

## Electronic Supplementary Material

# Mesoscale Study of Crystal Plane Effects of Ni Catalysts on $\text{CO}_2$ Hydrogenation

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## S1. Detailed equations of CO<sub>2</sub> conversion and CH<sub>4</sub> selectivity

After gas chromatography, it was found that the gas phase products were CH<sub>4</sub> and CO, and the liquid was H<sub>2</sub>O. The correction factors for carbon monoxide and methane relative to argon were 1.04 and 2.15, respectively. The CO<sub>2</sub> conversion ( $X_A$ ) and CH<sub>4</sub> selectivity ( $S_i$ ) were calculated as

$$X_A = \frac{n_A^0 - n_A}{n_A^0} \times 100\% = \frac{A_A^0 / A_s^0 - A_A / A_s}{A_A^0 / A_s^0} \times 100\% \quad (\text{S1})$$

$$S_i = \frac{A_i \times F_{i/s}}{A_i \times F_{i/s} + A_j \times F_{j/s}} \times 100\% \quad (\text{S2})$$

where  $A_A^0 / A_s^0$  was the peak area ratio of CO<sub>2</sub> and internal standard Ar in the reaction raw material gas, and  $A_A / A_s$  was the peak area ratio of CO<sub>2</sub> and internal standard Ar in the mixed gas after the reaction.  $A_i$  and  $A_j$  represented the peak areas of CO and CH<sub>4</sub>, respectively, and  $F_{i/s}$  and  $F_{j/s}$  represented the relative correction factors of CO and CH<sub>4</sub>, respectively.

The turnover frequency (TOF) was evaluated using 0.02-0.1 g catalyst, and the gas velocity was adjusted to keep the CO<sub>2</sub> conversion rate below 20%.

$$TOF(s^{-1}) = \frac{X_{CO_2} \times F_{CO_2}}{m_{cat} \times M_s} \quad (\text{S3})$$

$F_{CO_2}$  represented the flow rate of carbon dioxide in the feed gas (s<sup>-1</sup>), and  $M_s$  was the number of active sites per unit mass of the catalyst. The active sites were measured via CO chemisorption, assuming that one CO molecule was adsorbed on one single Ni site.[1-3]

The activation energies of CO<sub>2</sub> conversion or CH<sub>4</sub> generation were calculated from the slope of Arrhenius plot ‘lnTOF~1000/T’ in Fig. S6. Compared with the Arrhenius equation below, the activation energy Ea (kJ·mol<sup>-1</sup>) should be the slop of Arrhenius plot multiplied by R.

$$\ln TOF = \ln A - \frac{E_a}{RT} \quad (\text{S4})$$

In which  $A$  presented the pre-exponential factor,  $Ea$  meant the activation energy and R meant the gas constant R (8.314 J·(mol·K)<sup>-1</sup>).

## S2. Calculation method of reaction rate for elementary reaction

The forward / reverse pre-exponential factors ( $\nu_{for}$  and  $\nu_{rev}$ ) for reaction X+Y→Z were determined as

$$\nu_{for} = \prod_{i=1}^{3N} \nu_i^{IS} / \prod_{j=1}^{3N-1} \nu_j^{TS} \quad (S5)$$

$$\nu_{rev} = \prod_{i=1}^{3N} \nu_i^{FS} / \prod_{j=1}^{3N-1} \nu_j^{TS} \quad (S6)$$

where  $\nu_i^{IS}$  and  $\nu_i^{FS}$  were vibrational frequencies at initial and final state, and  $\nu_j^{TS}$  was vibrational frequencies at transition state[4].

Thus the rate constant ( $k_n$ ) was calculated as

$$k_n = v \exp(-E_a / k_B T) \quad (S7)$$

where  $E_a$  was the activation energy barrier and  $k_B$  was Boltzmann constant.

For the adsorption process, the rates would be written as[5]

$$k_{ads}^i = s_0 P_i A_i / \sqrt{2\pi m_i k_B T} \quad (S8)$$

where  $s_0$ ,  $P_i$  (Pa) and  $m_i$  (kg) were the sticking coefficient, partial pressure and molecular mass of species I, respectively;  $A_i$  ( $m^2$ ) was the area of adsorption site.

For the desorption process, the rates were calculated based on the harmonic transition state theory (HTST) and it could be derived as Arrhenius equation[6, 7]:

$$k_{des} = \frac{k_B T}{h} e^{n_1} \left( \frac{P^\Theta}{RT} \right)^{1-n} \exp \left( \frac{\Delta_r S_m^\Theta (P^\Theta)}{R} \right) \exp \left( \frac{-E_a}{RT} \right) \quad (S9)$$

$$\Delta_r S_m^\Theta (P^\Theta) = S_{TS}^\Theta (P^\Theta) - S_{RS}^\Theta (P^\Theta) \quad (S10)$$

where  $n$  and  $n_1$  represented the coefficient amount of the reactants and the coefficient amount of the gaseous reactants. For the condensed phase reaction, the value of  $n_1$  was 1.  $h$  and  $R$  were Plank constant and gas constant, respectively. The entropy  $\Delta_r S_m^\Theta (P^\Theta)$  contained three contributions, translational, rotational, and vibrational distributions, which was obtained from the frequency calculations with DFT at 1 atm and 298.15 K.

### S3. Microkinetic modeling

As shown in Fig. S7 and Table S1, the reaction network was divided into 31 elementary reaction steps. Here in, according to the actual experimental condition, the partial pressure of H<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> ( $p_1$  and  $p_2$ ) were set to be 60,000 Pa and 15,000 Pa, respectively. The reaction rates of elementary reactions have been expressed by  $k_i$ ,  $p_i$  and  $y(i)$ , and the parameters  $y(i)$  would obtained by solving 22 equations below. Therefore the steady state reaction rate of each elementary step and the intermediate surface coverage ratios could be calculated by the MATLAB program.

$y(i)$	Represented coverage	$y(i)$	Represented coverage
$y(1)$	$\theta_*$	$y(12)$	$\theta_{\text{HCOH}*}$
$y(2)$	$\theta_{\text{H}*}$	$y(13)$	$\theta_{\text{CH}_2*}$
$y(3)$	$\theta_{\text{CO}_2*}$	$y(14)$	$\theta_{\text{CO}*}$
$y(4)$	$\theta_{\text{HCOO}*}$	$y(15)$	$\theta_{\text{O}*}$
$y(5)$	$\theta_{\text{H}_2\text{COO}*}$	$y(16)$	$\theta_{\text{C}*}$
$y(6)$	$\theta_{\text{H}_2\text{COOH}*}$	$y(17)$	$\theta_{\text{CH}*}$
$y(7)$	$\theta_{\text{H}_2\text{CO}*}$	$y(18)$	$\theta_{\text{COOH}*}$
$y(8)$	$\theta_{\text{OH}*}$	$y(19)$	$\theta_{\text{COH}*}$
$y(9)$	$\theta_{\text{HCOOH}*}$	$y(20)$	$\theta_{\text{COHOH}*}$
$y(10)$	$\theta_{\text{HCO}*}$	$y(21)$	$\theta_{\text{CH}_3*}$
$y(11)$	$\theta_{\text{H}_2\text{COH}*}$	$y(22)$	$\theta_{\text{H}_2\text{O}*}$

#### Reaction rate equations in MATLAB program:

```
r1 = k1p1*y(1)^2 - k_1*y(2)^2;
r2 = k2p2*y(1) - k_2*y(3);
r3 = k3*y(3)*y(2) - k_3*y(4)*y(1);
r4 = k4*y(4)*y(2) - k_4*y(5)*y(1);
r5 = k5*y(5)*y(2) - k_5*y(6)*y(1);
```

