

**Neutral Noble-Metal-Free VCoO₂ and CrCoO₂ Cluster Catalysts for
CO Oxidation by O₂**

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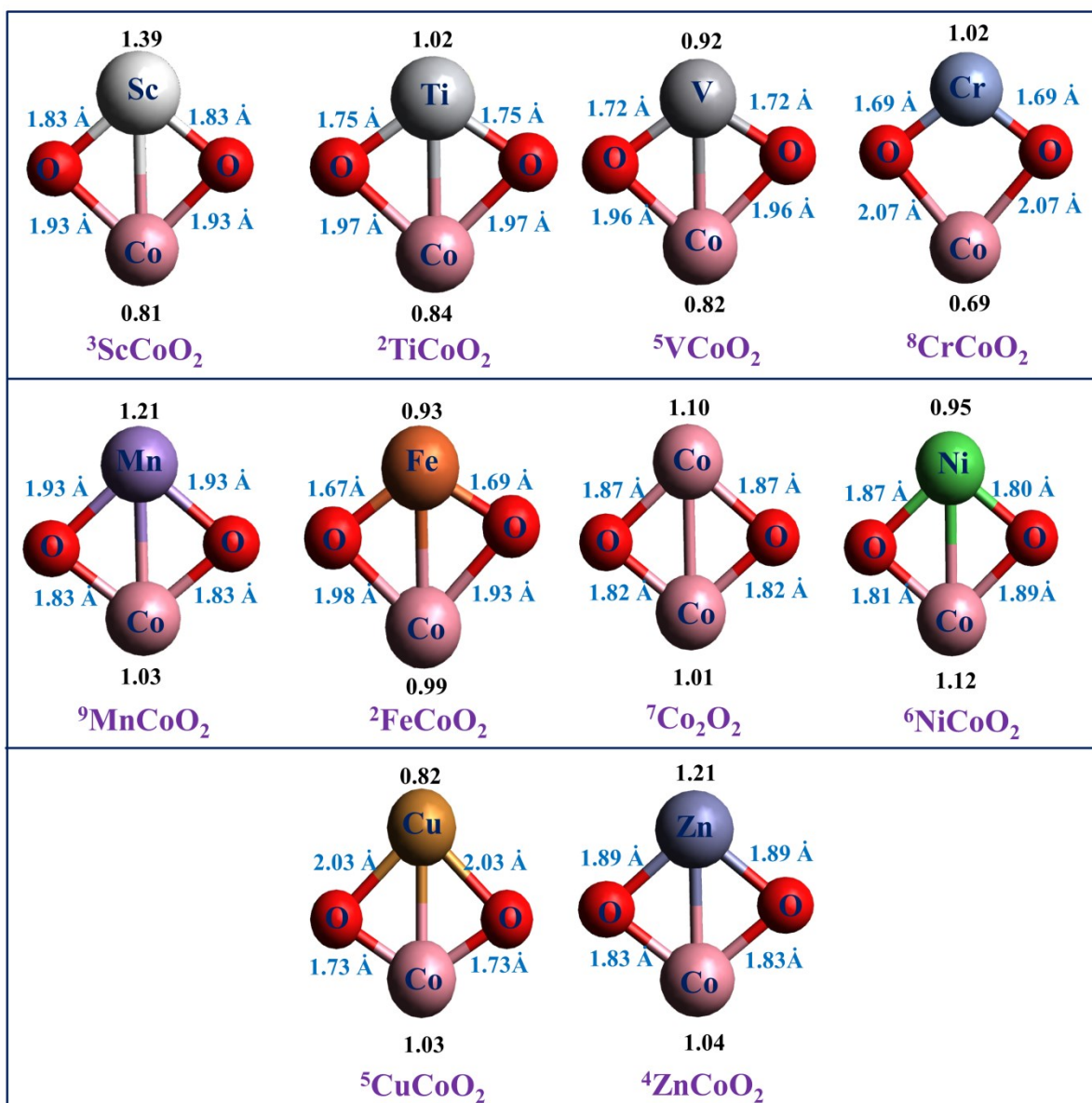


