X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy

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X-rays

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Catalytic Reaction Cell

Gas Chromatograph

Modern Methods in In Charles In Heterogeneous Catalysis Research

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Outline

- **X-ray absorption process**
- Introduction to information content of x-ray absorption spectroscopy
- Elements of an x-ray absorption spectroscopy experiment
- **Data analysis & development of EXAFS equation**
- Examples of application to catalyst characterization: XANES
- Examples of application to catalyst characterization: EXAFS



Acronyms

EXAFS – Extended X-ray Absorption Fine Structure XAS – X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy XAFS – X-ray Absorption Fine Structure XANES - X-ray Absorption Near Edge Structure NEXAFS- Near-Edge X-ray Absorption Fine Structure



Why X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy for Catalyst Characterization?



Can probe the catalyst structure under reaction conditions!



Why are we Interested in XAFS?

XAFS gives detailed element-specific information on oxidation state and local atomic structure.





What is XAFS?

- X-ray absorption fine structure is the modulation of the x-ray absorption coefficient (μ) at energies near and above an x-ray absorption edge.
- Commonly broken into two regimes:
 - XANES X-ray absorption near edge structure
 - EXAFS Extended x-ray absorption fine structure





X-ray Absorption Near Edge Structure (XANES)

Provides quantitative information on:

- Average oxidation state
- Local coordination environment
- Electronic structure (empty density of states)

Chemistry!



Extended X-ray Absorption Fine Structure (EXAFS)

Provides quantitative information on:

- Distance to neighboring atoms (average bond length, R_j)
- Coordination number and type of the neighboring atoms (N_i)
- Mean-square disorder of neighboring atoms (σ_i^2)

$$\chi(\mathbf{k}) = \sum_{\mathbf{j}} \frac{\mathbf{N_j f_j(\mathbf{k}) e^{-2k^2 \sigma_j^2}}}{k \mathbf{R_j}^2} \sin[2k \mathbf{R_j} + \boldsymbol{\delta_j(\mathbf{k})}]$$



X-ray Absorption

X-rays are absorbed by all matter through the photo-electric effect.

- An x-ray is absorbed by an atom when the energy of the x-ray is transferred to a core-level electron (K, L or M shell) which is ejected from the atom.
- The atom is left in an excited state with an empty electronic level (a core hole). Any excess energy from the x-ray is given to the ejected photo-electron.





Absorption Edges: Nomenclature

Absorption edge	Core level
Κ	1 <i>s</i>
L	2 s
L _{II}	2 p 1/2
L _{III}	2 p 3/2
M _I	3 <i>s</i>
M _{II}	3 p 1/2
M _{III}	3 p 3/2
M _{IV}	3 d 3/2
M _V	3 d 5/2



X-ray Fluorescence

When x-rays are absorbed via photo-electric effect, the excited core-hole will relax back to a ground state of the atom. A higher level core electron drops into core hole and a fluorescent x-ray (or Auger electron) is emitted.



X-ray Fluorescence: An x-ray with energy equal to the difference in core-levels is emitted.

XRF occurs at discrete energies that are characteristic of the absorbing atom, and can be used to identify the absorbing atom.



The X-ray Absorption Coefficient: μ

Intensity of x-ray beam passing through a material of thickness x is given by the absorption coefficient μ:

Where I_0 is the x-ray intensity impinging on the material and I_t is the intensity transmitted through the material.



The X-ray Absorption Coefficient: μ

μ has sharp absorption edges corresponding to the characteristic core-level energies of the atom.



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X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy

- XAS measures the energy dependence of the x-ray absorption coefficient μ(E) above the absorption edge of a particular element.
- μ(E) is measured in one of two ways:
 - Transmission: the absorption is measured by detecting the transmitted x-ray flux through the sample:

 $\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{I}_0 e^{-\mu(\mathbf{E})x}$ $\mu(\mathbf{E})x = \ln(\mathbf{I}/\mathbf{I}_0)$

- Fluorescence: the refilling of the deep core hole is detected. Usually the fluorescent x-ray is measured: $\mu(E) \propto I_f/I_0$





XAFS vs. XRD

X-ray Absorption Incident Energy Varied



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XAFS

- Can be used for *in situ* structure determination: photon-in / photon-out.
- Elementally specific: information around each element in multielement catalyst can be determined separately.
- X-ray absorption is a *bulk technique* but if the element of interest if highly dispersed then majority of atoms are surface atoms.
- Local order only: due to inelastic mean free path XAFS only probes local order (5-6 Å).
- All elements (except hydrogen).
- **Sensitivity:** bulk compounds to sub ppm.
- All phases can be studied: solids both crystalline and amorphous, liquids and gases.
- **Spatial information** with specialized experiments.



