

Towards reliable and efficient modeling of $[\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_2]^{2+}$ -based compound electronic structures with the partially fixed reference space protocols†

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Electronic Supporting Information

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S1 Isolated copper orbital optimization

The seminal articles by Hay¹ showed that the optimal radial function of the 3d orbital (measured by the expected value of the radial operator) largely depends on the number of 3d electrons in the configuration. On the other hand, for a specific 3d occupation, the environmental effect over the 3d optimal set (the change in charge can emulate that) is one order of magnitude smaller² as exemplified in Table S1 for the copper atom and its cations. Additionally, spatial and spin symmetry has almost no effect over the radial function of the optimal 3d orbital.² For example, the change in $\langle \hat{r}_d \rangle$ among $\text{Cu}^{2+}(3d^8 4s^1; ^4F_g)$, $\text{Cu}^{2+}(3d^8 4s^1; ^2F_g)$ and $\text{Cu}^{2+}(3d^8 4s^1; ^2D_g)$ is in the order of 0.001 a_0 . Lastly, the increase of the basis set (from DZ up to 5Z) has no effect over the optimal 3d orbital.

To optimize the atomic 3d-shell for each 3d-occupancy we followed the procedure described in Ref.³ A weighted state average CASSCF calculation between two sets of states with distinct 3d occupations. That is,

$$\min_{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{C}} \left(\frac{1-m}{n_p} \sum_{i=1}^{n_p} \frac{\langle \Psi_i(3d^p) | \hat{H} | \Psi_i(3d^p) \rangle}{\langle \Psi_i(3d^p) | \Psi_i(3d^p) \rangle} + \frac{m}{n_{p+1}} \sum_{j=1}^{n_{p+1}} \frac{\langle \Psi_j(3d^{p+1}) | \hat{H} | \Psi_j(3d^{p+1}) \rangle}{\langle \Psi_j(3d^{p+1}) | \Psi_j(3d^{p+1}) \rangle} \right), \quad (1)$$

where \mathbf{c} and \mathbf{C} are the orbitals and CI coefficients, respectively. p is the number of 3d electrons in each configuration, n_p is the number of states ($\Psi_i(3d^p)$) with $3d^p$ configurations considered, and m is the relative weight between the $3d^p$ and $3d^{p+1}$ states in the weighted-state-average framework. As neither the state symmetries nor the system charge profoundly affects the optimized 3d orbitals, the choice of states was based on how challenging the convergence is. Therefore, the $\text{Cu}^+(3d^8 4s^2; ^3F_g)$, $\text{Cu}^+(3d^9 4s^1; ^3D_g)$, and $\text{Cu}^0(3d^{10} 4s^1; ^2S_g)$ for optimal $3d^8$, $3d^9$ and $3d^{10}$, respectively. For the intermediate set of orbitals, with a radial function between two optimal ones, we used a value of m equal to 0.6. Such a choice was based on the results of previous works.²⁻⁴ A minimal input file for MOLPRO can be found in the supporting information of reference³.

Table S1 Expected value of the \hat{r} operator (in a_0) for the 3d orbital, $\langle \hat{r}_d \rangle$, for a set of charges and configurations of the isolated copper atom.

| charge (c) | Optimized configuration | | |
|------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | $3d^8 4s^{3-c}$ | $3d^9 4s^{2-c}$ | $3d^{10} 4s^{1-c}$ |
| -1 | — | — | 1.002 |
| 0 | — | 0.924 | 0.997 |
| 1 | 0.862 | 0.916 | 0.984 |
| 2 | 0.856 | 0.905 | — |
| 3 | 0.848 | — | — |

S2 In-depth analysis of the PFRS-V2 results

Analyzing the ground state CAS(4,4), PFRS-V2 wave function at the D_{2h} , we observe that one b_{3u} is mainly doubly occupied throughout the geometries and one b_{2g} primarily unoccupied. We obtain a two-active orbital set and a two-configuration reference space by closing the former and removing the latter. The active orbitals consist of an almost pure b_{3u} $3d_{xz}^-$ orbital, that is, the subtraction between the $3d_{xz}$ of each copper, and a b_{2g} that mixes the copper $3d_{xz}^+$ and oxygen $2p_z^-$ orbitals (the localized copper orbitals and symmetric adapted oxygen ones are qualitatively the same as the ones shown in Figure 3 of the main text). At $f=0$, the b_{2g} is mainly $3d_{xz}^+$ with a small contribution of the $2p_z^-$ and the wave function is 60% $|b_{3u}^2\rangle$ and 40% $|b_{2g}^2\rangle$. Approximately, this function can be expressed as,

$$|\Psi(1O)\rangle \approx 0.8 \left| \left(\frac{3d_L - 3d_R}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^2 \right\rangle - 0.6 \left| \left(\frac{3d_L + 3d_R}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^2 \right\rangle, \quad (2)$$

with $3d_L$ and $3d_R$ representing the localized $3d_{xz}$ -orbitals from the left and right copper centers, respectively. Expanding this approximated wave function as follows, it is possible to have a rough estimation of the 3d-occupation,

$$\begin{aligned} |\Psi(1O)\rangle &\approx \frac{0.8}{2} [|3d_L^2\rangle + |3d_R^2\rangle - (|3d_L 3d_R\rangle + |3d_R 3d_L\rangle)] \\ &\quad - \frac{0.6}{2} \left[|3d_L^2\rangle + |3d_R^2\rangle + (|3d_L 3d_R\rangle + |3d_R 3d_L\rangle) \right] \\ &= 0.1 \left(|3d_L^2\rangle + |3d_R^2\rangle \right) - \frac{1.4}{2} \left(|3d_L 3d_R\rangle + |3d_R 3d_L\rangle \right) \\ &\approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(|3d_L 3d_R\rangle + |3d_R 3d_L\rangle \right), \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where bar orbitals indicate singly occupied down electrons. The CAS(2,2) results in an almost pure d^{9-9} -occupancy wave function with a singlet bi-radical character at $f=0$. Therefore, as discussed in detail by Gherman and Cramer,⁵ a smaller active space (i.e., a single Slater determinant) would be unable to represent the bi-radical character and, consequently, result in a forced d^{10-10} -occupancy. The increase of the d^9 -occupancy over the d^{10} one may once again be attributed to the lack of oxygen $2p$ orbitals excitation seen in the d^{9-10} and d^{10-10} configurations. On the other hand, at $f=1$, the b_{2g} active orbital became an almost equal copper/oxygen mixing, $(3d_{xz}^+ + 2p_z^-)/\sqrt{2}$, with its counterpart orbital, $(3d_{xz}^+ - 2p_z^-)/\sqrt{2}$, in the closed space. At this geometry, the wave function is less multirreferential with 85% $|b_{3u}^2\rangle$ and 15% $|b_{2g}^2\rangle$. In this case, expanding the approximated wave functions is slightly more laborious as the $3d_{xz} + 2p_z$ orbital must be considered, but results in

$$\begin{aligned}
|\Psi(1P)\rangle &\approx 0.91 \left| \left(\frac{3d_L + 3d_R}{2} - \frac{p_z^-}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{3d_L - 3d_R}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^2 \right\rangle \\
&\quad - 0.39 \left| \left(\frac{3d_L + 3d_R}{2} - \frac{p_z^-}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{3d_L + 3d_R}{2} + \frac{p_z^-}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^2 \right\rangle \\
&\approx 0.13 (|(p_z^-)^2 3d_L^2\rangle + |(p_z^-)^2 3d_R^2\rangle) \\
&\quad - 0.60 \left(\frac{|(p_z^-)^2 3d_L 3d_R\rangle + |(p_z^-)^2 3d_R 3d_L\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \\
&\quad - 0.455 \left(\frac{|3d_R^2 3d_L p_z^- \rangle + |3d_R^2 p_z^- 3d_L\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \frac{|3d_L^2 3d_R p_z^- \rangle + |3d_L^2 p_z^- 3d_R\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} - |3d_L^2 3d_R^2\rangle \right). \tag{4}
\end{aligned}$$

In this case, the wave function still has a large d^{9-9} component (around 36%), but the d^{9-10} component is now the main configuration of the wave function (41%), with a somehow smaller importance of d^{10-10} (20%). The wave function and orbitals coefficients are listed in Table S8. That way, the minimum small active space does have a more considerable bias toward the d^9 -occupancy if compared with our previous CAS(4,4) and RAS(28,18) calculations.

