

Supplementary Materials for  
**Lattice site–dependent metal leaching in perovskites toward a  
honeycomb-like water oxidation catalyst**

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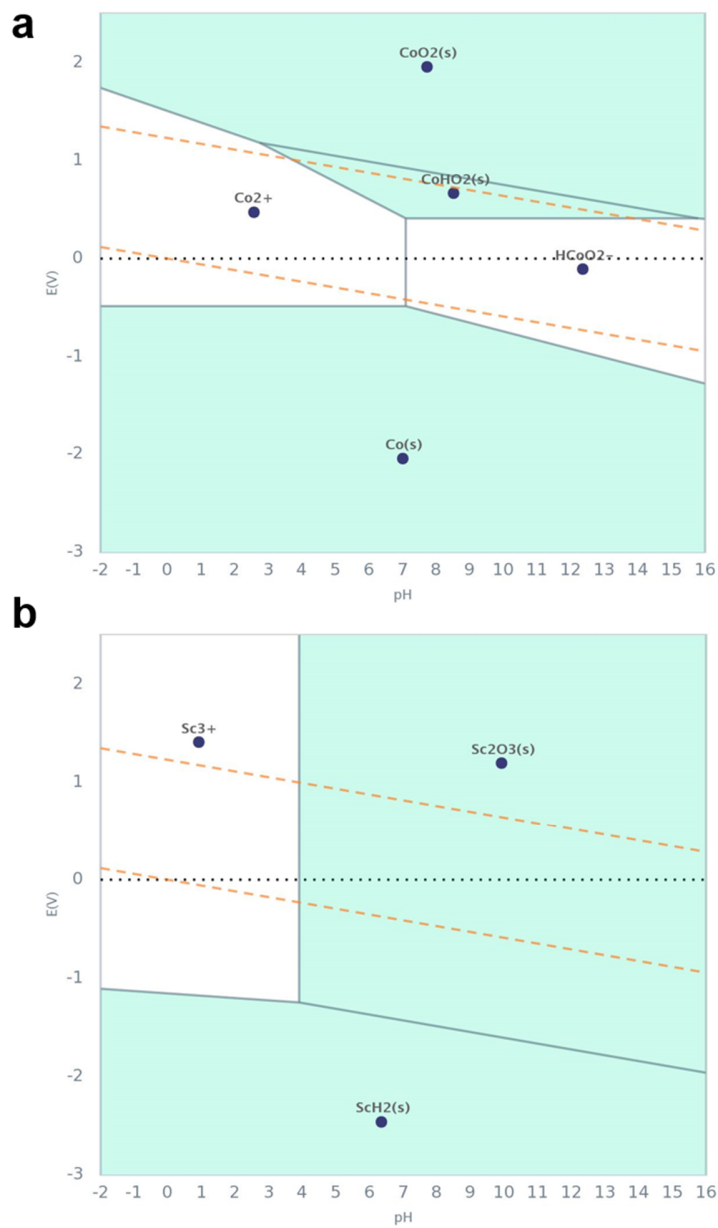
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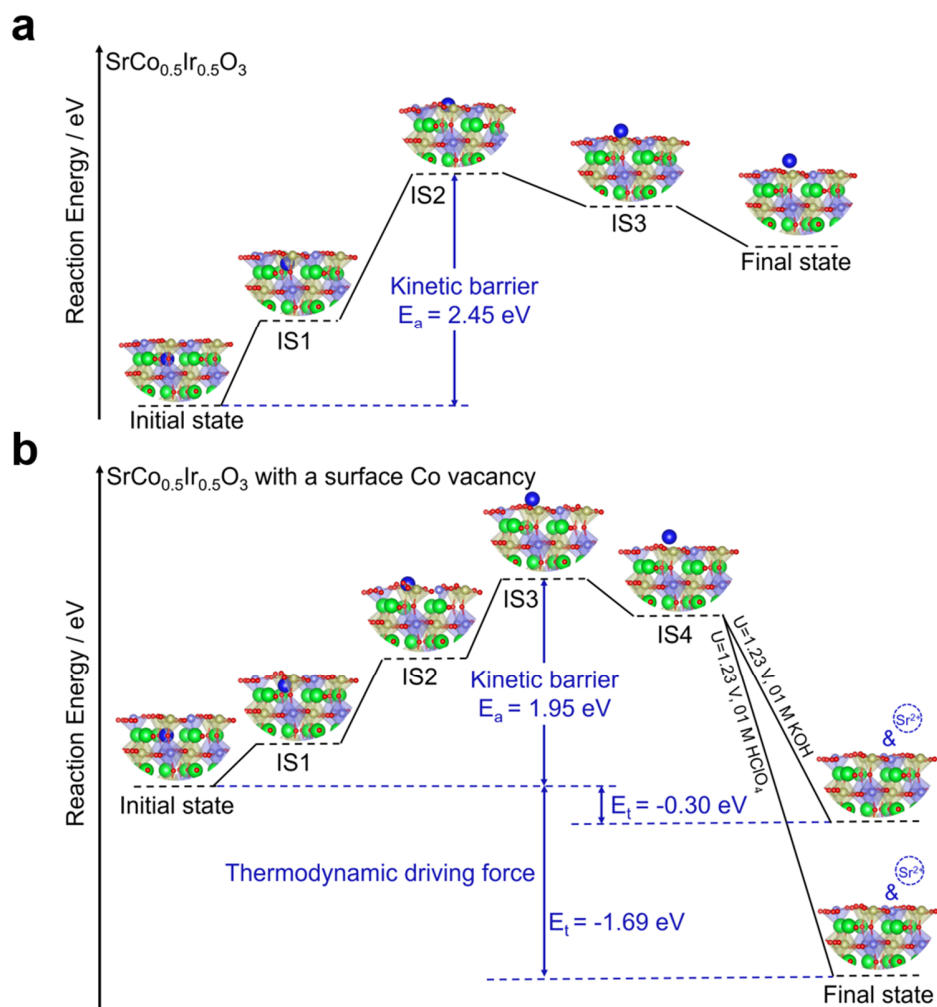
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References



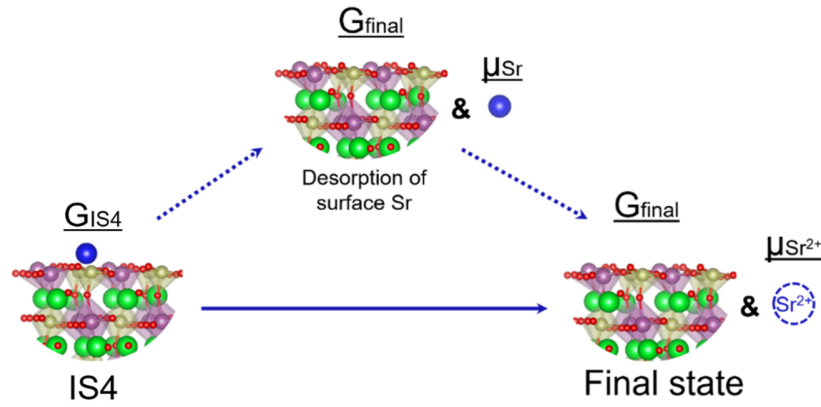
**Fig. S1.**

**Pourbaix Diagrams for cobalt and scandium** | The data are from the *materialsproject.org* and the concentration of ions is  $10^{-6}$  M. (63, 64) For Co (a), it is thermodynamically unstable at both high pH ( $HCoO_2^-$ ) values and low pH ( $Co^{2+}$ ) values. For Sc (b), it is thermodynamically stable at high pH ( $Sc_2O_3$ ) values but unstable at low pH ( $Sc^{3+}$ ) values.



**Fig. S2.**

**Theoretical prediction of  $\text{SrCo}_{0.5}\text{Ir}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  surface stability** | The energy diagrams that illustrate the dissolution of A-site (Sr) from the sub-surface of  $\text{SrCo}_{0.5}\text{Ir}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  without (**a**) and with (**b**) a B-site (Co) vacancy. We note that the dissolution of outer surface Sr into the electrolyte is not considered for  $\text{SrCo}_{0.5}\text{Ir}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  surface without Co vacancy. This is because that Co cannot be stable in either high or low pH values.



**Fig. S3.**

**Dissolution of outer-surface Sr** | The schematic for the dissolution of lattice Sr, from the outer-surface, into the electrolyte as  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  ion.

As shown in **Fig. S3**, the second stage of A-site Sr dissolution (IS4 to final state) includes two sub-steps. In the first sub-step, A lattice Sr, which migrates from the sub-surface to the outer surface, leaves the surface as a single atomic Sr. The free-energy change for this step ( $\Delta G_1$ ) can be expressed as

$$\Delta G_1 = G_{final} + \mu_{Sr} - G_{IS4} \quad (1)$$

The  $G_{IS4}$  and  $G_{final}$  are the free energies of the surfaces before and after the desorption of surface Sr, respectively.  $\mu_{Sr}$  is the chemical potential of the Sr atom. Such chemical potential is estimated by calculating the chemical potential of a Sr metal model, in which a face-centered cubic Sr crystal is constructed for calculation. The second sub-step is the dissolution of atomic Sr into the electrolyte ( $\text{Sr} = \text{Sr}^{2+} + 2e^-$ ). The free-energy change for the dissolution ( $\Delta G_2$ ) can be expressed as

$$\Delta G_2 = \mu_{\text{Sr}^{2+}} + 2\mu_{e^-} - \mu_{Sr} \quad (2)$$

$\mu_{\text{Sr}^{2+}}$  and  $\mu_{e^-}$  are the chemical potential of  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  and  $e^-$ . The  $\Delta G_1$  for the first step is calculated based on DFT. The calculation details are discussed in the method. The  $\Delta G_2$  is calculated with the standard hydrogen electrode as the reference.(29) Under the operational condition, the chemical potential of  $\mu_{\text{Sr}^{2+}}$  and  $\mu_{e^-}$  can be correlated to the standard states by

