

## Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supporting Information of Construction of Noble Metal-Loaded Functional catalysts for Highly  
Efficient Catalytic Dehydrogenation of Ammonia Borane via Hydrolysis

SEM and TEM were used to characterize the morphology and microstructure of materials.

XRD was utilized to analyze the crystal structure, phase composition and physical properties of the materials. XPS was utilized to analyze the elemental composition, chemical state and structure of the material surface.

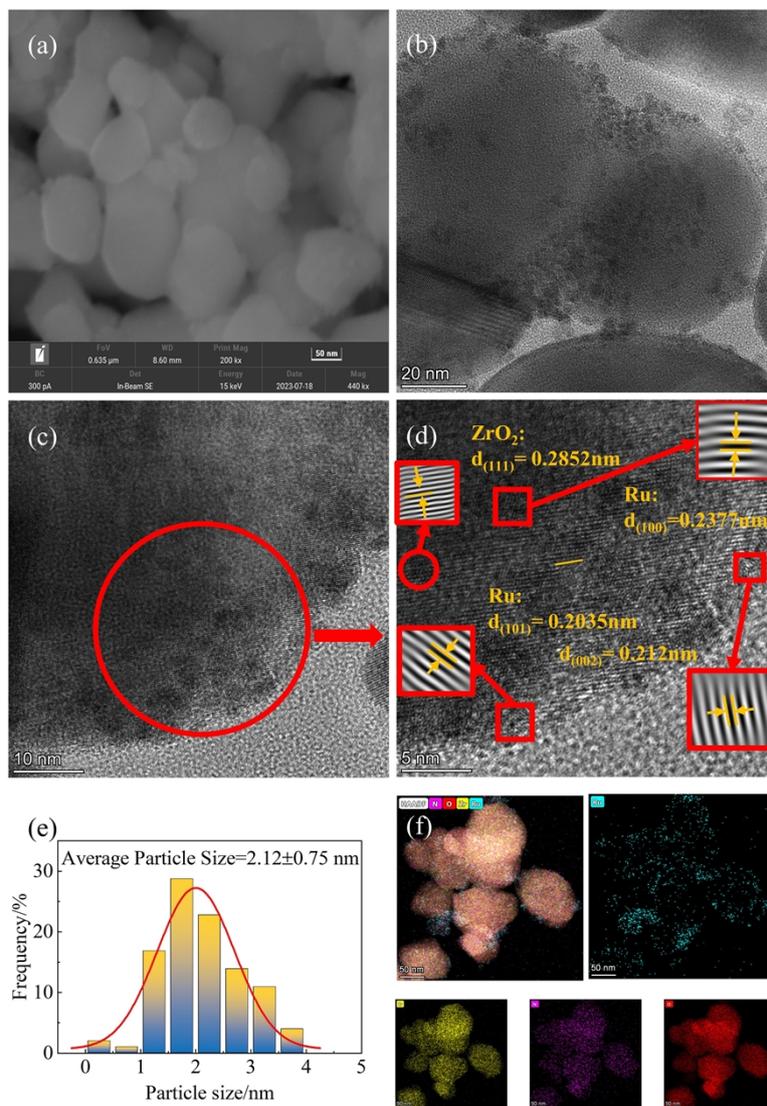


Fig.S1 The SEM (a) and TEM (b, c, d) images of 3%Ru/ZrO<sub>2</sub>. (e) The corresponding histogram shows the particle size distribution (average particle size = 2.12 nm). (f) The EDX elemental mapping images of 3%Ru/ZrO<sub>2</sub> with Ru (blue), N (purple) from residual N<sub>2</sub>, Zr (yellow) and O (red).

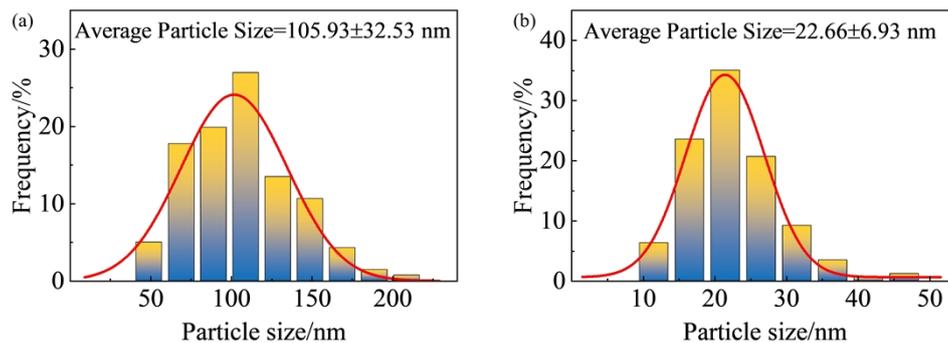


Fig.S2 The histogram graphs of the support particle size distribution: (a)  $ZrO_2$  and (b)  $Zr_2ON_2$ .

The measured average particle size is displayed at the top of each panel.

