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TASK NO. NR-051-0775
TECHNICAL REPORT #38

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THE ADSORPTION OF INCOMMENSURATE MONOLAYERS ON AN HEXAGONAL
SUBSTRATE: LEAD UNDERPOTENTIALLY DEPOSITED ON SILVER (111)

by

E.E. Mola* and L. Blum**

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*INIFTA, Universidad Nacional de La Plata

Casilla Correo 16, Sucursal 4, 1900 La Plata, Argentina

**Department of Physics, POB AT, Faculty of Natural Sciences,
University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, PR 00931

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF QUANTUM CHEMISTRY

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Entered)

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
1. REPORT NUMBER Technical Report #38	2. GOVT ACCESSION NO.	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER
4. TITLE (and Subtitle) The Adsorption of Incommensurate Monolayers on an Hexagonal Substrate Lead Underpotentially Deposited on Silver (III)	5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED	
	6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER	
7. AUTHOR(s) E.E. Mola and L. Blum	8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s) N00014-81-C-0776	
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS Department of Physics University of Puerto Rico Box AT, Río Piedras, PR 00931	10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS	
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS Code 472 Office of Naval Research Arlington, VA 22217	12. REPORT DATE 11-5-88	
	13. NUMBER OF PAGES 11	
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS (if different from Controlling Office)	15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report) Unclassified	
	15a. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE	
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report) Approved for public release; Distribution Unlimited		
17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report)		
18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES Prepared for publication in International Journal of Quantum Chemistry		
19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Structured electrode, interfaces, underpotential deposition. (JES)		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) We discuss the incommensurate adsorption of an ad layer on a crystalline substrate. We show that in the case of Pb adsorbed on Ag (111) the size considerations are not enough to determine the angle of epitaxy: A special form of the adsorbing potential is required. The necessary conditions for this potential is discussed. An explicit form for the pb/Ag(111) case is given.		

THE ADSORPTION OF INCOMMENSURATE MONOLAYERS ON AN HEXAGONAL SUBSTRATE :
LEAD UNDERPOTENTIALLY DEPOSITED ON SILVER (111)

E. E. Mola

INIFTA, Universidad Nacional de la Plata
Casilla Correo 16, Sucursal 4, 1900 La Plata, Argentina
and

L. Blum

Department of Physics, Faculty of Natural Sciences
University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, P.Rico 00931

ABSTRACT

We discuss the incommensurate adsorption of an ad layer on a crystalline substrate. We show that in the case of Pb adsorbed on Ag (111) the size considerations are not enough to determine the angle of epitaxy: A special form of the adsorbing potential is required. The necessary conditions for this potential is discussed. An explicit form for the Pb/Ag(111) case is given.

correct epitaxy angle, but also cannot account for the locking of the substrate at this fixed angle. This locking can be explained in terms of an adsorption potential that is not harmonic: the purpose of this investigation is to determine the conditions on the adsorbing potential that will explain the value and stability of the epitaxy angle.

We use a simplified model of surface adsorption, to which we can, eventually, incorporate details of a more realistic model of the electrolyte-metal interface. The model uses the sticky potential of Baxter¹³ to represent the adsorption potential. It was used by Perram and Smith¹⁴ to study adsorption of hard spheres onto a smooth, structureless surface. Charged surfaces with discrete adsorption sites were studied in earlier work^{15, 16}.

The most general form of the sticky potential for a surface is

$$e^{-\beta u_i(\underline{r})} = -1 + \lambda(\underline{R}) \delta(z - \sigma_i/2) \quad (1.1)$$

where $\beta = 1/kT$ is the Boltzmann factor, $\underline{r} = (x, y, z)$ is the distance from the interface, situated at the plane $z=0$; $\underline{R} = (x, y)$ is the position on the interface, and we assume that each molecule i has a hard core diameter σ_i .

The function $\lambda(\underline{R})$ is the stickiness of the surface at \underline{R} on the surface. As discussed in earlier work¹⁵, it also represents the fugacity of the adsorbed species, or equivalently, a measure of the chemisorption potential. The symmetry properties of $\lambda(\underline{R})$ should be the same as those of the true adsorption potential $u(\underline{R}, 0)$.

In this paper we discuss the symmetry properties of $\lambda(\underline{R})$ for and hexagonal close packed adsorbate on an hexagonal close packed substrate. This is the case of Pb on Ag(111).

