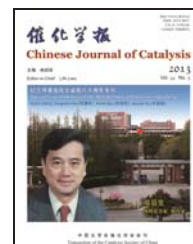




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A first-principles study of the structure, electronic properties, and oxygen binding of FeO/Pt(111) and FeO₂/Pt(111)

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ABSTRACT

The ultrathin oxide films of bilayer FeO and trilayer FeO₂ superstructures on Pt(111) with periodicity of $(\sqrt{84}\times\sqrt{84})R10.9^\circ$ are studied in detail by density functional theory, and the corresponding structural properties, electronic properties, and oxygen activities in different domains (FCC, HCP, and TOP) are calculated. It is found that for both superstructures, the in-plane lattice constants slightly increase in the order FCC < HCP < TOP. The calculated order of the surface corrugation (O-Fe rumpling) is FCC > HCP > TOP for FeO/Pt(111), and FCC > TOP > HCP for FeO₂/Pt(111). The surface electrostatic potentials and the binding energies of the surface oxygen atoms are found to follow the same order as the surface corrugation. There is net charge transfer from the supported FeO film to the Pt substrate for FeO/Pt(111), and the calculated oxidation state of iron is +2.36. In contrast, for FeO₂/Pt(111), there is charge transfer from the Pt substrate to the supported FeO₂ film, and the calculated oxidation state of iron is +2.95 (ferric state). Compared with Pt(111), the change of the surface work function of FeO/Pt(111) is negligible, while it is 1.24 eV for FeO₂/Pt(111). The role of the surface dipole of the supported oxide film and the charge transfer of the ultrathin oxide film are discussed.

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1. Introduction

Ultrathin oxide films grown on metal substrates have attracted considerable attention in past decades because of their unique structural and electronic properties, and their potential applications in many areas [1–10]. Depending on the preparation conditions, films of several atomic layers can form complex superstructures that are completely different from the bulk materials [11–19]. These structures have significantly different surface geometries, stoichiometries and electronic properties. As a type of reverse model system and promising new material, metal oxide thin films, e.g., ZnO, MgO, TiO₂, and NiO, on metal substrates have been extensively studied in surface science

research as electronic devices and as heterogeneous catalysts.

Among ultrathin films, iron oxide films grown on Pt have attracted special interest, especially in their surface structures, magnetic properties, and model catalytic reactions [11,12,17,18,20–30]. Well-defined bilayers of FeO on Pt(111) (FeO/Pt) have been prepared in ultra-high vacuum (UHV) chambers and carefully characterized by scanning tunneling microscopy (STM) and low-energy electron diffraction (LEED). At one monolayer load of Fe, different concomitant FeO/Pt(111) structures, such as $(\sqrt{84}\times\sqrt{84})R10.9^\circ$ and $(\sqrt{91}\times\sqrt{91})R5.2^\circ$, have been observed [11,12]. The superstructures lead to the formation of large surface Moiré patterns in STM images because of the lattice mismatch between the oxide

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film and substrate. The different domains in the Moiré pattern can have significantly different structural and electronic properties because of the variation of the registration between the grown thin film and metal substrate. Moreover, these domains affect the corresponding activity of exposed surface oxygen atoms and chemical reactions on the surfaces. These structures are sensitive to the preparation conditions, especially the temperature and the oxygen partial pressure [18]. For example, bilayer FeO is further oxidized at elevated oxygen potential, and there is evidence for trilayer O-Fe-O film formation (FeO₂/Pt(111)) [22,31].

Despite extensive experimental studies, the computational study of these superstructures is prohibitive because of the large supercell of the Moiré pattern [20,21,32,33]. This prevents the microscopic understanding of the function of these ultrathin oxide films. It is still unclear how the local registry of the different domains affects the surface corrugation, electronic properties (oxidation state of iron and the work function change), and oxygen activity. In particular, how the properties and oxygen activity change when the polar FeO/Pt(111) surface is oxidized to nonpolar FeO₂/Pt(111). To address these questions, we report a detailed density functional theory study of FeO/Pt(111) and FeO₂/Pt(111) based on the realistic ($\sqrt{84}\times\sqrt{84}$)R10.9° superstructure found by experiment. The structural properties, electronic properties, and oxygen activity of FeO/Pt(111) and FeO₂/Pt(111) are investigated and analyzed in detail.

