

SURFACE CHEMISTRY

Polymeric vanadyl species determine the low-temperature activity of V-based catalysts for the SCR of NO_x with NH₃

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The structure of dispersed vanadyl species plays a crucial role in the selective catalytic reduction (SCR) of NO with NH₃ over vanadia-based catalysts. Here, we demonstrate that the polymeric vanadyl species have a markedly higher NH₃-SCR activity than the monomeric vanadyl species. The coupling effect of the polymeric structure not only shortens the reaction pathway for the regeneration of redox sites but also substantially reduces the overall reaction barrier of the catalytic cycle. Therefore, it is the polymeric vanadyl species, rather than the monomeric vanadyl species, that determine the NH₃-SCR activity of vanadia-based catalysts, especially under low-temperature conditions. The polymeric vanadia-based SCR mechanism reported here advances the understanding of the working principle of vanadia-based catalysts and paves the way toward the development of low vanadium-loading SCR catalysts with excellent low-temperature activity.

INTRODUCTION

Nitrogen oxides (NO_x), as key precursor pollutants inducing the formation of acid rain, photochemical smog, and haze, are mainly emitted from power plants and mobile diesel vehicles. Selective catalytic reduction of NO_x with NH₃ (i.e., NH₃-SCR) over vanadia-based catalysts is one of the most widely adopted techniques for the removal of NO_x from stationary and mobile sources (1–4). The lower exhaust temperature of advanced combustion engines requires that catalysts be active at lower temperatures (5, 6). Therefore, it is highly desirable to develop vanadia-based SCR catalysts with excellent low-temperature activity to meet future emission regulations, which requires an in-depth understanding of the active center and the reaction mechanism (2, 7, 8).

For the commercial vanadia-based catalysts, previous studies revealed that dispersed vanadyl species, serving as the active moieties for NO_x reduction, are mainly present as isolated monomeric and polymeric vanadyl species (9–12), the distributions of which are closely related to the content of V₂O₅ (13, 14). As for V₂O₅/TiO₂ catalysts, in situ laser Raman analysis performed by Went *et al.* (12) confirmed that monomeric species predominated at low vanadia loading of 1.3 weight % (wt %) V₂O₅, at 80% of vanadyl species. With increasing vanadia loading from 1.3 to 3.0 wt %, the fraction of monomeric species decreased monotonically, while the percentage of polymeric species increased from 20 to 33%. Vanadia-based catalysts with 2 to 3 wt % V₂O₅ are commonly used in industrial applications for mobile source emission control (15). Moreover, for commercial V₂O₅/TiO₂ catalysts, sulfate species are commonly present in the anatase TiO₂ used. As revealed by Nam's group (16), sulfate

can enhance the transformation of isolated vanadyl species to polymeric vanadyl species. Therefore, the polymeric vanadyl species may play an important role in the removal of NO_x from mobile sources. However, currently proposed NH₃-SCR schemes over vanadia-based catalysts mainly focus on the reaction process occurring on isolated monomeric vanadyl species (1, 7, 8, 17), without considering the polymerization of reactive sites and their coupling effects. The working principle of polymeric vanadyl species remains unclear.

Here, using a TiO₂ support pretreated with sulfate species, we successfully obtained V₂O₅/TiO₂ catalysts with varying proportions of polymeric and monomeric vanadyl species, which exhibited marked differences in NH₃-SCR activity. By combining the results of experimental measurements with density functional theory (DFT) calculations, we found a polymeric vanadyl-based NH₃-SCR mechanism, which is energetically more favorable than the reaction schemes based on monomeric vanadyl species. Therefore, it is the polymeric vanadyl species, rather than monomeric vanadyl species, that determine the activity of vanadia-based catalysts, especially under low-temperature conditions. This finding shows that the surface structure of dispersed vanadia plays a critical role in the NH₃-SCR reaction. In addition, the experimental approach used here provides an efficient way to develop high-performance low vanadium-loading SCR catalysts.

RESULTS

Catalytic activity

It is well known that vanadia-based catalysts are widely applied because of their excellent sulfur resistance. We pretreated TiO₂ with (NH₄)₂SO₄ to regulate the amount of sulfur on the surface, and we obtained a series of V₂O₅/TiO₂ catalysts with different amounts of sulfur, denoted as 1V/xSTi (*x* wt % represents the sulfate content). For comparison with these sulfur-containing samples, we also prepared samples without sulfur by treating the TiO₂ support with NH₃ [i.e., Ti-NH₃ and 1V/(Ti-NH₃) samples]. Because of the reduction of sulfate by NH₃, x-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) results showed that there was no sulfur in the Ti-NH₃ sample (table S1),

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while a small quantity of sulfur was detected in the 1V/(Ti-NH₃) sample owing to the existence of traces of sulfur in the vanadia precursor (NH₄VO₃). With increasing sulfur content, the specific surface area decreased slightly (table S2). There was no change in the crystalline structure, and all these samples crystallized in the anatase structure (fig. S1).

