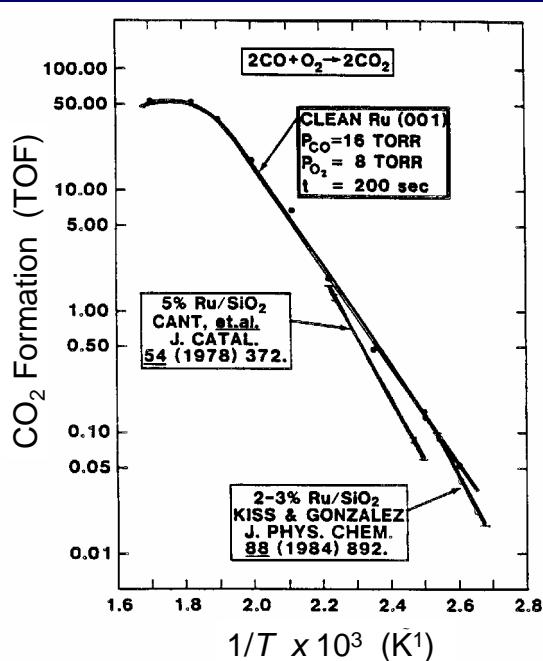


Oxidation catalysis, e.g.:

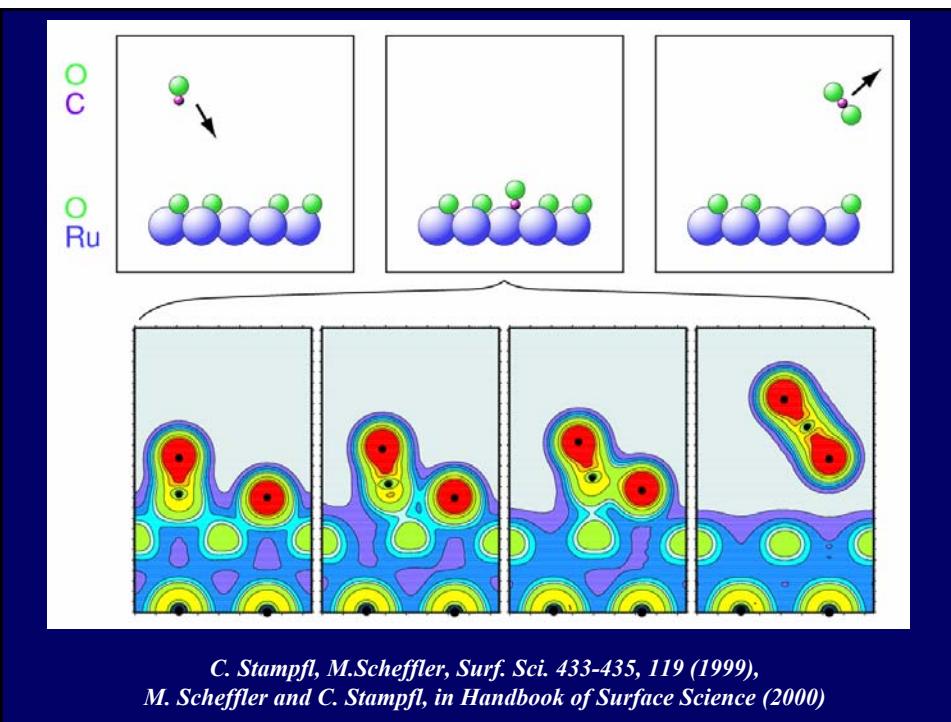


A "simple", prototypical surface chemical reaction



CO₂ formation
at Ru supported
catalysts and
Ru single crystals.

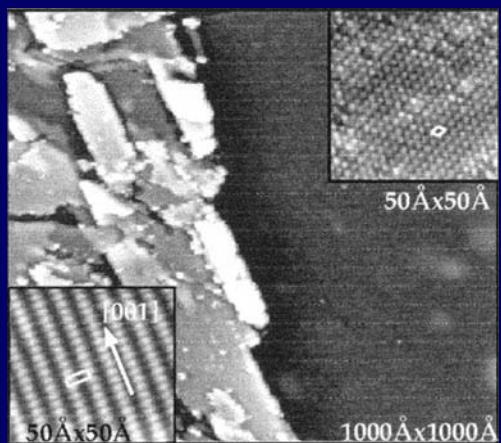
At UHV condi-
tions Ru is least
active for CO
oxidation. At
high-pressure
conditions it is
best.



