

Poster Presentation

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XANES studies of zirconia-ceria/Ni during partial/total methane oxidation

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Zirconia-ceria solid-solutions are extensively used as promoters for three-way catalysts, in addition, these materials can be used as anodes in solid oxide fuel cells (SOFCs) operated with hydrocarbons. The structural features of ZrO₂-CeO₂ materials in combination with oxygen storage/release capacity (OSC) are crucial for various catalytic reactions. The direct use of hydrocarbons as fuel for the SOFC (instead of pure H₂), without the necessity of reforming and purification reactors can improve global efficiency of the system. The samples preparation method was developed using Zr and Ce chloride precursors, HCl aqueous solution, Pluronic P123, NH₄OH and a Teflon autoclave. The samples were dried and calcined, until 540°C. The NiO impregnation was made with an ethanol dispersion of Ni(NO₃)₆H₂O, calcinated in air until 350°C for 2 hours. In-situ XANES experiments are capable to evaluate the reduction/oxidation potential of Ni and Ce species in ZrO₂-CeO₂/Ni samples during partial/total methane oxidation and reduction reactions with H₂. The experiments at the Ni K-edge/Ce L3-edge were collected at the LNLS D06A-DXAS beam line in transmission mode, using a Si(111) monochromator and a CCD camera as detector. The data were acquired during a series of temperature programmed reduction steps (TPR), under a 5% H₂/He until 600°C, and mixtures of 20%CH₄:5%O₂/He with 2:1, 1:1 and 1:2 ratios. After each process with CH₄ and O₂, a TPR procedure was performed in order to evaluate the reduction capacity of the sample after reactions with CH₄. The results demonstrated that NiO embedded in the porous ZrO₂-CeO₂ matrix, reduces at lower temperatures than standard NiO, measured in the same conditions, revealing that the mesoporous support improves the reduction of impregnated NiO. For both edges, there was formation of H₂ during partial methane oxidation at 600°C. The total oxidation of methane was observed in lower temperatures (500°C). These results reveal that a high ceria content (90%) could be a great candidate for the SOFC anode.

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