

## Charge-induced proton penetration across two-dimensional clay materials

### Supplementary Information

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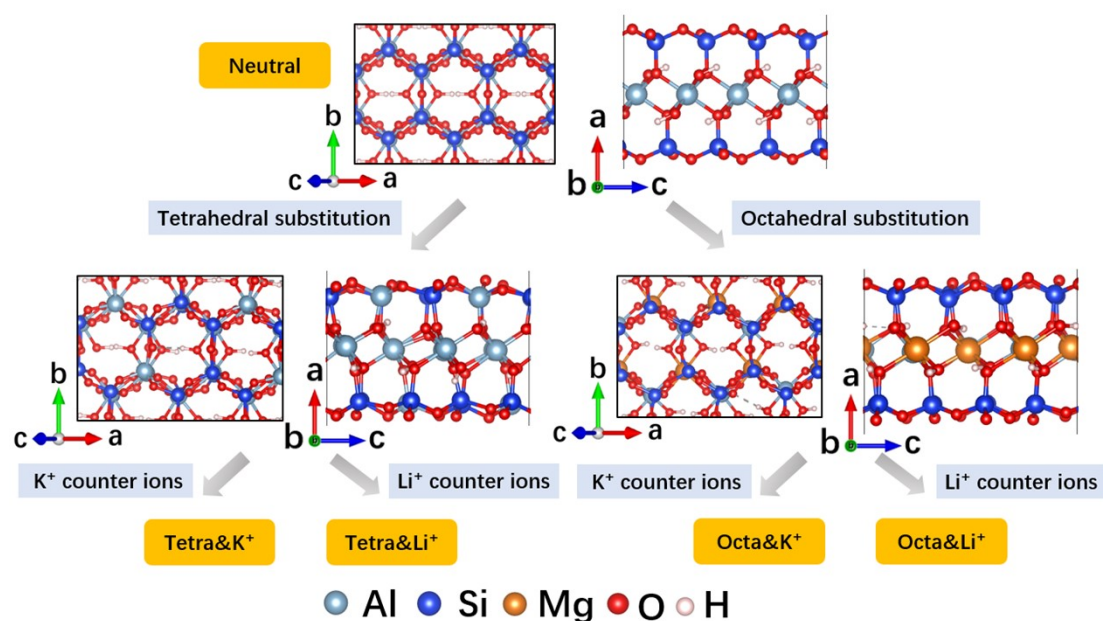


Fig. S1 Atomic structure of considered systems.

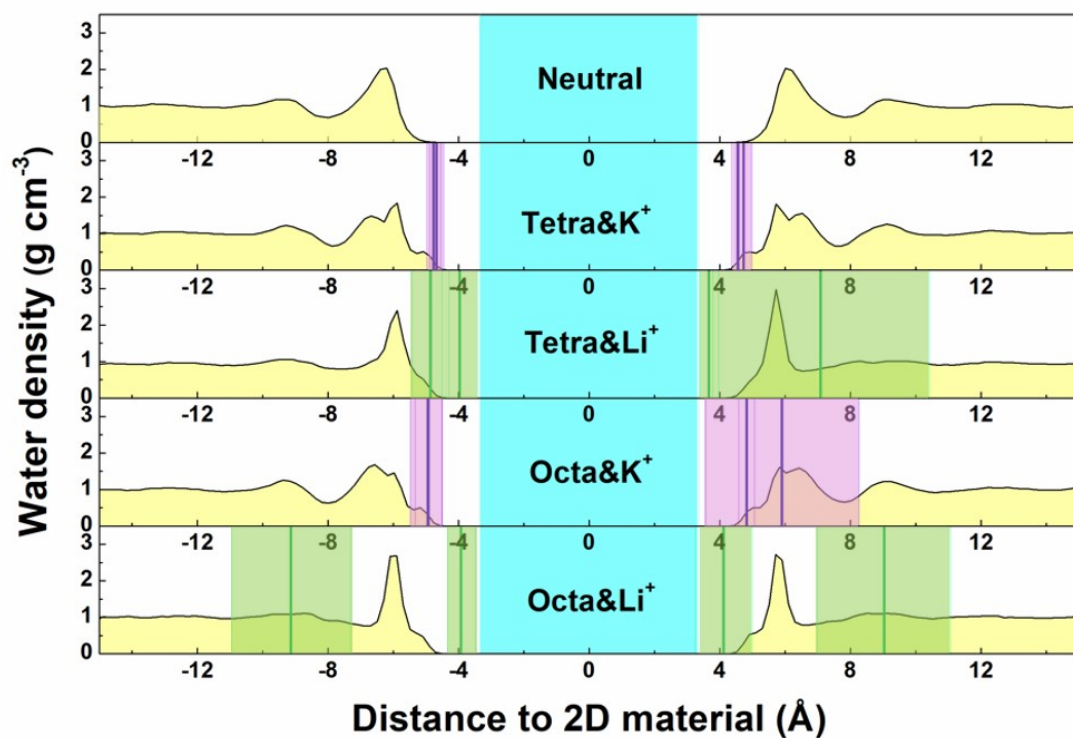


Fig. S2 Density profiles of water as a function of distance to 2D clay materials and the statistical position of  $K^+$  (purple line and shade) and  $Li^+$  (green line and shade) obtained from the classical MD trajectories. The cyan shade represents the position of 2D clay nanosheets.

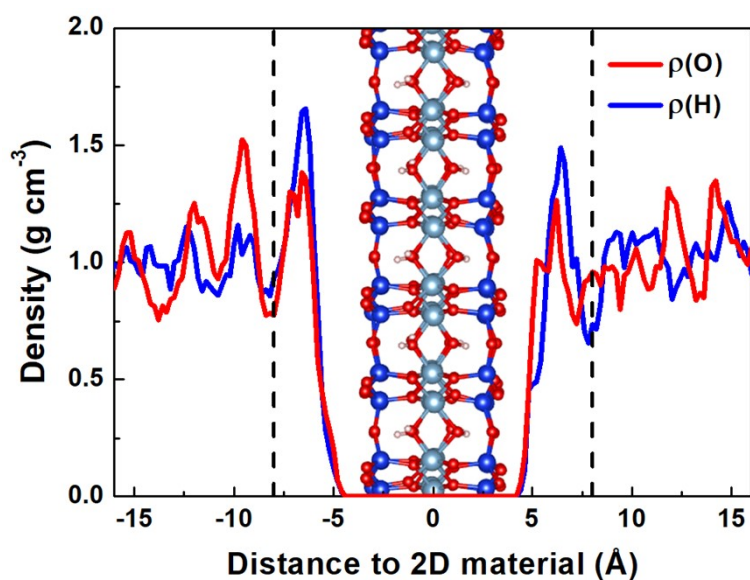


Fig. S3 Density profile of water as a function of distance to 2D clay material in “Neutral” system obtained from AIMD simulation.

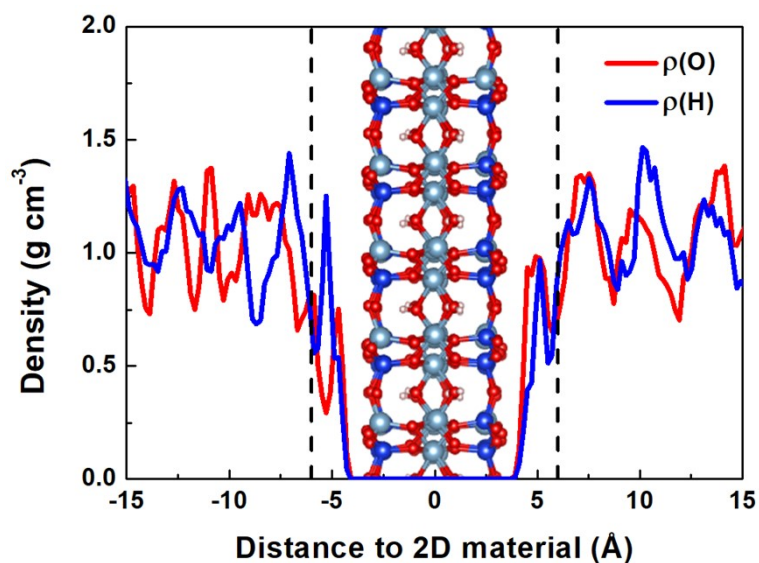


Fig. S4 Density profile of water as a function of distance to 2D clay material in “Tetra&K<sup>+</sup>” system obtained from AIMD simulation.

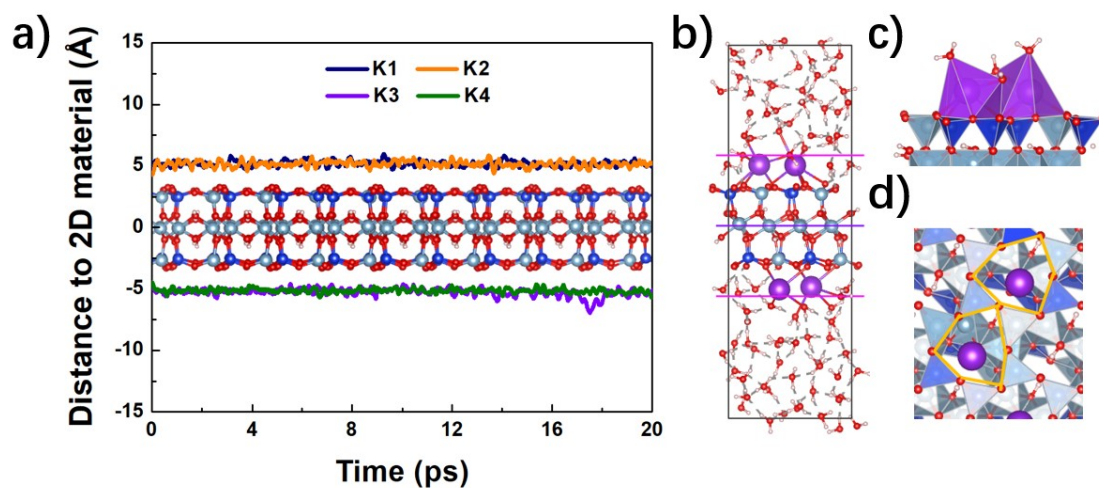


Fig. S5 a) Trajectories of K<sup>+</sup> during AIMD simulation for “Tetra&K<sup>+</sup>” system. b) snapshot of “Tetra&K<sup>+</sup>” system. c) side and d) top view of K<sup>+</sup> coordination environment

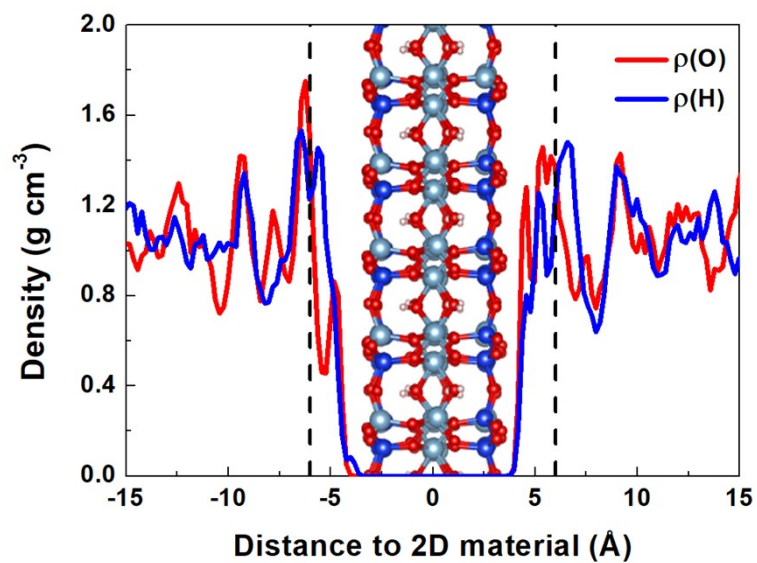


Fig. S6 Density profile of water as a function of distance to 2D clay material in “Tetra&Li<sup>+</sup>” system obtained from AIMD simulation.

