

ELUCIDATING THE ROLE OF ADSORBED STATES OF HYDROGEN, WATER  
AND CARBON DIOXIDE OVER TiO<sub>2</sub> AND Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>

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## ABSTRACT

### ELUCIDATING THE ROLE OF ADSORBED STATES OF HYDROGEN, WATER AND CARBON DIOXIDE OVER TiO<sub>2</sub> AND Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>

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Artificial photosynthesis studies aim to utilize solar energy for conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> into valuable organics using H<sub>2</sub>O; however, developments in the area are far from realistic level applications due to the low production rates. In order to understand the mechanism, CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption isotherms over TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 were investigated by using a volumetric chemisorption technique with and without an illumination source.

Adsorption isotherms revealed indirect evidences on local temperature rise on the surface indicating photo-induced thermal chemistry upon charge recombination. Desorption was observed during CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption over TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 under illumination. Calculation of adsorbed amounts according to estimation for local temperature rise (to 160°C) on the surface yielded a reasonable adsorption isotherm under illumination. Similarly, H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption isotherm under illumination showed Langmuir type of adsorption isotherm indicating presence of only strongly bound molecules under illumination. In this study, weakly adsorbed molecules were claimed to be desorbed due to local temperature rise on the catalyst surface upon charge recombination resulting in similar chemistry with heating of the sample cell to 150°C. Additionally, the attempts on direct heat release measurement upon charge recombination via microcalorimeter were explained.

Moreover, H<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms over Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> surface were investigated

using a chemisorption manifold connected to a Setaram C80 microcalorimeter to understand the effect of presence of precious metal on TiO<sub>2</sub> support. 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> showed relatively well dispersed palladium on support. Enhanced CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption observed on 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> was related to increase in oxygen vacancy concentration due to spilled hydrogen during the reduction of surface. Evidences for presence of palladium bulk on 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> were presented via H<sub>2</sub>-TPR results, especially.

According to these evidences, it is understood that the effect of heat release upon charge recombination on chemistry is highly underrated in literature. The local temperature rise can affect the chemistry significantly; however, uncontrollable temperature conditions are not desired. Last but not least, metal hydrogen systems over metal oxide support can offer a strategy for enhanced reduction reactions by utilizing stored hydrogen on surface.

Keywords: Photocatalysis, CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption, H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption, TiO<sub>2</sub> P25, Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>

## ÖZ

### TiO<sub>2</sub> VE Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> ÜZERİNDE HİDROJEN, SU VE KARBONDİOKSİT ADSORPLANMA HALLERİNİN ROLÜNÜN AYDINLATILMASI

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Yapay fotosentez çalışmaları, CO<sub>2</sub>'in H<sub>2</sub>O kullanılarak değerli organik maddelere dönüştürülmesi için güneş enerjisinden faydalanmayı amaçlamakla birlikte, bu alandaki gelişmeler düşük üretim hızları nedeniyle gerçekçi seviyedeki uygulamalardan uzaktır. Mekanizmayı anlamak için, TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 üzerindeki CO<sub>2</sub> ve H<sub>2</sub>O adsorpsiyon izotermi bir ışık kaynağı ile veya bir ışık kaynağı olmadan hacimsel kemisorpsiyon tekniği kullanılarak araştırılmıştır.

Adsorpsiyon izotermi, yük rekombinasyonu üzerine yüzeydeki yerel sıcaklık artışından dolayı foto-kaynaklı termal kimyayı gösteren dolaylı kanıtlar ortaya koymuştur. Aydınlatma altında TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 üzerine CO<sub>2</sub> adsorpsiyonu sırasında desorpsiyon gözlemlendi. Yüzeydeki yerel sıcaklık artışı (160°C'ye) tahminine göre adsorbe edilen miktarların hesaplanması, aydınlatma altında makul bir adsorpsiyon izotermi verdi. Benzer şekilde, aydınlatma altında H<sub>2</sub>O adsorpsiyon izotermi, aydınlatma altında sadece kuvvetle bağlı moleküllerin varlığını gösteren Langmuir tipi adsorpsiyon izotermi göstermiştir. Bu çalışmada zayıf adsorbe edilmiş moleküllerin, yük rekombinasyonu üzerine katalizördeki yerel sıcaklık artışından ötürü desorbe edildiği iddia edilmektedir, bu da numune hücresinin 150°C'ye ısıtılması ile benzer şekilde kimyayı etkilemektedir. Buna ek olarak, mikrokaloremetre yoluyla yük rekombinasyonu üzerine salınan ısının doğrudan ölçülmesi için olan girişimler açıklanmıştır.

Ayrıca, değerli metal varlığının  $\text{TiO}_2$  üzerindeki etkisini anlamak için  $\text{Pd/TiO}_2$  yüzeyi üzerinde  $\text{H}_2$  ve  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorpsiyon izotermi bir Setaram C80 mikrokaleorimetresine bağlı kemisorpsiyon manifoldu kullanılarak araştırıldı. %0.5  $\text{Pd/TiO}_2$ , destek üzerinde paladyumun nispeten daha iyi dağılımını gösterdi. Muhtemelen yayılan (spilled) hidrojene bağlı olarak oluşan oksijen boşluklarından dolayı %0.5  $\text{Pd/TiO}_2$  üzerinde artış göstermiş  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorpsiyonunu gözlemlenmiştir. %2.0  $\text{Pd/TiO}_2$  üzerinde bulk paladyumun bulunmasına dair kanıtlar da sunulmuştur.

Bu delillere göre, yük rekombinasyonu üzerine açığa çıkan ısının kimya üzerindeki etkisine literatürde oldukça az değeri biçildiği sonucuna varılmıştır. Yerel sıcaklık artışı kimyayı önemli ölçüde etkileyebilir, ancak kontrol edilemeyen sıcaklık koşulları istenmez. Son olarak önemli noktalardan bir tanesi de, metal oksit üzerinde metal hidrojen sistemleri yüzeyde hidrojen kullanarak iyileştirilmiş indirgeme reaksiyonları için bir strateji sunabilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Fotokataliz,  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorpsiyonu,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  adsorpsiyonu,  $\text{TiO}_2$  P25,  $\text{Pd/TiO}_2$

To my family

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

### ABBREVIATIONS

AFM	Atomic force microscopy
BET	Brunauer-Emmett-Teller
CB	Conduction band
CSP	Crystallographic shear planes
HREELS	High resolution electron loss spectroscopy
HRTEM	High resolution transmission electron microscope
HOMO	Highest occupied molecular orbital
LUMO	Lowest unoccupied molecular orbital
PL	Photoluminescence
SMSI	Strong metal support interaction
STM	Scanning tunneling microscopy
TAS	Time-resolved adsorption spectroscopy
TEM	Transmission electron microscope
TPD	Temperature programmed desorption
TPR	Temperature programmed reduction
UV	Ultraviolet
VB	Valence band

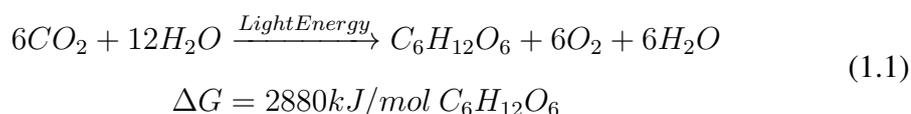


## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Photosynthesis

Solar energy storage process in chemical bonds (i.e glucose) by green plants and photosynthetic bacteria is named as photosynthesis. An extensive position paper published recently by Weitze (2018) stated followings on photosynthesis. The event started around 3 billion years ago by the bacteria. Thereafter, higher organisms like algae and plants started to carry out this process upon evolution of chloroplasts. Photosynthesis is still the most extensive and accomplished process on earth. Stable molecules like CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O are converted to organics ((CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>) through spatially and temporarily separated two step reactions according to the net reaction given in Equation 1.1. In the first step - “light reactions”, sunlight is absorbed and H<sub>2</sub>O splits resulting in formation of O<sub>2</sub> and H<sup>+</sup>. In the second step - “Dark reactions”, protons drive the reactions for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction to organics without needing sunlight.



Photosynthesis is a highly sophisticated and complex catalytic process with several protein components, metal centers, cofactors, pigments and so on. Despite its complexity, photosynthesis comes into view as an ideal process by offering a clean and sustainable path to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> to organics through utilization of sunlight. Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> to valuable chemicals with a sustainable energy source provides the answer for the most critical problems of today: limited reservoir of fossil fuels and high CO<sub>2</sub> emission yielding global warming.

## 1.2 Utilization of fossil fuels and CO<sub>2</sub> emission

World's energy supply depends on fossil energy mostly.(Figure 1.1) Yet, 1973 oil crisis turned attention to alternative energy sources including solar energy (Schneider, Bahnemann, Ye, Li Puma, & Dionysiou, 2016). Global companies like BP and Shell have made serious investments for energy production from renewable sources and they are now considered as energy companies rather than oil companies (Pickl, 2019). Today, the largest growth in energy supply is expected to be from renewable energy sources (BP, 2019a). Energy production from solar energy shows a dramatic increase within the renewable sources reaching to 584.6 Terawatt-hours by the end of 2018 (Figure 1.2) (BP, 2019b).

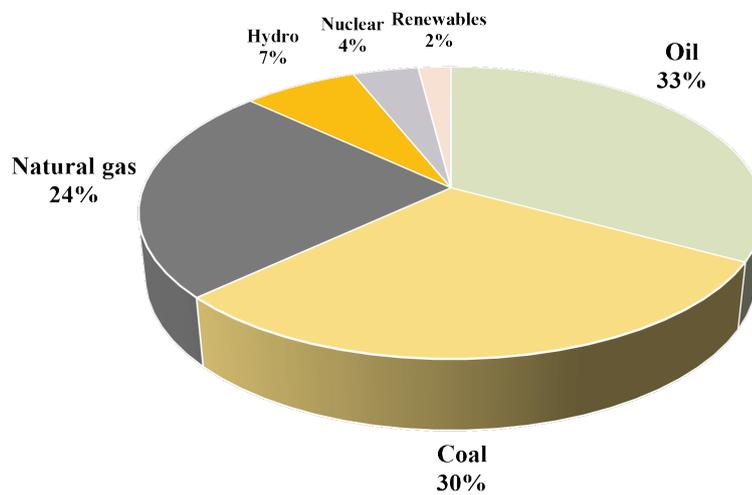


Figure 1.1: World supply of energy demand(BP, 2019a)

Moreover, high CO<sub>2</sub> emission rises concerns on environmental issues. Aforementioned position paper (Weitze, 2018) summarized global CO<sub>2</sub> cycle according to Figure 1.3. 450 Gigatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> converted to organics per year by photosynthesis (green arrow) corresponding to 95% of natural CO<sub>2</sub> emission through respiration (blue arrow). The rest is provided by non-photosynthetic processes (thin arrow). 32 gigatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted per year through combustion of fossil fuels (grey arrow). Some cannot be converted to organics and increase CO<sub>2</sub> amount in atmosphere resulting in climate change. Expected temperature rise of earth surface upon CO<sub>2</sub> emission till 2100 can be seen Figure 1.4. Such temperature changes can be detrimental for humanity.

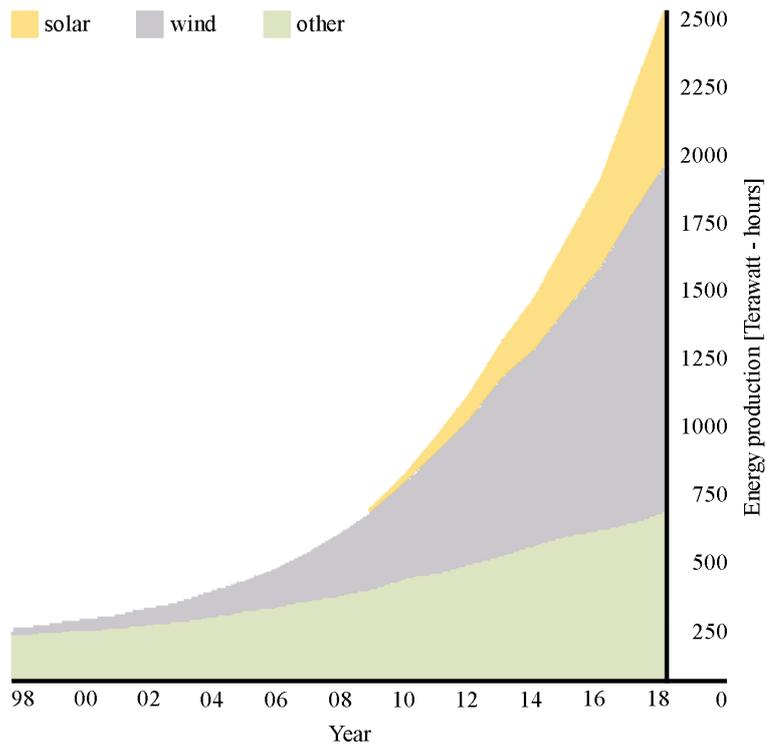


Figure 1.2: Share of power generation by solar energy within renewable sources (BP, 2019b)

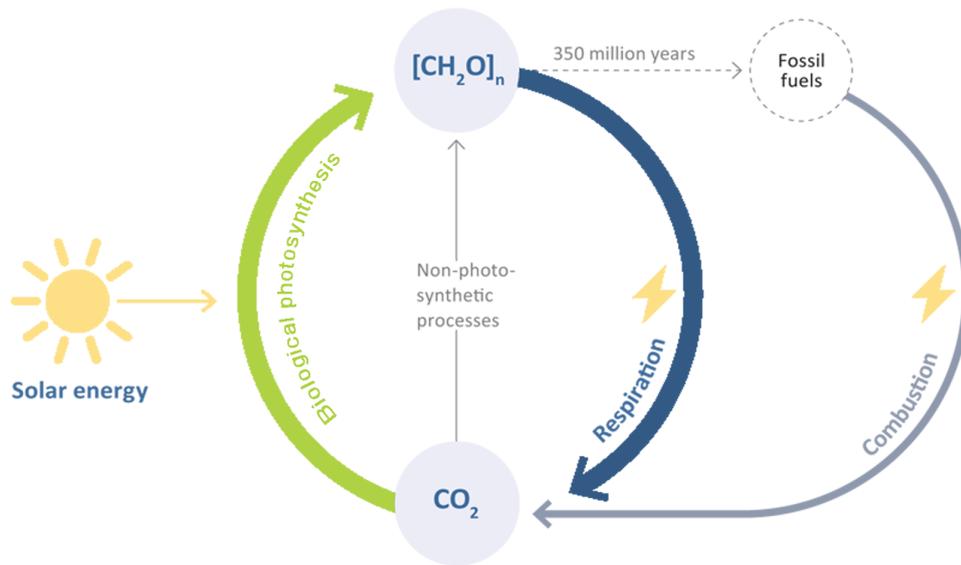


Figure 1.3: Global carbon cycle(Weitze, 2018)

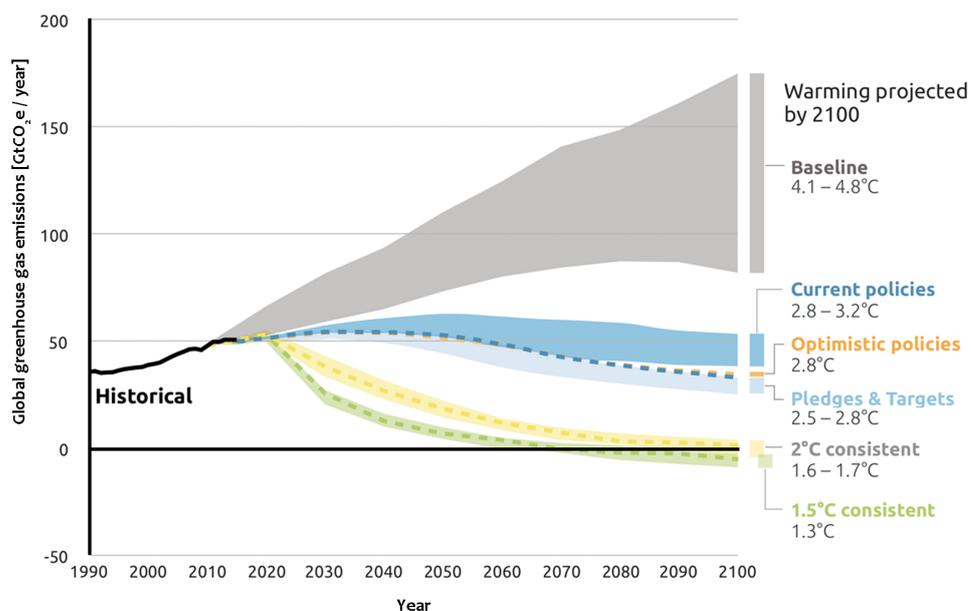


Figure 1.4: Expected warming of earth upon greenhouse gas emissions(Climate Action Tracker, 2019)

As a result, the photocatalytic conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> with H<sub>2</sub>O to organics/fuels like methanol at mild conditions using a light absorbing material has become a popular research area in catalysis field to solve problems related with both sustainable energy and CO<sub>2</sub> emission. The phenomena is named as “artificial photosynthesis” and researchers have been concentrated on this topic especially after the sensational achievement of Fujishima and Honda (1972) on photocatalytic water splitting published in Nature in 1972.

### 1.3 Bottleneck problems of artificial photosynthesis

Advantages of artificial photosynthesis are mentioned above and yet, it has several disadvantages that needs to be overcome for an industrial level application. Review articles Kondratenko, Mul, Baltrusaitis, Larrazábal, and Pérez-Ramírez (2013), Ipek and Uner (2012), (Takanabe, 2019) and (Qureshi & Takanabe, 2017) summarized major problems of artificial photosynthesis and photocatalytic studies as listed below;

- Photocatalytic conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O suffers from low reaction rate and efficiency.

- Oxidation and reduction reactions take place on the same catalyst surface, thus interaction of reactants and products can yield lower catalytic rates.
- Charges wandering on the semiconductor surface is in an unregulated fashion; that is, interaction of charges cannot be controlled.
- Only materials with proper band gap for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and H<sub>2</sub>O oxidation can be used. Band gap of the material may not be proper for harvesting solar energy.
- Even C-C bond making is challenging.
- Considering an industrial level operation; CO<sub>2</sub> capture, purification and delivery is not easy and it is costly.
- In terms of research, there is no common ground for experimental methods and interpretation of results.

#### **1.4 Objectives**

To understand the bottleneck problems of artificial photosynthesis through photo-induced mechanism, fundamental aspects of artificial photosynthesis were studied by CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption isotherms over TiO<sub>2</sub> photocatalyst. Adsorption isotherms and microcalorimetry results were presented to reveal the effect of charge recombination on chemistry. H<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms over Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> were investigated to elucidate the effect of presence of metal on TiO<sub>2</sub> support. Palladium-hydrogen interaction was studied to evaluate hydrogen storage over palladium for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction reaction later.



## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW

The study of photocatalytic conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O to valuable organics via TiO<sub>2</sub> photocatalyst will be addressed through following aspects:

- Light interaction with a photocatalyst
- Properties of TiO<sub>2</sub>
- H<sub>2</sub>O splitting reaction
- CO<sub>2</sub> reduction reaction

#### 2.1 Light interaction with the matter

##### 2.1.1 Photocatalysis and heterogeneous photocatalysis phenomena

Photocatalysis is the process where light irradiation promotes reduction and oxidation reactions in the presence of a semiconductor. In heterogeneous photocatalysis, photo-induced events take place on the surface of the photocatalyst. In this study, excitation of substrate (semiconductor) was studied and hence, light absorption ability of the semiconductor defines the efficiency of photo-induced chemistry (Linsebigler, Lu, & Yates, 1995).

### 2.1.2 Short Historical review

The term “photocatalyst” was first introduced by Plotnikow in 1910 and appeared in the studies of Landou (1913) later (Serpone, Emeline, Horikoshi, Kuznetsov, & Ryabchuk, 2012)(references therein). Light interaction with the catalytic matter was studied by Eibner (1911), Tammann (1920) and Keidel (1929)(Serpone et al., 2012)(references therein); however, the earliest cited study belongs to Renz who observed the color change of  $\text{TiO}_2$  upon illumination (Renz, 1921). Great contributions on photochemistry had been made by the studies of Baur (1918-1927), Terenin (1934-1970) and Bard (1975-1985) in the upcoming years. Landou recognized the heterogeneous photocatalyst phenomenon in 1913; but, the concept started developed systematically in the Institut de Catalyse starting from 1970 (Serpone et al., 2012)(references therein). After oil crisis in 1973, the number of studies on the photocatalysis increased immensely and today, more than 40,000 papers are published under the name of photocatalysis.

### 2.1.3 Semiconductor working principle

For a semiconductor, band gap model is valid to understand light absorption by the matter. Proper light energy to excite a semiconductor depends on its band gap. Band gap is the magnitude of forbidden zone between conduction band and valence band of semiconductor. Conduction band represents LUMO (lowest unoccupied molecular orbital) and valence band represents HOMO (highest occupied molecular orbital) of the solid structure (Gaya, 2014). Band gap energies of some semiconductors and reduction/oxidation energies required for some selected reactions can be seen in Figure 2.1. Energy levels define the required illumination energy and also for realization of oxidation and reduction reactions (Uner et al., 2011).

Upon light irradiation, a semiconductor harvests light energy and following processes are expected to occur according to Figure 2.2; (1) electron-hole pair generation (migration of electron from valence band to conduction band), (2) transport of charges in the photocatalyst bulk yielding surface reduction reactions via electrons and surface oxidation reactions in the holes (3), trapping of electrons and holes in the bulk and (4)

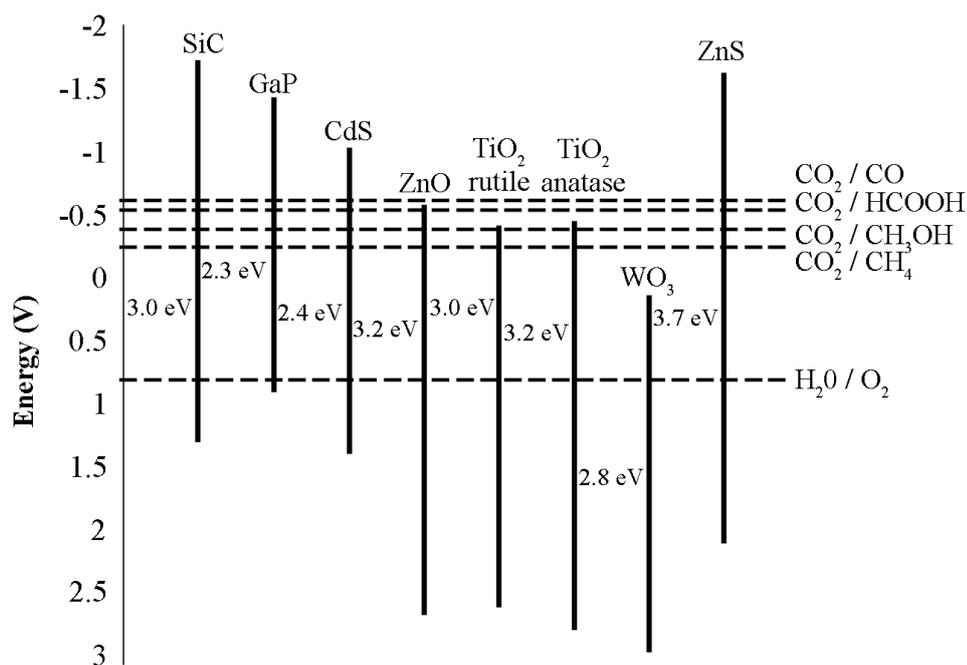


Figure 2.1: Band gap energies of some semiconductors and amount of energy required for selected reactions(Uner et al., 2011)

recombination of electron-hole pairs (Wen et al., 2015),(Hurum, Agrios, Gray, Rajh, & Thurnauer, 2003).

Most of the generated electron hole pairs will recombine immediately (Hurum et al., 2003). Reaction centers will be depleted due to recombination of electron hole pairs. Hence, recombination is often considered as an inhibiting factor to photocatalytic rates (Wen et al., 2015). Hole and electron scavengers can be utilized in photocatalytic systems to lessen recombination event by trapping electrons and holes (Henderson, 2011). Time-resolved absorption spectroscopy (TAS) is usually used to measure dynamics of photo-induced events. Time scale for absorption, trapping and recombination can be seen in Figure 2.3 (Schneider et al., 2014). Surface dynamics and mechanisms will be addressed through illumination intensity and charge recombination in the upcoming sections.

