

Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for RSC Advances

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## Supplementary Information

### Co<sub>9</sub>S<sub>8</sub> Activated N/S Co-doped Carbon Tubes in-situ Grown on Carbon Nanofibers for Efficient Oxygen Reduction

*Fang Wang, <sup>a,e</sup> Ting Liu, <sup>a\*</sup> Yaofang Guo, <sup>a</sup> Wenzhen Li, <sup>b</sup> Ji Qi, <sup>c</sup> David Rooney <sup>d</sup> and*

*Kening Sun <sup>a\*</sup>*

<sup>a</sup> Beijing Key Laboratory for Chemical Power Source and Green Catalysis, School of Chemical Engineering and Environment,

Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing 100081, China

<sup>b</sup> Chemical and Biological Engineering Department, Iowa State University, Ames, IA50011, USA.

<sup>c</sup> School of Chemical Engineering, Dalian University of Technology, Dalian 116024, China.

<sup>d</sup> School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast BT9 5AG, UK

<sup>e</sup> Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Department, College of Life, Tarim University, Alar, 843300, China

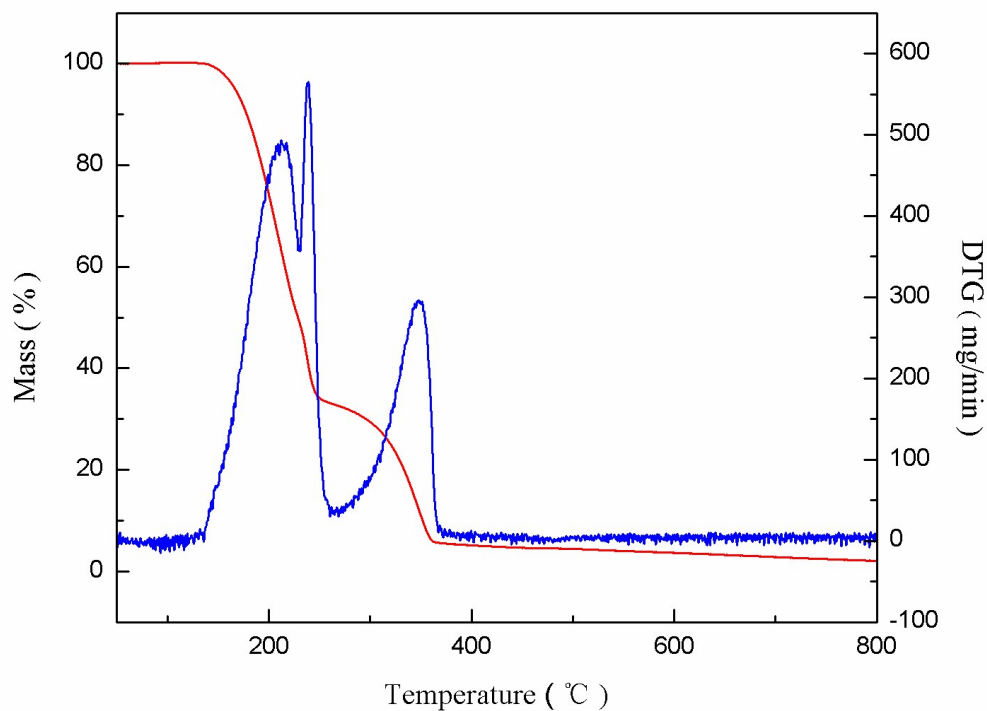
\*Corresponding Author.

