

Ligand-protected precipitation of cobalt over silica nanospheres for catalytic oxidation of toluene

Xingrui Wang^{‡a}, Jiahui Yan^{‡a}, Xin Yang^a, Weilong Chun^a, Zhao Yang^a, Jiatang Shao^a,
Huiyong Chen^{*ab}

^a School of Chemical Engineering, Northwest University, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710069, China.

^b International Science & Technology Cooperation Base for Clean Utilization of Hydrocarbon Resources, Chemical Engineering Research Center of the Ministry of Education for Advanced Use Technology of Shanbei Energy, Collaborative Innovation Center for Development of Energy and Chemical Industry in Northern Shaanxi, Northwest University, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710069, China.

* Corresponding authors:

Prof. Huiyong Chen

Phone: (+86) 150 2993 2016

E-mail: hychen@nwu.edu.cn

[‡] Xingrui Wang and Jiahui Yan contributed equally to this work.

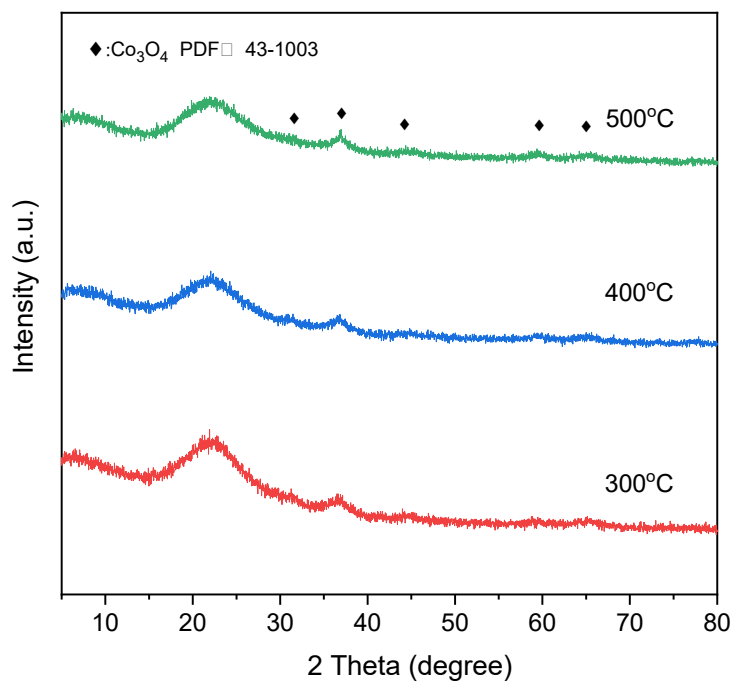


Fig. S1. XRD patterns of 10Co/SiO₂_LP calcined at various temperatures.