Transition-metals/ oxides as oxidation catalysts ? !

Catalytic activity of Ru(0001) is due to RuO₂(110) domains (1-2 nm thin films), that form in the reactive environment.

*H. Over, Y.D. Kim, A.P. Seitsonen, S. Wendt,
 A. Morgante, E. Lundgren, M. Schmid,
 P. Varga, and G. Erl, Science 287 (2000)*



Also:

*A. Böttcher, et al.,
 Surf. Sci. 466, L811 (2000) ;
 L. Zang and H. Kisch,
 Angew. Chem. 112, 4075 (2000)*

Ab initio atomistic thermodynamics



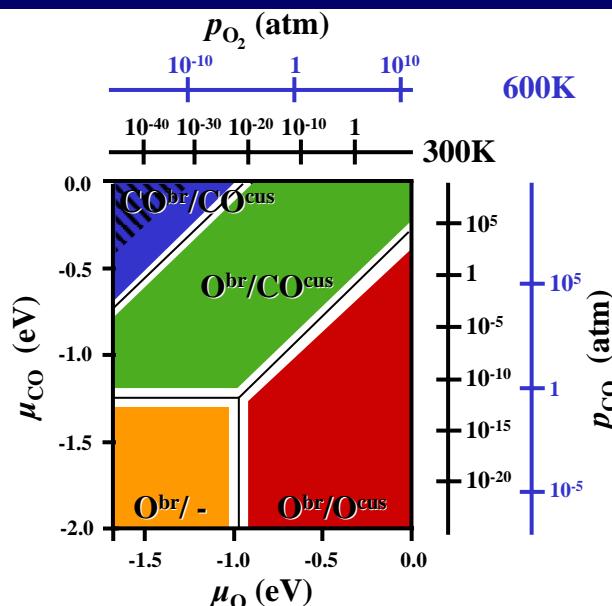
$$G(T, p) = E^{\text{tot}} + F^{\text{vib}} - TS^{\text{conf}} + pV$$

DFT (FP-LAPW; GGA)

$$\mu_O(T, p) = \frac{1}{2} \mu_{O_2}(T, p^0) + \frac{1}{2} kT \ln(p/p^0)$$

C.M. Weinert and M.S.,
Mat. Sci. Forum 10-12,
25 (1986).
Reuter and M. S., PRL 90,
046103 (2003).

RuO₂ (110) stability regions in (T,p) space

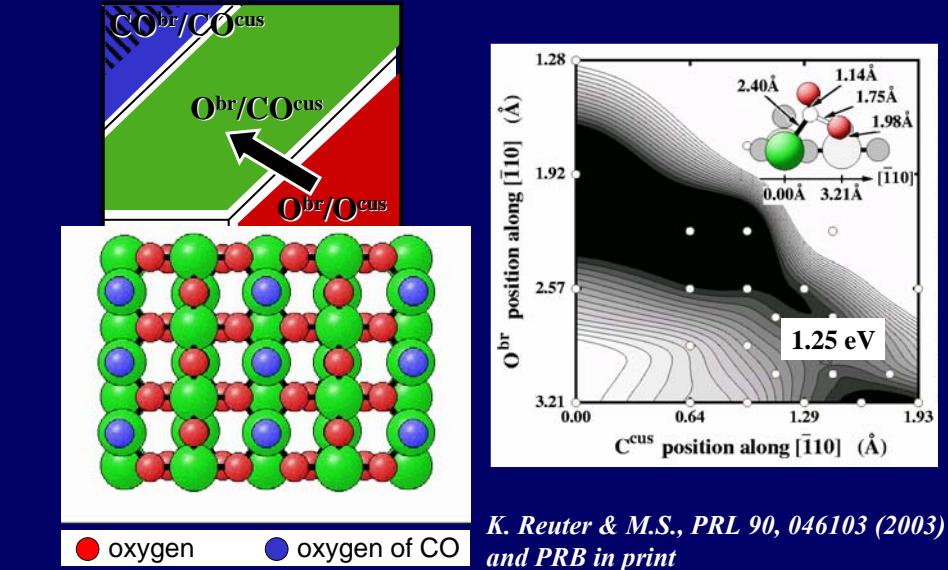


For a
“constrained
equilibrium”



