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Poster HASYLAB Usermeeting, 2006



In situ XAS investigation of tungsten as structure directing agent during formation of Mo_5O_{14} type partial oxidation catalysts

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Introduction

Crystalline, single phase $(\text{MoVW})_5\text{O}_{14}$ and $(\text{MoV})_5\text{O}_{14}$ constitute three-dimensional model systems for the more complex technical catalysts for the partial oxidation of propene to acrolein and acrylic acid [1]. In the mixed oxide systems little is known about the cooperation of the different metal centers and their role for the stabilization of the active phase [2,3,4]. Here we report in situ X-ray absorption spectroscopy (XAS) and in situ X-ray diffraction (XRD) studies on the bulk structural evolution of $(\text{MoVW})_5\text{O}_{14}$ and $(\text{MoV})_5\text{O}_{14}$ under reducing, oxidizing, and catalytic conditions. At temperatures above ~ 600 K in 5% propene and 10% oxygen the molybdenum oxide material obtained is active for the selective oxidation of propene in presence of gas phase oxygen.

Experimental

Combined in situ XRD/MS experiments were performed on a STOE Theta/theta diffractometer equipped with a XRK900 high temperature cell and a mass spectrometer for on-line gas analysis. Combined transmission XAS/MS experiments were performed at the Mo K and W L_{III} edge at beamline X1 and at the V K edge at beamline E4 at HASYLAB in a flow-through reactor at atmospheric pressure with total flow of 30 ml/min.

In isothermal redox experiments $(\text{MoVW})_5\text{O}_{14}$ and $(\text{MoV})_5\text{O}_{14}$ were heated in helium to 773 K. At 773 K the atmosphere was isothermally switched to 10% propene and XRD or XAS scans were measured until complete reduction of the sample. The resulting materials were re-oxidized in 20% oxygen and XRD or XAS scans were collected until no reduced phase was detectable.

Results and discussion

In situ XAS and XRD confirm the structural stability of $(\text{MoVW})_5\text{O}_{14}$ and $(\text{MoV})_5\text{O}_{14}$ during heating in helium to 773 K. Reduction of $(\text{MoV})_5\text{O}_{14}$ and $(\text{MoVW})_5\text{O}_{14}$ into a MoO_2 type structure occurred at 773 K in 10% propene. Re-oxidation of the reduced MoVW oxide in 20% oxygen resulted in the initial Mo_5O_{14} type phase. In case of the reduced MoV oxide re-oxidation leads to a MoO_3 type structure. In situ XAS experiments at the Mo K edge, V K edge and W L_{III} edge revealed characteristic structural changes during isothermal experiments.

The XANES of a material with its characteristic edge position, pre-edge peaks, and edge features is a distinct fingerprint of an element in a characteristic structure and bonding situation. XANES spectra of initial, reduced and re-oxidized samples were compared to references of known structure and oxidation state. XANES spectra taken at the Mo K edge of the initial $(\text{MoVW})_5\text{O}_{14}$ and $(\text{MoV})_5\text{O}_{14}$ are compared in Figure 1. The similar XANES indicates molybdenum in the same local environment for $(\text{MoVW})_5\text{O}_{14}$ and $(\text{MoV})_5\text{O}_{14}$. Therefore molybdenum can be assumed in similar coordination geometry in $(\text{MoVW})_5\text{O}_{14}$ and $(\text{MoV})_5\text{O}_{14}$. In the reduced MoO_2 type materials derived from the two samples the XANES is nearly identical (Figure 2). Comparison of the XANES spectrum of the reduced MoO_2 type samples to a MoO_2 reference reveals an edge shift of the sample to higher energy by ~ 2.5 eV. The higher energy of the edge position indicates an average oxidation state of molybdenum higher than Mo^{4+} . After re-oxidation the XANES of the



MoV oxide is the same as for the initial $(\text{MoVW})_5\text{O}_{14}$ (Figure 3), whereas for the MoV oxide the XANES resembles a MoO_3 reference (Figure 4). The slight deviations in the XANES features and edge position between MoO_3 reference and the re-oxidized MoV oxide is indicative of an incorporation of vanadium in a molybdenum framework.

