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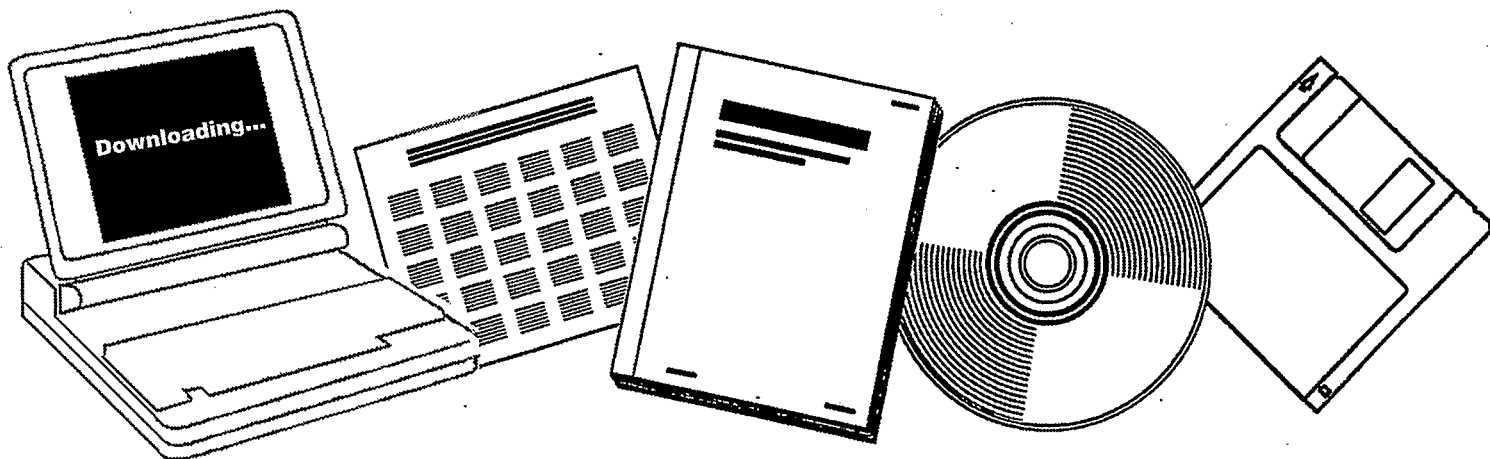
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**EFFECT OF CHEMICAL ADDITIVES ON THE  
SYNTHESIS OF ETHANOL. TECHNICAL PROGRESS  
REPORT NO. 12, JUNE 16, 1990-SEPTEMBER 15,  
1990**

**AKRON UNIV., OH. DEPT. OF CHEMICAL  
ENGINEERING**

**NOV 1990**



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DOE/PC/79923--T4

THE EFFECT OF CHEMICAL ADDITIVES ON THE SYNTHESIS OF ETHANOL

DOE/PC/79923--T4

DE91 006633

Technical Progress Report 12

Grant No. DE-FG22-87PC79923

June 16, 1990 - Sept 15, 1990

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Date of Submission: November 1990

US/DOE Patent Clearance is not require prior to the publication  
of this document.

DEC 06 1990

## SUMMARY

The objective of this research is to elucidate the role of additives on the methanol synthesis over Rh- and Ni-based catalysts. Chemical additives used for this study will include S, P, Ag, Cu, Mn, and Na which have different electronegativities. The effect of additives on the surface state of the catalysts, heat of adsorption of reactant molecules, reaction intermediates, reaction pathways, reaction kinetics, and product distributions is/will be investigated by a series of experimental studies of NO adsorption, reaction probing, study state rate measurement, and transient kinetic study.

A better understanding of the role of additive on the synthesis reaction may allow us to use chemical additives to manipulate the catalytic properties of Rh- and Ni-based catalysts for producing high yields of ethanol from syngas.

## RESULT TO DATE

During the third quarter of 1990, the activity of silica-supported Ru catalysts for the high oxygenate synthesis has been studied by in situ infrared spectroscopy.

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### Summary

Ethylene hydroformylation, CO hydrogenation, and CO adsorption on Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> and sulfided Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> were studied by *in situ* infrared spectroscopy. Ethylene hydroformylation has been shown to occur on the surface of Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> and sulfided Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts. Increasing reaction pressure slightly increased the infrared absorbance of linear CO and greatly enhanced selectivities and activities for the formation of acetaldehyde and propionaldehyde in CO hydrogenation and ethylene hydroformylation, respectively. No relation between the infrared spectra of adsorbed CO and the hydroformylation activity was observed. Sulfidation of Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> led to the decrease in the wavenumber and absorbance of linearly adsorbed CO; the inhibition of CO hydrogenation, ethylene hydrogenation, and ethylene hydroformylation. The transient and temperature-programmed reaction studies revealed that sulfur poisoning of Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst for ethylene hydroformylation was due primarily to the inhibition of desorption of propionaldehyde from the sulfided Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>.

## Introduction

Syngas (CO/H<sub>2</sub>) and related reactions constitute important pathways for the conversion of coal to chemical feedstocks and liquid fuel [1-5]. One of the most important syngas related reactions is the hydroformylation of olefins that represents the largest volume use of syngas in homogeneously catalyzed reactions [5]. Extensive mechanistic studies have shown that the homogeneous hydroformylation reaction proceeds via (i) the insertion of CO into alkyl-metal complexes leading to the formation of acyl-complex intermediates and then followed by (ii) the hydrogenolysis to give aldehydes [1,3,5-7]. The hydroformylation mechanism has often been used as a model to explain the formation of C<sub>2+</sub> aldehydes and alcohols in the Fischer-Tropsch (F-T) synthesis (heterogeneous CO hydrogenation) [3-6,8-16]. Probing the mechanism of CO hydrogenation by olefin additions has shown that the reaction of added olefins with syngas on the supported Group VIII metals leads to the formation of aldehydes [12,13,16-19]. It has been suggested that the reaction for the formation of aldehydes on the supported Rh catalyst may be considered as the heterogeneous hydroformylation that resembles the homogeneous hydroformylation catalyzed by metal complexes [12,13].

Ru metal has long been known to be active for the F-T synthesis [4,14,15,20-24]. Increasing reaction pressure shifted the product selectivity from hydrocarbons to aldehydes and alcohols. Oxide-supported Ru catalysts have also been found to exhibit activities for the formation of aldehydes from reactions of syngas and olefins [13,17,18]. Although the reaction leading

to aldehyde has been considered as hydroformylation, the nature of the reaction remains unclear.

Sulfur is known to be a severe poison to the heterogeneous metal catalysts that catalyze CO hydrogenation, olefin hydrogenation, paraffin hydrogenolysis, and hydrocarbon related reactions [25-27]. The poisoning effect of sulfur compounds on the metal surface has been attributed to the blockage of active sites as well as the modification of surface states of the catalyst by adsorbed sulfur. Interestingly, several recent studies have shown that sulfur compounds such as H<sub>2</sub>S slightly enhanced ethylene hydroformylation over Rh/SiO<sub>2</sub> and Ni/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts [28-31] but inhibited the reaction on Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> [32]. The failure of sulfur to poison the hydroformylation reaction on the Ni and Rh catalysts has been ascribed to the inability of adsorbed sulfur to deactivate the single atom site that is responsible for the reaction. However, the mechanism for sulfur poisoning of Ru catalysts in the hydroformylation is still not understood. Because syngas, produced from coal, usually contaminates with a significant amount of sulfur compounds such as H<sub>2</sub>S, developing a better understanding of the role of sulfur in syngas reaction and hydroformylation is of great technological importance.

