## **Supplementary Information**

#### **Overall water splitting by graphdiyne-exfoliated and -sandwiched layered**

#### **double-hydroxide nanosheet arrays**

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# **Supplementary Figures**



## **Supplementary Figure 1. Morphology characterizations**

SEM images of ICLDH/NF **a, b** before and **c, d** after being treated by pyridine. Scale bars: a and c, 1 μm; b and d, 500 nm.



## **Supplementary Figure 2. Morphology characterizations**

SEM images of ICLDH/NF **a, b** before and **c, d** after being treated by TMEDA. Scale bars: a and c, 1 μm; b and d, 500 nm.



## **Supplementary Figure 3. HRTEM image of the lateral standing e-ICLDH@GDY nanosheet**

Because of the imaging angle, the GDY layer coated on the other side was not observed. The thickness of GDY (or LDH) is estimated from the number of fringes corresponding to the distance between two consecutive carbon (or LDH) fringes. Therefore, the thickness of GDY and LDH are determined to be about 1.2 nm and 5.1~6.5 nm, respectively. Scale bars: 5 nm.



#### **Supplementary Figure 4. Elemental mapping test**

**a** Typical scanning TEM and corresponding elemental mapping images of **b** overlapping, **c** C, **d** O, **e** Fe, and **f** Co atoms in the e-ICLDH@GDY nanosheets. This also indicates the volume expansion behavior of e-ICLDH@GDY. Scale bars: 300 nm.



**Supplementary Figure 5. Energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) analysis**

**a** STEM image and **b** corresponding EDS pattern of e-ICLDH@GDY nanosheet. Inset of **b**: the relative content of each element. **c** STEM image and **d** corresponding EDS pattern of the pure molybdenum grid. Inset of **d**: the relative content of each element. Scale bars: a, 500 nm; c, 500 nm.

It needs to be mentioned that the EDS results shown in Supplementary Figure 4a and 4b were measured on a molybdenum (Mo) grid. It should be mentioned that the peak at  $\sim 8.9 \text{ keV}$ corresponding to Cu was ascribed from to the TEM system, for example, the sample rod. In order to clarify this issue, a control measurement on pure molybdenum grid was conducted, as shown in Supplementary Figure 4c and 4d.



**Supplementary Figure 6. TEM characterization of the samples after being treated using concentrated nitric acid**

**a-d** TEM images of GDY nanosheets obtained after the removal of metal species. Scale bars: a, 500 nm; b-d, 100 nm.



#### **Supplementary Figure 7. Optimization of the structures**

**a** The crystal structure of the 3×3 supercell of CLDH. **b,c** Typical configurations of ICLDH with Fe atoms at different sites of the symmetry systems and corresponding binding energies. The configuration **c** with lower energy demonstrates that it is more stable and thus is chosen as the further investigated model.



**Supplementary Figure 8. Schematic representation of the general mechanism for OER in alkaline solution**



**Supplementary Figure 9. Schematic representation of the general mechanism for HER in** 

**alkaline solution**



**Supplementary Figure 10. OER performances of the as-synthesized samples**

OER cyclic voltammetry (CV) curves for e-ICLDH@GDY/NF, ICLDH/NF, ILDH@GDY/NF,

ILDH/NF, CLDH@GDY/NF, CLDH/NF, GDY/NF and RuO2, respectively.



**Supplementary Figure 11. Tafel plots together with Tafel slopes of the as-synthesized samples**

Tafel plots together with Tafel slopes for e-ICLDH@GDY/NF, ICLDH/NF, ILDH@GDY/NF,

ILDH/NF, CLDH@GDY/NF, CLDH/NF, GDY/NF and RuO2, respectively.



**Supplementary Figure 12. Analysis on the obtained LSV curves**

**a** OER cyclic voltammetry (CV) curves for e-ICLDH@GDY/NF, ICLDH/NF, ILDH@GDY/NF, ILDH/NF, CLDH@GDY/NF, CLDH/NF, and GDY/NF, respectively. **b** Magnifications of the pure CLDH/NF and CLDH@GDY/NF curves. **c** Magnifications of the pure CLDH/NF and ILDH/NF curves. **d** Magnifications of the ICLDH/NF and e-ICLDH@GDY/NF curves.

