

물분해 시스템 효율/안정성 유지 이슈

Efficiency and Stability Issues in Water Splitting System

Uk Sim, Ph. D.

**A polydopamine-mediated biomimetic
facile synthesis of molybdenum carbide-
phosphide nanodots encapsulated in
carbon shell for electrochemical hydrogen
evolution reaction with long-term durability**

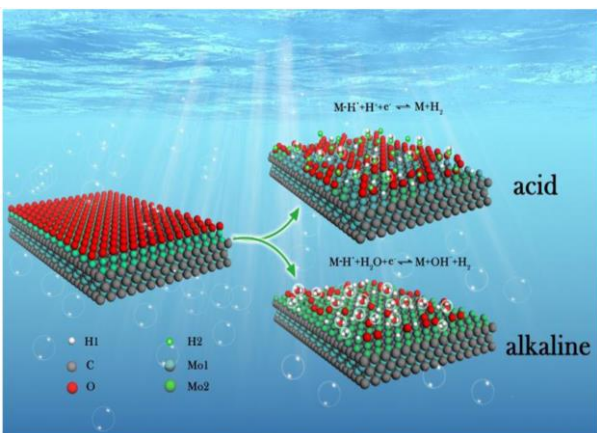
Published

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Woo-Seok Choe ^b, Jung Kyu Kim ^{b,**}, Uk Sim ^{a,*}

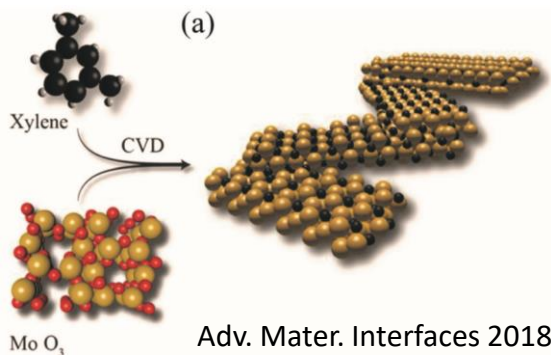
Molybdenum based catalysts



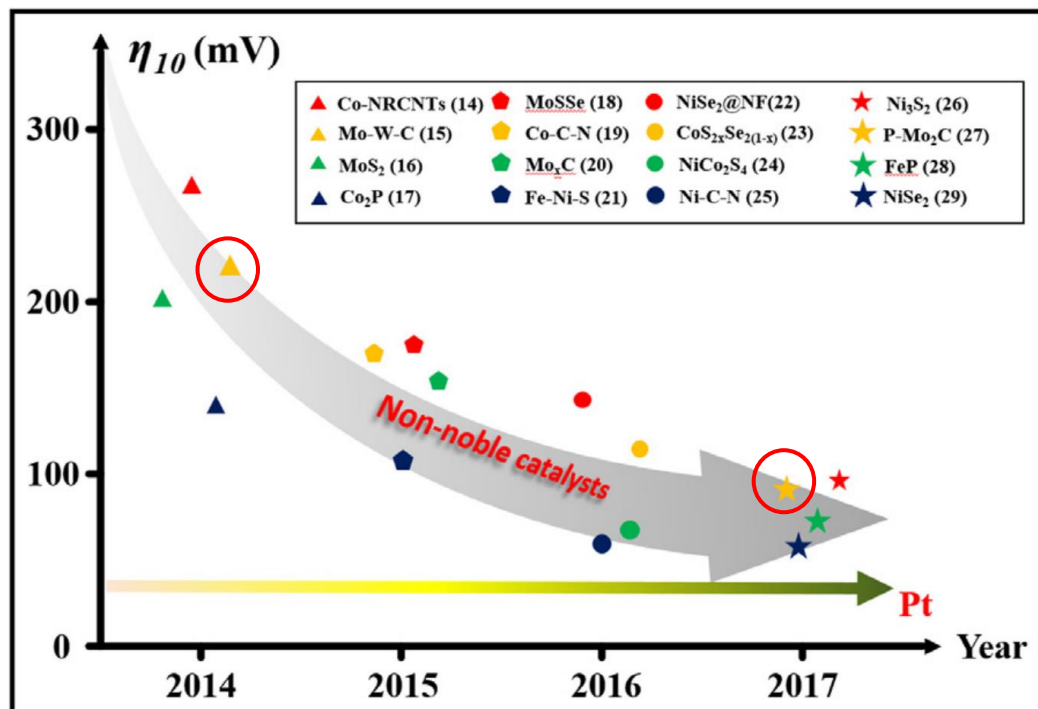
Adv. Funct. Mater. 2017, 27, 1703933



ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces 2018, 10, 40500–40508



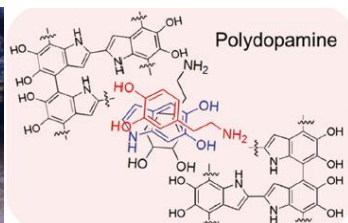
Adv. Mater. Interfaces 2018, 1701113



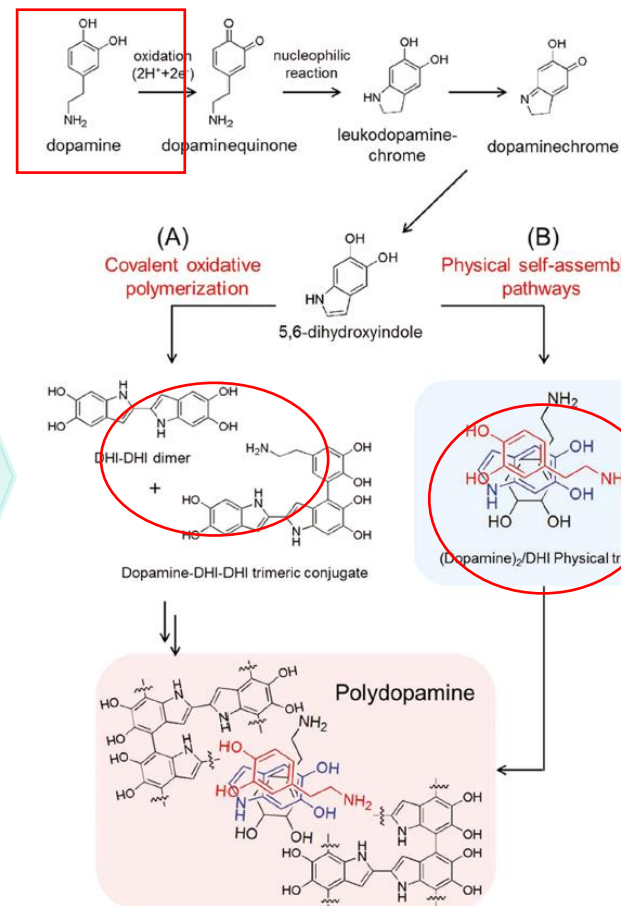
Curr Opin Electrochem, 2018, 7:7-14

- **Molybdenum-based catalysts** have the characteristics of non-precious, environmentally benign, and corrosion resistant catalysts.
- **Mo₂C** is stable and has excellent activity under basic conditions.

Polydopamine



- Eco-friendly chelating agent.
- A facile polymerization process.
- Excellent conductivity after carbonization through annealing.
- Providing rich nitrogen and carbon sources.

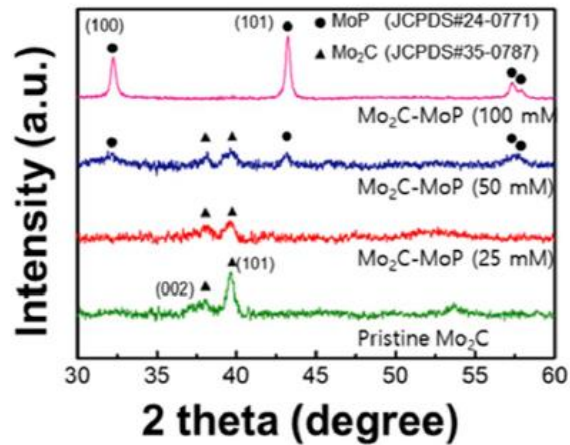


Adv. Funct. Mater. 2012, 22, 4711.

Mo₂C-MoP nanodots encapsulated in carbon shell for HER

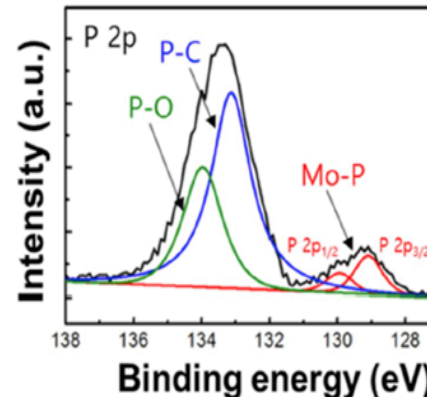
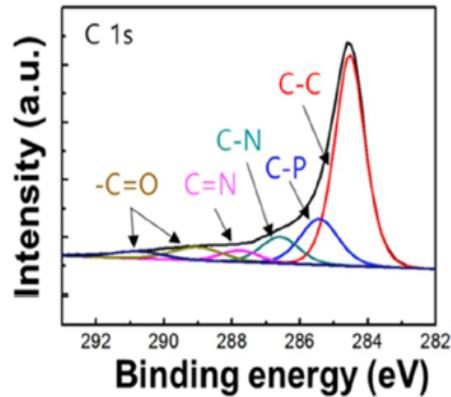
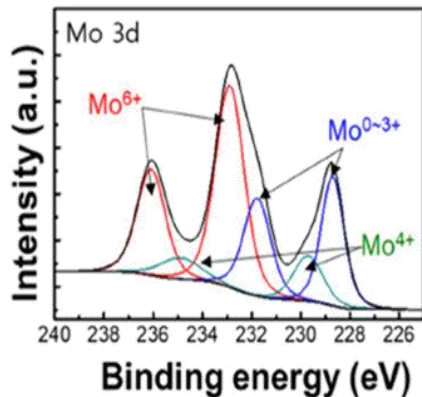
Composites Part B 175 (2019) 107071

X-ray diffraction patterns



- The diffraction peaks of the Mo₂C-MoP@CP (25 mM) sample revealed that no MoP peaks were observed in the XRD pattern of the sample owing to its P deficiency.
- Mixed Mo₂C and MoP phases were observed in the spectrum of Mo₂C-MoP@CP (50 mM), and the obtained diffraction peaks were consistent with orthorhombic Mo₂C and hexagonal MoP, respectively.
- The standard peaks of Mo₂C diminished in the spectrum of Mo₂C-MoP@CP (100 mM), which substantiated the formation of highly crystalline hexagonal MoP nanoparticles.

X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy spectra

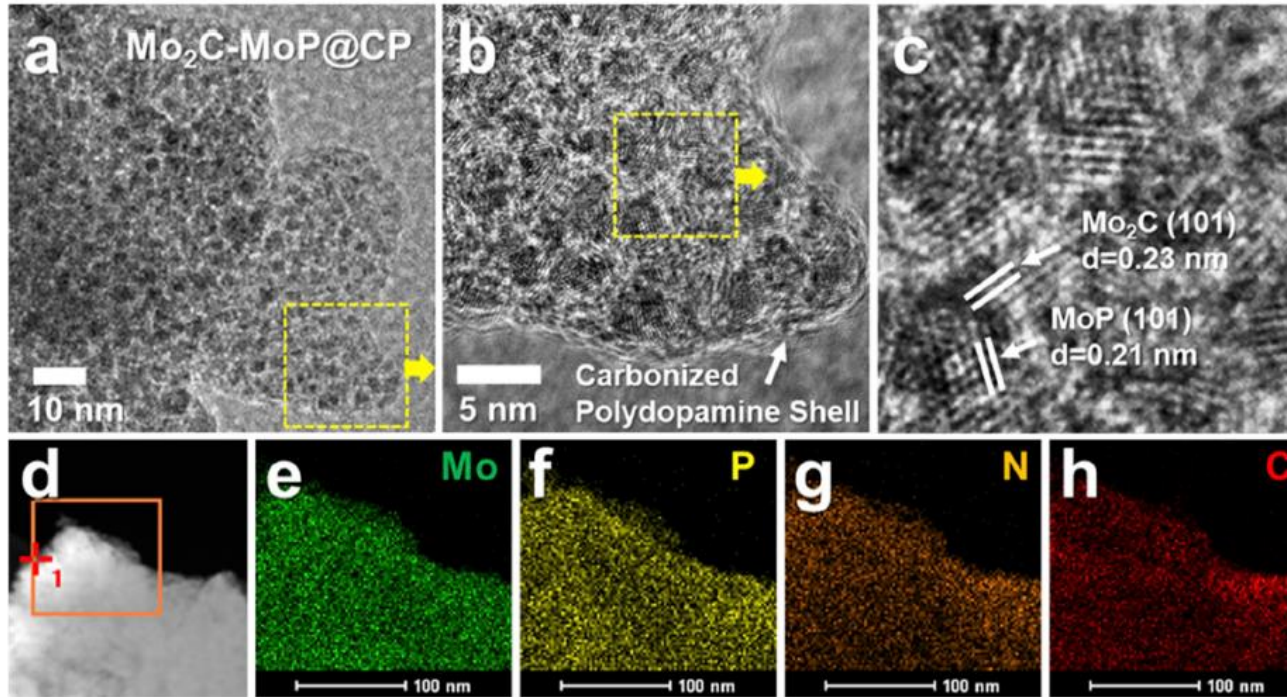


- The significant C-N and C=N peaks imply that the carbon shell from the carbonization of polydopamine was doped with nitrogen species.

