

# Computational Discovery of High-Temperature Ferromagnetic Semiconductor Monolayer H–MnN<sub>2</sub>

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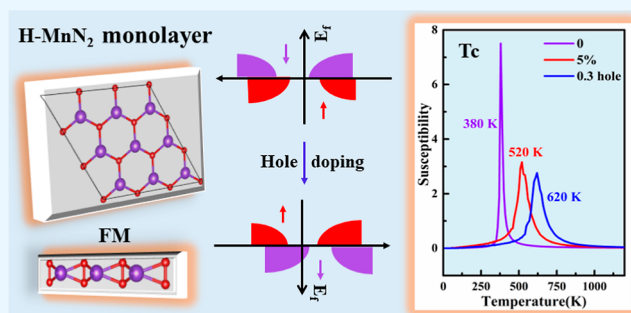


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**ABSTRACT:** In the past few years, two-dimensional (2D) high-temperature ferromagnetic semiconductor (FMS) materials with novelty and excellent properties have attracted much attention due to their potential in spintronics applications. In this work, using first-principles calculations, we predict that the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer with the H–MoS<sub>2</sub>-type structure is a stable intrinsic FMS with an indirect band gap of 0.79 eV and a high Curie temperature ( $T_c$ ) of 380 K. The monolayer also has a considerable in-plane magnetic anisotropy energy (IMAE) of 1005.70  $\mu\text{eV}/\text{atom}$ , including a magnetic shape anisotropy energy induced by the dipole–dipole interaction (shape-MAE) of 168.37  $\mu\text{eV}/\text{atom}$  and a magnetic crystalline anisotropy energy resulting from spin–orbit coupling (SOC-MAE) of 837.33  $\mu\text{eV}/\text{atom}$ . Further, based on the second-order perturbation theory, its in-plane SOC-MAE of 837.33  $\mu\text{eV}/\text{atom}$  is revealed to mainly derive from the couplings of Mn- $d_{xz}, d_{yz}$  and Mn- $d_{x^2-y^2}, d_{xy}$  orbitals through  $L_z$  in the same spin channel. In addition, the biaxial strain and carrier doping can effectively tune the monolayer's magnetic and electronic properties. Such as, under the hole and few electrons doping, the transition from semiconductor to half-metal can be realized, and its  $T_c$  can go up to 520 and 620 K under 5% tensile strain and 0.3 hole doping, respectively. Therefore, our research will provide a new, promising 2D FMS for spintronics devices.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Spintronics has aroused broad concern on account of the advantages of good nonvolatile properties, long-term high speed, low power dissipation, and high integrity,<sup>1,2</sup> and two-dimensional (2D) magnetic materials with unique physical and chemical properties have been widely used in spintronics. However, although many 2D materials have been realized since graphene was successfully stripped in an experiment, most of them lack intrinsic ferromagnetism (FM), and Curie temperatures ( $T_c$ ) are far below room temperature, which greatly limits their practical application.<sup>3–7</sup> In fact, the excellent and effective spintronics materials usually have low dimension, high spin polarization, long-range FM and high  $T_c$ . So, it is urgent to find novel intrinsic 2D FM materials with high spin polarization, good high temperature resistance, and long spin life.

Recently, the experimentally successful synthesis of MoN<sub>2</sub> bulk with van der Waals layered structure has attracted many researchers' interests in transition metal dinitride (TMN<sub>2</sub>) materials.<sup>8,9</sup> Obviously, bulk MoN<sub>2</sub> and MoS<sub>2</sub> have similar structure,<sup>10,11</sup> so refer to the studies of MoS<sub>2</sub> monolayers,<sup>12–14</sup> many 2H-phase and 1T-phase transition metal dinitride (H-TMN<sub>2</sub> and T-TMN<sub>2</sub>) monolayers were considered and studied. Such as Frapper and Ding et al. predicted that H–MoN<sub>2</sub> is a ferromagnetic metal with a high Curie temperature of 420 K, and after hydrogenation, the transition from H–

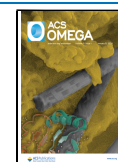
MoN<sub>2</sub> to T–MoN<sub>2</sub> will happen, and the latter will possess an anisotropic Dirac cone at the off-symmetry reciprocal site.<sup>15,16</sup> In addition, Zhao et al. showed that the T–YN<sub>2</sub> monolayer is a new type of P-state Dirac half-metal with a Curie temperature of more than 332 K, and its ferromagnetic ground state can be well maintained under carrier doping or external strain.<sup>17</sup> Meanwhile, Kan et al. calculated that H–YN<sub>2</sub> exhibits ferromagnetic half-metal properties.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, Liu et al. found that T–TaN<sub>2</sub> has a robust FM half-metal state and a high Curie temperature (339 K) due to the strong  $N_p$ – $N_p$  direct exchange interaction, and its half-metal gap of 0.72 eV is sufficient to prevent spin-flip transitions. Both T–NbN<sub>2</sub> and T–MnN<sub>2</sub> are intrinsic ferromagnetic half-metals.<sup>18</sup> Besides, Chen et al. used a high-throughput system to study 87 possible H, T, and novel configurations of TMN<sub>2</sub>, and by means of the density functional theory (DFT), the properties and dynamical, thermodynamical, and mechanical stabilities of some of them were calculated in detail. Among them, T–MnN<sub>2</sub>

