

# Electronic Supporting Information for

## Unravelling the Origin of Bifunctional OER/ORR

### Activity of Single-Atom Catalysts Supported on

### C<sub>2</sub>N by DFT and Machine Learning

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## Electronic Supporting Information (ESI) Note 1. Additional computational details for DFT calculations

For each elementary step in OER and ORR, the Gibbs free energy changes  $\Delta G$  is calculated as:

$$\Delta G = \Delta E + \Delta ZPE - T\Delta S + \Delta G_{\text{pH}} + \Delta G_{\text{U}}$$

where  $\Delta E$ ,  $\Delta ZPE$ ,  $T\Delta S$ ,  $\Delta G_{\text{pH}}$ , and  $\Delta G_{\text{U}}$  represent changes in DFT-calculated total energy, zero-point energy (ZPE), entropic contribution, pH contribution, and applied electrode potential contribution, respectively. Adsorption energy for  $\text{O}_x\text{H}_y$  species involved in OER/ORR was calculated by:<sup>1</sup>

$$\Delta E_{*\text{O}_x\text{H}_y} = E_{*\text{O}_x\text{H}_y} - E_* - [xE_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} - (2x-y)E_{\text{H}_2}/2]$$

where \* denotes active sites on the catalyst surface, and  $E_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  and  $E_{\text{H}_2}$  represent the energy of free  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{H}_2$  molecule, respectively. ZPE and entropic contribution terms were calculated by the vibrational frequencies of free molecules and adsorbates, and these values were listed in Table S1.  $\Delta G_{\text{pH}}$  was calculated by  $k_{\text{B}}T\ln 10 \times \text{pH}$ , and the pH value was set as zero in this work; for non-zero pH (e.g. in alkaline condition), the reaction Gibbs free energy can be corrected by  $\Delta G_{\text{pH}}$ , which will not be discussed in this work.<sup>2,3</sup>  $\Delta G_{\text{U}}$  was defined as  $-eU$ , where  $e$  and  $U$  represent the number of transferred electrons and applied electrode potential, respectively. Gibbs free energy for the  $\text{H}^+/\text{e}^-$  pair was calculated using Nørskov's computational hydrogen electrode (CHE) model:<sup>2</sup>  $G(\text{H}^+ + \text{e}^-) = 0.5G(\text{H}_2)$ . The solvent effect was considered by adding a  $-0.30$  eV correction to all the DFT-calculated total energy of  $*\text{OH}$  and  $*\text{OOH}$ , because they can form hydrogen bonds with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  when solvated and thus are more stable.<sup>4</sup>

The protonation of  $*\text{OOH}$  in ORR can proceed through two different pathways: (1)  $*\text{OOH} + \text{H}^+ + \text{e}^- \rightarrow *\text{O} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $4\text{e}^-$  ORR); (2)  $*\text{OOH} + \text{H}^+ + \text{e}^- \rightarrow * + \text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  ( $2\text{e}^-$  ORR). Thus, the  $4\text{e}^-/2\text{e}^-$

selectivity of ORR can be judged by comparing the potential barriers of reactions 1 and 2, that are, the potential barriers of \*O formation and \*H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> formation, respectively, with one H<sub>2</sub>O molecule. If reaction 1 is more favorable than reaction 2 (*i.e.*  $\Delta G_{\text{O}} + \Delta G(\text{H}_2\text{O}) < \Delta G(\text{H}_2\text{O}_2)$ ), that is,  $\Delta G_{\text{O}} < 3.52 \text{ eV} (\Delta G(\text{H}_2\text{O}_2) - \Delta G(\text{H}_2\text{O}))$ ,<sup>5</sup> then the selectivity toward 4e<sup>-</sup> ORR can be ensured. It should be noticed that our analysis is based on thermodynamics following the conventional model. Recently, Zhao *et al.* developed an advanced ‘constant-potential hybrid-solvation dynamic model’ to study the 2e<sup>-</sup>/4e<sup>-</sup> selectivity of ORR by considering the reaction kinetics at the solid-water interface.<sup>6</sup> Their results indicate that the ORR selectivity also roots in the atomic-scale reaction kinetics and is dependent on pH and potential (which is related to the different proton affinity to two O in \*OOH).<sup>6</sup> However, this model needs extensive grand-canonical DFT and AIMD simulations considering the explicit water molecules and implicit solution modelling, which is not suitable for our screening due to the high time cost. As such, for ORR selectivity, we only apply the thermodynamic analysis in this work using the conventional model.

For the density of states (DOS) calculations, we have employed the DFT(PBE)+U scheme with Dudarev’s rotational approach<sup>7, 8</sup> for localized 3d electrons in the fourth-period TM@C<sub>2</sub>N following the computational scheme for SACs in ref. 4. The values of U-J for Sc-Zn are set as 2.11, 2.58, 2.72, 2.79, 3.06, 3.29, 3.42, 3.4, 3.87, and 4.12 eV.<sup>4</sup> A much denser 5×5×1 Monkhorst-Pack *k*-points mesh was used in the DOS calculations. Note that for adsorbates calculations we do not employ DFT+U, since several previous reports suggest that DFT+U results may contradict experimental results or result in unreliable results in adsorption energy,<sup>9,10</sup> and PBE can effectively describe the catalytic activity of SACs.

**ESI Note 2.** Investigation of thermodynamic and electrochemical stability of TM@C<sub>2</sub>N SACs

We define formation energy  $E_f$  as  $E_f = E(\text{TM}@C_2N) - E(\text{TM\_bulk}) - E(C_2N)$ , where  $E(\text{TM}@C_2N)$ ,  $E(\text{TM\_bulk})$ , and  $E(C_2N)$  represent the DFT-calculated energies of TM@C<sub>2</sub>N SAC, single TM atom in its most stable bulk structure, and C<sub>2</sub>N monolayer, respectively. By calculating  $E_f$ , we can investigate the thermodynamic stability of TM@C<sub>2</sub>N by comparing the binding and cohesive ability of single TM atoms on C<sub>2</sub>N. To be more specific, if  $E_f < 0$ , the binding of single TM atoms on C<sub>2</sub>N is more favorable than their aggregating into clusters, so that the thermodynamic stability of TM@C<sub>2</sub>N can be confirmed.

For the electrochemical stability, we use the dissolution potential ( $U_{\text{diss}}$ ) versus standard hydrogen electrode (SHE) as an indicator.  $U_{\text{diss}}$  is defined as  $U_{\text{diss}} = U_{\text{diss}}^0 - E_f/eN_e$ , where  $U_{\text{diss}}^0$  and  $N_e$  represent the standard dissolution potential of bulk metal and the number of electrons in the dissociation process, respectively. Positive  $U_{\text{diss}}$  values suggest electrochemical stable systems, where the dissolution of single TM atoms can be neglected in the electrochemical conditions.<sup>5, 11</sup>

All the results listed in Table S5 indicate that among 27 TM@C<sub>2</sub>N SACs studied, 20 SACs (except for Mn, Mo, Ru, W, Os, Ir, and Pt@C<sub>2</sub>N) exhibit thermodynamic stability; further screening using  $U_{\text{diss}}$  suggest that Ni, Cu, Rh, Pd, Ag, Cd, Hf, and Au@C<sub>2</sub>N are stable in an electrochemical environment.

