Non-reactive interaction of molecules with a surface: periodic or cluster approach?

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#### Molecule – surface interactions



#### Several interaction domains

H<sub>2</sub>-metal interactions



#### Several steps in the interaction process



#### Choice of the computational method



# Some aspects of the periodic (Slab) model for the physisorption

The generally used method is DFT with various functionnals among which : PBE, PBEsol (especially adapted to solids), + eventually Grimme correction for long range interactions.

Different choices for the electronic calculation:

- Plane waves for the electron description code VASP
- Localized atomic orbitals for the electrons code CRYSTAL, this is preferred for molecular processus.

Appropriate choice of the unit cells for the periodic representation

#### Periodic – Slab model of the surface



Definition of the unit cells for the periodic representation: different sizes of cell and 3 layers for the Slab

### Details of the periodic calculation (cell 3)



#### Cu/Ag $(n-1)s^2(n-1)p^6(n-1)d^{10}ns^1$

-Grey atoms : all electrons calculation -Blue atoms : pseudopotentiel with 19 explicit electrons

VASP or CRYSTAL

Coordinate system (X,Y,Z, $\theta$ , $\phi$ ), Including lateral displacements d<sub>H-H</sub> is fixed



#### A cluster to model the surface (constraints)



Main concerns : Size - big enough cluster to be representative Limit the border effects - consider the central part of the cluster

> Representation of the metallic (100) surface by a cluster composed of 22 atoms in 3 layers (9,4,9)

Advantage: Z- symmetry no artificial polarisation ( $\mu_z=0$ )

Cu/Ag (n-1)s<sup>2</sup>(n-1)p<sup>6</sup>(n-1)d<sup>10</sup>ns<sup>1</sup>



Pseudopotentiel with 19 explicit electrons for the central atoms Pseudopotentiels with 1 explicit electron for the outer atoms



#### Several investigated geometries

Parallel approaches

Perpendicular approach



 $H_2$  in **btb** Bridge-top-bridge  $\theta = 90^{\circ} \Phi = 0^{\circ}$  H<sub>2</sub> in **hth** hollow-top-hollow  $\theta = 90^{\circ} \Phi = 45^{\circ}$   $H_2$  in **top**  $\theta = 0^\circ \Phi = 0^\circ$  Physisorption

## Shape of the Potential Energy Surface

First layer interaction of H<sub>2</sub> with the (100) Ag surface of CFC Periodic model

## Periodic (DFT) results obtained with CRYSTAL, cell-3, PBEsol, rotations $\theta$



## Periodic (DFT) results obtained with CRYSTAL, cell-3, PBEsol, rotations $\theta$



# Periodic (DFT) results obtained with CRYSTAL, for $H_2$ on top of a metallic atom

Main results for the centre of mass of  $\rm H_2$  positionned on top of a metallic atom:

1) The more stable position corresponds to the perpendicular  $\,T_{\!\perp}$ 

approach, in good agreement with the values of the polarisabilities of  $H_2$ 

 $\alpha_{\parallel} = 4,84$   $\alpha_{\parallel} = 6,30$ 

 $\alpha \parallel / \alpha \perp = 1,30$   $E_T / E_{BTB} = 1,33$ 

$(\theta,\phi)$	$Z_p$ (Å)	$E_p(meV)$
(0,0) - T <sub>⊥</sub>	3.0	-71.81
(90,0) - BTB	2.6	-53.78
(90,45) - HTH	2.7	-54.18

2) The rotation with  $\varphi$  is almost isotropic for the parallel positions (BTB and HTH)



#### Periodic (DFT) results obtained with CRYSTAL, cell-3, PBEsol, translations of perpendicular $H_2$

For  $H_2$  perpendicular to the surface on top of various sites: Top T, Hollow H, Bridge B and intermediate ones.

The more metallic atoms are involved, the stronger is the interaction.



#### Periodic (DFT) results obtained with CRYSTAL, cell-3, PBEsol, translations of parallel positions

For  $H_2$  parallel to the surface on top of various sites: Top T, Hollow H, Bridge B and intermediate ones.

The more stable situations correspond to positions of the center of mass of  $H_2$  on top of a metallic atom.



# Comparison of periodic (DFT) results obtained with CRYSTAL and cluster model (MRCI) $H_2@Ag(100)$

$( heta,\phi)$	$Z_p$ (Å)	$E_p(meV)$
$(0,0) - T_{\perp}$	3.0	-7 <mark>1.</mark> 81
(90,0) - BTB	2.6	-53.78
(90,45) - HTH	2.7	-54.18
$\mathrm{MRCI}:\mathrm{Ag}_{22}/\mathrm{H}_2$ - $\mathrm{T}_{\perp}$	3.0	-85.0
$MRCI : Ag_{22}/H_2 - BTB$	3.0	- <u>62.3</u>
$MRCI : Ag_{22}/H_2 - HTH$	3.5	-68.6
$EXP : Ag/H_2$		-32
$EXP : Ag/H_2$		-26

Exp: diffusion of  $H_2$  molecules on Ag surface(111)

#### Comparison of the results with CRYSTAL and VASP

CRYSTAL	
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Système	$\mathbf{Z}_p$ (Å)	$E_p(meV)$	$Z_p$ (Å)	$E_p(meV)$
TL	3.0	-7 <mark>1.</mark> 81	3.2	-65.31
BTB	2.6	-53.78	2.8	-61.39

VASP, with plane waves, can provide comparable results with CRYSTAL when using PBE + Grimme correction.





