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### Abstract

A series of Cu/H-SSZ-13 and Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts are synthesized, degreened and hydrothermally aged for use in the standard NH<sub>3</sub>-SCR reaction. Surface area/pore volume and XRD analyses are used to probe the textural properties of the catalysts. H<sub>2</sub>-TPR and EPR are used to quantitatively describe the various Cu species. NH<sub>3</sub>-SCR is carried out at a lower space velocity to probe the light-off behavior, and a higher space velocity to generate data for kinetic analysis. Na<sup>+</sup> co-cation addition is found to promote turnover rates of isolated Cu-ions at low reaction temperatures. However, as Cu loadings increase, this promoting effect is compromised by decreases in Cu exchange capacity and hydrothermal stability of the Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts.

**Keywords** Cu/SSZ-13; SCR; catalyst additive; sodium; EPR;TPR.

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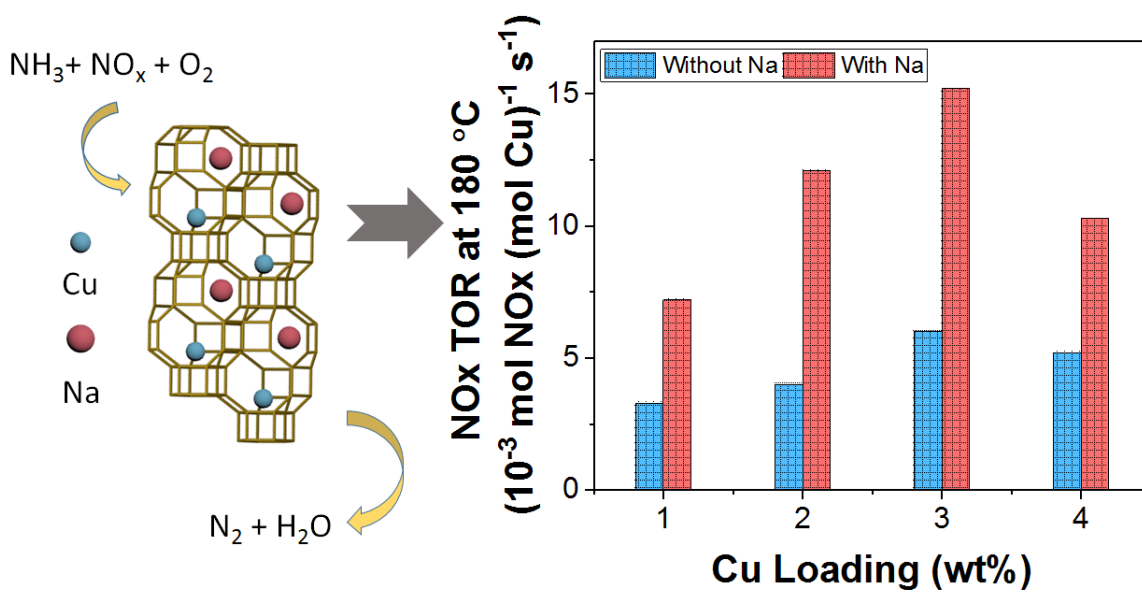
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## Highlights

- 1) Na<sup>+</sup> addition promotes low temperature turnover rates of Cu/SSZ-13 catalysts.
- 2) Na<sup>+</sup> addition adversely influences dispersion of isolated Cu-ions.
- 3) Na<sup>+</sup> addition adversely influences catalyst hydrothermal stability at high Cu loadings.
- 4) Co-cation addition to Cu/SSZ-13 can be used in practical SCR catalysts, however care must be taken to control the extents.
- 5) Discussions on quantification of isolated Cu-ions with EPR and H<sub>2</sub>-TPR.

## Graphical Abstract



# Influences of Na<sup>+</sup> co-cation on the structure and performance of Cu/SSZ-13 selective catalytic reduction catalysts

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## Abstract

A series of Cu/H-SSZ-13 and Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts are synthesized, degreened and hydrothermally aged for use in the standard NH<sub>3</sub>-SCR reaction. Surface area/pore volume and XRD analyses are used to probe the textural properties of the catalysts. H<sub>2</sub>-TPR and EPR are used to quantitatively describe the various Cu species. NH<sub>3</sub>-SCR is carried out at a lower space velocity to probe the light-off behavior, and a higher space velocity to generate data for kinetic analysis. Na<sup>+</sup> co-cation addition is found to promote turnover rates of isolated Cu-ions at low reaction temperatures. However, as Cu loadings increase, this promoting effect is compromised by decreases in Cu exchange capacity and hydrothermal stability of the Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts.

## Keywords:

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## 1. Introduction

The selective catalytic reduction of  $\text{NO}_x$  with ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ -SCR) is an important reaction for diesel engine exhaust abatement [1-4]. Cu/SSZ-13 has attracted the most attention in recent years as a SCR catalyst for two reasons: (1) its great catalytic performance in terms of high activity, selectivity and superior stability; (2) its structural simplicity (in comparison to other Cu/zeolites) in enabling fundamental research [5-9]. With extensive research efforts for more than a decade, researchers are now having a very good understanding about this catalytic reaction, including but not limited to the nature of the active sites and reaction mechanism. It is now generally agreed that Cu/SSZ-13 contains two active sites for SCR,  $[\text{Cu}(\text{OH})]^+-\text{Z}$  and  $\text{Cu}^{2+}-2\text{Z}$ , where the former is charge-balanced by a single framework negative charge (Z), and the latter balanced by a pair of negative charges (2Z) [6, 10, 11]. While both sites almost equally catalyze SCR, they have very different (hydrothermal) stabilities.  $\text{Cu}^{2+}-2\text{Z}$  is thermodynamically more stable than  $[\text{Cu}(\text{OH})]^+-\text{Z}$  [12]. It has been suggested that  $[\text{Cu}(\text{OH})]^+-\text{Z}$  only populates upon  $\text{Cu}^{2+}-2\text{Z}$  saturation, as one would expect, based on such a thermodynamic ground [13]. However a few recent studies demonstrated that  $[\text{Cu}(\text{OH})]^+-\text{Z}$  can populate prior to  $\text{Cu}^{2+}-2\text{Z}$  saturation, believed to be caused by kinetic stabilization effects [7, 11, 14, 15]. In a recent study, Song et al. [11] utilized electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) to quantify different Cu moieties in Cu/SSZ-13, and discovered that  $[\text{Cu}(\text{OH})]^+-\text{Z}$  converts to unwanted  $\text{CuO}_x$  clusters during hydrothermal aging.  $\text{CuO}_x$  clusters play two detrimental roles: (1) they lower SCR selectivities by catalyzing the side,  $\text{NH}_3$  oxidation reactions; and (2) they actively promote degradation of the SSZ-13 supports during aging [11].

From the studies shown above, it can be concluded that both Cu content and positioning play important roles in SCR performance and long-term stability of Cu/SSZ-13 catalysts. Catalyst optimization efforts, therefore, should consider a number of factors including Cu/Al and Si/Al

ratios, Al distribution, catalyst treatments (e.g., degreening), etc., since these all influence Cu positioning [8]. Cu positioning can also be influenced by other species unintentionally introduced into the SCR catalysts during application, i.e., Zn and P from engine oil, minerals within urea solution, and noble metals from the upper stream emission abatement component (e.g., diesel oxidation catalyst, DOC) [16]. Sodium is another common element found in Cu/SSZ-13 catalysts for reasons as follows: SSZ-13 synthesis typically requires a strong basic environment provided by NaOH; incomplete exchange between Na/SSZ-13 and  $\text{NH}_4^+$  solutions, typically employed to remove Na prior to Cu-exchange, leads to coexistence of  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  in the final products. In a recent study, Gao et al. [17] demonstrated that the presence of certain amounts of  $\text{Na}^+$  (and other alkali and alkaline earth cations) is beneficial to both low temperature  $\text{NO}_x$  conversion and hydrothermal stability of low-Cu loaded Cu/SSZ-13. A recent patent application by Johnson Matthey, Inc. also demonstrated stability enhancement roles of a number of co-cation additives ( $\text{Na}^+$  included) [18]. From these prior investigations, we can at least suggest three roles that  $\text{Na}^+$  co-cations play: (1) competing with Cu-ions for catalytic exchange sites; (2) neutralizing Brønsted acid sites thus preventing dealumination during hydrothermal aging; (3) providing  $\text{NH}_3$  adsorption function as Lewis acids. These roles have not yet been thoroughly investigated. In this work, a series of Cu/SSZ-13 catalysts with and without  $\text{Na}^+$  co-cations have been prepared and systematically investigated in both degreened and hydrothermally aged forms. Isolated Cu sites, i.e., active centers in this catalyst, were quantified using EPR. The influences of Cu content on catalyst structure, SCR activity and thermal stability were investigated to elucidate the multiple roles  $\text{Na}^+$  co-cations play.

## **2. Material and Methods**

### **2.1 Catalyst Preparation**

Na-SSZ-13 with Si/Al = 9 was hydrothermally synthesized in house [19]. Typically, 0.8 g NaOH (Sigma Aldrich,  $\geq 99\%$ ) was dissolved in 50 ml deionized water. 1.2 g Al(OH)<sub>3</sub> (Sigma Aldrich, containing  $\sim 54\text{wt}\%$  Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) was added and stirred until completely dissolved. Then 17.1 g TMAda-OH (Sachem Inc., containing  $\sim 25\%$  trimethyladamantylammonium hydroxide) was added as the structure directing agent (SDA). 24.0 g LUDOX HS-30 colloidal silica (Sigma Aldrich, 30 wt% suspension in H<sub>2</sub>O) was added slowly to the solution until a uniform white gel was formed. The stoichiometric composition of the gel was as follows: 40 SDA : 10 NaOH : 2.9 Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> : 60 SiO<sub>2</sub> : 1860 H<sub>2</sub>O. The gel was sealed in a 125 ml Teflon-lined stainless steel autoclave containing a magnetic stir bar. The autoclave was placed in a sand bath on top of a hot plate stirrer. The gel was continuously stirred at 160 °C for 4 days at 400 rpm. **Note that gel stirring is critical for the synthesis of SSZ-13 materials with narrow particle size distributions [20].** The final solid product was separated from the solution by centrifugation and washed three times with deionized water. It was then dried under a nitrogen flow at 60 °C overnight, and calcined at 550 °C for 5 h in static air to burn the SDA. The thus prepared Na-SSZ-13 substrate contains 1.50 wt% of sodium, determined with inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectroscopy (ICP-AES), performed at Galbraith Laboratories (Knoxville, TN, U.S.A.). A portion of the Na-SSZ-13 substrate was converted to NH<sub>4</sub>-SSZ-13 by exchange with NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> solutions. Typically, 10 g of Na-SSZ-13 was mixed with 8 g of NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> (Sigma Aldrich,  $\geq 99\%$ ) and 100 ml deionized water. The mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 2 h. The product was centrifuged and washed with deionized water for a few times. To ensure complete Na<sup>+</sup> removal, the process was repeated twice. The solid NH<sub>4</sub>-SSZ-13 material was dried under a nitrogen flow at 60 °C overnight. Both the Na-SSZ-13 and NH<sub>4</sub>-SSZ-13 substrates were stored at ambient conditions for further use.

Cu ion-exchange was carried out using the Na-SSZ-13 and NH<sub>4</sub>-SSZ-13 substrates and Cu(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. Various amounts of Cu(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·2.5H<sub>2</sub>O (Sigma Aldrich, ≥ 99%) was first dissolved in 100 ml water. 1 g of Na-SSZ-13 or NH<sub>4</sub>-SSZ-13 was then added to the solution. Exchange was carried out at 80 °C for 2 h under stirring. The temperature was then raised to ~150 °C to evaporate water to obtain the dry powder, still under continuous stirring. The solid powders were then calcined in static air at 550 °C for 5 h. In this way, two series of samples were prepared: a Cu/H-SSZ-13 series that contain Cu loadings of 1-5 wt%, and a Cu/Na-SSZ-13 series that contain Cu loadings of 1-4 wt% (note again that this series contain 1.5 wt% of Na in each sample). A portion of the freshly prepared Cu/H-SSZ-13 and Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts were degreened (abbreviated as DG) at 700 °C for 4 h in flowing air containing 10% H<sub>2</sub>O. Some fresh catalysts were also hydrothermally aged (denoted as HTA) at 800 °C for 16 h under the same gas flow. Characterizations and reaction testing were mainly conducted on the DG and HTA catalysts. **Note that all of the catalysts studied here were prepared using the same batch of parent SSZ-13 material to minimize potential zeolite particle size/shape effects on catalysis.**

## 2.2 Standard NH<sub>3</sub>-SCR and NH<sub>3</sub> oxidation reaction tests

The standard NH<sub>3</sub>-SCR ( $4\text{NO} + 4\text{NH}_3 + \text{O}_2 = 4\text{N}_2 + 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) “light-off” curves were measured in a plug-flow reactor system described elsewhere [19, 21]. 120 mg of sieved catalyst (60-80 mesh) was loaded in a 1cm OD quartz reactor and placed in an electric tube furnace. The composition of the gas feed was 360 ppm NH<sub>3</sub>, 360 ppm NO, 14% O<sub>2</sub>, 2.5% H<sub>2</sub>O and balanced N<sub>2</sub>. The total flow rate was 300 ml/min and the gas hourly space velocity (GHSV) was estimated to be ~100, 000 h<sup>-1</sup>. Concentrations of reactants and products were measured by an online MKS MultiGas™ 2030 FTIR gas analyzer with the gas cell maintained at 191 °C. The NO<sub>x</sub> (NO + NO<sub>2</sub>) conversions were measured at temperatures decreasing stepwise from 550 to 200 °C with intervals of 50 or 20 °C.

At each temperature, the measurement was maintained at least for 1 hour in order for the reaction to reach steady-state.  $NO_x$  conversions were calculated using the following equation:

$$NO_x \text{ conversion} = \frac{(NO_x)_{inlet} - (NO_x)_{outlet}}{(NO_x)_{inlet}} \times 100\%$$

The  $NH_3$  oxidation reaction ( $4NH_3 + 3O_2 = 2N_2 + 6H_2O$ ) tests were carried out after the standard SCR tests on the same catalysts at the same space velocities and the same ways of temperature ramping. The gas feed contained 380 ppm  $NH_3$ , 14%  $O_2$  and balanced  $N_2$ . The  $NH_3$  conversions were calculated as follows:

$$NH_3 \text{ conversion} = \frac{(NH_3)_{inlet} - (NH_3)_{outlet}}{(NH_3)_{inlet}} \times 100\%$$

To obtain SCR kinetics parameters, e.g., apparent activation energies using the Arrhenius equation, steady-state measurements were also carried out under kinetic control. In this case, 60 mg catalyst was typically used and a higher flow rate of 1,000 ml/min was chosen, resulting in an estimated GHSV of 667,000  $h^{-1}$ . The reaction temperatures were varied from 180 to 100 °C with 10 °C intervals. The absence of mass and heat transfer limitations was tested using the Koros-Nowak criterion [21, 22].

### 2.3 Characterizations

BET surface areas and micropore volumes of the catalysts were measured with a Quantachrome Autosorb-6 analyzer with liquid  $N_2$  adsorption. The catalysts were degassed under vacuum overnight at 250 °C prior to analysis. Powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) measurements were performed on a Philips PW3040/00 X'Pert powder X-ray diffractometer with  $Cu K\alpha$

radiation ( $\lambda = 1.5406 \text{ \AA}$ ). Data were collected with  $2\theta$  ranging from  $5$  to  $50^\circ$  using a step size of  $0.02^\circ$ .

