

## Revision 1

# Energetics of Ethanol and Carbon Dioxide Adsorption on Anatase, Rutile and $\gamma$ -Alumina Nanoparticles

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## Abstract

Nanoparticles are widely present in the natural environment. Their surface reactivity, redox ability and adsorption properties are related to geochemical processes. To explore the thermodynamics of interaction between nano oxides and small gas molecules, we applied gas adsorption calorimetry to investigate the energetics of ethanol and carbon dioxide adsorbed on surfaces of nanoscale anatase, rutile and  $\gamma$ -alumina particles. The measured zero-coverage adsorption enthalpies per mole of gas adsorbed are -97.7, -107.3, and -84.8 kJ/mol for C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH on anatase, rutile and  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, respectively. The corresponding values for CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption are -59.4, -47.4 and -47.1 kJ/mol. The results indicate the ethanol adsorption is generally more exothermic than carbon dioxide and water adsorption. The isotherm and differential enthalpies shows type II isotherms and step-wise patterns for ethanol adsorption in all three oxides. However, CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption shows simple continuous isotherms and energetics which suggest dominant physical adsorption occurred. The repeated adsorption cycle shows that ethanol adsorption on these nanoparticles is partially reversible at room temperature. This thermodynamic evidence indicates that ethanol and similar organics may protect mineral oxide surfaces from reaction with aqueous solutions, which may affect crystal growth, dissolution, and biomineralization.

## Introduction

Fine-grained (nanophase) minerals can be produced in the natural environment by rapid precipitation, microbial action, or weathering (Strambeanu *et al.*, 2015; Griffin *et al.*, 2018). Many geochemical reactions occur at mineral surfaces in atmospheric, aqueous or hydrothermal environments (Schindler and Hochella, 2015; Hazen *et al.*, 2008). These reactions largely influence chemistry and physical conditions of the atmosphere, ocean, land surface and climate. The transport of nutrients and pollutants is also mediated by surface adsorption and transport by nanoparticles. With unique surface properties and reactivity, nanomaterials have technological

17 applications as energy storage devices, catalysts, and dielectrics (Farfan-Arribas and Madix, 2002). Binary and  
18 ternary metal oxides have been studied extensively, with emphasis on synthesis, crystal structure, surface  
19 topography, as well as chemical and physical properties (Paramasivam *et al.*, 2012; Kuang *et al.*, 2008; Köppen  
20 *et al.*, 2008).

21 However, we know relatively little about the thermodynamics of interaction of nanoparticles with target  
22 species, such as small organic molecules from experimental measurement. Experimental thermodynamic data  
23 are essential to clarify the complex behavior of adsorption in nanoparticles. Adsorption is the physical basis for  
24 further chemical or physical processes. It can modulate reactions of various gases on solid surfaces. *In situ* gas  
25 adsorption with simultaneous calorimetric measurements to probe water interactions on oxide surfaces has  
26 become an important thermodynamic methodology (Ushakov *et al.*, 2005). It has been applied to examine other  
27 gases (CO<sub>2</sub>, ethanol and methane) adsorption phenomena and associated enthalpies (Lazzeri *et al.*, 2001;  
28 Levchenko *et al.*, 2006; Wu *et al.*, 2015). Previous calorimetric studies of water adsorption on nanophase oxides  
29 SiO<sub>2</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>, and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> show 60 - 80 kJ/mol of excess hydration energy relative to water vapor condensation (Wu  
30 *et al.*, 2015; Guo *et al.*, 2018), and porous materials such as zeolites and metal organic frameworks possess  
31 higher abilities to absorb water (Wu *et al.*, 2013). CO<sub>2</sub> molecules favor to bind to hydroxide materials such as  
32 layered double hydroxides or metal organic frameworks with adsorption enthalpies of 60 - 110 kJ/mol in  
33 magnitude (Radha *et al.*, 2014; Wu and Navrotsky, 2013).

34 Ethanol (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH), having a hydrophobic and a hydrophilic end, is a simple model for organic molecules  
35 with higher structural complexity widely present in biological and technological systems. Ethanol - mineral  
36 interaction is favorable and sometimes even stronger than that with water since the oxygen has higher charge  
37 density than water and can easily attack the metal atoms. By competing with water, ethanol and other organic  
38 molecules may stabilize the surface of minerals and retard their dissolution and weathering (Davis and Hayes,  
39 1987). On the other hand, strong interactions on mineral surfaces may weaken and break the intra-molecular  
40 bonding of organic molecules and cause dissociative reactions. This is also a natural process (Mattos *et al.*,  
41 2012) which has been utilized in photocatalytic for solar energy and to synthesize other molecules (Gupta and  
42 Tripathi, 2011).

43 Molecular and dissociative adsorption represents two contrasting binding mechanisms of ethanol on  
44 metal oxides (Muir *et al.*, 2012). Molecular adsorption builds a new surface - ethanol bond without breaking  
45 any bonds in the C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH molecule, but for dissociative adsorption, surface - ethanol bond formation is  
46 accompanied by the deprotonation of ethanol and the bonding of that proton directly to a surface oxygen species

to form an OH species. A TPD/MS study of ethanol adsorption on TiO<sub>2</sub> (110) surfaces showed that heating results in recombination of about 50 % of the dissociative adsorption sites by overcoming a moderate kinetic barrier (Farfan-Arribas and Madix, 2002). In contrast, an STM study suggested that ethanol adsorbed on TiO<sub>2</sub> (001) is mobile and adsorption is reversible, even at relatively low temperatures, which implies a small kinetic barrier (Leon *et al.*, 2013). However, the dissociative adsorption process is associated with a relatively high kinetic barrier. Thus the ethanol adsorption - desorption process is complex kinetically and may be complex thermodynamically as well.

