

Waved 2D Transition-Metal Disulfides for Nanodevices and Catalysis: A First-Principle Study

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Cite This: *ACS Appl. Nano Mater.* 2020, 3, 2804–2812

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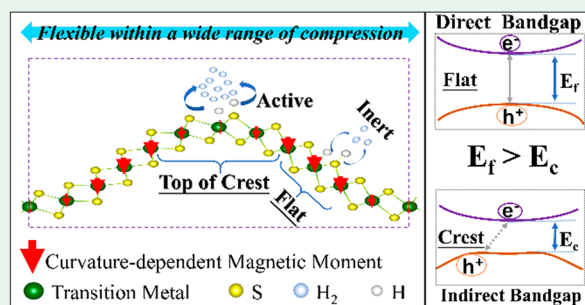
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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Two-dimensional (2D) transition-metal dichalcogenides (TMDs) monolayers have found various applications spanning from electronics in physics to catalysis in chemistry due to their unique physical and chemical properties. Here, the effect of structure engineering on the physical and chemical properties of transition-metal disulfide monolayers (MS_2) is systematically investigated based on density functional theory (DFT) calculations. The calculation results show that waved MS_2 (w- MS_2) can be achieved under compression due to the zero in-plane stiffness, leading to high flexibility within a wide range of compression. The bandgap and conductivity of semiconducting w- MS_2 are reduced because the d orbitals of transition-metal elements become more localized as the curvature increases. A transition from a direct band to an indirect one is observed in w- MoS_2 and w- WS_2 after a critical strain. We further demonstrate the structure engineering can modulate the magnetism of w- VS_2 , leading to nonuniform distribution of magnetic moments along the curvature. Furthermore, we find that waved TMDs show reduced Gibbs free energy for hydrogen adsorption, resulting in enhanced catalytic performance in hydrogen reaction evolution (HER). It is expected that the waved 2D TMDs may find applications into various areas, such as nanodevices and catalysis.

KEYWORDS: waved 2D materials, transition-metal disulfides, strain engineering, electronic and magnetic properties, hydrogen evolution reaction, DFT calculations



INTRODUCTION

Since the discovery of graphene in 2004, two-dimensional (2D) materials have triggered extensive interests in many research fields due to their excellent physical and chemical properties.^{1–4} Their intriguing properties have resulted in wide applications in various areas, such as mechanics,^{5,6} electronics,^{7,8} photoelectronics,^{9,10} and catalysts.^{11,12} Among them, transition-metal dichalcogenides (TMDs) have attracted increasing attention because of their versatile and tunable properties.¹³ Different from graphene, the TMD monolayer is a three-layer structure (X-M-X ; M = transition metal atom, and X = chalcogen atom), which provides a lot of chances to tailor their properties for multiple applications. Various methods, such as electron and atom doping,^{14,15} vacancy control,¹⁶ deformation,¹⁷ and thermal annealing,¹⁸ have been used for the purpose, and amazing properties have been reported, such as valley electronics,¹⁹ magnetism,²⁰ and superconductivity.²¹

The out-of-plane deformation, such as buckling,²² wrinkling,²³ scrolling,²⁴ and folding,²⁵ is observed in many 2D materials because of their ultrathin nature, which has triggered greatly attention recently.^{26,27} For instance, waved graphene had been reported to show high performance on molecule adsorption, chemical reaction, and hydrogen evolution reaction (HER).^{28–33} Xie et al. reported that a spontaneous ripple superlattice was formed when a van der Waals (vdW) TMD

heterostructure with large lattice mismatch was fabricated.³⁴ Out-of-plane deformation (or bended structure) has also been reported on other 2D TMDs.^{35,36} However, to the best of our knowledge, few systematic studies have reported on their physical and chemical properties affected by the periodic curvatures. In this work, we construct waved MS_2 (M = Mo, W, Sn, and V) to investigate the effect of curvature on their physical and chemical properties using first-principles calculations. We find that these waved nanosheets show high flexibility upon compression, and their band structures depend on the compression, resulting in a transition from direct bandgap to an indirect one. The compression has no effect on the ground states of waved MS_2 but strongly affects the local magnetic moments (LMM) of magnetic w- VS_2 , leading to the nonuniform distribution of magnetic moments along the curvature. We further show that the curvature can improve the catalytic activity of MS_2 for HER, which is greatly enhanced by simply increasing the compression. Our well-rounded calcu-

Received: January 14, 2020

Accepted: March 9, 2020

Published: March 9, 2020

lation paves a way to tune the physical and chemical properties of MS₂ for versatile applications by strain engineering.