S3 MRCCSD dependence on the SVD threshold

Figure 9.a of the main text PEC shape slightly depends on the threshold value for geometries close to the 2P (around $f=0.8$). That dependence increases significantly towards the 2O structure. For example, using a 10^{-4} threshold value the CAS(4,4)PFRS-V2/MRCCSD relative energy values follows the CAS(12,10)PFRS-V2/NEVPT2 closely from $f=0$ to $f=0.8$ (Figure 9.b). The relative energy between minima goes from around 8 kcal/mol using a 10^{-4} threshold value to 3 kcal/mol using a 10^{-6} . For the barrier (around $f=0.3$), the use of a 10^{-6} threshold value does not result in a continuous PEC, while no convergence is reached using values 10^{-7} or lower. The automatic definition of the SVD for the icMRCCSD method is an open problem, and its use is known to cause discontinues.^{6,7} On the other hand, testing the convergence with the SVD threshold value is computationally costly and time-consuming, particularly in cases where the side that leads to accurate values is close to the ones that lead to non-convergence. Moreover, correlation difficulties with the SVD threshold are not correlated with the quality of the orbitals or reference wave function but depend on the excitation operation choice and virtual orbital space basis.⁷ Therefore, with an extensive SVD values scan, it should be possible to have a better-behaved PEC.

| Atom | 1O/1P | | |
|------|--------|------|---------|
| | x | y | z |
| Cu | 0.00 | 0.00 | ZCu(f) |
| Cu | 0.00 | 0.00 | -ZCu(f) |
| O | XO(f) | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| O | -XO(f) | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| Atom | 2O/2P | | | 3O/3P | | | 4O/4P | | |
|------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|--------|-------|---------|
| | x | y | z | x | y | z | x | y | z |
| Cu | 0.00 | 0.000 | ZCu(f) | 0.00 | 0.000 | ZCu(f) | 0.00 | 0.000 | ZCu(f) |
| Cu | 0.00 | 0.000 | -ZCu(f) | 0.00 | 0.000 | -ZCu(f) | 0.00 | 0.000 | -ZCu(f) |
| O | XO(f) | 0.000 | 0.00 | XO(f) | 0.000 | 0.00 | XO(f) | 0.000 | 0.00 |
| O | -XO(f) | 0.000 | 0.00 | -XO(f) | 0.000 | 0.00 | -XO(f) | 0.000 | 0.00 |
| N | 1.41 | 0.000 | ZN(f) | 1.41 | 0.000 | ZN(f) | 0.000 | 1.41 | ZN(f) |
| N | -1.41 | 0.000 | ZN(f) | -1.41 | 0.000 | ZN(f) | 0.000 | -1.41 | ZN(f) |
| N | 1.41 | 0.000 | -ZN(f) | 0.000 | 1.41 | -ZN(f) | 0.000 | 1.41 | -ZN(f) |
| N | -1.41 | 0.000 | -ZN(f) | 0.000 | -1.41 | -ZN(f) | 0.000 | -1.41 | -ZN(f) |
| H | 2.32 | 0.000 | ZH2(f) | 2.32 | 0.000 | ZH2(f) | 0.000 | 2.32 | ZH2(f) |
| H | -2.32 | 0.000 | ZH2(f) | -2.32 | 0.000 | ZH2(f) | 0.000 | -2.32 | ZH2(f) |
| H | 2.32 | 0.000 | -ZH2(f) | 0.000 | 2.32 | -ZH2(f) | 0.000 | 2.32 | -ZH2(f) |
| H | -2.32 | 0.000 | -ZH2(f) | 0.000 | -2.32 | -ZH2(f) | 0.000 | -2.32 | -ZH2(f) |
| H | 1.32 | 0.814 | ZH(f) | 1.32 | 0.814 | ZH(f) | 0.814 | 1.32 | ZH(f) |
| H | -1.32 | -0.814 | ZH(f) | -1.32 | -0.814 | ZH(f) | -0.814 | -1.32 | ZH(f) |
| H | -1.32 | 0.814 | -ZH(f) | 0.814 | -1.32 | -ZH(f) | 0.814 | -1.32 | -ZH(f) |
| H | 1.32 | -0.814 | -ZH(f) | -0.814 | 1.32 | -ZH(f) | -0.814 | 1.32 | -ZH(f) |
| H | 1.32 | -0.814 | ZH(f) | 1.32 | -0.814 | ZH(f) | -0.814 | 1.32 | ZH(f) |
| H | -1.32 | 0.814 | ZH(f) | -1.32 | 0.814 | ZH(f) | 0.814 | -1.32 | ZH(f) |
| H | -1.32 | -0.814 | -ZH(f) | -0.814 | -1.32 | -ZH(f) | -0.814 | -1.32 | -ZH(f) |
| H | 1.32 | 0.814 | -ZH(f) | 0.814 | 1.32 | -ZH(f) | 0.814 | 1.32 | -ZH(f) |

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ZN(f)} &= 0.40f + 2.81 \\ \text{ZCu(f)} &= 0.40f + 1.40 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ZH(f)} &= 0.40f + 3.39 \\ \text{XO(f)} &= -0.45f + 1.15 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{ZH2(f)} = 0.40f + 2.39$$

Table S2 Cartesian coordinates of the model systems, depicted in Figure 1, based on Cramer *et al.* structures.⁸

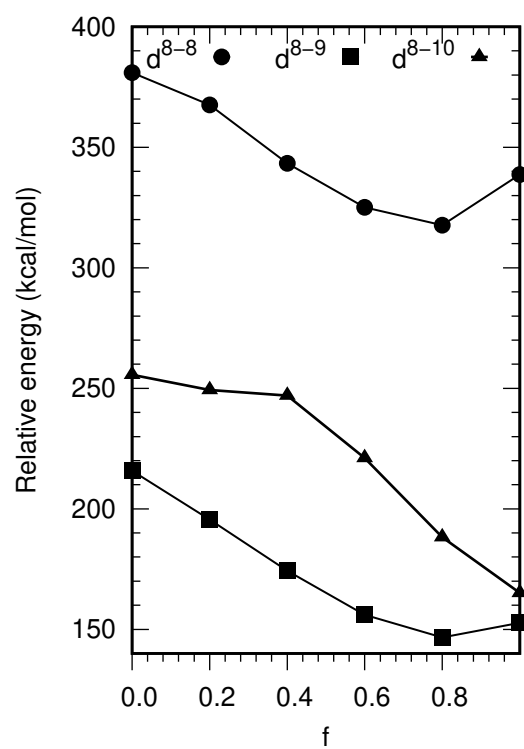


Fig. S1 States with d^8 -occupancies for the $[\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_2]^{2+}$ model system.

| 1^1A_1 | | | |
|----------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| f | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -3455.227564890512 | -3455.136611135186 | -3455.098292181340 |
| 0.2 | -3455.252144397374 | -3455.156383094381 | -3455.116643704130 |
| 0.4 | -3455.272871647784 | -3455.196393099830 | -3455.141616697286 |
| 0.6 | -3455.287803257683 | -3455.241717684979 | -3455.176234417951 |
| 0.8 | -3455.284248415589 | -3455.276779293970 | -3455.223426685217 |
| 1.0 | -3455.261842356613 | -3455.296883994220 | -3455.273065750998 |

| 2^1A_1 | | | |
|----------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| f | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -3455.227408862293 | -3455.120336018009 | -3455.072901963569 |
| 0.2 | -3455.251729272204 | -3455.154240929347 | -3455.080328038855 |
| 0.4 | -3455.272601284350 | -3455.172366422580 | -3455.086909776513 |
| 0.6 | -3455.287637762246 | -3455.197447980219 | -3455.113779920945 |
| 0.8 | -3455.283839230926 | -3455.233061925377 | -3455.159973230064 |
| 1.0 | -3455.261841700184 | -3455.256483360133 | -3455.206982131291 |

| 3^1A_1 | | | |
|----------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| f | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -3455.226593247568 | -3455.099324723309 | -3455.044911628105 |
| 0.2 | -3455.251296496599 | -3455.120973158460 | -3455.053434951854 |
| 0.4 | -3455.271631927691 | -3455.156320506687 | -3455.078181770053 |
| 0.6 | -3455.285758423840 | -3455.179591880349 | -3455.088152965162 |
| 0.8 | -3455.280968394783 | -3455.159918257141 | -3455.076844883040 |
| 1.0 | -3455.258074832266 | -3455.197721684115 | -3455.015359492959 |

| 4^1A_1 | | | |
|----------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| f | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -3455.222519433927 | -3455.098709578811 | -3455.036464674067 |
| 0.2 | -3455.247701203325 | -3455.117657853217 | -3455.039059096082 |
| 0.4 | -3455.269722650679 | -3455.144675179939 | -3455.025009764029 |
| 0.6 | -3455.285163840013 | -3455.163272139090 | -3454.989818211693 |
| 0.8 | -3455.280863859661 | -3455.134811228217 | -3454.949067368989 |
| 1.0 | -3455.258051000370 | -3455.188303056069 | -3454.875133505563 |

| 5^1A_1 | | | |
|----------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| f | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -3455.221965156033 | -3455.096695604350 | -3454.931066830939 |
| 0.2 | -3455.247618824352 | -3455.115975509038 | -3454.944351203716 |
| 0.4 | -3455.269612218011 | -3455.131584380099 | -3454.959414637541 |
| 0.6 | -3455.285036823410 | -3455.137281179306 | -3454.966613693231 |
| 0.8 | -3455.279929338988 | -3455.108100689388 | -3454.914722093281 |
| 1.0 | -3455.256687880774 | -3455.179808780421 | -3454.817958469786 |

Table S3 Total energy (in E_h) of the five low-lying d -occupancy-specific states shown in Figure 4.

