## **Heterostructure Boosts a Noble-metal-free Oxygen-evolving Electrocatalyst in Acid**

**Part 1: Supplementary Figures: (1)**



**Figure S1.** (a)-(h) XRD patterns of different hybridized  $CoO_x/MnO_x$ . Compared with those of pristine  $CoO_x$  and  $MnO_x$ , the diffraction peaks of  $CoO_x/MnO_x$  are generally broader, which might be attributed to the reduced crystallite size and hybridization-formed heterostructures. (i) Synchrotron XRD comparison between  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$  and  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>+MnO<sub>2</sub>$ .



Figure S2. CV curves in 0.5M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. No IR correction was applied for the polarization potential.



Figure S3. Time-dependent CV scans for  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$ : the black color curve represents potential while the red-color curve corresponds to the current density.



**(4)**



Figure S4. FE-SEM photos of different magnifications for (a) hybridized Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>; (b) Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>; **(c)** MnO<sub>2</sub>; **(d)** milled Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>; and **(e)** milled MnO<sub>2</sub>. (f) Particle size distribution of hybridized  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$  obtained by SEM image analysis.





**Figure S5.** N<sub>2</sub> adsorption/desorption isotherms with the inset Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) surface area and Barrett-Joyner-Halenda (BJH) pore size distribution. We note that  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$ has a lower BET surface area than that of milled  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  and milled MnO<sub>2</sub>. This might be attributed to the strong coupling-induced agglomeration. Forming the heterointerface within  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$ will sacrifice the exposed surface of each oxide, potentially lowering the BET surface area.

**(6)**



**Figure S6.** CV curves of  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  (5 cycles), MnO<sub>2</sub> (5 cycles),  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$ , and RuO<sub>2</sub> (10 cycles)0.5M  $H_2SO_4$ , where the current densities were normalized by the BET surface areas of the metal oxides.



Figure S7. Linear scan voltammetry of hybridized  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$  and RuO<sub>2</sub> after 5 cycle pre-CV scans in 0.5M H2SO4. The polarization current was normalized by the geometric surface area of the disk electrode.

The electrochemical active surface area (ECSA) was evaluated using cyclic voltammograms (CVs), which were scanned between 1.1 and 1.2 V vs. RHE. In that potential range, the Faradaic current is negligible and the detected current results from the double-layer capacitive charging. Specifically, the current i depends linearly on the electrochemical double-layer capacitance  $C_{DL}$ following:  $i = \dot{v} C_{DL}$  where  $\dot{v}$  is the potential scan rate (we used 5 mV s<sup>-1</sup>, 10 m V s<sup>-1</sup>, 20 mV s<sup>-1</sup>, and 50 mV s<sup>-1</sup>). Half of the anodic and cathodic current difference, i.e.,  $\Delta i/2 = (i_a - i_c)/2$ , centered in the middle of the potential scanning range  $(1.15 \text{ V} \text{ vs. RHE})$ , was used to calculate the capacitance. The ECSA of each sample was calculated by the formula  $ECSA = C_{DL}/C_{s}$ , where  $C_{DL}$  and  $C_s$  represents the double layer capacitance and specific capacitance, respectively. To estimate the ESCA,  $C_s = 0.1$  mF cm<sup>-2</sup> was applied based on previous reports.<sup>1</sup> No conductive carbon was added when preparing the samples for the above CV scans.



**Figure S8.** CV curves in the non-faradaic potential region of 1.05-1.15 V vs. RHE for **(a)**  $Co_3O_4+MnO_2$ ; **(b)**  $Co_3O_4/MnO_2$ ; **(c)**  $RuO_2$ ; and **(d)** milled  $Co_3O_4$  + milled MnO<sub>2</sub>. **(e)** The capacitive current density as a function of different potential scanning rates. From the slope of Figure (d), the ECSA of  $Co_3O_4+MnO_2$ ,  $Co_3O_4/MnO_2$ , and  $RuO_2$  were determined to be 0.64, 4.4, and 49.6 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. (e) The comparison between the BET surface area and the ECSA. The order of ECSA results generally matched that of their BET surface areas, a trend consistent with previous benchmarking study (J. Mater. Chem. A, 2016, 4, 3068-3076).

