## Method for the determining of the spatial distribution of noble metals on porous solids by complex formation with triphenylphosphine and <sup>31</sup>P MAS NMR

Spectroscopic background: Due to the high reactivity of triphenylphosphine (PPh<sub>3</sub>) in the complex formation with noble metals (NM: Pt, Rh, Pd, Ru) and the molecular diameter of 0.72 nm, this molecule is suitable for determining the spatial distribution of noble metals on microporous zeolites, such as zeolite Y with faujasite structure (FAU), 12-ring pores (diameter 0.74 nm), supercages (inner diameter 1.14 nm), and small sodalite cages, accessible by 6-ring windows (diameter 0.265 nm). On amorphous silica (A200 or A300) and mesoporous SBA-15, on the other hand, all well-dispersed noble metal atoms are available for complex formation with PPh<sub>3</sub> due to the open surfaces and large pores of these support materials (see Fig. 1) [1, 2].

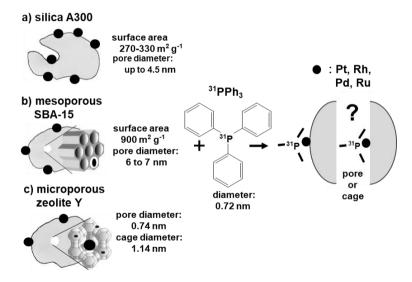
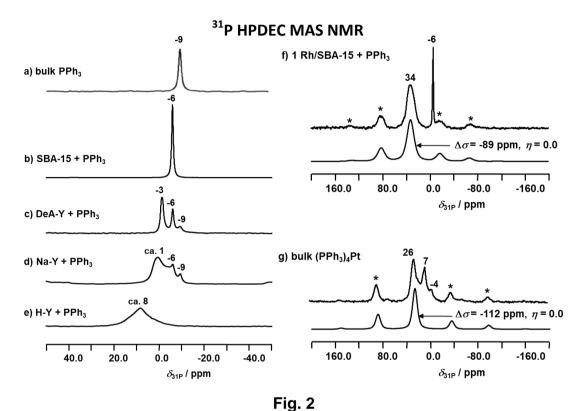


Fig. 1

Because of the natural abundance of 100% and a nuclear spin of I = 1/2 of the <sup>31</sup>P isotope, quantitative <sup>31</sup>P MAS NMR spectroscopy is a suitable tool for the investigation of PPh<sub>3</sub> complexes formed at noble metals on porous supports with high sensitivity and in a quantitative manner. While bulk PPh<sub>3</sub> causes a narrow <sup>31</sup>P MAS NMR signal at  $\delta_{31P} = -9$  ppm (**Fig. 2a** shown below and Fig. 2a in Ref. [1]), physisorption of this molecule on open silica surfaces and in mesopores leads to a low-field resonance shift to  $\delta_{31P} = -6$  ppm (**Fig. 2b** show below and Figs. 1a and 1b in Ref. [1]). In empty micropores and supercages of dealuminated zeolite Y (DeA-Y),

the <sup>31</sup>P MAS NMR signal of PPh<sub>3</sub> is further shifted to  $\delta_{31P}$  = -3 ppm, while interactions with sodium cations and Broensted acidic bridging OH groups in the supercages of zeolites Na-Y and H-Y lead to signals at  $\delta_{31P}$  ca. -1 ppm and 8 ppm, respectively (**Figs. 2c to 2e** and Figs. 1c to 1e in Ref. [1]).



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For studying the complex formation of PPh<sub>3</sub> with noble metals, H<sub>2</sub>-reduced Pt-, Rh-, Pd-, and Ru-loaded meso- and microporous support materials were prepared as described in Refs. [1-5]. In their H<sub>2</sub>-reduced state, these catalysts demonstrated a high activity in the hydrogenation of propene and the dehydrogenation of propane [4, 5]. The complex formation of PPh<sub>3</sub> with noble metals, such as rhodium, on a well accessible surface is indicated by broad <sup>31</sup>P MAS NMR signals in the shift range of  $\delta_{31P}$  ca. 33 to 35 ppm, additionally characterized by a high shielding anisotropy (**Fig. 2f** shown above and Fig. 5b in Ref. [1]). These signals are comparable with that of noble metal tetrakis(triphenylphosphine) complexes at  $\delta_{31P}$  = 26 ppm in **Fig. 2g** (Fig. 2c in Ref. [1]), responsible for the additional low-field shift in the case of a physisorption on silica surfaces. Due to steric restrictions for complexes formed by PPh<sub>3</sub> with noble metals in the supercages of zeolite Y, a similar low-field resonance shift of the signals of the above-mentioned complex from  $\delta_{31P}$  = 33 to 35 ppm to a



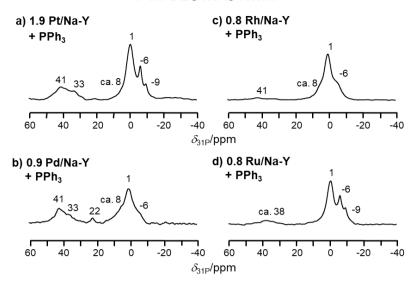


Fig. 3

resonance position of  $\delta_{31P}$  = 41 ppm is observed (**Fig. 3** and Fig. 3 in Ref. [2]). **Table 1** is a summary of the above-mentioned <sup>31</sup>P chemical shift values of bulk and physisorbed PPh<sub>3</sub> as well as of complexes of PPh<sub>3</sub> with noble metals. Considering these values, the **location of noble metals on the outer surface** and **inside the supercages of zeolites Y** can be distinguished by formation of complexes with PPh<sub>3</sub> (signals at  $\delta_{31P}$  = **33 ppm** and **ca. 41 ppm**, respectively). Furthermore, the presence of sodium cations and Broensted acid sites can be detected (signals at  $\delta_{31P}$  = 1 ppm and 8 ppm, respectively). No <sup>31</sup>P MAS NMR signals were observed for complex formation inside the sodalite cages.