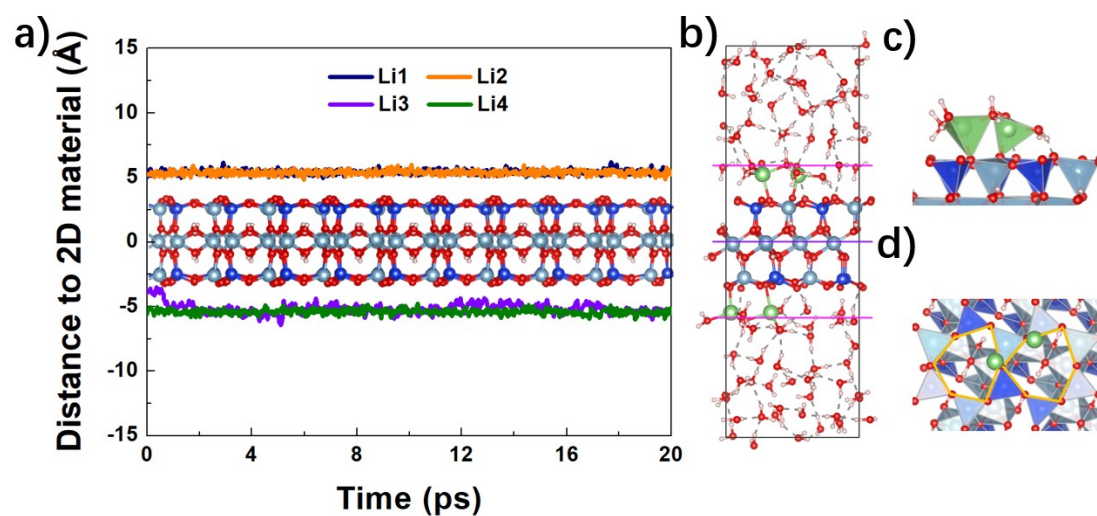


Fig. S7 a) Trajectories of Li<sup>+</sup> during AIMD simulation for “Tetra&Li<sup>+</sup>” system. b) snapshot of “Tetra&Li<sup>+</sup>” system. c) side and d) top view of Li<sup>+</sup> coordination environment

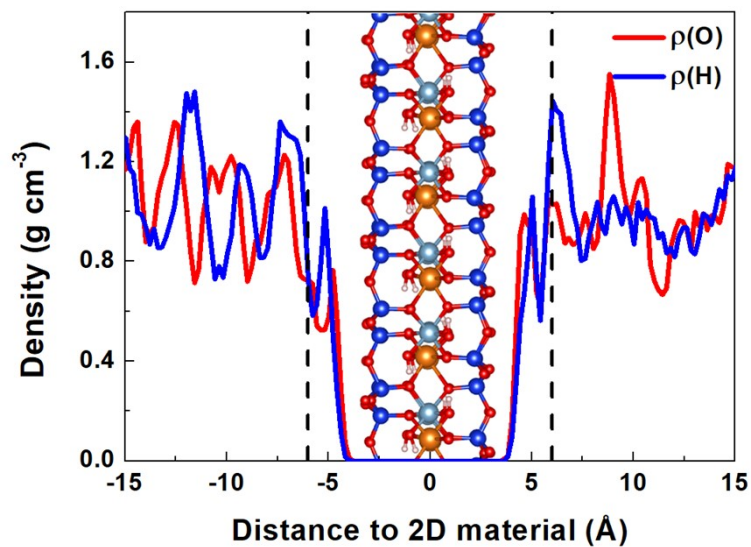


Fig. S8 Density profile of water as a function of distance to 2D clay material in “Octa&K<sup>+</sup>” system obtained from AIMD simulation.

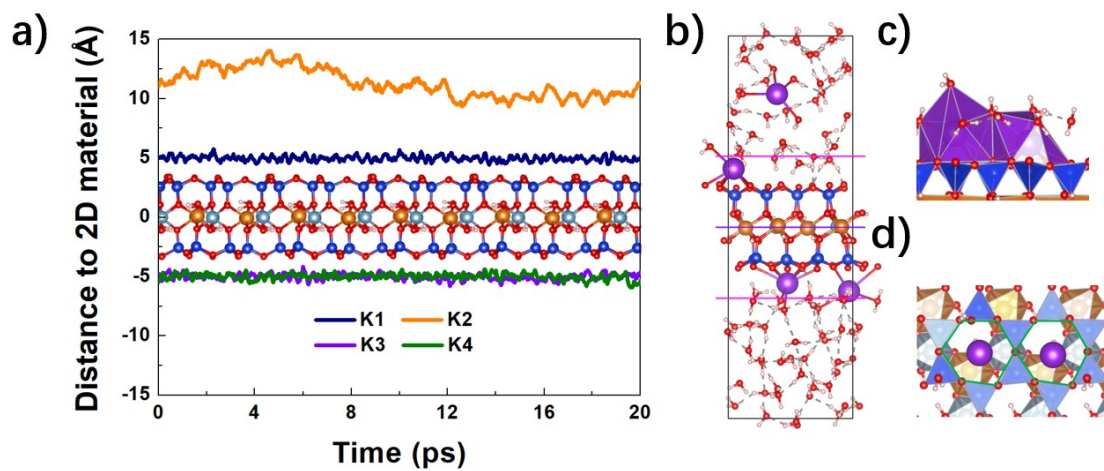


Fig. S9 a) Trajectories of K<sup>+</sup> during AIMD simulation for “Octa&K<sup>+</sup>” system. b) snapshot of “Octa&K<sup>+</sup>” system. c) side and d) top view of K<sup>+</sup> coordination environment

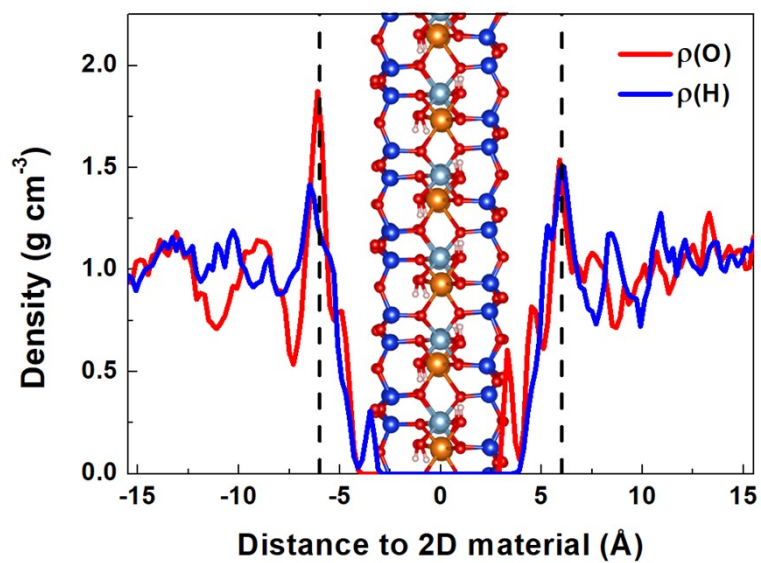


Fig. S10 Density profile of water as a function of distance to 2D clay material in “Octa&Li<sup>+</sup>” system obtained from AIMD simulation.

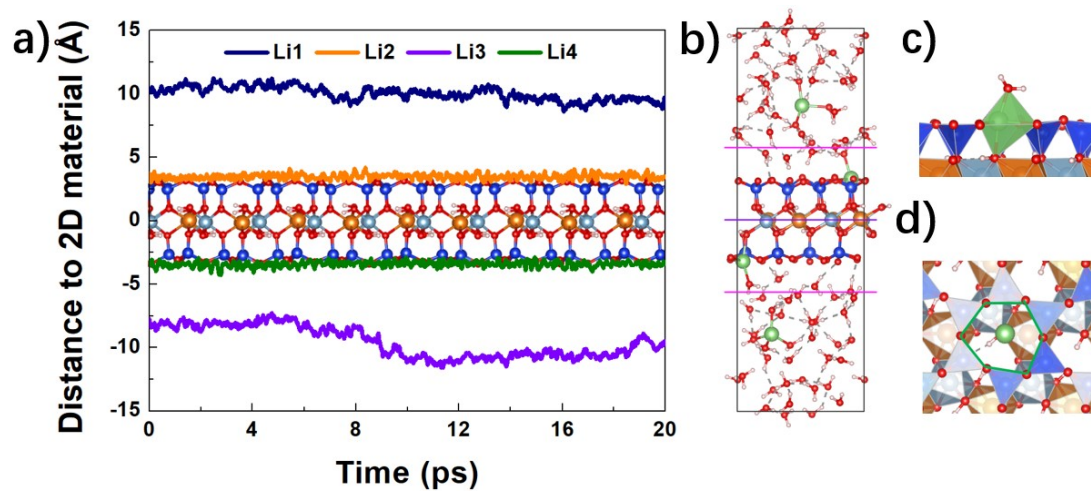


Fig. S11 a) Trajectories of Li<sup>+</sup> during AIMD simulation for “Octa&Li<sup>+</sup>” system. b) snapshot of “Octa&Li<sup>+</sup>” system. c) side and d) top view of Li<sup>+</sup> coordination environment

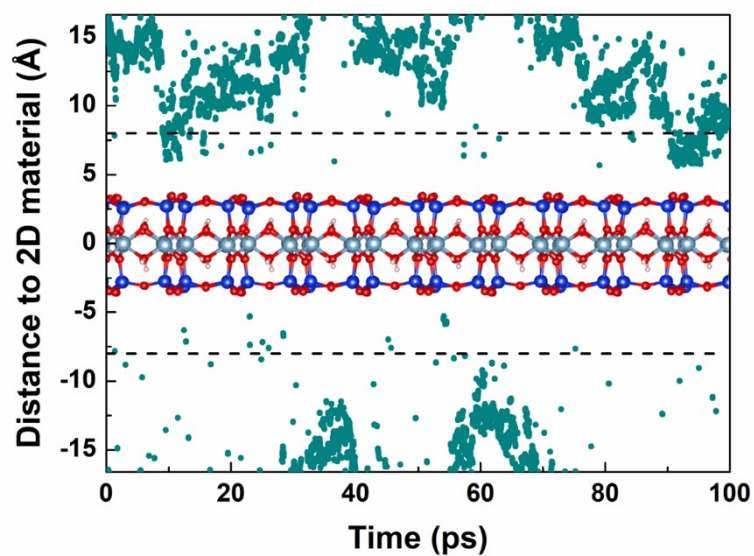


Fig. S12 The distance between proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in unbiased AIMD simulation for “Neutral” system

