

Supplementary Information

Insights on the Electrocatalytic Seawater Splitting at Heterogeneous Nickel-Cobalt based Electrocatalysts Engineered from Oxidative Aniline Polymerization and Calcination

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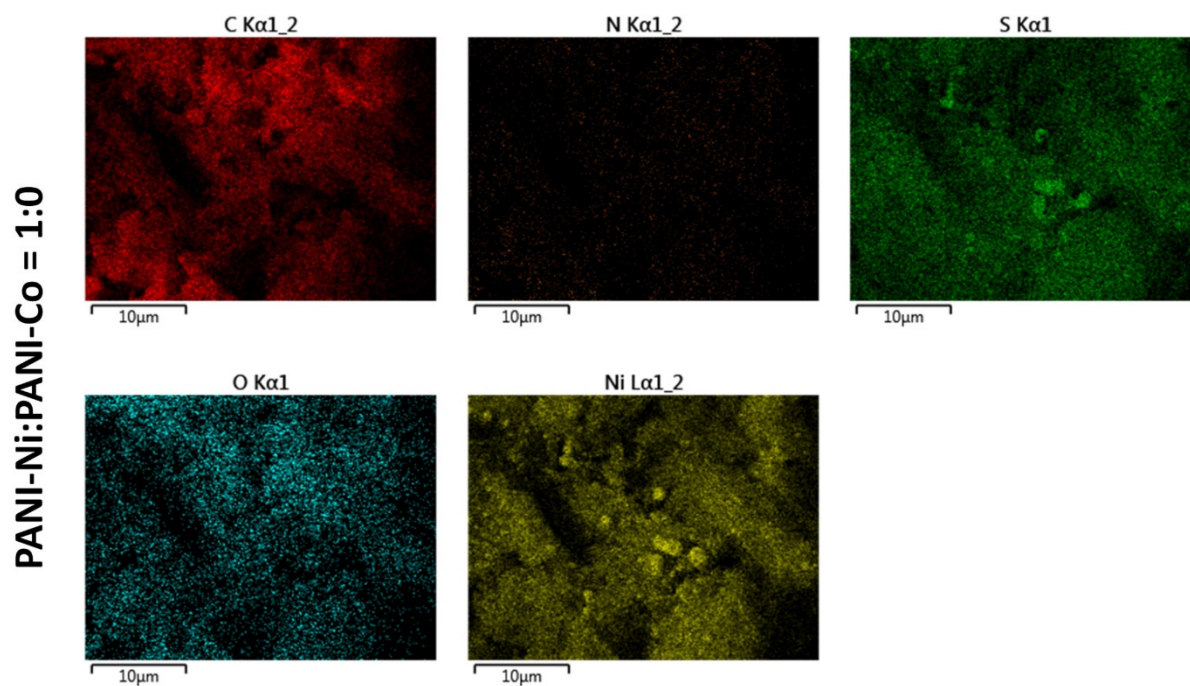


Figure S1. EDX maps of the as-synthesized monometallic electrocatalysts for PANI-Ni:PANI-Co ratio of 1:0 based on atomic ratio of Ni:Co after calcination.