The objective of this study was to investigate the nature of ethylene hydroformylation over Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> and the role of sulfur in the reaction. An *in situ* infrared spectroscopic (IR) technique was employed to study CO adsorption, CO hydrogenation, and ethylene hydroformylation on Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> and sulfided Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts. Results of CO adsorption and CO hydrogenation were

compared with those of hydroformylation to clarify the IR bands of various adsorbed species. The dynamic behavior of all adsorbed species during the hydroformylation was examined by a transient experiment in which a steady-state CO/H<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> flow was switched to a steady-state CO/H<sub>2</sub> flow. The reactivity of the adsorbed species with H<sub>2</sub> was studied by temperature-programmed reaction (TPR) with H<sub>2</sub>.

### Experimental

The 3 wt% Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst was prepared by impregnation of SiO<sub>2</sub> (Strem Chemicals, #14-7420, SA:350 m<sup>2</sup>/g) using RuCl<sub>3</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (Johnson Matthey Chemicals). The catalyst was dried overnight in air at 301 K, then reduced in flowing hydrogen at 673 K for 16 hr. Details of sulfidation, catalyst characterization, IR cell, and sample preparation for IR studies have been described elsewhere [31,32]. Briefly, sulfidation was conducted by exposure of Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> to flowing H<sub>2</sub>S flow (1000 ppm H<sub>2</sub>S in H<sub>2</sub>) at 513 K for 1 hr. The bulk ratio of sulfur to ruthenium was determined by energy-dispersive spectroscopy. Ru crystallite size before and after sulfidation was determined to be 80 Å by X-ray diffraction (XRD) line-broadening technique. No significant difference in XRD spectra for the sulfided and unsulfided Ru indicates that sulfidation at 513 K could reach to the surface of the particle rather than the entire particle of Ru. Hydrogen uptake for the Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> and the S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> was measured by hydrogen temperature-programmed desorption. The catalyst was pressed into a form of a self-supported disk (20 mg, 10 mm in diameter and 1 mm in thickness) and then placed in the IR cell which is made of stainless steel with CaF<sub>2</sub> windows.



CO hydrogenation ( $\text{CO}:\text{H}_2 = 1:1$ ) and ethylene hydroformylation ( $\text{CO}:\text{H}_2:\text{C}_2\text{H}_4 = 1:1:1$ ) were studied in steady-state flow conditions of 513 K and 0.10 - 3.0 MPa in the IR cell which can be considered as a differential reactor. IR spectra of adsorbed species were recorded by a Nicolet 5SXC FTIR spectrometer with a DTGS detector at a resolution of  $4\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Gas phase CO bands were eliminated by subtracting the adsorbance of gas phase CO with a  $\text{SiO}_2$  disk in the cell from the spectra of gaseous reactants and products as well as adsorbed species on the  $\text{Ru}/\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{S-Ru}/\text{SiO}_2$  catalysts. Subsequent to recording each IR spectrum, the effluent of the IR cell was sampled and analyzed by an on-line HP-5890A gas chromatography with a Porapak PS column.

The transient infrared study was conducted by switching a steady-state  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4/\text{CO}/\text{H}_2$  flow to a steady-state  $\text{CO}/\text{H}_2$  flow and maintaining at constant pressure. The change in the IR intensity of adsorbed species during the switch was closely monitored by infrared spectromeyer.

Following the steady-state ethylene hydroformylation, reactor temperatures and pressures were decreased to 303 K and 0.10 MPa. The temperature-programmed reaction (TPR) was then carried out by introducing a flow of  $\text{H}_2$  to the IR cell at  $10\text{ cm}^3/\text{min}$  and heating the reactor at a rate of 5 K/min to 513 K. IR spectra were taken during the entire course of the TPR study.

## Results and Discussion

### CO Adsorption

Figure 1 shows the infrared spectra of CO adsorption on the  $\text{Ru}/\text{SiO}_2$  and the  $\text{S-Ru}/\text{SiO}_2$  catalysts at 513 K. Two bands were observed for CO adsorption on the  $\text{Ru}/\text{SiO}_2$  catalyst at 1.0 MPa: a

linear CO band at  $2040\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and a weak bridge-CO band at about  $1787\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The observed wavenumbers of adsorbed CO are in good agreement with those reported for Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> [22,32,33,35-38]. Decreasing the pressure of CO from 1.0 to 0.10 MPa caused a slightly downward shift of the linear CO wavenumber. Admission of H<sub>2</sub> to the reactor at 513 K resulted in a decrease in the intensity of the linear CO and in a downward shift of its wavenumber. Such a downward shift can be attributed to the reduction in dipole-dipole coupling [37,38] as a result of the removal of the adsorbed CO by reaction with hydrogen.

The influence of sulfur on the infrared spectra for adsorbed CO is also shown in Figure 1. Sulfidation of the catalyst resulted in (i) a reduction in the intensity of the linear CO band, (ii) a downward shift of the linear CO wavenumber, and (iii) a suppression of the weak bridge-CO band. Adsorbed sulfur appeared to disrupt the adjacent pairs of Ru metal atoms, and therefore suppressing bridge-CO sites. The inhibition of CO adsorption in the bridge form brought about by adsorbed sulfur has also been reported for Ni and Rh [25,27,28,30-32]. The results of (i) and (ii) may be due to a lower concentration of adsorbed CO on the surface of sulfided Ru (S-Ru) rather than a ligand effect of adsorbed sulfur [26]. The effect of sulfur on the CO adsorbed on Ru has been found to differ from the effect on Ni and Pt [39,40]. An upward shift of the wavenumber for the linear CO has been observed on the sulfided Ni and Rh [27,28,32]. The sulfided Ni and Rh catalysts showed a lower bonding energy for the CO than the unsulfided catalysts.

The decrease in CO pressures from 1.0 to 0.10 MPa resulted in a slight modification of the intensity and wavenumber of linear CO on the Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>, but a marked decrease in the intensity and a downward shift of the wavenumber for linear CO on the S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>. The greater dependence of the intensity of the linear CO on the CO pressure reflects a smaller equilibrium constant for the adsorption of CO on the S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>.

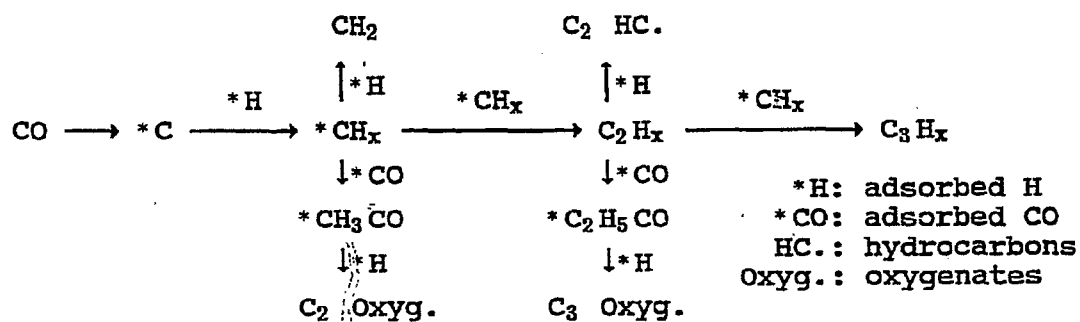
#### CO Hydrogenation on Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>

The effect of reaction pressure on the infrared spectra for Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> and S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> are shown in Figure 2. Table 1 presents results of the rates of product formation from CO hydrogenation corresponding to IR spectra taken under steady-state conditions. The TOFs for CO conversion on the Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst are lower than those reported in the literature [8]. This may be due to the use of higher ratio of CO/H<sub>2</sub>. The major bands observed for the CO hydrogenation at 513 K and 0.10 MPa were the linear-CO band at 2003 cm<sup>-1</sup> and bands corresponding to hydrocarbon species in the region of 2860-2970 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1461 cm<sup>-1</sup> [41]. Methane was identified to be the major product while no oxygenates were observed under this reaction condition.

