

## Supporting Information for

### The carbon chain growth during onset CVD graphene formation on $\gamma$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ is promoted by unsaturated $\text{CH}_2$ ends

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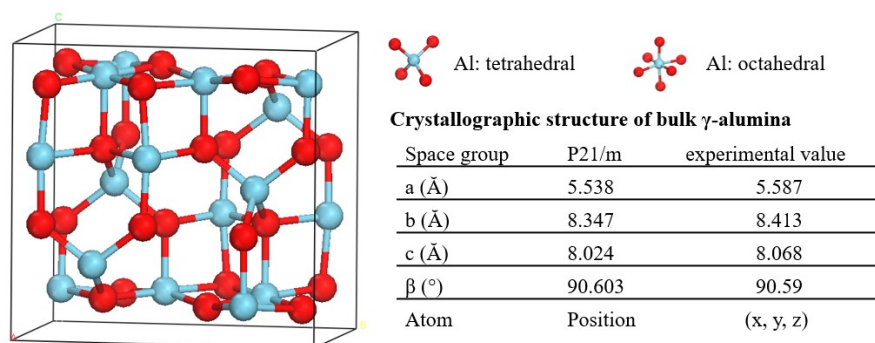
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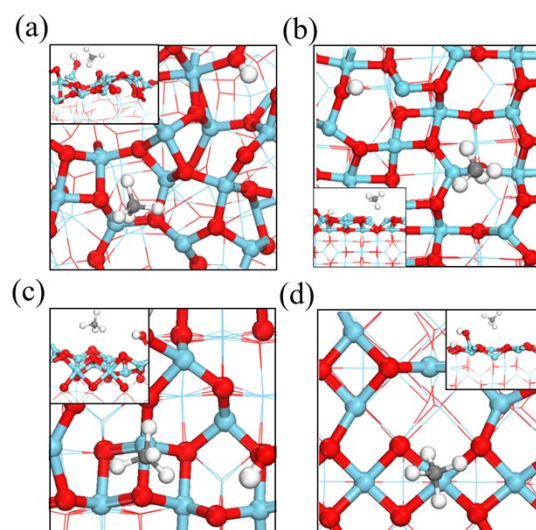
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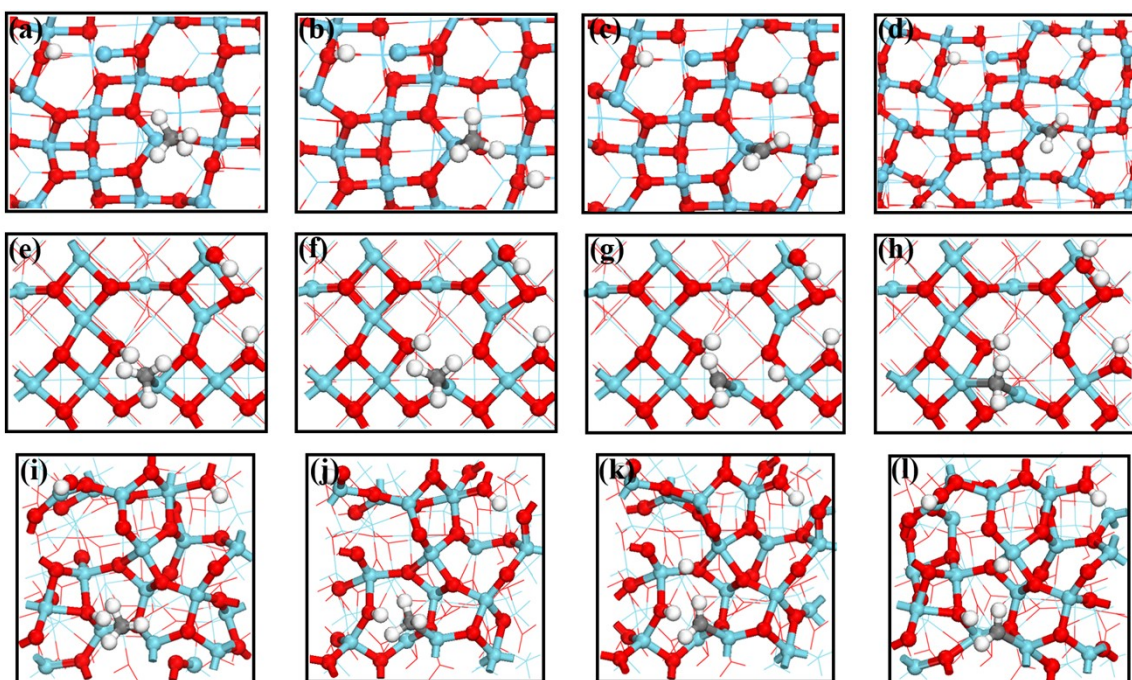
### S1. Supplementary Figures



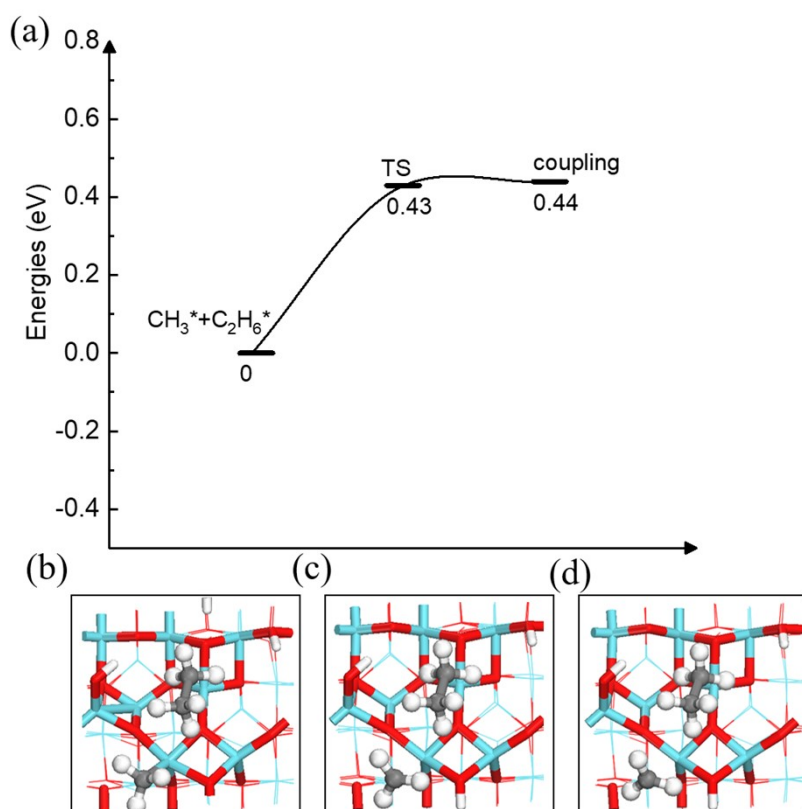
**Figure S1.** The bulk cell of  $\gamma$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (red and blue sphere represent the O anions and Al cations respectively).



