


 Cite this: *RSC Adv.*, 2024, 14, 16445

# Adsorption effects of acetone and acetonitrile on defected penta-PdSe<sub>2</sub> nanoribbons: a DFT study

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Using DFT calculations, the structural and electronic properties of the ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> nanoribbons (ZZ7) with the four kinds of vacancy defects, including ZZ7-V<sub>Pd</sub>, ZZ7-V<sub>Se</sub>, ZZ7-V<sub>Pd+Se</sub>, and ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> are studied, in which their stability, diverse geometries, and altered electronic properties are determined through the formation energies, optimal structural parameters, electronic band structures, and DOSs. Specifically, the formation energies of all studied systems show significant negative values around -3.9 eV, evidencing their good thermal stability. The geometries of four defective structures exhibit different diversification, whereas only the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> structure possesses the highly enhanced feature, identified as the most effective substrate for the acetone and acetonitrile adsorption. On the electronic behaviors, the ZZ7 band structure displays the nonmagnetic metallic characteristics that become the ferromagnetic half-metallic band structures for the ZZ7-V<sub>Pd</sub> and ZZ7-V<sub>Se</sub> and the ferromagnetic semi-metallic band structures for the ZZ7-V<sub>Pd+Se</sub> and ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>. For adsorption of the acetone and acetonitrile on the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> structure, the energetic stability, adsorption sites, adsorption distances, charge transfers, and electronic characteristics of the adsorbed systems are determined by the adsorption energies, optimal adsorption sites, adsorption distances, Mulliken populations, and DOSs. The adsorption energies of the acetone- and acetonitrile-adsorbed ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> systems display significant values at -1.2 eV and -0.86 eV at the preferable sites of 8 and 11, respectively, indicating their great adsorption ability. The adsorption mechanism of the acetone- and acetonitrile-adsorbed systems belongs to the physisorption owing to absence of chemical bonds, in which the bond lengths of the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate show a very small deviation. Under the acetone and acetonitrile adsorptions, the ferromagnetic semi-metallic DOSs of the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> become the ferromagnetic half-metallic DOSs for the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>-acetone-8 and the ferromagnetic semiconducting DOSs for the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>-acetonitrile-11. Our systematic results can provide a complete understanding of the acetone- and acetonitrile adsorptions on the potential ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> structure, which is very useful for nanosensor application.

 Received 28th March 2024  
 Accepted 15th May 2024

DOI: 10.1039/d4ra02368d

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## 1 Introduction

Two-dimensional (2D) materials have attracted considerable attention in recent years due to their unique physical and chemical properties, such as high surface area, tunable band gap, and diverse electronic structures.<sup>1-10</sup> Among various 2D

materials, transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs) are promising candidates for nanoelectronic and nanosensor applications, as they exhibit a wide range of electronic behaviors, from metallic to semiconducting, depending on their composition and structure.<sup>11-13</sup> One of the ways to tune the electronic properties of 2D materials is to create nanostructures, including nanoribbons, nanotubes, and quantum dots that result in edge terminations and quantum confinement effects.<sup>14-17</sup> Specifically, nanoribbons are particularly interesting, as they can exhibit different edge configurations and edge states, which can significantly affect their electronic and magnetic properties. For example, zigzag-edged nanoribbons usually have metallic edge states, while armchair-edged nanoribbons can have either metallic or semiconducting behavior depending on their width.<sup>18-22</sup> Another way to modify the electronic properties of 2D materials is to adsorb molecules or atoms on their surfaces, which can induce charge transfer, doping, or band gap engineering.<sup>23-27</sup> The adsorption of organic molecules on 2D

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materials is especially relevant for the development of nano-sensors, as the interaction between the molecules and the 2D material can alter the electrical conductivity, optical absorption, or surface plasmon resonance of the 2D material, which can be detected by various sensing techniques.<sup>28</sup> Moreover, the adsorption of organic molecules on 2D materials can also provide insight into the nature and strength of the intermolecular forces, such as van der Waals and electrostatic that govern the adsorption process.<sup>29,30</sup> Regarding adsorption effects of organic molecules on the 2D materials, it has been widely reported in recent studies. Using the van der Waals DFT calculations, the structural and electronic properties of the acetone, acetonitrile, ammonia, benzene, methane, methanol, ethanol, and toluene adsorbed 2D silicene have been studied by Thaneshwor P. Kaloni *et al.*, in which they have indicated that the adsorption energies of the adsorbed silicene systems show the significant values from  $-0.11$  to  $-0.95$  eV from acetone to toluene, respectively, confirming the good adsorption ability of the silicene substrate.<sup>31</sup> Very recently, Chen-Hao Yeh has systematically investigated the sensitivity of the acetone, methanol, ethanol, and formyl aldehyde adsorbed pristine 2D transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs) and 2D Janus TMD monolayers under DFT calculations. This study has resulted in the calculated adsorption energies of the adsorbed systems around  $-0.25$  eV to  $-0.34$  eV and determined that the MoS<sub>2</sub>, Janus MoSSe, and Janus MoSTe showed the greater sensitivity toward acetone than other ones.<sup>32</sup>

Pentagonal palladium diselenide (p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>) is a novel 2D material that has attracted attention for its potential applications in nanoelectronics, optoelectronics, and catalysis.<sup>33,34</sup> It has a unique pentagonal structure that exhibits high stability, tunable band gap, and strong anisotropy. In addition, the electronic properties of p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> can be significantly affected by the presence of defects, such as vacancies, which can introduce localized states, spin polarization, and band gap opening. Therefore, it is essential to understand how defects influence the electronic structure and transport properties of p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>, as well as its interaction with organic molecules that can act as adsorbates, dopants, or sensors.<sup>35,36</sup> Using DFT calculations, Yiping Ma *et al.*, have studied the adsorption of the NH<sub>3</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, NO<sub>2</sub>, and NO gases on the PdSe<sub>2</sub> monolayer, in which the calculated adsorption energies of the adsorbed PdSe<sub>2</sub> systems showed the significant values of  $-0.287$  eV,  $-0.228$  eV,  $-0.579$  eV, and  $-0.481$  eV for NH<sub>3</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, NO<sub>2</sub>, and nd NO adsorptions, respectively, indicating that NH<sub>3</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O display the physisorption, while NO<sub>2</sub> and NO belong to the chemisorption.<sup>37</sup>

Moreover, the 2D p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> structure can be existed in a quasi one-dimensional structure so-called 1D p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> nanoribbons that can trigger many extraordinary properties owing to its 1D quantum confinements and edge configurations.<sup>38</sup> Very recently, the 1D p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> nanoribbons has be successfully synthesized by Giang. D Nguyen *et al.*, using a facile hybrid approach of top-down and bottom-up processes. The experimental results of this study has shown that the 1D p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> nanoribbons was formed in a dimer shape on the PdSe<sub>2</sub> substrate, and the formed 1D p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> nanoribbons displayed

the metallic behavior, which has been further confirmed by their DFT results.<sup>39</sup> However, the results reported by Giang. D Nguyen *et al.*, have not yet specified various edge structures of the formed 1D p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> nanoribbons, in which the different edge structures can lead to different fundamental properties, as determined by well-known graphene nanoribbons.<sup>19,20</sup> Using the density functional theory (DFT) calculations, the structural, magneto-electronic, electronic transport properties of the p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> nanoribbons within the specific edge structures of the sawtooth-sawtooth (SS), armchair-armchair (AA), zigzag-armchair (ZA), and zigzag-zigzag (ZZ) have been reported in detail by N. T. Tien *et al.*, whereas the DFT results have showed that the SS, AA, ZA, and ZZ structures present the high buckling and diverse geometries.<sup>40</sup> On the electronic properties, the AA, ZZ, ZA p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> nanoribbons exhibit the ferromagnetic metallic characteristics, while the SS p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> nanoribbon shows the non-magnetic semiconducting characteristics. It is worthwhile to note that the p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> nanoribbons possess more diverse edge shapes than the only two unique edge configurations of the graphene nanoribbons.<sup>19,20</sup> With rich edge structures, 1D quantum confinements, and puckered 1D pentagonal layered structure, the p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> nanoribbons can serve as good platform for adsorption of organic molecules. Especially, creating different vacancy defects in the p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> nanoribbons is expecting to result in more diverse geometries and enriched essential properties as well as greatly enhancing its adsorption ability. Thus, a complete investigation in the p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> nanoribbons within different vacancy defects and adsorption of acetone and acetonitrile molecules on the defected p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> nanoribbons is an interesting topic, which has not yet reported up to date.

In this paper, using the DFT calculations, the structural and electronic properties of the p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> nanoribbons containing in four different kinds of vacancy defects, including single Pd vacancy, single Se vacancy, double vacancies of one Pd and one Se atom, and double Se vacancies are investigated by the formation energies, optimal structural parameters, electronic band structures, and density of states (DOSs). Furthermore, adsorption effects of acetone and acetonitrile molecules on the most effective defected structure of the double Se vacancies are taken into account, whereas the adsorption energies, adsorption sites, change in bond lengths under adsorption, adsorption distances, Mulliken populations, electronic band structures, and DOSs of the adsorbed systems are calculated to determine the adsorption mechanisms, adsorption profile, and adsorption effects on the geometric and electronic characteristics.

