



# Structure-Function Studies in Heterogeneous Catalysis

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## XAS-based Structure-Function Studies

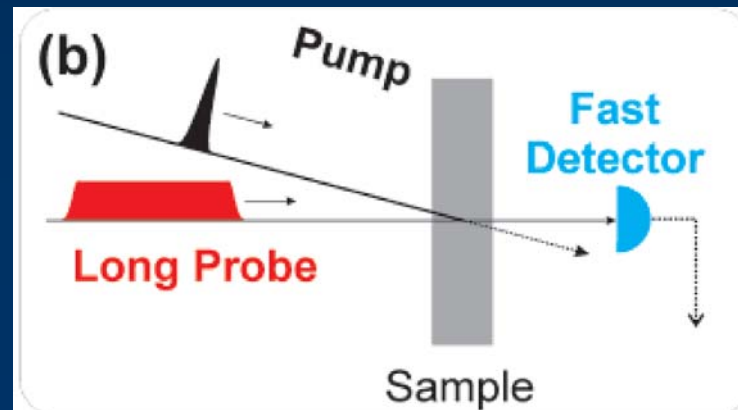
### Spatial-resolved XAS

- Focal spot 50 - 100 nm; 1 x 1  $\mu\text{m}$  (acquisition time; “in-situ”)

### Time-dependent XAS

- Ejection, backscattering, and interference  $\approx 1$  fs
- Synchrotron incident X-ray pulse  $\approx 100$  ps  
Brown (J. Chem. Phys. 1999)

### Pump-probe XAS



# XAS-based Structure-Function Studies

## Spatial resolution in XAS

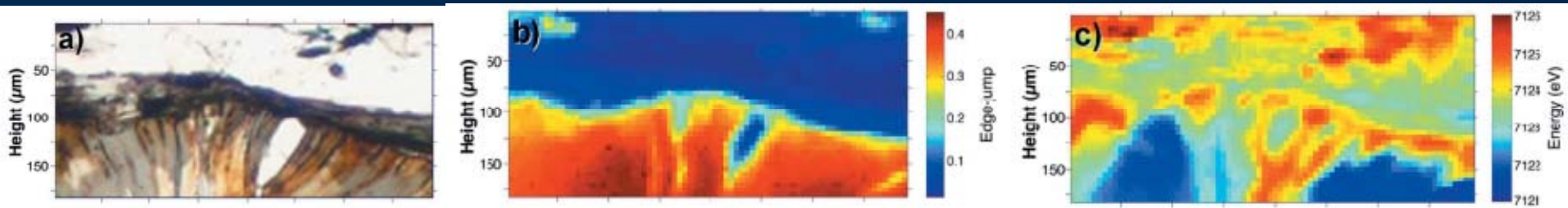
- Spatial Domain

- Focal spot 50 nm (conventional) 1  $\mu\text{m}$  (ED)
- $10^2$  nm  $\rightarrow$  2D, 3D Chemical /Structural mapping

Optical

Concentration/M

Ox. State



• *J. Synchr. Radiat.* (2006) 13, 351

- Differential technique

Femtometre-resolution x 100 !!!!

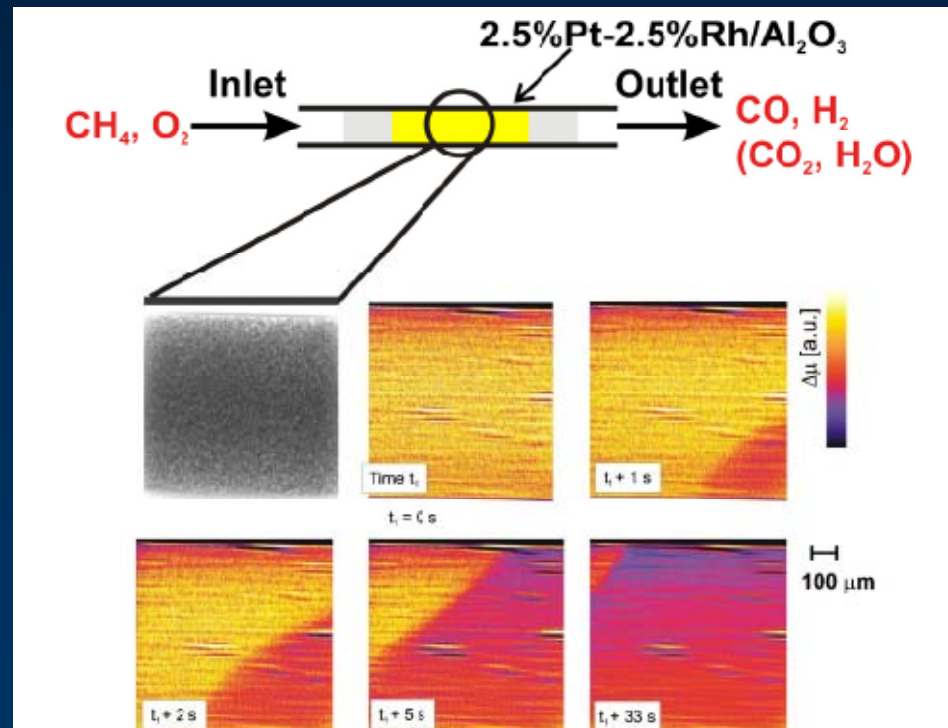
• *Nature* (2005) 435, 78

## XAS-based Structure-Function Studies

### Representative examples; spatial domain

- Behavior of catalytic systems in “industrial conditions”

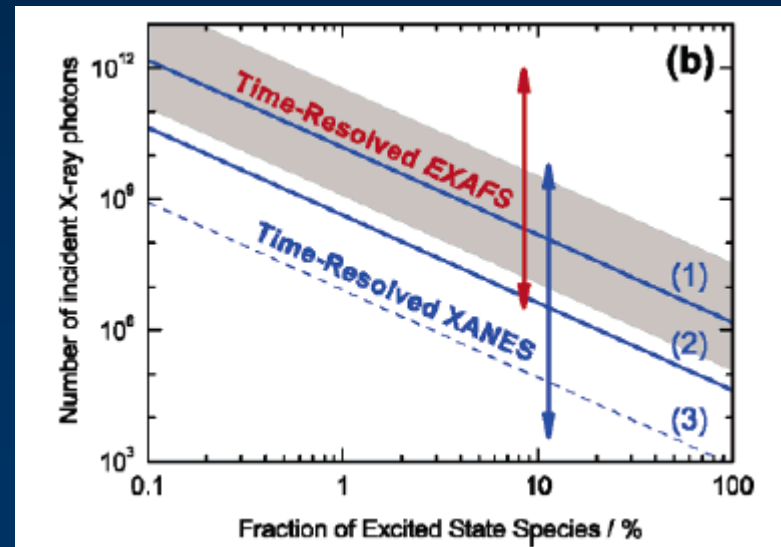
Spatial-time resolved XAS studies



# XAS-based Structure-Function Studies

## Time-resolved XAS

- Time domain analyzed
  - ps/ns  $\rightarrow$  h/days
  - nature of the phenomenon
- Experimental set-up and procedure
  - microscopic reversibility (aging)
  - S/N ratio



## Catalysis: Time-resolved XAS

In-situ conditions (T, P; atmosphere)

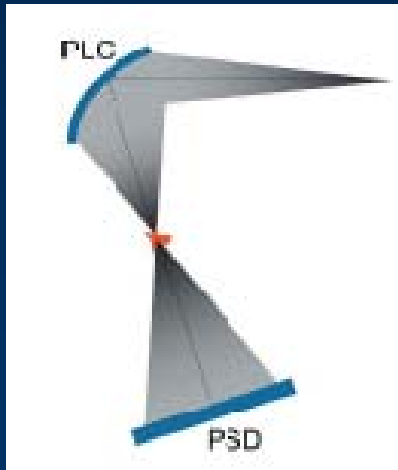
### XAS set-up

“Conventional”  
 “Quick”  
 “Energy dispersive”

### Time domain

min to days  
 1 s to min  
 1 ms to 10 s

### ED-XAS



- Absence of movement
  - Constant energy scale
  - Stable focal point / spatial resolution
  - High time resolution

- Application
  - All catalysts (0.5 wt. % NM)
  - Suitable ref. materials
  - S/N ratio limited (2<sup>nd</sup> shell EXAFS)

## **XAS-based Structure-Function Studies**

### **Representative examples; time domain**

- Minimize “averaging” / “Instantaneous” picture chemical species

Similar chemical species (ox. state, local symmetry)

Short existence (intermediate)

High number of species (4,5) ; demanding systems

### **Cu-Rh/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>**

- Unique choice

Homogeneous catalysis: exchange of ligands

Heterogeneous catalysis: **Redox**; T- Lambda **TWCs**

## **TPR of Rh-Cu/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> CATALYSTS**

### Main Characteristics

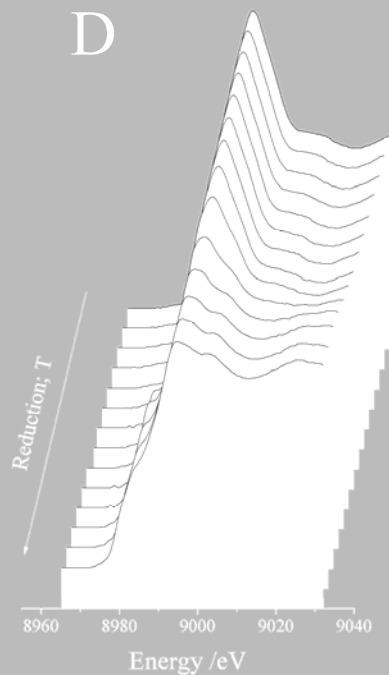
- Methane conversion (synthesis gas or higher HCs)



- Cu beneficial effect:
  - Interaction with the Support (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>)
  - Presence/Absence of Alloy
  - Oxidation State changes under reaction



