



High deNO_x performance of Mn/TiO₂ catalyst by NH₃

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ABSTRACT

The deNO_x performance of the s-Mn/TiO₂ catalyst prepared by sol-gel method has been significantly enhanced, particularly in the low temperature region. Mn is basically incorporated into the matrix of Ti and becomes a structural component of s-MnO₂/TiO₂ mixed oxide, whereas by impregnation method it simply exists on the surface of i-Mn/TiO₂. The well-dispersed Mn over s-Mn/TiO₂ catalyst is the primary cause for the high deNO_x performance compared to that over i-Mn/TiO₂. The addition of Fe onto the Mn/TiO₂ catalyst improves the NO_x removal activity by NH₃ in a wide operating temperature window, including the low temperature region less than 250 °C, regardless of the catalyst preparation methods. Including NO₂ (NO₂/NO = 1) in the feed gas stream further enhances the low temperature deNO_x activity of Mn/Fe/TiO₂ catalyst.

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1. Introduction

With its high fuel efficiency and relatively low emission of CO₂, the diesel engine has been widely employed in next-generation vehicles [1]. CO and HCs (hydrocarbons) may be readily oxidized by diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC) under the oxygen-rich diesel exhaust gas condition [2]. The emission of NO_x then becomes a primary concern among the air pollutants from the engine [3]. Selective catalyst reduction (SCR) of NO_x by urea is one of the most promising technologies to meet the stringent worldwide emission regulations, including EURO V and SULEV. CuZSM5, FeZSM5 and V₂O₅-WO₃/TiO₂ catalysts have been recognized as commercial catalysts for the urea-SCR technology [4–7]. However, they still suffer from their weak low temperature activity and the public perception of the catalyst composition, mainly copper and vanadium employed for the catalytic system [8,9]. The exhaust gas temperature from a diesel engine, light (150–250 °C) and heavy duty (200–350 °C), is significantly lower than that from a gasoline engine [10].

Mn-based catalysts including MnOx [11], MnOx-CeO₂ [12], Mn/TiO₂ [13], Mn-Fe/TiO₂ [14], Mn-Ce/USY [15], Mn-Fe/MPs [16] and Mn/Al-SBA-15 [17] have been proposed as eco-friendly low temperature SCR catalysts, especially for stationary sources. It should be noted that Mn is generally recognized as a less toxic metal component compared to Cu, V, Ni, and Co commonly employed for the preparation of SCR catalyst [18]. Recently, Wu et

al. reported the high deNO_x activity of Mn/TiO₂ catalyst prepared by sol-gel method at the reaction temperature of 100 °C [19]. In addition, Li et al. reported the improvement of deNO_x performance over Mn/TiO₂ catalyst upon the replacement of the Mn precursor from nitrate to acetate to improve the dispersion of MnOx during the catalyst preparation procedure [20]. However, the deNO_x catalytic performance of the Mn-based catalysts reported so far was generally examined at relatively lower reactor space velocity (8000–30,000 h⁻¹) and narrow temperature range (<250 °C) without H₂O in feed. Due to the dynamic operation of a diesel engine under excess lean air condition, an SCR activity test for developing a commercial urea-SCR catalyst should be conducted under a variety of the reactor operating conditions, including high reactor space velocity and wider temperature window [21,22]. In addition, the effect of water included in the exhaust gas stream from the engine on the NO removal activity of SCR catalyst can never be ignored, since the exhaust gas certainly contains H₂O in a range of the content, 10% [23,24].

The deNO_x activity of Mn/TiO₂ catalysts varies with respect to their preparation method, particularly sol-gel and impregnation, regardless of Mn loading [25–27], primarily due to the unique structure and phase of MnOx formed onto or into TiO₂. However, a systematic or direct comparative study for the deNO_x activity of Mn/TiO₂-based catalyst with respect to the preparation method including sol-gel and impregnation has been rarely reported, although it was recognized as an excellent low temperature SCR catalyst by Smirniotis et al. [13].

The purpose of the present study is to elucidate the unique features of the deNO_x performance and catalytic properties of the s-Mn/TiO₂ and i-Mn/TiO₂ prepared by sol-gel and impregna-

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tion (incipient wetness) methods, respectively, under realistic SCR reactor operating conditions anticipated for the after-treatment system of a diesel engine. The effect of Mn loadings on the deNOx performance of Mn-based catalysts was examined within a wide operating temperature window (100–400 °C) at relatively higher reactor space velocity (100,000 h⁻¹) under a feed gas composition including 10% H₂O. The deNOx performance and characteristics of s-Mn/TiO₂ catalyst were systematically determined by directly comparing the SCR activity of i-Mn/TiO₂ with respect to their Mn content. In addition, the role of Fe as an additive to the Mn/TiO₂ catalyst for the SCR activity was also investigated. Finally, NO₂ was included in the feed gas stream to further enhance the NOx removal activity of the Mn/Fe/TiO₂ catalyst, particularly in the low temperature range of less than 200 °C.

