#### **SAIP2016**



Contribution ID: 397

Type: Oral Presentation

### The SCC-DFTB study of H<sub>2</sub>O interaction with TiO<sub>2</sub> supported Pd catalyst

Tuesday, 5 July 2016 15:20 (20 minutes)

### Abstract content <br> &nbsp; (Max 300 words)<br><a href="http://events.saip.org.za/getFile.py/starget="\_blank">Formatting &<br>Special chars</a>

The supported metal nanoparticles are of great importance in many industrial catalytic processes, such as oxidation of methane, carbon monoxide and formic acid. In particular, the platinum group metals (PGM) such as Pd, Pt and Rh supported on metal oxides are being considered. Palladium is often used as a catalyst for many processes in emissions control technologies. This is due to its potential of becoming a novel catalyst for low temperature methane combustion.

During the methane oxidation, H<sub>2</sub>O is produced and it is important to understand the behaviour of this molecule as it gets in contact with catalyst. The interaction of H<sub>2</sub>O molecules with Pd nanoclusters and TiO<sub>2</sub> supported Pd nanoclusters were investigated using the self-consistent-charge density functional tight binding (SCC-DFTB) approach as implemented within the DFTB+ code [5]. Firstly, the interaction of H<sub>2</sub>O molecule with Pd<sub>13</sub> nanocluster was investigated. The results show that when H<sub>2</sub>O interact with Pd nanoclusters, it dissociate into OH and H forming a Pd – O bond length of 1.992 Å and Pd – H bond length of 1.571 Å, respectively. Secondly, the interaction H<sub>2</sub>O with TiO<sub>2</sub>(101) supported Pd<sub>13</sub> on various adsorption sites preferred the bridge adsorption site, however no dissociation was observed. This gave an average bond length of 1.979 Å with adsorption energy of -1.887 eV.

Lastly, molecular dynamics (MD) calculations were performed on the most preferred orientation of H<sub>2</sub>O adsorbed on TiO<sub>2</sub>(101) supported Pd<sub>13</sub> system. It was obtained that the H<sub>2</sub>O molecule dissociates into OH and H at about 598 K.

#### Apply to be<br> considered for a student <br> &nbsp; award (Yes / No)?

yes

#### Level for award<br>&nbsp;(Hons, MSc, <br> &nbsp; PhD, N/A)?

PhD

#### Main supervisor (name and email)<br>and his / her institution

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No

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Primary author: Ms CHUMA, Moyahabo Hellen (University of Limpopo)Presenter: Ms CHUMA, Moyahabo Hellen (University of Limpopo)Session Classification: Division for Physics of Condensed Matter and Materials (1)

Track Classification: Track A - Division for Physics of Condensed Matter and Materials