

Supporting information

Synergistically Interactive MnFeM (M=Cu, Ti, and Co) Sites Porous g-C₃N₄ Fiber-like Nanostructures for an Enhanced Green Hydrogen Production

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Experimental

Chemicals and Materials

Copper (II) chloride ((CuCl₂·2H₂O), 99.99 %), cobalt (II) chloride ((CoCl₂·2H₂O), 99.99 %), (melamine, 99 %), manganese (II) chloride monohydrate (MnCl₂·H₂O), Iron (II) chloride tetrahydrate (FeCl₂·4H₂O), titanium (IV) isopropoxide Ti[OCH(CH₃)₂]₄, ethanol solution ((CH₃CH₂-OH), 99.8 %), nitric acid ((HNO₃), 70 %), and commercial Pt/C catalyst (10 wt.% Pt) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH.

Synthesis of MnFeCu/g-C₃N₄

Porous MnFeCu/g-C₃N₄ fiber-like nanostructures were synthesized based on our previous report but with changing reaction parameters and conditions along with utilizing ultrasonic treatment^{1,2}. This includes a dispersion of melamine (4 g) in an aqueous solution of ethanol (200 mL), MnCl₂·2H₂O (2mL, 10 mM), FeCl₂·4H₂O (2mL, 10 mM), and CuCl₂·2H₂O (2mL, 10 mM) via ultrasonic treatment for 10 min. This is followed by slow addition of 60 mL HNO₃ (0.1 M) and then left under magnetic stirring for 1 h. Finally, the obtained precipitate was filtrated and washed with ethanol/H₂O (3/1 v/v) for 4 times and dried at 100 °C for 2 h. The obtained powder was annealed at 550 °C (10° /min, 5°/min heating rate) for 2 h under N₂.

This method was also used to prepare porous MnFeTi/g-C₃N₄ and MnFeCo/g-C₃N₄ fiber-like nanostructures, but with the replacement of CuCl₂·2H₂O with Ti[OCH(CH₃)₂]₄ and CoCl₂·2H₂O, respectively.

Metal-free g-C₃N₄ was formed using the same method, but without metal precursors.

Materials Characterization

The scanning electron microscope ((SEM), Hitachi S-4800, Hitachi, Tokyo, Japan)) and the transmission electron microscope ((TEM), TecnaiG220, FEI, Hillsboro, OR, USA), equipped with high-angle annular dark-field scanning transmission electron microscopy (HAADF-SEM), and energy dispersive spectrometer (EDX) was used for investigation of the morphology and composition. The X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) spectra were recorded on a Thermo ESCALAB 250 spectrometer, while the X-ray diffraction spectra were measured on an X-ray diffractometer (X'Pert-Pro MPD, PANalytical Co.). The inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES, Agilent 5800) was used for elemental composition.

Electrochemical HER

The cyclic voltammogram (CVs), linear sweep voltammogram (LSV), electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS), and chronoamperometry (CA) tests were measured on Gamry potentiostat (Reference 3000, Gamry Co., Warminster, PA, USA). This is using a three-electrode cell of Pt wire (3 mm) as a counter electrode, Ag/AgCl as a reference electrode, and glassy carbon electrode (GCE) (∅5 mm x 1 mm) as a working electrode. The GCE was initially polished with 0.3 and 0.05 μm of alumina slurry and then rinsed by double deionized H₂O three times under sonication, followed by deposition the 10-20 μl catalyst ink (2mg/mL in isopropanol/H₂O/Nafion (5 wt.%) (4/1/0.05 v/v/v) on the working electrodes through volumetric casting and then left to dry under vacuum at 80 °C. The metal loading (i.e. Pt or MnFeM) of each catalyst on the GCE was adjusted to 0.004 mg_{metal}/cm² based on the ICP-OES data. The obtained HER currents were corrected against Ohmic potential drop, and the potentials were normalized to the reversible hydrogen electrode (RHE) using equation (Eqn. 1).

$$E_{\text{RHE}} = E_{\text{Ag/AgCl}} + 0.197 \text{ V} + 0.059 \times \text{pH} \text{ (Eqn. 1)}$$

The mass activity (MA) was calculated at 0.4V using the following equation (Eqn. 2)

$$MA = J_{\text{HER}}/M \quad (\text{Eqn. 2})$$

Where J_{HER} is the HER current density, and M is the metal (Pt or MnFeM) loading on the GCE.

The specific activity (SA) was calculated at 0.4V using the following equation (Eqn. 3)

$$SA = J_{\text{HER}}/M \times \text{ECSA} \quad (\text{Eqn. 3})$$

Where ECSA is the electrochemical active surface.

The turnover frequency (TOF) was calculated using the following equation (Eqn. 4)

$$\text{TOF} = (J_{\text{HER}} \times F) / (n \times A) \quad (\text{Eqn. 4})$$

Where F is the Faraday constant (96,485 C/mol), n is the number of electrons transferred per H_2 , and A is the surface area of the catalyst.

Table S1. Comparison of the hydrogen production (electrocatalytic and/or photocatalytic) of carbon nitride-based nanostructured catalysts with literature

Catalyst	Preparation Method	Metal dopants	Metal Loading (Wt.%)	Morphology of CN	Catalytic reaction	Electrolyte	HER rate ($\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$) /overpotential (mV)	Ref.
MnFeCu/gCN MnFeTi/gCN MnFeCo/gCN MnFe/gCN Mn/gCN	Protonation by HNO_3 (0.1 M, 60 mL) in ethanol (200 mL) under ultrasonic treatment and annealing (550 °C/2h)	Mn, Fe, Cu, Ti, Co	2.0 - 2.3	Porous fiber-like	Electrocatalytic HER	H_2SO_4	3774.35/ 400 1902.54/ 548 1820.10/ 564 2110.64/ 475 872.20/ 583	This work
PtPd/CNs	Protonation by NaNO_3 (0.1 M) and HCl (0.1 M) in Ethylene glycol (15 mL) and annealing (550 °C/2h)	Pt, Pd	1.5	Nanorods	Electrochemical and photoelectrochemical CO oxidation	-	-	3
Pd/CN NWs Pd-Cu/CN-NWs	Protonation by HNO_3 (0.2 M, 60 mL) in ethanol (30 mL) and annealing (400 °C/2h)	Pd, Cu	1.2 0.6-0.6	Nanowires Nanowires	Thermal CO oxidation	-	-	4
Au/Pd/gC ₃ N ₄ NTs	Protonation by HNO_3 (0.1 M, 70 mL) in ethylene glycol (30 mL) and annealing (450 °C/2h)	Pd, Au	0.5-0.5	Nanotubes	Thermal CO oxidation	-	-	5
Pd/gC ₃ N ₄ NTs Cu/gC ₃ N ₄ NTs Pd/Cu/gC ₃ N ₄ -NTs	Protonation by HNO_3 (0.1 M 60 mL) in Ethylene glycol (30 mL) and annealing (550 °C/2h)	Pd, Cu	1.1 1.1 0.55-0.55	Nanotubes Nanotubes Nanotubes	Thermal CO oxidation	-	-	2
Pd/gC ₃ N ₄ NFs Au/gC ₃ N ₄ NFs Au/Pd/gC ₃ N ₄ NFs	Protonation by HNO_3 (0.3 M, 60 mL) in isopropanol (30 mL) and annealing (480 °C/2h)	Pd, Au	1 1 0.5-0.5	Nanofibers Nanofibers Nanofibers	Thermal CO oxidation	-	-	1
Cu/P-g-C ₃ N ₄	Protonation of Melamine and pyridine by HNO_3 (0.2 M, 20 mL) in 1,2-ethanediol (50 mL) and annealing (550 °C/2h)	Cu	1.8	hierarchical porous crumpled nanosheets	Thermal CO oxidation	-	-	6
Cu/g-C ₃ N ₄ Mn/g-C ₃ N ₄ Fe/g-C ₃ N ₄	Protonation by HNO_3 (0.1 M, 20 mL) in ethanol (100 mL) and annealing at (550	Cu, Mn, Fe	1.7 ±0.2	Fiber-like	Electrochemical HER	0.5 M H_2SO_4	222.15/ 449 91.15/ 610 110.80/ 560	7

