

Effect of Zn/Mn in the supercapacitor behavior of high entropy FeCoNiCrZn/Mn alloy

Gobinda Chandra Mohanty¹, Chinmayee Chowde Gowda¹, Pooja Gakhad², M Sanjay³, Abhishek Singh^{2},
Koushik Biswas^{1,3*} and Chandra Sekhar Tiwary^{1,3*}*

¹School of Nano Science and Technology Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, West Bengal – 721302

²Materials Research Centre, Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560012

³Department of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, West Bengal – 721302

Corresponding authors: abhishek@iisc.ac.in (Abhishek Singh), k_biswas@metal.iitkgp.ac.in (Koushik Biswas) and chandra.tiwary@metal.iitkgp.ac.in (Chandra Sekhar Tiwary)

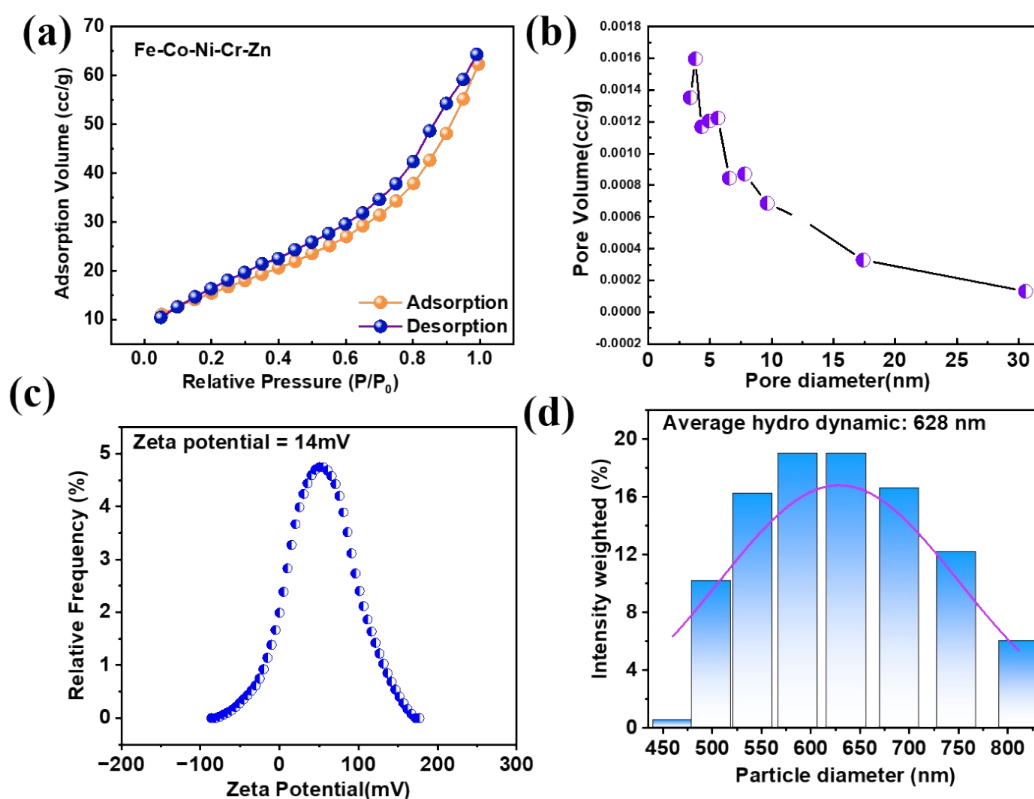


Figure S1: (a) Adsorption-desorption isotherm, (b) Pore diameter vs. pore volume, (c) Zeta potential and (d) Hydrodynamic particles size distribution of Fe-Co-Ni-Cr-Zn HEA powder.

Electrochemical studies:

Electrochemical studies of nanostructured FeCoNiCrZn HEA electrodes were performed using BioLogic SP-200 (France) electrochemical work station. The working electrode was prepared by using this quinary FeCoNiCrZn HEA with 70 wt% of active material along with 20 wt% of activated carbon and 10wt% of PVDF. NMP (solvent) was added to the above mixture to create a homogeneous slurry after grinding in a mortar and pestle, then ultrasonicing the ink for 30 min. The slurry is then coated onto 1 cm² of battery grade graphite sheet (post-acetone wash) (size 1 x 2 cm², thickness 0.2 mm) and followed by drying at 60 °C overnight in a vacuum oven. Later, the HEA-coated graphite sheet, platinum wire and Ag/AgCl were used as working, counter and reference electrode, respectively for the three electrode measurement system. All electrochemical measurements were taken in the optimized concentration of aqueous KOH (3M) electrolyte. The

supercapacitor study is explained with the assistance of cyclic voltammetry (CV), galvanostatic charge discharge (GCD), and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS).