Figure S1. Optimized TMCuO_2 (TM=Sc–Zn) clusters at B3LYP/TZVP method. (Superscript value corresponds to ground electronic state of the cluster, blue colour values represent bond distance values (in Å) and black colour values represent natural charge values respectively)

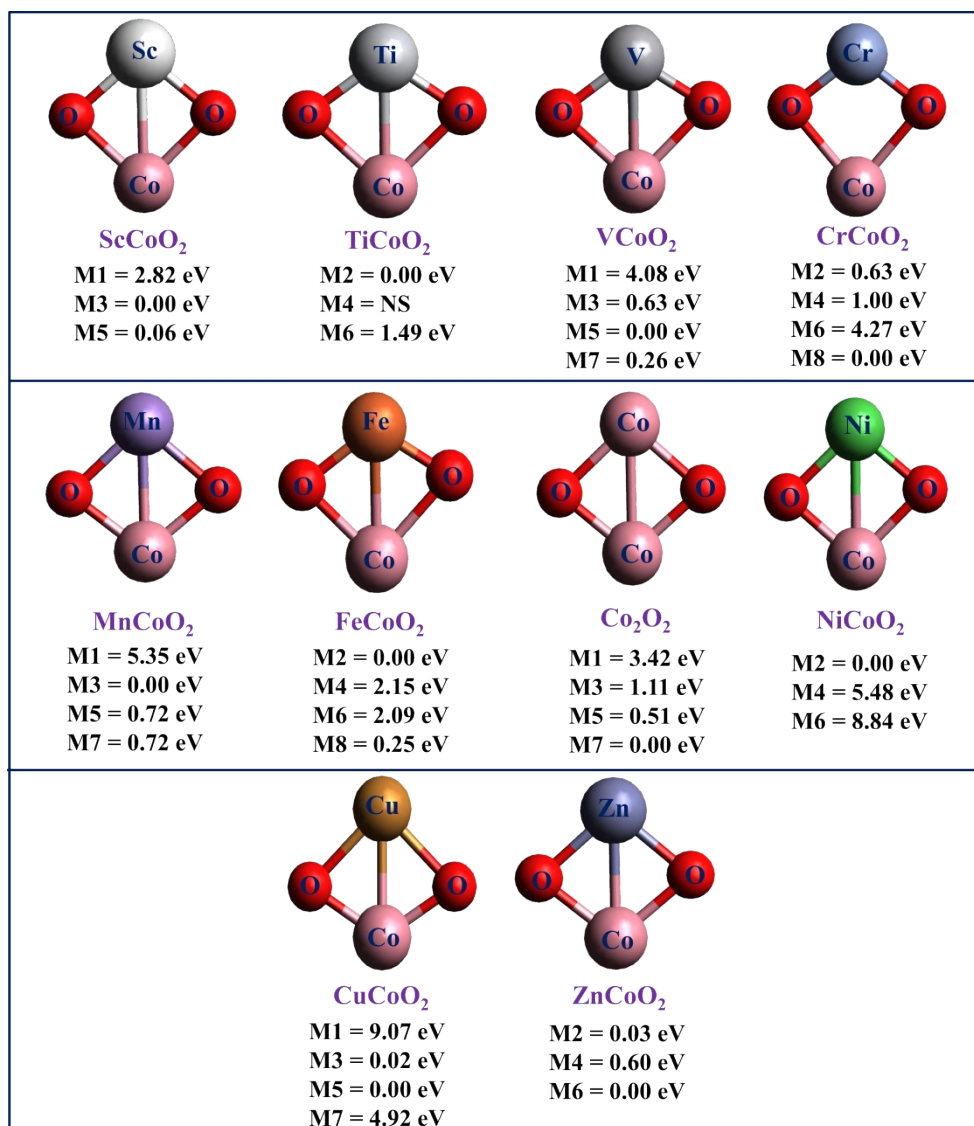


Figure S2. Optimized TMCoO₂ (TM=Sc–Zn) clusters with various spin multiplicities at PBE0/def2-TZVPP method in NWChem 6.0 program. (M denotes the spin multiplicity (2S+1), NS=Not Stable)