2. Experimental

2.1. Catalyst preparation

Mn/TiO₂ and Mn/Fe/TiO₂ catalysts were prepared by two typical preparation methods, one-step sol–gel [19] and incipient wetness methods [14]. To prepare s-Mn/TiO₂ and s-Mn/Fe/TiO₂ catalysts by sol–gel method, ample amounts of Mn(NO₃)₂ and Fe(NO₃)₃ were dissolved in H₂O and acetic acid. The solution was slowly added by buret into Ti(OC₄H₉)₄ dissolved in ethanol, and mixed intensively for 1 h. The solution underwent vigorous mixing again for another 24 h and then aged for an additional 72 h. The formed gel was oven-dried at 110 °C for 12 h, followed by calcination in air at 500 °C for 5 h.

For i-Mn/TiO₂ and i-Mn/Fe/TiO₂ prepared by incipient wetness method, commercial TiO₂ (Hombikat) was impregnated by the Mn and Fe nitrate solutions to fill up the pore volume of the TiO₂, catalyst support. The catalysts were then dried at 110 °C for 12 h in an oven. The samples were then calcined at 500 °C for 5 h in air flow. In addition, i-Mn/s-TiO₂ catalyst was prepared by impregnating Mn(NO₃)₂ onto s-TiO₂ by sol–gel method for a comparative study.

2.2. Catalyst characterization

BET surface areas of the catalysts were measured with a sorption analyzer (Micromeritics ASAP-2010) using liquid nitrogen at –196 °C. The catalysts were pretreated at 200 °C for 5 h under vacuum condition before measurement. To examine X-ray diffraction (XRD) spectra of the catalysts prepared in the present study, an XPERT PRO MPD X-ray diffractometer (PANalytical) was employed. Cu K_{α-1} (λ = 0.15406 nm) was used as a radiation source and the spectra were collected in the region of 2θ = 10–70° at 40 kV and 30 mA of X-ray gun. The XRD peaks were identified by using JCPDS data files.

The field emission-high resolution transmission electron microscopy (FE-HRTEM) images of the catalysts employed were obtained over a JEM 2100F instrument (JEOL) operated at 200 kV. The catalyst sample for TEM study was prepared by dispersing it with ethanol, dropping onto a holloy carbon film supported on a copper grid and finally drying in an oven (110 °C).

2.3. Reaction system

A catalytic activity test using 1 g of the catalyst (20/30 mesh) was carried out in aluminum tube reactor (3/8 inch i.d.). A detailed flow diagram of the reactor system can be observed elsewhere [28]. The typical feed gas condition includes 500 ppm NOx (500 ppm NO or 250 ppm for both NO and NO₂), 500 ppm NH₃, 5% O₂, 10% H₂O and N₂ balance. Note that NH₃ was employed as a reductant in the present study for experimental convenience, since urea can be

easily decomposed to NH₃ on the catalyst surface [29]. The inlet and outlet concentrations of NO, NO₂ and NH₃ were determined by on-line chemiluminescence NO–NOx analyzer (Thermo Environmental Instrument, Model 42C) and FT-IR (Nicolet 5700, Thermo Electron Co.) equipped with a gas-cell. The reactor space velocity (SV) for the catalyst activity test was typically 100,000 h⁻¹. Prior to each activity test, all the catalysts charged into the reactor were pretreated at 500 °C for 1.5 h in air flow.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Effect of Mn contents on deNOx activity of Mn/TiO₂-based catalysts

Fig. 1 shows the deNOx activity over s-Mn/TiO₂, i-Mn/TiO₂ and i-Mn/s-TiO₂ catalysts with respect to their Mn content. When the Mn loaded onto the catalyst increases from 13 to 30 wt.%, the deNOx performance over s-Mn/TiO₂ catalyst is significantly enhanced. However, the catalytic activity over i-Mn/TiO₂ catalyst decreases as the content of Mn is increased from 13 to 28 wt.%. At 250 °C, 90% of the NO conversion has been achieved over s-Mn(30 wt.%)/TiO₂, while 65% is observed over i-Mn(13 wt.%)/TiO₂. The deNOx activity of i-Mn/s-TiO₂ catalysts, however, is in the range of that over i-Mn/TiO₂ catalysts. These results simply indicate that the SCR performance and physicochemical characteristics of Mn/TiO₂ catalysts vary with respect to the method of the catalyst preparation. Wu et al. reported that the deNOx activity of Mn/TiO₂ catalysts was similar, regardless of the preparation method (sol–gel and impregnation) and their Mn content [30]. It may be probably due to the differences in the preparation procedure of the catalysts and the reaction condition employed, particularly water in the feed gas stream and the reactor space velocity.

