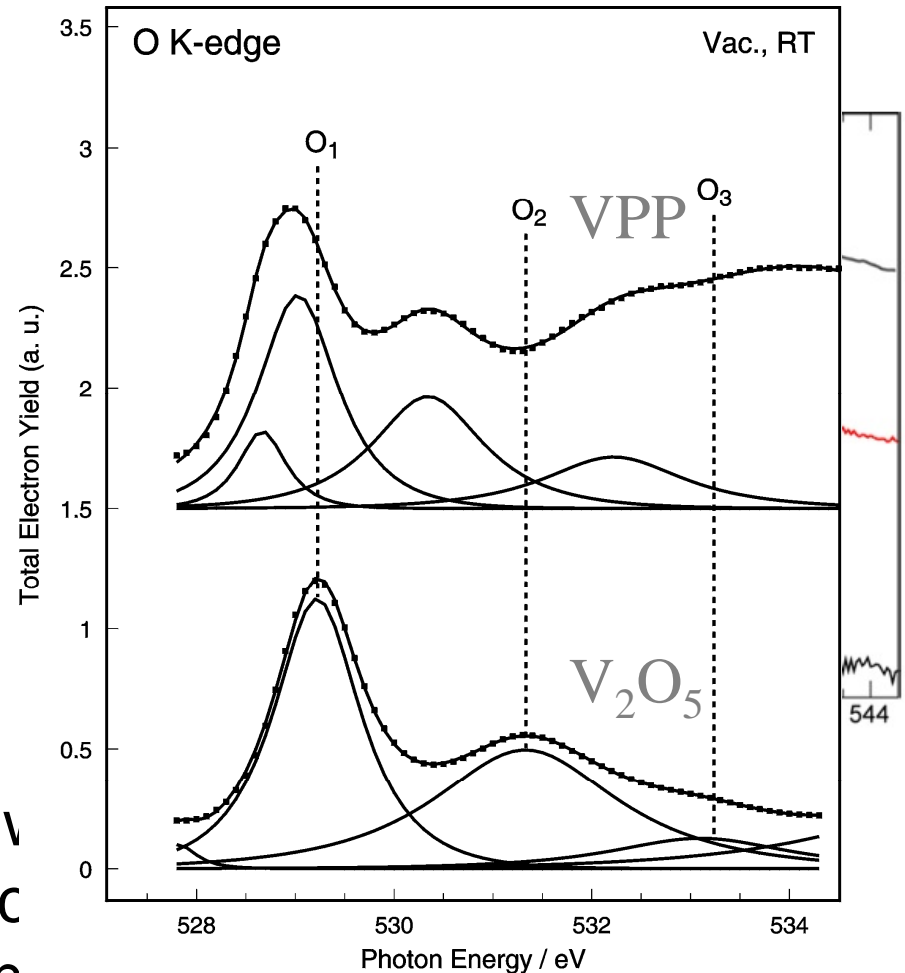
OK-NEXAFS: theory and experiment

M. Cavallieri and K. Hermann
Si $2p_{3/2}$ normalized intensity

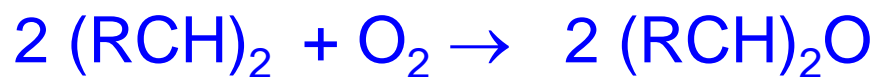
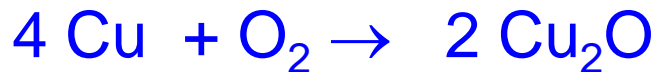
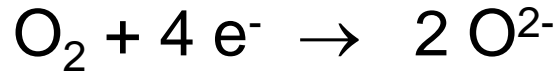


Si-O and V-O v
V=O and V-O-V also c
Gerofolini et al
Appl Phys A, 2009

Peak shape strongly dependent on V-O-V bond angle



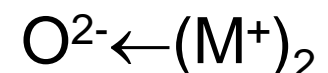
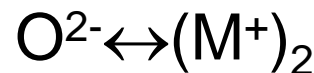
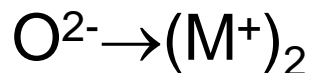
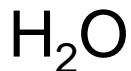
Red-Ox Chemistry and XPS



O(C,H)

