Molecules at surfaces and mechanism of catalysis

Gerhard Ertl

Fritz Haber Institut der Max Planck Gesellschaft Berlin, Germany



Catalytic synthesis of ammonia

 $N_2 + 3 H_2 \rightarrow 2 NH_3$

(Haber-Bosch process)



Heterogeneous catalysis







Progress of a chemical reaction









$2 H_2 + O_2 \longrightarrow 2 H_2O$ / Pt



Electrocatalysis



$$\begin{array}{c} \mathsf{O}_2 + 4 \,\mathsf{H}_{aq}^+ + 4 \,\mathrm{e}^- \\ \rightleftharpoons 2 \,\mathsf{H}_2 \mathsf{O} \end{array} \qquad \mathsf{H}_2 \rightleftharpoons 2 \,\mathsf{H}_{aq}^+ + 2 \,\mathrm{e}^- \end{array}$$

$$U_1^0 = 1.23 \text{ V} \qquad U_2^0 = 0 \text{ V}$$
$$\Delta U = U_1 - U_2$$
$$\Delta G^0 = -nF\Delta U$$







Associative desorption of hydrogen from Ru(0001)



Thermal desorption spectroscopy (TDS) fs-laser induced ToF spectra E $\langle E_{kin} \rangle / 2k_B$ H_2 TDS-signal [a.u H₂:(2110±450) K HD flux [a.u.] D_2 D₂:(1720±290) K 250 300 350 400 450 500 20 200 60 0 40 80 temperature [K] flight time [µs]



D. Denzler, C. Frischkorn, C. Hess, M. Wolf, G. Ertl, Phys.Rev.Lett. **91** (2003), 226102; J.Phys.Chem. B **108** (2004), 14503



O/Pt(111)

Oxygen atoms adsorbed on Pt (111) after exposure to 2 L O₂ at 165 K



5.3 nm × 5.5 nm



J. Wintterlin, R. Schuster, and G. Ertl, Phys.Rev.Lett. 77 (1996), 123.



O/Ru (0001)

T = 300 K





Catalytic oxidation of CO





$2H_2 + O_2 \rightarrow 2H_2O/Pt$

Mechanism (?) :

(1)	$O_2 + * \rightarrow 2 O_{ad}$	
(2)	$H_2 + * \rightarrow 2 H_{ad}$	
(3)	$O_{ad} + H_{ad} \rightarrow OH_{ad}$	
(4)	$OH_{ad} + H_{ad} \rightarrow H_2O_{ad}$	
(5)	$H_2O_{ad} \rightarrow H_2O_g + *$	(T ≥ 170 K)

But :		T < 170 K	T > 230 K
		Induction period	No induction period
	E^* :	~ 12 kJ/mol	> 50 kJ/mol

Important :

(6)
$$H_2O_{ad} + O_{ad} \rightarrow 2 OH_{ad}$$

S. Völkening, K. Bedürftig, K. Jacobi, J. Wintterlin and G. Ertl, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **83** (1999), 2672.





OH-fronts





 $T = 111 \text{ K}; \ p(\text{H}_2) = 8 \cdot 10^{-9} \text{ mbar}; \ 2100 \times 1760 \text{ Å}^2$



C. Sachs, M. Hildebrand, S. Völkening, J. Wintterlin, and G. Ertl, Science **293** (2001), 1635; J. Chem. Phys. **116** (2002), 5759

Spatio-temporal self-organization

Temporal and spatial variation of state variables (surface concentrations)

Coupling between different parts of the surface via

- Diffusion
- Heat conductance
- Variation of partial pressures
- Electric field

Reaction-diffusion systems

$$\frac{\partial x_i}{\partial t} = F_i(x_j, p_k) + D_i \nabla^2 x_i$$

Heartbeats of ultra thin catalyst



F. Cirak, J.E. Cisternas, A.M. Cuitino,
G. Ertl, P.Holmes, I. Kevrekidis, M.Ortiz,
H.H. Rotermund, M.Schunack, J. Wolff,
Science 300 (2003), 1932

Ultra thin (200 nm thick) Pt(110) catalyst during CO oxidation, 5 mm sample diameter, T"="528 K, $p_{O2} = 1 \times 10^{-2}$ mbar, $p_{CO} = 1.85 \times 10^{-3}$ mbar



Spiral waves during CO-oxidation on Pt(110)



PEEM images with 500 μ m diameter, steady-state conditions: p_{O2}!=!4!x!10^{-4!}mbar, p_{CO!}=!4.3!x!10⁻⁵!mbar, T!=!448!K

S. Nettesheim, A. von Oertzen, H.H. Rotermund, G. Ertl, J.Chem. Phys. 98 (1993), 9977





Hurricane Bret over the coast of Texas, August 1999 (photo: NASA, GOES)

Chemical turbulence



Photoemission electron microscope (PEEM) imaging. Dark regions are predominantly oxygen covered, bright regions are mainly CO covered.

Real time, image size 360 x 360 µm

Temperature T = 548 K, oxygen partial pressure $p_{o2} = 4 \times 10^{-4}$ mbar, CO partial pressure $p_{co} = 1.2 \times 10^{-4}$ mbar.

Global delayed feedback



M. Kim, M. Bertram, M. Pollmann, A. von Oertzen; A.S. Mikhailov, H.H. Rotermund, and G. Ertl, *Science* **292** (2001), 1357

CO oxidation reaction on Pt(110)



 Suppression of spiralwave turbulence and development of intermittent turbulence with cascades of reproducing bubbles





Retina



