Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Catalysis Science & Technology. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2021

## **Supporting information**

## Interfacial Modification of Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> Nanosheet Heterostructure Arrays for Efficient Oxygen Evolution Reaction

Lekai Zheng,<sup>ab</sup> Lina Hu,<sup>ab</sup> Yongchuan Hu,<sup>ab</sup> Fang Liu,<sup>ab</sup> Zhiming Liu,<sup>ab</sup> Yanming

Xue,<sup>ab</sup> Jun Zhang,<sup>\*ab</sup> Hui Liu,<sup>\*a</sup> and Chengchun Tang,<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Material Science and Engineering, Hebei University of Technology,

Dingzigu Road 1, Tianjin 300130, P. R. China

<sup>b</sup> Hebei Key Laboratory of Boron Nitride Micro and Nano Materials, Guangrongdao

Road 29, Tianjin 300130, P. R. China

E-mail address: junnano@gmail.com (J. Zhang), liuhuihebut@163.com (H. Liu)

**Calibration of Hg/HgO electrode and conversion to RHE:** The reference electrodes were calibrated prior to measurement in hydrogen saturated solution using two platinum wires as working and counter electrodes in a standard three-electrode system. Cyclic voltammograms (CV) were performed at a scan rate of 1 mV/s, and the average of the two potentials where the current crossed zero was taken to the thermodynamic potential of the HER. In 1 M KOH, the zero current point is at -0.927 V, so  $E_{(RHE)} = E_{(Hg/HgO)} + 0.927$  V.



Supporting information consists of 8 pages, including this page.

There are 7 Figures and 1 Table.

## **List of Figures**

Figure S1. (a, b) SEM images of pure carbon cloth at different magnifications.

Figure S2. (a) The SEM image and (b, c) EDS spectra of  $\alpha$ -Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CC-600s.

Figure S3. (a) LSV and (b) Tafel curves of  $IrO_2$  and  $\alpha$ -Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CC.

**Figure S4.** LSV curves corresponding to different deposition time of  $\alpha$ -Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CC in the first step (10, 15, 20, 25mins).

Figure S5. (a)  $\alpha$ -Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/CC, (b) Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CC, (c)  $\alpha$ -Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CC-300, (d)  $\alpha$ -Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CC-600 and (e)  $\alpha$ -Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CC-900 of CV curves.

Figure S6. Adsorption and desorption curves of Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CC-600s and

Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/CC.

Figure S7. (a) XRD pattern, (b) SEM images, (c) Co 2p and (d) O 1s spectra of  $\alpha$ -Co(OH)2/Co3O4/CC-600s after long-term durability test.



Figure S1. (a, b) SEM images of pure carbon cloth at different magnifications.



Figure S2. (a) The SEM image and (b, c) EDS spectra of  $\alpha$ -Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CC-600s.



Figure S3. (a) LSV and (b) Tafel curves of IrO<sub>2</sub> and  $\alpha$ -Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CC.



Figure S4. LSV curves corresponding to different deposition time of α-

Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CC in the first step (10, 15, 20, 25mins).



Figure S5. (a) α-Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/CC, (b) Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CC, (c) α-Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CC-300, (d) α-Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CC-600 and (e) α-Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CC-900 of CV curves.



Figure S6. Adsorption and desorption curves of Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CC-600s and

Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/CC.



Figure S7. (a) XRD pattern, (b) SEM images, (c) Co 2p and (d) O 1s spectra of  $\alpha$ -Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CC-600s after long-term durability test.

Catalyst	Substrate	Electrolyte	$\eta_{10}(mv$	Tafel	Ref.
			vs RHE)	slope	
				(mV	
				dec-1)	
This work	CC	1M KOH	275	76	
Fe-CoP/CoO	GCE	1M KOH	219	52	1
Co <sub>1.8</sub> Ni(OH) <sub>5.6</sub> @Co <sub>1.8</sub> NiS <sub>0.4</sub> (OH) <sub>4.8</sub>	GCE	0.1M KOH	274	45	2
Fe/Co200	GCE	1M KOH	302	45	3
Co(OH) <sub>2</sub> NPs/Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NCs	GCE	1M KOH	281	52.7	4
Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /CeO <sub>2</sub> @N-CNFs	GCE	0.1 M KOH	310	85	5
Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /Co(OH) <sub>2</sub>	GCE	1M KOH	373	103.1	6
Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /Co(OH) <sub>2</sub> NSs	GCE	0.1 M KOH	390	61.1	7
CoFe LDH/Coo.85Se	CC	1M KOH	241	48	8

**Table S1.** The OER performances of  $\alpha$ -Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CC with previously reported non-precious metal electrocatalysts.

CC: Carbon cloth

GCE: Glassy carbon electrode

## Reference

- X. H. A, S. Z. B, J. S. A, L. Y. A, X. Q. A, R. H. A, Y. W. A, H. Z. A and J. Z. A, *Nano Energy*, 2019, 56, 109-117.
- B. Wang, C. Tang, H. F. Wang, X. Chen, R. Cao and Q. Zhang, Adv. Mater., 2019, 31, 1805658.1805651-1805658.1805657.
- H. Yiyin, Y. Rui, A. Ganesan, X. Jiafang, L. Jiangquan, Z. Xiaotao, W. Xueyuan, W. Maoxiang, L. Qiaohong and W. Yaobing, ACS Energy Lett., 2018, acsenergylett.8b01071-.
- X. Hui, W. Jingjing, Z. Min, L. Chaofan, S. Yukihide, W. Caiqin and D. Yukou, *Nanoscale*, 2018, 10, 10.1039.C1038NR05883K-.
- 5. T. Li, S. Li, Q. Liu, Y. Tian and Y. Tang, ACS Sustain. Chem. Eng., 2019, 2019.
- 6. X. Q. Du, H. Pan and Y. Zhi, New J. Chem., 2018, 10.1039.C1037NJ05146H.
- 7. F. Sun, L. Li, G. Wang and Y. Lin, J. Mater. Chem. A, 2017, 5.
- W. Jin, F. Liu, X. Guo, J. Zhang, L. Zheng, Y. Hu, J. Mao, H. Liu, Y. Xue and C. Tang, *Catal.*. *Technol*, 2019, 9, 5736-5744.