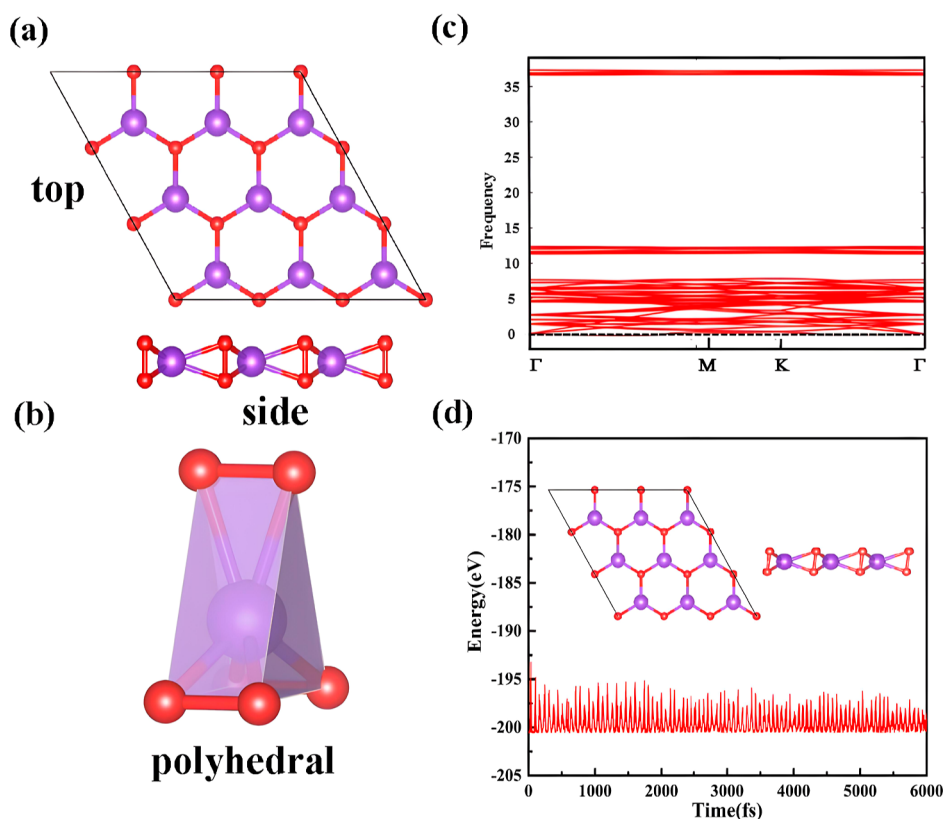
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**Figure 1.** (a,b) Geometric structure, (c) phonon spectrum, and (d) AIMD for a  $3 \times 3 \times 1$  supercell of monolayer H-MnN<sub>2</sub>. The purple and red balls represent Mn and N atoms, respectively.

exhibits ferromagnetic half-metallicity with a Curie temperature (360 K) and out-of-plane magnetic anisotropy.<sup>19</sup> All these studies indicate that TMN<sub>2</sub> materials have great application prospects in spintronic devices.<sup>20–26</sup> However, there is still a dearth of reports on H-MnN<sub>2</sub>. Here, therefore, we are interested in studying the electronic and magnetic properties of H-MnN<sub>2</sub>.

In this paper, we study the mechanical, dynamical, and thermal stabilities and the electronic and magnetic properties of the H-MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer. Further, we also apply strain and carrier doping to regulate them. The results show that the H-MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer is an intrinsic high-temperature FM semiconductor. Moreover, its FM state and semiconductor properties can be almost well preserved under strain, and  $T_c$  shows an increasing trend. For carrier doping, however, the ferromagnetism is also basically maintained very well, but monolayer H-MnN<sub>2</sub> will transform from the semiconductor into metal or half-metal. Moreover, using second-order perturbation theory, we analyze the physical origin of the magnetic anisotropy energy (MAE) as well. This study opens the way for the practical application of monolayer H-MnN<sub>2</sub> in spintronics.

## 2. COMPUTATIONAL DETAILS

All first-principles calculations were based on the DFT of generalized gradient approximation in the form of Perdew–Burke–Ernzerhof<sup>27</sup> inclusion with the help of the VASP<sup>28</sup> code. The projector-augmented-wave (PAW)<sup>29</sup> method was used to describe the electron–ion interaction. Combined with previous research, the effective Hubbard  $U_{\text{eff}} = 4.0$  eV was added according to Dudarev’s method for the Mn-d orbitals in

our work.<sup>25,26,30</sup> The cutoff of plane-wave kinetic energy was set to be 500 eV, and a vacuum layer of 20 Å was applied along the  $z$  direction to avoid interlayer interactions. The force and total energy convergence criteria were set to 0.01 eV/Å and  $10^{-5}$  eV. Meanwhile, the  $13 \times 13 \times 1$  and  $7 \times 7 \times 1$  Monkhorst–Pack  $k$ -point grid<sup>31</sup> were used for the unit cell and  $2 \times 2 \times 1$  supercell calculations, respectively.

