Supplementary Information

Anchoring ultrafine RhNi nanoparticles on titanium carbides/manganese oxide as an efficient catalyst for hydrogen generation from hydrous hydrazine

Bing Yin, Qingtao Wang, Tong Liu* and Guanhui Gao*

a School of civil engineering, Qingdao University of Technology, Qingdao 266033, China.
b College of Materials Science and Engineering, Qingdao University of Science and Technology, Zhengzhou Rd 53, 266000 Qingdao, China.
c Paul-Drude-Institut für Festkörperelektronik, Hausvogteiplatz 5–7, 10117 Berlin, Germany.

*Corresponding authors: Tel: +86-0532-84022772. E-mail: liutong@qust.edu.cn (Tong Liu); gao@pdi-berlin.de (Guanhui Gao).
1. Materials

Hydrazine monohydrate (H$_2$NNH$_2$·H$_2$O, Aladdin reagent Co., Ltd, >98%), nickel(II) chloride hexahydrate (NiCl$_2$·6H$_2$O, Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd, >98%), rhodium trichloride (RhCl$_3$, Sigma-Aldrich Co. LLC, 99%), manganese chloride (MnCl$_2$, Sigma-Aldrich Co. LLC, 99%), sodium borohydride (NaBH$_4$, Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd, >96%), potassium permanganate (KMnO$_4$, Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd, ≥99.5%), graphite power (Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd, ≥99.85%), hydrogen peroxide (H$_2$O$_2$, Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd, ≥30%), phosphoric acid (H$_3$PO$_4$, Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd, AR), sulfuric acid (H$_2$SO$_4$, Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd, 95~98%), sodium carbonate (Na$_2$CO$_3$, Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd, >96%), vulcanxc-72 carbon (Cabot corporation, ≥97 %), multi-walled carbon nanotube (Shandong Dazhan nanomaterials Co., Ltd, 97%) were used without further purification. De-ionized water with the specific resistance of 18.2 MΩ·cm was obtained by reversed osmosis followed by ion-exchange and filtration.

2. Synthesis of Mxene:

The support Mxene was initially prepared at room temperature using Ti$_3$AlC$_2$ as raw material and concentrated hydrofluoric acid as the etching agent. Specifically, concentrated hydrofluoric acid (40%, 100 mL) was slowly added to a beaker containing
Ti₃AlC₂ (5 g). The solution was stirred for 24 h to remove the Al layer in Ti₃AlC₂. The black precipitate was then separated from the as-prepared suspension by centrifugation and washed several times with distilled water and absolute ethanol. Finally, the product was dried under vacuum at 60 °C for 12 h.

3. Catalytic measurement:

An aqueous suspension (4 ml) containing the as-prepared catalysts was placed in a two-neck round-bottom flask (30 mL), which was placed in a water bath under ambient atmosphere. The reaction started when 0.15 mL of hydrazine monohydrate was injected into the mixture using a syringe. A gas burette filled with water was connected to the reaction flask to measure the volume of released gas. The gas released during the reaction was measured volumetrically. The molar ratios of metal/N₂H₄•H₂O were theoretically fixed at 0.03 for all the catalytic reactions.

4. Durability testing of the catalysts:

For testing the durability of RhNi/Mxene catalysts, 0.15 mL of N₂H₄•H₂O was subsequently added into the reaction flask after the completion of the first-run decomposition of N₂H₄•H₂O. Such test cycles of the catalyst for the decomposition of N₂H₄•H₂O were carried out for 6 runs at 50 °C by adding N₂H₄•H₂O.

5. Calculation of turnover frequency (TOF)
The TOF reported here is an apparent TOF value based on the number of Ni and Rh atoms in catalyst, which is calculated from the equation as follow:

$$\text{TOF} = \frac{2P_0V}{3RTn_{NiRh}t}$$

Where $P_0$ is the atmospheric pressure (101325 Pa), $V$ is the final generated volume of $H_2/N_2$ gas, $R$ is the universal gas constant (8.3145 m$^3$ Pa mol$^{-1}$ K$^{-1}$), $T$ is the room temperature (298 K), $n_{NiRh}$ is the total mole number of Ni and Rh atoms in catalyst and $t$ is the completion time of the reaction in hour.
Figure S1. SEM images of pristine MXene.
Figure S2. Particle size distribution histogram of the synthesized Rh$_{0.7}$Ni$_{0.3}$/MnO$_x$-MXene.
Figure S3. The corresponding TOF values of $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ decomposition catalyzed by $\text{Rh}_{0.7}\text{Ni}_{0.3}/\text{MnO}_x\text{-MXene}$ with different $\text{MnO}_x$ amount at 50 °C.
Figure S4. Time course plots for N₂+H₂ production from N₂H₄·H₂O decomposition over Rh₀.7Ni₀.3/MnOx-MXene with different NaOH amounts. The molar ratio of metal/N₂H₄·H₂O = 0.03.
Figure S5. Time course plots for N$_2$+H$_2$ production from N$_2$H$_4$·H$_2$O decomposition over Rh$_{0.7}$Ni$_{0.3}$/MnOx-MXene with NaOH or KOH. The molar ratio of metal/N$_2$H$_4$·H$_2$O = 0.03.
Figure S6. Time course plots for N$_2$+H$_2$ production from N$_2$H$_4$·H$_2$O decomposition over Rh$_{0.7}$Ni$_{0.3}$/MnO$_x$-MXene at different reaction temperatures (a); arrhenius plot (ln(TOF) vs. 1/T (b). The molar ratio of metal/N$_2$H$_4$·H$_2$O = 0.03.