

## Supplementary Information

### **Cooperative Relay Catalysis over Cu-Fe Dual sites via N-Intermediate and Hydrogen Radical Pathways for Ammonia Production**

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## 1. Experimental Section

### 1.1. Electrochemical NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>RR Experiment

#### *1.1.1. Preparation of the Working Electrode*

5.0 mg of the as-prepared catalysts were dispersed in a mixture of 500 µL of isopropanol, 450 µL Milli-Q water, 50 µL 5% Nafion 117 solution and sonicated for 30 min to form a uniform ink. 100 µL obtained ink was dropped on 1 cm<sup>2</sup> of carbon fibre paper.

#### *1.1.2. NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>RR Experiments*

The electrochemical NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>RR experiments were conducted in a 3-electrode H-cell reactor filled with Ar-saturated 0.1 M KNO<sub>3</sub> (Sigma Aldrich, 99%) and 0.1 M KOH (Sigma Aldrich, 85%) solution (pH = 13.26). Pt foil and an Ag/AgCl (saturated KCl) electrode were used as counter and reference electrode, respectively. The working electrode and counter electrode were separated by an anion exchange membrane. Each sample was evaluated for 30 minutes before the liquid products were collected using Autolab potentiostat (PGSTA204) to supply potential. The potentials were converted into reversible hydrogen electrode (RHE) scale by the Nernst equation ( $E_{RHE} = E_{Ag/AgCl} + E^0_{Ag/AgCl} + 0.059 \times \text{pH}$ ).

#### *1.1.3. Quantification of Products*

Ammonia concentration was quantified by the standard indophenol-blue method. The resulting catholyte (500  $\mu\text{L}$ ) was transferred into a vial and sequentially mixed with the following solutions: (1) 400  $\mu\text{L}$  of 1 M NaOH (Sigma Aldrich, 98%) containing 5 wt% salicylic acid (Sigma Aldrich, 99%) and 5 wt% sodium citrate (Sigma Aldrich, 99%), (2) 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of 0.05 M NaClO (Sigma Aldrich, 99.9%), and (3) 30  $\mu\text{L}$  of 1 wt% sodium nitroferricyanide solution (Sigma Aldrich, 99%). The mixture was thoroughly sonicated and kept in darkness at 25 °C for 2 hours. Subsequently, UV-vis spectroscopy of the resulting solution was recorded within the wavelength range of 550 to 800 nm. Using the peak absorbance around 653 nm, the  $\text{NH}_4^+$  concentration was calculated based on calibration results obtained using standard solutions containing the specified  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (Sigma Aldrich, 99.5%) concentrations.

Nitrite ( $\text{NO}_2^-$ ) was quantified by the Griess Reagent method. In detail, 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of the resulting catholyte was combined with Griess Reagent (50  $\mu\text{L}$ ) and Milli-Q water (900  $\mu\text{L}$ ) in a vial. The mixture was kept in darkness at 25 °C for 0.5 hours, after which the concentration of  $\text{NO}_2^-$  was determined through UV-vis spectroscopy of the solution. Using the peak absorbance around 525 nm, the  $\text{NO}_2^-$  concentration was calculated based on calibration results obtained using standard solutions containing the specific  $\text{KNO}_2$  (Sigma Aldrich, 99%) concentrations.

The gas-phase products were analysed by a gas chromatograph (GC; GC-2010, Shimadzu) equipped with TCD and FID detectors.

#### 1.1.4. Calculation of Faradaic Efficiency

The Faradaic efficiency (FE) of products from the  $\text{NO}_3^-$ -RR was calculated by the equation of 
$$FE = \frac{N \times F \times C \times V}{Q} \times 100\%$$
, where  $N$  represents the number of  $e^-$  required for the formation of the selected product from  $\text{NO}_3^-$ -RR ( $N = 8$  for  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ,  $N = 2$  for  $\text{NO}_2^-$ ),  $F$  denotes the Faraday constant ( $F = 96485.33$ ),  $C$  stands for the measured molar concentration of the product via the UV-vis method,  $V$  signifies volume of the catholyte (50 mL), and  $Q$  indicates the total charge recorded during the experiment.

## 1.2. Characterization Methods

The morphology of the electrocatalysts was characterised using scanning electron microscopy (SEM, FEI Nova NanoSEM450 operated at 5 kV). The morphology and crystal structure, and elemental distribution of catalyst were analysed by transmission electron microscopy (TEM, JEOL JEM-F200 Multi-Purpose FEG-S/TEM, and SPECTRA 300S/TEM, FEI). The crystal structure was studied by X-ray diffraction (XRD) of powder samples and thin-film samples

collected on a PANalytical Xpert Multipurpose X-ray Diffraction System (MPD) with Cu K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.15406$  nm) at 45kV and 40 mA with a scan rate of  $5^\circ \text{ min}^{-1}$  from  $5^\circ$ – $100^\circ$  of  $2\theta$ . The Raman spectra were obtained using a Renishaw inVia microscope equipped with a 514 nm laser diode as the excitation source. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) utilised a monochromated Al K $\alpha$  radiation source (1486.68 eV) to explore the surface chemical states of catalysts. Calibration of binding energy values in XPS spectra was performed using the C 1s peak at 284.8 eV. Cu/Fe K-edge XAS experiments were performed at the XAS beamline (MEX1) at the medium energy X-ray beamline at the Australian Synchrotron, Victoria, Australia. The  $k^2$ -weighted extended X-ray absorption fine structure (EXAFS) spectra were acquired by subtracting the post-edge background from the overall absorption and then normalising it to the edge-jump step. Subsequently, the Artemis program was used to carry out the least-squares curve fitting analysis of the EXAFS  $\chi(k)$  data, and all fits were performed in the  $R$  space with  $k$ -weight of 2. Cu foil and Fe foil were employed to determine the amplitude reduction factor ( $S_0^2$ ), which was held as the constant for the analysis of CuFe DACs. The EXAFS  $R$ -factor, indicating the percentage misfit of the theory to the data, was utilised to reveal the goodness of the fitting.

For electrochemical characterisations, the linear sweep voltammetry (LSV) was collected between 0.48 and  $-1.02$  V vs. RHE ( $V_{\text{RHE}}$ ) at a scan rate of  $10 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  for  $\text{NO}_3^-$ RR in Ar-saturated electrolyte containing  $0.1 \text{ M KNO}_3$  and  $0.1 \text{ M KOH}$ , and between  $-0.58$  to  $-1.22$   $V_{\text{RHE}}$  at same scan rate for the hydrogen evolution reaction (HER) in the Ar-saturated electrolyte containing  $0.1 \text{ M KCl}$  (Sigma Aldrich, 99%) and  $0.1 \text{ M KOH}$ . The electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) was performed in Ar-saturated  $0.1 \text{ M KNO}_3$  and  $0.1 \text{ M KOH}$  with frequency range of  $0.1$ – $100000$  Hz for CuFe DACs and Cu SACs, and of  $0.01$ – $100000$  Hz for Fe SACs with applied potential of  $-0.12 V_{\text{RHE}}$ . The double layer capacitance ( $C_{\text{dl}}$ ) and ECSA of catalyst cathodes were measured by recording cyclic voltammetry (CV) curves in Ar-saturated  $0.1 \text{ M KNO}_3$  and  $0.1 \text{ M KOH}$  solution. The CV curves were acquired at the non-faradaic potential range from  $0.38$ – $0.28 V_{\text{RHE}}$ , at different scan rates ( $V_b$ ) of 4, 8, 16, 20, and  $24 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . Then the double-layer capacitance ( $C_{\text{dl}}$ ) was estimated by plotting the  $\Delta j = j_a - j_c$  (a, anode; c, cathode) as a function of the scan rate. It can be calculated using the equation of  $C_{\text{dl}} = d(\Delta j)/2dV_b$ . To extract the apparent activation energy  $E_a$  for  $\text{NO}_3^-$ RR, the catalyst electrochemical measurements were conducted in a  $0.1 \text{ M KOH}$  solution containing  $0.1 \text{ M KNO}_3$  at different temperatures *i.e.*, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45  $^\circ\text{C}$  at  $-0.62 V_{\text{RHE}}$ . For heterogeneous electrocatalytic reactions,  $j_{\text{NH}_4^+}$  can be expressed as a function of  $E_a$  according to equation of

$j = A_a \exp(-\frac{E_a}{RT})$ , where  $A_a$  is the apparent pre-exponential factor,  $R$  is the ideal gas constant ( $8.314 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$ ), and  $T$  is the temperature (K). Therefore  $E_a$  can be further calculated by

fitting the slope of the Arrhenius plot according to the equation of  $\left| \frac{\partial(\log j)}{\partial \frac{1}{T}} \right|_\eta = -\frac{E_a}{2.303R}$ , where the intercept of  $\log j$  vs.  $T^{-1}$  plot is the logarithm of  $A_a$ , And  $E_a = \text{Slope} \times 2.303 \times 8.314 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$ . Temperature control was achieved using an H-type electrochemical cell with a glass outer wall, which was continuously circulated with water from a thermostated water bath. The water was pumped from the bath into the cell jacket and returned to the bath to maintain thermal equilibrium. The electrolyte temperature inside the H-cell was monitored using a thermometer and allowed to stabilize at the target temperature before electrochemical measurements were initiated. This setup ensures reliable and consistent temperature control throughout the experiments.