In section 2 the mathematical problem of the appropriate form of $\lambda(\underline{R})$ for the largest adsorption free energy is stated for the hexagonal lattice. The specific case of the Pb/Ag(111) interface is discussed in section 3. We make some general remarks in the concluding section.

2-MATHEMATICAL PROBLEM: THE HEXAGONAL LATTICE

Consider an hexagonal lattice \underline{S} (substrate) with lattice constant a which, for convenience will also be our unit of length ($a=1$). Consider now a second hexagonal lattice \underline{A} (adsorbate) of lattice constant b . The coordinate system for \underline{A} is (x,y) and that of \underline{S} is (x',y') , and the numbers (m,n) and (r,s) define the positions of the points on the lattices \underline{A} and \underline{S} .

The distance d between the points (x, y) and (x', y') is

$$d = [(x_1 - x_0)^2 + (y_1 - y_0)^2 - (x_1 - x_0)(y_1 - y_0)]^{1/2} \quad (2.1)$$

Assume that the coordinates \underline{A} , (x,y) and \underline{S} , (x',y') have a common origin. The angle between the principal axes of \underline{S} and \underline{A} is θ , which is also the epitaxy angle (see figure 1).

The positions of the points of lattice \underline{A} , (m,n) , in the coordinate system (x',y') is given by the equation

$$\underline{X}' = b \underline{M}(\theta) \underline{X} \quad (2.2)$$

where \underline{X}' and \underline{X} are the vectors

$$\underline{X}' = \begin{pmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{pmatrix} \quad \underline{X} = \begin{pmatrix} m \\ n \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.3)$$

and $\underline{M}(\theta)$ is the matrix

$$\underline{M} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3-4 \sin^2 \theta}{3 \cos \theta + \sqrt{3} \sin \theta} & 2/\sqrt{3} \sin \theta \\ -2/\sqrt{3} \sin \theta & 2/\sqrt{3} \sin(2\pi/3 - \theta) \end{bmatrix} \quad (2.4)$$

First we would like to investigate the number of overlaps of the points of lattices \underline{A} and \underline{S} : A given point of \underline{S} will overlap with one of lattice \underline{A} if

$$d(r, s) = hb \quad (2.5)$$

where $d(r, s)$ as given by (2.1) is the distance from the origin to the point (r, s) and h is an entire number. The overlap is achieved by turning \underline{A} by

the (epitaxy) angle θ (see figure 1).

Because of the hexagonal symmetry of the problem we need to consider only the interval

$$-30^\circ < \theta < 30^\circ \quad (2.6)$$

It will suffice, therefore to find the set α of pairs (r_0, s_0) with $r_0 > 0$ and

$$\begin{aligned} r_0 &\geq 2s_0 && \text{if } s_0 \geq 0 \\ r_0 &> |s_0| && \text{if } s_0 < 0 \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

that satisfy (2.5). If the set α is not empty, the element (r_0, s_0) such that

$$d(r_0, s_0) = \text{minimum} \quad (2.8)$$

defines one of the points of the coincidence lattice (see figure 1). For symmetry reasons there will be 6 equivalent coincidence points that satisfy equation (2.8) (see figure 1). The epitaxy angle is then given by

$$\theta = \text{arc cos} \left[\frac{2r_0 - s_0}{2(r_0^2 + s_0^2 - r_0 s_0)^{1/2}} \right] \quad (2.9)$$

The lattice constant of the coincidence lattice is hb . In figure 1 we display a coincidence lattice where the lattice constant is $3b$ ($h=3$) and $b = \sqrt{13}/3 = 1.2018$.

We introduce the degree of overlap γ of the lattices \underline{A} and \underline{S} as the ratio of the unit areas of each of these lattices to the area of the coincidence lattice. Therefore $\gamma = h^{-2}$. γ is the proportion of points of the substrate lattice that overlapping points of the adsorbate lattice.

Consider now the effective energy function $\lambda(x', y')$ (1.1), which must satisfy the symmetry requirements of lattice \underline{S} . In the absence of any other interaction, the adsorption free energy of the substrate onto the adsorbate is

$$E = h^{-2} \sum_{m=0}^h \sum_{n=0}^h \lambda(x', y') \quad (2.10)$$

where the prime indicates that the sum is over all the points of \underline{A} of the unit coincidence cell (a total of $(h+1)^2$ points). The energy is normalized to the energy per adsorbate atom by h^{-2} , and (x', y') is given by (2.2).