As the amounts of Mn loaded onto i-Mn/TiO₂ and i-Mn/s-TiO₂ catalysts increased, the BET surface area of the catalysts was decreased, as listed in Table 1, regardless of TiO₂, Hombikat and

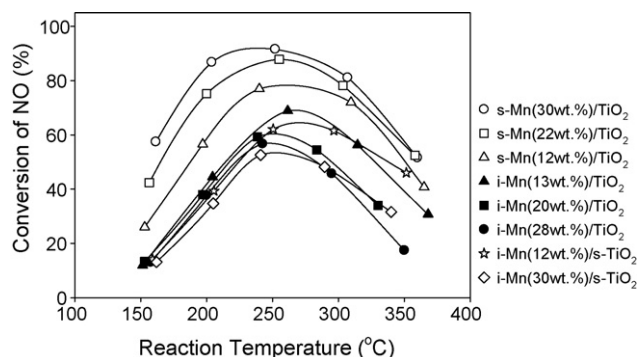


Fig. 1. DeNOx activity of the Mn/TiO₂ catalysts with respect to the Mn contents and preparation method. Feed gas composition: 500 ppm NO, 500 ppm NH₃, 5% O₂, 10% H₂O, and balance N₂; catalyst: 1 g; SV: 100,000 h⁻¹.

Table 1
BET surface area of the catalysts.

Catalysts	BET surface area (m ² /g)
s-TiO ₂	110
s-Mn(12 wt.%)/TiO ₂	125
s-Mn(22 wt.%)/TiO ₂	130
s-Mn(30 wt.%)/TiO ₂	123
TiO ₂ (hombikat)	338
i-Mn(13 wt.%)/TiO ₂	110
i-Mn(20 wt.%)/TiO ₂	92
i-Mn(28 wt.%)/TiO ₂	78
i-Mn(12 wt.%)/s-TiO ₂	97
i-Mn(30 wt.%)/s-TiO ₂	68

sol-gel prepared. It may be probably caused by filling and plugging the pores of the supports by Mn during the course of the impregnation procedure [31]. However, the BET surface area of s-Mn/TiO₂ catalysts even slightly increases as the Mn content of the catalyst increases. No pore plugging or filling of s-Mn/TiO₂ may be anticipated, since Mn has been incorporated into the infra-structure of TiO₂ during the one-step sol-gel synthesis of the catalyst [27]. Furthermore, the increase of the surface area of s-Mn/TiO₂ is mainly attributed to the incorporation of Mn ions into TiO₂ structure, providing additional nucleation sites and/or moderating the sintering of TiO₂ during the calcination procedure of the catalysts prepared [27,32,33].

3.2. State of Mn on the surface of Mn/TiO₂-based catalysts

3.2.1. XRD

To obtain structural information of the Mn included in the Mn/TiO₂ catalysts prepared by sol-gel and impregnation methods, XRD patterns of the catalysts were examined as shown in Fig. 2. A variety of the XRD peaks to be assigned to MnO₂ are observed over i-Mn/TiO₂, revealing that the crystalline MnO₂ exists on the catalyst surface. As the content of Mn for i-Mn/TiO₂ increases, the XRD peaks attributed to MnO₂ become apparent. However, s-Mn/TiO₂ catalyst shows weaker XRD peak intensity of MnO₂ than i-Mn/TiO₂. Especially, no peak for the formation of MnO₂ is observed over the catalysts containing Mn content less than 30 wt.%. It may be due to the fact that Mn is well incorporated into the matrix of TiO₂ [34] and/or MnO₂ is existing in an amorphous or highly dispersed phase on the catalyst surface [19,33]. In addition, the width of the XRD peaks typical for TiO₂ over s-Mn/TiO₂ catalyst is broader than that over i-Mn/TiO₂. It simply reveals that the matrix of the TiO₂ structure has been altered by Mn during the course of the sol-gel preparation of the catalyst [27].

To further discriminate the state of Mn included in the Mn/TiO₂ catalysts prepared by sol-gel and impregnation methods, a peak shift of the XRD patterns in the range of 2 θ from 35 to 40° for TiO₂ has been specifically examined as shown in the inset of Fig. 2. s-TiO₂ prepared by sol-gel method reveals a peak at 37.85° assigned to the (004) plane of TiO₂ (anatase) as shown in Fig. 2(a). As the content of Mn included in s-TiO₂ increases, the peak attributed to TiO₂ shifts to the higher range of 2 θ , 38.05° for s-Mn(12 wt. %)/TiO₂, 38.35° for s-Mn(22 wt. %)/TiO₂ and 38.39° for s-Mn(30 wt. %)/TiO₂ as shown in Fig. 2(c)–(e). However, a peak shift over i-Mn/TiO₂ is hardly observed within the 2 θ range from 37.95° for TiO₂ (Hombikat) to 37.97° for i-Mn(28 wt. %)/TiO₂ as shown in Fig. 2(f)–(i). In addition, no peak shift of TiO₂ over i-Mn(30 wt. %)/s-TiO₂ at 37.88°

Table 2
*d*₀₀₄ of TiO₂ obtained from XRD result.

