

## **Supporting information**

### **Preparation of graphene oxide**

Graphene oxide solution was made by modified hummer's method, about 3g of scaled graphite powder was stirred with 120 mL of concentrated sulfuric acid to obtain a black viscous liquid, 12 g  $\text{KMnO}_4$  was added under ice water bath conditions and stirred continuously for 15 h to oxidize it fully, and the final product was a dark green oily liquid. Pour the material into a beaker in an ice–water bath environment. Then the hydrogen peroxide was added drop by drop. It could be seen that a large number of bubbles appeared from the solution. Then the solution was continuously stirred until the bubbles disappeared. At last the brown liquid oxidation turns to be golden brown liquid. The remaining material in the reaction was washed away with 0.5 M sulfuric acid and ultrapure water until a golden paste was produced, which was graphene oxide. The obtained graphene oxide was poured into water and sonicated so that the graphene oxide was present as a monolayer. The obtained graphene oxide was configured as a dispersion solution with a concentration of 6 g/L.

### **Catalytic performance tests for ORR**

The oxygen reduction reaction (ORR) catalytic performance of the prepared catalysts were tested in 0.1 M KOH solution. 5 mg of the sample were blended with 500  $\mu\text{L}$  of a 1 wt % Nafion ethanol solution, and then sonicated until a homogeneous dispersion is formed. Next, 5 $\mu\text{L}$  of the obtained dispersion was pipetted onto a glassy carbon electrode with a diameter of 3 mm (0.6  $\text{mg}/\text{cm}^2$ ). For comparison, the Pt/C catalyst dispersion was prepared by the same method. Then, 5  $\mu\text{L}$  of the Pt/C dispersion was also loaded onto a glassy carbon electrode. The catalyst dispersion was dried slowly in air until a uniform catalyst distribution across the electrode surface was obtained. Electrochemical measurements (cyclic voltammetry (CV), rotating disk electrode (RDE) and rotating ring-disk electrode (RRDE) measurements) were performed in a three-electrode cell system. A rotating glassy carbon disk and platinum ring electrode after loading with the electrocatalyst were used as working electrode, an Saturated calomel electrode ( $\text{Hg}/\text{Hg}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) as reference electrode, and a graphite

electrode as counter electrode. The electrochemical experiments were conducted in a 0.1 M KOH aqueous electrolyte (saturated with oxygen by bubbling O<sub>2</sub>) for the oxygen reduction reaction. The potential range was cycled between -0.8 and 0.2 V at a scan rate of 5 mV/s at room temperature after purging O<sub>2</sub> gas for 30 min through the cell. In control experiments, CV measurements were performed in a Ar-saturated electrolyte. RDE measurements were scanned cathodically at a rate of 5 mV s<sup>-1</sup> for different rotating speeds from 625 to 2025 rpm. All potential scale in this study are aligned to reversible hydrogen electrode (RHE) scale. The Nernst equation was used as the conversion formula for converting potentials from Ag/AgCl (3M KCl) to the RHE scale according to equation (1).

$$E_{RHE} = E_{Ag/AgCl} + 0.059pH + E^{\circ}_{Ag/AgCl} \quad (1)$$

where  $E_{Ag/AgCl}$  was the experimentally measured potential using Ag/AgCl as the reference electrode and  $E^{\circ}_{Ag/AgCl}$  was 0.210 V.

The Koutecky–Levich (*K–L*) plots ( $J^{-1}$  vs  $\omega^{-1/2}$ ) were analyzed at various electrode potentials. The slopes of the linear lines were used to calculate the number of electrons transferred ( $n$ ) per oxygen molecule in the ORR process at the electrodes according to the K-L equation (2), and  $J_K$  can be calculated from the inverse of intercept