D

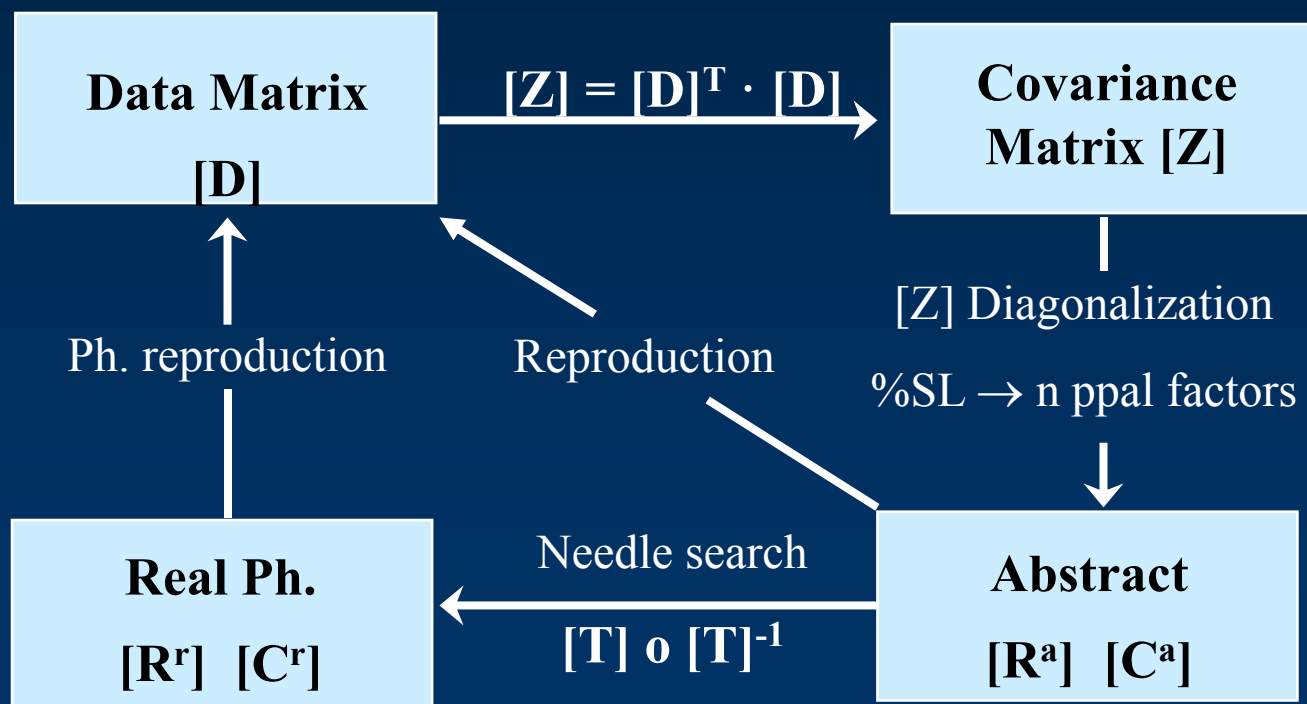


## Cu/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> XANES-TPR: FACTOR ANALYSIS

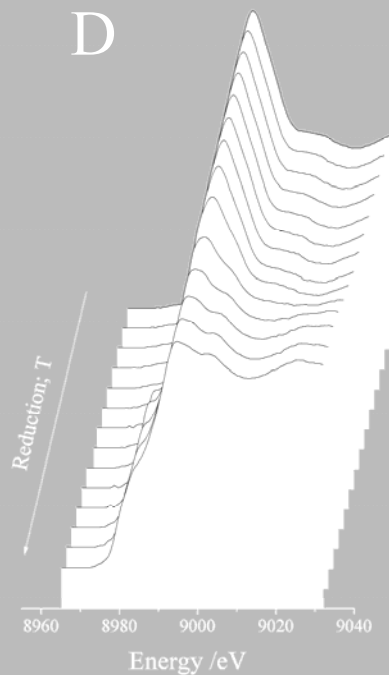
Identify and follow Chemical Species during Reaction

$$\{D\} = \sum_i^n C_i \{R_i\} + E$$

$$D = R \cdot C$$



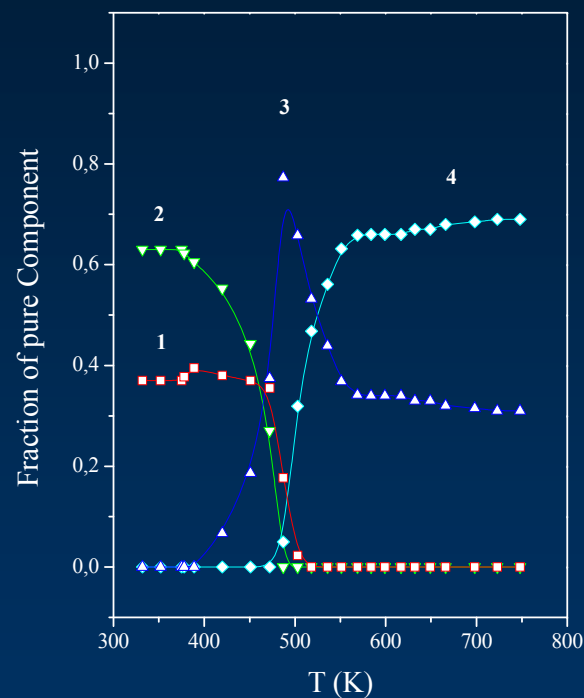
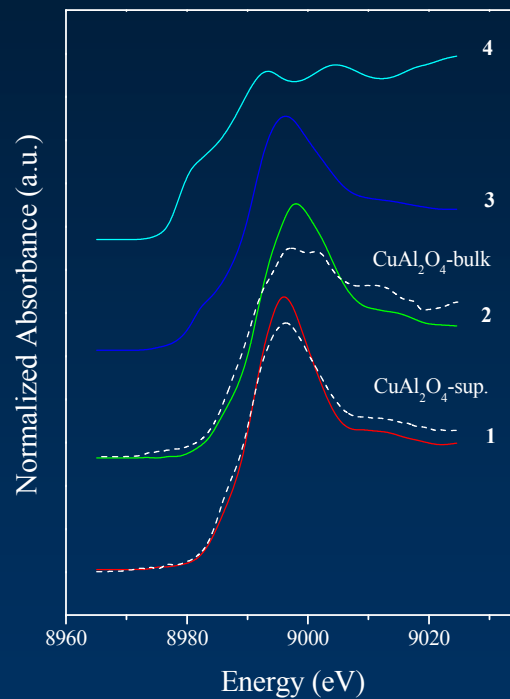
D



## Cu/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ED-XANES-TPR: Factor Analysis

[Rr]

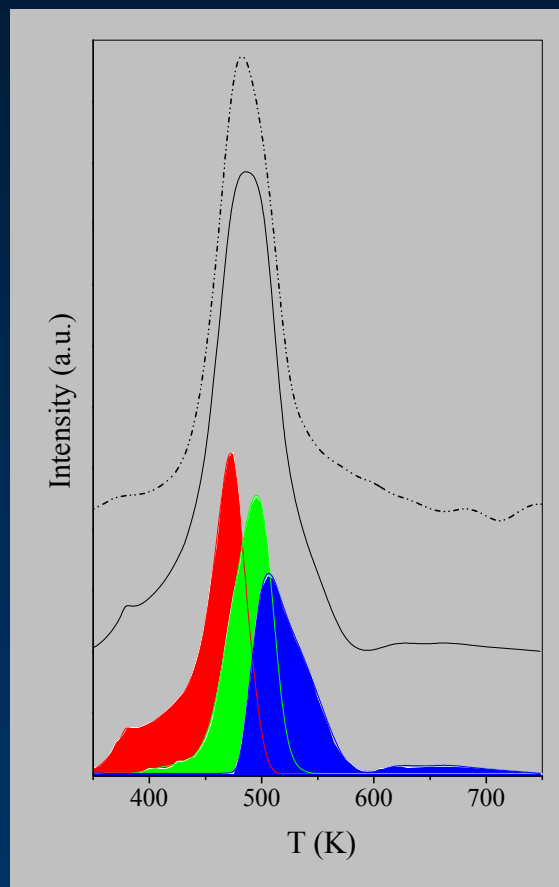
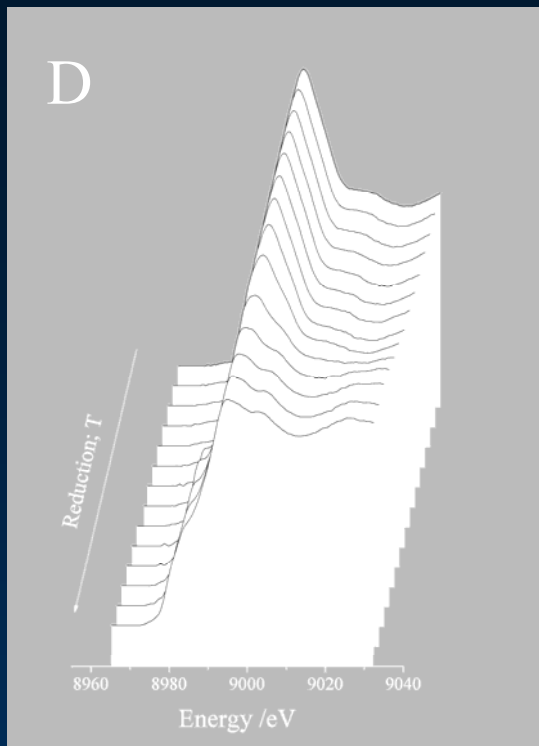
[Cr]

