

## Supporting Information

### Heteroatom (Nitrogen/Sulfur)-Doped Graphene as an Efficient Electrocatalyst for Oxygen Reduction and Evolution Reactions

Jian Zhang <sup>1</sup>, Jia Wang <sup>2</sup>, Zexing Wu <sup>2</sup>, Shuai Wang <sup>2,\*</sup>, Yumin Wu <sup>1,\*</sup> and Xien Liu <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> College of Chemical Engineering, Qingdao University of Science & Technology, Qingdao 266042, P. R. China; [jian8552@163.com](mailto:jian8552@163.com) (J.Z.)

<sup>2</sup> State Key Laboratory Base of Eco-chemical Engineering, College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, Qingdao University of Science & Technology, Qingdao 266042, P. R. China; [wangjia3588@163.com](mailto:wangjia3588@163.com) (J.W.); [splswzx@qust.edu.cn](mailto:splswzx@qust.edu.cn) (Z.W.); [liuxien@qust.edu.cn](mailto:liuxien@qust.edu.cn) (X.L.)

\* Correspondence: [qustwangshuai@qust.edu.cn](mailto:qustwangshuai@qust.edu.cn) (S.W.); Tel.: +86-150-9202-5911; [wuyumin001@126.com](mailto:wuyumin001@126.com) (Y.W.); Tel.: +86-138-5463-8500

#### Electrochemical Measurements in Alkaline Electrolyte

Firstly, 3.0 mg catalyst was adequately dispersed into the solution of ethanol (0.30 mL) and deionized water (0.15 mL) with the addition of 60.0  $\mu\text{L}$  of Nafion solution (5.0 wt%), then a homogeneous ink was formed through vigorous ultrasonic. Whereafter, 5.0  $\mu\text{L}$  of obtained catalyst ink ( $0.23 \text{ mg cm}^{-2}$ ) was dropped onto the working electrode surface for ORR, while 35.0  $\mu\text{L}$  of the ink ( $0.21 \text{ mg cm}^{-2}$ ) was dropped onto Ni foam ( $1 \times 1 \text{ cm}$ ) for OER. The coated electrode was dried with infrared radiation prior to use for ORR. The loading of 20% Pt/C was also  $0.23 \text{ mg cm}^{-2}$ .

OER activity measurements of the catalysts were evaluated by using a standard three-electrode electrochemical cell in 1 M KOH electrolyte. A reversible hydrogen electrode and carbon rod were used as reference electrode and counter electrode, respectively. All the LSV curves were obtained at a scanning rate of  $10 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  within the potential range of 1.0–1.8 V (vs RHE).

#### Calculation of Electron Transfer Number (n) and % $\text{HO}_2^-$ for Oxygen Reduction Reaction

On the basis of rotating disk electrode (RDE) measurements, the electron transfer numbers ( $n$ ) per  $O_2$  involved in ORR were calculated from the slopes of the Koutecky-Levich plots according to the following equations[1]:

$$\frac{1}{j} = \frac{1}{j_k} + \frac{1}{j_l} = \frac{1}{B\omega^{1/2}} + \frac{1}{j_k} \quad (1)$$

where  $j$  is the measured current density,  $j_k$  and  $j_l$  are the kinetic and diffusion-limiting current densities,  $\omega$  is the rotating rate of electrode (rpm).  $B$  is determined from the slope of the Koutecky-Levich plots according to the Levich equation.

