

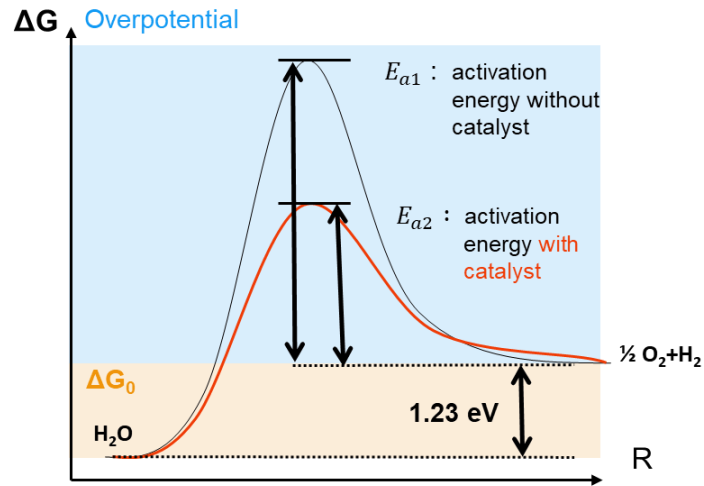
광전기화학 시스템 조촉매 소재 설계

Design of Co-catalysts in PEC System

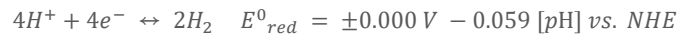
Uk Sim

**Department of Materials Science & Engineering
Chonnam National University**

Water Splitting and Catalysts

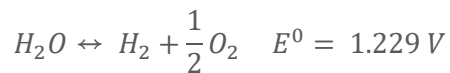
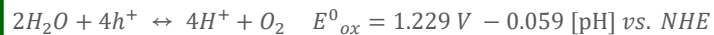


Cathode
Hydrogen Evolution Reaction (HER)

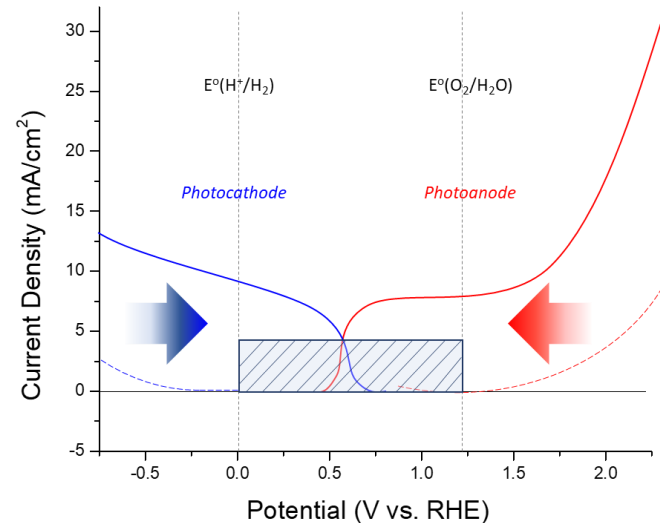


Anode

Oxygen Evolution Reaction (OER)

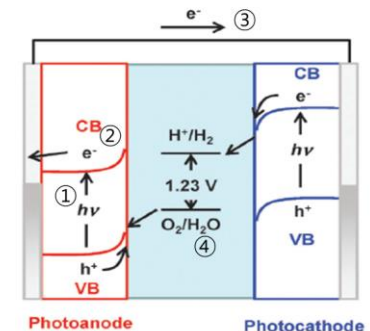


- In water electrolysis, catalysts reduced the overpotential that is required for the water splitting reactions
- Photoelectrochemical system utilizes photon energy to compensate the overpotential



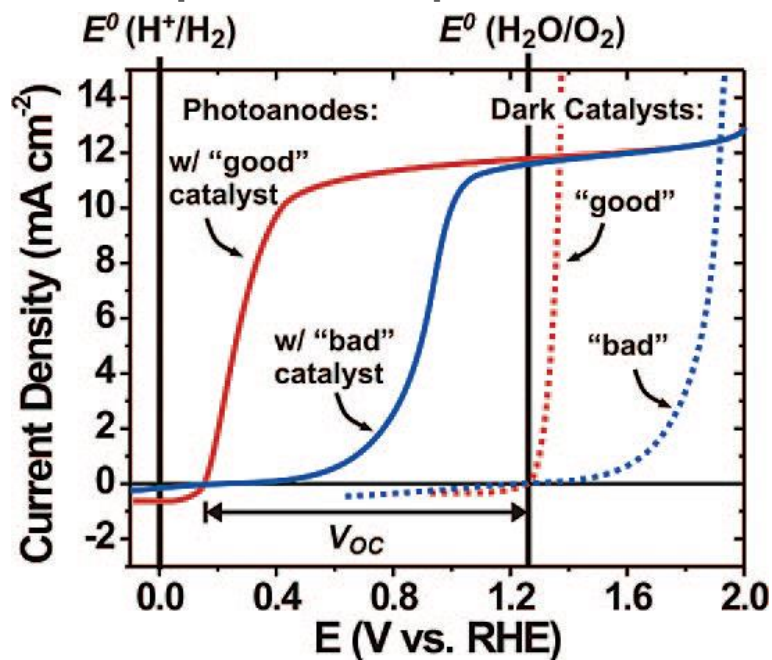
Increase of current in between 0 – 1.23 V potential region

- ① Absorption of Light
- ② Charge Generation
- ③ Carrier Separation
- ④ Redox Reaction



Effect of Surface Catalyst

Qualitative effect of surface catalysts on photoanode performance



Catalyst

1. Improvement of photoelectrode kinetics
2. Change of energetics of the electron transfer process

Good Catalyst

1. Highly active (producing large quantities of H_2 or O_2 quickly)
2. Robust enough to maintain its efficiency over time scales

Catalyst Materials for Hydrogen Evolution

Pure Metals

**Pt, Pd, Ni, Co, Fe,
Mo, ...**

Metal composites/
alloys

**Ni-Mo, Ni-Co, Ni-
Mo-Cd, Ni-Mo-Fe,
...**

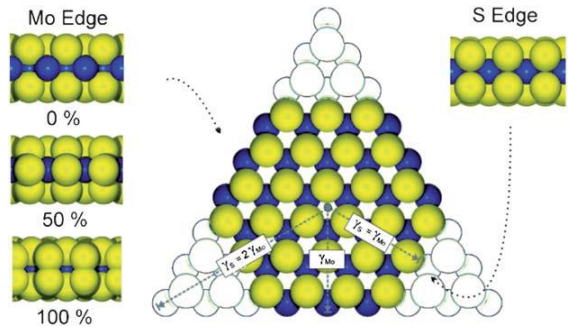
Compounds that
incorporate
nonmetallic
elements

**Metal Oxide
(RuO_2 , $\text{Sr}_x\text{NbO}_{3-d}$),
Sulfides, Tungsten
Carbides,
Silicotungstates**

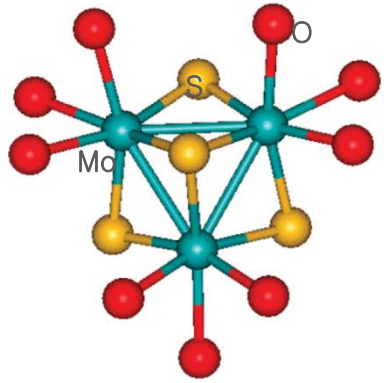
Molecular catalyst

**Nickel and Cobalt
Macrocycles
Nickel and Cobalt
Macrocycles...**

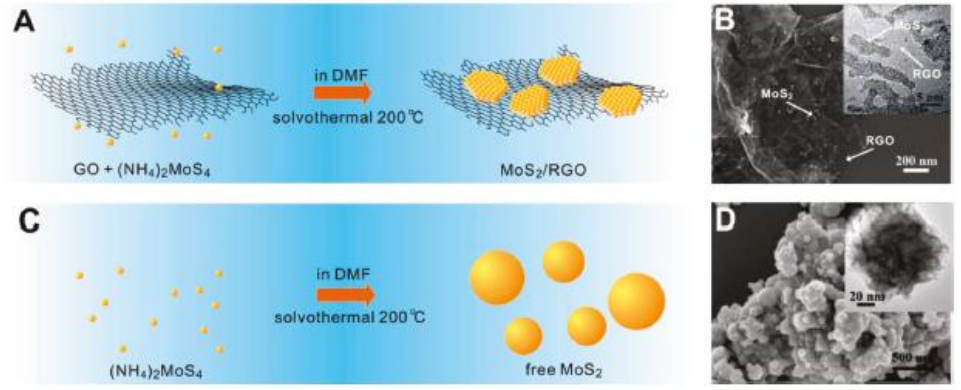
Bio-inspired MoS Catalysts for hydrogen evolution



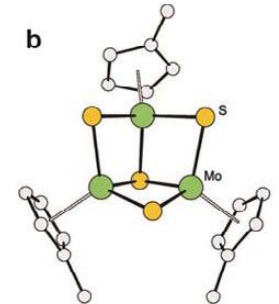
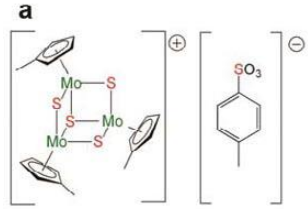
MoS₂ nanocrystal
 Phys. Rev. Lett., 2000, **84**, 951
 J. Catal., 2004, **221**, 510



**Incomplete
Cubane-type
[Mo₃S₄]⁴⁺**
 J. Phys. Chem. C, 2008, **112**, 17492

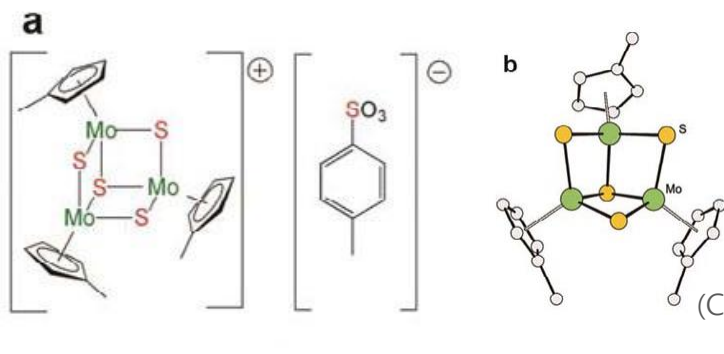
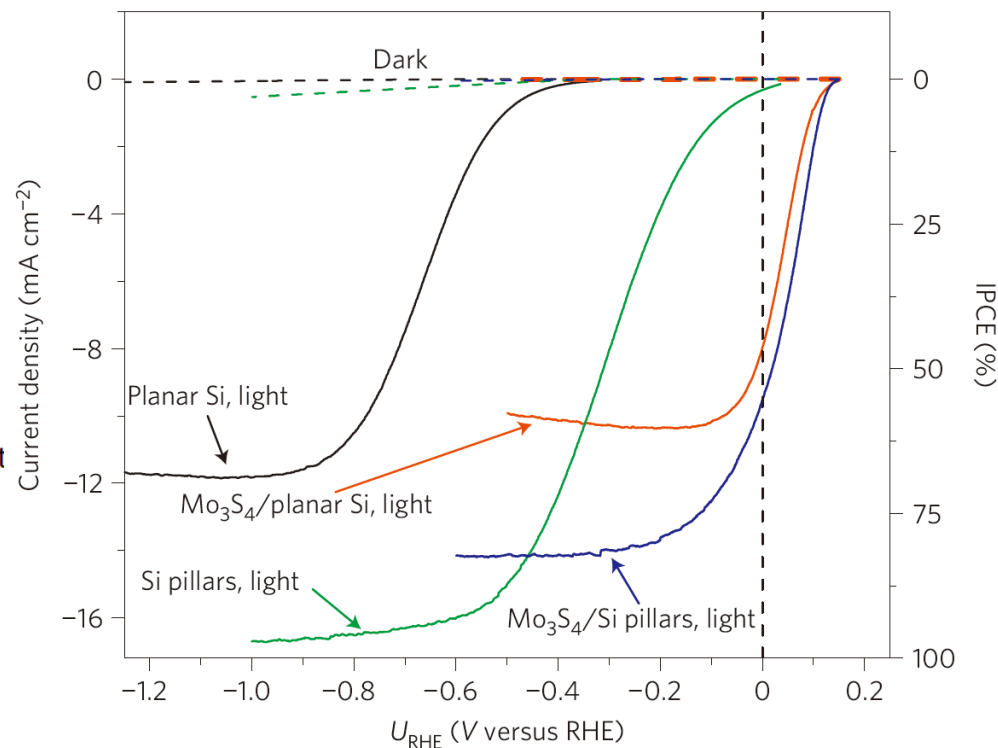
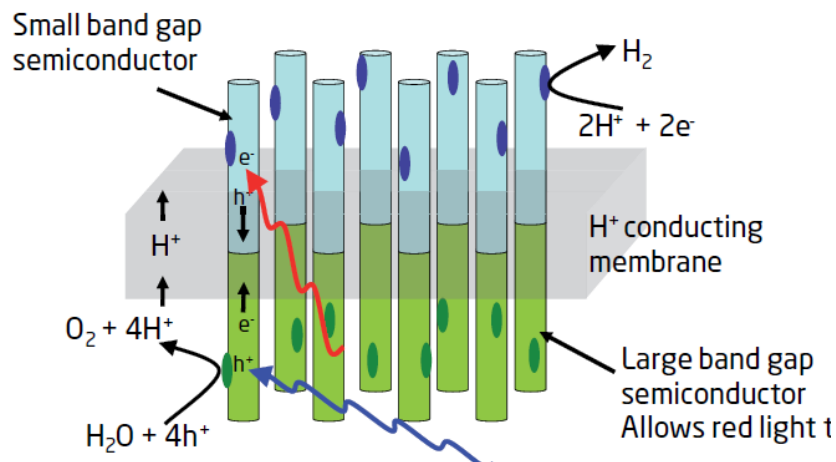


