



Ab initio calculations of CaZrO₃ (011) surfaces: systematic trends in polar (011) surface calculations of ABO₃ perovskites

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ABSTRACT

By means of the CRYSTAL computer program package, first-principles calculations of polar ZrO-, Ca- and O-terminated CaZrO₃ (011) surfaces were performed. Our calculation results for polar CaZrO₃ (011) surfaces are compared with the previous ab initio calculation results for ABO₃ perovskite (011) and (001) surfaces. From the results of our hybrid B3LYP calculations, all upper-layer atoms on the ZrO-, Ca- and O-terminated CaZrO₃ (011) surfaces relax inwards. The only exception from this systematic trend is outward relaxation of the oxygen atom on the ZrO-terminated CaZrO₃ (011) surface. Different ZrO, Ca and O terminations of the CaZrO₃ (011) surface lead to a quite different surface energies of 3.46, 1.49, and 2.08 eV. Our calculations predict a considerable increase in the Zr–O chemical bond covalency near the CaZrO₃ (011) surface, both in the directions perpendicular to the surface (0.240*e*) as well as in the plane (0.138*e*), as compared to the CaZrO₃ (001) surface (0.102*e*) and to the bulk (0.086*e*). Such increase in the B–O chemical bond population from the bulk towards the (001) and especially (011) surfaces is a systematic trend in all our eight calculated ABO₃ perovskites.

Introduction

Surface and interface phenomena, taking place in the ABO₃ perovskites and their nanostructures, as well as mechanisms of various (001) and (011) surface electronic processes, are the key topics in theoretical solid-state physics [1–27]. CaTiO₃, SrTiO₃, PbTiO₃, BaTiO₃, CaZrO₃, SrZrO₃, PbZrO₃ and BaZrO₃

perovskites all have a general chemical formula ABO₃, where (A = Ca, Sr, Pb or Ba and B = Ti or Zr). The A cation size as a rule is much larger than the relevant B cation size. The ABO₃ perovskite cubic-symmetry structure has the B atom in sixfold oxygen coordination, surrounded by an octahedron of O atoms as well as the A atom in 12-fold oxygen cuboctahedral coordination. As temperature

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decreases, some of ABO_3 perovskites, like $SrTiO_3$ and $BaZrO_3$, stay in its high-temperature cubic phase, while other ABO_3 perovskites, such as $CaTiO_3$, $PbTiO_3$, $BaTiO_3$, $CaZrO_3$, $SrZrO_3$ and $PbZrO_3$, exhibit different phase transitions. The neutral (001) as well as polar and charged (011) surfaces of the ABO_3 perovskites are both of fundamental interest for basic research, and also very important for practical applications, for example, numerous microelectronic, catalytic, and other high-technology applications as well as they are frequently used as substrates for growth of other materials such as cuprate superconductors [28–34].

The predictive power of *ab initio* calculations caused by both the explosive development of new computational codes and powerful increase in computer speed allows for us to design a new material for high technology purposes on the paper. Very good example is prediction of the average battery voltage for a large amount of 4 V battery cathodes from *ab initio* calculations by Ceder et al. [35, 36]. Moreover, on the basis of our *ab initio* calculations performed by Eglitis and Borstel [37, 38], it was demonstrated that the cubic spinel structure $Li_2CoMn_3O_8$ battery cathode material will lead to the novel high-voltage lithium-ion battery working at the 5 V range [37, 38].

A great variety of metal ions can occupy the A and B sites in the technologically important ABO_3 perovskite structure, and such versatility of this class of materials makes them a perfect choice for a large number of catalytic applications, including electrocatalytic operations. An SOEC cathode should have high electronic and ionic conductivities. An ABO_3 perovskite oxide can possess both of these conductivities. Thereby, very novel and forefront research direction is perovskite material cathodes. Due to the problems such as Ni reoxidation and requirement of using a reducing agent in the feed stream, coke deposition at lower temperatures, and further reduction of CO to carbon at high cathodic potentials, the focus of research on CO_2 electrolysis has shifted from improvement of metal-cermet electrodes to developing of alternative materials. Oxide-based mixed ionic and electrical conductors (MIECs), specifically perovskite-type MIEC oxides, have attracted attention due to their easily tunable ionic and electrical conductivity, high stability at high temperatures as well as resistance to coke formation.

Therefore, it is self-evident that in last 25 years $CaTiO_3$, $SrTiO_3$, $PbTiO_3$, $BaTiO_3$, $CaZrO_3$, $SrZrO_3$, $PbZrO_3$ and $BaZrO_3$ perovskite neutral (001) surfaces were world wide extensively explored both theoretically and experimentally [39–54]. Recently, systematic trends in *ab initio* calculations for eight technologically most important ABO_3 perovskite neutral (001) surfaces were summarized by Eglitis et al. [55, 56]. For example, it was pointed out that relaxation of ABO_3 perovskite (001) surface metal atoms for upper two surface layers, as a rule, is larger than that of oxygen atoms. For ABO_3 perovskite (001) surfaces, in most cases, all atoms of the first surface layer relax inwards, towards the bulk, all atoms of the second surface layer relax outwards, and, again, all atoms of the third surface layer relax inwards [55, 56]. It is worth to notice that for both AO and BO_2 terminations, the ABO_3 perovskite (001) surface energies are almost equivalent. According to our *ab initio* calculations [55, 56], the ABO_3 perovskite (001) surface band gaps are always reduced regarding to their respective bulk band gap values. Finally, in ABO_3 perovskite bulk, the B–O chemical bond population is always smaller than near the (001) surface [55, 56].

In contrast to neutral (001) surfaces, the ABO_3 perovskite polar (011) surfaces are much more complicated, since they consist of charged and polar planes, and thereby also of course less studied, both theoretically and experimentally. To the best of our knowledge, first *ab initio* study of the atomic and electronic structure of the polar $CaTiO_3$ (011) surface was performed by Zhang et al. [57]. The calculation results by Zhang et al. indicated that the energetically most favourable $CaTiO_3$ surfaces are the CaO-terminated (001) (0.824 eV), the A-type O-terminated (011) (0.837 eV), and the TiO_2 -terminated (001) (1.021 eV) surfaces. This result by Zhang et al. [57] sharply contrasted with all another calculation results dealing with ABO_3 perovskite (001) and (011) surfaces [58–69], where the ABO_3 perovskite (001) surface energies are always smaller than (011) surface energies. One year later, Eglitis and Vanderbilt [11] performed very comprehensive first-principles calculations for three possible $CaTiO_3$ (011) surface terminations. Just opposite to Zhang et al. [57], Eglitis and Vanderbilt [11] found that CaO (0.94 eV)- and TiO_2 (1.13 eV)-terminated (001) surface energies are considerably smaller than the O-terminated (1.86 eV) $CaTiO_3$ (011) surface energy, in a line with all other

previous ab initio studies for ABO_3 perovskite polar (011) surfaces [58–69].

The first ab initio calculations for polar SrTiO_3 (011) surfaces were carried out by Bottin et al. [59]. One year later, Heifets and his co-workers [60] performed ab initio Hartree–Fock (HF) calculations for SrTiO_3 (011) surfaces. Around 10 years ago Eglitis and Vanderbilt [10] performed first-principles calculations for O-, Sr- and TiO-terminated SrTiO_3 (011) surfaces using a hybrid description of exchange and correlation. Finally, Enterkin et al. [61] reported a comprehensive research on the 3×1 polar SrTiO_3 (110) surface structure obtained through transmission electron diffraction and direct methods and confirmed through density functional theory calculations and scanning tunnelling microscopy images and simulations.

