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**Spring College on Computational Nanoscience**

*17 - 28 May 2010*

**From Supported Clusters to Nanocatalysis  
Part II**

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Spring College on Computational Nanoscience, Trieste, May 18, 2010

## FROM SUPPORTED CLUSTERS TO NANOCATALYSIS

### CO on MgO: lessons from 25 years of interplay between theory and experiment



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*Università Milano-Bicocca, Milan (Italy)*



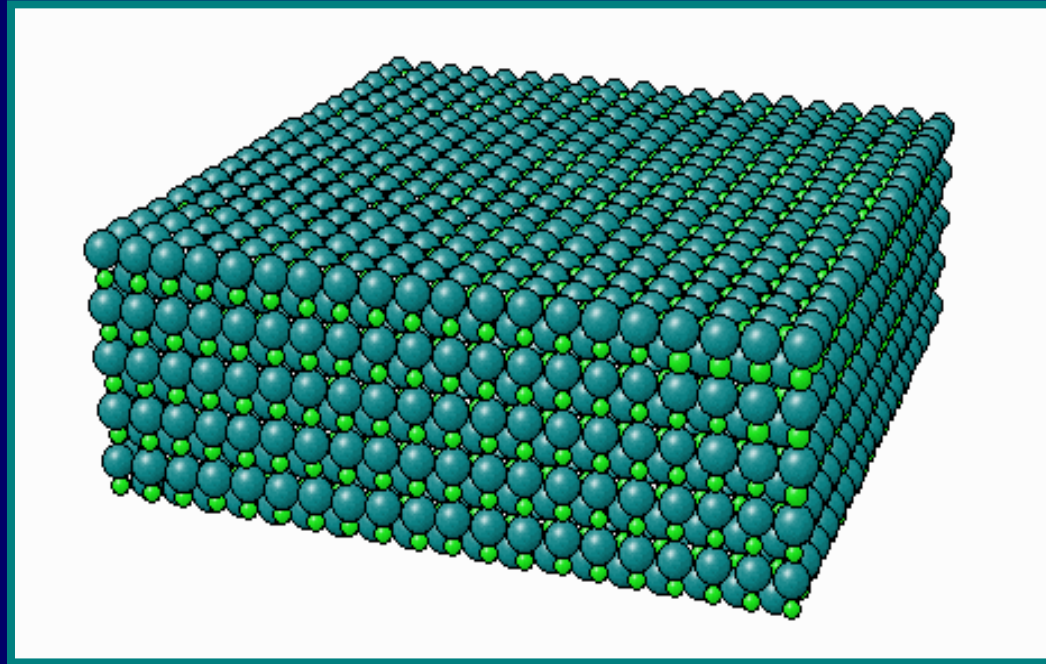
Part I – Nanocatalysis: supported clusters, particles, and model systems

Part II - CO on MgO: lessons from 25 years of interplay between theory and experiment

Part III – New phenomena: metal clusters on ultra-thin oxide films

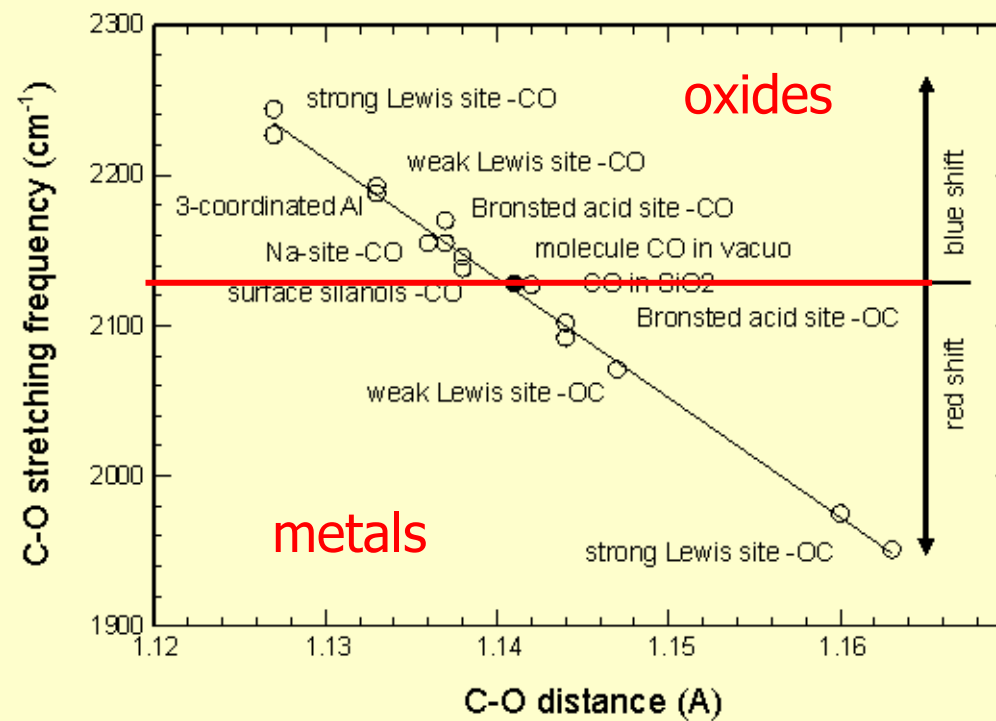
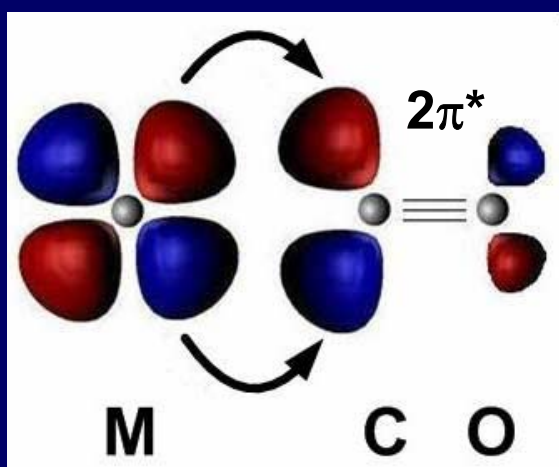
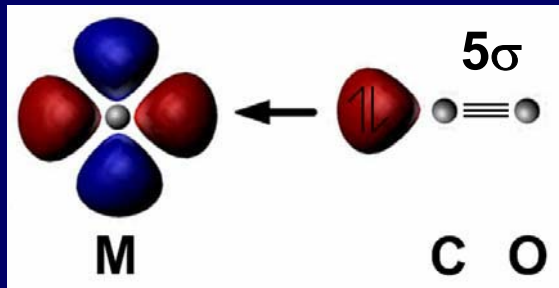
**CO: one of the simplest gas-phase molecules**

**MgO: a cubic, ionic, unreconstructed oxide**



**CO adsorption on MgO: in principle, one of the simplest solid-gas interactions one can imagine**

# CO as a probe molecule (the Blyholder model)



# The first experiments at NASA (1965)

CO adsorbed on polycrystalline MgO leads to formation of paramagnetic species (characteristic signal in EPR) - J.H. Lusford and J.P. Jayne, J. Chem. Phys. 44 (1966) 1492



Original interpretation:  
2e<sup>-</sup> donated from CO 5σ  
to the surface & 1e<sup>-</sup>  
back-donated from the  
surface to the CO 2π\*

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

PROPOSED JOURNAL ARTICLE

STUDY OF CO RADICALS ON MAGNESIUM OXIDE WITH ELECTRON  
PARAMAGNETIC RESONANCE TECHNIQUES

by Jack H. Lusford and John P. Jayne

Lewis Research Center  
Cleveland, Ohio

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APPLICATION OF ELECTRON PARAMAGNETIC  
RESONANCE SPECTROSCOPY TO THE STUDY OF  
SURFACE DEFECTS AND ADSORBED MOLECULES

by Jack H. Lusford and John P. Jayne

Lewis Research Center  
Cleveland, Ohio

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION • WASHINGTON, D. C. • MARCH 1966

3. Approximately 5 percent of the carbon monoxide that adsorbs on magnesium oxide forms a paramagnetic species. The anisotropic g values and hyperfine constants along with the concepts for bonding in metal carbonyls indicate that this radical is a linear molecule with the unpaired electron in a π-antibonding orbital.

## 1970's: the work of Zecchina and Stone

### Reflectance Spectra of Carbon Monoxide Adsorbed on Alkaline Earth Oxides

BY ADRIANO ZECCHINA† AND FRANK S. STONE\*

School of Chemistry, University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY

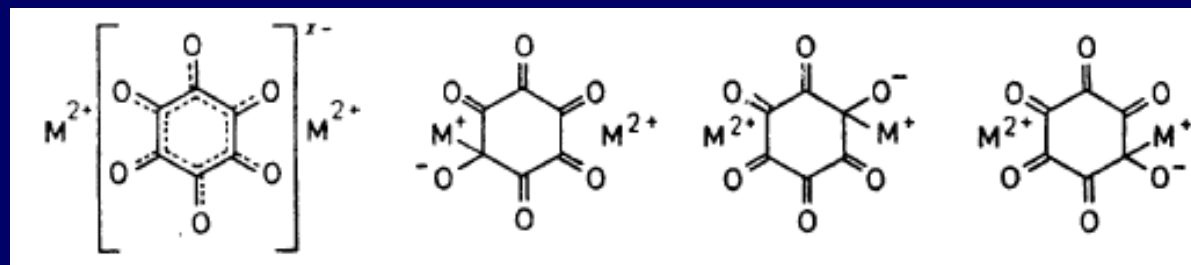
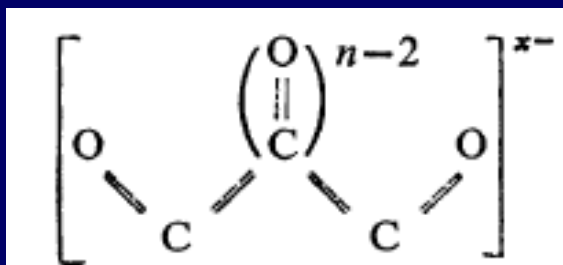
Received 14th December, 1977



A. Zecchina

Charge transfer from MgO to CO further supported by experiment showing formation of dimers and oligomers formula  $(CO)_2^{2-}$  and  $(CO)_n^{x-}$  ( $n > 2$ ).

A. Zecchina and F.S. Stone, J. Chem. Soc. Faraday I 74 (1978) 2278



Early experiments on MgO powders suggested high chemical reactivity with carbon monoxide

## More experiments (1978-1985)

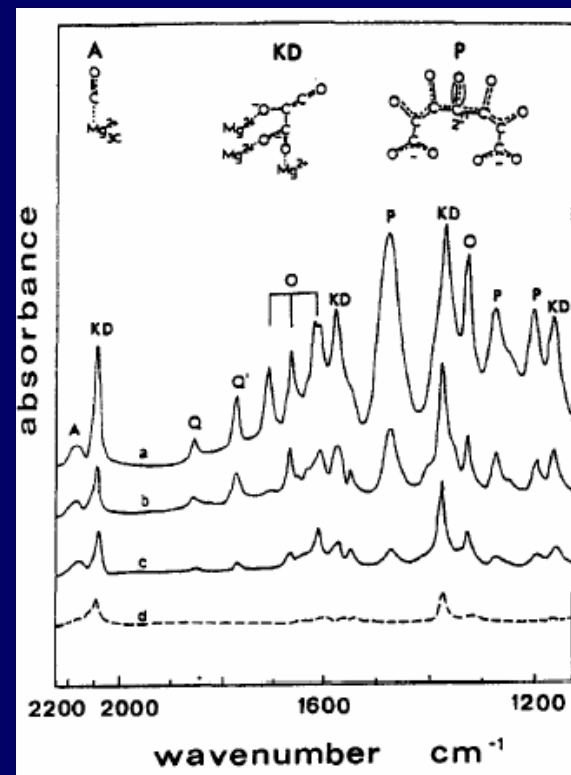
### IR on MgO powders at 77K

Beside low-frequency values, also high frequency peak observed in IR spectra

$\Delta\omega_e(\text{CO}) = +9 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (positive shift, contrary to metals!)

