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# Promoting effect of acid sites on NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO activity with water vapor participation for Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 catalyst

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#### ABSTRACT

Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) slip from denitration (deNO<sub>x</sub>) process has been increasingly concerned due to the recent findings that NH<sub>3</sub> played an important role in promoting the formation of haze. Considering the high-temperature and humidity application conditions of diesel exhaust and the location of NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO system, Pt/Fe/ZSM-5 catalyst was selected. In this work, Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 catalysts with two different Si/Al ratios (25, 50) were prepared through ion-exchange method and the NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO activity were compared both in dry and wet (5% H<sub>2</sub>O) circumstances. The Si/Al 25 sample exhibited higher intrinsic activity (dry circumstance) than the Si/Al 50 sample. However, with H<sub>2</sub>O addition the activity of Si/Al 25 sample decreased dramatically while Si/Al 50 sample maintained higher level. BET, XRD, XPS, H<sub>2</sub>-TPR, NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD and *in situ* DRIFTS characterization results showed that abundant metallic Pt (Pt°) was beneficial to NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO activity, strong acid site determined the waterresisting property of the catalysts during NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO with H<sub>2</sub>O participation.

# 1. Introduction

Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), mainly emitted from agriculture and animal husbandry, is also a common gas which has been widely used in chemical, light industry, chemical fertilizer, pharmaceutical, synthetic fiber and other fields [1,2]. NH<sub>3</sub> has potentially harmful effects on both human health and the environment. Moreover, it was recently reported that NH<sub>3</sub> greatly contributes to the formation of haze [1,3–5]. In recent years, it has been getting a lot of attention because of the application in deNO<sub>x</sub>, in which the selective catalytic reduction (SCR) of NO<sub>x</sub> with NH<sub>3</sub> is the most effective method of NO<sub>x</sub> purification in mobile and stationary pollution sources at present [1,6]. However, in the NH<sub>3</sub>-SCR systems, an enhanced urea injection would be necessitated to reduce the nitrogen oxide emissions, which generating a higher ammonia slip [7]. Therefore, the slipping NH<sub>3</sub> is urgent to control, especially, it has been precisely limited in China VI.

Selective catalytic oxidation of ammonia (NH3-SCO) is regarded as a highly promising method for NH3 emission control. Many types of catalysts have been reported to possess high NH3-SCO activity, such as noble metal catalysts (Pt, Au, Ag or Ir, etc.) [8-14], metallic oxide catalysts (CuO, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, NiO, etc.) [15-22] and zeolite catalysts (Cu-ZSM-5, Cu-SSZ-13, Pd-Y, Fe-ZSM-5, Fe-Beta, etc.) [7,23-30]. The noble metals including Pt, Ag and Pd have applied as SCO catalysts due to their excellent low-temperature catalytic activity [24,31,32]. Our previous study showed that Ag/nano-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst was extremely active for NH<sub>3</sub> oxidation at low temperature ( $T_{90} = 90$  °C) [31]. However, the deactivation of Ag/nano-Al2O3 catalyst in the presence of H2O limited its application, because of the humid real conditions of diesel exhaust. ZSM-5 was selected due to its water resistance, moreover, its several features appeared to be beneficial for NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO reaction: high surface area, intrinsic acidity and stability [33]. NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO system is located downstream of the SCR catalysts in heavy-loaded diesel automobiles, so

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the low temperature operation of the SCO is often required. Previous studies reported that ZSM-5 presented high activity for the reaction, achieving 100 % NH<sub>3</sub> conversion and 100 % N<sub>2</sub> selectivity at 400–450 °C [34–36]. However, they are significantly less active than supported noble metal catalysts. To ensure low temperature activity, therefore, Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 was selected and prepared as the NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO catalyst in this work. In addition, through our previous studies [31,37] acid site was an important factor for the adsorption and activation of NH<sub>3</sub>, which thus affected the NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO activity. Since Si/Al ratio was reported to have influence on surface acidity of ZSM-5 catalysts [30], the effect of Si/Al ratio on NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO activity was studied in this work in both dry and wet circumstances.

In this paper, Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 catalysts with two different Si/Al ratios (25 and 50) were prepared through ion-exchange method, and compared the NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO activity in both dry and wet circumstances. The relationship between strong acid site and water-resisting property was then uncovered. Characterization methods such as BET, XRD, XPS, H<sub>2</sub>-TPR, NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD and *in situ* DRIFTS were used to figure out the effect of Si/Al ratio on physicochemical properties and thus illustrate the structure-function relationship of the catalysts.

