Supporting Information

Atomic Bridging Modulation of Ir–N, S co-doped MXene for Accelerating Hydrogen evolution

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Experimental section

Synthesis of Catalysts

Preparation of H⁺ melamine

2 g melamine was dissolved in 30 mL ethanol under magnetic stirring for 15 minutes. Then, 3 mL of 12 mol L⁻¹ hydrochloric acid was slowly added into the mixed solution followed by stirring for 30 minutes. After washing with ethanol and deionized water for several times and centrifugation, H^+ melamine was obtained by dried at 60°C in a vacuum oven for 10 h.

Synthesis of Ti₃C₂ MXene

Ti₃C₂T_x MXene was synthesized by selective etching of Al layers from Ti₃AlC₂ MAX phase. Typically, 1 g of LiF was dissolved in a mixed solution of 5 mL deionized water and 15 mL HCl with magnetic stirring in a plastic beaker which was put it into ice-bath. After stirring for 15 minutes, 1 g of Ti₃AlC₂ powders were slowly added into the mixed solution at the temperature of 35 °C. The beaker was then transferred into oil-bath with a constant temperature of 35 °C. After magnetic stirring for 24h, the mixture was transferred into centrifuge tube and washed with deionized water for several times (3500 rpm, 5 minutes) until the pH value reached 6. Subsequently, the supernatant was decanted to collect the sediment which contained the multilayered $Ti_3C_2T_x$. The delaminated $Ti_3C_2T_x$ flakes were prepared by ultrasonicating the re-dispersed sediment solution for 45 minutes in ice-bath. Meanwhile, argon gas was introduced to prevent oxidation. Finally, the solution was centrifuged at 3500 rpm for 1 h, then collecting the dark supernatant consisting of the

delaminated 2D MXene flakes.

Synthesis of Ir_{SA}-NS-Ti₃C₂T_x

3 mL of above collected MXene flakes supernatant (10 mg L⁻¹) and 30 mg of H⁺ melamine was dissolved in 10 mL of deionized water. Meanwhile, 60 mg of thiourea was dissolved in 10 ml of deionized water. To synthesize the Ir-2NS-Ti₃C₂T_x, the Ti₃C₂T_x supernatant was added into a centrifuge tube. Subsequently, the H⁺ melamine solution, H₂IrCl₆ solution, and thiourea solution were quickly added into the Ti₃C₂T_x supernatant and freeze-dried for 72 h. The obtained freeze-dried foam was transferred into the middle of tube furnace and heat at 550 °C for 2 h under Argon atmosphere (heating rate: 5 °C min⁻¹). Finally, the resultant black powder was collected and named as Ir_{SA}-2NS-Ti₃C₂T_x. For comparison, Ir_{SA}-1NS-Ti₃C₂T_x, Ir_{SA}-3NS-Ti₃C₂T_x, and Ir-N-Ti₃C₂T_x samples were prepared by the same procedure except changing the amount of thiourea; 1, 2 and 3 represents the mass ratio of precursor thiourea and Ti₃C₂T_x MXene is 1:1, 1:2 and 1:3, respectively.

Material characterizations

X-ray diffraction data were obtained through a Bruker D8 Advance X-ray diffractometer with Cu K α radiation ($\gamma = 1.5418$ A). Scanning electron microscopy (Zeiss Sigma HD equipped with an Oxford EDS) and Transmission electron microscopy (JEM-ARM 200F) were performed to characterize the morphology and element distribution map of catalysts. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy spectra were obtained by Thermo Scientific ESCALAB250Xi spectrometer with Al K α monochromatic. The loading of Ir in Ir_{SA}-2NS-Ti₃C₂T_x was recorded by Inductively

coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry on Agilent 730. The Ir L_3 -edge and S K-edge X-ray absorption spectra were obtained at the beamline 01C1 of National Synchrotron Radiation Research Center (NSRRC, Taiwan) in the fluorescence mode.

DFT calculations

The DFT calculations were conducted using the Vienna ab initio simulation package with the projected projector augmented wave method. The monolayer $Ti_3C_2T_x$ was simulated with the supercell model. The main termination of $Ti_3C_2T_x$ is O, as suggested by the XPS results. Therefore, a (4×4×1) $Ti_3C_2O_2$ cell was employed in DFT calculation. The atomic model of the $Ti_3C_2O_2$ monolayer was shown in **Fig S18**. At the same time, the XPS and XAFS results of Ir_{SA} -2NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$ shows the formation of Ti-N, Ir-N, S-C, Ir-S, and S-Ti bonds after Ir, N, and S doping, which suggests that some O and C atoms of $Ti_3C_2O_2$ monolayer were replaced by N and S atoms (**Fig S19**). A vacuum region of 18 Å was used for all calculation to eliminate the neighboring cells interactions. All the atoms were optimized until the residual forces were less than 0.01 eV Å⁻¹.