CO normal to the surface

E. Escalona et al., Faraday Discuss. Chem. Soc. 80 (1985) 183



### Adsorption isotherms

$D_e \approx 0.15 \text{ eV}$  (but how reliable is this  $D_e$ ? high pressure measurements and powder samples)

S. Furuyama et al., J. Phys. Chem. 82 (1978) 1028

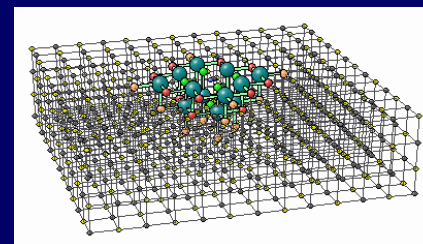
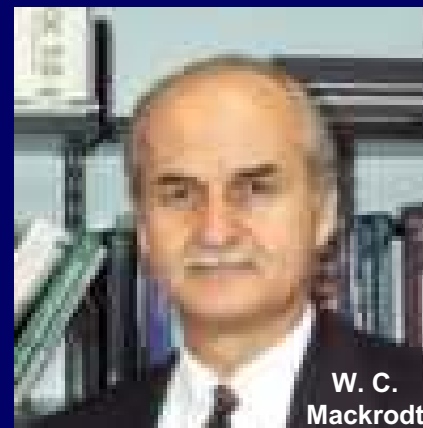
E.A. Pauskshtis et al., React. Kinet. Catal. Lett. 16 (1981) 93

## CO on MgO

### Theory comes in (1984)

- Bonding mode: CO or OC?
- Hartree-Fock calculations on MgO clusters embedded in point charges (PCs)
- C-down CO on  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  is preferred
- bonding is weak  $D_e \approx 0.39$  eV

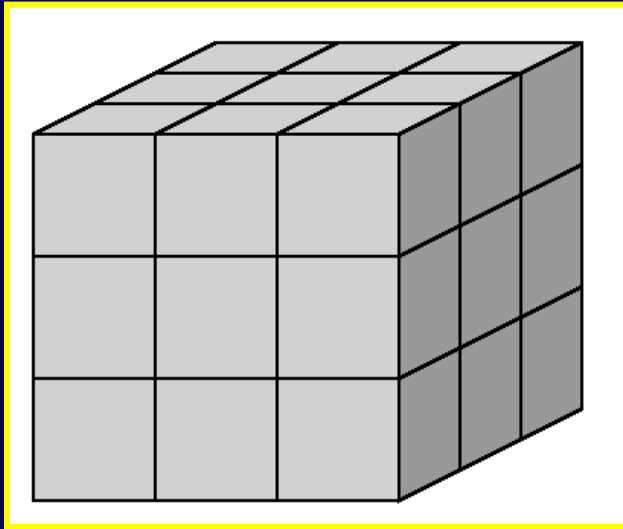
E.A. Colbourn and W.C. Mackrodt, Surf. Sci. 143 (1984) 391



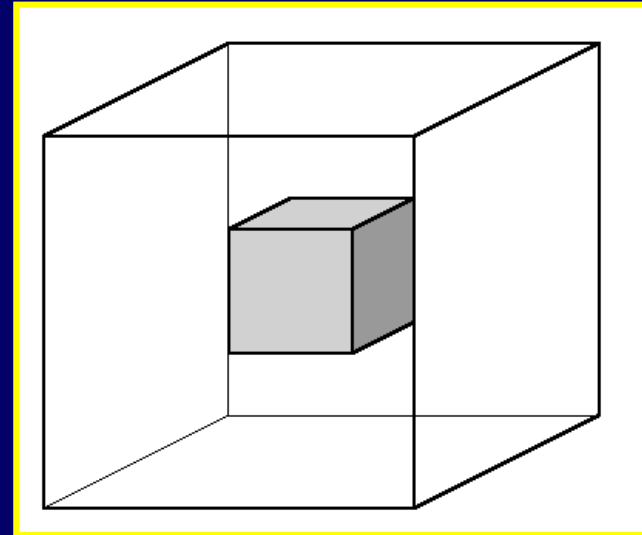


## PERIODIC MODELS AND LOCAL MODELS OF SOLIDS AND SURFACES

band structure theory  
periodic supercell  
repeated in three-dimensions  
typical size of a cell 50-100 atoms  
models high concentration of defects  
or adsorbates

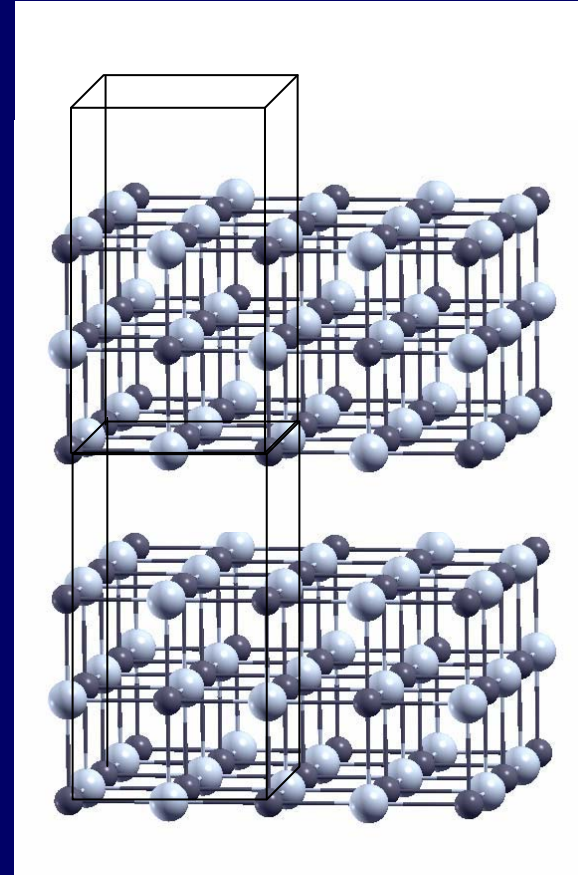
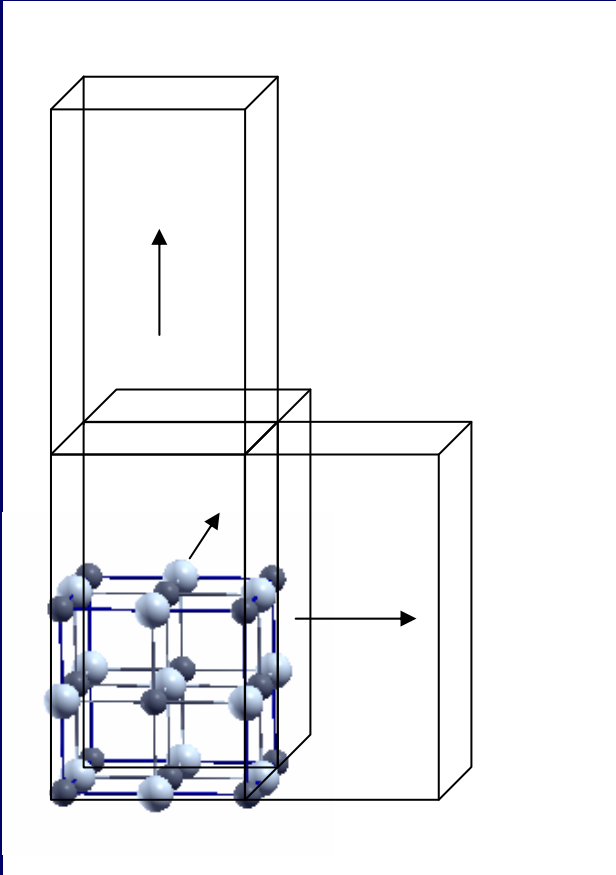


molecular orbitals theory  
clusters of atoms  
solid state effects from embedding  
typical size of a cluster 30-80 atoms  
models isolated defects or adsorbates



# PERIODIC MODELS FOR SURFACES

## SLAB SUPERCELLS OF CUBIC SYSTEM

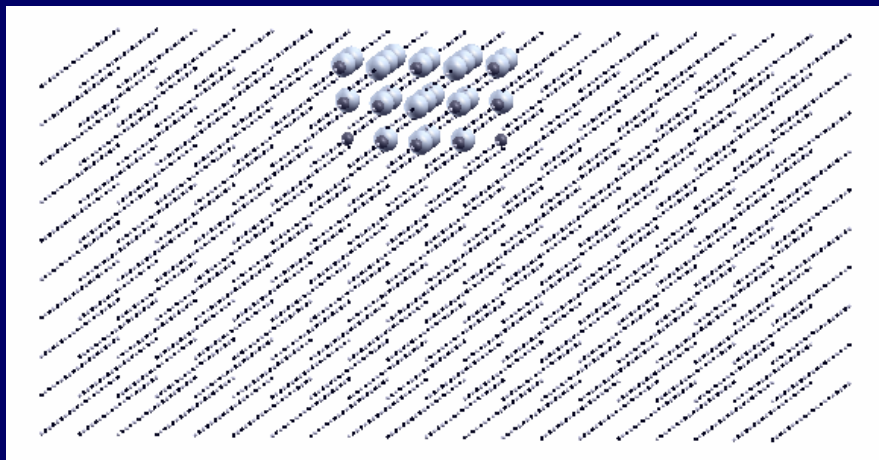


- size 100 or more atoms (depending on concentration of adsorbates on surface)
- thickness 3 -10 layers depending on material
- convergence of properties must be checked!
- vacuum region of ca. 10 Å to avoid spurious interaction with bottom layer
- some codes allow 2D periodicity which does not require vacuum region

# CLUSTER MODELS

GROUP OF ATOMS IN EMBEDDING  
simulating solid state effects

POINT CHARGES

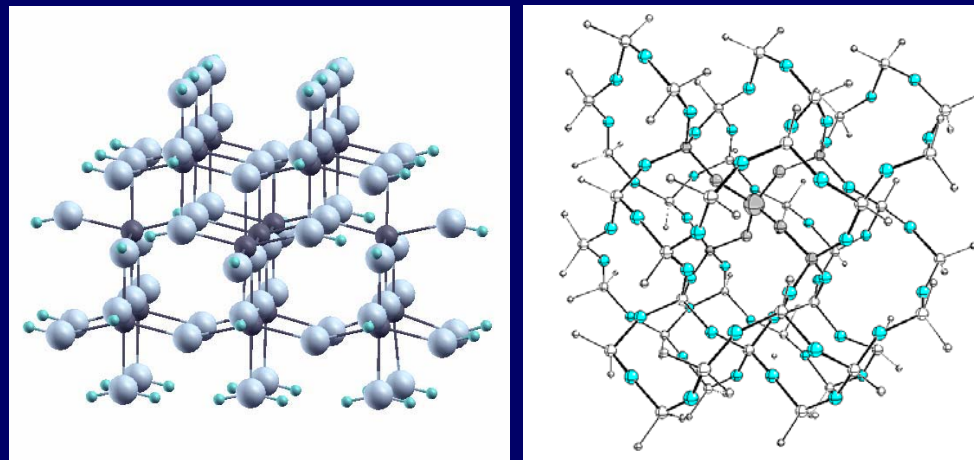


MgO CaO ecc..

