

Supporting information

Ordered and carbon-doped porous polymeric graphitic carbon nitride nanosheets toward enhanced visible light absorption and efficient photocatalytic H₂ evolution

Rama Krishna Chava*, Misook Kang**

Department of Chemistry, College of Natural Sciences, Yeungnam University, 280 Daehak-Ro, Gyeongsan, Gyeongbuk 38541, Republic of Korea.

Corresponding Author's Address:

Dr. Rama Krishna Chava (Email: drcrkphysics@hotmail.com, rama@ynu.ac.kr)

Prof. Misook Kang (Email: mskang@ynu.ac.kr)

Department of Chemistry, College of Natural Sciences, Yeungnam University, 280 Daehak-Ro, Gyeongsan-38541, Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea.

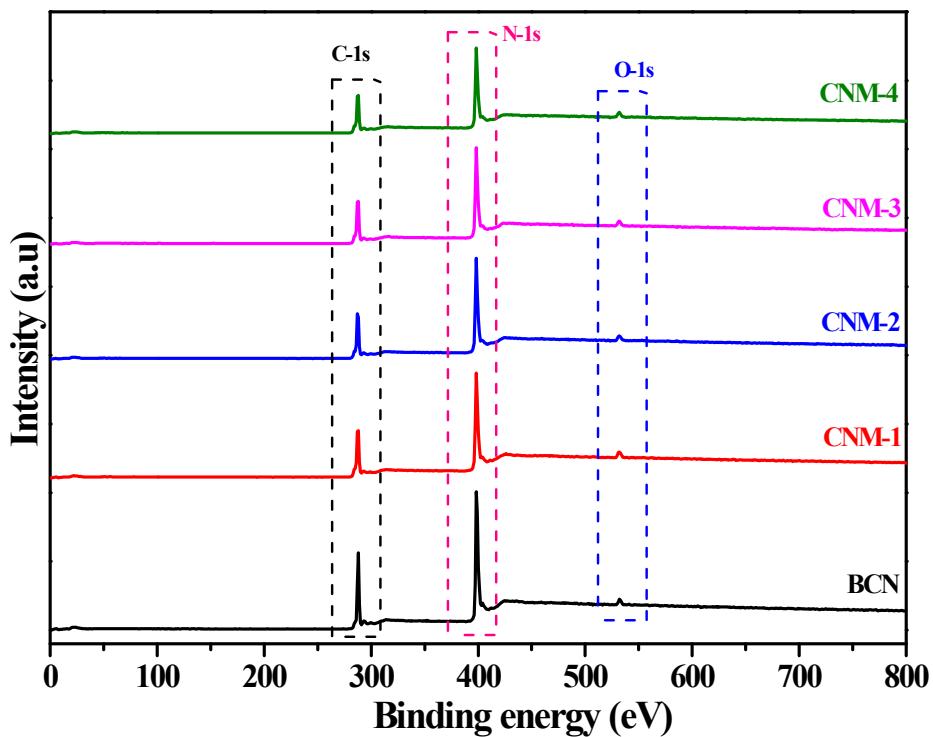


Figure S1. The XPS survey scan spectra of BCN and CNM samples.

Sample	C-1s	N-1s	C/N
BCN	41.61	56.29	0.739
CNM-1	42.35	54.61	0.775
CNM-2	42.18	55.04	0.766
CNM-3	42.40	54.76	0.774
CNM-4	42.76	54.23	0.788

