

## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

### **Reduction Mechanisms of the CuO(111) surface through surface oxygen vacancy formation and hydrogen adsorption**

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The electronic supplementary information consists of the following:

Figure S1. Energetic preference of VO<sub>(3)</sub> and VO<sub>(4)</sub> structure as the function of U.

Figure S2 Energetic preference of surface VO<sub>(3)</sub> and sub-surface Vosu structure as the function of U.

Figure S3. Optimized structures of CuO(111) with  $\Theta=1/2$ .

Figure S4. Optimized structures of CuO(111) with  $\Theta=3/4$ .

Figure S5. Optimized structures of CuO(111) with  $\Theta=1$ .

Table S1. Oxygen vacancy formation energy (*E<sub>vac</sub>* (eV)) and the energy ( $\Delta E$ ) relative to the most stable structures of each concentration.

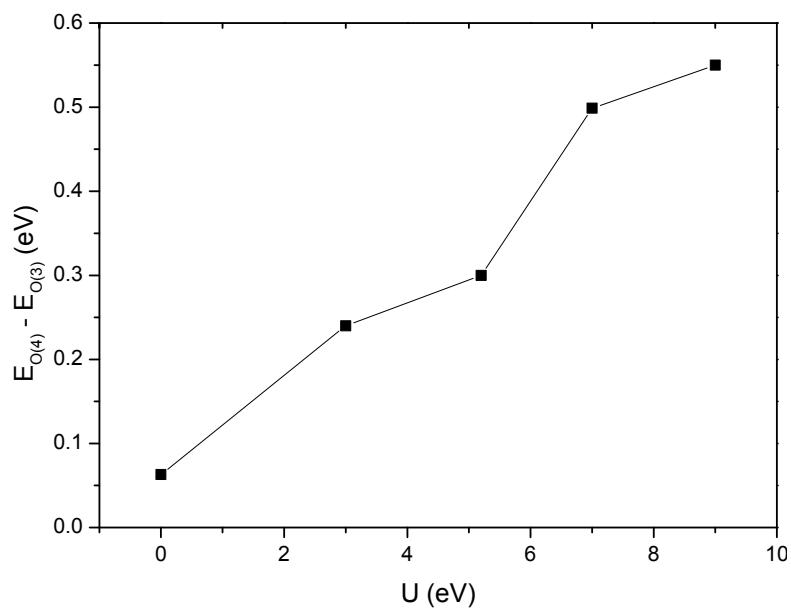


Figure S1. Energetic preference of  $V_{O_3^{surf}}$  and  $V_{O_4^{surf}}$  structure as the function of  $U$ .

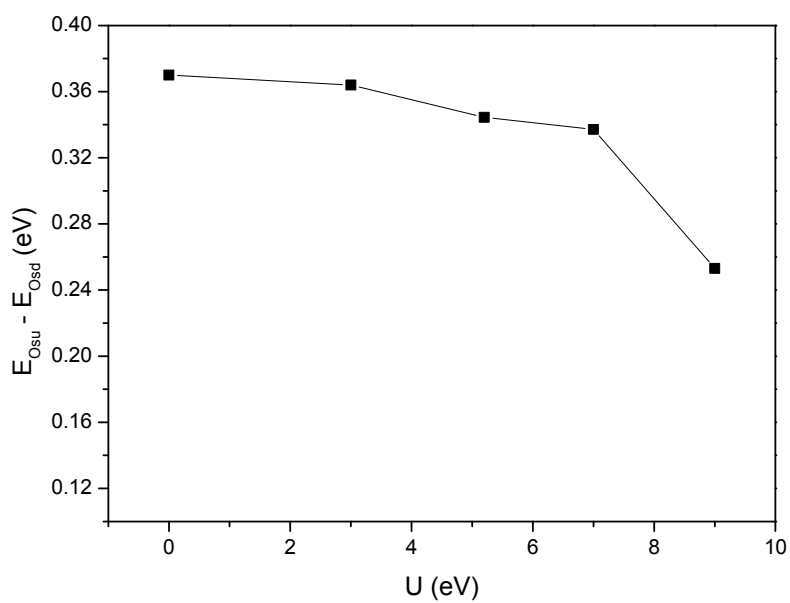


Figure S2 Energetic preference of surface  $V_{O_3^{surf}}$  and sub-surface  $V_{O_u^{sub}}$  structure as the function of  $U$ .

