

## File description and total energies for DFT calculations

File name	Description	Total energy (eV)
n2	N <sub>2</sub> isolated molecule	-16.606
ni3x3	Ni (111) 3x3 supercell model surface	-234.228
n1-ni3x3	isolated N atom on Ni (111) 3x3 surface	-242.923
ts-diff-ni3x3	transition state for N diffusion on Ni (111)	-242.297
n+n-ni3x3	2 N <sub>ads</sub> (adjacent) on Ni (111)	-251.110
ts-chemical-ni3x3	transition state for chemical step on Ni (111)	-249.471
n2-complex-ni3x3	N <sub>2</sub> <sup>δ-</sup> on Ni (111)	-250.904
n2-top-ni3x3	N <sub>2</sub> molecule adsorbed on Ni (111)	-251.482
ni6x3-step	Ni (111) monoatomic step 6x3 supercell model	-417.045
n1-step	isolated N atom on Ni (111) step	-426.033
ts-diff-step	transition state for N diffusion on Ni (111) step	-425.174
n+n-step	2 N <sub>ads</sub> (adjacent) on Ni (111) step	-434.192
ts-chemical-step	transition state for chemical step on Ni (111) step	-433.132
n2-complex-step	N <sub>2</sub> <sup>δ-</sup> on Ni (111) step	-434.504
n2-ads-step	N <sub>2</sub> molecule adsorbed on Ni (111) step	-434.570
au11ni34	Au <sub>11</sub> Ni <sub>34</sub> 3x3 supercell model surface (111) surface	-207.360
n1-au11ni34	isolated N atom on Au <sub>11</sub> Ni <sub>34</sub>	-214.673
ts-diff-au11ni34	transition state for N diffusion on Au <sub>11</sub> Ni <sub>34</sub>	-213.625
n+n-au11ni34	2 N <sub>ads</sub> (adjacent) on Au <sub>11</sub> Ni <sub>34</sub>	-221.796
ts-chemical-au11ni34	transition state for chemical step on Au <sub>11</sub> Ni <sub>34</sub>	-221.114
n2-au11ni34	N <sub>2</sub> molecule adsorbed on Au <sub>11</sub> Ni <sub>34</sub>	-224.589