NH₃-SCR Performance of Fresh and Hydrothermally Aged Fe-ZSM-5 in Standard and Fast Selective Catalytic Reduction Reactions

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Hydrothermal stability is one of the challenges for the practical application of Fe-ZSM-5 catalysts in the selective catalytic reduction (SCR) of NO with NH₃ (NH₃-SCR) for diesel engines. The presence of NO₂ in the exhaust gases can enhance the deNOx activity because of the fast SCR reaction. In this work, a Fe-ZSM-5 catalyst was prepared by a solid-state ion-exchange method and was hydrothermally deactivated at 800 °C in the presence of 10% H₂O. The activity of fresh and hydrothermal aged Fe-ZSM-5 catalysts was investigated in standard SCR $(NO_2/NOx = 0)$ and in fast SCR with $NO_2/NOx = 0.3$ and 0.5. In standard SCR, hydrothermal aging of Fe-ZSM-5 resulted in a significant decrease of low-temperature activity and a slight increase in hightemperature activity. In fast SCR, NOx conversion over aged Fe-



ZSM-5 was significantly increased but was still lower than that over fresh catalyst. Additionally, production of N₂O in fast SCR was much more apparent over aged Fe-ZSM-5 than over fresh catalyst. We propose that, in fast SCR, the rate of key reactions related to NO is slower over aged Fe-ZSM-5 than over fresh catalyst, thus increasing the probabilities of side reactions involving the formation of N_2O .

1. INTRODUCTION

Selective catalytic reduction (SCR) of NOx by NH₃ (NH₃-SCR) is one of the most efficient technologies used for removing NOx from stationary sources and diesel exhausts. Feexchanged zeolites, especially Fe-ZSM-5, have been proven to be active catalysts for the NH₃-SCR of NOx.^{1,2} In typical diesel exhaust, NOx is composed mainly of NO (>90%), and the SCR of NO with NH3 according to reaction 1 below is commonly referred to as the standard SCR reaction. The presence of NO₂ in NOx can enhance the low-temperature activity over Fezeolite catalysts, due to the occurrence of the so-called fast SCR reaction (reaction 2), which involves the reaction of NH₃ with an equimolar mixture of NO and NO2.3-13 In practical application, an increase of the fraction of NO_2 in NOx can be realized by using a preoxidation catalyst located upstream of the SCR catalyst.¹⁴ The activity of the preoxidation catalyst should vary with exhaust temperatures; therefore, the NO₂/NO ratio cannot be a constant. If the NO₂/NO ratio is larger than 1, NO2 reacts also via alternative NO2 SCR routes as shown in reactions 3 and 4. Since the SCR performance of Fe-ZSM-5 in the presence of NO₂ is important, the mechanism and kinetics of the NO/NO₂-NH₃ SCR reaction over Fe-ZSM-5 have been studied extensively by transient operations and steady-state measurements.⁴⁻¹³ However, the increase in NOx conversion over Fe-ZSM-5 through the fast SCR reaction is accompanied by the formation of N_2O .^{5,10,12} That is a problem from an environmental point of view, since N_2O is one of the ozone

layer depleting substances and has 310 and 21 times the global warming potential (GWP) of CO₂ and CH₄, respectively.^{15,16}

 $4NH_3 + 4NO + O_2 \rightarrow 4N_2 + 6H_2O$ (1)

$$2NH_3 + NO + NO_2 \rightarrow 2N_2 + 3H_2O \tag{2}$$

$$2NH_3 + 2NO_2 \to N_2O + N_2 + 3H_2O$$
(3)

$$4NH_3 + 3NO_2 \rightarrow 7/2N_2 + 6H_2O$$
 (4)