Email: bitkeningsun@163.com (Kening Sun)

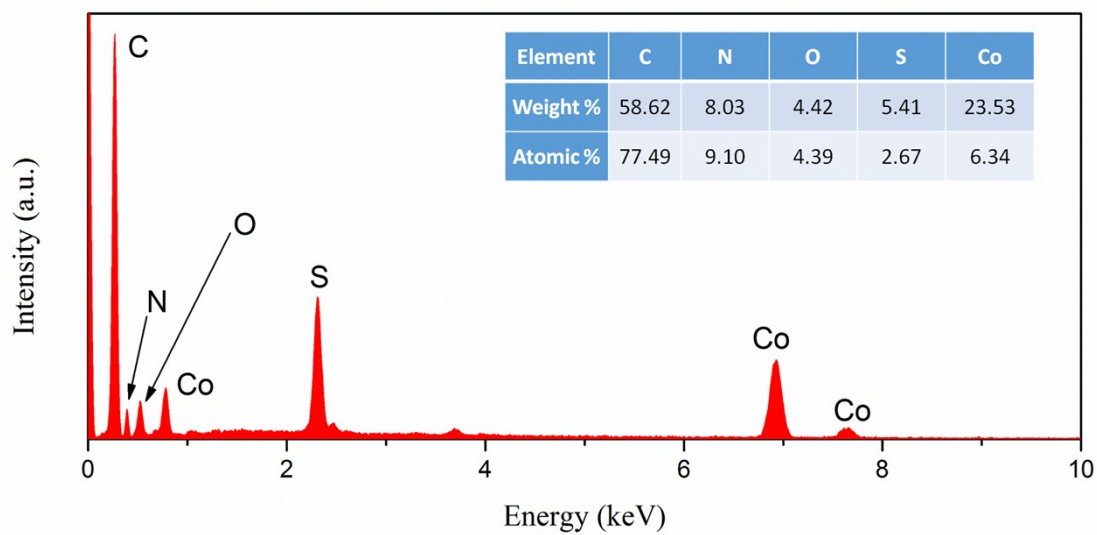
Tel (Fax): +86-10-68918696

liuting@bit.edu.cn (Ting Liu)

