



Research Article

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Adsorption simulation of sulfur oxide on the surface of metal

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ABSTRACT

An appropriate adsorption model was established by using the Canonical Ensemble Monte Carlo method, and several characters of  $SO_2$ ,  $SO_3$  on different metal surfaces have been simulated including adsorption site, adsorption micro-configuration and the energy structure. As can be seen from the simulated results, single component of  $SO_2$  adsorbed on MgO(200) crystal surface has better adsorption properties, meanwhile  $SO_3$  molecules mainly adsorb near the crystal surface of the aluminum atoms. Sulfur dioxide on MgO(200) crystal surface has a great influence on the adsorption site of sulfur trioxide, which makes the spaces between  $SO_3$  and MgO(200) crystal surface shorter.

**Key words:** Monte Carlo method, sulfuroxide, surface of metal, Adsorption simulation

INTRODUCTION

With the acceleration of the process of industrialization, environmental pollution aggravates. Especially sulphur oxide has become one of the main harmful gas pollution of the environment the present world [1]. To control the air pollution by  $SO_2$  reducing  $SO_2$  emissions, protect the atmospheric environment is one of the important subjects of environmental protection in the current and future quite a long period of time [2-3]. The rapid development of adsorption technology and the development of a new type of adsorbent, adsorption process has become an important chemical process; especially in the gas purification store separation has become more and more widely used. Research on gas adsorption has also become a research hotspot in the field of chemistry and chemical industry [4-7]. Molecular simulation method is a method through the theory and computing technology to simulate the molecular motion, which has wide applications in the fields of computational chemistry materials science computational biology the current [8]. The montecarlo simulation is widely used in study the distribution of the adsorption properties of adsorbent and adsorbate, The grand canonical ensemble montecarlo (GCMC) and configurational bias monte carlo (abbreviated as CBMC) method has been used to the adsorption study all sorts of geometry shape of pore structure, able to accurately predict adsorption energy structure and adsorption density, etc [9-15].

This article uses the grand canonical ensemble monte carlo method to establish the corresponding adsorption model, simulation of  $SO_2$ ,  $SO_3$  adsorption behavior in sulfur transfer active MgO,  $Al_2O_3$  crystal. Calculate gas sulphur oxide in the adsorption of different metal active adsorption microcosmic configuration and the nature of the energy structure and so on. In order to research study the oxidation of sulfur oxide gases adsorption performance, understand the adsorption behavior of sulfur oxides in the reaction process from a theoretical perspective, so as to better understand the oxidation of sulfur oxides and separation process, provide the necessary basic data.

## 2. CRYSTAL MODEL AND CALCULATION METHOD

### 2.1 Crystal model

#### 2.1.1 The MgO style (200) crystal plane

The Materials Studio software package used DMol - 3 optimization module in MgO style crystal; under the menu bar Build Surfaces to cleave surface cutting MgO style (200) crystal plane; constructing the super cell under the symmetry; building vacuum layer under the crystals, thickness of 20 Å.

#### 2.1.2 The Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (211) crystal plane

The Materials Studio software package used DMol-3 optimization module in Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> crystal; under the menu bar Build Surfaces to cleave surface cutting Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (211) crystal plane; and the same goes for other operations.

### 2.2 Force field parameters and calculation methods

Using Materials Studio software locator module calculates the adsorption performance, Select 2×2×2 cell structure as the computational domain. Choosing grand canonical ensemble monte carlo method in the simulation process. Electrostatic and van de Waals potential energy use the Ewald add and the Atom -based method, the truncated distance is set to 18.5 Å, at the same time spline width and buffer width value using the default values, 1 Å and 0.5 Å respectively, force field to choose compass.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 The adsorption simulation of one-component adsorbate on metal crystal

