

Cover sheet

Authors: Xiu-Xiu Ma, Xu-Hong Dai, Xing-Quan He

Manuscript title: Co₉S₈ Modified N, S, and P Ternary-Doped 3D Graphene Aerogels
as A High Performance Electrocatalyst for both Oxygen Reduction Reaction and
Oxygen Evolution Reaction

Number of pages, figures, and tables in the manuscript was 30, 6, and 0,
respectively.

Number of pages, figures, and tables in the supporting information was 17, 8, and
5, respectively.

Supporting Information

Co₉S₈ Modified N, S, and P Ternary-Doped 3D Graphene Aerogels as A High Performance Electrocatalyst for both Oxygen Reduction Reaction and Oxygen Evolution Reaction

Xiu-Xiu Ma^a, Xu-Hong Dai^a, Xing-Quan He^{a*}¹

^aSchool of Materials Science and Engineering, Changchun University of Science and Technology, Weixing Road, No. 7989, Changchun, 130022, Jilin, R.P. China.

¹ *Corresponding author: hexingquan@hotmail.com (X.Q. He)

Tel: + 86 8558 343

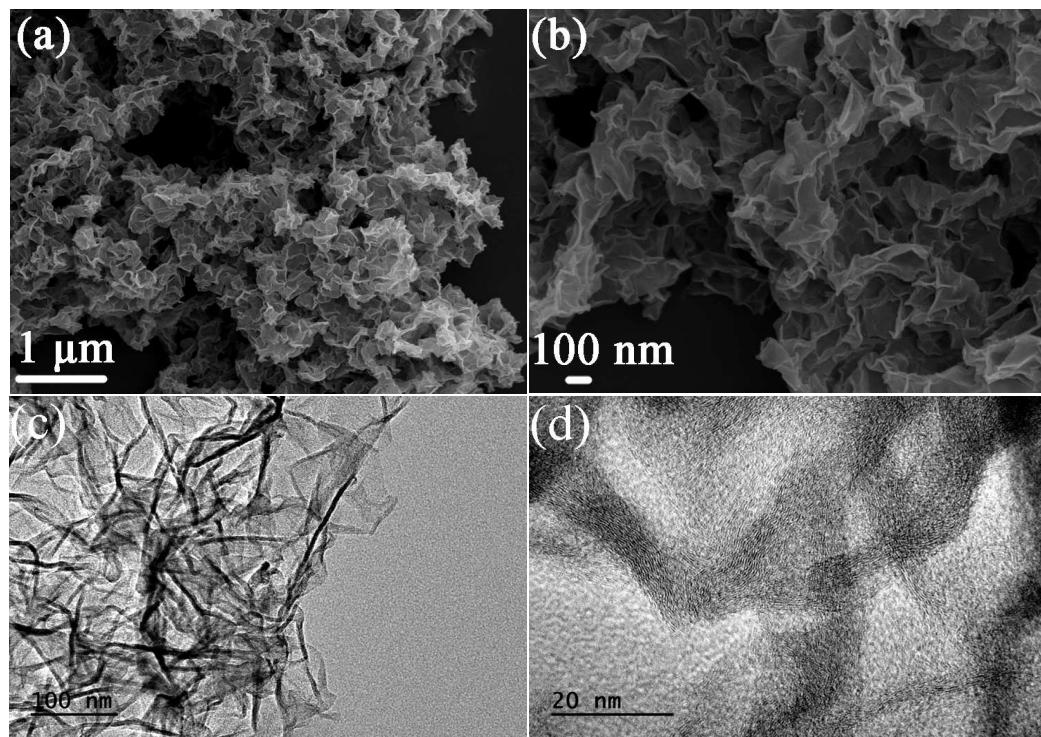


Figure S1. (a) Low and (b) high magnification SEM images of NSPG-900. (c) TEM and (d) HRTEM images of NSPG-900.