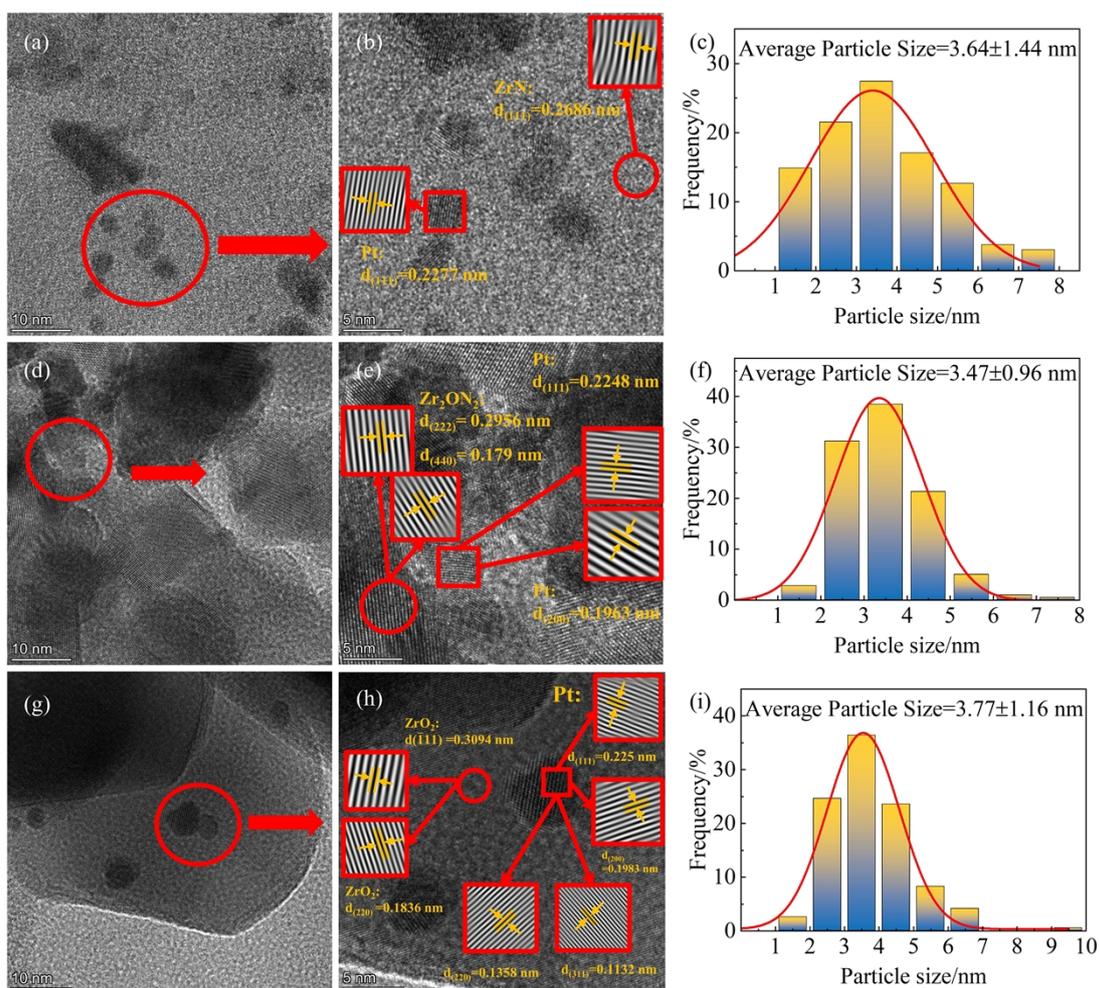


Fig.S3 The TEM images of (a)(b) Pt/ZrN, (d)(e) Pt/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>, (g)(h) Pt/ZrO<sub>2</sub>. (c), (f) and (i) are the corresponding Pt particle size distribution histograms: (c) Pt/ZrN, (f) Pt/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub> and (i) Pt/ZrO<sub>2</sub>.

