

Effect of Sulfation on the Selective Catalytic Reduction of NO with NH₃ Over γ -Fe₂O₃

Haili Huang · Yi Lan · Wenpo Shan ·
Feihong Qi · Shangcao Xiong · Yong Liao ·
Yuwu Fu · Shijian Yang

Received: 8 September 2013 / Accepted: 23 November 2013 / Published online: 12 December 2013
© Springer Science+Business Media New York 2013

Abstract Because the site for NH₃ adsorption and the active site for NH₃ oxidization were separated after the sulfation, both the SCR reaction and the catalytic oxidization of NH₃ to NO over γ -Fe₂O₃ were restrained after the sulfation. As a result, the operation temperature window of γ -Fe₂O₃ for the SCR reaction shifted about 100 °C to higher temperature after the sulfation.

Keywords Selective catalytic reduction · γ -Fe₂O₃ · Sulfation · Mechanism · Catalytic oxidization of NH₃ to NO

1 Introduction

Selective catalytic reduction (SCR) with NH₃ is proven to be the most promising technology to control the emission of nitrogen oxides from automobile exhaust gas and industrial combustion of fossil fuels [1]. Although V₂O₅/WO₃-TiO₂ has been employed as a commercial SCR catalyst for several decades [2], it is still not satisfactory due to some drawbacks, such as the relatively narrow temperature window of 300–400 °C, the low N₂ selectivity at high temperatures, the toxicity of vanadium pentoxide to the

environment [3], and the soaring price of W resource [4]. Therefore, a more cost-effective, better N₂ selectivity and more environmental-friendly SCR catalyst should be developed.

Recently, it is reported that Fe-based catalysts [5–7], for example Fe/ZSM-5 [8, 9], Fe³⁺ exchanged TiO₂-pillared clay [10], Fe-Ti spinel [11], Fe-Ti-V spinel [12], Fe₂(SO₄)₃/TiO₂ [13], and iron titanate [14], show excellent SCR activity and N₂ selectivity at 300–400 °C. γ -Fe₂O₃ is one of the simplest iron oxides, which adopts a cubic close packed cation deficient spinel structure [15]. γ -Fe₂O₃ shows the reduction–reoxidation properties, which is suitable for the use as an oxygen storage component in automobile exhaust catalysts [16]. Recently, it is reported that γ -Fe₂O₃ had excellent SCR activity and N₂ selectivity at 200–350 °C [17]. However, the operation temperature window of γ -Fe₂O₃ for the SCR reaction shifted 100 °C to higher temperature in the presence of SO₂ [17]. Generally, the deactivation of SO₂ on the SCR reaction was attributed to the deposition of NH₄HSO₄ and/or (NH₄)₂SO₄ at low temperatures [18]. The decomposition temperature of NH₄HSO₄ and/or (NH₄)₂SO₄ was less than 250 °C. Therefore, there could be another mechanism, which caused to the deactivation of SO₂ at 250–300 °C. Meanwhile, the SCR activity of γ -Fe₂O₃ was obviously promoted above 300 °C due to the presence of SO₂. Therefore, the mechanism of SO₂ effect on the SCR reaction over γ -Fe₂O₃ need to be further studied. The presence of SO₂ would cause to the sulfation of catalyst [19–21]. The mechanism of the SCR reaction over γ -Fe₂O₃ may differ from that over sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃. Therefore, the sulfation on the SCR reaction over γ -Fe₂O₃ was investigated in this work, which is helpful to understand the mechanism of SO₂ effect on the SCR reaction [22].

Electronic supplementary material The online version of this article (doi:10.1007/s10562-013-1174-4) contains supplementary material, which is available to authorized users.

H. Huang · Y. Lan · W. Shan · F. Qi · S. Xiong · Y. Liao ·
Y. Fu · S. Yang (✉)
School of Environmental and Biological Engineering, Nanjing
University of Science and Technology, Nanjing 210094,
People's Republic of China
e-mail: yangshijiangsq@163.com

2 Experimental

2.1 Catalyst Preparation

Nanosized Fe_3O_4 , the precursor of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$, was prepared using a co-precipitation method at room temperature [23]. $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ was obtained after the thermal treatment of Fe_3O_4 under air for 3 h at 400 °C [11]. Sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ was obtained by pretreating $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ (1.0 g) in a flow of 500 ppm SO_2 and 2 % O_2 (200 mL min^{-1}) at 300 °C for 8 h.

