

NANO EXPRESS

Open Access



Effect of Doping on Hydrogen Evolution Reaction of Vanadium Disulfide Monolayer

Yuanju Qu^{1,2,3}, Hui Pan^{1*}, Chi Tat Kwok^{2,1} and Zisheng Wang^{3,1}

Abstract

As cheap and abundant materials, transitional metal dichalcogenide monolayers have attracted increasing interests for their application as catalysts in hydrogen production. In this work, the hydrogen evolution reduction of doped vanadium disulfide monolayers is investigated based on first-principles calculations. We find that the doping elements and concentration affect strongly the catalytic ability of the monolayer. We show that Ti-doping can efficiently reduce the Gibbs free energy of hydrogen adsorption in a wide range of hydrogen coverage. The catalytic ability of the monolayer at high hydrogen coverage can be improved by low Ti-density doping, while that at low hydrogen coverage is enhanced by moderate Ti-density doping. We further show that it is much easier to substitute the Ti atom to the V atom in the vanadium disulfide (VS_2) monolayer than other transitional metal atoms considered here due to its lowest and negative formation energy. It is expected that the Ti-doped VS_2 monolayer may be applicable in water electrolysis with improved efficiency.

Keywords: VS_2 monolayers, Doping, Hydrogen production, Hydrogen evolution reduction, First-principles calculation

Background

Two-dimensional (2D) transitional metal dichalcogenide monolayers have received increasing attention because of their amazing physical, chemical, electronic, and magnetic properties [1–8]. The transition-metal dichalcogenides have the formula of MX_2 (M is a transition metal element from groups IV to VI, and X is a chalcogen element), where one M-atom layer is sandwiched between two X-atom layers [1]. These 2D monolayers have been extensively investigated for possible applications in many areas of science and technology, from nanodevices, photoelectronics, catalysts, to the bioscience [9–17]. Their application as catalysts for hydrogen production in water electrolysis is particularly interesting because of their features, such as low cost, easy large-scale fabrication, and rich abundance on Earth [8, 11, 18–31]. Numerous studies have shown that the catalytic performance of 2D MX_2 nanostructures is closely related to their conductivity and active sites at edges [18–33]. For example, the metallic edges of MoS_2 , such as the zigzag edge, are active for

hydrogen evolution reaction (HER) in water electrolysis [28–32]. Metallic MX_2 showed better catalytic activity than its semiconducting counterpart [21, 26]. To enhance the performance, the MoS_2 /graphene composite had been studied for HER because graphene may improve the conductivity and modify their morphologies [24, 27]. Recently, Pan reported that vanadium disulfide (VS_2) monolayer shows the best HER performance in the considered systems and its catalytic activity depends on the hydrogen coverage during HER, which is reduced at high coverage due to the change of conductivity [19]. Kong et al. reported that doping is one of possible methods to improve their activity [28]. In this work, we investigate the effect of doping on the catalytic activity of the VS_2 monolayer to improve the HER performance on the basis of first-principles calculation. A series of elements, including Ti, Nb, W, Ta, Mo, Pt, Fe, Co, and Ni, are systematically studied. We find that Ti is the best element to easily substitute V in the VS_2 monolayer and improve the HER ability. We also show that the doping effect on HER strongly depends on the concentration of dopants.

* Correspondence: huipan@umac.mo

¹Institute of Applied Physics and Materials Engineering, Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Macau, Macao, SAR, People's Republic of China
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

Methods

The design of catalysts for water electrolysis is based on the first-principles calculation. The hydrogen evolution reduction of the VS₂ monolayer with the dopant is investigated to improve its catalytic ability. The Vienna Ab initio Simulation Package (VASP) [34] incorporated with the projector augmented wave (PAW) scheme [35, 36], which is based on the density functional theory (DFT) [37] and the Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof generalized gradient approximation (PBE-GGA) [38], is used in our calculations. Supercells with lattices larger than 10 Å are used to investigate the doping effect and hydrogen-density-dependent HER ability. A 3 × 3 × 1 grid for k-point sampling, based on the Monkhorst and Pack scheme [39], for geometry optimization of supercells, and an energy cutoff of 450 eV are consistently used in our calculations. Densities of states (DOSs) are calculated based on a k-point sampling of 5 × 5 × 1. To avoid image-image interaction between two monolayers in neighboring supercells in the vertical direction, a vacuum region of at least 20 Å is used for separation. Good convergence is obtained with these parameters, and the total energy was converged to 2.0 × 10⁻⁵ eV/atom. Both of spin-unpolarized and spin-polarized calculations are carried out.

Results and Discussion

In our calculations, a supercell with a hexagonal structure is set up on the basis of a unit cell of the VS₂ monolayer with one surface fully covered by hydrogen atoms ($a = 3.27$ Å) [19] (Fig. 1 and Additional file 1: Figure S1), where the S–H bond length is about 1.37 Å. Two supercells with 3 × 3 × 1 and 4 × 4 × 1 unit cells (331 and 441 supercells, respectively) are used to investigate the effect of the doping concentration. Nine transition metal (TM) elements, including Ti, Nb, W, Ta, Mo, Pt, Fe, Co, and Ni, are considered as dopants in our calculations. To realize the doping, one or two V atoms in the supercells are substituted by TM atoms (Fig. 1c). The doped systems

are fully relaxed to study the doping possibility and their HER performance.