3-A REAL SYSTEM : UNDERPOTENTIALLY DEPOSITED Pb ON Ag (111)

Recent experiments on the Pb/Ag underpotential deposition ^{11 12} have shown that the adsorbate and substrate are hexagonal, with an epitaxy angle $\theta=4.4^\circ$. The lead-lead distance on the surface lattice is $3.459 \pm .002 \text{ \AA}$ which is 1.2% shorter than in the bulk (3.501 \AA). The lattice constant of Ag is 2.88 \AA for the bulk crystal. If we assume that there is no distortion of the surface layer, then the ratio for the overlayer is $b(ol)=1.2010$, in contrast to the 'bulk' ratio $b(bulk)=1.2152$. In table 1 we give the values of (r_\bullet, s_\bullet) that satisfy (2.5) for values of b such that

$$|b - b(ol)| < .002b(ol) \quad (3.1)$$

The experimental situation is that the value of b is not known accurately because the surface layer of the substrate, Ag in this case, may suffer small distortions.

From (2.5) and (2.9) we find

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \theta &= \sqrt{3} s_\bullet / (2hb) \\ \sin (2\pi/3 - \theta) &= \sqrt{3} r_\bullet / (2hb) \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

so that from (2.2) and (2.4) we get :

$$\begin{aligned} x' &= [(r_\bullet - s_\bullet)m + s_\bullet n] / h \\ y' &= [-s_\bullet m + r_\bullet n] / h \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

For the values of (r_\bullet, s_\bullet) , b and θ of table 1, the coordinates of the nodes of the adsorbate are multiples of $1/h$, so that

$$(hx', hy') \in \underline{\underline{Z^2}} \quad (3.4)$$

where $\underline{\underline{Z^2}}$ is the set of ordered entire numbers. If we now choose for the adsorption potential a function of the form

$$\lambda(x', y') = -\cos 2\pi hx' - \cos 2\pi hy' \quad (3.5)$$

then every point of the adsorbate lattice will be situated at a minimum of

the adsorption potential. Although this ideal situation is probably never realized in nature, the requirement is that the Fourier component of largest amplitude of $\lambda(R)$ for a given configuration must be that given by (3.5).

The proposed structures in table 1 are all compatible, within experimental error with the reported spacings^{11 12} of the ad layer, but the epitaxy vary widely.

For the underpotentially deposited Pb on Ag (111) the adsorption parameter $\lambda(R)$ must have its largest component of the form

$$\lambda(x', y') = -\cos 56\pi x' - \cos 56\pi y' \quad (3.6)$$

From table 1 the parameters should be

$$h=28 \quad b=\sqrt{1129/28}=1.2000\dots \quad \theta=\pm 4.43^\circ$$

The energy for this potential is -2, which is an ideal value.

CONCLUSIONS

The preceding discussion shows that for a given ratio of sizes the epitaxy angle can vary over a large range of possibilities. The fact that in the experiment the epitaxy angle is very reproducible and stable, indicates that there must be a special form of the adsorption potential which is responsible for it. Another possibility would be grain boundary effects: However, this is unlikely to be so, because then there would be a much larger degree of disorder in the adlayer, which is not observed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was supported by the Office of Naval Research.

E.E.M. is member of CONICET of Argentina.

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TABLE 1

Values of parameters for the adlayer that satisfy (2.8) and (2.11)

$b(01) = 1.2010$

(r_s, s_s)	h	b	γ	θ
(4, 1)	3	$\sqrt{13}/3 = 1.2018$	3^{-2}	13.89°
(3, -1)	3	$\sqrt{13}/3 = 1.2018$	3^{-2}	-13.89°
(6, 0)	5	$6/5 = 1.2000$	5^{-2}	0.00°
(18, 9)	13	$9\sqrt{13}/13 = 1.1991$	13^{-2}	30.00°
(9, -9)	13	$9\sqrt{13}/13 = 1.1991$	13^{-2}	-30.00°
(35, 3)	28	$\sqrt{1129}/28 = 1.2000..$	28^{-2}	4.43°
(32, -3)	28	$\sqrt{1129}/28 = 1.2000..$	28^{-2}	-4.43°

FIGURE CAPTION

Figure 1 : (●) points of the substrate lattice

(○) points of the adsorbate lattice

(⊙) points of the coincidence lattice

The dotted lines indicate a unit cell of the coincidence lattice

$b = \sqrt{13}/3$ $h = 3$ $\theta = -13.89$ $(r_s, s_s) = (3, -1)$