Table S1. Atomic ratios of C and N elements in the prepared GCN samples

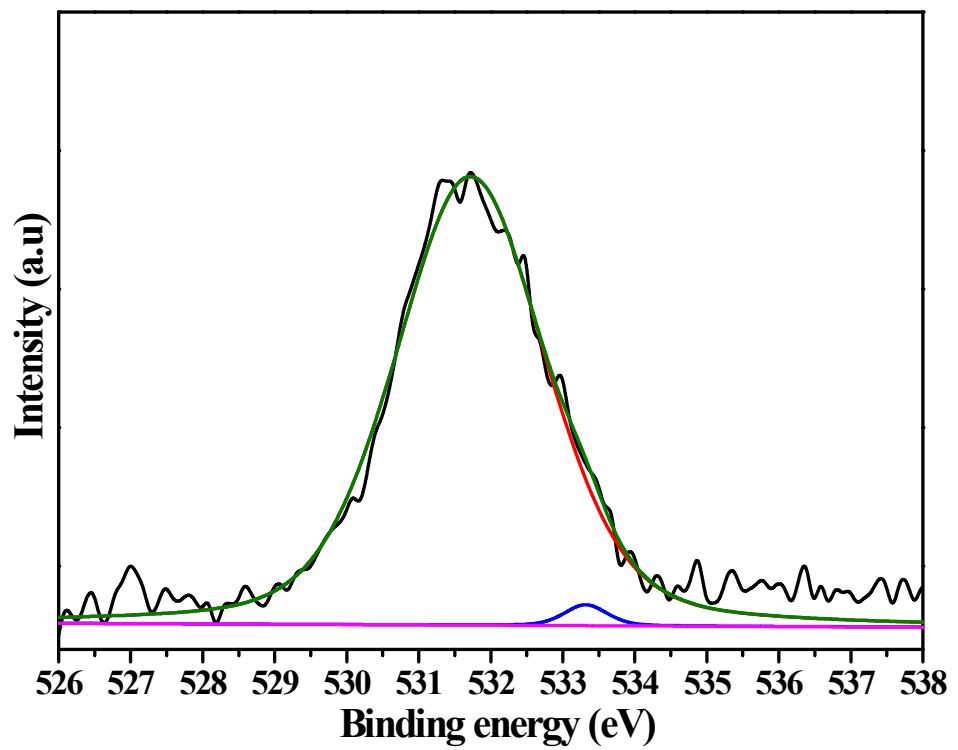


Figure S2. The XPS survey scan spectra of O-1s element in CNM-3 sample.