MoS₂ nanoparticles on Graphene
 JACS Comm., 2011, **133**, 7294



**Mo₃S₄ molecular
co-catalyst**
 Nat. Mater., 2011, **10**, 434

Mo₃S₄ co-catalysts bonded to a silicon photocathode for solar hydrogen evolution



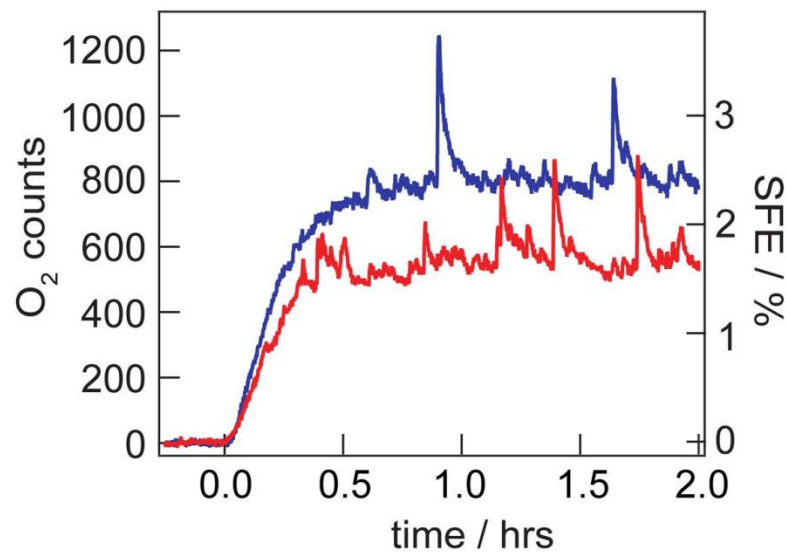
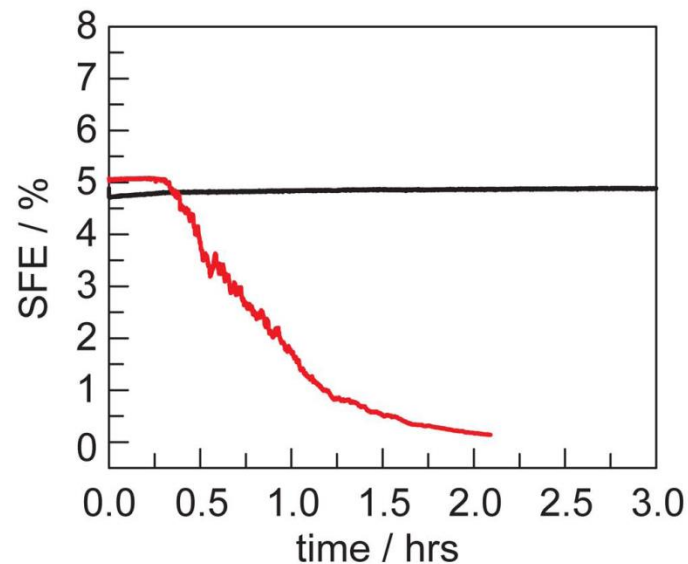
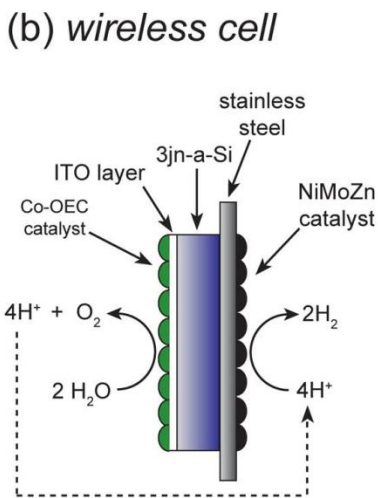
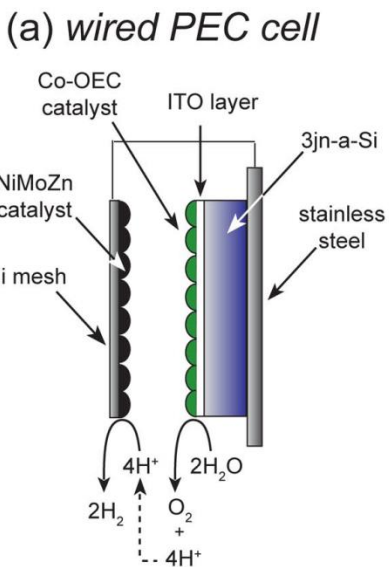
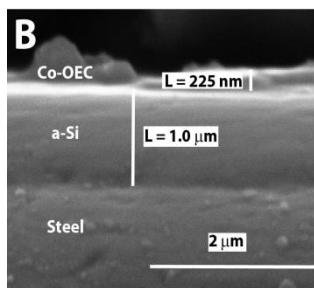
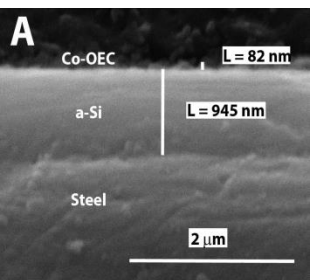
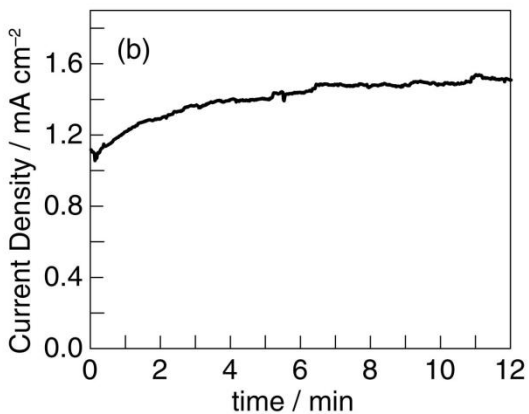
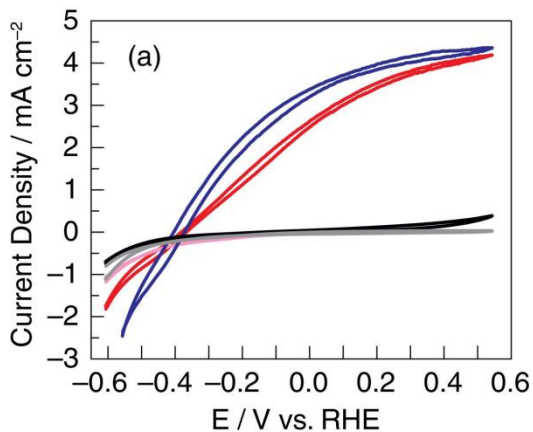
Two photon process system: Ideal chemical tandem solar cell

10 % of the energy supplied from the sun at peak intensity = ~8mA/cm² at both cathode and anode

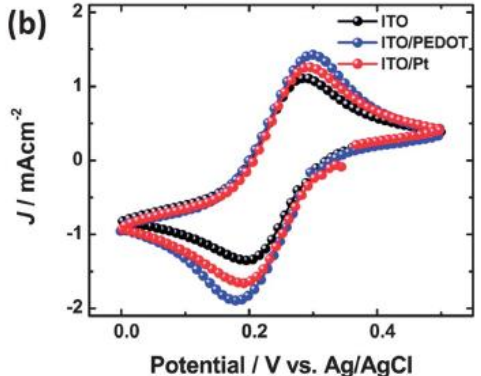
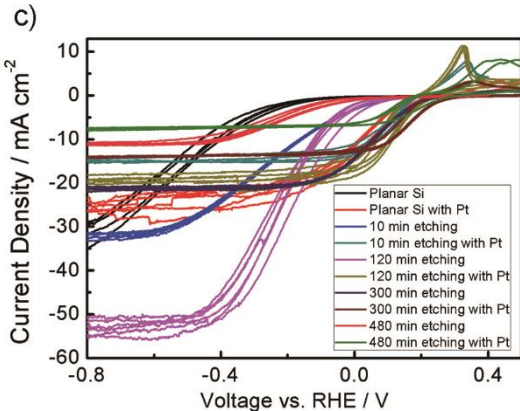
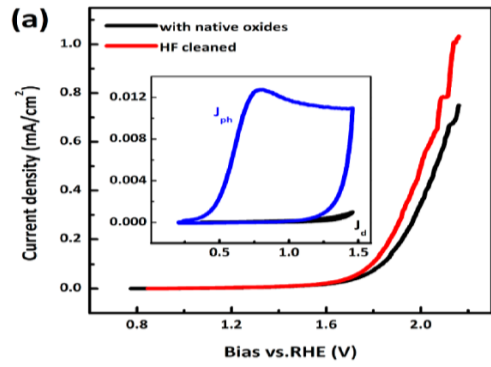
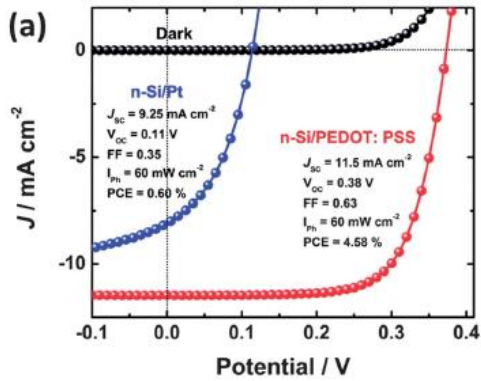
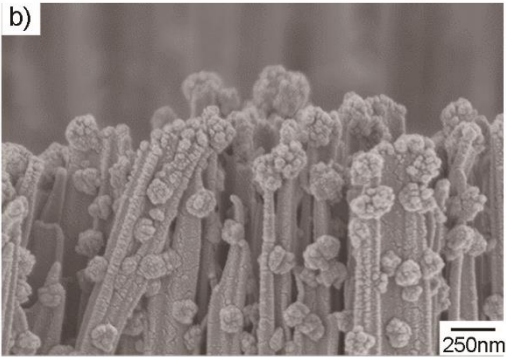
Si(1.12eV bandgap): Excellent for capturing photons in the red part of the solar spectrum

Pillar structure vs. planar structure

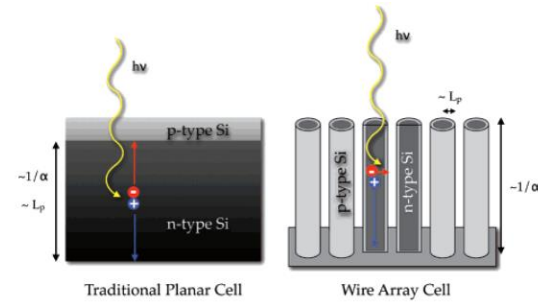
Wireless Solar Water Splitting Using Silicon-Based Semiconductors and Earth-Abundant Catalysts



Disadvantages of Previous Catalyst on PEC



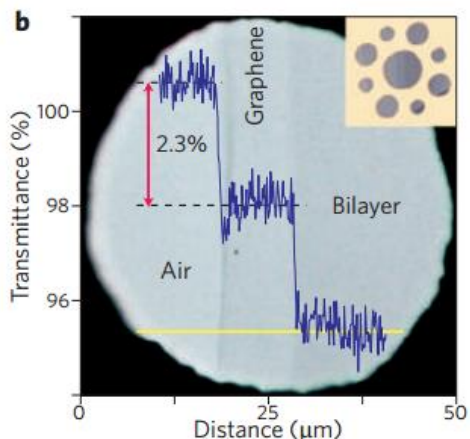
Nano Lett., Article ASAP



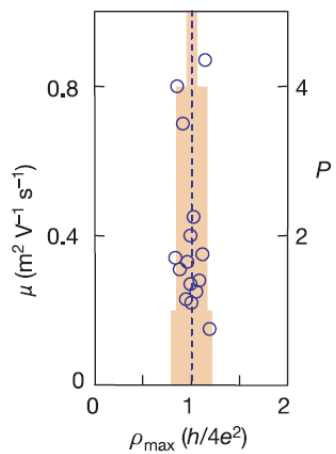
J. Mater. Chem. A, 2013,1, 5414-5422 *Energy Environ. Sci.*, 2013,6, 1633-1639 *J. Phys. Chem. C*, 2008, 112, 6194-6201

- In PEC, negative effects from catalysts should be considered:
 - 1) reflection by the overlaid catalyst, 2) an unfavorable band structure such as a Schottky barrier, 3) photocorrosion, and 4) recombination sites at the interface.
- To design catalysts for photoelectrochemical water splitting, the optical properties, stability and interfacial issues must be comprehensively considered.