Mo₂C-MoP nanodots encapsulated in carbon shell for HER

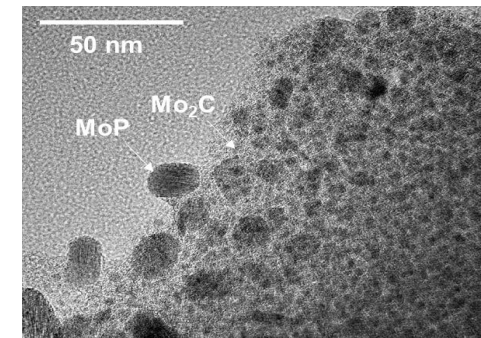
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➤ TEM images and EDS mappings



- The uniform distribution of N and C implied that the carbonized polydopamine shell consisted of N-doped C since polydopamine was an abundant source of N and C.
- The carbonization of polydopamine induced N doping on C, which could result in the high electronic conductivity and intra-connectivity of the Mo₂C-MoP@CP hybrid nanodots and thereby enhanced their reaction kinetics.

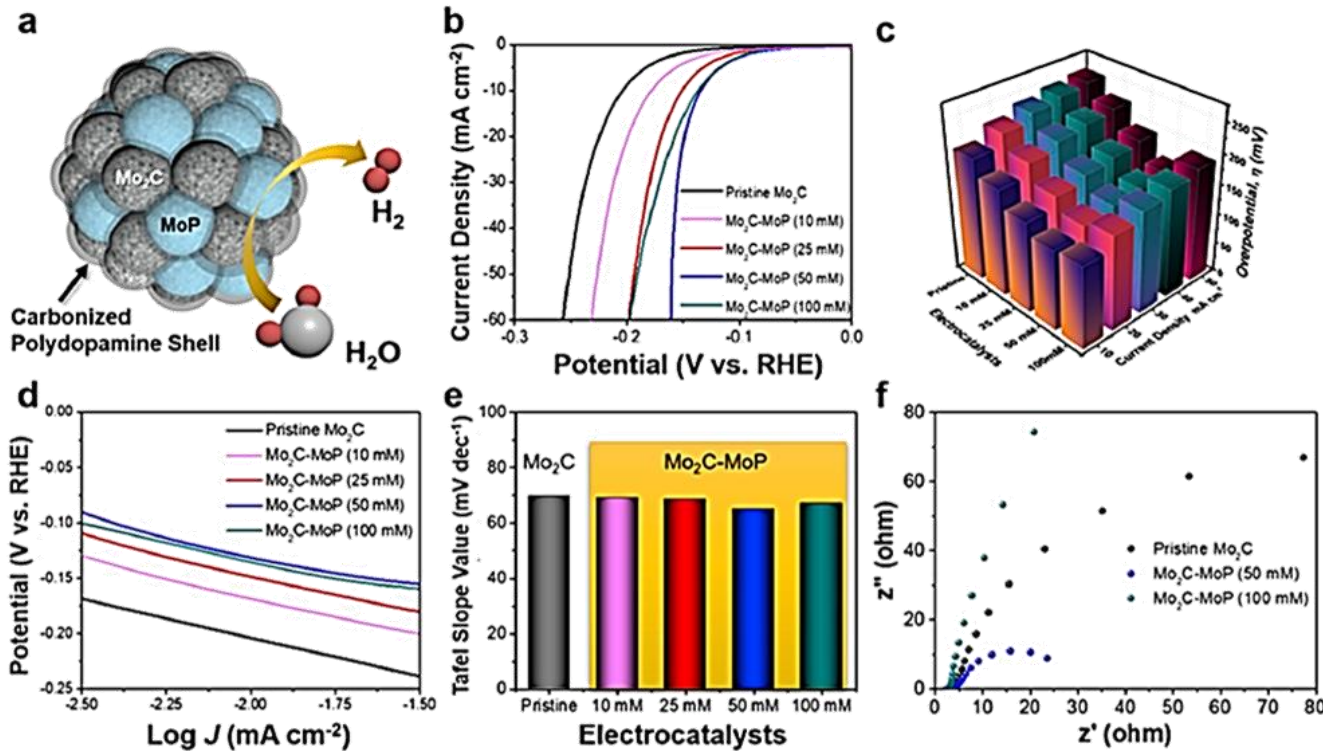
- Mo₂C-MoP@CP nanodots 3–5 nm in diameter were uniformly distributed on the surface and were separated from each other.
- Mo₂C-MoP@CP comprised a conformal coating of N-doped carbon shell that coated the Mo₂C-MoP hybrid nanodots.
- The resolved lattice spacings of 0.23 and 0.21 nm can be observed and are in good agreement with the d-spacings of the orthorhombic Mo₂C (101) and hexagonal MoP (101) phases, respectively.



Mo₂C-MoP nanodots encapsulated in carbon shell for HER

Composites Part B 175 (2019) 107071

➤ Electrochemical data of HER performance



- A significant decrease in the Tafel slope (4.67 mV) from 69.59 mV dec⁻¹ for the pristine Mo₂C to 64.92 mV dec⁻¹ for Mo₂C-MoP (50 mM) demonstrated the high electrochemical HER performance of Mo₂C-MoP@CP bound to 50 mM of P.
- In Nyquist plot, the semicircle of Mo₂C-MoP@CP (50 mM) was smaller than that of pristine Mo₂C, which indicated that the resistance of Mo₂C-MoP@CP (50 mM) was much lower than that of pristine Mo₂C, and therefore, provided favorable charge transport or transfer for efficient HER.

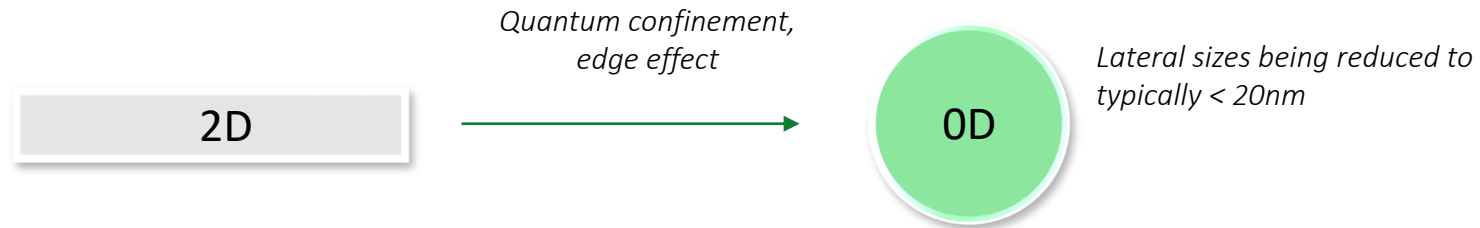
- As the concentration of ammonium dihydrogen phosphate (elemental P) was increased to 50 mM, the current density-potential (J-V) curve shifted approximately 77 mV toward the positive potential compared to that of pristine Mo₂C. The onset potential also positively shifted by 23 mV.

The synergistic effect of nitrogen and fluorine co-doping in graphene quantum dot catalysts for full water splitting and supercapacitor

Published

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Nitrogen and Fluorine co-doping in Graphene Quantum Dot for Water Splitting



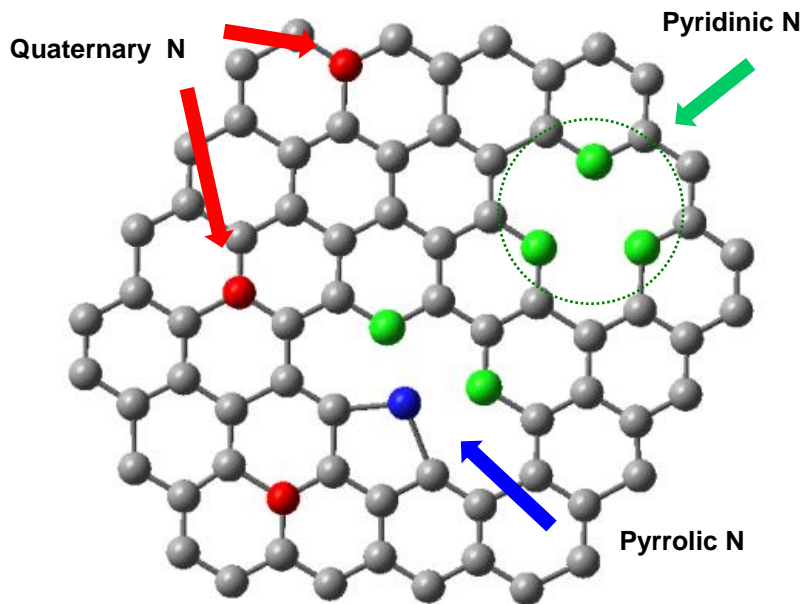
intralayer -----> *Strong covalent*
interlayer -----> *Weak van der Waals*

◆ Advantage of 0D materials (**quantum dots**)

- *Edge abundant features*
- *Larger surface-to-volume ratio*
- *Better solubility in both aqueous and nonaqueous solvent*
- *Higher tunability in both aqueous and nonaqueous solvents*
- *Higher tunability in physiochemical properties*
- *Better amenability to hybridize with other nanomaterials*
- *Ease to be doped and functionalized*

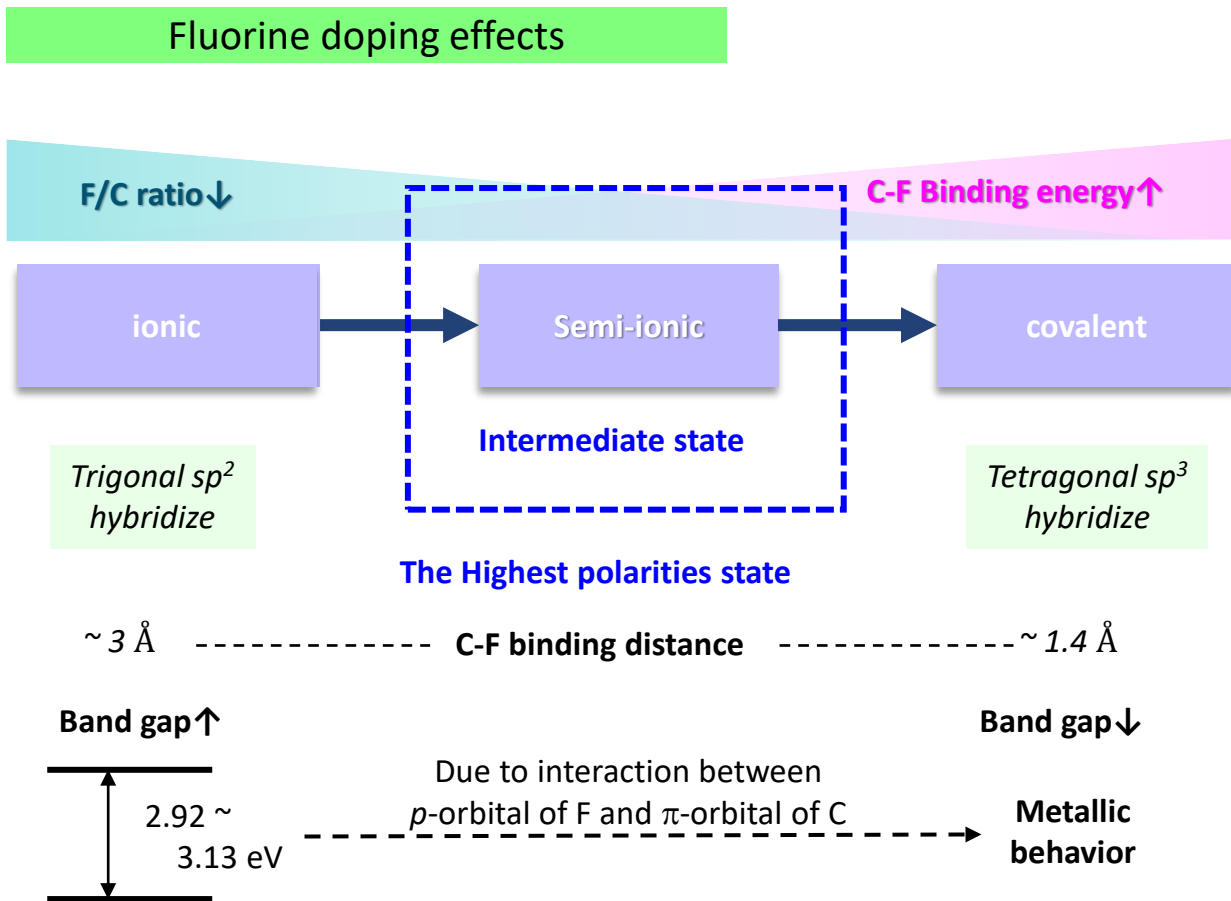
Nitrogen and Fluorine co-doping in Graphene Quantum Dot for Water Splitting

Nitrogen doping effects



- GQD with chemically bonded N atoms could alter their electronic characteristics and offer more active sites
- carbon adjacent to an N atom can cause a positive shift in Fermi energy, which was a benefit for the charge transfer
- Pyridinic : N atoms at the edge of six-membered ring
- Pyrrolic : N atoms at the edge of five-membered ring
- Graphitic : the substitutional site in graphene plane
- As the nitrogen doping time increases, the order of pyridinic, pyrrolic and others dominant.
- The doping to pyridinic and pyrrolic sites increases the work function