2.2 Catalytic Activity Measurement

The SCR reaction was performed on a fixed-bed quartz tube reactor. The mass of catalyst with 40–60 mesh was 100 mg. The total flow rate was 200 mL min^{-1} (room temperature), and the corresponding gas hourly space velocity (GHSV) was $1.2 \times 10^5 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ g}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$. The typical reactant gas composition was as follows: 500 ppm of NH_3 , 500 ppm of NO , 2 % of O_2 , 500 ppm of SO_2 (when used), 10 % of H_2O (when used), and balance of N_2 . The concentrations of SO_2 , H_2O , NO , NO_2 , NH_3 and N_2O were continually monitored by an FTIR spectrometer (MKS Instruments).

2.3 Catalyst Characterization

BET surface area was determined using a nitrogen adsorption apparatus (Quantachrome, Autosorb-1). XRD patterns were recorded on an X-ray diffractometer (Rigaku, D/max-2200/PC) between 20° and 80° at a step of 7° min^{-1} operating at 30 kV and 30 mA using Cu $\text{K}\alpha$ radiation. H_2 -TPR was recorded on a chemisorption analyzer (Micromeritics, ChemiSorb 2720 TPx) under a 10 % hydrogen-90 % nitrogen gas flow (50 $\text{cm}^3 \text{ min}^{-1}$) at a rate of 10 °C min^{-1} . Temperature programmed desorption of ammonia (NH_3 -TPD) and temperature programmed desorption of NO (NO -TPD) were carried out on the packed-bed microreactor at a rate of 10 °C min^{-1} from 50 to 600 °C. The binding energies of Fe 2p, S 2p and O 1s were recorded on an X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (Thermo, ESCALAB 250) with Al $\text{K}\alpha$ ($h\nu = 1486.6 \text{ eV}$) as the excitation source and C 1s line at 284.6 eV as the reference for the binding energy calibration. In situ DRIFT spectra were performed on a Fourier transform infrared spectrometer (FTIR, Nicolet NEXUS 870) equipped with a liquid-nitrogen-cooled MCT detector, collecting 100 scans with a resolution of 4 cm^{-1} .

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 SCR Activity

As shown in Fig. 1a, $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ showed an excellent SCR activity at 200–350 °C (NO_x conversion was higher than

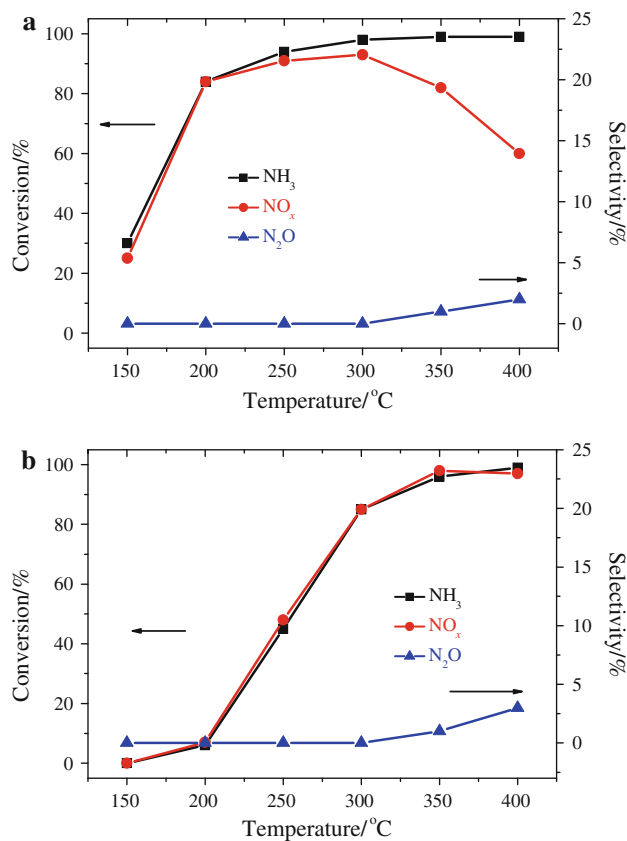


Fig. 1 SCR reaction over: **a** $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$, **b** sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

80 %). During the SCR reaction over $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$, only a small amount of N_2O formed above 300 °C. However, NO_x conversion obviously decreased with the increase of reaction temperature from 300 to 400 °C, and a small amount of NO_2 was observed at 350–400 °C. However, NH_3 conversion reached 100 % above 300 °C. It suggests that some NH_3 was oxidized to NO over $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ at 300–400 °C. As 500 ppm of SO_2 was introduced, the SCR activity of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ obviously decreased at 150–300 °C. However, the SCR activity of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ was obviously promoted due to the presence of SO_2 at 350–400 °C (shown in Fig. 2). After the further introduction of H_2O , no obvious change happened (shown in Fig. 2). The similar result of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ was once reported by Mou et al. [17]. As shown in Fig. 2, the SCR activity of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ in the presence of SO_2 was close to that of sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ at 300–400 °C. It suggests that the sulfation of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ could contribute to the effect of SO_2 on the SCR reaction over $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$. Therefore, the sulfation on the SCR reaction over $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ was studied.

