

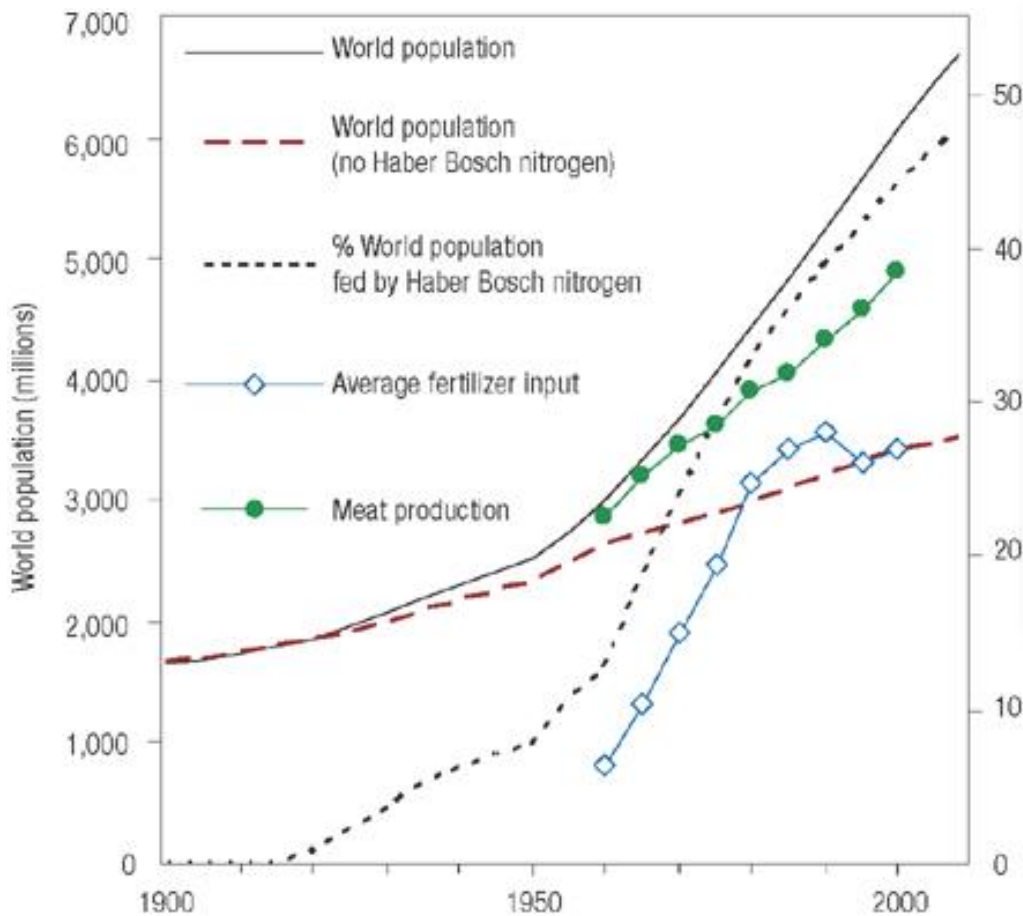
질소 순환 시스템 및 관련 소재

Nitrogen Cycle System and Related Materials

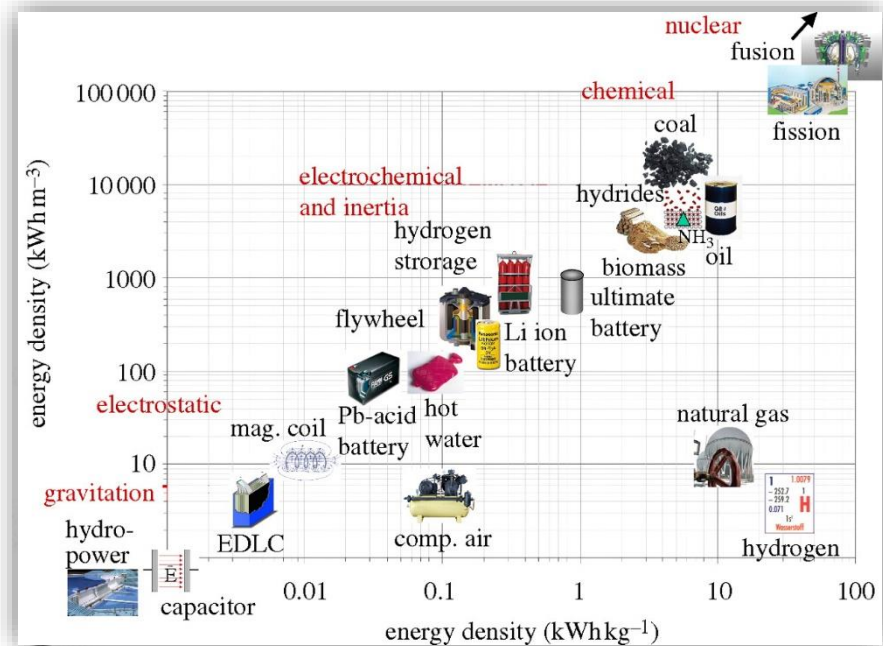
Uk Sim, Ph. D.

Ammonia (NH₃)

- Colorless gas with a pungent smell, lighter than air (0.589) / m.p.(-77.7 °C), b.p.(-33.3 °C)
- **Fertilizer** (88% of NH₃ is used), Explosives, Textiles, Precursors to nitrogenous compounds, Cleaner, Fermentation, and Antimicrobial agent for food products, ...
- Emerging fields:
Refrigeration, Remediation of gaseous emissions, **Fuel (energy density of 11.5 MJ/L), ...**