#### 2. Experiment

#### 2.1. Catalyst preparation

The catalysts described in this paper were prepared by the ionexchange method and the active components (Pt 1 wt.%, Fe 1.5 wt.%) were loaded simultaneously on H-ZSM-5 supports with different Si/Al ratios (25, 50). The detailed procedures are as follows: A certain amount of Pt and Fe precursor solutions (H<sub>2</sub>PtCl<sub>6</sub> and FeCl<sub>2</sub> respectively) were stirred and mixed evenly. The H-ZSM-5 supports with different Si/Al ratios were then impregnated with the mixed solution to incipient wetness. Subsequently, the impregnated samples were loaded into a quartz reactor and exchanged at 650 °Cin flowing N<sub>2</sub> (300 mL/min) for 2 h. After that, the samples were washed with deionized water adequately and dehydration at 120 °C overnight. Finally, the obtained samples were calcined at 600 °C for 3 h in air and sieved to 40–60 mesh to be used.

# 2.2. Hydrothermal aging pretreatment

To determine the role of acid sites in water-resisting property of the catalysts during NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO reaction, the catalysts were hydrothermal aged in a flow of 10 % H<sub>2</sub>O and 90 % air (300 mL/min) at 700 °C for 10 h.

#### 2.3. Catalytic activity measurements

The NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO activities of the catalysts were measured in a fixed-bed quartz reactor under atmospheric pressure. The reaction conditions were controlled as follows: 25 mg catalysts, 500 ppm NH<sub>3</sub>,  $O_2$  10 vol.%, 5% H<sub>2</sub>O (when used) and balance N<sub>2</sub>. The total flow ratio of the reaction mixture was 100 mL/min with a GHSV of 140,000 h<sup>-1</sup>.

The concentrations of inlet and outlet  $NH_3$  and NOx were continuously monitored with an online FTIR spectrometer (Nicolet is50) equipped with a heated 2 m gas cell and a DTGS detector. Since only  $NH_3$ , NO, NO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O were detected in the reaction system,  $NH_3$ conversion (X<sub>NH3</sub>) and N<sub>2</sub> selectivity (S<sub>N2</sub>) were calculated as follows:

$$X_{\rm NH3} = \left(1 - \frac{[\rm NH_3]_{\rm out}}{[\rm NH_3]_{\rm in}}\right) \times 100\% \tag{1}$$

$$S_{N2} = \frac{[NH_3]_{in} - [NH_3]_{out} - 2[N_2O]_{out} - [NO_2]_{out} - [NO]_{out}}{[NH_3]_{in} - [NH_3]_{out}} \times 100\%$$
(2)

# 2.4. Sample characterization

The  $N_2$  adsorption isotherms were detected on a Quantasorb-18 automatic micropore-size analyzer and the specific surface area of the catalysts were then determined by the BET method. The samples were degassed in vacuum at 300 °C for 4 h firstly and then adsorbed  $N_2$  at -196 °C during the measurements. XRD measurements were conducted with a Bruker D8 ADVANCE Diffractometer with Cu  $K_\alpha$  radiation source ( $\lambda$ =0.15406 nm), the 20 range was 4 to 70° with a scan speed of 6° min^{-1}.

XPS measurement were conducted on a scanning X-ray microprobe (PHI Quantera, ULVAC-PHI, Inc.) with Al K<sub> $\alpha$ </sub> radiation. Binding energies of the elements were calibrated with contaminant carbon (C 1s peak, BE = 284.8 eV). H<sub>2</sub>-TPR was conducted in a Micromeritics AutoChem II 2920 device, equipped with a CryoCooler and a TCD detector. During H<sub>2</sub>-TPR experiments, 100 mg samples were pretreated in 20 % O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> (50 mL/min) at 500 °C for 30 min and then cooled down to 30 °C. Prior to the reduction process the samples were purged with Ar for 30 min. Then reduction of the samples was conducted in 10 % H<sub>2</sub>/Ar (50 mL/min) flow with the temperature range of 30–700 °C. The generated H<sub>2</sub>O was trapped with the CryoCooler and the H<sub>2</sub> consumption was monitored with the TCD detector.