O electro

O nucleo



534

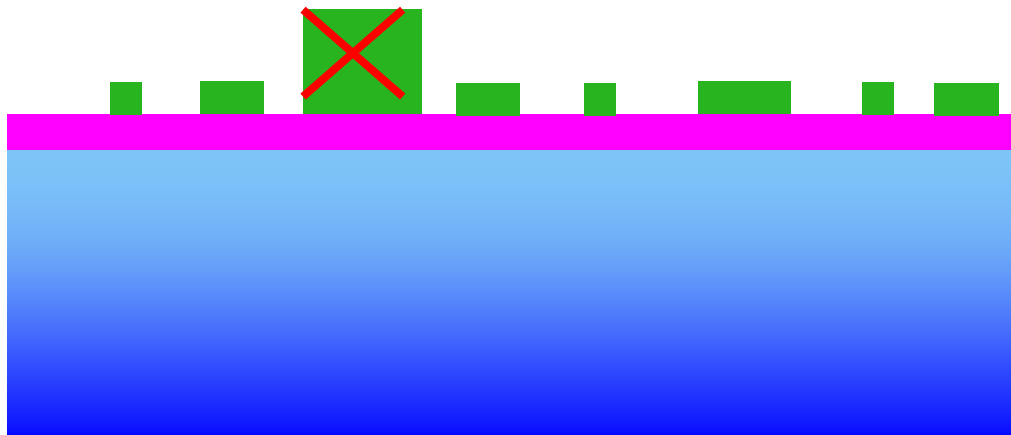
532

530

528



Functional elements of a sel ox cat



Distribution of active species
Oligomeric, clusters
No lattice, site isolation

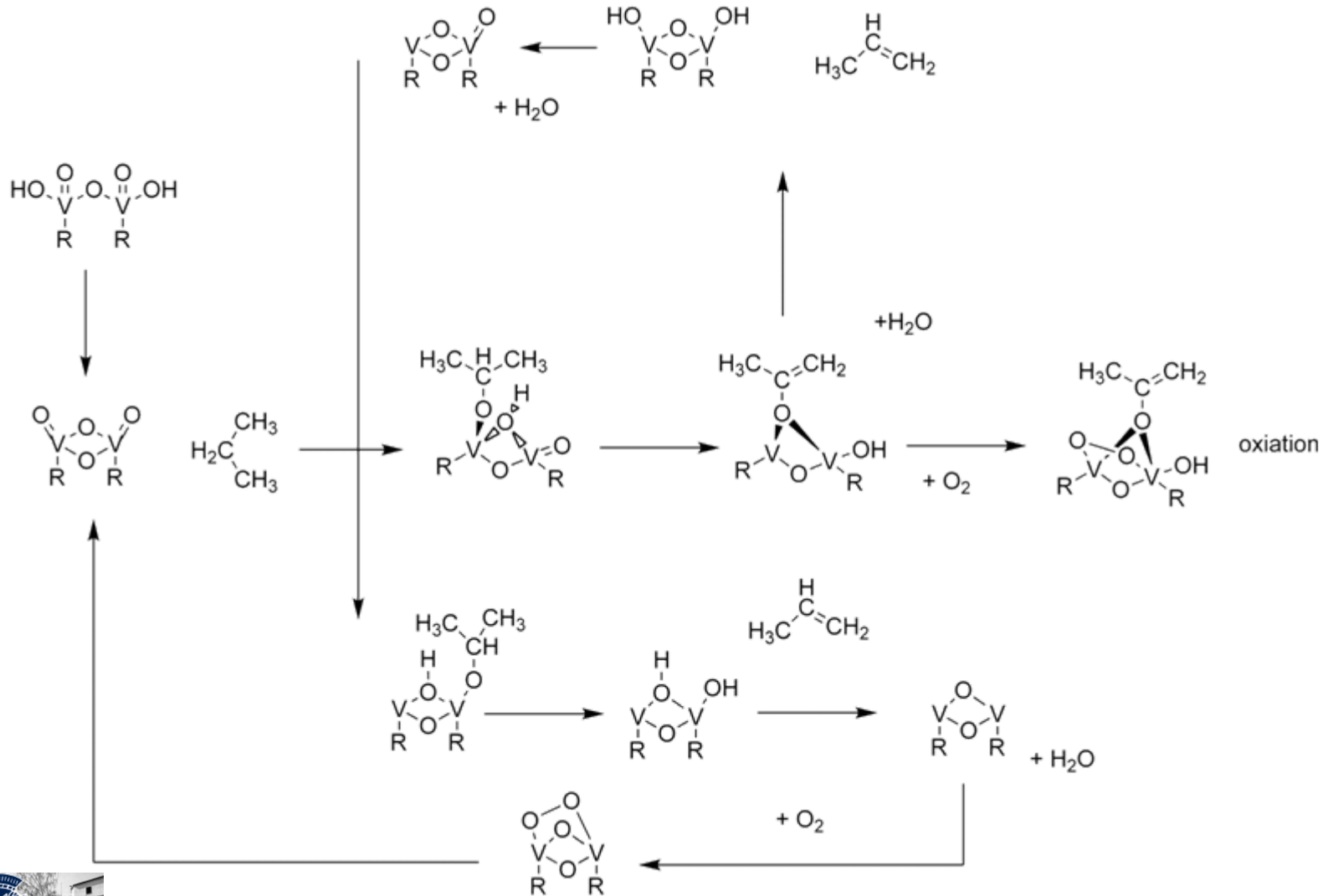
Separation layer
Terminates bulk, segregation kinetics
Surfactant for active species
Controls stability of the active species