### Physisorption, chemisorption

## First layer interaction of H<sub>2</sub> with the (100) Cu surface

**Cluster model** 

Physisorption well requires longer range with Cu than with Ag



#### Parameters of $H_2$ /surface system



Molpro version 2010 : H.-J. Werner et P. Knowles www.tc.bham.ac.uk/molpro

#### Physisorption energy of $H_2$ (*a*) Cu

 $E_p = E_{min} - E_{ref}$ 

9-0	CCSD(T)	E <sub>p</sub> (meV)	Z <sub>p</sub> (Å)
	top	- 45.0	4.0
	btb	-8.0	4.5
↑Z	hth	-7.9	4.6

H-H distance remains at 0.74Å  $E_{exp} \sim -31 \text{ meV}$ , Andersson et al, RPB 1988  $\alpha_{para}(H_2) > \alpha_{perp}(H_2)$ 

#### Barrier and Chemisorption energies $H_2(a)Cu$

Approach	BTB		HTH	
Method	MRCI +Q	CCSD(T)	DFT*	CCSD(T)
Barrier	Z = 1.3 Å r <sub>(H-H)</sub> = 0.80 Å E = 0.6 eV	Z = 1.4 Å r <sub>(H-H)</sub> = 0.80 Å E = 0.4 eV		Z = 1.8 Å r <sub>(H-H)</sub> = 0.80 Å E = 0.3 eV
Chemisorptio n	Z = 1.0 Å r <sub>(H-H)</sub> = 2.5 Å E = -0.4 eV	Z = 1.0 Å r <sub>(H-H)</sub> = 2.5 Å E = -0.5 eV	Z = 1.0 Å r <sub>(H-H)</sub> = 2.5 Å E = -0.9eV (B3LYP) E = -1.0eV (PBE0) E = -0.47eV (WB97XD)	Z = 0.3 Å r <sub>(H-H)</sub> = 3.1 Å E = -0.7 eV
*19/1 pseudo 19/19 $F = -0.27 \text{ eV}$				

## Delocalisation correction by embedding the cluster

# Physisorption, barrier, chemisorption

#### Embedded cluster into a periodic system



To correct for the delocalization effect in the metal the cluster is embedded in a periodic system. **ONIOM Method** 

 $E_{HL/LH} = E_{HL}(cluster) - E_{LL}(cluster) + E_{LL}(Slab)$ 

Periodic code VASP: -Low level calculation (LL) DFT (PBE). -High level calculation CCSD(T) or MRCI+Q - In the slab calculation the unit cell is defined by the 22 atoms cluster surrounded by 5 layers of copper atoms..

#### 2D Potential energies $V(Z,r_{HH})$ , parallel approach



# Checking the accuracy of the physisorption well

# Rotational spectroscopy of physisorbed H<sub>2</sub>@Cu

#### Framework of the spectroscopic treatment

The H<sub>2</sub> molecule centre-of-mass is **constrained on the Z axis**, on top of the central Cu atom. An accurate description of the 4D interaction potential  $V(Z,r,\theta,\phi)$  is obtained with CCSD(T) calculation.

The  $r_{H-H}$  parameter can be fixed at the equilibrium geometry of  $H_2$  molecule for large Z values.  $H_2$  is considered as a rigid rotor.

The variations of V with the angle  $\phi$  are very small (<1cm<sup>-1</sup>) and are neglected.

The potential is strongly anharmonic and anisotropic with respect to Z and  $\theta$  variables.



#### Equation of the motion of the H<sub>2</sub> molecule

The motion of  $H_2$  on the surface can thus be solved with a 2D Hamiltonian, where the motion associated with the angle  $\phi$  - helicopter rotation above the surface – is represented by the quantum number *m*, a 'good' quantum number.

$$\hat{H}_{2D} = -\frac{1}{4m_H} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial Z^2} + \frac{1}{m_H r_0^2} \left[ -\frac{1}{\sin\theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \sin\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \frac{m^2}{\sin^2\theta} \right] + V_{2D}(Z,\theta)$$

Spectroscopic wavefunctions are represented, for the rotational motion, with associated Legendre functions, labelled with *m*.