As shown in Fig. 1A, the catalytic activity of the V₂O₅/TiO₂ catalysts in the SCR of NO with NH₃ increased with increasing sulfur content. The highest NH₃-SCR activity was obtained over 1V/9STi and 1V/12STi samples, which yielded 90% NO_x conversion at 300°C under a high gas hourly space velocity (GHSV) of 200,000 hour⁻¹. The purpose of this study is to elucidate the fundamental NH₃-SCR principles of vanadia-based catalysts; thus, we used a simplified V₂O₅/TiO₂ catalytic system without introducing any promoter com-

ponents. A comparison of the activity with that of previously reported catalysts (18, 19) shows that the activity of our 1V/9STi catalyst, expressed in terms of reaction rate and turnover frequency (TOF), is comparable to that of many commercial V/WTi catalysts (table S3). The selectivity toward N₂ was maintained at about 98% over the whole temperature range (fig. S2). Moreover, the 1V/9STi sample exhibited excellent resistance to SO₂ and H₂O (fig. S3). To confirm the effect of sulfur content on SCR activity, we treated the support with NH₃ to remove the sulfur, and the obtained 1V/(Ti-NH₃) sample showed the lowest catalytic activity.

Reactivity of surface acid sites

It has been well established that the occurrence of NH₃-SCR requires both acid and redox sites on the vanadia-based catalysts working

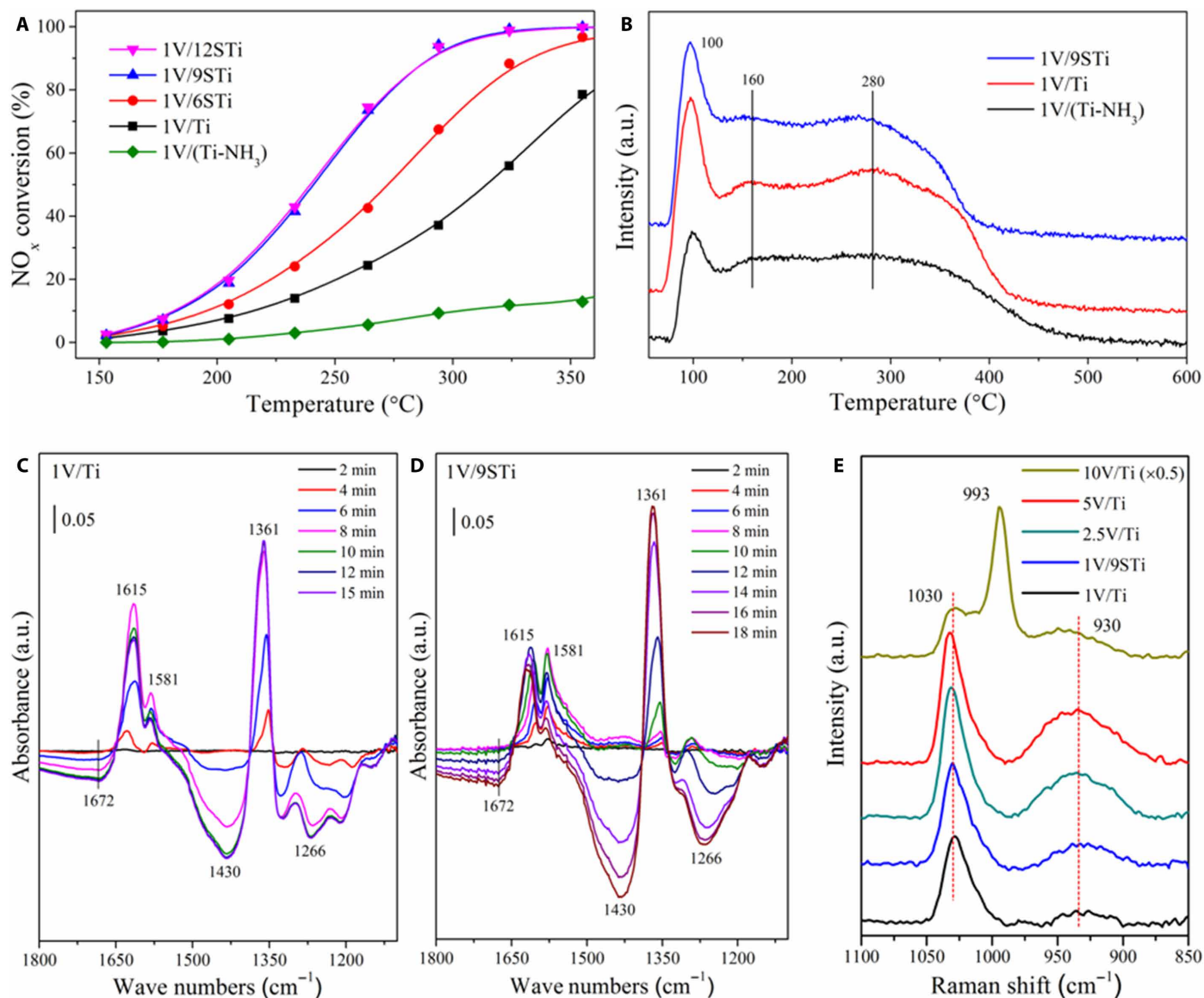


Fig. 1. Catalytic activity and catalyst characterization. (A) NO_x conversion as a function of temperature in the feed gas of 500 parts per million (ppm) NO/500 ppm NH₃/5.0 vol % O₂/N₂ (200,000 hour⁻¹). (B) NH₃-TPD of vanadia-based catalysts after 1% NH₃/N₂ adsorption at 50°C for 1 hour, followed by Ar purging. a.u., arbitrary units. (C and D) In situ DRIFTS of NO + O₂ adsorption on 1V/Ti and 1V/9STi catalysts pretreated with NH₃ at 150°C with the NH₃-adsorbed samples as background. (E) Raman results of vanadia-based catalysts under an oxygen flow at 400°C.