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r6 = k6*y(6)*y(1) - k_6*y(7)*y(8);
r7 = k7*y(4)*y(2) - k_7*y(9)*y(1);
r8 = k8*y(9)*y(1) - k_8*y(10)*y(8);
r9 = k9*y(10)*y(2) - k_9*y(7)*y(1);
r10 = k10*y(7)*y(2) - k_10*y(11)*y(1);
r11 = k11*y(10)*y(2) - k_11*y(12)*y(1);
r12 = k12*y(2)*y(12) - k_12*y(11)*y(1);
r13 = k13*y(11)*y(1) - k_13*y(13)*y(8);
r14 = k14*y(3)*y(1) - k_14*y(14)*y(15);
r15 = k15*y(14)*y(2) - k_15*y(10)*y(1);
r16 = k16*y(14)*y(1) - k_16*y(16)*y(15);
r17 = k17*y(16)*y(2) - k_17*y(17)*y(1);
r18 = k18*y(17)*y(2) - k_18*y(13)*y(1);
r19 = k19*y(12)*y(1) - k_19*y(17)*y(8);
r20 = k20*y(3)*y(2) - k_20*y(18)*y(1);
r21 = k21*y(18)*y(1) - k_21*y(14)*y(8);
r22 = k22*y(14)*y(2) - k_22*y(19)*y(1);
r23 = k23*y(18)*y(2) - k_23*y(20)*y(1);
r24 = k24*y(20)*y(1) - k_24*y(19)*y(8);
r25 = k25*y(19)*y(2) - k_25*y(12)*y(1);
r26 = k26*y(13)*y(2) - k_26*y(21)*y(1);
r27 = k27*y(21)*y(2);
r28 = k28*y(15)*y(2) - k_28*y(8)*y(1);
r29 = k29*y(8)*y(2) - k_29*y(22)*y(1);
r30 = k30*y(22);
r31 = k31*y(14);

```

**Equations to be solved in MATLAB program:**

$$dy(2) = 2*r1 - r3 - r4 - r5 - r7 - r9 - r10 - r11 - r12 - r15 - r17 - r18 - r20 - r22 - r23 - r25 - r26 - r27 - r28 - r29;$$

$dy(3) = r_2 - r_3 - r_{14} - r_{20};$   
 $dy(4) = r_3 - r_4 - r_7;$   
 $dy(5) = r_4 - r_5;$   
 $dy(6) = r_5 - r_6;$   
 $dy(7) = r_6 + r_9 - r_{10};$   
 $dy(8) = r_6 + r_8 + r_{13} + r_{19} + r_{21} + r_{24} + r_{28} - r_{29};$   
 $dy(9) = r_7 - r_8;$   
 $dy(10) = r_8 - r_9 - r_{11} + r_{15};$   
 $dy(11) = r_{10} + r_{12} - r_{13};$   
 $dy(12) = r_{11} - r_{12} - r_{19} + r_{25};$   
 $dy(13) = r_{13} + r_{18} - r_{26};$   
 $dy(14) = r_{14} - r_{15} - r_{16} + r_{21} - r_{22} - r_{31};$   
 $dy(15) = r_{14} + r_{16} - r_{28};$   
 $dy(16) = r_{16} - r_{17};$   
 $dy(17) = r_{17} - r_{18} + r_{19};$   
 $dy(18) = r_{20} - r_{21} - r_{23};$   
 $dy(19) = r_{22} + r_{24} - r_{25};$   
 $dy(20) = r_{23} - r_{24};$   
 $dy(21) = r_{26} - r_{27};$   
 $dy(22) = r_{29} - r_{30};$   
 $dy(1) = -dy(2) - dy(3) - dy(4) - dy(5) - dy(6) - dy(7) - dy(8) - dy(9) - dy(10) - dy(11) - dy(12) - dy(13) - dy(14) - dy(15) - dy(16) - dy(17) - dy(18) - dy(19) - dy(20) - dy(21) - dy(22);$

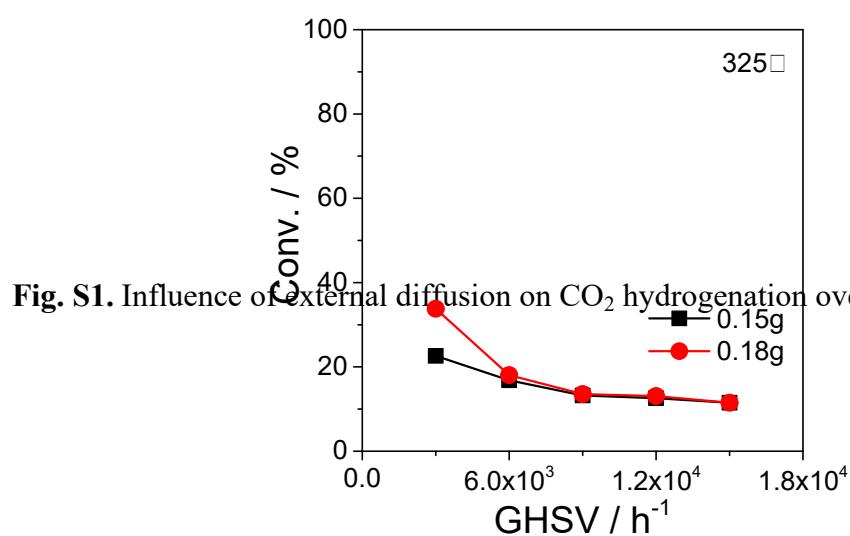