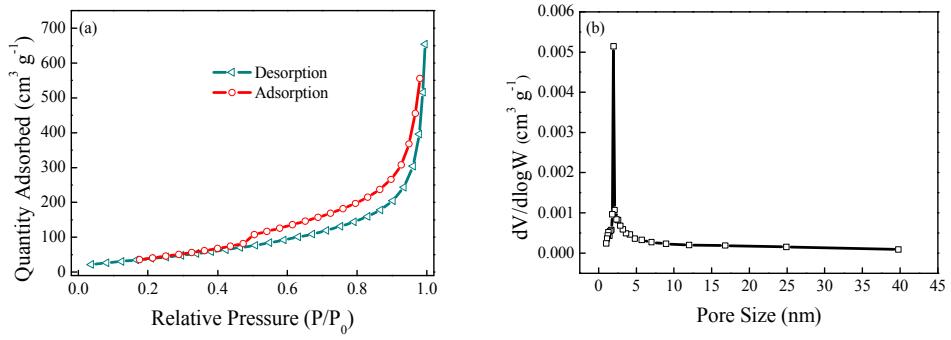


Figure S2. (a) N₂ adsorption-desorption isotherms and (b) the corresponding BJH pore size distribution curves of NSPG-900.

Table S1. Specific BET surface area, pore size and pore volume of the investigated catalysts

| Catalyst | S_{BET} ($\text{m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$) | Pore size (nm) | Pore volume ($\text{cm}^3 \text{ g}^{-1}$) |
|--|--|----------------|--|
| NSPG-900 | 657 | 5.6 | 0.10 |
| $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8/\text{NSPG-800}$ | 436 | 4.8 | 0.15 |
| $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8/\text{NSPG-900}$ | 478 | 6.1 | 0.13 |
| $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8/\text{NSPG-1000}$ | 300 | 5.1 | 0.06 |

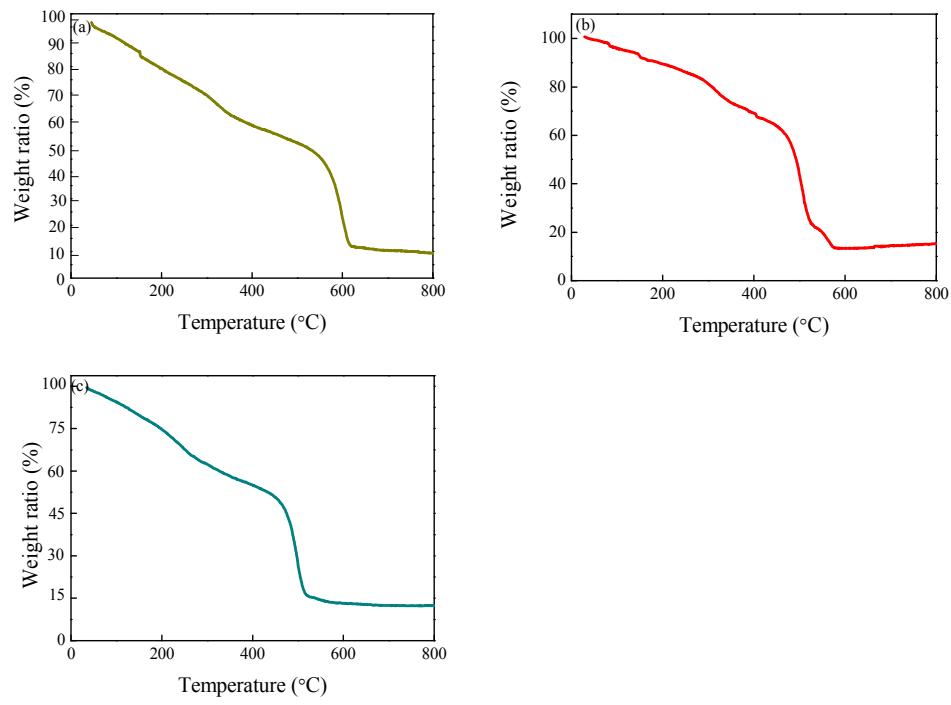


Figure S3. TGA curves of (a) Co₉S₈/NSPG-800, (b) Co₉S₈/NSPG-900 and (c) Co₉S₈/NSPG-1000

under air atmosphere.

