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## Highly accurate simulations and benchmarking of molecule-surface reactions

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### Citation

Tchakoua, T. (2023, July 4). *Highly accurate simulations and benchmarking of molecule-surface reactions*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3628451>

Version: Publisher's Version

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# PROPOSITIONS

“Highly Accurate Simulations and Benchmarking of Molecule-Surface Reactions.”

1. To confirm that the dissociative chemisorption of H<sub>2</sub> on Ni (111) is accurately simulated, a well-defined experiment for incidence energies > 0.20 eV is still desirable (**Chapter 2**).
2. Quantum dynamics molecular beam simulations can be performed efficiently with reduced computation time using the partial Monte-Carlo (PMC) method, which involves averaging over a selection of initial rovibrational states (**Chapter 4**).
3. An improved database of barrier heights can be obtained by replacing the reference barrier heights obtained with a more ad hoc semi-empirical approach with values obtained with the specific reaction parameter approach to density functional theory (**Chapter 3**).
4. The choice of the generic form of the specific reaction parameter density functional is important to ascertain the success of the application of the corresponding semiempirical approach to a specific system (**Chapter 5**).
5. If the difference of the work function of the metal surface and the electron affinity of the incident molecule is less than 7 eV a semi-empirical approach to extracting the barrier height for the dissociative chemisorption of the molecule on that surface will not give accurate results. ( N. Gerrits et al., *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.*, **11**, 10552 (2020)).
6. Including Van der Waals correlation in the density functional improves the description of the reactivity of a molecule-metal surface reaction even if the van der Waals well is rather shallow (M. Wijzenbroek and G.J. Kroes, *J.Chem.Phys.* **140**, 084702 (2014)).
7. The effect of surface atom motion on the dissociative chemisorption of molecule on metal surface can be taken into account using AIMD with a computational cost to be paid. Machine learning is emerging as both an accurate and a cost-effective alternative (K. Shakouri et al., *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* **8**, 2131 (2017)).
8. With the increasing number of types of DFT functionals, the description of Jacob's ladder needs to be updated (B. G. Janesko et al., *J.Chem.Phys.* **148**, 104112 (2018)).
9. In the tradition of the peoples of the African woods, one cannot seat oneself under a tree without tasting it's fruits. It follows that a student from such a tradition will attempt to gain maximum experience with the methods available in a theory group.

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Leiden, 4 July 2023