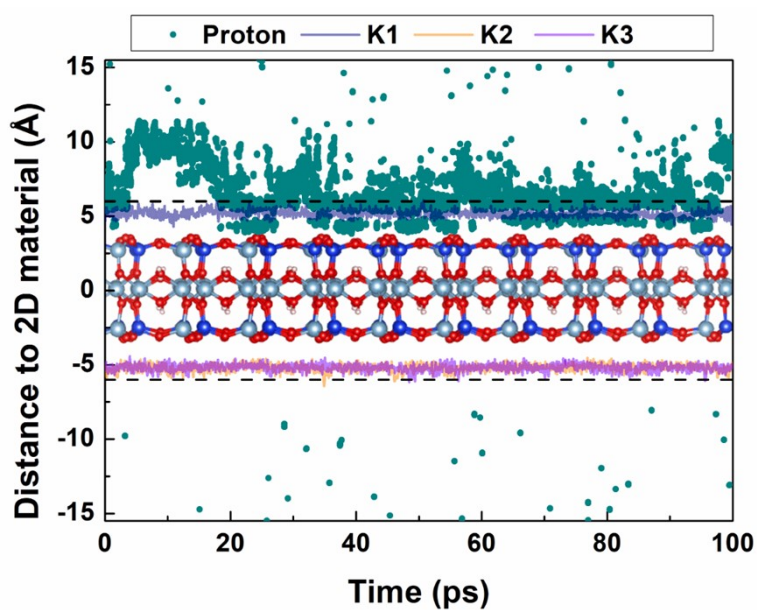


Fig. S13 The distance between proton,  $K^+$  ions and 2D clay material as a function of time in unbiased AIMD simulation for “Tetra& $K^+$ ” system

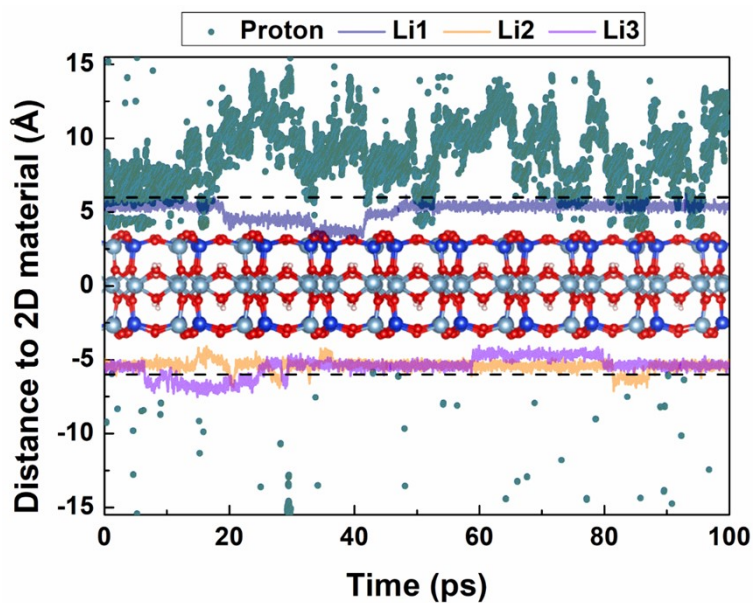


Fig. S14 The distance between proton,  $\text{Li}^+$  ions and 2D clay material as a function of time in unbiased AIMD simulation for “Tetra&Li<sup>+</sup>” system

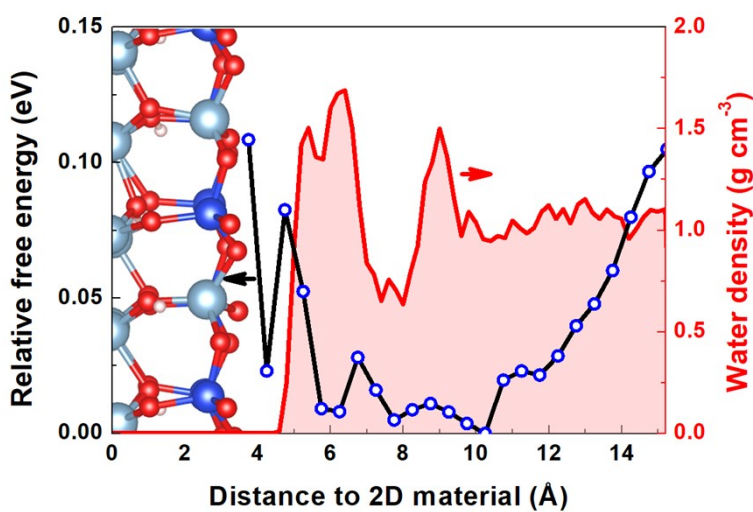


Fig. S15 Proton energy profile (black line with blue circle) and water density profile (redline with a pink shade) as a function of distance to 2D clay material in “Tetra&Li<sup>+</sup>” system



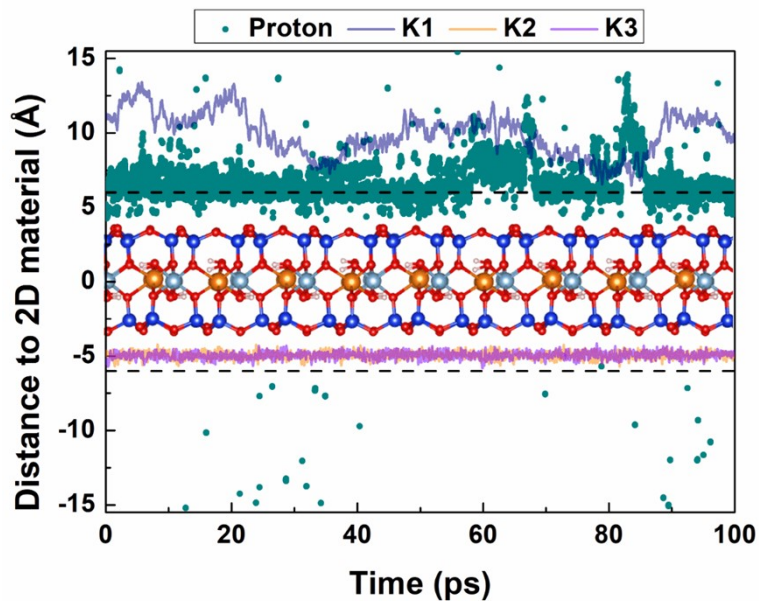


Fig. S16 The distance between proton,  $K^+$  ions and 2D clay material as a function of time in unbiased AIMD simulation for “Octa&K<sup>+</sup>” system

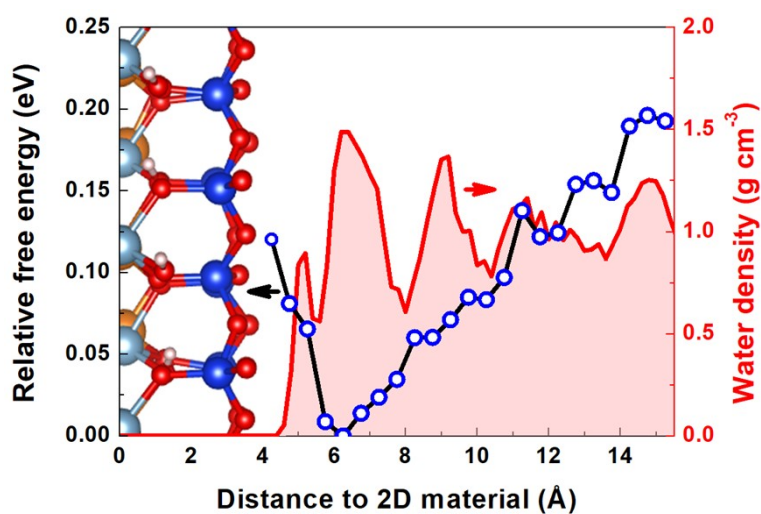


Fig. S17 Proton energy profile (black line with blue circle) and water density profile (redline with a pink shade) as a function of distance to 2D clay material in “Octa&K<sup>+</sup>” system

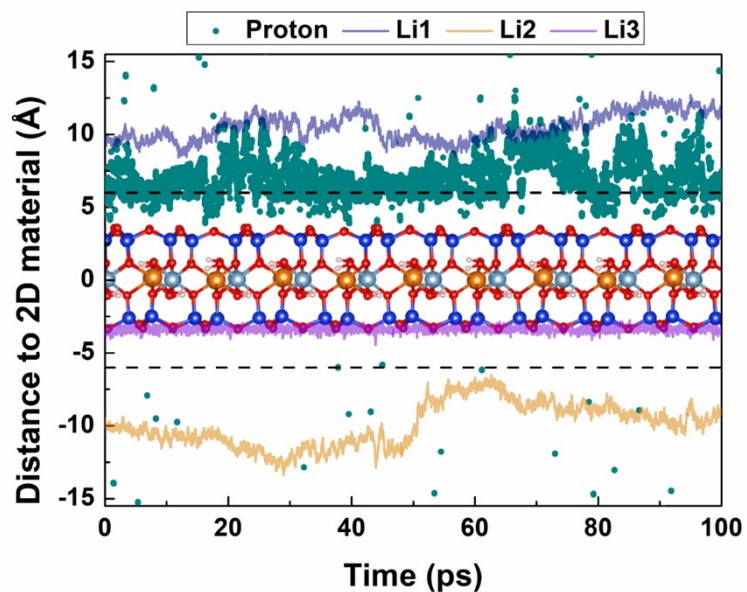


Fig. S18 The distance between proton,  $\text{Li}^+$  ions and 2D clay material as a function of time in unbiased AIMD simulation for “Octa&Li<sup>+</sup>” system

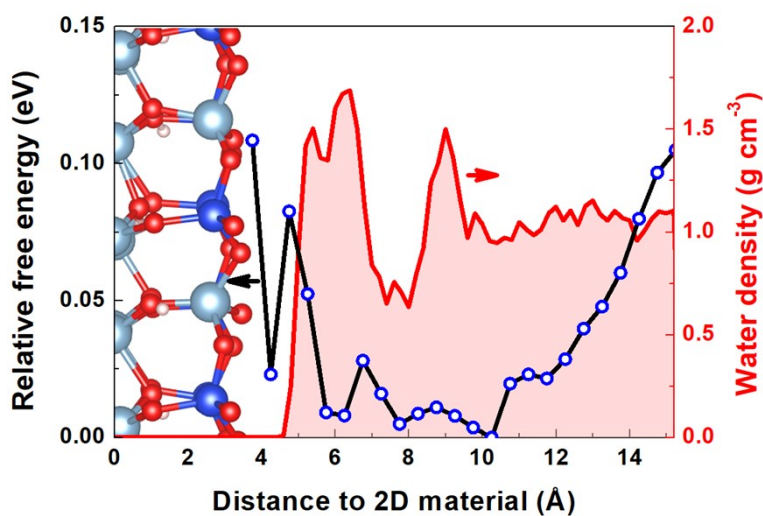


Fig. S19 Proton energy profile (black line with blue circle) and water density profile (redline with a pink shade) as a function of distance to 2D clay material in “Octa&Li<sup>+</sup>” system

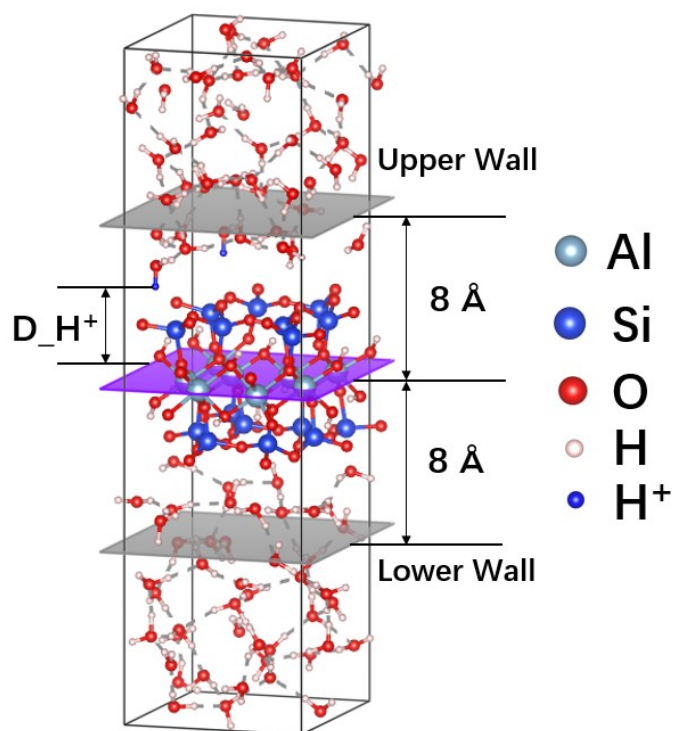


Fig. S20 Setup for metadynamics simulations of proton penetration across 2D clay material with constraints in “Neutral” system.