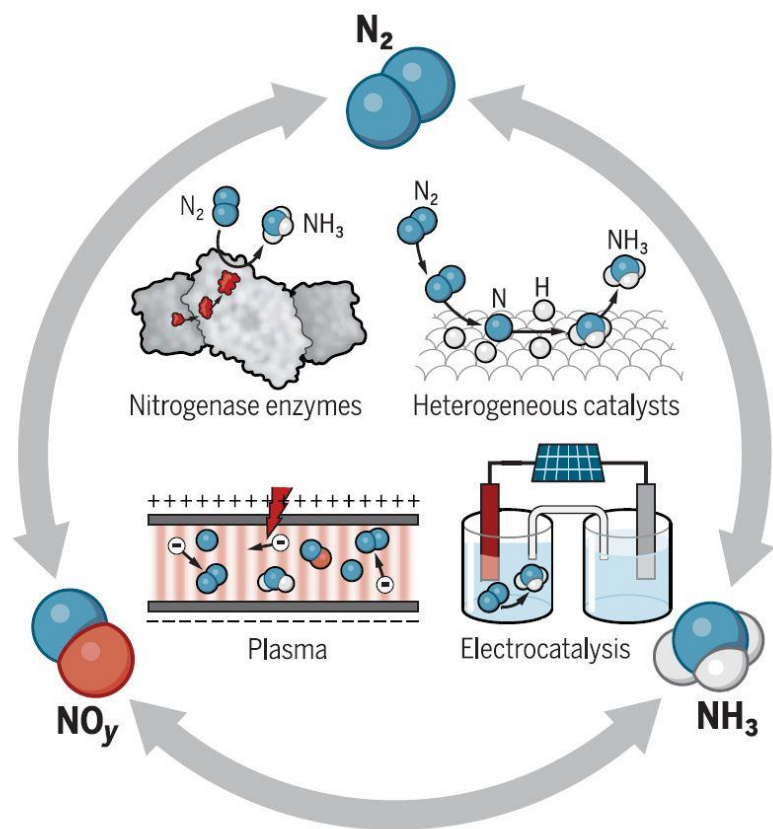


Nature Geoscience 2008, 1: 636-639

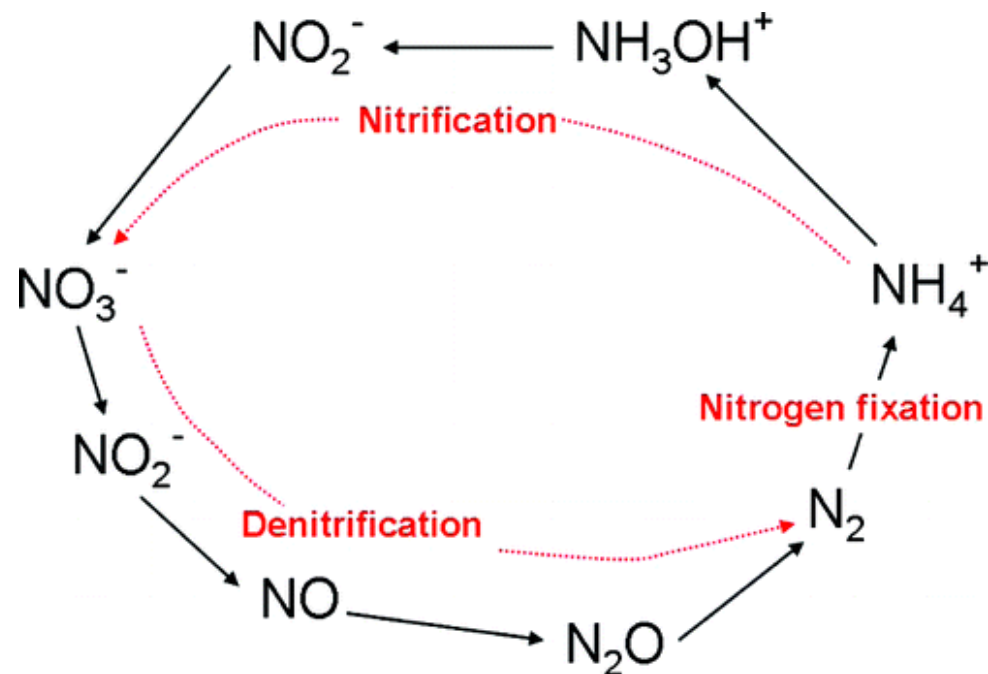


AmVeh by Korea Institute for Energy Research (2013)

Nitrogen Cycle



Chen et al., Science 360, 873 (2018)

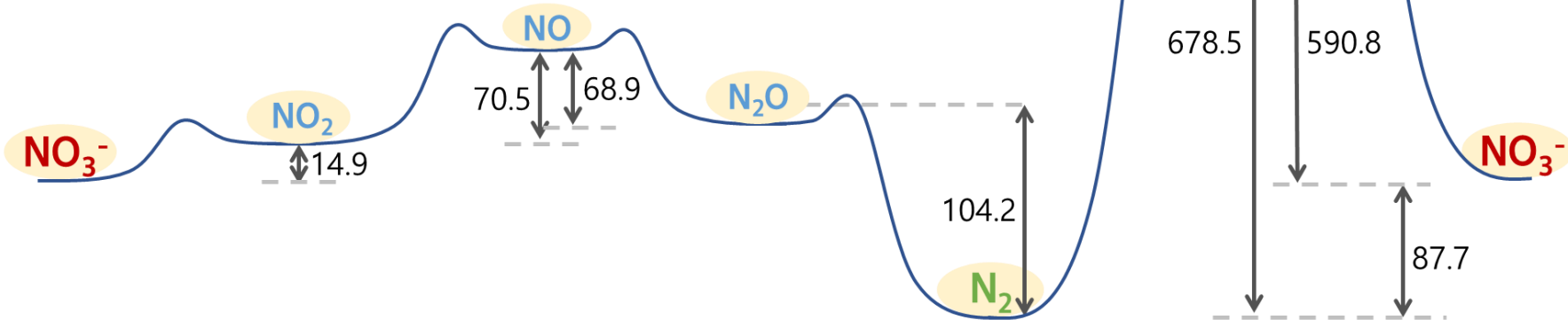
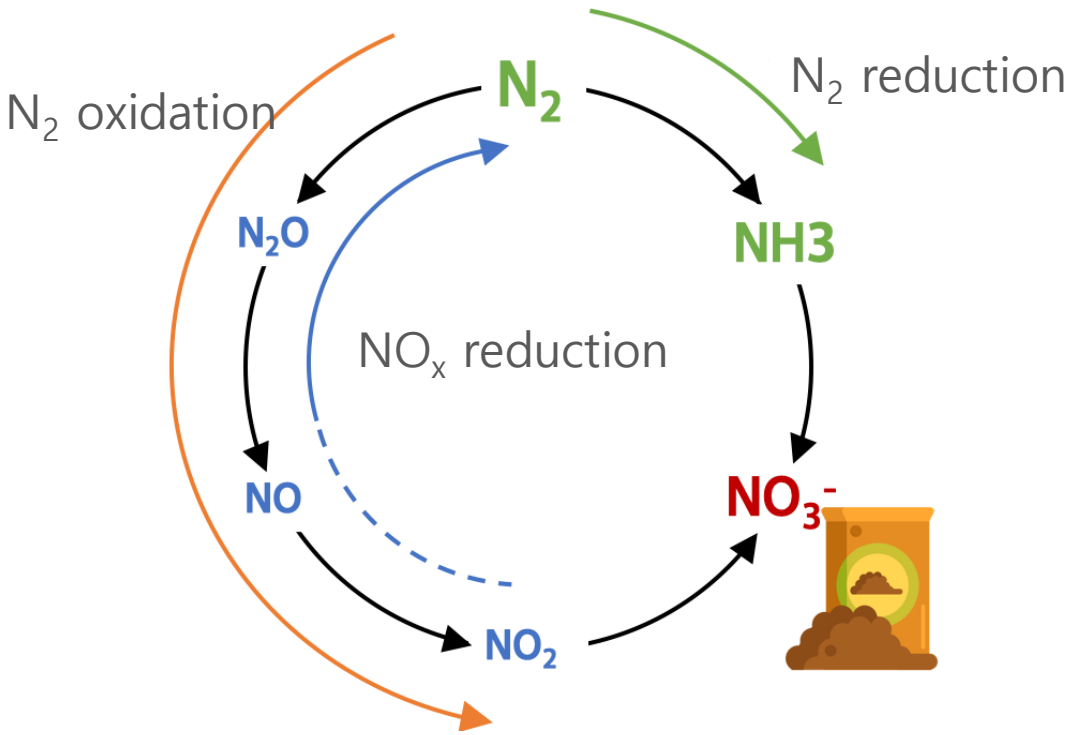