Table S2. Elemental contents of C, O, N, S, P and Co in the samples determined by XPS analysis

| Catalyst | C (at%) | O (at%) | N (at%) | S (at%) | P (at%) | Co (at%) |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| NSG-900 | 90.41 | 6.46 | 2.11 | 1.02 | - | - |
| Co ₉ S ₈ /NSPG-800 | 90.32 | 6.56 | 2.56 | 0.86 | 0.15 | 0.41 |
| Co ₉ S ₈ /NSPG-900 | 91.80 | 4.48 | 2.28 | 0.99 | 0.13 | 0.32 |
| Co ₉ S ₈ /NSPG-1000 | 92.35 | 4.37 | 2.09 | 0.79 | 0.11 | 0.29 |

Table S3. The relative percentages of deconvoluted S 2p, N 1s and P 2p species in Co₉S₈/NSPG-800, Co₉S₈/NSPG-900, and Co₉S₈/NSPG-1000

| Species | Co ₉ S ₈ /NSPG-800 | Co ₉ S ₈ /NSPG-900 | Co ₉ S ₈ /NSPG-1000 |
|---------------------|--|--|---|
| S 2p _{3/2} | 45.67% | 37.65% | 50.10% |
| S 2p _{1/2} | 41.52% | 49.88% | 39.28% |
| Thiophene S | 5.88% | 6.61% | 5.61% |
| SO _x | 6.92% | 5.86% | 5.01% |
| Pyrrolic N | 21.31% | 15.62% | 13.58% |
| Pyridinic N | 23.50% | 21.08% | 19.09% |
| Graphitic N | 37.41% | 42.23% | 43.85% |
| Oxidized N | 17.78% | 21.07% | 23.48% |
| P-C | 31.18% | 17.61% | 30.43% |
| P-N | 34.51% | 19.37% | 21.75% |
| C-O-PO ₃ | 34.31% | 63.03% | 47.82% |

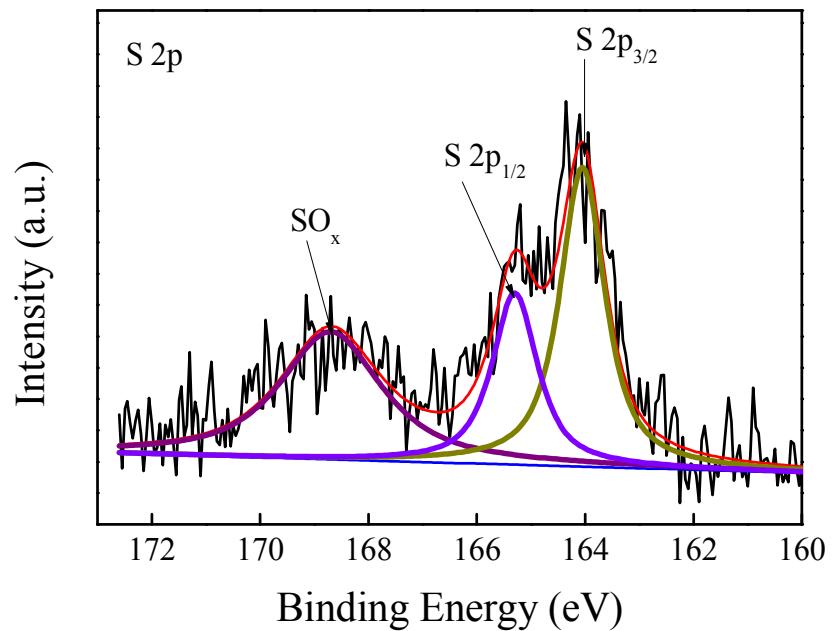


Figure S4. High resolution XPS of S 2p in NSG.

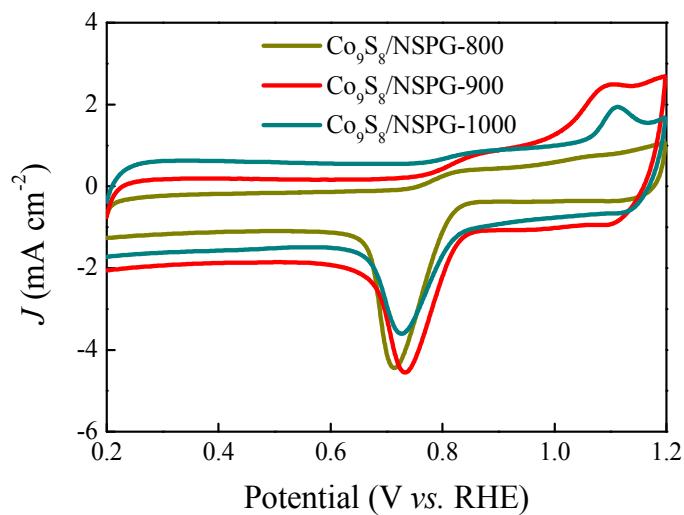


Figure S5. Cyclic voltammetry curves of $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8/\text{NSPG-800}$, $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8/\text{NSPG-900}$ and $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8/\text{NSPG-1000}$ for ORR.

