Dual functioning porous catalysts: Robust electro-oxidation of small organic molecules and water electrolysis at bimetallic Ni/Cu foam

Mohamed R. Rizk, Muhammad G. Abd El-Moghny*, Amina Mazhar, Mohamed. S. El-Deab*, and B.E. El-Anadouli*

Chemistry Department, Faculty of Science, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt

*corresponding authors

E-mail addresses: gmohamd@sci.cu.edu.eg (Muhammad G. Abd El-Moghny), msaada68@yahoo.com (M S. El-Deab), and Bahgat@sci.cu.edu.eg (B.E. El-Anadouli)



Figure S1: The EDS analyses of (A) Ni foam, and (B) Ni/Cu foam.



Figure S2: XPS spectra of O1s for the Ni foam (A) and the Ni/Cu foam (B), respectively.



Figure S3: CVs of: (A) Ni foam, and (B) Ni/Cu foam measured in 1 M KOH solution at various potential scan rates from 100 to 350 mV s⁻¹. (C) The relation between the capacitive current densities (I_c) recorded at 0.62 V and scan rates (υ) for the Ni foam (black line), and the Ni/ Cu foam (red line).



Figure S4: : LSVs recorded at different temperatures for GOR at Ni foam (A), and Ni/Cu foam (B) carried out in 0.3 M KOH solution containing 0.1 M glycerol.



Figure S5: CVs for the Cu bare electrode (green line), Ni foam (red line), and Ni/Cu foam (blue line) carried out in 1 M KOH with potential scan rate of 10 m V s⁻¹.



Figure S6: Tafel plots for Ni foam (black line), and Ni/Cu foam (red line) during OER (A), and HER (B) carried out in an aqueous solution of 1 M KOH at a potential scan rate of 0.1 mV s⁻¹.



Figure S7: Nyquist plots during OER at 370 mV (A), and HER at -80 mV (B) for the Ni foam (black line) and Ni/Cu foam (red line) measured in 1 M KOH solution.

(A)

(B)

| Table S1: Comparison | of the HER | activity for sev | veral catalysts | reported in | recent years. |
|----------------------|------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | | v | • | 1 | • |

| Catalyst | η @ 10 mA/cm² (mV) | Reference |
|---|--------------------|-----------|
| Ni/Cu foam | 80 | This work |
| U-CNT-900 | 255 | 1 |
| Co-NCNT/CC ^a | 180 | 2 |
| CoOx/CN | 270 | 3 |
| NiS ₂ /CC ^a | 149 | 4 |
| Ni ₃ S ₂ /NF ^a | 123 | |
| MoC _x nano-octahedrons | 150 | 5 |

| Ni ₂ P nanoparticles | 230 | 6 |
|---|-----|----|
| WP ₂ submicroparticles | 153 | 7 |
| CoP/CC ^a | 209 | 8 |
| WP NA/CC ^a | 150 | 9 |
| NiMoO ₄ -Ni(OH) ₂ /NF | 93 | 10 |
| NiFe LDH-NS@DG10 | 300 | 11 |
| Ni(OH) ₂ @Ni/CC | 68 | 12 |
| NiSe-Ni _{0.85} Se/CP | 101 | 13 |
| FNHNs/NF | 140 | 14 |
| Fe–Ni ₃ C-2% | 178 | 14 |
| NiMoN-550 | 89 | 15 |
| CoNi-OOH-30(40) | 210 | 16 |
| NiFeCo LDH/NF | 108 | 17 |

Table S2: Comparison of the UOR activity for several recently reported catalysts.

| Catalyst | Potential @ 10 mA/cm ² (V vs· RHE) | Reference |
|---|---|-----------|
| Ni/Cu foam | 1.38 | This work |
| NF/NiMoO-Ar | 1.37 | 18 |
| Ni ₃ N NA/CC | 1.35 | 19 |
| Ni ₂ P/NF | 1.37 | 20 |
| Ni(OH) ₂ nanotube-NF | 1.41 | 21 |
| NiO nanosheet array | 1.38 | 22 |
| NiMoO ₄ -Ni(OH) ₂ /NF | 1.34 | 10 |

| ERGO-Ni | 1.45 | 23 |
|---|------|----|
| NiCo alloy | 1.53 | 24 |
| NiMo sheet array | 1.37 | 25 |
| L-MnO ₂ | 1.37 | 26 |
| Ni(OH)2 nanocube | 1.55 | 27 |
| NiFeCo LDH/NF | 1.35 | 17 |
| Ni(OH) ₂ nanosheets | 1.52 | 28 |
| Fe _{11.1%} Ni ₃ S ₂ /Ni Foam | 1.40 | 29 |