Fe-ZSM-5 catalysts can be deactivated by hydrothermal aging at high temperatures, and their limited hydrothermal stability is one of the challenges for practical application.¹⁷⁻²¹ Recent investigations suggested that the activity of Fe-ZSM-5 in standard SCR could be decreased by hydrothermal aging.^{19–21} It has been known that hydrothermal aging leads to the dealumination of framework aluminum ions and the migration of Fe ions to form Fe_xO_y clusters.^{19–21} Additionally, hydrothermal aging resulted in the decrease of NO oxidation activity and the Brønsted acidity of Fe-ZSM-5.¹⁹⁻²¹ Rahkamaa-Tolonena et al. reported that hydrothermally aged Fe-ZSM-5 and Fe- β gave higher NOx conversions in fast SCR with NO₂/ NO = 4:6 than in standard SCR, but they did not compare the SCR performance of fresh catalysts with aged catalysts in the

Received:	October 30, 2012
Revised:	March 5, 2013
Accepted:	March 11, 2013

Published: March 11, 2013

presence of NO₂.²² In fact, to our knowledge, few studies have investigated the SCR performance and the formation of N₂O over hydrothermally aged Fe-ZSM-5 in fast SCR with different NO₂/NO ratios.

In this work, the SCR performance of fresh and hydrothermally aged Fe-ZSM-5 catalysts was investigated in standard SCR and in fast SCR with $NO_2/NOx = 0.3$ and 0.5. The differences between fresh and aged Fe-ZSM-5 catalysts in the SCR performance and in the mechanism of N_2O formation were compared and discussed.

2. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Fe-ZSM-5 catalyst with 3.5 wt % Fe loading $(SiO_2/Al_2O_3 = 25)$ was prepared by a solid-state ion-exchange method as described in our previous work.²¹ Fe-ZSM-5 was deactivated at 800 °C in 10% H₂O/air for 8 h. Powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) measurements were carried out on a Panalytical X-ray diffractometer (The Netherlands, X'Pert PRO MPD), with Cu K α as the radiation resource. The data were collected for 2θ from 5° to 60° with a step size of 0.02°. UV–visible diffuse reflectance spectroscopy (UV–vis DRS) spectra were recorded with a Hitachi UV3010 (Japan). BaSO₄ was used as the reference material. The Fe-ZSM-5 catalysts were diluted with BaSO₄ at a ratio of 1:4. The spectra were converted with the Kubelka–Munk (KM) function F(R) for comparison.

In situ diffuse reflectance IR Fourier transform spectroscopy (DRIFTS): Experiments of NH₃ adsorption over Fe-ZSM-5 catalysts were performed on an FTIR spectrometer (Nicolet Nexus 670) in order to investigate the Brønsted acidity of the catalysts.^{22,23} Each sample was pretreated at 550 °C in a flow of 20 vol % O_2/N_2 for 20 min, then purged with pure N₂ for 20 min, and cooled down to 150 °C in N₂. Then, the samples were exposed to a flow of 1% NH₃/N₂, and the spectra were recorded until NH₃ adsorption saturation occurred.

The catalytic activity data were measured at steady state. The SCR reaction conditions were controlled as follows: 500 ppm NOx (NO + NO₂), 500 ppm NH₃, 5 vol % O₂, N₂ balance; total flow rate of 500 mL/min. 50 mg of samples (40–60 mesh) was placed in a quartz tube reactor (4 mm i.d.) with a gas hourly space velocity (GHSV) of 320 000 h⁻¹. The effluent gas was analyzed using an FTIR spectrometer (Nicolet Nexus 670). NOx conversion (X_{NOx}) was calculated as follows:

$$X_{\text{NOx}} = (1 - ([\text{NO}] + [\text{NO}_2])_{\text{out}} / ([\text{NO}] + [\text{NO}_2])_{\text{in}}) \\ \times 100\%$$
(E1)