Nitrogen and Fluorine co-doping in Graphene Quantum Dot for Water Splitting

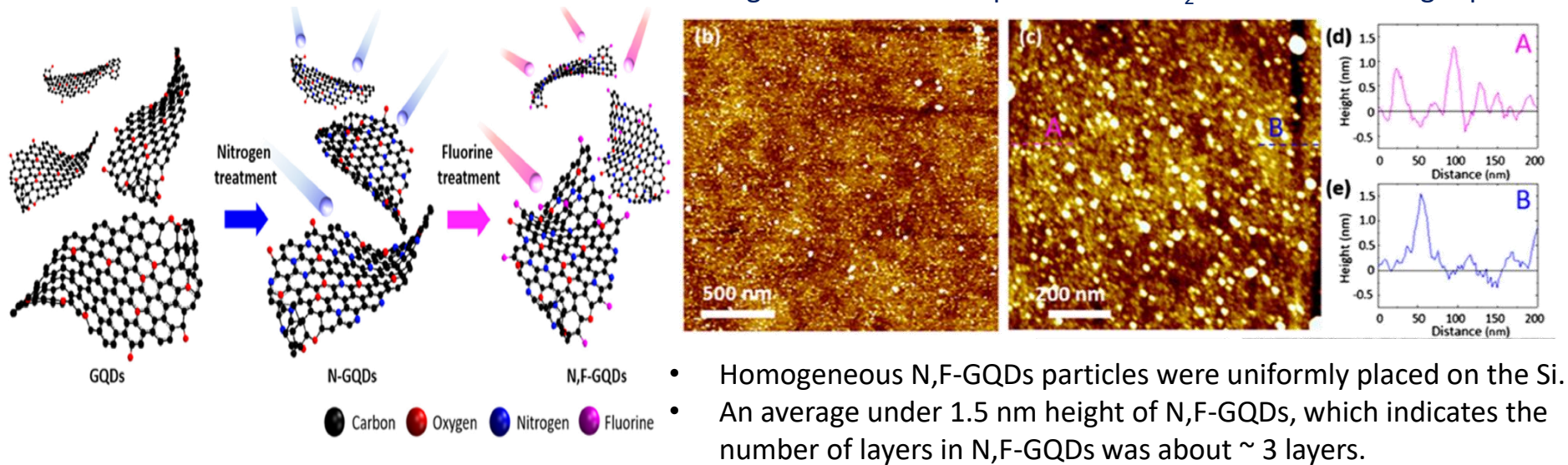


- *fluorine functionalization could alter the electronic state*
- *the bonding interaction between C and F can change ionic, semi-ionic, and covalent configurations owing to the strong electronegativity of fluorine*
- *With increasing F/C ratio, the C-F bonds change their character from ionic to semi-ionic to covalent one.*
- *the semi-ionic C-F bonding doped with ~4% fluorine could enhance the electrical properties of the electrode and facilitate electron transport through the active material*

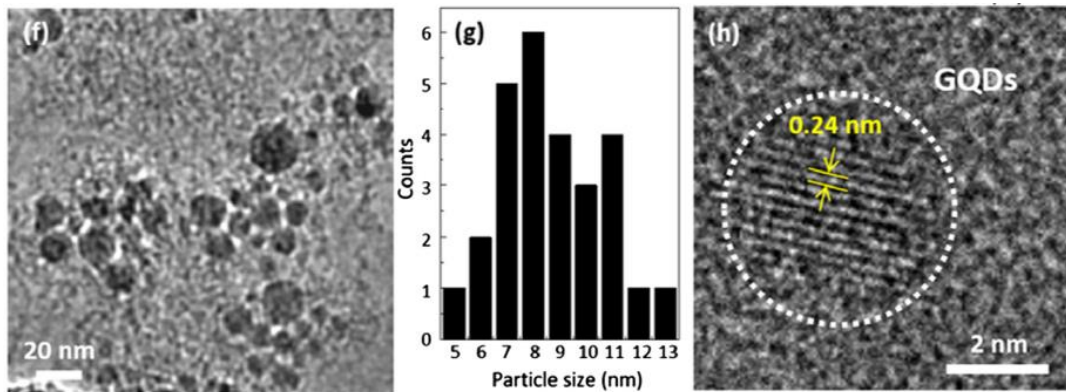
N,F-GQDs for water splitting

Applied Surface Science 507 (2020) 145157

➤ AFM images of the GQDs dispersed on a SiO₂ substrate and height profiles



➤ TEM images and histogram showing the size distribution of GQDs

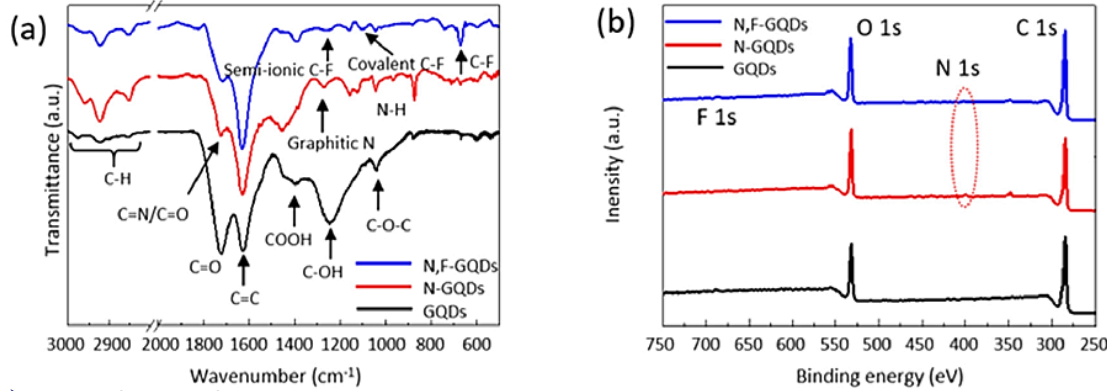


- Most of N,F-GQDs dispersed on graphene sheet show a size distribution from 2 to 10 nm with an average size of 8.7 nm.
- The lattice structure shown in the high-resolution TEM image indicates the N,F-GQDs are highly crystalline.

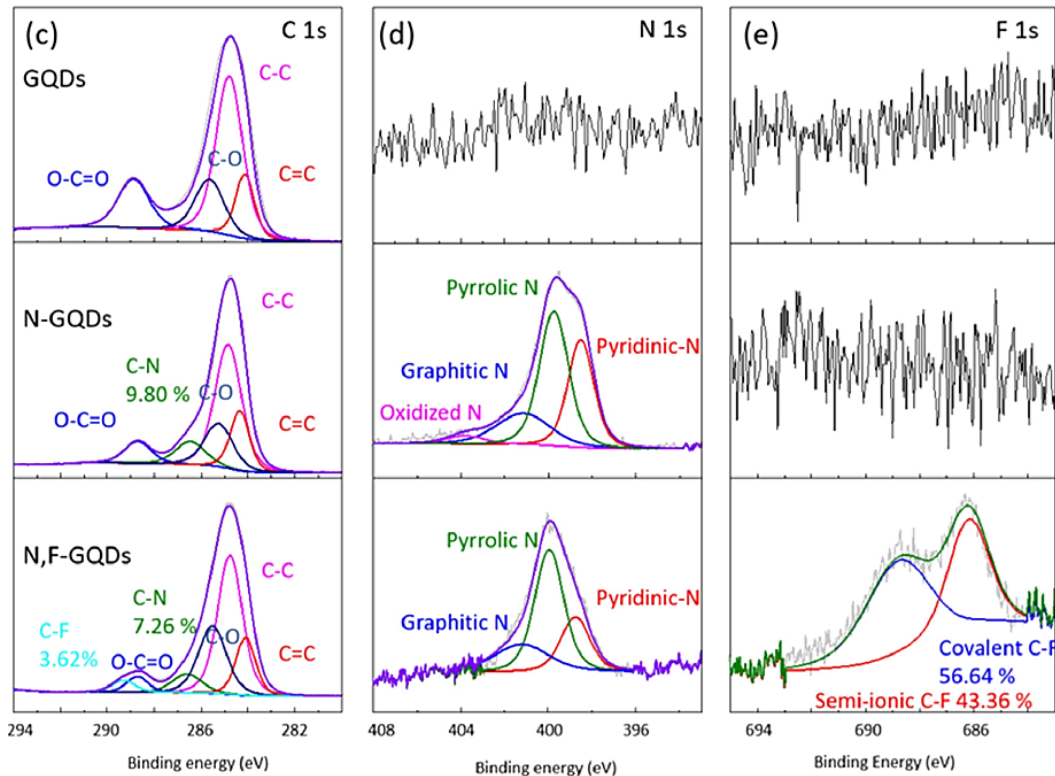
N,F-GQDs for water splitting

Applied Surface Science 507 (2020) 145157

FT-IR spectra and wide-scan XPS spectra



High-resolution XPS spectra



- N,F-GQDs shows three additional peaks at around **1250, 1100, and 670 cm^{-1}** assigned to stretching vibration of semi-ionic C-F, covalent C-F, and C-F deformation vibration.
- Wide-scan XPS spectra reveal carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, and fluorine peaks at **282.4, 400.8, 532.8, and 686.8 eV**, respectively.
- The GQDs contains oxygen-rich functional groups without nitrogen and fluorine species.
- The N 1s peak exhibits three peaks at **398.5** (pyridinic N), **399.8** (pyrrolic N), and **401.1 eV** (graphitic N), respectively, which nitrogen is successfully functionalized on N-GQD and N,F-GQDs.
- In the F 1s spectra, C-F bond consisting of covalent C-F bond (**688.8 eV**) and semi-ionic C-F bond (**686.2 eV**) was only observed in the N,F-GQDs.

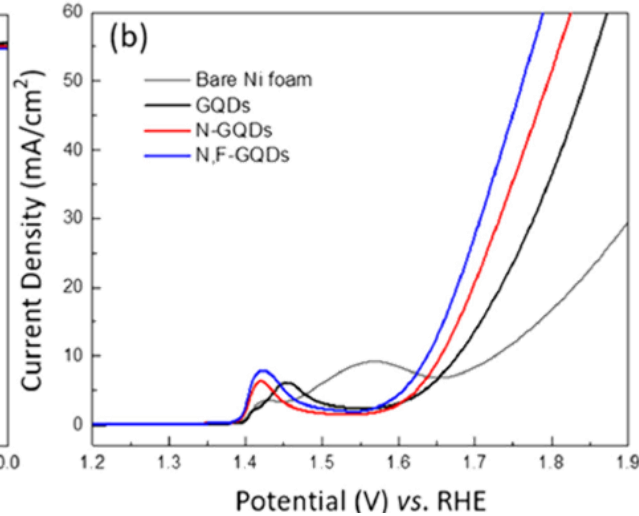
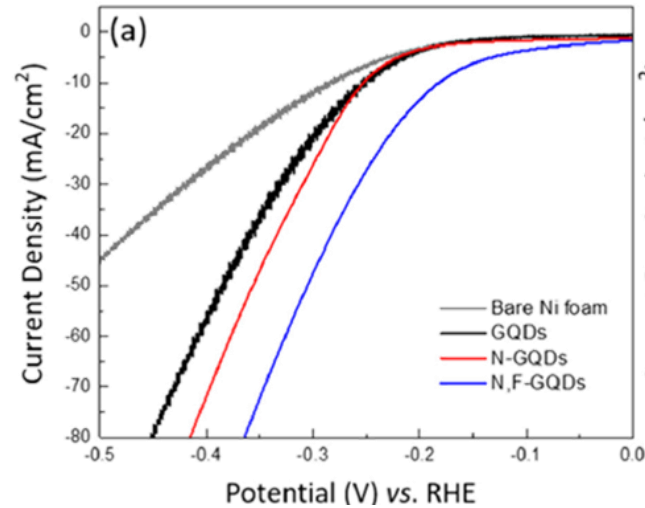
N,F-GQDs for water splitting

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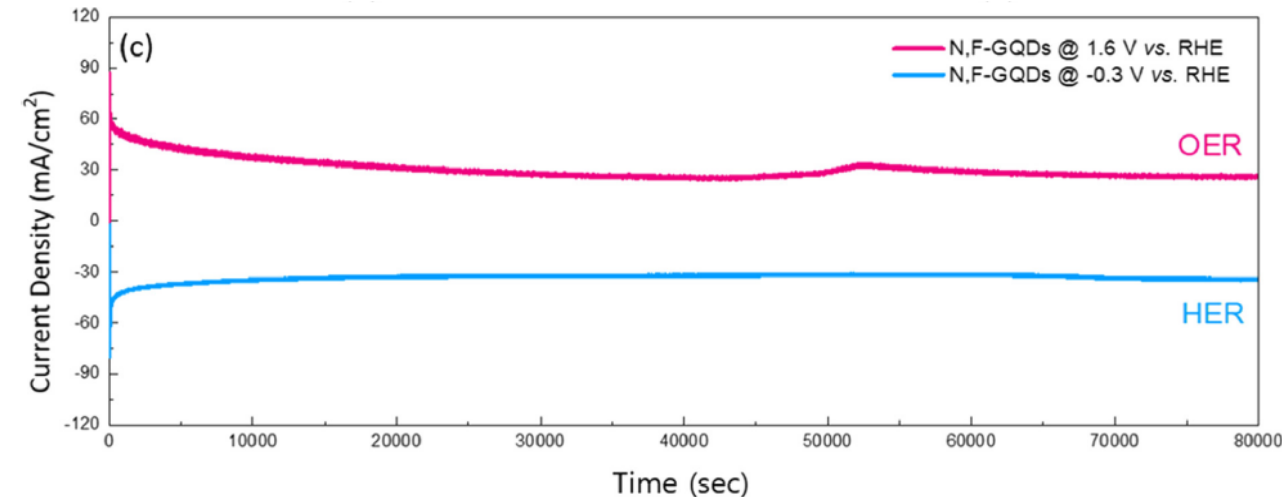
➤ Electrocatalytic performance using 3-electrode system