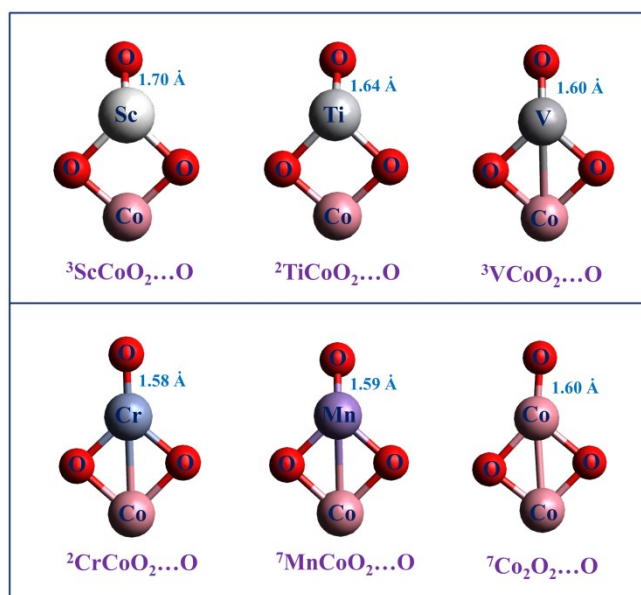


Figure S3. The optimized structures of interaction between TMCoO_2 (TM= Sc–Mn, Co) clusters with O atom at B3LYP/TZVP method. (Superscript value corresponds to ground electronic state of the clusters and blue colour values represent bond distance values (in Å))

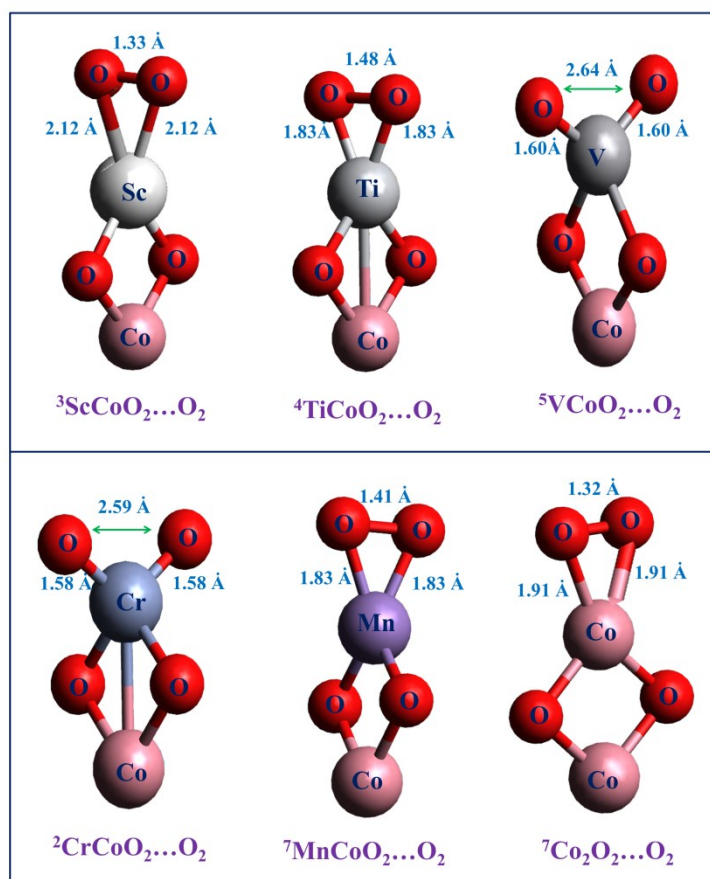


Figure S4. The optimized structures of interaction between TMCoO₂ (TM=Sc–Mn, Co) clusters with O₂ molecule at B3LYP/TZVP method. (Superscript value corresponds to ground electronic state of the clusters and blue colour values represent bond distance values (in Å))