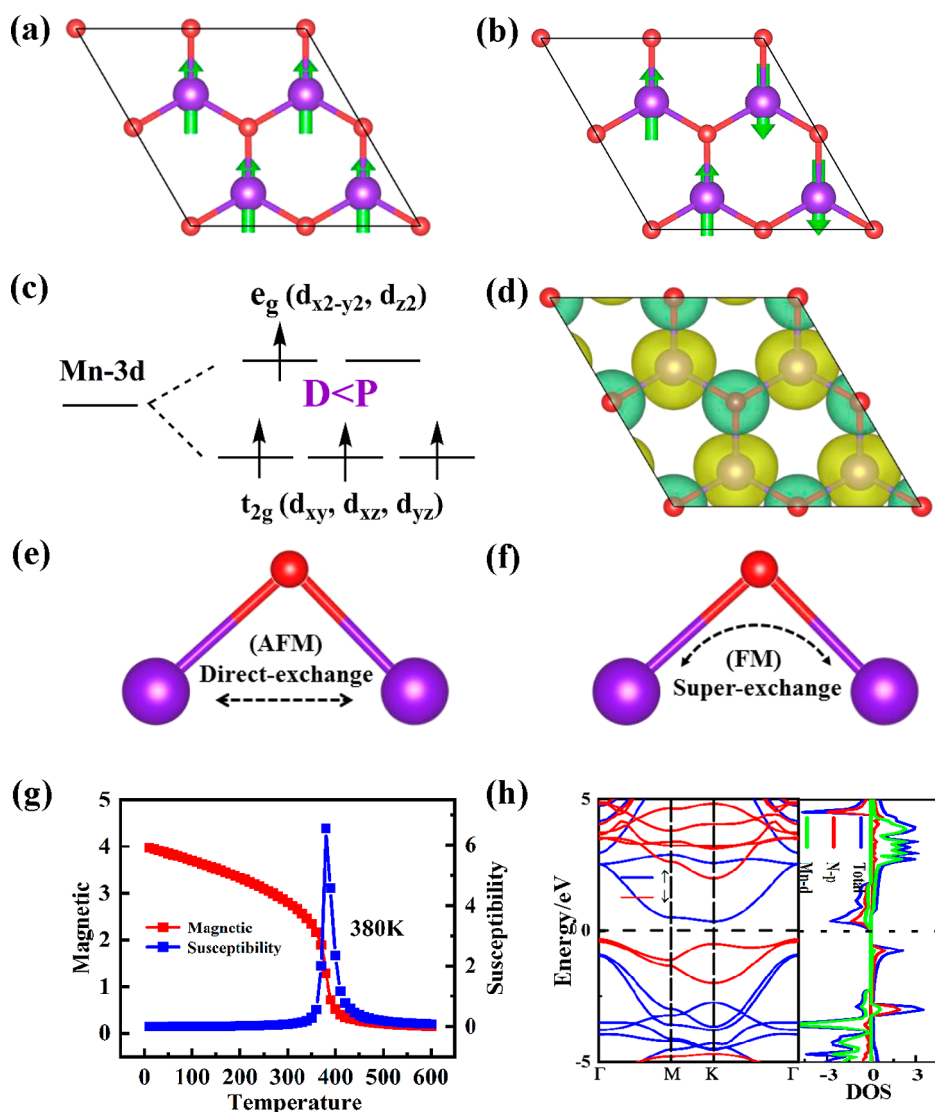
Besides, Monte Carlo simulation was used to simulate the Curie temperature of the H-MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer based on the Heisenberg model, and the spin Hamiltonian can be expressed as

$$\hat{H} = - \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \vec{J}_{ij} \cdot \vec{S}_i \vec{S}_j - \sum_i A(S_{i,j})^2 \quad (1)$$

where  $\langle ij \rangle$  represents all adjacent Mn atomic sites,  $J$  represents the magnetic exchange coupling parameters between adjacent Mn atoms,  $S_i/S_j$  represents the spin vector of magnetic atoms, and  $A$  is the magnetic anisotropy parameter of a single atom.<sup>32,33</sup>

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**3.1. Structure and Stability.** Similar to the H-MoS<sub>2</sub> monolayer, the H-MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer also has a hexagonal symmetry structure, composed of one Mn atom layer sandwiched by two same N atom layers on two sides, and the optimal lattice constant is 3.49 Å, as illustrated in Figure 1a,b. Then, as we all know, the stability of 2D materials is very important for experimental synthesis and practical applications in the future. So, we first test the chemical stability of the H-MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer by calculating its cohesive energy, which is defined as follows



**Figure 2.** Different magnetic configurations in the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer: (a) FM and (b) AFM. (c) Splitting of the 3d orbital of the Mn atom in a small crystal field split; the P and D represent the pairing and splitting energies of the d orbitals, respectively. (d) Spin polarized charge density, the yellow area indicates spin up, and the green area indicates spin down. (e,f) Illustrations of the direct exchange and superexchange interactions between the two Mn atoms. (g)  $T_c$  of the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> unit cell and (h) spin-polarized band structure and the density of states.

$$E_c = (E_{\text{MnN}_2} - E_{\text{Mn}} + 2E_{\text{N}})/3 \quad (2)$$

where  $E_{\text{MnN}_2}$  is the energy of the MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer, and  $E_{\text{Mn}}$  and  $E_{\text{N}}$  are the energies of the isolated Mn atom and N atom, respectively. By energy calculation, the  $E_c$  of the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer is  $-3.64$  eV. The negative cohesive energy obviously indicates that the process is an exothermic chemical reaction and clearly signifies the monolayer's chemical stability. Next, the elastic constants ( $C_{ij}$ ) are considered because they can provide a critical message about the mechanical stability of a monolayer.<sup>34</sup> The corresponding key parameters are  $C_{11} = 300.19$  N·m<sup>-1</sup>,  $C_{12} = 160.76$  N·m<sup>-1</sup>,  $C_{22} = 292.12$  N·m<sup>-1</sup>, and  $C_{66} = 2.52$  N·m<sup>-1</sup>, according to the Born elastic stability criteria of the hexagonal crystal system ( $C_{11} > 0$ ,  $C_{11} \cdot C_{22} > C_{12}^2$ ,  $C_{66} > 0$ ); the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer is mechanically stable. Further, the Young's modulus is  $214.10$  N·m<sup>-1</sup> calculated by using  $E_{2D} = (C_{11}^2 - C_{12}^2)/C_{11}$ , which is much smaller than that of graphene ( $340$  N·m<sup>-1</sup>),<sup>35</sup> but larger than that of 1T-TaN<sub>2</sub> ( $102$  N·m<sup>-1</sup>),<sup>18</sup> 1T-YN<sub>2</sub> ( $49.20$  N·m<sup>-1</sup>),<sup>17</sup> and silicene ( $62$  N·

m<sup>-1</sup>),<sup>36–38</sup> etc. This verifies that the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer is a mechanically rigid material as well.

In addition, we also calculate the phonon spectrum of monolayer H–MnN<sub>2</sub> based on the density functional perturbation theory embedded in phonon software to evaluate its dynamic stability. It can be seen from Figure 1c that there is no imaginary frequency in the entire Brillouin zone of phonon spectra, indicating that the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer is dynamically stable. At the same time, as shown in Figure 1d, based on the canonical ensemble (NVT) with a Nose' thermostat for temperature control,  $3 \times 3 \times 1$  supercell of H–MnN<sub>2</sub> is put at 300 K with a total of 6 ps at 1 fs per step for molecular dynamics simulation (AIMD). Obviously, the energy fluctuates within a very small range, and the final structure is also well preserved during the whole simulation, confirming its thermal stability.

