Quantum-Mechanical Investigations for the Oxidation Mechanism of Ti₃Al WENHUA XUE, The University of Tulsa, SHIYU LIU, Tianjin Normal University, SHIYANG LIU, Zhejiang Normal University, DEJUN LI, Tianjin Normal University, TARA DRWENSKI, SHUXIA YIN, SANWU WANG, The University of Tulsa — First-principles density-functional theory and thermodynamics calculations are combined to establish a microscopic mechanism for the oxidation of the α₂-Ti₃Al(0001) surface. The surface energies as functions of the chemical potentials, as well as structural relaxations and electronic densities of states, are determined. The surface phase diagram (SPD) of the α₂-Ti₃Al(0001) systems with different defects and at various oxygen coverages is constructed. It is found that the Al antisite defect prefers to segregate on the α₂-Ti₃Al(0001) surface and oxygen adsorption enhances the segregation with the formation of the surface with three Al antisites per unit surface cell (i.e., the top surface layer is full of Al atoms) at the initial stage of oxidation, accounting for the aluminum selective oxidation observed experimentally. After the initial stage of oxidation, the O/α₂-Ti₃Al(0001) system manifests itself with a non-uniform double-phase SPD, suggesting the competition between oxidations of the Al and Ti elements in the oxidation process. This result explains the experimentally observed second regime of oxidation in which both metal elements are oxidized.

Wenhua Xue
The University of Tulsa

Date submitted: 11 Nov 2011

Electronic form version 1.4