

Electronic Supplementary Information for

Facile In-situ Reductive Synthesis of Both Nitrogen Deficient and Protonated g-C₃N₄ Nanosheets for the Synergistic Enhancement of Visible-light H₂ Evolution

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1. Reagents

Analytical grade reagents including dicyandiamide, NH₄Cl, 85 wt.% H₃PO₄ solution, 50 wt.% H₃PO₂ solution, triethanolamine (TEOA) and chloroplatinic acid hexahydrate (>99%, H₂PtCl₆·6H₂O) were purchased from Shanghai Macklin biochemical company. K₂HPO₄ (>99%) was obtained from Tianjin Kermel and all these reagents were used without further purification. Deionized water was used in the whole experiment process.

2. Sample characterization

The morphologies of the g-C₃N₄ samples were characterized by the Hitachi S4800 field emission scanning electron microscope (SEM) operating at 3.0 kV and JEOL-2100F transmission electron microscope (TEM). Energy dispersive X-ray analysis (EDX) of the representative samples were also conducted on a scanning transmission electron microscope (STEM, JEM-2100F, JEOL, Japan). N₂ adsorption-desorption isotherms and pore size distributions were obtained at -196 °C with an ASAP2020 Plus HD88 apparatus (Micromeritics, USA), and then the specific areas were calculated using the Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) method. The X-ray diffraction patterns of the samples were collected using a Bruker D8 Focus Diffractometer with Cu Kα as the radiation source. Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) was obtained by a Bruker Tensor-II spectrometer over a range of 4000-450 cm⁻¹ with a resolution of 1 cm⁻¹. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) was performed on an ESCALAB 250XI (Thermal Scientific, USA) X-ray photoelectron spectrometer. Electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) experiments were conducted on a Bruker A300 spectrometer at room temperature. The organic elemental analysis (OEA) of C, N, O and H was performed on Elementar Vario MACRO cube. ¹³C, ³¹P and ¹H solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded by the Bruker AVIII 600 NMR spectrometer. For the zeta potential measurements, 10 mg of each sample was homogeneously dispersed in 200 mL deionized water using strong ultrasonication and then the zeta potentials were measured at 25 °C with a zeta potential analyzer (Malvern zetasizer nano, UK). Shimadzu UV2600 UV-vis spectrometer was used to record the UV-vis absorption spectrums of the samples with BaSO₄ as reference. The photoluminescence data excited with 325 nm light source were collected on an Edinburgh Instruments FLS 920 luminescence spectrometer. Time-resolved photoluminescence decay spectra were collected on Edinburgh Instruments FLS 1000 spectrometer with an excitation wavelength of 340 nm.

3. Transient photocurrent measurement

To obtain the photocurrent responses of the samples, working electrodes with g-C₃N₄ coated on the

transparent FTO conductive glass were prepared. Typically, 20 mg sample was dispersed in 20 mL of 50mg/mL naphthalenol/ethanol solution with strong ultrasonication. The dispersed g-C₃N₄ solution was evenly dropped on the conductive side of the FTO glass with a 1×1 cm area and then the electrode was dried in 80 °C oven. The as prepared working electrodes was tested in 1 mol/L Na₂SO₄ aqueous solution and excited by the visible-light ($\lambda \geq 400\text{nm}$) irradiation pulse with 20 seconds width, the photocurrent response was recorded by the CHI 660E electrochemical workstation.

4. Photocatalytic H₂ evolution and AQY measurement

The photocatalytic H₂ evolution ability of each sample was evaluated with the RTK-Solar non-vacuum photocatalytic H₂ evolution testing system (RTKINS Ltd. Wuhan, China, **Fig. S1**). This novel H₂ evolution testing system works under atmosphere and the generated H₂ volume can be directly measured by the standard microflow cell with a calibrated volume of 33.7 μL , it means that the volume of each bubble flowing through the microflow cell is 33.7 μL . Then, the number of bubbles flowing through the microflow cell will be counted by a photoelectric counter and recorded on the workstation installed on a computer, subsequently obtaining the volume of the generated H₂. Thus, with the system temperature being maintained constant using a waterbath, the amount of the generated H₂ can be calculated by the ideal gas equation of state $PV=nRT$. Fig. S1 shows the composing parts this testing system. The whole reactor is surrounded by cooling water, thereby ensuring the system temperature maintained constant.

The photocatalytic H₂ generation rate of each sample was measured with 1.5 wt% of Pt loading. The detailed operating procedures were as following: 1) 15mg sample was homogeneously dispersed in 80mL of 20 vol.% TEOA solution using strong ultrasonication; 2) 1.2 g of 0.5 mg/mL H₂PtCl₆ solution (stabilized with 5 wt.% HCl) was added to the above catalyst solution and then transferred to the specially designed H₂ evolution reactor (reactor volume=120 mL; 3) the reactor was tightly sealed and purged using high purity N₂ for 30mins to remove the oxygen in the solution and system; 4) Stop N₂ purging and ensure that there was no gas leakage in the system; 5) Start visible-light irradiation ($\lambda \geq 400\text{nm}$) using the 300 W Xe lamp (Aulight, China) with a 400 nm cutoff filter and the reactor temperature was kept at 20 °C using a constant temperature waterbath. 6) After irradiation for 1 hour to insure that the Pt photoreduction loading process was completed, start the RTK-Solar workstation to record the volume of generated H₂. For the H₂ evolution experiments conducted with K₂HPO₄ addition, the K₂HPO₄ solid was premixed with 20 vol.% TEOA solution. For all experiments, the reactor was wrapped with foil to reduce light leakage (as shown in the inset of Fig. S1). Then, the molar amount of the generated H₂ (V_{mol}) can be calculated according to Equation S1 and S2:

$$V_{\text{mol}} = \frac{RT}{P} = \frac{8.314 \times 293.15}{101.325} = 24.05 \text{ mL/mmol} \quad (\text{Equation S1})$$

$$n = \frac{V}{V_{\text{mol}}} = \frac{V}{24.05} \quad (\text{Equation S2})$$

Here, V represents the volume of the generated H₂, mL; n represents the H₂ molar amount, mmol. The AQY of the 0.8-P2-CN sample at 420 nm was measured with the Xe lamp equipped an 420±10 nm monochromatic filter, and all the other details were the same with those in the H₂ evolution experiments. The light intensity was measured with the same procedures in our previous work^[1] and the calculated light intensity was 2.93 mW/cm². The calculated light irradiation area was 33.18 cm². The H₂ evolution rates over 1.5 wt.% Pt-loaded 0.8-P2-CN in 20 vol.% TEOA and 20 vol.% TEOA+32 mmol K₂HPO₄ solution were 65.9 and 248.1 $\mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{h}^{-1}$, respectively (Fig. S6). Thus, the AQY calculated according to Equation S3 for 0.8-P2-CN catalyzed H₂ evolution in 20 vol.% TEOA and 20 vol.% TEOA+32 mmol K₂HPO₄ solutions were 10.7 % and 40.4 %, respectively.

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{AQY (\%)} &= \frac{\text{the number of reacted electrons}}{\text{the number of incident photons}} \times 100 \\
&= \frac{\text{the number of evolved H}_2 \text{ molecules} \times 2}{\text{the number of incident photons}} \times 100 \\
&= \frac{\text{evolved H}_2 \text{ per hour } (\mu\text{mol}) \times 6.02 \times 10^{23} \times 10^{-6} \times 2}{\frac{2.93 \times 10^{-3} \times 33.18}{\frac{1240}{420} \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19}} \times 3600} \times 100
\end{aligned}$$

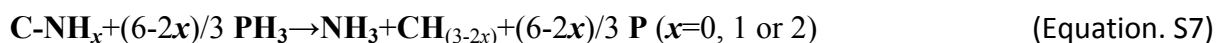
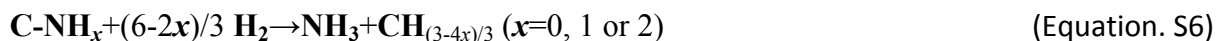
(Equation S3)

5. Energy changes (ΔE) calculation for removing a lattice N atom in the g-C₃N₄ basic melon framework with PH₃

The energy changes (ΔE) for removing a lattice N atom from N1, N2, N3 and N4 were calculated as Equation S4 and S5. The reduction reactions using H₂ and PH₃ as reduction agents could be illustrated as Equation S6 and S7.

$$\Delta E = E[\text{Reduced melon}] + E[\text{NH}_3] - E[\text{melon}] - E[\text{PH}_3] \quad (\text{Equation. S4})$$

$$\Delta E = E[\text{Reduced melon}] + E[\text{NH}_3] - E[\text{melon}] - E[\text{H}_2] + E[\text{H}_2] - E[\text{PH}_3] \quad (\text{Equation. S5})$$