3. RESULTS

3.1. Catalytic Characterization. Figure 1a shows the XRD patterns of fresh and aged Fe-ZSM-5 catalysts, H-ZSM-5, and a mechanical mixture of 5 wt % α -Fe₂O₃ with H-ZSM-5. The typical XRD peaks of α -Fe₂O₃ can be observed in the patterns of Fe-ZSM-5, at 2θ of 33.1° , 35.6° , 40.9° , and 49.5° .^{24,25} It can be seen that the XRD pattern of aged Fe-ZSM-5 showed little difference from that of fresh catalyst. This indicates that the current hydrothermal deactivation caused no damage to the zeolite framework of Fe-ZSM-5. The KM converted UV–vis spectra of the fresh and aged Fe-ZSM-5 are compared in Figure 1b. Generally, UV–vis spectra can be ascribed to different Fe species over the Fe-ZSM-5: to isolated Fe³⁺ species (bands below 300 nm), oligmeric clusters (between 300 and 400 nm), and Fe₂O₃ particles (above 400 nm).^{21,26,27} The intensity of the bands below 300 nm decreased, and the intensity of the bands



Figure 1. Catalytic characterizations of fresh and aged Fe-ZSM-5: (a) XRD patterns; (b) UV–vis spectra (absolute KM function); (c) in situ DRIFTS results for catalysts after NH_3 adsorption.

above 300 nm increased for aged catalysts, which indicates that hydrothermal aging led to the migration of isolated Fe³⁺ species from iron-exchange sites and the formation of small iron clusters. After deconvolution of the UV-vis spectra, a decrease of percentage of isolated Fe³⁺ species and an increase in the percentage of oligomeric clusters and Fe₂O₃ particles in the catalyst can be observed on aged Fe-ZSM-5 (Supporting Information, Figure S1 and Table S1). Figure 1c shows the DRIFTS spectra of various samples after NH₃ adsorption saturation. The negative band at 3610 cm^{-1} was assigned to the OH stretch of Brønsted acidic sites due to the interaction of surface hydroxyls with NH₃, which can reflect the relative concentration of Brønsted acidic sites over the Fe-ZSM-5.^{20,21,23} The bands related to adsorbed NH₃ species appear at 3500-1400 cm⁻¹. The band at 1480 cm⁻¹ is assigned to the symmetric bending vibration of the NH_4^+ that is chemisorbed on the Brønsted acidic sites.^{28,29} The decrease in intensity of bands related to the adsorbed NH₃ species over aged Fe-ZSM-5 indicates that the concentrations of Brønsted acidic sites and the adsorbed NH₃ species on Fe-ZSM-5 were significantly decreased by hydrothermal aging.

3.2. Catalytic Activity in Standard SCR. The steady-state results of NOx and NH₃ conversion and N₂O production in the standard SCR reaction over fresh and hydrothermally aged Fe-ZSM-5 catalysts are compared in Figure 2. Compared with fresh catalyst, the aged Fe-ZSM-5 showed a significant decrease in the low-temperature activity and a slight increase in the high-temperature activity in accordance with our previous study.²¹



Figure 2. SCR performances of fresh and hydrothermally aged Fe-ZSM-5 catalysts under standard SCR: conversions of NOx and NH₃, N₂O formations. Reaction conditions: 500 ppm NO, 500 ppm NH₃, 5 vol % O₂, N₂ balance.