The CV curves of FeCoNiCrZn show nonlinear curves for which the specific capacitance was calculated as^{1,2}

$$C_s (F g^{-1}) = \frac{\int_{V_i}^{V_f} I(V) dV}{m v (V_f - V_i)} \quad (S1)$$

Since FeCoNiCrZn HEA follows a non-triangular discharge process, the specific capacitance was calculated as³,

$$C_s (F g^{-1}) = \frac{I \int V dt}{m (V_f - V_i)^2} \quad (S2)$$

$\int_{V_i}^{V_f} I(V) dV$, m , v , $I \int V dt$ and $(V_f - V_i)$ are integral area under CV, mass loading, scan rate, integral area under discharge and potential window respectively.

An asymmetric supercapacitor (ASC) device is demonstrated with wide voltage window, high specific capacitance, and high specific energy with long cyclic stability. The device usually consists of two electrodes with balanced charge, weight, and corresponding stable voltage⁴. Further an electrochemical capacitor capacitance is expressed as specific capacitance (gravimetric F g⁻¹). The specific energy and specific power of the ASC device (which follows non-linear characteristics) are evaluated by **equation S3** and **equation S4**, respectively^{5, 6}

$$E (Wh kg^{-1}) = \frac{I \int V dt}{m 3.6} \quad (S3)$$

$$P (W kg^{-1}) = \frac{E}{\Delta t} \quad (S4)$$

Where 'I' is current density, $\int V dt$ is the area under the discharge curve of the GCD plot, m is mass loading, E is energy density, and Δt is the charge time.

