

Electronic Supplementary Information for

Prediction of High Photoconversion Efficiency and
Photocatalytic Water Splitting in Vertically Stacked TMD
Heterojunctions MX_2/WS_2 and $\text{MX}_2/\text{MoSe}_2$ (M=Cr, Mo, W;
X=S, Se, Te)

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Computational Methods The Gibbs free energies for the oxygen evolution reaction (OER) and hydrogen evolution reaction (HER) are calculated based on the model proposed by Nørskov et al.^{1,2} The OER follows these sequential steps:



where * represents the absorption site on the slab for intermediates. For each step, the Gibbs reaction free energy (ΔG) is calculated by

$$\Delta G = \Delta E + \Delta E_{\text{ZPE}} - T\Delta S + \Delta G_U + \Delta G_{\text{pH}} \quad (5)$$

where ΔE is the total energy difference between reactants and products of reactions, ΔE_{ZPE} is the zero point energy correction, ΔS is the vibrational entropy change at finite temperature T, $\Delta G_U = -eU$ incorporates the effect of the electrode potential, where e is elementary charge, U is the electrode potential (U=1.23), ΔG_{pH} is the correction of the H^+ free energy. The calculations are performed at pH = 0.

The HER proceeds through the following steps:



The free energy is calculated by

$$\Delta G_{* \text{H}} = \Delta E_{* \text{H}} + \Delta E_{\text{ZPE}} - T\Delta S \quad (8)$$

$$\Delta E_{* \text{H}} = E_{* \text{H}} - E_* - \frac{1}{2}E_{\text{H}_2} \quad (9)$$

where $\Delta E_{* \text{H}}$ is the hydrogen chemisorption energy, where $E_{* \text{H}}$, E_* and E_{H_2} are the energies of absorbed slab, pure slab and H_2 gas, respectively.

The relaxation time (τ) and carrier mobility (μ) at 300 K have mathematical formulas that follow the deformation potential (DP) theory:³⁻⁵

$$\mu = \frac{e\hbar^3 C_{2D}}{K_B T m^* m_d E_l^2} \quad (10)$$

$$m^* = \hbar^2 \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial^2 K} \quad (11)$$

$$\tau = \frac{\mu m^*}{e} \quad (12)$$

where K_B is the Boltzmann constant, T is the temperature (300 K), m^* is the effective mass, $m_d = \sqrt{m^* m_{\perp}^*}$ represents the average effective mass, $E_l = \Delta V / (\Delta l / l_0)$ is the deformation potential constant (ΔV is the amount of change in the position of band edges caused by stresses), e is the electronic charge, \hbar is the reduced Planck constant, $C_{2D} = [\partial^2 E_T / \partial (\Delta l / l)^2] / S_0$ is the modulus of elasticity (E_T is the total energy, and S_0 indicates the area of the optimized cell), K is the wave vector, E is the energy corresponding to the wave vector, and the τ is relaxation time. The light absorption coefficient of the heterogeneous structure can be obtained using the following formula:⁶

$$\alpha(\omega) = \sqrt{2}\omega [\sqrt{\varepsilon_1^2(\omega) + \varepsilon_2^2(\omega)} - \varepsilon_1(\omega)]^{1/2} \quad (13)$$

The real and imaginary parts of the complex dielectric function are represented as $\varepsilon_1(\omega)$ and $\varepsilon_2(\omega)$, respectively.

The imaginary component of the dielectric matrix is calculated as a summation over the unoccupied states:

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_2(\omega) = & \frac{4\pi^2 e^2}{\Omega} \lim_{q \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{q^2} \sum 2w_k \delta(\varepsilon_{ck} - \varepsilon_{vk} - \omega) \\ & \times \langle \mu_{ck} + e_{\alpha} | \mu_{vk} \rangle \langle \mu_{ck+e_{\beta}} | \mu_{vk}^* \rangle \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where Ω represents the volume of unit cell, c and v refer to the conduction and valence band states, and μ_{ck} is an eigenstate of the wave vector k . The symbols α and β specify the x and y directions.

The PCE is determined using Scharber's method, which is described as follows:^{6,7}

$$\eta = \frac{V_{OC} J_{SC} \beta_{FF}}{P_{solar}} = \frac{0.65(E_g^d - \Delta E_C - 0.3) \int_{E_g^d}^{\infty} \frac{P(\hbar\omega)}{\hbar\omega} d(\hbar\omega)}{\int_0^{\infty} P(\hbar\omega) d(\hbar\omega)} \quad (15)$$

where V_{OC} , J_{SC} , β_{FF} , and P_{solar} stand for the maximum open-circuit voltage ($V_{OC} = E_g^d - \Delta E_C - 0.3$) heterojunction, the short-circuit current limit of 100% for external quantum efficiency (EQE), the bound filling factor ($\beta_{FF}=0.65$), and the AM1.5 solar flux (AM1.5 is the average yearly sun intensity at latitude 30° north), respectively.