$$B = 0.2nFC_{O_2}D_{O_2}^{2/3}\nu^{-1/6} \quad (2)$$

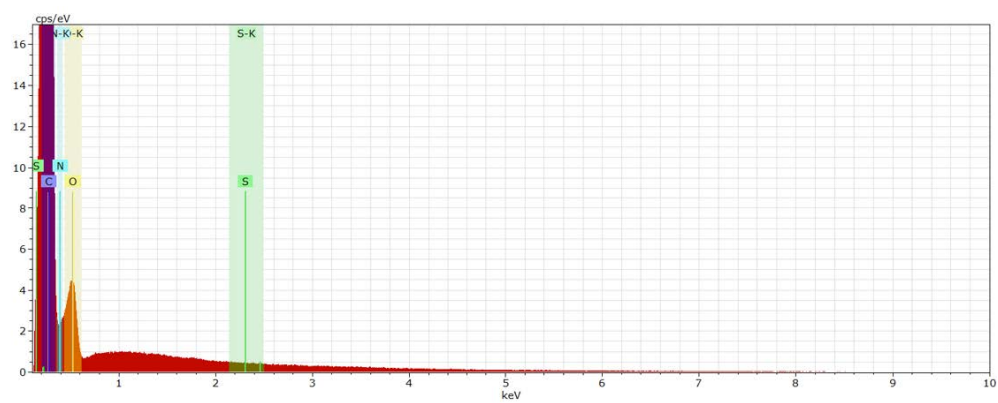
where  $n$  is electron transfer number per oxygen molecule,  $F$  is Faraday constant (96,485 C mol<sup>-1</sup>),  $C_{O_2}$  is the bulk concentration of  $O_2$  ( $1.2 \times 10^{-6}$  mol cm<sup>-3</sup>),  $\nu$  is the kinetic viscosity of electrolyte (0.01 cm<sup>2</sup> S<sup>-1</sup>).  $D_{O_2}$  is the diffusion coefficient of  $O_2$  in 0.1 M KOH and 0.1 M HClO<sub>4</sub> ( $1.9 \times 10^{-5}$  cm<sup>2</sup> S<sup>-1</sup>).

Hydrogen peroxide yields and the electron transfer number ( $n$ ) were calculated by the following equations:

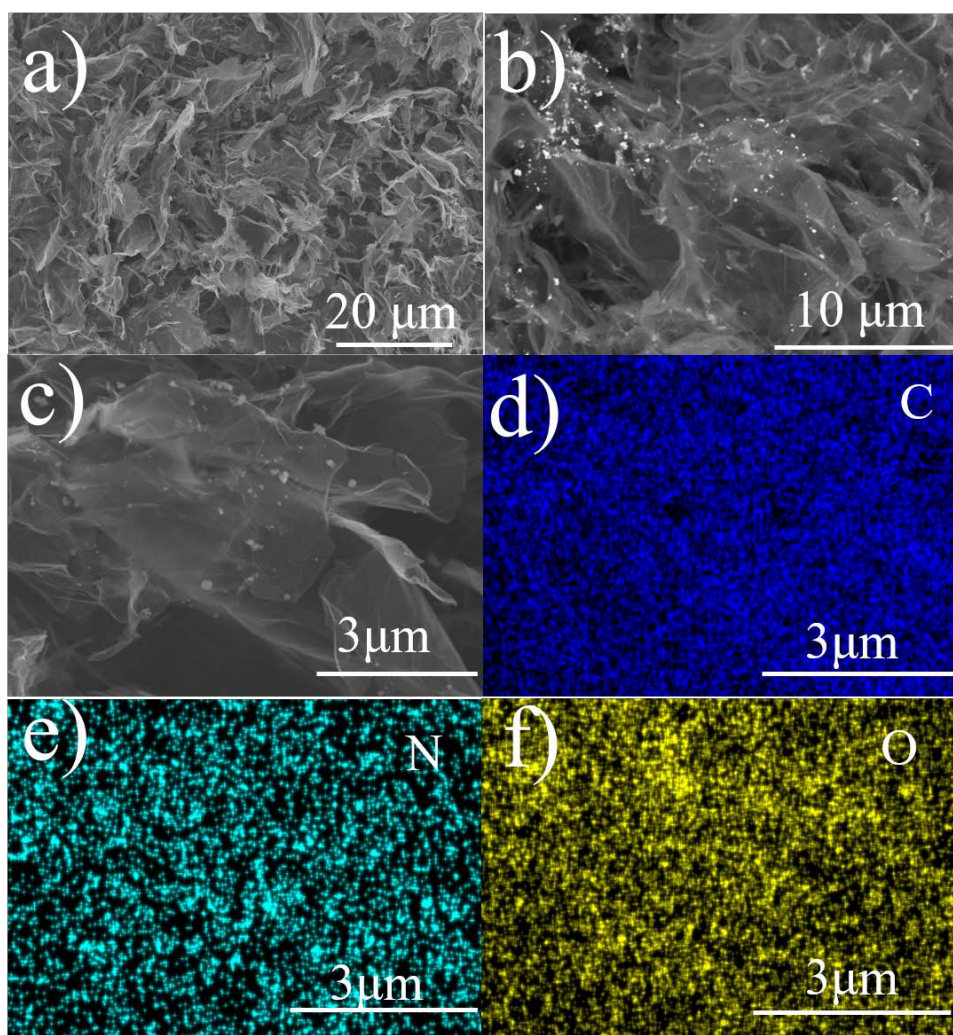
$$\%(HO_2^-) = 200 \times \frac{\frac{I_r}{N}}{I_d + \frac{I_r}{N}} \quad (3)$$