**IONIC**

- check convergence of the Madelung potential at the defect or adsorption site
- avoid spurious effect at the QM/PC interface

WATER OR OH GROUPS



TiO<sub>2</sub>

**MIXED**

SiO<sub>2</sub>

**COVALENT**

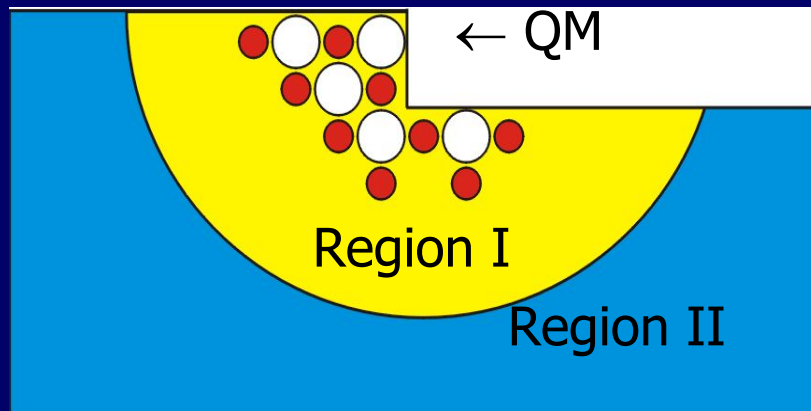
- avoid spurious effect at the cluster border
- QM/MM approach

Cluster model better for charged and low-symmetry centers

## Shell Model Embedding

Finite aggregate of atoms embedded in external potential

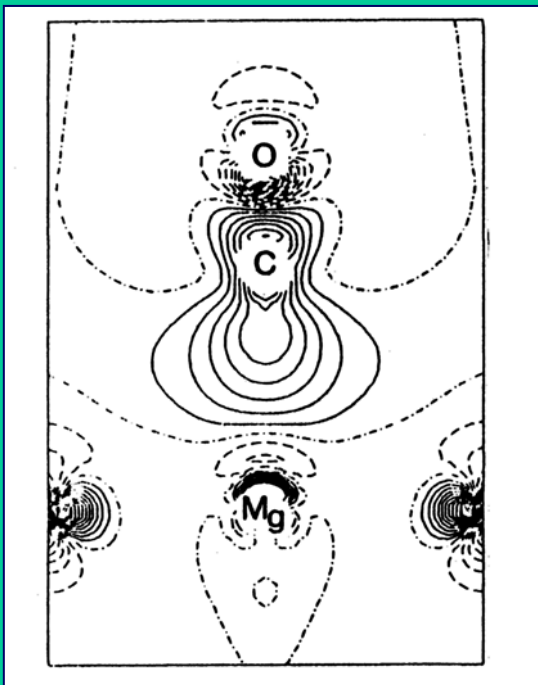
- Stoichiometric quantum-mechanical (QM) cluster
- **Embedding (1)**: Effective core potentials
- **Embedding (2)**: polarizable shell-model embedding (Region I)
- **Embedding (3)**: Madelung potential through large array of PCs (Region II)



**Shell-model:** every ion described by two point charges connected by a spring **dipolar response** of the ions included  
*Shell and core positions optimized in a self consistent way*

P. SUSHKO, A. SHLUGER: GUESS CODE

## Periodic Hartree-Fock enters in scene (1987)



CRYSTAL code  
(Torino) periodic  
Hartree-Fock  
calculations  $D_e =$   
 $0.15-0.33$  eV (at  
coverage  $\theta = 1$ )

R. Dovesi et al., Surf.  
Sci. 186 (1987) 267;  
C. Pisani et al, Surf.  
Sci. 216 (1989) 489

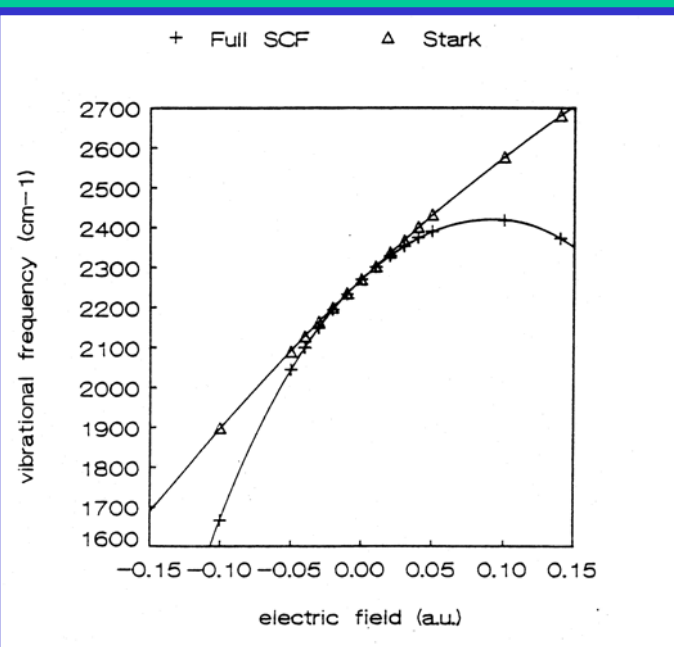
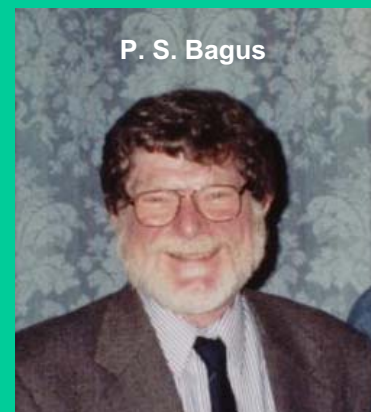


Bond: electrostatic +  
polarization of CO  $5\sigma$  lone pair

## New cluster models and methods of analysis (1991)

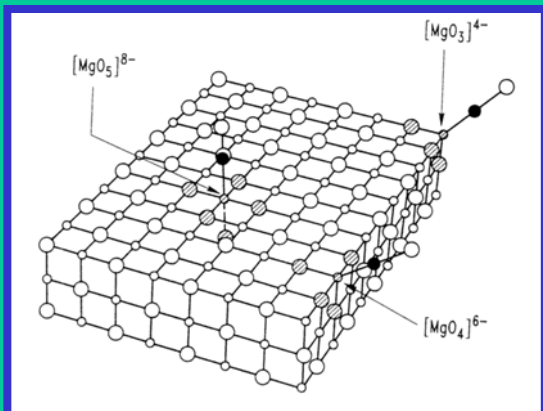
Hartree-Fock (HF) calculations on clusters + PCs show that small positive  $\Delta\omega_e(\text{CO})$  arises from surface electric field & "wall effect" (repulsion with rigid surface)

Pacchioni, Cogliandro, Bagus, Surf. Sci. 255 (1991) 344; Int. J. Quant. Chem. 42 (1992) 11150

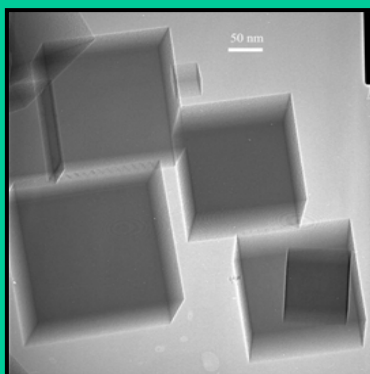


- a direct relationship between the surface electric field intensity and  $\Delta\omega_e(\text{CO})$  is found
- reinforces the idea of a largely electrostatic interaction of CO with ionic substrates

## Role of low-coordinated $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ sites (1992)



- Theory: electrostatic interaction allows to rationalize IR spectra;  $\Delta\omega_e(\text{CO})$  larger when CO is bound at low-coordinated  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  sites
- on low-coordinated sites also  $D_e$  is larger



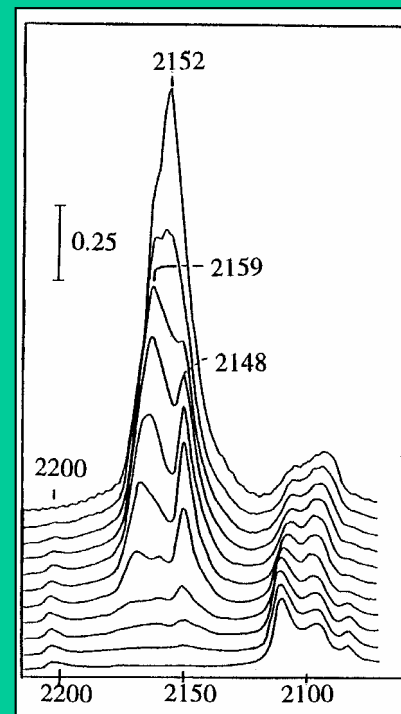
MgO smoke:  
Nano-sized  
cubes with  
high surface  
area

- HF predicts  $\Delta\omega_e(\text{CO})$  of **+31**, **+55**, and **+97**  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for CO adsorbed on **terrace**, **step** and **corner** sites.

Pacchioni et al., Surf. Sci. 275 (1992) 450

- Experiment:  $\omega$  shifts are larger in absolute value but similar in trend to those measured for CO on various sites of MgO smokes, **+9**, **+21**, and **+57**  $\text{cm}^{-1}$

Marchese et al., Surf. Sci. 269/270 (1992) 135

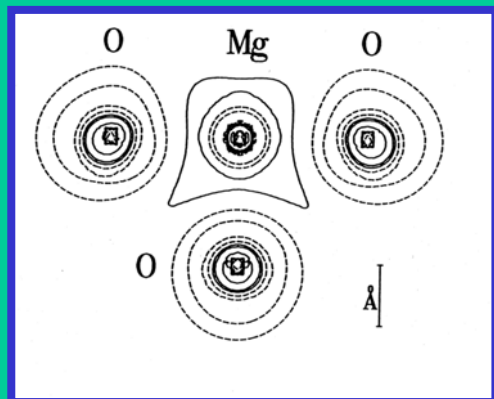


## The turn of Density Functional Theory (1992-1994)



LDA on clusters+PCs  $\Rightarrow D_e \approx 0.56$  eV &  $\Delta\omega(\text{CO}) = +54$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ! indication of charge transfer from CO  $5\sigma$  to surface (totally different from previous analysis)