With the increase of reaction temperature from 150 to 400 °C, NO_x conversion over sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ gradually increased (shown in Fig. 1b). Figure 1b also shows that the ratio of NO_x conversion was close to that of NH_3 conversion. It suggests that most NH_3 was used to reduce NO over

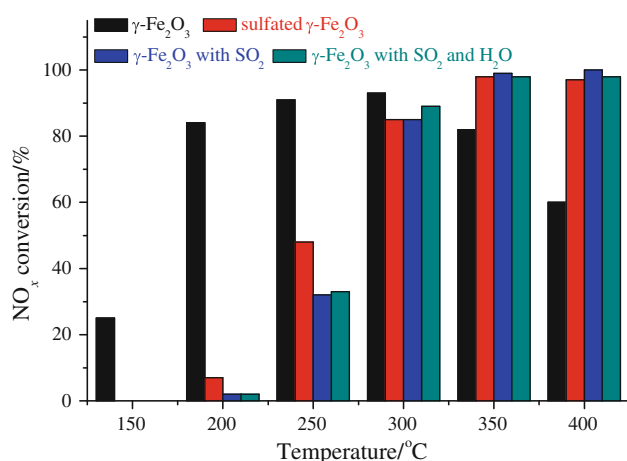


Fig. 2 Effect of SO_2 and/or H_2O on the SCR reaction over $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

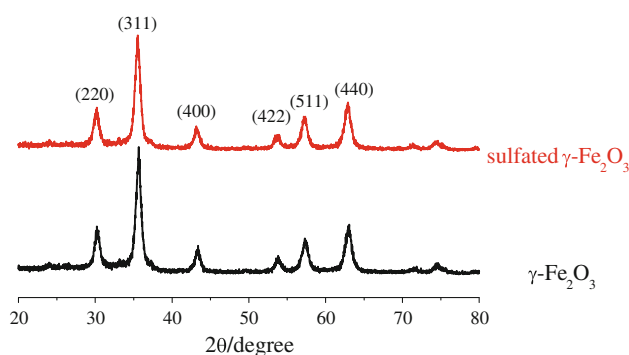


Fig. 3 XRD patterns of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ and sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$. Meanwhile, little NO_2 can be observed during the SCR reaction over sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$. In comparison with $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$, NO_x conversion over sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ was much less at 150–300 °C. However, sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ showed excellent SCR activity (NO_x conversion was higher than 80 %) and N_2 selectivity (>95 %) above 300 °C, which was much better than $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$. Figure 1 shows that the operation temperature window of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ for the SCR reaction shifted about 100 °C to higher temperature after the sulfation.

3.2 Characterization

3.2.1 XRD and BET

As shown in Fig. 3, the characteristic peaks of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ and sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ correspond very well to the standard card of maghemite (JCPDS: 39-1346) [15]. It indicates that the spinel structure of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ was not destroyed after the sulfation.

BET surface areas of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ and sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ were 74.7 and 64.8 $\text{m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$, respectively. It indicates that

the BET surface area of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ slightly decreased after the sulfation.

3.3 XPS

As shown in Fig. 4a, the binding energies of Fe 2p 2/3 on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ mainly centered at about 710.2, 711.1 and 712.5 eV, which were assigned to Fe^{3+} in the spinel structure and Fe^{3+} bonded with hydroxyl groups respectively [15]. Furthermore, the satellite component appeared at about 719.0 eV, which is the fingerprint of Fe^{3+} species [23]. They both suggest that Fe species on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ were mainly Fe^{3+} . The O 1s peaks on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ mainly centered at about 530.2 eV and 531.6 eV (shown in Fig. 4b), which were attributed to O^{2-} in transition metal oxides and that in $-\text{OH}$ respectively [24]. As shown in Fig. 4c, no obvious S 2p band was observed on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$.

As shown in Fig. 4d, a new peak at 713.8 eV appeared in the spectral region of Fe 2p after the sulfation of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$, which could be attributed to Fe^{3+} in $\text{Fe}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$ [23]. Meanwhile, XPS analysis shows that the percent of Fe^{3+} on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ decreased from 40 to 31.3 % after the sulfation. The presence of SO_4^{2-} on sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ can also be supported by the XPS spectra over S 2p and O 1s regions. A new peak at 532.1 eV appeared in the spectral region of O 1s (shown in Fig. 4e), which could be assigned to O^{2-} in SO_4^{2-} [25]. The S 2p peaks mainly centered at 168.9 and 169.9 eV (shown in Fig. 4f), which could be assigned to SO_4^{2-} and HSO_4^- respectively [15]. Previous research on the heterogeneous uptake of SO_2 on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ also demonstrated that the formed S species on iron oxides were mainly HSO_4^- and SO_4^{2-} [26]. XPS analysis shows that the percent of S(SO_4^{2-}) on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ increased to 5.4 % after the sulfation.