The energy changes for removal of one N atom at N1, N2, N3 and N4 positions and terminating the dangling carbon atoms in H₂ atmosphere were taken from literature^[2] and as follows:

$$\Delta E (\text{N1, H}_2) = 0.65 \text{ eV}$$

$$\Delta E (\text{N2, H}_2) = 0.83 \text{ eV}$$

$$\Delta E (\text{N3, H}_2) = 1.40 \text{ eV}$$

$$\Delta E (\text{N4, H}_2) = 2.39 \text{ eV}$$

According to literature^[3], $E[\text{H}_2] = 0 \text{ eV}$, $E[\text{PH}_3] = 5.6 \text{ kJ/mol} = 0.06 \text{ eV}$ (white phosphorus as standard, $E[\text{P}] = 0 \text{ eV}$). Thus, the energy changes for removing one N atom at the four positions using PH₃ were calculated as following:

$$\Delta E (\text{N1, PH}_3) = \Delta E (\text{N1, H}_2) + E[\text{H}_2] - 2/3 E[\text{PH}_3] = 0.65 - 0.06 \times 2/3 = 0.61 \text{ eV}$$

$$\Delta E (\text{N2, PH}_3) = \Delta E (\text{N2, H}_2) + 2E[\text{H}_2] - 4/3 E[\text{PH}_3] = 0.83 - 0.06 \times 4/3 = 0.75 \text{ eV}$$

$$\Delta E (\text{N3, PH}_3) = \Delta E (\text{N3, H}_2) + 3E[\text{H}_2] - 2E[\text{PH}_3] = 1.40 - 0.06 \times 2 = 1.28 \text{ eV}$$

$$\Delta E (\text{N4, PH}_3) = \Delta E (\text{N4, H}_2) + 3E[\text{H}_2] - 2E[\text{PH}_3] = 2.39 - 0.06 \times 2 = 2.27 \text{ eV}$$

6. Accuracy verification of the RTK-Solar H₂ evolution system

The verification contained two steps. Firstly, two H₂ evolution experiments (using 1.5 wt.% Pt loaded 0.8-P2-CN as catalysts) in the 20 vol.% TEOA and 20 vol.% TEOA+32 mmol K₂HPO₄ mixture solutions, respectively. The operating procedures were the similar with those in the previous manuscript. In each experiment, the reaction system was purged by high purity N₂ (99.99%) and 4 mL helium was added as internal standard. The reactor was tightly sealed and irradiated under visible light ($\lambda \geq 400 \text{ nm}$) for 120 mins. After reaction, the reactor was connected to a Hiden HPR 20 gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer system and the gases were carefully checked. As shown in Fig. S6, the mass spectrums

indicated that only H₂ was detected excluding the purging gas N₂ and internal standard Helium. Thus, the volume measured in the RTK-Solar system can be directly regarded as the volume of photocatalytic evolved H₂.

Secondly, to verify the accuracy of the H₂ evolution results obtained by the RTK-Solar system, parallel experiments were conducted with the reactor being connected to a closed gas-circulation system and the generated H₂ was determined by a calibrated gas chromatography equipped TCD detector (Clarus 580, PerkinElmer, Helium as carrier gas). All the experimental conditions were the same with those in the RTK-Solar system. The system was purged by high purity N₂ (99.99%) and 5 mL Argon was injected into the system as internal standard. The 1.5 wt.% Pt loaded B-CN, G-CN, 1.6-P1-CN and 0.8-P2-CN were tested in the 20 vol.% TEOA solution and the gas sample was analyzed for every 1 hour. Table S2 and Fig. S7 presented the summarized gas chromatography original data and curves for the H₂ evolution tests, respectively. The full original gas chromatography curves can be found with the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/4k5j46w5rdkuejp/GC%20original%20data%20of%20the%20supplemente%20H2%20evolution%20tests.pdf?dl=0>

The generated H₂ amount determined by the gas chromatography method can be calculated by the following equation:

$$n_{H_2} = \frac{H_2(\text{adjusted}) \times 5 \times 1000}{\text{Argon}(\text{adjusted}) \times 22.4} \quad \mu\text{mol}$$

According to the summarized gas chromatograph data, the evolved H₂ amount can be calculated. Then, H₂ evolution vs time plot can be also illustrated in **Fig. S7**. Based on the linear fitting results, the gas chromatography determined H₂ evolution rates over the 1.5 wt.% Pt loaded B-CN, G-CN, 1.6-P1-CN and 0.8-P2-CN in the 20 vol.% TEOA solution were 42.8, 106.6, 140.1 and 261.6 $\mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{h}^{-1}$, respectively. Thus, the ratios of the H₂ evolution rates determined by gas chromatography and RTK-Solar system were located in a narrow range of 0.972~1.076. It means that the RTK-Solar measured H₂ evolution rate is very close to that determined by the widely accepted gas chromatography method. In the other word, this novel RTK-Solar H₂ evolution system has adequate accuracy to measure the amount of the generated gases. Combining with the mass spectrums and gas chromatography data, the H₂ evolution rates determined using the novel RTK-Solar H₂ evolution system should be reliable. In addition, the Effect of photocatalyst amount on the H₂ evolution was explored and the results were presented in **Fig. S9** and the results indicated that it was suitable to fix the photocatalyst usage at 15 mg for each experiment.

