

Contribution submission to the conference Regensburg 2022

The relation between structure sensitivity and doping of ceria(111) vs. ceria(100) — EMILIA POZAROWSKA¹, LINUS PLEINES², MAURICIO J. PRIETO³, LIVIU C. TĂNASE³, LUCAS DE SOUZA CALDAS³, AARTI TIWARI³, THOMAS SCHMIDT³, JENS FALTA², CARLOS MORALES¹, and •JAN INGO FLEGE¹ — ¹Applied Physics and Semiconductor Spectroscopy, BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg, Cottbus, Germany — ²Institute of Solid State Physics, University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany — ³Department of Interface Science, Fritz-Haber Institute, Berlin, Germany

CeO_x-Cu inverse catalysts have been shown to convert CO₂ into valuable chemicals through catalytic hydrogenation. The catalytic activity may further be enhanced by alloying ceria with trivalent, catalytically active metals, such as Sm, promoting the formation of Ce³⁺ active sites. In this work, the structural and chemical properties of (111)- and (100)- oriented CeO_x islands alloyed with samarium were explored by low-energy electron microscopy and X-ray photoemission electron microscopy. After Sm deposition on the as-grown CeO_x islands, the near-surface region of (100)-oriented CeO_x is reduced after exposure to H₂ at 470 °C, whereas the deeper layers as well as the whole (111)-oriented islands retain the Ce⁴⁺ state. Subsequent reoxidation with O₂ leads to the complete Ce⁴⁺ state recovery, suggesting the healing of oxygen vacancies. Additional annealing at 470 °C induces samarium diffusion into the ceria matrix. Yet, subsequent exposure to H₂ reduces neither the (111)- nor the (100)-oriented CeSmO_x islands, suggesting a quite unexpected stability of this system.

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