LSV polarization curves for HER

LSV polarization curves for OER



Stability test



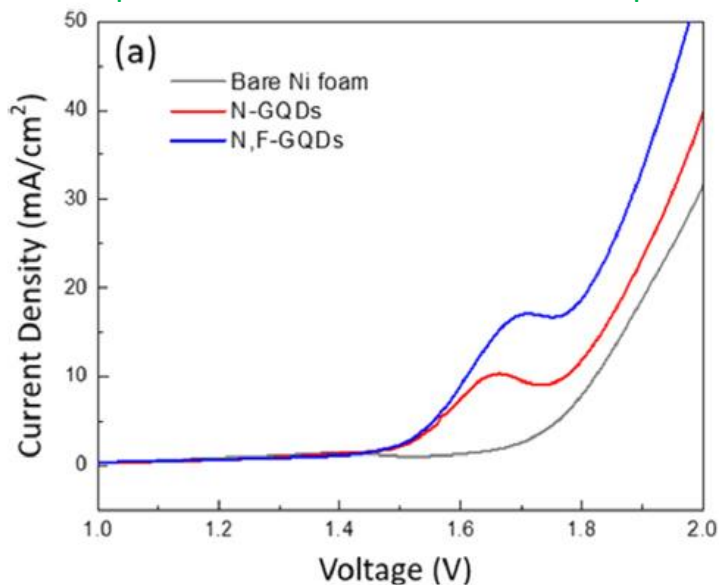
- In HER, the prepared N,F-GQDs electrocatalysts shows the lowest overpotential at **0.13 V** where there indicates the current density of **10 mA cm⁻²**, while the N-GQDs, GQDs, and Ni foam require an equivalently high overpotential of 0.25 V, 0.26 V, and 0.29 V, respectively.
- In OER, the N,F-GQDs require a low overpotential of **0.4 V** to generate a current density of **10 mA cm⁻²**, while the N-GQDs and GQDs electrocatalysts required higher overpotential to attain the similar current density.
- From the attained result of stability for both reaction, the N,F-GQDs is consistent without any loss of the current density for **80,000 s**.

N,F-GQDs for water splitting

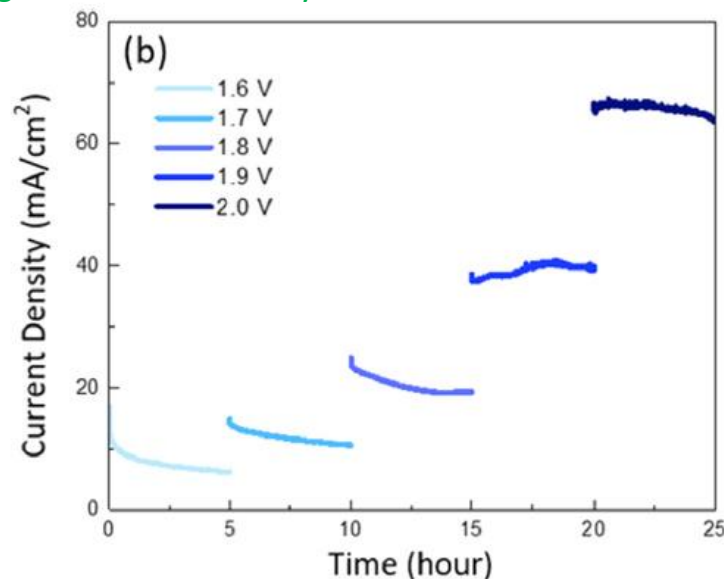
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➤ Electrocatalytic performance using 3-electrode system

LSV polarization curves for full-water splitting



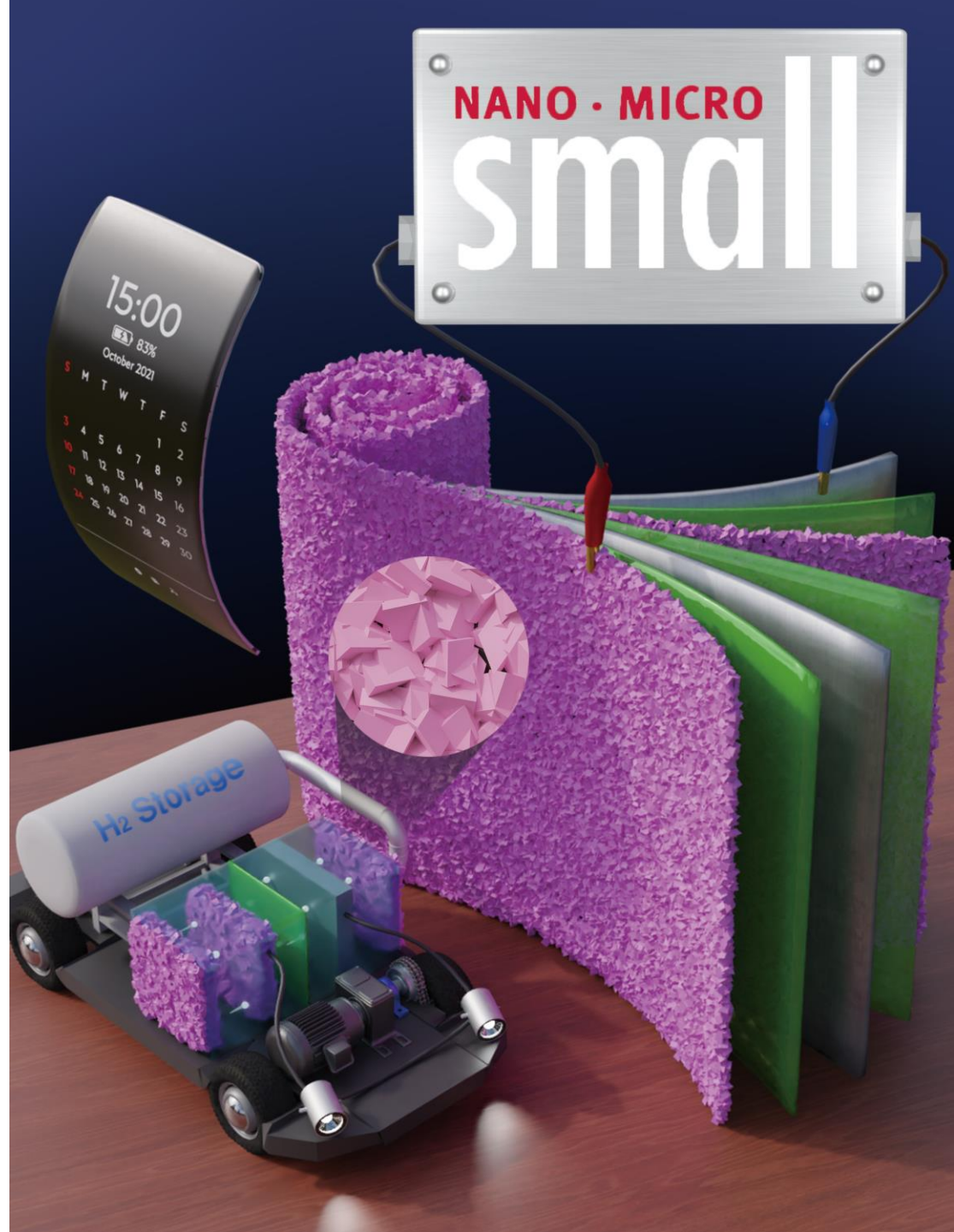
Stability test in basic condition



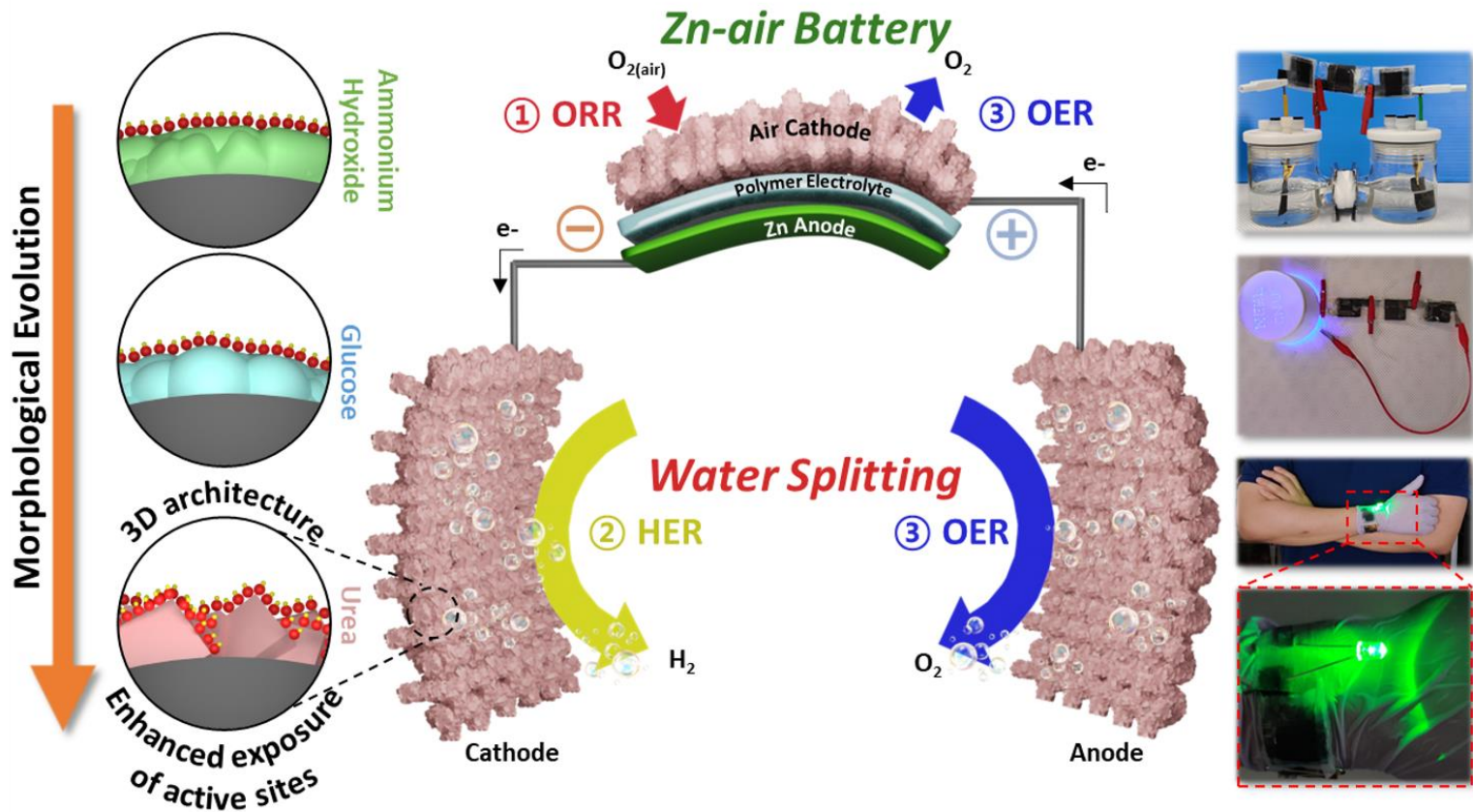
- The fabricated water splitting system comprises of bifunctional N,F-GQDs employed as an anode and cathode to facilitate both OER and HER activity and compared with asymmetric 2-electrode system consisted of N-GQDs.
- The fabricated symmetric full-cell system of N,F-GQDs needs a low cell voltage of **1.61 V** to generate a water splitting current density of **10 mA/cm^2** , whereas the N-GQDs (**1.66 V**), and bare Ni foam (**1.8 V**) based systems demanded a higher voltage to drive the same current density.
- The N,F-GQDs has accomplished the stability test for **25 h** without any deficiency in the performance.
- The N,F-GQDs showed the best catalytic activity for the HER and OER due to synergistic coupling effect of N and F.

**In situ Grown CoMn_2O_4 3D-tetragons on
Carbon Cloth: Flexible Electrodes for
efficient Rechargeable Zinc-Air
Battery Powered Water Splitting Systems**

Published

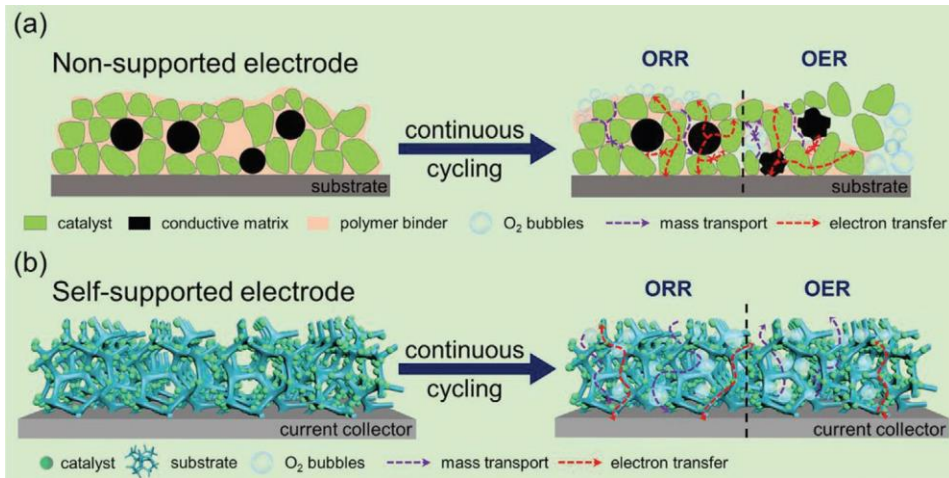


Zinc-air Battery Powered Water Splitting Systems



- By using in situ grown technique a flexible electrode was fabricated to be used in the electrochemical water splitting and flexible zinc-air battery.
- The prepared electrode can perform the multifunctional electrocatalytic activity as the anode and cathode in electrochemical water splitting and cathode in zinc-air battery.