Steady state  $j$  chronoamperometry was conducted in  $0.10 \text{ M KOH}$  electrolyte containing various concentrations of  $\text{KNO}_3$  ranging from  $0$ ,  $2.5 \times 10^{-3}$ ,  $5.0 \times 10^{-3}$ ,  $1.0 \times 10^{-2}$ ,  $2.0 \times 10^{-2}$ ,  $5.0 \times 10^{-2}$  and  $0.10 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ . The reaction order was determined from the slope of the  $\log(j)$ - $\log(\text{C}_{\text{NO}_3^-})$  plot. All concentrations except  $0 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  were included in the fitting interval, as the  $0 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  point cannot be used for log-based analysis. Steady-state conditions were distinguished from transient behavior by allowing the current to stabilize for at least  $50 \text{ s}$ , after which the deviation of the current density was less than  $2\%$  of the final value. Under these conditions, the extracted slope of the  $\log(j)$ - $\log(\text{C}_{\text{NO}_3^-})$  plot reflects the apparent reaction order.

Samples for the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR experiments were prepared by mixing  $2 \text{ mL}$  of spent electrolyte and  $2 \text{ mL}$  of deionised water, which was further dissociated by  $20 \mu\text{L H}_2\text{SO}_4$  (Sigma Aldrich,  $98\%$ ). Then  $630 \mu\text{L}$  solution and  $70 \mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  (Sigma Aldrich,  $99.9\%$ ) were loaded on an NMR tube and analysed by nuclear magnetic resonance (Avance III  $600 \text{ MHz}$  NMR, Bruker) using a pre-saturation method for water suppression.

The electron paramagnetic resonance spectroscopy (EPR) was collected using Bruker EMX X-Band ESR Spectrometer at room temperature. The EPR liquid samples were obtained by adding  $12.5 \text{ mg}$  of DMPO ( $12.3 \mu\text{L}$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ ) into  $0.4 \text{ mL}$  of fresh electrolyte after  $3\text{-min}$   $\text{NO}_3^-$ -RR at  $-0.62 \text{ V}_{\text{RHE}}$ .

The *in-situ* FTIR experiments were carried out using the Infrared Microspectroscopy (IRM) Beamline at the Australian Synchrotron, Melbourne, Australia. The IRM beamline combines

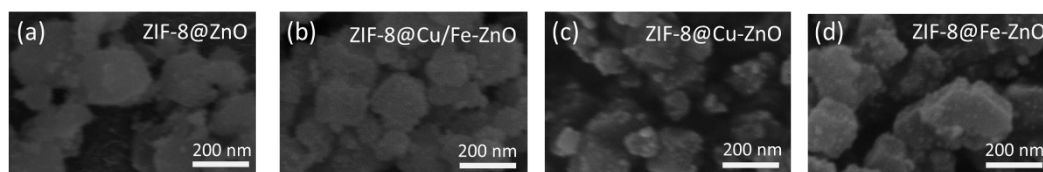
the high brilliance and high collimation of the synchrotron beam with a Bruker V80v FTIR spectrometer and a Hyperion 2000 IR microscope to reach high signal-to-noise ratios at diffraction limited spatial resolutions between 3 and 8  $\mu\text{m}$ . This makes the beamline ideally suited to the analysis of microscopic samples. Both the microscope and the spectrometer were controlled via Bruker OPUS software, version 7.2, including data acquisition, sample stage position and automated multipoint data collection. Measurements were performed using a narrow-band, high-sensitivity, liquid nitrogen-cooled Mercury Cadmium Telluride (MCT) detector. It was optimised for detection and data collection at a wavelength range of 3800–900  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The aperture was set to  $\sim 10\ \mu\text{m} \times 10\ \mu\text{m}$ . A custom-designed stationary three-electrode electrochemical cell was employed, featuring a 2 cm diameter ZnSe window positioned directly above the working electrode (catalyst coated onto carbon paper). An Ag/AgCl electrode and a Pt wire were used as the reference and counter electrodes, respectively. The cell was filled with 2 mL of Ar-saturated electrolyte (0.1 M  $\text{KNO}_3$  and 0.1 M KOH). Prior to electrochemical testing, the background FTIR spectrum was collected under open-circuit conditions (OCC) without applying any external potential. Potential-dependent FTIR measurements were subsequently carried out, applying potentials from open-circuit to  $-0.62\ \text{V}_{\text{RHE}}$ . Spectra were recorded at selected potentials ( $-0.02\ \text{V}_{\text{RHE}}$ ,  $-0.22\ \text{V}_{\text{RHE}}$ ,  $-0.42\ \text{V}_{\text{RHE}}$ , and  $-0.62\ \text{V}_{\text{RHE}}$ ). At least four independent scans were collected at each potential to ensure effective signal collection. Each spectrum was acquired in reflection mode, averaging 256 scans per measurement, with a spectral resolution of 2  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

### 1.3. Computational Methods

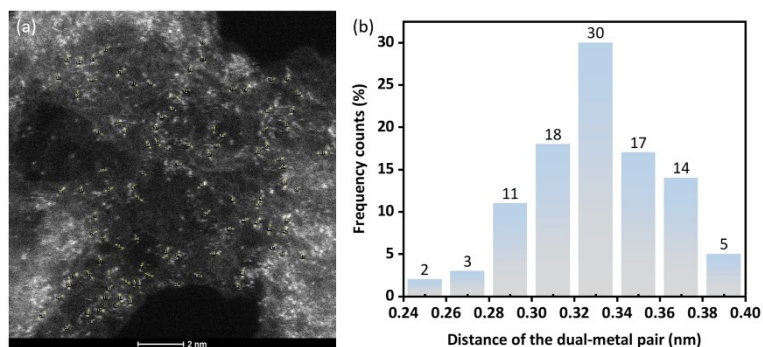
The first-principles calculations were performed using the VASP software package <sup>4-6</sup>. The exchange-correlation potential was treated within the generalised gradient approximation (GGA) using the Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE) formulation <sup>7,8</sup>. The electron-ion interaction was described by the projector augmented wave (PAW) method <sup>9</sup>. The cutoff energy for the plane-wave basis set was set to 450 eV. All structures were geometrically optimised until the maximum component of the forces was less than 0.01 eV Å<sup>-1</sup>. Integration over the Brillouin zone was performed using the Monkhorst-Pack grid, with a k-point grid set to 3 × 3 × 1. The formula used to calculate the Gibbs free energy is  $G = E + \text{ZPE} - TS$ , where E is the energy directly obtained from DFT calculations, ZPE represents the zero-point energy, T is the temperature, and S is the entropy of the system. The change in Gibbs free energy  $\Delta G$  for a reaction is equal to the sum of the Gibbs free energies of the products minus the sum of the Gibbs free energies of the reactants.

All models were visualised using VESTA <sup>10</sup>.

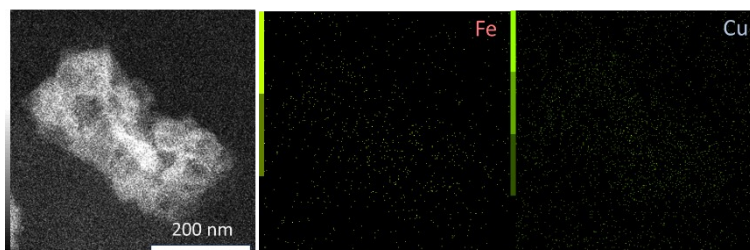
## 2. Supplementary Figures and Tables



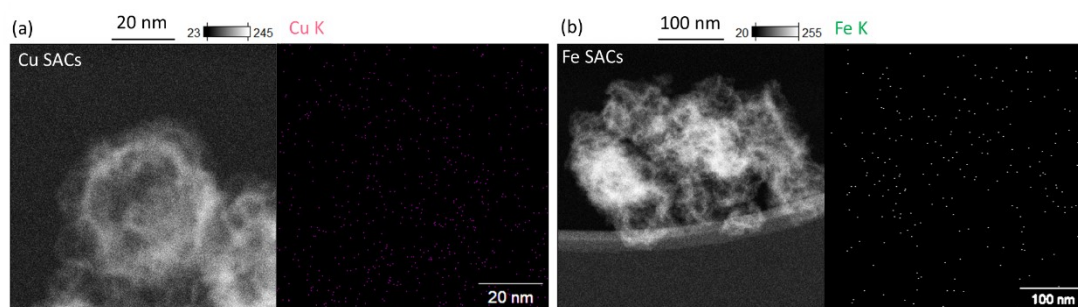
**Figure S1.** SEM images of (a) ZnO, (b) Cu/Fe-ZnO, (c) Cu-ZnO, and (d) Fe-ZnO coverages on ZIF-8.



**Figure S2.** (a) The AC HAADF-STEM image of CuFe DACs and (b) statistical analysis on the nearest-neighbour distance distribution.

