

# Reforming of methane with carbon dioxide over a catalyst consisting of ruthenium metal and cerium oxide supported on mordenite

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Reforming of  $\text{CH}_4$  with  $\text{CO}_2$  proceeds at  $400^\circ\text{C}$  over a catalyst consisting of ruthenium metal and  $\text{CeO}_2$  highly dispersed on mordenite. The catalyst,  $\text{Ru-CeO}_2/\text{MZ}$ , is highly active for the reforming of  $\text{CH}_4$  under the conditions at which a carbon formation reaction is thermodynamically apt to take place. The reforming selectively forms  $\text{H}_2$  and  $\text{CO}$ . An increase in the weight of the catalyst resulting from carbon deposits was scarcely observed. IR spectra for the catalyst indicate that the reforming proceeds via the formation of the intermediate species such as  $\text{Ru-CO}$  and  $\text{Ru-CH}_x$  on the surface of ruthenium. The data of  $\text{H}_2$  adsorption support the idea that ruthenium is highly dispersed in  $\text{Ru-CeO}_2/\text{MZ}$ .

**KEY WORDS:** ceria; mordenite; ruthenium; methane reforming;  $\text{CO}_2$ .

## 1. Introduction

Reforming of  $\text{CH}_4$  with  $\text{CO}_2$  is useful for conversion of  $\text{CH}_4$  to  $\text{H}_2$  and  $\text{CO}$  as chemical raw materials and fuel gas of fuel cells. In particular, carbon dioxide causing global warming is effectively available to reduce it. There are many studies on reforming [1–10]. Reforming has been carried out at high temperature, because this thermodynamically gives an equilibrium on the production side, and the carbon deposits causing the deactivation of the catalyst often occur at a lower temperature, though the construction costs of its plant can be reduced by reforming at lower temperature. It is therefore important to develop a highly-active catalyst with poison resistance, able to withstand carbon deposits at low temperature. Cerium oxide possesses unique features, such as stabilization of noble metal dispersion [11–14] and the ability to improve the storage of oxygen [15–18]. It is expected that an increase in the storage of oxygen enhances the oxidation of carbon deposited on the catalyst and so could moderate carbon deposits. We have previously reported [19] that the fine particles of  $\text{CeO}_2$  incorporated into zeolite cavities are highly activated, which accelerates the oxidation of alkyl benzenes, and that the catalyst consisting of ruthenium metal and cerium oxides supported on Y-form zeolite represses hydrogen inhibition in  $\text{NH}_3$  decomposition [20]. In this paper, we report the preparation of ruthenium and  $\text{CeO}_2$  highly dispersed on mordenite, high activity for the  $\text{CH}_4$  reforming with  $\text{CO}_2$ , and adsorption species on the surface of ruthenium.

## 2. Experimental

### 2.1. Materials

All chemicals were analytical grade commercial materials and used without further purification. The proton form of mordenite (JRC-Z-20HM) was supplied by the Catalyst Reference Committee of the Japan Catalysis Society. Methane (more than 99.99%) and carbon dioxide gas (more than 99.9%) were dried by passing through a packed bed of a 4 Å molecular sieve.

### 2.2. Preparation of $\text{Ru-CeO}_2/\text{MZ}$ catalyst

The catalyst consisting of ruthenium metal and cerium oxides supported on mordenite was prepared by a method similar to that reported earlier [19]. The chemical composition of  $\text{Ru-CeO}_2/\text{MZ}$  was analyzed by inductively coupled plasma (ICP) measurements. The results are summarized in table 1. The contents of  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{CeO}_2$  and  $\text{Ru}$  were determined to be 87.1, 7.4, 4.5 and 0.29 wt%, respectively.

### 2.3. Reforming of $\text{CH}_4$ with $\text{CO}_2$

The reforming of  $\text{CH}_4$  with  $\text{CO}_2$  was carried out in a fixed-bed pulse-flow microreactor made from a 1.5 mm i.d. stainless steel tube and under the conditions at which the carbon formation reactions were thermodynamically apt to be brought about by using  $\text{CO}_2/\text{CH}_4 = 1-0.3$  at  $400-450^\circ\text{C}$ . The catalyst (0.015 g) was sandwiched with quartz wool in the pulse microcatalytic reactor. The catalyst was heated for 2 h at  $400^\circ\text{C}$  under a carrier gas prior to the reaction and then to a fixed reaction