$\delta_{31P}$ / ppm	Assignments of PPh <sub>3</sub> species		
-9	bulk PPh <sub>3</sub>		
-6	physisorbed PPh <sub>3</sub> on open surfaces and in mesopores		
-3	physisorbed PPh <sub>3</sub> in supercages of zeolite Y		
ca. 1	PPh <sub>3</sub> coordinated at Na <sup>+</sup> cations in supercages of zeolite Y		
8	protonated PPh3 (PPh3H+) in supercages of zeolite Y		
ca. 22	decomposed oxidation products of PPh <sub>3</sub>		
ca. 33	(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>n</sub> NM complexes on open surfaces and in mesopores		
ca. 41	(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>n</sub> NM complexes in supercages of zeolite Y		

Table 1

Contact of H<sub>2</sub>-reduced noble metal-containing catalysts under study with oxygen (e.g. air) must be strictly avoided. Otherwise, oxidation of PPh<sub>3</sub> may occur, leading to <sup>31</sup>P MAS NMR signals with chemical shifts near the range of signals due to complex formation with noble metals (line 7 of **Table 1**).

For the quantitative evaluation of the  $^{31}$ P MAS NMR signal intensities of noble metal complexes with phosphines, the procedure described by Eq. (3) of the Section "method 1" is utilized. As an intensity standard, a well-known aluminosphosphate-type zeolite, such as VPI-5, is suitable. In this case, the repetition times  $t_{\rm rep}$  of the  $^{31}$ P MAS NMR measurements can be optimized by solely evaluating the  $^{31}$ P MAS NMR signals of phosphines complexed with noble metals, recorded with  $t_{\rm rep} = 20$  s, while the VPI-5 standard must be recorded with  $t_{\rm rep} = 240$  s. Phosphines physisorbed at the support surfaces without noble metals in their vicinity have much higher T<sub>1</sub> relaxation times compared with phosphines involved in complex formation with noble metals.

If PPh<sub>3</sub> is applied together with P(PhOMe)<sub>3</sub> (see Section "method 28") as a molecular probe for the study of the spatial distribution of noble metals on zeolite Y, the noble metal locations summarized in **Table 2** (Table 4 in Ref. [2]) and visualized in **Fig. 4** can be distinguished by their complex formation with phosphines. Ref. [6] gives a survey on the above-mentioned topics.

Positions in Fig. 4	Noble metal location	Complexation with phosphines	<sup>31</sup> P MAS NMR signal (ppm)
1	on outer particle surface	PPh <sub>3</sub> and	ca. 33 and 35
	of DeA-Y and Na-Y	$P(PhOMe)_3$	
2	in secondary	$PPh_3$	ca. 33
	mesopores of DeA-Y		
3	in supercages (SII	$PPh_3$	41
	position) of Na-Y		
4	in sodalite cages (SII'	no	no
	position)		
5	in hexagonal prisms (SI	no	no
	position)		

Table 2

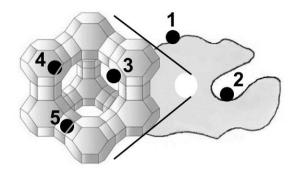


Fig. 4

Catalyst preparation: The noble metal-containing catalysts, prepared as described in Refs. [1-5], were calcined in synthetic air (970 mL/min) by heating with a rate of 2 K/min up to T = 573 K and further calcined at this temperature for 3 h, excluding the Ru-containing support materials. The materials were reduced in flowing hydrogen (100 mL/min) at T = 623 K (Pt-, Rh-, Pd-containing samples) or at T = 673 K (Ru-containing samples) for 2 h and, subsequently, transferred into without air contact inside a glove box (purged with dry nitrogen gas) into a "sample tube system 1" (see Section "sample tube system 1", accessible via link "In Situ Solid-State NMR Techniques"). Then, the materials were evacuated ( $p < 10^{-2}$  Pa) at "vacuum line 1" (see Section "vacuum line 1", accessible via link "In Situ Solid-State NMR Techniques") at T = 298 K for 12 h. Finally, the materials were sealed in the glass tubes of the "sample tube system 1" until their further use.

For studies as those demonstrated in Figs. 2 and 3, loading of the  $H_2$ -reduced catalysts with triphenylphosphine (PPh<sub>3</sub>) of Sigma-Aldrich was performed by mixing of 40 to 50 mg catalyst with ca. 10 mg PPh<sub>3</sub> inside a rotor in a mini glove box (see Section "mini glove box", accessible via link "*In Situ* Solid-State NMR Techniques"), purged with dry nitrogen gas. Subsequently, the rotor was sealed with an O-ring-containing TORLON cap and heated at T = 363 K for 20 h for reaching a proper distribution of PPh<sub>3</sub> on the  $H_2$ -reduced catalysts.

<sup>31</sup>P MAS NMR studies: <sup>31</sup>P MAS NMR measurements were carried out using a Bruker Avance III 400WB spectrometer at a resonance frequency of  $v_0 = 161.9$  MHz using a 4 mm MAS NMR probe with a sample spinning rate of  $v_{rot} = 10$  kHz. The spectra of the PPh<sub>3</sub>-loaded noble metal containing catalysts were recorded upon

single pulse  $\pi/2$  excitation with the repetition time of 20 s and high-power proton decoupling (HPDEC). The intensity standard VPI-5 was measured with a repetition time of 240 s. Chemical shifts were referenced to 0.85 M H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> ( $\delta_{31P}$  = 0 ppm).

## References:

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