

Theoretical Study of Methane Oxidation on
Pd(111) and Other Metallic Surfaces

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DFT and microkinetic modeling (MKM) are used to study CH₄ oxidation to CO, CO₂, CH₂O, and CH₃OH on Pd(111). Our energetic analysis indicates that metallic sites are more active than O* sites for C-H activation. Our MKM analysis indicates that metallic sites produce only CO whereas O* sites produce only CH₂O. When product pressures are increased, however, CO oxidation becomes dominant producing mostly CO₂. We then extend the study to other surfaces utilizing scaling relations in the MKM. We find that many surfaces cannot effectively activate CH₄ under mildly oxidizing conditions. Finally, the kinetics of CH₄ oxidation to CO, CO₂, CH₂O, and CH₃OH are described as functions of two descriptors, enabling identification of promising catalysts for selective production of the desired product.