Catalyst	<i>d</i> (Å)
s-TiO ₂	2.375
s-Mn(12 wt. %)/TiO ₂	2.363
s-Mn(22 wt. %)/TiO ₂	2.345
s-Mn(30 wt. %)/TiO ₂	2.342
TiO ₂ (hombikat)	2.369
i-Mn(28 wt. %)/TiO ₂	2.368
i-Mn(30 wt. %)/s-TiO ₂	2.373

from that of s-TiO₂ at 37.85° has been basically observed, as shown in Fig. 2(a) and (b). This result may simply indicate again that Mn is well incorporated into the structural matrix of TiO₂ during the preparation of s-Mn/TiO₂ by sol-gel method.

Since the Mn⁴⁺ ion incorporated into the lattice of TiO₂ may replace Ti⁴⁺ ion included in s-Mn/TiO₂ during the sol-gel procedure, the lattice space of the (004) plane of TiO₂ decreases with respect to the catalyst Mn content as listed in Table 2, mainly due to the difference in the atomic radius of Mn⁴⁺ (0.60 Å) and Ti⁴⁺ (0.68 Å) [24,32,34]. The Mn incorporated into the matrix of TiO₂ will also improve the dispersion of Mn on the surface of TiO₂. It plays an important role for reducing NO by NH₃, although Wu et al. insisted that the dispersion of Mn was increased simply due to the formation of amorphous MnO₂ on the surface of Mn/TiO₂ prepared by sol-gel method [19,30]. In contrast, the lattice space of the (004) plane over the i-Mn/TiO₂ catalyst hardly decreases compared to that over TiO₂ (Hombikat), although 28 wt. % of Mn was loaded onto the catalyst. The lattice distance over i-(30 wt. %)/s-TiO₂ catalyst is similar to that over s-TiO₂ as clearly listed in Table 2. Mn included in i-Mn/TiO₂ and i-Mn/s-TiO₂ catalysts prepared by the impregnation method may not be incorporated into the matrix of TiO₂, but simply exists on the surface of TiO₂ resulting in the poor dispersion of MnO₂, regardless of TiO₂ supports, Hombikat and sol-gel prepared.

On the other hand, the decreasing degree of the lattice space is markedly moderated when the Mn content of the catalyst reaches 30 wt. %. In addition, an XRD peak assigned to MnO₂ starts to appear over s-Mn(30 wt. %)/TiO₂ catalyst as shown in Fig. 2(e). The Mn content of 22 wt. % may be the highest capacity of Mn to be incorporated into the matrix of TiO₂. Although all of Mn over s-Mn(30 wt. %)/TiO₂ catalyst could not be incorporated into the lattice of TiO₂, the rest of the MnO₂ may exist on the catalyst surface and become an additional reaction site for the present SCR reaction [13,14]. It may be also reflected by the decreasing trend of the BET surface area

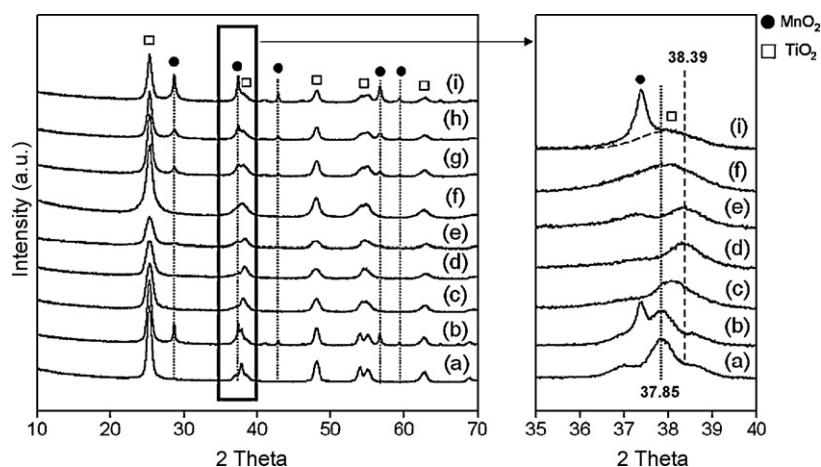


Fig. 2. XRD patterns of TiO₂ and Mn/TiO₂ catalysts. (a) s-TiO₂, (b) i-Mn(30 wt. %)/s-TiO₂, (c) s-Mn(12 wt. %)/TiO₂, (d) s-Mn(22 wt. %)/TiO₂, (e) s-Mn(30 wt. %)/TiO₂, (f) TiO₂ (hombikat), (g) i-Mn(13 wt. %)/TiO₂, (h) i-Mn(20 wt. %)/TiO₂, and (i) i-Mn(28 wt. %)/TiO₂.

