# Catalysis in hydrogen production and storage



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- Catalysis in hydrogen production
  - Theory: J. Rossmeisl, J. Greeley, T. Bligaard, B. Hinnemann, P.G. Moses
  - Experiment: T. Jaramillo, J. Bonde, K. Jørgensen, J. Nielsen,
    S.Horch, I. Chorkendorff
- Catalysis in hydrogen storage
  - Theory: J. Hummelshøj, T. Vegge, K. Honkala
  - Experiment: C. Christensen, T. Johannesen, R. Z. Sørensen, U. Quaade

# Sustainable hydrogen production





A. Züttel, L. Schlapbach

# Electrolysis





Cathode:  $2(H^++e^-) \rightarrow H_2$ 

Anode:  $H_2O \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}O_2 + 2H^+$ 

Total:  $H_2O \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}O_2 + H_2$ 

 $\Delta G^0 = 2.46 \text{ eV} (1.23 \text{ eV/electron})$ 

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**DFT calculations give free energy of intermediates:** 







Nørskov, Bligaard, Logadottir, Kitchin, Chen, Pandelov, Stimming, JES 152, J23, (2005)

# Volcanoes in electrochemistry



#### THE RATE OF ELECTROLYTIC HYDROGEN EVOLUTION AND THE HEAT OF ADSORPTION OF HYDROGEN

BY ROGER PARSONS

Dept. of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry, The University, Bristol 8

Received 10th December, 1957

FIG. 1.—Form of the relation between exchange current at a hydrogen electrode and the standard free energy of adsorption of hydrogen on the electrode surface, assuming that the adsorbed atoms obey a Langmuir adsorption isotherm.



## HER volcano





### Active sites of hydrogen producing enzymes







#### nitrogenase active site

Einsle, Teczan, Andrade, Schmid, Yoshida, Howard, Rees, Science **2002**, *297*, 1696.

Hinnemann, Nørskov, JACS 126, 3920 (2004)

#### hydrogenase active site

Vollbeda, Fontecilla-Camps, Dalton Trans. 4030-3048 (2003).

Siegbahn, Blomberg, Wirstam, Crabtree Biol. Inorg. Chem. **6**, 460 (2001)

# **Biological hydrogen evolution**





Chorkendorff, Nørskov, JACS 127 5308 (2005)

# MoS<sub>2</sub> as HER catalyst





ITU

Hinnemann, Bonde, Jørgensen, Nielsen, Horch, Chorkendorff, Nørskov, JACS **127** 5308 (2005)

# $MoS_2$ nanoparticles are metallic

1-layer slab:







Bollinger, Lauritsen, Jacobsen, Nørskov, Helveg, Besenbacher, Phys. Rev. Lett. **87**, 196803 (2001).

# MoS<sub>2</sub> as HER catalyst



Hinnemann, Bonde, Jørgensen, Nielsen, Horch, Chorkendorff, Nørskov, JACS **127** 5308 (2005)

ITU

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Rossmeisl, Logadottir, Nørskov, J. Chem. Phys. 319, 178 (2005)

# 



Wang, Ebner, Zidan, Ritter, J.Alloys & Comp. 391 (2005) 245

# Catalyzed formation/decomposition of NaAlH<sub>4</sub>



 $NaAIH_4(001)$ 

Ti@NaAlH<sub>4</sub>(001)+2Na<sup>v</sup>

#### T. Vegge:

TiCl<sub>3</sub> as catalyst:

- lowers the  $H_2$  desorption barrier
- Na/H-vacancy formation energy
- driving force: NaCl formation
- Ti- has long range effects







# Separating storage and catalyst



#### Storage + catalyst





# Separating storage and catalyst





One possibility: Use metal ammine complexes

Christensen. Sørensen, Johannessen, Quaade, Honkala, Elmøe, Køhler, Nørskov, J. Mater. Chem **15**, 1406 (2005)

# Catalyzed synthesis/decomposition of ammonia





Honkala, Remediakis, Logadottir, Nørskov, Hellmann, Dahl, Carlsson, Christensen, Science **307**,555 (2005)



Boisen, Dahl, Nørskov, Christensen, J. Catal 230, 318 (2005)

### Metal ammine chemistry – the MgCl<sub>2</sub>-NH<sub>3</sub> system



 $MgCl_2(s) + NH_3(g) \Longrightarrow Mg(NH_3)Cl_2(s), \quad \Delta H = 87.0 \, kJ \, / \, mol \, NH_3$ 

 $Mg(NH_3)Cl_2(s) + NH_3(g) \Longrightarrow Mg(NH_3)_2Cl_2(s), \quad \Delta H = 74.9 \, kJ \,/ \, mol \, NH_3$ 

 $Mg(NH_3)_2Cl_2(s) + 4NH_3(g) \Longrightarrow Mg(NH_3)_6Cl_2(s), \quad \Delta H = 55.6 \, kJ \,/ \, mol \, NH_3$ 

Average desorption enthalpy:  $42.7 \frac{kJ}{mol H_2}$ 

A. Werner, "On the constitution and configuration of higher-order compounds", 1913.

E. Lepinasse and B. Spinner, Rev. Int. Froid, 1994, 17, 309.

$325 \text{ kg/m}^3$ ;	40,9 cm <sup>3</sup> /mol
$252 \text{ kg/m}^3$ ;	157,4 cm <sup>3</sup> /mol
	325 kg/m <sup>3</sup> ; 252 kg/m <sup>3</sup> ;

# The ammonia content $Mg(NH_3)_6Cl_2$ :38.1 kmol $NH_3/m^3$ Liquid ammonia:40.1 kmol $NH_3/m^3$

# Thermal decomposition





Christensen. Sørensen, Johannessen, Quaade, Honkala, Elmøe, Køhler, Nørskov, J. Mater. Chem **15**, 1406 (2005)

Decomposition of  $Mg(NH_3)_6Cl_2$ 



# Bonding in metal ammines

#### MgCl<sub>2</sub> in Mg(NH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> structure





H<sub>3</sub>-N



Hummelshøj, Vegge, Nørskov (2006)



# Diffusion in metal ammines





#### Hummelshøj, Vegge, Nørskov (2006)

### Pore development in dense ammine units



Nørskov, Christensen, JACS 16, 66 (2006)

DTU



Data from: Lepinasse, Spinner, Rev. Int. Froid 17, 309 (1994)



# Catalysis in hydrogen production and storage



- Catalysis in hydrogen production
  - Understanding of trends in hydrogen and oxygen evolution
  - Towards computational design
  - Inspiration from nature

- Catalysis in hydrogen storage
  - H<sub>2</sub> activation important
  - Alternative combinations of storage medium and catalyst