First in the world ab initio calculations for PbTiO_3 and BaTiO_3 (011) surfaces were performed by Eglitis and Vanderbilt [9]. Eglitis and Vanderbilt presented and discussed the results of calculations of surface relaxations and rumplings for the polar (011) surfaces of PbTiO_3 and BaTiO_3 by means of the hybrid B3PW description of exchange and correlation [9]. They considered three types of polar PbTiO_3 and BaTiO_3 (011) surfaces, terminated on a TiO layer, a Pb or Ba layer as well as O layer. They found that the relaxation energies for TiO-terminated PbTiO_3 and BaTiO_3 polar (011) surfaces are much larger than for the Pb- or Ba-terminated (011) surfaces. Two years later Zhang et al. [62] performed ab initio calculations of the atomic and electronic structure as well as stability of the polar PbTiO_3 (011) surfaces. At the same time independently Zhang et al. [63] by means of the GGA exchange–correlation functional performed first-principles calculations for the surface energy, cleavage energy, surface grand potential as well as surface relaxation for five different terminations of polar PbTiO_3 (011) surface. Simultaneously with Eglitis and Vanderbilt [9] in 2007, Xie et al. [64] investigated the electronic and atomic structures of the polar BaTiO_3 (011) surfaces by means of ab initio DFT calculations using the slab model. Finally, Wang et al. [65] explored the thermodynamic surface stability for polar BaTiO_3 (011) surface five terminations, namely BaTiO , TiO , Ba , O_2 and O .

To the best of our knowledge no ab initio studies exist dealing with polar CaZrO_3 (011) surfaces, and thereby in this paper we performed first in the world predictive theoretical calculations for CaZrO_3 (011)

surfaces. Eglitis and Rohlifing [66] performed first ab initio calculations of surface relaxations, energetics, rumplings, optical band gaps as well as charge distribution for three different terminations of polar SrZrO_3 and PbZrO_3 (011) surfaces. It is worth to notice, that 4 years latter Chen et al. [67] also at ab initio level investigated the stabilities and electronic properties of five possible terminations for SrZrO_3 (011) polar surfaces.

First ab initio calculations for BaZrO_3 (011) surfaces were simultaneously performed 10 years ago by Eglitis [68] as well as by Heifets et al. [69]. Eglitis [68] performed polar BaZrO_3 (011) surface relaxation as well as calculated the surface energies and rumplings for three different terminations, namely Ba, ZrO and O. Heifets et al. [69] by means of the density functional theory calculations studied the atomic and electronic structure as well as charge redistribution of polar BaZrO_3 (011) surfaces.

Along with theoretical ab initio investigations of ABO_3 perovskite (011) surfaces, their polar (011) surfaces are world wide extensively studied also experimentally. For example, Crosby et al. [70] resolved the surface structure of (110) faceted strontium titanate nanoparticles synthesized via solvothermal method using high-resolution microscopy. The authors demonstrate that the surface is a titania-rich structure containing tetrahedrally coordinated TiO_4 units similar to the family of $(n \times 1)$ reconstructions observed on (110) surfaces of bulk crystalline SrTiO_3 [70]. As an another example of brilliant experimental work, 8 years ago Enterkin et al. [61] reported a solution to the 3×1 SrTiO_3 (110) surface structure obtained through transmission electron diffraction and direct methods and confirmed through scanning tunnelling microscopy and simulations [61].

The aim of this research paper was to carry out first in the world ab initio calculations for CaZrO_3 polar (011) surfaces in order to complete our more than 10 year long work dealing with first-principles calculations of polar and charged ABO_3 perovskite (011) surfaces [9–11, 59, 60, 66, 68]. For our CaZrO_3 (011) surface calculations, we chose the high symmetry cubic phase because it is most extensively studied for CaTiO_3 , SrTiO_3 , PbTiO_3 , BaTiO_3 , SrZrO_3 , PbZrO_3 and BaZrO_3 perovskites. The (011) surface studies for other CaZrO_3 low symmetry phases remain a challenging problem for our future calculations. After we completed first-principles calculations for CaZrO_3

(011) surfaces, we analysed results for all eight ABO_3 perovskites, and detected systematic trends common for $CaTiO_3$, $SrTiO_3$, $PbTiO_3$, $BaTiO_3$, $CaZrO_3$, $SrZrO_3$, $PbZrO_3$ and $BaZrO_3$ perovskite polar (011) surfaces in a form interesting for a large audience of readers.

Computational method as well as polar $CaZrO_3$ (011) surface models and energies

In this paper, we performed ab initio calculations for polar $CaZrO_3$ (011) surfaces, using the hybrid exchange–correlation functional B3LYP [71] as well as the world well-known CRYSTAL [72] computer code. Our previous calculation results for $CaTiO_3$, $SrTiO_3$, $PbTiO_3$, $BaTiO_3$, $SrZrO_3$, $PbZrO_3$ and $BaZrO_3$ (011) surfaces performed by B3LYP [71] or B3PW [73] functional are listed for comparison purpose with aim to detect systematic trends in polar (011) surface calculations for all eight technologically most important ABO_3 perovskites. For $CaZrO_3$ bulk, we performed the reciprocal-space integration by sampling the Brillouin zone with an $8 \times 8 \times 8$ times, whereas for (011) surfaces with $8 \times 8 \times 1$ times extended Pack–Monkhorst net [74]. In this paper, for Ca, Zr and O atoms, we used exactly the same basis sets as in our previous work dealing with ab initio calculations of neutral $CaZrO_3$ (001) surfaces [75]. The polar $CaZrO_3$ (011) surfaces were modelled with two-dimensional (2D) slabs, which contained nine planes perpendicular to the [011] crystal direction (Fig. 1). The main difficulty in modelling the $CaZrO_3$ (011) polar surface is that it consists of charged planes, O–O or $CaZrO_3$. If we assume fixed ionic

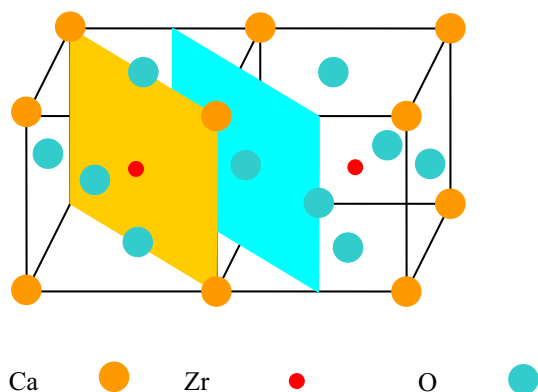


Figure 1 Schematic picture of the cubic $CaZrO_3$ perovskite structure containing two (011) cleavage planes which create charged O_2 and $CaZrO$ (011) surfaces.

charges Ca^{2+} , Zr^{4+} and O^{2-} in the $CaZrO_3$ perovskite, then calculating the polar $CaZrO_3$ (011) surface precisely as would be acquired from a $CaZrO_3$ crystal cleavage leads to either an endless macroscopic dipole moment in the direction perpendicular to the (011) surface, when the slab is terminated by different planes— O_2 and $CaZrO$ (Fig. 2a), or an excess of charge, when both sides of the slab are terminated by the same crystalline planes (O_2 – O_2) (Fig. 2b) or ($CaZrO$ – $CaZrO$) (Fig. 2c). It is well known that these two kinds of crystal terminations make the polar $CaZrO_3$ (011) surface unstable [1, 60, 76]. In ab initio calculations for a slab terminated by the different kind of planes the charge redistribution near the surface, in principle, can