Basically, the HER performance of the catalyst can be characterized by free energy of adsorption of reactive intermediates on its surface based on the Sabatier principle [40]. To qualify the catalytic ability, the reaction free energy of hydrogen adsorption (ΔG_{H}) [19, 40–43] is calculated as the following equation:

$$\Delta G_{\text{H}} = \Delta E_{\text{H}} + \Delta E_{\text{ZPE}} - T\Delta S_{\text{H}} \quad (1)$$

where ΔE_{H} is the hydrogen chemisorption energy defined as:

$$\Delta E_{\text{H}} = E(\text{VS}_2 + n\text{H}) - E(\text{VS}_2 + (n-1)\text{H}) - \frac{1}{2}E(\text{H}_2) \quad (2)$$

where n is the number of H atoms adsorbed on a MX₂ monolayer and changed from 1 to 9 (for full hydrogen coverage on the 331 supercell) (Fig. 1a, b) or 1 to 16 (for full hydrogen coverage on the 441 supercell) to investigate the effect of hydrogen coverage on catalytic activity. The hydrogen coverage refers to $\frac{n}{9}$ (in the 331 supercell) or $\frac{n}{16}$ (in the 441 supercell). Full coverage refers to each S atom on one side of the VS₂ monolayer that is attached with one H atom. Therefore, ΔG_{H} as a function of the hydrogen coverage can be obtained. $E(\text{VS}_2 + n\text{H})$, $E(\text{VS}_2)$, and $E(\text{H}_2)$ in Eq. (2) are the energies of the monolayer with hydrogen atoms (n), pure VS₂ monolayer, and hydrogen molecule, respectively. ΔS_{H} is the difference in entropy. The entropy of adsorption of 1/2 H₂ is $\Delta S_{\text{H}} \cong -1/2S_{\text{H}_2}^0$, where $S_{\text{H}_2}^0$ is the entropy of H₂ in the gas phase at standard conditions. ΔE_{ZPE} is the difference in zero point energy between the adsorbed and the gas phase, related to the reaction 1/2H₂(g) → H*, where H* denotes a hydrogen atom adsorbed on the surface. $\Delta E_{\text{ZPE}} - T\Delta S_{\text{H}}$ is about 0.24 eV [19, 40–43]. So, Eq. (1) is simplified to $\Delta G_{\text{H}} = \Delta E_{\text{H}} + 0.24$.