**(9)**



**Figure S9.** Comparison of normalized OER current density by the ECSA. Linear scan voltammetry was measured after 5 cycles of pre-CV scans in  $0.5M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>$ . We noted that  $RuO<sub>2</sub>$ has a geometric activity inferior to that of  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$  at large OER potentials (Figure S7), but larger ECSA (Figure S8), leading to a lower specific OER activity as presented in this plot.



Figure S10. Chronopotentiometry test of RuO<sub>2</sub> at the current density of 100 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> in 0.5M H2SO4. RuO<sup>2</sup> was loaded on a Ti felt for the test and the current density was normalized by the geometric surface area of the Ti felt.

**(11)**



**Figure S11**. (a) Linear scan voltammetry of hybridized  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$  and IrO<sub>2</sub> in 0.5M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. (b) Chronopotentiometry test of IrO<sub>2</sub> at the current density of 100 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> in 0.5M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. (c)

**(10)**

Polarization curve of a PEMWE cell at 80 °C with  $IrO<sub>2</sub>$  as the anode and Pt/C as the cathode. The voltage was iR-corrected.



**(12)**

**Figure S12.** CV curves of studied catalysts in  $0.5M H_2SO_4$ : (a) and (b) milled  $Co_3O_4$ ; (c) and (d) milled MnO<sub>2</sub>; (e) and (f) milled Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>+milled MnO<sub>2</sub>, where polarization current densities were normalized by the glassy carbon disk area and the BET area of metal oxides.

**(13)**



**Figure S13**. Home-made testing setup of PEMWE cell.

**(14)**



**Figure S14.** EIS of the PEMWE cell with studied catalysts as the anode,. The polarization resistance was calculated as the distance between the two points of the impedance intersecting the real axis of the Nyquist plot.

**(15)**



Figure S15. Chronoamperometry test of a PEMWE cell with the Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub> as the anode at a voltage of 1.7 V.

**(16)**



Figure S16. TEM of hybridized  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$  with the corresponding FFT.

**(17)**



**Figure S17.** HAADF-STEM image and EDS mapping with sum spectrum of hybridized  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>.$ 







Figure S18. Co 2p and Mn 2p XPS for hybridized Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MoO<sub>x</sub>.

**(19)**



Figure S19. Linear combination fitting of Mn K-edge XANES for Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub> with Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and  $MnO<sub>2</sub>$  as the standards.

**(20)**



**Figure S20.** Co K-edge and Mn K-edge XAFS of milled  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  mixed simply with milled MnO<sub>2</sub> (milled  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$ +milled MnO<sub>2</sub>).



Figure S21. O K-edge TFY sXAS of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, MnO<sub>2</sub>, and Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>.

**(22)** By comparing the Non-normalized XAFS profiles, we found that the intensity of the white line in the non-hybridized sample  $(Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>+MnO<sub>2</sub>)$  was reduced after polarization compared to its

intensity at OCV, which might reflect some components of the sample experienced leaching.<sup>2</sup> In contrast, the hybridized sample  $(Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>)$  exhibited no significant changes in the XAFS white line intensity after polarization, suggesting that it may be more resistant to leaching.



**Figure S22. (a)** Photograph of the experimental setup for the operando XAFS test, **(b)**-**(e)** Non-normalized in-situ XAFS spectra around the cobalt K-edge and Mn K-edge.



**Figure S23.** Co K-edge XANES of OER-polarized  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>+MnO<sub>2</sub>$  as compared with that of  $Co<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$ . The Co K-edge energy of OER-polarized  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>+MnO<sub>2</sub>$  was lower than that of  $Co<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  from the 1<sup>st</sup> derivative of normalized XANES, indicating a valence lower than +3.

**(24)**



**Figure S24.** Co L-edge TEY at different potentials for (a) simply-mixed  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>+MnO<sub>2</sub>$  and (b) hybridized  $Co_3O_4/MnO_2$ . Compared with the OCV state, Co L-edge sXAS of  $Co_3O_4+MnO_2$  moved positively by ~0.3 eV at 1.8V vs. RHE, suggesting Co oxidation. In contrast, Co L-edge sXAS of  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$  remained almost no shift.