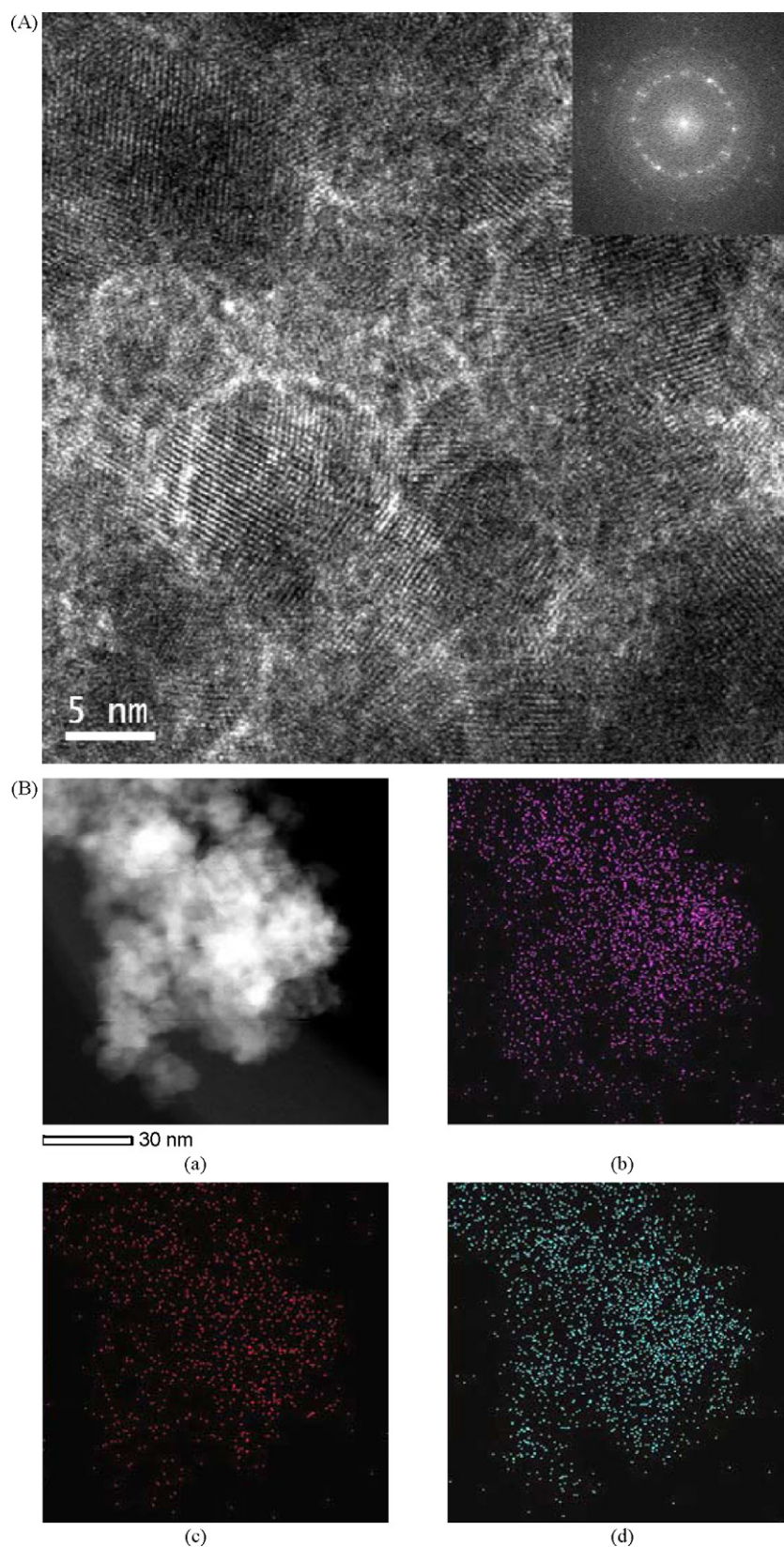


Fig. 3. HRTEM image for SAED patterns (A) and EDS mapping (B) of the s-Mn(22 wt.%) / TiO₂ catalyst. (a) STEM image, (b) O, (c) Ti, and (d) Mn.

of s-Mn(30 wt.%) / TiO₂ (123 m²/g) from that of s-Mn(22 wt.%) / TiO₂ (130 m²/g). The additional Mn may block and fill the pore network of TiO₂ as observed by the change of the surface area of i-Mn / TiO₂ listed in Table 1.

