

# Doping Strategy of Monolayer MoS<sub>2</sub> to Realize the Monitoring of Environmental Concentration of Desflurane: A First-Principles Study

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greenhouse gas. Therefore, it is urgent to find a suitable method for monitoring desflurane. In this paper, the process of doping of Pd, Pt, and Ni on the MoS<sub>2</sub> surface is simulated to determine the stability of the doping structure based on first-principles. The adsorption properties and sensing properties of Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>, Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>, and Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub> on desflurane are explored by parameters including independent gradient model based on Hirshfeld partition (IGMH), electron localization function (ELF), and density of states (DOS), sensibility, and recovery time, subsequently. The doping results show that the three doping systems (Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>, Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>, and Ni-



 $MoS_2$ ) are structurally stable, and the chemical bonds are formed with  $MoS_2$ . The adsorption results show the best chemisorption between Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub> and desflurane with the chemical bonds between them. The results of IGMH, ELF, and DOS also confirm it. The sensing characterization results show that the recovery time of Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub> ranges between 85.27 and 0.027 s, and the sensitivity ranges from 99.26 to 25.69%, all of which can meet the requirements of the sensor. Considering the adsorption effect and sensing characteristics, Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub> can be used as a gas-sensitive material for detecting the concentration of desflurane.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Desflurane ( $C_3H_2OF_6$ ) is a new volatile halogenated inhalation anesthetic.<sup>1–5</sup> The blood solubility and lesser circulation uptake of  $C_3H_2OF_6$  is less compared to other anesthetics.<sup>6,7</sup> In addition,  $C_3H_2OF_6$  has a lower tissue solubility, and small amounts of  $C_3H_2OF_6$  in tissues are rapidly eliminated through lungs at the end of operation even with prolonged general anesthesia.<sup>8–10</sup> As a result,  $C_3H_2OF_6$  has been widely used in clinical procedures.<sup>11</sup>

The invention of anesthesia drugs<sup>12</sup> including  $C_3H_2OF_6$ greatly contributed to the advancement of modern medicine. However, serious leakage contamination of C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub> in the operating room occurred due to imperfections in the administration route and anesthetic delivery system. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) estimates that more than 250,000 healthcare workers may be exposed to  $C_3H_2OF_6$  and are at risk for related diseases.<sup>13</sup> The time that C3H2OF6 concentrations exceeded the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) standards was up to 50% during operation.<sup>14</sup> It has been reported that prolonged exposure to  $C_3H_2OF_6$  may lead to adverse effects including cognitive disorder and neurodegenerative disorders.<sup>15,16</sup> In addition, C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub> is a synthetic chemical, and its impact on the atmospheric environment is a growing public concern. The global warming potential (GWP) of  $C_3H_2OF_6$  is 2540 times greater than that of  $CO_2$ , and it takes up to 14 years to decompose in nature.<sup>17–19</sup> Considering the occupational exposure risk and the environmental hazards of  $C_3H_2OF_{6'}$  there is a strong need to monitor exposure to  $C_3H_2OF_6$ .

Electrochemical sensors are used in gas detection with low energy consumption, small size, and high sensitivity.<sup>20–22</sup> The electrochemical sensor is a device that uses a semiconductor gassensitive material as the main sensing component. The composition and concentration are analyzed by measuring the trend and magnitude of the conductivity change of the gassensitive material before and after exposing to the gas.<sup>4</sup> Transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs) have been widely studied as gas-sensitive materials for electrochemical sensors.<sup>2</sup> In fact, TMDs have long been used in the medical field.<sup>26</sup> Lakshmy et al. studied the application of Pd-doped MoTe<sub>2</sub> in glucose (GLU) detection, and the results showed that Pd-MoTe<sub>2</sub> can be used as a candidate material for GLU detection.<sup>27</sup> Wan et al. found that Ru-MoTe<sub>2</sub> exhibits strong adsorption properties for volatile organic compounds (VOC) markers and can be used for early diagnosis of lung cancer.<sup>28</sup> Sadeghi et al.

