

Supporting Information

Molecular-Level Understanding of CeO₂ as a Catalyst for Partial Alkyne Hydrogenation

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Summary

The role of Ce³⁺ localization on the relative stability of the adsorbed species (Figure S1), images of the most relevant DFT minima and transition structures (Figures S2-S5), and details of the oligomerization reaction between C₂H₃* and β-C₂H₂* species (Figure S6) are shown here. In addition, the computed DFT total energies (Table S1) and optimized coordinates (Tables S2-S29) of the most relevant minima and transition structures are also provided.

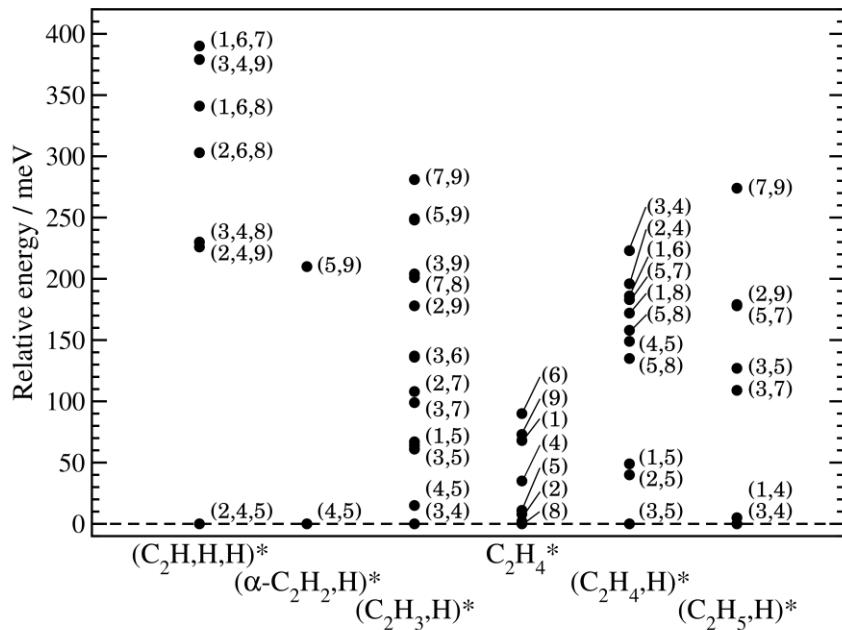
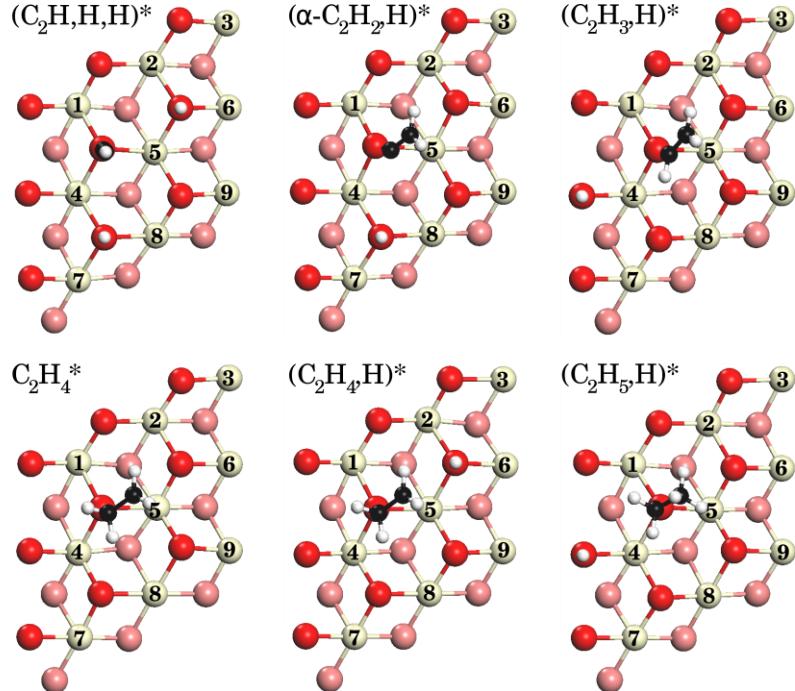


