Characterization and carbon monoxide oxidation activity of La_{1-y}Sr_yCr_{1-x}Ru_xO₃ perovskites

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The oxidation of CO over $La_{1-\nu}Sr_{\nu}Cr_{1-\nu}Ru_{\nu}O_3$ perovskite type oxides with y=0.3 and $0 \notin x \notin 0.100$ have been studied. X-ray fluorescence analysis confirmed that content of elements in the bulk corresponds to the established nominal perovskite stoichiometry, indicating that no significant oxidation of ruthenium into volatile polyvalent oxides with their consequented escape from the sample occurred in air up to the temperature of 1000 °C. According to X-ray diffraction analysis, all sampls achieved the perovskite hexagonal with the presence of some SrCrO₄. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy analysis of ruthenium samples shows higher Ru and Sr surface concentraitions than in the bulk. The binding energy for Ru_{3p} is virtually the same in all samples and consistent with that of Ru⁴⁺ (463.6-464.3eV). Kinetic studies were performed in a differential recycle reactor with a recycling ratio 80. The results show that substitution of Ru⁴⁺ for Cr^{3+} in $\operatorname{La}_{1-\nu}\operatorname{Sr}_{\nu}\operatorname{Cr}\operatorname{O}_3$ leads to a significant increase in both the activity and the activation energy. The global CO oxidation rate, referred on the BET surface area, correlates with the surface Ru⁴⁺ atomic concentration. Hence, the activity reflect the surface enrichment in ruthenium. Moreover, an identical apparent activation energy E = 93 kJ/mol and the same specific rate per ruthenium surface ion were obtained for samples with a Ru content $x \neq 0.05$ suggest that exposed Ru⁴⁺ ions mainly participate in the reaction.

Keywords: perovskite, ruthenium, CO oxidation.

Studies of perovskite type catalysts (ABO₃) with a rate earth ion in the A site and a transition metal ion in the B site have concentrated on the complete oxidation of CO and hydrocarbons and reduction of NO_x particularly related to auto exhaust control. 1,2

In our pervious papers^{3–5} we reported on the activity of a series of LaMO₃ (M = Co, Cr and Cu) perovskites and mixed oxides La_{1–y}Sr_yMO₃ (M = Cr and Ru) in the simultaneous oxidation of CO and hydrocarbons and reduction of NO_x with controlled compositions of the gas mixture around the stoichiometric ratio of

oxidizing to reducing agents. The investigations were performed in a pulse-flame catalytic system⁶ with a feed gas obtained by combustion of 2,2,4 trimethylpentane (isooctane) containing about 11 vol.% of H_2O and also in a dry synthetic gas mixture. According to the results on $La_{1-y}Sr_yCr_{1-x}Ru_xO_3$ (0.05 £x£ 0.100) mixed oxides, under net reducing conditions, an unexpected higher conversion of CO and a higher concentration of hydrogen in the outlet reaction gases were obtained in the presence of water vapor compared to those observed in the synthetic dry reaction mixture. These effects were ascribed to the water-gas shift reaction, catalyzed by ruthenium ions. Furthermore, the hydrogen formed in the water gas shift reaction, absorbed on the surface in the dissociative form, could be a reason for the high conversion of NO_x observed on ruthenium perovskites under net oxidizing conditions.

EXPERIMENTAL

Catalyst preparation

A series of perovskite type oxides $La_{1-y}Sr_yCr_{1-x}Ru_xO_3$ containing a constant content of Sr (y=0.3) and with x ranging from 0 to 0.100 was prepared from La_2O_3 , Cr_2O_3 , RuO_2 and $SrCO_3$ of analytical grade quality by solid state processing. The respective amounts of the constituent oxides and carbonates were mixed in ethanol and sintered. The temperature of calcination was increased stepwise up to 1000 °C. Cycles of grinding and heating were performed at the chosen temperatures to ensure homogeneity and to complete the reaction.

Characterization of catalyst

The chemical composition of the samples was determined by X-ray fluorescence analysis (XRF), using a System Cambera Model 7333 E. The phase composition of the samples was investigated by X-ray diffraction alaysis (XRD) of powdered samples using a Philips PW 1710 diffractometer, with CuKa graphite-monochromatized radiation (40 kV, 30 mA). The lattice constants were calculated by the least squares method (program LSUCRIPC).⁸ X-ray photoelectron spectra (XPS) were recorded on a VC Escalab II spectrometer with MgKa radiation (1253.6 eV) at a pressure of $4 \cdot 10^{-11}$ Torr and an instrumental resolution for Ag $3d_{3/2}$ line 0.9 eV. The normalized XPS intensities 1/s, which are proportional to the effective concentraitons of the corresponding elements in the surface layers, ⁹ were determined as the integrated peak areas divided by the corresponding photon ionization cross section s. ¹⁰ In the peak area computation, the background was assumed to be linear.