■ COMPUTATIONAL METHOD

All density functional theory (DFT) calculations are carried out to investigate study the physical and chemical properties of waved 2D TMDs. The Perdew–Burke–Eznerhof generalized gradient approximation (PBE-GGA) is used for the exchange–correlation energy.³⁷ The projector augmented wave (PAW) method in the Vienna ab initio simulation package (VASP) is employed in this work. The integration of the first Brillouin zone is carried out with the Monkhorst and Pack (MP) scheme of k-point sampling. A 7 × 1 × 1 MP grid is used for the k-point sampling during relaxation calculation, while a 21 × 3 × 1 MP grid was adopted to calculate the densities of states (DOSs). A vacuum region of 15 Å is applied along the z axis to avoid the interaction between adjacent interlayers. All the calculations use 1.0 × 10^{−6} eV/atom as total energy convergence condition and 0.04 eV/Å as maximum force convergence criteria, which are carefully tested before the further calculation. Spin-polarization is considered when calculating magnetic materials. The cutoff energy for the planar-wave expansion is set to 500 eV.

Geometrical Structures. The MS₂ monolayers are first relaxed under zero strain (Table 1) and then compressed to

Table 1. Optimized Geometrical Parameters and the Relative Calculated Phase of MS₂ Monolayers^a

2D MS ₂	lattice constant (<i>a</i> ₀ = <i>b</i> ₀) (Å)	bond length of M–S (Å)	angle of S–M–S (deg)	length of supercell <i>C</i> ₀ (Å)	Calculated Phase
MoS ₂	3.185	2.412	82.617	33.094	2H
WS ₂	3.181	2.416	82.345	33.064	2H
VS ₂	3.167	2.353	84.590	32.914	2H
SnS ₂	3.699	2.598	90.828	38.450	1T

^a(H = Hexagonal, T = Trigonal).

form waved MS₂ (w-MS₂) under various compressions (from 2% to 16%) (Figure 1). Table 1 shows the considered lengths (*C*₀) of planar MS₂ (p-MS₂). Under applied strain, MS₂ shows out-of-plane deformation and the wavelength shrinks (*C*) as

compression increases (Figure S1). We investigated the w-MS₂ with various wavelengths to figure out the effects of periodic curvature on the intrinsic properties of 2D materials for potential applications in mechanics, electronics, magnetism, and catalysis.

Formation of w-MS₂. To indicate the possibility for the formation of the waved 2D TMDs under compression, the energy difference between waved and planar 2D monolayers is calculated first as,

$$E_{\text{dif}} = (E(\text{w-MS}_2) - E(\text{p-MS}_2))/N_u \quad (1)$$

where *E*(w-MS₂) and *E*(p-MS₂) refer to the total energies of the w- and p-MS₂ under same compression, respectively. *N_u* represents the total number of unit cells in a supercell. The waved supercell includes 12 unit cells and is considered in our study. We introduce the strain by shortening the wavelength (*C*) in the armchair direction. The strain is calculated to be $\sigma = (C_0 - C)/C \times 100\%$.

Mechanic Parameters. The mechanic parameters are obtained by following equations,²⁸

$$E_s(\sigma) = (E(\text{w-MS}_2) - N_u E(\text{MS}_2))/N_u \quad (2)$$

$$F_{\text{ten}} = -\frac{\partial E_s(\sigma)}{\partial C} \quad (3)$$

$$\gamma_{\text{ten}} = -\frac{\partial F_{\text{ten}}}{\partial C} \quad (4)$$

$$C_s = -\frac{\partial^2 E_s(\sigma)}{\partial \sigma^2} \quad (5)$$

where *E*(MS₂) is the energy of a unit cell. *E_s*(σ), *F_{ten}*, and *γ_{ten}* are the strain energy, tension force, and force constant at a given strain. The in-plane stiffness (*C_s*) is calculated using the equilibrium area of the supercell (*S*₀) because of the ambiguous definition of Young's modulus of honeycomb structures.³⁸

Magnetic Coupling. The magnetic ground state of w-VS₂ is determined by calculating the total energies of ferromagnetic (FM) and antiferromagnetic (AFM) states. The energy