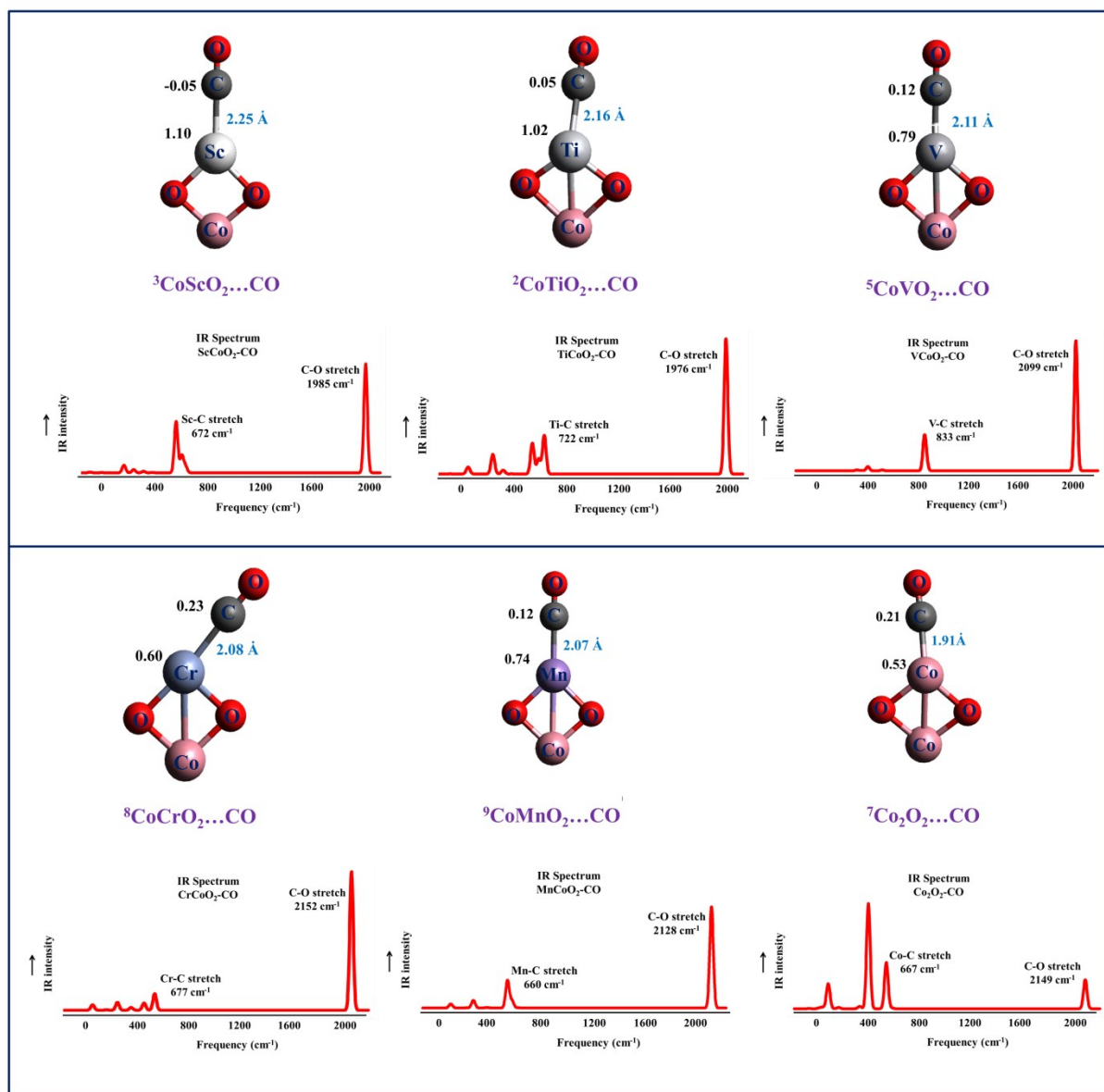


Figure S5. The optimized structures of interaction between TMCoO₂ (TM=Sc–Mn, Co) clusters with CO molecule along with its IR spectrum at B3LYP/TZVP method. (Superscript value corresponds to ground electronic state of the clusters and blue colour values represent bond distance values (in Å))