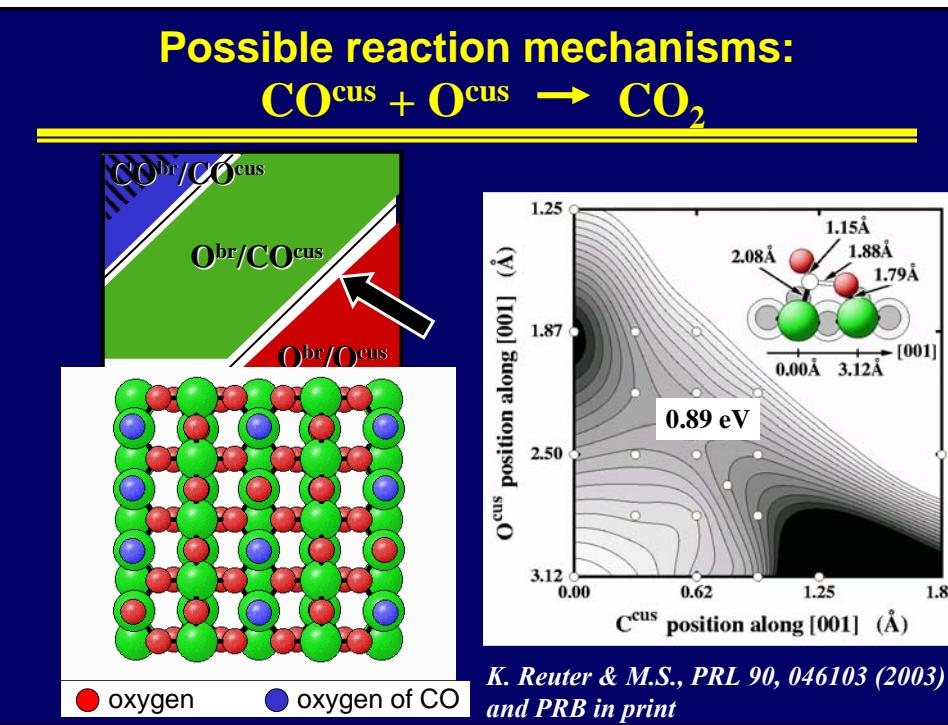
K. Reuter & M.S.,
PRL 90, 046103 (2003)

Possible reaction mechanisms:

$$\text{CO}^{\text{cus}} + \text{O}^{\text{br}} \rightarrow \text{CO}_2$$


K. Reuter & M.S., PRL 90, 046103 (2003)
and PRB in print

Possible reaction mechanisms:

$$\text{CO}^{\text{cus}} + \text{O}^{\text{cus}} \rightarrow \text{CO}_2$$


K. Reuter & M.S., PRL 90, 046103 (2003)
and PRB in print

Kinetics of catalysis from first principles

-- example: $\text{CO} + \frac{1}{2} \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{CO}_2$ --

- 1) Analysis of all possibly relevant processes using density-functional theory
- 2) Calculate the rates of all important processes

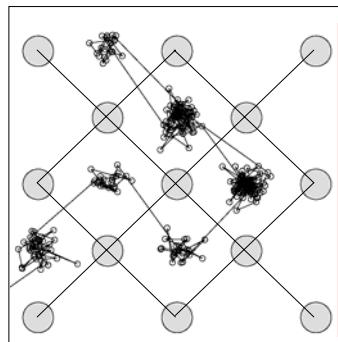
$$\Gamma^{(i)} = \Gamma_0^{(i)} \exp(\Delta E^{(i)} / k_B T)$$

- 3) Statistical approach to describe
 - dissociation, adsorption, desorption
 - diffusion
 - reaction (CO_2 formation)
 - desorption of the product

→ **kinetic Monte Carlo method**

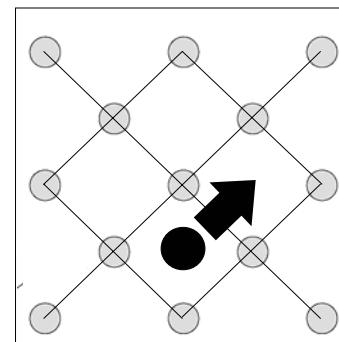


Kinetic Monte Carlo: Coarse-Graining MD



Molecular Dynamics of Co on Cu(001): The whole trajectory.