7. Supporting figures

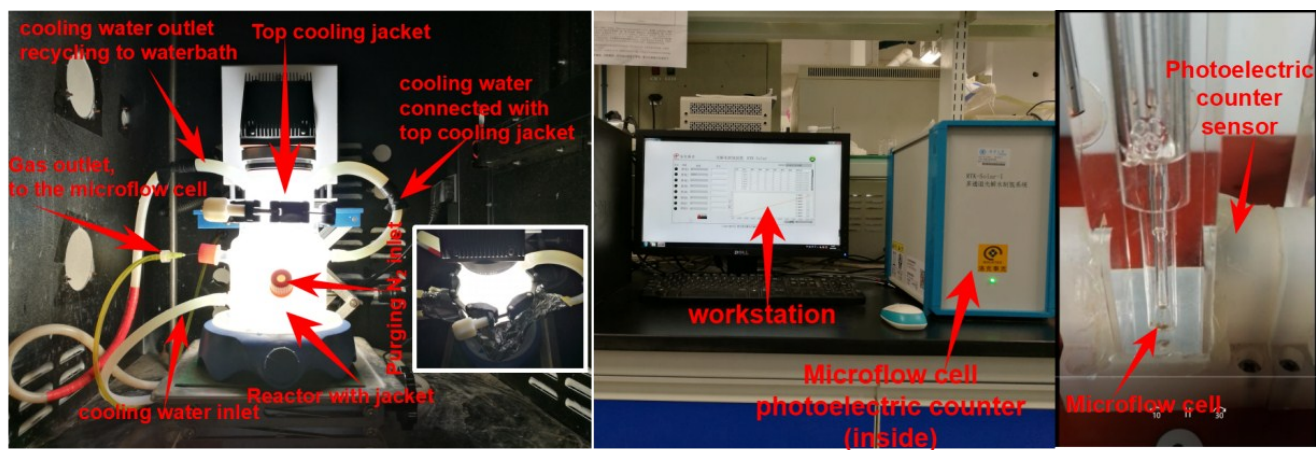


Fig. S1. Digital pictures of the photocatalytic H₂ evolution testing system

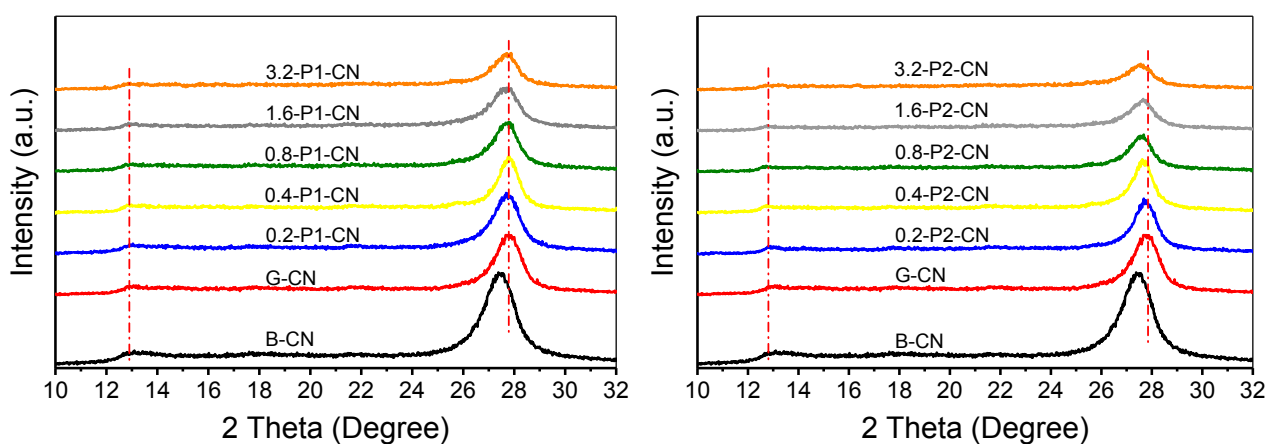


Fig. S2. Further comparisons between the as prepared g-C₃N₄ samples

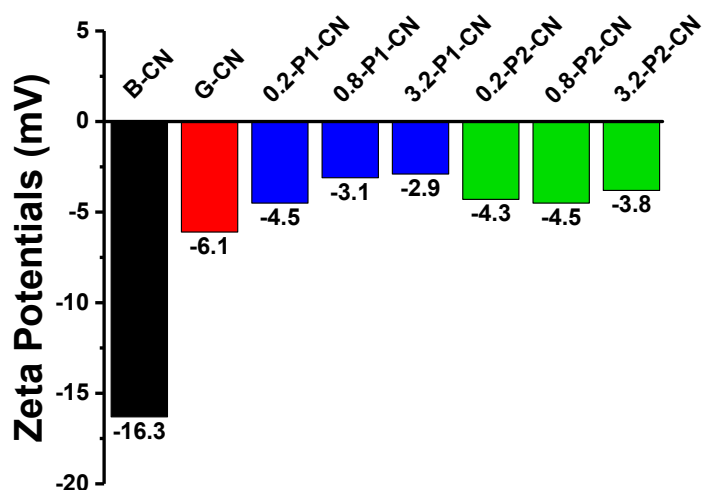


Fig. S3. Measured Zeta potentials of the g-C₃N₄ samples

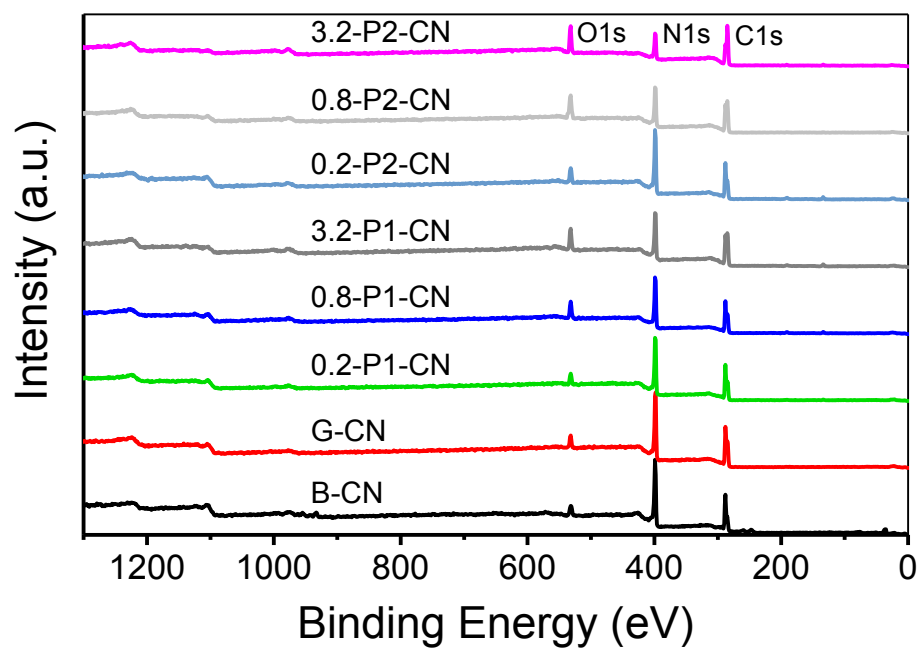


Fig. S4. XPS spectra of the g-C₃N₄ samples

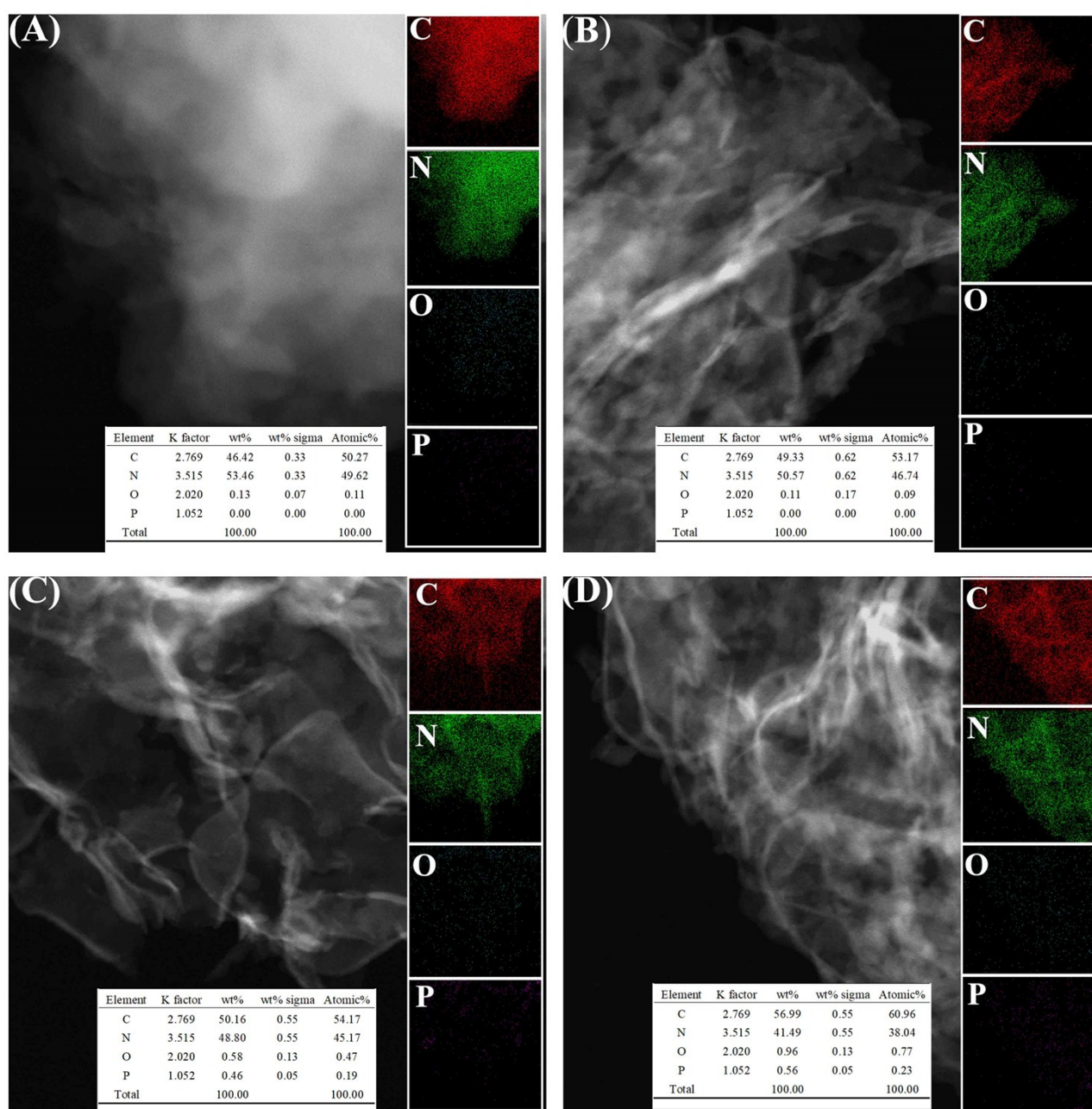


Fig. S5. Elemental mapping collected using scanning transmission electron microscopy. A) B-CN; B) G-CN; C) 0.8-P1-CN and D) 0.8-P2-CN, respectively.

8. Density-Functional-Theory (DFT) calculations

Electronic band structure of B-CN and other $g\text{-C}_3\text{N}_4$ samples were carried out using general-gradient-approximation-Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBEsol) and projector augmented-wave (PAW) method^[4] as implemented in the Vienna Ab initio simulation package (VASP)^[5]. The energy cutoff is 500 eV. Here $3\times 4\times 2$ -centered k-point grids were used to integrate the Brillouin zone. A two dimensional (2D) melon sheet was constructed to represent the incomplete polycondensation of melon, with a large vacuum space of 24 Å to separate two neighboring 2D melon sheets. A cubic cell was adopted for the carbon nitrides materials with experimental lattice constants of $a = 16.7$ Å and $b = 12.4$ Å^[6]. The representative cell units are presented as in Fig. S6.