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Table 1  
Chemical composition

Composition	Ru/CeO <sub>2</sub> -MZ (wt%)
SiO <sub>2</sub>	87.1
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	7.4
CeO <sub>2</sub>	4.5
Ru	0.29
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0.05
Ig. loss	4.9

Note: The weight loss of the catalyst is 4.9 wt% on evacuation at 500 °C for 30 min.

temperature. A pulse of  $0.5\text{--}1.5 \times 10^{-6}$  mol of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> in a proportion of 1:0.8–0.3 (He balance) was injected into the catalyst bed. The pulse injection of CH<sub>4</sub> + CO<sub>2</sub> was repeated several times to check the reproducibility of the reaction. The reaction mixtures were analyzed using GC connected with a pulse microreactor with a helium or nitrogen flow rate of 10 ml min<sup>-1</sup>; nitrogen carrier gas was used when determining hydrogen. The space velocities were 80 000 h<sup>-1</sup>. The stainless steel tube and quartz wool (packing material) make no contribution to the reforming.

#### 2.4. Decomposition of CH<sub>4</sub>

The decomposition of CH<sub>4</sub> was carried out in a fixed-bed tubular reactor with a constant volume (83 ml). The reactor, made from a 6 mm i.d. glass tube, is equipped with an MKS Baratron 627 transducer pressure gauge to monitor the decomposition and with an electric furnace, and connected to a vacuum line. The catalyst (0.050 g) was placed in the reactor. The sample was pretreated *in vacuo* for 3 h at 400 °C. The sample was exposed at a fixed temperature at a pressure of ~10 kPa of CH<sub>4</sub>. The decomposition rate was determined on the basis of an increase in reaction pressure resulting from CH<sub>4</sub> decomposition.

#### 2.5. Weight variation of the catalyst with reaction time

The weight variation with reaction time was recorded using a Rubotherm magnetic suspension balance connected to a vacuum line. The catalyst (0.08 g) was placed on the sample pan in the balance and pretreated at 400 °C for 2 h *in vacuo* prior to the reforming and decomposition. The catalyst was then exposed to 5–10 kPa of a mixture of CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> in the proportion CO<sub>2</sub>:CH<sub>4</sub> = 1:1 at a fixed temperature. The amount of carbon deposit was determined by the increase in weight of the catalyst from the base at the reaction time zero.

#### 2.6. X-ray powder diffraction measurements (XRD)

XRD patterns of the samples were recorded using a Mac-Science 18 spectrometer (Ni-filtered Cu K<sub>α</sub>,

40–100 kV, 50–100 mA). The samples were mounted on sample boards and the measurements were immediately carried out.

#### 2.7. FTIR measurements

FTIR spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu 8100 FTIR spectrometer using a conventional IR cell connected to a vacuum line and adsorption apparatus. About 0.010 g of the catalyst was compressed at 7.5 tons cm<sup>-2</sup> using a pellet die to form a 10 mm diameter circular disk. All samples were pretreated *in vacuo* for 2 h at 450 °C before the FTIR measurements. First, the spectra for the degassed sample were measured as a reference spectrum. The sample was then exposed at 450 °C for a fixed reaction time to CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> or a mixture of these gases, prior to FTIR measurements. The FTIR measurements in the absence of the sample were carried out 40 times at room temperature to obtain a blank spectrum and then those for the sample were similarly done. The integrated spectrum was obtained and then revised by subtracting the blank spectrum due to gas-phase and/or products condensed on the windows of IR cell.

### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1. Reforming of CH<sub>4</sub> with CO<sub>2</sub>

