## Electronic Supplementary Information

## First-principles calculations of oxygen interstitials in corundum: site symmetry approach

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Our selected computational scheme very accurately reproduces the bulk properties of perfect corundum being used further in the calculations on oxygen interstitial atom behaviour therein performed using LCAO-DFT (B3PW) code CRYSTAL14.<sup>1</sup>

Table SI1 A comparison of calculated bulk properties of pure corundum crystal with the experiments. Phonon symmetry	is given in parenthesis.

Properties	Expt.	LCAO-B3PW-
		CRYSTAL14
Cell parameter, Å	a = 4.759,	a = 4.761,
_	$c = 12.991^{a}$ (ref. 47)	<i>c</i> = 12.996
Band Gap, eV	9.3 <sup>b</sup> , 8.8 <sup>c</sup>	8.72
Bulk modulus,	253.7 <sup>d</sup>	250.9
GPa		
<i>c</i> <sub>44</sub> , GPa	146.8 <sup>d</sup>	156
Infra-red active	385,400, 442, 569,	$397 (e_{\rm u}), 409 (a_{\rm 2u}),$
frequencies, cm <sup>-1</sup>	583, 635 <sup>e</sup>	$451 (e_{\rm u}), 587 (e_{\rm u}),$
		592 ( $a_{2u}$ ), 648 ( $e_{u}$ )

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Ref. 2 <sup>b</sup> Ref. 3 <sup>c</sup> Ref. 4 <sup>d</sup> Ref. 5 <sup>e</sup> Ref. 6

Atomic configurations corresponding to Tables 1 and 2 of the main text are given below in Figures *SI*1,2



Figure SI1. Configurations of oxygen interstitials in different site symmetries in singlet state. Distances are given in Å.



Figure SI2. Configurations of oxygen interstitials in different site symmetries in triplet state. Distances are given in Å

## References

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