#### 3.1.1 Adsorption potential

Calculating SO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub> in MgO style Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (200) (211) crystal plane of adsorption under 973 K. The results are shown in figure 1~4, contrast figure 1~4, visible from the figure 1, single molecule SO<sub>2</sub> adsorption interplanar spacing is shorter, which show that SO<sub>2</sub> in MgO style (200) crystal plane of stronger adsorption performance, while SO<sub>3</sub> in MgO style (200) crystal plane and SO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub> in Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (211) crystal plane of adsorption is weak. This can also be concluded that the adsorption of SO<sub>2</sub> in MgO style with chemical adsorption, and the adsorption quantity is greater than the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. This also consistent with the results of magnesium easier as the active center adsorption of SO<sub>2</sub> formation sulfate on trail. Can adsorption of SO<sub>2</sub> in (200), is a surface model with 4 coordination of Mg can empty out a ligand to accept from lone pair electron from one O atom of SO<sub>2</sub>, will eventually SO<sub>2</sub> keyed on the surface. SO<sub>2</sub> molecules parallel to the metal surface no longer in figure 2~4, but happened in different configurations of varying degrees of tilt, and the trend of SO<sub>2</sub> molecules are far away from the metal surface.

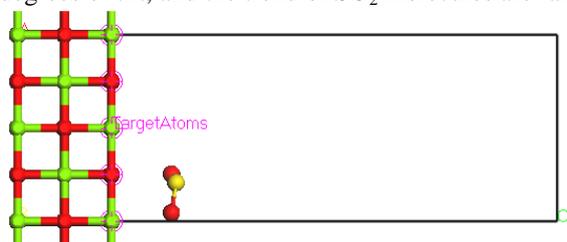


Figure 1 Localization of sulfur dioxide in MgO(200) surface

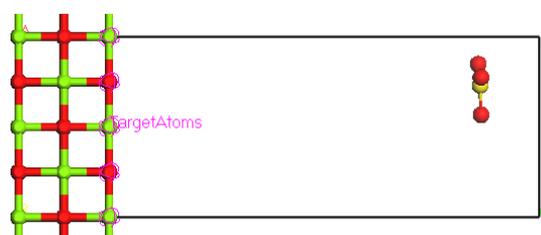


Figure 2 Localization of sulfur trioxide in MgO(200) surface

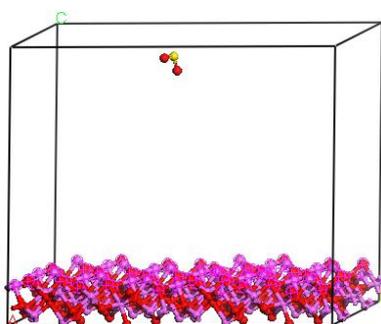


Figure 3 Localization of sulfur dioxide in Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>(211) surface

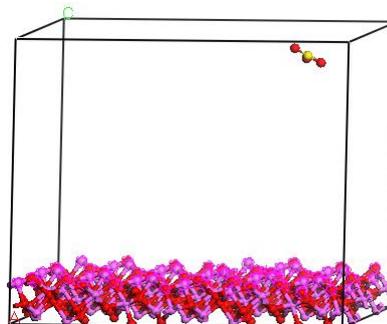
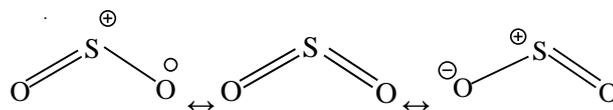


Figure 4 Localization of sulfur trioxide in Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>(211) surface

#### 3.1.2 The micro adsorption configurations

The some microstructure of SO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>3</sub> absorption in different crystal surface at 973 K is obtained by simulation calculation, specific results are shown in figure 5~7. Contrast can be seen from the picture: both show the different adsorption behavior, the main adsorption of SO<sub>2</sub> molecules near the crystal magnesium atoms; SO<sub>3</sub> molecular

