Diffraction, Microscopy and Spectroscopy at solid-liquid interfaces



Electric double layer



Inner Helmhotz plane: Specifically adsorbed ions (inner sphere complexes) chemical bonding with surface; lost part of their solvation H₂O.

Outer Helmholtz plane: Non-specifically adsorbed ions (outer sphere complexes) Eleectrostatic interaction with surface completely solvated

A 1 V potential drop across the metal/ electrolyte interface leads to high surface charges (0.1-0.2 e per surface atom) and high electric fields (10^{-7} V/cm)

Metals: are charged by applying a potential Minerals, oxides: charge results from pH dependent protonation/ deprotonation of surface hydroxyl groups.

Cyclic voltammetry



Fig. 2. CV for a Pt(111) electrode in 0.1 M H₂SO₄, recorded at a scan rate $dE/dt = 10 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$. CVs in general show the electric current as a function of electrode potential while the latter is continuously changed at constant scan rate back and forth within a given potential range. They yield fingerprints of the processes occurring at the electrode-electrolyte interface. In this CV, four different processes can be envisaged, the corresponding potential ranges being marked by roman numbers. No. I denotes the so-called double-layer charging region, where no electrochemical reaction (i.e., no charge transfer through the interface) takes place and where the "Helmholtz capacitor" is simply charged or discharged by the potential variation. No. II shows the region where sulfate adsorption takes place on the positive potential scan (desorption on the negative scan), while no. III comprises the region of hydrogen adsorption (atomic hydrogen!) and desorption during the negative and the positive scan, respectively. In region no. IV, hydrogen evolution causes a steep rise of the cathodic current.

3

Surface Science:

Single crystal samples Ultrahigh vacuum (10⁻¹⁰ mbar) Surface structure Electronic properties Adsorption sites Geometry of adsorbed species

Methods:

Microscopy: Scanning tunneling microscopy Atomic force microscopy

Diffraction and scattering: Low energy electron diffraction Low energy ion scattering

Electron spectroscopy: X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy UV photoelectron spectroscopy Auger electron spectroscopy Electron energy loss spectroscopy

Optical spectroscopy: IR spectroscopy

and many more



WATER ???

Electrochemistry

Heterogeneous catalysis

Environmental Sciences

Biology

Electrochemical Surface Science:

the presence of water limits the application of surface science methods to:

optical methods (photon in – photon out) local probe microscopy

Surface X ray diffration

Scanning probe microscopies

Infrared spectroscopy

Surface X-ray scattering techniques – Basic concepts

3D scattering





Surface X-ray scattering techniques – Basic concepts

Crystal truncation rods - CTR







Fig. 2. Glancing angle geometry. The X-ray beam impinges onto the surface at an angle α_i . After diffraction through an angle 2θ the X-rays exit the surface at an angle α_f . Both α_i and α_f are typically ~ 0.5° for in-plane studies. The momentum transfer q is composed of an in-plane component q_{\parallel} and a component q_z normal to the surface

1 1 0.15)

H

Surface X-ray scattering techniques – Basic concepts



Surface X-ray scattering techniques – Basic concepts



SXRS of solid liquid interfaces – sample cells



Figure 8. Schematic and photograph of the (A) thin-film and (B) transmission cell designs. The water film thickness, D_w , and cell width, W, for the two cell designs are shown.



Fig. 1. Schematic drawing of the "hanging meniscus" transmission surface Xray scattering cell. The dashed line indicates the X-ray beam.

Au(111) (23× $\sqrt{3}$) \rightarrow (1×1) phase transition A <1,2,0> 11 13 15 17 19 21 23 <1,0,0> в 单_(0,1) н 1.0) (0,0) (1,0,7) (0,0,6) (0,1,5) Q^(1,0,4) (0,0,3) 0,0,2.2 Q kf (1,0,1) k, Com (0,0,0) (0,1,0.5) к

"Herringbone" reconstruction

SXRS – Examples

Au(111) (23× $\sqrt{3}$) \rightarrow (1×1) phase transition



iso-intensity scattering contours in the vicinity of the (0,1) reflection

> 0.1 V: surface is not reconstructed< 0.05 V: reconstructed phase</p>

Peak moves outward and sharpens \rightarrow increased compression and order



SXRS – Examples

Au(111) electrochemical dissolution



Region 1: double layer regime Region 2: active dissolution Region 3: passivation Region 4: dissolution after passivation Region 5: redeposition

Au + 4Cl⁻ \leftrightarrow AuCl₄⁻ + 3e⁻ Au + H₂O \leftrightarrow AuOH + H⁺ + e⁻ AuOH \leftrightarrow AuO + H⁺ + e⁻



Fig. 3. (a) Reciprocal space geometry for Au(100), showing Bragg-reflections (filled circles), crystal truncation rods (thick solid lines), reciprocal space positions employed in the measurements (open circles), as well as incoming beam, scattered beam, and momentum transfer q (dashed lines). (b) Schematic curves of the scattered intensity as a function of deposited amount (in monolayers) at anti-Bragg positions for (ideal) step flow, layer-by-layer, and multilayer growth.