The Gibbs free energy of the adsorbed state ($\Delta G_{\rm H}$) was obtained as follows:

$$\Delta G_H = \Delta E_{H*} + \Delta E_{ZPE} - T\Delta S \tag{S1}$$

Where ΔE_{H^*} is the hydrogen binding energy, ΔE_{ZPE} is the zero-point energy difference, and ΔS is the entropy change of hydrogen adsorption.

Electrochemical characterizations

Electrochemical HER measurements were performed on an electrochemical workstation (CHI 760E) under ambient conditions. To prepare catalysts' ink, typically,

2 mg of as-prepared catalysts and 10 µL Nafion solution (Alfa Aesar, 5wt%) were dispersed in 490 µL ethanol by sonication for 30min. Geometric area of carbon paper is 0.25 cm². Then, 20 µL of catalysts' ink were dropped on the carbon paper and dried in the air. A graphite rod was used as the counter electrode, an Ag/AgCl electrode as the reference electrode, and the catalyst coated carbon paper as the working electrode. Linear sweep voltammetry was performed in Ar saturated 0.5 M H₂SO₄ and 1.0 M KOH solution at a scan rate of 1 mV s⁻¹. All data were *IR* corrected. All potentials were converted to the reversible hydrogen electrode (RHE) according to following equations: $[E_{(RHE)} = E_{(Ag/AgCl)} + 0.059$ pH + 0.197 V]. Chronoamperometric characterization data was collected at a potential of 58 mV versus RHE for 38 h.

Note:

Calculation of TOFs for HER

Acidic HER: $n = \frac{2 \times 10^{-3} \times 2.5\% \times \frac{20}{500}}{192.22} = 1.04 \times 10^{-8} mol$ Ir_{SA}-1NS-Ti₃C₂T_x: $TOF(@0.06V) = \frac{I}{2F \times n} = \frac{0.00073}{2 \times 96500 \times 1.04 \times 10^{-8}} = 0.36 s^{-1}$ $TOF(@0.08V) = \frac{I}{2F \times n} = \frac{0.00116}{2 \times 96500 \times 1.04 \times 10^{-8}} = 0.58 s^{-1}$ $TOF(@0.10V) = \frac{I}{2F \times n} = \frac{0.00204}{2 \times 96500 \times 1.04 \times 10^{-8}} = 1.02 s^{-1}$ Ir_{SA}-2NS-npTi₃C₂T_x: $TOF(@0.06V) = \frac{I}{2F \times n} = \frac{0.00291}{2 \times 96500 \times 1.04 \times 10^{-8}} = 1.45 s^{-1}$ $TOF(@0.08V) = \frac{I}{2F \times n} = \frac{0.014}{2 \times 96500 \times 1.04 \times 10^{-8}} = 6.97 s^{-1}$

TOF(@0.10V) =	=	$= \frac{0.03142}{15.65 \text{ s}^{-1}}$
	$2F \times n$	$=\frac{0.03142}{2\times96500\times1.04\times10^{-8}}=15.65s^{-1}$
Ir _{sa} -3NS- np Ti ₃ (C_2T_x :	
<i>ፐብ೯(@</i> በ.በ6V) –		- 0.00099 $-$ 0.49 s ⁻¹
TOF(@0.06V) =	$2F \times n$	$=\frac{0.00039}{2 \times 96500 \times 1.04 \times 10^{-8}} = 0.49 s^{-1}$
TOF(@0.08V) =	<u> </u>	
(0,1,1,1)	$2F \times n$	$= \frac{0.00172}{2 \times 96500 \times 1.04 \times 10^{-8}} = 0.86 s^{-1}$
TOF(@0.10V) =	<u> </u>	$== 2.12 \text{ s}^{-1}$
	$2F \times n$	$2 \times 96500 \times 1.04 \times 10^{-8}$

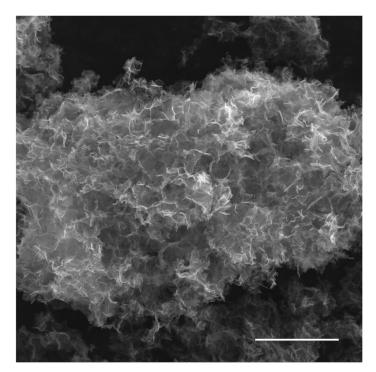


Figure S1. A typical SEM image of the as-prepared 2NS-Ti₃C₂T_x. Scale bar: 10 μ m.