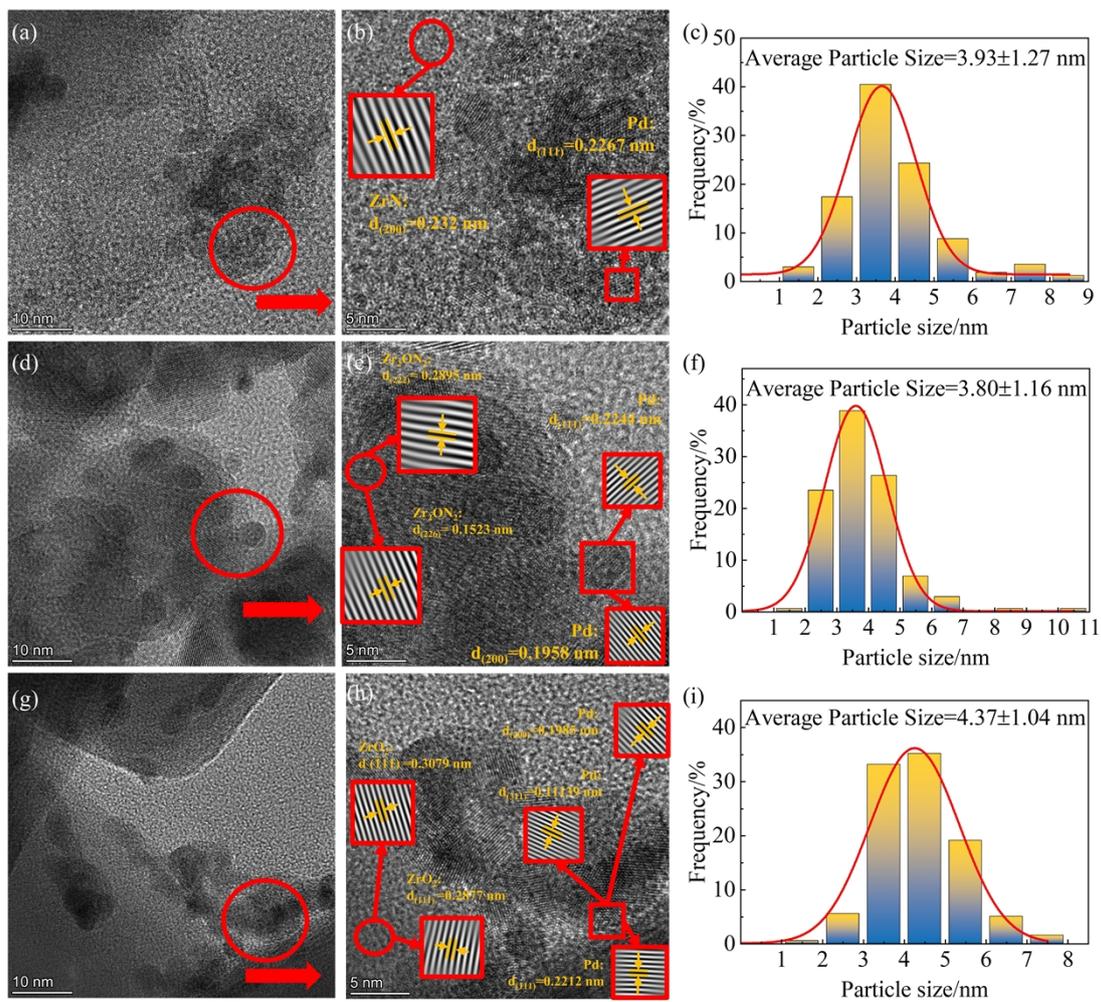


Fig.S4 The TEM images of (a)(b) Pd/ZrN, (d)(e) Pd/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>, and (g)(h) Pd/ZrO<sub>2</sub>. (c), (f) and (i)

are the corresponding particle size distribution histograms: (c) Pd/ZrN, (f) Pd/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub> and (i)

Pd/ZrO<sub>2</sub>.

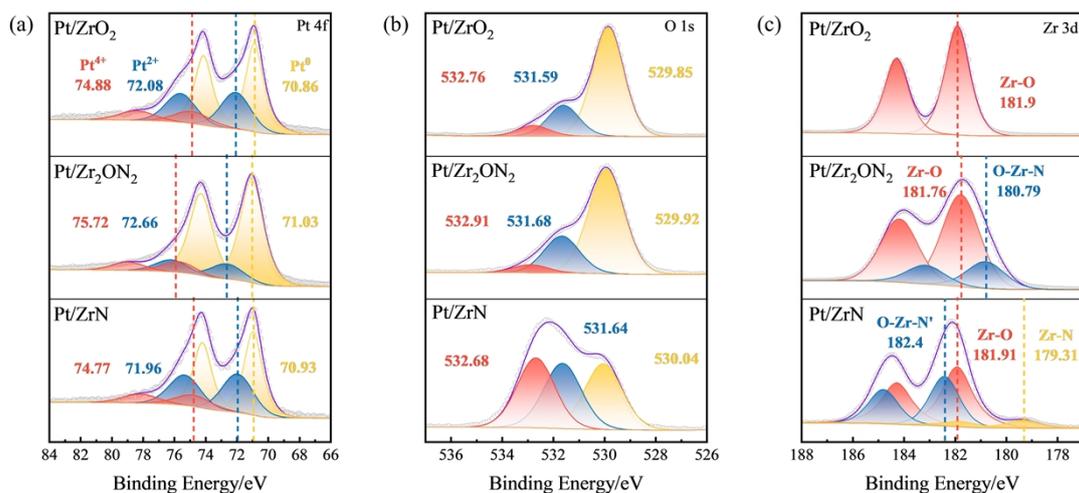


Fig.S5 High-resolution XPS spectra of (a) Pt 4f, (b) O 1s and (c) Zr 3d for Pt-based catalysts (Pt/ZrN, Pt/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub> and Pt/ZrO<sub>2</sub>).