| | | 1^1A_1 | | | 6^1A_1 | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | Total Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Total Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -3455.253569468233 | 43.9 | 44.5 | 11.6 | -3455.186108285989 | 61.2 | 33.9 | 4.9 |
| 0.2 | -3455.268635934172 | 42.0 | 43.7 | 14.3 | -3455.187761584177 | 57.1 | 36.7 | 6.2 |
| 0.4 | -3455.285423446654 | 40.9 | 44.0 | 15.0 | -3455.192865011932 | 69.3 | 25.8 | 4.9 |
| 0.6 | -3455.298293367625 | 37.4 | 45.6 | 16.9 | -3455.189279324857 | 87.1 | 12.4 | 0.5 |
| 0.8 | -3455.307142505761 | 25.3 | 51.6 | 23.1 | -3455.176184860682 | 86.7 | 12.9 | 0.4 |
| 1.0 | -3455.320935488856 | 7.0 | 50.2 | 42.7 | -3455.178822051609 | 4.9 | 95.0 | 0.0 |

| | | 2^1A_1 | | | 7^1A_1 | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | Total Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Total Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -3455.246698477975 | 41.1 | 44.8 | 14.1 | -3455.181468211818 | 60.2 | 35.3 | 4.5 |
| 0.2 | -3455.243406122214 | 41.0 | 45.8 | 13.2 | -3455.178350807006 | 64.8 | 30.0 | 5.2 |
| 0.4 | -3455.226720642387 | 38.3 | 46.6 | 15.1 | -3455.177949560290 | 82.7 | 15.9 | 1.3 |
| 0.6 | -3455.218856767372 | 36.4 | 47.6 | 16.0 | -3455.189217599823 | 87.0 | 12.4 | 0.6 |
| 0.8 | -3455.229536301751 | 14.5 | 64.8 | 20.7 | -3455.175841419220 | 87.5 | 12.4 | 0.2 |
| 1.0 | -3455.267791732838 | 1.7 | 42.0 | 56.3 | -3455.169860599631 | 77.4 | 21.8 | 0.8 |

| | | 3^1A_1 | | | 8^1A_1 | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | Total Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Total Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -3455.211158270339 | 46.6 | 40.6 | 12.9 | -3455.178603211014 | 62.8 | 34.1 | 3.1 |
| 0.2 | -3455.218907433178 | 45.5 | 41.7 | 12.8 | -3455.176312313220 | 63.1 | 32.1 | 4.8 |
| 0.4 | -3455.216856344304 | 40.7 | 44.4 | 14.9 | -3455.176862620391 | 84.8 | 14.5 | 0.7 |
| 0.6 | -3455.206428304294 | 78.8 | 19.5 | 1.7 | -3455.172149120971 | 95.3 | 4.5 | 0.2 |
| 0.8 | -3455.195091057447 | 78.9 | 19.6 | 1.5 | -3455.156080323352 | 96.4 | 3.5 | 0.1 |
| 1.0 | -3455.222436854566 | 2.7 | 96.7 | 0.6 | -3455.167466742264 | 82.6 | 17.3 | 0.1 |

| | | 4^1A_1 | | | 9^1A_1 | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | Total Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Total Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -3455.205304009300 | 49.0 | 38.9 | 12.1 | -3455.172340671517 | 66.5 | 30.6 | 2.9 |
| 0.2 | -3455.208991339536 | 50.0 | 39.2 | 10.8 | -3455.170631187243 | 64.8 | 32.3 | 2.9 |
| 0.4 | -3455.198834815581 | 59.2 | 36.1 | 4.7 | -3455.175643852918 | 53.1 | 38.4 | 8.6 |
| 0.6 | -3455.201905201529 | 66.0 | 31.6 | 2.5 | -3455.167677257960 | 72.6 | 22.7 | 4.7 |
| 0.8 | -3455.192855181709 | 29.0 | 66.9 | 4.1 | -3455.151975930448 | 59.0 | 16.3 | 24.6 |
| 1.0 | -3455.198078080698 | 3.6 | 59.0 | 37.4 | -3455.157386452726 | 87.9 | 12.1 | 0.0 |

| | | 5^1A_1 | | | 10^1A_1 | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | Total Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Total Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -3455.191898743259 | 58.5 | 35.9 | 5.7 | -3455.172036277156 | 66.7 | 31.7 | 1.6 |
| 0.2 | -3455.196020083061 | 55.4 | 37.5 | 7.0 | -3455.166502419549 | 69.4 | 29.8 | 0.8 |
| 0.4 | -3455.194166139296 | 52.4 | 36.4 | 11.2 | -3455.172072568204 | 71.0 | 27.2 | 1.7 |
| 0.6 | -3455.201190195637 | 31.3 | 51.6 | 17.1 | -3455.159424747311 | 66.3 | 27.1 | 6.5 |
| 0.8 | -3455.190475988893 | 40.1 | 57.6 | 2.3 | -3455.149117467263 | 27.4 | 65.3 | 7.4 |
| 1.0 | -3455.184270879678 | 69.8 | 29.9 | 0.3 | -3455.153191076080 | 93.4 | 6.5 | 0.1 |

Table S4 Numerical values from Figure 5 of the main text. Total energies in atomic unities (E_h) and the d columns represent the sum of squared coefficient (in percentage) for each pair of d -occupancies in each root wave function

| 1^1A_1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | cc-pVTZ-DK | | | | cc-pVQZ-DK | | | | cc-pV5Z-DK | | | |
| | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -0.31451537 | 50.5 | 41.1 | 8.3 | -0.34995751 | 53.9 | 39.3 | 6.8 | -0.36563432 | 56.1 | 38.0 | 5.8 |
| 0.2 | -0.32492757 | 47.8 | 40.4 | 11.8 | -0.35754143 | 51.4 | 38.8 | 9.9 | -0.37281037 | 53.7 | 37.4 | 8.9 |
| 0.4 | -0.33915820 | 46.6 | 41.7 | 11.7 | -0.36903704 | 50.5 | 39.5 | 10.0 | -0.38386415 | 53.5 | 37.5 | 9.0 |
| 0.6 | -0.34946475 | 43.5 | 43.1 | 13.4 | -0.37730382 | 47.7 | 40.8 | 11.6 | -0.39103770 | 51.1 | 38.6 | 10.3 |
| 0.8 | -0.35937566 | 32.2 | 48.3 | 19.5 | -0.38433191 | 36.1 | 46.9 | 17.0 | -0.39617260 | 39.5 | 45.3 | 15.2 |
| 1.0 | -0.36876131 | 7.9 | 51.4 | 40.7 | -0.39005713 | 8.7 | 52.1 | 39.2 | -0.39858414 | 9.7 | 52.8 | 37.5 |

| 2^1A_1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | cc-pVTZ-DK | | | | cc-pVQZ-DK | | | | cc-pV5Z-DK | | | |
| | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -0.30587555 | 46.4 | 41.8 | 11.8 | -0.34090285 | 49.1 | 40.7 | 10.2 | -0.35650604 | 51.2 | 39.8 | 9.0 |
| 0.2 | -0.29956686 | 48.6 | 41.7 | 9.6 | -0.33214487 | 52.5 | 39.8 | 7.7 | -0.34702917 | 55.1 | 38.2 | 6.7 |
| 0.4 | -0.28051688 | 48.2 | 41.4 | 10.3 | -0.31046078 | 54.8 | 37.9 | 7.3 | -0.32484879 | 58.9 | 35.6 | 5.5 |
| 0.6 | -0.27090071 | 49.8 | 40.5 | 9.7 | -0.30295571 | 84.0 | 15.1 | 1.0 | -0.32076295 | 84.9 | 14.3 | 0.9 |
| 0.8 | -0.27693258 | 25.7 | 59.0 | 15.3 | -0.30059448 | 35.9 | 53.2 | 10.8 | -0.31563413 | 85.0 | 14.3 | 0.8 |
| 1.0 | -0.31486357 | 2.1 | 47.2 | 50.8 | -0.33394938 | 2.6 | 51.8 | 45.5 | -0.33980750 | 3.5 | 56.4 | 40.1 |

| 3^1A_1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | cc-pVTZ-DK | | | | cc-pVQZ-DK | | | | cc-pV5Z-DK | | | |
| | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -0.27269916 | 55.3 | 36.6 | 8.1 | -0.30910599 | 60.5 | 33.7 | 5.8 | -0.32545525 | 63.8 | 32.3 | 4.0 |
| 0.2 | -0.27704793 | 55.6 | 36.6 | 7.8 | -0.31087747 | 60.5 | 34.0 | 5.5 | -0.32663255 | 63.8 | 31.9 | 4.2 |
| 0.4 | -0.27119774 | 51.9 | 38.5 | 9.6 | -0.30191815 | 58.4 | 35.3 | 6.3 | -0.31678769 | 62.0 | 33.1 | 4.9 |
| 0.6 | -0.26871440 | 82.6 | 16.2 | 1.2 | -0.29951185 | 60.5 | 32.8 | 6.8 | -0.31375753 | 68.6 | 27.0 | 4.4 |
| 0.8 | -0.26513585 | 83.2 | 15.8 | 1.1 | -0.29813597 | 83.8 | 15.2 | 1.0 | -0.31129125 | 45.8 | 46.3 | 7.8 |
| 1.0 | -0.27309887 | 2.9 | 95.8 | 1.3 | -0.29491533 | 3.3 | 94.5 | 2.1 | -0.30286683 | 4.1 | 92.9 | 3.0 |

| 4^1A_1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | cc-pVTZ-DK | | | | cc-pVQZ-DK | | | | cc-pV5Z-DK | | | |
| | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -0.26688457 | 58.9 | 34.5 | 6.6 | -0.30361203 | 64.0 | 31.8 | 4.2 | -0.32031090 | 66.5 | 30.4 | 3.1 |
| 0.2 | -0.26739834 | 60.2 | 34.3 | 5.5 | -0.30166345 | 64.2 | 31.7 | 4.0 | -0.31784185 | 66.6 | 30.0 | 3.4 |
| 0.4 | -0.25756449 | 71.1 | 25.4 | 3.5 | -0.29239996 | 80.9 | 17.2 | 1.9 | -0.31022812 | 83.1 | 15.3 | 1.5 |
| 0.6 | -0.26057525 | 72.5 | 25.9 | 1.7 | -0.29252571 | 75.2 | 23.7 | 1.1 | -0.30824559 | 74.7 | 24.2 | 1.1 |
| 0.8 | -0.25612262 | 74.1 | 23.7 | 2.2 | -0.28729871 | 77.7 | 20.8 | 1.5 | -0.30311413 | 78.8 | 20.1 | 1.1 |
| 1.0 | -0.24541142 | 3.9 | 54.3 | 41.7 | -0.26523602 | 70.5 | 27.5 | 2.0 | -0.27874421 | 74.8 | 25.1 | 0.2 |

