

Supporting information

Insights into (Mn/Fe/Co)M-N-C Dual-Atom Catalysts for the Oxygen Reduction Reaction: The Critical Role of Structural Evolution

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Figures and Tables

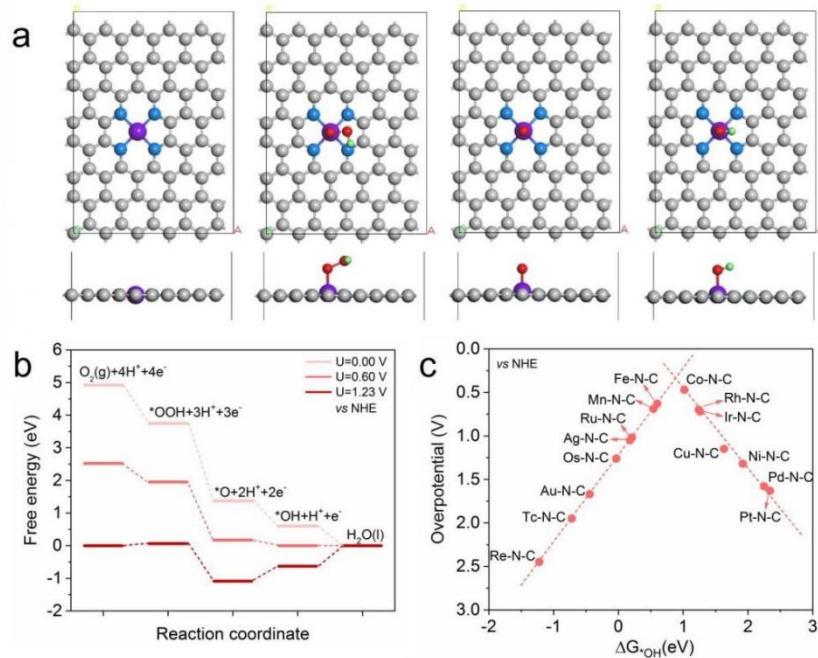


Figure S 1. (a) The optimized geometry structures of Fe-N-C, $^*\text{OOH}$ -Fe-N-C, $^*\text{O}$ -Fe-N-C, and $^*\text{OH}$ -Fe-N-C. (b) The ORR free energy diagram of Fe-N-C. (c) The volcano plot between overpotential and ΔG_{OH}^* of M-N-C. Gray: C; Purple: Fe; Blue: N; Red: O; Green: H.

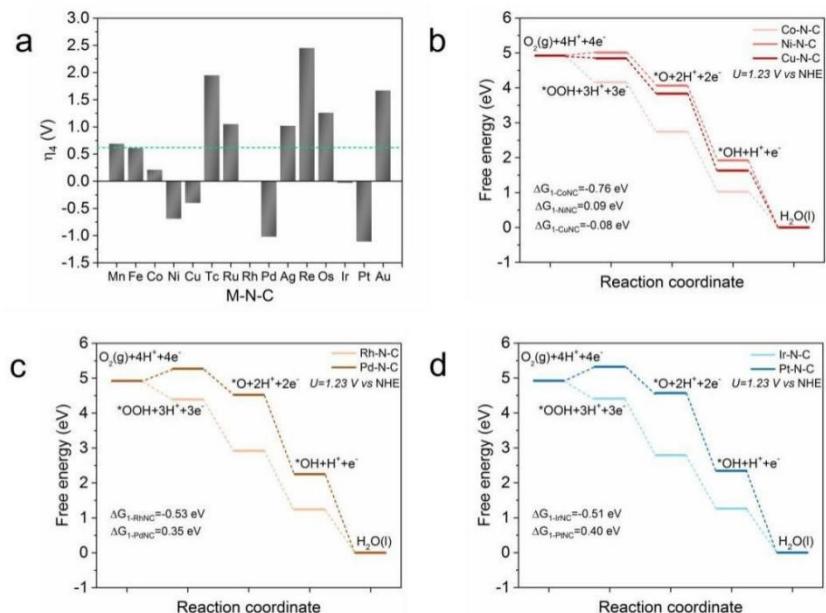


Figure S 2. (a) The overpotential of step $^*\text{OH} + \text{H}^+ + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l})$ for M-N-C. The ORR free energy diagram of (b) Co/Ni/Cu-N-C, (c) Rh/Pd-N-C and (d) Ir/Pt-N-C.