Figure S1. Relative energies for different locations of Ce^{3+} ions on the $\text{CeO}_2(111)$ surface upon adsorption of six selected reaction intermediates: $(\text{C}_2\text{H},\text{H},\text{H})^*$, $(\alpha\text{-C}_2\text{H}_2,\text{H})^*$, $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_3,\text{H})^*$, C_2H_4^* , $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4,\text{H})^*$, and $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5,\text{H})^*$. The zero level (dashed line) corresponds to the most stable Ce^{3+} configuration for each case; therefore, positive energies denote less stable configurations. The labels attached to the points in the graph stand for the position of the Ce^{3+} ions according to the top view structures (only the top three atomic layers are displayed) of each reaction intermediate. Red, light red, cream, black, and white spheres represent surface O, subsurface O, Ce, C, and H atoms, respectively.

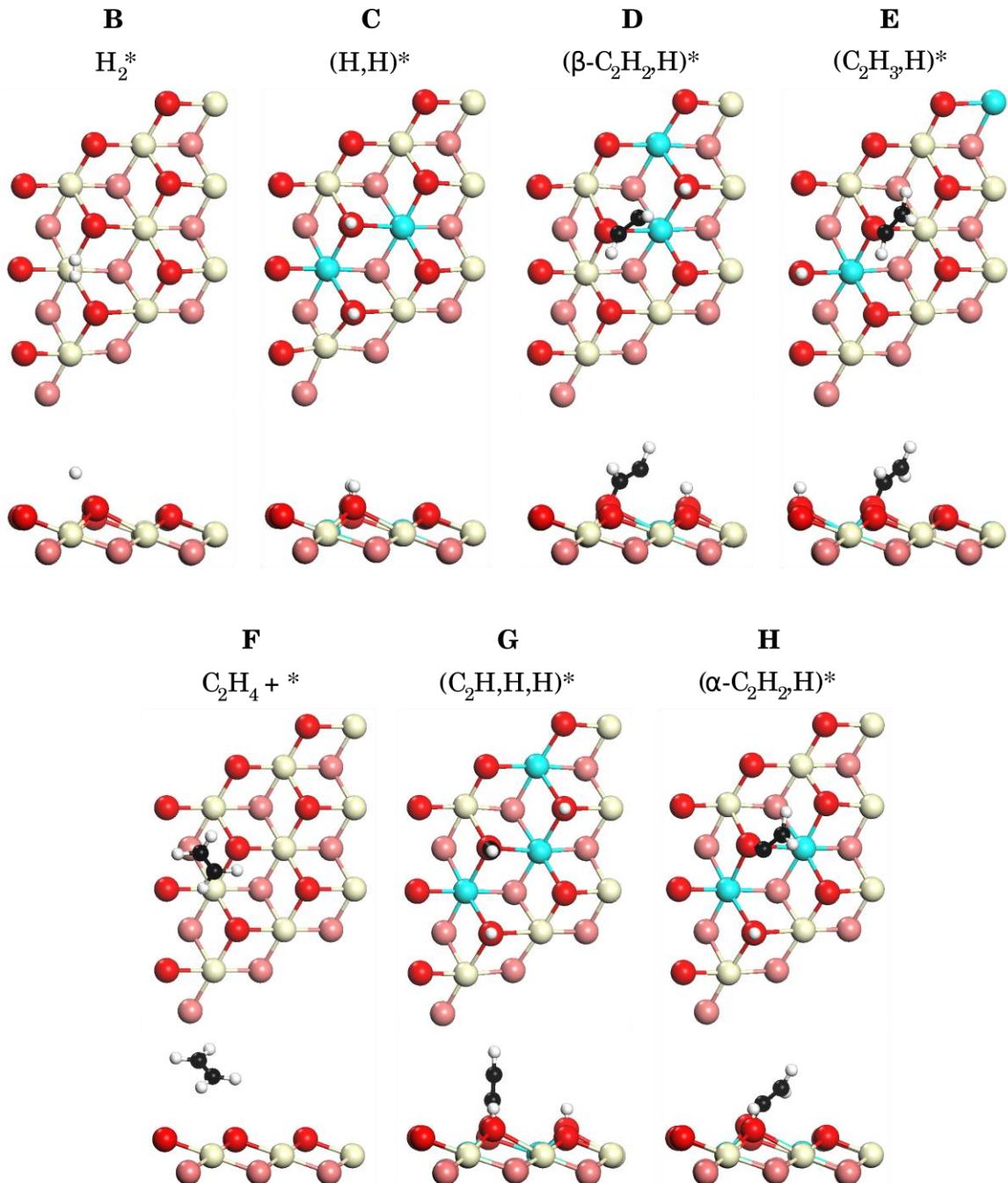


Figure S2. Top and side views of the lowest energy optimized structures of reaction intermediates for the hydrogenation of C_2H_2 to C_2H_4 on a (3×3) $\text{CeO}_2(111)$ surface. Labels B, C, D, E, F, G, and H refer to the same labels used in Figure 6. Red, light red, cream, light blue, black, and white spheres represent surface O, subsurface O, Ce^{4+} , Ce^{3+} , C, and H atoms, respectively. For clarity, only the top three atomic layers of the $\text{CeO}_2(111)$ surface are included in this and in Figures S3-S6.