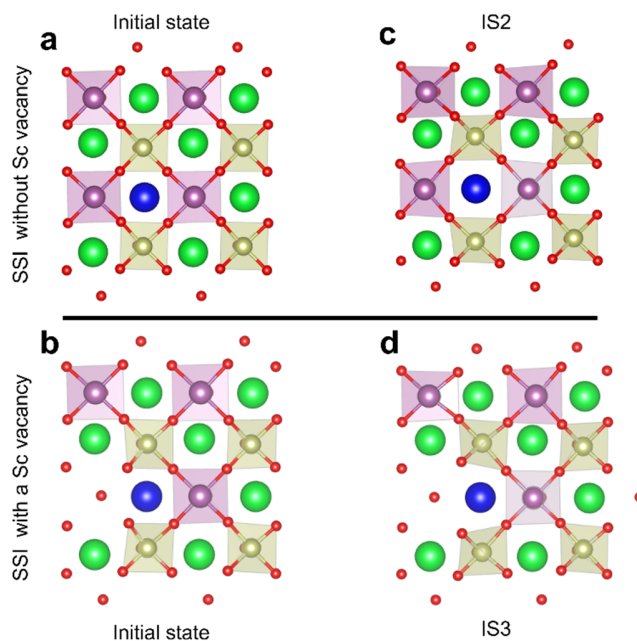
$$\mu_{\text{Sr}^{2+}} = \mu_{\text{Sr}^{2+}}^\circ + kT \ln a_{\text{Sr}^{2+}} \quad (3)$$

$$\mu_{e^-} = \mu_{e^-}^\circ - eU_{SHE} \quad (4)$$

Substitution of the above two equations into equation (2) gives

$$\Delta G_2 = \Delta G_{SHE}^\circ - 2eU_{SHE} + kT \ln a_{\text{Sr}^{2+}} \quad (5)$$

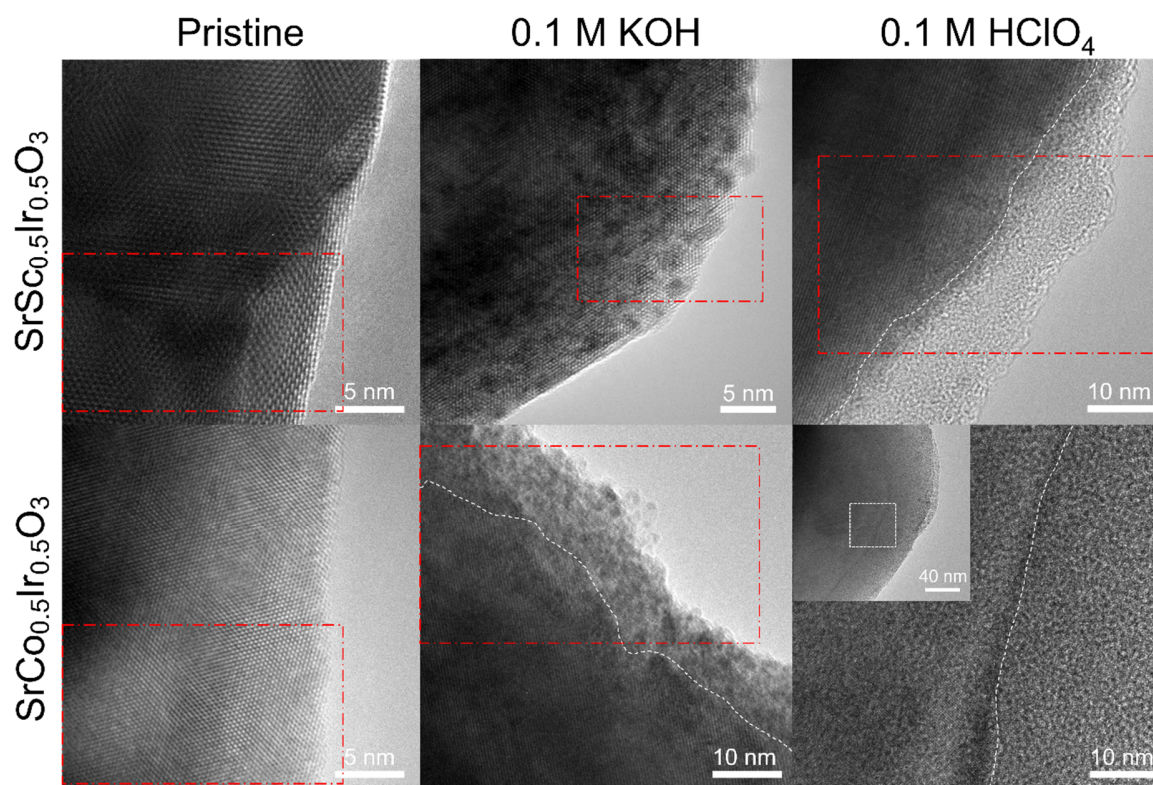
, where  $\Delta G_{SHE}^\circ$  and  $a_{\text{Sr}^{2+}}$  are standard hydrogen electrode free energy of Sr and the  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  ion concentration. For Sr, the  $\Delta G_{SHE}^\circ$  value is -5.8 eV and the  $a_{\text{Sr}^{2+}}$  is fixed at  $10^{-6}$  M.(65)



**Fig. S4.**

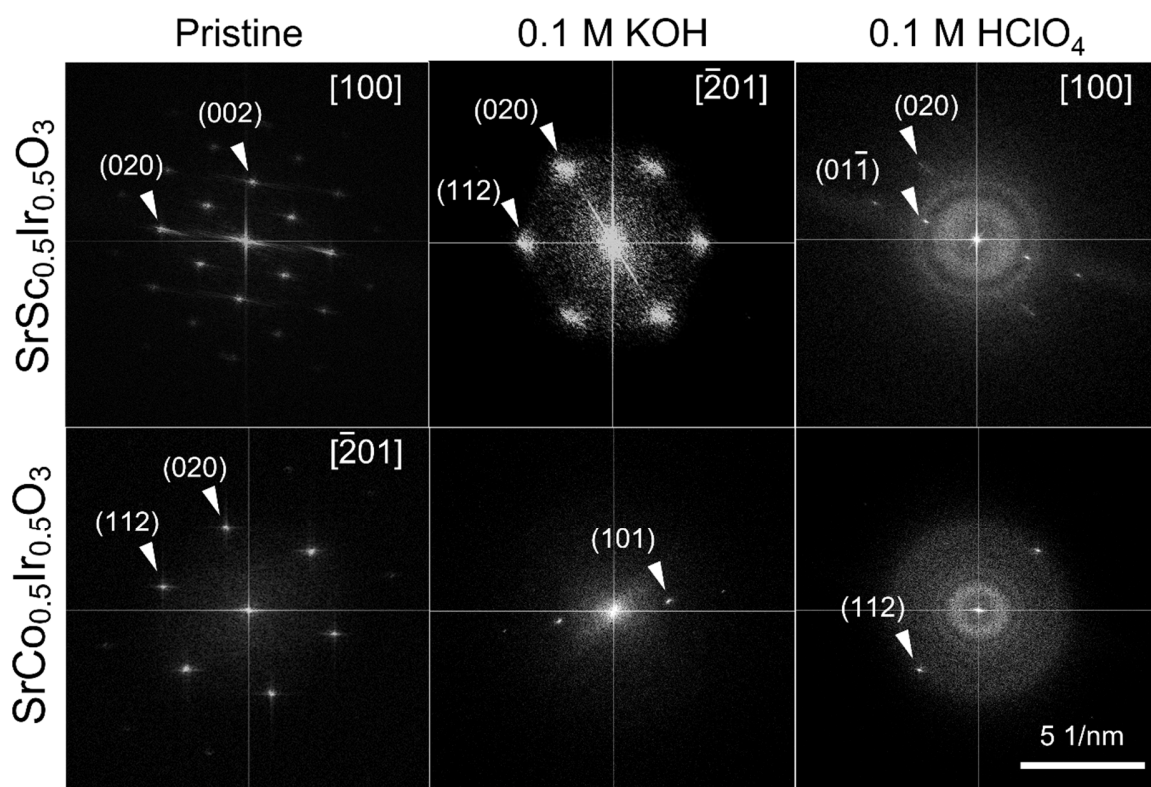
**Migration of lattice Sr from sub-surface to outer-surface** | The top view of the initial (**a&b**) and intermediate states (**c&d**) of model SSI with and without a Sc vacancy. For a better expression, only two atom layers of surface B-site layer and sub-surface A-site layer are shown. The intermediate state 2 (IS2) and intermediate state 3 (IS3) are selected for SSI and SSI with an Sc vacancy, respectively.

The Sr will move through an aperture constructed by four (**Fig. S4c** without Sc vacancy) or three (**Fig. S4d** with an Sc vacancy) surface corner-shared BO5 square pyramids. Due to the large ionic size of Sr, the surface atoms must relax substantially to allow the migration of Sr, hinting at the existence of steric hindrance for Sr migration. This is reflected in the distorted BO5 square pyramids in IS2 from SSI and IS3 from SSI with an Sc vacancy. Due to the existence of an Sc vacancy, the BO5 square pyramids in **Fig. S4d** can distort more freely to make more space available for Sr migration. As a result, a lower kinetic barrier for Sr migration is found from the SSI with an Sc vacancy.