together (1, 20, 21). Therefore, there are basically two possibilities, i.e., a change in the acid sites or the redox sites, to explain the enhancement of catalytic performance induced by sulfur introduction. To elucidate whether such enhancement derives from a change in the acid sites on the catalyst, we conducted temperature-programmed desorption of NH_3 (NH_3 -TPD) (Fig. 1B) and diffuse reflectance infrared Fourier transform spectroscopy (DRIFTS) (Fig. 1, C and D) studies. The adsorption of NH_3 on Brønsted acid sites would result in the formation of NH_4^+ , which is generally less thermally stable than NH_3 bound to Lewis acid sites (22–24). Therefore, the low-, middle-, and high-temperature peaks of the NH_3 -TPD curves are attributed to the desorption of physisorbed NH_3 , NH_3 bound to weak Brønsted acid sites, and NH_3 bound to strong Brønsted and Lewis acid sites, respectively. The NH_3 -TPD result (Fig. 1B) shows that a high sulfur content on the catalysts increases the amount of Brønsted acid sites, whereas it decreases the amount of Lewis acid sites, in accordance with our DRIFTS data on NH_3 adsorption (fig. S4A) and previous literature (25).

We investigated the reactivity of adsorbed NH_3 toward $\text{NO} + \text{O}_2$ using in situ DRIFTS (Fig. 1, C and D). The samples were exposed to NH_3 until adsorption saturation and then flushed with N_2 for collection of the background spectrum. After $\text{NO} + \text{O}_2$ was introduced to the samples, the DRIFTS data were collected. The occurrence of negative infrared (IR) peaks indicates the consumption of adsorbed NH_3 species. The NH_3 adsorbed on Lewis acid sites and ad- NO_x exhibit

characteristic IR peaks in the same regions (1200 to 1300 cm^{-1} and 1500 to 1650 cm^{-1}); hence, it is difficult to differentiate these species. For the 1V/ TiO_2 sample (Fig. 1C), the negative peaks at 1430 and 1672 cm^{-1} due to NH_4^+ on Brønsted acid sites appeared after the flow of $\text{NO} + \text{O}_2$ for 5 min at 150°C and became more negative over time. This result indicates that during the first 5 min, the NH_3 coordinated to Lewis acid sites participated in the NH_3 -SCR reaction, and then the NH_4^+ on Brønsted acid sites were consumed. The low reactivity of NH_4^+ bound on Brønsted acid sites was also observed for the 1V/9STi sample (Fig. 1D). The occurrence of the asymmetric O=S=O stretching vibration peaks of sulfate species at 1361 cm^{-1} (26, 27) denotes the consumption of NH_3 species adsorbed on sulfate sites. Similar results were also obtained at 250°C (fig. S4, B and C). Ferri and co-workers (7) have also reported that NO reacts predominantly with NH_3 coordinated to Lewis acid sites during NH_3 -SCR on the V_2O_5 - WO_3 - TiO_2 catalyst, while Brønsted acid sites are not involved in the catalytic cycle and mainly serve as an NH_3 pool to replenish the Lewis acid sites, which is consistent with our experimental results.

As revealed above, sulfuration increases the amount of Brønsted acid sites, whereas it decreases the amount of Lewis acid sites. Moreover, the NH_3 coordinated to Lewis acid sites preferentially participates in the NH_3 -SCR reaction (7). Therefore, this result suggests that the introduction of sulfate changes not only the acid sites but also other active centers (i.e., the redox sites), and the enhancement of NH_3 -SCR reactivity may result mainly from changes to the redox sites.