XANES: Local Coordination Environment



• Ti K-edge XANES shows dramatic dependence on the local coordination chemistry.



XANES: Oxidation State



- Many edges of many elements show significant, easily measurable, edge shifts (binding energy shifts) with oxidation state.
- First observation was by Berengren for phosphorus in 1920*!

*See "A history of X-ray absorption fine structure", R. Stumm von Bordwehr, Ann. Phys. Fr. 14 (1989) 377-466)



Elements of an XAFS Experiment





X-ray Source: Synchrotron

- Electrons at near relativistic energies are confined to a circular orbit by a series of bending magnets and straight sections. As electrons are deflected through a magnetic field they give off electromagnetic radiation.
- Synchrotron light:
 - Tunable
 - High Intensity
 - Collimated
 - Polarized
 - Time structure









Synchrotron Radiation





XAS Accessible Elements

	K-edge EXAFS All elements with Z>												>18 (18 (Ar) have a						
H				-edg	ge El	XAF	S	K or L-edge in the range 3-35 keV										Не		
Li	Be	L ₃ /K-edge EXAFS												С	Ν	0	F	Ne		
Na	Mg													Si	Р	S	Cl	Ar		
K	Ca		Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Со	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr		
Rb	Sr		Y	Zr	Nb	Мо	Тс	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	Ι	Xe		
Cs	Ba	*	Lu	Hf	Та	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Ро	At	Rn		
Fr	Ra	*	Lr	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg									

*	La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Но	Er	Tm	Yb
* *	Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No

X-ray Source: Synchrotron

 Typical layout of sector of a synchrotron source (Advanced Photon Source, Argonne National Laboratory)









Continuous source of radiationSpatially broad





Beamline

- Used to "transport" and condition the synchrotron radiation for the XAFS experiment.
- Slits, mirrors, monochromator, shutter similar to any other electromagnetic radiation source e.g. FTIR – only on a larger scale.
- Slits used to define beam size.





X-ray Mirrors

- Glancing incidence needed for reflectivity in x-ray energy range.
- Ultra-smooth surfaces needed (<1nm rms roughness).</p>
- Small angles mean mirrors need to be long.
- Mirrors used to collimate and focus the beam by bending.
- Also used for harmonic rejection.







Monochromator

- Used to select energy (wavelength) of interest.
- Must be able to scan the energy for XAFS.
- Must be very stable.



Si double crystal monochromator – energy scanned by rotating θ

- White beam impinges on perfect single crystal of Si of specific orientation.
- Photons that meet the Bragg diffraction condition $n\lambda = 2d_{hkl}sin(\theta)$ are diffracted.
- Second crystal simply redirects the beam parallel to incident beam.



Monochromator





Detectors: Ionization chamber

Used for transmission experiments







Typical values: at 10 keV, G_{amp} = 1x10⁸ V/A, measuring 1V means 2 x 10⁸ photons/s

Photon is absorbed by gas atom (He, N_2 , Ar - dependent on energy)

Photoelectrons emitted (ionization)

These electron initiate more ionization

High voltage bias across plates causes electron and ions to drift in opposite directions.

Charges collected result in current flow which is proportional to the incident x-ray intensity



Detectors: Fluorescence





Multi-element solid state (Si or Ge) detector

Measures charge from individual photon rather than average

Small solid angle

Energy resolution 200-300 eV

Individual element limited to 10⁵ counts/s

Dead-time correction important

Used for low concentration of element (<0.5 wt%)



The Sample

"For transmission measurements the ideal sample is uniform and has a thickness of ~2 absorption lengths. It should be free of pinholes (areas of high x-ray transmission). If a powder the grains should be very fine (<< absorption length) and uniform"



If sample too thick most photons do not get through If sample too thin most photons do not interact Ideal: μ ~ 2-3



The Sample: Absorption Length

- Absorption length should always be calculated before beginning an XAFS measurement.
 - Absorption length = $1/\mu$

(distance over which x-ray intensity drops by 1/e = 37%).

