



# Hydrogen adsorption on Pt and Rh electrodes and blocking of adsorption sites by chemisorbed sulfur<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

Research on the under-potential deposition of H, UPD H, on Pt and Rh electrodes in aqueous H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> solution at temperatures between 273 and 343 K by cyclic-voltammetry followed by theoretical treatment leads to determination of  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^\circ$ ,  $\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^\circ$  and  $\Delta H_{\text{ads}}^\circ$  and the bond energy between the metal substrate, M, and H<sub>UPD</sub>,  $E_{\text{M-H}_{\text{UPD}}}$ . Knowledge of  $E_{\text{M-H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  results in elucidation of the surface adsorption site of H<sub>UPD</sub> based on thermodynamic deliberation. The UPD H on Pt is suppressed completely by a monolayer of chemisorbed S, S<sub>chem</sub>, or partially by a submonolayer of S<sub>chem</sub> having its surface coverage less than 0.33,  $\theta_{\text{S}} < 0.33$ . A submonolayer of S<sub>chem</sub> having  $\theta_{\text{S}} = 0.10$  affects  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^\circ$ ,  $\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^\circ$  and  $\Delta H_{\text{ads}}^\circ$ ; the Pt–H<sub>UPD</sub> bond energy,  $E_{\text{Pt-H}_{\text{UPD}}}$ , becomes weaker in presence of the S<sub>chem</sub> submonolayer. The lateral interactions between H<sub>UPD</sub> and S<sub>chem</sub> are brought about by local electron withdrawing effects that propagate through the underlying metal which acts as a mediator.

**Keywords:** Hydrogen; Electroadsorption; Site blocking; Sulfur; Platinum; Rhodium

## 1. Introduction

Electrochemical surface science of hydrogen, H, has been undergoing renewed interest due to application of metal–hydride batteries and hydrogen-based fuel cells as power sources for emission-free electric vehicles, EV [1–12]. Hydrogen absorption into host metals can be accomplished either by electrochemical or gas-phase techniques. In electrochemistry, two types of adsorbed H are recognized: (i) the under-potential deposited H, H<sub>UPD</sub>; and (ii) the over-potential deposited H, H<sub>OPD</sub> [13]. The species occupy distinct surface adsorption sites and both can undergo entry into the host metal becoming absorbed H, H<sub>abs</sub> [14]. In the case of charging at negative potentials H absorption and the hydrogen evolution reaction, HER, occur concurrently and the amount of H<sub>abs</sub> can be related to the overpotential,  $\eta$ , of the HER and the mechanism of the process [15–18]. Certain elements or compounds adsorbed on the metal surface and referred to as site blocking elements, SBE, possess the ability of enhancing or decreasing the H transfer from the adsorbed to the absorbed state [8,17,19–21]. The SBEs reveal a dual action and behave either as surface poisons or as surface promoters depending on their physico–chemical nature

[17]. The surface promoters can enhance the rate of H interfacial transfer and increase the amount of absorbed H in the metal, thus increasing its capacity. The latter is of importance to high energy-density M–H batteries which are an alternative to the Ni–Cd ones. Surface poisons which suppress the H interfacial transfer are excellent inhibitors of H embrittlement of metal structures. Experimental evidence indicates that chemical species such as CO, urea, thiourea, compounds of As, Se, S and P are known to affect the adsorption of H in the region corresponding to the under-potential deposition of H, UPD H, and the kinetics of the HER [19–24]. Their action was a subject of thorough theoretical research and numerical simulations based on the lateral interactions between the electroadsorbed H and the coadsorbed SBEs [17]. SBEs affect catalytic properties of the electrified solid–liquid interface through the following action: (i) they can block surface adsorption sites; (ii) they affect energetics of the reaction at the double-layer; (iii) they change the work function of the substrate; (iv) they influence the charge transfer at the electrode–solution interface and (v) they affect adsorption behavior of the reaction products and intermediates. Sulfur, S, is of interest to electrochemical surface science, metal hydride science and technology, and corrosion science because it is a model SBE. The species undergoes strong chemisorption and sustains its chemical identity on the metal electrode surface. Cathodic polariza-

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<sup>1</sup>The paper comprises combined results of two conference presentations.

tion does not lead to its desorption through formation of a reduced derivative and it can be desorbed only through oxidation at high positive potentials [25,26].