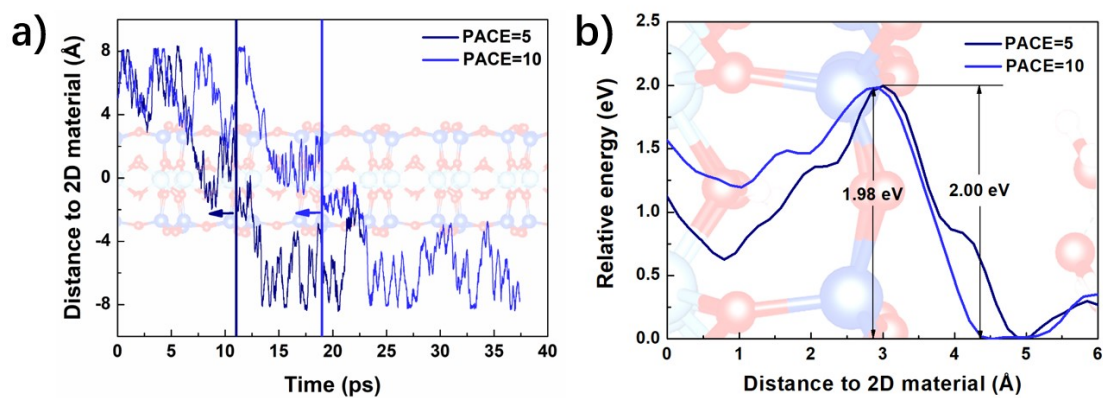


Fig. S21 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulations with different deposition pace and b) the corresponding energy profiles of proton in “Neutral” system.

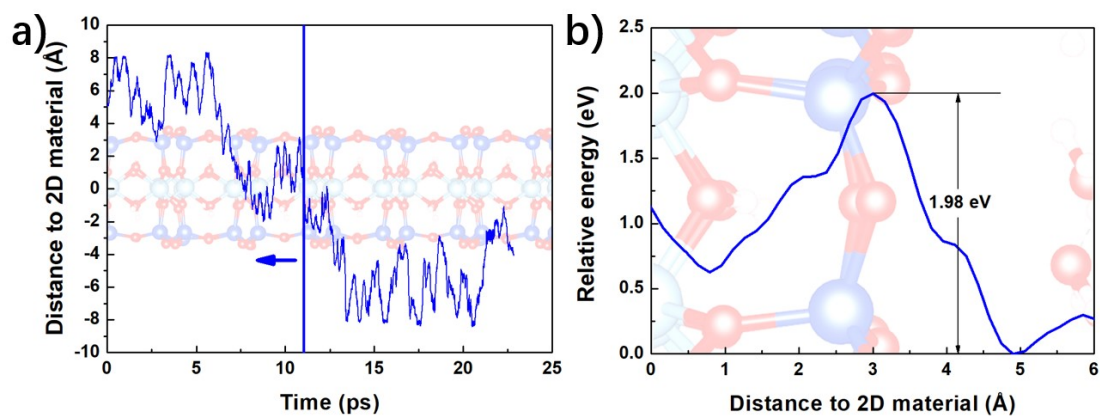


Fig. S22 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulation and b) the corresponding energy profile of proton in “Neutral” system with #1 initial geometry

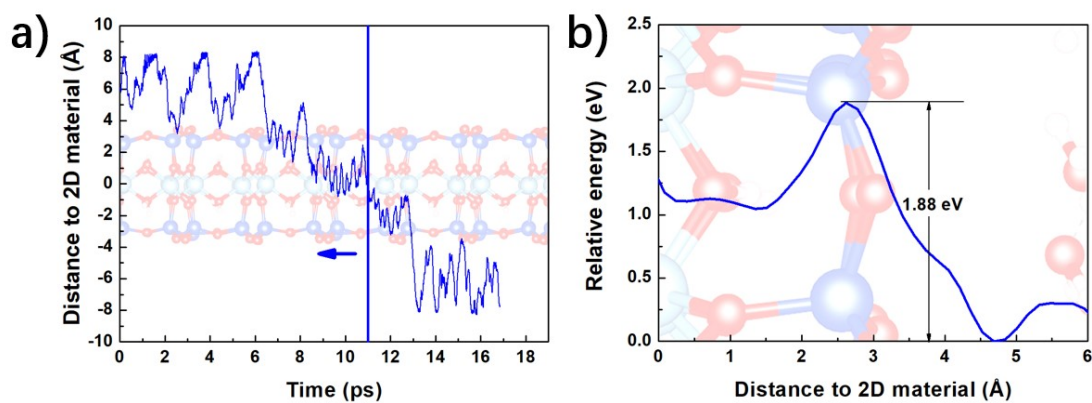


Fig. S23 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulation and b) the corresponding energy profile of proton in “Neutral” system with #2 initial geometry

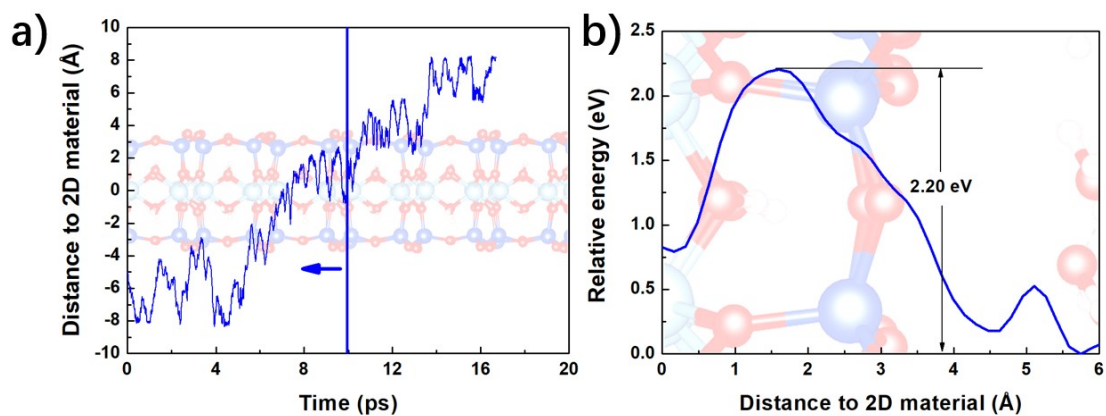


Fig. S24 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulation and b) the corresponding energy profile of proton in “Neutral” system with #3 initial geometry

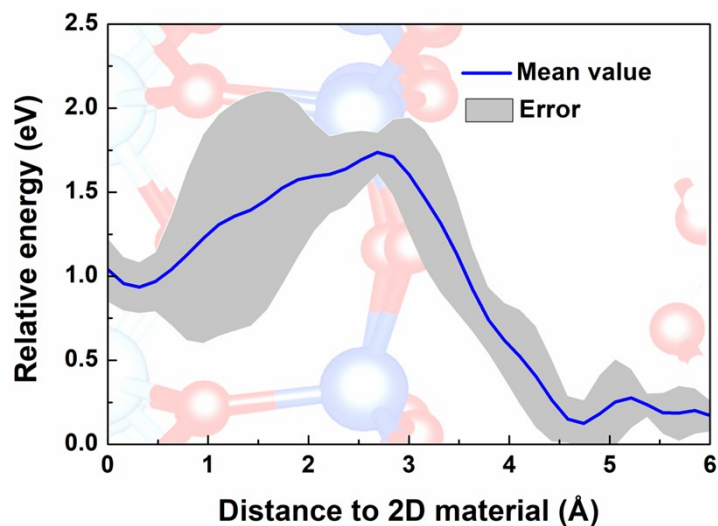


Fig. S25 Averaged free energy profile of proton in “Neutral” system calculated from three metadynamics runs with different initial geometries

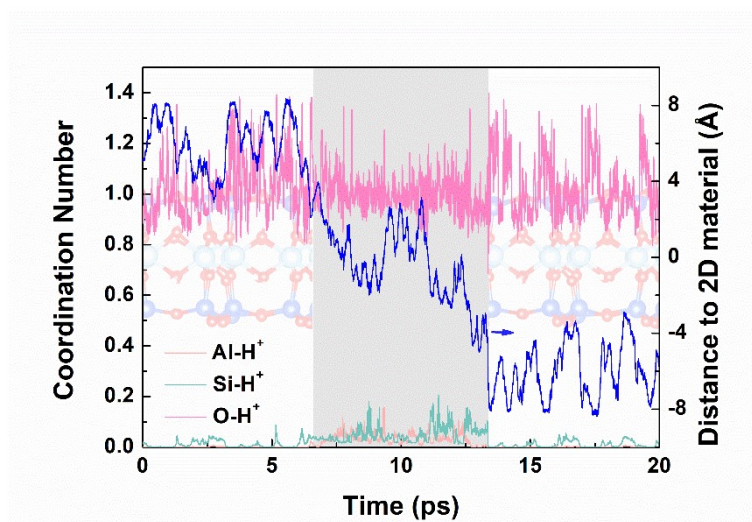


Fig.S26 Distance between the proton and 2D clay material, Al-H<sup>+</sup>, Si-H<sup>+</sup> and O-H<sup>+</sup> coordination number as a function of simulation time in #1 metadynamics simulation of proton penetration across 2D clay material for “Neutral” system.