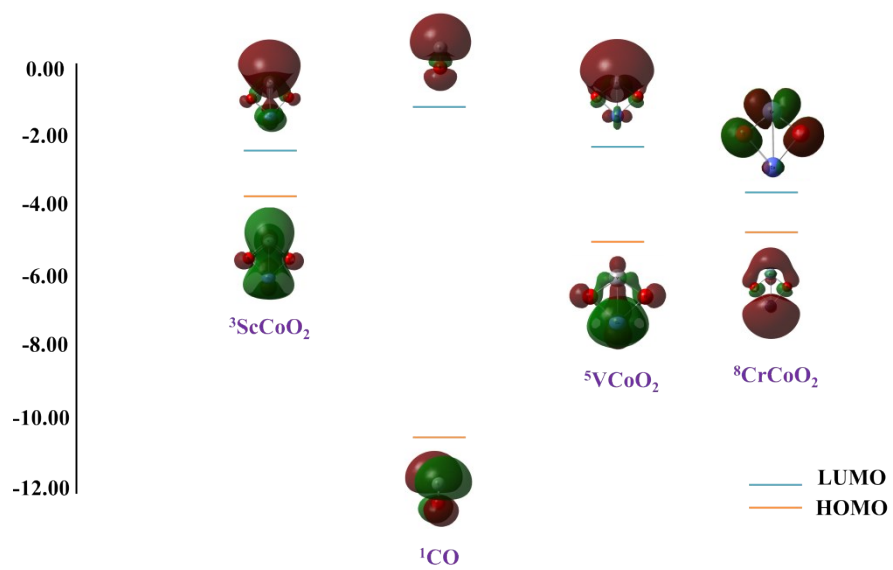


Figure S6. The HOMO and LUMO diagrams of ScCoO_2 , VCoO_2 , CrCoO_2 clusters and CO molecule.