Bulk with complex structure
Dynamics, self repair
Reservoir for active species
Adjusts the reactivity of cations

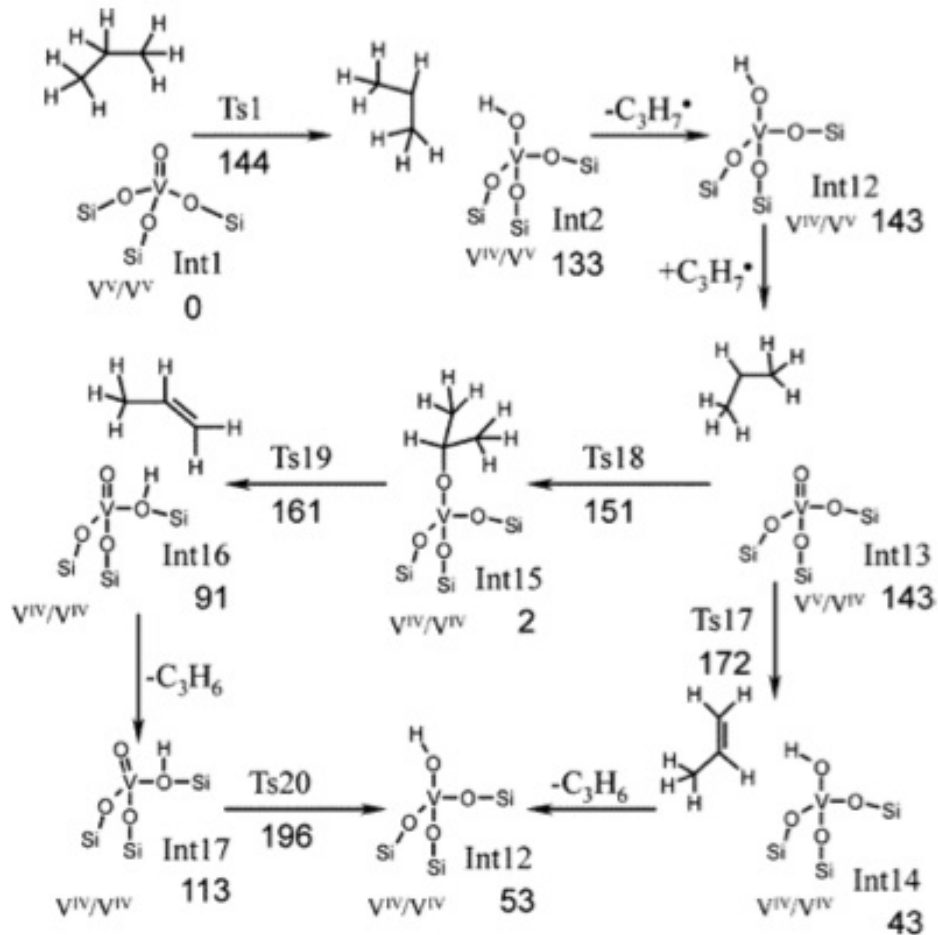
only the microscopic level is considered
supramolecular assembly forming under reaction conditions