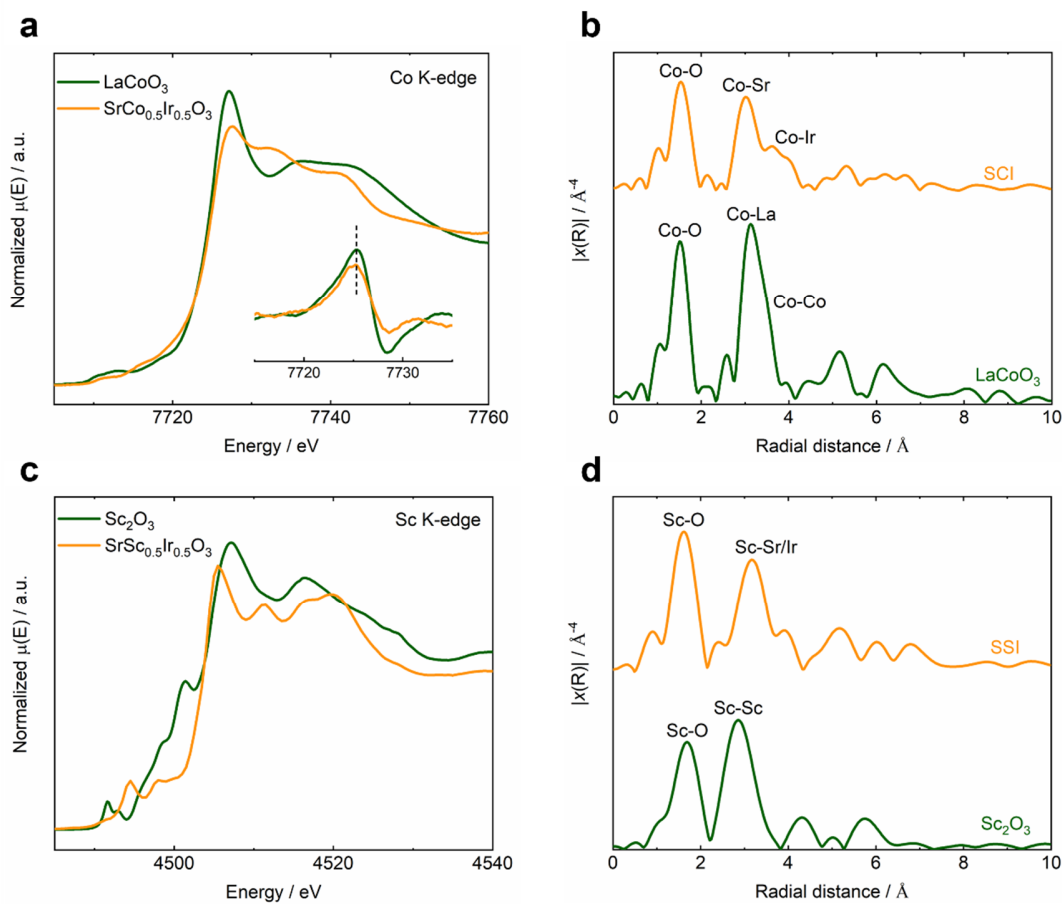
**Fig. S5.**

**Crystal structure of perovskite surfaces** | HR-TEM images of the surface crystal structure of two model perovskites before (pristine) and after cycling in 0.1 M KOH and 0.1 M HClO<sub>4</sub>. The regions highlighted in red are enlarged and presented in the main text.



**Fig. S6.**

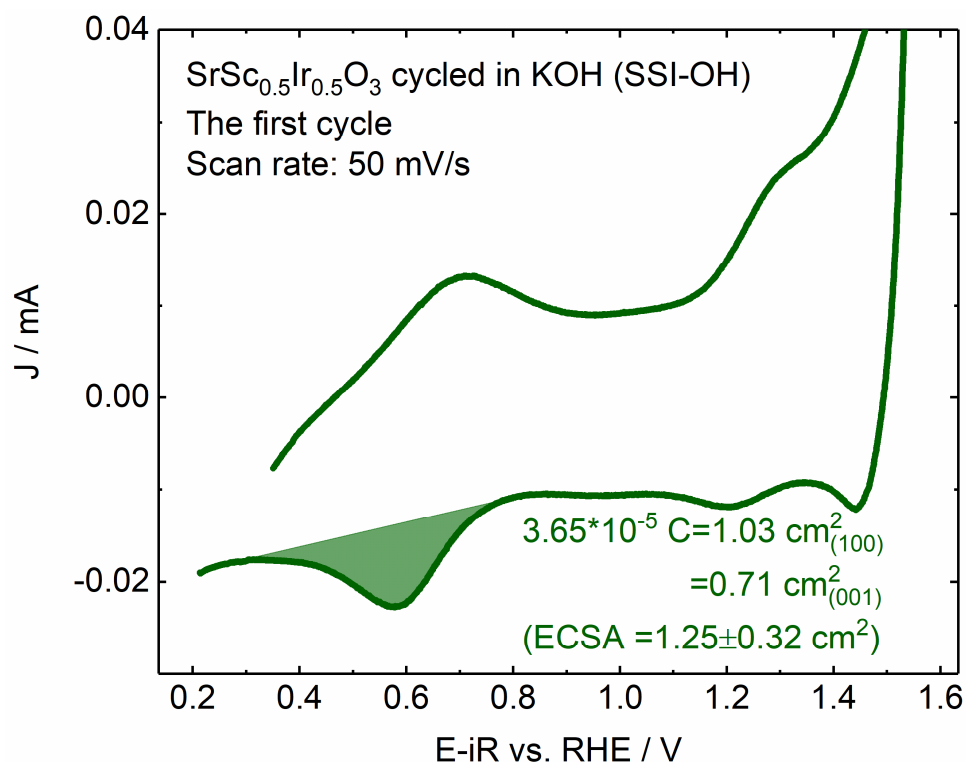
**Index of perovskite surface structures** | The corresponding FFT images of the TEM images in Fig. S5.



**Fig. S7.**

**Status of Co and Sc in perovskite structure** | The Co K-edge XANES spectra (a) and EXAFS spectra (b) from LaCoO<sub>3</sub> and SrCo<sub>0.5</sub>Ir<sub>0.5</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. The inset in (a) is the corresponding first derivative. The Sc K-edge XANES spectra (c) and EXAFS spectra (d) from Sc<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and SrSc<sub>0.5</sub>Ir<sub>0.5</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. As shown in **Fig. S7a**, the positions of the white line from LaCoO<sub>3</sub> and SCI are close to each other, confirming that the trivalent Co is dominant in SCI. The Co is demonstrated in SCI perovskite structure as the featured peaks of Co-Sr and Co-Ir, related to SCI perovskite structure, can be identified in **Fig. S7b**. From the normalized Sc K-edge XANES spectra (**Fig. S7c**), the profile of Sc K-edge XANES spectra from SSI is much different from the case in Sc<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, hinting that the Sc can be in a perovskite structure. This is because that the profile of Sc K-edge XANES spectra is found highly sensitive to the local structural environment.<sup>(66)</sup> The Sc from SSI in perovskite structure is further demonstrated by the corresponding EXAFS spectra in **Fig. S7d**. The peak of Sc-Sr, related to perovskite structure, can be observed.



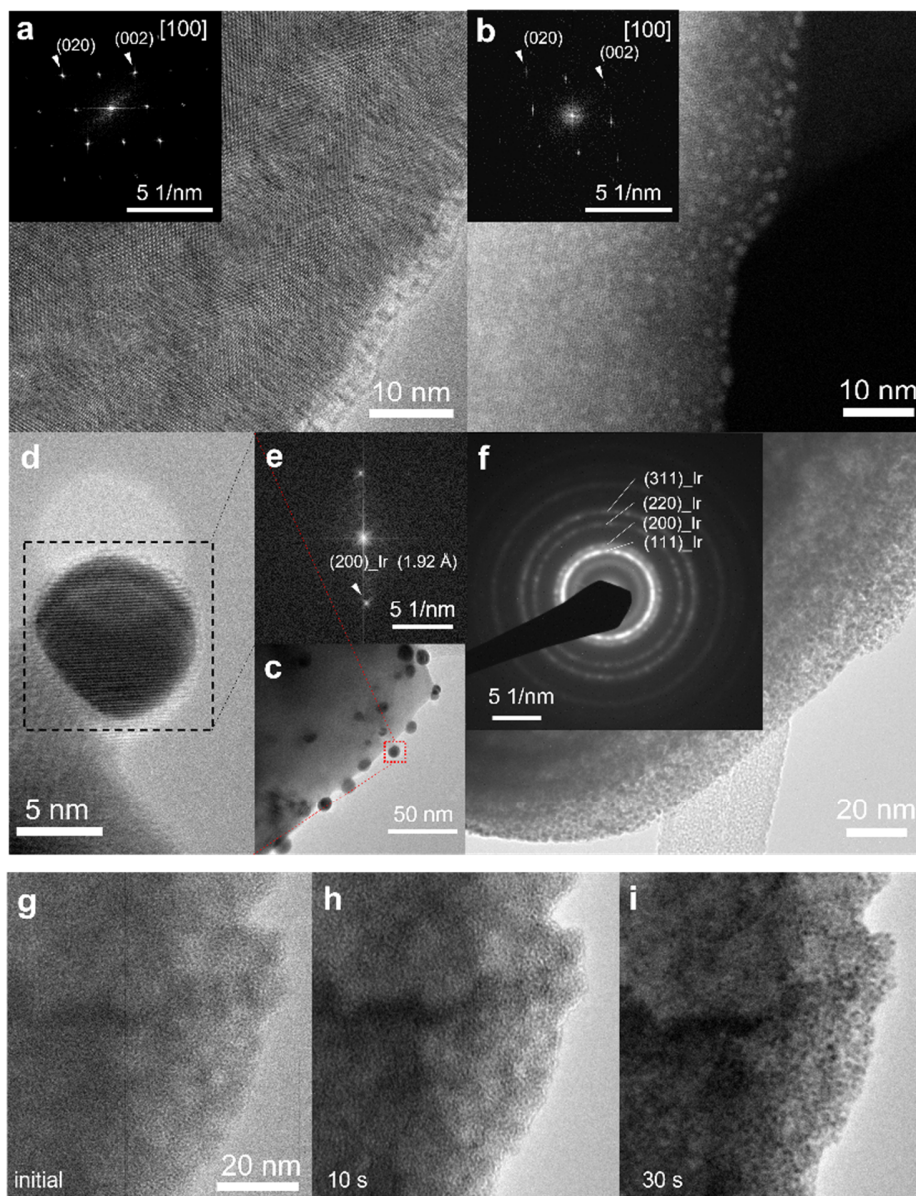


**Fig. S8.**

**Estimation of the electrochemical surface area of SSI-OH** | The first CV cycle of  $\text{SrSc}_{0.5}\text{Ir}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  in alkaline condition (SSI-OH). The conversion of redox charge to surface area is realized with the Ir atom density in crystallized perovskite surface with different exposed facets. The surface Ir density ( $\rho_{\text{Ir}}$ ) is  $2.217 \times 10^{14} \text{ Ir/cm}^2$  and  $3.225 \times 10^{14} \text{ Ir/cm}^2$  for the (100) facet and (001) facet, respectively. The corresponding surface area ( $A$ ) can be calculated with