	°C/2h)							
Pt/CCTs	Sonication, freeze-drying, and calcined (550 °C/3h)	Pt	3	Nanotubes	Photocatalytic HER	0.2 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + TEOA	3538.30/-	8
Pt/HR-CN	Nanocasting template, calcined (550 °C/4h) and etching, Pt/HR-CN by in-situ photodeposition of Pt	Pt	3	Helical nanorods	Photocatalytic HER	0.01 M AgNO ₃ + TEOA + acetonitrile	74 μmol/h/ -	9
Pt/CN-MU	Thermal condensation of melamine and urea (1:10) (400 °C/4h) then annealing at 550 °C for 4h	Pt	0.5	Holey nanotubes	Photocatalytic HER	0.5 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 20 vol.% lactic acid	1073.60/ -	10
TiO ₂ /g-CN	TiO ₂ by hydrothermal at (150 °C/4h) and calcination (500 °C/1hr) then TiO ₂ /g-CN by solvothermal (180 °C/24h) and calcination (520 °C/1h)	Ti	-	Nanorod arrays	Photoelectrochemical HER	0.2 M Na ₂ SO ₄	- / 160	11
TiO ₂ /P-C ₃ N ₄ /Co ₃ O ₄	TiO ₂ by hydrothermal (180 °C/4h), impregnated in cyanuric acid and diammonium hydrogen phosphate solution, calcination(550 °C/2h), immersed in Co solution reduced by NaOH, calcination (350 °C/3h)	Co, Ti	-	Nano dot Core-nanorod shell	Photoelectrochemical HER	0.5 M Na ₂ SO ₄	26.16 μmol·cm ⁻¹ ·h ⁻¹ / 920	12
MoS ₂ /g-C ₃ N ₄	g-C ₃ N ₄ by Hydrothermal/calcination (180/4hr, 600 °C/4h), MoS ₂ by hydrothermal (200 °C/24h), and MoS ₂ /g-C ₃ N ₄ by mixed impregnation	Mo	10-30	Nanoflake/nanotube	Photocatalytic HER	0.5 M Na ₂ SO ₄	1124.00/ -	13
PtNi/g-C ₃ N ₄	g-C ₃ N ₄ by calcination (600 °C/3h) and PtNi/g-C ₃ N ₄ by co-reduction using NaBH ₄ (0.05 M)	Pt, Ni	0.99	Nanotubes	Photocatalytic HER	0.2 M Na ₂ SO ₄	104.8 μmol h ⁻¹ / -	14
Ni ₂ P-Cd _{0.9} Zn _{0.1} S/g-C ₃ N ₄	Ni ₂ P-Cd _{0.9} Zn _{0.1} S by two-step Hydrothermal (220 °C/24hr, 200 °C/24h), g-C ₃ N ₄ by calcination(550 °C/4h) and Ni ₂ P-Cd _{0.9} Zn _{0.1} S/g-C ₃ N ₄ by self-assembly for 24h	Ni, Cd, Zn	0.5-6.0	Nanorods	Photocatalytic HER	0.15 M Na ₂ S + 0.05 Na ₂ SO ₄	121.20 μmol mg ⁻¹ h ⁻¹ /-	15
1D-RuO ₂ -CN _x	CN _x by Microwave irradiation(180 °C/3h), and 1D-RuO ₂ -CN _x by hydrothermal reduction by (NaBH ₄ /120 °C/8h), then hydrothermal treatment (350 °C/12h)	Ru	24.41	Nanowires	Electrocatalytic HER	0.5 M H ₂ SO ₄ 0.5 M KOH	- / 93 - / 95	16
g-C ₃ N ₄ nanoribbon-G	GO by Hummers method, g-C ₃ N ₄ by calcination (600 °C/2h), and chemically treated/ g-C ₃ N ₄ nanoribbon-G by Hydrothermal treatment (180 °C/6h)	-	-	Nanoribbon	Electrocatalytic HER	0.5 M H ₂ SO ₄	-/ 207	17

PtCo/Na _{0.1} SC NNT	Na _{0.1} SCNNT by precursor mixing, grinding, and thermal polymerization / PtCo/Na _{0.1} SCNNT by chemical reduction	Pt, Co, Na	1.38-2.38	Nanotubes	Photocatalytic HER	0.2 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 10 vol.% TEOA	254.70 μmol h ⁻¹	18
T-CN	Annealing (450 °C/4h) Mixture of Melamine with (KCl, LiCl) molten salt assisted	Pt	3	Hollow tubes	Photocatalytic HER	0.1 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 10 vol.% TEOA	332.00/ -	19
TCN-0.1	Thermal polymerization (Urea, MF resin mixture) (600 °C/3h)	Pt	3	Multistage tubular	Photocatalytic HER	0.2 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 10 vol.% TEOA	7505.00/ -	20
g-CNNTs(540)	Unidirectional freezing of urea, annealing at (540 °C/2h)	Pt	3	Hollow tubes	Photocatalytic HER	0.2 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 10 vol.% TEOA	8789/-	21
CN-10	Solvothermal polymerization (180 °C/12h) and calcination (550 °C/4h)	Pt	3	Spongelike fibers	Photocatalytic HER	0.5 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 10 vol.% TEOA	2227.00/ -	22
R-TCNT	Hydrothermal of spherical melamine (180 °C/8h) and annealing (500 °C/4h)	-	-	Bunchy microtubes	Photocatalytic HER	0.5 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 10 vol.% TEOA	8.19 μmol h ⁻¹ / -	23
P-TCN/GQDs-0.15	P-TCN by hydrothermal and calcination (180 °C/4h, 500 °C/10h), and P-TCN/GQDs by Lyophilization method	-	-	Hexagonal Tubular	Photocatalytic HER	0.1 M Na ₂ SO ₄	112.10 μmol h ⁻¹ / -	24
Pt/PCNC	Two-step (Hydrothermal self-assembly/ Self-template, 200 °C/12h) pyrolysis(550 °C/3h)	Pt	3	Coral-like architecture	Photocatalytic HER	0.1 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 10 vol.% TEOA	5289.90/ -	25
Pt/P-TCN	Hydrothermal (180 °C/10h) and heat treatment (500 °C/4h), and Pt/P-TCN in-situ photodeposition of pt precursor	Pt	1	Rod-like	Photocatalytic HER	0.1 M Na ₂ SO ₄	67.00 μmol h ⁻¹ / -	26
Pt/g-C ₃ N ₄	Hydrothermal (200 °C/12h) and pyrolysis (550 °C/4h) and Pt/g-C ₃ N ₄ in-situ photodeposition of pt precursor	Pt	3	Nanotubes	Photocatalytic HER	10 vol.% TEOA	118.50 μmol h ⁻¹ / -	27
Pt/CN-OA-0.03	CN-OA-0.03 by facial wet chemistry and annealing (550 °C/2h) and Pt/CN-OA-0.03 by in-situ photodeposition of pt precursor	Pt	3	Nanotubes	Photocatalytic HER	10 vol.% TEOA	12.60 μmol h ⁻¹ / -	28
Ag-Cu(3)C ₃ N ₄ NTs 1:1	C ₃ N ₄ by multistep (calcination (550 °C/2h), exfoliation, heating 350 °C, rapid cooling in ice) and Ag-Cu(3)C ₃ N ₄ NTs by metals chemical reduction	Ag, Cu	3-5	Nanotubes	Photocatalytic HER	0.01 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 10 vol.% TEA, TEOA and MeOH	738.00 μmol g ⁻¹ / -	29
Pt/CNS-550	Calcination (550 °C/2h), Recrystallization in acidic(H ₂ SO ₄ /methanol mixture)	Pt	3	Nanotubes	Photocatalytic HER	0.1 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 10 vol.%	261.80 μmol h ⁻¹ / -	30