- For single substance $\mu = \rho.\sigma$
 - Where $\rho = \text{density } (g/cm^3)$ and $\sigma = \text{cross section } (cm^2/g)$
- For multi-element substance: $\mu = \rho_M \sum_{i} \frac{m_i}{M} \sigma_i$
 - Where ρ_M is the density, m_i/M is the mass fraction of element *i*



The Sample: Absorption Length

Fe₃O₄ at 7.2 keV

Density 5.2 g/cm³

MW = 231.7 g/mol

 $\sigma_{\text{Fe}} = 393.5 \text{ cm}^2/\text{g}; M_{\text{Fe}} = 55.9 \text{ g/mol}$ $f_{\text{Fe}} = 55.9/231.7 = 0.724$

 $\sigma_0 = 15.0 \text{ cm}^2/\text{g}; M_0 = 16.0 \text{ g/mol}$ $f_0 = 16/231.7 = 0.276$

 $\mu = 5.2 \text{ g/cm}^3 \text{ x } \left[(0.724 \text{ x } 393.5 \text{ cm}^2/\text{g}) + (0.276 \text{ x } 15.0 \text{ cm}^2/\text{g}) \right] \\= 1503 \text{ cm}^{-1} \\= 0.15 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$

Absorption length = $1/0.15 \ \mu m = 6.7 \ \mu m$



The Sample

Use as homogeneous (uniform) sample as possible: logarithms do not add!

$$\ln\left(\frac{I_{01}}{I_{t1}} + \frac{I_{02}}{I_{t2}}\right) \neq \ln\left(\frac{I_{01}}{I_{t1}}\right) + \ln\left(\frac{I_{02}}{I_{t2}}\right) \Longrightarrow \mu_{combined} \neq \mu_1 + \mu_2$$

Fluorescence detection measurements have fewer requirement on the sample. Usually used for dilute samples.



In situ XAFS Measurements

- Key strength of the technique.
- Ability to probe the local atomic and geometric structure of the catalyst under reaction conditions.
- Need some type of reaction vessel that holds the sample that is compatible both with the spectroscopy and with the catalysis.
- Many, many different designs in the literature.
- Many factors to consider: temperature, pressure, transmission, fluorescence, x-ray energy, form of catalyst, etc.


In situ cell







Important Considerations

- Monochromatic x-rays: need x-rays with small energy spread △E ~1 eV at 10 keV
- Linear Detectors: the XAFS signal is small, so lots of photons needed and detectors that are linear in x-ray intensity
- Well-aligned Beam: the x-ray beam hitting the detectors should be the same as that hitting the detectors
- Homogeneous Sample: uniform and of appropriate thickness, free of pinholes
- Counting Statistics: good μ(E) data should have a noise level of ~10⁻³, so need to collect at least 10⁶ photons



XAFS in Practice

We are interested in the energy dependent oscillations µ(E) as these tell us something about the neighboring atoms, so we define EXAFS as:

$$\chi(E) = \frac{\mu(E) - \mu_0(E)}{\Delta \mu_0(E_0)}$$

The "bare atom" background $\mu_0(E)$ is subtracted from the spectrum, and divided by the "edge step" $\Delta u_0(E)$ to give the EXAFS oscillations normalized to one absorption event:







XAFS is an interference effect that depends on the wave nature of the photoelectron. It is therefore convenient to think of XAFS in terms of the photoelectron wavenumber, k, rather than x-ray energy:

$$k = \sqrt{\frac{2m(E - E_0)}{\hbar^2}}$$

χ(k) is often weighted (multiplied) by k² or k³ to amplify the oscillations at high-k





EXAFS: An interference effect

Photoelectron waves either constructively or destructively interfere, giving rise to oscillation in the amplitude.



EXAFS spectrum comprised of a series of sine waves of different amplitude representative of the different scattering paths undertaken by the photoelectron wave.



Fourier Transform

- One way to separate the sine waves from one another is to perform a Fourier transform.
- The resulting magnitude of the transform now has peaks representative of the different scattering paths of the photoelectron.













3-legged scattering path: 24 similar paths at this distance but small amplitude. Most multiple-scattering paths are weak – except co-linear paths!







In reality.....

- In previous example we knew the structure and were able to determine the individual scattering paths.
- In a "real" situation we have the EXAFS data and wish to determine the scattering paths in order to determine the local structure around the element of interest in the catalyst.
- Therefore we have to fit the experimental spectrum with scattering paths from a model.



The EXAFS Equation: simple description



With a spherical wave e^{ikR}/kR for the propagating photoelectron, and a scattering atom at a distance R, we get:

$$\chi(k) = \frac{e^{ikR}}{kR} \Big[2kf(k)e^{i\delta(k)} \Big] \frac{e^{ikR}}{kR} + C.C.$$

Where the neighboring atom gives the amplitude f(k) and phase shift $\delta(k)$ to the scattered photoelectron



The EXAFS Equation: simple description

Combining the terms (including the complex conjugate) we get:

$$\chi(k) = \frac{f(k)}{kR^2} \sin\left[2kR + \delta(k)\right]$$

for one scattering atom.