SXRS – Examples



t [s]



Electron density distribution normal to the surface can be derived from Specular Reflectivity data.

Specular Reflectivity \rightarrow Q along (0,0,*l*)

Ordered water layers: Vertical ordering: specular rod Lateral ordering: non-specular rods







FIG. 3 Integrated intensities of the specular rod for Ag(111) at +0.52 V (stars) and -0.23 V (circles) in 0.1 M NaF, corrected as in Fig. 2. The dashed lines are for bare Ag(111), using the surface roughness and top-second plane spacing obtained from the fits in Fig. 2, but with no contribution from the water distribution. These lines are slightly different at the two voltages, because of the different top-second plane spacings discussed in the text. The solid lines are the best fits with the contribution from the water.



FIG. 1 Possible orientations for water near a surface. a, Positively charged surface. b, Negatively charged surface. These orientations provide the most favourable electrostatic interactions. The arrows show the directions of the dipole moments. Note that the oxygen atoms are farther from the electrode surface in b.

Water on mineral surfaces

e.g. rutile TiO₂(110)



Water chemistry in UHV mediated by bridging oxygen vacancies.

What is the termination of rutile TiO2(110) In water environment?



Water on mineral surfaces

e.g. rutile $TiO_2(110)$



Resonant Anomalous X-Ray Reflectivity

Resonant anomalous x-ray reflectivity (RAXR) makes use of the 'anomolous' dispersion in the atomic scattering factor of an atom near its characteristic absorption edge. This allows for the possibility of incorporating elementspecific information into the x-ray scattering methods. Both the real (f') and imaginary (f'') parts of the scattering factor are modified which are related to each other by Kramers-Kronig relations. The imaginary part of the resonant scattering factor, f''(E) is proportional to the x-ray absorption near edge structure (XANES) profile that could be measured in x-ray absorption spectroscopy. Consequently RAXR brings together the unprecedented structural sensitivity and interfacial specificity of x-ray reflectivity measurements with the element-specificity and spectroscopic sensitivity of XANES measurements leading to a much more complete understanding of the complex structural and chemical changes of many important interfacial processes. 30

Resonant atomic scattering factor:

$$f(q_0, E) = f_{\rm NR}^{0}(q_0) + f_{\rm R}'(E) + i f_{\rm R}''(E)$$



http://www.cse.anl.gov/Nuclear_and_Environmental_Processes/RAXR.shtml

An example from catalysis – Catalyst preparation

Impregnation of silica with PTA, $Pt(NH_3)_4(OH)_2$ – electrostatic adsorption or inner sphere complex?



$$\begin{split} &2(\text{Si-O}^-,\text{H}^+) + \left[\text{Pt}(\text{NH}_4)_3\right]^{+2}, (\text{OH}^-)_2 \\ &\longleftrightarrow (\text{Si-O}^-)_2, \left[\text{Pt}(\text{NH}_4)_3\right]^{+2} + 2(\text{H}^+,\text{OH}^-). \end{split}$$





21 Schlegel et al. Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta 66 (2002) 3037.

An example from catalysis – Catalyst preparation





be located in the surface hydration layer at z = 1 Å. 22

Park et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 94 (2005) 076104.

CO adsorption and oxidation on Pt(111)



a) CO stripping (only chemisorbed CO)b) CO oxidation (CO-saturated electrolyte)

Searching for long-range ordered structures of CO on Pt(111).

 \rightarrow super structure truncation rods



 \Rightarrow ordered p(2×2)-3CO adsorbed layer



Lucas et al. Surf. Sci. 425 (1999) L381.

(½, ½, l) rod disappears before complete CO desorption \rightarrow disordered CO adlayer or another ordered structure?



Tolmachev et al. Electrochem. Sol. State Lett. 7 (2004) E23.

Principle of Scanning Tunneling Microscopy







Electrochemical Scanning Tunneling Microscopy



Features of STM in electrolyte solution

Important:

Diminution of unwanted electrochemical reactions at the tip.

