

Can NO_x reduction by CO react over carbon-based single-atom catalysts at low temperatures? A theoretical study

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Abstract

First principles studies combined with the microkinetic analysis were performed to study the reliability and reaction mechanisms of single-atom doped graphene (SADGr) materials in catalyzing NO_x reduction with CO. By screening the 3d transition metals (Sc-Zn) and group-IV elements (Si and Ge), it was found that the Ti and Co doped graphene sheets (TiGr and CoGr) respectively own excellent catalytic activities in the NO/NO₂-to-N₂O and the N₂O-to-N₂ processes at low temperatures. Therefore, the TiGr/CoGr composite can be a promising catalyst in NO_x reduction with CO. It was further revealed the combination of adsorption energy and electronegativity was a good descriptor to predict the activation energies. The obtained results can provide useful information for rational design of carbon-based single-atom catalysts for NO_x reduction by CO at low temperatures.

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