## Supplementary Material for

## Initial stage of carbonization of iron during hydrocarbons dissociation: a molecular dynamics study

Yubing Liu,<sup>a,b,c</sup> Xiaoze Yuan,<sup>b,c</sup> Kuan Lu,<sup>\*b,c</sup> Wei Chen,<sup>a</sup> Yu-Fei Song,<sup>\*a</sup> Yong Yang,<sup>b,c</sup> Yong-Wang Li,<sup>b,c</sup> and Xiao-Dong Wen<sup>\*b,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>State Key Laboratory of Chemical Resource Engineering, School of Chemistry, Beijing University of Chemical Technology, Beijing 100029, P. R. China
<sup>b</sup>State Key Laboratory of Coal Conversion, Institute of Coal Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030001, P.R. China
<sup>c</sup>National Energy Center for Coal to Clean Fuels, Synfuels China Co., Ltd., Huairou District, Beijing 101400, P. R. China



Fig. S1 Morphological evolution of Fe nanoparticles during  $C_2H_6$  dissociation.



Fig. S2 Morphological evolution of Fe nanoparticles during  $C_2H_4$  dissociation.



Fig. S3 Morphological evolution of Fe nanoparticles during  $C_2H_2$  dissociation.



Fig. S4 Local configuration of the carbon chain formed by (a)  $C_2H_4$  and (b)  $C_2H_2$  at 10 ns reaction time.

Table S1. Density of carbon atoms (g/cm<sup>3</sup>) in Fe nanoparticles after the reaction.

	CH <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub>
Density	2.19	2.33	2.56	2.86