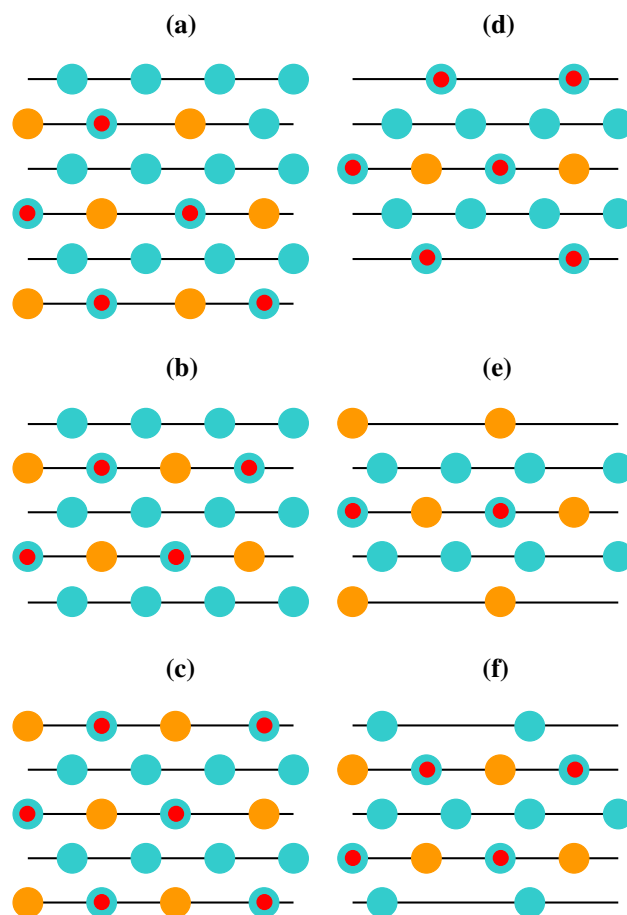


Figure 2 $CaZrO_3$ (011) surface slab models (a–f) used in our calculations. $CaZrO_3$ slabs obtained by crystal cleaving yields mixed O_2^- and $CaZrO$ -terminated polar surfaces (a), O_2^- -terminated (b) as well as $CaZrO$ -terminated (c) charged surfaces. Our modified nonpolar and neutral TiO -terminated $CaZrO_3$ (011) surfaces (d), Ca-terminated (e) and O-terminated (f) surfaces.

compensate the macroscopic dipole moment. From another side, in the *ab initio* calculations of slabs terminated by the same planes the charge neutrality may be easily retained by setting in the computer input files an appropriate number of electrons or the zero net charge of the unit cell. Nevertheless, careful calculations [1, 59, 77] demonstrate that these two options for ABO_3 perovskite surfaces are energetically expensive with respect to the dipole moment elimination via introduction of vacancies.

For these two reasons, in order to get as good as possible results, we used for our CaZrO_3 (011) surface calculations nonpolar CaZrO -terminated surfaces and modified their upper and lower layers. Namely, we removed the Ca atom from the upper and lower layer of the nine-layer symmetric CaZrO -terminated slab (Fig. 2d). We get a neutral 21-atom containing ZrO -terminated CaZrO_3 (011) slab as illustrated in Fig. 2d. If we simultaneously remove both the Zr and O atoms from the upper and lower layers of the symmetric 9-layer CaZrO -terminated CaZrO_3 (011) slab, we get a neutral Ca-terminated CaZrO_3 (011) 9-layer slab which contains 19 atoms (Fig. 2e). Lastly, if we remove the O atom again from the upper and lower layers of the nine-layer symmetric O–O-terminated CaZrO_3 (011) slab, we get the neutral and symmetric 20-atom containing nine-layer supercell with O-terminated CaZrO_3 (011) surfaces (Fig. 2f).

With aim to calculate the CaZrO_3 (011) surface energies, we started with the cleavage energy calculations for unrelaxed Ca- and ZrO -terminated (011) surfaces. Surfaces with Ca and ZrO terminations simultaneously arise under (011) cleavage of the CaZrO_3 crystal. We assume that the cleavage energy is equally distributed between the created Ca- and ZrO -terminated (011) surfaces. In our CaZrO_3 (011) surface calculations, the nine-layer Ca-terminated (011) slab with 19 atoms and the ZrO -terminated (011) slab with 21 atoms together contain 40 atoms, or in another words eight bulk unit cells (40 atoms), thereby:

$$E_{\text{surf}}^{\text{unr}}(\Psi) = 1/4 [E_{\text{slab}}^{\text{unr}}(\text{Ca}) + E_{\text{slab}}^{\text{unr}}(\text{ZrO}) - 8E_{\text{bulk}}], \quad (1)$$

where Ψ means Ca or ZrO termination of CaZrO_3 (011) surface, $E_{\text{slab}}^{\text{unr}}(\Psi)$ are the total energies of the unrelaxed Ca- or ZrO -terminated CaZrO_3 (011) slabs, E_{bulk} is the total energy per bulk unit cell, and the coefficient of $1/4$ comes from the event that we create four surfaces due the cleavage procedure. As a next step, we will calculate the relaxation energies for each

of Ca- and ZrO -terminated CaZrO_3 (011) slabs, when both sides of the slabs relax, by means of the following equation:

$$E_{\text{rel}}(\Psi) = 1/2 [E_{\text{slab}}^{\text{rel}}(\Psi) - E_{\text{slab}}^{\text{unr}}(\Psi)], \quad (2)$$

where $E_{\text{slab}}^{\text{rel}}(\Psi)$ is the slab energy after the geometry relaxation ($\Psi = \text{Ca}$ or ZrO). The CaZrO_3 (011) surface energy is equal to a sum of the cleavage and relaxation energies:

$$E_{\text{surf}}(\Psi) = E_{\text{surf}}^{\text{unr}}(\Psi) + E_{\text{rel}}(\Psi), \quad (3)$$

Finally, in case when we cleave the CaZrO_3 crystal in another way, we got two equal O-terminated CaZrO_3 (011) surface slabs. Each of them contains 20 atoms. Thereby, we can simplify our calculations, since the unit cell of the nine-plane O-terminated CaZrO_3 (011) slab contains four bulk unit cells. The surface energy for O-terminated (011) surface is equal to:

$$E_{\text{surf}}(\text{O}) = 1/2 [E_{\text{slab}}^{\text{rel}}(\text{O}) - 4E_{\text{bulk}}], \quad (4)$$

where $E_{\text{surf}}(\text{O})$ and $E_{\text{slab}}^{\text{rel}}(\text{O})$ are the O-terminated CaZrO_3 (011) surface energy and the relaxed O-terminated CaZrO_3 (011) slab total energy.