3.4 TPR

TPR profile recorded from $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ showed two obvious reduction peaks. The peak centered at about 318 °C was assigned to the reduction of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ to Fe_3O_4 [27], and the slight fluctuation at about 350 °C may be related to the impurity on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$. The broad peak at higher temperature was attributed to the reduction of Fe_3O_4 to Fe [27].

The active site on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ for H_2 oxidation was covered by SO_4^{2-} after the sulfation. Hence, a strong displacement of the first reduction peak to 423 °C happened in the TPR profiles of sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ (shown in Fig. 5). It suggests that the oxidation ability of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ decreased after the sulfation. Meanwhile, no obvious changes happened on the broad peak at higher temperature. The reduction peak at 423 °C of sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ could be attributed to the reduction of $\text{Fe}^{3+}\text{-SO}_4^{2-}$. TPR analysis shows that the area ratio of the first peak to the total TPR

Fig. 4 XPS spectra of γ -Fe₂O₃ and sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃ over the spectral regions of Fe 2p, O 1s and S 2p

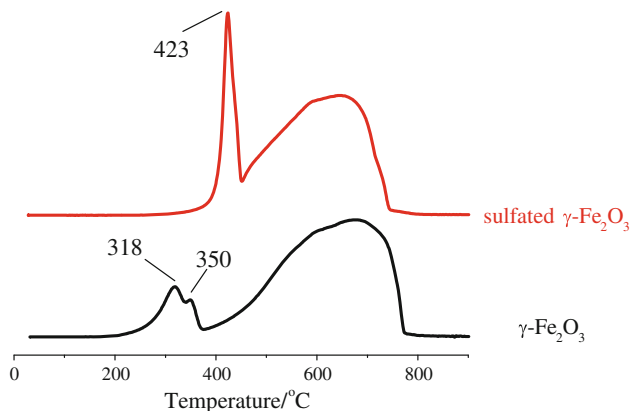
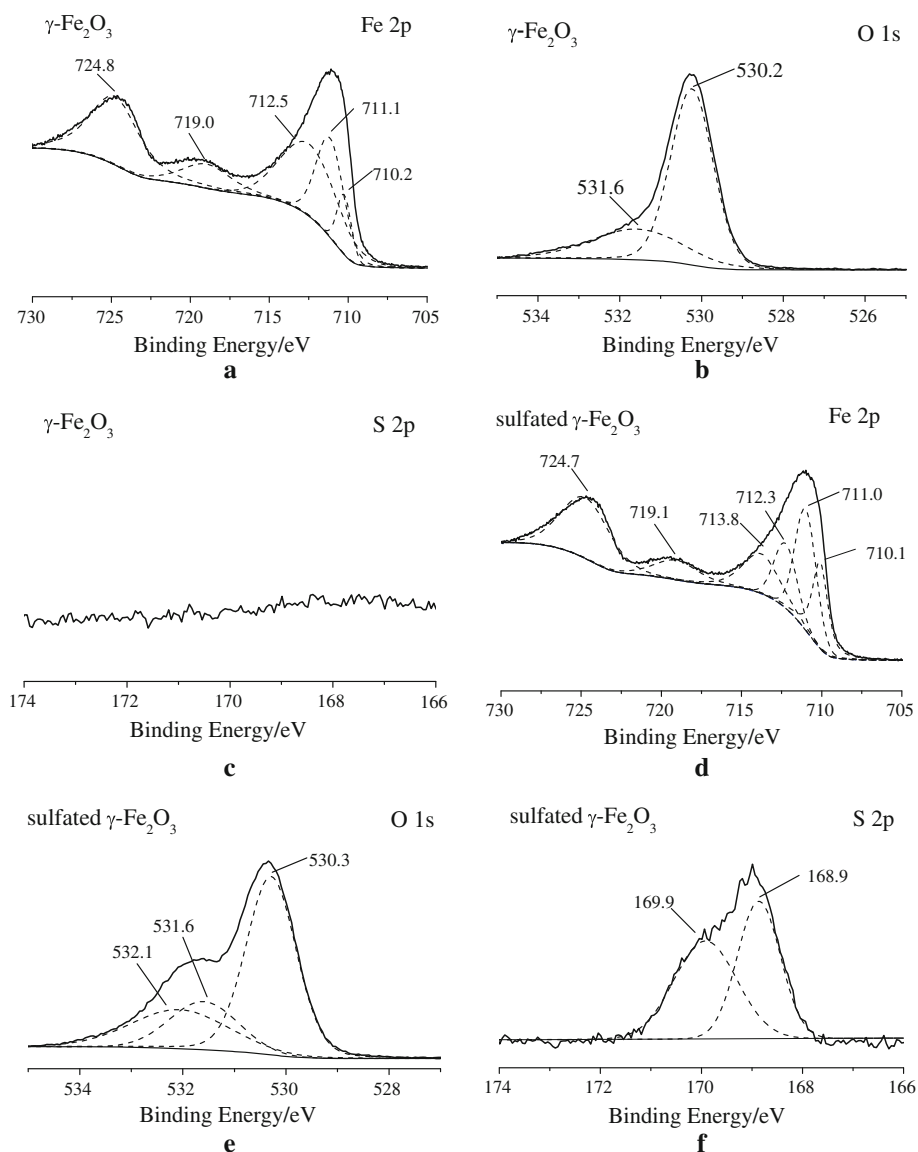


