



Experiment title: Real-time Studies of Metal Electrodeposition: Temperature Effects in Electrochemistry

Experiment number:
28-01-709

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|--------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Beamline: BM28 | Date of experiment: from: 11/5/05 to: 27/05/05 | Date of report: 1/4/2007 |
| Shifts: 17 | Local contact(s): Laurence Bouchenoire | <i>Received at ESRF:</i> |

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Paul Thompson* (XMaS)

Report:

This experiment continued our studies of the effects of temperature on the atomic structure and reactions at the electrochemical interface. The results have been incorporated in an article that has been submitted as a letter to Nature. The abstract is attached below:

Temperature-induced changes in the atomic structure at the charged solid-liquid interface

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The study of charge transfer across electrochemical interfaces has been an enduring theme in a wide range of science and is of importance to clean energy production and storage¹⁻⁴, photochemical energy conversion^{1,2}, corrosion⁵ and the functioning of biological membranes^{6,7}. At electrified solid-liquid interfaces phenomena, such as surface restructuring and the adsorption of reactive and spectator species, give rise to a rich diversity of tunable ordered structures which determine both the reactivity and stability^{8,9}. The application of *in-situ* structural probes with atomic-scale resolution has allowed the electrochemical response to be directly correlated with the interfacial atomic structure and enabled structure-function relationships to be established¹⁰. All such experiments, however, have been performed at ambient temperature and the effect of temperature changes on the potential-driven phase transitions at the electrochemical interface has yet to be considered in any systematic way. In this letter it is illustrated that small temperature changes can have a dramatic effect on the interface structure. By focusing on two canonical systems, the surface reconstruction of Au¹¹⁻¹³ and the molecular adsorbate structures of CO on Pt^{14,15}, it is demonstrated that, in addition to the electrode potential, the temperature plays an *equally* important role in determining the interface structure. The results have widespread implications for future research in both fundamental and applied electrochemistry as combined temperature/potential effects may be exploited to control charge transfer processes.

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