2. Computational details

Spin-polarized density functional theory calculations were performed using the Vienna ab-initio simulation package (VASP) [34,35] with all-electron projected augmented wave (PAW) potentials [36,37] and the Perdew-Wang 91 (PW91) [38] exchange-correlation functional. The wave function was expanded by plane wave with kinetic cutoff of 400 eV and density cutoff of 800 eV. During iterative diagonalization of the Kohn-Sham Hamiltonian, Gaussian smearing of the population of partial occupancies with a width of 0.1 eV was used to improve the convergence, and the total energy was extrapolated to absolute zero. The FeO/Pt(111) surface was simulated by the ($\sqrt{84}\times\sqrt{84}$)R10.9°-FeO/Pt(111) superstructure from experiment [11], with a FeO film consisting of 67 oxygen and iron atoms and an oxygen overlayer of hexagonal symmetry supported on Pt(111)-($\sqrt{84}\times\sqrt{84}$) with three layer thickness. The FeO₂/Pt(111) surface was constructed by adding an extra 67 O atoms between the Fe and Pt atoms in such a way to form O-Fe-O fcc stacking with the same hexagonal symmetry and ($\sqrt{84}\times\sqrt{84}$)R10.9°-FeO₂/Pt(111) superstructure. Only the Γ point was considered for surface Brillouin zone sampling because of the large superstructure for both surfaces. The correction of the on-site Coulomb repulsion was made for iron using the DFT+U method [39] with the well tested values of $U = 4$ and $J = 1$ from the literature [20,32,33,40]. The initial magnetic structures of FeO/Pt(111) and FeO₂/Pt(111) were set to be antiferromagnetic. During the structure relaxation, all of the atoms were allowed to fully relax until the residual force was

less than 0.3 eV/nm, except for the bottom two Pt layers, which were fixed at the bulk truncated positions. Dipole corrections were applied to minimize the artificial interaction through the vacuum due to the periodicity. The work function was calculated by the difference between the vacuum energy level and the Fermi level. The oxidation states of the O, Fe, and Pt atoms of interest and electron transfer were analyzed based on Bader charges [41,42]. To obtain the formal oxidation states, the calculated Bader charges were normalized based on the following bulk reference: Fe in body-centered-cubic (bcc) as Fe⁰, Fe in type-II antiferromagnetic (AFM-II) FeO as Fe²⁺ (ferrous state), Fe in α -Fe₂O₃ as Fe³⁺ (ferric state).

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Structure properties

The FeO/Pt(111) superstructure has been extensively studied both experimentally and theoretically. Because of the lattice mismatch between FeO(111) (0.310 nm) and Pt(111) (0.277 nm), a Moiré superstructure of ($\sqrt{84}\times\sqrt{84}$)R10.9°-FeO/Pt(111) with periodicity of 2.54 nm forms (Fig. 1(a)). There are three domains inside the superstructure, denoted as the FCC, HCP, and TOP domains based on the adsorption site of the central interfacial Fe atoms on the Pt(111) surface. The FeO₂/Pt(111) superstructure has not yet been well characterized. As an approximation, a trilayer O-Fe-O film on Pt(111) was constructed based on ($\sqrt{84}\times\sqrt{84}$)R10.9°-FeO/Pt(111), in which an additional O layer was intercalated between the Fe layer and Pt layer to form O-Fe-O fcc stacking with the same hexagonal symmetry. The same FCC, HCP, and TOP domains are inherited from the FeO₂/Pt(111) structure and used to distinguish the iron locations on the Pt substrate. All of the Fe cations are 6-fold coordinated by O anions, and all of the O atoms have three Fe neighbors.

