

**Ruthenium single-atom doping-driven modulation of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> spinel tetrahedral site 3d-orbital occupancy in lithium-oxygen batteries**

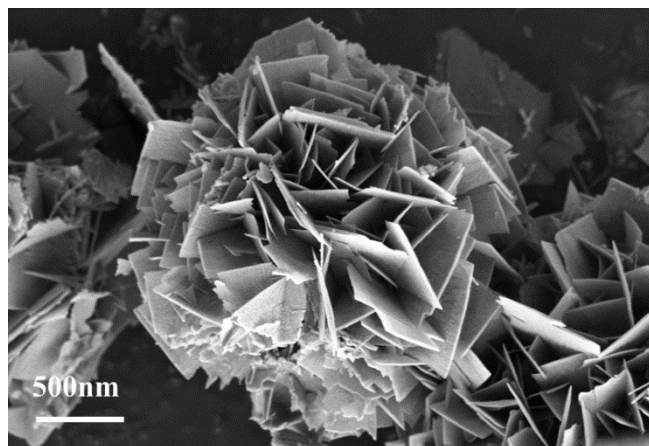
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**Figure S1.** SEM images of the Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.

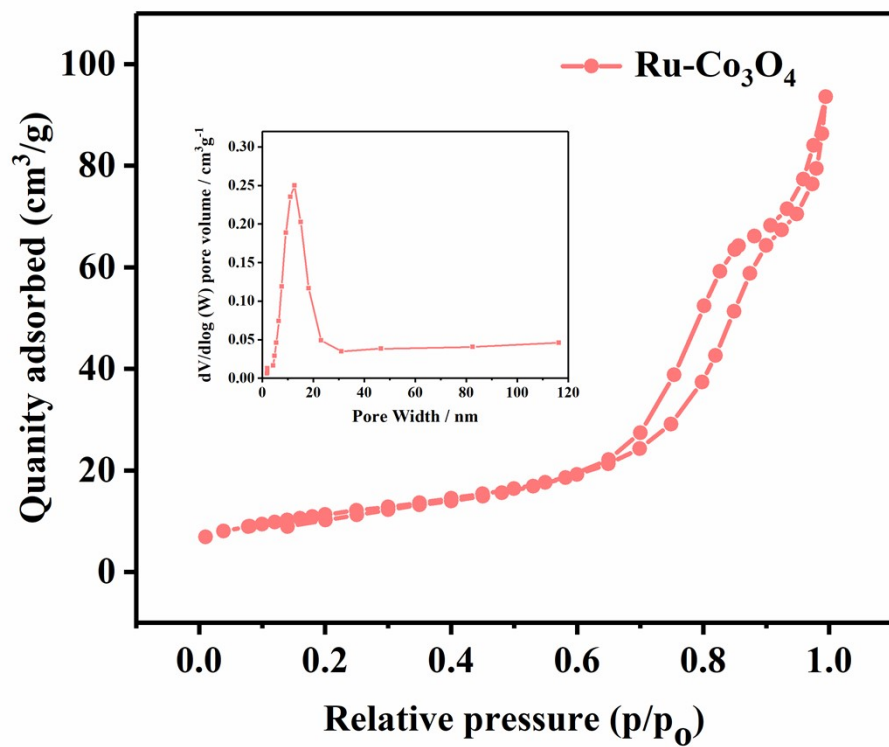
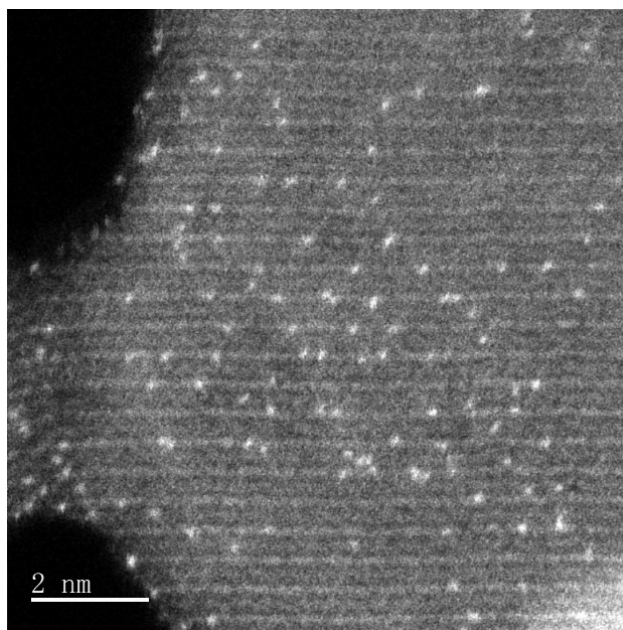
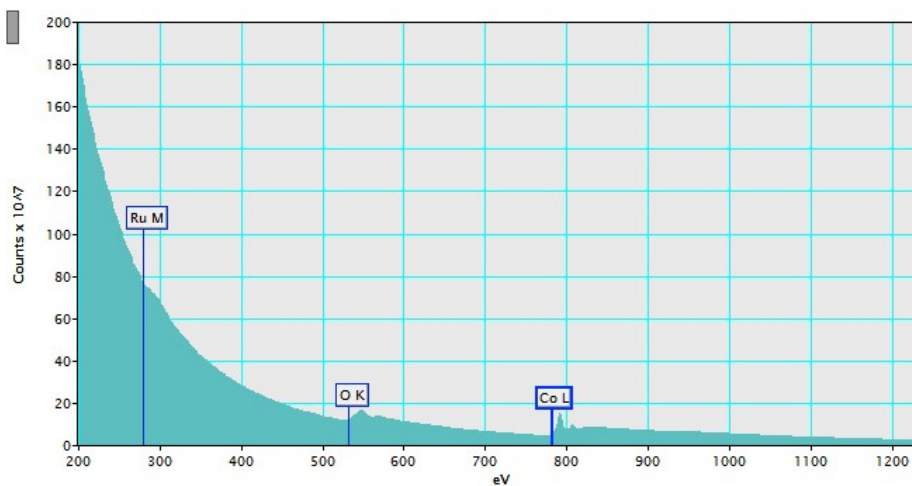