### ESI Note 3. Details of machine learning

Machine learning (ML) was performed in the scikit-learn package,<sup>12</sup> and the random forest algorithm was chosen to train the ML model. To enlarge the chemical space for ML, except TM@C<sub>2</sub>N with TM-N<sub>2</sub> coordination, we also consider the SACs with N<sub>1</sub>C<sub>1</sub> and N<sub>1</sub>S<sub>1</sub> coordination (Fig. S10), and the TM@C<sub>2</sub>N dataset is amplified by a factor of 2, so the total number of data in the dataset becomes 108. 20% of the data were randomly chosen as the test set and the rest of them formed the training set. We have tried two parameters in the random forest-based ML modelling: the maximum depth of the tree and the number of trees in the forest. By using the grid search optimization method provided in the scikit-learn package, we identify the optimized parameters (maximum depth of the tree as 22 and the number of trees in the forest as 31) in our ML model. Here, we set the range of grid search for maximum depth of tree as 2-30, and that for the number of trees in the forest as 1-50. To analyze the obtained ML model and exclude the influence of random splitting of training/test set to a larger extent, we also performed a cross-validation test using the k-fold strategy (number of folds set as 5 and allow shuffling), where an average cross-validation score of 0.903 can be obtained (5 cross-validation scores: 0.869, 0.910, 0.882, 0.937, 0.919). The relatively lower score than the training and test set can be attributed to the size of our SACs dataset, which will be increased in our future work. A representative python script for training the ML model was provided in the Appendix of ESI.

**ESI Note 4.** Feasibility of the extension of our methodology to SACs for other reactions and double-atom catalysts (DACs)

In this work, we combine the DFT calculations with machine learning for unravelling the catalytic origin of bifunctional OER/ORR for SACs. We build a three-tier computational scheme ‘catalytic activity-activity descriptor-intrinsic feature importance’ for investigating the structure-activity relationship for SACs, which has high adaptability for the extension to SACs for other catalytic reactions, such as hydrogen evolution reaction, nitrogen and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction reaction. On the one hand, scaling relationships and activity descriptors based on the electronic structure or catalyst geometry can benefit the rational design and high-throughput screening of catalysts,<sup>13</sup> and on the other hand, ML can link the catalytic activity with intrinsic, element-based properties, and accelerate the catalyst design.

Recently, DACs have emerged as a new frontier of heterogeneous catalysis, and due to the synergistic effect of the metal dimer site and the atomically dispersed nature, DACs may exhibit higher activity while maintaining the advantages of SACs including high atomic utilization efficiency, high selectivity, and stability.<sup>14</sup> The extension of SACs to DACs is natural, and computationally different mechanisms or adsorption configurations may appear, but the computational scheme is universal. We recently noticed two theoretical works on DACs combining DFT with ML: Zhu and coworkers used DFT screening to identify CuFe and NiCu DACs with ORR performance surpassing that of Pt, and identified several descriptors (electron affinity, electronegativity, and atomic radii) to describe the activity by ML;<sup>15</sup> Deng *et al.* also used DFT and ML to study ORR performance on a group of homo- and hetero-nuclear DACs, which is governed by geometric parameters.<sup>16</sup>

**Table S1.** DFT-calculated total energy  $E_{\text{DFT}}$ , zero point energy (ZPE), entropic contribution term TS (under the temperature of 298 K), and Gibbs free energy G for gases and adsorbates in the OER/ORR process. The entropy values for gases are taken from NIST database (<https://doi.org/10.18434/T4D303>). For adsorbates, only vibrational contribution is considered, and the contribution from frequency below  $50 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  is calculated by  $50 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>17</sup>

<b>Species</b>	<b><math>E_{\text{DFT}}</math> (eV)</b>	<b>ZPE (eV)</b>	<b>TS (eV)</b>	<b>G (eV)</b>
<b>H<sub>2</sub> (g)</b>	-6.767	0.269	0.404	-6.902
<b>H<sub>2</sub>O (g)</b>	-14.151	0.567	0.670	-14.254
<b>*O</b>	-	0.065	0.078	-
<b>*OH</b>	-	0.316	0.145	-
<b>*OOH</b>	-	0.420	0.197	-

**Table S2.** Optimized lattice parameters and magnetic moment for TM@C<sub>2</sub>N.

<b>TM@C<sub>2</sub>N</b>	<b><i>a</i> (Å)</b>	<b><i>b</i> (Å)</b>	<b>TM@C<sub>2</sub>N</b>	<b><i>a</i> (Å)</b>	<b><i>b</i> (Å)</b>
<b>Sc</b>	8.186	8.207	<b>Ru</b>	8.254	8.324
<b>Ti</b>	8.145	8.247	<b>Rh</b>	8.259	8.329
<b>V</b>	8.193	8.262	<b>Pd</b>	8.295	8.302
<b>Cr</b>	8.257	8.270	<b>Ag</b>	8.284	8.285
<b>Mn</b>	8.278	8.287	<b>Cd</b>	8.249	8.255
<b>Fe</b>	8.287	8.296	<b>La</b>	8.245	8.248
<b>Co</b>	8.304	8.289	<b>Hf</b>	8.138	8.163
<b>Ni</b>	8.300	8.301	<b>Ta</b>	8.092	8.206
<b>Cu</b>	8.297	8.301	<b>W</b>	8.065	8.232
<b>Zn</b>	8.283	8.287	<b>Re</b>	8.120	8.345
<b>Y</b>	8.184	8.187	<b>Os</b>	8.138	8.418
<b>Zr</b>	8.144	8.164	<b>Ir</b>	8.143	8.424
<b>Nb</b>	8.094	8.196	<b>Pt</b>	8.170	8.412
<b>Mo</b>	8.112	8.250	<b>Au</b>	8.288	8.295



**Table S3.** Magnetic moment for TM@C<sub>2</sub>N.

<b>TM@C<sub>2</sub>N</b>	<b>Magnetic moment</b>	<b>TM@C<sub>2</sub>N</b>	<b>Magnetic moment</b>
<b>Sc</b>	0	<b>Ru</b>	0.47
<b>Ti</b>	0	<b>Rh</b>	0
<b>V</b>	2.73	<b>Pd</b>	1.10
<b>Cr</b>	3.27	<b>Ag</b>	0
<b>Mn</b>	0	<b>Cd</b>	0
<b>Fe</b>	1.86	<b>La</b>	0
<b>Co</b>	0.07	<b>Hf</b>	1.24
<b>Ni</b>	1.27	<b>Ta</b>	1.19
<b>Cu</b>	0	<b>W</b>	0
<b>Zn</b>	0	<b>Re</b>	2.29
<b>Y</b>	0	<b>Os</b>	0.09
<b>Zr</b>	1.20	<b>Ir</b>	0
<b>Nb</b>	0	<b>Pt</b>	0
<b>Mo</b>	2.44	<b>Au</b>	0

**Table S4.** DFT-calculated adsorption Gibbs free energy for \*O, \*OH, and \*OOH on TM@C<sub>2</sub>N. SACs on which \*OOH dissociation happens are denoted in italic.