The specific surface area of the samples was measured using the BET method.

Catalytic tests

The kinetics of carbon monoxide oxidation was measured in an integrated-external recycle reactor. A detailed description of the apparatus has been given elsewhere. 11,12 A reaction gas mixture containing 1 vol.% CO and 1 vol.% O_2 was fed at constant flow rate of 10 l/h. The recycling ratio of 80 was maintained constant to obtain gradientless conditions in all catalytic runs. The gas composition was analyzed before and after the reaction by an online gas chromatograph (Shimadzu GC-8A) interfaced with an automatic integrator. The global reaction rate was calculated using the equation:

$$r = ((c_{co}^{o} - c_{co})/w) \cdot F$$

where c_{co}^{0} and c_{co} are the concentration of CO (vol.%) in the inlet and the outlet, respectively, w is the mass (g) of catalyst, and F is the feed flow rate (cm³/s).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The atomic concentrations of elements in the bulk (XRF) and the surface layers (XPS) of the ruthenium perovskites are given in Table I.

TABLE I. Bulk and surface concentratoins of the elements in La_{1-y}Sr_yCr_{1-x}Ru_xO₃ (y = 0.3; 0.025 £ x £ 0.100) samples

х -	Bulk concentration (at.%)					Surface concentration (at. %)				
	La	Sr	Cr	Ru	О	La	Sr	Cr	Ru	О
0.025	14.0	6.0	19.5	0.5	60.0	10.0	7.2	9.8	0.8	72.2
0.050	14.0	6.0	19.0	1.0	60.0	11.0	7.8	10.0	2.0	69.2
0.075	14.0	6.0	18.5	1.5	60.0	9.4	8.9	9.2	3.6	68.9
0.100	14.0	6.0	18.0	2.0	60.0	8.1	11.1	9.5	3.8	67.5

The content of elements in the bulk corresponds to the composition of the initial mixture of the samples, *i.e.*, to the nominal perovskite stoichiometry La_{1-y} $Sr_yCr_{1-x}Ru_xO_3$ with y=0.3 and x varying in the range $0.025 \, \epsilon \, x \, \epsilon \, 0.100$. Moreover, the very good agreement between the amounts of ruthenium taken and those found in the systems obtained after heating at $1000 \, ^{\circ}C$ in air, indicates that no significant oxidation of ruthenium into volatile polyvalent oxides RuO_3 and RuO_4 and their consequental escape from the sample occurred under the oxidation conditions. This is the main problem in the case of supported ruthenium catalysts. In the following figures and tables all the synthesized ruthenium perovskite catalysts are denoted according to the nominal perovskite stoichiometry.

On the XRD pattern (Fig. 1) of the sample without Sr, only perovskite phase LaCrO₃ was identified. The unambiguous phase identification of a few very weak peaks was not possible. The X-ray diffraction peaks of LaCrO₃ were completely indexed from a cubic symmetry with lattice parameter a = 3.8847(6)Å. In all samples with La partly substituted by Sr in A site, however, weak diffraction peaks attributed to SrCrO₄ were detected together with the perovskite ones. Thermal treatment of the samples in air resulted in the oxidation of part of the Cr³⁺ to Cr⁶⁺ which reacted with strontium carbonate forming a SrCrO₄ phase. ¹³ In the ruthenium containing samples no peaks corresponding to RuO₂ or other component single oxides were detected. Since, according to chemical analysis, almost all ruthenium remained in the samples, the formation of very small RuO₂ perticles, which could not be detected by XRD, due to their strong tendency to volatilization under oxidizing conditions, can be excluded. Hence, it can be considered that the ruthenium is incorporated in the perovskite structure.

The formation of SrCrO₄ as a separate phase implies a decrease in the Sr and Cr content in the perovskite phase.

