

## Supplementary Information

# Role of Acid Sites and Surface Hydroxyl Groups in Isophthalonitrile Hydrogenation Catalyzed by Supported Ni-Co Catalysts

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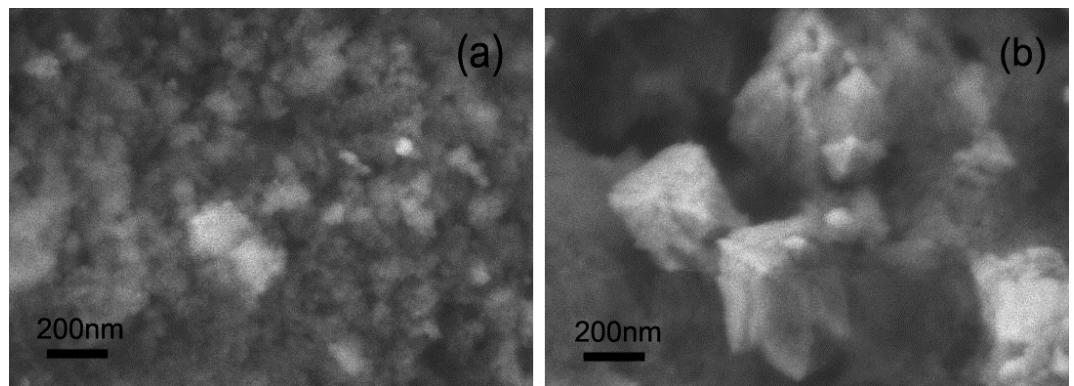
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**Table S1.** Comparison of the calculation results of  $k_r$  over  $x\text{Ni}-y\text{Co}/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  using two models

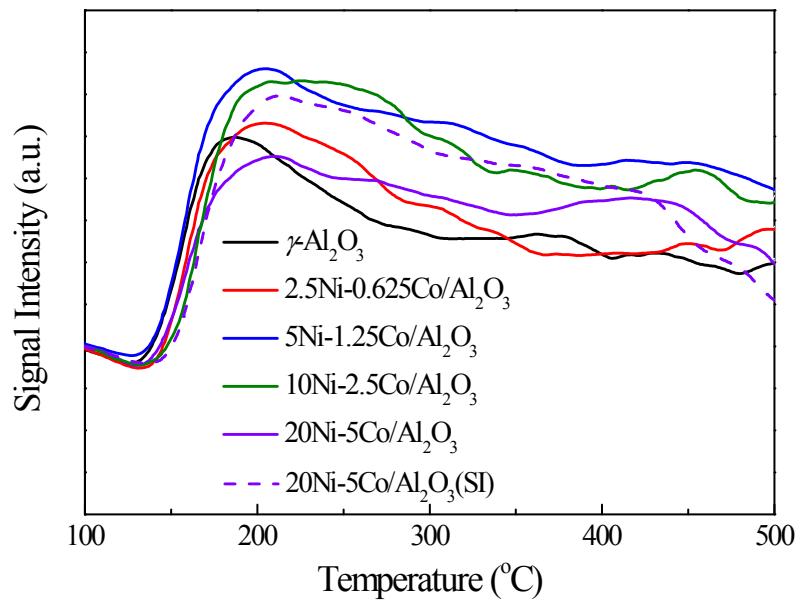
Catalyst	Reaction results <sup>a</sup>	
	$k_r(10^{-2} \text{ mol}^{0.2} \text{ L}^{-0.2} \text{ min}^{-1})$	$k_r(10^{-2} \text{ min}^{-1})$
	$p=0.8^b$	$p=1^b$
2.5Ni-0.625Co/ $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$	0.6 (0.99)	0.9 (0.98)
5Ni-1.25Co/ $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$	2.1 (0.99)	3.6 (0.89)
10Ni-2.5Co/ $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$	2.4 (0.99)	4.2 (0.96)
20Ni-5Co/ $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$	2.8 (0.99)	5.9 (0.93)

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: 80 °C, 6.0 MPa, catalyst of 200~400 μm containing 0.25g Ni and 0.0625g Co, 80 mL of toluene and 20 mL of methanol as solvent, 2.9 g of IPN feed, 0.086 g of NaOH, 180 mL min<sup>-1</sup> H<sub>2</sub> gas flow, and stirring speed of 800 rpm.