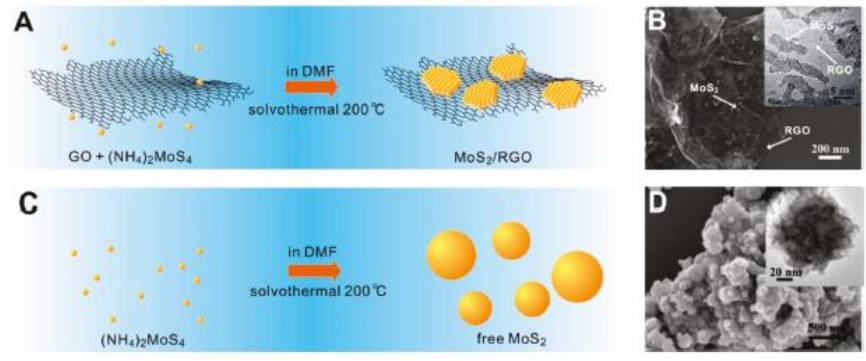
Carbon-based catalysts



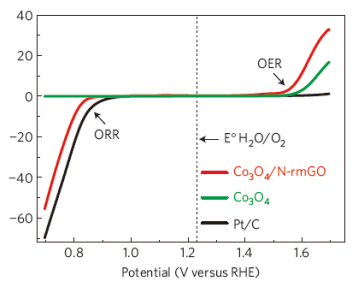
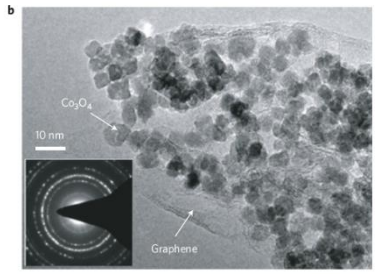
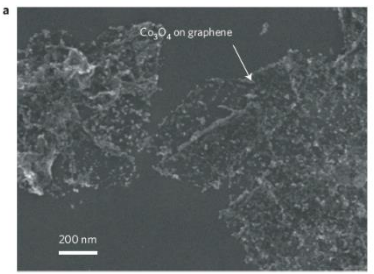
Science, 2008, **320**, 1308–1308



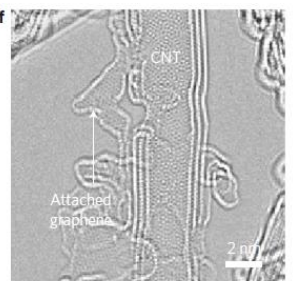
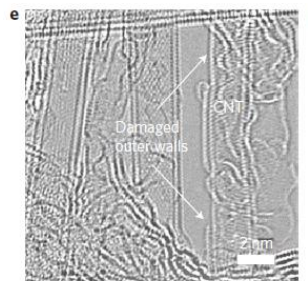
Nature, 2005, **438**, 197-200



J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2011, **133**, 7294-7299



Nature Mater. 2011, **10**, 780-786

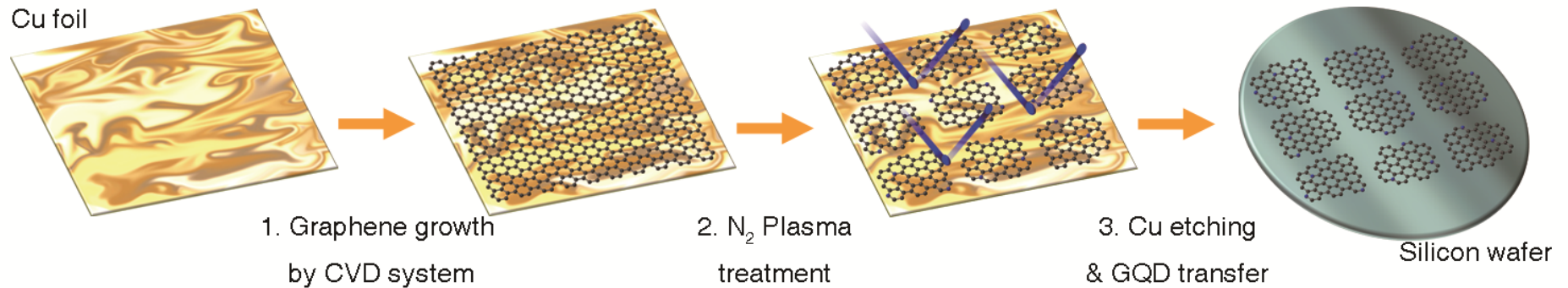


Nature Nanotech. 2012, **7**, 394-400

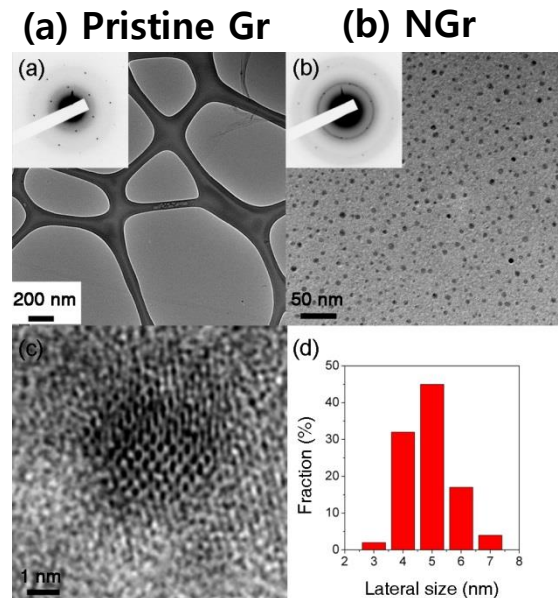
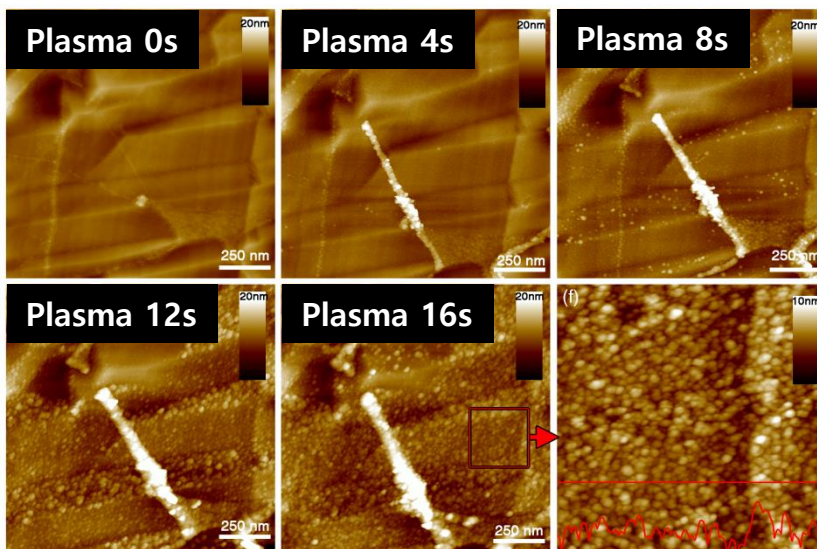
- Carbon-based catalysts: non-precious, environmentally benign, and corrosion resistant catalysts
- Graphene: excellent transmittancy and superior intrinsic carrier mobility
- It has been reported that reduced graphene oxide (rGO) containing catalytic active materials exhibited improved activity in HERs, oxygen evolution reactions (OERs), and oxygen reduction reactions (ORRs)

Preparation of Graphene, NGr/Silicon photocathode

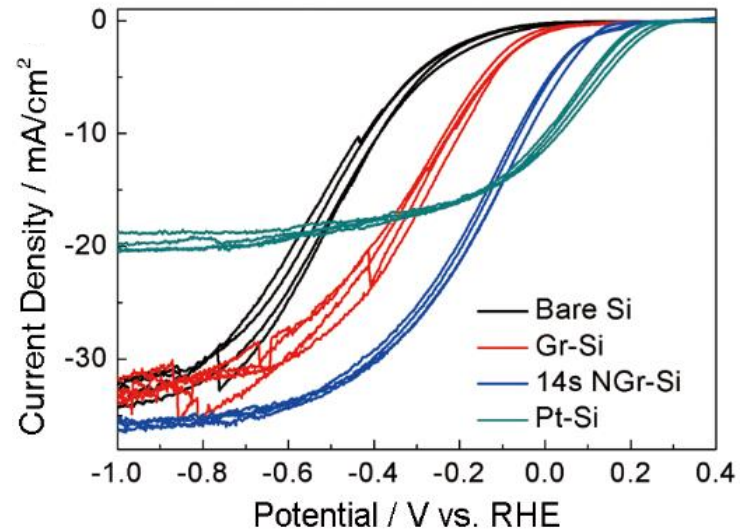
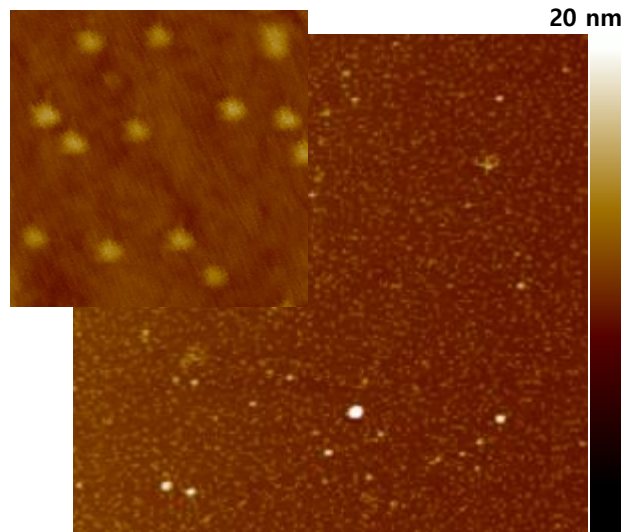
Process for Nitrogen doped Graphene Quantum Dot (NGr)



Morphology transition of Graphene via plasma treatment



The effect of Graphene catalyst on Si photocathode



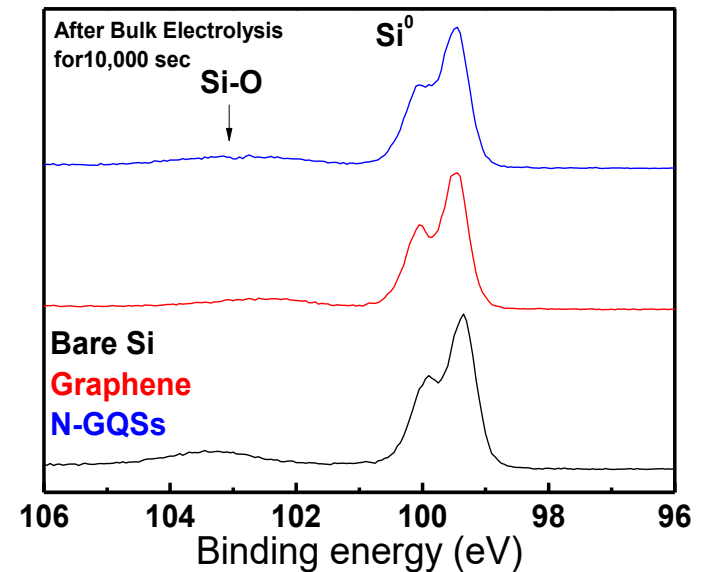
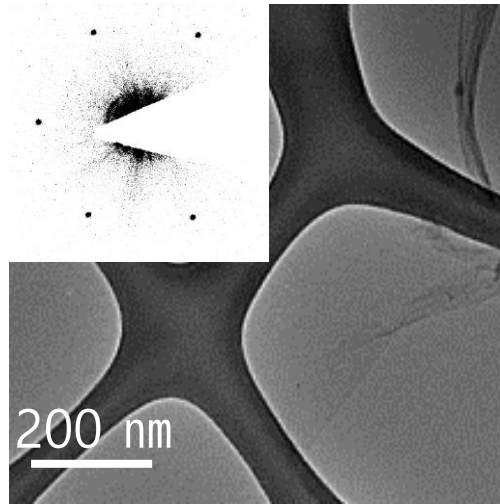
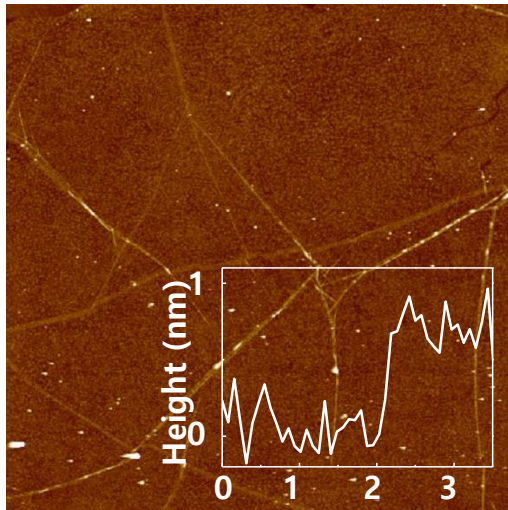
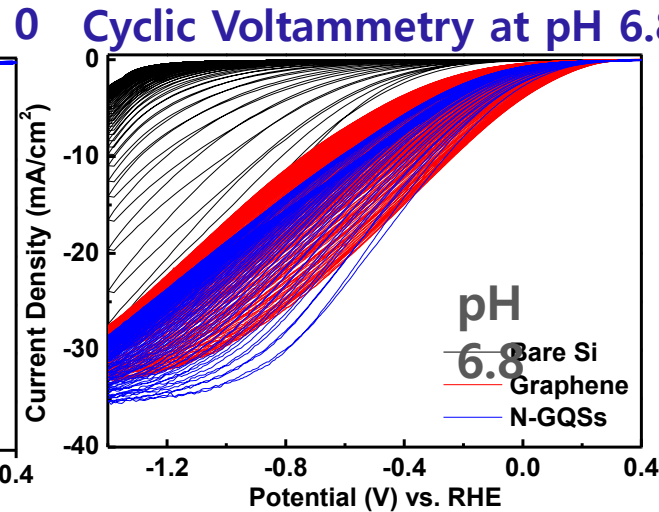
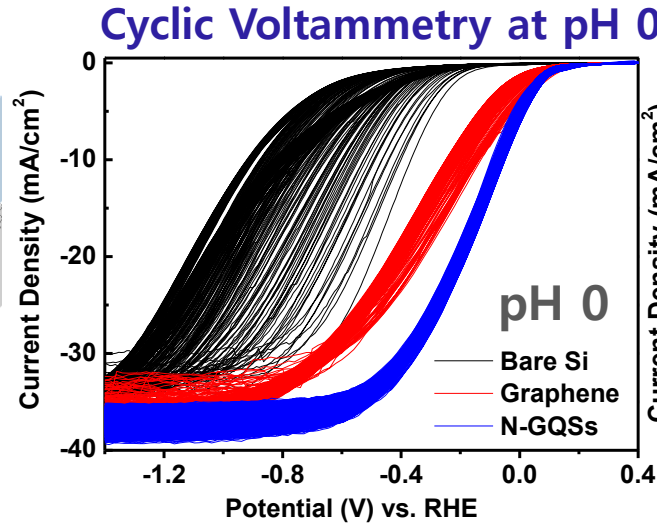
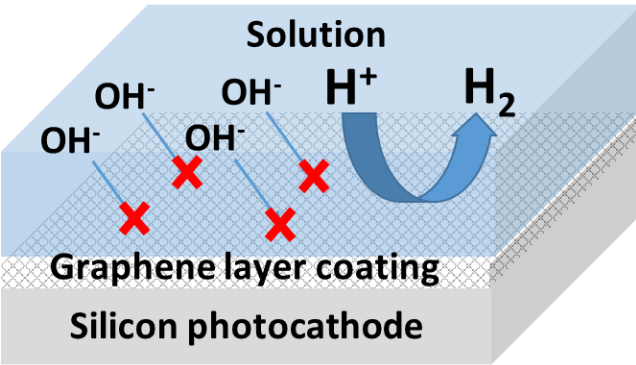
N-doped monolayer graphene catalyst enhanced the PEC performance of a Si-photocathode.