K. Neyman and N. Rösch, Chem. Phys. 168 (1992) 267

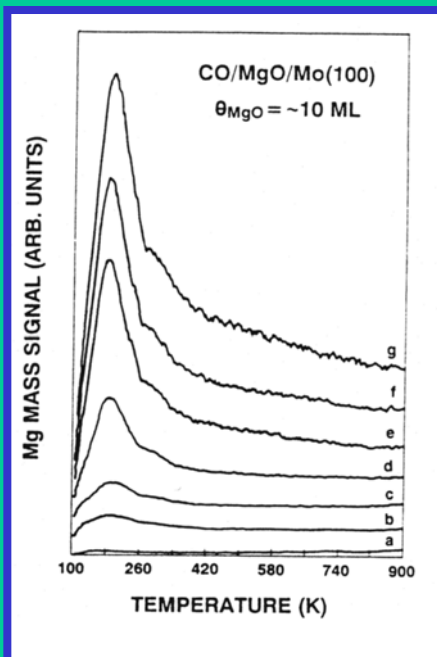


Comparison of HF and DFT reveals a less ionic description of MgO in LDA as compared to Hartree-Fock

G. Pacchioni, K. Neyman, N. Rösch, J. El. Spectr. Rel. Phenom. 69 (1994) 13



## From MgO powders to thin films: a new field (1992)

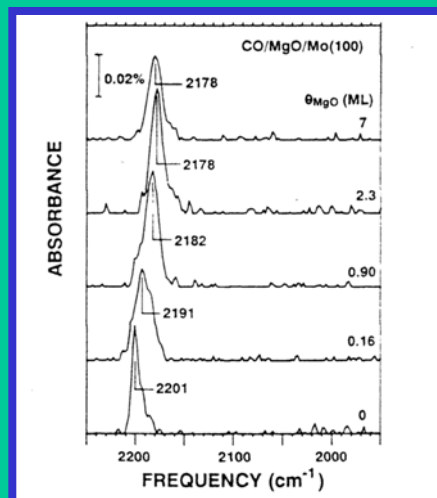


New method to study oxides in **UHV: ultra-thin films**. The way to “clean”, defect-free, ideal surfaces



### CO/MgO/Mo(100): TPD

The temperature programmed desorption (TPD) spectra show the presence of a single peak at 180 K corresponding to a CO **heat of adsorption of 0.43-0.46 eV**



### CO/MgO/Mo(100): FT-IR

CO adsorbed on seven monolayers of MgO shows a frequency of  $2178 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , with a  **$\omega$  shift with respect to free CO of  $+35 \text{ cm}^{-1}$**

He et al. Surf. Sci. 261 (1992) 164

## MgO powders versus thin films (1992)

ultra-thin MgO films grown on Mo(100) in UHV:  
TPD  $\Rightarrow D_e \approx 0.43$  eV & IR  $\Rightarrow \Delta\omega_e(\text{CO}) = +35$  cm<sup>-1</sup>  
He et al., Surf. Sci. 261 (1992) 164

therefore

- $D_e(\text{CO})$  on thin films  $\approx 3$  times larger than on MgO powders
- $\Delta\omega_e(\text{CO}) \approx 3-4$  times larger than on MgO powders

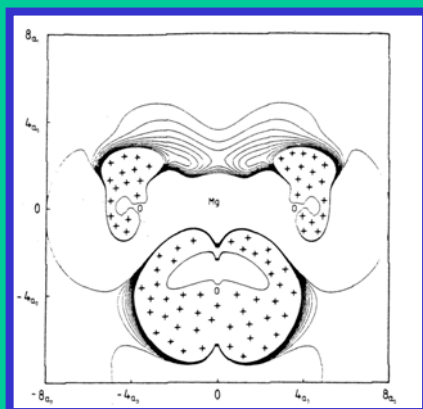
Conclusion: polycrystalline MgO defect rich (thin films assumed to be defect free from LEED, XPS, etc.)

## Theory fails to reproduce experiment (1994)



Improved model: embedded  
(AIMP+PCs) cluster calculations

Nygren et al., J. Chem. Phys. 100 (1994) 2010, Mejias et al.,  
Surf. Sci. 327 (1995) 59



AIMPs embedding is shown to be  
important to avoid unphysical polarization of  $O^{2-}$   
&  $Mg^{2+}$  ions at the cluster edge



more accurate description of charge density and  
electrostatic potential of the MgO surface

Attempt to reproduce He et al. binding energy of 0.4 eV.  
But ...  $D_e \approx 0.01$  eV after inclusion of basis set  
superposition error (BSSE) and electron correlation !

## Theoretical methods come to an agreement (1995)

- New DFT cluster calc. with GGA & BSSE  $\Rightarrow D_e \approx 0.09$  eV

Neyman, Rösch et al., Chem. Phys. Lett. 246 (1995) 546

- All cluster calculations, HF+corr or DFT-GGA, predict a very weak bonding for CO on MgO  $< 0.1$  eV (disagree with experimental results of He et al.,  $D_e \approx 0.4$  eV)

- New calculated  $\Delta\omega_e$  of  $+20$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for step site, and of  $+60$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for corner site consistent with IR spectra for MgO smokes (but disagree with  $\Delta\omega_e = +35$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  assigned to CO molecules on terrace sites by He et al.)

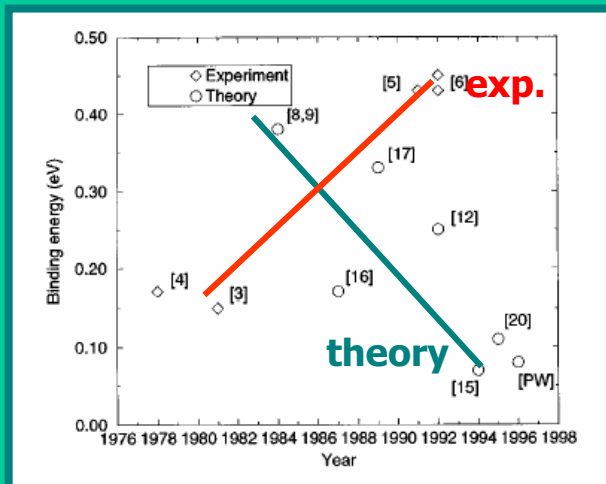
Pelmenschikov et al., J. Phys. Chem. 99 (1995) 97

Problem with theory or problem with experiment?

## Tentative explanations of disagreement

- The results (1995) indicate that
  - theory gives  $D_e < 0.1$  eV, UHV exp.  $> 0.4$  eV
  - theory gives  $\Delta\omega < 10$  cm<sup>-1</sup>, UHV exp.  $> 30$  cm<sup>-1</sup>
- Various tentative explanations are proposed (special surface relaxation, attractive CO-CO dipole interactions, etc.)

## Failure of computational approaches (1996)



The discrepancy between theory and experiment becomes embarrassing

Improvement in the calculations leads to larger disagreement with experiment (and viceversa)

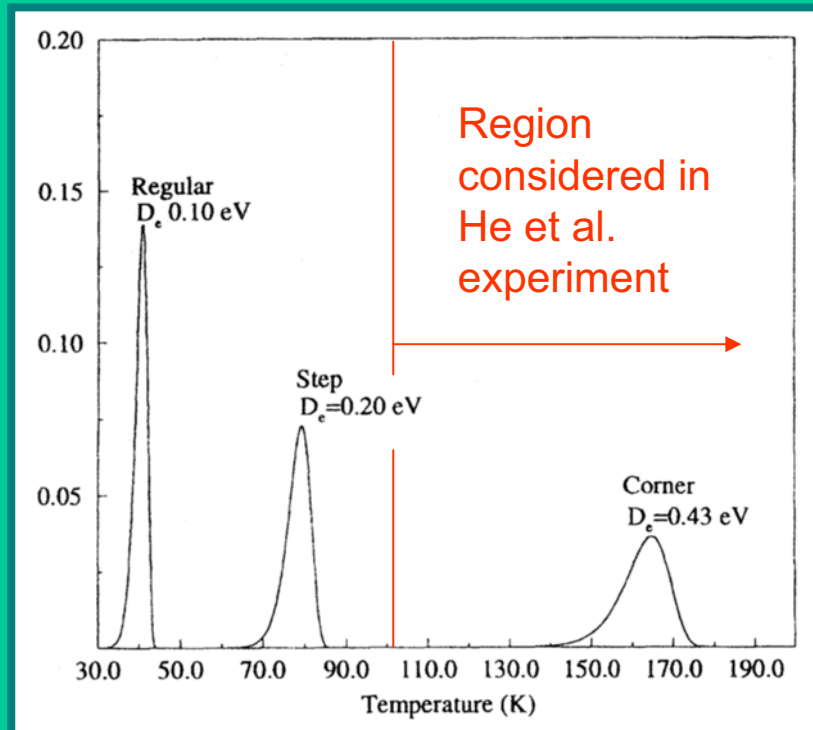
## Are cluster models inadequate?

## Could the experiment be misinterpreted? (1996)

Reinterpretation of the experiment of He et al. (new analysis of the TPD spectra and on accurate cluster model)

*Ab initio* correlated results show  $D_e$  of 0.08, 0.18 and 0.48 eV for CO adsorbed on terraces, steps, and corners. For same sites  $\Delta\omega_e$  is +9, +27, and +56  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

From computed adsorption energies 3 peaks expected in TPD spectrum at 40 K (terrace), 80 K (step), and 160 K (corner)



M. Nygren and L. G. M. Pettersson,  
J. Chem. Phys. 105 (1996) 9339

Only one peak at 180 K seen in TPD by He et al.

## Theory challenges experiment (Erice, 1996)

For the first time the fact that the MgO thin films grown on a metal substrate in UHV are defect-free is questioned in an explicit way. The active sites in CO adsorption may be low coordinated Mg cations, probably located at step or corner sites

suggestion to experimentalists: look at TPD spectrum on single crystal MgO (100) surface (not an easy experiment to do)

Nothing happens for the next two years ...

## New theory contradicts old theory (1998)

Summer '98: a new study "solves" the problem

Periodic LDA gives  $D_e = 0.28$  eV and  $\Delta\omega_e = +33$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , in "good agreement with the He et al. experiment"

First principles determinations of the bonding mechanism and adsorption energy for CO/MgO(001)

Lujun Chen <sup>a,\*</sup>, Ruqian Wu <sup>a</sup>, N. Kioussis <sup>a</sup>, Qiming Zhang <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, California State University, Northridge, CA 91330-8268, USA

<sup>b</sup> Department of Physics, The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX 76019-0059, USA

Received 20 October 1997; in final form 28 April 1998

### Abstract

Using the highly precise local density functional full potential linearized augmented plane wave (FLAPW) method, we have studied the bonding mechanism and other electronic properties of CO physisorption on the MgO(001) substrate. The calculated adsorption energy and the blue shift of the CO stretch frequency are 0.28 eV/molecule and 33  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , in good agreement with the corresponding experimental data of 0.3–0.43 eV/molecule and 35  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , respectively. The charge density contours indicate that a significant charge redistribution (bonding) is involved in the CO/MgO(001) interaction, in contrast with previous cluster calculations, which suggested that the CO–MgO interaction is of the Van der Waals type. © 1998. Published by Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

Chen et al., Chem. Phys. Lett. 290 (1998) 255.

