#### **REVIEW ARTICLE** REVIEW ARTICLE

# Catalytic oxidation of CO on noble metal-based catalysts

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# Abstract



Carbon monoxide (CO) catalytic oxidation has gained increasing interest in recent years due to its application prospects. The noble metal catalysts commonly exhibit outstanding CO catalytic oxidation activity. Therefore, this article reviewed the recent research on the application of noble metal catalysts in the catalytic oxidation of CO. The effects of catalyst support, dopant, and physicochemical properties on the catalytic activity for CO oxidation are summarized. The influence of the presence of water vapor and sulfur dioxide in the reaction atmosphere on the catalytic activity in CO oxidation is emphatically discussed. Moreover, this paper discussed several reaction mechanisms of CO catalytic oxidation on noble metal catalysts. Finally, the challenges of removing CO by catalytic oxidation in practical industrial flue gas are proposed.

Keywords CO · Catalytic oxidation · Noble metal · Reaction mechanism

# Introduction

CO is a colorless, odorless, and asphyxiating gas, which can lead to human poisoning when the CO content in the air is higher than  $0.1\%$  (Xu et al. [2020](#page-23-0)). CO is mainly emitted from industrial flue gas and motor vehicle exhaust, caused by incomplete combustion of fossil fuels. For example, the flue gas generated in the iron ore sintering process contains approximately 1% CO (Taira et al. [2016](#page-23-0)). Nowadays there is no effective treatment strategy for CO purification from industrial flue gas. The treatment method of CO in the exhaust gas of



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diesel vehicles is generally through catalytic oxidation CO using the three-way catalyst. The reaction process is shown in Eq. 1. Currently, catalytic oxidation of CO is recognized as the most energy-saving and efficient method for CO purification. Furthermore, as a typical gas-solid heterogeneous reaction, catalytic oxidation of CO is regarded as an extremely important topic for fundamental research. CO can be used as a probe molecule to investigate the catalyst structure, adsorption/desorption behavior, metal-support interaction, and catalytic reaction mechanism (Zhou et al. [2015\)](#page-24-0).

$$
CO + \frac{1}{2}O_2 \rightarrow CO_2 \tag{1}
$$

In the past decades, numerous noble metal-based catalysts have been developed for CO oxidation, showing apparently higher catalytic activity than transition metal oxides (Prasad and Singh [2012](#page-22-0)). Bulk Au is inert to the catalytic oxidation of CO. Supported gold nanoparticles (NPs) catalysts have attracted widespread attention in recent years due to their excellent low-temperature CO oxidation activity, even catalyti-cally oxidizing CO at − 70 °C (Haruta et al. [1987](#page-21-0); Haruta [2011](#page-21-0)). CO is excessively adsorbed on the noble metal Pd and Pt sites, making  $O_2$  unable to be adsorbed and activated, thereby inhibiting the catalytic activity of Pt- and Pd-based catalysts for CO oxidation under low-temperature conditions (<100 °C). However, when the temperature is improved, Ptand Pd-based catalysts commonly show outstanding CO oxidation performance. Therefore, Pt and Pd are widely used in the CO purification of diesel vehicle exhaust as the active

components of the three-way catalysts (Zhou et al. [2015\)](#page-24-0). In addition, there are many reports on Ag-, Ru-, Ir-, and Rhbased catalysts for CO catalytic oxidation (Grabchenko et al. [2020](#page-21-0); Panagiotopoulou and Verykios [2017](#page-22-0); Zhang et al. [2019a,](#page-24-0) [b](#page-24-0); Zhang et al. [2015](#page-24-0)). Here in this paper, CO oxidation over noble metals (Pt, Au, Pd, Ag, Ru, Rh, Ir) catalysts are reviewed as shown in Fig. 1. The support and dopant optimizations for higher CO catalytic efficiency are introduced. The influence of the physicochemical properties of noble metal catalysts on CO catalytic activity is summarized. Besides, this article also discusses the CO catalytic performance in harsh reaction atmospheres. Many studies have speculated on the reaction mechanism of CO catalytic oxidation on noble metal catalysts through experiments and theoretical calculations. Hence, the reaction mechanisms of CO oxidation over noble metal catalysts were discussed.

# Pt-based catalysts

# Effect of catalyst support

Catalyst support plays a vital role in CO oxidation. Zheng et al. ([2016](#page-24-0)) reported a  $Pt/MgFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  catalyst with high CO oxidation performance at room temperature. It was found that the support  $MgFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  had an inverse spinel structure and could provide uncoordinated lattice oxygen as active oxygen species for CO oxidation. Lee et al. [\(2018a,](#page-22-0) [b](#page-22-0)) reported that Pt/  $CeO<sub>2</sub>$  catalysts with fewer surface defects were obtained by heat-treated  $CeO<sub>2</sub>$  at 800 °C, thereby weakening the interaction between the active species and the support, forming less

Pt–O–Ce bonds and giving a higher dispersion of Pt species and better catalytic efficiency. Zhou et al. ([2016](#page-24-0)) reported that the CO oxidation activity was significantly affected by different facets of support anatase-TiO<sub>2</sub>. Among them, Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub>-101 and  $Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub>$ -100 gave stronger CO oxidation activity than Pt/  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$ -001, owing to that Pt species was more stable and higher dispersion on the facet 101 and facet 110 than the facet 001. Wang et al. ([2014](#page-23-0)) clarified that the morphology of  $WO_3$  has a significant influence on the activity of Pt catalysts for CO oxidation. Compared with the nanoparticle  $WO_3$  support, the nanolamella WO<sub>3</sub>-supported Pt catalyst has higher CO oxidation activity due to the higher dispersion of Pt on the support and metal-support interaction to form more  $Pt^0$  species, which is more beneficial for CO activation to participate in the reaction. Lou and Liu [\(2017\)](#page-22-0) prepared monoatomic Pt catalysts with different supports (Pt/Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Pt/ZnO, and Pt/ $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) and reported that water could promote the catalytic oxidation of CO. All catalysts would significantly increase the catalytic activity of CO in present water or hydroxyl groups on the support, indicating that the CO oxidation activity has nothing to do with the type of support. After -OH groups were removed from the support by heat treatment at 300 °C, the Pt catalyst supported on the reducible carrier ( $Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$ ) has the highest CO catalytic activity. An et al. ([2013a,](#page-20-0) [b\)](#page-20-0) found that the CO oxidation activity of Pt/Oxides catalyst was much higher than pure Pt and supports  $(Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, NiO, MnO<sub>2</sub>)$ ,  $Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$ , CeO<sub>2</sub>). The created interface between the metal and the support was a key factor for obtaining high CO oxidation activity, because the metal-support interface forms an active phase that is easy to provide lattice oxygen. For example, the CoO active phase was formed on the  $Pt/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  catalyst metal



Fig. 1 Catalytic oxidation of CO on noble metal catalysts

interface. Zhang et al.  $(2019a, b)$  $(2019a, b)$  $(2019a, b)$  $(2019a, b)$  $(2019a, b)$  reported that novel  $\beta$ -MnO<sub>2</sub> support material in  $Pt/MnO<sub>x</sub>$  catalyst greatly promoted CO oxidation. As a result, the CO oxidation activity of  $Pt/MnO<sub>x</sub>$ catalyst at 100  $\rm{^{\circ}C}$  was 5 times of the Pt/MnO<sub>x</sub>-COM (COM, commercial) catalyst. Jung et al.  $(2014)$  $(2014)$  prepared Pt/SiO<sub>2</sub> using the ultrasonic spray pyrolysis (USP) method for CO catalytic oxidation. The loading of Pt and the calcination temperature were systematically investigated. Among the catalysts, 4 wt%  $Pt/SiO<sub>2</sub>$  calcined at 600 °C contributed the highest CO catalytic activity.

# Effect of dopant

Doping platinum-based catalysts is a common method to improve catalytic activity of CO. Cai et al. ([2018](#page-20-0)) prepared a monoatomic  $NiO<sub>x</sub>$ -coated nanoparticle Pt with a shell-core structure  $NiO<sub>x</sub>/Pt/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  catalyst. The Pt/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst doped with  $\text{NiO}_x$  could produce a highly active metal oxide interface, thereby improving the catalytic activity. Meanwhile, the doping of  $\text{NiO}_x$  could improve the sintering resistance of Pt/ Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Tomita et al. [\(2013](#page-23-0)) reported that Fe-doped Pt/ $\gamma$ - $Al_2O_3$  catalyst was used for CO removal in H<sub>2</sub>-rich atmosphere at low temperature. Doping Fe increased the CO oxidation activity and selectivity of  $Pt/\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst, which was attributed to the formation of boundaries between Pt nanoparticles and  $FeO<sub>x</sub>$  species, which led to the rapid reaction of CO adsorbed on Pt nanoparticles with oxygen species provided by the Fe<sup>2+</sup> $\leftrightarrow$ Fe<sup>3+</sup> redox cycle. Tanaka et al. ([2015](#page-23-0)) also reported that  $FeO_x/Pt/TiO_2$  catalyst doped with Fe at room temperature greatly promoted CO preferential oxidation and selectivity in the presence of water in the atmosphere. This was attributed to the dissociation of  $H_2O$  into  $H^+$  and  $OH^-$  on  $FeO<sub>x</sub>$  sites, where OH<sup> $-$ </sup> provided active oxygen species for CO oxidation. Margitfalvi and Irina  $(2002)$  doped Sn on Pt/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst to improve CO oxidation performance at low temperature. When  $Sn/Pt = (0.2–0.4)$ , the catalyst contributed the highest CO oxidation activity, owing to the formation of high mobile Sn<sup>n+</sup>-Pt ensemble sites at the bimetallic interface. Besides, CO oxidation activity of the catalyst decreased when stable  $\text{SnO}_x$  surface species were formed on the catalyst surface. Liu et al. [\(2015\)](#page-22-0) improved the CO oxidation activity of  $Pt/Al_2O_3$  catalyst by doping K. Doping K reduced the reaction energy barrier of the catalyst and improved the CO reaction order. In situ FTIR results showed that the CO adsorption peak on the  $0.42K-2.0Pt/Al_2O_3$  catalyst completely disappeared, while the CO adsorption peak still existed on the 2.0Pt/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst at 180 °C, indicating that K doping was beneficial for CO desorption and  $O<sub>2</sub>$  adsorption and activation. Zhao et al. [\(2018\)](#page-24-0) introduced 1% Co ions into the  $Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst using one-step flame spray pyrolysis process for CO oxidation. During the preparation process,  $Co<sup>2+</sup>$  was oxidized to  $\text{Co}^{3+}(\text{Co}^{2+}\rightarrow\text{Co}^{3+}+\text{e}^{-})$  to release electrons to the surface Pt species to suppress the sintering of Pt nanoparticles.

In addition, in situ DRIFTS results showed that the introduction of Co ions was beneficial to desorption of CO adsorbed on  $Pt^0$  sites.