**Figure S25.** Mn L-edge sXAS of standard  $Mn^{4+}$ ,  $Mn^{3+}$ , and  $Mn^{2+}$ , where  $MnO_2$ ,  $Mn_2O_3$ , and  $MnO$ were used as the reference samples to measure the standard spectrum.

**(26)**



Figure S26. Linear combination fitting of Mn L-edge sXAS for OER-polarized Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>+MnO<sub>2</sub>. The fitting error was  $\sim$  4.8%.



**Figure S27.** RIXS-sXAS in TEY and IPFY modes around Mn L-edge for OER-polarized **(a)**  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>+MnO<sub>2</sub>$  and **(b)**  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$ .

**(28)**



Figure S28. Co K- and Mn K-edge WT-EXAFS of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub> before ((a) and (c)) and after ((b) and **(d)**) the OER polarization.



**Figure S29.** O K-edge (a) TEY and (b) TFY sXAS of  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>+MnO<sub>2</sub>$  at different potentials. Compared with the OCV state, sXAS shifted negatively by ~0.1 eV at 1.4V, and positively by ~0.2 eV at 1.7 and 1.8 V. The voltage refers to RHE.



Figure S30. O K-edge sXAS of OER-polarized  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$  at different potentials.

**(30)**

**(31)**



Figure S31. Initial two CV curves in 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, where the metal oxide was loaded on carbon paper for the measurement and the current density was normalized by the geometric surface area of the carbon paper.

### **(32)**



**Figure S32.** Photograph of the experimental setup for the operando XRD test in 0.5M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.



**Figure S33**. In-situ XRD pattern of (a)  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>+MnO<sub>2</sub>$  and (b)  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$  at different potentials. The diffraction peak around 26° is indexed to the carbon paper.

**(34)**



Figure S34. TEM of different magnifications for Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> after the OER polarization in 0.5M  $\rm H_2SO_4.$ 



**Figure S35.** TEM of different magnifications for MnO<sub>2</sub> after the OER polarization in 0.5M  $H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>$ .



**(36)**

Figure S36. TEM of different magnifications for Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub> after the OER polarization in 0.5M H2SO4. The above FFT represents the whole image region, while the below FFT corresponds to the red-color region.

## **(37)**



**Figure S37.** HAADF-STEM image and EDS mapping with sum spectrum of OER-polarized  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$ . The yellow, red, and green colors correspond to Co, Mn, and O element, respectively.



**Figure S38.** ICP-MS-detected dissolution of Mn and Co after soaking  $MnO_2$  and  $Co_3O_4$ individually in 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> for different time: (a) relative loss in percentage; (b) mass loss per unit BET surface area of MnO<sub>2</sub> and Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>; (c) average dissolution rate per unit BET surface area

of MnO<sup>2</sup> and Co3O4. From **Figure (c)**, we note that the average dissolution rate decreased with time, suggesting the gradually stabilized leaching, which might be attributed to the balance of dissolution and redeposition of leached cations.



**Figure S39.** (a) Photo of Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>, CoOOH, and Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> soaked in 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> for different lengths of periods. Co(OH)<sub>2</sub> was received from Aladdin without additional treatment. CoOOH was made by stirring the mixture of  $Co(OH)_2$  with NaClO in 1 M KOH for 24 hours.<sup>3</sup> Their XRD patterns in **(b)** are well indexed into those of  $β$ -Co(OH)2 and  $β$ -CoOOH. For Co(OH)<sub>2</sub>, it was dissolved rapidly turning the solution color pink. The crystalline CoOOH was also partially

dissolved, as reflected by the gradual color change of the solution.  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  exhibited a much stronger corrosion resistance, without obviously being dissolved.



**Figure S40.** TOF-SIMS-derived 3D images of postive and negative ions for Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub> after OER cycling in 0.5M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.



**Figure S41.** Elemental steps for the OER process following the AEM and LOM pathway.

**(42)**



**Reaction Coordinates** 

**Figure S42.** Free energy diagram of elemental steps at  $U = 0$  V for  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>(111)$  and  $MnO<sub>2</sub>(110)$ based on the AEM and LOM processes.