| 5^1A_1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | cc-pVTZ-DK | | | | cc-pVQZ-DK | | | | cc-pV5Z-DK | | | |
| | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -0.2554919 | 62.6 | 31.3 | 6.1 | -0.29252359 | 65.4 | 29.6 | 5.1 | -0.30909802 | 67.4 | 28.3 | 4.3 |
| 0.2 | -0.2549316 | 59.5 | 33.8 | 6.7 | -0.28901029 | 62.8 | 31.7 | 5.4 | -0.30482757 | 65.1 | 30.2 | 4.7 |
| 0.4 | -0.2553921 | 76.7 | 21.1 | 2.2 | -0.28973251 | 73.9 | 23.8 | 2.3 | -0.30613679 | 75.4 | 22.6 | 2.0 |
| 0.6 | -0.2519646 | 88.3 | 11.2 | 0.6 | -0.28595159 | 90.2 | 9.5 | 0.3 | -0.30355596 | 91.0 | 9.0 | 0.0 |
| 0.8 | -0.2469300 | 89.8 | 9.9 | 0.4 | -0.27972290 | 90.5 | 9.2 | 0.3 | -0.29688694 | 91.0 | 8.7 | 0.2 |
| 1.0 | -0.2388225 | 72.0 | 27.7 | 0.3 | -0.26400838 | 7.8 | 48.7 | 43.5 | -0.26883420 | 8.4 | 44.6 | 47.0 |

Table S5 RAS(28,18)PFRS-V1 five low-lying states dependence with the basis set. Total energies+3455 in atomic unities (E_h) and the d columns represent the sum of squared coefficient (in percentage) for each pair of d -occupancies in each root wave function

| 1^1A_1 | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | RAS(4,4) | NEVPT2 | CASPT2 | REPT2 | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -5.076008931849 | -6.482742074632 | -6.592454083774 | -6.553027152147 | 54 | 40 | 7 |
| 0.2 | -5.105069257572 | -6.490003189483 | -6.579845738812 | -6.538317910936 | 53 | 40 | 7 |
| 0.4 | -5.131270150456 | -6.498073540514 | -6.578630729245 | -6.524730100568 | 52 | 40 | 8 |
| 0.6 | -5.157839510466 | -6.509644962448 | -6.572479229768 | -6.518877164736 | 49 | 42 | 9 |
| 0.8 | -5.181876134111 | -6.520944878557 | -6.565712811572 | -6.521286341662 | 41 | 47 | 13 |
| 1.0 | -5.195973381544 | -6.525111482554 | -6.553912902983 | -6.522719522944 | 25 | 56 | 20 |
| 2^1A_1 | | | | | | | |
| f | RAS(4,4) | NEVPT2 | CASPT2 | REPT2 | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -4.961785875816 | -6.369961590770 | -6.564065239768 | -6.409699673308 | 86 | 14 | 0 |
| 0.2 | -5.003994927622 | -6.385909435797 | -6.513375496142 | -6.420384685876 | 82 | 18 | 0 |
| 0.4 | -5.031955330786 | -6.393880698707 | -6.512673818056 | -6.401675295070 | 77 | 23 | 0 |
| 0.6 | -5.037149238184 | -6.383745486080 | -6.459608469509 | -6.479837154850 | 70 | 29 | 1 |
| 0.8 | -5.016990679441 | -6.389023466736 | -6.461932722828 | -6.427568304505 | 64 | 27 | 9 |
| 1.0 | -5.046442334119 | -6.407884623148 | -6.458058099990 | -6.432178233739 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| 3^1A_1 | | | | | | | |
| f | RAS(4,4) | NEVPT2 | CASPT2 | REPT2 | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -4.918387163527 | -6.333680304358 | -6.595844135517 | -6.354333492794 | 79 | 21 | 0 |
| 0.2 | -4.940469358405 | -6.334564161370 | -6.387806938738 | -6.243113662153 | 77 | 23 | 0 |
| 0.4 | -4.952713565868 | -6.330651265209 | -6.460829250270 | -6.440842977748 | 73 | 27 | 0 |
| 0.6 | -4.953796543367 | -6.346725835346 | -6.416574846926 | -6.433225142223 | 53 | 47 | 0 |
| 0.8 | -4.992666445568 | -6.364231297328 | -6.425094545170 | -6.426330254941 | 2 | 98 | 0 |
| 1.0 | -5.015570784934 | -6.380719869863 | -6.430441278434 | -6.416346559162 | 69 | 07 | 23 |
| 4^1A_1 | | | | | | | |
| f | RAS(4,4) | NEVPT2 | CASPT2 | REPT2 | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -4.790594541002 | -6.242873096019 | -6.290353760710 | -6.112236908397 | 83 | 17 | 0 |
| 0.2 | -4.791046791365 | -6.251128040359 | -6.919185548417 | -6.534260946830 | 60 | 32 | 7 |
| 0.4 | -4.847755974534 | -6.307654256614 | -6.478183147804 | -6.403245913913 | 5 | 95 | 0 |
| 0.6 | -4.910880789774 | -6.318711038677 | -6.460731678139 | -6.397394917952 | 43 | 32 | 25 |
| 0.8 | -4.955180534927 | -6.247555218115 | -6.317577851380 | -6.282370560751 | 50 | 33 | 17 |
| 1.0 | -4.893239947785 | -6.152916384746 | -6.227513500632 | -6.177144261676 | 47 | 51 | 2 |
| 1^5A_1 | | | | | | | |
| f | RAS(4,4) | NEVPT2 | CASPT2 | REPT2 | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -4.729756737901 | -6.254737484541 | -6.378017824205 | -6.427810853429 | 3 | 97 | 0 |
| 0.2 | -4.785743575477 | -6.279838655338 | -6.430609647956 | -6.408240883807 | 3 | 97 | 0 |
| 0.4 | -4.846786892255 | -6.318813302286 | -6.369814375594 | -6.443104332503 | 37 | 38 | 25 |
| 0.6 | -4.909570255502 | -6.335051238006 | -6.423691327031 | -6.407777599091 | 19 | 81 | 0 |
| 0.8 | -4.904338816918 | -6.343544656931 | -6.445168267336 | -6.433716237661 | 58 | 42 | 0 |
| 1.0 | -4.820259375302 | -6.224572279912 | -6.275831472721 | -6.231267597508 | 38 | 62 | 0 |

Table S6 Bare $[\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_2]^{2+}$ core total energies+3450 E_h for the five low-lying A_1 states obtained using RAS(4,4)PFRS-V1 (cc-pVDZ-DK basis set) and perturbative corrections over the CAS(4,4)CI reference wave function using the RAS orbitals. Columns labeled as d represents the sum of squared coefficient (in percentage) for each pair of d -occupancies in each root wave function.

| 1^1A_1 | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | MRCISD | MRCISD+Q | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -6.086914446894 | -6.28920516 | 40 | 36 | 8 |
| 0.2 | -6.108648292477 | -6.30451791 | 49 | 36 | 8 |
| 0.4 | -6.128842587139 | -6.31870768 | 37 | 37 | 10 |
| 0.6 | -6.150737461419 | -6.33465885 | 29 | 39 | 12 |
| 0.8 | -6.171863581539 | -6.34987535 | 26 | 43 | 16 |
| 1.0 | -6.185539044417 | -6.35785065 | 14 | 47 | 25 |

| 2^1A_1 | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | MRCISD | MRCISD+Q | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -5.968209120572 | -6.17591405 | 68 | 15 | 0 |
| 0.2 | -6.001087285411 | -6.19947343 | 65 | 18 | 0 |
| 0.4 | -6.021414534743 | -6.21166678 | 62 | 22 | 0 |
| 0.6 | -6.020885274336 | -6.20471109 | 57 | 25 | 2 |
| 0.8 | -6.006284377107 | -6.19804697 | 01 | 83 | 1 |
| 1.0 | -6.045471345198 | -6.22452640 | 00 | 85 | 0 |

| 3^1A_1 | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | MRCISD | MRCISD+Q | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -5.927700881603 | -6.13692269 | 60 | 23 | 0 |
| 0.2 | -5.942523282141 | -6.14476490 | 58 | 25 | 0 |
| 0.4 | -5.950200206703 | -6.14742202 | 51 | 33 | 0 |
| 0.6 | -5.962511811413 | -6.16300949 | 25 | 68 | 0 |
| 0.8 | -6.006978775236 | -6.19400094 | 56 | 14 | 15 |
| 1.0 | -6.011457888366 | -6.19825935 | 60 | 1 | 23 |

| 4^1A_1 | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | MRCISD | MRCISD+Q | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -5.791398057280 | -6.02847974 | 5 | 77 | 0 |
| 0.2 | -5.834876371519 | -6.06584731 | 6 | 76 | 1 |
| 0.4 | -5.887238907160 | -6.10705918 | 11 | 72 | 0 |
| 0.6 | -5.936357237545 | -6.14329306 | 41 | 20 | 22 |
| 0.8 | -5.953912734831 | -6.14028426 | 44 | 31 | 9 |
| 1.0 | -5.848917090902 | -6.05276704 | 28 | 57 | 0 |

| 5^1A_1 | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | MRCISD | MRCISD+Q | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -5.779970812017 | -6.02476208 | 36 | 19 | 27 |
| 0.2 | -5.836090226239 | -6.06253055 | 33 | 26 | 23 |
| 0.4 | -5.883875092864 | -6.09660629 | 36 | 23 | 24 |
| 0.6 | -5.915461354459 | -6.10573238 | 41 | 43 | 0 |
| 0.8 | -5.886901270748 | -6.06721513 | 45 | 40 | 0 |
| 1.0 | -5.869949435432 | -6.04458563 | 38 | 46 | 1 |