$$A = \frac{Q}{e \times \rho_{\text{Ir}}}$$

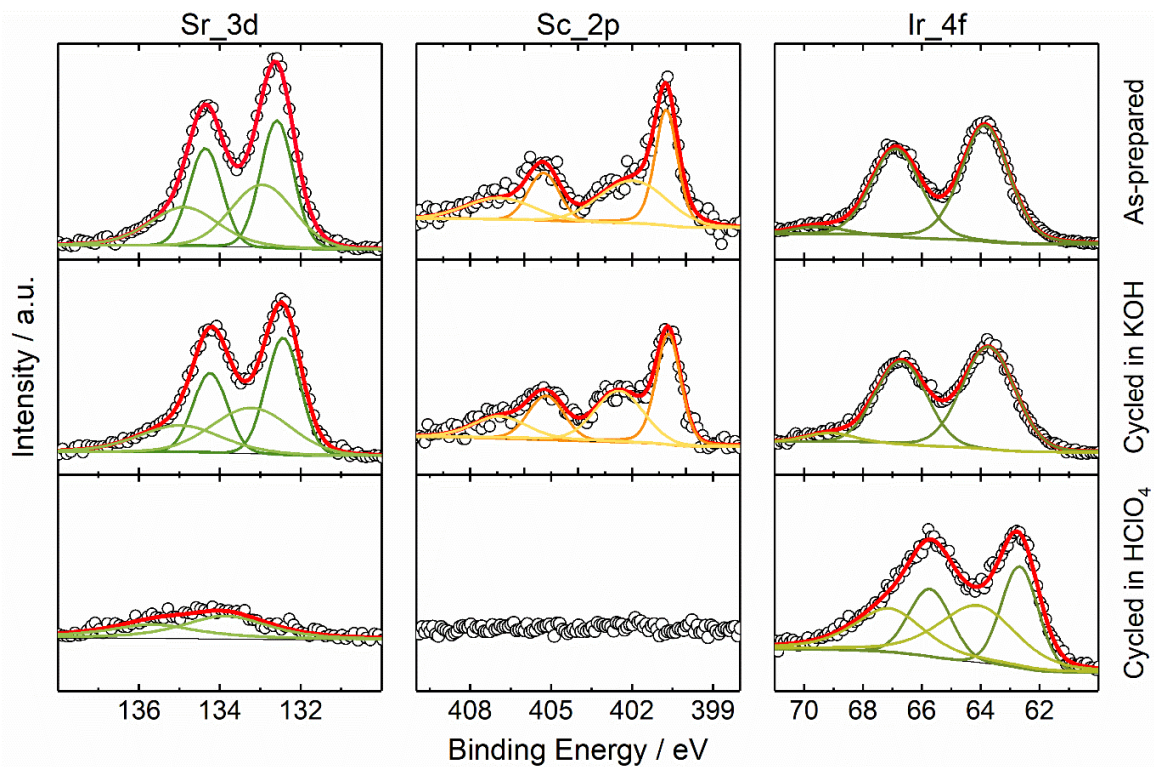
Where  $Q$  is the integral charge from redox peak ( $\text{Ir}^{4+}$  to  $\text{Ir}^{3+}$ ),  $e$  is the charge of a single electron. The calculated surface area is  $1.03 \text{ cm}^2$  and  $0.71 \text{ cm}^2$  for the (100) facet and (001) facet, respectively. These two surface areas are close to the measured ECSA of  $1.25 \pm 0.32 \text{ cm}^2$  from impedance analysis (**Fig. S12**), indicating that only the Ir from the outer perovskite surface is involved.



**Fig. S9.**

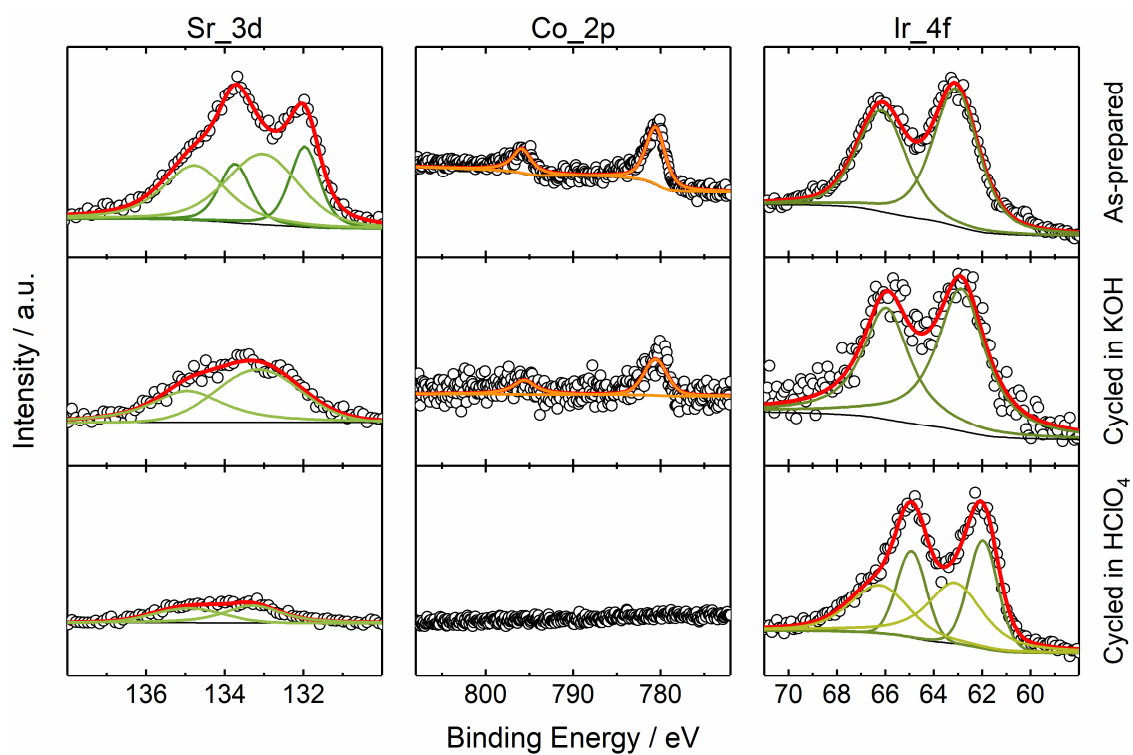
**The evolution of Ir nanoparticles from perovskite surfaces** | The HR-TEM (a) and STEM (b) image of the pristine  $\text{SrCo}_{0.5}\text{Ir}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  with electron beam illumination. Insets are the corresponding FFT images. (c) The TEM image of the  $\text{SrCo}_{0.5}\text{Ir}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  surface with the formation of nanoparticles. (d) The local structure of the nanoparticle. The corresponding FFT image (e) can be indexed with Ir metal. (f) The TEM image of the  $\text{SrCo}_{0.5}\text{Ir}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  cycled in acid. After electron beam illumination, many nanoparticles evolved from the reconstructed amorphous surface. The inset is the SAED pattern from the surface region. This SAED pattern can also be indexed with Ir metal, confirming the electron beam illumination induces the formation of Ir nanoparticles. (g-i) The evolution of TEM images taken from the reconstructed surface of  $\text{SrCo}_{0.5}\text{Ir}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  cycled in acid. Images were taken initially, 10 s and 30 s. It can be found that, after approximately 30s of electron beam exposure, numerous black Ir nanoparticles evolve.

Note that apart from electron beam induced formation of Ir nanoparticles, the reconstructed perovskite surfaces from SCI-OH, SSI-H, and SCI-H in this work are strictly amorphous. Nevertheless, the strict amorphization or formation of Ir/IrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles at the surface of Ir-based perovskite oxides is under debate.<sup>(13, 16, 25, 33)</sup> For example, the formation of rutile IrO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles have been reported from the reconstructed surfaces of a pseudocubic SrIrO<sub>3</sub> (with corner-shared IrO<sub>6</sub> octahedrons) thin films. It is found that IrO<sub>2</sub>-related nanocrystallites form in five anodic cycles but disappear when the number of anodic cycles increases to 130.<sup>(16)</sup> However, with similar electrochemical tests, the reconstructed surface of a polycrystalline monoclinic SrIrO<sub>3</sub> (with mixed edge-/corner-shared octahedrons) is strictly amorphous and no nanocrystallites can be observed.<sup>(13, 16)</sup> Given their identical composition, the much difference in crystal structure may account for the formation of reconstructed surfaces with different properties. This deduction is also supported by another work, in which the reconstructed Ir-based surface is found to be more active if the IrO<sub>6</sub> octahedrons are corner-shared in the initial perovskite structure.<sup>(13)</sup> In this study, the IrO<sub>6</sub> octahedrons in the initial SCI and SSI are also corner-shared. However, the IrO<sub>2</sub>-related nanocrystallites cannot be found over the reconstructed surfaces. It is possible that the presence of foreign B-site metals (Co and Sc) prohibits the evolution of rutile IrO<sub>2</sub>.



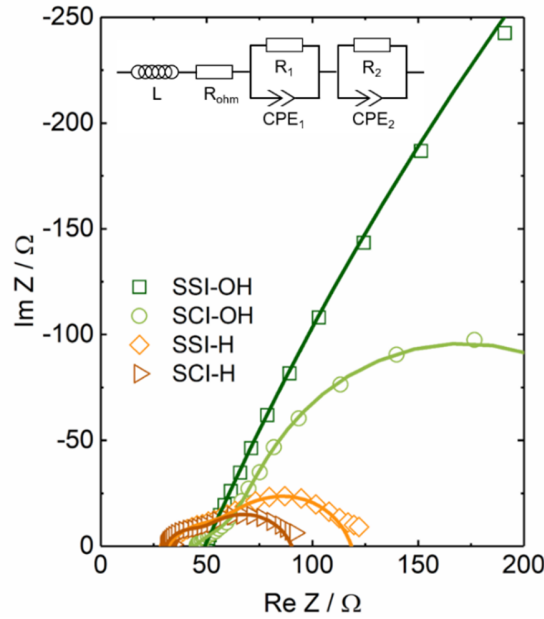
**Fig. S10.**

**Variation of SSI surface composition** | The XPS spectra from as-prepared SSI, SSI cycled in KOH, and SSI cycled in HClO<sub>4</sub>. The fitting parameters are listed in **Table S4**.



**Fig. S11.**

**Variation of SCI surface composition** | The XPS spectra from as-prepared SCI, SCI cycled in KOH, and SCI cycled in HClO<sub>4</sub>. The fitting parameters are listed in **Table S5**.