Table S1 Elastic constants C_{ij} (in N/m) of the 2H-MX₂/WS₂ and MX₂/MoSe₂ (M=Cr, Mo, W. X=S, Se, Te) heterojunctions.

Heterojunction	C_{11}	C_{12}	C_{66}	$C_{11}C_{22}-C_{12}^2$
CrS ₂ /WS ₂	273.64	59.29	107.17	71362.33
CrSe ₂ /WS ₂	249.91	59.45	95.23	58921.97
MoS ₂ /WS ₂	286.27	62.71	111.78	78017.47
MoSe ₂ /WS ₂	264.21	54.62	104.80	66825.60
WSe ₂ /WS ₂	278.24	51.80	113.22	74732.80
CrSe ₂ /MoSe ₂	215.38	50.05	82.67	43885.57
CrTe ₂ /MoSe ₂	573.24	-237.32	405.28	272285.61
MoS ₂ /MoSe ₂	252.11	55.57	98.27	60468.97
MoTe ₂ /MoSe ₂	200.97	41.72	79.62	38646.84
WSe ₂ /MoSe ₂	239.84	45.73	97.06	55433.16
WTe ₂ /MoSe ₂	211.01	36.24	87.38	43210.75

Table S2 The optimized lattice parameters (l_a), band gaps (E_g) based on HSE06, * represents results from other references.

Heterojunction	l_a (Å)	l_a^* (Å)	E_g (eV)	E_g^* (eV)
CrS ₂	3.02	3.00 ⁸	1.69	1.48 ⁹
CrSe ₂	3.19	3.18 ¹⁰	0.70	0.69 ¹¹
CrTe ₂	3.49	3.49 ¹⁰	0.92	0.93 ¹²
MoS ₂	3.16	3.16 ¹³	2.24	2.30 ¹⁴
MoSe ₂	3.29	3.29 ¹³	2.02	2.07 ¹⁴
MoTe ₂	3.52	3.52 ¹³	1.60	1.67 ¹⁴
WS ₂	3.17	3.15 ¹³	2.38	2.44 ¹⁴
WSe ₂	3.29	3.28 ¹³	2.12	2.20 ¹⁴
WTe ₂	3.52	3.56 ¹³	1.61	1.67 ¹⁴