**3.2. Magnetic and Electronic Properties.** After confirming the stability of the monolayer, we next study the magnetic properties of the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer. To begin with, in order to determine the magnetic ground state of the

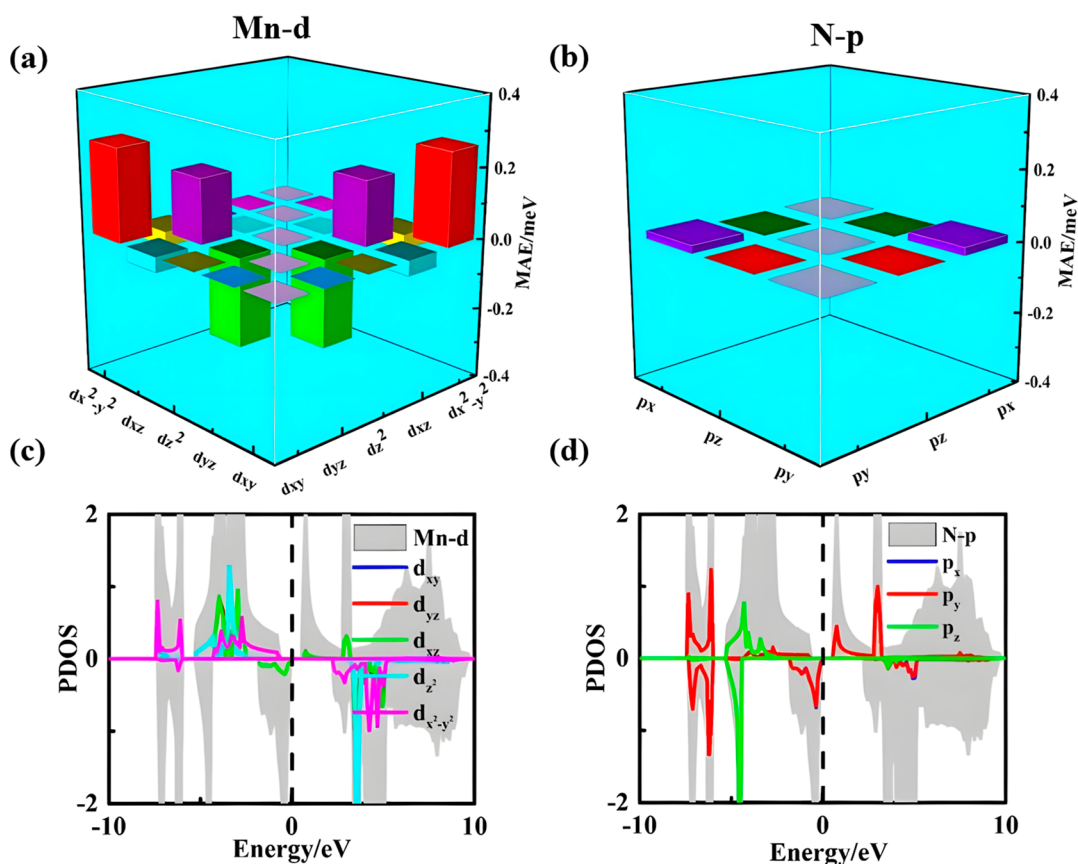
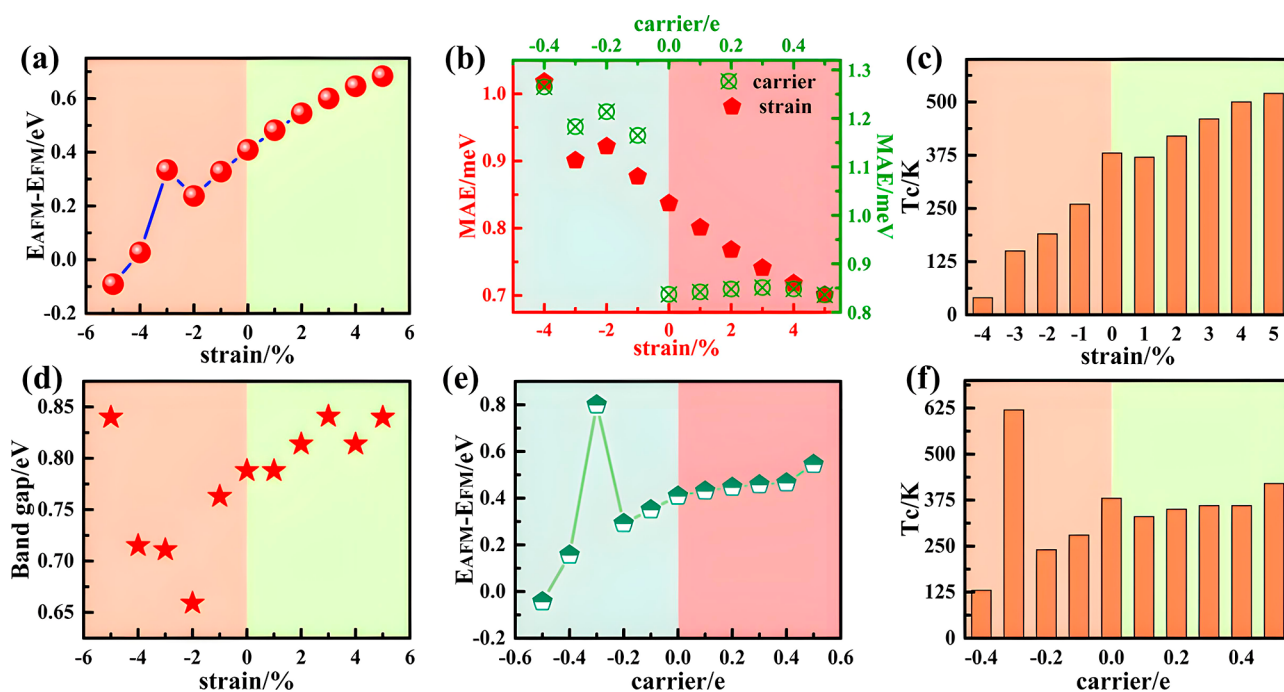


Figure 3. (a–d) Orbital-resolved MAE and the PDOS of Mn-d and N-p orbitals.