TM@C <sub>2</sub> N	$\Delta G_O$ (eV)	$\Delta G_{OH}$ (eV)	$\Delta G_{OOH}$ (eV)	TM@C <sub>2</sub> N	$\Delta G_O$ (eV)	$\Delta G_{OH}$ (eV)	$\Delta G_{OOH}$ (eV)
<b>Sc</b>	-0.493	-1.714	1.772	<b>Ru</b>	0.685	-0.007	2.836
<b><i>Ti</i></b>	-2.124	-1.607	<i>-0.834</i>	<b>Rh</b>	1.877	0.558	3.480
<b><i>V</i></b>	-1.184	-0.864	<i>0.082</i>	<b>Pd</b>	2.765	0.828	3.844
<b>Cr</b>	2.861	-0.223	3.323	<b>Ag</b>	4.260	1.915	4.774
<b>Mn</b>	-0.488	-0.578	2.297	<b>Cd</b>	3.303	0.532	3.720
<b>Fe</b>	0.882	-0.180	2.858	<b>La</b>	0.715	-1.157	2.110
<b>Co</b>	1.106	0.061	2.980	<b><i>Hf</i></b>	-2.407	-2.179	<i>-1.362</i>
<b>Ni</b>	2.304	0.520	3.582	<b><i>Ta</i></b>	-2.155	-1.391	<i>-2.295</i>
<b>Cu</b>	2.664	0.721	3.790	<b><i>W</i></b>	-1.895	-2.244	<i>-2.318</i>
<b>Zn</b>	2.275	-0.482	2.911	<b>Re</b>		*	
<b>Y</b>	0.388	-1.622	1.672	<b>Os</b>	0.331	-0.231	2.652
<b><i>Zr</i></b>	-2.354	-1.904	<i>-1.172</i>	<b>Ir</b>	1.277	0.090	3.088
<b><i>Nb</i></b>	-2.152	-1.532	<i>-1.857</i>	<b>Pt</b>	1.725	0.095	3.297
<b><i>Mo</i></b>	-1.081	-0.689	<i>-0.874</i>	<b>Au</b>	3.012	0.989	4.072

\*The values for Re@C<sub>2</sub>N are not listed due to the failure of convergence in the DFT calculations.

**Table S5.** Formation energy ( $E_f$ ), standard dissolution potential ( $U_{\text{diss}}^0$ ), number of electrons involved in the dissolution of pure metals ( $N_e$ ), and calculated dissolution potential for TM@C<sub>2</sub>N SACs ( $U_{\text{diss}}$ , vs. SHE).  $U_{\text{diss}}^0$  values are extracting from references <sup>5, 18</sup>. Computational details are summarized in ESI Note 2.

<b>TM@C<sub>2</sub>N</b>	<b><math>E_f</math> (eV)</b>	<b><math>U_{\text{diss}}^0</math> (V)</b>	<b><math>N_e</math></b>	<b><math>U_{\text{diss}}</math> (V)</b>
<b>Sc</b>	-4.57	-2.08	3	-0.56
<b>Ti</b>	-2.48	-1.63	2	-0.39
<b>V</b>	-1.49	-1.13	2	-0.38
<b>Cr</b>	-1.19	-0.91	2	-0.31
<b>Mn</b>	0.44	-1.19	2	-1.41
<b>Fe</b>	-0.35	-0.44	2	-0.27
<b>Co</b>	-0.03	-0.28	2	-0.26
<b>Ni</b>	-0.56	-0.26	2	0.02
<b>Cu</b>	-0.65	0.34	2	0.66
<b>Zn</b>	-1.13	-0.76	2	-0.20
<b>Y</b>	-5.90	-2.37	2	-0.40
<b>Zr</b>	-3.72	-1.45	4	-0.52
<b>Nb</b>	-1.11	-1.10	3	-0.73
<b>Mo</b>	0.18	-0.20	3	-0.26
<b>Ru</b>	0.67	0.46	2	0.12
<b>Rh</b>	-0.17	0.60	2	0.69
<b>Pd</b>	-0.37	0.92	2	1.10
<b>Ag</b>	-1.26	0.80	1	2.06

<b>Cd</b>	-1.89	-0.40	2	0.54
<b>La</b>	-6.77	-2.38	3	-0.12
<b>Hf</b>	-3.28	1.55	4	2.37
<b>Ta</b>	-1.02	-0.60	3	-0.26
<b>W</b>	1.52	0.10	3	-0.41
<b>Os</b>	1.81	0.84	8	0.61
<b>Ir</b>	0.74	1.16	3	0.91
<b>Pt</b>	0.32	1.19	2	1.03
<b>Au</b>	-0.04	1.52	3	1.53

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**Table S6.** All the feature values for ML modelling.

<b>TM</b>	<b>Atomic numbe r (Z)</b>	<b>Atomic radius (r, pm)</b>	<b>Outer electron number (<math>n_e</math>)</b>	<b>Electro- negativity (N)</b>	<b>First ionization energy (IE, kJ/mol)</b>	<b>Electro n affinity (EA, kJ/mol)</b>	<b>Oxide formation enthalpy (Hox,f, eV)</b>
<b>Sc</b>	21	144	3	1.36	633.1	18.1	-10.52
<b>Ti</b>	22	136	4	1.54	658.8	7.6	-11.45
<b>V</b>	23	125	5	1.63	650.9	50.6	-8.23
<b>Cr</b>	24	127	6	1.66	652.9	64.3	-6.39
<b>Mn</b>	25	139	7	1.55	717.3	-50	-5.66
<b>Fe</b>	26	125	8	1.83	762.5	15.7	-7.17
<b>Co</b>	27	126	9	1.88	760.4	63.7	-5.88
<b>Ni</b>	28	121	10	1.91	737.1	112	-5.09
<b>Cu</b>	29	138	11	1.9	745.5	118.4	-3.63
<b>Zn</b>	30	131	12	1.65	906.4	-58	-2.36
<b>Y</b>	39	162	3	1.22	600	29.6	-10.42
<b>Zr</b>	40	148	4	1.33	640.1	41.1	-13.09
<b>Nb</b>	41	137	5	1.6	652.1	86.1	-11.95
<b>Mo</b>	42	145	6	2.16	684.3	71.9	-7.63
<b>Ru</b>	44	126	8	2.2	710.2	101.3	-6.18
<b>Rh</b>	45	135	9	2.28	719.7	109.7	-4.93
<b>Pd</b>	46	131	10	2.2	804.4	53.7	-2.75

<b>Ag</b>	47	153	11	1.93	731	125.6	-1.01
<b>Cd</b>	48	148	12	1.69	867.8	-68	-1.14
<b>La</b>	57	169	3	1.1	538.1	48	-10.42
<b>Hf</b>	72	150	4	1.3	658.5	17.2	-13.60
<b>Ta</b>	73	138	5	1.5	761	31	-13.91
<b>W</b>	74	146	6	2.36	770	78.6	-9.63
<b>Os</b>	76	128	8	2.18	840	106.1	-6.17
<b>Ir</b>	77	137	9	2.2	880	151	-6.52
<b>Pt</b>	78	128	10	2.28	870	205.3	-3.33
<b>Au</b>	79	144	11	2.54	890.1	222.8	-1.08

**Table S6.** (continued)

<b>Coordination</b>	<b>N<sub>sum</sub></b>
<b>N<sub>2</sub> (Pristine TM@C<sub>2</sub>N)</b>	6.08
<b>N<sub>1</sub>C<sub>1</sub></b>	5.59
<b>N<sub>1</sub>S<sub>1</sub></b>	5.62

Part of the data in Table S6 is extracted from the websites (Wikipedia, ptable.com) and ref.<sup>19</sup>.  $H_{\text{ox,f}}$  values are calculated based on the DFT-calculated energies of TM crystals (based on our calculations) and the most stable bulk structures of TM oxides (from the Materials Project database calculated using DFT+U<sup>5, 20</sup>).

**Table S7.** Indicators for the ML model, including  $R^2$  value, mean absolute error (MAE), and rooted mean square error (RMSE).