The average of the calculated in-plane lattice constants (\bar{a}) of FeO and FeO₂ per cell are the same (0.310 nm). The O-Fe

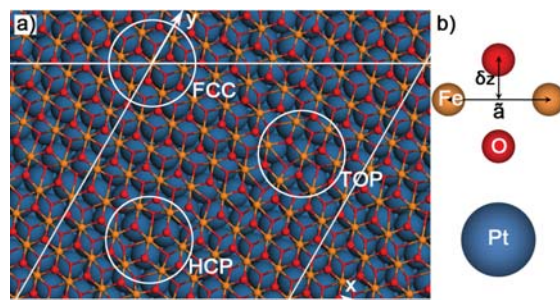


Fig. 1. (a) Schematic structure (top) of FeO/Pt(111) and FeO₂/Pt(111) superstructures with periodicity of ($\sqrt{84}\times\sqrt{84}$)R10.9° indicated by a white parallelogram. The blue, red (large), red (small), and yellow spheres (color online) represent Pt, O (surface), O (interface), and Fe atoms, respectively. The FeO/Pt(111) superstructure can be obtained by removing the small red spheres (interface oxygen atoms). The FCC, HCP, and TOP domains defined by the adsorption site of the central Fe atoms on Pt(111) are indicated by the white circles including the central seven iron cations. (b) Defined structural parameters of the in-plane lattice constant \bar{a} and the surface O-Fe rumpling δ_z (side view) are indicated.

surface rumpling (δ_z), which indicates the extent of the surface corrugation, is 0.067 nm for FeO/Pt(111) (Table 1), and the pronounced rumpling leads to the FeO/Pt(111) bilayer being polar. For FeO₂/Pt(111), δ_z is 0.074 nm, although the larger surface rumpling does not lead to the larger polarity of the FeO₂/Pt(111) interface because of the symmetric O-Fe-O trilayer structure. The spatial separation (d) between the grown oxide film and the Pt substrate is 0.234 nm for FeO/Pt and 0.196 nm for FeO₂/Pt, and the calculated height difference between FeO/Pt(111) and FeO₂/Pt(111) is 0.087 nm.

The heterogeneity of the superstructures for both the bilayer and trilayer films were determined from the domain-averaged structural parameters using the central seven FeO or FeO₂ units of each domain, and are shown in Table 1. For FeO/Pt, the in-plane optimized lattice constants are 0.300, 0.311, and 0.316 nm for the FCC, HCP, and TOP domains, respectively. The corresponding O-Fe rumplings of the three domains are 0.077, 0.068, and 0.059 nm, and the order of the corrugation is FCC > HCP > TOP. The difference of the O-Fe rumpling between the three domains is less than 0.018 nm, and the smaller the in-plane lattice constants, the larger the O-Fe rumpling (corrugation). The calculated spatial separations (d) between the FeO film and the Pt substrate are 0.222, 0.228, and 0.248 nm for the FCC, HCP, and TOP domains, respectively. These results agree well with our previous calculation [32]. The smaller separation for the FCC and HCP domains indicates a stronger interfacial interaction, which is due to stronger local coordination between interfacial Fe and the Pt substrate.

For FeO₂/Pt, the optimized in-plane lattice constants are 0.299, 0.319, and 0.329 nm for the FCC, HCP, and TOP domains, respectively. The corresponding surface O-Fe rumpling values are 0.084, 0.041, and 0.051 nm, and the order of the corrugation is FCC > TOP > HCP, which is different from FeO/Pt. Compared with FeO/Pt, although there is a correlation between the in-plane lattice constants and the surface corrugation, the surface corrugation of the FeO₂/Pt surface is larger. In particular, the difference of the surface O-Fe rumpling between the three domains is 0.043 nm, compared with 0.018 nm for FeO/Pt. The spatial separations of the FeO₂ trilayer from the Pt substrate are 0.201, 0.196, and 0.180 nm for the FCC, HCP, and TOP domains, respectively. Compared with FeO/Pt(111), the order of the spatial separations is reversed. This is because of the presence of interface oxygen atoms between Fe and Pt that sit on top of Pt atom for the FCC domain, which increases the inter-layer spacing between the Fe and Pt atoms. These different structural characteristics of FeO/Pt and FeO₂/Pt affect the cor-