# Effect of physicochemical properties

The physicochemical properties of Pt-based catalysts are also important factors influencing CO oxidation activity, such as the particle size of Pt, dispersion, and platinum valence. As shown in Fig. [2](#page-3-0), Kim et al.  $(2016)$  $(2016)$  $(2016)$  prepared Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts treated with  $H_2$  at different temperatures and found that the catalyst with high dispersion and small particle size of Pt species (Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub> (R)-600) gave higher catalytic activity at room temperature. Additionally, CO was more easily activated on  $Pt^{0}$  than on  $Pt^{2+}$  sites. As a consequence, higher Pt<sub>metallic</sub>/Pt<sub>total</sub> value gave higher CO oxidation activity of the catalyst. Besides, Liu et al. ([2018a](#page-22-0), [b\)](#page-22-0) prepared a brookite-TiO<sub>2</sub>-supported Pt catalyst and found that under the same Pt loading, higher  $Pt^0$  specific and dispersion of Pt nanoparticles would enhance the CO oxidation activity. In situ FTIR results showed that CO adsorbed on  $Pt^0$  sites was easier to desorb to participate in the reaction, while CO was strongly adsorbed on  $Pt^{\delta+}$  and  $Pt^{2+}$  sites. For  $Pt/SiO_2$  catalyst (Jung et al. [2014](#page-21-0)), according to the TEM images, the  $4wt\%Pt/SiO<sub>2</sub>$ catalyst calcined at 600 °C for 30 min has smaller Pt nanoparticles size and higher dispersion than the 4 wt%  $Pt/SiO<sub>2</sub>$  calcined at 750 °C for 2 h. Higher dispersion of Pt nanoparticles means more CO adsorption and activation sites, thus leading to higher CO catalytic performance. Besides, single-atom Pt catalysts also showed excellent CO oxidation activity. Singleatom Pt commonly existed in the form of high valence on the catalysts. The high activity of single-atom Pt catalysts was attributed to the partially vacant 5d orbitals of high valence Pt atoms, which was conducive to the adsorption and activation of CO (Qiao et al. [2011\)](#page-22-0). Wang et al. ([2020](#page-23-0)) reported that the CO oxidation activity of a single-atom Pt catalyst (0.2Pt/  $Cr_{1,3}Fe_{0,7}O_3$ ) was much higher than that of nanoparticle Pt catalyst ( $2Pt/Cr_{1,3}Fe_{0,7}O_3$ ) under wet conditions. This was due to the weaker adsorption of CO on  $0.2Pt/Cr_{1,3}Fe_{0,7}O_3$ and easier participation in the reaction.

### Effect of harsh reaction conditions

The reaction atmosphere has a great effect on the performance of CO oxidation over Pt-based catalysts. For the Pt/Cr<sub>x</sub>Fe<sub>2-x</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst (Wang et al.  $2019$ ), when  $10\%$  CO<sub>2</sub> was introduced into the reaction atmosphere,  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  could compete with CO for adsorption sites and formed carbonate species covering on the catalyst surface, thereby inhibiting the CO oxidation activity. When 10% water vapor was introduced, the water vapor not only promoted the decomposition of carbonate species on the catalyst surface, but also accelerated the reaction of - OH groups on the catalyst carrier and CO due to the <span id="page-3-0"></span>Fig. 2 Correlation between the Pt<sub>metallic</sub>/Pt<sub>total</sub> ratio and the TOF of catalysts (Kim et al. [2016\)](#page-21-0). Copyright 2016, American Chemical Society



dissociation of water vapor into -OH groups. It was reported that the presence of only  $SO_2$  in the atmosphere also led to the sulfation of the support. The degree of sulfation of the support was related to the temperature and the type of carries. When the temperature was lower than 200  $\degree$ C, SO<sub>3</sub><sup>2−</sup> and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2−</sup> species coexisted on the support of  $Al_2O_3$ . When the temperature was higher than 300 °C,  $SO_4^2$ <sup>-</sup> species was predominant on  $Al_2O_3$  (Smirnov et al. [2014\)](#page-23-0). When the temperature was lower than 100  $\degree$ C, the CeO<sub>2</sub> support was sulfided to  $Ce(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>$ , resulting in serious deactivation of catalyst. It was also reported that when the temperature was lower than 200 °C, the active component Pt was vulcanized to PtS, and when the temperature is higher than 200 °C with oxygen,  $S^{2-}$  species was converted to  $SO_4^2$ <sup>-</sup> species and quickly migrated to the catalyst surface (Wakita et al. [2005\)](#page-23-0). At present, it is generally accepted that Pt is not easily sulfated. As shown in Fig. 3, in the atmosphere where  $H_2O$  and  $SO_2$  coexist,  $SO_2$  was oxidized to form  $SO<sub>3</sub>$  on a Pt-based catalyst at temperature of 200–300 °C, and the generated  $SO_3$  reacted with H<sub>2</sub>O to form sulfuric acid (Taira et al. [2016\)](#page-23-0). The sulfuric acid generated on the catalyst not only caused the catalyst to be desulfurized and deactivates the catalyst, but also did not reach the boiling point of sulfuric acid when the temperature was lower than 300 °C, which led to the active site covered by sulfuric acid. Taira and Einaga [\(2019\)](#page-23-0) prepared  $Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalysts with different pore sizes and found that the catalyst with greater pore size  $(>10$ nm) had stronger anti-sulfur performance, owing to the generated sulfuric acid did not easily block the catalyst with larger pore size, and the reactive gases could contact with the Pt sites. However, the sulfuric acid adsorbed on the catalyst was removed by heat treatment at 300 °C, and the performance of CO oxidation was not completely recovered. The generated sulfuric acid caused the surface of  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  support to be sulfated

to form a layer of  $TiOSO<sub>4</sub>$  species. This layer of  $TiOSO<sub>4</sub>$ species inhibited the interaction between -OH groups on support and CO on Pt sites, resulting in a decrease in catalytic activity.

# Reaction mechanisms

In recent years, the catalytic oxidation mechanism of CO on Pt/Oxides catalysts under dry reaction atmosphere  $(CO + O<sub>2</sub>)$ has been extensively investigated. They are generally divided into two categories: typical Langmuir-Hinshelwood mechanism (L-H mechanism) and Mars-van Krevelen mechanism (MvK mechanism). Additionally, in the wet reaction atmosphere, water vapor seems to change the CO oxidation pathway over Pt/Oxides catalysts, which is marked as Water-Assisted Mechanism or Water-Inhibited Mechanism (Ishida et al. [2020](#page-21-0)).



Fig. 3 Mechanism of sulfuric acid blocking catalyst pores (Taira et al. [2016\)](#page-23-0). Copyright 2016, American Chemical Society

#### Langmuir-Hinshelwood mechanism

The pathway of CO oxidation over Pt-based catalyst with an inert support was generally considered to be the L-H Mechanism. As shown in Fig. 4, for the single-atom  $Pt/\theta$ - $Al_2O_3$  (010) catalyst, density functional theory (DFT) calculations and experimental results proved that  $O<sub>2</sub>$  oxidizes the Pt atom and reacts with the adsorbed CO to form carbonate species. The carbonate species decomposes to release  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and the oxygen atom adsorbed on the Pt atom. Then, the oxygen atom reacts with another CO to form CO2 to complete the catalytic cycle (Moses-DeBusk et al. [2013](#page-22-0)). As shown in Fig. 5, Ganzler et al. [\(2019](#page-21-0)) revealed the oxidation mechanism of CO over  $Pt/CeO<sub>2</sub>$  and  $Pt/$ Al2O3 catalysts by Spatially Resolved Structure-Activity Correlations. At low temperatures, the activity of the Pt/  $CeO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst was higher than the Pt/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst due to its more active oxygen species at the  $Pt- CeO<sub>2</sub>$  interface. The low activity of the  $Pt/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  catalyst at low temperature was attributed to the excessive adsorption of CO on the Pt nanoparticles, indicating that  $O_2$  could not be adsorbed, which inhibited the L-H reaction pathway. Under high-temperature conditions, the weakening of CO adsorption on Pt/CeO<sub>2</sub> catalyst and Pt/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst led to easy adsorption and activation of  $O<sub>2</sub>$  at Pt sites. Meanwhile, the catalytic oxidation of CO over  $Pt/CeO<sub>2</sub>$ and  $Pt/Al_2O_3$  followed the L-H mechanism. The Pt-CeO<sub>2</sub> interface still adsorbed and activated O to provide active oxygen species for CO oxidation. Besides, the intermediate products produced by CO through the L-H reaction



Fig. 4 Pathway for CO oxidation on single Pt atoms supported on the (010) surface of  $\theta$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (Moses-DeBusk et al. [2013\)](#page-22-0). Copyright 2013, American Chemical Society



Fig. 5 Low-temperature and high-temperature CO oxidation mechanism on Pt/CeO<sub>2</sub> and Pt/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts (Ganzler et al. [2019\)](#page-21-0). Copyright 2019, American Chemical Society

pathway were still controversial. Allian et al. ([2011](#page-20-0)) believed that the formation of O-O-C=O species by CO and  $O<sub>2</sub>$  chemically adsorbed on Pt clusters was a thermodynamically more feasible intermediate product. Because this CO-assisted  $O_2$  dissociation pathway avoided the high energy barrier required for  $O_2$  dissociation due to excessive CO adsorption. O-O-C=O species then decompose into  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and chemisorbed oxygen atoms. The chemically adsorbed oxygen atom then reacts with CO to form  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ completing the catalytic cycle. CO oxidation via CO\*- Assisted  $O<sub>2</sub>$  Dissociation Route was as follows:

$$
CO + \bullet^* \leftrightarrow CO^* \tag{2}
$$

$$
O_2 + \blacksquare^* \leftrightarrow O_2^* \tag{3}
$$

$$
O_2^* + CO^* \rightarrow CO_2^* + O^* \tag{4}
$$

$$
O^* + CO^* \rightarrow \blacksquare^* + CO_2^* \tag{5}
$$

$$
CO_2^* \to \mathbf{m}^* + CO_2 \tag{6}
$$

 $\overline{\mathbf{C}}$ 

#### is the adsorption site.

In addition, there were also reported that the chemically adsorbed  $O<sub>2</sub>$  dissociates into oxygen atoms and then reacted with the chemically adsorbed CO to product  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  (Bourane  $2004$ ), as shown in Eqs.  $7-10$ .

$$
CO_{gas} \leftrightarrow CO_{ads} \tag{7}
$$

$$
O_{2gas} \leftrightarrow 2O_{ads} \tag{8}
$$

 $CO<sub>ads</sub> + O<sub>ads</sub> \rightarrow CO<sub>2ads</sub>$  (9)

$$
CO2ads \rightarrow CO2gas
$$
 (10)

### Mars-van Krevelen mechanism

The pathway of CO oxidation over Pt-based catalyst with a strong oxygen storage capacity support was generally considered to be the MvK Mechanism. CO is chemically adsorbed on the Pt site and reacts with the lattice oxygen on the support to generate  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ . The support was partially reduced due to the formation of oxygen vacancies. The  $O_2$  molecules in the gas phase replenish the lattice oxygen to complete the catalytic cycle. This pathway avoids the competitive adsorption of CO and  $O_2$  at low temperatures. As illustrated in Fig. 6, on the Pt/MgFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> catalyst, the CO catalytic oxidation mechanism proposed by Zheng et al. ([2016\)](#page-24-0) followed the MvK Mechanism at room temperature. On the  $Pt/Cr<sub>x</sub>Fe<sub>2-x</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$ catalyst, Wang et al. [\(2019](#page-23-0)) believed that the catalytic oxidation reaction of CO under the dry condition followed the MvK mechanism and proposed the elementary reaction through



Fig. 6 Proposed CO oxidation mechanism on  $Pt/MgFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$ catalyst (Zheng et al. [2016](#page-24-0)). Copyright 2016, American Chemical Society

kinetic calculations, as shown in Eqs.  $11-14$ . Moreover, On the Pt/Oxides catalyst, the CO chemically adsorbed on the Pt sites migrates to the metal-support interface and reacts with the lattice oxygen of the active phase at the metal interface to generate  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and form oxygen vacancies. The reduced carrier is oxidized by gas-phase oxygen to complete the catalytic process (An et al. [2013a,](#page-20-0) [b\)](#page-20-0).

$$
2[CO + Pt^* \leftrightarrow CO - Pt]
$$
 (11)

 $2[CO-Pt + M-[O] \rightarrow CO_2-Pt + M-[**II**]$  (  $(12)$ 

$$
2[CO_2 - Pt \leftrightarrow CO_2 + Pt^*]
$$
 (13)

$$
O_2 + 2 M - \boxed{\blacksquare} \rightarrow 2 M - [O] \tag{14}
$$

Pt<sup>\*</sup> refers to the active site on Pt. M – [O] refers to the lattice oxygen on the support.  $M - \lceil \blacksquare \rceil$  refers to oxygen vacancy on the support.