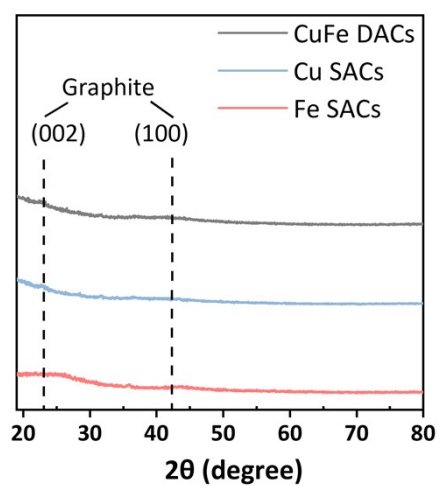


**Figure S3.** The metal elemental distribution of CuFe DACs in EDS mapping.

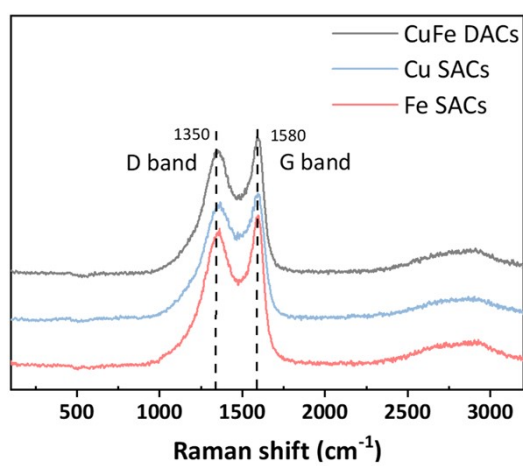


**Figure S4.** The metal elemental distribution of (a) Cu SACs and (b) Fe SACs in EDS mapping.

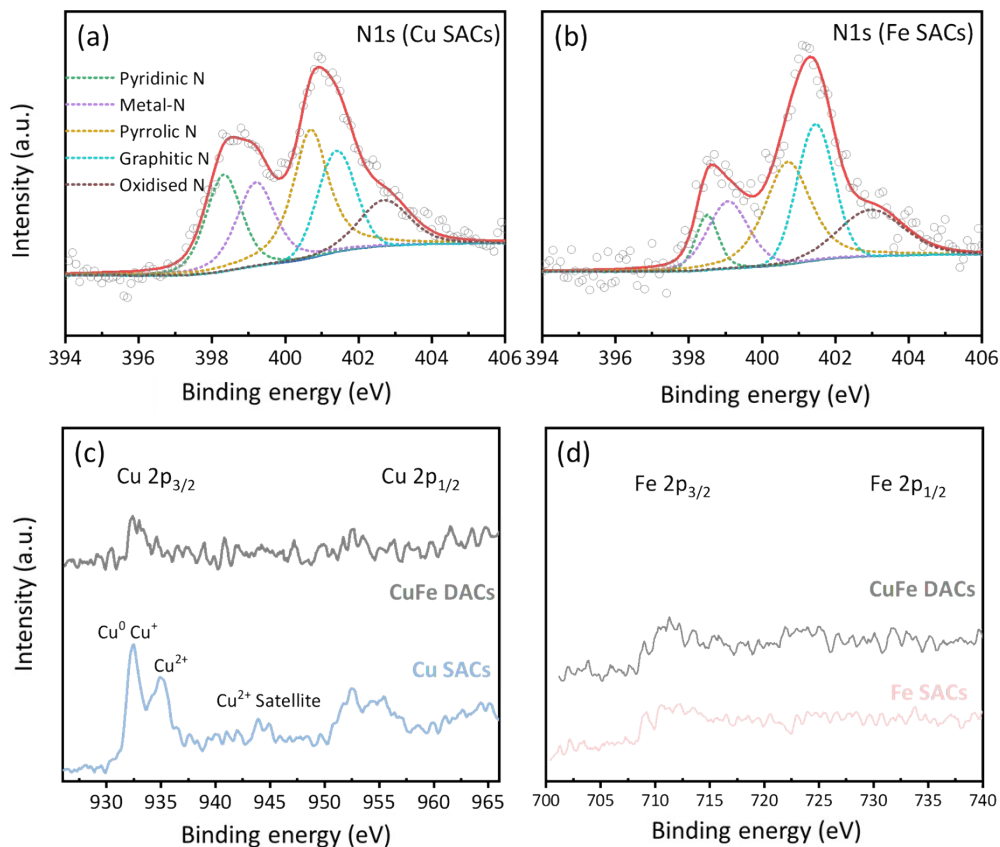




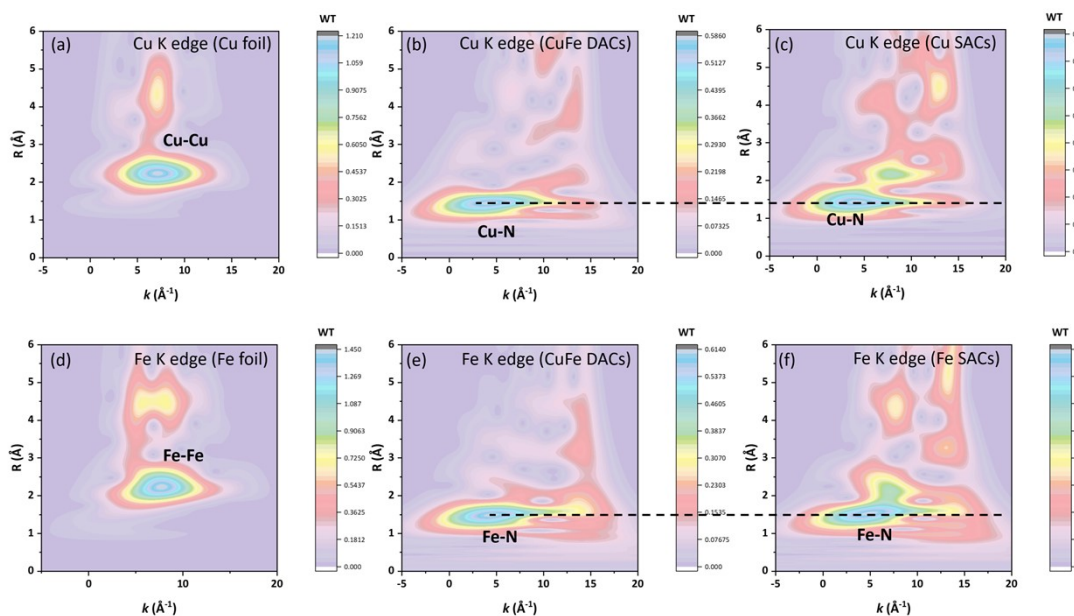
**Figure S5.** XRD pattern of CuFe DACs, Cu SACs, and Fe SACs.



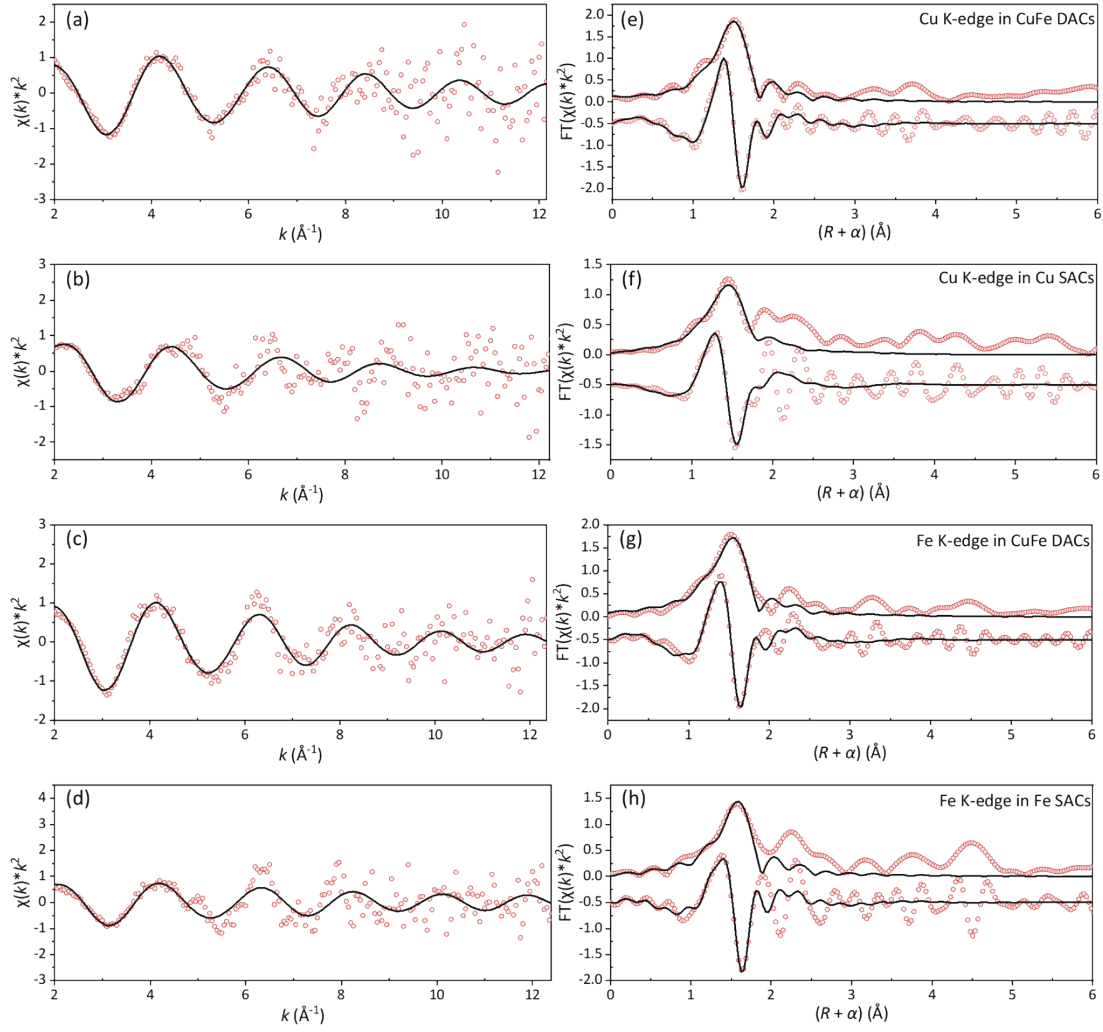
**Figure S6.** Raman spectrum of CuFe DACs, Cu SACs, and Fe SACs.



