

## Materials Advances

### Electronic Supplementary Information for

# Unravelling the K-promotion effect in a highly active and stable $\text{Fe}_5\text{C}_2$ nanoparticle for catalytic linear $\alpha$ -olefin production

*Jin Hee Lee,<sup>‡a</sup> Hack-Keun Lee,<sup>‡a</sup> Kwangsoo Kim,<sup>b,c</sup> Geun Bae Rhim,<sup>d</sup> Min Hye Youn,<sup>d</sup> Heondo Jeong,<sup>d</sup>  
Jong Hyeok Park,<sup>c</sup> Dong Hyun Chun,<sup>d,\*</sup> Byung-Hyun Kim,<sup>b,\*</sup> Ji Chan Park<sup>a,\*</sup>*

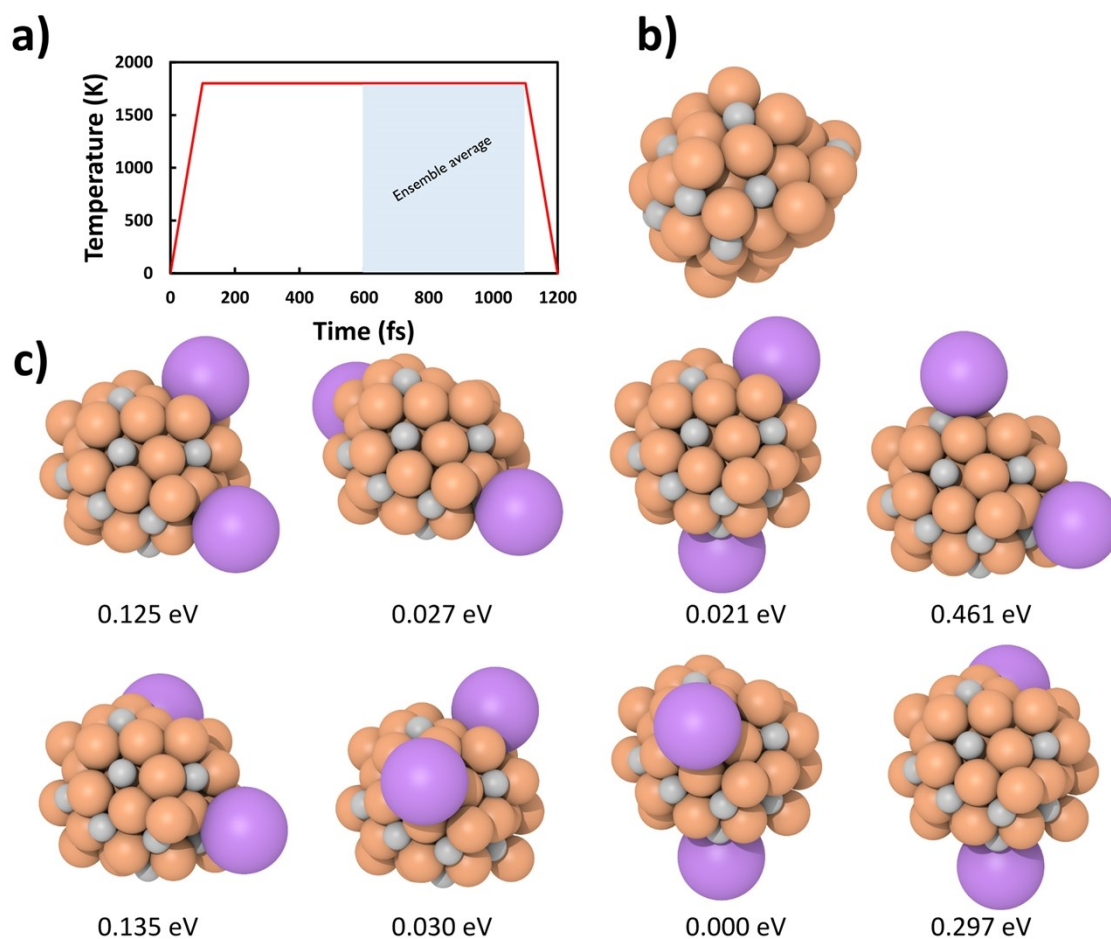
<sup>a</sup>Clean Fuel Laboratory, Korea Institute of Energy Research, Daejeon, Republic of Korea.