Chem. Rev., 2009, 109

Nitrogen fixation is the process by which gaseous nitrogen (N_2) is converted to ammonia (NH_3 or NH_4^+) via biological fixation or nitrate (NO_3^-) through high-energy physical processes. N_2 is extremely stable and a great deal of energy is required to break the bonds that join the two N atoms

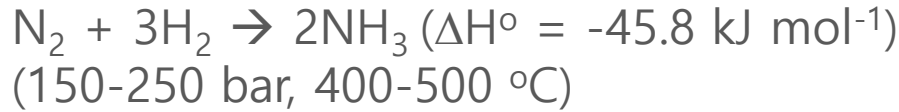
Nitrogen Cycle

Unit: kJ/mol



Industrial Production of Ammonia

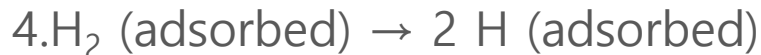
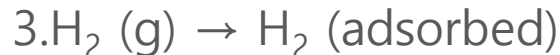
- **Haber-Bosch Process (1909)**



- **Catalysts for Haber-Bosch process**

- Osmium (1st by Haber), Uranium (2nd by Bosch)
- BASF: Iron promoted with K_2O , CaO , SiO_2 , and Al_2O_3

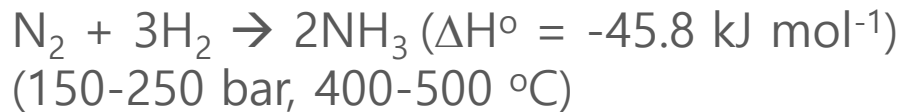
- **Reaction mechanism**



- **3-5% of the world's natural gas production is consumed in the H-B process. (around 1–2% of the world's annual energy supply)**

Industrial Production of Ammonia

- **Haber-Bosch Process (1909)**

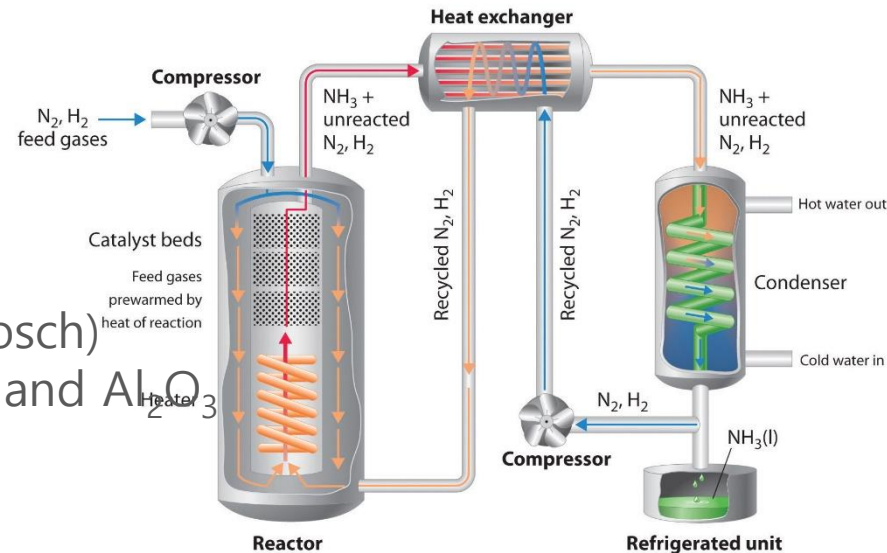


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- **Reaction mechanism**

1. $\text{N}_2 (\text{g}) \rightarrow \text{N}_2 (\text{adsorbed})$
2. $\text{N}_2 (\text{adsorbed}) \rightarrow 2 \text{N} (\text{adsorbed})$ (RDS)
3. $\text{H}_2 (\text{g}) \rightarrow \text{H}_2 (\text{adsorbed})$
4. $\text{H}_2 (\text{adsorbed}) \rightarrow 2 \text{H} (\text{adsorbed})$
5. $\text{N} (\text{adsorbed}) + 3 \text{H} (\text{adsorbed}) \rightarrow \text{NH}_3 (\text{adsorbed})$ ($\text{NH} \rightarrow \text{NH}_2 \rightarrow \text{NH}_3$)
6. $\text{NH}_3 (\text{adsorbed}) \rightarrow \text{NH}_3 (\text{g})$



<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/07/ammonia-renewable-fuel-made-sun-air-and-water-could-power-globe-without-carbon>

- **3-5% of the world's natural gas production is consumed in the H-B process. (around 1–2% of the world's annual energy supply)**

