

Modern Methods in Heterogeneous Catalysis Research



Diffuse Reflectance Spectroscopy in Heterogeneous Catalysis

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Outline

- 1. Some theory
- 2. Technical solutions
- 3. Applications

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- 1. Some theory
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- 3. Applications

Electromagnetic spectrum and transitions in molecules



Z. Sojka et al. Handbook of Heterogeneous Catalyis , Chapter 3.2.3.2

- LMCT ligand-to-metal-charge-transfer
- MLCT metal-to-ligand-charge-transfer
- MMCT metal-to-metal-charge-transfer

Spectroscopy using UV-visible-NIR light

What can we learn from UV-vis-NIR spectroscopy in heterogeneous catalysis?

The spectrum is a function of the physical-chemical properties of the absorbing / emitting system



Investigations in heterogeneous catalysis using UV-visible-NIR light

- Analysis of precursor solutions
- Interactions of precursor solutions with supports
- Precipitation and aging
- Structure and dispersion of supported species
- Chemical changes during thermal treatment and reaction
- Particle size
- Band gap of semiconductors
 - Nature of adsorbed species (intermediates, spectators or poison)

6600





6702

6271

6697

6697

660-

6601

Fiber optics

Diffuse refectance spectroscopy (DRS)

Interaction of light with a solution in transmission



reflection at phase boundaries

 Fraction of reflected light can be eliminated through reference measurement with same materials (cuvette+ solvent)

Transmitted light and absorption properties





$$dI = -I \kappa c dx$$

decrease of I in an infinitesimally thin layer

c: molar concentration of absorbing species [mol/m⁻³] κ : the molar napierian extinction coefficient [m²/mol]

$$\int_{I_0}^{I} \frac{dI}{I} = -\int_{x=0}^{x=l} \kappa c \, dx$$

separation of variables and integration over sample thickness I

Transmitted light and absorption properties



$$\tau_{\lambda} = \frac{I}{I_{0}} = e^{-\kappa c l} = 1 - \alpha$$
 Lambert-Beer Law

$$\ln\left(\frac{I}{I_{0}}\right)_{\lambda} = A_{e} = \kappa c l = -\ln(\tau)$$
 napierian absorbance
Napier-Absorbanz

$$\log e = 0.434$$

$$A_{10} = \varepsilon c l = -\log(\tau) = E$$
 (decadic) absorbance
dekadische Absorbanz

bance nz

bance orbanz

standard spectroscopy software uses A₁₀!

extinction E (means absorbed + scattered light (negligible in solutions)) absorbance $A(A_{10} \text{ or } A_e)$

These quantities are DIMENSIONLESS !!!!

Valid only in diluted solutions c< 0.01 mol/l

Study of precursor solutions in catalyst synthesis

Investigation of precursor solutions and mother liquor during synthesis of a complex MoVTeNb oxide by hydrothermal synthesis



Mo/V = 1/0.25, (c) MoVTe filtrate, and (d) MoVTeNb filtrate

A. Celaya Sanfiz et al., Topics in Catalysis, 50 (2008) 19.

Study of precursor solutions in catalyst synthesis

Condensation of Mo oxo ions in aqueous solutions Measurements Sabrina Jung, data analysis required



Anal. Chem. 1988, 60,2055-2059.



Solid catalysts are mainly powders - typical catalyst particles





Interaction of light with solid matter in transmission



$$I_0 = I_r + I_s + I_a + I_a$$

Electromagnetic spectrum: wavelength





- Scattering is considerable for colloids and solids when the wavelength is in the order of magnitude of the particle size – DRIFTS beneficial
- Transmission provides advantage in terms of quantification

Single scattering and particle size

deflection of electromagnetic or corpuscular radiation from its original direction



Specular and diffuse reflection

Reflection of radiant energy at boundary surfaces

mirror-type (polished) surfaces

Specular mirror reflection mirror reflection surface reflection specular reflection reguläre Reflexion gerichtete Reflexion

> reflecting power called "reflectivity"

mat (dull, scattering) surfaces

multiple reflections at surfaces of small particles

reflecting power called "reflectance"



Diffuse reflection (DR)

Intensity of diffusely reflected light independent of angle of incidence

Result of multiple reflection, refraction, and scattering inside the sample

Randomly oriented crystals in a powder: light diffusely reflected

Flattening of the surface or pressing of a pellet can cause orientation of the crystals, which are "elementary mirrors" Causes "glossy peaks" if angle of observation corresponds to angle of incidence Can be prevented by dilution

Can we extract the absorption properties of our sample from the diffuse reflected light?