Reaction pathway dual site propane ODH



Model studies



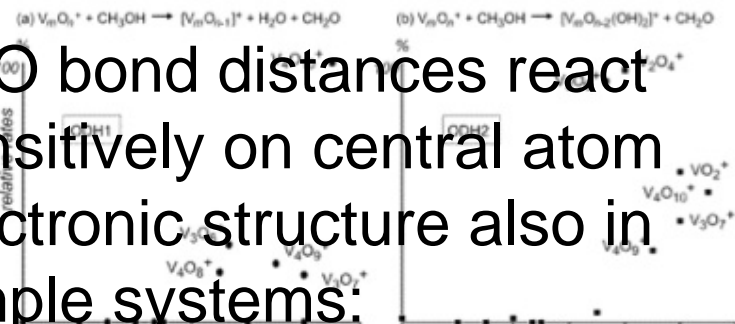
J. Sauer et al
J. Phys. Chem. 2007

Theory gives us a complete reaction scenario of the ODH of propane; The concept of **independent single sites** and exchange of radicals is used; The **re-oxidation** is not yet described and will create problems with a single site (4 electrons per oxygen; also transfer of activated molecular oxygen?)



Model studies

V=O bond distances react sensitively on central atom electronic structure also in simple systems:



species	V=O (pm)	valence
VO ⁺	155	2.0
VO ₂ [*]	156	4.0
VO(OH) ⁺	155	3.0
VO ₂	162	5.0
VO(OH)	161	3.0

J. Phys. Chem., 2007

H. Schwarz et al, Eur. J. Chem., 2007

Reactivity of gas phase clusters in MeOH ODH critically depends on oxidation state:
high oxidation states favour this reaction,
low oxidation states activate whole molecule, non-selective processes

V³⁺ most stable reactive species



Dynamics of heterogeneous catalysts

- Catalysts modify the rates of chemical reactions by
 - Pressure-dependent spatio-temporal decoupling of elementary reactions (**pressure gap**)
 - Enhancement of metastable species (intermediates) above thermodynamic abundance
- Require metastable material for adaptive sites emerging from reactant-catalyst interaction
- Isolation of the material only leaves accidental sites at “defects” for residual activity (**material gap**)