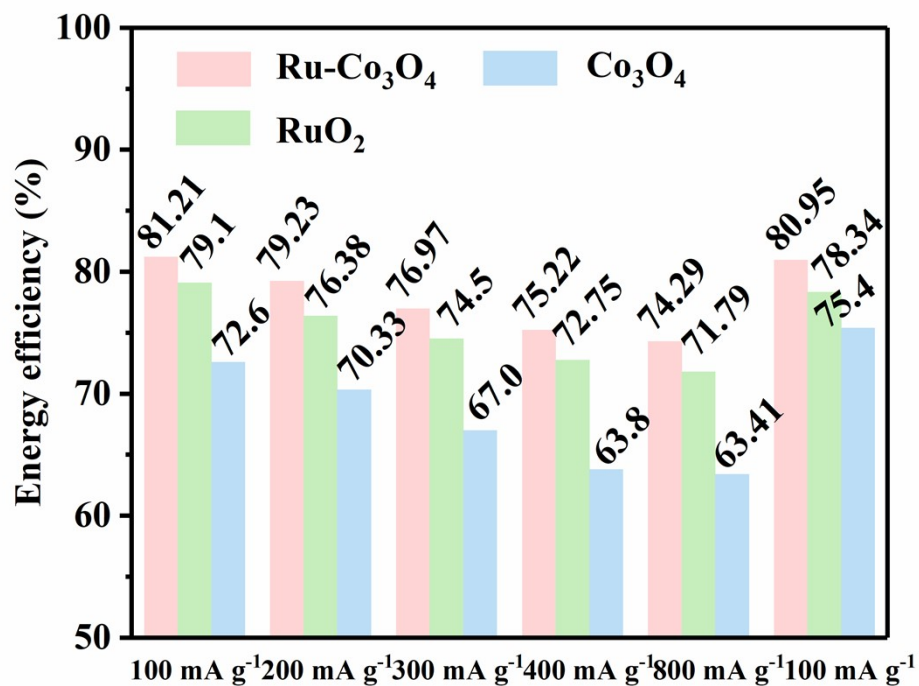
Figure S2. Nitrogen adsorption/desorption isotherms of Ru-Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>



**Figure S3.** Aberration-corrected HAADF-STEM observation for Ru-Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.



**Figure S4.** Single-atom EELS spectra extracted from two atomic positions highlighted in blue and yellow in Fig.1g.



**Figure S5.** The energy efficiency of Ru-Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, RuO<sub>2</sub> and Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> at different current density in LOBs.