For better understanding, basic atoms composing the $g\text{-C}_3\text{N}_4$ “melon” structure (Fig. S6A), the proposed groups and vacancies were clearly marked. As seen in Fig. S6B, the carboxyl groups which originated from the N1 or N2 nitrogen atoms (referring to Fig. 3A in the manuscript) removal and heptazine ring opening, are located at the apex of $g\text{-C}_3\text{N}_4$ “melon” structure. While, Fig. S6C presents the other possible nitrogen vacancy which is originated from N3 nitrogen atoms loss.

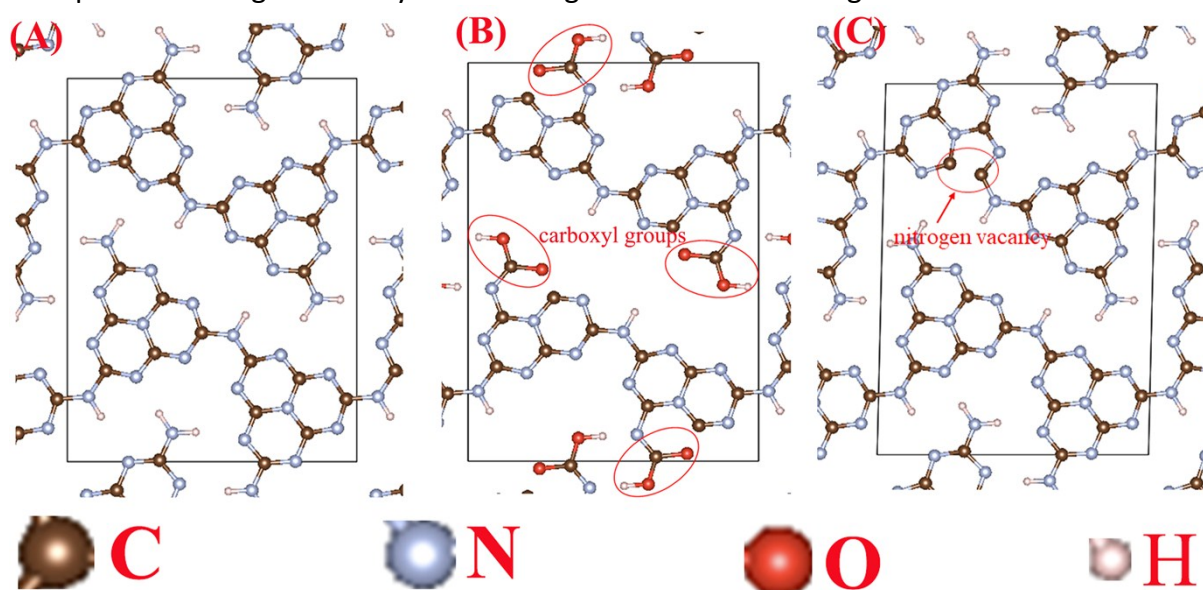


Fig. S6. A) Cubic cell structure of B-CN. B) $g\text{-C}_3\text{N}_4$ cell only containing carboxyl groups. C) $g\text{-C}_3\text{N}_4$ cell only containing nitrogen vacancies.

9. Bandgap structures

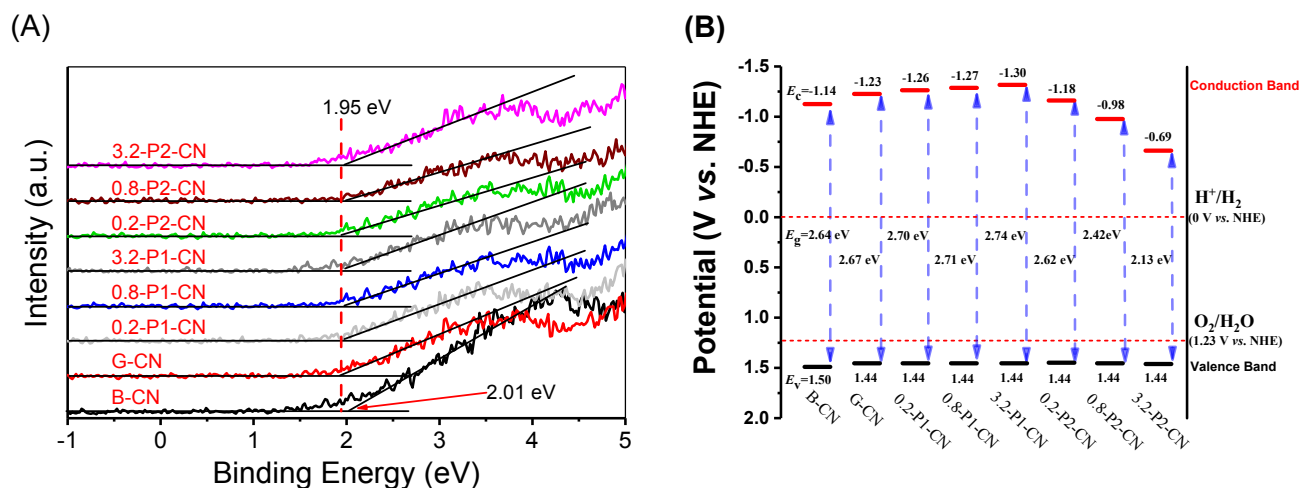


Fig. S7. A) XPS valence band spectra. B) Band structures alignments of the g-C₃N₄ samples. The contact differences between samples and analyzer versus normal hydrogen electrode (NHE) at PH=7 were determined with the formula of $E_{\text{NHE}}/V = \Phi + \text{VB} - 4.44$ ($\Phi = 3.93$ eV, representing the electron work function of the analyzer).

10. RTK H₂ evolution reactor accuracy verification results

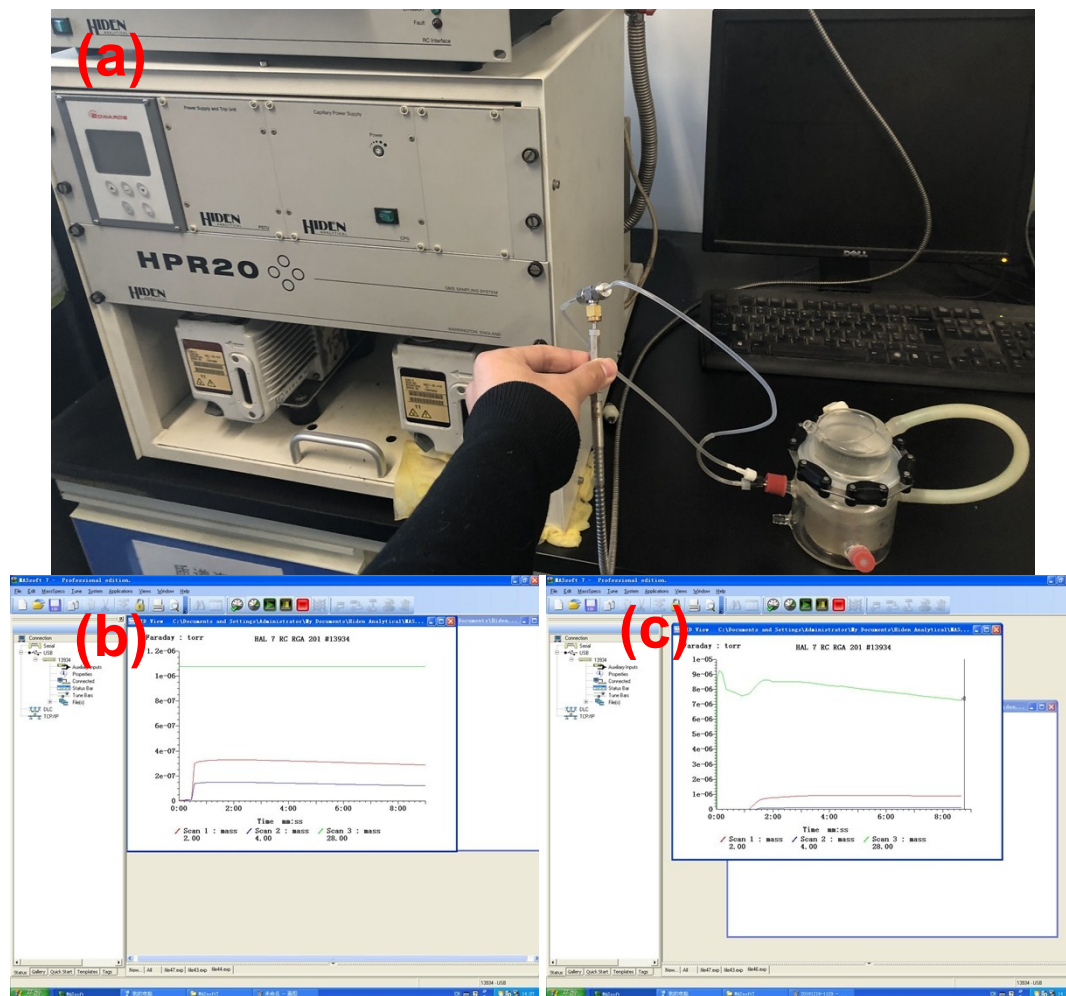


Fig. S8. Hidden HPR 20 gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer system for the Pt loaded g-C₃N₄ photocatalytic H₂ evolution system: (a) Equipment picture; (b) and (c) were the mass spectrums of the product gases in 20 vol.% TEOA and 20 vol.% TEOA+32 mmol K₂HPO₄ mixture solution, respectively.

