

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### Electron Detachment Dynamics of $\text{Cu}^-(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n$ ( $n=1-3$ ):

#### A Direct Ab-initio MD study

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#### 1. Energy diagram of the system ( $n=1$ )

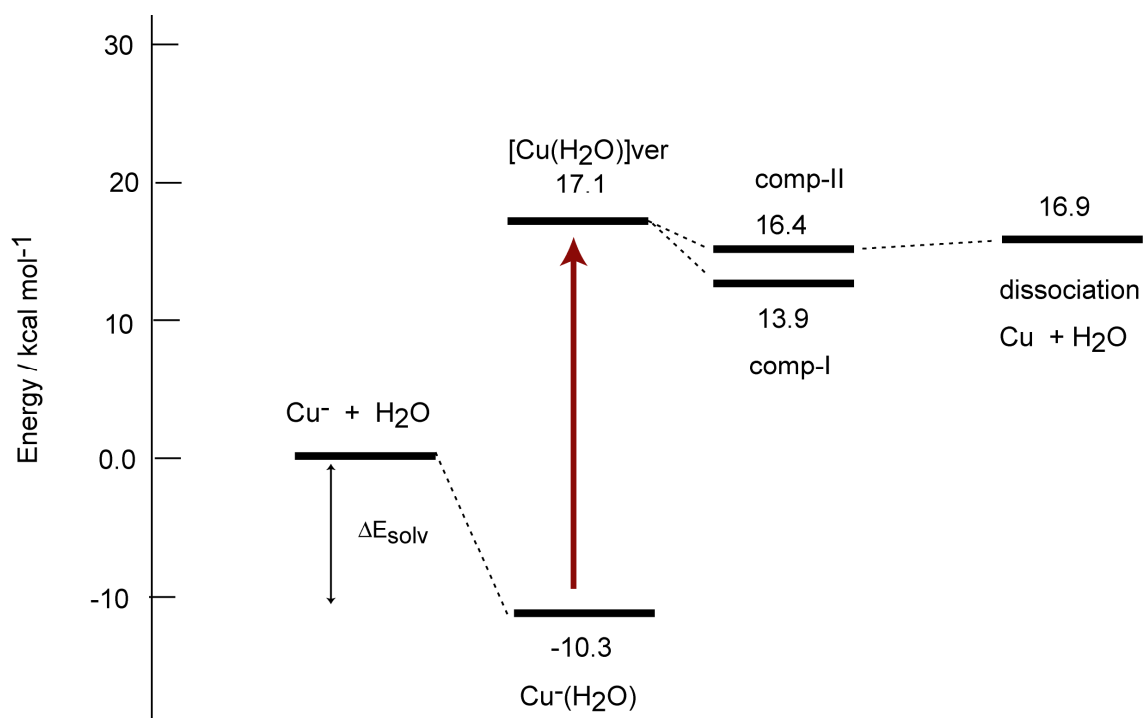


Figure S1. Energy diagram of  $\text{Cu}(\text{H}_2\text{O})$  system calculated at the MP2/6-311++G(2d,2p) level. Values indicate the relative energies in kcal/mol.

## 2. Electron capture dynamics of $\text{Cu}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n$ ( $n=1$ ).

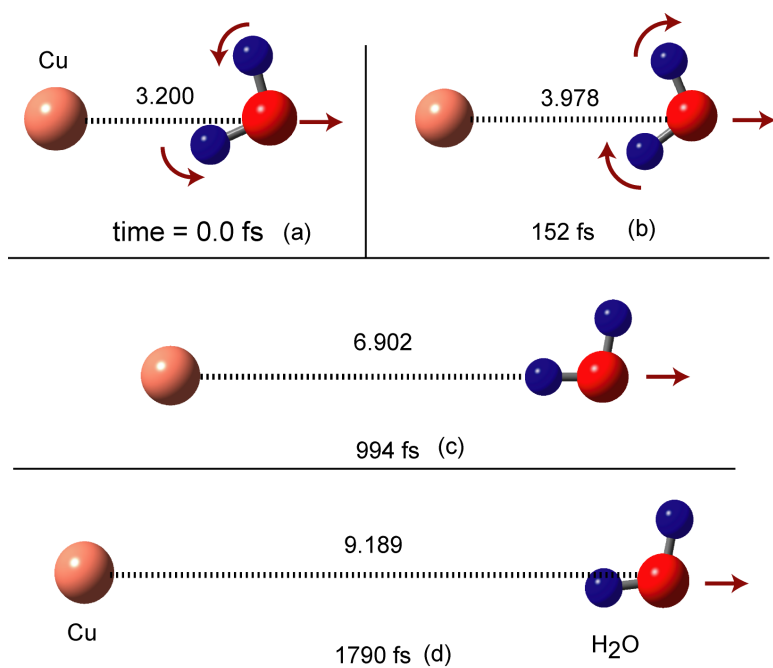


Figure S2. Snapshots of  $\text{Cu}(\text{H}_2\text{O})$  after the electron detachment obtained at the MP2/6-311++G(2d,2p) level. Values indicate bond distances in Å.