Theory of Diffuse Reflectance Spectroscopy (DRS)

- For analysis of the multiple scattered light, a phenomenological theory is used that allows separation of absorbance and scattering constants
- The spectrometer measures the Reflectance R(v), which is not proportional to the concentration of the absorbing entity



2 constants are needed to describe the reflectance:

Κ

S

absorption coefficient scattering coefficient

(function of the frequency)

(independent of frequency, but S increases with energy in case of fine powders d< λ , I_s ~1/ λ^4)

Experimental condition: diffuse reflectance of a layer with infinite thickness R_{∞} for $K \rightarrow 0$ (no absorption) $R_{\infty} \rightarrow 1$, i.e. all light reflected for $S \rightarrow 0$ (no scattering) $R_{\infty} \rightarrow 0$, i.e. all light transmitted or absorbed

Quantification of DR spectra: Remission function

- The Schuster-Kubelka-Munk (SKM) model allows to obtain quantitatively the absorption spectrum of a solid from a diffuse reflectance measurement, provided a number of experimental conditions are fulfilled
- The diffuse reflectance of a layer with infinite thickness R_∞ is linked with the absorption coefficient K and the scattering coefficient S by the Schuster-Kubelka-Munk or remission function:

$$F(R_{\infty}) = \frac{\left(1 - R_{\infty}\right)^2}{2R_{\infty}} = \frac{K}{S}$$

Kubelka-Munk function

- The Kubelka-Munk function transforms the measured spectrum R(v) into the absorption spectrum K(v)
- In the derivation of the Kubelka-Munk function, monochromatic radiation is assumed !
- The "infinite thickness" is generally obtained with a layer depth of 1-2 mm
- Strongly scattering powders (silica) require up to 5 mm

Quantification of DR spectra: Remission function

$$F(R_{\infty}) = \frac{\left(1 - R_{\infty}\right)^2}{2R_{\infty}} = \frac{K}{S}$$

 $\log F(R_{\infty}) = \log K(\lambda) - \log S$

A plot of *F*(*R*_∞) as a function of the extinction coefficient *K*, which is known from transmission measurements, should yield a straight line (confirmed only for weakly absorbing materials)

$$K = \varepsilon c \quad \longrightarrow \quad \log F(R_{\infty}) = (\log \varepsilon + \log c) - \log S$$

• The spectrometer measures R_{∞} '

$$R_{\infty}' = R_{\infty}(sample) / R_{\infty}(reference)$$
$$R_{\infty}' = R_{\infty} \quad if \quad R_{\infty}(reference) = 1 \ (K \to 0)$$



No absorption of the reference, all light reflected ! Ideal property of white standard!

Kortüm, G.; Schottler, H., ABSORPTION DES MNO4(-)-IONS IN MISCHKRISTALLEN VERSCHIEDENER ZUSAMMENSETZUNG NACH DER REFLEXIONSMETHODE *Zeitschrift fürElektrochemie* 1953, *57* (5), 353-361.

Characteristic color curves



Obtained by displacement in the ordinate direction by – log *S*

$$\log F(R_{\infty}) = \log K(\lambda) - \log S$$

Fig. 1. Transmittance spectrum (Curve 1) and reflectance spectrum (Curve 2) of a didymium-glass filter. The transmittance spectrum was measured relative to quartz glass **0.5** mm thick, the reflectance spectrum relative to powdered colorless glass.

Ordinates: left (Curve 1): log E.

right (Curve 2): log $F(R_{\infty})$

Abscissa: Wavenumber [cm⁻¹].

Kortüm, G.; Braun, W.; Herzog, G., Principles and Techniques of Diffuse-Reflectance Spectroscopy. *Angewandte Chemie International Edition in English* 1963, *2* (7), 333-341.

Scattering coefficients

- The wavelength dependence of S can be estimated experimentally from the Kubelka-Munk function, if the related values of K are available from transmission measurements
- Here it is essential that the spectra be not altered by interactions due to solvation or adsorption



Fig. 8. Dependence of the scattering coefficient on grain-size, measured on the four samples described in Figure 7.

Ordinate: Scattering coefficient, s [cm⁻¹]. Abscissa: $1/\sqrt{\frac{1}{d}2^1}$ [d in μ].