The paper states that previous studies failed because of "inherent approximations [in cluster calculations], e.g. limitations of the Gaussian LCAO, boundary effects, and embedding problems"

Consequences of this work, **IF CORRECT**, are dramatic



## What would be the consequences of Chen's work (1998)

- LDA excellent for weak interactions
- GGA inadequate to study adsorption on oxide surfaces
- Gaussian basis not appropriate
- Cluster models cannot be used
- MgO thin films are defect free

Theory is in a very bad position if is unable to describe CO adsorption on MgO

### Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1998



← Walter Kohn

DFT

John Pople ⇒

Quantum chemistry



## A comment to CPL is worth reading

Chem. Phys. Lett. 306 (1999) 202

### Comment on “First-principles determination of the bonding mechanism and adsorption energy for CO/MgO(001)” [Chem. Phys. Lett. 290 (1998) 255]

Francesc Illas<sup>a</sup>, Gianfranco Pacchioni<sup>b</sup>, Alexander Pelmenschikov<sup>c</sup>,  
Lars G.M. Pettersson<sup>d</sup>, Roberto Dovesi<sup>e</sup>, Cesare Pisani<sup>e</sup>, Konstantin M. Neyman<sup>f</sup>,  
Notker Rösch<sup>f,\*</sup>

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<sup>b</sup> *Istituto Nazionale di Fisica della Materia, Dipartimento di Scienza dei Materiali, Università di Milano, via Emanuelli, I-20126 Milano, Italy*

<sup>c</sup> *Department of Chemistry, Jackson State University, P.O. Box 17910, 1400 Lynch Street, Jackson, MS 39217, USA*

<sup>d</sup> *Fysikum, Stockholm University, Box 6730, S-11385 Stockholm, Sweden*

<sup>e</sup> *Dipartimento di Chimica Inorganica, Chimica Fisica e Chimica dei Materiali, Università di Torino, via P. Giuria 7, I-10125 Torino, Italy*

<sup>f</sup> *Lehrstuhl für Theoretische Chemie, Technische Universität München, D-85747 Garching, München, Germany*

Received 11 August 1998; in final form 23 October 1998

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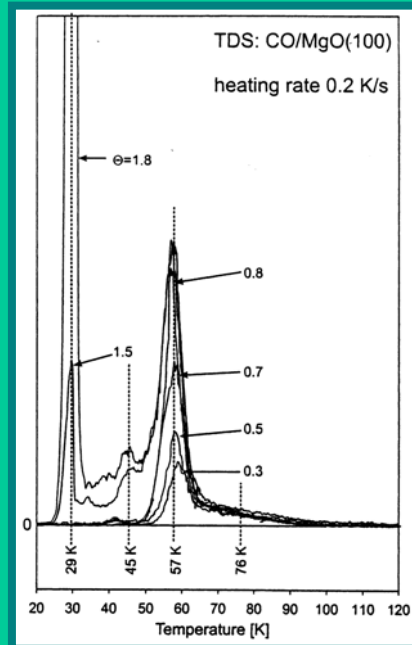
#### Abstract

The interaction of CO on MgO has attracted much interest from theoretical and experimental researchers in recent years. All computational work agrees that at very low coverage, i.e. for isolated CO molecules, the bonding to the substrate is very weak, < 0.1 eV. This result is obtained only with explicitly correlated wavefunctions or with density functional methods that include gradient corrections. The local density approach used in a recent Letter by Chen et al. [Chem. Phys. Lett. 290 (1998) 255] is therefore inadequate to solve this problem, despite what is claimed by these authors. © 1999 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

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## The conclusive experiment (1997-1999) TPD of CO on MgO single crystal

Careful experiment planned in the laboratory of H.J. Freund (Fritz-Haber Institut, Berlin) in the summer of 1997. A new experimental setup is designed to measure the adsorption energy of NO and CO molecules on MgO **single crystal** surfaces. Wichtendahl et al., Surf. Sci. 423 (1999) 90, Phys. Stat. Sol. (a) 173 (1999) 93.



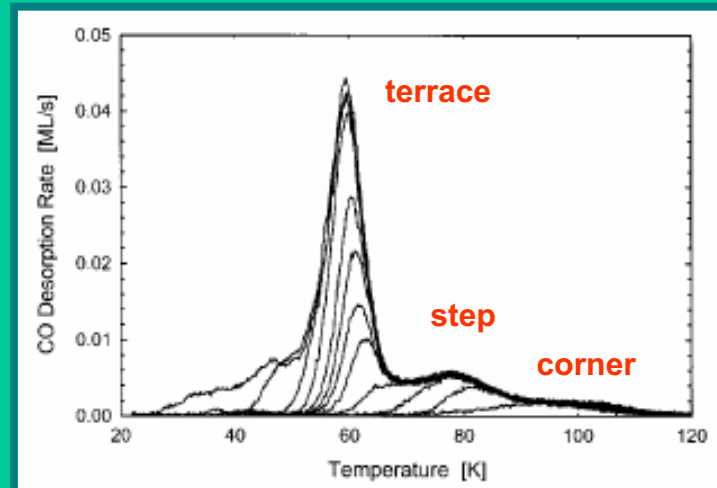
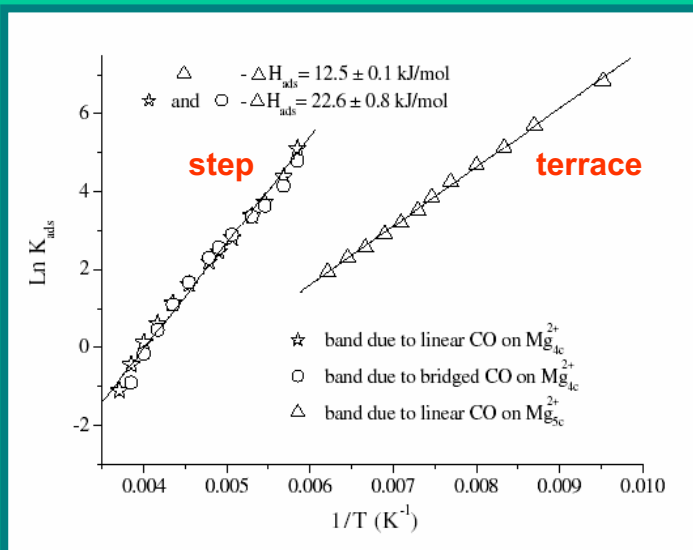
TDS for CO on UHV-cleaved MgO(001) shows multi-layer desorption at 29 K and, for small coverages, a desorption peak at  $T = 57$  K (terrace sites) and a broad feature at 76 K (defect sites).

**CO/MgO(100) adsorption energy:  $D_e = 0.14$  eV!**

**fully consistent with theoretical analyses from cluster calculations (and with previous measurements on powders!)**

## More recent CO/MgO studies (2000-2004)

- New TPD spectra on good quality MgO thin films;  $D_e = 0.18$  eV; at very low coverage desorption occurs only from defects – Z. Dohnalek et al. J. Phys. Chem. B 105 (2001) 3747



- Measurements of  $K_{eq}$  for adsorption as function of T allows new estimate of  $D_e$  on powders: 0.13 eV (terrace), 0.23 eV (steps) – G. Spoto, A. Zecchina et al. Surf. Sci. 540 (2003) L605, G. Spoto, A. Zecchina et al. Prog. Surf. Sci. 76 (2004) 71

- Theoretical analysis of bonding based on various methods shows that  $D_e$  is still underestimated; reason: dispersion forces are not properly included in currently used DFT methods. CO binds to MgO(100) mainly through dispersion forces - A. Damin, P. Ugliengo et al. Surf. Sci. 479 (2001) 255

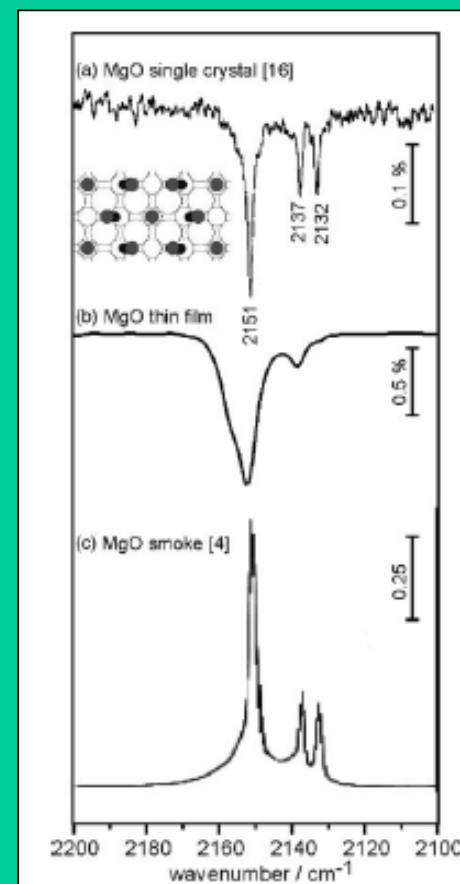
## MgO single crystals, thin films and powders (2006)

CO adsorption on the surface of MgO(0 0 1) thin films

Martin Sterrer\*, Thomas Risse, Hans-Joachim Freund

*Fritz-Haber-Institut der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Faradayweg 4-6, D-14195 Berlin, Germany*

The IR data obtained on thin films are in perfect agreement with similar data obtained on MgO single crystal and MgO powders, except for the higher surface roughness of MgO thin films – M. Sterrer, T. Risse, H.-J. Freund, *Appl. Catal. A* 307 (2006) 58



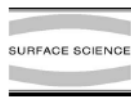
# CO on MgO: benchmark for theory (2003-2007)



Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)



Surface Science 525 (2003) 13–23



[www.elsevier.com/locate/susc](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/susc)

## CO adsorption on MgO(001) surface with oxygen vacancy and its low-coordinated surface sites: embedded cluster model density functional study employing charge self-consistent technique

Yijun Xu<sup>a</sup>, Junqian Li<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Yongfan Zhang<sup>a</sup>, Wenkai Chen<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Chemistry, Fuzhou University, Fuzhou, Fujian 350002, China  
<sup>b</sup> State Key Laboratory of Structural Chemistry, Fuzhou, Fujian 350002, China

Received 6 May 2002; accepted for publication 18 October 2002

### Abstract

The adsorption of CO on regular and defect sites of MgO(001) surface has been studied theoretically using embedded cluster models by DFT/B3LYP method. The value of embedded point charges is determined by the charge self-consistent technique. The calculated results indicate that CO adsorption energy on the regular site of MgO(001) surface can agree well with the recent experimental data. The frequency shifts of CO for regular five-coordinated terrace, low four-coordinated edge and three-coordinated corner sites, via C bound down on cationic centers of MgO(001) surface are also satisfactorily close to the values of experiment. At the same time, the adsorption of CO on MgO(001) surface with neutral and charged oxygen vacancies,  $F_v$ ,  $F_v^+$  and  $F_v^{2+}$  centers, has been investigated whose results show that MgO(001) surface with neutral oxygen vacancy has probably the good catalysis structure for CO adsorptive-decomposition. This is consistent with our previous study using a different method. By analyzing the bond component of Mg–C, it is found that the essential reasons why C–O bond strength is weakened or strengthened are the competitive results of  $4\sigma^*$  lone pair electrons and  $5\sigma$  electrons of CO transferring from the adsorbate to substrate simultaneously. © 2002 Published by Elsevier Science B.V.