3.2.2. TEM image and EDS mapping

TEM images and SAED (selected area electron diffraction) patterns of s-Mn(22 wt.%) / TiO₂ and i-Mn(20 wt.%) / TiO₂ catalysts were examined to ensure the incorporation of Mn into the structural

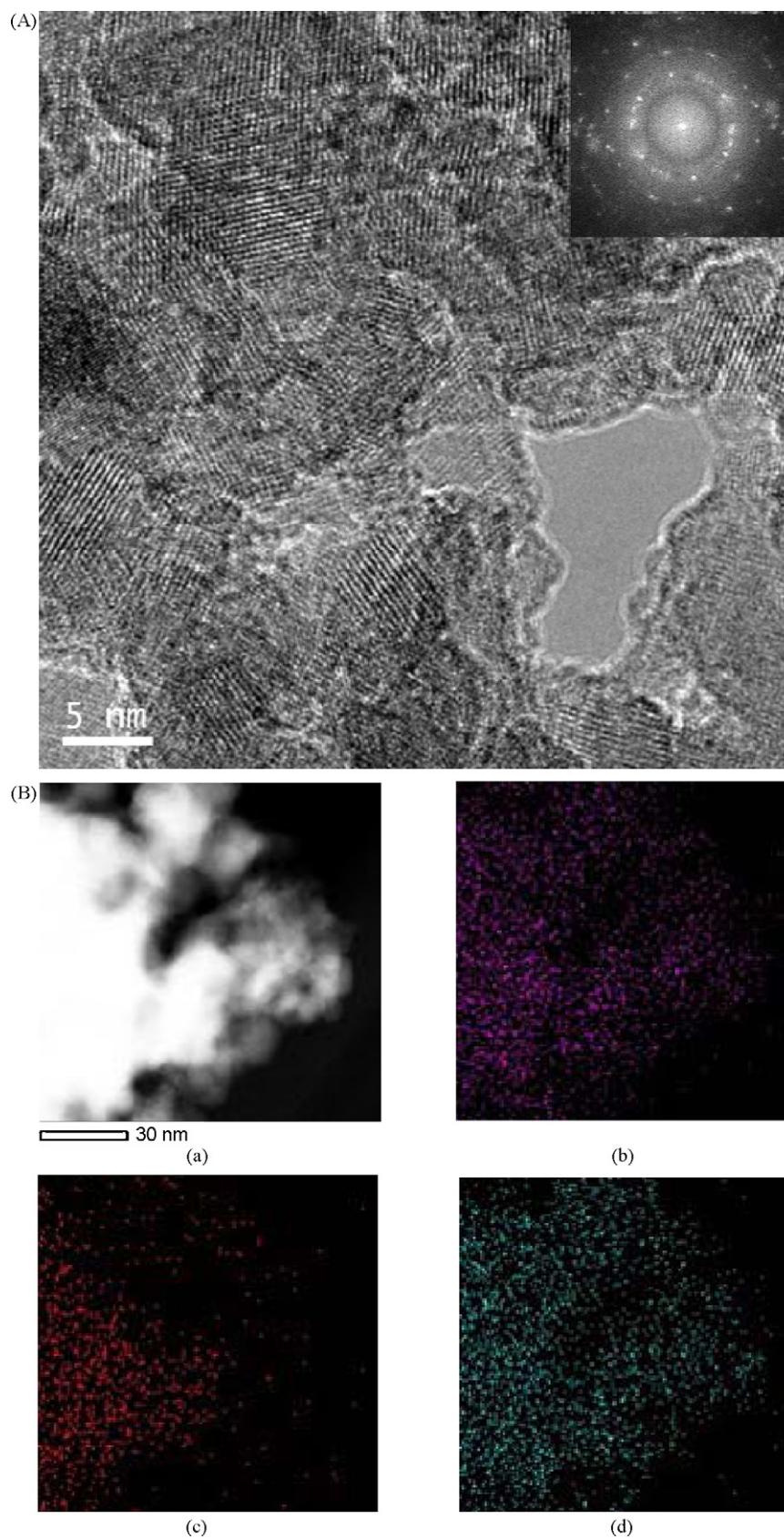


Fig. 4. HRTEM image for SAED patterns (A) and EDS mapping (B) of the i-Mn(20 wt.%) / TiO₂ catalyst. (a) STEM image, (b) O, (c) Ti, and (d) Mn.

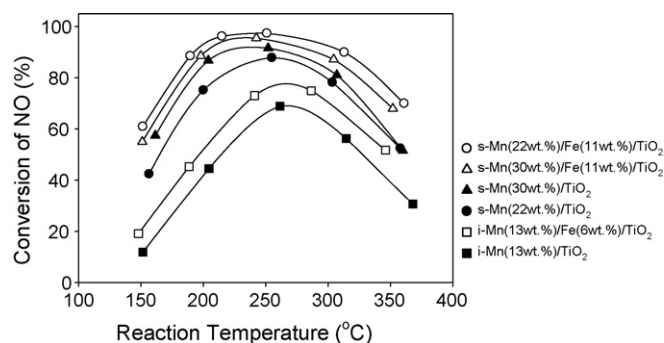


Fig. 5. Effect of Fe on deNOx performance over Mn/TiO₂ catalysts. Feed gas composition: 500 ppm NO, 500 ppm NH₃, 5% O₂, 10% H₂O, and balance N₂; catalyst: 1 g; SV: 100,000 h⁻¹.