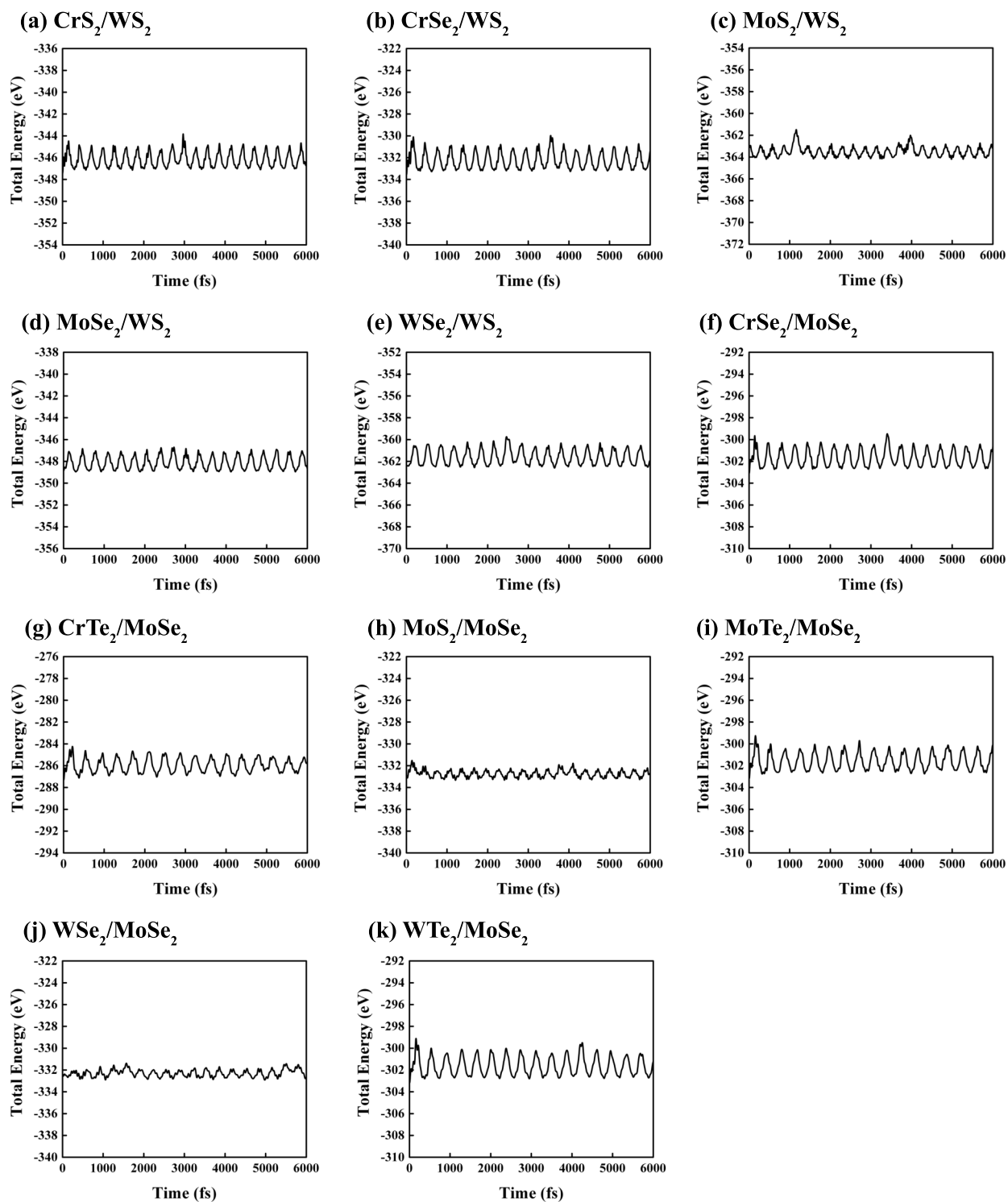


Fig. S1 (a)-(k) The time dependent evolution of the total energy in the AIMD simulation.