The reforming of CH<sub>4</sub> with CO<sub>2</sub> was studied using a pulse-flow reaction under the conditions at which the carbon formation reactions over the catalyst were rapidly brought about by using CO<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>4</sub> = 0.8–0.3 at 400–450 °C (He or N<sub>2</sub> balance). The results are summarized in table 2. The reforming selectively forms H<sub>2</sub> and CO and the ratio of CO to H<sub>2</sub> is nearly equal to 1 in each experiment, whereas no reforming proceeds in the absence of Ru. The amount of one-pulse injection is  $0.5\text{--}1.5 \times 10^{-6}$  moles of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> in a proportion of 1:0.8–0.3 as starting feed. On the other hand, Ru-CeO<sub>2</sub>/MZ (15 mg) packed in the microreactor contains  $4.3 \times 10^{-7}$  mol of ruthenium. The turnover frequency (TOF) values of the catalytic sites were estimated by considering that each ruthenium atom was exposed to the reaction mixture and was able to produce syn-gas. This assumption is based on the amount of hydrogen chemisorption as described below. The TOF is calculated to be 1.7 and 7.0 s<sup>-1</sup> at 400 and 450 °C, respectively. It is reported that the TOF is 5.1 s<sup>-1</sup> at 750 °C for Rh/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [1], 1.2 s<sup>-1</sup> at 600 °C and 4.0 s<sup>-1</sup> at 700 °C for Rh/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [21], 2.1 s<sup>-1</sup> at 500 °C for Ir/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [21], 1.8 s<sup>-1</sup> at 450 °C for Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub> [22], and 3.5 s<sup>-1</sup> 600 °C for Pt/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [23]. The TOF value in the reforming increases generally with an increase in reaction temperature. The TOF values of Ru-CeO<sub>2</sub>/MZ are high, compared with the highly active noble-metal catalysts

Table 2  
Product distribution of CH<sub>4</sub> reforming with CO<sub>2</sub>

Reaction temperature (°C)	Pulse <sup>a</sup> (μmol)	CO <sub>2</sub> /CH <sub>4</sub>	Conversion (%)	CO + H <sub>2</sub> (%)	CH <sub>4</sub> (%)	CO <sub>2</sub> (%)
400	0.5	0.7	6.5	14.2	51.0	34.8
400	0.5	0.8	6.6	13.4	47.5	39.1
450	1.4	0.3	9.7	26.5	62.0	11.5
450	1.0	0.7	14.2	28.2	42.7	29.1
450	1.3	0.6	9.9	22.1	50.5	27.4
450	1.1	0.7	12.6	26.2	45.3	28.5

Note: The conversion was determined from CH<sub>4</sub> base. Catalyst: 0.015 g.

<sup>a</sup> The amount of pulsed CH<sub>4</sub>. Flow rate of He or N<sub>2</sub>: 10 ml min<sup>-1</sup>; nitrogen carrier gas was used to measure H<sub>2</sub> with GC.

reported in references [1,21–23]. After the exposure of Ru-CeO<sub>2</sub>/MZ at 450 °C for 24 h to 8 kPa of a mixture of CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> in the proportion CO<sub>2</sub>:CH<sub>4</sub> = 1:1, the TOF of the catalyst decreased from 7.0 to 3.3 s<sup>-1</sup> at 450 °C.

### 3.2. Decomposition of CH<sub>4</sub>

The decomposition of CH<sub>4</sub> was studied at 400, 450 and 500 °C: the reaction was carried out in a batch mode, because the reaction rate was so slow that the peak area of a gas chromatography due to the decomposition products was negligible in the pulse-flow reaction. The results are shown in figure 1. The apparent activation energy is calculated to be 5.6 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> from Arrhenius plots of the data in figure 1. The value is nearly equal to the activation energy, 6 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>, for the CH<sub>4</sub> chemisorption reported in reference [24]. The CH<sub>4</sub> decomposition is thermodynamically very preferable to the refining through the range 400–500 °C. The decomposition rates of CH<sub>4</sub> at 400, 450 and 500 °C are determined to be  $1.7 \times 10^{-7}$ ,  $2.2 \times 10^{-7}$  and  $2.7 \times 10^{-7}$  mol g cat<sup>-1</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>, respectively (figure 1).

The TOF values per ruthenium atom for the CH<sub>4</sub> decomposition are estimated to be less than 0.0002 s<sup>-1</sup>. These values are very low, compared with those in the reforming. The result hence leads to the conclusion that the presence of CO<sub>2</sub> significantly accelerates the CH<sub>4</sub> decomposition in Ru-CeO<sub>2</sub>/Mord.