Calculation results for polar CaZrO_3 (011) surfaces

As a first step of our calculations, we calculated, by means of the hybrid B3LYP functional, the CaZrO_3 bulk lattice constant and found it equal to 4.157 Å. In order to characterize the covalency effects and chemical bonding, we used a classical Mulliken population description for the effective atomic charges Q and other local properties of CaZrO_3 electronic structure as defined in Refs. [78, 79]. By means of B3LYP hybrid exchange–correlation functional, our calculated CaZrO_3 effective bulk atomic charges are equal to (+ 1.787 e) for the Ca atom, (+ 2.144 e) for the Zr atom, and (– 1.310 e) for the O atom. Our calculated CaZrO_3 bulk bond population of the chemical bonding is largest between Zr and O atoms (+ 0.086 e). The bond population between Ca and O atoms is more than six times smaller (+ 0.014 e) than between Zr and O atoms. Finally, the bond population between O and O atoms is even negative (– 0.010 e), which indicates a small repulsion between O and O atoms in the CaZrO_3 bulk matrix.

As we explained in “Computational method as well as polar CaZrO_3 (011) surface models and

energies" section, nonpolar and neutral ZrO-, Ca- and O-terminated (011) surfaces for the CaZrO₃ perovskite can be constructed by us as shown in Fig. 2d–f, respectively. Our calculated atomic displacements obtained by B3LYP hybrid exchange–correlation functional for ZrO-, Ca- and O-terminated CaZrO₃ (011) surfaces are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Our B3LYP calculated atomic relaxations for the CaZrO₃ (011) surfaces (in per cent of the bulk lattice constant a_0) for the three surface terminations ZrO, Ca and O

Layer	Ion	Δz	Δy
ZrO-terminated CaZrO ₃ (011) surface			
1	Zr	− 6.06	
1	O	+ 4.96	
2	O	− 0.38	
3	Ca	− 3.61	
3	O	− 7.94	
3	Zr	− 0.41	
Ca-terminated CaZrO ₃ (011) surface			
1	Ca	− 18.67	
2	O	+ 1.25	
3	Zr	+ 0.25	
3	O	− 0.63	
3	Ca	− 0.14	
O-terminated CaZrO ₃ (011) surface			
1	O	− 5.97	− 5.05
2	Zr	+ 0.75	− 2.17
2	Ca	+ 1.78	13.95
2	O	+ 0.67	1.32
3	O	+ 0.51	1.23

Positive signs correspond to outwards atomic displacements

Table 2 Our calculated upper-layer atom relaxations for all eight ABO₃ perovskite AO-, A- and O-terminated (011) as well as AO- and BO₂-terminated (001) surfaces

Term	Atom	CTO	STO	PTO	BTO	CZO	SZO	PZO	BZO
BO (011)	B	− 7.14	− 7.69	− 8.13	− 7.86	− 6.06	− 6.16	− 6.87	− 6.61
	O	+ 4.67	+ 3.59	+ 3.30	+ 2.61	+ 4.96	+ 4.36	+ 4.27	+ 3.35
A (011)	A	− 16.05	− 12.81	− 11.94	− 8.67	− 18.67	− 15.73	− 15.17	− 11.81
O (011)	O	− 6.10	− 6.61	− 7.37	− 5.40	− 5.97	− 6.56	− 6.61	− 7.32
BO ₂ (001)	B	− 1.71	− 2.25	− 2.81	− 3.08	− 1.30	− 1.38	− 2.37	− 1.79
	O	− 0.10	− 0.13	+ 0.31	− 0.35	− 2.31	− 2.10	− 1.99	− 1.70
AO (001)	A	− 8.31	− 4.84	− 3.82	− 1.99	− 10.01	− 7.63	− 5.69	− 4.30
	O	− 0.42	+ 0.84	− 0.31	− 0.63	− 0.79	− 0.86	− 2.37	− 1.23

Positive signs correspond to outwards atomic displacements

From the results of our calculations (Table 1), all atoms of the upper CaZrO₃ (011) surface layer relax inward, namely towards the bulk, for all three ZrO-, Ca- and O-terminated CaZrO₃ (011) surfaces. The only exception is outward relaxation of ZrO-terminated CaZrO₃ (011) surface upper-layer O atom by 4.96% of the bulk lattice constant a_0 . As we can see from Table 2 and Fig. 3, also for all another our calculated ABO₃ perovskites systematic trend is that all upper-layer atoms for all three (011) terminations relax inward with the exception of BO-terminated

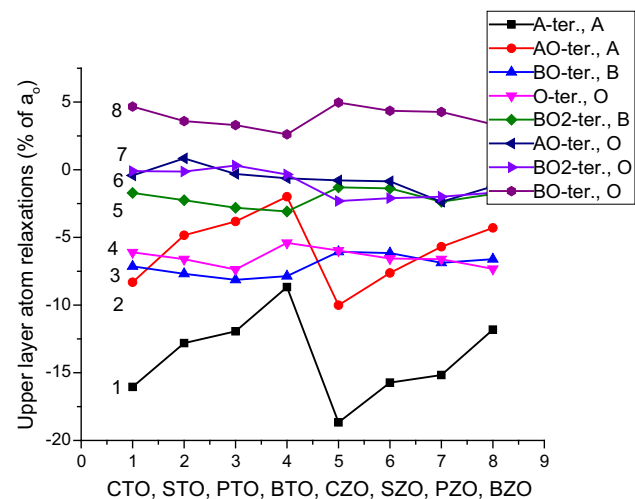


Figure 3 Our calculated upper-layer atom relaxations for all eight ABO₃ perovskite BO-, A- and O-terminated (011) as well as AO- and BO₂-terminated (001) surfaces. A-terminated (011) surface A atom relaxation (line 1). AO-terminated (001) surface A (line 2) and O (line 6) atom relaxations. BO-terminated (011) surface B atom (line 3) and O atom (line 8) atom relaxations. O-terminated (011) surface O atom relaxation (line 4). BO₂-terminated (001) surface B atom (line 5) and O atom (line 7) atom relaxations.

(011) surface upper-layer O atoms. The largest relaxation magnitude between all upper-layer CaZrO_3 (011) surface atoms exhibits the Ca-terminated (011) surface Ca atom by 18.67% of a_0 . This our calculated Ca atom displacement magnitude (18.67% of a_0) is approximately three times larger than the relevant displacement magnitudes for Zr atom (6.06% of a_0) on the ZrO-terminated and O atom (5.97% of a_0) on the O-terminated CaZrO_3 polar (011) surfaces. Also for all another ABO_3 perovskites, the A atom inward relaxation magnitude on A-terminated (011) surface always is larger than the B atom and O atom relaxation magnitudes on BO- and O-terminated ABO_3 perovskite (011) surfaces (Table 2 and Fig. 3). However it is worth to notice that for the BaTiO_3 perovskite, the Ba atom inward relaxation (8.67% of a_0) on the Ba-terminated BaTiO_3 (011) surface is only slightly larger than the Ti atom inward relaxation (7.86% of a_0) on the TiO-terminated BaTiO_3 (011) surface (Table 2 and Fig. 3). As we can see from Table 2 and Fig. 3, systematic trend is that the ABO_3 perovskite (011) surface upper-layer atom relaxation almost always is larger than the (001) surface upper-layer atom relaxation. For ABO_3 perovskite (011) and (001) terminated surfaces, in most cases the metal atom relaxation magnitudes are larger than the oxygen atom relaxation magnitudes.