In this paper, the authors present new thermodynamic data the UPD H which lead to elucidation of the surface adsorption sites of  $H_{\text{UPD}}$  on Pt and Rh electrodes. They present new results on S chemisorption on Pt electrodes and its influence on the UPD H. They determine a relation between the S surface coverage,  $\theta_S$ , and the coverage by  $H_{\text{UPD}}$ ,  $\theta_{H_{\text{UPD}}}$ . Temperature dependence experimental studies followed by comprehensive theoretical treatment result in determination of  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^\circ$ ,  $\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^\circ$  and  $\Delta H_{\text{ads}}^\circ$  in absence and presence of S. They evaluate changes of the Pt– $H_{\text{UPD}}$  bond energy brought by the S submonolayer.

## 2. Experimental details

The Pt and Rh electrode preparation procedure and the cell design were described elsewhere [13,24,25,27,28]; the electrode real surface area,  $A_r$  is  $0.72 \pm 0.01 \text{ cm}^2$  for Pt and  $0.70 \pm 0.01 \text{ cm}^2$  for Rh. The 0.5 M aqueous  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  solution was prepared from BDH Aristar grade  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  and Nanopure water. The cell was immersed in a water bath fitted with a thermostat (Haake D1). The temperatures,  $T$ , in the bath and the cell were controlled by means of thermometers and a K-type thermocouple (80 TK Fluke) and were found to agree to within  $\pm 0.5 \text{ K}$ . The experimental procedure involved standard cyclic-voltammetry, CV, measurements of the UPD H on Pt and Rh electrodes at  $T$  between 273 and 343 K with an interval of 5 K. The instrumentation included: (a) EG&G Model 263A potentiostat–galvanostat; (b) IBM-compatible 80386, 40 MHz computer and (c) EG&G M270 Electrochemical Software. All potentials were measured with respect to the reversible hydrogen electrode, RHE. The potential of the RHE differed from that of the normal hydrogen electrode, NHE, and according to the Nernst equation zero potential on the RHE scale corresponded to  $-0.021$  on the NHE one. Formation of a monolayer of chemisorbed S,  $S_{\text{chem}}$ , on Pt

was accomplished by electrode immersion in 0.01 M aqueous  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}$  (Aldrich) solution for 300 s followed by rinsing in Nanopure water. Appraisal of influence of  $S_{\text{chem}}$  on the H adsorption behavior was accomplished by recording CV profiles in the potential regions corresponding to UPD H and the surface oxide formation.

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1. Temperature dependence and thermodynamics of the UPD H

Fig. 1 shows a series of CV adsorption–desorption for the UPD H on Pt and Rh from 0.5 M aqueous  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  solution for temperature between 273 and 343 K with an interval of 10 K recorded at the sweep rate of  $20 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  (experiments were conducted with an interval of 5 K but in order not to obscure the graphs fewer experimental curves are shown). The CVs recorded on Pt and Rh electrodes manifest differences in the shape and number of the adsorption–desorption peaks; they shift towards less-positive potentials upon  $T$  increase and they are symmetric with respect to the potential axis indicating reversibility of the process. An increase of the cathodic current at the lower potential limit of the CVs is due to the onset of the over-potential deposition of H, OPD H. The UPD H adsorption–desorption behavior may be summarized as follows:  $T$  increase does not result in new CV features and the UPD H adsorption–desorption CVs shift towards less-positive values. Theoretical treatment of the experimental data based on Eq. (1) allows determination of the Gibbs free energy of adsorption,  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^\circ(H_{\text{UPD}})$ , as a function of the  $H_{\text{UPD}}$  surface coverage,  $\theta_{H_{\text{UPD}}}$ , and  $T$  thus 3D  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^\circ(H_{\text{UPD}})$  versus  $(\theta_{H_{\text{UPD}}}, T)$  plots [14,24].

$$\frac{\theta_{H_{\text{UPD}}}}{1 - \theta_{H_{\text{UPD}}}} = P_{\text{H}_2}^{1/2} \exp\left(-\frac{EF}{RT}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^\circ(H_{\text{UPD}})}{RT}\right) \quad (1)$$

where  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^\circ(H_{\text{UPD}})$  includes a  $H_{\text{UPD}}$  coverage-dependent