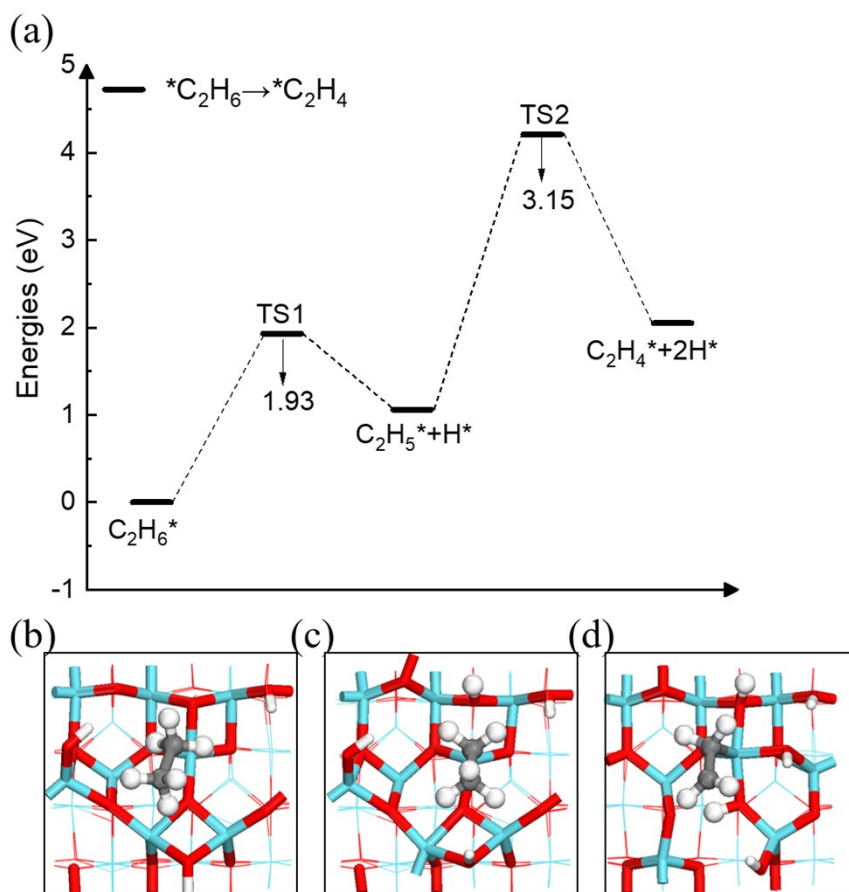
**Figure S2.** Top views of  $\text{CH}_4^*$  adsorption models on (a)  $\gamma$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3(111)$ ; (b)  $\gamma$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3(110)$ ; (c)  $\gamma$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3(100)$ ; (d)  $\gamma$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3(001)$ . The insets represent the corresponding side views. (Red, blue, grey, and white spheres represent the O, Al, C and H atoms, respectively).



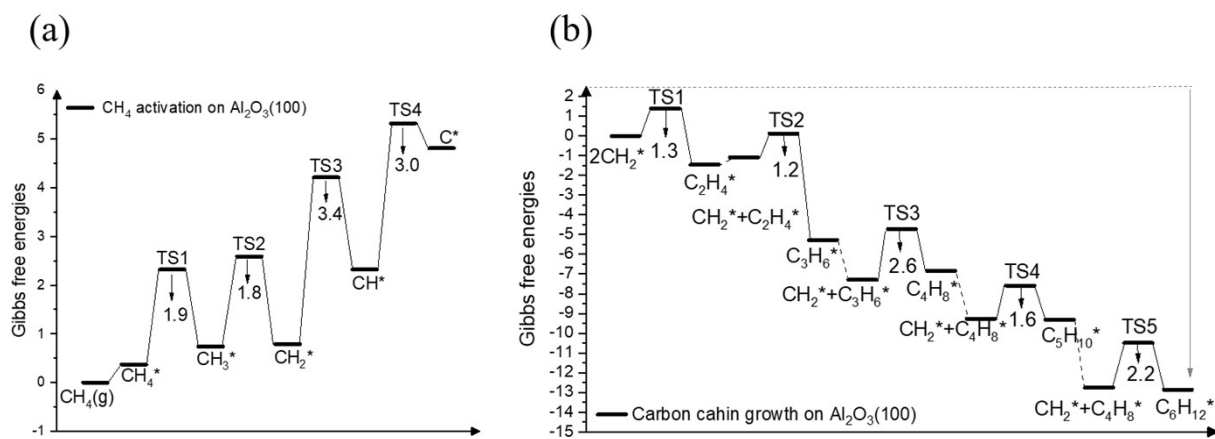
**Figure S3.** The structures include intermediates and transition states of the first two steps of the  $\text{CH}_4$  dehydrogenation on  $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (110): **(a)** TS1; **(b)**  $\text{CH}_3$ ; **(c)** TS2; **(d)**  $\text{CH}_2$ ;  $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (001): **(e)** TS1; **(f)**  $\text{CH}_3$ ; **(g)** TS2; **(h)**  $\text{CH}_2$ ; and  $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (111): **(i)** TS1; **(j)**  $\text{CH}_3$ ; **(k)** TS2; **(l)**  $\text{CH}_2$ . (Red, blue, grey, and white spheres represent the O, Al, C and H atoms, respectively).



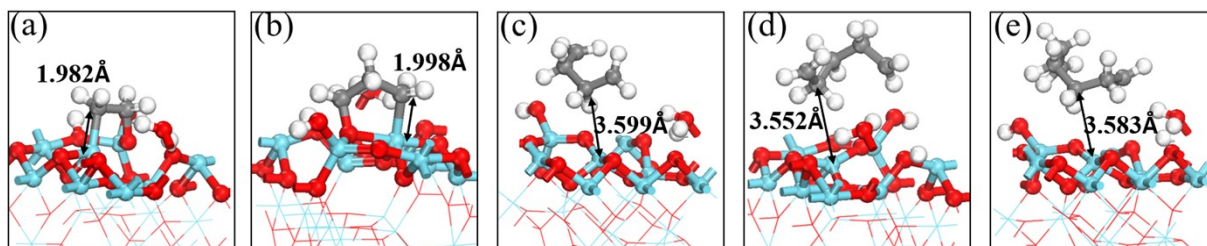
**Figure S4.** The energy diagram **(a)** for the  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6^*$  coupling with  $\text{CH}_3^*$  reaction and corresponding structures **(b)** initial state; **(c)** transition state; **(d)** final state. (Red and blue sphere represent the O anions and Al cations respectively)



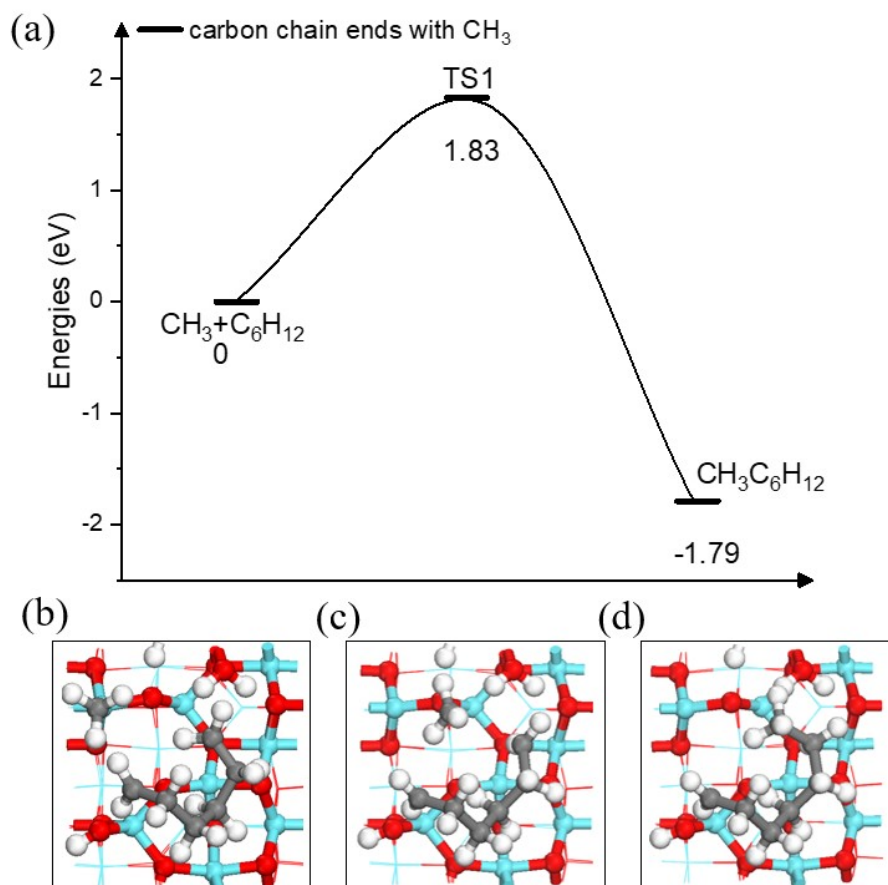
**Figure S5.** (a) The energy diagram of  $C_2H_6$  dehydrogenation process. The structures of (b)  $C_2H_6^*$ , (c)  $C_2H_5^*+H^*$ , and (d)  $C_2H_4^*+2H^*$  (Red and blue sphere represent the O anions and Al cations respectively)