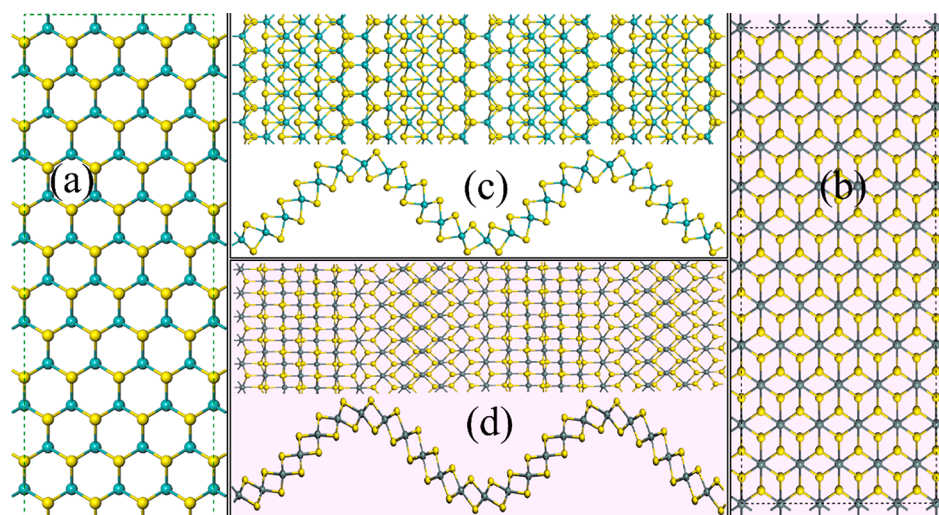


Figure 1. Structures of (a) 2H p-MS₂ and (b) 1T p-MS₂ without compression. The top and side views of (c) 2H waved MS₂ and (d) 1T waved MS₂ along the armchair direction.

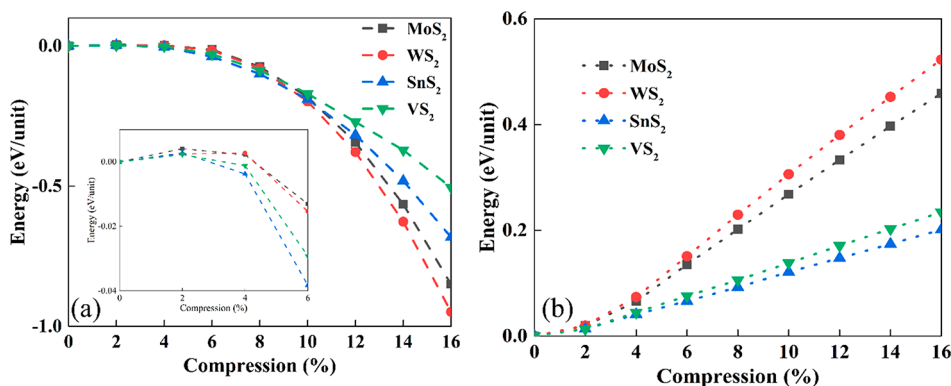


Figure 2. (a) Energy difference between planar and waved of MS₂ at same compression as calculated from eq 1. (b) Strain energy of waved MS₂ as a function of compression as calculated from eq 2.

difference between the two states (exchange energy) tells the ground state and magnetic coupling, which is expressed as,

$$E_{\text{ex}} = (E(\text{AFM}) - E(\text{FM}))/N_{\text{u}} \quad (6)$$

where E_{ex} is the exchange energy. $E(\text{AFM})$ and $E(\text{FM})$ are the total energies of ferromagnetic and antiferromagnetic states, respectively.

Hydrogen Evolution Reaction. The adsorption of the H atom is the first step for water splitting. The hydrogen adsorption energy is defined as,

$$\Delta E_{\text{H}} = E(\text{w-MS}_2 + \text{H}) - E(\text{w-MS}_2) - \frac{1}{2}E(\text{H}_2) \quad (7)$$

where $E(\text{w-MS}_2 + \text{H})$ and $E(\text{w-MS}_2)$ represent the total energies of w-MS₂ with and without one adsorbed H, respectively. $E(\text{H}_2)$ is the energy of H₂ molecule in gas phase.

Generally, we can evaluate the HER catalytic ability by calculating Gibbs free energy, which indicates the adsorption of reactive intermediates on a catalyst based on the Sabatier principle³⁹ and is expressed as,⁴⁰

$$\Delta G_{\text{H}} = \Delta E_{\text{H}} + \Delta E_{\text{ZPE}} - T\Delta S_{\text{H}} \quad (8)$$

$$\Delta S_{\text{H}} \cong -\frac{1}{2}S_{\text{H}_2}^0 \quad (9)$$

where $S_{\text{H}_2}^0$ is the entropy of hydrogen molecules in the gas phase under standard conditions. ΔE_{ZPE} is the difference in zero-point energies between the adsorbed H and H in gas phase. $\Delta E_{\text{ZPE}} - T\Delta S_{\text{H}}$ is calculated to be 0.24 eV. Hence, eq 8 is simplified to,