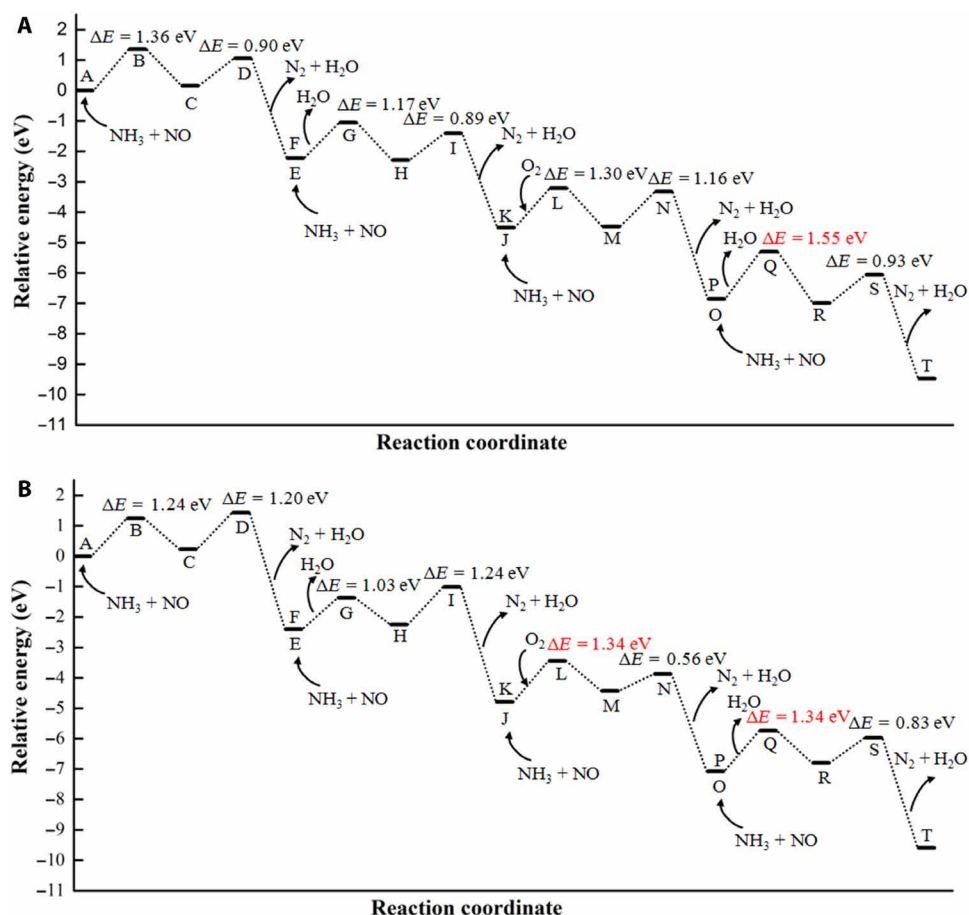


Fig. 2. Energy profile of the entire NH_3 -SCR process. (A) Pathways over monomeric vanadia/ TiO_2 surfaces. (B) Pathways over dimeric vanadia/ TiO_2 surfaces. The letters at each state correspond to the structures in Figs. 3 and 4. The barrier in the rate-determining step is marked in red font.

Structure of surface redox sites

We used Raman spectroscopy to determine the structure of dispersed surface vanadyl species. According to the literature (16, 28, 29), the experimentally observed bands at 1030, 993, and 930 cm^{-1} are characteristic of monomeric vanadyl species, crystalline V_2O_5 , and polymeric vanadyl species, respectively. Therefore, the evident enhancement of the band at 930 cm^{-1} from the 1V/Ti sample to the 1V/9STi sample indicates that the introduction of sulfate causes the polymerization of monomeric vanadyl species under low vanadium loading (Fig. 1E). To confirm the Raman spectroscopy result, we conducted nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) measurements. In general, the effect of ^{51}V electronic shielding increases with the decrease of its isotropic chemical shift. The ^{51}V NMR spectra (fig. S5) show that, with increasing sulfur content, the intensity of the central-band peak at lower chemical shifts (i.e., -655 ppm) was significantly increased, suggesting that the polymerization of vanadyl species was enhanced with sulfate introduction (30). The transformation of monomeric vanadyl to polymeric vanadyl species caused by sulfate introduction may be due to the surface sites of TiO_2 being partially occupied by sulfate, which enables the vanadyl species to be close to each other (16). The XPS results (table S4 and fig. S6) show that the surface sulfate species do not have a significant effect on the valence state of the V ions; rather, they simply change the structure of dispersed vanadyl species.

NH_3 -SCR reaction pathways

To elucidate the mechanism underlying the activity difference between monomeric and polymeric vanadyl species at the atomic scale, we carried out DFT calculations (see Figs. 2 to 4). According to the

computational results, the NH_3 -SCR de- NO_x reaction over vanadia/ TiO_2 catalysts proceeds via the Eley-Rideal mechanism, and both the redox sites and the acid sites are involved in the SCR process. The results of DRIFT spectra (fig. S4A) and DFT calculations (fig. S7, A and B) show that NH_3 is preferentially adsorbed on surface Ti sites (31). The adsorbed NH_3 is activated by the transfer of an H atom to the vanadyl species and subsequently reacts with NO in the gas phase, resulting in the formation of an intermediate nitrosamide (NH_2NO), denoted by the IR signals at 1505 cm^{-1} in fig. S4D) (7) and a V-OH or V-OH₂ group (A→C, F→H, K→M, and P→R). Then, the NH_2NO intermediate is decomposed into N_2 and H_2O (C→E, H→J, M→O, and R→T). Gas-phase O_2 replenishes the consumed surface oxygen on the vanadyl species (J→K) (8). When the V=O groups are regenerated, a catalytic cycle is completed. The overall reaction barrier on the dimeric vanadyl species is predicted to be 1.34 eV, 0.21 eV lower than that on the monomeric vanadyl species (Fig. 2). According to transition state theory (32), at 493.15 K (220°C), this reduction of barriers would induce an increase in reaction rate of up to two orders of magnitude (table S5). This result indicates that the dimeric vanadyl species, rather than the monomeric vanadyl species, determine the NH_3 -SCR activity of vanadia-based catalysts, which is consistent with our experimental results (Fig. 1, A and E).

It is noteworthy that a VOOH intermediate would be formed when an H atom transfers from the adsorbed NH_3 to the adsorbed O_2 on the vanadyl species (K→O). The VOOH intermediate is converted into the O=V-OH structure instantaneously for the monomeric vanadyl species (O→P in Fig. 3). However, the existence of an adjacent vanadyl enhances the thermal stability and lifetime of the