The NH₃ conversion curve is very close to the NO conversion curve at low temperatures, proving the excellent selectivity of Fe-ZSM-5 in the standard SCR reaction as shown in reaction 1. At high temperatures, conversion of NH₃ exceeded that of NO due to the oxidation of NH_3 to N_2 over Fe-ZSM-5. Figure 3a,b shows that both the NH₃ oxidation and NO oxidation activities of Fe-ZSM-5 were decreased by hydrothermal aging. It is commonly recognized that the NO oxidation to NO₂ is the rate-determining step in standard SCR at low temperatures.^{7,13,30} It is suggested that all Fe species on Fe-ZSM-5 can catalyze the standard SCR reaction and isolated Fe oxo species should be the most active sites at low temperature (generally below 300 °C).^{11,20,24} Moreover, it is also suggested that the presence of Brønsted acid sites has a promoting effect on the low-temperature activity of Fe-ZSM-5 in standard SCR.³⁰⁻³² Thus, the decrease in low-temperature activity of aged Fe-ZSM-5 can be explained by the decrease of NO oxidation activity, Brønsted acidity, and isolated Fe³⁺ species by hydrothermal aging. The slight increase in high-temperature activity of aged Fe-ZSM-5 can be attributed to the formation of Fe₂O₃ clusters, which favored the high-temperature activity and the decrease in the oxidation of $\rm NH_3$ at high temperatures. 20,21,33 In standard SCR, the formation of $\rm N_2O$ is a problem for vanadium titanic-based catalysts and Cu-zeolite

catalysts, while Fe-ZSM-5 is known for its high N₂ selectivity without N₂O formation.^{2,10,34} However, a certain amount of N₂O can be observed over aged Fe-ZSM-5 as shown in Figure 2.

3.3. Catalytic Activity in Fast SCR Reaction. Figure 4 presents the conversions of NOx, NO, NO₂, and NH₃ and the formation of N₂O in the fast SCR reaction with NO₂/NOx =0.3 and 0.5 over fresh and aged Fe-ZSM-5. As expected, the presence of NO_2 in the feed significantly increased the NOxconversions for both fresh and aged Fe-ZSM-5, as shown in Figure 4a,b. However, even in fast SCR, the fresh Fe-ZSM-5 catalyst still showed higher NOx conversion than for the aged catalyst at low and intermediate temperatures. The difference in NOx conversion can be basically attributed to the different NO conversion of fresh and aged Fe-ZSM-5, since the NO2 conversion was near 100% for all catalysts above 200 °C, and the NOx conversion was calculated from the results of NO and NO₂ as shown in equation E1. Moreover, the NO conversion over aged Fe-ZSM-5 increased very slowly with increasing temperature in the range of 190-400 °C. The rate constant for NO conversion over aged Fe-ZSM-5 almost did not change from 190 to 300 °C (Supporting Information, Figure S2). This indicates that, in the presence of NO₂, some reaction channel involving NO consumption was blocked over aged Fe-ZSM-5 at low temperatures.

The formation of N_2O increased with the increase in proportion of NO_2 in NOx, as shown in Figure 4c. The aged Fe-ZSM-5 is more favorable toward production of N_2O . Below 300 °C, the N_2O production over aged Fe-ZMS-5 increased with increasing temperature. In fast SCR with $NO_2/NOx = 0.5$, the aged Fe-ZSM-5 gave the highest N_2O production with a maximum concentration of 60 ppm at around 300 °C. On the other hand, the formation of N_2O over fresh catalyst reached the highest amount (20 ppm) at around 190 °C and then gradually decreased, quite different from the aged catalysts.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1. Mechanism Analysis. The mechanism of NH_3 -SCR of NOx has been studied by many researchers. Long and Yang proposed a mechanism for standard SCR, in which the oxidation of NO to NO_2 is the rate-determining step and the reaction of $NO_2(NH_4^+)_2$ (postulated intermediate) with NO to yield N_2 taking place on the Brønsted acid sites.³⁰ This mechanism was supported by Devadas et al., and they further suggested that $NO_2(NH_4^+)_2$ could be a general intermediate in the SCR reaction over ZSM-5 catalyst.¹⁰ Grossale et al.



Figure 3. (a) NH₃ oxidation and (b) NO oxidation activities of fresh and hydrothermally aged Fe-ZSM-5. Reaction conditions: (a) 500 ppm NH₃, 5% O₂, N₂ balance; (b) 500 ppm NO, 5% O₂, N₂ balance.