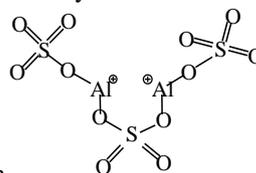
adsorptions mainly near the crystal aluminum atoms and molecules SO<sub>3</sub> concentrations. This is because SO<sub>2</sub> is v-shaped bending type molecules, formal charge is zero, surrounded by five electron pair, from molecular orbital theory point of view, most of these valence electrons are involved in forming S - O bond, form the SO<sub>2</sub> has a resonance structure, resonance structure is as follows:



Magnesium is linear ion compound structure( $\text{Mg} \text{---} \text{O}$ ), and the adsorption of SO<sub>2</sub> the space steric hindrance is small, easy to close to adsorb; and alumina is 6 ligand atomic crystal, covalent bonding, the structure is



, and the adsorption of SO<sub>2</sub> the space steric hindrance is larger, it is not easy to close to adsorb. In addition, S elements is sp<sup>2</sup> hybridization in the gaseous SO<sub>3</sub>, In the vertical direction pathway of p has a pair of electrons, in the form of hybrid orbitals have a pair of electrons in pairs and two into a single electron, have two Oxygen and H atoms, H and respectively to form a sigma bond, two oxygen atoms each has one electron on the vertical direction p, one atom of oxygen and lone pair electrons of the hybrid orbitals form the coordination bond, have two electrons in the vertical direction, so, electrons in the vertical direction of the four atoms together form a big π bond, which belongs to delocalization big π bond, the density of electron cloud around the structure is large,



are more likely to accept 6 ligand Al vacated a ligand to form



Figure 5 Profile of SO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on MgO(200) at 973 K



Figure 6 Profile of SO<sub>3</sub> adsorption on MgO(200) at 973 K

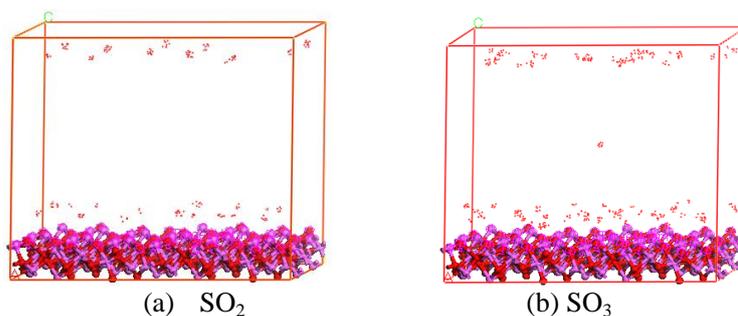


Figure 7 the adsorption distribution on MgO(200) at 973 K

### 3.1.3 Adsorption energy

Adsorption energy can refer to the definition of the material changes in the total energy before and after the adsorption, its symbol and size can be said the possibility of adsorption and the degree of adsorption [16]. This article combine with the adsorption model; the adsorption can be defined as follows:

$$\Delta E_a = E_{\text{surface,(nso}_x)} - E_{\text{surface(ref)}} - nE_{\text{so}_x}$$

Which  $E_{\text{surface,(nso}_x)}$  is the total energy of system when gaseous molecules adsorbed metal surface,  $E_{\text{surface(ref)}}$  is the energy of the metal surface,  $E_{\text{so}_x}$  is gaseous molecular energy. If calculated  $E_a < 0$ , suggests that system energy

down after adsorption, gas is adsorbed, the greater the adsorption to the absolute value, the system more stable; conversely, if the  $E_a > 0$ , gas cannot be adsorbed.

Seen from the data in Table 1, the absorbing position of  $\text{SO}_2$  on the surfaces of  $\text{MgO}(200)$  may be unique and this is also the most stable state. The length of Mg-O bond in  $\text{MgO}$  crystal is 0.2106nm, the distance between Mg-O in  $\text{MgO}$  (200) and O in the Mg-O is 0.2723nm, and this already approaches bond distance. Table 2-4 shows that different locations have different adsorption configuration, there are a variety of possible adsorbing situations and the adsorption energy is also quite different. Although it has a strong absorption, but exists a large distance between atoms bond.

