Studies on the water gas shift reaction over ceria-supported precious metals

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Water Gas Shift (WGS) reaction is one of the key catalytic stages in a fuel processor and hydrogen station. The commercial low temperature shift (LTS) catalyst ($\text{Cu-Zn/Al}_2\text{O}_3$), though highly active at low temperature, was unsuitable for commercialized applications because of the rapid deactivation tendency under severe conditions. Also, the $\text{Cu-Zn/Al}_2\text{O}_3$ catalyst can not be used at temperatures above about 250°C, which further limits their utility. The WGS reaction over ceria based catalysts was investigated to develop an alternate commercial $\text{Cu-Zn/Al}_2\text{O}_3$ catalyst. The catalyst was prepared by an impregnation method, and were characterized by N_2 physisorption, CO chemisorption and XRD. It was found that Cu-Mo/CeO_2 catalyst showed higher activity and stability than the commercial LTS catalyst for WGS reaction.