$$J = 1/J_L + 1/J_K = 1/B\omega^{1/2} + 1/J_K; \quad (2)$$

$$B = 0.62nFC_0(D_0)^{2/3}\nu^{-1/6}; \quad (3)$$

$$J_K = nFkC_0 \quad (4)$$

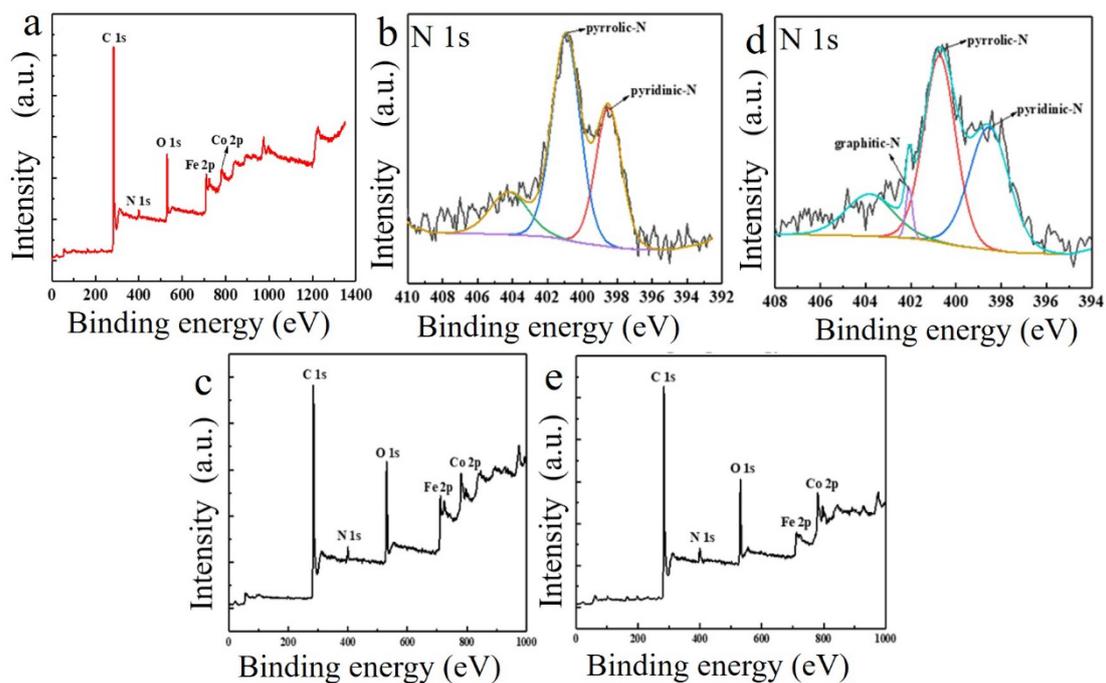
where  $J$  is the measured current density,  $J_K$  and  $J_L$  are the kinetic and diffusion limiting current densities,  $\omega$  is the angular velocity of the rotating electrode ( $\omega = 2\pi N$ ,  $N$  is the linear rotation speed),  $F$  is the Faraday constant ( $F = 96485 \text{ C mol}^{-1}$ ),  $C_0$  is the concentration of O<sub>2</sub> in 0.1 M KOH ( $1.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$ ),  $D^0$  is the diffusion coefficient of O<sub>2</sub> in 0.1 M KOH ( $1.9 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ),  $\nu$  is the kinematic viscosity of the electrolyte ( $0.01 \text{ cm}^2$ ) transfer rate constant. Rotating Ring-Disk Electrode (RRDE) Measurement: Catalyst inks and electrodes were prepared by the same method as above. The disk electrode was scanned at a rate of 5 mV s<sup>-1</sup>, and the ring potential was constant at -0.07 V (vs. Hg/Hg<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). Based on the RRDE results, the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>% and the electron transfer

number ( $n$ ) could be calculated according to the following equation (5) and (6):