Ammonia

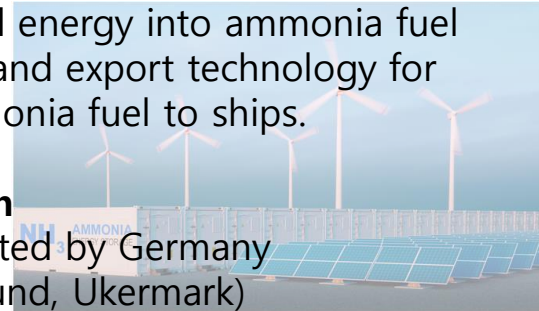
Demand of Ammonia

- ✓ Nitrogenous Fertilizers : \$ 19.5B
- ✓ Ammonia : \$ 5.16B
- ✓ Ammonium nitrate, including solution \$: 1.96B
- ✓ Ammonium sulphate : \$ 1.98B
- ✓ Ammonium nitrate limestone etc mixes (Calcium ammonium nitrate or CAN,) : \$ 1.82B
- ✓ Urea-ammonium nitrate mixes in solution : \$ 1.33B
- Total : 31.75 B\$

Global Trends

✓ Campfire alliance project

- **Goal**
 1. Convert and store wind energy into ammonia fuel
 2. Develop, manufacture and export technology for the application of ammonia fuel to ships.
- **Participating institution**
 1. Provincial cities supported by Germany (Rostock, Greifswald, Stralsund, Uckermark)



<https://wir-campfire.de/>

✓ Alkammonia project

- **Goal**
 1. Convert ammonia to power for hydrogen fuel car
- **Participating institution**
 1. AFC Energy (UK) supported by European union
- **Application**
 1. Off-grid electric solution
 2. Electric car charge system



<http://alkammonia.eu/>



<Nitrogenous Fertilizers>



<Ammonia>



<Ammonium Nitrate solution>



<Ammonium sulphate>



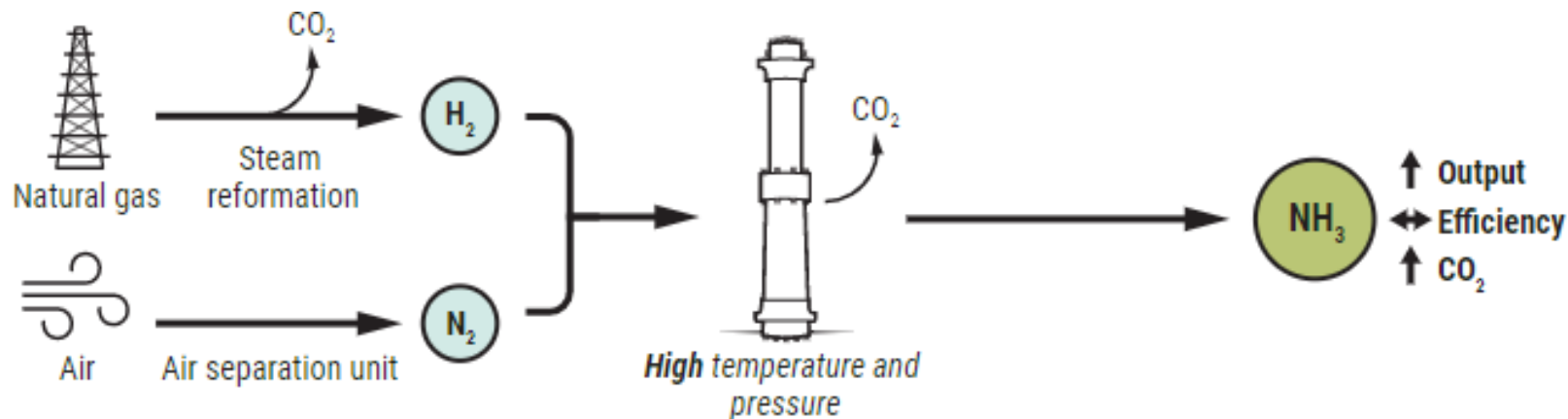
<Ammonium Nitrate limestone>



< Urea-ammonium Nitrate mixes in solution>

Ammonia Synthesis in Industry

Ammonia Synthesis in Industry



- $$\text{N}_2 + 3\text{H}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{NH}_3 \quad (\Delta H^\circ = -45.8 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1})$$
 (~ 150 bar, ~ 400 °C at Haber-Bosch)
- NH₃ is **produced 180 million ton** through Haber-Bosch process. (2016)
- About **1-2%** of the world's annual energy supply is consumed by NH₃ power plants. (**34.4 GJ/ton NH₃**)
- Synthesis efficiency about **70%** at industrial scale.
- Large scale facilities and total **energy loss** is **6.49 GJ/t NH₃**
(Steam reformation loss 4.94 GJ/t NH₃, NH₃ synthesis loss 1.55 GJ/t NH₃)
- The emission of CO₂ is **3.45 kg/kg_[NH₃]**