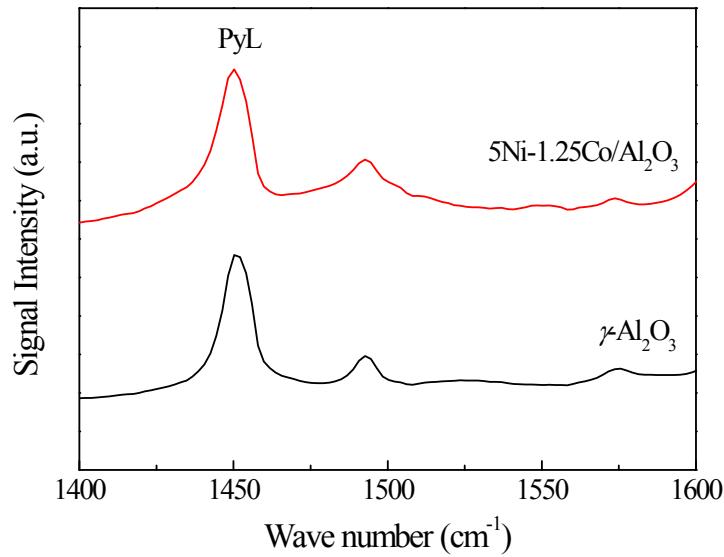
<sup>b</sup> The numbers in brackets are the corresponding R<sup>2</sup>.



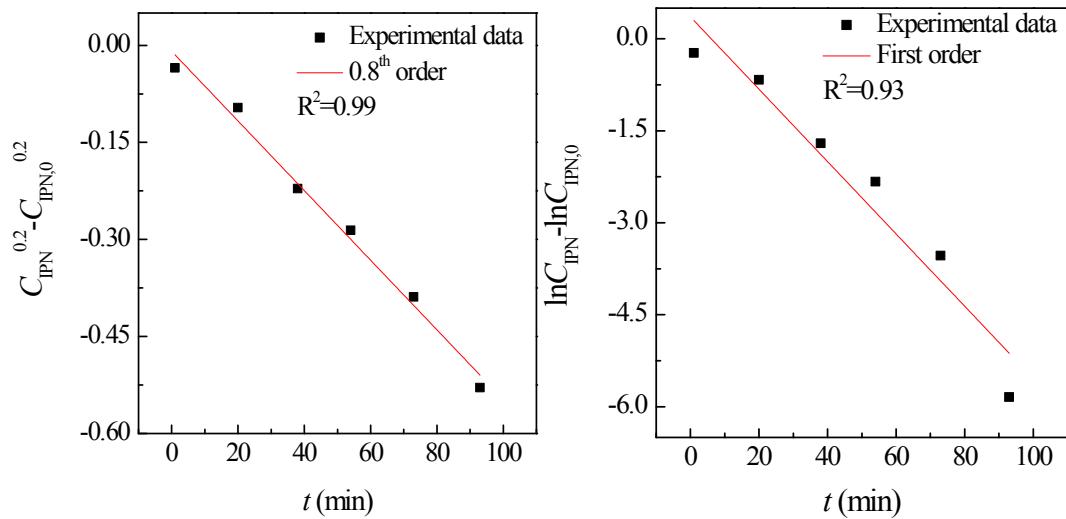
**Fig. S1.** SEM images of (a) 20Ni-5Co/SiO<sub>2</sub>, (b) 20Ni-5Co/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>(SI)



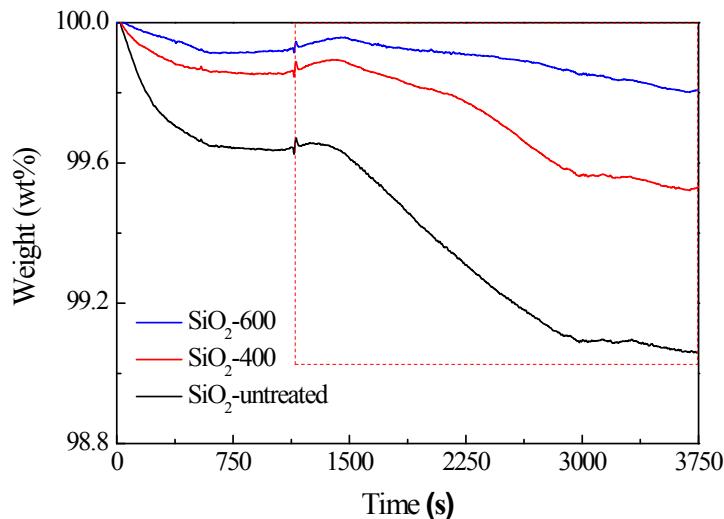
**Fig. S2.** NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD profiles of  $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$  supported catalysts and the support



