

Modeling of laser-pulse induced water decomposition on two-dimensional materials by simulations based on time-dependent density functional theory

Yoshiyuki Miyamoto,^{1,*} Hong Zhang,^{2,†} Xinlu Cheng,³ and Angel Rubio^{4,5}

¹*Research Center for Computational Design of Advanced Functional Materials, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Central 2, 1-1-1 Umezono, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8568, Japan*

²*College of Physical Science and Technology, Sichuan University, Chengdu 610065, China*

³*Key Laboratory of High Energy Density Physics and Technology of Ministry of Education, Sichuan University, Chengdu 610064, China*

⁴*Max Planck Institute for the Structure and Dynamics of Matter and Center for Free-Electron Laser Science, Luruper Chaussee 149, 22761 Hamburg, Germany*

⁵*Nano-Bio Spectroscopy Group and ETSF, Universidad del País Vasco, CFM CSIC-UPV/EHU-MPC, 20018 San Sebastián, Spain*

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We use time-dependent density functional theory to study laser-pulse induced decomposition of H₂O molecules above the two-dimensional (2D) materials graphene, hexagonal boron nitride, and graphitic carbon nitride. We examine femtosecond-laser pulses with a full width at half maximum of 10 or 20 fs for laser-field intensity and wavelengths of 800 or 400 nm by varying the intensity of the laser field from 5 to 9 V/Å, with the corresponding range of fluence per pulse up to 10.7 J/cm². For a H₂O molecule above the graphitic sheets, the threshold for laser-field H₂O decomposition is reduced by more than 20% compared with that of an isolated H₂O molecule. We also show that hole doping enhances the water adsorption energy above graphene. The present results indicate that the graphitic materials should support laser-induced chemistry and that other 2D materials that can enhance laser-induced H₂O decomposition should be investigated.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Hydrogen fuel is expected to reduce carbon emissions, but the production yield needs to be improved to provide a stable, large-scale supply. Hydrogen production from an abundant H₂O source is beneficial, and the discovery of UV-induced H₂O decomposition on TiO₂ [1] triggered the exploration of other materials that enhance photoinduced H₂O decomposition as well as understanding of the mechanisms. Other transition-metal oxides, such as tantalite [2] and RuO₂ [3–6], have been intensively studied. A metal-free class of photocatalytic materials [7], graphitic carbon nitride (gC₃N₄), was recently shown to decompose H₂O with visible light. Although the yield of the H₂O decomposition was much lower than for TiO₂, the photoinduced decomposition was improved by combining gC₃N₄ with carbon nanodots [8]. Graphitic materials are hydrophobic, but it was theoretically proposed that electric field doping could change their properties from hydrophobic to hydrophilic [9], which motivated us to investigate the effect of doping graphene sheets on H₂O adsorption. Generally, photoinduced H₂O decomposition is understood as a sequential process [10] in which photoexcited carriers in the catalytic material play an important role in H₂O decomposition. This charge-transfer mechanism may also explain the electrochemical H₂O decomposition on gC₃N₄ sheets [11].

In this work, we examine a short, intense laser pulse as another method for H₂O decomposition for higher H₂ production per time under high photon flux, although it may increase energy consumption. Noble-metal clusters enhance the optical field for laser frequencies matching the plasmon resonance frequencies [12–15]. We propose that the enhancement also

occurs with graphitic materials consisting of *earth-abundant elements*. We should note that the enhancement was observed even without resonance with a particular plasmon mode in the graphitic materials. Our simulations indicate that graphitic layered materials, such as graphene, hexagonal boron nitride (hBN), and gC₃N₄, enhance H₂O decomposition compared with an isolated H₂O molecule that represents the gas phase of water. The case of several H₂O molecules and the presence of a monovacancy on the graphene sheets were also examined. The graphitic sheets are hydrophobic; however, our simulations show that hole doping can significantly increase graphene-H₂O interaction. The simulation uses a femtosecond laser with a full width at half maximum (FWHM) of 10 or 20 fs for the laser-field intensity and wavelengths of 800 or 400 nm with the optical polarization vector normal to the plane of the layered materials. Taking many data by changing the parameters for FWHM or wavelength can produce a curve of the threshold as a function of these parameters, which is not within the current scope. A schematic of this polarization condition is shown in the right panel of Fig. 1(a).