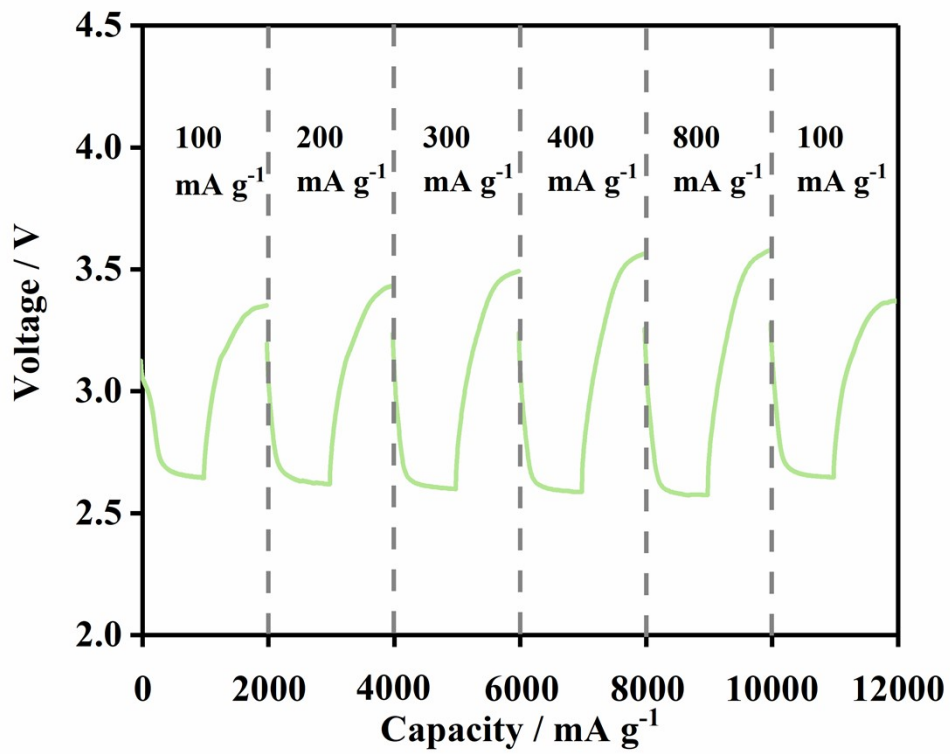


Figure S6. Rate capability of RuO<sub>2</sub> based Li-O<sub>2</sub> batteries.

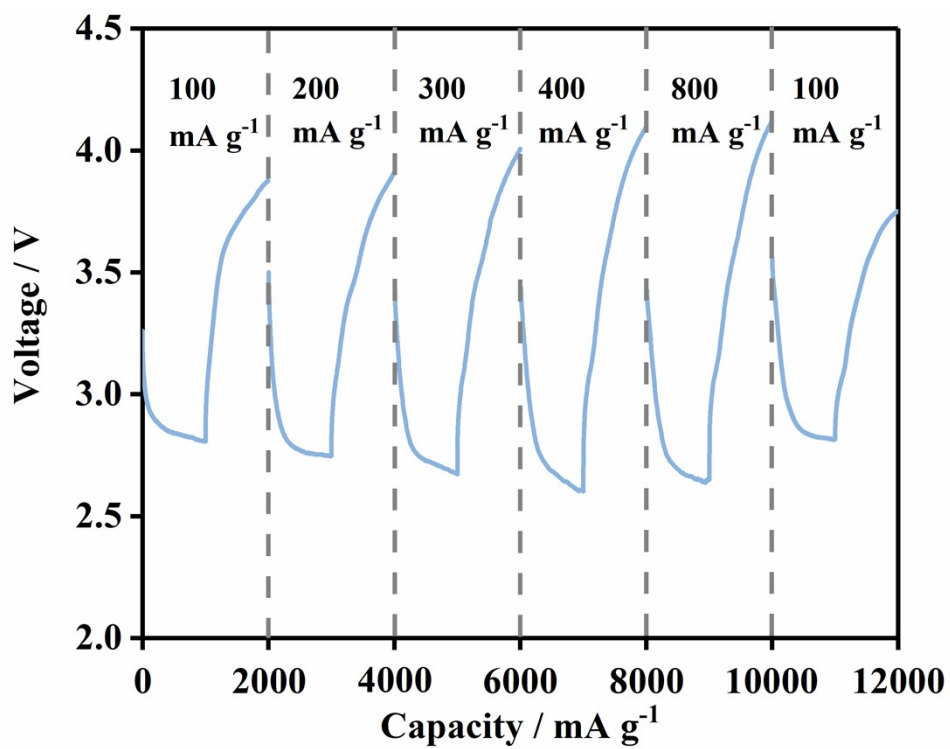


Figure S7. Rate capability of  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  based  $\text{Li-O}_2$  batteries.



