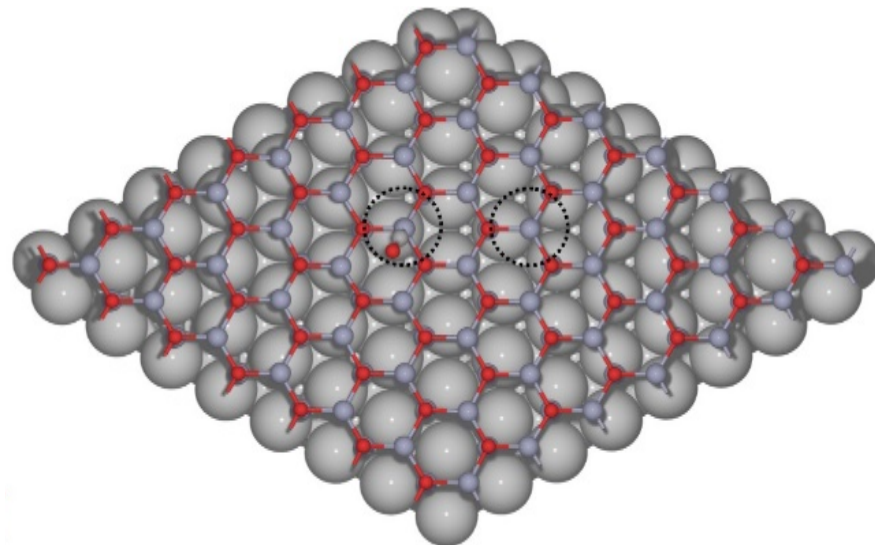
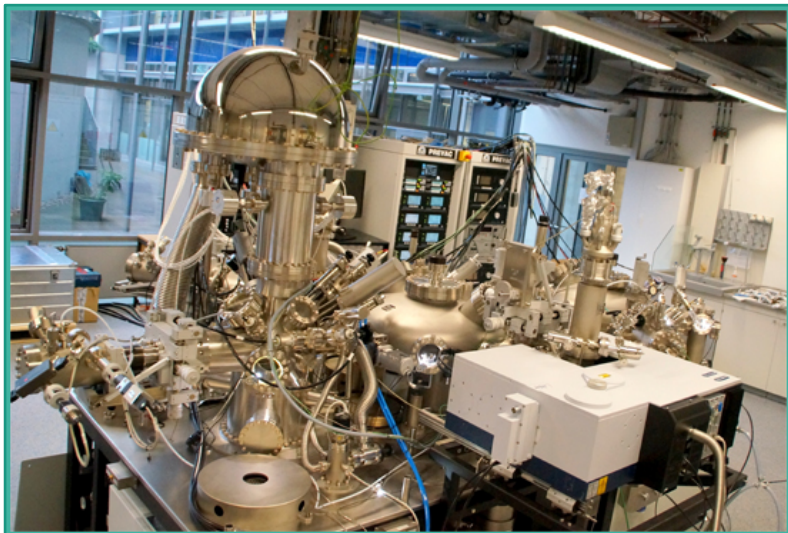


# IRRAS and DFT Investigations of Ultrathin ZnO Films Formed on Ag(111)

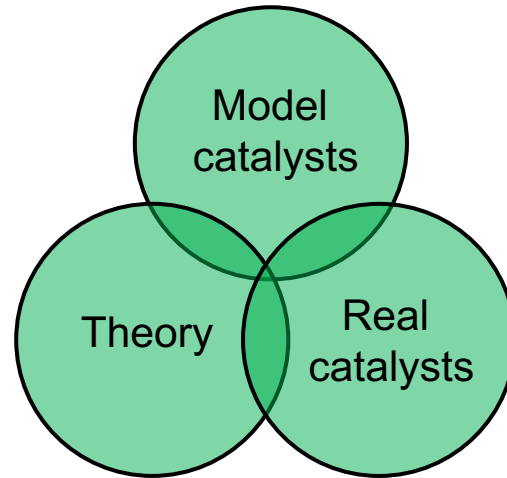
Xiaojuan Yu, Mie Andersen, Alexei Nefedov, Karsten Reuter, Christof Wöll and Yuemin Wang

Institute of Functional Interfaces (IFG)



# “Surface Science” approach to heterogeneous catalysis

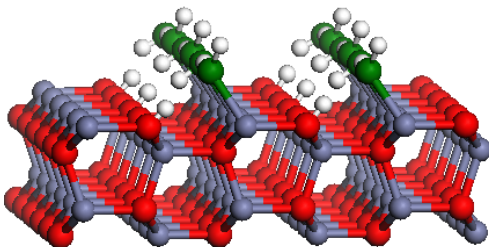
- Fundamental understanding of nanostructured catalysts based on comprehensive reference data acquired for model systems



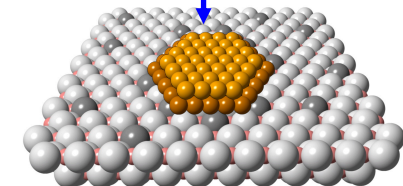
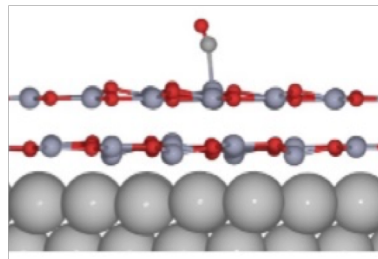
Prof. Gerhard Ertl  
The Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry 2007