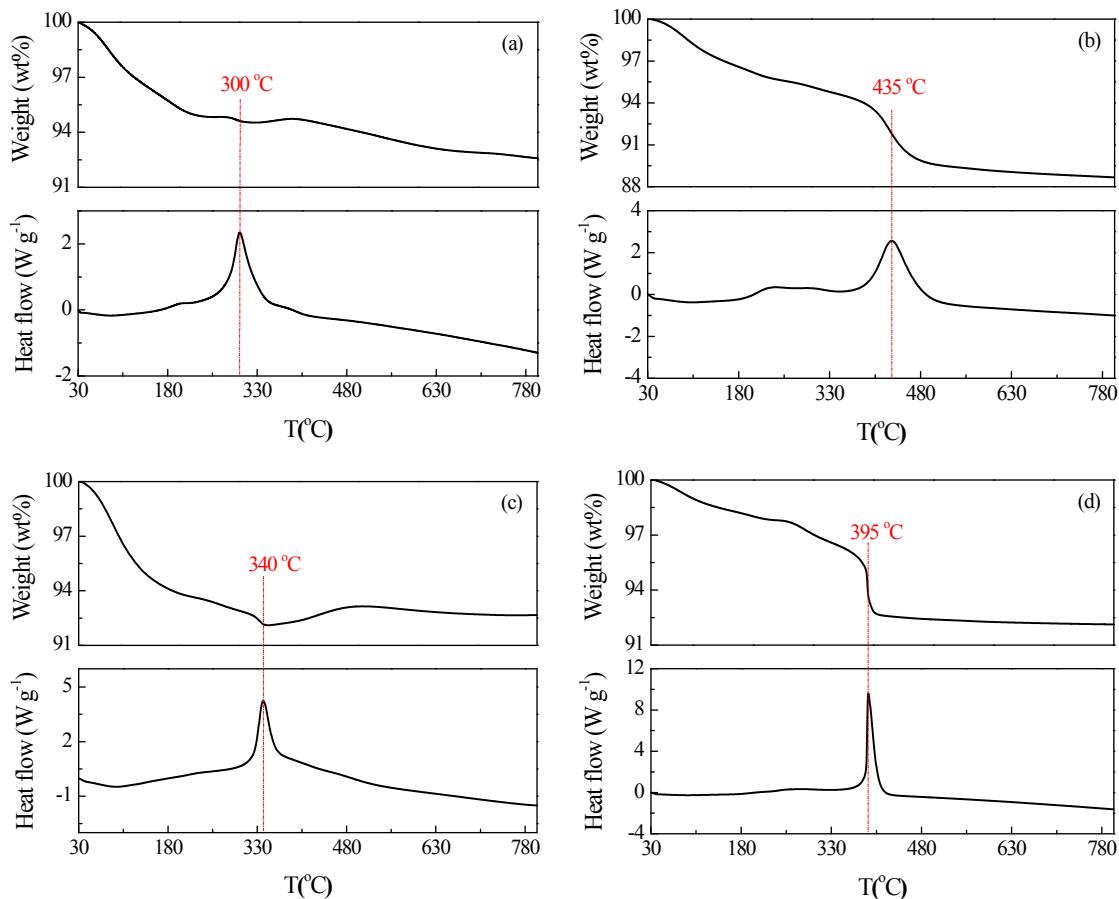
**Fig. S3.** FT-IR spectra of pyridine adsorbed on  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and 5Ni-1.25Co/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> at 200 °C (after background correction). The bands at 1450  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  are the characteristic peaks of Lewis (PyL) acid sites, and those at 1490  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  were the characteristic peaks of  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.



**Fig. S4.** Fitting results of  $k_r$  over 20Ni-5Co/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> with reaction order of  $p = 0.8$  and 1.0



**Fig. S5.** TG-DTA profiles of the treated and untreated  $\text{SiO}_2$ .  $\text{SiO}_2$ -400 and  $\text{SiO}_2$ -600 were the  $\text{SiO}_2$  samples calcined at 400 °C and 600 °C for 4 h, respectively.



**Fig. S6.** TG-DTA results of the spent catalysts: (a) 20Ni-5Co/ $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (SI), (b) 2.5Ni-0.625Co/ $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , (c) 20Ni-5Co/ $\text{SiO}_2$ (SI), (d) 2.5Ni-0.625Co/ $\text{SiO}_2$