Table 2

Calculated cell-averaged electronic properties of FeO/Pt(111) and FeO₂/Pt(111) including the work function change $\Delta\Phi$ (in eV) with respect to Pt(111), surface Pt and Fe charge states (e), and the calculated interfacial adhesion energy E_{adh} (eV/Fe) between FeO (or FeO₂) and Pt(111).

	$\Delta\Phi$	Pt charge	Fe charge	E_{adh}
FeO/Pt	-0.02	-0.27	+2.36	1.40
FeO ₂ /Pt	1.24	+0.26	+2.95	1.66

responding electronic properties and oxygen activity, which will be described below.

3.2. Electronic properties

We first calculated the normalized Bader charges of iron for both surfaces (Table 2). For FeO/Pt, the average calculated Bader charge of iron was +2.36. This means that the apparent oxidation state of iron is between the ferrous and ferric state. The higher oxidation state than the ferrous state for the FeO stoichiometry is due to overall net charge transfer from the interfacial Fe to the Pt substrate of 0.27 $|e|$ per surface Pt atom. This can be rationalized by the high electronegativity of Pt compared with Fe. For FeO₂/Pt, the calculated Bader charge is +2.95, which is close to the ferric state. Although the higher oxidation state than FeO/Pt is consistent with the higher O-Fe ratio, the oxidation state is still less than +4, as is expected from the stoichiometry of FeO₂. Further analysis reveals that the reason for a net charge transfer of 0.26 $|e|$ per surface Pt atom from Pt to the supported FeO₂ is reverse charge transfer because of the higher electronegativity of the interfacial O than Pt.

The calculated work functions ($\Delta\Phi$) with respect to Pt(111) are also shown in Table 2. The $\Delta\Phi$ values are -0.02 eV for FeO/Pt(111) and 1.24 eV for FeO₂/Pt(111). It has been reported that ultra-thin oxide films can greatly influence the surface work function because of interplay of the charge transfer and the dipole moment of surface relaxation induced by the formation of the interface bonds [43,44]. For FeO/Pt(111), the net charge transfer from FeO to Pt would induce a dipole moment away from the substrate and decreases the work function. However, the O-Fe rumpling (0.067 nm) would generate an opposite dipole moment and increase the work function. These two factors would cancel each other and lead to a small change in the work function for FeO/Pt(111) with respect to Pt(111). In contrast, for FeO₂/Pt(111), the overall net charge transfer from Pt to FeO₂ would induce a dipole moment pointing towards the substrate and increase the work function, and there

Table 1

Calculated structural properties of FeO/Pt(111) and FeO₂/Pt(111) superstructures with periodicity of $(\sqrt{84}\times\sqrt{84})R10.9^\circ$.

Domain	FeO/Pt(111)				FeO ₂ /Pt(111)			
	\bar{a}/nm	d/nm	δ_z/nm	V_z/eV	\bar{a}/nm	d/nm	δ_z/nm	V_z/eV
Average	0.310	0.234	0.067	5.77	0.310	0.196	0.074	6.89
FCC	0.300	0.222	0.077	5.99	0.299	0.201	0.084	7.15
HCP	0.311	0.228	0.068	5.78	0.319	0.196	0.041	6.64
TOP	0.316	0.248	0.059	5.51	0.329	0.180	0.051	6.72

\bar{a} is the in-plane FeO(or FeO₂) lattice parameter; d is the spatial separation between the bottom of the supported oxide film and Pt(111) substrate; δ_z is the surface O-Fe rumpling; V_z is the surface electrostatic potential at a height of 0.44 nm from the topmost oxygen (referencing the corresponding Fermi level). The first row is the cell-averaged value for the whole superstructure, and the domain-averaged results are given below.

is no significant polarity for the symmetrical O-Fe-O trilayer on Pt. Therefore, it is mainly the charge transfer that is responsible for the large increase in the work function of FeO₂/Pt(111).