H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer, two magnetic configurations are designed in a  $2 \times 2 \times 1$  supercell (Figure 2a,b). The energy calculations show that the energy difference between the FM configuration and the antiferromagnetic (AFM) configuration is 102.48 meV per unit cell, and the FM configuration has lower energy, indicating that the Mn atoms prefer the ferromagnetic couple. Meanwhile, we also find the total magnetic moment per unit cell of the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer is  $3.26 \mu_B$ , which is mostly contributed by Mn atoms ( $4.07 \mu_B$ ) because that per N atom only provides an opposite magnetic moment of  $0.41 \mu_B$ . The reason may be that the d orbital of the Mn atom causes a small crystal field split due to the ligand effect of the N atoms; the Mn atom appears in a high spin state, as shown in Figure 2c. Then, by qualitatively analyzing, four d electrons of the Mn atom occupy spin-up  $d_{xy}$ ,  $d_{xz}$ ,  $d_{yz}$  and  $d_{z^2}$  orbitals, presenting four spin single electrons. In order to more clearly understand the specific charge transfer of electrons inside the material, we calculate the monolayer's charge transfers based on the Bader charge analysis as well and reveal that each Mn atom denotes 1.293 e charge and each N atom can get 0.646 e charge from the Mn atom. Plus, the spin-polarized charge density displayed in Figure 2d obviously reflects the existence of FM coupling between magnetic atoms as well. Finally, we infer that the ferromagnetic coupling mechanism of the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer may result from the existence of superexchange FM interaction mediated by nonmagnetic N atoms between adjacent magnetic Mn atoms, and its effect is stronger than the direct exchange AFM interaction between adjacent Mn atoms, as depicted in Figure 2e,f.

As we all know, the Mermin–Wagner theorem indicates that magnetic anisotropy is one of the key factors for the stable existence of two-dimensional intrinsic ferromagnetic materials. Because thermal perturbations can easily destroy the two-dimensional magnetism in Heisenberg's isotropic model at finite temperatures, magnetic anisotropy can remove this limitation, thus allowing the existence of an intrinsic long-range ferromagnetic sequence. So, a lot of experiments and calculations have been devoted to finding more low-dimensional materials with large MAE to make them more suitable for spintronics.<sup>39–41</sup> Usually, MAE is mainly derived from the contributions of magnetocrystalline anisotropy energy resulting from spin–orbit coupling (SOC-MAE) and magnetic shape anisotropy energy induced by the dipole–dipole interaction (shape-MAE) (see the Supporting Information for more details). Therefore, based on the correlative theory, we calculate that the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer possesses a considerable IMAE of  $1005.70 \mu\text{eV}/\text{atom}$ , including a shape-MAE of  $168.37 \mu\text{eV}/\text{atom}$  and a SOC-MAE of  $837.33 \mu\text{eV}/\text{atom}$ . The easy magnetization axis is the *y* axis. To gain insight into the physical origin of SOC-MAE, the orbital-resolved SOC-MAE and partial density of states (PDOS) of the different Mn-d and N-p orbits are plotted in Figure 3. Directly, we can observe that the contribution of the Mn-d orbital to SOC-MAE is much greater than that of the N-p orbital. For the Mn-d orbitals, in the same spin channel,  $d_{x^2-y^2}/d_{xy}$  and  $d_{xz}/d_{yz}$  provide larger positive SOC-MAE (IMAE) through  $L_z$  coupling, while  $d_{xz}/d_{yz}$  provides an obviously negative SOC-MAE (PMAE) through  $L_x$  coupling. Ultimately, the IMAE is partially canceled out by PMAE, and the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer presents an in-plane SOC-MAE ( $837.33 \mu\text{eV}/\text{Mn}$ ).





**Figure 4.** (a) Exchange energy difference  $\Delta E_{\text{ex}}$  of the H-MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer under  $-5$  to  $5\%$  biaxial strain. (b) Monolayer's MAE of biaxial strain and carrier doping, (c)  $T_c$ 's change in biaxial strain. (d) Band gaps of the monolayer under  $-5$  to  $5\%$  strain, (e) Exchange energy difference  $\Delta E_{\text{ex}}$  of the monolayer under  $0.5$  hole to  $0.5$  electron doping. (f)  $T_c$  of the H-MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer under carrier doping.

Besides, Curie temperature is an important parameter to measure the practical application of materials.<sup>42,43</sup> So, here, considering that the bond lengths of  $d_{\text{Mn-Mn}}$  of the next-nearest- and next-next-nearest neighbor are slightly larger and can be ignored, and in order to simplify the problem of solving  $J$ , according to the ferromagnetic and antiferromagnetic configuration of H-MnN<sub>2</sub> in Figure 2a,b, we only calculate the nearest-neighbor magnetic exchange coupling parameters  $J$  by the following formula.

$$E_{\text{FM}} = E_0 - 2S^2(6J) - AS^2 \quad (3)$$

$$E_{\text{AFM}} = E_0 - 2S^2(-4J + 2J) - AS^2 \quad (4)$$

where  $E_0$  represents the energy of the nonmagnetic state, the  $S$  value of the Mn atom is 2, and  $A$  is the single-site magnetic anisotropy parameter, which is numerically equal to  $\text{MAE}/S^2$ . So, the calculated  $J$  is  $6.04$  meV for the H-MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer. Then, using the Monte Carlo simulation based on the Heisenberg model, in which the dual effects of magnetic exchange coupling interaction  $J$  and single ion magnetic anisotropy  $A$  need to be considered, a supercell of  $50 \times 50$  was used,  $10^5$  steps were simulated at each temperature, and all spins were flipped randomly. Finally, it can be seen from Figure 2g that the magnetic susceptibility reaches its maximum at  $380$  K and the magnetic moment decreases to zero, meaning that the Curie temperature of the H-MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer is  $380$  K. This is higher than many two-dimensional magnetic materials that have been reported.<sup>4-6</sup> It also shows that monolayer H-MnN<sub>2</sub> has good prospects in the practical application of spin devices.