CO<sub>2</sub> is one of the critical components in mineral evolution and bio-organic lifecycles. There is great interest in the study of CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption in relation to carbon sequestration, the carbon cycle, and new energy resources (Batjes, 1998; Amouroux *et al.*, 2014). Previous research has suggested generally weak CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on oxide surfaces, due to the poor electron donor nature of the oxygen atoms resulting from a strong delocalization effect (Stangeland *et al.*, 2017; Silaghi *et al.*, 2016). At ambient temperature, molecular adsorption happens with one of its oxygen atoms coordinating with a metal atom. Some carbonate species are also observed on anhydrous surfaces (Yahya *et al.*, 2016). Hydration assists CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption by promoting bicarbonate formation. Consistent with its weak adsorption, CO<sub>2</sub> exhibits good mobility and reversibility on metal oxide surfaces.

Many spectroscopic and imaging approaches (including STM, ATR-FTIR, XPS, TPD and MS) (Belhadj *et al.*, 2017; Hwang *et al.*, 1999; Coronado *et al.*, 2003) and computational simulations (Sumita *et al.*, 2010; Zhang *et al.*, 2015; de Armas *et al.*, 2007) have been applied to explain the thermodynamics and kinetics of adsorption and desorption, including the binding site locations, binding patterns and defect effects. Generally, higher energy sites or crystal facets are preferred for initial binding. In particular, there is a higher affinity on defect sites. Computational simulations produce a wide range of predictions for the ethanol adsorption energy on rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> (110), from -69 to -202. kJ/mol on Ti<sup>4+</sup>(5f) sites, from -141 to -219 kJ/mol at oxygen vacancy sites; and for anatase TiO<sub>2</sub> (101), from -111 to -119 kJ/mol on Ti<sup>4+</sup>(5f) sites, -169 kJ/mol on Ti<sup>4+</sup>(5f) next to oxygen vacancies, and -419 kJ/mol at oxygen vacancy sites (Sumita *et al.*, 2010; Zhang *et al.*, 2015; de Armas *et al.*, 2007). Due to the complexity of solid surfaces, especially for these nanoparticles, which display more coordination desaturation, point defect formation, and synthesis dependent exposure of facets than the idealized surfaces used in computational studies, the systematic energetic map along all of these surface states is not easy to clarify without experimental validation.

16 In this study, we report the first calorimetric data for ethanol and carbon dioxide adsorption on the  
17 surface of nanoscale TiO<sub>2</sub> (7 nm anatase and 20 nm rutile) and 30 nm  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. (particle size determined from  
18 BET surface area and confirmed by XRD, see below) The adsorption isotherm and associated differential heat  
19 effect have been measured. The results show distinct adsorption patterns for different oxides with different  
20 gases. The variation in binding energy with coverage has been monitored by mapping the adsorption differential  
21 enthalpy. The data are discussed and compared with earlier studies of ethanol and carbon dioxide adsorption on  
22 silica and of water adsorption on a variety of oxides.

### 13 **Experimental Methods**

14 The nano rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> was synthesized by Li (Li, *et al.*, 2003) through a hydrothermal method. Nano  
15 anatase TiO<sub>2</sub> was from Levchenko's synthesis (Levchenko *et al.*, 2006) using a modified sol-gel method.  $\gamma$ -  
16 alumina was synthesized by using an aqueous co-precipitation method which does not involve any organics or  
17 polymeric precursors (Rufner *et al.*, 2013).

18 Thermogravimetric analysis and differential scanning calorimetry (TG-DSC) were performed on all  
19 samples using a Setaram Labsys instrument. Samples were heated from 25 to 1000 °C at 10 °C/min under dry  
20 air. Powder X-ray diffraction patterns (PXRD) were obtained using a Bruker AXS D8 Advance diffractometer  
21 operated with Cu K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda=1.54$  Å). The data were collected in the  $2\theta$  range of 10 to 70°, with a step size  
22 of 0.02° and dwell time of 1 s per step. The XRD pattern analysis was conducted for phase identification and  
23 crystal size by Jade 6.5. Rietveld refinement was applied for data analysis. Crystal size estimation was based on  
24 the Scherrer equation and Williamson-Hall plot (Scherrer, 1918; Williamson and Hall, 1953). A number of well  
25 resolved peaks were fitted and the observed peak shapes can be represented with a pseudo-Voigt function, a  
26 simple approximation to the convolution of Gaussian and Lorentzian functions. The Gaussian and Lorentzian  
27 half widths, G and L, representing the effect of instrumental resolution(V) and particle-size(X) broadening  
28 respectively, which with Bragg angle  $\theta$  can be derived from the functions  $V \tan \theta$  and  $X/\cos \theta$ . The XRD patterns  
29 are shown in Figure 1.

30 The surface areas were measured by N<sub>2</sub> adsorption and calculated based on the BET equation (Brunauer  
31 *et al.*, 1938). The particle sizes were calculated based on the hypothesis of spherical particles by using the  
32 density ( $\rho$ ) and measured surface area (SA).

3 TiO<sub>2</sub> and  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nano particles before and after ethanol and CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption were further characterized  
4 by Raman spectroscopy. The Raman spectra were obtained with a Renishaw RM1000 system integrated with  
5 Leica DMLM microscope and a motorized stage using an argon ion laser (514.5 nm) operating at 9 A and 20  
6 mW. The Raman signal was collected in a static range 1000–100 cm<sup>-1</sup> with 10 accumulations of 40 s each. A  
7 standard silicon film was used to calibrate Raman shifts.

8 The enthalpies of ethanol and CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption were measured by a gas adsorption calorimetry system,  
9 which includes a Calvet-type microcalorimeter (Setaram Sensys) coupled to a gas adsorption analyzer  
10 (Micromeritics ASAP 2020), as described previously (Ushakov, 2005). According to the surface area of each  
11 sample, powder weights of 20 - 50 mg were used and carefully transferred to one side of a forked tube, the other  
12 side left empty as a reference for the calorimetric measurement. The samples were heated (degassed) at 200 °C  
13 under vacuum for 2 h before the adsorption experiment. The temperature and time were chosen in prior  
14 experiments to remove the surface water without coarsening the samples. This procedure was done in the same  
15 forked tube used for adsorption calorimetry and the samples were not exposed to any atmosphere between  
16 degassing and calorimetry. Doses of 1-5  $\mu$ mol of CO<sub>2</sub> or ethanol were introduced to the sample tube and the  
17 pressure change was monitored. This produced the isotherm during the experiment. Each dose of gas gave a  
18 heat signal peak corresponding to the surface interaction with gas molecules. A typical calorimetry trace for  
19 ethanol adsorption on rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> is shown in Figure 2.