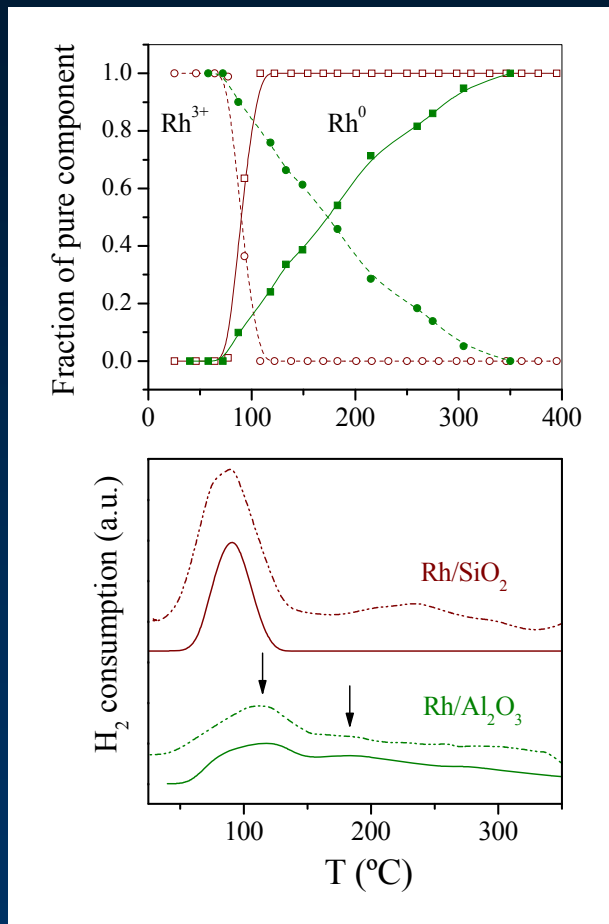


Two similar chemical phases  
 CuAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-sup CuAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-bulk  
 Strong (T,C) overlapping

## Cu/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ED-XANES-TPR

H<sub>2</sub> consumption

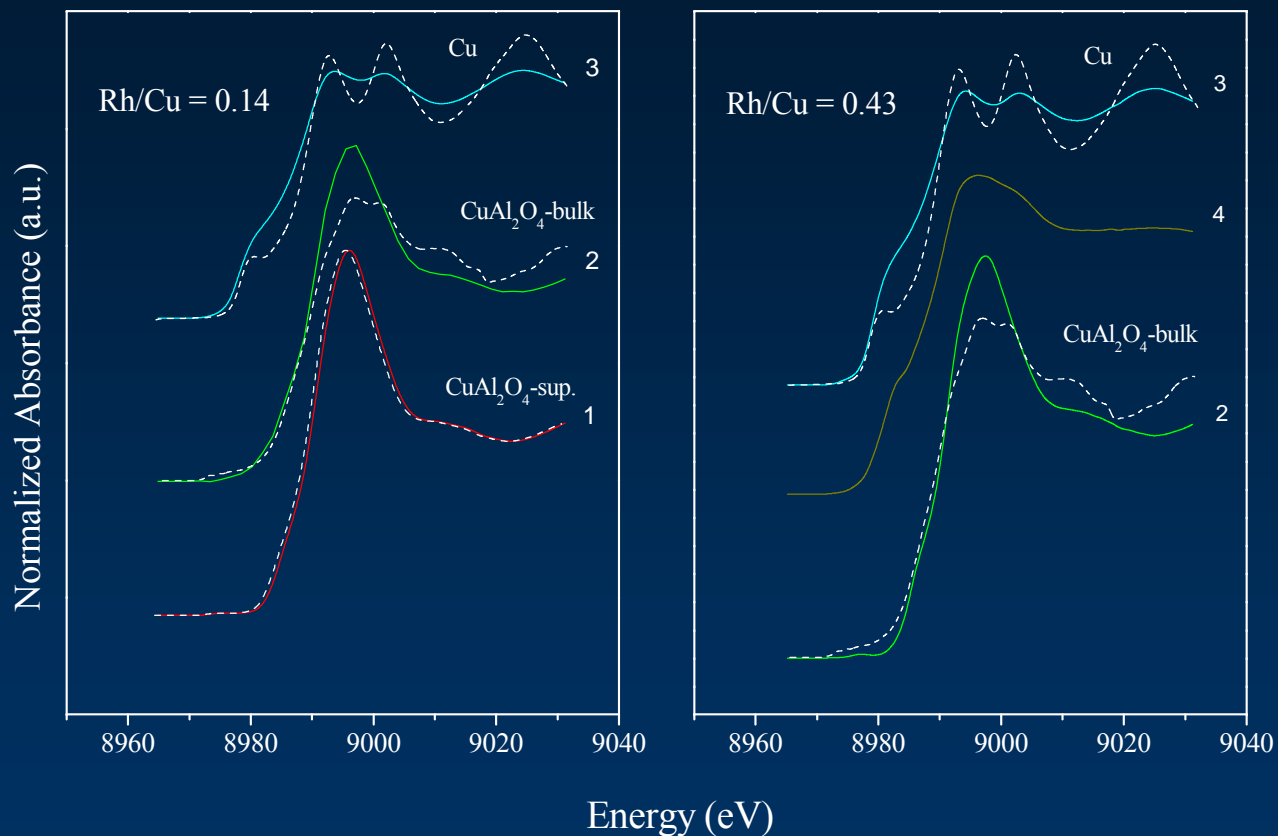


**Rh/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ED-XANES-TPR****H<sub>2</sub> consumption**

**Rh-O-Al bonds; competition for alumina surface**

Rh-Cu/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ED-XANES-TPR

## Cu K-edge Chemical Species



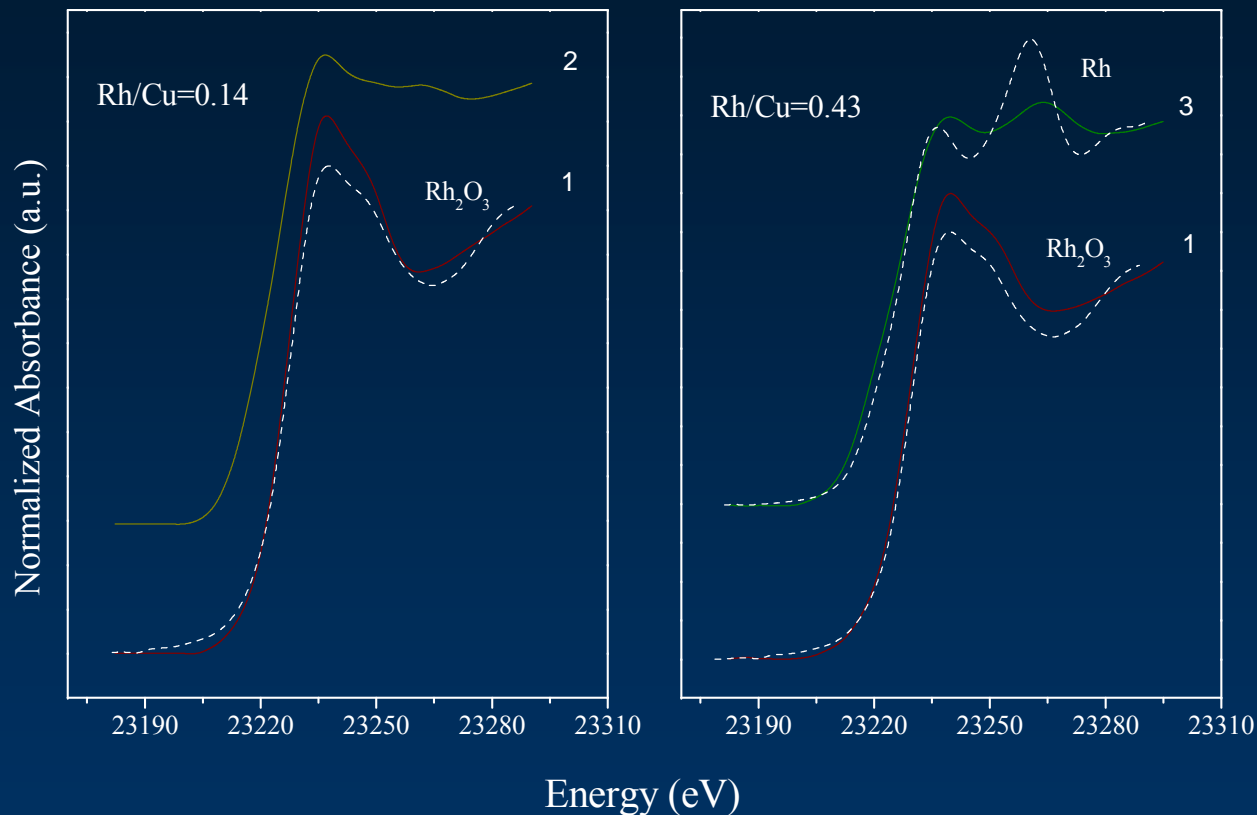
**Rh/Cu > 0.15**

**CuAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-sup absent**

**Cu(I) intermediate**

Rh-Cu/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ED-XANES-TPR

## Rh K-edge Chemical Species



**Rh/Cu < 0.15**

**formation disordered FCC alloy**

**Rh positively charged**

## **M-Ce MIXED OXIDES**

### Main Characteristics

- Chemistry dominated by interface effects between M / Ce species

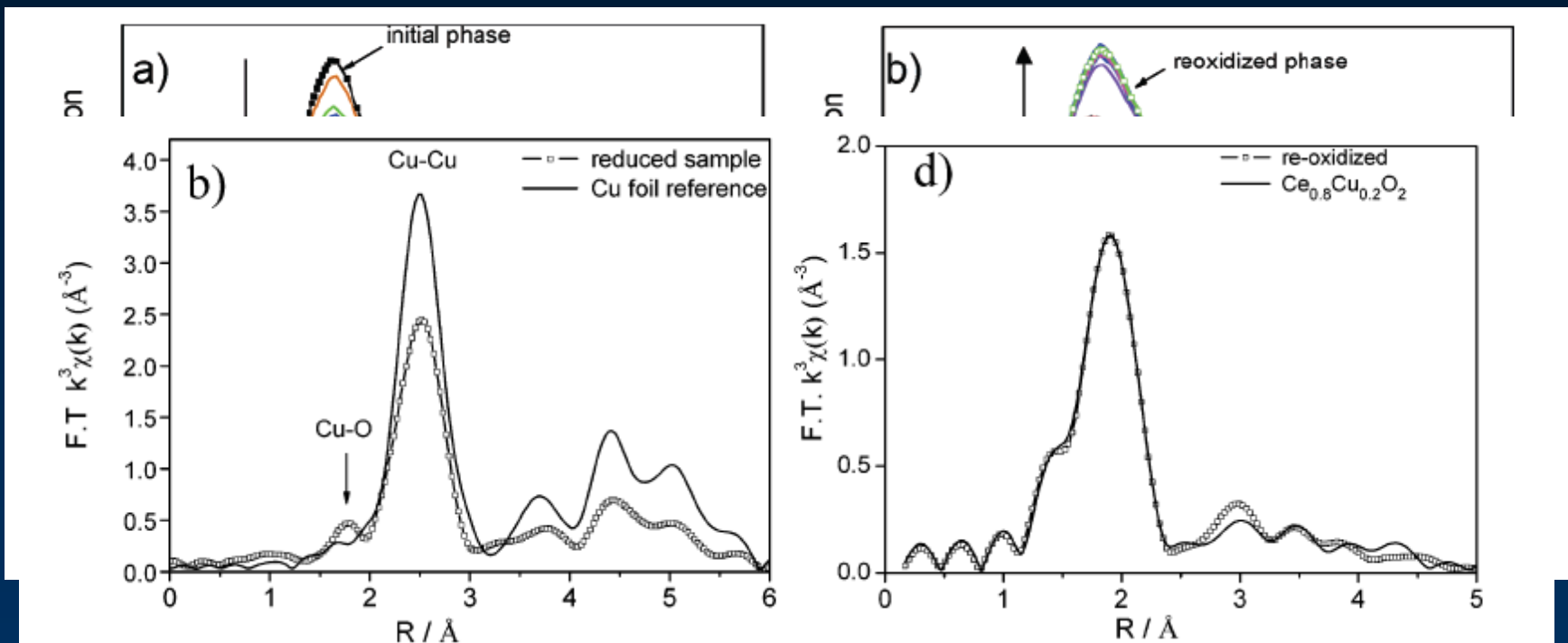
Mixed oxides; modulation redox activation