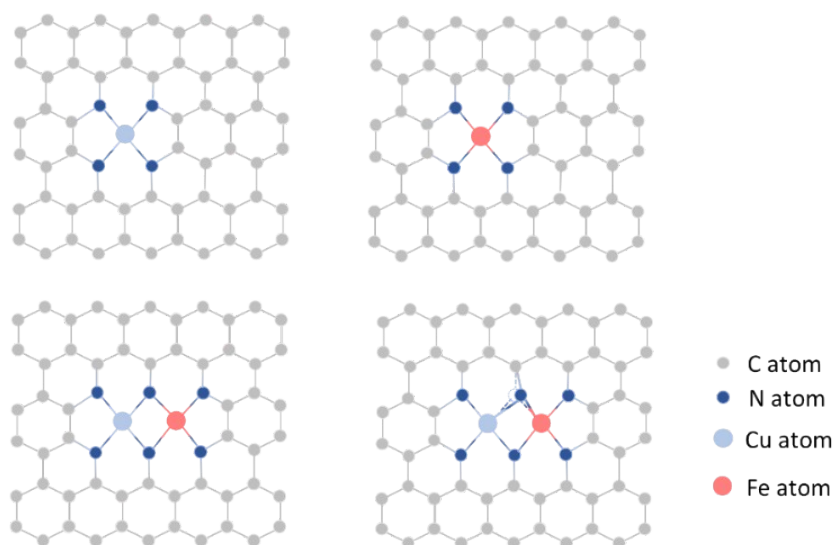
**Figure S7.** N 1s XPS spectrum of (a) Cu SACs, and (b) Fe SACs. (c) Cu 2p XPS spectrum of CuFe DACs and Cu SACs. (d) Fe 2p XPS spectrum of CuFe DACs and Fe SACs.



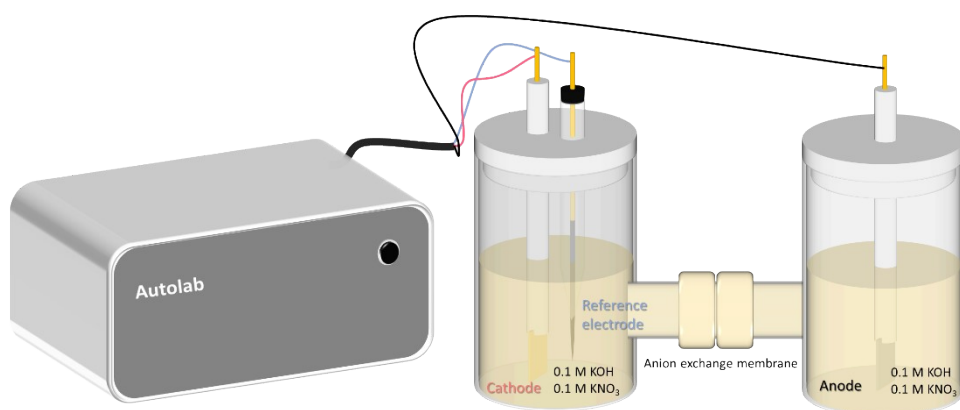
**Figure S8.** WT-EXAFS of (a) Cu foil, (b) CuFe DACs, (c) Cu SACs at Cu K-edge, and (d) Fe foil, (e) CuFe DACs, (f) Fe SACs at Fe K-edge.



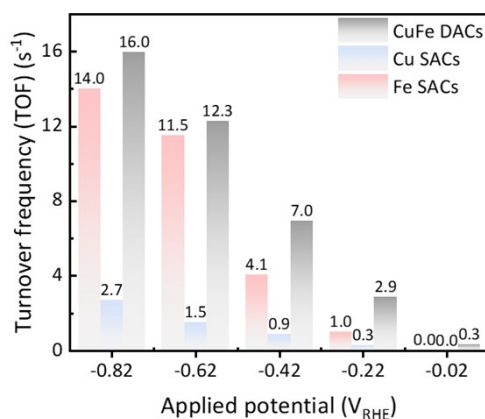
**Figure S9.** Cu K-edge EXAFS (point) and the curve fit (line) for **(a)** CuFe DACs and **(b)** Cu SACs. Fe K-edge EXAFS (point) and the curve fit (line) for **(c)** CuFe DACs and **(d)** Fe SACs, shown in  $k^2$ -weighted  $k$ -space. Cu K-edge EXAFS (point) and the curve fit (line) for **(e)** CuFe DACs and **(f)** Cu SACs. Fe K-edge EXAFS (point) and the curve fit (line) for **(g)** CuFe DACs and **(h)** Fe SACs, shown in  $R$ -space (FT magnitude and imaginary component). The data are  $k^2$ -weighted and not phase-corrected.



**Figure S10.** DFT modelling of surface on Cu SACs, Fe SACs, ideal CuFe DACs, and CuFe DACs after structural relaxation.

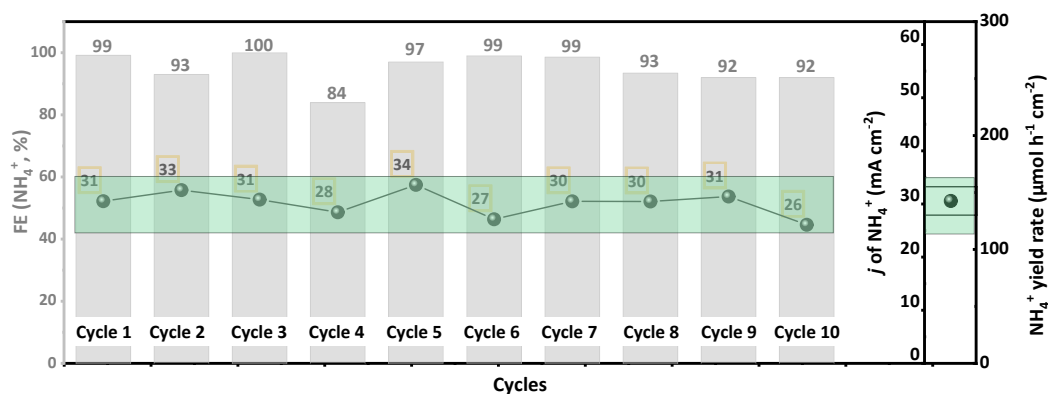


**Figure S11.** The set-up of H-cell for electrochemical  $\text{NO}_3^-$  reduction reaction.

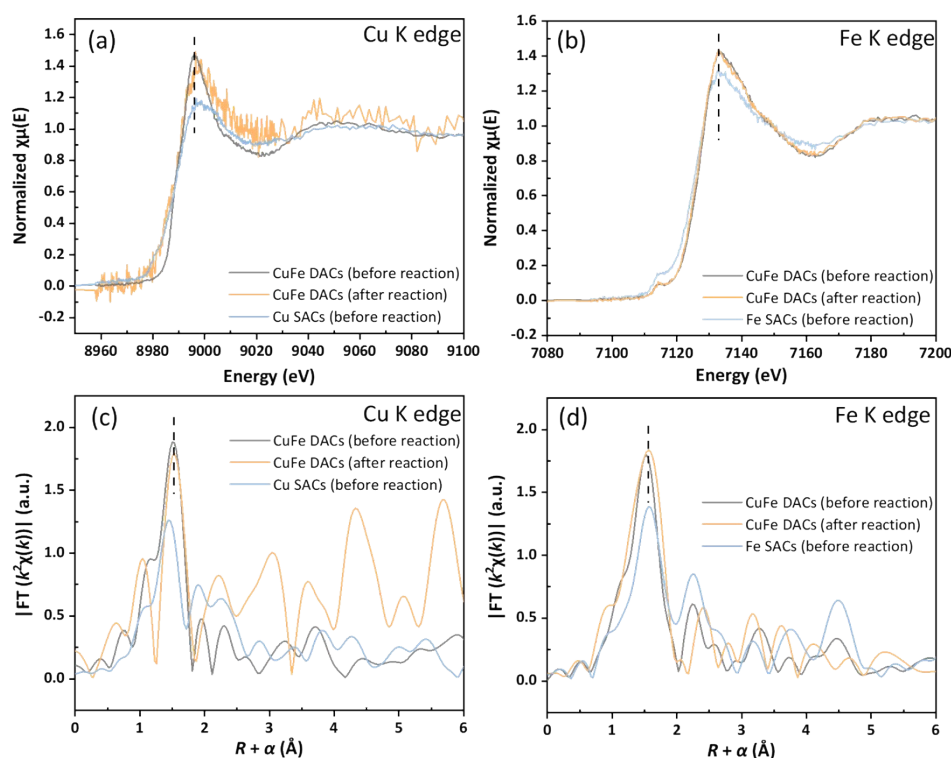


**Figure S12.** Potential-dependent turnover frequencies (TOFs) for nitrate-to-ammonium conversion over the three catalysts. The TOF values were calculated based on the metal contents determined by ICP–OES, assuming that all metal atoms are catalytically accessible. TOF is defined as the number of product molecules generated per active site per second. For CuFe

DACs, the maximum TOF was additionally calculated by assuming that each Cu–Fe pair acts as a single active site, following the equation ( $\text{TOF}_{\text{pair}} = \frac{r_{\text{product}} (\text{mol/s})}{n_{\text{pair}} (\text{mol})}$ ).

