

Supporting Information for

3D Interconnected Honeycomb-Like Multifunctional Catalyst for Zn–Air Batteries

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Supplementary Figures and Tables

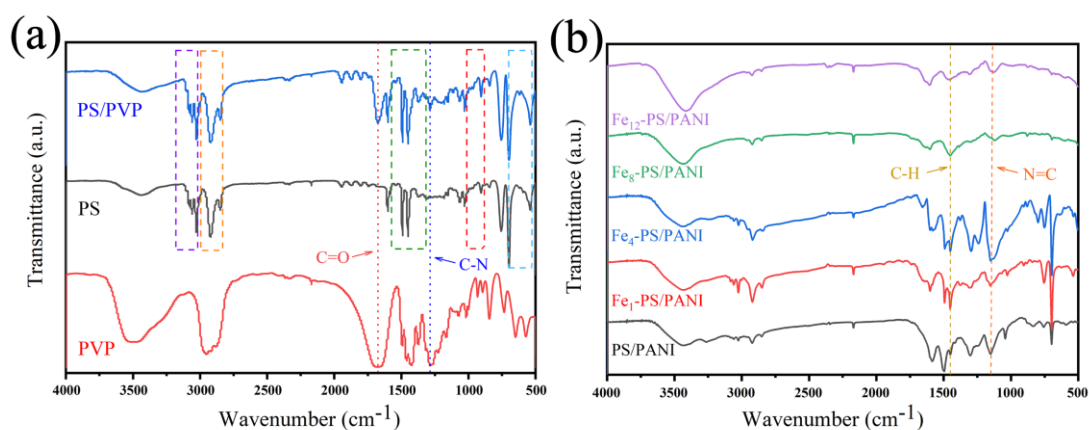


Fig. S1 (a) FTIR spectrum of pure PS, pure PVP and PS / PVP composite samples; (b) FTIR spectrum of PS / PANI, Fe₁-PS / PANI, Fe₄-PS / PANI, Fe₈-PS / PANI and Fe₁₂-PS / PANI

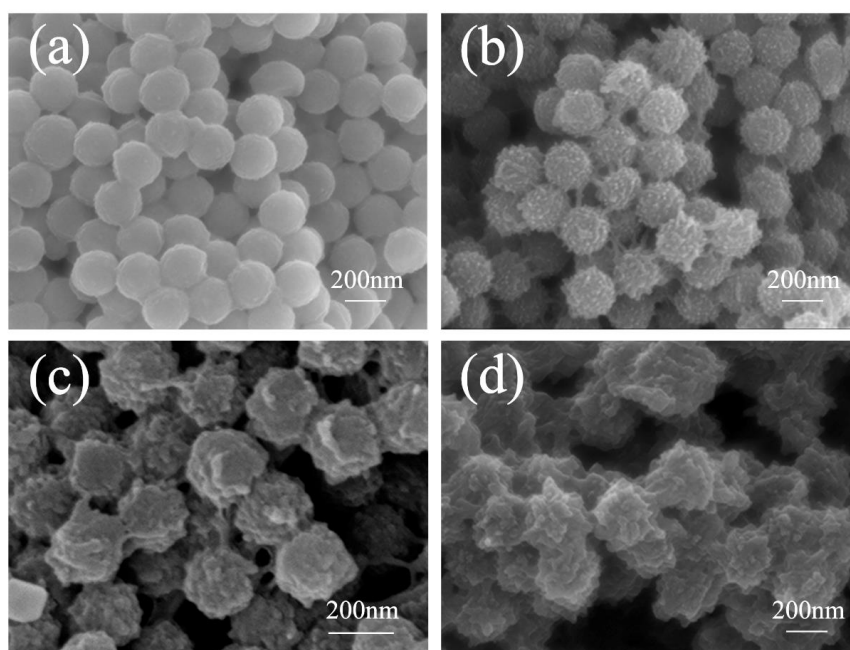


Fig. S2 SEM images of (a) Fe₁-PS / PANI; (b) Fe₄-PS / PANI; (c) Fe₈-PS / PANI and (d) Fe₁₂-PS / PANI

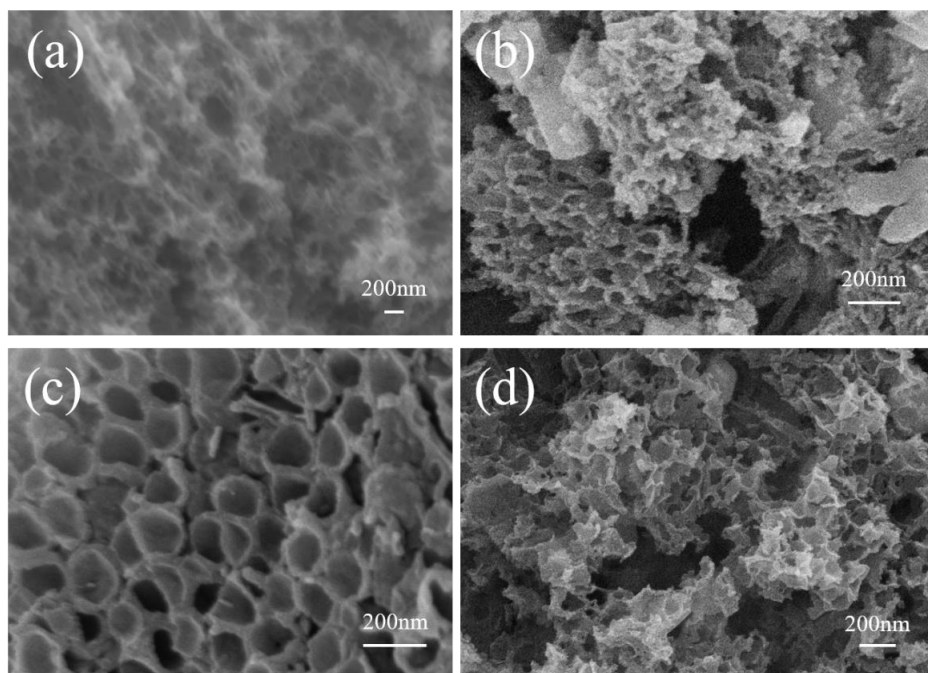


Fig. S3 SEM images of (a) Fe₁-NC-800; (b) Fe₄-NC-800; (c) Fe₈-NC-800 and (d) Fe₁₂-NC-800