By performing real-time propagation of the electron wave functions based on time-dependent density functional theory (TDDFT) [16] and molecular dynamics (MD) simulations in the presence of a femtosecond laser field of various intensities, we determined the threshold intensity for H₂O decomposition. We found that the threshold is reduced by more than 20% when the H₂O molecule is on a sheet of a graphitic material, such as graphene, hBN, or gC₃N₄. This conclusion is robust and independent of the choice of the exchange-correlation energy functional for density functional theory (DFT), that is, independent of the local-density approximation (LDA) or the generalized gradient approximation (GGA). However, it has been reported that the adsorption energy of OH and H species on two-dimensional (2D) materials depends on the choice of DFT functional [17]. This observation would be relevant to the

*yoshi-miyamoto@aist.go.jp

†hongzhang@scu.edu.cn

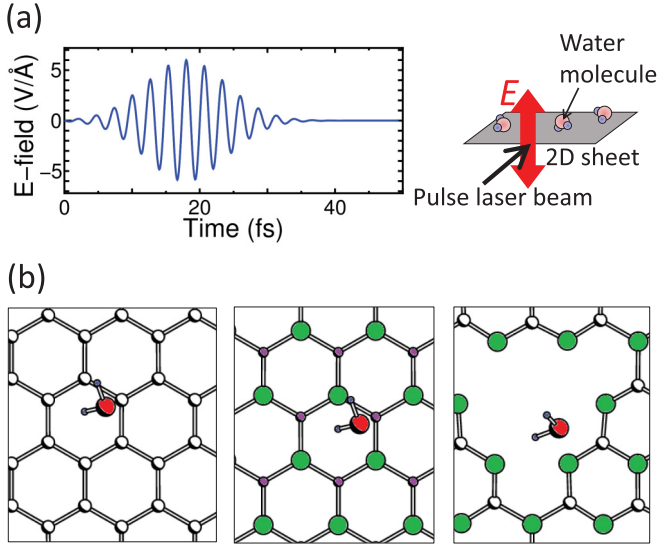


FIG. 1. (a) Left: Pulse shape of the E-field of the femtosecond laser with a wavelength of 800 nm and FWHM of 10 fs. In this display, the maximum E-field intensity is 6 V/Å. Right: Schematic explaining the polarization vector (red arrow) of the incident laser beam for the 2D sheet with several H₂O molecules. (b) Starting geometry of an H₂O molecule above the graphene sheet (left), hBN sheet (middle), and gC₃N₄ sheet (right), determined by using the LDA functional. Open circles and hatched red circles denote carbon and oxygen atoms, respectively. Green (light gray) and violet (dark gray) circles denote nitrogen and boron atoms, respectively. The smallest hatched blue circles denote hydrogen atoms. All geometries are displayed from a viewing direction normal to the sheets.

present work if the study of laser-induced H₂O decomposition were extended to the subsequent adsorption of the decomposed species on the 2D materials. However, in the current simulation, we did not observe any adsorption processes after applying the laser pulse. Simulation of the optical field near 2D materials upon laser irradiation shows an increase in the electric field (E-field) intensity by an amount consistent with the reduction factor of the threshold E-field intensity on the 2D sheets. Therefore, we conclude that optical E-field enhancement near 2D materials enhances the H₂O decomposition.

In the following, we explain the computational methods in Sec. II and the results in Sec. III, for the cases of a single H₂O molecule (Sec. III A) and higher H₂O coverage (Sec. III B). Then, the present work is discussed in Sec. IV.

II. COMPUTATIONAL METHODS

H₂O decomposition under a strong laser field was simulated by real-time TDDFT combined with an MD simulation within Ehrenfest dynamics [18]. The validity of this approach has been discussed in Refs. [19,20], in which the results without strong nonadiabatic coupling were expected to work properly. We solved the time-dependent Kohn-Sham equation

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi_n^{KS}(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t} = \{H^{KS}(\mathbf{r}, t) + V_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r}, t)\} \psi_n^{KS}(\mathbf{r}, t), \quad (1)$$

where $\psi_n(\mathbf{r}, t)$ is the time-dependent Kohn-Sham orbital and $H^{KS}(\mathbf{r}, t)$ is the Kohn-Sham Hamiltonian, which is a functional