**Fig. S12.**

**Calculation of ECSA with EIS** | Three comprehensive impedance spectra from SSI-OH, SCI-OH, SSI-H, and SCI-H. The tests are performed at a potential of 1.5 V vs. RHE. Specifically, during the CV tests, the corresponding electrochemical impedance measurements are conducted at the beginning (after 2 CV cycles) for SSI-OH and after 50 CV cycles for SCI-OH, SSI-H, and SCI-H. This is because that the OER current in the initial CV cycles of SSI-OH is originated from the near-ideal SSI perovskite surface and the OER currents in the final CV cycles of the other three samples are originated from the fully reconstructed surface. Inset is the equivalent circuit ( $LR_{ohm}(R_1//CPE_1)(R_2//CPE_2)$ ) for identifying the charge transfer process and diffusion process. The  $L$  and  $R_{ohm}$  represent the inductance and ohmic resistance of the testing system, respectively. The parallel  $R_1//CPE_1$  and  $R_2//CPE_2$  correspond to the charge transfer process and diffusion process, respectively. Specifically, in the charge transfer process, the  $R_1$  is the charge transfer resistance and the  $CPE_1$ , a constant phase element, is used in place of a capacitor to compensate for non-homogeneity in the system.

The CPE can be expressed as

$$Z_{CPE} = \frac{1}{T(Iw)^P}$$

Where  $T$  is frequency-independent constant with the unit of  $F s^{(P-1)} m^{-2}$ ,  $I$  is the square root (-1),  $w$  is the angular frequency of the AC signal, and  $P$  is a parameter ranging from 0 to 1. The electrochemical double-layer capacitance can be obtained with the equation of (41)

$$C = \left( T \left( \frac{1}{R_{ohm}} + \frac{1}{R_1 + R_2} \right)^{P-1} \right)^{1/P}$$

The electrochemical surface area can be calculated with

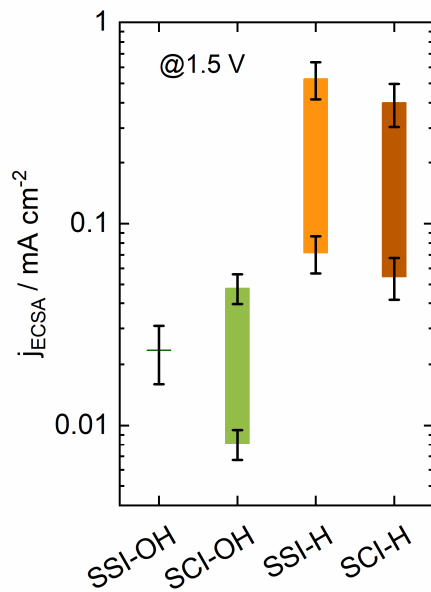
$$ECSA = \frac{C}{C_s}$$

The  $C_s$  is the specific capacitance of the sample. The selection of specific capacitance is discussed in “Additional discussion of  $C_s$  selection”.

### **Additional discussion of $C_s$ selection**

In **Fig. 4b** of the main text, a typical specific capacitance of  $0.4 \text{ F m}^{-2}$  is used for estimating the ECSA for SSI-OH, SCI-OH, SSI-H, and SCI-H. This value is an average specific capacitance, which is derived from the reported specific capacitances of various metallic surfaces.<sup>(2)</sup> The estimated ECSA based on this typical specific capacitance for activity normalization can be fairly reliable. This specific capacitance is demonstrated proper for SSI-OH with a stable surface. This is because that the estimated ECSA is close to the area estimated with redox charge (**Fig. S8**). For SCI-OH, SSI-H, and SCI-H with reconstructed amorphous surfaces, a similar specific capacitance is expected. For instance, with the standard specific capacitance of  $0.4 \text{ F m}^{-2}$ , the normalized OER current densities of SSI-H and SCI-H are close to each other (**Fig. 4b**). This corresponds well with the conclusion that a similar phase is formed over their reconstructed surfaces (**Fig. S19**). Nevertheless, for SCI-OH, SSI-H, and SCI-H with reconstructed surfaces, using such a specific capacitance of  $0.4 \text{ F m}^{-2}$  may induce under- or over-estimated intrinsic activity.

Based on the literature reports, the specific capacitance of metal electrodes can change from  $0.15 \text{ F m}^{-2}$  to  $1.1 \text{ F m}^{-2}$  in  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  and from  $0.22 \text{ F m}^{-2}$  to  $1.3 \text{ F m}^{-2}$  in NaOH and KOH electrolytes.<sup>(2)</sup> For rutile  $\text{IrO}_2$ , a specific capacitance of  $1.3 \text{ F m}^{-2}$  is also reported.<sup>(41)</sup> Thus, we also check the ECSA-normalized OER current densities with the consideration of specific capacitance variation (**Fig. S13**). For SCI-OH, specific capacitances from  $0.22 \text{ F m}^{-2}$  to  $1.3 \text{ F m}^{-2}$  are considered. For SSI-H and SCI-H, specific capacitances from  $0.15 \text{ F m}^{-2}$  to  $1.1 \text{ F m}^{-2}$  are considered.

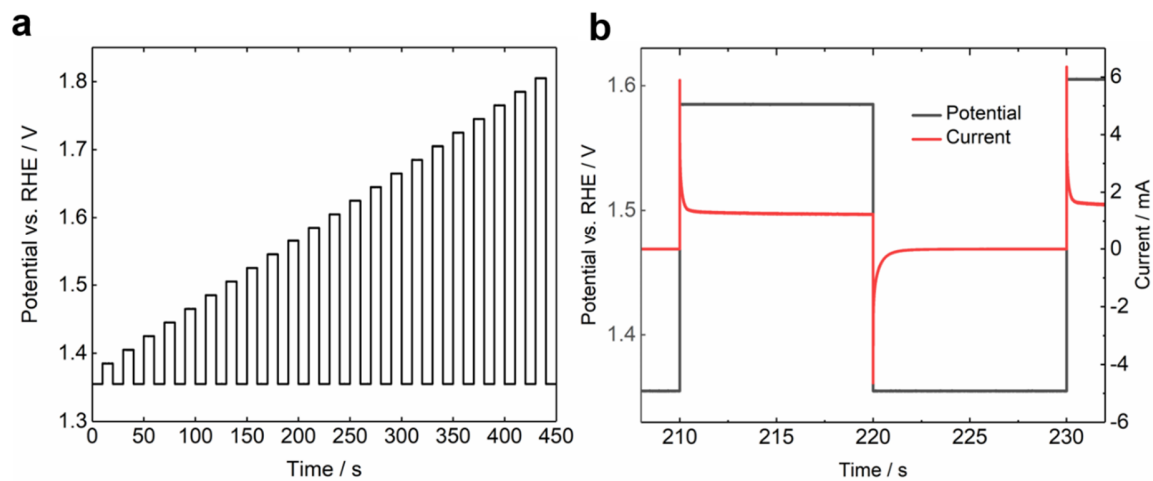


**Fig. S13.**

**OER currents with the consideration of  $C_s$  variation** | The OER current (normalized to ECSA) densities at 1.5 V from all four samples. The ECSA is calculated with the consideration of  $C_s$  variation.

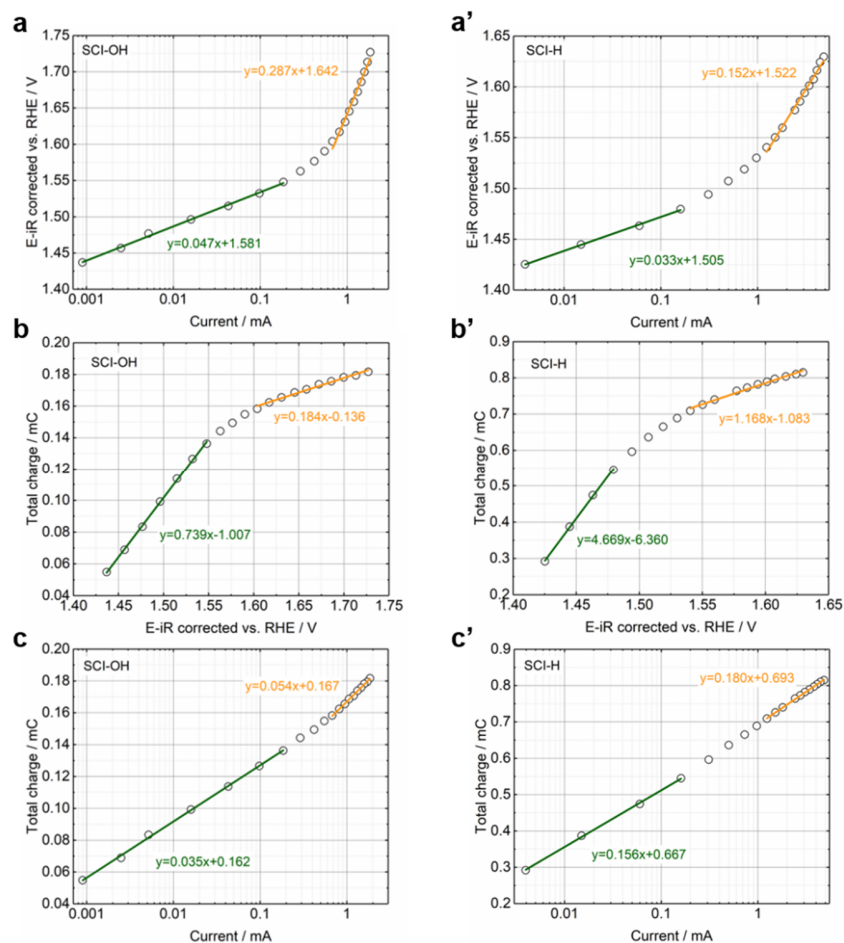
Irrespective of large error induced by specific capacitance, the intrinsic current densities of SSI-H and SCI-H are substantially higher than the intrinsic current densities of SSI-OH and SCI-OH, confirming the promoting effect of surface reconstruction and the importance of B-site metal leaching.