In the end, we also understand the electronic properties of monolayers. As shown in Figure 2h, the band calculation shows that the H-MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer is an indirect bandgap of  $0.79$  eV semiconductor, with the valence band maximum from the spin-down states at the  $\Gamma$  point and the conduction band minimum

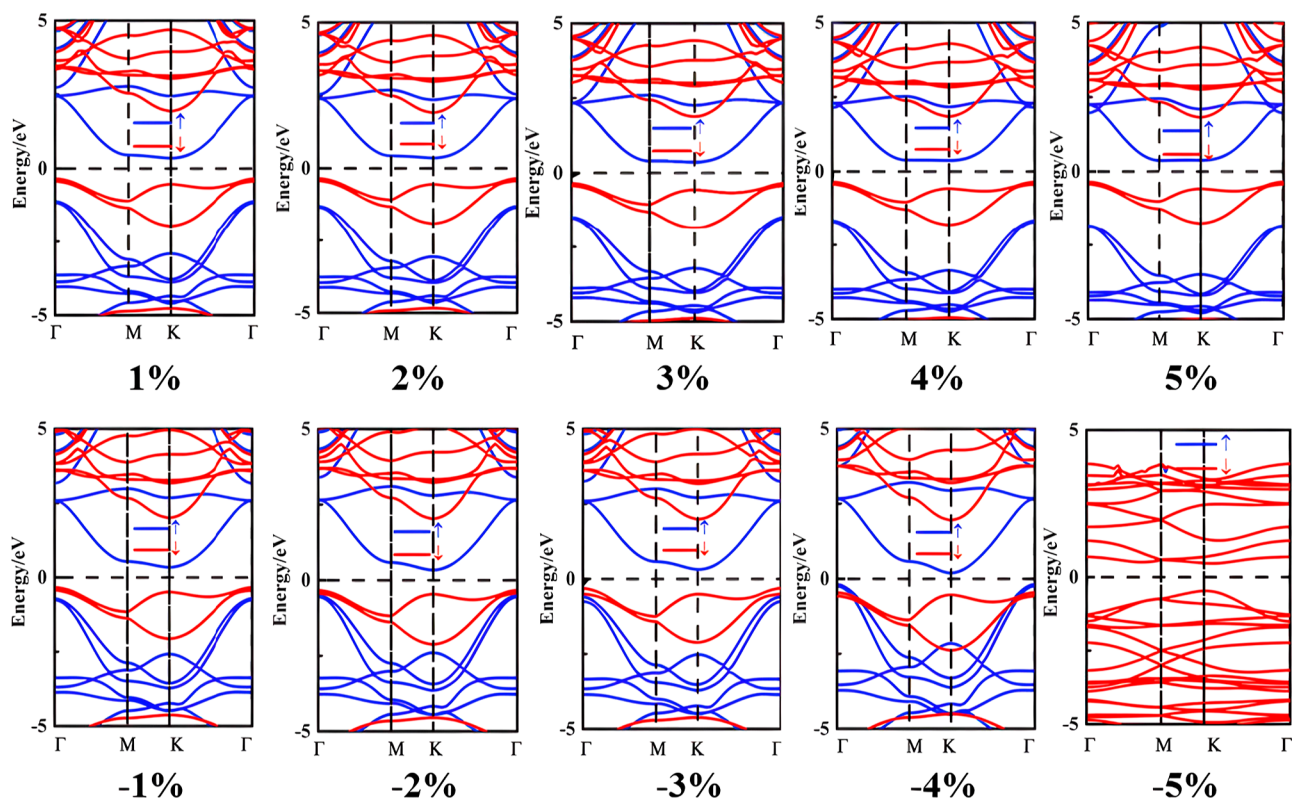
from the spin-up states at the  $K$  point. Further, from the density of states, we can see that the spin states near the Fermi level are mainly contributed by the  $d$  orbital of the Mn atom and the  $p$  orbital of the N atom, but their contributions to spin up and spin down states are very asymmetrical, which results in the H-MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer having a semiconductor property and exhibiting significant spin polarization.

**3.3. Biaxial Strain Modulation.** Exploring the influence of external stimuli on the magnetic and electronic properties of materials can enrich and broaden their practical applications. As such, many studies have shown that lattice mismatch will directly occur in the structures of monolayer materials under biaxial strain, resulting in changes in their physical and chemical properties, as well as their magnetic and electronic properties.<sup>41,44-46</sup> So, here, we apply a biaxial strain of  $-5$  to  $5\%$  to the H-MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer to investigate the changes of its electronic and magnetic properties, and the biaxial strain is defined as

$$\varepsilon = \frac{a - a_0}{a_0} \times 100\% \quad (5)$$

where  $a$  and  $a_0$  represent the lattice parameters with and without strain regulation, respectively. Positive and negative values of  $\varepsilon$  represent tensile and compressive strains, respectively.

First, we survey the effects of strain on the magnetism of the H-MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer. As shown in Figure 4a, intuitively, the energy difference  $\Delta E_{\text{ex}}$  ( $\Delta E_{\text{ex}} = E_{\text{AFM}} - E_{\text{FM}}$ ) under biaxial strains from  $-5$  to  $5\%$  increases almost monotonically over the entire stress range and eventually can rise to  $170.82$  meV/per unit cell at the  $5\%$  tensile strain. The nearly linear curve shows that the biaxial tensile strain has a good regulation effect on the magnetism of the H-MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer, which suggests that the FM states are well maintained and indicates that the ferromagnetic properties of the monolayer would be