Control of electrochemical processes at the electrode during and between STM imaging.

Potentiostatic STM



Electrochemical Scanning Tunneling Microscopy

Tip coating is necessary to avoid electrochemical reactions at the tip

uncoated Pt/Ir tip



D. Mayer et al. J. Electroanal. Chem. 524 (2002) 20.





Figure 7 Typical electrochemical response of an STM tip. The Faradaic current flowing in the cathodic region is due to H_2 evolution and the anodic current is due to O_2 evolution or tip dissolution.

coated tip, only tip apex is uncoated

Example: potential-dependent surface structure in electrolyte solution Au(111) in 0.05 M H_2SO_4 .

I: Au(111) (23x√3) reconstruction (compressed first layer)
II: lifting of reconstruction (Au ad-islands)
III: ordered sulfate layer



Dretschkow, Wandlowski, in Wandelt, Thurgate (Eds.) Topics Appl. Phys. 85 (2003) 259.

Anion adsorption e.g. $PdCl_4^{2-}$ on Au(100)

4.5nm x 4.5nm



32nm x 32nm





197 x 197 nm²

upd: under potential deposition formation of a metal monolayer on a foreign substrate at potentials positive of the corresponding Nernst potential



SAM: self assembled monolayers Alkanethiols on Au(111)



23 nm × 23 nm All images from: D. Kolb, Electrochim. Acta 45 (2000) 2387.

Au(111): Onset of oxidation

1.04 V



100 nm x 100 nm



1.15 V

Fig. 9. STM images of Au(111) in 0.1 M $\rm H_2SO_4,$ showing the onset of oxidation at the steps. (a) At 1.04 V versus SCE step edges are clear; (b) at 1.15 V versus SCE step edges are decorated with oxide. From reference [111].

Potential-tuned resonant tunneling through redox molecules





1. Fe-Protoporphyrin IX







FIG. 3 (color). STM images of FePP/PP adsorbed on a graphite substrate from 0.05M Na2B4O7 solutions containing FePP and PP at the ratio of 0:1 (A), 1:4 (B), 4:1 (C), and 1:0 (D). The images were taken with a substrate potential of -0.41 V, a tunneling current of 30 pA, and a tip-substrate bias of -0.1 V. High frequency noise has been removed from the images. (E)-(H) are the corresponding cyclic voltammograms obtained with a sweeping rate of 0.2 V/sec.

Potential-tuned resonant tunneling through redox molecules



FIG. 5. Apparent height of FePP relative to PP as a function of the substrate potential. The data obtained with the $Pt_{0.8}$ -Ir_{0.2} tip and with the W tip are represented by open circles and filled circles, respectively.





FIG. 4 (color). STM image of an FePP molecule embedded in an ordered array of PP molecules when the substrate was held at -0.15 (A), -0.30 (B), -0.42 (C), -0.55 (D), and -0.65 V (E), respectively. (F)–(J) are the corresponding plots of the cross sections along the white line indicated in (A). The data were symmetrized with respect to the center.



Potential-pulse pertubation



Figure 1. Experimental method: potential-pulse perturbation. SCE = saturated calomel electrode.

A-E: increasing oxidation pulse duration E-F: same area (after 3 min.)

redistribution of ox. TPyP molecules (images E and F) suggests surface charge diffusion, i.e. electron transfer between TPyP molecules. bright: reduced TPyP dark: oxidized TPyP



Figure 2. Pre-adsorbed TPyP/Au(111) in 0.1 M H₂SO₄ at a potential of $-0.1 V_{SCE}$ (27×27 nm²). A) Before the oxidation potential pulse was applied, and after oxidation of adsorbed TPyP molecules with a potential pulse of 0.2 V for duration: B) 0.1 s, C) 0.2 s, D) 0.5 s, E) 1 s. F) STM image at -0.1 V 3 min after obtaining image (E). Dark spots are oxidized TPyP molecules, light spots are reduced TPyP molecules.

He & Borguet, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 46 (2007) 6098.

STM in organic solvent

Cl

Mn(II)

Mn porphyrin as oxidation catalyst for transformation of alkenes into epoxides

CI•

Mn(ll)



Mn1: M = MnCl



oxygen free





Mn(IV) Mn(IV) Au(1,11)

Au(171)



STM in organic solvent



Electrochemically induced 2D Polymerization in the liquid STM.

Polyaniline (PAn) $xC_6H_5-NH_2 \rightarrow -(C_6H_4-NH)_x + 2xH^+ + 2xe^-$



7 nm x 7 nm

Polymerization start: formation of a diradical cation at positive potential



50 nm x 50 nm

6 nm x 6 nm

The probing feedback quantity is a faradaic current flowing at an ultramicroelectrode probe in μ m-scale distance from the sample.