PANI-Ni:PANI-Co = 0:1

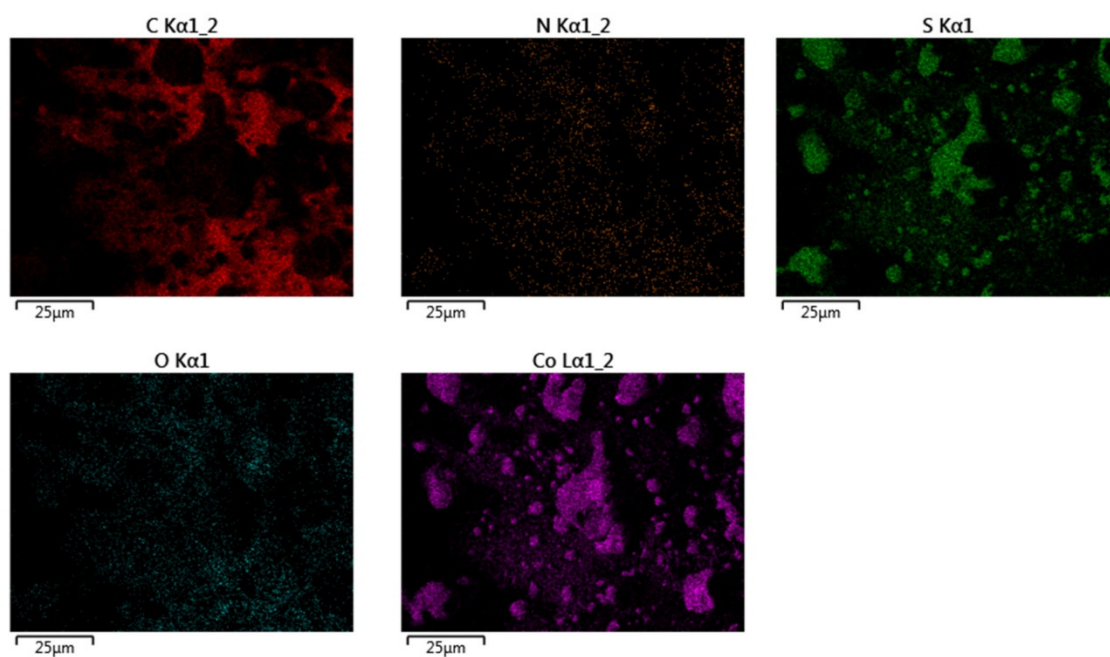


Figure S2. EDX maps of the as-synthesized monometallic electrocatalysts for PANI-Ni:PANI-Co ratio of 0:1 based on atomic ratio of Ni:Co after calcination.

PANI-Ni:PANI-Co = 3:1

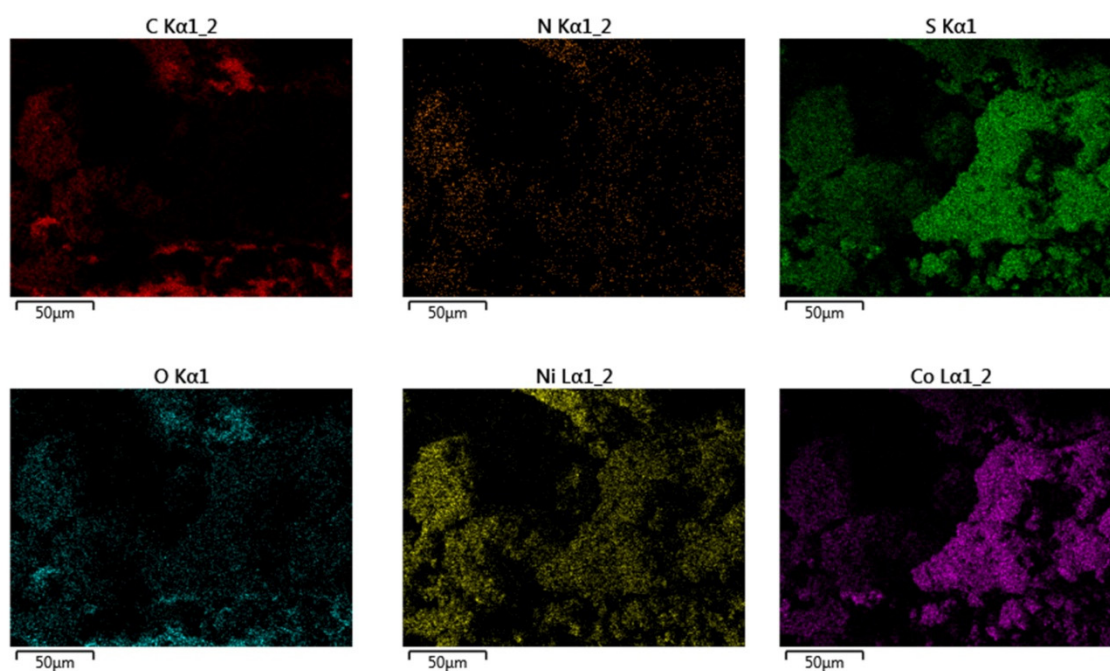


Figure S3. EDX maps of the as-synthesized bimetallic electrocatalysts for PANI-Ni:PANI-Co ratio of 3:1 based on atomic ratio of Ni:Co after calcination.