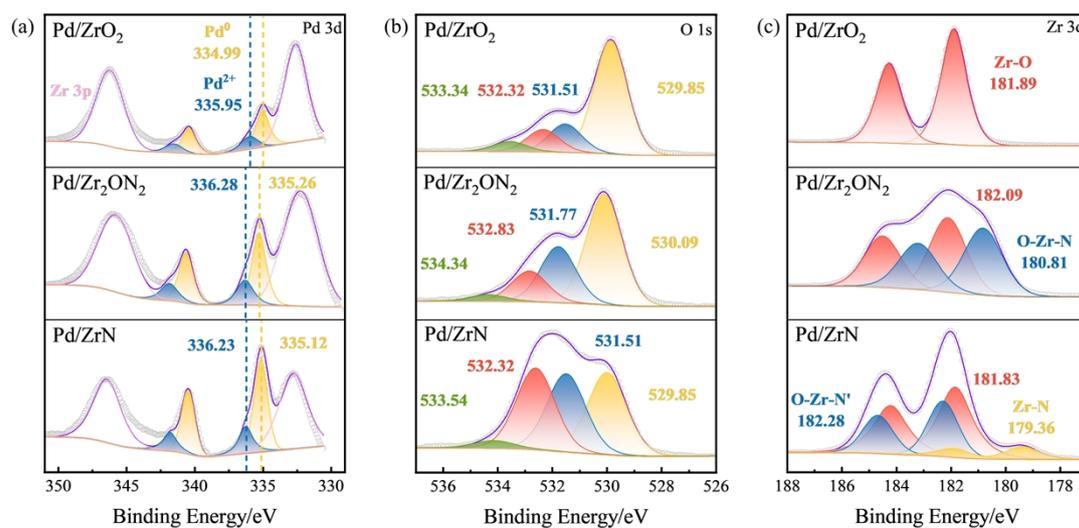


Fig.S6 High-resolution XPS spectra of (a) Pd 3d, (b) O 1s and (c) Zr 3d for Pd-based catalysts (Pd/ZrN, Pd/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub> and Pd/ZrO<sub>2</sub>).

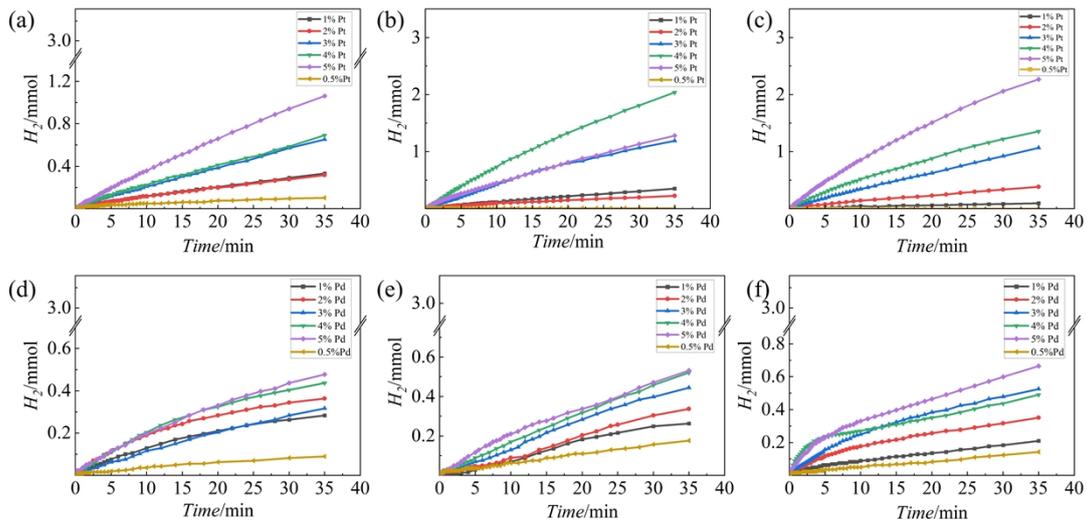


Fig.S7 H<sub>2</sub> evolution profiles from AB hydrolysis for Pt- and Pd-based catalysts with varying metal loadings (0.5-5 wt%). (a-c) H<sub>2</sub> generation vs. time curves for Pt on (a) ZrN, (b) ZrO<sub>2</sub>, (c) Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>. (d-f) H<sub>2</sub> generation vs. time curves for Pd on (d) ZrN, (e) ZrO<sub>2</sub> and (f) Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>.

