# **External electric field effect on hydrogen adsorption and storage on a Palladium-functionalized C<sup>20</sup> bowl: A computational investigation**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

#### **ARTICLE INFO**

*Article History: Received 2022-09-26 Accepted 2024-06-12*

*Published 2023-05-05*

#### *Keywords:*

*C<sup>20</sup> bowl, Hydrogen storage, Adsorption, External Electric Field (EEF).* This study investigated the adsorption of hydrogen molecule on a palladium-functionalized  $C_{20}$  bowl in the absence and presence of an external electric field (EEF) along the z-axis using the B3LYP-D3 model. The EEF effect on the stability of the different isomers of hydrogen adsorption was investigated. In the absence and presence of EEF, the **I**isomer was a more stable isomer compared to the **II**-isomer. In these systems, the corrected adsorption energy amounts are estimated. Alterations in the dipole moment as well as structural factors were displayed in the presence and absence of EEF. The effects of EEF strength on electronic and structural factors were studied. Also, the H-H stretching wavenumber ( $v_{H-H}$ ) of the studied systems was calculated. Larger  $v_{H-H}$ values were found in the presence of EEF than in the absence of EEF. Linear correlations between adsorption energy, relative energy, dipole moment, and  $v_{H-H}$  values with EEF strength were provided.

#### **How to cite this article**

*Shayanmehr S., Ghiasi R., Mirza B., Mohtat B., External electric field effect on hydrogen adsorption and storage on a Palladium-functionalized C20 bowl: A computational investigation. J. Nanoanalysis., 10 (2): 505-514, Spring 2023.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Hydrogen is the most common and simple chemical element, consisting of only one electron and one proton. Hydrogen is produced by renewable raw materials, particularly natural gas, as the most costeffective candidate for hydrogen supply [1]. It

demonstrates high sustainability, renewability, and energy efficiency. It is a clean energy carrier, and hydrogen combustion in the fuel cell generates power, heat or electricity with no pollution of the environment or effect on the climate [2]. So, hydrogen can be considered an energy carrier for transportation systems

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like aircraft and vehicles.

In normal circumstances, hydrogen is a highly volatile gas that should be stored in fuel-cells for practical uses. It can be stored as either a liquid (cryogenic temperature) or a gas (by high-pressure, 5000–10000 psi tank pressure) on board a vehicle [3]. Therefore, adequate transportation and storage techniques are essential to applying hydrogen as a fuel in fuel-cell systems. Its safety and storage challenges on fuel cell vehicles (as a lightweight, small, and immune container) are important problems for hydrogen fuel cars [4, 5]. Various computational investigations have been reported about hydrogen storage in different systems [6-14]. In a computational investigation, hydrogen storage and adsorption on Palladium-functionalized graphene as well as hydrogen the boron nitride analogue were investigated [15]. A density functional theory investigation on  $(Mg(BH_4))n (n = 1-4)$  clusters to be used as a material for hydrogen storage has been published [16].

Fullerene is an allotrope of carbon and is composed of individual molecules characterized by an infinite number of discrete. Fullerene was detected after graphite and diamond, and in contrast to graphite and diamond, each Fullerene type possesses its own specific features [17]. Fullerene is commonly generated by pyrolysis, electric arc vaporization, combustion, or laser ablation [18-22]. Cage, bowl, and ring are the lowest energy members in the  $C_{20}$  family. Although fullerene is not soluble in water, it shows limited solubility in conventional organic solvents [23]. It partially masks the polar fullerene surface or covalently modifies the aromatic structure to overcome its compatibility restriction with biological media [23]. A computational investigation of hydrogen adsorption and storage on palladium-functionalized  $C_{20}$  bowl and  $C_{20}H_{10}$  bowl molecules including hydrogen saturation, has been reported [24].

The external electric fields (EEFs) impact the variations matching the geometric and electronic structure of many conjugated molecules; the chemical reactivity as well as the global and local reactivity measures were displayed [25-39].

In this work, we study the adsorption of hydrogen molecule on a palladium-functionalized  $C_{20}$ bowl in the presence and absence of EEF along the zaxis using the B3LYP-D3 model. The EEF effect on the structural and electronic parameters of the complex has been assessed.