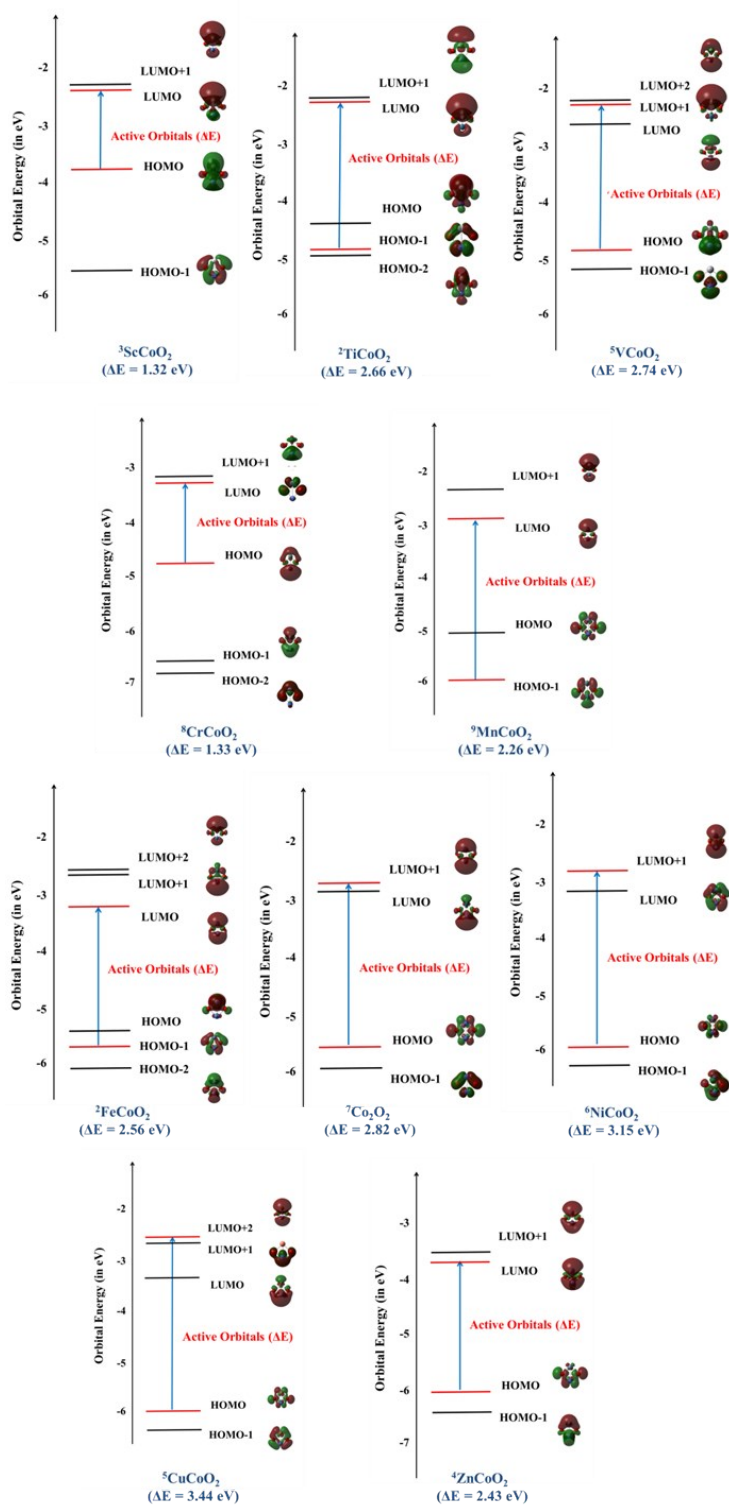


Figure S7. The frontier molecular orbital diagram of TMCuO_2 (TM=Sc–Zn) clusters (Pair of active orbitals for HOMO-LUMO calculation).

Table S1. Calculated dissociation energies to remove an oxygen atom DE(O), molecular oxygen DE(O₂), doped TM atom (TM=Sc–Zn) and Co atom (energies in eV) in TMCoO₂ (TM=Sc–Zn) clusters.

TMCoO₂	DE(O)	DE(O₂)	DE(TM)	DE(Co)
³ ScCoO ₂	5.08	7.12	6.89	2.55
² TiCoO ₂	6.32	8.11	7.95	2.11
⁵ VCoO ₂	6.12	7.13	7.93	2.31
⁸ CrCoO ₂	4.97	4.91	6.17	2.35
⁹ MnCoO ₂	5.11	5.33	4.62	5.01
² FeCoO ₂	3.79	3.74	3.47	1.99
⁷ Co ₂ O ₂	4.68	5.25	-	4.41
⁶ NiCoO ₂	5.07	4.15	4.56	4.91
⁵ CuCoO ₂	4.23	3.32	3.58	6.35
⁴ ZnCoO ₂	4.20	3.38	2.37	5.37

Table S2. The HOMO-LUMO gap (pair of active orbitals) values (in eV) of TMCoO₂ (TM=Sc–Zn) clusters.

TMCoO₂	H-L Gap
³ ScCoO ₂	1.32
² TiCoO ₂	2.66
⁵ VCoO ₂	2.74
⁸ CrCoO ₂	1.33
⁹ MnCoO ₂	2.26
² FeCoO ₂	2.56
⁷ Co ₂ O ₂	2.82
⁶ NiCoO ₂	3.15
⁵ CuCoO ₂	3.44
⁴ ZnCoO ₂	2.43

Table S3. Calculated dissociation energies to remove an oxygen atom DE(O), molecular oxygen DE(O₂), doped TM atom (TM=Sc–Zn) and Co atom (energies in eV) and vertical ionization energy (VIE) of TMCoO₃₋₄ (TM=V, Cr) clusters.

TMCoO₃₋₄	DE(O)	DE(O₂)	DE(TM)	DE(Co)	VIE
³ VCoO ₃	5.89	6.90	10.59	4.90	9.06
⁵ VCoO ₄	3.70	4.48	10.56	6.16	9.72
² CrCoO ₃	5.90	5.76	7.96	5.22	11.12
² CrCoO ₄	3.26	4.04	7.49	4.91	10.40

Table S4. Relative Energy (ΔE), Enthalpy of Reaction (ΔH) and Gibbs Free Energy (ΔG) changes during the CO oxidation reaction process with VCoO₂ and CrCoO₂ cluster (energies in eV).