**Figure S6.** The Gibbs energy profile of the (a) complete  $CH_4^*$  dehydrogenation and (b) formation of  $C_nH_{2n}^*$  ( $n = 2-6$ ) species via  $CH_2^*$  coupling on the  $\gamma$ - $Al_2O_3$  (100) surface computed by performing frequency analysis for the intermediates and transition states at the experimental temperature of 1000K.

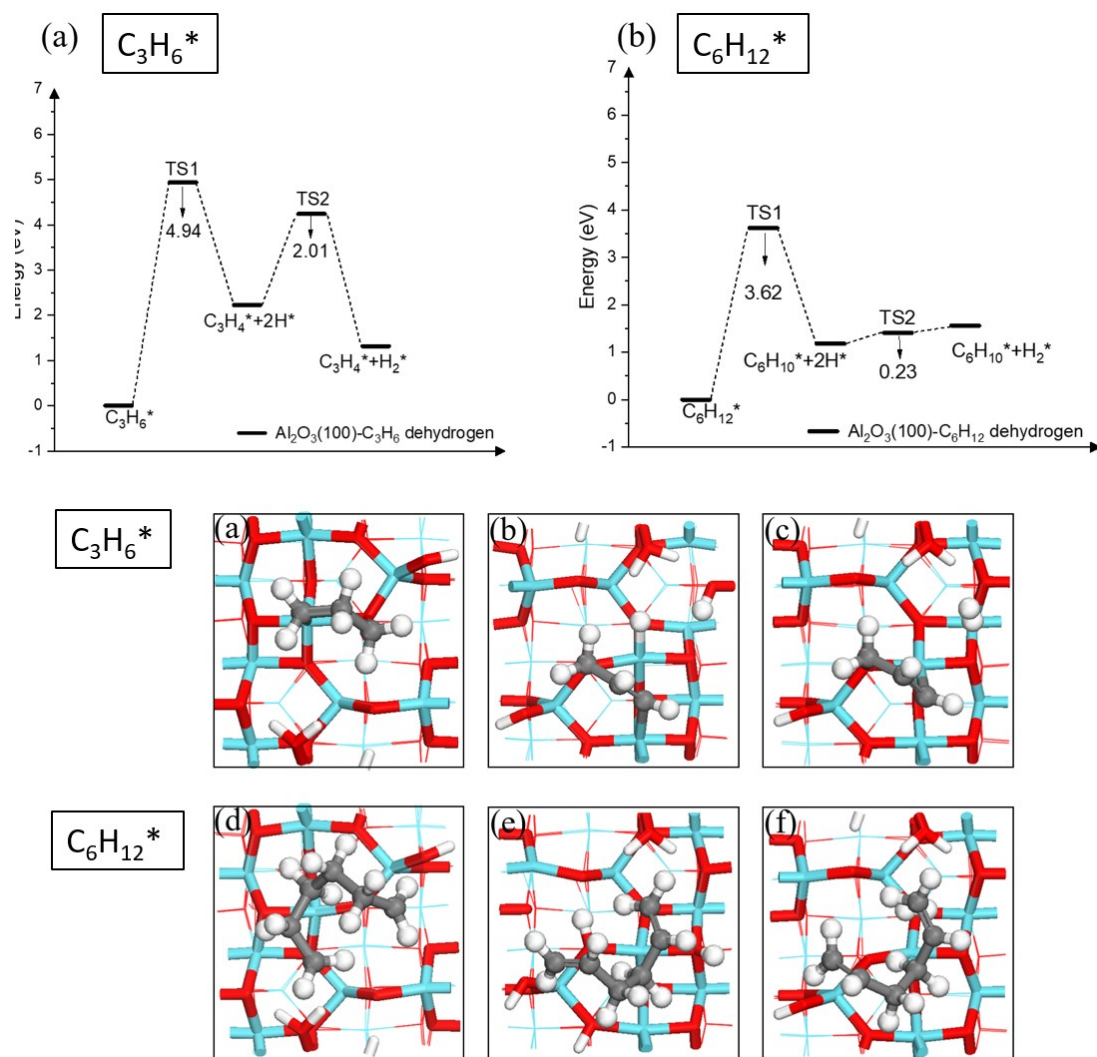


**Figure S7.** Structures and bond length between carbon end near surface and center sites of (a)  $C_2H_4^*$ , (b)  $C_3H_6^*$ , (c)  $C_4H_8^*$ , (d)  $C_5H_{10}^*$ , (e)  $C_6H_{12}^*$  on the  $\gamma-Al_2O_3(100)$  surface. (Red and blue sphere represent the O anions and Al cations respectively)

