

Abstract Submitted
for the MAR15 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Theoretical Study of Chemisorption on Small Palladium Clusters¹ AJIT HIRA, FRANK NARANJO, FELIPE MUNOZ, DANELLE JARAMILLO, Northern New Mexico College — We continue our interest in the chemisorption of different atomic and molecular species on small clusters of metallic elements, by examining the interactions of H, H₂, Li and O adsorbates with Pd_n clusters (n = 2 thru 20). Transition-metal clusters are specially suited for the study of quantum size effects and for formation of metallic states, and are ideal candidates for catalytic processes. Hybrid ab initio methods of quantum chemistry (particularly the DFT-B3LYP model) are used to derive optimal geometries for the clusters of interest. We compare calculated binding energies, bond-lengths, ionization potentials, electron affinities and HOMO-LUMO gaps for the clusters. Of particular interest are the comparisons of binding strengths at the three important types of sites: edge (E), hollow (H), on-top (T), threefold sites and fourfold sites. Effects of crystal symmetries corresponding to the bulk structures are investigated. The capacity of Pd clusters to adsorb H atoms will be compared to Ni clusters.

¹Research Supported by National Science Foundation

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Date submitted: 13 Nov 2014

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