Introduction

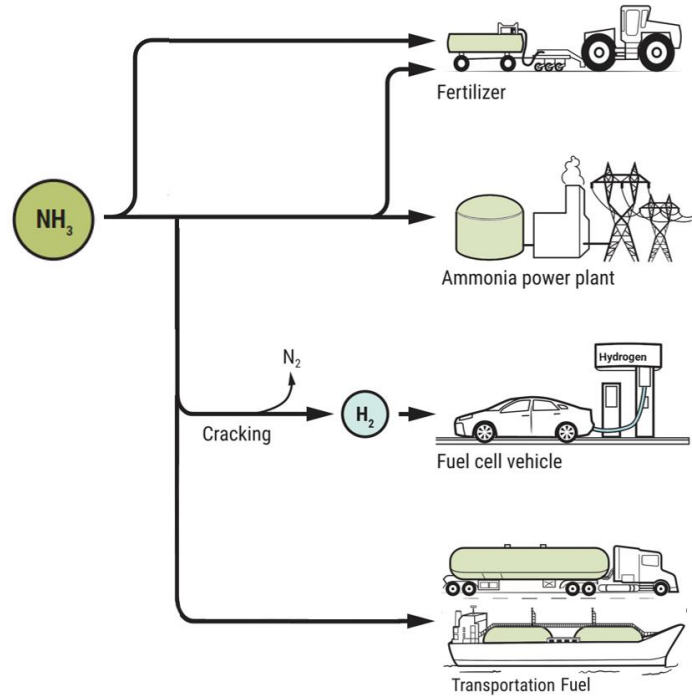
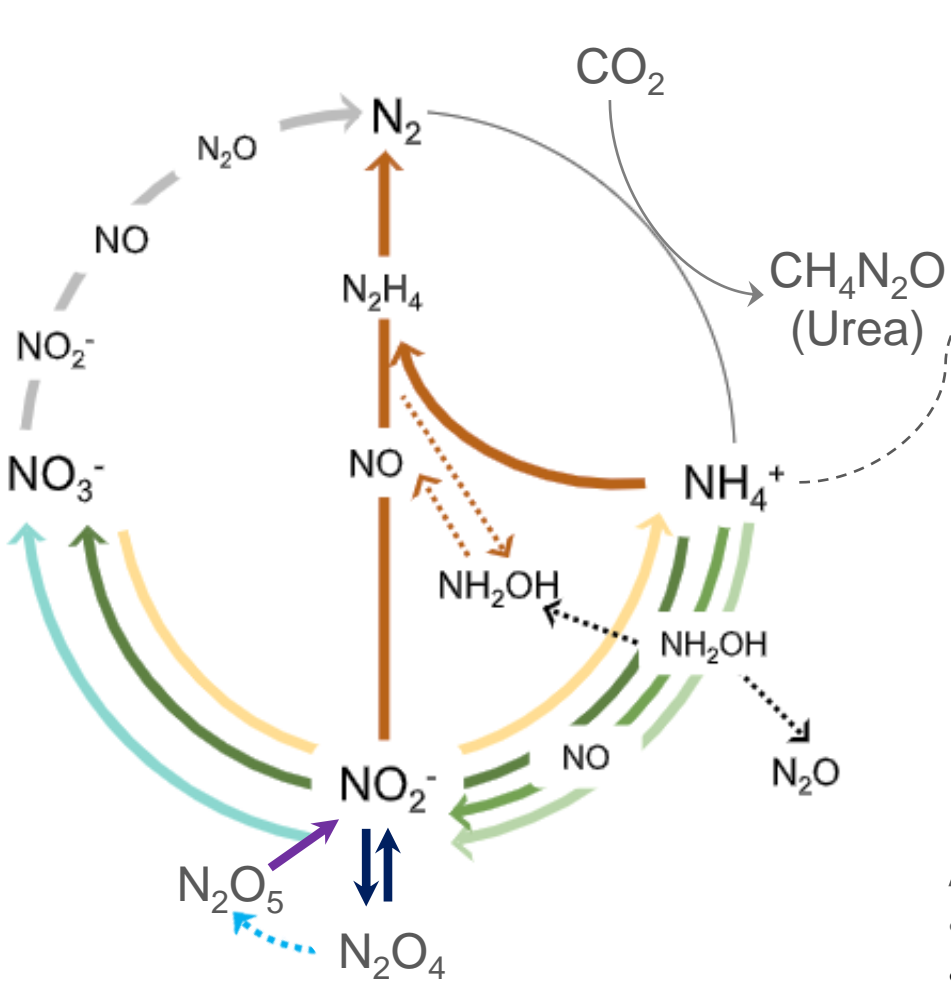
Strength and Weakness of Ammonia Fuels

	MGO*	LNG**	Bio gas	Bio diesel	Methanol	Ammonia	Hydrogen
Fuel Type	Fossil fuel		Carbon-neutral fuel				
Storage Condition	Ambient temperature and pressure	- 162 °C	- 162 °C	Ambient temperature and pressure	Ambient temperature and pressure	- 34 °C or 10 bar	- 253 °C
Relative Fuel Tank Size	1	~ 2.3	2.3	1	2.3	4.1	7.6
Relative CAPEX	1	~ 1.3	~ 1.3	1	~ 1.15	~ 1.2	Very expensive
Fuel cost & Availability	Less expensive and rich reserves		Difficult to mass produce due to the fuel sourcing problem	Difficult to forecast the price due to unstable supply and demand and the food security problem	High cost of CO ₂ capture (from air)	Expensive but relatively low priced for carbon-neutral fuel	Reasonable fuel production cost but high storage and transport cost