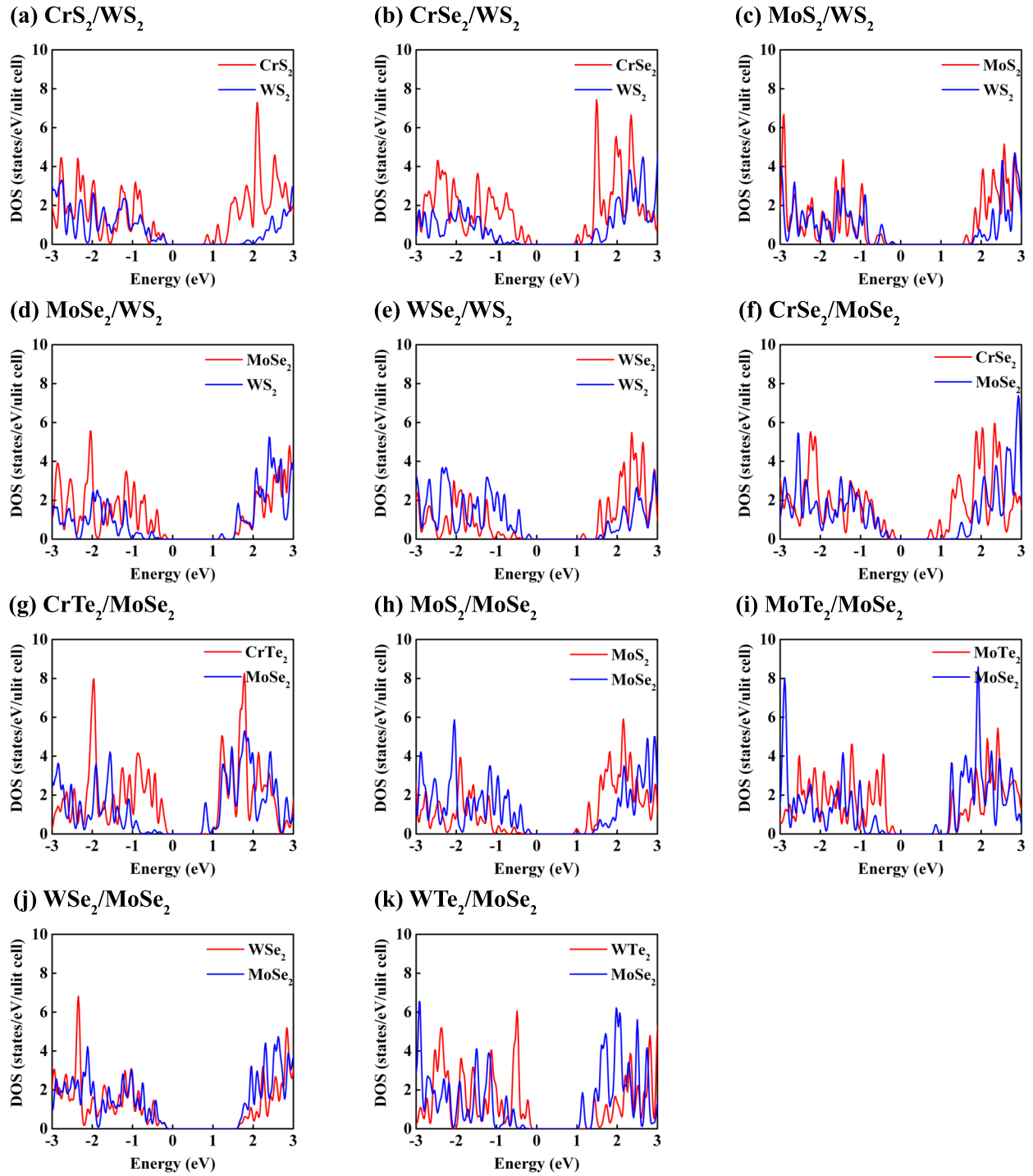


Fig. S2 The PDOS of 2H-MX₂/WS₂ and MX₂/MoSe₂ heterojunctions.

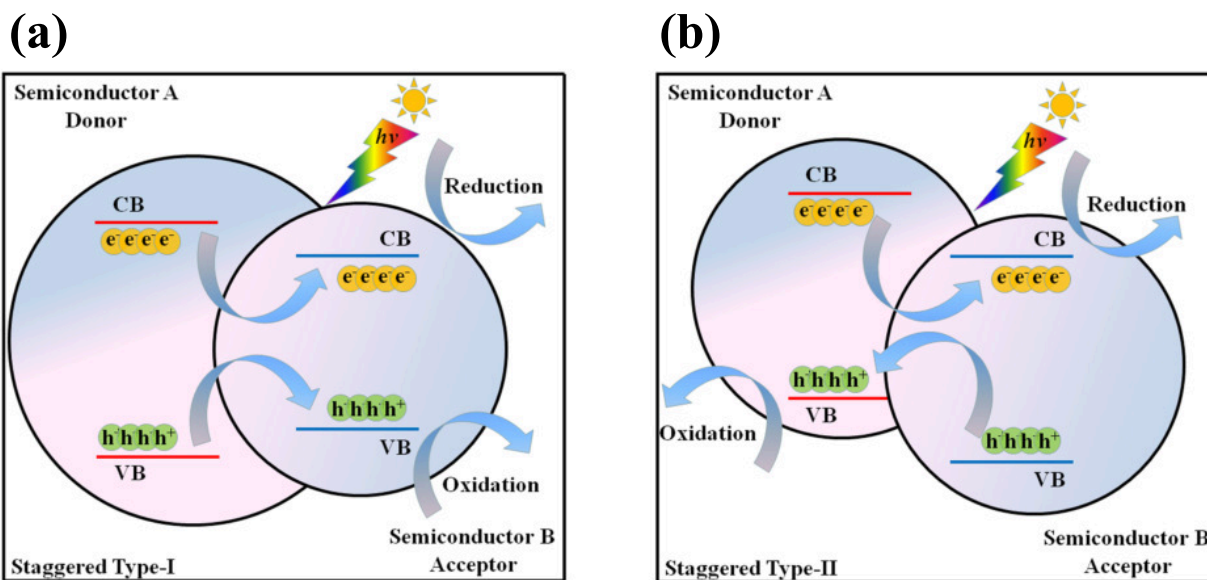
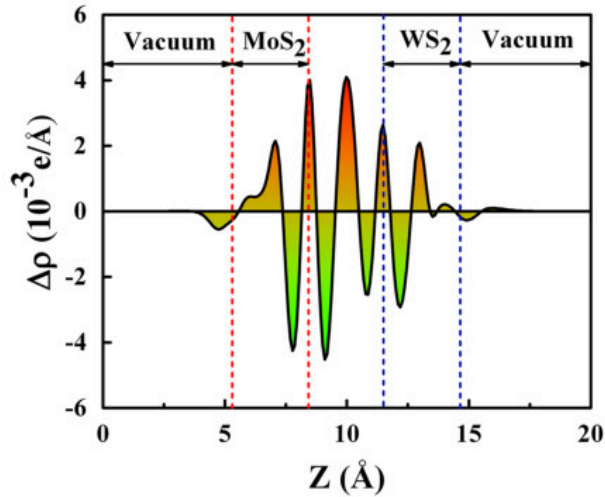


Fig. S3 Diagrammatic representation of the two distinct mechanisms for electron–hole pair separation in traditional light-responsive heterojunction photocatalysts: (a) type-I and (b) type-II.