## Cu/CeO<sub>2</sub> Nanoparticles

water on ZnO(10-10)  
single-crystal surfaces

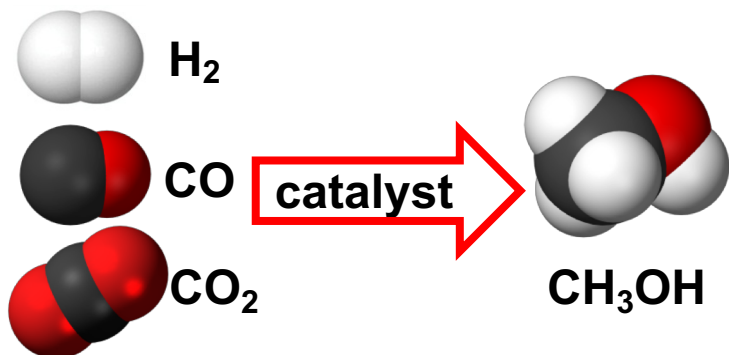


CO on ZnO thin films



# Metal oxide thin films

Catalyst : Cu/ZnO/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>



Catalyst : Cu/ZnO/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

S. Kuld et al., Science. 2016, 352, 969.

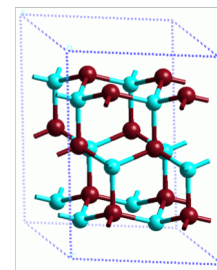
M. Behrens et al., Science. 2012, 336, 893.

ZnO thin films

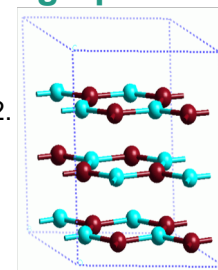
S. Tusche et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 2007, 99, 026102.

C. L. Freeman et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 2006, 96, 066102.

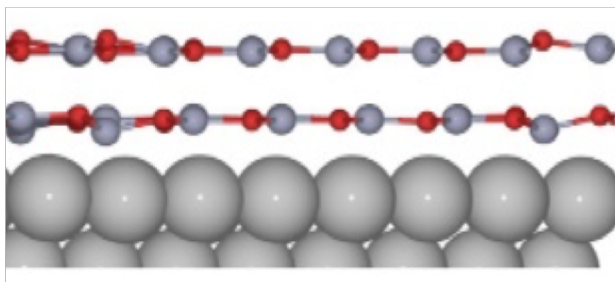
wurtzite



graphitic

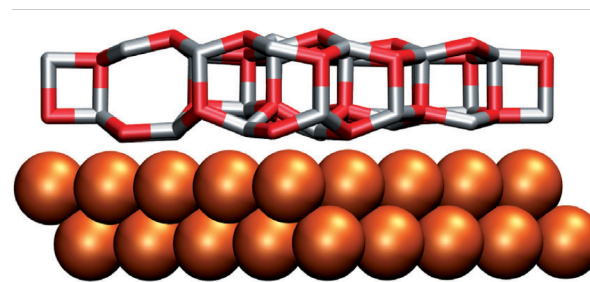


IRRAS: ZnO/Ag(111)



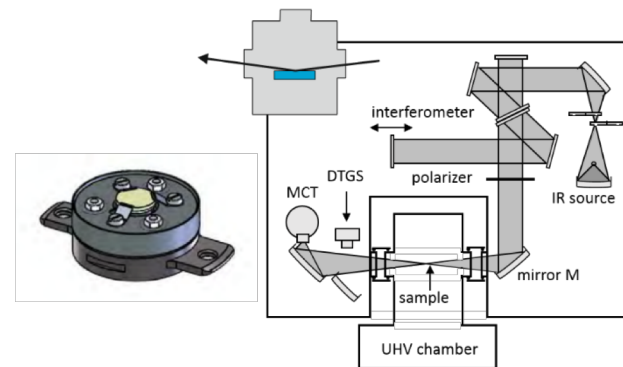
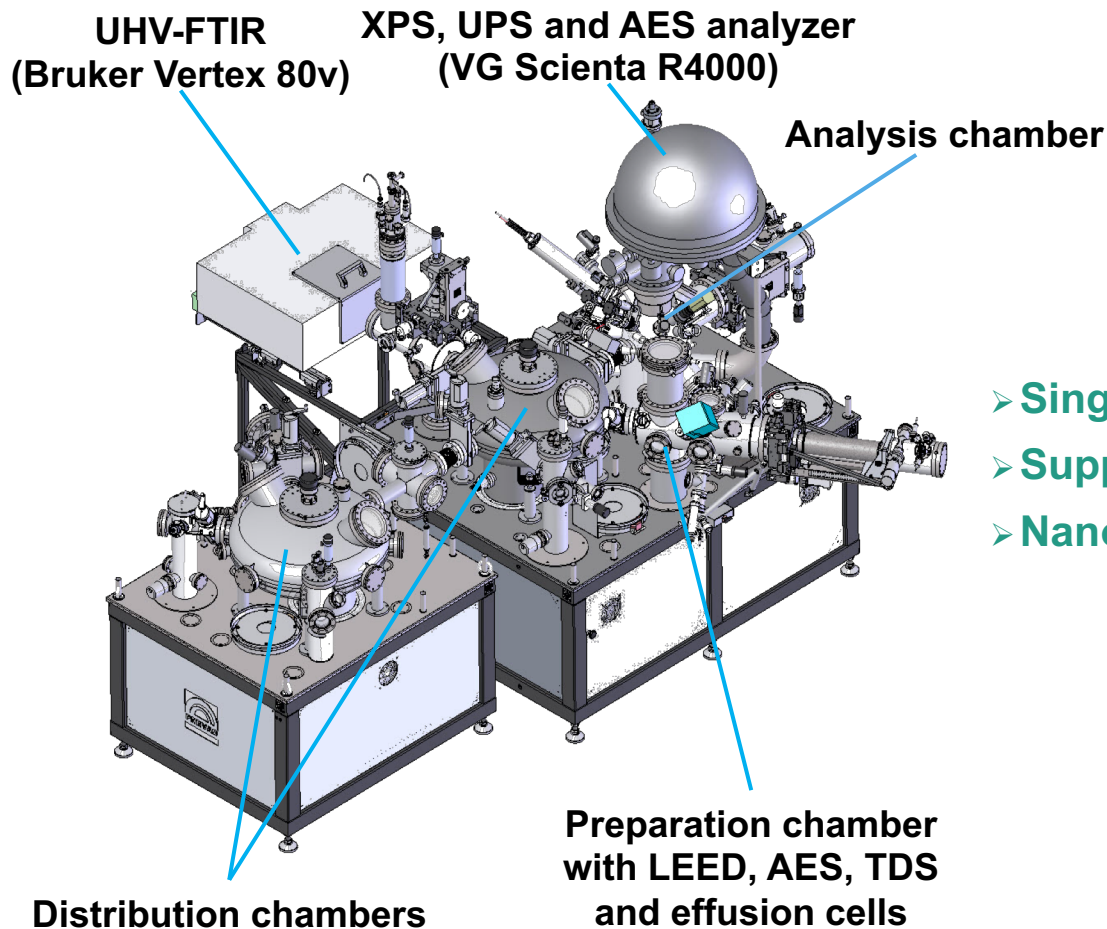
M. Andersen, X. Yu, et al., J. Phys. Chem. C 2018, 122, 4963