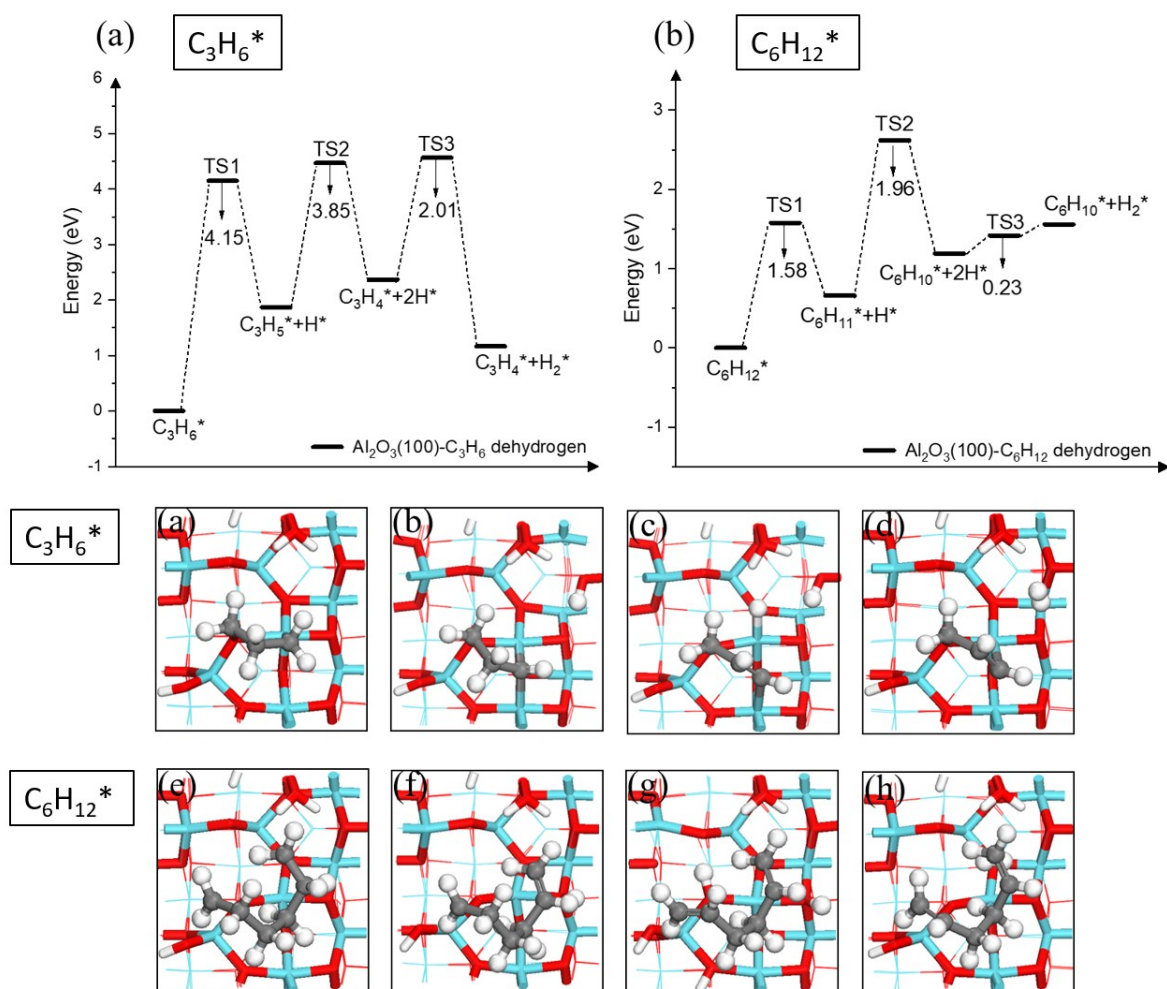


**Figure S8.** The (a) energy profiles for  $C_6H_{12}^*$  chain ends with  $CH_3^*$  and corresponding structures (b)  $C_6H_{12}^*+CH_3^*$ ; (c) TS; (d)  $CH_3C_6H_{12}^*$  on the  $\gamma-Al_2O_3(100)$  surface. (Red and blue sphere represent the O anions and Al cations respectively)

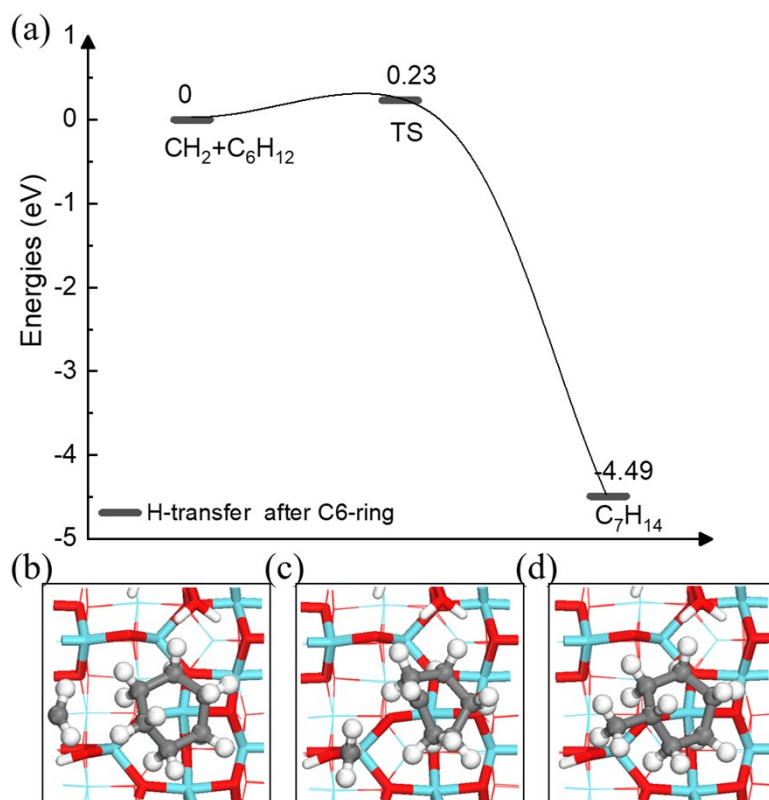




**Figure S9. Upper panel:** The energy profiles for the dehydrogenation of (a)  $C_3H_6^*$  and (b)  $C_6H_{12}^*$  on  $\gamma-Al_2O_3(100)$  via a **concerted** pathway. **Lower panel:** Structures of the intermediates during the dehydrogenation of  $C_3H_6^*$  on  $\gamma-Al_2O_3(100)$ : (a)  $C_3H_6^*$ ; (b)  $C_3H_4^* + 2H^*$ ; (c)  $C_3H_4^* + H_2^*$ . Structures during the dehydrogenation of  $C_6H_{12}^*$  on  $\gamma-Al_2O_3(100)$ : (d)  $C_6H_{12}^*$ ; (e)  $C_6H_{10}^* + 2H^*$ ; (f)  $C_6H_{10}^* + H_2^*$  (Red and blue sphere represent the O anions and Al cations respectively).



**Figure S10. Upper panel:** The energy profiles for the dehydrogenation of (a)  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_6^*$  and (b)  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}^*$  on  $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3(100)$  via a stepwise pathway. **Lower panel:** Structures of the intermediates during the dehydrogenation of  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_6^*$  on  $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3(100)$ : (a)  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_6^*$ ; (b)  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_5^* + \text{H}^*$ ; (c)  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_4^* + 2\text{H}^*$ ; (d)  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_4^* + \text{H}_2^*$ . Structures during the dehydrogenation of  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}^*$  on  $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3(100)$ : (e)  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}^*$ ; (f)  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{11}^* + \text{H}^*$ ; (g)  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{10}^* + 2\text{H}^*$ ; (h)  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{10}^* + \text{H}_2^*$  (Red and blue sphere represent the O anions and Al cations respectively).



**Figure S11.** Energy diagram (a) for further H behaviour after carbon ring formation and corresponding structures (b) CH<sub>2</sub>\*+C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>12</sub>\* ring; (c) TS; (d) CH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>12</sub>\*. (Red and blue sphere represent the O anions and Al cations respectively).

## References

- S1 G. Paglia, C. E. Buckley, A. L. Rohl, R. D. Hart, K. Winter, A. J. Studer, B. A. Hunter and J. V. Hanna, *Chemistry of Materials*, 2004, **16**, 220-236.  
 S2. J. Gu, J. Wang and J. Leszczynski, *ACS Omega*, 2018, **3**, 1881-1888.

## S2. Optimized Structures from VASP Calculations

**Coordinates:** CH<sub>4</sub>\* adsorption on the  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (111) surface in Figure S2.

cell_length_a				10.112600
cell_length_b				9.829600
cell_length_c				27.073799
cell_angle_alpha				90.000000
cell_angle_beta				90.000000
cell_angle_gamma				90.000000
cell_volume				2691.211970
space_group_name_H-M_alt				'P 1'
space_group_IT_number				1
O1	1.0	0.819257	0.371908	0.089444
O2	1.0	0.018866	0.664535	0.254293
O3	1.0	0.247982	0.918766	0.410950
O4	1.0	0.256150	0.287974	0.066855
O5	1.0	0.417984	0.490382	0.197551
O6	1.0	0.648964	0.698980	0.393103
O7	1.0	0.510751	0.170797	0.054205
O8	1.0	0.690956	0.468741	0.197851
O9	1.0	0.882188	0.657524	0.348402
O10	1.0	0.031475	0.394091	0.047973
O11	1.0	0.234296	0.653838	0.205509
O12	1.0	0.444275	0.853149	0.362310
O13	1.0	0.062191	0.844296	0.045342
O14	1.0	0.255163	0.131917	0.203636
O15	1.0	0.476393	0.234819	0.357440
O16	1.0	0.632052	0.657766	0.007201
O17	1.0	0.682432	0.965955	0.230601
O18	1.0	0.947710	0.120050	0.332579
O19	1.0	0.278992	0.838751	0.094445
O20	1.0	0.449446	0.032651	0.252297
O21	1.0	0.733193	0.202116	0.418223
O22	1.0	0.016504	0.134210	0.229462
O23	1.0	0.816621	0.923384	0.086748
O24	1.0	0.097018	0.519382	0.396076
O25	1.0	0.666423	0.246776	0.145589
O26	1.0	0.863794	0.446051	0.270107
O27	1.0	-0.001652	0.775980	0.435845
O28	1.0	0.113521	0.593951	0.113528
O29	1.0	0.349496	0.820219	0.276053
O30	1.0	0.549099	0.990652	0.427082
O31	1.0	0.722533	0.294184	0.995741
O32	1.0	0.903016	0.588554	0.162489
O33	1.0	0.129342	0.804355	0.325466
O34	1.0	0.250618	0.041111	0.018704
O35	1.0	0.427240	0.250322	0.157915
O36	1.0	0.633461	0.477137	0.314429
O37	1.0	0.306843	0.609032	0.036583
O38	1.0	0.386880	0.855144	0.179233
O39	1.0	0.657349	0.036466	0.337789
O40	1.0	0.807942	0.845083	0.995227
O41	1.0	0.860213	0.073619	0.160965
O42	1.0	0.067098	0.350516	0.312745
O43	1.0	0.114343	0.070985	0.116820
O44	1.0	0.330629	0.308070	0.273145
O45	1.0	0.601661	0.441870	0.417682
O46	1.0	0.744914	0.788737	0.158743
O47	1.0	0.017405	0.186361	0.424501
O48	1.0	0.905377	0.920798	0.282566