	and annealing (550 °C/2h) and Pt/CNS-550 by in-situ photodeposition of pt precursor					TEOA		
Ba-P-CN	Hydrothermal (180 °C/10h) and calcination (500 °C/4h)	Pt	3	Microtube	Photocatalytic HER	0.25 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 17 vol.% TEOA	12.30 μmol h ⁻¹ / -	³¹
Pt/GCN-THP	calcination (550 °C/4h, (Ar, CCl ₄)), then LP-CNP rinsed by water and calcenied (500 °C/2h)	Pt	3	Tetragonal hollow prism	Photocatalytic HER	0.5 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 10 vol.% TEOA	1990.00/ -	³²
Pt/CN-SP	Hydrothermal (180 °C/10h) and annealing (500 °C/4h)	Pt	1	Hexagonal tube stacked nanosheets	Photocatalytic HER	0.2 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + MeOH	57.00 μmol h ⁻¹ / -	³³
Pt/3wt%NaCl-CN	hydrothermal (200 °C/12h) and Thermal condensation (550 °C/2h) and Pt by in-situ photo-deposition	Pt	1	Nanowires	Photocatalytic HER	0.25 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 17 vol.% TEOA	4.95 μmol h ⁻¹ / -	³⁴
Pt/I/N-CN	Hydrothermal (180 °C/10h) and annealing (500 °C/4h) and Pt loaded by photodeposition	Pt	3	nanotubes	Photocatalytic HER	0.5 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 17 vol.% TEOA	9.75 μmol h ⁻¹ / -	³⁵
Pt/MCN	halloysite as templet annealed (850 °C/2h) and activated by HCl (80 °C/6h), then melamine deposited on activated halloysite by vapor deposition (520 °C/4h), then templet etched by HF	Pt	3	Wormlike nanorods	Photocatalytic HER	10 vol.% TEOA	633.00/ -	³⁶
HGCNF/SNG/MoS ₂	Electrospinning and sintering method at (580 °C/ 4h) followed by autoclave for hydrothermal treatment at	Mo	10.26	Hollow nanofibers	Electrocatalytic HER	0.5 M H ₂ SO ₄	- / 282	³⁷
Pt(3.0wt%)M _o ₂ C/g-C ₃ N ₄	freeze-dried (-50 °C/48h) then annealed (800 °C/ 4 h)	Pt, Mo	4	Rod-like	Photocatalytic HER	0.5 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 10 vol.% TEOA	507.00/ -	³⁸
Pt/O-g-C ₃ N ₄	Thermal condensation (500 °C/2h) and Pt loaded by photodeposition	Pt	3	Nanorods	Photocatalytic HER	0.5 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 15 vol.% TEOA	732.00/ -	³⁹
Rh/77CNNb	Molten salt and thermal condensation (520 °C/4hr)	Rh, Sr, Nb	0.91-1.8	Nanorods	Photocatalytic HER	-	0.183 h ⁻¹ / -	⁴⁰

Carbon quantum dots implanted g-C₃N₄ nanotubes (CCTs); g-C₃N₄ with a helical rod-like morphology (HR-CN); CN from melamine and urea in a 1:1 (CN-MU); carbon nitride nanotube (CNNT); triethanolamine (TEOA); Bundle thins carbon nitride tubes (R-TCNT); tubular carbon nitride (TCN), graphene quantum dot (GQD); porous bionic coral-like architecture (PCNC); phosphorus-doped hexagonal tubular carbon nitride (P-TCN); triethylamine (TEA); graphitic carbon nitride tetragonal hollow prism (GCN-THP); methanol (MeOH); C₃N₄- modified sodium pyrophosphate (CN-SP); mesoporous g-C₃N₄ nanotubes (MCN); hollow g-C₃N₄ nanofibers (HGCNF); sulfur/nitrogen-doped graphene (SNG); g-C₃N₄/Sr2K₂Nb₅O₁₅ with 77 wt.% of g-C₃N₄ (77CNNb)