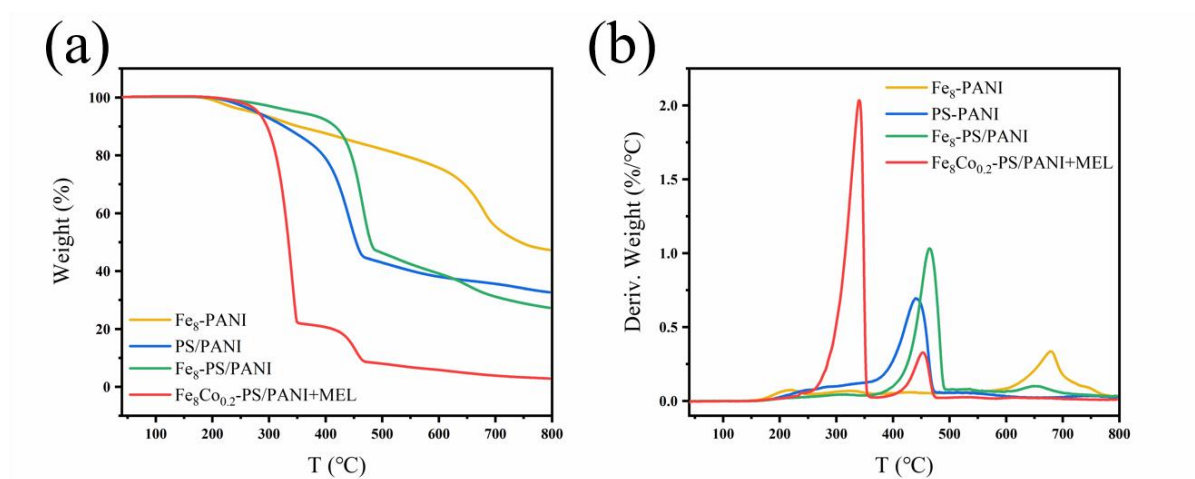
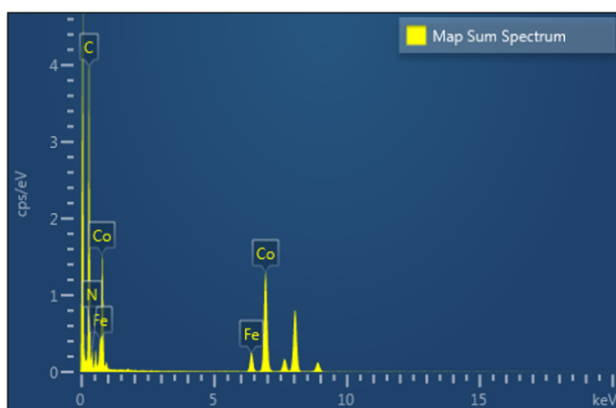


Fig. S4 SEM images of (a) Fe₁-PS/PANI; (b) Fe₄-PS/PANI; (c) Fe₈-PS/PANI and (d) Fe₁₂-PS/PANI



| Element | Wt% | Wt% Sigma | Atomic % |
|---------|--------|-----------|----------|
| C | 64.92 | 0.29 | 86.58 |
| N | 4.37 | 0.27 | 5.00 |
| Fe | 4.56 | 0.09 | 1.31 |
| Co | 26.14 | 0.21 | 7.11 |
| Total: | 100.00 | | 100.00 |

Fig. S5 the contents of different elements of Fe₈Co_{0.2}-NC-800 were measured by energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS)

Table S1 ICP-MS of Fe and Co from Fe₈Co_{0.2}-NC-800

| Sample | Element | Content (ppm) |
|---|---------|---------------|
| Fe ₈ Co _{0.2} -NC-800 | Fe | 0.2299 |
| | Co | 0.3150 |

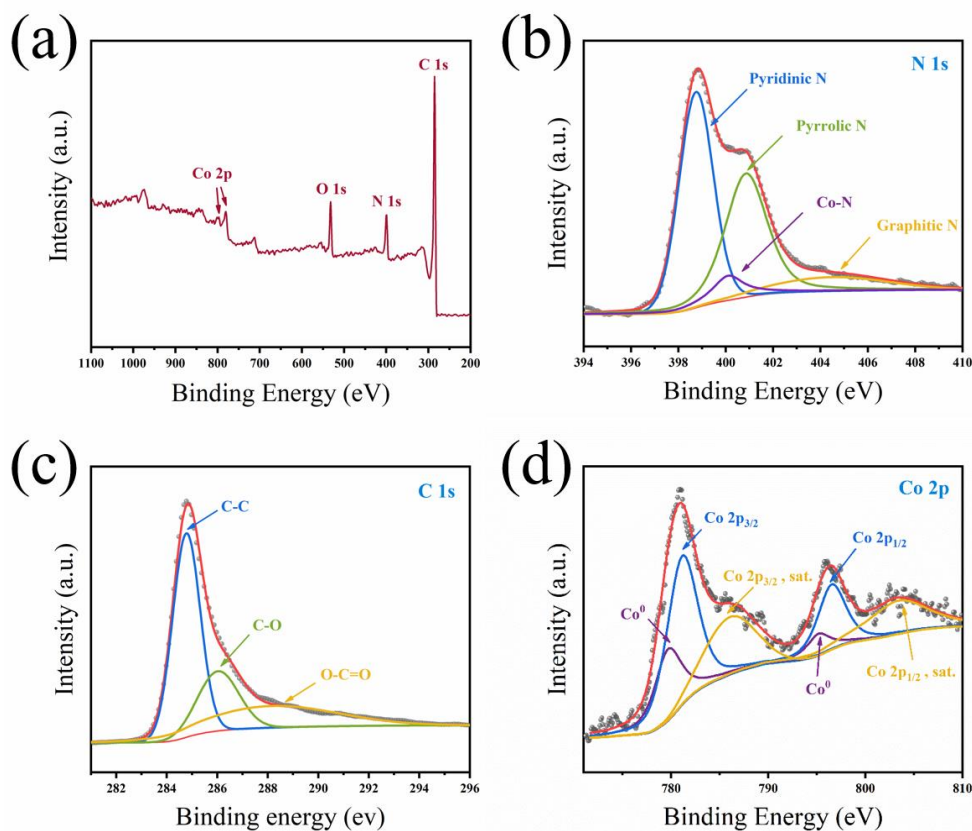


Fig. S6 (a) XPS full spectrum of Co_{0.2}-NC-800; High resolution spectra of (b) N 1s, (c) C 1s, (d) Co 2p