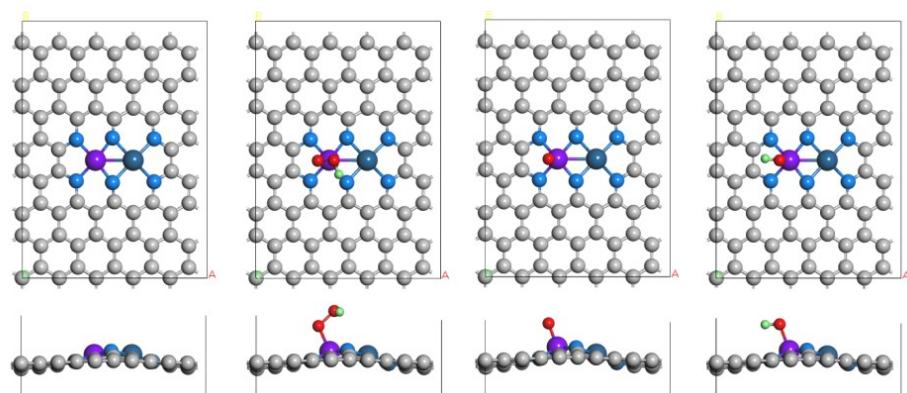


Figure S 3. The optimized structures FePt-N-C, *OOH-FePt-N-C, *O-FePt-N-C and *OH-FePt-N-C. Gray: C; Purple: Fe; Dark blue: Pt; Blue: N; Red: O; Green: H.

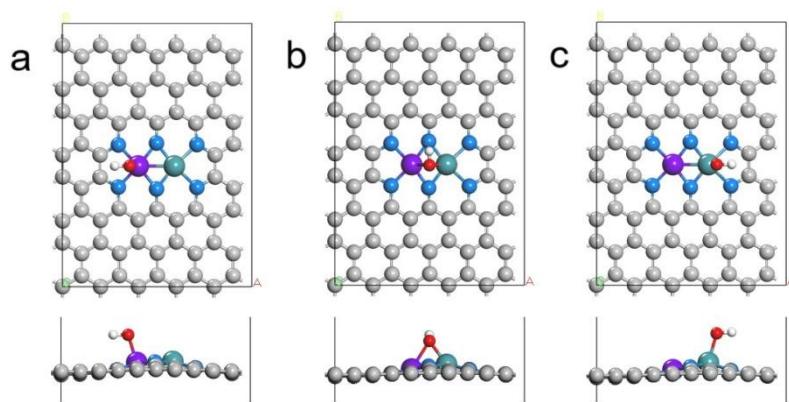


Figure S 4. The optimised adsorption structures of OH on Fe, M and the bridge site