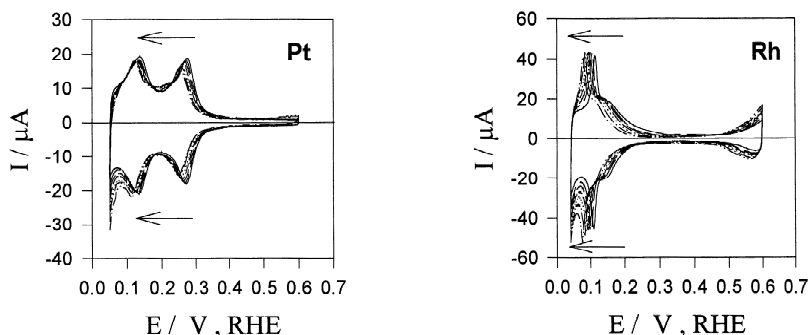


Fig. 1. Series of CV profiles for the UPD H on Pt and Rh electrodes in 0.5 M aqueous  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  solution for a temperature range between 273 and 343 K, with an interval of 10 K; the sweep rate  $s = 20 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ , the arrows indicate shift of the adsorption–desorption peaks upon the temperature increase.

parameter,  $\omega(\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}})$ , which describes lateral interactions, thus  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})_{\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}} \neq 0}} = \Delta G_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})_{\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}} = 0}} + \omega(\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}})$ ,  $P_{\text{H}_2}^{1/2}$  is the partial pressure of  $\text{H}_2$  in the reference electrode compartment,  $E$  is the potential measured versus the RHE and  $R$  and  $F$  are physico-chemical constants. The results of these calculations are shown in Fig. 2 and they indicate that in the case of Pt  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  has values from  $-25$  to  $-12$   $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$  and in case of Rh  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  has values from  $-17$  to  $-8$   $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ , thus the driving force of the UPD H on Pt is greater than in the case of Rh. In both cases  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  has the most-negative values at the lowest  $T$  and the smallest  $\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}}$ . For a given  $T$ ,  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  increases with  $\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  indicating that the lateral interactions between the  $\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}$  adatoms are of the repulsive nature [29–32]. The slope of the  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  versus  $\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  plots is a measure of the strength of the repulsions and it may be concluded (Fig. 2) that they are stronger in the case of  $\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}$  adatoms on Pt than on Rh. The  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  versus  $T$  relations for a given  $\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  are linear and allow determination of the entropy of adsorption,  $\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$ , based on Eq. (2):

$$\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}) = - \left[ \frac{\partial \Delta G_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})}{\partial T} \right]_{\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}} = \text{const}} \quad (2)$$

The data shown in Fig. 3 indicate that  $\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  has values from  $-80$  to  $-41$   $\text{J mol}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$  for Pt and from  $-126$  to  $-29$   $\text{J mol}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$  for Rh. In the case of Pt, the  $\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  versus  $\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  relation reveals two maxima which are associated with the two CV peaks whereas in the case of Rh  $\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  increases monotonously. The enthalpy of adsorption,  $\Delta H_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$ , is determined based on the experiment values of  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  and  $\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  and the well-known formula  $\Delta G^{\circ} = \Delta H^{\circ} - T \Delta S^{\circ}$ . The results shown in Fig. 4 demonstrate that  $\Delta H_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  has values from  $-46$  to  $-27$   $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$  for Pt and from  $-52$  to  $-21$   $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$  for Rh. Knowledge of  $\Delta H_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  allows evaluation of the bond energy be-

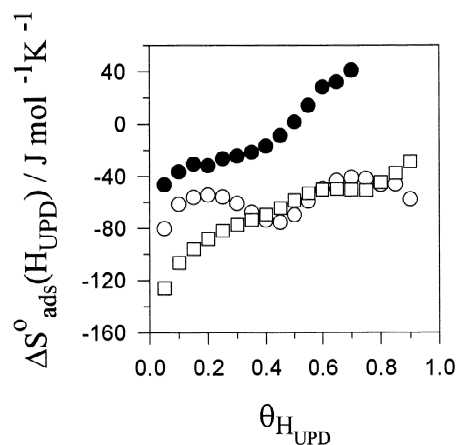


Fig. 3.  $\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  versus  $\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  relations for the UPD H from 0.5 M aqueous  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  on: (i) Pt in absence of  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$  ( $\circ$ ); (ii) Rh in absence of  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$  ( $\square$ ); and (iii) Pt in presence of  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$ ,  $\theta_{\text{S}} = 0.1$ , ( $\bullet$ ).