<b>Dataset</b>	<b>Training set</b>	<b>Test set</b>
<b><math>R^2</math> value</b>	0.985	0.981
<b>MAE (eV)</b>	0.143	0.191
<b>RMSE (eV)</b>	0.227	0.250

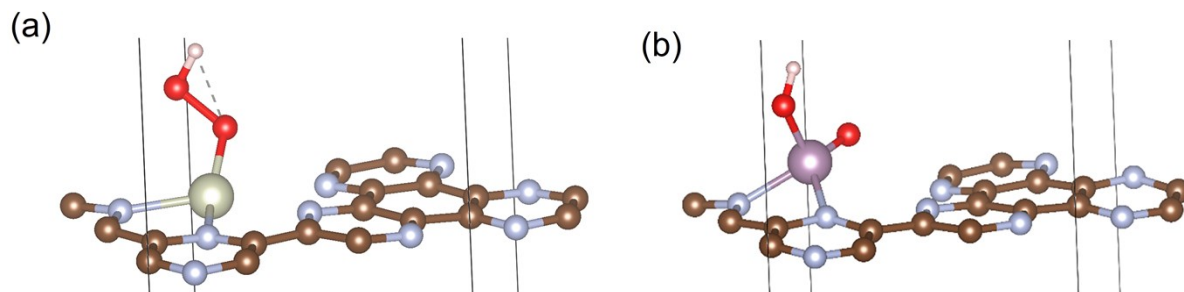
**Table S8.**  $\Delta G_O$  and  $\eta_{\text{sum}}$  values for all the SACs as dataset in ML modelling.

<b>TM</b>	<b>TM@C<sub>2</sub>N</b>		<b>N<sub>1</sub>C<sub>1</sub></b>		<b>N<sub>1</sub>S<sub>1</sub></b>	
	<b><math>\Delta G_O</math> (eV)</b>	<b><math>\eta_{\text{sum}}</math> (V)</b>	<b><math>\Delta G_O</math> (eV)</b>	<b><math>\eta_{\text{sum}}</math> (V)</b>	<b><math>\Delta G_O</math> (eV)</b>	<b><math>\eta_{\text{sum}}</math> (V)</b>
<b>Sc</b>	-0.493	4.863	0.085	4.590	-0.43	3.830
<b>Ti</b>	-2.124	7.361	-2.16	7.423	-1.889	6.584
<b>V</b>	-1.184	5.702	-1.33	5.751	-1.125	5.903
<b>Cr</b>	2.861	3.307	0.28	3.129	0.107	3.398
<b>Mn</b>	-0.488	3.364	0.555	2.727	0.405	2.739
<b>Fe</b>	0.882	2.242	0.706	2.233	0.675	2.175
<b>Co</b>	1.106	1.879	1.549	1.950	1.435	1.712
<b>Ni</b>	2.304	1.264	1.841	1.577	2.299	1.487
<b>Cu</b>	2.664	1.222	2.802	1.230	0.85	2.894
<b>Zn</b>	2.275	3.239	2.537	2.751	0.454	2.970
<b>Y</b>	0.388	7.996	0.85	4.483	0.266	5.151

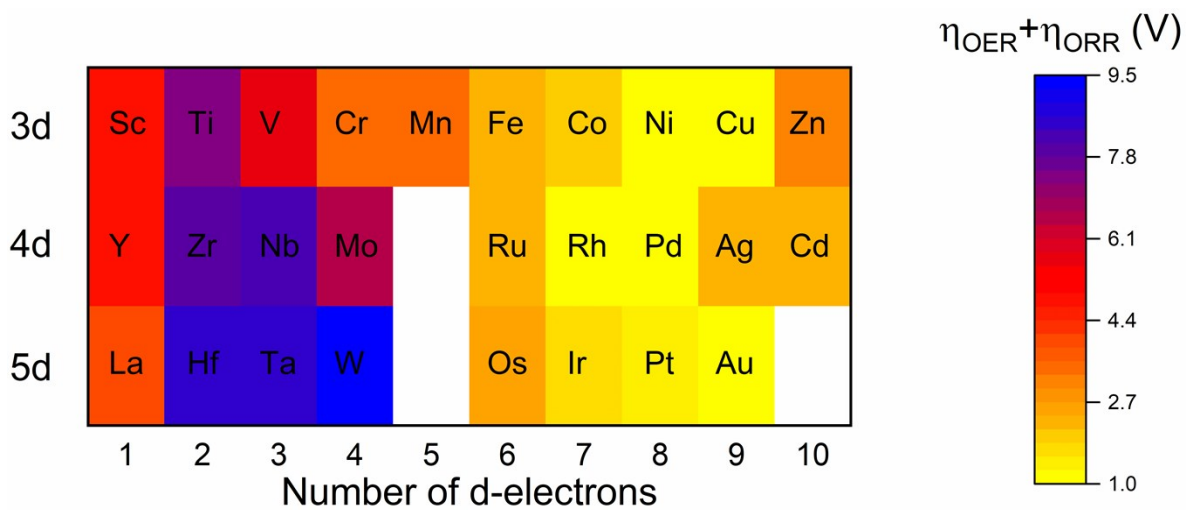
<b>Zr</b>	-2.354	8.309	-2.259	8.008	-2.315	8.350
<b>Nb</b>	-2.152	6.483	-2.44	8.971	-1.958	8.285
<b>Mo</b>	-1.081	2.158	-1.258	6.773	-1.296	6.060
<b>Ru</b>	0.685	1.046	0.634	2.198	0.985	1.905
<b>Rh</b>	1.877	1.109	2.205	0.713	2.077	0.889
<b>Pd</b>	2.765	2.199	2.04	1.547	2.605	1.261
<b>Ag</b>	4.26	8.461	3.795	1.767	1.329	3.228
<b>Cd</b>	3.303	8.606	2.183	0.972	0.698	2.580
<b>La</b>	0.715	3.967	1.158	7.813	0.362	8.799
<b>Hf</b>	-2.407	9.482	-2.315	8.564	-2.375	9.096
<b>Ta</b>	-2.155	2.552	-2.404	8.959	-2.338	8.854
<b>W</b>	-1.895	1.743	-1.667	9.067	-1.778	2.485
<b>Os</b>	0.331	1.535	-0.05	2.822	0.533	1.641
<b>Ir</b>	1.277	1.176	1.472	2.089	1.454	2.034
<b>Pt</b>	1.725	4.870	2.003	1.851	2.189	1.345
<b>Au</b>	3.012	2.354	2.582	0.750	3.173	4.573

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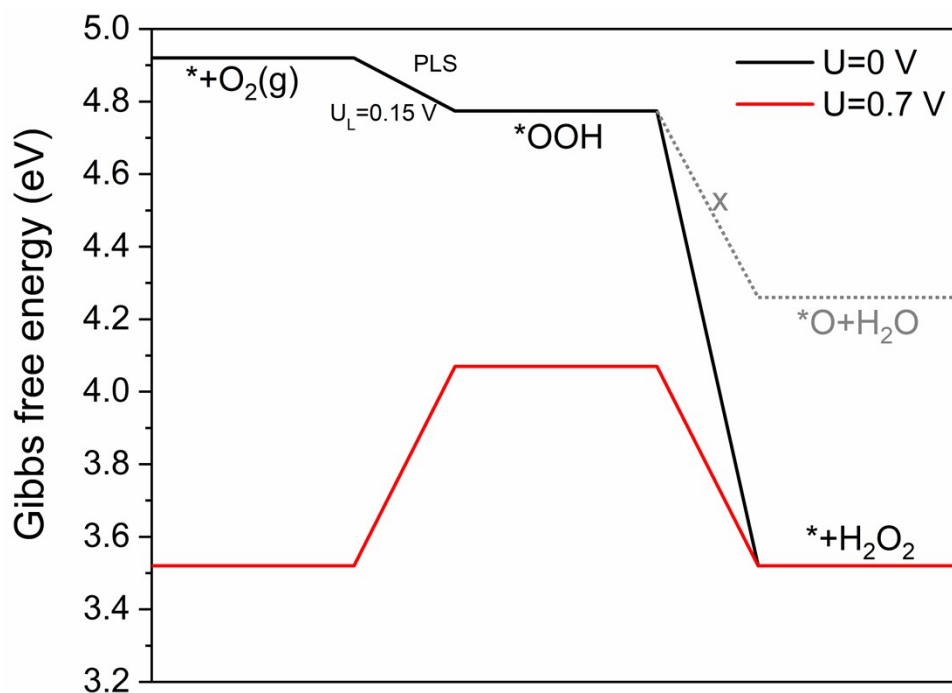




