

## Supplementary Information

# Selectivity for Ethanol Partial Oxidation: The Unique Chemistry of Single-Atom Alloy Catalysts on Au, Ag, and Cu(111)

Hao Li\*, Wenrui Chai, and Graeme Henkelman\*

Department of Chemistry and the Oden Institute for Computational Engineering  
and Sciences, The University of Texas at Austin, 105 E. 24th Street, Stop A5300,  
Austin, Texas 78712, USA

\*Corresponding Authors:

[lihao@utexas.edu](mailto:lihao@utexas.edu) (H.L.);

[henkelman@utexas.edu](mailto:henkelman@utexas.edu) (G.H.);

**Table S1.** Convergence test on the slab thickness of a Pd<sub>1</sub>/Cu(111) surface.

	<b>EtOH-Binding</b>	<b>H-Binding</b>	<b>O-Binding</b>	<b>OH-Binding</b>	<b>CO-Binding</b>
<b>3-Layer</b>	<b>-0.71 eV</b>	<b>-2.69 eV</b>	<b>-5.04 eV</b>	<b>-3.32 eV</b>	<b>-1.97 eV</b>
<b>5-Layer</b>	<b>-0.72 eV</b>	<b>-2.69 eV</b>	<b>-4.97 eV</b>	<b>-3.29 eV</b>	<b>-2.00 eV</b>
<b>Relative Error</b>	<b>1.39%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>1.41%</b>	<b>0.91%</b>	<b>1.50%</b>

Note: All the binding energies were calculated using the total energies of a bare slab and the adsorbate in vacuum as references. The adsorbate total energies were calculated with spin-polarization.

**Table S2.** Reaction energy of a dopant leaching out from the (111) surface ( $E_{\text{Leach}}$ ).

Schematic pictures can be found in **Figure S1**.

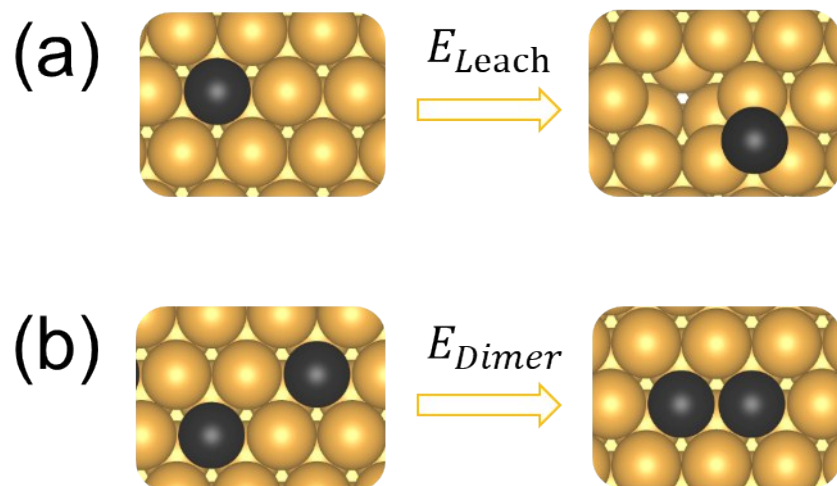
<b>Surfaces</b>	<b><math>E_{\text{Leach}}</math> (eV)</b>
<b>Cu<sub>1</sub>/Au(111)</b>	<b>1.55</b>
<b>Ir<sub>1</sub>/Au(111)</b>	<b>2.72</b>
<b>Pd<sub>1</sub>/Au(111)</b>	<b>1.71</b>
<b>Pt<sub>1</sub>/Au(111)</b>	<b>2.01</b>
<b>Rh<sub>1</sub>/Au(111)</b>	<b>2.35</b>
<b>Cu<sub>1</sub>/Ag(111)</b>	<b>1.43</b>
<b>Ir<sub>1</sub>/Ag(111)</b>	<b>2.84</b>
<b>Pd<sub>1</sub>/Ag(111)</b>	<b>1.79</b>
<b>Pt<sub>1</sub>/Ag(111)</b>	<b>2.10</b>
<b>Rh<sub>1</sub>/Ag(111)</b>	<b>2.50</b>
<b>Ir<sub>1</sub>/Cu(111)</b>	<b>3.37</b>
<b>Pd<sub>1</sub>/Cu(111)</b>	<b>2.05</b>
<b>Pt<sub>1</sub>/Cu(111)</b>	<b>2.50</b>
<b>Rh<sub>1</sub>/Cu(111)</b>	<b>2.89</b>

**Table S3.** Reaction energies of two surface isolated dopants forming a dimer ( $E_{\text{Dimer}}$ ). Schematic picture can be found in **Figure S1**.