Figure S2. High magnification SEM image of the as-prepared Ir_{SA} -2NS-Ti₃C₂T_x.

Scale bar: 1 µm.

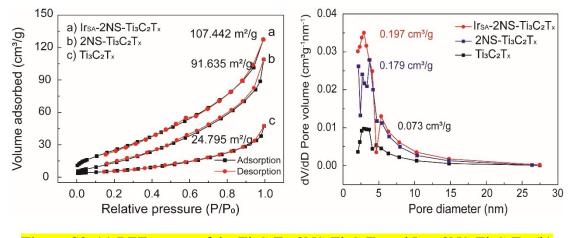


Figure S3. (a) BET curves of the $Ti_3C_2T_x$, 2NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$ and Ir_{SA} -2NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$. (b) The pore-size distribution of the $Ti_3C_2T_x$, 2NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$ and Ir_{SA} -2NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$.

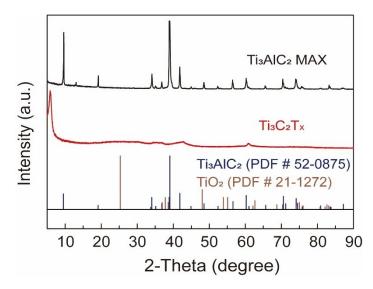


Figure S4. X-ray diffraction patterns of Ti₃AlC₂ MAX and Ti₃C₂T_x MXene.

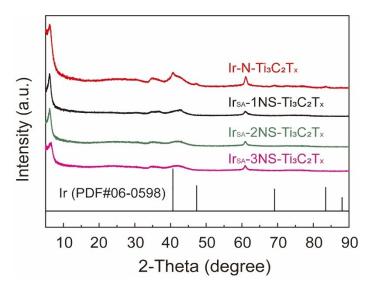


Figure S5. X-ray diffraction patterns of Ir-N- $Ti_3C_2T_x$, Ir_{SA} -1NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$, Ir_{SA} -2NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$, and Ir_{SA} -3NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$.

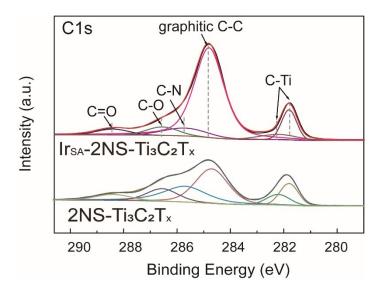


Figure S6. High resolution C 1s XPS spectra of the Ir_{SA}-2NS-Ti₃C₂T_x and 2NS-

 $Ti_3C_2T_x$ catalyst.

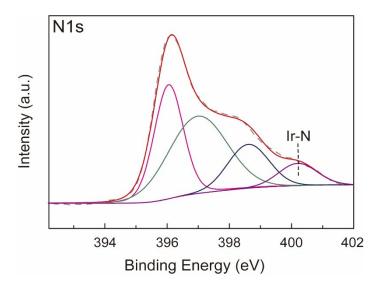


Figure S7. High resolution N 1s XPS spectra of the Ir_{SA} -1NS-Ti₃C₂T_x catalyst.

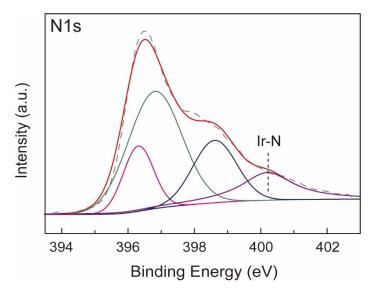


Figure S8. High resolution N 1s XPS spectra of the Ir_{SA} -3NS-Ti₃C₂T_x catalyst.

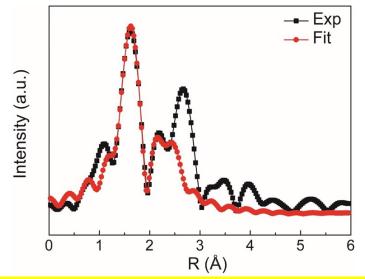


Figure S9. FT-EXAFS fitting curves of Ir_{SA} -2NS-Ti₃C₂T_x catalyst.