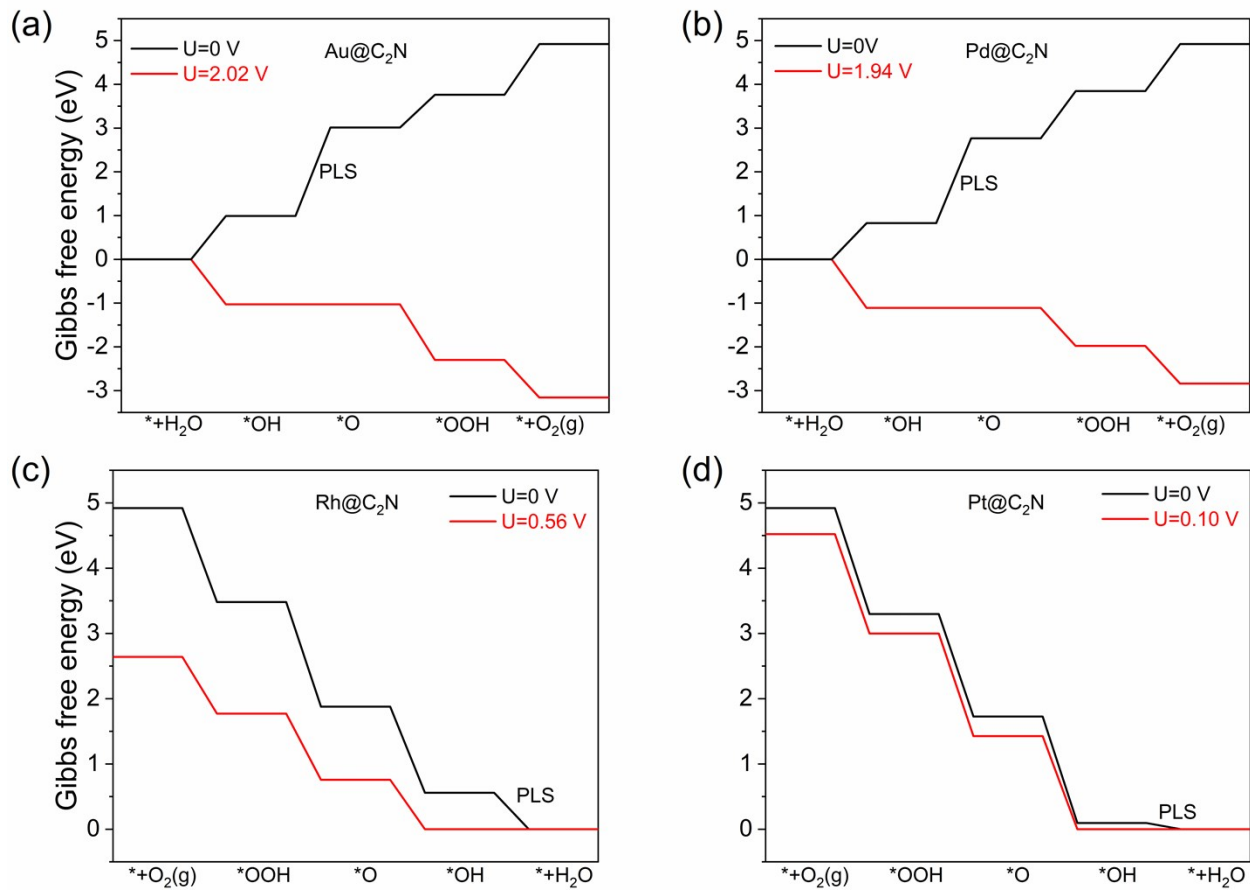
**Fig. S1** Optimized structures of \*OOH adsorbed on (a) Rh@C<sub>2</sub>N and (b) Mo@C<sub>2</sub>N. C, N, O, H, Rh, and Mo atoms are represented in brown, cyan, red, pale pink, light green, and purple, respectively. The \*OOH radical dissociates on the latter (a stable \*OOH adsorption geometry cannot be obtained) and keeps undissociated on the former.



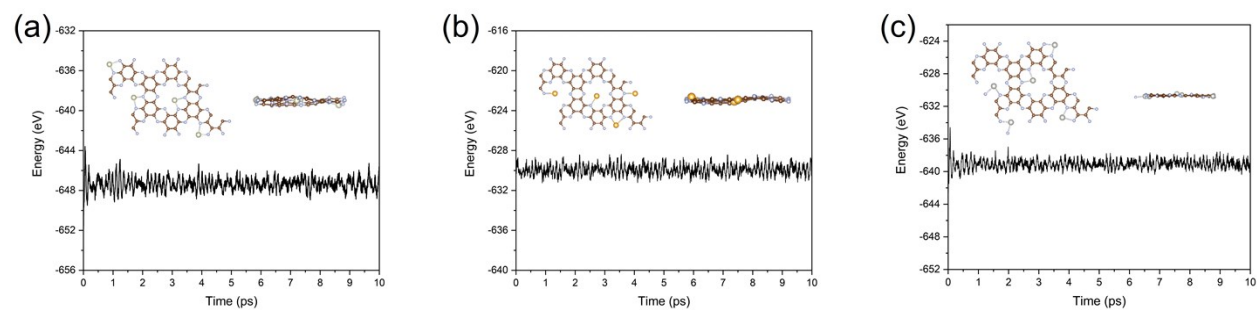
**Fig. S2** Heatmap of  $\eta_{\text{sum}} = \eta_{\text{OER}} + \eta_{\text{ORR}}$  on 3d-5d TM@C<sub>2</sub>N.



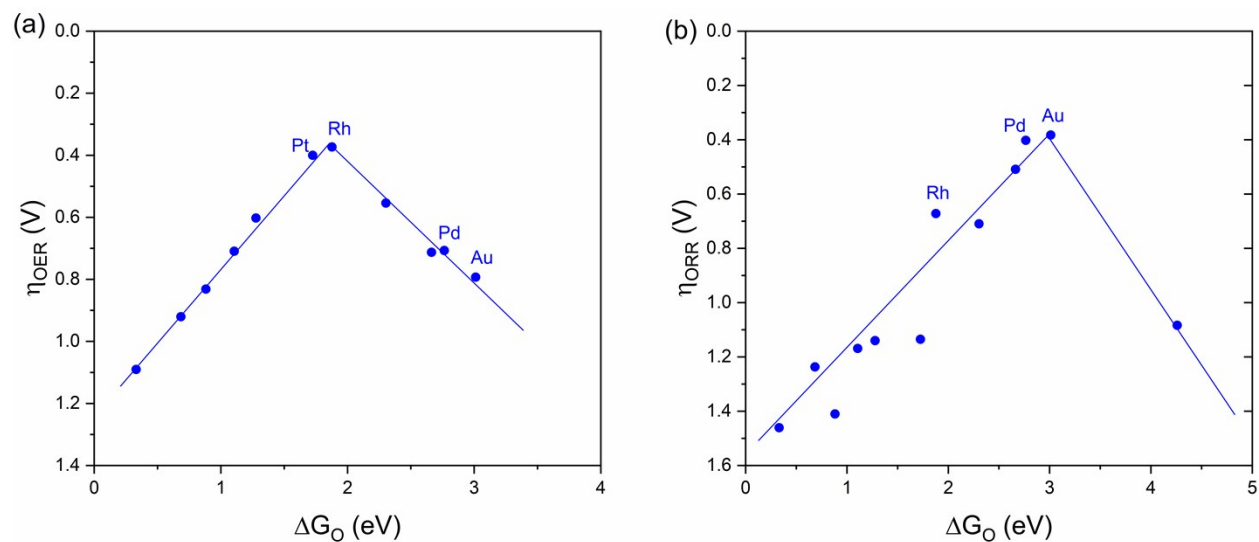
**Fig. S3** Gibbs free energy diagram for 2e<sup>-</sup> ORR toward H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> on Ag@C<sub>2</sub>N. The potential-limiting step (PLS) and the limiting potential U<sub>L</sub> are marked in the figures.