- **Cu-Ce:** Chemical activity



## Cu-Ce MIXED OXIDES

## Cu K-edge: Redox Chemistry



Cu(II)-Ce(IV) Fluorite Network

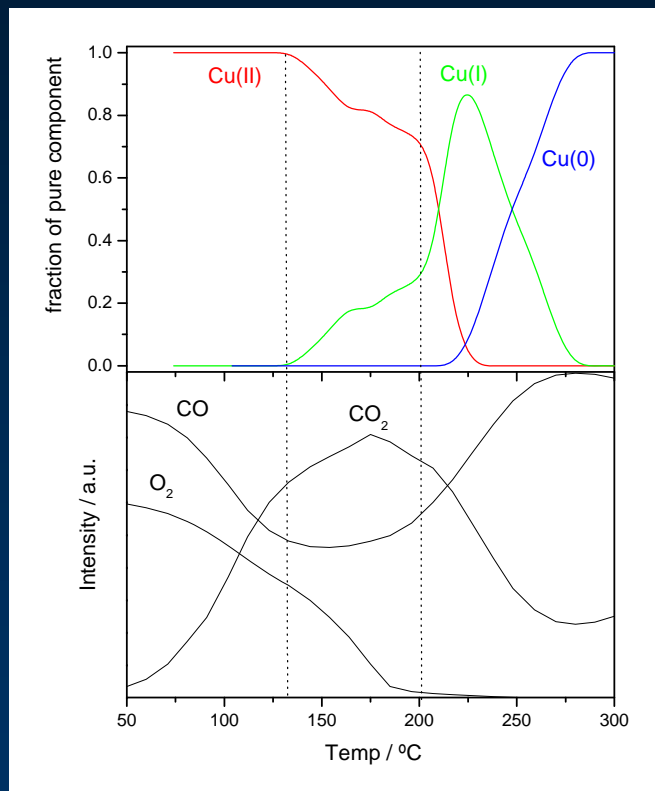
Cu(O)//CeO<sub>x</sub> Binary system



## Cu-Ce MIXED OXIDES

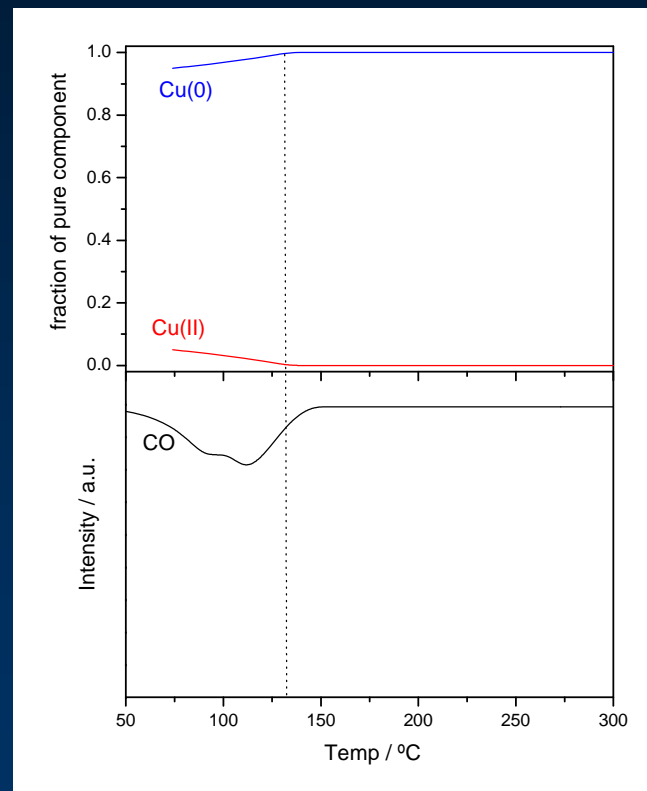
## CO-PROX; Dependence on Cu Chemical State

## Cu-Ce Fluorite Network



Active System

Cu(I)-Ce(IV) Interface

Cu(0)//CeO<sub>x</sub> Binary system

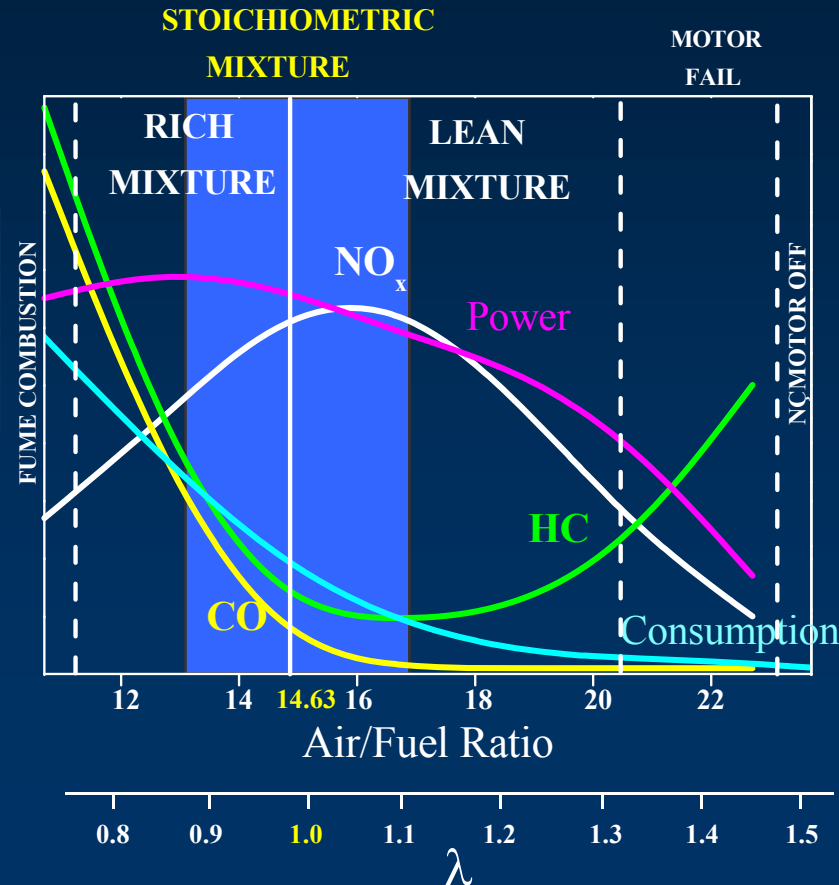
No Active System

Cu(0)

## CONTROL OF POLLUTANTS EMISSIONS FROM AUTOMOBILES

The main pollutants from automobile engines are CO, HC and NO

The nature and amount of the emissions vary as a function of air-fuel (A/F) ratio in the engine.



Petrol engines working with stoichiometric A/F mixtures  
THREE WAY CATALYSTS (TWCs)

$$\lambda = \frac{A/F}{A/F \text{ stoichiometric}}$$

## THREE WAY CATALYSTS (TWCs)

### Main Characteristics

- Zr-Ce Component

$(\text{Zr,Ce})\text{O}_x$ ,  $\text{Zr/Ce} \approx 1 \rightarrow$  higher OSC and durability.