The onset potential for photocurrent from the Si was significantly shifted toward the anodic direction without a change in the saturation current density.

NGr has excellent catalytic activity for photoelectrochemical HER on the Si photocathode

NGr is a passivation layer that maintains a higher onset potential and current density even at neutral pH.

Onset potential (V_{os}) Enhancement

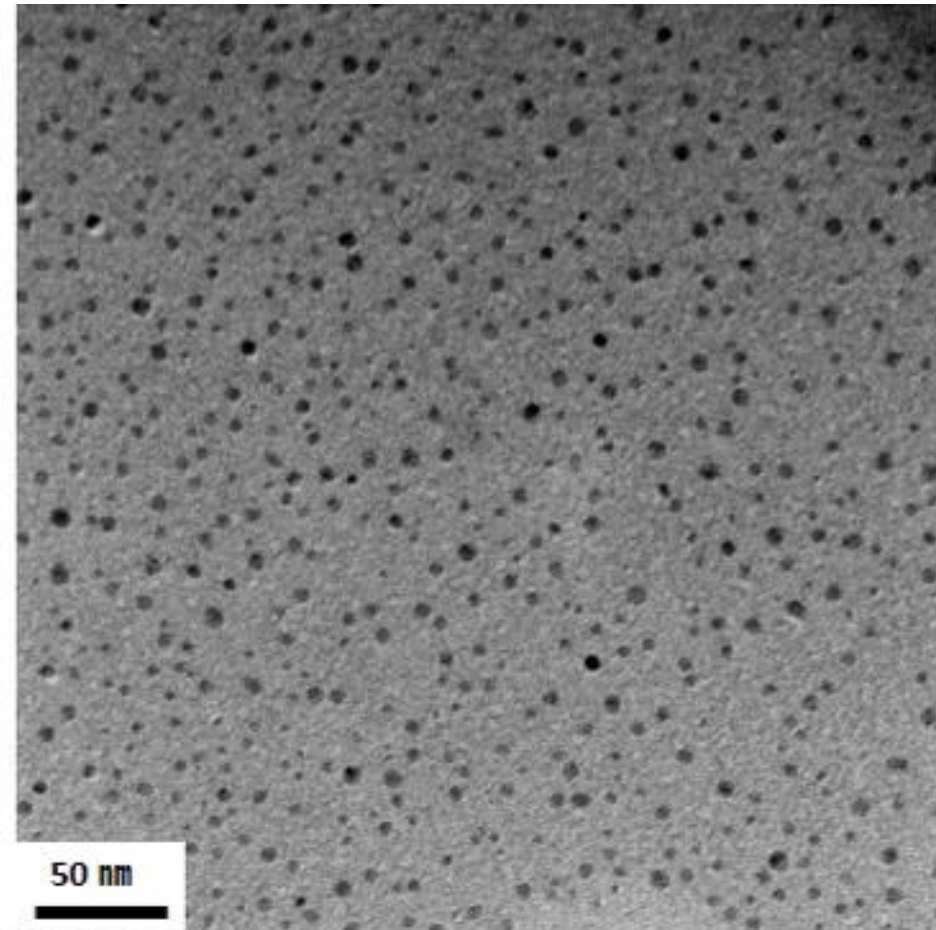
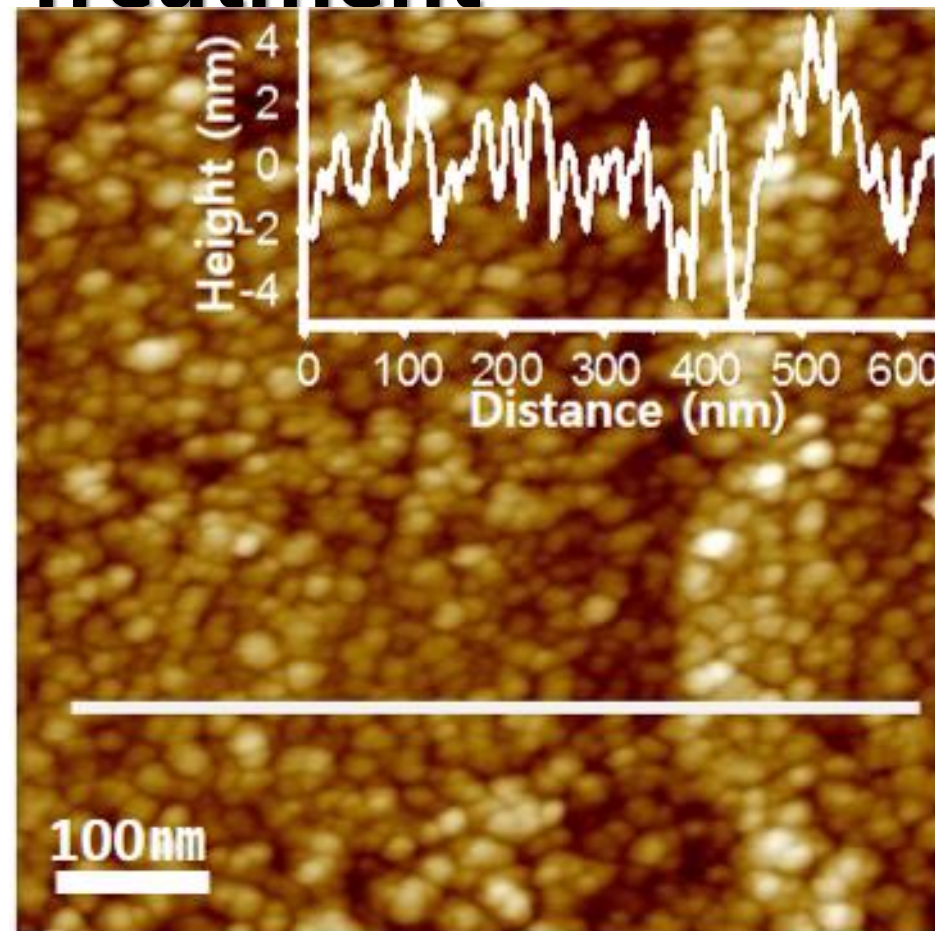


Transparent, catalytic, and "long-term stable"

Uk Sim et al., Energy Environ. Sci. (2013)

Doping Generation by N₂ Plasma Treatment

N-GQSs: N-doped graphene quantum sheets



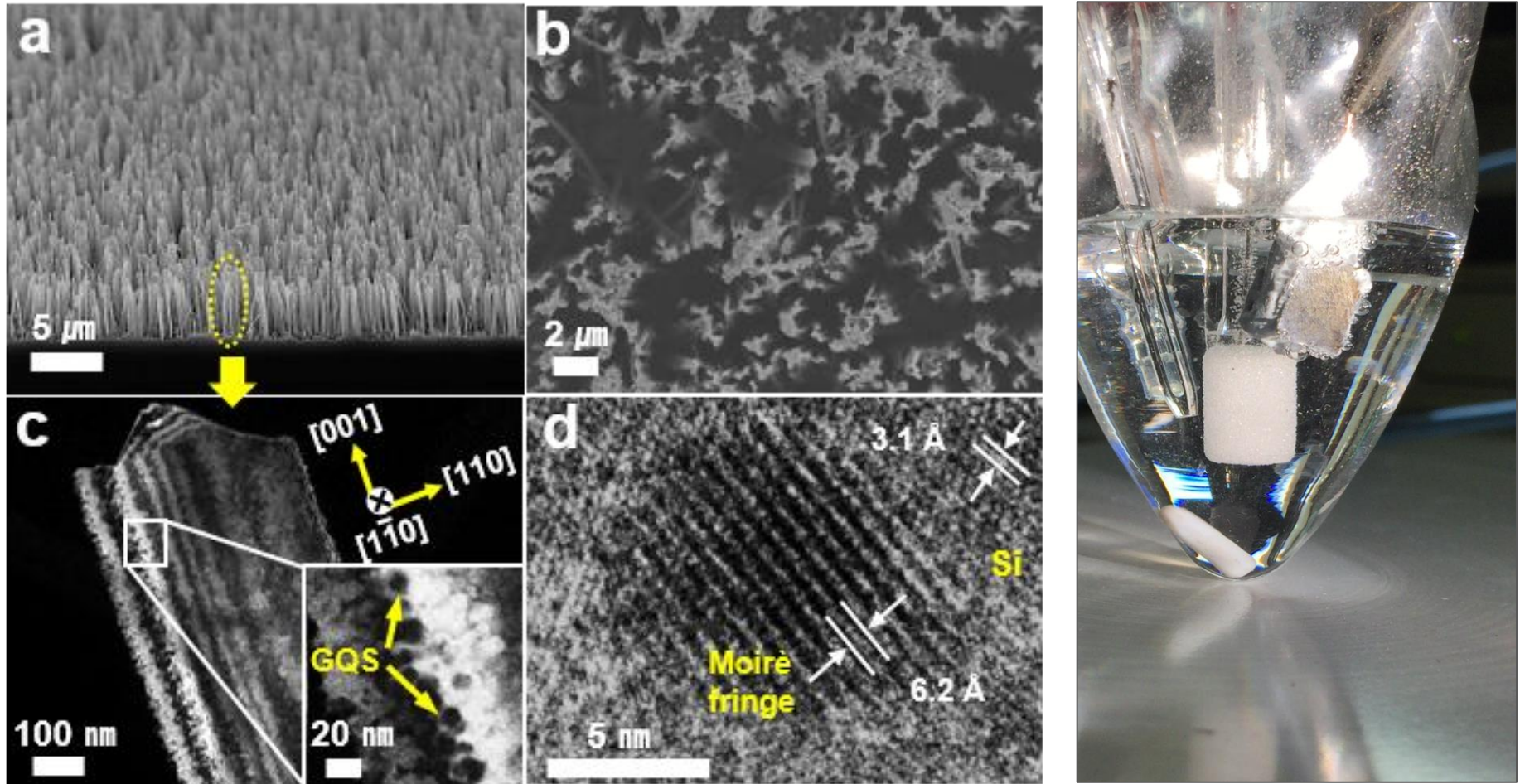
Increase of intrinsic active sites

J. Moon., J. An, U. Sim et al., Adv. Mater. (2014)

Uk Sim et al., Energy Environ. Sci. (2015)

KR Patent (Registration: 10-1598017)