### 3.3. Carbon formation

The variation of catalyst weight with an increase in reaction time was studied using a magnetic suspension balance equipped no-diffusion apparatus. The measurements were carried out under the conditions (CO<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>4</sub> = 1 at 400–450 °C) at which the carbon formation reactions took place rapidly in the catalyst containing nickel [1]. The results are shown in figure 2. The weight of the catalyst hardly increases with an increase in reaction time, though the weight varies considerably. In the literature [2,21,25], a reaction mechanism which is capable of explaining the carbon formation in the reforming can be represented by the following six elementary steps:

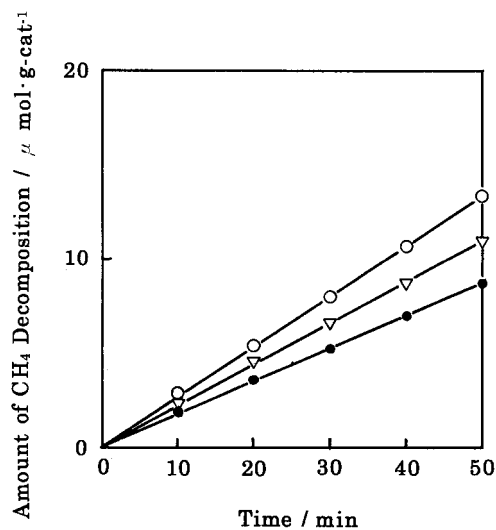


Figure 1. Decomposition of CH<sub>4</sub>. ●, 400 °C; Δ, 450 °C; ○, 500 °C. Reaction volume, 83.5 ml; catalyst, 17.0 mg; initial pressure of CH<sub>4</sub>, 8 kPa.

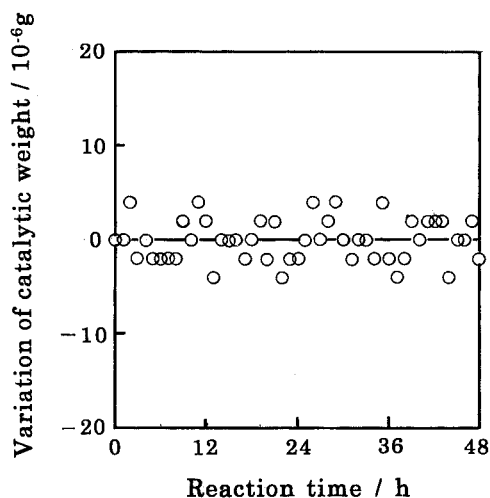
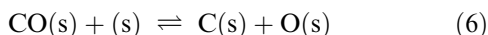
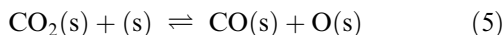
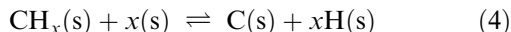


Figure 2. Variation of catalytic weight with reaction time. Catalyst weight, 80 mg; reaction pressure (CH<sub>4</sub>/CO<sub>2</sub> = 1), 8 kPa; reaction temperature, 450 °C.



where (g) and (s) represent a gas and adsorption site, respectively. The elementary step (4) is endothermic and carbon formation occurs easily at high temperature at low pressure of  $\text{CH}_4$ , whereas step (6) is exothermic and proceeds to the right-hand side at low temperature at high pressure of  $\text{CO}_2$ . The results in figure 2 indicate that carbon deposits resulting from  $\text{CH}_4$  decomposition and  $\text{CO}_2$  dissociation scarcely occur during the reforming. It is considered that the equilibria in the elementary step (4) and (6) favor the left-hand side through low temperature and low pressure of  $\text{CO}_2$ , respectively. The depression of the carbon formation is reasonably explained in terms of the favorable equilibriums.

### 3.4. Characterization of the Ru-CeO<sub>2</sub>/MZ catalyst

X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were recorded and are shown in figure 3. XRD patterns for Ru-CeO<sub>2</sub>/MZ are well in accordance with those for mordenite [26]. The catalyst maintains the structure of mordenite. The XRD peaks, resulting from a cubic crystal structure of CeO<sub>2</sub>, appear at  $2\theta = 28.6^\circ$ ,  $33.1^\circ$ ,  $47.5^\circ$  and  $56.4^\circ$  [27]. Ruthenium displays XRD at  $2\theta = 38.5^\circ$ ,  $42.1^\circ$ ,  $44.0^\circ$  and  $58.5^\circ$  [26]. However, no diffraction pattern due to ruthenium metal and ceria was observed (figure 3). We have already reported [19,20] that the fine particles of CeO<sub>2</sub> incorporated into the zeolite cavities were prepared by a hydrolysis of cerium ions with a moist ammonia gas. The result suggests a high dispersion of ceria in the zeolite. No diffraction patterns due to Ru are explained in terms of high dispersion of Ru and/or its low content.