## 2 Methodology

The defective vacancies can be created by removing one Se atom, one Pd atom, two atoms consisting of one Pd atom and one Se atom, or two Se atoms. With ribbon structures, vacancies can form at the edges or inside the structure. Unlike penta graphene nanoribbon, the SS edge structure is considered to be the most stable,<sup>14</sup> the ZZ edge structure of penta palladium diselenide nanoribbon displays the most stable energy.<sup>40</sup> However, edge-defected ZZ p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NRs are unstable. The ZZ7 p-



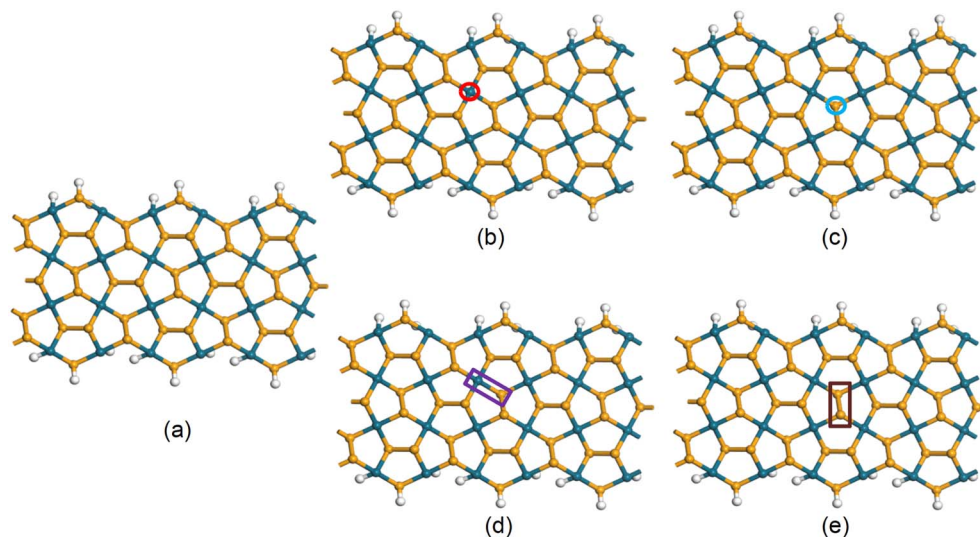


Fig. 1 (a) ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR without vacancy (ZZ7), (b) ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR with single Pd vacancy (ZZ7-V<sub>Pd</sub>), (c) ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR with single Se vacancy (ZZ7-V<sub>Se</sub>), (d) ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR with double vacancies of Pd and Se (ZZ7-V<sub>Pd+Se</sub>), (e) ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR with double Se vacancies (ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>).

PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR samples were investigated, including pristine ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR, ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR with single Pd vacancy, ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR with single Se vacancy, ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR with double vacancies of Pd and Se, ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR with double Se vacancies are denoted as ZZ7, ZZ7-V<sub>Pd</sub>, ZZ7-V<sub>Se</sub>, ZZ7-V<sub>Pd+Se</sub>, ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>, respectively, whereas the edges of these structures are passivated by hydrogen atoms (Fig. 1).

To investigate the structural stability and electronic properties of defective ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR samples, the density functional theory (DFT) calculations are utilized, in which the ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR samples with different vacancies are optimized *via* the Perdew–Burke–Ernzerhof (PBE) potential within the gradient generalized approximation (GGA) as included in the CASTEP software, while the ATK package is used to further calculate formation energy and electronic structure.<sup>41–43</sup> The number of *k*-points in the Brillouin zone is chosen to be 1 × 1 × 3 and 1 × 1 × 400 in the *x*, *y*, and *z* directions, respectively, for structure optimization and electronic structure calculation with a cutoff energy of 1000 eV, and the kinetic temperature of the electron system is 300 K. During the optimization process, the energy convergence is 10<sup>−6</sup> eV, the maximum Hellman Feynman force acting on each atom is less than 0.01 eV Å<sup>−1</sup>. The van der Waals (vdW) interaction is also considered under the DFT-D2 framework in long-range dispersion correction.<sup>44</sup>

### 3 Results and discussion

#### 3.1 Effect of vacancy types on the structural and electronic properties of ZZ p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>

**3.1.1 Structural properties.** Fig. 2 presents five geometric structures of ZZ7, ZZ7-V<sub>Pd</sub>, ZZ7-V<sub>Se</sub>, ZZ7-V<sub>Pd+Se</sub>, ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> before and after relaxing calculation. To evaluate the thermal stability in all studied cases, the formation energy [*E<sub>C</sub>* (eV)] of the pristine ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> NR and its vacancy samples are calculated. The *E<sub>C</sub>* is calculated based on the following formula<sup>14</sup>

$$E_C = \frac{E_{\text{total}} - n_{\text{Pd}}E_{\text{Pd}} - n_{\text{Se}}E_{\text{Se}} - n_{\text{H}}E_{\text{H}}}{n_{\text{Pd}} + n_{\text{Se}} + n_{\text{H}}}, \quad (1)$$

In eqn (1), *E<sub>C</sub>* (eV per atom) is the formation energy of system. *E<sub>total</sub>*, *E<sub>Pd</sub>*, *E<sub>Se</sub>*, *E<sub>H</sub>* (eV), and *n<sub>Pd</sub>*, *n<sub>Se</sub>*, *n<sub>H</sub>* are the total energy in ground-state energies, the energies of isolated Pd, Se, H atoms, and the numbers of atoms in a unit cell, respectively.

As a result, the calculated formation energies are presented in Table 1, whereas the significant negative values evidence the good structural stability of all investigated samples that can be fully feasible for experimental synthesis approach.<sup>45</sup> Among the four defected samples, the defected sample of ZZ7-V<sub>Pd</sub> achieves the most stability due to its lowest formation energy at −3.96 eV; however, difference in the *E<sub>C</sub>* value of the ZZ7-V<sub>Pd</sub> and other samples is insignificant as identified from Table 1. From the optimal defected structures shown at the bottom part of Fig. 2, it can be identified that only the three vacancy samples can form polygons around the defect position with introduced new bonds,<sup>46</sup> including the V<sub>Se</sub>, V<sub>Pd+Se</sub>, and V<sub>2Se</sub>. Specifically, ZZ7-V<sub>Se</sub>, ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> exhibit two new bonds, while the ZZ7-V<sub>Pd+Se</sub> only displays one new bond. In contrast, the ZZ7-V<sub>Pd</sub> dot not form a polygon around the vacancy position, leading to its negligible structural changes. Critically, the buckling height of ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> is significantly enhanced around the two new bonds compared to other samples. This enhanced buckling feature will increase the possible adsorption sites around the vacancy region of the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> structure due to the broken symmetry. Thus, the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> structure are identified as an effective substrate for organic molecules adsorption that will be fully explored in the latter part.

Furthermore, it is worthy mentioning that p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> structure is formed by pentagonal rings, whereas each Pd atom is bonded to four Se atoms, while two adjacent Se atoms form covalent bonds in a single layer. When a Pd atom is lost, the optimized structure does not change significantly because the distance



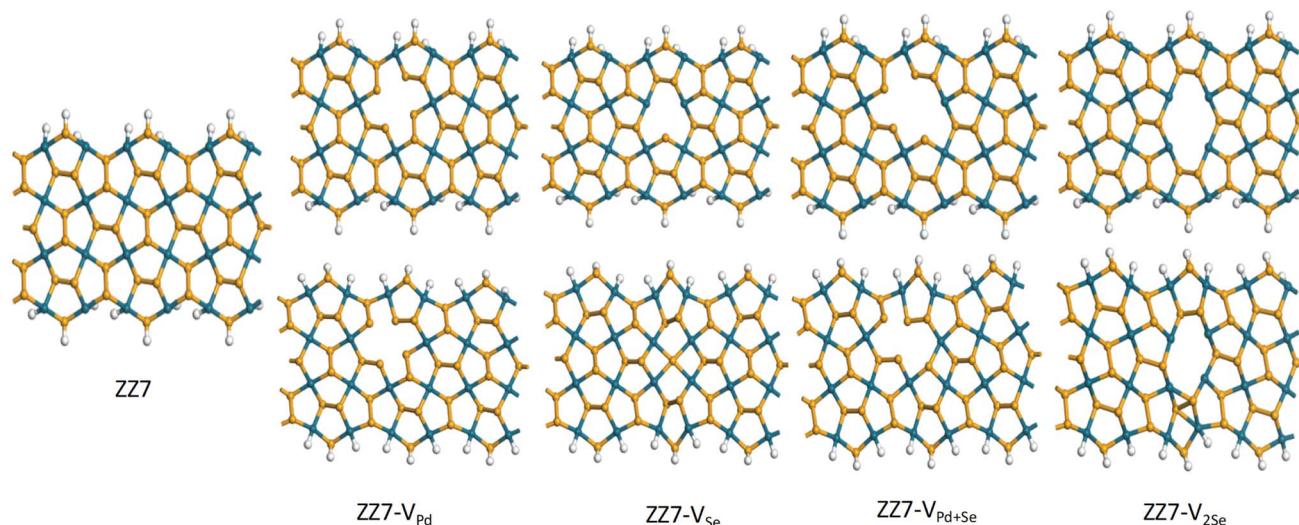


Fig. 2 The studied structures before and after optimization.

Table 1 The formation energies of the pristine ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR and its vacancy structures

Sample	$E_C$ (eV)
ZZ7	-3.98
ZZ7-V <sub>Pd</sub>	-3.96
ZZ7-V <sub>Se</sub>	-3.95
ZZ7-V <sub>Pd+Se</sub>	-3.95
ZZ7-V <sub>2Se</sub>	-3.93

between Se atoms is too large to allow the creation of new bonds. For the remaining three vacancy samples, new bonds are formed because both Pd and Se have electrons in the d subshell, which can form bonds when the distance between two atoms is satisfied.<sup>47</sup> The results of the optimal structural parameters of the vacancy samples show that the bond length in all four vacancy samples are slightly modified (maximum is 0.263 Å), in which the positions towards the edge have more variation.