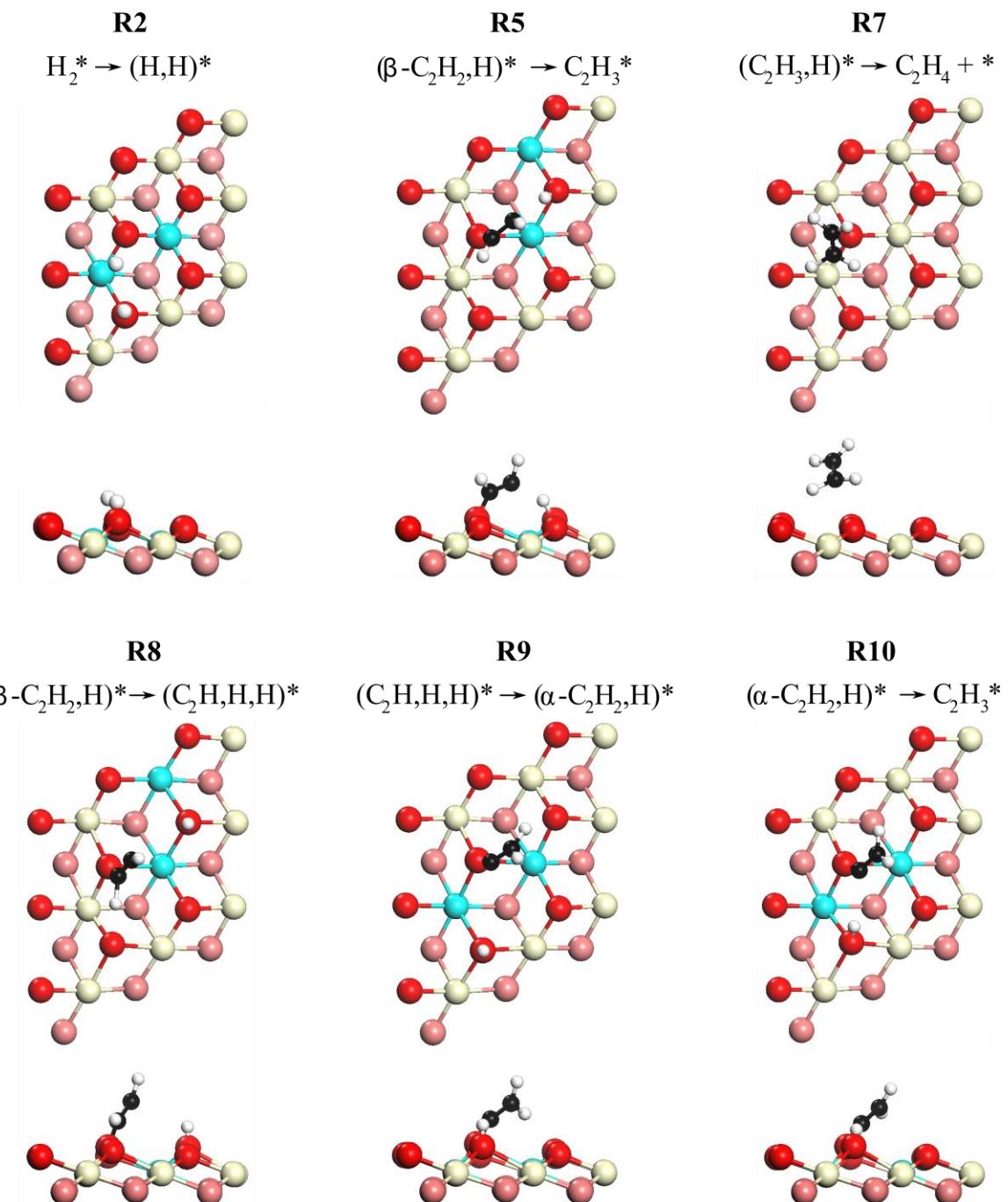


Figure S3. Top and side views of the transition structures of each elementary step for the hydrogenation of C_2H_2 to C_2H_4 on a (3×3) $\text{CeO}_2(111)$ surface. Labels R2, R5, R7, R8, R9, and R10 refer to the same labels used in Figure 6. The color codes are indicated in Figure S2.

