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## **Supplementary Information**

## Ag-promoted Co/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> Catalyst without Reduction Pretreatment for the Selective

## Hydrogenolysis of High-concentration Glycerol to 1,2-Propanediol

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## Table S1 the performances of the typical Co-based catalysts

Entry	Catalyst	Reduction	Reaction conditions		$S_{1,2-\mathrm{PDO}}$	Ref. <sup>a</sup>
		conditions		(%)	(%)	
1	Co-Ca-Al	600 °C/H <sub>2</sub>	15mL 20wt% glycerol aqueous solution; 0.5 g	100	91	[16]
			catalyst; 210 °C; 4 MPa H <sub>2</sub> ; 10 h			
2	Co/MgO	350 °C/H <sub>2</sub>	40g 10wt% glycerol aqueous solution; 0.2 g	45	42	[17]
			catalyst; 200 °C; 2 MPa H <sub>2</sub> ; 9 h			
3	Co-Zn-Al	600 °C/H <sub>2</sub>	40g 10wt% glycerol aqueous solution; 0.3g	71	58	[18]
			catalyst; 200 °C; 2 MPa H <sub>2</sub> ; 12 h			
4	CoCu/TiO <sub>2</sub>	350 °C/H <sub>2</sub>	20mL 50v/v% glycerol aqueous solution;	95	73	[19]
			catalyst-to-glycerol ratio of 0.028 (on a weight			
			basis); 250 °C; 4 MPa H <sub>2</sub> ; 4 h			
5	Co/Dol	600 °C/H <sub>2</sub>	20mL 20wt% glycerol aqueous solution; 1.0 g	61	58	[20]
			catalyst; 200 °C; 4 MPa H <sub>2</sub> ; 10 h			
6	HSiW/Co-Al	400 °C/H <sub>2</sub>	10 wt% glycerol aqueous solution; the feed rate of	76	60	[21]
			solution, 9.7mL/h; the flow of hydrogen, 100			
			mL/min; 4.0g catalyst; 230 °C; 3.5 MPa H <sub>2</sub> ;			
7	Co-Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	400 °C/H <sub>2</sub>	10wt% glycerol aqueous solution; the feed flow	54	76	[22]
			rate, 9.7mL/h; the flow of hydrogen, 100 mL/min;			
			4.0g catalyst; 230 °C; 3.5 MPa H <sub>2</sub>			
8	Co/MSAPO-11	600 °C/H <sub>2</sub>	65g 7.7wt% glycerol aqueous solution; 1.0 g	94	91	[23]
			catalyst; 220 °C; 5 MPa H <sub>2</sub> ; 8 h			
9	Co-ZnO	450 °C/H <sub>2</sub>	20g 20wt% glycerol aqueous solution; 0.6g	70	80	[24]
			catalyst; 180 °C; 4 MPa H <sub>2</sub> ; 8 h			
10	CoAg/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	without	12.5g 80wt% glycerol aqueous solution; 1.0 g	79	90	This
		pre-reduction	catalyst; 220 °C; 3 MPa H <sub>2</sub> ; 6 h			work
11	CoAg/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	without	12.5g 80wt% glycerol aqueous solution; 1.0 g	92	90	This
		pre-reduction	catalyst; 220 °C; 3 MPa H <sub>2</sub> ; 8 h			work

<sup>a</sup> The reference numbers are corresponding to the ones in the main paper.

Entry	Catalyst	Glycerol concentration	$X_{ m gly}$	$Y_{1,2-\text{PDO}}$	Selec	Selectivity (mol%)	
		(wt.%)	(mol%)	(mol%)	1,2-PDO	EG	Others
1	$Co_{2.0}Ag_{0.5}/Al_2O_3$	20	91.1	82.5	90.6	7.3	2.1
2	$Co_{2.0}Ag_{0.5}/Al_2O_3$	50	84.4	77.1	91.3	6.1	2.6
3	Co <sub>2.0</sub> Ag <sub>0.5</sub> /Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	80	79.3	70.7	90.2	8.1	1.7

Table S2 Effects of glycerol concentration on the hydrogenolysis of glycerol over  $Co_{2.0}Ag_{0.5}/Al_2O_3$ 

Reaction conditions: 12.5 g of glycerol aqueous solution and 1 g of catalyst, 220 °C, 3.0 MPa H<sub>2</sub>, 6 h; 1,2-propanediol-1,2-PDO, ethylene glycol-EG, unidentified and unlisted product mixtures were labeled as "Others".

Table S3 Effects of promoters on the hydrogenolysis of glycerol over Co<sub>2.0</sub>X<sub>0.5</sub>/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (X=Ag, Cu, Fe, and Ni)

Entry	Catalyst	$X_{ m gly}$	Y <sub>1,2-PDO</sub>	Selectivity (mol%)		
		(mol%)	(mol%)	1,2-PDO	EG	Others
1	$Co_{2.0}Ag_{0.5}/Al_2O_3$	79.3	70.7	90.2	8.1	1.7
2	$Co_{2.0}Cu_{0.5}/Al_2O_3$	17.8	12.3	69.4	0	30.6
3	$Co_{2.0}Fe_{0.5}/Al_2O_3$	1.7	0.8	60.0	0	40.0
4	$Co_{2.0}Ni_{0.5}/Al_2O_3$	6.2	1.2	20.3	0	79.7

Reaction conditions: 10 g of glycerol and 1 g of catalyst in 2.5 g of deionized water, 220 °C, 3.0 MPa  $H_2$ , 6 h; 1,2-propanediol-1,2-PDO, ethylene glycol-EG, unidentified and unlisted product mixtures were labeled as "Others".



Fig. S1 TEM image of Co $_{2.0}Ag_{0.5}\!/Al_2O_3$  and its EDS element diagram



Fig. S2 TEM, HRTEM images of spent Co<sub>2.0</sub>Ag<sub>0.5</sub>/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>



Fig. S3 XPS of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and Co-CoO (Co-CoO is prepared by reduction of CoO at 400 °C for 1 h in a 5 v% H<sub>2</sub>/Ar stream)



Fig. S4 XRD patterns of the fresh and spent  $Co_{2.0}Ag_{0.5}O_x$  catalysts



Fig. S5 H<sub>2</sub>-TPR analysis results of Co<sub>2.0</sub>Ag<sub>0.5</sub>/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Co<sub>2.0</sub>Ag<sub>0.5</sub>/HY



Fig. S6 (a) XRD patterns of Co<sub>x</sub>Ag<sub>0.5</sub>/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> with different Co loading amounts; (b) XRD patterns of Co<sub>2.0</sub>Ag<sub>x</sub>/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> with different Ag loading amounts



Fig. S7 (a) Graph of glycerol conversion over time at different temperatures; (b) -ln(1-X<sub>gly</sub>) versus time diagram to calculate the rate constant k; (c) Arrhenius diagram to calculate the activation energy of 1,2-PDO from glycerol hydrogenolysis.