$$\Delta G_{\text{H}} = \Delta E_{\text{H}} + 0.24 \quad (10)$$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Structural Stability and Mechanical Properties. The structural stability of w-MS₂ is investigated first to determine their formation possibility. Figure 2a shows the energy difference (eq 1) between w-MS₂ and p-MS₂ at the same compression. As a whole, the four monolayers show the same trend; that is, the energy difference decreases negatively with the increment of compression, manifesting that the energy of the waved one is lower than that of its planar counterpart (Figure S2). Although there is a slight increment when $\sigma \leq 2\%$ (Figure 2a, inset), the amount is negligible. As the compression exceed 2%, the total energies of w-MS₂ present linear increment, while p-MS₂ shows a parabolic behavior in the

increase of energy as the external strain increases (Figure S2). Clearly, the waved 2D materials start to form after $\sigma \geq 4\%$ because the energy of w-MS₂ is less than that of p-MS₂. Especially, w-SnS₂ has the largest energy difference at $\sigma = 4\%$, indicating it is easy to be bended at low compression. WS₂ shows the largest energy difference after $\sigma > 10\%$, indicating that w-WS₂ can be achieved at high compression, which is consistent with the literature.^{34,41} The calculated energies indicate that the monolayer has a large probability of being buckled rather than keeping planar under compression, which is similar to graphene.³⁰

The calculated strain energies of w-MS₂ (Figure 2b) increase with the reduction of the wavelength (or the increment of curvature). Figure S3 shows the bond length of S–M and angle of S–M–S at the crest and trough of w-MS₂. The angle of S–M–S goes up on the crest and goes down in the trough with the compression increasing because the crest and trough experience opposite strains, that is, tension and compression, respectively. The change of the S–M bond shows a same trend with that of the S–M–S angle (Figure S3). It is noted that the differences of the S–M–S angle and S–M bond between at the crest (or trough) of w-MS₂ and at the basal plan of p-MS₂ are up to ~18 degrees and ~5% at $\sigma = 16\%$, respectively. By further increasing compression, the chemical bond or bond angle cannot sustain within a reasonable range, leading to the breakdown. Hence, the compression is limited to 16% in our considered systems.

The calculated tension forces are 1.09, 0.47, 0.46, and 1.26 eV/Å for w-MoS₂, w-VS₂, w-SnS₂, and w-WS₂, respectively, which are higher than that of waved graphene (~0.3 eV/Å), indicating that they are relatively difficult to be buckled under low compression and easy to breakdown under high compression. The result is in well agreement with the previous report on graphene.³¹ w-MS₂ can be only formed after $\sigma \geq 4\%$, while waved graphene can be formed at $\sigma \geq 1\%$. Waved graphene can stably exist under large compression up to over 50%, while w-MS₂ will break at high compression. Accordingly, the calculated stiffness shows a trend of WS₂ > MoS₂ > VS₂ > SnS₂ > graphene, which is in an agreement with previous experimental results.^{42–44} According to eq 5, the in-plane stiffness of w-MS₂ is zero because the strain energy is linearly proportional to the compression (Figure 2b).³⁸ Our calculations show that w-MS₂ is quite flexible and can be back to the basal structure after external force is released. Among these four materials, especially, SnS₂ shows the highest force tolerance due to lowest tension force, which can be