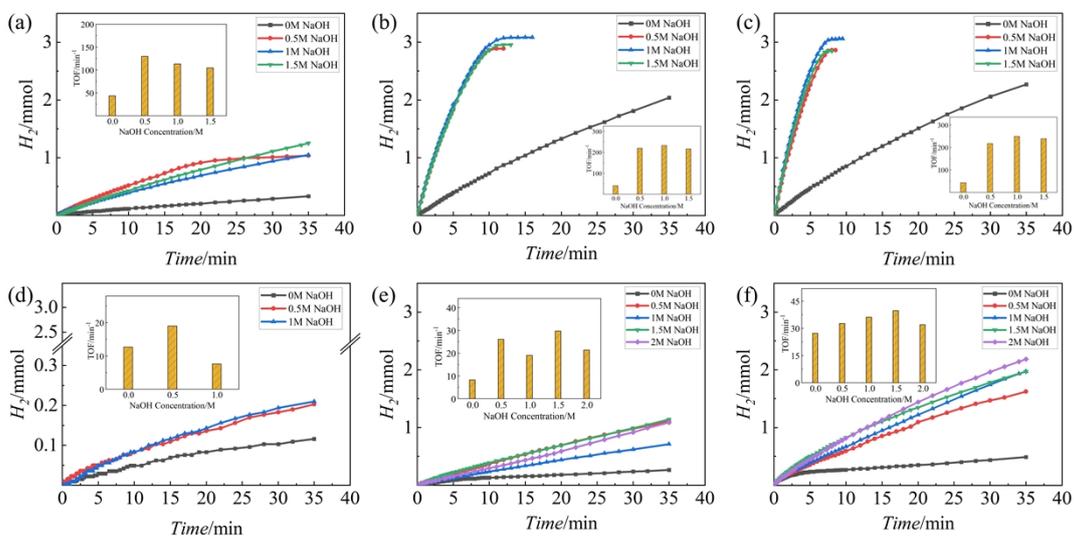


Fig.S8 Influence of NaOH concentration (0-2 M) on the catalytic activity of Pt- and Pd-based catalysts. (a-c) H<sub>2</sub> generation vs. time curves for Pt on (a) ZrN, (b) ZrO<sub>2</sub> and (c) Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>. (d-f) H<sub>2</sub> generation vs. time curves for Pd on (d) ZrN, (e) ZrO<sub>2</sub> and (f) Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>. Inner histograms display the TOF changes with a volcano-shaped trend with optimal activity at 0.5-1 M NaOH.

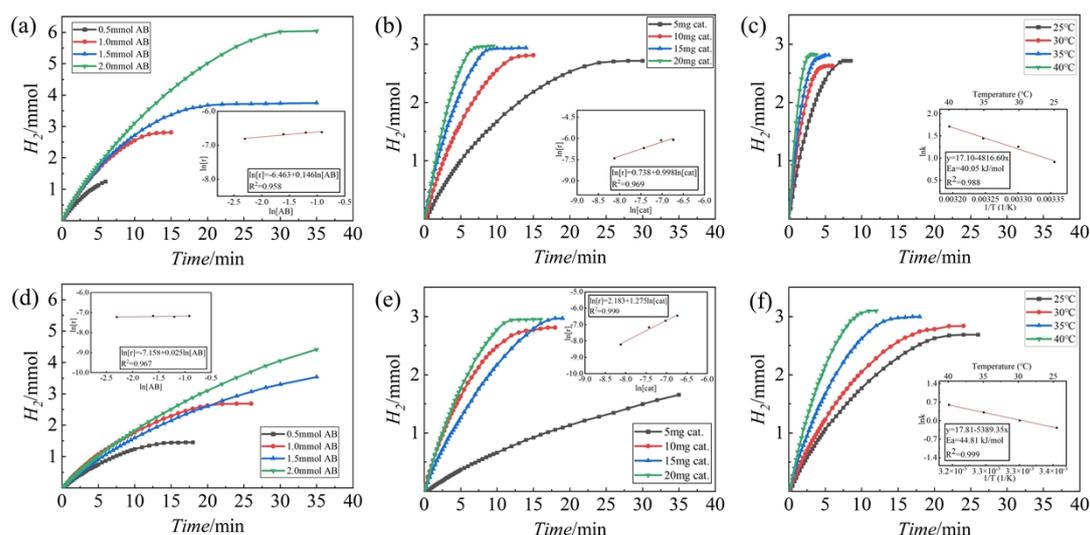


Fig.S9 Kinetic studies of AB hydrolysis over (a-c) Ru/ZrO<sub>2</sub> and (d-f) Ru/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>. (a)(d) H<sub>2</sub> evolution profiles with varying AB concentration (0.5-2 mmol). Inset shows the logarithmic plot of initial H<sub>2</sub> generation rate vs. [AB], demonstrating zero-order dependence on [AB]; (b)(e) H<sub>2</sub> evolution profiles with varying catalyst dosages (5-20 mg). Inset shows the logarithmic plot of initial H<sub>2</sub> generation rate vs. catalyst dosage, showing first-order dependence on [catalyst]; (c)(f) H<sub>2</sub> evolution profiles with varying temperatures (25-40 °C). Inset shows the Arrhenius plot of initial H<sub>2</sub> generation rate vs. temperature, yielding *E<sub>a</sub>* of 40.05 kJ/mol (Ru/ZrO<sub>2</sub>) and 44.81 kJ/mol (Ru/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>).