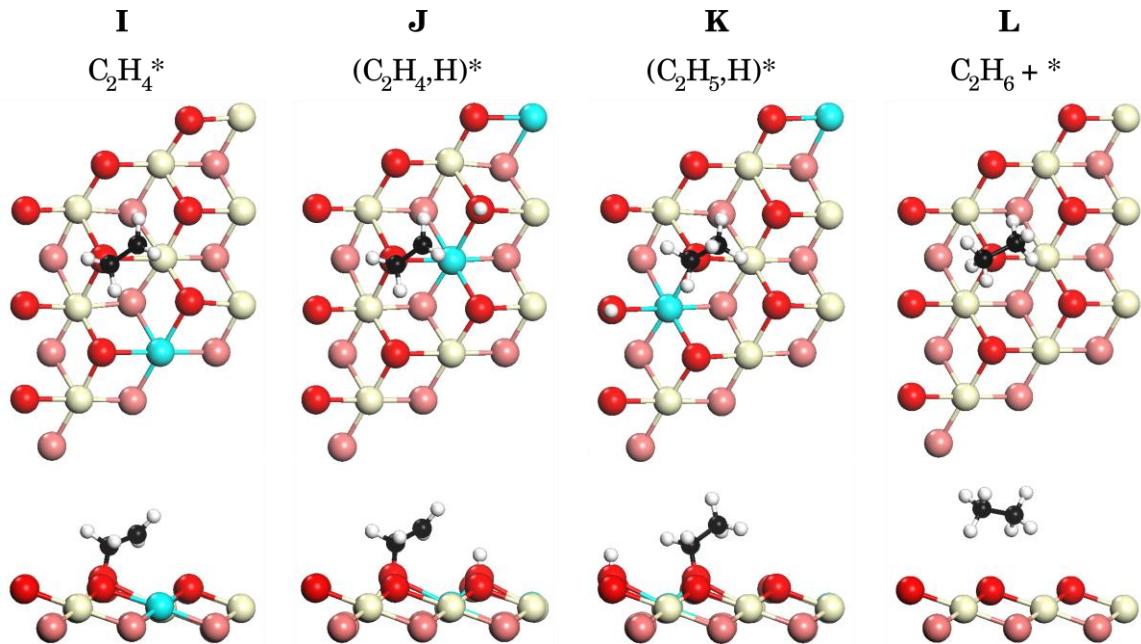


Figure S4. Top and side views of the lowest energy optimized structures of reaction intermediates for the hydrogenation of C_2H_4^* to C_2H_6 on a (3×3) $\text{CeO}_2(111)$ surface. Labels I, J, K, and L refer to the same labels used in Figure 6. The color codes are indicated in Figure S2.