The isolated Cu(II) contents of the catalysts were quantified by EPR. Typically,  $\sim 10$  mg of ambient hydrated catalyst was loaded in the quartz EPR tube and continuous scan of the sample was performed at 125 K. The acquired spectra were double-integrated to obtain signal areas, which are proportional to EPR active isolated Cu(II) contents. To quantify these, a series of standard solutions with different isolated Cu(II) concentrations were prepared by dissolving  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 2.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and imidazole (Sigma Aldrich, 99%) in ethylene glycol (Sigma Aldrich, 99.8%). Imidazole was used here to coordinate with Cu(II) ions to prevent formation of EPR silent Cu dimers. The linear calibration curve generated using the integral areas and Cu contents of the standard solutions was then used for quantification of isolated Cu(II) in the catalysts.

The  $\text{H}_2$  temperature programmed reduction ( $\text{H}_2$ -TPR) experiment was performed on a Micromeritics AutoChem 2920 apparatus.  $\sim 100$  mg of catalyst was used for each experiment. The catalyst was first purged with  $\text{N}_2$  at room temperature (note that a dehydration pretreatment was not performed to avoid autoreduction of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{OH})]^+ \text{-Z}$  [19]). Then 10%  $\text{H}_2/\text{Ar}$  was flowed through the quartz sample holder at a total flow rate of 50 ml/min. The temperature was ramped from ambient to  $1000^\circ\text{C}$  with a ramping rate of  $10^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$ , and maintained at  $1000^\circ\text{C}$  for 15 mins before cooling down. The obtained TPR curves were integrated and normalized by sample weight.  $\text{CuO}$  (Sigma Aldrich, 99.9%) reduction with the same procedure was used as the quantification standard.

$\text{NH}_3$  temperature programmed desorption ( $\text{NH}_3$ -TPD) was performed using the SCR test unit.  $\sim 120$  mg catalyst was loaded in the reactor and calcined at  $500^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 hour under a 300 ml/min  $\text{N}_2$  flow. The sample was then cooled down to  $100^\circ\text{C}$  and saturated with 360 ppm  $\text{NH}_3$  balanced

with N<sub>2</sub> (total flow rate 300 ml/min) until the outlet NH<sub>3</sub> concentration maintained invariant for 30 min. The catalyst was then purged with 300 ml/min N<sub>2</sub> flow for 2 h at 100 °C to remove weakly adsorbed species. Next, the sample was heated from 100 to 700 °C with a ramping rate of 10 °C/min under 300 ml/min N<sub>2</sub> flow, and was kept at 700 °C for 30 min to ensure complete NH<sub>3</sub> desorption before cooling down. The desorbed NH<sub>3</sub> was monitored with the MKS MultiGas™ 2030 FTIR gas analyzer described above.

### 3. Results

#### 3.1 Textural properties of the catalysts

Textural properties of the catalysts are first studied with N<sub>2</sub> adsorption. **Figure S1** presents N<sub>2</sub> adsorption-desorption isotherms of the Na-SSZ-13 and NH<sub>4</sub>-SSZ-13 substrates. These are typical type I isotherms consistent with the micropore nature of these materials. Small gaps between adsorption and desorption curves indicate the presence of small amounts of mesopores due to stacking of the primary particles. Surface areas (BET method) and micropore volumes (t-plot method) of the Cu/H-SSZ-13 and Cu/Na-SSZ-13 DG and HTA samples are tabulated in **Table 1**. The DG catalysts have surface areas  $\geq 500$  m<sup>2</sup>/g and micropore volumes  $\geq 0.25$  cm<sup>3</sup>/g, very similar to those of the freshly prepared SSZ-13 substrate (550 m<sup>2</sup>/g and 0.25 cm<sup>3</sup>/g, respectively). This demonstrates that the degreening treatment causes only minor structural damages irrespective of catalyst compositions. Following the much more severe HTA treatment, however, a strong Cu loading dependence is found: surface areas and pore volumes largely maintain in samples below a threshold Cu loading, but decrease dramatically in samples with Cu contents above that threshold. For the Cu/H-SSZ-13 series of samples, the threshold Cu loading is found at ~3.5wt%, which drops to ~1.5wt% for the Cu/Na-SSZ-13 series of samples. At the same Cu loadings (> 1.5wt%),

the HTA Cu/Na-SSZ-13 samples invariably have lower surface areas and micropore volumes in comparison to their HTA Cu/H-SSZ-13 counterparts, suggesting an “apparent” structural destructive role for Na<sup>+</sup>. This will be discussed further below. The textural properties of the catalysts were also probed with XRD. **Figure S2** of the Supporting Information (SI) presents the XRD patterns of Cu/H-SSZ-13 and Cu/Na-SSZ-13 DG and HTA samples. To quantitatively describe these patterns, relative crystallinities of these samples were calculated (detailed in SI). **Figure S3** presents relative crystallinities of the DG and HTA samples as a function of Cu loading. These relative crystallinities are fully consistent with data shown in **Table 1**, again demonstrating the strong aging temperature and Cu loading effects on structural integrity of these catalysts.

### 3.2 Characterizations of Cu species

**Figure 1** (a) and (b) shows the H<sub>2</sub>-TPR results of selected DG and HTA Cu/H-SSZ-13 samples, respectively, where two widely separated reduction states exist: reduction between ~150 and 500 °C, and reduction above ~700 °C. The high-temperature state is due entirely to reduction of isolated Cu<sup>+</sup> ions to Cu<sup>0</sup> ( $\text{Cu}^+ + \frac{1}{2} \text{H}_2 = \text{Cu}^0 + \text{H}^+$ ) [23]. The low-temperature one contains a few possible contributions: (1) Cu<sup>2+</sup>-2Z and [Cu(OH)]<sup>+</sup>-Z reduction to Cu<sup>+</sup>-Z ( $\text{Cu}^{2+} + \frac{1}{2} \text{H}_2 = \text{Cu}^+ + \text{H}^+$ ;  $[\text{Cu}(\text{OH})]^+ + \frac{1}{2} \text{H}_2 = \text{Cu}^+ + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) [19]; (2) reduction of CuO<sub>x</sub> clusters or particles to Cu<sup>0</sup> ( $\text{CuO} + \text{H}_2 = \text{Cu}^0 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) [24]; and (3) reduction of copper aluminate-like species, which are sometimes present in samples undergone harsh hydrothermal aging (not expected in our DG samples), to Cu<sup>0</sup> ( $\text{CuAl}_2\text{O}_4 + \text{H}_2 = \text{Cu}^0 + \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ) [25]. For the DG Cu/H-SSZ-13 samples (**Figure 1(a)**), reduction at ~210 °C can be attributed to [Cu(OH)]<sup>+</sup>-Z reduction to Cu<sup>+</sup>-Z, and reduction at ~350 °C can be attributed to Cu<sup>2+</sup>-2Z reduction to Cu<sup>+</sup>-Z. Shoulder peaks at ~230 °C are due to reduction of CuO<sub>x</sub> clusters or particles. For samples after HTA at 800 °C (**Figure 1(b)**), the low-temperature reduction becomes more complex. The most obvious change in comparison to the DG samples is

the decrease of the reduction at  $\sim 210$  °C, indicative of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{OH})]^+-\text{Z}$  conversion to other species [11]. However, there are also changes that are not readily understood. For example, at relatively high Cu loadings, a new reduction state at  $\sim 300$  °C develops. The origin of this state will be further discussed below. Because of this complexity, no effort was exerted to deconvolute and quantify different low temperature peaks. Instead, overall  $\text{H}_2$  consumptions below 500 °C and above 700 °C were integrated, and the results are tabulated in **Table S1**. Based on the reduction reactions shown above, two reasonable assumptions are made here: (1) high-temperature  $\text{H}_2$  consumptions represent isolated Cu(II) ions; and (2) differences between low- and high-temperature  $\text{H}_2$  consumption represents multinuclear  $\text{CuO}_x$  species (including  $\text{CuAl}_2\text{O}_4$  in the HTA samples). On the basis of these assumptions, the amounts of SCR active isolated Cu(II) ions (i.e., the sum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{OH})]^+-\text{Z}$  and  $\text{Cu}^{2+}-2\text{Z}$ ) and SCR inert species can be readily quantified.

**Figure 2** (a) and (b) presents the  $\text{H}_2$ -TPR results of selected Cu/Na-SSZ-13 DG and HTA samples. In comparison to  $\text{H}_2$ -TPR results of degreened Cu/H-SSZ-13 shown in Figure 1(a), degreened Cu/Na-SSZ-13 displays clear differences: (1) both of the  $[\text{Cu}(\text{OH})]^+-\text{Z}$  ( $\sim 210$  °C) and  $\text{CuO}_x$  ( $\sim 230$  °C) reduction peaks shift to lower temperatures and become narrower, suggesting a promoting role of  $\text{Na}^+$  in assisting their reduction; (2)  $\text{Cu}^{2+}-2\text{Z}$  reduction ( $\sim 350$  °C) becomes much weaker and less resolved, suggesting that  $\text{Na}^+$  lowers  $\text{Cu}^{2+}-2\text{Z}$  formation during ion-exchange; (3) the high-temperature reduction state becomes much weaker, or even barely detectable in high Cu-loaded samples. This either indicates that the effect for  $\text{Na}^+$  in promoting Cu reduction is so strong that the majority of isolated  $\text{Cu}^+$  ions are reduced below  $\sim 500$  °C, or the presence of  $\text{Na}^+$  lowers formation of isolated Cu(II) ions as suggested immediately above. After hydrothermal aging at 800 °C (Figure 2(b)),  $[\text{Cu}(\text{OH})]^+-\text{Z}$  consumption is again seen decreased as indicated by the declined intensity of the  $\sim 210$  °C peaks. Also the low-temperature state broadens considerably for

all samples, due primarily to merging of the low-temperature peak into the new reduction state at  $\sim 300$  °C. These changes qualitatively resemble those found for the HTA Cu/H-SSZ-13 samples. In the high temperature region,  $\text{Cu}^+$  reduction is again very weak, and appears to shift somewhat to lower temperatures. Low- and high-temperature  $\text{H}_2$  consumptions were quantified and the results are shown in **Table S2**. Because of their low signal intensities, the high-temperature  $\text{H}_2$  consumption results, particularly for the high Cu-loaded samples, are not considered very reliable. In any case, it can still be safely concluded that the Cu/Na-SSZ-13 samples contain much less isolated Cu(II) but much more multinuclear  $\text{CuO}_x$  species as compared to their Cu/H-SSZ-13 counterparts at the same Cu loadings.

In order to more accurately quantify isolated Cu(II) ions in the catalysts, EPR was utilized next. We have demonstrated previously that both hydrated  $[\text{Cu}(\text{OH})]^+-\text{Z}$  and  $\text{Cu}^{2+}-2\text{Z}$  are EPR active [11]. Upon dehydration,  $\text{Cu}^{2+}-2\text{Z}$  remains EPR active but  $[\text{Cu}(\text{OH})]^+-\text{Z}$  will either become EPR silent itself because of a pseudo Jahn-Teller effect [26], or convert to other EPR silent species, e.g., Cu(I) or oligomeric clusters [11]. Therefore, to quantify all of the SCR active Cu(II) ions, fully hydrated samples are needed. Moreover, measurements should be performed at cryogenic temperatures to prevent signal loss due to dipolar interactions between mobile Cu(II) ions. As shown in **Figure 3**, the EPR active Cu(II) content increases almost linearly with increasing total Cu loading for the DG Cu/H-SSZ-13 samples, and saturates at  $\sim 2.5$  wt% when total Cu loadings reach  $\sim 3.5$  wt% and higher. In the HTA samples, the EPR active Cu(II) contents remain largely unchanged at total Cu loadings  $\leq 3.5$  wt%. At higher Cu loadings, EPR active Cu(II) contents become lower than the corresponding DG samples, likely due to structural degradation of the high Cu-loaded HTA samples. In contrast, EPR active Cu(II) contents in the DG and HTA Cu/Na-SSZ-13 samples are much lower and maintain largely invariant among samples. From both  $\text{H}_2$ -TPR and

EPR analyses, it is readily concluded that in comparison to NH<sub>4</sub>-SSZ-13, Cu(II) ion exchange capacity for Na-SSZ-13 is clearly lower.

Even though very powerful, EPR still has one disadvantage quantifying SCR active Cu species. CuAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-like species, which forms under harsh hydrothermal aging conditions [25], also contain EPR active Cu(II) sites that are not readily distinguishable from Cu<sup>2+</sup>-2Z and [Cu(OH)]<sup>+</sup>-Z sites. For example, the HTA Cu/Na-SSZ-13 sample with 4.0 wt% Cu loading experienced dramatic structural damage during aging (Table 1), yet it contains similar EPR active Cu as other Cu/Na-SSZ-13 samples. It is expected that substantial amount of EPR active Cu(II) in this samples is contributed by CuAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-like species. However for all of the DG samples and other HTA samples without apparent structural degradation, EPR active contributions from CuAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-like species are believed to be negligible.

### 3.3 Standard NH<sub>3</sub>-SCR reaction tests

**Figure 4** presents standard NH<sub>3</sub>-SCR NO<sub>x</sub> conversions as a function of temperature for selected degreened catalysts. Low-temperature ( $\leq 200$  °C) NO<sub>x</sub> conversion follows an interesting dependence on Cu loading as follows: at a low Cu loading of 1.0 wt%, Cu/Na-SSZ-13 outperforms Cu/H-SSZ-13; at an intermediate Cu loading of 2.0 wt%, the two catalysts show similar performance while at a high Cu loading of 3.0 wt%, Cu/H-SSZ-13 outperforms Cu/Na-SSZ-13. In the high temperature regime ( $> 350$  °C), Cu/Na-SSZ-13 samples with 2.0 and 3.0 wt% Cu loadings display very poor SCR selectivities due to the presence of large amounts of CuO<sub>x</sub> species, which are active in catalyzing the NH<sub>3</sub> oxidation side reaction at such high temperatures. Note that **Figure 4** only presents results on selected samples. SCR results for degreened catalysts with other Cu loadings, and all of the HTA samples are collectively shown in **Figure S4**. NH<sub>3</sub> oxidation results

for all of the samples are presented in **Figure S5**. These results corroborate data shown in **Figure 4**.

To obtain a better understanding of the interesting Cu loading dependence shown in **Figure 4**, next SCR reactions were conducted on selected Cu/H-SSZ-13 and Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts under kinetic control. Koros-Nowak criterion was utilized to verify the absence of heat and mass transfer limitations in such kinetics measurements; more details can be found in **Figure S5**. NO<sub>x</sub> conversions were then converted to turnover rates (TORs) on a molecules of NO<sub>x</sub> converted per EPR active Cu(II) site per second basis. Based on these values, a series of Arrhenius plots were obtained, and the results are depicted in **Figure S7**. To facilitate sample comparison, apparent activation energies and TORs at 180 °C are tabulated in **Table 2**.

#### 4. Discussion

Discussion herein is mainly focused on how Na<sup>+</sup> co-cations influence activity, selectivity and hydrothermal stability of Cu/SSZ-13 catalysts. We note at the onset that catalysts used in this study have a single Si/Al ratio of 9 and the Cu/Na-SSZ-13 ones contain a single Na loading of 1.50 wt%. Therefore, conclusions drawn here may not be generally applicable.

We first discuss our catalyst preparation method. Catalysts used in this work were solution ion-exchanged and then followed by a slurry drying step, i.e., a combination of ion-exchange and impregnation. A traditional solution ion-exchange, in contrast, involves washing with d.i. water after exchange to remove chemicals dissolved in the solution phase. The method adopted here has the advantage of precise Cu loading control and especially, allows for the maintenance of the 1.50 wt% Na<sup>+</sup> in each Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalyst. However, any unexchanged Cu(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> will be deposited on the zeolite external surfaces during drying, and eventually converts to CuO during calcination.