$$n = 4 \times \frac{I_d}{I_d + \frac{I_r}{N}} \quad (4)$$

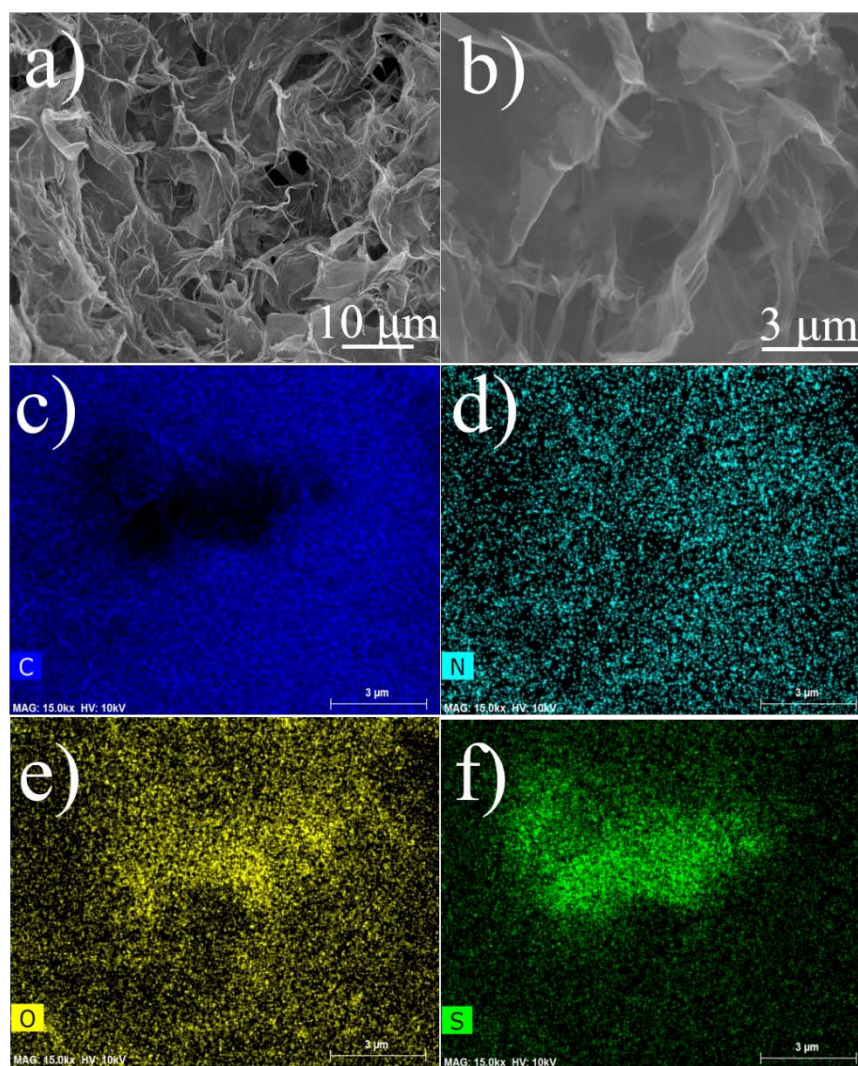
where  $I_d$  is disk current,  $I_r$  is ring current, the collection efficiency ( $N$ ) was determined to be 0.40 by using 10 mM K<sub>3</sub>[Fe(CN)<sub>6</sub>].