As reaction pressure increased from 0.10 to 1.0 MPa, the linear CO shifted from 2003 cm<sup>-1</sup> to 2020 cm<sup>-1</sup> and its intensity increased; the intensity of hydrocarbon bands and the rate of hydrocarbon formation also increased (shown in Table 1). Further increases in reaction pressure increased the intensity of hydrocarbon bands, but did not affect the intensity and wavenumber of the linear CO at pressures above 1.0 MPa. The stability of these adsorbed CO and Hydrocarbons were examined by

treating the catalyst in flowing H<sub>2</sub> (10 cm<sup>3</sup>/min) at 513 K and 0.1 MPa. As shown in Figure 2(A)-e, a decrease in the intensity of the linear-CO band was accompanied by a downward shift of the band. In contrast, the intensity of the hydrocarbon bands were not affected by flowing hydrogen indicating that these hydrocarbons may be inert spectator species [34] and adsorbed on the silica support. Unreactive surface hydrocarbons have also been observed on the CO hydrogenation on alumina-supported Ru catalysts. It has been suggested that these hydrocarbon species were formed on the Ru metal surface and then migrated onto the alumina support [24,42].

Table 1 shows that the rate of acetaldehyde formation increased with reaction pressure. It has been suggested that C<sub>2</sub> oxygenate such as acetaldehyde and ethanol is formed via the insertion of CO into CH<sub>x</sub> which is produced from carbon monoxide dissociation followed by hydrogenation as shown in the following reaction pathway [9-15].



Because the formation of C<sub>2</sub> oxygenates, methane and C<sub>2</sub> hydrocarbons involves a common intermediate, CH<sub>x</sub>, a higher ratio of CH<sub>3</sub>CHO/CH<sub>4</sub> represents a higher CO insertion selectivity. The increase in the ratio of CH<sub>3</sub>CHO/CH<sub>4</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub>CHO/C<sub>2</sub>+HC with

increasing pressures (see Table 1) indicates that CO insertion competed favorably with hydrogenation and chain growth at higher reaction pressures. However, the intensity and the wavenumber of the linear CO band are relatively insensitive to the overall reaction pressure in the range from 1.0 to 3.0 MPa. No obvious relation between IR spectra of the adsorbed CO and the activity for CO insertion can be discerned.

Comparison of IR spectra of adsorbed CO in the CO hydrogenation (Figure 2) with those in the CO adsorption study on Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> (Figure 1) reveals that the linear CO in the CO/H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere exhibited a lower wavenumber and a lower absorbance compared to that observed in the pure CO atmosphere.

Coadsorption of CO and H<sub>2</sub> has been found to result in a downward shift of linear CO wavenumber on Ru [24,34,42]. The downward shift accompanied by the decreases in the absorbance for the adsorbed CO may be attributed to the decrease in dipole-dipole interactions a result of dilution by adsorbed hydrogen [42,43] rather than the ligand effect of adsorbed hydrogen [6].

#### CO Hydrogenation on Sulfided Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>

As shown in Table 1, the addition of sulfur inhibited the formation of both C<sub>2+</sub> hydrocarbons and oxygenates. Methane was the only product observed on the sulfided catalyst. Increasing the pressure from 0.10 to 3.0 MPa enhanced the rate of the methane formation by a factor of 2.8. Comparison of the rate of methane formation on Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> and S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> shows that sulfur slightly inhibited the rate of methane formation at 0.10 MPa. A more pronounced suppression of the rate of methane formation by sulfur was observed at higher pressures. Sulfur appeared to have

a small effect on the methane formation but a greater inhibition effect on the production of  $C_2+$  hydrocarbons and oxygenates. Energy-dispersive spectroscopic studies of the S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> showed that the bulk ratio of S to Ru was 0.12. Hydrogen TPD studies showed that sulfidation led to complete loss of hydrogen chemisorption capacity [44]. Studies on S-Ru(III) indicated a sulfur coverage of 0.33 could result in the complete suppression of hydrogen chemisorption [45]. The presence of sulfur on Ru has also been found to poison the methanation [46]. The lack of poisoning effect of sulfur on the methanation in this study could be due to the low sulfur coverage of the S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>.

The infrared spectra corresponding to the rate data shown in Table 1 are presented in Figure 2(B). The spectrum 2(B)-a is the background spectrum recorded for the used Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> that had been exposed to CO/H<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> reactant mixture and then followed by reduction in flowing hydrogen for 10 hr and sulfidation for 1 hr at 513 K. A certain amount of hydrocarbon species on the catalyst was observed by infrared spectroscopy. It is important to note that those hydrocarbon bands in the IR background have no effect on the performance of the sulfided Ru. Sulfidation of the used Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts and the fresh Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> resulted in the same activity and selectivity. The major spectral feature for CO hydrogenation on the sulfided catalyst is the linear CO at 2009-2013 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The hydrocarbon bands at 2860-2960 cm<sup>-1</sup> exhibiting the same intensity at various conditions appear to be spectator species.

Comparison of the IR spectra for Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> and S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> (see Figure 2) shows the major effect of adsorbed sulfur on the

adsorbed CO during CO hydrogenation is to decrease its intensity and wavenumber. Flowing hydrogen over the catalysts at 513 K (see spectra 2(A)-e and 2(B)-e) caused a downward shift of the linearly adsorbed CO by  $59\text{ cm}^{-1}$  on Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> and by  $10\text{ cm}^{-1}$  on S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> and a more decrease in the CO intensity for Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> than for S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>. Such a less shift and decrease of the adsorbed CO on the S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst may be due to the fact that adsorbed sulfur inhibits hydrogen chemisorption [25-27,45]. As a result, less adsorbed hydrogen was available to react with CO and to remove CO from the surface of sulfided Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst. The observed inhibition effects of sulfur on CO adsorption and CO hydrogenation in this study are, in some respect, consistent with those reported in the literature [25-27,46]. Adsorbed sulfur has been found to block the bridge-CO sites, weaken the metal-CO bond, and inhibit CO hydrogenation.