# **COMPUTIONAL TECHNIQUES**

We used Gaussian 09 software for data analysis [40]. The Def2-TZVPPD basis set [41-46] and the standard  $6-311G(d,p)$  basis set [42-44, 47-51] were employed respectively for the Pt element and main groups of elements. The evaluated molecules were regarded in the singlet and neutral forms. For excluding direct computation of the correlation and exchange integrals of 18 electrons for the Pd atom, effective core potential (ECP) to the Def2-TZVPPD basis set employed [52].

B3LYP-D3 model was used for Geometry optimizations. B3LYP-D3 model can maintain the B3LYP method benefit and also it can simulate the weak interactions well using Grimme term D3 [53].

For proving no imaginary frequency of the optimized structures, harmonic vibrational frequencies computed.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

## *Energetic aspect*

Figure 1 indicates structures of  $C_{20}$  bowl and two mode adsorption of hydrogen molecule on the Pddoped C<sup>20</sup> bowl. Optimized geometries of various modes of adsorption of hydrogen molecule on the Pd doped- $C_{20}$ -bowl are displayed in Figure 2. The absolute energy as well as relative energy values of these isomers are computed in the absence and presence of EEF along z-axis (Table 1). Such values indicate **I**isomer is most energetically stable isomer both in presence and absence of EEF. Relative energy values are decreased with increasing of EEF strength. There are good linear correlations relative energy values with EEF strength (Figure 3).  $\Delta E = -288.32 E_z + 34.06;$  $R^2 = 0.9861$ 



Figure 1. Structures of (a) C<sub>20</sub> bowl (b) two mode adsorption of hydrogen molecule on the Pd-doped C<sub>20</sub> bowl



Figure 2. Optimized geometrized of the various isomers of C<sub>20</sub>PdH<sub>2</sub> complex.

## 1. Adsorption energy values

The adsorption energy  $(\Delta E_{ad})$  can be assessed as follows:

$$
\Delta E_{ad} = E(Pd - doped C_{20} ... H_2)
$$

$$
- E(Pd - doped C_{20})
$$

$$
- E(H_2)
$$

E (Pd-doped  $C_{20}$ -bowl) indicates the energy related to the isolated Pd-doped  $C_{20}$ -bowl; E  $(H_2)$  represents the hydrogen molecule energy, and E (Pddoped  $C_{20}$ -bowl... $H_2$ ) indicates the energy related to hydrogen adsorbed on the Pd-doped C<sub>20</sub>-bowl surface.

Corrected adsorption energy is calculated as follows:

$$
\Delta E_{ad}^{corr} = \Delta E_{ad} + E(BSSE)
$$

Where E indicates the basis set superposition error (BSSE) corrected for adsorption energy [54, 55].

The Corrected adsorption energy values of many isomers of adsorption of hydrogen molecule on the Pddoped  $C_{20}$ -bowl are computed in the absence and presence of the EEF along the z-axis (Table 1). The negative  $\Delta E_{ad}$  values indicate the desirable complex generation energetically. The range of calculated  $\Delta E_{ad}$ values is acceptable for chemisorption. The adsorption energies indicate that the tendency to adsorb hydrogen molecule decreases with an increase in EEF strength along the z-axis Adsorption of hydrogen on the Pddoped  $C_{20}$  bowl is stronger in the I-isomer than the IIisomer in the absence of EEF along the z-axis. Identical is observed in the presence of EEF at 0.001-0.007 a.u. But, stronger hydrogen adsorption occurs in the IIisomer than the I-isomer in the presence of EEF at 0.009-0.011 a.u. There are good linear correlations between corrected adsorption energy values and EEF strength (Figure 4).

$$
\Delta E_{ad}^{corr} (I - isoner) = 26.756 E_z - 15.766;
$$
  
\n
$$
R^2 = 0.9961
$$
  
\n
$$
\Delta E_{ad}^{corr} (II - isoner) = 146.01 E_z - 16.717;
$$
  
\n
$$
R^2 = 0.9716
$$

2. Dipole moment

Dipole moment values related to evaluated molecules are measured in the presence and absence of EEF along the z-axis (Table 1). The more stable isomer (**I**-isomer) of adsorption of hydrogen molecule on the Pd-doped  $C_{20}$  bowl possesses the larger dipole moment value in absence and the presence of EEF at 0.001- 0.007 a.u. II-isomer indicates larger dipole moment values in the presence of EEF at 0.009-0.011 a.u than I-isomer. Linear correlations between dipole moment values and EEF strength are:

$$
\mu \text{ (I-isomer)} = 84.47 \text{ E}_z + 4.0282;
$$
\n
$$
R^2 = 0.8936
$$
\n
$$
\mu \text{ (II-isomer)} = 356.83 \text{ E}_z + 1.5751;
$$
\n
$$
R^2 = 0.9973
$$

It can be found, better linear relationship between two parameters for the II-isomer in compared to the I-isomer.