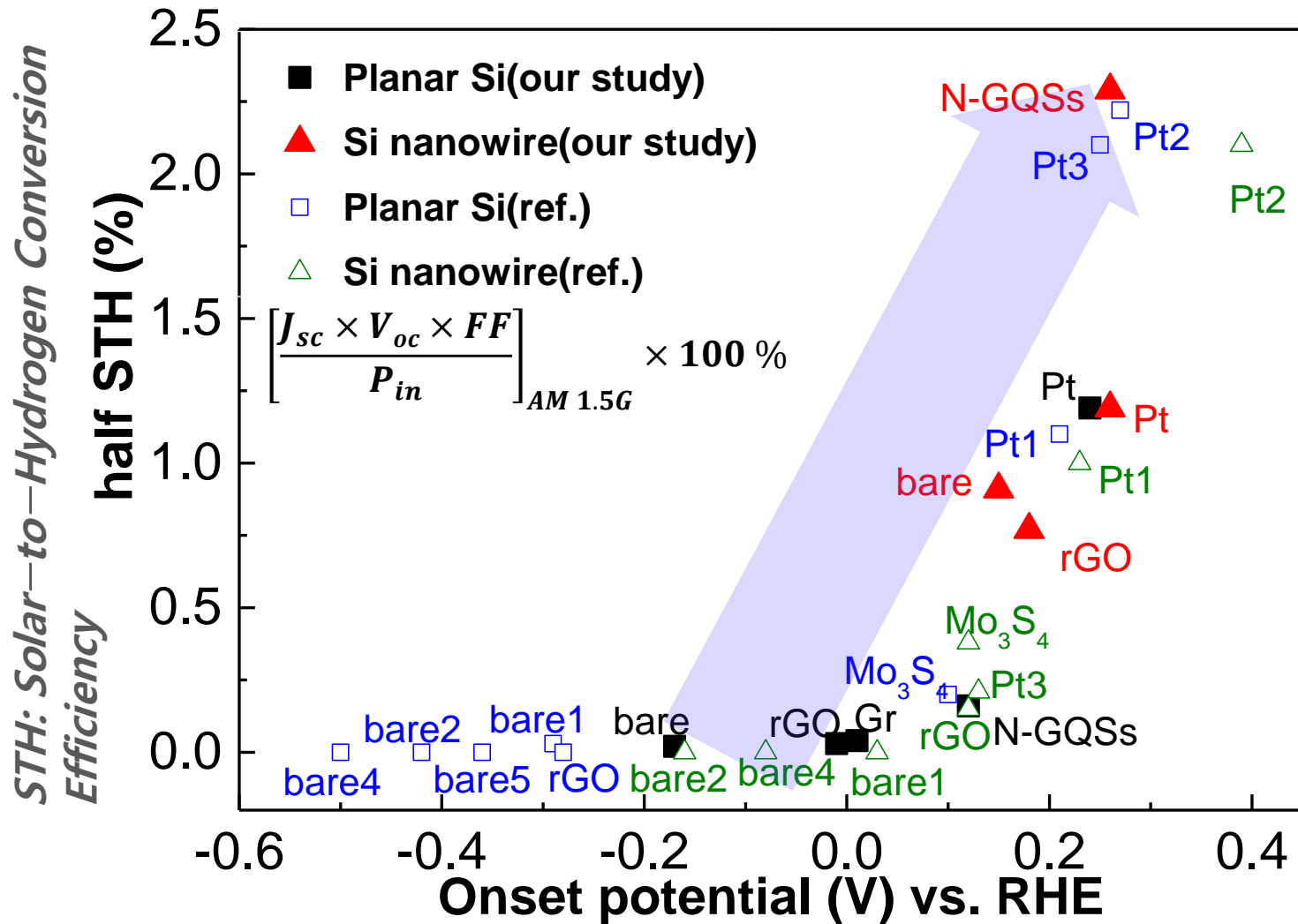
Optimized Interface Engineering



The spacing of Fringe,

$$a_m = (\mathbf{a}_{\text{GQS}} \times \mathbf{a}_{\text{Si}}) / \sqrt{a_{\text{GQS}}^2 + a_{\text{Si}}^2 - 2a_{\text{GQS}}a_{\text{Si}}\cos(\alpha_{\text{GQS}} - \alpha_{\text{Si}})}$$

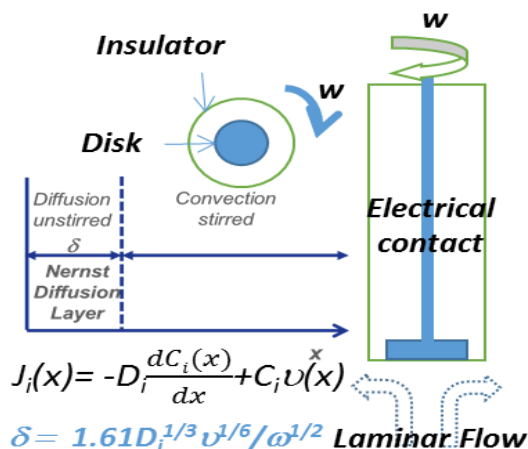
Efficiency record



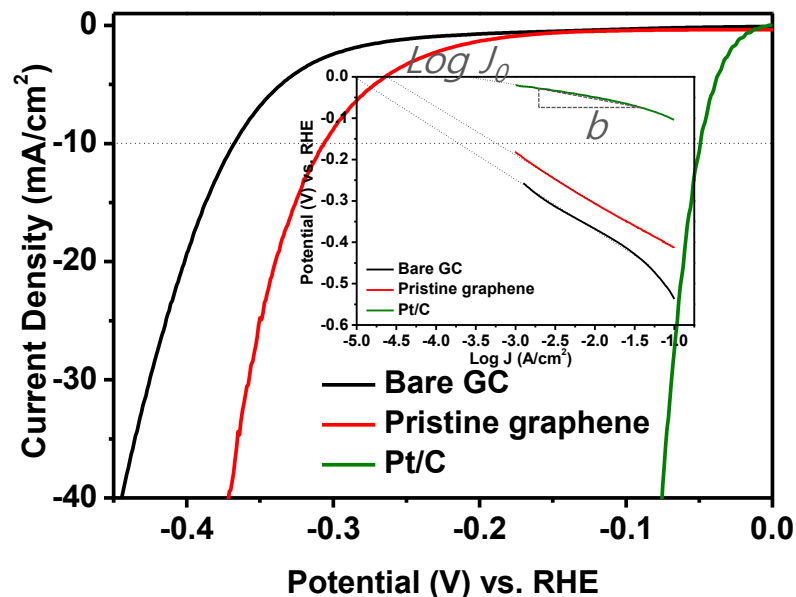
2.29%. Highest record among Si-based PEC cells (450 times higher than bare Si and higher than Pt (2015))

Electrochemical Response of Graphene

Rotating disk electrode



CV response and Tafel analysis



Hydrogen evolution reaction (HER)

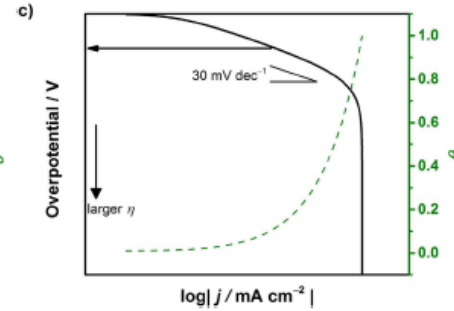
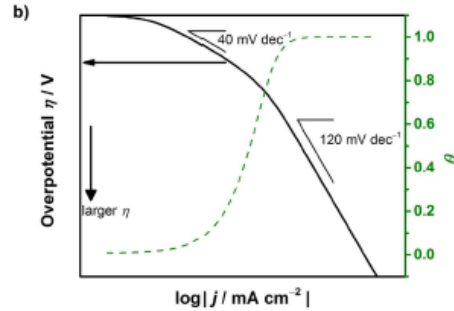
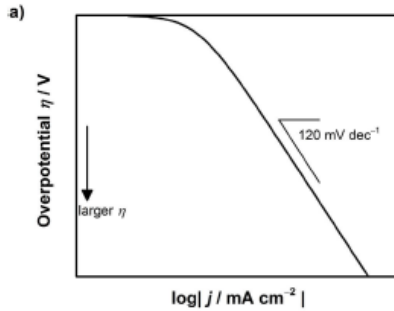
- (1) $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+ + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_{\text{ads}} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ Discharge step *(Volmer reaction)*
- (2) $\text{H}_{\text{ads}} + \text{H}_3\text{O}^+ + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ Electrochemical desorption step *(Heyrovsky reaction)*
- (3) $\text{H}_{\text{ads}} + \text{H}_{\text{ads}} \rightarrow \text{H}_2$ Recombination step of adsorbed hydrogen *(Tafel reaction)*

Rate determining step is,

- **Heyrovsky reaction:** $\theta_{\text{H}} \approx 0 \sim 1$: $b = 40 \sim 118$ mV/dec
- **Tafel reaction:** $\theta_{\text{H}} \approx 1$: $b = 30$ mV/dec

Electrochemical Response of Graphene

Simulated behavior of the hydrogen evolution reaction



- Forward reaction rate in **Volmer reaction**

$$\gamma = k a_{H_3O^+} (1 - \theta) \quad \dots\dots (1)$$

$$k = k^0 \exp(-\alpha f \eta) \quad \dots\dots (2)$$

$$r = k^0 a_{H_3O^+} \exp(-\alpha f \eta) \quad \dots\dots (3)[(1)+(2)]$$

- Electric current

$$I = nFAr \quad \dots\dots (4)$$

$$I = nFAk^0 a_{H_3O^+} \exp(-\alpha f \eta) \quad \dots\dots (3)+(4)$$

- Forward reaction rate in **Heyrovsky reaction**

$$\gamma = k a_{H_3O^+} \theta$$

- Electric current

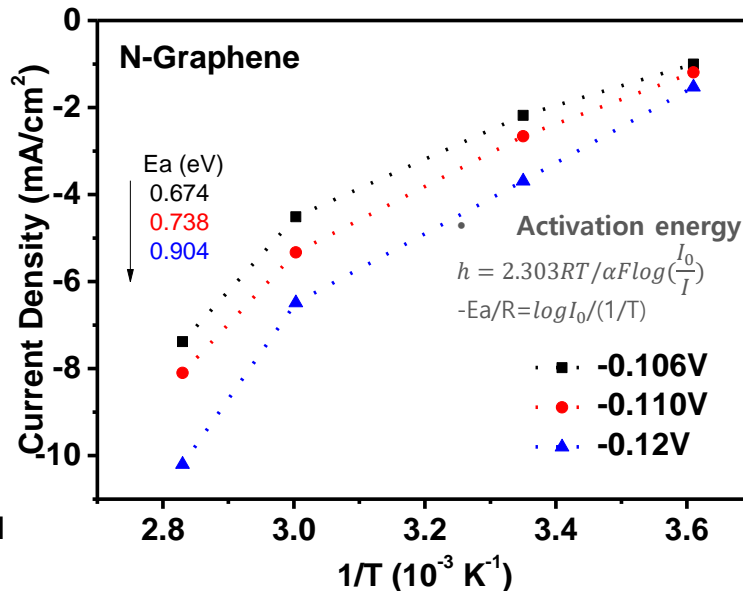
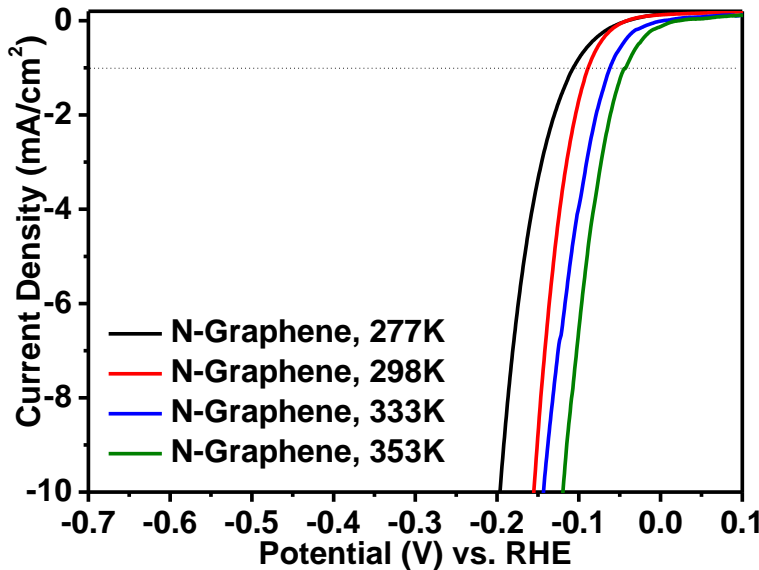
$$I = nFA \frac{k^0 a_{H_3O^+}^2 \exp(-\alpha f \eta)}{a_{H_2O} \exp(f \eta) + k^0 a_{H_3O^+}}$$

- Forward reaction rate in **Tafel reaction**

$$\gamma = k^0 \theta^2$$

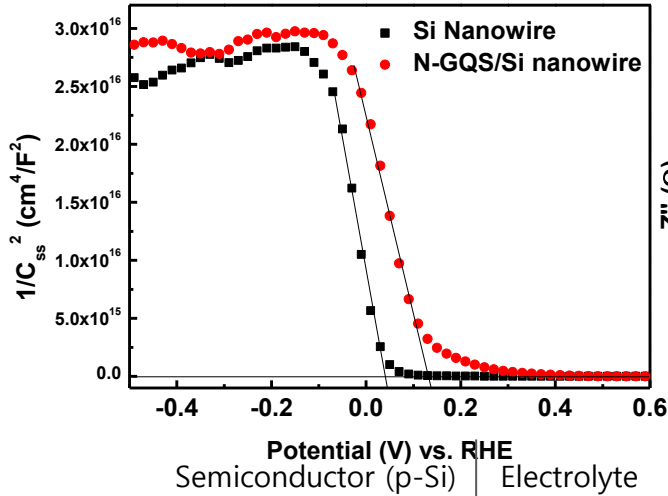
- Electric current

$$I = nFAk^0 \left[\frac{k^0 a_{H_3O^+}}{a_{H_2O} \exp(f \eta) + k^0 a_{H_3O^+}} \right]^2$$