The SSZ-13 substrate used in this study has a Si/Al ratio of 9. This translates to ~3.6 Brønsted acid sites in each hexagonal unit cell ( $T_{36}O_{72}$ ) assuming that all Al occupy framework T sites and each Al is associated with one  $H^+$  [27]. Note also that the as-synthesized Na-SSZ-13 contains 1.50 wt% Na, translating to ~1.4  $Na^+$  ions in each unit cell. Assuming each  $Cu^{2+}$  replaces  $2H^+$  during exchange, exchange capacities for our  $NH_4$ -SSZ-13 and Na-SSZ-13 substrates are ~5.3 wt% and ~3.2 wt% of Cu-ions, respectively. Considering that some exchanged Cu stays as  $[Cu(OH)]^+-Z$ , the exchange capacities should be even higher. However as shown in **Figure 3**, only ~2.5 wt% and ~0.7 wt% Cu-ions are exchanged into  $NH_4$ -SSZ-13 and Na-SSZ-13, corresponding to ~0.85 and ~0.24 Cu-ions per unit cell, respectively. Therefore, it appears likely that under our solution ion-exchange conditions, repulsions between solvated cations preclude the presence of multiple cations in the same Chabazite cage. Regarding  $Na^+$  ions exchanged out of the zeolite pores, these will be balanced by  $NO_3^-$  ions in solution, and will be converted to solid  $NaNO_3$  depositing on the zeolite external surface during slurry drying, and then to  $Na_2O$  during sample calcination. However, since  $Na_2O$  is highly basic, and since the SSZ-13 support has sufficient residual Brønsted acid sites, we hypothesize that during calcination,  $Na_2O$  will react with  $H^+$  completely to reform  $Na^+$  ions ( $Na_2O + 2H^+ = 2Na^+ + H_2O$ ) that occupy cationic positions. However, since we do not have a very good method for quantifying  $Na^+$  ions inside and outside SSZ-13 pores, this hypothesis cannot be fully confirmed. It is also possible that during the slurry drying and catalyst calcination steps, some exchanged Cu-ions migrate out of the Chabazite pores. Without further evidence, these possibilities can only be speculated about.

Next, quantification of the various Cu-containing species is briefly discussed. For this catalytic system, quantification of the SCR active species, i.e.,  $Cu^{2+}-2Z$  and  $[Cu(OH)]^+-Z$ , is of the highest importance.  $H_2$ -TPR has been most frequently used to quantify different Cu species in Cu/SSZ-13

and Cu/SAPO-34 SCR catalysts [23, 28-30]. As shown in **Figures 1** and **2**, quantification of different Cu species based on reduction at low temperatures ( $< 500\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) is rather challenging due to heavy overlapping of various reduction features. On the other hand, since SSZ-13 is such a highly refractory material, isolated  $\text{Cu}^+\text{-Z}$  ions (originated from low-temperature reduction of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}\text{-2Z}$  and  $[\text{Cu}(\text{OH})]^+\text{-Z}$ ) can only be reduced at very high temperatures, accompanying structural collapse of Chabazite [23]. Therefore, high-temperature  $\text{H}_2$  consumption may be used to more accurately quantify isolated  $\text{Cu}(\text{II})$ -ions. We have shown previously that EPR can be used to quantify  $\text{Cu}^{2+}\text{-2Z}$  and  $[\text{Cu}(\text{OH})]^+\text{-Z}$ , even separately, with high precision [11]. In the present study, isolated  $\text{Cu}(\text{II})$ -ions are collectively quantified with EPR, thus allowing us to directly compare these two quantification methods. **Figure 5** plots concentrations of EPR active  $\text{Cu}(\text{II})$ -ions of the DG and HTA Cu/H-SSZ-13 samples versus their high-temperature ( $> 700\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ )  $\text{H}_2$  consumptions measured with  $\text{H}_2$ -TPR. For most samples, an excellent linear correlation (R-square  $> 0.98$ ) exists suggesting that both methods are accurate, and therefore reliable for quantification of isolated Cu ions in structurally intact Cu/SSZ-13. **Figure 5** also contains a few data points that are outliers: for HTA samples at high Cu loadings ( $\geq 4.0\text{ wt}\%$ ), high-temperature TPR clearly underestimates the amounts of isolated Cu-ions, where the discrepancies are higher with increasing Cu loading. This can be understood from two aspects: (1) these samples are structurally more defective (Table 1) such that some isolated  $\text{Cu}^+$  ions are reduced at much lower temperatures; (2) the formation of  $\text{CuAl}_2\text{O}_4$ -like species (which is associated with Chabazite structural degradation) in these samples, which contain EPR active  $\text{Cu}(\text{II})$ , but are fully reduced to  $\text{Cu}^0$  at lower temperatures. In any case, for structurally defective Cu/SSZ-13, EPR is clearly more reliable in quantifying exchanged isolated  $\text{Cu}(\text{II})$  ions despite the uncertainty in distinguishing these with Cu in  $\text{CuAl}_2\text{O}_4$ -like species. For the Cu/Na-SSZ-13 series of samples, since structural degradation

occurs at much lower Cu loadings, and since  $\text{Na}^+$  promotes Cu reduction, high-temperature TPR results (**Figure 2**) are barely useful in quantifying isolated Cu(II) ions.

We have established recently that  $\text{CuO}_x$  clusters generated during hydrothermal aging are primarily responsible for structural degradation of Cu/SSZ-13, where the migration of these clusters create mesopores; and the accumulation of such mesopores causes structure collapse [11]. In the present study, Cu distribution is more complex: besides isolated Cu(II) ions exchanged into zeolite bulk,  $\text{CuO}_x$  clusters are also present on zeolite external surfaces in the degreened catalysts. It is anticipated that, if these external surface  $\text{CuO}_x$  clusters maintain intact during hydrothermal aging, they should not adversely influence structural integrity. To verify if this is the case, **Figure 6** presents the BET surface areas of the HTA catalysts versus EPR silent Cu contents (total Cu subtracted by EPR active Cu, containing primarily multinuclear  $\text{CuO}_x$  sites) of these samples. Samples with  $\leq 1$  wt% EPR silent Cu have surface areas similar to that of the fresh SSZ-13 substrate. However beyond this threshold, both HTA Cu/H-SSZ-13 and Cu/Na-SSZ-13 samples display marked surface area decrease with increasing contents of EPR silent Cu with approximately linear correlations, where samples containing  $\text{Na}^+$  degrade faster. These data corroborate our previous finding that  $\text{CuO}_x$  clusters are responsible for destruction of the Chabazite structure, even though small amounts ( $\leq 1$  wt%) can still be tolerated. The linear correlations between surface area and EPR silent Cu suggest that external surface  $\text{CuO}_x$  clusters do migrate into zeolite bulk and aggregate structural degradation during aging. Furthermore,  $\text{Na}^+$  ions apparently promote this structure degradation. The mechanism for this promotion effect, however, is not clear at this point. One possible explanation is that  $\text{CuO}_x$  clusters that are positively charged receive repulsions from  $\text{Na}^+$  ions, rendering them more mobile (i.e., more destructive). We have shown previously that for low Cu-loaded Cu/SSZ-13 (i.e., in the absence of structure destructive

CuOx clusters), the presence of Na<sup>+</sup> ions stabilizes the Chabazite framework by suppressing dealumination as determined from <sup>27</sup>Al NMR [17].

Finally, the promoting effect of Na<sup>+</sup> ions on low-temperature turnover rates of individual Cu(II) ions is discussed. As shown in **Table 2**, degreened Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts show TORs 2-3 times that of the corresponding Cu/H-SSZ-13 catalysts at 180 °C. After hydrothermal aging, the Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts still have TORs higher than Cu/H-SSZ-13 except the one with 4.0 wt% Cu loading which excessively degraded during aging. This Na<sup>+</sup> promoted TOR increase nicely explains the reaction results shown in **Figure 4**: at low Cu loadings, higher NO<sub>x</sub> conversions are achieved on Cu/Na-SSZ-13. However, as the Cu loading increases, this promoting effect is compromised by the much lower Cu-ion exchange capacities of Na-SSZ-13 (**Figure 3**).

Low-temperature SCR can be expressed using the following empirical rate equation [19],

$$R_{SCR} = Ae^{-E_a/RT}P_{NO}\theta_{NH_3} \quad (\text{eq. 1})$$

where A is the pre-exponential factor,  $E_a$  the apparent activation energy and  $\theta_{NH_3}$  the coverage of reactive forms of NH<sub>3</sub>. Note that the presence of Na<sup>+</sup> causes decrease in reduction temperatures of Cu(II) during H<sub>2</sub>-TPR (**Figures 1 and 2**). This may suggest that the redox barriers for Cu-ions decrease in the presence of Na<sup>+</sup>, possibly explaining the rate enhancement role of Na<sup>+</sup>. From the apparent activation energies displayed in **Table 2**, except for the samples with a Cu loading of 1.0 wt% where the low activation energies may be due to a unique Cu(I) oxidation rate-limiting step [31, 32], activation energies for the higher Cu-loaded samples do not appear to display a dependence on Na<sup>+</sup>. In order to probe whether NH<sub>3</sub> storage plays a role, NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD was conducted. **Figure 7** presents NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD results of selected degreened Cu/H-SSZ-13 and Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts. Briefly, low temperatures (~200 °C) signals are attributed to NH<sub>3</sub> desorption from Lewis

acid sites, i.e., extraframework Al (EFAl) and Na<sup>+</sup>; features at ~300 °C are due to desorption from Cu-ions; and the higher temperature signals are assigned to desorption from Brønsted acid sites [17]. NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD results of the corresponding HTA catalysts and the calculated total NH<sub>3</sub> desorption yields are presented in **Figure S8** and **Figure S9**. Clearly total NH<sub>3</sub> desorption yields poorly represent  $\theta_{NH_3}$  in eq. 1. **Clearly, not all of the adsorbed NH<sub>3</sub> is equally reactive for the SCR reaction.** **It has been reported that the weakly adsorbed NH<sub>3</sub> on Lewis acid sites are significantly more active than the NH<sub>3</sub> adsorbed on Brønsted acid sites. NH<sub>3</sub> on Brønsted acid sites form stable NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, which does not participate in the reaction pathway directly, but serves as NH<sub>3</sub> reservoir to provide NH<sub>3</sub> for Cu sites [33].** One likely explanation for the activity difference is that relatively weakly adsorbed NH<sub>3</sub> is more reactive and thus represents  $\theta_{NH_3}$  much better. Indeed, the Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts have stronger NH<sub>3</sub> desorption than Cu/H-SSZ-13 at lower temperatures (**Figure 7**). In other words, Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts contain larger reservoirs of more reactive NH<sub>3</sub> that is beneficial to low-temperature NO<sub>x</sub> conversion. This enhancement can also be understood from the fact that the larger reactive NH<sub>3</sub> reservoirs effectively induce an increase of the pre-exponential factor A of eq. 1. However, the applicability of this beneficial effect to industrial SCR catalysts is questionable based on the results of this study since Na<sup>+</sup> ions also display unwanted features: they decrease ion-exchange capacity of the SSZ-13 substrate (**Figure 3**), and they deteriorate hydrothermal stability of the catalysts (**Figure 6**). Still, these conclusions are based on results obtained using catalysts with Si/Al = 9 and a single Na loading of 1.50 wt%. For SSZ-13 materials with lower Si/Al ratios (i.e., higher ion-exchange capacities), it remains an open question whether or not the addition of certain amounts of Na<sup>+</sup> co-cations leads to catalysts with improved catalytic performance and long-term stability.

## Conclusions

A series of Cu/H-SSZ-13 and Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts were synthesized for the standard NH<sub>3</sub>-SCR reaction. The presence of Na<sup>+</sup> co-cations causes a few effects that are important to SCR. First, their presence lowers Cu-ion exchange capacity, likely because of repulsions between Cu(II)-ions and Na<sup>+</sup> cations during ion-exchange. Because of this, Cu/H-SSZ-13 catalysts contain higher amounts of isolated Cu-ions, and lower amounts of CuO<sub>x</sub> clusters, in comparison to Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts with the same total Cu loadings. The presence of CuO<sub>x</sub> clusters, beyond a threshold of ~1.0 wt%, is detrimental to hydrothermal stability of the catalysts. The presence of Na<sup>+</sup> aggravates this adverse effect. However, Na<sup>+</sup> co-cations provide a beneficial effect of enhancing low-temperature turnover rates of isolated Cu-ion active sites. This effect is believed to be caused by NH<sub>3</sub> adsorption on Na<sup>+</sup> as a reservoir for reactive NH<sub>3</sub>. However, this beneficial effect only leads to catalyst performance enhancement at relatively low Cu loadings ( $\leq 1.5$  wt%). At higher Cu loadings, this effect is overwhelmed by the detrimental effects.

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*Table 1.* BET surface area and t-plot pore volume of the Cu/H-SSZ-13 and Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts.

<b>Catalysts</b>	<b>DG BET Surface Area (m<sup>2</sup>/g)</b>	<b>DG Pore Volume (cm<sup>3</sup>/g)</b>	<b>HTA BET Surface Area (m<sup>2</sup>/g)</b>	<b>HTA Pore Volume (cm<sup>3</sup>/g)</b>
1.0wt% Cu/H-SSZ-13	509	0.28	541	0.26
1.5wt% Cu/H-SSZ-13	541	0.28	541	0.26
2.0wt% Cu/H-SSZ-13	554	0.28	542	0.25
2.5wt% Cu/H-SSZ-13	541	0.27	546	0.26
3.0wt% Cu/H-SSZ-13	557	0.28	506	0.24
3.5wt% Cu/H-SSZ-13	546	0.28	538	0.25
4.0wt% Cu/H-SSZ-13	538	0.27	458	0.22
4.5wt% Cu/H-SSZ-13	534	0.27	401	0.19
5.0wt% Cu/H-SSZ-13	493	0.27	291	0.13
1.0wt% Cu/Na-SSZ-13	545	0.26	527	0.25
1.5wt% Cu/Na-SSZ-13	544	0.27	528	0.25
2.0wt% Cu/Na-SSZ-13	549	0.27	448	0.21
2.5wt% Cu/Na-SSZ-13	530	0.26	327	0.15
3.0wt% Cu/Na-SSZ-13	527	0.26	316	0.15
3.5wt% Cu/Na-SSZ-13	507	0.25	386	0.19
4.0wt% Cu/Na-SSZ-13	505	0.25	79	0.03

*Table 2.* Apparent activation energy and turn-over rate summary of Cu/H-SSZ-13 and Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts. Reaction feed contains 360 ppm NO<sub>x</sub> (containing ~20 ppm NO<sub>2</sub>), 360 ppm NH<sub>3</sub>, 14% O<sub>2</sub>, 2.5% H<sub>2</sub>O balanced with N<sub>2</sub> at a GHSV of 667,000 h<sup>-1</sup>. Temperatures were varied from 180 – 100 °C.