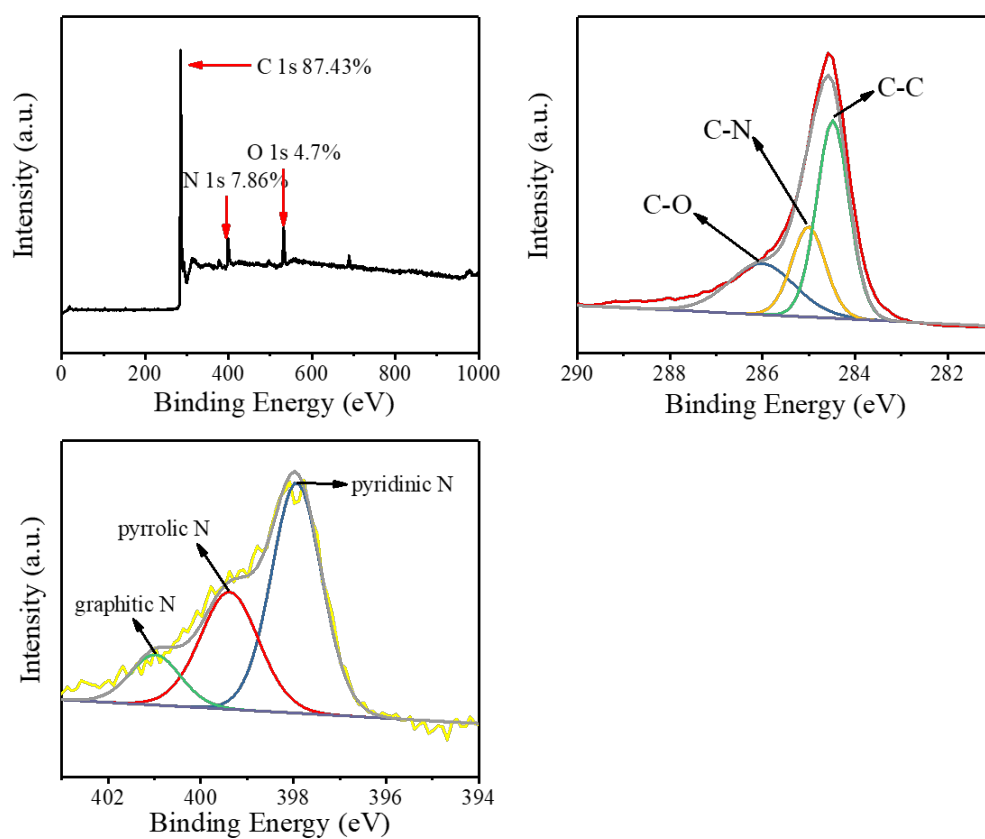
**Figure S1.** Energy dispersive spectrometer (EDS) of NSG.



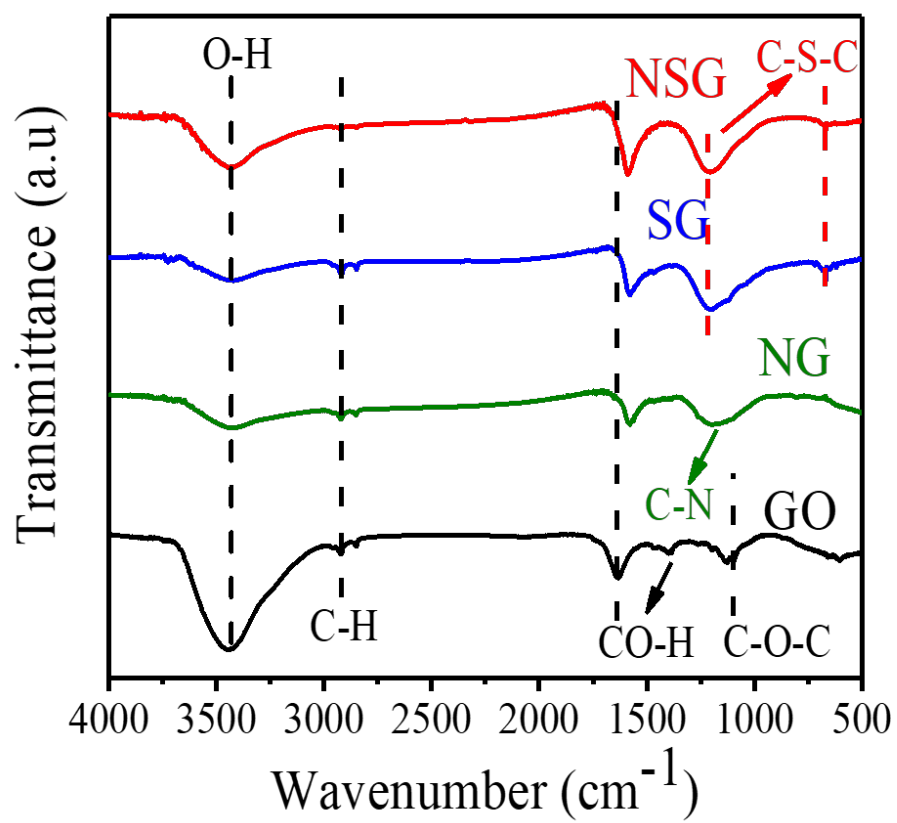
**Figure S2.** SEM (a-c) and mapping of C (d), N (e), O (f) of NG.