### Water-Assisted Mechanism

It has been reported that in  $Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub>$ , the -OH groups on the catalyst support could react with CO. Therefore, the -OH groups on the support plays an important role in the catalytic oxidation of CO. Many literatures reported the phenomenon that water vapor promoted the catalytic oxidation of CO on Ptbased catalysts and proposed the reaction mechanism of water vapor to promote the catalytic oxidation of CO. Wang et al. [\(2016\)](#page-23-0) clarified that water vapor considerably promoted the catalytic oxidation of CO over single-atom  $Pt<sub>1</sub>/CeO<sub>2</sub>$ . Isotopelabeling experiments revealed that  $CO<sup>18</sup>O$  accounts for half of the total  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  when the reaction temperature was higher than 90 °C. Therefore, the results strongly proved that when water vapor existed in the reaction atmosphere on the single-atom  $Pt<sub>1</sub>/CeO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst, water vapor could directly participate in the catalytic oxidation reaction of CO. Furthermore, on the singleatom  $Pt_1/CeO_2$  catalyst, the Water-Mediated Mars-van Krevelen Mechanism in which H<sub>2</sub>O directly participated in the catalytic oxidation of CO was proposed by DFT calculations (Fig. [7](#page-6-0)). The specific reaction pathway is as follows: (1) Water molecules are adsorbed on the  $CeO<sub>2</sub>$  support and dissociated into -OH bonded to Ce atoms, -H radicals bonded with adjacent lattice oxygen form lattice hydroxyl groups. (2) CO adsorbed on the Pt atomic site quickly reacts with -OH on the Ce atom to form intermediate product -COOH species. (3) -COOH species reacts with the lattice hydroxyl group to form  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and  $H<sub>2</sub>O$ , and the support is partially reduced due to the formation of oxygen vacancies. (4)  $O_2$  in the gas-phase supplements lattice oxygen. For  $Pt/Cr_1$ ,  $Fe_0$ ,  $7O_3$  catalyst (Wang et al. [2019\)](#page-23-0), the CO catalytic performance at 80 °C was promoted when 10% water vapor was introduced. According to the XPS O 1s characterization, it was found that the proportion of -OH groups on the surface of the catalyst after steam

<span id="page-6-0"></span>

Fig. 7 Proposed reaction pathways for CO direct oxidation and  $H_2O$ promoted CO oxidation on  $Pt<sub>1</sub>/CeO<sub>2</sub>$  (110) (Wang et al. [2016\)](#page-23-0). Copyright 2016, American Chemical Society

treatment was 29.2%, indicating that the dissociation of water vapor on the catalyst surface might be the reason for increasing of hydroxyl groups. Moreover, on the  $2Pt/Cr_{1,3}Fe_{0,7}O_3$ and  $0.2Pt/Cr_{1,3}Fe_{0,7}O_3$  catalyst (Wang et al. [2020\)](#page-23-0), in situ FTIR results found that without water vapor in the reaction atmosphere, the hydroxyl groups (3728 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 3693 cm<sup>-1</sup>) on the catalyst gradually decreased, and the formate species (1600 cm−<sup>1</sup> ) and other carbonate species gradually increased. When  $10\%$  water vapor was introduced into the reaction atmosphere, the hydroxyl species and formate species on the surface of the catalyst increase significantly. The increase of formate species might be caused by the reaction of surface hydroxyl with CO. When water vapor was taken out of the reaction atmosphere, the hydroxyl groups on the surface of the catalyst dropped sharply. These results indicated that the way of water vapor promoted the catalytic oxidation of CO over the  $2Pt/Cr_{1,3}Fe_{0,7}O_3$  is that the hydroxyl groups generated from the dissociation of water vapor continuously react with the CO adsorbed on the Pt sites. As illustrated in Fig. [8](#page-7-0) and Eqs. 15–20, the reaction mechanism of water vapor promoted CO oxidation on the  $Pt/Cr_{1.3}Fe_{0.7}O_3$  catalyst was proposed according to the kinetic calculations. The specific reaction pathway is as follows: (1) CO chemical adsorbs on the Pt sites. (2) Hydrolysis dissociates into -OH species. (3) -OH species reacts with CO at the interface to form -COOH species, and - COOH species decomposes into  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and -H radicals. (4) -H radicals react with -OH to generate H<sub>2</sub>O. (5) Gas-phase  $O_2$ supplements oxygen vacancies to complete the catalytic cycle. Besides, some reports revealed that water molecules on Pt-

based catalysts promote the catalytic oxidation of CO through promoting the activation of  $O_2$ . Liu et al. ([2018a,](#page-22-0) [b\)](#page-22-0) calculated from DFT and found that water on Pt  $(221)$  and Pt  $(221)/7H<sub>2</sub>O$ could promote the formation of OCOO intermediates to enhance  $O_2$  dissociation. On FeO<sub>x</sub>/Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst, Tanaka et al. [\(2015\)](#page-23-0) believed that CO catalytic oxidation followed an ionic process. As illustrated in Fig. [9](#page-7-0), doping  $FeO<sub>x</sub>$  species on Pt/  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst accelerated the dissociation of  $H<sub>2</sub>O$  into  $H<sup>+</sup>$  ion and OH<sup>−</sup> ion. The CO adsorbed on the Pt site and the OH<sup>−</sup> ion to generate HCOO (a) and electrons. The electrons combine with the dissociated H<sup>+</sup> ion to capture oxygen atoms from  $O_2$ dissociation to form OH (a) on Pt sites. The reaction between HCOO (a) and OH (a) eventually releases  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and H<sub>2</sub>O. It is worth noting that the reaction of OH (a) with HCOO (a) is faster than the reaction of CO (a) with O (a) at 60  $^{\circ}$ C.

$$
2[CO + Pt^* \leftrightarrow CO - Pt]
$$
 (15)

$$
2[H_2O + M-[O] \leftrightarrow HO-M-[O]-H]
$$
 (16)

$$
2[CO-Pt + HO-M-[O]-H \rightarrow COOH-Pt + M-[O]-H ] (17)
$$

$$
2[COOH-Pt \rightarrow CO_2 + Pt-H]
$$
 (18)

$$
2[Pt-H + M-[O]-H \rightarrow Pt^* + M-[\blacksquare] - H + H_2O \qquad \qquad (19)
$$

$$
2M - [\blacksquare] + O_2 \rightarrow 2M - [O] \tag{20}
$$

Pt<sup>\*</sup> refers to the active site on Pt. M – [O] refers to the lattice oxygen on the support.  $M - \lceil \blacksquare \rceil$  refers to oxygen vacancy on the support.

### Water-Inhibited Mechanism

However, there were also reported in the literatures of the inhibitory effect of water on the catalytic oxidation of CO on Pt-based catalysts. On the  $Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst (Liu et al. [2018a,](#page-22-0) [b](#page-22-0)), the presence of 5% water vapor in the reaction atmosphere inhibited the CO catalytic activity. Liu et al. ([2018a](#page-22-0), [b\)](#page-22-0) reported that the introduction of water molecules led to the formation of hydrogen bonds and van der Waals forces with the intermediate product of COOH\* species, resulting in the COOH\* species could not be easily decomposed.

# Au-based catalysts

### Effect of catalyst support

Catalyst support greatly affects the performance of gold-based catalysts for the catalytic oxidation of CO. Fujita et al. [\(2019](#page-21-0)) reported that Au/ZnO catalyst has excellent CO oxidation activity at low temperature. Ha et al. ([2018](#page-21-0)) prepared nano-gold catalysts supported by different  $CeO<sub>2</sub>$  crystal facets. Among <span id="page-7-0"></span>Fig. 8 Reaction pathways of CO oxidation over  $Pt/Cr_{1.3}Fe_{0.7}O_3$ catalyst under different conditions (Wang et al. [2019\)](#page-23-0). Copyright 2019, Elsevier



them,  $Au/CeO<sub>2</sub>$  (100) showed better CO catalytic oxidation activity than  $Au/CeO<sub>2</sub>$  (111). The Arrhenius equation revealed that the catalytic oxidation of CO on both catalysts followed the MvK mechanism, indicating that the crystal formation of the support significantly affects the catalytic activity of the catalyst. Gold catalysts loaded on the reducible supports showed excellent CO catalytic oxidation activity at low temperature, which is because the reducing support is easier to activate oxygen. Therefore, it seems that reduction with  $H_2$  is an effective strategy to obtain higher CO oxidation activity, but this method does not seem to be suitable for the catalytic oxidation of CO in actual industrial flue gas. Besides, Liu et al. [\(2016\)](#page-22-0) reported that gold supported on non-reducing phosphate supports (Au/La-P-O-NW) also showed great activity

### Local Potential Gradient on the Dual Functional Catalyst and the Oxidation of CO on it Enhanced by H<sub>2</sub>O



Fig. 9 Proposed reaction pathways for CO oxidation on  $FeO<sub>x</sub>/Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub>$ catalyst at 60 °C (Tanaka et al. [2015](#page-23-0)). Copyright 2015, RoyalSociety of **Chemistry** 

of oxidation at low temperature. Comotti et al. [\(2006\)](#page-21-0) prepared supported gold-based catalysts loaded on four supports (TiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, ZrO<sub>2</sub>, and ZnO) for CO catalytic oxidation. Among them,  $Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  and  $Au/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  showed more excellent catalysis activity. Akita and Maeda ([2018](#page-20-0)) prepared the Au/  $SrTiO<sub>3</sub>$  catalyst by deposition precipitation method, and it showed excellent CO catalytic oxidation activity at room temperature.

