

Mesoporous bimetallic spinel oxides having basicity for CO₂ hydrogenation

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Reducing atmospheric CO₂ concentrations is an environmentally and technically significant matter in the current century. CO₂ hydrogenation to other chemicals (e.g., CO, CH₄, methanol) will be one of the solutions for CO₂ mitigation process. For CO₂ hydrogenation, mesoporous spinel oxides (ZnAl₂O₄, CuAl₂O₄, CoAl₂O₄ and, MgAl₂O₄) have been made synthesized and characterized by various tools. One remarkable feature of these spinel oxides is that they have different basic properties (quantity and strength) as characterized by temperature-programmed desorption of CO₂. Accordingly, the affinity of catalytic surfaces to Lewis acidic CO₂ is different and hence they show the different activity. Most catalysts except CoAl₂O₄ showed high CO selectivity and those catalytic activities exhibited substantial stability. Among them, CuAl₂O₄ having the largest amount of strong basic sites showed the highest activity and CO selectivity, which results from the high affinity with Lewis acidic CO₂. The reactivity of each catalyst figured out to be linearly proportional to the amount of strong basic sites, not the total amount of basic sites.