#### 3. Structural parameters

Pd-C, H…H, and Pd-H distances in the Pd-doped  $C_{20}$ bowl complexes are summarized in Table 1 after and before hydrogen adsorption. It can be observed that the average of Pd-C bond distances and H-H bond lengths is shorter in the EEF presence alone z-axis than in the absence of EEF. These bond distances decrease with an increase in EEF strength. In the case of hydrogen adsorption, longer H-H distances are found compared to free hydrogen (74.4 pm).

Also, the mean Pd-H bond distances are longer in the EEF presence alone z-axis in comparison with the absence of EEF. Such bond distances are increased with an increase of EEF strength. Vibrational analysis

Vibrational analysis of the  $C_{20}PdH_2$  complexes is investigated in the presence and absence of EEF along the a-axis. It can be found that the largest wavenumber is attributed to H-H stretching  $(v_{H-H})$ . The wavenumber values of this vibration are listed in Table 2. Free hydrogen molecule reveals H-H stretching at 4419.4  $cm<sup>-1</sup>$  at B3LYP-D3/6-311G (d,P) level of theory. It can be observed that the position of this vibration is shifted to lower energy values after hydrogen adsorption occurs. Larger  $v_{H-H}$  values are observed in the presence of EEF in comparison the absence of EEF. Such values enhance with an increase in EEF strength along the zaxis. The  $v_{H-H}$  values are associated with EEF strength along z-axis (Figure 5).

 $v_{\text{H-H}}$  (I-isomer) = 5723.5 E<sub>z</sub> + 3479.6;  $R^2 = 0.9976$ 

 $v_{H-H}$  (II-isomer) = 19987 E<sub>z</sub> + 3425.4;  $R^2 = 0.9963$ 



Figure 3. Linear correlations relative energy values of in the various C<sub>20</sub>PdH<sub>2</sub> complexes with EEF strength along z-axis.



Figure 4. Linear correlations between corrected adsorption energy values with EEF strength along z-axis in the various C20PdH<sup>2</sup> complexes.

Table 1. Energy (E, a.u), relative energy ( $\Delta E$ , kcal/mol), corrected adsorption energy and dipole moment ( $\mu$ , Debye) values of the two modes of adsorption hydrogen molecule on the Pd-doped C<sup>20</sup> bowl in absence and presence of external electric filed along z-axis with E<sup>z</sup> strength (in a.u).

$E_z$	E(I)	E(II)	$\Delta E(I)$	$\Delta E(II)$	$\Delta E_{ad}^{corr} (I)$	$\Delta E_{ad}^{corr}(II)$	$\mu(I)$	$\mu(II)$
$\bf{0}$	$-890.8959$	$-890.8419$	0.00	33.90	$-15.77$	$-16.84$	4.1652	1.6835
0.001	$-890.8961$	$-890.8424$	0.00	33.72	$-15.74$	$-16.60$	4.1585	1.9409
0.003	$-890.8969$	$-890.8439$	0.00	33.30	$-15.68$	$-16.21$	4.1977	2.5721
0.005	$-890.8982$	$-890.8460$	0.00	32.78	$-15.64$	$-15.87$	4.3139	3.2765
0.007	$-890.9000$	$-890.8487$	0.00	32.17	$-15.57$	$-15.60$	4.5075	4.0207
0.009	$-890.9023$	$-890.8521$	0.00	31.48	$-15.52$	$-15.39$	4.7759	4.7917
0.011					$-15.48$	$-15.25$	5.1198	5.5860
	$-890.9051$	$-890.8561$	0.00	30.70				

 $\circledcirc$ 

	$R(Pd-C)$		$R(Pd-H)$		$R(H-H)$		VH-H		
$E_z$	I	$\mathbf{I}$	I	$\mathbf{H}$	I	$\mathbf H$	I	П	
0.000	201.7	217.6	180.5	178.0	80.7	81.2	3480.10	3418.52	
0.001	201.6	217.2	180.7	178.5	80.6	81.0	3486.27	3445.71	
0.003	201.6	216.3	180.9	179.5	80.5	80.7	3496.64	3488.18	
0.005	201.6	215.4	181.0	180.5	80.5	80.4	3506.32	3530.45	
0.007	201.5	214.6	181.3	181.5	80.4	80.1	3519.07	3569.83	
0.009	201.5	213.9	181.5	182.5	80.3	79.8	3530.59	3606.52	
0.011	201.5	213.1	181.8	183.5	80.2	79.6	3544.10	3638.36	