Table S7 Bare $[\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_2]^{2+}$ core total energies+3450 E_h for the five low-lying A_1 states obtained using CAS(4,4)CI/MRCISD and with the Davidson correction (+Q), based on the RAS(4,4)PFRS-V1 orbitals(cc-pVDZ-DK basis set) . Columns labeled as d represents the sum of squared coefficient (in percentage) for each pair of d -occupancies in each root reference wave function at the final MRCISD wave function normalization.

| f | MRCCSD | MRCCSD(T) | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| 0.0 | -6.336808229600 | -6.351230537355 | 45 | 43 | 10 |
| 0.4 | -6.367077472143 | -6.377881505513 | 42 | 45 | 13 |
| 0.6 | -6.379923357877 | -6.390988798942 | 37 | 47 | 16 |
| 0.8 | -6.389298541626 | -6.402087124357 | 28 | 51 | 21 |
| 1.0 | -6.391049487163 | -6.404417084605 | 14 | 53 | 33 |

Table S8 Bare $[\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_2]^{2+}$ core total energies+3450 E_h for the lowest energy A_1 state obtained using CAS(4,4)CI/MRCCSD and CAS(4,4)CI/MRCCSD(T) methods, based on the RAS(4,4)PFRS-V1 orbitals(cc-pVDZ-DK basis set) . Columns labeled as d represents the sum of squared coefficient (in percentage) for each pair of d -occupancies in the relaxed reference wave function at the final MRCCSD intermediate normalization.

| RAS(4,4)PFRS-V1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | cc-pVTZ-DK | | | | cc-pVQZ-DK | | | | cc-pV5Z-DK | | | |
| | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -5.1403817 | 56 | 38 | 6 | -5.1777742 | 57 | 37 | 6 | -5.1940035 | 58 | 36 | 6 |
| 0.2 | -5.1652489 | 55 | 38 | 7 | -5.1996713 | 57 | 37 | 6 | -5.2154818 | 58 | 36 | 6 |
| 0.4 | -5.1882571 | 55 | 38 | 7 | -5.2201994 | 56 | 37 | 7 | -5.2356783 | 58 | 36 | 6 |
| 0.6 | -5.2124288 | 52 | 40 | 8 | -5.2421491 | 54 | 38 | 8 | -5.2356783 | 58 | 36 | 6 |
| 0.8 | -5.2349865 | 44 | 45 | 11 | -5.2622492 | 47 | 43 | 10 | -5.2755856 | 49 | 42 | 9 |
| 1.0 | -5.2482651 | 28 | 54 | 18 | -5.2729908 | 30 | 53 | 17 | -5.2844101 | 32 | 52 | 16 |

| MRCISD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | cc-pVTZ-DK | | | | cc-pVQZ-DK | | | | cc-pV5Z-DK | | | |
| | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -6.311167 | 43 | 33 | 7 | -6.4161929 | 44 | 35 | 7 | -6.4591249 | 44 | 34 | 6 |
| 0.2 | -6.331763 | 42 | 35 | 7 | -6.4354774 | 43 | 35 | 7 | -6.4780585 | 43 | 35 | 7 |
| 0.4 | -6.351332 | 40 | 35 | 9 | -6.4537554 | 42 | 35 | 8 | -6.4960246 | 42 | 35 | 8 |
| 0.6 | -6.372948 | 37 | 38 | 10 | -6.4741973 | 38 | 37 | 10 | -6.5160138 | 39 | 37 | 10 |
| 0.8 | -6.394193 | 30 | 42 | 14 | -6.4942355 | 31 | 41 | 13 | -6.5354229 | 32 | 41 | 13 |
| 1.0 | -6.407884 | 16 | 47 | 23 | -6.5071009 | 18 | 46 | 22 | -6.5475864 | 18 | 46 | 21 |

| MRCISD+Q | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|--|--|--|-------------|--|--|--|-------------|--|--|--|
| f | cc-pVTZ-DK | | | | cc-pVQZ-DK | | | | cc-pV5Z-DK | | | |
| | Energy | | | | Energy | | | | Energy | | | |
| 0.0 | -6.53044551 | | | | -6.64067166 | | | | -6.68383082 | | | |
| 0.2 | -6.54674204 | | | | -6.65688389 | | | | -6.69984246 | | | |
| 0.4 | -6.56221253 | | | | -6.67207714 | | | | -6.71485847 | | | |
| 0.6 | -6.57970891 | | | | -6.68936118 | | | | -6.73200409 | | | |
| 0.8 | -6.59675282 | | | | -6.70625750 | | | | -6.74882306 | | | |
| 1.0 | -6.60599836 | | | | -6.71580808 | | | | -6.75828549 | | | |

| MRCCSD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | cc-pVTZ-DK | | | | cc-pVQZ-DK | | | | cc-pV5Z-DK | | | |
| | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -6.58754895 | 46 | 43 | 10 | -6.70151766 | 46 | 42 | 10 | | | | |
| 0.2 | -6.60547424 | 45 | 43 | 11 | -6.71877438 | 45 | 43 | 11 | | | | |
| 0.4 | -6.61788656 | 43 | 44 | 13 | -6.73106007 | 43 | 44 | 12 | | | | |
| 0.6 | -6.63174650 | 38 | 47 | 15 | -6.74490350 | 39 | 46 | 15 | | | | |
| 0.8 | -6.64264350 | 29 | 51 | 21 | -6.75588072 | 30 | 50 | 20 | | | | |
| 1.0 | -6.64537412 | 15 | 52 | 33 | -6.75902724 | 15 | 52 | 32 | | | | |

| MRCCSD(T) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|--|--|--|-------------|--|--|--|------------|--|--|--|
| f | cc-pVTZ-DK | | | | cc-pVQZ-DK | | | | cc-pV5Z-DK | | | |
| | Energy | | | | Energy | | | | Energy | | | |
| 0.0 | -6.61111154 | | | | -6.72858368 | | | | | | | |
| 0.2 | -6.62279651 | | | | -6.73956590 | | | | | | | |
| 0.4 | -6.63748193 | | | | -6.75406644 | | | | | | | |
| 0.6 | -6.65156699 | | | | -6.76808490 | | | | | | | |
| 0.8 | -6.66457341 | | | | -6.78156163 | | | | | | | |
| 1.0 | -6.66794635 | | | | -6.78568335 | | | | | | | |

Table S9 Tables S6, S7 and S8 results dependence with the basis set size.

| f | b_{3u} | | | b_{2g} | | | Wave Function | | Total Energy |
|-----|----------|-----------|--------|----------|-----------|--------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | occ. | $3d_{xz}$ | $2p_x$ | occ. | $3d_{xz}$ | $2p_z$ | $ b_{3u}^2\rangle$ | $ b_{2g}^2\rangle$ | |
| 0.0 | 1.26 | 1.00 | 0.11 | 0.73 | 0.959 | 0.376 | 0.79481527 | -0.60685146 | -3455.06152580 |
| 0.2 | 1.29 | 1.00 | 0.17 | 0.71 | 0.955 | 0.392 | 0.80208008 | -0.59721650 | -3455.10793786 |
| 0.4 | 1.31 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 0.68 | 0.946 | 0.413 | 0.81169877 | -0.58407629 | -3455.14809556 |
| 0.6 | 1.37 | 1.00 | 0.15 | 0.63 | 0.928 | 0.445 | 0.82716087 | -0.56196521 | -3455.18119767 |
| 0.8 | 1.47 | 1.00 | 0.12 | 0.53 | 0.888 | 0.501 | 0.85692039 | -0.51544879 | -3455.20431040 |
| 1.0 | 1.69 | 1.00 | 0.06 | 0.31 | 0.787 | 0.600 | 0.91942150 | -0.39327358 | -3455.21445310 |

Table S10 Active orbitals and wave function composition for the bare $[\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_2]^{2+}$ core ground state at the PFRS-V2/CAS(2,2)/cc-pVDZ-DK level of theory.

