

## **Frustrated lewis pair chemistry in 2D CeO<sub>2</sub> for efficient alkaline hydrogen evolution**

Kaisi Liu,<sup>‡a</sup> Tongtong Liu,<sup>‡a</sup> Xinyi Wu,<sup>‡a</sup> Jiao Dai,<sup>a</sup> Qingjun Chen,<sup>b</sup> Jun Wan,<sup>\*a</sup> Lei Liu<sup>\*a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Center for Computational Chemistry, Hubei Key Laboratory of Biomass Fibers and Eco-Dyeing & Finishing, School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Wuhan Textile University, Wuhan, Hubei 430200, China

<sup>b</sup> Key Laboratory of Rare Earths, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Ganjiang Innovation Academy, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Ganzhou 341000, China

<sup>‡</sup> These authors contributed equally to the work.

\* Corresponding authors.

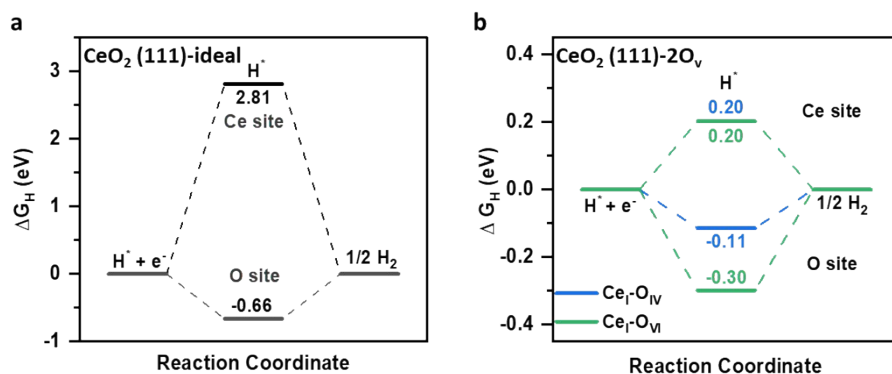
E-mail addresses: [wanj@wtu.edu.cn](mailto:wanj@wtu.edu.cn) (J. Wan); [liulei@wtu.edu.cn](mailto:liulei@wtu.edu.cn) (L. Liu)