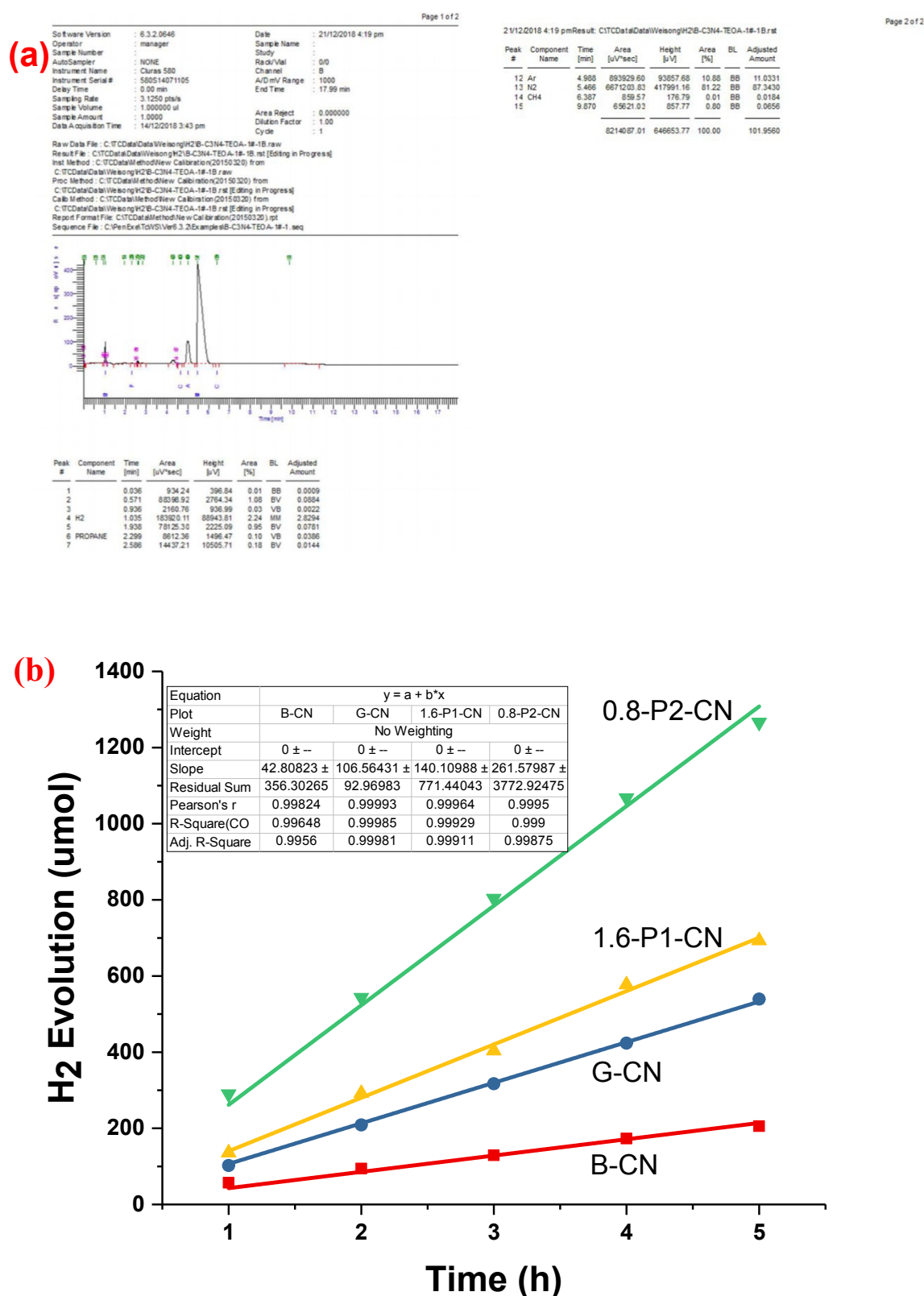


Fig. S9. (a) Original gas chromatography curve for the H₂ evolution experiments; (b) H₂ evolution vs time plot over the Pt loaded representative g-C₃N₄ samples in the 20 vol.% TEOA solution

