Supplementary Information (SI) for Journal of Materials Chemistry A. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2025



S1 Schematic diagram of the unit cell of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce and XRD pattern.



S2 XRD patterns of ZnO, CeO₂, Al₂O₃, TiO₂, and TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.



S3 Detailed XRD pattern from 24.8° to 25.8°.



S4 XPS spectra of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce and TiO₂.



S5 XPS spectrum of Ti 2p;



S6 XPS spectrum of O 1s;



S7 XPS spectrum of Al 2p.



S8 XPS spectrum of Zn 2p.



S10 Zn element mapping image of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.

μm



S11 O element mapping image of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.



S12 Al element mapping image of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.



S13 Ce element mapping image of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.



S14 Ti element mapping image of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.



S15 EDS-SEM diagram of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.



S16 SEM image and particle size distribution of TiO_2-Al-Zn-Ce.



S17 SEM image and particle size distribution of TiO₂.



S18 SEM image and particle size distribution of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.



S19 SEM image and particle size distribution of $TiO_2.$



S20 Element distribution total spectrum and statistical table of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.



S21 KPFM image of TiO₂.



S22 3D KPFM diagram of TiO₂.



S23 AFM image of TiO₂.



S24 3D AFM diagram of TiO₂.



S25 KPFM image of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.



S26 3D KPFM diagram of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.



S27 AFM image of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.



S28 3D AFM diagram of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.



S29 Relative position-potential comparison diagram of $TiO_2.$



S30 Relative position-potential comparison diagram of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.



S31 EDS-TEM diagram of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.



S32 HAADF-STEM images of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.















⊐ 30 nm Г





S37 Ce element mapping image of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.



S38 UV-vis absorption spectra of TiO₂, TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce, TiO₂-Al, TiO₂-Zn, and TiO₂-Ce.



 $S39 \ Band \ gap \ widths \ of \ TiO_2, TiO_2-Al-Zn-Ce, \ TiO_2-Al, \ TiO_2-Zn, \ and \ TiO_2-Ce \ measured \ by \ UV-vis.$



S40 Fluorescence absorption spectra of TiO₂, TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce, TiO₂-Al, TiO₂-Zn, and TiO₂-Ce.



S41 Amperometric data plots of TiO₂, TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce, TiO₂-Al, TiO₂-Zn, and TiO₂-Ce at 0.8 V vs. Ag/AgCl.



S42 Band gap widths of TiO₂, TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce, TiO₂-Al, TiO₂-Zn, and TiO₂-Ce measured by IPCE.



S43 IPCE plots of TiO₂, TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce, TiO₂-Al, TiO₂-Zn, and TiO₂-Ce.



 $S44\ Micro-area\ high-frequency\ chopped\ linear\ sweep\ voltammetry\ (LSV)\ curve\ of\ TiO_2-Al-Zn-Ce.$



S45 Micro-area high-frequency chopped LSV curve of TiO₂.



S46 Micro-area high-frequency chopped LSV curve of $\rm TiO_2\mathchar`-Al.$



S47 Micro-area high-frequency chopped LSV curve of TiO_2-Zn.







S49 Chopped LSV curves of TiO₂, TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce, TiO₂-Al, TiO₂-Zn, and TiO₂-Ce.



S50 Mott-Schottky plots of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.



S52 Mott-Schottky plots of TiO₂-Al.



S55 EIS plots of TiO₂, TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce, TiO₂-Al, TiO₂-Zn, and TiO₂-Ce with fitted equivalent circuits.



S56 Cumulative hydrogen production per unit mass and hydrogen production rate of TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce in cycles.



S57 Hydrogen production rate of TiO₂, TiO₂-Al, TiO₂-Zn, TiO₂-Ce and TiO₂-Al-Zn-Ce.



S58 Cumulative hydrogen production per unit mass of TiO₂ in cycles in 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25% and 30% ethanol solutions.



S59 Hydrogen production rate per unit mass of TiO₂ in cycles in 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25% and 30% ethanol solutions.



S60 Detail magnification of Figure 5-C 1.



S61 Detail magnification of Figure 5-C 2.



S62 Detail magnification of Figure 5-C 3.



S63 Detail magnification of Figure 5-C 4.



S64 Detail magnification of Figure 5-C 5.



S65 Detail magnification of Figure 5-C 6.