## 20 **Results and Discussion**

### 21 **Characterization**

22 The TG-DSC results are shown in Figure 3. Both anatase and rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> show a first endothermic peak  
23 and weight loss at around 100 °C and  $\gamma$ -alumina shows similar dehydration behavior at 150 °C. The broad  
24 exothermic peaks at 350, 400 and 370 °C are related to aggregation and coarsening of the three nanophase  
25 oxides. Based on these results, a degas temperature of 200 °C for 2 h was applied to remove the surface water  
26 before the adsorption experiment. To check the size change, oxides were subjected to XRD (Fig. 1) after  
27 degassing. The XRD pattern refinement of anatase, rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> and  $\gamma$ -alumina before and after degassing  
28 indicates that crystal growth and phase change did not occur during the degassing operation. The same degas  
29 condition was used for both BET and gas adsorption experiments.

30 Raman spectra of TiO<sub>2</sub> before and after gas adsorption are shown in Fig 4a and 4b, in which a slight blue  
31 shift was observed after the adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> and ethanol for both rutile and anatase, suggesting some chemical

i2 bond formation. The  $B_{1g}$  mode in anatase with ethanol adsorption, caused by the symmetric bending vibration of  
i3 O-Ti-O, splits into two broad peaks. One is close to the original and the other experiences a large blue shift,  
i4 which may arise from the dissociative chemical binding of ethanol molecules. Evidence of this dissociative  
i5 chemical adsorption was later observed is irreversible adsorption. For rutile, only a small blue shift was  
i6 observed for the  $B_{1g}$  vibrational mode. The  $\gamma$ - $Al_2O_3$  doesn't show Raman spectra but only fluorescent background.

## i7 **Adsorption isotherms**

i8 The isotherms for ethanol adsorption are plotted in Figure 5a, 6a, and 7a for anatase, rutile, and  $\gamma$ - $Al_2O_3$ ,  
i9 respectively. The associated calorimetric traces are plotted with absorbed amounts in Fig 5b, 6b, and 7b. Those  
i0 for  $CO_2$  adsorption are plotted in Fig 8.

i1 Ethanol adsorption for all three oxides demonstrates type II isotherms, which indicate strong  
i2 chemisorption. Each isotherm has three stages with two inflection points: In the first stage, the isotherm shows a  
i3 nearly vertical curve at near-zero coverage at low pressure associated with a large exothermic heat effect. In the  
i4 second stage, increasing partial pressure and absorbed quantity are associated with less exothermic differential  
i5 enthalpies. According to the differential enthalpy maps, these patterns must denote gas molecules adsorbing  
i6 onto and fully loading sites with weaker bonding, followed by just van der Waals interaction, which represents  
i7 physisorption. The differential enthalpy curve of ethanol adsorption on anatase shows more steps than that of  
i8 rutile, which signifies that the anatase has a less uniform surface with distinguishable energy states. In the third  
i9 stage, the isotherm reaches the condensation pressure of ethanol and shows a vertical line which reaches the  
i0 equilibrium pressure. The corresponding energetic maps show a horizontal line which indicates the  
i1 condensation of free ethanol. These stepwise patterns of isotherms for nanophase oxides have also been seen in  
i2 those of ethanol adsorption on nano porous materials (Wu *et al.*, 2015).

i3 Adsorption experiments for two of oxides have been repeated up to two times to test the stability of  
i4 adsorption. After the first run, the samples were subjected to 12 h of evacuation without heating. The second  
i5 run shows a simple type I isotherm curve. The stepwise behavior of the first two stages is simplified in the  
i6 second isotherm, as are the enthalpy maps (Fig. 5-7). The inflection point after the physisorption on the  
i7 isotherm appears at a much lower adsorption amount. The third runs are similar to the second. This behavior  
i8 indicates that chemisorption and dissociative adsorption are irreversible under mild degas conditions.

i9 In contrast to ethanol adsorption,  $CO_2$  adsorption on the three nanophase oxides shows type II and type  
i0 III isotherms, which indicate weaker interaction than for ethanol. As shown in Fig. 7, the isotherms of  $CO_2$

'1 adsorption on rutile and  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> are typical of type III adsorption. The nearly linear relation between pressure  
'2 and adsorbed amount denote that CO<sub>2</sub> only has weak interactions on the surface. However, CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on  
'3 anatase TiO<sub>2</sub> lacks a clear inflection point, which is between type II and type III isotherms, suggesting that a  
'4 second adsorption layer may form before the completion of monolayer adsorption.

## '5 **Enthalpies of adsorption**

'6 The values of the first differential enthalpies (approximating zero-coverage adsorption) and integral  
'7 enthalpies are summarized in Table 1. For ethanol adsorption, the differential enthalpies for the first dose are -  
'8 97.7 kJ/mol for anatase TiO<sub>2</sub>, -107.3 kJ/mol for rutile TiO<sub>2</sub>, and -84.8 kJ/mol for  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. The integral enthalpies,  
'9 which represent the overall heat effect caused by surface interactions, are -77.1, -100.6 and -72.5 kJ/mol for  
'10 anatase, rutile, and  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. The value for rutile is more exothermic than that of anatase, agreeing with the  
'11 smaller surface energy of anatase (Levchenko et al., 2006).

'12 The surface coverages are 2.81, 1.73 and 3.05 molecules of ethanol per nm<sup>2</sup> for anatase, rutile, and  $\gamma$ -  
'13 Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. In the second run, the average apparent surface coverages decrease to 0.64, 0.47 and 1.2 molecules/nm<sup>2</sup>,  
'14 respectively. The surface coverage differences between the first and the second runs represent the irreversible  
'15 portions of gas adsorption which are 2.17, 1.36 and 1.85 molecules/nm<sup>2</sup>. According to the inflection point on the  
'16 isotherms (first run), the calculated first layer adsorptions are 2.41, 1.56 and 2.66 molecules/nm<sup>2</sup> for the three  
'17 samples, which are greater than the irreversible amounts in each case. Thus some strongly bound ethanol may in  
'18 fact be desorbed during the mild degassing, which indicates significant mobility of adsorbed ethanol at ambient  
'19 conditions.  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> has a slightly less exothermic integral enthalpy of ethanol adsorption than anatase, but  
'20 shows generally similar behavior.