All second-layer ZrO-, Ca- and O-terminated CaZrO_3 (011) surface atoms relax upwards, with the sole exception for O atom on the ZrO-terminated (011) surface (Table 1). Such systematic tendency, mostly upward relaxation of second-layer atoms on BO-, A- and O-terminated (011) surfaces, is common for all eight ABO_3 perovskites (Table 3 and Fig. 4). Namely, according to our calculations, for CTO, STO, PTO, BTO, CZO, SZO, PZO and BZO perovskite second layers, upwards relax 23 atoms, whereas inwards only 17 atoms (Table 3 and Fig. 4).

Finally, all ZrO-, Ca- and O-terminated CaZrO_3 (011) surface third-layer atoms relax inwards, with

the exception of Ca-terminated (011) surface third-layer Zr atom and O-terminated (011) surface O atom, which both relax upwards (Table 1). Also for all our eight calculated ABO_3 perovskite BO-, A- and O-terminated (011) surface third-layer atoms, a large majority, namely 37 atoms, relax inwards, while only 16 atoms relax outwards (Table 4 and Fig. 5).

According to our B3LYP calculations, on the ZrO-terminated CaZrO_3 (011) surface, the upper-layer Zr atom relax inwards by 6.06% of the a_0 , but the same upper-layer O atom relax outwards by 4.96% (Table 1), creating a large surface rumpling equal to 11.02 (Table 5). On the ZrO-terminated CaZrO_3 (011) surface, the displacement magnitudes of all atoms in the third layer are larger than in the second-layer and the third-layer O atom displacement magnitude

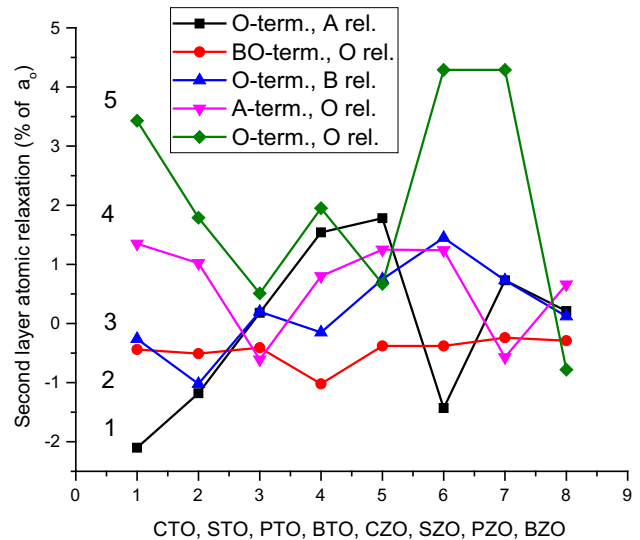


Figure 4 Our calculated O-terminated (011) surface A atom relaxations (line 1), BO-terminated (011) surface O atom relaxations (line 2), O-terminated (011) surface B atom relaxations (line 3), A-terminated (011) surface O atom relaxations (line 4), and, finally, O-terminated (011) surface O-atom relaxations (line 5).

Table 3 Our calculated second-layer atom relaxations for all eight ABO_3 perovskite BO-, A- and O-terminated (011) surfaces

Term	Atom	CTO	STO	PTO	BTO	CZO	SZO	PZO	BZO
BO (011)	O	- 0.44	- 0.51	- 0.41	- 1.02	- 0.38	- 0.38	- 0.24	- 0.29
A (011)	O	+ 1.35	+ 1.02	- 0.61	+ 0.80	+ 1.25	+ 1.24	- 0.57	+ 0.66
O (011)	B	- 0.26	- 1.02	+ 0.20	- 0.15	+ 0.75	+ 1.45	+ 0.73	+ 0.12
	A	- 2.10	- 1.18	+ 0.18	+ 1.54	+ 1.78	- 1.43	+ 0.73	+ 0.21
	O	+ 3.43	+ 1.79	+ 0.51	+ 1.95	+ 0.67	+ 4.29	+ 4.29	- 0.78

Positive signs correspond to outwards atomic displacements

Table 4 Our calculated third-layer atom relaxations for all eight ABO₃ perovskite AO-, A- and O-terminated (011) surfaces

Term	Atom	CTO	STO	PTO	BTO	CZO	SZO	PZO	BZO
BO (011)	B	- 0.78	+ 0.16	+ 0.30		- 0.41	- 0.40	- 0.02	+ 0.90
	A	- 2.75	- 2.10	- 2.54	- 0.88	- 3.61	- 1.94	- 2.37	- 1.51
	O	- 3.79	- 2.56	- 4.07		- 7.94	- 5.69	- 5.69	- 3.54
A (011)	B	- 0.37	- 0.04	+ 1.78	+ 0.16	+ 0.25	+ 0.10	- 0.66	+ 0.09
	A	- 0.93	+ 0.26	+ 1.52		- 0.14	- 0.48	+ 3.41	+ 0.71
	O	- 1.71	- 1.08	+ 1.67	- 0.43	- 0.63	- 0.95	+ 2.37	- 0.07
O (011)	O	- 0.55	- 0.79	- 0.41	+ 0.90	+ 0.51	- 0.10	- 0.19	- 0.07

Positive signs correspond to outwards atomic displacements

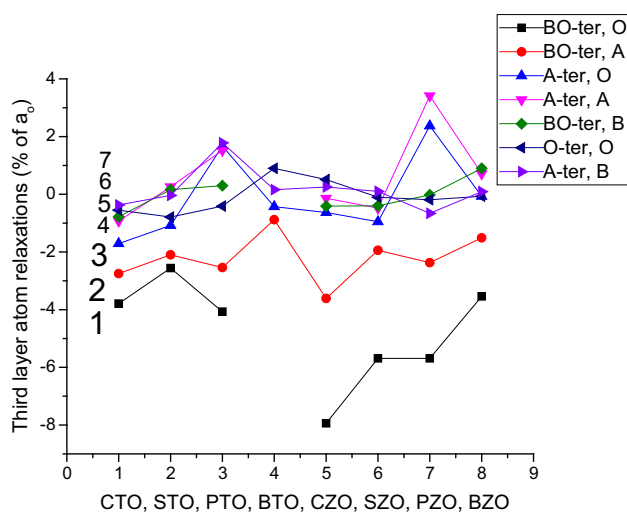


Figure 5 Our calculated third-layer atom relaxations for all eight ABO₃ perovskite BO-, A- and O-terminated (011) surfaces. BO-terminated (011) surface O atom relaxation (line 1), A atom relaxation (line 2) and B atom relaxation (line 5). A-terminated (011) surface O atom relaxation (line 3), A atom relaxation (line 4) and B atom relaxation (line 7) as well as O-terminated (011) surface O atom relaxation (line 6).

7.94% of a_0 is the largest displacement magnitude between ZrO-terminated (011) surface all three layer atoms (Table 1). Our calculated first interlayer

distance Δd_{12} values (Table 5) show that the reduced distance between the first and second layers for ZrO-terminated CaZrO₃ (011) surface is more than 189 times larger than the corresponding expansion Δd_{23} between the second and third layers. From Table 5, all our eight calculated ABO₃ perovskite BO-terminated (011) surfaces exhibit very large surface rumpling, ranging from 9.96 for BaZrO₃ till 11.81 for CaTiO₃. For all our eight calculated ABO₃ perovskites, systematic trend is reduction in the interlayer distance Δd_{12} , ranging from 5.68 for CaZrO₃ till 7.72 for PbTiO₃. Our calculated BO-terminated (011) surface interlayer distance Δd_{23} is reduced for STO, PTO, BTO, PZO and BZO perovskites, but expanded by a very small magnitude for CZO, CTO and SZO perovskites (Table 5).

