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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

A Computational Study on Interactions of Ni- and Pt-Doped Boron nitride nano tubes with NH₃ in Presence and Absence of Electric Fields

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Abstract

The density functional theory (DFT) has been used to study the surface interactions of pristine, Ni- and Pt-doped (4,4), (5,5), (7,7) and (8,8) boron nitride nanotubes (BNNTs) with ammonia (NH₃) molecules. To verify the impact of external electric field (EF) on the surface interactions between the nanotubes and adsorbed NH₃ molecules, in this work, the NH₃/(4,4) BNNTs adsorbed complex system under an applied EF with strength of 3×10^{-2} a.u. and 4×10^{-2} a.u., along the z axis (perpendicular to the tube axis) has been investigated. It was shown that after doping of Ni and Pt atoms, the primary symmetry of BNNTs was decreased, enhancing the chemical activity of BNNTs towards NH₃ molecules and subsequent resulting in dramatic changes of their electronic properties. Our overall results indicated that, in addition to the Ni and Pt doping, the applied external EF could enhance the sensitivity of BNNTs toward NH₃ molecule, which can be considered as a new strategy of sensor fabrication.

Keywords: Boron nitride nanotube, Density functional theory, Electric field, Surface interactions

1. Introduction

Boron nitride nanotubes (BNNTs), a polymorph of boron nitride with the structure analogous to carbon nanotubes (CNTs), have attracted considerable research effort over recent years [1-2]. In comparison with CNTs, BNNTs with uniform electronic properties show semiconductor behavior with wide band gaps, relative chemical inertness and decent heat resistance [3]. In addition to numerous applications in nano electronic devices, BNNTs with high chemical and

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