The acid sites content of the samples was semi-quantitative analyzed with NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD method. The experiments were performed with the same apparatus as H<sub>2</sub>-TPR except that the signals of NH<sub>3</sub> (m/z = 17) were recorded with a quadrupole mass spectrometer (MKS Cirrus). During the experiments, 100 mg samples were pretreated in 20 % O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> flow (50 mL/min) at 500 °C for 30 min, and cooled down to 50 °C. After that, the samples were purged with Ar for another 30 min, and then heated to 700 °C with a ratio of 10 °C/min. The signal was monitored continuously with the MS detector during the desorption process. *In situ* DRIFTS of NH<sub>3</sub> adsorption was further carried out on a Nicolet is50 FTIR spectrometer with an MCT/A detector to detect the acid sites of the catalysts. In the experiment, the spectra were recorded by accumulating 100 scans with a resolution of 4 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

#### 2.5. DFT calculation

The exchange and correlation energies in this work were described by using the Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE) functional [38] with van der Waals correction proposed by Becke-Jonson (*i.e.*, DFT-D3 method) [39] as implemented in the Vienna ab initio simulation package (VASP 5.4.4) [40]. The projector augmented wave method (PAW) was used to describe the electron-ion interaction [41]. The cutoff energy of 400 eV was adopted during the calculations, all atoms of the zeolite and the active site as well as the molecules were fully relaxed until the maximum force on unconstrained atoms was less than 0.02 eV/Å. The  $1 \times 1 \times 1$ k-point grid was adopted based on the Monkhorst-Pack method [33].

Based on previous work [33,42], the structure was modeled using a single unit cell of ZSM-5 zeolite ( $Si_{96}O_{192}$ ) with the cell parameters of a =20.1 Å, b =19.9 Å, and c =13.4 Å. The adsorption energies of H<sub>2</sub>O and NH<sub>3</sub> on the zeolite were calculated as follows:

$$E_{\rm ad} = E_{\rm adsorbate+ZSM-5} - (E_{\rm ZSM-5} + E_{\rm adsorbate})$$

where  $E_{adsorbate+ZSM-5}$  and  $E_{ZSM-5}$  are the total energies of the adsorbed system and ZSM-5, respectively; and  $E_{ad}$  is the adsorption energy of adsorbate on ZSM-5, which can reflect the stability of the adsorbates on the ZSM-5. Negative  $E_{ad}$  value means that the adsorption process is exothermic, indicating that corresponding adsorbed state is energetically favorable.

# 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1. Catalytic performance

The NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO performances of the Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 catalysts with



**Fig. 1.** (A) NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO activity over Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 25 and 50) samples in dry and wet circumstances at different temperatures. (B) Contrast of NH<sub>3</sub> conversion in dry and wet circumstances at 200 °C. (C) selectivity to N<sub>2</sub>, NO, NO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O at different temperatures over Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al rate 25 and 50) samples. Reaction conditions: [NH<sub>3</sub>] = 500 ppm, [O<sub>2</sub>] = 10 %, [H<sub>2</sub>O] = 5 % (when used), balance N<sub>2</sub>, total flow ratio = 100 mL/min, GHSV = 140,000 h<sup>-1</sup>.



Fig. 2. N2 adsorption-desorption isotherms of the catalysts.

different Si/Al ratios (25, 50) were tested in dry and wet circumstances with the temperature range of 150-300 °C. As shown in Fig. 1A, the intrinsic activity (dry circumstance) of the two samples were similar, while an inhibiting effect of NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO activity had been observed after H<sub>2</sub>O addition, which might result from the existence of competition for surface sites between ammonia and water [43]. In addition, only 30 % and over 60 %  $NH_3$  conversion can be observed on Si/Al = 25 and 50 samples, respectively. As shown in Fig. 1B, remarkable decrease of NH<sub>3</sub> conversion occurred after 5%  $\rm H_2O$  was introduced on both Si/Al = 25and 50 samples, while the degree of decline varied greatly on the two samples. On Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 25) sample, 66 % NH<sub>3</sub> conversion dropped with the addition of 5% H<sub>2</sub>O, while the descent ratio was only 32 % for Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 50). Therefore, we concluded that it was the high water-resisting property that resulted in the superior of Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 50) in wet circumstance. Fig. 1C presented that the  $N_2$  selectivity maintained in the range of 60–80 % for Si/Al = 25 and 50 samples and showed a rising trend with the temperature going up. The content of NO and NO2 maintained a low level within the temperature window and N2O was the main by-product affecting the N2 selectivity. Since N<sub>2</sub>O is just a greenhouse gas, its harmfulness is much lower than that of NO and NO2, so this level of N2 selectivity is acceptable in practical applications. Meanwhile, improving N<sub>2</sub> selectivity will be studied in further research.