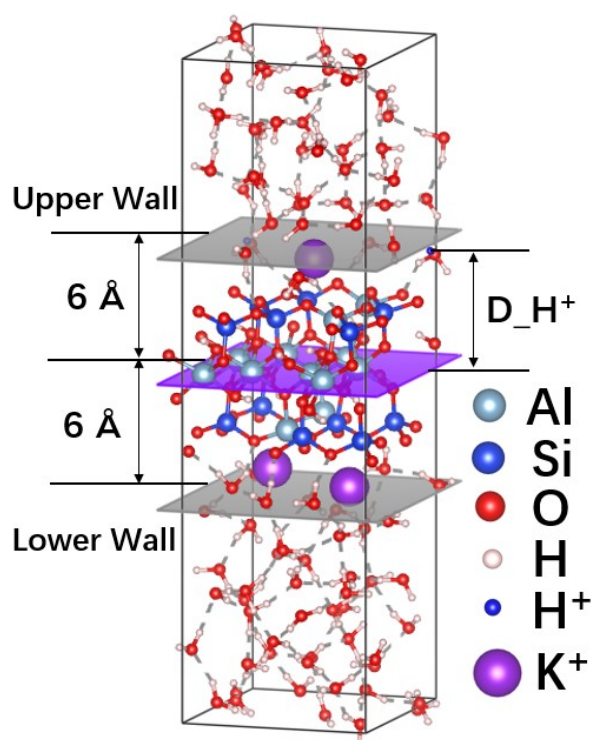


Fig.S27 Setup for metadynamics simulations of proton penetration across 2D clay material with constraints in “Tetra&K<sup>+</sup>” system

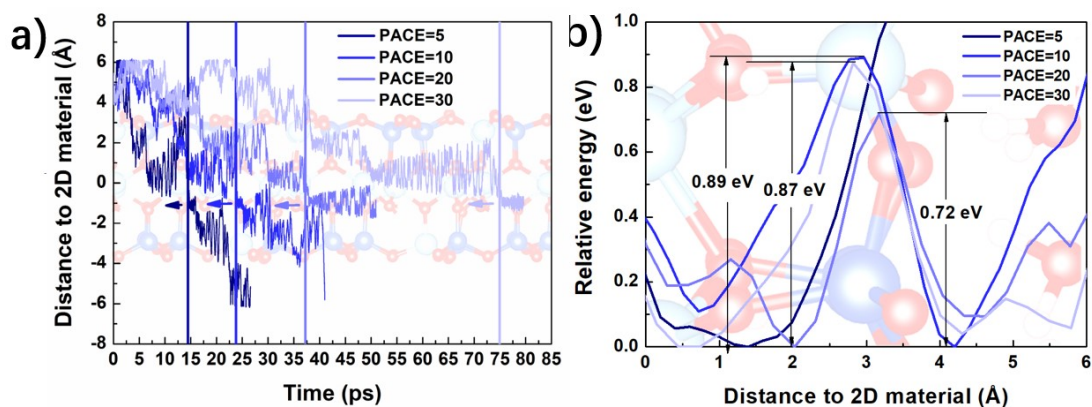


Fig. S28 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulations with different deposition pace and b) the corresponding energy profiles of proton in “Tetra&K<sup>+</sup>” system.

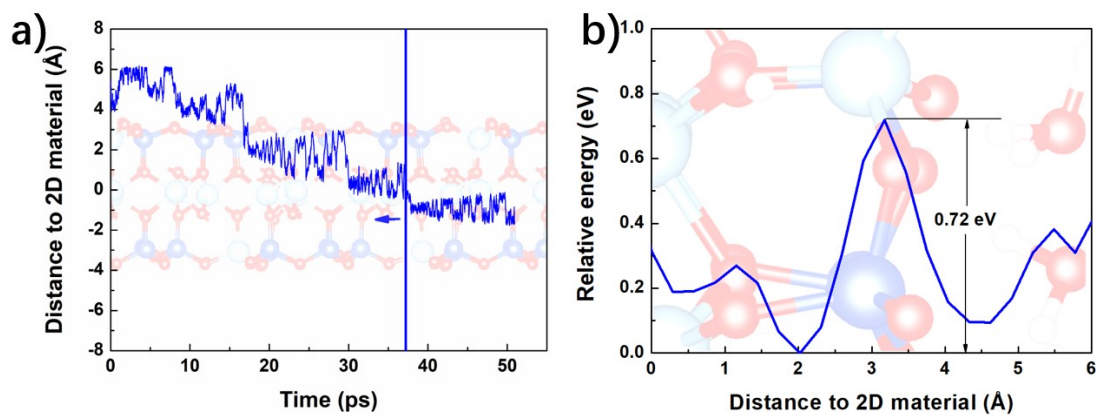


Fig. S29 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulation and b) the corresponding energy profile of proton in “Tetra&K<sup>+</sup>” system with #1 initial geometry

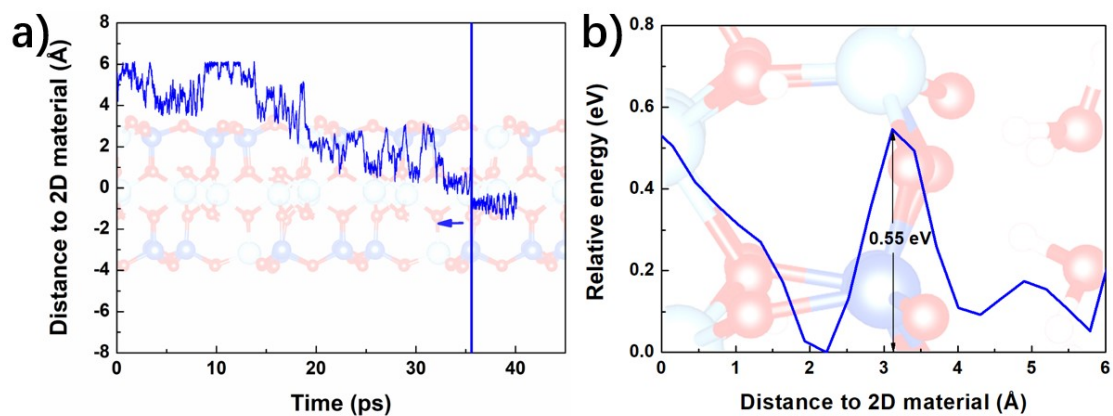


Fig. S30 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulation and b) the corresponding energy profile of proton in “Tetra&K<sup>+</sup>” system with #2 initial geometry

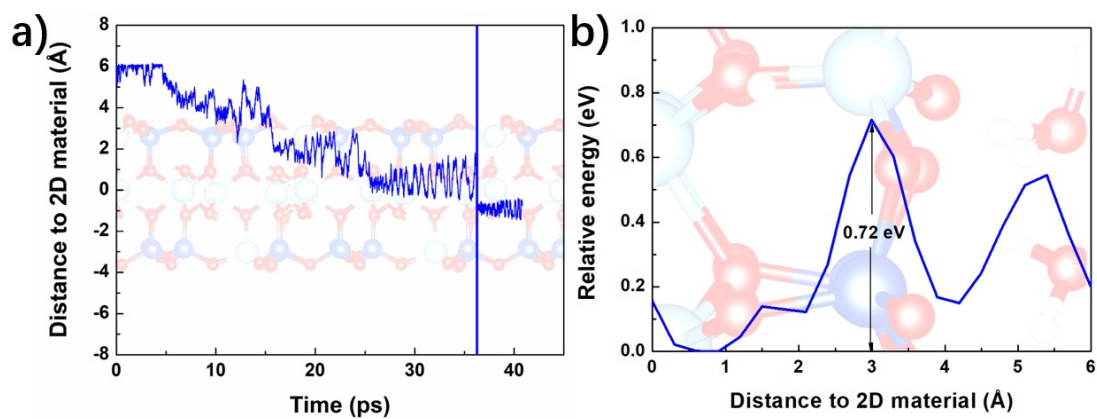


Fig. S31 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulation and b) the corresponding energy profile of proton in “Tetra&K<sup>+</sup>” system with #3 initial geometry



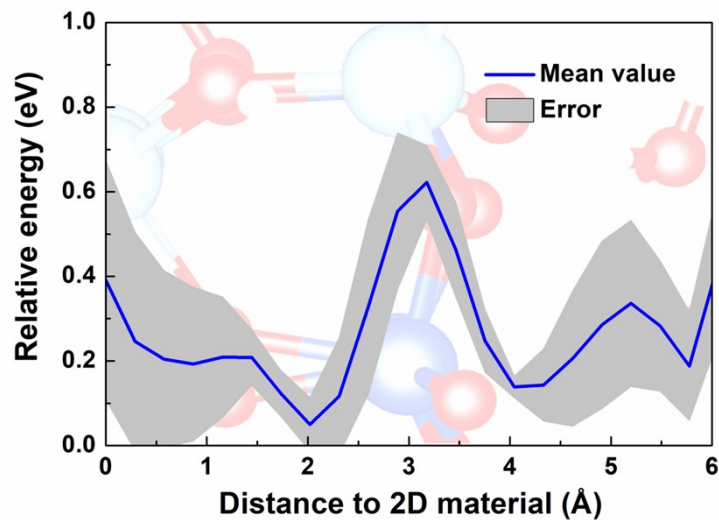


Fig. S32 Averaged free energy profile of proton in “Tetra&K” system calculated from three metadynamics runs with different initial geometries.

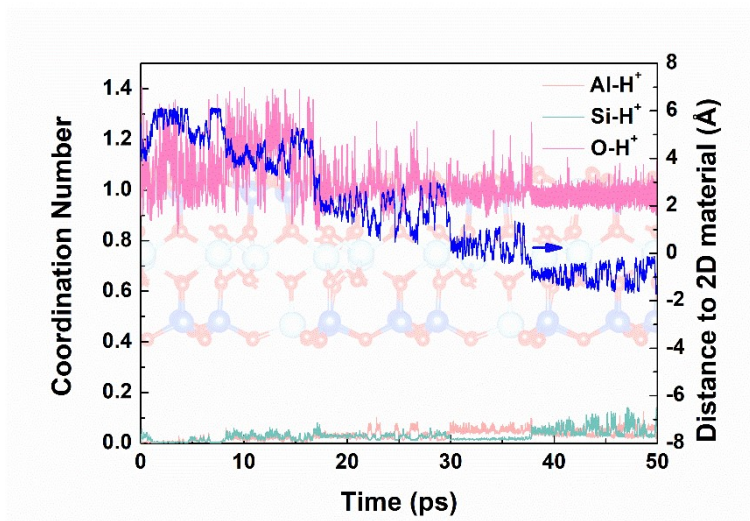


Fig. S33 Distance between the proton and 2D clay material, Al-H<sup>+</sup>, Si-H<sup>+</sup> and O-H<sup>+</sup> coordination number as a function of simulation time in #1 metadynamics simulation of proton penetration across 2D clay material for “Tetra&K<sup>+</sup>” system.

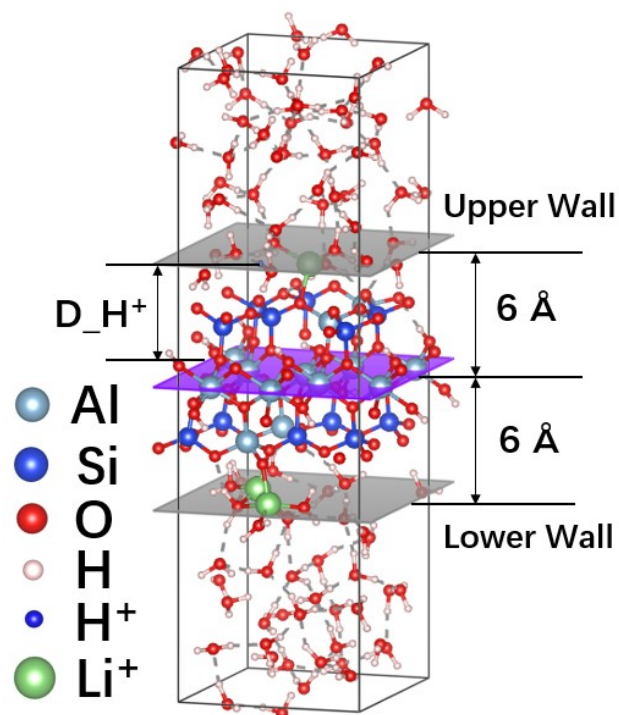


Fig. S34 Setup for metadynamics simulations of proton penetration across 2D clay material with constraints in “Tetra&Li<sup>+</sup>” system

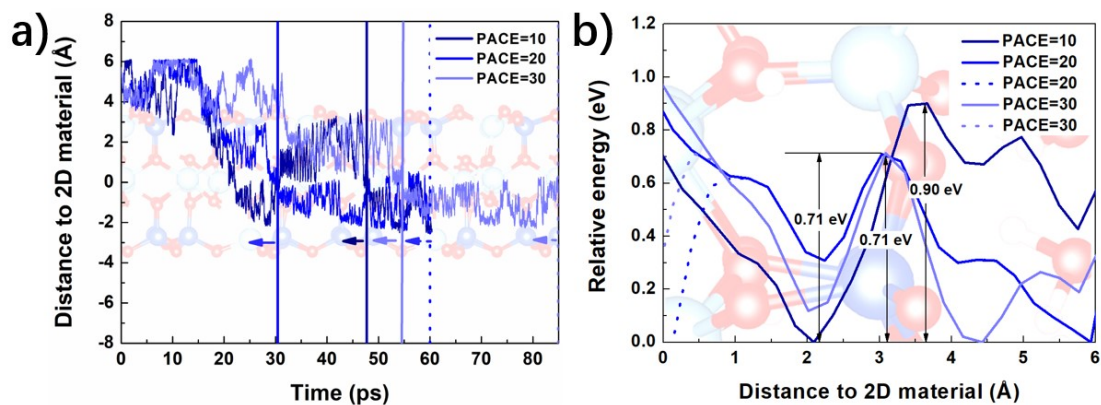


Fig. S35 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulations with different deposition pace and b) the corresponding energy profiles of proton in “Tetra&Li<sup>+</sup>” system.