IRRAS: ZnO/Cu(111)

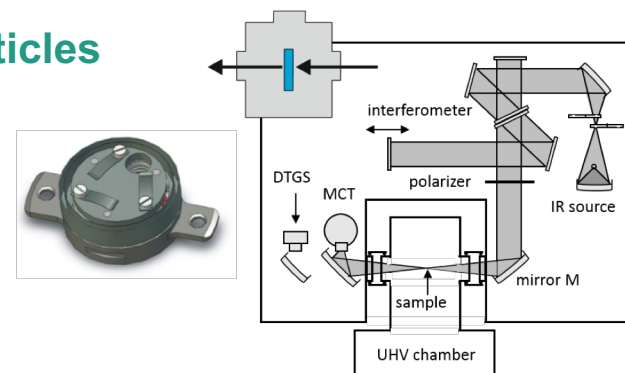


V. Schott, et al., Angew. Chemie, Int. Ed. 2013, 52, 11925

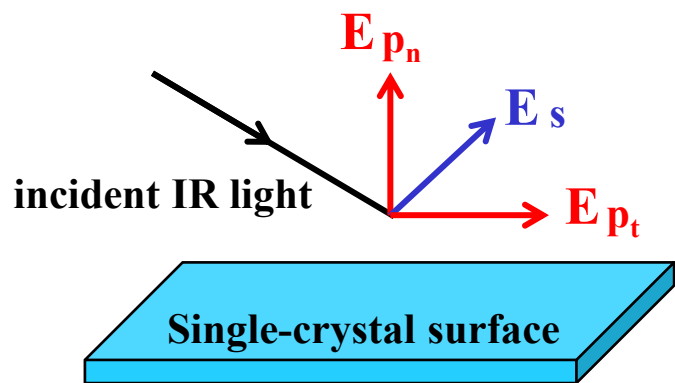
# UHV-FTIR apparatus "THEO"



- Single crystals
- Supported thin films
- Nanoparticles



# Infrared reflection-absorption spectroscopy (IRRAS)

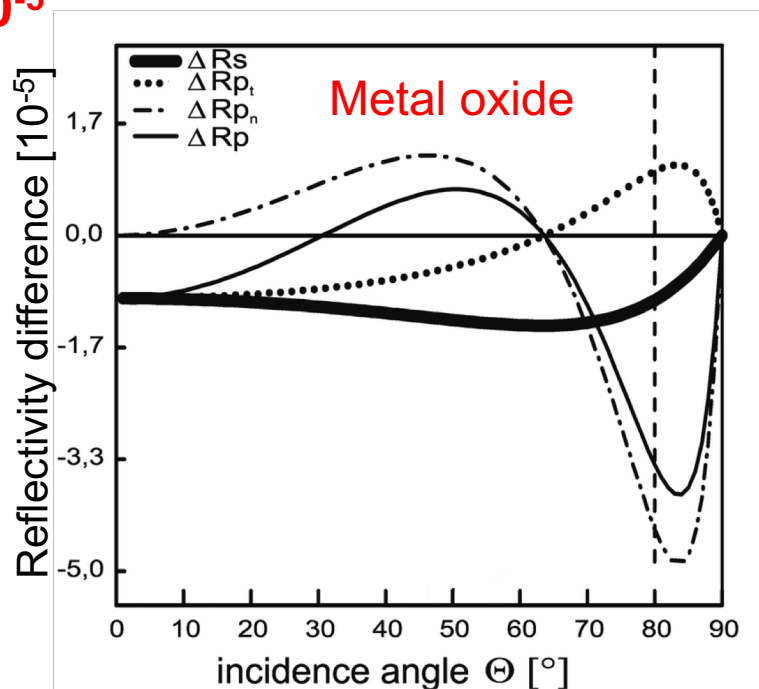
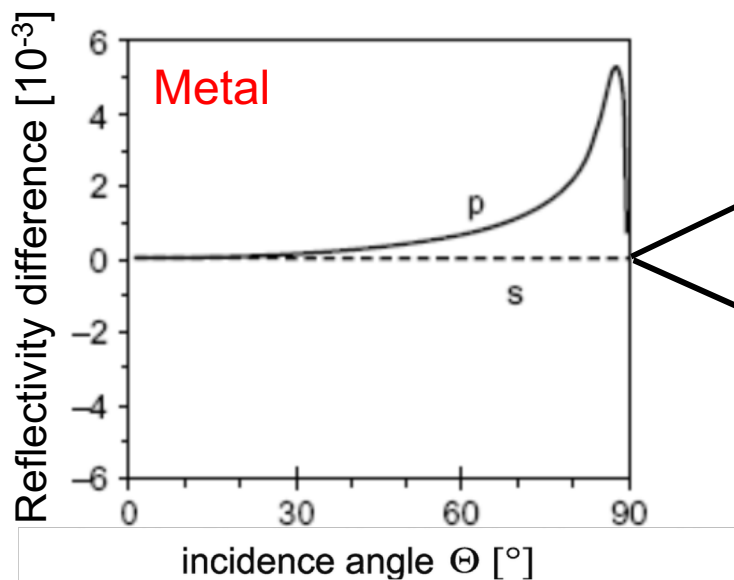


$$\Delta A_s(\theta) = -\frac{16\pi}{\ln 10} \left[ \frac{\cos \theta}{n_3^2 - 1} \right] \frac{n_2 k_2 d_2}{\lambda}$$

$$\Delta A_{pt}(\theta) = -\frac{16\pi}{\ln 10} \left[ \frac{\cos \theta}{\frac{\xi_3^2(\theta)}{n_3^4} - \cos^2 \theta} \right] \left[ -\frac{\xi_3^2(\theta)}{n_3^4} \right] \frac{n_2 k_2 d_2}{\lambda}$$