species	B3LYP/TZVP			M06/TZVP	species	B3LYP/TZVP			M06/TZVP
	ΔE	ΔH	ΔG	ΔE		ΔE	ΔH	ΔG	ΔE
VCoO₄ + CO → VCoO₃ + CO₂					CrCoO₄ + CO → CrCoO₃ + CO₂				
RC1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	RC4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
IM1	-2.12	-2.18	-1.67	-2.32	IM9	-2.35	-2.39	-1.92	-2.70
TS1	-1.11	-1.03	-0.51	-1.05	TS5	-0.73	-0.75	0.03	-1.53
IM2	-2.22	-2.33	-1.93	-2.23	IM10	-1.89	-1.92	-1.18	-2.28
PC1	-1.74	-1.76	-1.73	-1.80	PC4	-2.18	-2.19	-2.21	-2.31
VCoO₃ + 2CO → VCoO₂(CO) + CO₂					CrCoO₃ + 2CO → CrCoO₂(CO) + CO₂				
RC2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	RC5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
IM3	-0.82	-0.83	-0.41	-0.53	IM11	-0.38	-0.40	-0.01	-0.92
TS2	-0.01	-0.05	0.43	0.16	TS6	0.30	0.25	0.35	0.06
IM4	-0.44	-0.48	-0.01	-1.08	IM12	-0.26	-0.41	-0.09	-1.02
PC21	0.45	0.43	0.46	-0.16	PC51	0.46	0.43	0.44	0.38
IM5	-0.87	-0.89	-0.07	-0.38	IM13	-0.83	-0.92	-0.02	-1.35
TS3	-0.30	-0.31	0.23	-0.18	TS7	-0.02	-0.08	0.96	-0.32
IM6	-1.39	-1.53	-0.88	-0.89	IM14	-0.83	-0.87	0.19	-1.39
PC2	-0.67	-0.70	-0.27	-0.33	PC5	-1.07	-1.11	-0.71	-2.00
VCoO₂(CO) + O₂ → VCoO₄ + CO					CrCoO₂(CO) + O₂ → CrCoO₄ + CO				
RC3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	RC6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
IM7	-2.31	-2.36	-1.94	-2.36	IM15	-1.06	-1.12	-0.39	-0.11
TS4	-0.82	-0.86	-0.15	-0.87	TS8	0.40	0.24	1.02	0.51
IM8	-4.35	-4.40	-3.93	-4.81	IM16	-1.50	-1.51	-1.07	-0.72
PC3	-3.36	-3.38	-3.31	-3.60	PC6	-2.52	-2.55	-2.39	-2.50
					RC6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
					IM17	-1.72	-1.74	-1.27	-2.54
					TS9	-1.21	-1.26	-0.43	-1.97
					IM18	-3.83	-3.86	-3.36	-4.71
					PC6	-3.07	-3.10	-2.94	-3.79

Table S5. The scaled rate constant values for the CO oxidation reaction with VCoO₂ and CrCoO₂ cluster.

VCoO ₂			CrCoO ₂		
reaction	k	Value	reaction	k	Value
(ii)	k1	2.56×10^{-19}	(vii)	k5	1.39×10^{-30}
(iii)	k2	1.42×10^{-23}	(viii)	k6	9.73×10^{-10}
(iv)	k3	1.01×10^{-20}	(ix)	k7	6.68×10^{-10}
(v)	k4	4.97×10^{-22}	(x)	k8	2.50×10^{-18}

Table S6. Calculated free energy span (δE) values for the CO oxidation reaction with VCoO₂ and CrCoO₂ cluster (energies in kcal/mol).

Reaction	δE
$\text{VCoO}_4 + \text{CO} \rightarrow \text{VCoO}_3 + \text{CO}_2$	26.48
$\text{VCoO}_3 + 2\text{CO} \rightarrow \text{VCoO}_2(\text{CO}) + \text{CO}_2$	31.59
$\text{VCoO}_2(\text{CO}) + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{VCoO}_4 + \text{CO}$	34.51
$\text{CrCoO}_4 + \text{CO} \rightarrow \text{CrCoO}_3 + \text{CO}_2$	37.98
$\text{CrCoO}_3 + 2\text{CO} \rightarrow \text{CrCoO}_2(\text{CO}) + \text{CO}_2$	25.10
$\text{CrCoO}_2(\text{CO}) + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{CrCoO}_4 + \text{CO}$	32.95