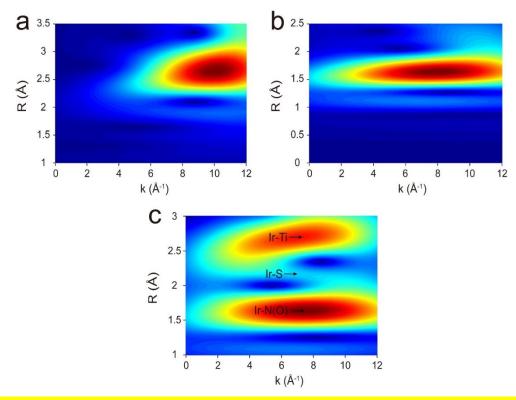


Figure S10. Wavelet transforms (WT) of EXAFS spectra of Ir foil, IrO₂ and Ir_{SA}- $\frac{2NS-Ti_3C_2T_x}{2NS-Ti_3C_2T_x}$

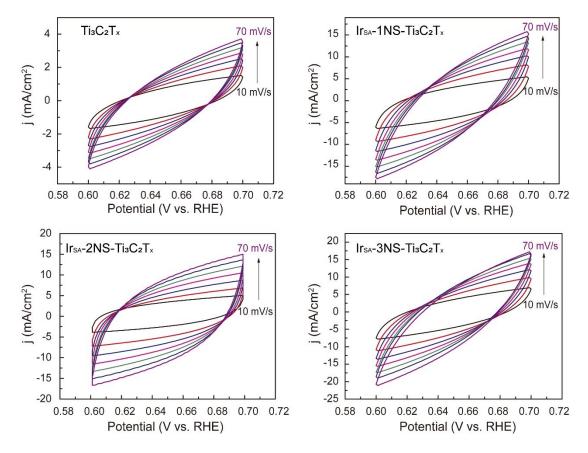


Figure S11. CV curves of $Ti_3C_2T_x$, Ir_{SA} -1NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$, Ir_{SA} -2NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$, and Ir_{SA} -3NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$ at different scan rates in 0.5 M H₂SO₄.

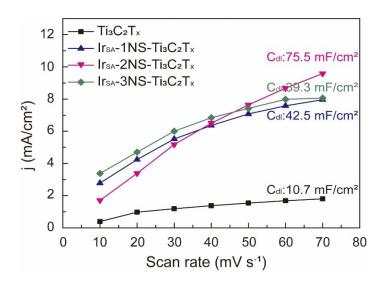


Figure S12. The calculated double-layer capacitance value (C_{dl}) of $Ti_3C_2T_x$, Ir_{SA} -1NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$, Ir_{SA} -2NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$, and Ir_{SA} -3NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$.

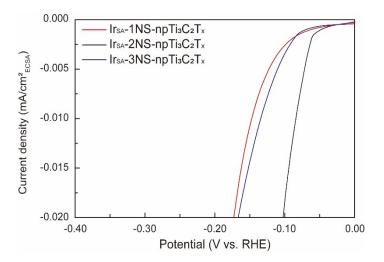


Figure S13. ECSA-normalized LSV curves of Ir_{SA} -1NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$, Ir_{SA} -2NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$,

and Ir_{SA} -3NS-Ti₃C₂T_x.

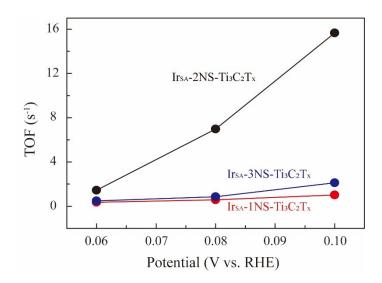


Figure S14. Turnover frequency (TOF) curves of Ir_{SA} -1NS-Ti₃C₂T_x, Ir_{SA} -2NS-Ti₃C₂T_x, and Ir_{SA} -3NS-Ti₃C₂T_x samples.

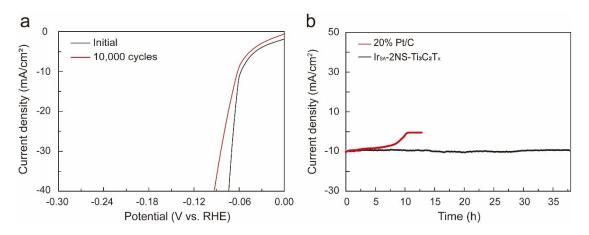


Figure S15. (a) LSV curves before and after 10,000 CV cycles for Ir_{SA} -2NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$ in acidic condition. (b) Durability test of Ir_{SA} -2NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$ electrocatalyst in 0.5 M H₂SO₄.

