

## DFT study of water adsorption on (001) Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> surface

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Abstract: Hausmannite  $(Mn_3O_4)$  is a material with normal spinel structure that presents the formula  $A^{2+}B_2^{3+}O_4$  where tetrahedral sites are occupied by the Mn<sup>2+</sup> and the octahedral sites by  $Mn^{3+}$  cations. This oxide has tetragonal arrangement with space group *I41/amd*. In recent years, this material has attracted interest for applications in water treatment [1, 2]. The Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> show polar surfaces, formally characterized by an unbalanced electrostatic potential, which gives rise to a dipole moment perpendicular to the surface. However, Kresse and co-workers [3] have shown that this formal instability is an artificial consequence of the simplified ionic model and can be removed by mechanisms involving changes near of the surface such as charge redistribution, reconstruction, and interactions with neighboring atoms. It has been reported that the cleavage of hausmannite[4, 5] leads indistinctly to the oriented plane (001). Nevertheless, a study of the formation of thin films of Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> oriented in other crystallographic directions, such as the SrTiO<sub>3</sub> substrate oriented surface (110) has also been reported[6]. In this sense, based on the optimized bulk structure, we tested several hausmannite slab models (figure 1) to compare the cleavage energies of different planes, and we investigated the adsorption of water molecules on the most stable surface calculated.



Figure 1. Slab models from the  $Mn_3O_4$  bulk.  $Mn^{2+}$  (green),  $Mn^{3+}$  (purple) and Oxygen (red).

The calculation of  $Mn_3O_4$  surfaces were investigated using DFT/planewaves and GGA/PBE functional as implemented in Quantum-ESPRESSO package. It was used a cutoff energy of 40 Ry, 3x3x1 k-point mesh sampling based on the Monkhorst-Pack scheme, 2x2x1 supercell and 12Å vacuum layer were chosen for the slab calculation. After optimization of the surfaces, the values of surface and cleavage energies are presented in table 1.



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Table 1. Cleavage and surface energies, surface area and coordination number of the different  $Mn_3O_4$  plane models.

| Surfaces      | E <sub>cleavage</sub><br>(J.m <sup>-2</sup> ) | E <sub>surface</sub><br>(J.m <sup>-2</sup> ) | Coordination number     |                        |
|---------------|---|--|-------------------------|------------------------|
|               |   |  | $Mn_{tetrahedral}^{2+}$ | $Mn_{octahedral}^{3+}$ |
| Bulk          | -   | -  | 4                       | 6                      |
| (001)         | 2.33  | 1.40   | 2                       | 5                      |
| (100) = (010) | 5.07  | 1.93   | 3                       | 3                      |
| (101) = (011) | 3.38  | 1.96   | 4                       | 3, 4                   |
| (110)         | 6.49  | 1.85   | 1, 3                    | 3                      |
| (111)         | 3.54  | 1.68   | 4                       | 4, 5                   |
| (112)         | 3.14  | 1.78   | 4                       | 4                      |

According to our calculations, the surface (001) is the most favorable to cleave in comparison to the other simulated planes, being therefore the most stable surface of  $Mn_3O_4$ . This cleavage exposes the  $Mn^{+2}$ ,  $Mn^{+3}$  and  $O^{-2}$  ions asymmetrically. Based on this estimate, we studied the adsorption of water molecules on the surfaces (001), which presented 3 types: molecular, hydrogen bond interaction, and dissociative. The results indicated that water adsorption occurs dissociatively, with adsorption energy of about - 28 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>.

Keywords: Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, surfaces, DFT, planewaves, adsorption.

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