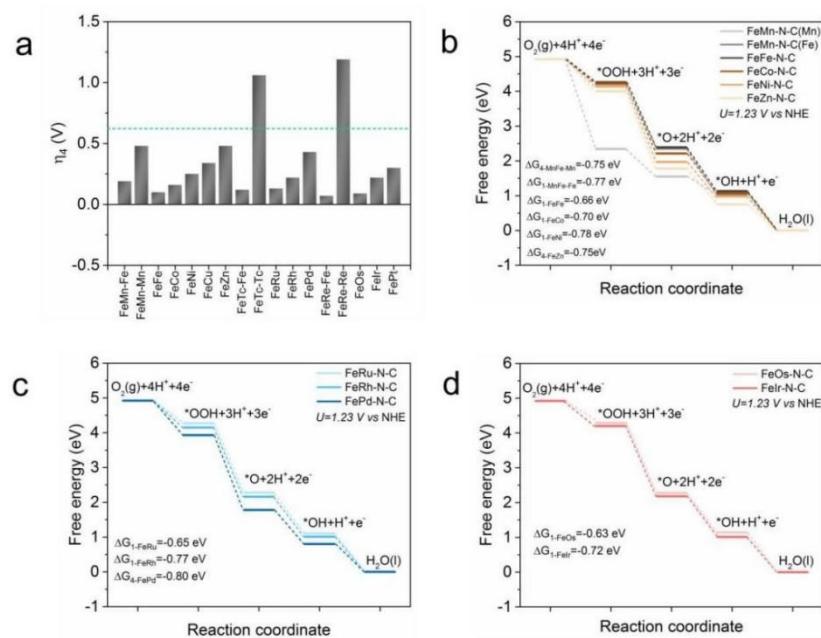


Figure S 5. (a) The overpotential of step $*\text{OH} + \text{H}^+ + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l})$ for FeM-N-C. The ORR free energy diagram of (b) FeM-N-C ($\text{M}=\text{Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn}$), (c) FeM-N-C ($\text{M}=\text{Ru, Rh, Pd}$) and (d) FeM-N-C ($\text{M}=\text{Os, Ir}$).

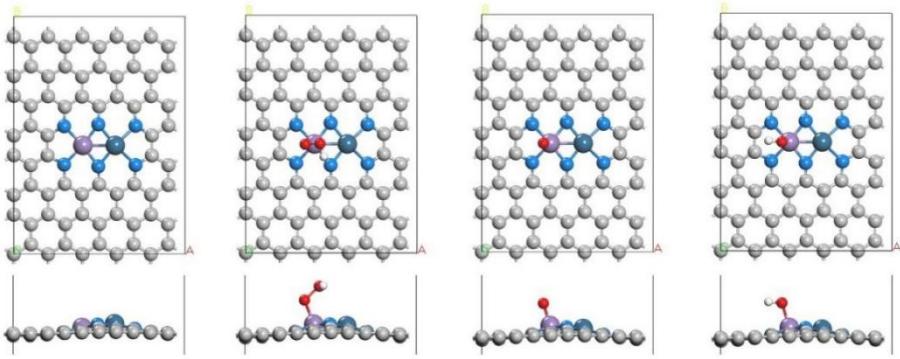


Figure S 6. The optimized structures MnCo-N-C, $^{*\text{OOH}}\text{-MnCo-N-C}$, $^{*\text{O}}\text{-MnCo-N-C}$ and $^{*\text{OH}}\text{-MnCo-N-C}$. Gray: C; Purple: Mn; Cyan: Co; Blue: N; Red: O; White: H.