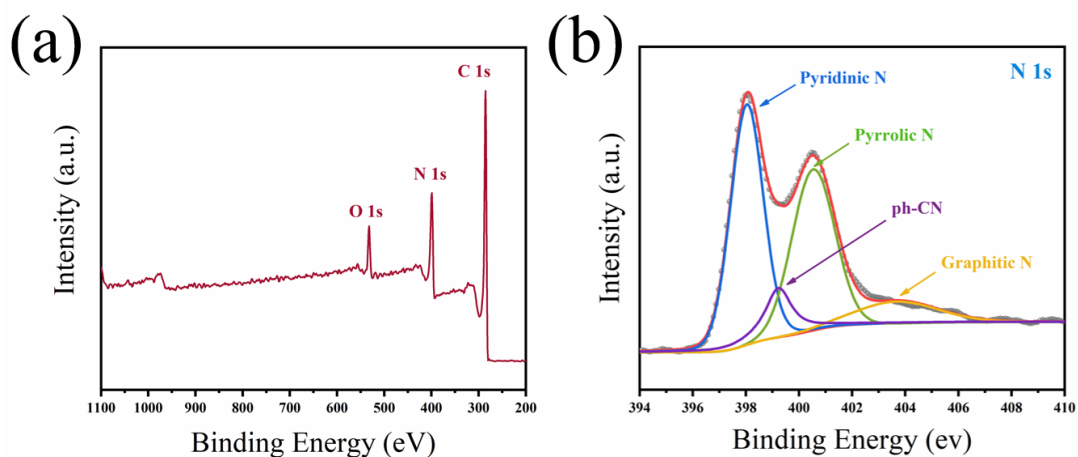


Fig. S7 (a) XPS full spectrum of NC-800; High resolution spectra of (b) N 1s

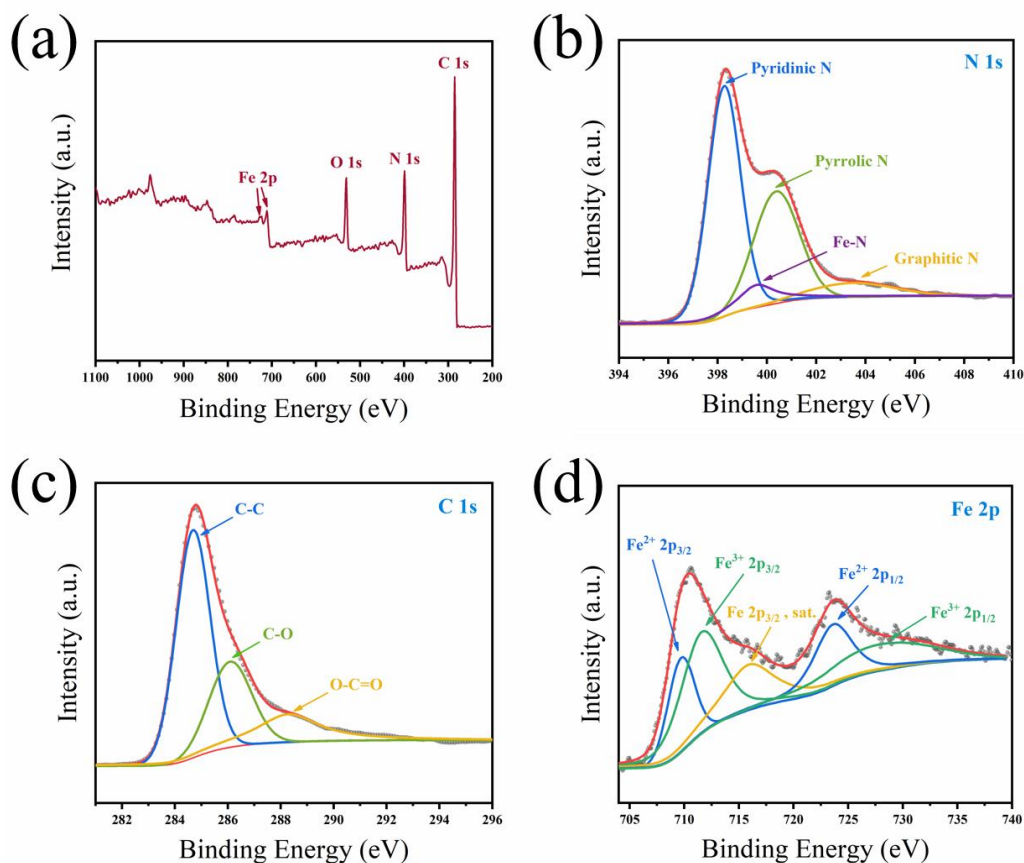


Fig. S8 (a) XPS full spectrum of $\text{Fe}_8\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{-NC-800}$; High resolution spectra of (b) N 1s, (c) C 1s, (d) Fe 2p

Table S2 EXAFS fitting parameters at the Co K-edge for various samples ($S_0^2=0.791$)

| Sample | Shell | CN ^a | R(\AA) ^b | $\sigma^2(\text{\AA}^2)$ ^c | $\Delta E_0(\text{eV})$ ^d | R factor |
|-----------|----------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Co foil | Co-Co | 12* | 2.49±0.01 | 0.0061±0.0002 | 7.1±0.4 | 0.002 |
| CoPc | Co-N | 4.0±1.0 | 1.89±0.01 | 0.0025±0.0002 | 3.48±3.2 | 0.03 |
| CoO | Co-O | 6.0±0.9 | 2.12±0.01 | 0.01±0.0041 | 0.16±1.8 | 0.004 |
| | Co-Co | 12.6±1.2 | 3.00±0.01 | 0.009±0.0010 | -2.46±0.9 | |
| Sample Co | Co-N | 3.0±2.1 | 2.0±0.01 | 0.013±0.014 | 3.19±9.89 | 0.004 |
| | Co-Fe/Co | 6.0±0.6 | 2.5±0.01 | 0.004±0.0008 | -3.43±1.34 | |

Table S3 EXAFS fitting parameters at the Fe K-edge for various samples ($S_0^2=0.59$)

| Sample | Shell | CN ^a | R(\AA) ^b | $\sigma^2(\text{\AA}^2)$ ^c | $\Delta E_0(\text{eV})$ ^d | R factor |
|--------------------------------|----------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Fe foil | Fe-Fe1 | 8* | 2.46±0.01 | 0.004±0.0001 | -2.77±1.68 | 0.007 |
| | Fe-Fe2 | 6* | 2.84±0.01 | 0.004±0.0001 | -3.65±3.11 | |
| FePc | Fe-N | 3.9±0.67 | 1.95±0.01 | 0.007±0.002 | -0.9±2.4 | 0.016 |
| Fe ₃ O ₄ | Fe-O | 6.3±1.6 | 1.93±0.01 | 0.012±0.004 | -7.0±3.8 | 0.02 |
| | Fe-Fe | 12.8±3.8 | 3.09±0.01 | 0.016±0.003 | 6.5±2.4 | |
| Sample Fe | Fe-N | 3.1±1.3 | 1.98±0.01 | 0.011±0.006 | -0.71±5.54 | 0.009 |
| | Fe-Fe/Co | 5.0±0.9 | 2.52±0.01 | 0.005±0.0018 | -2.18±2.55 | |