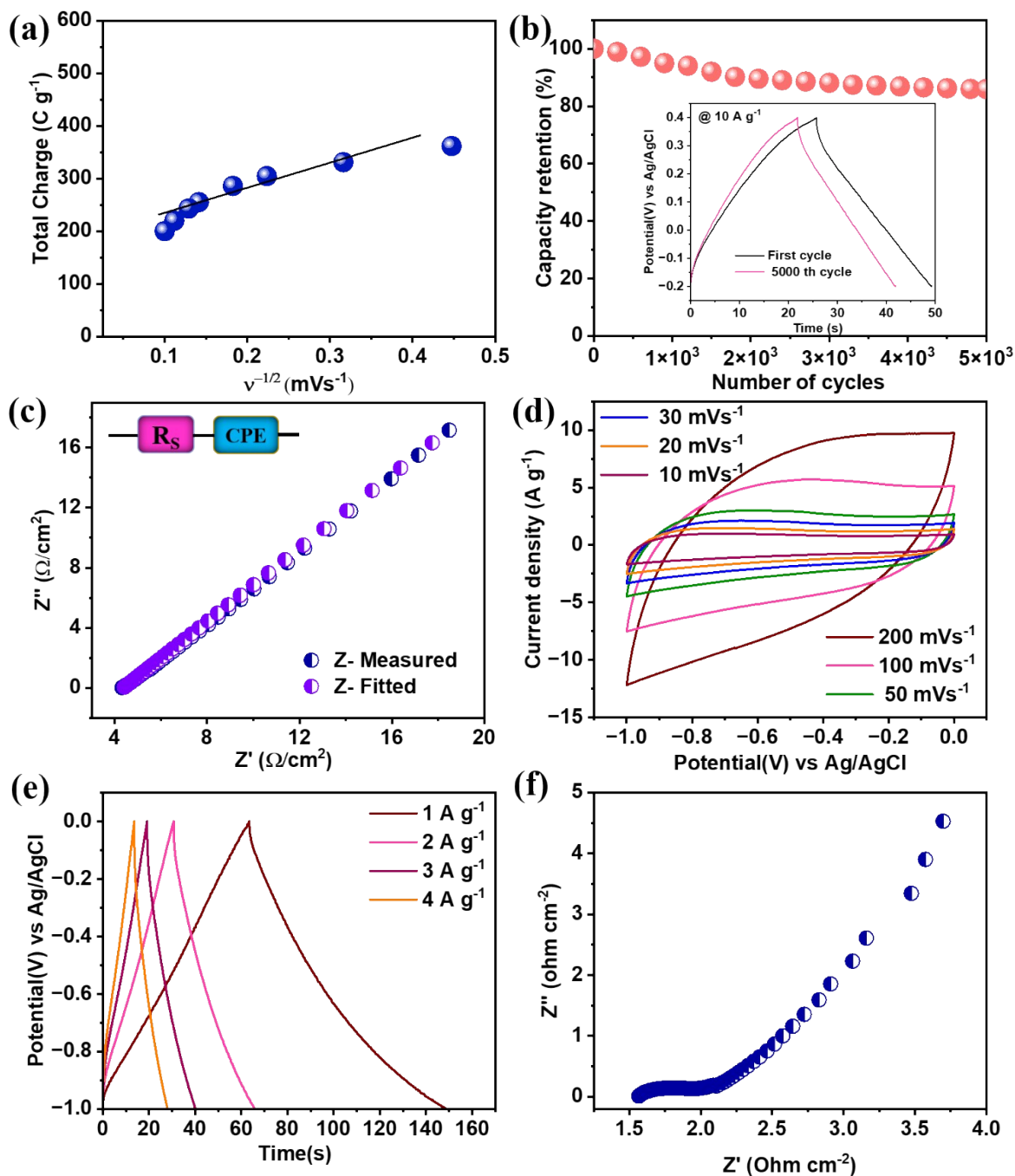


Figure S2: (a) Total charge vs. scan rate for Fe-Co-Ni-Cr-Zn HEA electrode, (b) Cyclic stability at $10\ A\ g^{-1}$ up to 5000 cycles, (c) EIS study for same electrode, (d, e, f) CV, GCD and EIS analysis of activated carbon as negative electrode.

Device Characteristics:

For an electrochemical process, relaxation time constant (τ_0) defines the rate of electrochemical activities in terms of forming the boundary between resistive and capacitive activity. The **Figure S3(a)** shows that the bode plot defines energy storing capability for bode angle and frequency. The known phase angle for an ideal electrochemical double-layer capacitor is 90° , while for pseudo capacitive material, this value ranges between 45° to 90° ⁷. Also, at 45° the capacitive and resistive components are equal¹. Hence the value of τ is calculated from the bode plot is around 801 ms. This lower value of relaxation time facile moderate ion diffusion⁸. Similarly, frequency dependent imaginary and real capacitance parameter is shown in the **Figure S3(b)**. The value of C'' refers to power dissipation due to an uncomplimentary irreversible redox mechanism. The value of C' and C'' is calculated using the **equation S5 and S6**⁹,

$$C' = \frac{-Z''}{2\pi f |Z|^2} \quad (S5)$$

$$C'' = \frac{Z'}{2\pi f |Z|^2} \quad (S6)$$

Also, the diffusion constant plays a major role in determining the electrode's electrochemical activity concerning the nature of electrolyte ions. The feasibility of K^+ ions into the multivalent HEA is clearly understood from the diffusion constant. The Warburg coefficient can be estimated from the slope (Z') and the inverse square root of lower angular frequency $\omega^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ by the relationship¹⁰ as shown in **Figure S3(c)**. The relation between Z' and $\omega^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ is related as per **equation S7**. Accordingly, the Warburg coefficient is directly related to diffusion constant by the **equation S8**¹¹.

$$Z' = R_s + R_{ct} + \sigma_\omega \cdot \omega^{-1/2} \quad (S7)$$

$$D = 0.5 \left(\frac{RT}{A F^2 \sigma_W C} \right)^2 \quad (S8)$$

D, R (8.314 J mol⁻¹ K⁻¹), F (96500 C mol⁻¹), C (3M KOH), and T (298 K) are the diffusion constant, universal gas constant, the Faraday constant, the electrolyte's molarity, and T is the room temperature. The diffusion coefficient has an important role in the relation between scan rate and peak current in a redox process¹², which can directly contribute as **equation S9**

$$i = n F A C D^{\frac{1}{2}} \nu^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{nF}{RT} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \pi^{\frac{1}{2}} \chi(bt) \quad (S9)$$

Performing the calculations using **equation S8**, 2×10^{-13} cm² s⁻¹ value for the K-ion diffusion coefficient for the FeCoNiCrZn liquid state device was obtained, verifying that the K-ion resistance is low, the diffusion path is shortened, and fast charge transfer kinetics is facilitated¹³.