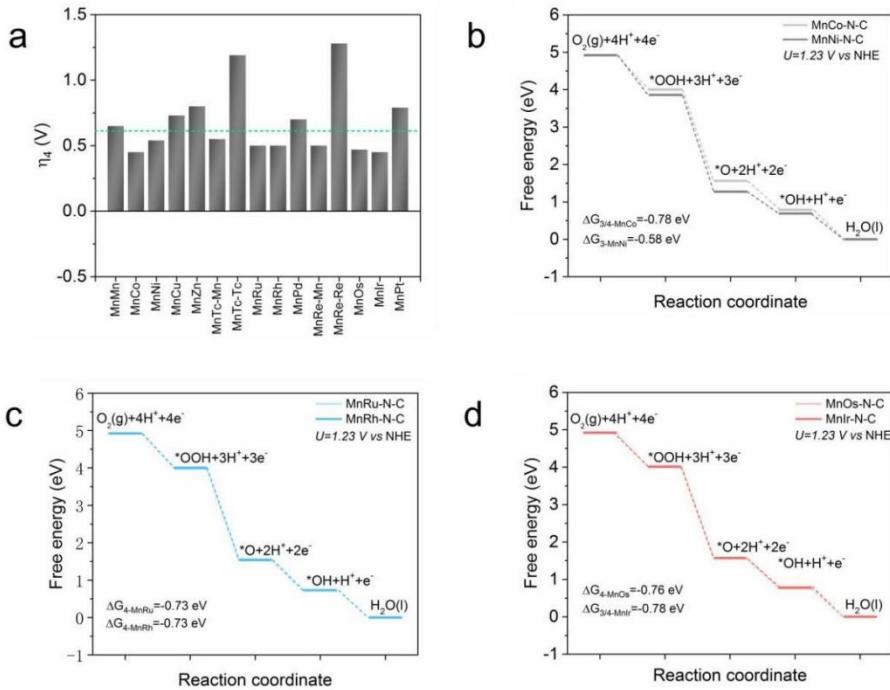


Figure S 7. (a) The overpotential of step $*\text{OH} + \text{H}^+ + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l})$ for MnM-N-C. The ORR free energy diagram of (b) MnM-N-C ($\text{M}=\text{Co, Ni}$), (c) MnM-N-C ($\text{M}=\text{Ru, Rh}$) and (d) MnM-N-C ($\text{M}=\text{Os, Ir}$).

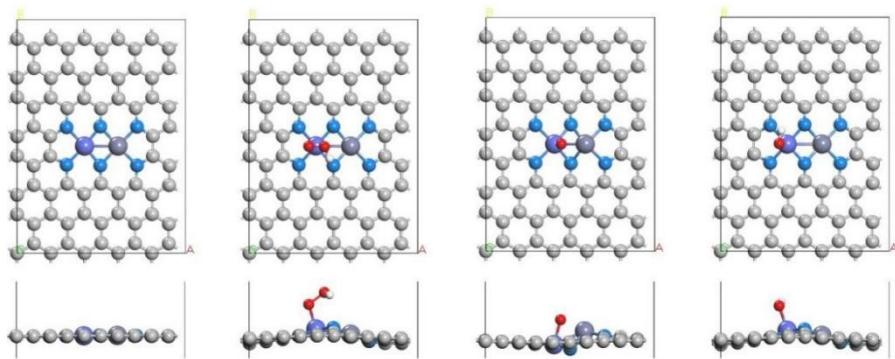


Figure S 8. The optimized structures Fe-N-C, *OOH-Fe-N-C, *O-Fe-N-C and *OH-Fe-N-C. Gray: C; Purple: Fe; Blue: N; Red: O; Green: H.

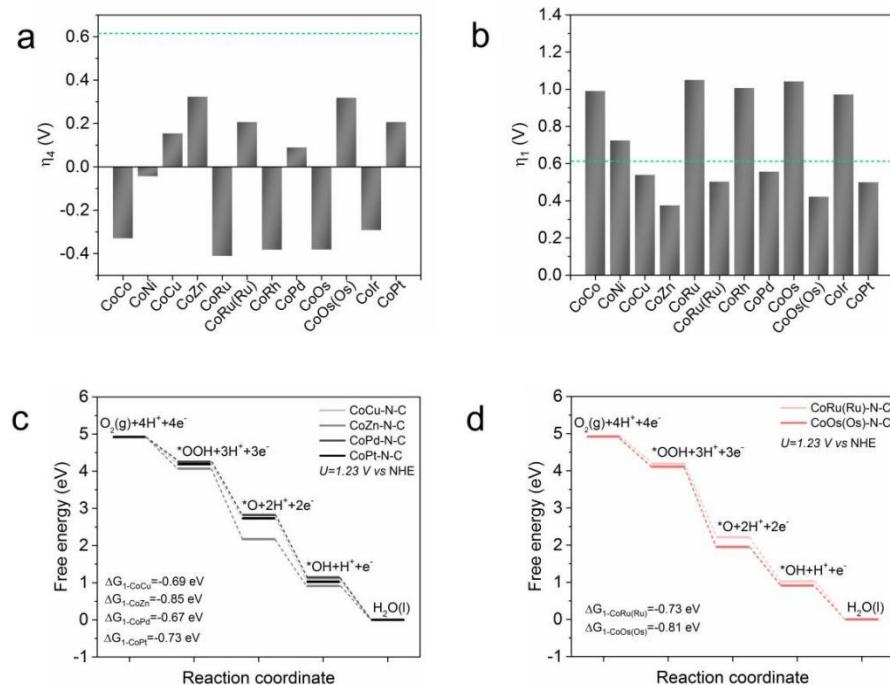


Figure S 9. The overpotential of (a) step $*OH + H^+ + e^- \rightarrow H_2O(l)$ and (b) step $O_2(g) + H^+ + e^- \rightarrow *OOH$ for CoM-N-C. The ORR free energy diagram of (c) CoM-N-C (M=Co, Zn, Pd, Pt), and (d) CoM-N-C (M=Ru, Os).