- Pd-based system

**Substitution of Rh** CO, HC oxidation (low temperatures)  
NO elimination

- Dynamic behavior and thermal degradation

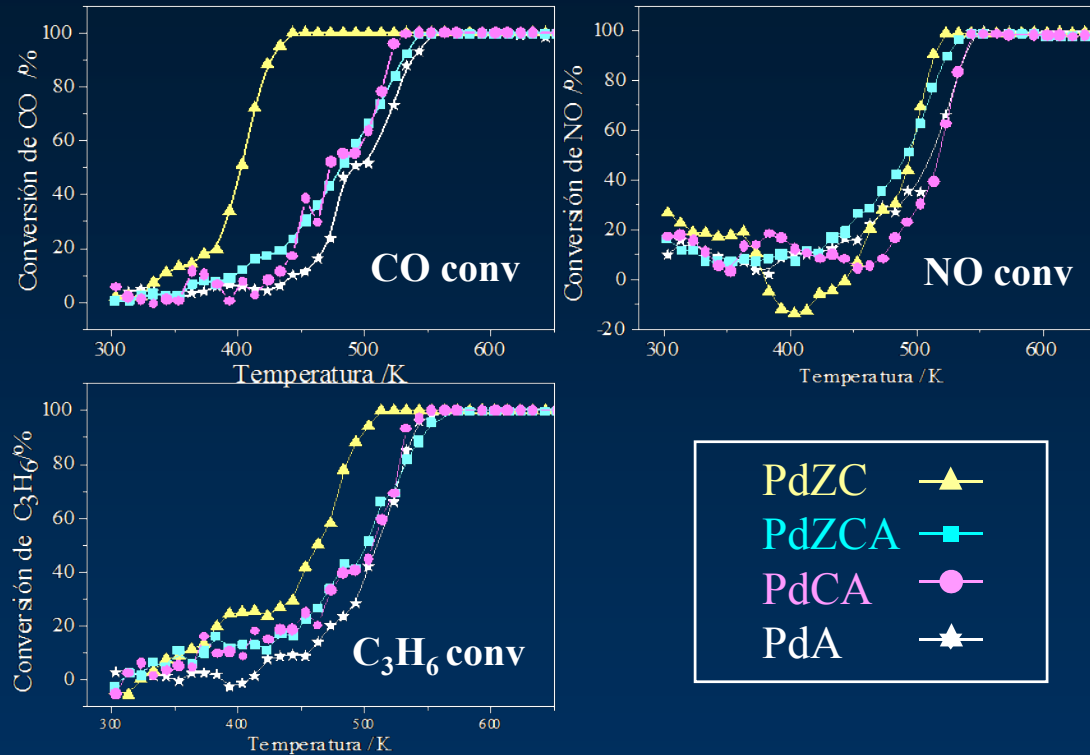
Temperature/Lambda Cycling



### MULTITECHNIQUE APPROACH

Redox and structural behavior

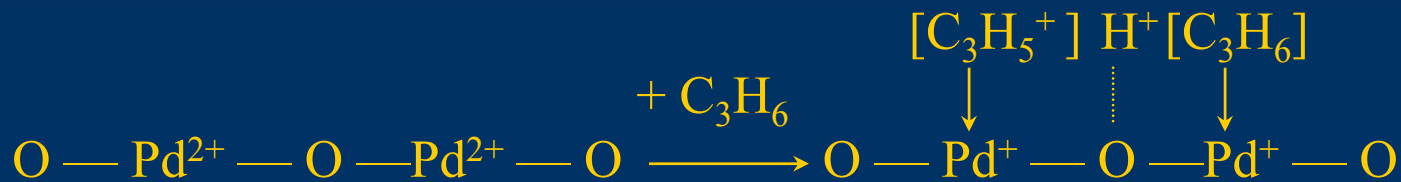
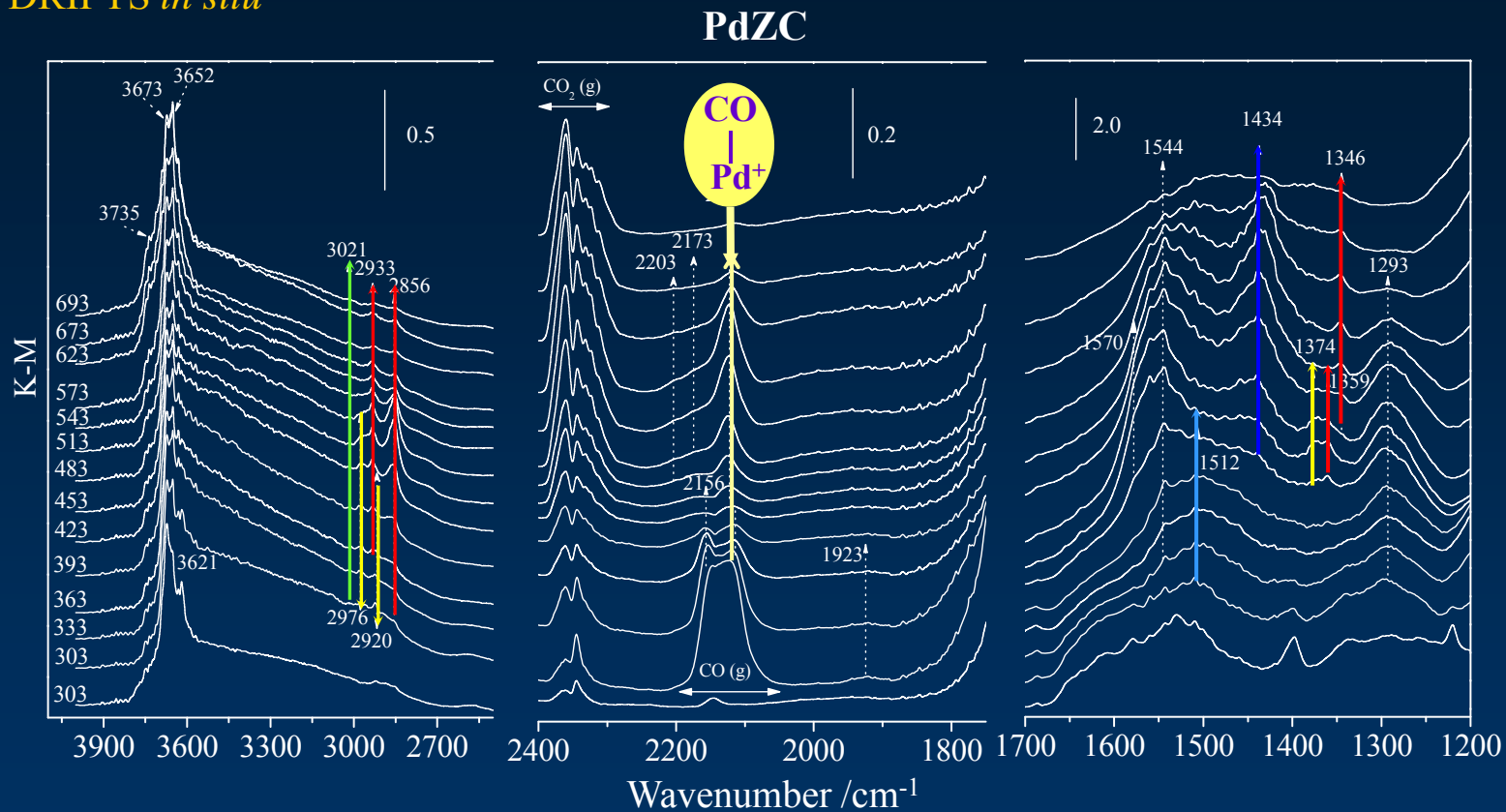
Conventional and Energy dispersive

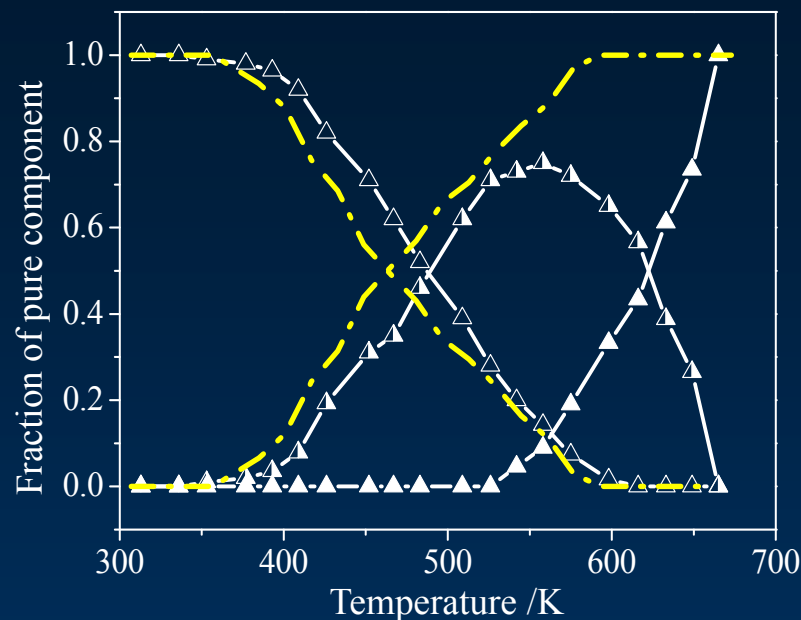
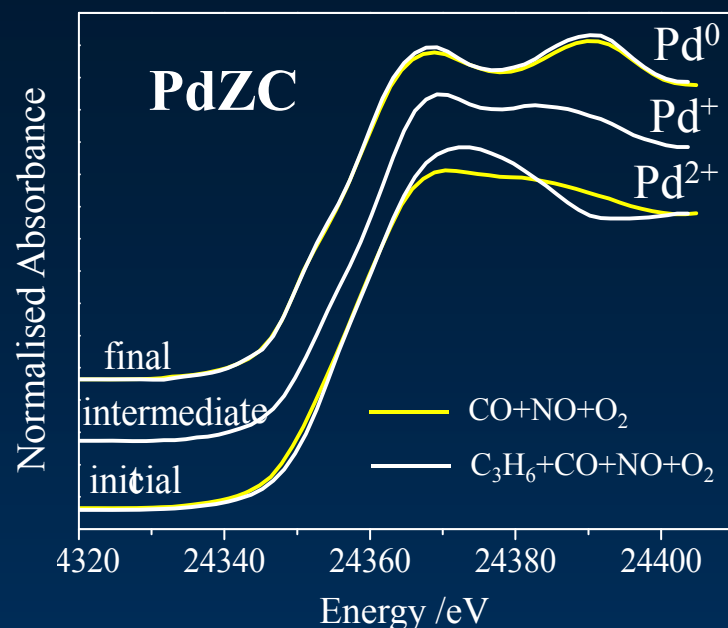


- The presence of the HC diminishes the activity for CO and NO conversion
- PdZC converts CO and C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub> at lower temperatures
- PdZC also reaches 100% of NO conversion at slightly lower temperatures