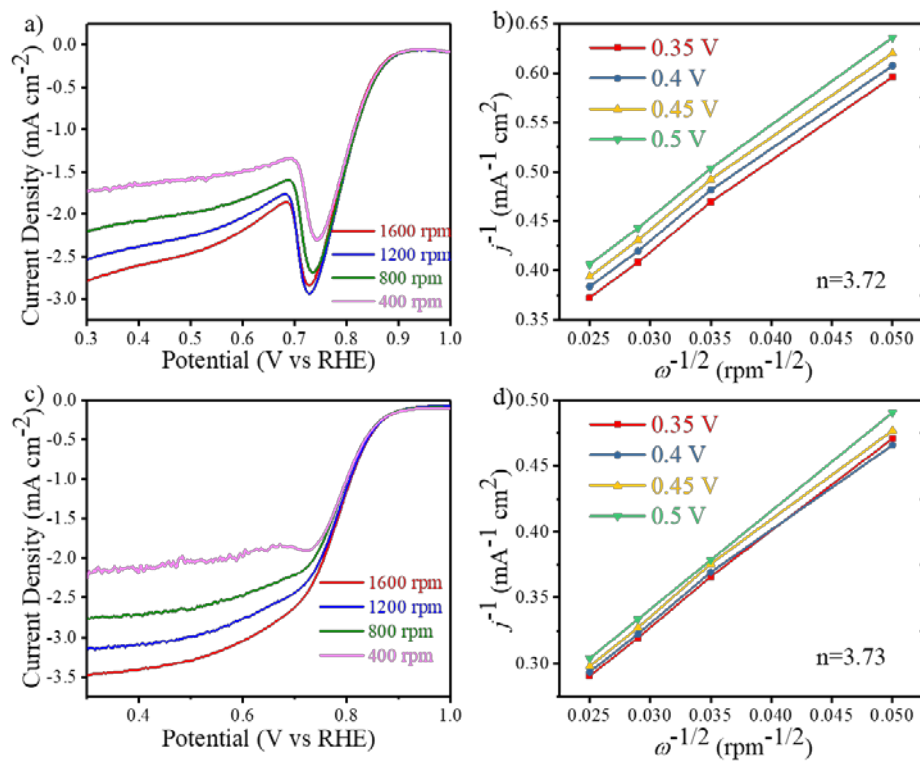
**Figure S3.** SEM (a, b) and mapping of C (c), N (d), O (e) and S (f) of SG.