**Fig. S4** Gibbs free energy diagram for OER on (a) Au and (b) Pd@C<sub>2</sub>N and ORR on (c) Rh and (d) Pt@C<sub>2</sub>N at zero and applied electrode potential U in acidic medium. The potential-limiting steps (PLS) are marked in the figures.



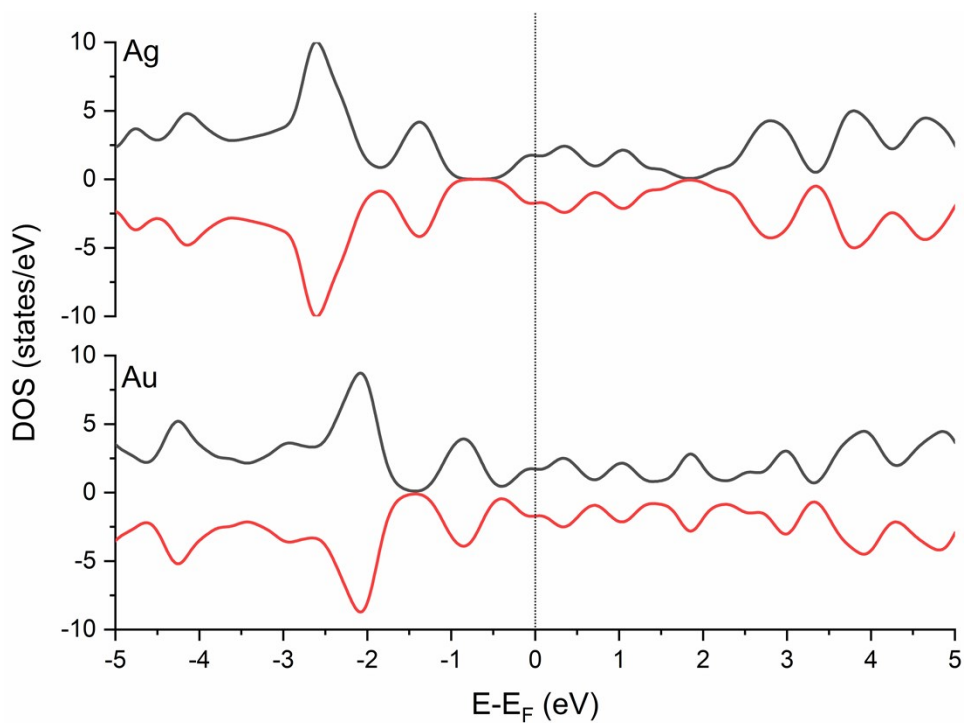
**Fig. S5** Total energy as a function of time during the AIMD simulations for (a) Rh, (b) Au, and (c) Pd@C<sub>2</sub>N at 500 K. Inset shows the side and top views of the structures after 10 ps AIMD simulations. 2×2 supercells are used in the simulations.



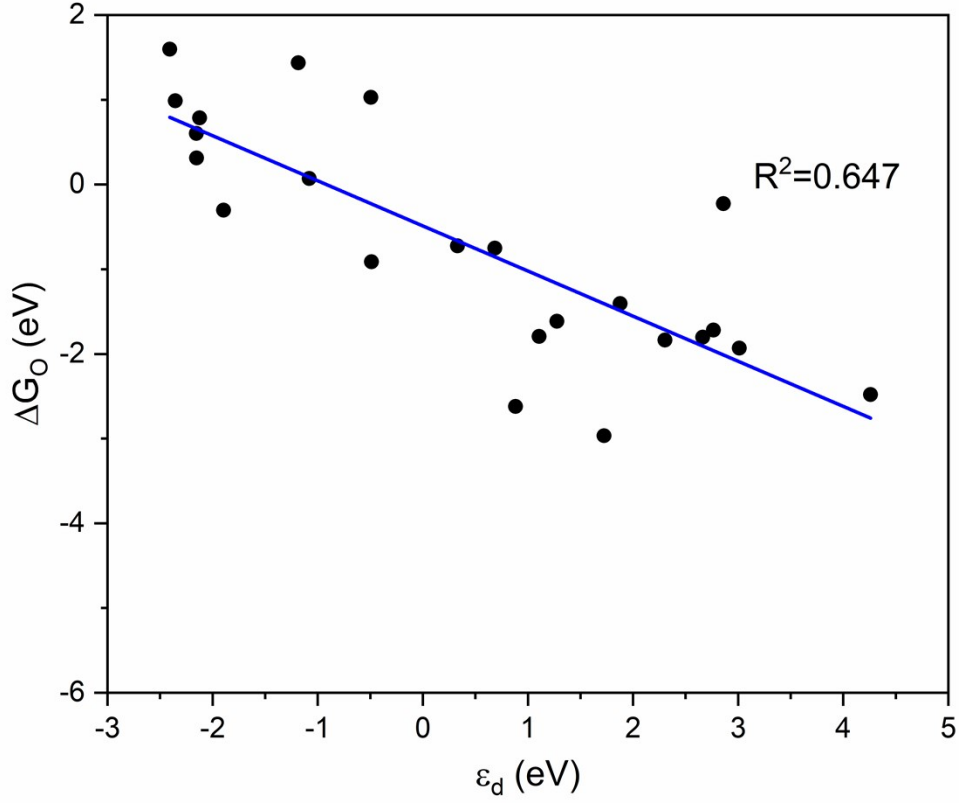
**Fig. S6** Volcano-shaped plot of (a) OER and (b) ORR overpotential as a function of  $\Delta G_{\text{O}}$  for  $d^7$ - $d^9$  TM@C<sub>2</sub>N.

The reason that the highest OER and ORR activities cannot coexist in the same SAC can be attributed to the different reaction mechanisms and hence different peak positions in the volcano-shaped relationship for OER and ORR (see Fig. S6 and discussions in the main text). Indeed, none of the TM@C<sub>2</sub>N SACs are better than both IrO<sub>2</sub>(110) for OER (0.56 V) and Pt(111) for ORR (0.45 V). However, according to our calculations, Rh@C<sub>2</sub>N, except for its outstanding catalytic activity for OER ( $\eta_{\text{OER}}$  of 0.37 V), has an ORR overpotential (0.67 V) only slightly higher than that for Pt(111), and Au/Pd@C<sub>2</sub>N with low ORR overpotential (0.38/0.40 V) also has relatively low  $\eta_{\text{OER}}$  of 0.79/0.71 V. Note that there are discrepancies between DFT-calculated and experimentally measured OER/ORR overpotentials due to the simplified DFT model. After comparing with experimental reports, we found that the  $\eta_{\text{ORR}}$  for Rh@C<sub>2</sub>N is close to that for Fe-single atoms supported on S, N-codoped carbon ( $\sim 0.65$  V under DFT-PBE level) with high experimental ORR activity (half-wave potential of 0.896 V),<sup>21</sup> and  $\eta_{\text{OER}}$  for Au/Pd@C<sub>2</sub>N is smaller than that for all

four Mn-N<sub>x</sub>C<sub>y</sub> SAC models (the best one is Mn-N<sub>2</sub>C<sub>2</sub> with 0.871 V under DFT-PBE level), while Mn-N<sub>2</sub>C<sub>2</sub> SACs are proved to be efficient OER/ORR catalysts in the experiments.<sup>22</sup> Therefore, we are confident to conclude that Rh, Au, and Pd@C<sub>2</sub>N are outstanding bifunctional OER/ORR SACs.