### **Supplementary materials:**

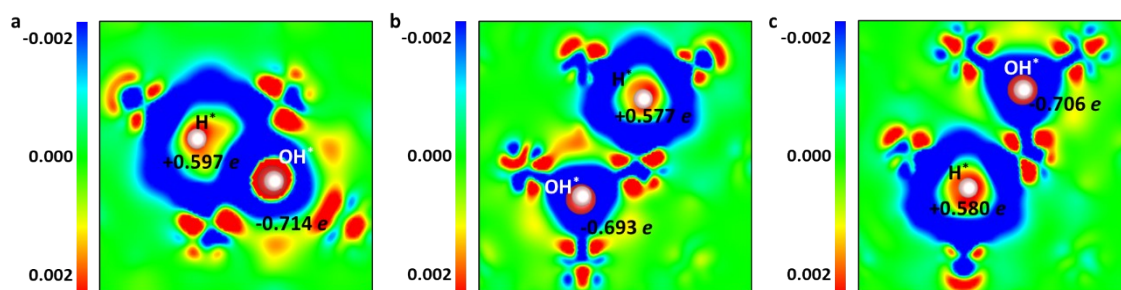
**1. Fig. S1 to S7**

**2. Table S1 to S3**

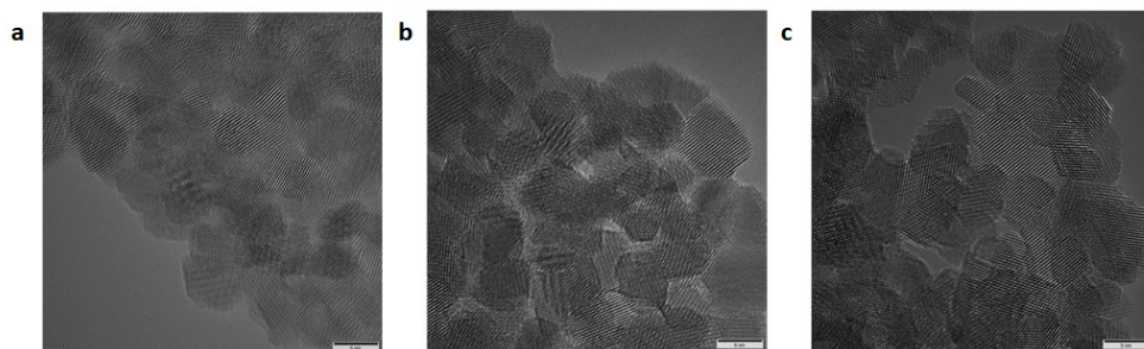
# 1. Fig. S1 to S7



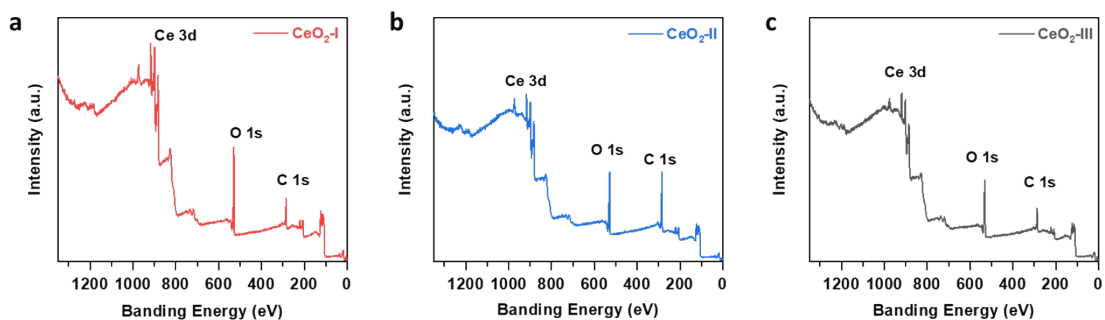
**Fig. S1.**  $\Delta G_H$  of the HER on (a)  $\text{CeO}_2$  (111)-ideal facet and on the  $\text{Ce}_I\text{-O}_{IV}$  and  $\text{Ce}_I\text{-O}_{VI}$  FLPs on the  $\text{CeO}_2$  (111)- $2\text{O}_v$  facet.



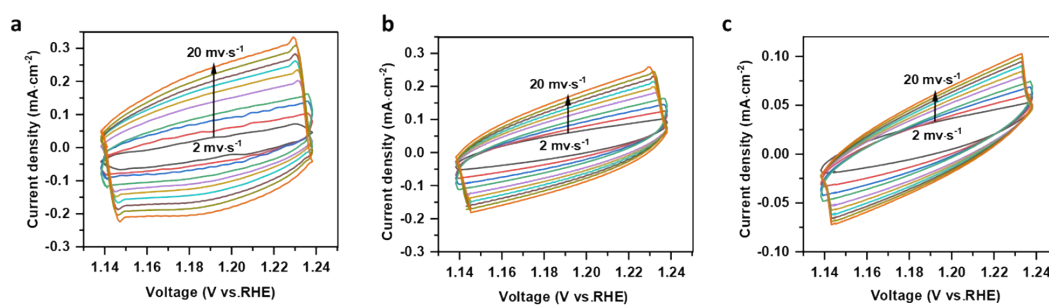
**Fig. S2.** Charge density difference maps of water dissociation on (a)  $\text{Ce}_I\text{-O}_V$  FLP sites of  $\text{CeO}_2$  (111)- $\text{O}_V$  facet and (b)  $\text{Ce}_I\text{-O}_{IV}$  and (c)  $\text{Ce}_I\text{-O}_{VI}$  of  $\text{CeO}_2$  (111)- $2\text{O}_v$  facet.



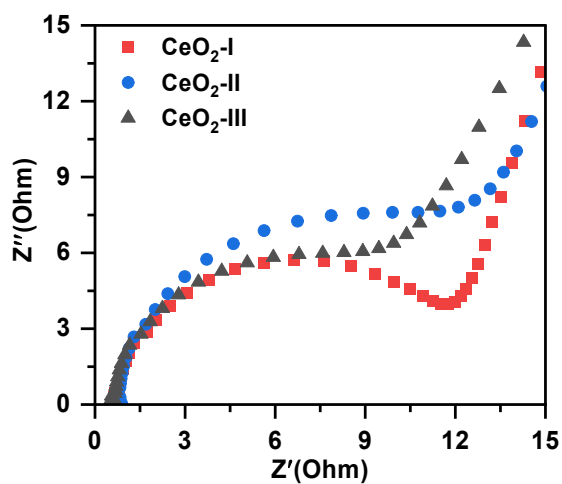
**Fig. S3.** HRTEM images of (a)  $\text{CeO}_2\text{-I}$ , (b)  $\text{CeO}_2\text{-II}$  and (c)  $\text{CeO}_2\text{-III}$ . (d) The SEM images of  $\text{CeO}_2\text{-I}$  after testing electrocatalytic properties.