#### 2.1.4 The effects of illumination intensity on photocatalysis

Illumination is a major variable in photocatalysis. Experiments can be carried out at different light intensities to observe effect of increase in the number of charge

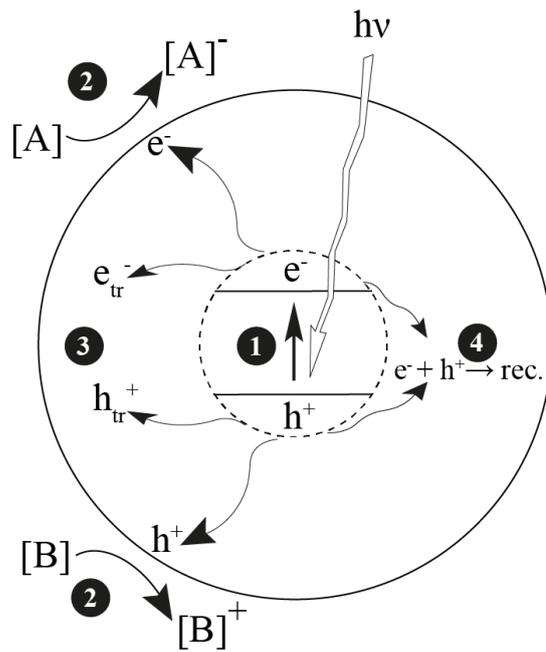


Figure 2.2: Schematic for light interaction with the semiconductor according to band gap model

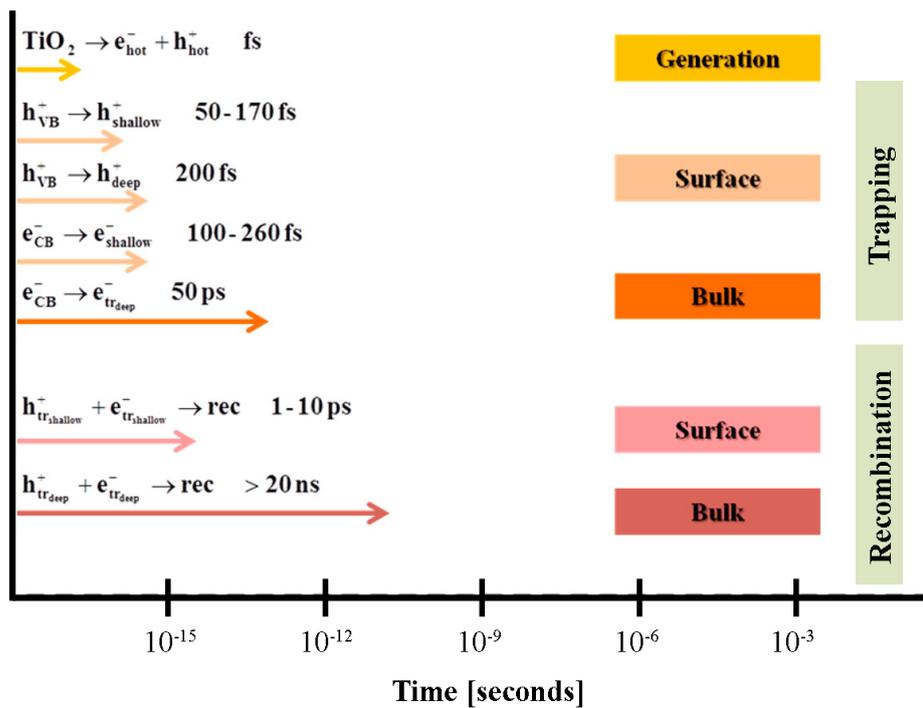


Figure 2.3: Time scales for some of the events occur during illumination(Schneider et al., 2014)

carriers on chemistry. At low intensities, reaction rate depends on the intensity linearly whereas at high intensities, reaction rate changes with square root of intensity (Emeline, Ryabchuk, & Serpone, 2000)(Turchi & Ollis, 1990)(Dilla, Mateblowski, Ristig, & Strunk, 2017). A relatively unified reaction rate-intensity relation is given by Martin, Herrmann, and Hoffmann (1994) as in Table 2.1. The reason for decreasing increase of rates with increasing intensity was stated as increase in the possibility of charge recombination at high intensities (Emeline et al., 2000),(Turchi & Ollis, 1990),(Martin et al., 1994) and (Rabani, Yamashita, Ushida, Stark, & Kira, 1998).

Table 2.1: Dependence of photocatalytic reaction rate on intensity

Intensity	$r \propto I^\beta$	Reference
Low	$\beta=1$	
High	$0 < \beta < 1$	(Martin et al., 1994)
Very High	$\beta =0$	

### 2.1.5 Wildcard of photocatalysis: Charge recombination

As Ohtani (2013) addressed in his critical review, an unexpected result in photocatalytic studies was usually explained by the effect of heat evolution upon enhanced charge carrier recombination and yet no further discussions were made in those studies. The reason is light absorption by the catalyst, charge generation and recombination dynamics are still not well-known even though studies on photocatalysis are beyond measure. A few studies conducted with  $\text{TiO}_2$  and water solutions via transient absorption spectroscopy are given Table 2.2 (Serpone, Lawless, Khairutdinov, & Pelizzetti, 1995)(Mohamed, Mendive, Dillert, & Bahnemann, 2011)(Shkrob, Sauer, & Gosztola, 2004). Tabulated data suggests neither light absorption nor charge generation processes are one hundred percent efficient. Photon absorption efficiency is highly related with the optical properties of the photocatalyst (Serpone, 1997). In addition, absorbed photons may not result in charge generation (Serpone et al., 1995). As a result, limited knowledge on charge generation results in even more limited knowledge on recombination.

Charge carrier recombination can occur in radiative manner (photoluminescence) or non-radiative manner (heat release) as shown in Equation 2.1 (Fujishima, Zhang, &

Tryk, 2008) in below. Henderson (2011) reported that recombination occurs mostly in non-radiative manner in TiO<sub>2</sub>. Depending on the particle medium, particle size, temperature and the pressure of the environment (Serpone et al., 1995),(Berger et al., 2005)(references therein) time scale of recombination can vary from femtosecond to second (Henderson, 2011)(Sieland, Schneider, & Bahnemann, 2017).

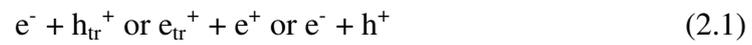


Table 2.2: The number of electron hole pair per particle for TiO<sub>2</sub> solutions with different particle sizes and illumination intensities

Diameter size nm	Intensity J·cm <sup>-2</sup>	Intensity photons·cm <sup>-2</sup>	TiO <sub>2</sub> mol·L <sup>-1</sup>	Extinction coefficient M <sup>-1</sup> ·cm <sup>-1</sup>	Electron concentration mol·L <sup>-1</sup>	Absorbed photons per particle	Electron hole pair per particle	Hole scavenger	References
2.1	~0.08	~1.4·10 <sup>17</sup>	1.34·10 <sup>-3</sup>	1200	2.8·10 <sup>-4</sup>	0.9	0.2		
13.3	(355nm)		5.26·10 <sup>-3</sup>	(600 nm adsorption)	8.3·10 <sup>-4</sup>	225	157		(Serpone et al., 1995)
26.7			6.51·10 <sup>-3</sup>		9.8·10 <sup>-4</sup>	1811	1504		
3.0	~9.40 (350nm)	~1.7·10 <sup>19</sup>	38.00·10 <sup>-3</sup>	600 (600 nm adsorption)	5.0-8.0·10 <sup>-4</sup>	-	6-9	methanol	(Mohamed et al., 2011)
4.6±0.5	0.04 (355nm)	~6.0·10 <sup>16</sup>	0.24·10 <sup>-3</sup>	700±50 (800 nm adsorption)	-	-	1-1.2	chemisorbed polyols and carbohydrates	(Shkrob et al., 2004)

Leytner and Hupp (2000) reported that 60% of electron hole pairs recombined in 25 ns corresponding to  $\sim 150$  kJ/mole heat release for an aqueous  $\text{TiO}_2$  solution. For a band to band non-radiative decay heat release would be 310 kJ/mole for  $\text{TiO}_2$  (Henderson, 2011) considering to 3.20 eV band gap. Although, thermal effects are not very apparent (Zhao et al., 2019), the results implies possibility of significant energy release due to charge recombination.

Some studies referred to the thermal effects more openly (Henderson, 2011). Dilla, Mateblowski, et al. (2017) studied  $\text{CO}_2$  reduction on  $\text{TiO}_2$  where increase in the rate constants due to the local heating (Arrhenius type temperature dependence) upon charge recombination was discussed. No  $\text{CH}_4$  production was observed when the experiment was repeated at a higher temperature ( $60^\circ\text{C}$ ) in dark and thus, the effect of local heating on the reaction rate was dismissed. The authors did not perform the experiments for the temperature at which the rate would be similar. The effect of hot spots on chemistry can differ from the effect of thermal catalysis performed on heated bulk. Indeed, a photocatalytic process with photo-induced thermal events is different than solely a thermal catalytic process even though similar temperature conditions were provided (Zhao et al., 2018).

Mendive, Hansmann, Bredow, and Bahnemann (2011) studied isolated aqueous  $\text{TiO}_2$  solution under UV illumination. De-aggregation of  $\text{TiO}_2$  particles was justified by heat release due to recombination. Increase in the adsorption capacity upon de-aggregation of particles was referred as the positive effect of charge recombination.

Neither Dilla, Mateblowski, et al. (2017) nor Mendive et al. (2011) reported temperature measurement upon heat release by charge carrier recombination. It is not easy to estimate temperature increase due to hot spots. It might be very high and immeasurable by standard thermal sensors (Zhao et al., 2019). On the other hand, Berger, Diwald, Knözinger, Sterrer, and Yates Jr (2006) reported a local temperature rise of 25K based on Curie plot upon excitation of  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanocrystals with an intensity more than  $1.55\text{mW}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$  ( $\sim 10^{15}$  photons $\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}$ ) reporting possibility of photo-induced thermal chemistry.

## 2.2 TiO<sub>2</sub> semiconductor surface properties

### 2.2.1 TiO<sub>2</sub> crystal structure

TiO<sub>2</sub> is a photocatalyst with excellent properties such as nontoxicity, cheapness, availability, durability and eco-friendliness. Hence, it is the most commonly used photocatalyst in heterogeneous photocatalysis (De Angelis, Di Valentin, Fantacci, Vittadini, & Selloni, 2014)(references therein). The main drawback in usage of TiO<sub>2</sub> is its inability to harvest sunlight efficiently. TiO<sub>2</sub> can be activated with UV light and only 4% of sunlight radiates in UV-range (Li, Peng, & Peng, 2016).

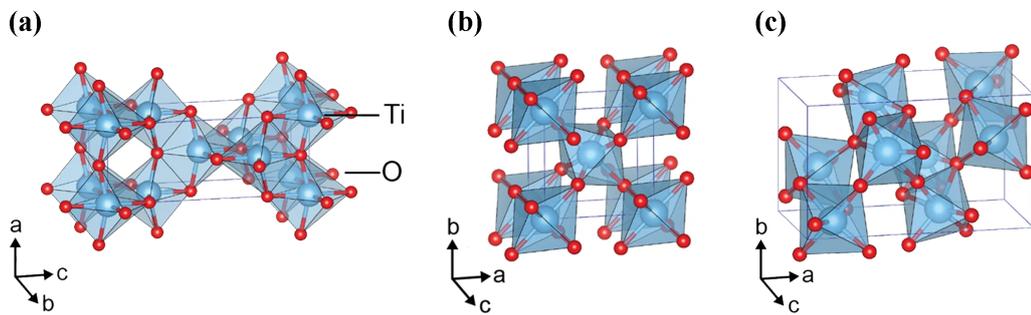


Figure 2.4: Crystal structures of TiO<sub>2</sub> (a) anatase(tetragonal, I41/amd) (b) rutile (tetragonal, P42/mmm), (c) brookite (orthorhombic, Pbca) (Haggerty et al., 2017)

Table 2.3: Comparison of rutile, anatase and brookite phases

	Rutile	Anatase	Brookite
Crystal structure (Gupta & Tripathi, 2011)	Tetragonal	Tetragonal	Orthorhombic
Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> ) (Gupta & Tripathi, 2011)	4.13	3.79	3.99
Electron band gap (eV) (Reyes-Coronado et al., 2008)	3.01	3.20	3.13

TiO<sub>2</sub> is a transition metal oxide where anatase, rutile and brookite are the most known phases of it. Rutile is the most stable phase when surface area is smaller than 7 m<sup>2</sup>/g<sub>catalyst</sub>, brookite is the most stable phase for surface areas of 7-40 m<sup>2</sup>/g<sub>catalyst</sub> and anatase phase is the most stable phase for higher surface areas (Ranade et al., 2002). Although, rutile phase exhibits higher stability than the other phases in gen-

eral, anatase phase is preferred in solar systems due to its higher electron mobility, lower relative permittivity with less dense structure. Anatase and rutile phases perform a better photocatalytic activity together than the pure phases due to enhanced charge separation (Hurum et al., 2003),(Gupta & Tripathi, 2011). Hence, TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 which is composed of anatase and rutile with ratio of 3:1(Ohno, Sarukawa, Tokieda, & Matsumura, 2001) is a commercialized mixed phase product. Brookite phase is the least favorable phase due to its more complicated structure and rare existence in nature (Gupta & Tripathi, 2011)(De Angelis et al., 2014). There are even less known polymorphs of TiO<sub>2</sub> such as baddeleyte, fluorite and hollandite (De Angelis et al., 2014).Ball and stick representation of selected crystal structures of rutile, anatase and brookite phases can be seen in Figure 2.4. Table2.3 shows a short comparison for these three phases.

### 2.2.2 The role of oxygen vacancies

There are several defect types in TiO<sub>2</sub> surface and bulk (Table2.4) Among several defect types, both bulk and surface oxygen vacancies is the most investigated and discussed one. (Figure 2.5).

Table 2.4: Defect types in TiO<sub>2</sub>(Diebold, 2003)

Bulk defects	Surface defects
Oxygen vacancies	Oxygen vacancies
	Step edges
Ti <sup>3+</sup> ,Ti <sup>4+</sup> interstitials	Impurities
	Line defects
Planar defects (i.e. CSP)	Planar defects (i.e. CSP)

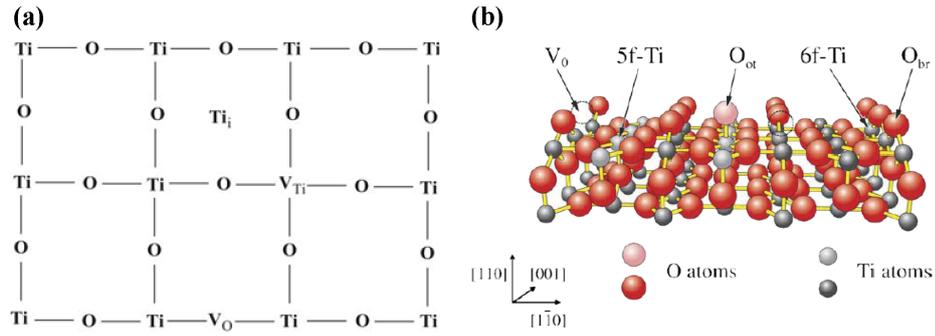


Figure 2.5: (a) Schematic representation of oxygen vacancies and Ti interstitials in the bulk (Gaya, 2014) (b) Schematic representation of oxygen vacancies on  $\text{TiO}_2$  (110) surface (Wendt et al., 2005)

$\text{TiO}_2$  can have oxygen deficiencies (5-10% for rutile phase and less for anatase phase) on its surface formed during preparation (De Angelis et al., 2014) which results in negative charge accumulation on surface (n-type semiconductor) (Stevanovic & Yates, 2013). Surface characterization techniques such as STM and AFM can be used to detect and measure oxygen vacancies on surface (Figure 2.6) (Diebold, 2003).

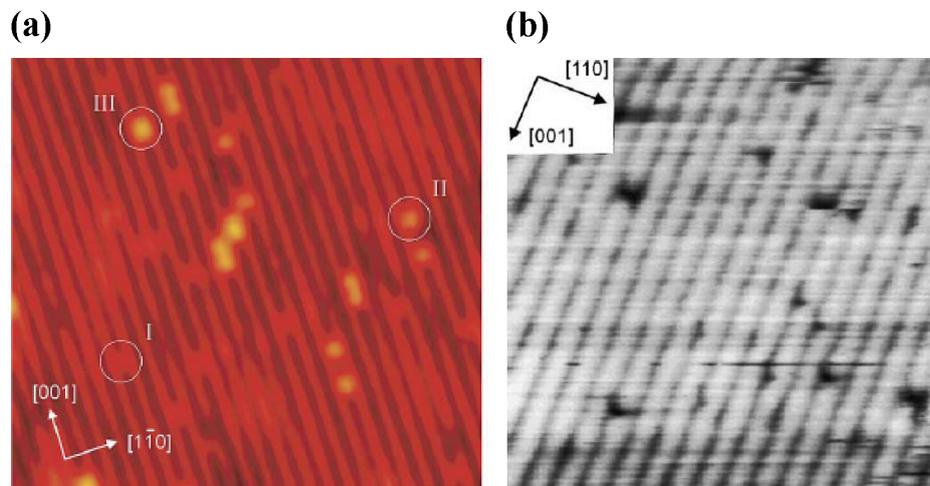


Figure 2.6: (a) STM images of clean, reduced  $\text{TiO}_2$ (110)- defects of I(vacancies), II(bridging hydroxyls), III(pairs of bridging hydroxyls)(Wendt et al., 2005) (b) Non-contact AFM image of the  $\text{TiO}_2$  (110) - black dots are assigned as oxygen vacancies (Diebold, 2003)(references therein)

Oxygen vacancies can also be formed intentionally on an already prepared sample via thermal annealing or electron bombardment (De Angelis et al., 2014)(Diebold,

2003). Previously, UV irradiation was proposed to create oxygen vacancies on TiO<sub>2</sub> surface (Rong et al., 1997)(Wang et al., 1998). However, the hypothesis was rejected later by the studies of other groups summarized in the referred articles; Thompson and Yates (2006) Yates (2009).

Oxygen vacancies affect the electronic structure acting as an electron donor. In addition, they affect adsorbent-adsorbate interactions acting as a adsorption site (Wendt et al., 2005). Reducibility of the metal oxide; that is, ability to exchange oxygen, is critical for reactions progressing for example with Mars-van Krevelen mechanism (Ruiz Puigdollers, Schlexer, Tosoni, & Pacchioni, 2017). Reducibility of the metal oxide influences chemical reactivity (Ruiz Puigdollers et al., 2017); hence, understanding and controlling of oxygen vacancies are essential for an enhanced reaction activity. Lastly, oxygen vacancies can be healed by O<sub>2</sub> dissociation on surface (Stevanovic et al., 2012).

### **2.2.3 The effects of illumination on TiO<sub>2</sub> surface**

Abovementioned, TiO<sub>2</sub> has oxygen vacancies on its surface causing negative charge accumulation on its surface. (n-type semiconductor) This unbalanced charge results in upward bending (increase of electronic potential energy) of TiO<sub>2</sub> band near surface. Band bending is important to understand charge transfer in a semiconductor. For a n-type semiconductor, band bending means extending of depletion layer. Yates group did several studies with photoluminescence spectroscopy to investigate band bending phenomena. For an intrinsic semiconductor, the bands are flat since there is no charge transfer between the bulk and the surface. On the other hand, for a n-type semiconductor, Fermi level (highest occupied level) of bulk is closer to conduction band. As a result, for this type semiconductor, Fermi level of bulk is higher than Fermi level of surface when it is away from equilibrium conditions. Bands bend upward by transferring electrons from bulk to surface until equilibrium is established. Surface is rich with electron charge carriers. Because of more effective electric field in this part, electron-hole pair recombination lags. Downward band bending occurs for a p-type semiconductor. Figure 2.7 summarizes band bending phenomena (Z. Zhang & Yates, 2012). Upon UV light exposure, electron transfers from surface to bulk. For an n-type

and p-type semiconductor, bands flatten as can be seen in Figure 2.8.(Stevanovic & Yates, 2013)(Stevanovic et al., 2012) This causes photon accessible defects for  $e^-/H^+$  pair recombination (Stevanovic et al., 2012).

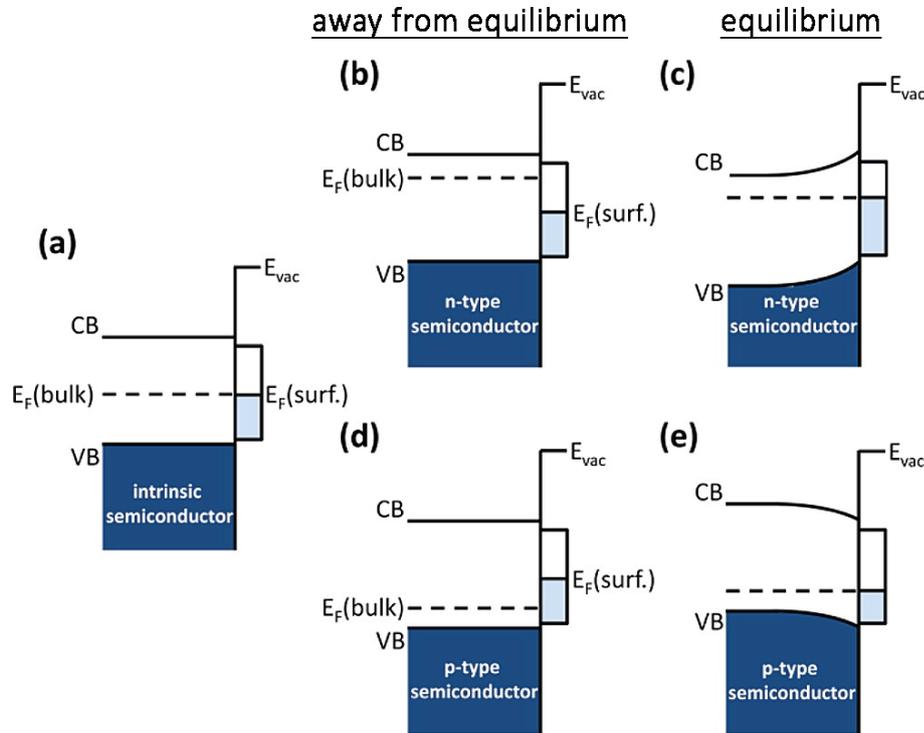


Figure 2.7: Schematics for band bending phenomena (a) flat band position (b) n-type semiconductor at away from equilibrium (c) n-type semiconductor at equilibrium with upward band-bending (d) p-type semiconductor at away from equilibrium (e) p-type semiconductor at equilibrium with downward band bending STM images of clean (Z. Zhang & Yates, 2012)

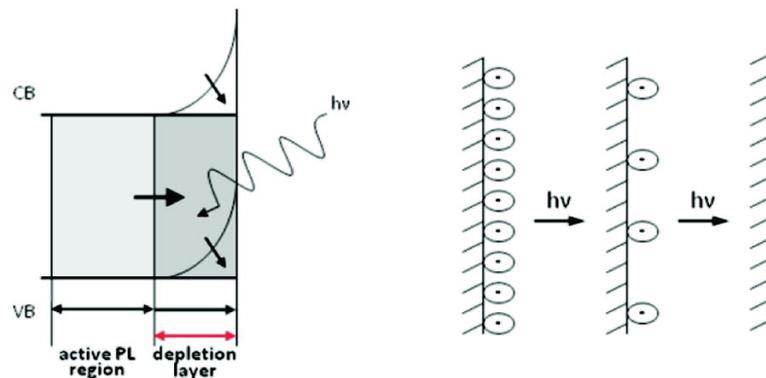


Figure 2.8: Schematics for downward band bending of n-type semiconductor with upward band bending upon illumination due to redistribution charges on surface(Stevanovic et al., 2012)

## 2.2.4 The effects of adsorption on TiO<sub>2</sub> surface

Adsorption of donor molecules like H<sub>2</sub>O (Z. Zhang & Yates, 2012), NH<sub>3</sub> (Stevanovic & Yates, 2012) and CO (Stevanovic & Yates, 2012) results in flattening of band for a n-type semiconductor due to formation of positively charged species on surface (Figure 2.9).

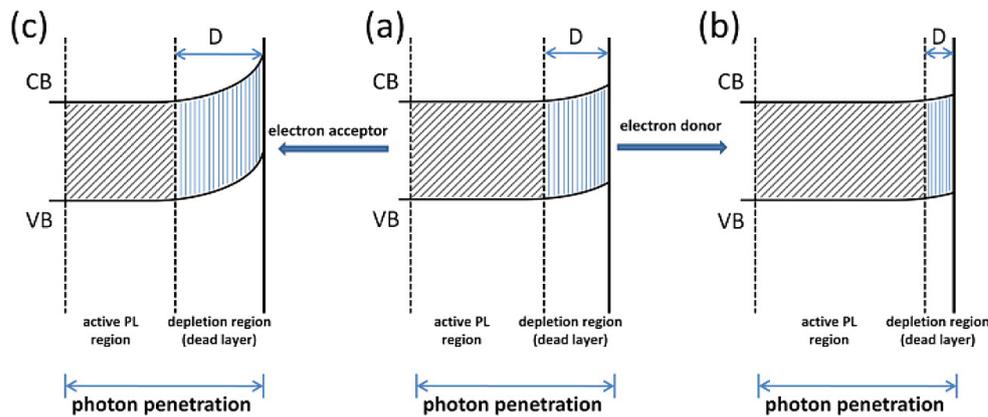


Figure 2.9: Schematics of band position shifting to (a) downward after exposure of an electron donor (b) upward after exposure of an electron acceptor for a n-type semiconductor with upward band bending (Z. Zhang & Yates, 2012)

This yields increase in recombination due to increase in photon accessible defects (Z. Zhang & Yates, 2012). However, if the surface is already illuminated then flat band shifts to downward band upon adsorption of donor molecules (Figure 2.10). This time, recombination lags because of spatially separated charges (Stevanovic et al., 2012).

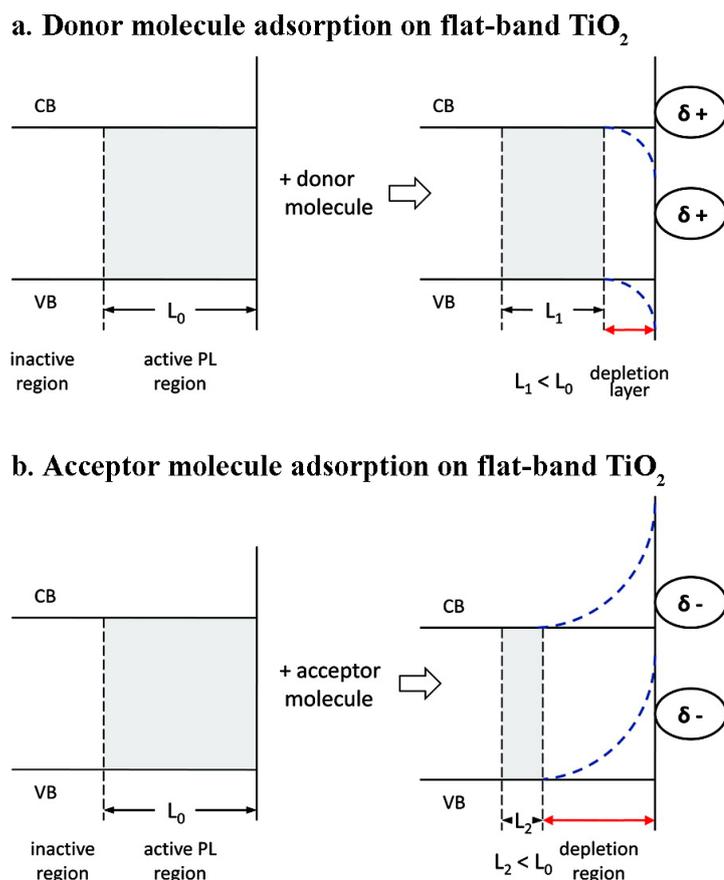


Figure 2.10: Schematics of band position shifting to (a) downward after exposure of an electron donor (b) upward after exposure of an electron acceptor for a n-type semiconductor with flat band bending (Stevanovic et al., 2012)

### 2.2.5 The effects of metal doping on semiconductor surface

Metal loading on metal oxide surface affects both photocatalytic and catalytic activity of the catalyst (Zhu et al., 2017)(references therein). Upon noble metal loading, surface properties of semiconductor changes. For example, for a n-type semiconductor like  $\text{TiO}_2$ , metal and semiconductor have different Fermi levels. If the work function of the metal is higher than the semiconductor, electrons from semiconductor flows to the metal until their Fermi levels are at equilibrium. Upward band bending occurs due to this electron transfer and a barrier is formed in the interface called Schottky barrier (Figure 2.11). This barrier can induce electron trapping yielding suppression of charge recombination. Besides, metal itself is a catalytic material and therefore, it enhances catalytic activity of the material (Linsebigler et al., 1995).