$$\phi_{klm}(Z,\theta) = \chi_k(Z)\Theta_{lm}(\theta)$$

### Expansion of the $V_{2D}(Z,\theta)$ potential in the physisorption region

$$V_{2D}(Z,\theta) = V_0(Z) + \sin^2 \theta \left[ V_{\pi/2}(Z) - V_0(Z) + 2\cos^2 \theta \left( V_{\pi/4}(Z) - V_{\pi/2}(Z) - V_0(Z) \right) \right]$$

with  $V_{2D}(Z,\theta) = V_{2D}(Z,\pi-\theta)$ 

Analytic expansion of the van der Waals Z dependent term, developed in Morse type coordinate series

 $V(Z) = C_0(1 - y^2) + D_e y^2 + C_3(y^3 - y^2)$ 

2000 CC0 95200 CC0 257				
		$\theta = 0$	$\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$	$\theta = \frac{\pi}{4}$
	$Z_0(\text{\AA})$	3.9126	4.6515	4.2301
$y = 1 - \exp(-a(Z - Z_0))$	$a(\text{\AA}^{-1})$	0.92520	0.96568	0.79377
	$C_0(cm^{-1})$	0	293.873	197.189
	$D_e(cm^{-1})$	362.756	362.756	362.756
	$C_3(cm^{-1})$	39.424	4.266	-14.471

### Contour plot of the $V_{2D}(Z,\theta)$ potential on the physisorption well



#### Energies (in cm<sup>-1</sup>) of the first ro-vibrational levels (v for stretching, j for rotation $\theta$ , and m for $\phi$ )

	Energy	Assignment (v,j,m)
	m=0	
1	239.8	(0,0,0)
2	289.3	(1,0,0)
3	303.0	(0,1,0)
4	325.9	(2,0,0)
5	349.9	(3,0,0)
6	361.4	(4,0,0)
7	363.9	(5,0,0)
8	364.1	(1,1,0)
	m=1	
1	403.2	(0,1,1)
2	442.2	(1,1,1)
3	468.6	(2,1,1)
4	482.5	(3,1,1)
	601.0	(0,2,1)
	650.3	(1,2,1)

# Contour plots of ro-vibrational wavefunctions m=0, no-helicopter rotation of H<sub>2</sub>



**Contour** plots of ro-vibrational wavefunctions m=1, including helicopter rotation of H<sub>2</sub>



#### **Comparison calculation/experiment**

Measurements of Electron-Energy-Loss Spectroscopy EELS, on Cu(100) surface, showing j=0 $\rightarrow$ 2 rotational transitions in H<sub>2</sub>

Conditions : 10<sup>-11</sup> Torr and T~10K. 3eV electron beam

Transition	E <sub>cal</sub> (meV)	E <sub>exp</sub> (meV)
(000)→(021)	44	44
(000)→(121)	51	52
(000)→(221)	56	58



K. Svensson, J. Bellman, A. Hellman, and S. Andersson PHYSICAL REVIEW B 71, 245402 (2005)

### Conclusions

 $\checkmark$  It is still a challenge to have a full description of the interaction of a molecule with a surface for all distances within one given method. So far, with DFT methods, no functional is able to cover the whole range of distances and the long distances are difficult to obtain when metals are involved

✓ Short and intermediate range, interesting for reactivity on surface and catalysis, can be described with periodic approaches or cluster representation with embedding correction for more accurate description of the processes.

✓ Long range interaction, needed for non reactive dynamics on surfaces, multilayers problems, nano-fluidic etc.., can be approached by cluster representation using highly correlated wavefunctions. Spectroscopy can be a good tool to check the performance of the techniques.

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#### Basis sets

Stuttgart group's ECP:

2 levels of description:

- Central atoms of the 2 external layers of the cluster : 19 explicit electrons Cu1 : [Ne]3s<sup>2</sup>3p<sup>6</sup>3d<sup>10</sup>4s<sup>1</sup> (ECP10MDF)
- Other atoms of the cluster: 1 explicit electron Cu2 : [Ar]4s<sup>1</sup> (ECP28SDF)



Basis sets:

- Cu1: basis corresponding to the 19 electrons ECP (s, p, d functions)
- Cu2: same basis but with only s and p functions
- H atoms: aug-cc-pVTZ (s, p, d)

(We use the same basis sets for all levels of theory)

Second layer interaction of  $H_2$ with the Cu (100) surface

Physisorption



#### Physisorption $H_2/H-H-Cu(100)$

CCSD(T)			
E (meV)	-24.4	-20.7	-68.6
	(-8)*	(-8)*	(-45)*
Z (Å)	3.9	4.0	3.7
	(4.5)*	(4.5)*	(4.0)*

\*Physisorption of the first layer First H<sub>2</sub> molecule fixed at the btb minimum Larger interaction in the second layer, closer approach

[1] C. Houriez, E. Bernard, F. Göltl, Ph. Sautet, M. Guitou et G. Chambaud (RCTF – Marseille, 07 – 2012)