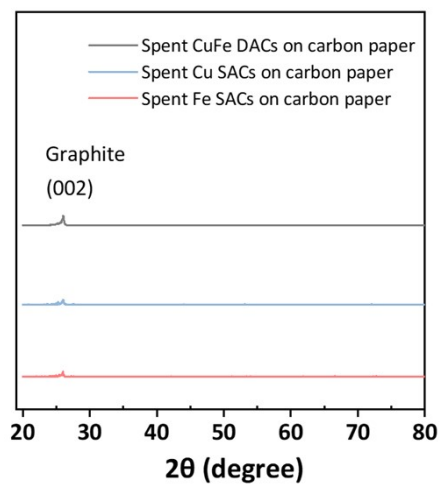


**Figure S13.** Durability test of CuFe DACs in NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>RR at -0.62 V<sub>RHE</sub> with 10 cycles (0.5 h for each cycle) for FE, partial current density (*j*), yield rate towards NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>.

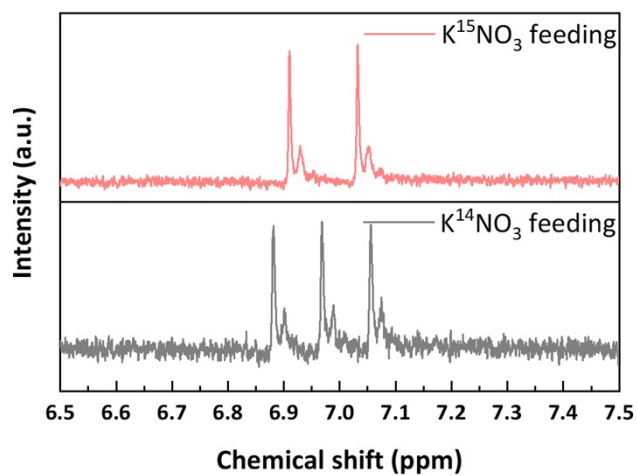


**Figure S14.** (a) Cu K-edge XANES for CuFe DACs before NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>RR, after NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>RR, and Cu SACs before NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>RR. (b) Fe K-edge XANES for CuFe DACs before NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>RR, after NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>RR, and Fe SACs before NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>RR. (c) Cu K-edge FT-EXAFS for before NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>RR, after NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>RR, and Cu SACs before NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>RR in R-space. (d) Fe K-edge FT-EXAFS for before NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>RR, after

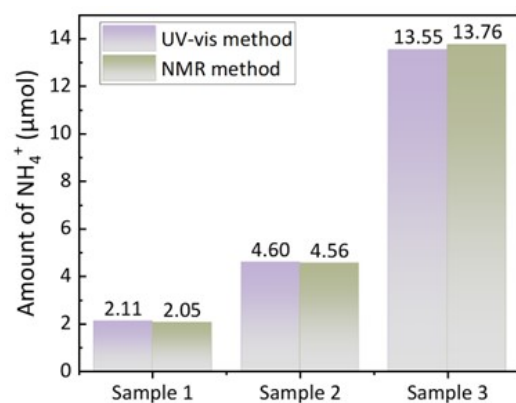
$\text{NO}_3^-$ -RR, and Cu SACs before  $\text{NO}_3^-$ -RR in  $R$ -space (the data are  $k^2$ -weighted and not phase-corrected).



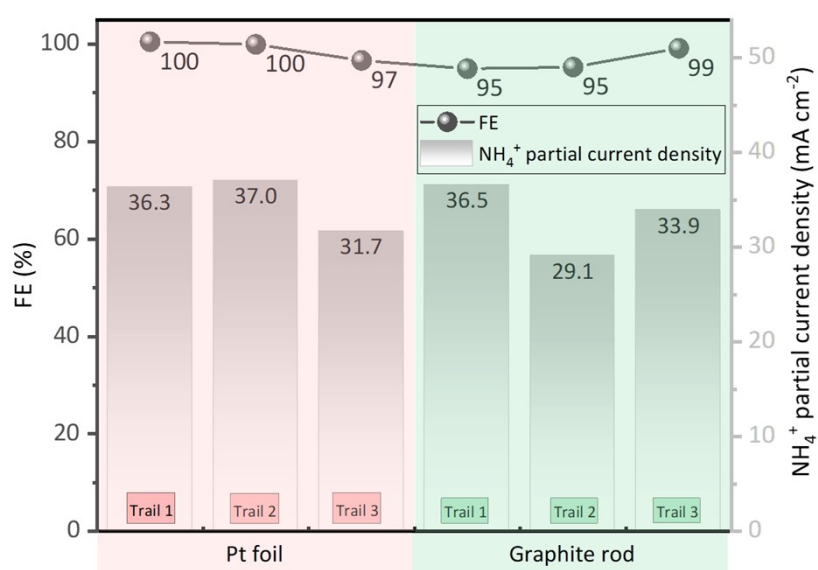
**Figure S15.** XRD pattern of CuFe DACs, Cu SACs, and Fe SACs on carbon paper after  $\text{NO}_3^-$ -RR.



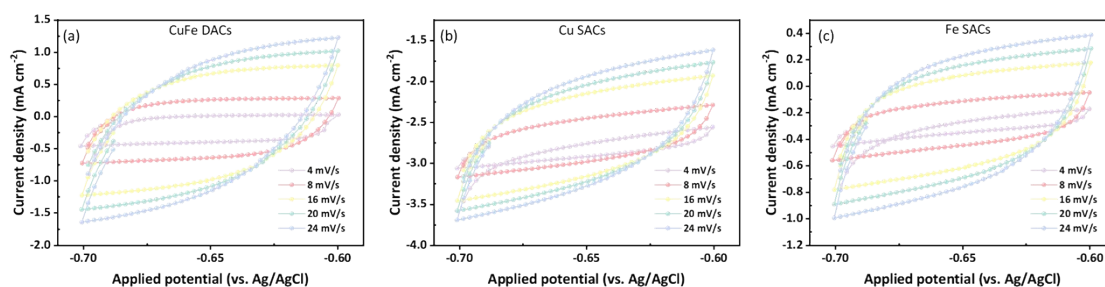
**Figure S16.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $^{15}\text{NH}_4^+$  and  $^{14}\text{NH}_4^+$  produced after  $\text{NO}_3^-$ -RR using  $^{15}\text{NO}_3^-$  and  $^{14}\text{NO}_3^-$  as reactants, respectively.



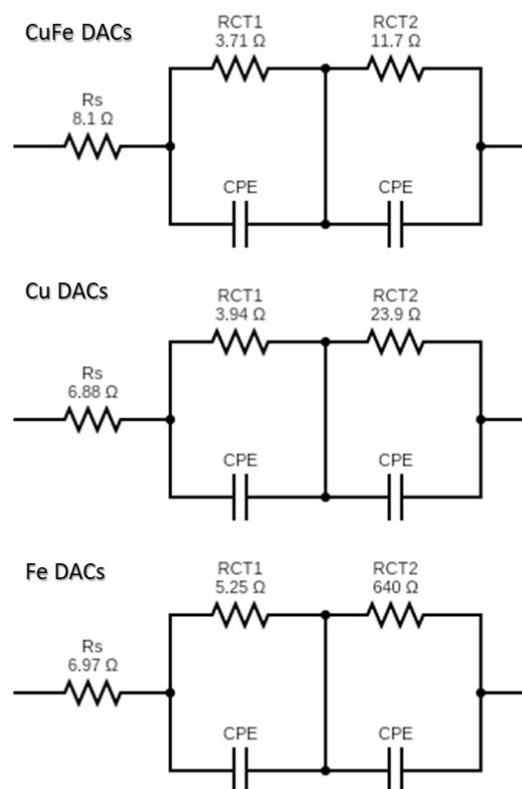
**Figure S17.** Comparison of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  quantification by UV-vis method and NMR method.