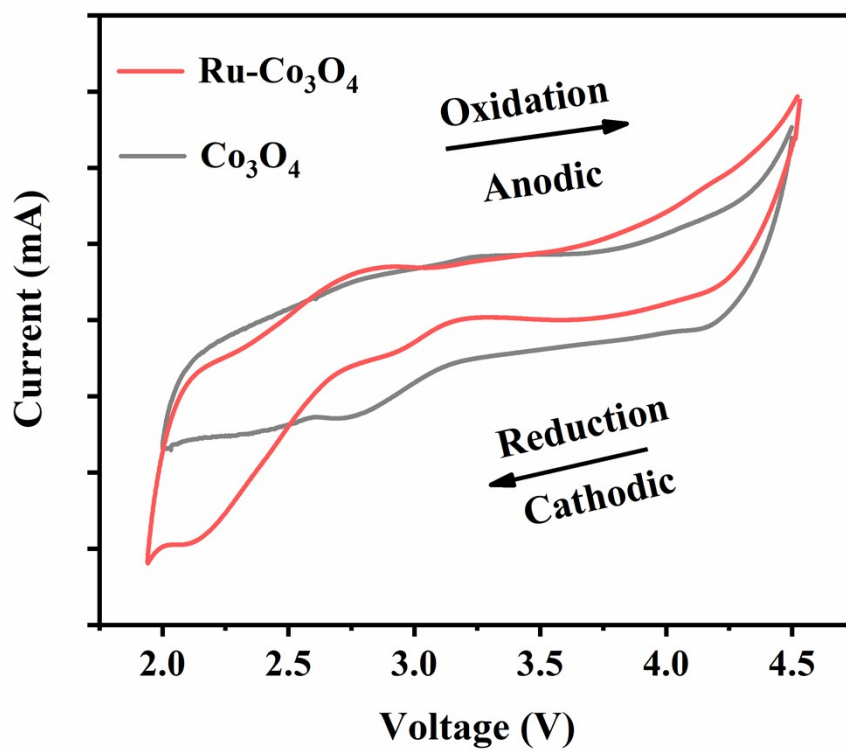


Figure S8. CV curves of Ru-Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> under the voltage window of 2.0-4.5 V and the scanning rate of 0.1 mV s<sup>-1</sup>.

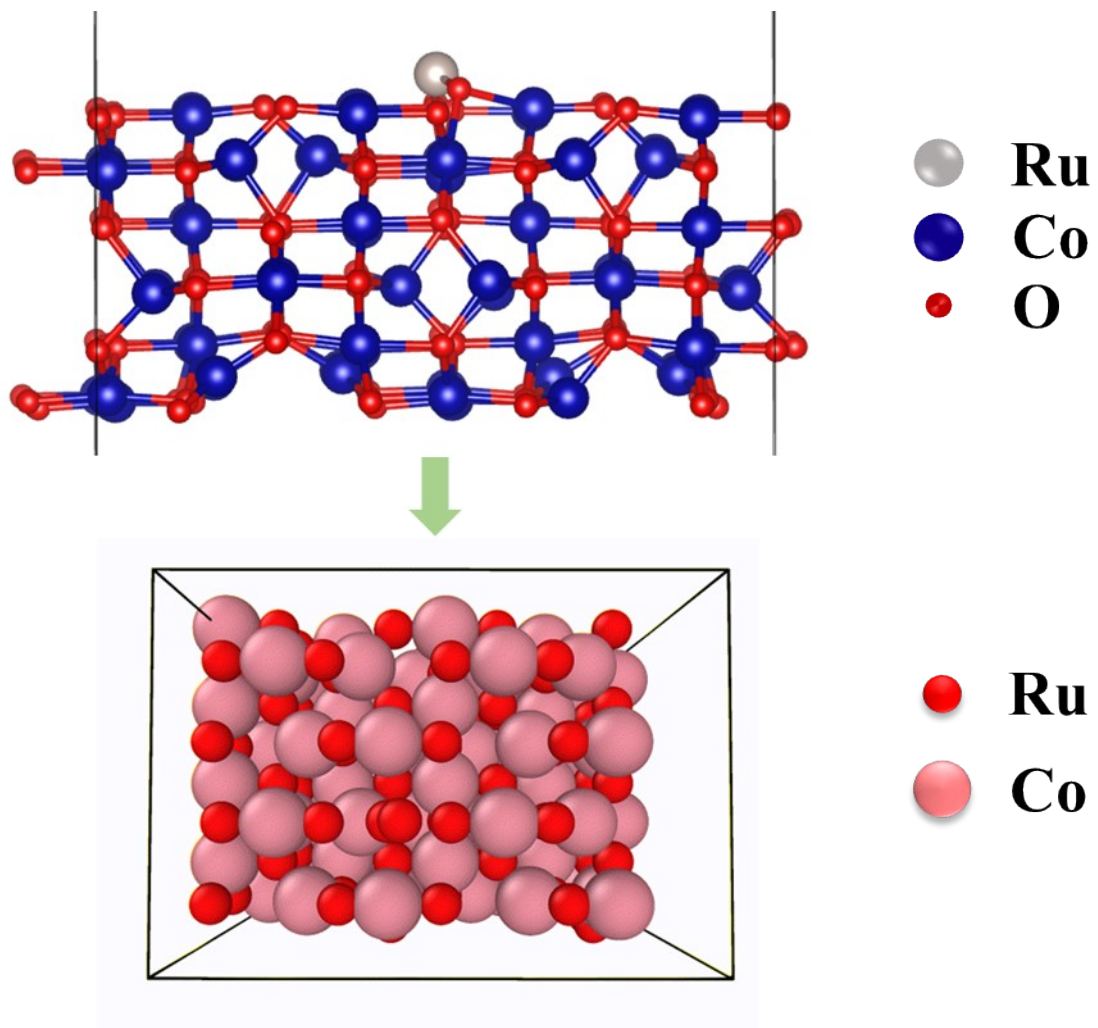


Figure S9. Gif is an optimization process, and Ru atoms are automatically migrated to the tetrahedron Co.