Received:June 1, 2024Revised:July 28, 2024Accepted:August 5, 2024Published:August 15, 2024







Figure 1. Molecular structure of (a) MoS<sub>2</sub> and (b) C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub>.

investigated the detection effect of monolayer MoS<sub>2</sub> on DNA. The results showed that MoS<sub>2</sub> can also be used in medical detection of nucleic acid sequences.<sup>29</sup> TMDs are considered to be used in the detection of desflurane due to their wide application in the medical field. Among TMDs, MoS<sub>2</sub> is a semiconductor with large work function, high electron affinity, and reasonable carrier mobility, which lead to a great application potential in the gas sensors field.<sup>30,31</sup> It has been shown that the electronic properties can be tuned to enhance the adsorption and sensing properties of  $\ensuremath{\text{MoS}}_2$  on gas molecules by doping metal on  $MoS_2$ .<sup>32</sup> Therefore, the modification of  $MoS_2$  by doping several metal atoms will achieve low energy consumption, small size, and high sensitivity of  $C_3H_2OF_6$ concentration monitoring equipment. It is of great engineering significance to reduce the risk of occupational exposure and environmental hazards of C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub>.

Above, in this paper, the process of doping of Pd, Pt, and Ni on the MoS<sub>2</sub> surface is simulated to determine the rationality of the doping structure based on the first-principles. The adsorption properties of Pd- MoS<sub>2</sub>, Pt- MoS<sub>2</sub>, and Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub> on  $C_3H_2OF_6$ were investigated by calculating the parameters of independent gradient model based on Hirshfeld partition (IGMH), electron localization function (ELF), and density of states (DOS). The sensing characteristics of the three gas-sensitive materials for the detection of determination are comprehensively evaluated in combination with sensitivity and recovery properties. Finally, the potential applications of the three materials in  $C_3H_2OF_6$ detection are evaluated by combined adsorption properties and sensing characteristics.

#### 2. COMPUTATION DETAILS

In this paper, a  $4 \times 4 \times 1$  MoS<sub>2</sub> cell structure containing 9 Mo atoms and 18 S atoms is built based on Material Studio, and the vacuum thickness is set to 15 Å. The Visual Molecular Dynamics (VMD) is used for visualization. As shown in Figure 1a, the Mo-S-Mo bond angle and Mo-S bond length are 81.52° and 2.426 Å, which is in general agreement with the literature,<sup>33,34</sup> indicating that the parameters and methods used in this paper are reliable. The bond lengths of  $C_3H_2OF_6$  are shown in Figure 1b. The geometric optimizations in this paper are done with the quickstep package in cp2k by Broyden-Fletcher-Goldfarb-Shanno (BFGS).<sup>35</sup> The Goedecker-Teter-Hutter (GTH)-PBE is used as pseudopotential and DZVP-MOLOPT-SR-GTH as basis set. Considering both accuracy and computational cost, this study uses DFT-D3(BJ) for dispersion correction.<sup>36–38</sup> The cutoff and real cutoff are set as 800 and 50 Ry, respectively. The k point is set to  $5 \times 5 \times 1$ . And all calculations are considered spinpolarized. The Brillouin zone meshing convergence and energy cutoff convergence tests are shown in Tables S1 and S2.

The binding energy  $E_{\text{bind}}$  of metal atoms (Pd, Pt, and Ni) on the MoS<sub>2</sub> surface and the adsorption energy  $E_{\text{ad}}$  of C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub> on the monolayer surface are calculated as follows:

$$E_{\text{bind}} = E_{\text{metal}-\text{MoS}_2} - E_{\text{metal}} - E_{\text{MoS}_2} \tag{1}$$

$$E_{\rm ad} = E_{\rm gas/layer} - E_{\rm gas} - E_{\rm metal-MoS_2}$$
(2)

where  $E_{\text{metal-MoS}_2}$ ,  $E_{\text{metal}}$ ,  $E_{\text{MoS}_2}$ ,  $E_{\text{gas/layer}}$ , and  $E_{\text{gas}}$  denote the total energy of metal-doped MoS<sub>2</sub>, metal atom, MoS<sub>2</sub> molecular layers, adsorption system, and gas, respectively.

The charge transfer in this paper is calculated by the Hirshfeld method as below:

$$Q_{\rm T} = -\int \frac{\rho_{\rm A}^{0}(r)}{\sum_{\rm A} \rho_{\rm A}^{0}(r)} \left[ \rho(r) - \sum_{\rm A} \rho_{\rm A}^{0}(r) \right] \mathrm{d}r$$
(3)

where  $\rho_A^0(r)$  and  $\rho(r)$  are the charge density of individual atoms and whole system, respectively. When  $Q_T > 0$ , the system loses charges and the system gains charges, conversely.