### Effect of dopant and metal alloy

Dopant also has a significant effect on the catalytic oxidation of CO for gold-based catalysts. Guo et al. [\(2018\)](#page-21-0) reported Au/  $M-TiO<sub>2</sub> NTs (M = Ce, Ga, Co, Y)$  catalysts for the oxidation of CO. These four dopants all promoted the performance of CO catalytic oxidation, of which Y element doping gave the best activity of CO oxidation. Ma et al. [\(2007\)](#page-22-0) prepared Au/  $M_xO_y/TiO_2$  catalysts for CO catalytic oxidation  $(M_xO_y = CaO,$ NiO, ZnO, Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, ZrO<sub>2</sub>, La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Pr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Nd<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>,  $Sm_2O_3$ , Eu<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Gd<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Dy<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Ho<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Er<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Yb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> or  $SiO<sub>2</sub>-WO<sub>3</sub>$ ), doping CaO, NiO, ZnO, Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and rare earth elements not only promote the oxidation activity of CO but also improve the anti-sintering ability of the samples. Lu et al. [\(2020\)](#page-22-0) reported Ni-doped Au/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst (Au/Ni<sub>x</sub>Al) was used for CO catalytic oxidation, in which  $Au/Ni_{0.05}Al$  catalyst showed the highest CO oxidation activity, and the complete conversion temperature of CO was 20 °C. Yang et al. [\(2016](#page-23-0)) reported that  $Zr$ - and La-doped Au/CeO<sub>2</sub> catalysts were used for CO catalytic oxidation. The Zr- and La-doped Au/  $CeZrLaO<sub>x</sub>$  catalysts exhibited more excellent CO oxidation owing to that Zr and La doping enhanced the metal-support interaction, forming more oxygen vacancies, which was consistent with the XPS results. Rodriguez et al. [\(2018\)](#page-23-0) prepared

<span id="page-8-0"></span>Au/K/o-TiO<sub>2</sub> (110) catalyst with K doping, which not only improved the activity of CO oxidation but also created a new CO oxidation pathway, as shown in Eq. 21. In addition, metal alloy catalysts were also prepared for high CO catalytic activity. The catalytic activity of the alloy catalyst was related to the ratio of the two metals. Li et al. [\(2018\)](#page-22-0) reported that Au-Pt/  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  SNT alloy catalyst was used to CO oxidation. When the Au/Pt ratio was 5 with the calcination temperature at 400  $^{\circ}$ C, the catalytic activity was excellent with  $T_{100} = 80$  °C. Xu et al. [\(2010\)](#page-23-0) prepared Au-Pd alloy catalysts with different compositions for CO catalytic oxidation, of which  $Pd_{90}Au_{10}$  and  $Pd_{31}Au_{69}$  catalysts gave excellent CO catalytic oxidation activity at 27 °C.

$$
2CO \rightarrow C_{ads} + CO_{2,ads} \tag{21}
$$

# Effect of physicochemical properties

The physicochemical properties of gold-based catalysts are also important factors that affect catalytic performance. Haruta et al. [\(1993](#page-21-0)) found that the catalytic activity of the supported gold-based catalyst for CO oxidation was apparently related to the size of the gold nanoparticles. The catalytic activity of nanoparticles less than 5 nm increased significantly. The reduction of gold nanoparticle size results in increasing the number of low-coordinate Au sites (which is beneficial for the adsorption of activation CO) and increasing in the length of the metal-support interface (which is beneficial for the activation of oxygen). As shown in Fig. 10, Yao et al. [\(2016\)](#page-23-0) deposited different thicknesses of ultrathin  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  overcoats onto three  $Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalysts to increase the length of metal-support interface using atomic layer deposition (ALD). XPS results showed that  $Au/TiO_2-S$  (2.9  $\pm$  0.6 nm),  $Au/TiO_2-$ 



Fig. 10 CO conversion as a function of the number of exposed lowcoordination Au sites on Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>-S, Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>-M, and Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>-L catalysts at 25 °C (Yao et al. [2016\)](#page-23-0). Copyright 2016, American Chemical Society

M (5.0  $\pm$  0.8 nm), and Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>-L (10.2  $\pm$  1.6 nm) catalysts were mainly still in metallic state, indicating that  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  atomic layer coverage did not change the charge properties of Au nanoparticles. However, in situ FTIR results showed that with the coverage of  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  atomic layer, the number of CO adsorption sites was considerably reduced. The number of lowcoordinated Au sites of uncoated Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>-M and Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>-L was two orders of magnitude higher than that of  $Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>-S$ coated with  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  layer. However, the activity comparison found that the CO conversion of  $Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>-S$  catalyst at 25 °C was higher than  $Au/TiO_2-M$  and  $Au/TiO_2-L$ .

Therefore, it could be seen that the reason why the reduction in the size of the gold nanoparticles led to a stronger catalytic activity was that the length of the metal-support interface was increased. It was also speculated that the activation of oxygen at the metal-support interface was the ratecontrolling step for CO catalytic oxidation. In addition, the



Fig. 11 (A) IR spectra during rt CO oxidation on 500 °C O<sub>2</sub>-treated Au/ SiO<sub>2</sub>. (B) Plots of IR CO<sub>2</sub> area, QMS CO conversion, IR CO band position, and IR -OH band area as a function of reaction time during room temperature CO oxidation on 500 °C O<sub>2</sub>-treated Au/SiO<sub>2</sub> (Wu et al. [2009\)](#page-23-0). Copyright 2009, American Chemical Society

low-coordination metal Au species seem to be more capable for catalyzing  $CO$  oxidation than  $Au<sup>+</sup>$  species. For instance, as shown in Fig. [11,](#page-8-0) Wu et al. [\(2009\)](#page-23-0) found that the CO adsorption bond was red-shifted from 2142 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Au<sup> $\delta$ +</sup>-CO) to 2113  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (Au<sup>0</sup>-CO) on the Au/SiO<sub>2</sub>:O<sub>2</sub>-treated sample, which was attributed to the gradual reduction  $Au^{\delta+}$  to  $Au^0$ . Meanwhile, mass spectrometry showed that the CO adsorbed on the metallic Au showed (Au<sup>0</sup>-CO) better reactivity, suggesting that metal Au0 species played an important role in the catalytic oxidation of CO at room temperature. Wei et al. [\(2018\)](#page-23-0) found that the CO conversion on the  $Au^{n+}/TiO_2$  (1 <  $n$  < 3) catalyst increased with time extension. The results of in situ diffuse-reflectance infrared Fourier transform spectroscopy (in situ DRIFTS) showed that  $Au<sup>n+</sup>$  species gradually reduced to  $Au<sup>0</sup>$  species in the catalytic oxidation process of CO. In addition, the results of in situ Raman spectroscopy indicated that during the reduction of  $Au<sup>n+</sup>$  species to  $Au<sup>0</sup>$  species, more oxygen vacancies were formed on the  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  support, which was conducive to  $O<sub>2</sub>$  activation. As we all know, the single-atom Au exists as the  $Au^{\delta+}$ species. However, many literatures reported that the singleatom Au catalyst also exhibited excellent CO catalytic performance. Based on the first-principles calculations, Shi et al. [\(2017](#page-23-0)) found that single-atom gold supported on oxygen vacancies of  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  support gave excellent CO catalytic oxidation performance, which was attributed to the unique electronic effect of Au atoms. In addition, Zhao et al. ([2019\)](#page-24-0) reported that under the promotion of water vapor, the single-atom  $Au/CeO<sub>2</sub>$ catalyst showed better CO catalytic oxidation ability than Au NP catalysts due to the unique local atomic structure and electronic properties of gold atoms. The single-atom Au located at the Ce vacancy sites could bond with three coordinated unsaturated oxygen atoms to form a highly positively charged state, while the Au atom located at the metal-support interface on Au NP catalysts could only bond with one O atom. The positively charged Au<sub>1</sub> atom has a flexible valency change ability  $(Au<sup>3+</sup>)$  $\rightarrow$  Au<sup>2+</sup>  $\rightarrow$  Au<sup>+</sup>) which was beneficial to the reaction between CO and -OH groups.

# Effect of harsh reaction conditions

The reaction atmosphere also has an important influence on the performance of Au-based catalysts for CO catalysis. Rutha et al.  $(2000)$  $(2000)$  found that  $SO<sub>2</sub>$  greatly inhibited the catalytic activity of CO on  $Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst under low-temperature conditions (<0  $^{\circ}$ C). After treatment at 0  $^{\circ}$ C for 3 h for Au/  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst, the apparent activation energy of CO oxidation increased significantly. Generally,  $Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst contributed poorer low-temperature activity than Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>. It was found that sulfation treatment of  $Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst led to slight increase of complete oxidation temperature of CO from 100 to 130 °C. However, for Au/TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst, its catalytic activity apparently decreased, showing dramatic increase of complete oxidation temperature of CO from 0 to 150 °C. In order to explore inhibition mechanism of  $SO<sub>2</sub>$  on CO catalytic oxidation, XPS characterization found that the metal interface seriously accumulated sulfate species on the used  $Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  samples (Kim and Woo [2006\)](#page-21-0). Through in situ FTIR experiments, it was found that the sulfate species accumulated at the Au- $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  interface occupied the active sites, thereby inhibiting the formation of intermediate carbonate species. It is worth noting that the XPS characterization revealed that the valence state of Au species did not change before and after use, indicating that active Au species are not easy to be sulfated. Clark et al. [\(2013\)](#page-21-0) prepared Au and  $La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  catalysts supported on TiO<sub>2</sub> nanofibers in different orders, and investigated their CO catalytic activities in a typical Claus tail gas atmosphere (1.6% CO,  $1.5\%$  H<sub>2</sub>,  $13.2\%$  CO<sub>2</sub>,  $22.0\%$  H<sub>2</sub>O,  $4.1\%$  O<sub>2</sub>,  $1\%$  H<sub>2</sub>S, 0.2% SO<sub>2</sub>, 0.05% COS, 0.02% CS<sub>2</sub>) at 300–400 °C. The catalysts with Au supported on  $La_2O_3/TiO_2$  support (Au/  $La_2O_3/TiO_2-NFs-1)$  gave better CO catalytic activity than Au and  $La_2O_3$  deposited on TiO<sub>2</sub> support (Au/La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/TiO<sub>2</sub>-NFs-2). The results of FTIR spectra confirmed that sulfate species were only deposited on the used  $Au/La_2O_3/TiO_2$ -NFs-2 catalyst. Under the reaction conditions of Claus tail gas (0.64% H<sub>2</sub>S, 0.29% SO<sub>2</sub>, and 16.74% H<sub>2</sub>O) at 300–350 °C, the 1%Au/Eu<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst (Kazemi et al. [2019](#page-21-0)) has a significantly better CO oxidation activity than the  $1\%$ Au/TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst. The results of ion chromatography (IC) measurement showed that the sulfate species on the  $Au/Eu_2O_3/TiO_2$  catalyst were lower than the  $Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst, indicating that the  $Eu<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$ -doped Au/TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst was beneficial to inhibit the deposition of sulfate on the catalyst. This is due to the doping of the lanthanide oxides which makes the  $Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst form more oxygen vacancies and inhibits the adsorption of SO<sub>2</sub>. However, it is worth noting that  $Au/Eu_2O_3/TiO_2$ , Au/  $Er_2O_3/TiO_2$ , Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>, and Au/La<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/TiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts all showed very low CO catalytic oxidation activity at 200–250 °C. The in situ FTIR results demonstrated that the low reaction temperature leads to more serious sulfate accumulation on the catalyst. Therefore, catalytic oxidation of CO under hightemperature conditions (300–350  $^{\circ}$ C) is more conducive to reducing the deposition of sulfate species on the catalyst. Valechha et al. ([2017](#page-23-0)) reported the influence of the presence of 10 ppm  $SO_2$  in the reaction atmosphere on the CO catalytic oxidation activity of  $Au/CeO<sub>2</sub>$  catalysts at 40 °C. The Au/  $Ce<sub>0.8</sub>Zr<sub>0.2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst doped with Zr had a CO conversion of 55% after 18 h of sulfur aging, while the CO conversion was only 18% for sulfur-aged Au/CeO<sub>2</sub>. After heat treatment at 150 °C for 2 h, the CO conversion of  $Au/Ce_{0.8}Zr_{0.2}O_2$  catalyst was recovered to 85% while that of  $Au/CeO<sub>2</sub>$  was only 49.7%. Therefore,  $Zr$ -doped Au/CeO<sub>2</sub> catalyst could improve the sulfur resistance of the catalyst. Indeed, Au-based catalysts can effectively reduce sulfate poisoning at higher reaction temperatures, leading to high CO oxidation activity. However, the sulfate species accumulated at the metal-support interface is the principle reason for low CO activity at low temperature.