#### Ethylene Hydroformylation on Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>

Table 2 shows the influence of reaction pressure on the rate of product formation for CO/H<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> reaction (hydroformylation) over Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>. The formation of CH<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>3+</sub> hydrocarbons, C<sub>2</sub> oxygenates, ethane, and propionaldehyde indicates that CO hydrogenation, ethylene hydrogenation, and ethylene hydroformylation take place at the same time. Higher rates of C<sub>4</sub> hydrocarbon formation than C<sub>3</sub> hydrocarbon formation suggest that dimerization of ethylene occurred to a significant extent. Although the rate of formation of all the products increased with increasing pressure, there was significant variation in the pressure effect on the rate of product formation. As reaction pressure increased from 0.10 to 3.0 MPa, the rate of methane

formation increased by a factor of 2; the rate of ethane formation increased by a factor of 7.7; and the rate of propionaldehyde formation increased by a factor of 65. The extent of pressure effect on the rate of product formation decreased in the order:  $C_2H_5CHO > C_2H_4 > CH_4$ , suggesting that CO insertion is highly favorable at high pressures.

Figure 3 shows the infrared spectra taken under steady-state  $CO/H_2/C_2H_4$  reaction conditions corresponding to the reaction results listed in Table 2. At 0.10 MPa, the linear CO was observed at  $1983\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The lower wavenumber of the linear CO under the hydroformylation condition compared with that of linear CO under the CO hydrogenation condition (see Figure 2) is primarily due to the dilution of adsorbed CO by the adsorbed ethylene and hydrogen species [37]. Increasing in the total pressure resulted in increases in the intensity of the linear CO and an upward shift of the linear CO wavenumber. No obvious relation between CO insertion selectivity and the wavenumber of adsorbed CO was observed. The gaseous ethylene was observed at  $1921, 1888, 1861\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1400\text{--}1500\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and in the vicinity of  $3100\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . One band at  $1738\text{ cm}^{-1}$  with a shoulder at  $1681\text{ cm}^{-1}$  began to emerge as reaction pressure increased. The former corresponds to adsorbed propionaldehyde, which was identified by the injection of the propionaldehyde to the  $Ru/SiO_2$  catalyst. The intensity of this band paralleled the rate of formation of the propionaldehyde. The shoulder at  $1681\text{ cm}^{-1}$  may be assigned to be an acyl species [47,48]. The band has also been detected on Rh derived catalysts which exhibit high selectivity for  $C_2$  oxygenate formation [9,47,48].



Admission of flowing  $H_2$  to the reactor at 513 K removed the gas phase ethylene and ethane bands and gradually attenuated the intensity of the adsorbed CO band and propionaldehyde band. However, the hydrocarbon bands that resemble those observed in CO hydrogenation study did not readily desorb under the this reduction condition. This observation further supports the proposition that these species are situated on the support rather than on the metal surface.

#### Ethylene Hydroformylation on Sulfided Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>

Table 3 shows the effect of reaction pressure on the rate of product formation for CO/H<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> on S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>. Ethane was the major product; methane and propionaldehyde were the minor products. A trace amount of C<sub>3+</sub> hydrocarbons and acetaldehyde were also observed. Increasing reaction pressure led to increases in the rates of formation of all products. Increases in the ratio of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>CHO to C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub> with increasing reaction pressures indicates that the formation of propionaldehyde is favorable at high pressures. Comparison of ratios of the formation rates of propionaldehyde and ethane before sulfidation to those after sulfidation shows that sulfur had a greater inhibition effect on the rate of the propionaldehyde formation than that of the ethane formation.

The influence of reaction pressure on infrared spectra for the ethylene hydroformylation on S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> are shown in Figure 3(B). The infrared bands for S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> were similar to those observed for the Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst. The hydrocarbon bands on the Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> and the S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> were identical in wavenumber and intensity. The intensity of the linear CO band was smaller on

the sulfided catalyst. A relatively strong IR intensity of adsorbed propionaldehyde was also observed on the sulfided catalyst. Admission of flowing  $H_2$  to the reactor led to a gradual decrease in the intensity of linear CO and a very slow reduction in the intensity of propionaldehyde. As compared to the Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst, the propionaldehyde appeared to be strongly bonded on the S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>. As a result, the desorption of the adsorbed propionaldehyde from S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> was greatly inhibited.

A careful comparison of the infrared spectra and rate data for the Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> and the S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> shows that adsorbed sulfur (i) slightly decreased the intensity and wavenumber of the linear CO band; (ii) inhibited desorption/reaction of linear CO in flowing hydrogen at 513 K; (iii) caused an emergence of the shoulder band of an unknown species at 1880 -1890 cm<sup>-1</sup>; (iv) increased the intensity of the propionaldehyde band; (v) suppressed the formation of CO hydrogenation products such as C<sub>3+</sub> hydrocarbon and acetaldehyde; (vi) exhibited a more severe inhibition effect on the formation of propionaldehyde than the formation of ethane. The most interesting part of the above observations is the increase in the intensity of the propionaldehyde band and the decrease in the rate of formation of propionaldehyde with the addition of sulfur. The result suggests that sulfur appears to promote CO insertion but inhibit the desorption of propionaldehyde; therefore making desorption of propionaldehyde the rate-limiting step on the S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>.

#### **Dynamic Behavior of Adsorbed Propionaldehyde**

In order to determine the effect of adsorbed sulfur on the dynamic behavior of adsorbed propionaldehyde, a transient FTIR

study was conducted by the following procedure. Following the steady-state hydroformylation at 1.0 MPa and 513 K, the feed was switched from a steady-state flow of  $\text{CO}/\text{H}_2/\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$  to a steady-state flow of  $\text{CO}/\text{H}_2$ . Figure 4-A shows a series of infrared spectra taken during the switch on the  $\text{Ru}/\text{SiO}_2$ . As  $\text{CO}/\text{H}_2$  displaced  $\text{CO}/\text{H}_2/\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$ , the intensity of gaseous ethylene, adsorbed propionaldehyde, and acyl bands gradually decreased while the intensity and wavenumber of adsorbed CO increased. The displacement process for the gaseous ethylene is slow due to the condition of high pressure and the low flow rate even though the volume of the IR cell is less than  $120 \text{ mm}^3$ .

Infrared spectra for the  $\text{S-Ru}/\text{SiO}_2$  similar to those for the  $\text{Ru}/\text{SiO}_2$  during the transient condition were also obtained as shown in Figure 4-B. The major difference in the spectra of adsorbed species on the  $\text{Ru}/\text{SiO}_2$  and the  $\text{S-Ru}/\text{SiO}_2$  during the switch is that the intensity of adsorbed propionaldehyde on the  $\text{Ru}/\text{SiO}_2$  decreased much more rapidly than that of adsorbed propionaldehyde on the  $\text{S-Ru}/\text{SiO}_2$ . These results indicate that adsorbed propionaldehyde is more strongly bonded on the  $\text{S-Ru}/\text{SiO}_2$  than on the  $\text{Ru}/\text{SiO}_2$ . As a result, the desorption of adsorbed propionaldehyde from  $\text{S-Ru}/\text{SiO}_2$  is strongly inhibited, thus leading to the inhibition of the formation of gaseous propionaldehyde product from the hydroformylation.

#### Temperature Programmed Reaction (TPR) with $\text{H}_2$

The reactivity of all the adsorbed species toward hydrogen was examined by temperature-programmed reaction with hydrogen. Prior to the TPR study, the  $\text{CO}/\text{H}_2/\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$  reaction was carried out at 513 K and 1.0 MPa for 1 hr to reach the steady state and then

the reactor pressure and temperature were decreased to 0.10 MPa and 298 K. Hydrogen was then passed through the reactor at a flow rate of 10 cm<sup>3</sup>/min; the reactor temperature was increased at a rate of 5 K/min.