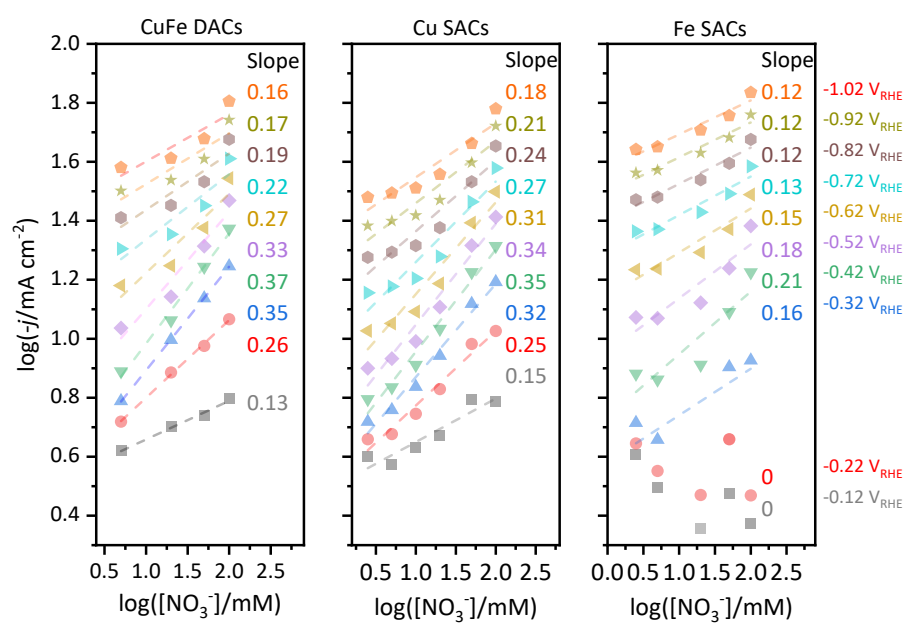
**Figure S18.**  $\text{NO}_3^-$ RR trails with different counter electrodes (Pt foil and graphite rod) at  $-1.6 \text{ V}_{\text{RHE}}$ .



**Figure S19.** ECSA measurements of (a) CuFe DACs, (b) Cu SACs, and (c) Fe SACs.



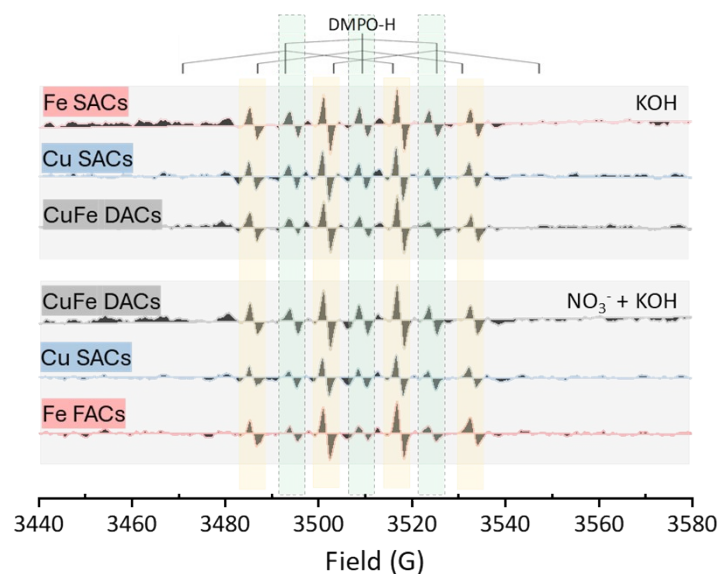
**Figure S120.** Equivalent circuit fitting results of EIS for CuFe DACs, Cu SACs, and Fe SACs (from top to bottom).



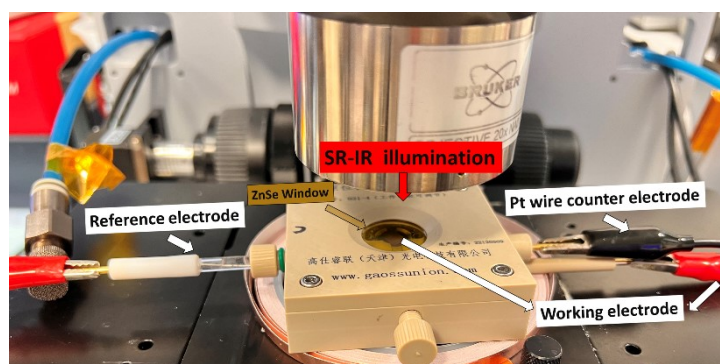
**Figure S21.** Log-log plot of current density versus  $\text{NO}_3^-$  concentration at various potentials.

The slope of each fitted line represents the reaction rate order.

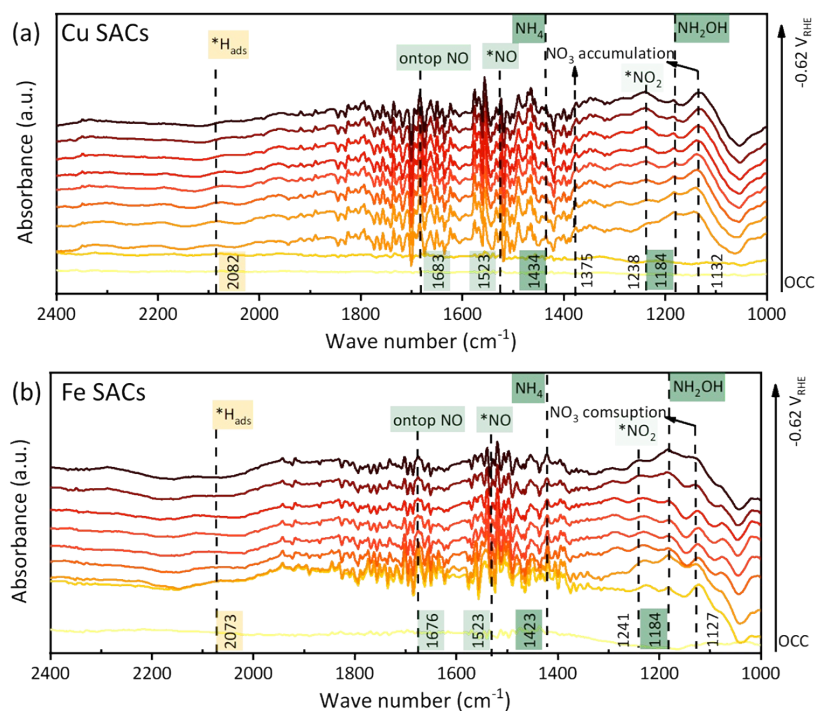




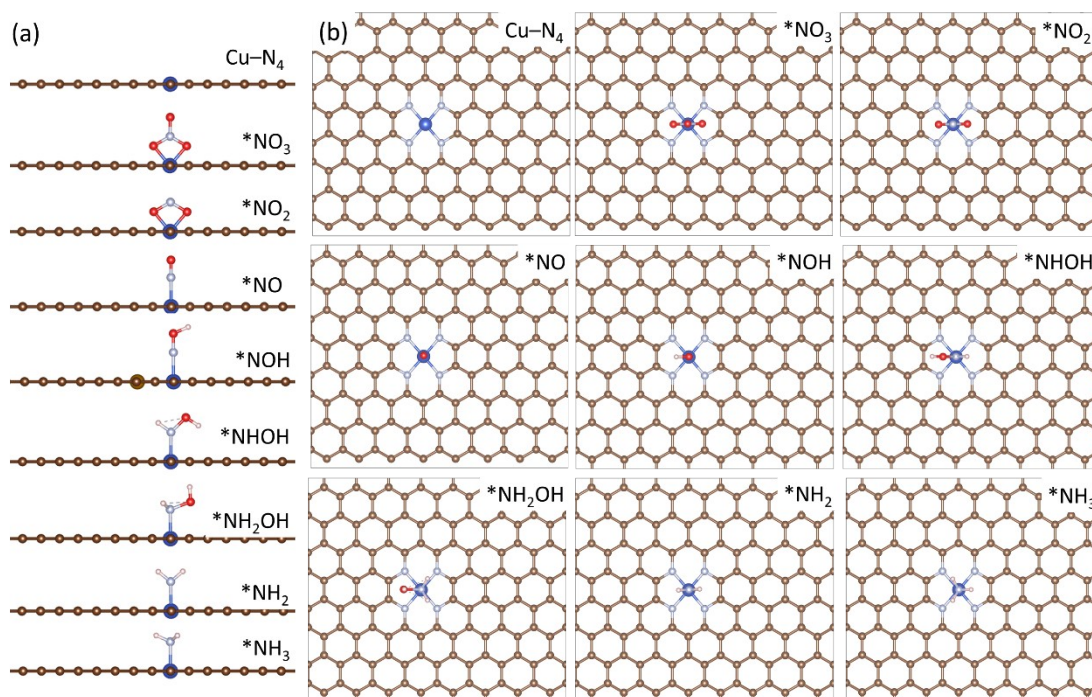
**Figure S22.** EPR spectrum of the DMPO-H adduct. The yellow bars indicate regions of potential overlap with the DMPO-OH signal, while the green bars represent the characteristic peaks of DMPO-H with no interference from other radical species <sup>11</sup>.