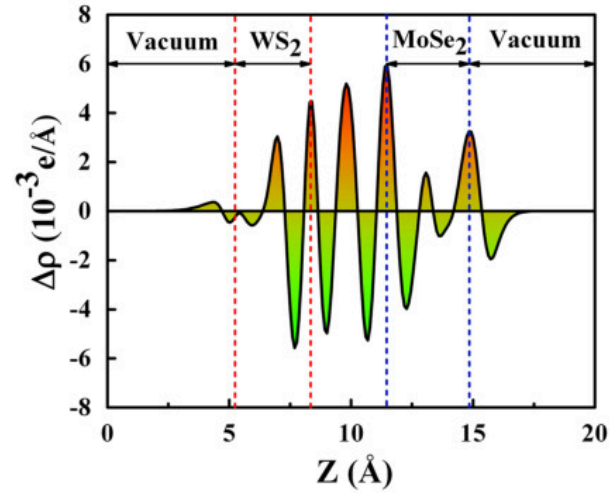
Table S3 Calculated effective carrier mass m (m_0), deformation potential E (eV), in-plane stiffness C_{2D} (N/m), and carrier mobility μ ($\text{cm}^2 \text{V}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$) along the x and y directions.

Carrier type	Heterojunction	m_x	m_y	E_x	E_y	C_x	C_y	μ_x	μ_y
Electron	MoS ₂	0.412	0.415	8.27	2.94	137.7	136.9	69.34	543.21
	MoSe ₂	0.566	0.419	7.49	2.61	113.7	114.4	50.84	570.58
	WS ₂	0.114	0.556	7.25	2.16	109.3	143.2	258.87	783.25
	WSe ₂	0.923	0.532	7.58	2.28	126.5	127.3	33.85	651.87
Hole	MoS ₂	0.453	0.466	8.28	2.97	137.7	136.9	62.94	472.21
	MoSe ₂	0.552	0.492	7.34	2.58	113.7	114.4	54.23	495.20
	WS ₂	1.829	1.209	7.83	2.16	109.3	143.2	13.83	359.58
	WSe ₂	0.448	0.437	7.50	2.18	126.5	127.3	71.24	868.68

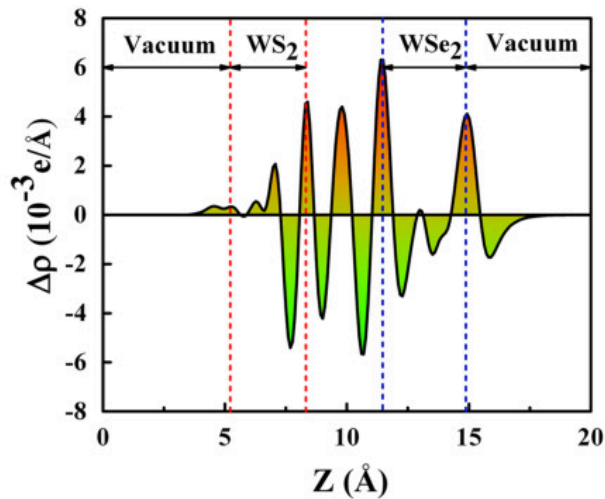
(a) MoS_2/WS_2



(b) $\text{MoSe}_2/\text{WS}_2$



(c) WSe_2/WS_2



(d) $\text{WSe}_2/\text{MoSe}_2$

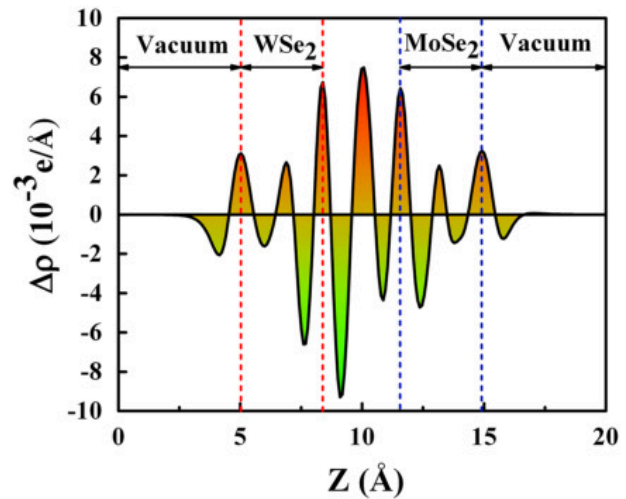


Fig. S4 (a)-(d) plane averaged potential drop along the z-direction of the MoS_2/WS_2 , $\text{MoSe}_2/\text{WS}_2$, WSe_2/WS_2 , and $\text{WSe}_2/\text{MoSe}_2$, respectively. Red represents charge accumulation, while green represents charge depletion.