#### S4. Theoretical CH<sub>4</sub> selectivity

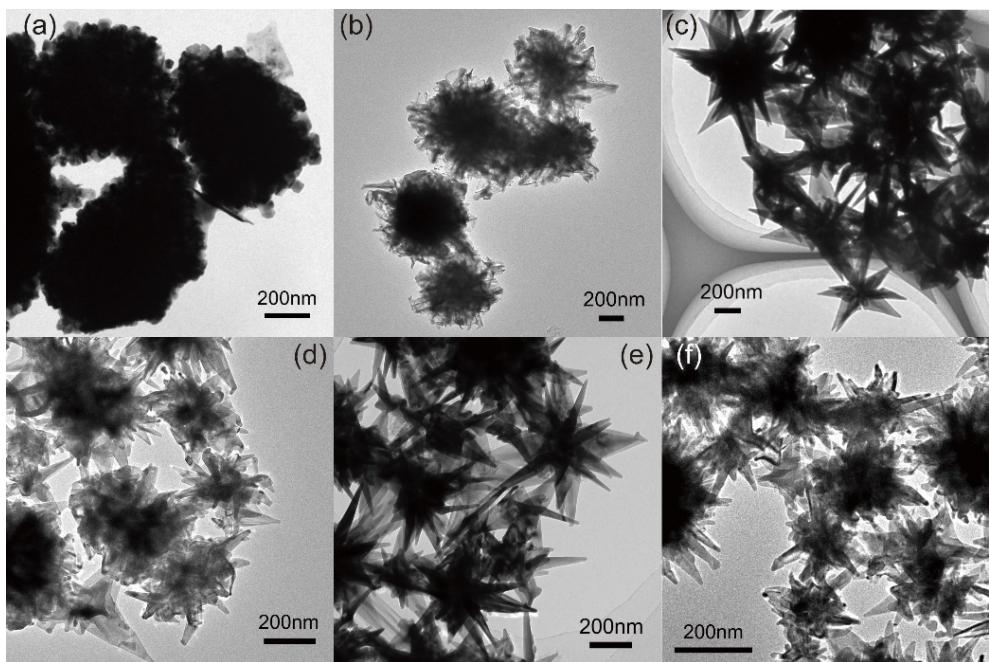
The theoretical selectivity of CH<sub>4</sub> was obtained by equation S11:

$$S_{\text{CH}_4} = \frac{r_{\text{CH}_4}}{r_{\text{CH}_4} + r_{\text{CO}}} \times 100\% \quad (\text{S11})$$

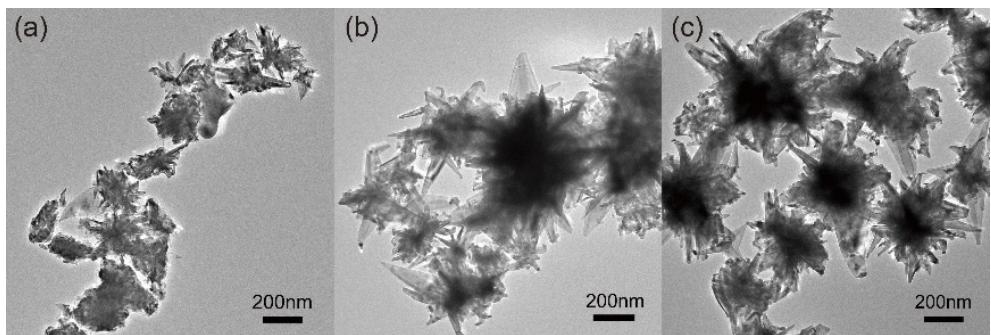
$S_{\text{CH}_4}$  was the selectivity of CH<sub>4</sub>,  $r_{\text{CH}_4}$  and  $r_{\text{CO}}$  represented the generation rate of CH<sub>4</sub>

and CO, respectively.

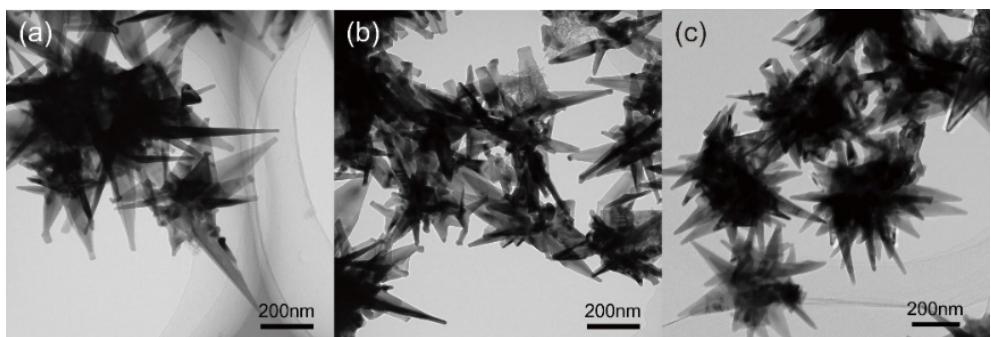




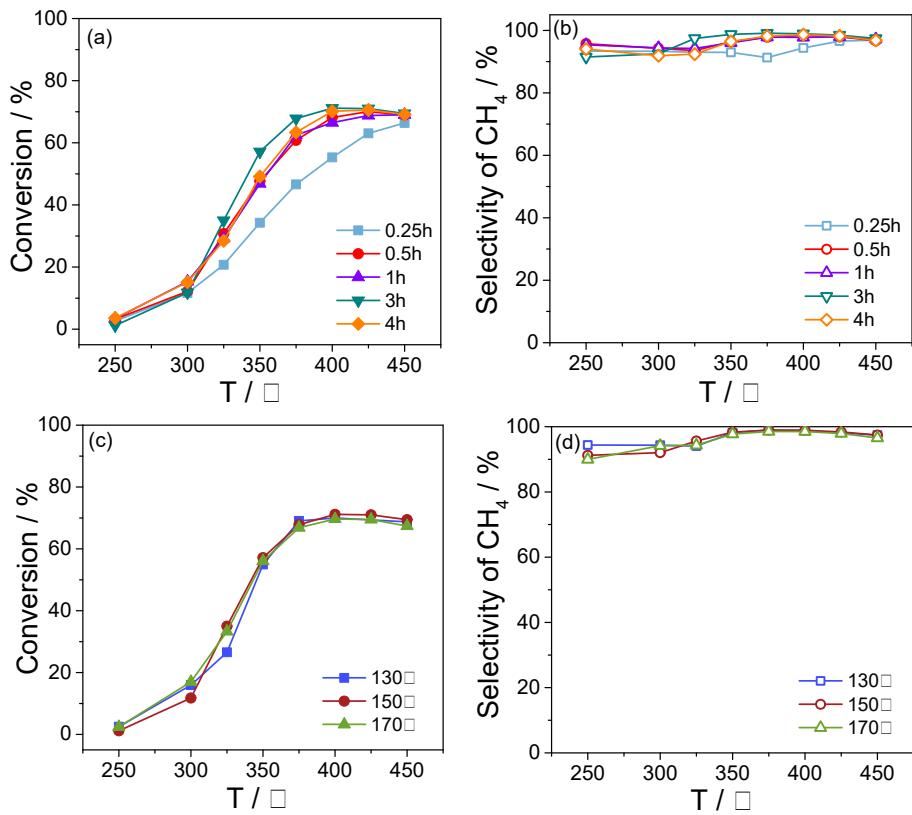
**Fig. S2.** Morphologies of Ni synthesized under same temperature of 150 °C and time of 3 h but various H<sub>2</sub> pressure: (a) 0 bar, (b) 1 bar, (c) 6 bar, (d) 10 bar, (e) 14 bar, (f) 20 bar.



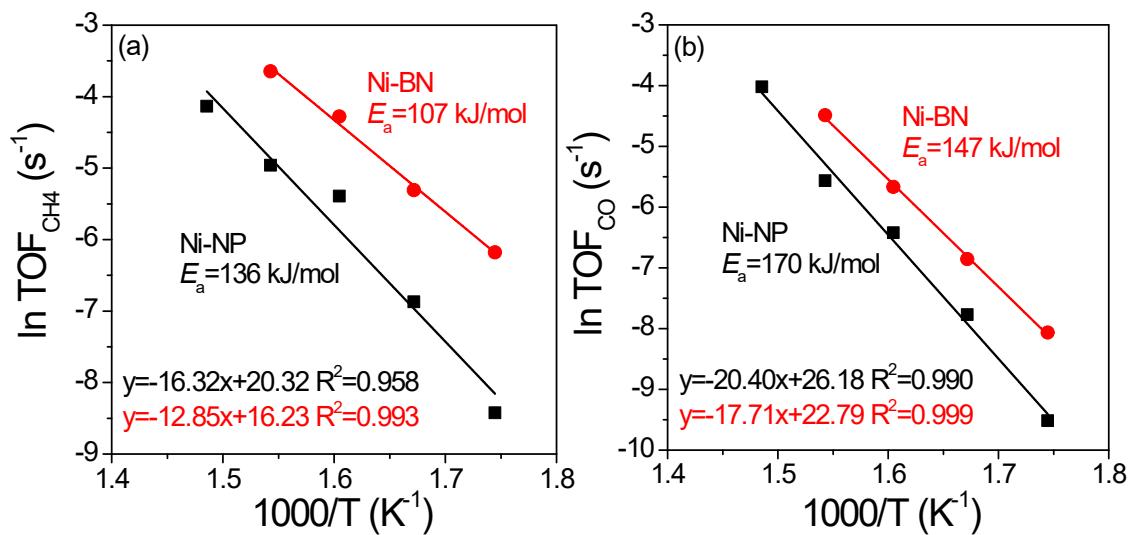
**Fig. S3.** Morphologies of 14 bar Ni synthesized under same temperature of 150 °C and various time: (a) 0.25 h, (b) 0.5 h, (c) 1 h.



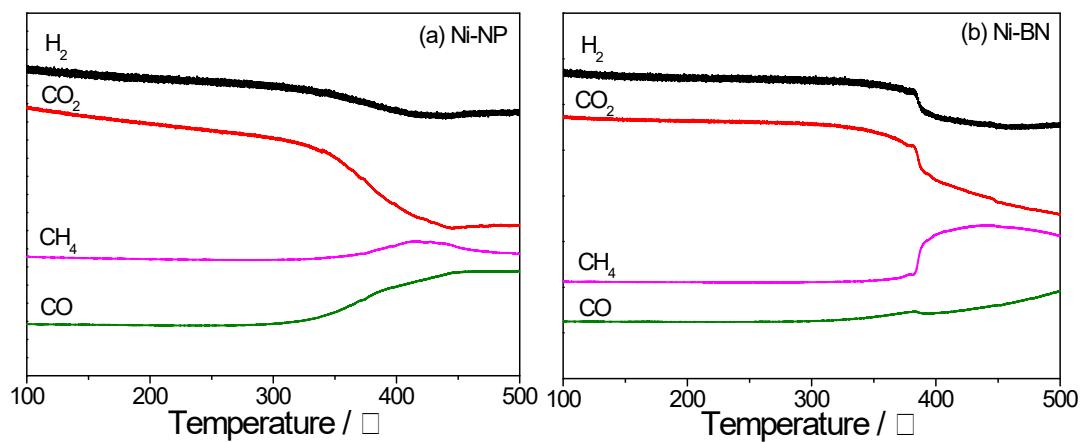
**Fig. S4.** Morphologies of 14 bar Ni synthesized under same time of 3h and various temperature: (a) 130 °C, (b) 150 °C, (c) 170 °C.



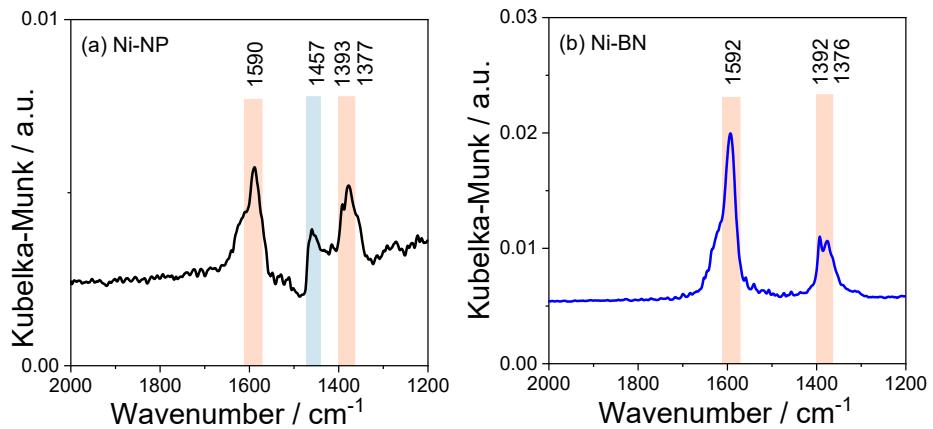
**Fig. S5.** Activity of CO<sub>2</sub> hydrogenation of Ni catalysts synthesized at (a, b) various synthesis time, (c, d) various synthesis temperature.



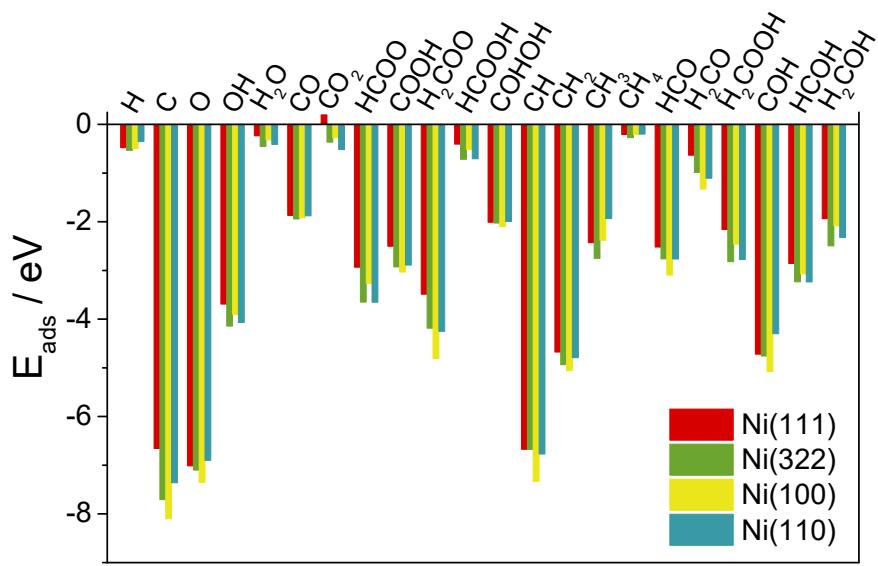
**Fig. S6.** Arrhenius plots of Ni-NP and Ni-BN: (a)  $\text{CH}_4$ , (b)  $\text{CO}$ .



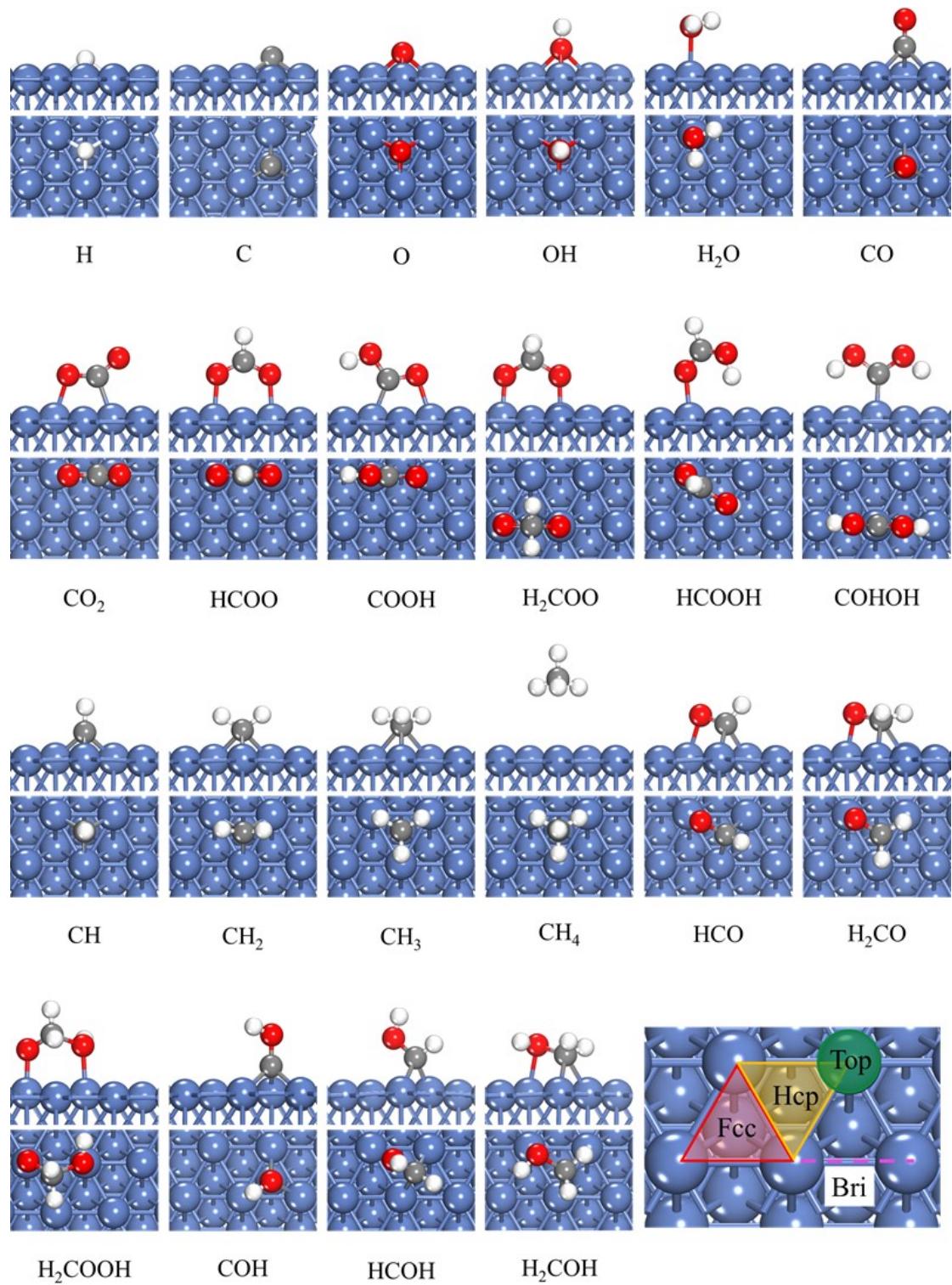
**Fig. S7.** TPSR-MS profiles for (a) Ni-NP and (b) Ni-BN catalysts.



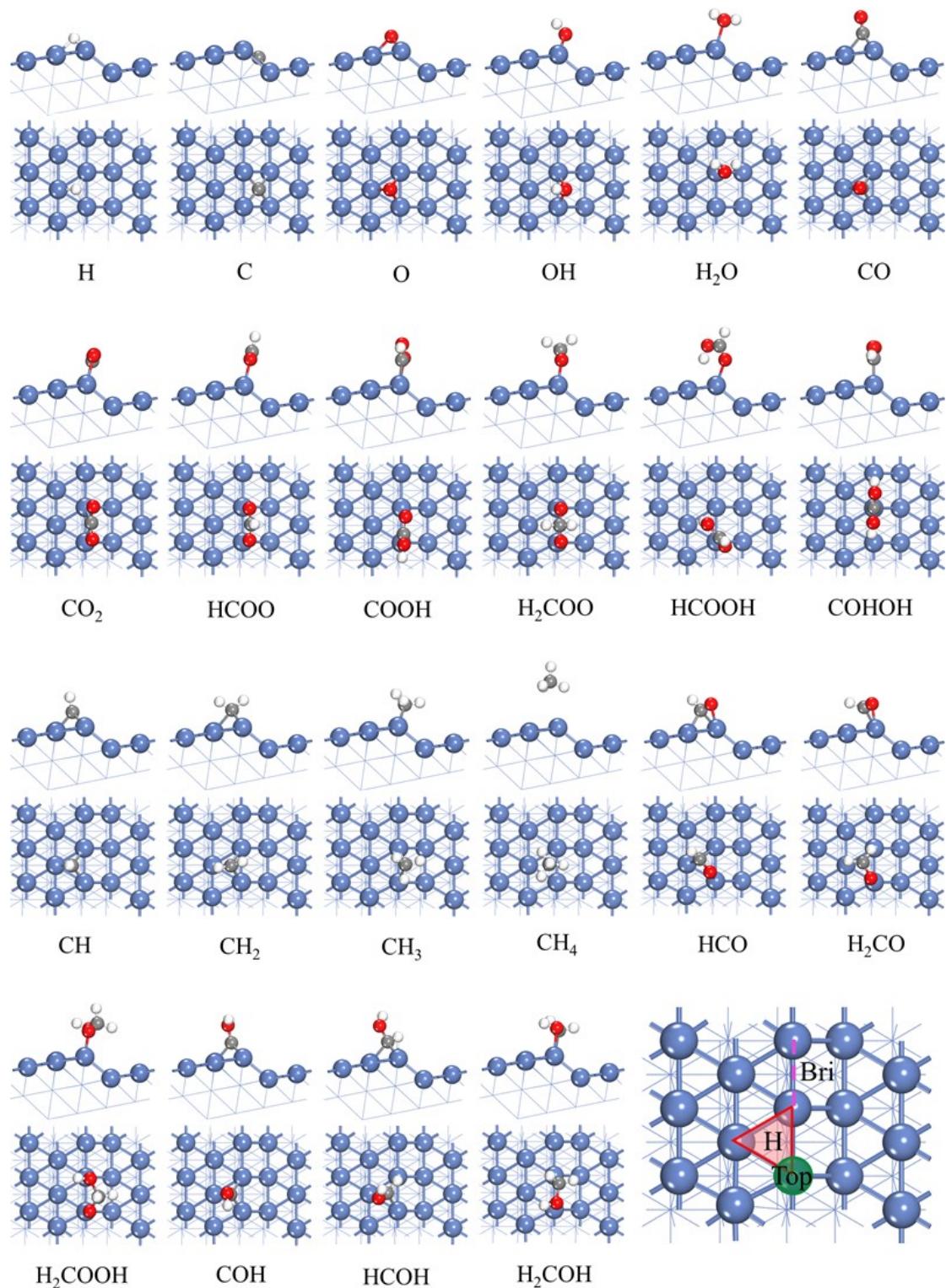
**Fig. S8** In-situ DRIFTS results of  $\text{CO}_2$  hydrogenation reaction on (a) Ni-NP and (b) Ni-BN catalyst being mixed with inter  $\text{SiO}_2$  with  $\text{CO}_2 : \text{H}_2 = 1 : 4$ .



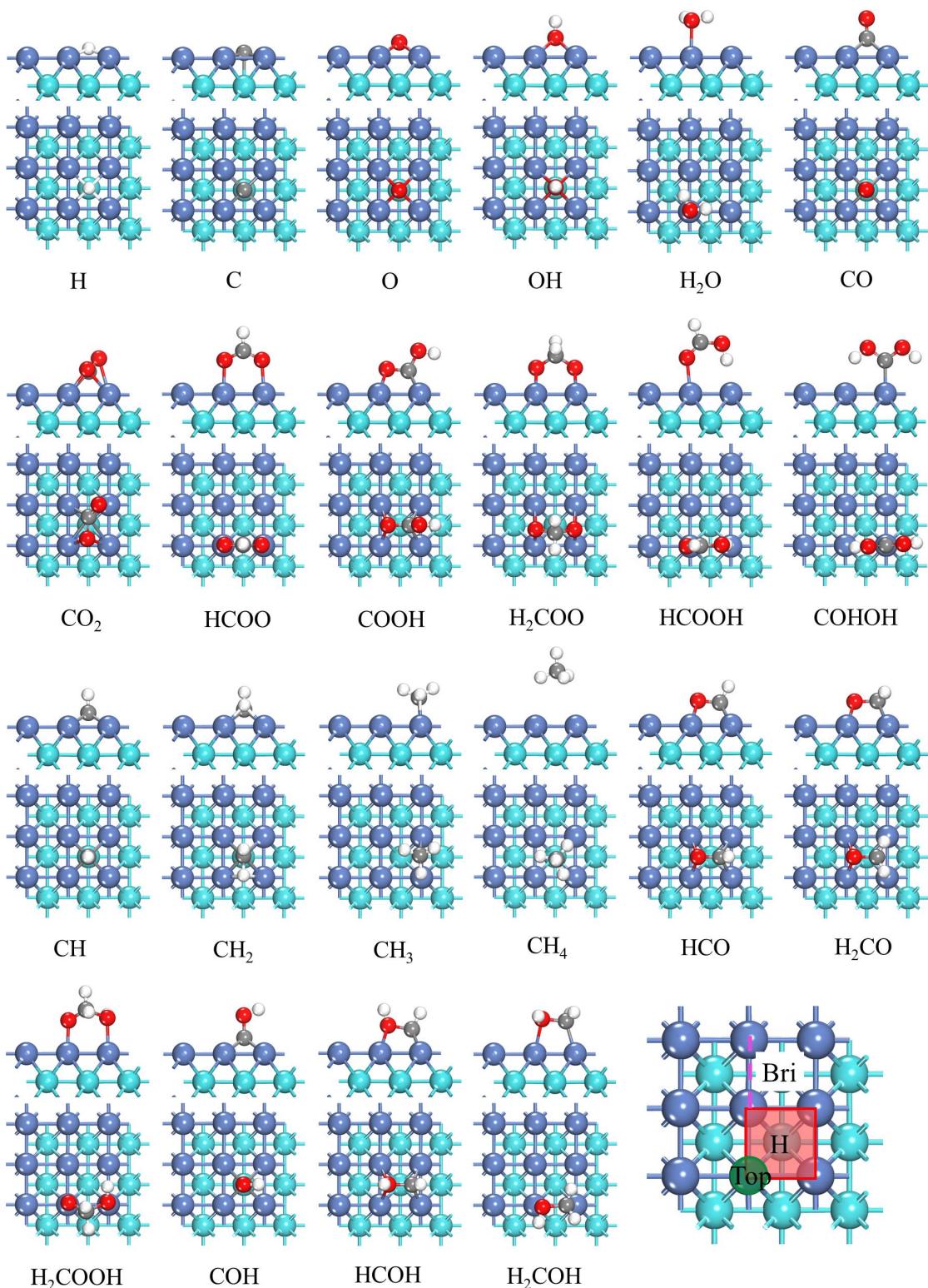
**Fig. S9.** Adsorption energies of all intermediates in CO<sub>2</sub> hydrogenation reaction on Ni(111), Ni(322), Ni(100) and Ni(110) surfaces.



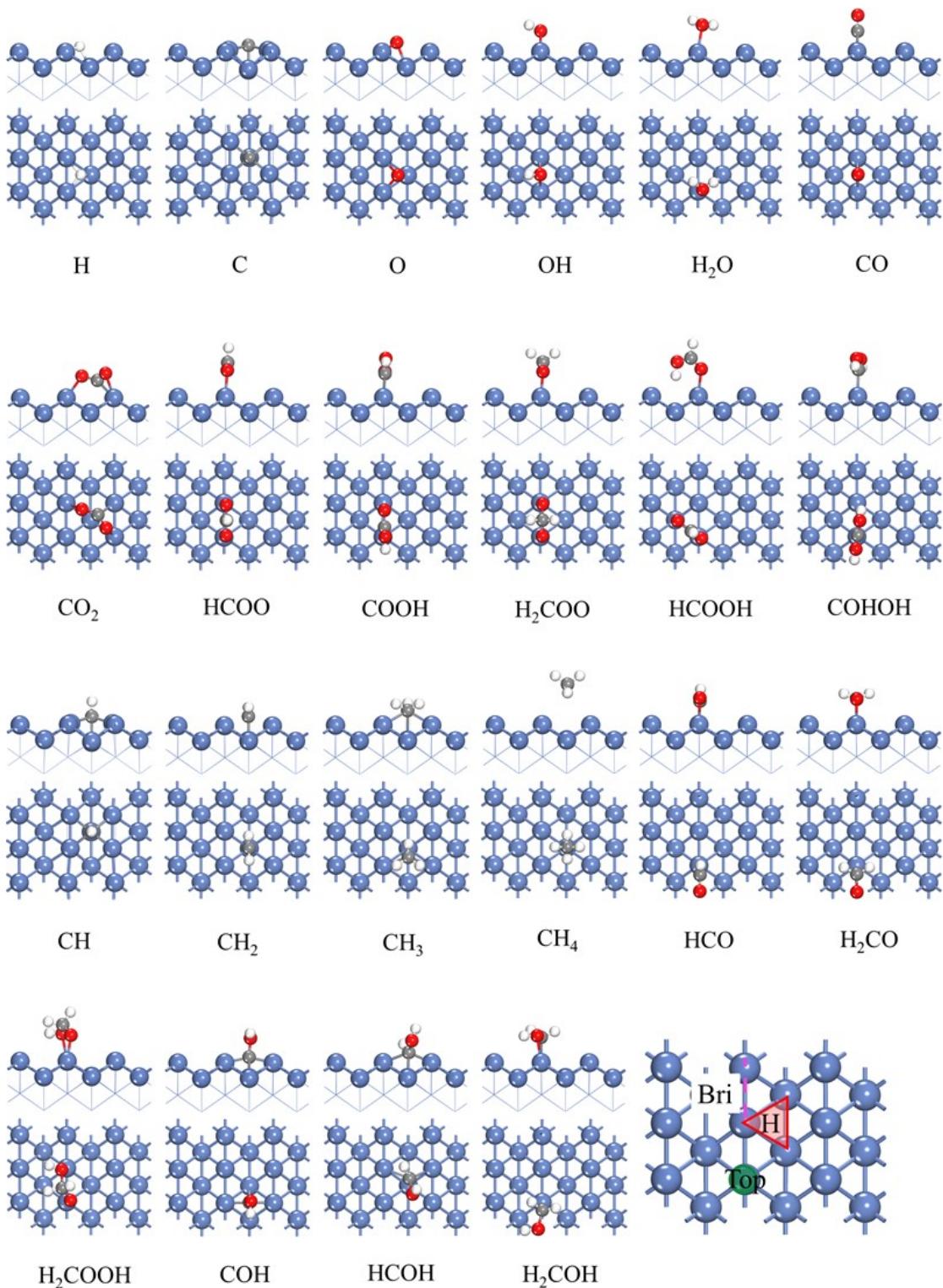
**Fig. S10.** Top and side view of the preferred adsorption sites of all intermediates in  $\text{CO}_2$  hydrogenation on Ni(111) surface.



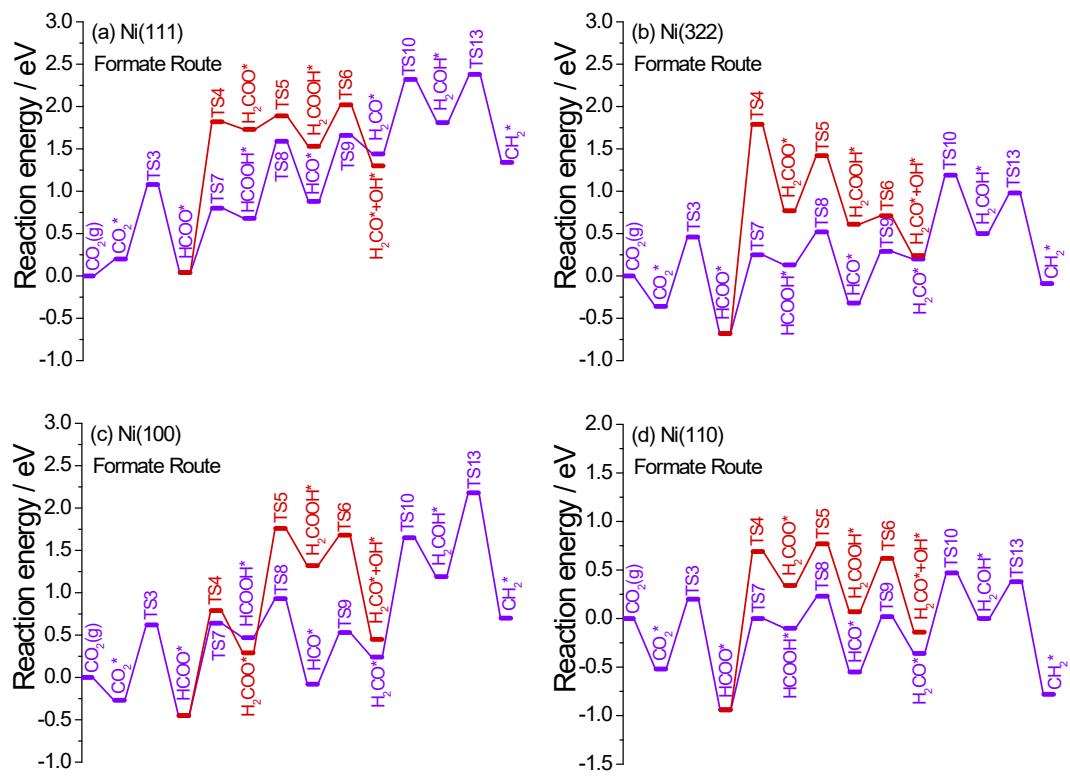