The O-terminated CaZrO₃ (011) surface has a lower symmetry than the ZrO- and Ca-terminated CaZrO₃ (011) surfaces; therefore, atomic displacements occur not only in the z direction perpendicular to the surface, but also in the y direction along the surface. For example, the O atom on the O-terminated CaZrO₃ (011) surface moves inwards, in the z direction by 5.97% and by a comparable magnitude of 5.05% also along the surface in the y direction (Table 1). All second-layer O-terminated CaZrO₃ (011) surface,

Table 5 Our calculated surface rumpling s and relative displacements Δd_{ij} (in per cent of the ABO₃ perovskite bulk lattice constant a_0) for the three near-surface planes on the BO- and O-terminated ABO₃ perovskite (011) surfaces

Material	BO-terminated (011) surface			O-terminated (011) surface	
	s	Δd_{12}	Δd_{23}	Δd_{12}	Δd_{23}
CaZrO ₃ (this paper)	11.02	- 5.68	0.03	- 6.72	0.24
CaTiO ₃ [11]	11.81	- 6.70	0.34	- 5.84	0.29
SrTiO ₃ [10]	11.28	- 7.18	- 0.67	- 5.59	- 0.23
PbTiO ₃ [9]	11.43	- 7.72	- 0.71	- 7.57	0.61
BaTiO ₃ [9]	10.47	- 6.84	- 1.02	- 5.25	- 1.05
SrZrO ₃ [62]	10.52	- 5.78	0.02	- 8.01	1.55
PbZrO ₃ [62]	11.14	- 6.63	- 0.22	- 7.34	0.92
BaZrO ₃ [64]	9.96	- 6.32	- 1.19	- 7.44	0.19

atoms relax outwards in the *z* direction by 0.75% for Zr atom, 1.78% for Ca atom and 0.67% for O atom. It is worth to notice that the second-layer Ca atom exhibits the largest displacement magnitude among all our calculated CaZrO₃ atoms along the surface in the *y* direction by 13.95%. The third-layer O atom, same as all three second-layer atoms, also moves outward in the *z* direction, but by a small displacement magnitude of 0.51%. From Table 5, for the O-terminated CaZrO₃ (011) surface there is a substantial contraction of the interlayer distance Δd_{12} on the *z* direction by 6.72% and only a very small expansion of Δd_{23} by 0.24%. Also for all other our calculated ABO₃ perovskites a large contraction of the interlayer distance Δd_{12} for O-terminated (011) surface occurs ranging from 5.25% for BTO till 8.01% for SZO. For most of ABO₃ perovskite O-terminated

(011) surfaces, like CZO, CTO, PTO, SZO, PZO and BZO, there are a small expansion of the interlayer distance Δd_{23} observed from our calculations, whereas for STO and BTO perovskites the interlayer distance Δd_{23} contracts. Comparison of surface rumpling *s* and interlayer distances Δd_{ij} for ABO₃ perovskite (011) and (001) surfaces is depicted in Fig. 6. As we can see from Fig. 6, surface rumplings *s* for ABO₃ perovskite BO-terminated (011) surfaces are always larger than the relevant surface rumplings for AO and especially BO₂-terminated ABO₃ perovskite (001) surfaces. ABO₃ perovskite interlayer distances Δd_{12} are always reduced for their BO-terminated (011) as well as BO₂ and especially AO-terminated (001) surfaces (Fig. 6). In contrast, the interlayer distances Δd_{23} are always expanded for ABO₃ perovskite (001) surfaces, but they may be either expanded or reduced for BO- and O-terminated (011) surfaces (Fig. 6).

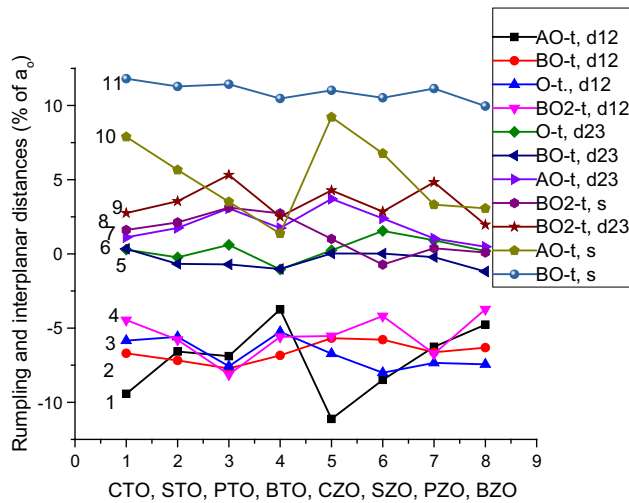


Figure 6 Our calculated surface rumplings *s* and interplanar distances Δd_{12} and Δd_{23} for BO (lines 2, 6, 11)- and O (lines 3, 5)-terminated ABO₃ perovskite polar (011) surfaces as well as for BO₂ (lines 4, 8, 9)- and AO (lines 1, 7, 10)-terminated neutral (001) surfaces.

Our calculated surface energies of the relaxed ZrO-, Ca- and O-terminated CaZrO₃ (011) surfaces are presented in Table 6 and plotted in Fig. 7 together with another ABO₃ perovskite (011) as well as for comparison purpose also BO₂- and AO-terminated ABO₃ perovskite (001) surface energies [55]. The CaZrO₃ (011) surface energies were computed by us using Eqs. (1)–(4). Unlike the ABO₃ perovskite (001) surfaces [55], from Table 6 we can see that different terminations of the ABO₃ perovskite (011) surface, as a rule, lead to considerable difference in the surface energies. For example, the our calculated surface energy difference between ZrO (3.46 eV)- and Ca (1.49 eV)-terminated CaZrO₃ (011) surfaces is really huge and equal to 1.97 eV, which is more than any of ZrO₂ (1.33 eV)- or CaO (0.87 eV)-terminated CaZrO₃ (001) surface energies. Among all three of our B3LYP calculated CaZrO₃ (011) surfaces, the Ca-terminated CaZrO₃ (011) surface has the lowest surface energy

Table 6 Our calculated surface energies for CaZrO₃, CaTiO₃ [11], SrTiO₃ [10], PbTiO₃ [9], BaTiO₃ [9], SrZrO₃ [66], PbZrO₃ [66] and BaZrO₃ [68] (011) surfaces (in electron volt per surface cell). Our

earlier calculated ABO₃ perovskite (001) surface energies are listed for comparison purpose [9–11, 66, 68, 75]

Term	E_{surf}	CTO	STO	PTO	BTO	CZO	SZO	PZO	BZO
BO	(011)	3.13	3.06	1.36	2.04	3.46	3.61	1.89	3.09
A	(011)	1.91	2.66	2.03	3.24	1.49	2.21	1.74	2.90
O	(011)	1.86	2.04	1.72	1.72	2.08	2.23	1.85	2.32
BO ₂	(001)	1.13	1.23	0.74	1.07	1.33	1.24	0.93	1.31
AO	(001)	0.94	1.15	0.83	1.19	0.87	1.13	1.00	1.30