of the time-dependent charge density $\rho(\mathbf{r}, t)$ consisting of the sum of the norm of occupied Kohn-Sham orbitals. $V_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r}, t)$ incorporates the applied optical electric field [21] that interacts with both electrons and ions. In the present work, the external field is treated in the dipole approximation by using the Coulomb gauge. The LDA with the Perdew-Zunger functional [22] and the GGA with the Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE) functional [23] were used as the exchange-correlation energy functionals. A plane-wave basis set with a cutoff energy of 71 Ry was used to express the Kohn-Sham orbitals. The time evolution was computed within the fourth-order split-operator scheme [24,25] with a 0.03-a.u. (7.26×10^{-4} fs) time step. The total energy and forces were computed with the momentum-space formalism [26]. This scheme provides a total energy precision of 3×10^{-5} eV per atom and a force precision of 0.05 eV/Å. The interaction between ions and valence electrons was expressed by using the norm-conserving pseudopotentials [27] with separable forms [28]. To compute an H₂O molecule above the graphene or hBN sheets, a 3×3 unit cell was used, whereas for H₂O above the gC₃N₄ sheet, a primitive cell containing six carbon and eight nitrogen atoms was used. In all cases, we used four irreducible k points for the momentum-space integration, corresponding to 21 irreducible k points in the Brillouin zone of the 1×1 unit cell including the Γ , M , and K points. A 12-Å vacuum region was set in the sheet normal direction. The calculations were performed with the FPSEID code [29], and numerical stability was checked with the criterion of the energy-conservation rule with the presence of a dynamical external field [30], the polarity of which was smoothly reversed in the middle of the vacuum region to satisfy the periodic boundary condition. A larger 5×5 unit cell, as used in Ref. [17], was tested for H₂O decomposition above a graphene sheet with a vacuum thickness of 12 Å and cutoff energy of 71 Ry by using the Γ point. This larger cell gave a threshold laser field intensity for the decomposition that was 10% less than that using the 3×3 cell. Therefore, the enhancement factor obtained using the 3×3 cell should be a lower-bounded quantity.

III. RESULTS

The left panel of Fig. 1(a) shows the E-field of the laser pulse with a wavelength of 800 nm and FWHM of 10 fs applied to an H₂O molecule above the 2D materials, and the right panel shows a schematic of the experimental setup of the polarization vector of the incident pulse laser, which is perpendicular to a 2D sheet. Here, we have performed a simulation of H₂O molecules with up to five per 3×3 cell of graphene to give inter-H₂O distances closer to those in liquid water in order to examine the influence of inter-H₂O interaction on the decomposition. We changed the maximum E-field intensity at intervals of 0.5 V/Å and monitored the H₂O decomposition. Figure 1(b) shows our initial configuration of an H₂O molecule on graphene, hBN, and gC₃N₄ sheets. The ionic velocities were set to zero at the start of the simulation.

A. One H₂O molecule, isolated and above 2D sheets

We confirmed that decomposition of an isolated H₂O molecule occurred with a maximum E-field intensity of 9 V/Å

using the LDA and the GGA with the PBE functional (see Supplemental Material [31]). A field intensity of up to 9 V/\AA may sound high; it corresponds to 5.37 J/cm^2 with $\text{FWHM} = 10 \text{ fs}$ for the laser field, which can be achieved with a laser fluence per shot of $0.337 \mu\text{J}$ with a beam diameter of $1 \mu\text{m}$. It is noted that such high intensity should damage almost all materials; however, as will be shown in this work, it is suggested that controlling the polarization vector may avoid the damage.

The threshold intensity of the laser E-field for H_2O decomposition was reduced considerably when an H_2O molecule was located above perfect two-dimensional materials. Figures 2(a) to 2(c) show the time evolution of the O-H bond lengths of an H_2O molecule above graphene, hBN, and gC_3N_4 computed by LDA. Similar results and dynamics above graphene were obtained by GGA with the PBE functional (see Supplemental Material [31]). The thresholds for the decomposition were calculated as 6.0, 6.0, and 7.0 V/\AA for graphene, hBN, and gC_3N_4 , respectively. The trajectory of H_2O decomposition above a graphene sheet is shown in Figs. 2(d) to 2(h) at time intervals of 10 fs, during which no damage to the graphene sheet occurred. The dynamics of the H_2O decomposition were similar to the case of an isolated H_2O molecule: the decomposition was mediated by the breaking of one of the two O-H bonds. The unbroken O-H bond was directed toward the graphene sheet [Figs. 2(d) to 2(g)], and at $2.8\text{--}2.9 \text{ \AA}$ above the sheet, its O-H axis turned, and then it moved away from the graphene sheet [Fig. 2(h)]. This trend in the dynamics was also observed for hBN and gC_3N_4 . When the laser intensity was increased, two H atoms left the O atom, and the graphitic 2D sheets were not damaged. From the present

TABLE I. Threshold intensity of the laser field for H_2O decomposition with a wavelength of 800 nm and a FWHM of 10 or 20 fs.

FWHM (fs)	Isolated	Threshold intensity (V/\AA)		
		On graphene	On hBN	On gC_3N_4
10	9.0	6.0	6.0	7.0
20	8.0	5.0	5.0	5.5

conclusion, one may expect that irradiating the laser pulse for the decomposition will not destroy the 2D sheet and thus it is repeatable. The practical situation will be discussed later.