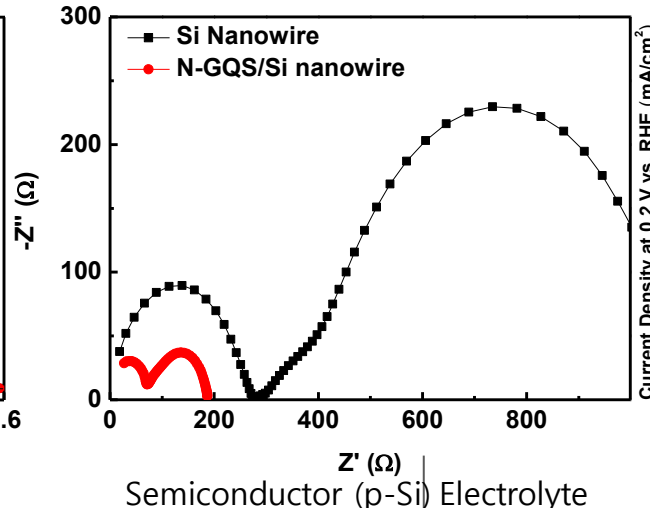


Interface analysis

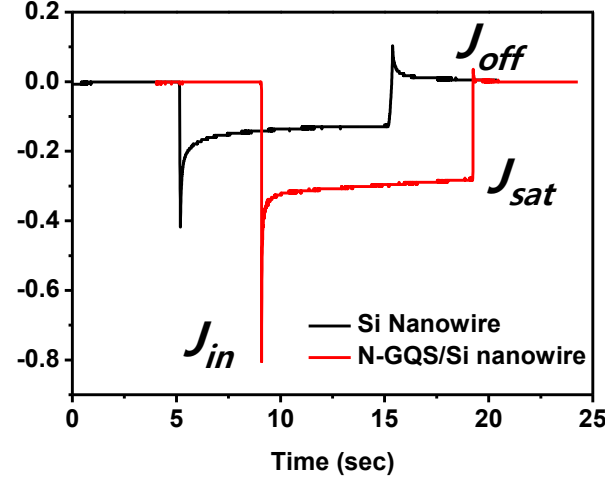
Mott-Schottky Plot



Nyquist plot

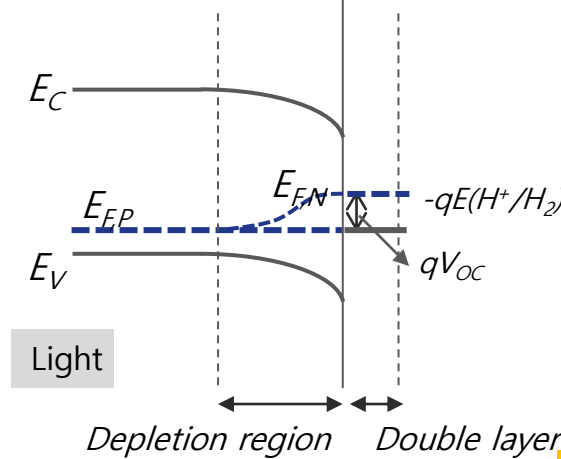
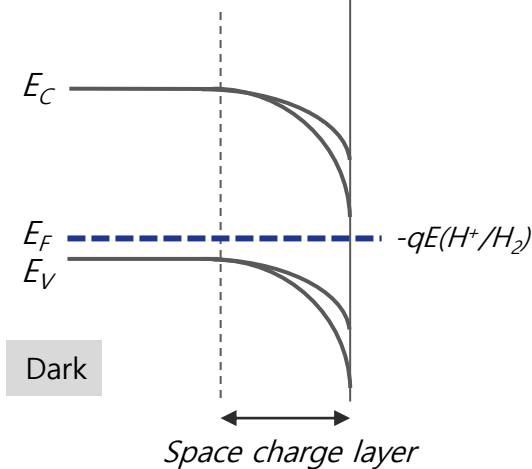


Transient photoresponse



Higher J_{st}/J_{in} & lower J_{off}

- Fewer carriers trapped
- Less recombination



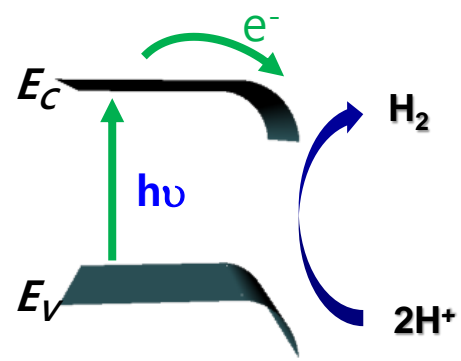
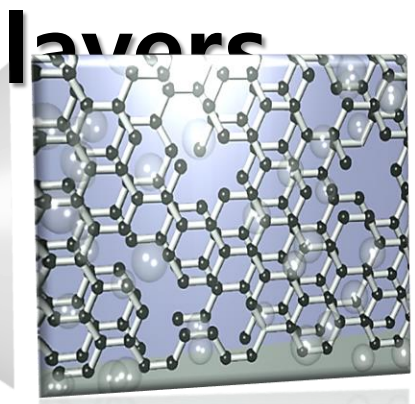
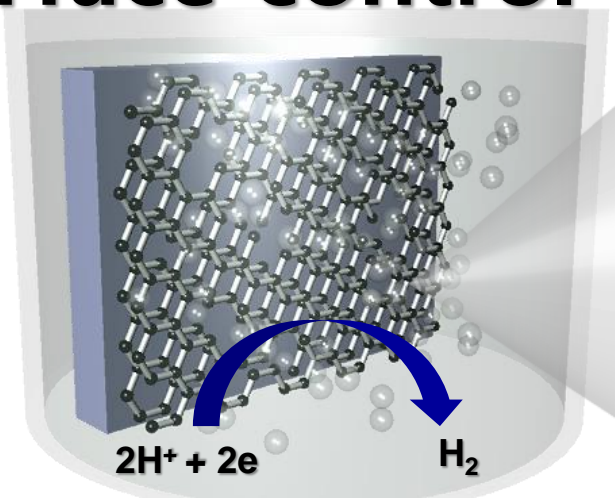
$$\frac{1}{C_{sc}^2} = \frac{2}{\epsilon_r \epsilon_0 A^2 e N_{Dopant}} \left(E - E_{fb} - \frac{kT}{e} \right)$$

Higher band bending

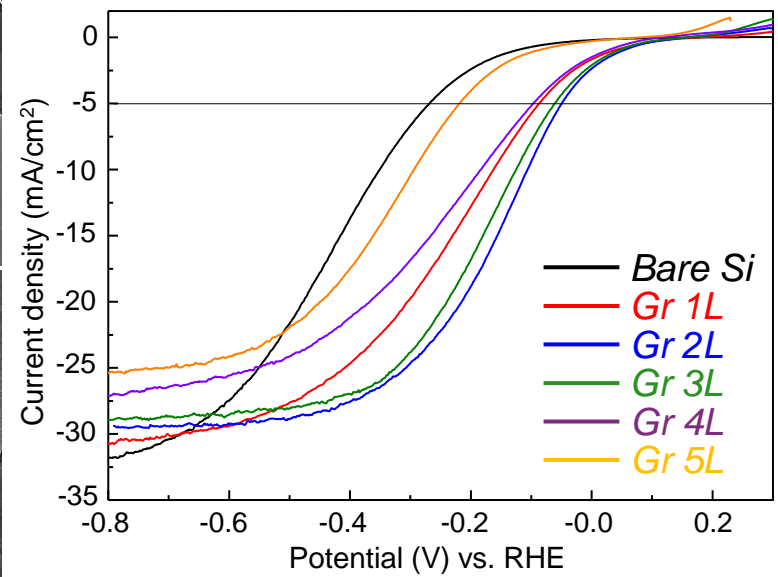
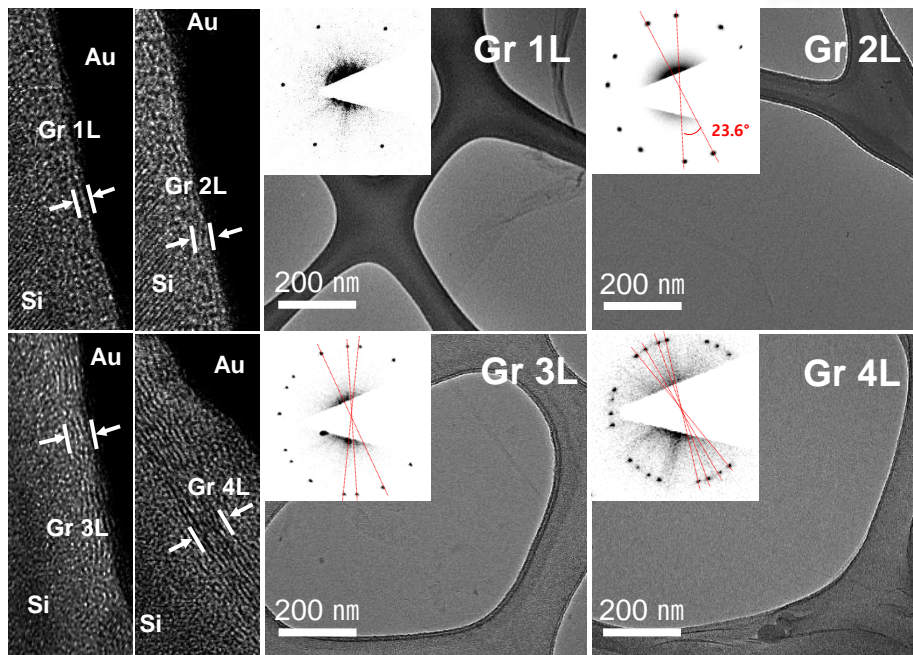
Lower charge transfer resistance

*Interface control:
Lowering kinetic barriers
& charge recombination*

Interface control with multiple graphene layers



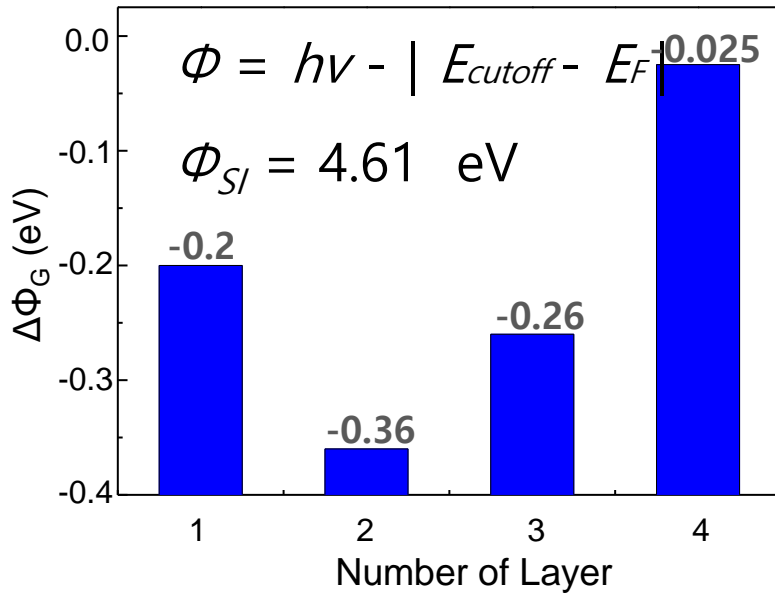
Multi-layer graphene Si/Graphene



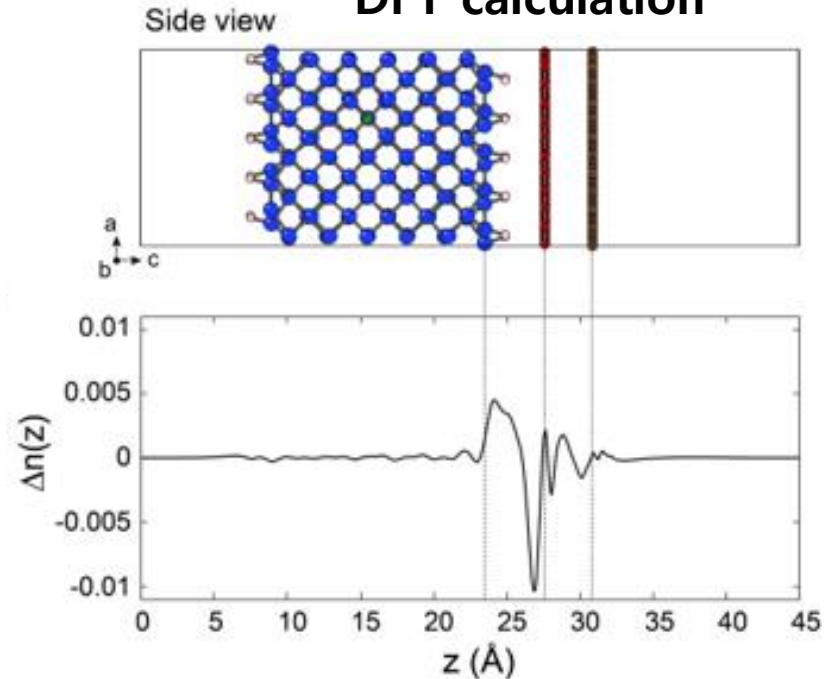
Systematic approach at the interface between electrode and electrolyte
 Uk Sim et al., ACS Appl. Mater. Inter. (2017)