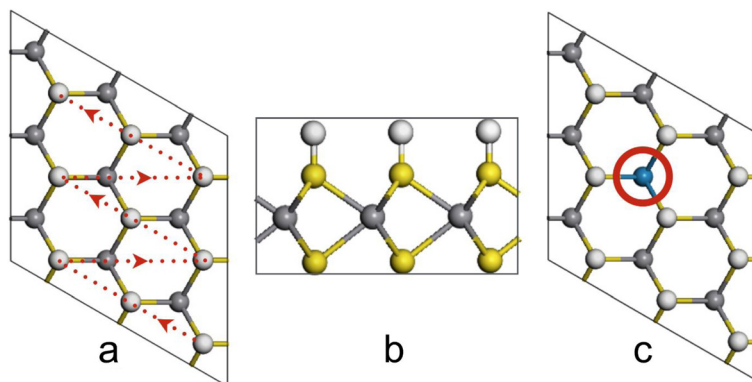
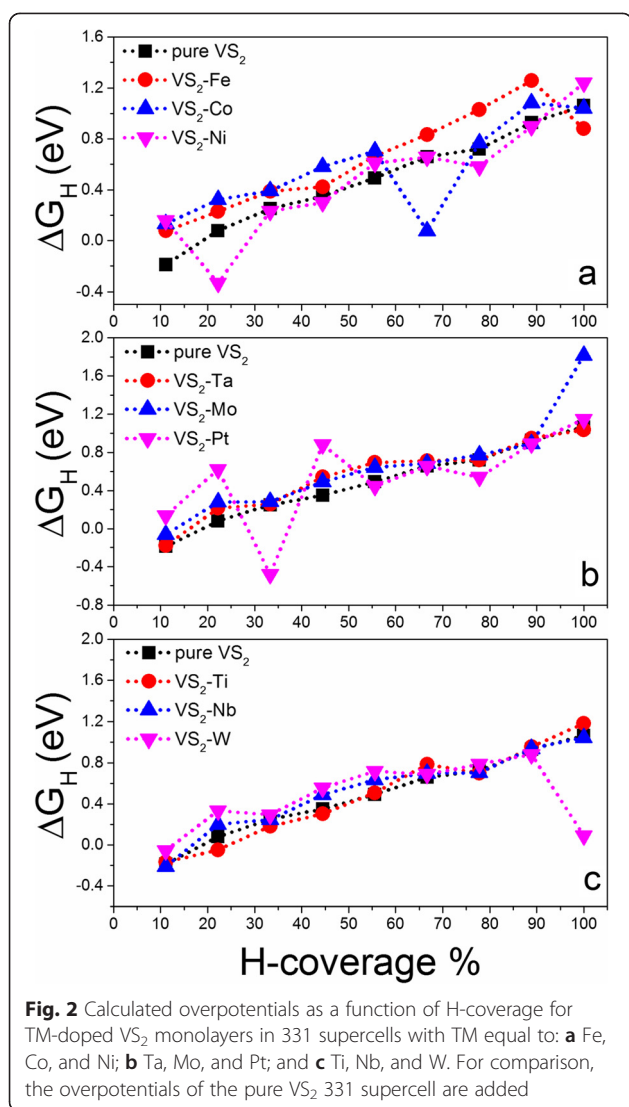
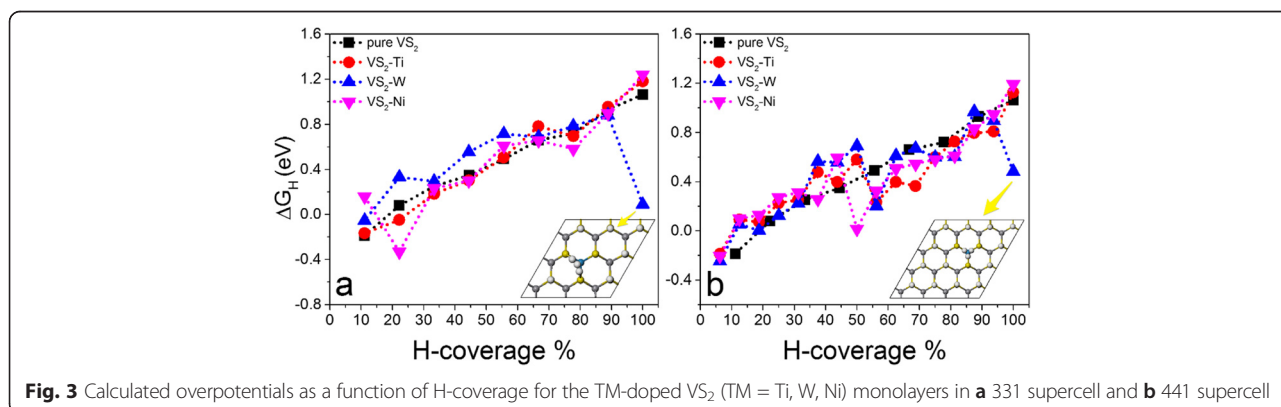
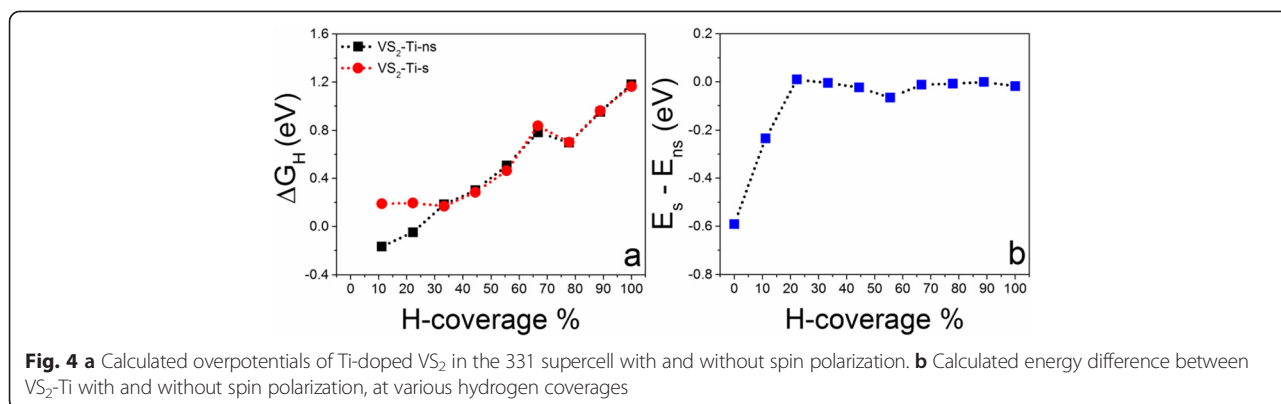


Fig. 1 The representative structures of a fully H-covered VS₂ 331 supercell: **a** top view, **b** side view, and **c** doped VS₂ in the 331 supercell. The indication in **(a)** shows the way to take away the hydrogen atom one by one