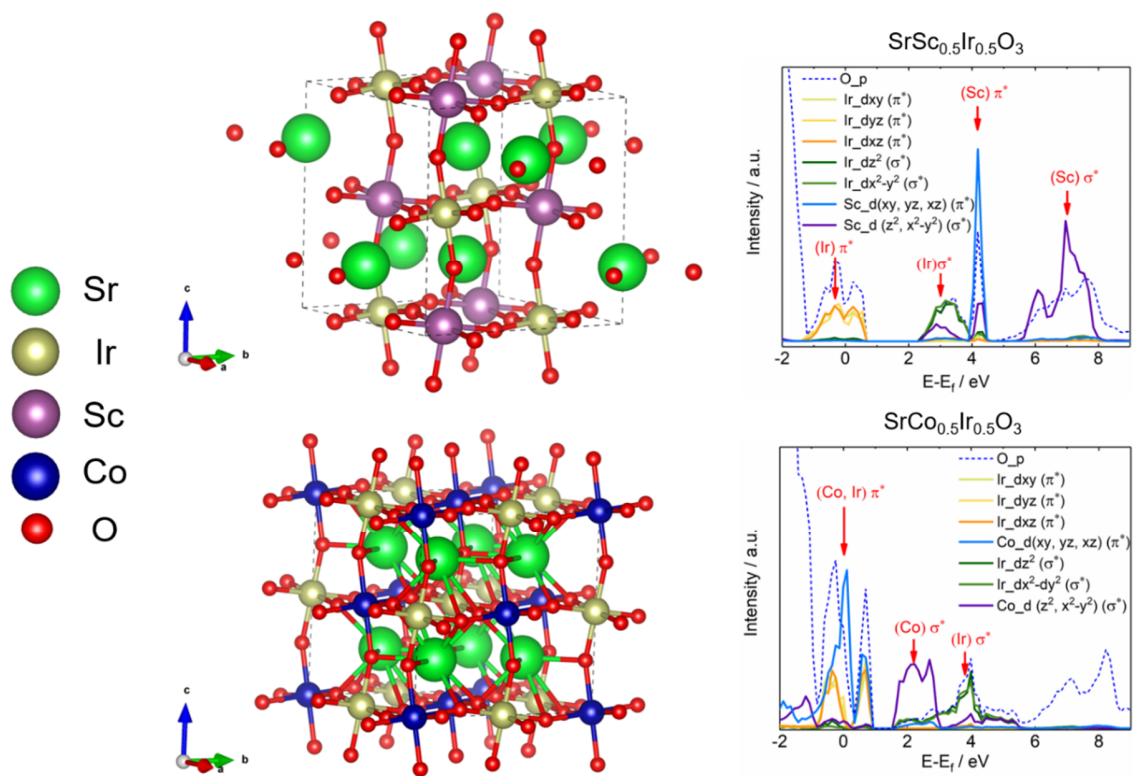
**Fig. S14.**

**Details of pulse voltammetry protocol** | (a), The potential step applied in pulse voltammetry protocol. The potential vs. RHE changes between 1.35 V (cathodic) and 1.42 V to 1.8 V (anodic). The potential holds for 10 s for each step. (b), The current response of a typical anodic and cathodic section. The OER current is from the SCI-H.



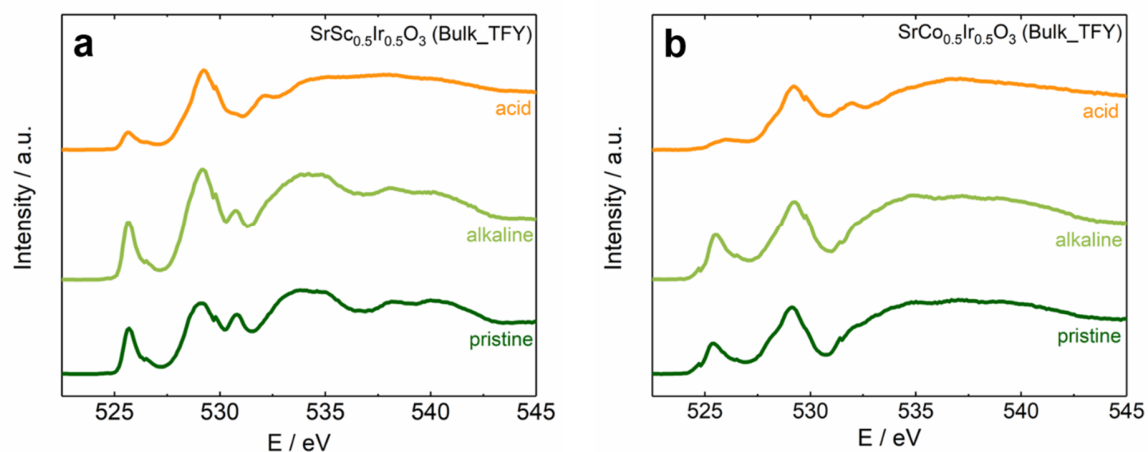
**Fig. S15.**

**Correlations between current response and total charge** | The measured current response and total charge of SCI-OH (**a-c**) and SCI-H (**a'-c'**) from pulse voltammetry. (**a&a'**), The Tafel plots of potential (iR corrected vs. RHE) vs. logarithm of OER current. For SCI-OH with A-site cation leaching, the bending starts at a potential of  $\sim 1.55$  V. For SCI-H with additional B-site cation leaching, the bending starts at a potential of  $\sim 1.48$  V. (**b&b'**), The total charge (integral cathodic charge) vs. potential (iR corrected vs. RHE). (**c&c'**), The total charge vs. logarithm of OER current.



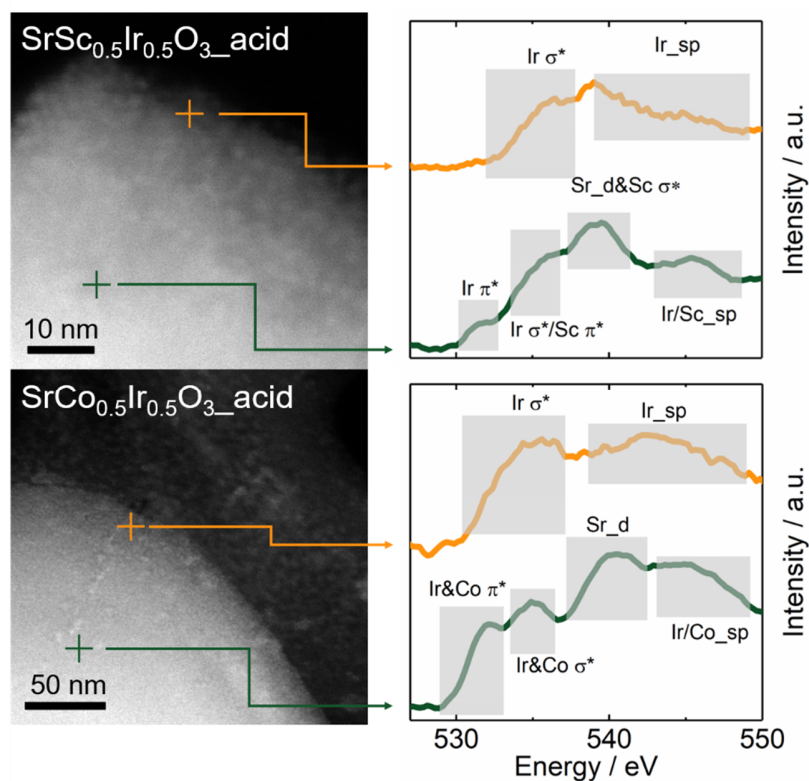
**Fig. S16.**

**Calculated electronic structures of model perovskites** | The crystal structure of SrSc<sub>0.5</sub>Ir<sub>0.5</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and SrCo<sub>0.5</sub>Ir<sub>0.5</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and the corresponding PDOS of Ir<sub>d</sub> and O<sub>p</sub> states.



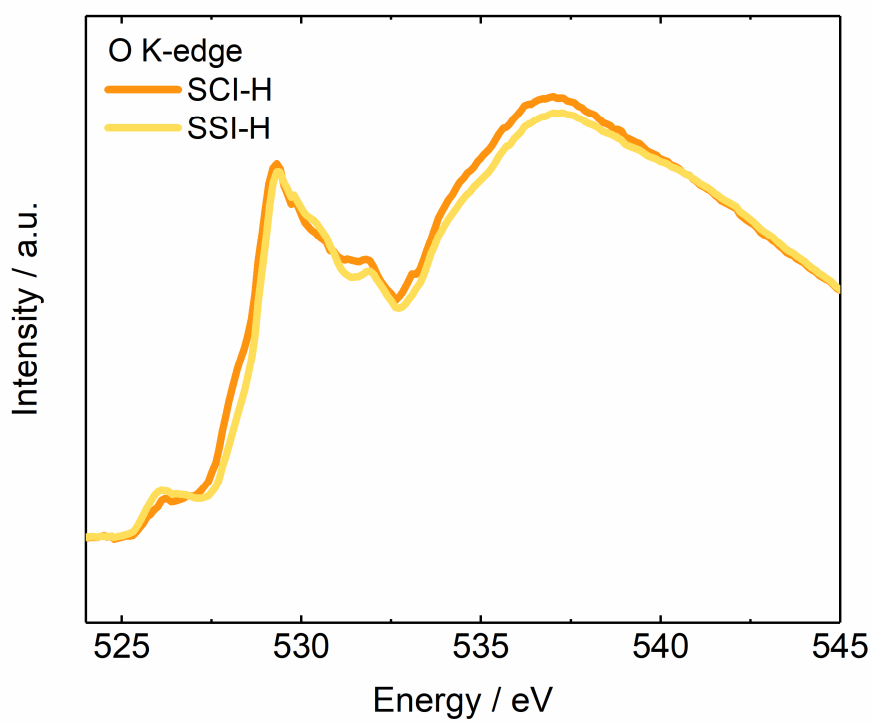
**Fig. S17.**

**Measured O K-edge spectra from perovskite bulk** | The O K-edge spectra from the pristine and electrochemically cycled  $\text{SrSc}_{0.5}\text{Ir}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  (**a**) and  $\text{SrCo}_{0.5}\text{Ir}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  (**b**). These XAS tests are performed in the total fluorescence yield model (TFY), which is more bulk sensitive compared with the XAS tests in the TEY model (**Figure 5**). The spectra from both samples, cycled in acid, are different from the ones from pristine samples. This corresponds well with the TEM results (**Fig. S5**) that the perovskite surface regions thoroughly reconstructed with increased depth in acid.