Mechanism at the interface

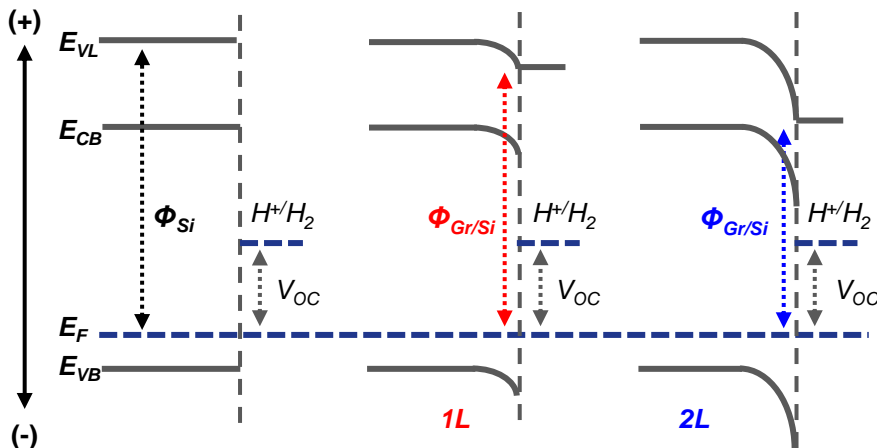
UPS measurement



DFT calculation



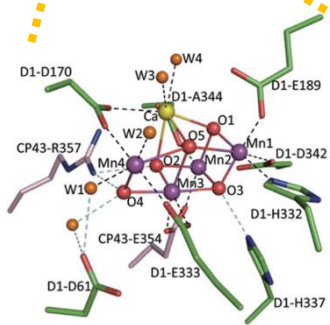
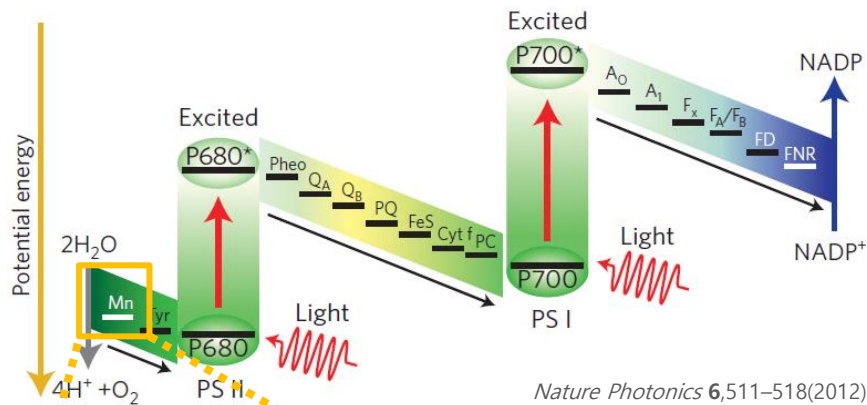
- Increased density of states
- Further Coulombic shift
- The smallest work function
- The highest band bend bending



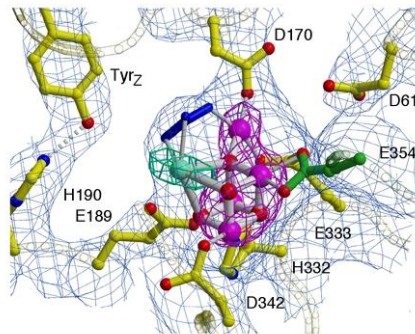
Importance of the electronic band structures of catalytic surface on photoelectrode

Natural enzyme

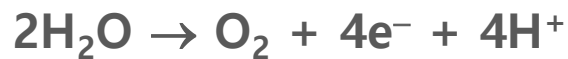
Oxygen Evolution



Nature 473, 55–60 (2011)

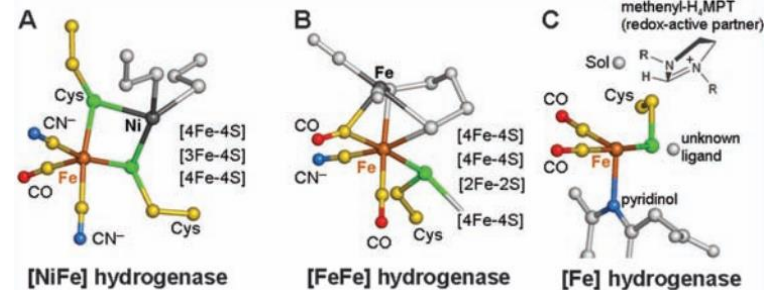
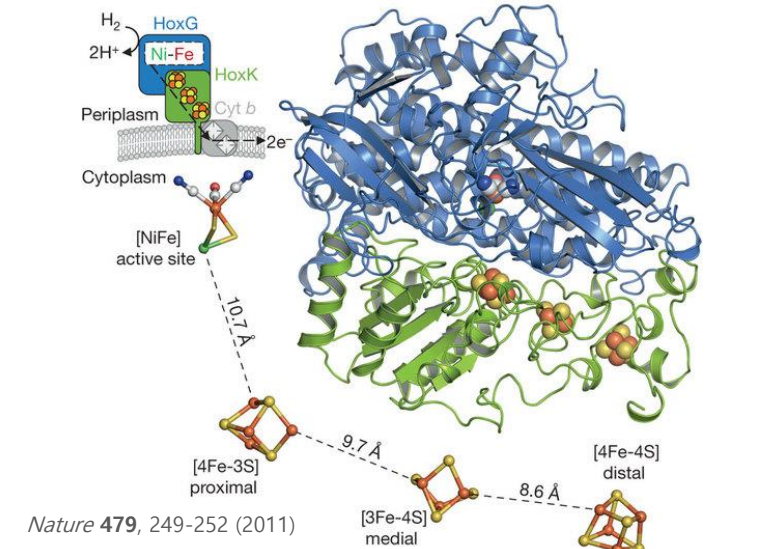


Science 303, 1831–1838 (2004)



PSII and Mn₄CaO₅ cluster

Hydrogen Evolution

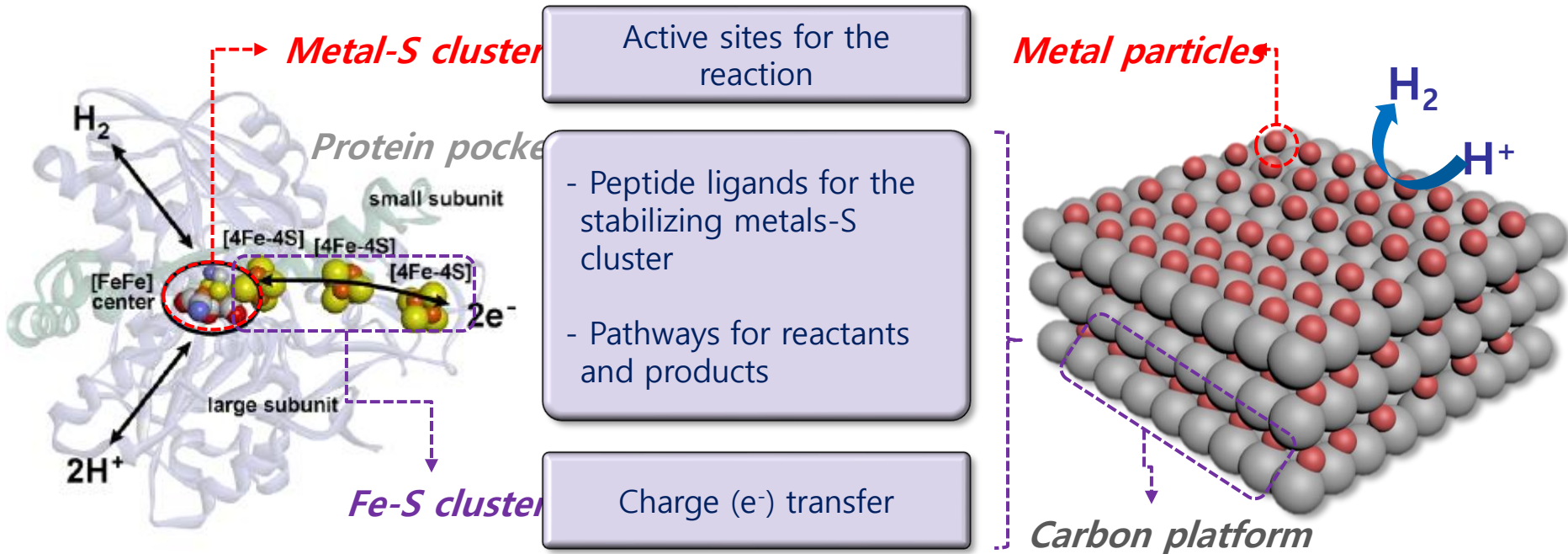


Science 321, 572–575 (2008)



Hydrogenase and [Fe–S] cluster

Model System Study

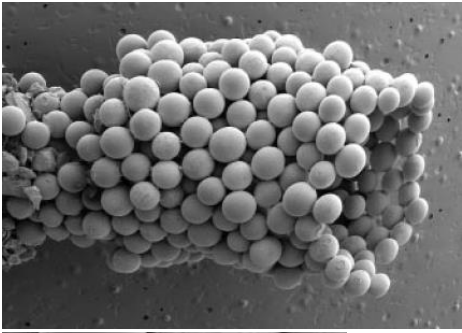


- **Research direction of model system**

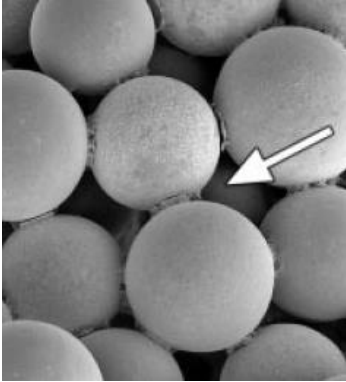
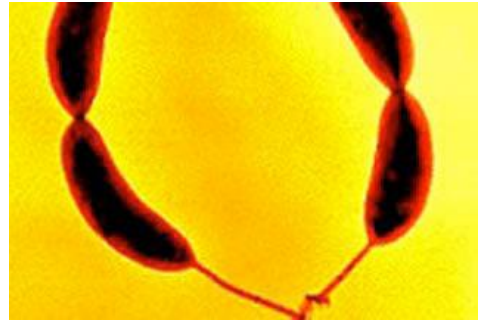
1. Study of carbon platform: From 2D monolayer graphene to pseudo-3D system of multi-layer of graphene and graphene quantum sheets
2. Study of metal active sites: Synthetic bioinspired carbon-based catalyst

Wet-resistance adhesives Found in Nature

Tube-building polychaete



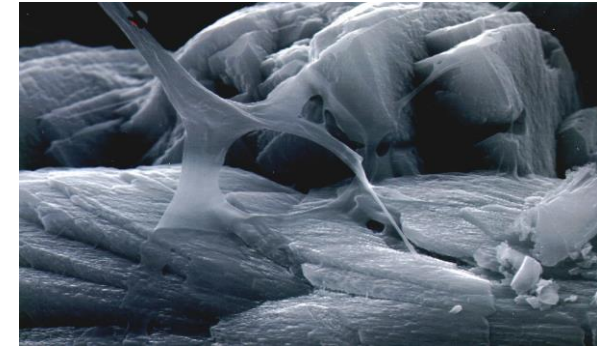
C. crescentus



Barnacles



Irish Moss, (*C. crispus*)



Biofilms

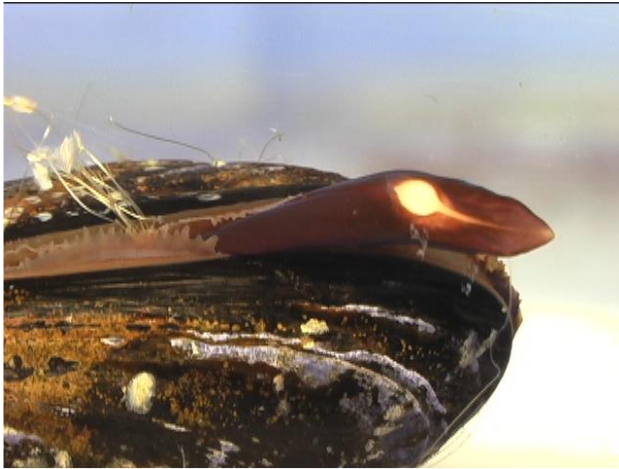


Mussels



Mussel Adhesion

Processes: molding → secretion → curing

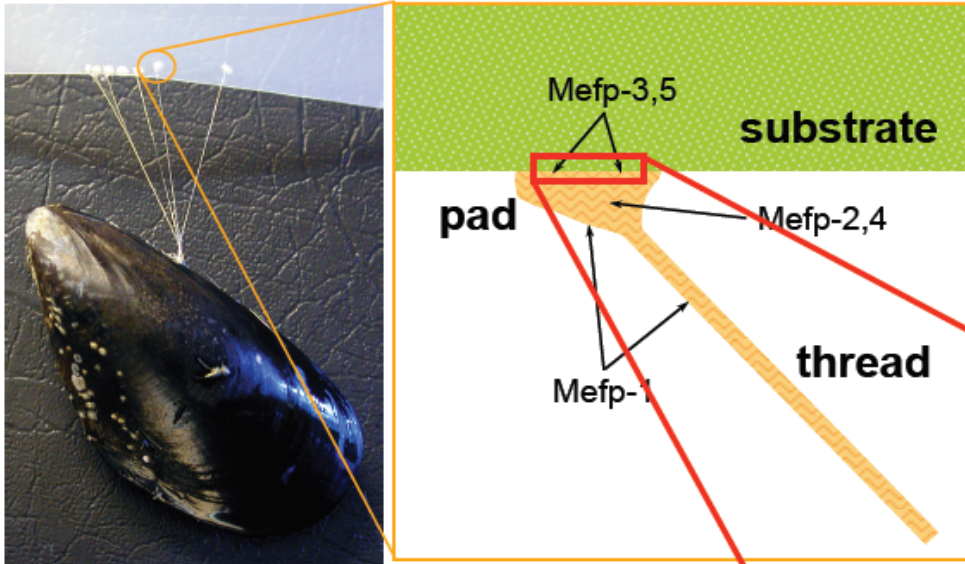


1. Water-resistant adhesion
2. Versatile adhesion

Ship hull
Rocks
Water plant leaves
Feathers
Fish skin
Drinking bottles
Teflon®

<https://youtu.be/dPgZSHe9fg8>

Mussel adhesion : DOPA-Lys Motif



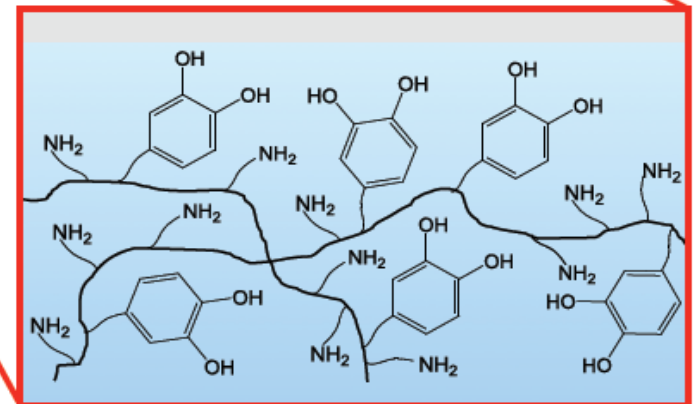
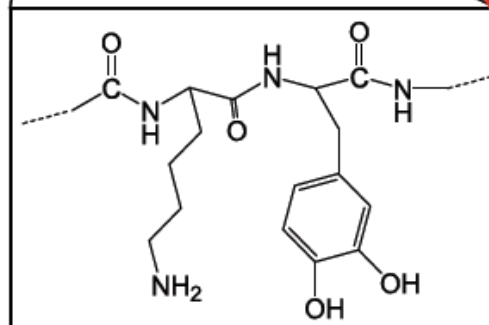
Mefp5¹