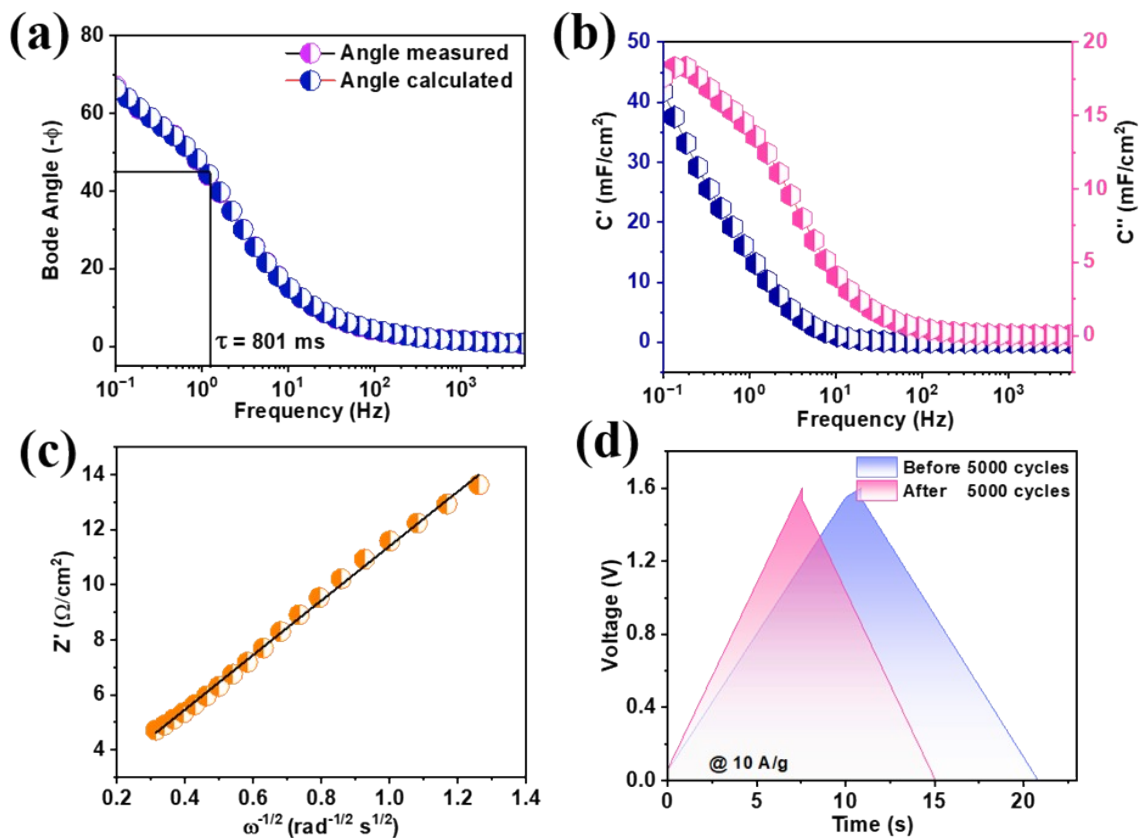


Figure S3: (a) Bode plot (Phase angle versus frequency) (b) Capacitance component (real and imaginary) versus frequency (c) Warburg plot for evaluation of Warburg coefficient (d) Charge-discharge curve at 10 A g^{-1} before and after 5000 cycles.