To realize the partial hydrogen coverages, we start from the full hydrogen coverage on the supercell and take hydrogen atoms away one by one, as indicated in Fig. 1a. All of the systems with different hydrogen coverages are relaxed to calculate ΔG_H . The relaxed structures show that their geometry are stable and hydrogen atoms keep on the tops of S atoms with the S–H bond of 1.37 Å (Additional file 1: Figure S2). We first study the 331 supercell with one V atom replaced by one TM atom, which is corresponding to a doping concentration of $\frac{1}{9}$. The calculated Gibbs free energies for hydrogen adsorption on the 331 supercell show that the catalytic activities of doped VS₂ monolayers are still dependent on the hydrogen coverage, which decrease with the increment of hydrogen density (Fig. 2). Compared with a pure VS₂ monolayer, we see that doping can partially improve its catalytic activity at a certain range of hydrogen density as indicated by the reduced ΔG_H (Fig. 2). For example, the Ni-doped VS₂ monolayer shows better HER performance than a pure one in ranges of hydrogen density from $\frac{3}{9}$ to $\frac{4}{9}$ and from $\frac{6}{9}$ to $\frac{8}{9}$ (Fig. 2a). Pt-doping and Ti-doping improve the performance in hydrogen density ranging from $\frac{6}{9}$ to $\frac{8}{9}$ (Fig. 2b) and from $\frac{1}{9}$ to $\frac{5}{9}$ (Fig. 2c). Interestingly, we see that ΔG_H for W-doped VS₂ at the full hydrogen coverage is almost close to zero (0.09 eV) (Fig. 2c). In all of the considered doping elements, we see that Ni- and Ti-doping can improve the HER performance of the VS₂ monolayer in a wide hydrogen coverage and W-doping can dramatically enhance its catalytic activity at a high hydrogen coverage. For comparison, we put the calculated ΔG_H of Ni-, Ti-, and W-doped VS₂ monolayers as a function of hydrogen density together (Fig. 3a). Clearly, Ti-doping is better than Ni-doping on the HER performance in a range of $\frac{1}{9}$ to $\frac{5}{9}$, while Ni-doping is better than Ti-doping in a range of $\frac{6}{9}$ to $\frac{8}{9}$ (Fig. 3a). W-doping is the best at the full hydrogen coverage. The relaxed structure of the W-doped VS₂ monolayer with full hydrogen coverage shows that one of the H atoms moves away from the surface around the