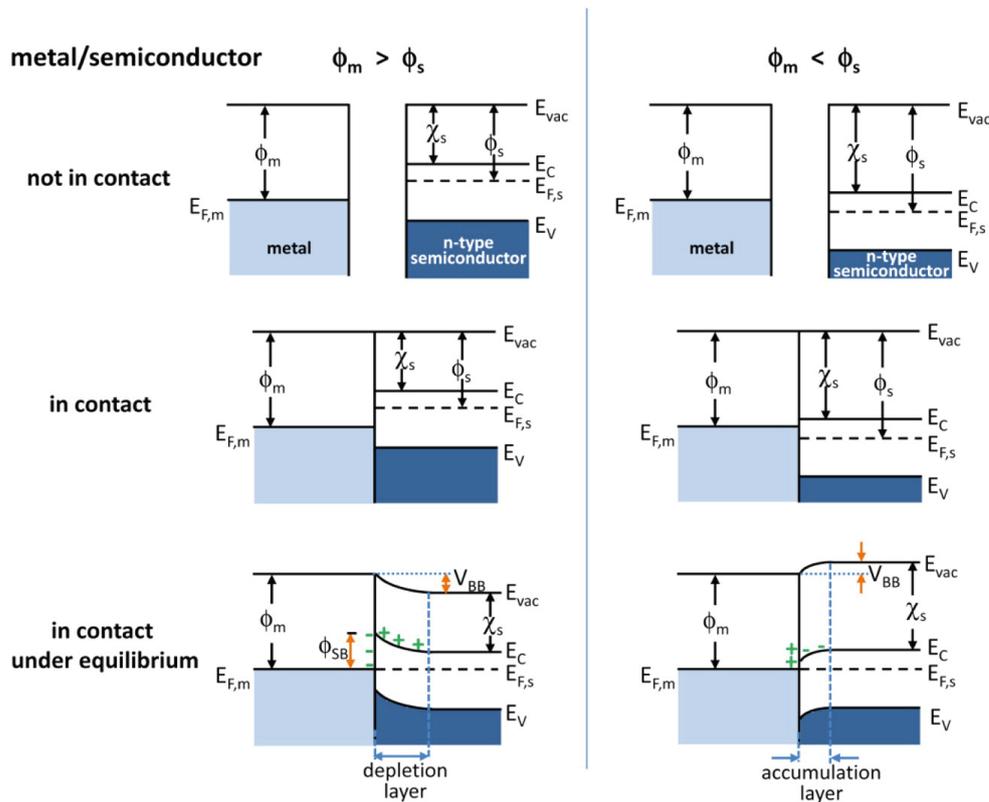


Figure 2.11: Formation of Schottky barrier at the metal/semiconductor interface for  $\phi_M > \phi_S$  and  $\phi_M < \phi_S$  conditions (Z. Zhang & Yates, 2012)

### 2.3 H<sub>2</sub>O splitting on TiO<sub>2</sub> : H<sub>2</sub> source for reduction

One channel of artificial photosynthesis is water splitting in which water breaks into its molecules as hydrogen and oxygen. It is an uphill reaction ( $\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{H}_2 + 1/2\text{O}_2$ ,  $\Delta G^\circ_{\text{rxn}} = 228.57\text{kJ/mol H}_2\text{O}$ ) but several hydrogen production processes have been developing since it is an attractive energy source with its advantageous properties like high energy efficiency. Unfortunately, many of these processes are either demand fossil fuel sources and tough operation conditions (i.e. steam reforming, coal gasification) or require further development to become economically feasible (i.e. biomass pyrolysis). Water splitting via solar energy utilization is one of the possible routes. Photocatalytic water splitting stands out among others with comparatively fewer problems on yield, scale up, and financial (Jafari et al., 2016). Photocatalytic water splitting method offers not only hydrogen production from renewable energy source but also mild operating conditions. Although, the photocatalytic water splitting processes need serious enhancements, it is an essential step considering mimick-

ing nature's photosynthesis.

TiO<sub>2</sub> has been utilized in water splitting due to its above-mentioned properties (Jafari et al., 2016). Table 2.5 shows hydrogen production rate via water splitting for bare TiO<sub>2</sub> in a gas-liquid-solid and gas-solid system. It can be seen that the amount of H<sub>2</sub> produced even after several hours is quite small. On an atomic level, H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption behavior can differ from facet to facet for TiO<sub>2</sub> surface. Molecular adsorption vs. dissociative adsorption of H<sub>2</sub>O is investigated by many. Dissociative water adsorption is very little or none on a defect free rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> (110) surface according to HREELS and TPD experiments (Henderson, 1996a). Water can dissociate on defects such as steps and vacancies where H<sub>2</sub>O can bind to two Ti<sup>3+</sup> around oxygen vacancy (Lu, Linsebigler, & Yates, 1994). On the other hand, rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> (100) surface is more active for water dissociation due to proximity of Ti<sup>4+</sup> sites and bridging oxygen (O<sup>2-</sup>) sites in (100) surface compared to (110) surface (Henderson, 1996b). For anatase surface, theoretical studies are usually carried out to investigate H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption on a catalyst surface. For a defect free anatase surface (101), water adsorbs molecularly on Ti<sup>4+</sup> and bridging O<sup>2-</sup> sites (Tilocca & Selloni, 2004)(references therein) similar to rutile surface. Dissociation is possible in the presence of defects (Tilocca & Selloni, 2003). Different than rutile, defects form on subsurface of anatase (Cheng & Selloni, 2009) leading to more stable interaction of water with defects (Aschauer et al., 2010).

Table 2.5: H<sub>2</sub> production rate over TiO<sub>2</sub>

Catalyst	Experimental conditions					Production rate ( $\mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}_{\text{catalyst}} \cdot \text{h}^{-1}$ ) H <sub>2</sub>	References
	T (°C)	P (bar)	I (mW·cm <sup>-2</sup> )	Flow rate	Additional information		
TiO <sub>2</sub> P25 suspended in water and ethanol	7	-	-	-	300 W Xe arc lamp (simulated solar light)	10.20	(Zhu, Liu, & Meng, 2014)
	-	-	40	-	250 W Hg lamp (UV light region)	1.20	(Tian et al., 2018)
TiO <sub>2</sub> powder	50	-	150	Saturated water vapor (T=50°C) in Ar with 2mL/min flow rate	500 W Hg lamp	6.10	(L. Zhang et al., 2017)
	85	-	150			8.70	
	100	-	150			9.10	
	150	-	150			12.00	

## 2.4 CO<sub>2</sub> reduction on TiO<sub>2</sub>

CO<sub>2</sub> reduction to valuable organic chemicals with one or two carbons like CO, CH<sub>4</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>OH, and C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH is an attractive way to solve CO<sub>2</sub> and energy related problems (Li et al., 2016). CO<sub>2</sub> as the reactant and TiO<sub>2</sub> as the photocatalyst offer formation of profitable photocatalytic system; however, production yield is very low for industrial level operation even with material enhancement of the catalyst (Dilla, Schlögl, & Strunk, 2017)(Dilla, Mateblowski, et al., 2017). Additionally, apart from insufficiency of TiO<sub>2</sub> or any other photocatalyst for practical applications, CO<sub>2</sub> reduction is problematic due to lack of knowledge on reaction route (Dilla, Mateblowski, et al., 2017) and relatively stable nature of CO<sub>2</sub> itself (Freund & Roberts, 1996).

Adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> on TiO<sub>2</sub> is the crucial step for photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction (Acharya et al., 2011). Hence, atomic level investigation is provided by many to develop a better strategy for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction reaction (Acharya et al., 2011)(Mino et al., 2014). CO<sub>2</sub> can bind to TiO<sub>2</sub> surface in several geometries (Figure 2.12) usually observed by IR studies (Taifan, Boily, & Baltrusaitis, 2016). CO<sub>2</sub> can be physisorbed, chemisorbed or dissociate on a metal oxide surface. CO<sub>2</sub> can interact with adsorption sites like metal, oxygen or oxygen vacancies of the metal oxide. It can form physisorbed CO<sub>2</sub>, chemisorbed CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> or carbonate (CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>). Direct dissociation of CO<sub>2</sub> to C or CO is unlikely(Burghaus, 2014). CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on Ti<sup>4+</sup> (Ti<sub>5f</sub>) sites and oxygen vacancies on clean TiO<sub>2</sub> surface were monitored through TPD (Henderson, 1998)(Thompson, Diwald, & Yates, 2003) and STM (Acharya et al., 2011)(X. Lin, Wang, Lyubinetsky, Kay, & Dohnálek, 2013) experiments (Figure 2.13). Theoretical binding energy of CO<sub>2</sub> on defect free TiO<sub>2</sub> (110) surface was calculated as 65 kJ/mole, and reported as 48.5 kJ/mol experimentally. Difference is attributed to strong CO<sub>2</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub> repulsion. The repulsion was not strong for TiO<sub>2</sub> surface with oxygen vacancies where the spatial separation of adsorbed CO<sub>2</sub> was suggested as the reason (Thompson et al., 2003)(references therein). The studies on TiO<sub>2</sub> (110) indicate that oxygen vacancies offer more stable adsorption sites than Ti<sup>4+</sup> (Ti<sub>5f</sub>) sites as shown by TPD experiments (Henderson, 1998). For a reduced surface where oxygen vacancies are dominant, CO<sub>2</sub> preferentially adsorbed on these sites. However, for a O<sub>2</sub> treated surface, CO<sub>2</sub> adsorbed on Ti<sup>4+</sup> (Ti<sub>5f</sub>) sites (Acharya et al., 2011)(Markovits, Fahmi,

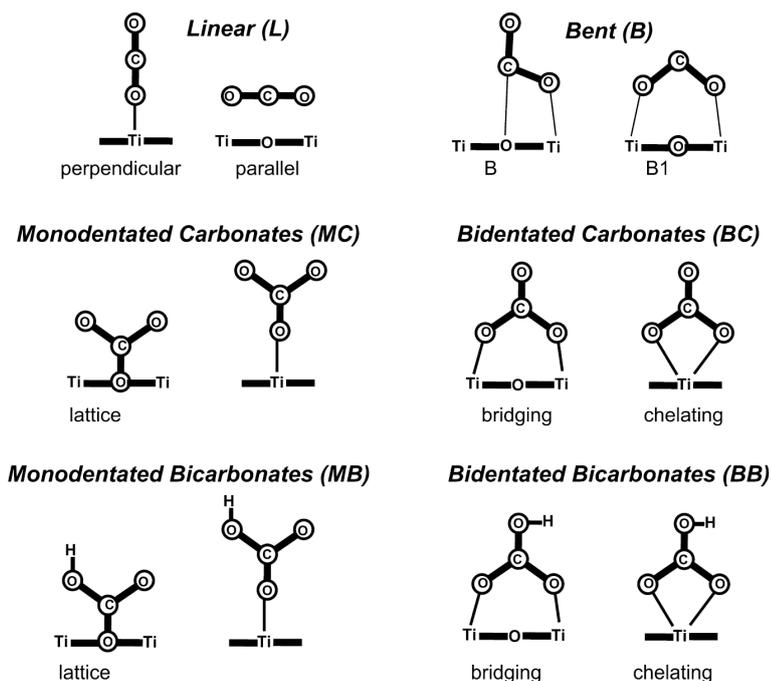


Figure 2.12: Possible CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption geometries on TiO<sub>2</sub> surface (Mino et al., 2014)

& Minot, 1996). Moreover, CO<sub>2</sub> is mobile on Ti<sup>4+</sup> (Ti<sub>5f</sub>) sites and can diffuse slowly between Ti<sup>4+</sup> (Ti<sub>5f</sub>) rows. Diffusion from vacancies is possible also (X. Lin et al., 2013)(Lee, Liao, Tsai, Huang, & Wu, 2013). However, diffusion of CO<sub>2</sub> between Ti<sup>4+</sup> (Ti<sub>5f</sub>) and vacancy sites is not observed implying these adsorption sites are spatially separated (Acharya et al., 2011). Diffusion rate of CO<sub>2</sub> between Ti<sup>4+</sup> (Ti<sub>5f</sub>) sites increases as coverage increases in line with CO<sub>2</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub> repulsion forces (Acharya et al., 2011) where adsorbate-adsorbate interaction prevails (Markovits et al., 1996). No CO<sub>2</sub> dissociation to CO was detected and linear adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> detected through HREELS (High resolution electron energy loss spectrometry) (Henderson, 1998).

Reported production rate results for photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction with water in a gas-solid system can be seen in Table 2.6. Similar to Table 2.5 for H<sub>2</sub>O splitting reaction, the rates are very low for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction with water also. Material enhancement is a key factor for enhanced rates and yet results are still away from industrial level production (Kondratenko et al., 2013). Aside from material enhancement, feeding strategy is critical. Henderson (1998) reported that upon dosing of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O one after another, a reaction does not take place. CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption blocked by H<sub>2</sub>O or adsorbed CO<sub>2</sub> is displaced by H<sub>2</sub>O. Only, dosing of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O together on TiO<sub>2</sub> with oxygen vacancies resulted in HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> formation. In addition, reactor design is

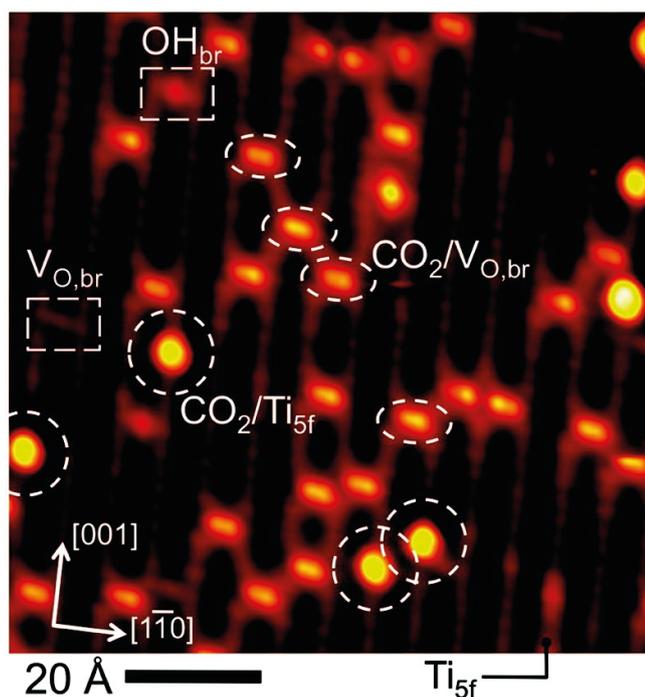


Figure 2.13: STM image of Possible CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption geometries on TiO<sub>2</sub> surface (Acharya et al., 2011)

strategic. Lee et al. (2013) designed a twin reactor to be able to spatially separate H<sub>2</sub>O splitting and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and claimed better catalytic performance. Enhanced CO<sub>2</sub> reduction rate are observed for photo-thermal processes under light source (concentrated) yielding elevated temperatures (Hoch et al., 2014). Similarly, Guan, Kida, Harada, Isayama, and Yoshida (2003) and Guan, Kida, and Yoshida (2003) used a combined catalyst (one of them is a photocatalyst) for photocatalytic H<sub>2</sub>O splitting and CO<sub>2</sub> hydrogenation at elevated temperatures utilizing concentrated solar energy.

Table 2.6: CO and CH<sub>4</sub> production rate over TiO<sub>2</sub>

Catalyst	Experimental conditions				Additional information	Production rate ( $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ )		References
	T (°C)	P (bar)	I (mW·cm <sup>-2</sup> )	Flow rate		CO	CH <sub>4</sub>	
TiO <sub>2</sub> P25 powder	-	1.50	755.0	15000 ppm CO <sub>2</sub> in He 6000 ppm H <sub>2</sub> O	Calcination @400°C for 3 h 10 W 365 nm LED	-	0.78	(Dilla et al., 2019)
TiO <sub>2</sub> P25 powder	-	-	180.0	7000 ppm CO <sub>2</sub> in He (1700 nmol/min) 100 ppm H <sub>2</sub> O (24 nmol/min)	Calcination @400°C for 3 h 200 W Hg/Xe lamp (UV+Visible light region)	-	0.09	(Dilla, Mateblowski, et al., 2017)
TiO <sub>2</sub> P25 thin film	-	-	-	CO <sub>2</sub> and H <sub>2</sub> O vapor mixture formed by reaction of NaHCO <sub>3</sub> (0.12 g) and HCl aqueous solution (0.25 mL, 4M),	300 W simulated solar Xe arc lamp	-	0.38	(Yu, Low, Xiao, Zhou, & Jaroniec, 2014)
TiO <sub>2</sub> powder	20	0.71	20.5	P <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> =0.023 bar (T=20°C)	300 W Xe lamp (UV light region)	0.64	0.22	(Xiong et al., 2017)
TiO <sub>2</sub> powder	100	1.20	40.0	P <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> =0.042 bar P <sub>CO<sub>2</sub></sub> =0.02 bar	500 W Hg lamp (365nm)	31.00	46.00	(Tahir & Amin, 2015)

## CHAPTER 3

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### 3.1 Materials

TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 (Aeroxide®) was used mainly in the experiments. The properties of commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> and details of BET analysis are given in Appendix A.

Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> samples with three different metal loadings (0.5%, 1.0% and 2.0% (w/w)) were prepared by incipient wetness impregnation method using palladium(II)nitrate solution (Pd(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.xH<sub>2</sub>O) and TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 (Aeroxide®) as support. Calculation for intended metal loadings can be seen in Appendix B. Moreover, ICP-OES (Perkin Elmer Optima 4300DV) analysis was done to measure actual palladium loadings. Comparison of intended and reported palladium loadings by ICP-OES is given in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Comparison of intended palladium loadings and reported palladium loading by ICP-OES analysis

	Intended palladium loadings (%)	Palladium loadings reported by ICP-OES analysis (%)
1	0.5	0.77
2	1.0	1.50
3	2.0	2.80

$\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (AlfaAesar) was used for comparison with CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherm over TiO<sub>2</sub> P25. BET analysis of  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is given in Appendix A.

Lastly, ZnO and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> were used during direct heat measurements via microcalorimeter for comparison with TiO<sub>2</sub> P25.

## 3.2 Experimental set-up

### 3.2.1 Volumetric chemisorption manifolds

Experiments were done with two home-built volumetric chemisorption manifolds mainly. Ace glass stopcocks were placed as gas inlet-outlet valves and sample cell valve. One of the manifold was connected to a Setaram C80 microcalorimeter (Figure 3.1). The other manifold has space to illuminate sample cell via 100W UV lamp (Blak-Ray B-100A 365nm)(Figure 3.2). Gas pressure was monitored by a pressure gauge (MKS Baratron Capacitance Manometer) and a digital reader (MKS PR4000B). A turbomolecular vacuum pump station (Pfeiffer HiCube 80 Eco) was used to empty the gas inside the manifold up to  $10^{-5}$  Torr before each experiments.

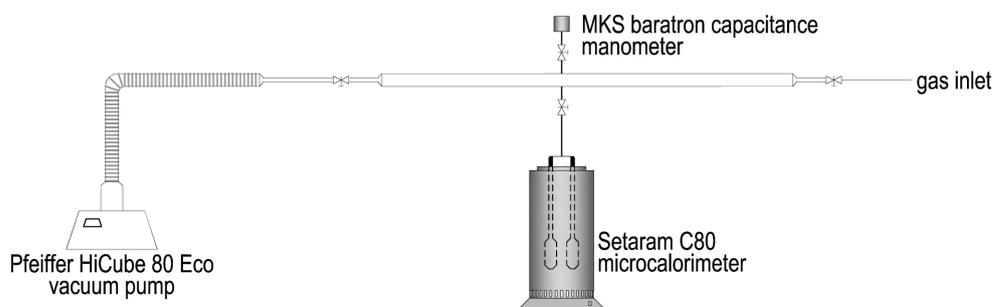


Figure 3.1: Chemisorption manifold connected to a microcalorimeter

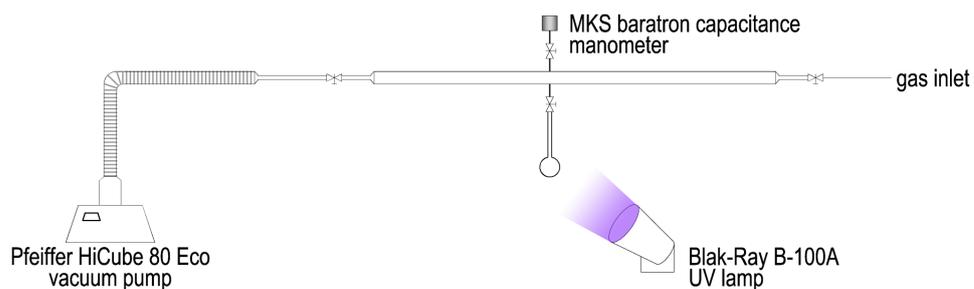


Figure 3.2: Chemisorption manifold with UV illumination source

### 3.2.2 Configurations with microcalorimeter and light source

Four different configurations were arranged with microcalorimeter and different light sources as can be seen in Figure 3.3(a-d).

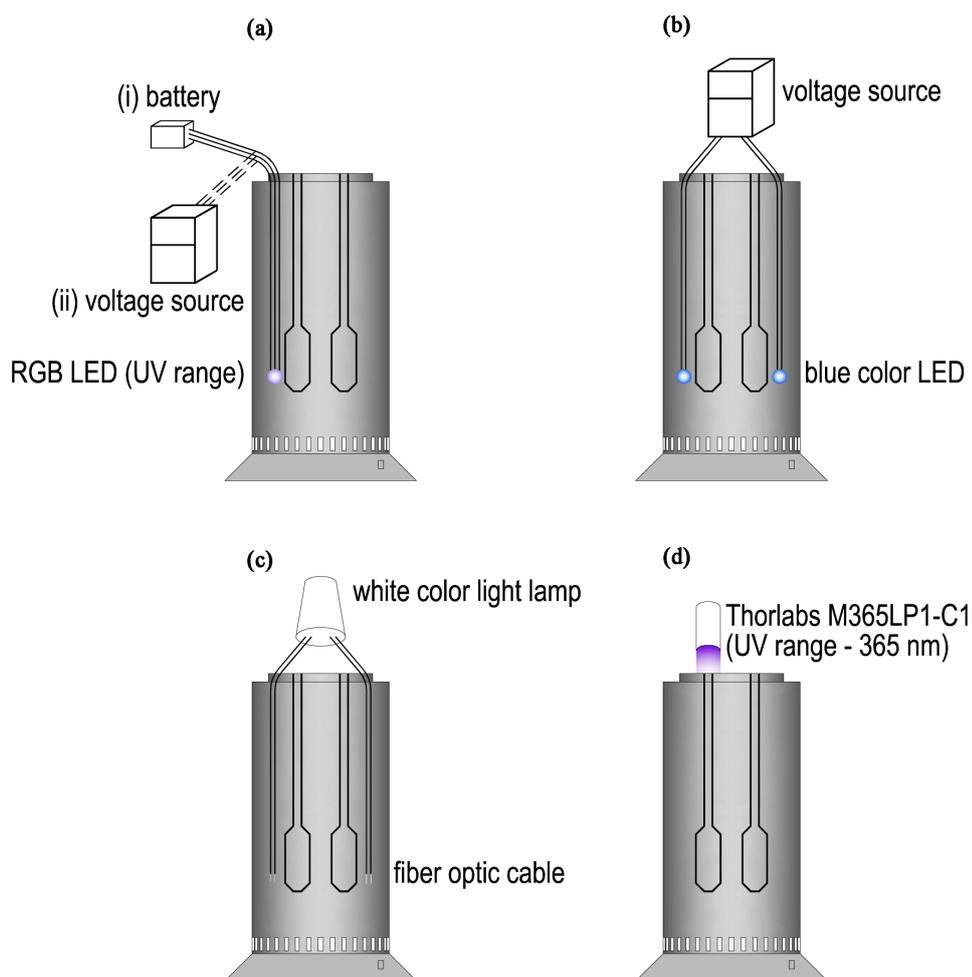


Figure 3.3: Light source and microcalorimeter arrangements (a) RGB LED in UV range connected to (i) a battery (ii) a voltage source (b) Blue color LEDs connected to a voltage source (c) Fiber optic cables connected to a white light lamp (d) Thorlabs M365LP1-C1 LED lamp illuminates the microcalorimeter cavity in UV range (365nm)

### 3.2.3 TPR set-up

Micromeritics Chemisorb 2720 equipment was used for  $H_2$  reduction over  $Pd/TiO_2$  sample via temperature programmed reduction. The samples were placed in U-shaped quartz reactor where adsorption or desorption signal was obtained by a thermal conductivity detector (TCD) connected to the system. He was used as carrier gas. 10%  $H_2$ -Ar gas was used for reduction. The samples were heated to  $900^\circ C$  with  $5^\circ C/min$  heating rate. The experiment was conducted at atmospheric pressure.

### **3.2.4 TEM and HRTEM analysis**

TEM and high-resolution TEM (HRTEM) images were obtained via Jem Jeol 2100F 200kV HRTEM equipment with FEG electron gun.

### **3.3 Experimental procedure for adsorption studies in the manifold**

Adsorption isotherms were obtained according to manual given in Appendix C. Collected data (equilibrium pressure) was interpreted into the amount of adsorbed gas parameter by assuming validity of ideal gas law at experimental conditions.