# 3.2. Results of characterization

In order to analyze the structure-function relationship of the catalysts and then figure out the reasons of the difference in NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO activity and water-resisting property, the catalysts were characterized from structural properties, chemical states and acid sites three aspects, which was confirmed by BET, XRD, XPS, H<sub>2</sub>-TPR, NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD and *in situ* 



Fig. 3. XRD profiles of pure supports and loaded catalysts.

DRIFTS.

# 3.2.1. Structural properties

The  $N_2$  adsorption-desorption isotherm and BET surface area of Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 catalysts with different Si/Al ratios were shown in Fig. 2.



Fig. 4. XPS results of Pt 4d<sub>5/2</sub> profiles of the catalysts.



**Fig. 5.** H<sub>2</sub>-TPR profiles of the catalysts.

H4 type of hysteresis loop was presented on Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 catalyst above  $P/P_0 = 0.6$  [44], indicated the characteristic of microporous solids [45]. The S<sub>BET</sub> of Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 25) was 373.1 m<sup>2</sup>/g, while the S<sub>BET</sub> of Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 50) was 277.0 m<sup>2</sup>/g. Combined with the results of NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO activity, the BET surface area was not a critical factor.

Fig. 3 showed the XRD patterns of Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 catalysts with different Si/Al ratios, typical MFI peaks of ZSM-5 zeolite were shown at  $2\theta = 7.9^{\circ}$ ,  $8.7^{\circ}$ ,  $23.0^{\circ}$  and  $23.9^{\circ}$  [46] on both samples, coincided with that reported in the literatures [45,47]. Si/Al ratio made little difference for the structure of pure ZSM-5 supports (gray lines in Fig. 3), and the existing state of Pt. The characteristic diffraction peaks of Pt^{\circ} at 39.8^{\circ} and 46.2^{\circ} [48,49] both appeared on Si/Al = 50 and 25 samples. The result indicated that metallic Pt particles were generated on both samples, which may result from the consumption of anchoring sites by Fe.

#### 3.2.2. Chemical states and redox properties

XPS measurement was conducted to investigate the valence state of platinum species in Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 catalysts. Since the energy region of the most intense Pt 4f level (70-80 eV) was overshadowed by Al 2p peak, Pt 4d lines were thus analyzed instead [50]. The asymmetric broad Pt  $4d_{5/2}$ (Fig. 4) peaks were deconvoluted into two sub-bands located at 314.8 eV and 317.2 eV, which assigned to Pt° and PtO<sub>2</sub> respectively [50,51]. The presence of Pt° on both samples was consistent with the results of XRD mentioned above. In addition, as shown in Fig. 4, the peak area of Pt° (314.8 eV) in Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al 25) was higher than that in Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al 50), which may due to the aggregation of Pt on Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al 25) to generate more metallic Pt. As presented in HR-TEM and FE-SEM images (Fig. S1 and S2 in the Supporting information). In addition, the trend of  $Pt^{\circ}$  content corresponded with intrinsic activity of the catalysts, confirmed Pt° was the active site for NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO on Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 catalysts. This inference was further confirmed by Fig. S3 (in the Supporting information), it was shown that the NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO activity of Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 was improved after H<sub>2</sub> reduction especially at low temperatures.

The H<sub>2</sub>-TPR profiles of the Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 with different Si/Al ratios and Fe/ZSM-5 catalysts were displayed in Fig. 5. Three H<sub>2</sub> consumption peaks located at 367 °C, 476 °C and 522 °C appeared on Fe/ZSM-5 (Fig. 5A). According to the literature [52], the peak at 367 °C may be attributed to reduction of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> to Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, the second one can thus be assigned to subsequent reduction of Fe<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub> to metallic Fe. Since the reduction temperature of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> to metallic Fe is around 530 °C [53], the third peak (522 °C) may result from the subsequent reduction of partial Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> to metallic Fe. Due to the hydrogen overflow on Pt°, the reduction peaks of all the Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 samples transferred to lower temperatures



Fig. 6. NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD profiles of the catalysts.