**Table 1 Adsorption energy of sulfur dioxide on  $\text{MgO}(200)$  at 973 K**

adsorption site	adsorption energy	d(Mg-S <sub>2</sub> )/nm	d(Mg-O <sub>s</sub> )/nm	d(Mg-O <sub>crystal</sub> )/nm
MgO(200)	-9.66658876	0.2942	0.2723	0.2106

**Table 2 Adsorption energy of sulfur trioxide on  $\text{MgO}(200)$  at 973 K**

adsorption site	adsorption energy	d(Mg- S <sub>3</sub> )/nm
MgO(200)-1	-12.68134985	1.7252
MgO(200)-2	-1.01641778	0.7354
MgO(200)-3	-0.77757805	0.7681

**Table 3 Adsorption energy of sulfur dioxide on  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3(211)$  at 973 K**

adsorption site	adsorption energy	d(Al- S <sub>2</sub> )/nm
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 1	-45.29049086	1.9735
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 2	-43.96735076	1.9708
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 3	-36.94247763	0.3803
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 4	-36.48876860	0.3841
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 5	-35.30953435	0.4141
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 6	-34.46646542	0.3477
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 7	-32.24894514	0.3506
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 8	-23.96456998	0.3455
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 9	-13.97739908	1.8072

**Table 4 Adsorption energy of sulfur trioxide on  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3(211)$  at 973 K**

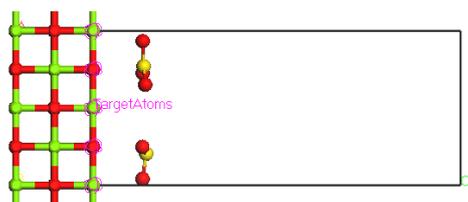
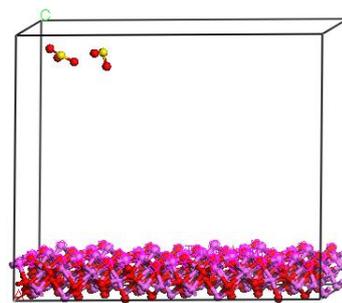
adsorption site	adsorption energy	d(Al- S <sub>3</sub> )/nm
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 1	-22.55806810	1.9080
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 2	-20.55675593	1.9457
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 3	-20.27778460	1.9488
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 4	-19.38387529	0.3865
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 5	-19.01004025	1.7733
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 6	-18.27553650	1.7615
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 7	-17.97484310	0.4215
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 8	-16.82576608	1.7586
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 9	-12.51363784	0.3771
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (2 1 1) - 10	-11.77573200	0.3584

### 3.2 Analog Mixed adsorbate adsorbed on the metal surface of the crystal

#### 3.2.1 Adsorption sites

The adsorption of  $\text{SO}_2$ - $\text{SO}_3$  binary systems under 973K on different crystal surface were simulated, specific results were shown in Figure 8 ~9. As can be seen from Figure 8, under the same conditions,  $\text{SO}_2$  has a great influence on the surface adsorption sites of  $\text{SO}_3$  on  $\text{MgO}$  (200).  $\text{SO}_3$  single component adsorption has a large crystal plane distance ( $d_1$  (Mg-S<sub>3</sub>) = 1.7252), while at the same time the presence of  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{SO}_3$ , the space between  $\text{SO}_3$  and the crystal becomes smaller ( $d_2$  (Mg-S<sub>3</sub>) = 0.2763). This is due to its reactivity  $\text{SO}_2$ ,  $\text{SO}_3$  molecules synergistic activity and the presence of a large number of bits, these make the gas in the  $\text{MgO}$  (200) of adsorption is always dominant.

Seen from Figure 9, the single component adsorption and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (211) plane, respectively,  $d_1$  (Al-S<sub>2</sub>) = 1.9977nm,  $d_1$  (Al-S<sub>3</sub>) = 1.9174nm; mixing the components adsorbed gas molecules plane pitch are reduced to  $d_2$  (Al-S<sub>2</sub>) = 1.9561nm,  $d_2$  (Al-S<sub>3</sub>) = 1.9099nm.