The charge transfer during adsorption is further analyzed by calculating the charge density difference (CDD)  $\Delta \rho$  as follows:

$$\Delta \rho = \rho_{\rm gas/monolayer} - \rho_{\rm monolayer} - \rho_{\rm gas} \tag{4}$$

where  $\rho_{gas}$ ,  $\rho_{gas/monolayer}$ , and  $\rho_{monolayer}$  denote the charge density of the gas and the adsorption system after and before adsorption, respectively.

In this article, IGMH is used to analyze the intermolecular forces. The type and strength of intermolecular forces are analyzed by sign $(\lambda_2)\rho$  function.<sup>39,40</sup> When sign $(\lambda_2)\rho < 0$ , the intermolecular force is attraction, and repulsion conversely. When sign $(\lambda_2)\rho \approx 0$ , the intermolecular force is van der Waals forces. ELF is a spatial function used to study the electronic structure of a system for describing the bonding of atoms. It can reflect the situation of charge transfer in the corresponding area. When the charge transfer is strong, the ELF of the area will also increase. The closer ELF is to 1, the higher the adsorption capability.41,42 Both IGMH and ELF are calculated using Multiwfn.<sup>43</sup> The DOS is a function of the electron energy. PDOS can be used to evaluate whether the atoms are bonded. If the PDOS of two atoms overlap, this is due to the atoms sharing electrons, and it also indicates that there is an interaction between the two atoms.

The sensing characteristics of electrochemical sensors mainly include recovery time  $\tau$ . The expression of sensitivity *S* is shown below:

$$\sigma = A e^{-B_g/2kT}$$
(5)

Table 1. Doped Energy and Charge Transfer in Each Doped System

doped system	doped site	$E_{\rm bind}~({\rm eV})$	$\Delta Q\left(e ight)$
Pd	TS	-1.987	0.104
	TMo	-2.593	0.153
	Hol	-2.239	0.123
Pt	TS	-3.252	-0.005
	TMo	-3.841	0.130
	Hol	-3.226	0.097
Ni	TS	-2.772	-0.065
	TMo	-4.559	-0.142
	Hol	-4.103	-0.112

$$S = \left| \frac{\frac{1}{\sigma_{\text{after}}} - \frac{1}{\sigma_{\text{before}}}}{\frac{1}{\sigma_{\text{before}}}} \right|$$
(6)

where A is a constant, k is the Boltzmann constant, T is the temperature, and  $\sigma_{\text{before}}$  and  $\sigma_{\text{after}}$  denote the conductivity before and after adsorption of the gas, respectively.

The defining equation for the recovery time of the sensor is shown below:

$$\tau = A^{-1} \mathrm{e}^{-E_{\mathrm{g}}/kT} \tag{7}$$

where A is the attempt frequency with a value of  $10^{12} \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $E_{g}$  is the potential barrier with a value consistent with  $E_{ad}$ .

To further analyze the adsorption behavior of gas on metaldoped MoS<sub>2</sub>, the work function  $\varphi$  of all adsorption systems is analyzed. It can be given by the following equation:<sup>44</sup>

$$\rho = E_{\rm V} + E_{\rm F} \tag{8}$$

where  $E_{\rm V}$  and  $E_{\rm F}$  denote the vacuum level and Fermi level, respectively.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

**3.1.** Metal–MoS<sub>2</sub> Monolayer Analysis. 3.1.1. Doping Configuration Analysis. As shown in Figure 1a, there are three sites for metal doping on  $MoS_2$ , including TMo (above the Mo atoms), TS (above the S atoms), and Hol (above the holes) according to the structural characteristics of  $MoS_2$ .

The binding energy and charge transfer for each doping system are shown in Table 1. It can be seen that the doping system is the most stable structure when the metal atom is located in TMo with the largest binding energy and charge transfer.

The phonon band structure of each system is calculated by phonopy to evaluate the stability of each structure.<sup>45</sup> The phonon spectra along the high-symmetry path  $(M \rightarrow G \rightarrow K)$  of the Brillouin zone are shown in Figure 2. It can be seen that no imaginary phonon frequency is shown in the whole Brillouin zone, indicating that these systems are dynamically stable.

As shown in Figure 3, the large binding energy and electron transfer suggest the formation of Pd–S, Pd–S, and Ni–S bonds. In both the Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub> and Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub> systems, the Pd and Pt atoms



Figure 2. Phonon band structure of (a) MoS<sub>2</sub>, (b) Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub>, (c) Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>, and (d) Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>.