'21 The observed strong and partially irreversible ethanol adsorption suggests that dissociative adsorption  
'22 has occurred, and the more exothermic zero-coverage enthalpy on rutile than on anatase may be caused in part  
'23 by oxygen defects on the surface. Some evidence of more defects on rutile is the slight color change from white  
'24 to grey after degassing at 200 °C. Such color change was not observed on anatase. Grey or even black rutile can  
'25 be prepared by heating under high vacuum (Sclafani and Herrmann, 1996), which is strong evidence for  
'26 increasing oxygen vacancy concentration and dramatic decrease of the bandgap. Anatase has a lower tendency  
'27 for oxygen vacancy generation than rutile (Xu *et al.*, 2011).

18 The differential enthalpies for CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption of all three oxides are in the range of physisorption. As  
19 shown in Table 2, the differential enthalpies of CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption from the first dose (zero-coverage adsorption)  
20 are -59.4 kJ/mol for anatase, -47.4 kJ/mol for rutile, and -47.1 kJ/mol for  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. The integral enthalpies are -  
21 41.6, -39.1 and -33.7 kJ/mol. The integral enthalpies are dramatically less exothermic than those of ethanol and  
22 water. The surface coverages are 2.22, 1.19 and 1.92 CO<sub>2</sub>/nm<sup>2</sup> for the three samples, which are also smaller than  
23 those for ethanol, but in a similar order. The relatively small value of surface coverage might be explained by  
24 different types and numbers of binding sites and repulsion among adsorbed CO<sub>2</sub> molecules. Notably, CO<sub>2</sub>  
25 adsorption is less exothermic on rutile than on anatase even though rutile has more O-defect sites. The  
26 coverage on anatase is higher than that on rutile. This might indicate more sites available for CO<sub>2</sub> on anatase  
27 than rutile. Differences in binding sites may also affect the energetics of the second layer of ethanol but there is  
28 no direct structural information to identify such differences. Both isotherm and integral enthalpy data indicate  
29 that there are only weak interactions between CO<sub>2</sub> and minerals with anhydrous surfaces. This is in contrast to  
30 the large uptake and stronger adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> on layered double hydroxides (LDH) (Radha *et al.*, 2014), for  
31 which the hydrous surface, hydroxyl groups, and interlayer sites appear to promote CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption.

## 32 **Comparison of ethanol and water adsorption**

33 The integral enthalpies of ethanol adsorption are more exothermic than those of water adsorption of  
34 anatase (-62 kJ/mol) and rutile (-84 kJ/mol) (Levchenko *et al.*, 2006). However, the integral enthalpy of water  
35 adsorption on  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (-72 kJ/mol) (Castro, *et al.*, 2012) is the same as that of ethanol adsorption. Differences  
36 in the degree of dissociative adsorption may account for these observations.

37 The integral enthalpy of CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on anatase is more exothermic than on rutile and  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> which is  
38 different than the pattern shown for ethanol adsorption. The reasons for these differences are not clear but different  
39 surface sites and differing extents of structuring of the first few layers of the adsorbed molecules may play a role., as  
40 suggested previously for ethanol on calcite and silica surfaces (Wu and Navrotsky, 2013, 2015; Wu et al. 2015). The  
41 stronger energetics of interaction of TiO<sub>2</sub> with ethanol than water may be meaningful in biogeochemical  
42 processes. The mechanism is likely that the ethyl group points away from the oxide surface and creates a  
43 somewhat hydrophobic layer separating the surface from the atmosphere or aqueous solution. This means that a  
44 mineral surface similar to that of TiO<sub>2</sub> has a large preference to react with organic molecules like ethanol, which  
45 has a hydrophilic (hydroxyl) end. Such preferential adsorption will slow aqueous dissolution by making the  
46 surface less accessible to water molecules. Furthermore such organic sorbents may facilitate mineral - protein



and mineral - microbe interaction that may be involved in bio-mineralization. However, other oxides, such as  $\gamma$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , may behave differently.

### Comparison with other materials

Calorimetric studies of ethanol and  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorption on other materials (silica, zeolites, calcite, layered double hydroxides and metal organic frameworks) have been reported previously (Wu and Navrotsky, 2013, 2015; Guo, *et al.*, 2018; Radha and Navrotsky, 2014). The zero-coverage enthalpies of ethanol adsorption on silica glass (CPG-10,  $-72.7$  kJ/mol) (Wu and Navrotsky, 2015) and crystalline porous zeolitic silica (SSZ-59,  $-52.5$  kJ/mol; MCM-41,  $-49.1$  kJ/mol; and SBA-15,  $-51.3$  kJ/mol) (Wu and Navrotsky, 2013) are less exothermic than those of  $\text{TiO}_2$  and  $\gamma$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ . The reason could be that continuous framework structures of these silica materials provide only few sites capable of dissociative binding.

For  $\text{CO}_2$  adsorption, the integral enthalpies on layered double hydroxides ( $-65.1$  kJ/mol) (Radha and Navrotsky, 2014) are close to the reaction enthalpy of aqueous hydroxide with gaseous  $\text{CO}_2$  to form bicarbonate ( $\text{CO}_2 + \text{OH}^- \rightarrow \text{HCO}_3^-$ ) at room temperature,  $-66$  kJ/mol (Sanz-Pérez *et al.*, 2016). The adsorption on a metal organic framework CD-MOF-2 ( $-113.5$  kJ/mol) (Wu *et al.*, 2013) are close to the enthalpy of formation of calcite from portlandite ( $\text{CO}_2 + \text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2 \rightarrow \text{CaCO}_3 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ),  $-109$  kJ/mol (Sanz-Pérez *et al.*, 2016). Both these systems, similar to the hydrated alumina surface, have basic hydroxyl groups, which can form bicarbonate or carbonate species with  $\text{CO}_2$ . The stronger  $\text{CO}_2$  binding in those materials supports the idea that hydration is a key factor to evolve the weak binding in anhydrous anatase, rutile, and  $\gamma$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , toward stronger  $\text{CO}_2$  capture.