Supplementary Figure 12a shows the OER cyclic voltammetry (CV) curves of as-prepared samples. As shown in Supplementary Fig. 12b, the CV for pure CLDH/NF and CLDH@GDY/NF exhibit two pronounced peaks in the anodic process. The first peak located at around 1.28 V mainly result from the oxidation of  $Co^{2+}$  to  $Co^{3+}$ , and the latter at 1.36 V corresponds to oxidation of  $Co^{3+}$  to  $Co^{4+20-22}$ . For pure ILDH (Supplementary Fig. 12c), the oxidation peak was observed at round 1.41  $V^{23}$ . The CV of e-ICLDH@GDY/NF (Supplementary Fig. 12d) shows only one broad anodic peak at around 1.25 V and a cathodic peak at around 1.16 V. The redox behavior of the e-ICLDH@GDY/NF sample is mainly attributed to the  $Co^{2+}/Co^{3+}$  and  $Co^{3+}/Co^{4+}$  redox pairs and contribution from iron<sup>21,24-26</sup>. This

has already been reported in alkaline solutions. Such high charge densities would be particularly beneficial for the improvement of the OER catalytic activity $2^{1,24}$ .



**Supplementary Figure 13. Structural optimization**

**a** Side and **b** top views of the stable configuration of CLDH@GDY. **c** Charge density difference for the stable configuration of CLDH@GDY. **d** Side and **e** top views of the stable configuration of ICLDH@GDY. **f** Charge density difference for the stable configuration of ICLDH@GDY. The values of *E* in **b** and **e** are the binding energies between GDY and the LDHs. Yellow and blue colors in **c** and **f** indicate charge accumulation and loss, respectively.



**Supplementary Figure 14. Morphological characterizations**

**a** Low- and **b** high-magnification SEM images of e-ICLDH@GDY/NF recorded after OER

cycling tests in 1.0 M KOH. Scale bars: a, 1 μm; b, 500 nm.



**Supplementary Figure 15. Faradaic efficiency test for OER**

**a** Current-time curve and **b** Faradaic efficiency of e-ICLDH@GDY/NF for OER**.**



**Supplementary Figure 16. HER performances of the as-synthesized samples**

HER polarization curves for e-ICLDH@GDY/NF, ICLDH/NF, ILDH@GDY/NF, ILDH/NF,

CLDH@GDY/NF, CLDH/NF, GDY/NF and Pt, respectively.



**Supplementary Figure 17. Tafel plots together with Tafel slopes for the as-synthesized samples**

Tafel plots together with Tafel slopes for e-ICLDH@GDY/NF, ICLDH/NF, ILDH@GDY/NF,

ILDH/NF, CLDH@GDY/NF, CLDH/NF, GDY/NF and Pt, respectively, for HER.



# **Supplementary Figure 18. Morphological characterizations**

**a** Low- and **b** high-magnification SEM images of e-ICLDH@GDY/NF recorded after HER cycling tests in 1.0 M KOH. Scale bars: a,  $1 \mu$ ,; b, 500 nm.



**Supplementary Figure 19. Faradaic efficiency test for HER**

**a** Current-time curve and **b** Faradaic efficiency of e-ICLDH@GDY/NF for HER.



**Supplementary Figure 20. Experimental (solid line) and fitted (dashed line) Nyquist plots for as-synthesized samples**



**Supplementary Figure 21. CV measurements at different scan rates.**

CV curves of **a** e-ICLDH@GDY/NF and **b** pristine ICLDH /NF in the potential range of 0.768–

0.868 V vs. RHE at scan rates from  $10 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  to  $100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ .



**Supplementary Figure 22. Overall water-splitting device**

**a,b** Photograph of a water-splitting device driven by a single AA battery ( $\approx$ 1.5 V).



**Supplementary Figure 23. Faradaic efficiency for OWS**

**a** Current-time curve and **b** Faradaic efficiency of e-ICLDH@GDY/NF for OWS.

# **Supplementary Tables**

## **Supplementary Table 1**. Comparison of the OER performances of e-ICLDH@GDY/NF with



the state-of-the-art electrocatalysts in 1.0 M KOH.