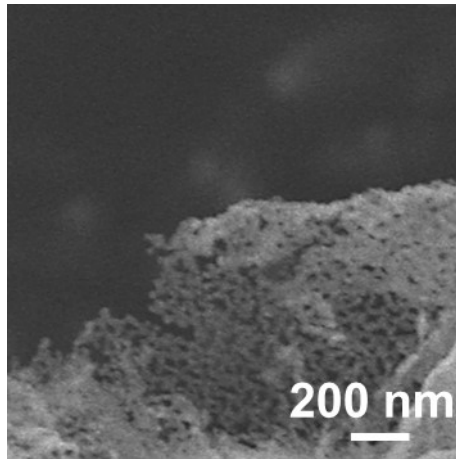
**Fig. S4.** Full spectra of (a) CeO<sub>2</sub>-I, (b) CeO<sub>2</sub>-II and (c) CeO<sub>2</sub>-III.



**Fig. S5.** CV measurements in a non-faradic current region (1.14-1.24 V) in 1.0 M KOH solution at scan rates of 2 to 20 mV s<sup>-1</sup> of (a) CeO<sub>2</sub>-I, (b) CeO<sub>2</sub>-II and (c) CeO<sub>2</sub>-III.



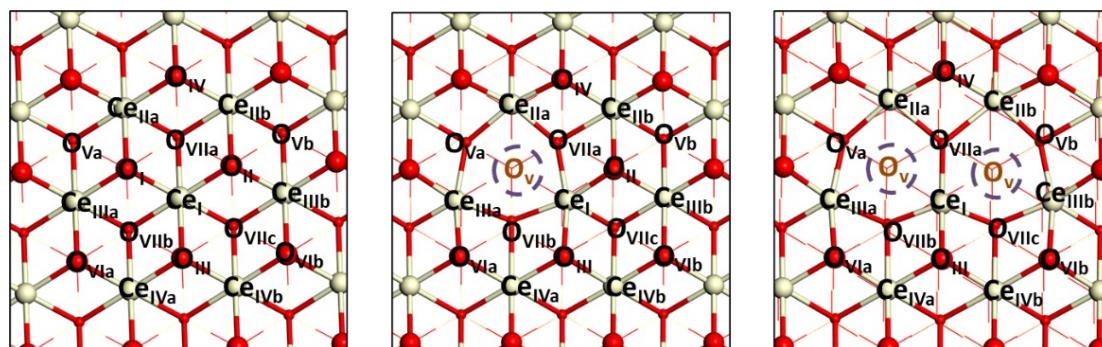
**Fig. S6.** Comparison of Nyquist plots for CeO<sub>2</sub>-I, CeO<sub>2</sub>-II, and CeO<sub>2</sub>-III.



**Fig. S7.** The SEM images of CeO<sub>2</sub>-I after 15 hours of chronopotentiometric measurements.

## 2. Table S1 to S3

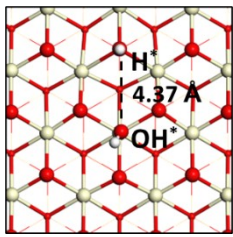
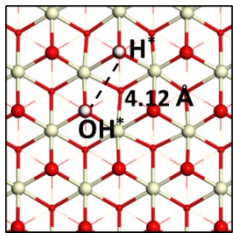
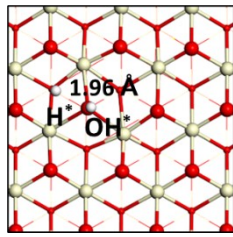
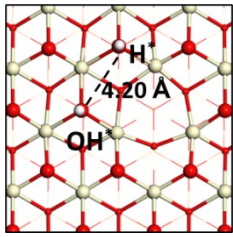
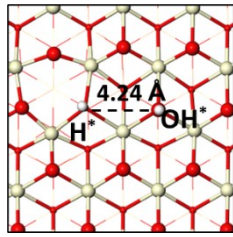
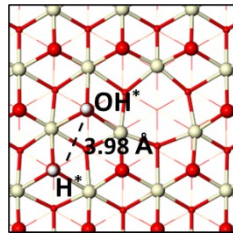
Table S1. Bader charge population of the atoms on the surface of CeO<sub>2</sub> (111).