FTIR spectra were measured for the adsorption species of  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  on Ru-CeO<sub>2</sub>/MZ and are shown in figures 4 and 5. The obtained spectra referred to the spectra of the degassed catalysts at  $450^\circ\text{C}$  prior to gas admission. As shown in figure 4, Ru-CeO<sub>2</sub>/MZ displays bands at

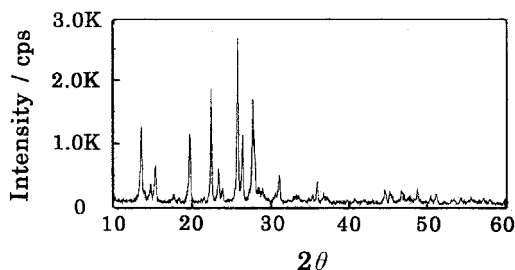


Figure 3. X-ray diffraction patterns of Ru-CeO<sub>2</sub>/MZ.

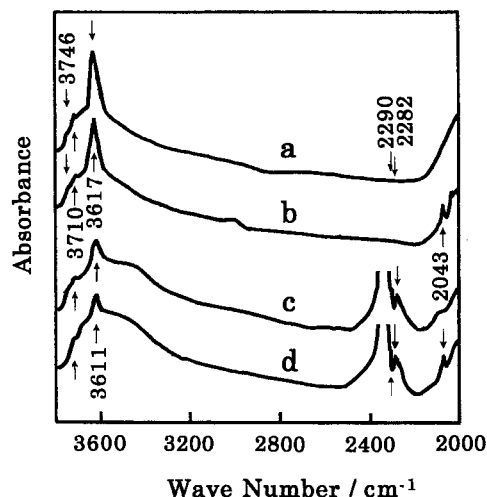


Figure 4. IR spectra in the range of  $3800\text{--}2000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . (a) Evacuation of Ru-CeO<sub>2</sub>/MZ at  $400^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 h. (b) Sample (a) exposed at  $400^\circ\text{C}$  for 10 min to 0.1 kPa of  $\text{CH}_4$ . (c) Sample (a) exposed at  $400^\circ\text{C}$  for 10 min to 0.1 kPa of  $\text{CO}_2$ . (d) Sample (a) exposed at  $400^\circ\text{C}$  for 10 min to 0.2 kPa of the mixture gas of  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  (1:1).

$3710$ ,  $3746$ ,  $3617$  and  $3611\text{ cm}^{-1}$  assigned to the located hydroxyl group [29]. The adsorption of  $\text{CH}_4$  on Ru-CeO<sub>2</sub>/MZ displays bands at  $2043\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and around  $2980\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (figure 4(b)). The adsorption of  $\text{CO}_2$  on Ru-CeO<sub>2</sub>/MZ displays bands at  $2290$ ,  $2282$ ,  $1987$ ,  $1972$  and  $1375\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and around  $2080\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (figures 4(c) and 5(c)). The  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorption shifts the band at  $3617\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , due to the located hydroxyl group, to  $3611\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and reduces its intensity. The  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorption simultaneously gives a broad band around  $3500\text{ cm}^{-1}$  assigned to a stretching vibration of O-H in hydrogen-bonded hydroxyl groups

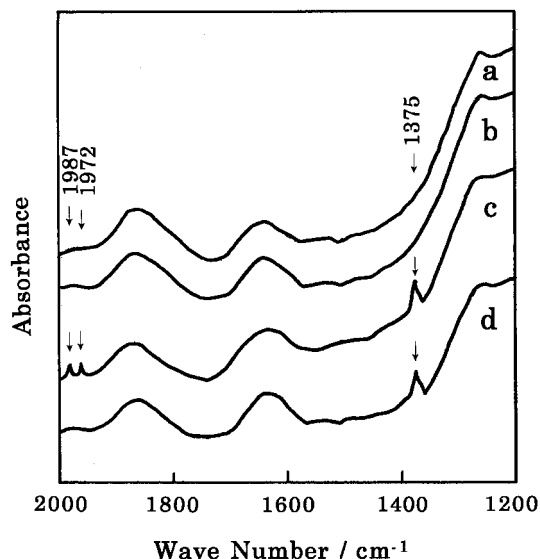


Figure 5. IR spectra in the range of  $2000\text{--}1200\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . (a) Evacuation of Ru-CeO<sub>2</sub>/MZ at  $400^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 h. (b) Sample (a) exposed at  $400^\circ\text{C}$  for 10 min to 0.1 kPa of  $\text{CH}_4$ . (c) Sample (a) exposed at  $400^\circ\text{C}$  for 10 min to 0.1 kPa of  $\text{CO}_2$ . (d) Sample (a) exposed at  $400^\circ\text{C}$  for 10 min to 0.2 kPa of the mixture gas of  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  (1:1).

