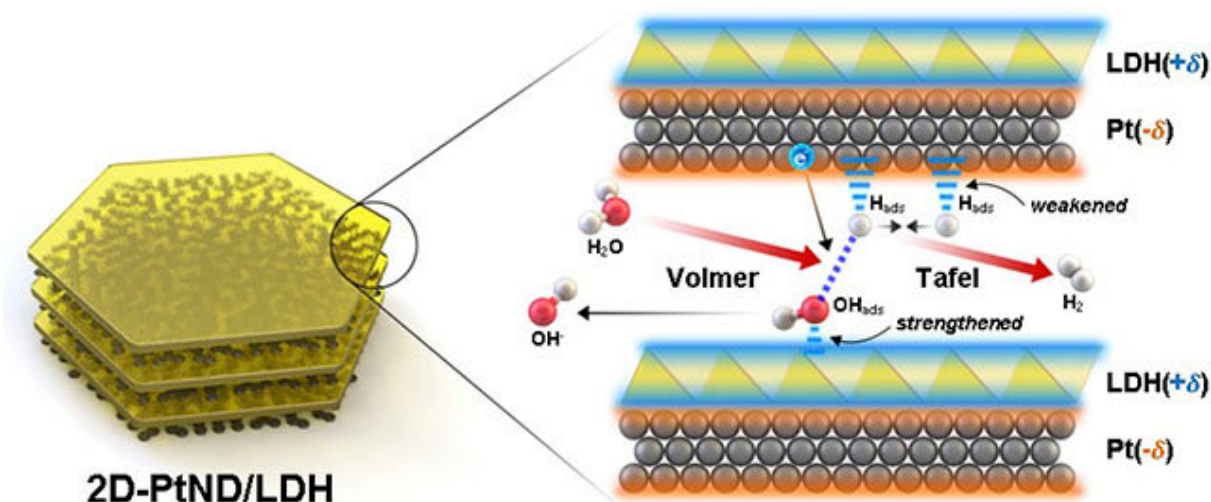


# Double-layered catalyst generates more hydrogen

June 14 2022



Hydrogenation evolution reaction mechanism of the 2D-PtND/LDH NiFe-layered double hydroxide

Credit: Yu-Rim Hong et al

Hydrogen-generating catalysts can create synergistic effects when different materials are layered with their unique properties. Recently, a Korean research team has developed a technology to enhance the hydrogen generation efficiency by flattening platinum (Pt) over the surface of NiFe-layered double hydroxide (LDH).

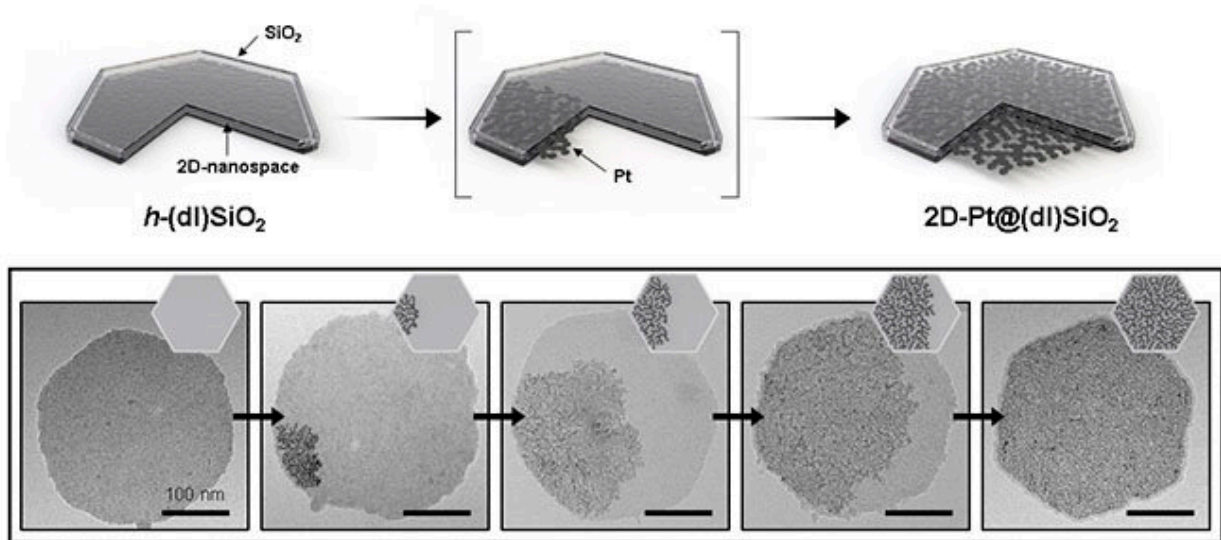
Published as a supplementary cover of the *Journal of the American*

*Chemical Society*, this study was conducted by a POSTECH research team led by Professor In Su Lee, Research Professor Soumen Dutta, and Dr. Yu-Rim Hong (of the Department of Chemistry) in collaboration with Professor Si-Young Choi (Department of Materials Science and Engineering) and Professor Jeong Woo Han (Department of Chemical Engineering).