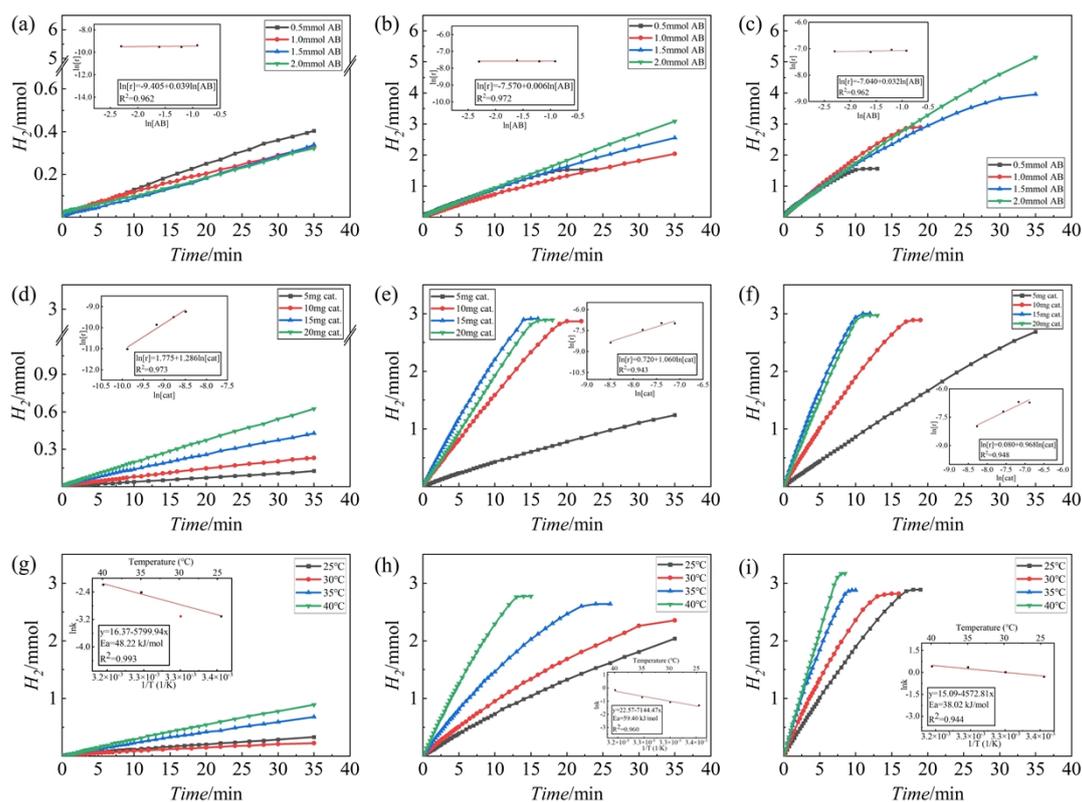


Fig.S10 Kinetic studies of AB hydrolysis over Pt-based catalysts. (a-c)  $H_2$  evolution profiles with varying AB concentration (0.5-2 mmol) on (a) Pt/ZrN, (b) Pt/ZrO<sub>2</sub> and (c) Pt/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>. Insets show the logarithmic plot of initial  $H_2$  generation rate vs. [AB], demonstrating zero-order dependence on [AB]. (d-f)  $H_2$  evolution profiles with varying catalyst dosages (5-20 mg) on (d) Pt/ZrN, (e) Pt/ZrO<sub>2</sub> and (f) Pt/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>. Inset shows the logarithmic plot of initial  $H_2$  generation rate vs. [catalyst], showing first-order dependence on [catalyst]. (g-i)  $H_2$  evolution profiles with varying temperatures (25-40 °C) on (g) Pt/ZrN, (h) Pt/ZrO<sub>2</sub> and (i) Pt/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>. Insets show the Arrhenius plot of initial  $H_2$  generation rate vs. temperature, yielding  $E_a$  of 48.22 kJ/mol (Pt/ZrN), 59.4 kJ/mol (Pt/ZrO<sub>2</sub>) and 38.2 kJ/mol (Pt/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>).