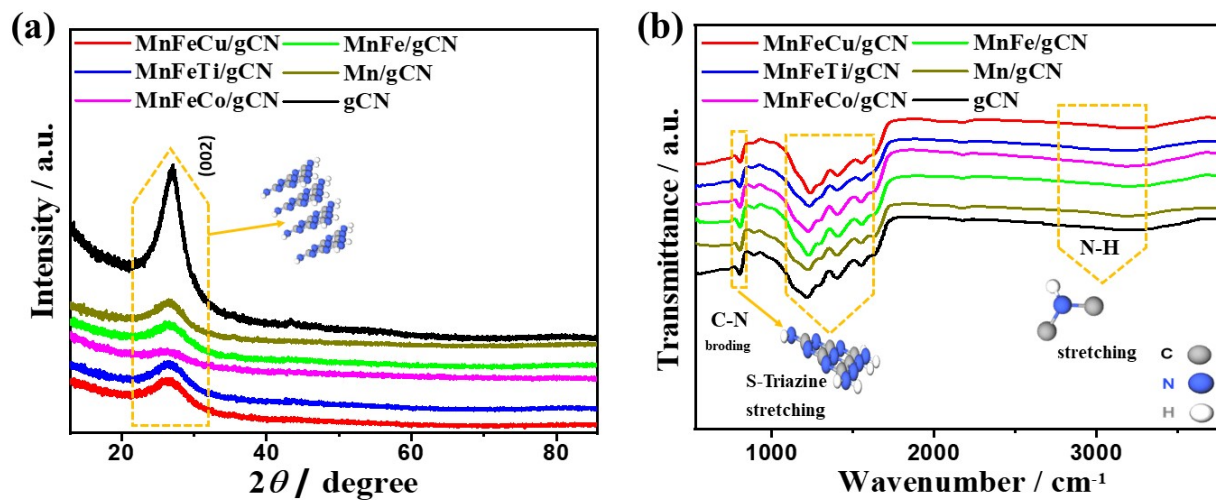


Figure S1. (a) XRD analysis and (b) FTIR spectra of thus obtained materials

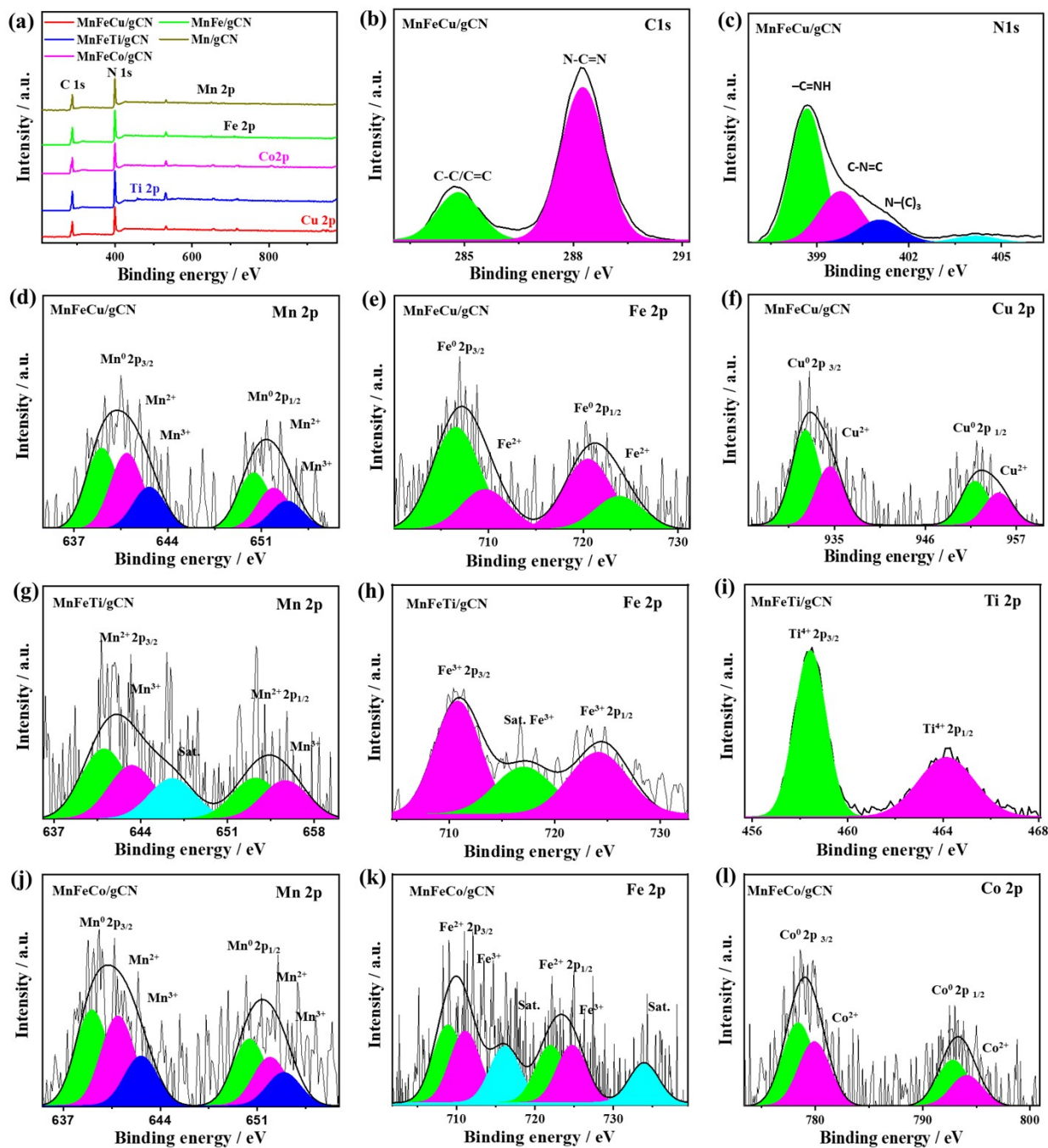


Figure 2. (a) XPS survey. High-resolution spectra of (b) C 1s, (c) N 1s of MnFeCu/g- C_3N_4 . High-resolution spectra of Mn 2p, Fe 2p, and Cu 2p of (d-f) MnFeCu/g- C_3N_4 , Mn 2p, Fe 2p, and Ti 2p of (g-i) MnFeTi/g- C_3N_4 , and Mn 2p, Fe 2p, and Cu 2p of (j-l) MnFeCo/g- C_3N_4

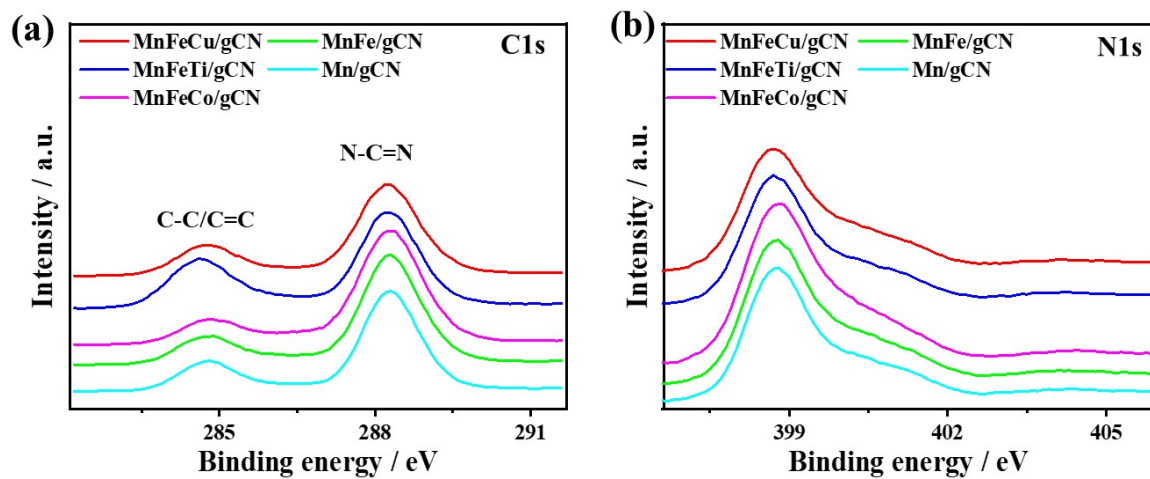


Figure S3. High-resolution XPS of (a) C1s (b) N1s.