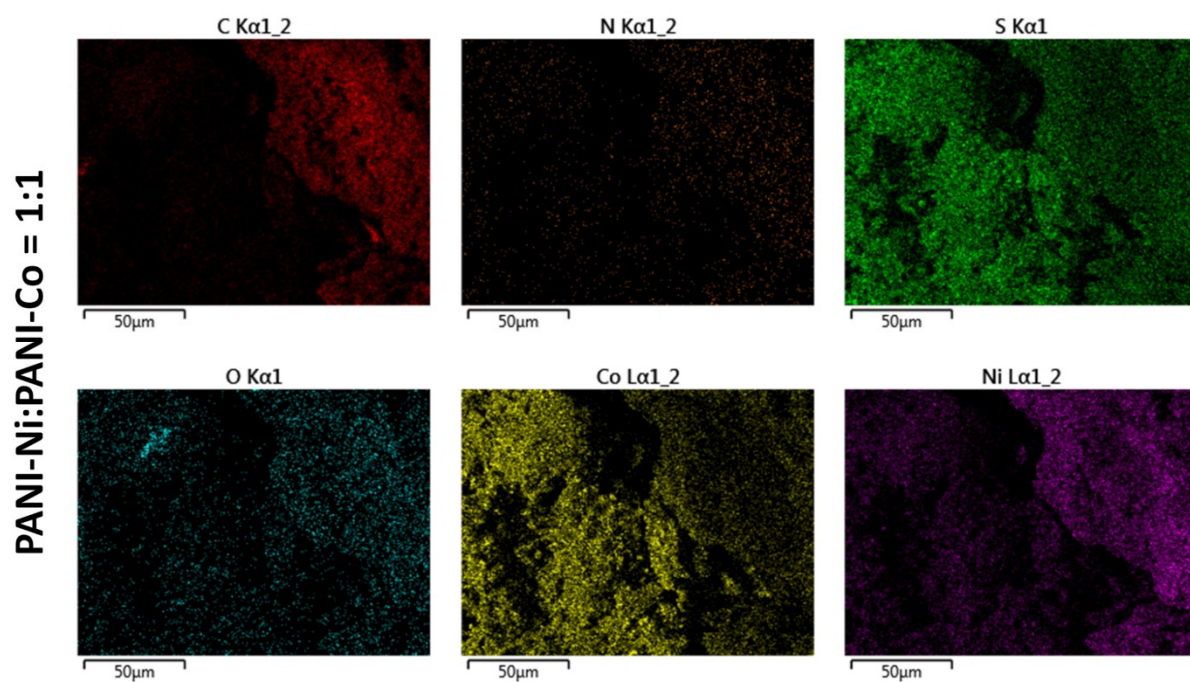


Figure S4. EDX maps of the as-synthesized bimetallic electrocatalysts for PANI-Ni:PANI-Co ratio of 1:1 based on atomic ratio of Ni:Co after calcination.

PANI-Ni:PANI-Co = 1:3

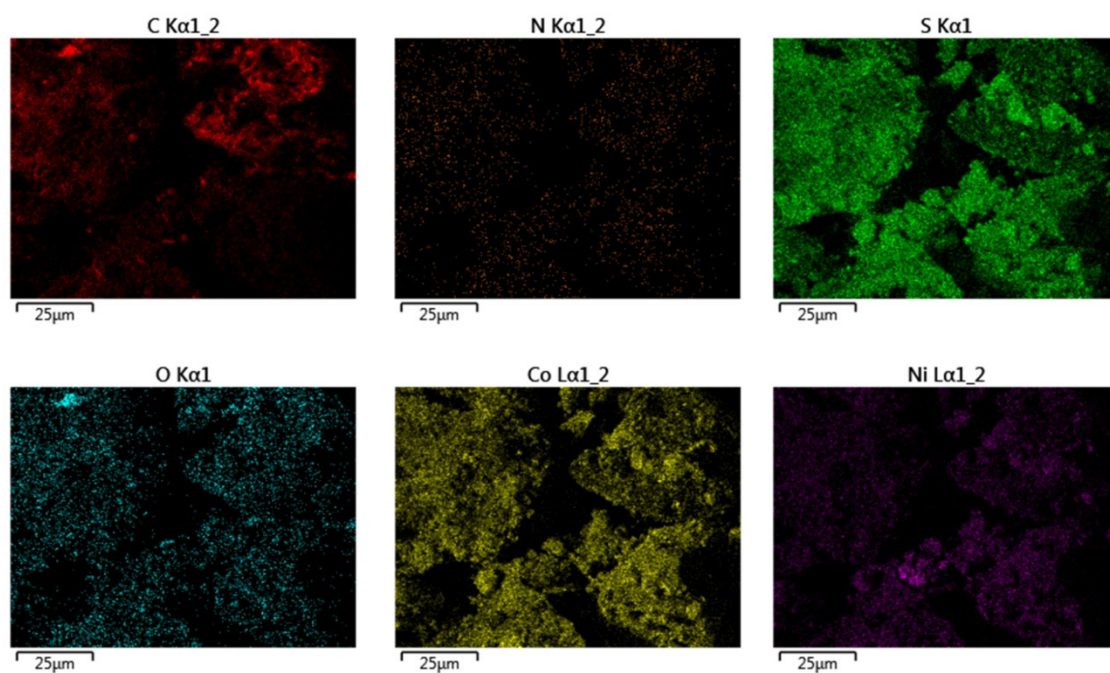


Figure S5. EDX maps of the as-synthesized bimetallic electrocatalysts for PANI-Ni:PANI-Co ratio of 1:3 based on atomic ratio of Ni:Co after calcination.