Figure 5 shows a series of IR spectra taken during the TPR study. The initial spectrum at 298 K included the adsorbed linear-CO, hydrocarbons, and propionaldehyde bands which are similar to those under reaction conditions. Band at 1672 cm<sup>-1</sup> that has been assigned to an acyl group were also observed.

In order to discriminate the change of intensity for various bands with respect to temperature, a relative change in intensity of the adsorbed bands was plotted as a function of temperature. The area of the integrated absorbance is related to the concentration of the adsorbed species if the extinction coefficient is assumed to be independent of the surface coverage of the adsorbed species [42,49]. As shown in Figure 6, the intensity of linear CO band on the Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> showed a small decline from room temperature to 473 K and then followed by a rapid decrease as temperature increased above 473 K, while the intensity of the propionaldehyde band exhibited a rapid decrease to 423 K and then slowly depleted. In contrast, the intensity of the linear CO on the S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> decreased linearly with increasing temperature, while the intensity of the propionaldehyde band showed an initial decline and then level off. These observations provide evidence that linear CO is more strongly bonded on the Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> than the S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> at 303-480 K under flowing H<sub>2</sub> while the adsorbed propionaldehyde showed the reverse trend. By contrast, the more rapid diminishing of the linear CO on the

Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> than on the S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst at 513 K under flowing H<sub>2</sub> (see Figure 2) may be explained by the easier of hydrogenation of adsorbed CO on the Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> than on the S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>.

### Conclusions

Although olefin hydroformylation has been well recognized as homogeneously catalyzed reaction, the presence of linearly adsorbed CO and adsorbed propionaldehyde and the absence of Ru carbonyl species on the surface of the Ru catalysts suggest that the ethylene hydroformylation can also occur on the surface of the Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst. Increases in reaction pressure enhance the selectivity to propionaldehyde on both Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> and S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalysts. The effect of sulfur on the reaction on Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> can be summarized as follows:

- (i) Sulfur blocked bridge-CO sites and inhibited the desorption of adsorbed propionaldehyde.
- (ii) Sulfur poisoned the formation of higher hydrocarbons and oxygenates in CO hydrogenation.
- (iii) Sulfur poisoned ethylene hydrogenation and hydroformylation.

This is in contrast to our previous observations that adsorbed sulfur is ineffective in poisoning ethylene hydroformylation on the Rh/SiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst [29,30]; adsorbed sulfur promotes hydroformylation on the Ni/SiO<sub>2</sub> [31,32]. While sulfur poisons indiscriminately Group VIII metals for CO hydrogenation, it exhibits different poison and promotion effects on the Ru, Rh, and Ni metals for hydroformylation. The poisoning effect of sulfur on hydroformylation on the Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> has been ascribed to an inhibition of desorption of the adsorbed propionaldehyde brought

about by adsorbed sulfur.

**Acknowledgment**

Funding for this research was provided by the U.S. Department of Energy under Grant DE-FG-22-87PC79923.

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Table 1  
Rate of Formation under CO Hydrogenation  
over Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> and Sulfided Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>

	Pressure (MPa)			
	0.10	1.0	2.0	3.0
<b>Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> Catalyst</b>				
10 <sup>-3</sup> × TOF (sec <sup>-1</sup> )	0.13	0.76	0.73	1.2
<b>Product Formation (gmol/kg-hr)</b>				
CH <sub>4</sub>	0.011	0.041	0.037	0.041
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	0.0	0.005	0.004	0.004
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	0.001	0.0007	0.0006	0.0006
C <sub>3</sub> HC <sup>a</sup>	0.0005	0.006	0.005	0.005
CH <sub>3</sub> CHO	0.0	0.005	0.008	0.031
CH <sub>3</sub> CHO/CH <sub>4</sub> <sup>b</sup>	0.0	0.12	0.22	0.75
CH <sub>3</sub> CHO/C <sub>2</sub> +HC	0.0	0.42	0.83	3.2
<b>S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> Catalyst<sup>c</sup></b>				
<b>Product Formation (gmol/kg-hr)</b>				
CH <sub>4</sub>	0.01	0.023	-	0.028

Temperature: 513 K  
CO:H<sub>2</sub> = 1:1

a: HC: Hydrocarbon

b: CH<sub>3</sub>CHO/CH<sub>4</sub> is the ratio of the CH<sub>3</sub>CHO formation rate to the CH<sub>4</sub> formation rate.

c: The ratio of S to Ru for S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> is determined to be 0.2 by EDS [32].

Table 2  
Rate of Formation under CO/H<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> Reaction over Ru/SiO<sub>4</sub>

Pressure (MPa)	0.10	1.0	2.0	3.0
Product Formation (gmol/kg-hr)				
CH <sub>4</sub>	0.023	0.037	0.042	0.046
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	0.214	1.23	1.19	1.65
C <sub>3</sub> HC	0.004	0.013	0.016	0.02
C <sub>4</sub> HC	0.01	0.034	0.034	0.04
CH <sub>3</sub> CHO	0.0	0.0	0.006	0.006
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> CHO	0.01	0.29	0.46	0.65
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> CHO/C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	0.05	0.24	0.38	0.39

Temperature: 513 K  
CO:H<sub>2</sub>:C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> = 1:1:1

Table 3  
Rate of Formation under CO/H<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> Reaction  
over Sulfided Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>

Pressure (MPa)	0.10	1.0	2.0	3.0
Product Formation (gmol/kg-hr) <sup>a</sup>				
CH <sub>4</sub>	0.02	0.037	0.038	0.040
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	0.062	0.33	0.39	0.42
C <sub>3</sub> HC	0.0006	0.002	0.003	0.005
CH <sub>3</sub> CHO	0.0	0.008	0.005	0.009
C <sub>4</sub> HC	0.0	0.005	0.018	0.021
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> CHO	0.0	0.04	0.08	0.11
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> CHO/C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	0.0	0.12	0.2	0.26
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> CHO(S)/C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> CHO <sup>a</sup>	0.0	0.14	0.17	0.17
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> (S)/C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	0.29	0.27	0.33	0.25