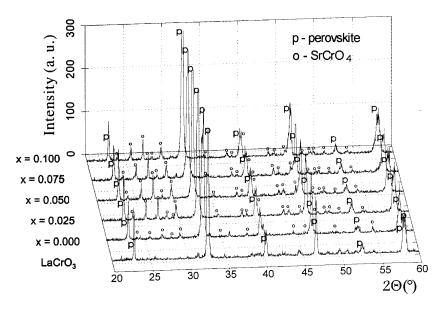


Fig. 1. XRD powder patterns of La_{0.7}Sr_{0.3}Cr_{1-x}Ru_xO₃ (0.025 £ x £ 0.100).

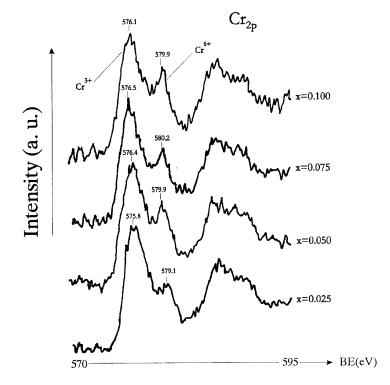


Fig. 2. Photoelectron spectra of Cr_{2p} of $La_{1-y}Sr_yCr_{1-x}Ru_xO_3$ (0.025 £ x £ 0.100).

The Cr_{2p} photoelectron spectra (Fig. 2) exhibit two peaks with BE of 576.5 eV and 579.9 eV, characteristic for Cr^{3+} and Cr^{6+} , respectively. Standardization of the peaks gave about 20% contribution of Cr^{6+} to the total amount of chromium in the surface layers in all synthesized samples. This is in good agreement with the estimation of the relative bulk content of the $SrCrO_4$ phase.

The absence of other isolated phases of the individual oxides, which should crystallize out at the calcination temperature of $1000\,^{\circ}$ C, implies that chromium and equivalent amounts of strontium are distributed in the perovskite and strontium chromate phases. Assuming that 20% of the total amount of Cr (all the formed ${\rm Cr^{6+}}$) and an equivalent amount of ${\rm Sr^{2+}}$ are bonded in ${\rm SrCrO_4}$ the calculated average content of Sr in the ${\rm La_{1-y}Sr_yCr_{1-x}Ru_xO_3}$ perovskite phase significantly decreases from y=0.3 to y=0.14. Accordingly the La/Sr ratio in the perovskite phase increases from a nominal 2.33 to 6.14.

This is consistent with the lattice parameters of the perovskites $La_{1-y}Sr_yRu_x$ $Cr_{1-x}O_3$, which are given in Table II.

TABLE II. The unit cell parameters of the perovskite phase occurring in the synthesized $La_{1-y}Sr_y$ $Cr_{1-x}Ru_xO_3$ samples

-	on of the initial tures	Lattice pa	arameters	Volume (Å ³)	Reference	
y	X	a(Å)	c(Å)	` '		
0	0	5.494#	13.458#	352 [6 • 58.62(3)]	this paper	
0.3	0.100	5.482(3)	13.504(9)	351.4(4)	this paper	
0.3	0.075	5.478(4)	13.495(9)	350.7(4)	this paper	
0.3	0.050	5.474(4)	13.48(1)	349.7(5)	this paper	
0.3	0.025	5.475(3)	13.488(7)	350.2(3)	this paper	
0.3	0	5.466(3)	13.49(1)	349.2(4)	this paper	
0.25	0	5.493-0.002*	13.301-0 D 06	348	JCPDS 32-1240	

*Calculated from cubic cell with a=3.8847(6) Å using equations $a=a_{\rm c}\cdot(2)^{1/2}$ and $c=a_{\rm c}\cdot(3)^{1/2}/2$. *Actually, 5.403–0.002 Å was reported (Khattak, ¹⁴) but this is probably a typing error, because the calculated parameter of the hexagonal unit cell from the rombohedral lattice parameters is $a=2\cdot5.451\cdot\sin(30.255)=5.493$ Å.

The observed diffraction peaks of the perovskite phase are mostly broad and asymmetric but not split very well suggesting that the perovskite lattice is slightly distorted compared to an ideal cubic structure. The lattice parameters of the hexagonal perovskite unit cell are very similar for all investigated samples. Moreover, their unit cell volumes are between the LaCrO₃ and the La_{0.75}Sr_{0.25}CrO₃ volume. ¹⁴ This is in agreement with the previous conclusion concerning the formation of the perovskite phase with a lower content of Sr (y = 0.14) than expected (y = 0.3) according to the overall metal content (Table I).