matrix of TiO₂. The crystallization of Mn over i-Mn/TiO₂ seems to be more apparent than that over s-Mn/TiO₂ as contrasted in Figs. 3 and 4A, which was also anticipated by their XRD patterns discussed with Fig. 2. Both Mn and Ti distributions along with O on the surface of s-Mn/TiO₂ are nearly identical to the EDS mapping results shown in Figs. 3B (c) and (d). Mn also exists where Ti does. However, both distributions over i-Mn/TiO₂ are distinct as shown in Figs. 4B (c) and (d). Both metals may be hardly incorporated in each other. Note that the distribution of O over i-Mn/TiO₂ is similar to that of Mn.

Since Mn over s-Mn/TiO₂ catalyst is well incorporated into the lattice of TiO₂ as clearly determined by XRD, a similar distribution of both Mn and Ti can be readily anticipated. However, Mn is aggregated in the form of crystalline MnO₂ over i-Mn/TiO₂ as discussed and no correlation of the distributions of Mn and Ti can be determined by the EDS mapping result. The higher dispersion of Mn on the surface of s-Mn/TiO₂ than that of i-Mn/TiO₂ catalyst may indicate the high deNOx performance of s-Mn/TiO₂ catalyst [14,15,19].

3.3. Effect of Fe on the deNOx activity of Mn/TiO₂ catalyst

To enhance the low temperature SCR activity of the Mn/TiO₂ catalyst, Fe, a catalyst promoter was added onto the catalyst surface. Upon the addition of Fe onto the s-Mn/TiO₂ and i-Mn/TiO₂ catalysts, the deNOx performance and the operation temperature window were apparently enhanced and widened as shown in Fig. 5. Mn and Fe were simultaneously added into the Ti(OC₄H₉)₄ dissolved in ethanol for the preparation of s-Mn/Fe/TiO₂ by sol-gel method. As the content of Fe increased up to 11 wt.%, the deNOx activity over the s-Mn/Fe/TiO₂ catalyst was enhanced. However, when the Fe content was higher than 11 wt.%, the gel of Mn/Fe/TiO₂ catalyst was hardly formed during the sol-gel procedure.

Upon the addition of Fe to both types of Mn/TiO₂ catalysts, the XRD peak intensity of MnO₂ becomes weaker as shown in Fig. 6. MnO₂ may then exist in a less crystallized form and the metal dispersion on the catalyst surface will be improved [14]. Fe over s-Mn/Fe/TiO₂ catalyst may moderate the sintering of TiO₂ expected during the course of the catalyst calcination procedure at 500 °C for 5 h [19]. The width of the peaks to be assigned to TiO₂ becomes broader [19]. Qi et al. reported that the strong interaction of manganese to iron oxides might improve the dispersion of Mn on the surface of i-Mn/Fe/TiO₂ catalyst [14]. Wu et al. also claimed that the interaction of the solid solution of manganese and iron oxides, formed on the surface of s-Mn/Fe/TiO₂ catalyst during the catalyst calcination procedure at 500 °C, prevented the catalyst from sintering and enhanced the Mn dispersion to achieve the high deNOx performance [19]. Fe added into Mn/TiO₂-based catalyst plays a role in improving the dispersion of MnO₂, recognized as one of the

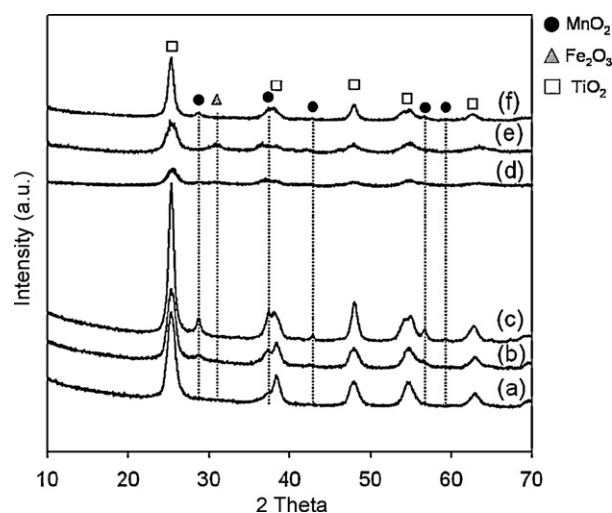


Fig. 6. XRD patterns for Mn/TiO₂ and Mn/Fe/TiO₂ catalysts. (a) s-Mn(22 wt.)/TiO₂, (b) s-Mn(30 wt.)/TiO₂, (c) i-Mn(13 wt.)/TiO₂, (d) s-Mn(22 wt.)/Fe(11 wt.)/TiO₂, (e) s-Mn(30 wt.)/Fe(11 wt.)/TiO₂, and (f) i-Mn(13 wt.)/Fe(6 wt.)/TiO₂.

important catalyst characteristics for the present reaction system, regardless of the catalyst preparation methods.