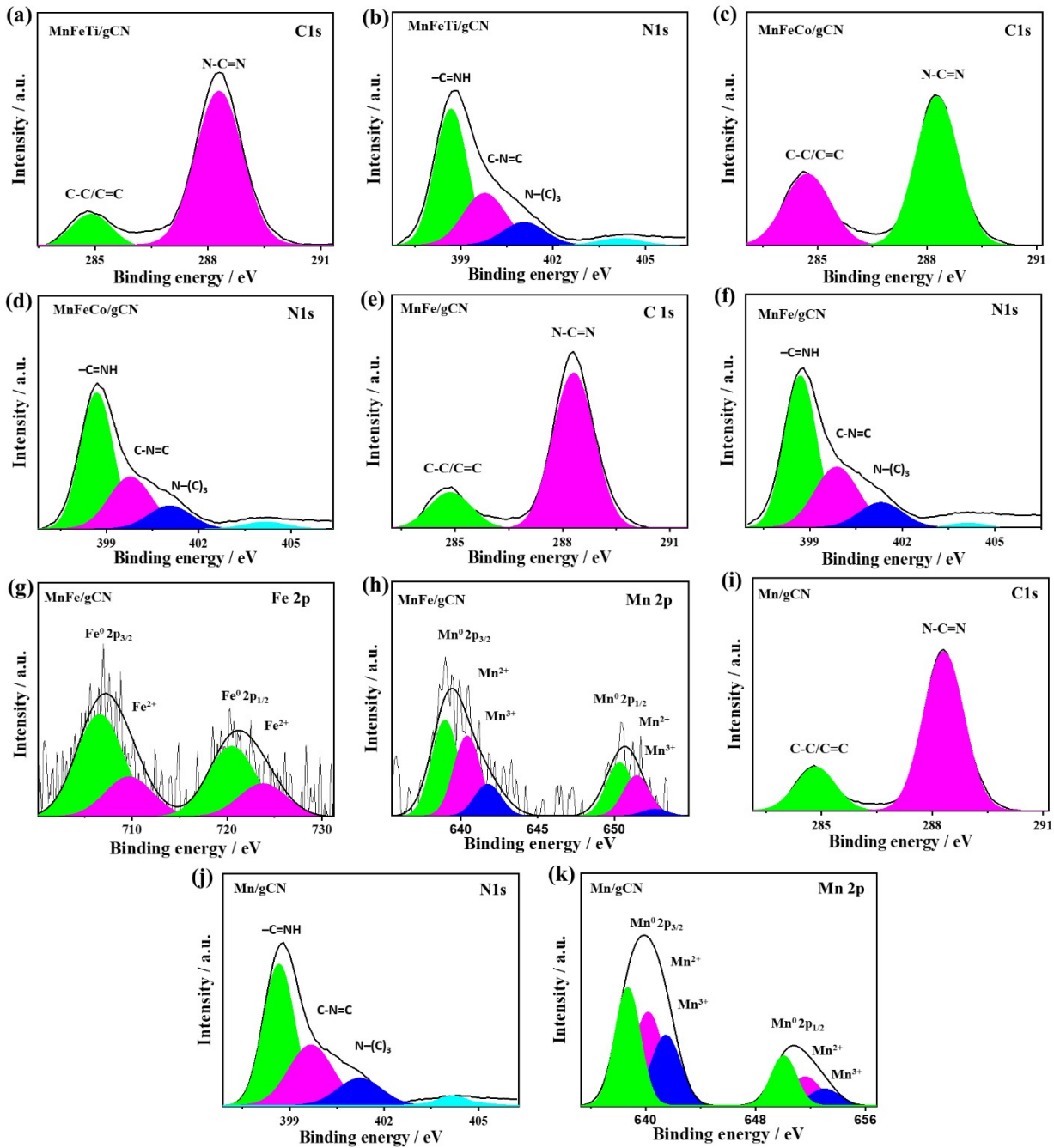


Figure S4. High-resolution XPS fitting of C 1s, N 1s (a-b) MnFeTi-gC₃N₄, (c-d) MnFeCo-gC₃N₄. (e-h) High-resolution XPS fitting of C 1s, N 1s, Mn 2p, and Fe 2p for MnFe-gC₃N₄. (e-h) High-resolution XPS fitting of C 1s, N 1s, and Mn 2p for Mn-gC₃N₄.

Table S2 Composition analysis of the as-formed materials.

catalyst	EDX (at.%)					ICP-OES (at.%)					XPS (at.%)				
	Mn	Fe	M	C	N	Mn	Fe	M	C	N	Mn	Fe	M	C	N
MnFeCu-gC ₃ N ₄	0.65	0.61	0.74	41	57	0.55	0.49	0.7	41.16	57.1	0.55	0.51	0.64	41.2	57.1
MnFeTi-gC ₃ N ₄	0.47	0.83	0.94	40.53	57.5	0.45	0.75	0.78	40.51	57.51	0.43	0.7	0.77	40.56	57.54
MnFeCo-gC ₃ N ₄	0.72	0.8	0.77	40.41	57.3	0.64	0.72	0.69	40.61	57.34	0.62	0.71	0.67	40.61	57.39

MnFe-gC ₃ N ₄	0.59	0.67	-	41.32	57.42	0.65	0.75	-	41.26	57.34	0.63	0.72	-	41.27	57.38
Mn-gC ₃ N ₄	1.7	-	-	41.4	56.9	1.58	-	-	41.58	56.84	1.52	-	-	41.58	56.9

Table S3 The valance state and binding energies of the as-formed materials

Elements	Mn ⁰ 2p (eV)		Fe ⁰ 2P (eV)		Cu ⁰ 2p (eV)		Ti ⁰ 2p (eV)		Co ⁰ 2P (eV)	
	2p 3/2	2p 1/2	2p 3/2	2p 1/2	2p 3/2	2p 1/2	2p 3/2	2p 1/2	2p 3/2	2p 1/2
MnFeCo/g-C₃N₄	639.06	650.50	706.96	720.53	931.43	951.94	-	-	-	-
MnFeTi/g-C₃N₄	641.1 (Mn ²⁺)	653.2 (Mn ²⁺)	710.76 (Fe ³⁺)	724.1 (Fe ³⁺)	-	-	458.43 (Ti ⁴⁺)	464.13 (Ti ⁴⁺)	-	-
MnFeTi/g-C₃N₄	639.09	650.43	708.8 (Fe ²⁺)	721.9 (Fe ²⁺)	-	-	-	-	778.32	792.83
MnFe/g-C₃N₄	638.97	650.29	706.59	720.46	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mn/g-C₃N₄	638.71	650.04			-	-	-	-	-	-