11. Surface properties comparisons of the fresh and used 0.8-P2-CN nanosheets

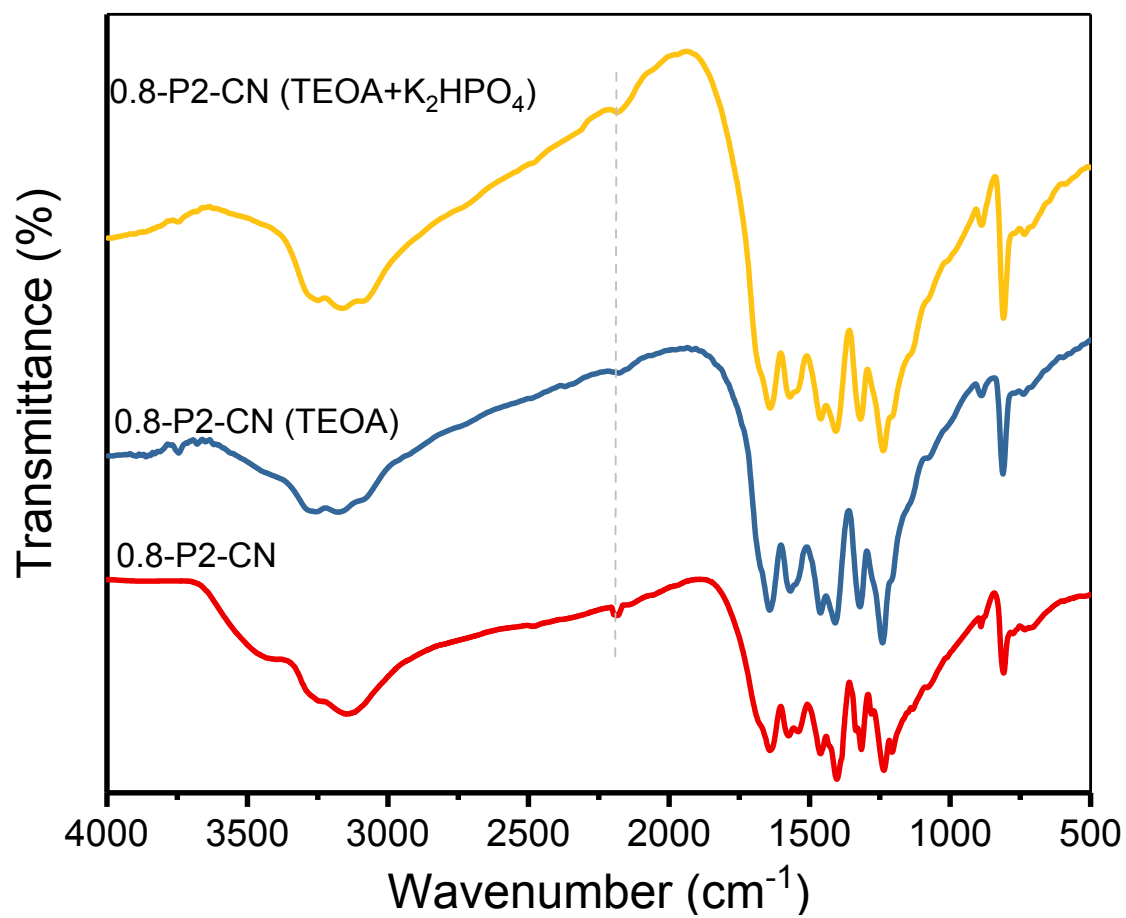


Fig. S10. FTIR spectra of the fresh and used 0.8-P2-CN nanosheets

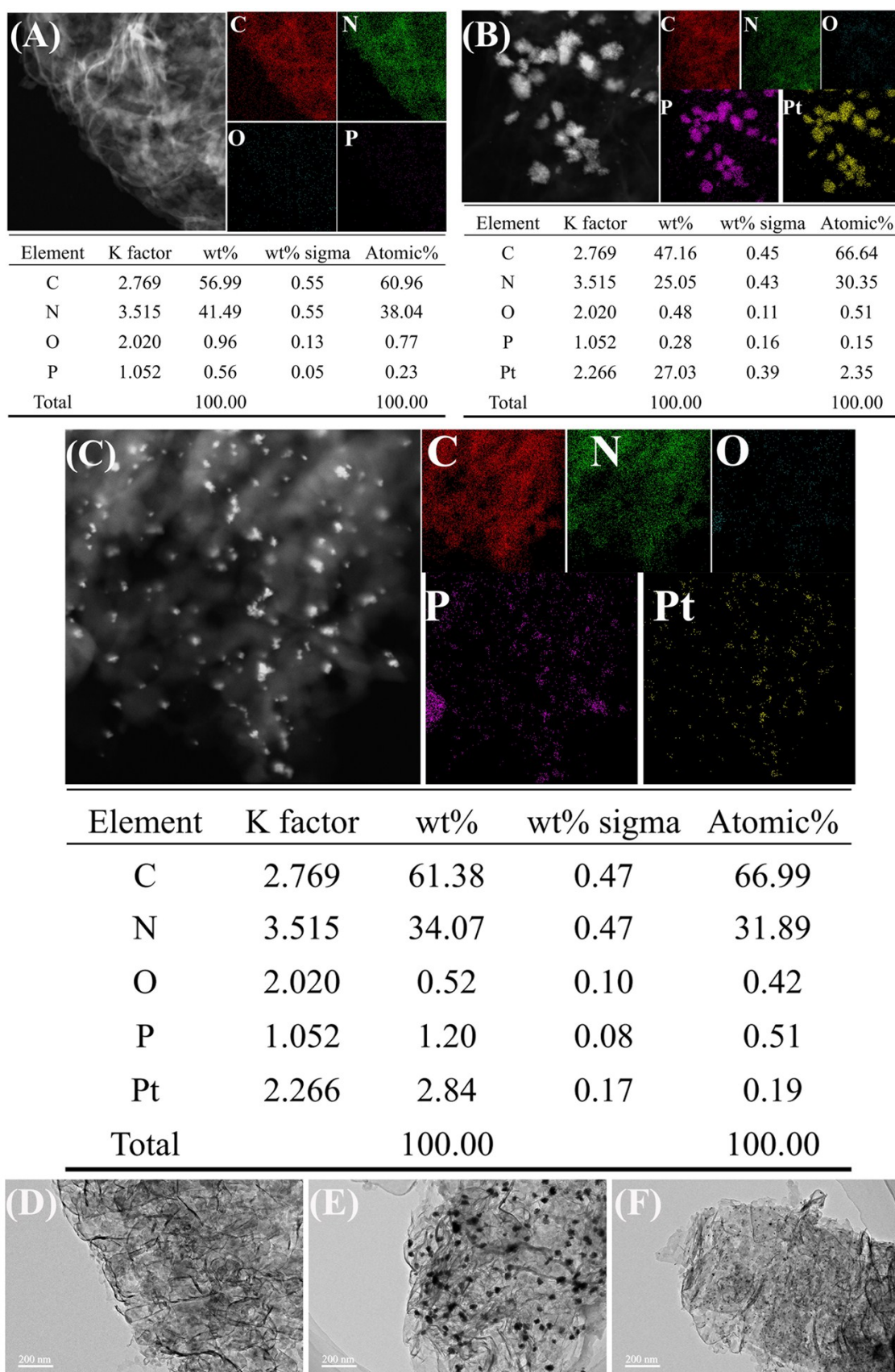


Fig. S11. EDX and TEM analysis of the fresh and used 0.8-P2-CN nanosheets. A) and D) are the elemental mapping and TEM images of fresh 0.8-P2-CN, respectively. B) and E) are the elemental mapping and TEM images of used 0.8-P2-CN after H₂ evolution in 20 vol.% TEOA solution, respectively. C) and F) are the mapping and TEM results of the used 0.8-P2-CN after H₂ evolution experiment in 20 vol.% TEOA/K₂HPO₄ mixed solution

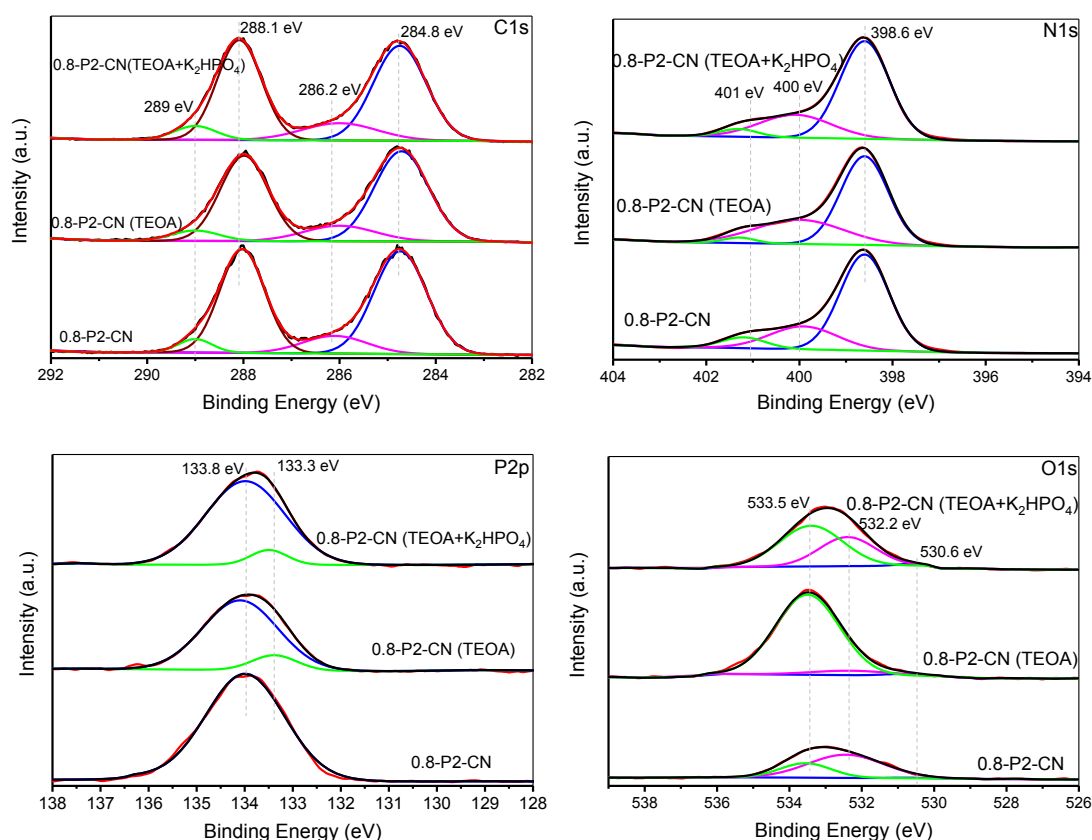


Fig. S12. Narrow XPS scan of the fresh and used 0.8-P2-CN nanosheets. In the figure, (TEOA) and (TEOA+K₂HPO₄) represent that the H₂ evolution experiment were conducted in TEOA and TEOA/K₂HPO₄ mixed solution, respectively.

As seen in Fig. S10, the FTIR spectra indicated that the H₃PO₂ doped 0.8-P2-CN nanosheets could well conserve the cyano group signal after photocatalytic H₂ evolution. The elemental mapping shown in Fig. S11 also revealed that the compositions of the g-C₃N₄ could maintain at the same level as before H₂ evolution experiments. The XPS spectra in Fig. S12 indicate that C and N are kept the same after reaction. There is a small 133.8 eV peak shift towards lower binding energy in the P2p spectra of the used 0.8-P2-CN nanosheets, which should be attributed to the interaction of the doped phosphorus with deposited Pt nanoparticles. This coincides with the interesting phenomenon observed in the elemental mapping, in which the distribution of Pt is highly consistent with that of the doped phosphorus (Fig. S11B and S11C).

In brief, the surface properties comparison between the used and fresh 0.8-P2-CN indicate that there are no obvious changes which may induce adverse effect on the performance of the samples. Thus, the stability of 0.8-P2-CN could be further evidenced.

