

Oxygen storage in CeO₂/Pt: XAS and DFT studies

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In the last decades, media have talked a lot about a very serious thematic as environmental and energetic problem. This thesis is going to show the study on CeO₂ as one of the possible candidate for both cases. The importance of ceria is given by its ability to store and release oxygen reversible. Main purpose of this work is to understand low temperature oxygen storage capacity (LT OSC) mechanism and the related structure of the reduced ceria surface on the atomic scale. The sample used is CeO₂ nanorods promoted with Pt nanoparticles at different chemical environments and temperatures and, as references, CeO₂ from NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology), CeO₂ rods, CeAlO₃, Ce₂Zr₂O₇. The CeO₂ is considered for Ce⁴⁺, CeAlO₃ for Ce³⁺, and instead in Ce₂Zr₂O₇ both Ce³⁺ and Ce⁴⁺ are present. There were performed HERFD XANES spectra at the Ce L1 and L3 edges measured at the SuperXAS beamline at SLS (PSI, Villigen, Switzerland) and soft X-ray absorption Max Lab II (Lund, Sweden) at I1011 beamline at Ce M4 and M5 edges and at O K edge. In order to study the LT OSC process theoretically the DFT simulations were carried out using pseudopotential plane wave approximation within VASP software. Following structures were considered used in simulations: pure CeO₂ bulk, CeO₂ (111) surface, Ce₂O₃ hexagonal and cubic, Ce₁₁O₂₀, Ce₇O₁₂ and 2x2x2 supercell of CeO₂ with O vacancy. Atomic structure, DOS and bandstructure has been derived and then compared with experimental data.

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