| CAS(2,2)PFRS-V2 | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| f | cc-pVDZ-DK | cc-pVTZ-DK | cc-pVQZ-DK | cc-pV5Z-DK |
| 0.0 | -3455.061525799425 | -3455.138049214575 | -3455.186551076481 | -3455.215401644103 |
| 0.2 | -3455.107937863600 | -3455.178216417526 | -3455.222565831683 | -3455.251016375517 |
| 0.4 | -3455.148095555251 | -3455.213750615887 | -3455.254915316254 | -3455.283154537965 |
| 0.6 | -3455.181197674141 | -3455.243577725330 | -3455.281837949717 | -3455.309341308860 |
| 0.8 | -3455.204310403086 | -3455.264238762494 | -3455.298813548553 | -3455.324468094329 |
| 1.0 | -3455.214453102953 | -3455.270721134635 | -3455.298713659799 | -3455.319256974977 |

| MRCISD | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| f | cc-pVDZ-DK | cc-pVTZ-DK | cc-pVQZ-DK | cc-pV5Z-DK |
| 0.2 | -3456.080817224151 | -3456.307733086640 | -3456.414755818100 | -3456.461459812631 |
| 0.4 | -3456.115269580867 | -3456.341213319287 | -3456.446417511756 | -3456.492576942270 |
| 0.6 | -3456.144906797097 | -3456.370122266963 | -3456.473435336210 | -3456.518671928954 |
| 0.8 | -3456.167940644543 | -3456.392326019983 | -3456.492876001920 | -3456.536101991030 |
| 1.0 | -3456.184009539263 | -3456.407176845225 | -3456.503717284370 | -3456.541002202881 |

| MRCISD+Q | | | | |
|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| f | cc-pVDZ-DK | cc-pVTZ-DK | cc-pVQZ-DK | cc-pV5Z-DK |
| 0.0 | -3456.23171655 | -3456.47165056 | -3456.58313136 | -3456.62799205 |
| 0.2 | -3456.26292504 | -3456.50436553 | -3456.61545353 | -3456.65982466 |
| 0.4 | -3456.29055153 | -3456.53366373 | -3456.64404106 | -3456.68790840 |
| 0.6 | -3456.31402032 | -3456.55859446 | -3456.66800186 | -3456.71105576 |
| 0.8 | -3456.33173880 | -3456.57738905 | -3456.68501923 | -3456.72626358 |
| 1.0 | -3456.34285929 | -3456.58977410 | -3456.69558441 | -3456.73159768 |

| MRCCSD | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| f | cc-pVDZ-DK | cc-pVTZ-DK | cc-pVQZ-DK | cc-pV5Z-DK |
| 0.0 | -3456.310052313908 | -3456.558972437527 | -3456.673385908913 | |
| 0.2 | -3456.330364135201 | -3456.579177230692 | -3456.693165443877 | |
| 0.4 | -3456.349235376012 | -3456.598895408300 | -3456.712571683085 | |
| 0.6 | -3456.366350744167 | -3456.617453448146 | -3456.730967797455 | |
| 0.8 | -3456.379585437262 | -3456.632444288427 | -3456.745787276236 | |
| 1.0 | -3456.385086222011 | -3456.639179056043 | -3456.752845174834 | |

| MRCCSD(T) | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|
| f | cc-pVDZ-DK | cc-pVTZ-DK | cc-pVQZ-DK | cc-pV5Z-DK |
| 0.0 | -3456.341051679557 | -3456.576421864439 | | |
| 0.2 | -3456.350511093044 | -3456.591620648298 | | |
| 0.4 | -3456.362552594779 | -3456.607801144855 | | |
| 0.6 | -3456.376247874569 | -3456.624679188141 | | |
| 0.8 | -3456.388271940901 | -3456.639339550111 | | |
| 1.0 | -3456.393546375196 | -3456.646511504697 | | |

Table S11 Bare $[\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_2]^{2+}$ core total energies in E_h for the A_1 lowest state obtained using CAS(2,2)PFRS-V2 and post-CASCI methods and their dependence with the basis set.

| CAS(12,8)PFRS-V2 | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| f | cc-pVDZ-DK | cc-pVTZ-DK | cc-pVQZ-DK | cc-pV5Z-DK |
| 0.0 | -3455.200372518656 | -3455.257930342166 | -3455.291379586452 | -3455.308675863316 |
| 0.2 | -3455.217530536539 | -3455.270516320786 | -3455.300252839344 | -3455.316455816277 |
| 0.4 | -3455.232183098369 | -3455.281218837346 | -3455.306921060072 | -3455.319187252091 |
| 0.6 | -3455.247155101940 | -3455.293825338159 | -3455.316925829007 | -3455.327414534136 |
| 0.8 | -3455.265214953815 | -3455.311452768700 | -3455.332515693518 | -3455.340649435073 |
| 1.0 | -3455.270910556121 | -3455.316982418502 | -3455.336261383760 | -3455.343464188798 |

| MRCISD | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| f | cc-pVDZ-DK | cc-pVTZ-DK | cc-pVQZ-DK | cc-pV5Z-DK |
| 0.0 | -3456.151076872576 | -3456.377545640220 | -3456.482882591671 | -3456.526794765548 |
| 0.2 | -3456.168199400555 | -3456.392529506437 | -3456.495987034573 | -3456.539326791564 |
| 0.4 | -3456.182547967565 | -3456.405215485197 | -3456.506592480577 | -3456.548076209526 |
| 0.6 | -3456.196835093790 | -3456.418854797620 | -3456.518945900975 | -3456.559689367004 |
| 0.8 | -3456.212171965951 | -3456.434812310286 | -3456.533977673498 | -3456.573892489855 |
| 1.0 | -3456.219970328508 | -3456.443039213008 | -3456.541664666523 | -3456.581142522903 |

| MRCISD+Q | | | | |
|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| f | cc-pVDZ-DK | cc-pVTZ-DK | cc-pVQZ-DK | cc-pV5Z-DK |
| 0.0 | -3456.31212025 | -3456.55896834 | -3456.67188048 | -3456.71618271 |
| 0.2 | -3456.32822446 | -3456.57475223 | -3456.68689933 | -3456.73081122 |
| 0.4 | -3456.34106619 | -3456.58780968 | -3456.69913859 | -3456.74227743 |
| 0.6 | -3456.35298253 | -3456.60065256 | -3456.71158603 | -3456.75450850 |
| 0.8 | -3456.36399842 | -3456.61347104 | -3456.72425611 | -3456.76719068 |
| 1.0 | -3456.36844028 | -3456.61914806 | -3456.73023399 | -3456.77309576 |

Table S12 Bare $[\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_2]^{2+}$ core total energies in E_h for the A_1 lowest state obtained using CAS(12,8)PFRS-V2 and post-CASCI methods and their dependence with the basis set.

| CAS(2,2)PFRS-V2/NEVPT2 | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| f | cc-pVDZ-DK [†] | cc-pVTZ-DK [†] | cc-pVQZ-DK [†] | cc-pV5Z-DK [†] |
| 0.0 | -3456.399356334397 | -3456.654993637240 | -3456.765903693881 | -3456.802744768832 |
| 0.2 | -3456.423964578384 | -3456.684536752476 | -3456.796537874839 | -3456.832461641252 |
| 0.4 | -3456.446973759746 | -3456.711088154985 | -3456.823003127695 | -3456.857831229616 |
| 0.6 | -3456.467625787425 | -3456.733834466062 | -3456.845246678864 | -3456.878609034714 |
| 0.8 | -3456.484219770065 | -3456.751805947358 | -3456.862138742605 | -3456.893069930778 |
| 1.0 | -3456.496338462362 | -3456.767568752436 | -3456.879053846977 | -3456.903722623148 |

| CAS(4,4)PFRS-V1/NEVPT2 | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| f | cc-pVDZ-DK [*] | cc-pVTZ-DK [*] | cc-pVQZ-DK [*] | cc-pV5Z-DK [†] |
| 0.0 | -3456.482742074632 | -3456.766669208898 | -3456.88416673841584 | -3456.934670237722 |
| 0.2 | -3456.490003189483 | -3456.775525606069 | -3456.89257044791384 | -3456.942948560301 |
| 0.4 | -3456.498073540514 | -3456.785277393459 | -3456.90116725332064 | -3456.951348462001 |
| 0.6 | -3456.509644962448 | -3456.798636929803 | -3456.91337485700660 | -3456.963513176791 |
| 0.8 | -3456.520944878557 | -3456.811810050246 | -3456.92596541154580 | -3456.976464161634 |
| 1.0 | -3456.525111482554 | -3456.816313243738 | -3456.93247211457901 | -3456.984588494769 |

| CAS(12,8)PFRS-V2/NEVPT2 | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| f | cc-pVDZ-DK [†] | cc-pVTZ-DK [†] | cc-pVQZ-DK [†] | cc-pV5Z-DK [†] |
| 0.0 | -3456.468133062860 | -3456.742034728502 | -3456.870726278591 | -3456.921167799275 |
| 0.2 | -3456.486082473820 | -3456.760700068134 | -3456.890334065353 | -3456.941750698519 |
| 0.4 | -3456.499520842217 | -3456.774986372933 | -3456.905312129779 | -3456.958811596726 |
| 0.6 | -3456.511530563591 | -3456.787881163519 | -3456.918294188480 | -3456.972523019797 |
| 0.8 | -3456.520091548104 | -3456.797497589463 | -3456.927476760882 | -3456.982448091086 |
| 1.0 | -3456.524914841607 | -3456.804111188343 | -3456.934364959869 | -3456.988883406701 |

Table S13 Bare $[\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_2]^{2+}$ core ground state total energies (in E_h) for a set of basis sets and active spaces. * Results using GeCCo implementation; and † using MOLPRO partially contracted implementation.