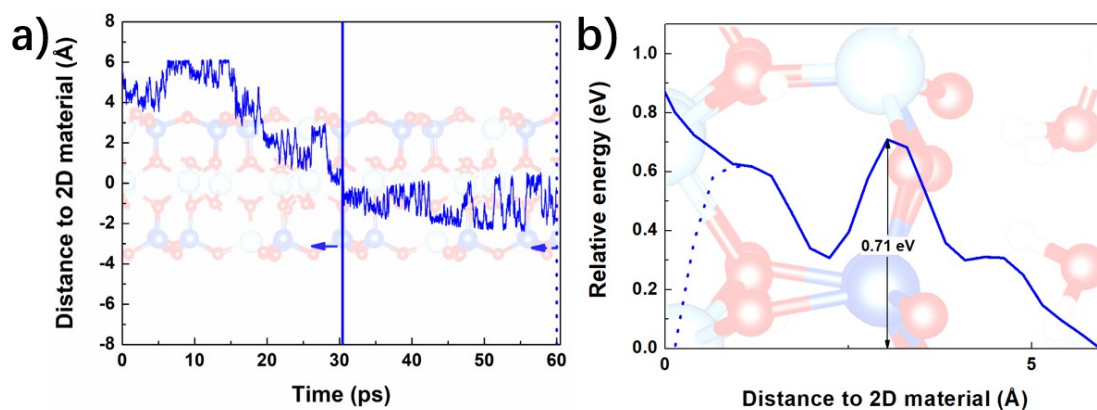


Fig. S36 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulation and b) the corresponding energy profile of proton in “Tetra&Li<sup>+</sup>” system with #1 initial geometry

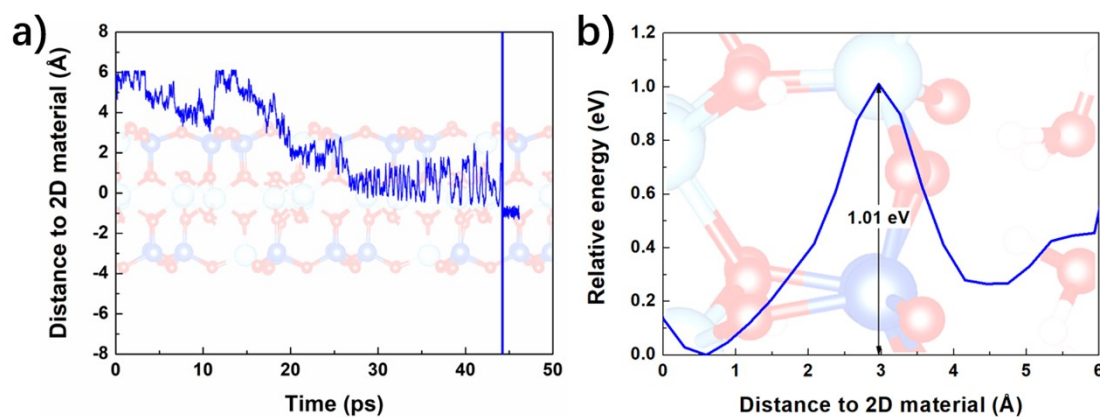


Fig. S37 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulation and b) the corresponding energy profile of proton in “Tetra&Li<sup>+</sup>” system with #2 initial geometry

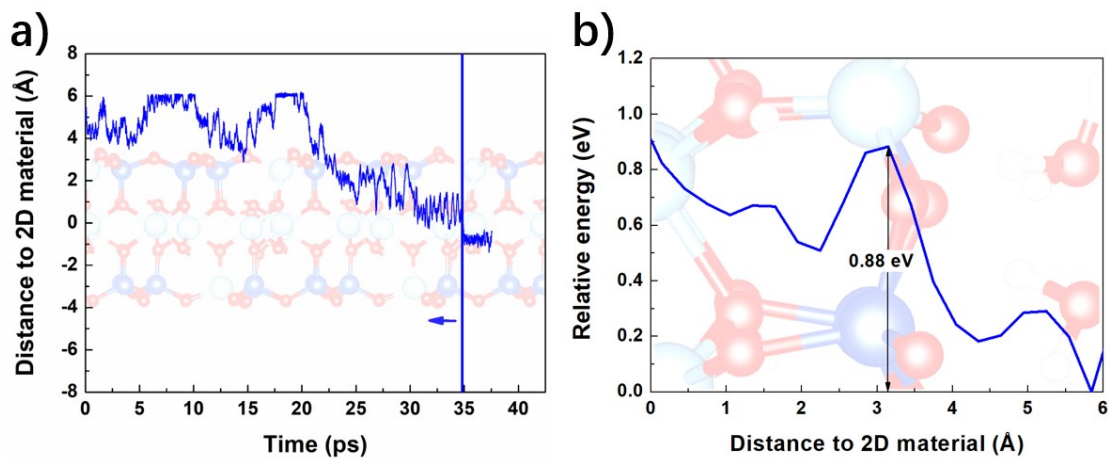


Fig. S38 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulation and b) the corresponding energy profile of proton in “Tetra&Li<sup>+</sup>” system with #3 initial geometry

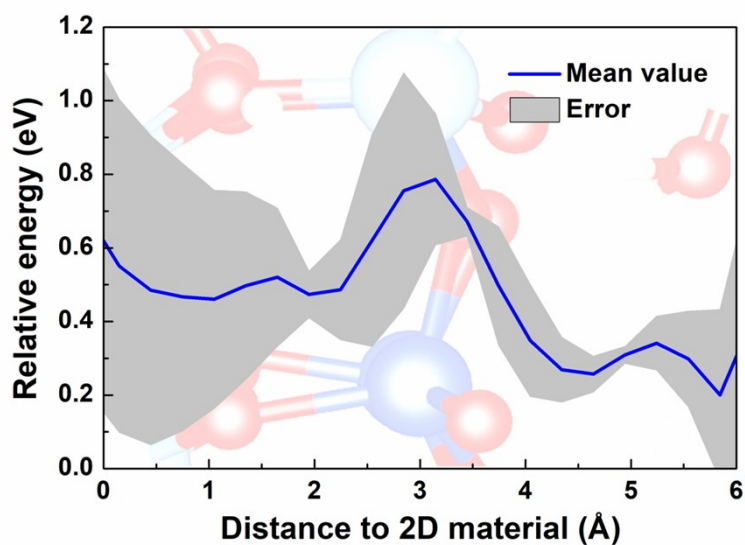


Fig. S39 Averaged free energy profile of proton in “Tetra&Li<sup>+</sup>” system calculated from three metadynamics runs with different initial geometries.

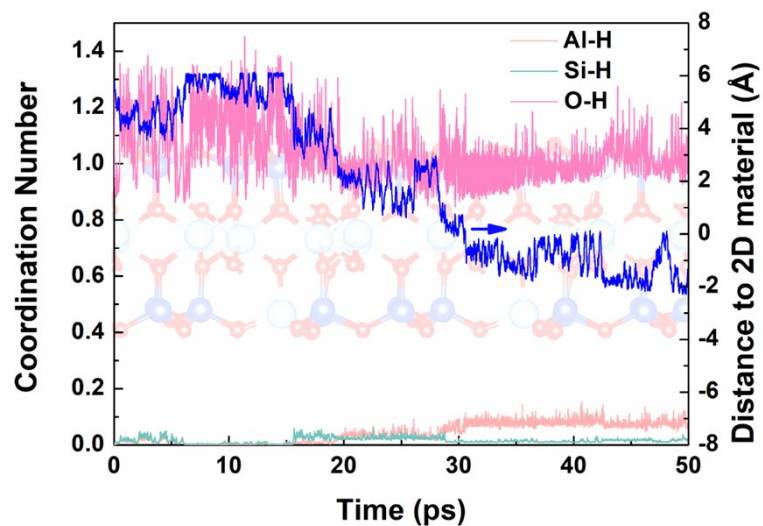


Fig. S40 Distance between the proton and 2D clay material, Al-H<sup>+</sup>, Si-H<sup>+</sup> and O-H<sup>+</sup> coordination number as a function of simulation time in #1 metadynamics simulation of proton penetration across 2D clay material for “Tetra&Li<sup>+</sup>” system.

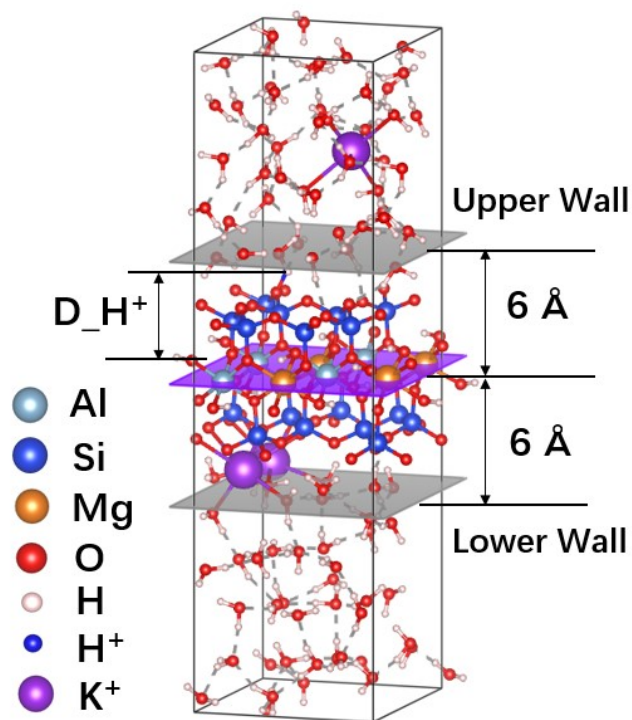


Fig. S41 Setup for metadynamics simulations of proton penetration across 2D clay material with constraints in “Octa&K<sup>+</sup>” system

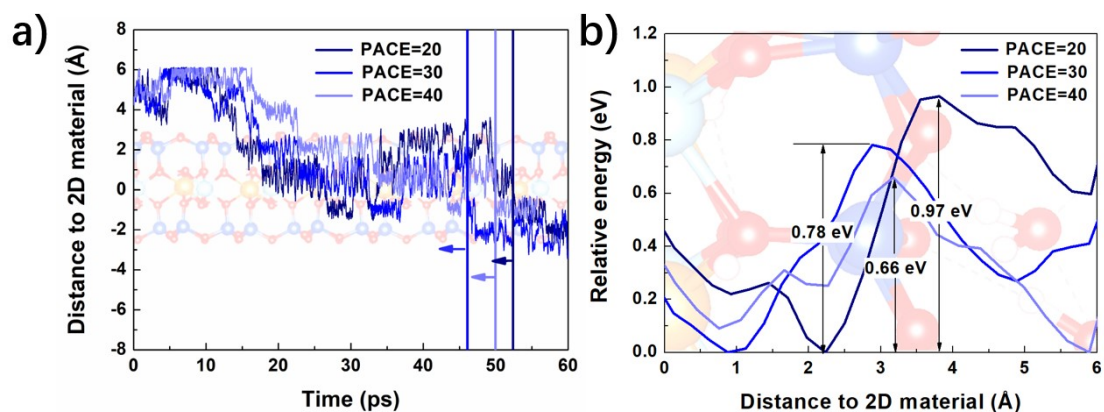


Fig. S42 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulations with different deposition pace and b) the corresponding energy profiles of proton in “Octa&K<sup>+</sup>” system.