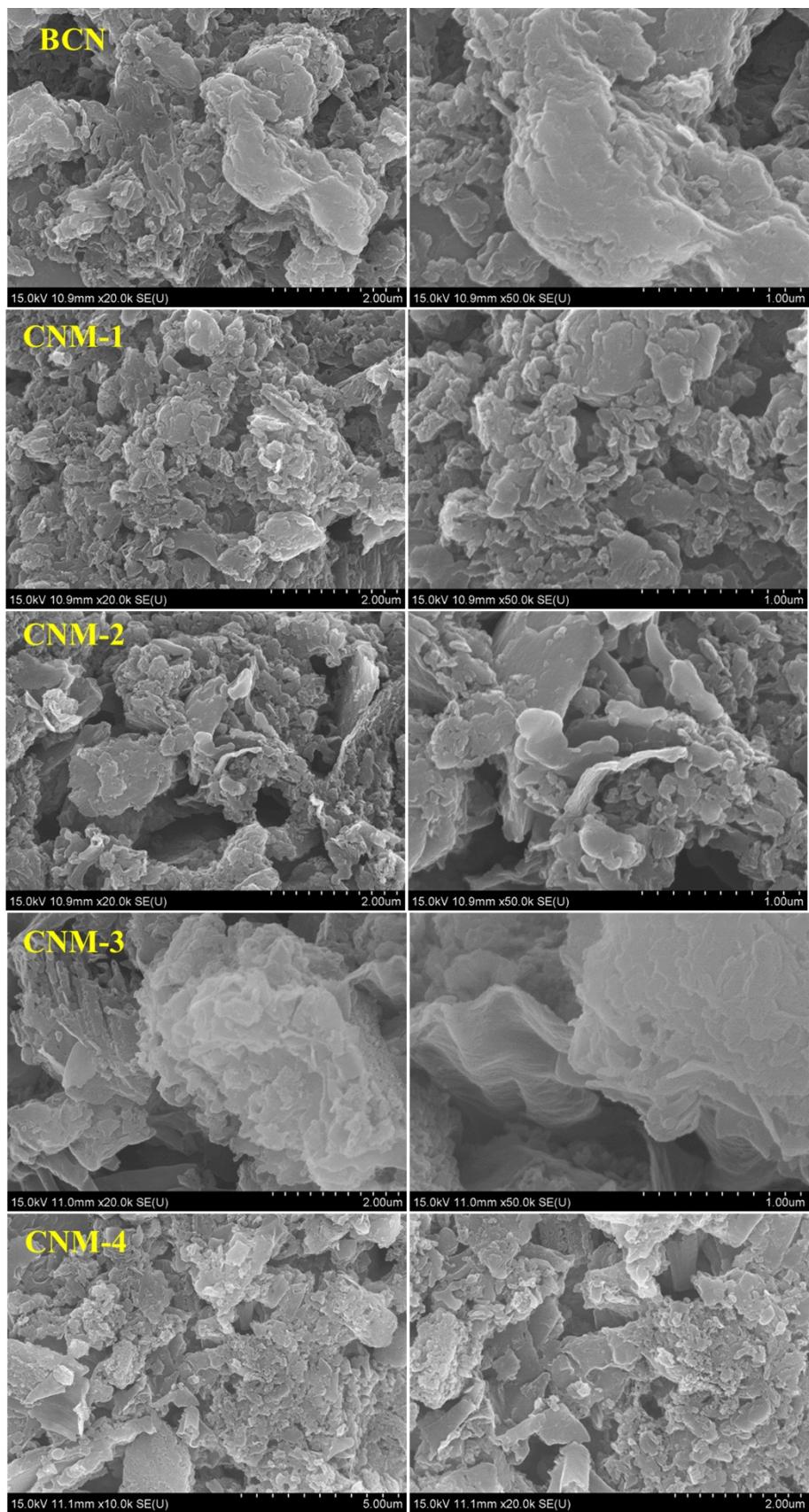


Figure S3. FE-SEM images of BCN and CNM photocatalyst samples

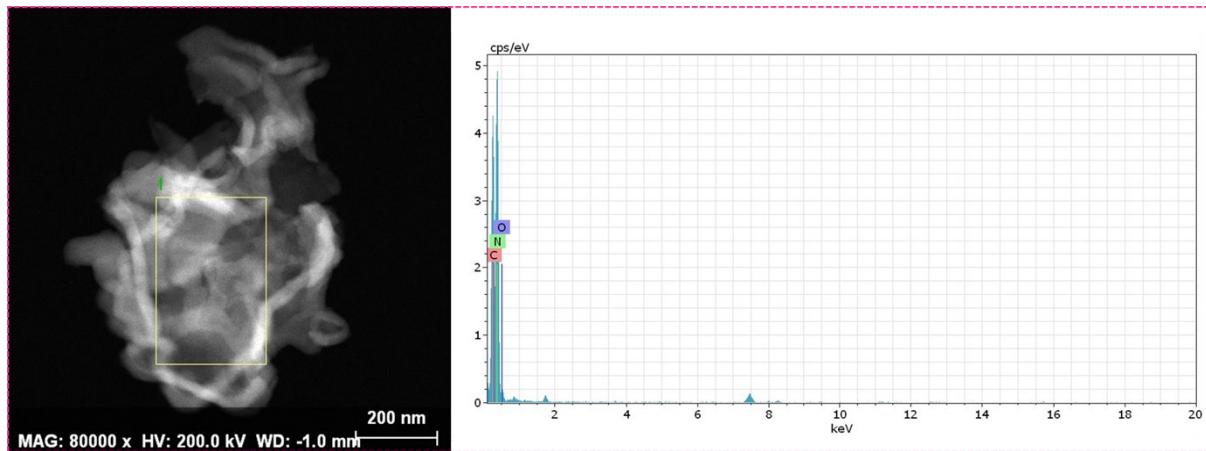


Figure S4. STEM-EDX spectral analysis of CNM-3 sample.