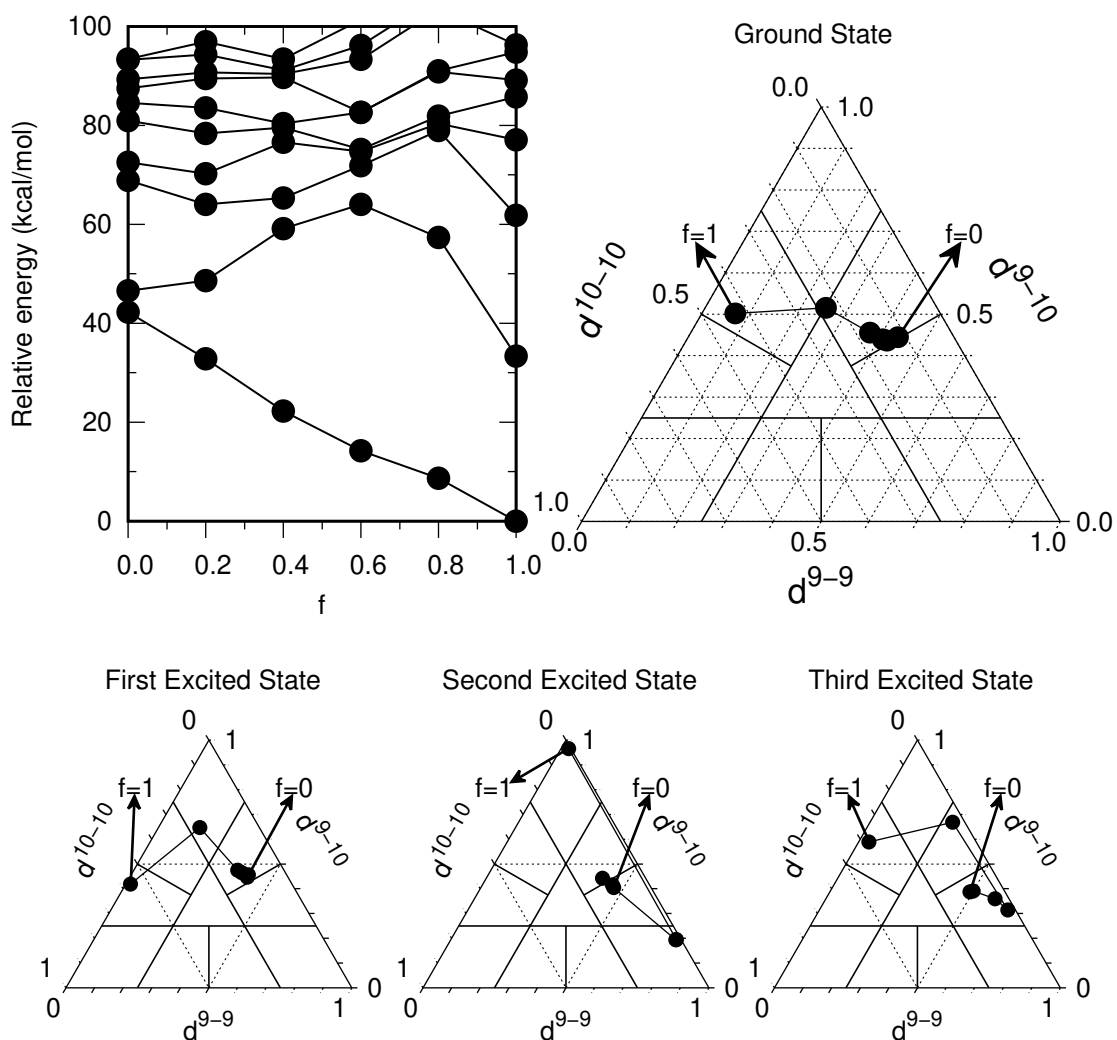


Fig. S2 Monochromatic version of Figure 5 of the main text. Each ternary diagram represents the d -pair occupancy weight vector for the state specified in the label above it. The geometry extremes are marked in each case with "f=0" and "f=1". The numerical data can be found in Tables S4

Notes and references

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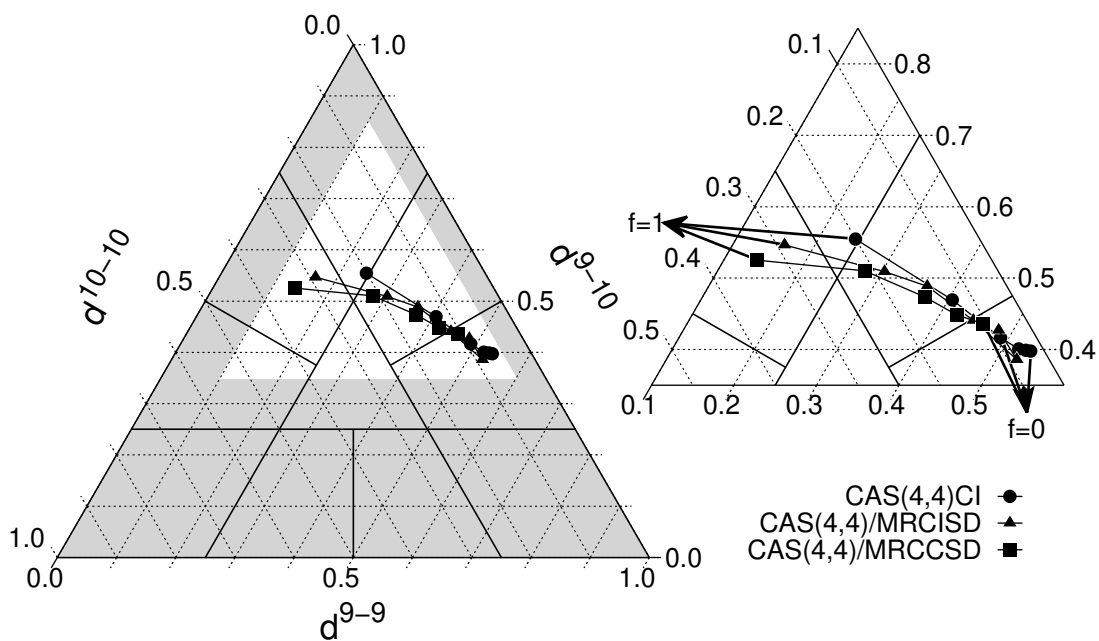


Fig. S3 Monochromatic ternary diagram for the d -pair occupancy weight of Figure 6 ground states. The right inset graph is an amplified version of the white section of the main graph (at left). The geometry extremes are marked with “ $f=0$ ” and “ $f=1$ ”. The numerical data can be found in Tables S6-S8.

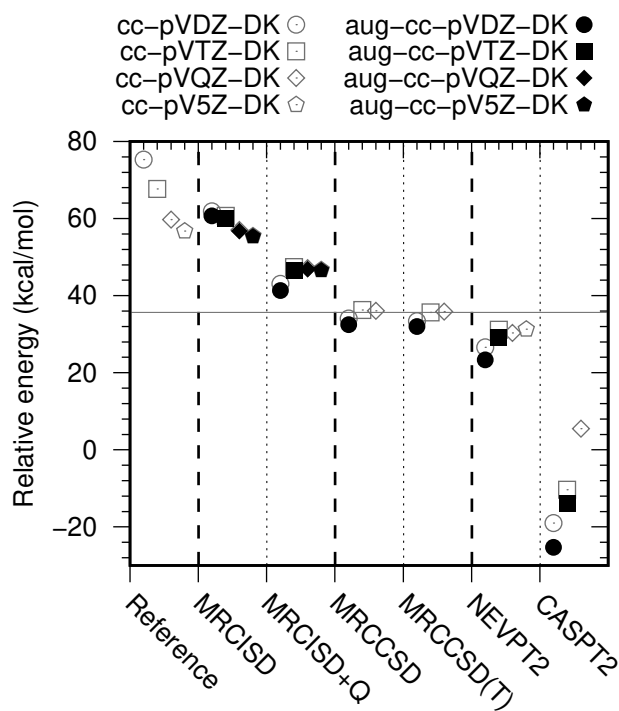


Fig. S4 Comparison between the post-CAS(4,4)CI results shown in Figure 7 of the main text (hollow grey points) with the addition of augmented basis sets (black filled points). The gray line marks the DMRG(32,62) relative energy—states with d^8 -occupancies for the $[\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_2]^{2+}$ model system.⁹

| 2O/2P | | | | | | | |
|-------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | Occupation-Specific | | | RAS(28,18)PFRS-V1 | | | |
| | Ed^{9-9} | Ed^{9-10} | Ed^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -0.403018251408 | -0.267860287966 | -0.026782692783 | -0.472484035919 | 60 | 35 | 5 |
| 0.2 | -0.435014587944 | -0.299218131122 | -0.055942248726 | -0.492909948527 | 64 | 32 | 5 |
| 0.4 | -0.462460036683 | -0.281087124634 | -0.094742934219 | -0.513341215255 | 65 | 31 | 5 |
| 0.6 | -0.483150121420 | -0.330815912100 | -0.144104614393 | -0.533009062548 | 62 | 33 | 6 |
| 0.8 | -0.492168167653 | -0.379972305718 | -0.205735827114 | -0.534042362243 | 59 | 35 | 6 |
| 1.0 | -0.472993295412 | -0.412666406461 | -0.270988896903 | -0.514773129479 | 52 | 39 | 8 |