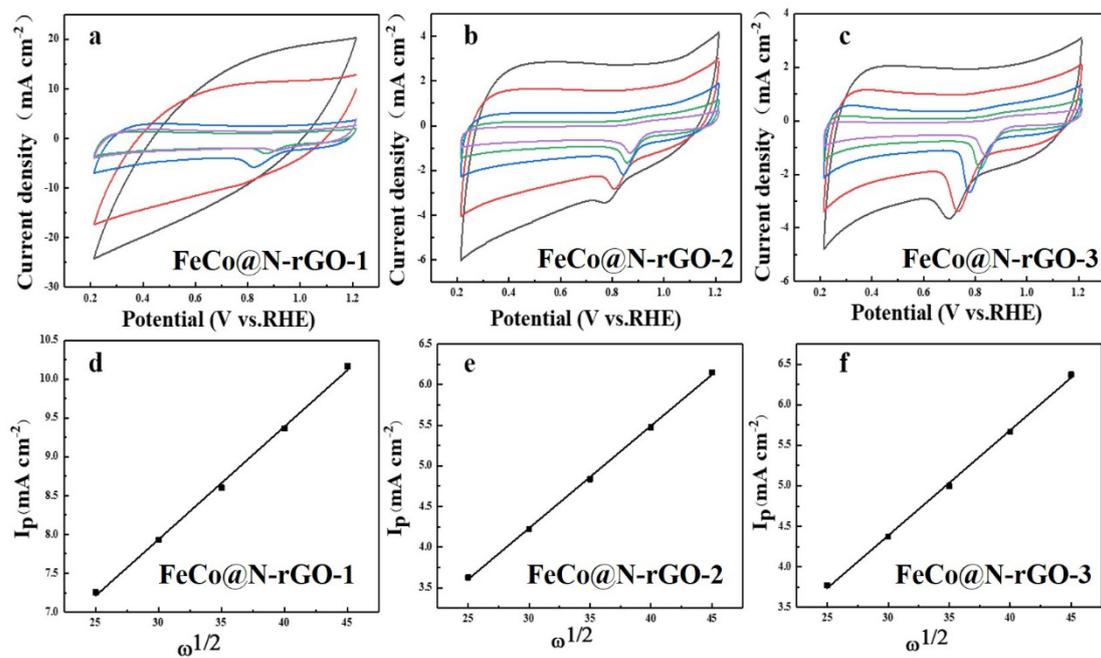
$$n=4 I_{\text{disk}}/ (I_{\text{disk}}+ I_{\text{ring}}/N) \quad (5)$$

$$H_2O_2 (\%) = (200I_{\text{ring}}/N)/ (I_{\text{disk}} + I_{\text{ring}}/N) \quad (6)$$

where  $I_{\text{disk}}$  is disk current,  $I_{\text{ring}}$  is ring current, and  $N$  is current collection efficiency of the Pt ring. In this paper, the value of  $N$  is 0.39.



**Figure S1.** Full spectra XPS of FeCo@N-rGO-1 (a), High resolution N 1s (b) and Full spectra XPS (c) of FeCo@N-rGO-2; High resolution N 1s (d) and full spectra XPS (e) of FeCo@N-rGO-3.



**Figure S2.** CV in different scan rate of FeCo@N-rGO-1 (a), FeCo@N-rGO-2 (b) and FeCo@N-rGO-3 (c).  $I_p$ - $\omega^{1/2}$  of FeCo@N-rGO-1 (d), FeCo@N-rGO-2 (e) and FeCo@N-rGO-3 (f).

**Table S1.** The onset potential and half-wave potential of different materials

material	Onset potential (V vs. RHE)	Half-wave potential (V vs. RHE)
0.14Co0.01Fe-CB <sup>[1]</sup>	0.92	0.86
AA-Fe <sub>2</sub> N@NC <sup>[2]</sup>	0.91	0.80
FeBNC-800 <sup>[3]</sup>	0.968	0.838
CoNP@ FeNC-0.05 <sup>[4]</sup>	0.93	0.85
Fe-Co <sub>4</sub> N@N-C <sup>[5]</sup>	0.90	0.83

**Table S2.**  $R_{\Omega}$  and  $R_{ct}$  for FeCo@N-rGO-1, FeCo@N-rGO-2 and FeCo@N-rGO-3.

material	$R_{\Omega}$ ( $\Omega$ )	$R_{ct}$ ( $\Omega$ )
FeCo@N-rGO-1	3.53	72.31
FeCo@N-rGO-2	5.00	69.04
FeCo@N-rGO-3	10.03	57.92

## References

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