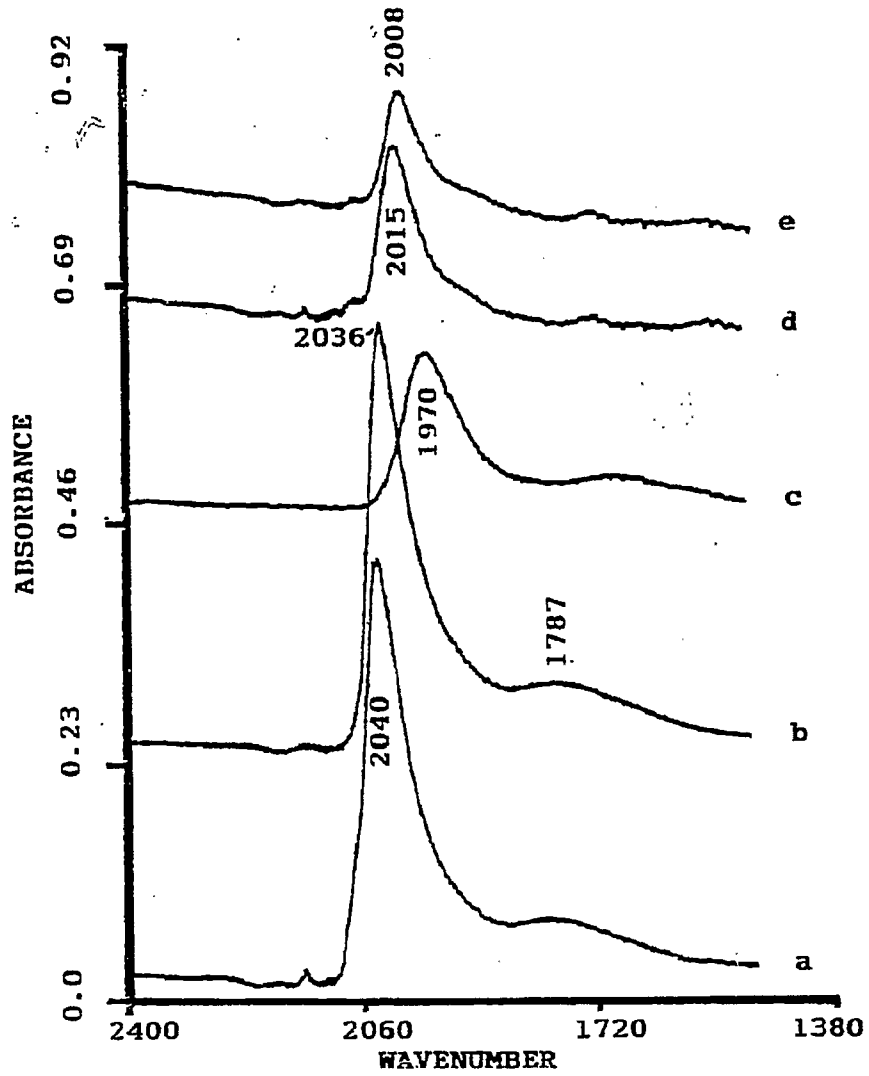
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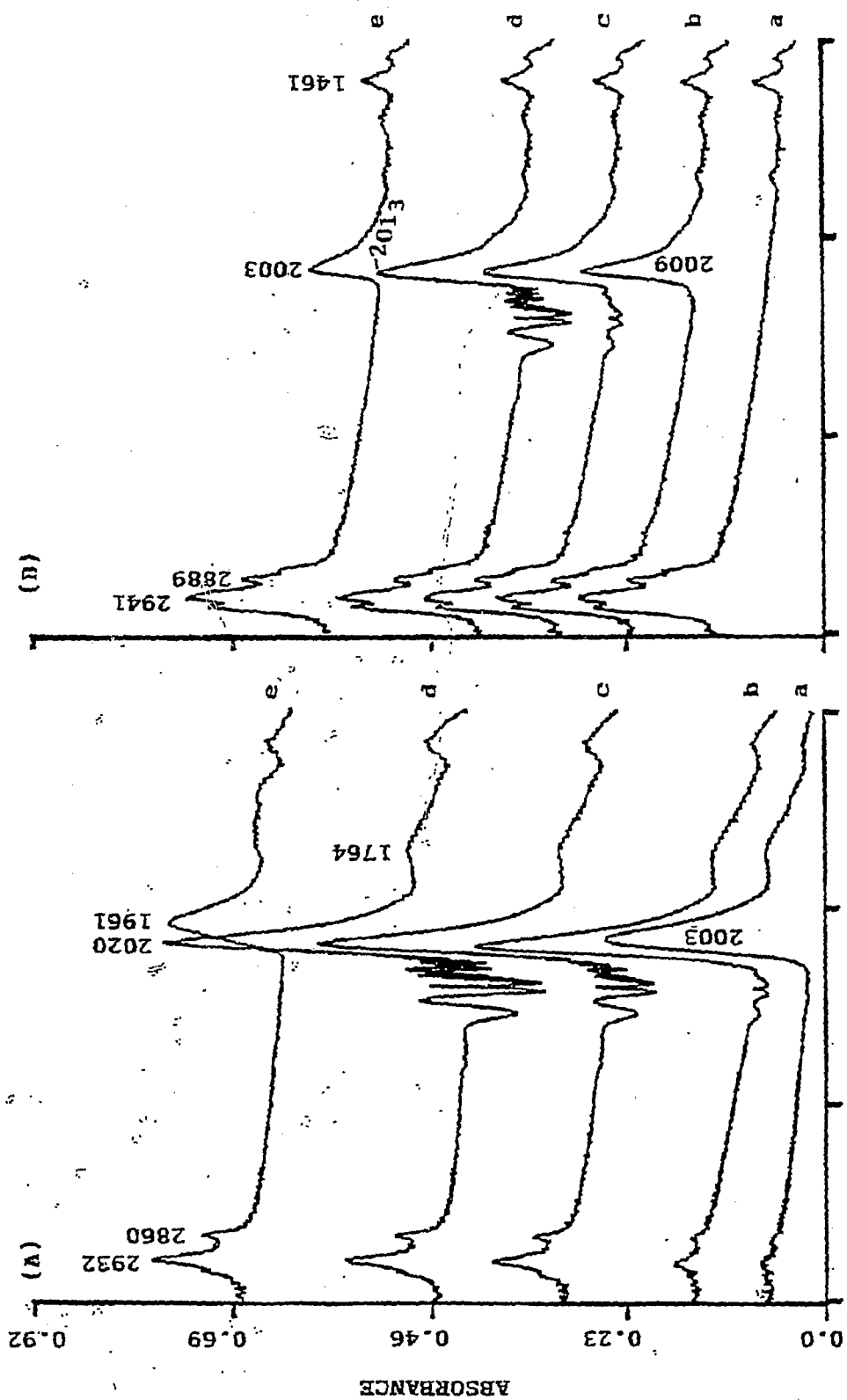
CO:H<sub>2</sub>:C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> = 1:1:1