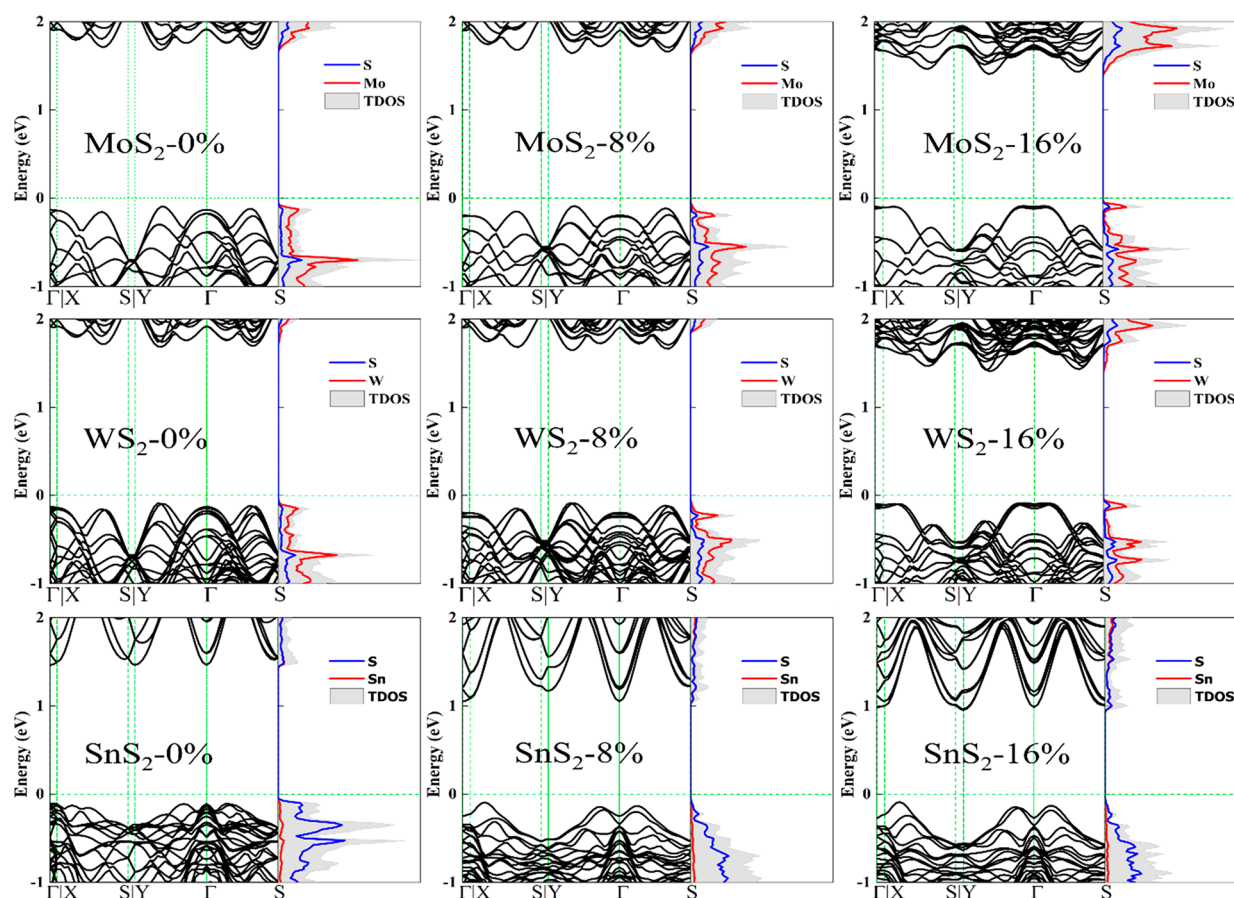


Figure 3. Calculated band structure of w-MS₂ at compressions of 0%, 8%, and 16%, respectively. The Fermi level is aligned to 0 eV.

attributed to its large lattice constant (Table 1). Additionally, we carried out molecular dynamic simulations on w-MS₂ to further confirm its stability at a compression of 16%. We found that the energy and structure kept unchanged over time (Figures S11 and S12), indicating that they are stable under high compression.

Electronic Properties. Our calculations show that the waved TMDs are highly possible to be obtained under compression. Definitely, their electronic properties will be affected by the periodic curvature. Therefore, the band structures and densities of states (DOSs) of w-MS₂ were calculated. As 2H-VS₂ has a quite narrow bandgap (~18 meV) based on the GGA-PBE calculation, we focused on the effect of curvature on the band structure of other semiconducting w-MS₂ that have large bandgaps. We see that all semiconducting w-MS₂ (Figure 3) show similar behavior in the change of band structures under compression; that is, the valence band tops (VBTs) of w-MS₂ are obviously affected under large compression. The VBTs of w-MoS₂ and w-Ws₂ gradually shift along YΓ direction, that is, from one-third of YΓ to two-thirds of YΓ. Particularly, the VBTs are almost flattened under high compression. The VBT of w-SnS₂ shifts from two-thirds YΓ point to one-third of XS, while the conduction band bottom (CBB) is transferred from Γ to Y point. We further analyzed the projected band structures of the waved MS₂ (Figures S4–S6). For MoS₂, the three orbitals (Mo-d_{x²-y²}, Mo-d_{z²}, and Mo-d_{xz}) mainly attribute to the VBT near Fermi level. At σ = 0%, the d_{x²-y²} occupies the VBT. As the strain increases, the d_{x²-y²} shifts gradually to low energy level, while the d_{z²} electrons prefer the VBT, resulting in the change of

VBT. When σ ≥ 12%, the VBT with a flat top appears at Γ point, resulting in a localized DOS near the Fermi level (Figure 3). The localized DOS has a large effective mass of holes, which would reduce the hole mobility and conductivity of w-MoS₂. w-Ws₂ shows a same trend to w-MoS₂ due to the similar geometrical parameters between MoS₂ and WS₂ (Table 1; Figure 2) and the same valence electron structures of Mo and W. Compared with the d bands of w-MoS₂ and w-Ws₂, there is no significant change in the S-p_i orbitals (S-p_i, i = x, y, z) (Figure S6). Different from w-MoS₂ and w-Ws₂, the projected bands of w-SnS₂ show that the S-p_i states dominate its VBT and CBB (Figure 3). Especially, p_z shrinks to high energy level and p_x at one-third XS point occupies the top of VBT when σ ≥ 2% (Figure S6), which could be attributed to the difference of ground-state electron distribution between full d-orbit Sn (4d¹⁰) and half d-orbit W/Mo (4d⁵).

