

Ab initio Study of Catalytic Properties of 2D CuS_x Nanolayer, with x = 0.5, 1.0, and 1.5, in CO₂ Reduction

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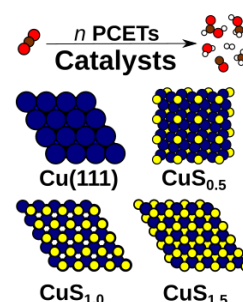
Palavras Chave: Two-dimensional, CuS, Chalcogenide, CO₂RR, CHE model.

Highlights

We explored the adsorption of several CO₂RR-related intermediates on 2D CuS_x using the CHE model. CuS₁ and CuS_{1.5} were favorable to the CO and HCOOH formation. For CuS_{1.5} we investigated beyond CO.

Resumo/Abstract

Global warming problems are becoming increasingly alarming nowadays and are mainly caused by anthropogenic activities such as the burning fossil fuels that increase greenhouse gas emissions, for example, the CO₂. This atmospheric CO₂ is an inexpensive C1 resource that we can use to transform into products with aggregate values, such as CO, HCOOH, and CH₄, which are very useful chemicals. So, one of the potential solutions that have received a lot of interest is CO₂ reduction reaction (CO₂RR) via an electrochemical pathway, owing to the possibility of being carried out under normal temperature and pressure conditions, as well as being associated with a source of clean energy like solar energy or wind energy.^[1] But for this, we need catalysts. Copper has gained a lot of attention because it reduces CO₂ to several products, despite its low selectivity. Copper sulfide, for example, is an environment-friendly and abundant material and has also attracted extensive attention for the production of formate in CO₂ electroreduction.^[2] In the same way, the 2D transition-metal dichalcogenides materials have many implications, mainly because of their different structures, active sites, defects, and so on. So, in this work, we performed DFT calculations using the Vienna Ab initio Simulation Package (VASP), with the Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE) exchange-correlation functional and van der Waals correction D3, to study the effect of Cu/S ratio of the CuS_x layers on the CO₂RR reaction pathways toward C1 products. We used the Computational Hydrogen Electrode model^[3] and observed that the reaction step CO₂ → *COOH was the potential determinant step (PDS) for CO formation on all materials. Meanwhile, for HCOOH formation the PDS depends on the considered substrate. As compared to the results for Cu(111), the CuS_{0.5} system has a high onset potential, while the CuS and CuS_{1.5} systems have small onset potential values for CO and HCOOH. Additionally, we also investigate the possibility of CH₄ formation for CuS_{1.5}.



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