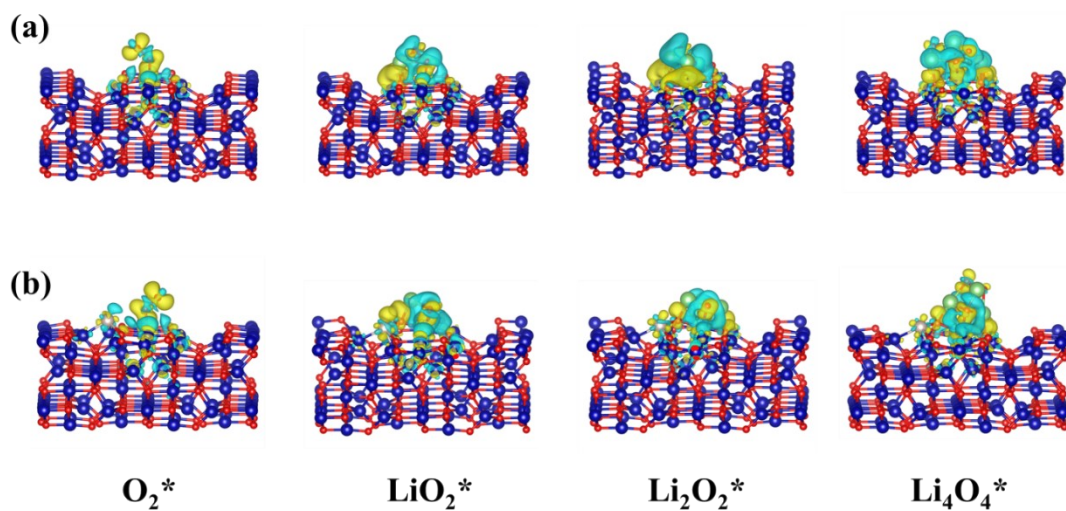


Figure S10. Electron localization function and charge density difference plots of different adsorbates (LiO<sub>2</sub>\*, Li<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>\*, Li<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>\*, and O<sub>2</sub>\*) on (a) Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and (b) Ru-Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.

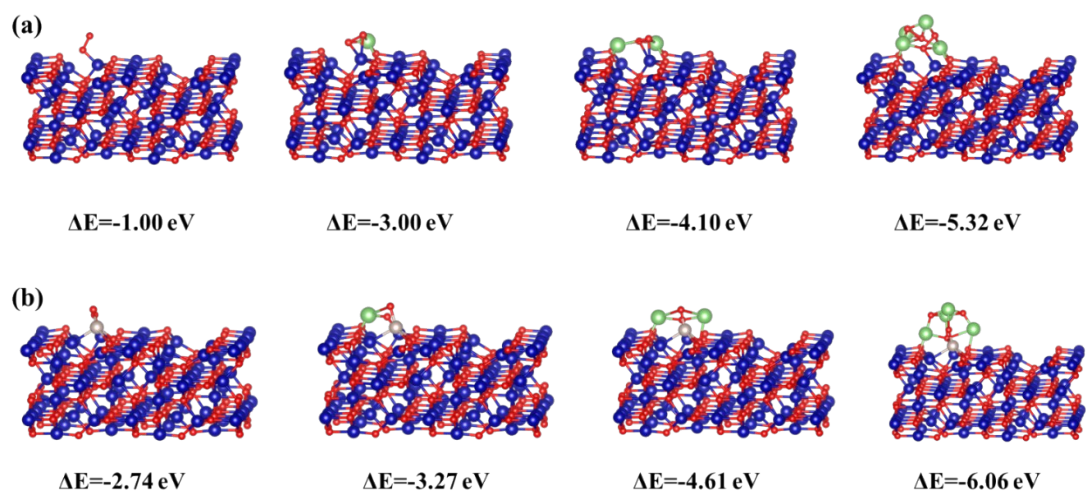


Figure S11. Binding energies and optimized structures of  $O_2$ ,  $LiO_2$ ,  $Li_2O_2$  and  $(Li_2O_2)_2$  at tetrahedral Co sites on the (a)  $Co_3O_4$  and (b)  $Ru-Co_3O_4$