Table 2. Pd-C, Pd-H, H-H bond distances (in pm) and H-H stretching wavenumber  $(v_{H-H}, cm^{-1})$  of the two modes of adsorption hydrogen molecule on the Pd-doped C<sup>20</sup> bowl in absence and presence of external electric filed along z-axis



Figure 5. Linear correlations between  $v_{H-H}$  values with EEF strength along z-axis in the various C<sub>20</sub>PdH<sub>2</sub> complexes.

## 1. Molecular orbital analysis

Table 3 lists the HOMO-LUMO gap and the frontier orbital energy values in the evaluated systems. The values reveal that the frontier orbitals of the I- $C_{20}PdH_2$  complex are more destabilized in the EEF presence along the z-axis than in the absence. These destabilizations increase with the increasing of strength of the EEF. In the II-C<sub>20</sub>PdH<sub>2</sub> complex, HOMO is destabilized in the presence EEF along the z-axis than in the absence of EEF. Such destabilization increases with an increase in the strength of the EEF along z-axis.

But LUMO of the  $II-C_{20}PdH_2$  complex is stabilized in the presence of EEF along the z-axis rather than in the absence of EEF. This stability increases with an elevation in the strength of the EEF along the z-axis.

The HOMO-LUMO gap value of the  $I-C_{20}PdH_2$ complex increases in its presence along the z-axis than in the absence of EEF. This value increases with an increase in the strength of EEF along the z-axis. The HOMO-LUMO gap value of the II-C<sub>20</sub>PdH<sub>2</sub> complex decreases in EEF presence along the z-axis than in EEF absence. Such value reduces with an increase in the strength of EEF along the z-axis.



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			$\mathbf{I}$	Gap		
$E_z$	E(HOMO)	E(LUMO)	E(HOMO)	E(LUMO)	I	$\mathbf{H}$
$\bf{0}$	$-6.59$	$-3.14$	$-6.45$	$-3.37$	3.45	3.09
0.001	$-6.58$	$-3.13$	$-6.44$	$-3.38$	3.45	3.07
0.003	$-6.58$	$-3.11$	$-6.43$	$-3.40$	3.47	3.03
0.005	$-6.57$	$-3.09$	$-6.42$	$-3.43$	3.49	3.00
0.007	$-6.57$	$-3.07$	$-6.42$	$-3.45$	3.50	2.96
0.009	$-6.56$	$-3.05$	$-6.42$	$-3.49$	3.52	2.93
0.011	$-6.56$	$-3.03$	$-6.42$	$-3.52$	3.53	2.89

Table 3. Frontier orbital energy and HOMO-LUMO gap values of the two modes of adsorption hydrogen molecule on the Pd-doped C<sub>20</sub> bowl in absence and presence of external electric filed along z-axis (in eV).

## **CONCLUSION**

Adsorption of hydrogen molecule on a palladiumfunctionalized  $C_{20}$  bowl with the B3LYP-D3 model in the absence and presence of EEF indicated that the **I**isomer was a more stable isomer compared to the **II**isomer. The adsorption energies exhibited that the tendency to adsorb molecules decreased with an elevation in EEF strength along the z-axis. Adsorption of hydrogen on the Pd-doped  $C_{20}$  bowl was stronger in the I-isomer than the II- isomer in the absence of EEF along the z-axis. Identical behavior was observed in the presence of EEF at 0.001-0.007 a.u. But stronger hydrogen adsorption occurred in the II-isomer than the I-isomer in the presence of EEF at 0.009-0.011 a.u. The largest wavenumber belonged to H-H stretching  $(v_{H-H})$ . The position of this vibration was shifted to lower energy values after hydrogen adsorption occurred. Larger  $v_{H-H}$  values were reported in the presence of EEF than in the absence of EEF. Such values increase with an increase in EEF strength along the z-axis. There are good relationships between  $v_{H-H}$  values and EEF strength along the z-axis. The HOMO-LUMO gap value of the  $I-C_{20}PdH_2$  complex was larger in the presence of EEF along the z-axis than in the absence of EEF. A larger gap value was found with an increase in the strength of the EEF.

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