### **3.4 Experiment parameters for adsorption studies in the manifold**

Adsorption isotherms were obtained at several different conditions with different experiment sequels. Experiment parameters are tabulated for the experiments with TiO<sub>2</sub> P25, Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> and  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> as can be seen in Appendix D.

## CHAPTER 4

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 A brief discussion on artificial photosynthesis

Artificial photosynthesis is the general terminology used for chemical synthesis performed using  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  to produce hydrocarbons under illumination. The reaction involves direct interaction of the relevant molecules on the surface. The highly endothermic nature of the direct chemical conversion of  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is the major bottleneck. Gibbs free energies of the selected reactions are given in Table 4.1 where the reactions are not spontaneous apparently. In the same table, the crossover temperatures, the lowest temperature at which the Gibbs free energy of the reaction is equal to zero ( $T_{\text{crossover}} = \Delta H / \Delta S$ ) are given. Very high crossover temperatures indicate that  $\text{CO}_2$  reduction with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is not feasible at all. Only with  $\text{H}_2$  as a reducing agent,  $\text{CO}_2$  reduction path becomes favorable ( $\Delta G_{\text{rxn}}^0 < 0$ ) for methane and formic acid formation where the crossover temperature is still high for carbon monoxide formation (Table 4.2). Hence, current approaches towards realization of artificial photosynthesis need to be reassessed.

Table 4.1: Comparison of  $\Delta H^{\circ}_{\text{rxn}}$ ,  $\Delta G^{\circ}_{\text{rxn}}$ ,  $\Delta S^{\circ}_{\text{rxn}}$  and  $T_{\text{crossover}}$  of  $\text{CO}_2$  reduction with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  for gas phase reaction (Data taken from Koretsky (2013) and NIST (2018))

No	Reaction	$\Delta H^{\circ}_{\text{rxn}}$ (kJ/mol $\text{CO}_2$ )	$\Delta G^{\circ}_{\text{rxn}}$ (kJ/mol $\text{CO}_2$ )	$\Delta S^{\circ}_{\text{rxn}}$ (kJ/mol $\text{CO}_2 \cdot \text{K}$ )	$T_{\text{crossover}}$ (K)
1	$\text{CO}_2 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{CH}_4 + 2\text{O}_2$	802.34	800.78	$5.23 \cdot 10^{-3}$	153411
2	$\text{CO}_2 \rightarrow \text{CO} + 0.5\text{O}_2$	282.98	257.19	0.09	3144
3	$\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{HCOOH} + 0.5\text{O}_2$	256.73	170.22	0.29	885

Table 4.2:  $\Delta H^{\circ}_{\text{rxn}}$ ,  $\Delta G^{\circ}_{\text{rxn}}$ ,  $\Delta S^{\circ}_{\text{rxn}}$  and  $T_{\text{crossover}}$  of  $\text{CO}_2$  reduction with  $\text{H}_2$  for gas phase reaction (Data taken from Koretsky (2013) and NIST (2018))

No	Reaction	$\Delta H^{\circ}_{\text{rxn}}$ (kJ/mol $\text{CO}_2$ )	$\Delta G^{\circ}_{\text{rxn}}$ (kJ/mol $\text{CO}_2$ )	$\Delta S^{\circ}_{\text{rxn}}$ (kJ/mol $\text{CO}_2 \cdot \text{K}$ )	$T_{\text{crossover}}$ (K)
1	$\text{CO}_2 + 4\text{H}_2 \rightarrow \text{CH}_4 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	-164.94	-113.50	-0.11	Spontaneous
2	$\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2 \rightarrow \text{CO} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	41.16	28.62	0.04	1029
3	$\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2 \rightarrow \text{HCOOH}$	14.91	-58.35	0.25	Spontaneous

## 4.2 CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25

### 4.2.1 Adsorption isotherms obtained in dark by utilizing microcalorimeter

Three consecutive CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption experiments were conducted at 50°C in dark. At first, CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherm on fresh TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 was obtained. Then, the system was heated to 220°C during the evacuation and the second adsorption isotherm was obtained after the system was cooled down to 50°C. Lastly, the system was heated to 250°C during the evacuation and the third adsorption isotherm was obtained after the system was cooled down to 50°C again. Adsorption isotherms are given in Figure 4.1. 40 μmol/g<sub>catalyst</sub> CO<sub>2</sub> adsorbed on surface at 50°C in dark. Adsorbed amount was increased to ~102 μmol/g<sub>catalyst</sub> on average after the heat treatments. Increase in the adsorption amount can be related to removal of contamination from the surface after the heat treatments. Carbon impurities on surface may react with CO<sub>2</sub> yielding decomposition of C residues (Yang, Yu, van der Linden, Wu, & Mul, 2010). Indeed, presence of carboxylic acids on TiO<sub>2</sub> surface due to adsorption from air was noticed in a recent study published in Science (Balajka et al., 2018).

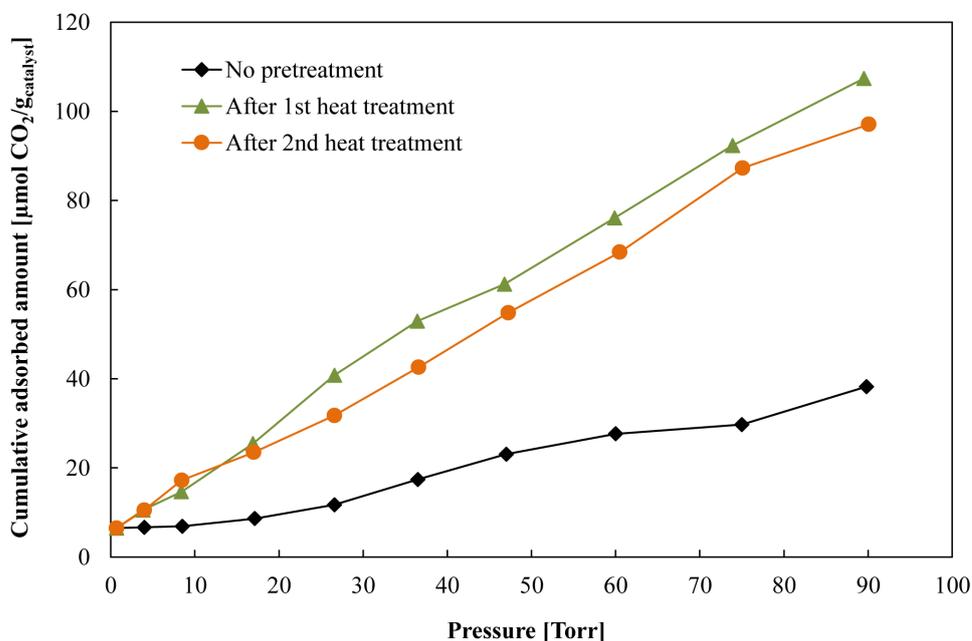


Figure 4.1: CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms on fresh and heat treated TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 obtained in dark at 50°C

Change of differential heat of adsorption values with respect to cumulative adsorbed

amounts curves are given in Figure 4.2. Differential heat of adsorption values for the adsorption isotherm on fresh  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface show a very high initial heat of adsorption values indicating a different surface event which is the interaction or exchange of  $\text{CO}_2$  with the surface contamination, possibly. On the other hand, differential heat of adsorption values for the adsorption isotherms obtained after the heat treatments look very similar to each other with relatively low values. It can be clearly seen that after  $40 \mu\text{mol/g}_{\text{catalyst}}$ , differential heat of adsorption values for the second and third adsorption isotherms stay around  $25 \text{ kJ/mole}$  corresponding to heat of condensation of  $\text{CO}_2$ . This means one  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorbs on another instead of other available sites on catalyst surface.  $40 \mu\text{mol/g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  corresponds to 5% of reported BET surface area indicating weak adsorption of  $\text{CO}_2$  and low surface coverage in line with literature (Linsebigler et al., 1995).

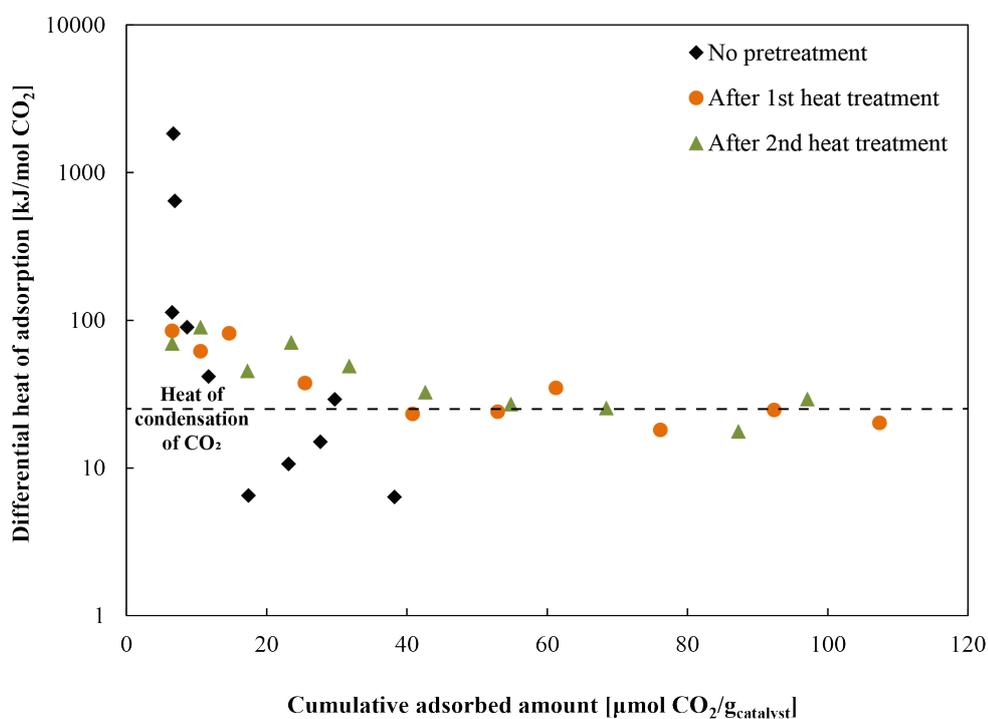


Figure 4.2: Differential heat of adsorption values in logarithmic scale with respect to cumulative adsorbed amount of  $\text{CO}_2$  on fresh and heat treated  $\text{TiO}_2$  P25 in dark at  $50^\circ\text{C}$

Moreover, Figure 4.3 shows  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorption isotherm on a  $\text{H}_2$  pretreated  $\text{TiO}_2$  P25 at  $50^\circ\text{C}$  in dark where pressure was as high as atmospheric pressure. Adsorption isotherm started with negative values indicating desorption at the beginning. This is related with adsorbed  $\text{H}_2$  that could not be removed during the evacuation period.

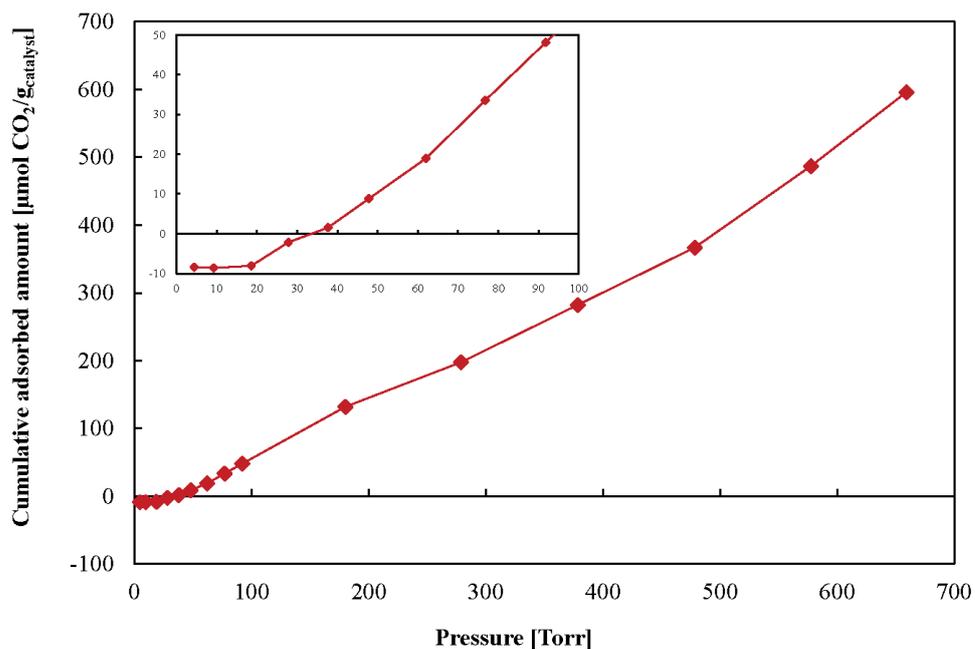


Figure 4.3:  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorption isotherm on  $\text{H}_2$  pretreated  $\text{TiO}_2$  P25 surface obtained in dark at  $50^\circ\text{C}$

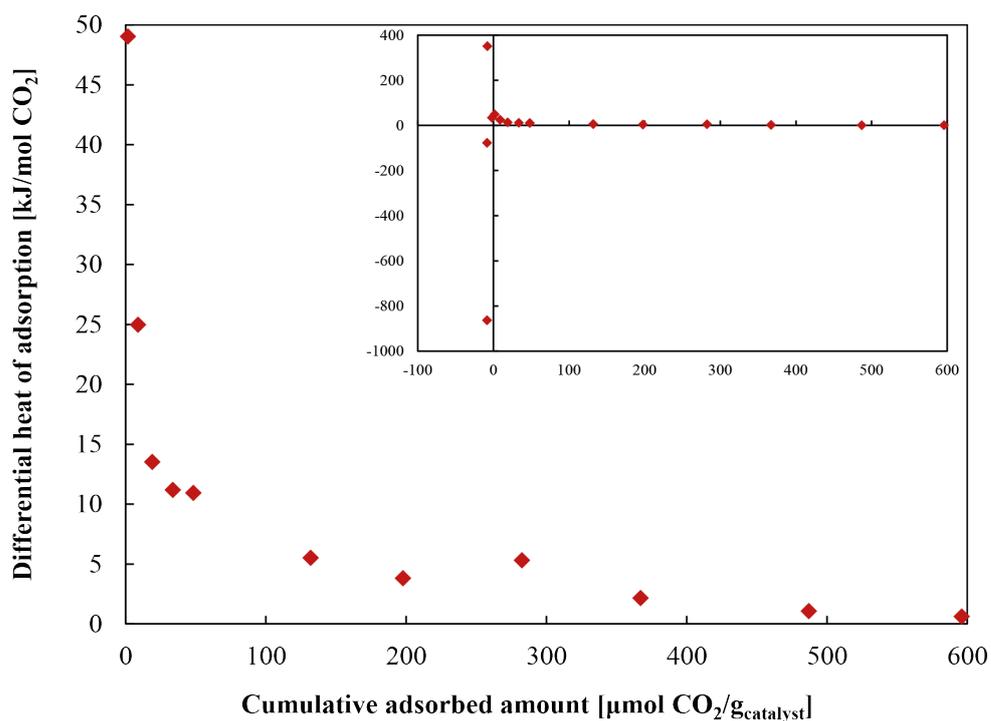


Figure 4.4: Differential heat of adsorption values with respect to cumulative adsorbed amount of  $\text{CO}_2$  on  $\text{H}_2$  pretreated  $\text{TiO}_2$  P25 obtained in dark at  $50^\circ\text{C}$

Furthermore, negative differential heat of adsorption values at the beginning are due to observed desorption at the beginning (Figure 4.4). This behavior emphasizes the

importance of surface cleanliness one more time to obtain reliable results. Besides, only  $600 \mu\text{mol/g}_{\text{catalyst}}$   $\text{CO}_2$  adsorbed on surface at atmospheric pressure. During the adsorption, differential heat of adsorption values dropped to very low values (5-15 kJ/mol) suggesting weak interaction of  $\text{CO}_2$  with the surface.

#### 4.2.2 $\text{CO}_2$ adsorption isotherms with and without illumination

After concluding weak adsorption of  $\text{CO}_2$  on  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface, the effect of illumination on adsorption isotherm was investigated. At first,  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorption isotherm on fresh  $\text{TiO}_2$  P25 was obtained at room temperature, then under UV light after evacuation consecutively (Figure 4.5). Only  $55 \mu\text{mol/g}_{\text{catalyst}}$   $\text{CO}_2$  adsorbed in dark at room temperature at equilibrium pressure ( $\sim 93$  Torr) on fresh  $\text{TiO}_2$ . Negative values ( $-50 \mu\text{mol/g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  at  $\sim 93$  Torr equilibrium pressure) were obtained under UV illumination at room temperature indicating desorption of  $\text{CO}_2$  molecules from the surface.  $\text{CO}_2$  might interacted with impurities on the surface as deduced before; hence, the same experiment was repeated three times in a cyclic manner on clean  $\text{TiO}_2$  P25 surface (catalyst was pretreated with  $\text{O}_2$  under UV illumination for 30 minutes) (Figure 4.6(a)).

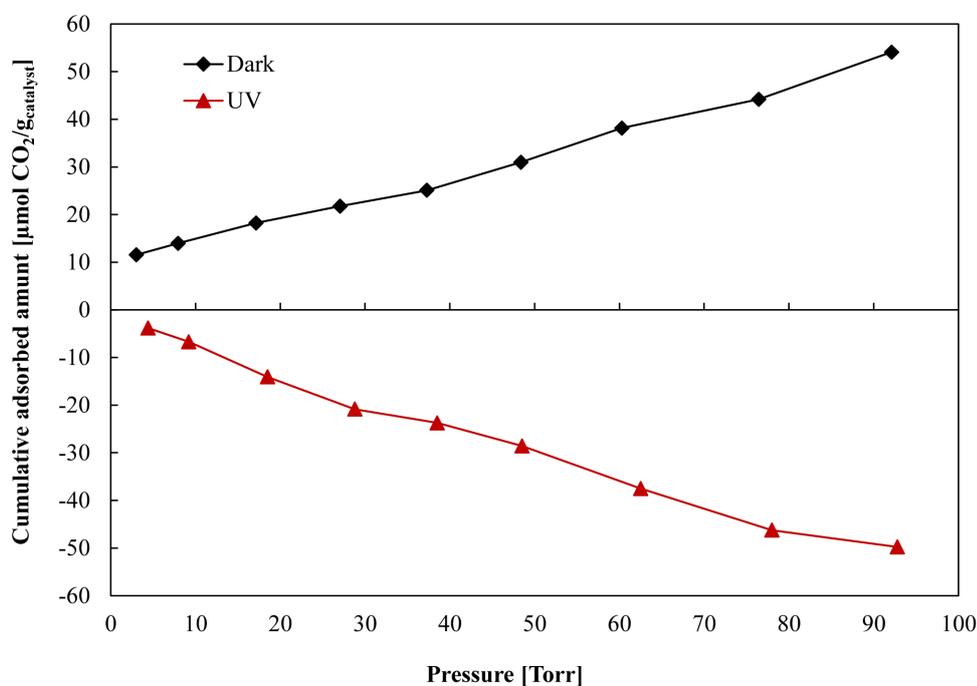


Figure 4.5:  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorption isotherms on fresh  $\text{TiO}_2$  P25 obtained in dark and under UV illumination consecutively at room temperature

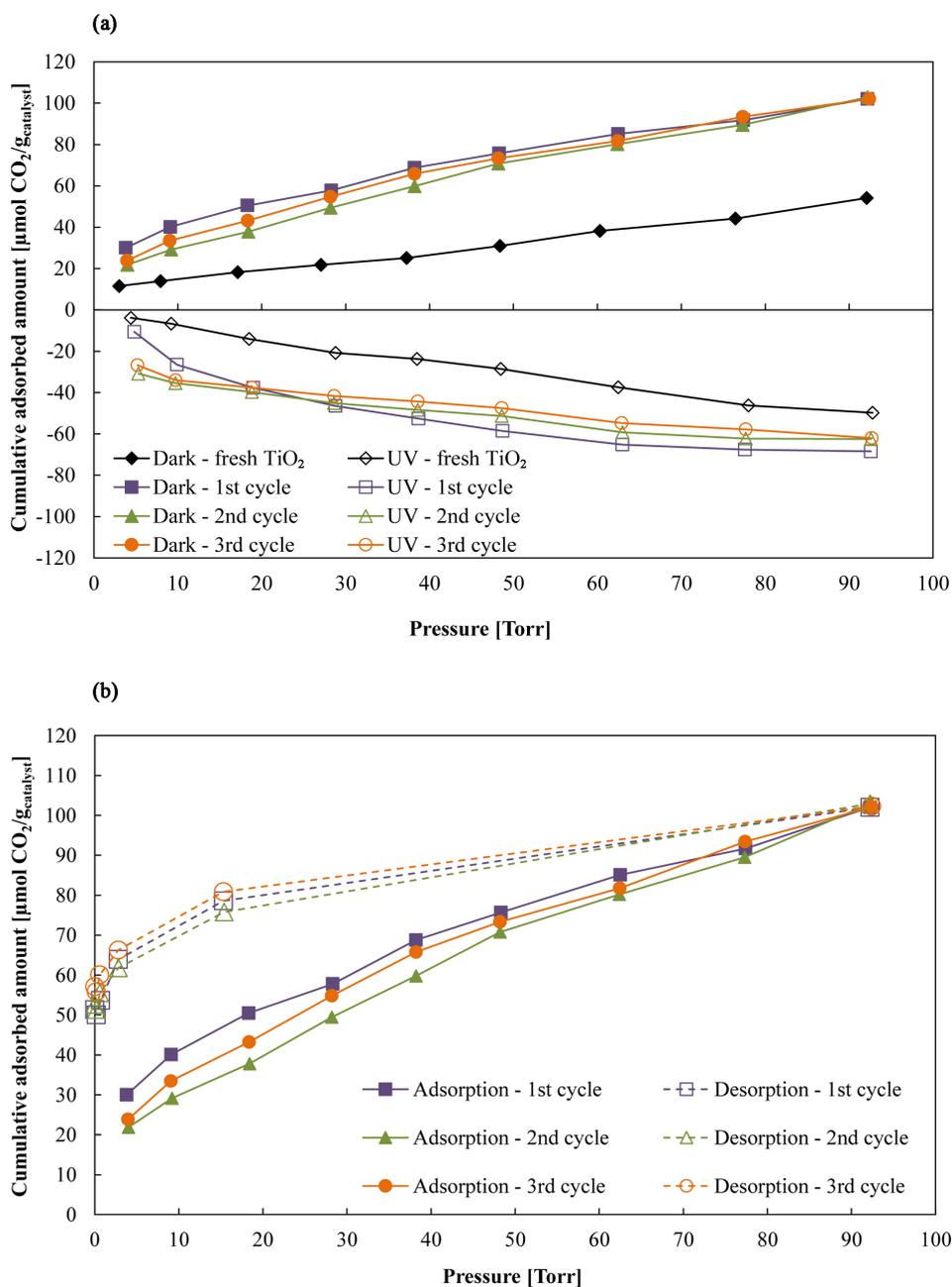


Figure 4.6: (a) CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms on fresh and pretreated TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 in dark and under UV illumination at room temperature (b) Desorption isotherms obtained on pretreated TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 in dark at room temperature

Adsorbed amount increased twofold and reached to 102  $\mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  in dark suggesting cleaner surface. The behavior under UV illumination remained even with clean surface. Only, desorption amount observed under UV illumination increased to -66  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  on average. Hence, the behavior under illumination is not related to impurities on the TiO<sub>2</sub> surface. Another point worth mentioning is for the cycling

experiments, desorption isotherms were also obtained (Figure 4.6(b)). Intercept of desorption isotherms with y-axis is determined as  $50 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{g}_{\text{catalyst}}$ . This result is in line with microcalorimeter results where  $50 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  can be considered as the amount of strongly bound molecules on  $\text{TiO}_2$ . It was already mentioned in the literature review that  $\text{CO}_2$  can be adsorbed on either oxygen vacancy sites or  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$ . These sites are actually the weak Lewis acid base sites of the  $\text{TiO}_2$  (Mino, Cesano, Scarano, Spoto, & Martra, 2019)(Martra, 2000). Since,  $\text{CO}_2$  is able to adsorb on only these sites, the amount of  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorption amount can be considered as an indirect indication of the oxygen vacancy concentration of the  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface.

$\text{CO}_2$  adsorption on a similar surface (commercial  $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ) was investigated to evaluate reliability of the measurements. Lewis acid base sites of  $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$  are also known (Lahousse, Maugé, Bachelier, & Lavalley, 1995).  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorption isotherms were found similar for both of the surfaces.  $125 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  adsorbed on  $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $100 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  adsorbed on  $\text{TiO}_2$  P25. Interception of desorption isotherm of  $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$  with y-axis is around  $25 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  but it is around  $50 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  for  $\text{TiO}_2$  P25.

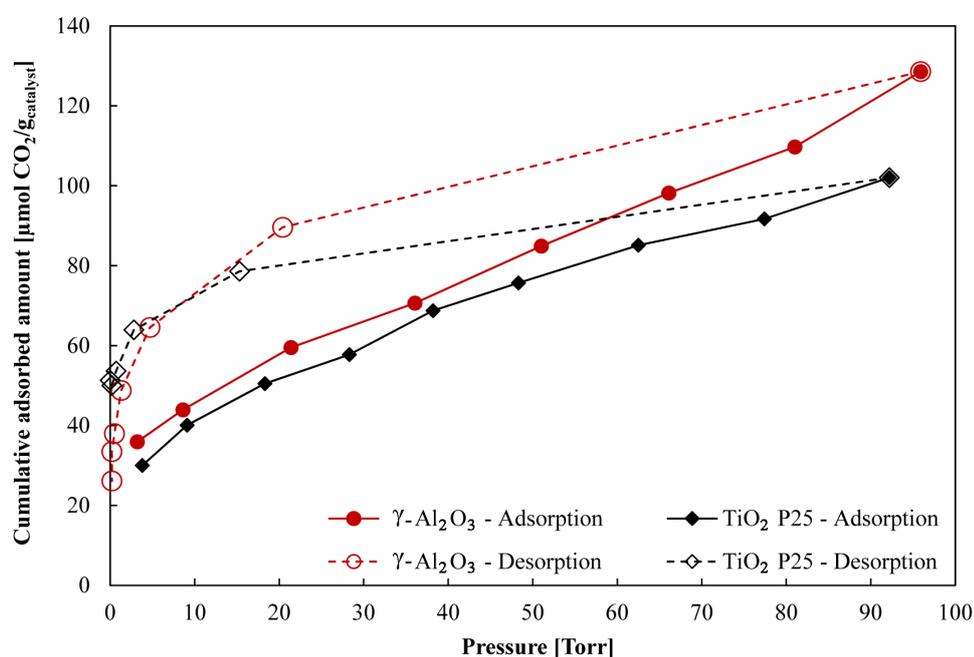


Figure 4.7:  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorption isotherms on fresh  $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and clean  $\text{TiO}_2$  P25 surfaces in dark at room temperature

Moreover, reliability of the measurements is provided by literature (Ras et al., 2013)

(Figure 4.8). Adsorption isotherm was obtained at 40°C in literature data. Since adsorption is an exothermic process, the adsorbed amounts decrease as the temperature increases. Hence, adsorption isotherm is slightly below the adsorption isotherm obtained in this study at room temperature.

