

The structure of γ - Al_2O_3 , a crucial catalyst support, remains debated, particularly the Al^{3+} cation and vacancy locations. While models propose spinel and non-spinel structures, NMR and DFT data support a predominantly spinel structure (62.5–65% octahedral Al^{3+}), contradicting non-spinel models. TEM reveals significant γ - Al_2O_3 surface reconstruction, with (111) facets favored over atomically flat (110) surfaces. The non-spinel model requires reevaluation.