Further insight into the different electronic properties of FeO/Pt(111) and FeO₂/Pt(111) can be obtained from the surface electrostatic potential, in particular the dependence on the domains of FeO/Pt and FeO₂/Pt. The corresponding electrostatic potentials V_z (the Fermi level is the zero value) at the height of 0.44 nm from the topmost surface O atoms are on average 5.77 eV for FeO/Pt(111) and 6.89 eV for FeO₂/Pt(111). The smaller electrostatic potential for FeO/Pt is due to its lower surface work function, as discussed above.

The spatial-resolved contour plots of the calculated V_z for FeO/Pt and FeO₂/Pt are shown in Fig. 2. For FeO/Pt (Fig. 2(a)), three distinct domains can be seen. The FCC domain has the highest electrostatic potential (green) and the TOP domain has the lowest (blue). The domain-averaged V_z values (Table 1) are 5.99 eV (FCC) > 5.78 eV (HCP) > 5.51 eV (TOP). The order of V_z in the three domains is the same as that of the surface corrugation. However, the contour plot of the calculated V_z of FeO₂/Pt(111) (Fig. 2(b)) is slightly different. The FCC domain has the highest electrostatic potential and the largest area, while the HCP and TOP domains have a lower but similar electrostatic potential. The corresponding domain-averaged V_z values are 7.15 eV (FCC) > 6.72 eV (TOP) > 6.64 eV (HCP). It is interesting to note that the order of V_z is again the same as the order of the corrugation. These results clearly show that the surface corrugation affects the surface electrostatic potential.

3.3. Oxygen activity

The distinct structural and electronic properties of FeO/Pt and FeO₂/Pt affect the oxygen activity and the corresponding stability of the ultrathin oxide films. Here, the oxygen activity is measured by the differentiate binding energy of oxygen with respect to the oxygen molecule in the gas phase (E_b):

$$E_b = E_0 - E_1 - 0.5 \times E(O_2)$$

where E_0 , E_1 , and $E(O_2)$ are the total energies of FeO/Pt(111) (or FeO₂/Pt(111)), the corresponding structure with oxygen vacancy defect, and O₂ in gas phase, respectively. To save on computational cost, no structural relaxations were performed for the defective structures, and the calculated results are shown in Fig. 3. For FeO/Pt(111), the calculated domain-averaged differentiate binding energies are -3.08 eV/O

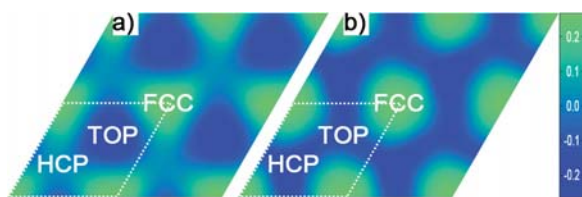


Fig. 2. Contour plots of the electrostatic potential V_z (in eV) of FeO/Pt(111) (a) and FeO₂/Pt(111) (b) at an average height of 0.44 nm from the surface oxygen layer. The reference is the cell-averaged electrostatic potential (5.77 eV for FeO/Pt(111) and 6.89 eV for FeO₂/Pt(111)). The corresponding FCC, HCP, and TOP domains are indicated.