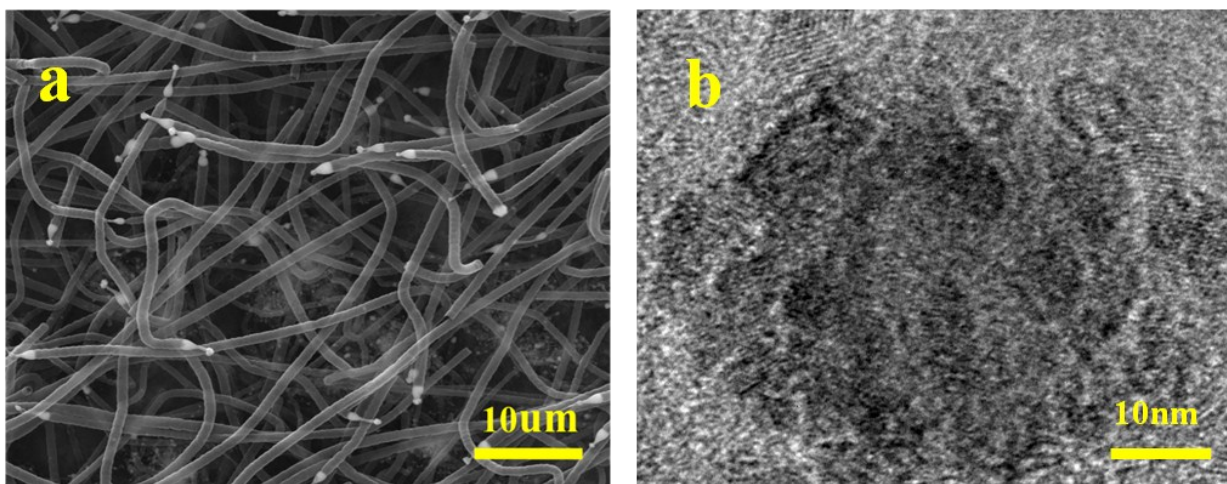
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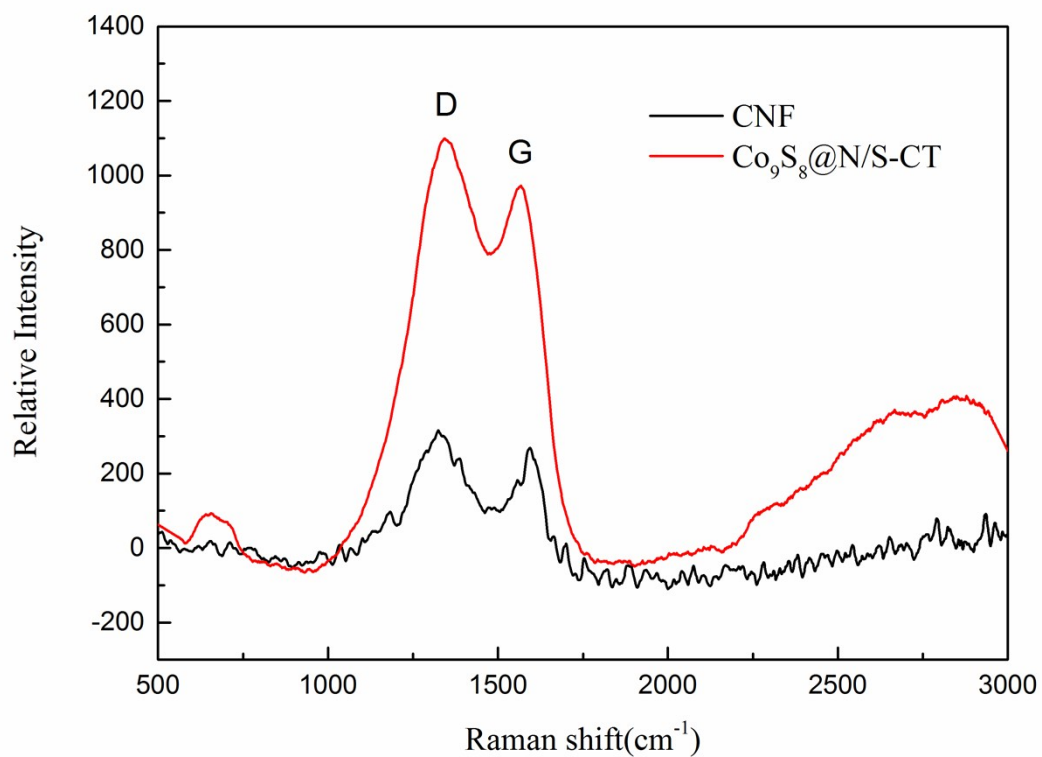
**Fig S1** TGA-DTG analysis of the  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8@\text{N/S-CT}$  composite.