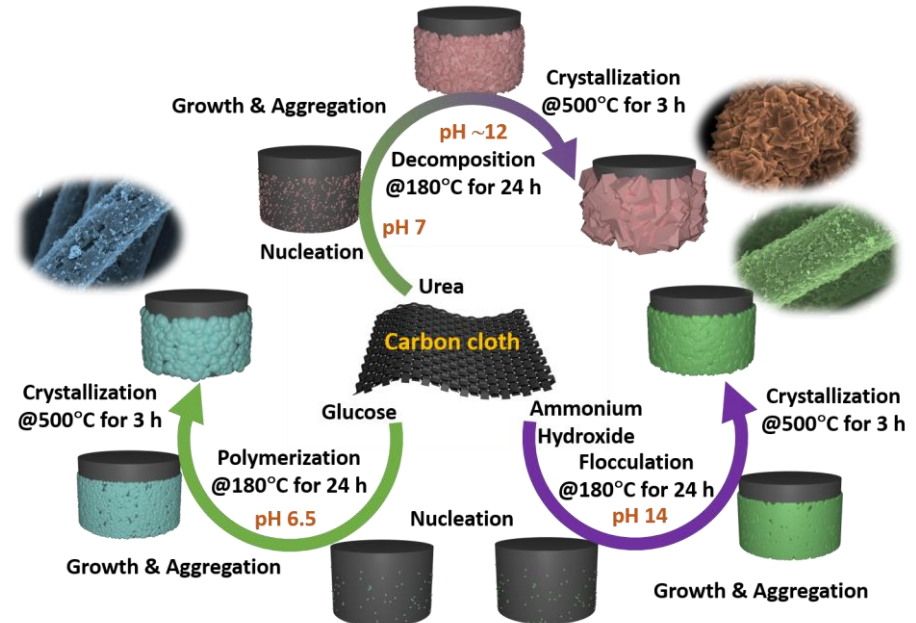
In situ growth mechanism of CoMn_2O_4 @CC



- Simplify the electrode preparation and lowers cost.
- Provides abundant catalytic sites.
- Binding of catalytic materials and substrates is more intimate without additional binder, ensure rapid charge transfer.

Growth mechanism

- To obtain the homogeneous particle formation over carbon cloth with good binding between the grown particles and the carbon cloth, three different oxide sources-urea, ammonium hydroxide and glucose were used.
- Glucose polymerized and confined the particle growth.
- Ammonium hydroxide forms metal hydroxides, which flocculated and precipitated.
- Urea precipitated the cobalt and manganese metals in the solution provided the OH^- ions.
- Gradual increment of the solution pH with the decomposition of urea, results in the homogenous growth of particles.



Morphology and Microstructure analysis

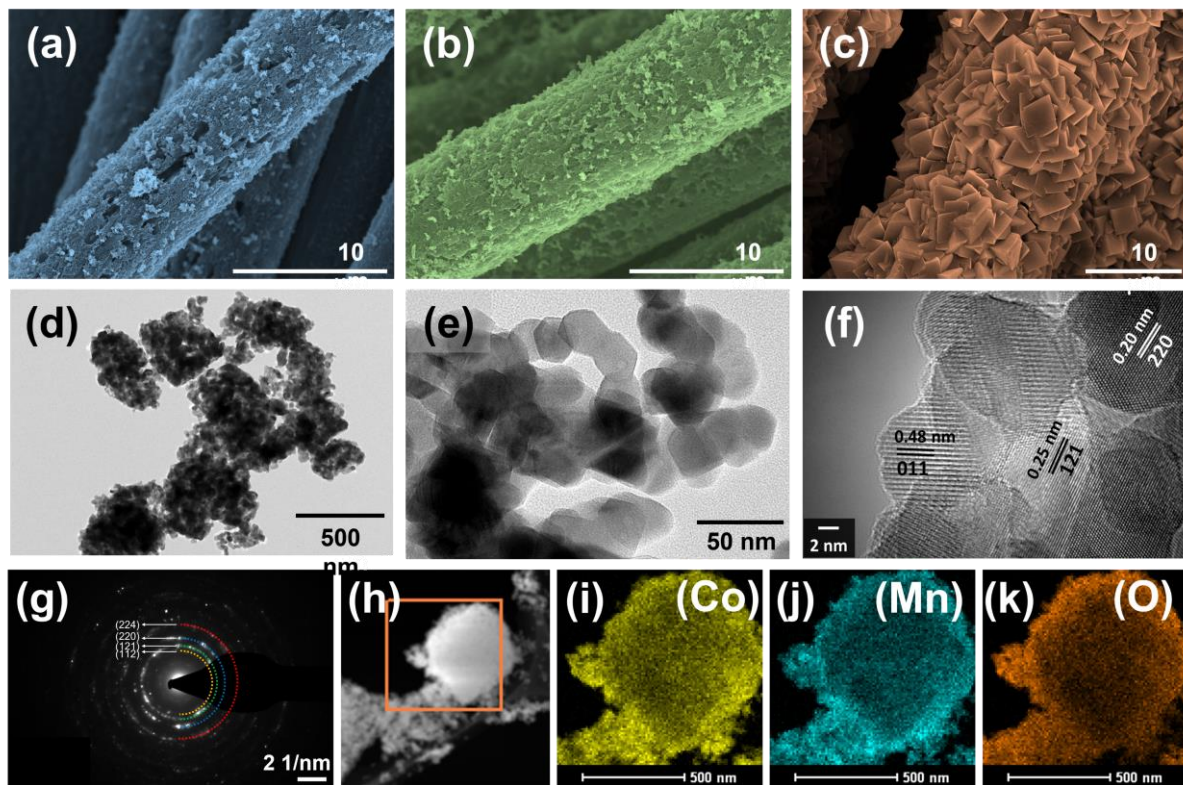


Figure 1. SEM images of (a) CMO-G@CC, (b) CMO-A@CC, (c) CMO-U@CC. (d–f) HRTEM images of CMO-U@CC at various resolutions, (g) Corresponding SAED pattern, and (h–k) Elemental mapping.



Uniform decoration of p articles

- CMO-U@CC results with proper particle formation than CMO-G@CC and CMO-A@CC (Figure a-c).
- Figure f displays a well-resolved lattice fringe with interplanar spacings of 0.48 and 0.25 nm corresponding to the (011) and (121) planes of CoMn_2O_4 .
- Elemental mapping images in Figure 1h-k validates the existence of uniformly distributed Co, Mn, and O elements in CMO-U@CC.

X-Ray-Diffraction and Photoelectron Spectroscopy

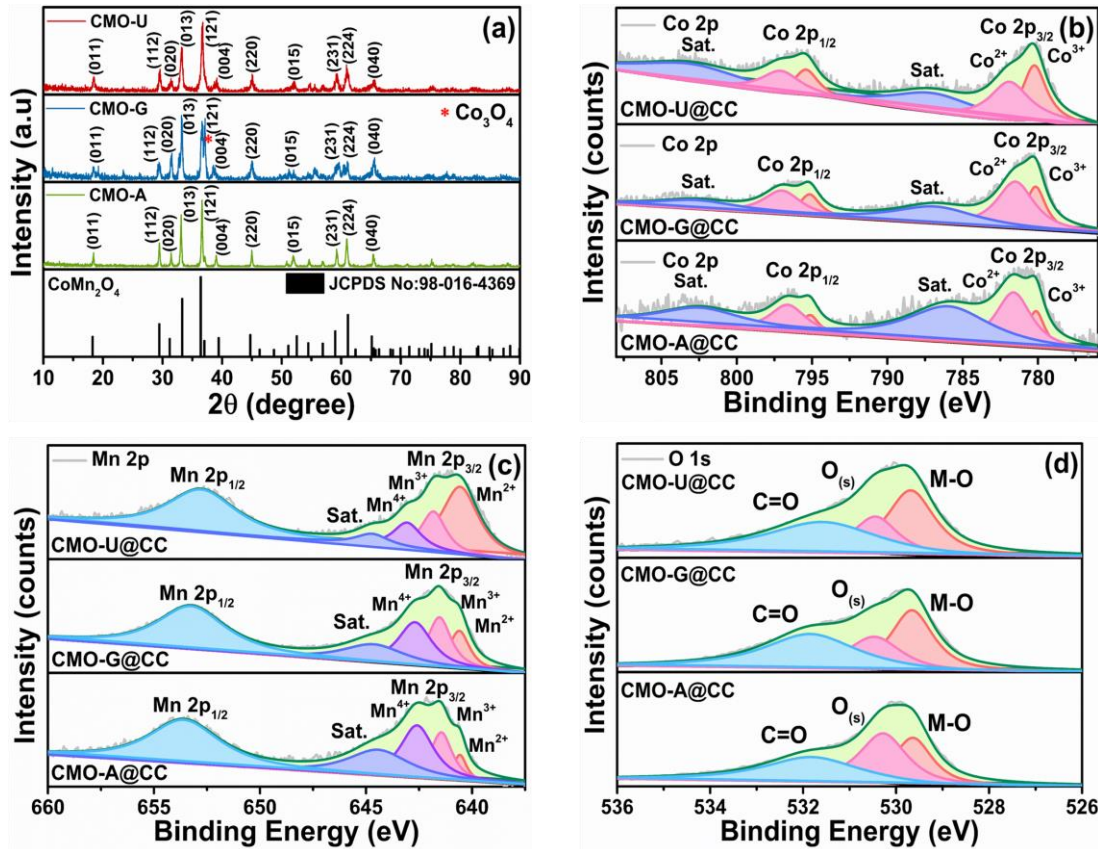


Figure 2. XRD patterns of (a) CMO-U, CMO-G and CMO-A. High-resolution XPS spectra of (b) Co 2p, (c) Mn 2p and (d) O 1s in CMO-U@CC, CMO-G@CC, and CMO-A@CC.

Tetragonal CoMn₂O₄ structure
Co²⁺ and Co³⁺, Mn²⁺, Mn³⁺ and
Mn⁴⁺ and metal oxide, surface
oxygen and C=O

- Observed well-defined and strong peaks of CMO-U, CMO-G, and CMO-A were indexed to the planes of tetragonal CoMn₂O₄ structure in the space group I 41/a md (JCPDS No: 98-016-4369).
- The oxidation states are studied with the XPS. There are Co²⁺ and 3+ in Co 2p spectra, Mn²⁺, 3+ and 4+ in Mn 2p and metal oxide, surface oxygen and C=O are present in O 1s spectra.

Oxygen Reduction Reaction

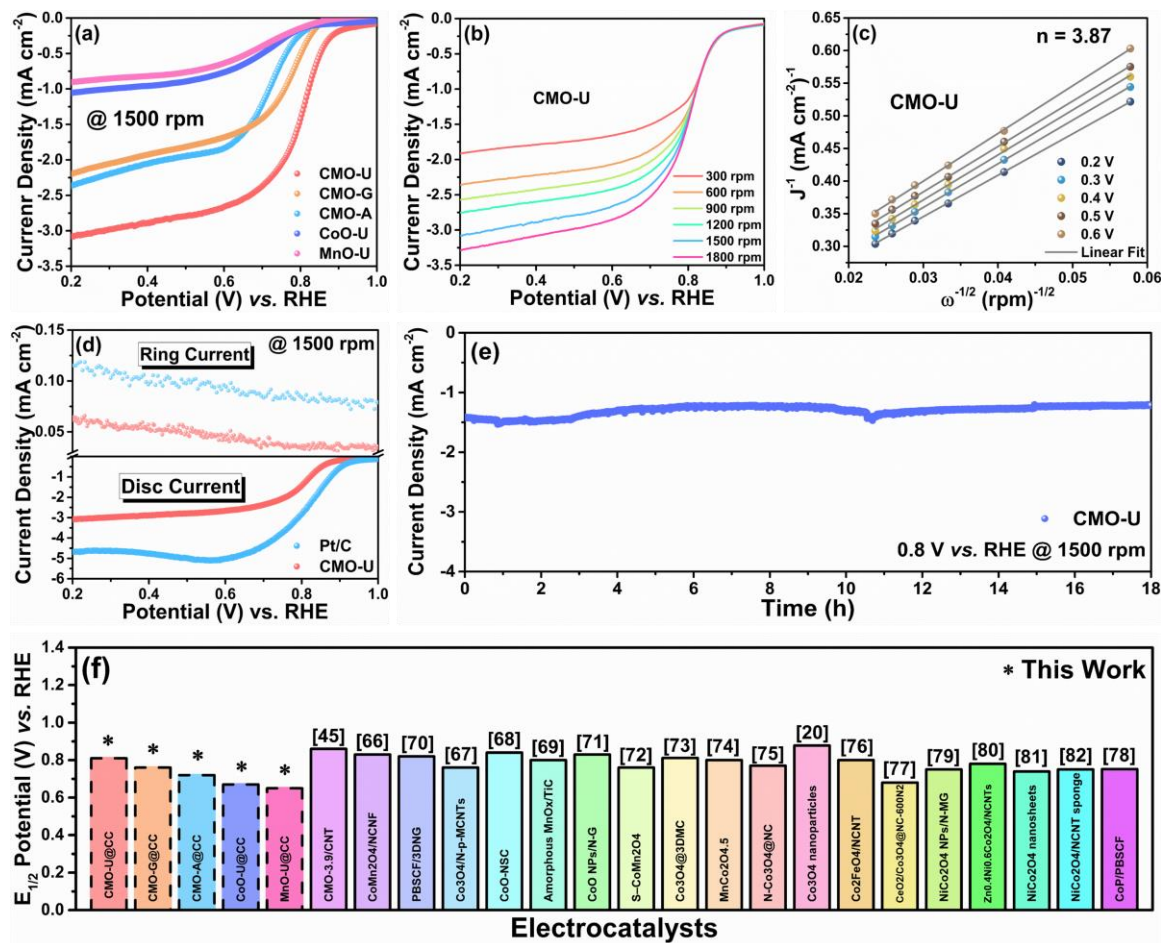


Figure 3. Polarization curves of all prepared electrodes (b) CMO-U at different rotation speeds. (c) K-L plot (d) RRDE voltammogram. (e) Chronoamperometry and (f) Comparison of ORR electrocatalytic activity with the reported oxide-based electrocatalysts.