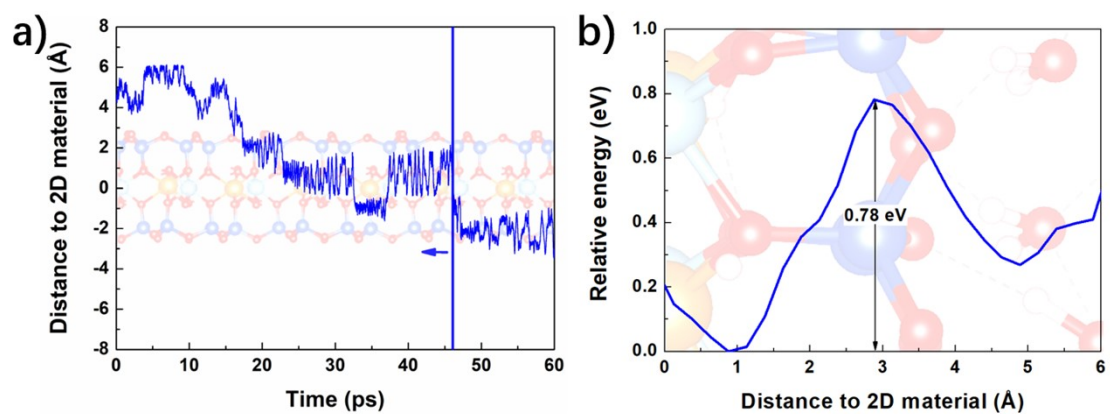


Fig. S43 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulation and b) the corresponding energy profile of proton in “Octa&K<sup>+</sup>” system with #1 initial geometry

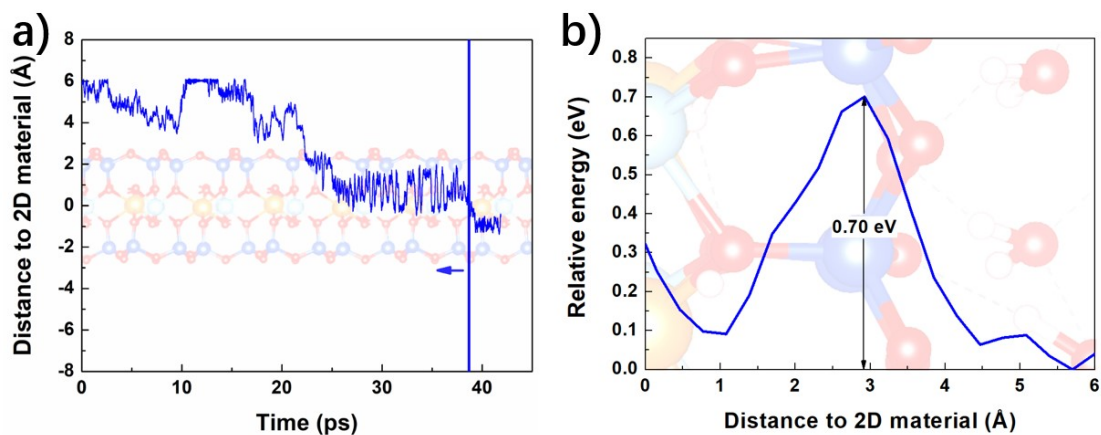


Fig. S44 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulation and b) the corresponding energy profile of proton in “Octa&K<sup>+</sup>” system with #2 initial geometry

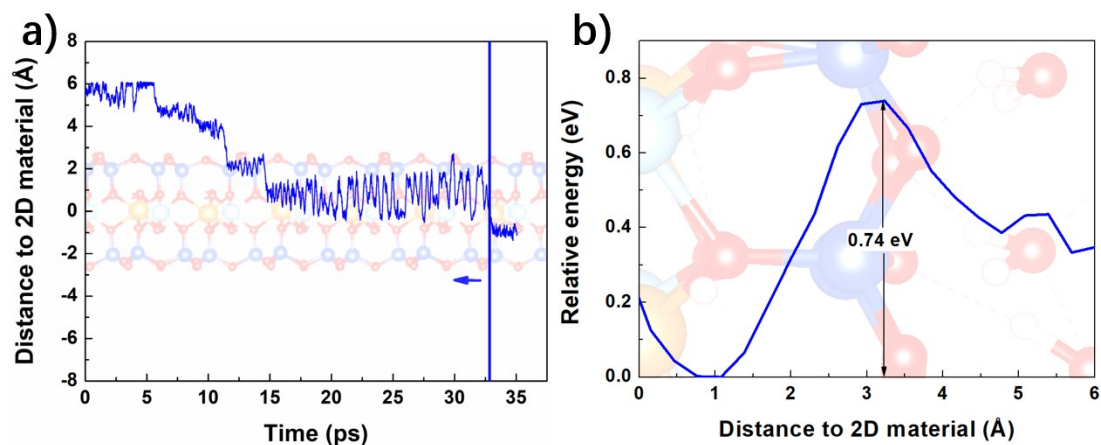


Fig. S45 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulation and b) the corresponding energy profile of proton in “Octa&K<sup>+</sup>” system with #3 initial geometry

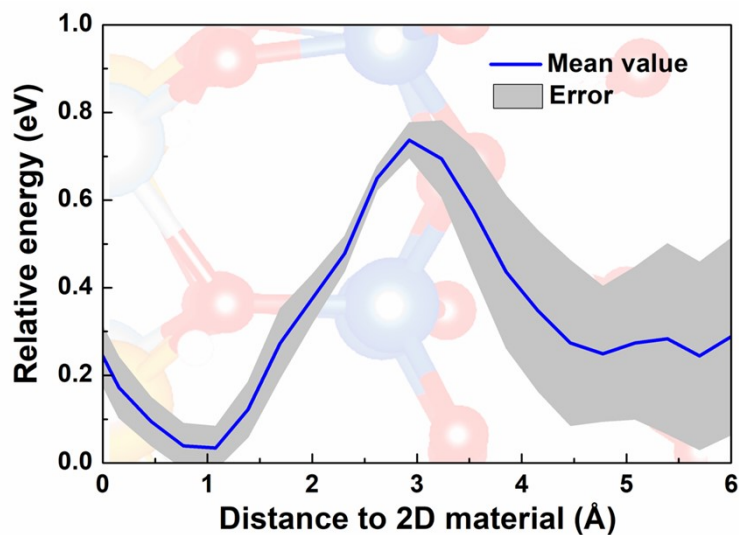


Fig. S46 Averaged free energy profile of proton in “Octa&K” system calculated from three metadynamics runs with different initial geometries.

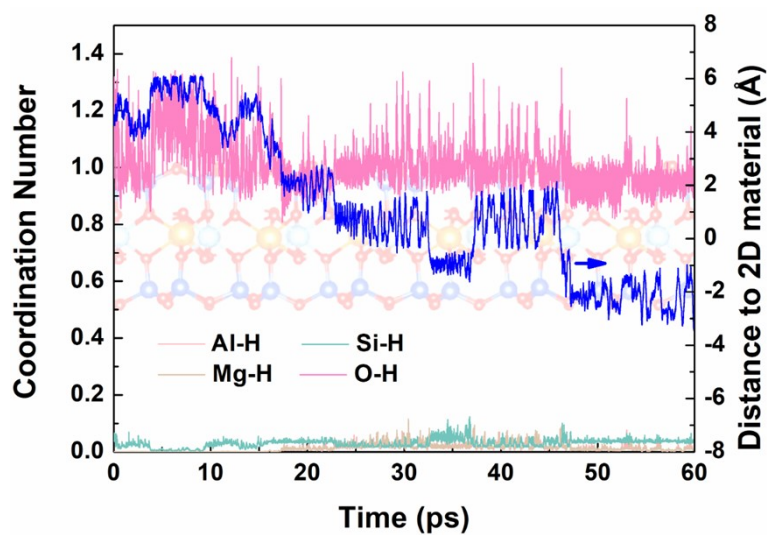


Fig. S47 Distance between the proton and 2D clay material, Al-H<sup>+</sup>, Mg-H<sup>+</sup>, Si-H<sup>+</sup> and O-H<sup>+</sup> coordination number as a function of simulation time in #1 metadynamics simulation of proton penetration across 2D clay material for “Octa&K<sup>+</sup>” system.



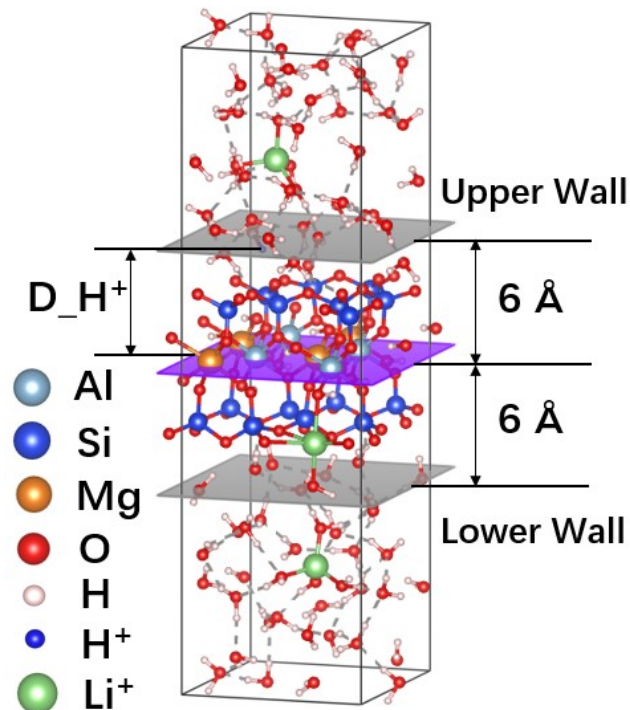


Fig. S48 Setup for metadynamics simulations of proton penetration across 2D clay material with constraints in “Octa&Li<sup>+</sup>” system

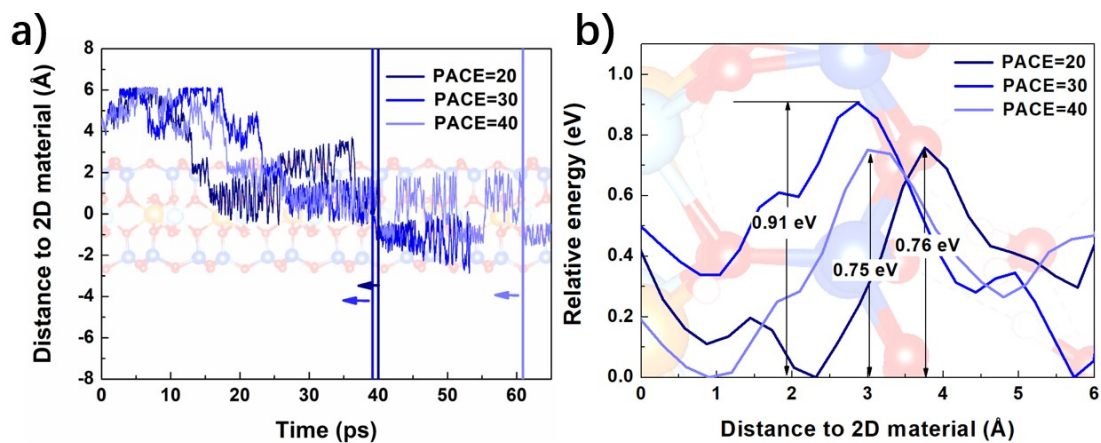


Fig. S49 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulations with different deposition pace and b) the corresponding energy profiles of proton in Octa&Li<sup>+</sup> system.