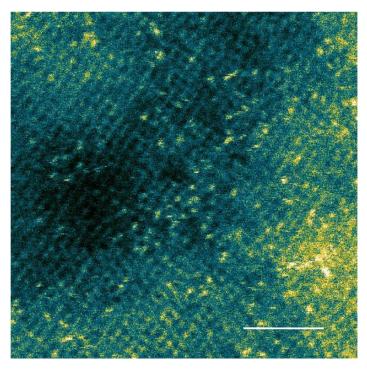


Figure S16. Magnified HAADF-STEM image of Ir_{SA} -2NS-Ti₃C₂T_x, after HER test.

Scale bar: 2 nm.

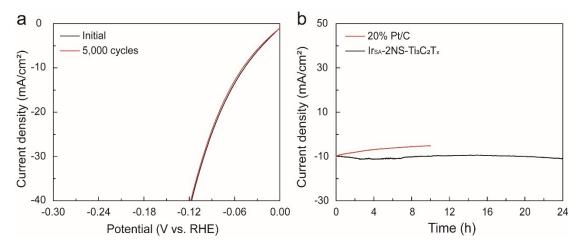


Figure S17. (a) LSV curves before and after 5,000 CV cycles for Ir_{SA}-2NS-Ti₃C₂T_x in alkaline condition. (b) Durability test of Ir_{SA}-2NS-Ti₃C₂T_x electrocatalyst in 1 M

KOH.

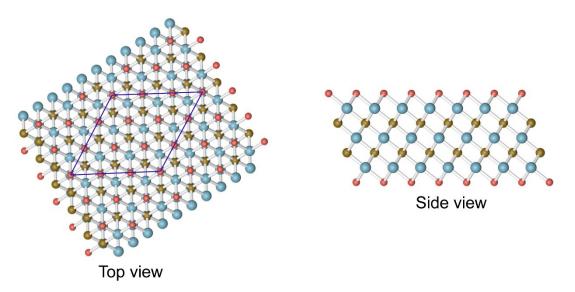


Figure S18. Top view and side view of the $Ti_3C_2T_x$ atomic model (Blue: Ti; red: O; brown: C).

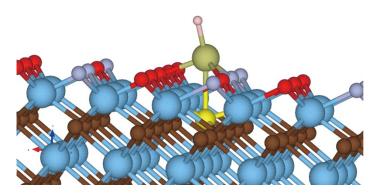


Figure S19. Atomic model of the Ir_{SA}-2NS-Ti₃C₂T_x (Blue: Ti; red: O; brown: C; yellow: S; light purple: N; light olive green: Ir; pink: H).

 $\label{eq:table S1} \begin{array}{l} \textbf{Table S1.} \ The \ S \ atomic \ ratio \ data \ of \ Ir_{SA}-1NS-Ti_3C_2T_x, \ Ir_{SA}-2NS-Ti_3C_2T_x \ and \ Ir_{SA}-3NS-Ti_3C_2T_x \ from \ XPS \ result. \end{array}$

	Ir_{SA} -1NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$	Ir_{SA} -2NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$	Ir_{SA} -3NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$
Atomic %	0.46	0.49	0.47

Table S2. The Ir-N content of Ir_{SA} -NS-Ti₃C₂T_x calculated from XPS result.

IISA-11\S-113C21x				
Peak	Position (eV)	Area		
Ti-N	396.050	6000.000		
pyridinic-N	396.990	7740.593		
N-Ti-O	398.610	3051.462		
Ir-N	400.200	1450.466		

Ir_{sA}-1NS-Ti₃C₂T_x

 Ir_{SA} -2NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$

Peak	Position (eV)	Area
Ti-N	396.100	4751.382
pyridinic-N	397.500	6986.950
N-Ti-O	398.610	1622.417
Ir-N	400.200	1493.673

 Ir_{SA} -3NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$

Peak	Position (eV)	Area
Ti-N	396.310	2901.936
pyridinic-N	396.810	9163.916
N-Ti-O	398.610	3979.977
Ir-N	400.200	3152.189