On the other hand, the deNOx activity of s-Mn(22 wt.)/Fe(11 wt.)/TiO₂ catalyst is higher than that of s-Mn(30 wt.)/Fe(11 wt.)/TiO₂, while s-Mn(30 wt.)/TiO₂ catalyst showed superior SCR performance to s-Mn(22 wt.)/TiO₂ as shown in Fig. 5. Wang et al. reported that crystalline Fe₂O₃ started to form on the catalyst surface when the content of Fe on s-Fe/TiO₂ was higher than 20 wt.% [34]. The formation of the crystalline Fe₂O₃ over s-Mn(30 wt.)/Fe(11 wt.)/TiO₂ is clearly observed in Fig. 6(e). There may be a capacity for incorporating Mn and Fe into the matrix of Ti over s-Mn/Fe/TiO₂ by sol-gel method as discussed. The relatively higher deNOx activity over s-Mn(22 wt.)/Fe(11 wt.)/TiO₂ may then be understood.

3.4. Role of NO₂ included in feed gas stream

The role of the diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC) placed before the SCR reaction system installed into the commercial diesel after-treatment system is to oxidize NO emitted from the engine to NO₂ [35,36]. It has been also commonly recognized that the addition of NO₂ into feed containing NO significantly improves the NO removal activity of an SCR catalyst [37]. Fig. 7 depicts the deNOx activity

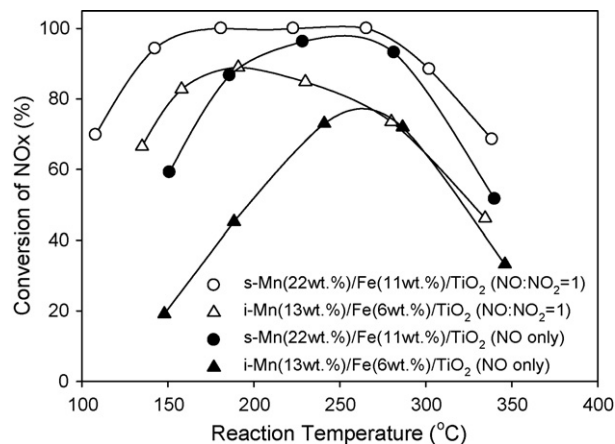


Fig. 7. Effect of NO₂ in the feed on deNOx performance of Mn/Fe/TiO₂ catalyst. Feed gas composition: 500 or 250 ppm NO, 500 ppm NH₃, 250 ppm NO₂, 5% O₂, 10% H₂O and balance N₂; catalyst: 1 g; SV: 100,000 h⁻¹.

over the Mn/Fe/TiO₂ catalysts with and without NO₂ in the feed stream.

When a 1:1 feed ratio of NO and NO₂ was maintained in the feed gas stream, the deNOx activity over the Mn/Fe/TiO₂ catalyst was drastically enhanced as shown in Fig. 7 [38]. The s-Mn(22 wt.)/Fe(11 wt.)/TiO₂ catalyst achieves nearly 100% of NOx conversion at 150 °C, when both NO and NO₂ are included into the feed. It may be mainly due to the fast SCR reaction of NO₂ compared to the standard SCR reaction of NO [39–42].

4. Conclusion

The deNOx activity of s-Mn/TiO₂ and i-Mn/TiO₂ catalysts prepared by sol–gel and impregnation methods has been examined. s-Mn/TiO₂ catalyst showed higher deNOx performance than i-Mn/TiO₂ catalyst in the reaction temperature window from 150 to 350 °C. The deNOx activity of s-Mn/TiO₂ catalyst was significantly enhanced as the content of Mn increased, whereas that of i-Mn/TiO₂ catalyst was decreased. The high deNOx performance of s-Mn/TiO₂ is mainly attributed to the high dispersion of MnO₂ on the catalyst surface by the well-incorporated Mn into the matrix of Ti during the sol–gel preparation of the catalyst. However, the crystalline form of MnO₂ was formed on the surface of i-Mn/TiO₂ prepared by the impregnation method. Upon the addition of Fe onto the Mn/TiO₂ catalyst, the SCR performance of the catalyst was improved. Also, the deNOx activity over Mn/Fe/TiO₂ catalyst was further enhanced, when both NO and NO₂ in a ratio of 1:1 were present in the feed gas stream. The commercial application of the Mn/TiO₂ catalyst prepared by sol–gel method as an environmentally friendly and low temperature SCR catalyst may be expected in the diesel after-treatment system including DOC.

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