### Implications

This study provides new thermodynamic evidence and comparison of the behavior of ethanol, water, and carbon dioxide on the surfaces of anatase, rutile, and  $\gamma$ -alumina. Ethanol, representative of a larger class of small organic molecules, binds more strongly than water on both anatase and rutile  $\text{TiO}_2$ , presumably through its hydrophilic OH end, leaving the ethyl group pointing away from the surface. Such strong binding may protect the surface from further attack by water and provide mechanisms for biological control of mineral synthesis and dissolution. However,  $\gamma$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  has very similar energetics for water and ethanol binding and other minerals may behave differently.  $\text{CO}_2$  is more weakly adsorbed than water and ethanol on all three dry minerals. Future work should look at the interactions between water and carbon dioxide adsorption, where formation of carbonate and bicarbonate groups may lead to stronger surface interactions.

i5 **Acknowledgments**

i6 This research was supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, grant  
i7 ER97-14749. We thank Sergey Ushakov for assistance in the gas adsorption experiments and Pardha Saradhi  
i8 Maram for help with Raman spectroscopy.

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i5

**Table 1 Integral enthalpy ( $\Delta H_{int}$ ) of ethanol adsorption on oxide nanoparticles**

Samples	SA	Particle diameter	Sample mass	Differential enthalpy of first dose	Surface coverage	Integral enthalpy	Amount of	
							Ethanol adsorbed	
	(m <sup>2</sup> /g)	(nm)	(mg)	(kJ/mol)	(EtOH/nm <sup>2</sup> )	(kJ/mol of EtOH)	(mmol)	(mmol/g)
Anatase	256.65	7.1	25.3	-97.71	2.81	-77.14	0.0303	1.1989
1 <sup>st</sup> run			25.3	-82.00	0.64	-64.80	0.0069	0.2712
2 <sup>nd</sup> run	80.49	29.8	45.94	-107.28	1.73	-100.57	0.0106	0.2319
Rutile 1 <sup>st</sup> run			45.94	-109.05	0.47	-87.76	0.0029	0.0629
2 <sup>nd</sup> run			45.94	-100.47	0.49	-83.70	0.0030	0.0653
3 <sup>rd</sup> run	86.78	19.7	22.28	-84.81	3.05	-72.46	0.0098	0.4400
$\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>			22.28	-88.50	1.20	-74.95	0.0038	0.1724
1 <sup>st</sup> run			22.28	-88.24	1.55	-68.99	0.0050	0.2228
2 <sup>nd</sup> run								
3 <sup>rd</sup> run								

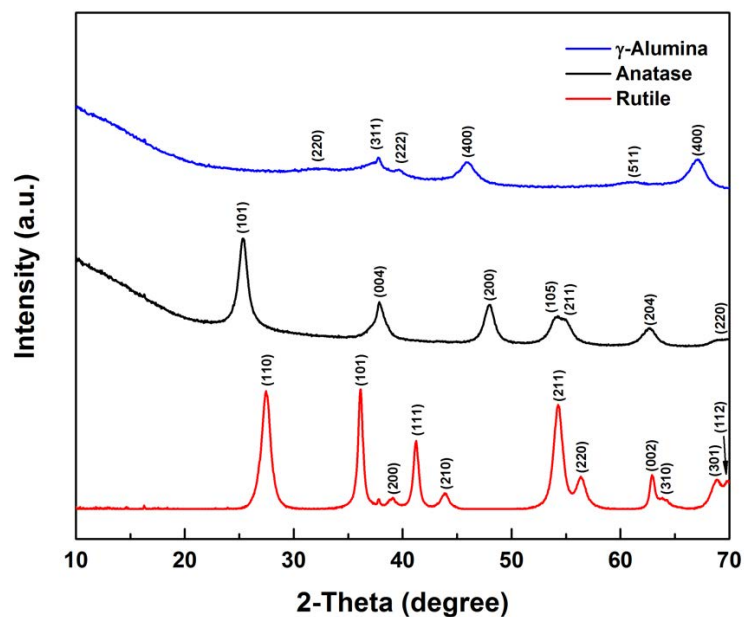
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**Table 2 CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption of nano size TiO<sub>2</sub> and  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>**

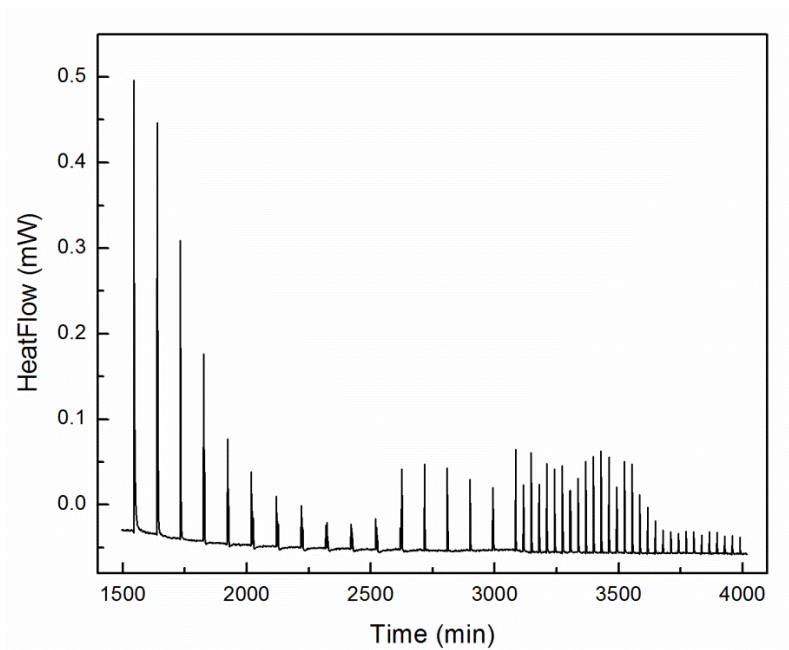
sample	SA(m <sup>2</sup> /g)	Particle diameter (nm)	Sample mass (mg)	Differential enthalpy for first dose (kJ/mol)	Surface coverage (CO/nm <sup>2</sup> )	Integral enthalpy (kJ/mol CO <sub>2</sub> )	Amount of CO <sub>2</sub> adsorbed (mmol/g)	Integral enthalpy (J/m <sup>2</sup> )
TiO <sub>2</sub> (Anatase)	256.65	7.1	28.57	-59.44	2.22	-41.58	0.9482	-0.1188
TiO <sub>2</sub> (rutile)	80.49	29.8	38.16	-47.36	1.19	-39.09	0.1846	-0.0745
$\gamma$ -Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	86.78	19.7	14.7	-47.14	1.92	-33.69	0.2773	-0.1077