As compared with its two-dimensional (2D) counterpart, the bond lengths of defective PdSe<sub>2</sub> nanoribbon show more variation. Specifically, for the 2D PdSe<sub>2</sub> system with Pd vacancy, the bond lengths increase by about 0.010 Å, whereas the bond lengths of ZZ7-V<sub>Pd</sub> vary between 0.011 and 0.156 Å. In addition, as compared to the defective sawtooth penta-graphene nanoribbons (D-SSPGNR) with C<sub>1</sub>, C<sub>2</sub> and 2C vacancies, which form polygons without new bonds,<sup>48</sup> the ZZ p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> NR with Pd vacancy do not form polygons, leading to no new bonds appeared. In contrast, ZZ7-V<sub>Se</sub>, ZZ7-V<sub>Pd+Se</sub>, ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> can form polygons with appearing of some new bonds. Thus, the optimal structural parameters of defective ZZ p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> NR change much less than those of the D-SSPNR structures. Specifically, the largest bond length change of D-SSPNRs is 1.344 Å, while that of defective ZZ p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NRs is 0.286 Å. In particular, for the ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR structure with 2Se vacancies, there is a significant change in buckling compared to the D-SSPGNR structures.

**3.1.2 Electronic properties.** To determine the influence of different vacancies on the electronic properties of the pristine ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR, the change in the electronic band structure of the defective ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> samples compared with the pristine system are taken into account. The calculated 1D band structures of the pristine ZZ7, ZZ7-V<sub>Pd</sub>, ZZ7-V<sub>Se</sub>, ZZ7-V<sub>Pd+Se</sub>, and ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> structures are respectively presented in Fig. 3(a–e), whereas the spin-splitting in energy bands which are responsible the magnetic feature are identified from the spin-up and spin-down splitting bands as illustrated by the blue and red lines that the higher spin-splitting bands lead to higher magnetic moments regarded as the ferromagnetic characteristics, and *vice versa*. To distinguish the valence and conduction states in Fig. 3, the Fermi level is set at zero energy. For pristine ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR, its band structure shows that the spin-splitting feature is negligible in whole energy bands, indicating for the nonmagnetic behavior, while the intersecting of the two highest occupied valence bands with the Fermi level generates the metallic characteristic. In contrast, the spin-decomposed band structures of the defective ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR structures show highly spin-splitting bands at low-lying energies, resulting in the ferromagnetic bands that can exhibit half-metallic or semi-metallic behaviors. Specifically, the half-metallic feature is defined by remaining a very small bandgap at the spin-up band (blue line) and intersecting of the spin-down band (spin-down) with the Fermi level as identified in the Fig. 3(b and c) for band structures of the ZZ7-V<sub>Pd</sub> and ZZ7-V<sub>Se</sub>, respectively. Meanwhile, the semi-metallic feature is defined by concurrently interesting of one highest occupied valence spin-up band and one lowest unoccupied conduction spin-down band with the Fermi level as identified in Fig. 3(d and e) for the band structures of the ZZ7-V<sub>Pd+Se</sub> and ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>, respectively. This ferromagnetic half-metallic/semi-metallic characteristic is different from the 2D PdSe<sub>2</sub> and D-SSPGNRs structures that belong to the nonmagnetic semiconductors. In addition, compared with the band structure of D-SSPGNRs with equivalent vacancies, SSPGNR



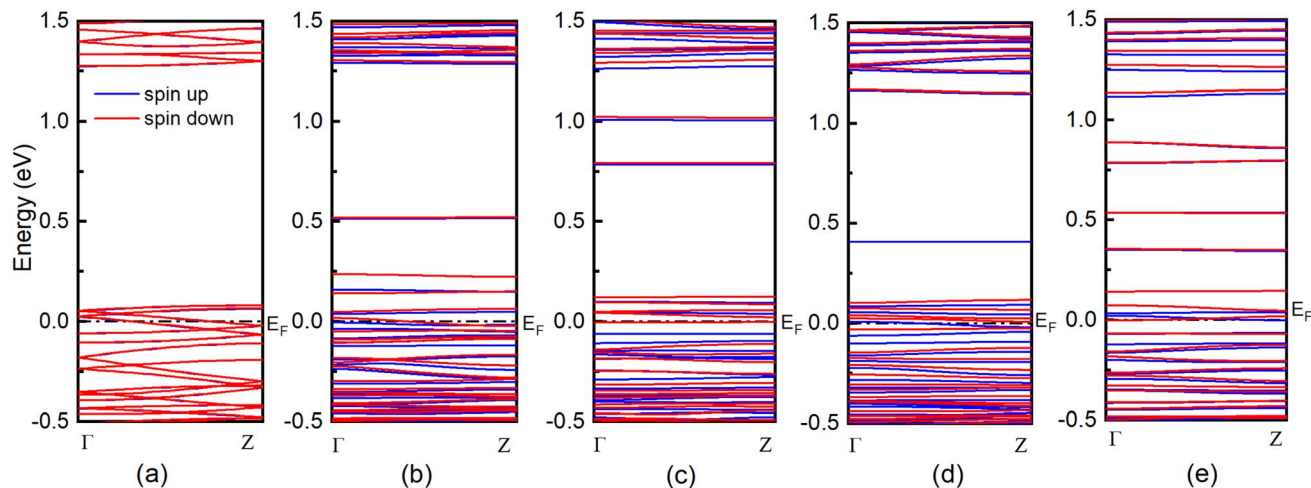


Fig. 3 Band structure of (a) ZZ7, (b) ZZ7- $V_{Pd}$ , (c) ZZ7- $V_{Se}$ , (d) ZZ7- $V_{Pd+Se}$ , and (e) ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$ .

with  $C_1$  vacancies – ZZ7- $V_{Pd}$ , SSPGNR with  $C_2$  vacancies – ZZ7- $V_{Se}$ , D-SSPGNR with  $2C_2$  vacancies – ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$ , SSPGNR with  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  vacancies – ZZ7- $V_{Pd+Se}$ , have similarities in the appearance of electron confinement states around the vacancies. However, defective SSPGNRs show the nonmagnetic semiconducting properties, with a reduced band gap due to the appearance of subbands in both the conduction and valence bands. Distinctly, the defective ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NRs show half-metallic/semi-metallic properties within magnetic polarization, and new energy levels appear in the conduction band, whereas the number of newly formed states in defective ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NRs is higher than that in D-SSPGNRs due to the inherent electron abundance in PdSe<sub>2</sub>.

The 1D band structures of the pristine and defective ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR samples discussed in Fig. 3 can be fully confirmed by their spin-projected density of states (DOSs) as shown in Fig. 4, in which the black and green solid curves display the DOSs of the pristine and defective systems, respectively, the spin-up and spin-down DOSs are illustrated *via* the positive and negative DOSs. Meanwhile, the Fermi level are marked using the black dashed lines. To identifying the vacancies-induced new states, combining the DOSs of the pristine and defective systems into a single plot is made as shown in Fig. 4(a–c) for the ZZ7 and ZZ7- $V_{Pd}$ , ZZ7 and ZZ7- $V_{Se}$ , ZZ7 and ZZ7- $V_{Pd+Se}$ , and ZZ7 and ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$ , respectively. As a result, the higher spin-splitting bands of the defective structures compared to the pristine one are confirmed by higher spin asymmetric peaks in the DOSs components of the defective systems, and *vice versa*. The negligible spin-splitting metallic energy bands of the pristine system is verified by the negligible spin asymmetric peaks and existing of DOSs at the Fermi level. The half-metallic band structures of the ZZ7- $V_{Pd}$  and ZZ7- $V_{Se}$  structures discussed in Fig. 3(b and c) are verified by absence of the spin-up DOSs and existence of the spin-down DOSs at the Fermi level as observed by the green curves in Fig. 4(a and b), respectively. On the other hand, the semi-metallic band structures of the ZZ7- $V_{Pd+Se}$  and ZZ7 and ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$  discussed in Fig. 3(d and e) are consistent with remaining the DOSs at the Fermi level in both spin-up and spin-

down components. Particularly, in the vacancies-induced DOSs, new linear electronic states appear more frequently in the conduction band near the Fermi level, mainly contributed by atoms surrounding or adjacent to the defect ring, demonstrating the localized electron confinement effect around the defect. Therefore, in the energy range near the Fermi energy, the electronic dynamic properties of defected structures are pseudo-zero-dimensional. The above characteristic is expected to create some new physical properties of the defected structures.

To fully determine the vacancies-created new states and vacancies-related spin-polarized peaks, the spin-projected density of states (spin-DOSs) of vacancy ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR samples are taken into account, in which the spin-DOSs of the pristine one is also performed for comparison in vacancy-induced reshape. As a result, the spin-DOSs of the pristine ZZ7, ZZ7- $V_{Pd}$ , ZZ7- $V_{Se}$ , ZZ7- $V_{Pd+Se}$ , and ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$  are shown in Fig. 5(a–f), respectively. Fig. 5 shows that the vacancy patterns create new states near the Fermi level, which is similar to the Se vacancy and Pd vacancy pattern of the 2D PdSe<sub>2</sub> structure.<sup>43</sup> Additionally, the spin-splitting DOSs of the vacancy samples show stronger spin-polarized peaks than that of the pristine one. Specifically, in the pristine sample, the energy levels with spin-up and spin-down electronic states are symmetrical, and have small differences in intensity. In the vacancy samples, the spin-up and spin-down states near the Fermi level are asymmetric and have obvious intensity differences. Compared with the 2D defect structures, respectively  $V_{Pd}$ ,  $V_{Se}$ ,  $V_{Pd+Se}$ ,  $V_{2Se}$ , the ribbon structure also changes DOS and forms new states in the conduction band, but there are some fundamental difference. Specifically, ZZ7- $V_{Pd}$  appears new states in the conduction band, while the defective 2D PdSe<sub>2</sub>- $V_{Pd}$  structure does not have. In addition, the defective structures with a single or double vacancies show the strong spin polarization, while the defective 2D PdSe<sub>2</sub> only exhibits the spin polarization when the five-atom vacancies ( $V_{Pd+4Se}$ ) are made. Besides, the number of new states formed in the conduction band near the Fermi level in the defective samples of the ZZ7- $V_{Se}$ , ZZ7- $V_{Pd+Se}$ , ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$  is more