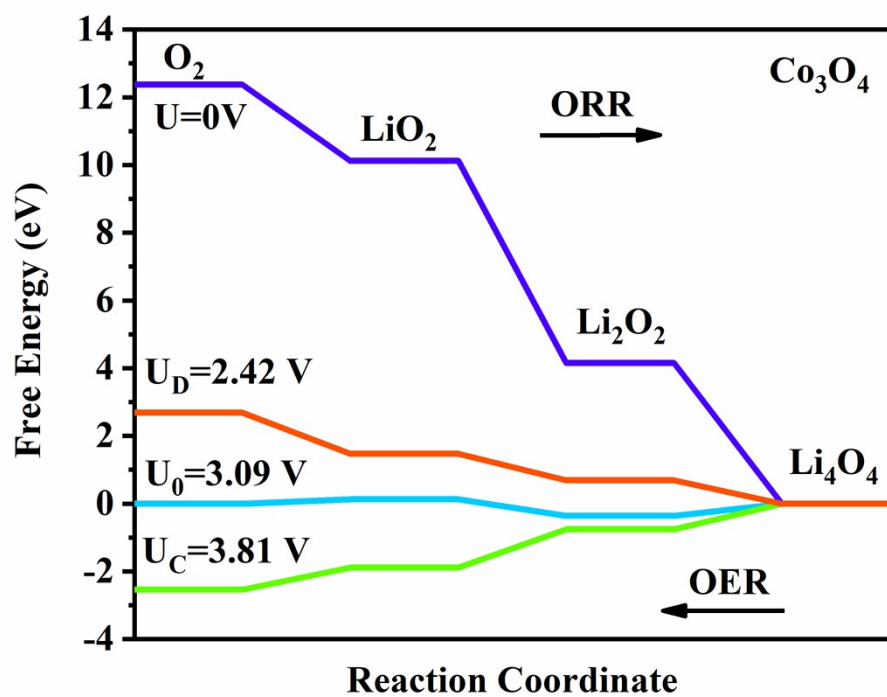


Figure S12. The free energy diagrams of ORR/OER process on  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$ .

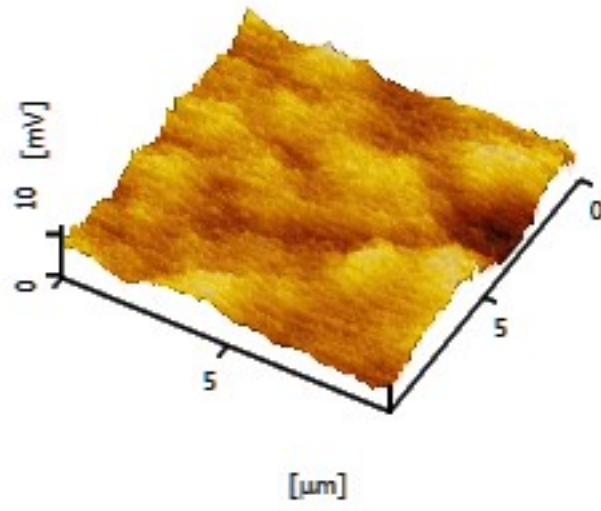


Figure S13. The surface work function of Ru-Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.

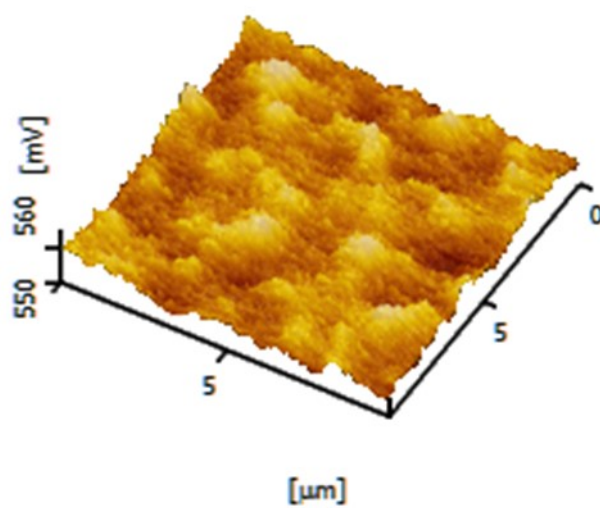
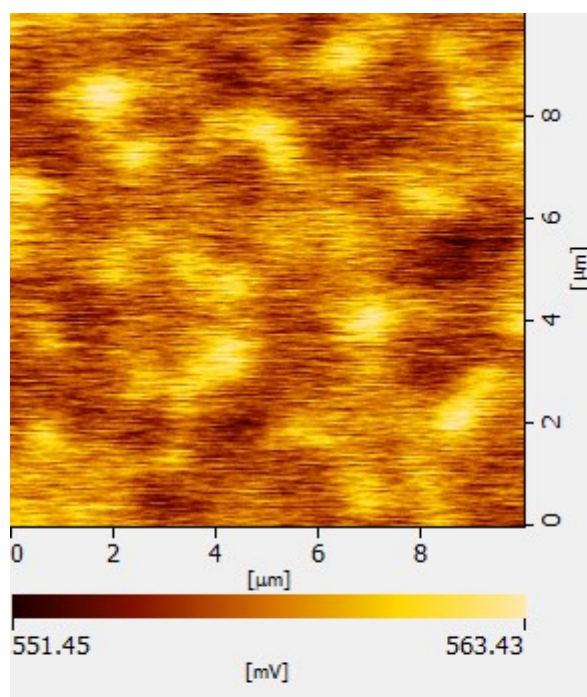