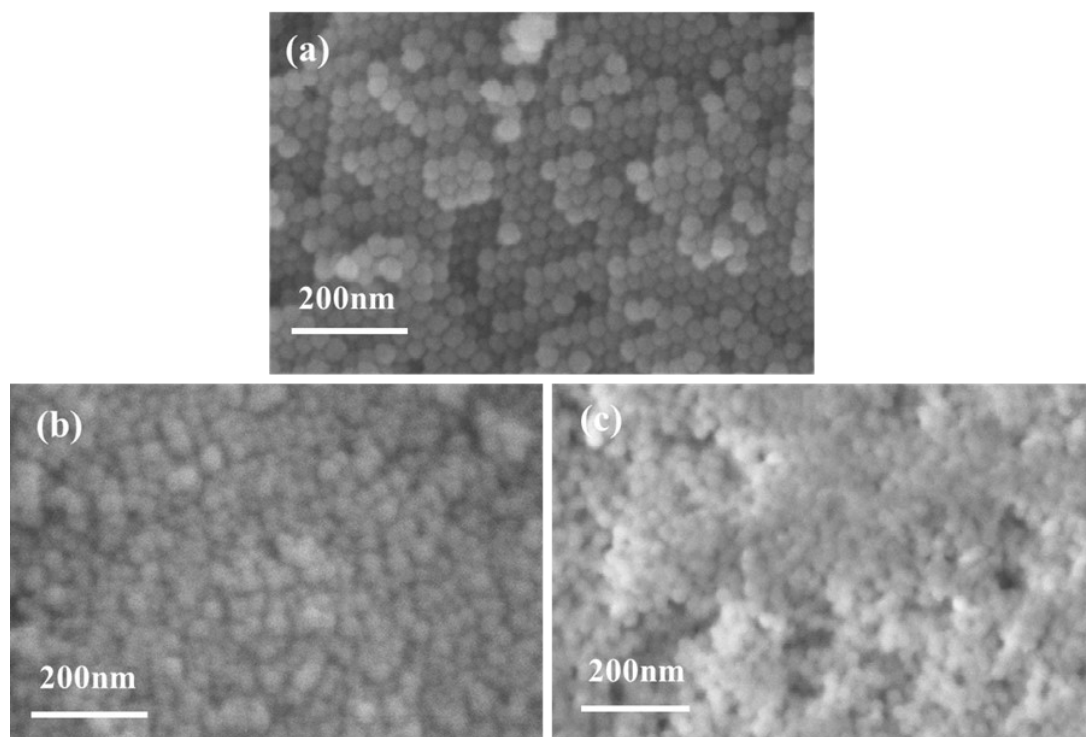


Fig. S2 SEM images of (a) SiO₂ support, (b) 10Co/SiO₂_IM, and (c) 10Co/SiO₂_LP

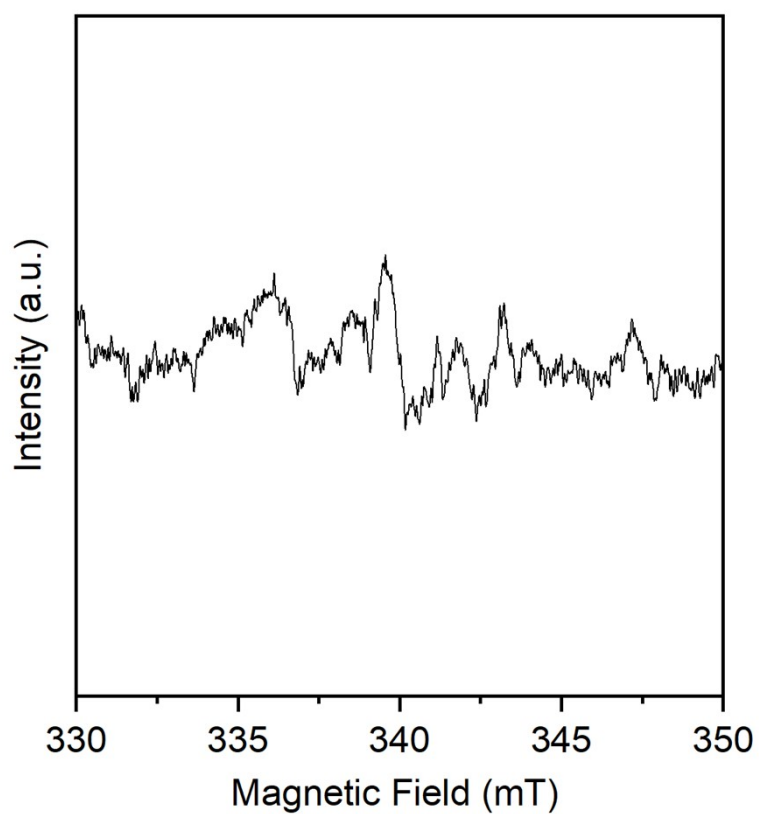


Fig. S3 EPR spectrum of the 10Co/SiO₂_LP sample calcined at 300°C

Table S1 Particles sizes of Co₃O₄ in 10Co/SiO₂_IM and 10Co/SiO₂_LP.

Sample	Co ₃ O ₄ particle size (nm)	
	XRD	TEM
10Co/SiO ₂ _IM	12.1	8-20
10Co/SiO ₂ _LP	3.6	2-6

Table S2. Binding energies and Co³⁺/Co²⁺ ratios of various Co/SiO₂ catalysts.

Catalyst sample	Binding energy (eV) Δ (Co 2p _{3/2} -Co 2p _{1/2})	Co ³⁺ /Co ²⁺	Co ³⁺ /(Co ²⁺ + Co ³⁺)
6Co/SiO ₂ _LP_400°C	15.3 (795.9-780.6)	0.88	0.47
8Co/SiO ₂ _LP_400°C	15.3 (795.7-780.4)	1.04	0.51
10Co/SiO ₂ _IM_400°C	15.3 (795.7-780.4)	0.87	0.47
10Co/SiO ₂ _LP_400°C	15.3 (795.4-780.1)	1.06	0.51
12Co/SiO ₂ _LP_400°C	15.2 (795.5-780.3)	0.94	0.48
10Co/SiO ₂ _LP_300°C	15.3 (795.7-780.4)	1.15	0.54
10Co/SiO ₂ _LP_500°C	15.3 (795.7-780.4)	0.86	0.46

Table S3. T₁₀, T₅₀ and T₉₀ values of toluene oxidation over various Co/SiO₂ catalysts.