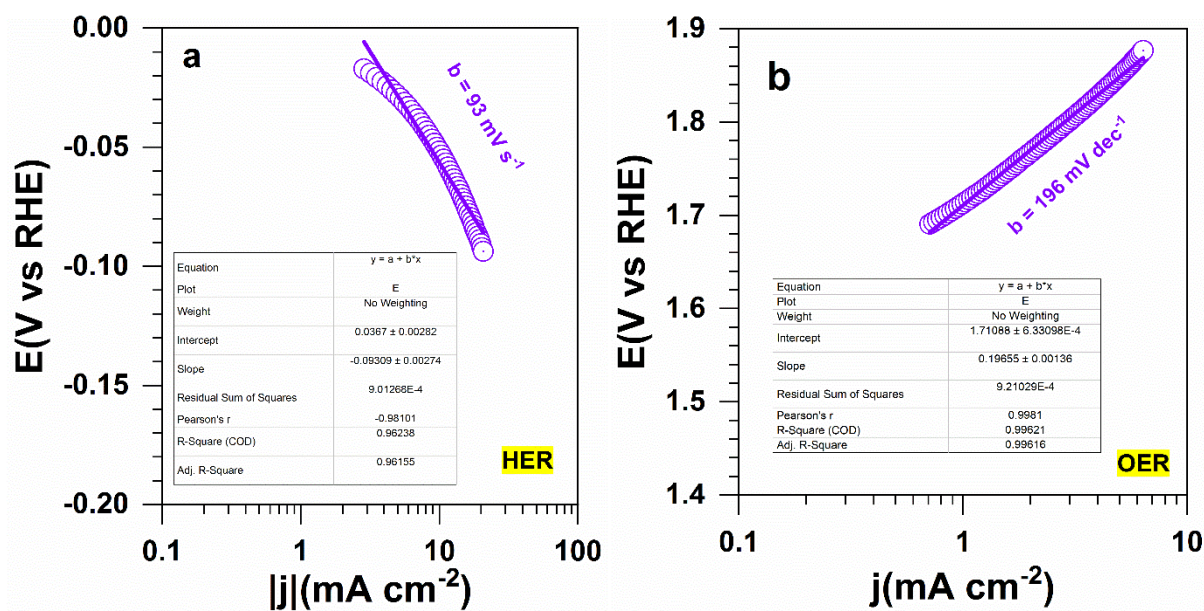


Figure S6. Tafel plots of HER OER from LSV at 0.005 V s^{-1} in $1 \text{ M NaOH} + 1 \text{ M NaCl}$ at the commercial electrocatalyst Pt/Vulcan.

Table S1. Comparative performance of recently reported relevant electrocatalysts for OER in alkaline simulated seawater electrolyte.

| Reference | Catalyst | Working electrode Support (area) | Loading (mg cm ⁻²) | Electrolyte | Overpotential at 10 or 100 mA cm ⁻² $\eta = E - 1.23$ | Tafel slope (mV dec ⁻¹) |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Herein | NiS _x +CoS _x , x = 0, 2/3, 8/9 and 4/3 | Carbon paper (1 cm ²) | 0.4 | 1 M NaOH + 1 M NaCl | $\eta_{10} = 365$ mV $\eta_{100} = 365$ mV | 44 |
| | NiS _x , x = 0, 2/3, 8/9, 4/3 | | | | $\eta_{10} = 387$ mV $\eta_{100} = 398$ mV | 61 |
| | CoS _x , x = 0, and 8/9 | | | | $\eta_{10} = 448$ mV $\eta_{100} > 597$ mV | 94 |
| | Pt/Vulcan | | | | $\eta_{10} > 670$ mV | 197 |
| <i>ACS Appl. Energy Mater.</i> 2020 , 3 (8), 7619-7628.[1] | Co-Fe-O-B | GCE | 0.1 | 1 M KOH + 0.5 M NaCl | $\eta_{10} = 294$ mV $\eta_{100} = 434$ mV | - |
| <i>ACS Catal.</i> 2021 , 11 (12), 6800-6809 and <i>Chemsuschem</i> 2016 , 9 (9), 962-972.[2-3] | NiFe LDH | GCE (0.2 cm ²) | 0.1 | 1 M KOH + 0.5 M NaCl | $\eta_{100} = 359$ mV | 50 |
| <i>Nat. Commun.</i> 2019 , 10 (1), 5106.[4] | NiMoN@NiFeN | Ni foam | 0.3-0.45 | 1 M KOH + 0.5 M NaCl | $\eta_{100} = 286$ mV | - |
| <i>J. Mater. Chem. A</i> 2021 , 9 (15), 9586-9592.[5] | Ni-doped FeOOH | Ni foam | 3.41 | 1 M KOH + 0.5 M NaCl | $\eta_{100} = 290$ mV | - |
| <i>Int. J. Hydrogen Energy</i> 2021 , 46 (24), 12936-12943.[6] | NiFe LDH | Carbon cloth | - | 1 M KOH + 0.5 M NaCl | $\eta_{10} = 270$ mV | 52 |
| <i>Energy Environ. Sci.</i> 2020 , 13 (10), 3439-3446. [7] | S-(Ni,Fe)OOH | Ni foam | - | 1 M KOH + 1 M NaCl | $\eta_{100} = 275$ mV | - |