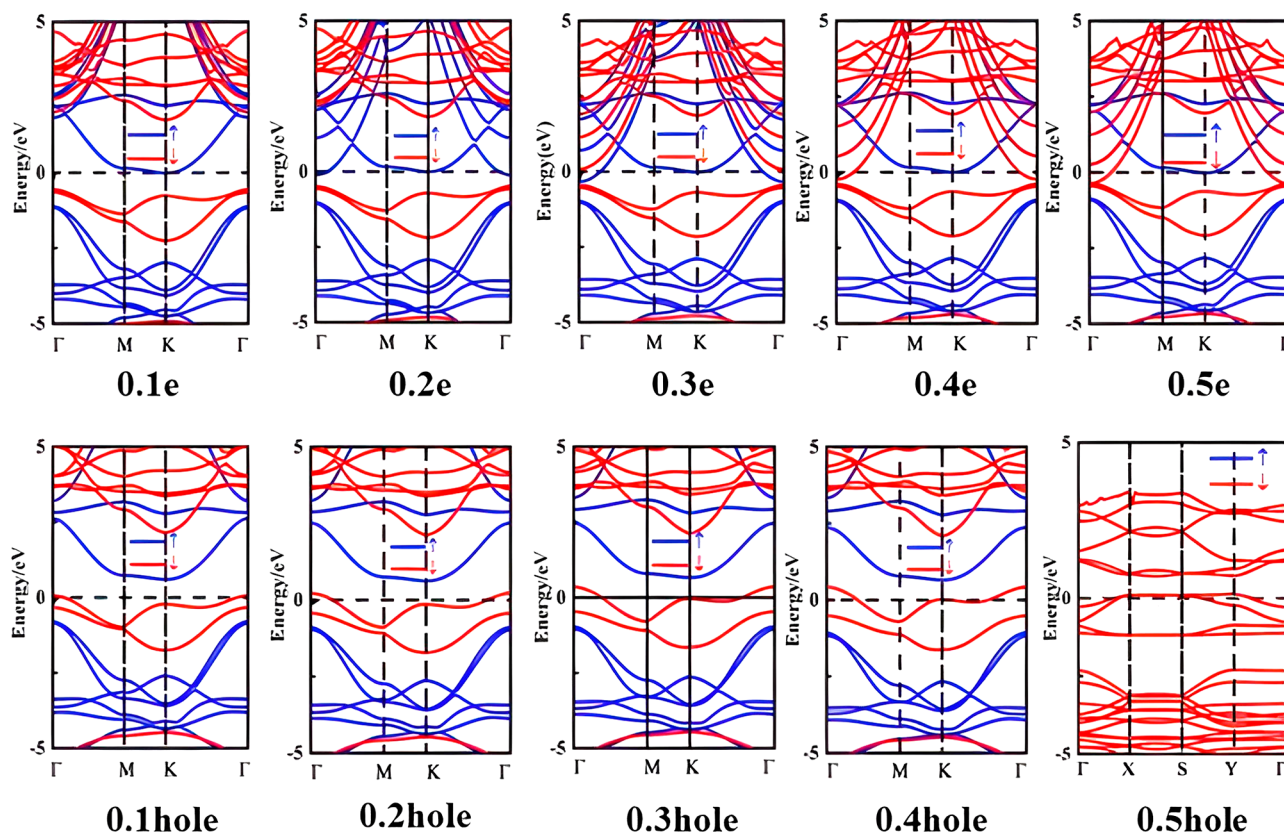


**Figure 5.** Spin-polarized band structures of the H-MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer under -5 to 5% biaxial strain, respectively.

continuously improved under the larger tensile strain. The increases of the local magnetic moment of the Mn atom (listed in Table S1) from  $3.86\mu_B$  to  $4.20\mu_B$  (5% tensile strain) also confirm the result. At the same time, we also need to pay attention to the large compressive strain that will lead to a phase transition, such as a H-MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer performing an AFM ground state at -5% strain. The reason may be that the strain directly affects the structure of the monolayer and the strength of direct exchange. AFM interaction and superexchange FM interaction are closely related to the bond distance between two adjacent magnetic atoms ( $d_{\text{Mn1-Mn2}}$ ) and the bond angle between them and N atom ( $\theta_{\text{Mn1-N-Mn2}}$ ).<sup>41,47,48</sup> That is, the larger the  $d_{\text{Mn1-Mn2}}$ , the weaker the direct exchange AFM interaction, and the more the  $\theta_{\text{Mn1-N-Mn2}}$  deviates from  $90^\circ$ , the weaker the superexchange FM interaction.<sup>41</sup> Therefore, we explore the structural changes of the whole strain, and the results have been presented in Figure S1. Careful analysis reveals that, under compressive stress, the enhancement of the AFM interaction is stronger than that of the FM interaction, so the AFM ground state appears finally. However, under tensile stress, the weakening degree of the AFM interaction gradually increases compared with the weakening degree of the FM interaction, so that the FM state of the monolayer will gradually stabilize and improve under tensile strain. Here, we also calculate the charge transfers between the Mn atom and N atom under the various biaxial strains by using the Bader charge analysis, and the results are shown in Table S2. Obviously, compared to the original charge transfer, the larger compressive strain will increase the number of electrons transferred between the Mn atom and the N atom, and the larger tensile strain will reduce the number of electrons transferred between them. This result is consistent with the magnetic analysis above. As the compressive strain increases,

the of FM superexchange interaction gradually weakens, meaning that the exchange of electrons between Mn-N-Mn atoms can be weakened, so the electrons are more inclined to be localized on each atom and the ionic bond of Mn-N is stronger; that is, the number of electrons on the Mn atom and the N atom and the number of electron transfers between them increase. This result is also consistent with the gradual shortening of the bond lengths of  $d_{\text{Mn-N}}$  shown in Table S2 and the gradual reduction of the magnetic moment of the Mn atom shown in Table S1. Of course, the tensile strains finally give the opposite result. Besides, the effect of biaxial strain on the IMAE of the monolayer is completely opposite. As shown in Figure 4b, the monolayer's IMAE decreases linearly and drops to 0.70 meV/cell at last. Later, based on the Heisenberg model and using Monte Carlo methods, we simulate the  $T_c$  of the monolayer under different stresses, and the results are presented in Figure 4c. Clearly,  $T_c$  almost exhibits the same trend as  $\Delta E_{\text{ex}}$  and can reach a maximum of 520 K at 5% tensile strain. By analyzing the changes of the corresponding influencing factors  $J$  and  $A$  in Figure S2a, we found that the reason why  $T_c$  has such a change is mainly due to the dominant role of the change of  $J$ , except for the case of 3% compressive strain, which is mainly affected by  $A$ . This also proves that the FM state of the H-MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer can be well regulated under tensile stress.