Catalyst	DG		HTA	
	E <sub>a</sub> (kJ/mol)	TOR at 180 °C (10 <sup>-3</sup> /s)	E <sub>a</sub> (kJ/mol)	TOR at 180 °C (10 <sup>-3</sup> /s)
1.0wt% Cu/H-SSZ-13	42	3.3	43	2.0
2.0wt% Cu/H-SSZ-13	68	4.0	58	3.6
3.0wt% Cu/H-SSZ-13	78	6.0	47	3.8
4.0wt% Cu/H-SSZ-13	63	5.2	68	4.1
1.0wt% Cu/Na-SSZ-13	52	7.2	40	4.9
2.0wt% Cu/Na-SSZ-13	73	12.1	52	8.4
3.0wt% Cu/Na-SSZ-13	65	15.2	62	5.3
4.0wt% Cu/Na-SSZ-13	66	10.3	63	1.8

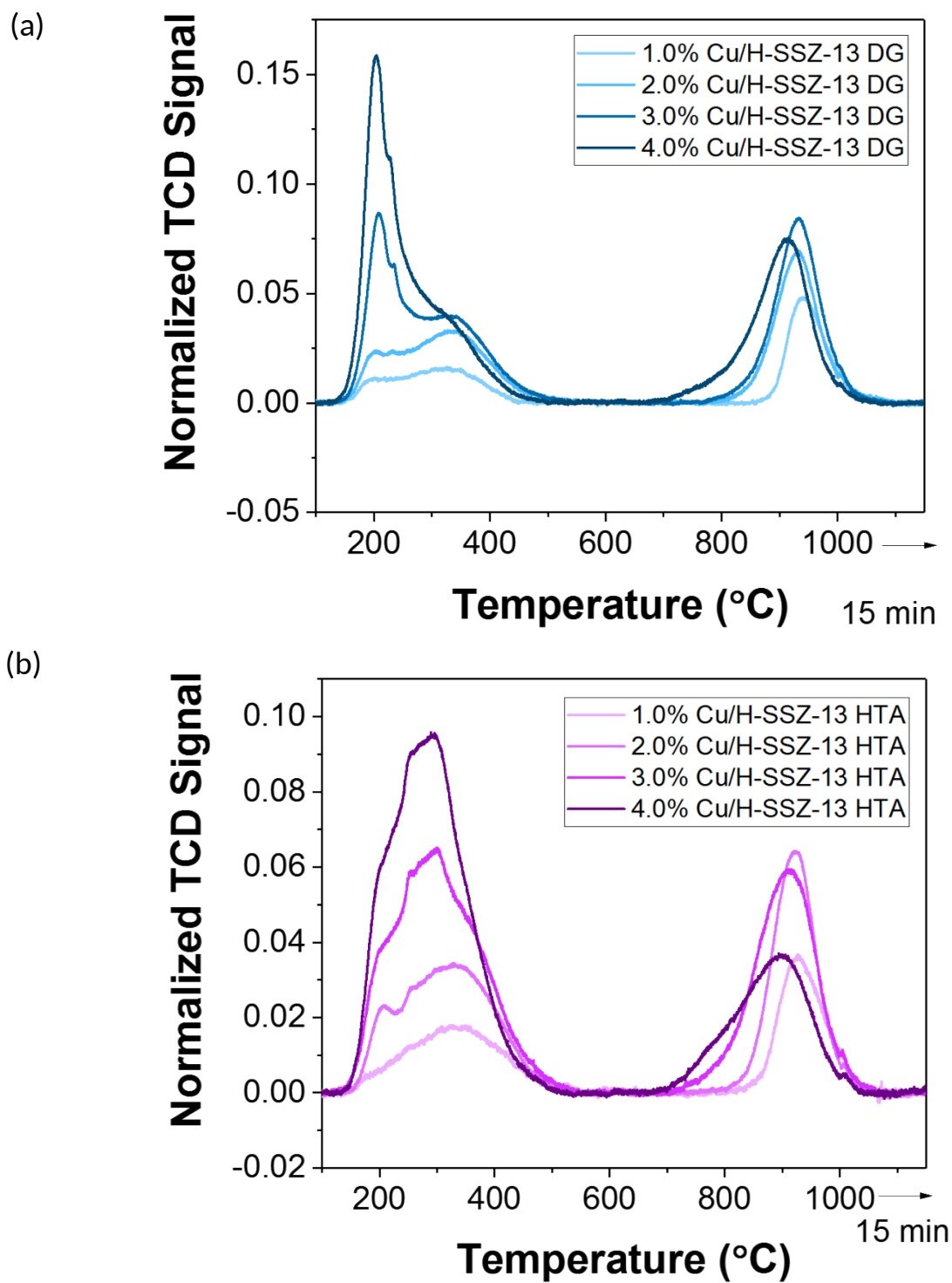


Figure 1. H<sub>2</sub>-TPR profiles of selected (a) degreened and (b) hydrothermally aged Cu/H-SSZ-13 catalysts. Flow rate 50 ml/min 10% H<sub>2</sub>/Ar, ramping rate 10 °C/min.

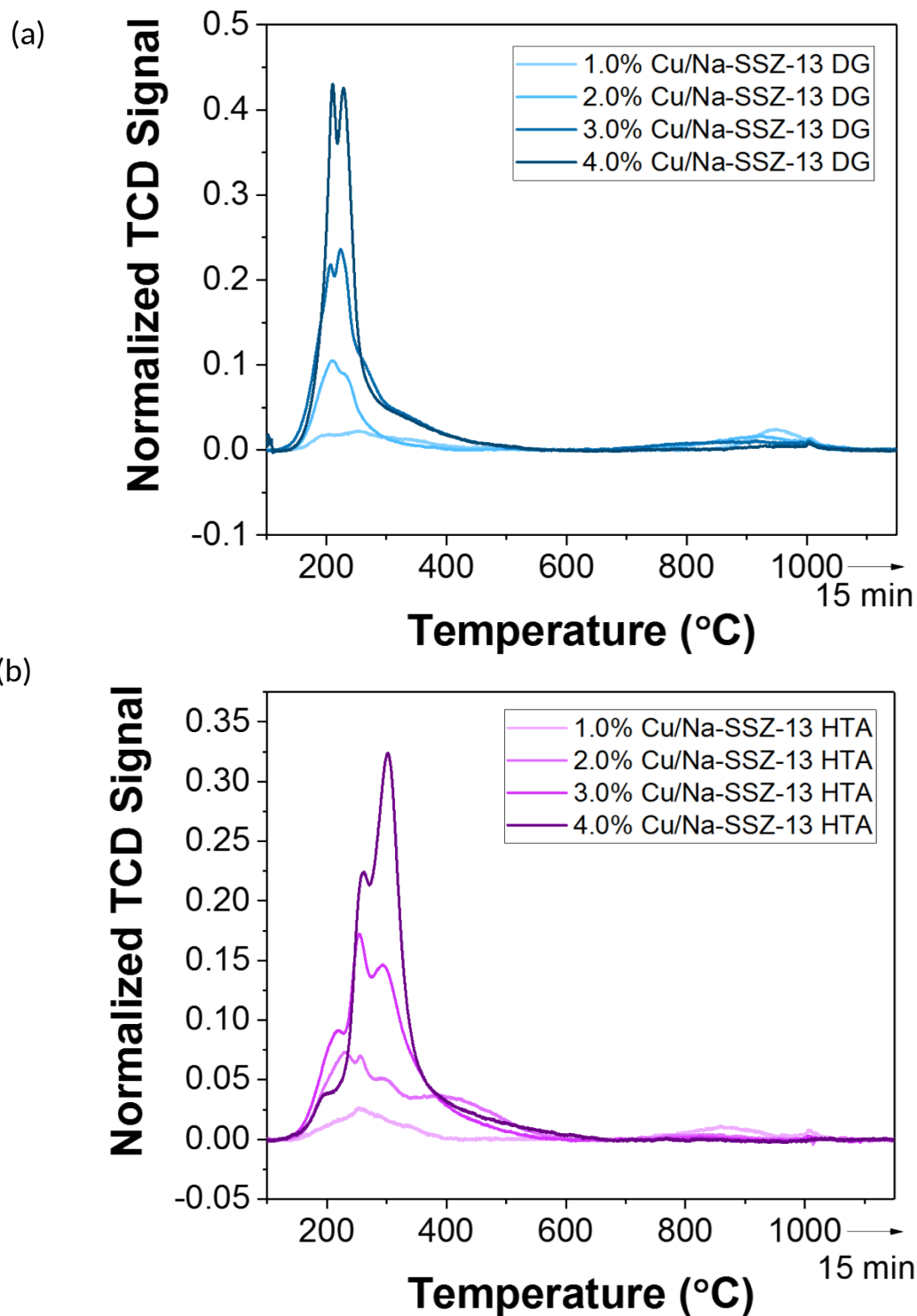


Figure 2. H<sub>2</sub>-TPR profiles of selected (a) degreened and (b) hydrothermally aged Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts. Flow rate 50 ml/min 10% H<sub>2</sub>/Ar, ramping rate 10 °C/min.

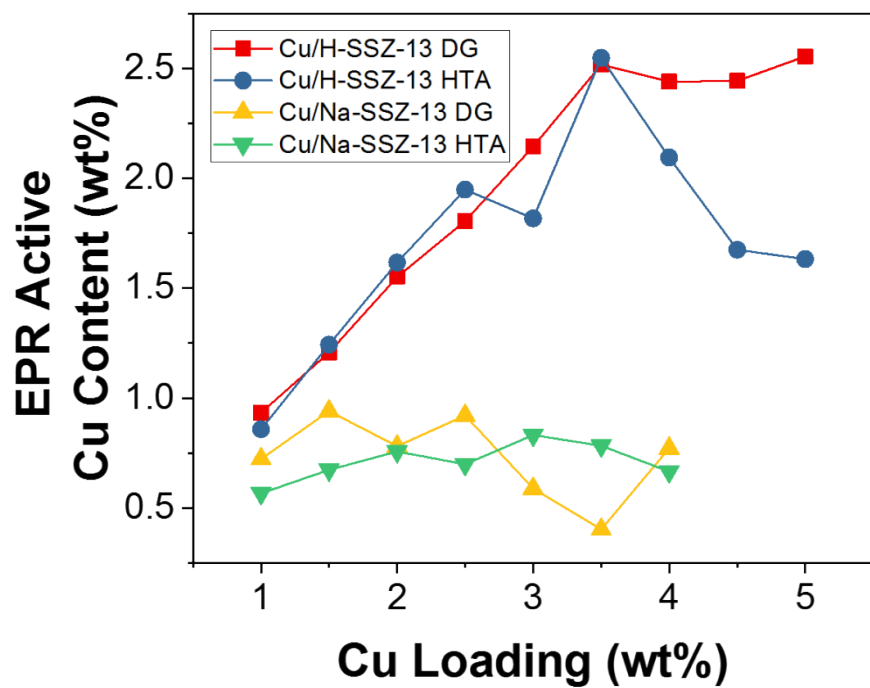


Figure 3. EPR active Cu(II) contents of DG and HTA Cu/H-SSZ-13 and Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts with different Cu loadings. Measurement temperature 125 K.

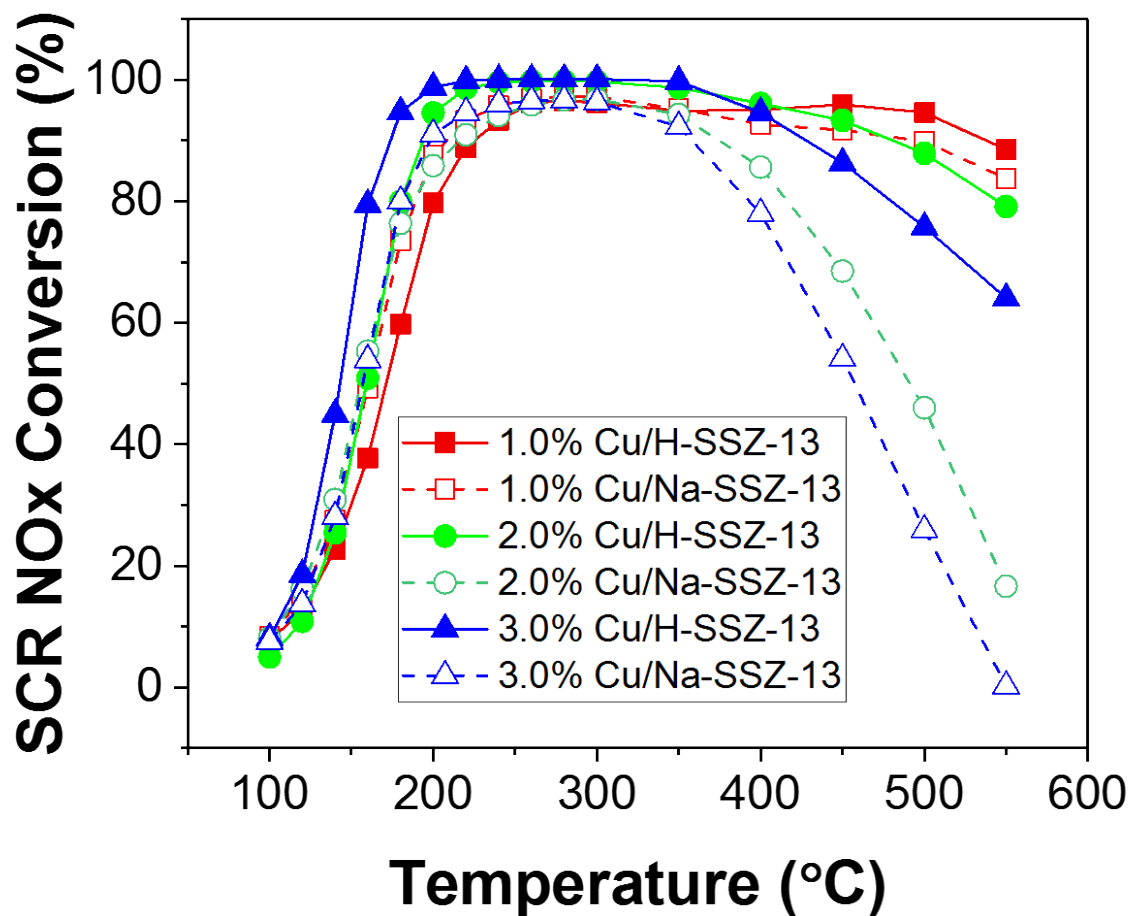


Figure 4. NO<sub>x</sub> conversion as a function of temperature during standard SCR for selected DG Cu/H-SSZ-13 and Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts. Reactant feed contains 360 ppm NO<sub>x</sub> (containing ~20 ppm NO<sub>2</sub>), 360 ppm NH<sub>3</sub>, 14% O<sub>2</sub>, 2.5% H<sub>2</sub>O balanced with N<sub>2</sub> at a GHSV of 100,000 h<sup>-1</sup>.

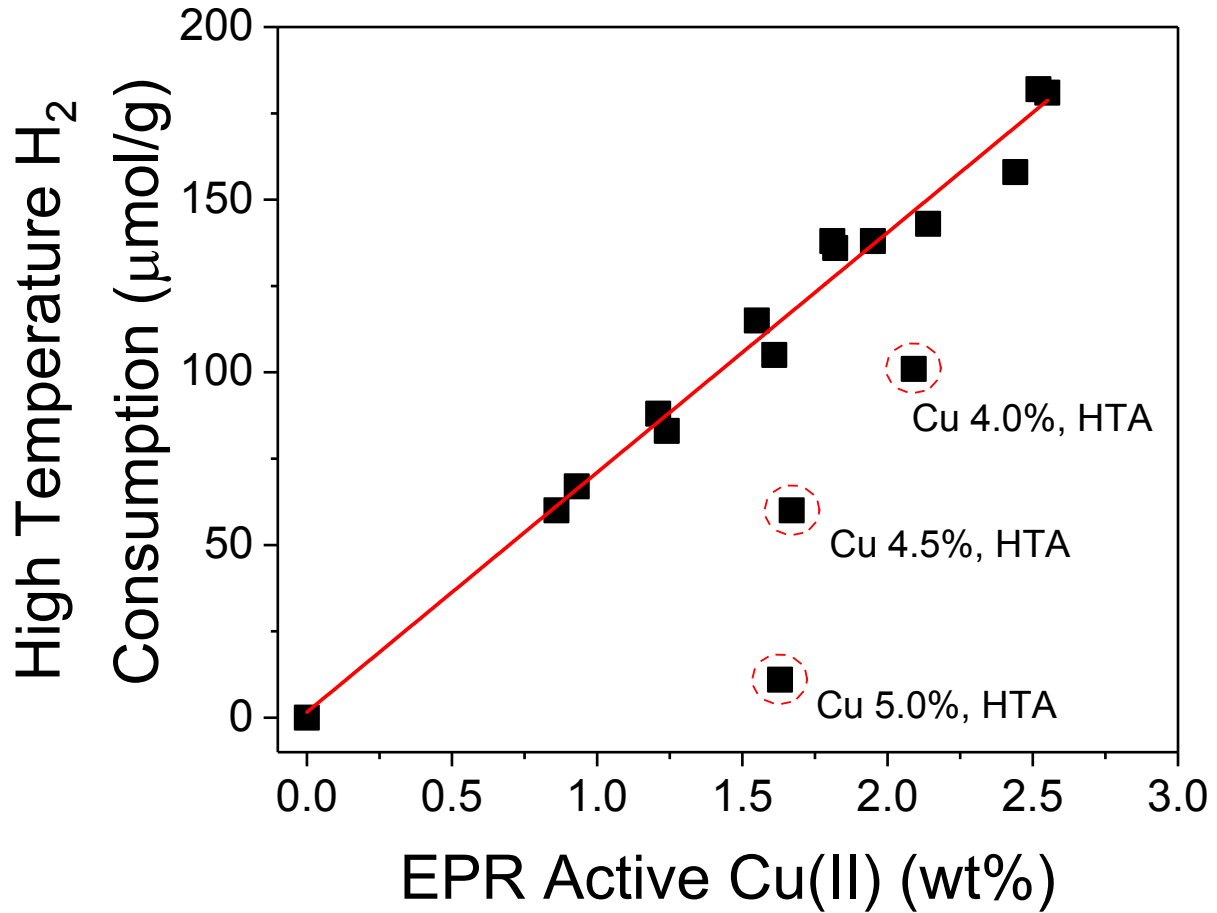


Figure 5. Concentrations of EPR active Cu(II)-ions versus high-temperature ( $> 700\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) H<sub>2</sub> consumption in H<sub>2</sub>-TPR for DG and HTA Cu/H-SSZ-13 samples. Note that an excellent linear correlation (R-square  $> 0.98$ ) exists except for HTA samples at high Cu loadings (marked with dashed cycles).