For N scattering atoms, and the thermal and static disorder of σ^2 , resulting in the mean-square disorder in **R**, we get:

$$\chi(k) = \frac{Nf(k)e^{-2k^2\sigma^2}}{kR^2} \sin\left[2kR + \delta(k)\right]$$

A real system will have neighboring atoms at different distances and of different types. If these are added we get:

$$\chi(k) = \sum_{i} \frac{N_i f_i(k) e^{-2k^2 \sigma_i^2}}{kR_i^2} \sin\left[2kR_i + \delta_i(k)\right]$$



The EXAFS Equation

$$\chi(k) = S_0^2 \sum_{i} N_i \frac{\left|f_i(k)\right|}{kR_i^2} e^{(-2\sigma_i^2 k^2)} e^{(-2R_i/\lambda(k))} \sin(2kR_i + 2\delta_i + \varphi_i)$$

- N_i is the number of scattering atoms of type *i*
 - is the distance from the central atom to the scattering atom
 - is the amplitude reduction factor (due to multielectron processes).
- S_{0}^{2} $e^{(-2\sigma_i^2k^2)}$ is a term to account for the disorder in the position of the atoms.

is a damping factor to account for the fact that the photoelectron wave is $\rho^{(-2R_i/\lambda(k))}$ only scattered elastically over a short distance.

- $f_i(k)$ is the scattering amplitude at atom *i*
- δ_i is the phase shift undergone by the photoelectron at the central atom
- φ_i is the phase shift undergone by the photoelectron when it bounces off the scattering atom



R_i

The EXAFS Equation

$$\chi(k) = S_0^2 \sum_{i} N_i \frac{\left| f_i(k) \right|}{kR_i^2} e^{(-2\sigma_i^2 k^2)} e^{(-2R_i/\lambda(k))} \sin(2kR_i + 2\delta_i + \varphi_i)$$

- The scattering amplitude
- The phase shift

these depend on the atomic number of the scattering atom so we can determine the species of the neighboring atom

- The mean free path, λ, depends on k, but in EXAFS k-range, λ<25Å
- 1/R² term

these terms make EXAFS a local probe (short range order)



The EXAFS Equation

$$\chi(k) = \sum_{i} \chi_{i}(k)$$
The measured EXAFS is a sum of
all of the individual scattering paths

$$\chi_{i}(k) = \operatorname{Im}\left(\frac{\left(N_{i}S_{0}^{2}\right)F_{i}(k)}{kR_{i}^{2}}\exp(i(2kR_{i}+\varphi_{i}(k))\exp(-2\sigma_{i}^{2}k^{2})\exp\left(\frac{-2R_{i}}{\lambda(k)}\right)\right)$$

$$R_{i} = R_{0} + \Delta R$$

$$k^{2} = 2m_{e}(E - E_{0})/\hbar$$

Theoretically calculated values:

 $F_i(k)$ effective scattering amplitude $\varphi_i(k)$ effective scattering phase shift $\lambda(k)$ mean free path

Starting Values:

Parameters determined in fit:

 N_i degeneracy of path S_0^2 passive electron reduction factor σ_i^2 mean square displacement E_0 energy shift △R change in path length



R

EXAFS Analysis





Examples of Application of XAFS to Catalyst Characterization









XANES Transitions

- XANES directly probes the angular momentum of the unoccupied electronic states: these may be bound or unbound, discrete or broad, atomic or molecular.
- Dipole selection rules apply*: $\Delta l = \pm 1$, $\Delta j = \pm 1$, $\Delta s = 0$.
- Primary transition will be:
 - $s \rightarrow p$ for K (1s core electron) and L₁ (2s core electron initial state) edges
 - $p \rightarrow d$ for L₂ (2 $p_{1/2}$) and L₃ (2 $p_{3/2}$) edges
- But....final state usually not atomic-like and may have mixing (hybridization) with other orbitals. This is often the interesting part of the XANES!

* Some transitions are true quadrupolar transitions. These are usually very weak.



XANES Interpretation

- The EXAFS equation breaks down at low-*k*, which complicates XANES interpretation.
- We do not have a simple equation for XANES.

XANES can be described *qualitatively* (and nearly *quantitatively*) in terms of:
coordination chemistry regular, distorted octahedral, tetrahedral...
molecular orbitals p-d hybridization, crystal field theory
band structure the density of available occupied electronic states
multiple scattering multiple bounces of the photoelectron

• These chemical and physical interpretations are all related: What electronic states can the photoelectron fill?