4 e- transfer with enhanced diffusion and kinetics in CMO-U@CC

- Diffusion and kinetics of CMO-U@CC (1000 °C) was improved.
- Half-wave potential is 0.85 V
- Linearity & parallelism shows I-order kinetic reaction.
- Number of e⁻s transferred is 4 (calculated from RRDE).
- CA evaluation carried out for 18 h exhibited the remarkable electrocatalytic stability throughout the length of analysis.
- Compared with oxide based electrocatalysts for ORR.

Oxygen Evolution Reaction

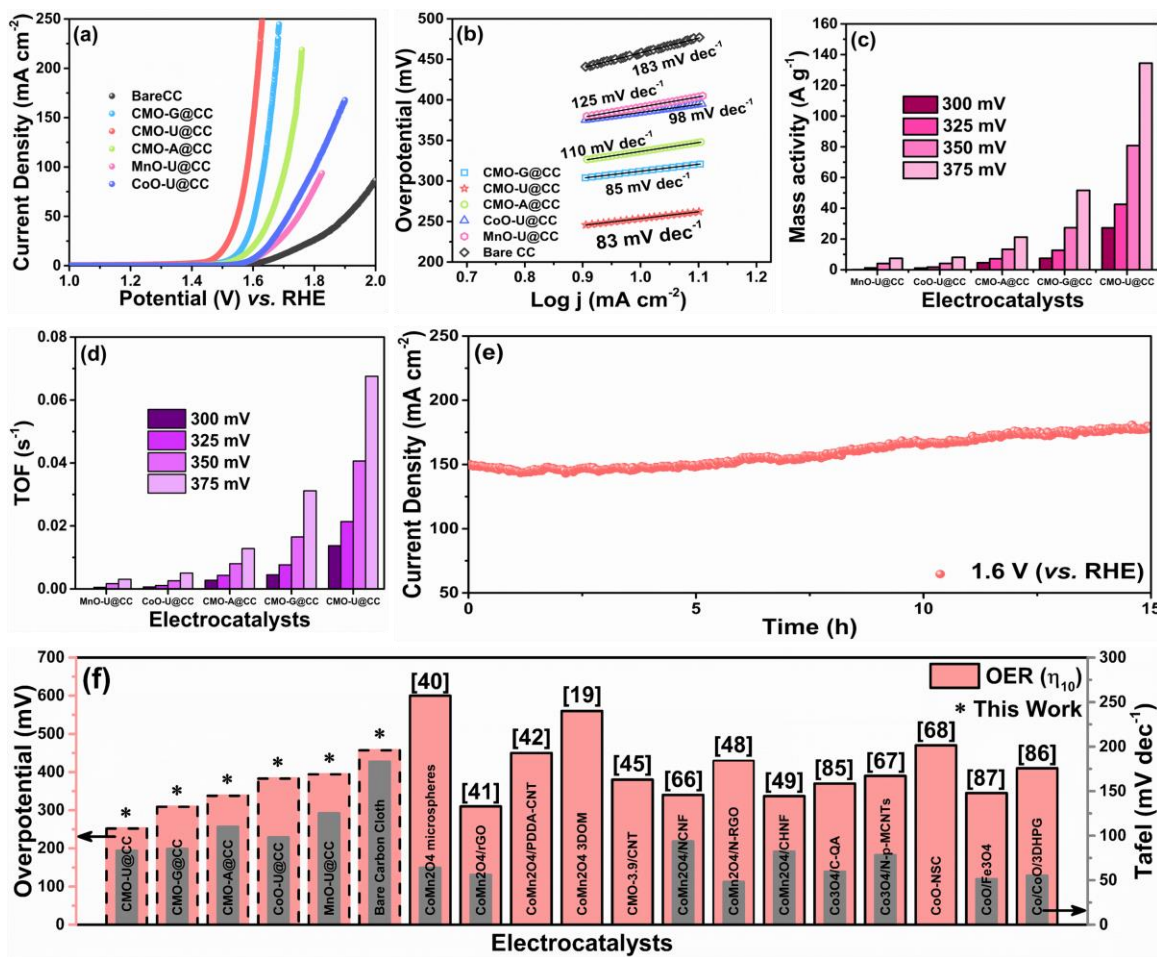
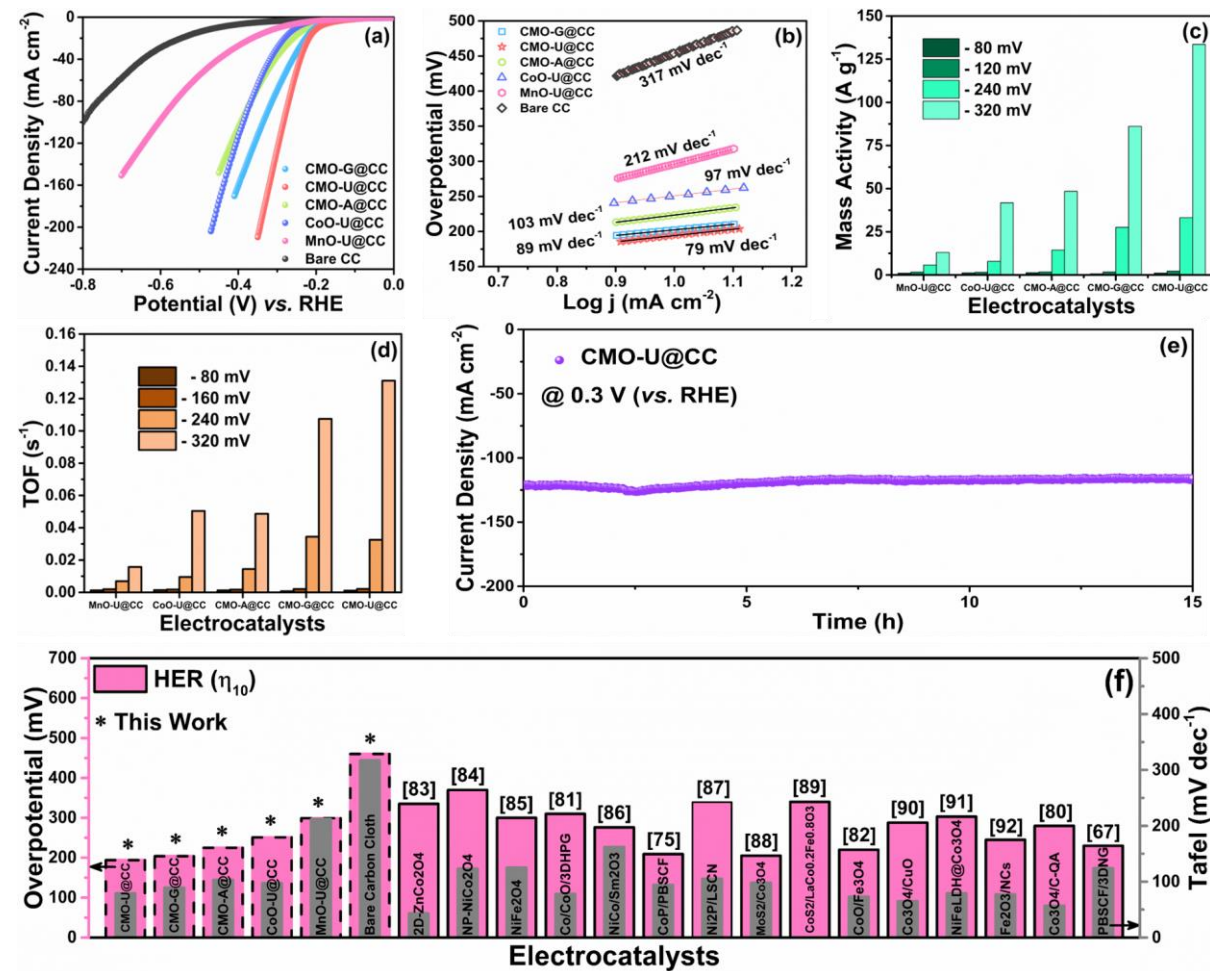


Figure 4. (a) Polarization curves (b) Tafel slopes (c) Mass activity. (d) Turn over frequency and (e) Chronoamperometry and (f) Comparison of OER electrocatalytic activity with the reported oxide-based electrocatalysts.

CMO-U@CC evolve oxygen with the improved Mass activity and Turn over frequency

- CMO-U@CC performed better relatively.
- Smaller Tafel slope indicates an increase in reaction kinetics.
- Improved Mass activity and Turn over frequency for CMO-U@CC.
- The CA analysis of the OER was carried out at a constant potential of 1.6 V for 15 h, and a steady state evolution of oxygen gas was achieved recalling the resilient strength of the electrocatalysts.
- Compared with oxide based electrocatalysts for OER.

Hydrogen Evolution Reaction



CMO-U@CC evolve hydrogen with the improved Mass activity and Turn over frequency

- CMO-U@CC performed better relatively.
- Smaller Tafel slope indicates an increase in reaction kinetics.
- Improved Mass activity and Turn over frequency for CMO-U@CC.
- The CA analysis of the HER was carried out at a constant potential of 0.3 V for 15 h, and a steady state evolution of hydrogen gas was achieved recalling the resilient strength of the electrocatalysts.
- Compared with oxide based electrocatalysts for HER.

Figure 5. (a) Polarization curves (b) Tafel slopes (c) Mass activity. (d) Turn over frequency and (e) Chronoamperometry and (f) Comparison of HER electrocatalytic activity with the reported oxide-based electrocatalysts.

Electrochemical analysis

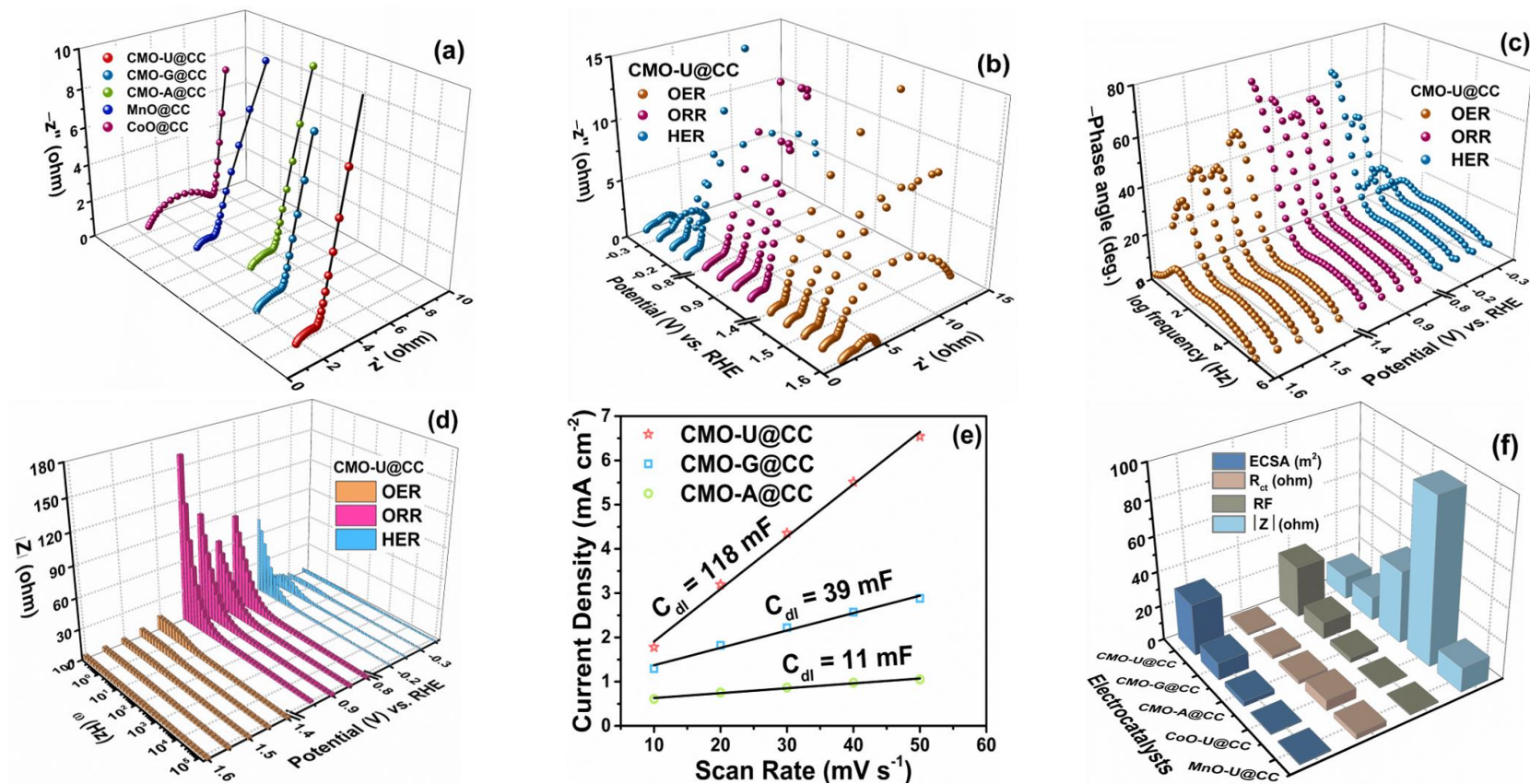


Figure 6. (a) Nyquist impedance plot (b) Potential dependent EIS (c) Phase angle vs. ω curve (d) Bode plot ($|Z|$ vs. ω) of CMO-U@CC wrt applied potential (e) Peak current density vs. scan rate and (f) Comparison of ECSA, R_{ct} , roughness factor, and impedance values of the prepared electrodes.

