Cinnamaldehyde hydrogenation over morphology-controlled Platinum nanoparticles by CO/H₂ pretreatment gas

Sosuke Kato,¹ Junya Ohyama,ᵃᵇ Atsushi Satsumaᵃᵇ*  
¹Department of Materials Chemistry, Graduate school of Engineering, Nagoya University, Nagoya, 464-8603, Japan  
ᵇElements Strategy Initiative for Catalysts and Batteries, Kyoto University, Kyoto, 615-8245, Japan  
*Corresponding author: +81-52-789-3193, satsuma@chembio.nagoya-u.ac.jp

Abstract: Morphology of platinum nanoparticles on carbon and SiO₂ supports was controlled using CO gas as a protecting agent in reduction pretreatment of Pt precursor. When only H₂ gas was used for the reduction treatment, Pt nanoparticles did not show a specific morphology. However, when CO gas was mixed with H₂, Pt nanocubes enclosed by (100)-facets were obtained. Cinnamaldehyde hydrogenation was carried out using prepared Pt catalysts. Pt nanocubes prepared with CO/H₂ gas showed higher activity and Cinnamylalchol selectivity than Pt nanoparticles prepared with H₂ gas.

Keywords: pretreatment gas, morphology control, hydrogenation reaction.

1. Introduction

As unique catalysis of morphology-controlled metal nanoparticle catalysts has been revealed, shape control methods of metal nanoparticles have been developed. Generally, a liquid phase reduction method using an organic surfactants such as PVP or CTAB is used. However, this preparation method requires complex experimental procedures such as heat treatment and centrifugation to remove the organic surfactant agents on metal nanoparticle surface. In order to solve the problem of liquid phase reduction method, we focused on morphology control method using gas molecules as protective agents¹. In this study, we controlled morphology control of Pt nanoparticles is carried out using CO as a protective agent, and applied them to Cinnamaldehyde hydrogenation to investigate the morphology effect on the hydrogenation activity and selectivity.

2. Experimental

Pt/C and Pt/SiO₂ (10 wt% Pt loading) were prepared by an impregnation method. After drying the catalyst, H₂ and CO/H₂ gas were flown into the prepared catalyst at 473 or 573 K for 1 h. The morphology of Pt nanoparticles was analyzed, transmission electron microscopy (TEM) and using X-ray diffraction (XRD).

Toluene solution of Cinnamaldehyde (0.8 M 1 ml) was added to the prepared catalyst and the reaction was carried out under 1 MPa of H₂ in the autoclave at 408 K. For the qualitative and quantitative analysis of the product, GC-FID and GC-MS were used.

3. Results and discussion

The morphology of Pt nanoparticles was analyzed using TEM and XRD. Figure 1a shows the TEM of Pt/C prepared under CO/H₂ and H₂. TEM observation of Pt/C-H₂ did not show Pt nanoparticles with characteristic morphology; however, Pt/C-CO/H₂ exhibited Pt nanocube enclosed by Pt(100)-facet. Figure 1a also shows the XRD of Pt/C prepared under CO/H₂ and H₂. The ratio of the XRD line intensity due to Pt(200) and Pt(111) (I(200)/I(111)) was calculated. Pt/C-CO/H₂ showed higher I(200)/I(111) than Pt/C-H₂, which agrees with the formation of Pt nanocubes on Pt/C-CO/H₂, since the cubic morphology has Pt(100) grown relative to Pt(111).

Figure 1b shows the mechanism for formation of Pt nanocube under CO gas. that the exposed surface differs by flowing CO/H₂ gas and the H₂ gas because the CO preferentially adsorbs on the Pt(100)-facet and the growth of the surface is suppressed. It was also confirmed by in-situ IR that CO gas molecules acting as a protective agent can be easily removed by flowing Ar gas at 473 K for 10 min.
Cinnamaldehyde hydrogenation was carried out with the prepared Pt catalysts. As presented in Figure 2, the catalytic activity and Cinnamylalchol selectivity were improved by CO/H$_2$ pretreatment compared with H$_2$ pretreatment. According to the literature, the adsorption energies between Pt(100)-facet and the carbonyl bond (di-$\sigma^{C=O}$) of Cinnamaldehyde has a larger than Pt(111)-facet. Therefore, it can be considered that Pt(100) of Pt nanocubes caused the enhanced selectivity of Cinnamylalchol.

Figure 1. (a) TEM and XRD pattern of Pt/C prepared by H$_2$ and CO/H$_2$ pretreatment. (b) Morphology control mechanism of Pt nanoparticles by gas adsorption.

![Figure 1](image1.png)

Figure 2. Activity and product selectivity of Cinnamaldehyde hydrogenation (Pt/C).

4. Conclusions

Morphology of platinum nanoparticles on carbon and SiO$_2$ supports was controlled using CO gas as a protecting agent in reduction pretreatment of Pt precursor. The morphology of Pt nanoparticles was analyzed using TEM and XRD. When CO/H$_2$ gas was used for the reduction treatment, Pt nanocubes enclosed by (100)-facets were obtained. Moreover, it was also confirmed by in-situ IR that CO gas molecules acting as a protective agent can be easily removed. Cinnamaldehyde hydrogenation was carried out using prepared Pt catalysts. Pt nanocubes prepared with CO/H$_2$ gas showed higher activity and Cinnamylalchol selectivity. It can be considered that Pt(100) of Pt nanocubes caused the enhanced selectivity of Cinnamylalchol.

References