**Fig. S11.** Top and side view of the preferred adsorption sites of all intermediates in  $\text{CO}_2$  hydrogenation on Ni(322) surface.



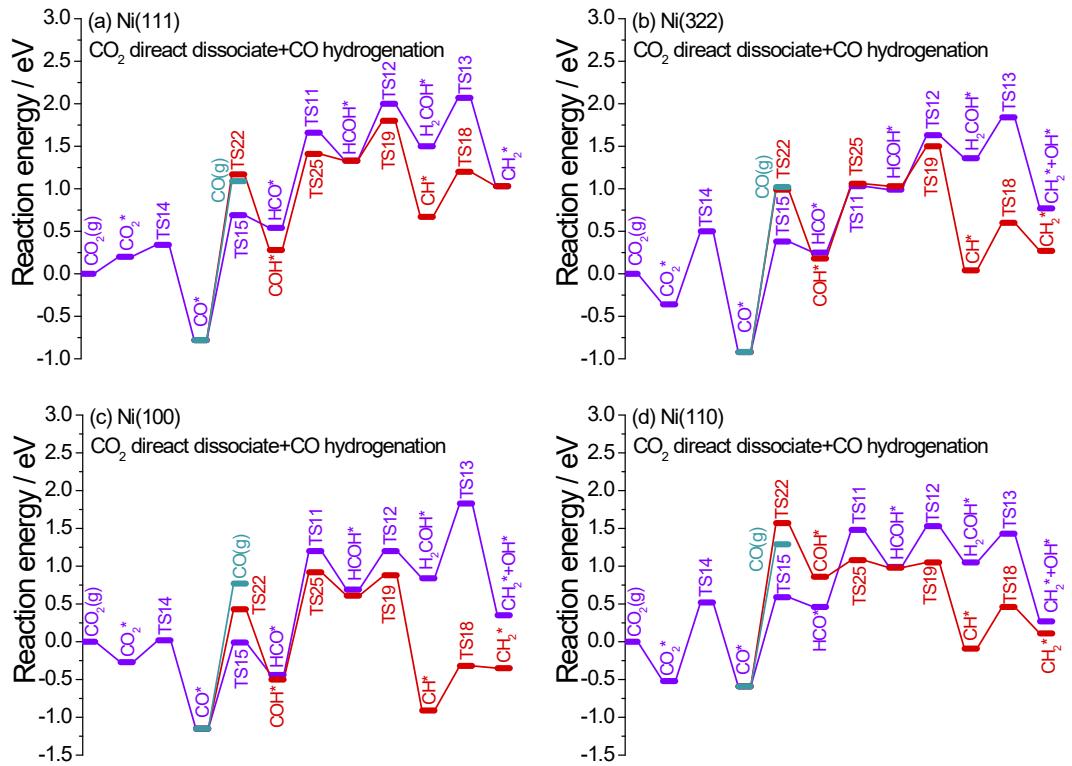
**Fig. S12.** Top and side view of the preferred adsorption sites of all intermediates in  $\text{CO}_2$  hydrogenation on Ni(100) surface.



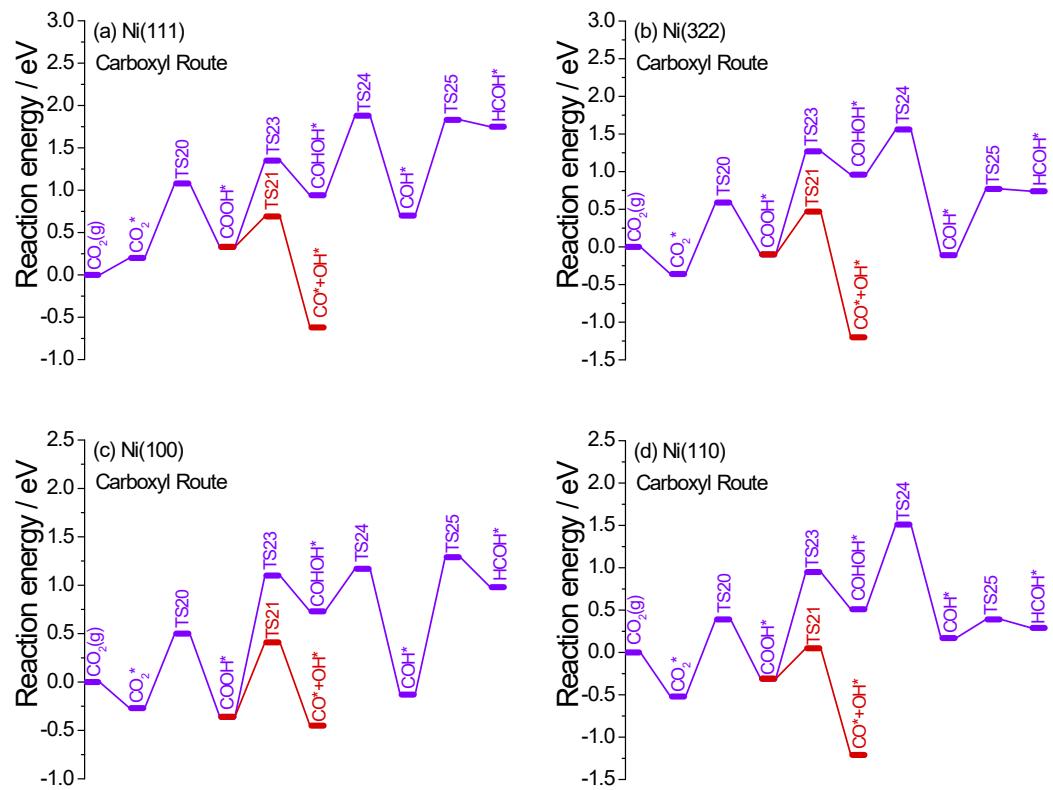
**Fig. S13.** Top and side view of the preferred adsorption sites of all intermediates in  $\text{CO}_2$  hydrogenation on Ni(110) surface.



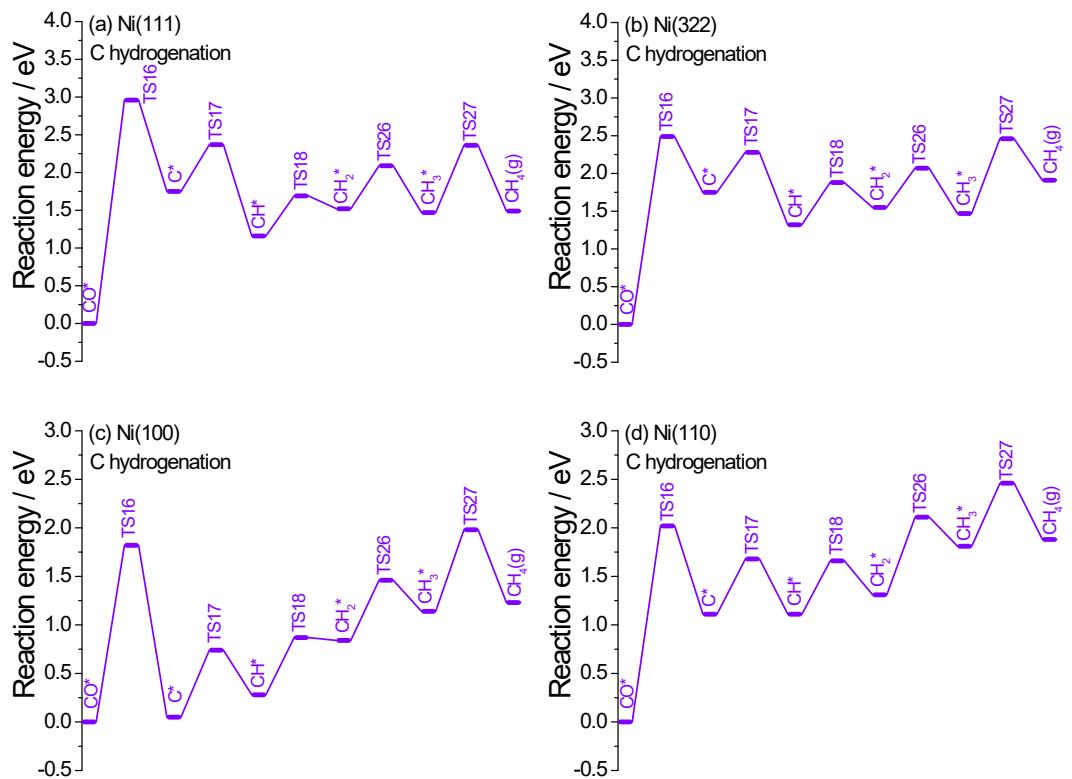
**Fig. S14.** Reaction potential energy diagrams via formate route: (a) Ni(111), (b) Ni(322), (c) Ni(100) and (d) Ni(110).



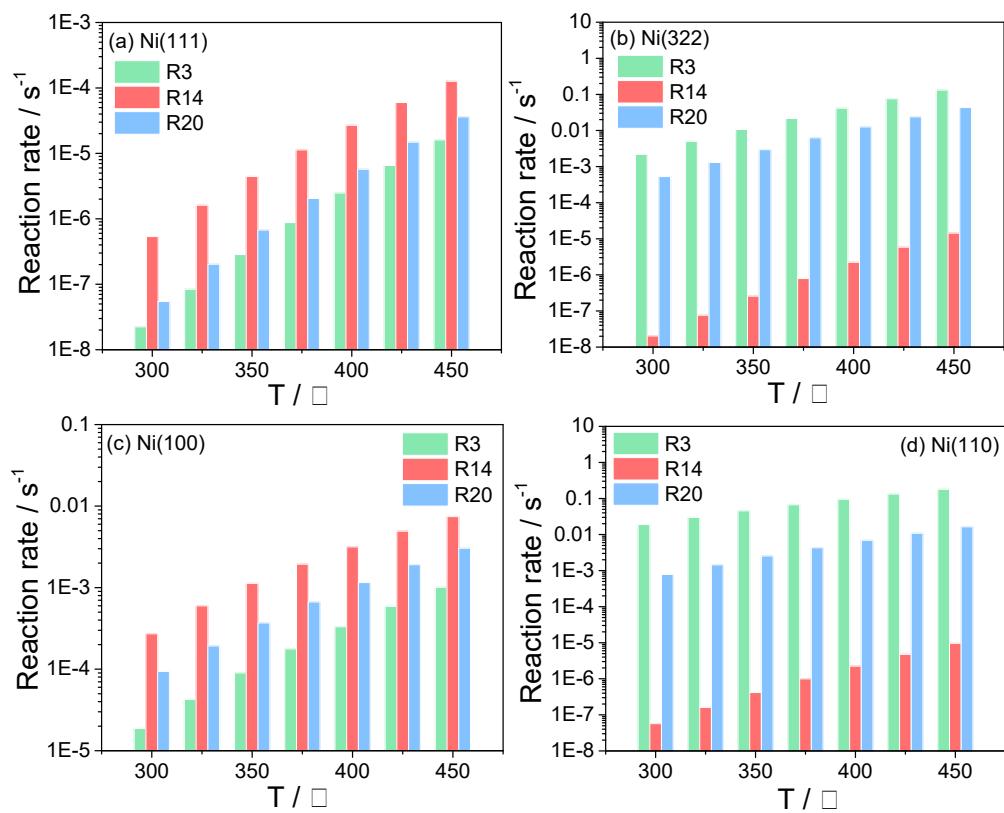
**Fig. S15.** Reaction potential energy diagrams via  $\text{CO}_2$  direct dissociate + CO hydrogenation route: (a) Ni(111), (b) Ni(322), (c) Ni(100) and (d) Ni(110).



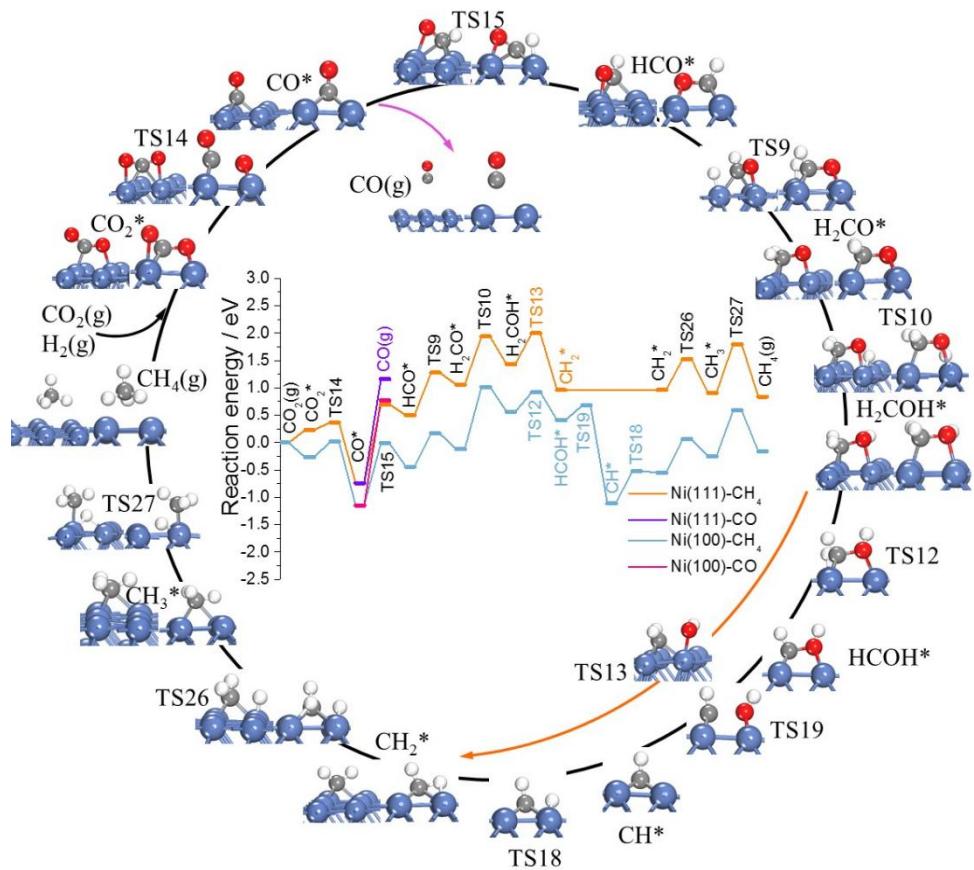
**Fig. S16.** Reaction potential energy diagrams via carboxyl route: (a) Ni(111), (b) Ni(322), (c) Ni(100) and (d) Ni(110).



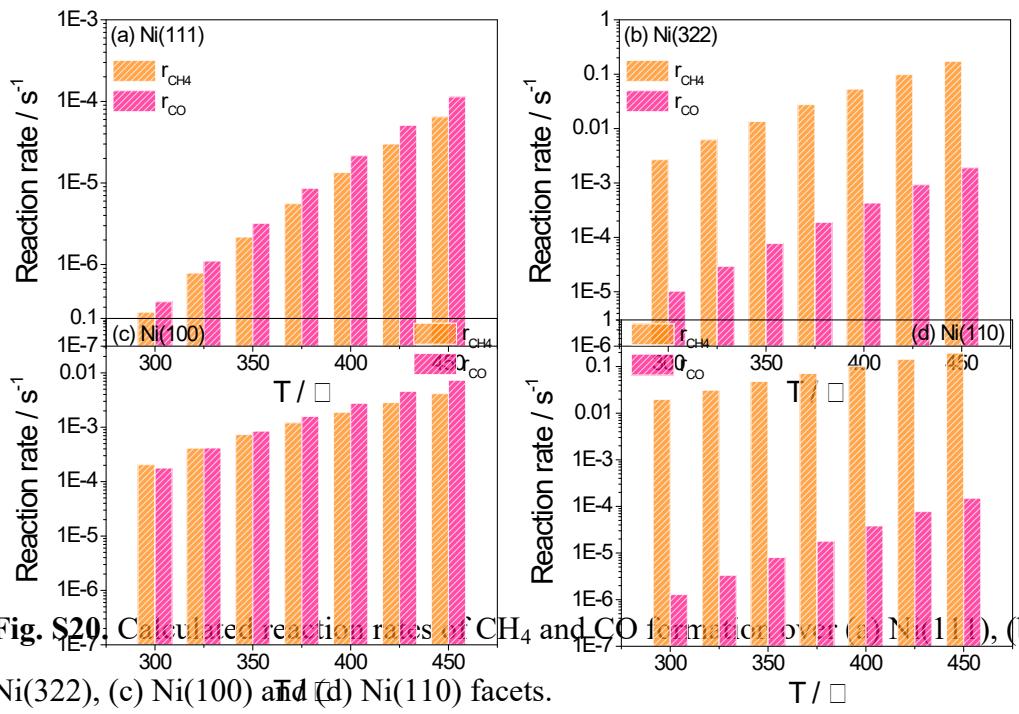
**Fig. S17.** Reaction potential energy diagrams via C hydrogenation route: (a) Ni(111), (b) Ni(322), (c) Ni(100) and (d) Ni(110).



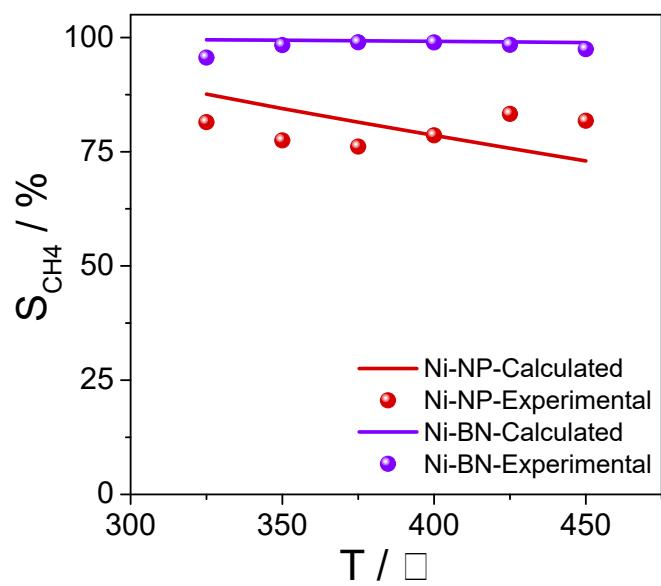
**Fig. S18.** Calculated steady-state reaction rates of step R3, R14 and step R20 over (a) Ni(111), (b) Ni(322), (c) Ni(100) and (d) Ni(110) facets.



**Fig. S19.** Potential energy diagram of optimal pathway for the formation of  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{CO}$  on Ni(111) and Ni(100) facets.



**Fig. S20.** Calculated reaction rates of  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{CO}$  formation over (a)  $\text{Ni}(111)$ , (b)  $\text{Ni}(322)$ , (c)  $\text{Ni}(100)$  and (d)  $\text{Ni}(110)$  facets.



**Fig. S21.** Comparison of  $\text{CH}_4$  selectivity simulated by microkinetic model and experimental results.

**Table S1** Elementary reaction steps and rate equations of CO<sub>2</sub> hydrogenation reaction.

No.	Elementary reaction steps	Reaction rate equations
R1	H <sub>2</sub> (g) + 2* ↔ 2H*	$r_1 = k_1 P_{H_2} \theta_*^2 - k_{-1} \theta_{H*}^2$
R2	CO <sub>2</sub> (g) + * ↔ CO <sub>2</sub> *	$r_2 = k_2 P_{CO_2} \theta_* - k_{-2} \theta_{CO_2*}$