1 SSEEYKGGYYPGNAHYHSGGSYHG
 26 SGYHGGYKGYKAKKYKYKNS
 51 GKYYLKKARKYHRKGYKYGGSS

Mefp3²

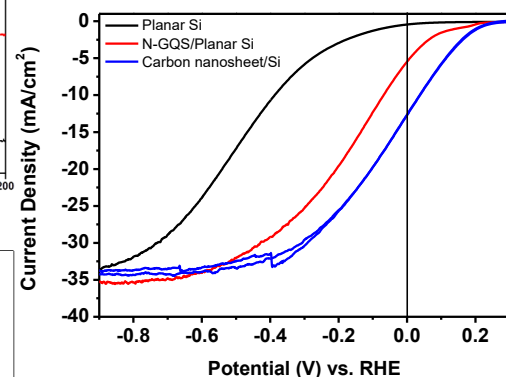
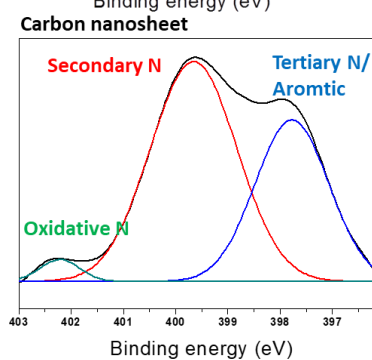
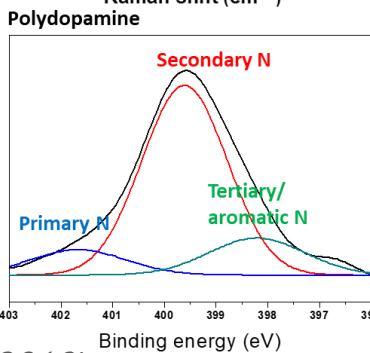
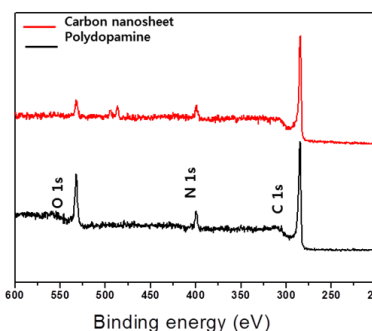
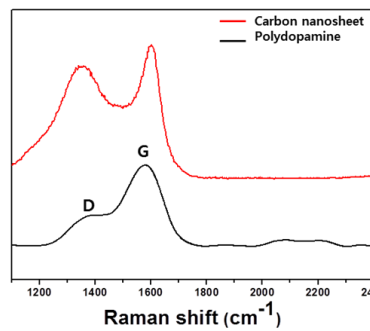
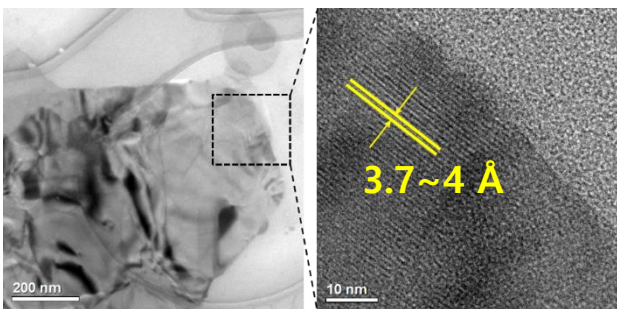
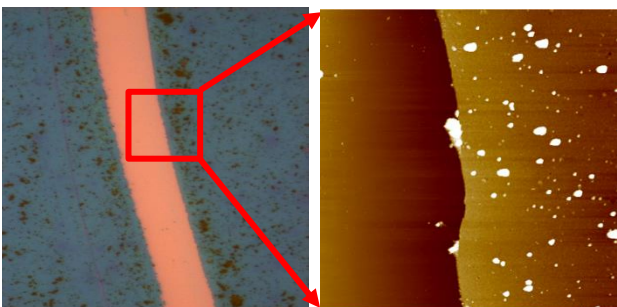
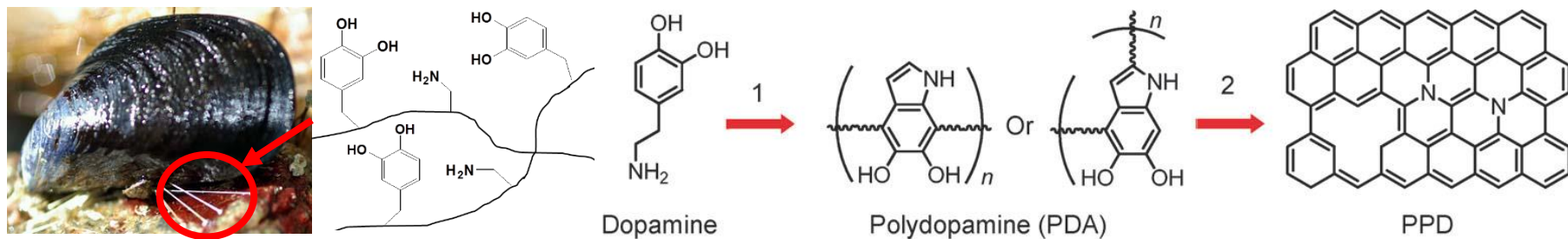
1 ADYYPNYGPPRRYGGGNRYNRY
 26 GRRYGGYKGWNNGWNRGRRGKYW

Y: DOPA



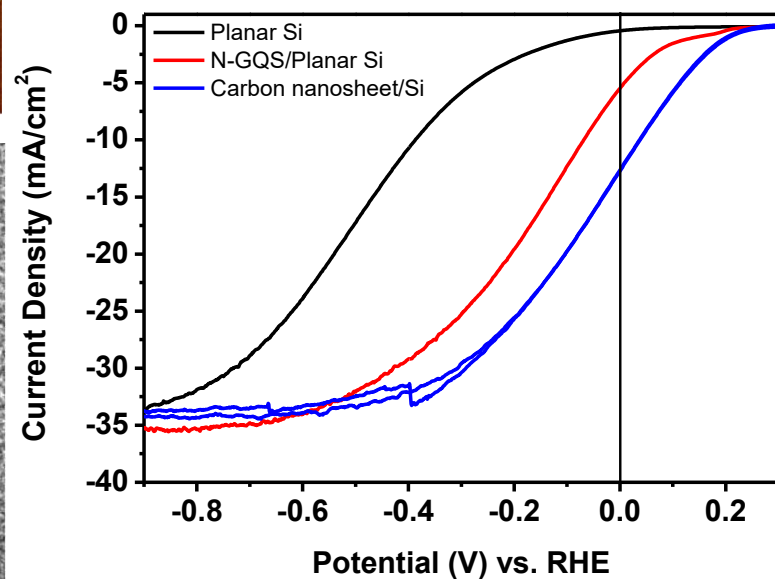
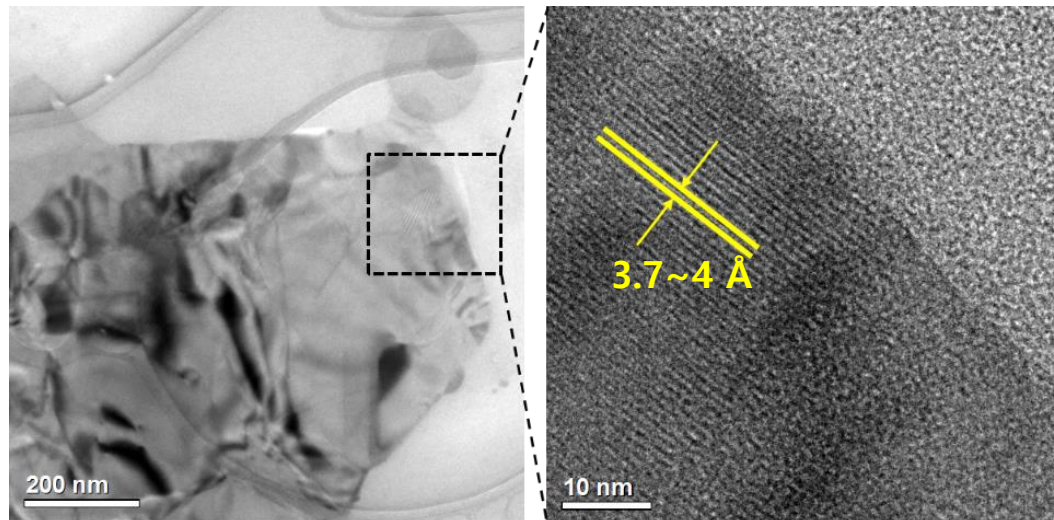
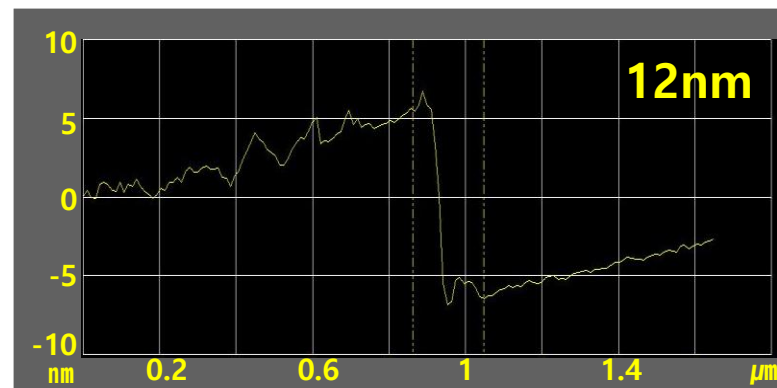
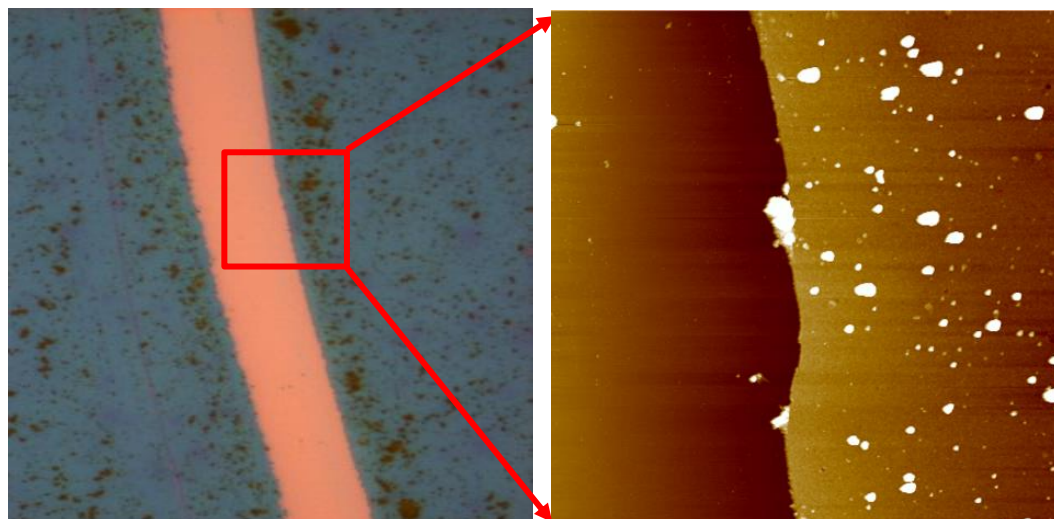
Synthetic Bioinspired Carbon-based Catalyst

Poly(dopamine): Adhesive proteins secreted by marine mussels



Uk Sim et al., Bull. Kor. Chem. Soc. (2018)

Characterization of Carbon Nanosheet



| | ABPE (%) |
|------------------|-------------|
| Planar Si | 0.02 |
| N-GQSs | 0.16 |
| Carbon nanosheet | 0.59 |