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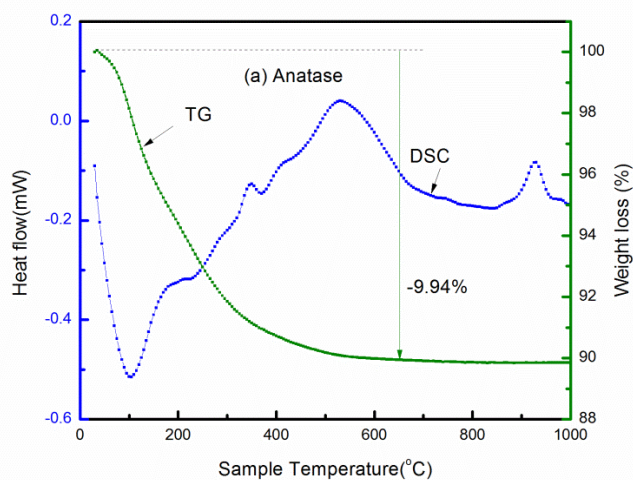


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**Figure 1** XRD patterns of nano-sized anatase, rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> and  $\gamma$ -alumina

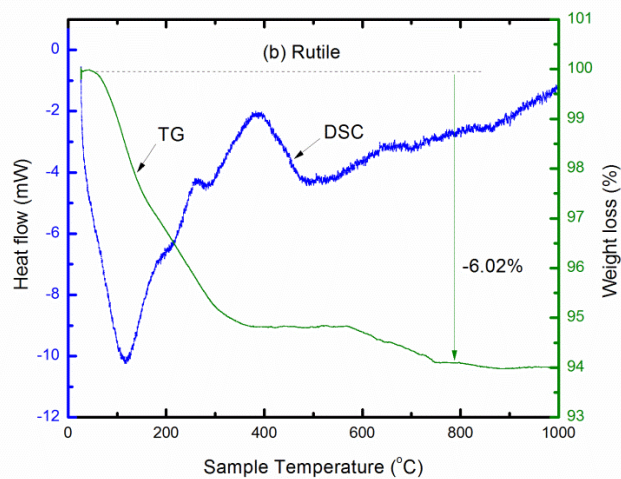


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**Figure 2** Typical heat signals from calorimetry for ethanol adsorption, example of first run on rutile.