#### **(43)**

From the results shown below, for the -O binding (magenta color curve), the PDOS was more obviously uplifted relative to the Fermi level on Mn site compared to that on Co site, consisting with the stronger O adsorption on Mn site as shown in Figure 4a. In contrast, the PDOS change was less significant for OOH adsorption on both Co and Mn sites in  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$  (blue color curve relative to green color curve), indicating a similar OOH adsorption strength. This result was consistent with our analysis of free energy diagram of OER elemental steps (Figure 4a): in  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$ , Co site with weaker O adsorption contributed to a lower theoretical OER overpotential than Mn site.



**Figure S43**. Computed partial density of states (PDOS) of Co-*d* orbital and Mn-*d* orbital in Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub> for substrates, O\*, and OOH\*.

**(44)**

The thermodynamic stability of  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$  was characterized by surface Pourbaix diagram, which was constructed by the stable surface at the relevant  $U_{\text{SHE}}$  (standard hydrogen electrode under the conditions of  $pH=0$ ,  $P(H_2) = 1$ bar). Maintaining a stable surface may prevent charge transfer on the catalyst-electrolyte interface under the electrochemical condition. In our model, we assumed that the oxidation of water to OH\* and O\* on  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$  occurred through the following steps:

$$
H_2O + * \rightarrow OH * + H^+ + e^-
$$
  
\n
$$
OH * \rightarrow O * + H^+ + e^-
$$
  
\n
$$
\Delta G_1^0
$$
  
\n
$$
\Delta G_2^0
$$
  
\n
$$
\Delta G_2^0
$$
  
\n(1)

Under standard conditions, the free energy of  $H^+ + e^-$  is equal to 0.5 $H_2$ . Free energies of all compounds were calculated by:

$$
\Delta G^0 = \Delta E + \Delta ZPE - T\Delta S \tag{3}
$$

To include the effects of pH and potential *U*, eqs 1 and 2 are rewritten as eqs 4 and 5:

$$
\Delta G_1 = \Delta G_1^0 - eU - 0.059 \text{pH}
$$
\n
$$
\Delta G_2^0 - eU - 0.059 \text{pH}
$$
\n(4)

The free energy change of OH\* and O\* termination can be expressed by eqs 6 and 7:

$$
\Delta G_{\text{OH}} \ast = \Delta G_1 \tag{6}
$$

$$
\Delta G_{\text{O}}{}_{*} = \Delta G_1 + \Delta G_2 \tag{7}
$$

surface	$\Delta E/\mathrm{eV}$	$\Lambda ZPE/eV$	$T\Lambda S/eV$	$\Delta G/eV$	
$1MLOH*$	0.65	$-0.09$	$-0.27$	0.83	
$1ML O*$	. 99	$-0.23$	$-0.11$	1.87	

Table 1. Thermodynamic quantities for 1ML OH\*, 1ML O\* on  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$  under standard conditions (pH = 0,  $P(H_2) = 1$  bar,  $U = 0$  V).

Table 2. Thermodynamic quantities for 1ML OH\*, 0.5ML OH\* & 0.5ML O\*, 1ML O\* on Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> under standard conditions (pH = 0,  $P(H_2) = 1$  bar,  $U = 0$  V).

surface	$\Lambda$ <i>E</i> /eV	<i>AZPE/</i> eV	$T\Lambda S/eV$	$\Delta G/eV$
1ML OH*	.93	$-0.38$	$-1.03$	2.58
$0.5ML$ OH* & $0.5ML$ O*		$-0.64$	$-0.74$	4.82
IML O*	7.54	$-0.91$	$-0.45$	7.08



**Figure S44**. Surface Pourbaix diagrams of  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$  and  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  under electrochemical conditions. The thermodynamically stable states of the surface under SHE and pH values are highlighted by purple (for  $*O$ ), green (for  $*OH$  or  $O^* + OH^*$ ), and orange (for substrates).

**(45)**



**Figure S45.** Mn or Co vacancy formation energy.

#### **(46)**

The FT-IR spectra were recorded using a Bruker Invenio-S spectrometer with a MCT detector, and an in-situ Harrick chamber. Prior to adsorption of the probes, each sample was pre-treated under Ar (30 mL/min) at 573 K for 30 min in the chamber, then cooled to the room temperature. The background spectrum was then collected. Subsequently, the CO gas was purged into the chamber (30 mL/min) until saturation, with spectra collected at several intervals (0-30 min). After that, the purging gas was switched to high-purity argon for collecting the spectra during desorption (0-30 min).