We interpret the decomposition dynamics as driven by the excitation of electrons involved in the O-H bonds of the H_2O molecule. The excitation promotes electrons to transient high levels, which may have an O-H antibonding character, allowing an H atom to leave. The leaving H atom was neutral according to the spatial integration of the electron density, which is consistent with the mechanism of the O-H bond breaking being antibonding excitation rather than a Coulomb explosion.

We investigated how the threshold intensity depends on pulse width (FWHM) by performing the simulation with a FWHM of 20 fs and the same wavelength (800 nm). Table I summarizes the results, showing a further reduction of the threshold with a wider FWHM. However, the reduction for a wider FWHM does not mean a reduction in laser fluence. The laser fluence is proportional to the laser power multiplied by the FWHM, and the laser power is proportional to the square of the E-field. Therefore, the threshold values listed in Table I

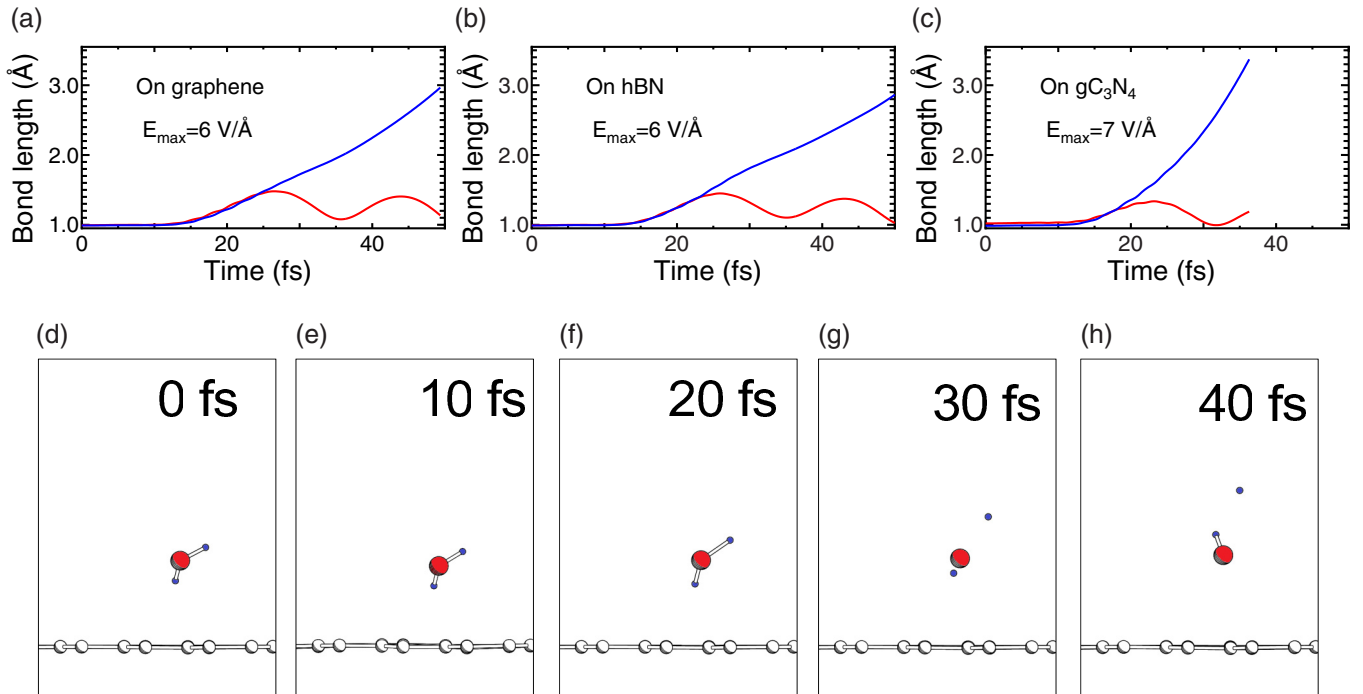


FIG. 2. Time evolution of the O-H bond lengths of H_2O molecules above (a) graphene, (b) hBN, and (c) gC_3N_4 sheets under the pulse laser with a FWHM of 10 fs. The corresponding threshold intensities of the laser E-field are also shown. One of the O-H bonds (blue curve) was broken in all cases. (d) to (h) Snapshots of H_2O decomposition dynamics above a graphene sheet at 0, 10, 20, 30, and 40 fs, respectively. All geometries are displayed from a viewing direction parallel to the sheets.

mean that the fluence necessary for H_2O decomposition is smaller for a narrower FWHM. Thus, we recommend a shorter-pulse laser for H_2O decomposition with lower energy consumption.