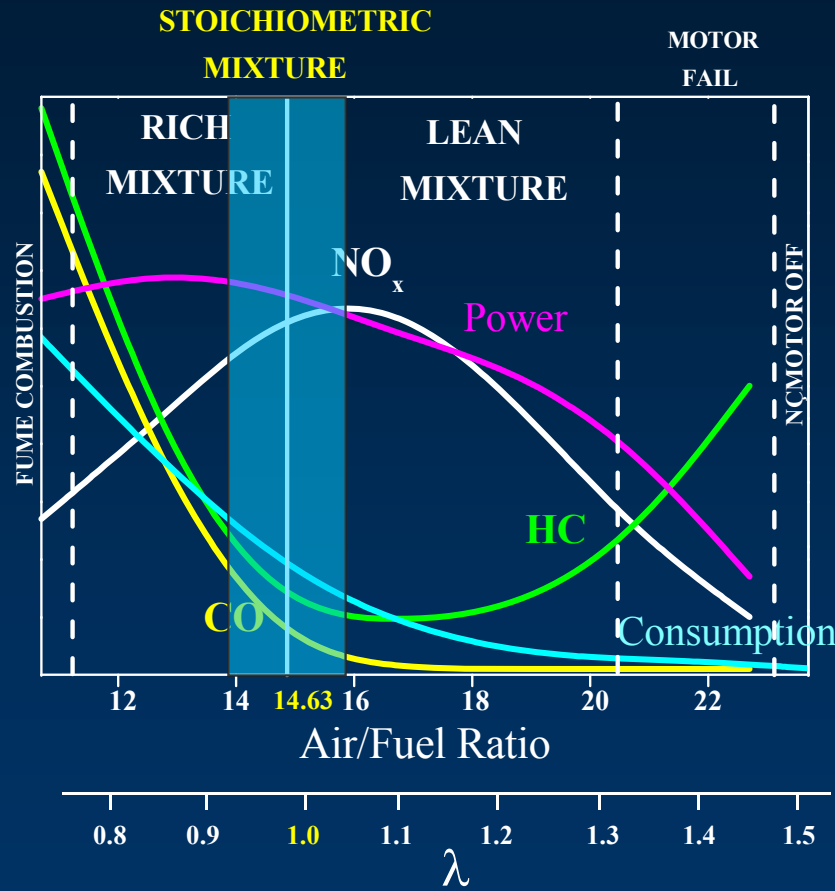
DRIFTS *in situ*



XANES *in situ*

- HC presence affects Pd from RT
  - Pd 3D(Zr-Ce) contacts contribute to evolution to Pd<sup>0</sup> through an “oxycarbide” intermediate species, Pd<sup>+</sup>
    - effectively eliminate the HC of the emissions from low temperatures by stabilizing partially “oxidized” Pd species
    - eliminate CO/”NO” with the help of surface/bulk Pd<sup>0</sup> reduced species
- HC-Pd interaction stabilises a π-allylic complex; the active species

# LAMBDA OSCILLATIONS



- Rich  
CO, HC max. conc.
- Lean  
NO in presence of excess O<sub>2</sub>

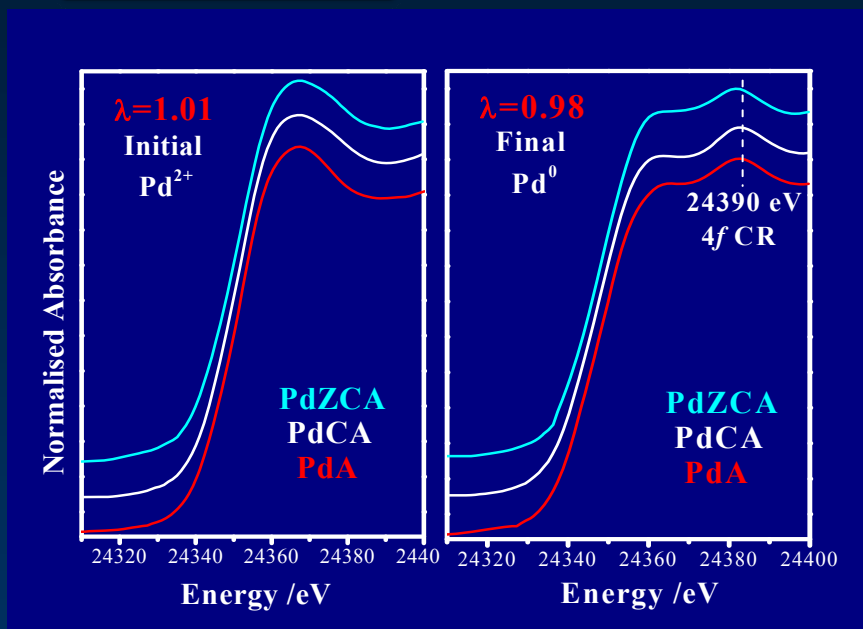
REDOX; STRUCTURAL

$$\lambda = \frac{A/F}{A/F \text{ stoichiometric}}$$

## TIME RESOLVED STUDY OF Pd REDOX BEHAVIOR UNDER OSCILLATING CONDITIONS

### *In situ* ED-XANES

#### Pd K-edge results



Energy position (eV) of the edge and 4f Continuum Resonance (CR) present in XANES spectra. Values relative to the Pd foil.

Sample	Series /Condition	Edge	4f CR
PdA	A/lean	4.3	—
	B/rich	0.0	39.5
PdCA	A/lean	4.0	—
	B/rich	0.0	39.6
PdZCA	A/lean	3.7	—
	B/rich	0.0	37.9

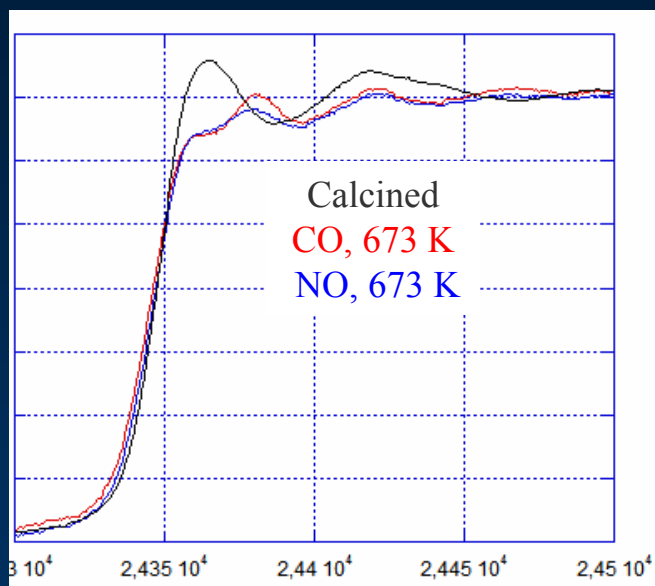
- PdZC 4f CR small red shift: increase of the Pd–Pd nearest distance most likely associated with the dissolution of C atoms in the Pd *fcc* structure

“Different” Oxycarbide/Carbide Chemical Phases

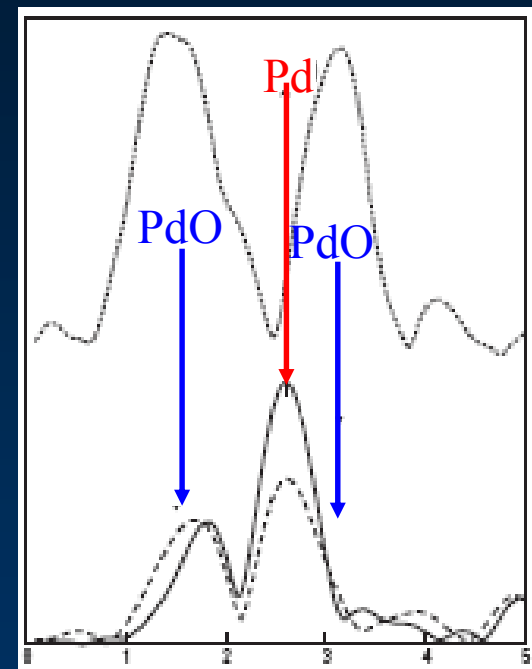


## TIME RESOLVED STUDY OF Pd STRUCTURE UNDER $\lambda$ FLUCTUATIONS

ED-EXAFS (Pd K-edge) *in situ*: CO + NO



Energy / eV

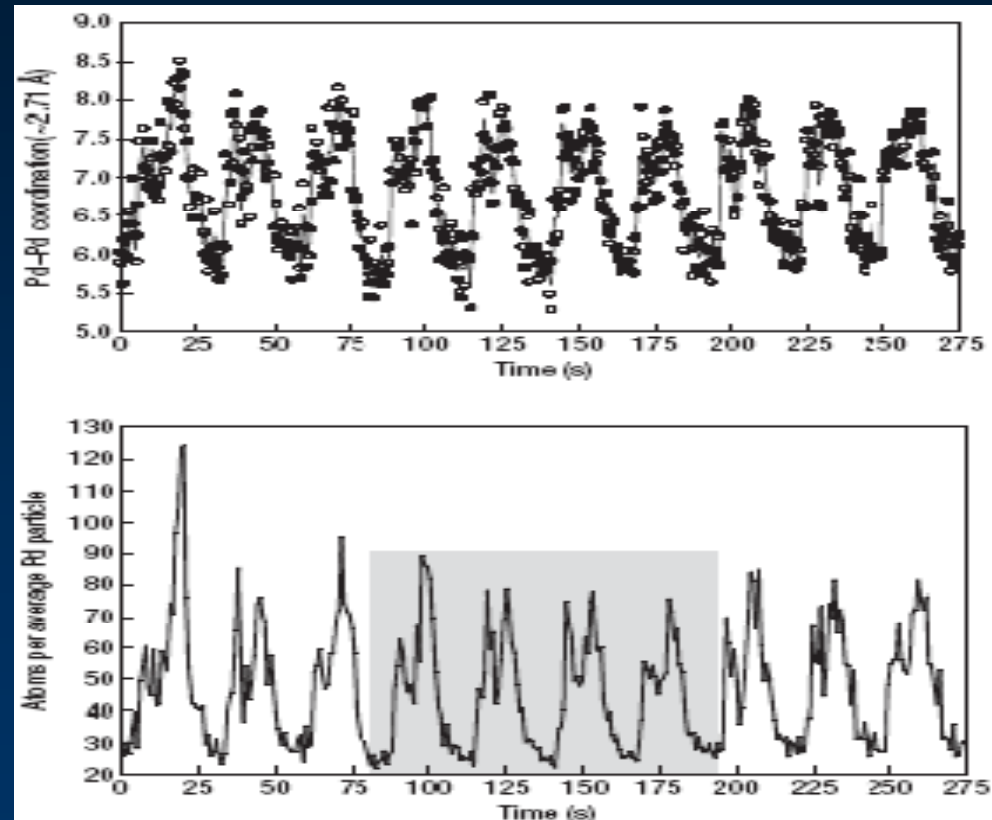


R (Å)