Moreover, we calculated the change of bandgap as the compression increases (Figure 4). The bandgap of w-SnS₂ decreases with the shortening of the wavelength except for σ = 10%, where it slightly increased, due to the slight decrease of VBT (Figure S6; 10%). w-SnS₂ keeps an indirect-bandgap nature under compression. For w-MoS₂ and w-Ws₂, the effect of compression on their bandgaps is relatively weak, except at high compression, which leads to the reduction of the bandgap. Interestingly, a transfer from a direct to indirect band is observed at a critical compression, which is 4% for w-MoS₂ and 2% for w-Ws₂ (Figure 4), respectively. Most recently, the direct-to-indirect band transitions on deformed 2D WS₂, MoS₂, and WSe₂ were observed in experiments,⁴⁶ which is in an agreement with our prediction. This transition can not only

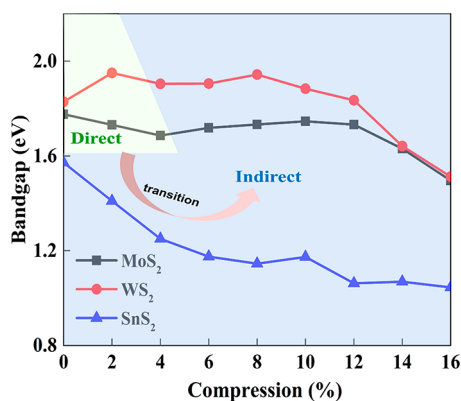


Figure 4. Calculated bandgap of w-MS₂ tuned by compression from 0% to 16%.

be used in optical switching and optical communication⁴⁵ but also would impact the efficiency of photocatalysis.^{47,48}

Magnetic Property. As the electronic features of 2D materials can be tuned by controlling its structures, the magnetic property is also investigated in the same way, which may lead to intriguing phenomena and practical applications, such as data storage. Our calculations show that only w-VS₂ shows magnetism and its ground state prefers to be ferromagnetic, which is consistent with the previous report.⁴⁹ The other w-MS₂s are nonmagnetic and keep steadfast with the change of curvature (Figure S7). Therefore, we only considered the effect of curvature on the magnetism of w-VS₂. We investigated first the effect of curvature on the exchange energy (E_{ex}). Figure 5a represents the ferromagnetic and antiferromagnetic configurations. At $\sigma = 0\%$, the exchange energy is about 41 meV/unit, in agreement with the previous study.⁵⁰ The positive E_{ex} indicates that p-VS₂ prefers to the ferromagnetic ground state because the energy of AFM state is higher than that of FM state. As the compression increases, we find that the calculated E_{ex} evidently decreases, leading to reduced ferromagnetic coupling. Clearly, the ferromagnetism of VS₂ is strongly affected by local curvature (Figure 5a, blue line).

Our calculation may explain the strain-induced reduction of the ferromagnetic order of VSe₂ in the epitaxial growth on some substrates.⁵¹ We further see that the total magnetic moment of w-VS₂ supercell decreases obviously from 11.86 to

9.15 μB as the compression increases from the flat structure to the highly compressed one (Figure S7). Therefore, we investigated the variation of the magnetic moments of S and V atoms as the compression increased. The results show that the S atoms have similar magnetic moments ($\sim 0.05 \mu\text{B}$), which are antiparallel to those of the V atoms and keep almost unchanged with the compression. However, the moment of the V atom is greatly affected by the compression (Figure 5b). To figure out the correlation between the curvature and magnetic moment, we calculate the magnetic moment of each V atom in one period of periodically waved VS₂. We mark the V atoms with the numbers from V₁ to V₁₂ (Figure 5b, inset). V₇ is on the crest and V₁ is at the trough of w-VS₂. The results show that LMMs of V atoms decrease with the increase of compression, where the trend strongly depends on their positions on w-VS₂. The V₁ and V₇ contribute mostly to the reduction of total magnetic moment as their magnetic moments go down fast (from 0.9 to 0.46 μB) with the compression increasing due to the elongated S–V length and extended S–V–S angle (Figure S3). The LMMs of V atoms at other positions are also more or less affected by curvature, but the reduction is less than those of V₁ and V₇. Consequently, the change of LMM affects the exchange energy, leading to the weakening of the FM state. The contribution to the total moment is in a sequence of $V_3 = V_4 = V_9 = V_{10} > V_5 = V_{11} > V_2 = V_8 > V_6 = V_{12} > V_1 = V_7$, confirming that the waved VS₂ can provide tunable local magnetic moment by controlling the compression, which would be a favorable controllable layer in 2D heterostructures.⁵²