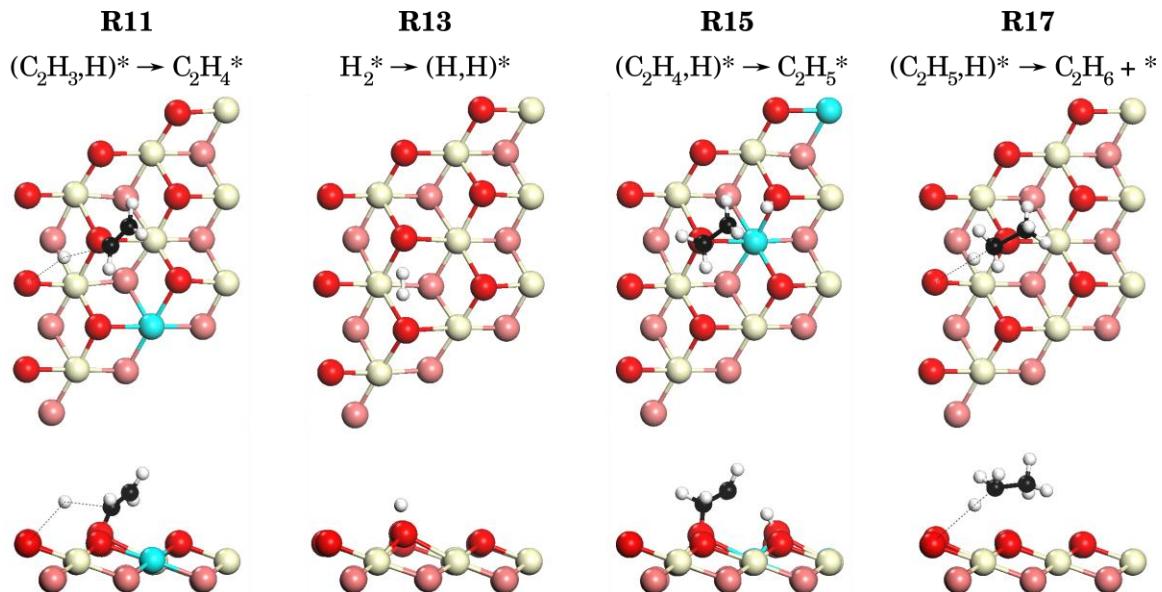


Figure S5. Top and side views of the transition structures of each considered reaction step for the hydrogenation of C_2H_2 to C_2H_4 on a (3×3) $\text{CeO}_2(111)$ surface. Labels R11, R13, R15, and R17 refer to the same labels used in Figure 4. The color codes are indicated in Figure S2.