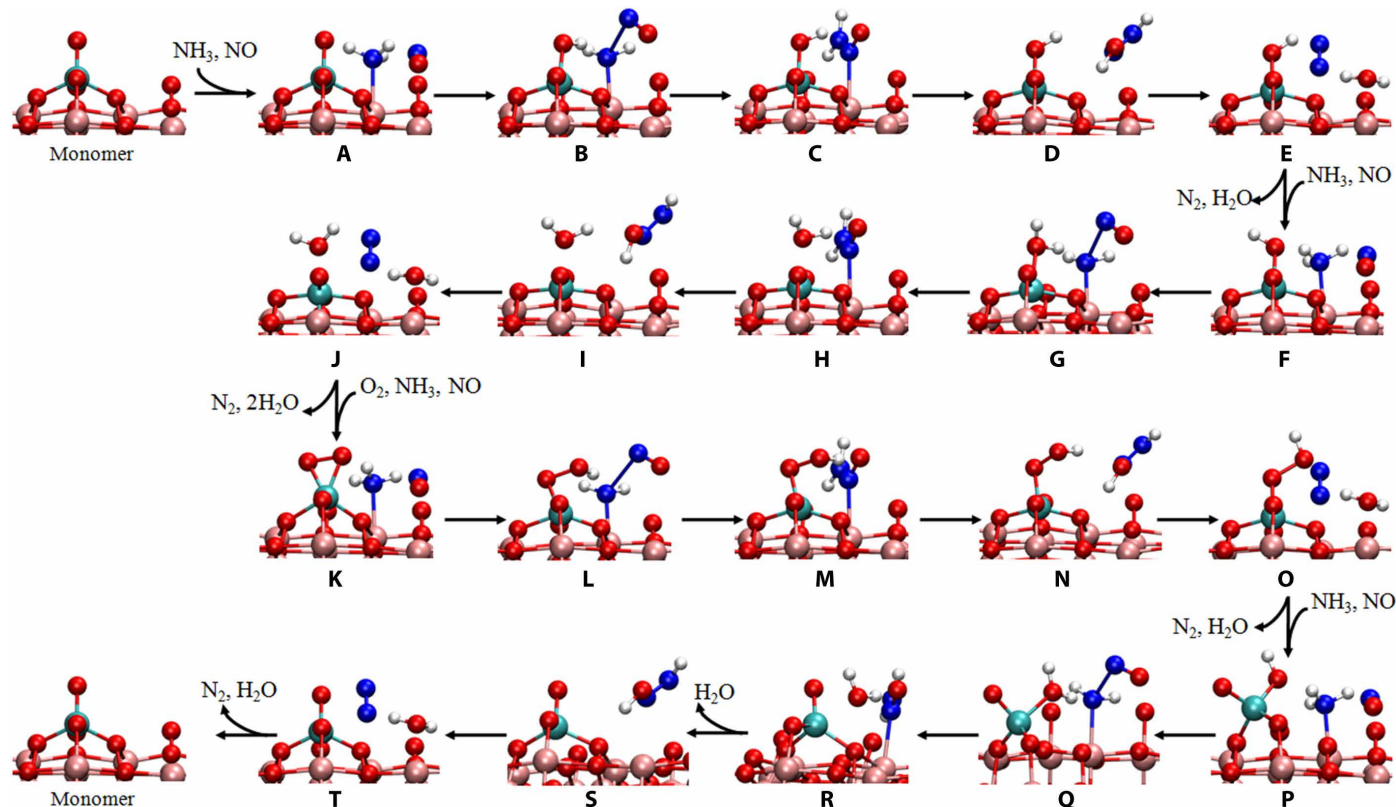


Fig. 3. Optimized geometries of the reactant, transition states, intermediate, and product for all elementary steps in the NH_3 -SCR mechanism over the monomeric vanadia/ TiO_2 surfaces. Red, pink, cyan, blue, and white circles denote O, Ti, V, N, and H atoms, respectively.