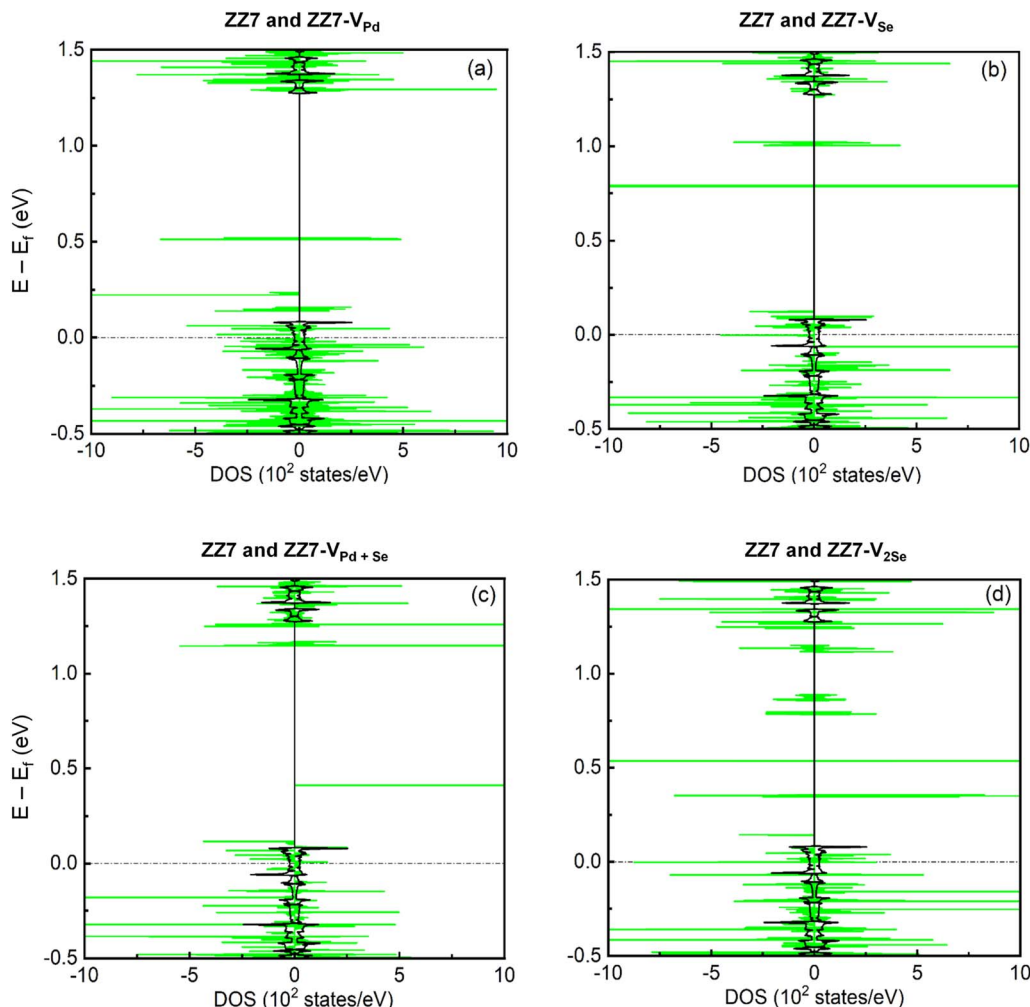


Fig. 4 Total density of state of (a) ZZ7 and ZZ7-V<sub>Pd</sub>, (b) ZZ7 and ZZ7-V<sub>Se</sub>, (c) ZZ7 and ZZ7-V<sub>Pd+Se</sub>, (d) ZZ7 and ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>. The black solid line depicts the ZZ7 structure and the black dashed line indicates the Fermi level.

than in their corresponding 2D defective structure. To further evaluate the influence of vacancies on the electronic properties of the ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub>NR structure, the contributions of atoms were statistically calculated through the density of eigenstates. The investigated states are numbered in green in the Fig. 5. The results show that the total density of states (DOSs) with new energy levels in the vicinity of the Fermi level is mainly contributed by the local atoms around the defective regions, while the contribution of the remaining atoms is negligible.

### 3.2. Adsorption effects of acetone and acetonitrile molecules on the pristine ZZ7 and ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> 1D structures

As formerly identified, the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> system with the enriched structural features shows high feasibility for adsorption of the acetone and acetonitrile molecules as compared with the other systems. In this section, we investigate the adsorption of the acetone and acetonitrile molecules on both pristine ZZ7 structure at 3 marked sites as shown Fig. 6(a) and the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> structure at 11 marked sites in Fig. 6(b), respectively. The structural stability, electronic structure, and molecular

adsorption profile of the acetone and acetonitrile molecules absorbed on the pristine ZZ7 and ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> samples are calculated using the DFT calculations, in which the adsorbed systems are optimized using DFT Perdew Burke–Ernzerhof (PBE) pseudopotential within Generalized Gradient Approximation (GGA) as implemented in the CASTEP package. The number of *k*-points in the Brillouin zone is chosen to be  $1 \times 1 \times 3$  with a cutoff energy of 850 eV, and a kinetic temperature of the electronic system is set at 300 K. During the optimization process, the maximum force and stress concentrations are set at 0.03 eV Å<sup>-1</sup> and 0.05 Gpa, respectively. To determine the stability of the adsorbed systems, the adsorption energy ( $E_{ad}$ ) are determined according to the following formula<sup>49</sup>

$$E_{ad} = E_{ZZ7-V_{2Se}\text{-molecule}} - E_{ZZ7-V_{2Se}} - E_{\text{molecule}} \quad (2)$$

whereas,  $E_{ZZ7-V_{2Se}\text{-molecule}}$  is the total energy of the whole system,  $E_{ZZ7-V_{2Se}}$  is the energy of the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>, and  $E_{\text{molecule}}$  is the energy of the isolated acetone/acetonitrile molecules.

As a result, the negative and positive  $E_{ad}$  values are respectively responsible for the stability and instability of the



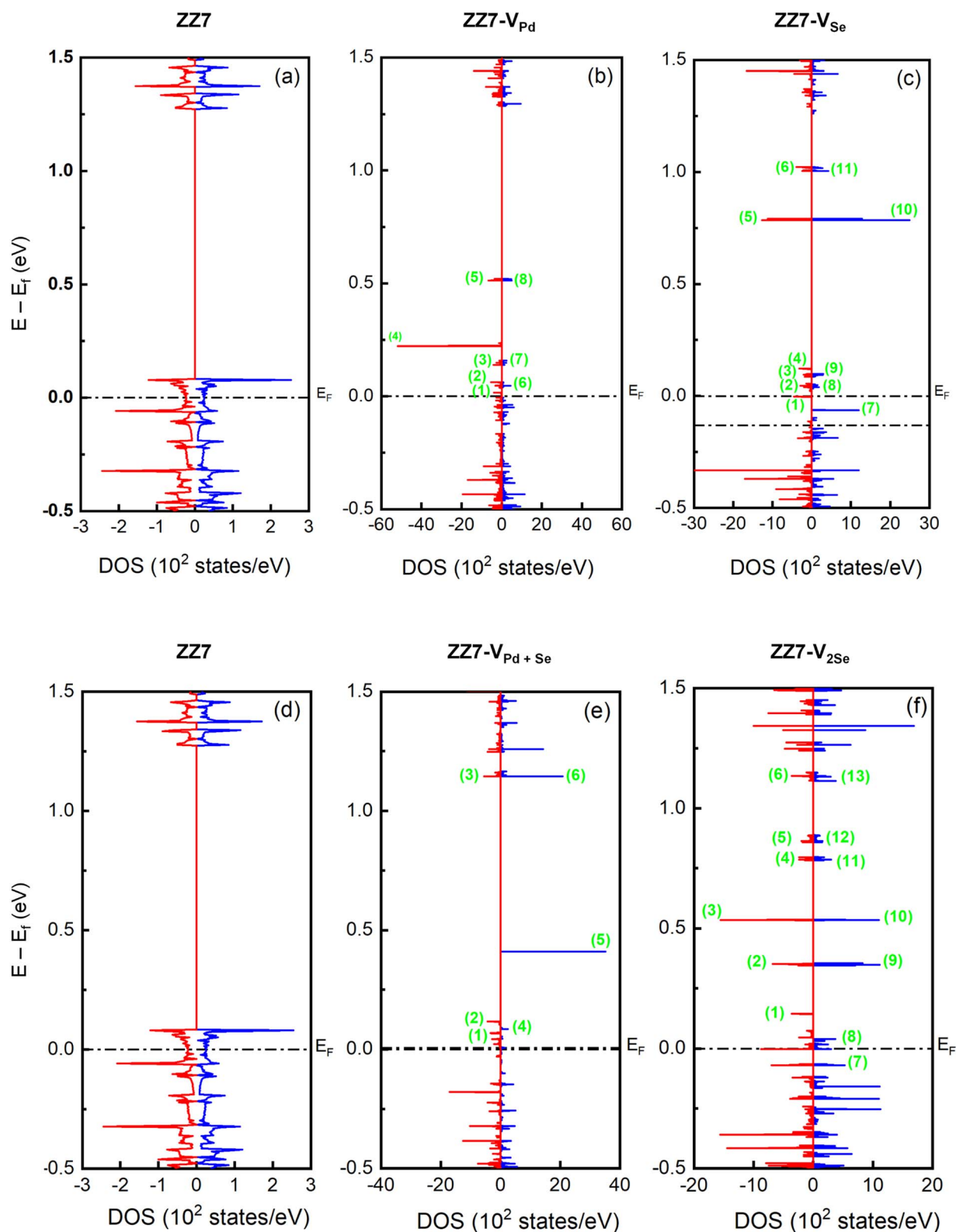


Fig. 5 Spin-projected density of states of (a and d) ZZ7, (b) ZZ7- $V_{Pd}$ , (c) ZZ7- $V_{Se}$ , (e) ZZ7- $V_{Pd+Se}$ , and (f) ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$ . The blue and red solid lines depict the spin-up and spin-down states, respectively. The black dashed line indicates the Fermi level. The green numbers display vacancies-induced prominent peaks.