Obviously, for Au-based catalysts, there is still a lack of CO catalytic oxidation research under typical industrial flue gas conditions (100–250  $^{\circ}$ C), which greatly limits the application of Au-based catalysts to CO purification of industrial flue gas.

The effect of chloride residual on performance of CO oxidation for Au nanoparticle catalysts was investigated. Au/  $CeO<sub>2</sub>$  catalysts were prepared by a traditional impregnation method (IMP) and by liquid-phase reductive deposition (LPRD). It was found that  $Au/CeO<sub>2</sub>$  (IMP) contained 1.1% residual chlorine, which not only reduced the reduction of surface oxygen groups but also possibly facilitated the sintering of gold nanoparticles, resulting in lower CO catalytic activity (Carabineiro et al. [2010\)](#page-20-0).

# Reaction mechanisms

In recent years, many factors such as support, doping, Au valence, and Au nanoparticle size affecting the catalytic activity of the Au-based catalyst have been extensively researched. However, there are still many controversies regarding the activation of  $O<sub>2</sub>$  molecules and the role of lattice oxygen, which is very important for the catalytic oxidation of CO. As illustrated in Fig. 12, Widmann and Behm [\(2013\)](#page-23-0) summarized three reaction mechanisms (Au-only mechanism, interface mechanism, and MvK mechanism) for CO catalytic oxidation on Au/Oxides catalyst in the reaction atmosphere without water. As shown in Fig. 12 A, CO is adsorbed on the Au sites, and the active oxygen species are derived from oxygen molecules or oxygen atoms adsorbed on the Au NPs. As illustrated in Fig. 12 B and C, the reactive oxygen species adsorbed at the metal interface or oxygen vacancy react with CO to form  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ . Obviously, the reaction molecules are all adsorbed, which conforms to the typical L-H Mechanism. As illustrated in Fig. 12 D, the lattice oxygen on the support as active oxygen species reacts with CO to generate  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ . Therefore, this pathway conforms to the typical MvK mechanism.

#### Langmuir-Hinshelwood mechanism

When Au is loaded on the metal oxides, under normal conditions, CO is adsorbed and activated at the low-coordinate Au sites ( $T > 25$  °C). However, when the temperature is very low, CO is more easily chemisorbed on the support other than the low coordination Au sites.  $O_2$  is either dissociated into two oxygen atom or molecular chemisorption to become active oxygen species. CO is also chemically adsorbed on the lowcoordinated Au sites. At present, it is generally believed that on Au/Oxides catalyst,  $O_2$  adsorption is more stable at low temperature ( $T<0$  °C) and lattice oxygen is not easy to form oxygen vacancies to participate in CO catalytic oxidation. Therefore, under low-temperature conditions ( $T<0$  °C), CO catalytic oxidation on Au/oxide catalysts follows the L-H mechanism. Gogate ([2019](#page-21-0)) believed that the dissociation



Fig. 12 Possible reaction path of CO on supported Au catalyst (Widmann and Behm [2013\)](#page-23-0). Copyright 2013, American Chemical Society

energy (250 kJ/ $O_{atom}$ ) of  $O_2$  adsorbed on Au sites was very high. Therefore, it was considered that the direct dissociation of  $O_2$  as a pathway for the reaction between oxygen atoms and CO was thermodynamically infeasible. As shown in Fig. [13,](#page-11-0) Green et al. [\(2011](#page-21-0)) proposed the reaction mechanism of CO oxidation on  $Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst at low temperature through DFT calculations and experiments.  $O_2$  chemisorption on the metal-support interface to form Au-O-O-Ti species was activated. When the temperature was lower than  $-153$  °C, CO chemically adsorbed on the support  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  (CO/TiO<sub>2</sub>) was more likely to react with  $O_2$  activated on the metal-support interface. When the temperature was higher than  $-153$  °C, CO chemically adsorbed on the Au sites (CO/Au) participated

<span id="page-11-0"></span>

Fig. 13 Schematic diagram of the mechanism of low-temperature CO oxidation on the reactive surrounding area on  $Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst (Green et al. [2011\)](#page-21-0). Copyright 2011, Science

in the reaction. The intermediate product of the reaction was considered to be O= $C \cdot \cdot \cdot O_2$  species. Besides, it has been reported that  $O_2$  was activated at the metal interface or oxygen vacancies to participate in the CO oxidation reaction. Carrettin et al. ([2007](#page-20-0)) reported that the Fe-doped  $Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst formed more oxygen vacancies near iron to enhance the performance of CO oxidation. Raman spectroscopy detected that the formation of superoxide radicals and peroxygen radicals on the oxygen vacancies by  $O_2$  is the fundamental reason for the enhancement of catalytic activity. When the temperature is lower than − 25 °C, after the H<sub>2</sub> reduction on the Au/ZnO catalyst and then the  $O_2$  pretreatment, UV-vis spectroscopy suggested that more oxygen vacancies were formed on the catalyst and electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) results demonstrated that weakly adsorbed  $O_2$  species ( $O_2^-$  radicals) were formed on the oxygen vacancies resulting in enhancing catalyst activity (Fujita et al. [2019\)](#page-21-0). Additionally, as shown in pathway 2 of Fig. 14, Schubert et al. ([2001](#page-23-0)) proposed on Au/  $Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  catalyst: (1) Oxygen molecules adsorbed on the support and migrated to the metal interface to dissociate into adsorbed oxygen atoms or form  $O_2^-$  species; (2) adsorbed oxygen atoms or peroxide species  $(O_2^-)$  react with CO adsorbed on the Au sites to product  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ .



Fig. 14 Possible reaction path for CO oxidation on  $Au/Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$ catalyst (Schubert et al. [2001\)](#page-23-0). Copyright 2001, Elsevier

#### Mars-van Krevelen mechanism

When the temperature is higher than  $25^{\circ}$ C, many literatures commonly indicated that the lattice oxygen on the support participates in the catalytic oxidation reaction of CO as the active species when the Au nanoparticles are supported on the reducible support (carriers with low oxygen vacancy formation energy or strong oxygen storage capacity). The catalytically active sites of CO catalytic oxidation through the MvK reaction pathway are still controversial. Bond and Thompson carefully considered that weakly bonded lattice  $O_2$ <sup>-</sup> ions on oxygen vacancies were oxidants for CO oxidation over Au catalysts supported on reducible carriers (Bond and Thompson [2001,](#page-20-0) [2009\)](#page-20-0). The -OH groups on the carrier attacked the adsorbed CO to form Au-COOH species and oxygen vacancies.  $O<sub>2</sub>$  weakly bonded with carrier cations to form lattice  $O_2$ <sup>-</sup> ions. The interaction between Au-COOH species and lattice  $O_2^-$  ions generated  $CO_2$ . As a consequence, the reaction steps are illustrated in Eqs. 22–28:

$$
2(Au0 + CO \rightarrow Au0-CO)
$$
 (22)

$$
2(Au3+ + OHs- \rightarrow Au3+-OH)
$$
 (23)

$$
2(Au0-CO + Au2+-OH \rightarrow Au2+-COOH + Au0)
$$
 (24)

$$
O_2 + \overline{\mathbf{u}}_s^- \rightarrow O_2^- \mathbf{u}_s \tag{25}
$$

$$
Au^{2+} - COOH + O_2^- - \Box_s \rightarrow Au^{2+} + CO_2 + HO_2^- - \Box_s \tag{26}
$$

$$
Au^{2+} - COOH + HO_2^- - \Box_s \rightarrow Au^{2+} + CO_2 + 2OH_s^- + \Box_s (27)
$$

$$
Au^{2+} + \Box_s \rightarrow Au^{3+} + \Box_s^-
$$
 (28)

#### □ refers to oxygen vacancy.

Duan and Henkelman [\(2018](#page-21-0)) proposed three possible MvK reaction pathways for CO on  $Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst by DFT calculations and believed that the O-Au-CO species formed at the metal interface was the active site of the reaction and the dissociation of the  $O_2$  molecule (supplement of lattice oxygen) was the rate-controlling step. Carbonate species formation at the  $O_{top}/Ti_{5c}$  sites was the main reason for catalyst deactivation. Based on the measurement results of quantitative temporal analysis (TAP) of product reactor, Widmann and Behm ([2013](#page-23-0)) believed that when the reaction temperature was higher than 80 °C, lattice oxygen at the metal interface of the Au/TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst was provided as active oxygen species. Besides, the CO oxidation by MvK reaction pathway of O<sub>latt</sub>-C-O species as an intermediate product was proposed on  $Au/CeO<sub>2</sub>$  and  $Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  (Ha et al. [2018;](#page-21-0) Schlexer et al. [2018](#page-23-0)).

#### Water-Assisted Mechanism

For Au-based catalysts, numerous reports showed that  $H_2O$  promoted the catalytic oxidation of CO. The Water-Assisted Mechanism was classified into three types: (1) The dissociation of water on the gold-based catalyst into the -OH groups is adsorbed on the Au site or on the support site near Au via the pathway (COOH\* + OH\*  $\rightarrow$  CO<sub>2</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>O) participated in the CO catalytic oxidation reaction. Kim et al. [\(2006](#page-21-0)) through isotopelabeling experiments found at a low temperature of − 196 °C, the Au (111) surface was covered with 0.18 ML  $^{16}$ O and 0.1 ML  $H_2$ <sup>18</sup>O in advance, and then 0.18 ML CO was injected. The results of mass spectrometry found that  $C^{16}O^{18}O$  with a mass of 46 accounted for  $27\%$  of the total  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ . It proved that when oxygen atoms were pre-adsorbed on the Au  $(111)$  surface,  $H_2O$ directly participated in the catalytic oxidation of CO. And the author believed that -OH groups formed by the interaction of atomic oxygen with  $H_2O$  participate in the formation of  $CO_2$ . On the Au/CeO<sub>2</sub> single-atom catalyst, Zhao et al.  $(2019)$  $(2019)$  found by operando diffuse-reflectance Fourier transform infrared (DRIFT) and DFT calculations that the -OH groups (3667 cm<sup>-1</sup>) on the CeO<sub>2</sub> carrier are gradually consumed in absence of water vapor in reaction atmosphere. At this time, the pathway of CO + OH  $\rightarrow$  COOH $\rightarrow$ CO<sub>2</sub> + H gave the lowest energy barrier needed to overcome for the catalytic oxidation of CO. However, when the -OH groups on the carrier were gradually consumed, the lattice oxygen acted as an active oxygen species for the catalytic oxidation of CO. Meanwhile, the reaction pathway of the catalytic oxidation of CO was  $CO + O_L \rightarrow CO_2 + O_V$ . When 2% water vapor was introduced into the gas flow, the water vapor was dissociated into -OH groups at  $CeO<sub>2</sub>$  surface, and the CO adsorption peak gradually disappears. Therefore, the -OH groups generated by the hydrolysis was used as the active oxygen species for the catalytic oxidation reaction of CO. Furthermore, as shown in Fig. [15](#page-13-0), according to the DFT calculations, the corresponding reaction mechanism of water vapor promoting the catalytic oxidation of CO was proposed over the  $Au/CeO<sub>2</sub> SAC. Meanwhile, the reaction pathway of CO catalytic$ oxidation was COOH\* + OH\*  $\rightarrow$  CO<sub>2</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>O. (2) Dissociation to -OH functional groups and protons on catalyst promoted  $O<sub>2</sub>$ activation. A study (Liu et al. [2006](#page-22-0)) has shown that water could be easily dissociated into -OH groups on the oxygen vacancies of the support  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$ . The dissociated -OH groups provided electrons to the support to accelerate the adsorption of  $O_2$  on the support  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$ , and  $O<sub>2</sub>$  as active oxygen species migrated along the support participate in CO catalytic oxidation reaction. As shown in Fig. [16,](#page-13-0) another view was that the hydrolysis ion provides protons to the  $O_2$  adsorbed at the metal-support interface to form the intermediate product OOH species, which greatly reduces the energy required for O–O bond breakage (Saavedra et al. [2018\)](#page-23-0). (3) Accelerating the decomposition of intermediate products. There was also a view that water promoted the conversion of intermediate carbonate species to bicarbonate species, which was