Figure S14. The surface work function of  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$ .

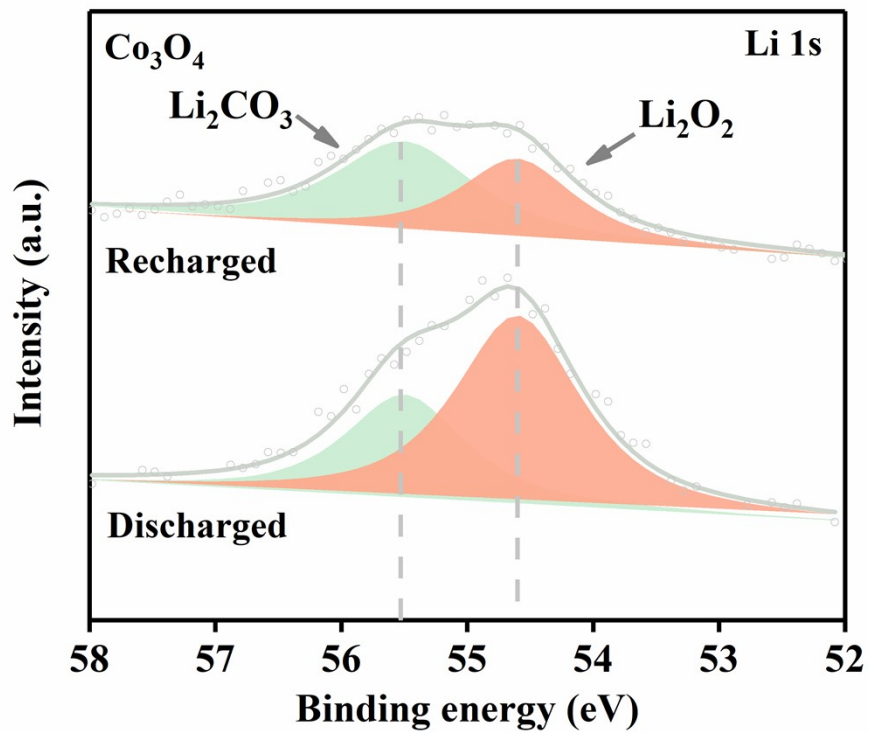


Figure S15. Li 1s XPS of  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$ .