3. Electron capture dynamics of  $\text{Cu}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n$  ( $n=2$ ).

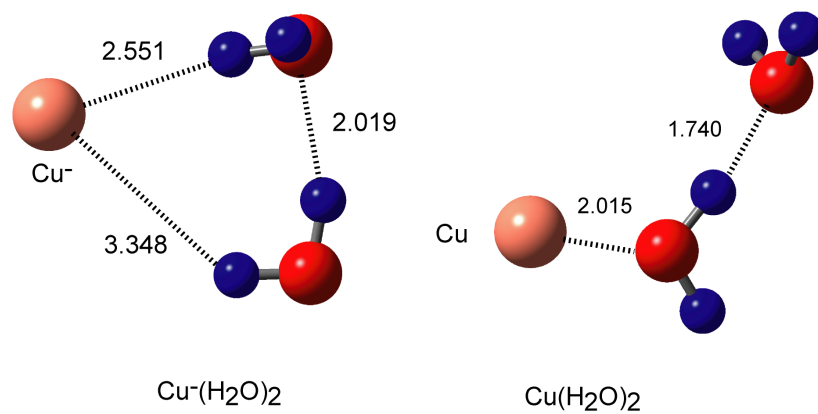


Figure S3. Optimized structures of  $\text{Cu}-(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n$  and  $\text{Cu}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n$  ( $n=2$ ) obtained at the MP2/6-311++G(2d,2p) level. Values indicate bond distances in Å.

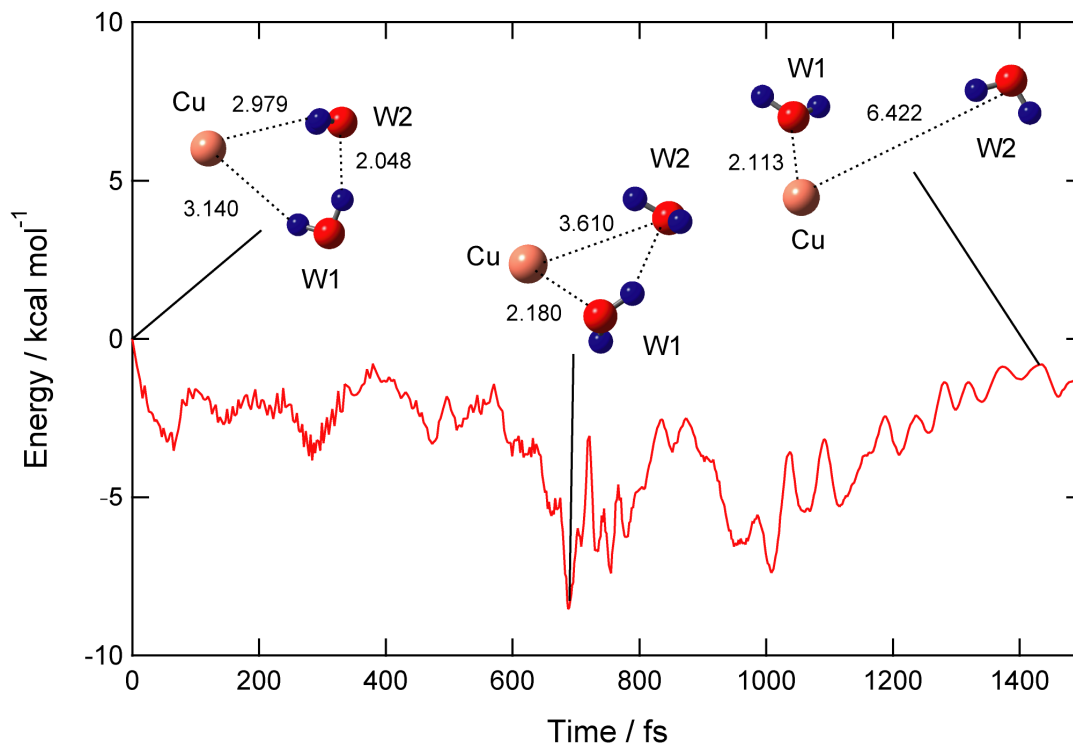


Figure S4. Time evolution of potential energy of the Cu(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub> (*n*=2) system and snapshots for electron detachment of Cu<sup>-</sup>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub> obtained by direct ab-initio MD calculation at the MP2/6-311++G(2d,2p) level. Values indicate bond distances between molecules in Å. Partial complex channel (products are CuH<sub>2</sub>O + H<sub>2</sub>O) was obtained as product channel.