- In Figure a, CMO-U@CC reveals the reduced impedance. In Figure b, c and d, the decrease in impedance occurred in the range of applied potential (vs. RHE) of the kinetic driven region during the ORR, OER, and HER with CMO-U@CC.
- The higher C_{dl} value of CMO-U@CC results in the greater ECSA. The above obtained ECSA, R_{ct} , RF, and $|Z|$ values of all the prepared electrodes are compared in Figure 6f to get a clear picture.

Electrochemical Water splitting

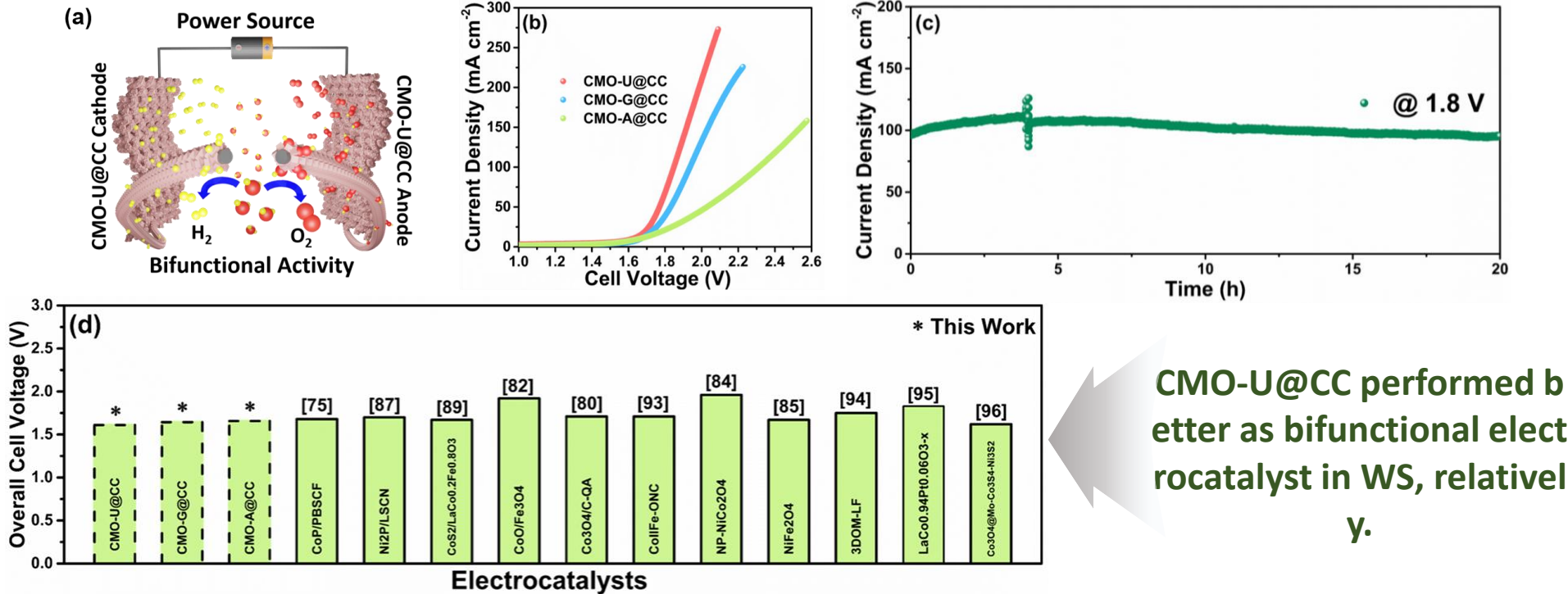


Figure 7. (a) Schematic representation of EWS (b) LSV curves of the constructed lab scale water electrolyzer. (c) Chronoamperometry of water splitting cell (d) Comparison of water splitting activity with the reported oxide-based electrocatalysts.

- LSV curves in Figure 7b show that CMO-U@CC, CMO-G@CC, and CMO-A@CC-based EWS systems only required an overall voltage of 1.610, 1.643, and 1.657 V, respectively, at 10 mA cm⁻².
- Chronoamperometric characterization was performed for 20 h to evaluate the stability of CMO-U@CC activity for EWS (Figure 7c), and the results confirmed the stability of CMO-U@CC activity for EWS.
- Compared with oxide based electrocatalysts for WS.

CMO-U@CC performed better as bifunctional electrocatalyst in WS, relatively.

Zinc-air battery

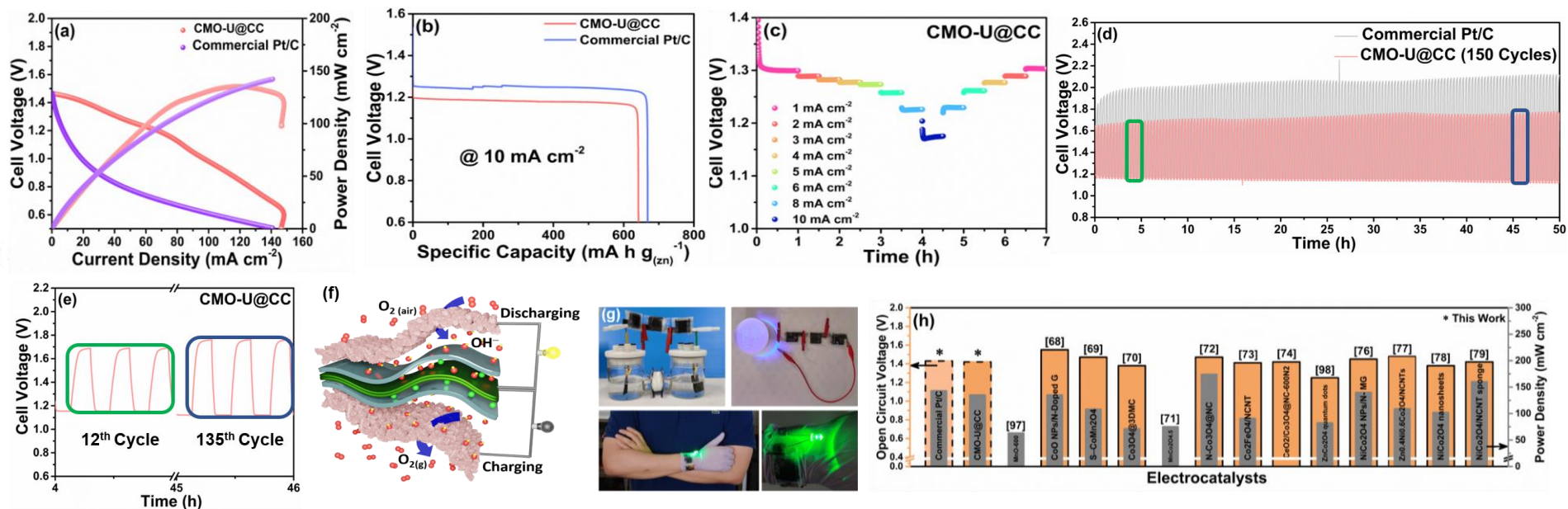


Figure 8. (a) Polarization and power density curves (b) Voltage-Specific capacity curve (c) Galvanostatic discharging profiles at different current density. (d) Charge-discharge cycles (e) Charge-discharge curves (f) Schematic representation (g) Demonstration with the flexible CMO-U@CC cathode to power the EWS and to power the LED under normal and bending condition. (h) Comparison of ZAB activity with the reported oxide-based electrocatalysts.

- CMO-U@CC air cathode delivers a maximum power density of 135 mW cm^{-2} and exhibited a specific capacity value of $641 \text{ mA h g}_{\text{Zn}}^{-1}$ compared to that of Pt/C (143 mW cm^{-2} and $667.7 \text{ mA h g}_{\text{Zn}}^{-1}$ at a current density of 10 mA cm^{-2}) (Figure 8a and 8b). Figure c proved that the CMO-U@CC air cathode is rate capable.
- The charge-discharge rest times were 10 min, and there was no much change in the voltage gap between the charge and discharge cycles of rechargeable ZAB for 50 h.
- A flexible ZAB was constructed with the Zn anode, CMO-U@CC binder free flexible cathode and PVA gel polymer electrolyte as shown in the Figure 8f. The binder free flexible ZAB in series with cathode CMO-U@CC was successfully tested as a power source for the EWS system.
- Compared with oxide based electrocatalysts for ZAB.

Carbon-Enriched Cobalt Phosphide with Assorted Nanostructure as a Multifunctional Electrode for Energy Conversion and Storage Devices

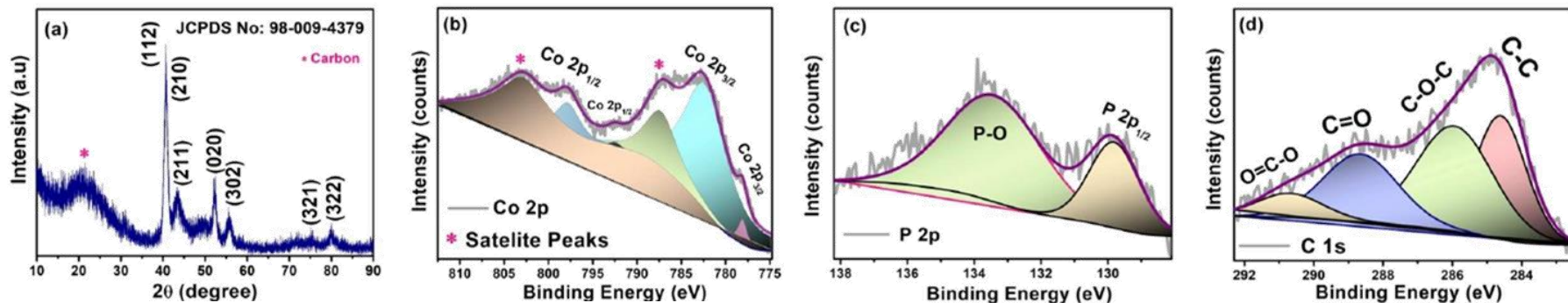
Published

Subramani Surendran,^[a, c] Sathyanarayanan Shanmugapriya,^[a] Yun
Sung Lee,^{*[b]} Uk Sim,^{*[c]} and Ramakrishnan Kalai Selvan^{*[a]}

Carbon-Enriched Cobalt Phosphide for water splitting

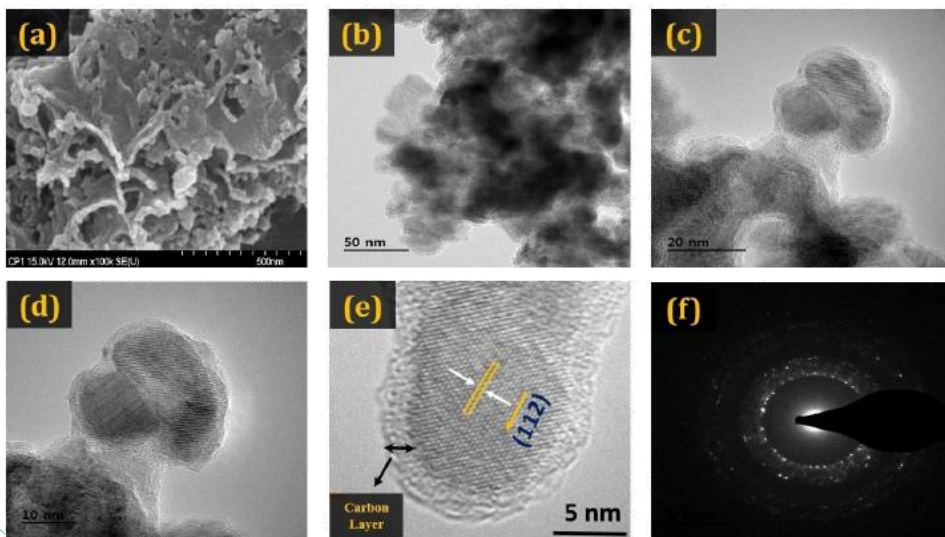
➤ XRD pattern and XPS spectra of Co₂P nanostructure

ChemistrySelect 2018, 3, 12303– 12313



- The prepared Co₂P is phase pure with an orthorhombic structure having the space group of P- nma.
- The existence of carbon in Co₂P can be endorsed to the inclusion of cobalt acetate as the starting precursor which serves as the only recognized source of the carbon.
- The evidential presence of P-bonded cobalt atoms in cobalt phosphide may provide electron transfer channels that enrich the conductivity of the prepared Co₂P.