*J. Phys. Chem. B* 2006, 110, 5473–5479

5473

## Influence of Substrate Dynamics on CO–MgO(001) Bonding—Using Molecular Dynamics Snapshots in Quantum-Chemical Calculations

Björn Hirschfeld, Micael Baudin, and Kersti Hermansson\*

Department of Materials Chemistry, The Ångström Laboratory, Uppsala University, Box 538, S-751 21 Uppsala, Sweden

Received: July 12, 2005; In Final Form: September 29, 2005

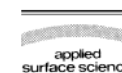
Combined molecular dynamics (MD) and quantum mechanics (QM) calculations have been performed for CO adsorbed on MgO(001) at 50 K. The changes in the adsorption energy caused by the surface dynamics have been analyzed, and a clear correlation was found between the dynamic variation of the adsorption energy and the electrostatic field above the adsorption site. By separating the electrostatic contributions arising from the local structure at the adsorption site from those originating from the rest of the slab, a linear expression of these contributions could be fitted which closely reproduces the dynamic changes in the adsorption energy. Using this simple linear expression, the distribution of adsorption energies for CO above the  $Mg^{2+}$  sites on the MgO(001) surface at 50, 80, and 150 K have been predicted.



Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)



Applied Surface Science 253 (2007) 8974–8980



[www.elsevier.com/locate/apusoc](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/apusoc)

## CO adsorption on MgO, CaO and SrO crystals periodic Hartree–Fock calculations

W.S. Abdel Halim

Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Zagazig University, P.O. Box 44519, Zagazig, Egypt

Received 2 April 2007; received in revised form 6 May 2007; accepted 8 May 2007

Available online 16 May 2007

### Abstract

The adsorption of carbon monoxide at the defect-free (1 0 0), (1 1 0) and (2 1 0) five-atomic layer slab of the three oxides: MgO, CaO, and SrO has been investigated using the periodic Hartree–Fock level of ab initio theory, together with the  $1 \times 1$  supercell model. All the calculated CO/oxide interaction energies exhibit exothermic character. The HF interaction energies increase monotonically in the order  $MgO < CaO < SrO$ . The surface morphology of adsorbate/substrate interaction is confirmed by considering relaxation energies, Mulliken population analysis, charge density contours, and electrostatic potential maps.

© 2007 Published by Elsevier B.V.

**Keywords:** Ab initio; Alkaline-earth oxides; Adsorption; CO

# CO on MgO: benchmark for theory ... (2008)

Chemical Physics Letters 460 (2008) 457–460

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**Chemical Physics Letters**

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/cpl](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/cpl)

**CI Study of CO adsorption on MgO(100)**

Changyong Qin\*

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**ARTICLE INFO**

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**ABSTRACT**

Using CI embedding method, we have studied the adsorption of CO on MgO(100). The MgO(100) substrate is described by a  $Mg_9O_9$  ( $3 \times 3 \times 2$ ) core cluster, embedded in ionic ( $Mg^{2+}/O^{2-}$ ) core potentials. The adsorption energy is calculated to be 0.11 eV at the CI level with a blue shift of  $19\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for CO stretching on MgO(100). The dispersion accounts only 35% of the total binding energy of CO on MgO(100). The CO/MgO(100) interaction is weak and mainly of the van der Waals type with only slight chemical bonding characters.

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THE JOURNAL OF CHEMICAL PHYSICS 129, 124710 (2008)

## Good performance of the M06 family of hybrid meta generalized gradient approximation density functionals on a difficult case: CO adsorption on MgO(001)

Rosendo Valero,<sup>1</sup> José R. B. Gomes,<sup>2</sup> Donald G. Truhlar,<sup>1</sup> and Francesc Illas<sup>3,a)</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>CICECO, Department of Chemistry, University of Aveiro, Campus Universitário de Santiago, 3810-193 Aveiro, Portugal

<sup>3</sup>Departament de Química Física and Institut de Química Teòrica i Computacional (IQTCUB), Universitat de Barcelona, C/Martí i Franquès, 08028 Barcelona, Spain

(Received 6 August 2008; accepted 27 August 2008; published online 26 September 2008)

The adsorption of CO on Mg(001) constitutes a challenge for current density functional approximations because of its weak interaction character. In the present work we show that the M06-2X and M06-HF exchange-correlation functionals are the first ones to provide a simultaneously satisfactory description of adsorbate geometry, vibrational frequency shift, and adsorption energy of CO on MgO(001). For a sufficiently large embedded cluster model, the three functionals of the M06 family—which contain a nonzero percentage of Hartree–Fock exchange (M06, M06-2X, and M06-HF)—all predict positive C–O vibrational shifts, in agreement with the experimental findings, while the local M06-L functional gives large negative shifts. Moreover, the shifts computed with the M06-2X and M06-HF potentials are in good agreement with the experimental shift of  $+14\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The interaction energy ( $D_e$ ) calculated with M06-2X and M06-HF is  $\sim 6.0\text{ kcal/mol}$ , which agrees well with the  $D_e$  value ( $\sim 4\text{ kcal/mol}$ ) deduced from the  $D_0$  obtained in thermal desorption measurements on single-crystal surfaces. © 2008 American Institute of Physics. [DOI: 10.1063/1.2982923]

J. Phys. Chem. C 2010, 114, 8997–9001

8997

## CO Adsorption on Thin MgO Films and Single Au Adatoms: A Scanning Tunneling Microscopy Study

Bing Yang,<sup>1,2</sup> Xiao Lin,<sup>1</sup> Hong-Jun Gao,<sup>3</sup> Niklas Nilius,<sup>\*,1</sup> and Hans-Joachim Freund<sup>1</sup>

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Received: January 26, 2010; Revised Manuscript Received: April 8, 2010

The adsorption behavior of CO on a 2 ML thin MgO/Ag(001) film is investigated with scanning tunneling microscopy and spectroscopy at 5 K. Depending on the tip state, single CO molecules are imaged as Gaussian depressions or ring-like features on the oxide surface. The preferred CO adsorption sites are identified as the  $Mg^{2+}$  positions next to an oxide step edge. The deposition of single Au atoms followed by CO exposure gives rise to the formation of monocarbonyl species on the MgO surface. Their vibrational properties are explored by inelastic electron-tunneling spectroscopy. The acquired second-derivative spectra are dominated by a symmetric peak/dip structure at  $\pm 50\text{ mV}$ , which is assigned to the frustrated rotation of Au-bound CO molecules.

... and experiment  
(2010)

## CO on MgO: What did we learn?

- Experimental studies on polycrystalline oxides are important and useful also for oxide surfaces prepared in UHV

- Thin MgO films epitaxially grown on metal substrates contain a larger density of defects than one could think based on other characterization methods (now clear also from STM images)

- Modern accurate wave function based methods including correlation effects and density functional theory based methods including gradient corrections provide a powerful tool to complement experiment and help in solving problems in surface and material science

- Be careful when you compare theory with experiment. Make sure that you are talking of the same thing! Only trust "very good agreement with experiment" when theory is good and experiment is good (many examples in the literature of "good agreement" with wrong experiments ...)

- MgO is probably the best characterized oxide and can now be used to test new methods and techniques



# What about Lunsfords' experiments ?

CO adsorbed on polycrystalline MgO leads to formation of paramagnetic species (characteristic signal in EPR) - J.H. Lunsford and J.P. Jayne, J. Chem. Phys. 44 (1966) 1492



Original interpretation:  
2e<sup>-</sup> donated from CO 5σ  
to the surface & 1e<sup>-</sup>  
back-donated from the  
surface to the CO 2π\*

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

PROPOSED JOURNAL ARTICLE

STUDY OF CO RADICALS ON MAGNESIUM OXIDE WITH ELECTRON  
PARAMAGNETIC RESONANCE TECHNIQUES

by Jack H. Lunsford and John P. Jayne

Lewis Research Center  
Cleveland, Ohio

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APPLICATION OF ELECTRON PARAMAGNETIC  
RESONANCE SPECTROSCOPY TO THE STUDY OF  
SURFACE DEFECTS AND ADSORBED MOLECULES

by Jack H. Lunsford and John P. Jayne

Lewis Research Center  
Cleveland, Ohio

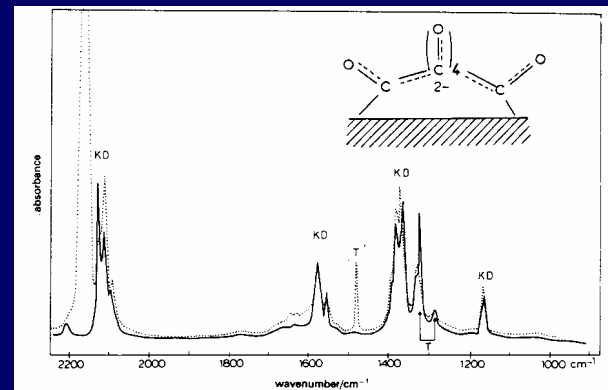
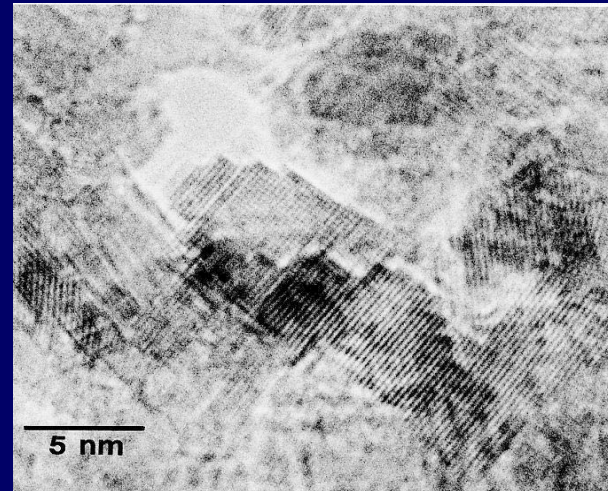
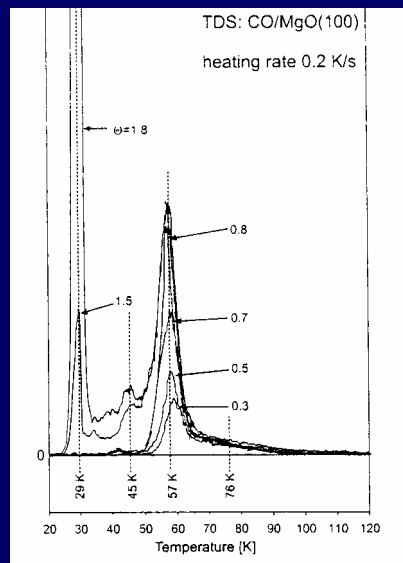
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION • WASHINGTON, D. C. • MARCH 1966

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3. Approximately 5 percent of the carbon monoxide that adsorbs on magnesium oxide forms a paramagnetic species. The anisotropic g values and hyperfine constants along with the concepts for bonding in metal carbonyls indicate that this radical is a linear molecule with the unpaired electron in a π-antibonding orbital.