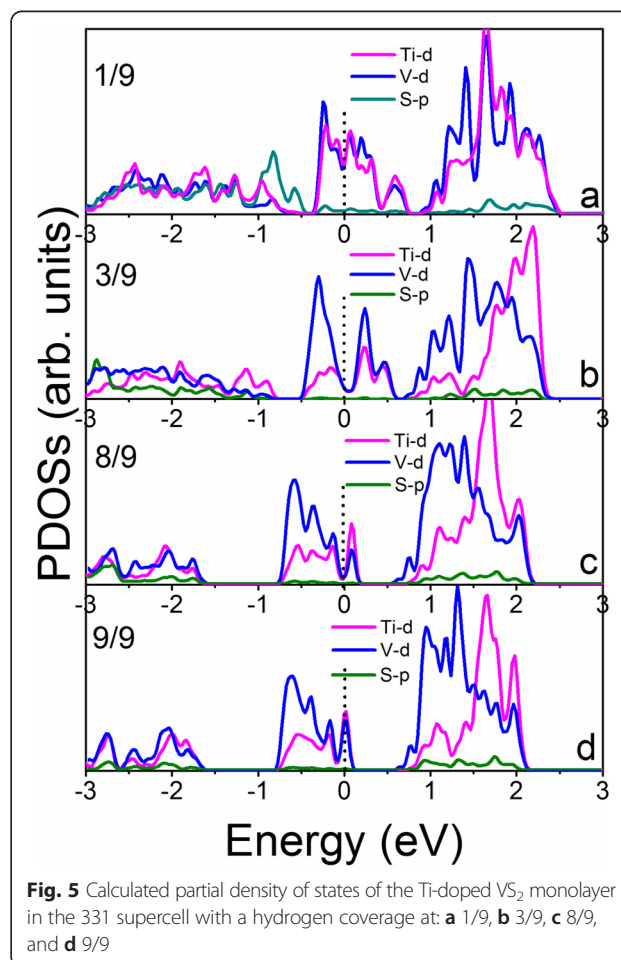


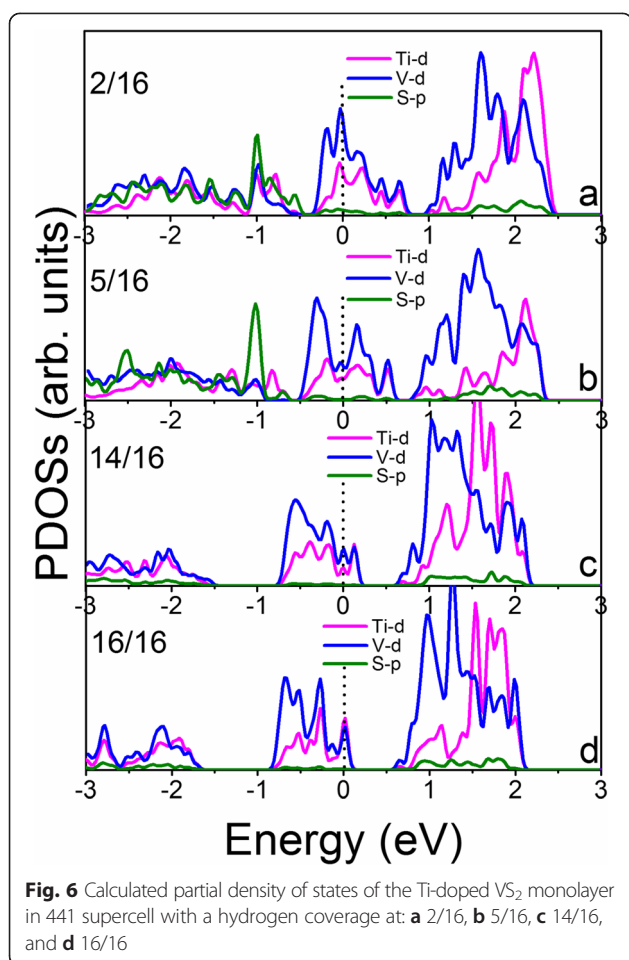


W-doping site and bonds to other H atoms nearby (inset in Fig. 3a), where the S–H and H–H bond lengths are 1.662 and 0.983 Å, respectively. We also investigate the effect of spin-polarization on the HER performance of the Ti-doped system. We find that spin-polarization may affect slightly the calculated Gibbs free energy at a lower hydrogen coverage but is negligible as the hydrogen coverage increases (Fig. 4). Therefore, spin-polarization is not considered below.

To investigate the effect of the doping concentration on the HER performance, the increment and reduction of the doping density are achieved by replacing more V atoms in the same supercell and enlarging the size of the supercell, respectively. For example, we replace two V atoms using two TM (Ti, Ni, or W) atoms in the 331 supercell, which is equivalent to a doping density of 22.22 % ($\frac{2}{9}$). The calculated Gibbs free energies show that increasing the doping density makes the HER performance worse, indicating that a high doping concentration is not good in application (Additional file 1: Figure S3). Then, we use a 441 VS₂ supercell with one V substituted by one TM atom (TM = Ti, Ni, and W), which equals to a doping density of about 6.25 % ($\frac{1}{16}$). Clearly, the TM-doping can improve the HER performance of the VS₂ monolayer under high-H coverage in a range of $\frac{8}{16}$ to $\frac{16}{16}$ (Fig. 3b). The catalytic abilities of Ti- and Ni-doped systems are enhanced by 50 % in the hydrogen coverage from $\frac{8}{16}$ to $\frac{11}{16}$ (Fig. 3b). However, Ni-doping reduces its performance in hydrogen coverages less than $\frac{8}{16}$. The catalytic ability of the Ti-doped VS₂ monolayer at low hydrogen coverages is comparable with or slightly worse than that of the pure VS₂ monolayer. Similarly, W-doping in the 441 supercell can only improve the HER performance at certain hydrogen densities, such as $\frac{9}{16}$ and $\frac{16}{16}$ (Fig. 3b). The relaxed structure of W-doped VS₂ with the full hydrogen coverage shows that hydrogen atoms around the doping site move together to form a triangle with a H–H bond length of 1.00 Å and an extended S–H length of 1.90 Å (inset

in Fig. 3b). From the calculated Gibbs free energies, we see that Ti is the best candidate as a dopant to improve the HER performance of the VS₂ monolayer. Comparing with other MX₂ monolayers, we see that the basal plane of the Ti-doped VS₂ monolayer has better catalytic performance under the same condition ($\Delta G_H = -0.19$ eV at 6.25 % coverage) than that of pure 1T-WS₂ ($\Delta G_H = 0.28$ eV) [21]. It is also worth noting that after doping Ti,





Ni, and W atoms individually into the VS₂ monolayer, the catalytic ability of the basal plane on the doped VS₂ monolayer has improved dramatically at certain hydrogen coverages, which are equivalent to or even better than that of the active edges sites of MoS₂, MoSe₂, WS₂, and WSe₂ under the same hydrogen coverages [20]. For example, the catalytic activity of the Ti-doped VS₂ monolayer (its ΔG_H equals -0.05 eV under a hydrogen coverage of 2/9 (22.2 %))

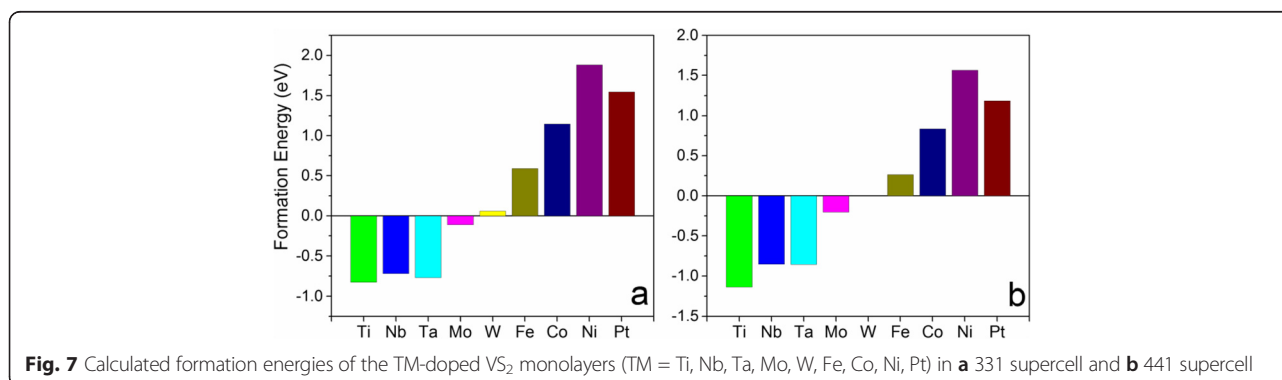
is comparable to or better than that at the edges of MoS₂, MoSe₂, WS₂, and WSe₂ (the optimal ΔG_H is from -0.06 to 0.06 eV under a hydrogen coverage of 25 %).