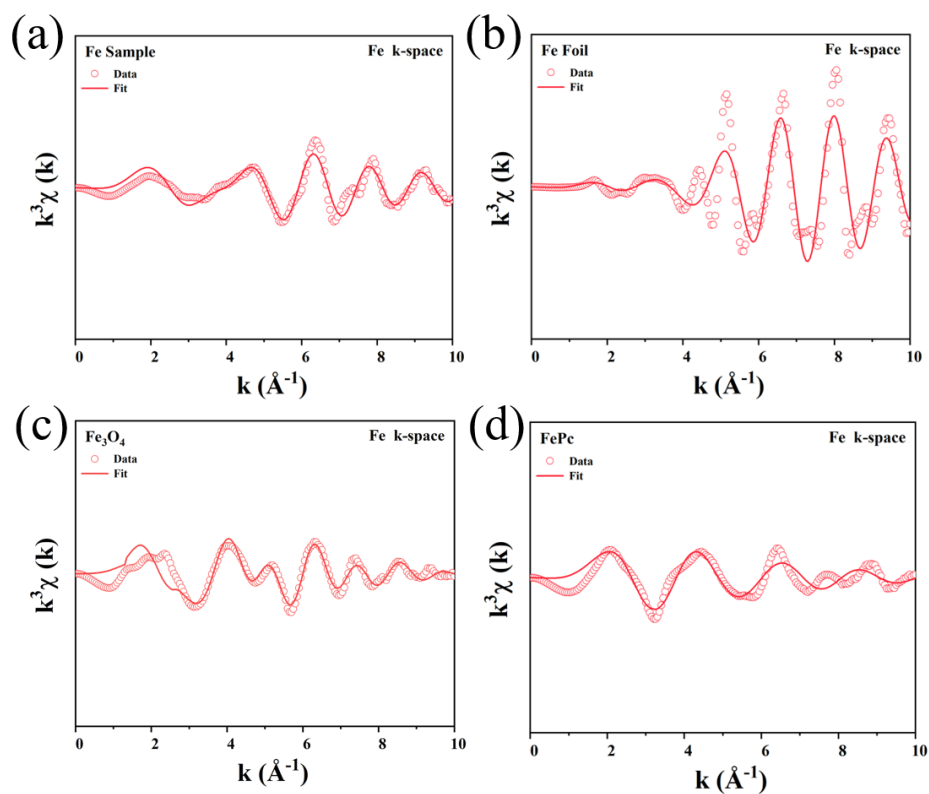


Fig. S9 EXAFS fitting curve of Fe element sample in k-space

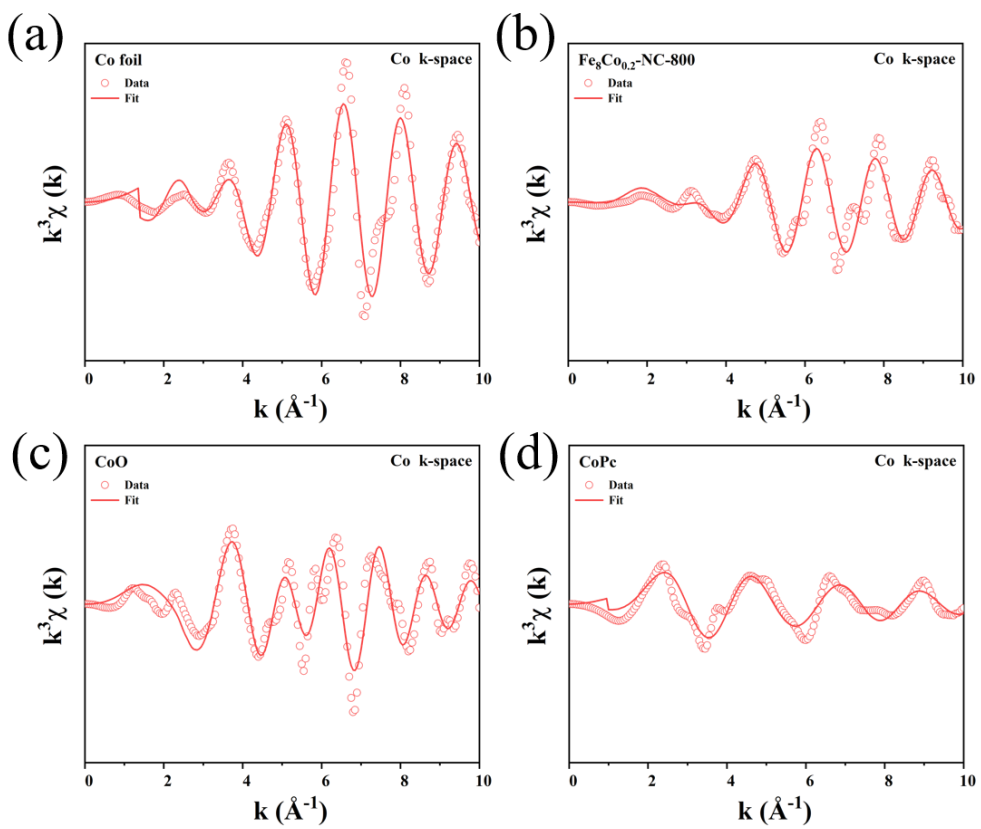


Fig. S10 EXAFS fitting curve of Co element sample in k-space

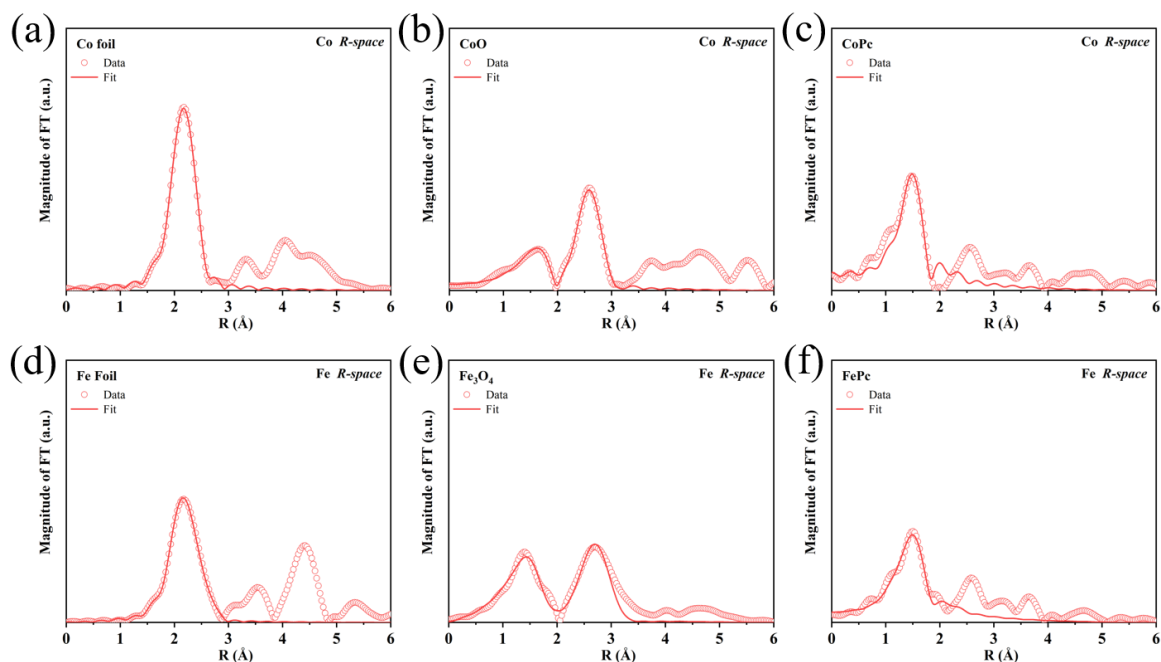


Fig. S11 EXAFS fitting curve of reference samples of Co and Fe in R-space

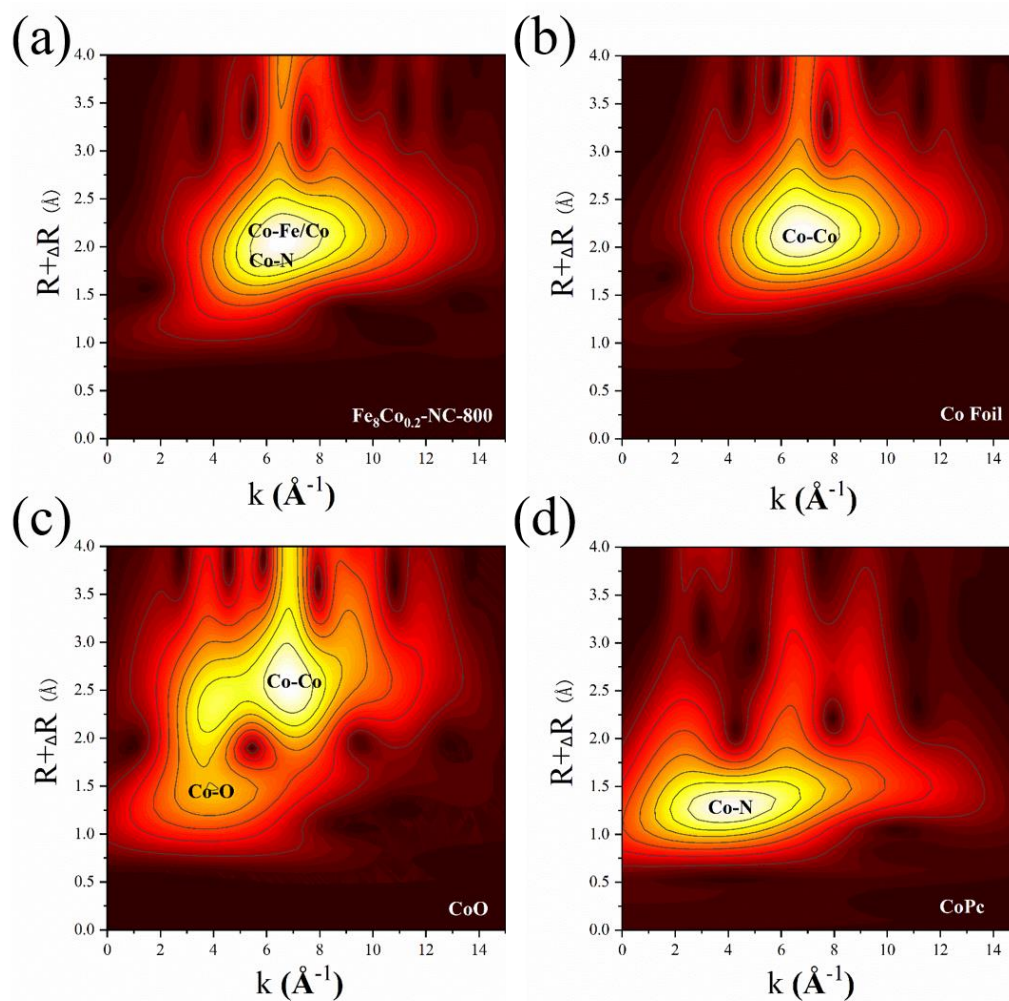


Fig. S12 Co K edge wavelet transform extended X-ray absorption fine structure (WT-EXAFS) of (a) Fe₈Co_{0.2}-NC-800, (b) Co Foil, (c) CoO, (d) CoPc

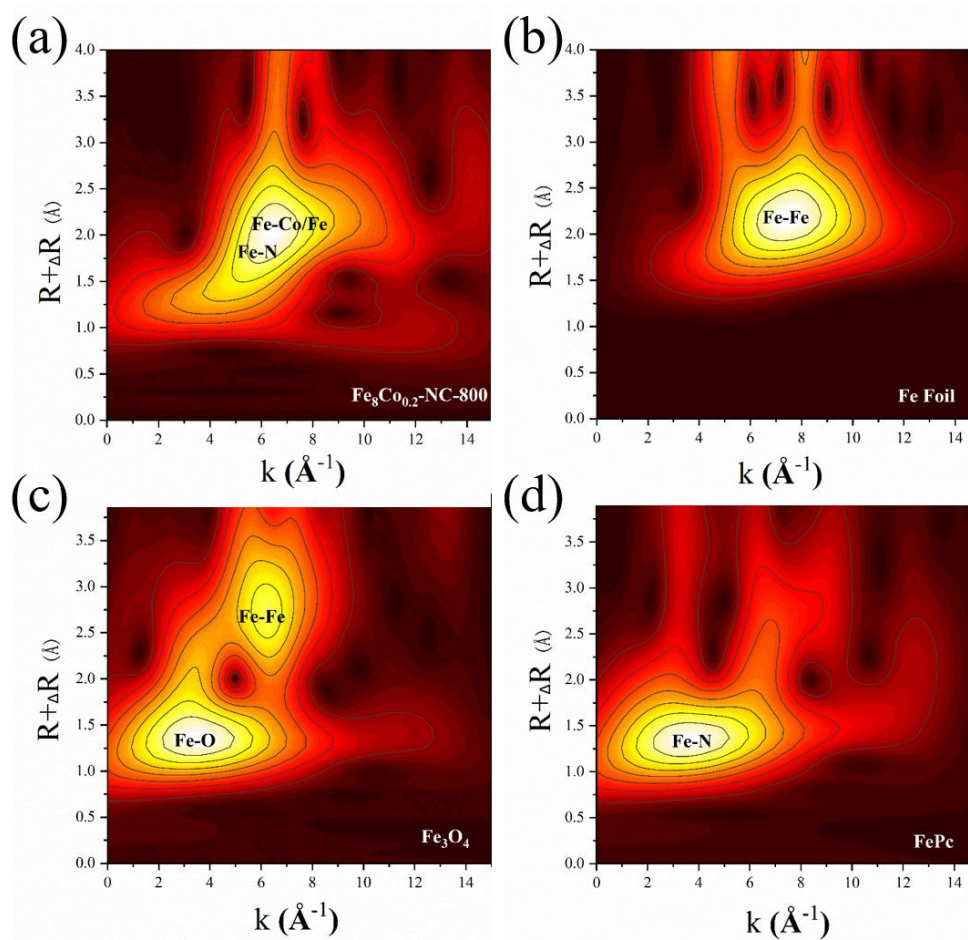


Fig. S13 Fe K edge wavelet transform extended X-ray absorption fine structure (WT-EXAFS) of (a) $\text{Fe}_8\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{-NC-800}$, (b) Fe Foil, (c) Fe_3O_4 , (d) FePc

For Wavelet Transform analysis, the $\chi(k)$ exported from Athena was imported into the Hama Fortran code. The parameters were listed as follow: R range, 1 - 4 Å, k range, 0 - 15.0 Å⁻¹ for Co, Fe sample; k weight, 2; and Morlet function with $\kappa=5$, $\sigma=1$ was used as the mother wavelet to provide the overall distribution.