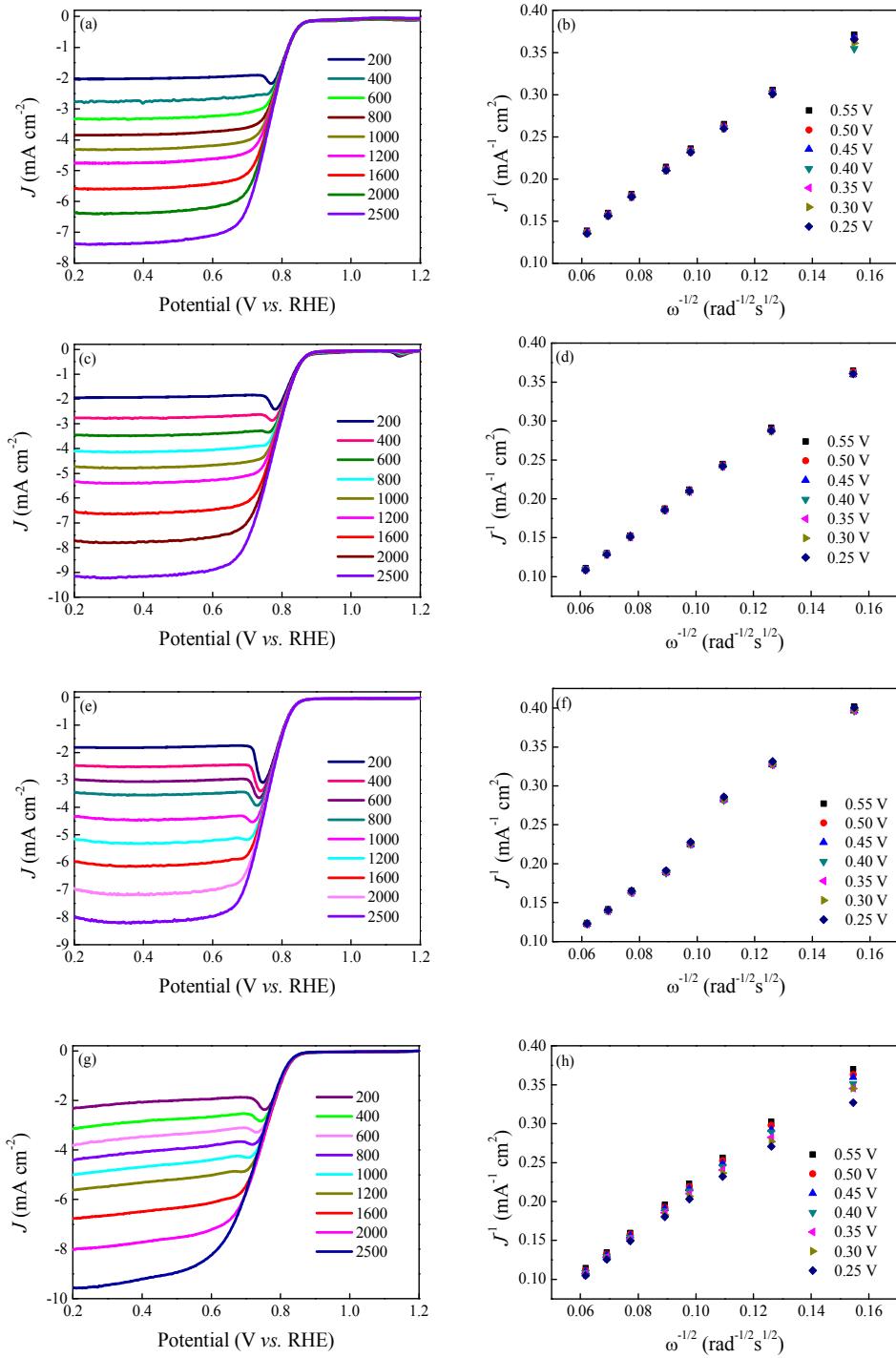


Figure S6. (a, c, e, g) Linear sweep voltammetry curves of NSPG-900 (a), Co₉S₈/NSG-900 (c), Co₉S₈/NSPG-800 (e), and Co₉S₈/NSPG-1000 (g). (b, d, f, h) Corresponding K-L plots of NSPG-900 (b), Co₉S₈/NSG-900 (d), Co₉S₈/NSPG-800 (f), and Co₉S₈/NSPG-1000 (h).