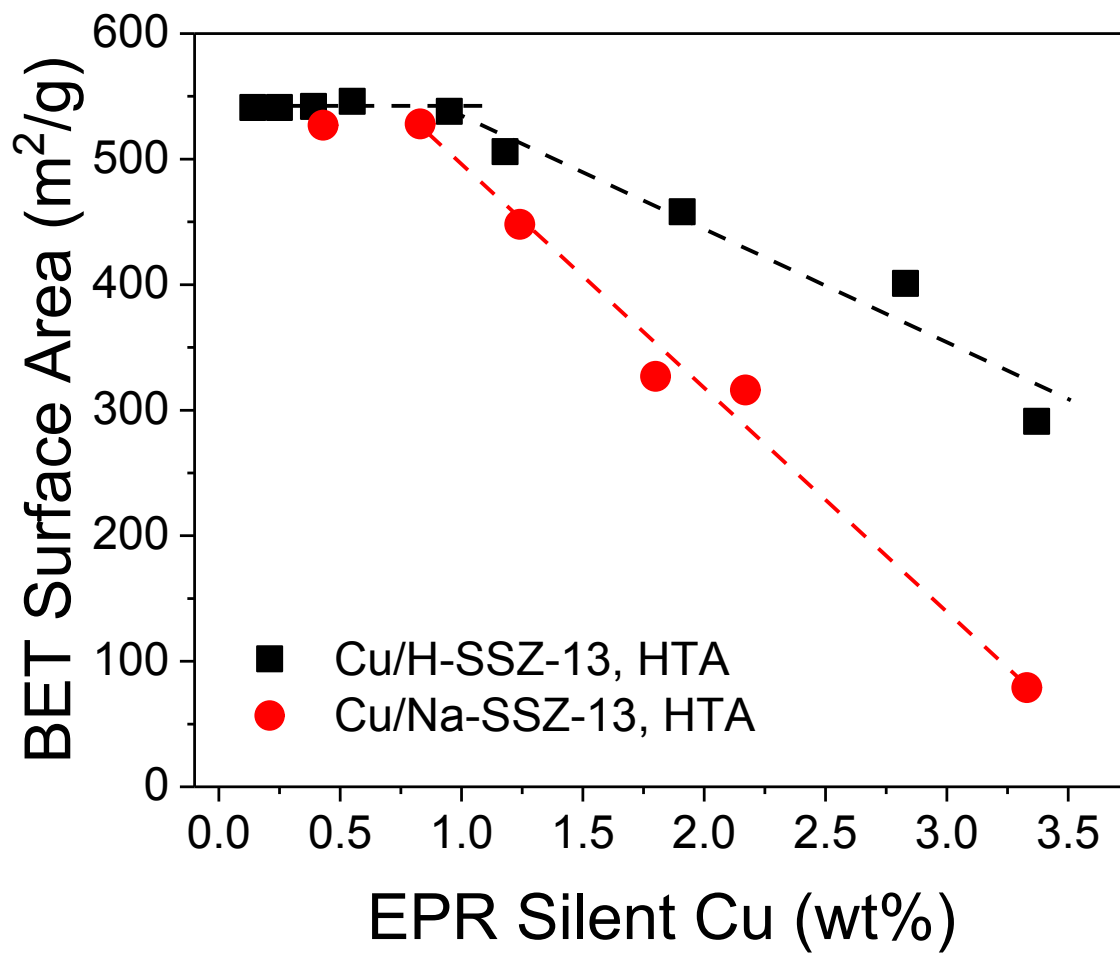


Figure 6. BET surface area as a function of EPR silent Cu contents for the HTA Cu/H-SSZ-13 and Cu/Na-SSZ-13 samples. Dashed lines serve as visual guides to the eye.

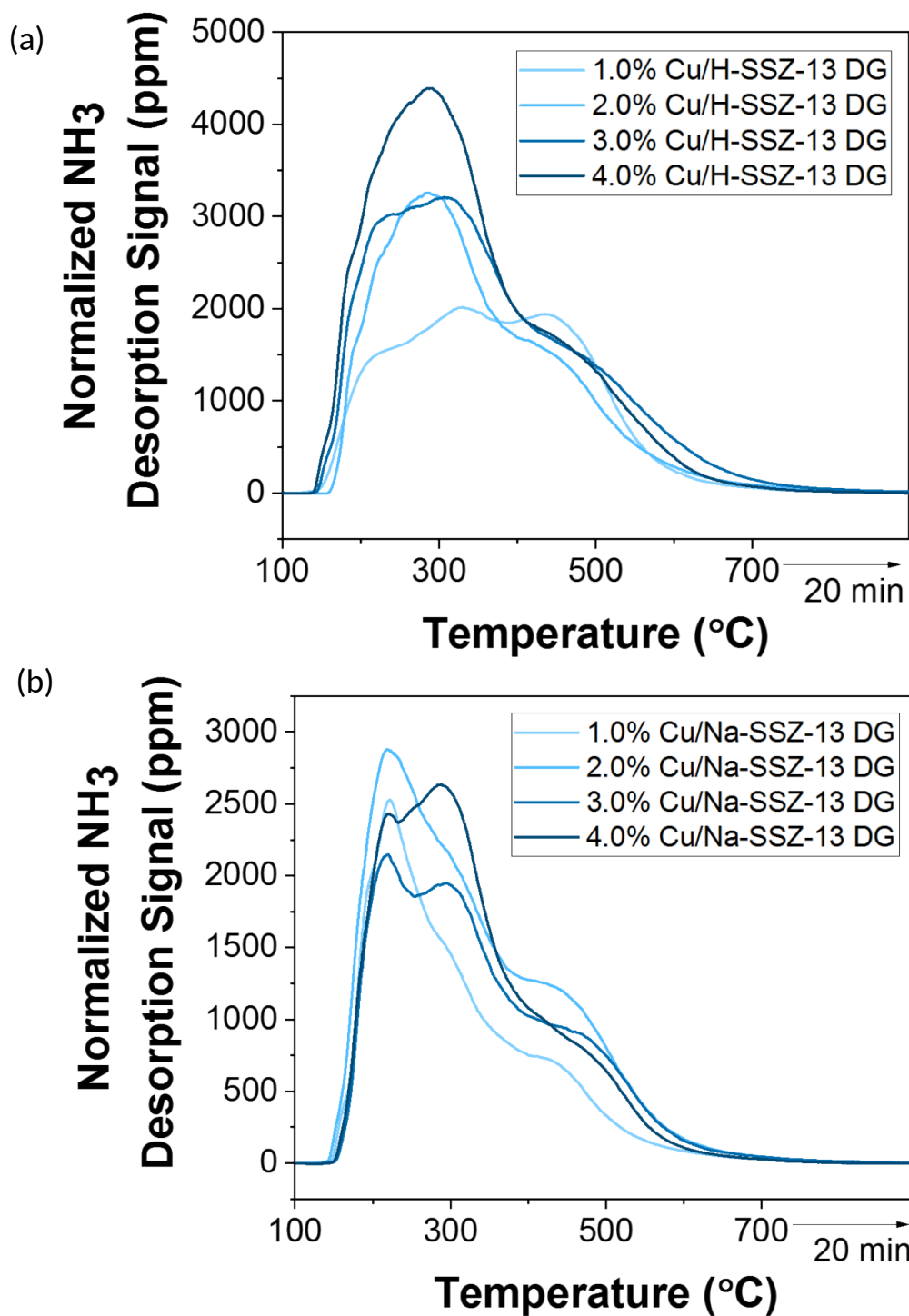


Figure 7. NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD results on selected DG (a) Cu/H-SSZ-13 and (b) Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts. NH<sub>3</sub> adsorption and purging were performed at 100 °C, ramping rate was 10 °C/min, N<sub>2</sub> gas flow rate 300 ml/min.

## Supporting Information

### Influences of Na<sup>+</sup> co-cation on the structure and performance of Cu/SSZ-13 selective catalytic reduction catalysts

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Table S1. H<sub>2</sub>-TPR Quantification results for Cu/H-SSZ-13 catalysts.

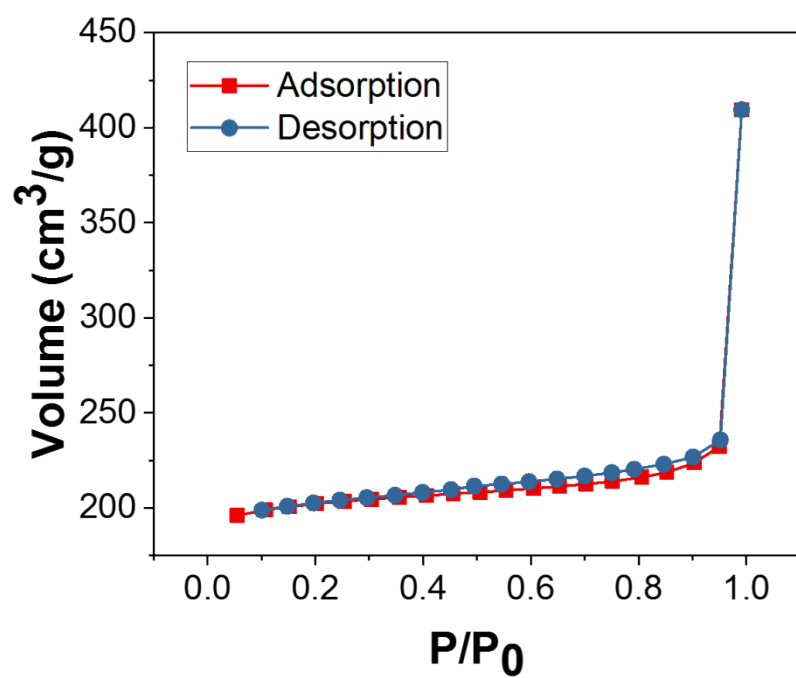
Cu Loading (wt%)	Treatment	Low Temperature Region H <sub>2</sub> Consumption ( $\mu\text{mol/g}$ )	High Temperature Region H <sub>2</sub> Consumption ( $\mu\text{mol/g}$ )
1.0	DG	52	67
	HTA	62	60
1.5	DG	93	88
	HTA	98	83
2.0	DG	118	115
	HTA	124	105
2.5	DG	166	138
	HTA	167	138
3.0	DG	198	143
	HTA	212	136
3.5	DG	236	182
	HTA	225	181
4.0	DG	266	158
	HTA	278	101
4.5	DG	332	139
	HTA	434	60
5.0	DG	474	103
	HTA	567	11

Table S2. H<sub>2</sub>-TPR Quantification results for Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts.

Cu Loading (wt%)	Treatment	Low Temperature Region H <sub>2</sub> Consumption (μmol/g)	High Temperature Region H <sub>2</sub> Consumption (μmol/g)
1.0	DG	65	43
	HTA	53	29
1.5	DG	94	56
	HTA	164	26
2.0	DG	148	53
	HTA	248	9
2.5	DG	327	11
	HTA	323	4
3.0	DG	401	47
	HTA	398	2
3.5	DG	455	3
	HTA	446	10
4.0	DG	514	12
	HTA	536	1

In the H<sub>2</sub>-TPR measurements of the Cu/H-SSZ-13 and Cu/Na-SSZ-13 samples, the reducing gas was 10% H<sub>2</sub>/Ar with a flow rate of 50 ml/min, and the ramping rate was set at 10 °C/min. Peak areas of the two temperature regimes (low temperature, ≤ 500 °C, and high temperature, ≥ 700 °C) were quantified using CuO reduction as the standard. Differences of the low- and high-temperature H<sub>2</sub> consumption represent the amounts of CuO<sub>x</sub> and CuAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> moieties in the catalysts, which are reduced to Cu<sup>0</sup> exclusively below 500 °C.

(a)



(b)