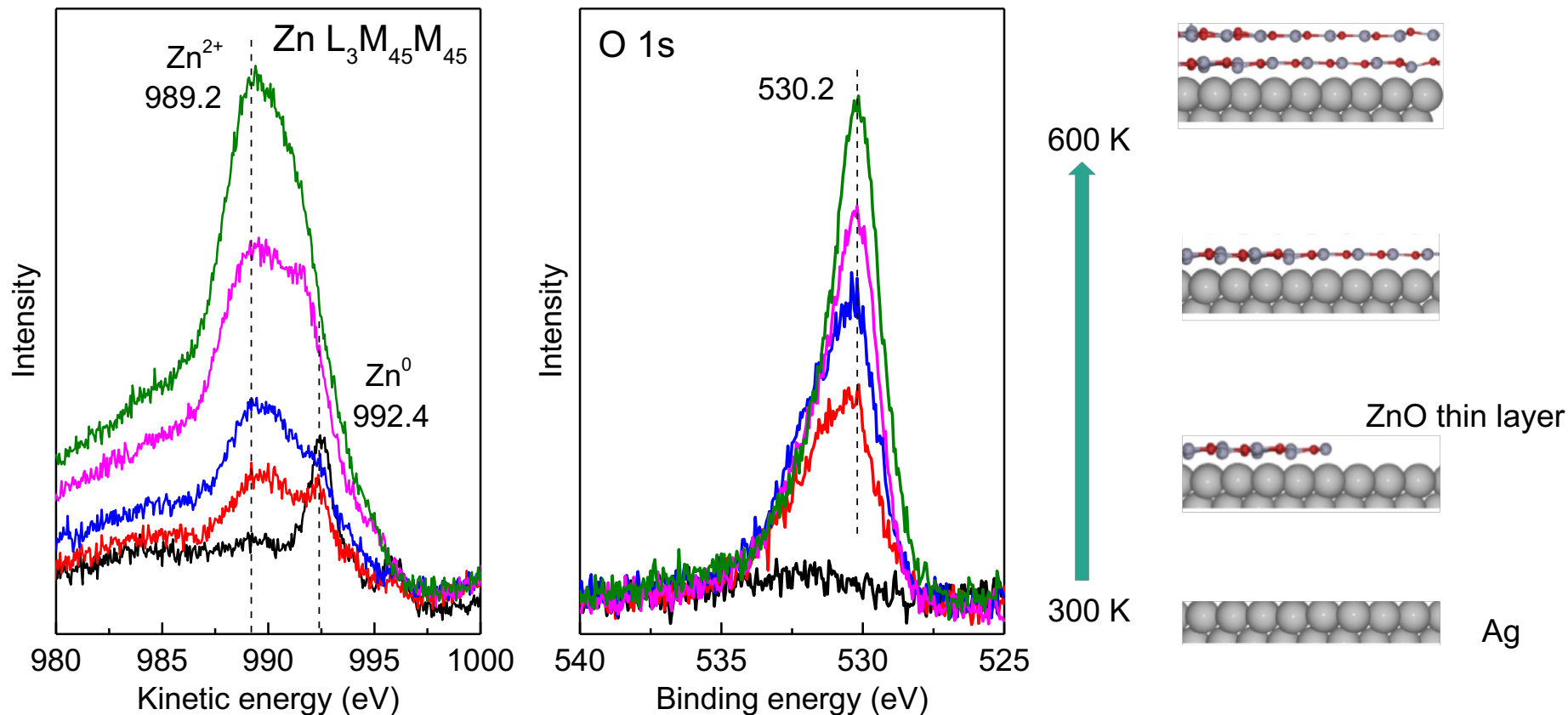
$$\Delta A_{pn}(\theta) = -\frac{16\pi}{\ln 10} \left[ \frac{\cos \theta}{\frac{\xi_3^2(\theta)}{n_3^4} - \cos^2 \theta} \right] \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{(n_2^2 + k_2^2)^2} \frac{n_2 k_2 d_2}{\lambda}$$