(figure 4(c)). The adsorption of  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  on Ru- $\text{CeO}_2/\text{MZ}$  displays bands at 2290, 2282, 2043, 2022 and  $1375\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . A coordinated and adsorbed  $\text{CO}_2$  displays bands, resulting from  $\text{CO}_2$   $\nu_3$  vibration, around the range  $2200\text{--}2350\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . On the monometallic Ru/ZSM-5 samples, absorption of CO led to a band at  $2046\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , due to CO stretching frequencies of CO linearly adsorbed on  $\text{Ru}^0$  and several bands at higher frequencies related to CO on  $\text{Ru}^{\delta+}$  species [30]. A ruthenium carbonium cluster displays 12 bands at 2078(m), 2058(vs), 2037(sh), 2032(vs), 2019(s), 2010(m), 2000(s), 1989(w), 1981(sh), 1963(w), 1950(w) and  $1831\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , resulting from the stretching vibration of CO [31]. The adsorption of  $\text{CO}_2$  on Ru- $\text{CeO}_2/\text{MZ}$  displays bands at 2290, 2282, 1987, 1972 and  $1374\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and around  $2080\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (figures 4(c) and 5(c)). The bands at 2290 and  $2282\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are attributed to  $\text{CO}_2$   $\nu_3$  vibration of  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorbed on different sites. The bands at 2043, 2022 and around  $2080\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are attributable to CO stretching frequencies of CO linearly adsorbed on Ru and/or to those of ruthenium carbonium. The appearance of the band at 2043 and  $2022\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the absence of  $\text{CO}_2$  (figure 4(b)) is explainable in terms of the oxidation of some dissociative adsorption species of  $\text{CH}_4$  with the storage oxygen of  $\text{CeO}_2$  to CO or  $\text{CO}_2$ ; ceria has an ability to store oxygen. The bands at 1987 and  $1972\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are attributable to CO stretching frequencies of CO species like ruthenium carbonyl. The bands at 1987 and  $1972\text{ cm}^{-1}$  disappear on adding  $\text{CH}_4$  (figure 5(d)). The results strongly suggest that the carbonyl species must make some contribution to the reforming, and indicate that the addition of  $\text{CH}_4$  remarkably moderates the surface concentration of Ru-CO species. In addition, the results indicate that a dissociative adsorption of  $\text{CO}_2$  occurs in Ru- $\text{CeO}_2/\text{MZ}$ , following the formation of ruthenium carbonyl. Furthermore, carbonate salts display bands, resulting from  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$   $\nu_2$  out-of-plane perpendicular vibration, in the region of  $1450\text{--}1300\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; monodentate carbonate ions at  $\sim 1350\text{ cm}^{-1}$  [32], rare earth carbonate at  $\sim 1370\text{ cm}^{-1}$  [33], and formate at 1566 and  $1375\text{ cm}^{-1}$  [2]. The assignment of the band at  $1375\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to formate would essentially be excluded by limiting the formation of formate through the absence of hydrogen sources, since the adsorption of  $\text{CO}_2$  also displays the band at  $1375\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (figure 4(c)). The results indicate that some parts of  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorb on ceria as carbonate ions. The red shift and decrease in the intensity of the band at  $3617\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are likely explainable in terms of an interaction of adsorption species of  $\text{CO}_2$  with located hydroxyl groups, such as hydrogen bonding. The adsorption species may cause the appearance of a hydrogen-bonded hydroxyl group. On adsorbing  $\text{CH}_4$ , a weak band around  $2980\text{ cm}^{-1}$  appears (figure 4(b)). IR absorption, arising from the stretching vibration of C-H in  $\text{CH}_x$ , occurs in bands in the general range around  $2840\text{--}3000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  [34]. The band around  $2980\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is attributed to the stretching vibration of C-H in  $\text{CH}_x$ . The band around  $2980\text{ cm}^{-1}$  disappears on

adding  $\text{CO}_2$  (figure 4(d)). The disappearance substantiates the conclusion that the decomposition of  $\text{CH}_4$  is accelerated by  $\text{CO}_2$ .