4. Optimized structure of  $\text{Cu}^-(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n$  ( $n=3$ ).

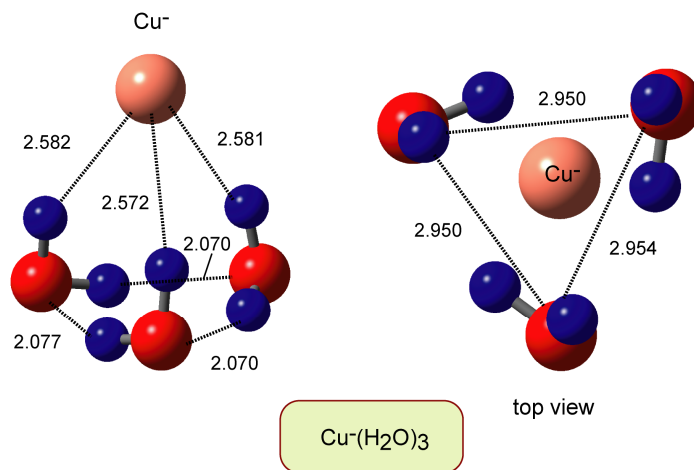


Figure S5. Optimized structures of  $\text{Cu}^-(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n$  ( $n=3$ ) obtained at the MP2/6-311++ G(2d,2p) level. Values indicate bond distances in Å.

4. Optimized structure of  $\text{Cu}^-(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n$  ( $n=6$ ).

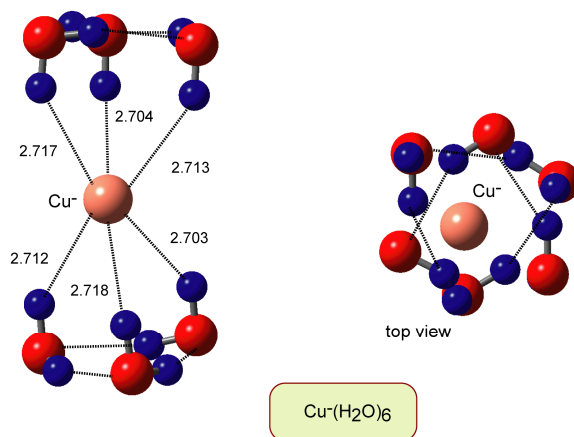


Figure S6. Optimized structures of  $\text{Cu}^-(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n$  ( $n=6$ ) obtained at the MP2/6-311++ G(2d,2p) level. Values indicate bond distances in Å.