Figure 8 Localization of SO<sub>2</sub>-SO<sub>3</sub> in MgO(200) surfaceFigure 9 Localization of SO<sub>2</sub>-SO<sub>3</sub> in Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>(211) surface

### 3.2.2 Adsorption energy

From Table 5 and 6, it is seen the adsorbing situation of the mixing components on the crystal surface may be multifarious, since the adsorption process is exothermic, the adsorption of the different adsorbed are all negative. In the most stable adsorption, adsorption energy homeostasis-component mixing ingredients is smaller than the absolute value of the steady-state value of the adsorption energy, indicating that blending system is more easily absorbed by the crystal surface. The adsorption space of the mixing components on the MgO (200) crystal surface becomes smaller and the space on Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (211) crystal surface keeps constant, indicating that more mixing components can be adsorbed on MgO(200).

Table 5 Adsorption energy of sulfur dioxide-sulfur trioxide on MgO(200) at 973 K

adsorption site	adsorption energy	d(Mg- S <sub>2</sub> )/nm	d(Mg- S <sub>3</sub> )/nm
MgO (2 0 0) - 1	-24.21442063	0.2947	0.2763
MgO (2 0 0) - 2	-23.71314685	0.2969	0.2757
MgO (2 0 0) - 3	-23.36748871	0.3178	0.2746
MgO (2 0 0) - 4	-23.03189303	0.3657	0.2773
MgO (2 0 0) - 5	-22.37932410	0.2940	1.7253
MgO (2 0 0) - 6	-22.29163621	1.6981	1.7229
MgO (2 0 0) - 7	-21.63134854	1.7052	1.6786

Table 6 Adsorption energy of sulfur dioxide-sulfur trioxide on Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>(211) at 973 K

adsorption site	adsorption energy	d(Al- S <sub>2</sub> )/nm	d(Al- S <sub>3</sub> )/nm
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (2 1 1) - 1	-68.37162344	1.9561	1.8957
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (2 1 1) - 2	-67.85465540	1.9975	1.9079
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (2 1 1) - 3	-66.60540097	1.9725	1.9074
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (2 1 1) - 4	-65.80359404	1.9972	1.9100
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (2 1 1) - 5	-65.55315397	1.8101	1.9521
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (2 1 1) - 6	-65.21356399	1.8467	1.8437
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (2 1 1) - 7	-64.70976174	1.8857	1.7750
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (2 1 1) - 8	-64.67136210	1.8868	0.4245
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (2 1 1) - 9	-64.37991767	1.8864	1.7820
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (2 1 1) - 10	-64.24058451	1.8845	0.3881

## CONCLUSION

According to the grand canonical ensemble Monte Carlo method adsorption model established for sulfur oxides in the metal crystal surface adsorption calculation results, compared to SO<sub>3</sub> on MgO (200) crystal face and SO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub> on Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (211) crystal suction surface, SO<sub>2</sub> in the single component MgO (200) crystal face is stronger; adsorption of SO<sub>2</sub> concentrate around the magnesium atom and adsorption of SO<sub>3</sub> concentrates around the aluminum atom. The absorbing position of SO<sub>2</sub> on the surfaces of MgO(200) may be unique and this is also the most stable state. The length of Mg-O bond in MgO crystal is 0.2106nm, the distance between Mg-O in MgO (200) and O in the Mg-O is 0.2723nm, and this already approaches bond distance. SO<sub>2</sub> in mixing components has a significant impact on the SO<sub>3</sub> adsorption on MgO(200) surface, distance between SO<sub>3</sub> and the the crystal plane is larger (d<sub>1</sub> (Mg-S<sub>3</sub>) = 1.7252) and it becomes smaller (d<sub>2</sub> (Mg-S<sub>3</sub>) = 0.2763) while the SO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>3</sub> are both present.

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