The amount of hydrogen chemisorption was measured to study an average size of the fine particles of ruthenium. The amount is determined to be  $2.1 \times 10^{-5}\text{ mol g cat}^{-1}$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  at 1.0 kPa of  $\text{H}_2$  pressure. No hydrogen chemisorbed on  $\text{CeO}_2/\text{MZ}$  under the same conditions. On the other hand, the amount of ruthenium loaded on the catalyst is calculated to be  $2.9 \times 10^{-5}\text{ mol g cat}^{-1}$  from the chemical composition in table 1 and the atomic mass of ruthenium. On assuming that a hydrogen molecule chemisorbs on one surface atom of ruthenium, the number of chemisorption sites of  $\text{H}_2$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  at 1.0 kPa of  $\text{H}_2$  pressure possess 72% of the amount of the supported ruthenium. The results indicate that the ruthenium is highly dispersed in the zeolite as fine particles. After the exposure of Ru- $\text{CeO}_2/\text{MZ}$  at  $450^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 h to 8 kPa of the reaction mixture gas of  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{CH}_4$  in a proportion of  $\text{CO}_2:\text{CH}_4 = 1:1$ , the amount of hydrogen chemisorption decreased from 2.1 to  $1.1 \times 10^{-5}\text{ mol g cat}^{-1}$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  at 1.0 kPa of  $\text{H}_2$  pressure. The decrease indicates the decrease in the surface area of ruthenium, that is, the aggregation of ruthenium particles occurs.

#### 4. Conclusions

A catalyst consisting of ruthenium and  $\text{CeO}_2$  highly dispersed on mordenite has been prepared. The reforming of  $\text{CH}_4$  with  $\text{CO}_2$  over Ru- $\text{CeO}_2/\text{MZ}$  selectively forms  $\text{H}_2$  and CO and the ratio of CO to  $\text{H}_2$  is nearly equal to 1 in each experiment, whereas no reforming proceeds in the absence of Ru. The turnover frequency value is estimated to be 1.7 and  $7.0\text{ s}^{-1}$  at 400 and  $450^\circ\text{C}$ , respectively. The value is very high, compared with that of the other noble-metal catalysts. On the other hand, the decomposition rate of  $\text{CH}_4$  is very slow, compared with the reforming rate. The results indicate that the presence of  $\text{CO}_2$  significantly accelerates the  $\text{CH}_4$  decomposition over Ru- $\text{CeO}_2/\text{MZ}$ . The increase in catalytic weight due to a carbon formation reaction during the reforming is scarcely observed in Ru- $\text{CeO}_2/\text{MZ}$ . The results hence indicate that carbon deposits resulting from  $\text{CH}_4$  decomposition and  $\text{CO}_2$  dissociation scarcely occur in the reforming. It is concluded that the presence of  $\text{CO}_2$  accelerates the reforming process and depresses carbon formation. IR spectra for  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorption give the bands at 1987 and  $1972\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and around  $2080\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , resulting from Ru-CO, and the band at  $1375\text{ cm}^{-1}$  due to carbonate ion. The adsorption of  $\text{CH}_4$  displays the bands at 2043 and  $2022\text{ cm}^{-1}$  arising from Ru-CO and the band around  $2980\text{ cm}^{-1}$  assigned to a stretching vibration of C-H in  $\text{CH}_x$ . Moreover, the adsorption of  $\text{CH}_4 + \text{CO}_2$  displays bands at 2043 and  $1375\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , but the bands at 2022, 1987 and

1972 cm<sup>-1</sup> and around 2980 and 2080 cm<sup>-1</sup> disappear. The results indicate that the reforming proceeds *via* the formation of the intermediate species such as Ru-CO, and Ru-CH<sub>x</sub> on the surface of ruthenium. On assuming that a hydrogen molecule chemisorbs on one surface atom of ruthenium, the number of chemisorption sites of H<sub>2</sub> at 25 °C at 1.0 kPa of H<sub>2</sub> pressure possess 72% of the amount of the supported ruthenium. The results indicate that ruthenium is highly dispersed in the zeolite as fine particles. The data of H<sub>2</sub> adsorption support the idea that ruthenium is highly dispersed in the Ru-CeO<sub>2</sub>/MZ.

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