<sup>b</sup>Platform Technology Laboratory, Korea Institute of Energy Research, Daejeon, Republic of Korea.

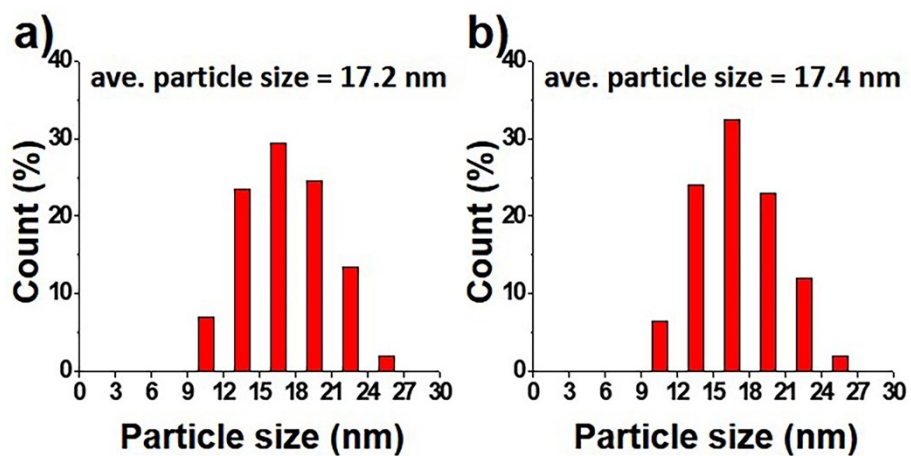
<sup>c</sup>Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Yonsei University, 50 Yonsei-ro, Seoul 03722, Republic of Korea.

<sup>d</sup>Carbon Conversion Laboratory, Korea Institute of Energy Research, Daejeon, Republic of Korea.

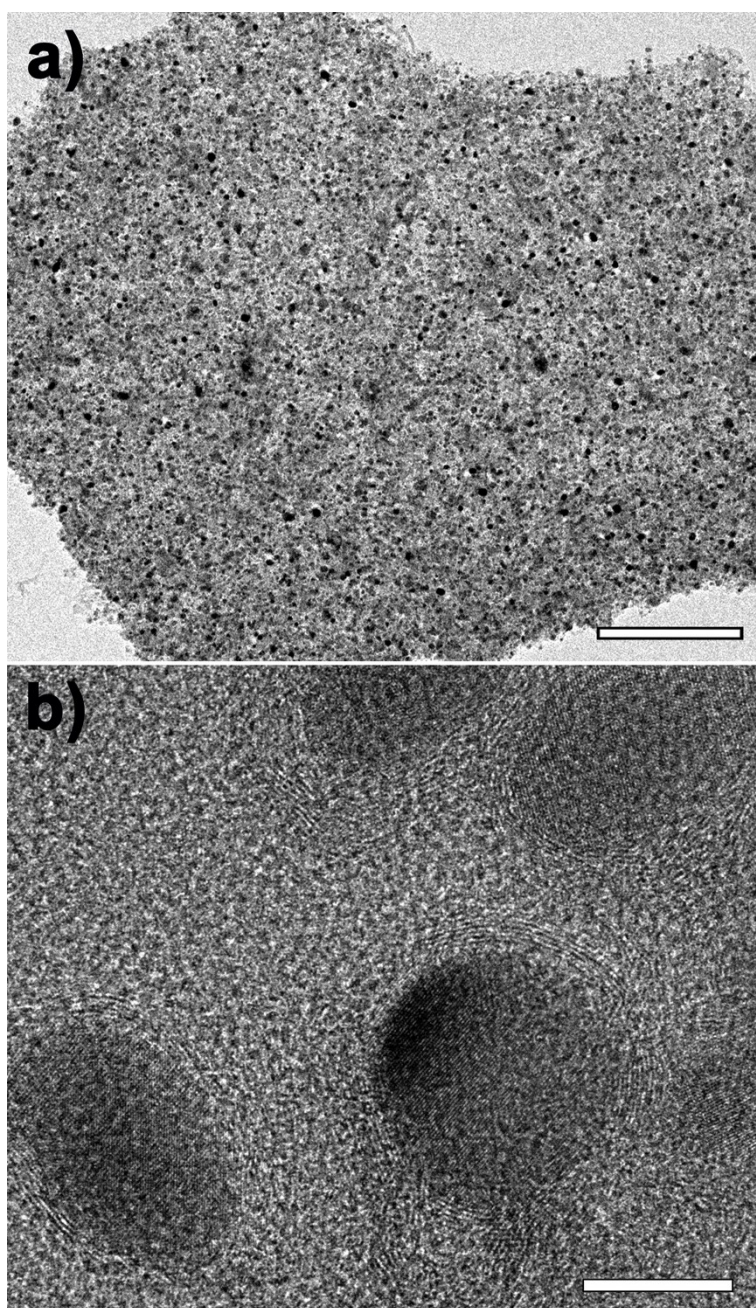
<sup>‡</sup> These authors contributed equally to this work.