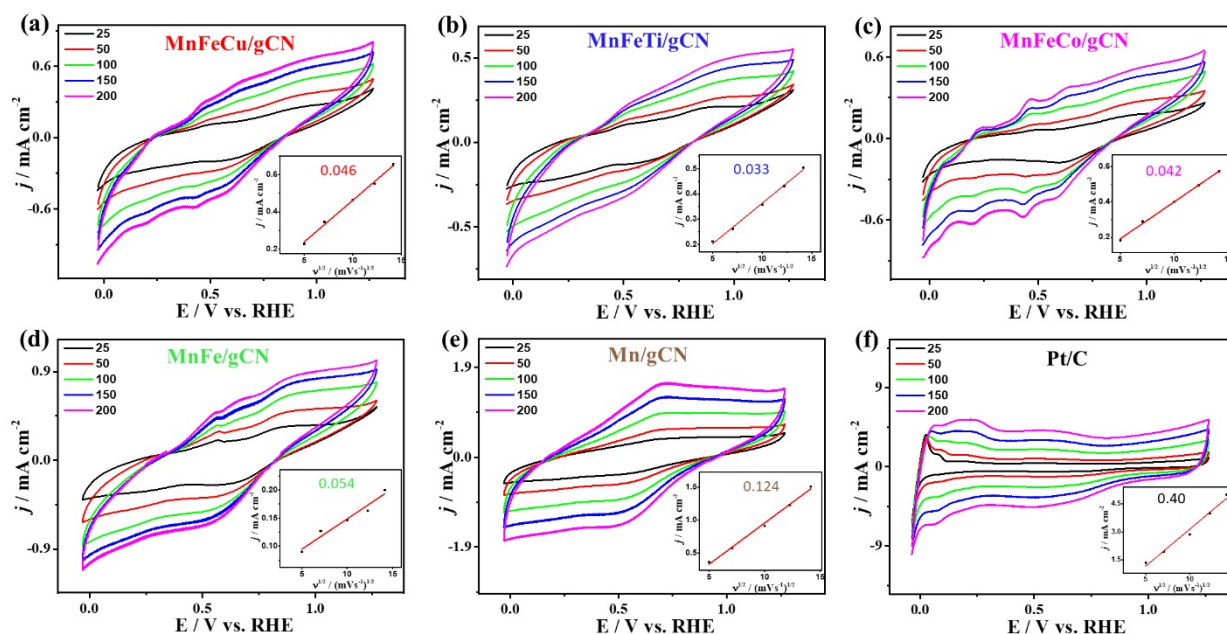


Figure S5. CV curves measured on the as-obtained catalysts at different scan rates and their related plots of j vs. $v^{1/2}$ in 0.5 M H₂SO₄

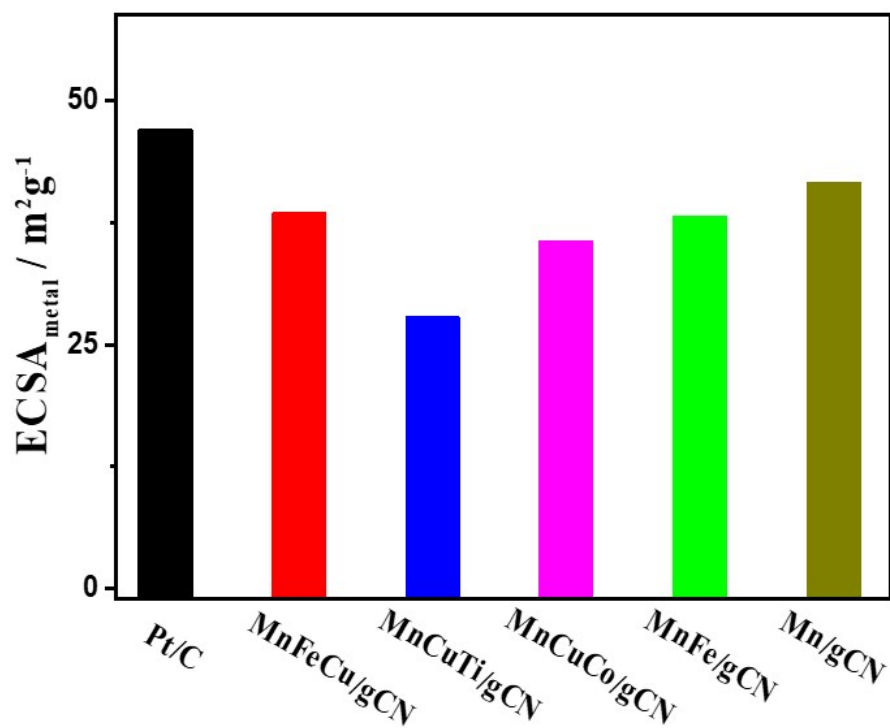


Figure S6. ECSA of the as-formed materials.

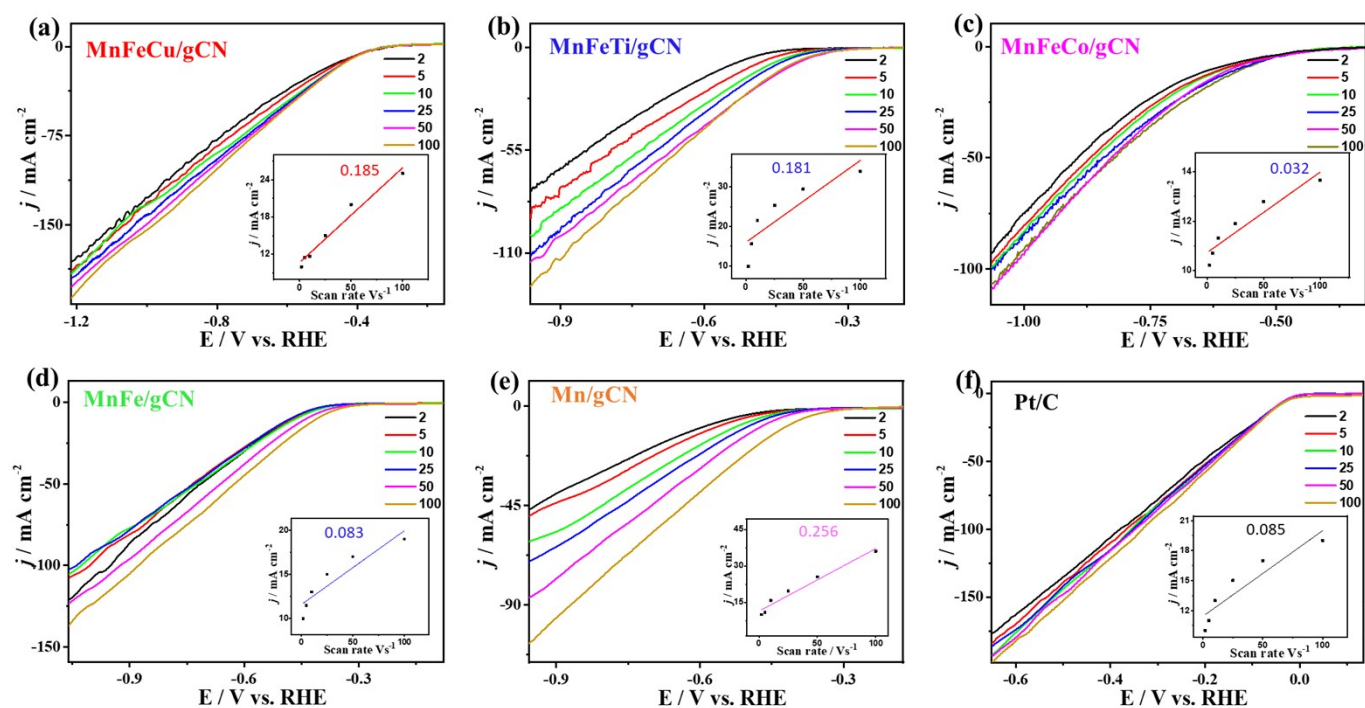


Figure S7. LSV measured at different scan rates tested on MnFeCu/g-C₃N₄, MnFeTi/g-C₃N₄, MnFeCo/g-C₃N₄, MnFe/g-C₃N₄, Mn/g-C₃N₄, and Pt/C catalyst in 0.5 M H₂SO₄ electrolyte.

