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First-principle Investigation of the Stability and Vibrational Spectrum of MoS_x Nanostructures Grown on Cu(111)¹

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— Recent experiments have successfully synthesized MoS_x nanostructures in a controlled manner by evaporating Mo adatoms on the copper sulfide monolayer that forms on Cu(111) upon sulfur preloading [1,2]. STM observations and total-energy calculations based on density functional theory, including van-der-Waals interactions, have proposed several structures for MoS_x/Cu(111). In this study, we investigate the plausibility of those structures and provide elements for further experimental substantiation or refutation. In particular, we perform density-functional-theory calculations (including *ab initio* van-der-Waals interactions) of vibrational spectrum of the proposed structures to (1) attest their dynamical stability; (2) compare their thermodynamic stability as obtained from the total free energy; and (3) provide the vibrational frequencies that uniquely fingerprint the proposed structures.

[1] Kim et al., *Langmuir* 27, 11650 (2011)

[2] Dezheng D Sun, *Angew Chem. Int. Ed.* **51**, 10284-8 (2012)

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