**Sensitivity:  $1 \times 10^{-5}$**



# ZnO/Ag(111): growth of ZnO thin films monitored by XPS

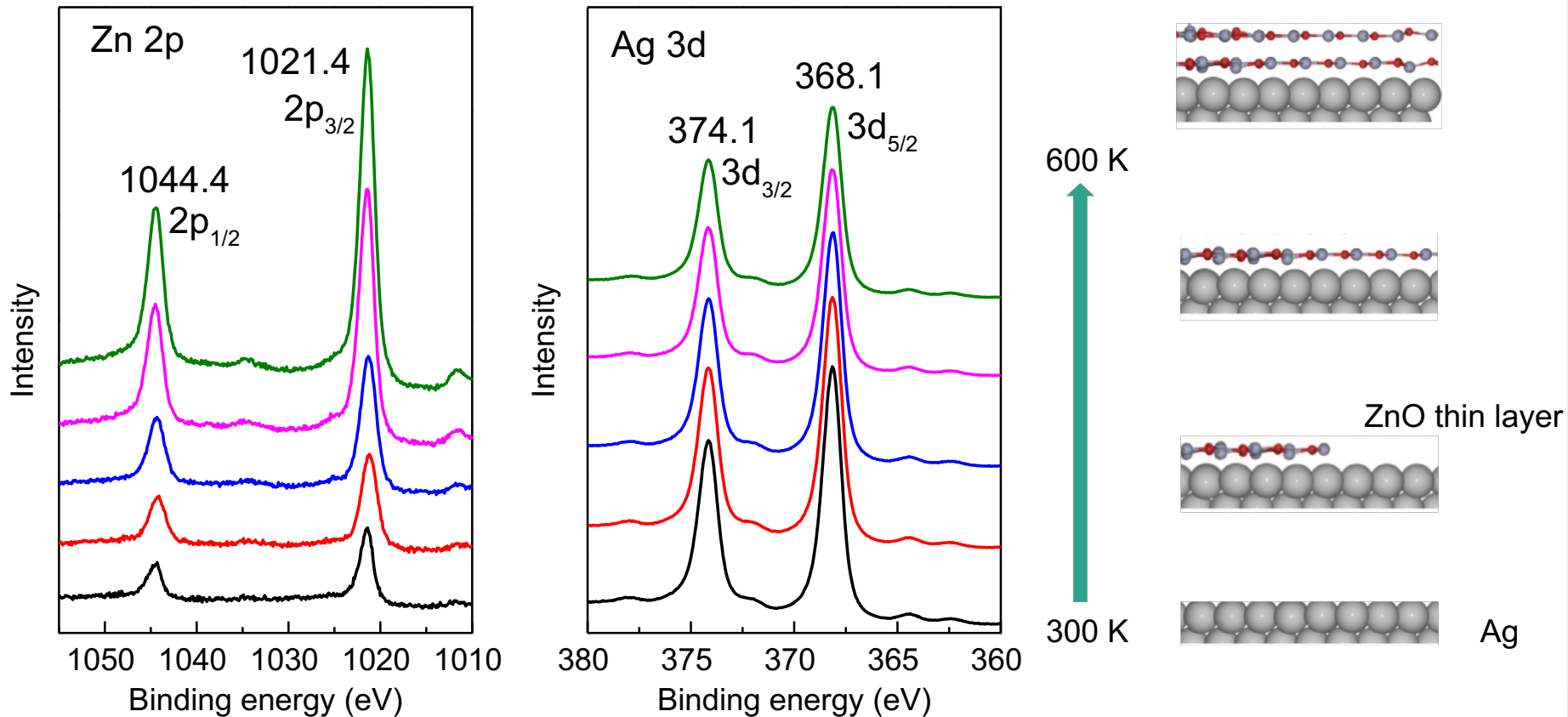
Grazing angle  $\theta = 70^\circ$



Increase of the surface Zn concentration due to the formation of ZnO thin films

# ZnO/Ag(111): growth of ZnO thin films monitored by XPS

Grazing angle  $\theta = 70^\circ$



Increase of the surface Zn concentration due to the formation of ZnO thin films

# ZnO/Ag(111): thickness of ZnO thin films

$$\frac{I_A}{I_S} = \frac{T_A \sigma_A n_A \lambda_A(E_A)}{T_S \sigma_S n_S \lambda_S(E_S)} \cdot \frac{1 - e^{-\frac{d}{\lambda_A(E_A) \cdot \cos(\theta)}}}{e^{-\frac{d}{\lambda_A(E_S) \cdot \cos(\theta)}}}$$




S. V. Merzlinkin et al., Surf. Sci. 2008, 602, 755-767

The atomic density of ZnO

wurtzite –  $4.89 \times 10^{-2}$  atoms/Å<sup>3</sup>, graphitic –  $4.08 \times 10^{-2}$  atoms/Å<sup>3</sup>.