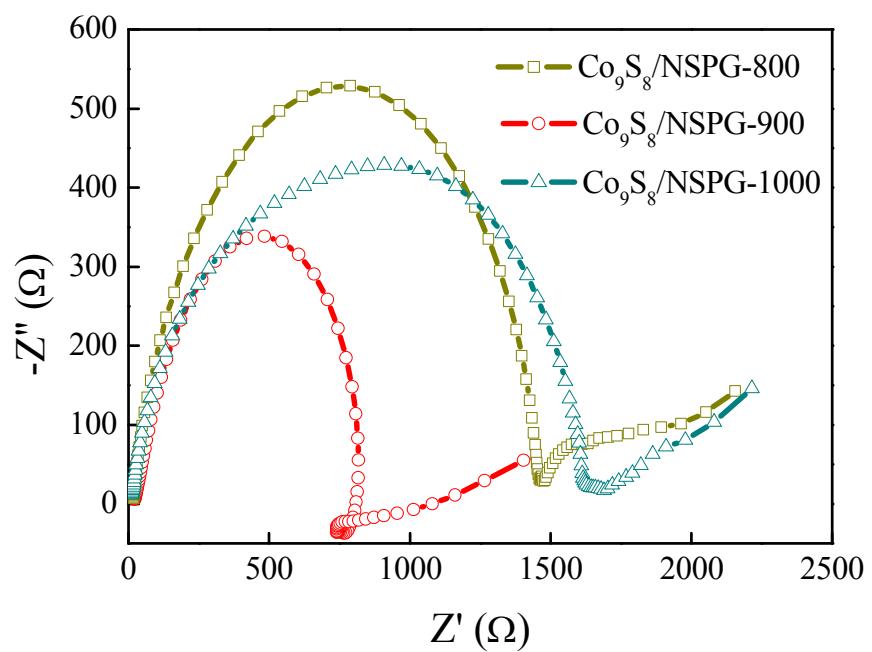


Figure S7. AC Nyquist electrochemical impedance plots of $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8/\text{NSPG}$, $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8/\text{NSPG-900}$ and

$\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8/\text{NSPG-1000}$.

Table S4. ORR parameters of Co₉S₈/NSPG-900 compared to catalysts in literatures

| Catalysts | $E_{1/2}$ [V vs. RHE] | J_L [mA cm ⁻²] | Tafel slope [mV dec ⁻¹] | References |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Co ₉ S ₈ /NSPG-900 | 0.800 | 7.26 | 79 | This work |
| 20 wt% Pt/C | 0.830 | 5.47 | 84 | This work |
| Co ₉ S ₈ /N-C | 0.784 | 5.46 | 69 | [1] |
| Co ₉ S ₈ /NPCP@rGO | 0.784 | 5.40 | 62 | [2] |
| CoxSy@C-1000 | 0.814 | 4.70 | — | [3] |
| CoS ₂ (400)/N,S-GO | 0.790 | 4.70 | 30 | [4] |
| SN-rGO | 0.797 | 3.13 | 67 | [5] |
| Co ₃ (PO ₄) ₂ C-N/rGOA | 0.837 | 3.72 | 35 | [6] |
| Co ₃ (PO ₄) ₂ | 0.670 | 5.20 | — | [7] |
| FeP@NPCs | 0.820 | 5.85 | 78 | [8] |
| Fe–Nx/C | 0.920 | 6.17 | — | [9] |
| FePPyC-900 | 0.814 | 6.40 | 78 | [10] |