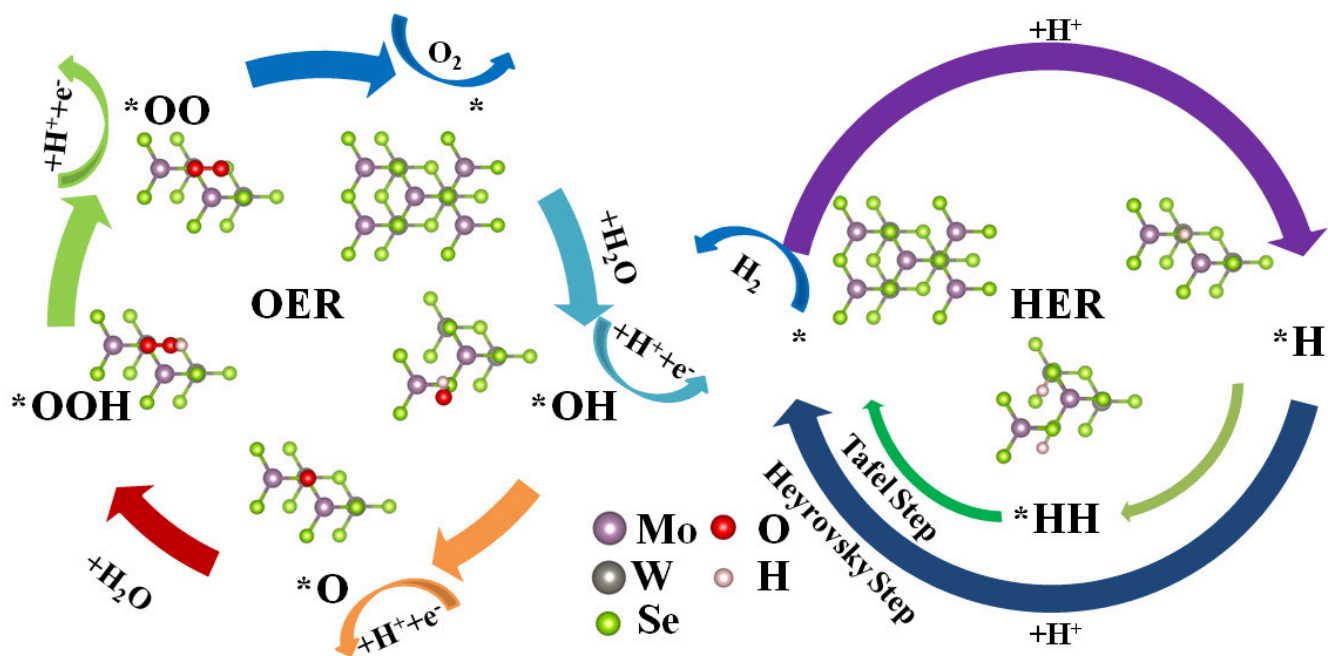


Fig. S5 The structural transitions of the entire OER and HER processes.

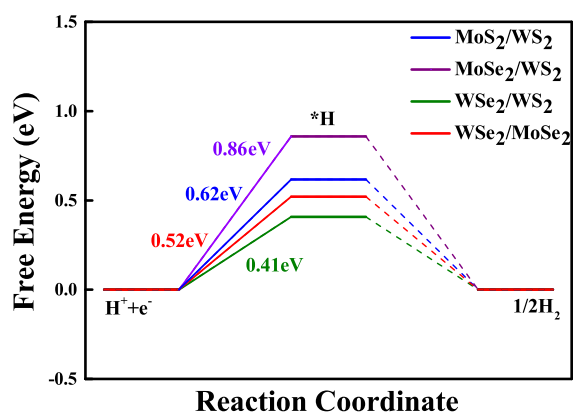


Fig. S6 Free energy diagram for the HER at the equilibrium potential ($U=1.23\text{V}$).

Table S4 The PCE of various heterojunctions. * represents this work.

Heterojunction	PCE	Heterojunction	PCE
Te/WTe ₂	22.50% ¹⁵	Te/MoTe ₂	20.10% ¹⁵
MoS ₂ /BP	20.42% ¹⁶	phosphorene/MoS ₂	17.50% ¹⁷
PtS ₂ /MoTe ₂	13.60% ¹⁸	BP/SnSe	17.24% ¹⁹
PN/WSe ₂	13.80% ²⁰	MoS ₂ / ψ -phosphorene	20.26% ²¹
WS ₂ /MoS ₂	12.93% ²²	WS ₂ /MoS ₂ *	13.82%
MoSe ₂ /MoS ₂	18.64% ²²	MoSe ₂ /MoS ₂ *	15.83%
MoSe ₂ /WS ₂	17.79% ²²	MoSe ₂ /WS ₂ *	20.11%
WSe ₂ /MoSe ₂	16.15% ²²	WSe ₂ /MoSe ₂ *	18.19%
WSe ₂ /WS ₂	19.25% ²²	WSe ₂ /WS ₂ *	16.89%
WSe ₂ /MoS ₂	14.35% ²²	CrS ₂ /WS ₂ *	9.00%
WTe ₂ /MoSe ₂ *	23.10%	MoTe ₂ /MoSe ₂ *	25.84%

Table S5 Atomic lattices in VASP POSCAR format.