compared with Fe/ZSM-5, indicating that the oxidized ability was promoted with the addition of Pt. The profiles of the Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 were fitted into three sub-bands located at around 230, 285 and 335 °C as shown in Fig. 5B. The peak at low temperature (230 °C) mainly assigned to the reduction of  $PtO_x$  (e.g.,  $Pt^{4+} \rightarrow Pt^{\circ}$ ) [54], the latter two peaks would correspond to the reduction of FeO<sub>x</sub> to metallic Fe. The peak at an intermediate temperature ( $\sim 280^{\circ}$ C) can be assigned to the iron oxide neighboring the PtOx. The iron oxide was intimately in contact with PtOx, the reduction of which was attributed to the abstraction of  $O^{2-}$  by H<sub>2</sub> and facilitated by the presence of platinum [55]. Another peak at *ca*. 335°C could correspond to the reduction of iron oxide that was remote from the PtOx [55]. It was obvious that the ratio of high-temperature peak (335 °C) increased (7.4 % $\rightarrow$ 19.6 %) with the enhancement of Si/Al ratio ( $25 \rightarrow 50$ ), indicating the decrease of oxidized ability. This was just consistent with the intrinsic activity of the catalysts. Therefore, combine the results of XPS and H2-TPR we concluded that the appearance of metallic Pt can improve the oxidized ability of the catalyst and thus enhance the NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO intrinsic activity.



Fig. 7. NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD and NH<sub>3</sub> conversion (inset) at different temperatures over Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al ratio 25 and 50) samples after hydrothermal aging. Reaction conditions: [NH<sub>3</sub>] = 500 ppm,  $[O_2] = 10$  %,  $[H_2O] = 5$  %, balance N<sub>2</sub>, total flow ratio = 100 mL/min, GHSV = 140,000 h<sup>-1</sup>.

#### 3.2.3. Acid sites

The surface acid properties of the catalysts were studied by NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD experiments and the results are shown in Fig. 6. Similar asymmetric peaks can be observed on the Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 samples, indicating the existence of acid sites with different strength [27]. It can be observed in Fig. 6 that the total peak area (Tarea) of NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD for Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 25) was bigger than that of Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 50), indicated that Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 25) sample possessed more acid sites than Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 50) sample. The overlapped peaks were then fitted and separated into four sub-bands located at around 80 °C, 120 °C, 200 °C and 350 °C, which can be assigned to physisorbed NH<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub> bound to weak, medium and strong acid sites [56,57], respectively. It can be observed in the Fig. 6 that weak and medium acid sites were the main existence form for Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 25), while strong acid sites were dominating in Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 50). Combined with the high water-resisting property on Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 50) in Fig. 1, it could be concluded that this water-resisting property might be related to the strong acid sites of Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 50) catalyst.

In order to further prove the necessity of strong acid sites for the water-resisting property of the catalysts during NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO with H<sub>2</sub>O adding, the strong acid sites were removed through hydrothermal aging at 700 °C reported by Riguetto [58]. The NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD results in Fig. 7 verified that after hydrothermal aging the content of strong acid sites over Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al 25) and Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al 50) decreased dramatically to zero. As we speculated above, when the strong acid sites over the NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO catalysts were removed, the NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO activity of the samples decreased accordingly, more than 30 % decrease of NH<sub>3</sub> conversion can be observed on both samples (shown in Fig. 7 insert). Therefore, strong acid sites were necessary for the water-resisting property of the catalysts during NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO with H<sub>2</sub>O adding.

Ammonia adsorption in both the presence and absence of water was studied through *in situ* DRIFTS over Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 25 and 50) samples to confirm the role of acid sites in water-resisting property. The adsorption experiment was conducted at 100 °C for 1 h, when the adsorption had reached steady state. As presented in Fig. 7, various peaks were observed after NH<sub>3</sub> adsorption saturation. The negative bands located at 3500-3710 cm<sup>-1</sup> were assigned to the consumption of OH groups due to the interaction of surface hydroxyls with NH<sub>3</sub> [36,47]. The other peaks appeared in the range of 3500-1400 cm<sup>-1</sup> were the vibration of adsorbed NH<sub>3</sub> species [36]. It can be observed that the intensity of adsorbed ammonia species over Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 25) was stronger than that on Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 50) in dry circumstance, which might result from the larger surface area (Fig. 1) and more weak



Fig. 8. in situ DRIFTS of  $\rm NH_3$  adsorption at 100 °C for 30 min in dry and wet circumstances. Reaction conditions:  $\rm [NH_3]=500$  ppm,  $\rm O_2=10$ %,  $\rm H_2O=5\%$  (when added) and  $\rm N_2$  balance.

and medium acid sites of Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 25). With the addition of  $H_2O$  (wet circumstance), the intensity of  $NH_3$  species decreased dramatically on both samples, however, the strength was reversed on the two samples. More  $NH_3$  species was adsorbed on Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 50) than Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 25), which should be due to the strong acid sites of Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al = 50) catalyst (Fig. 8).