O49	1.0	0.401289	0.320163	0.988908
O50	1.0	0.484915	0.670474	0.122460
O51	1.0	0.656944	0.789661	0.306305
O52	1.0	0.015837	0.297567	0.141734
O53	1.0	0.228099	0.558084	0.295268
O54	1.0	0.432439	0.721393	0.458853
O55	1.0	0.563866	0.991304	0.132170
O56	1.0	0.770524	0.216944	0.276530
O57	1.0	0.855781	0.514578	0.450621
O58	1.0	0.869470	0.510693	0.980853
O59	1.0	0.015000	0.825938	0.154877
O60	1.0	0.222550	0.060657	0.318060
O61	1.0	0.953615	0.142598	0.037927
O62	1.0	0.129259	0.416148	0.218040
O63	1.0	0.406030	0.540192	0.373967
O64	1.0	0.506136	0.456783	0.057786
O65	1.0	0.570329	0.703433	0.221152
O66	1.0	0.816329	0.935135	0.398533
O67	1.0	0.875685	0.643125	0.069663
O68	1.0	0.135030	0.911433	0.234294
O69	1.0	0.239712	0.321506	0.375628
O70	1.0	0.511349	0.833591	0.051992
O71	1.0	0.558967	0.290535	0.237912
O72	1.0	0.875482	0.365063	0.370093
O73	1.0	0.166963	0.933282	0.510193
O74	1.0	0.560651	0.941856	0.953501
A11	1.0	0.182719	0.704565	0.068916
A12	1.0	0.305762	0.958123	0.224179
A13	1.0	0.592610	0.128491	0.389662
A14	1.0	0.622508	0.846588	0.001426
A15	1.0	0.715637	0.966361	0.165550
A16	1.0	0.900123	0.290995	0.310459
A17	1.0	0.179468	0.965496	0.069431
A18	1.0	0.416232	0.195191	0.226515
A19	1.0	0.522261	0.408669	0.359347
A110	1.0	0.055758	0.033644	0.284755
A111	1.0	0.876418	0.774601	0.115798
A112	1.0	0.058477	0.329434	0.386714
A113	1.0	0.568649	0.320331	0.018998
A114	1.0	0.723567	0.639094	0.190576
A115	1.0	0.962202	0.768679	0.307189
A116	1.0	0.085172	0.236248	0.079355
A117	1.0	0.290475	0.465413	0.240934
A118	1.0	0.518456	0.609602	0.422376
A119	1.0	0.837752	0.244092	0.136433
A120	1.0	0.033392	0.483404	0.269491
A121	1.0	0.122843	0.882074	0.452717
A122	1.0	0.333100	0.432042	0.038209
A123	1.0	0.418471	0.670596	0.184942
A124	1.0	0.631148	0.874314	0.369350
A125	1.0	0.533319	0.161082	0.118437
A126	1.0	0.699021	0.378897	0.258644
A127	1.0	0.953451	0.615743	0.412852
A128	1.0	0.871831	0.326835	0.026200
A129	1.0	0.068811	0.658453	0.175993
A130	1.0	0.284018	0.894319	0.340115
A131	1.0	0.451235	0.854644	0.114999
A132	1.0	0.761791	0.037569	0.283558
A133	1.0	0.771288	0.383199	0.422808
A134	1.0	0.807873	0.660077	0.010311

Al35	1.0	0.025954	0.997820	0.176182
Al36	1.0	0.306421	0.217733	0.329200
Al37	1.0	0.349857	0.176602	0.025554
Al38	1.0	0.550914	0.371297	0.178914
Al39	1.0	0.707901	0.635389	0.334738
Al40	1.0	0.955909	0.495213	0.100750
Al41	1.0	0.195044	0.733717	0.265167
Al42	1.0	0.415025	0.875519	0.428115
Al43	1.0	0.910657	0.956810	0.035066
Al44	1.0	0.118445	0.247359	0.195999
Al45	1.0	0.240286	0.501089	0.359468
Al46	1.0	0.501091	0.642811	0.055719
Al47	1.0	0.545320	0.860492	0.256602
Al48	1.0	0.882685	0.107376	0.395867
H1	1.0	0.870359	0.868230	0.417605
H2	1.0	0.125096	0.903008	0.540340
H3	1.0	0.808788	0.477272	0.955545
H4	1.0	0.465380	0.945606	0.949755
H5	1.0	0.319328	0.243297	0.519734
H6	1.0	0.485666	0.280777	0.501274
H7	1.0	0.360935	0.242692	0.455820
H8	1.0	0.355284	0.399682	0.488716
C1	1.0	0.381059	0.291394	0.491451

**Coordinates** of CH<sub>4</sub>\* adsorbed on the  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (110) surface in Figure S2.

cell_length_a				16.049000
cell_length_b				11.076900
cell_length_c				24.804501
cell_angle_alpha				90.000000
cell_angle_beta				90.000000
cell_angle_gamma				90.000000
cell_volume				4409.574405
space_group_name_H-M_alt				'P 1'
space_group_IT_number				1
O1	1.0	0.435578	0.189526	0.118153
O2	1.0	0.042305	0.305995	0.277913
O3	1.0	0.043206	0.306161	0.174324
O4	1.0	0.437983	0.188407	0.341705
O5	1.0	0.179624	0.440593	0.341802
O6	1.0	0.297707	0.042371	0.168496
O7	1.0	0.297034	0.040976	0.285385
O8	1.0	0.183196	0.443590	0.114198
O9	1.0	0.064137	0.065748	0.174203
O10	1.0	0.416571	0.411991	0.344346
O11	1.0	0.422636	0.415619	0.115715
O12	1.0	0.062212	0.065736	0.278277
O13	1.0	0.305664	0.307463	0.285654
O14	1.0	0.175562	0.177150	0.114216
O15	1.0	0.172865	0.179687	0.340945
O16	1.0	0.306551	0.311209	0.171788
O17	1.0	0.428018	0.181883	0.228600
O18	1.0	0.065898	0.327268	0.055880
O19	1.0	0.050353	0.331398	0.397720
O20	1.0	0.171047	0.439625	0.227059
O21	1.0	0.318636	0.043769	0.058829
O22	1.0	0.320757	0.041788	0.393818
O23	1.0	0.038383	0.073593	0.059541
O24	1.0	0.034476	0.080077	0.391752
O25	1.0	0.432667	0.421556	0.229814