CrS ₂ /WS ₂		
1.0000000000000000		
3.1055505547419062	0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000
-1.5527752773709531	2.6894860393690649	0.0000000000000000
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	21.2014999390000014
Cr S W		
1 4 1		
Direct		
0.6666660824732915	0.3333339465271052	0.3245239978819399
0.6666683901520472	0.3333316388475609	0.5407267840104879
0.6666684068844049	0.3333316221152032	0.6912896284138128
0.3333327251618314	0.6666673038383308	0.2561927154864136
0.3333327519017644	0.6666672770983908	0.3927263723128362
0.0000017254266638	0.9999982745734073	0.6159404738945256

CrSe ₂ /WS ₂		
1.0000000000000000		
3.1755542925400984	0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000
-1.5877771462700492	2.7501078439451416	0.0000000000000000
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	21.2014999390000014
Cr S Se W		
1 2 2 1		
Direct		
0.6666661614290703	0.3333338672792081	0.3214882731749569
0.6666682816649399	0.3333317472528634	0.5450217813300640
0.6666683091076067	0.3333317198081005	0.6930731698754116
0.3333328624135490	0.6666671667259862	0.2471302969788240
0.3333329269515133	0.6666671021867288	0.3957257403055010
0.0000015404333098	0.9999984597471112	0.6189607103352444

CrTe ₂ /WS ₂		
1.0000000000000000		
3.2886901931097521	0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000
-1.6443450965548760	2.8480909173629838	0.0000000000000000
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	21.2014999390000014
Cr S Te W		
1 2 2 1		
Direct		
0.6666674393444083	0.3333339595692735	0.3154145834825357
0.6666670950861118	0.3333318269114045	0.5529307384278184
0.6666669669859999	0.3333314416308184	0.6972911470370775
0.3333357069055367	0.6666669578594977	0.2322337069817664
0.3333325777987852	0.6666677189479771	0.3984999315265227
0.0000002958791683	0.9999981580810271	0.6250298645442882

MoS ₂ /WSe ₂		
1.0000000000000000		
3.1660921421639152	0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000
-1.5830460710819576	2.7419162258309129	0.0000000000000000
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	21.2014999390000014
Mo S W		
1 4 1		
Direct		
0.6666666870000029	0.3333333429999996	0.3237405409313610
0.6666666870000029	0.3333333429999996	0.5426076140989338
0.6666666870000029	0.3333333429999996	0.6909890797682081
0.3333333429999996	0.6666666870000029	0.2498336015311793
0.3333333429999996	0.6666666870000029	0.3975112134683414
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	0.6167179822019762

MoSe ₂ /WS ₂		
1.0000000000000000		
3.2262119268888956	0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000
-1.6131059634444478	2.7939814866724508	0.0000000000000000
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	21.2014999390000014
W Se Mo S		
1 2 1 2		
Direct		
0.6666666870000029	0.3333333429999996	0.3200840484661143
0.6666666870000029	0.3333333429999996	0.5403913972699925
0.6666666870000029	0.3333333429999996	0.7005349871969599
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	0.6203710258167519
0.3333333429999996	0.6666666870000029	0.2468445656053433
0.3333333429999996	0.6666666870000029	0.3931740076448307

MoTe ₂ /WS ₂		
1.0000000000000000		
3.3261171299554873	0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000
-1.6630585649777436	2.8796123074976441	0.0000000000000000
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	21.2014999390000014
Mo S Te W		
1 2 2 1		
Direct		
0.6666874869365174	0.3333738200875587	0.3142950355090477
0.6666630706861199	0.3333239294945471	0.5546310497818041
0.6666630537439886	0.3333238875762206	0.6978144124231775
0.3333231457527219	0.6666450509674959	0.2251311347470732
0.3333220998838371	0.6666431439605986	0.4033976701210662
0.0000112249968041	0.0000202309135773	0.6261306694178330

WSe ₂ /WS ₂		
1.0000000000000000		
3.2260240174904533	0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000
-1.6130120087452267	2.7938187523597935	0.0000000000000000
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	21.2014999390000014
W Se S		
2 2 2		
Direct		
0.6666666870000029	0.3333333429999996	0.3193673122038163
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	0.6211002569801707
0.6666666870000029	0.3333333429999996	0.5406522070482893
0.6666666870000029	0.3333333429999996	0.7017011957291928
0.3333333429999996	0.6666666870000029	0.2461255895291430
0.3333333429999996	0.6666666870000029	0.3924534705093947

WTe ₂ /WS ₂		
1.0000000000000000		
3.3274440761286970	0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000
-1.6637220380643485	2.8816772715970096	0.0000000000000000
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	21.2014999390000014
W S Te		
2 2 2		
Direct		
0.6666660296117755	0.3333339994266069	0.3143855495921670
0.0000006058180233	0.9999993941460730	0.6260353055576928
0.6666679024033542	0.3333321266219968	0.5545650232159502
0.6666676005487133	0.3333324284722892	0.6976930474151857
0.3333339822083943	0.6666660467768892	0.2246998029917791
0.3333339614097355	0.6666660675561431	0.4040212432272341

