

Low temperature reduction of N_2O with H_2 over silica-supported Cu-based Pt catalysts : Role of Cu and Pt and their redox chemistry

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This study has been devoted to the role of Cu and Pt in silica-supported bimetallic systems for the selective reduction of N_2O by H_2 at very low temperatures, such as $110^\circ C$. A 1.2% Pt/ SiO_2 catalyst consisted of Pt nanoparticles with an average size of 1.2 nm. This particle size increased to about 5.0 ~ 6.0 nm after addition of 0.5 ~ 8.5% Cu to the Pt sample. All Cu species in bimetallic catalysts were present in the form of alloy-like CuPt; that is, metallic copper was not detected. The presence of Cu yielded a dramatic enhancement in de N_2O activity in the reduction at $110^\circ C$, depending strongly on Cu loadings. In an independent experiment with a sample of 4.44% Cu/ SiO_2 at $110^\circ C$, this catalyst had zero activity after 0.5 h on stream. These results suggest that the chemisorbed O atoms on Cu sites in Cu-Pt catalysts during the reduction of N_2O by H_2 could be readily removed even at $110^\circ C$, by activated H atoms spilt from the Pt surfaces thereby generating clean Cu sites on which N_2O desiccated again. This proposal was consistent with TPR and TPD measurements with SiO_2 -supported Pt and Cu-Pt catalysts.