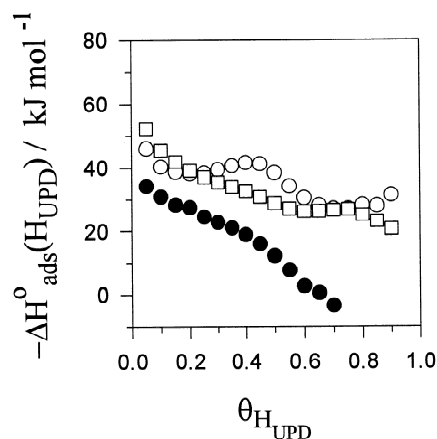


Fig. 4.  $\Delta H_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  versus  $\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  relations for the UPD H from 0.5 M aqueous  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  on: (i) Pt in absence of  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$  ( $\circ$ ), (ii) Rh in absence of  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$  ( $\square$ ); and (iii) Pt in presence of  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$ ,  $\theta_{\text{S}} = 0.1$ , ( $\bullet$ ).

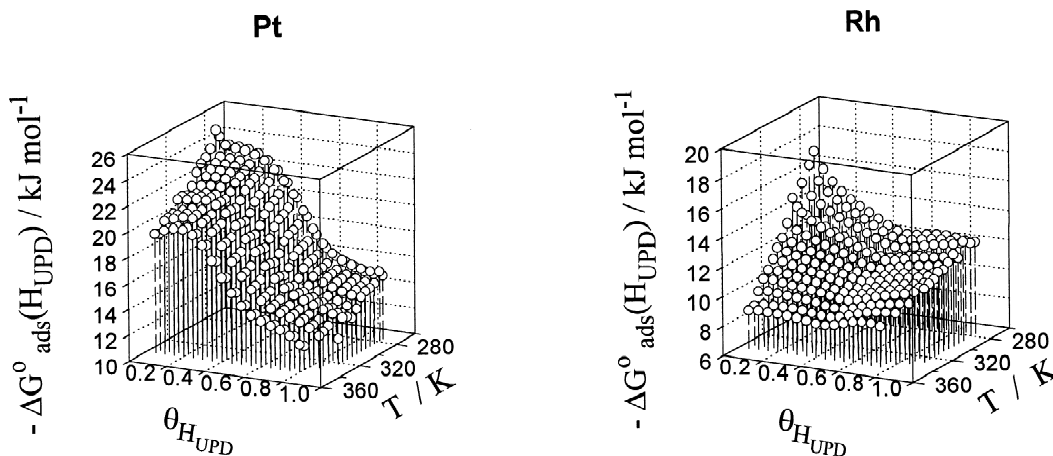


Fig. 2. 3D plots showing  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  versus  $\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  and  $T$  for the UPD H on Pt and Rh electrodes in 0.5 M aqueous  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ .

tween the substrate, M (here M is Pt or Rh), and  $H_{\text{UPD}}$ ,  $E_{\text{M-H}_{\text{UPD}}}$ , based on Eq. (3):

$$E_{\text{M-H}_{\text{UPD}}} = \frac{1}{2}D_{\text{H}_2} - \Delta H^{\circ}_{\text{ads}}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}) \quad (3)$$