To reveal the mechanism of the doping effect on HER performance, the partial density of states is calculated and shows the shift of the Fermi level as the hydrogen coverage increases (Figs. 5 and 6; Additional file 1: Figures S4–S7). We see that the densities of states of the Ti-doped VS₂ monolayer under various hydrogen coverages near Fermi levels are mainly contributed to Ti-d and V-d electrons (Figs. 5 and 6). In the 331 supercell, localized defect states near the Fermi level are formed at high hydrogen coverage (Fig. 5c, d), which may lead to reduced carrier mobility and HER performance (Fig. 3a). However, the doping states near the Fermi level in the 441 supercell are connected to the valence band (Fig. 6c, d), resulting in better carrier mobility and improved catalytic activity at high hydrogen coverages (Fig. 3b).

Although the calculated Gibbs free energies show that Ti-doping may improve the HER performance of the VS₂ monolayer, another important issue, which is the doping ability, needs to be stated. The possibility for the dopant to substitute the V atom in the host can be investigated by calculating the formation energy as below:

$$E_f = (E(\text{VS}_2 + n\text{TM}) - E(\text{VS}_2) - n\mu_{\text{TM}} + n\mu_{\text{V}}) / n \quad (3)$$

where E(VS₂ + nTM) and E(VS₂) are the total energies of VS₂ monolayer supercells with and without dopants. μ_{TM} and μ_V are the energies of TM and V atoms, respectively. n is the number of dopants in each supercell (n = 1). Our calculations show that the formation energies for Ti-, Mo-, Nb-, and Ta-doping are negative, indicating the reactions are exothermic, while the doping of W, Fe, Co, Ni, and Pt are endothermic because of their positive formation energies (Fig. 7). Particularly, it is easy to substitute the Ti atom to the V atom in the 331 supercell of the VS₂ monolayer because of its lowest formation energy (-0.83 eV) (Fig. 7a). W-doping may be achieved under suitable conditions because its endothermic energy



is as low as 0.06 eV. Compared with other elements, however, Ni-doping should be difficult because large energy is required ($E_f = 1.88$ eV). We further see that their formation energies are reduced if the doping density decreases (Fig. 7b). In this case, the energies of Ti- and W-substitutions are reduced to -1.14 and 0.005 eV, respectively, at a doping density of 6.25 % ($\frac{1}{16}$) (Fig. 7b), indicating that doping at a low concentration is easier than that at a high concentration.

Conclusions

We present a first-principles study on the effect of doping on the hydrogen evolution reaction of the VS_2 monolayer. We find that the catalytic activity of the doped VS_2 monolayer depends strongly on the choice of dopant and the doping concentration. The catalytic ability of the VS_2 monolayer under high hydrogen coverages can be dramatically enhanced by TM-doping at a low concentration, while that under low hydrogen coverages can be improved by the doping at a moderate density. High-density doping results in reduced HER activity. We further show that Ti-doping should be the best to improve the HER ability of VS_2 monolayers in our considered doping elements because of the reduced Gibbs free energy at a wide range of hydrogen coverages. By investigating the formation energy of TM substitution of the V atom, we find that the reaction of Ti-substitution of V in the VS_2 monolayer is exothermic and easier than other TM elements due to its lowest formation energy. It is predicted that the Ti-doped VS_2 monolayer may show better HER performance and find applications as catalysts in water electrolysis.

Additional file

Additional file 1: Figure S1. Relaxed pure VS_2 monolayer unit cell: (a) top view, (b) side view, relaxed VS_2 monolayer unit cell with one side fully hydrogenated: (c) top view, (d) side view. **Figure S2.** Relaxed 331 supercells of VS_2 -Ti-doped from pure to full hydrogen coverages: (a) 0/9 or pure, (b) 1/9, (c) 2/9, (d) 3/9, (e) 4/9, (f) 5/9, (g) 6/9, (h) 7/9, (i) 8/9, (j) 9/9 or full hydrogen coverage. **Figure S3.** Calculated overpotentials as a function of H-coverage of VS_2 with 3 dopant (Ti, W, Ni) atoms in 331 supercells. **Figure S4.** Calculated partial density of states of various H-covered VS_2 -W monolayer in 331 supercell with a hydrogen coverage at: (a) 1/9, (b) 3/9, (c) 8/9, and (d) 9/9. **Figure S5.** Calculated partial density of states of various H-covered VS_2 -W monolayer in 441 supercell with a hydrogen coverage at: (a) 2/16, (b) 5/16, (c) 14/16, and (d) 16/16. **Figure S6.** Calculated partial density of states of various H-covered VS_2 -Ni monolayer in 331 supercell with a hydrogen coverage at: (a) 1/9, (b) 3/9, (c) 8/9, and (d) 9/9. **Figure S7.** Calculated partial density of states of various H-covered VS_2 -Ni monolayer in 441 supercell with a hydrogen coverage at: (a) 2/16, (b) 5/16, (c) 14/16, and (d) 16/16. (DOC 1241 kb)

Competing Interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' Contributions

P-H conceived the idea. P-H and Q-YJ designed the calculation model, analyzed the data, and wrote the manuscript. K-CT and W-ZS gave some

suggestions on the revision of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Acknowledgements

Hui Pan thanks the supports of the Science and Technology Development Fund from Macao SAR (FDCT-068/2014/A2, FDCT-132/2014/A3, and FDCT-110/2014/SB) and Multi-Year Research Grants (MYRG2014-00159-FST and MYRG2015-00017-FST) and Start-up Research Grant (SRG-2013-00033-FST) from the Research & Development Office at the University of Macau. The DFT calculations were performed at High Performance Computing Cluster (HPCC) of Information and Communication Technology Office (ICTO) at the University of Macau.