# **Supplementary Table 2.** Comparison of the HER performances of e-ICLDH@GDY/NF with



other state-of-the-art electrocatalysts in 1.0 M KOH.



**Supplementary Table 3.** Impedance parameter values derived from the fitting to the equivalent circuit for the impedance spectra recorded in 1.0 M KOH solution.

**Supplementary Table 4. Comparison of the TOF values of our catalysts with recently reported ones.**



**Supplementary Table 5.** Comparison of the electrochemical performances of e-ICLDH@GDY/NF for overall water splitting in 1.0 M KOH with recently reported bifunctional electrocatalysts.

![](_page_29_Picture_341.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_38.jpeg)

#### **Supplementary Methods**

*Calculation details* DFT calculations in this work were performed using the VASP program. The exchange-correlation interaction was treated using the PBE functional of GGA. The energy cutoff was set to be 400 eV, and the  $3 \times 3 \times 1$  Monkhorst–Pack grid was used to sample the Brillouin zone integration. Spin polarization was considered throughout the calculations. During the geometry optimization, the convergence standards were set as follows: the energy and the force were less than  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  eV/atom and 0.01 eV  $\AA^{-1}$ , respectively. To avoid the periodic interactions, a vacuum space as large as 20  $\AA$  was used along the c direction. The DFT-D2 force-field approach was employed to consider the van der Waals (vdW) interaction. The electron occupancies were determined according to the Fermi scheme with the energy smearing of 0.1 eV.

The original unit cell of CLDH was obtained from the ICSD database (No.88940). To meet the optimal proportion in experiment and avoid the lattice mismatch between GDY and pure CLDH and ICLDH as far as possible,  $1\times1$  primitive cell of GDY,  $3\times3$  supercell of CLDH and ICLDH, and a proportion of Co/Fe=7:2 were employed. The constructed supercell of CLDH is shown in Supplementary Fig. 3. There are two configurations for Fe doping in different sites of the symmetry systems of  $I_2C_7LDH$  (Supplementary Fig. 3). The calculated energies values are -251.99 eV and -253.04 eV, respectively. The configuration 2 with lower energy demonstrates that it is more stable and thus is chosen as the further investigated model.

For electronic structure and energetic pathway studies, we chose rotational invariant PBE+U calculations by  $CASTEP^{1-2}$ , where the Hubbard-U parameters self-consistently determined for the Fe-3d, Co-3d, C-2p and O-2p orbitals by our new linear response method<sup>3-10</sup>. For the ground state structural optimization, the algorithm of Broyden-Fletcher-Goldfarb-Shannon (BFGS) has

been chosen. The plane-wave basis set for expressing the valence electronic states has been used with a kinetic cutoff energy of 750 eV. To guarantee the convergence and avoid spincharge sloshing effect, the ensemble DFT (EDFT) method of Marzari *et al.*<sup>11</sup> is used for electronic minimization process.

Pseudized CoFe-LDH model has been built with Co:Fe ratio of 7:2 and four layered thick. The single GDY layer model was initially interfaced with 4-layered LDH structure. The vacuum thickness is set to 10 Å. To balance the computational loading, the Monkhost-Pack reciprocal k-point sampling was performed using Gamma-center-off special k-points<sup>12</sup> with convergence test guided. Total energy for each step is converged to less than  $1.0x10^{-6}$  eV per atom. The Hellmann-Feynman forces on the atom were converged to reach less than  $0.001 \text{ eV/A}$ .

The Fe, Co, C, O, and H norm-conserving pseudopotentials are generated using the OPIUM code in the Kleinman-Bylander projector form<sup>13</sup>. We chose the  $(3d, 4s, 4p)$ ,  $(2s, 2p)$ , and  $(1s)$ states as the valence states of Fe, Co, C, O, and H atoms respectively. The RRKJ method is chosen for the optimization of the pseudopotentials<sup>14</sup>. The Hubbard U parameters on the Fe-3d orbitals is self-consistently to be  $U_d$ =2.01 eV,  $U_d$ =3.51 eV for Co-4d, and  $U_p$ =2.85 eV for O-2p, respectively.

