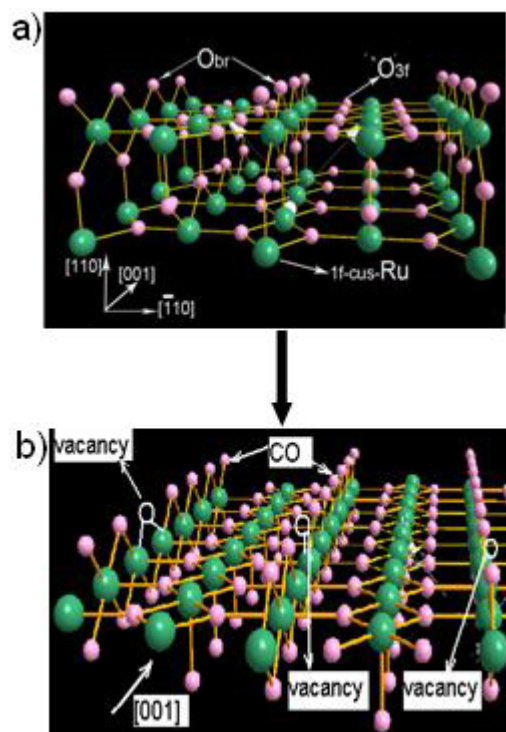


## Supporting information



Scheme 1. Schematic picture for the structure activation mechanism of mesoporous RuO<sub>x</sub>H<sub>y</sub> during the gas treatment (CO/O<sub>2</sub>). a) Stick and ball model of the stoichiometric RuO<sub>2</sub> surfaces in mixed gas. O and Ru atoms are shown as large and small balls, respectively. A bridge bonded O (O<sub>br</sub>) which are coordinated only to two Ru atoms underneath, a 3-fold coordinated O atom (O<sub>3f</sub>), and a 1-fold under-coordinated Ru atom (1f-cus-Ru) which are coordinated only to five O atoms, are active elements, are indicated. b) Formation of O vacancy resulting from the missing O which is consumed by oxidation of CO.