Advantages of XANES vs. EXAFS

- Spectra simpler to measure than EXAFS: features intense, concentrated in small energy region.
- Weak temperature dependence (Debye-Waller), so spectra can be recorded at reaction temperature (*in situ*):
 - $\operatorname{Exp}(-2k^2\sigma^2) = \exp(-2(0.5)^2 \ge 0.005) \sim 1$
- Faster to measure than full spectrum: <msec demonstrated.
- Sensitive to chemical information: valence, charge transfer.
- Probes unoccupied electronic states: important in chemistry.
- Often used as simple "fingerprint" to identify presence of a particular chemical species.
- Beamlines with micro-probe capabilities can also scan energy and obtain XANES spectra with elemental distribution.



XANES Analysis: Oxidation State

Many, many examples in the literature.....



Ref: Wong et al., Phys Rev. B 30 (1984) 5596



XANES Analysis: Oxidation State



• Linear fit of Mo valence with K-edge position only obtained using a feature above the absorption edge!



T. Ressler et al. J. Cat 210 (2002) 67

Metal K-edge XANES



- Intense edge absorption due to dipole allowed s \rightarrow p transition ($\Delta l = \pm 1$).
- Weaker pre-edge feature results from mixing of 3d-4p orbitals of suitable symmetry (or from quadrupolar allowed transition ~2 orders magnitude weaker).



Molybdenum Oxides



- Both nominally +6 oxidation state, but distinctly different XANES spectra.
- Slight edge shift different degree of covalency of the Mo.
- Pre-edge peak more intense for tetrahedral coordination compared to distorted octahedral.



Transition Metal K-edge Pre-edge Peaks

Pure octahedral case

Centro-symmetric: no p-d mixing allowed; only quadrupolar transitions – very low intensity

Distortion from octahedral



p-d mixing allowed: dipole transition in preedge – increasingly larger intensity.

Pure tetrahedral

Largest pre-edge intensity.



Local Site Symmetry in Ti-containing Compounds





• Symmetry around absorbing atom strongly affects pre-edge transition: ability to differentiate 4, 5, 6-fold coordination.



Local Site Symmetry in Ti-containing Compounds

- Correlation between **absolute position and peak height** of pre-edge peak: all 4-fold, 5-fold and 6-fold coordinated Ti compounds fall into separate domains.
- Ability to distinguish Ti coordination from pre-edge peak information.





Ligand-Metal Binding from Ligand K-edge XANES

- Provides direct experimental measurement of the ligand 3p character in the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO).
- Allows study of "spectator" ligand effects.





Ligand-Metal Binding: Cl K-edge XANES



- Position of the ligand pre-edge peak depends primarily on the d manifold energy (metal oxidation state). Compounds with d-band closest to the Cl 3p energy have strongest M-Cl bonding, and highest covalency.
- In Pt(NH₃)₃Cl₂ there is no direct M-Cl bonding: Cl is a "spectator" ligand so no pre-edge peak.



Chlorine K-edge XANES of Pt/y-Al₂O₃



■ Reduction of Pt from Pt⁴⁺ → Pt²⁺ → Pt⁰ with loss of Pt-Cl bonds.

■ Total loss of Pt-Cl bonding by 250°C.



"White Line" Intensity: Oxides

Re L₃-edge - Transition from 2p3/2 to 5d states.





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Pt L₃ and L₂ Edge XANES

• Significant difference in L_3 and L_2 edge XANES: 2p to 5d transitions.



- Same l=2 final density of states but because of selection rule, $\Delta j = \pm 1$, different total quantum number probed.
- Only j=3/2 probed by L₂-edge, both j=3/2 and j=5/2 probed by L₃-edge.



XANES to Probe Charge Transfer in Alloys: PtGe



- Transition is 2*p* to 5*d*: Pt *d*-band full, so "no" intensity at edge.
- PtGe intermetallics: charge transfer from *d*-band of Pt to Ge, resulting in significant intensity at edge.
- Use as signature of Pt-Ge intermetallic formation.


XANES to Probe Charge Transfer in Alloys: PtGe/γ-Al₂O₃ catalysts



• Pt in the reduced catalyst is primarily present as a Pt₃Ge₂ alloy cluster



Effect of Adsorbed Molecules on XANES of Dispersed Metal Clusters

- Have to be careful and consistent as to how your data are collected.
- Is there hydrogen (or any other molecule) adsorbed on the metal cluster?
- If there is then the "chemistry" of the metal-adsorbed molecule could affect the XANES.
- Combination of *ab initio* theory and (high resolution) XANES potential powerful tool for determining adsorption site.



Effect of Adsorbed Hydrogen on Pt L₃ XANES



10-15Å Pt clusters supported on Al_2O_3

- White-line intensity decreases and spectra broaden to higher energies as H is added.
- Difference signal typically leads to broad structure ~8 eV above absorption edge.
- Several different interpretations in the literature.



