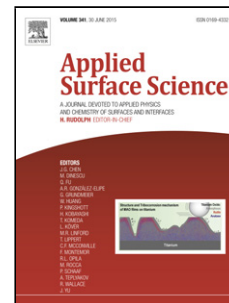


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Toward Improving CO₂ Dissociation and Conversion to Methanol via CO-Hydrogenation on Cu(100) Surface by Introducing Embedded Co Nanoclusters as Promoters: A DFT Study

Mei Qiu ^a, Huilin Tao ^a, Yali Li ^a, Yi Li ^{a,b}, Kaining Ding ^a, Xin Huang ^a, Wenkai Chen ^{a,b}, Yongfan Zhang ^{a,b,*}

^a State Key Laboratory of Photocatalysis on Energy and Environment, College of Chemistry, Fuzhou University, Fuzhou, Fujian, 350116, China

^b Fujian Provincial Key Laboratory of Theoretical and Computational Chemistry, Xiamen, Fujian, 361005, China

* To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: zhangyf@fzu.edu.cn

Highlights

- Chemisorption behavior of CO₂ is sensitive to the amount of cobalt atoms, which are the sites to activate CO₂ on Cu(100) surface.
- A V-shaped variation of the energy barriers is predicted for the CO₂ dissociation on different Co_n/Cu(100) surfaces.
- The minimum energy barrier of CO₂ decomposition is obtained on the Co₄/Cu(100) bimetallic surface.
- Introducing Co clusters on Cu(100) surface can enhance the stability of key intermediates for methanol synthesis.

Abstract The dissociation and hydrogenation of CO₂ on Cu(100) surfaces that are modified by introducing Co nanoclusters with different size into the top layer have been investigated using density functional theory method. Our results show that on all surfaces the Co atoms are the sites for the adsorption of CO₂, and in the early stage of introducing Co dopant, the chemisorption behavior of CO₂ is sensitive to the amount of Co atom. According to the predicted pathways for the dissociation of CO₂ to CO, it is interesting that the energy barrier decreases first and then increases as more Co atoms are dispersed on the surface, forming a “V” shape. The minimum energy barrier of CO₂ decomposition is predicted on the Cu(100) surface that contains four Co atoms aggregated together on the top layer, namely Co₄/Cu(100) bimetallic surface. The most favorable reaction

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