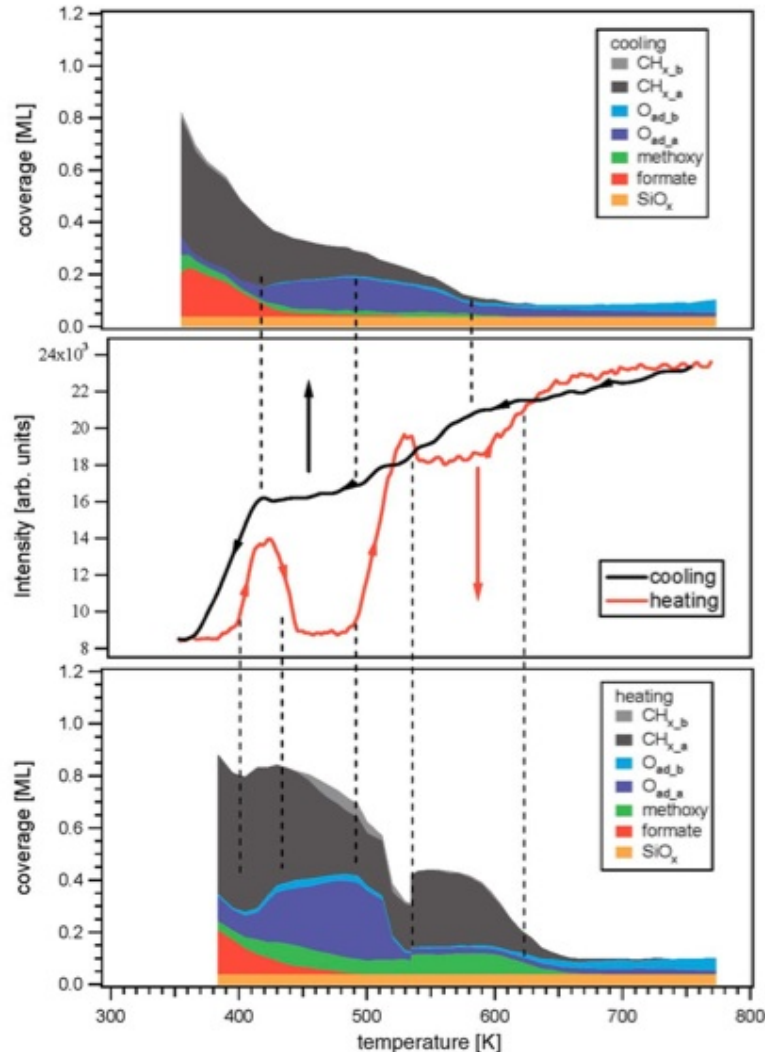


Catalysis and coverage: Cu/O system

In situ monitoring of surface species during methanol oxidation to FA:

Power of speciation of XPS (from C1s and O1s data)

S. Günther, R. Imbihl



Under highly reactive conditions no hydrocarbon or active oxygen at the surface in detectable quantities but O-modified Cu (111) surface: no “oxide”

Note hysteresis and oxide formation as inhibiting process during cool-down



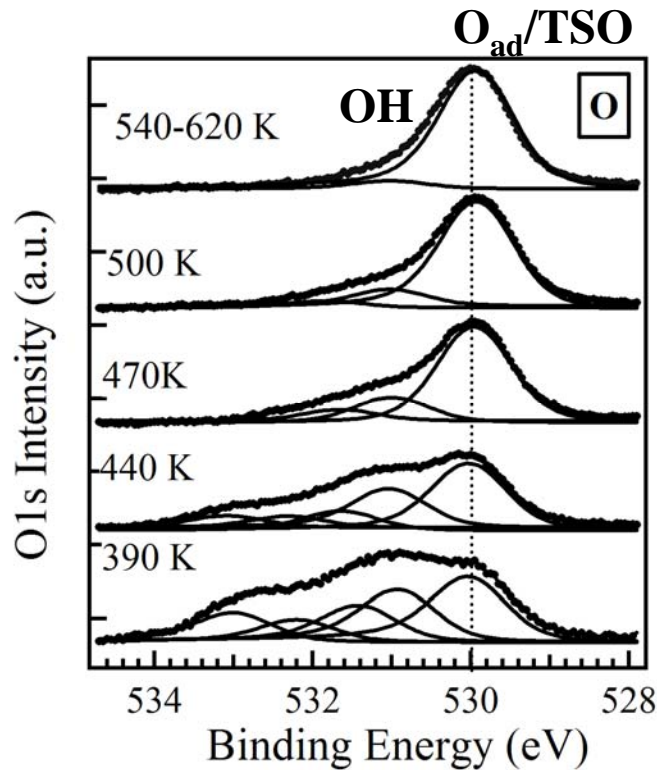
Di-oxygen as oxidant

- 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)
 - Protonates via OH oxygenates