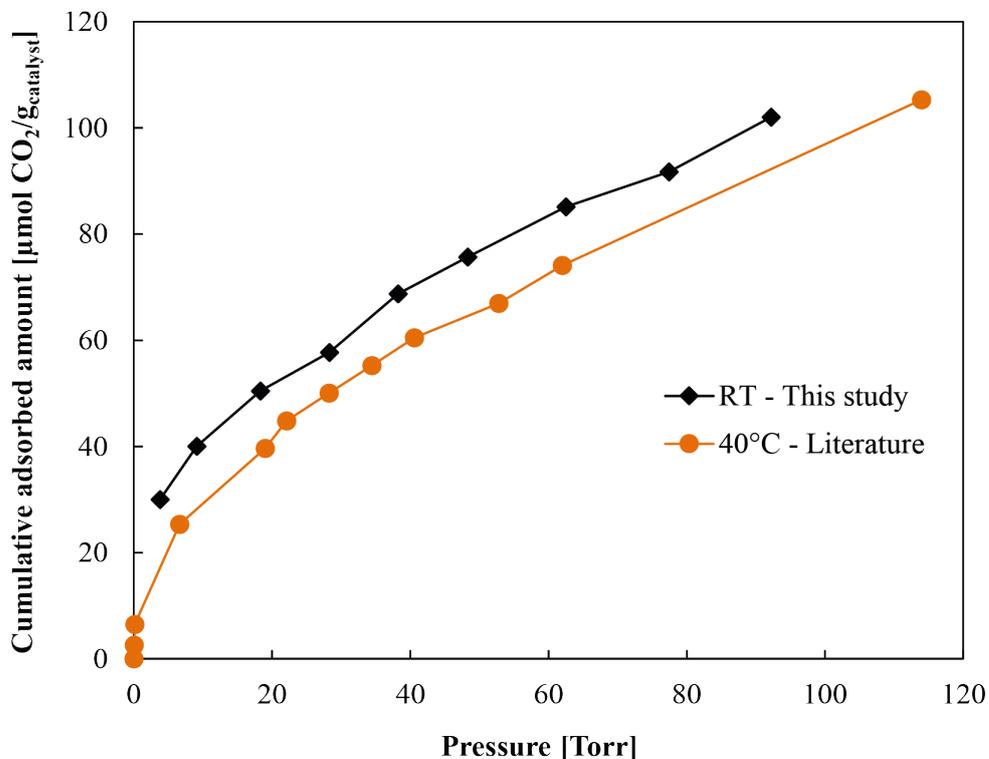


Figure 4.8: Comparison of CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherm on clean TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 surface with literature data (Ras et al., 2013)

Finally, CO<sub>2</sub> measurements are assured to be reliable. The observed desorption under illumination during CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on TiO<sub>2</sub> is not due to removal of impurities since the surface was clean. The heating of catalyst bulk due to the heating of ambient with the light source (Appendix E) cannot also result in observed desorption. However, local temperature rise due to heat release upon charge recombination can justify the observed behaviour under UV illumination. Assuming only the gas in the sample cell was heated, calculation on adsorption amount under UV illumination was repeated where details can be found in Appendix F. When the adjusted cell temperature was 160°C, a reasonable isotherm is obtained (adsorption isotherm is in the positive side of the graph). The adjusted isotherm is similar to adsorption isotherm in dark which can be considered as a reference, an isotherm that is shown reliable (Figure 4.9). Hence, the evidences indicate local temperature rise upon charge recombination is

present under illumination. This temperature rise have affected the chemistry in such a way that heating of gas in cell to 160°C would have affected it.

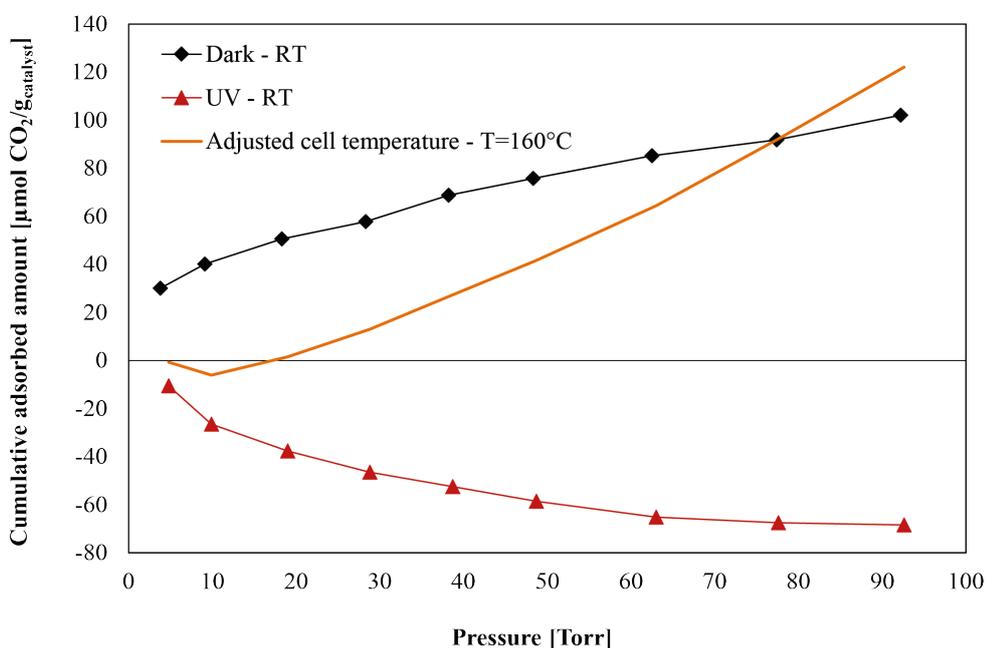


Figure 4.9: CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms on clean TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 in dark, under UV illumination at room temperature and adsorption isotherm obtained according to adjusted cell temperatures under UV illumination

### 4.3 H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption isotherms on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25

#### 4.3.1 H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption isotherms with and without illumination

At first, H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption isotherm obtained on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 in dark at room temperature. Desorption isotherm was also obtained just after adsorption experiment finished. After the evacuation for an overnight, adsorption isotherm was obtained under UV illumination at room temperature (Figure 4.10(a)). Before the experiments, the surface was exposed to CO<sub>2</sub> and evacuated for a long period. Thus, the surface was considered clean. The experiments were repeated with clean surface where pretreatment was done with O<sub>2</sub> under UV illumination for 30 minutes. Adsorption isotherms in the first set of experiment and the repeated ones coincide with each other assuring clean surface during the experiments.

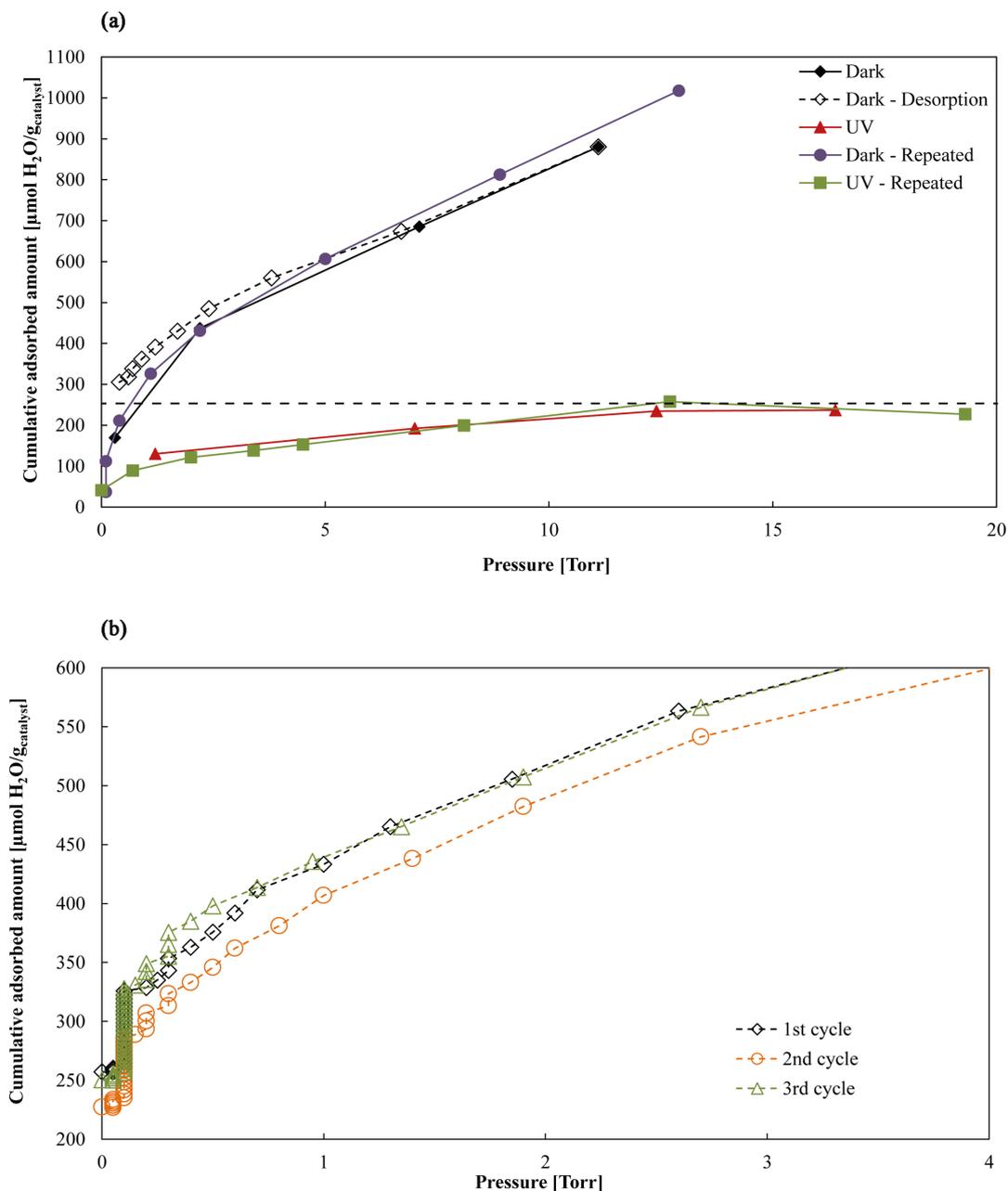


Figure 4.10: (a) H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption isotherms on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 at room temperature (the surface was exposed to CO<sub>2</sub> at first and long evacuation period later) (b) Desorption isotherms on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 at room temperature - Close look

880  $\mu\text{mol H}_2\text{O/g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  adsorbed in dark and around 240  $\mu\text{mol H}_2\text{O/g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  adsorbed under UV illumination at the same equilibrium pressure,  $\sim 11$  Torr. A substantial decrease in the adsorption amount, 640  $\mu\text{mol H}_2\text{O/g}_{\text{catalyst}}$ , was observed for the illuminated case where isotherm look like a Langmuir type of adsorption isotherm. Desorption isotherm obtained after H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption in dark intercepts y-axis around

250  $\mu\text{mol/g}_{\text{catalyst}}$ . This amount is pretty much at the same level with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  saturation amount under UV illumination.

Another set of experiment where  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  adsorption and desorption isotherms were obtained on a clean  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface in a cycling manner in dark at room temperature is also consistent with the previous  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  experiments. Desorption isotherms obtained in the cyclic experiments (Figure 4.10(b)) intercept y-axis around 250  $\mu\text{mol H}_2\text{O/g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  also. This amount can be considered as the amount of strongly bound  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  molecules on  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface.

### 4.3.2 $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ adsorption isotherms at elevated temperatures

Strong adsorption capacity (multilayer adsorption) of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  on  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface is known (Yamamoto et al., 2008). Hence, we were able to carry out  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  adsorption experiments on  $\text{TiO}_2$  P25 surface in dark at elevated temperatures (50, 100 and 150°C) with the chemisorption set-up connected to the microcalorimeter. Comparison of adsorption isotherms with the previous ones executed at room temperature are given in Figure 4.11. Since adsorption is an exothermic process, the adsorbed amounts decreased as the temperature of sample cell increased as expected. The adsorption isotherm obtained in dark at 150°C is almost identical to adsorption isotherm obtained under UV illumination at room temperature.

Differential heat of adsorption values for the experiments performed at elevated temperatures are given in Figure 4.12. For adsorption isotherm at 150°C, differential heat of adsorption values decreased to  $\sim 40$  kJ/mol (heat of condensation value of water) at saturation point of the surface (250  $\mu\text{mol H}_2\text{O/g}_{\text{catalyst}}$ ) indicating monolayer capacity. For the other two adsorption isotherms at 50°C and 100°C, differential heat of adsorption values stay around 40 kJ/mol after 250  $\mu\text{mol H}_2\text{O/g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  adsorbed amount implying multilayer formation. Lastly,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  adsorption isotherm data at room temperature, 50, 100, 150°C were fitted to Temkin isotherm in agreement with strong adsorption of water on heterogeneous surface (Appendix H).

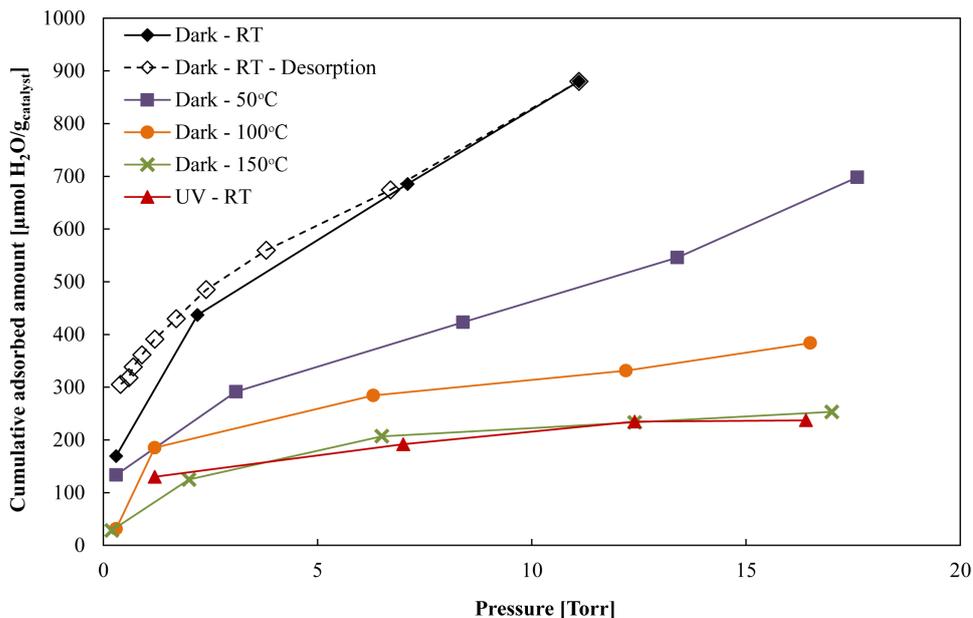


Figure 4.11: H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption isotherms on fresh TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 obtained in dark at room temperature, 50, 100 and 150°C and under UV illumination at room temperature

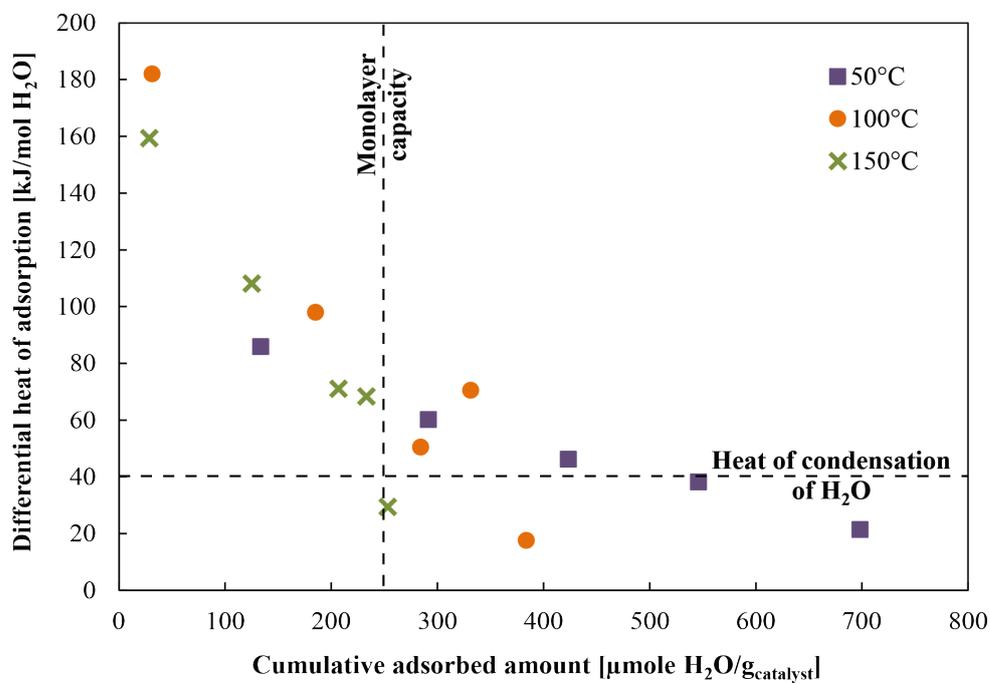


Figure 4.12: Differential heat of adsorption values for H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption isotherms on fresh TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 obtained in dark 50, 100 and 150°C

### 4.3.3 Total and weak H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption isotherms

Last evidence on amount of strongly bound H<sub>2</sub>O molecules on TiO<sub>2</sub> came from total and weak water adsorption isotherms obtained at room temperature in dark (Figure 4.13). After obtaining total adsorption isotherm at room temperature in dark, the system was evacuated for 5 minutes and another adsorption isotherm was obtained at the same conditions. The procedure was repeated with 15 minutes evacuation. 5 and 15 minutes evacuation periods are an estimation that is considered enough to remove all weakly adsorbed molecules from the surface. Total adsorption isotherm shows 1060  $\mu\text{mol H}_2\text{O/g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  adsorption amount at 15 Torr equilibrium pressure and weak adsorption isotherms show 860  $\mu\text{mol H}_2\text{O/g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  adsorption amount on average at the same pressure. In addition, considering intercepts of linear part of adsorption isotherms with y-axis, adsorption amount of strongly bound molecules was determined as  $\sim 230 \mu\text{mol H}_2\text{O/g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  in line with monolayer capacity deduced from desorption isotherms and microcalorimeter results.

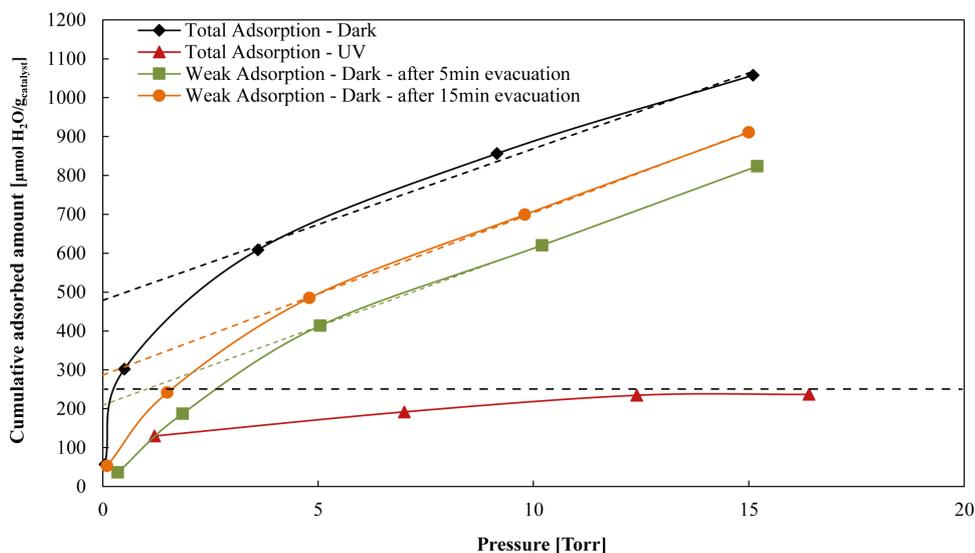


Figure 4.13: Total and weak H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption isotherms on fresh TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 obtained in dark at room temperature and comparison with H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption isotherm under illumination at room temperature

All the evidences point out 230-250  $\mu\text{mol H}_2\text{O/g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  as the monolayer capacity for H<sub>2</sub>O on TiO<sub>2</sub>. Therefore, only strongly bound molecules remained on TiO<sub>2</sub> surface for adsorption isotherm obtained at 150°C. Similarly, only strongly bound molecules

remained on TiO<sub>2</sub> surface under illumination also. There are several possibilities for desorption of molecules under UV illumination. Firstly, possibility of water splitting reaction and desorption of products from the surface subsequently. However, it is not likely considering low H<sub>2</sub> production rates. Secondly, the surface modification under UV illumination is an option. Since, duration of UV illumination was short during the experiments (~4h), surface modification through defect formation under illumination is not possible. Since, the surface was clean, photo-oxidation and desorption of unintentionally exist hydrophobic molecules (carbon contaminants) from the surface was not possible also. Thirdly, heating of bulk catalyst due to the heating of ambient with light source is not the case since the catalyst was heated to only 40°C as shown in the Appendix E. Lastly, H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption under illumination results in downward band bending in TiO<sub>2</sub> in theory yielding lagging of recombination event. Yet, charge recombination is highly common and lagging cannot prevent the inevitable recombination. However, local temperature rise due to heat release upon charge recombination can facilitate desorption of weakly bonded water molecules. According to the results, local temperature rise on the catalyst upon charge recombination is claimed to have an effect on the chemistry in such a way that 150°C cell temperature have affected it during the adsorption experiment.

#### **4.4 Direct measurement of heat release upon charge recombination via microcalorimeter**

After collecting indirect evidences on local temperature rise due to heat release upon charge recombination, attempts have been made to measure heat release directly via microcalorimeter. Four different configurations were arranged with microcalorimeter and different light sources. In all of these configurations, TiO<sub>2</sub> was exposed to air unless stated otherwise. The cell temperature was kept at 50°C. Light on/off experiments performed where heat evolution (exothermic heat flow) upon illumination was recorded. The points where light was turned off are shown with arrows in the Figures.

At first, a LED in UV range was obtained via RGB cables connected to a cell battery. LED and the cables were put into sample cavity of the microcalorimeter where TiO<sub>2</sub> powder was placed in a glass tube which was in the sample cavity. An identical

empty glass tube was put into reference cavity (Figure 3.3(a)(i)). Upon illumination peaks/shifts with different heights in exothermic heat flow direction were observed (Figure 4.14). Shift to baseline was observed each time when the light was turned off. In another experiment, empty tubes were placed in both of the cavities to measure heat formation upon illumination of an empty tube. Height of the peaks obtained upon illumination of TiO<sub>2</sub> were greater than the peaks obtained upon illumination of empty glass tube.

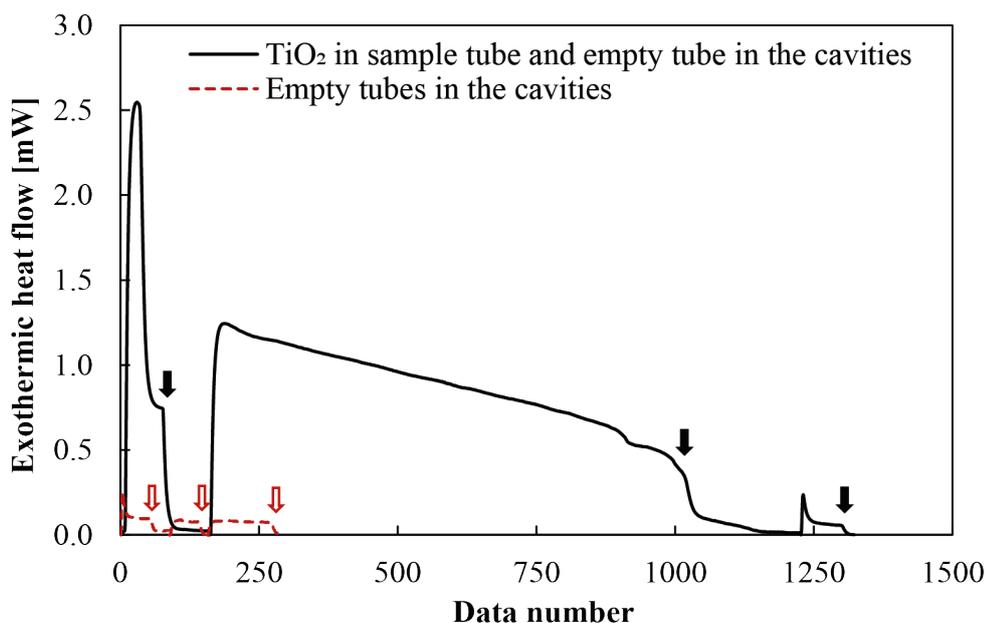


Figure 4.14: Heat formation upon illumination of TiO<sub>2</sub> sample in glass tube in the sample cavity (empty tube in the reference cavity) and illumination of empty tube in the sample cavity (empty tube in the reference cavity). UV range RGB LED connected to a cell battery was used. Arrows shows the points when light was turned off.

