

# High-Performing PGM-Free AEMFC Cathodes from Carbon-Supported Cobalt Ferrite Nanoparticles

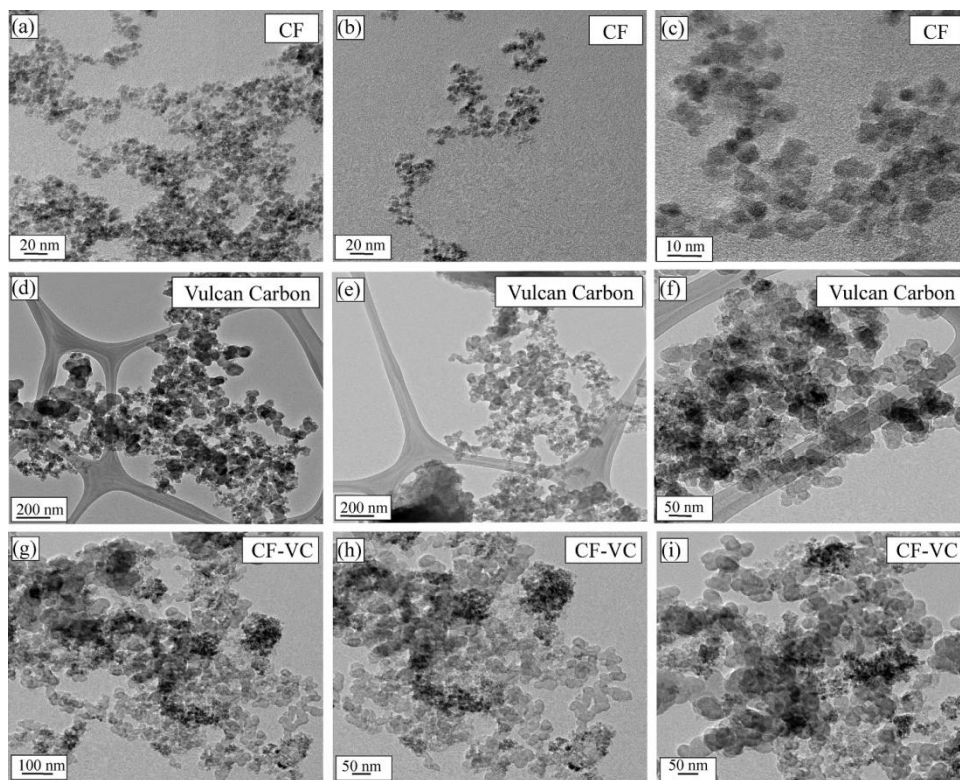
Xiong Peng<sup>-a</sup>, Varchaswal Kashyap,<sup>=b,c</sup> Benjamin Ng<sup>a</sup>, Sreekumar Kurungot<sup>b,c</sup>, Lianqin Wang<sup>d</sup>, John R. Varcoe<sup>d</sup>, William E. Mustain<sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Chemical Engineering, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, USA

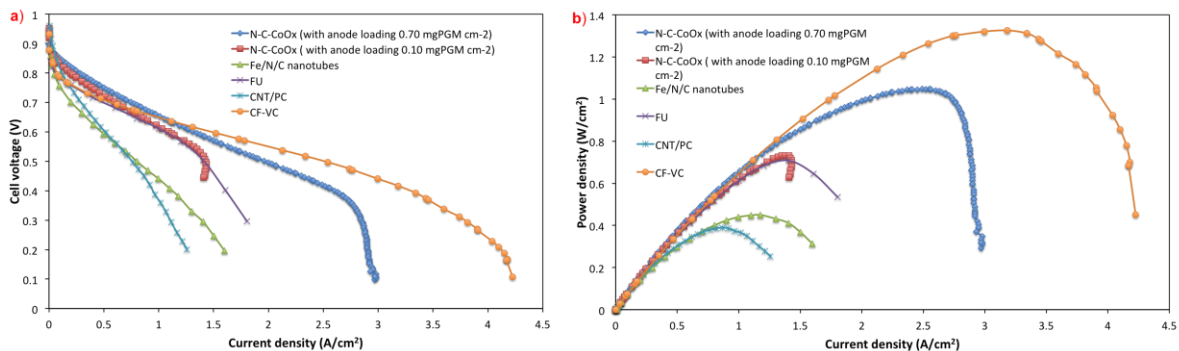
<sup>b</sup>Physical and Materials Chemistry Division, CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pune 41108, India.