To reveal the mechanism, the partial DOSs (PDOSs) were calculated (Figure S8). On the basis of the principle of magnetism, only a half-filled orbit has a contribution to the magnetic moment. The PDOS reveals that the areas of S-up and S-down have no obvious change with the compression increasing, indicating that S has less contribution to the change of total magnetic moment. But, the PDOS of V-d indicates a transfer from the localized valence band at a high energy (Figure S8; 0%) to the distributed states at a low energy near Fermi levels (Figure S8; 16%), resulting in the reduction of total magnetic moment because of the reduced area difference between the spin-up and spin-down states.⁴⁹

Effect to HER Catalytic Activity. The curvature not only has a strong effect on the physical properties of waved MS₂ but also on their chemistry as well. In part, we investigated the

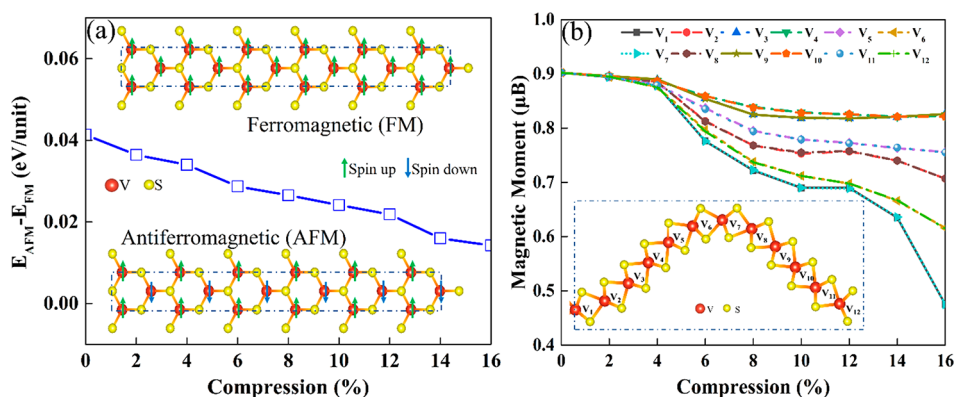


Figure 5. (a) Energy difference between AFM and FM of w-VS₂ under different compressions. The insets are top views of geometric structures for FM and AFM states. (b) Calculated magnetic moment of each V atom. The inset is the side view of monolayer 2H waved VS₂ structure with marks from V₁ to V₁₂. Dash lines indicate one supercell.

effect of curvature on catalytic ability of w-MS₂ in HER for their applications in the electrolysis of water.^{53–57} For the calculation of the Gibbs free energy (ΔG_{H}) of hydrogen adsorption, a large supercell with 12×4 unit cells is constructed. Two possible configurations for hydrogen adsorption at the crest of w-MS₂ are considered (Figure 6),

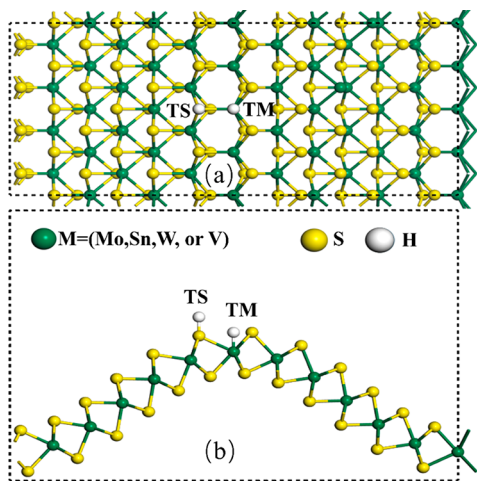


Figure 6. Representative two kinds of configurations (TS and TM) of possible H adsorption locations. (a) and (b) represent the top and side view of configurations.

that is, the top of S atom (TS) and top of transition-metal atom (TM). The relaxed structures for H-adsorbed w-MS₂ are discussed in the Supporting Information (Figures S9 and S10).

Figure 7 shows that the calculated Gibbs free energies of w-MS₂ can be tuned by controlling the compression. We see that

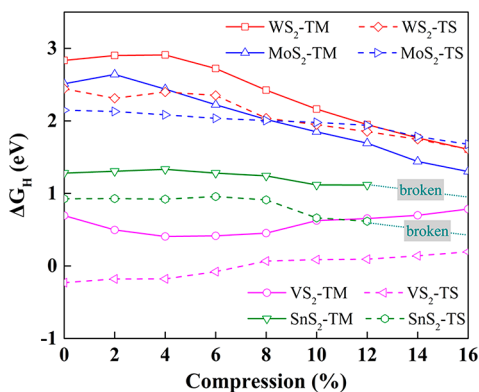


Figure 7. Calculated Gibbs free energy of wavy MS₂ as the compression changes from 0% to 16%.