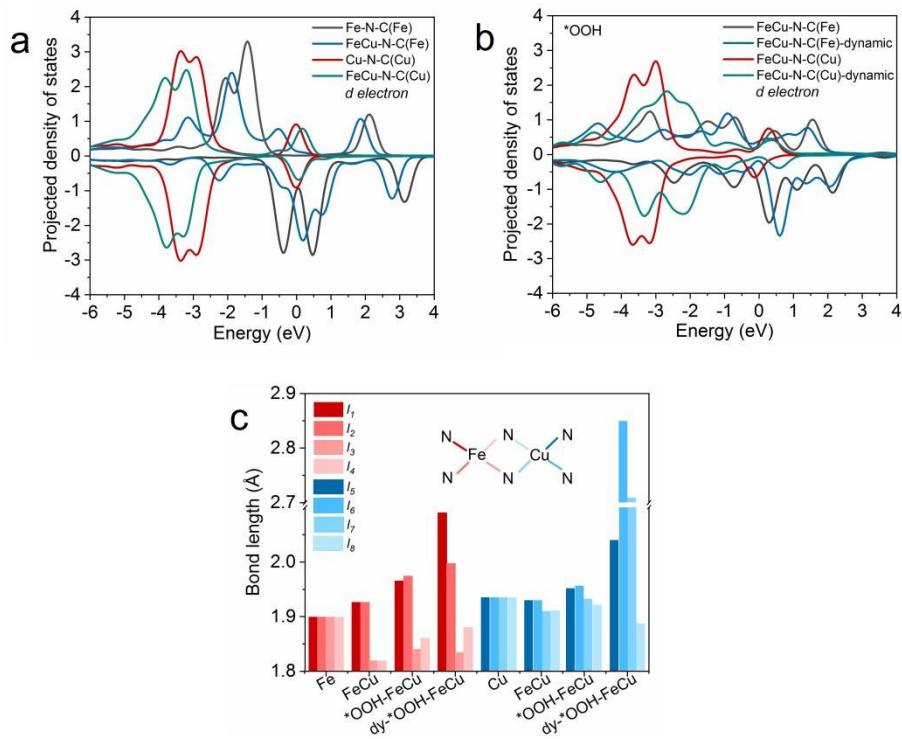


Figure S 10. The overpotential of (a) step $^*\text{OH} + \text{H}^+ + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O(l)}$ and (b) step $\text{O}_2(\text{g}) + \text{H}^+ + \text{e}^- \rightarrow ^*\text{OOH}$ for CoM-N-C. The ORR free energy diagram of (c) CoM-N-C (M=Co, Zn, Pd, Pt), and (d) CoM-N-C (M=Ru, Os).

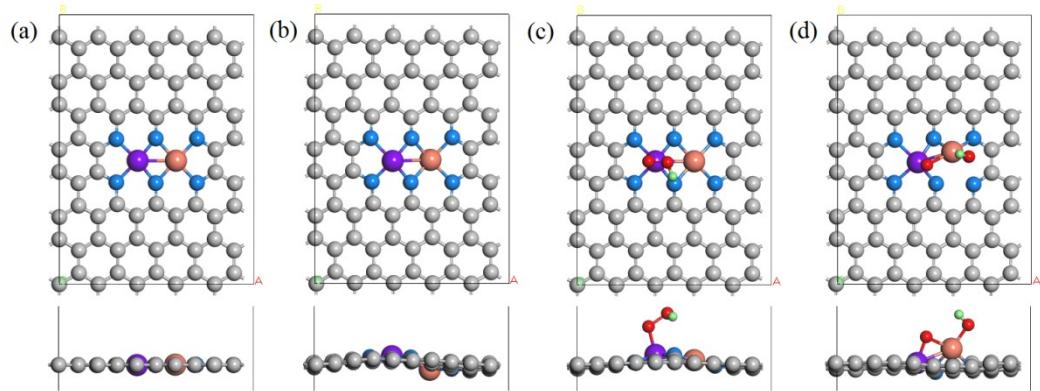


Figure S 11. The initial (a, c) and dynamic structure (b, d) of FeCu-N-C and $^*\text{OOH}$ -FeCu-N-C, respectively.