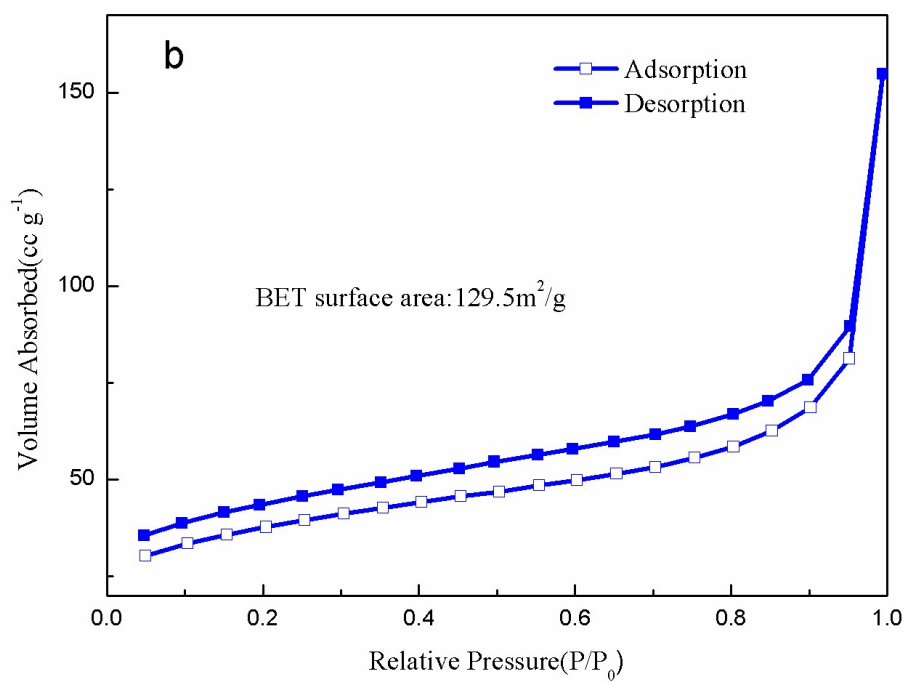
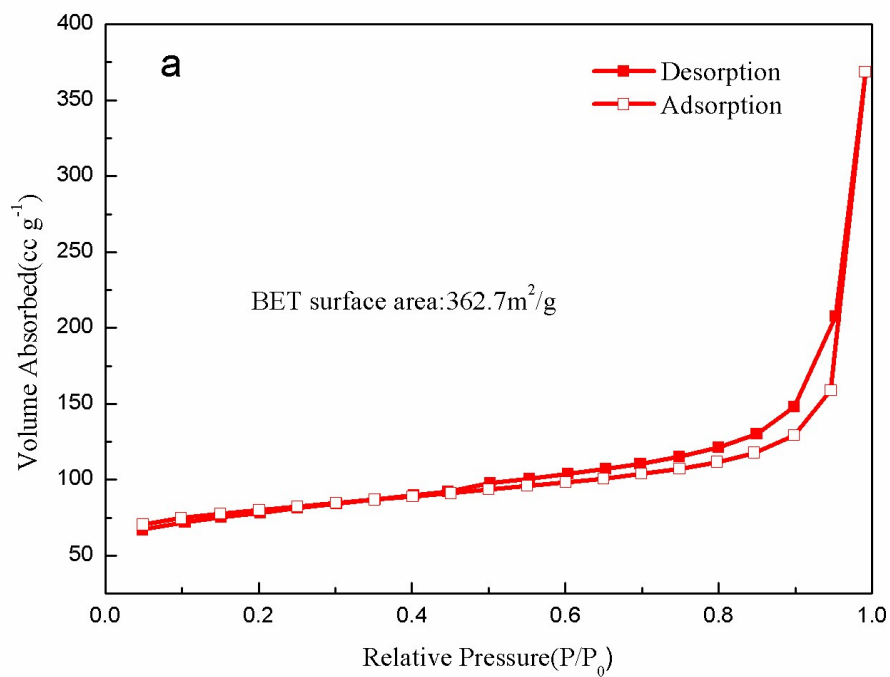
**Fig S2** EDS of  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8@\text{N/S-CT}$  sample



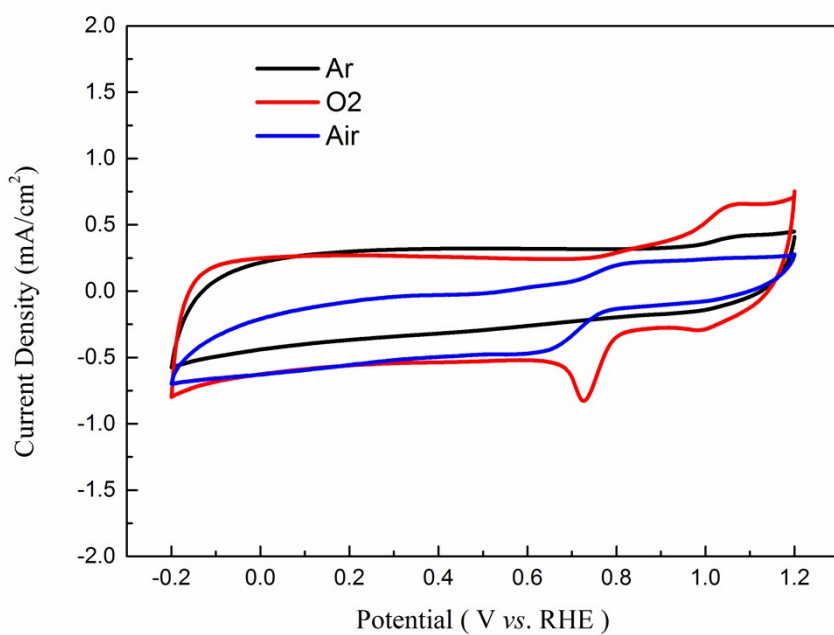
**Fig S3** SEM of images of  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8@\text{N/S-CT}$  bedding in CNFs at the magnifications of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  (a) and TEM image of  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8$  nanocrystal.