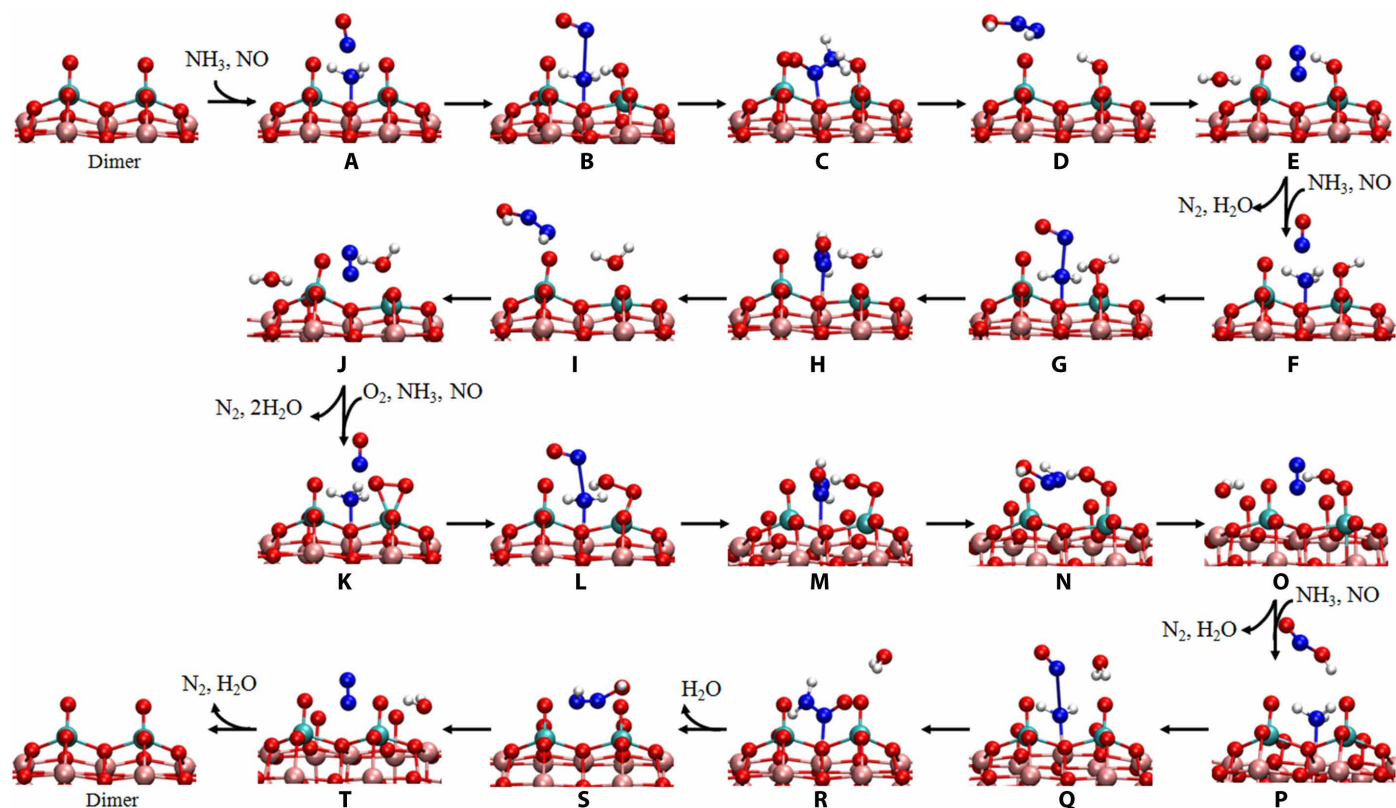


Fig. 4. Optimized geometries of the reactant, transition states, intermediate, and product for all elementary steps in the NH_3 -SCR mechanism over the dimeric vanadia/ TiO_2 surfaces. All legends are the same as those in Fig. 3.

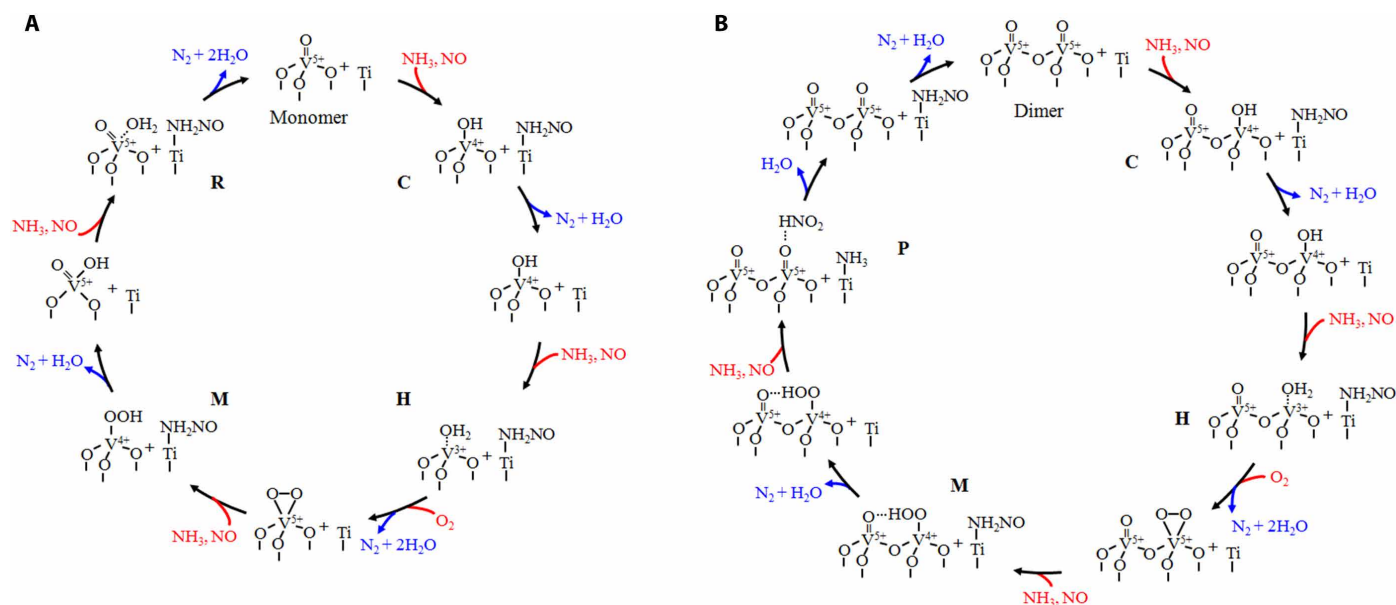


Fig. 5. Mechanism of the standard NH_3 -SCR reaction. (A) Reactions over monomeric vanadia/ TiO_2 surfaces. (B) Reactions over dimeric vanadia/ TiO_2 surfaces. Reactants are marked in red, and products are marked in blue. The letters at each state correspond to the structures in Figs. 3 and 4.

VOOH intermediate due to the formation of a hydrogen bond between the VOOH group and the adjacent $\text{V}=\text{O}$ group (fig. S7C), which allows a barrierless reaction between the VOOH intermediate and NO to occur on the polymeric vanadyl species. The regeneration of

redox sites, as well as the formation of a nitrous acid molecule (HNO_2), is achieved at this step (O \rightarrow P in Fig. 4). Yet on the monomeric vanadyl species, the regeneration of redox sites does not occur until the P \rightarrow R process (Fig. 3). In the following process, the reaction of

adsorbed NH_3 with HNO_2 is energetically more favorable than the reaction of adsorbed NH_3 with NO (P→T in Fig. 2). Therefore, the coupling effect of the polymeric vanadyl species not only shortens the reaction pathway for the regeneration of redox sites but also substantially reduces the overall reaction barrier of the catalytic cycle, which therefore greatly accelerates the NH_3 -SCR reaction. On the basis of the DFT calculations and experimental evidence, the entire NH_3 -SCR mechanism over the monomeric and dimeric vanadia/ TiO_2 surfaces was deduced and is summarized in Fig. 5.