the TS positions are the active sites for w-WS₂, w-SnS₂, and w-VS₂ toward efficient HER in the whole range of considered compression due to the low Gibbs free energy. But, for w-MoS₂, the S top is active at low compression ($\sigma \leq 8\%$), while the M top becomes active at high compression ($\sigma > 8\%$). Generally, the Gibbs free energies for w-WS₂ and w-MoS₂ are reduced at high compression, leading to the enhanced HER activities. Especially, the HER performance is enhanced by 50% at $\sigma = 16\%$ for w-WS₂ and w-MoS₂. For w-SnS₂, the compression has negligible effect on the H-adsorption. Although these values are still away from thermal-neutral condition, our calculations show that the curvature can

improve the HER activity by reducing the Gibbs free energy of hydrogen adsorption, which provides a fundamental understanding to observed experimental results and may guide the design of novel electrocatalysts for HER. For w-VS₂, the Gibbs free energy for H atom at TS slightly increases from -0.23 to $+0.19$ eV as the compression increases. The Gibbs free energy for H at the M decreases first as the compression increases ($\sigma \leq 4\%$) and then converges to the value at zero compression with further increasing strain. Compared with other absorption sites, the TM position on VS₂ shows weak binding energy after 4% due to the competitive effect from metal and surrounding S atoms as the compression varies (Figure S13). The calculated Gibbs energy indicates that VS₂ gives the best HER ($|\Delta G| < 0.2$ eV) regardless of compression. Although the improvement is not significant, we show that an optimal activity can be realized by controlling the curvature. Clearly, the HER activity of w-MS₂ follows the trend as VS₂ > SnS₂ > MoS₂ > WS₂.

It is noted that the strain can facilitate HER performance of w-MS₂ because the curvature produces strong local potential. Since freestanding monolayer MS₂ is believed to bend in a solvent, the local curvature must be a vital factor for the observed catalytic activity in experiment. The reduced adsorption energy and the change of adsorption position with the compression definitely affect the catalytic activity of w-MS₂ in HER.

To further understand the curvature-induced optimal HER performance of w-MS₂, we calculated the Bader charges on H at different compressions (Table S2). The larger compression, the more the net Bader charge localized on H. The accumulated charge on H would lead to the strong H adsorption. For example, for w-MoS₂, the Bader charge shows an increasing trend, which is identical to the calculated Gibbs free energy (Figure 7). Besides, we find that the optimal HER of VS₂ could be attributed to the negative Bader charge on H because it will promote the next step of the HER via the Heyrovsky mechanism: $\text{H}_{\text{ad}} + \text{H}^+ + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2$.⁵⁸ These results clearly indicate that curvature can facilitate HER performance due to the fast process of hydrogen adsorption and desorption.

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, we investigate systematically the physical and catalytic properties of wavy MS₂ monolayer under compressions based on first-principle calculations. The result shows that the MS₂ monolayers prefer to a wavy structure rather than a planar one because of low formation energy. We show that the band structure of w-MS₂ can be effectively modulated by shrinking the wavelength, such as reduced bandgap and direct-to-indirect band transfer. We further show that magnetic moment of ferromagnetic w-VS₂ is reduced as the compression increases. Interestingly, the magnetic moment of V atom strongly depends on its position on w-VS₂, which may lead to intriguing applications with position-dependent moment required. Furthermore, it is believed that the catalytic activity of w-MS₂ can be easily tuned by controlling local curvature, and we predict that high catalytic performance for HER can be achieved by structure engineering. Our calculations suggest that the structure-engineering, such as out-of-plane deformation, is a simple and effective approach to control the physical and chemical properties of 2D TMDs, which may find applications in nanodevices and catalysis.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

■ Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsanm.0c00119>.

Figures of representative structures, calculated strain energies, calculated S–M bond length and S–M–S bond angles, projected band structures, calculated magnetic moments, density of states, relaxed structures, molecular dynamics simulation, and snapshots of intermediates at different simulation times and tables of calculated S–H and M–H bonds at different compressions and calculated net Bader charge under different compressions (PDF)

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

■ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by the Science and Technology Development Fund from Macau SAR (0102/2019/A2, 0035/2019/AGJ, 084/2016/A2, 199/2017/A3, and 0125/2018/A3) and Multi-Year Research Grants (MYRG2017-00027-FST, MYRG2018-00003-IAPME, MYRG2017-00149-FST, SRG2016-00085-FST) from Research & Development Office at University of Macau. The DFT calculations were performed

at High Performance Computing Cluster (HPCC) of Information and Communication Technology Office (ICTO) at University of Macau.

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