Fig. 3 Feedback mode of the SECM operation. (A) The UME tip is far from the substrate. (B) Positive feedback: species R is regenerated at the substrate. (C) Negative feedback: diffusion of R to the tip is hindered by the substrate.





www.electrochem.cwru.edu/encycl

Fig. 6 Theoretical approach curves for a tip electrode over a conductive (1) and insulating (2) substrate. Solid lines are computed for RG = 10 from eqn (7) (curve 1) and eqn (8) (curve 2). Symbols are from simulations in ref. 7.

Scanning Electrochemical Microscopy – SECM

Example: Oxygen reduction reaction

a) Screening of catalysts: Pd-Au-Co ternary alloys







b) Structure-sensitive catalysis: shape-controlled Pt nanoparticles



Sanchez-Sanchez et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc. 132 (2010) 5622.

Fernandez et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc. 127 (2005) 357.

Scanning Force Microscopy – SFM (AFM)



- Attractive forces:
- van der Waals
- electrostatic
- chemical

Repulsive forces:

- hard sphere repulsion
- Pauli exclusion interaction
- electron electron Coulomb interaction



In electrochemical environment similar to STM In addition: insulators, biological samples



FM-DFM – Frequency modulation dynamic force microscopy



FM-DFM – Frequency modulation dynamic force microscopy (spectroscopy)

Muscovite mica (clay mineral) in contact with water



FM-DFM image in water



FM-DFM – Frequency modulation dynamic force microscopy (spectroscopy)

Muscovite mica (clay mineral) in contact with water



Fukuma et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 104 (2010) 106101.

Park et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 89 (2002) 085501.



FIG. 2 (color). Perspective visualization of the adsorbed water molecules represented by peak (a) in Fig. 1 as predicted by MC simulation.

Water profile from X ray refl.



Cheng et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 87 (2001) 156103.

Infrared spectroscopic methods



External reflection



solution

Internal reflection

IRin

sample

optical element

IRout

- + no diffusion limitations (time-resolved measurements possible)
- surface morphology
- cleaning of internal reflection element

- well defined surface crystallography
- thin layer cell (diffusion problems, resistence)
- electrolyte absorption (background)

+ single crystalline surfaces

Surface selection rule



Fig. 9.3 Directions of the electric field vectors of the incident (dotted arrows) and the reflected (solid arrows) IR beams at the air/gold interface for (a) p-polarized and (b) s-polarized radiation.

Two limiting polaization states of the IR electric field vector: E_p : parallel to the plane of incidence E_s : perpedicular to the plane of incidence

at the metal surface:

electric field **enhancement** (constuctive interference between incident and reflected radiation) for **ppolarized** light at grazing incidence

electric field **cancellation** (destructive interference between incident and reflected radiation) for **spolarized** light at all angles of incidence.

only the p-polarized part of the IR radiation may interact with dipoles on the surface.



air/Au interface

Zamlynny, Lipkowski, in: Adv. In Electrochem. Science and Engingeering, Vol. 9, Wiley, 2006

43

Optimization of experimental conditions



Fig. 9.4 Stratified medium that models the experimental thin-layer cell. $\tilde{\nu}$, $\pm u$ and Θ are the wavenumber, convergence and the angle of incidence of the infrared beam,

respectively. n, k and h are the refractive index, attenuation coefficient and thickness of the three phases that comprise the stratified medium, respectively.

- Angle of incidence
- Thin cavity thickness
- Window material



45 Zamlynny, Lipkowski, in: Adv. In Electrochem. Science and Engingeering, Vol. 9, Wiley, 2006





Fig. 9.10 Comparison of the SNIFTIRS spectra for pyridine adsorbed at an Au(111) electrode acquired using CaF₂ prism and ZnSe hemispherical windows. Taken with permission from Ref. [40].

Main problem: electrolyte absorbs IR radiation

Solutions:

- SNIFTIRS: Subtractively Normalized Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy

Modulation of the electrode potential between the base value (E_1) and the sample value (E_2) .

Reflection absorption spectrum:
$$\frac{\Delta R}{R} = \frac{R(E_2) - R(E_1)}{R(E_1)}$$
 R_i: reflectivities

Base potential at a value where the surface is free of adsorbed molecules.

- Polarization dependent Infrared Reflection Absorption Spectroscopy

- Vibrational Sum Frequency generation (SFG) Spectroscopy

Polarization dependent IRAS

-Static polarization switching: use linear polarizer and record s and p spectra separatly.