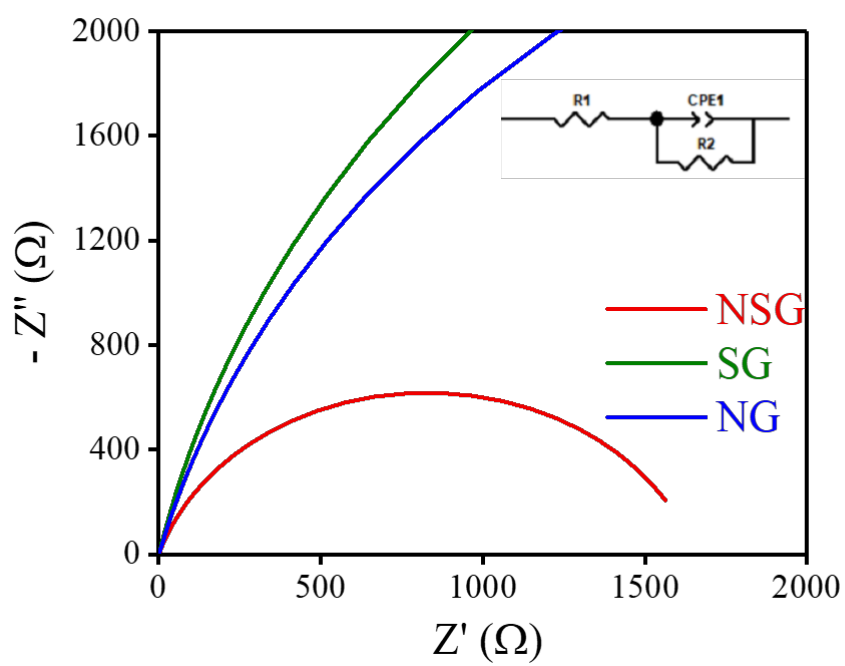
**Figure S4.** Full range XPS spectra of NG, XPS spectrum of C 1s and N 1s for NG.



**Figure S5.** Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) of NSG, SG, NG and GO.



**Figure S6.** (a,c) Linear Scan Voltammetry (LSV) curves for SG and NG at different rotation rates in 0.1 M KOH. (b,d) Corresponding K-L plots at different potentials: 0.35, 0.4, 0.45, 0.5 V.



**Figure S7.** Nyquist plots of electrochemical impedance spectra (EIS) of NSG, SG and NG recorded in 1 M KOH. Inset: One-time-constant model equivalent circuit used for data fitting of EIS spectra

**Table S1.** Comparison of ORR and OER performance of NSG with the recently reported metal-free catalysts at 1600 rpm in KOH solution.

| Catalysts                                                    | Loading<br>(mg cm <sup>-2</sup> ) | $E_{1/2}$ ORR<br>Half-Wave<br>Potential<br>(V vs. RHE) | Onset Potentials<br>(V vs. RHE) | $E_{j=10}$ OER@<br>10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup><br>(V vs. RHE) | References       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>NSG</b>                                                   | <b>0.23</b>                       | <b>0.84</b>                                            | <b>0.95</b>                     | <b>1.62</b>                                              | <b>This work</b> |
| N, S-GCNT                                                    | 0.23                              | 0.79                                                   | 0.93                            | 1.61                                                     | [2]              |
| N,P-carbon paper                                             | 0.20                              | 0.67                                                   | 0.94                            | 1.63                                                     | [3]              |
| N-graphene/CNT                                               | 0.2548                            | /                                                      | 0.88                            | 1.63                                                     | [4]              |
| Ni-MnO/rGO                                                   | 0.25                              | 0.78                                                   | 0.94                            | 1.60                                                     | [5]              |
| CMO/20N-rGO                                                  | 0.12                              | 0.79                                                   | 0.93                            | 1.68                                                     | [6]              |
| Co-CoO/N-rGO                                                 | 0.21                              | 0.78                                                   | 0.88                            | 1.62                                                     | [7]              |
| S-Co <sub>9</sub> -xFe <sub>x</sub> S <sub>8</sub> @rGO      | 0.5                               | 0.84                                                   | 0.94                            | 1.52                                                     | [8]              |
| Fe <sub>0.5</sub> Co <sub>0.5</sub> O <sub>x</sub> /NrGO-300 | 0.5                               | 0.82                                                   | 0.91                            | 1.487                                                    | [9]              |
| NiCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /RGO-1_RGO                  | /                                 | 0.77                                                   | 0.90                            | 1.631                                                    | [10]             |

Mark # RHE potentials conversion from the original potentials in the reference.

$$V_{\text{RHE}} = V_{\text{Ag/AgCl}} + 0.059\text{pH} + 0.197$$

## References

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