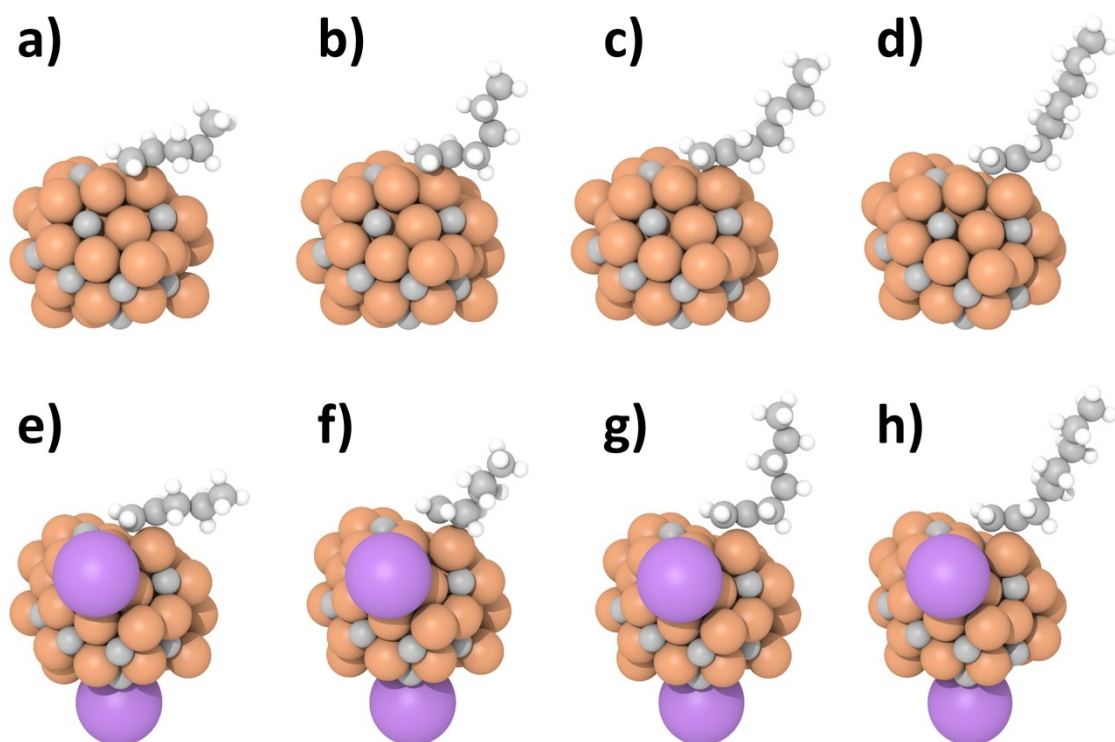
**Figure S1.** (a) Temperature profile as a function of time in first-principles molecular dynamics simulations for generating a reliable  $\text{Fe}_5\text{C}_2$  nanoparticle structure. (b) Geometry optimized K-free  $\text{Fe}_5\text{C}_2$  nanoparticle structure. (c) K-doped  $\text{Fe}_5\text{C}_2$  nanoparticle structures with different locations of two K atoms and total energy relative to their most stable configuration. Dark orange, grey and purple indicate Fe, C and K atoms, respectively.



**Figure S2.** Particle size distributions of (a) K-free Fe<sub>5</sub>C<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles and (b) K-doped Fe<sub>5</sub>C<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles in each catalyst. More than 200 particles were counted for the sample.