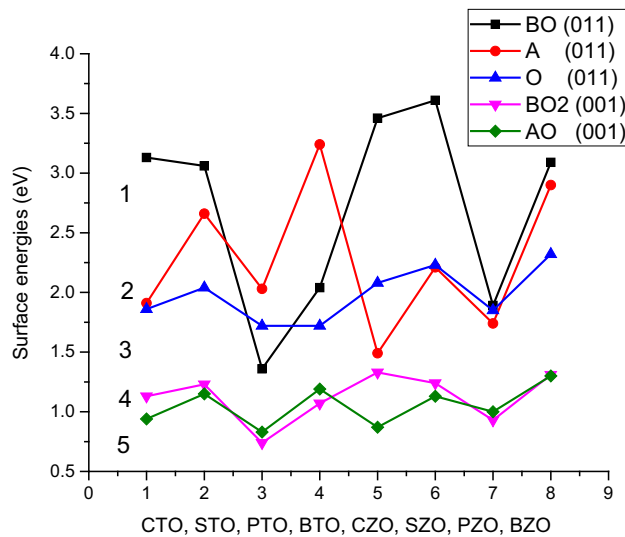


Figure 7 Our calculated ABO_3 perovskite surface energies for polar BO (line 1)-, A (line 2)- and O (line 3)-terminated (011) as well as neutral BO_2 (line 4)- and AO (line 5)-terminated (001) surfaces.

equal to 1.49 eV, which only slightly by 0.16 eV exceeds the surface energy for ZrO_2 -terminated $CaZrO_3$ (001) surface [75]. The surface energy for the Ca-terminated $CaZrO_3$ (011) surface 1.49 eV is more than two times smaller than the ZrO -terminated $CaZrO_3$ (011) surface energy 3.46 eV (Table 6). The O-terminated $CaZrO_3$ (011) surface energy 2.08 eV is very close to the sum of ZrO_2 (1.33 eV)- and CaO (0.87 eV)-terminated $CaZrO_3$ (001) surface energies equal to 2.20 eV.

In Table 7, we collected our B3LYP calculated interatomic distances R as well as chemical bond populations P for the ZrO , Ca and O terminations of the $CaZrO_3$ (011) surface. The most important effect observed here is a strong increase in the $Zr-O$ chemical bonding covalency near the ZrO - and O-terminated $CaZrO_3$ (011) surface as compared to both the $CaZrO_3$ bulk (0.086 e) and even to the ZrO_2 -terminated $CaZrO_3$ (001) surface 0.102 e . For the O-terminated $CaZrO_3$ (011) surface, the O(I)- Zr (II) chemical bond population is equal to 0.130 e , which is by 0.044 e larger than the $CaZrO_3$ bulk $Zr-O$ bond population as well as by 0.028 e larger than the relevant ZrO_2 -terminated $CaZrO_3$ (001) surface chemical bond population. For our calculated ZrO -terminated $CaZrO_3$ (011) surface, the $Zr-O$ chemical bond population is larger in the direction perpendicular to the ZrO -terminated (011) surface 0.240 e than in the plane 0.138 e (Table 7). As we can see from Table 8 and

Table 7 Our calculated A–B chemical bond populations P (in e) as well as interatomic distances R (in Å) on $CaZrO_3$ (011) surfaces

CaZrO ₃ (011) surface			
Atom A	Atom B	P	R
ZrO-terminated CaZrO ₃ (011) surface			
Zr(I)	O(I)	0.138	2.128
	O(II)	0.240	1.919
O(II)	Zr(III)	0.114	2.079
	Ca(III)	0.018	3.009
Zr(III)	O(III)	0.012	3.108
	Ca(III)	0.002	3.603
	O(III)	0.114	2.102
	O(IV)	0.082	2.067
Ca(III)	O(III)	0.016	2.945
	O(IV)	0.016	2.867
O(III)	O(IV)	– 0.052	2.789
Ca-terminated CaZrO ₃ (011) surface			
Ca(I)	O(II)	0.028	2.625
O(II)	Ca(III)	0.022	2.969
	Zr(III)	0.078	2.108
Ca(III)	O(III)	– 0.010	2.979
	O(III)	0.012	2.94
Zr(III)	O(IV)	0.014	2.936
	O(III)	0.052	2.079
O(III)	Ca(III)	0.002	3.600
	O(IV)	0.112	2.086
O(III)	O(IV)	– 0.012	2.927
O-terminated CaZrO ₃ (011) surface			
O(I)	Ca(II)	0.022	2.470
	Zr(II)	0.130	1.986
Ca(II)	O(II)	– 0.010	2.959
	O(II)	– 0.012	2.415
Zr(II)	Zr(II)	– 0.002	3.078
	O(III)	0.186	1.989
O(II)	O(III)	– 0.002	2.945
Ca(II)	O(III)	0.006	2.743
O(III)	O(IV)	– 0.014	2.939
	Zr(IV)	0.066	2.130
	Ca(IV)	0.012	2.925

Symbols I–IV denote the number of each plane enumerated from the surface. The nearest-neighbour $Zr-O$ distance is 2.0785 Å in $CaZrO_3$ bulk

Fig. 8, systematic trend is that the B–O chemical bond population in all our eight calculated ABO_3 perovskite bulk as a rule are smaller than near their (001) as well as especially (011) surfaces. It is worth to notice that for all eight ABO_3 perovskites (Table 8 and Fig. 8), the BO-terminated (011) surface B–O

Table 8 Our calculated eight ABO₃ perovskite bulk, BO₂-terminated (001) surface as well as BO-terminated (011) surface B–O chemical bond populations in the plane (B(I)–O(I)) and in the direction perpendicular to the (011) surface (B(I)–O(II))

	CZO	CTO	STO	PTO	BTO	SZO	PZO	BZO
Bulk (B–O)	0.086	0.084	0.088	0.098	0.098	0.092	0.106	0.108
(001) (B–O)	0.102	0.114	0.118	0.114	0.126	0.114	0.116	0.132
(011) (B(I)–O(I))	0.138	0.128	0.130	0.132	0.130	0.142	0.148	0.152
(011) (B(I)–O(II))	0.240	0.186	0.188	0.196	0.198	0.246	0.252	0.252

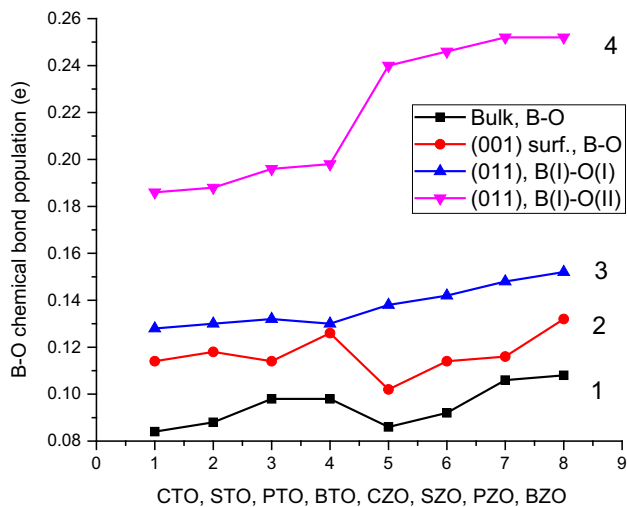


Figure 8 Our calculated B–O chemical bond populations for ABO₃ perovskite bulk (line 1), BO₂-terminated (001) surfaces (line 2) as well as B(I)–O(I) (line 3) and B(I)–O(II) (line 4) chemical bond populations for the BO-terminated ABO₃ perovskite (011) surfaces.

chemical bond population is larger in the direction perpendicular to the BO-terminated (011) surface than in the plane.