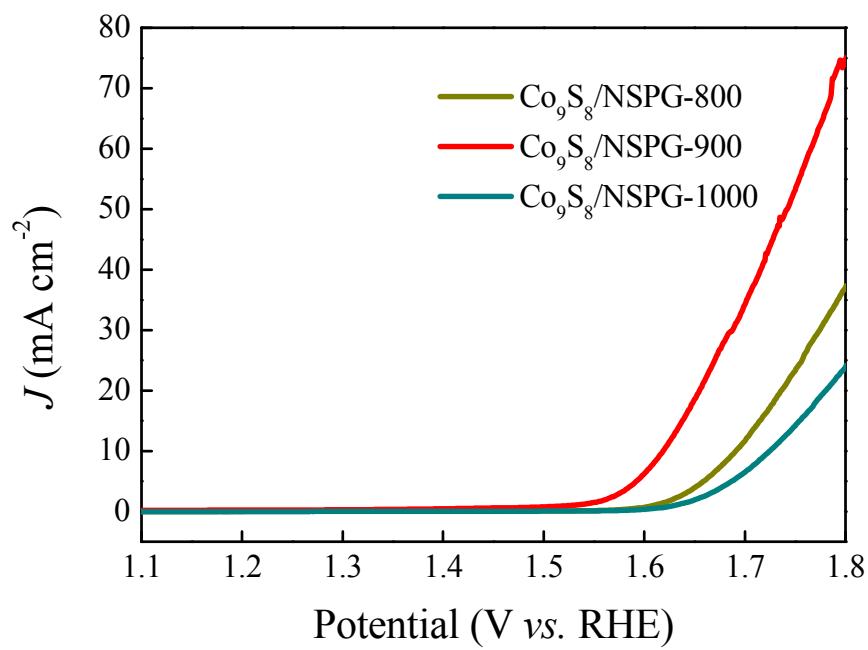


Figure S8. LSV curves of $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8/\text{NSPG}$, $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8/\text{NSPG-900}$ and $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8/\text{NSPG-1000}$ for OER on a RDE at 1600 rpm and 10 mV s^{-1} in O_2 -saturated 1.0 M KOH.

Table S5. OER parameters of Co₉S₈/NSPG-900 compared to catalysts in literatures

| Catalysts | η_{10} [mV] | Tafel slope [mV dec ⁻¹] | Reference |
|---|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Co ₉ S ₈ /NSPG-900 | 343 | 82 | This work |
| RuO ₂ | 370 | 79 | This work |
| Co ₉ S ₈ /N-C | 371 | 75 | [1] |
| Co _x S _y @C-1000 | 470 | — | [3] |
| CoS ₂ (400)/N,S-GO | 380 | 75 | [4] |
| FeP@NPC | 300 | 80 | [8] |
| Fe ₃ O ₄ /Co ₃ S ₄ | 210 | — | [11] |
| CNT-CoS ₂ | 290 | 255 | [12] |
| Co ₉ S ₈ @CoS@CoO@C | 150 | 96 | [13] |
| Fe ₃ O ₄ @Co ₉ S ₈ /rGO | 340 | 55 | [14] |
| CoNi-LDH/Fe-PPLBL | 264 | 38 | [15] |
| Co ₉ S ₈ @MoS ₂ /CNFs | 340 | 61 | [16] |

Reference

- [1] Cao, X.; Zheng, X.; Tian, J.; Jin, C.; Ke, K.; Yang, R. Cobalt Sulfide Embedded in Porous Nitrogen-doped Carbon as a Bifunctional Electrocatalyst for Oxygen Reduction and Evolution Reactions. *Electrochimica Acta* **2016**, *191*, 776–783.
- [2] Liu, Y.; Shen, H.; Jiang, H.; Li, W.; Li, J.; Li, Y.; Guo, Y. ZIF-Derived Graphene Coated/Co₉S₈ Nanoparticles Embedded in Nitrogen Doped Porous Carbon Polyhedrons as Advanced Catalysts for Oxygen Reduction Reaction. *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy* **2017**, *42*, 12978–12988.
- [3] Chen, B.; Li, R.; Ma, G.; Gou, X.; Zhu, Y.; Xia, Y. Cobalt Sulfide/N,S Codoped Porous Carbon Core–Shell Nanocomposites as Superior Bifunctional Electrocatalysts for Oxygen Reduction and Evolution Reactions. *Nanoscale* **2015**, *7*, 20674–20684.
- [4] Ganesan, P.; Prabu, M.; Sanetuntikul, J.; Shanmugam, S. Cobalt Sulfide Nanoparticles Grown on Nitrogen and Sulfur Codoped Graphene Oxide: An Efficient Electrocatalyst for Oxygen Reduction and Evolution Reactions. *ACS Catal.* **2015**, *5*, 3625–3637.
- [5] Bag, S.; Mondal, B.; Das, A.; Raj, C. Nitrogen and Sulfur Dual-Doped Reduced Graphene Oxide: Synergistic Effect of Dopants towards Oxygen Reduction Reaction. *Electrochimica Acta* **2015**, *163*, 16–23.
- [6] Zhou, T.; Du, Y.; Yin, S.; Tian, X.; Yang, H.; Wang, X.; Liu, B.; Zheng, H.; Qiao, S.; Xu, R. Nitrogen-Doped Cobalt Phosphate@Nanocarbon Hybrids for Efficient Electrocatalytic Oxygen Reduction. *Energy Environ. Sci.* **2016**, *9*, 2563–2570.
- [7] Senthilkumar, B.; Khan, Z.; Park, S.; Seo, I.; Ko, H.; Kim, Y. Exploration of

