A density functional theory study on NO-H₂O coadsorption on Cu(111)

Thanh Ngoc Pham,^{1*} Yuji Hamamoto,^{1,2} Kouji Inagaki,^{1,2} Ikutaro Hamada,^{1,2} and Yoshitada Morikawa^{1,2,3}

¹Department of Precision Engineering, Osaka University, 2-1 Yamada-Oka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan, ²Elements Strategy Initiative for Catalysts and Batteries (ESICB), Kyoto University, Katsura, Kyoto 615-8520, Japan.

³Research Center for Ultra-Precision Science and Technology, Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University, 2-1 Yamada-oka, Suita 565-0871, Osaka, Japan

*Email: <u>thanh@cp.prec.eng.osaka-u.ac.jp</u>

I. Introduction

III. Results and discussion

- The complex formation of nitric oxide (NO) with some common gases in three-way catalyst environment (e.g. NH₃, H₂O. etc.) is important for the selectivity of the NO reduction reaction.
- Recently, the formation of NO-H₂O complex on Cu(111) is observed experimentally [1].
- It found that NO-H₂O interaction is stronger than NO-NO and H₂O-H₂O interactions, leading to the formation of a mixed NO-H2O complex on Cu(111)
 [1]
- To shed light on the experimental observation of NO-H₂O/Cu(111), we

A. NO and H₂O clusters on Cu(111)



B. NO-H₂O co-adsorption on Cu(111)



NO and H₂O tend to form small clusters upon individual adsorption



studied the adsorption of small mNO nH_2O complexes (n = 1 - 4, m = 1 - 4) on Cu(111) [2]

[1] H. Koshida et al, J. Phys. Chem C **122**, 8894 (2018)[2] T. N. Pham et al. Phys Rev Mat. Under review

II. Computational details

- DFT with STATE (Simulation Tool for Atom TEchnology) package. [3]
- Plane-wave basis set with cut-off energies of 36 and 400 Ry for wave functions and augmented charge density.
- K-points: 5 x 5 x 1
- Eight-layer slab model for Cu(111) with a vacuum thickness of 16 Å

 $E_{\text{ads}}(n\text{NO}-m\text{H}_2\text{O}) = E_{n\text{NO}-m\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{Cu}}^{\text{tot}} - [E_{\text{Cu}}^{\text{tot}} + nE_{\text{NO}}^{\text{tot}} + mE_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^{\text{tot}}]$

$$\frac{4}{3}(\text{NO})_3 + \frac{1}{2}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6 \to n\text{NO}-m\text{H}_2\text{O} + \frac{4-n}{3}(\text{NO})_3 + \frac{3-m}{6}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6 \qquad \Delta E$$

C. Intermolecular interaction



- NO-H₂O complexes are more stable than (NO)₃ and (H₂O)₆.
 H-bond saturation leads to a
- more stable mixed complexstructure even though theirbinding strength is weaker

	E _b /eV	Δq(NO)/e	Δq(H ₂ O)/e
NO monomer	0	-0.60	
H ₂ O monomer	0		0.02
NO-H ₂ O	-0.222	-0.77	0.02

 Δq : effective Bader charge

 $\Delta q = Z - q,$

Where Z and q are total valance and Baderelectrons

 $E_{\rm b}(n{\rm NO}-m{\rm H}_2{\rm O}) = E_{n{\rm NO}-m{\rm H}_2{\rm O}/{\rm Cu}}^{\rm tot} - nE_{{\rm NO}/{\rm Cu}}^{\rm tot} - mE_{{\rm H}_2{\rm O}/{\rm Cu}}^{\rm tot} + (n+m-1)E_{{\rm Cu}}^{\rm tot},$

[3] Y. Morikawa, Phys. Rev. B 51, 802, (1995)

IV. Conclusions

- We confirm the NO-H₂O interaction is stronger than NO-NO and H₂O-H₂O interaction.
- NO-H₂O interaction mainly arises from direct hydrogen bondings between H₂O and negatively charged NO by backdonation process.

 $\Delta \rho_{\text{NO-H}_2\text{O}} = \rho_{\text{NO-H}_2\text{O/Cu}} - \rho_{\text{NO/Cu}} - \rho_{\text{H}_2\text{O/Cu}} + \rho_{\text{Cu}}$

H-bond (electrostatic attraction between H₂O and negatively charged NO) mainly stabilizes the co-adsorption and enhances the back donation to $2\pi^*$ orbitals

H-bond (HO-H···ON) Mainly electrostatic attraction (major)



Schematic for NO-H₂O interaction



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