In Table 9 we listed our calculated CaZrO₃ effective Mulliken charges *Q* as well as their changes ΔQ in comparison with the respective bulk values for near the surface atoms for the ZrO-, Ca- and O-terminated CaZrO₃ (011) surfaces. Firstly, on the ZrO-terminated CaZrO₃ (011) surface, the effective Mulliken charge on the first surface layer Zr atom (+ 2.178*e*) is slightly increased by + 0.034*e* in comparison with the relevant bulk value. The third-layer metal atom Ca loses – 0.033*e* charge, while the other third-layer metal atom Zr gains almost the same amount of charge, namely 0.039*e*. It is interesting to notice that the O atoms in the first, second, third and fourth surface layers have reduced charges making them less negative. The largest O atom charge change equal to (0.178*e*) is observed for the CaZrO₃ subsurface O atoms, thereby giving a large positive charge

Table 9 Our B3LYP calculated Mulliken atomic charges *Q* (in *e*) and changes in atomic charges ΔQ with respect to the CaZrO₃ bulk charges (in *e*) on the ZrO-, Ca- and O-terminated CaZrO₃ (011) surfaces

CaZrO ₃ (011) surface		
Atom	<i>Q</i>	ΔQ
ZrO-terminated CaZrO ₃ (011) surface		
Zr(I)	+ 2.178	+ 0.034
O(I)	– 1.263	+ 0.047
O(II)	– 1.132	+ 0.178
Ca(III)	+ 1.754	– 0.033
Zr(III)	+ 2.183	+ 0.039
O(III)	– 1.283	+ 0.027
O(IV)	– 1.300	+ 0.01
Ca-terminated CaZrO ₃ (011) surface		
Ca(I)	+ 1.686	– 0.101
O(II)	– 1.467	– 0.157
Ca(III)	+ 1.778	– 0.009
Zr(III)	+ 2.177	+ 0.033
O(III)	– 1.394	– 0.084
O(IV)	– 1.312	– 0.002
O-terminated CaZrO ₃ (011) surface		
O(I)	– 1.314	– 0.004
Ca(II)	+ 1.734	– 0.053
Zr(II)	+ 2.173	+ 0.029
O(II)	– 1.327	– 0.017
O(III)	– 1.297	+ 0.013
Ca(IV)	+ 1.775	– 0.012
Zr(IV)	+ 2.153	+ 0.009
O(IV)	– 1.291	+ 0.019

The CaZrO₃ bulk Mulliken charges are equal to 1.787*e* for Ca, 2.144*e* for Zr, and – 1.310*e* for O

change of 0.356*e* for the whole subsurface layer (Table 9).

On the CaZrO₃ Ca-terminated (011) surface, the only positive charge change is observed for the third-layer Zr atom, where the Zr atom charge increases by 0.033*e* from the bulk value 2.144*e* till 2.177*e*. The largest charge changes are for the subsurface O ion (0.157*e*) as well as surface Ca ion (0.101*e*). Thereby,

our calculated largest overall charge change occurs in the Ca-terminated CaZrO_3 (011) surface subsurface layer ($0.314e$). On the O-terminated CaZrO_3 (011) surface, the largest charge change between all atoms is observed for the subsurface Ca atom equal to $0.053e$, whereas the total charge density change in the fourth layer is almost negligible and equal to only $0.016e$.

Summary and conclusions

Based on our current ab initio B3LYP calculations for polar CaZrO_3 (011) surfaces as well as for comparison purposes listed previous B3PW and B3LYP calculations [9–11, 66, 68, 75] for CTO, STO, PTO, BTO, SZO, PZO and BZO (011) surfaces, the following systematic trends for ABO_3 perovskite polar (011) surfaces were detected:

1. For ABO_3 perovskite polar (011) surfaces, systematic trend is that most of upper-layer atoms relax inwards, with only exception of all eight ABO_3 perovskite BO-terminated (011) surface O atoms. Twenty three of BO-, A- and O-terminated ABO_3 perovskite (011) surface second-layer atoms relax outwards, whereas 17 second-layer atoms inwards. Finally, a large majority of (011) surface third-layer atoms, namely 37 atoms, relax inwards, while only 16 remaining atoms relax outwards. It is worth to notice, that inward relaxation of upper-layer atoms, upwards relaxation of second-layer atoms and, again, inwards relaxation of third-layer atoms were even more strongly pronounced effect for the ABO_3 perovskite (001) surfaces [55].
2. The strongest relaxation magnitude between all BO-, A-, and O-terminated ABO_3 perovskite (011) surfaces always exhibit the A-terminated (011) surface upper-layer A atoms. The BO-terminated ABO_3 perovskite (011) surface third-layer atoms, in most cases, exhibit larger relaxation magnitude than the second-layer atoms.
3. The BO-terminated ABO_3 perovskite (011) surface upper layer rather large metal atom inwards relaxation as well as the same upper-layer oxygen atom outwards relaxation leads to a considerable rumpling of the outermost plane ranging from 9.96 for BZO till 11.81 for CTO. For all our eight calculated ABO_3 perovskite BO and O-terminated (011) surfaces, a systematic trend is a strong contraction of the interlayer distance Δd_{12} , ranging from 5.68 (CZO) till 7.72 (PTO) for BO-terminated (011) surface as well as from 5.25 (BTO) till 8.01 (SZO) for O-terminated CaZrO_3 (011) surface. For all eight ABO_3 perovskites and for both BO and O terminations, the interlayer distance Δd_{23} exhibits either very small expansion for ZrO-terminated (011) surface for CZO, CTO, SZO perovskites ranging from 0.03 (CZO) till 0.34 (CTO) and for O-terminated (011) surfaces small expansion is observed for CZO, CTO, PTO, SZO, PZO and BZO ranging from 0.19 BZO till 1.55 (CZO), or a small contraction for remaining of eight ABO_3 perovskites.
4. Unlike the ABO_3 perovskite (001) surfaces [55] different BO, A and O terminations of the ABO_3 perovskite (011) surface, as a rule, usually, lead to a considerable difference in the surface energies. Our calculated eight ABO_3 perovskite (011) surface energies are always larger than the (001) surface energies. Although in some cases, the ABO_3 perovskite (011) and (001) surface energies are really close, as for example the CaZrO_3 perovskite Ca-terminated CaZrO_3 (011) surface energy (1.49 eV) only by 0.16 eV exceeds the ZrO₂-terminated CaZrO_3 (001) surface energy equal to 1.33 eV.
5. The B–O chemical bond population in ABO_3 perovskites increase in direction from the bulk, ranging from $0.084e$ (CTO) till $0.108e$ (BZO) towards the BO₂-terminated (001) surface, ranging from $0.102e$ (CZO) till $0.132e$ (BZO) and reach its maximum for BO-terminated ABO_3 perovskite (011) surface. Our calculated BO-terminated (011) surface B(I)–O(I) in plane chemical bond population is in the range from $0.128e$ (CTO) till $0.152e$ (BZO). Finally, the maximal chemical bond population value is for the direction perpendicular to the BO-terminated ABO_3 perovskite (011) surface, where B(I)–O(II) values are in the range from $0.186e$ (CTO) till $0.252e$ (PZO, BZO).

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Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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