➤ FESEM, TEM, HRTEM and SAED pattern



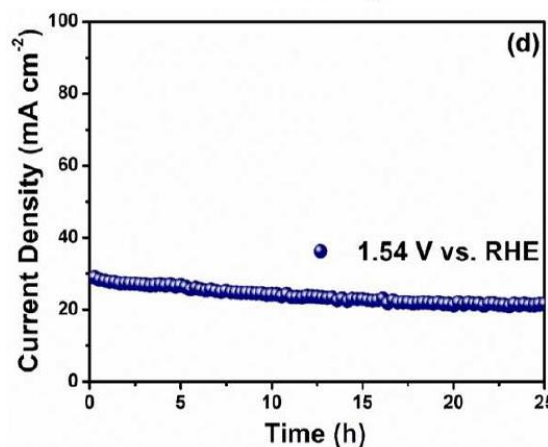
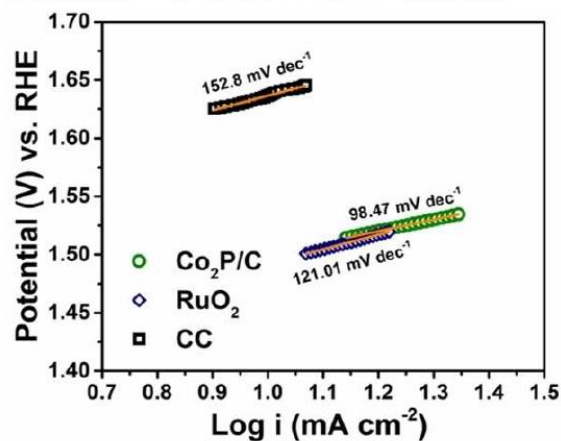
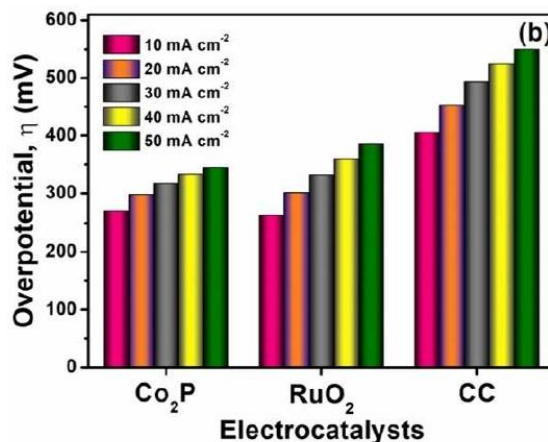
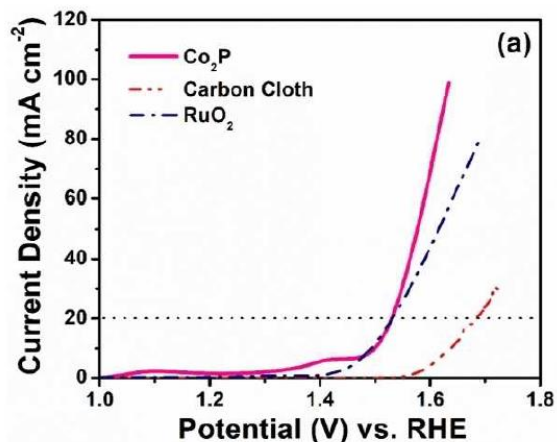
- The Co₂P/C are formed scaffold-like nanostructures, framed by uniformly embraced spherical nanoparticles.
- HRTEM images show Co₂P/C with distinct lattice fringes through interplanar distances of **0.22 nm**, corresponding to the high intense **(112) plane** of the orthorhombic Co₂P crystal structure.
- A thin layer of carbon (~2-3 nm) coated on the surface of the individual particles.
- The SAED pattern elucidates the polycrystalline nature of the Co₂P/C nanostructures.



Carbon-Enriched Cobalt Phosphide for water splitting

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➤ Electrocatalytic properties for OER of Co₂P/C electrodes



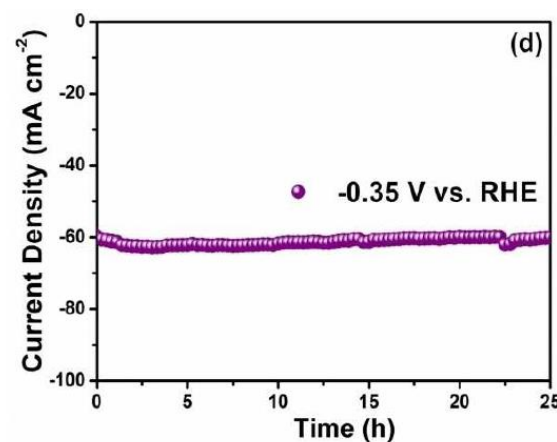
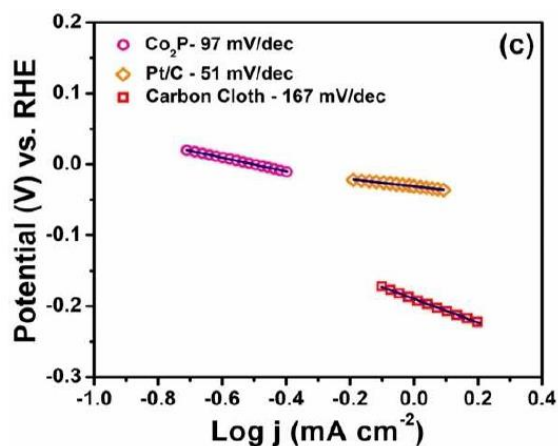
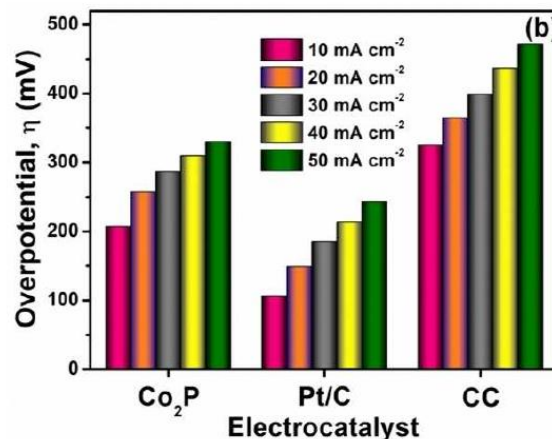
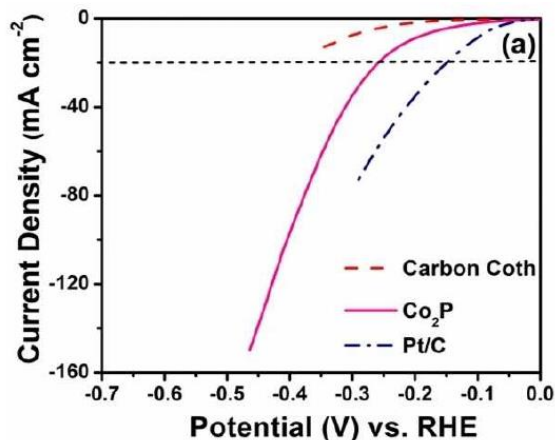
- In LSV polarization curves, two distinct peaks witnessed initially at 1.1 and 1.4 V (vs RHE) owing to the oxidation reactions associated with the Co²⁺/Co³⁺ and Co³⁺/Co⁴⁺ redox couples.
- The prepared scaffold-like Co₂P electrocatalyst has shown an excellent catalytic activity with an essential onset potential at 1.47 V (vs RHE).
- The prepared Co₂P/C electrocatalyst requisite an overpotential of 298 mV to attain an elevated current density of 20 mA cm⁻².
- As the potential increases, the Co₂P tends to move much straighter demanding low overpotentials of 298, 317, 333 and 345 mV at 20, 30, 40, and 50 mA cm⁻² resulting in better catalytic activity.

- The rate determining step of Co₂P electrocatalyst was depicted to be a single-electron transfer step with a minimum Tafel slope of 98.47 mV dec⁻¹.
- The unceasing evolution of O₂ bubbles from the electrode surface and the negligible changes in the current value throughout the completion of CA scrutiny ensure the highly stable nature of the prepared Co₂P electrocatalyst for OER activity.

Carbon-Enriched Cobalt Phosphide for water splitting

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➤ Electrocatalytic properties for HER of Co₂P/C electrodes



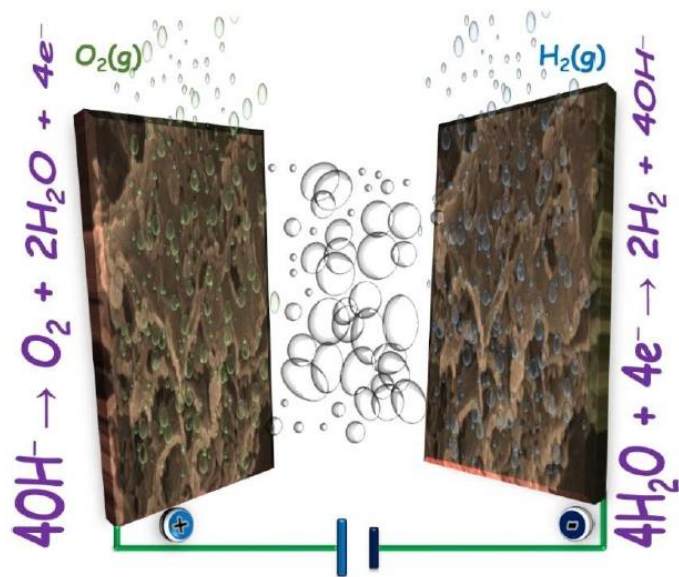
- In LSV polarization curves, the prepared scaffold-like Co₂P electrocatalyst shown an excellent catalytic activity with an essential onset potential at **0.16 V** (vs RHE).
- The prepared Co₂P electrocatalyst requisite an overpotential of **257 mV** to attain an elevated current density of **20 mA cm⁻²**.
- As the potential increments the Co₂P tends to move squarer demanding low overpotentials of **207, 257, 287, 310 and 330 mV** at an augmented current densities of **10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 mA cm⁻²**.
- The obtained low Tafel slope of **97 mV dec⁻¹** for Co₂P electrocatalyst transpires the rate-determining step as the discharge reaction.

- The CA analysis was studied for a constant potential of **-0.35 V** (vs RHE) for 25 hours, which illustrated a slight rise in the current rather than a drop elucidating the extraordinary strength of the Co₂P electrocatalyst.

Carbon-Enriched Cobalt Phosphide for water splitting

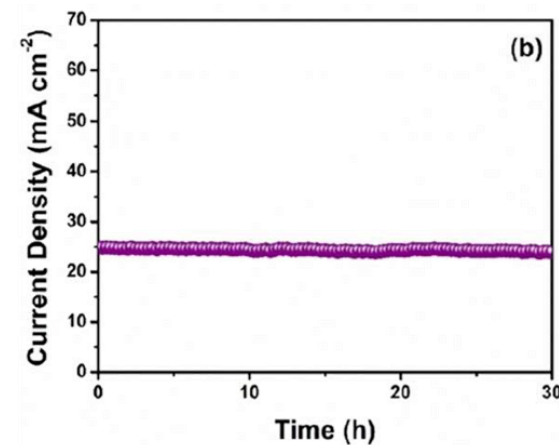
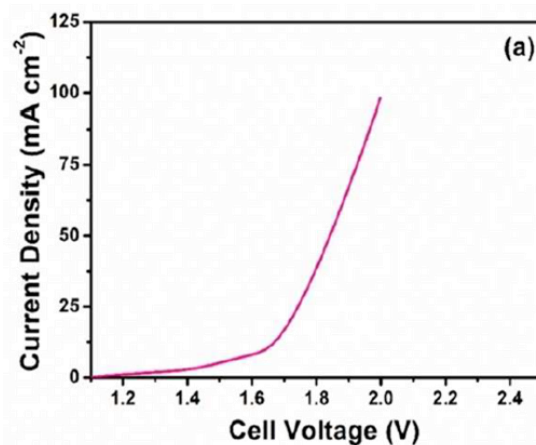
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- The schematic illustration of the assembled lab-scale water electrolyzer



- The lab-scale water electrolyzer was assembled by a two-electrode set up encompassing bifunctional $\text{Co}_2\text{P}/\text{C}$ electrode as both anode and cathode.

- LSV polarization curves and CA curves of the device



- The assembled water electrolyzer insists that a minimum potential of **1.63 V** is necessary to attain a water-splitting current density of **10 mA cm⁻²**, resulting in the evolution of large troops of oxygen and hydrogen gas bubbles from both the surfaces of the electrodes.
- The CA analysis of the water electrolyzer was completed at a static potential (**1.75 V**), and a steady state of evolution of gas was achieved for about 30 hours recalling the resilient strength of the Co_2P electrode.