The Cr_{2p} binding energy values for Cr^{3+} and Cr^{4+} are very close. Therefore, the separation of the peaks was not possible with the resolution of instrument used. Decon-

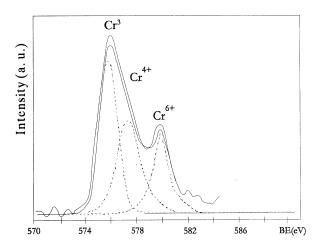


Fig. 3. Photoelectron spectra of Cr_{2p} of Cr^{3+} and Cr^{6+} ions.

volution of the Cr^{3+} peak, which is broad and asymmetric (Fig. 2), performed for the sample x=0.075, might be an indication of the possible presence of Cr^{4+} ions (Fig. 3).

The binding energy for Ru_{3p} (463.6–464.3 eV) is virtually the same in all samples and it is consistent with that of Ru^{4+} (Fig. 4).

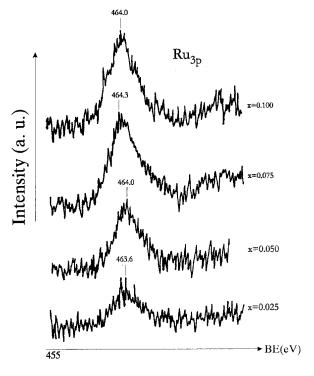


Fig. 4. Photoelectron spectra of Ru_{3p} of $La_{1-y}Sr_yCr_{1-x}Ru_xO_3$ (with 0.025 £ x £ 0.100).

The calculated composition of the perovskite phases in the $La_{1-y}Sr_yCr_{1-x}Ru_xO_3$ samples was made assuming that all Ru is incorporated in the perovskite and is presented in Table III.

TABLE III. Calculated composition of perovskite $La_{1-\nu}Sr_{\nu}Cr_{1-x}Ru_{x}O_{3}$ phases

X	Calculated composition of the perovskite phases	d
0	${ m La}^{3+}_{0.875}{ m Sr}^{2+}_{0.125}{ m Cr}^{3+}{ m O}_{3-{ m cl}} \ { m La}^{3+}_{0.875}{ m Sr}^{2+}_{0.125}{ m Cr}^{3+}_{0.875}{ m Cr}^{4+}_{0.125}{ m O}_{3}$	0.063
0.025	$\begin{array}{c} \text{La}^{3+}_{0.869}\text{Sr}^{2+}_{0.131}\text{Cr}^{3+}_{0.969}\text{Ru}^{4+}_{0.031}\text{O}_{3\text{-d}} \\ \text{La}^{3+}_{0.869}\text{Sr}^{2+}_{0.131}\text{Cr}^{3+}_{0.869}\text{Cr}^{4+}_{0.100}\text{Ru}^{4+}_{0.031}\text{O}_{3} \end{array}$	0.051
0.050	$\begin{array}{c} \text{La}^{3+}_{0.865}\text{Sr}^{2+}_{0.135}\text{Cr}^{3+}_{0.938}\text{Ru}^{4+}_{0.062}\text{O}_{3\text{-d}} \\ \text{La}^{3+}_{0.865}\text{Sr}^{2+}_{0.135}\text{Cr}^{3+}_{0.865}\text{Cr}^{4+}_{0.073}\text{Ru}^{4+}_{0.062}\text{O}_{3} \end{array}$	0.037
0.075	$\begin{array}{c} La^{3+}{}_{0.859}Sr^{2+}{}_{0.141}Cr^{3+}{}_{0.908}Ru^{4+}{}_{0.092}O_{3-d} \\ La^{3+}{}_{0.859}Sr^{2+}{}_{0.141}Cr^{3+}{}_{0.859}Cr^{4+}{}_{0.049}Ru^{4+}{}_{0.092}O_{3} \end{array}$	0.025
0.100	$\begin{array}{c} La^{3+}{}_{0.854}Sr^{2+}{}_{0.146}Cr^{3+}{}_{0.878}Ru^{4+}{}_{0.122}O_{3\text{-d}} \\ La^{3+}{}_{0.854}Sr^{2+}{}_{0.146}Cr^{3+}{}_{0.854}Cr^{4+}{}_{0.024}Ru^{4+}{}_{0.122}O_{3} \end{array}$	0.012

The substitution of divalent Sr for trivalent La requires charge compensation, which can be achieved by the formation of either tetravalent chromium or oxygen vacancies.