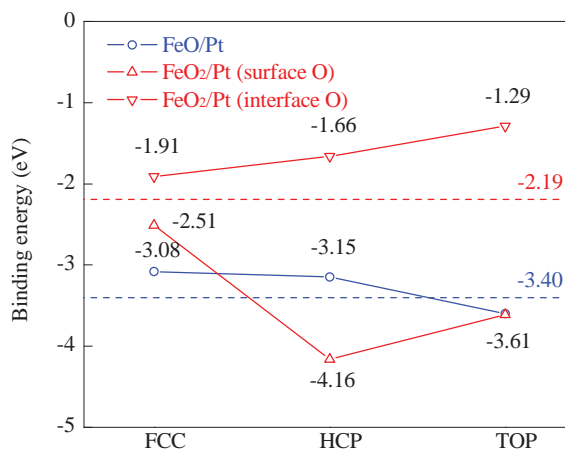


Fig. 3. Calculated differentiate binding energies (in eV) of oxygen of FeO/Pt(111) (blue circles), and surface oxygen (red up-triangle) and interface oxygen (red down-triangle) of FeO₂/Pt(111) for the different domains. The blue (FeO/Pt) and red (FeO₂/Pt) dashed lines (color online) indicate the cell average values. The numerical results are also shown.

(FCC), -3.15 eV/O (HCP), and -3.60 eV/O (TOP). The cell-averaged binding energy is -3.40 eV/O. All of the binding energies are energetically favorable, as expected from the high activity of iron. The order of the oxygen activity (FCC > HCP > TOP) follows the same order as the surface corrugation. This can be explained by larger surface corrugation (larger O-Fe rumpling) leading to larger polarity and lateral repulsion, which results in smaller differentiate binding energy (higher activity).

For FeO₂/Pt(111), the calculated differentiate binding energies of the surface oxygen are -2.51 eV/O (FCC), -4.16 eV/O (HCP), and -3.61 eV/O (TOP). The order of the oxygen activity (FCC > TOP > HCP) again follows the same order as the surface corrugation. The calculated differentiate binding energies for the interfacial oxygen atoms are -1.91 eV/O (FCC), -1.66 eV/O (HCP), and -1.29 eV/O (TOP), which are all much smaller than those of the corresponding surface oxygen atoms. The weaker binding of the interface oxygen is due to the additional deformation cost for the intercalation of oxygen between Fe and Pt. The cell-averaged binding energy is -2.19 eV/O, which is much weaker than that of FeO/Pt(111). The calculated interfacial adhesion energy between FeO and Pt(111) is 1.40 eV per Fe atom, whereas for FeO₂/Pt(111) it is 1.66 eV per Fe atom (Table 2). Although both show significant interfacial adhesion, the nature of the bonding is different: for FeO/Pt(111), it originates from the Fe-Pt interaction, while for FeO₂/Pt(111), it originates from the O-Pt interaction.

To oxidize FeO/Pt(111) to FeO₂/Pt(111) under the higher oxygen chemical potential,

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_O &= 0.5 \times (E(O_2) + \Delta\mu_{O_2}(T, p^{\circ}) + k_B T \ln(p_{O_2}/p^{\circ})) \\ &= 0.5 \times E(O_2) + \Delta\mu_O(T, p_{O_2}), \end{aligned}$$

It requires the corresponding Gibbs free energy of formation $\Delta G(\text{FeO}_2/\text{Pt})$, referring to FeO/Pt to be exothermic [45,46].

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta G(\text{FeO}_2/\text{Pt}) &\approx (E(\text{FeO}_2/\text{Pt}) - E(\text{FeO}/\text{Pt}) - \\ &0.5 \times N \times E(O_2) - N \times \Delta\mu_O(T, p_{O_2}))/A, \end{aligned}$$

where $E(\text{FeO}_2/\text{Pt})$, $E(\text{FeO}/\text{Pt})$, and $E(O_2)$ are the total energies