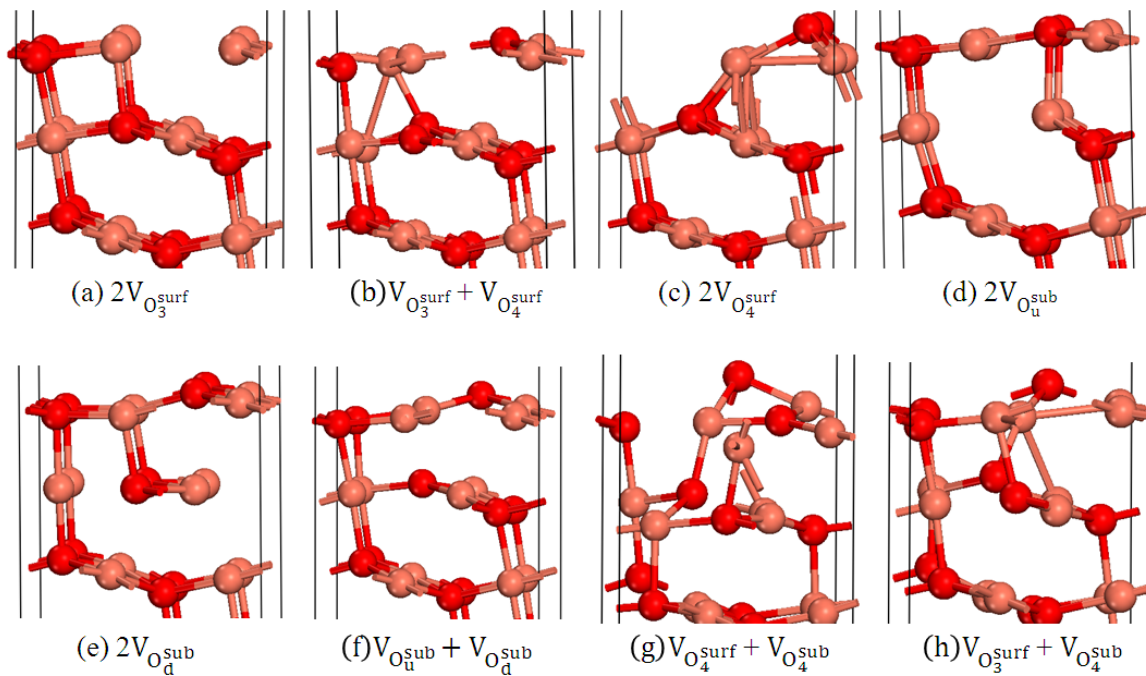


Figure S3. Optimized structures of CuO(111) with  $\Theta=1/2$ .

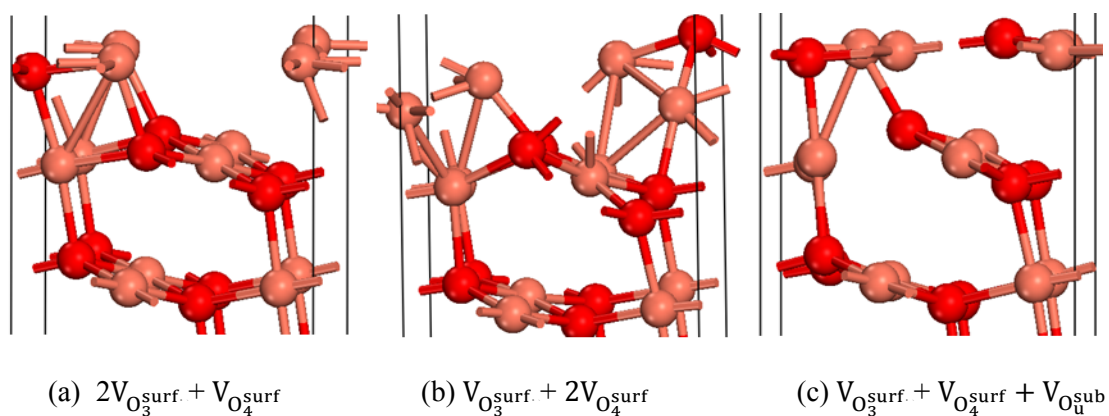
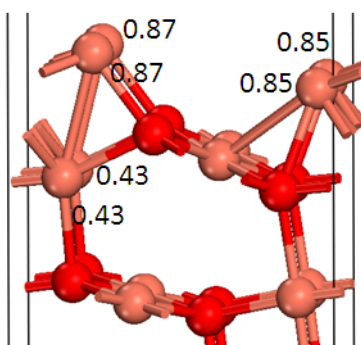


Figure S4. Optimized structures of CuO(111) with  $\Theta=3/4$ .



(a)  $2V_{O_3}^{\text{surf}} + 2V_{O_4}^{\text{surf}}$

Figure S5. Optimized structures of the  $2V_{O_3}^{\text{surf}} + 2V_{O_4}^{\text{surf}}$  structure with  $\Theta=1$  on the surface layer, The net Bader charge is given relative to the stoichiometric CuO(111) surface.

Table S1. The energies ( $\Delta E$ ) relative to the most stable structures of each coverage.

structure	$\Delta E$ (eV)
$\Theta=1/2$	
$2V_{O_3}^{\text{surf}}$	2.03
$2V_{O_4}^{\text{surf}}$	2.11
$2V_{O_u}^{\text{sub}}$	0.69
$2V_{O_d}^{\text{sub}}$	1.98
$V_{O_3}^{\text{surf}} + V_{O_u}^{\text{sub}}$	1.26
$V_{O_4}^{\text{surf}} + V_{O_d}^{\text{sub}}$	2.07
$V_{O_4}^{\text{surf}} + V_{O_u}^{\text{sub}}$	1.51
$V_{O_3}^{\text{surf}} + V_{O_d}^{\text{sub}}$	1.98
$\Theta=3/4$	
$2V_{O_3}^{\text{surf}} + V_{O_4}^{\text{surf}}$	1.09
$V_{O_3}^{\text{surf}} + 2V_{O_4}^{\text{surf}}$	0.70
$V_{O_3}^{\text{surf}} + V_{O_4}^{\text{surf}} + V_{O_u}^{\text{sub}}$	0.39
$\Theta=1$	
$2V_{O_3}^{\text{surf}} + 2V_{O_4}^{\text{surf}}$	1.86