Catalyst	T ₁₀ /°C	T ₅₀ /°C	T ₉₀ /°C
6Co/SiO ₂ _LP_400°C	188	240	260
8Co/SiO ₂ _LP_400°C	171	235	255
10Co/SiO ₂ _IM_400°C	206	250	271
10Co/SiO ₂ _LP_400°C	170	230	250
12Co/SiO ₂ _LP_400°C	166	230	250
10Co/SiO ₂ _LP_300°C	150	220	235
10Co/SiO ₂ _LP_500°C	176	232	254

Note: T₁₀, T₅₀, and T₉₀ represent the temperatures corresponding to toluene conversion rates of 10%, 50%, and 90%.

Table S4. T₁₀, T₅₀ and T₉₀ values of toluene oxidation over 10Co/SiO₂_LP at various reaction conditions.

Toluene concentration	Space velocity (ml/g·h)	T ₁₀ /°C	T ₅₀ /°C	T ₉₀ /°C
100 ppm	45000	150	220	235
400 ppm	45000	200	230	240
700 ppm	45000	220	248	257
100 ppm	70000	160	225	237
100 ppm	120000	175	228	240

Note: T₁₀, T₅₀, and T₉₀ represent the temperatures corresponding to toluene conversion rates of 10%, 50%, and 90%.

Table S5. Comparison of toluene oxidation performance of 10Co/SiO₂_LP with the reported Co-based catalysts.

Catalyst	Catalyst dosage (g)	Toluene concentration (ppm)	Space velocity (ml·g ⁻¹ ·h ⁻¹)	T ₉₀ (°C)	Long-term stability (h)	References
0.5CMO/3DOM-Al ₂ O ₃	0.08 g(0.008 g),	1000	30000	274	-	[1]
ε-MnO ₂	- (-)	500	60000	243	-	[2]
pompon-like Co ₃ O ₄	- (-)	500	60000	298		[3]
10% CoOx/g-C ₃ N ₄	0.05g(0.005g)	1000	156000	279	>36	[4]
CuO/Co ₃ O ₄ -S	0.1g(0.02g),	500	10000	246	>100	[5]
CoCeO _x /Beta	- (-)	1000	10000	307	-	[6]
Co ₃ O ₄	0.1 g(0.1 g)	1000	60000	270	-	[7]
	0.2 g(0.02 g)	100	45000	235	>100	This work
10Co/SiO ₂ _LP_300°C	0.2 g(0.02 g)	700	45000	257	>100	This work
	0.2 g(0.02 g)	100	120000	240	>100	This work

References

- [1] J. Vélez, G. E. González, L. Urán, J. Arboleda, A. Echavarría, M. Velasquez, R. Molina, S. Moreno and C. Ostos, *Applied Surface Science*, 2025, **708**, 163736.
- [2] M. T. Nguyen Dinh, C. C. Nguyen, T. L. Truong Vu, V. T. Ho and Q. D. Truong, *Applied Catalysis A: General*, 2020, **595**, 117473.

- [3] W. Liu, R. Liu, H. Zhang, Q. Jin, Z. Song and X. Zhang, *Applied Catalysis A: General*, 2020, **597**, 117539.
- [4] C. Miao, J. Liu, J. Zhao, Y. Quan, T. Li, Y. Pei, X. Li and J. Ren, *New Journal of Chemistry*, 2020, **44**, 11557-11565.
- [5] W. Liu, H. Yu, S. Yang, Z. Song, X. Chen and X. Zhang, *Environmental Research*, 2024, **248**, 118411.
- [6] Y. Wang, S. Wu, G. Wu, N. Fang, Y. Chu and J. Guo, *Microporous and Mesoporous Materials*, 2022, **343**, 112158.
- [7] Rokicińska A, Natkański P, Dudek B, et al, *Applied Catalysis B: Environmental*, 2016, **195**, 59-68.