The partial substitutution of divalent Sr for trivalent La in $LaCrO_3$ leads to the some decrease in unit cell volume despite the fact that Sr^{2+} is a larger ion and has a lower valence state. A probably explanation of this lies in the formation of Cr^{4+} (having a lower ionic radius than Cr^{3+}) which compensates for either steric and electronic effects of Sr^{2+} doping. The formation of certain amount of oxygen vacancies, however, can not be excluded.

However, the progressive substitution of Cr^{3+} for Ru^{4+} (having almost the same ionic radius) in the B position of $La_{1-y}Sr_yCrO_3$ phase simply decreases the need for Cr^{4+} and causes an increase in the unit cell volume (Table II). As a result of the above effect, a decrease in the Ru content reduces the unit cell volume to the smallest value for x = 0. The further decrease of the unit cell volume observed in the sample with higher Sr content (y = 0.25) can be ascribed to the increase of Cr^{4+} in the some proportion of the Sr^{2+} content.

The O_{1s} photoelectron spectra of the ruthenium catalysts (Fig. 5) indicate that at least two kinds of oxygen species are present on the surface. The lower binding energy of O_{1s} (529.0–529.5 eV) is attributed to lattice oxygen. A shoulder around BE = 530.5 eV, clearly pronounced only for the sample with x = 0.025 could be assigned to the absorbed oxygen according to Seiyama. 15

Oxygen sorptive properties of $La_{1-y}Sr_yCr_{1-x}Ru_xO_3$ (0 £ x £ 0.100) samples in relation to stuctural defects and the role of absorbed oxygen in the activity and kinetics of CO oxidation is the subject a separate study.

The stabilization of runthenium ions by incorporating them in the perovskite structure enables the oxidation activity to be investigated with no significant loss of Ru.

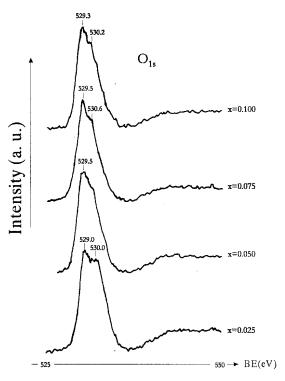


Fig. 5. Photoelectron spectra of O_{1s} of $La_{1-y}Sr_yCr_{1-x}Ru_xO_3$ (0.025 £ x £ 0.100).

The effect of temperature on the rate of CO oxidation was studied on $\text{La}_{1-\nu}\text{Sr}_{\nu}$ CrO₃ and a series of ruthenium samples in the temperature range of 100 °C to 300 °C using a CO/O₂ = 1 reaction gas mixture.

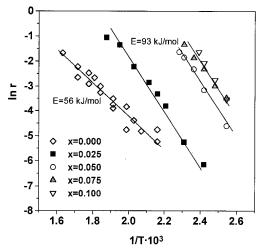


Fig. 6. Arrhenius plots of the global rate of CO oxidation on perovskite samples.

The specific surface area of all the synthesized samples was about 1 m²/g. Therefore, the global rate of CO oxidation per gram or referred to the BET surface area of the catalysts is practically the same.

The global CO oxidation rates and specific rates calculated per surface ruthenium atom (taken from Table I), in Arrhenius form, are plotted in Fig. 6 and Fig. 7, respectively. As can be seen from Fig. 6, even a small substitution of Ru^{4+} for Cr^{3+} in the $La_{1-y}Sr_yCrO_3$ matrix results in an enhanced oxidation rate and in an increase of the apparent activation energy from 56 kJ to 93 kJ. The strontium chromate phase, stable to the temperature of $1250\,^{\circ}C^{13}$ under oxidative conditions, present in all samples in approximately the same amount, is not essential for the activity. The global CO oxidation rate increases with further progressive substitution of Ru^{4+} for Cr^{3+} . However, the observed increase in the reaction rate does not follow the mole fraction of Ru(x) in the bulk of the samples. Almost the same global rate is obtained on the samples $Ru_{0.075}$ and $Ru_{0.100}$, with different degree of substitution of Ru in the bulk.

The XPS results (Table II) revealed not only higher Ru and Sr and lower Cr and La surface atomic concentrations in respect to those in the bulk, but also that samples $Ru_{0.075}$ and $Ru_{0.100}$ had very similar surface concentrations of ruthenium ions.

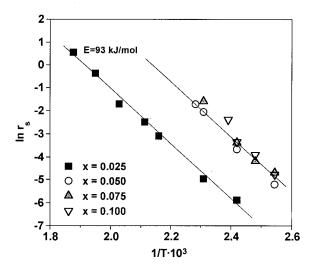


Fig. 7. Arrhenius plots of the specific rate of CO oxidation on perovskite samples.