Table S 1 The zero point energies and entropic corrections of oxygenates at 298.15 K

| Species | ZPE(1) | TS(1) | ZPE(2) | TS(2) | ZPE(3) | TS(3) | ZPE* | TS* |
|------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|------|------|
| O* | 0.05 | 0 | 0.084 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.09 | 0.05 |
| OH* | 0.36 | 0.06 | 0.386 | 0.07 | 0.37 | 0.1 | 0.36 | 0.10 |
| OOH* | 0.4 | 0.08 | 0.457 | 0.16 | 0.46 | 0.16 | 0.45 | 0.17 |
| O ₂ | 0.11 | 0.64 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| H ₂ | 0.27 | 0.41 | 0.27 | 0.41 | 0.27 | 0.41 | 0.27 | 0.41 |
| H ₂ O | 0.56 | 0.67 | 0.56 | 0.67 | 0.56 | 0.67 | 0.56 | 0.67 |

*The present work.

Table S2 The ORR activity of M-N-C SACs

| M-N-C | ΔG_{OH} (eV) | η_4 (V) | ΔG_{OOH} (eV) | η_1 (V) | ΔG_{O} (eV) | η_2 (V) | η_3 (V) |
|-------|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mn | 0.54 | 0.69 | | | | | |
| Fe | 0.62 | 0.61 | 3.77 | 0.08 | 1.41 | -1.13 | 0.44 |
| Co | 1.02 | 0.21 | 4.16 | 0.47 | 2.74 | -0.18 | -0.49 |
| Ni | 1.92 | -0.69 | 5.01 | 1.32 | | | |
| Cu | 1.63 | -0.40 | 4.84 | 1.15 | | | |
| Zn | 0.57 | 0.66 | | | | | |
| Tc | -0.72 | 1.95 | | | | | |
| Ru | 0.18 | 1.05 | | | | | |
| Rh | 1.24 | -0.01 | 4.39 | 0.70 | | | |
| Pd | 2.25 | -1.02 | 5.27 | 1.58 | | | |
| Ag | 0.21 | 1.02 | | | | | |
| Cd | -1.13 | 2.36 | | | | | |
| Re | -1.22 | 2.45 | | | | | |
| Os | -0.03 | 1.26 | | | | | |
| Ir | 1.26 | -0.03 | 4.41 | 0.72 | | | |
| Pt | 2.34 | -1.11 | 5.32 | 1.63 | | | |
| Au | -0.44 | 1.67 | | | | | |
| Hg | -2.31 | 3.54 | | | | | |

Table S3 The formation energy of FeM-N-C DACs and M-N-C SACs

| | $\Delta E_f(M_1M_2N_6)$ | $\Delta E_f(M_1N_4) + \Delta E_f(M_2N_4)$ |
|------|-------------------------|---|
| FeMn | -7.48 | -6.16 |
| FeFe | -7.98 | -7.18 |
| FeCo | -7.89 | -7.37 |
| FeNi | -6.92 | -7.03 |
| FeCu | -4.24 | -4.62 |
| FeZn | -2.56 | -3.41 |
| FeTc | -8.11 | -5.70 |

| | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| FeRu | -7.96 | -6.20 |
| FeRh | -6.66 | -6.01 |
| FePd | -3.54 | -3.83 |
| FeRe | -7.63 | -4.87 |
| FeOs | -7.25 | -5.26 |
| Felr | -5.50 | -4.80 |
| FePt | -2.24 | -2.46 |