12. AQY results of the H₂ evolution experiments

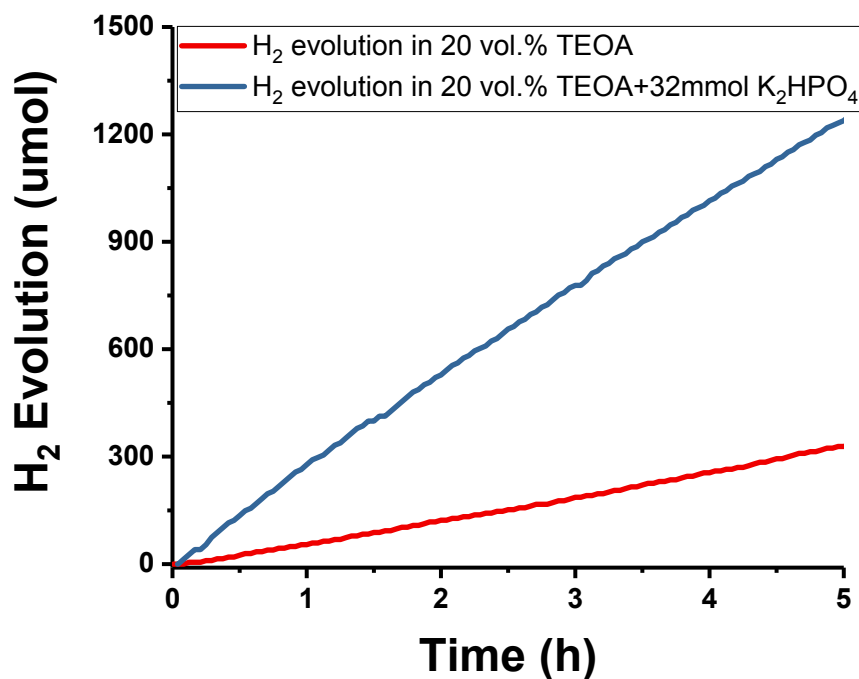


Fig. S13. Time course of H₂ evolution in the experiments for measuring the AQY of 0.8-P2-CN nanosheets under 420±10 nm monochromatic light irradiation

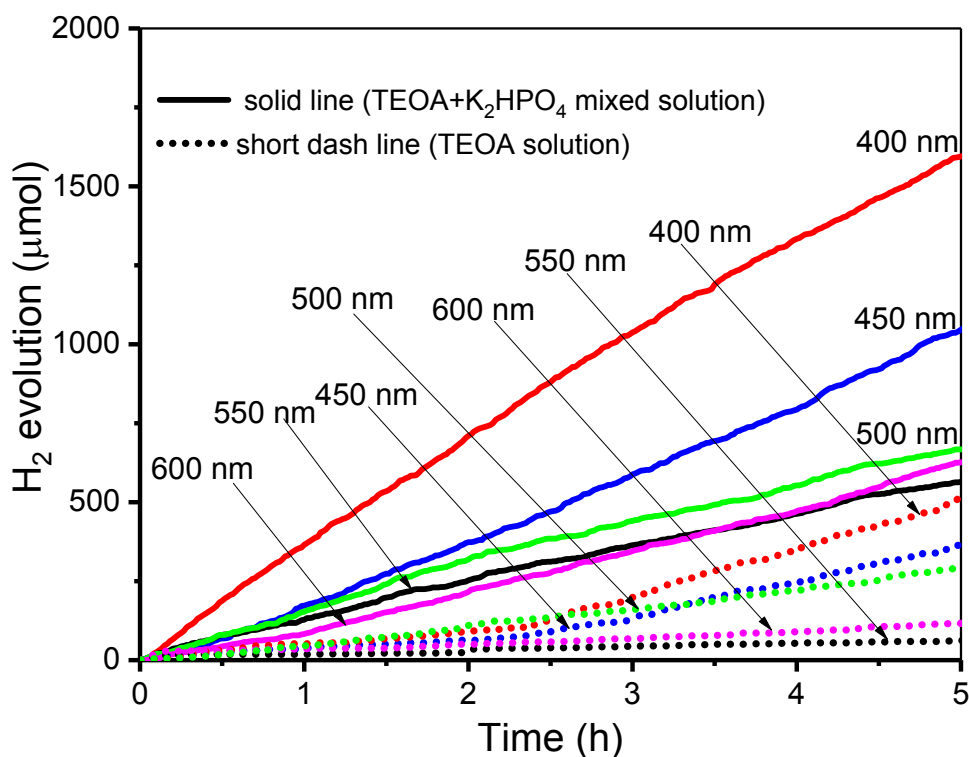


Fig. S14. Time course of H₂ evolution for measuring the AQY of 0.8-P2-CN nanosheets under 400, 450, 500, 550 and 600 nm monochromatic light irradiation. The short dash lines represent the H₂ evolution using 20 vol.% TEOA solution as sacrificing agent, and the solid lines represent the experiments were conducted in optimized TEOA/K₂HPO₄ mixed solution.

13. Other details for the H₂ evolution experiments

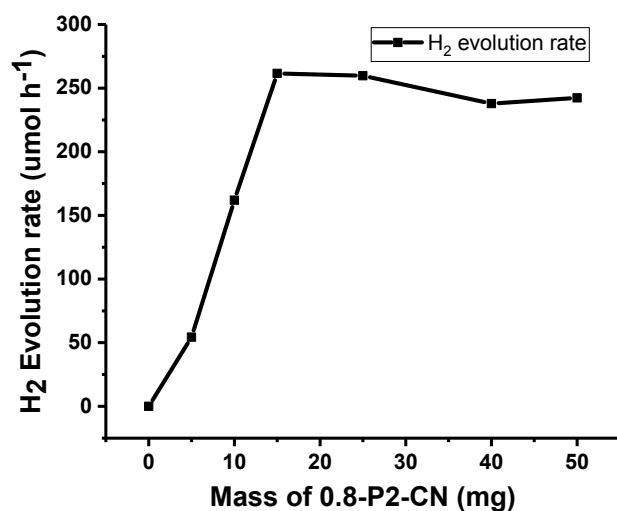


Fig. S15. Effect of photocatalyst amount on the H₂ evolution over 1.5 wt.% Pt loaded 0.8-P2-CN in 20 vol.% TEOA solution under visible-light ($\lambda \geq 400$ nm) irradiation. The H₂ evolution rate increases with the increasing amount of 0.8-P2-CN in the range of 0~15 mg, and the H₂ evolution rate at 15 mg catalyst was very close to that of 25 mg 0.8-P2-CN. While, with further addition of g-C₃N₄, the H₂ evolution rate will slightly go down. It indicates that it is suitable to fix the photocatalyst usage at 15 mg.

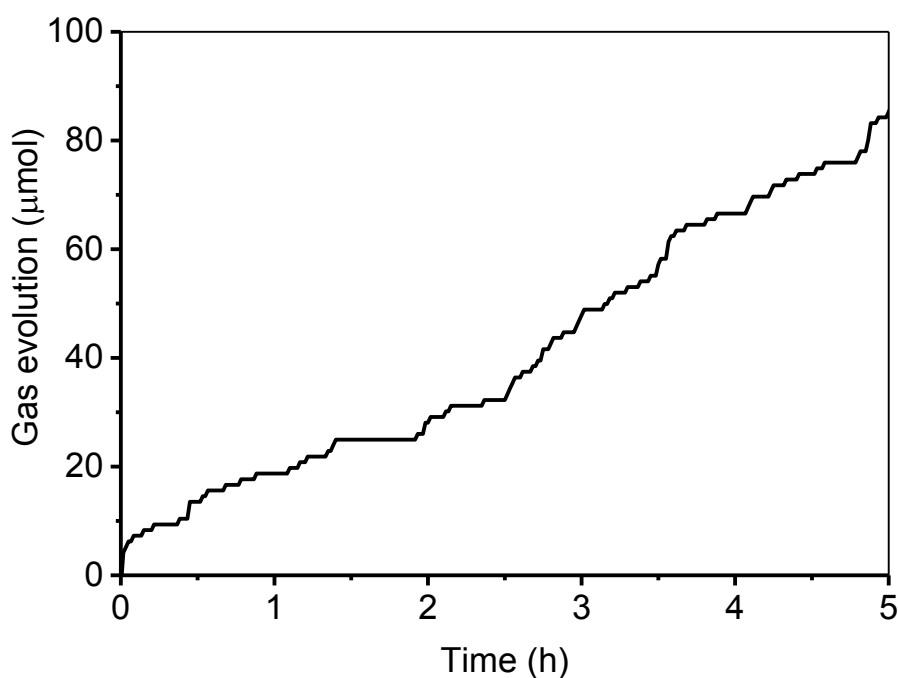


Fig. S16. H₂ evolution control experiment in 20 vol.% H₃PO₄ solution over 0.8-P2-CN nanosheets (Pt was added as cocatalyst)