These results indicated that surface Ru^{4+} ion have an essential influence on the overall activity. Moreover, samples with Ru mole fraction in the range $0.05 \, \xi \, x \, \xi \, 0.100$ exhibits nearly the same oxidation rate per Ru surface atom (Fig. 7). Since no other oxidation states of Ru were detected on the surface layers, the oxidation activity could be attributed to the Ru⁴⁺ ion.

The identical apparent activation energy E = 93 kJ/mol obtained on samples with a ruthenium content in the range $0.05 \, \text{£} \, x \, \text{£} \, 0.100$ and the very similar rate per ruthenium surface ion suggest that all the Ru sites are exposed and that mainly these

seats participate in the reaction. In accordance with the previous, it can be considered that no significant segregation of ruthenium on the surface occurs and that matrix effects arise from the fact that perovskite permits the high dispersion of Ru⁴⁺.

It is interesting to realize the important difference in the specific activity of the sample with the lowest ruthenium content (x = 0.025). The significantly lower activity per ruthenium ion implies that not every exposed Ru⁴⁺ ions is active in CO oxidation. Since, the same apparent activation energy was obtained for this sample as for the samples with higher ruthenium contents, one of the possible explanations of this difference in activity could be found in the distance of the Ru ions in the perovskite phase. However, further work is necessary to clarify this point.

CONCLUSION REMARKS

The investigated catalysts, with the general formula $\text{La}_{1-y}\text{Sr}_y\text{Cr}_{1-x}\text{Ru}_x\text{O}_3$ (0 £ x £ 0.100), achieved a perovskite phase with about 20 % of SrCrO4. The amounts of metals, determined by XPS analysis of samples calcinated in air at 1000 °C, correspond to the soichiometric values of the proposed chemical compositions. This proves that the incorporation of Ru into a perovskite matrix prevents the oxidation of ruthenium into volatile polyvalent oxides and their consequential escape from the samples up to 100 °C.

XPS data indicate a surface enrichment in Ru and Sr. It can, furthermore, be concluded that an increase in the global rate reflects the surface enrichment in Ru. The invariance of the apparent activation energy and the specific rate, computed per ruthenium surface atom in the samples, with a ruthenium content in the range $0.050 \, \text{E} \, x \, \text{E} \, 0.100$, suggest the Ru⁴⁺ ions are exposed and that they play a dominant role in the reaction.

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извод

КАТАЛИТИЧКА СВОЈСТВА Lа $_{1-y}$ Sг $_y$ Сг $_{1-x}$ Ru $_x$ О $_3$ ПЕРОВСКИТА У ОКСИДАЦИЈИ УГЉЕНМОНОКСИДА

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Предмет овог рада је испитивање каталитичке активности мешаних оксида La_{1-y} $\text{Sr}_y\text{Cr}_{1-x}\text{Ru}_x\text{O}_3$ структуре перовскита са y=0,3 и 0,025 £ x £ 0,100 у оксидацији угљенмоноксида. Висока сагласност унете и X-флуоросцентном анализом нађене количине рутенијума у узорцима калцинисаним на $100\,^{\circ}\text{C}$ у ваздуху, указује на то да није дошло до значајне оксидације Ru до испарљивих поливалентних оксида и њиховог отпаравања из узорка. Анализа дифрактограма X-зрака је показала да је у свим узорцима поред перовскитне

фазе присутан и мањи удео SrCrO₄фазе. Концентрације Sr и Ru у површинским слојевима, израчунате из X-фотоелектронске спектроскопије, су веће у односу на њихову концентрацију у маси. Енергија везе Ru_{3p} је иста за све узорке и карактеристична је за Ru⁴⁺. Кинетика оксидације угљенмоноксида испитивана је у диференцијалном рециркулационом реактору. Резултати показују да делимична замена Cr³⁺ са Ru⁴⁺ у La_{1-y}Sr_yCrO₃ доводи до знатног пораста активности и енергије активације. Укупна брзина оксидација СО, обрачуната по јединици специфичне површине, је скоро пропорционална порасту атомске концентрације Ru⁴⁺ на површини узорка, односно Ru_x ‡ 0,05 добивена је иста привидна енергија активације од E = 93 kJ/mol и иста специфична брзина оксидације по површинском јону Ru⁴⁺, што указује на то да су јони Ru⁴⁺ изложени и да они превасходно учествују у реакцији.

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