The threshold intensity for H_2O decomposition above the graphene sheet was also examined by using the PBE functional form of the GGA. A simulation with a FWHM of 10 fs and a wavelength of 800 nm gave a threshold intensity of 6.5 V/\AA , which is close to the value obtained by LDA. Therefore, the current conclusion is robust with respect to the choice of the DFT functional. The details for real-time TDDFT-MD results using the PBE functional are presented in the Supplemental Material [31] (Figs. S1 and S2).

To identify the cause of the lower laser intensity threshold of H_2O decomposition above graphitic materials, the enhancement of the optical field was examined [32,33]. We compared data for the applied and total (applied plus induced) optical field with a FWHM of 10 fs and wavelength of 800 nm near graphene, hBN, and gC_3N_4 sheets. The total E-field was averaged in the sheet-parallel direction 3.34 \AA above and below the sheet, and the time variation of the E-field was plotted. There was a static E-field near the sheet from the gradient of the self-consistent potential for the electrons. By taking only the time variation of the total E-field, we excluded the value of the static E-field to highlight the amplitude modulation of the *dynamical* E-field. The results, obtained by LDA, are shown in Fig. 3. The applied field was 6 V/\AA , and the maximum intensity of the total E-field was 8 V/\AA in all cases; thus, the enhancement factor was 1.33. The threshold intensity of the H_2O decomposition was reduced from 9 to 6 V/\AA when an H_2O molecule was situated above the graphene and hBN sheets and was reduced to 7 V/\AA above the gC_3N_4 sheet. This threshold reduction can be interpreted as E-field enhancement by a factor of 1.5 above graphene and hBN and by a factor of 1.28 above gC_3N_4 . These values are close to the enhancement factor of 1.33 obtained from the results in Fig. 3, and the subtle

difference may originate from nonuniformity in the induced optical E-field due to the presence of an H_2O molecule and the porous nature of the gC_3N_4 sheet.

It should be noted that the optical field enhancement is usually driven by a resonance between the optical frequency and the excitation energy of the system, as was studied in gold nanoparticles [12–15], in semiconductor carbon nanotubes [32], and in graphene nanoribbons [33]. On the other hand, the current case shows that this enhancement cannot simply be explained by resonance. Instead, it should be understood by the intrinsic polarizability perpendicular to these 2D sheets.

Because the graphitic sheets studied here are hydrophobic, we sought a way to increase the interaction between H_2O molecules and the graphitic sheet. Jiang *et al.* [9] theoretically demonstrated that electric field doping of graphene reduces the reaction barrier of H_2O decomposition into H and OH species. Based on this report, we investigated whether the H_2O -graphene adsorption energy can be increased by electric field doping, which was mimicked by the injection of excess electrons or holes. Without doping, the adsorption energy of the H_2O molecule to the graphene sheet was calculated as 88 and 13 meV using the LDA and GGA (PBE), respectively. The LDA (PBE) calculation showed a substantial increase in the adsorption energy to 0.20 eV (0.50 eV) with an injection of one hole per 3×3 cell of the graphene sheet followed by a change in H_2O orientation directing the O atom closer to the graphene sheet. This reorientation is consistent with the polar nature of H_2O molecules. The assumed doping level corresponded to a downward shift of the Fermi level by 1.4 eV. (Meanwhile, injection of one electron per 3×3 cell of graphene gave an adsorption energy per H_2O molecule similar to that in the case of nondoping using LDA and PBE functionals). The larger adsorption energy with hole doping suggests that electrostatic Coulomb forces are the dominant binding mechanism instead of van der Waals forces (relevant for the undoped case). Since a graphene sheet has a nonpolar