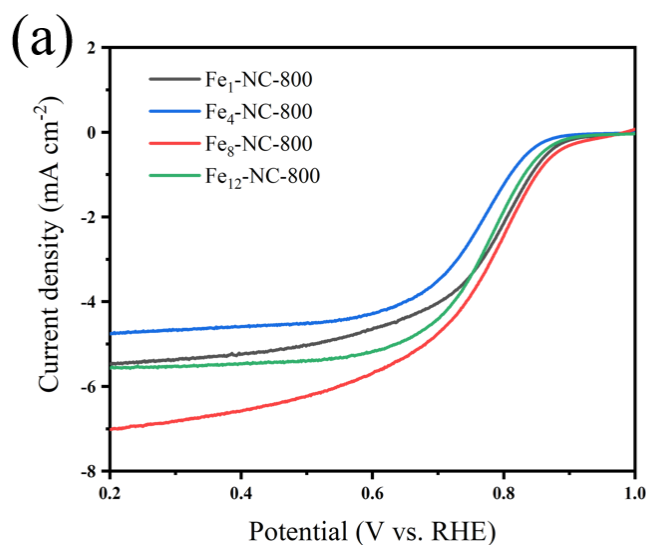


Fig. S14 LSV curve of ORR of $\text{Fe}_x\text{-NC-800}$ catalysts

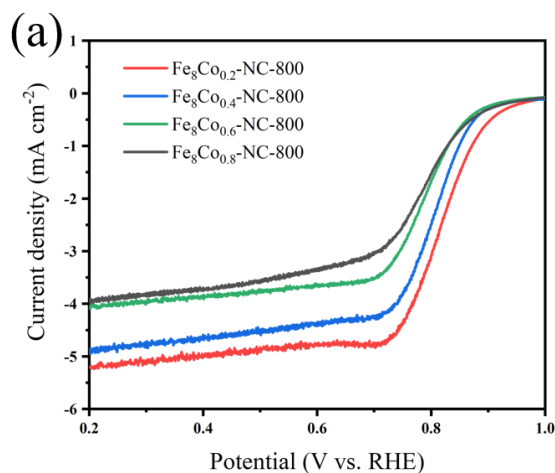


Fig. S15 LSV curve of ORR of catalysts with different Co content

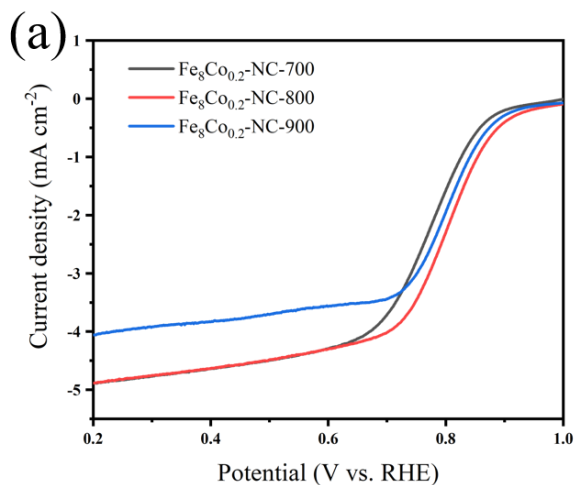


Fig. S16 LSV curves of ORR of catalysts prepared at different carbonization temperatures

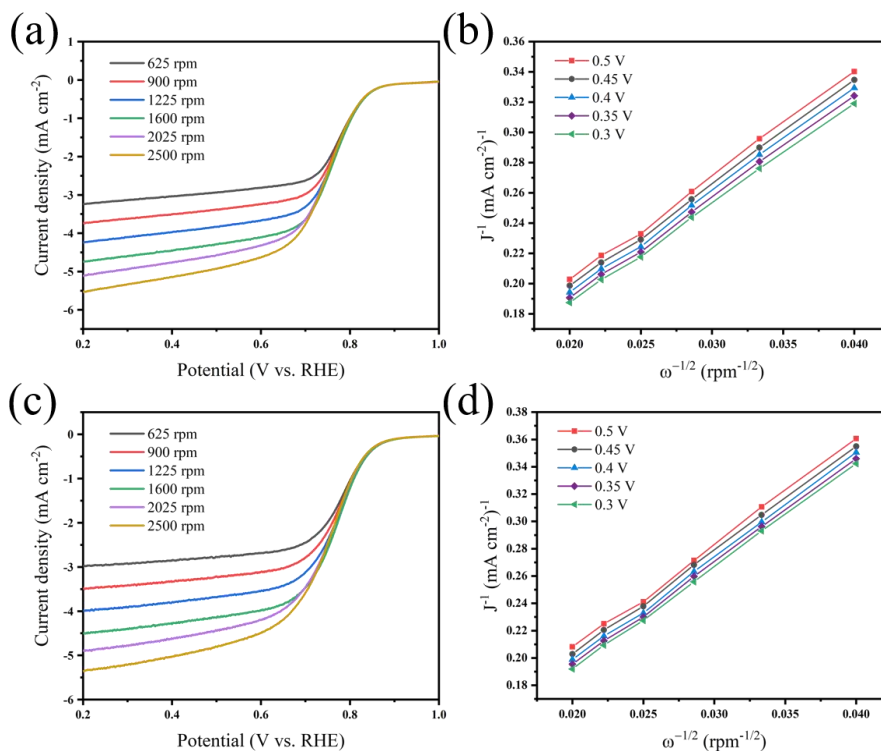


Fig. S17 (a, c) LSV curve of $\text{Fe}_8\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{-NC-700}$, $\text{Fe}_8\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{-NC-900}$ at different rotating speeds and corresponding (b, d) K-L curve

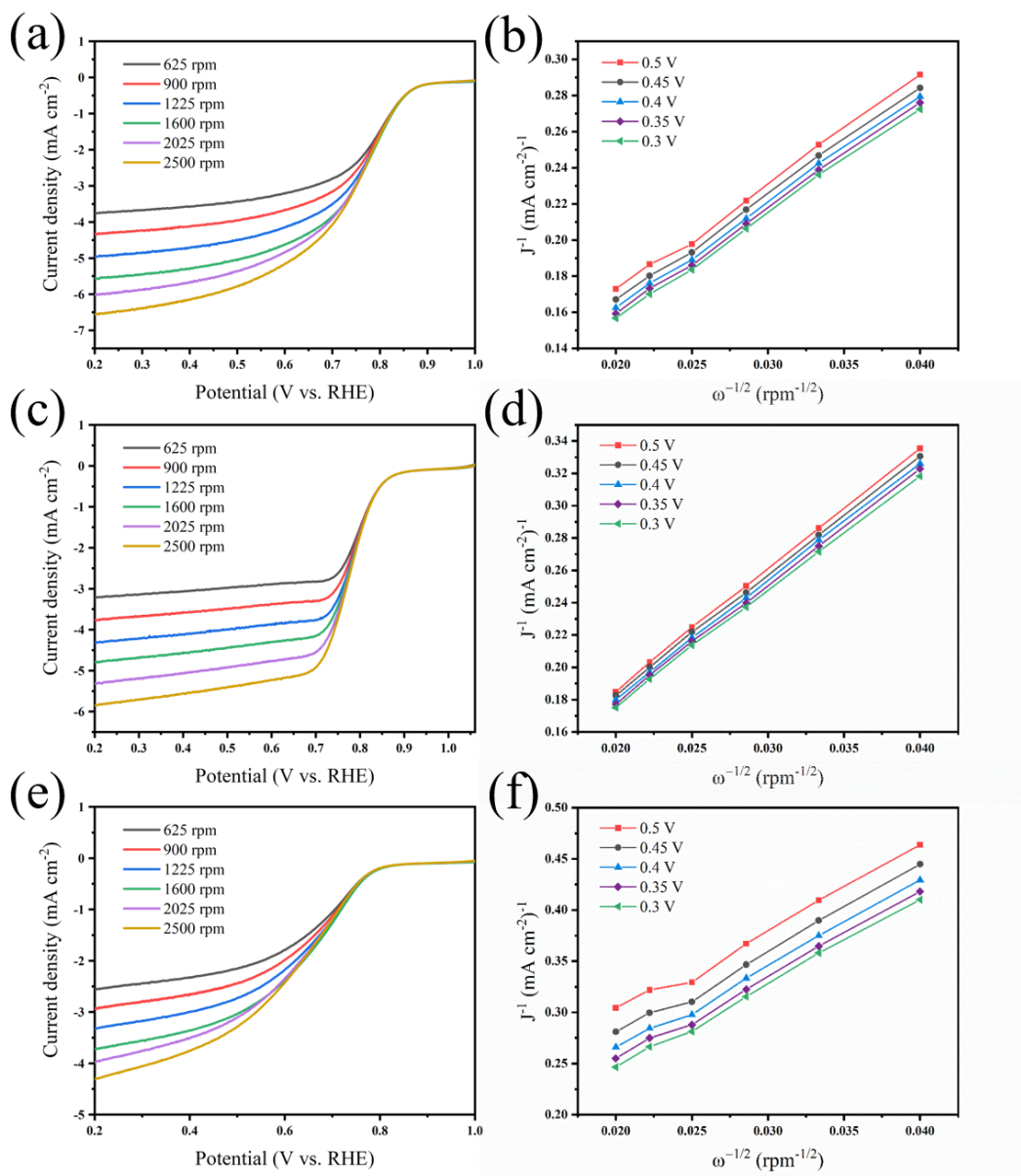


Fig. S18 LSV curve of Fe₈-NC-800, Co_{0.2}-NC-800, NC-800 at different rotating speeds and corresponding K-L curve