# Different reactivity of oxide surfaces with different morphologies: CO on MgO

**CO on single crystal MgO, no reactivity at all and adsorption occurs only below 57 K (Freund 1998)**



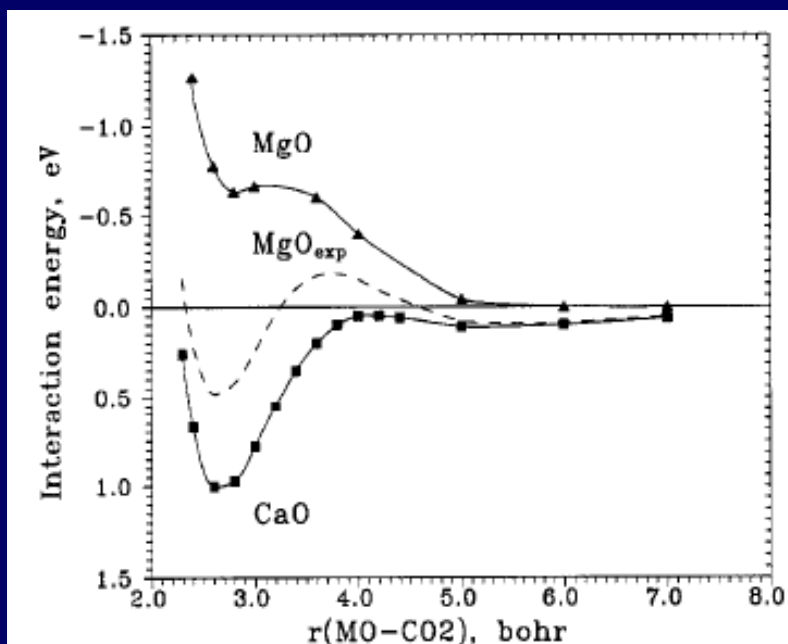
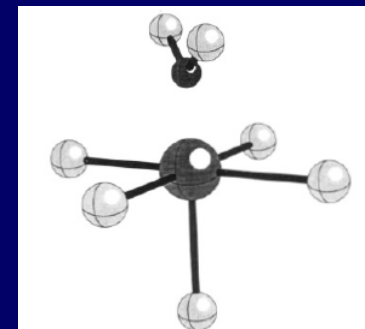
**CO on polycrystalline MgO, complex radical anions form at 60 K! (Zecchina 2004)**

# Surface basicity: an important aspect of the chemical activity of oxide surfaces

*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1994, 116, 10152–10158

Ab Initio Cluster Model Calculations on the Chemisorption of CO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> Probe Molecules on MgO and CaO (100) Surfaces. A Theoretical Measure of Oxide Basicity

Gianfranco Pacchioni,<sup>\*†</sup> Josep M. Ricart,<sup>‡</sup> and Francesc Illas<sup>§</sup>



Terrace sites: MgO does not bind CO<sub>2</sub>, CaO does

Direct correlation with Madelung potential (MP): high MP (MgO) weak basicity of O<sup>2-</sup>, low MP (CaO) strong O<sup>2-</sup> basicity

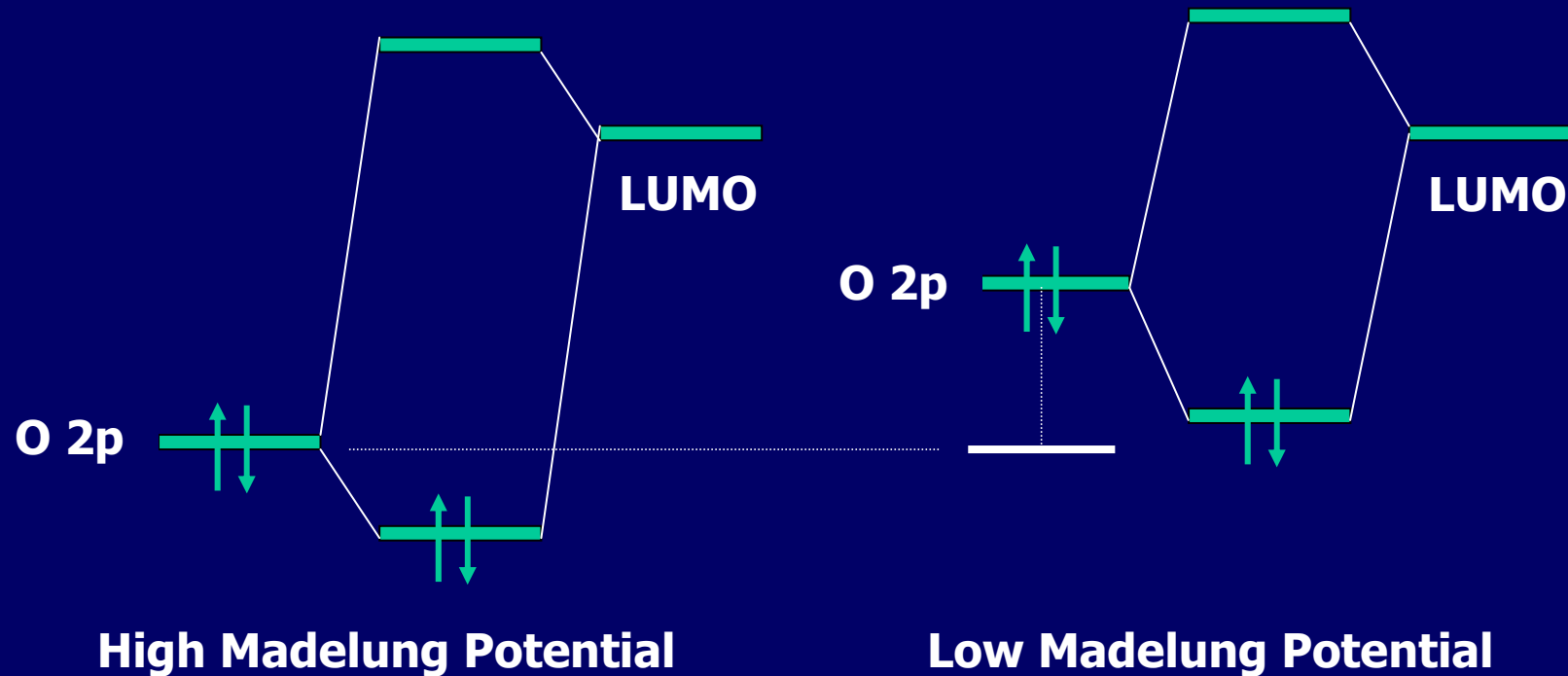
Different reactivity of CO<sub>2</sub> with MgO and CaO later confirmed by direct experimental evidence

## Surface basicity and Madelung potential

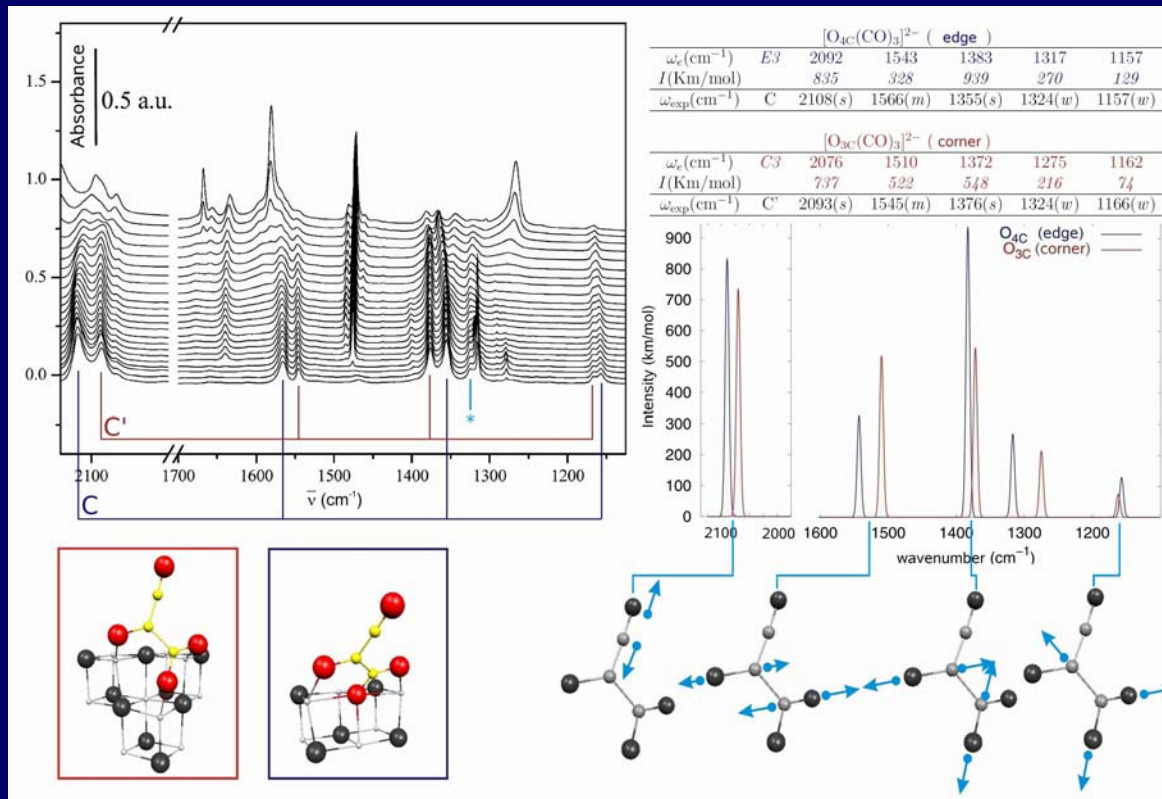
$O^-(g) + e^- \rightarrow O^{2-}(g)$  reaction unfavorable

$O^{2-}$  ion unstable in gas-phase (where it dissociates into  $O^- + e^-$ )

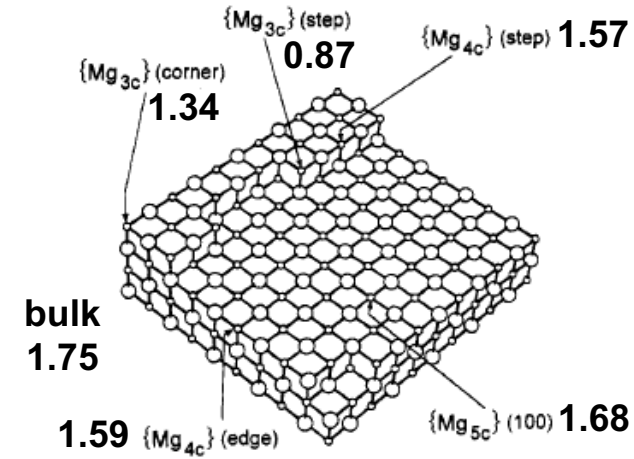
$O^{2-}$  stabilized in ionic crystals (e.g. MgO) by Madelung potential



# Formation of $[C_nO_{n+1}]^{2-}$ species on polycrystalline MgO

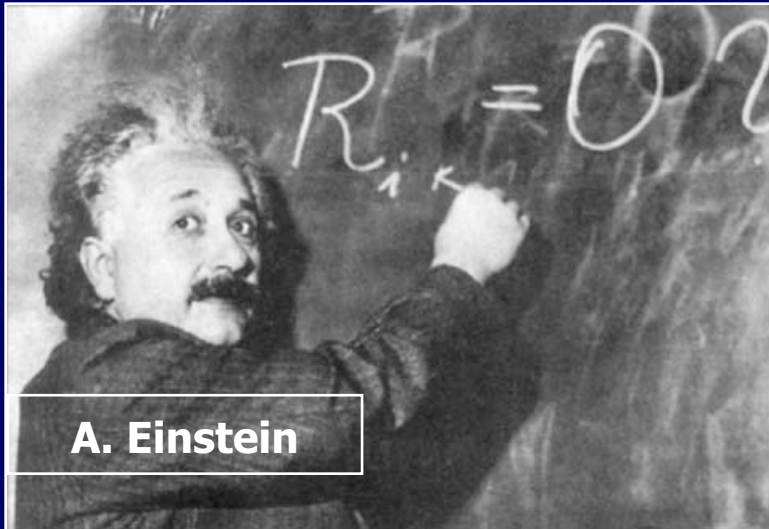


CO reacts with basic low-coordinated  $O^{2-}$  sites (low MP)  
 $[O(CO)_{n-1}]^{2-} + CO \rightarrow [O(CO)_n]^{2-}$   
 Up to 5 CO molecules react at very low T (77 K)



Spoto et al. Prog. Surf. Sci. (2004); Finazzi, Di Valentin, GP, Surf. Sci. (2006).