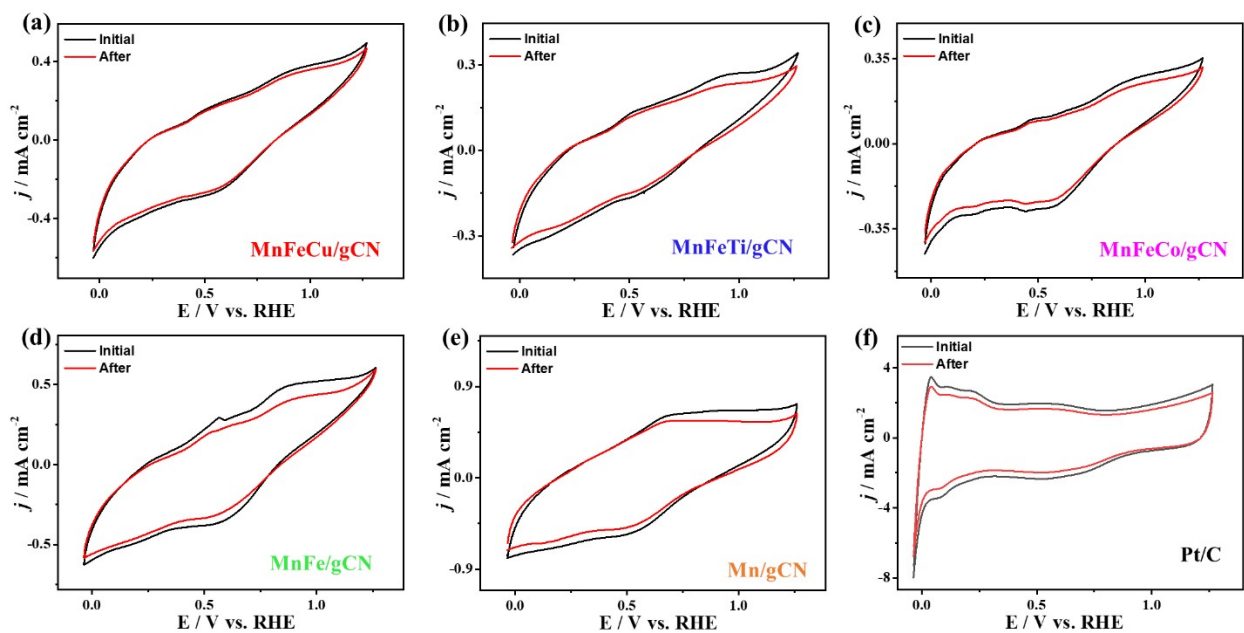


Figure S8. CV curve at scan rate 50 mV s^{-1} in $0.5 \text{ M H}_2\text{SO}_4$ purged with N_2 for catalysts before and after cyclic test.

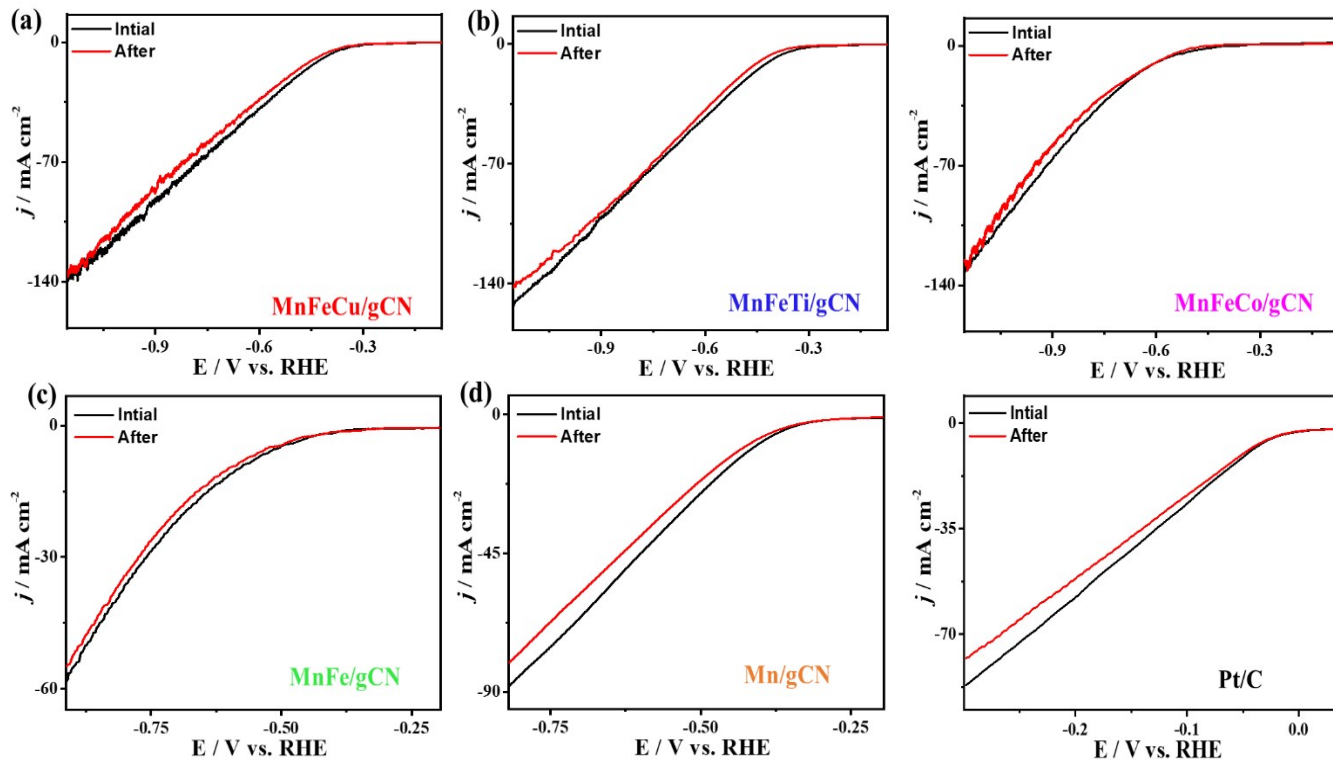


Figure 9. (a) LSV before and after 1000 cycles measured at scan rate 2 mV s^{-1} tested on MnFeCu/g- C_3N_4 , MnFeTi/g- C_3N_4 , MnFeCo/g- C_3N_4 , MnFe/g- C_3N_4 , Mn/g- C_3N_4 , and Pt/C catalyst in $0.5 \text{ M H}_2\text{SO}_4$ electrolyte.

Table S4 Comparison of the HER activity of our developed MnFeCu/g-C₃N₄ and previous reported carbon-based catalysts in acidic electrolytes.