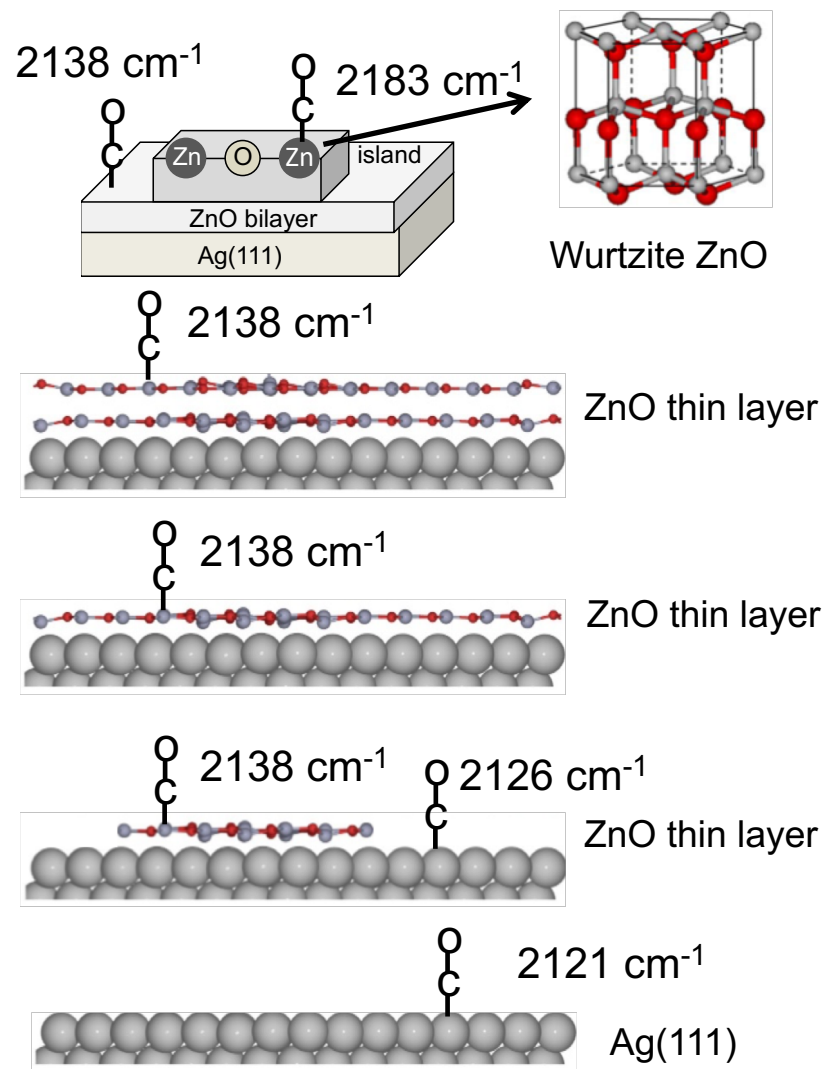
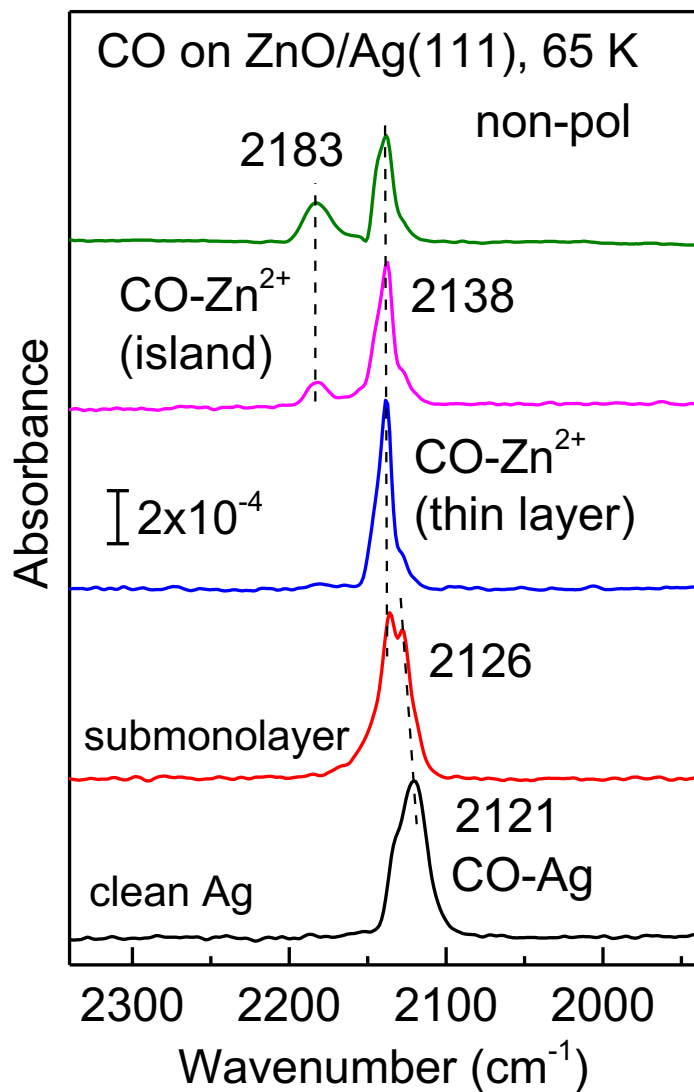
F. Claeysens et al., J. Mater. Chem. 2005, 15, 139-148.

C. L. Freeman et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 2006, 96, 066102.

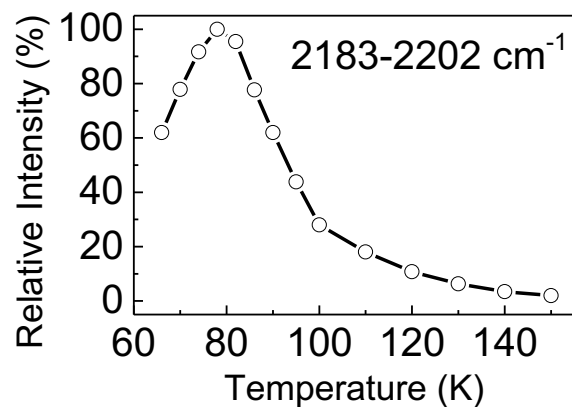
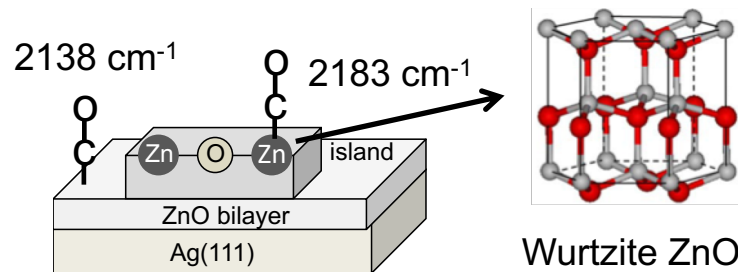
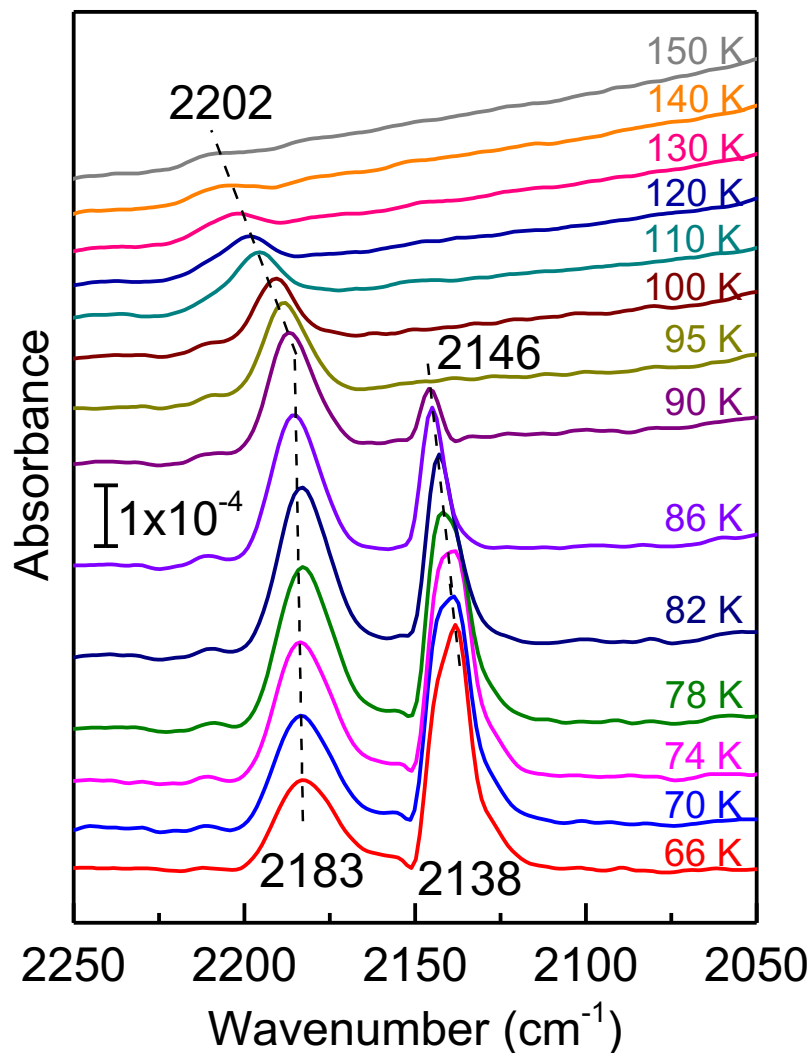
Oxidation with O<sub>2</sub> at 600K for 10 min: 1.9 Å (assuming graphitic-type ZnO)  1 ML  
20 min: 3.4 Å (assuming graphitic-type ZnO)  2 ML  
40 min: 4.4 Å (assuming graphitic-type ZnO)  3-4 ML  
or 3.7 Å (assuming wurtzite-type ZnO)



