

Electronic Supplementary Information

Penta-BCN monolayer: a metal-free photocatalyst with high carrier mobility for water splitting

Chun Wang,[†] Xiaocheng Zhou,^{†*} and Ya-fei Li^{†*}

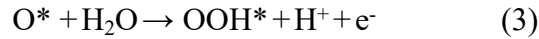
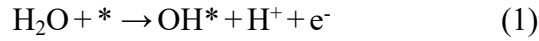
[†]Jiangsu Key Laboratory of New Power Batteries, Jiangsu Collaborative Innovation Centre of Biomedical Functional Materials, School of Chemistry and Materials Science, Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing210023, China

To whom correspondence should be addressed. Email: xczhou@njnu.edu.cn(XZ) and liyafei@njnu.edu.cn(YL)

Table S1. Zero-point energy correction (E_{ZPE}), entropy contribution (TS, T = 298.15 K), total energy (E), and the Gibbs free energy (G) of molecules and adsorbates in this study.

Species	E_{ZPE} (eV)	-TS (eV)	E (eV)	G (eV)
H ₂	0.27	-0.40	-6.76	-6.89
H ₂ O	0.56	-0.67	-14.22	-14.33
OH*	0.35	-0.01	-432.46	-423.12
O*	0.09	-0.03	-426.28	-426.22
OOH*	0.36	-0.01	-436.01	-435.66
H*	0.25	-0.01	-423.88	-423.64

In the aqueous solution, the OER process generally involves four-electron oxidation steps, which can be written as:



where * denotes the adsorption site, OH*, O* and OOH* denote the adsorbed intermediates.

Meanwhile, the HER process with two-electron pathways, including a fast proton/electron transfer step and a fast hydrogen release step, can be written as:





We used a $3 \times 3 \times 1$ supercell to explore the catalytic activity of the penta-BCN monolayer with the computational hydrogen electrode (CHE) model.¹ Then, considering the effect of electrode potential (U) and pH, the free energy change (ΔG) for OER and HER electrochemical steps can be expressed as:

$$\Delta G_1 = G_{\text{OH}^*} + 1/2 G_{\text{H}_2} - G_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} - G^* - \Delta G_U - \Delta G_{\text{pH}} \quad (7)$$

$$\Delta G_2 = G_{\text{O}^*} + 1/2 G_{\text{H}_2} - G_{\text{OH}^*} - \Delta G_U - \Delta G_{\text{pH}} \quad (8)$$

$$\Delta G_3 = G_{\text{OOH}^*} + 1/2 G_{\text{H}_2} - G_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} - G_{\text{O}^*} - \Delta G_U - \Delta G_{\text{pH}} \quad (9)$$

$$\Delta G_4 = G^* + 1/2 G_{\text{H}_2} + G_{\text{O}_2} - G_{\text{OOH}^*} - \Delta G_U - \Delta G_{\text{pH}} \quad (10)$$

$$\Delta G_5 = G_{\text{H}^*} - 1/2 G_{\text{H}_2} - G^* - \Delta G_U + \Delta G_{\text{pH}} \quad (11)$$

$$\Delta G_6 = G^* + 1/2 G_{\text{H}_2} - G_{\text{H}^*} - \Delta G_U + \Delta G_{\text{pH}} \quad (12)$$

where the G^* , G_{OH^*} , G_{O^*} , and G_{OOH^*} are the free energies of $*$, OH^* , O^* , and OOH^* , respectively. $G_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ and G_{H_2} are the free energies of H_2O and H_2 molecules, respectively.

The Gibbs free energy (G) can be calculated by

$$G = E + E_{\text{ZPE}} - TS \quad (13)$$

in which E represents the total energy from DFT calculation. E_{ZPE} and TS are zero-point energy and entropy correction, respectively. $\Delta G_U = -n_e U$, where n_e denotes the number of electrons and U is the electrode potential. $\Delta G_{\text{pH}} = k_{\text{B}} T \times \ln 10 \times \text{pH}$ and here the value of pH is set to be zero.

Reference

- 1 J. K. Nørskov, J. Rossmeisl, A. Logadottir, L. Lindqvist, J. R. Kitchin, T. Bligaard and H. Jonsson, *J. Phys. Chem. B*, 2004, **108**, 17886–17892.