Author details

¹Institute of Applied Physics and Materials Engineering, Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Macau, Macao, SAR, People's Republic of China. ²Department of Electromechanical Engineering, Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Macau, Macao, SAR, People's Republic of China. ³College of Physics and Communication Electronics, Jiangxi Normal University, Nanchang 330022, People's Republic of China.

Received: 3 November 2015 Accepted: 1 December 2015

Published online: 10 December 2015

References

- Chhowalla M, Shin HS, Eda G, Li LJ, Loh KP, Zhang H (2013) The chemistry of two-dimensional layered transition metal dichalcogenide nanosheets. *Nat Chem* 5:263–275
- Gao DQ, Si MS, Li JY, Zhang J, Zhang ZP, Yang ZL, Xue DS (2013) Ferromagnetism in freestanding MoS_2 nanosheets. *Nanoscale Res Lett* 8:129
- Pan H, Zhang YW (2012) Tuning the electronic and magnetic properties of MoS_2 nanoribbons by strain engineering. *J Phys Chem C* 116:11752–11757
- Li XD, Wu SQ, Zhou S, Zhu ZZ (2014) Structural and electronic properties of germanene/ MoS_2 monolayer and silicone/ MoS_2 monolayer superlattices. *Nanoscale Res Lett* 9:110
- Mao XZ, Xu Y, Xue QX, Wang WX, Gao DQ (2013) Ferromagnetism in exfoliated tungsten disulfide nanosheets. *Nanoscale Res Lett* 8:430
- Pan H (2014) Electronic and magnetic properties of vanadium dichalcogenides monolayers tuned by hydrogenation. *J Phys Chem C* 118:13248–13253
- Song XF, Hu JL, Zeng HB (2013) Two-dimensional semiconductors: recent progress and future perspectives. *J Mater Chem C* 1:2952–2969
- Wu ZZ, Fang BZ, Wang ZP, Wang CL, Liu ZH, Liu FY, Wang W, Alfantazi A, Wang DZ, Wilkinson DP (2013) MoS_2 nanosheets: a designed structure with high active site density for the hydrogen evolution reaction. *ACS Catal* 3:2101–2107
- Gianluca F, Francesco B, Giuseppe I, Tomas P, Daniel N, Seabaugh AS, Banerjee SK, Colombo L (2014) Electronics based on two-dimensional materials. *Nat Phys* 9:768–779
- Lemme MC, Li LJ, Palacios T, Schwierz F (2014) Two-dimensional materials for electronic applications. *MRS Bul* 39:711–718
- Yan Y, Xia BY, Xu ZC, Wang X (2014) Recent development of molybdenum sulfides as advanced electrocatalysts for hydrogen evolution reaction. *ACS Catal* 4:1693–1705
- Namgung SD, Yang S, Park K, Cho AJ, Kim HJ, Kwon JY (2015) Influence of post-annealing on the off current of MoS_2 field-effect transistors. *Nanoscale Res Lett* 10:62
- Kou ZY, Wang X, Yuan RS, Chen HB, Zhi QM, Gao L et al (2014) A promising gene delivery system developed from PEGylated MoS_2 nanosheets for gene therapy. *Nanoscale Res Lett* 9:587
- Ge J, Ou EC, Yu RQ, Chu X (2014) A novel aptameric nanobiosensor based on the self-assembled DNA- MoS_2 nanosheet architecture for biomolecule detection. *J Chem Mater B* 2:625–628
- Pan H (2014) Magnetic and electronic evolutions of hydrogenated VTe_2 monolayer under tension. *Sci Rep* 4:7524
- Klots AR, Newaz AKM, Wang B, Prasai D, Krzyzanowska H, Lin JH, Caudel D et al (2014) Probing excitonic states in suspended two-dimensional semiconductors by photocurrent spectroscopy. *Sci Rep* 4:6608