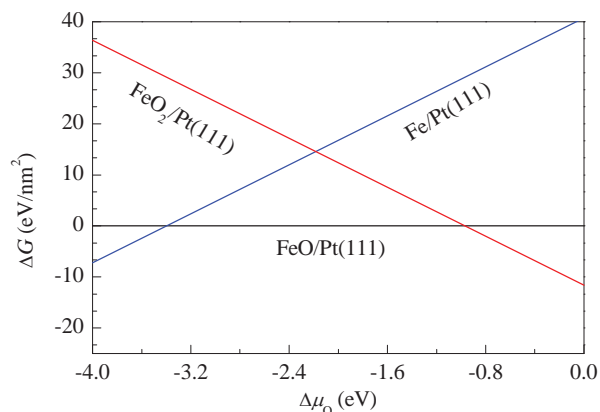


Fig. 4. Calculated Gibbs free energy of formation of $\text{FeO}_2/\text{Pt}(111)$ (red line) and $\text{Fe}/\text{Pt}(111)$ (blue line) with respect to $\text{FeO}/\text{Pt}(111)$ (black line) plotted against the oxygen chemical potential $\Delta\mu_{\text{O}}$.

of FeO_2/Pt , FeO/Pt , and O_2 from DFT, N is the number of extra oxygen atoms added in the FeO/Pt superstructure, and A is the corresponding surface area. Under high temperature or low oxygen partial pressure, FeO on $\text{Pt}(111)$ decomposes to metallic Fe when the corresponding Gibbs free energy of formation ($\Delta G(\text{Fe}/\text{Pt})$) is exothermic.

$$\Delta G(\text{Fe}/\text{Pt}) \approx (E(\text{Fe}/\text{Pt}) - E(\text{FeO}/\text{Pt}) + 0.5 \times N \times E(\text{O}_2) + N \times \Delta\mu_{\text{O}}(T, p_{\text{O}_2}))/A,$$

where $E(\text{Fe}/\text{Pt})$ is the total energy of the optimized $\text{Fe}/\text{Pt}(111)$ surface without the presence of the oxygen overlayer of $\text{FeO}/\text{Pt}(111)$.

The calculated $\Delta G(\text{FeO}_2/\text{Pt})$ and $\Delta G(\text{Fe}/\text{Pt})$ values plotted against the oxygen chemical potential ($\Delta\mu_{\text{O}}$) are shown in Fig. 4. From this figure, it can be determined that FeO/Pt is the most favorable in a relatively large range of $\Delta\mu_{\text{O}}$ from -3.40 to -0.97 eV. When $\Delta\mu_{\text{O}} \geq -0.97$ eV, FeO/Pt will be oxidized to FeO_2/Pt . When $\Delta\mu_{\text{O}}$ is less than -3.40 eV, FeO will decompose to Fe/Pt , and the metallic Fe will further diffuse towards the subsurface region. Indeed, it has been found by experiment [22] that under 2000 Pa of O_2 at 450 K (equivalent to $\Delta\mu_{\text{O}} \approx -0.51$ eV), the pre-prepared $\text{FeO}/\text{Pt}(111)$ film oxidized to an ordered O-rich film. Although the structure of the O-rich film remains, it was speculated that a O-Fe-O trilayer structure formed on $\text{Pt}(111)$. This is supported by the present work. The STM line scan found that the apparent height of the O-rich film was 0.065 nm higher than that of $\text{FeO}/\text{Pt}(111)$, which is close to the calculated height difference of 0.087 nm between $\text{FeO}_2/\text{Pt}(111)$ and $\text{FeO}/\text{Pt}(111)$. Moreover, the oxygen chemical potential of -0.51 eV applied to form the O-rich film is already larger than that predicted from the calculation (-0.97 eV) required for the formation of $\text{FeO}_2/\text{Pt}(111)$. Thermal desorption spectra (TDS) of $\text{FeO}/\text{Pt}(111)$ [22] found that there was a single O_2 desorption peak at 1170 K for the FeO film, whereas for the O-rich film there were two peaks at 840 and 1190 K. The two desorption peaks can be attributed to the interface oxygen having a weaker binding energy than the surface oxygen of $\text{FeO}_2/\text{Pt}(111)$.