**Figure S3.** (a) Low-resolution TEM and (b) HRTEM images of the recovered  $\text{K-Fe}_5\text{C}_2@\text{C/NPC}$  nanocatalyst after the HT-FTS reaction for 78 h. The bars represent 500 nm (a) and 10 nm (b).



**Figure S4.** Geometry optimized structures of (a, e) 1-pentene, (b, f) 1-hexene, (c, g) 1-heptene and (d, h) 1-octene on (a-d) K-free  $\text{Fe}_5\text{C}_2$  nanoparticle and (e-h) K- $\text{Fe}_5\text{C}_2$  nanoparticle. Dark orange, grey, white and purple balls represent Fe, C, H and K atoms, respectively.

**Table S1.** Comparison of the CO conversion and FTY values of the K-doped Fe<sub>5</sub>C<sub>2</sub>@C/NPC nanocatalyst with those found in the literature for K-doped Fe catalysts to be used under high-temperature Fischer-Tropsch synthesis conditions.

Catalyst	GHSV (NL·g <sub>cat</sub> <sup>-1</sup> ·h <sup>-1</sup> )	Total CO conv. (%)	FTY (×10 <sup>-4</sup> mol <sub>CO</sub> ·g <sub>Fe</sub> <sup>-1</sup> ·s <sup>-1</sup> )	Ref.
K-Fe <sub>5</sub> C <sub>2</sub> @C/NPC (Fe: 33.7 wt%)	42	96.7	4.4	This work <sup>a)</sup>
K-Fe <sub>5</sub> C <sub>2</sub> /Charcoal (Fe = 20 wt%)	8	~ 94	1.54	[1] <sup>b)</sup>
0.5K-Fe <sub>3</sub> C@C (Fe: 22.4 wt%)	15	74.8	2.69	[2] <sup>c)</sup>
0.6K38-Fe@C (Fe: 38 wt%)	60	93	4.38	[3] <sup>d)</sup>
KFe@C-MIL100 (Fe: 38.1wt%)	60	94.9	4.23	[4] <sup>e)</sup>
KFe@C-F300 (Fe: 35.7wt%)		91.7	4.59	
KG16Si (Fe: 16wt%)	3	84.8	0.39	[5] <sup>f)</sup>

Catalytic tests were carried out at a) T = 340°C, P = 1.5 MPa, H<sub>2</sub>/CO ratio = 1, b) T = 320°C, P = 1.5 MPa, H<sub>2</sub>/CO = 1, c) T = 320°C, P = 2.0 MPa, H<sub>2</sub>/CO ratio = 1, d) T = 340°C, P = 2.0 MPa, H<sub>2</sub>/CO ratio=1, e) T = 340°C, P = 2.0 MPa, H<sub>2</sub>/CO ratio = 1. f) T = 340°C, P = 2.0 MPa, H<sub>2</sub>/CO ratio = 1.7,

## References

- [1] J. C. Park, S. C. Yeo, D. H. Chun, J. T. Lim, J.-I. Yang, H.-T. Lee, S. Hong, H. M. Lee, C. S. Kim and H. Jung, *J. Mater. Chem. A.*, 2014, **2**, 14371.
- [2] Z. Tian, C. Wang, J. Yue, X. Zhang and L. Ma, *Catal. Sci. Technol.*, 2019, **9**, 2728.
- [3] V. P. Santos, T. A. Wezendonk, J. J. D. Jaen, A. I. Dugulan, M. A. Nasalevich, H.-U. Islam, A. Chojecki, S. Sartipi, X. Sun, A. A. Hakeem, A. C. J. Koeken, M. Ruitenbeek, T. Davidian, G. R. Meima, G. Sanker, F. Kapteijn, M. Makkee and J. Gascon, *Nat. Commun.*, 2015, **6**, 6451.
- [4] T. A. Wezendonk, Q. S. E. Warringa, V. P. Santos, A. Chojecki, M. Ruiteenbeek, G. Meima, M. Makkee, F. Kapteijn and J. Gascon, *Faraday Discuss*, 2017, **197**, 225.
- [5] R. Xu, P. S. Vengsarkar, D. Roe and C. B. Roberts, *Energy Fuels*, 2017, **31**, 4343.