DISCUSSION

Our study indicates that the surface structure of dispersed vanadia significantly affects the NH_3 -SCR activity of vanadia-based catalysts. Owing to the difference in elementary reaction steps, the polymeric vanadyl species exhibit markedly higher activity than the monomeric vanadyl species. The polymeric vanadia-based SCR mechanism reported here advances the understanding of the working principle of vanadia-based catalysts. In the removal of NO_x from mobile sources, catalysts with high vanadium loading have been prepared to enhance the low-temperature activity. However, the high vanadium loading would result in a decrease of the thermal stability and an enhancement of SO_2 oxidation. Here, we successfully obtained low vanadium-loading catalysts with excellent low-temperature SCR activity, which paves the way toward solving this problem.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Catalyst synthesis and activity test

The SO_4^{2-} -pretreated TiO_2 supports were prepared by the wet impregnation method. The $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ was dissolved in distilled water before TiO_2 was added to the solution. The mixture was agitated for 1 hour, and then the moisture was evaporated at 60°C using a rotary vacuum evaporator before drying overnight at 100°C . The mixture was calcined in air for 3 hours at 300°C . The resulting samples were labeled as $x\text{STi}$, where x is the loading amount of SO_4^{2-} . $1\text{V}/x\text{STi}$ catalysts were prepared by the wet impregnation method using ammonium metavanadate (1.0 wt % vanadium pentoxide) and calcined $x\text{STi}$ and were finally calcined in air for 3 hours at 500°C .

Before the NH_3 -SCR activity tests, the catalysts were pressed, crushed, and sieved to 40 to 60 mesh. The activity tests were carried out in a fixed-bed quartz flow reactor at atmospheric pressure. The reaction conditions were controlled as follows: 500 ppm NO , 500 ppm NH_3 , 5 volume percent (vol %) O_2 , 100 ppm SO_2 (when used), 10 vol % H_2O (when used), and N_2 balance. Under ambient conditions, the total flow rate was 500 ml/min, and the GHSV was $200,000 \text{ hour}^{-1}$. The effluent gas, including NO , NH_3 , NO_2 , and N_2O , was continuously analyzed by a Thermo Antaris IGS FTIR gas analyzer equipped with a heated, low-volume, multiple-path gas cell (2 m).

Catalyst characterization

The surface area and pore characteristics of the catalysts were obtained from N_2 adsorption/desorption analysis at -196°C using a Quantachrome Quadrasorb SI-MP. Before the N_2 physisorption, the catalysts were degassed at 300°C for 5 hours. The surface area was determined by the Brunauer-Emmett-Teller equation in the 0.05 to 0.35 partial pressure range. The pore volume and average pore diameter were determined by the Barrett-Joyner-Halenda method from the desorption branches of the isotherms.

XPS spectra of the catalysts were recorded on a scanning X-ray microprobe (Axis Ultra, Kratos Analytical Ltd.) using $\text{Al K}\alpha$ radiation (1486.7 eV). All the binding energies were calibrated using the C 1s peak (binding energy = 284.8 eV) as standard.

NH_3 -TPD experiments were performed using a quadrupole mass spectrometer (HPR-20, Hiden Analytical Ltd.) to record the signal of NH_3 [mass/charge (m/z) ratio = 15 for NH]. Before TPD experiments, the samples (150 mg) were pretreated at 400°C in a flow of 20 vol % O_2/N_2 (50 ml min^{-1}) for 0.5 hours and cooled down to room temperature. The samples were then exposed to a flow of 1% NH_3/N_2 (50 ml min^{-1}) at 50°C for 1 hour, followed by Ar purging for 1 hour. Last, the temperature was raised to 600°C in Ar flow at a rate of $10^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$.

Raman spectra were measured on a LabRAM HR 800 Raman spectrometer using a 532-nm laser as the excitation source. The spectrometer was equipped with an in situ reaction cell (PIKE Technologies), in which samples can be heated to 500°C in a gas flow. In our experiments, all catalysts were heated from room temperature to 400°C under an oxygen flow and then the Raman spectra were acquired.

The ^{51}V solid-state NMR experiments were performed at 11.7 T on a Bruker Avance III 500 spectrometer with a resonance frequency of 131.6 MHz, using a 1.9-mm HX double-resonance probe at a spinning rate of 40 kHz. The NMR spectra of ^{51}V were acquired using a Hahn-echo pulse sequence with a $\pi/2$ pulse width of 1.5 μs . For our samples with 1 wt % V_2O_5 loading, 60,000 scans with a 0.3-s recycle delay were used. The ^{51}V chemical shift was referenced to V_2O_5 at -610 ppm .

In situ DRIFTS measurements

In situ DRIFTS experiments were performed on a Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectrometer (Nicolet Nexus 670) equipped with a Smart Collector and an MCT/A detector cooled by liquid nitrogen. The reaction temperature was controlled precisely by an Omega programmable temperature controller. Before each experiment, the sample was pretreated at 300°C for 0.5 hours in a flow of 20 vol % O_2/N_2 and then cooled down to 150 or 250°C . The background spectra were collected in flowing N_2 and automatically subtracted from the sample spectrum. The reaction conditions were controlled as follows: total flow rate (300 ml min^{-1}), 500 ppm NH_3 and/or 500 ppm NO , 5 vol % O_2 , and N_2 balance. All spectra were recorded by accumulating 100 scans with a resolution of 4 cm^{-1} .