14. Supporting Tables

Table S1. Summarized XPS data for the as prepared g-C₃N₄ samples. C1s, N1s and O1s binding energies for the selected carbon, nitrogen and oxygen species, respectively, and N/C and O/C ratios determined from the quantitative analysis were provided:

| Samples | Binding Energy (eV) | | | | | | | | Ratios | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| | N-C=N | C-NH _x or C≡N | C-C or C=C | NH _x | N _{3C} | N _{2C} | OH | C-O | NH _x /C | N _{3C} /C | N _{2C} /C | C-O/C | OH/C |
| B-CN | 288.2 | 286.4 | 284.8 | 401 | 400.1 | 398.6 | 533.5 | 532.2 | 0.145 | 0.119 | 1.054 | 0.015 | 0.009 |
| G-CN | 288.1 | 286.5 | 284.8 | 401 | 400 | 398.6 | 533.5 | 532.2 | 0.135 | 0.231 | 0.917 | 0.039 | 0.023 |
| 0.8-P1-CN | 288.1 | 286.5 | 284.8 | 401 | 400 | 398.6 | 533.5 | 532.2 | 0.079 | 0.305 | 0.882 | 0.070 | 0.031 |
| 0.8-P2-CN | 288.1 | 286.1 | 284.8 | 401 | 399.3 | 398.6 | 533.5 | 532.2 | 0.064 | 0.405 | 0.568 | 0.134 | 0.083 |

Table S2. Bandgap parameters of the tested g-C₃N₄ samples

| Sample | Valence band (VB)/eV | Conduction band (CB)/eV | Bandgap width/eV |
|-----------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| B-CN | 1.50 | -1.14 | 2.64 |
| G-CN | 1.44 | -1.23 | 2.67 |
| 0.2-P1-CN | 1.44 | -1.26 | 2.70 |
| 0.8-P1-CN | 1.44 | -1.27 | 2.71 |
| 3.2-P1-CN | 1.44 | -1.30 | 2.74 |
| 0.2-P2-CN | 1.44 | -1.18 | 2.62 |
| 0.8-P2-CN | 1.44 | -0.98 | 2.42 |
| 3.2-P2-CN | 1.44 | -0.69 | 2.13 |

Table S3. Summarized gas chromatography original data for the H₂ evolution experiments

| Catalyst Time/Adjusted amount | B-CN | | G-CN | | 1.6-P1-CN | | 0.8-P2-CN | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---------|----------------|--------|----------------|---------|----------------|--------|
| | H ₂ | Argon | H ₂ | Argon | H ₂ | Argon | H ₂ | Argon |
| 1 h | 2.8294 | 11.0331 | 4.4801 | 9.7736 | 6.9776 | 11.4489 | 9.359 | 7.2056 |
| 2 h | 4.4646 | 10.5784 | 8.8434 | 9.4549 | 12.6437 | 9.6589 | 17.1389 | 7.0418 |
| 3 h | 6.0686 | 10.4729 | 13.4498 | 9.4711 | 18.9701 | 10.4857 | 23.9577 | 6.6532 |
| 4 h | 8.2131 | 10.5916 | 16.6306 | 8.7653 | 22.8219 | 8.8249 | 26.1052 | 5.4594 |
| 5 h | 9.7681 | 10.6007 | 19.2148 | 7.9539 | 26.2269 | 8.4473 | 33.4608 | 5.8999 |

Table S4. H₂ evolution activity and AQY comparisons with the previously reported work

| Catalysts | Usage/cocatalyst loading | Solution | Light source | H ₂ evolution rate | AQY | References |
|---|--------------------------|--|------------------|--|---|--|
| g-C ₃ N ₄ (Urea) | 20mg/3.0 wt.% Pt | TEOA | ≥395nm | ~400 μmol·h ⁻¹ | 26.5%@400nm | <i>Angew. Chem. Int. Edt.</i> 2014 , 53, 9240-9245 |
| g-C ₃ N ₄ nanosheets | 50mg/3.0 wt.% Pt | 10 vol.% TEOA 10 vol.%+K ₂ HPO ₄ | ≥420nm | ~310 μmol·h ⁻¹ 947 μmol·h ⁻¹ | 45.7%@380 nm 26.1%@420nm | <i>Angew. Chem. Int. Edt.</i> 2015 , 54,13561-13565 |
| N-doped g-C ₃ N ₄ | 50mg/3.0 wt.% Pt | 10% vol. TEOA | ≥420nm | ~78 μmol·h ⁻¹ | ----- | <i>Carbon.</i> 2016 , 99, 111-117 |
| Carbon dots/g-C ₃ N ₄ nanosheets | 50mg/0.2 wt.% Pt | 5 vol.% Methanol | ≥420nm | 88.1 μmol·h ⁻¹ | ----- | <i>Appl. Catal. B: Environ.</i> 2016 , 193, 248-258. |
| CoP/g-C ₃ N ₄ | 50mg/3.0 wt.% CoP | 15 vol.% TEOA | ≥420nm | ~97μmol·h ⁻¹ | 12.4%@420 nm | <i>Adv. Funct. Mater.</i> 2017 , 27, 1604328 |
| P doped and tubular g-C ₃ N ₄ | 100mg/1.0 wt.% Pt | 25 vol.% Methanol | ≥420nm | 67 μmol·h ⁻¹ | 5.68%@420nm | <i>Angew. Chem. Int. Edt.</i> 2016 , 55, 1830-1834 |
| P-TCN | 100mg/1.0 wt.% Pt | 20 vol.% Methanol | ≥420nm | ~59 μmol·h ⁻¹ | ----- | <i>Appl. Catal. B: Environ.</i> 2017 , 218, 664-671. |
| PTCN-3 (P-dope g-C ₃ N ₄) | 50mg/3.0 wt.% Pt | 10 vol.% TEOA | ≥420nm | ~10 0μmol·h ⁻¹ | 4.32@420 nm 3.58@450 nm 1.28@500 nm | <i>Appl. Catal. B: Environ.</i> 2019 , 241, 159-166. |
| P doped g-C ₃ N ₄ | 50mg /3.0 wt.% Pt | 10vol.% TEOA | ≥400nm | 195.8μmol·h ⁻¹ | 6.1%@420 nm | <i>Small.</i> 2016 , 32, 4431-4439. |
| S, P-doped g-C ₃ N ₄ | 10mg /3.0 wt.% Pt | 10vol.% TEOA | ≥400nm | ~50μmol·h ⁻¹ | 18.93%@420 nm | <i>Int. J. Hydrogen Energ.</i> 2019 , 44, 20042-20055 |
| P, Na-doped g-C ₃ N ₄ | 50mg/1.0 wt.% Pt | 25 vol.% Methanol | 300 W Xe lamp | 191 μmol·h ⁻¹ | ----- | <i>J. Power. Source.</i> 2017 , 351, 151-159 |
| Protonated g-C ₃ N ₄ | 100 mg/3.0 wt.% Pt | 10% vol. TEOA | ≥420nm | ~28 μmol·h ⁻¹ | ----- | <i>Appl. Surf. Sci.</i> 2014 , 295, 253-259 |
| N deficient g-C ₃ N ₄ | 10mg/1.0 wt.% Pt | 25 vol.% lactic acid | ≥420nm | 69 μmol·h ⁻¹ | ----- | <i>Adv. Mater.</i> 2017 , 29, 1605148 |
| 0.8-P2-CN (N deficient and protonated g-C ₃ N ₄ nanosheets) | 15 mg/1.5 wt.% Pt | 20 vol.% TEOA 20 vol.% TEOA+K ₂ HPO ₄ | ≥400nm | 255.3 μmol·h ⁻¹ 881.7 μmol·h ⁻¹ | 10.7%@420 nm 40.4%@420 nm | This work |

Table S5. AQY measurement results of 0.8-P2-CN under different wavelengths

| Wavelength (nm) | H ₂ evolution rate (μmol/h) | | Light intensity (mW/cm ²) | AQY (%) | |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| | TEOA | TEOA+K ₂ HPO ₄ | | TEOA | TEOA+K ₂ HPO ₄ |
| 400 | 102.7 | 319.3 | 3.45 | 14.9 | 46.3 |
| 450 | 72.7 | 209.2 | 3.24 | 9.9 | 28.6 |
| 500 | 58.7 | 133.4 | 2.97 | 7.9 | 17.9 |
| 550 | 12.4 | 112.9 | 2.65 | 1.7 | 15.5 |
| 600 | 23.3 | 125.3 | 2.79 | 2.7 | 14.9 |

15. Supporting Videos

Video S1. Stable and remarkable H₂ evolution over the 1.5 wt.% Pt-loaded 0.8-P2-CN nanosheets in the optimum TEOA/K₂HPO₄ mixture solution under visible-light irradiation ($\lambda \geq 400$ nm).

Video S2. Observable H₂ evolution over the spent 0.8-P2-CN photocatalyst (collected and washed after 25 hours irradiation, then dried at 40°C, 5 mg) in the optimized TEOA/K₂HPO₄ mixture solution.

Video S1 and **S2** can also be found with the following URL:

Video S1: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/or6r0otrtmvadh8/Video%20S1.avi?dl=0>

Video S2: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/xpu7gzp3l087gvo/Video%20S2.avi?dl=0>

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