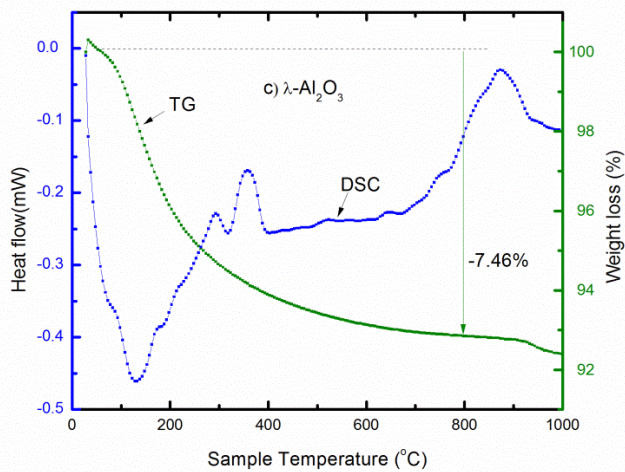




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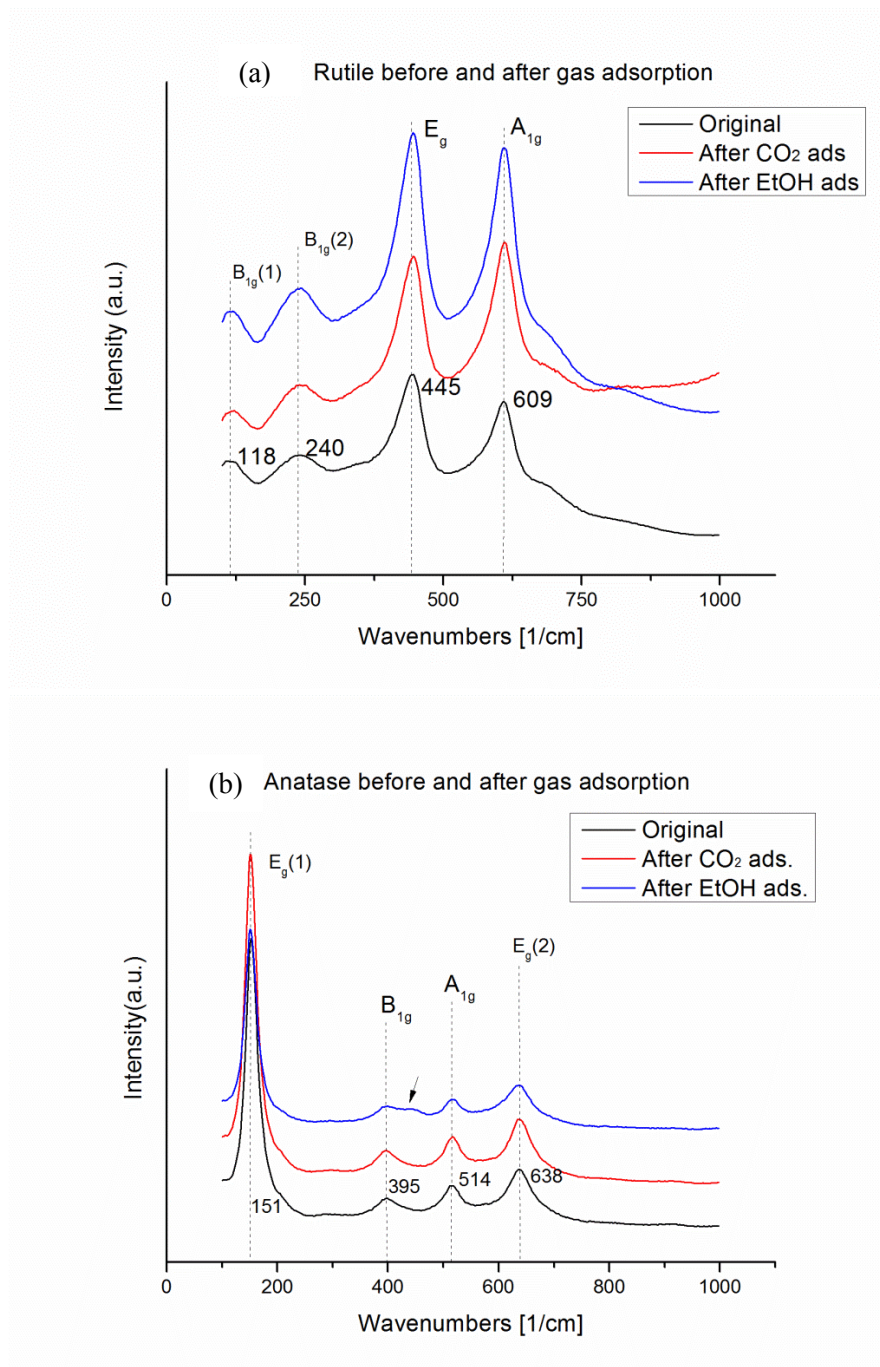
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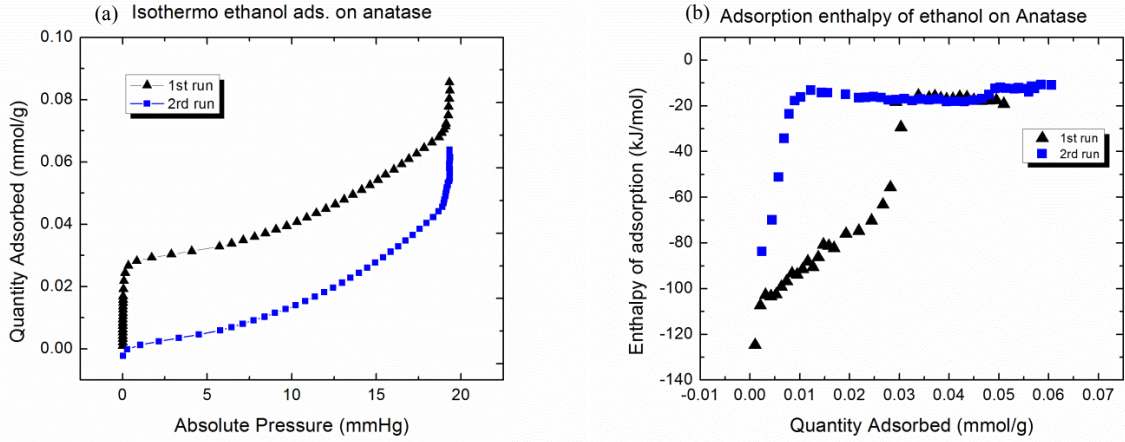
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**Figure 3** DSC-TG curves of anatase(a) and rutile(b)  $\text{TiO}_2$  and  $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (c)



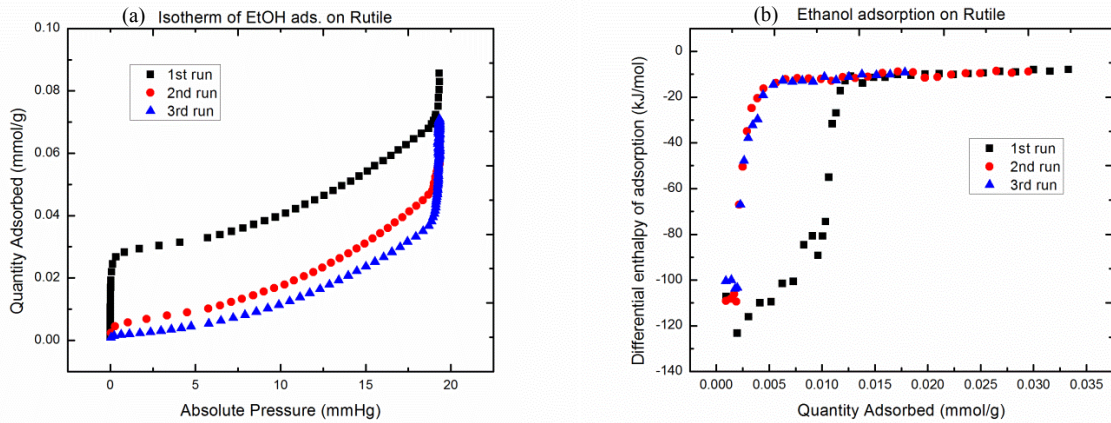
**Figure 4** Raman spectra of (a) anatase TiO<sub>2</sub> and (b) rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> with and without gas adsorption