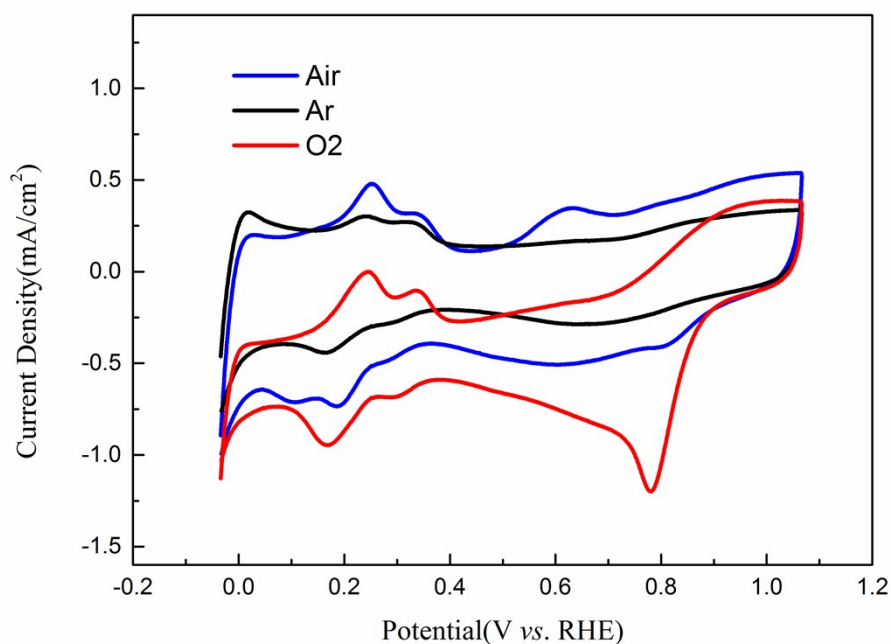
**Fig S4** Raman spectra of CNF and  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8@\text{N/S-CT}$