■ Excellent
 ■ Acceptable
 ■ Undesirable

*MGO: 선박용 경유
 **LNG: 액화천연가스

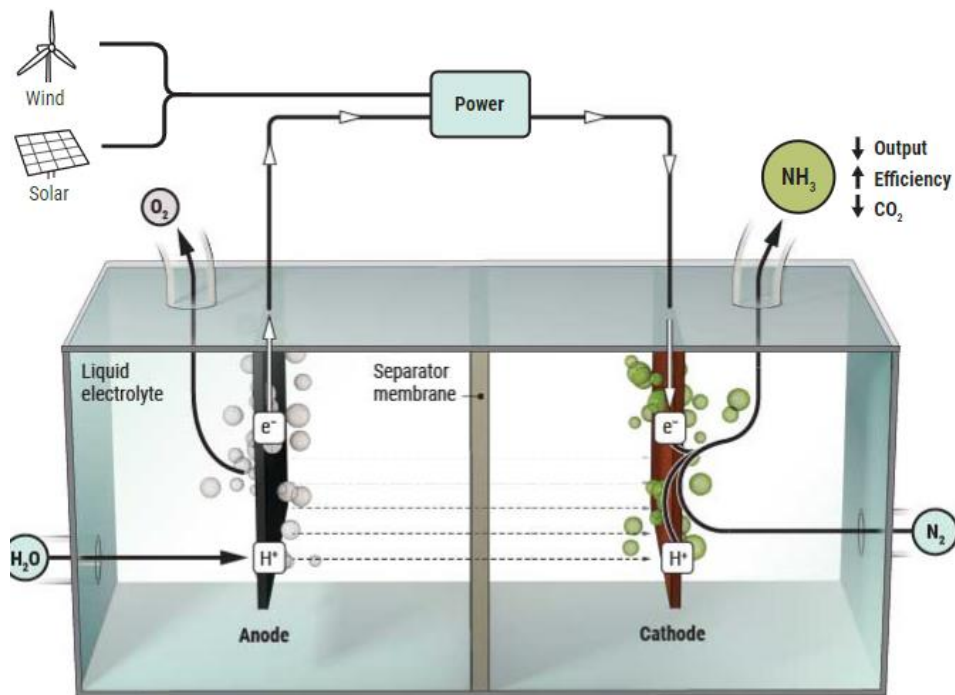
Nitrogen Cycle



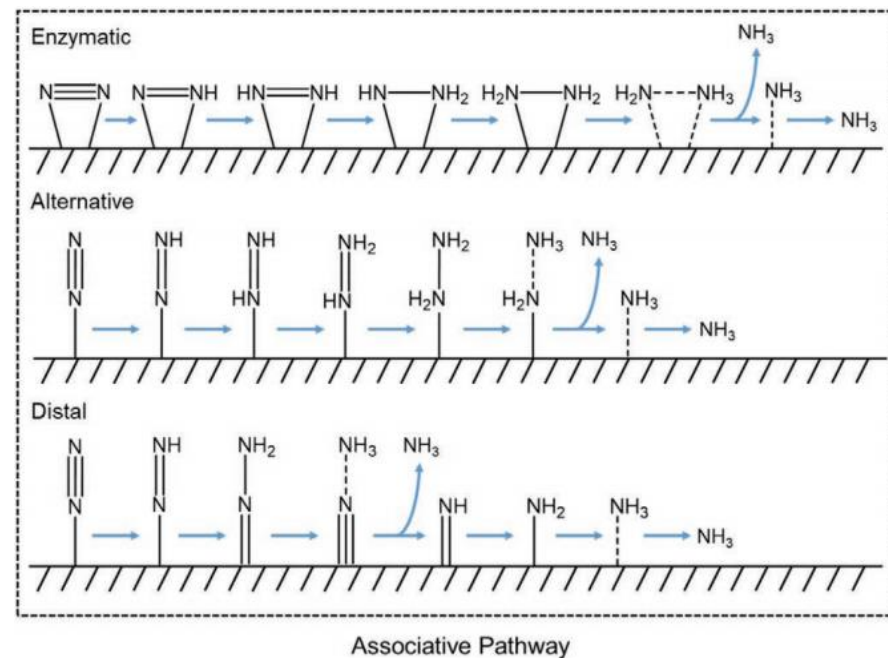
Applications

- Hydrogen carrier : $\text{NH}_3/\text{NH}_4^+$, NH_2OH
- Fertilizers : NO_3^- , $\text{NH}_3/\text{NH}_4^+$
- Fuel : $\text{NH}_3/\text{NH}_4^+$, N_2O_4 , N_2H_4
- Etc. : N_2O (general anesthesia), $\text{CH}_4\text{N}_2\text{O}$ (urea)

Introduction

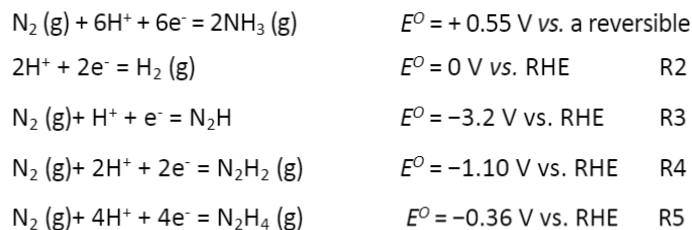
Electrochemical NH₃ synthesis

AAAS,
DOI:10.1126/science.aau7489

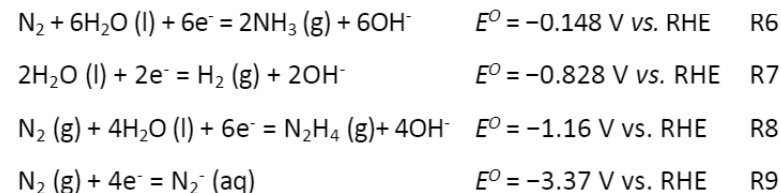


Adv. Energy Mater. 2020, 2000659

■ Overall reaction at $pH=0$



■ Overall reaction at $pH=14$



Performance Chart from Our Group

Catalysts for electrochemical N_2 reduction to NH_3 production

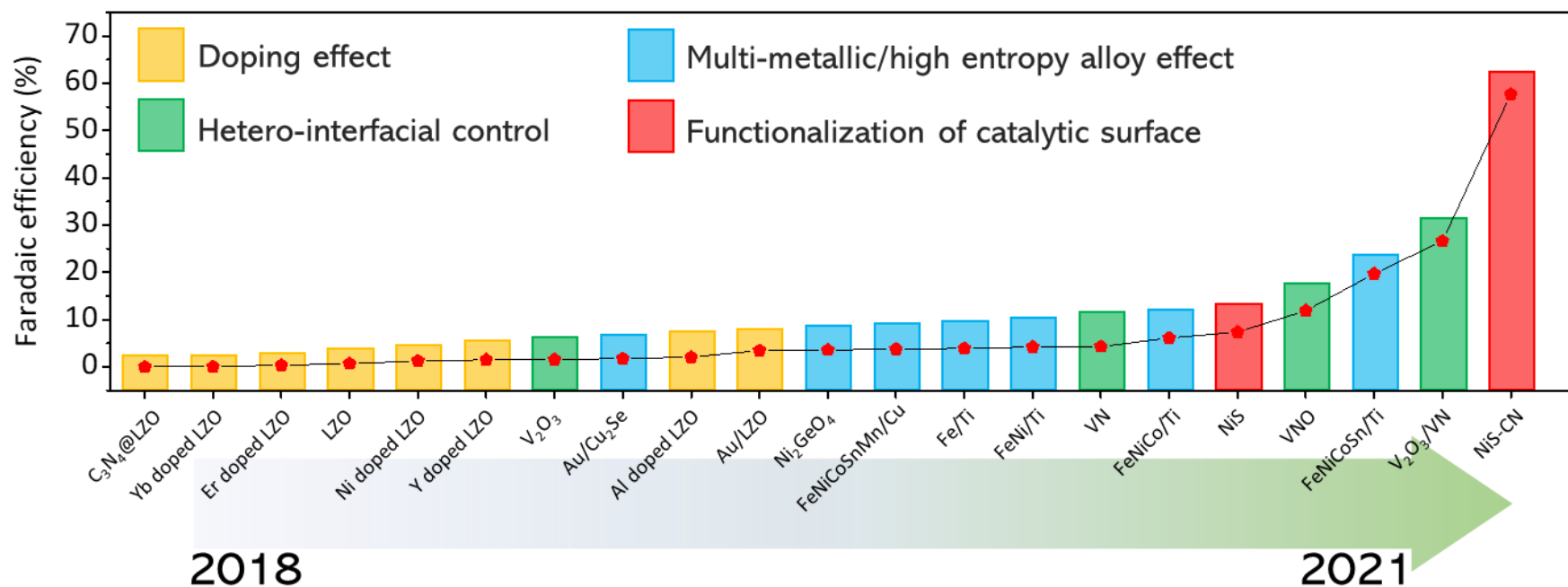
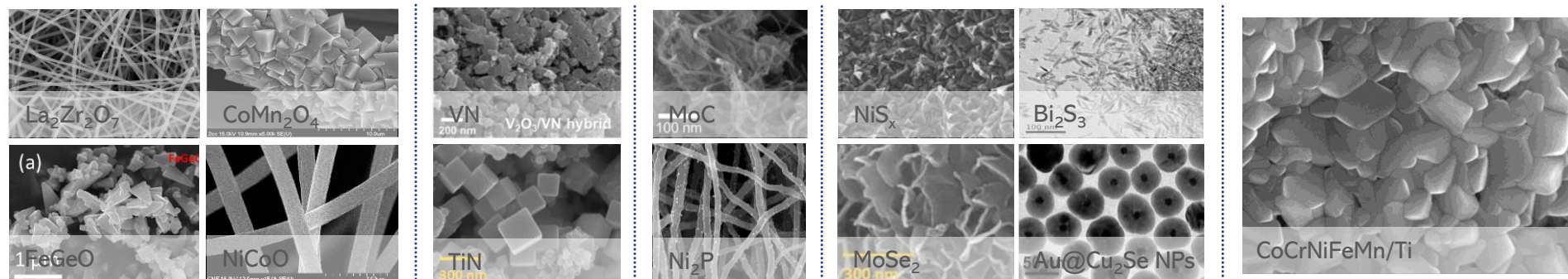
Oxides