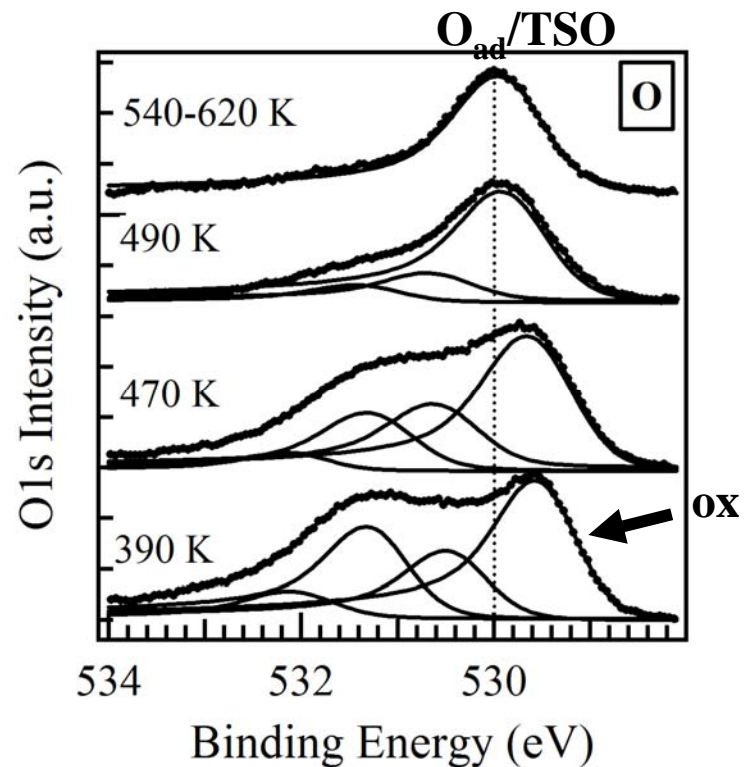


O 1s in-situ spectral responses

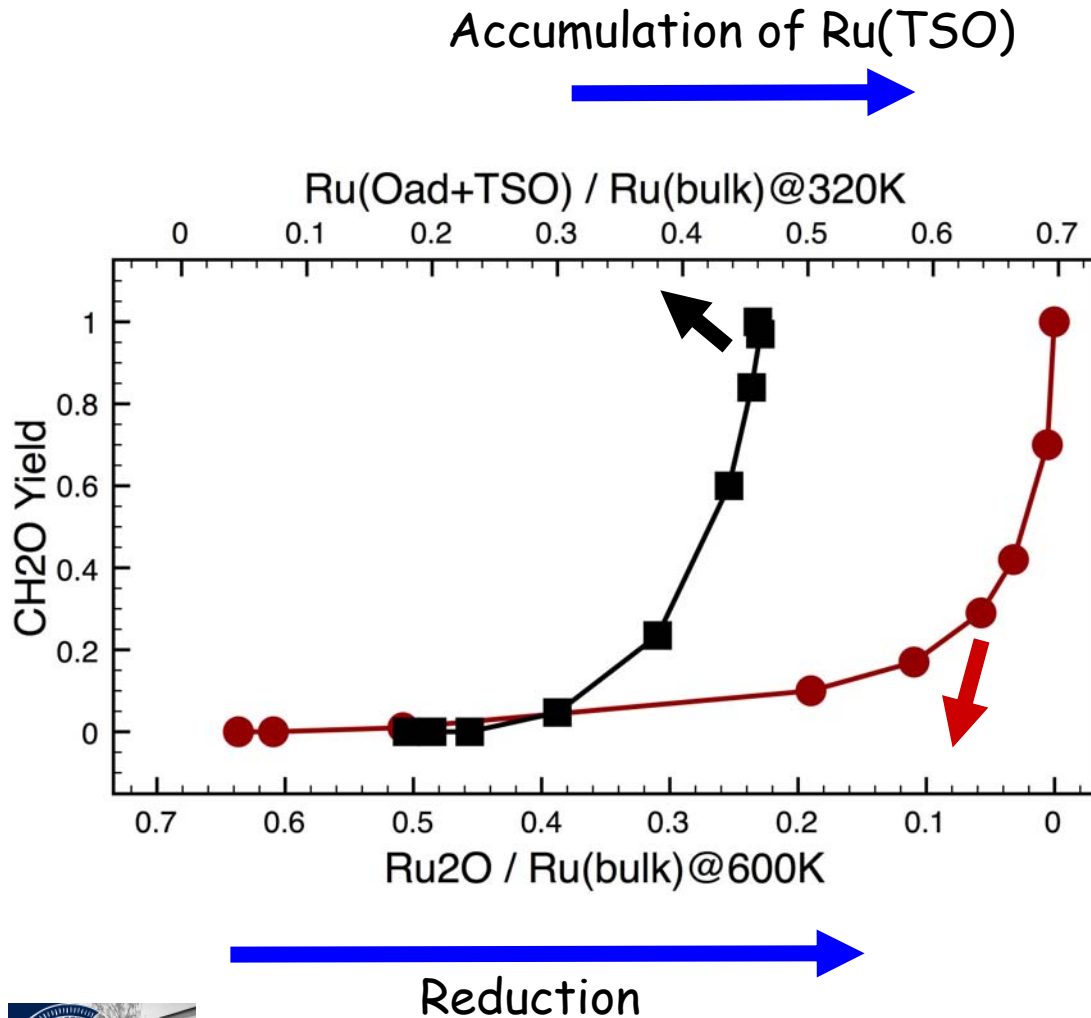
pre-catalyst: metallic Ru(1010)



pre-catalyst: oxidized Ru(1010)