Table S4 The adsorption energy of OH on different sites of $M_1M_2\text{-N-C}$ DACs

| | Mn site | M site | Bridge site |
|----------|---------|--------|-------------|
| MnMn-N-C | 0.29 | - | Mn site |
| MnCo-N-C | 0.49 | 1.38 | Mn site |
| MnNi-N-C | 0.40 | 1.63 | Mn site |
| MnCu-N-C | 0.22 | 1.39 | Mn site |
| MnZn-N-C | 0.14 | -0.06 | 0.37 |
| MnTc-N-C | 0.39 | -0.25 | Tc site |
| MnRu-N-C | 0.44 | 0.72 | Ru site |
| MnRh-N-C | 0.44 | 1.44 | Mn site |
| MnPd-N-C | 0.24 | 1.81 | Mn site |
| MnRe-N-C | 0.44 | -0.34 | Re site |
| MnOs-N-C | 0.48 | 0.69 | Mn site |
| MnIr-N-C | 0.49 | 1.59 | Mn site |
| MnPt-N-C | 0.15 | 1.60 | Mn site |
| | Fe site | M site | Bridge site |
| FeMn-N-C | 0.75 | 0.46 | Mn site |
| FeFe-N-C | 0.84 | - | Fe site |
| FeCo-N-C | 0.78 | 1.32 | Fe site |
| FeNi-N-C | 0.69 | 1.67 | Fe site |
| FeCu-N-C | 0.60 | 1.47 | Fe site |
| FeZn-N-C | 0.44 | 0.13 | 0.19 |
| FeTc-N-C | 0.82 | -0.11 | Tc site |
| FeRu-N-C | 0.81 | 0.71 | Ru site |
| FeRh-N-C | 0.72 | 1.50 | Fe site |
| FePd-N-C | 0.51 | 1.80 | Fe site |
| FeRe-N-C | 0.87 | -0.25 | Re site |
| FeOs-N-C | 0.85 | 0.74 | Os site |
| Felr-N-C | 0.72 | 1.39 | Fe site |
| FePt-N-C | 0.64 | 1.85 | Fe site |

| | Co site | M site | Bridge site |
|----------|---------|--------|-------------|
| CoCo-N-C | 1.27 | - | Co site |
| CoNi-N-C | 0.98 | 1.68 | Co site |
| CoCu-N-C | 0.79 | 1.54 | Co site |
| CoZn-N-C | 0.62 | 0.21 | 0.43 |
| CoRu-N-C | 1.35 | 0.73 | Ru site |
| CoRh-N-C | 1.32 | 1.52 | Co site |
| CoPd-N-C | 0.85 | 1.77 | Co site |
| CoOs-N-C | 1.32 | 0.62 | Os site |
| Colr-N-C | 1.23 | 1.41 | Co site |
| CoPt-N-C | 0.73 | 1.64 | Co site |

Table S5 The geometric and electronic property of FeM-N-C DACs

| TM-N-C | Charge (Fe) | Spin (Fe) | I_{Fe-N} | I_{Fe-TM} |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------|
| Fe | 0.536 | 2.042 | 1.899*4 | - |
| FeMn | 0.439 | 0.670 | 1.808*2 1.939*2 | 2.261 |
| FeFe | 0498 | 1.144 | 1.799*2 1.953*2 | 2.238 |
| FeCo | 0.562 | 1.570 | 1.798*2 1.952*2 | 2.280 |
| FeNi | 0.551 | 1.940 | 1.807*2 1.931*2 | 2.409 |
| FeCu | 0.538 | 2.114 | 1.819*2 1.926*2 | 2.432 |
| FeZn | 0.499 | 2.038 | 1.825*2 1.918*2 | 2.436 |
| FeTc ^{OH} | 0.484 | 1.446 | 1.863*2 1.936*2 | 2.352 |
| FeRu | 0.525 | 1.525 | 1.852*2 1.931*2 | 2.297 |
| FeRh | 0.486 | 1.581 | 1.827*2 1.931*2 | 2.326 |
| FePd | 0.563 | 1.846 | 1.822*2 1.915*2 | 2.430 |
| FeRe ^{OH} | 0.472 | 1.439 | 1.877*2 1.935*2 | 2.379 |
| FeOs | 0.517 | 1.536 | 1.877*2 1.935*2 | 2.333 |
| FeIr | 0.573 | 1.630 | 1.858*2 1.940*2 | 2.369 |
| FePt | 0.605 | 2.020 | 1.875*2 | 2.510 |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|---------|--|
| | | | 1.930*2 | |
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References

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