**Figure S23.** Setup employed for *in-situ* FTIR characterization in ANSTO, Australia.

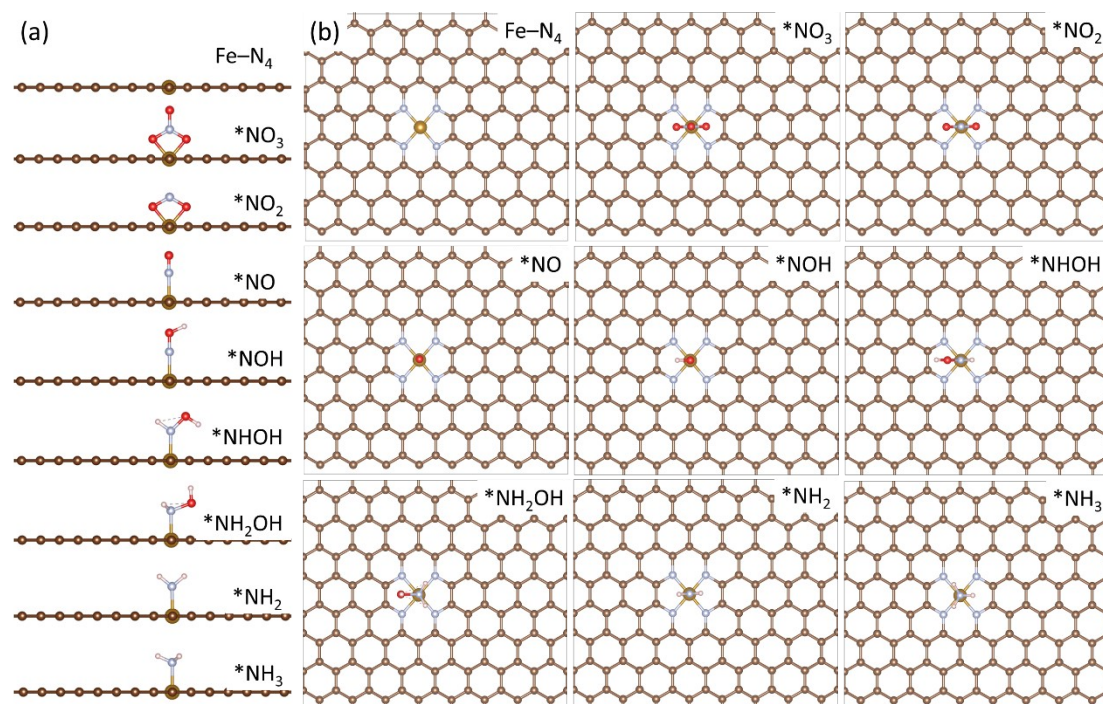


**Figure S24.** The *in-situ* FTIR spectrum of (a) Cu SACs and (b) Fe SACs in  $\text{NO}_3^-$ -RR via chronoamperometry polarization.

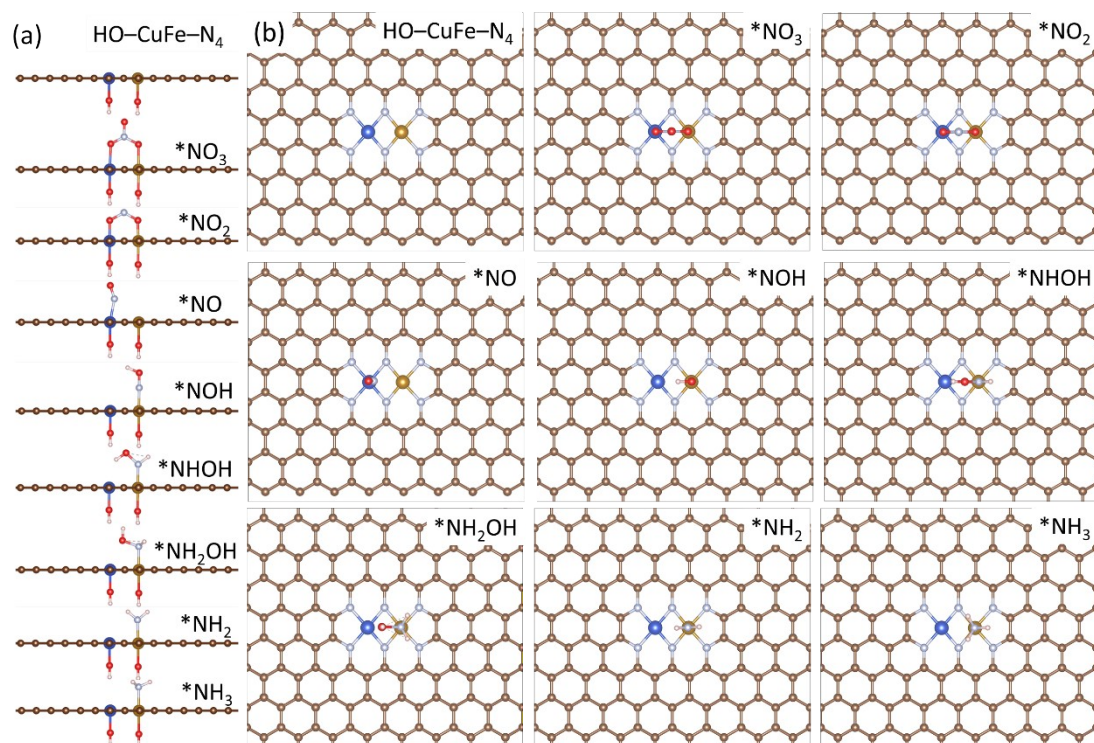


**Figure S25.** (a) The side views and (b) top views of all  $\text{NO}_3^-$ -RR intermediates on metal sites of Cu- $\text{N}_4$ . Blue, red, silver and pink balls represent Cu, O, N and H atoms, respectively.

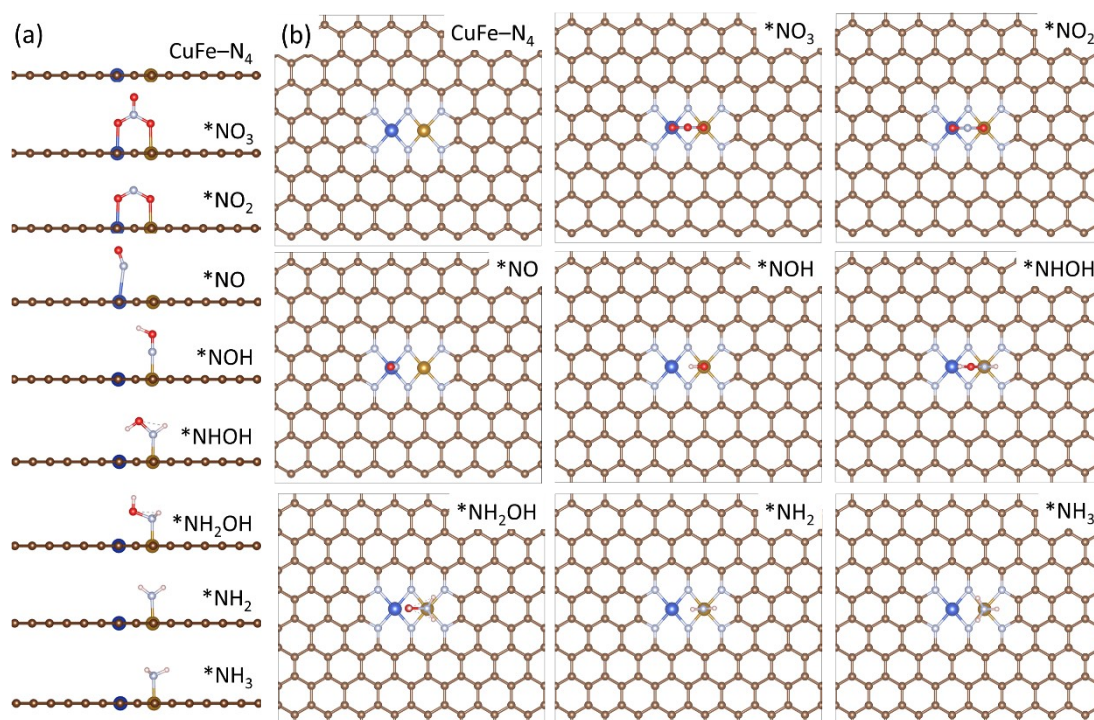




**Figure S26.** (a) The side views and (b) top views of all  $\text{NO}_3^-$ RR intermediates on metal sites of  $\text{Fe-N}_4$ . Brown, red, silver and pink balls represent Fe, O, N and H atoms, respectively.



**Figure S27.** (a) The side views and (b) top views of all  $\text{NO}_3^-$ RR intermediates on metal sites of  $\text{HO-CuFe-N}_4$ . Blue, brown, red, silver and pink balls represent Cu, Fe, O, N and H atoms, respectively.



**Figure S28.** (a) The side views and (b) top views of all  $\text{NO}_3^-$ -RR intermediates on metal sites of  $\text{CuFe-N}_4$ . Blue, brown, red, silver and pink balls represent Cu, Fe, O, N and H atoms, respectively.