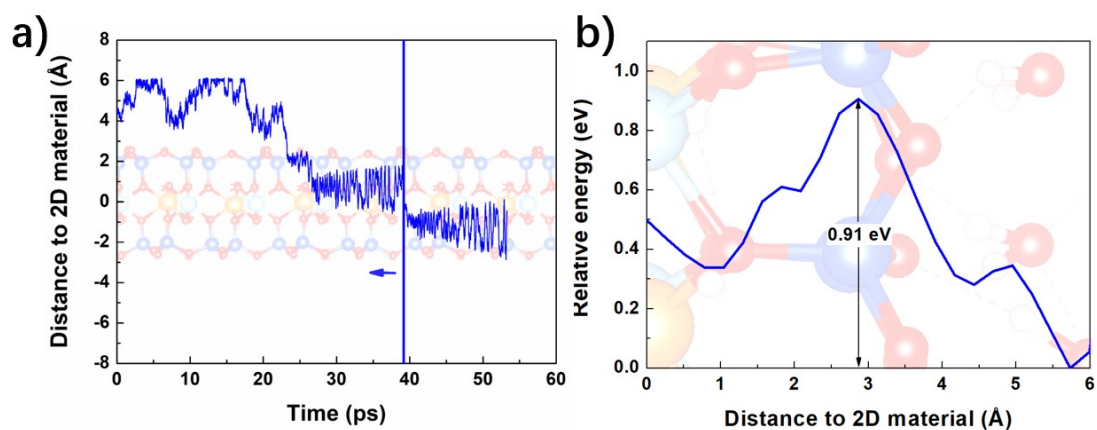


Fig. S50 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulation and b) the corresponding energy profile of proton in Octa&Li<sup>+</sup> system with #1 initial geometry

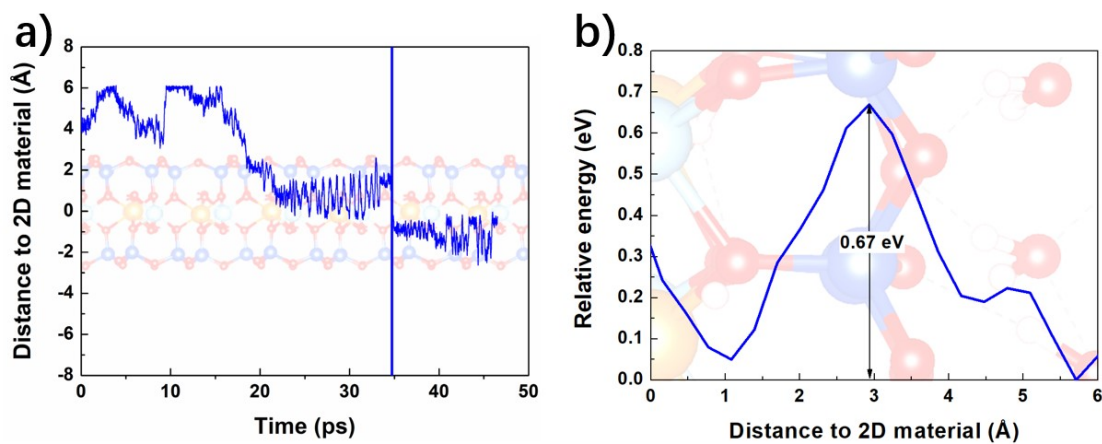


Fig. S51 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulation and b) the corresponding energy profile of proton in Octa&Li<sup>+</sup> system with #2 initial geometry

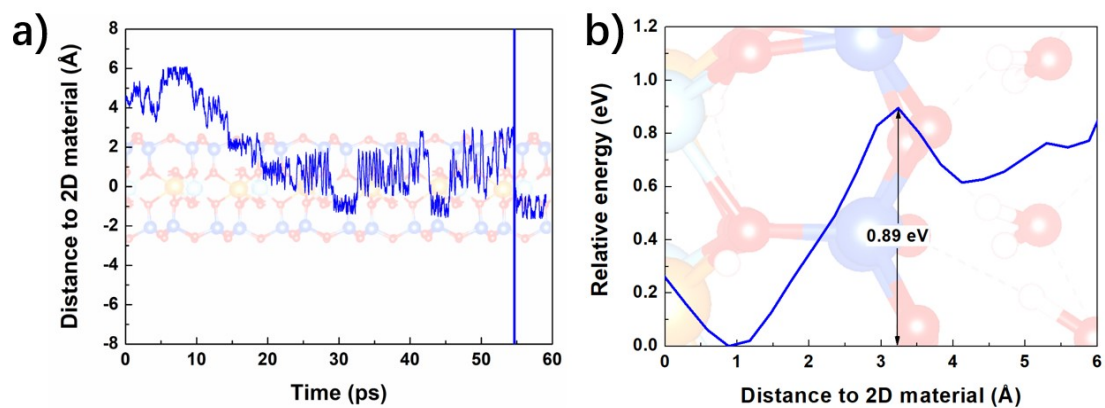


Fig. S52 a) Distance between the proton and 2D clay material as a function of time in metadynamics simulation and b) the corresponding energy profile of proton in Octa&Li<sup>+</sup> system with #3 initial geometry

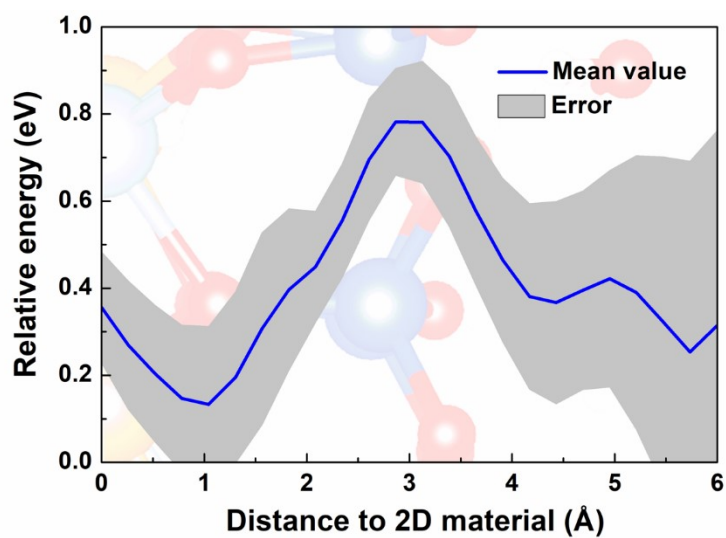


Fig. S53 Averaged free energy profile of proton in “Octa&Li” system calculated from three metadynamics runs with different initial geometries.

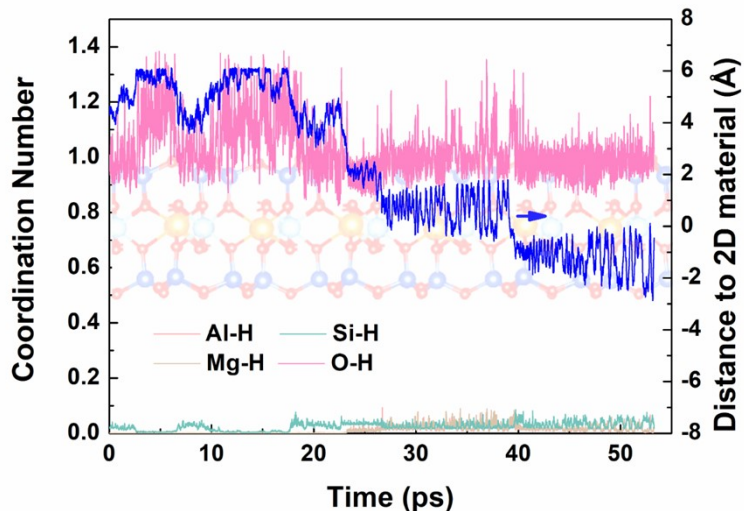


Fig. S54 Distance between the proton and 2D clay material, Al-H<sup>+</sup>, Mg-H<sup>+</sup>, Si-H<sup>+</sup> and O-H<sup>+</sup> coordination number as a function of simulation time in #1 metadynamics simulation of proton penetration across 2D clay material for Octa&Li<sup>+</sup> system.

Table S1. Simulation setups for two-dimensional clay materials in aqueous environment

	a (Å)	b (Å)	c (Å)	N <sub>water</sub>	ρ <sub>water</sub> (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )
Neutral	10.42	9.03	33.19	74	0.89
Tetra&K <sup>+</sup>	10.51	9.13	31.77	74	0.93
Tetra&Li <sup>+</sup>	10.51	9.13	30.86	74	0.96
Octa&K <sup>+</sup>	10.51	9.13	32.34	74	0.91
Octa&Li <sup>+</sup>	10.51	9.13	31.79	74	0.93

Table S2 Deposition pace convergence test for proton penetration across 2D clay materials with constraints

	Pace	5	10	20	30	40
Energy barrier (eV)	Neutral	2.00	1.98	/	/	/
	Tetra&K <sup>+</sup>	1.26	0.89	0.72	0.87	/
	Tetra&Li <sup>+</sup>	/	0.90	0.71	0.71	/
	Octa&K <sup>+</sup>	/	/	0.97	0.78	0.66
	Octa&Li <sup>+</sup>	/	/	0.91	0.76	0.75

Table S3 Calculated proton penetration energy barriers with different initial geometries

Initial geometry	#1	#2	#3	Average	
Energy barrier (eV)	Neutral	1.98	1.88	2.20	2.02±0.16
	Tetra&K <sup>+</sup>	0.72	0.55	0.72	0.66±0.10
	Tetra&Li <sup>+</sup>	0.71	1.01	0.88	0.87±0.15
	Octa&K <sup>+</sup>	0.78	0.70	0.74	0.74±0.04
	Octa&Li <sup>+</sup>	0.91	0.67	0.89	0.82±0.13

Table S4 Parameters adopted for the production run of metadynamics simulations

	Pace (timestep)	Height (KJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )	Sigma (Å)
Neutral	5	1	0.25
Tetra&K <sup>+</sup>	20	0.2	0.25
Tetra&Li <sup>+</sup>	20	0.2	0.25
Octa&K <sup>+</sup>	30	0.2	0.25
Octa&Li <sup>+</sup>	30	0.2	0.25