Quantitative structure function relation

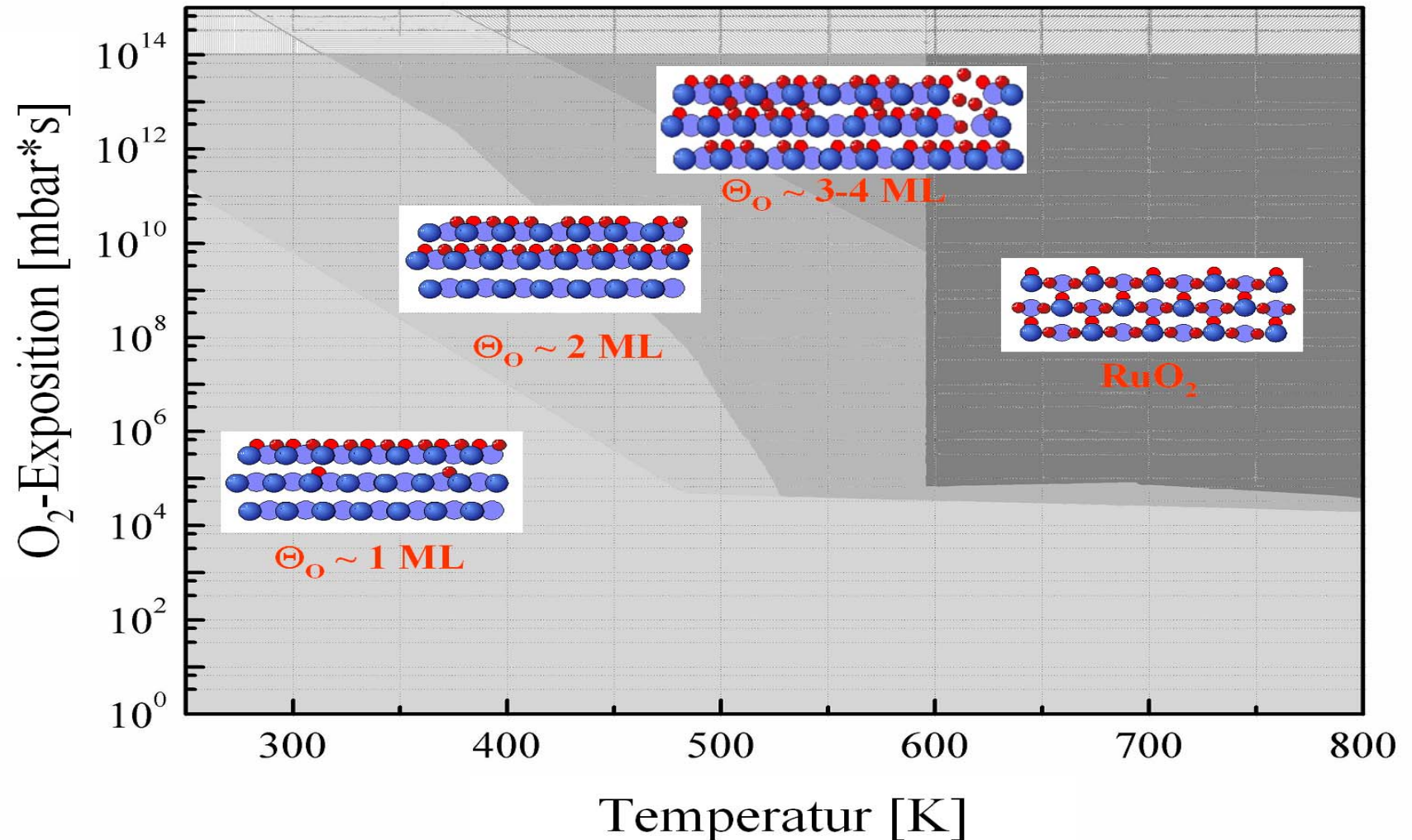


Oxide is inhibiting

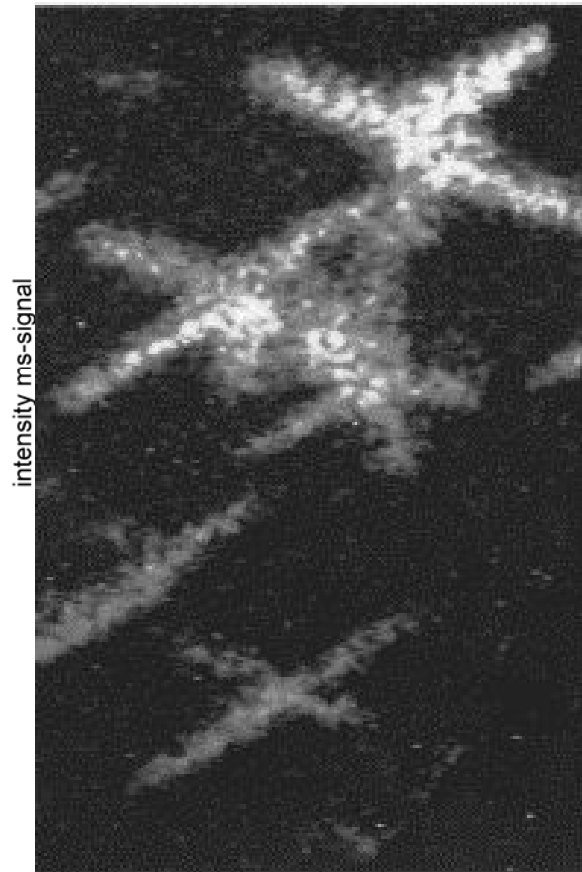
TSO forms from
oxide and is
active state



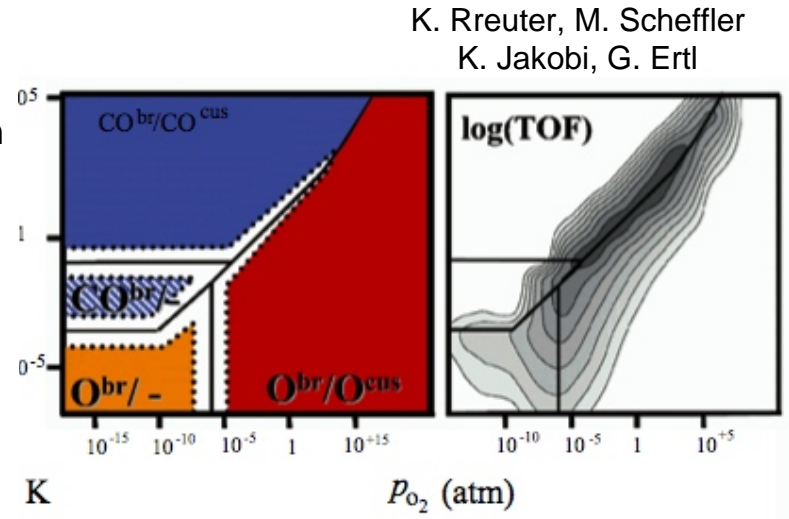
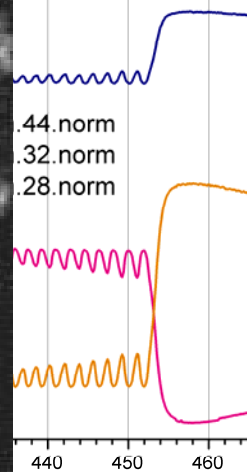
Metastable sub-surface species



Comparison with CO oxidation over Ru



RuO₂ powder
488 K
excess of oxygen



Theory predicts in agreement with surf sci studies rate maximum where several phases are iso-energetic: metastable

Niehus, Böttcher et al



Challenge in catalysis

- Enormous success in understanding of individual elementary steps (surface science).
- Was enabled by excluding complexity (model systems).
- Assembly of elementary steps to working catalysts in reactions with kinetic demands not successful.
- Reduction of complexity (Langmuir instead of Taylor models) was too drastic.



Function of a catalyst: dynamical limit