<sup>c</sup>Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research, Anusandhan Bhawan, 2 Rafi Marg, New Delhi 110001, India.

<sup>d</sup>Department of Chemistry, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, UK.



**Figure S1.** (a), (b) and (c) TEM image of the CF nanoparticles at higher magnification (20 and 10 nm scale bar). (d), (e) and (f) TEM image of the Vulcan carbon. (g), (h) and (i) TEM image of the CF-VC catalyst.



**Figure S2.** Comparison of single cell performance and kinetic region (inset) between this work and state of the art non-PGM cathode fuel cell work. a), b) i-V curves and i-power density curves between this work and non-PM cathode FU<sup>1</sup>, Fe/N/C nanotubes<sup>2</sup>, N-C-CoO<sub>x</sub><sup>3</sup> and CNT/PC<sup>4</sup> in AEMFC

**Table S1.** Binding energy of the cobalt and iron atoms in the XPS spectra of various catalysts.

S.N.	Catalyst	Co <sup>3+</sup> Peak Position (eV)	Co <sup>2+</sup> Peak Position (eV)	Fe <sup>2+</sup> Peak Position (eV)	Fe <sup>3+</sup> Peak Position (eV)	Reference
1	BaFe <sub>11.4</sub> Ti <sub>0.6</sub> O <sub>19</sub>	-	-	709.3	711.0	5
2	Ni <sub>1-x</sub> Fe <sub>x</sub> O	-	-	710.0	711.8	6
3	aer-Co-SiO <sub>2</sub>	-	781.5	-	-	7
4	Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /TiO <sub>2</sub>	780.2	781.8	-	-	8
5	CF	780.2 (peak area=43897.8; peak width 2.5 eV)	782.3 (peak area=52417.6; peak width 3.8 eV)	709.7 (peak area=33962.5; peak width 2.5 eV)	710.8 (peak area=66901.2; peak width 2.5 eV)	present work
6	CF-VC	780.2 (peak area=10039.7; peak width 2 eV)	781.8 (peak area=25775.2; peak width 3.5 eV)	709.8 (peak area=13627.7; peak width 2.5 eV)	711.2 (peak area=24411.2; peak width 2.9 eV)	present work

## References:

1. Lu, Y. *et al.* Halloysite-derived nitrogen doped carbon electrocatalysts for anion exchange membrane fuel cells. *J. Power Sources* **372**, 82–90 (2017).
2. Ren, H. *et al.* Fe/N/C nanotubes with atomic Fe sites: A highly active cathode catalyst for alkaline polymer electrolyte fuel cells. *ACS Catal.* **7**, 6485–6492 (2017).
3. peng, xiong *et al.* Nitrogen-doped Carbon-CoO<sub>x</sub> Nanohybrids: A Precious Metal Free Cathode that Exceeds 1.0 W/cm<sup>2</sup> Peak Power and 100 h Life in Anion-Exchange Membrane Fuel Cells. *Angew. Chemie Int. Ed.* 1–7 (2018). doi:10.1002/anie.201811099
4. Sa, Y. J. *et al.* A General Approach to Preferential Formation of Active Fe–N<sub>x</sub> Sites in Fe–N/C Electrocatalysts for Efficient Oxygen Reduction Reaction. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **138**, 15046–15056 (2016).
5. Liu, C., Zhang, Y., Jia, J., Sui, Q. & Du, P. Ceramics with Both Considerable Magnetic and Dielectric Properties by. *Sci. Rep.* **5**, 9498 (2015).
6. Moura, K. O., Lima, R. J. S., Coelho, A. A., Souza-junior, E. A. & Duque, J. G. S. Tuning the surface anisotropy in Fe-doped NiO nanoparticles. *Nanoscale* **6**, 352–357 (2014).
7. Taboada, E., Idriss, H., Molins, E. & Llorca, J. Fast and efficient hydrogen generation catalyzed by cobalt talc nanolayers dispersed in silica aerogel. *J. Mater. Chem.* **20**, 4875–4883 (2010).
8. Li, J., Lu, G., Wu, G., Mao, D. & Guo, Y. Effect of TiO<sub>2</sub> crystal structure on the catalytic performance of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst for low-temperature CO oxidation. *Catal. Sci. Technol.* 1268–1275 (2014). doi:10.1039/c3cy01004j