However, these experiments were not reproducible. Hence, the observed difference in heat evolution cannot be attributed to heat release upon charge recombination. The changes in the placement of the LED, fluctuations due to battery and heat release from cable resistances were suspected as the possible reasons for failure during the reproduction of the experiments. Hence, to eliminate fluctuations due to battery, the RGB cables were connected to a voltage source (Figure 3.3(a)(ii)). This time, the experiments were carried out at different voltages and hence, intensities. ZnO and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> were also used to see the effect of change of material on heat formation. Identical shifts in heat formation upon illumination was found when the same voltage value

was used (Figure 4.15). Heat formation increased when the voltage was increased also. Heat formation was found neither a function of the material nor its amount. It was concluded that heat release due to cable resistances was recorded during these experiments explaining increase in heat release with increase in voltage.

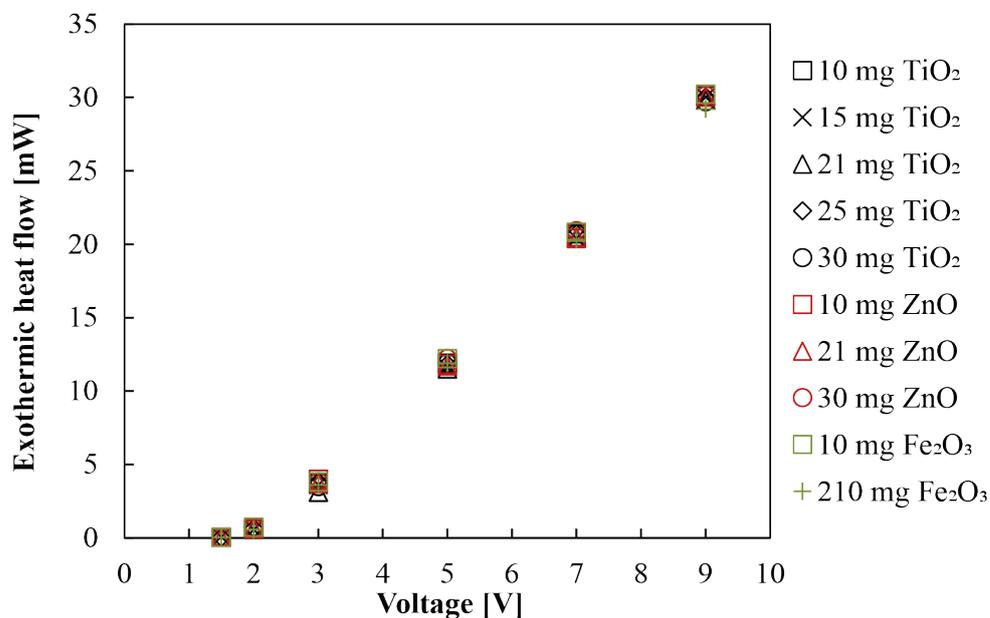


Figure 4.15: Heat formation upon illumination of  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$  and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  samples in glass tube in the sample cavity (empty tube in the reference cavity) at different voltages. UV range RGB LED connected to a voltage source was used.

To eliminate cable resistance factor, two blue color LEDs were connected to the same voltage source were used. They were placed into both of the microcalorimeter cavities (Figure 3.3(b)). Peaks are observed upon illumination of both  $\text{TiO}_2$  in glass tube in the sample cavity and empty tube in the reference cavity. However, the placement of the LEDs was not as delicate as it should be even when the LEDs were put into cavities without any glass tubes. Therefore, heat release due to resistances were still recorded (Figure 4.16). Heat formation in both of the cavities did not cancel each other. Endothermic values are related with working principle of microcalorimeter.

To eliminate cable resistance factor all together, fiber optic cables, allow only white light, were used (Figure 3.3(c)). Heat formation was observed again even though the values are extremely small (Figure 4.17). Observed differences in heat values are due to failure in the exactly same placement of the cables identical to each other in both of the cavities. Endothermic values are related with working principle of

microcalorimeter again.

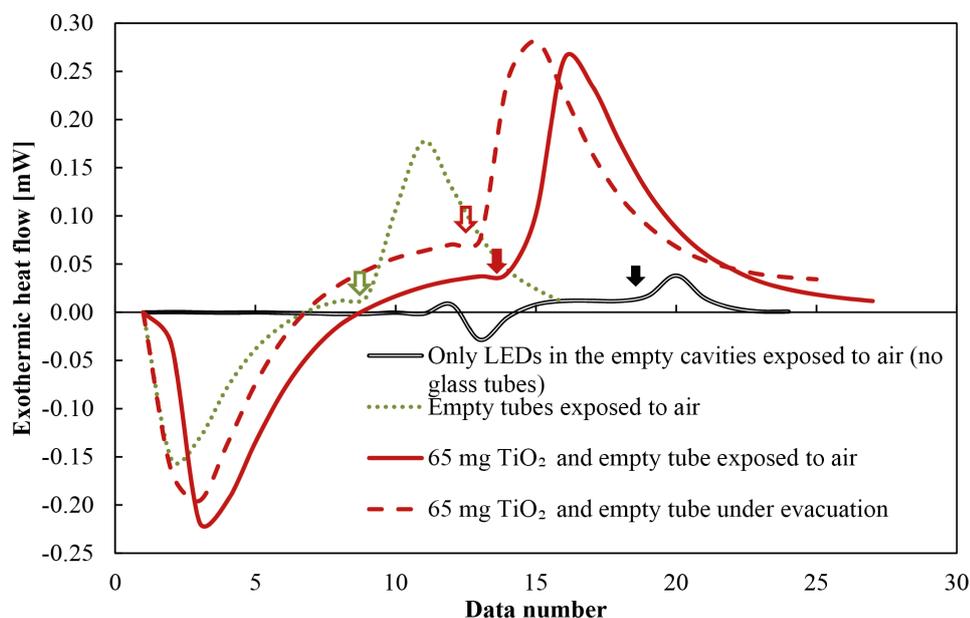


Figure 4.16: Heat formation upon illumination of (i) empty cavities (ii) empty tubes in the cavities (iii) 65 mg  $\text{TiO}_2$  sample in glass tube in the sample cavity and empty tube in the reference cavity and (iv) same as (iii) but both of the glass tubes were under evacuation. Blue color LEDs connected to a voltage source was used. Arrows shows the points when light was turned off.

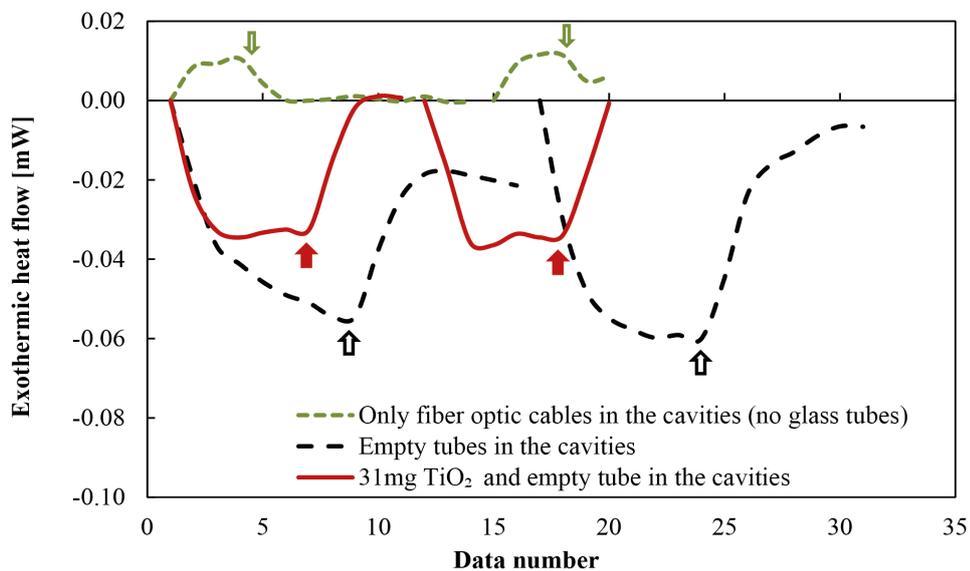


Figure 4.17: Heat formation upon illumination of (i) empty cavities (ii) empty tubes in the cavities (iii)  $\text{TiO}_2$  sample in glass tube in the sample cavity and empty tube in the reference cavity. Fiber optic cables to a white light lamp was used. Arrows shows the points when light was turned off.

Finally, a UV LED lamp (Thorlabs M365LP1-C1 (365nm)) was used to illuminate cavity from above (Figure 3.3(d)). Only one of the cavity was illuminated each time. Different intensities were used. Heat formation increased with intensity as expected. However, no difference was detected between empty tube illumination, sample tube illumination or reference tube illumination at the same intensity value (Figure 4.18). Heat formation was observed due to light absorption by the wall of the cavity, glass tube and air in the cavity. The studies will be continue by preventing light absorption by the walls of the cavities in the microcalorimeter via reflecting layer on the cavity.

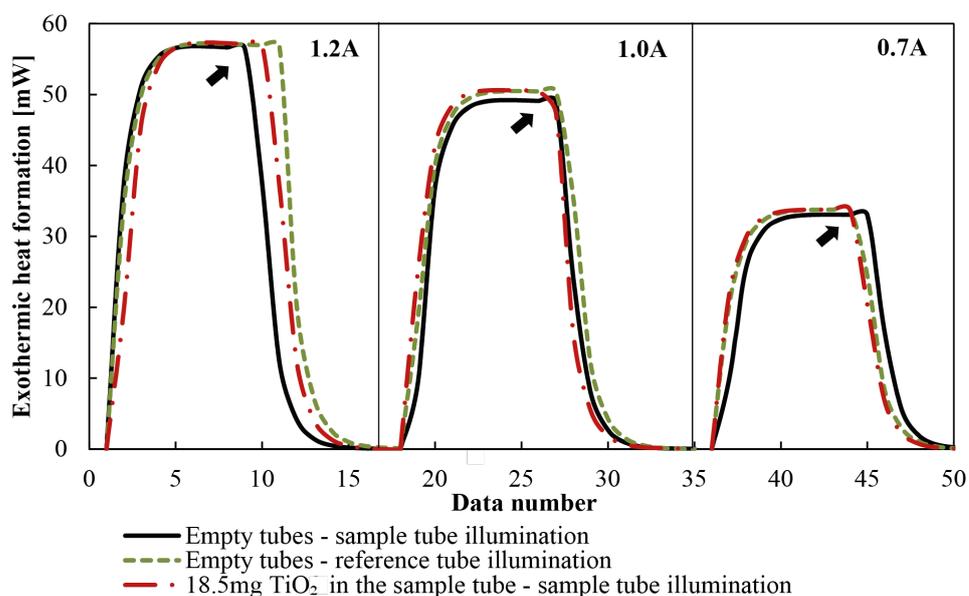


Figure 4.18: Heat formation upon illumination of (i) empty sample tube in sample cavity (empty tube in the reference cavity) (ii) empty tube reference in reference cavity (empty tube in the sample cavity) (iii) TiO<sub>2</sub> sample in glass tube in the sample cavity (empty tube in the reference cavity). UV LED lamp was used. Arrows shows the points when light was turned off.

#### 4.5 H<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms on Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>

Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst was chosen for investigation of metal-hydrogen systems on metal oxide support. Palladium-hydrogen interaction is strong, easily established and well studied. Additionally, palladium can be reduced at low temperatures and decreases the reduction temperature of TiO<sub>2</sub> where mild temperature conditions are very advantageous in adsorption studies via microcalorimetry.

#### 4.5.1 TEM and HRTEM images of Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>

To investigate surface morphology of 0.5%, 1.0% and 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>, TEM and HRTEM images of the surfaces were analyzed at 500, 200, 100 and 10nm distances (Figure 4.19-4.21). Darker points in the images correspond to palladium particles. As can be deduced from these three Figures, there are palladium aggregations on each catalyst resulting in wide range of particle size where particle size greater than 10nm can be observed. We can talk about relatively well distribution of palladium onto surface for 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>. Aggregations are more obvious for 1.0% and 2.0% cases. For 1.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>, poor dispersion of palladium on support can be clearly seen. Due to aggregations, sphericity or flatness of particles are hard to judge.

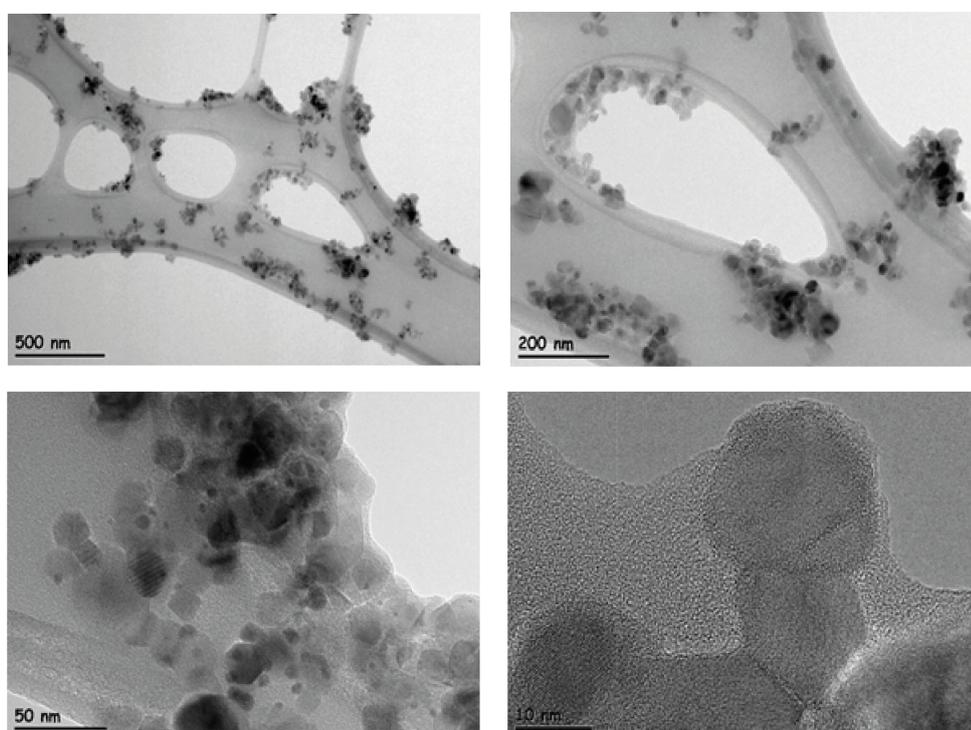


Figure 4.19: TEM and HRTEM images of 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>

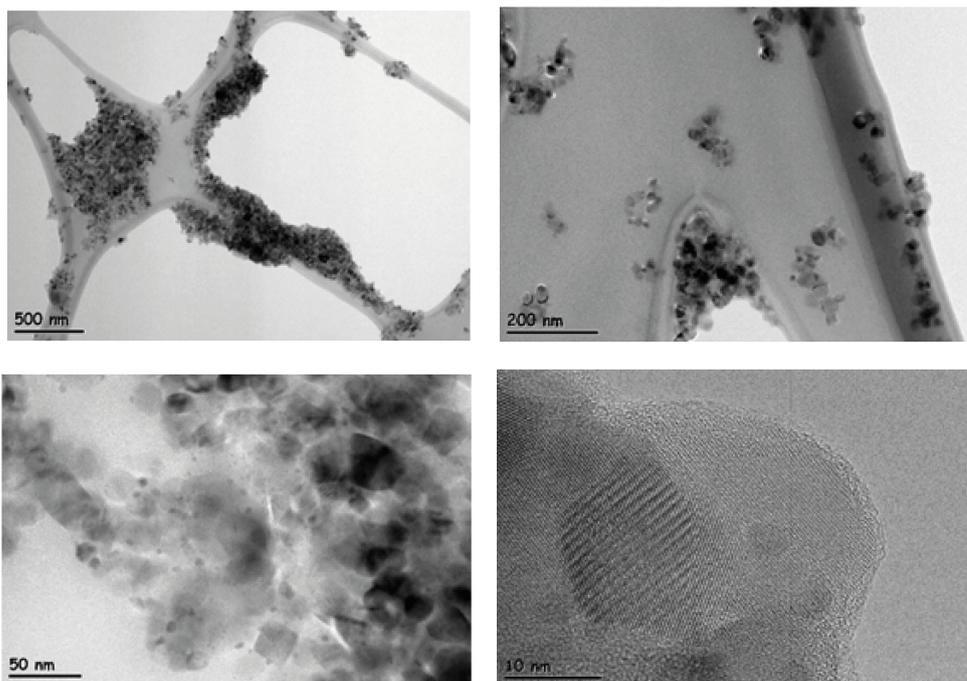


Figure 4.20: TEM and HRTEM images of 1.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>

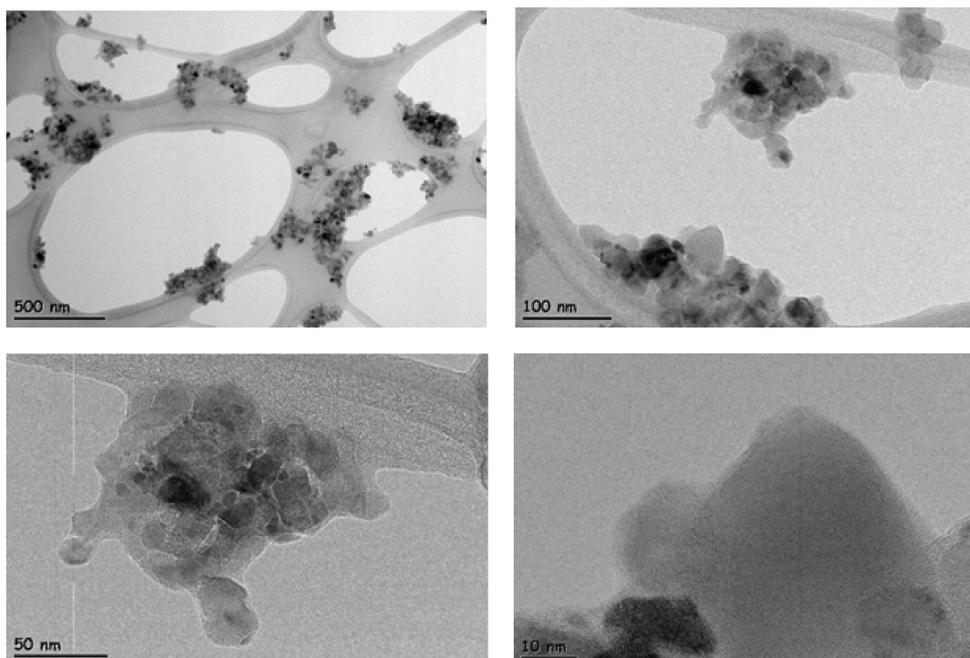


Figure 4.21: TEM and HRTEM images of 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>

#### 4.5.2 H<sub>2</sub>-TPR on Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>

Temperature programmed reduction profiles of 0.5%, 1.0% and 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> were obtained with H<sub>2</sub> as the reducing agent Figure 4.22.

The first peak is around 68°C for all three samples. This peak is attributed to decomposition of  $\beta$ -PdH related to large particles according to literature (Babu, Lingaiah, Pasha, Kumar, & Prasad, 2009)(references therein). PdH can be formed easily at low temperatures (W. Lin et al., 2005) during the H<sub>2</sub> flow at the beginning of TPR experiment. As palladium weight percentage increases, this peak formed slightly at lower temperatures with a larger area under the curve. Palladium particle with a larger size has higher H<sub>2</sub> storage capacity and decompose at a lower temperature (Bhogeswararao & Srinivas, 2015). Therefore, order of palladium particle size from largest to smallest is 2.0%, 1.0% and 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> apparently.

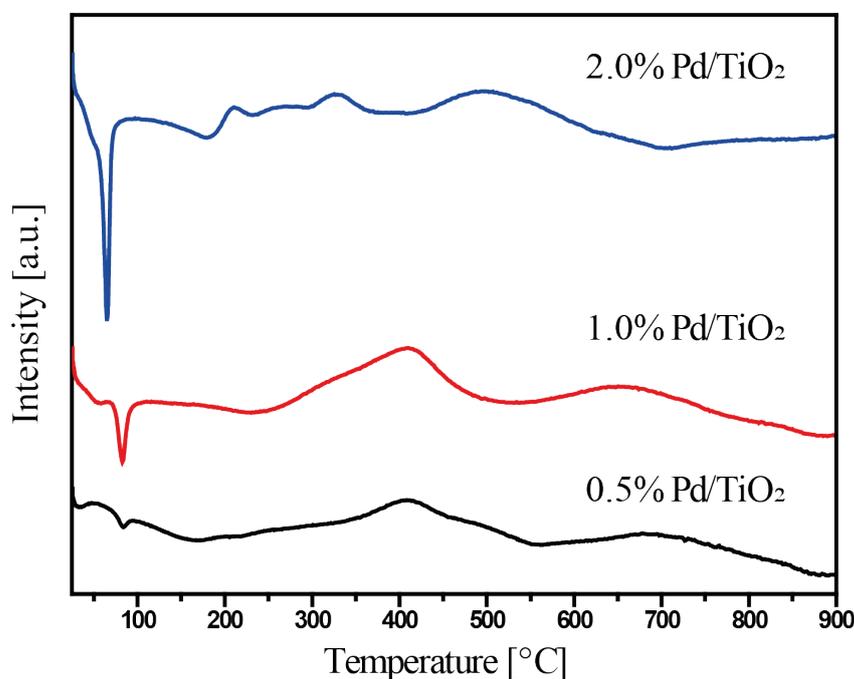


Figure 4.22: H<sub>2</sub> TPR of Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>

The large peaks can be seen around 400°C and 650-700°C for 0.5% and 1.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>. Surface oxygen of bare TiO<sub>2</sub> is removed by H<sub>2</sub> around 550°C. In the presence of palladium and spillover effect, temperature for surface oxygen removal decreases to ~350°C (González, Ardila, Montes de Correa, Martínez, & Fuentes-Zurita, 2007) where spilled hydrogen from palladium facilitates reduction of support. Hence, the peaks at 400°C belongs to the surface reduction of TiO<sub>2</sub>. The peaks at 650-700°C can be attributed to bulk reduction of TiO<sub>2</sub> (Hwang, Ihm, Park, & Park, 2013).

For 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>, there are two small peaks at 200 and 350°C and a large peak at 500°C. Considering palladium particle size, spillover effect due to palladium is unlikely. Therefore, the peaks at lower temperatures cannot be attributed to reduction of the support. However, presence of stronger interaction of bulk PdO species with support are detected in literature where its reduction to Pd<sup>0</sup> is around 200-300° (Huang, Ye, Huang, Zhang, & Leung, 2013)(Ferrer et al., 2005). This could be the reason for the peaks at lower temperatures indicating presence of bulk palladium for 2.0% case. As a result, the peak at 500°C can be the surface oxygen removal of TiO<sub>2</sub> similar to bare TiO<sub>2</sub>.

#### 4.5.3 Monitoring of surface reduction with H<sub>2</sub> on 0.5% and 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>

Surface reduction was monitored in chemisorption manifold over 0.5% and 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> (Figure 4.23). For 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>, no adsorption was seen after 8 Torr where H<sub>2</sub> amount stayed around 400 μmol/g<sub>catalyst</sub>. Considering H<sub>2</sub>O formation reaction (H<sub>2</sub> + 1/2O<sub>2</sub> → H<sub>2</sub>O) where 1 mol of H<sub>2</sub>O leaves upon reaction of 1 mol of H<sub>2</sub>, observing no change in adsorption amount is reasonable. In addition, heat of adsorption values indicate surface reduction by forming water since the heat values start around 250 kJ/mol H<sub>2</sub> which is the heat of formation of water (Figure 4.24). The differential heat values decreases to lower values because of fluctuations around 400 μmol/g<sub>catalyst</sub> rather than the change in absolute heat values during H<sub>2</sub> adsorption over 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>. On the other hand, 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> adsorbed H<sub>2</sub> continually. Differential heat values stayed in between 160-80 kJ/mol H<sub>2</sub> during the continual H<sub>2</sub> uptake. One of the reason for this interesting behavior could be H<sub>2</sub> spillover from palladium to support in line with H<sub>2</sub>-TPR result.