where  $D_{\text{H}_2}$  is the dissociation energy of the hydrogen molecule and  $D_{\text{H}_2} = 436 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ . Such determined values of  $E_{\text{Pt-H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  and  $E_{\text{Rh-H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  as a function of  $\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  are shown in Fig. 5 and they demonstrate that  $E_{\text{Pt-H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  varies from 245–264  $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$  and those of  $E_{\text{Rh-H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  from 239–270  $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ . The values of  $E_{\text{Pt-H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  and  $E_{\text{Rh-H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  fall close to those for the bond energy between Pt or Rh and chemisorbed H,  $H_{\text{chem}}$ , which are  $243 \leq E_{\text{Pt-H}_{\text{chem}}} \leq 255 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  and  $E_{\text{Rh-H}_{\text{chem}}} = 255 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , respectively [33]. Proximity of these indicates that  $H_{\text{chem}}$  and  $H_{\text{UPD}}$  are thermodynamic equivalent species. Subsequently, if  $\text{M-H}_{\text{UPD}}$  and  $\text{M-H}_{\text{chem}}$  bond energies are close to each other, then it is rational to conclude that  $H_{\text{UPD}}$  occupies the same surface adsorption site as  $H_{\text{chem}}$  thus that it is embedded in the surface lattice of the metal substrate.

### 3.2. Sulfur chemisorption on Pt electrodes

A layer of chemisorbed S,  $S_{\text{chem}}$ , on Pt was formed by its immersion in 0.01 M aqueous  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}$  solution. The surface coverage of the  $S_{\text{chem}}$  layer was 1.2 with respect to the electrode real surface area; it exceeded unity because the electrode was of polycrystalline nature and more  $S_{\text{chem}}$  atoms were adsorbed at the grain boundaries and surface imperfections resulting in the S/Pt ratio greater than one. This layer of  $S_{\text{chem}}$  suppressed completely the UPD H on Pt [19,20] as it was revealed by CV measurements (Fig. 6). Coupled FTIR, AES, CEELS and electrochemical measurements [25,26,34,35] indicate that  $S_{\text{chem}}$  is in its atomic form. The  $S_{\text{chem}}$  layer can be removed by Pt cycling into the oxide formation region [36,37], thus the surface

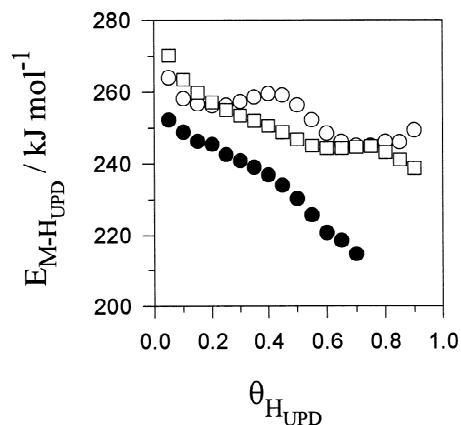


Fig. 5.  $E_{\text{M-H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  versus  $\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  relations for the UPD H from 0.5 M aqueous  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  on: (i) Pt in absence of  $S_{\text{chem}}$  (○); (ii) Rh in absence of  $S_{\text{chem}}$  (□); and (iii) Pt in presence of  $S_{\text{chem}}$ ,  $\theta_s = 0.1$ , (●).

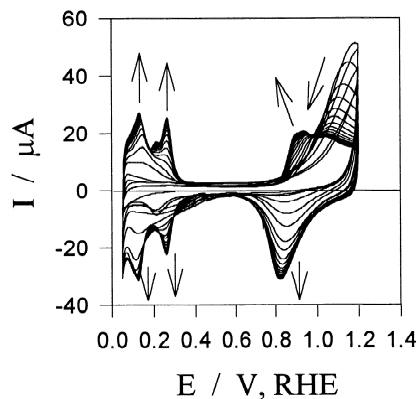
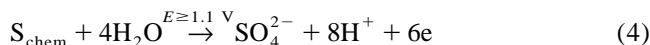


Fig. 6. Series of CV profiles for Pt electrode covered with a layer of  $S_{\text{chem}}$  in 0.5 M aqueous  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  solution at 298 K; the sweep rate  $s = 20 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . Upon potential cycling to 1.20 V, RHE, the  $S_{\text{chem}}$  layer undergoes oxidative desorption; unblocked surface sites become available to  $H_{\text{UPD}}$ . Presence of  $S_{\text{chem}}$  also affects the surface oxidation of Pt.

oxidation and the  $S_{\text{chem}}$  oxidative desorption overlap. Complete removal of the  $S_{\text{chem}}$  layer cannot be accomplished within one CV and it requires several cycles (Fig. 6). FTIR and UHV data [25,26,38] indicate that the  $S_{\text{chem}}$  oxidative desorption at  $E \leq 1.1 \text{ V}$ , RHE, results in formation of sulfate and its desorption:



Because the Pt oxidation commences at 0.85 V, RHE, and the  $S_{\text{chem}}$  oxidative desorption at  $E \leq 1.1 \text{ V}$ , RHE, the total anodic charge equals  $q_{\text{AN}(i)} = q_{\text{OX}(i)} + q_{\text{S}(i)}$  ( $q_{\text{OX}(i)}$  is the oxide charge,  $q_{\text{S}(i)}$  is the charges of  $S_{\text{chem}}$  desorption; the subscript i represents the ith cycle). The cathodic charge  $q_{\text{CATH}(i)}$ , at  $0.5 \leq E \leq 1.2 \text{ V}$ , RHE, corresponds to reduction of the surface oxide [35]. Their difference for every CV allows one to evaluate the charge of the sulfur oxidative desorption per cycle,  $q_{\text{S}(i)}$ . Summation of these charges for all CVs leads to determination of the overall charge of the  $S_{\text{chem}}$  oxidative desorption,  $q_{\text{S}} = \sum q_{\text{S}(i)}$ , and when divided by the number of electrons transferred during the oxidation, it results in the total number of  $S_{\text{chem}}$  adatoms on the Pt electrode prior to the oxidative desorption.

$$N_{\text{S}} = \frac{q_{\text{S}}}{6e} \quad (5)$$

An analysis of the CVs (Fig. 6) allows one to establish a relation between the  $H_{\text{UPD}}$ ,  $S_{\text{chem}}$  and oxide coverages,  $\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}}$ ,  $\theta_{\text{S}}$  and  $\theta_{\text{O}}$ , respectively, with respect to the number of cycles for the  $S_{\text{chem}}$  oxidative desorption (Fig. 7). Examination of the results leads to three observations: (i) less than 1 ML of  $S_{\text{chem}}$ , is required for complete suppression of the UPD H; (ii) the  $\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  and  $\theta_{\text{S}}$  relations intersect at the coverage of 0.33 and (iii) presence of  $S_{\text{chem}}$  suppresses the Pt oxidation. The authors examined the effectiveness of the  $S_{\text{chem}}$  desorption by Pt cycling to

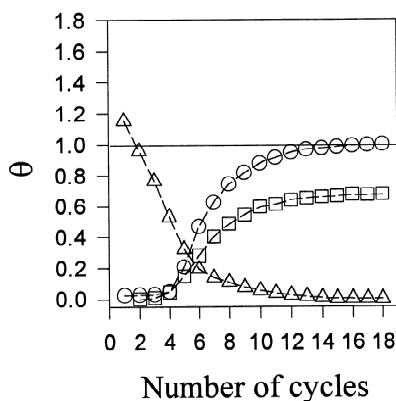


Fig. 7. Relation between the  $H_{\text{UPD}}$  surface coverage,  $\theta_{H_{\text{UPD}}}$  (○), the  $S_{\text{chem}}$  surface coverage,  $\theta_S$  (△), the surface oxide coverage,  $\theta_O$  (□), and the number of respective cycles to 1.2 V for  $S_{\text{chem}}$  oxidative desorption determined on the basis of results presented in Fig. 6.

potentials higher than 1.2 V and they found that potential limits higher than 1.2 V results in more effective removal of the  $S_{\text{chem}}$  layer [35]. Formation of a ML of  $S_{\text{chem}}$  followed by cycling to  $E=1.2$  V results in a submonolayer of  $S_{\text{chem}}$  whose coverage can be controlled with the accuracy of some 2% of a ML especially in the range of  $\theta_S \leq 0.4$ .

### 3.3. Thermodynamics of the UPD H at Pt in presence of a submonolayer of chemisorbed S

The main idea behind the project was assessment of the influence of  $S_{\text{chem}}$  on thermodynamics of the UPD H and the bond Pt– $H_{\text{UPD}}$  energy. The authors presumed that  $S_{\text{chem}}$  adatoms (a submonolayer), coadsorbed with  $H_{\text{UPD}}$ , can withdraw electron density from the Pt atoms to which  $S_{\text{chem}}$  is bonded. This electron withdrawal gives rise to a localized electron deficit which is compensated by withdrawing electron density from the neighboring Pt atoms and those involving the Pt– $H_{\text{UPD}}$  bond [17,35]. The Pt substrate acts as a mediator bringing about lateral  $S_{\text{chem}}-H_{\text{UPD}}$  interactions. Hence, the electron density of the Pt– $H_{\text{UPD}}$  bond should be decreased by the coadsorbed  $S_{\text{chem}}$ , thus the Pt– $H_{\text{UPD}}$  bond should be weaker in presence of  $S_{\text{chem}}$  than in its absence. This concept was tested experimentally and theoretically and the results are presented below.