Figure 4. Comparison of fast SCR over fresh and hydrothermally aged Fe-ZSM-5 catalysts. (a) NO, NO₂, NH₃, and NO*x* conversion (NO₂/NO*x* = 0.3); (b) NO, NO₂, NH₃, and NO*x* conversion, NO₂/NO*x* = 0.5; (c) N₂O production. Reaction conditions: 500 ppm NO*x* (NO + NO₂), 500 ppm NH₃, 5 vol % O₂, N₂ balance; 50 mg of catalyst, total flow of 500 mL/min, and GHSV of 320 000 h⁻¹.

proposed that, in the fast SCR reaction, the role of NO₂ is to form surface nitrites and nitrates and the role of NO is to reduce nitrates to nitrites.^{5,8} They further proposed that the rapidly selective decomposition of unstable ammonium nitrites to yield N_2 , and the rate of fast SCR, was dependent on the rate of nitrate reduction by NO at low temperatures.^{5,8} Iwasaki et al. suggested that the formation of surface NH₄NO₃ adspecies from the adsorbed NO_2 is a common reaction in standard SCR, fast SCR, and NO_2 SCR and the rate-determining step of fast SCR is considered to be reduction of NH₄NO₃ by NO.^{12,13} The above conclusions can be summarized as follows: both standard SCR and fast SCR involve the formation of nitrates and nitrites from NO2, and ammonium nitrite should be the postulated intermediate; N2 can be produced through the decomposition of ammonium nitrite or through the reaction of $NO_2(NH_4^+)_2$ with NO; the slow step is related to the reactions involving NO. The following mechanism analysis is based on the above knowledge.^{5,10,11} The basic reaction steps are given as reactions 5-9:5,10,11

$$2NO_2 + O^{2-} \rightarrow NO_3^- + NO_2^-$$
 (5)

$$NO_3^- + NO \to NO_2 + NO_2^- \tag{6}$$

$$\mathrm{NH_4}^+ + \mathrm{NO_2}^- \rightarrow [\mathrm{NH_4NO_2}] \rightarrow \mathrm{N_2} + 2\mathrm{H_2O}$$
(7)

$$\mathrm{NO}_{2}(\mathrm{NH}_{4}^{+})_{2} + \mathrm{NO} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 2\mathrm{N}_{2} + 3\mathrm{H}_{2}\mathrm{O} + 2\mathrm{H}^{+} \qquad (8)$$

$$\mathrm{NH_4}^+ + \mathrm{NO_3}^- \to \mathrm{NH_4}\mathrm{NO_3} \tag{9}$$

To our knowledge, few studies consider the role of Brønsted acidity and iron sites over Fe-ZSM-5 when they discuss the fast SCR mechanisms over Fe-ZSM-5. In this study, the current hydrothermal deactivation caused no damage to the zeolite framework of Fe-ZSM-5 but resulted in the significant decrease of Brønsted acidity, the migration of isolated Fe³⁺ species, and the decrease of NO oxidation activity. Since the NO oxidation activity is not required in presence of NO2, the significant decrease of Brønsted acidity and migration of isolated Fe³⁺ sites might be responsible for the limited promotion effect of NO₂ on NOx reduction over aged Fe-ZSM-5. It is suggested that the decomposition of NH₄NO₂ can be accelerated by zeolite Brønsted sites,³⁰ which is important to low-temperature activity in standard SCR.^{29,30} Schwidder et al. proposed that the fast SCR taking place on Brønsted acid sites can be strongly accelerated over isolated Fe oxo sites.¹¹ It is noted that, although the Brønsted acidity almost disappeared completely,

aged Fe-ZSM-5 still showed good activity in fast SCR. The parent H-ZSM-5, which has the largest amount of Brønsted acidity sites, showed a remarkable performance in fast SCR but cannot be competitive with aged Fe-ZSM-5 (Supporting Information, Figure S3). On the basis of these findings, we propose that the Fe sites over Fe-ZSM-5 play a more important role in fast SCR than Brønsted acidity, which is in agreement with results in the literature.²³