Fig. 7. Effect of grain-size (root-mean-square grain-diameter) on the reflectance spectrum of a pulverized didymium-glass filter, measured against MgO.

Ordinate: log $F(R_{\infty})$. Abscissa: Wave number [cm⁻¹].



600

Fig. 9. Dependence of the scattering coefficient on wavelength, for various grain-sizes. Measured on the four samples described in Figure 7. Ordinate: Scattering coefficient, s [cm⁻¹]. Abscissa: Wave number [cm⁻¹].

Kortum, G.; Oelkrug, D. UBER DEN STREUKOEFFIZIENTEN DER KUBELKA-MUNK-THEORIE *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung*, 1964, *A 19* (1), 28-37.

Scattering coefficients $S \propto v^{-\alpha}$

Kortum, G.; Oelkrug, D. UBER DEN STREUKOEFFIZIENTEN DER KUBELKA-MUNK-THEORIE *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung*, 1964, *A 19* (1), 28-37.

Untersuchte Stoffe	Spez. Oberfl. nach BET [m²/g]	$\begin{array}{c} \text{mittlere} \\ \mathbf{Korngröße} \\ [\mu] \end{array}$	Herstellung und Vorbehandlung	Meßgrößen	Potenz α der Wellen- zahlab- hängigkeit v. $S(S=\text{const.} \tilde{\nu}^{\alpha})$	
Aerosile	$376 \\ 294 \\ 196 \\ 106 \\ 38$	$0,01 \\ 0.015 \\ 0,02 \\ 0,04 \\ 0,08$	1 ^h bei 600°C erhitzt	$T_{1,2,3}, R_{\infty}$	3,6 3,5 3,2 3,0 2,6	Korngröße $< \lambda$
Calciumfluorid		$\simeq 0.2$	gefällt	$T_{1,2}, R_{\infty}$	$\simeq 1$	
SiO ₂ -Al ₂ O ₃ Crack- Katalysator	520 (innere Oberfl.)	0,2-0,4	2 ^h bei 600°C erhitzt 20 ^h gemahlen	$T_{1,2}, R_{\infty}$	$\cong 1$	Korngröße $\simeq \lambda$
Natriumchlorid p. a.	8	$\simeq 0.4$	2 ^h bei 600°C erhitzt 12 ^h gemahlen	R_0, R_∞	$\cong 1$	
Magnesiumoxid		0,1 - 0,2	auf schwarzen Untergrund aufgeraucht	R_0	$\cong 1$	
Quarzpulver		5, 10	Zermahlen von Quarzglas	R_0, R_∞	<1	
Glaspulver		2,5, 3, 7, 15	Zermahlen von Fensterglas	R_0, R_∞	$\simeq 0$	Korngröße $> \lambda$
Natriumchlorid pulv. subt.		15 - 25	2 ^h bei 400°C erhitzt	R_0, R_∞	$\cong 0$	
Farbglas BG 23 (SCHOTT u. Gen.)		\cong ⁵	Zermahlen	$T_{1,2}, R_{\infty}$	<1	

Tab. 2. Meßgrößen und Eigenschaften der untersuchten Stoffe.

Quantification of DR spectra of powders: Summary

- The wavelength dependence of S can be estimated experimentally from the Kubelka-Munk function, if the related values of K are available from transmission measurements (here it is essential that the spectra be not altered by interactions due to solvation or adsorption)
- The scattering coefficient of the standard has to be independent of the wavenumber in the spectral range used (or the wavelength dependence of the scattering coefficient has to be measured)
- The remission function is proportional to K only if S is independent of λ
 →particle size! (S increases with energy in case of fine powders d<λ); if S=f(λ):
 - The relative intensities of the bands are not true
 - Error due to apparent red-shift of bands
 - Reduced scattering due to very small particles favors deep penetration of the radiation into the sample (transmission)
 - Packing density matters
- Regular reflection parts needs to be eliminated through sufficiently high dilution of the sample with a white standard
- Reflectance values R[∞] ^{(<} 0.6 should not be measured due to deviations from the Kubelka-Munk theory in case of higher absorption

DRS of adsorbed molecules

- The interaction between adsorbent and adsorptive can be studied as well using the same theory*
- When molecular species on the surface of a support are investigated, dilution with the support eliminates the particle size dependence of the absorption coefficient of the support
- Uncertainties regarding regular reflection are also eliminated
- Dilution can be a problem in in-situ experiments!