| 3O/3P | | | | | | | |
|-------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | Occupation-Specific | | | RAS(28,18)PFRS-V1 | | | |
| | Ed^{9-9} | Ed^{9-10} | Ed^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -3680.411493447462 | -0.269179977269 (-0.265216304566) | -0.042276093643 | -0.441426773059 | 69 | 29 | 2 |
| 0.2 | -3680.440149542063 | -0.297402528000 (-0.292201129024) | -0.067545969433 | -0.458918222369 | 70 | 27 | 3 |
| 0.4 | -3680.465656880718 | -0.277992116564 (-0.271129768568) | -0.103201557799 | -0.478270155537 | 70 | 27 | 3 |
| 0.6 | -3680.484787627318 | -0.325494786724 (-0.318664978410) | -0.150104051498 | -0.496267595279 | 65 | 30 | 5 |
| 0.8 | -3680.492859035226 | -0.365063413640 (-0.372798624941) | -0.209845740611 | -0.496745521056 | 63 | 32 | 5 |
| 1.0 | -3680.475280043215 | -0.396230563869 (-0.402102054748) | -0.273777378008 | -0.476951750534 | 56 | 37 | 7 |

| 4O/4P | | | | | | | |
|-------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| f | Occupation-Specific | | | RAS(28,18)PFRS-V1 | | | |
| | Ed^{9-9} | Ed^{9-10} | Ed^{10-10} | Energy | d^{9-9} | d^{9-10} | d^{10-10} |
| 0.0 | -0.419065264061 | -0.293209830238 | -0.058210531610 | -0.412461393431 | 70 | 26 | 2 |
| 0.2 | -0.445096098766 | -0.316877740434 | -0.079727158006 | -0.432772190098 | 81 | 19 | 1 |
| 0.4 | -0.468939793868 | -0.348891624690 | -0.112214909405 | -0.452742587004 | 81 | 18 | 1 |
| 0.6 | -0.486639451728 | -0.330054008200 | -0.156535800867 | -0.465401035308 | 82 | 17 | 1 |
| 0.8 | -0.493346416504 | -0.367433014391 | -0.214241192892 | -0.465537291100 | 83 | 17 | 1 |
| 1.0 | -0.475118158356 | -0.398001315024 | -0.276700433305 | -0.437368615461 | 81 | 18 | 1 |

Table S14 Total energy +3680 (E_h) for the lowest energy states of Figure 8. d -occupancy specific represented by "Ed" columns, "Energy" column represents the results using an intermediary size of d -orbitals, "d" columns represents the sum of squared coefficient (in percentage) for the given pair of d -occupancies.

| f | svd threshold | | | |
|-------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | 10 ⁻⁴ | 10 ⁻⁵ | 10 ⁻⁶ | 10 ⁻⁷ |
| 0.000 | -3682.541585161860 | -3682.547234938139 | — | — |
| 0.050 | | -3682.549040114318 | | |
| 0.100 | -3682.543178090925 | -3682.549864138478 | -3682.549456181528 | |
| 0.125 | | -3682.550262577298 | | |
| 0.150 | | -3682.550777710173 | | |
| 0.175 | | — | | |
| 0.200 | -3682.543553295366 | — | -3682.54996876 (-7) | |
| 0.225 | | -3682.547777997587 | | |
| 0.250 | | -3682.547660550980 | | |
| 0.275 | | -3682.547515669245 | | |
| 0.300 | -3682.543126065674 | -3682.547129825804 | -3682.546515865497 | — |
| 0.350 | | -3682.546590849289 | — | |
| 0.400 | -3682.543279157594 | -3682.546760235530 | -3682.54647707 (-5) | -3682.546477248467 |
| 0.450 | | -3682.54819220 (-5) | -3682.548437647517 | |
| 0.500 | -3682.545022844603 | -3682.548622601998 | -3682.54875723 (-6) | |
| 0.550 | | -3682.549807733527 | | |
| 0.600 | -3682.548399822256 | -3682.551410595878 | -3682.55152403 (-5) | |
| 0.650 | | -3682.552584626827 | | |
| 0.700 | -3682.553044660732 | — | — | — |
| 0.750 | | -3682.554532409757 | | |
| 0.800 | -3682.553717363200 | -3682.554911213206 | -3682.554879028856 | -3682.556400124879 |
| 0.850 | | -3682.554307853525 | | |
| 0.900 | -3682.551746136159 | -3682.55272093 (-7) | -3682.552713605707 | |
| 0.950 | | -3682.550129726169 | | |
| 1.000 | -3682.545365223263 | -3682.545768275509 | -3682.546211095851 | -3682.547274934107 |

Table S15 CAS(4,4)PFRS-V2/MRCCSD total energies (E_h) for the 2O/2P equilibrium. Column numbers represents the svd threshold value used. Blank entries indicates that the calculation was not attempted. '—' indicates that after at least 200 iteration the residual has shown no trend towards convergence. Values with parenthesis indicate that the residual showed a convergence trend, but didn't reached the default threshold of 10^{-8} before the reach the calculation memory or time limits. The values within the parenthesis are the residual order of magnitude at the last iteration.

| f | Active Space | | | |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | (4,4) | (12,8) | (16,10) | (12,10) |
| 0.000 | -0.561140389301 | -0.510579122120 | -0.472086053119 | -0.529885201579 |
| 0.025 | -0.560898587747 | -0.511263585272 | -0.473472275784 | -0.530464641264 |
| 0.050 | -0.560515726478 | -0.511818385405 | -0.474753771670 | -0.530921854888 |
| 0.075 | -0.559997200808 | -0.512252325368 | -0.475927981894 | -0.531263849041 |
| 0.100 | -0.559348164923 | -0.512576730498 | -0.476991425006 | -0.531498407551 |
| 0.125 | -0.558573464384 | -0.512806035103 | -0.477940773303 | -0.531634532445 |
| 0.150 | -0.557677520093 | -0.512958111585 | -0.478773620198 | -0.531682644187 |
| 0.175 | -0.556664087762 | -0.513054301246 | -0.479489510732 | -0.531654979798 |
| 0.200 | -0.555536482978 | -0.513118817664 | -0.480090954170 | -0.531565865161 |
| 0.225 | -0.554297045958 | -0.513177936729 | -0.480588644937 | -0.531432009141 |
| 0.250 | -0.552948271407 | -0.513258631769 | -0.480998315741 | -0.531272396977 |
| 0.275 | -0.551493029489 | -0.513387173581 | -0.481346052718 | -0.531108563406 |
| 0.300 | -0.549936359298 | -0.513587728399 | -0.481660709765 | -0.530963052559 |
| 0.325 | -0.548289336964 | -0.513881117113 | -0.481973510947 | -0.530859330505 |
| 0.350 | -0.546571752251 | -0.514284044355 | -0.482316015546 | -0.530819998239 |
| 0.375 | -0.544819998435 | -0.514808656185 | -0.482712650169 | -0.530865318121 |
| 0.400 | -0.543088805704 | -0.515462645369 | -0.483185763855 | -0.531012113486 |
| 0.425 | -0.541448804660 | -0.516249837601 | -0.483755815411 | -0.531272234143 |
| 0.450 | -0.539977454034 | -0.517172262849 | -0.484439053833 | -0.531651561263 |
| 0.475 | -0.538743076602 | -0.518229438644 | -0.485253104678 | -0.532150161639 |
| 0.500 | -0.537788683211 | -0.519418209266 | -0.486211535199 | -0.532762524694 |
| 0.525 | -0.537132243096 | -0.520730328101 | -0.487333524353 | -0.533477365575 |
| 0.550 | -0.536760438434 | -0.522151621105 | -0.488617334183 | -0.534278984752 |
| 0.575 | -0.536637923220 | -0.523662560932 | -0.490080332175 | -0.535148212190 |
| 0.600 | -0.536713517827 | -0.525239918403 | -0.491699454060 | -0.536062985058 |
| 0.625 | -0.536924649492 | -0.526858284001 | -0.493457134522 | -0.536999467196 |
| 0.650 | -0.537210794549 | -0.528491483511 | -0.495364851507 | -0.537932728226 |
| 0.675 | -0.537508835932 | -0.530112797333 | -0.497401061437 | -0.538836982827 |
| 0.700 | -0.537761034850 | -0.531695728305 | -0.499580569177 | -0.539687275673 |
| 0.725 | -0.537911654308 | -0.533214013093 | -0.501878154726 | -0.540458526803 |
| 0.750 | -0.537913066368 | -0.534641602425 | -0.504296589334 | -0.541126431875 |
| 0.775 | -0.537724123071 | -0.535952571049 | -0.506786732893 | -0.541668124620 |
| 0.800 | -0.537310598542 | -0.537121714609 | -0.509287576995 | -0.542062049395 |
| 0.825 | -0.536646047354 | -0.538124378993 | -0.511691203677 | -0.542288462667 |
| 0.850 | -0.535712396338 | -0.538936992469 | -0.513898949439 | -0.542329614007 |
| 0.875 | -0.534500387563 | -0.539536938805 | -0.515842438864 | -0.542170151208 |
| 0.900 | -0.533009682446 | -0.539904141036 | -0.517476282156 | -0.541797502101 |
| 0.925 | -0.531248459401 | -0.540020880535 | -0.518784972625 | -0.541202211031 |
| 0.950 | -0.529232423211 | -0.539873970210 | -0.519770059299 | -0.540378861872 |
| 0.975 | -0.526983361483 | -0.539457086034 | -0.520446312182 | -0.539326693116 |
| 1.000 | -0.524527848156 | -0.538775128031 | -0.520836350278 | -0.538050917524 |

Table S16 CAS(X,Y)PFRS-V2/NEVPT2 total energy plus 3682 E_h for the 2O/2P equilibrium. Each column indicates the active space given by "(X,Y)".