Platinum combines well with hydrogen and is often regarded as the best catalyst for hydrogen generation. However, because the water decomposition ability of platinum is poor, research has been conducted to improve this ability by combining platinum with iron and nickel hydroxide.

Professor In Su Lee's team has already synthesized a sandwich-type hybrid material in which two-dimensional (2D) NiFe hydroxide nanoplates are sandwiched between porous 2D platinum nanoplates. This material was prepared via an inventive way of growing a platinum layer of ~1 nm on the surface of NiFe hydroxide with a thickness of several nanometers.

In this study, a method for synthesizing the platinum layer by separate thinning was used. This was done to overcome the limitation of the uneven growth of platinum layer on the NiFe hydroxide surface.

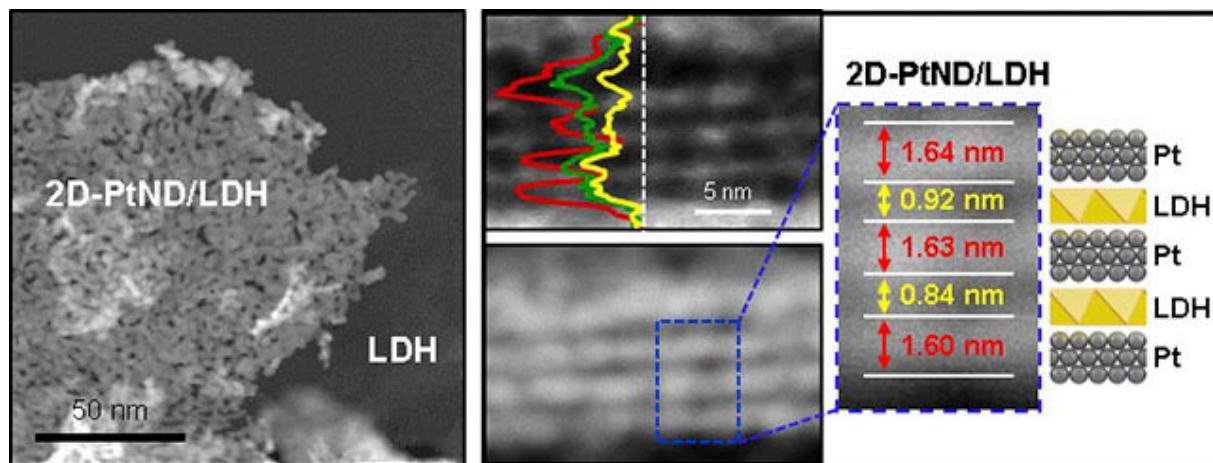


Schematic diagram showing the synthesis of two-dimensional Pt nanodendrites (2D-PtNDs) inside a 2D nanoreactor and the corresponding transmission electron microscopy (TEM) image

Credit: Yu-Rim Hong et al

The researchers ensured that both the upper and lower crystal planes of platinum grew as a [flat surface](#) in a confined 2D nanospace to react more effectively with iron and nickel hydroxide. In this catalyst, a complementary effect occurs between NiFe hydroxide and [platinum](#), which are closely attached at a wide interface.

In this study, the activity of the developed catalyst is 11.2 times higher than that of the conventional catalyst material (20wt%-Pt/C) and its function was stable for a long time. This result, which improved the hydrogen generation efficiency through an innovative catalyst synthesis method, is expected to greatly contribute to the future catalyst field.



TEM images of 2D-PtND/LDH

Credit: Yu-Rim Hong et al

Professor In Su Lee said, "This catalyst shows the highest level of activity and stability among [catalyst](#) materials for alkaline water electrolysis and is expected to greatly increase the generation of green [hydrogen](#), which is considered as the most important low carbon–energy source."

**More information:** Yu-Rim Hong et al, Crystal Facet-Manipulated 2D Pt Nanodendrites to Achieve an Intimate Heterointerface for Hydrogen Evolution Reactions, *Journal of the American Chemical Society* (2022). [DOI: 10.1021/jacs.2c01589](https://doi.org/10.1021/jacs.2c01589)

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