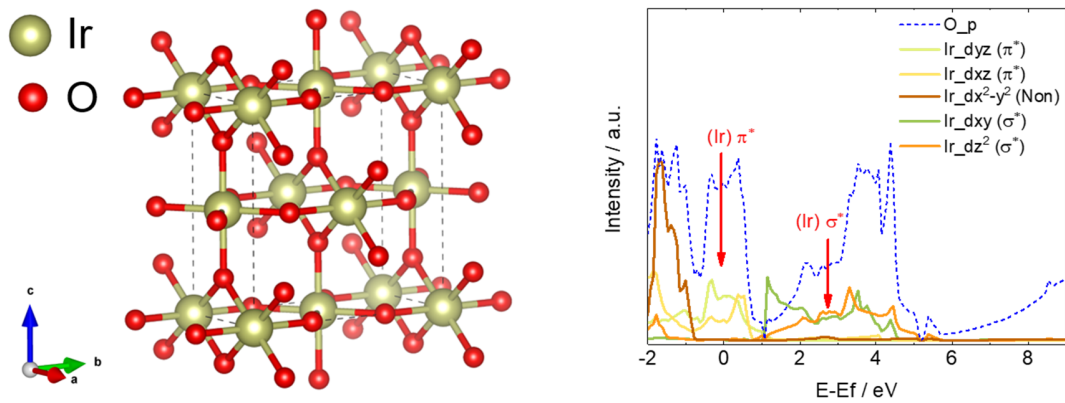
**Fig. S18.**

**Measured O K-edge spectra from perovskite bulk and reconstructed surface** | The O K-edge spectra of  $\text{SrSc}_{0.5}\text{Ir}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{SrCo}_{0.5}\text{Ir}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  from STEM-EELS analysis. Both samples are electrochemically cycled in 0.1 M  $\text{HClO}_4$ , and the signals are collected from either crystallized bulk or reconstructed outer surface. After surface reconstruction, the featured pre-edge peaks, related to  $\pi^*$ , cannot be observed. This should be related to its greatly reduced intensity (**Figure 5e-f**), which makes the collection of corresponding EELS signals difficult.



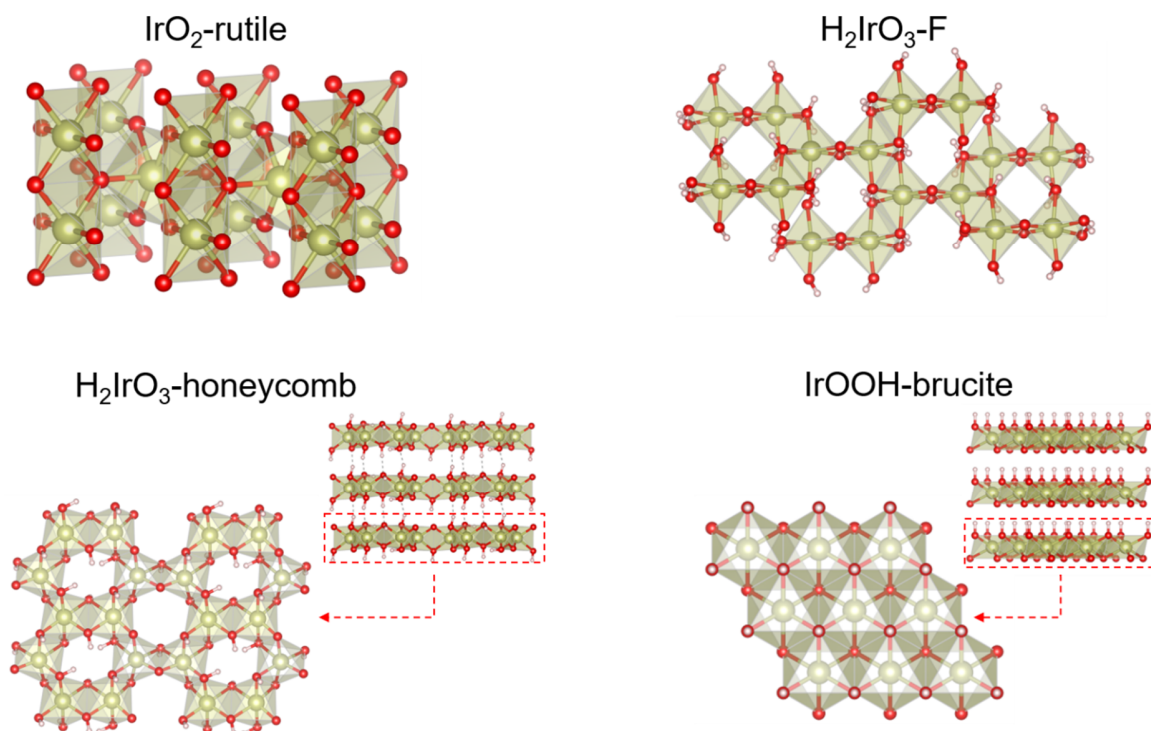
**Fig. S19.**

**Comparison of O K-edge spectra** | The O K-edge spectra from the reconstructed surfaces of SSI-H and SCI-H.



**Fig. S20.**

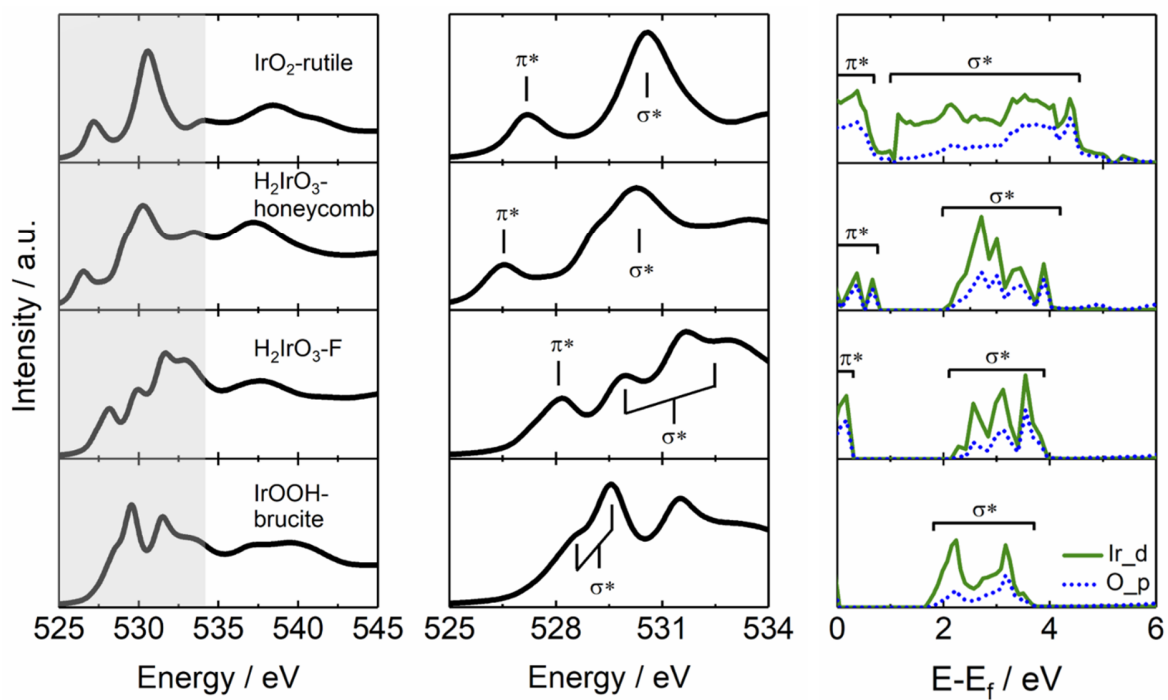
**Calculated electronic structures of rutile IrO<sub>2</sub>** | The crystal structure of IrO<sub>2</sub> and the corresponding PDOS of Ir\_d and O\_p states. The calculated PDOS is close to the one reported by Tobias Reier et al.(24)



**Fig. S21.**

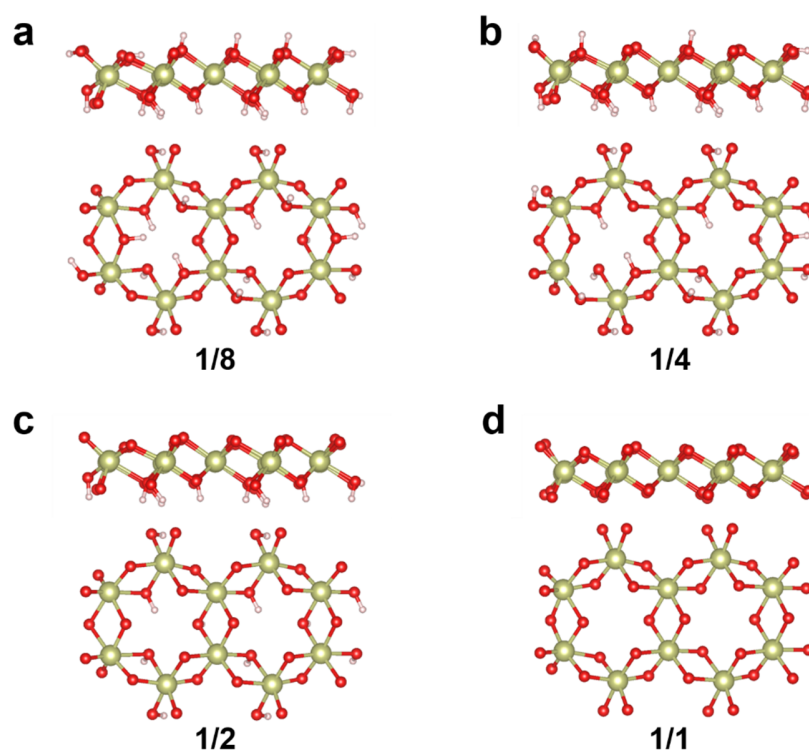
**Possible structural motifs** | A series of possible structures for the IrO<sub>x</sub>H<sub>y</sub> phase from the reconstructed perovskite surface. Based on the XAS results, four possible structures of IrO<sub>2</sub>-rutile, H<sub>2</sub>IrO<sub>3</sub>-honeycomb, H<sub>2</sub>IrO<sub>3</sub>-F, and IrOOH-brucite are considered. Because the oxidation state of Ir in IrO<sub>x</sub>H<sub>y</sub> is close to 4 and the material should be electric neutrality, the value of  $x$  and  $y$  should fulfill the equation of  $4 + y = 2x$ . If  $x = 2$ , the stoichiometry is IrO<sub>2</sub>. In this case, the IrO<sub>2</sub> with a rutile structure is possible. If  $x \geq 3$ , the proton should exist in the bulk. That is the formation of Ir-based (oxy)hydroxide. However, till now, only a layered IrOOH, with Ir<sup>3+</sup>, has been reported.<sup>(67)</sup> Considering that Lithium should be the element most close to a proton, we turn to find more possible structures from the Li-Ir-O system.  $\alpha$ -Li<sub>2</sub>IrO<sub>3</sub> (space group:  $C 12/m1$ ) and  $\beta$ -Li<sub>2</sub>IrO<sub>3</sub> (space group:  $F ddd$ ) are found to be constructed with edge-shared IrO<sub>6</sub> octahedrons. Thus, replacing Li with H, we proposed H<sub>2</sub>IrO<sub>3</sub>-honeycomb (from  $\alpha$ -Li<sub>2</sub>IrO<sub>3</sub>) and H<sub>2</sub>IrO<sub>3</sub>-F (from  $\beta$ -Li<sub>2</sub>IrO<sub>3</sub>) can be another two possible structures for the reconstructed perovskite surface. Additionally, the reported IrOOH-brucite is considered even though its bulk activity is just comparable with the rutile IrO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>(49)</sup> This is because, in previous studies on perovskite surface reconstruction, the reconstructed surfaces are also considered to be transition metal oxyhydroxides, which are active toward OER.