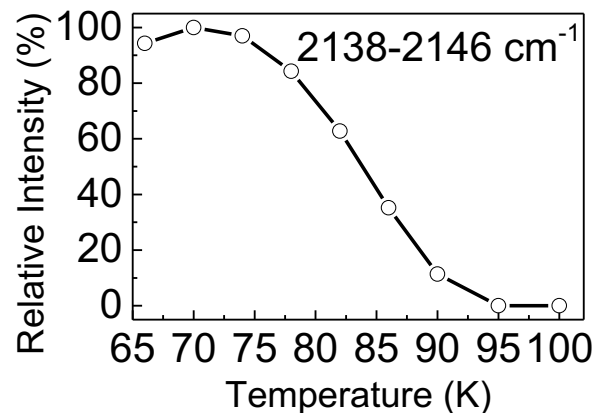
# ZnO/Ag(111): growth of ZnO thin films monitored by IRRAS



# ZnO/Ag(111): Temperature-dependent IRRAS data

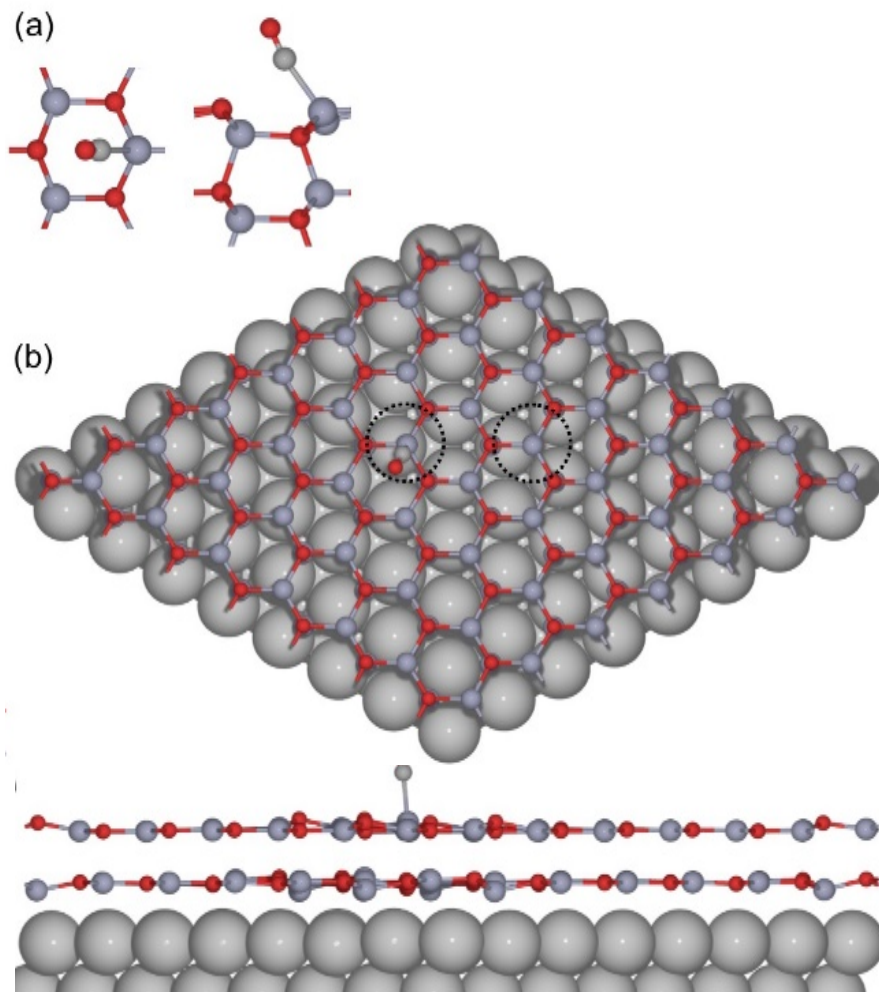


BE: 0.30 eV  
(29 kJ/mol)



BE: 0.24 eV  
(23 kJ/mol)