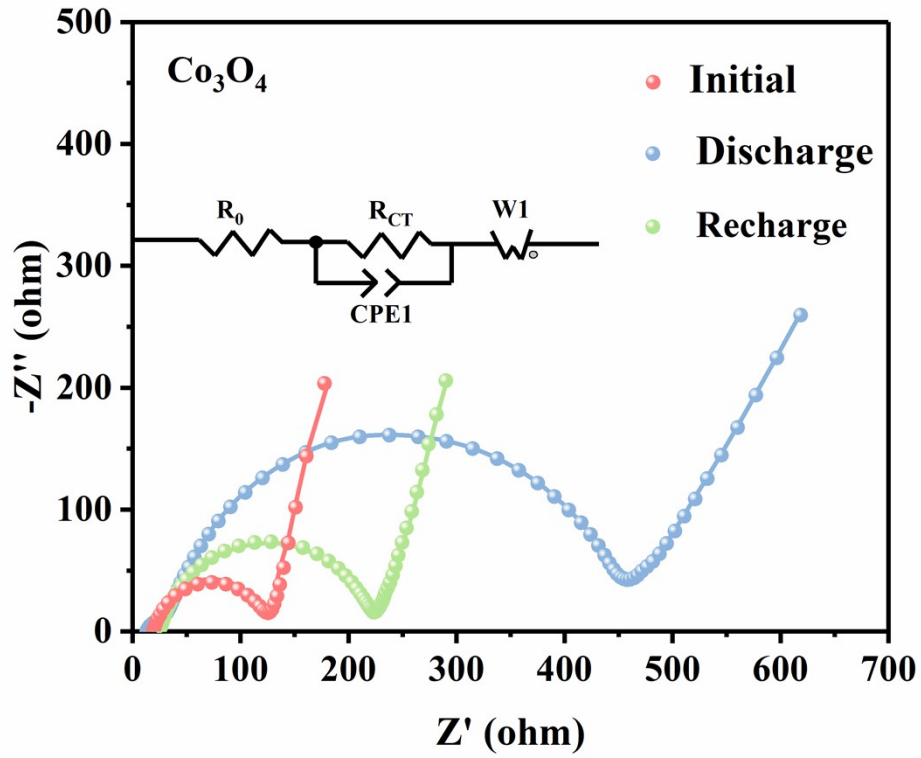


Figure S16. Nyquist plots of  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  as cathode catalyst in LOBs at initial, 1st full discharge, and 1st full recharge.

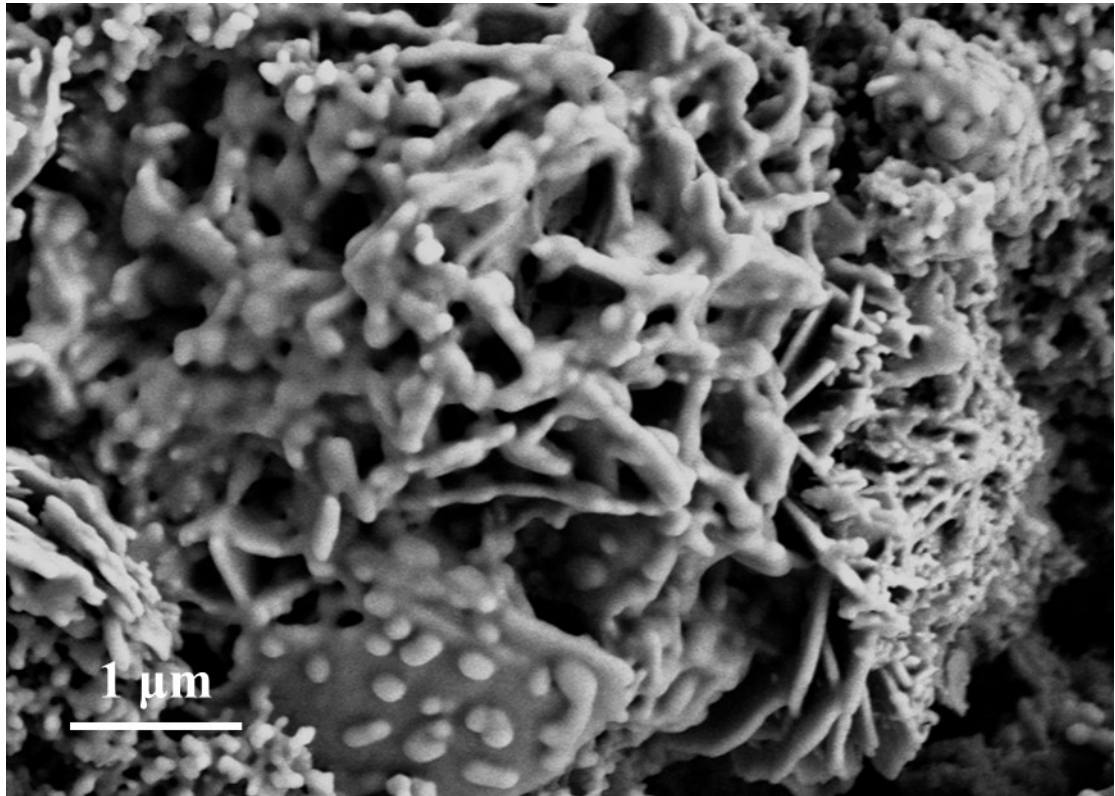


Figure S17. SEM image of Ru-Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-based LOBs after charge-discharge cycles test.

**Table S1. The comparison in catalytic performance between the Ru-Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> battery and other batteries with different oxygen electrodes.**

Catalyst	Electrolyte	Current density (mA/g)	Full discharge capacity (mAh/g)	Cycling conditions (current density and fixed capacity)	Cycle Number (cycles)	Reference
Ru-Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	1 M LiTFSI in TEGDME	100	25000	300 mA/g 500 mAh/g	Over 500	This work
Ru-Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	1 M LiTFSI in TEGDME	200	16861	200 mA/g 500 mAh/g	Over 180	Angewandte Chemie International Edition 62(15) (2023)
N-doped carbon sphere synthesized by MOF	1 M LiTFSI in TEGDME	500	18762	500 mA/g 1000 mAh/g	Over 200	International Journal of Energy Research 45(5) (2021) 7120-7128