**Figure 3.** Most stable configuration and results of CDD and IGMH in (a) Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>, (b) Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>, and (c) Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub>. The CDD and IGMH isovalues of  $C_3H_2OF_6/Pd-MoS_2$ ,  $C_3H_2OF_6/Pt-MoS_2$ , and  $C_3H_2OF_6/Ni-MoS_2$  is 0.01 au. Green is for electron dissipation regions, and blue is for electron accumulation regions in CDD. Blue is for attraction, and green is for repulsion in IGMH.

are surrounded by blue regions, indicating that Pd and Pt lose charges to the S atoms during the doping process. In contrast, the Ni atom and Ni–S bonds are surrounded by a green region, indicating that Ni gains charges in the doping process, which is consistent with the analysis of charge transfer. The results of IGMH analysis show a blue attraction interaction region between Pd, Pt, Ni, and S atoms, which originates from the chemical bond formed between dopant atoms and S atoms. This corresponds to the peak near sign $(\lambda_2)\rho = -0.1$  au in Figure 4. Additionally, there is a red repulsion region in the middle of the blue attraction region, which may be due to the ring potential resistance effect from bonding between atoms, corresponding to the peak near sign $(\lambda_2)\rho = 0.05$  au in Figure 4.<sup>46</sup> In general, the attraction interaction is stronger than the repulsion interaction, and Pd, Pt, and Ni can be stably doped on the surface of MoS<sub>2</sub>.

The charge density in each doped system is shown in Figure 5. It can be seen that the charge density of the system remains relatively stable in the range of 0-3 Å, but it changes significantly in the range of 3-6 Å. This phenomenon is attributed to the formation of stable chemical bonds between the doping atoms and the substrate, leading to the localization of numerous electrons in this region. The influence of doping atoms on the electronic structure of MoS<sub>2</sub> surface is significantly, showing a certain degree of ionicity.<sup>47</sup> This alteration enhances the gas adsorption capacity.<sup>48</sup>



**Figure 4.** Scatter plot of IGMH in (a) Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>, (b) Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>, and (c) Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub>.



**Figure 5.** Charge density along the Z axis in each system.

The energy changes of the adsorption process of each system are shown in Figure 6. It can be seen that the energy barriers of each system during the adsorption process are 0.741, 0.873, and 0.026 eV, respectively. The energy barrier of Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub>/ $C_3H_2OF_6$  is close to 0 because its initial adsorption configuration resembles the most stable configuration. The energy barriers of each system are below the critical barrier (0.91 eV), indicating a smooth adsorption process.<sup>49</sup>

3.1.2. DOS Analysis in Doping Process. DOS is a function of energy as a variable to evaluate intermolecular interactions. As shown in Figure 7, the total DOS of Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>, Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>, and Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub> is overall shifted to lower energies after being doped with metal atoms. This indicates that the systems tend to be more stable after doping with metal atom doping. In the Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub> system, there is no significant change in the structure of the underlying MoS<sub>2</sub>, with no significant change in DOS. The substantial overlap between the Pd 4d orbital, S 3p orbital, and Mo 4d orbitals in the ranges of -7 to 0.5 eV and 1.5–5 eV suggests the hybridization among these orbitals, promoting the formation of Pd–S bonds. Similarly, in Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>, there is no significant change in MoS<sub>2</sub> after Pt doping. The orbital hybridization among the Pt 5d orbital, S 3p orbital, and Mo 4d orbital also contributes to bond formation. The DOS of Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub> at the Fermi level is changed by Ni doping, leading to a change in conductivity. The PDOS result indicates the formation of a chemical bond between Ni and Mo. Furthermore, the symmetric DOS also indicates that metal–MoS<sub>2</sub> does not exhibit magnetism during the doping process.

**3.2.** Adsorption Property Analysis. 3.2.1. Adsorption Configuration Analysis. In this article, the most stable adsorption configurations of Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>, Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>, and Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub> with  $C_3H_2OF_6$  are analyzed. The adsorption energy and charge transfer in each system are shown in Table 2.

The adsorption configuration of Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub> on  $C_3H_2OF_6$  is shown in Figure 5a. There is no stable chemical bond formation due to the weak adsorption energy and charge transfer between Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub> and  $C_3H_2OF_6$ . The IGMH results show that only a few green areas exist between  $C_3H_2OF_6$  and Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>, which exhibit weak van der Waals forces. This corresponds to the peak at sign $(\lambda_2)\rho \approx 0$  in Figure 8a. The adsorption energy and charge transfer of Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub> with  $C_3H_2OF_6$  are the largest, reaching -0.834 eV and -0.235e. The large adsorption energy allows bonding between C3H2OF6 and Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>, and the Pt-H and



Figure 6. Energy change during the adsorption process in (a) Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>, (b) Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>, and (c) Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub>.