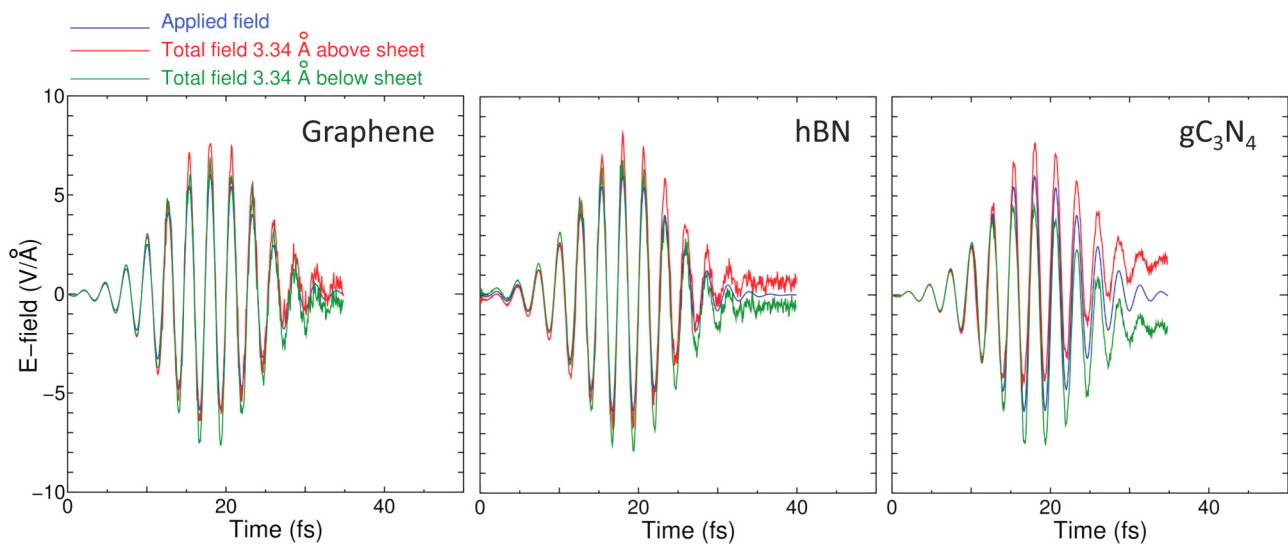


FIG. 3. Comparison of results for applied and total (applied plus induced) optical field 3.34 \AA above and below the sheets of graphene (left), hBN (middle), and gC_3N_4 (right) for a femtosecond laser pulse with FWHM of 10 fs and a wavelength of 800 nm. The maximum field intensity of the applied field was set to 6 V/\AA . Thick solid blue lines are the time evolution of the applied field, and the thin solid red and thin green lines are the time evolution of the total fields above and below the sheets, respectively.

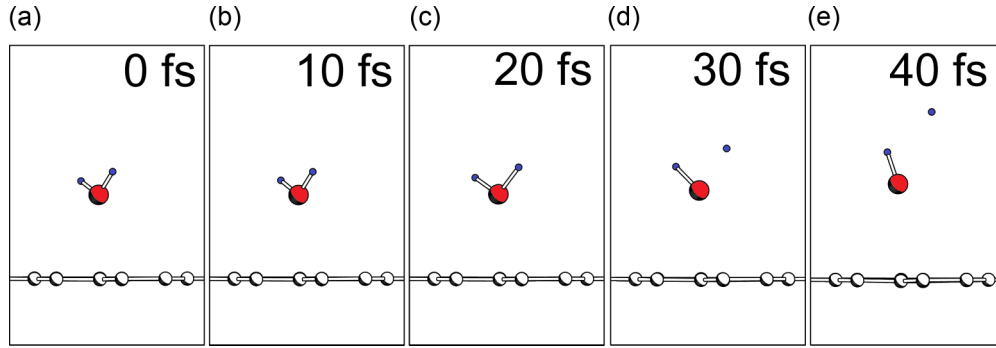


FIG. 4. Snapshots of water decomposition above a hole-doped graphene sheet at (a) 0, (b) 10, (c) 20, (d) 30, and (e) 40 fs. All geometries are displayed from a viewing direction parallel to the sheets. The orientation of the H_2O molecule at $t = 0$ fs is different from that shown in Fig. 2(d).

nature, we expect the H_2O adsorption energy to weakly depend on the adsorption site. (This would not be the case for the polar 2D systems hBN and gC_3N_4). If an increase in H_2O -graphene interaction is the case, it is expected to be beneficial for increasing the number of H_2O molecules per area on the graphene sheet. The efficiency of H_2O decomposition with higher H_2O coverage is discussed in Sec. III B.

We confirmed that the laser decomposition of the H_2O molecule also occurs under the hole-doping conditions using the LDA. Figures 4(a)–4(e) show the sequence of the decomposition dynamics with an E-field intensity of 7 V/\AA , which is still considerably below the threshold of the decomposition of an isolated H_2O molecule of 9 V/\AA . The large increase in the adsorption energy of the H_2O molecules indicates that the combination of electrical doping on graphene and the femtosecond laser should cause efficient water decomposition.

So far, we have tested the water decomposition by performing single-trajectory TDDFT-MD simulations, while a statistical ensemble of multitrajectory MD is necessary for high precision. We performed multitrajectory MD with higher H_2O coverage, and the results are presented in the next section.