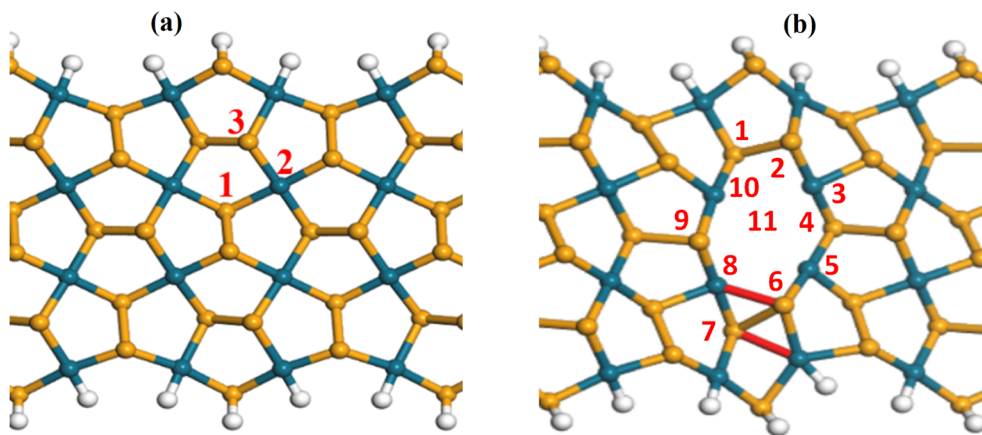


Fig. 6 Acetone/acetonitrile adsorption sites on (a) ZZ7 and (b) ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrates.

Table 2 The adsorption energy ( $E_{ad}$ ) and the shortest distance from the acetone/acetonitrile molecule to the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate

Acetone	$d$ (Å)	$E_{ad}$ (eV)	Acetonitrile	$d$ (Å)	$E_{ad}$ (eV)
1	2.226	-0.65	1	2.097	-0.20
2	3.312	-0.67	2	3.031	-0.50
3	2.901	-0.25	3	2.546	-0.60
4	2.941	-0.82	4	3.663	+1.10
5	3.172	-0.01	5	3.027	-0.40
6	2.992	+0.11	6	3.576	-0.10
7	3.477	+0.14	7	1.891	+0.30
8	2.567	-1.20	8	3.077	+0.12
9	3.318	+0.16	9	3.255	-0.05
10	2.519	-0.58	10	2.084	-0.70
11	2.571	-0.70	11	2.149	-0.86

adsorbed systems. The calculated  $E_{ad}$  values and shortest distance from the acetone molecule to the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate are presented in Table 2, in which except for positions of 6, 7, 9 showing the unstable structures owing to their positive  $E_{ad}$  values, the remaining positions displaying the significant negative ( $E_{ad}$ ) values, indicating the possible adsorption of the acetone molecule on the substrate. The shortest distance between the acetone molecule and the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate is larger than the sum of the covalent radii of the nearest atoms in the acetone molecule and the Pd/Se atoms in the substrate. This implies that no chemical bonds are formed between the acetone molecule and the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate, evidencing that the physical adsorption mechanism is dominant for the acetone adsorption onto the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate at sites of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 11, in which their shortest distances are 2.226 Å, 3.312 Å, 2.901 Å, 2.941 Å, 3.172 Å, 2.567 Å, 2.519 Å, 2.571 Å, respectively.<sup>44</sup> Critically, the adsorption energy of the acetone on the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate at the site of 8 is smallest with the lowest  $E_{ad}$  value of -1.20 eV among other adsorption sites. This proves that the adsorption site of 8 is the most preferable adsorption site among the investigated 11 adsorption sites as evidenced in Table 2 and illustrated Fig. 7. As compared with the adsorption of acetone on boron nitride nanotube (BNNTs),<sup>50</sup> the obtained adsorption energy of the acetone adsorbed BNNTs system at the

most optimal configuration is about -0.93 eV, which is larger than that of -1.20 eV obtained in the acetone adsorbed ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> system at its most optimal configuration, while the shortest adsorption distance between the BNNTs and the acetone adsorbent were found at 1.654 Å that is very shorter than that of 2.567 Å presented in the acetone-adsorbed ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> system, confirming the acetone adsorbed BNNTs and the acetone adsorbed ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> belong to the chemisorption and physisorption, respectively.

As for the acetonitrile-adsorbed ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate, their calculated  $E_{ad}$  values and the shortest distances from the acetonitrile molecule to the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate are also shown in the Table 2. Except for the sites of 4, 7, 8 showing the unstable structures due to their positive  $E_{ad}$  values, the remaining sites present the significant negative  $E_{ad}$  values, indicating for the possible adsorption of the acetonitrile molecule on the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate. The results presented in Table 2 show that the shortest distances between the acetonitrile molecule and the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate are larger than the sum of the covalent radii of the nearest atoms in the acetonitrile molecule and the Pd/Se atoms in the substrate. This means that no chemical bonds are formed between the acetonitrile molecule and the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate. Therefore, the physical adsorption mechanism is also considered as the dominant mechanism in the acetonitrile-adsorbed ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> system. Among the 11 adsorption sites (Table 2), the acetonitrile adsorbed at the site of 11 displays the lowest adsorption energy of -0.86 eV, evidencing that the site of 11 is its most optimal adsorption site as illustrated in Fig. 7

As for the acetone/acetonitrile-adsorbed pristine ZZ-PdSe<sub>2</sub> substrate at the investigated 3 sites of 1, 2, and 3 as shown in Fig. 6, the obtained adsorption energies are at -0.02 eV, -0.03 eV, and -0.01 eV, respectively. The negative  $E_{ad}$  values are insignificant as compared with that of the acetone/acetonitrile-adsorbed ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> system (Table 2), showing that the acetone/acetonitrile molecules adsorbing on the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate are more stable than the acetone/acetonitrile molecules adsorbing on the pristine ZZ-PdSe<sub>2</sub> substrate. The dominant adsorption of the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate is since the vacancy defects trigger free electrons, which can easily interact with the adsorbed



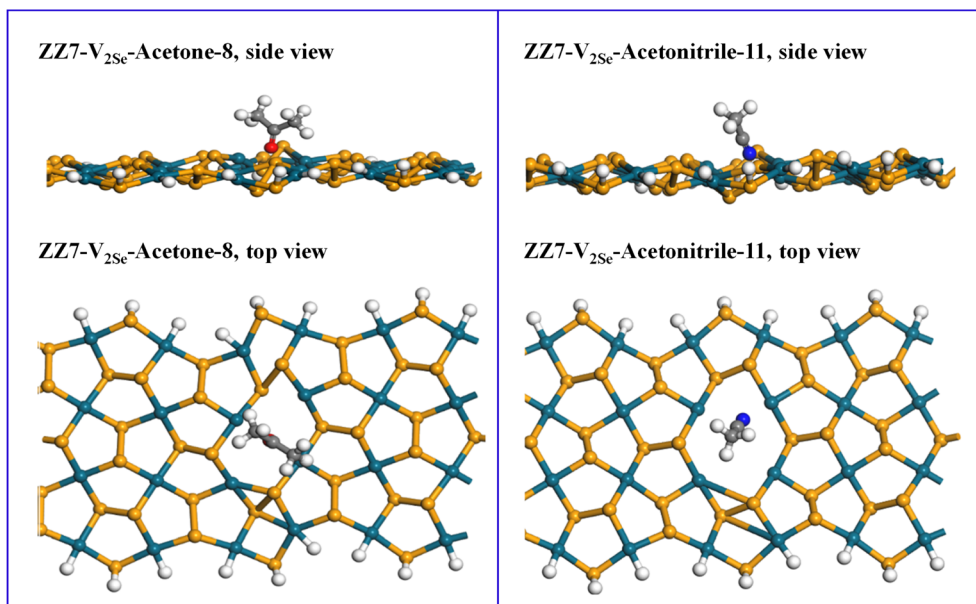


Fig. 7 Side view and top view of acetone/acetonitrile adsorbed on the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate at the 8 and 11 sites, respectively.

molecules, increasing their adsorption capacity as compared to the non-vacancy structure. This firmly confirms the great potential of the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> structure for nanosensor applications.