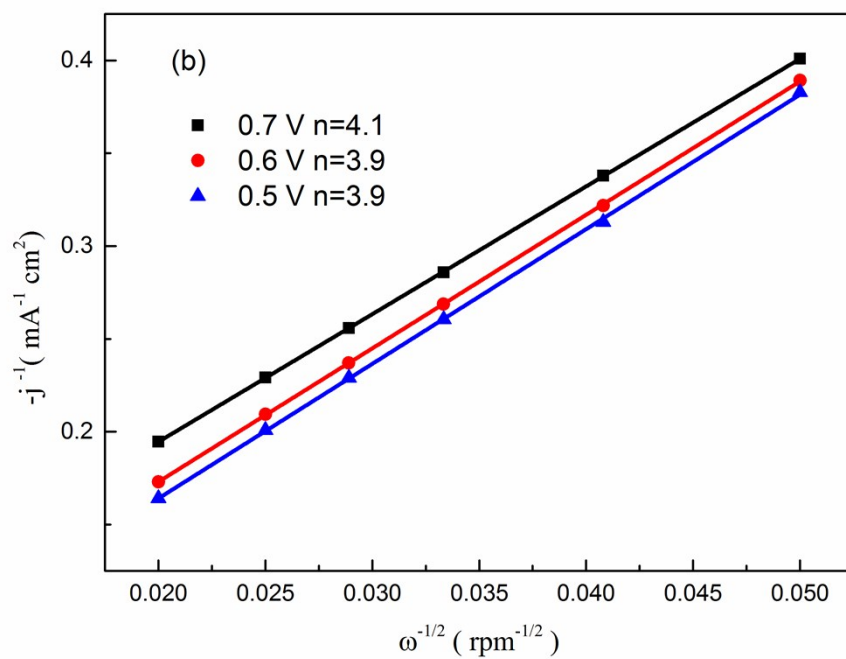
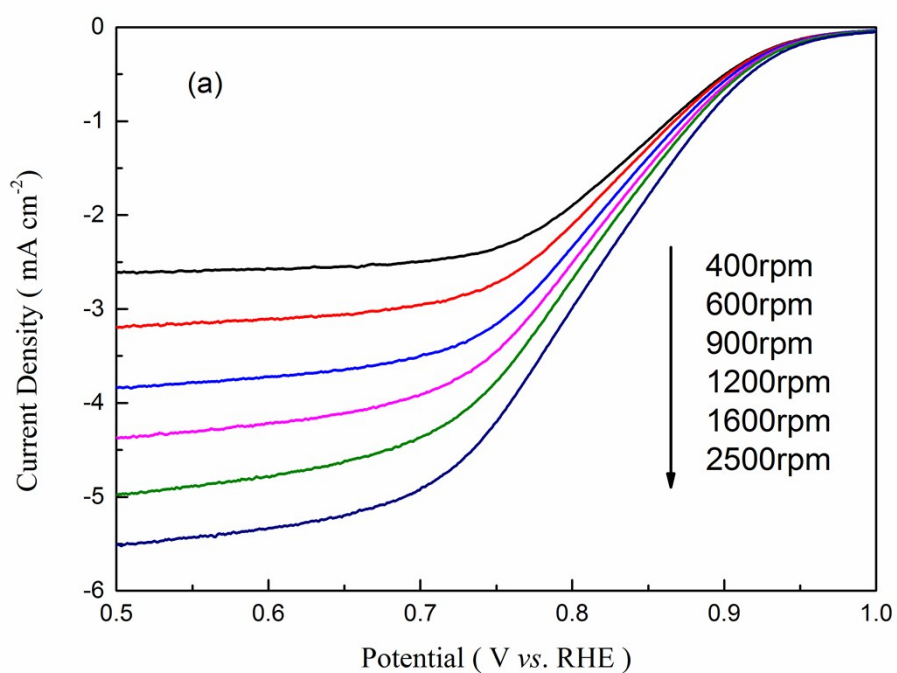
**Fig. S5** Nitrogen adsorption /desorption isotherm plots of  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8@\text{N/S-CT}$  (a) and CNF (b).



**Fig. S6** CVs in  $N_2$ -, air- and  $O_2$ -saturated 0.1 M KOH with a sweep rate of  $50 \text{ mVs}^{-1}$  for  $Co_9S_8@N/S$ -CT at the stationary electrodes.



**Fig. S7** CVs in  $N_2$ -, air- and  $O_2$ -saturated 0.1 M KOH with a sweep rate of  $50 \text{ mVs}^{-1}$  for 20% Pt/C at the stationary electrodes.



**Fig. S8** (a) Polarization curves in O<sub>2</sub>-saturated 1.0 M KOH with a sweep rate of 5 mV s<sup>-1</sup> at different rotating rates of 20% Pt/C. (b) Koutecky-Levich plots of J<sup>-1</sup> versus ω<sup>-1/2</sup> at different potentials of 20% Pt/C.