R3	CO <sub>2</sub> * + H* ↔ HCOO* + *	$r_3 = k_3 \theta_{CO_2*} \theta_{H*} - k_{-3} \theta_{HCOO*} \theta_*$
R4	HCOO* + H* ↔ H <sub>2</sub> COO* + *	$r_4 = k_4 \theta_{HCOO*} \theta_{H*} - k_{-4} \theta_{H_2COO*} \theta_*$
R5	H <sub>2</sub> COO* + H* ↔ H <sub>2</sub> COOH* + *	$r_5 = k_5 \theta_{H_2COO*} \theta_{H*} - k_{-5} \theta_{H_2COOH*} \theta_*$
R6	H <sub>2</sub> COOH* + * ↔ H <sub>2</sub> CO* + OH*	$r_6 = k_6 \theta_{H_2COOH*} \theta_* - k_{-6} \theta_{H_2CO*} \theta_{OH*}$
R7	HCOO* + H* ↔ HCOOH* + *	$r_7 = k_7 \theta_{HCOO*} \theta_{H*} - k_{-7} \theta_{HCOOH*} \theta_*$
R8	HCOOH* + * ↔ HCO* + OH*	$r_8 = k_8 \theta_{HCOOH*} \theta_* - k_{-8} \theta_{HCO*} \theta_{OH*}$
R9	HCO* + H* ↔ H <sub>2</sub> CO* + *	$r_9 = k_9 \theta_{HCO*} \theta_{H*} - k_{-9} \theta_{H_2CO*} \theta_*$
R10	H <sub>2</sub> CO* + H* ↔ H <sub>2</sub> COH* + *	$r_{10} = k_{10} \theta_{H_2CO*} \theta_{H*} - k_{-10} \theta_{H_2COH*} \theta_*$
R11	HCO* + H* ↔ HCOH* + *	$r_{11} = k_{11} \theta_{HCO*} \theta_{H*} - k_{-11} \theta_{HCOH*} \theta_*$
R12	HCOH* + H* ↔ H <sub>2</sub> COH* + *	$r_{12} = k_{12} \theta_{HCOH*} \theta_{H*} - k_{-12} \theta_{H_2COH*} \theta_*$
R13	H <sub>2</sub> COH* + * ↔ CH <sub>2</sub> * + OH*	$r_{13} = k_{13} \theta_{H_2COH*} \theta_* - k_{-13} \theta_{CH_2*} \theta_{OH*}$
R14	CO <sub>2</sub> * + * ↔ CO* + O*	$r_{14} = k_{14} \theta_{CO_2*} \theta_* - k_{-14} \theta_{CO*} \theta_{O*}$
R15	CO* + * ↔ HCO* + *	$r_{15} = k_{15} \theta_{CO*} \theta_{H*} - k_{-15} \theta_{HCO*} \theta_*$
R16	CO* + * ↔ C* + O*	$r_{16} = k_{16} \theta_{CO*} \theta_* - k_{-16} \theta_{C*} \theta_{O*}$
R17	C* + H* ↔ CH* + *	$r_{17} = k_{17} \theta_{C*} \theta_{H*} - k_{-17} \theta_{CH*} \theta_*$
R18	CH* + H* ↔ CH <sub>2</sub> * + *	$r_{18} = k_{18} \theta_{CH*} \theta_{H*} - k_{-18} \theta_{CH_2*} \theta_*$
R19	HCOH* + * ↔ CH* + OH*	$r_{19} = k_{19} \theta_{HCOH*} \theta_* - k_{-19} \theta_{CH*} \theta_{OH*}$
R20	CO <sub>2</sub> * + H* ↔ COOH* + *	$r_{20} = k_{20} \theta_{CO_2*} \theta_{H*} - k_{-20} \theta_{COOH*} \theta_*$
R21	COOH* + * ↔ CO* + OH*	$r_{21} = k_{21} \theta_{COOH*} \theta_* - k_{-21} \theta_{CO*} \theta_{OH*}$
R22	CO* + H* ↔ COH* + *	$r_{22} = k_{22} \theta_{CO*} \theta_{H*} - k_{-22} \theta_{COH*} \theta_*$