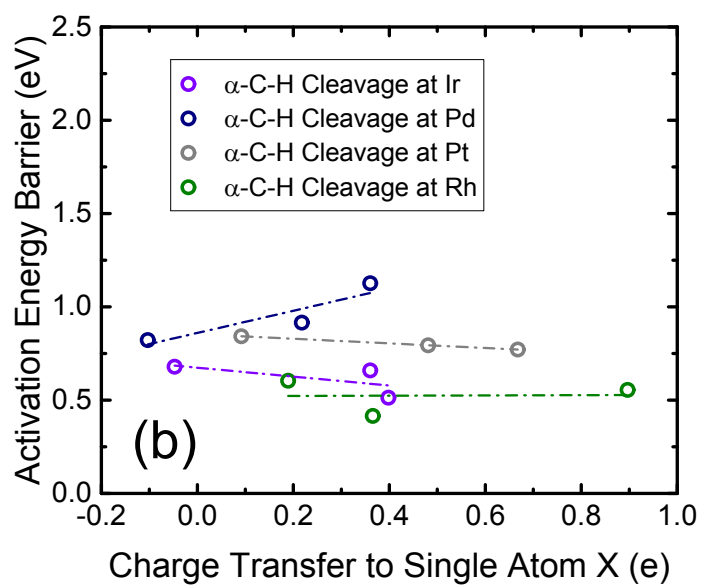
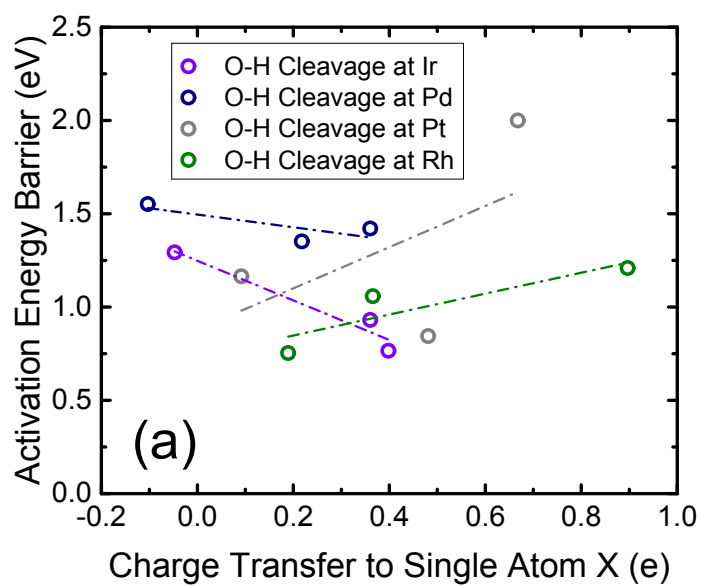
<b>Surfaces</b>	<b><math>E_{\text{Dimer}}</math> (eV)</b>
<b>Cu<sub>1</sub>/Au(111)</b>	<b>0.09</b>
<b>Ir<sub>1</sub>/Au(111)</b>	<b>-0.25</b>
<b>Pd<sub>1</sub>/Au(111)</b>	<b>0.07</b>
<b>Pt<sub>1</sub>/Au(111)</b>	<b>-0.01</b>
<b>Rh<sub>1</sub>/Au(111)</b>	<b>0.02</b>
<b>Cu<sub>1</sub>/Ag(111)</b>	<b>0.03</b>
<b>Ir<sub>1</sub>/Ag(111)</b>	<b>-0.38</b>
<b>Pd<sub>1</sub>/Ag(111)</b>	<b>0.05</b>
<b>Pt<sub>1</sub>/Ag(111)</b>	<b>-0.05</b>
<b>Rh<sub>1</sub>/Ag(111)</b>	<b>-0.05</b>
<b>Ir<sub>1</sub>/Cu(111)</b>	<b>-0.06</b>
<b>Pd<sub>1</sub>/Cu(111)</b>	<b>0.11</b>
<b>Pt<sub>1</sub>/Cu(111)</b>	<b>0.11</b>
<b>Rh<sub>1</sub>/Cu(111)</b>	<b>0.07</b>

**Table S4.** Calculated binding energy of EtOH ( $E_b$ ), activation energy barrier ( $E_{act}$ ), and reaction energy ( $E_{react}$ ) on the studied fourteen single-atom alloy surfaces.

Surfaces	$E_b$ [EtOH] (eV)	$E_{act}$ [O-H] (eV)	$E_{react}$ [O-H] (eV)	$E_{act}$ [ $\alpha$ -C-H] (eV)	$E_{react}$ [ $\alpha$ -C-H] (eV)	$E_{act}$ [ $\beta$ -C-H] (eV)	$E_{react}$ [ $\beta$ -C-H] (eV)
Cu <sub>1</sub> /Au(111)	-0.85	1.27	1.24	1.55	1.42	1.66	1.12
Ir <sub>1</sub> /Au(111)	-0.95	1.29	0.94	0.68	0.18	1.67	1.10
Pd <sub>1</sub> /Au(111)	-0.67	1.55	1.88	0.82	0.82	1.66	1.11
Pt <sub>1</sub> /Au(111)	-0.66	1.16	1.05	0.84	0.37	1.66	1.12
Rh <sub>1</sub> /Au(111)	-0.91	1.21	0.97	0.55	0.47	1.70	1.12
Cu <sub>1</sub> /Ag(111)	-0.65	1.13	0.37	1.48	1.13	1.66	1.31
Ir <sub>1</sub> /Ag(111)	-0.75	0.77	-0.04	0.51	-0.16	1.67	1.30
Pd <sub>1</sub> /Ag(111)	-0.55	1.35	0.69	0.92	0.81	1.66	1.43
Pt <sub>1</sub> /Ag(111)	-0.46	0.84	0.57	0.79	0.25	1.56	1.00
Rh <sub>1</sub> /Ag(111)	-0.75	0.75	0.20	0.60	0.27	1.63	1.37
Ir <sub>1</sub> /Cu(111)	-0.85	0.93	-0.00	0.66	-0.03	1.39	1.05
Pd <sub>1</sub> /Cu(111)	-0.71	1.42	-0.00	1.13	0.51	1.45	0.76
Pt <sub>1</sub> /Cu(111)	-0.64	2.00	0.84	0.77	0.15	1.18	0.70
Rh <sub>1</sub> /Cu(111)	-0.87	1.06	0.00	0.42	0.24	1.33	1.05



**Figure S1.** Schematic pictures of (a) a dopant leaching out from the (111) surface and (b) two surface isolated dopants forming a dimer.



**Figure S2.** Correlation between (a) O-H activation energy and charge transfer effect and (b)  $\alpha$ -C-H activation energy and charge transfer effect.