CrS ₂ /MoSe ₂		
1.0000000000000000		
3.1690270144846413	0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000
-1.5845135072423207	2.7444609017830230	0.0000000000000000
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	21.2014999390000014
Cr Se S Mo		
1 2 2 1		
Direct		
0.6666659289284596	0.3333331668321691	0.3212315655591738
0.6666683577842321	0.3333323500066072	0.5380949431286481
0.6666683989000575	0.3333323282884706	0.7004988438134490
0.333333300851891	0.6666670244755650	0.2536741598200365
0.3333334421716643	0.6666669952211990	0.3886702047353765
0.0000006241303865	0.9999981981759944	0.6192302549433180

CrSe ₂ /MoSe ₂		
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3.2443991322063912	0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000
-1.6221995661031956	2.8097277339265974	0.0000000000000000
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	21.2014999390000014
Cr Se Mo		
1 4 1		
Direct		
0.6666672308518997	0.3333327972993061	0.3172708064279135
0.6666682767373615	0.3333317522376902	0.5434773047081407
0.6666682941711315	0.3333317348060731	0.7030301957025031
0.3333323216183715	0.6666677078125645	0.2438676437889384
0.3333324762456016	0.6666675531851283	0.3905755202042371
0.0000014823756302	0.9999985176592361	0.6231785011682618

CrTe ₂ /MoSe ₂		
1.0000000000000000		
3.4506760212821064	0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000
-1.7253380106410532	2.9883757959317561	0.0000000000000000
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	21.2014999390000014
Cr Se Te Mo		
1 2 2 1		
Direct		
0.6666665806848826	0.3333334483118620	0.3130727039500130
0.6666683600981784	0.3333316689034405	0.5510872939307134
0.6666683846819055	0.3333316443192516	0.7039114390049335
0.3333328047848383	0.6666672242180098	0.2295140129396174
0.3333328648814557	0.6666671641220887	0.3963890219333095
0.0000010868687355	0.9999989131253386	0.6274255002414364

MoS ₂ /MoSe ₂		
1.0000000000000000		
3.2258146521245914	0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000
-1.6129073260622957	2.7936413089919410	0.0000000000000000
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	21.2014999390000014
Mo S Se		
2 2 2		
Direct		
0.6666560500327350	0.3333439400399953	0.3199669524272792
0.0000116690442624	0.9999883417538271	0.6204738561101593
0.3333233589534004	0.6666766895177076	0.2470264494229326
0.3333238629638728	0.6666761854758576	0.3928083059719967
0.6666774961086617	0.3333225274829346	0.5404727937065346
0.6666776448970637	0.3333223787296831	0.7006516743611044

MoTe ₂ /MoSe ₂		
1.0000000000000000		
3.4022047713032970	0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000
-1.7011023856516485	2.9463957608187537	0.0000000000000000
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	21.2014999390000014
Mo Se Te		
2 2 2		
Direct		
0.6666666870000029	0.3333333429999996	0.3102414077960418
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	0.6301950438871629
0.6666666870000029	0.3333333429999996	0.5531552621862019
0.6666666870000029	0.3333333429999996	0.7073906219611175
0.3333333429999996	0.6666666870000029	0.2226379088017651
0.3333333429999996	0.6666666870000029	0.3977797873677105

WSe ₂ /MoSe ₂		
1.0000000000000000		
3.2909805621213541	0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000
-1.6454902810606771	2.8500727701518880	0.0000000000000000
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	21.2014999390000014
W Se Mo		
1 4 1		
Direct		
0.6666666870000029	0.3333333429999996	0.3163634203021957
0.6666666870000029	0.3333333429999996	0.5452536869047293
0.6666666870000029	0.3333333429999996	0.7030909912299705
0.3333333429999996	0.6666666870000029	0.2369904284290882
0.3333333429999996	0.6666666870000029	0.3956230524998503
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	0.6240784526341727

WTe ₂ /MoSe ₂		
1.0000000000000000		
3.4030712785983637	0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000
-1.7015356392991818	2.9471442251541613	0.0000000000000000
0.0000000000000000	0.0000000000000000	21.2014999390000014
W Se Te Mo		
1 2 2 1		
Direct		
0.6666668537847187	0.3333331644629638	0.3106092899926765
0.6666676415940316	0.3333323881881327	0.5527969467854419
0.6666676504078382	0.3333323793866754	0.7070238888062832
0.3333339024427104	0.6666661319064104	0.2225110428891099
0.3333339189525617	0.6666661154306937	0.3986307888276244
0.0000001148181354	0.9999998836251223	0.6298280146988660

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