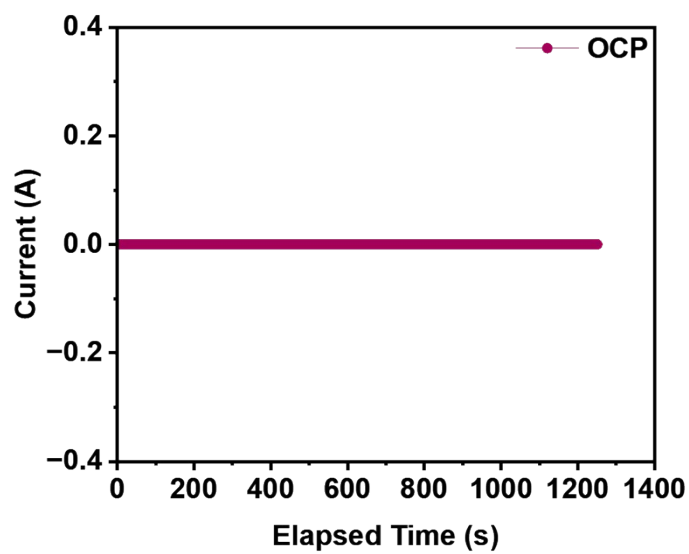


Figure S4: Open circuit potential of the HEA electrode.

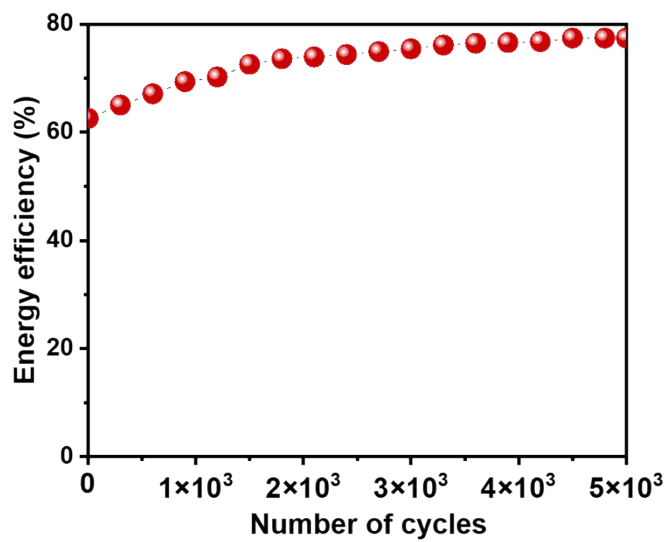


Figure S5: Energy efficiency plot of the device.

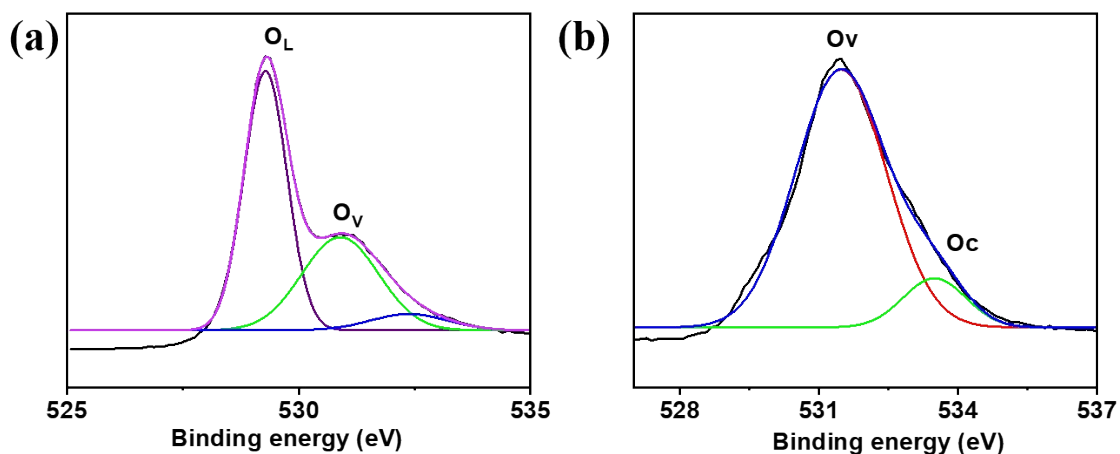


Figure S6: Oxygen states before and after 5000 cycles.