**Table S1.** ICP-OES analysis on CuFe SACs, Cu SACs, and Fe SACs.

Samples [units] <sup>a)</sup>	Cu (wt%)	Fe (wt%)
CuFe DACs	0.06	0.07
Cu SACs	0.25	-
Fe SACs	-	0.03

**Table S2.** N 1s XPS fitting parameters on CuFe SACs, Cu SACs, and Fe SACs.

Samples	The binding energy of each component peak (eV)	FWHM	Peak Area	Peak shape (%Lorentzian-Gaussian)	Background subtraction
CuFe DACs	398.4	0.95	386.3	23%	Shirley
	399.2	1.25	571.2	45%	
	400.5	1.37	1027.4	48%	
	401.3	1.36	885.7	7%	
	402.9	2.33	718.4	43%	
Cu SACs	398.3	1.15	503.0	30%	Shirley
	399.2	1.24	513.4	51%	
	400.7	1.15	801.1	76%	
	401.4	1.22	490.6	0%	
	402.7	1.63	341.5	32%	
Fe SACs	398.5	0.73	168.1	30%	Shirley
	399.1	1.32	368.1	29%	
	400.7	1.47	608.2	51%	
	401.5	1.18	586.8	0%	
	403.0	2.09	392.2	24%	

**Table S3.**  $k^2$ -weighted FT-EXAFS fitting results at the Cu/Fe K-edge of CuFe DACs, Cu SACs and Fe SACs samples.

Samples <sup>a)</sup>	First shell	Coordination number (CN)	R + $\Delta R$ (Å)	$\delta^2(\text{\AA}^2)$
CuFe DACs	Cu–N	$4.84 \pm 0.45$	$1.96 \pm 0.004$	0.002
	Fe–N	$5.59 \pm 0.83$	$2.02 \pm 0.017$	0.003
Cu SACs	Cu–N	$3.75 \pm 0.77$	$1.92 \pm 0.025$	0.006
Fe SACs	Fe–N	$3.45 \pm 0.56$	$2.03 \pm 0.018$	0.001

<sup>a)</sup>  $\delta^2$ : Debye-Waller factors. The goodness of fit ( $R$  factor) for CuFe DACs (Cu K-edge), CuFe DACs (Fe K-edge), Cu SACs (Cu K-edge), and Fe SACs (Fe K-edge) are 0.0091, 0.0205, 0.01197, 0.0161, respectively. The obtained XAFS data was processed in Athena for background, pre/post-edge line calibration. The Fourier transformed fitting was carried out in Artemis. The weighting of 2,  $k$ -range of 2–12.151  $\text{\AA}^{-1}$  for CuFe DACs (Cu K-edge), 2–12.151  $\text{\AA}^{-1}$  for CuFe DACs (Fe K-edge), 2–12.151  $\text{\AA}^{-1}$  for Cu SACs (Cu K-edge), 2–12.151  $\text{\AA}^{-1}$  for Fe SACs (Fe K-edge), and  $R$  range of 1–2  $\text{\AA}$  for CuFe DACs (Cu/Fe K-edge), 1–1.84  $\text{\AA}$  for Cu SACs (Cu K-edge), and 1–1.87  $\text{\AA}$  for Fe SACs (Fe K-edge) were used for fitting. The amplitude reduction factor  $S_0^2$  was defined at 0.907 for Cu K-edge and 0.792 for Fe K-edge obtained by the fitting result from standard Cu and Fe foil  $k^2$ -weighted FT-EXAFS spectra. Coordination number, bond length, Debye Waller factor, and  $E_0$  (inner potential correction) shift ( $\Delta E_0$ ) were fitted without being fixed or constrained by anyone.

**Table S4.** Slopes in Figure 5a and Figure S16, and corresponding double-layer capacity ( $C_{dl}$ ) with electrochemical active surface area (ECSA).

	Slope	$C_{dl}$	ECSA
CuFe SACs	0.0817	$0.0408 \text{ F cm}^{-2}$	$1021 \text{ cm}^2$
Cu SACs	0.0579	$0.0289 \text{ F cm}^{-2}$	$723.5 \text{ cm}^2$
Fe SACs	0.0451	$0.0226 \text{ F cm}^{-2}$	$564.1 \text{ cm}^2$

**Table S5.** Details of the reaction energy, zero-point energy, and entropy corrections of each intermediate in the free energy calculation.

Temperature (°C)	Temperature (K)	$j_{\text{NH}_4^+}$ of CuFe DACs (mA cm <sup>-2</sup> )	$j_{\text{NH}_4^+}$ of Cu SACs (mA cm <sup>-2</sup> )	$j_{\text{NH}_4^+}$ of Fe SACs (mA cm <sup>-2</sup> )
<b>25</b>	298.15	19.19	23.13	16.87
<b>30</b>	303.15	29.85	24.43	26.20
<b>35</b>	308.15	32.69	28.28	23.47
<b>40</b>	313.15	37.45	30.35	24.73
<b>45</b>	318.15	36.85	35.31	26.83

**Table S6.** The partial current density of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  ( $j_{\text{NH}_4^+}$ ) in  $\text{NO}_3^-$ RR at different temperature among three catalysts.

	Gibbs energy (eV)	DFT energy (eV)	ZPE (eV)	T (K)	S (eV/K)	TS (eV)
HO-CuFe-N <sub>4</sub>	-4370.86	-4371.06	2.36	300	0.00720	2.16
HO-CuFe-N <sub>4</sub> -NO <sub>3</sub>	-4397.31	-4398.00	2.89	300	0.00732	2.20
HO-CuFe-N <sub>4</sub> -NO <sub>2</sub>	-4391.29	-4391.77	2.66	300	0.00724	2.17
HO-CuFe-N <sub>4</sub> -NO	-4383.39	-4383.72	2.49	300	0.00720	2.16
HO-CuFe-N <sub>4</sub> -NOH	-4385.64	-4386.05	2.58	300	0.00724	2.17
HO-CuFe-N <sub>4</sub> -NHOH	-4391.01	-4391.58	2.74	300	0.00726	2.18
HO-CuFe-N <sub>4</sub> -NH <sub>2</sub> OH	-4395.73	-4396.57	3.03	300	0.00728	2.18
HO-CuFe-N <sub>4</sub> -NH <sub>2</sub>	-4386.09	-4386.74	2.82	300	0.00722	2.17
HO-CuFe-N <sub>4</sub> -NH <sub>3</sub>	-4390.51	-4391.63	3.29	300	0.00723	2.17
CuFe-N <sub>4</sub>	-4354.31	-4354.18	2.01	300	0.00713	2.14
CuFe-N <sub>4</sub> -NO <sub>3</sub>	-4380.23	-4380.60	2.55	300	0.00725	2.18
CuFe-N <sub>4</sub> -NO <sub>2</sub>	-4374.42	-4374.59	2.33	300	0.00717	2.15
CuFe-N <sub>4</sub> -NO	-4366.63	-4366.64	2.15	300	0.00713	2.14
CuFe-N <sub>4</sub> -NOH	-4368.39	-4368.47	2.24	300	0.00717	2.15
CuFe-N <sub>4</sub> -NHOH	-4374.20	-4374.44	2.40	300	0.00719	2.16
CuFe-N <sub>4</sub> -NH <sub>2</sub> OH	-4378.75	-4379.28	2.69	300	0.00721	2.16
CuFe-N <sub>4</sub> -NH <sub>2</sub>	-4369.02	-4369.36	2.48	300	0.00715	2.15
CuFe-N <sub>4</sub> -NH <sub>3</sub>	-4374.08	-4374.88	2.94	300	0.00716	2.15
Cu-N <sub>4</sub>	-4346.88	-4346.64	1.93	300	0.00721	2.16
Cu-N <sub>4</sub> -NO <sub>3</sub>	-4366.97	-4367.19	2.43	300	0.00734	2.20
Cu-N <sub>4</sub> -NO <sub>2</sub>	-4360.93	-4361.08	2.32	300	0.00725	2.18
Cu-N <sub>4</sub> -NO	-4357.91	-4357.90	2.14	300	0.00721	2.16
Cu-N <sub>4</sub> -NOH	-4360.13	-4360.19	2.23	300	0.00725	2.18
Cu-N <sub>4</sub> -NHOH	-4365.48	-4365.68	2.39	300	0.00727	2.18
Cu-N <sub>4</sub> -NH <sub>2</sub> OH	-4370.09	-4370.59	2.68	300	0.00729	2.19
Cu-N <sub>4</sub> -NH <sub>2</sub>	-4359.99	-4360.29	2.47	300	0.00723	2.17
Cu-N <sub>4</sub> -NH <sub>3</sub>	-4365.57	-4366.33	2.93	300	0.00724	2.17
Fe-N <sub>4</sub>	-4352.31	-4351.97	1.84	300	0.00729	2.19
Fe-N <sub>4</sub> -NO <sub>3</sub>	-4371.61	-4371.74	2.36	300	0.00742	2.23
Fe-N <sub>4</sub> -NO <sub>2</sub>	-4367.36	-4367.42	2.26	300	0.00733	2.20
Fe-N <sub>4</sub> -NO	-4364.67	-4364.56	2.08	300	0.00729	2.19
Fe-N <sub>4</sub> -NOH	-4366.38	-4366.35	2.17	300	0.00733	2.20
Fe-N <sub>4</sub> -NHOH	-4372.22	-4372.35	2.33	300	0.00735	2.20

Fe-N <sub>4</sub> -NH <sub>2</sub> OH	-4376.52	-4376.97	2.66	300	0.00737	2.21
Fe-N <sub>4</sub> -NH <sub>2</sub>	-4367.06	-4367.30	2.44	300	0.00731	2.19
Fe-N <sub>4</sub> -NH <sub>3</sub>	-4371.89	-4372.60	2.91	300	0.00732	2.20
H <sub>2</sub>	-06.75	-07.02	0.27	300	0.00000000	0.00000
H <sub>2</sub> O	-14.21	-14.80	0.58	300	0.00000434	0.00130
NO <sub>2</sub>	-17.68	-17.97	0.30	300	0.00003165	0.00949
NO <sub>3</sub>	-23.06	-23.57	0.55	300	0.00011301	0.03390
NH <sub>3</sub>	-19.51	-20.47	0.97	300	0.00002375	0.00712

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