Cobalt Phosphate as a Potential Catalyst for Rechargeable Aqueous Sodium-Air Battery. *Journal of Power Sources* **2016**, *311*, 29–34.

[8] Zhang, R.; Zhang, C.; Chen, W. FeP Embedded in N, P Dual-Doped Porous Carbon Nanosheet: An Efficient and Durable Bifunctional Catalyst for Oxygen Reduction and Evolution Reactions. *J. Mater. Chem. A* **2016**, *4*, 18723–18729.

[9] Zhao, Y.; Kamiya, K.; Hashimoto, K.; Nakanishi, S. Efficient Oxygen Reduction Reaction Electrocatalysts Synthesized from An Iron Coordinated Aromatic Polymer Framework. *J. Mater. Chem. A* **2016**, *4*, 3858–3864.

[10] Tran, T.; Song, M.; Singh, K.; Yang, D.; Yu, J. Iron–Polypyrrole Electrocatalyst with Remarkable Activity and Stability for ORR in both Alkaline and Acidic Conditions: A Comprehensive Assessment of Catalyst Preparation Sequence. *J. Mater. Chem. A* **2016**, *4*, 8645–8657.

[11] Du, J.; Zhang, T.; Xing, J.; Xu, C. Hierarchical Porous $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Co}_3\text{S}_4$ Nanosheets as Efficient Electrocatalysts for Oxygen Evolution Reaction. *J. Mater. Chem. A* **2017**, *5*, 9210–9216.

[12] Yang, J.; Yang, Z.; Li, L.; Cai, Q.; Nie, H.; Ge, M.; Chen, X.; Chen, Y.; Huang, S. Highly Efficient Oxygen Evolution from CoS_2/CNT Nanocomposites via a One-Step Electrochemical Deposition and Dissolution Method. *Nanoscale* **2017**, *9*, 6886–6894.

[13] Long, Y.; Gong, Y.; Lin, J. Metal–Organic–Framework–Derived $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8@\text{CoS}@\text{CoO}@C$ Nanoparticles as Efficient Electro- and Photo-Catalysts for Oxygen Evolution Reaction. *J. Mater. Chem. A* **2017**, *5*, 10495–10509.

- [14] Yang, J.; Zhu, G.; Liu, Y.; Xia, J.; Ji, Z.; Shen, X.; Wu, S. Fe₃O₄-Decorated Co₉S₈ Nanoparticles In Situ Grown on Reduced Graphene Oxide: A New and Efficient Electrocatalyst for Oxygen Evolution Reaction. *Adv. Funct. Mater.* **2016**, *26*, 4712–4721.
- [15] Zhang, C.; Zhao, J.; Zhou, L.; Li, Z.; Shao, M.; Wei, M. Layer-By-Layer Assembly of Exfoliated Layered Double Hydroxide Nanosheets for Enhanced Electrochemical Oxidation of Water. *J. Mater. Chem. A* **2016**, *4*, 11516–11523.
- [16] Zhu, H.; Zhang, J.; Yanzhang, R.; Du, M.; Wang, Q.; Gao, G.; Wu, J.; Wu, G.; Zhang, M.; Li, B.; Yao, J.; Zhang, X. When Cubic Cobalt Sulfide Meets Layered Molybdenum Disulfide: A Core–Shell System Toward Synergetic Electrocatalytic Water Splitting. *Adv. Mater.* **2015**, *27*, 4752–4759.