Furthermore, bond angles and bond lengths of the acetone adsorbing on the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate at the most stable site of 8 are presented in Table 3 (after adsorption), in which these bond angles and bond lengths show a small variation compared to that before adsorption. Specifically, the detailed changes in the bond lengths of the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate with and without acetone/acetonitrile adsorption are presented in Table 4. For the bonds forming the polygon, significant changes are observed in the bond lengths of  $d_{46}$ ,  $d_{20}$ ,  $d_{39}$  and  $d_{40}$  as shown Fig. 8(b), the bonds around the Pd site corresponding to the optimal acetone adsorption site of 8, proving that there is an

interaction between the adsorbent molecule and the substrate, causing the small change in the bond lengths. For bond lengths outside the defect ring, symmetric bond pairs including the  $d_8$  and  $d_3$ ,  $d_5$  and  $d_{12}$ ,  $d_{18}$  and  $d_{26}$ , and  $d_{43}$  and  $d_{29}$  (Fig. 8(b)) show a significant variation in bond lengths compared to before

Table 3 The bond angle and bond length of acetone/acetonitrile adsorbed at the most optimal sites of 8/11 on the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate

Bond length	$d$ (Å)	Bond angle	$\alpha$ (°)
<b>Acetone-8</b>			
C <sub>92</sub> -O <sub>91</sub>	1.249	C <sub>83</sub> -C <sub>92</sub> -C <sub>87</sub>	118.151
C <sub>92</sub> -C <sub>83</sub>	1.495	H <sub>84</sub> -C <sub>83</sub> -H <sub>85</sub>	110.650
C <sub>92</sub> -C <sub>87</sub>	1.494	H <sub>84</sub> -C <sub>83</sub> -H <sub>86</sub>	109.445
C <sub>83</sub> -H <sub>84</sub>	1.098	H <sub>85</sub> -C <sub>83</sub> -H <sub>86</sub>	106.362
C <sub>83</sub> -H <sub>85</sub>	1.099	H <sub>88</sub> -C <sub>87</sub> -H <sub>89</sub>	110.911
C <sub>83</sub> -H <sub>86</sub>	1.103	H <sub>88</sub> -C <sub>87</sub> -H <sub>90</sub>	106.752
C <sub>87</sub> -H <sub>88</sub>	1.100	H <sub>89</sub> -C <sub>87</sub> -H <sub>90</sub>	108.275
C <sub>87</sub> -H <sub>89</sub>	1.096	O <sub>91</sub> -C <sub>92</sub> -C <sub>83</sub>	121.102
C <sub>87</sub> -H <sub>90</sub>	1.104	O <sub>91</sub> -C <sub>92</sub> -C <sub>87</sub>	120.725
<b>Acetonitrile-11</b>			
N <sub>83</sub> -C <sub>84</sub>	1.166	N <sub>83</sub> -C <sub>84</sub> -C <sub>85</sub>	176.185
C <sub>84</sub> -C <sub>85</sub>	1.449	H <sub>86</sub> -C <sub>85</sub> -H <sub>87</sub>	109.419
C <sub>85</sub> -H <sub>86</sub>	1.098	H <sub>86</sub> -C <sub>85</sub> -H <sub>88</sub>	109.414
C <sub>85</sub> -H <sub>87</sub>	1.100	H <sub>87</sub> -C <sub>85</sub> -H <sub>88</sub>	108.905
C <sub>85</sub> -H <sub>88</sub>	1.100		

Table 4 The bond lengths of the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate before and after adsorption

Bond	ZZ7-V <sub>2Se</sub> <sup>-</sup> acetone	ZZ7-V <sub>2Se</sub>	Bond	ZZ7-V <sub>2Se</sub> <sup>-</sup> acetone	ZZ7-DV <sub>Se</sub>
$d_9$	2.555	2.498	$d_{12}$	2.543	2.475
$d_{13}$	2.455	2.466	$d_{26}$	2.388	2.541
$d_{23}$	2.436	2.455	$d_{29}$	2.417	2.472
$d_{24}$	2.499	2.455	$d_{34}$	2.627	2.691
$d_{35}$	2.446	2.435	$d_{39}$	2.488	2.659
$d_{46}$	2.513	2.601	$d_{40}$	2.452	2.523
$d_{20}$	2.447	2.492	$d_{43}$	2.474	2.529
$d_{19}$	2.452	2.482	$d_{18}$	2.389	2.543
$d_4$	2.438	2.432	$d_5$	2.404	2.478
$d_8$	2.549	2.603	$d_3$	2.575	2.560
Bond	ZZ7-V <sub>2Se</sub> <sup>-</sup> acetonitrile	ZZ7-V <sub>2Se</sub>	Bond	ZZ7-V <sub>2Se</sub> <sup>-</sup> acetonitrile	ZZ7-DV <sub>Se</sub>
$d_9$	2.346	2.498	$d_{12}$	2.401	2.475
$d_{13}$	2.467	2.466	$d_{26}$	2.365	2.541
$d_{23}$	2.470	2.455	$d_{29}$	2.399	2.472
$d_{24}$	2.452	2.455	$d_{34}$	2.534	2.691
$d_{35}$	2.410	2.435	$d_{39}$	2.349	2.659
$d_{46}$	3.415	2.601	$d_{40}$	2.422	2.523
$d_{20}$	2.454	2.492	$d_{43}$	2.411	2.529
$d_{19}$	2.479	2.482	$d_{18}$	2.371	2.543
$d_4$	2.430	2.432	$d_5$	2.401	2.478
$d_8$	2.547	2.603	$d_3$	2.496	2.560



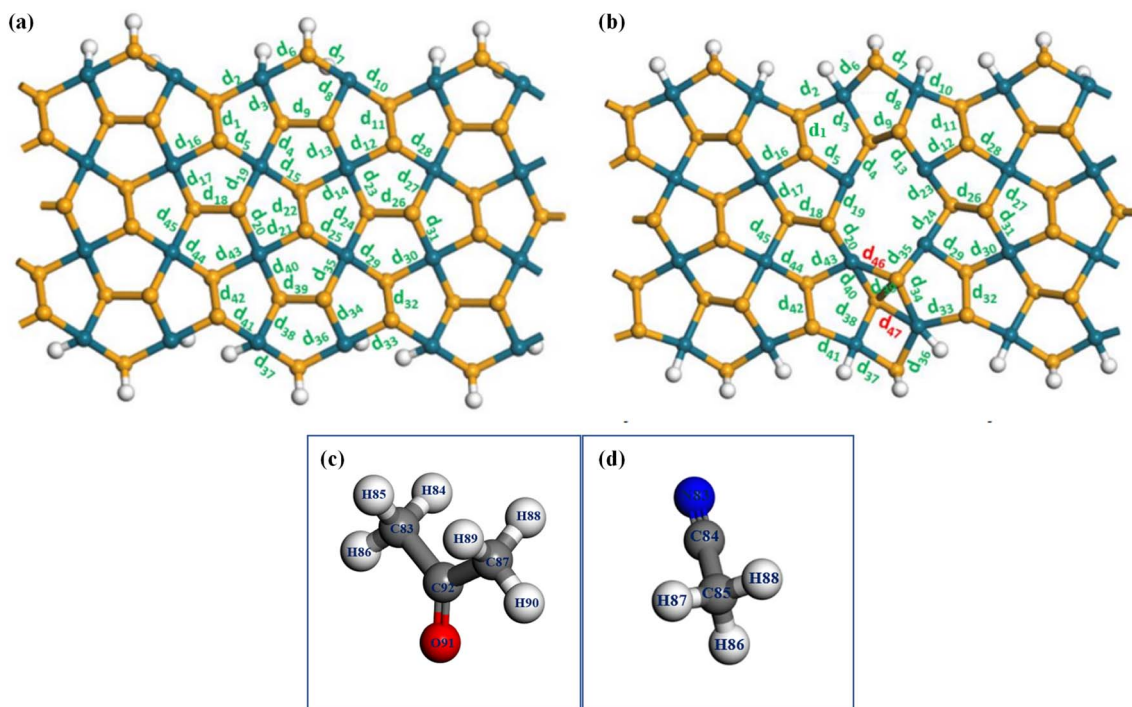


Fig. 8 (a) ZZ7, (b) ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$ , (c) acetone, and (d) acetonitrile.

adsorption (Fig. 8(a)). This affects the width and buckling of the defect ring.

As for the acetonitrile adsorbing on the ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$  substrate at the most optimal site of 11, their bond angles and bond lengths are also shown in Table 3, whereas their bond angles and bond lengths display a small variation compared to that before adsorption (similar identification in the former acetone-adsorbed cases). In addition, the change in the bond lengths of the ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$  substrate after and before adsorption are shown in Table 4. Similar to the case of acetone adsorption onto ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$  at the site of 8, for the bonds forming the defect ring, significant changes are recorded in the neighboring bonds of  $d_{46}$  and  $d_{47}$  as marked by red symbol in Fig. 8(b). Specifically, bond lengths of  $d_{46}$ ,  $d_{39}$  and  $d_{40}$  are situated around the Pd position corresponding to the position of the hydrogen atoms of the acetonitrile molecule after adsorption onto ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$  at the optimal adsorption site of 11. Considering the bonds adjacent to the defect ring, the symmetric bond pairs are as follows  $d_8$  and  $d_3$ ,  $d_5$  and  $d_{12}$ ,  $d_{18}$  and  $d_{26}$ , and  $d_{43}$  and  $d_{29}$ , which show a significant variations in bond lengths compared to before adsorption. The calculated results in the structural parameters of the substrate and the molecule after adsorption (Fig. 8(b)) indicate the great impact on the ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$  substrate under the acetonitrile adsorption at the site of 11, in which the acetonitrile molecule tended to be pulled to the end of the defect ring, whereas two new bonds (46 and 47) are formed as compared to the pristine structure, causing a significant change in the bond lengths adjacent to these two bonds as displayed in Fig. 8(b). In addition, effects are also observed for the strong stretching of symmetric bond pairs around the defect ring.