- Polarization modulation technique



Piezo element converts a periodic voltage to a periodic mechanical wave, which compresses or expands the ZnSe crystal (at a frequency of 70 kHz).



Surface selection rule: vanishing electric field of the s-polarized component at a metal surface.

with **p**-polarized component: detect **fluid phase + surface** with **s**-polarized component: detect **only fluid phase** 48

Polarization dependent IRAS + (SNIFTIRS)



1500 1400 1300

1200 1100

wavenumber / cm⁻¹

1000 900

1200 and 1100 cm⁻¹: solution species

wavenumber / cm⁻¹

1100

1000 900

1500 1400 1300 1200

Anion adsorption on Pt(111)





Fig. 4 (a) SNIFTIRS spectra of the Pt(111) electrode in 0.1 M Na₂SO₄ + 0.001 M H₂SO₄ solution at different polarized light, (b) variation of $\langle E_{p,average} \rangle^2 / \langle E_{s,average} \rangle^2$ with wavenumber, (c) and (d) calculated IR spectra (indicated in the figure).



ratio of MSEFS for p- and s-pol. radiation in the thin layer cavity



Fig. 5 ΔR_{ads} spectra of the Pt(111) electrode in solutions of different pH: (b) 0.96, (c) 2.6, (d) 3.6, (e) 4.6, (f) 5.6. (a) and (g) plot log I/I_0 , the transmission IR spectra for 0.5 M K₂SO₄ + 3 M HCl and 0.5 M K₂SO₄ solution, respectively. E_S is 0.5 V for all the ΔR_{abs} spectra.

Conclusion: only sulfate adsorbed

CO adsorption on Pt(111)



Band positions lower in electrochemical environment : due to coadsorbed H_2O . Two different CO species at lower frequency: 1781 cm⁻¹ (3-fold hollow) and 1845 cm⁻¹ (bridge)

>) (2×√3)rect = c(4×2)

CO adsorption on Pt(111)





Two different CO species at lower frequency: 1781 cm⁻¹ (3-fold hollow) and 1845 cm⁻¹ (bridge)

CO oxidation on Pt(111)

 $CO_{ad} + OH_{ad} \rightarrow CO_2 + H^+ + e^-$



Possible reaction mechanism: weakly bound CO in p(2x2)-3CO structure reacts at low potential with OH adsorbed at defect/step sites. the remaining CO in $(\sqrt{19x}\sqrt{19})$ -13CO is strongly bound. Reaction at higher potential when OH adsorbs at terrace sites.

Influence of anions: Br⁻ selectively blocks step sites \rightarrow higher onset potential for reaction.

Attenuated total reflection (ATR)

Total internal reflection (TIR)



Critical angle: $\theta_c = \arcsin\left(\frac{n_2}{n_1}\right)$

Internal reflection element: high refractive index (e.g. diamond, ZnSe, Ge, Si)

Angle of incidence > crtical angle

Light is reflected at the interface and forms an evanescent wave perpendicular to the total reflecting surface.



Exponential decay of evanescent field into sample:

$$\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{E}_0 \exp\left(-\frac{\mathbf{z}}{\mathbf{d}_p}\right)$$

Penetration depth:
$$d_p = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi \sqrt{(n_1^2 \sin^2 \theta - n_2^2)}}$$
 0.5 – 2 µm

Attenuated total reflection (ATR)

Deposition of catalyst

 a) Thin metal film: Au, Ag, Pt,.... on IRE by physical vapor deposition thickness of the film must be thinner than the penetration depth of the evanescent wave. very homogeneous layers can be prepared

b) Powder catalyst

by dropping a slurry of catalyst on IRE and drying e.g. Al_2O_3 , TiO₂, silica, CeO₂ can be thicker than λ_p because of particulate nature



ATR - Surface enhanced infrared absorption spectroscopy (ATR-SEIRAS)



Metal particles are polarized by incident photon field \rightarrow generates electromagnetic field that excites vibrations of adsorbed molecules. EM field at the surface up to 10 times larger than incident field.

EM field around particles is polarized along the surface normal at any point of the particles. Surface selection rule identical to IRAS.

Distance dependence of electric field: r⁻³

Enhancement is short-ranged and confined to adsorbed molecules.

 \Rightarrow possibility to detect interfacial water

ATR - Surface enhanced infrared absorption spectroscopy (ATR-SEIRAS)

Water on Au(111)-20 nm particles in 0.1 M H_2SO_4