easily decomposed, thereby improving the catalytic activity of Au-based catalysts in a wet reaction atmosphere (Date et al. [2004;](#page-21-0) Nakamura and Fujitani [2014\)](#page-22-0). As clarified in Fig. [17,](#page-14-0) the reaction path is  $(1)$  O<sub>2</sub> adsorbed on the support migrates to the metal-support interface and is activated to form active oxygen species; (2) CO adsorbed on the Au sites reacts with the activated oxygen to generate carbonate species  $(CO_3)$ ; (3) carbonate species and the protons generated by hydrolysis form easily decomposed bicarbonate species  $(CO<sub>3</sub>H)$ .

# Pd-based catalysts

### Effect of catalyst support

In recent years, Pd-based catalysts have attracted extensive attention especially in the purification of diesel exhaust. Their catalytic performance for CO oxidation is greatly affect-ed by the support. Khder et al. ([2019](#page-21-0)) prepared  $Pd/Mn_3O_4$ catalysts with different loading of Pd (2% or 4%) for CO catalytic oxidation. Among them, the  $4\%$ Pd/Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> catalyst without hydrothermal treatment of the support gave the highest catalytic activity ( $T_{100} = 20$  °C), and exhibited great stability. Mao et al. ([2019\)](#page-22-0) prepared NiO,  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$ , Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, MnO<sub>2</sub>, CeO<sub>2</sub>, and ZrO<sub>2</sub> monolayers on  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> as a support by Atomic Layer Deposition (ALD) method to prepare 1% Pd/M<sub>x</sub>O<sub>y</sub>/ $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> for CO catalytic oxidation. Among them, Pd/CeO<sub>2</sub>/ $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Pd/Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/ $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and Pd/MnO<sub>2</sub>/ $\gamma$ - $Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  could promote the catalytic oxidation of CO compared with  $Pd/\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts. Zhai et al. [\(2018\)](#page-24-0) used three different forms of  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  support (TiO<sub>2</sub> microspheres with a diameter of about 2.2 μm, P25, and commercial anatase) to load about  $1\%$  Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst for CO catalytic oxidation. The high specific surface area, high Pd dispersion, and strong CO adsorption and  $O_2$  adsorption on the catalyst were the fundamental reasons for the better activity of the  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  special nanosheet assembly structure catalyst. The complete conversion temperatures of CO on these three catalysts  $(Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> -$ 350, Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>-P25, and Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>-CA) were 80, 140, and 160 °C, respectively. Wang et al. ([2017a,](#page-23-0) [b\)](#page-23-0) supported Pd on two different types of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ( $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>,  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) for CO oxidation at low temperature, of which  $Pd/\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> performed better in CO catalytic oxidation ( $T_{100} = 0$  °C). Li et al. [\(2020](#page-22-0)) loaded Pd on CeO<sub>2</sub>, Ce<sub>0.7</sub> $Zr_{0.3}O_2$ , andCe<sub>0.3</sub> $Zr_{0.7}O_2$  supports by impregnation method for CO catalytic oxidation, of which Pd/  $Ce_{0.3}Zr_{0.7}O_2$  showed the highest catalytic performance ( $T_{50}$ ) = 134 °C). Du et al. [\(2019\)](#page-21-0) obtained Pd/CoO<sub>x</sub>–InO<sub>x</sub> catalysts for CO catalytic oxidation by impregnating Pd on nanofiber  $CoO<sub>x</sub>$ –InO<sub>x</sub> supports with different morphologies. Compared with  $Pd/CoO_x-InO_x-600$  and  $Pd/CoO_x-InO_x-700$  catalysts,  $Pd/CoO<sub>x</sub>$ –InO<sub>x</sub>-500 catalysts have a high specific surface area, high dispersion of Pd particles, and smaller Pd particles. Therefore, the  $Pd/CoO_x-InO_x-500$  catalyst gave the highest <span id="page-13-0"></span>Fig. 15 The catalytic oxidation mechanism of CO in the presence of water vapor on monoatomic Au/CeO2 catalyst (Zhao et al. [2019\)](#page-24-0). Copyright 2019, Nature



CO catalytic activity ( $T_{50} = 52$  °C). Spezzati et al. [\(2019\)](#page-23-0) supported Pd on two different morphologies of  $CeO<sub>2</sub>$  (CeO<sub>2</sub>rods and  $CeO<sub>2</sub>$ -cubes) by impregnation for CO catalytic oxidation. The CO complete conversion temperature on the Pd/ CeO<sub>2</sub>-rods was around 150 °C, while on the Pd/CeO<sub>2</sub>-cubes was 200 °C.

# Effect of physicochemical properties

As we all know, the CO catalytic oxidation activity of Pd-based catalysts is affected by the valence state of Pd. As shown in Fig. [18,](#page-14-0) on the 5 wt% PdO<sub>x</sub>/ $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ( $x = 0-1$ ) catalyst (Zorn et al. [2011\)](#page-24-0), the Pd-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and PdO<sub>x<1</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts gave better CO

Fig. 16 Proposed mechanism of CO oxidation over supported gold nanoparticles with the water cocatalyst adsorbed on the support at the metal-support interface (Saavedra et al. [2018](#page-23-0)). Copyright 2018, American Chemical Society



<span id="page-14-0"></span>

Fig. 17 Mechanism of water promoting decomposition of intermediate products (Date et al. [2004\)](#page-21-0). Copyright 2004, Wiley

oxidation performance than  $PdO-AI_2O_3$ . According to the results of in situ FTIR and XRD tests, the metal Pd on the PdO/ $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst was located inside the PdO nanoparticles. In addition, the pressure of  $CO$  and  $O<sub>2</sub>$  in the reaction atmosphere also affected the state of Pd on the catalyst. As shown in Fig. 19, according to the results of in situ FTIR experiments,  $PdO<sub>x</sub>$  was slowly reduced to Pd<sup>0</sup> when under low CO pressure at 22 °C. PdO<sub>x</sub> was quickly reduced to  $Pd^0$  when under high CO pressure conditions at 22 °C. However, the PdO was difficult to be reduced to metallic Pd, resulting in the low CO oxidation performance of the PdO-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst. Therefore, weakening the metal-support interaction to obtain more metal Pd seems to be a strategy to achieve high CO catalytic performance. In addition, the particle size of Pd nanoparticles is also one of the important factors affecting CO



Fig. 18 CO oxidation at different temperatures. (a) Pd-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. (b) PdO<sub>x<1</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. (c) PdO-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (Zorn et al. [2011\)](#page-24-0). Copyright 2011, American Chemical Society



Fig. 19 In situ FTIR spectra under different reaction atmosphere conditions (Zorn et al. [2011](#page-24-0)). Copyright 2011, American Chemical Society

oxidation performance. Huang et al.  $(2019)$  prepared Pd/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> catalysts (2.5 to 10.6 nm) with different Pd particle sizes by impregnation method (roasting at different temperatures) for CO oxidation. Among them,  $Pd/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$ -200 had the smallest Pd nanoparticles, thereby exhibiting the best CO oxidation activity. Based on XPS characterization,  $Pd/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$ -200 gave the highest Pd/PdO value (12.1%) compared to the other four samples. DFT calculations indicated that small particle sizes of Pd were beneficial to dissociate  $O<sub>2</sub>$  as well as desorption of product CO2. The strong adsorption of CO by large-sized Pd particles was not conducive to the catalytic reaction. In short, obtaining a higher ratio of  $Pd^{0}/Pd^{2+}$  by adjusting the metal-support interaction and the calcination conditions of the catalyst is an effective method to obtain high CO catalytic activity.

# Effect of harsh reaction conditions

The reaction atmosphere also has an important influence on the catalytic performance of the catalyst. Shin et al. ([2018](#page-23-0)) prepared two different Ce-Zr-Al-O mixed oxides supported Pd catalysts by a single-step epoxide-driven sol-gel method (SGCZA) and co-precipitation method (PCZA). After aging at 300 °C for 3 h in an atmosphere containing  $250$  ppm of  $SO<sub>2</sub>$ , TPR, FTIR, XPS results showed that the supports of these two catalysts were sulfated. In addition, the irreversible sulfation of active component and the decrease of Pd dispersion after sulfur aging are the reasons for the decrease of CO catalytic activity. After sulfur aging, the Pd/SGCZA catalyst ( $T_{50} = 123$  °C) still showed better CO catalytic oxidation performance than Pd/PCZA catalyst. Moreover, it was also found that  $SO<sub>2</sub>$  caused PdO sites to form  $PdSO<sub>4</sub>$  species on  $Pd/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  catalysts, thereby considerably inhibiting the activity of CO oxidation (Mowery and