For complete literature review (plus HER data) in alkaline simulated seawater electrolyte, reader can refer to a recent Review-article: Liu, G.; Xu, Y.; Yang, T.; Jiang, L., Recent advances in electrocatalysts for seawater splitting. *Nano Mater. Sci.* **2020**, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nanoms.2020.12.003>.

Table S2. Comparative performance of recently reported relevant electrocatalysts for the overall water splitting in an alkaline simulated seawater electrolyte.

| Reference | Catalyst | Electrolyte | Cell voltage at 10 or 100 mA cm ⁻² | Faradaic Efficiency (%) |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Herein (multi-functional) | NiS _x +CoS _x , x = 0, 2/3, 8/9 and 4/3 | 1 M NaOH + 1 M NaCl (room temperature) | U ₁₀ = 1.93 V | 0.09 ± 0.01 in Cl ⁻ oxidation |
| | NiS _x , x = 0, 2/3, 8/9, 4/3 | | U ₁₀ = 2.05 V | - |
| | CoS _x , x = 0, and 8/9 | | U ₁₀ = 2.15 V | - |
| | Pt/Vulcan | | U ₁₀ = 1.88 V | - |
| <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.</i> 2019 , 116 (14), 6624-6629.[8] | Anode = NiFe/NiS _x -Ni ₃ (16 mg cm ⁻² onto Ni foam) Cathode = Ni-NiO-Cr ₂ O ₃ cathode (8 mg cm ⁻² onto Ni foam) | 6 M KOH + 1.5 M NaCl (80 °C) | U ₁₀₀ = 1.52 V | 100% based O ₂ quantification |
| <i>Energy Environ. Sci.</i> 2020 , 13 (6), 1725-1729.[9] | Anode = NiFe LDH (2 mg cm ⁻² onto gold sputtered titanium felt) Cathode = Pt/Vulcan (0.5 mg cm ⁻² onto carbon based GDL (Sigratec BC 25)) | 0.5 M KOH + 0.5 M NaCl | U ₁₀₀ = 1.67 V | 100% based O ₂ quantification |
| <i>Nat. Commun.</i> 2019 , 10 (1), 5106.[4] | Anode = NiMoN@NiFeN (0.3-0.45 mg cm ⁻² onto Ni foam) Cathode = NiMoN (0.3-0.45 mg cm ⁻² onto Ni foam) | 1 M KOH + 0.5 M NaCl (60 °C) | U ₁₀₀ = 1.58 V | 2% based H ₂ :O ₂ ratio |
| <i>J. Mater. Chem. A</i> 2021 , 9 (15), 9586-9592.[5] | Anode = Ni-doped FeOOH (3.41 mg cm ⁻² onto Ti felt) Cathode = Pt/Vulcan (1 mg cm ⁻² onto Carbon cloth) | 1 M KOH + 0.5 M NaCl (50 °C) | U ₁₀ = 1.42 V U ₁₀₀ = 1.49 V | - |
| <i>Int. J. Hydrogen Energy</i> 2021 , 46 (24), 12936-12943.[6] | Anode = NiFe LDH | 1 M KOH + seawater | U ₁₀₀ = 2.8 V | 5% in Cl ⁻ oxidation |
| <i>Energy Environ. Sci.</i> 2020 , 13 (10), 3439-3446. [7] | Anode = S-(Ni,Fe)OOH (onto Ni foam) Cathode = NiMoN (onto Ni foam) | 1 M KOH + 1 M NaCl | U ₁₀ = 1.45 V U ₁₀₀ = 1.63 V | 100% based H ₂ :O ₂ = 2:1 |

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