Fig. 5 H₂-TPR profiles of γ -Fe₂O₃ and sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃

profile increased from 13 % for γ -Fe₂O₃ to 19 % for sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃. It also suggests that the reduction of γ -Fe₂O₃ to Fe₃O₄ and the reduction of SO₄²⁻ both contributed to the first reduction peak of sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃.

3.5 NO-TPD and NH₃-TPD

The capacities of γ -Fe₂O₃ and sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃ for NH₃ and NO + O₂ adsorption were calculated from NH₃-TPD and NO-TPD (shown in Fig. S1). The capacity of sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃ for NH₃ adsorption was 5.1 mmol g⁻¹, which was about 4.3 times that of γ -Fe₂O₃ (1.2 mmol g⁻¹). However, the capacity of sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃ for NO + O₂ adsorption was 0.32 mmol g⁻¹, which was only about 1/5 that of γ -Fe₂O₃ (1.7 mmol g⁻¹). It suggests that the adsorption of

NH₃ on γ -Fe₂O₃ was promoted and the adsorption of NO on γ -Fe₂O₃ was restrained after the sulfation.

3.6 Adsorption of NO and NH₃

The characteristic vibration corresponding to the adsorption of NO + O₂ on γ -Fe₂O₃ at 300 °C mainly appeared at about 1,600 and 1,578 cm⁻¹ (shown in Fig. 6a), which were assigned to monodentate nitrite and monodentate nitrate respectively [28]. However, the characteristic vibration corresponding to the adsorption of NO + O₂ on sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃ at 300 °C appeared at 1,385 cm⁻¹ (shown in Fig. 6a). Monodentate nitrite and monodentate nitrate adsorbed on γ -Fe₂O₃ were coordinated by oxygen atom. However, the oxygen atom on γ -Fe₂O₃, which can be used to bridge NO and Fe cation, was covered by SO₄²⁻ after the sulfation. Therefore, the characteristic vibration at 1,385 cm⁻¹ was assigned to nitro [28], which is coordinated via its N atom [19]. The intensity of the adsorption of NO + O₂ on sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃ was much less than that on γ -Fe₂O₃. It indicates that the adsorption of NO_x on γ -Fe₂O₃ was restrained after the sulfation.

The characteristic vibration corresponding to NH₃ adsorption on γ -Fe₂O₃ at 300 °C mainly appeared at about

1,202 and 1,609 cm⁻¹ (shown in Fig. 6b), which were assigned to coordinated ammonia bound to the Lewis acid sites [14]. However, the characteristic vibration corresponding to NH₃ adsorption on sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃ appeared at 1,426 and 1,298 cm⁻¹ (shown in Fig. 6b), which were assigned to ammonium ions bound to the Brønsted acid sites [22]. The intensity of the adsorption of NH₃ on sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃ was much higher than that on γ -Fe₂O₃. It indicates that the adsorption of NH₃ on γ -Fe₂O₃ was promoted after the sulfation, which was consistent with the result of NH₃-TPD. Meanwhile, a negative peak at about 1,373 cm⁻¹ appeared on sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃. XPS analysis demonstrates that γ -Fe₂O₃ was covered by SO₄²⁻ after the sulfation. As is well known, SO₄²⁻ is a typical Brønsted acid [29], so NH₃ mainly adsorbed on SO₄²⁻ on sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃. Therefore, the negative peak at about 1,373 cm⁻¹ could be ascribed to SO₄²⁻, which was covered by NH₄⁺ after the adsorption of NH₃ [22].

3.7 Mechanism of the Sulfation on the SCR Reaction

Both the Eley–Rideal mechanism (the reaction of activated NH₃ with gaseous NO) and the Langmuir–Hinshelwood mechanism (the reaction between adsorbed NO_x and NH₃) could contribute to the SCR reaction over γ -Fe₂O₃ and sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃. Furthermore, the catalytic oxidation of NH₃ to NO [21] can happen at high temperatures (shown in Table S1).