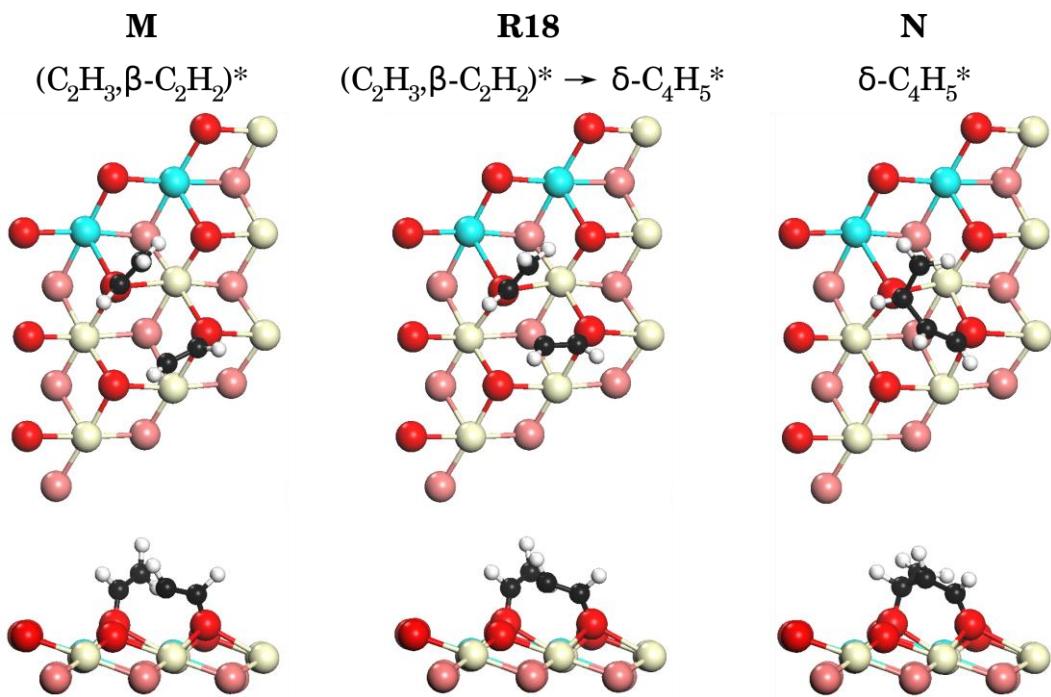


Figure S6. Top and side views of the lowest energy optimized structures corresponding to eq R18. Labels M, R18, and N refer to the same labels used in Figure S8. The color codes are indicated in Figure S2.

Table S29. Supercell lattice vectors (in Å) and optimized atomic fractional coordinates of the transition structure on R18.

a = 11.6361 a_x + 0.0000 a_y + 0.0000 a_z				b = 5.8180 b_x + 10.0771 b_y + 0.0000 b_z				c = 0.0000 c_x + 0.0000 c_y + 16.33384 c_z			
Atom	x	y	z	Atom	x	y	z	Atom	x	y	z
H	0.58991	0.13572	0.42628	Ce	0.00000	0.66667	0.04847	O	0.21201	0.90969	0.29241
H	0.35300	0.24572	0.46444	Ce	0.66667	0.33333	0.04847	O	0.88889	0.55556	0.00000
H	0.40636	0.57812	0.40485	Ce	0.33333	0.33333	0.04847	O	0.77778	0.44444	0.09694
H	0.18283	0.50899	0.43439	Ce	0.00000	0.33333	0.04847	O	0.66403	0.32728	0.18980
H	0.31592	0.58972	0.50019	Ce	0.66667	0.00000	0.04847	O	0.89253	0.54793	0.29106
C	0.25404	0.52288	0.39780	Ce	0.33333	0.00000	0.04847	O	0.55556	0.55556	0.00000
C	0.33049	0.56460	0.43569	O	0.22222	0.22222	0.00000	O	0.44444	0.44444	0.09694
C	0.51624	0.21109	0.38489	O	0.11111	0.11111	0.09694	O	0.33904	0.33398	0.19312
C	0.39134	0.26910	0.41041	O	0.99612	0.00372	0.18906	O	0.56580	0.54023	0.28947
Ce	0.11096	0.10983	0.24057	O	0.21557	0.22603	0.28631	O	0.22222	0.55556	0.00000
Ce	0.77647	0.77982	0.23934	O	0.88889	0.88889	0.00000	O	0.11111	0.44444	0.09694
Ce	0.44432	0.78000	0.24405	O	0.77778	0.77778	0.09694	O	0.99764	0.33441	0.18854
Ce	0.10634	0.78704	0.24455	O	0.67458	0.66355	0.19088	O	0.23587	0.52763	0.31524
Ce	0.77891	0.44419	0.24013	O	0.87362	0.89789	0.28956	O	0.88889	0.22222	0.00000
Ce	0.45194	0.44965	0.23568	O	0.55556	0.88889	0.00000	O	0.77778	0.11111	0.09694
Ce	0.10364	0.43956	0.23834	O	0.44444	0.77778	0.09694	O	0.66034	0.01243	0.18984
Ce	0.78711	0.10611	0.23774	O	0.33315	0.65755	0.19431	O	0.88663	0.22290	0.28731
Ce	0.43841	0.10775	0.23816	O	0.56172	0.89791	0.28831	O	0.55556	0.22222	0.00000
Ce	0.00000	0.00000	0.04847	O	0.22222	0.88889	0.00000	O	0.44444	0.11111	0.09694
Ce	0.66667	0.66667	0.04847	O	0.11111	0.77778	0.09694	O	0.33258	0.00659	0.18915
Ce	0.33333	0.66667	0.04847	O	0.00257	0.65936	0.19370	O	0.56296	0.23119	0.31369