Figure 7. DOS and PDOS of (a) Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>, (b) Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>, and (c) Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub>.

Table 2. Adsorption Energy and Charge Transfer in EachAdsorption Systems

adsorption system	adsorption energy (eV)	charge transfer (e)	adsorption distance (Å)
$\mathrm{Pd}\text{-}\mathrm{MoS}_2/\mathrm{C}_3\mathrm{H}_2\mathrm{OF}_6$	-0.219	-0.064	Pd-H: 3.689 Pd-F: 2.806
$Pt\text{-}MoS_2/C_3H_2OF_6$	-0.834	-0.235	Pt-H: 1.567 Pt-C: 2.033
$\rm Ni-MoS_2/C_3H_2OF_6$	-0.629	-0.103	Ni-F: 2.109

Pt-C bonds are 1.567 and 2.033 Å, respectively. In addition, the extremely strong adsorption energy causes the break of the C-H bond. In the result of CDD, the C, H, and F atoms are surrounded by electron-concentrating regions which act as electron acceptors. This is consistent with the previous analysis. The IGMH results indicate the formation of strong attraction between C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub> and Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub> (blue region) which corresponds to the peak at sign $(\lambda_2)\rho = -0.15$  au Additionally, there is a small number of red regions around the blue region which is the repulsion generated by the ring steric effect related to the peak at sign $(\lambda_2)\rho = 0.1$  au Overall, the attraction effect of Pt- $MoS_2$  to  $C_3H_2OF_6$  is stronger than the effect of repulsion. The adsorption configuration of C3H2OF6/Ni-MoS2 is shown in Figure 8c. There is no chemical bond forming between Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub> and  $C_{2}H_{2}OF_{6}$ , which is corroborated by weak adsorption energy and charge transfer. The IGMH results show that there are only a few blue attraction regions between  $C_3H_2OF_6$  and Ni-MoS<sub>24</sub> which are slightly stronger than the van der Waals force. However, the adsorption is physisorption without chemical bond forming (Figure 9).

3.2.2. DOS Analysis in Adsorption Process. In this paper, the DOS and PDOS of the adsorption system are shown in Figure 10. As shown in Figure 10a, the DOS of Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub> shifted to a lower level after adsorbing C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub>, and a new peak appears near -10 eV. It can be found that the DOS of C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub> is basically unchanged after adsorption, indicating that the structure of C3H2OF6 remains stable during the adsorption process. There is only a slight overlap between the H 1s orbital and Pd 4d orbital in the -5 to -2.5 eV range, resulting in weak hybridization that makes it difficult to form chemical bonds. In the Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>/ $C_3H_2OF_6$  system, there is a significant change in the DOS near the Fermi energy level after adsorbing C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub>, leading to further alteration of the band gap. The DOS of  $C_3H_2OF_6$  exhibits a minor peak in the -2.5 to 2.5 eV range postadsorption, indicating a significant structural change induced by the adsorption of Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>. The PDOS reveals a significant overlap of the Pt 5d orbital with H 1s and C 2p orbitals in the -10 to 0 eV range, suggesting strong hybridizations among Pt 5d, H 1s, and C 2p orbitals. These hybridizations facilitate bonding of Pt with H and C, aligning with earlier analysis.

As shown in Figure 10c, the structure of  $C_3H_2OF_6$  is changed by Ni-MoS2, resulting in a notable decrease in its DOS peaks at -1.5 and -3 eV. The Ni 3d orbital and the F 2p orbital exhibit limited overlap between -7.5 and 2.5 eV, indicating insufficient hybridization to form a new C–Ni chemical bond.

3.2.3. ELF Analysis. To further explore the interactions in each adsorption system, the ELF is analyzed in this section. As shown in Figure 11, the degree of electronic localization between Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub> and  $C_3H_2OF_6$  is close to 0 without a chemical bonding connection. The ELF value between C, H, and Pt atoms is close to 0.5, indicating electronic localization between Pt and

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(c)

**Figure 8.** Most stable adsorption configuration and results of CDD and IGMH in (a)  $C_3H_2OF_6/Pd-MoS_2$ , (b)  $C_3H_2OF_6/Pt-MoS_2$ , and (c)  $C_3H_2OF_6/Ni-MoS_2$ . The CDD isovalues of  $C_3H_2OF_6/Pd-MoS_2$ ,  $C_3H_2OF_6/Pt-MoS_2$ , and  $C_3H_2OF_6/Ni-MoS_2$  are 0.01, 0.01, and 0.001 au, respectively. The IGMH isovalue of  $C_3H_2OF_6/Pd-MoS_2$ ,  $C_3H_2OF_6/Pt-MoS_2$ , and  $C_3H_2OF_6/Ni-MoS_2$  is 0.01 au.