The changes in the structural parameters owing to the acetone/acetonitrile adsorption result in changes in the electronic properties of the adsorbed systems that are determined by their electric density of states (DOSs). Using the DFT calculations, DOSs of the ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$ , ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$ -acetone-8, and ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$ -acetonitrile-11 are presented in Fig. 9(a-c), respectively, in which the Fermi level (dashed line) is set at zero energy, and the spin-up and spin-down components are marked by blue and red curves, respectively. As for the DOSs of the ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$  in Fig. 9(a), it shows many spin-asymmetric peaks, whereas there are both spin-up and spin-down states localized at the Fermi level, regarding as the ferromagnetic semi-metal as early identified in Fig. 3(e) and 5(f). Under the acetone-8 and acetonitrile-11 adsorptions, the DOSs of the non-adsorbed system in Fig. 9(a) is significantly reshaped. For the DOSs of the ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$ -acetone-8 in Fig. 9(b), it displays many new peaks with higher spin polarization, in which its spin-up component (blue curve) presents a vacant region centered from the Fermi level, while its spin-down component (red curve) remains the electronic states localized the Fermi level. The identified DOSs feature in Fig. 9(b) can be regarded as the ferromagnetic half-metal. In contrast, the vacant states appearing in both spin-up and spin-down components (blue and red curves) in the DOSs of the ZZ7- $V_{2Se}$ -acetonitrile-11 as shown in Fig. 9(c), while its newly formed peaks also shows high spin polarization. The DOSs feature identified in Fig. 9(c) results in its ferromagnetic semi-conducting characteristics. Obviously, under the acetone-8 and acetonitrile-11 adsorptions, the significant transition from the ferromagnetic semi-metal to ferromagnetic half-metal to ferromagnetic semiconductor is occurred. To determine the specific



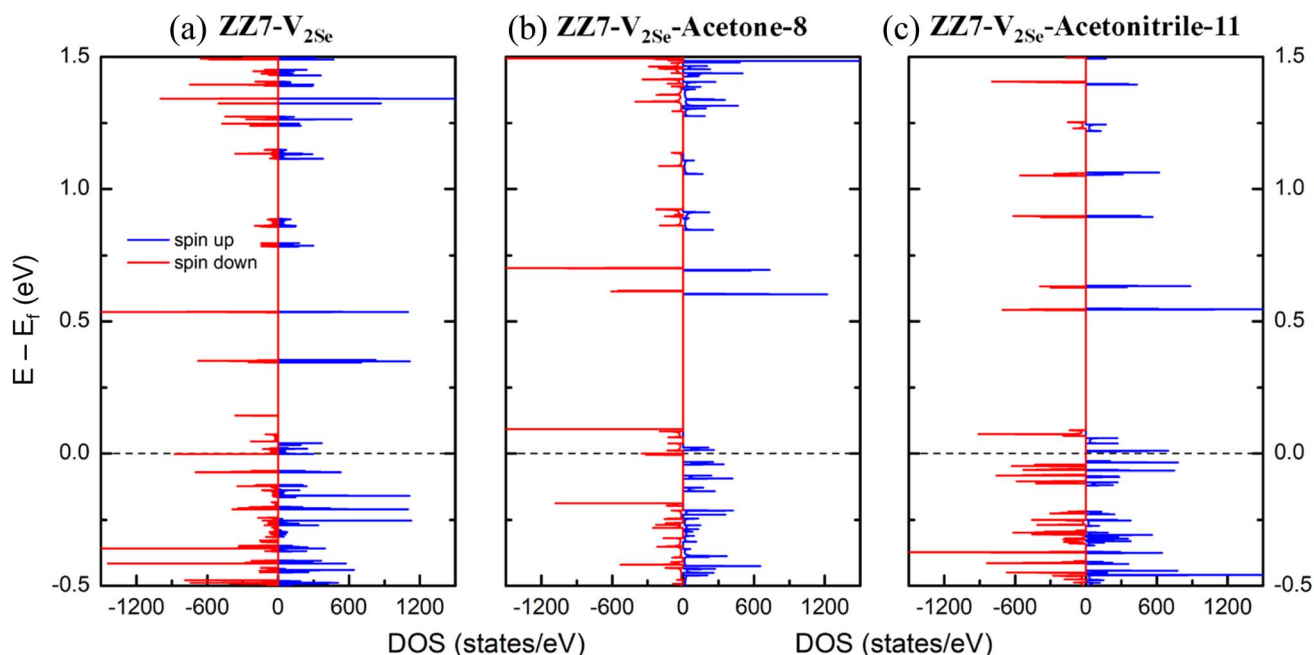


Fig. 9 Total density of states of (a) ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>, (b) ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>-acetone-8, and (c) ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>-acetonitrile-11.

contributions of each component in the DOSs of the adsorbed systems, the partial density of states (PDOSs) of the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>-acetone-8 and ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>-acetonitrile-11 systems are presented in Fig. 10(a and b), respectively, in which the contribution of the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> and acetone components are situated at the middle and bottom parts. As observed in Fig. 10(a), the contribution of the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> component is mostly contributed in the valence and low-lying energies, while the contribution of the acetone component is highly dominated in the highest conduction

energies. In contrast, the contribution of the acetonitrile component is separately contributed in conduction energies from 0.5 eV to 1.25 eV as identified in Fig. 10(b). In addition, the acetone/acetonitrile-related prominent peaks show minor spin polarization, indicating that the magnetism of the adsorbed systems is mainly due to the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> component.

To determine the charge distribution in molecules and the substrate as well as the charge transfer, the Mulliken populations of the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>-acetone-8 and ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>-acetonitrile-11

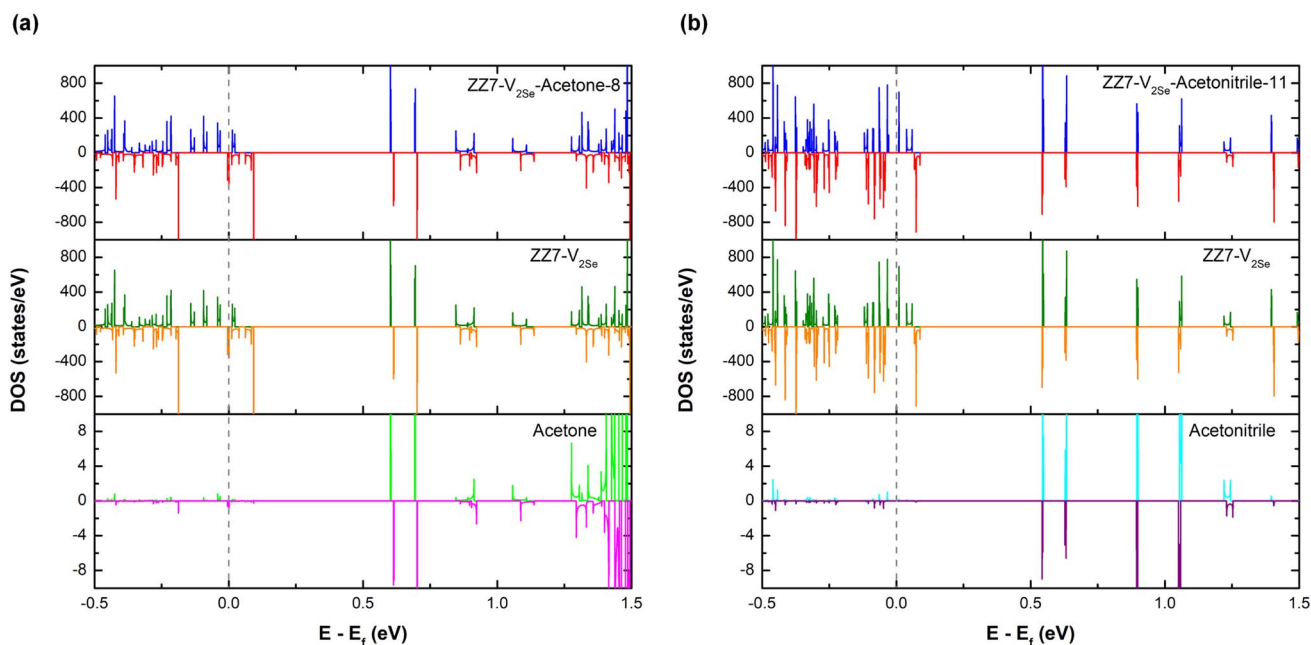


Fig. 10 Partial density of states of (a) ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>-acetone-8 and (b) ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>-acetonitrile-11.



Table 5 Mulliken population of ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>-acetone-8 and ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>-acetonitrile-11

Before adsorption			After adsorption		
Atom	Charge	Charge	Atom	Charge	Charge
<b>Acetone</b>					
C <sub>83</sub>	-0.098	-0.102	Se <sub>16</sub>	0.058	0.042
H <sub>84</sub>	0.029	0.099	Se <sub>28</sub>	0.083	0.075
H <sub>85</sub>	0.047	0.038	Pd <sub>63</sub>	-0.167	-0.158
H <sub>86</sub>	0.031	0.033	Se <sub>19</sub>	0.082	0.056
C <sub>87</sub>	-0.097	-0.115	Pd <sub>48</sub>	-0.169	-0.139
H <sub>88</sub>	0.046	0.066	Se <sub>25</sub>	0.061	0.088
H <sub>89</sub>	0.031	0.034	Se <sub>13</sub>	0.087	0.073
H <sub>90</sub>	0.030	0.049	Pd <sub>54</sub>	-0.160	-0.103
O <sub>91</sub>	-0.366	-0.351	Se <sub>22</sub>	0.081	0.020
C <sub>92</sub>	0.349	0.390	Pd <sub>45</sub>	-0.044	-0.004
<b>Acetonitrile</b>					
N <sub>83</sub>	-0.216	-0.209	Se <sub>16</sub>	0.058	0.045
C <sub>84</sub>	-0.027	0.147	Se <sub>28</sub>	0.083	0.065
C <sub>85</sub>	-0.076	-0.082	Pd <sub>63</sub>	-0.167	-0.081
H <sub>86</sub>	0.106	0.084	Se <sub>19</sub>	0.082	0.061
H <sub>87</sub>	0.106	0.119	Pd <sub>48</sub>	-0.169	-0.092
H <sub>88</sub>	0.106	0.093	Se <sub>25</sub>	0.061	0.000
			Se <sub>13</sub>	0.087	0.069
			Pd <sub>54</sub>	-0.160	-0.115
			Se <sub>22</sub>	0.081	-0.022
			Pd <sub>45</sub>	-0.044	-0.066