# ZnO/Ag(111): growth of ZnO thin films calculated by DFT



System	Method	$E_{CO}$ (eV)	$\Delta\nu_{CO}$ (cm $^{-1}$ )
<b>ZnO(10<math>\bar{1}0</math>)</b>	DFT	0.47	+37
	Exp.	0.32 <sup>[1]</sup>	+42 <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>(7<math>\times</math>7)ZnO/ (8<math>\times</math>8)Ag</b>	DFT: Site I	0.36	+5
	DFT: Site II	0.24	-3
	Exp.	0.24	+3

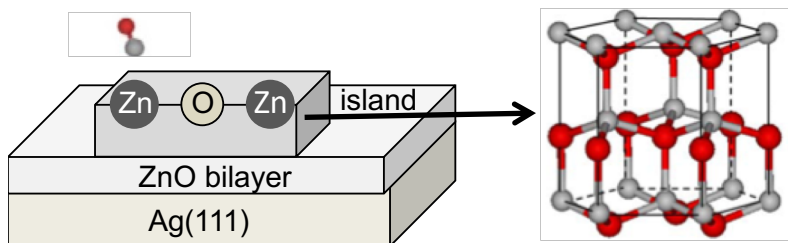
[1] Y. Wang, C. Wöll, Chem. Soc. Rev., 2017, 46, 1875.

$E_{CO}$ : CO adsorption energies

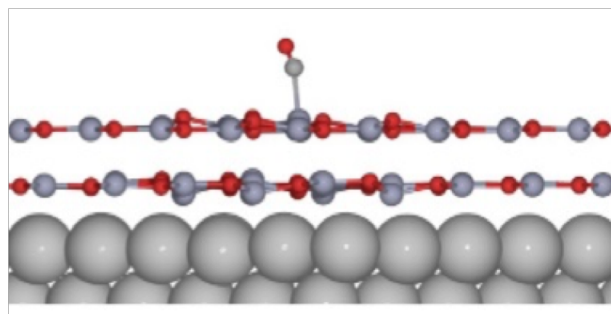
$\Delta\nu_{CO}$ : shift of the CO vibrational frequency with respect to the gas phase value

DFT-optimized structures (top and side view) of CO adsorbed on (a) the wurtzite (10 $\bar{1}0$ ) surface, (b) the large (7 $\times$ 7)ZnO/(8 $\times$ 8)Ag structure. In (b) the dashed black circles highlight adsorption site I (shown structure) and II (empty circle).

# Comparison: different ZnO thin films monitored by IRRAS

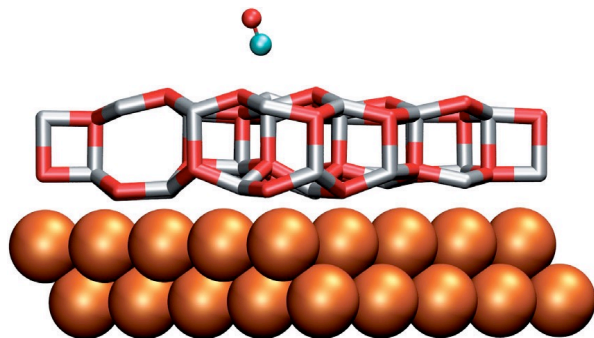


Wurtzite ZnO



Graphitic ZnO

Ag



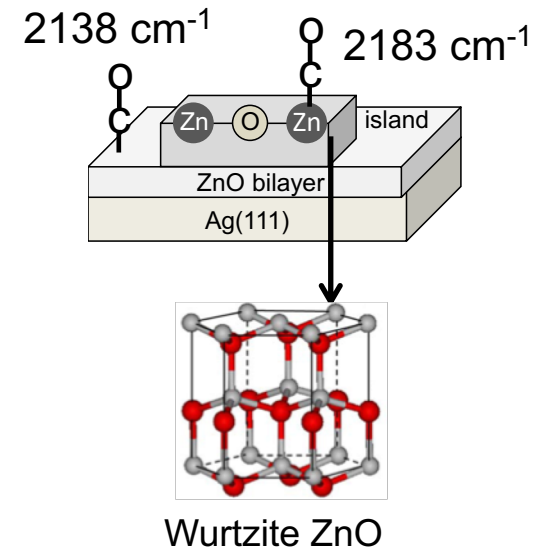
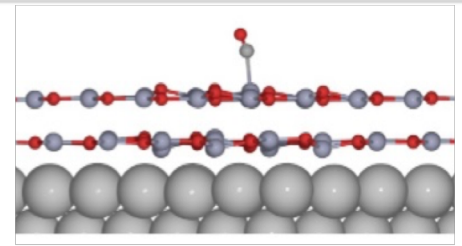
Corrugated ZnO

Cu

- CO on wurtzite-type ZnO islands (2183-2202  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )  
Binding energy : 0.30 eV (29 kJ/mol)
- CO on ZnO( $10\bar{1}0$ )  
BE : 0.32 eV <sup>[1]</sup>
- CO on ZnO(0001)  
BE : 0.28 eV <sup>[1]</sup>
- CO on graphitic-like ZnO bilayer (2138-2146  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )  
Binding energy : 0.24 eV (23 kJ/mol)
- CO on ZnO/Cu(111) : corrugated bilayer  
2116  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , BE : 0.54 eV <sup>[2]</sup>

# Conclusions

- **Metal support plays a crucial role in the chemical activity of ZnO thin layers.**
- **CO on ZnO/Ag(111) (<2 ML, graphitic bilayer)**  
 $\nu(\text{C-O})$ : 2146  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; BE: 0.24 eV
- **Weak interaction between ZnO thin layers and Ag substrate**
- **CO on ZnO/Ag(111) (3-4 ML, wurtzite-like islands)**  
 $\nu(\text{C-O})$ : 2183  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; BE: 0.30 eV



# Acknowledgements

The China Scholarship Council (CSC)  
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Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)

*Thank you for your attention!*