- Combination of  $\text{Pd}^0 \rightarrow \text{PdO}$  and size/shape variations

## TIME RESOLVED STUDY OF Pd STRUCTURE UNDER $\lambda$ FLUCTUATIONS

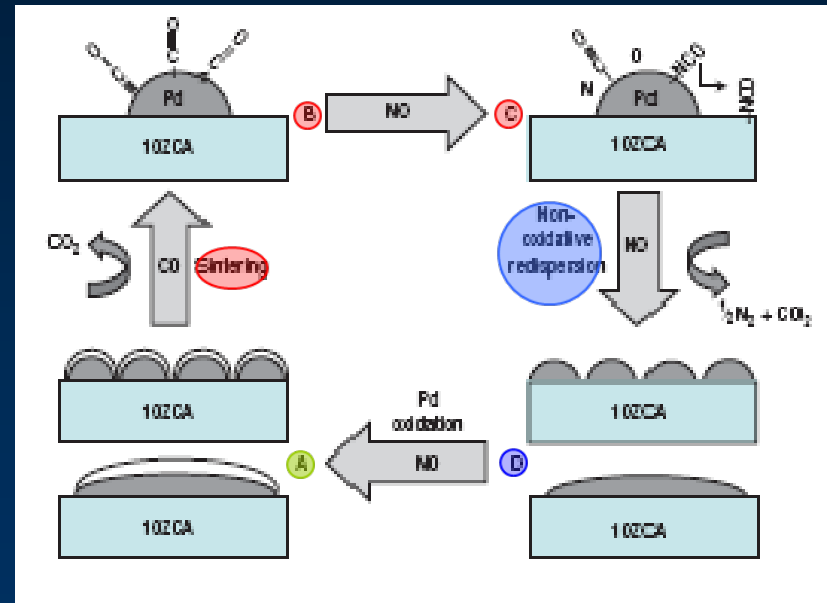
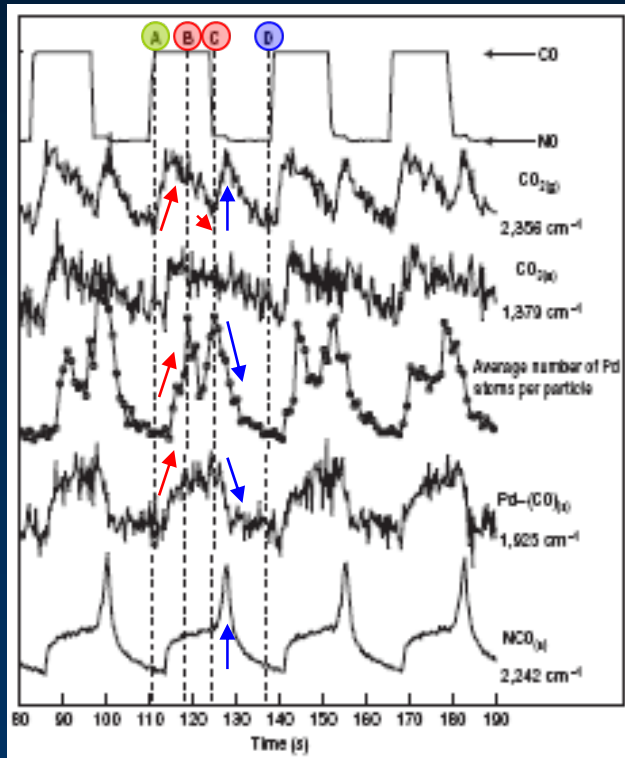
ED-EXAFS (Pd K-edge) *in situ*: CO + NO



- **Strong and reversible** structural modification under Lambda Oscillations  
Particles from 30 to 70 NM atoms

## TIME RESOLVED STUDY OF Pd STRUCTURE UNDER $\lambda$ FLUCTUATIONS

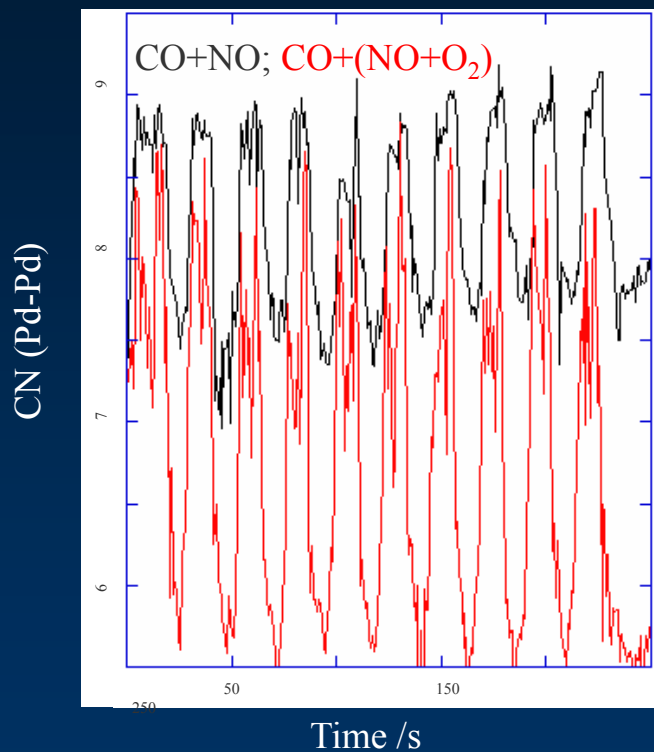
Synchronous ED-EXAFS and IR: CO + NO



- **Dynamic surface-bulk NM changes during operation**

## TIME RESOLVED STUDY OF Pd STRUCTURE UNDER $\lambda$ FLUCTUATIONS

ED-EXAFS (Pd K-edge) *in situ*: CO + NO + O<sub>2</sub>



- **Strong and reversible** structural changes under Lambda Oscillations

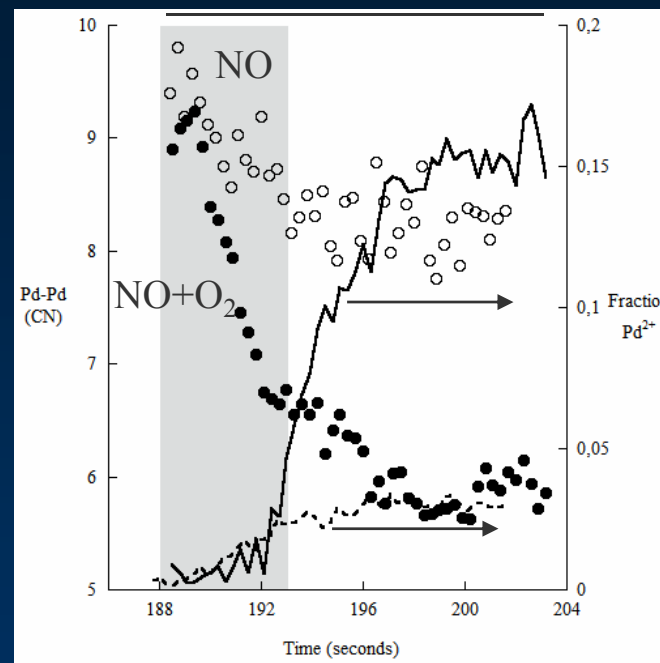
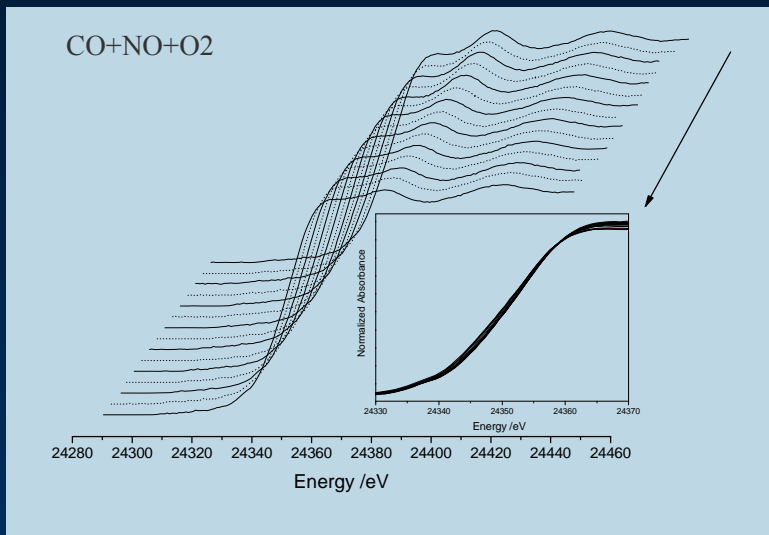
O<sub>2</sub> enhanced phenomenon

Aggregated state under CO: similar

Dispersed state under Ox. Conditions: O<sub>2</sub>-promoted

## TIME RESOLVED STUDY OF Pd STRUCTURE UNDER $\lambda$ FLUCTUATIONS

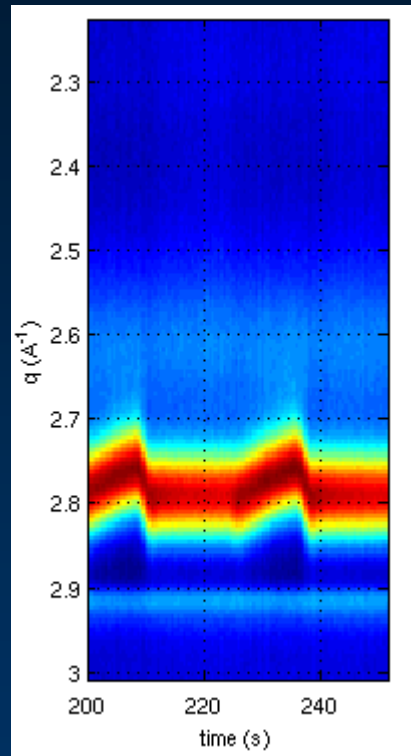
ED-XAS (Pd K-edge XANES/EXAFS) *in situ*: CO + NO + O<sub>2</sub>