Nitrides

Carbides/Phosphides

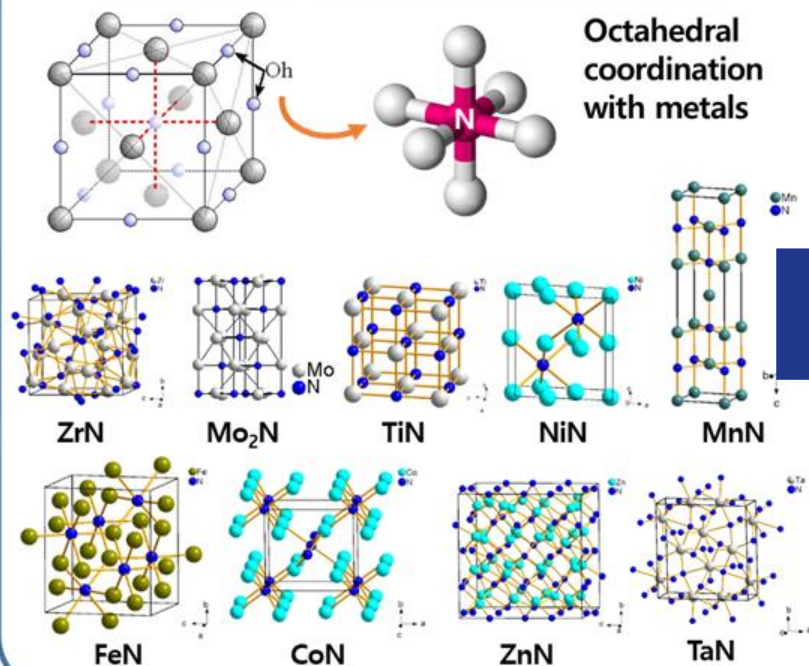
Chalcogenides

High Entropy Alloys



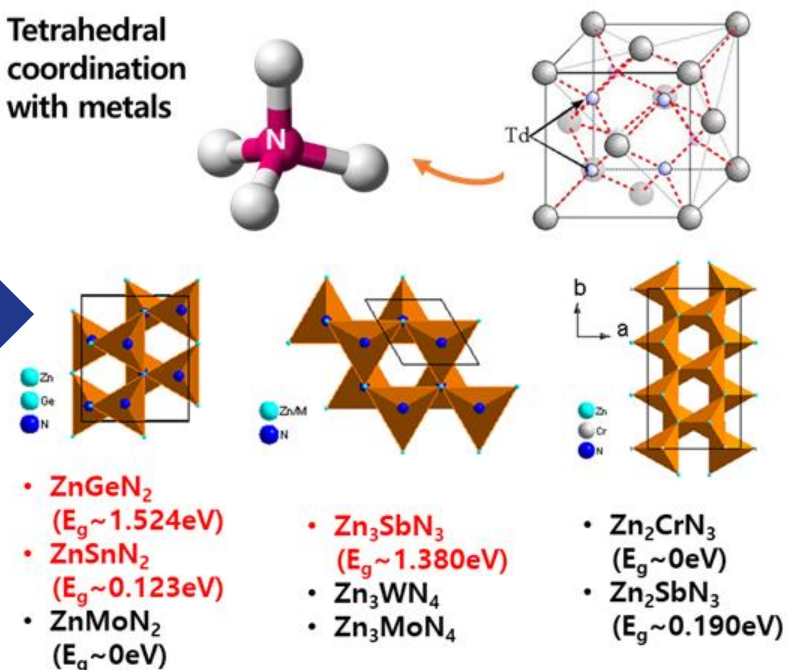
Candidate metal nitride-based materials for NRR

Binary metal nitride



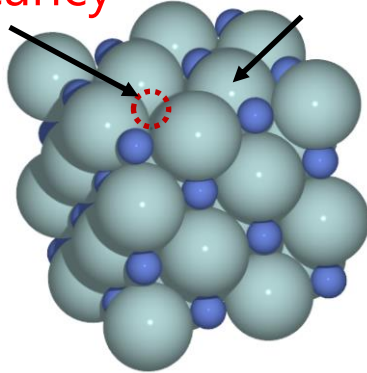
Ternary metal nitride

Tetrahedral coordination with metals



Zirconium Nitride (ZrN)