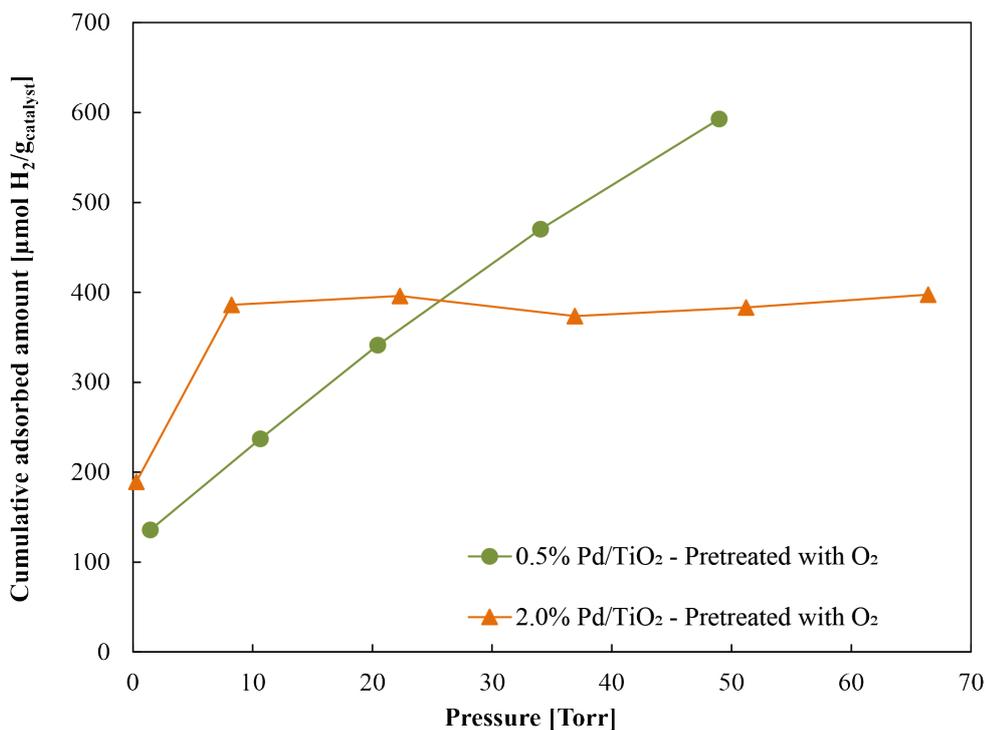


Figure 4.23: Monitoring of surface reduction via H<sub>2</sub> exposure of 0.5% and 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>

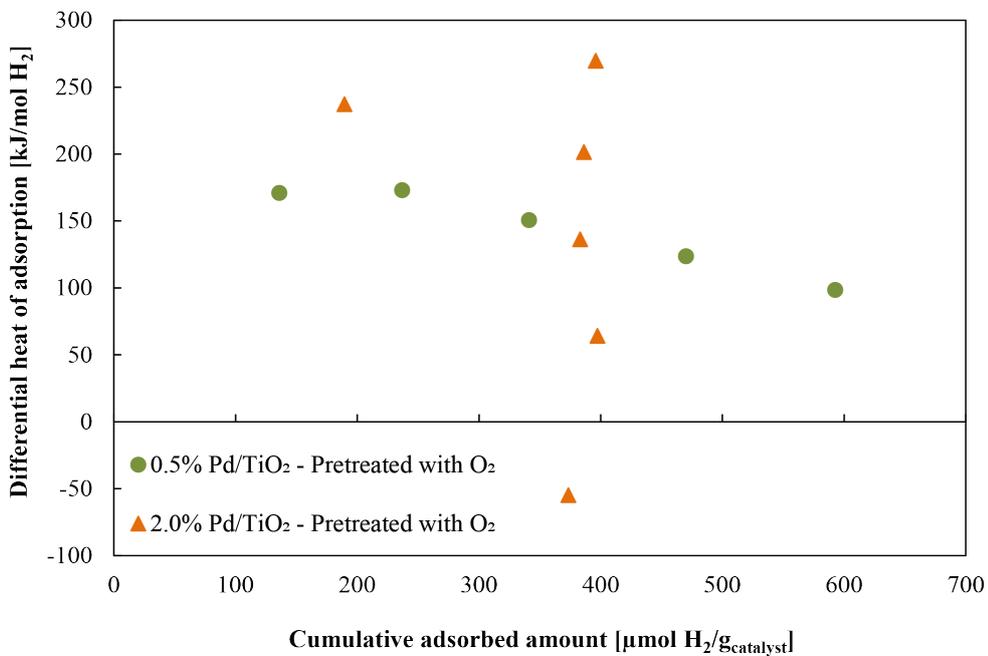


Figure 4.24: Differential heat of adsorption values with respect to cumulative adsorbed amounts during H<sub>2</sub> exposure of 0.5% and 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>

#### 4.5.4 H<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms on Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>

Further investigation on PdH formation was done by H<sub>2</sub> adsorption experiments on 0.5, 1.0 and 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>. As can be seen from Figure 4.25, hydrogen uptake is very high for 1.0% where  $\sim 600 \mu\text{mol}/\text{g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  H<sub>2</sub> adsorbed on surface at  $\sim 80$  Torr equilibrium pressure. 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> follows this with  $\sim 300 \mu\text{mol}/\text{g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  H<sub>2</sub> adsorbed on surface at  $\sim 80$  Torr equilibrium pressure. Finally, only  $\sim 100 \mu\text{mol}/\text{g}_{\text{catalyst}}$  H<sub>2</sub> adsorbed on surface at  $\sim 80$  Torr equilibrium pressure over 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>.

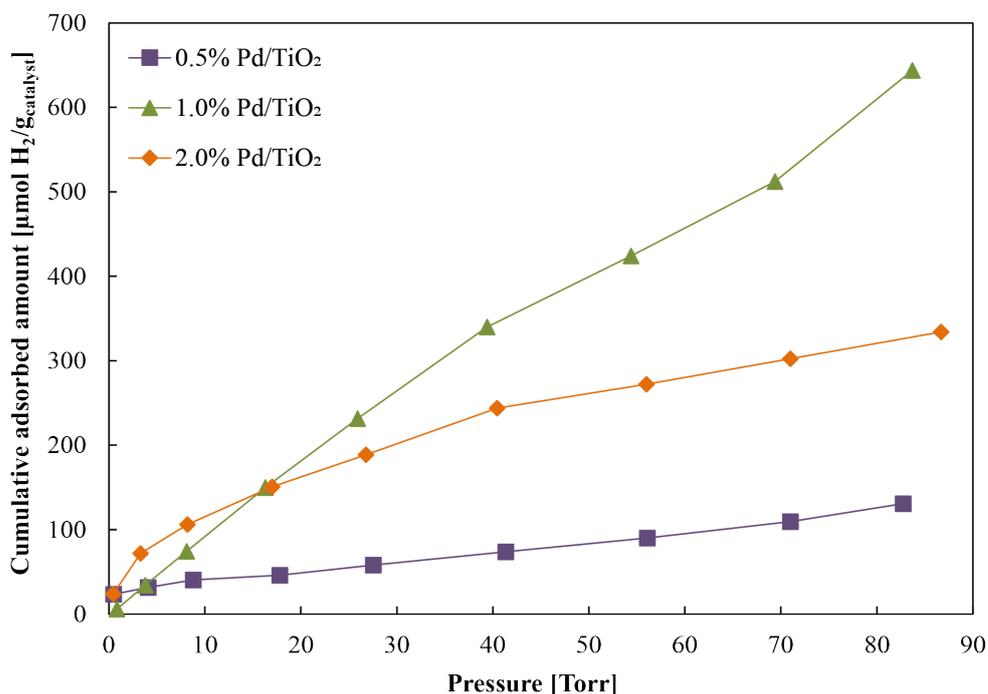


Figure 4.25: H<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms on reduced Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> in dark at 50°C

Adsorption isotherm for 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> seems like reaching a saturation point. Differential heat of adsorption values for 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> decreases to 40 kJ/mol H<sub>2</sub> at this saturation point (Figure 4.26). Interestingly, for 1.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>, the heat values stayed around 40 kJ/mol H<sub>2</sub> after this saturation point also indicating surface coverage. For 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>, differential heat of adsorption values drops to 40 kJ/mol H<sub>2</sub> again from 120 kJ/mol H<sub>2</sub>.  $\sim 40$  kJ/mol H<sub>2</sub> is the heat of 'absorption' value for palladium-hydrogen system (Jewell & Davis, 2006)(references therein). Hence, we might be observing H<sub>2</sub> diffusion into palladium bulk and absorption of H<sub>2</sub> in palladium interstitials consecutively.

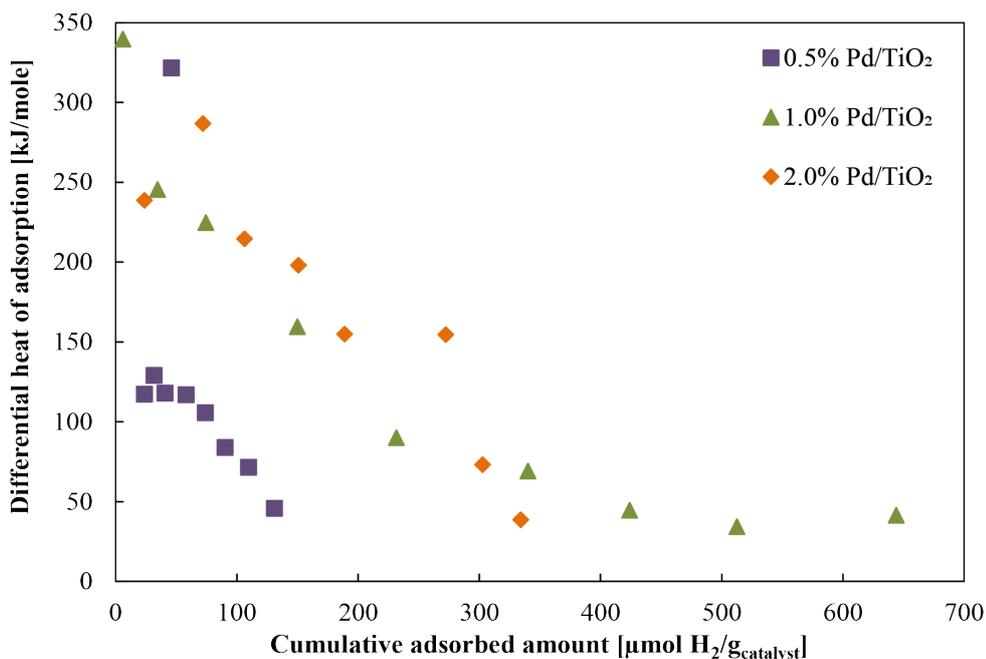


Figure 4.26: Differential heat of adsorption values with respect to cumulative adsorbed amounts of H<sub>2</sub> on reduced Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> in dark at 50°C

Smaller amount of adsorption of 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> is in line with previous conclusions from TEM and H<sub>2</sub>-TPR results that is relatively well dispersed palladium on support. SMSI effect is known for Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> which hinders H<sub>2</sub> adsorption; however, reduction temperature in this study is low even for low temperature induced SMSI effect (Sá, Bernardi, & Anderson, 2007). Hence, SMSI effect is unlikely. Additionally, presence of palladium bulk was already deduced for 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>, hence higher adsorption amount compared to 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> is reasonable. On the other hand, different conclusions have been made on 1.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>. Poor dispersion was seen in TEM but similar TPR profiles to 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> was observed also. Hence, 1.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> needs further characterization.

#### 4.5.5 CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms on Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>

Finally, CO<sub>2</sub> adsorbed on Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> surfaces which were pretreated with O<sub>2</sub> (or air) to study oxidized surface and H<sub>2</sub> to study reduced surface (Figure 4.27).

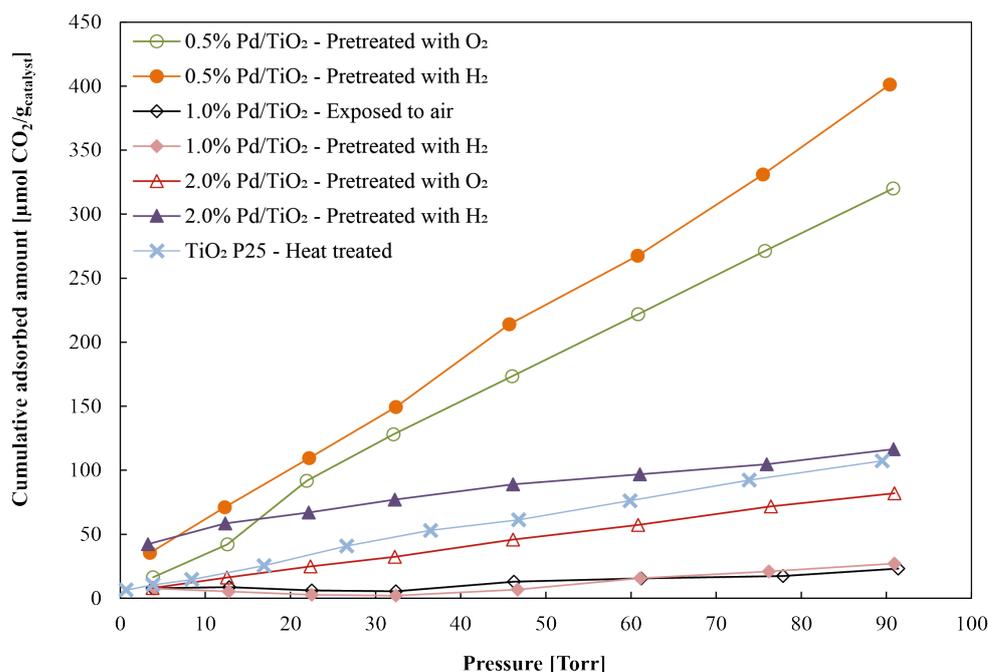


Figure 4.27: CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms on Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> and TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 (for comparison) obtained in dark at 50°C

~400 μmol/g<sub>catalyst</sub> CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption amount was observed for 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> at ~90 Torr equilibrium pressure. This value is 3 times higher than CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption amount on heat treated TiO<sub>2</sub>. H<sub>2</sub> exposure on palladium can facilitate reduction of surface through spillover and yield formation of oxygen vacancies. Since oxygen vacancies are the main adsorption sites for CO<sub>2</sub>, increase in their concentration results in higher adsorption amount of CO<sub>2</sub>. CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption amount on oxidized 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> surface is also much higher than CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on bare TiO<sub>2</sub>. Palladium itself offer adsorption sites for CO<sub>2</sub>. Moreover, palladium redispersion in the presence of O<sub>2</sub> is known (Newton, Belver-Coldeira, Martínez-Arias, & Fernández-García, 2007) and this can enhance CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on oxidized 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>.

For 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption amount is in the same range with bare TiO<sub>2</sub>. Presence of palladium bulk did not enhance CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption capacity. For 1.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>, very small amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> adsorbed on surface. Differential heat of adsorption values for 1.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> show very high initial heat of adsorption values indicating a different surface event (Figure 4.28). During the evacuation period before the CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption experiment, H<sub>2</sub> on surface may not be removed totally. Hence, interaction of CO<sub>2</sub> with H<sub>2</sub> is highly possible. However, considering arguable results for

1.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> mentioned previously, the situation should be handled carefully where further investigations are needed.

1.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> attracts attention with high H<sub>2</sub> storage capacity but the CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on its surface was very low. On the other hand, 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> stands out among others with relatively well dispersion and enhanced CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption capacity, however; CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption was weak on this surface also. Indeed, differential heat of adsorption values for all of the CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms over Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> intensify around 25 kJ/mol corresponding to heat of condensation of CO<sub>2</sub> (Figure 4.28). After ~90 μmol CO<sub>2</sub>/g<sub>catalyst</sub>, heat values stay around 5-10 kJ/mol CO<sub>2</sub> for 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> indicating weak adsorption. Overall, CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption was weak on any surface within this study where isotherms fitted to Freundlich isotherm indicating weak adsorption on heterogeneous surface (Appendix G). Both of 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> and 1.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> need further investigation.

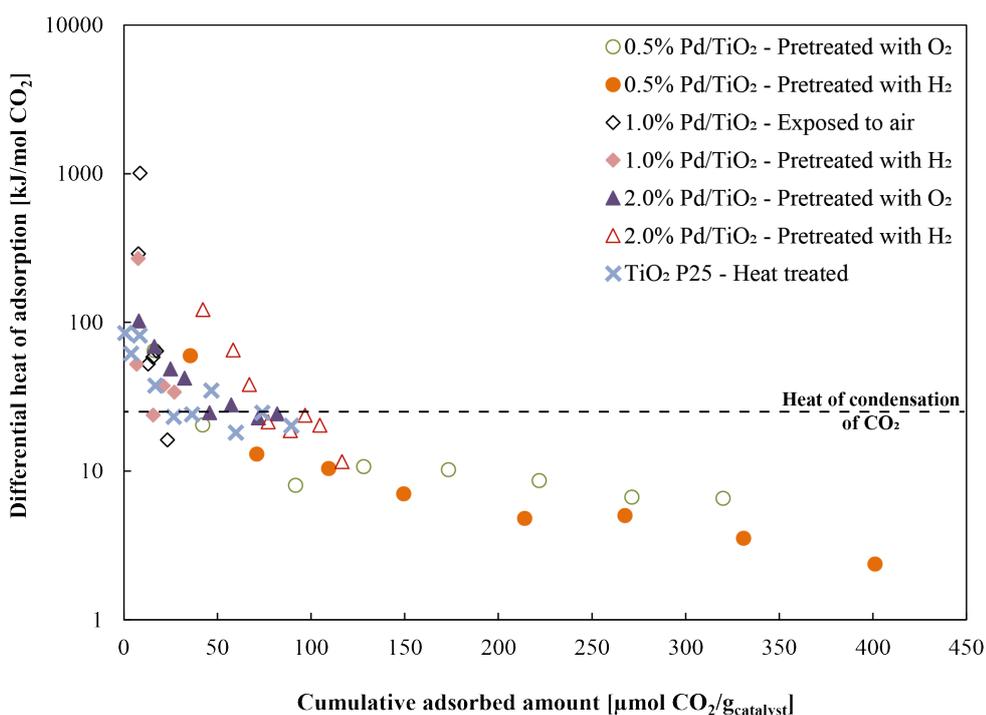


Figure 4.28: Differential heat of adsorption values in logarithmic scale with respect to cumulative adsorbed amount of CO<sub>2</sub> on Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> and TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 (for comparison) obtained in dark at 50°C



## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSIONS

To elucidate the bottleneck problems of artificial photosynthesis, CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption isotherms on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 with and without illumination were obtained. Indirect evidences were collected on local temperature rise on the surface. CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms showed desorption under UV illumination at room temperature. Assuming temperature increase only in the sample cell (160°C estimated), calculation of adsorbed amounts yielded reasonable isotherm similar to CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption in dark. H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption isotherms on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 under illumination showed Langmuir type of adsorption isotherm indicating presence of only strongly bound molecules in accordance with the adsorption isotherm obtained at 150°C, desorption isotherms and total-weak adsorption isotherms. Local temperature rise due to heat release upon charge recombination explains the desorption of weakly adsorbed H<sub>2</sub>O molecules. Direct measurement of heat release upon charge recombination was tried to be measured where set-up configurations and problems related with the measurements were explained. Additionally, weak adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> experimentally observed and fitted to Freundlich isotherm. Direct relation with CO<sub>2</sub> adsorbed amount on TiO<sub>2</sub> and oxygen vacancy concentration is suspected. Strong adsorption of H<sub>2</sub>O on heterogeneous surface was shown through experimental data fitting to Temkin isotherm.

Presence of bulk palladium was shown for 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> through TEM and H<sub>2</sub>-TPR analysis and H<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherm. Consecutively, well dispersion of palladium and spillover effect was shown for 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>. 1.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> showed high H<sub>2</sub> storage capacity. However, it showed very low CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption capacity due to issues related with surface cleanliness possibly. Metal-hydrogen systems are promising for developing strategies for enhanced reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> with H<sub>2</sub>.



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## APPENDIX A

### PROPERTIES OF TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 AND $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

Table A.1: TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 (Aeroxide®) product information (Evonik, 2019)

Properties	Unit	Value
Specific surface area (BET)	m <sup>2</sup> /g	35-65
Tamped density	g/L	100-180
Titanium dioxide	%	≥99.50
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> content	%	≤0.300
SiO <sub>2</sub> content	%	≤0.200
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> content	%	≤0.010
HCl content	%	≤0.300
Sieve residue	%	≤0.050

BET analysis is done for TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 and  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> with Micromeritics TriStar II surface area and porosity equipment by using N<sub>2</sub>. The samples degassed for 12h at ~110-115°C.

Table A.2: BET analysis of TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 (Aeroxide®)

Properties	Unit	Value
Specific surface area	m <sup>2</sup> /g	49.03
Total pore volume (single point adsorption)	cm <sup>3</sup> /g	0.13
Average pore size	nm	10.80

Table A.3: BET analysis of  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (AlsaAesar)

Properties	Unit	Value
Specific surface area	m <sup>2</sup> /g	66.50
Total pore volume (single point adsorption)	cm <sup>3</sup> /g	0.19
Average pore size	nm	11.56



## APPENDIX B

### SAMPLE CALCULATION FOR PALLADIUM AMOUNT IN TiO<sub>2</sub>

The palladium solution contains ~10% (w/w) palladium

$$m_{TiO_2} = 2.0015 \text{ g} \quad (\text{B.1a})$$

$$Pd(NO_3)_2 \cdot xH_2O = 0.4 \text{ g} \quad (\text{B.1b})$$

$$0.4 \text{ g}(Pd(NO_3)_2 \cdot xH_2O) \cdot 0.01 \frac{Pd}{Pd(NO_3)_2 \cdot xH_2O} = 0.04 \text{ g Pd} \quad (\text{B.1c})$$

$$\text{Total catalyst weight} = 2.0015 + 0.04 = 2.0415 \text{ g} \quad (\text{B.1d})$$

$$Pd \% = \frac{100 \cdot 0.04 \text{ g}}{2.0415 \text{ g}} = 2.0 \% \quad (\text{B.1e})$$



## APPENDIX C

### EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE FOR A CHEMISORPTION EXPERIMENT

$A_{in}$ ,  $A_{out}$  and  $A_{cell}$  are used to denote gas inlet valve, gas outlet valve and sample cell valve.  $V_1$ ,  $V_2$  and  $V_{cell}$  are used to denote volume of manifold when all the valves are closed, volume of the manifold when only sample valve is open and difference between first two volume corresponds to volume of sample cell.

1. All the valves are closed.
2. Weigh your catalyst and put it into sample cell.
3. Connect sample cell to manifold using metal-glass connection parts.
4. Evacuate molecules in  $V_1$  by opening  $A_{out}$ .
5. Evacuate sample cell also by opening  $A_{cell}$ .
6. Closed  $A_{cell}$  and then  $A_{out}$  when the pressure is read as zero.
7. Open desired gas tube and take gas into the system until  $A_{in}$  point.

For a dead volume measurement;

8. Use a gas that does not interact with the sample.
9. Open  $A_{in}$  to take desired amount of gas into system.
10. Close  $A_{in}$  and take note of the pressure as  $P_1$ .
11. Open  $A_{cell}$  and wait for equilibrium to be established.
12. When equilibrium established (pressure does not change anymore), take note of the pressure as  $P_2$ .

13. Close  $A_{\text{sample}}$  and take note of the pressure as  $P_3$ .

For an adsorption measurement;

14. Continue from Step 4 to Step 13 but use a gas that is wanted to be adsorbed on surface.

15. Open  $A_{\text{in}}$  to take more gas into the system.

16. Continue with the Step 9 until the pressure that is desired.

17. After finishing the experiment, evacuate the manifold by opening  $A_{\text{out}}$ .

18. Finally, open  $A_{\text{cell}}$  to evacuate the adsorbed molecules.

For removal of the sample;

19. Close  $A_{\text{cell}}$  and  $A_{\text{out}}$ .

20. Take an inert gas or air to system from  $A_{\text{in}}$ .

21. Send the gas to sample cell by opening  $A_{\text{cell}}$ .

22. Close all the valves.

23. Take the sample cell by loosening metal gas connection.

For a desorption procedure;

24. Instead of conducting Step 18, close  $A_{\text{out}}$  and take note of the pressure (evacuated  $V_1$ ) as  $P_1$  that is zero.

25. Open  $A_{\text{cell}}$  and wait for equilibrium to be established. Take note of the pressure as  $P_2$ .

26. Close  $A_{\text{cell}}$  and take note of the pressure as  $P_3$ .

27. Open  $A_{\text{out}}$  to evacuate  $V_1$ .

28. Continue with Step 24 until you reach zero pressure as  $P_2$ .

## APPENDIX D

### EXPERIMENTAL PARAMETERS

- Experiments on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25

In adsorption experiments with water, distilled water in a glass tube is connected to manifold. TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 was used as the catalyst. Experimental conditions for H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 are summarized in TableD.1.

In adsorption experiments with CO<sub>2</sub>, pressurized CO<sub>2</sub> gas tube connected to manifold was used. Experimental conditions for CO<sub>2</sub> on TiO<sub>2</sub> are summarized in TableD.2.

O<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms were obtained on TiO<sub>2</sub> at with the same manner where experimental conditions are tabulated in TableD.3.

- Experiments on Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>

CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub> adsorbed on Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> with the conditions listed in TableD.4. Also the sequence of the experiments is given in TableD.6.

- Experiments on  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

CO<sub>2</sub> adsorbed on commercial  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> with the conditions listed in TableD.7.

Table D.1: Experimental conditions during H<sub>2</sub>O experiments on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25

	Dark experiments	Illuminated experiments
Set-up	Chemisorption set-up and/or microlarimeter	Chemisorption set-up and light source
Cell temperature during the experiment	Room temperature, 50°C, 100°C, 150°C	Room temperature
Upper limit of pressure in the manifold	up to 20-25 Torr	up to 20-25 Torr
Dead volume measurement gas	He or air	He or air
Pre-treatment	None O <sub>2</sub> treated (under UV light)	None O <sub>2</sub> treated (under UV light)

Table D.2: Experimental conditions during CO<sub>2</sub> experiments on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25

	Dark experiments	Illuminated experiments
Set-up	Chemisorption set-up and/or microlarimeter	Chemisorption set-up and light source
Cell temperature during the experiment	Room temperature or 50°C	Room temperature
Upper limit of pressure in the manifold	usually up to 100 Torr	usually up to 100 Torr
Dead volume measurement gas	He or air	He or air
Pre-treatment	None O <sub>2</sub> treated (under UV light) Heat treated H <sub>2</sub> treated	None O <sub>2</sub> treated (uner UV light) Heat treated H <sub>2</sub> treated

Table D.3: Experimental conditions during O<sub>2</sub> experiments on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25

	Dark experiments	Illuminated experiments
Set-up	Chemisorption set-up and/or microlarimeter	Chemisorption set-up and light source (UV or visible)
Cell temperature during the experiment	Room temperature or 50°C	Room temperature
Upper limit of pressure in the manifold	up to 100 Torr	up to 100 Torr
Dead volume measurement gas	He	He
Pre-treatment	None	None

Table D.4: Experimental conditions during CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub> experiments on Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>

Set-up	Dark experiments with CO <sub>2</sub>	Dark experiments with H <sub>2</sub>
	Chemisorption set-up and microlarimeter	Chemisorption set-up and microlarimeter
Cell temperature during the experiment	50°C	50°C
Upper limit of pressure in the manifold	up to 100 Torr	up to 100 Torr
Dead volume measurement gas	He or air	He or Air
Pre-treatment	O <sub>2</sub> (or air) treated H <sub>2</sub> treated	O <sub>2</sub> treated H <sub>2</sub> treated

Table D.5: The sequence of H<sub>2</sub> adsorption experiments on Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> samples

Pd/TiO <sub>2</sub>	Step 1	Step 2
0.5%	Reduction with H <sub>2</sub> at 150°C (4 dose of 100 Torr H <sub>2</sub> in 2h)	H <sub>2</sub> adsorbed on sample at 50°C
1.0%	Reduction with H <sub>2</sub> at 150°C (1 dose of 200 Torr and 2 dose of 100 Torr H <sub>2</sub> in 2h)	H <sub>2</sub> adsorbed on sample at 50°C
2.0%	Reduction with H <sub>2</sub> at 150°C (4 dose of 100 Torr H <sub>2</sub> in 2h)	H <sub>2</sub> adsorbed on sample at 50°C

Table D.6: The sequence of CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption experiments on Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> samples

Pd/TiO <sub>2</sub>	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4
0.5%	Sample exposed to O <sub>2</sub> at 250°C	CO <sub>2</sub> adsorbed on sample at 50°C	H <sub>2</sub> adsorbed on sample at 50°C	CO <sub>2</sub> adsorbed on sample at 50°C
1.0%	Sample exposed to H <sub>2</sub> twice at 50°C	CO <sub>2</sub> adsorbed on sample at 50°C	Sample exposed to H <sub>2</sub> at 50° first then to air	CO <sub>2</sub> adsorbed on sample at 50°C
2.0%	Sample exposed to O <sub>2</sub> at 250°C	CO <sub>2</sub> adsorbed on sample at 50°C	H <sub>2</sub> adsorbed on sample at 50°C	CO <sub>2</sub> adsorbed on sample at 50°C

Table D.7: Experiment conditions during CO<sub>2</sub> experiments on  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

Set-up	Dark experiments
	Chemisorption set-up
Cell temperature during the experiment	Room temperature
Upper limit of pressure in the manifold	up to 100 Torr
Dead volume measurement gas	Air
Pre-treatment	None



## APPENDIX E

### THE EFFECT OF ILLUMINATION ON AMBIENT TEMPERATURE NEAR THE CATALYST SURFACE

The effect of illumination on ambient temperature near the catalyst surface was investigated since heating of illuminated area (glass tube, catalyst and adsorbate) due to light source is possible in a photocatalytic study. Hence, temperature increase near the surface was recorded during illumination. Temperature increased up to 40°C at most (Figure E.1).