17. Gu WX, Yang F, Wu C, Zhang Y, Shi MY, Ma XY (2014) Fabrication and investigation of the optoelectrical properties of MoS₂/CdS heterojunction solar cells. *Nanoscale Res Lett* 9:662
18. Qu YJ, Pan H, Kwok CT, Wang ZS (2015) A first-principles study on the hydrogen evolution reaction of VS₂ nanoribbons. *Phys Chem Chem Phys* 17:24820–24825
19. Pan H (2014) Metal dichalcogenides monolayers: novel catalysts for electrochemical hydrogen production. *Sci Rep* 4:5348
20. Tsai C, Chan K, Pedersen FA, Nørskov JK (2014) Active edge sites in MoSe₂ and WSe₂ catalysts for the hydrogen evolution reaction: a density functional study. *Phys Chem Chem Phys* 16:13156
21. Voiry D, Yamaguchi H, Li JW, Silva R, Alves DCB, Fujita T, Chen MW, Asefa T, Shenoy VB, Eda G, Chhowalla M (2013) Enhanced catalytic activity in strained chemically exfoliated WS₂ nanosheets for hydrogen evolution. *Nat Mater* 13:850–855
22. Chena TY, Chang YH, Hsub CL, Weib KH, Chiang CY, Lia LJ (2013) Comparative study on MoS₂ and WS₂ for electrocatalytic water splitting. *Int J Hydro Energy* 38:12302–12309
23. Lukowski MA, Daniel AS, English CR, Meng F, Forticaux A, Hamers RJ, Jin S (2014) Highly active hydrogen evolution catalysis from metallic WS₂ nanosheets. *Energy Environ Sci* 7:2608–2613
24. Xia XH, Zheng ZX, Zhang Y, Zhao XJ, Wang CM (2014) Synthesis of MoS₂-carbon composites with different morphologies and their application in hydrogen evolution reaction. *Int J Hydrogen Energy* 39:9638–9650
25. Yang J, Shin HS (2014) Recent advances in layered transition metal dichalcogenides for hydrogen evolution reaction. *J Mater Chem A* 2:5979–5985
26. Lukowski MA, Daniel AS, Meng F, Forticaux A, Li LS, Jin S (2013) Enhanced hydrogen evolution catalysis from chemically exfoliated metallic MoS₂ nanosheets. *J Am Chem Soc* 135:10274–10277
27. Min SX, Lu GX (2012) Sites for high efficient photocatalytic hydrogen evolution on a limited-layered MoS₂ cocatalyst confined on graphene sheets—the role of graphene. *J Phys Chem C* 116:25415–25424
28. Kong DS, Cha JJ, Wang HT, Lee HR, Cui Y (2013) First-row transition metal dichalcogenide catalysts for hydrogen evolution reaction. *Energy Environ Sci* 6:3553–3558
29. Kibsgaard J, Chen Z, Reinecke BN, Jaramillo TF (2012) Engineering the surface structure of MoS₂ to preferentially expose active edge sites for electrocatalysis. *Nat Mater* 11:963–969
30. Jaramillo TF, Jørgensen KP, Bonde J, Nielsen JH, Horch S, Chorkendorff I (2007) Identification of active edge sites for electrochemical H₂ evolution from MoS₂ nanocatalysts. *Science* 317:100–102
31. Karunadasa HI, Montalvo E, Sun YJ, Majda M, Long JR, Chang CJ (2012) Molecular MoS₂ edge site mimic for catalytic hydrogen generation. *Science* 335:698–702
32. Pan H, Zhang YW (2012) Edge-dependent structural, electronic and magnetic properties of MoS₂ nanoribbons. *J Mater Chem* 22:7280–7290
33. Chen DY, Chen WX, Ma L, Ji G, Chang K, Lee JY (2014) Graphene-like layered metal dichalcogenide/graphene composites: synthesis and applications in energy storage and conversion. *Mater Today* 17:184–193
34. Kresse G, Furthmüller J (1996) Efficient iterative schemes for ab initio total-energy calculations using a plane-wave basis set. *Phys Rev B* 54:11169–11186
35. Perdew JP, Burke K, Ernzerhof M (1996) Generalized gradient approximation made simple. *Phys Rev Lett* 77:3865–3868
36. Kresse G, Joubert D (1999) From ultrasoft pseudopotentials to the projector augmented-wave method. *Phys Rev B* 59:1758–1775
37. Hohenberg P, Kohn W (1964) Inhomogeneous electron gas. *Phys Rev* 136:B864–B871
38. Blöchl PE (1994) Projector augmented-wave method. *Phys Rev B* 50:17953–17979
39. Monkhorst HJ, Pack J (1976) Special points for Brillouin-zone integrations. *Phys Rev B* 13:5188–5192
40. Gressley J, Jaramillo TF, Bonde J, Chorkendorff I, Nørskov JK (2006) Computational high-throughput screening of electrocatalytic materials for hydrogen evolution. *Nat Mater* 5:909–913
41. Pan H, Feng YP, Lin JY (2010) Enhancement of hydrogen evolution on tungsten doped platinum. *J Comput Theor Nanosci* 7:547–551
42. Nørskov JK, Bligaard T, Logadottira A, Kitchin JR, Chenb JG, Pandalov S, Stimming U (2005) Trends in the exchange current for hydrogen evolution. *J Electrochem Soc* 152:J23–J26
43. Fang YH, Wei GF, Liu ZP (2013) Catalytic role of minority species and minority sites for electrochemical hydrogen evolution on metals: surface charging, coverage, and Tafel kinetics. *J Phys Chem C* 117:7669–7680

Submit your manuscript to a SpringerOpen[®] journal and benefit from:

- Convenient online submission
- Rigorous peer review
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Open access: articles freely available online
- High visibility within the field
- Retaining the copyright to your article

Submit your next manuscript at ► springeropen.com