The SCR reaction and the catalytic oxidation of NH₃ to NO both contributed to NH₃ conversion over γ -Fe₂O₃ and sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃. Therefore, the ratio of NH₃ conversion over γ -Fe₂O₃ and that over sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃ can be described as:

$$\text{NH}_3 \text{ conversion } \% = \delta_{\text{SCR}} + \delta_{\text{C-O}}, \quad (1)$$

where δ_{SCR} and $\delta_{\text{C-O}}$ were the contributions of the SCR reaction and the catalytic oxidation of NH₃ to NO to the ratio of NH₃ conversion, respectively.

The SCR reaction contributed to the reduction of gaseous NO, while the catalytic oxidation of NH₃ to NO contributed to the formation of gaseous NO. Therefore, the ratio of NO conversion over γ -Fe₂O₃ and that over sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃ can be described as:

$$\text{NO conversion } \% = \delta_{\text{SCR}} - \delta_{\text{C-O}} \quad (2)$$

According to Eqs. 1 and 2, the amount of NH₃ conversion assigned to the SCR reaction and that assigned to the catalytic oxidation of NH₃ to NO can be calculated according to the difference between the ratio of NO conversion and that of NH₃ conversion.

Figure 7a shows that the SCR reaction over γ -Fe₂O₃ was obviously promoted with the increase of reaction temperature. However, the catalytic oxidation of NH₃ to NO happened over γ -Fe₂O₃ above 250 °C, resulting in a drop of

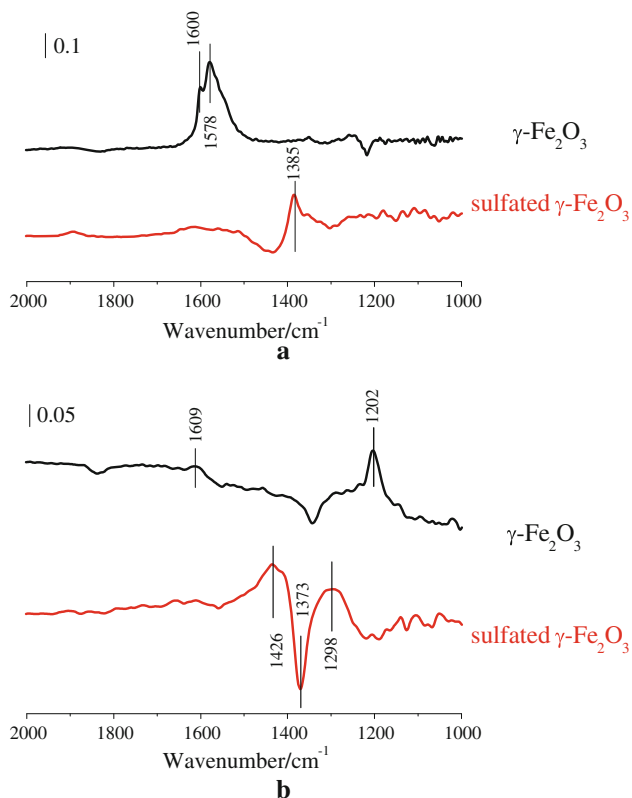


Fig. 6 **a** DRIFT spectra of the adsorption of NO + O₂ on γ -Fe₂O₃ and sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃ at 300 °C, **b** DRIFT spectra of the adsorption of NH₃ on γ -Fe₂O₃ and sulfated γ -Fe₂O₃ at 300 °C