*Calculation of TOF* According to the previously reported method<sup>15-18</sup>, we carried out similar calculation method. As the exact number and nature of hydrogen binding sites is not known, we estimated the number of active sites as the as possible active sites from the roughness factor (eq. 1).

$$
\frac{\# Surface\ sites}{cm^2\ geometric\ area} = \frac{\# Surface\ sites\ (flat\ standard)}{cm^2\ geometric\ area} \times Roughness\ factor \tag{1}
$$
\nThe roughness factor (R<sub>f</sub>) can be determined by the electrochemically double-layer capacitance (C<sub>dl</sub>). The specific capacitance can be converted into an electrochemical active surface area

(ECSA) using the specific capacitance value for a flat standard with  $1 \text{ cm}^2$  of real surface area. According to previous reports<sup>16,19</sup>, we assume 60  $\mu$ F cm<sup>-2</sup> for a flat electrode and the surface sites of  $2 \times 10^{15}$  for the flat standard electrode. As a result, the number of surface active sites for e-ICLDH@GDY is calculated to be  $0.067 \times 10^{18}$  surface sites/cm<sup>2</sup>.

The TOF values can then be obtained according to the following formulas:

$$
TOF = \frac{\text{# Total Hydrogen Turn Overs/cm}^2 \text{geometric area}}{\text{# Surface Sites/cm}^2 \text{ geometric area}}
$$
 (2)

The number of total hydrogen turn overs is calculated from the current density extracted from the LSV curves:

# Total Hydrogen Turn Overs

$$
= \left(j\frac{mA}{cm^2}\right)\left(\frac{1C s^{-1}}{1000 mA}\right)\left(\frac{1 mol e^{-}}{96485.3 C}\right)\left(\frac{1 mol H_2}{2 mol e^{-}}\right)\left(\frac{6.022 \times 10^{23} H_2 molecules}{1 mol H_2}\right)
$$
  
= 3.12 × 10<sup>15</sup>  $\frac{H_2/s}{cm^2}$  per  $\frac{mA}{cm^2}$  (3)

TOF per site for e-ICLDH@GDY at different overpotentials  $(\eta)$  is calculated as follows:

$$
TOF = \frac{3.12 \times 10^{15}}{0.067 \times 10^{18}} \times j = 0.047 \times j
$$
 (4)

*j* corresponds to the current density at different overpotentials.

The C<sub>dl</sub> of pure ICLDH is  $0.6 \text{ mF cm}^{-2}$ . According to Eq. (1), the number of surface active sites for pure ICLDH is calculated to be  $0.02 \times 10^{18}$  surface sites/cm<sup>2</sup>. Thus, TOF per site for e-ICLDH@GDY at different overpotentials  $(\eta)$  can be calculated as follows:

$$
TOF = \frac{3.12 \times 10^{15}}{0.02 \times 10^{18}} \times j = 0.156 \times j
$$
 (5)

For HER, at the overpotentials of 50, 100, and 200 mV, the current densities for e-ICLDH@GDY are 11.01, 20.69, and 179.16 mA  $cm^{-2}$  respectively. For pure ICLDH, The *j* at  $\eta$  = 50, 100, and 200 mV are 1.40, 1.58, and 3.55 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, respectively. As summarized below, the e-ICLDH@GDY exhibits much bigger TOF value than the pure ICLDH, suggesting its higher HER catalytic activity.

![](_page_34_Picture_70.jpeg)

By using the same calculation method, the TOF values of OER was obtained. At  $\eta = 250$  mV, the TOF values for e-ICLDH@GDY and pure ICLDH are 2.34 and 1.29  $s^{-1}$ , respectively. This result indicates the better OER catalytic activity of e-ICLDH@GDY than pure ICLDH.

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