References

- 1 S. Gao, G.-D. Li, Y. Liu, H. Chen, L.-L. Feng, Y. Wang, M. Yang, D. Wang, S. Wang and X. Zou, *Nanoscale*, 2015, **7**, 2306–2316.
- 2 Z. Xing, Q. Liu, W. Xing, A. M. Asiri and X. Sun, *ChemSusChem*, 2015, **8**, 1850–1855.
- 3 H. Jin, J. Wang, D. Su, Z. Wei, Z. Pang and Y. Wang, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2015, **137**, 2688–2694.
- 4 C. Tang, Z. Pu, Q. Liu, A. M. Asiri and X. Sun, *Electrochim. Acta*, 2015, **153**, 508–514.
- 5 H. Bin Wu, B. Y. Xia, L. Yu, X.-Y. Yu and X. W. D. Lou, *Nat. Commun.*, 2015, **6**, 1–8.
- 6 L. Feng, H. Vrubel, M. Bensimon and X. Hu, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2014, **16**, 5917–5921.
- 7 Z. Xing, Q. Liu, A. M. Asiri and X. Sun, Acs Catal., 2015, 5, 145–149.
- 8 J. Tian, Q. Liu, A. M. Asiri and X. Sun, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2014, **136**, 7587–7590.
- 9 Z. Pu, Q. Liu, A. M. Asiri and X. Sun, ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces, 2014, 6, 21874–21879.
- 10 S. Hu, H. Wu, C. Feng and Y. Ding, *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy*, 2020, **45**, 21040–21050.
- 11 Y. Jia, L. Zhang, G. Gao, H. Chen, B. Wang, J. Zhou, M. T. Soo, M. Hong, X. Yan and G. Qian, *Adv. Mater.*, 2017, **29**, 1700017.
- 12 Z. Xing, L. Gan, J. Wang and X. Yang, J. Mater. Chem. A, 2017, 5, 7744–7748.
- 13 Y. Chen, Z. Ren, H. Fu, X. Zhang, G. Tian and H. Fu, *Small*, 2018, **14**, 1800763.
- 14 J. Liu, Y. Yang, B. Ni, H. Li and X. Wang, *Small*, 2017, **13**, 1602637.
- 15 Z. Yin, Y. Sun, C. Zhu, C. Li, X. Zhang and Y. Chen, J. Mater. Chem. A, 2017, 5, 13648–13658.
- 16 C. Yu, J. Lu, L. Luo, F. Xu, P. K. Shen, P. Tsiakaras and S. Yin, *Electrochim. Acta*, 2019, **301**, 449–457.
- 17 P. Babar, A. C. Lokhande, V. Karade, B. Pawar, M. G. Gang, S. Pawar and J. H. Kim, *ACS Sustain. Chem. Eng.*
- Z.-Y. Yu, C.-C. Lang, M.-R. Gao, Y. Chen, Q.-Q. Fu, Y. Duan and S.-H. Yu, *Energy Environ. Sci.*, 2018, 11, 1890–1897.
- 19 Q. Liu, L. Xie, F. Qu, Z. Liu, G. Du, A. M. Asiri and X. Sun, *Inorg. Chem. Front.*, 2017, **4**, 1120–1124.
- 20 D. Liu, T. Liu, L. Zhang, F. Qu, G. Du, A. M. Asiri and X. Sun, J. Mater. Chem. A, 2017, 5, 3208–3213.
- 21 R.-Y. Ji, D.-S. Chan, J.-J. Jow and M.-S. Wu, *Electrochem. commun.*, 2013, **29**, 21–24.
- 22 M.-S. Wu, G.-W. Lin and R.-S. Yang, J. Power Sources, 2014, 272, 711–718.
- 23 D. Wang, W. Yan, S. H. Vijapur and G. G. Botte, *Electrochim. Acta*, 2013, **89**, 732–736.
- 24 W. Xu, H. Zhang, G. Li and Z. Wu, *Sci. Rep.*, 2014, **4**, 5863.
- 25 Y. Liang, Q. Liu, A. M. Asiri and X. Sun, *Electrochim. Acta*, 2015, **153**, 456–460.
- 26 S. Chen, J. Duan, A. Vasileff and S. Z. Qiao, *Angew. Chemie Int. Ed.*, 2016, **55**, 3804–3808.

- 27 M.-S. Wu, R.-Y. Ji and Y.-R. Zheng, *Electrochim. Acta*, 2014, **144**, 194–199.
- 28 X. Zhu, X. Dou, J. Dai, X. An, Y. Guo, L. Zhang, S. Tao, J. Zhao, W. Chu and X. C. Zeng, *Angew. Chemie Int. Ed.*, 2016, **55**, 12465–12469.
- 29 W. Zhu, Z. Yue, W. Zhang, N. Hu, Z. Luo, M. Ren, Z. Xu, Z. Wei, Y. Suo and J. Wang, *J. Mater. Chem. A*, 2018, **6**, 4346–4353.