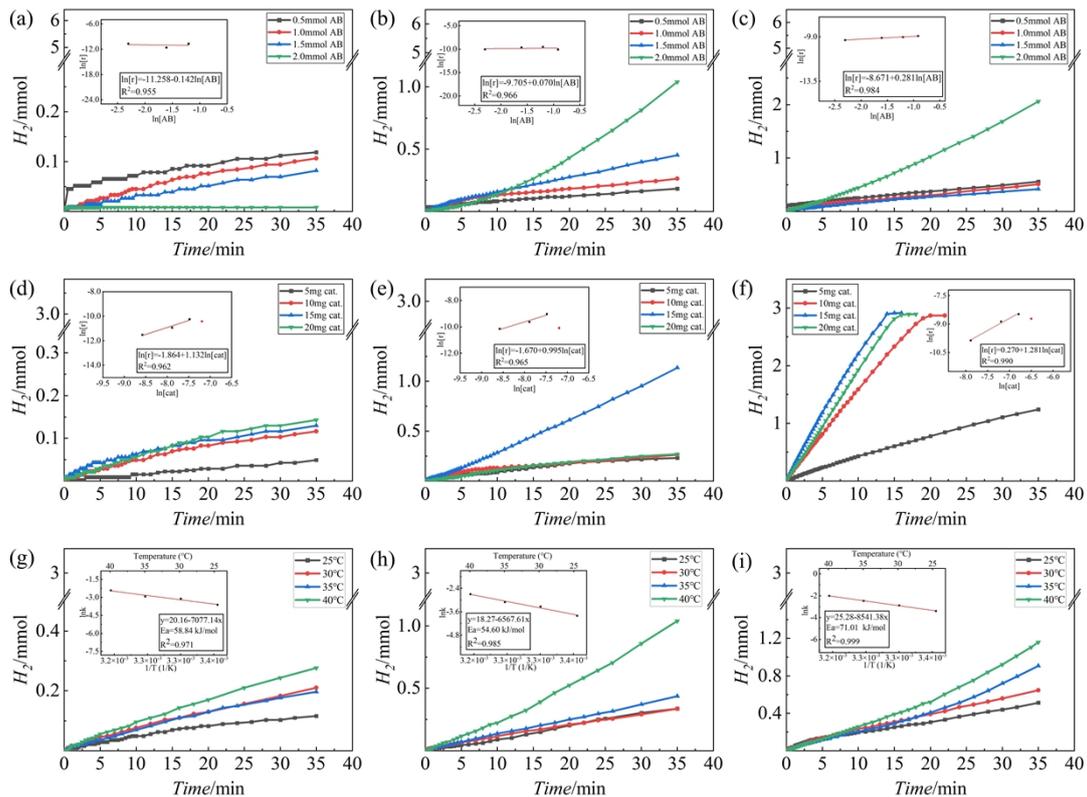


Fig.S11 Kinetic studies of AB hydrolysis over Pd-based catalysts. (a-c)  $H_2$  evolution profiles with varying AB concentration (0.5-2 mmol) on (a) Pd/ZrN, (b) Pd/ZrO<sub>2</sub> and (c) Pd/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>. Insets show the logarithmic plot of initial  $H_2$  generation rate vs. [AB], demonstrating zero-order dependence on [AB]. (d-f)  $H_2$  evolution profiles with varying catalyst dosages (5-20 mg) on (d) Pd/ZrN, (e) Pd/ZrO<sub>2</sub> and (f) Pd/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>. Inset shows the logarithmic plot of initial  $H_2$  generation rate vs. catalyst dosage, showing first-order dependence on [catalyst]. (g-i)  $H_2$  evolution profiles with varying temperatures (25-40 °C) on (g) Pd/ZrN, (h) Pd/ZrO<sub>2</sub> and (i) Pd/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>. Insets show the Arrhenius plot of initial  $H_2$  generation rate vs. temperature, yielding  $E_a$  of 58.84 kJ/mol (Pd/ZrN), 54.6 kJ/mol (Pd/ZrO<sub>2</sub>) and 71.01 kJ/mol (Pd/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>).

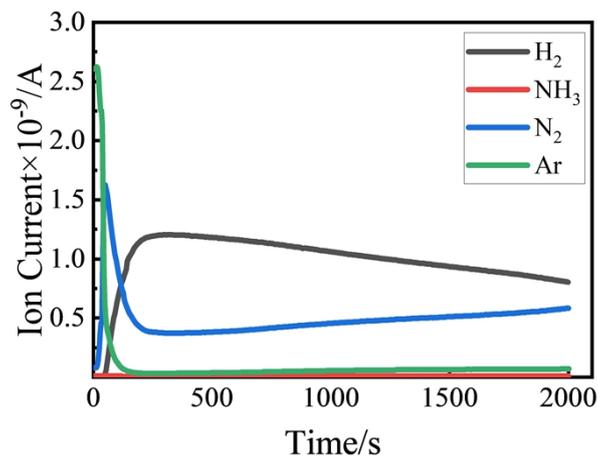


Fig.S12 Online MS graph of gas product collected from AB dehydrogenation catalyzed by Ru/ZrN. (Experimental condition: 10 mg catalysts, 1 mmol AB and 5 mL water, water bath, 25 °C)