Adsorption Sites by XANES

Identification of CO Adsorption Sites in Supported Pt Catalysts Using High-Energy-Resolution Fluorescence Detection X-ray Spectroscopy

5wt% Pt/ γ -Al₂O₃

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Best agreement with data: CO on atop site on a Pt₆ cluster

Other configurations tried: bridge and face bridging

Combination of high resolution XAFS and FEFF8.2 reveals adsorption site for CO in Pt catalysts



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Time-Resolved XANES

Can obtain kinetic information on the catalyst structure by recording the XANES in situ as a function of some parameter (temperature, pressure, flow rate, etc.).

Observe structural changes with e.g. time.







Quick XANES

- Slew monochromator continuously to obtain a XANES spectrum in few seconds (X18B).
- All modes of detection.

Dispersive XANES

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- Polychromatic beam dispersed onto linear detector.
- ANNES spectrum in msec.
 Transmission only.
 Need extremely uniform samples.

TPR-XANES: In situ Kinetics of Transformations

- Many, many examples in the literature of using in situ XANES to monitor the transformation of the catalyst from one species/oxidation state to another.
- This is the most frequent current use of in situ XANES and catalysis.
- No "knowledge" of EXAFS fitting required.
- Use linear combination or PCA to determine the absolute amount of each species during the transformation.







In situ TPR-XANES Studies

In situ reduction of 0.7wt% Re/Al₂O₃



• Collect Re L₃-edge XANES while heating catalyst in flow of H₂



In situ TPR-XANES Studies

In situ reduction of 0.7wt% Re/Al₂O₃



• Collect Re L₃-edge XANES while heating catalyst in flow of H₂



Time Evolution of XANES: Kinetics



Time Evolution of XANES: Kinetics

TPR-XANES showing reduction of vanadium oxidebased catalyst is heated in H_2 to 500°C



80 sec/scan at X19A



Vanadium K-edge

XANES

Analysis of Mixtures

- XANES useful technique to quantitatively determine composition of a mixture of species.
- Useful for following time evolution of species during a chemical reaction.
- Two most common methods:
 - Least squares linear combination fitting
 - Principal component analysis



Least Squares Linear Combination Fitting

- Use a linear combination of spectra of various reference samples.
- Allows quantification of species in multiple-component mixture from their fingerprint in the XANES region.
- Use a least-squares algorithm to refine the sum of a given number of reference spectra to an experimental spectrum.
- Simple method, easy to implement.
- Must have good quality spectra of the reference compounds recorded under similar conditions energy alignment is critical.



Linear Combination Fitting





Future Prospects

Imaging XANES High resolution XANES Selective XANES



2D Imaging of Catalyst Structure

2D-Mapping of the Catalyst Structure Inside a Catalytic Microreactor at Work: Partial Oxidation of Methane over Rh/Al_2O_3

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2D Imaging of Catalyst Structure



Figure 5. Amount of oxidized Rh-species (depicted in (a), oxidized species 1 in (d)), reduced Rh-species (depicted in (b), reduced species 2 in (d)) and the distribution of other elements that show a featureless absorption spectrum in the given energy range (c) along the capillary (original image taken by CCD-camera was 3.0 mm \times 1.5 mm; the reaction gas mixture 6%CH4/3%O₂/He enters from the left).



X-Selective XANES

- In concept by selecting a single fluorescence decay channel there are many different types of XANES either already demonstrated or feasible:
 - Spin-selective
 - Edge-selective
 - Valence-selective
 - Neighbor-selective



Examples of Application of XAFS to Catalyst Characterization

EXAFS



Supported Metal Clusters: Information from in situ XAFS

- Average metal cluster size (and shape)
- Average composition of bimetallic alloy clusters – is an alloy formed?
- d-density of states of metal clusters
- Effect of adsorbates on cluster structure and electronic properties.
 Impact of adsorbates





In situ XAFS and Cluster Size

- The average coordination number is a strong function of cluster size for clusters <15Å diameter. $\chi(k) = \sum_{j} \frac{N_{j} f_{j}(k) e^{-2k^{2} \sigma_{j}^{2}}}{kR_{j}^{2}} sin[2kR_{j} + \delta_{j}(k)]$
- Use this to estimate average cluster size.