4. Conclusions

A systematic DFT study of bilayer $\text{FeO}/\text{Pt}(111)$ and trilayer

$\text{FeO}_2/\text{Pt}(111)$ was performed based on the realistic superstructures found by experiment. It is found that the two ultrathin oxide films have distinct structural properties, electronic properties, and oxygen activity, which sensitively depend on the registries with the Pt substrate. For $\text{FeO}/\text{Pt}(111)$, the order of the surface corrugation for the different domains is $\text{FCC} > \text{HCP} > \text{TOP}$, whereas it is $\text{FCC} > \text{TOP} > \text{HCP}$ for $\text{FeO}_2/\text{Pt}(111)$. Compared with $\text{FeO}/\text{Pt}(111)$, $\text{FeO}_2/\text{Pt}(111)$ shows more pronounced surface corrugation. The surface corrugation affects not only the local electrostatic potentials but also the corresponding oxygen binding energies: the larger the surface corrugation, the higher the electrostatic potential/the weaker the oxygen binding. There is a net charge transfer from FeO to Pt for $\text{FeO}/\text{Pt}(111)$, and the corresponding oxidation state of iron is slightly higher than the ferrous state. The polarity of the supported FeO bilayer is opposite to the dipole from the charge transfer, and this results in a negligible change of the surface work function of $\text{FeO}/\text{Pt}(111)$ with respect to $\text{Pt}(111)$. In contrast, for the nonpolar FeO_2 trilayer on $\text{Pt}(111)$, there is charge transfer from Pt to the supported FeO_2 film. This generates a ferric state of iron in $\text{FeO}_2/\text{Pt}(111)$, and significantly increases the surface work function. The interplay between the polarity of the supported ultrathin oxide films and the charge transfer with respect to the metal substrates and its influence on the surface electronic properties are highlighted.

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Graphical Abstract

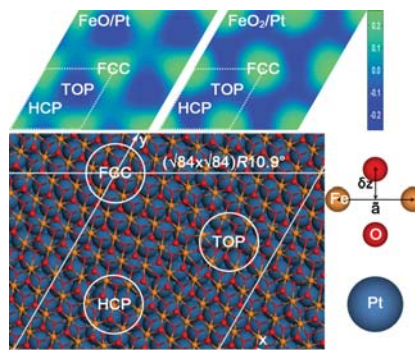
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A first-principles study of the structure, electronic properties, and oxygen binding of FeO/Pt(111) and FeO₂/Pt(111)

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Ultrathin oxide films of iron oxides on Pt(111) were studied by DFT, and the importance of the surface corrugation on the relevant electronic properties and surface oxygen activities is highlighted.



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FeO/Pt(111)与FeO₂/Pt(111)的几何、电子结构及表面氧活性的第一性原理研究

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摘要: 采用密度泛函理论系统研究了超薄氧化物膜/金属体系FeO/Pt和FeO₂/Pt及其表面不同区域(FCC, HCP和TOP)的几何结构、电子性质及氧的活性。研究发现, 表面O-Fe高度差 δ_z 作为一个重要的特征结构参数直接影响局域表面静电势和表面氧的结合能: δ_z 越大, 静电势越大, 氧的结合能越弱。计算发现, 在FeO/Pt体系中, δ_z 顺序为FCC > HCP > TOP, 而FeO₂/Pt中是FCC > TOP > HCP。此外, 在FeO/Pt中, 电荷转移方向是从氧化物膜到衬底, Fe的表观价态为+2.36, 表面功函较纯Pt(111)的变化可忽略; 而FeO₂/Pt中, 电荷转移的方向是从衬底到氧化物, Fe的表观价态为+2.95, 表面功函较纯Pt增加1.24 eV。进一步分析了电荷转移和表面偶极对电子性质的作用机制。这些研究结果对于认识超薄氧化物薄膜对表面几何结构、电子性质、表面氧活性的调制具有重要的启示意义。

关键词: 超薄氧化物膜; 超结构; 表面褶皱; 电荷转移; 功函

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