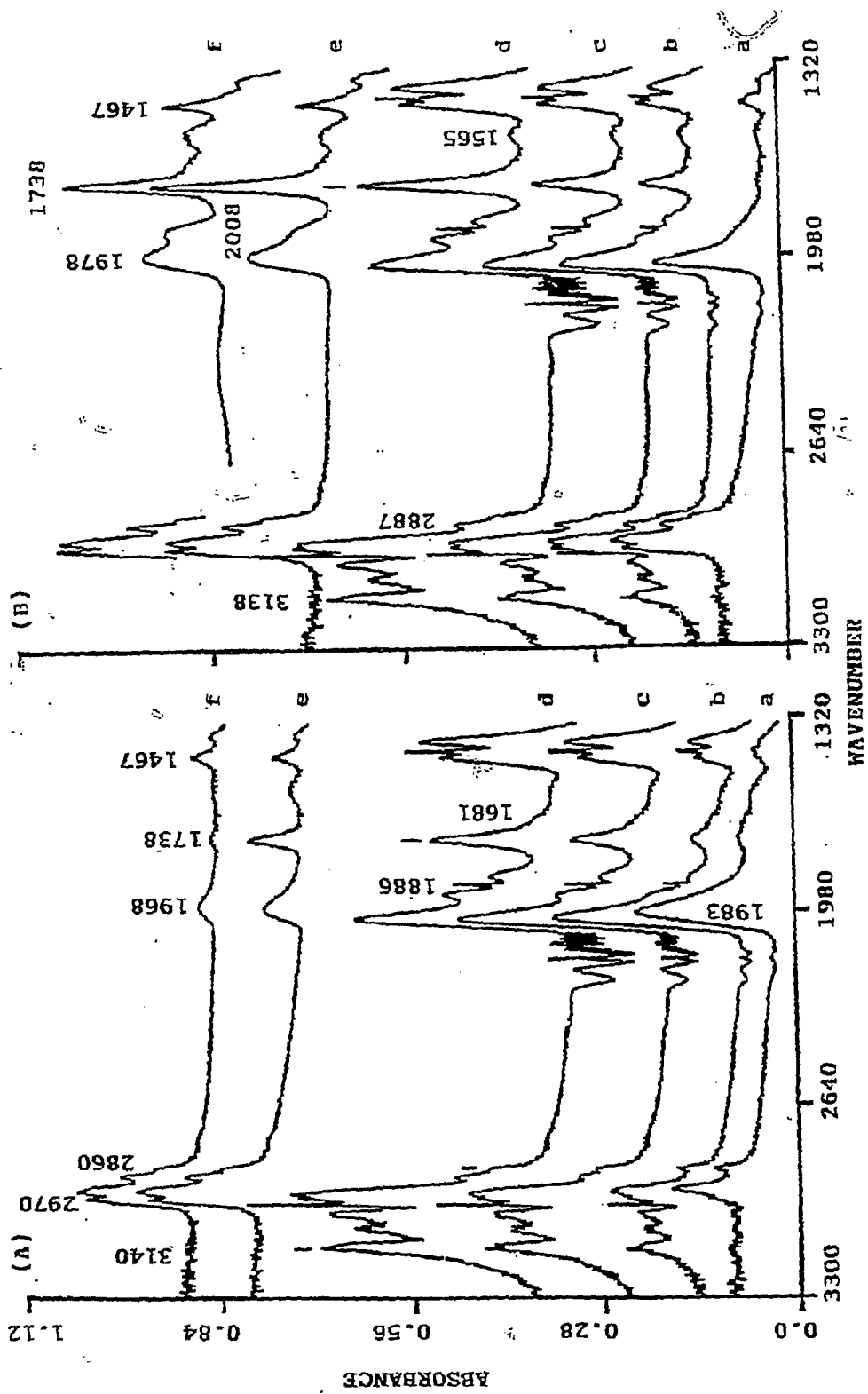
a Ratio of the rate of the product formed on the sulfided Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> to the rate of the product formed on the Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>

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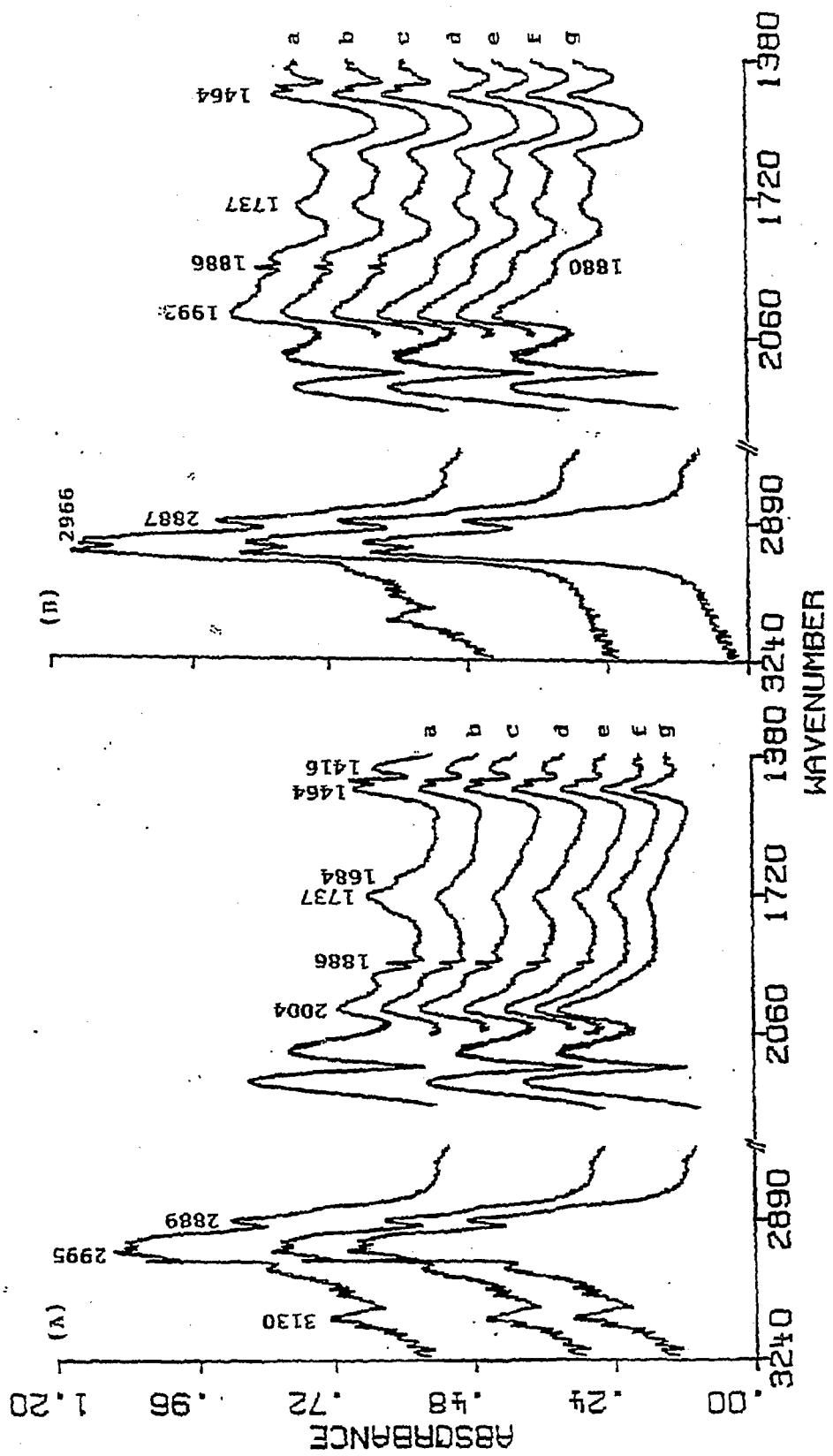
- Figure 1. Infrared spectra of CO adsorption at 513 K : (a) on Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> at 1.0 MPa for 20 min, (b) at 0.10 MPa for 20 min, (c) after reduction in flowing H<sub>2</sub> at a rate of 5 cm<sup>3</sup>/min at 0.10 MPa for 20 min, (d) on S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> at 1.0 MPa for 20 min, (e) at 0.10 MPa for 20 min.
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- Figure 6. Relative intensity versus temperature for the TPR of the adsorbed CO and propionaldehyde on Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub> and sulfided Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>. Relative intensity is the ratio of the intensity of adsorbed species during TPR to the initial intensity of adsorbed species. (Δ) linear CO on Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>, (□) propionaldehyde on Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>, (Δ) linear CO on S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>, (□) propionaldehyde on S-Ru/SiO<sub>2</sub>.