B. With higher H_2O coverage and with the presence of a defect on the graphene sheet

At present, we have shown laser-induced decomposition of a single water molecule above graphitic sheets, but the environment of a water solution is of general interest. Compromising with computational cost, we have employed the LDA functional and used a model of five H_2O molecules per 3×3 graphene cell. The top panels of Fig. 5 show three different atomic configurations of five H_2O molecules above the 3×3 graphene cell, which were obtained by relaxing the atomic configurations starting with those generated by randomized numbers for expressing the location and orientation of H_2O molecules. We compromised and restricted ourselves to the three different initial conditions to mimic the stochastic effect due to the limitation of the computational cost. The cohesive energy per one H_2O molecule was calculated with the following equation:

$$E(\text{graph}) + 5E(\text{H}_2\text{O}) - E(\text{graph with 5 H}_2\text{O}), \quad (2)$$

where $E(\text{graph})$ and $E(\text{H}_2\text{O})$ are the total energy of a pristine 3×3 graphene cell and that of an isolated H_2O molecule,

respectively. $E(\text{graph with 5 H}_2\text{O})$ is the total energy of five H_2O molecules above a 3×3 graphene cell. The calculated values using LDA for the three atomic configurations were in the range $0.656 \pm 0.0033 \text{ eV}$, which is dominated by H_2O - H_2O attraction in addition to H_2O -graphene interaction. By counting hydrogen bond energy as 0.25 eV within the LDA level [34], the computed value is understandable via the formation of a two-dimensional network of hydrogen bonds. (We know that the PBE functional is known to present a better value for the hydrogen bonding of H_2O molecules [34], while the precision of the H_2O -graphene interaction obtained with LDA and PBE functionals is not guaranteed).

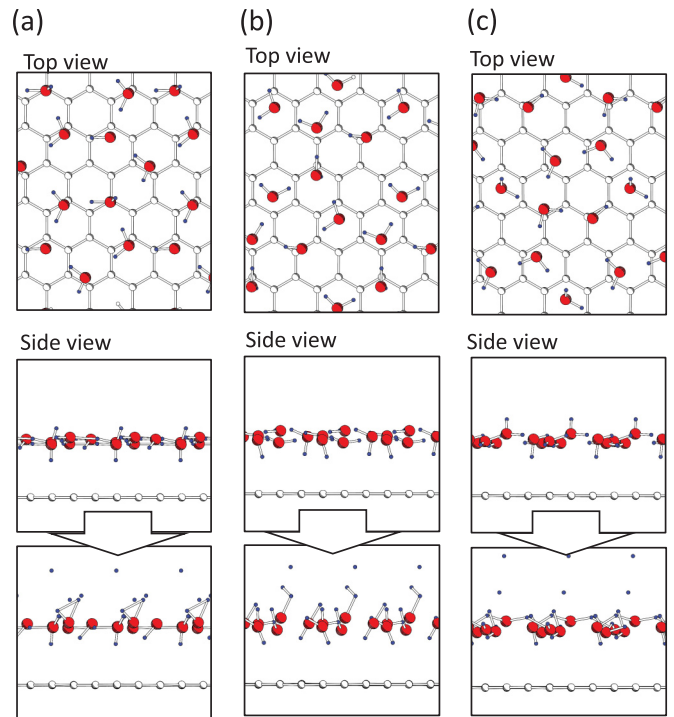


FIG. 5. (a)–(c) Cases of three different atomic configurations of five H_2O molecules above a 3×3 graphene cell. The top panels show the top views of the three configurations, while the middle panels show side views. The bottom panels show the TDDFT-MD simulation 39 fs later under a pulse laser with an E-field of 6.5 V/\AA .

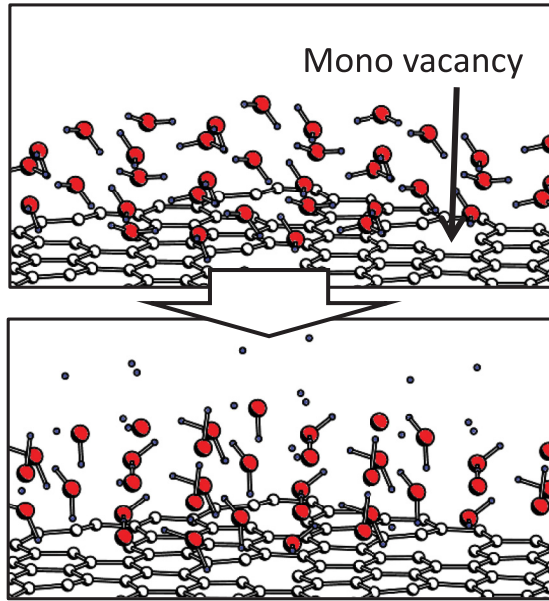


FIG. 6. Top: Five H₂O molecules above a graphene sheet with monovacancy per 3×3 period. Bottom: Forty femtoseconds after the TDDFT-MD simulation with the presence of a pulse laser with FWHM = 10 fs, a wavelength of 800 nm, and an E-field of 6.5 V/Å.