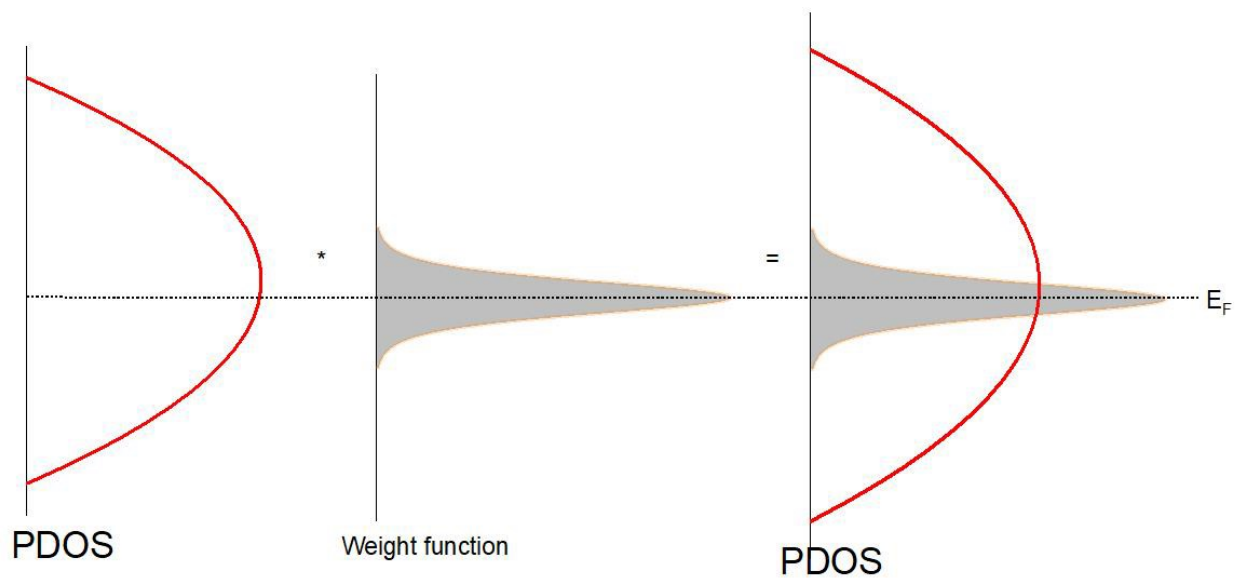
**Fig. S7** Total density of states (DOSs) for Ag and Au@C<sub>2</sub>N. Fermi level is set to zero. Contributions from spin-up and spin-down channels are denoted in black and red, respectively.



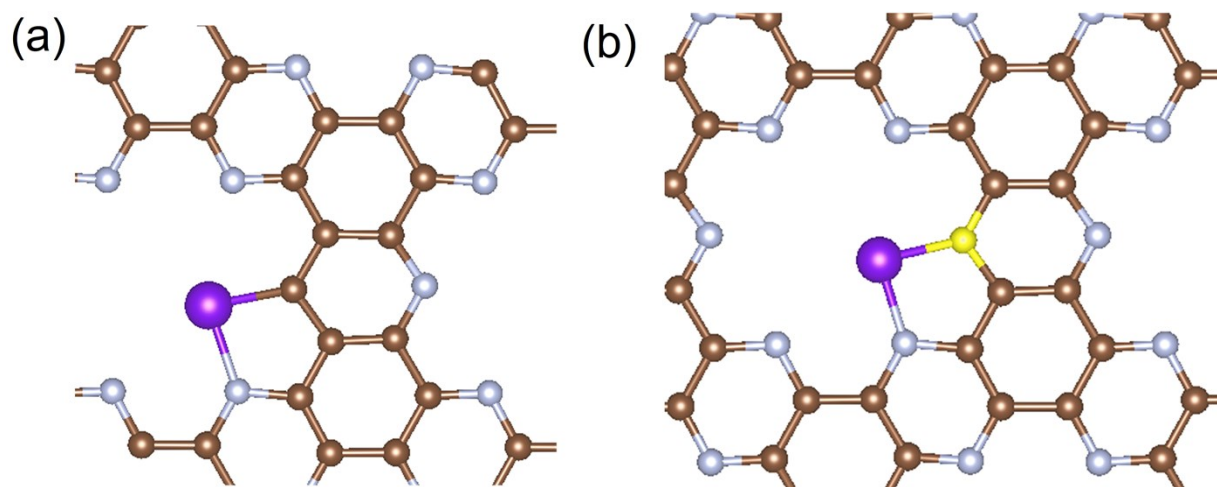
**Fig. S8** Relationship between  $\Delta G_O$  and  $d$ -band center  $\epsilon_d$  for TM@C<sub>2</sub>N.  $\epsilon_d$  is defined as

$$\epsilon_d = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} ED(E)dE}{\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} D(E)dE}$$

where  $D(E)$  is TM  $d$ -orbital PDOS as a function of energy (as shown in Fig. 4a).