Supported Metal Cluster Size & Morphology



Cuboctahedron

or



Hemispherical Cuboctahedron (111)

or

Bimetallic alloy clusters

Shape

texture

and



Surface segregation

or



Core segregation

Random



EXAFS Analysis to Determine Size & Shape of Re clusters on γ -Al₂O₃

- Re supported on γ-Al₂O₃ is catalyst is has been shown to have high activity and high selectivity in olefin metathesis in oxidic form; when Re forms a bimetallic cluster with Pt then the subsequent Pt-Re clusters are used in petroleum reforming catalysts.
- What is the structure of Re species on the γ-Al₂O₃ surface after the alumina is impregnated with perrhenic acid, calcined, dried and reduced?



Re L₃-edge EXAFS of in situ Dried Oxidized Catalyst





- Four O atoms in distorted tetrahedral arrangement (3 short, 1 long)
- [ReO₄] is anchored to the alumina surface through Re-O-Al linkage.
- Similar structure for 0.5-10 wt% Re.
- Structure consistent with indirect characterization data in the literature (laser Raman & FTIR).



J. Phys. Chem. B (2006) submitted.

Wet Reduced Re clusters on Al₂O₃

- Reduction of oxidized Re in wet hydrogen leads to agglomeration of the Re clusters.
- EXAFS used to estimate both the average size and shape of the resulting Re clusters.

		Bulk St	ructure		
12	6	2	18	12	6
	EXA	AFS fit to	Wet Redu	uced	
9.6 ± 0.4	3.3 ± 0.5	1.3 ± 0.9	11.7 ± 1.4	4.4 ± 2.6	5.2 ± 0.6





Wet Reduced Re Clusters on Al₂O₃



A Honeywell Company



- Average cluster size not consistent with spherical or cuboctahedron or hemispherical models.
- Best fit to EXAFS data consistent with a 5 layer sheet-like Re cluster, with average diameter of ~30Å.





Definitive Structure of "Active Site"

- EXAFS can be used to obtain detailed structural information of the "active site" – the species present on the catalyst surface after some pre-treatment but prior to reaction, or even during the reaction.
- Ideally suited when there is a well-defined bonding arrangement between surface species of interest and the support *and* all the species are the same, or when heteroatom substituted into a zeolite.
- No other way to obtain this information.





EXAFS analysis of Sn-beta Zeolite: location of Sn atoms

- Sn-beta is an excellent catalyst for some oxidation reactions.
- Wanted to determine if the Sn is substituted into the zeolite framework, and if so, where in the framework.



Key: T5 T6 T3 T4 T1 T2 T9 T7 T8 O



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EXAFS Model for Cassiterite



Path	N	reff	ΔR	σ^2	ΔE
Sn-O1	4	2.0519	Alpha•reff	$\sigma^2 o 1$	ΔΕο1
Sn-O2	2	2.0567	Alpha•reff	σ²01	ΔΕ01
Sn-Sn1	2	3.1864	Alpha•reff	$\sigma^2 sn1$	ΔEsn
Sn-O3	4	3.5906	Alpha•reff	$\sigma^2 o 3$	ΔΕο2
Sn-Sn2	8	3.7093	Alpha•reff	$\sigma^2 sn2$	ΔEsn
Sn-O5	8	4.2414	Alpha•reff	$\sigma^2 o 5$	ΔΕο2
Sn-Sn3	4	4.7373	Alpha•reff	$\sigma^2 sn3$	ΔEsn
Sn-O7	8	4.8006	Alpha•reff	σ ² 07	ΔΕο2
Sn-Sn4	8	5.7092	Alpha•reff	σ^2 sn4	ΔEsn
Sn-Sn5	8	5.8365	Alpha•reff	σ ² sn4	ΔEsn
Sn-Sn7	4	6.6995	Alpha•reff	$\sigma^2 sn7$	ΔEsn
Sn-Sn8	8	7.4187	Alpha•reff	$\sigma^2 sn 8$	ΔEsn
Sn-Sn9	16	7.6578	Alpha•reff	σ^2 sn9	ΔEsn

- Used to determine S₀² for Sn.
- **The model is described by 18 parameters**



EXAFS Model and Cassiterite data



The model reproduces the data to 7.7 Å



Local Structure about the Si Sites in Beta



• There are three groupings of the framework sites in β -zeolite.