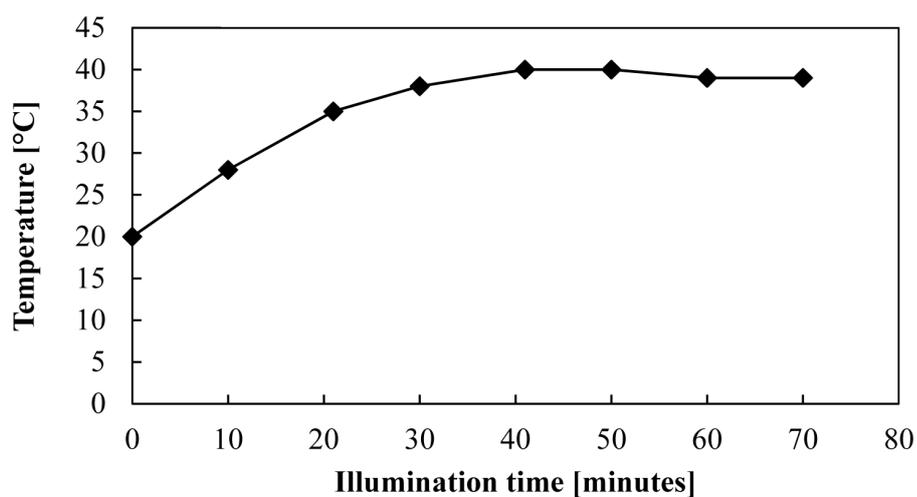


Figure E.1: Temperature profile of ambient temperature near the surface over time during illumination



## APPENDIX F

### CALCULATION FOR ADJUSTMENT OF CELL TEMPERATURE

Amount of gas in the manifold is calculated as follows assuming all the gas in the system is at cell temperature.

$$N_1 = \frac{P_1 \cdot V_1}{R \cdot T_{cell}} \quad (\text{F.1a})$$

$$N_2 = \frac{P_2 \cdot V_2}{R \cdot T_{cell}} \quad (\text{F.1b})$$

$$N_{cell} = \frac{P_3 \cdot V_3}{R \cdot T_{cell}} \quad (\text{F.1c})$$

Since  $V_2$  is equal to summation of  $V_1$  and  $V_{cell}$ .  $N_2$  term can be divided into two terms and cell temperature can be changed independent of temperature of incoming gas.

$$N_1 = \frac{P_1 \cdot V_1}{R \cdot T_{cell}} \quad (\text{F.2a})$$

$$N_2 = \frac{P_1 \cdot V_1}{R \cdot T_{cell}} + \frac{P_3 \cdot V_3}{R \cdot T_{cell,new}} \quad (\text{F.2b})$$

$$N_{cell} = \frac{P_3 \cdot V_3}{R \cdot T_{cell,new}} \quad (\text{F.2c})$$



## APPENDIX G

### FREUNDLICH ISOTHERM PARAMETERS FOR CARBON DIOXIDE ADSORPTION ISOTHERMS

CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms were fit to Freundlich isotherm in agreement with the weak adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> on a heterogeneous surface. Figure G.1 show linearized form for Freundlich isotherm. All the lines are pretty much in the same range in accordance with weak adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> on any surface within this study again.

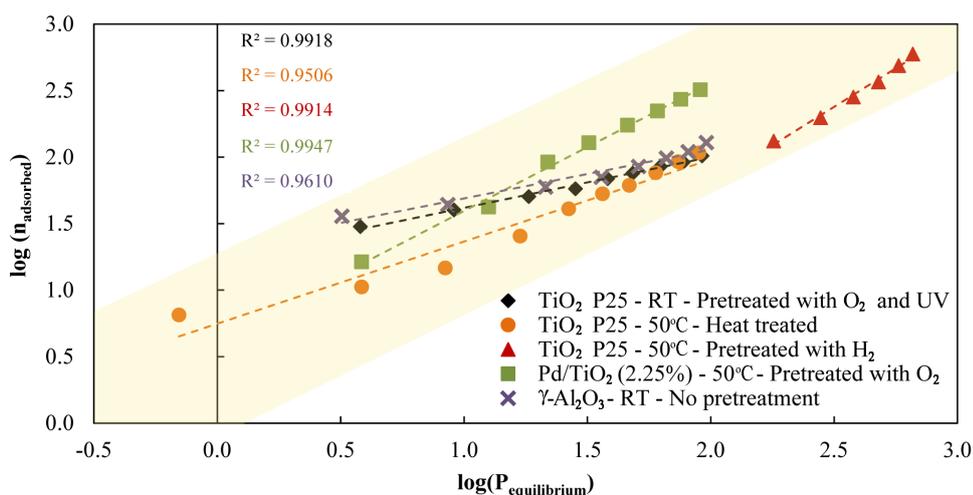


Figure G.1: Linearized form of Freundlich isotherm fitted to experimental data in this study

Table G.1 was formed according linearized form of Freundlich isotherm (Equation G.1a and Equation G.1b).

$$n_{ads} = K_F \cdot P_{eqb}^{1/n_F} \quad (G.1a)$$

$$\log(n_{ads}) = \log(K_F) + (1/n_F) \cdot \log(P_{eqb}) \quad (G.1b)$$

Table G.1: Freundlich isotherm parameters for CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25, Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> and  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

Catalyst	n <sub>F</sub>	K <sub>F</sub> [ $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{g}_{\text{catalyst}}^{-1}\cdot\text{Torr}^{-1/n_F}$ ]
TiO <sub>2</sub> P25 - RT - Pretreated with O <sub>2</sub> and UV	2.61	17.21
TiO <sub>2</sub> P25 - 50°C - Heat treated	1.62	5.59
TiO <sub>2</sub> P25 - 50°C - Pretreated with H <sub>2</sub>	0.86	0.30
Pd/TiO <sub>2</sub> (2.25%) - 50°C - Pretreated with O <sub>2</sub>	1.04	4.31
$\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> - RT - No pretreatment	2.72	20.99

## APPENDIX H

### TEMKIN ISOTHERM PARAMETERS FOR WATER ADSORPTION ISOTHERMS

Figure H.1 was plotted according linearized form of Temkin isotherm (Equation H.1a and Equation H.1b). Temkin isotherm is a two parameter isotherm where its parameters given in Table H.1.

$$n_{ads} = \frac{R \cdot T}{b_T} \cdot \ln(K_T \cdot P_{eqb}) \quad (\text{H.1a})$$

$$n_{ads} = \frac{R \cdot T}{b_T} \cdot \ln(K_T) + \frac{R \cdot T}{b_T} \cdot \ln(P_{eqb}) \quad (\text{H.1b})$$

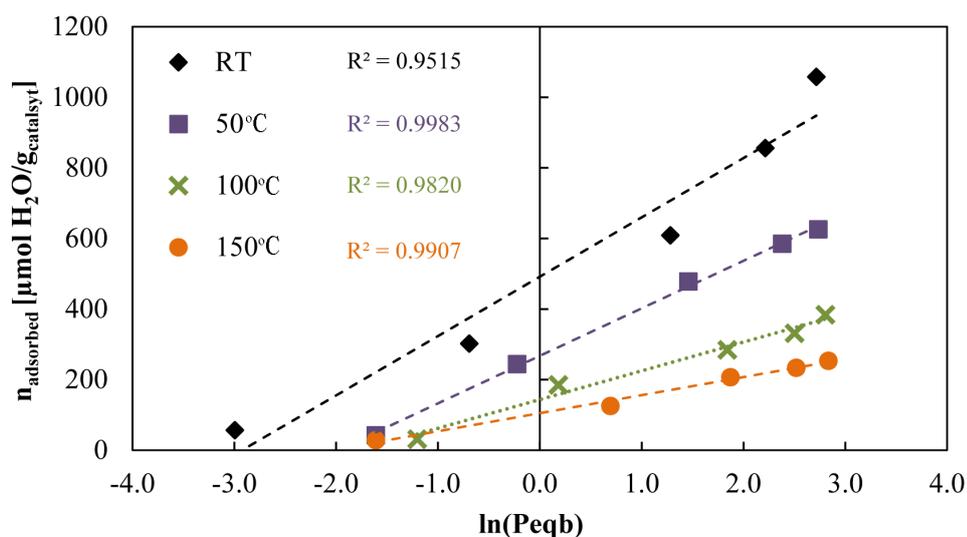


Figure H.1: Temkin isotherm parameters for H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption isotherms on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25

Table H.1: Temkin isotherm parameters for H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25

Temperature	$b_T$ [J·g <sub>catalyst</sub> ·μmol <sup>-2</sup> ]	$K_T$ [Torr <sup>-1</sup> ]
RT	20.92	18.59
50°C	19.95	7.29
100°C	38.09	5.82
150°C	68.72	7.76

## APPENDIX I

### O<sub>2</sub> ADSORPTION ISOTHERMS IN DARK AND UNDER ILLUMINATION

O<sub>2</sub> adsorbed on fresh TiO<sub>2</sub> surface at room temperature in dark, under visible light illumination (room light) and under UV illumination. No difference was observed between the three isotherms (Figure I.1). However, before the O<sub>2</sub> adsorption on TiO<sub>2</sub> under illumination, the surface was exposed UV light during the evacuation period. Duration of illumination may result in surface modification via defect formation.

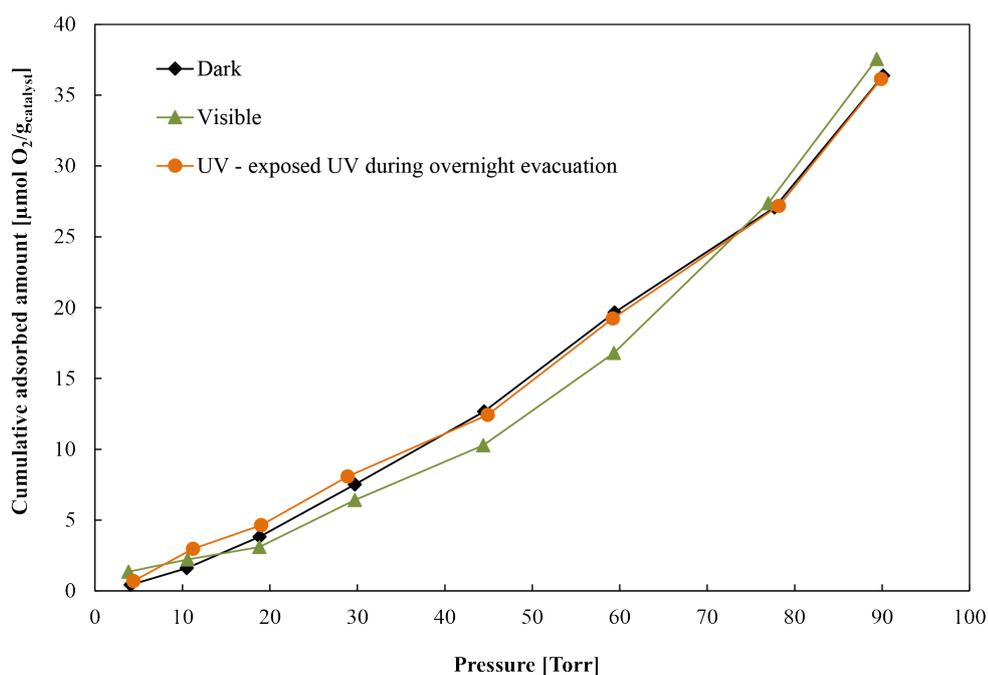


Figure I.1: O<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 obtained at room temperature in dark, under room light illumination and UV illumination

Then, O<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms were repeated under visible light at room temperature and in dark at 50°C (Figure I.2). Although, adsorption behavior seems similar, the results do not coincide exactly. Desorption observed in the beginning can be related with impurities on the surface.

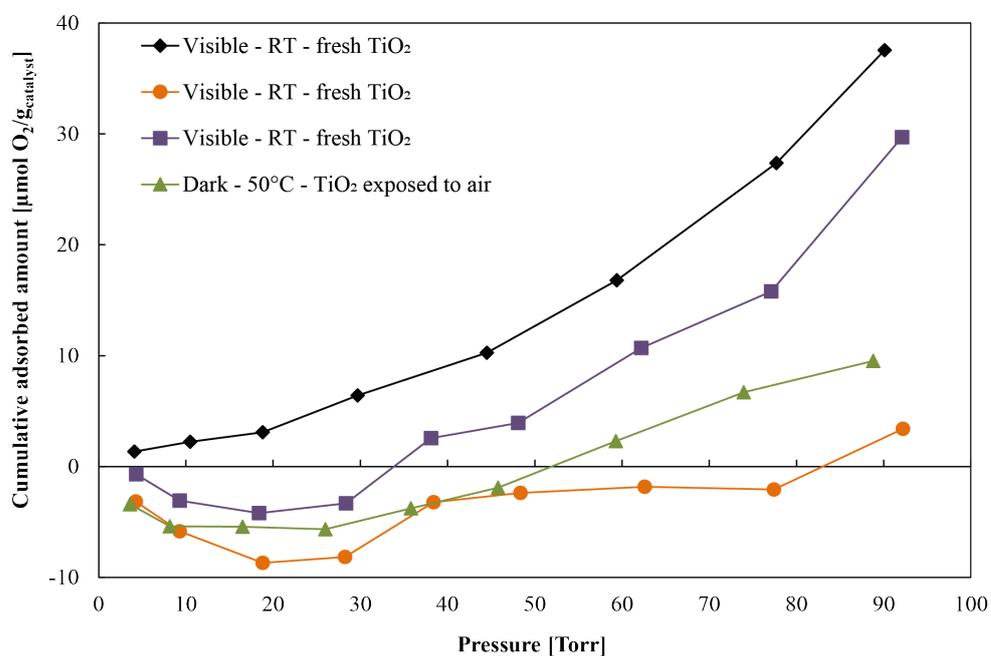


Figure I.2: O<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 obtained at room temperature and 50°C in dark and under room light illumination

## APPENDIX J

### MICROCALORIMETRY DATA

Table J.1: Incremental adsorbed amounts and corresponding absolute heat values for CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on fresh TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 in Figure 4.2

Data number	Incremental N <sub>adsorbed</sub> /g <sub>sample</sub> [mol/g <sub>sample</sub> ]	Absolute heat values [J/g <sub>sample</sub> ]
1	6.50E-06	0.7367
2	1.71E-07	0.3138
3	2.33E-07	0.1499
4	1.74E-06	0.1563
5	3.07E-06	0.1281
6	5.68E-06	0.037
7	5.71E-06	0.0609
8	4.55E-06	0.0683
9	2.06E-06	0.0603
10	8.52E-06	0.0543

Table J.2: Incremental adsorbed amounts and corresponding absolute heat values for CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 after first heat treatment in Figure 4.2

Data number	Incremental N <sub>adsorbed</sub> /g <sub>sample</sub> [mol/g <sub>sample</sub> ]	Absolute heat values [J/g <sub>sample</sub> ]
1	6.50E-06	0.5511
2	4.04E-06	0.2492
3	4.11E-06	0.3362
4	1.08E-05	0.4054
5	1.54E-05	0.3571
6	1.21E-05	0.2925
7	8.28E-06	0.289
8	1.49E-05	0.2699
9	1.62E-05	0.4004
10	1.50E-05	0.3032

Table J.3: Incremental adsorbed amounts and corresponding absolute heat values for CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 after second heat treatment in Figure 4.2

Data number	Incremental N <sub>adsorbed</sub> /g <sub>sample</sub> [mol/g <sub>sample</sub> ]	Absolute heat values [J/g <sub>sample</sub> ]
1	6.50E-06	0.4525
2	4.05E-06	0.3634
3	6.69E-06	0.3043
4	6.26E-06	0.4434
5	8.25E-06	0.405
6	1.09E-05	0.3539
7	1.22E-05	0.3300
8	1.36E-05	0.3463
9	1.88E-05	0.3342
10	9.82E-06	0.2875

Table J.4: Incremental adsorbed amounts and corresponding absolute heat values for CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on H<sub>2</sub> pretreated TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 in Figure 4.4

Data number	Incremental N <sub>adsorbed</sub> /g <sub>sample</sub> [mol/g <sub>sample</sub> ]	Absolute heat values [J/g <sub>sample</sub> ]
1	-8.42E-06	0.6502
2	-1.84E-07	0.1584
3	5.41E-07	0.1900
4	5.89E-06	0.2011
5	3.74E-06	0.1833
6	7.22E-06	0.1803
7	1.01E-05	0.1368
8	1.46E-05	0.163 0
9	1.46E-05	0.1598
10	8.37E-05	0.4625
11	6.58E-05	0.2516
12	8.47E-05	0.4509
13	8.47E-05	0.1836
14	1.20E-04	0.1294
15	1.09E-04	0.0676

Table J.5: Incremental adsorbed amounts and corresponding absolute heat values for H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 at 50°C in Figure 4.12

Data number	Incremental N <sub>adsorbed</sub> /g <sub>sample</sub> [mol/g <sub>sample</sub> ]	Absolute heat values [J/g <sub>sample</sub> ]
1	1.34E-04	11.4702
2	1.58E-04	9.4926
3	1.32E-04	6.0903
4	1.23E-04	4.6828
5	1.52E-04	3.2559
6	3.48E-06	4.6199
7	2.39E-04	1.0453

Table J.6: Incremental adsorbed amounts and corresponding absolute heat values for H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 at 100°C in Figure 4.12

Data number	Incremental N <sub>adsorbed</sub> /g <sub>sample</sub> [mol/g <sub>sample</sub> ]	Absolute heat values [J/g <sub>sample</sub> ]
1	3.12E-05	5.6770
2	1.54E-04	15.0875
3	9.91E-05	5.0031
4	4.72E-05	3.3260
5	5.24E-05	0.9236

Table J.7: Incremental adsorbed amounts and corresponding absolute heat values for H<sub>2</sub>O adsorption on TiO<sub>2</sub> P25 at 150°C in Figure 4.12

Data number	Incremental N <sub>adsorbed</sub> /g <sub>sample</sub> [mol/g <sub>sample</sub> ]	Absolute heat values [J/g <sub>sample</sub> ]
1	2.85E-05	4.5374
2	9.66E-05	10.4411
3	8.18E-05	5.8052
4	2.64E-05	1.8026
5	2.00E-05	0.5871

Table J.8: Incremental adsorbed amounts and corresponding absolute heat values for H<sub>2</sub> adsorption on 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> at 50°C for monitoring reduction in Figure 4.24

Data number	Incremental N <sub>adsorbed</sub> /g <sub>sample</sub> [mol/g <sub>sample</sub> ]	Absolute heat values [J/g <sub>sample</sub> ]
1	1.358E-04	23.2260
2	1.011E-04	17.4877
3	1.042E-04	15.6819
4	1.290E-04	15.9500
5	1.225E-04	12.0604

Table J.9: Incremental adsorbed amounts and corresponding absolute heat values for H<sub>2</sub> adsorption on 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> at 50°C for monitoring reduction in Figure 4.24

Data number	Incremental N <sub>adsorbed</sub> /g <sub>sample</sub> [mol/g <sub>sample</sub> ]	Absolute heat values [J/g <sub>sample</sub> ]
1	1.894E-04	44.9478
2	1.967E-04	39.6401
3	9.775E-06	2.6366
4	-2.247E-05	1.2302
5	9.661E-06	1.3169
6	1.422E-05	0.9133

Table J.10: Incremental adsorbed amounts and corresponding absolute heat values for H<sub>2</sub> adsorption on H<sub>2</sub> pretreated 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> at 50°C in Figure 4.26

Data number	Incremental N <sub>adsorbed</sub> /g <sub>sample</sub> [mol/g <sub>sample</sub> ]	Absolute heat values [J/g <sub>sample</sub> ]
1	2.37E-05	2.7869
2	7.96E-06	1.0273
3	8.90E-06	1.0488
4	5.42E-06	1.7417
5	1.21E-05	1.4128
6	1.59E-05	1.6770
7	1.63E-05	1.3694
8	1.94E-05	1.3861
9	2.12E-05	0.9708

Table J.11: Incremental adsorbed amounts and corresponding absolute heat values for H<sub>2</sub> adsorption on H<sub>2</sub> pretreated 1.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> at 50°C in Figure 4.26

Data number	Incremental N <sub>adsorbed</sub> /g <sub>sample</sub> [mol/g <sub>sample</sub> ]	Absolute heat values [J/g <sub>sample</sub> ]
1	5.89E-06	1.9991
2	2.86E-05	7.0193
3	3.99E-05	8.9608
4	7.54E-05	12.0396
5	8.18E-05	7.3646
6	1.08E-04	7.5132
7	8.40E-05	3.7465
8	8.84E-05	3.0418
9	1.31E-04	5.4504

Table J.12: Incremental adsorbed amounts and corresponding absolute heat values for H<sub>2</sub> adsorption on H<sub>2</sub> pretreated 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> at 50°C in Figure 4.26

Data number	Incremental N <sub>adsorbed</sub> /g <sub>sample</sub> [mol/g <sub>sample</sub> ]	Absolute heat values [J/g <sub>sample</sub> ]
1	2.38E-05	5.6702
2	4.81E-05	13.8080
3	3.44E-05	7.3879
4	4.45E-05	8.8184
5	3.79E-05	5.8743
6	5.52E-05	-
7	2.82E-05	4.3612
8	3.04E-05	2.2269
9	3.15E-05	1.2210

Table J.13: Incremental adsorbed amounts and corresponding absolute heat values for CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on O<sub>2</sub> pretreated 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> at 50°C in Figure 4.28

Data number	Incremental N <sub>adsorbed</sub> /g <sub>sample</sub> [mol/g <sub>sample</sub> ]	Absolute heat values [J/g <sub>sample</sub> ]
1	1.630E-05	1.0568
2	2.581E-05	0.5267
3	4.957E-05	0.3988
4	3.634E-05	0.3898
5	4.537E-05	0.4643
6	4.837E-05	0.4177
7	4.955E-05	0.3319
8	4.871E-05	0.3195

Table J.14: Incremental adsorbed amounts and corresponding absolute heat values for CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on H<sub>2</sub> pretreated 0.5% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> at 50°C in Figure 4.28

Data number	Incremental N <sub>adsorbed</sub> /g <sub>sample</sub> [mol/g <sub>sample</sub> ]	Absolute heat values [J/g <sub>sample</sub> ]
1	3.546E-05	2.1160
2	3.552E-05	0.4623
3	3.844E-05	0.4005
4	3.998E-05	0.2813
5	6.461E-05	0.3115
6	5.353E-05	0.2688
7	6.340E-05	0.2240
8	7.025E-05	0.1670

Table J.15: Incremental adsorbed amounts and corresponding absolute heat values for CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on 1.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> (exposed to air) at 50°C in Figure 4.28

Data number	Incremental N <sub>adsorbed</sub> /g <sub>sample</sub> [mol/g <sub>sample</sub> ]	Absolute heat values [J/g <sub>sample</sub> ]
1	7.782E-06	2.2508
2	8.521E-07	0.8608
3	-2.528E-06	0.5682
4	-6.533E-07	0.3369
5	7.541E-06	0.3965
6	2.471E-06	0.1445
7	1.974E-06	0.1271
8	5.780E-06	0.0938

Table J.16: Incremental adsorbed amounts and corresponding absolute heat values for CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on H<sub>2</sub> pretreated 1.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> at 50°C in Figure 4.28

Data number	Incremental N <sub>adsorbed</sub> /g <sub>sample</sub> [mol/g <sub>sample</sub> ]	Absolute heat values [J/g <sub>sample</sub> ]
1	7.669E-06	2.0615
2	-2.485E-06	0.5283
3	-2.528E-06	0.2670
4	-6.533E-07	0.2088
5	4.800E-06	0.2518
6	8.776E-06	0.2094
7	5.396E-06	0.2023
8	6.036E-06	0.2050

Table J.17: Incremental adsorbed amounts and corresponding absolute heat values for CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on O<sub>2</sub> pretreated 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> at 50°C in Figure 4.28

Data number	Incremental N <sub>adsorbed</sub> /g <sub>sample</sub> [mol/g <sub>sample</sub> ]	Absolute heat values [J/g <sub>sample</sub> ]
1	7.983E-06	0.8180
2	8.246E-06	0.5695
3	8.636E-06	0.4200
4	7.566E-06	0.3190
5	1.341E-05	0.3316
6	1.146E-05	0.3197
7	1.453E-05	0.3310
8	1.008E-05	0.2453

Table J.18: Incremental adsorbed amounts and corresponding absolute heat values for CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on H<sub>2</sub> pretreated 2.0% Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub> at 50°C in Figure 4.28

Data number	Incremental N <sub>adsorbed</sub> /g <sub>sample</sub> [mol/g <sub>sample</sub> ]	Absolute heat values [J/g <sub>sample</sub> ]
1	4.226E-05	5.1549
2	1.613E-05	1.0514
3	8.636E-06	0.3301
4	1.002E-05	0.2147
5	1.192E-05	0.2233
6	7.829E-06	0.1858
7	7.829E-06	0.1597
8	1.188E-05	0.1376