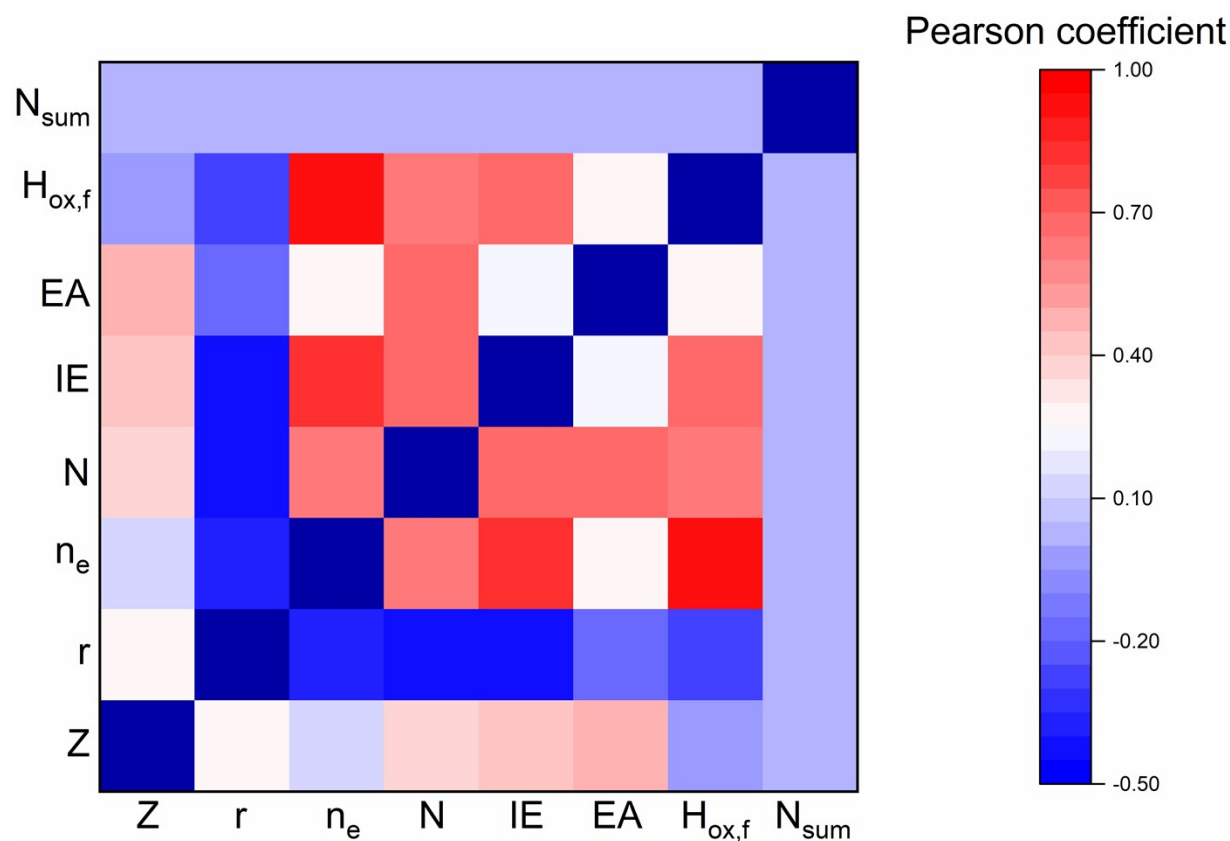


**Fig. S9** Schematic illustration of the effect of weight function on the partial density of states of  $d$ -orbital  $D(E)$  of catalysts.

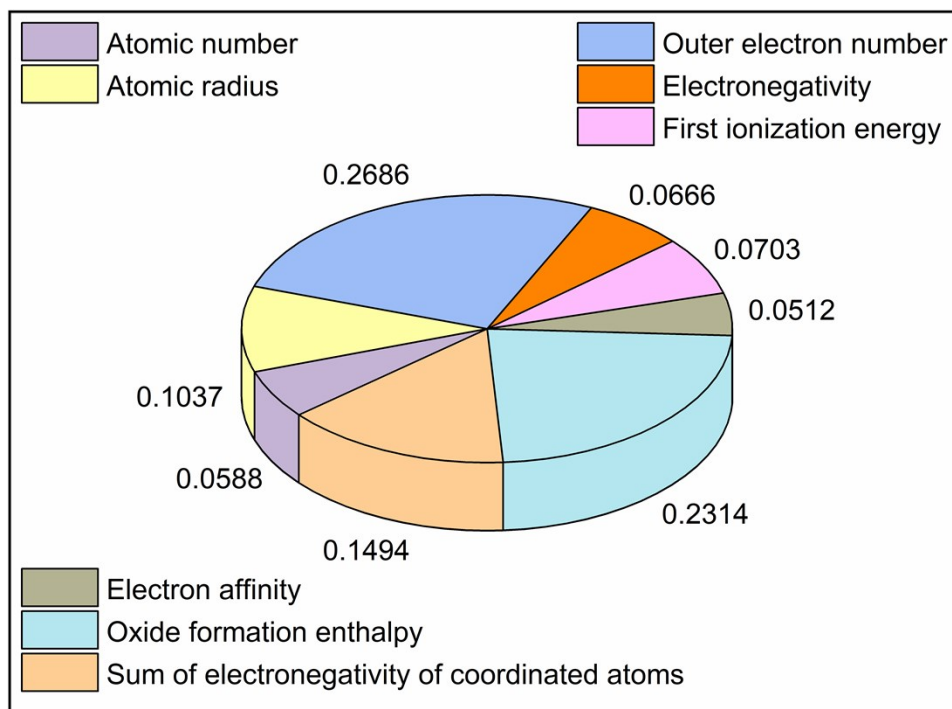


**Fig. S10** Geometric structure of SACs with (a)  $N_1C_1$  and (b)  $N_1S_1$  coordinations. C, N, S, and TM atoms are represented in brown, cyan, yellow, and purple, respectively.





**Fig. S11** Pearson correlation heatmap for features including atomic number (Z), atomic radius (r), outer electron number (n<sub>e</sub>), electronegativity (N), first ionization energy (IE), electron affinity (EA), single-atom oxide formation enthalpy (H<sub>ox,f</sub>), and the sum of electronegativity of coordinated atoms of TM (N<sub>sum</sub>) in our ML model.



**Fig. S12** Pie chart for feature importance analysis in the ML model for  $\eta_{\text{sum}}$ .

**Appendix.** A representative python script for training the ML model.

```
import numpy as np
import sklearn
from sklearn import preprocessing
#print (sklearn.__version__)
import pandas as pd

pd.set_option('display.width', 1000)
pd.set_option('display.max_columns', None)
pd.set_option('display.max_rows', None)

from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestRegressor
from sklearn.metrics import mean_squared_error,r2_score,mean_absolute_error
import joblib
from sklearn.feature_selection import VarianceThreshold

from scipy.stats import pearsonr

from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler

from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
from sklearn.model_selection import cross_val_score
from sklearn.model_selection import KFold
from sklearn.model_selection import GridSearchCV

dataset_url = 'Catalysis.csv'
data = pd.read_csv(dataset_url)
#print (data.head())
#print (data.shape)
#print (data.describe())

#transfer = VarianceThreshold()
#new_data = transfer.fit_transform(data)
#print('new_data:\n',new_data,new_data.shape)

data_title = data.columns.values.tolist()
r = []
for i in range(len(data_title)):
    for j in range(len(data_title)):
        #print('The Pearson correlation coefficient between %s and %s is
        %f'%(data_title[i],data_title[j],pearsonr(data[data_title[i]],data[data_title[j]])[0]))
        if i==j:
            continue
        else:
            print(i,j,pearsonr(data[data_title[i]],data[data_title[j]])[0])
            r.append(pearsonr(data[data_title[i]],data[data_title[j]])[0])

#for i in range(len(r)):
#    if r[i]>0.6:
#        print(r[i])
```

```

# print(i)
# else:
# continue

y = data.Quality
x = data.drop('Quality', axis=1)

x_train,x_test,y_train,y_test = train_test_split(x,y,test_size =0.2,random_state = 9)

transfer = StandardScaler()
x_train = transfer.fit_transform(x_train)
x_test = transfer.transform(x_test)

#print(y_test)
#print(x_test)

forest = RandomForestRegressor()
param_dict = {'n_estimators':[i for i in range(1,50,30)],'max_depth':[i for i in range(2,30,20)]}
forest = GridSearchCV(forest,param_grid=param_dict,cv = 3)
forest.fit(x_train, y_train)

print(y_train)
print(forest.predict(x_train))
print(y_test)
print(forest.predict(x_test))

score1 = forest.score(x_train,y_train)
print('Train:\n',score1)
score1 = forest.score(x_test,y_test)
print('Test:\n',score1)

print(forest.best_estimator_)
#joblib.dump(forest,"catalysts.pkl")

forest=RandomForestRegressor(n_estimators=31,max_depth=22)
forest.fit(x_train, y_train)

score1 = forest.score(x_train,y_train)
print('Train:\n',score1)
score1 = forest.score(x_test,y_test)
print('Test:\n',score1)
print(forest.feature_importances_)
joblib.dump(forest,"catalysts.pkl")
print('\nR2 value: Train:')
print(r2_score(y_train,forest.predict(x_train)))
print('Test:')
print(r2_score(y_test,forest.predict(x_test)))
print('RMSE: Train:')
print(mean_squared_error(y_train,forest.predict(x_train))*0.5)
print('Test:')
print(mean_squared_error(y_test,forest.predict(x_test))*0.5)

```

```
print('MAE: Train:')
print(mean_absolute_error(y_train,forest.predict(x_train)))
print('Test:')
print(mean_absolute_error(y_test,forest.predict(x_test)))

kf=KFold(n_splits=5,shuffle=True)
cv_result=cross_val_score(forest,x,y,cv=kf)
print(cv_result)
```

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