*Kortüm, G.; Braun, W.; Herzog, G., Principles and Techniques of Diffuse-Reflectance Spectroscopy. *Angewandte Chemie International Edition in English* 1963, *2* (7), 333-341.

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Integrating sphere



8°/d°

- the larger the sphere the smaller errors from the ports
- the larger the sphere the lower the intensity onto the detector
- typically 60-150 mm diameter
- coatings: BaSO₄, Spectralon (for UV-vis), Au
- The flux onto the detector corresponds to 1% of the incident flux or less

Mirror optical accessory for reflection spectroscopy



- Can be placed into the normal sample chamber (in line with beam), no rearrangement necessary
- For reference, consecutive measurement of white standard
- Accessory needs to be aligned

Detector

http://www.harricksci.com/ftir/accessories/group/ Praying-Mantis%E2%84%A2-Diffuse-Reflection-Accessory

Specular reflection is strongest in forward direction Collect light in off-axis configuration

- First ellipsoidal mirror focuses beam on sample
- Second ellipsoidal mirror collects reflected light
- About 20% of the diffusely reflected light is collected in the UV-vis

B. M. Weckhuysen et al., Catalysis Today 49 (1999) 441

White standards



Spectralon® thermoplastic resin, excellent reflectance in UV-vis region

http://www.labsphere.com/products/reflectance-standards-and-targets/ reflectance-targets/spectralon-targets.aspx

Fiber optics for UV-vis



- Fibers made of silica
- Light conducted through total reflectance
- Fiber bundle with 6 illumination fibers around 1 read fiber
- Arrangement avoids collection of specularly reflected light

http://www.oceanoptics.com/Products/spectrometers.asp

Images: Hellma (http://www.hellma-worldwide.de) and CICP (http://www.cicp.com/home.html)

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Insulating oxides – typical catalyst supports



P. Schwach et al., Journal of Catalysis 329 (2015) 574–587.

E. Garrone et al., PHILOSPHICAL MAGAZINE B 42 (1980) 683.

Semiconductor oxides – supports and bulk catalysts

TiO₂, ZrO₂, CeO₂, ZnO, SnO.

 Fe_2O_3 , V_2O_5 , MoO_3 , WO_3 , Nb_2O_5 , ...

(A) Direct transition: (B) Indirect transition: Photons excite electrons Excitation of electrons by photons assisted by concerted vibrations of the crystal lattice (phonons) (A) (B) E_g E_a+E_p hν E_a-E_b QE. <111> k_{xyz} <000>

Figure 2.4 Energy versus momentum and possible interband transitions in: (A) a direct-gap two-band system and (B) a solid with conduction band valleys at $k = \langle 000 \rangle$ and $k = \langle 111 \rangle$. Adapted from ref. [26].

Determination of the edge energy

The optical absorption edge energy is defined as the minimum photon energy required to excite an electron from the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO, at the top of the valence band in semiconductor domains) to the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO, at the bottom of the conduction band)

G. Martra et al., Chapter 2 in Metal Oxide Catalysis, Ed. by S.D. Jackson et al., Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, 2009.

Estimation of E_g from DRS



Heine, C.; Girgsdies, F.; Trunschke, A.; Schlögl, R.; Eichelbaum, M., The model oxidation catalyst α -V₂O₅: insights from contactless in situ microwave permittivity and conductivity measurements. *Appl. Phys. A* 2013, *112* (2), 289-296.

Supported oxides – small surface domains



E_g of three-dimensional particles depends on

- Particle size (Q-size effect)
- Bonding geometry/structure

Supported metal oxides

Мо

- For small M_xO_y surface domains, the band theory does not apply, but analysis has shown that the broad distribution of energy levels in surface clusters can be treated like bands
- Spectrum requires deconvolution when different clusters are present

K. Amakawa *et al.*, *Angewandte Chemie International Edition* 2013, *52*, 13553.

Highly dispersed vanadium oxide species - LMCT



Isolated and polymerized $V_x O_y$?