EXAFS Models for Sn-Beta Zeolite, Site T5



Path	Ν	Reff (Å)	ΔR	σ^2		
Sn in Si SiteT5of beta-zeolite structure						
Sn-O1	4	1.86	ΔRo1	σ ² 01		
Sn-O1a-O1b triangle	12	3.38	Δ R 0101	σ ² 0101		
Sn-Si1	3	3.57	∆Rsi1	σ ² si1		
Sn-O1-Si1	6	3.65	∆Rsi1	σ ² si1		
Sn-O1-Si1-O1	3	3.72	∆Rsi1	σ ² si1		
Sn-Si2	1	3.66	ΔRsi2	σ ² si2		
Sn-O1-Si2	2	3.70	∆Rsi2	σ ² si2		
Sn-O1-Si2-O1	1	3.72	∆Rsi2	σ ² si2		
Sn-O1-Sn-O1	4	3.72	2•∆Rsi1	4·σ²01		
Sn-O2	2	4.24	ΔRo2	σ^2 o2		
Sn-O3	2	4.30	ΔRo2	σ²02		
Sn-O4	2	4.40	ΔRo2	σ²02		
Sn-Si3	3	4.28	ΔRsi3	σ ² si3		

The model is described with 13 parameters



Comparison of Models for Beta-Zeolite



• All models give Sn-O = 1.91Å, consistent with tetrahedral Sn(IV), and CN = 4. Thus, Sn is in the beta framework.



Comparison of Models for Beta-Zeolite



 Model for Site T5 clearly better fit to the data. Sn preferentially occupies T5 sites in beta framework

• Supported statistically by value of χ^2 . Value ~20 times less than other 2 sites.

Best Fit Values for Sn in Site T5

Path	Ν	R_{eff} (Å)	R (Å)	ΔR (Å)	_	
		XRD for Si in site T5	EXAFS for Sn in site T5	% Change		Y
Sn-O1	4	1.62	1.906 ± 0.001	16		
Sn-Si1	3	3.15	3.50 ± 0.01	10	Site T5	
Sn-Si2	1	3.20	3.86 ± 0.10	17		
Sn-O2	2	3.70	4.48 ± 0.02	19	10%	T
Sn-O3	2	3.75	4.53 ± 0.02	19		
Sn-O4	2	3.83	4.63 ± 0.02	19		1
Sn-Si3	3	4.31	4.03 ± 0.05	-6.7	16%	
Sn-Sn	1	5.01	4.99 ± 0.04	-0.4	- 10/0	
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- First neighbor oxygen atom distances are expanded by 16%
- First neighbor Si atom distances are expanded by 10%
- Second neighbor Si atom distance is contracted by 7%





- EXAFS shows that there is negligible contribution from Sn at 4.3Å and that positions at 5.1Å are 100% occupied by Sn.
- **Thus, substitution of Sn is always paired!**
- If T5 site is occupied by Sn then T5 site on opposite side of 6-ring is always occupied by Sn.
- Sn loading is 0.5 Sn per unit cell, so on average only 1 of 8 BEA unit cells occupied by pair of Sn atoms.


Summary: EXAFS

- Provides quantitative element specific information on:
 - Distance to neighboring atoms (average bond length, R_j)
 - Coordination number and type of the neighboring atoms (N_j)
 - Mean-square disorder of neighboring atoms (σ_i^2)
- Can be performed on all forms of matter.
- **Can be performed on all elements (>H).**
- Can be performed in situ.
- **Can provide time-resolved, and spatially resolved information.**



Summary: XANES

XANES is a much larger signal than EXAFS

XANES can be done at lower concentrations, and less-than-perfect sample conditions.

XANES is easier to crudely interpret than EXAFS

For many systems, the XANES analysis based on linear combinations of known spectra from "model compounds" is sufficient.

More sophisticated linear-algebra techniques, such as principal component analysis can be applied to XANES spectra.

XANES is harder to fully interpret than EXAFS

The exact physical and chemical interpretation of all spectral features is still difficult to do accurately, precisely, and reliably.

This situation is improving.....



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- Many websites: e.g. <u>http://www.xafs.org</u> and <u>http://www.i-x-s.org/</u>



Additional Slides



Miscellaneous: E to k







Miscellaneous: "Yellow book"

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Transitions





Energy Resolution

- Depends on divergence and intrinsic resolution.
- From derivative of Bragg equation, divergence results in: $\Delta E/E = \cot(\theta)\Delta\theta$
- $\Delta \theta$ determined by slits (or collimating mirror if present).
- Example: 1mm slit 30m from source at 10 keV with Si(111) monochromator

 $\Delta \theta = 1/30000 = 3.3 \times 10^{-5}, \theta = 11.4 \text{ or } \cot(\theta) = 4.9$

From divergence: $\Delta E/E = 3.3 \times 10^{-5} (4.9) = 1.6 \times 10^{-4}$

Add divergence term and intrinsic term in quadrature to get approximate final resolution:

 $\Delta E/E = \sqrt{(1.6 \times 10^{-4})^2 + (1.3 \times 10^{-4})^2} = 2.1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ or } 2.1 \text{ eV}$