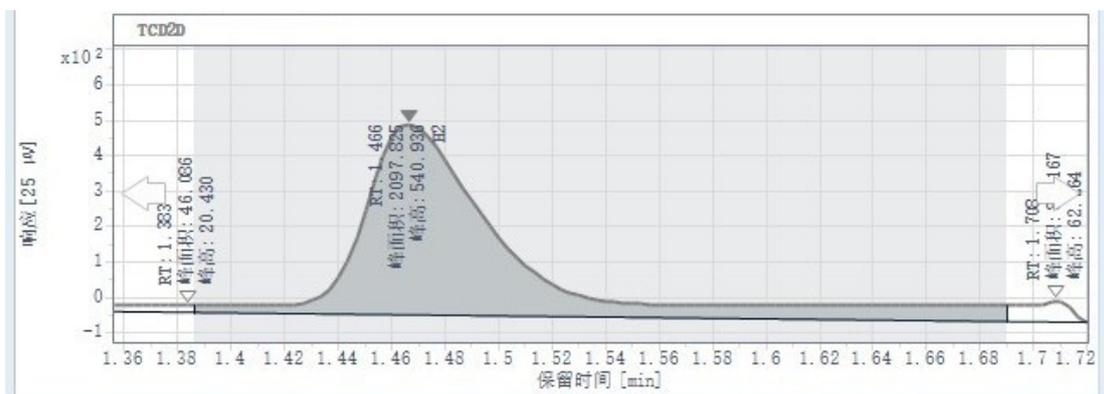


Fig.S13 GC-TCD graph of gas product collected from AB dehydrogenation catalyzed by Ru/ZrN.

The retention time of H<sub>2</sub> is 1.47 min. (Experimental condition: 10 mg catalysts, 1 mmol AB and 5 mL water, water bath, 25 °C)

TableS1 Composition of the synthesized catalyst surfaces calculated from the XPS spectra

Catalyst	$M^0/$ $M^{\delta+}$	Composition (Atomic percent: at. %)				M/Zr	N/Zr
		M	N [1s]	O [1s]	Zr [3d]		
		<b>Ru/ZrN</b>	4.40	9.38	4.61		
<b>Ru/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub></b>	2.62	4.36	7.2	45.73	35.53	0.1227	0.2026
<b>Ru/ZrO<sub>2</sub></b>	3.49	5.28	-	43.02	26.36	0.2003	-
<b>Pt/ZrN</b>	1.06	2.42	3.78	46.64	16.49	0.1468	0.2292
<b>Pt/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub></b>	3.12	4.77	6.07	35.45	31.24	0.1527	0.1943
<b>Pt/ZrO<sub>2</sub></b>	1.23	2.10	-	42.08	30.97	0.0678	-
<b>Pd/ZrN</b>	3.00	2.97	4.01	39.89	15.2	0.1954	0.2638
<b>Pd/Zr<sub>2</sub>ON<sub>2</sub></b>	4.32	3.14	6.14	31.5	23.63	0.1329	0.2598
<b>Pd/ZrO<sub>2</sub></b>	2.17	1.86	-	30.76	21.21	0.0877	-

TableS2 Comparison of turnover frequency (TOF) and activation energies ( $E_a$ ) of the high activity catalysts in hydrolytic dehydrogenation of AB at room temperature (298 K)

Catalyst	Metal/AB (molar ratio)	TOF/(min <sup>-1</sup> )	$E_a$ /(kJ·mol <sup>-1</sup> )	Reference
3%Ru/ZrN	0.003	305.3	31.48	This work
3%Ru/Zr <sub>2</sub> ON <sub>2</sub>	0.003	147.4	44.81	This work
3%Ru/ZrO <sub>2</sub>	0.003	251.2	40.05	This work
Ru/ZrO <sub>2</sub>	0.006	173	58	1
Ru/SiO <sub>2</sub>	0.0025	200	38.2	2
Ru/TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.0012	241	70	3
Ru/Carbon nanotubes	0.0019	329	33	4
Ru/V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> -Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	(0.18 wt% Ru)	2114	58.8	5
Ru/g-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	0.002	122(303K)	35.6	6
1%Pt/ZrN	0.0005	34.8	48.22	This work
5%Pt/Zr <sub>2</sub> ON <sub>2</sub>	0.0025	42.7	38.2	This work
4%Pt/ZrO <sub>2</sub>	0.002	40.3	59.4	This work
Pt-CeO <sub>2</sub>	0.018	182	-	7
Pt-CNT	0.0047	400	38	8
Pt@MIL-101	0.0029	414	41	9
Pt <sup>0</sup> /Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	0.00025	4366	71	10
Pt@RF	31.03 wt% Pt	176.3	13.69	11
1%Pd/ZrN	0.001	23.8	58.84	This work
4%Pd/Zr <sub>2</sub> ON <sub>2</sub>	0.004	27.3	71.01	This work
2%Pd/ZrO <sub>2</sub>	0.002	8.3	54.6	This work
Pd/CeO <sub>2</sub>	0.0011	29	68	12
Pd/ZrO <sub>2</sub>	0.0228	3.5	-	12
Pd@MIL-101	0.0189	45	-	13
RGO/Pd	0.0425	6.25	51	14
Pd <sup>0</sup> /C-Fe	0.0075	29	-	15
Pd <sup>0</sup> /PDA-Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	0.009	14.5	65	16

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