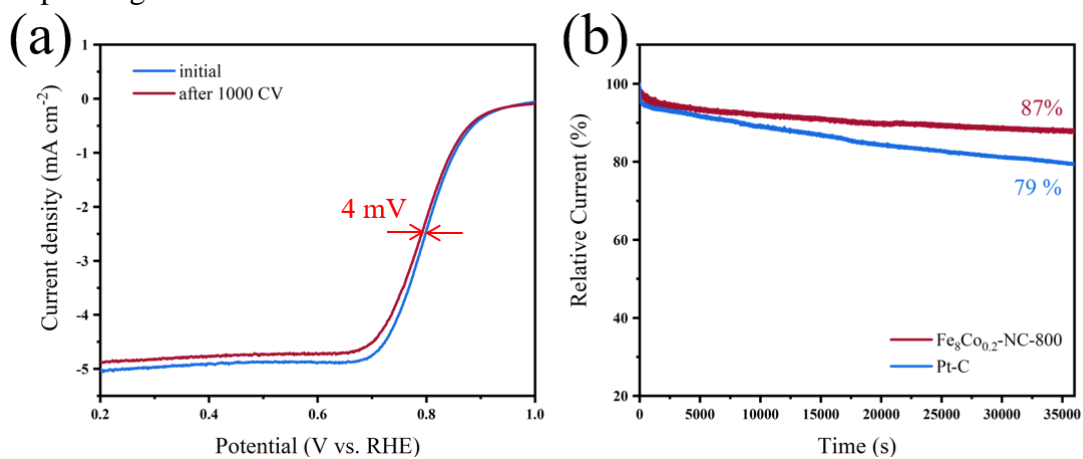


Fig. S19 ORR catalytic durability test of Fe₈Co_{0.2}-NC-800

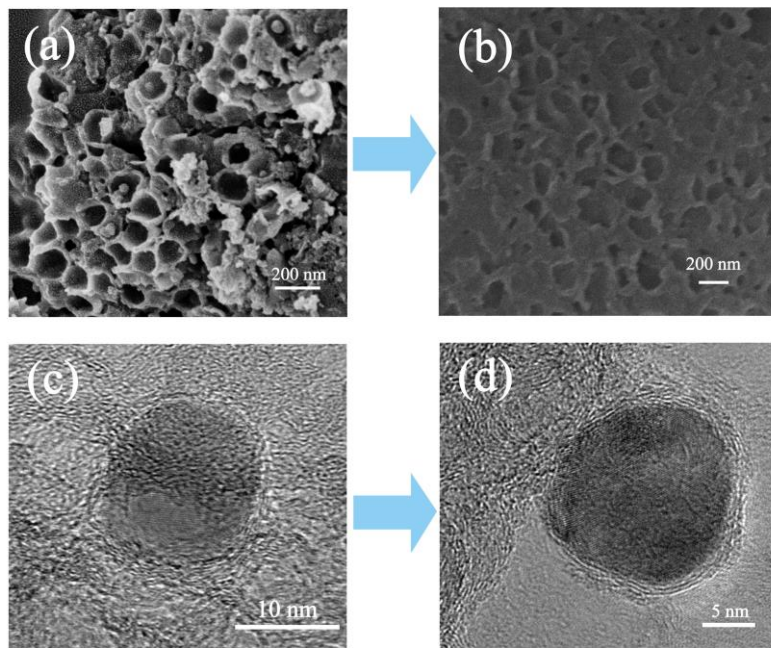


Fig. S20 Morphological changes of Fe₈Co_{0.2}-NC-800 before and after durability test. (a-b) SEM, (c-d) TEM

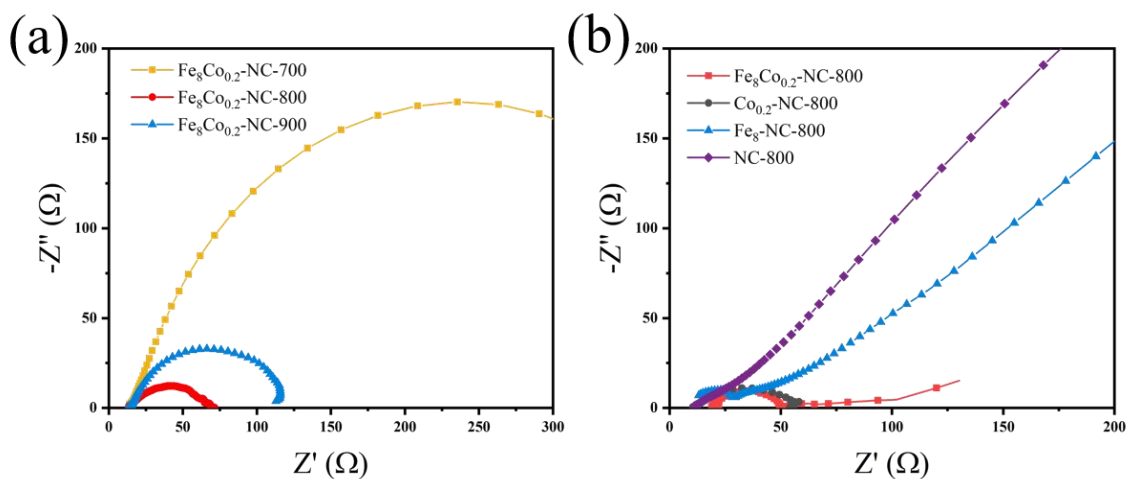


Fig. S21 EIS spectra of the prepared samples

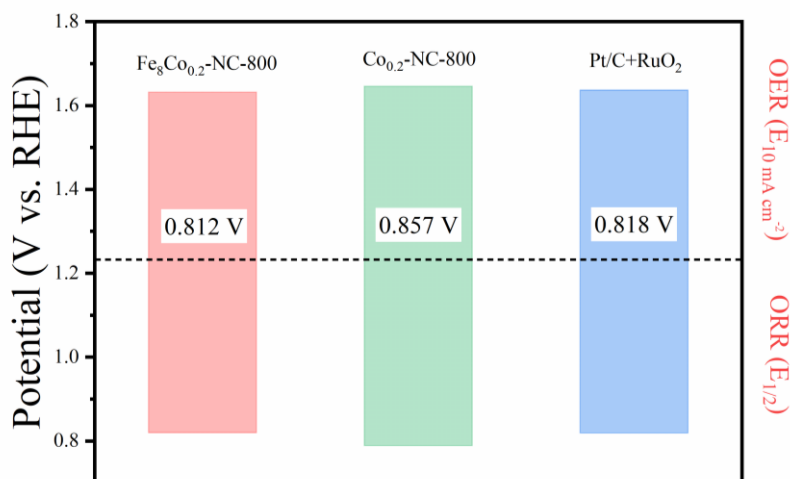


Fig. S22 Voltage difference (ΔE) statistical chart of as-prepared catalysts for OER/ORR catalytic activity