# 3.3. Results of DFT calculation

DFT calculations were then carried out to investigate the influence of acid site on H<sub>2</sub>O and NH<sub>3</sub> adsorption on ZSM-5 samples. Firstly, we constructed two types of ZSM-5 structures, one is ZSM-5 (Fig. 9a) without extra acid sites added, NH3 mainly adsorbed on the L acid sites or by weak adsorption. According to the literature [58], Brønsted acid sites were much stronger than L acid sites. Thus, in this work a H atom was inserted on ZSM-5 structure (denoted as ZSM-5-H) to imitate Brønsted acid site in the other structure (Fig. 9b). The adsorption configurations of H<sub>2</sub>O and NH<sub>3</sub> on ZSM-5 and ZSM-5-H were optimized and the corresponding adsorption energies were calculated (Fig. 9c-f). The results showed that all of the adsorption energies had negative values, indicating that both of ZSM-5 and ZSM-5-H had affinity for H<sub>2</sub>O and NH<sub>3</sub>. In addition, the adsorption intensity of H<sub>2</sub>O and NH<sub>3</sub> increased dramatically (about 5 times higher) when Brønsted acid site was involved. Remarkably, the adsorption of H<sub>2</sub>O was slightly superior to NH3 on weak adsorption sites for ZSM-5, which will definitely result in the competitive adsorption during NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO in wet circumstance. However, the adsorption energy of  $\rm NH_3$  was much lower than  $\rm H_2O$  (0.31 eV) when strong acid site was introduced, indicated that strong acid sites induced NH<sub>3</sub> to dominate in the competitive adsorption with H<sub>2</sub>O. This result was highly consistent with data obtained through in situ DRIFTS and NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD mentioned above.

#### 4. Conclusion

Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 catalysts with different Si/Al ratio (25 and 50) were prepared in this work and the NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO activity were compared both in dry and wet (5% H<sub>2</sub>O) circumstance. Characterization results showed that abundant metallic Pt (Pt°) was beneficial for Si/Al 25 sample to exhibit higher intrinsic NH<sub>3</sub>-SCO activity (in dry circumstance). After H<sub>2</sub>O adding, the activity of Si/Al 25 sample decreased dramatically while the activity of Si/Al 50 sample maintained much higher level. It was found through NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD that strong acid site was dominating in Si/ Al 50 sample. *In situ* DRIFTS and DFT calculation results finally



**Fig. 9.** Optimized structures of (a) ZSM-5 and (b) ZSM-5-H (acid site), possible adsorption configurations of (c) H<sub>2</sub>O and (e) NH<sub>3</sub> on ZSM-5 and (d) H<sub>2</sub>O and (f) NH<sub>3</sub> on ZSM-5-H (acid site). Color code: blue (N), yellow (Si), white (H), red (O). (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article).

confirmed that the competitive adsorption between  $H_2O$  and  $NH_3$  inhibited the  $NH_3$ -SCO activity in wet circumstance, while acid sites induced  $NH_3$  to dominate in the competitive adsorption with  $H_2O$ . Thus, due to the dominating of strong acid sites, Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al 50) catalyst maintained higher  $NH_3$ -SCO activity when  $H_2O$  was introduced compared to Pt-Fe/ZSM-5 (Si/Al 25), which is a potential catalyst of selective ammonia oxidation in diesel vehicles exhaust gas purification system.

# CRediT authorship contribution statement

Fei Wang: Conceptualization, Formal analysis, Funding acquisition, Writing - original draft. Ying Zhu: Data curation, Investigation. Zhao Li: Methodology, Validation. Yulong Shan: Formal analysis. Wenpo Shan: Supervision. Xiaoyan Shi: Conceptualization. Yunbo Yu: Funding acquisition, Formal analysis. Changbin Zhang: Methodology, Validation. Kai Li: Supervision. Ping Ning: Project administration. Yan Zhang: Funding acquisition, Writing - review & editing. Hong He: Funding acquisition, Writing - review & editing.

#### **Declaration of Competing Interest**

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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# Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary material related to this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cattod.2020.06.039.

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