$(\text{MoV})_5\text{O}_{14}$ material exhibits a lower stability against gas phase oxygen compared to tungsten containing $(\text{MoVW})_5\text{O}_{14}$. Apparently, the presence of tungsten in the oxide systems stabilizes the Mo_5O_{14} type structure and prevents complete oxidation even under conditions of sufficient oxygen mobility and high oxidation potential of the gas phase. Furthermore, tungsten in the MoO_2 type material obtained from the reduction of $(\text{MoVW})_5\text{O}_{14}$ exerts a structure-directing effect under oxidizing conditions resulting in the re-formation of the Mo_5O_{14} type structure.

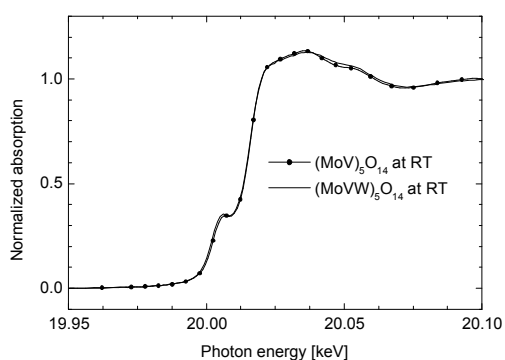


Figure 1: XANES at the Mo K edge of as prepared Mo_5O_{14} structured molybdenum mixed metal oxides. In both samples molybdenum has a similar electronic structure.

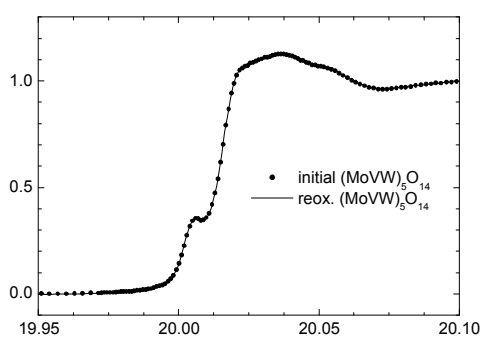


Figure 3: At the Mo K edge the electronic structure of the re-oxidized tungsten containing compound is Mo_5O_{14} type and overlays the initial XANES.

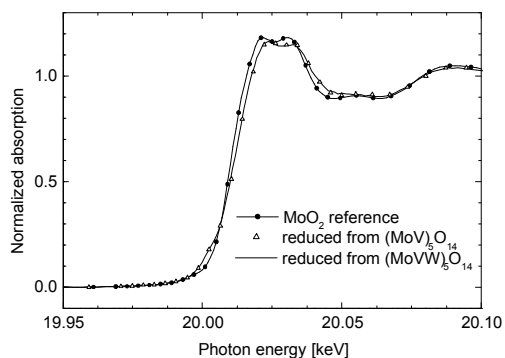


Figure 2: At the Mo K edge the edge position of the reduced molybdenum mixed metal oxide is at higher energy than for the MoO_2 reference.

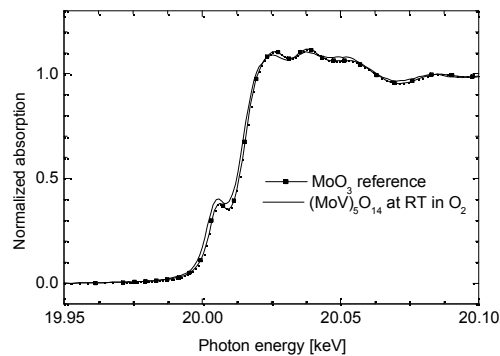


Figure 4: XANES at the Mo K edge of the re-oxidized MoV oxide is close to the MoO_3 reference. The edge position of the re-oxidized sample is at lower energy than for Mo^{6+} in the reference.

References

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