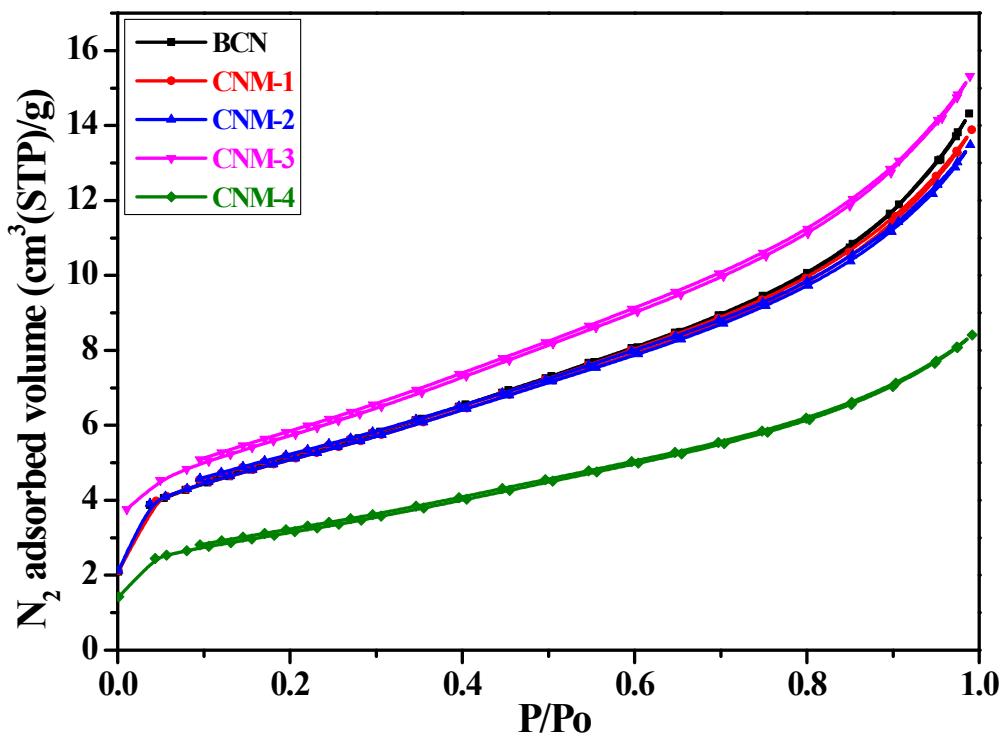


Figure S5. N₂ adsorption-desorption isotherms of BCN and CNM samples.

Table S2. The comparison of photocatalytic H₂ evolution activity of g-C₃N₄ sample (CNM-3) derived from malonic acid treated melamine precursors with some previously reported g-C₃N₄-photocatalysts.

Photocatalyst	H₂ evolution Activity	Light source	Reference
3D g-C ₃ N ₄	29 μmol/h	λ > 420 nm 300 W Xe lamp	1
Holey g-C ₃ N ₄	82.9 μmol/h	λ > 420 nm 300 W Xe lamp	2
Porous g-C ₃ N ₄	316.7 μmol/h	λ > 400 nm 300 W Xe lamp	3
Porous g-C ₃ N ₄	1.8 μmol/h	λ > 420 nm 300 W Xe lamp	4
g-C ₃ N ₄ nanosheets	170.5 μmol/h	λ > 400 nm 300 W Xe lamp	5
Carbon-rich g-C ₃ N ₄	39.6 μmol/h 8.6 μmol/h	λ > 400 nm λ > 420 nm; 300 W Xe lamp	6
C-self doped g-C ₃ N ₄	25.3 μmol/h	λ > 400 nm 300 W Xe lamp	7
C-rich g-C ₃ N ₄	125.1 μmol/h/g	λ > 420 nm 300 W Xe lamp	8
Porous crystalline g-C ₃ N ₄	1010 μmol/h/g	λ > 420 nm 4 LEDs	9