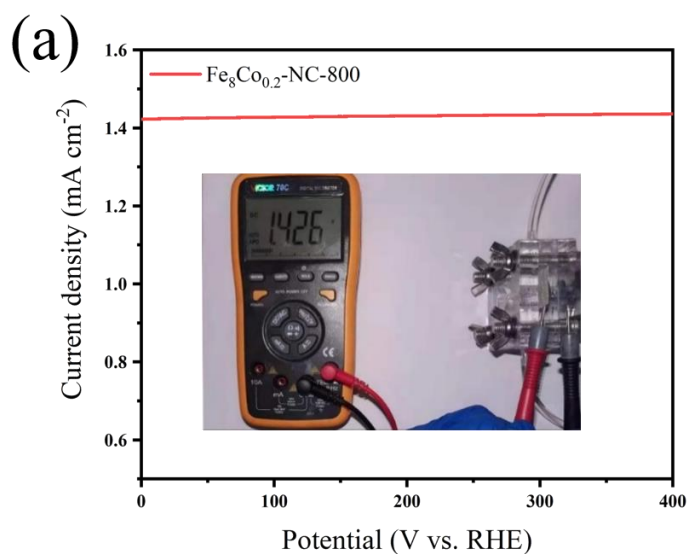


Fig. S23 Open circuit voltage test of liquid battery (inset is digital photo of multimeter test)

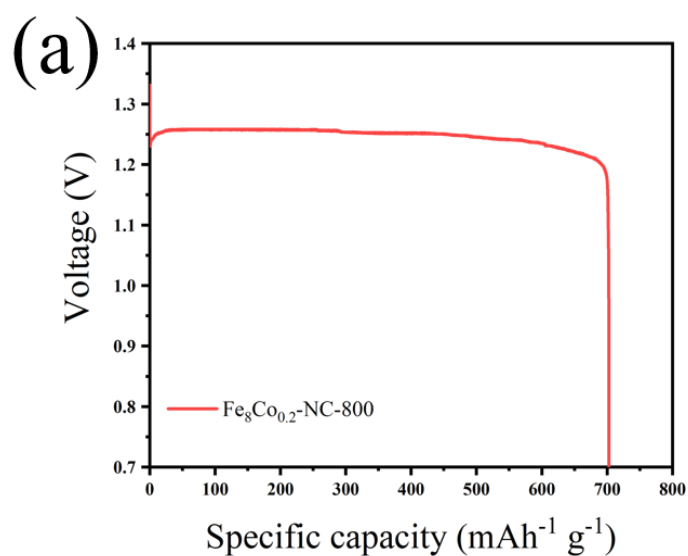


Fig. S24 Constant current discharge curve of liquid battery at 3.5 mA cm^{-2} and the specific capacity are normalized by Zn mass

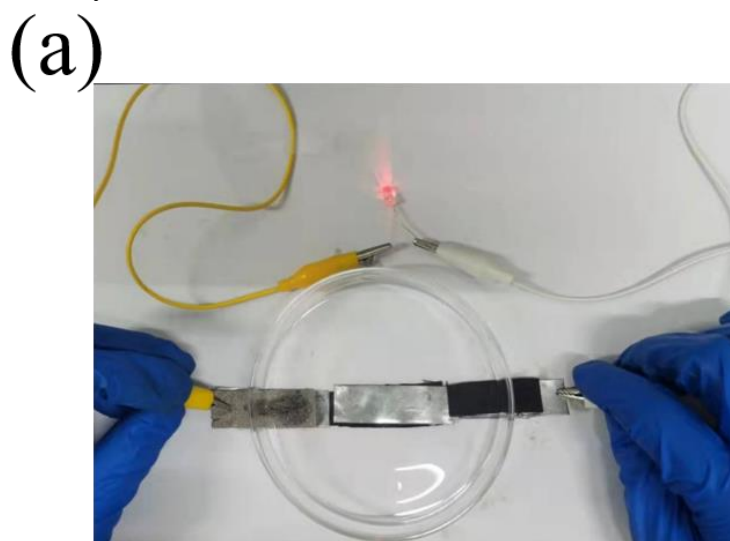


Fig. S25 Three batteries in series can light one LED bulb

Table S4 Calculated ORR free energy

| Configuration | Reaction free energy (eV) | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------|------------------|
| | 2H ₂ O+O ₂ | OH ⁻ +H ₂ O+OOH* | 2OH ⁻ +H ₂ O+O* | 3OH ⁻ +OH* | 4OH ⁻ |
| 111Co | 4.92 | -1.0937 | -0.2416 | 2.4099 | 0 |
| 111Fe | 4.92 | -0.9554 | 0.7368 | 0.3002 | 0 |
| 200Co | 4.92 | -1.9136 | -1.6742 | -0.7388 | 0 |
| 200Fe | 4.92 | 2.9916 | -1.1786 | -0.3631 | 0 |

Table S5 Calculated OER free energy

| Configuration | Reaction free energy (eV) | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------|------------------|
| | 2H ₂ O+O ₂ | OH ⁻ +H ₂ O+OOH* | 2OH ⁻ +H ₂ O+O* | 3OH ⁻ +OH* | 4OH ⁻ |
| 111Co | 0 | 6.0137 | 5.1616 | 2.5101 | 4.92 |
| 111Fe | 0 | 5.8754 | 4.1832 | 4.6197 | 4.92 |
| 200Co | 0 | 6.8336 | 6.5942 | 5.6588 | 4.92 |
| 200Fe | 0 | 1.9283 | 6.0986 | 5.2831 | 4.92 |

Table S6 Performance comparison with the catalyst reported in the literature

| Material | ORR E _{1/2} [V vs RHE] | OER E ₁₀ [V vs RHE] | HER E ₁₀ [V vs RHE] | Refs. |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Fe ₈ Co _{0.2} -NC-800 | 0.82 V | 1.63 V | 0.29 V | This Work |
| NiFe-LDH/NrGO | 0.75 V | 1.47 V | / | [S1] |
| CoDNi-N/C | 0.81 V | 1.59 V | / | [S2] |
| FeCo@C MS | 0.85 V | 1.67 V | 0.22 V (acid) | [S3] |
| Fe-Co(0.4)/N-rGO-AL | 0.81 V | / | / | [S4] |
| Fe/ Co-CNT@MXene-8 | 0.85 V | 1.61 V | / | [S5] |
| N-Co ₃ O ₄ @NC | 0.77 V | 1.50 V | / | [S6] |
| CC-AC | 0.75 V | 1.60 V | / | [S7] |
| 1-NH ₂ | 0.76V | 1.45 V | / | [S8] |
| Ca ₂ FeRuO ₆ | 0.8 V | 1.57 V | 0.19 V | [S9] |
| NCF-900 | 0.89 V | 1.57 V | 0.20 V (NRR) | [S10] |

Supplementary References

- [S1] T. Zhan, X. Liu, S. Lu, W. Hou, Nitrogen doped NiFe layered double hydroxide/reduced graphene oxide mesoporous nanosphere as an effective bifunctional electrocatalyst for oxygen reduction and evolution reactions. *Appl. Catal. B Environ.* **205**, 551-558 (2017). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.apcatb.2017.01.010>
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- [S8] W. Li, S. Xue, S. Watzele, S. Hou, J. Fichtner et al., Advanced bifunctional oxygen reduction and evolution electrocatalyst derived from surface-mounted metal-organic frameworks. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **59**(14), 5837-5843 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1002/anie.201916507>
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