Vacancy Great HER site



Brian and Aayush from Norskov group

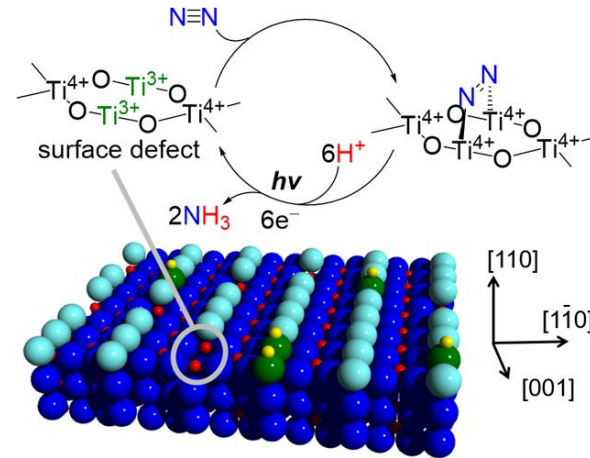
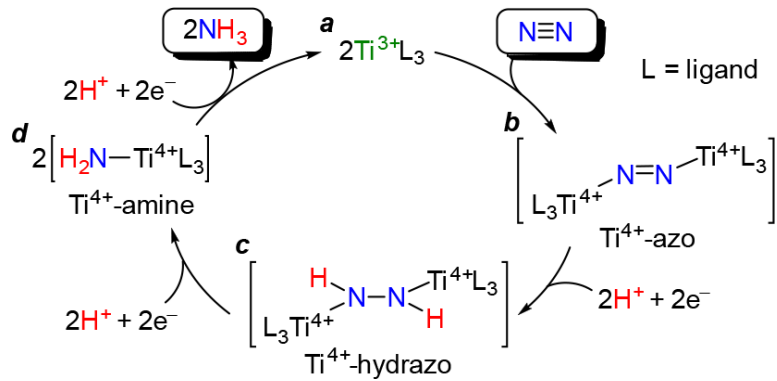
- Find catalyst where N_2^* is more stable than H^* at the limiting potential.
- ZrN vacancies have this property.
- Top sites are excellent HER catalysts.

- **ZrN**

- The lowest bulk resistivity ($\sim 13.6 \mu\Omega$) and high thermal stability among group IV and V transition metal nitrides
- Investigated as wear resistant coatings, optical coatings, functional multi-layers, high T superconductors, thermoelectrics, etc.
- Promising materials for ULSI applications such as a diffusion barrier for Cu interconnects and contact metal in III-V semiconductor devices, in high density memory structures.

Ti Characteristic

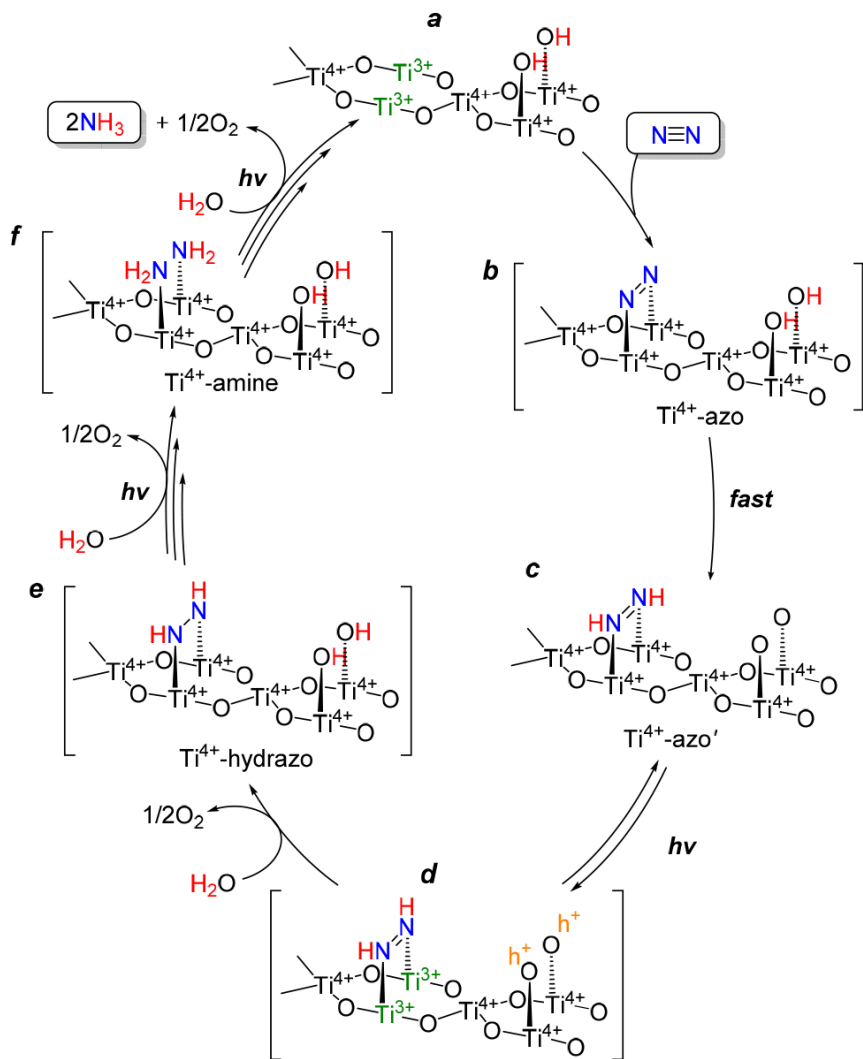
N₂ active site



J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2017, 139, 10929–10936

- For NRR, Creation of active sites that efficiently promote $\text{N}\equiv\text{N}$ cleavage is necessary
- For photocatalytic conversion, Ti^{3+} ions on TiO_2 can react and bond with N_2 gas through electron donation.

Active Mechanism of Ti3+



- Ti³⁺ ions present by surface defects (oxygen vacancies) act as an active site to trap nitrogen gas. (a -> b)
- The adsorbed N₂ interacts with H atoms of the adjacent surface Ti-OH and produces Ti⁴⁺-azo' species. (b -> c)
- Photoexcitation of TiO₂ with Ti⁴⁺-azo' species creates CB e⁻ and VB h⁺ pairs. (c -> d)
- The N=N dissociation on the Ti³⁺ produces Ti⁴⁺-hydrazo species with the water oxidation by the h⁺. (d -> e)
- Once more, the H atom in oxygen combines with NH to form NH₂. (e -> f -> a)