$\frac{2NS-Ti_{3}C_{2}T_{x}}{2NS-Ti_{3}C_{2}T_{x}}$							
Catalysts	ts <mark>Scattering CN R (Å) ^{σ² (10-3} ΔE₀ R-fac pair CN R (Å) Ų) (eV)</mark>						
Ir _{sa} -2NS-Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x	Ir-N(O)	<mark>2.8</mark>	<mark>2.01</mark>	<mark>3.25</mark>	<mark>5.87</mark>	<mark>0.01</mark>	
	<mark>Ir-S</mark>	<mark>1.2</mark>	<mark>2.65</mark>	<mark>5.02</mark>	<mark>4.96</mark>	<mark>0.01</mark>	

Table S3. Structural parameters extracted from the Ir L3-edge EXAFS fitting of Ir_{SA}-

Note: CN represents the coordination number; R represents the interatomic distance; σ^2 represents the Debye-Waller factor; ΔE_0 represents the edge-energy shift.

Table S4. Catalytic performances in acid media of electrocatalysts prepared in this

 work compared with previously reported MXene-based catalysts in other literatures.

	η@10	Tafel	
Catalyst	mA/cm ²	slope	Reference
	(mV)	(mV/dec)	
Ir_{SA} -2NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$	58	25.1	This work
Ir _{SA} -NS-Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x	109	73.8	This work
Ir_{SA} -3NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$	87	50.5	This work
Pt _{3.21} Ni@Ti ₃ C ₂	18.55	13.3	[1]
Pt/Ti ₃ C ₂ -550	32.7	32.3	[2]
Ru@B-Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x	62.9	100	[3]
Ru _{SA} -N-S-Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x	76	90	[4]
Mo ₂ TiC ₂ T _x -Pt _{SA}	30	30	[5]
MoS ₂ /Ti ₃ C ₂ @C	135	45	[6]
Mo ₂ C/Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x @NC	53	40	[7]
Mo ₂ CT _x MXene	189	70	[8]
MoS ₂ /Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x	152	70	[9]
N-Ti ₂ CT _x	215	67	[10]

Ru _{SA} –N-Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x	23	35	[11]
D-Mo ₂ TiC ₂ /Ni	78	56.7	[12]
S-M-5Pt	62	78	[13]
TiOF ₂ @Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x	103	56.2	[14]

Table S5. Catalytic performances in acid media of electrocatalysts prepared in this

 compared work with previously reported catalysts in other literatures.

Catalyst	η @ 10 mA/cm ²	Tafel slope	Reference
	(mV)	(mV/dec)	
Ir_{SA} -2NS- $Ti_3C_2T_x$	58	25.1	This work
$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c } \hline Pt-MoS_2 & (0.1M \\ H_2SO_4) \end{tabular}$	60	96	[15]
Mo ₂ C@NG/CNT	160	65	[16]
Ru/g-C ₃ N ₄ -C-TiO ₂	112	83	[17]
MoS ₂ @Mo-S-C ₃ N ₄	193	65	[18]
Pt@PCM	105	65.3	[19]
a-RuTe ₂ PNRs	33	35	[20]
Pt-SAs/WS ₂	32	28	[21]
Pt ₁ /OLC	38	36	[22]
Pt SA/mWO ₃ -x	47	45	[23]
Pt-Ru dimer	50	28.9	[24]
Pd NPs-Bis 24h	59.6	30	[25]
IrNiTa/Si	99	35	[26]
IrCo@NC-850	50	25	[27]

η @ 10 Tafel Catalyst mA/cm² slope Reference (mV/dec) (mV)Irsa-2NS-Ti₃C₂T_x 40.8 50.5 This work Ir-N-Ti₃C₂T_x 274.6 235.1 $Pt_{3.21}Ni@Ti_3C_2$ [1] 37 55@5 (0.1M KOH) Ni_{0.9}Co_{0.1}@NTM 43.4 116 [28] Ni@NTM 177.4 185 Ni_{0.7}Fe_{0.3}PS₃@Ti₃C [29] 196 N.A. ₂T_x MXene Ti₃C₂@mNiCoP 127 103 [30] 248 161 Ti₃C₂@NiCO₄ 179 NiS₂/V-MXene 85 [31] NiS₂/Ti-MXene 210 100 [32] CoP@Ti₃C₂-MXene 243 66 BP QDs/Ti₃C₂T_x [33] 190 83 MXene VOOH/Ti₃C₂T_x [34] 100 81.8 MXene

Table S6. Catalytic performances in alkaline electrolyte of prepared electrocatalysts

 compared with previously reported catalysts in other literatures.

Reference

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