R23	COOH* + H* ↔ COHOH* + *	$r_{23} = k_{23} \theta_{COOH*} \theta_{H*} - k_{-23} \theta_{COHOH*} \theta_*$
R24	COHOH* + * ↔ COH* + OH*	$r_{24} = k_{24} \theta_{COHOH*} \theta_* - k_{-24} \theta_{COH*} \theta_{OH*}$
R25	COH* + H* ↔ HCOH* + *	$r_{25} = k_{25} \theta_{COH*} \theta_{H*} - k_{-25} \theta_{HCOH*} \theta_*$
R26	CH <sub>2</sub> * + H* ↔ CH <sub>3</sub> * + *	$r_{26} = k_{26} \theta_{CH_2*} \theta_{H*} - k_{-26} \theta_{CH_3*} \theta_*$
R27	CH <sub>3</sub> * + H* → CH <sub>4</sub> (g) + 2*	$r_{27} = k_{27} \theta_{CH_3*} \theta_{H*}$
R28	O* + H* ↔ OH* + *	$r_{28} = k_{28} \theta_{O*} \theta_{H*} - k_{-28} \theta_{OH*} \theta_*$
R29	OH* + H* ↔ H <sub>2</sub> O* + *	$r_{29} = k_{29} \theta_{OH*} \theta_{H*} - k_{-29} \theta_{H_2O*} \theta_*$
R30	H <sub>2</sub> O* → H <sub>2</sub> O(g) + *	$r_{30} = k_{30} \theta_{H_2O*}$
R31	CO* → CO(g) + *	$r_{31} = k_{31} \theta_{CO*}$

**Table S2** Preferred adsorption sites and adsorption energies of all intermediates in CO<sub>2</sub> hydrogenation reaction on Ni(111), Ni(322), Ni(100) and Ni(110) surfaces.

Intermediates	Ni(111)		Ni(322)		Ni(100)		Ni(110)	
	Site	$E_{\text{ads}}^{\text{ZPE}}$	Site	$E_{\text{ads}}^{\text{ZPE}}$	Site	$E_{\text{ads}}^{\text{ZPE}}$	Site	$E_{\text{ads}}^{\text{ZPE}}$
H	Fcc	-0.48	H	-0.53	Bri	-0.50	H	-0.35
C	Hcp	-6.66	H	-7.71	H	-8.10	H	-7.36
O	Fcc	-7.01	H	-7.10	H	-7.35	H	-6.90
OH	Fcc	-3.69	Bri	-4.14	H	-3.91	Bri	-4.07
H <sub>2</sub> O	Top	-0.23	Top	-0.45	Top	-0.32	Top	-0.41
CO	Hcp	-1.87	H	-1.94	H	-1.92	Bri	-1.88
CO <sub>2</sub>	Bri	0.20	Bri	-0.36	H	-0.27	H	-0.52
HCOO	Bri	-2.93	Bri	-3.65	Bri	-3.27	Bri	-3.65
COOH	Bri	-2.50	Bri	-2.93	H	-3.03	Bri	-2.89
H <sub>2</sub> COO	Bri	-3.49	Bri	-4.19	H	-4.81	Bri	-4.25
HCOOH	Top	-0.40	Bri	-0.72	Bri	-0.51	Top	-0.71
COHOH	Top	-2.01	Bri	-2.03	Bri	-2.10	Bri	-1.99
CH	Fcc	-6.67	H	-6.67	H	-7.33	H	-6.77
CH <sub>2</sub>	Fcc	-4.68	H	-4.94	H	-5.06	H	-4.79
CH <sub>3</sub>	Fcc	-2.43	Bri	-2.75	Bri	-2.38	H	-1.93
CH <sub>4</sub>	Fcc	-0.21	H	-0.27	H	-0.21	H	-0.20
HCO	Fcc	-2.52	H	-2.76	H	-3.09	Bri	-2.77
H <sub>2</sub> CO	Fcc	-0.63	H	-0.99	H	-1.33	Bri	-1.11
H <sub>2</sub> COOH	Bri	-2.16	Bri	-2.82	Bri	-2.46	Top	-2.78
COH	Hcp	-4.72	H	-4.76	H	-5.08	H	-4.30
HCOH	Bri	-2.86	H	-3.23	H	-3.07	H	-3.23