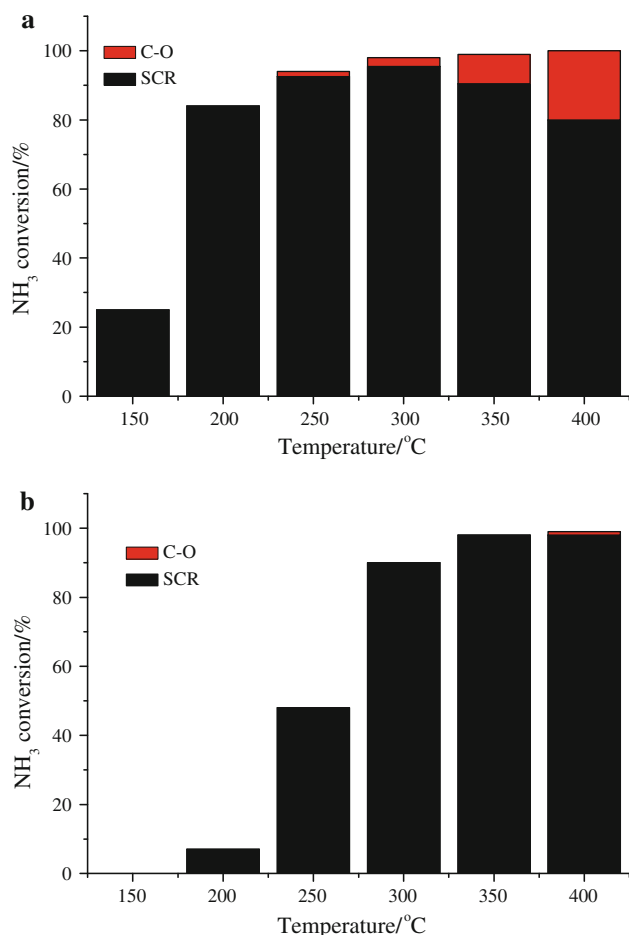


Fig. 7 Contributions of the SCR reaction and the catalytic oxidation of NH_3 to NO (C-O) to NH_3 conversion during the SCR reaction over: **a** $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$, **b** sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

NO_x conversion (shown Fig. 1a). After the sulfation, the SCR reaction over $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ was obviously restrained, resulting in a remarkable decrease of NO conversion at 150–300 °C. Meanwhile, the catalytic oxidation of NH_3 to NO over $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ above 250 °C was suppressed after the sulfation. As a result, the operation temperature window of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ for the SCR reaction shifted about 100 °C to higher temperature after the sulfation.

The acid sites on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ (Lewis acid) mainly resulted from the unsaturated coordination between Fe^{3+} and O^{2-} . The unsaturated coordination was destroyed after the sulfation, and the acid sites on sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ mainly resulted from SO_4^{2-} on the surface. Therefore, NH_3 mainly adsorbed on Fe^{3+} (or Fe–O band) on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$, while it mainly adsorbed on SO_4^{2-} on sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$. It suggests that the site for NH_3 adsorption and the active site for NH_3 activation on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ were separated after the sulfation (illustrated in Fig. 8). Meanwhile, the oxidation ability of Fe^{3+} on sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ was less than that on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$, which was hinted by the TPR analysis (shown in Fig. 5). Moreover, the concentration of Fe^{3+} on sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ was slightly less than that on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$. As a result, the activation of adsorbed NH_3 over $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ was restrained after the sulfation. It suggests that the SCR reaction over $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ through the Eley–Rideal mechanism would be obviously restrained after the sulfation. Furthermore, NO-TPD analysis and in situ DRIFTS study show that the adsorption of $\text{NO} + \text{O}_2$ on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ was restrained after the sulfation. It suggests that the SCR reaction through the Langmuir–Hinshelwood mechanism would be restrained after the sulfation. As a result, the SCR reaction over $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ was restrained after the sulfation (shown in Fig. 7).

Figure 1b shows that most of adsorbed NH_3 on sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ can be transformed above 300 °C, so the negative effect of sulfation on the SCR reaction over $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ above 300 °C can be neglected. Therefore, the key factor of NO reduction over $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ at high temperatures was the negative effect of the catalytic oxidation of activated NH_3 species ($-\text{NH}_2$) to NO.

$-\text{NH}_2$ mainly adsorbed on Fe^{3+} (or Fe–O band) on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$, while it mainly adsorbed on SO_4^{2-} on sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$. It suggests that the site for $-\text{NH}_2$ adsorption and the active site for the further oxidation of $-\text{NH}_2$ were separated after the sulfation, which was similar to that for NH_3 activation. Meanwhile, the concentration of Fe^{3+} on sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ was less than that on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$. Moreover, the concentration of $-\text{NH}_2$ on sulfated $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ was much less than that on $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ due to the depression of NH_3

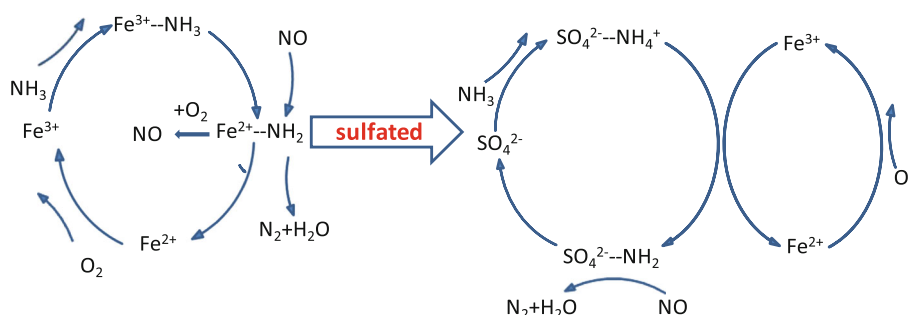


Fig. 8 Illustration of sulfation on the SCR reaction over $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

activation. As a result, the catalytic oxidization of NH_3 to NO over $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ was obviously restrained after the sulfation (shown in Fig. 7).