Catalyst	Onset Potential (V vs. RHE) (mV)	η_{10} (V vs. RHE)(mV)	Tafel slope [mV dec ⁻¹]	TOF	Electrolyte	Ref.
MnFeCu/g-C ₃ N ₄	-225	400	219	3.5	0.5 M H ₂ SO ₄	This Work
N,P graphene-1	289	422	91	-	0.5 M H ₂ SO ₄	41
NENU-501	150	397	137	-	0.5 M H ₂ SO ₄	42
CTGU-6	349	425	176	-	0.5 M H ₂ SO ₄	43
Cu-Pd/NPCC/HT/GCE	82	340	-	-	0.5 M H ₂ SO ₄	44
N-doped graphene	-345	474	172	-	0.5 M H ₂ SO ₄	45
5% F/BCN	-144	437	153	0.92	0.5 M H ₂ SO ₄	46

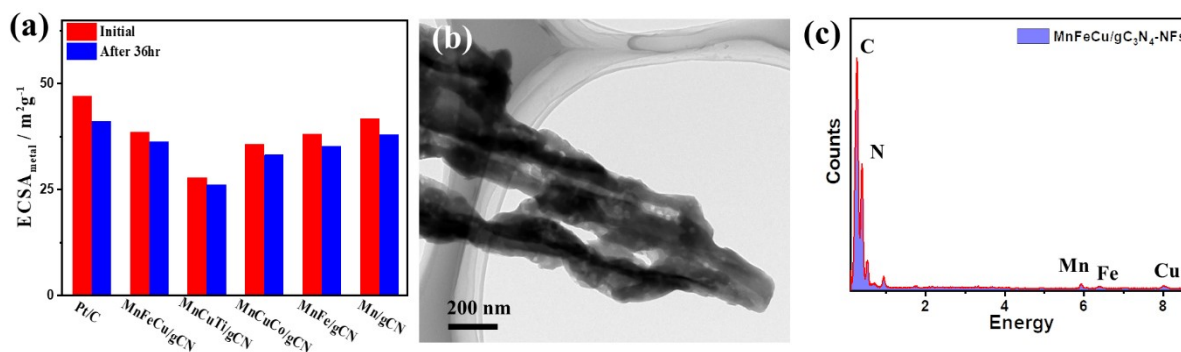


Figure S10. (a) ECSA before and after stability test , (b) TEM, and (c) EDX of MnFeCu/g-C₃N₄ after stability test.

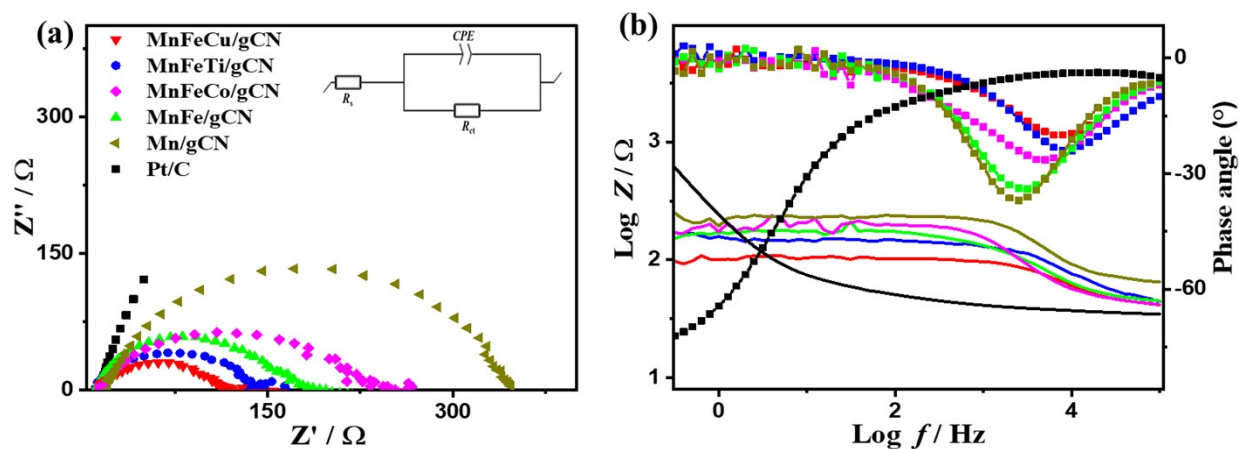


Figure S11. (a) Nyquist plots including (Voigt electrical equivalent circuit), and (b) Bode plots of MnFeCu/g-C₃N₄, MnFeTi/g-C₃N₄, MnFeCo/g-C₃N₄, MnFe/g-C₃N₄, Mn/g-C₃N₄, and Pt/C catalyst in 0.5 M H₂SO₄ electrolyte

Table S5 EIS fitting data of the as-made catalysts relative to Pt/C

Catalyst	R_s (Ω)	R_{ct} (Ω)	CPE ($\mu\text{F}\cdot\text{s}^{(1-\alpha)}$)	α

MnFeCu/g-C ₃ N ₄ NFs	41.4 ± 0.8	58 ± 0.15	1.94 ± 0.19	0.863 ± 0.013
MnFeTi/g-C ₃ N ₄ NFs	41.9 ± 1.3	265 ± 7.8	1.6 ± 0.695	0.851 ± 0.04
MnFeCo/g-C ₃ N ₄ NFs	43.8 ± 0.07	107 ± 0.2	1.13 ± 0.09	0.838 ± 0.015
MnFe/g-C ₃ N ₄ NFs	44 ± 0.023	159 ± 2.1	2 ± 0.003	894 ± 0.003
Mn/g-C ₃ N ₄ NFs	53.8 ± 1.69	132 ± 1.2	0.796 ± 27	0.801 ± 0.01
Pt/C (10 wt.%)	11.89 ± 0.06	171.1 ±	1.01 ± 0.001	0.763 ± 0.02

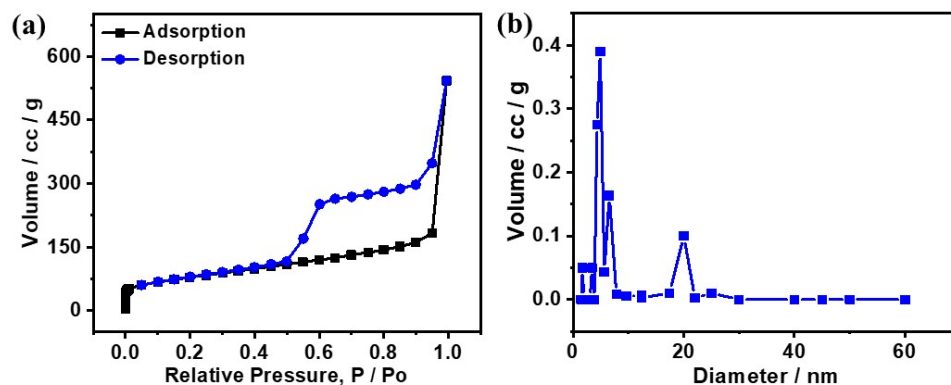


Figure S12. (a) N₂-physisorption isotherms and (b) pore size/volume of MnFeCu/g-C₃N₄. The N₂-physisorption isotherms were conducted on a Quantachrome Autosorb 3.01 instrument, and samples were degassed for 24 h at 50 °C under vacuum before the measurements.

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