Structure/Kinetics of Complex, Industrial Catalysts

DOE/EERE/AMO Industry Roundtable on Dynamic Catalyst Science

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Catalysis Research Paradigm





Molecular Beam Scattering vs. TAP



Single crystals Detailed, intrinsic kinetics

Temporal Analysis of Products - TAP experiment



Real catalysts Detailed, intrinsic kinetics Knudsen Diffusion



1 active site receives 1000 collisions

Schuurman, Y., (2007) Catal. Tod. 121 p187 ³



Temporal Analysis of Products (TAP)



Distinguishing Features:

- Low pulse intensity 10 nmols
- Well-defined Knudsen transport
- Isothermal operation even for highly exothermic reactions
- Pulse-by-pulse, controlled titration of materials
- Separation of reactant inputs and product detection with high time resolution

Gleaves, J.T., *et al.* (1988) *Catal. Rev. Sci. and Eng. 30*(1), pp.49-116. Morgan, K., *et al.* (2017) *Catal. Sci. & Tech. 7*(12), pp.2416-2439.



Temporal Analysis of Products (TAP)

- A low-pressure pulse response technique
 - Understanding how catalysts work based on chemical response to pressure transients
 - Rate constants of elementary reaction steps
 - Incremental titration (chemical calculus) enables observation of material evolution
 - Development of detailed microkinetic models



Fushimi, R., et al. (2008) Topics in Catal. 49(3-4), 167-177.









Shekhtman, S. O., (2003) Chem. Eng. Sci., 58(21), 4843-4859.



Advances in Transient Data Analysis

- Curve fitting



Time-dependence Rate and Concentration

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Advances in Measurement

- Distinguishing active sites from a mixture
- Resolution of short-lived surface species
- Quantification of surface-to-bulk transport
- Distinguishing gas phase from gas/surface kinetics

Oxidative Coupling of Methane Reaction



Karakaya, C., et al., 2018. Catalysis Today, 312, pp.10-22.

- Complex catalyst
 - Mn₂O₃/Na₂WO₄/SiO₂
- Aggressive environment, 850 °C
- Complex reaction mechanism
 - Both surface and gas phase reactions



C₂ Yield is a key challenge



Reversible Adsorption of Oxygen



Time scale < 1s

Isotopic studies distinguish different forms of oxygen with distinct surface lifetimes





Reactive Oxygen Species – Surface Lifetime

TAP Pump/Probe Experiment at reaction temperature, 750 °C



Amount and surface lifetime of different oxygen species changes with catalyst composition, %Mn



Reactive Oxygen Species – Kinetic Role



¹⁶O₂/¹³CH₄ Pump/Probe



Dioxo species $(O_2^{2-}, O_2^{-}) \Rightarrow CO_2$ formation

Monoxo species (O⁻) => C_2H_4 formation

- Short-lived surface intermediates and their role in product formation can be studied
- Not observable under steady-state
- Need link to composition/structure



Reactive Oxygen Species – Structural Information

Catalyst is changes dramatically with temperature.



Sourav, S., Kiani, D., Baltrusaitis, J. Fushimi, R., Wachs, I., *Determination of catalytic active site for oxidative coupling of methane over supported* Mn_2O_3 - Na_2WO_4/SiO_2 catalysts. 17th International Congress on Catalysis, San Diego, CA, June 14 – 19, 2020



Operando Spectroscopy State of the Art

Operando Spectroscopy



Harrick Praying Mantis



Linkam CCR1000

- ✓ Structural features, operating environment
- ✓ Changes due to reaction, e.g. effects of moisture
- Switch between oxidation/reduction
- Poor reactor design
 - Bypassing, readosorption, temperature gradients, holdup, complex hydrodynamics
- Low time-resolution (seconds)
- Coarse kinetic data

Modulation Excitation



- ✓ Improved time-resolution of FT instruments
- Inadequate switching time (milliseconds)
- Large switching volumes (microliters)
- No theory for mechanistic analysis
- Coarse kinetic data
- Only qualitative structure/kinetics link hereto now



Transient Spectrokinetic Reactor Concept

TAP (Temporal Analysis of Products) Pulse Response + Spectroscopic Probe
Directly addressing the materials **structure/activity** knowledge gap:
How do specific structural features control complex reaction mechanisms?

- ✓ Detailed, quantitative *intrinsic* kinetic information
- ✓ Well-developed theoretical tools for mechanism analysis
- High time resolution (milliseconds)
- ✓ Well-defined transport

Isothermal, far from equilibrium, well-mixed

✓ Fast (μ s), precise dosing control (10 nmols) for superior modulation

Risks:

- Low spectral signal intensity (10 nmols)
 - ✓ Dispersive spectra collection mode
 - ✓ Higher pulse intensities



New Spectrokinetic Collaboration

- Mithra Technologies, SBIR Phase I Award
 - Developing a fast gas delivery system for transient spectroscopic measurements
- BNL, NAP backfilling lab-scale XPS
- INL, Performance validation using TAP system



First-generation capillary gas delivery prototype developed by Mithra Technologies





SPECS NAP-XPS system including Bruker Vertex 80V for IRRAS measurement at BNL.



Conclusion

- Dynamic Catalyst Science
 - TAP pulse response experiments
 - Complex industrial catalysts
 - Decoupling of transport and kinetics
 - Detailed kinetic information
 - Oxidative Coupling of Methane
 - Measurement surface lifetime of short-lived oxygen species
 - Role in CO₂ versus C₂ selectivity
 - Operando tools
 - Need higher time-resolution
 - Coupled to detailed kinetic information, Spectrokinetic



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