Hydrothermal deactivation resulted in a significant decrease of the NO conversion but showed little effect on the NO₂ conversion. In the case of fast SCR with 50% NO₂ (NH₃ = 500 ppm, NO = NO_2 = 250 ppm), if we assume that all the NO consumption takes place through the fast SCR reaction (reaction 2), the NH₃ consumption should be twice the NO consumption. For instance, when the conversion is 50%, the NH₃, NO, and NO₂ consumption should be 250, 125, and 125 ppm, respectively. This hypothesis is well supported by the data in Figure 4 and the illustration in Figure S4a (Supporting Information). On the other hand, it should be noted that the NO₂ conversion was much higher than the NO conversion in fast SCR. A similar observation was reported previously over the fresh Fe-ZSM-5 and was explained by the formation of NH₄NO₃.⁵ Since the number of Brønsted acid sites over aged Fe-ZSM-5 was significantly decreased, the formation of NH₄NO₃ cannot explain well the observed behavior. The NO₂ consumption unrelated to fast SCR can be expressed as subtracting the NO consumption from the NO₂ consumption (Supporting Information, Figure S4b). From this expression, we can see that the NO₂ consumption unrelated to fast SCR is higher for aged Fe-ZSM-5 than that for the fresh one. The inconsistency between NOx and NH₃ conversion is mainly caused by the side reactions for NO2 consumption without NH₃ consumption. We assume that the side reaction channels resulting in NO₂ consumption unrelated to fast SCR may be consecutive nitrates/nitrites formation as reaction 5 and NO evolution reaction as the following:¹⁰

$$3NO_2 + [O^{2-}] \leftrightarrow NO + 2NO_3^{-}$$
(10)

In fast SCR, the reduction of nitrates to nitrites by NO as in reaction 6 is the slow step. H_2 -TPR results showed that the H_2 -TPR profiles of aged Fe-ZSM were shifted toward higher temperatures (Supporting Information, Figure S5), implying the decrease of the reducibility of aged Fe-ZSM-5. This indicates that the reduction of nitrates to nitrites by NO is slowed over aged Fe-ZSM-5, which is responsible for the decreased activity in fast SCR. We assume that the higher NO_2 consumption unrelated to fast SCR for aged Fe-ZSM-5 can be explained as the higher decreasing degree of the fast SCR rate than that of the side reaction rate for aged Fe-ZSM-5. Therefore, the possibility of the NO_2 consumption through side reaction channels was increased over aged Fe-ZSM-5.

4.2. N₂O **Production.** The production of N₂O is a disadvantage of the strategy of the addition of NO₂ into the feed to enhance the NO*x* conversion over Fe-ZSM-5 catalysts. In fast SCR, N₂O can be produced from the thermal decomposition of NH₄NO₃ as in reaction $11^{5,7,10,12}$ and/or from the reaction of NO₂ with intermediate ammonium nitrites, according to Devadas et al. and Long and Yang^{10,30}

$$\mathrm{NH}_4\mathrm{NO}_3 \to \mathrm{N}_2\mathrm{O} + \mathrm{H}_2\mathrm{O} \tag{11}$$

$$NO_{2}(NH_{4}^{+})_{2} + NO_{2} + 1/2O_{2} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow 2N_{2}$$
$$O + 3H_{2}O + 2H^{+}$$
(12)

In the fast SCR mechanism proposed by Grossale et al.,⁵ the incomplete reduction of nitrates by NO is responsible for the undesired formation of N₂O at low to intermediate temperatures.⁵ Devadas et al. proposed that, in the presence of NO₂, the intermediate NO₂(NH₄⁺)₂ is easily formed and the reaction of NO₂(NH₄⁺)₂ with NO becomes rate limiting; therefore, the probability of the formation of N₂O from the reaction of NO₂(NH₄⁺)₂ with NO₂ increases.¹⁰ The latter mechanism can explain the observation that the formation of N₂O increased with the increase of the NO₂/NOx ratio. With a higher NO₂ fraction in NOx, a higher surface concentration of NO₂(NH₄⁺)₂ is formed that results in increasing N₂O formation.