For these three atomic configurations, the dynamics under a pulse laser with a FWHM = 10 fs for the laser field and a wavelength of 800 nm was simulated as shown in the bottom panels of Fig. 5, which show the case with an optical E-field of 6.5 V/Å. (When the optical field was set to 6 V/Å, no H₂O molecules were decomposed). This threshold intensity of 6.5 V/Å is close to the value for an H₂O molecule above a 3×3 graphene cell, 6 V/Å. We therefore concluded that the laser-pulse induced H₂O decomposition is weakly dependent on the inter-water-molecule hydrogen bonding. Note that at the threshold intensity, not all five H₂O molecules were decomposed.

In order to obtain a high decomposition yield, H₂O condensation above graphitic sheets will be beneficial but requires a laser intensity beyond the threshold. Under the condition of the water density in the current simulation, a proton generated by laser decomposition of one H₂O molecule did not contribute to decomposing the other H₂O molecules. However, if an interface between the water liquid and the 2D sheet were considered, the proton dynamics would play an important role in H₂O decomposition even after the decay of the laser field.

So far, in all the cases in the present work, the graphitic 2D sheet has shown no atomic-scale damage throughout the TDDFT-MD simulation despite the presence of a strong laser field, which may be due to the absence of defects in the present models. A natural question here is whether damage occurs when graphene has an atomic defect. To examine the stability of graphene, we introduced a single vacancy per 3×3 cell of the graphene sheet with a loading of five H₂O molecules. Again, a pulse laser with FWHM = 10 fs and a wavelength of 800 nm was applied with a laser intensity of 6.5 V/Å. Figure 6 shows the computed results 40 fs after the TDDFT-MD simulation. As shown in Fig. 6, the

atomic geometry of graphene sheets was unchanged even in the presence of a monovacancy, which was checked up to 80 fs. So direct destruction of the graphene sheet is very unlikely, which may be due to the current condition of laser field polarization perpendicular to the sheet. Meanwhile, the pulse laser generates OH radicals that depart from the graphene within the simulated time scale. However, for a long time, the OH radical may return to the graphene through migration. If that is the case, the OH radical strongly interacts with the monovacancy, as was studied in cases of oxidation of defective carbon nanotubes [35].

IV. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

We have shown pulse-laser induced H₂O decomposition above graphitic 2D sheets. The 2D sheet did not suppress the decomposition, and even reduction of the laser intensity threshold for the decomposition was indicated by the present TDDFT-MD simulations. We further note that changing the wavelength from 800 to 400 nm reduced the threshold intensity. For example, with the LDA functional in the real-time TDDFT-MD simulation, the threshold of H₂O decomposition above the graphene sheet was reduced to $E_{\text{max}} = 5$ V/Å with a wavelength of 400 nm and a FWHM of 10 fs from $E_{\text{max}} = 6$ V/Å with a wavelength of 800 nm and the same FWHM. The reduction of the threshold intensity of the laser field could be due to the increase in photon energy at a shorter wavelength.

It is practically important to consider the yield of H₂O decomposition, even when the intensity of the optical E-field is below the threshold due to thermal dynamics. For example, the H₂O dynamics above graphene with an E-field intensity of 5.5 V/Å, below the threshold, shows an O-H oscillation with an amplitude of 0.4 Å. This amplitude is large and should be comparable to thermodynamics at temperatures around 1000 K; however, quantifying the yield of H₂O decomposition requires a longer time and larger size simulation, which is left to future work. With this condition, the kinetic energy of hydrogen atoms reaches 0.75 eV, which should be in the range in which the proton ions can be treated using Newton's dynamics. (The current Ehrenfest MD approach in such a long-time simulation will be validated by using the method in Ref. [20]).

The results of this study suggest that using 2D materials can reduce the laser power for H₂O decomposition, which helps increase the laser-beam cross section for the decomposition. The results also suggest that the nature of the graphitic sheets can be changed from hydrophobic to hydrophilic by electrical doping of holes. Although the factor of enhancement of 20% may not be significant, other materials, like the outer region of carbon nanotubes (CNTs), may be effective for higher field enhancement because of the field concentration due to the curvature of the CNT walls. To attract H₂O molecules to such a curved region, the use of surfactants may be necessary [36]. Expanding the current research to other 2D materials, such as MoS₂, is also important. The currently obtained threshold of field intensity for decomposition may sound high, but it is expected that one can reduce the value with a higher-magnitude FWHM, which is left to future work because of the computational costs.

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