McCormick [2001\)](#page-22-0). Ryou et al. ([2015](#page-23-0)) investigated the application of Pd/(Ce-Zr)O<sub>2</sub> catalysts with different Ce/Zr ratios for the catalytic oxidation of CO. Through sulfur aging and regeneration process, it was found that the formation of Ce-Zr solid solution by Zr doping was beneficial to the stability of the catalyst. But it reduced the oxygen storage capacity of the catalyst. More importantly, after sulfur aging, a large amount of  $Ce(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>$  was formed on the  $Pd/CeO<sub>2</sub>$ . After heat treatment, there was still residual sulfur on the surface of the catalyst, causing the CO catalytic activity not full recovery. In contrast, the  $Pd/Ce_{0.58}Zr_{0.42}O_2$  catalyst showed better CO catalytic performance after sulfur aging and regeneration. Wang et al.  $(2015)$  prepared Pd/CeO<sub>2</sub>, Pd- $MnO_x$ –CeO<sub>2</sub> (Pd–MC), Pd–SnO<sub>2</sub>–MnO<sub>x</sub>–CeO<sub>2</sub> (Pd–SMC) catalysts by impregnation method for CO catalytic oxidation. The Pd-MC and Pd-SMC catalysts exhibited CO conversion over  $90\%$  at room temperature. In addition, the effects of  $SO<sub>2</sub>$  and water vapor on the activity of the Pd-MC and Pd-SMC catalysts were investigated. Compared with dry reaction conditions, the catalytic activity of CO did not change on Pd-SMC catalyst when 8% water vapor was introduced into the reaction atmosphere. However, in presence of 200 ppm  $SO<sub>2</sub>$  in reaction atmosphere at room temperature, the Pd-MC catalyst loses its activity after 100 min, and the Pd-SMC catalyst loses its activity after 130 min. Jeong et al.  $(2017)$  $(2017)$  used hydrothermal treatment of Pd/CeO<sub>2</sub> catalyst to generate more -OH groups on the support to suppress the poisoning caused by sulfated surface of the support and the active site covered by carbonate species. More importantly, the  $Pd/CeO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst that has undergone hydrothermal treatment at 750 °C for 25 h gave CO conversion over 80% in the stability test with  $100$  ppm  $SO<sub>2</sub>$  and maintained for 60 h. However, the  $Pd/CeO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst that has not undergone hydrothermal treatment completely loses its activity after 35 h. In situ FTIR results revealed that the sulfate species on the  $2\%$  Pd/CeO<sub>2</sub> treated with hydrothermal treatment were significantly lower than on the as-made Pd/CeO<sub>2</sub>. Gaudet et al. ([2013](#page-21-0)) reported that La-doped Pd/  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst was used for CO catalytic oxidation, in which Pd/La- $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst had higher dispersion of Pd nanoparticles, showing higher CO catalytic activity. Doping La also suppressed the poisoning caused by excessive adsorption of CO. Hence, the main challenges are that Pd can be easily sulfated into PdSO4 species and the reducible carriers are sulfated to lose the oxygen storage capacity.

### Reaction mechanisms

Many literatures reported several reaction mechanisms of CO on supported Pd-based catalysts. On the Pd/Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, Pd/Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and  $Pd/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  catalysts (Huang et al. [2019;](#page-21-0) Jain and Madras [2017](#page-21-0)), CO catalytic oxidation followed the L-H mechanism. CO adsorption on Pd sites was activated and reacted with dissociated O atoms. The specific steps were as follows: (1) CO adsorption and activation on Pd sites;  $(2)$  O<sub>2</sub> adsorption and dissociation into oxygen atoms  $(O_{ads})$  on Pd sites; (3) reaction between  $CO_{ads}$  and  $O_{ads}$  to form  $CO_2$ ; (4)  $CO_2$  desorption. On the Pd/CeO<sub>2</sub> catalyst (Spezzati et al.  $2019$ ), the active oxygen species of CO catalytic oxidation under high-temperature conditions was lattice oxygen; therefore, the reaction pathway of CO oxidation followed the MvK mechanism. Pd atoms were inserted into the lattice to form Pd–O–Ti bonds by the solution combustion method to prepare Ti<sub>1−x</sub>Pd<sub>x</sub>O<sub>2−x</sub> (x = 0.01−0.03) catalyst (Mukri et al. [2012](#page-22-0)). The active oxygen species were the lattice oxygen of the Ti<sub>1−x</sub>Pd<sub>x</sub>O<sub>2−x</sub> (x = 0.01−0.03). The reaction pathway of CO catalytic oxidation is shown in Eqs. 29–30.

$$
Ti_{1-x}Pd_xO_{2-x} + \delta CO \rightarrow Ti_{1-x}Pd_xO_{2-x-\delta} + \delta CO_2 \tag{29}
$$

$$
Ti_{1-x}Pd_xO_{2-x-\delta} + \frac{\delta}{2}O_2 \rightarrow Ti_{1-x}Pd_xO_{2-x}
$$
\n(30)

# Ag-based catalysts

### Effect of catalyst support

The support plays an important role in the performance of CO oxidation for the Ag-based catalyst. Kolobova et al. [\(2017\)](#page-21-0) investigated the effect of zeolite-supported Ag catalysts with different chemical compositions (Si/Al ratio  $=$  30, 50, and 80) on the catalytic performance of CO at low temperature. Among them, Ag/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 80) showed the highest CO catalytic activity ( $T_{90} = 40$  °C). The number of Bronsted acid sites was decreased with increasing Si/Al ratio, resulting in increasing of CO oxidation activity. Afanasev et al. [\(2012\)](#page-20-0) studied the performance of low-temperature CO catalytic oxidation of Ag nanoparticles supported on fumed silica catalysts, and the complete CO conversion temperature was 30 °C. Dutov et al. [\(2016\)](#page-21-0) prepared  $Ag/SiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalysts by impregnation method and calcined them at different temperatures (500 or 900 °C). Among them,  $Ag/SiO<sub>2</sub>$ -900 showed more excellent CO catalytic oxidation performance than  $Ag/SiO_2$ -500 catalyst. The results of  $H_2$ -TPR and O2-TPO indicated that there were more active oxygen species on the  $Ag/SiO<sub>2</sub>$ -900. Xu et al. [\(2017\)](#page-23-0) supported Ag nanoparticles on different forms of mesoporous  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  (KCC-1, SBA-15, and MCM-41). The Ag nanoparticles were anchored on mesoporous, thereby inhibiting its migration and sintering to form smaller nanoparticles, leading to the best CO catalytic performance. Grabchenko et al.  $(2020)$  prepared  $Ag/CeO<sub>2</sub>$  catalysts by three different methods (impregnation, impregnation of pre reduced, and co-deposition precipitation). The strength of the metalsupport interaction was the key factor for the performance of CO oxidation for these three samples. Among them, the Ag/  $CeO<sub>2</sub>$  (red-imp) catalyst showed the best CO catalytic oxidation performance, owing to the strongest metal-support interaction resulting in forming more oxygen vacancies on the support. Qu et al.  $(2013)$  $(2013)$  prepared  $CeO<sub>2</sub>$  support by hard template method and surfactant template method and supported Ag nanoparticle for CO catalytic oxidation. The complete CO conversion

temperature on  $Ag/CeO<sub>2</sub>$ -HP was 65 °C, while Ag/CeO<sub>2</sub>-SP was 150 °C. This was because more oxygen vacancies and  $O<sub>2</sub>$  species were formed on the  $Ag/CeO<sub>2</sub>-HP$ , which is beneficial for stabilizing and dispersing Ag nanoparticles. In addition, according to the EPR characterization, a pathway for the gas-phase  $O<sub>2</sub>$ molecule to supplement the lattice oxygen was proposed, as illustrated in Eq. 31:

$$
O_2(gas) \leftrightarrow O_2(ad) \leftrightarrow O_2^-(ad) \leftrightarrow O_2^{2^-}(ad) \leftrightarrow 2O^-(ad) \leftrightarrow 2O^{2^-}(lattice)
$$
\n(31)

Konopatsky et al. [\(2018\)](#page-21-0) loaded Ag nanoparticles on different forms of boron nitride (BN). The Ag/BN 1 catalyst showed highest CO catalytic activity ( $T_{100}$  = 194 °C). Lee et al. [\(2018a,](#page-22-0) [b\)](#page-22-0) prepared three different Ce/Zr ratio nanofiber carrier supported Ag nanoparticle by typical electrospinning method for CO catalytic oxidation. Among them, the Ag/  $Ce_{0.67}Zr_{0.33}O_2$  catalyst with the highest Ce/Zr ratio gave the best performance of CO oxidation ( $T_{50} = 282 \text{ °C}$ ), because the high Ce/Zr ratio enhanced the redox ability of the catalyst. Khan et al. [\(2015](#page-21-0)) prepared Ag-Sn/CeO<sub>2</sub> (Sn =  $1-4$  wt%) catalyst by co-precipitation method and applied it to CO catalytic oxidation. The Ag-Sn/CeO<sub>2</sub> (4%) catalyst showed more excellent CO catalytic performance  $(T_{100} = 100 \degree C)$ . According to TEM images, smaller Ag nanoparticles were formed on Ag-Sn/CeO<sub>2</sub> (4%) catalyst. Yu et al. ([2013](#page-24-0)) prepared  $Ag/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  catalyst by one-pot method (OP) and impregnation method (IM) and conducted CO catalytic oxidation test.  $Ag/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$ -OP had better CO catalytic efficiency than  $Ag/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$ -IM. According to the N<sub>2</sub> adsorption desorption curve, BJH pore size distribution curve, and XRD test results, it was found that the  $Ag/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-OP$  has a higher specific surface area, smaller pore size, and better dispersion of Ag nanoparticles than the  $Ag/Co_3O_4$ -IM. Zhang et al. [\(2017\)](#page-24-0) loaded Ag nanoparticles on  $Pr_6O_{11}$  nanorods (Ag/Pr<sub>6</sub>O<sub>11</sub>-NRs) or nanoparticles  $(Ag/Pr<sub>6</sub>O<sub>11</sub>-NPs)$  through the impregnation method. The CO catalytic performance of  $Ag/Pr<sub>6</sub>O<sub>11</sub>$ -NRs  $(T_{100} = 210 \text{ °C})$  was better than Ag/Pr<sub>6</sub>O<sub>11</sub>-NPs ( $T_{100} = 320$ ) °C). Zhang et al. [\(2016a,](#page-24-0) [b\)](#page-24-0) prepared Ag/Al-SBA-15, Ag/  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$ , and Ag/Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> samples by different methods. The effect of different Si/Al ratios on the catalytic activity of CO was investigated on Ag/Al-SBA-15. The appropriate Si/Al ratio (200-50) was beneficial to the catalytic activity of CO. Overdoping with Al led to the formation of more  $Ag_2O$  species, making it less prone to CO catalytic oxidation. On the  $Ag/SiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst (Zhang et al. [2016a,](#page-24-0) [b\)](#page-24-0), the support was calcined at different temperatures (450–850 °C) for 5 h and then impregnated with Ag species. Among them, the catalyst heat-treated at 750 °C gave the highest Ag dispersion, resulting in the best activity of CO oxidation. The effect of different Fe/Ag atomic ratios on CO performance was investigated on  $Ag/Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  samples (Zhang et al. [2018\)](#page-24-0). The catalyst with Fe/Ag ratio of 15 (Ag/Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-15) showed the best CO catalytic activity ( $T_{100} = 160$  °C). In addition, adding 1% water vapor in the reaction atmosphere, the CO catalytic activity was suppressed.

# Effect of physicochemical properties

Current researches demonstrated that the higher the dispersion degree of Ag nanoparticles on catalysts, the smaller the nanoparticle size, resulting in the higher CO catalytic oxidation activity. For example, the nanoclusters with the smallest particle size on the  $Ag/SiO<sub>2</sub>$  (Dutov et al. [2016](#page-21-0)) showed the best CO catalytic oxidation performance. In addition, metal  $Ag<sup>0</sup>$ species is the key factor to obtain high CO catalytic oxidation activity.

### Reaction mechanisms

On the Ag/BN NHs catalyst (Konopatsky et al. [2018\)](#page-21-0), the reaction mechanism of CO catalytic oxidation follows the L-H mechanism: The adsorbed oxygen atoms by  $O_2$  dissociation react with the adsorbed CO to form CO<sub>2</sub>. In addition, lattice oxygen on  $Ag/CeO<sub>2</sub>$  (Qu et al. [2013;](#page-23-0) Rao et al. [2020\)](#page-23-0) provided as active oxygen species for CO catalytic oxidation, indicating that the reaction pathway of CO catalytic oxidation followed the typical MvK mechanism.