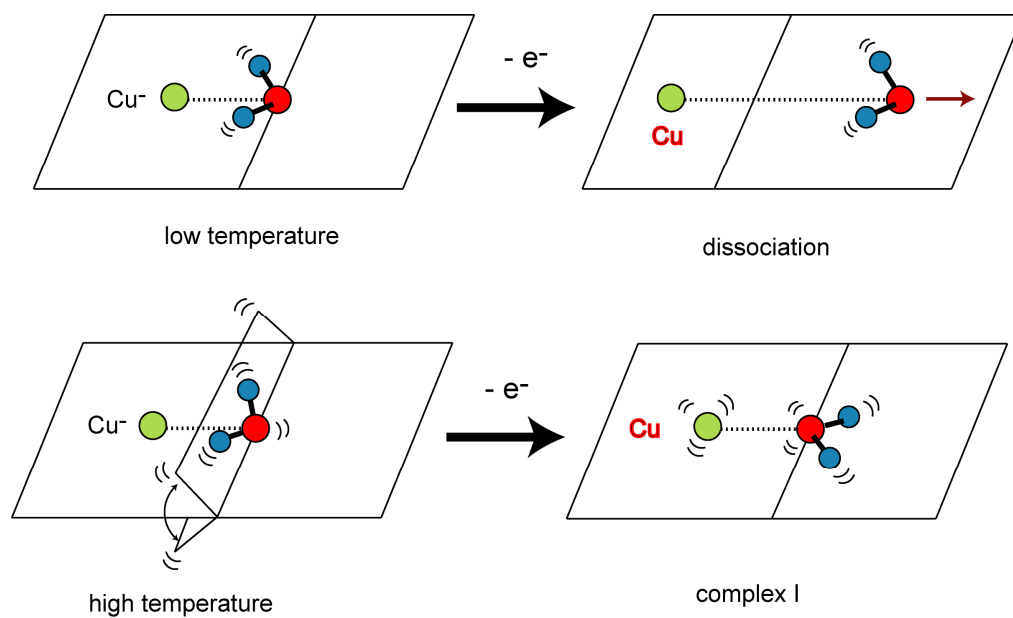


Figure S7. Model of temperature effect on the reaction channels.

Table S1. Optimized geometrical parameters of  $\text{Cu}^-(\text{H}_2\text{O})$  and  $\text{CuH}_2\text{O}$  calculated at the MP2, MP4SDQ, CCSD and QCISD/6-311++G(2d,2p) and QCISD/6-311++G(3df,3pd) levels of theory. Bond lengths and angles are in Å and in degrees, respectively.

		MP2	MP4SDQ	CCSD	QCISD	QCISD <sup>a</sup>	
$\text{Cu}^-(\text{H}_2\text{O})$	$\text{R}_1$	3.404	3.485	3.603	3.603	3.508	
	$\text{C}_s$	$\text{R}_2$	0.961	0.958	0.958	0.958	0.959
		$\text{R}_3$	0.974	0.969	0.966	0.966	0.968
	$\theta_1$	99.4	100.2	100.8	100.8	100.1	
	$\theta_2$	75.2	75.6	75.3	75.3	74.4	
$\text{Cu}(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{I})$	$\text{R}_1$	2.200	2.179	2.260	2.164	2.158	
	$\text{C}_s$	$\text{R}_2$	0.962	0.960	0.959	0.960	0.961
		$\theta_1$	105.2	105.5	105.4	105.6	105.3
		$\phi$	54.5	54.0	53.6	55.4	43.2
$\text{Cu}(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{II})$	$\text{R}_1$	3.965	3.956	4.137	4.019	3.908	
	$\text{R}_2$	0.960	0.958	0.957	0.958	0.959	
	$\text{R}_3$	0.958	105.5	0.956	0.957	0.957	
	$\theta_1$	104.0	54.0	104.5	104.4	104.2	

<sup>a</sup> Optimized geometry calculated at the QCISD/6-311++G(3df,3pd) level.

Table S1 (continue).

		QCISD <sup>a</sup>	Ref.10
Cu <sup>+</sup> (H <sub>2</sub> O)	R <sub>1</sub>	3.508	3.257
C <sub>s</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	0.959	0.964
	R <sub>3</sub>	0.968	0.986
	θ <sub>1</sub>	100.1	99.0
	θ <sub>2</sub>	74.4	
Cu(H <sub>2</sub> O)(I)	R <sub>1</sub>	2.158	2.068
C <sub>s</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	0.961	0.966
	θ <sub>1</sub>	105.3	105.3
	φ	43.2	
Cu(H <sub>2</sub> O)(II)	R <sub>1</sub>	3.908	3.520
	R <sub>2</sub>	0.959	0.965
	R <sub>3</sub>	0.957	0.962
	θ <sub>1</sub>	104.2	103.9

<sup>a</sup> Optimized geometry calculated at the QCISD/6-311++G(3df,3pd) level.



**Table 2.** Harmonic vibrational frequencies of  $\text{Cu}^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})$  and  $\text{CuH}_2\text{O}$  calculated at the MP2/6-311++G(2d,2p) level of theory. Zero point energies (ZPEs) are given in kcal/mol.

mode	$\text{Cu}^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})$	$\text{Cu}(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{I})$	$\text{Cu}(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{II})$
O-H asym	3874 (a')	3917 (a'')	3964 (a')
O-H sym	3601 (a')	3794 (a')	3841 (a')
H-O-H sci	1670 (a')	1649 (a')	1660 (a')
$\text{H}_2\text{O}$ bend	538 (a'')	392 (a'')	102 (a'')
Cu-OH <sub>2</sub> str	169 (a')	337 (a')	61 (a')
$\text{H}_2\text{Orot}$	96 (a')	157 (a')	33 (a')
ZPE	14.22	14.65	13.81

Vibrational frequencies of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  are calculated to be 3986, 3865, and 1660  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , and ZPE of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is 13.60 kcal/mol at the MP2/6-311++G(2d,2p) level.