ab initio MD:
up to 50 ps

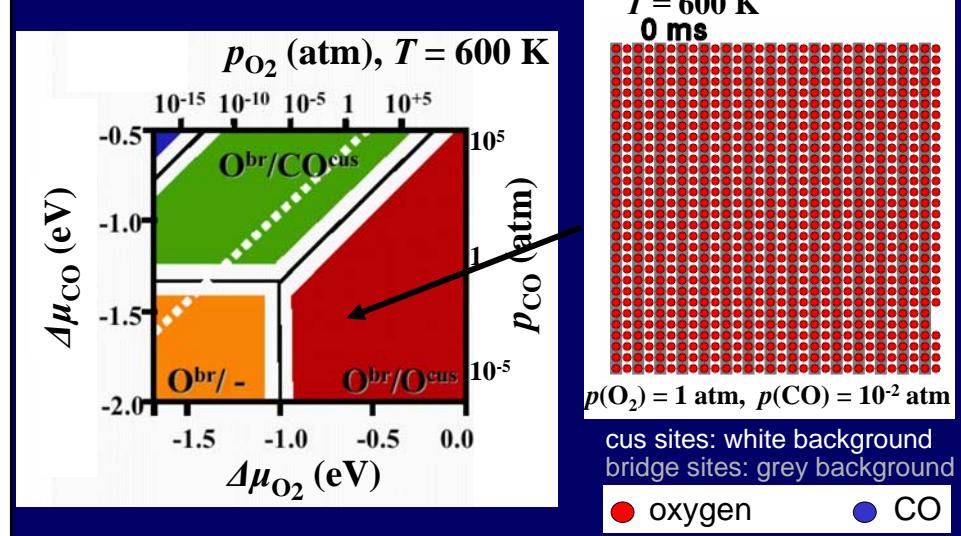


Kinetic Monte Carlo simulation: Coarse-grained hops.

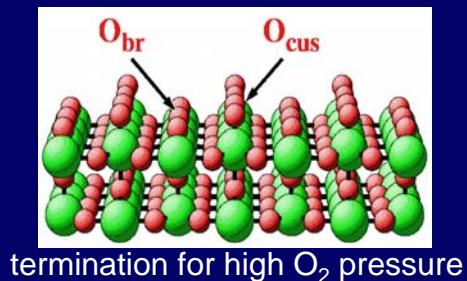
ab initio kMC:
up to minutes

RuO₂ (110) stability regions in (T, p) space

K. Reuter and M.S., PRL to be published.

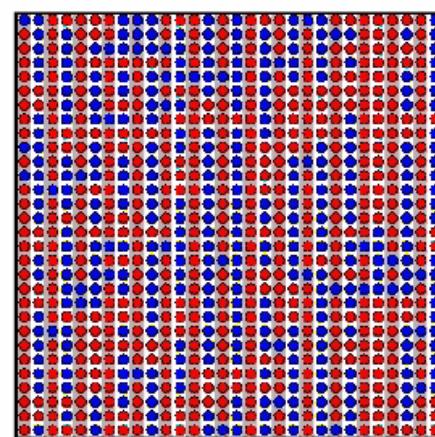


Oxidation catalysis at RuO₂ (110)