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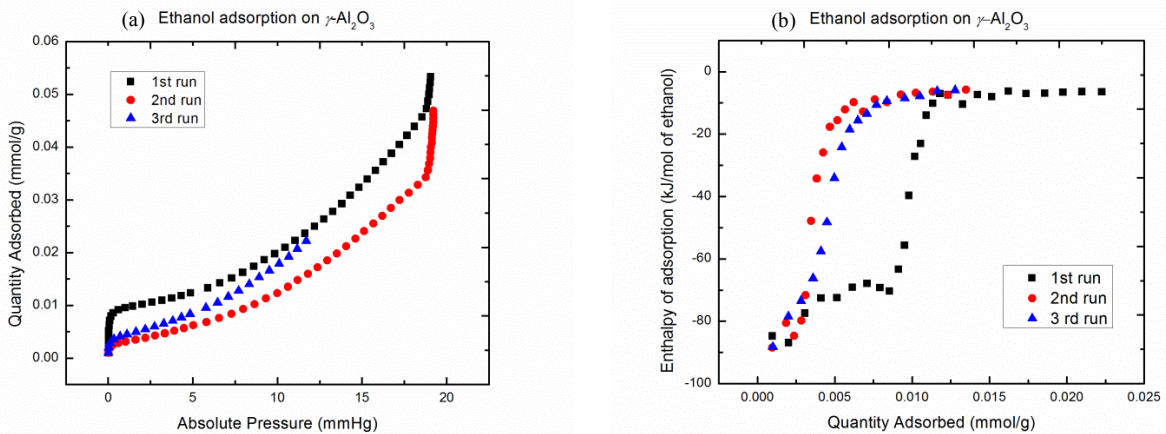
**Figure 5** (a) Isotherm and (b) differential enthalpy of ethanol adsorption on anatase  $\text{TiO}_2$



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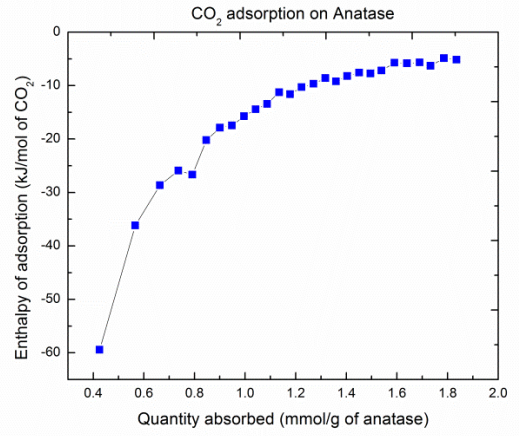
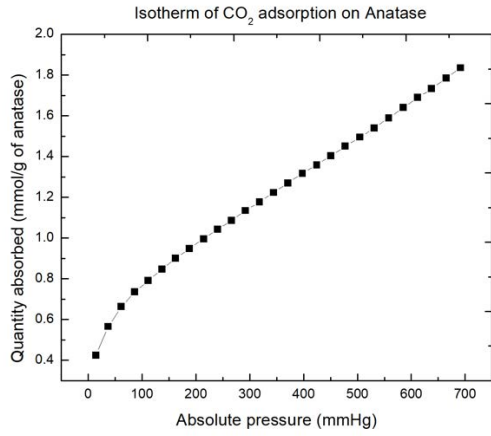
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**Figure 6** (a) Isotherm and (b) differential enthalpy of ethanol adsorption on rutile  $\text{TiO}_2$

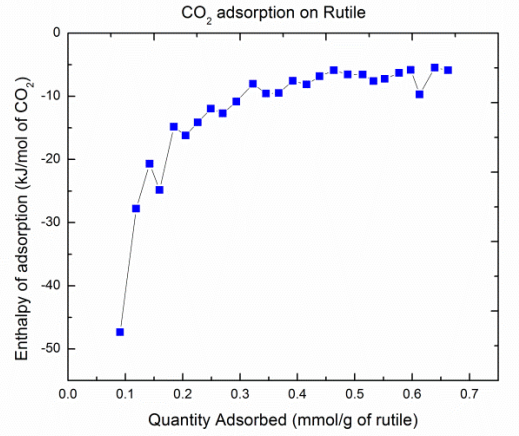
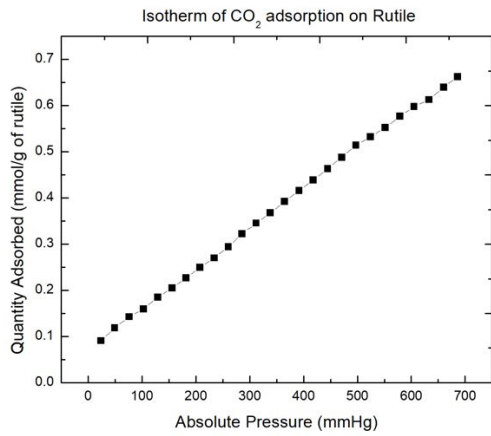


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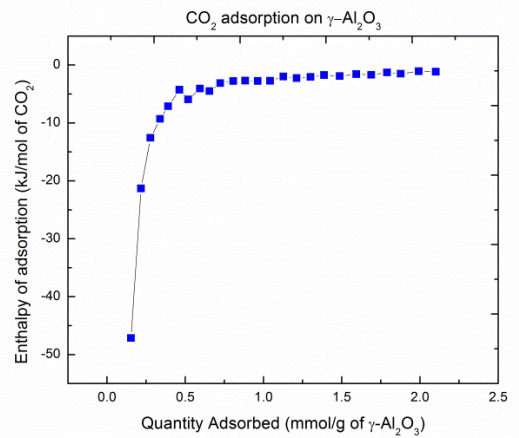
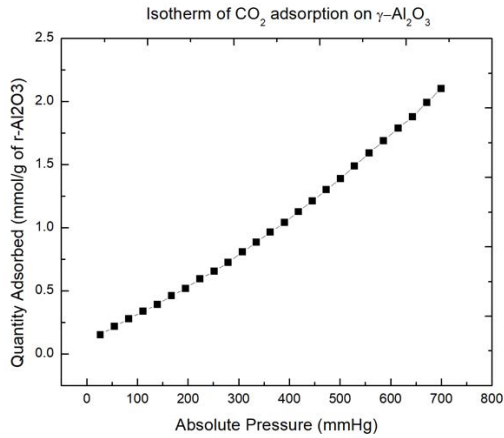
**Figure 7** (a) Isotherm and (b) differential enthalpy of ethanol adsorption on  $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$



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**Figure 8** Isotherm and differential enthalpy of CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on anatase, rutile and  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

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