4 Conclusions

Because the site for NH_3 adsorption and the active site for NH_3 activation were separated, the SCR reaction over $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ was restrained at 150–300 °C after the sulfation. Meanwhile, the catalytic oxidization of NH_3 to NO over $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ was restrained after the sulfation, so the drop of NO_x conversion at high temperatures postponed. As a result, the operation temperature window of $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ for the SCR reaction shifted about 100 °C to higher temperature after the sulfation.

Acknowledgments This study was financially supported by the National Natural Science Fund of China (Grant No. 21207067 and 41372044), the Fundamental Research Funds for the central Universities (Grant No. 30920130111023), the Zijin Intelligent Program, Nanjing University of Science and Technology (Grant No. 2013-0106), Environmental scientific research of Jiangsu Province (2012026), and special fund of State Key Joint Laboratory of Environment Simulation and Pollution Control.

References

- Topsoe NY (1994) *Science* 265:1217
- Chen L, Li JH, Ge MF, Zhu RH (2010) *Catal Today* 153:77
- Chen L, Li JH, Ge MF (2010) *Environ Sci Technol* 44:9590
- Yang SJ, Wang CZ, Ma L, Peng Y, Qu Z, Yan NQ, Chen JH, Chang HZ, Li JH (2013) *Catal Sci Technol* 3:161
- Akah AC, Nkeng G, Garforth AA (2007) *Appl Catal B* 74:34
- Chmielarz L, Kustrowski P, Rafalska-Lasocha A, Dziembaj R (2005) *Appl Catal B* 58:235
- Yao GH, Gui KT, Wang F (2010) *Chem Eng Technol* 33:1093
- Grossale A, Nova I, Tronconi E, Chatterjee D, Weibel M (2008) *J Catal* 256:312
- Brandenberger S, Krocher O, Tissler A, Althoff R (2008) *Catal Rev* 50:492
- Long RQ, Yang RT (1999) *J Catal* 186:254
- Yang SJ, Li JH, Wang CZ, Chen JH, Ma L, Chang HZ, Chen L, Peng Y, Yan NQ (2012) *Appl Catal B* 117:73
- Yang S, Wang C, Chen J, Peng Y, Ma L, Chang H, Liu C, Li J, Yan N (2012) *Catal Sci Technol* 2:915
- Ma L, Li JH, Ke R, Fu LX (2011) *J Phys Chem C* 115:7603
- Liu FD, He H, Zhang CB, Feng ZC, Zheng LR, Xie YN, Hu TD (2010) *Appl Catal B* 96:408
- Yang S, Guo Y, Yan N, Wu D, He H, Qu Z, Yang C, Zhou Q, Jia J (2011) *ACS Appl Mater Interface* 3:209
- Ayub I, Berry FJ, Crabb E, Helgason O (2004) *J Mater Sci* 39:6921
- Mou XL, Zhang BS, Li Y, Yao LD, Wei XJ, Su DS, Shen WJ (2012) *Angew Chem Int Edit* 51:2989
- Xie GY, Liu ZY, Zhu ZP, Liu QY, Ge J, Huang ZG (2004) *J Catal* 224:36
- Yang SJ, Guo YF, Chang HZ, Ma L, Peng Y, Qu Z, Yan NQ, Wang CZ, Li JH (2013) *Appl Catal B* 136:19
- Gu T, Liu Y, Weng X, Wang H, Wu Z (2010) *Catal Commun* 12:310
- Yang SJ, Liu CX, Chang HZ, Ma L, Qu Z, Yan NQ, Wang CZ, Li JH (2013) *Ind Eng Chem Res* 52:5601
- Liu FD, Asakura K, He H, Shan WP, Shi XY, Zhang CB (2010) *Appl Catal B* 103:369
- Yang S, Yan N, Guo Y, Wu D, He H, Qu Z, Li J, Zhou Q, Jia J (2011) *Environ Sci Technol* 45:1540
- Yang S, Guo Y, Yan N, Qu Z, Xie J, Yang C, Jia J (2011) *J Hazard Mater* 186:508
- Yang S, Guo Y, Yan N, Wu D, He H, Xie J, Qu Z, Jia J (2011) *Appl Catal B* 101:698
- Fu HB, Wang X, Wu HB, Yin Y, Chen JM (2007) *J Phys Chem C* 111:6077
- Yang S, Wang C, Li J, Yan N, Ma L, Chang H (2011) *Appl Catal B* 110:71
- Hadjiivanov KI (2000) *Catal Rev* 42:71
- Xie GY, Liu ZY, Zhu ZP, Liu QY, Ge J, Huang ZG (2004) *J Catal* 224:42