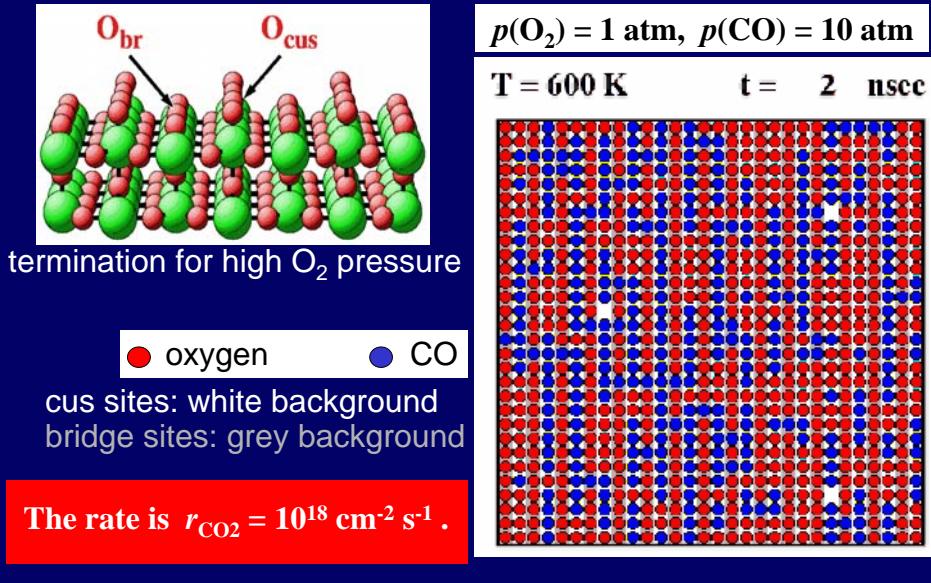
$p(O_2) = 1$ atm, $p(CO) = 10$ atm

$T = 600$ K $t = 5$ msec

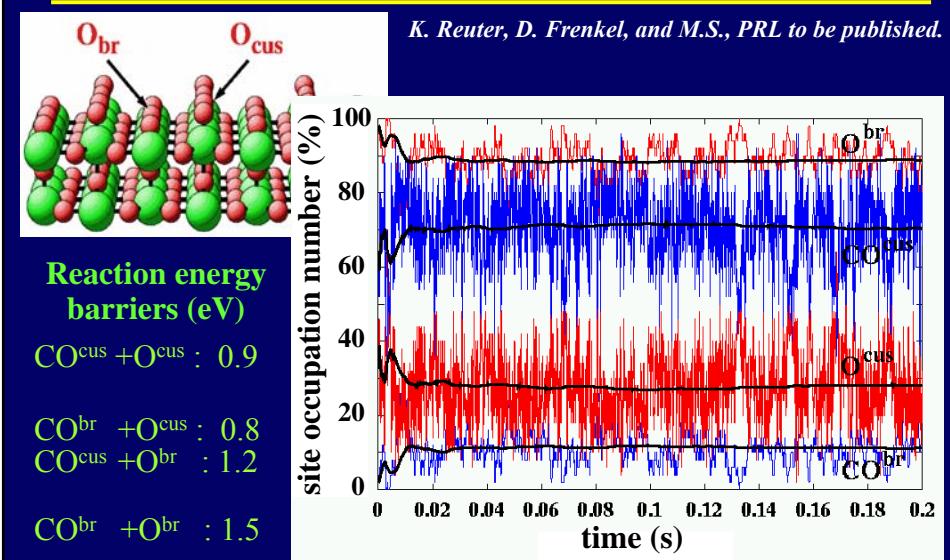


K. Reuter, D. Frenkel, M.S.,
PRL to be published.

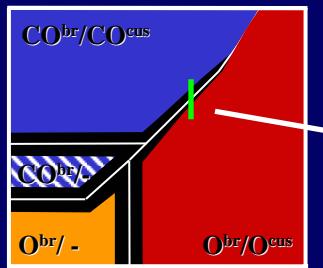
Oxidation catalysis at RuO₂ (110)



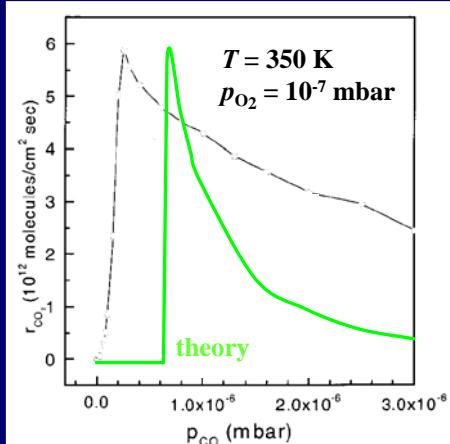
Site occupation statistics at the steady state (strong fluctuations)



Comparison with experimental results



J. Wang, C.Y. Fan,
K. Jacobi, and G. Ertl,
J. Phys. Chem. B 106,
3422 (2002)



Conclusions

- Combining DFT and Statistical Mechanics is essential for understanding the function of materials (e.g. realistic T, p, t, l).
- The accuracy of the method is (even) better than its reputation (compensation of DFT-LDA/GGA errors due to the statistical interplay of many processes).
- The described techniques are applicable to a wide variety of gas-phase and solution-phase chemistry, surface phase transitions, crystal growth, heterogeneous catalysis, etc.

The people behind the work



Cathy Stampfli



Karsten Reuter



et al. ...



Institute for Pure & Applied Mathematics



UCLA

Bridging Time and Length Scales in Materials Science and Bio-Physics

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