At very low temperatures below 170 °C, the activity of the fast SCR reaction can be inhibited by the so-called ammonia blocking effect, because of the formation of ammonium nitrate adspecies.^{7,13} The decomposition temperature of NH_4NO_3 over Fe-ZSM-5 is above 170 °C.^{7,10,33} Therefore, in fast SCR reactions, no formation of N₂O was observed over all catalysts at very low temperature (ca. 140 °C), which can be explained as resulting from NH_4NO_3 being formed and deposited on the surfaces of Fe-ZSM-5 catalyst at very low temperature.

The profiles of N₂O concentration with increasing temperature over fresh Fe-ZSM-5 are quite different from those over aged catalysts, as shown in Figure 4c. Over fresh Fe-ZSM-5, the N₂O started to be produced at around 190 °C in high amounts and then gradually decreased. However, over aged Fe-ZSM-5, the concentration of N2O increased with temperature, reached a maximum at around 300 °C, and then, decreased. This indicated that, over fresh Fe-ZSM-5, the decomposition of deposited NH₄NO₃ starting at 170 °C contributed to most of the formation of N₂O. The quantities of NH₃ adsorption over aged Fe-ZSM-5 were much less than that over fresh catalyst, due to the significant decrease of Brønsted acid sites (Figure 1c). Therefore, the high production of N_2O over aged Fe-ZSM-5 cannot be attributed just to the decomposition of NH₄NO₃ that is deposited over catalysts at very low temperature. It should be noted that the low NO conversion over the aged Fe-ZSM-5 was accompanied by high NO₂ consumption through side reaction channels and high N2O production in fast SCR, when compared with the fresh one (see the previous section). Taking these things into account, we deduced that the ratedetermining steps related to NO are slower over aged Fe-ZSM-5; therefore, the possibility of side reactions involving NO_2

consumption increases that results in the high N_2O formation over aged Fe-ZSM-5.

 N_2O started decreasing above 350 °C, and no N_2O was detected at temperatures above 500 °C for all catalysts in fast SCR. The results of Devadas et al.¹⁰ and Delahay et al.²⁵ showed that N_2O reduction by NH_3 (N_2O -SCR) starts at approximately 350 °C and reaches nearly 100% conversion at 550 °C. Thus, the decrease of N_2O above 350 °C can be explained by the fact that the reaction of N_2O -SCR and/or the rate-determining steps related to NO become faster at higher temperatures, thereby decreasing the probability of the N_2O formation side reaction.

According to this study, addition of NO₂ to the feed of the SCR reaction can significantly increase the NO*x* conversion over hydrothermally aged Fe-ZSM-5. However, the production of N₂O was much more apparent over aged Fe-ZSM-5 than over fresh catalyst in fast SCR reactions. Since N₂O is one of the ozone layer depleting substances, the increased N₂O formation over aged Fe-ZMS-5 is worthy of attention. The design of the preoxidation catalyst for the optimal NO₂/NO*x* ratio and the promotion of the hydrothermal stability of Fe-ZSM-5 may be effectively reducing the N₂O production from the SCR reaction.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

Catalyst preparation; UV–vis spectra, deconvoluted sub-bands of fresh and aged Fe-ZSM-5 and the percentage of the area of sub-bands derived by deconvolution of the UV–vis spectra; rate constant for NO conversion; comparison of fast SCR over fresh and hydrothermal aged Fe-ZSM-5 catalysts; NH₃ and twice NO consumption in fast SCR and NO₂ consumption unrelated to fast SCR; H₂-TPR profiles. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was financially supported by the National Science Foundation of China (grant nos. 51078347 and 51278486).

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