H <sub>2</sub> COH	Fcc	-1.94	Top	-2.49	Bri	-2.08	Bri	-2.32

**Table S3** Reactions energies ( $E_a$ ) and active barriers ( $\Delta E$ ) in  $\text{CO}_2$  hydrogenation reaction on Ni(111), Ni(322), Ni(100) and Ni(110) surfaces.

Reaction	Ni(111)		Ni(322)		Ni(100)		Ni(110)	
	$E_a$	$\Delta E$						
R1	0.0	-0.96	0.0	-1.06	0.0	-1.00	0.0	-0.70
R2	0.0	0.20	0.0	-0.36	0.0	-0.27	0.0	-0.52
R3	0.88	-0.15	0.82	-0.32	0.89	-0.18	0.72	-0.41
R4	1.78	1.69	2.47	1.46	1.24	0.74	1.63	1.28
R5	0.16	-0.20	0.65	-0.16	1.47	1.03	0.43	-0.27
R6	0.49	-0.22	0.10	-0.37	0.36	-0.87	0.55	-0.22
R7	0.76	0.65	0.93	0.81	1.09	0.92	0.94	0.84
R8	0.91	0.21	0.39	-0.45	0.46	-0.54	0.33	-0.45
R9	0.78	0.56	0.61	0.52	0.61	0.32	0.57	0.19
R10	0.88	0.37	0.99	0.31	1.41	0.96	0.83	0.36
R11	1.12	0.79	0.78	0.73	1.64	1.13	1.02	0.53
R12	0.67	0.18	0.64	0.37	0.51	0.14	0.54	0.06
R13	0.57	-0.47	0.48	-0.59	0.99	-0.49	0.38	-0.78
R14	0.14	-0.99	0.86	-0.56	0.29	-0.87	1.04	-0.07
R15	1.47	1.33	1.30	1.17	1.14	0.71	1.18	1.06
R16	2.96	1.76	2.49	1.75	1.82	0.05	2.02	1.11
R17	0.62	-0.59	0.53	-0.43	0.69	0.22	0.57	0.00
R18	0.53	0.36	0.56	0.23	0.59	0.55	0.55	0.20
R19	0.47	-0.66	0.47	-0.99	0.27	-1.52	0.07	-1.07
R20	0.88	0.13	0.95	0.26	0.77	-0.09	0.91	0.21
R21	0.36	-0.95	0.57	-1.10	0.61	-0.69	0.36	-0.90
R22	1.95	1.06	1.91	1.10	1.58	0.65	2.16	1.45
R23	1.02	0.62	1.37	1.05	1.46	1.09	1.26	0.82
R24	0.94	-0.24	0.60	-1.07	0.44	-0.86	1.00	-0.34
R25	1.13	1.05	0.88	0.85	1.42	1.11	0.22	0.11
R26	0.57	-0.05	0.52	-0.08	0.62	0.30	0.80	0.51
R27	0.89	0.02	0.99	0.45	0.84	0.09	0.65	0.08
R28	1.05	0.17	0.98	-0.16	1.36	0.43	0.47	-0.43
R29	1.17	0.39	1.01	0.69	1.27	0.47	1.18	0.48
R30	0.23	0.0	0.45	0.0	0.32	0.0	0.41	0.0
R31	1.87	0.0	1.94	0.0	1.93	0.0	1.88	0.0

**Table S4** Reaction rate ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ ) of  $\text{CH}_4$  and CO formation at different temperatures.

	Temperature / °C	300	325	350	375	400	425	450
Ni(111)	$r_{\text{CH}_4} / \text{s}^{-1}$	2.62E-7	7.89E-7	2.18E-6	5.59E-6	1.34E-5	3.02E-5	6.47E-5
	$r_{\text{CO}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	3.51E-7	1.11E-6	3.21E-6	8.63E-6	2.16E-5	5.10E-5	1.14E-4
Ni(322)	$r_{\text{CH}_4} / \text{s}^{-1}$	2.69E-3	6.25E-3	1.35E-2	2.76E-2	5.34E-2	9.83E-2	1.73E-1
	$r_{\text{CO}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	1.03E-5	2.95E-5	7.74E-5	1.89E-4	4.31E-4	9.31E-4	1.91E-3