Computational details

Geometries and energies were calculated using the Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof functional (33) with van der Waals correction proposed by Grimme (i.e., DFT-D2 method) (34), as implemented in the Vienna ab initio simulation package (VASP 5.4.1) (35). The projector augmented wave method was used to describe the interaction between the ions and the electrons (36). The energy cutoff of the plane wave was set to 400 eV. A (2×4) supercell of the anatase (101) surface with two stoichiometric TiO_2 layers (about $11 \text{ \AA} \times 15 \text{ \AA} \times 6 \text{ \AA}$; see fig. S7, D and E) was used as the substrate. A vacuum gap of 12 \AA was used to avoid the periodic image interaction normal to the surface. During the geometrical optimization, the bottom TiO_2 layer was fixed at its bulk position, while all other atoms were allowed to relax, until the forces on each atom were smaller than 0.02 eV \AA^{-1} . Only the Γ point of the Brillouin zone was sampled. The Gaussian smearing method with a smearing width of 0.2 eV was used to accelerate the convergence of integration at the Brillouin zone. The reaction

pathways and transition states were traced by the climbing image nudged elastic band method with a spring constant of $5.0 \text{ eV } \text{Å}^{-2}$ (37, 38). No obvious differences in the structural properties ($<0.002 \text{ Å}$) and energy barriers ($<0.002 \text{ eV}$) were observed when k points were increased from the Γ point only to a $2 \times 1 \times 1$ k -point mesh and the energy cutoff from 400 to 600 eV (table S6), indicating that the calculations had converged, and the computational settings used here were reliable for describing the studied reactions. The coupling effect between two adjacent vanadyl species was generally applicable in dimeric and higher-order polymeric vanadia structures. During the NH_3 -SCR of NO over the polymeric vanadyl species, the coupling effect between the two adjacent vanadyl species (i.e., within a dimer unit of vanadia) at the reaction site accelerated the whole catalytic cycle, and hence, it could be expected that dimeric and higher-order polymeric vanadia would have similar effects on the SCR reaction. The dimeric vanadyl species is the basic structural unit of various polymeric vanadia structures and can reasonably represent the coupling effect in polymeric vanadia structures; hence, it was used as the model in our DFT calculations.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Supplementary material for this article is available at <http://advances.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/4/11/eaau4637/DC1>

Fig. S1. XRD patterns of vanadia/TiO₂ samples.

Fig. S2. N₂ selectivity as a function of temperature in the feed gas of 500 ppm NO/500 ppm NH₃/5.0 vol % O₂/N₂ (200,000 hour⁻¹).

Fig. S3. Effect of H₂O and SO₂ on NO_x conversion over the 1V/9STi catalyst at 350°C in the feed gas of 500 ppm NO/500 ppm NH₃/5.0 vol % O₂/N₂ (200,000 hour⁻¹).

Fig. S4. DRIFT spectra of NH₃ and NO + O₂ adsorption on the vanadia/TiO₂ catalysts.

Fig. S5. NMR spectra of vanadia/TiO₂ samples.

Fig. S6. V 2p XPS spectra of vanadia/TiO₂ samples.

Fig. S7. Models used in DFT calculations.

Table S1. Relative surface atomic concentrations of vanadia/TiO₂ samples obtained from XPS.

Table S2. N₂ physisorption results of vanadia/TiO₂ samples.

Table S3. A comparison of reaction rates and TOFs between our catalyst and reported commercial catalysts for the SCR of NO with NH₃ at 200°C.

Table S4. Vanadium valence distribution in vanadia/TiO₂ samples obtained from XPS.

Table S5. NH₃-SCR de-NO_x reaction rate constants (k) at 493.15 K (220°C) over the monomeric and dimeric vanadia/TiO₂ surfaces.

Table S6. DFT-calculated structural parameters and energy barriers (ΔE) for the formation of the first NH₂NO intermediate over the monomeric vanadia/TiO₂ surfaces (i.e., the A→C process in Figs. 2A and 3) with different computational settings.

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Acknowledgments: We thank F. Deng, J. Xu, Q. Wang, and X. Zhao for help in NMR measurement and data analysis. The NMR experiment was performed at the Wuhan Institute of Physics and Mathematics, CAS. **Funding:** This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (21637005 and 21607149), the National Key R&D Program of China (2016YFC0205301), and the K. C. Wong Education Foundation. **Author contributions:** H.H. conceived and supervised the project. G.H. conducted DFT calculations. Z.L., Y. Yang, K.L., X.S., Z.Y., and W.S. performed the experiments. G.H., Z.L., and Y. Yu wrote the manuscript. All the authors discussed the results and commented on the manuscript.

Competing interests: The authors declare that they have no competing interests. **Data and materials availability:** All data needed to evaluate the conclusions in the paper are present in the paper and/or the Supplementary Materials. Additional data related to this paper may be requested from the authors.

Submitted 13 June 2018

Accepted 29 October 2018

Published 30 November 2018

10.1126/sciadv.aau4637

Citation: G. He, Z. Lian, Y. Yu, Y. Yang, K. Liu, X. Shi, Z. Yan, W. Shan, H. He, Polymeric vanadyl species determine the low-temperature activity of V-based catalysts for the SCR of NO_x with NH₃. *Sci. Adv.* **4**, eaau4637 (2018).

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Sci Adv 4 (11), eaau4637.
DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.aau4637

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