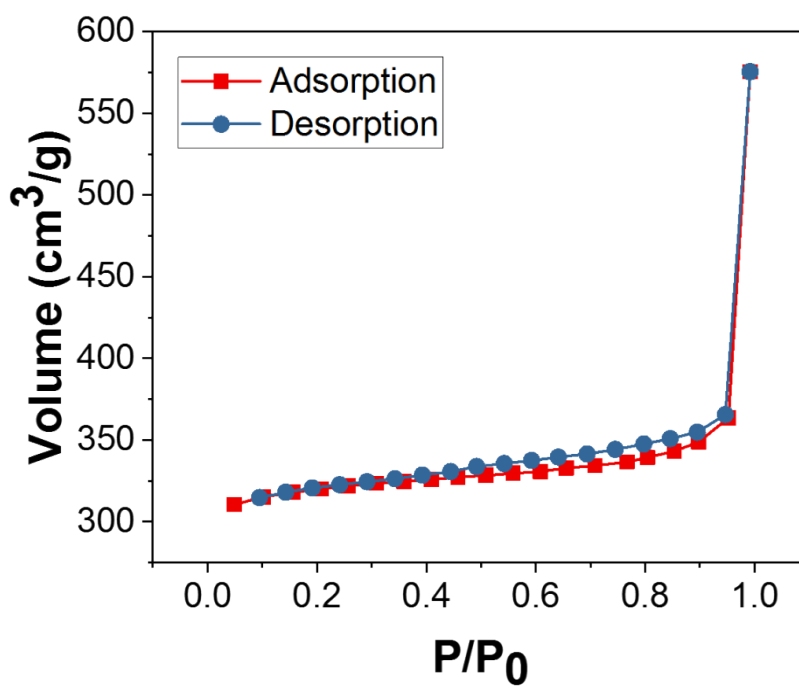
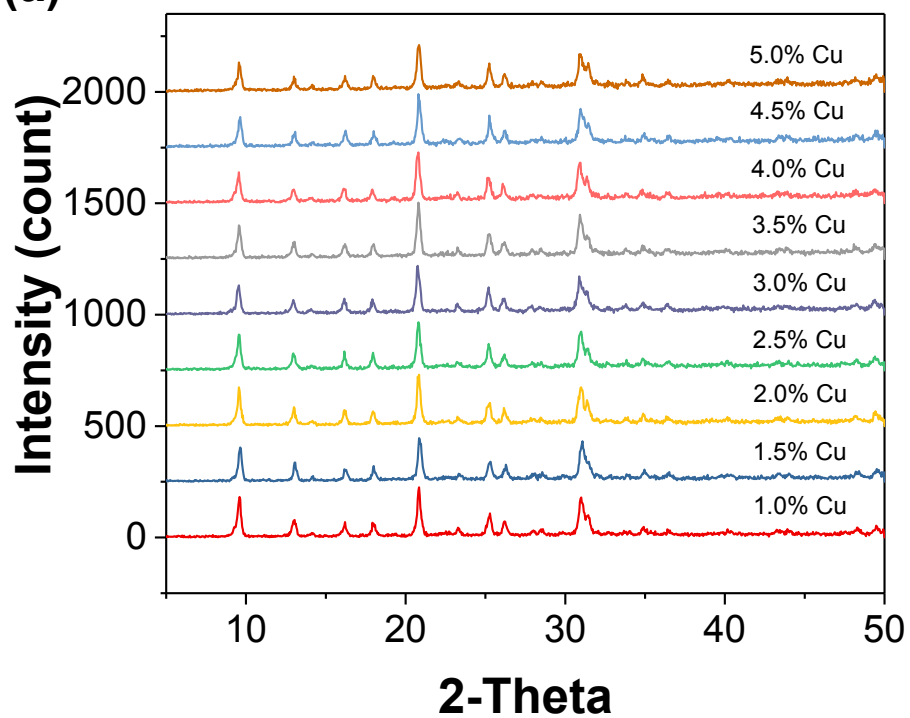
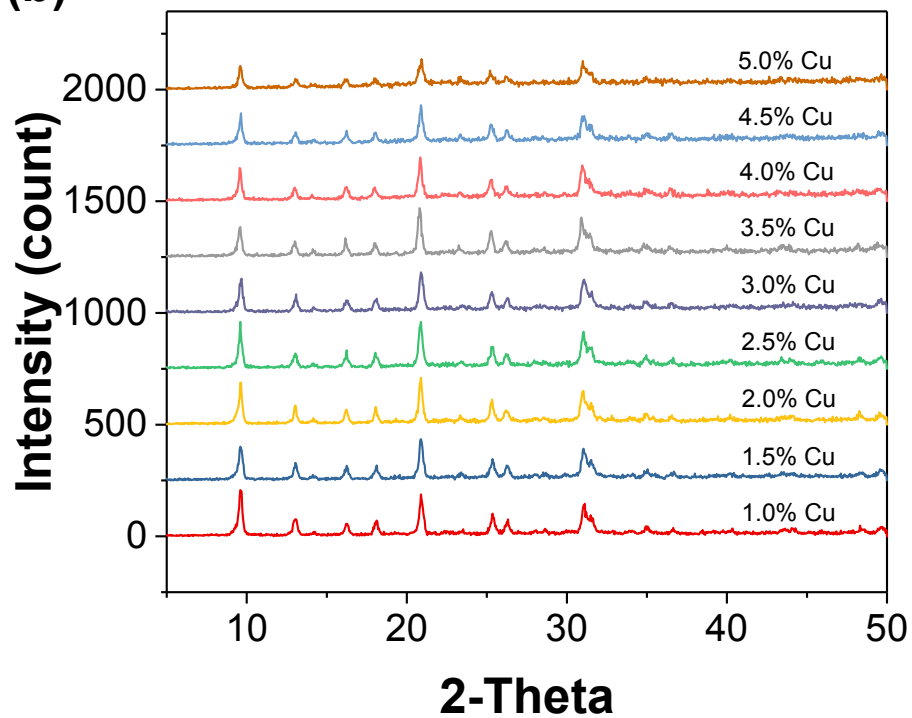


Figure S1. N<sub>2</sub> adsorption/desorption isotherms of the freshly prepared supports (a) NH<sub>4</sub>-SSZ-13, (b) Na-SSZ-13.

**(a)**



**(b)**



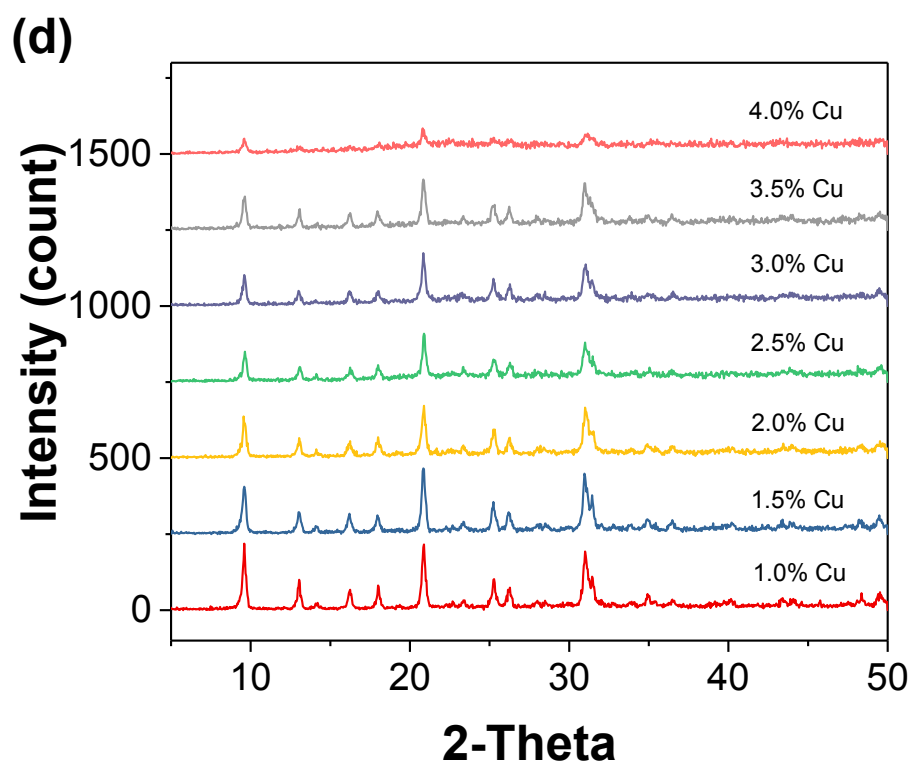
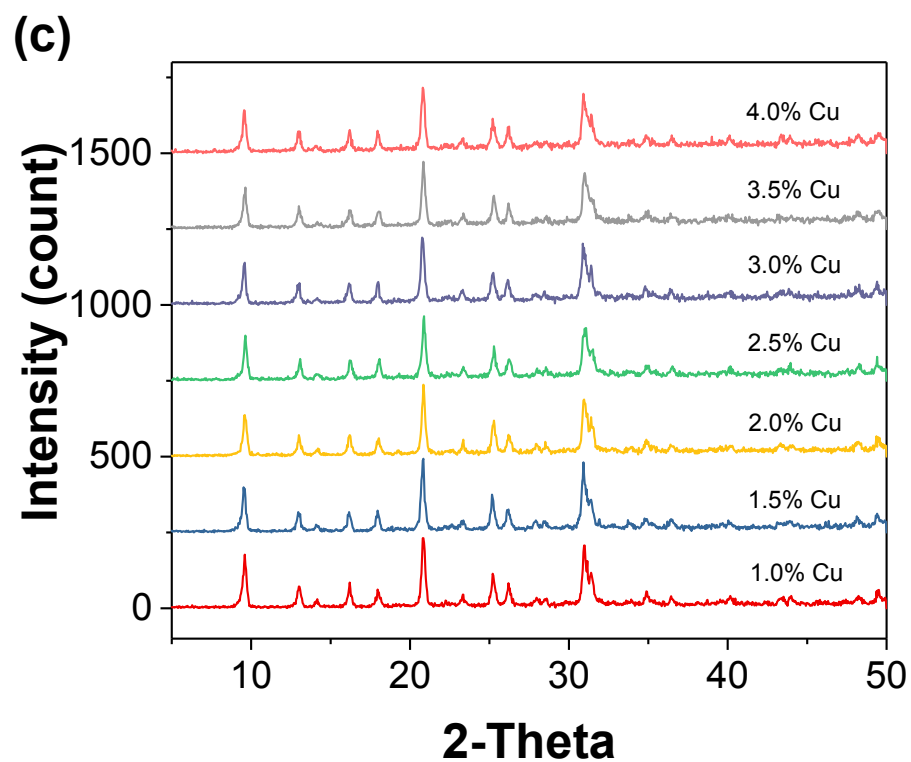


Figure S2. XRD patterns of the Cu catalysts: (a) Cu/H-SSZ-13 DG; (b) Cu/H-SSZ-13 HTA; (c) Cu/Na-SSZ-13 DG; (d) Cu/Na-SSZ-13 HTA.

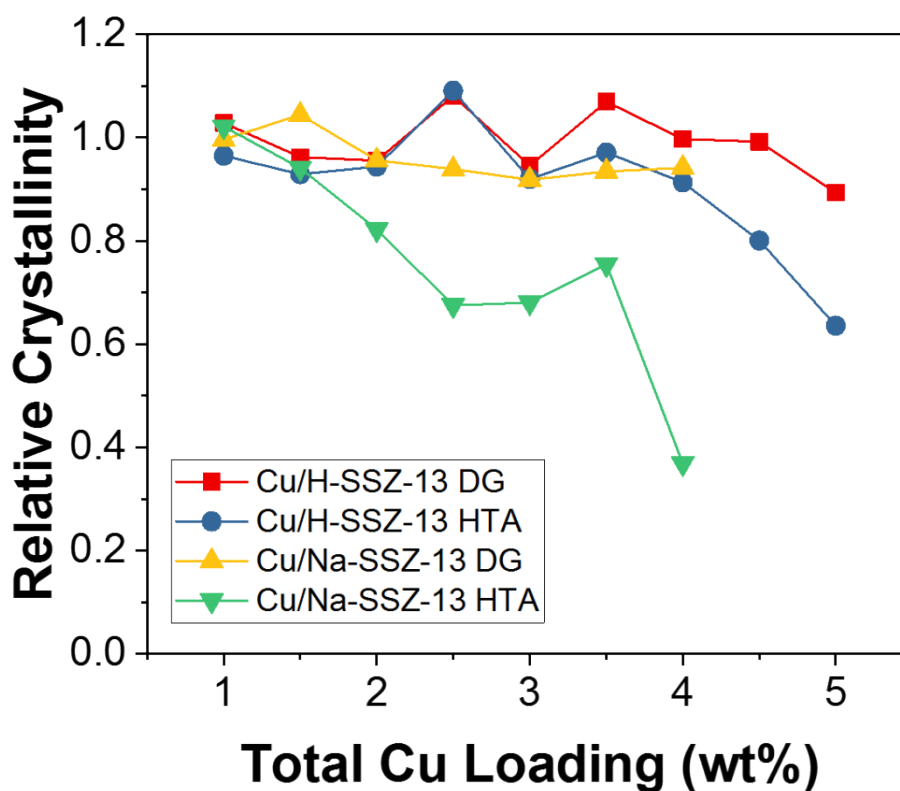


Figure S3. Relative crystallinities of the Cu/H-SSZ-13 and Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts after DG and HTA treatments.

To calculate relative crystallinities, five strongest diffraction peaks for each sample were summed, and the relative crystallinity was calculated based on the equation below:

$$\text{Relative Crystallinity} = \frac{\text{Peak Intensity of the treated catalysts}}{\text{Peak Intensity of the fresh catalysts}}$$

From the results, the degreening treatment does not alter the crystal structures irrespective to Cu loading for both series of samples. However the more severe hydrothermal aging at 800 °C causes clear decrease in crystallinity for some samples. In the absence of Na<sup>+</sup>, this decrease only occurs on relatively high Cu loaded samples. In the presence of Na<sup>+</sup>, relative crystallinity decrease even occurs at low Cu loadings. For the 4.0 wt% Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalyst, the crystal structure was severely destroyed after hydrothermal ageing. Changes in crystallinity are fully consistent with the BET surface area and pore volume analyses shown by **Table 1**.