Ni(100)	$r_{\text{CH}_4} / \text{s}^{-1}$	2.05E-4	4.15E-4	7.37E-4	1.21E-3	1.89E-3	2.84E-3	4.16E-3
	$r_{\text{CO}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	1.79E-4	4.18E-4	8.51E-4	1.58E-3	2.76E-3	4.58E-3	7.32E-3
Ni(110)	$r_{\text{CH}_4} / \text{s}^{-1}$	1.97E-2	3.13E-2	4.79E-2	7.09E-2	1.02E-1	1.43E-1	1.96E-1
	$r_{\text{CO}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	1.29E-6	3.34E-6	8.01E-6	1.80E-5	3.84E-5	7.76E-5	1.50E-4
Ni-NP	$r_{\text{CH}_4} / \text{s}^{-1}$	6.67E-4	1.09E-3	1.71E-3	2.57E-3	3.76E-3	5.36E-3	7.45E-3
	$r_{\text{CO}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	6.59E-5	1.54E-4	3.14E-4	5.86E-4	1.03E-3	1.71E-3	2.76E-3
Ni-BN	$r_{\text{CH}_4} / \text{s}^{-1}$	2.66E-3	6.17E-3	1.34E-2	2.73E-2	5.27E-2	9.70E-2	1.71E-1
	$r_{\text{CO}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	1.13E-5	3.16E-5	8.16E-5	1.96E-4	4.42E-4	9.47E-4	1.93E-3

**Table S5** Comparison of experimental and calculated reaction rate ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ ) of  $\text{CH}_4$  and CO formation.

	Temperature / °C	300	325	350	375	400	425	450
Exp.	Ni-NP	$r_{\text{CH}_4} / \text{s}^{-1}$	2.19E-4	1.04E-3	4.55E-3	7.02E-3		
		$r_{\text{CO}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	7.36E-5	4.22E-4	1.63E-3	3.83E-3		
Miro.	Ni-BN	$r_{\text{CH}_4} / \text{s}^{-1}$	2.07E-3	4.94E-3	1.39E-2	2.61E-2	1.60E-2	
		$r_{\text{CO}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	3.14E-4	1.05E-3	3.46E-3	1.13E-2	1.79E-2	
kMC	Ni-NP	$r_{\text{CH}_4} / \text{s}^{-1}$	6.67E-4	1.09E-3	1.71E-3	2.57E-3	3.76E-3	5.36E-3
		$r_{\text{CO}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	6.59E-5	1.54E-4	3.14E-4	5.86E-4	1.03E-3	1.71E-3
	Ni-BN	$r_{\text{CH}_4} / \text{s}^{-1}$	2.66E-3	6.17E-3	1.34E-2	2.73E-2	5.27E-2	9.70E-2
		$r_{\text{CO}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	1.13E-5	3.16E-5	8.16E-5	1.96E-4	4.42E-4	9.47E-4
	Ni(110)	$r_{\text{CH}_4} / \text{s}^{-1}$	1.62E-4	2.77E-4	4.71E-4	7.15E-4	1.03E-3	1.48E-3
	Ni-bn	$r_{\text{CH}_4} / \text{s}^{-1}$	9.31E-3	1.66E-2	2.47E-2	3.40E-2	4.52E-2	6.06E-2

Exp.: Experiment

Miro.: Mirokinetic modeling

kMC: kinetic Monte Carlo

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