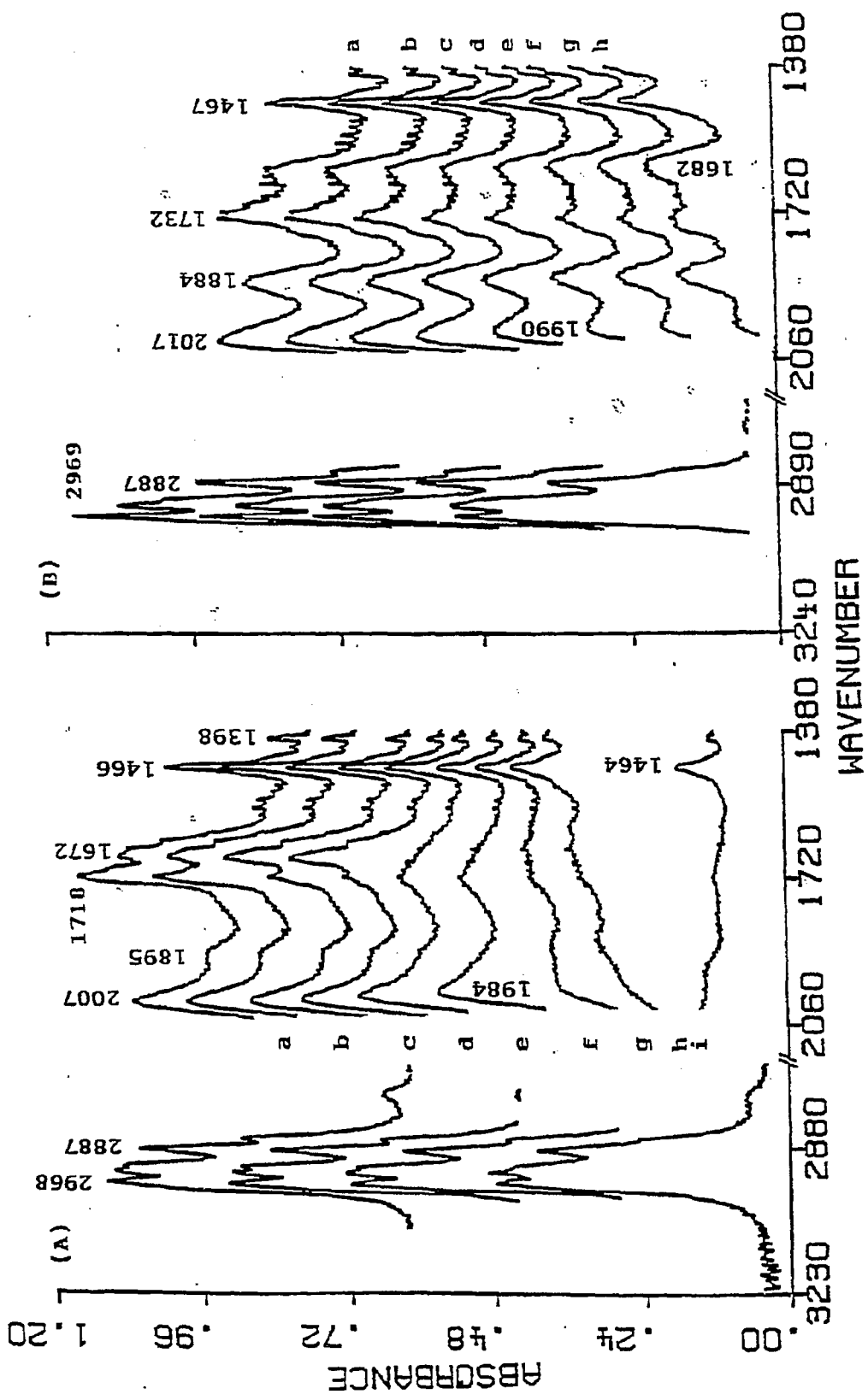


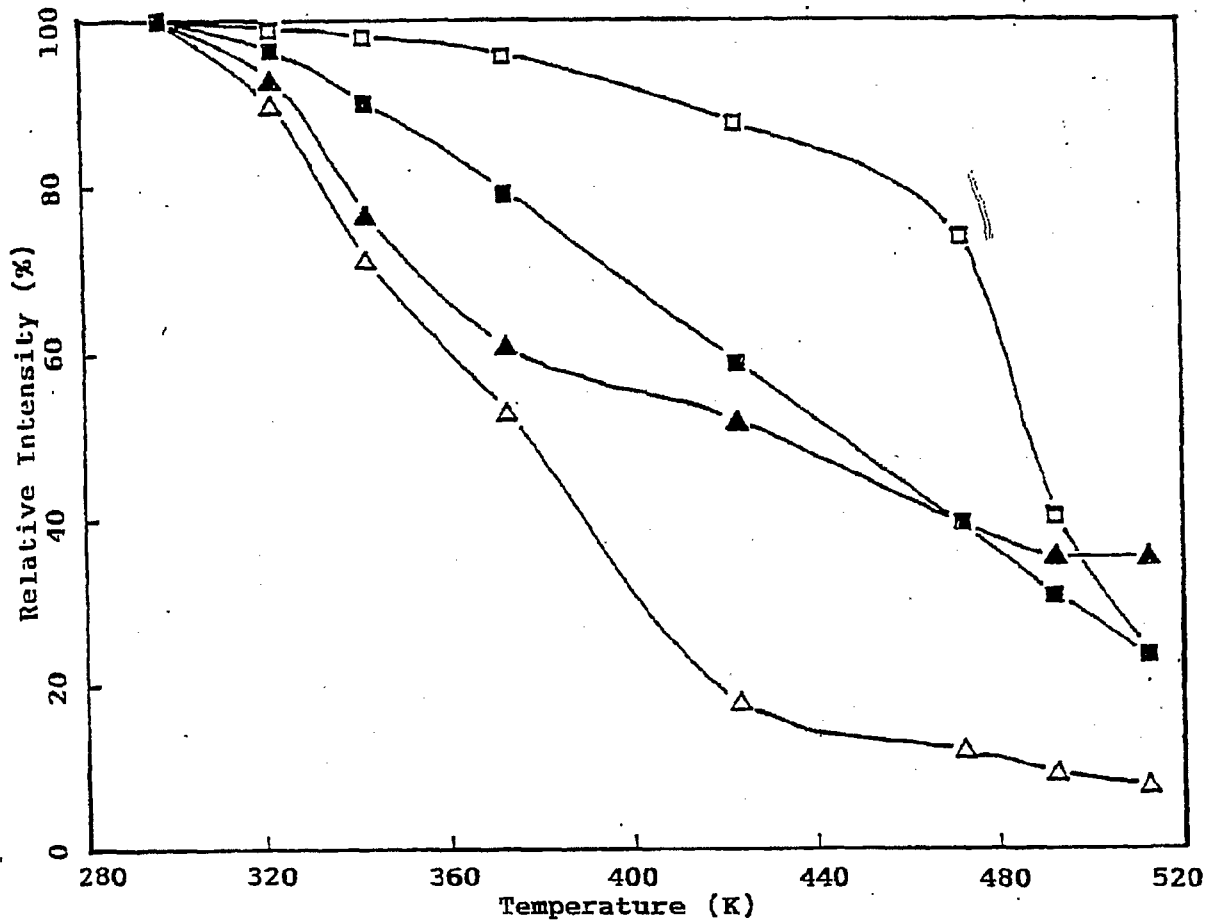












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