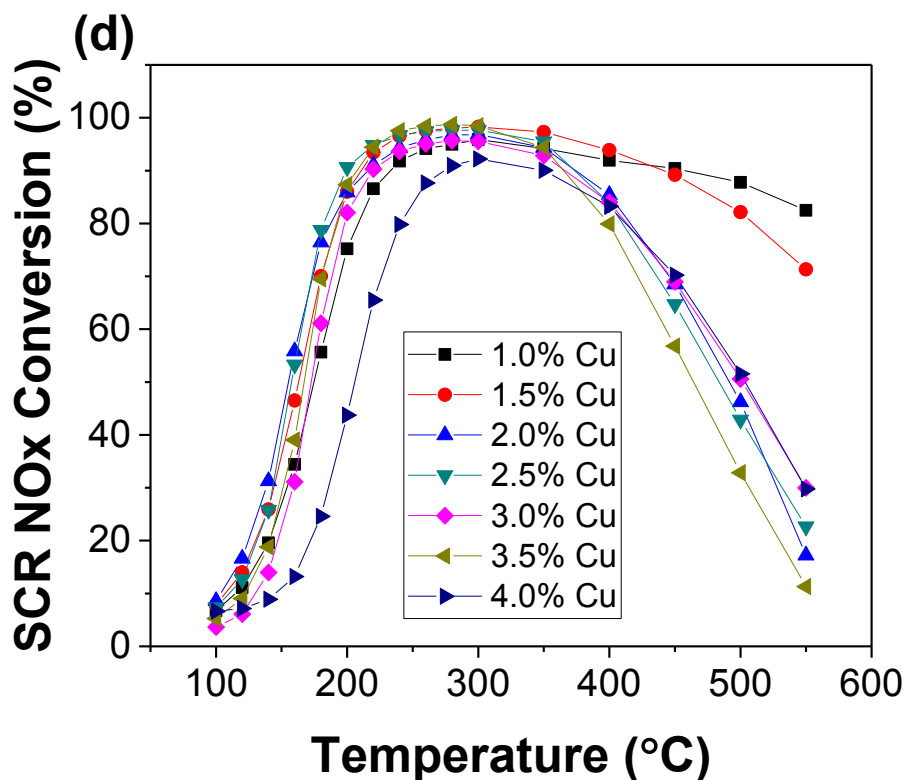
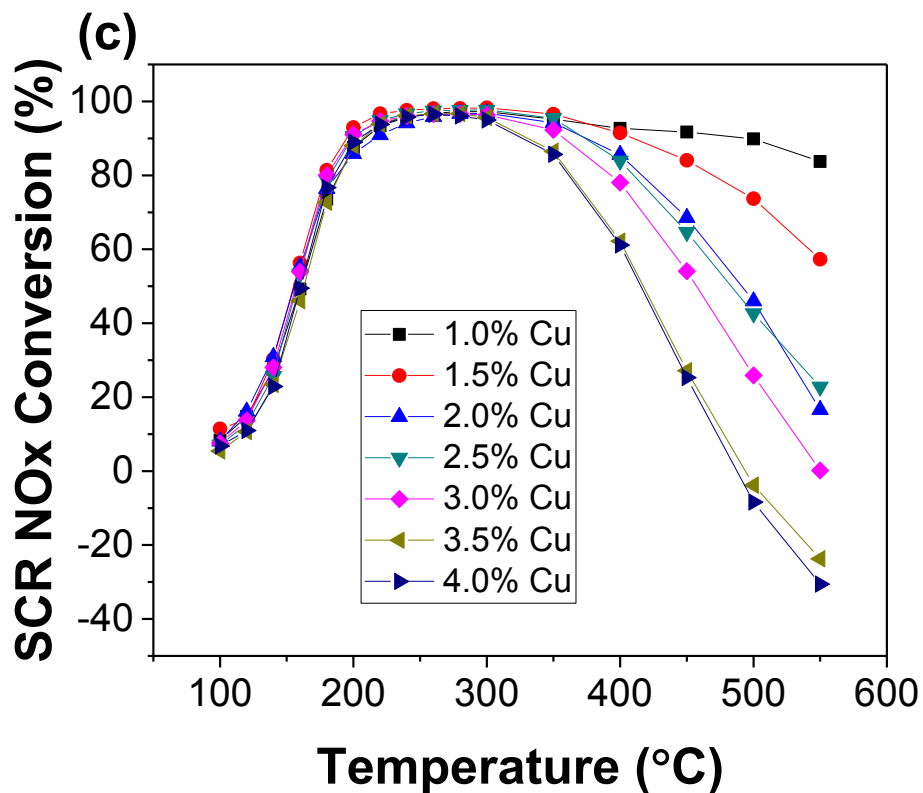
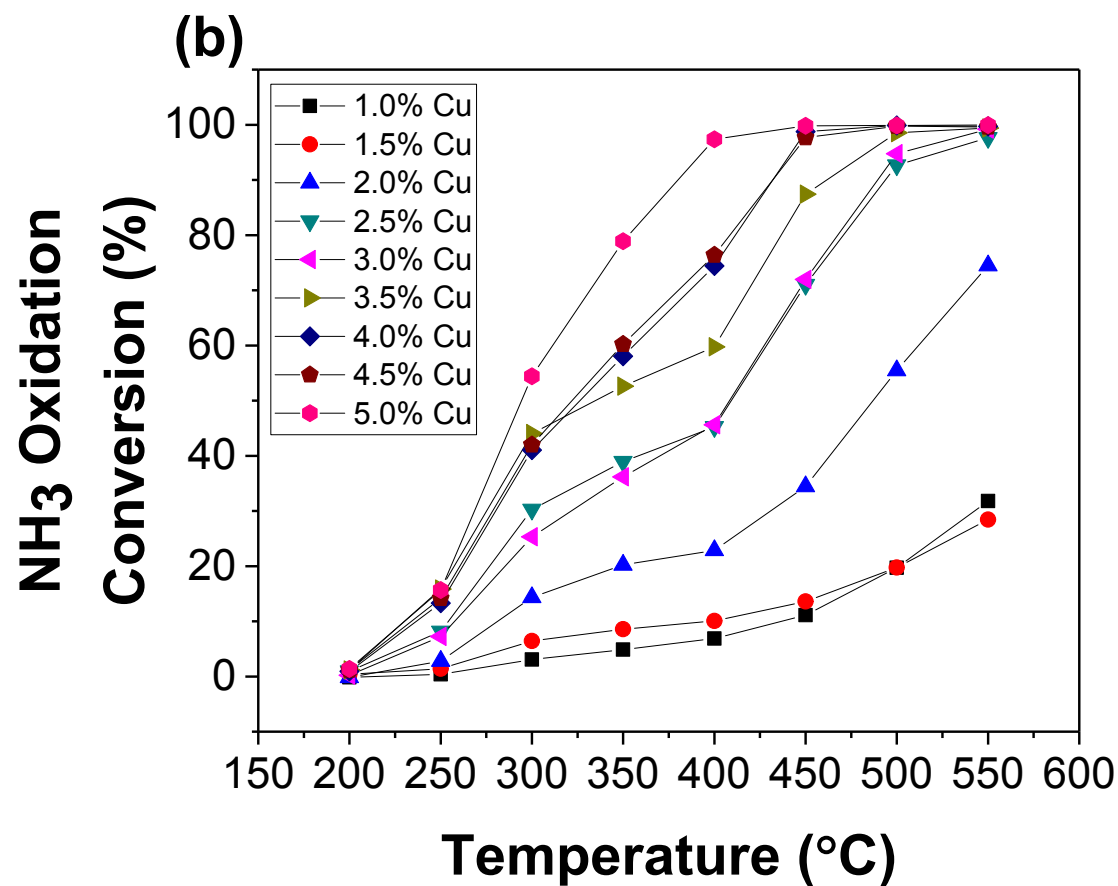
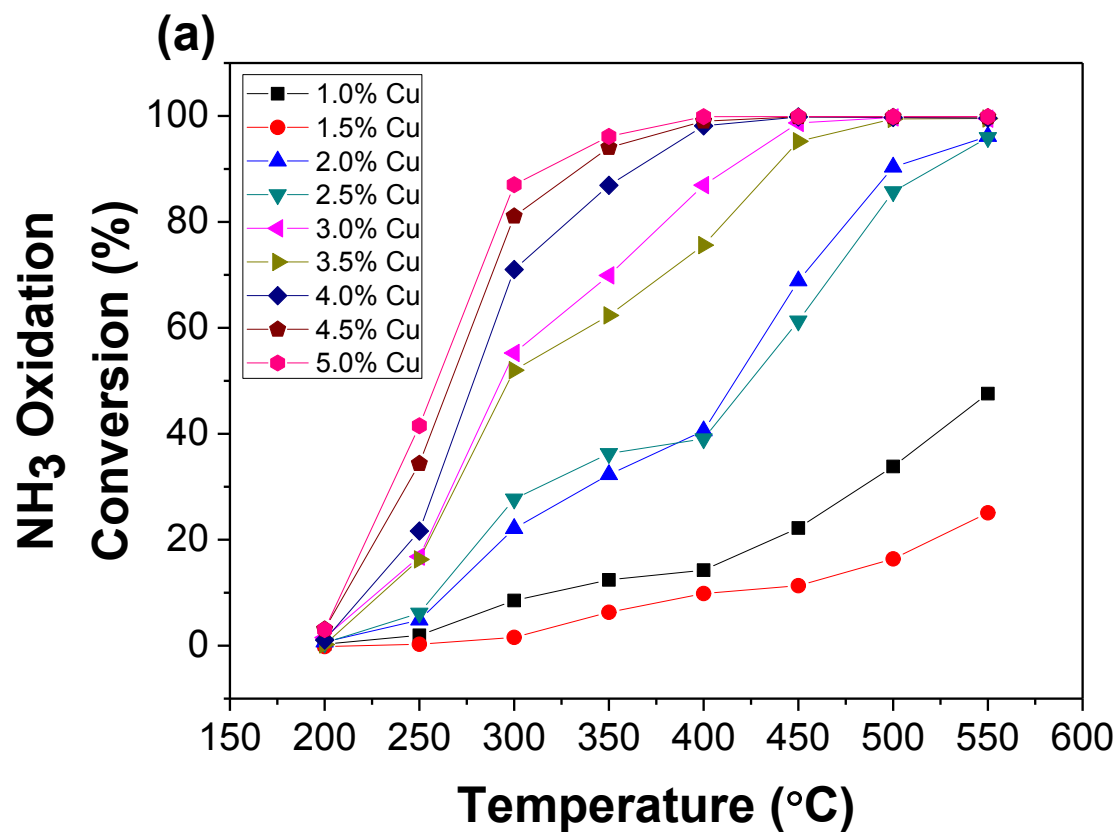


Figure S4. NO<sub>x</sub> conversion as a function of temperature during standard SCR for (a) DG Cu/H-SSZ-13, (b) HTA Cu/H-SSZ-13, (c) DG Cu/Na-SSZ-13, and (d) HTA Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts. Reactant feed contains 360 ppm NO<sub>x</sub> (containing ~20 ppm NO<sub>2</sub>), 360 ppm NH<sub>3</sub>, 14% O<sub>2</sub>, 2.5% H<sub>2</sub>O balanced with N<sub>2</sub> at a GHSV of 100,000 h<sup>-1</sup>.



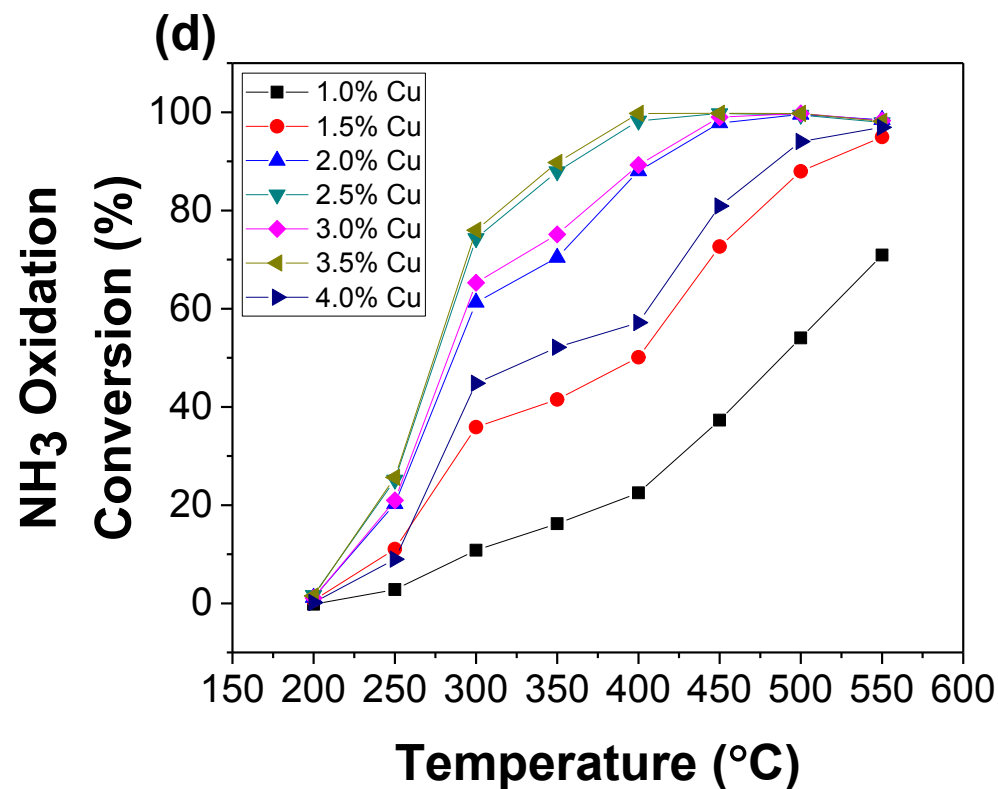
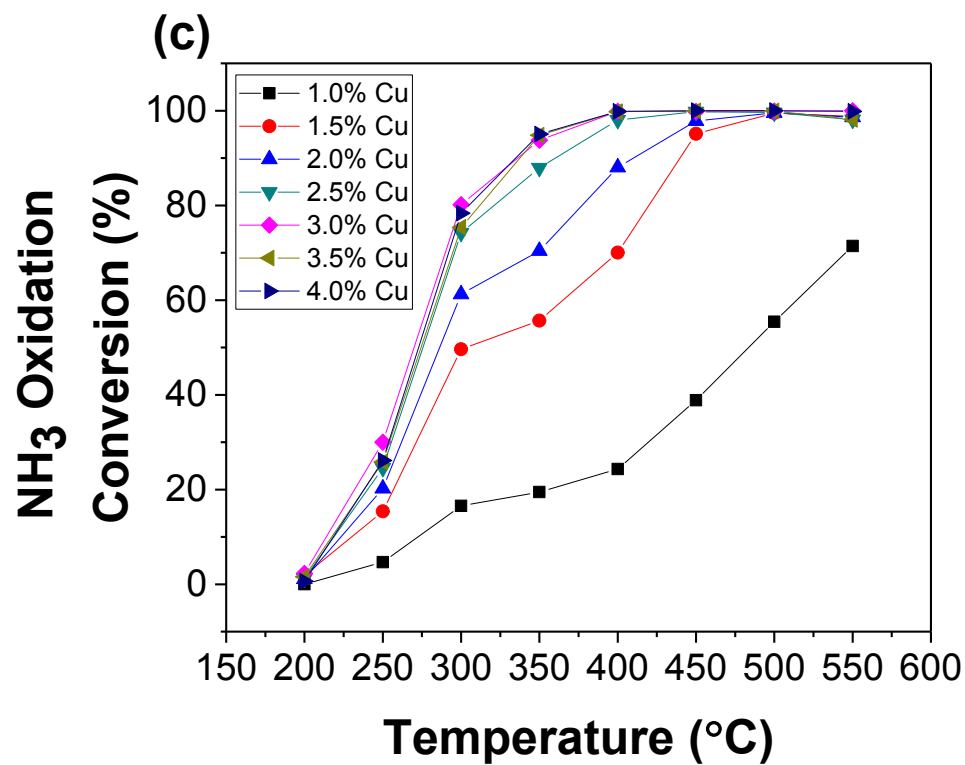


Figure S5.  $\text{NH}_3$  conversion as a function of temperature during  $\text{NH}_3$  oxidation reaction for (a) DG Cu/H-SSZ-13, (b) HTA Cu/H-SSZ-13, (c) DG Cu/Na-SSZ-13, and (d) HTA Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts. Reactant feed contains 380 ppm  $\text{NH}_3$ , 14%  $\text{O}_2$ , 2.5%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  balanced with  $\text{N}_2$  at a GHSV of  $100,000 \text{ h}^{-1}$ .