O26	1.0	0.310052	0.299853	0.060233
O27	1.0	0.303860	0.294009	0.398466
O28	1.0	0.177585	0.177293	0.227298
O29	1.0	0.176797	0.063637	0.440917
O30	1.0	0.674751	0.048355	0.012382
O31	1.0	0.946869	0.205104	0.110087
O32	1.0	0.541884	0.298097	0.281224
O33	1.0	0.542942	0.303333	0.175419
O34	1.0	0.941012	0.209972	0.340573
O35	1.0	0.683120	0.440601	0.342563
O36	1.0	0.795225	0.044186	0.169712
O37	1.0	0.797511	0.046875	0.283110
O38	1.0	0.679902	0.438283	0.120128
O39	1.0	0.561898	0.063024	0.175380
O40	1.0	0.917150	0.425603	0.338153
O41	1.0	0.911585	0.414630	0.108958
O42	1.0	0.564240	0.062903	0.280493
O43	1.0	0.807133	0.319758	0.282750
O44	1.0	0.668000	0.171912	0.113400
O45	1.0	0.672520	0.178432	0.341063
O46	1.0	0.805966	0.314932	0.167002
O47	1.0	0.925849	0.190431	0.225241
O48	1.0	0.544714	0.308179	0.065730
O49	1.0	0.545922	0.303778	0.396901
O50	1.0	0.672617	0.435784	0.229996
O51	1.0	0.822635	0.062791	0.061646
O52	1.0	0.825950	0.060711	0.391463
O53	1.0	0.528817	0.060384	0.064359
O54	1.0	0.535388	0.057176	0.391337
O55	1.0	0.932005	0.430746	0.224593
O56	1.0	0.770081	0.307776	0.047088
O57	1.0	0.809312	0.310257	0.397385
O58	1.0	0.677003	0.176135	0.226770
O59	1.0	0.441393	0.698264	0.113000
O60	1.0	0.042834	0.805179	0.278714
O61	1.0	0.041619	0.804170	0.174629
O62	1.0	0.446178	0.693295	0.341942
O63	1.0	0.180849	0.946103	0.341002
O64	1.0	0.299281	0.545169	0.169589
O65	1.0	0.296399	0.541425	0.286212
O66	1.0	0.180701	0.940759	0.113120
O67	1.0	0.062561	0.569004	0.173377
O68	1.0	0.414500	0.904865	0.344545
O69	1.0	0.413085	0.911109	0.112486
O70	1.0	0.061104	0.565526	0.278271
O71	1.0	0.306577	0.804641	0.286408
O72	1.0	0.173342	0.679683	0.113294
O73	1.0	0.171744	0.677535	0.340337
O74	1.0	0.306790	0.807524	0.172041
O75	1.0	0.427910	0.680621	0.227845
O76	1.0	0.045178	0.818629	0.059643
O77	1.0	0.048623	0.830160	0.395559
O78	1.0	0.171976	0.937358	0.227155
O79	1.0	0.323991	0.544256	0.061280
O80	1.0	0.320609	0.548799	0.394292
O81	1.0	0.032278	0.569802	0.062303
O82	1.0	0.033428	0.579298	0.392233
O83	1.0	0.433738	0.922701	0.228006
O84	1.0	0.303048	0.791364	0.057028
O85	1.0	0.270093	0.799439	0.404743

O86	1.0	0.177079	0.676828	0.227447
O87	1.0	0.933489	0.699251	0.112753
O88	1.0	0.542921	0.798655	0.278948
O89	1.0	0.541979	0.797281	0.174391
O90	1.0	0.937136	0.706001	0.340609
O91	1.0	0.686378	0.945073	0.340106
O92	1.0	0.795802	0.563557	0.168808
O93	1.0	0.795636	0.560663	0.286008
O94	1.0	0.682604	0.942059	0.112100
O95	1.0	0.561025	0.545504	0.175433
O96	1.0	0.919089	0.928325	0.335965
O97	1.0	0.917997	0.928484	0.115259
O98	1.0	0.561426	0.559077	0.280232
O99	1.0	0.804690	0.803169	0.285842
O100	1.0	0.672015	0.676873	0.118906
O101	1.0	0.674335	0.675017	0.336265
O102	1.0	0.804372	0.803941	0.167179
O103	1.0	0.926032	0.690779	0.226893
O104	1.0	0.550957	0.817748	0.053398
O105	1.0	0.563397	0.811354	0.396517
O106	1.0	0.670688	0.935753	0.226804
O107	1.0	0.815527	0.559111	0.065759
O108	1.0	0.820779	0.563837	0.387395
O109	1.0	0.537179	0.560930	0.068065
O110	1.0	0.536959	0.562286	0.393521
O111	1.0	0.930920	0.927723	0.226047
O112	1.0	0.809891	0.809469	0.062339
O113	1.0	0.811978	0.812128	0.390610
O114	1.0	0.672607	0.673774	0.227250
A11	1.0	0.290889	0.417296	0.343529
A12	1.0	0.183882	0.059155	0.167820
A13	1.0	0.182645	0.061443	0.286344
A14	1.0	0.293491	0.420160	0.113533
A15	1.0	0.417925	0.300995	0.172946
A16	1.0	0.065050	0.218402	0.344212
A17	1.0	0.067124	0.210606	0.109409
A18	1.0	0.417961	0.299371	0.285867
A19	1.0	0.054545	0.438411	0.225315
A110	1.0	0.421554	0.053419	0.082717
A111	1.0	0.426250	0.046590	0.374414
A112	1.0	0.239690	0.311075	0.228367
A113	1.0	0.249821	0.167082	0.062044
A114	1.0	0.245936	0.157790	0.394216
A115	1.0	0.054735	0.183923	0.226196
A116	1.0	0.427085	0.300917	0.056500
A117	1.0	0.421188	0.298516	0.401227
A118	1.0	0.122984	0.472824	0.053489
A119	1.0	0.115538	0.469529	0.401332
A120	1.0	0.359258	0.048723	0.227278
A121	1.0	0.798382	0.935447	0.341636
A122	1.0	0.680431	0.556683	0.171406
A123	1.0	0.678458	0.554096	0.285506
A124	1.0	0.796593	0.934546	0.111045
A125	1.0	0.924173	0.809690	0.169891
A126	1.0	0.565108	0.697808	0.342868
A127	1.0	0.564800	0.706612	0.104996
A128	1.0	0.924801	0.810451	0.282200
A129	1.0	0.552433	0.928675	0.227925
A130	1.0	0.925985	0.555242	0.078592
A131	1.0	0.929846	0.562658	0.373044

