Supporting Information:

Morphology Effects of Co$_3$O$_4$ Nanocrystals Catalyzing CO Oxidation in a Dry Reactant Gas Stream

Yonghong Teng, *a Yoshihiro Kusano,b Masaki Azuma,a* Masatake Haruta, c Yuichi Shimakawa a

院 of Chemical Research, Kyoto University, Uji 611-0011, Japan

E-mail: teng@msk.kuicr.kyoto-u.ac.jp

* Current address: Materials and Structures Laboratory, Tokyo Institute of Technology, 4259 Nagatsuta, Yokohama 226-8503, Japan

b College of the Arts, Kurashiki University of Science and the Arts, 2640 Nishinoura, Tsurajima-cho, Kurashiki-shi, Okayama 712-8505, Japan

c Department of Applied Chemistry, Graduate School of Urban Environmental Sciences, Tokyo Metropolitan University, 1-1 Minami-osawa, Hachioji 192-0397, Tokyo, Japan

1. Experimental Section

1. Synthesis of Co$_3$O$_4$ NCs with different morphologies

Nanocrystalline Co$_3$O$_4$ samples with plate-like, rod-like, cubical, and roughly spherical morphologies were synthesized by using the same cobalt salt and with or without the same capping reagent under hydrothermal conditions.
1.1. Plate-like Co$_3$O$_4$ NCs (P-Co$_3$O$_4$):

Ten mmol CoCl$_2$ · 6H$_2$O (Wako, 99.0%) and 50 mmol PVP (Wako, K25, molecular weight, Mw = 35 000) calculated in terms of monomeric unit were dissolved in 30 ml of distilled water to form a red solution (solution 1). An aqueous solution consisting of 20 mmol KOH (Nacalai Tesque, 85%) dissolved in 20 ml distilled water (solution 2) was then added to solution 1 to form a greenish-blue suspension. After 30 min of stirring at room temperature, the suspension was aged at 293 K for 12 h in a Teflon-lined autoclave in which was maintained a reductive environment produced by adding 1g of hydrazine (N$_2$H$_4$·H$_2$O, Wako, 98%) in another container kept over the reaction solution. The pink hexagonal plate-like Co(OH)$_2$ NCs thus obtained were centrifuged, washed first with distilled water and then with ethanol, dried at 333 K for 12 h, and were finally calcined in air at 573 K for 2 h by raising the temperature at a rate of 373 K/h to produce plate-like Co$_3$O$_4$ NCs.

1.2. Rod-like Co$_3$O$_4$ NCs (R-Co$_3$O$_4$):

Ten mmol K$_2$CO$_3$ (Rare Metallic, 99.9%) dissolved in 20 ml distilled water was added to solution 1 to make a blue suspension. After 30 min of stirring at room temperature, the suspension was aged at 373 K for 12 h in a Teflon-lined autoclave in a similar manner to that reported in the literature.[11] The purple rod-like CoOH(CO$_3$)$_{0.5}$·0.11H$_2$O NCs thus obtained were then treated by the same procedures described above.

1.3. Cubical Co$_3$O$_4$ NCs (C-Co$_3$O$_4$):

Twenty mmol KOH and 5 mmol KClO$_3$ (Nacalai Tesque, 99.5%) dissolved in 20 ml distilled water was added to solution 1 to make a blue suspension. After 30 min of stirring at room temperature, the greenish-blue suspension was aged at 393 K for 18 h in a Teflon-lined autoclave in a manner similar to that described in our previous report.[23] The black cubical Co$_3$O$_4$ precipitates obtained were then treated by the same procedures as those used to produce plate-like Co$_3$O$_4$ NCs.
1.4. Spherical Co$_3$O$_4$ NCs (S-Co$_3$O$_4$):

Ten mmol CoCl$_2$ · 6H$_2$O (Wako, 99.0%) was dissolved in 30 ml of distilled water to form a red solution (solution 3). Twenty mmol KOH and 5 mmol KClO$_3$ (Nacalai Tesque, 99.5%) dissolved in 20 ml distilled water was added to the solution 3 to make a blue suspension. After 30 min of stirring at room temperature, the greenish-blue suspension was aged at 393 K for 18 h in a Teflon-lined autoclave in a manner similar to that described in our previous report.[12] The spherical black Co$_3$O$_4$ precipitates thus obtained were then treated by the same procedures used to produce plate-like Co$_3$O$_4$ NCs.

2. Characterization of differently shaped Co$_3$O$_4$ NCs

Samples were characterized by powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) with a Rigaku RINT 2500 with Cu Kα radiation (λ = 0.15418 nm), by electron diffraction with a JEOL JEM-4000EX, and by TEM with a JEOL JEM1010D electron microscope operating at 100 keV. The BET specific surface areas were measured at Shimadzu Techno Research Co. (Kyoto, Japan) by using the multipoint method with a Micromeritics ASAP-2400 apparatus.

3. Measurement of catalytic activity

Catalytic activity for CO oxidation was measured by using a flow-type fixed-bed Pyrex reactor (i.d. = 5 mm) with a “U” shape as described in the literature.[16] In general, a standard gas containing 1.0 vol% CO and 21 vol% O$_2$ balanced with He was passed through a molecular sieve 3A trap cooled to 273 K and then the reactor filled with a catalyst sample in an amount corresponding to 3.6 m$^2$ of surface area (40–60 mesh, 100 mg for cube morphology) at a rate of flow of 50 ml/min (space velocity = 30 000 h$^{-1}$ ml g$^{-1}$cat for sphere morphology) under atmospheric pressure. All samples were pretreated at 573 K for 30 min before catalytic tests and then cooled to a starting reaction temperature in the same stream of 21 vol% O$_2$ in He. The concentrations of CO, O$_2$, and CO$_2$ in the inlet and outlet streams were measured by using a gas chromatography system (GL Science Inc.) equipped with an active carbon column and TCD.
and FID detectors. An automatic gas sampling interval of 15 min was used to measure the steady-state conversion of CO at a fixed catalyst temperature, usually after the reaction had been in progress for 30 min. Experiments at temperatures below 273 K were conducted by using an ether/liquid nitrogen or methanol/dry ice cooling solution.

Kinetic measurements for CO oxidation over the four kinds of Co₃O₄ NCs were carried out in the temperature range of 178 to 239 K at CO conversions below 15% (differential reactor assumption) by changing the space velocity in the range of 3×10⁴ to 2.4×10⁵ h⁻¹ ml g⁻¹ cat⁻¹.

2. X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns

Fig. 1S XRD patterns for Co₃O₄ NCs with (a) plate-like, (b) rod-like, (c) cubical, and (d) roughly spherical shapes.