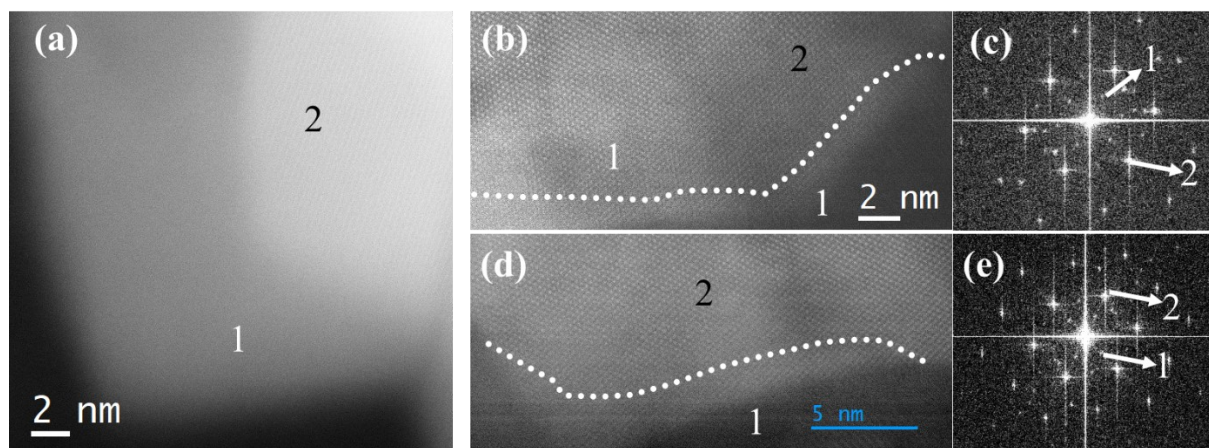


Figure S7: (a) STEM image in HAADF mode showing bright (2) contrast of HEA and thin oxide layer with light contrast (1) (b) (d) HRSTEM image showing HEA (2) metal with 111 oriented lattice with thin oxide layer (1). The dotted line showing the interface. (c) (e) Diffraction from the particle shows extra spot corresponding to thin oxide layer.

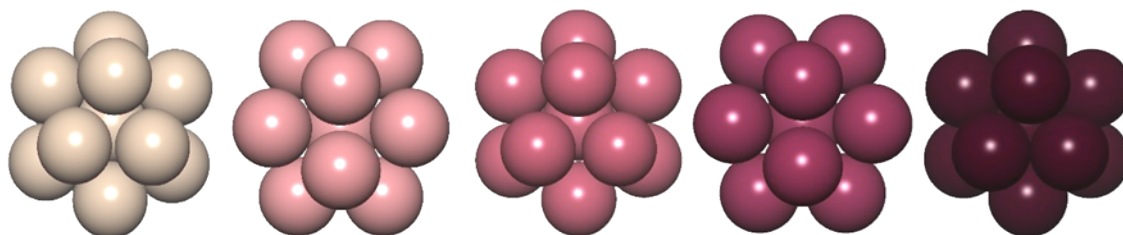


Figure S8: 13-atom icosahedron nanocluster of Cr, Fe, Ni, Co, and Zn (left to right).

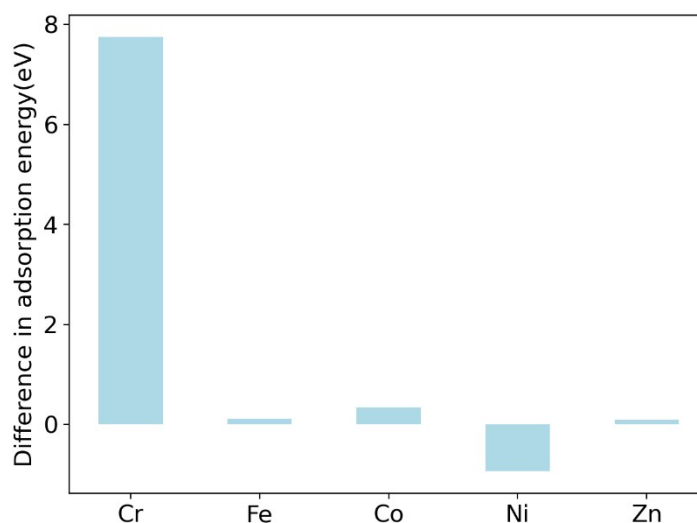


Figure S9: Difference in adsorption energy of OH on each element of HEA nanocluster and individual element nanocluster.

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