A132	1.0	0.737505	0.805971	0.226412
A133	1.0	0.780366	0.686631	0.105593
A134	1.0	0.782230	0.689686	0.347839
A135	1.0	0.549219	0.676726	0.226225
A136	1.0	0.927430	0.818643	0.055070
A137	1.0	0.928833	0.822926	0.399291
A138	1.0	0.608389	0.952079	0.058732
A139	1.0	0.616481	0.949845	0.394388
A140	1.0	0.861782	0.558225	0.226668
A141	1.0	0.795931	0.424803	0.343220
A142	1.0	0.681200	0.057090	0.167919
A143	1.0	0.683100	0.060882	0.285490
A144	1.0	0.788881	0.416767	0.106260
A145	1.0	0.921628	0.308396	0.166209
A146	1.0	0.559066	0.187522	0.343893
A147	1.0	0.555737	0.182265	0.112776
A148	1.0	0.921876	0.311039	0.281445
A149	1.0	0.551317	0.427995	0.231742
A150	1.0	0.931182	0.066714	0.078275
A151	1.0	0.931877	0.066749	0.369179
A152	1.0	0.742116	0.307748	0.225283
A153	1.0	0.734185	0.156579	0.057422
A154	1.0	0.751567	0.176603	0.390720
A155	1.0	0.552274	0.179279	0.228128
A156	1.0	0.956021	0.317780	0.040986
A157	1.0	0.932188	0.321762	0.399226
A158	1.0	0.574231	0.433986	0.104611
A159	1.0	0.597689	0.436074	0.384489
A160	1.0	0.861819	0.057699	0.225611
A161	1.0	0.290965	0.911700	0.343520
A162	1.0	0.184618	0.562866	0.167038
A163	1.0	0.181272	0.558900	0.287545
A164	1.0	0.290039	0.907820	0.111898
A165	1.0	0.419766	0.801201	0.170792
A166	1.0	0.063572	0.708829	0.344619
A167	1.0	0.062291	0.697493	0.110446
A168	1.0	0.420378	0.799218	0.286496
A169	1.0	0.055658	0.937910	0.226305
A170	1.0	0.426932	0.558184	0.082149
A171	1.0	0.425616	0.557916	0.375211
A172	1.0	0.240920	0.808251	0.228946
A173	1.0	0.240075	0.652395	0.053624
A174	1.0	0.229693	0.641644	0.402333
A175	1.0	0.056296	0.683773	0.226905
A176	1.0	0.419496	0.802578	0.052899
A177	1.0	0.451085	0.805271	0.411586
A178	1.0	0.107881	0.950609	0.060367
A179	1.0	0.110287	0.964399	0.394174
A180	1.0	0.359070	0.549369	0.228640
H1	1.0	0.140275	0.106158	0.465877
H2	1.0	0.309453	0.817019	0.434522
H3	1.0	0.715165	0.005115	0.990182
H4	1.0	0.819287	0.315095	0.021612
H5	1.0	0.610510	0.390681	0.516374
H6	1.0	0.635538	0.545346	0.500640
H7	1.0	0.714141	0.447304	0.527560
H8	1.0	0.681067	0.423561	0.461436
C1	1.0	0.658768	0.452427	0.501730



**Coordinates of CH<sub>4</sub>\* adsorbed on the  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (100) surface in Figure S2.**

cell_length_a	8.070750			
cell_length_b	8.404430			
cell_length_c	26.383160			
cell_angle_alpha	90.000000			
cell_angle_beta	90.000000			
cell_angle_gamma	90.000000			
cell_volume	1789.571263			
space_group_name_H-M_alt	'P 1'			
space_group_IT_number	1			
H1	1.0	0.011995	0.411980	0.458362
H2	1.0	0.388516	0.757855	0.967723
H3	1.0	0.701996	0.310403	0.531470
H4	1.0	0.739848	0.517488	0.518411
H5	1.0	0.531436	0.443476	0.521332
H6	1.0	0.651554	0.458819	0.577695
H7	1.0	0.864255	0.321243	0.970611
H8	1.0	0.749368	0.868595	0.498552
C1	1.0	0.656831	0.432299	0.537025
O1	1.0	0.110355	0.590023	0.157307
O2	1.0	0.127574	0.579320	0.367007
O3	1.0	0.616367	0.906845	0.048312
O4	1.0	0.618793	0.916997	0.260781
O5	1.0	0.842993	0.412690	0.993249
O6	1.0	0.862823	0.412072	0.207481
O7	1.0	0.830288	0.416327	0.419013
O8	1.0	0.367782	0.101448	0.096769
O9	1.0	0.363075	0.085601	0.313034
O10	1.0	0.909850	0.096841	0.108340
O11	1.0	0.901975	0.110546	0.320052
O12	1.0	0.418243	0.424242	0.999535
O13	1.0	0.396020	0.420990	0.210599
O14	1.0	0.401479	0.440688	0.423466
O15	1.0	0.158528	0.913090	0.060366
O16	1.0	0.152330	0.907300	0.268427
O17	1.0	0.643793	0.580283	0.158147
O18	1.0	0.638861	0.601021	0.369084
O19	1.0	0.906940	0.403539	0.107200
O20	1.0	0.907963	0.412418	0.322125
O21	1.0	0.421012	0.084471	0.000490
O22	1.0	0.396501	0.084787	0.212795
O23	1.0	0.425799	0.132068	0.443652
O24	1.0	0.156529	0.596839	0.059345
O25	1.0	0.156970	0.596681	0.269381
O26	1.0	0.643594	0.920681	0.159702
O27	1.0	0.647280	0.915096	0.384065
O28	1.0	0.112204	0.911557	0.158119
O29	1.0	0.103082	0.923220	0.366950
O30	1.0	0.616698	0.602830	0.047033
O31	1.0	0.618404	0.589566	0.258341
O32	1.0	0.845029	0.117150	0.998252
O33	1.0	0.863178	0.090741	0.207056
O34	1.0	0.847355	0.094149	0.425274
O35	1.0	0.366119	0.408225	0.095512
O36	1.0	0.369909	0.411785	0.310746
O37	1.0	0.137682	0.252628	0.157589
O38	1.0	0.140569	0.251312	0.371687
O39	1.0	0.638326	0.257541	0.057404
O40	1.0	0.647067	0.253191	0.260571

O41	1.0	0.890991	0.752512	0.109077
O42	1.0	0.894782	0.740319	0.320262
O43	1.0	0.330025	0.755498	-0.000068
O44	1.0	0.363326	0.752439	0.213206
O45	1.0	0.355803	0.754586	0.425805
O46	1.0	0.900105	0.756489	0.999731
O47	1.0	0.894823	0.750912	0.210329
O48	1.0	0.916333	0.729148	0.424727
O49	1.0	0.383126	0.753032	0.104044
O50	1.0	0.382787	0.755529	0.316090
O51	1.0	0.122474	0.255618	0.053593
O52	1.0	0.114414	0.257124	0.266400
O53	1.0	0.645264	0.251118	0.163344
O54	1.0	0.633729	0.259415	0.366352
O55	1.0	0.134978	0.417864	0.462110
O56	1.0	0.649978	0.933993	0.498296
Al1	1.0	0.393827	0.924909	0.055948
Al2	1.0	0.388279	0.925025	0.268401
Al3	1.0	0.137210	0.423706	0.111502
Al4	1.0	0.141260	0.417668	0.320981
Al5	1.0	0.637077	0.428391	0.013607
Al6	1.0	0.622266	0.427525	0.213232
Al7	1.0	0.608572	0.429243	0.405775
Al8	1.0	0.869882	0.920728	0.162404
Al9	1.0	0.888687	0.909175	0.393135
Al10	1.0	0.643419	0.078865	0.013214
Al11	1.0	0.625276	0.075739	0.214196
Al12	1.0	0.617303	0.033912	0.441223
Al13	1.0	0.869510	0.582630	0.161945
Al14	1.0	0.870450	0.590419	0.375990
Al15	1.0	0.391889	0.585678	0.054972
Al16	1.0	0.392415	0.581705	0.269190
Al17	1.0	0.140791	0.079366	0.113529
Al18	1.0	0.131958	0.082379	0.323834
Al19	1.0	0.896264	0.242999	0.053073
Al20	1.0	0.880673	0.261988	0.272415
Al21	1.0	0.506331	0.256924	0.115619
Al22	1.0	0.502555	0.244628	0.315852
Al23	1.0	0.882906	0.251160	0.161435
Al24	1.0	0.865463	0.243667	0.376900
Al25	1.0	0.101850	0.757194	0.015675
Al26	1.0	0.130473	0.750847	0.221439
Al27	1.0	0.233448	0.589176	0.428065
Al28	1.0	0.514249	0.750595	0.164254
Al29	1.0	0.500707	0.763878	0.377911
Al30	1.0	0.138870	0.751935	0.113515
Al31	1.0	0.130781	0.757184	0.325564
Al32	1.0	0.768441	0.755528	0.052162
Al33	1.0	0.753796	0.752181	0.270864
Al34	1.0	0.324773	0.254093	0.029223
Al35	1.0	0.265788	0.253636	0.218239
Al36	1.0	0.274648	0.266707	0.429159