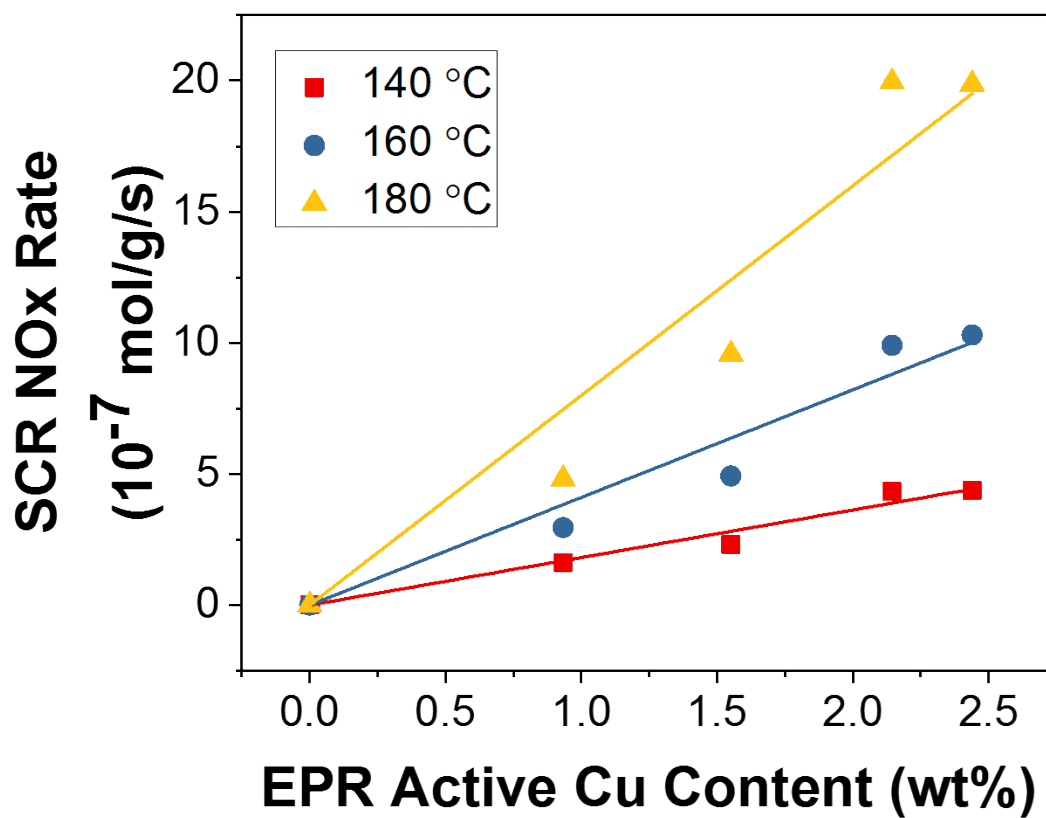
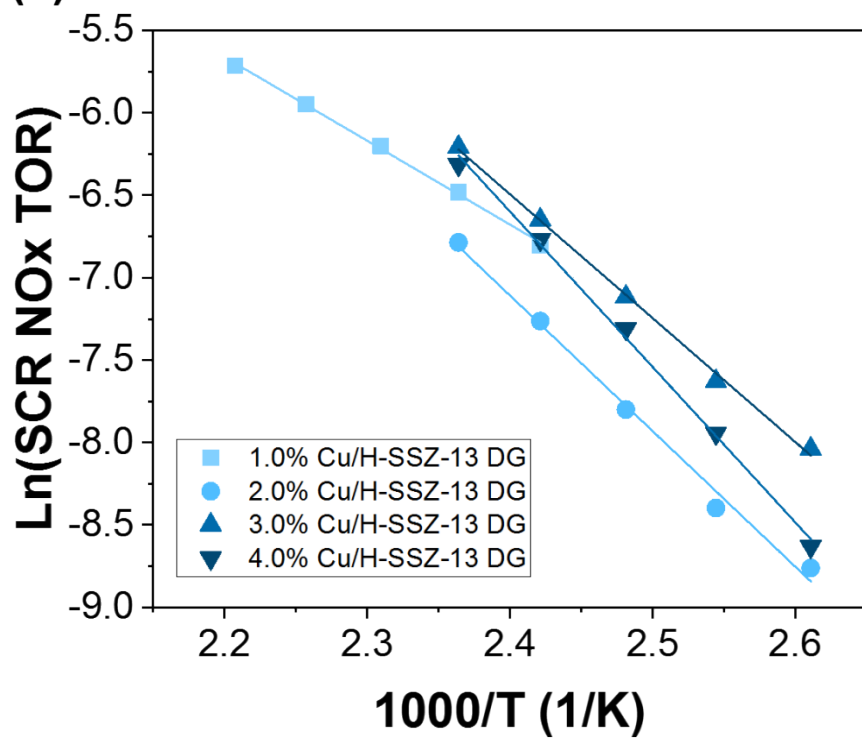
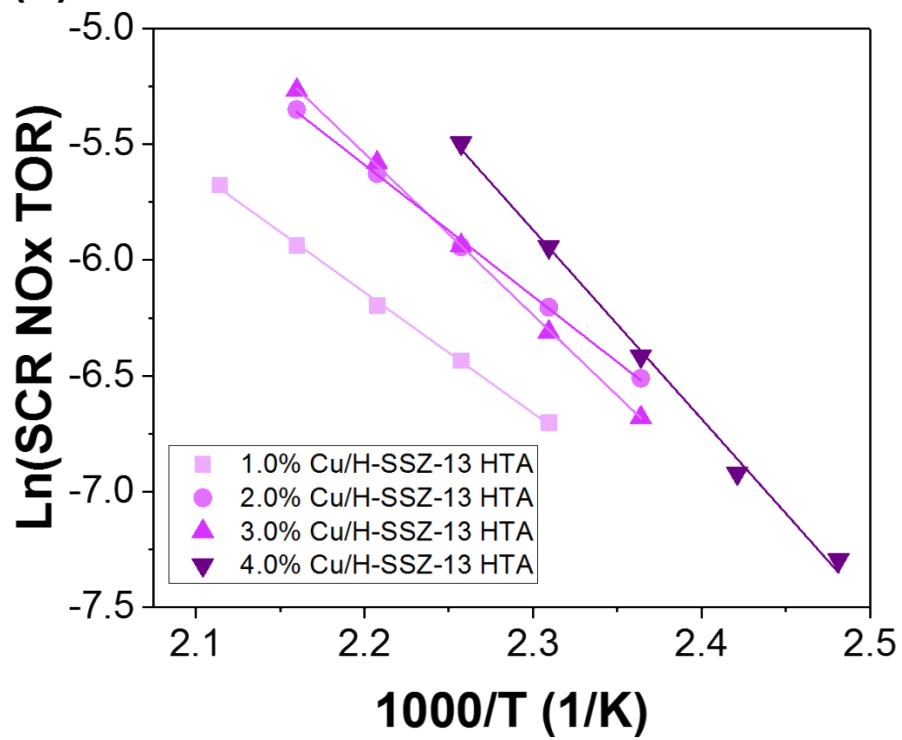


Figure S6. Koros-Nowak test of the Cu/H-SSZ-13 DG catalysts at different temperatures. The NO<sub>x</sub> conversion rates are normalized to catalyst weights.

(a)



(b)



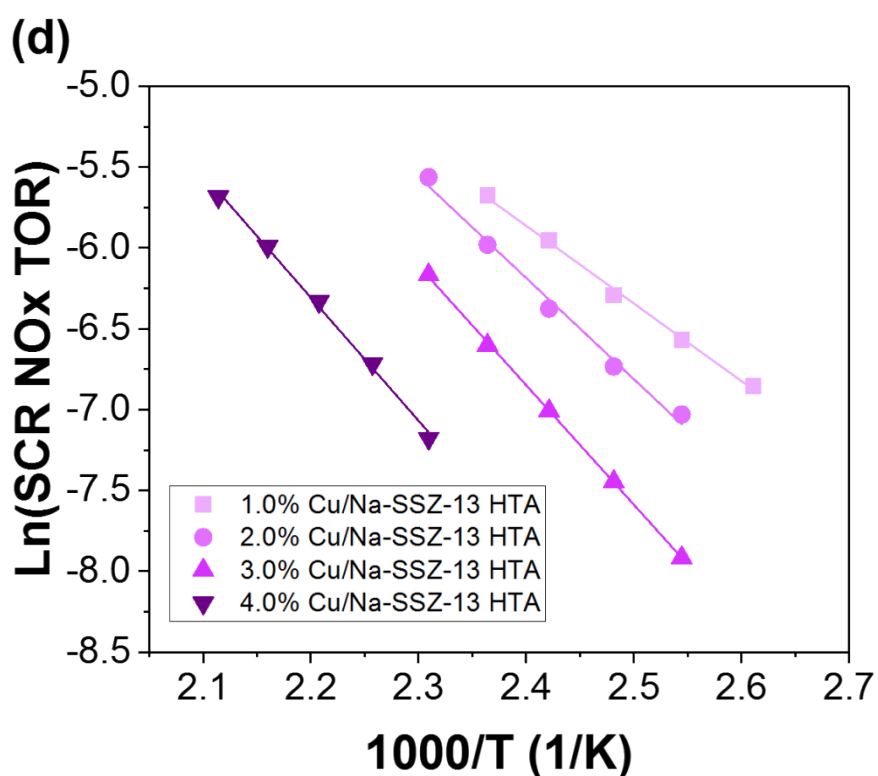
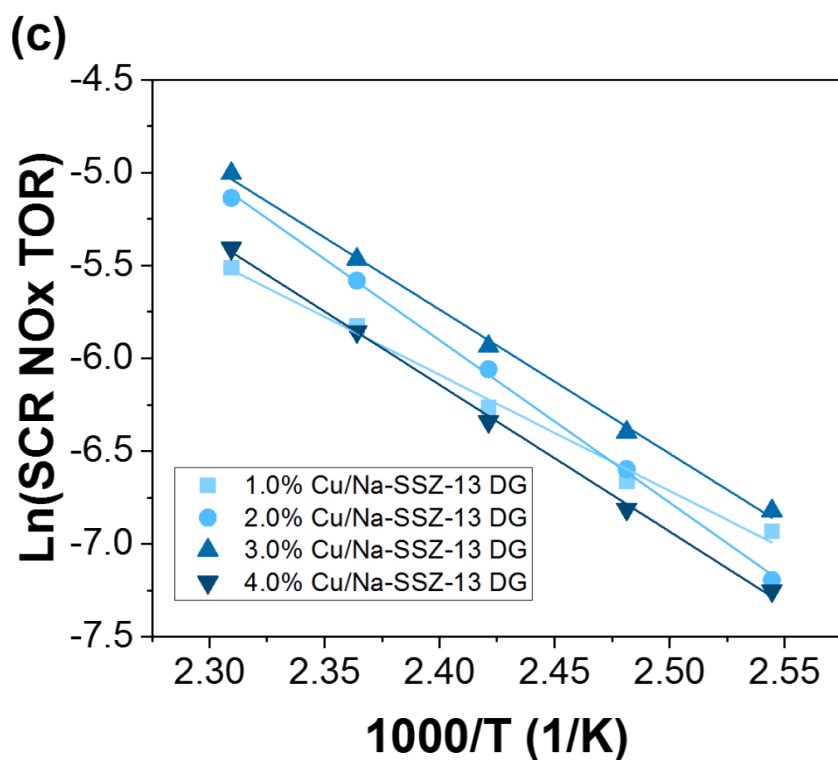


Figure S7. Arrhenius plot of the (a) Cu/H-SSZ-13 DG, (b) Cu/H-SSZ-13 HTA, (c) Cu/Na-SSZ-13 DG and (d) Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts. Reactant feed contains 360 ppm NO<sub>x</sub> (containing ~20 ppm NO<sub>2</sub>), 360 ppm NH<sub>3</sub>, 14% O<sub>2</sub>, 2.5% H<sub>2</sub>O balanced with N<sub>2</sub> at a GHSV of 667,000 h<sup>-1</sup>.

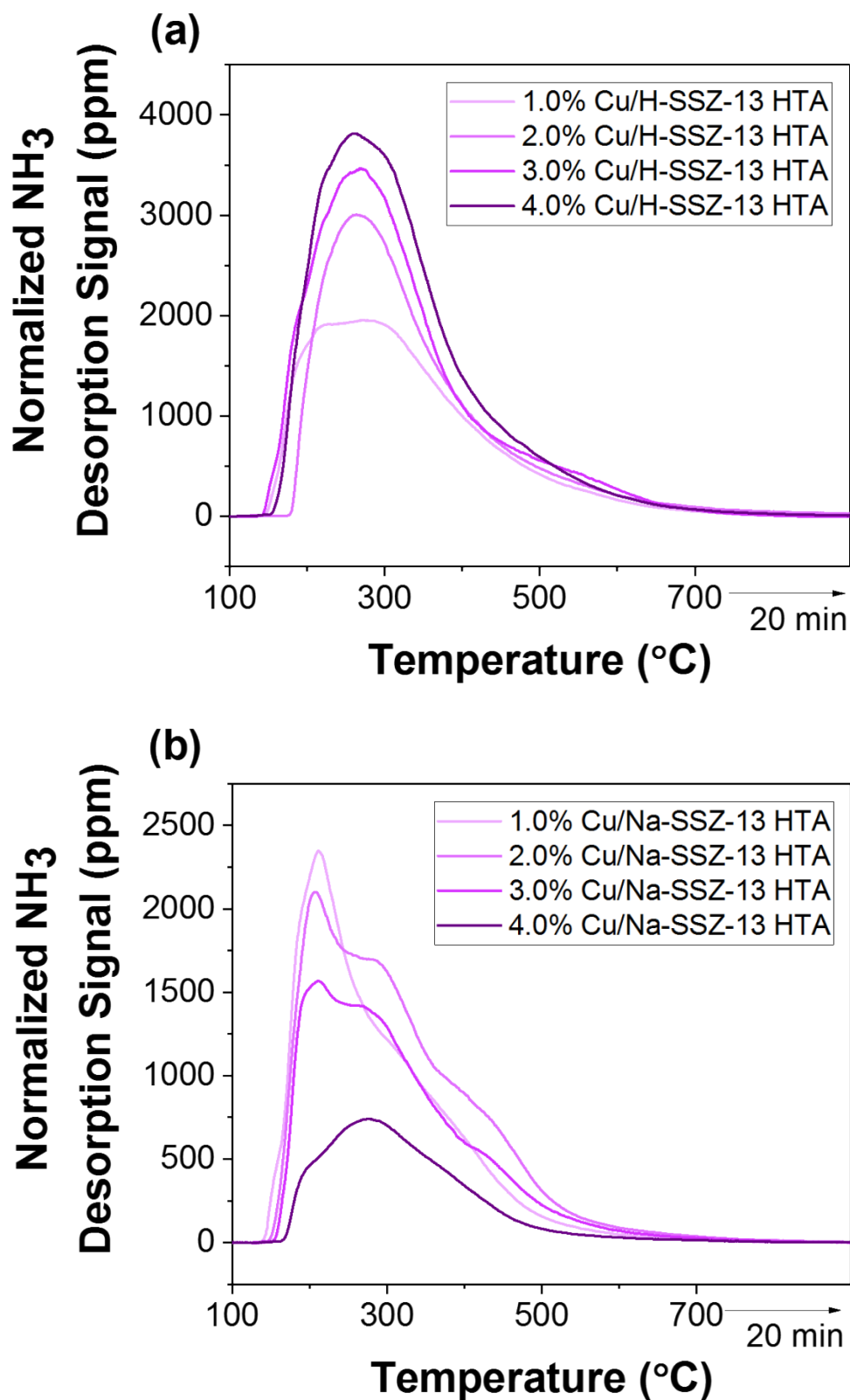


Figure S8. NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD results on selected (a) Cu/H-SSZ-13 and (b) Cu/Na-SSZ-13 HTA catalysts. NH<sub>3</sub> adsorption and purging were performed at 100 °C, ramping rate was 10 °C/min, N<sub>2</sub> gas flow rate 300 ml/min.

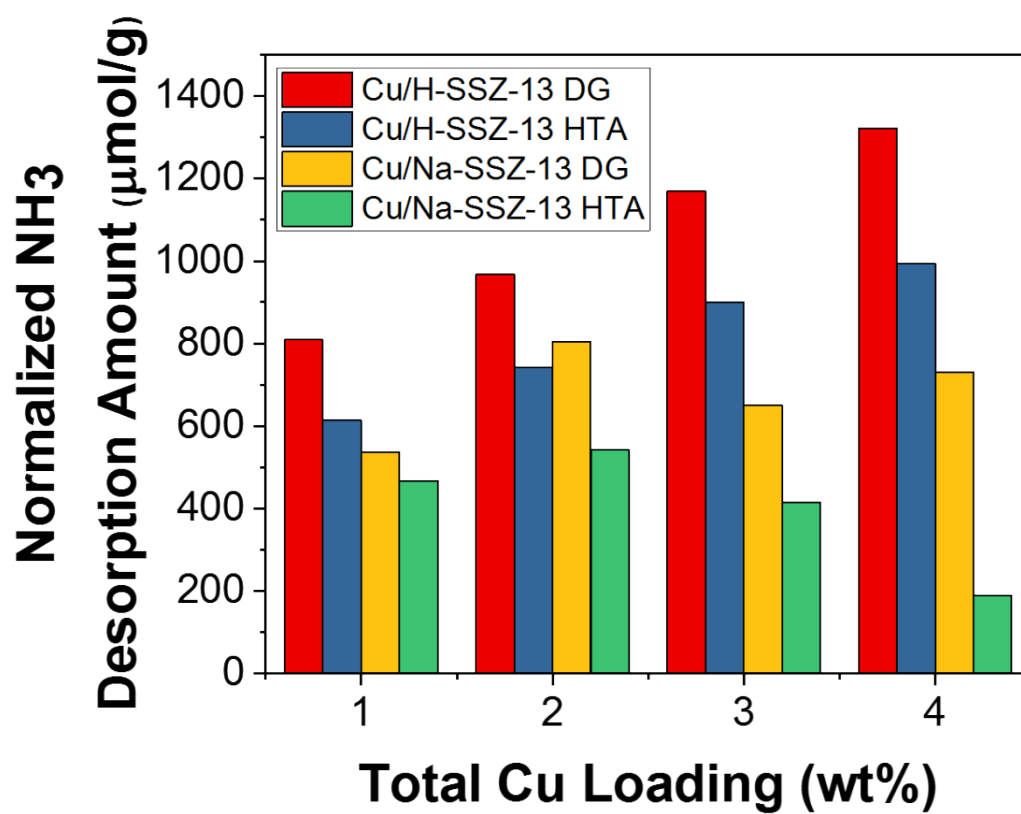


Figure S9.  $\text{NH}_3$ -TPD quantification results for Cu/H-SSZ-13 and Cu/Na-SSZ-13 catalysts with degreening and hydrothermal ageing treatments. Ramping rate was 10  $^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$ , and  $\text{N}_2$  gas flow was 300 ml/min.