A submonolayer of  $S_{\text{chem}}$  ( $\theta_S=0.1$ ) on Pt was formed according to the procedure described above. CVs for the UPD H on Pt in 0.5 M aqueous  $H_2SO_4$  solution at  $T$  between 273 and 343 K with an interval of 10 K at the sweep rate of  $20 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  are shown in Fig. 8. The results indicate that  $\theta_{H_{\text{UPD}}}$  is strongly affected by  $T$  variation and presence of  $S_{\text{chem}}$ . The Gibbs free energy of adsorption in presence of  $S_{\text{chem}}$ ,  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}(S)}^\circ(H_{\text{UPD}})$ , is evaluated on the basis of Eq. (6) and the results shown in Fig. 9 [17].

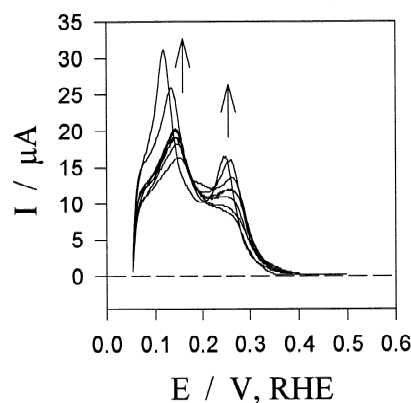


Fig. 8. Series of the CV profiles for the UPD H on Pt electrode in 0.5 M aqueous  $H_2SO_4$  solution in presence of a  $S_{\text{chem}}$  submonolayer ( $\theta_S=0.1$ ) for a temperature range between 273 and 343 K, with an interval of 10 K; the sweep rate  $s=20 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . The arrows indicate changes in the profile brought about by  $T$  increase.

$$\frac{\theta_{H_{\text{UPD}}}}{1 - \theta_{H_{\text{UPD}}} - \theta_S} = P_{H_2}^{1/2} \exp\left(\frac{EF}{RT}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta G_{\text{ads}(S)}^\circ(H_{\text{UPD}})}{RT}\right) \quad (6)$$

In presence of  $S_{\text{chem}}$ ,  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}(S)}^\circ(H_{\text{UPD}})$  varies from  $-22$  to  $-9 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , thus it has values less negative than those in absence of  $S_{\text{chem}}$ . In the analysis of the  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}(S)}^\circ(H_{\text{UPD}})$  versus  $\theta_{H_{\text{UPD}}}$  plots for  $T=\text{const}$  (Fig. 2), it has been mentioned that the lateral interactions between  $H_{\text{UPD}}$  adatoms are repulsive [24,29–33]. In the case of the UPD H in presence of  $S_{\text{chem}}$ , the changes of  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}(S)}^\circ(H_{\text{UPD}})$  with  $\theta_{H_{\text{UPD}}}$  are more pronounced at low  $T$  than at high  $T$  whereas in absence of  $S_{\text{chem}}$  they are roughly the same. Thus in presence of  $S_{\text{chem}}$  the lateral repulsions between the  $H_{\text{UPD}}$  adatoms are stronger at low  $T$  than at high  $T$ . The entropy of adsorption in presence of  $S_{\text{chem}}$ ,  $\Delta S_{\text{ads}(S)}^\circ(H_{\text{UPD}})$ , was evaluated based on Eq. (2); it has