Then, the effects of biaxial strain on electronic properties are studied and shown in Figures 5 and S3. Looking at the band structures, we can find that the semiconductor property of the H-MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer is kept under any strain. Further observations show that under the tensile stress, only the spin-up band of the valence band moves down slightly, while under the compression stress, not only the spin-up band of the valence band moves up, but the spin-up band of the



**Figure 6.** Spin-polarized band structures of the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer under 0.5 hole–0.5 electronic doping, respectively.

conduction band also moves down. However, they do not pass through the Fermi level ( $E_f$ ) in the end, so the semiconductor properties are still maintained, and their corresponding band gaps are shown in Figure 4d. Then, upon observation of the projected density of states, the same result is given. Besides, we can find that the contribution of the Mn-d orbital near  $E_f$  increases with the increase of tensile strain but decreases with the increase of compressive stress.

**3.4. Carrier Doping Modulation.** In addition to the biaxial strain, carrier doping may influence the magnetic coupling of systems as well because it would affect the electron transition probability and the magnetic order arrangement of the nearest neighbor metal ions. Furthermore, some previous works have confirmed that carrier doping can achieve the transformation of materials from metal/semiconductor to semimetal and half-metal materials, which can achieve 100% spin polarization, which is beneficial to the practical application of materials.<sup>47–51</sup> So, here, we also discuss the influence of carrier doping from 0.5 hole to 0.5 e on magnetism and the electronic properties of this monolayer.

Similarly, the effects of carrier doping on the magnetism of the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer are investigated first. For the magnetic moments, as listed in Table S3, we find that the total magnetic moment of a monolayer can increase both with hole doping and electron doping, and this is mainly because the opposite magnetic moment provided by the N atom decreases significantly with the increase of doping concentration, while the magnetic moment of the Mn atom only increases slightly. Then, combining with the results depicted in Figure 4e, although there is a phase transition in large hole doping, such as when the monolayer shows the AFM ground state when the 0.5 hole is doped, the  $\Delta E_{ex}$  of carrier doping

from 0.5 hole to 0.5 e increases almost monotonically, indicating the good modulation effects on magnetism of the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer will appear in large electron doping. While there is a significant energy jump (200.10 meV/per unit cell) occurring at 0.3 hole doping, this may be due to the fact that when this concentration of holes is introduced, the electron transfer number and ferromagnetic sequence between adjacent magnetic atoms appear to change, and then the monolayer's FM is enhanced. Meanwhile, the MAE of the monolayer should also be considered. As shown in Figure 4b, for electron doping, the IMAE is basically unchanged. However, for the hole doping, its MAE value is significantly enlarged. Finally, based on the Heisenberg model and using the Monte Carlo methods as well, the  $T_c$  of every doping case is simulated and basically exhibits an increasing trend, but realizes a maximum of 620 K at 0.3 hole doping, as shown in Figure 4f. Similarly, after comprehensive analysis of the changes of the corresponding influencing factors  $J$  and  $A$  in Figure S2b, the change of  $T_c$  is also mainly affected by the change of  $J$ , while the change of  $A$  is almost negligible.

Next, as shown in Figures 6 and S4, the influences of carrier doping on electronic properties are also observed by using the band structures and projected density of states. Surprisingly, when doped with 0.1–0.2 electrons, the spin-up bands of the conduction band move down rapidly and then pass through  $E_f$  to make the monolayer half-metallic. Then, as more electrons are doped, the spin-down bands of the conduction band also move down quickly and pass through  $E_f$  causing metallicity to appear. While for hole doping, only the spin-down bands of the valence band move up quickly and pass through the Fermi level ( $E_f$ ) in the end, making the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer half-metallic, except that the AFM H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer is metallic



under 0.5 hole doping. What's more, the projected density of states also shows the same results. Here, the realization of half-metal is very important for its application in spintronics.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, with the help of DFT, the electronic structure and magnetic properties of the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer have been investigated comprehensively. We have found that the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer is an intrinsic ferromagnetic semiconductor with a room temperature  $T_c$  of 380 K and a considerable IMAE of 1005.70  $\mu\text{eV}/\text{atom}$ , including a shape-MAE of 168.37  $\mu\text{eV}/\text{atom}$  and a SOC-MAE of 837.33  $\mu\text{eV}/\text{atom}$ . Meanwhile, we have also disclosed that the SOC-MAE of 837.33  $\mu\text{eV}/\text{atom}$  mainly derives from the couplings of Mn- $d_{xz}$ ,  $d_{xy}$  and Mn- $d_{x^2-y^2}$ ,  $d_{xy}$  orbitals through  $L_z$  in the same spin channel. In addition, the two nearly linear curves of  $\Delta E_{\text{ex}}$  show the good modulation effect of biaxial tension strain and larger electronic doping on the magnetism of the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer, suggesting that the ferromagnetic properties of this monolayer can be continuously improved by them. Moreover, under the hole and small electronic doping, the transition from semiconductor to half-metal will be realized. So, such a novel monolayer of H–MnN<sub>2</sub> with excellent properties and strong regulatory properties is a potential new generation material for spintronics.

#### ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

##### SI Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsomega.3c07773>.

Theoretical details of MAE simulation; bond angle  $\theta_{\text{Mn-N-Mn}}$  and bond distance  $d_{\text{Mn-Mn}}$  as a function of applied strain; total magnetic moment ( $M_{\text{tot}}$ ) of unit cell and magnetic moment of Mn and N atoms under various strains; results of the Bader charge transfer and the changes of the bond length between Mn atom and N atom ( $d_{\text{Mn-N}}$ ) of the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer under the various biaxial strains; total magnetic moment ( $M_{\text{tot}}$ ) of the unit cell and the magnetic moment of Mn and N atoms under various charge doping; changes of the corresponding influencing factors  $J$  and  $A$  of the H–MnN<sub>2</sub> monolayer under the biaxial strains and carrier doping; DOS of biaxial strain modulation, and DOS of carrier doping modulation (PDF)

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##### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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