# Other noble metal-based catalysts

### Ru-based catalysts

The support plays an important role in the performance of CO oxidation for the Ru-based catalysts. Satsuma et al. [\(2013](#page-23-0)) physically mixed Ru metal powder (36 nm) with different supports (CeO<sub>2</sub>, ZrO<sub>2</sub>, MgO, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>, SnO<sub>2</sub>, and SiO<sub>2</sub>), and calcined at 700 °C for 1 h, then reduced them at 400 °C with 5%  $H_2$ . The Ru–O–Ce bonds formed during the treatment process were beneficial to the dispersion of Ru nanoparticles. Therefore, the  $Ru+CeO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst exhibited the highest CO catalytic oxidation activity. On Ru/graphene catalyst, it showed excellent CO oxidation activity at low temperature (Li et al. [2016](#page-22-0)) ( $T_{100} = 25$  °C). Petrović et al. ([2006](#page-22-0)) studied perovskite  $La_{0.7}Sr_{0.3}Cr_{1-x}Ru_xO_3$  (0.025  $\leq X \leq 0.100$ ) catalysts with different Cr/Ru ratios and tested their CO oxidation activity. Among them,  $La_{0.7}Sr_{0.3}Cr_{0.9}Ru_{0.1}O_3$  exhibited the highest CO catalytic activity ( $T_{50}$  = 140 °C). However, when X increased from 0.075 to 0.1, the performance CO oxidation of the samples increased very little. According to XPS characterization, it was found that  $\text{La}_{0.7}\text{Sr}_{0.3}\text{Cr}_{1-x}\text{Ru}_{x}\text{O}_{3}$  (0.075  $\leq$  X  $\leq$  0.100) had almost the same Ru species on the sample surface. Li et al. ([2019](#page-22-0)) used an impregnation method to load Ru onto  $CeO<sub>2</sub>$  nanorods (NR), nanotubes (NC), and nanoctahedra (NO) and conducted reduction treatment. Compared with the

 $5Ru/CeO<sub>2</sub> NC-r$  and  $5Ru/CeO<sub>2</sub> NO-r$ , the strong metalsupport interaction on the  $5Ru/CeO<sub>2</sub> NR-r$  catalyst led to the formation of more oxygen vacancies on support, which was beneficial to anchor and disperse  $RuO_x$  nanoclusters. In addition, the XPS and DRIFTS results indicated that the strong metal-support interaction led to the formation of more  $Ru^{n+}$ species on the  $5Ru/CeO<sub>2</sub> NR-r$ , and the  $Ru<sup>n+</sup>$  species were more beneficial to activate CO. Therefore, the  $5Ru/CeO<sub>2</sub>$ NR-r catalyst showed the highest performance of CO oxidation ( $T_{50}$  = 50 °C). The particle size of the active component nanoparticles and their valence are important factors that affect the performance of the catalyst for CO oxidation. On the  $5Ru/CeO<sub>2</sub>$  NR-r catalyst, the high dispersion degree of Ru nanoclusters and the  $Ru<sup>n+</sup>$  in the oxidation state seemed to be conducive to high CO catalytic performance. However, on the Ru film catalyst, the Ru species were oxidized and the CO catalytic activity was reduced. At high temperature (200 °C), the reduction treatment could only recover part of the activity. Furthermore, Qadir et al. ([2013](#page-22-0)) reported that the catalyst with large Ru particles had better CO catalytic oxidation activity than the catalyst with small particles. According to the Ambient Pressure XPS (AP-XPS) results, it was found that the Ru species on the large particle were less oxidized than the small particle. These results showed that the metal Ru was easier to catalyze CO oxidation than the Ru species in the oxidation state.

### Rh-based catalyst

Nishida et al. ([2017](#page-22-0)) prepared Rh-PVP/ $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts with controlled Rh nanoparticles (3.3–10.9 nm) by microblog-assisted alcohol reduction method for CO catalytic oxidation. Among them, the catalyst prepared by ethanol reduction has the smallest particle size and gave the best CO catalytic activity. In addition, according to TEM, XRD characterization, and CO activity tests, it was found that the activity of CO oxidation increased with the size of Rh nanoparticles reduced. McClure et al. ([2009](#page-22-0)) oxidized the shell of Rh nanoparticles by  $UV/O<sub>3</sub>$  to improve the CO catalytic oxidation activity of the Rh catalyst. For Rh NP samples, the catalyst with  $UV/O<sub>3</sub>$  treated for 24 h still showed higher CO catalytic activity than the untreated catalyst. According to the results of XPS characterization and CO activity tests, the CO activity of Rh species in the oxidation state was higher than that in the metal state.

Experimental results and theoretical calculations on singleatom  $Rh<sub>1</sub>/ZnO$  catalyst (Han et al. [2019\)](#page-21-0) and Rh/ phosphotungstic acid catalyst (Zhang et al. [2019a,](#page-24-0) [b\)](#page-24-0) proved that CO catalytic oxidation followed the MvK mechanism. In addition, on the  $Rh/Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  catalyst (Jakub et al. [2020\)](#page-21-0), the CO catalytic oxidation followed the L-H mechanism when the temperature was below  $-73$  °C, but when the temperature

was 27 °C. CO was excessively adsorbed on the Rh sites: therefore, CO catalytic oxidation followed the MvK mechanism.

# Ir-based catalyst

Lin et al. [\(2011\)](#page-22-0) studied the adsorption and reaction behavior of CO on Ir-in-CeO<sub>2</sub> and Ir-on-CeO<sub>2</sub> catalysts by in situ calorimetric method. Ir-in-CeO<sub>2</sub> and Ir-on-CeO<sub>2</sub> catalysts were prepared by co-precipitation method and DP method, respectively. According to UV-Raman characterization results, there were more oxygen vacancies on Ir-in- $CeO<sub>2</sub>$ , which led to more carbonate species accumulation on the surface of the catalyst. However, the presence of more Ru sites on the Ir-on-CeO<sub>2</sub> catalyst was beneficial for CO adsorption. In addition, the Ir-in-CeO<sub>2</sub> catalyst (Lin et al. [2012](#page-22-0)) has been investigated in depth for an optimal oxygen vacancy of 1.5%. The catalytic activity for CO oxidation of the single-atom  $Pt/FeO<sub>x</sub>$ was better than Ir/Fe $O_x$ , which was consistent with the DFT calculation results (Liang et al. [2014](#page-22-0)). Okumura et al. ([2002](#page-22-0)) used the DP method to support Ir on different carries (SnO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and TiO<sub>2</sub>) for CO catalytic oxidation research, of which  $Ir/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  gave the highest CO catalytic performance. In addition, the effect of different PH ( $PH = 3, 5, 7, 8,$  and 10) during the preparation process on the catalytic oxidation of CO over  $Ir/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst was also investigated. According to the ICP results, when the PH = 8, the loading of Ir on the Ir/TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst was the largest so the performance of CO oxidation was the best after reduction treatment. Zhang et al. ([2015](#page-24-0)) prepared Ir/FeO<sub>x</sub>-CA and Ir/FeO<sub>x</sub>-PM catalysts by citric acid sol-gel method and precipitation method, respectively. Among them,  $Ir/FeO<sub>x</sub>-CA$  catalyst gave the best catalytic activity for CO oxidation. The results of XRD characterization indicated that metal Fe existed at the metal interface of Ir/FeO<sub>x</sub>-PM, which led to inhibit the supply of active oxygen species required for CO catalytic oxidation.

There was no CO catalytic activity over the non-reduced Ir/  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  at low temperature. The Ir/TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst exhibited CO catalytic activity at 40 °C after reduction treatment, which showed that the metal Ir has a higher catalytic oxidation activity than the oxidized Ir at low temperature (Okumura et al. [2002\)](#page-22-0).

It was proposed that the reaction of CO catalytic oxidation follows the L-H mechanism over Ir-on-CeO<sub>2</sub>. On the singleatom Ir/FeO<sub>x</sub> catalyst, Liang et al.  $(2014)$  $(2014)$  $(2014)$  also proposed that the pathway of CO catalytic oxidation followed the L-H mechanism. On the single-atom Ir-on-MgAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> catalyst, Lu et al. ([2018\)](#page-22-0) proposed that CO oxidation followed the E-R mechanism based on kinetic tests and DFT calculations. Performance of some typical noble metal catalysts for the catalytic oxidation of CO is summarized in Table [1](#page-18-0).

<span id="page-18-0"></span>





 $^{\rm c}$  The percentage of mass (wt.<br>%)  $^{\circ}$  The percentage of mass (wt. %)  $^{\rm d}$ rt means room temperature rt means room temperature

# <span id="page-20-0"></span>Conclusions

This article reviewed the noble metal catalysts for CO catalytic oxidation. The CO oxidation on the reducible carrier-supported catalyst follows the MvK mechanism, avoiding the deactivation caused by excessive CO adsorption on the metal sites. Therefore, the reducible carrier-supported noble metal catalyst exhibits better low-temperature CO catalytic oxidation activity than the nonreducible carrier-supported noble metal catalyst.  $H<sub>2</sub>$  reduction treatment adjusts the interaction between the metal and support to obtain a high degree of dispersion of the active components. Moreover, the active components (Pt, Au, Pd, Ag, Ir, Ru) in the ionic state are reduced to the metal state during the reduction process, resulting in high CO oxidation activity of the catalyst at low temperature. On Rh-based catalysts, it seems that Rh species in the oxidized state are more advantageous to the activation of the reactants. It is a feasible strategy to improve the lowtemperature catalytic oxidation of CO by doping noble metal catalysts. When only water vapor exists in the simulated reaction atmosphere, the reaction pathway of CO catalytic oxidation on the Pt, Au-based catalysts is changed. Previous studies found that the water vapor dissociates into -OH groups as active oxygen species to participate in the CO catalytic oxidation reaction. Besides, the liquid hydrolysis dissociated into OH<sup>−</sup> or H+ promoting the activation of oxygen or accelerating the decomposition of intermediate products.

Taira's group (Taira et al. [2016;](#page-23-0) Taira and Einaga [2019\)](#page-23-0) found that  $Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub>$  catalyst exhibited excellent CO catalytic oxidation activity with low Pt loading  $(0.1\%)$  at 250 °C and extremely high space velocity. Especially when the reaction atmosphere contains 20% water vapor, the catalytic oxidation of CO was greatly promoted demonstrating that Pt-based catalysts have great potential for CO purification of industrial flue gas. At present, the main reasons why noble metal catalysts are difficult to use for CO catalytic oxidation purification in actual industrial flue gas are as follows: (1) The high price of noble metals limits its loading on the catalyst. (2) The composition of industrial flue gas is very complex, especially containing a large amount of water vapor and a small amount of SO2, which leads to catalyst poisoning and deactivation. In the future, it is very necessary to develop low loading noble metal catalysts with high CO catalytic oxidation activity under complex reaction atmosphere conditions at 100–250 °C. Based on our summary here, this review will facilitate the future development and application of noble metal catalysts to purify CO in industrial flue gas.

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Xiaolong Liu: conceptualization, writing - review and editing, supervision, project administration, funding acquisition

Tingyu Zhu: writing - review and editing, supervision, project administration, funding acquisition

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