Amine bridged g-C ₃ N ₄	157 μmol/h/g	λ > 420 nm 300 W Xe lamp	10
Heptazine bridged g-C ₃ N ₄	372 μmol/h	λ > 400 nm 300 W Xe lamp	11
Crystalline g-C ₃ N ₄	150 μmol/h	White LED light 50 W	12
C-rich g-C ₃ N ₄	551.5 μmol/h	λ > 400 nm 300 W Xe lamp	13
Defect- g-C ₃ N ₄	504 μmol/h/g	λ > 420 nm 300 W Xe lamp	14
H-bond broken g-C ₃ N ₄	580 μmol/h/g	λ > 440 nm 300 W Xe lamp	15
N-rich g-C ₃ N ₄	15.5 μmol/h	λ > 420 nm 4 LEDs	16
O-doped g-C ₃ N ₄	1748 μmol/h/g	λ > 400 nm 300 W Xe lamp	17
g-C ₃ N ₄ with N-vacancies	652 μmol/h/g	λ > 420 nm 300 W Xe lamp	18
In-plane ordered g-C ₃ N ₄	420 μmol/h	λ > 420 nm 300 W Xe lamp	19
g-C ₃ N ₄ with cyanamide groups	8 μmol/h/g	λ > 400 nm 300 W Xe lamp	20
Porous C-rich g-C₃N₄	663.6 μmol/h/g	λ > 420 nm 150 W Xe lamp	This work

- (1) Q. H. Liang, Z. Li, X. L. Yu, Z. H. Huang, F. Y. Kang, Q. H. Yang, Macroscopic 3D Porous Graphitic Carbon Nitride Monolith for Enhanced Photocatalytic Hydrogen Evolution, *Adv. Mater.* 2015, 27, 4634-4639.
- (2) Q. H. Liang, Z. Li, Z. H. Huang, F. Y. Kang, Q. H. Yang, Holey Graphitic Carbon Nitride Nanosheets with Carbon Vacancies for Highly Improved Photocatalytic Hydrogen Production, *Adv. Funct. Mater.* 2015, 25, 6885-6892.
- (3) P. J. Yang, J. H. Zhao, W. Qiao, L. Li, Z. P. Zhu, Ammonia-induced robust photocatalytic hydrogen evolution of graphitic carbon nitride, *Nanoscale* 2015, 7, 18887-18890.
- (4) Q. Gu, Y. S. Liao, L. S. Yin, J. L. Long, X. X. Wang, C. Xue, Template-free synthesis of porous graphitic carbon nitride microspheres for enhanced photocatalytic hydrogen generation with high stability, *Appl. Catal. B* 2015, 165, 503-510.
- (5) P. Niu, L. L. Zhang, G. Liu, H. M. Cheng, Graphene-Like Carbon Nitride Nanosheets for Improved Photocatalytic Activities, *Adv. Funct. Mater.* 2012, 22, 4763-4770
- (6) Li, Y. F.; Yang, M.; Xing, Y.; Liu, X. C.; Yang, Y.; Wang, X.; Song, S. Y. Preparation of Carbon-Rich g-C₃N₄ Nanosheets with Enhanced Visible Light Utilization for Efficient Photocatalytic Hydrogen Production. *Small* 13, 2017, 1701552.
- (7) Guohui Dong, Kun Zhao and Lizhi Zhang, Carbon self-doping induced high electronic conductivity and photoreactivity of g-C₃N₄, *Chem. Commun.*, 2012, 48, 6178–6180.
- (8) Zhou Chen, Ting-Ting Fan, Xiang Yu, Qiu-Ling Wu, Qiu-Hui Zhu, Li-Zhong Zhang, Jian-Hui Li, Wei-Ping Fang and Xiao-Dong Yi, Gradual carbon doping of graphitic carbon nitride towards metal-free visible light photocatalytic hydrogen evolution, *J. Mater. Chem. A*, 2018, 6, 15310–15319.
- (9) Xinhe Wu, Haiqin Ma, Wei Zhong, Jiajie Fan, Huogen Yu, Porous crystalline g-C₃N₄: Bifunctional NaHCO₃ template-mediated synthesis and improved photocatalytic H₂-evolution rate, *Applied Catalysis B: Environmental* 271 (2020) 118899.
- (10) Dawoon Jang, Seungjoo Choi, Nam Hee Kwon, Kyung Yeon Jang, Suyeon Lee, Tae-Woo Lee, Seong-Ju Hwang, Hyungjun Kim, Jeongho Kim, Sungjin Park, Water-assisted formation of amine-bridged carbon nitride: A structural insight into the photocatalytic performance for H₂ evolution under visible light, *Applied Catalysis B: Environmental* 310 (2022) 121313.
- (11) Dong Liu, Shengtao Chen, Yuexing Zhang, Renjie Li, Tianyou Peng, Modulating the bridging units of carbon nitride for highly efficient charge separation and visible-light-