- **Non-oxidative redispersion** enhanced in presence of oxygen

## SYNCHRONOUS TIME-RESOLVED MULTI-SPECTROSCOPIC STUDY

### High Energy XRD



- Dynamic surface-bulk NM structural: size, shape, lattice
- Dynamic redox changes

## Catalytic Activity

# Energy-dispersive XAS

## Future challenges

- Spatial Domain (time efficiency)
  - 2D, 3D Chemical /Structural nano-mapping
  - Angstrom/Sub-angstrom resolution
- Time Domain
  - Gas-solid  
Solid elemental process kinetics ( $\mu\text{s}$ )
  - Light-solid

## Opening Novel perspectives in Catalysis

- Nucleation and growth of nano-phases
- Dynamic of radiation-mater (photocatalysis)
- “Operando” analysis of TON ( $10^4$ - $10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}$ )

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Collaborators

- Dr. M. A. Newton
- Dr. M. Di Michel
- Dr. A. Iglesias-Juez
- Dr. A. Martínez-Arias
- Dr. C. Belver
- Dr. D. Gamarra
- Dr. A. Kubacka

## DRIFTS experiments

- Prof. J. A. Anderson

## Ce experiments

- Dr. J.A. Rodríguez
- Dr. J.C. Hanson

## XAS experiments

- All staff at:
  - 7.1, 9.2 and 9.3 at SRS
- ID15, BM-29 and **ID-24** at ESRF

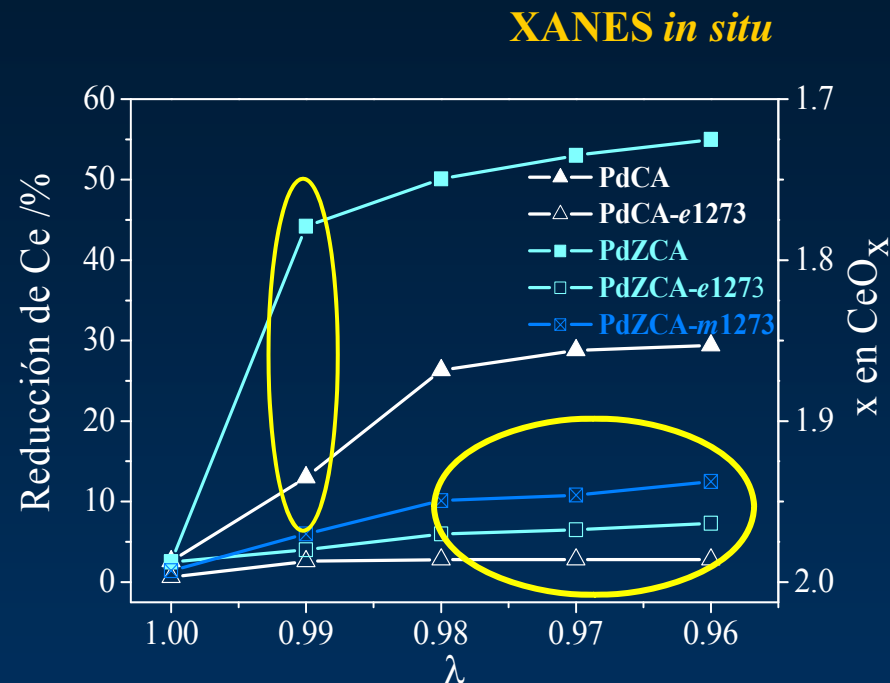
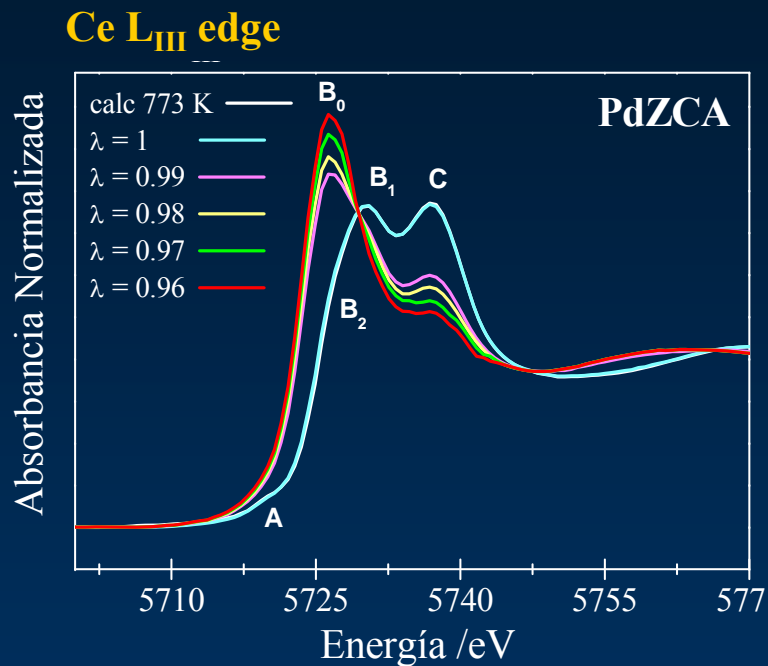
## Financial sources

EU program for Large Scale Installations  
Spain-MEC (CTQ2004-3409; CTQ2006-60480)



## Ce<sup>4+</sup>/Ce<sup>3+</sup> REDOX BEHAVIOR

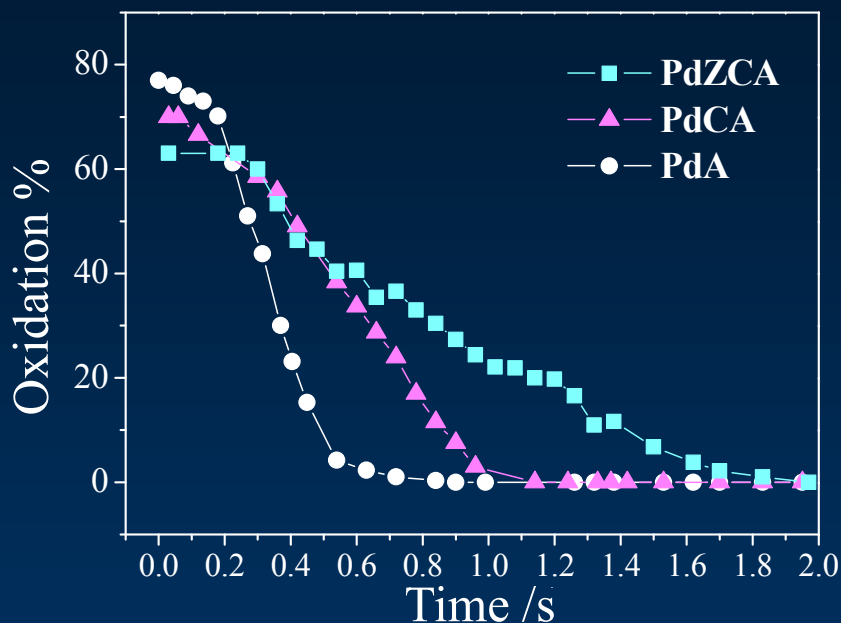
### Oxygen Storage Capacity



- The presence of Zr increases the oxygen storage capacity
- This occurs in fresh and aged catalysts

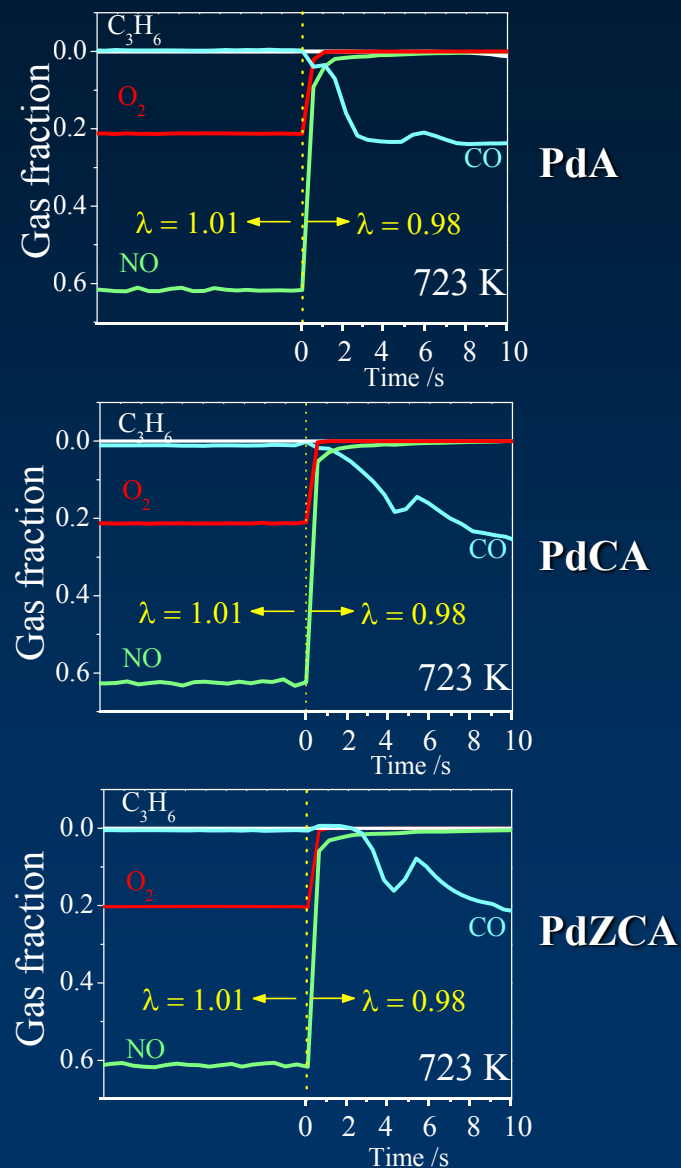
## TIME RESOLVED STUDY OF Pd REDOX UNDER $\lambda$ FLUCTUATIONS

### ED-XANES (Pd K-edge) *in situ*



- PdO  $\rightarrow$  Pd<sup>0</sup> transformation is delayed by effect of the promoter component, especially when Zr is present
- Zr increases the amount of oxygen transferred by the promoter oxide, limiting the loss of CO conversion in reducing conditions

### MS signals



## LAMBDA OSCILLATIONS: DYNAMIC “EFFECTS”