**Coordinates** of CH<sub>4</sub>\* adsorbed on the  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (001) surface in Figure S2.

cell_length_a	11.076900
cell_length_b	8.346800
cell_length_c	26.206800
cell_angle_alpha	90.000000
cell_angle_beta	90.000000

cell_angle_gamma		90.000000		
cell_volume		2422.993327		
space_group_name_H-M_alt		'P 1'		
space_group_IT_number		1		
O1	1.0	0.197385	0.403294	0.121937
O2	1.0	0.203463	0.394172	0.430501
O3	1.0	0.308883	0.902940	0.184585
O4	1.0	0.308845	0.592514	0.184394
O5	1.0	0.197954	0.090600	0.121867
O6	1.0	0.203928	0.090638	0.430269
O7	1.0	0.448244	0.082092	0.270446
O8	1.0	0.056539	0.597191	0.026875
O9	1.0	0.045917	0.572461	0.340170
O10	1.0	0.056279	0.896614	0.026744
O11	1.0	0.048177	0.903293	0.343229
O12	1.0	0.448559	0.418511	0.270172
O13	1.0	0.072532	0.591392	0.196025
O14	1.0	0.430855	0.085588	0.109248
O15	1.0	0.439357	0.099896	0.415889
O16	1.0	0.430610	0.409476	0.109388
O17	1.0	0.435371	0.405229	0.416292
O18	1.0	0.071915	0.905025	0.196994
O19	1.0	0.305317	0.901875	0.039729
O20	1.0	0.312169	0.919743	0.345250
O21	1.0	0.184349	0.417198	0.263877
O22	1.0	0.181865	0.078525	0.265084
O23	1.0	0.305378	0.592545	0.039956
O24	1.0	0.312132	0.575644	0.345220
O25	1.0	0.199460	0.747784	0.112985
O26	1.0	0.174190	0.738943	0.420711
O27	1.0	0.312595	0.247388	0.190775
O28	1.0	0.443970	0.748974	0.262382
O29	1.0	0.079707	0.246722	0.042174
O30	1.0	0.059470	0.251361	0.348589
O31	1.0	0.073651	0.244351	0.188364
O32	1.0	0.437801	0.747586	0.118126
O33	1.0	0.398686	0.748849	0.425208
O34	1.0	0.323910	0.247462	0.035712
O35	1.0	0.320387	0.248555	0.344164
O36	1.0	0.181233	0.747178	0.266253
O37	1.0	0.701140	0.401631	0.117885
O38	1.0	0.704553	0.405646	0.428426
O39	1.0	0.807867	0.905015	0.183338
O40	1.0	0.807893	0.590411	0.183348
O41	1.0	0.700375	0.092338	0.117499
O42	1.0	0.693383	0.110586	0.428589
O43	1.0	0.945227	0.075786	0.274027
O44	1.0	0.525267	0.596238	0.026960
O45	1.0	0.548931	0.586363	0.341678
O46	1.0	0.525897	0.899353	0.027637
O47	1.0	0.548148	0.916054	0.340923
O48	1.0	0.947952	0.412881	0.266908
O49	1.0	0.573935	0.591234	0.196673
O50	1.0	0.940449	0.091386	0.109535
O51	1.0	0.939837	0.097677	0.416101
O52	1.0	0.940803	0.401568	0.109772
O53	1.0	0.952024	0.375363	0.436880
O54	1.0	0.573742	0.906022	0.196518
O55	1.0	0.834886	0.917142	0.041316
O56	1.0	0.813976	0.909568	0.354451

O57	1.0	0.684353	0.415224	0.263246
O58	1.0	0.685432	0.079866	0.264138
O59	1.0	0.835247	0.576334	0.041571
O60	1.0	0.809412	0.569400	0.342594
O61	1.0	0.693803	0.747143	0.113040
O62	1.0	0.667150	0.752187	0.420802
O63	1.0	0.810797	0.244475	0.190699
O64	1.0	0.941959	0.747453	0.262244
O65	1.0	0.548655	0.248020	0.041025
O66	1.0	0.560338	0.253587	0.346305
O67	1.0	0.573089	0.247648	0.184329
O68	1.0	0.926625	0.747479	0.116189
O69	1.0	0.910821	0.681562	0.426302
O70	1.0	0.860949	0.246973	0.031499
O71	1.0	0.822990	0.251769	0.346675
O72	1.0	0.683478	0.750461	0.266668
O73	1.0	0.359662	0.760837	0.943739
O74	1.0	0.815916	0.920266	0.491672
A11	1.0	0.438763	0.080682	0.038191
A12	1.0	0.434604	0.074146	0.340912
A13	1.0	0.066046	0.574404	0.269985
A14	1.0	0.064842	0.918936	0.272791
A15	1.0	0.438260	0.414750	0.038444
A16	1.0	0.435117	0.425242	0.340205
A17	1.0	0.312889	0.577056	0.112370
A18	1.0	0.288385	0.578805	0.413500
A19	1.0	0.195140	0.074940	0.196076
A110	1.0	0.194847	0.419172	0.195232
A111	1.0	0.312922	0.918274	0.112280
A112	1.0	0.280421	0.904088	0.412313
A113	1.0	0.442612	0.747390	0.191113
A114	1.0	0.066641	0.245840	0.117636
A115	1.0	0.077750	0.234948	0.418861
A116	1.0	0.407973	0.748633	0.005825
A117	1.0	0.313471	0.747501	0.304899
A118	1.0	0.186734	0.249543	0.305026
A119	1.0	0.187667	0.748221	0.189055
A120	1.0	0.315348	0.247203	0.113888
A121	1.0	0.318552	0.245783	0.417553
A122	1.0	0.446542	0.249804	0.229909
A123	1.0	0.172797	0.747268	0.042402
A124	1.0	0.035770	0.732546	0.385547
A125	1.0	0.957292	0.068164	0.038185
A126	1.0	0.933240	0.063268	0.345337
A127	1.0	0.568141	0.574810	0.271449
A128	1.0	0.566133	0.923874	0.271306
A129	1.0	0.957710	0.425347	0.038446
A130	1.0	0.931071	0.418673	0.334074
A131	1.0	0.813722	0.573823	0.110850
A132	1.0	0.766941	0.593102	0.408312
A133	1.0	0.695761	0.078138	0.194130
A134	1.0	0.697760	0.416083	0.194001
A135	1.0	0.812888	0.920368	0.110587
A136	1.0	0.773560	0.919574	0.427277
A137	1.0	0.942406	0.748316	0.188674
A138	1.0	0.570703	0.246989	0.111157
A139	1.0	0.572407	0.253962	0.416290
A140	1.0	0.936217	0.746864	0.041050
A141	1.0	0.814077	0.753605	0.307115
A142	1.0	0.689885	0.248784	0.304960

A143	1.0	0.690243	0.747907	0.191394
A144	1.0	0.819071	0.246675	0.103179
A145	1.0	0.817726	0.247219	0.422060
A146	1.0	0.942345	0.237535	0.230153
A147	1.0	0.567945	0.747416	0.072896
A148	1.0	0.532732	0.753837	0.384777
H1	1.0	0.955066	0.494613	0.443280
H2	1.0	0.168741	0.246710	0.032412
H3	1.0	0.396374	0.710091	0.914529
H4	1.0	0.879558	0.845403	0.500141
H5	1.0	0.528618	0.370960	0.516064
H6	1.0	0.477320	0.287824	0.574853
H7	1.0	0.565803	0.165761	0.532787
H8	1.0	0.634607	0.329955	0.565450
C1	1.0	0.551490	0.287836	0.547121