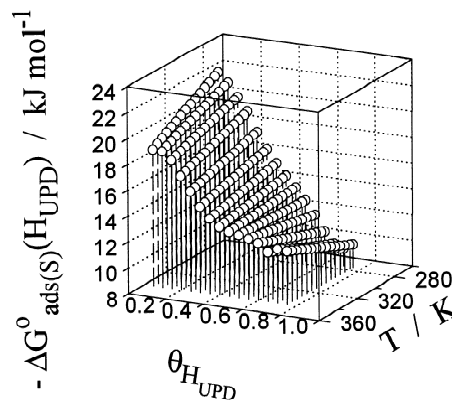


Fig. 9. 3D plots showing the Gibbs free energy of the UPD H,  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}(S)}^\circ(H_{\text{UPD}})$ , versus  $\theta_{H_{\text{UPD}}}$  and  $T$ , for adsorption in presence of a  $S_{\text{chem}}$  submonolayer ( $\theta_S=0.1$ ) from 0.5 M aqueous  $H_2SO_4$ .

values from  $-46$  to  $41 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$  (Fig. 3). The results show that  $\Delta S_{\text{ads(S)}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  varies from negative values at low  $\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  to positive ones at high  $\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  thus indicating an increase of  $\Delta S_{\text{ads(S)}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  with  $\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}}$ . Comparison of  $\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  with  $\Delta S_{\text{ads(S)}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  reveals that presence of  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$  increases the entropy of the UPD. The enthalpy of adsorption in presence of  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$ ,  $\Delta H_{\text{ads(S)}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$ , is determined based on the  $\Delta G_{\text{ads(S)}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  and  $\Delta S_{\text{ads(S)}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  values. The results shown in Fig. 4 demonstrate that  $\Delta H_{\text{ads(S)}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  has values from  $-34$  to  $3 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ . An analysis of the data indicates that presence of  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$  increases the enthalpy of adsorption with respect to its values in absence of  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$ . Determination  $\Delta H_{\text{ads(S)}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$  allowed evaluation of the influence of presence of  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$  on the Pt–H<sub>UPD</sub> bond energy,  $E_{\text{Pt-H}_{\text{UPD}}(\text{S})}$ . The values of  $E_{\text{Pt-H}_{\text{UPD}}(\text{S})}$  for various  $\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}}$  were evaluated according to Eq. (3) and they vary from  $214$ – $252 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  (Fig. 5). The results demonstrate that presence of  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$  decreases the Pt–H<sub>UPD</sub> bond energy by some  $12$ – $31 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , depending on  $\theta_{\text{H}_{\text{UPD}}}$ . The decrease of the Pt–H<sub>UPD</sub> bond energy indicates that the  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$  adatoms create an electron deficit at the Pt–H<sub>UPD</sub> bond giving rise to a weaker Pt–H<sub>UPD</sub> bond.

The authors believe that the results represent an important contribution to comprehension of the atomic-level mechanism of the action of SBEs and their impact on coadsorbed H<sub>UPD</sub> adatoms and that they will serve in subsequent development of criteria for selection and design of surface species which could act selectively either as surface poisons or surface poisons of H adsorption and absorption.

#### 4. Conclusions

1. Immersion of Pt in aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>S solution leads to formation of a ML of  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$  which suppresses the UPD H; a submonolayer of  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$  having its coverage less than 0.33 partially blocks the UPD H. The  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$  ML can be gradually removed by oxidative desorption at  $E = 1.2 \text{ V}$  and the  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$  coverage can be controlled with precision of 2% of a ML.

2. Summary of thermodynamic data for the studied systems

State function versus system	$\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$ (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )	$\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$ (J mol <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup> )	$\Delta H_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}(\text{H}_{\text{UPD}})$ (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )	$E_{\text{M-H}_{\text{UPD}}}$ (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )
H <sub>UPD</sub> on Pt	-25–-12	-80–-41	-46–-27	245–264
H <sub>UPD</sub> on Rh	-17–-8	-126–-29	-52–-21	239–270
H <sub>UPD</sub> on Pt in presence of $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$ ( $\theta_s = 0.1$ )	-22–-9	-46–41	-34–3	214–252

3. The  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$  adatoms adsorbed on Pt create an electron deficit at the Pt surface atoms to which they are bonded.

This deficit propagates through the Pt substrate and gives rise to electron withdrawal from the Pt–H<sub>UPD</sub> bond, thus to a weaker Pt–H<sub>UPD</sub> bond.

4. The H<sub>UPD</sub> adatoms have repulsive lateral interactions which become stronger in presence of the  $\text{S}_{\text{chem}}$  submonolayer than in its absence.

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