The results below show the spectra after desorption and background subtraction. For  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$ , the observed bands of surface carbonyl complexes around 2169 and 2130 cm-1 agreed well with the literature results.<sup>4</sup> Compared with that of  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$ , the dominant band of MnO<sub>2</sub> shifted to high frequencies, with some bands forming at wave numbers greater than 2200 cm-1 (highlighted by yellow circle). This might be related with the higher valence of Mn cations than that of Co cations.<sup>5</sup> Even with Co3+, the corresponding carbonyl bands were reported to be below 2200 cm<sup>-1</sup>, e.g., typically around 2190 cm<sup>-1</sup>.<sup>5</sup> As a result, those band around 2200 cm<sup>-1</sup> could be considered as feature bands of  $MnO_2$ . Generally,  $Co_3O_4/MnO_2$  integrated the spectra features of both  $MnO_2$  and  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$ . Compared with MnO<sub>2</sub>, the feature bands of MnO<sub>2</sub> around 2200 cm<sup>-1</sup> (highlighted in yellow) that are absent in  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  shift to lower frequencies in  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$ , which implied a lower Mn valence in  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$  than in MnO<sub>2</sub>. This trend was consistent with other characterizations (XAFS, sXAS, XPS) in the manuscript. We further calculated the area of this feature band for both

 $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$  and MnO<sub>2</sub>, and used the area ratio to estimate the surface coverage of MnO<sub>2</sub> in  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$ . The result demonstrated that around 46.8% of  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$  surface was occupied by Mn sites, yielding a corresponding Mn to Co ratio on the surface to be 0.88, which ratio was consistent with the value of 0.86 obtained by XPS in the manuscript.



**Figure S46.** FT-IR spectra of CO adsorption on studied metal oxides, where the green- and yellowcolor circle highlight the feature bans attributed to  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  and  $MnO<sub>2</sub>$ , respectively.

**(47)**



**Figure S47.** (a) XRD pattern of hybridized  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CeO<sub>2</sub>$  and (b) its OER performance.



**Figure S48.** XPS full spectrum of different hybridized  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>x</sub>$ , where Zr 3d XPS signal center around 182 eV was not detected.

#### **(48)**

There exists an optimal milling period for the catalytic performance. From the below results, a milling period of 20 hours was optimal to achieve the best OER performance. When the milling period was low, the electronic interaction between  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  and  $MnO<sub>2</sub>$  might be insufficient to generate beneficial coupling for improving the catalytic performance. This was supported by the XAFS study that elongating the milling period gradually modified the valence and electronic configuration of  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  and MnO<sub>2</sub>. However, when the milling period is further increased, the crystallinity of the sample might be sacrificed, supported by the TEM image that a milling period of 40 hours generated a disordered structure on the surface of milled  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub>$ . This sacrificed

crystallinity may influence the interaction of both components within the hybrid and their structural integrity, thus affecting the catalytic activity and stability.



**Figure S49.** Characterization and OER performance of hybridized Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub> prepared by ball milling for different time: (a)-(d) Co K-edge and Mn K-edge XAFS; (e) polarization curve; (f) TEM image of hybridized  $Co_3O_4/MnO_2$  milled for 40 hours, where the mass ratio of  $Co_3O_4$  vs.  $MnO<sub>2</sub>$  was fixed at 1 : 1.

#### **(49)**

We experimented with various mass ratios for  $MnO<sub>2</sub>$  versus  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$ , specifically 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, and 4. The results indicate that a mass ratio of 1 between  $MnO_2$  and  $Co_3O_4$  provides the best OER performance, leading to an atomic ratio of Mn to Co in the hybrid of approximately 0.92.



**Figure S50.** (a) XRD and (b) CV of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/MnO<sub>2</sub> with different mass ratios. No IR-correction was applied for the CV potentials in  $0.5M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>$ .

# **Part 2: Supplementary Tables:**



**Supplementary Table 1**. OER performance comparison with recently reported catalysts.



Note: Unless additionally noted, the activity listed in the table referred to geometric activity of of the catalystmodified electrode, which was derived by normalizing OER current by the geometric surface area of the working electrode. <sup>Δ</sup> should reduce the Au electrode every 4 hours at OCP to recover the activity.

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