- responsive photocatalytic H₂ evolution, *Applied Catalysis B: Environmental* 333 (2023) 122805.
- (12) Guigang Zhang, Guosheng Li, Zhi-An Lan, Lihua Lin, Aleksandr Savateev, Tobias Heil, Spiros Zafeiratos, Xinchen Wang, and Markus Antonietti, Optimizing Optical Absorption, Exciton Dissociation, and Charge Transfer of a Polymeric Carbon Nitride with Ultrahigh Solar Hydrogen Production Activity, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2017, 56, 13445–13449.
- (13) Shuo Zhao, Yuepeng Liu, Yanyun Wang, Liying Xie, Jiasheng Fang, Yiwei Zhang, Yuming Zhou, and Shuping Zhuo, C-Rich Graphitic Carbon Nitride with Cross Pore Channels: A VisibleLight-Driven Photocatalyst for Water Splitting, *ACS Appl. Energy Mater.* 2021, 4, 1784–1792.
- (14) Huihui Deng, Yushuai Jia, Wenquan Wang, Shengliang Zhong, Renqin Hao, Linjie Fan, and Xin Liu, Defect and Crystallinity-Mediated Charge Separation in Carbon Nitride for Synergistically Boosted Solar-Driven Hydrogen Evolution, *ACS Sustainable Chem. Eng.* 2023, 11, 13736–13746.
- (15) Yuyang Kang, Yongqiang Yang, Li-Chang Yin, Xiangdong Kang, Lianzhou Wang, Gang Liu and Hui-Ming Cheng, Selective Breaking of Hydrogen Bonds of Layered Carbon Nitride for Visible Light Photocatalysis, *Adv. Mater.* 2016, 28, 6471–6477.
- (16) Xinhe Wu, Duoduo Gao, Ping Wang, Huogen Yu, Jiaguo Yu, NH₄Cl-induced low-temperature formation of nitrogen-rich g-C₃N₄ nanosheets with improved photocatalytic hydrogen evolution, *Carbon* 2019, 153, 757-766.
- (17) Chao Wang, Huiqing Fan, Xiaohu Ren, Jiangwei Ma, Jiawen Fang, and Weijia Wang, Hydrothermally Induced Oxygen Doping of Graphitic Carbon Nitride with a Highly Ordered Architecture and Enhanced Photocatalytic Activity, *ChemSusChem* 2018, 11, 700–708.
- (18) Zhengdong Xu, Yang Chen, Binghao Wang, Yu Ran, Junbo Zhong, Minjiao Li, Highly selective photocatalytic CO₂ reduction and hydrogen evolution facilitated by oxidation induced nitrogen vacancies on g-C₃N₄, *Journal of Colloid and Interface Science* 651 (2023) 645–658.
- (19) Guixia Zhao, Guigao Liu, Hong Pang, Huimin Liu, Huabin Zhang, Kun Chang, Xianguang Meng, Xiaojun Wang, and Jinhua Ye, Improved Photocatalytic H₂ Evolution over G-Carbon Nitride with Enhanced In-Plane Ordering, *Small*, 2016, 12, 6160-6166.

- (20) Vincent Wing-hei Lau, Igor Moudrakovski, Tiago Botari, Simon Weinberger, Maria B. Mesch, Viola Duppel, Ju'rgen Senker, Volker Blum, Bettina V. Lotsch, Rational design of carbon nitride photocatalysts by identification of cyanamide defects as catalytically relevant sites, *Nat. Commun.* 2016, 7, 12165.