Figure 9. Scatter plot of IGMH in (a) C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub>/Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>, (b) C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub>/Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>, and (c) C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub>/Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub>.



Figure 10. DOS and PDOS of (a) C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub>/Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>, (b) C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub>/Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>, and (c) C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub>/Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub>.

C and H atoms with a clear bonding tendency. Similar to the Pd- $MoS_2/C_3H_2OF_6$  system, there is no chemical bonding connection between Ni and F atoms.

3.2.4. Work Function Analysis. The work functions for each adsorption system are listed in Figure 12. The work functions of all systems changed to varying degrees, and this change is correlated with the adsorption effect, indicating that a

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Figure 11. ELF of (a) C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub>/Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>, (b) C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub>/Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>, and (c) C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub>/Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub>.



Figure 12. Work functions of each adsorption system.

reasonable interaction occurred between the adsorption substrate and the gas molecules.<sup>40</sup> The reason for the increase in work function of each system after gas adsorption is that the electronegativity of the doped metal is lower than that of O and F. This causes charge to tend to transfer from the metal atoms to the gas molecules,<sup>50</sup> which is consistent with the results of charge transfer.

**3.3. Sensing Property Analysis.** The adsorption properties of the three materials are investigated in a previous section. However, the sensing properties of the materials also need to be considered for their application. The sensing properties of gases mainly include sensitivity and recovery time.

From eqs 5 and 6, the sensitivity of the sensor is related to the band gap of the adsorption system. To obtain more accurate results, the HLE17 functional is used to calculate the band structure.<sup>51,52</sup> As shown in Figure 13, the band gaps of Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>, Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>, and Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub> before adsorption are 1.911, 1.815, and 1.722 eV, respectively. After adsorption, the band gaps are 1.551,



Figure 13. Band structure of (a) Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>, (b) Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>, (c) Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub>, (d) C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub>/Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>, (e) C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub>/Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>, and (f) C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>6</sub>/Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub>,

1.482, and 1.281 eV, in which Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub> exhibits the largest variation in band gap. The sensitivity of Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub> to  $C_3H_2OF_6$  at 298, 348, and 398 K exceeds 99% (Figure 14).



**Figure 14.** Sensitivity and recovery time of Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>, Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub> and Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub> to  $C_3H_2OF_6$  under different temperature. The bar and dotted line graphs indicate sensitivity and recovery time, respectively.

The recovery time of the sensor can be calculated from eq 7. The recovery times of Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub> at 298, 348, and 398 K are 85.27, 0.89, and 0.027 s, respectively (Figure 10). Based on the results, the shorter recovery time is more desirable and indicates recyclability, making it promising as a  $C_3H_2OF_6$  sensor. In contrast, Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub> and Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub> are not recommended for use as gas-sensitive materials in sensors due to their poor adsorption properties.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, the doping process of Pd, Pt, and Ni in  $MoS_2$  is simulated based on first principles. The adsorption and sensing properties of Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>, Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub>, and Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub> on  $C_3H_2OF_6$  are also investigated. The doped structures are the most stable with the largest binding energy and electron transfer when the metal is doped at TMo. The adsorption energy and electron transfer of Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub> to  $C_3H_2OF_6$  are the largest, reaching -0.834 eV and -0.235e, followed by Ni-MoS<sub>2</sub> and Pd-MoS<sub>2</sub>. Meanwhile, the combined results of CDD, IGMH, ELF, and DOS calculations reveal a chemical bond forming between Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub> and  $C_3H_2OF_6$ , indicating chemisorption. The sensitivity and recovery time of Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub> meet the requirements of the sensor, suggesting the potential of Pt-MoS<sub>2</sub> for  $C_3H_2OF_6$  gas sensors. Future experimental research can be conducted on the thermal stability and sensing response of samples.

# ASSOCIATED CONTENT

#### **Supporting Information**

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsomega.4c05159.

Brillouin zone meshing convergence and cutoff energy convergence test (PDF)

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by the National Key Research and Development Program of China (Grant 2018YFC2001802 to X.C.); National Natural Science Foundation (Grant 82071251 to X.C.); and Hubei Province Key Research and Development Program (Grant 2021BCA145 to X.C.).

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