**Fig. S22.**

**Simulated O K-edge spectra and electronic structures of possible structural motifs** | The simulated O K-edge spectra (left column) from IrO<sub>2</sub>-rutile, H<sub>2</sub>IrO<sub>3</sub>-honeycomb, H<sub>2</sub>IrO<sub>3</sub>-F, and IrOOH-brucite. The featured pre-edge peaks (middle column) are indexed with the corresponding PDOS (right column).



**Fig. S23.**

**Deprotonation of the honeycomb  $\text{H}_2\text{IrO}_3$**  | The surface structures of the honeycomb  $\text{H}_2\text{IrO}_3$  at different (from  $1/8$  to  $1/1$ ) deprotonation stages.

**Table S1.**

The calculated free energies (eV) of different surfaces.

		Initial state	IS1	IS2	IS3	IS4	Final state
Sr(Sc <sub>0.5</sub> Ir <sub>0.5</sub> )O <sub>3</sub>	No Sc vacancy	-825.83	-825.49	-822.80	-823.32	-823.84	-818.11
	With Sc vacancy	-812.30	-811.86	-810.29	-810.11	-810.69	-810.69
Sr(Co <sub>0.5</sub> Ir <sub>0.5</sub> )O <sub>3</sub>	No Co vacancy	-807.67	-807.21	-805.22	-805.49	/	805.86*
	With Co vacancy	-800.32	-800.12	-799.22	-798.37	-798.80	-791.87

\*The Final state for Sr(Co<sub>0.5</sub>Ir<sub>0.5</sub>)O<sub>3</sub> with no Co vacancy is a surface with a Sr adsorbed on the outer surface.

**Table S2.**

Refined structure information.

	SrSc <sub>0.5</sub> Ir <sub>0.5</sub> O <sub>3</sub>			SrCo <sub>0.5</sub> Ir <sub>0.5</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	
Space group	<i>P 1 21/n 1</i>			<i>I 1 2/m 1</i>	
a(Å)	5.6439(3)			5.5338(2)	
b(Å)	5.6407(3)			5.5477(1)	
c(Å)	7.9968(2)			7.8436(2)	
	<b>Sr</b>				
Wyckoff site	4i (0.487(7), 0.495(2), 0.232(0))			4i (0.504(1), 0, 0.249(0))	
Occ.	1			1	
U <sub>iso</sub> (Å <sup>2</sup> )	0.0142			0.0203	
	<b>Sc</b>			<b>Co</b>	
Wyckoff site	2c (0, 1/2, 0)		2d (1/2, 0, 0)	2a (0, 0, 0)	2d (0, 0, 1/2)
Occ.	0.887(1)		0.113(1)	0.860(3)	0.140(3)
U <sub>iso</sub> (Å <sup>2</sup> )	0.0261		0.0261	0.0361	0.0183
	<b>Ir</b>			<b>Ir</b>	
Wyckoff site	2c (0, 1/2, 0)		2d (1/2, 0, 0)	2a (0, 0, 0)	2d (0, 0, 1/2)
Occ.	0.113(1)		0.887(1)	0.140(3)	0.860(3)
U <sub>iso</sub> (Å <sup>2</sup> )	0.0261		0.0261	0.0361	0.0183
	<b>O*</b>				
Wyckoff site	4e (0.248(10), 0.265(9), -0.017(4))	4e (0.258(10), 0.738(10), -0.050(3))	4e (0.433(3), -0.009(11), 0.247(2))	4i (0.013(6), 0, 0.246(5))	8j (0.205(3), 0.282(3), 0.020(2))
Occ.			1		
U <sub>iso</sub> (Å <sup>2</sup> )			0.025		
	R <sub>p</sub> =4.45% R <sub>wp</sub> =5.83% Chi <sup>2</sup> =1.720			R <sub>p</sub> =3.22% R <sub>wp</sub> =4.07% Chi <sup>2</sup> =1.296	

\*During the refinement, for O, the values of site occupancy and U<sub>iso</sub> are constrained to be 1 and 0.025 Å<sup>2</sup>, respectively.

**Table S3.**Fitting parameters of the Fourier-transformed  $k^3$ -weighted Ir L<sub>III</sub>-edge EXAFS. (k-range 3-12)

	<b>Ir-O (Å)</b>	<b>CN *</b>	<b><math>\sigma^2</math> (Å<sup>2</sup>) **</b>	<b><math>\Delta E_0</math> ***</b>
SSI_pristine	1.953(0.006)	6.0(0.4)	0.0011(0.0008)	15.18(0.80)
SCI_pristine	1.950(0.007)	6.1(0.5)	0.0016(0.0009)	14.72(0.91)
SCI-H	1.973(0.006)	6.4(0.4)	0.0041(0.0009)	14.99(0.75)
IrO <sub>2</sub>	1.983(0.005)	6.0(0.4)	0.0019(0.0006)	14.13(0.63)

\* **CN**: Coordination number\*\*  **$\sigma^2$** : Debye-Waller factor.\*\*\*  **$\Delta E_0$** : Energy shift

**Table S4.**Fitting parameters of the XPS results from SrSc<sub>0.5</sub>Ir<sub>0.5</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

	Sr*				Sc				Ir			
<b>As prepared</b>	3d <sub>5/2</sub>	3d <sub>3/2</sub>	3d <sub>5/2</sub>	3d <sub>3/2</sub>	2p <sub>3/2</sub>	2p <sub>1/2</sub>	2p <sub>3/2</sub>	2p <sub>1/2</sub>	4f <sub>7/2</sub>	4f <sub>5/2</sub>	satellite	
Peak position	132.6	134.4	133.1	134.9	400.7	405.3	402.0	406.5	63.9	66.9	69.5	/
FWHM	0.98	0.98	2.22	2.22	0.99	1.36	2.97	3.51	1.92	1.99	2.15	
<b>Cycled in KOH</b>	3d <sub>5/2</sub>	3d <sub>3/2</sub>	3d <sub>5/2</sub>	3d <sub>3/2</sub>	2p <sub>3/2</sub>	2p <sub>1/2</sub>	2p <sub>3/2</sub>	2p <sub>1/2</sub>	4f <sub>7/2</sub>	4f <sub>5/2</sub>	satellite	
Peak position	132.5	134.2	133.3	135.0	400.7	405.2	402.5	406.91	63.7	66.7	69.1	/
FWHM	1.03	1.03	2.42	2.42	1.08	1.54	2.11	2.36	2.13	2.04	1.85	
<b>Cycled in HClO<sub>4</sub></b>	3d <sub>5/2</sub>	3d <sub>3/2</sub>							4f <sub>7/2</sub>	4f <sub>5/2</sub>	4f <sub>7/2</sub>	4f <sub>5/2</sub>
Peak position	133.9	135.7							62.7	65.7	64.1	67.1
FWHM	2.52	2.72	/						1.48	1.69	3.11	2.83

\*Considering the spin-orbit splitting, a relative area ratio of 2:3, 1:2, and 3:4 is considered for the doublets in Sr\_3d, Sc (Co)\_2p, and Ir\_4f, separately. Spin-orbit splitting of 3 eV is considered for the doublets in Ir\_4f. A Shirley background was applied during the fitting. All peaks are described as the convolution of Gaussian and Lorentzian functions.

**Table S5.**Fitting parameters of the XPS results from SrCo<sub>0.5</sub>Ir<sub>0.5</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

	Sr				Co		Ir			
<b>As prepared</b>	3d <sub>5/2</sub>	3d <sub>3/2</sub>	3d <sub>5/2</sub>	3d <sub>3/2</sub>	2p <sub>3/2</sub>	2p <sub>1/2</sub>	4f <sub>7/2</sub>	4f <sub>5/2</sub>		
Peak position	132.0	133.7	132.9	134.7	780.6	795.9	63.1	66.2		/
FWHM	0.82	0.82	2.5	2.5	2.68	2.68	2.21	2.42		
<b>Cycled in KOH</b>	3d <sub>5/2</sub>	3d <sub>3/2</sub>			2p <sub>3/2</sub>	2p <sub>1/2</sub>	4f <sub>7/2</sub>	4f <sub>5/2</sub>		
Peak position	133.1	134.7			780.6	795.6	62.9	66.0		/
FWHM	2.78	2.45		/	3.15	3.15	2.41	2.31		
<b>Cycled in HClO<sub>4</sub></b>	3d <sub>5/2</sub>	3d <sub>3/2</sub>					4f <sub>7/2</sub>	4f <sub>5/2</sub>	4f <sub>7/2</sub>	4f <sub>5/2</sub>
Peak position	133.4	135.2				/	62.0	64.9	63.1	66.2
FWHM	1.98	1.98		/		/	1.45	1.43	2.74	2.90

**Table S6.**

The correction of zero-point energy and entropy of the adsorbed and gaseous species.

	ZPE(eV)	TS(eV)
*OOH	0.35	0
*O	0.05	0
*OH	0.31	0.01
H <sub>2</sub> O	0.56	0.67
H <sub>2</sub>	0.27	0.41



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