Bader charge population / *e*

Atom	Ideal CeO <sub>2</sub> (111)	CeO <sub>2</sub> (111) with one oxygen vacancy	CeO <sub>2</sub> (111) with two oxygen vacancy
Ce <sub>I</sub>	<b>+2.246</b>	<b>+2.206</b>	<b>+2.160</b>
Ce <sub>IIIb</sub>	+2.246	+2.205	+2.199
Ce <sub>IIIb</sub>	+2.246	+2.259	+2.199
Ce <sub>IIIa</sub>	+2.246	+2.202	+2.192
Ce <sub>IIIb</sub>	+2.246	+2.241	+2.192
Ce <sub>IVa</sub>	+2.246	+2.256	+2.253
Ce <sub>IVb</sub>	+2.246	+2.244	+2.251
O <sub>I</sub>	-1.132	/	/
O <sub>II</sub>	-1.132	-1.147	/
O <sub>III</sub>	-1.132	-1.147	-1.159
O <sub>IV</sub>	<b>-1.132</b>	<b>-1.147</b>	-1.148
O <sub>Va</sub>	-1.137	-1.178	<b>-1.185</b>
O <sub>Vb</sub>	-1.137	-1.183	-1.186
O <sub>VIa</sub>	-1.132	-1.151	-1.155
O <sub>VIb</sub>	-1.132	-1.142	-1.155
O <sub>VIIa</sub>	-1.137	-1.183	-1.251
O <sub>VIIb</sub>	-1.137	-1.178	-1.175
O <sub>VIIc</sub>	-1.137	-1.123	-1.172

**Table S2.** Top views of structures related to water dissociation on the CLP of CeO<sub>2</sub>(111)-ideal, and the FLPs of CeO<sub>2</sub>(111)-O<sub>v</sub> and CeO<sub>2</sub>(111)-2O<sub>v</sub>.

Surface	Ce <sub>I</sub> -O <sub>IV</sub>	Ce <sub>I</sub> -O <sub>V</sub>	Ce <sub>I</sub> -O <sub>VI</sub>
CeO <sub>2</sub> (111)-ideal			
CeO <sub>2</sub> (111)-O <sub>v</sub>			
CeO <sub>2</sub> (111)-2O <sub>v</sub>			

**Table S3.** Bader charge population of surface atoms after water dissociation by CeO<sub>2</sub>(111).

Atom	Bader charge population / <i>e</i>		
	Ideal CeO <sub>2</sub> (111)	CeO <sub>2</sub> (111) with one oxygen vacancy	CeO <sub>2</sub> (111) with two oxygen vacancy
Ce <sub>I</sub>	<b>+2.351</b>	<b>+2.262</b>	<b>+2.251</b>
Ce <sub>IIIb</sub>	+2.244	+2.243	+2.269
Ce <sub>IIb</sub>	+2.245	+2.228	+2.274
Ce <sub>IIIa</sub>	+2.245	+2.234	+2.225
Ce <sub>IIIb</sub>	+2.242	+2.233	+2.203
Ce <sub>IVa</sub>	+2.238	+2.285	+2.274
Ce <sub>IVb</sub>	+2.239	+2.233	+2.269
O <sub>I</sub>	-1.085	/	/
O <sub>II</sub>	-1.094	-1.149	/
O <sub>III</sub>	-1.109	-1.145	-1.153
O <sub>IV</sub>	<b>-1.268</b>	<b>-1.270</b>	-1.158
O <sub>Va</sub>	-1.109	-1.169	<b>-1.305</b>
O <sub>Vb</sub>	-1.116	-1.145	-1.133
O <sub>VIa</sub>	-1.135	-1.144	-1.153
O <sub>VIb</sub>	-1.139	-1.140	-1.150
O <sub>VIIa</sub>	-1.139	-1.145	-1.181
O <sub>VIIb</sub>	-1.115	-1.127	-1.144
O <sub>VIIc</sub>	-1.116	-1.146	-1.168