## THEORY AND PRAXIS



**A. Einstein**

Theory is when we know everything but nothing works

Praxis is when everything works but we do not know why

We always end up by combining theory with praxis: nothing works and we do not know why...

**END OF  
LECTURE 2**

Surface Review and Letters, Vol. 7, No. 3 (2000) 277–306  
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**QUANTUM CHEMISTRY OF OXIDE SURFACES:  
FROM CO CHEMISORPTION TO THE IDENTIFICATION  
OF THE STRUCTURE AND NATURE  
OF POINT DEFECTS ON MgO**

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*Dipartimento di Scienza dei Materiali, Università di Milano-Bicocca,  
Istituto Nazionale di Fisica della Materia, via Cozzi, 53–20125 Milano, Italy*





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Progress in Surface Science 76 (2004) 71–146

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Review

# Carbon monoxide MgO from dispersed solids to single crystals: a review and new advances

G. Spoto, E.N. Gribov, G. Ricchiardi, A. Damin, D. Scarano,  
S. Bordiga, C. Lamberti, A. Zecchina \*

*Department of Inorganic, Physical and Materials Chemistry, University of Turin, Via Pietro Giuria 7,  
I-10125 Turin, Italy  
NIS Centre of Excellence, Turin, Italy*

Time-independent Schrödinger Equation

$$\mathbf{H} \Psi = E \Psi$$

**Born-Oppenheimer Approximation:**

separation of electronic and nuclear motion

$$\mathbf{H}_{\text{el}}(r, R) \Psi_{\text{el}}(r, R) = E_{\text{el}}(r, R) \Psi_{\text{el}}(r, R)$$

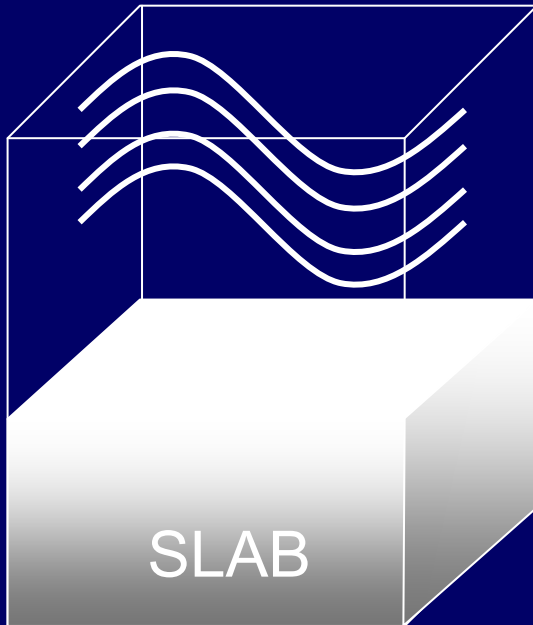
The electronic problem can be solved for nuclei which are momentarily clamped to fixed positions in space

$\Psi_{\text{el}}$  is the N-electrons wavefunction which can be expressed in terms of one-electron wavefunctions  $\phi$  expanded in a basis of known functions or basis set (in principle no approx.)

## BASIS SETS: PLANE WAVES

for periodic calculations:

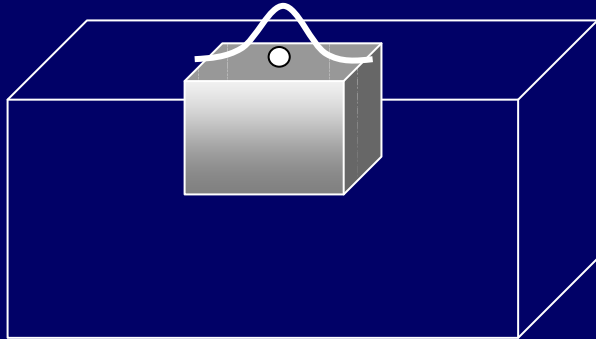
$$\varphi(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{G}} c(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{G}) \frac{1}{\sqrt{\Omega}} e^{i(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{G}) \cdot \mathbf{r}}$$



- satisfy Bloch's theorem
- basis set functions are independent of atomic positions
- plane waves basis set must fill both atomic slab and vacuum region
- use of pseudopotentials

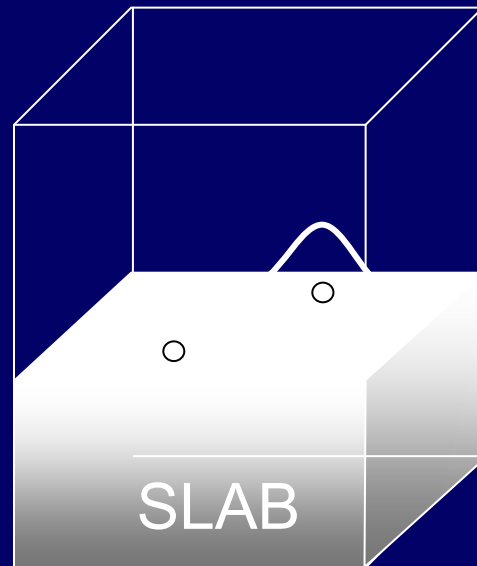
## BASIS SETS: GAUSSIAN ATOMIC FUNCTIONS

for cluster but also periodic calculations:



$$\varphi_i(\mathbf{r}) = \sum c_{pi} \chi_p^{\text{GTO}}(\mathbf{r})$$
$$\chi^{\text{GTO}}(\mathbf{r}) = (x-A_x)^k (y-A_y)^l (z-A_z)^m e^{-\alpha r^2}$$

- basis set functions centered at atomic positions
- no basis set functions in the vacuum region
- all electron basis sets or pseudopotentials + valence electron basis sets
- split-valence basis sets to describe valence states
- diffused functions for anionic species
- polarization functions
- excellent to describe local atomic properties



## Hartree-Fock HF (HF, UHF)

$$E_{\text{HF}} = E_{\text{NUCL}} + \langle hP \rangle + 1/2 \langle PJ(P) \rangle - 1/2 \langle PK(P) \rangle$$

$E_{\text{NUCL}}$	nuclear repulsion energy
$P$	density matrix
$\langle hP \rangle$	one-electron term
$1/2 \langle PJ(P) \rangle$	classical Coulomb repulsion term
$-1/2 \langle PK(P) \rangle$	exchange energy (exact in HF)

HF: no electron correlation

Correlation effects may be included through CI, PT or DFT

## Kohn-Sham formulation of DFT (LDA, LSDA)

$$E_{\text{KS}} = E_{\text{NUCL}} + \langle hP \rangle + 1/2 \langle PJ(P) \rangle + E_x + E_c$$

$E_x[P]$	exchange functional
$E_c[P]$	correlation functional

HF special case:  $E_x[P] = -1/2 \langle PK(P) \rangle$  ;  $E_c = 0$

## DFT COMPUTATIONAL CODES : MOST COMMON ONES

- GAUSSIAN03 cluster calculation with gaussian atomic basis set  
HF, POST-HF, DFT, hybrid DFT  
[www.gaussian.com](http://www.gaussian.com)
- GUESS interfaced to GAUSSIAN cluster + shell model embedding  
[www.cmpm.ucl.ac.uk/~ayg/group/home.html](http://www.cmpm.ucl.ac.uk/~ayg/group/home.html)
- CRYSTAL06 periodic calculations with gaussian atomic basis set  
HF, DFT, hybrid DFT  
[www.crystal.unito.it](http://www.crystal.unito.it)
- Quantum-espresso  
PWSCF plane-wave pseudopotential periodic calculations  
DFT, DFT+U  
Car-Parrinello MD ab initio molecular dynamics  
[www.democritos.org](http://www.democritos.org)
- VASP plane-wave pseudopotential periodic calculations  
DFT, DFT+U, Hybrid DFT (PBE0, HSE)  
<http://cms.mpi.univie.ac.at/vasp>
- CASTEP plane-wave pseudopotential periodic calculations DFT  
[www.castep.org](http://www.castep.org)
- DACAPO plane-wave pseudopotential periodic calculations DFT  
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## WHAT ONE CAN COMPUTE (2010)

### CALCULATIONS

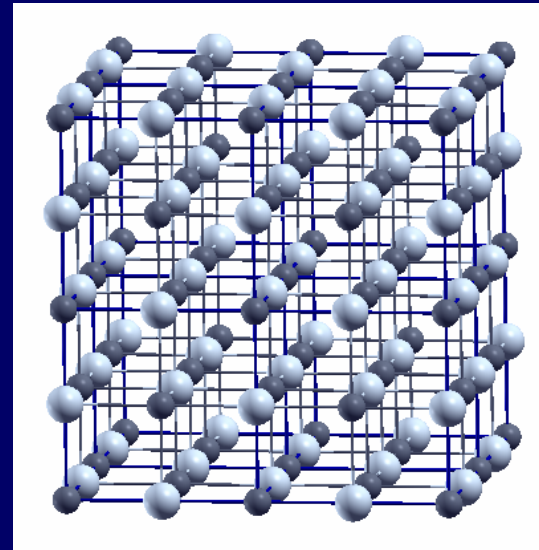
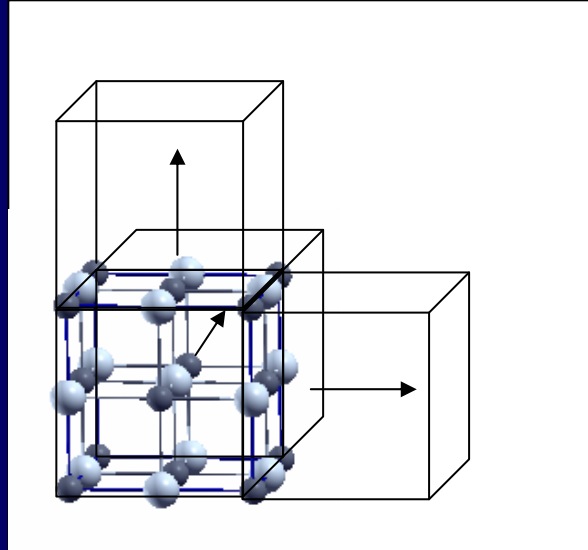
- geometries
- adsorption energies
- thermodynamics
- electronic structure
- TD-DFT
- vibrations, phonons
- EPR parameters
- core level shifts
- Integrated local DOS
- kinetics (TS theory)
- molecular dynamics
- .....

### EXPERIMENTS

- XRD
- TPD
- calorimetry
- UPS, EELS
- optical abs. spectra
- IR, Raman, HREELS
- EPR spectroscopy
- XPS
- STM imaging
- surface reactivity  
(T dependence, kinetic constants)
- .....

# PERIODIC MODELS FOR BULK

## BULK SUPERCELLS OF CUBIC SYSTEM



- size 100 or more atoms
- neutral supercells (or background charge)
- spurious or incorrect effects may be observed for too small supercells
- k-point sampling of the Brillouin zone in reciprocal space must be done with care (size of the supercell)