P. Gruene et al., Catalysis Today 157 (2010) 137.

TABLE 4: Band Maxima and Edge Energies of V-Reference Compounds

	band max.	$E_{\rm g}$					
compounds	(nm)	(eV)	molecular structure ^a				
V ₂ O ₅	236, 334, 481	2.3	polymerized VO5/VO6				
MgV ₂ O ₆	250, 370	2.8	polymerized VO ₆				
(meta-vanadate)							
NaVO ₃	281, 353	3.2	polymerized VO ₄				
(meta-vanadate)	200 262	2.2	a channel and MO				
NH ₄ VO ₃	288, 363	3.2	polymerized VO ₄				
(meta-vanadate)	280	35	dimeric VO.				
(pyro-yanadate)	200	5.5	differie vO ₄				
Mg ₃ V ₂ O ₈	260, 303	3.5	isolated VO ₄				
(ortho-vanadate)							
Na ₃ VO ₄	253, 294	3.9	isolated VO ₄				
(ortho-vanadate)							
Gao et al., J. Phys. Chem. B 102 (1998) 10842.							
monomer mor	omer, hydroxylated		dimer				
o o o	н о он	ç	9 0				
v. v.	v		V V				
ο / `ο ο `α	о о он	Ĭ	o o				
			S				
dimer	oligomer oli	gomers unde	er steady-state conditions				
Y Y		o II V	$ \begin{array}{c c} \mathbf{O} & \mathbf{O} & \mathbf{O} \\ \mathbf{V}_{N} & \mathbf{V}_{N} & \mathbf{V}_{N} \\ \mathbf{V}_{N} & \mathbf{V}_{N} & \mathbf{V}_{N} \end{array} $				
		o´/`o<					
S	S _ n _		<u></u> n				

Models of supported vanadium oxide species



D. Maganas et al., Faraday Discuss., 2016, 188, 181–197

Highly dispersed vanadium oxide species



Highly dispersed VO_x-TiO_x species - LMCT

(f) $Ti_2V_2Si_4O_{16}H_6$

N. Hamilton, et al., Catalysis Science & Technology 2012, 2, 1346. S. Klokishner, et al., Journal of Physical Chemistry C, 2014, 118, 14677.





Figure 16. Calculated absorption spectra of species $\rm Ti_2V_2Si_4O_{16}H_6$ (f), $\rm Ti_2V_2Si_4O_{16}H_6$ (h), $\rm Ti_3VSi_4O_{16}H_7$ (i), $\rm Ti_4VSi_4O_{19}H_9$ (j), $\rm Ti_4V_2Si_4O_{21}H_8$ (k), $\rm Ti_4V_3Si_4O_{23}H_7$ (l), and $\rm Ti_4V_4Si_4O_{24}H_4$ (m) and the observed apparent absorption spectra for 4V3Ti/SBA-15 and 4V8Ti/SBA-15. The numeration of species corresponds to that in Figure 4.

In-situ UV-vis: propane oxidation on K-V_xO_y/SiO₂

LMCT O-2sp \rightarrow V-3d



 UV-vis spectroscopy under operation clearly shows that the change in the local coordination of V from square pyramidal (VO₅) to tetrahedral* during melting is reflected in an increase in selectivity

* to be confirmed by theory



In-situ UV-vis: redox properties / propane oxidation



Xuan Li, preliminary results

Conclusions

- Diffuse reflectance spectroscopy (in UV-vis and IR) is a useful techniques for characterization of heterogeneous catalysts and their precursors with respect to local and solid state structures
- The method provides information about, e.g., oxidation state, coordination number, coordination geometry, nature of chemical bonding, degree of condensation, particle size, band gap, nature and dynamics of surface and adsorbed species
- Theory is necessary for interpretation of the spectra
- The measurements are comparatively cheap and easy
- UV-vis-NIR spectroscopy can be performed in-situ or under operation
- Adsorption of probe molecules and characterization of bulk structure and surface functional groups can also be performed by Diffuse Reflectance Infrared Spectroscopy (DRIFTS) – not very much discussed in the present lecture

Further reading

- 1. G. Kortüm, "Reflectance Spectroscopy" / "Reflexionsspektroskopie" Springer, Berlin 1969.
- 2. S.D. Jackson, J.S.J. Hargreaves (Eds.), "Metal Oxide Catalysis", Chapter 2, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, 2009.
- 3. Advances in Catalysis, Volume 52, Chapter 1 and 3, Elsevier, Amsterdam 2009.
- 4. D. J. Dahm, K. D. Dahm, "Interpreting Diffuse Reflectance and Transmittance", IM Publications, Chinchester 2007.
- 5. W. WM. Wendlandt, H.G. Hecht, "Reflectance Spectroscopy", Interscience Publishers/John Wileyy, NY 1966.

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Thank you for your attention!