systems are presented in Table 5, in which the atoms in the acetone/acetonitrile molecules and defective ring atoms are illustrated in Fig. 11(a and b), respectively. Observed from Table 5, it shows that the hydrogen (H) has a positive charge, while palladium (Pd) has a negative charge after the acetone adsorption. Specifically, H<sub>84</sub> has a charge of 0.099e and Pd<sub>48</sub> has a charge of -0.139e; H<sub>88</sub> has a charge of 0.066e and Pd<sub>45</sub> has a charge of -0.004e. These opposite charge values evidence the Coulomb interaction between these pairs of atoms. Besides, it shows the charge changes of the atoms of the acetone molecule and the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate (Table 5), while the charge changes on the adsorbed molecule are strongly observed on hydrogen atoms near Pd, and all hydrogen atoms have a positive charge. Meanwhile, the charge change on the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate before and after adsorption mainly occurs on Pd<sub>48</sub>, Pd<sub>45</sub> and neighboring atoms. As a result, the strong Coulomb interaction occurs at hydrogen atoms of the acetone molecule and Pd<sub>48</sub> and Pd<sub>45</sub> atoms, leading to the physical adsorption of acetone

molecules on the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate. As for the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>-acetonitrile-11, its Mulliken population shown in Table 5 indicates that the change in charge on the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate before and after adsorption mainly occurs at the atoms at the end of the defect ring, whereas the two newly formed bonds appear (*d*<sub>46</sub> and *d*<sub>47</sub>). After the acetonitrile-11 adsorption, hydrogen has a positive charge and palladium has a negative charge. Specifically, H<sub>86</sub> has a charge of 0.084e and Pd<sub>54</sub> has a charge of -0.115e; H<sub>88</sub> has a charge of 0.083e and Pd<sub>48</sub> has a charge of -0.092e. This opposite charge values result in the Coulomb interaction between these pairs of atoms. Critically, the C<sub>84</sub> has the clearest charge transfer before and after the acetonitrile adsorption, in which the C<sub>84</sub> atom becomes positively charged after the adsorption, and the bond between C<sub>84</sub> and N<sub>83</sub> is a triple bond with a bond length of about 1.166 Å. On the other hand, the shortest distance from the acetonitrile molecule to the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate is 2.149 Å, corresponding to the distance from the N<sub>83</sub> to P<sub>63</sub> atom. From Mulliken analysis, it confirms that the Coulomb interaction exists at C<sub>84</sub>-N<sub>83</sub>-P<sub>63</sub>. As a result, the strong Coulomb interactions occurred at the pairs H<sub>86</sub>-P<sub>54</sub>, H<sub>88</sub>-P<sub>48</sub> and C<sub>84</sub>-N<sub>83</sub>-P<sub>63</sub>, leading to the physical adsorption of acetonitrile molecules on the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate.

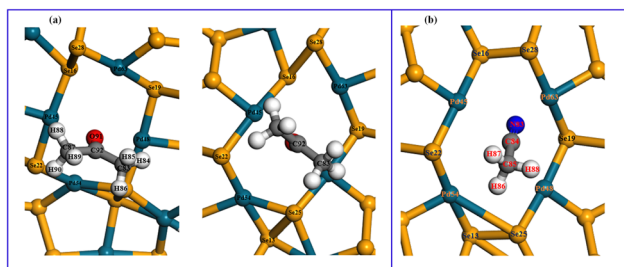


Fig. 11 (a) acetone adsorbed on the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate at the 8 site, (b) acetonitrile adsorbed on the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate at the 11 site.

## 4 Conclusion

Using the DFT calculations, the diverse geometric and electronic properties of the ZZ7 p-PdSe<sub>2</sub> nanoribbons (ZZ7) with the four different kinds of vacancy defects, including the ZZ7-V<sub>Pd</sub>, ZZ7-V<sub>Se</sub>, ZZ7-V<sub>Pd+Se</sub>, and ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> are determined by the formation energies, optimal structural parameters, electronic band structures, and density of states (DOSs). The formation



energies ( $E_c$ ) of the ZZ7 structure and the four defective ZZ7 structures show the significant negative values around  $-3.9$  eV, indicating their good stability that can be fully reached out by experimental approaches. For the four defective structures, their optimal geometries display the significantly different diversification, as compared with the pristine one: *e.g.*, the ZZ7-V<sub>Se</sub> and ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> exhibit two new bonds, the ZZ7-V<sub>Pd+Se</sub> only displays one new bond, and conversely the ZZ7-V<sub>Pd</sub> dot not form a polygon around the vacancy position, in which only the buckling feature of the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> structure is critically enhanced around the two new bonds that greatly increase its adsorption ability, rendering the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> structure is most effective substrate for adsorption of the acetone and acetonitrile molecules. On the electronic characteristics, the electronic band structure of the pristine ZZ7 structure displays the non spin-splitting energy bands and the highest occupied valence bands intersecting with the Fermi level, regarded as the nonmagnetic metallic characteristics, which are verified by existing of electronic states at the Fermi level and negligible spin asymmetric peaks in its corresponding DOSs. Under various vacancies, the nonmagnetic metallic band structure of the pristine structure are fully modified, depending on different kinds of vacancies. For the ZZ7-V<sub>Pd</sub> and ZZ7-V<sub>Se</sub> structures, their band structures display highly spin-splitting energy bands with the half-metallic behavior, regarded as the ferromagnetic half-metallic characteristic that can be confirmed by concurrently existing of the spin-up electronic states and spin-down vacant states at the Fermi level and their highly spin-asymmetric peaks in their corresponding DOSs. As for the ZZ7-V<sub>Pd+Se</sub> and ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> structures, their band structures show the ferromagnetic semi-metallic characteristics, as identified by highly spin-splitting bands and concurrently intersecting of one highest occupied valence spin-up band and one lowest unoccupied conduction spin-down band with the Fermi level, which are verified by the highly spin-asymmetric peaks and co-existing of the spin-up and spin-down electronic states with the Fermi level in their corresponding DOSs.

As for the adsorption of the acetone and acetonitrile molecules on the central ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> structure, the energetic stability, adsorption sites, adsorption distances, bond lengths, charge distributions, charge transfers, and electronic characteristics of the adsorbed systems are fully determined by the adsorption energies, optimal adsorption sites, optimal distances, optimal bond lengths, Mulliken populations, and density of states (DOSs). Meanwhile, the adsorption energies of the acetone- and acetonitrile-adsorbed pristine ZZ7 structure are also calculated to compare its adsorption ability with that of the adsorbed ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> structure, whereas the pristine ZZ7 structure only has 3 possible adsorption sites that increases to 11 possible adsorption sites in the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> structure owing to its formed vacancy ring. As a result, the adsorption energies of the acetone/acetonitrile on the pristine ZZ7 structure at the possible sites of 1, 2, and 3 show insignificant values without any obviously preferable absorption site that indicates the low adsorption ability and instability of the adsorbed-pristine ZZ7 systems: *e.g.*,  $-0.05/-0.02$  eV,  $-0.07/-0.03$  eV, and  $-0.01/-0.01$  eV, respectively. As expected, the adsorption energies of the acetone- and

acetonitrile-adsorbed ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> systems display the greatly significant values with the obviously preferable adsorption sites: *e.g.*,  $-1.20$  eV and  $-0.86$  eV for the acetone adsorption at the site of 8 and the acetonitrile adsorption at the site of 11, respectively, indicating that the greater adsorption ability and stability of the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate. Owing to the large adsorption distances leading to the absence of chemical bonds between the adsorbent molecules and the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate, the adsorption mechanism of the acetone- and acetonitrile-adsorbed systems is regarded as the physical adsorption (physisorption), in which the good stability of the adsorbed systems are mainly due to the charge transfer between the adsorbent molecules (loss charge) and the substrate (gain charge) as identified from their Mulliken populations. As a result of the physisorption, the bond lengths of the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate show a very small deviation under the acetone and acetonitrile adsorptions as identified by their optimal bond lengths before and after adsorptions. For adsorption effects of the acetone and acetonitrile on the electronic properties, changes in electronic behaviors of the adsorbed ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> systems compared with that of the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate are determined by the reshaped DOSs of the adsorbed systems. Specifically, the ferromagnetic semi-metallic DOSs features of the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> substrate become the ferromagnetic half-metallic and ferromagnetic semiconducting characteristics in the DOSs spectrum of the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>-acetone-8 and ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub>-acetonitrile-11, respectively. With the complete results and analyses, this study provides a complete understanding of the acetone and acetonitrile adsorptions on the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> structure, in which the ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> structure show its great potential as the effective substrate for adsorption of small organic molecules of the acetone and acetonitrile. Furthermore, such ZZ7-V<sub>2Se</sub> structure can be expected to effectively adsorb other small organic molecules, such as aldehyde<sup>31,32</sup> that can be fully investigated using the DFT theoretical framework developed in this study.

## Data availability

The data that supports the findings of this study are available within the article.

## Author contributions

N. T. Tien did numerical calculations with the assistance of N. H. Dang, P. B. Thao, V. K. Dien, D. M. Hoat, N. D. Khanh, in which the manuscript wrote by N. D. Khanh and N. T. Tien.

## Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

## Acknowledgements

This research is supported by Vietnam Ministry of Education and Training under grant number B2023-TCT-03. The



calculations were carried out on the Can Tho University (MOMA Lab) high-performance computing facilities.

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