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Title	CoxNi1-xO-NiCo2O4/rGO synergistic bifunctional electrocatalysts for high-rate rechargeable zinc-air batteries
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Citation	Sustainable energy & fuels, 6(17), 3931-3943 https://doi.org/10.1039/d2se00606e
Issue Date	2022-09-07
Doc URL	http://hdl.handle.net/2115/89904
Туре	article (author version)
Additional Information	There are other files related to this item in HUSCAP. Check the above URL.
File Information	SI-0610.pdf



Supporting information for

Co_xNi_{1-x}O-NiCo₂O₄/rGO Synergistic Bifunctional Electrocatalysts for

High-Rate Rechargeable Zinc-Air Battery

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Estimation of electron transfer number using K-L plot based on LVS obtained from ORR electrochemical test

All of the potentials in the paper have been converted to the potential versus the reversible hydrogen electrode (RHE) according to the equation:

$$E_{vs}RHE = E_{vs}Hg/HgO + E_{\phi}Hg/HgO + 0.059pH$$
(1)

The electron transfer number was calculated by Koutecky-Levich plots (K-L plots)according to Koutecky-Levich equation:

$$\frac{1}{J} = \frac{1}{J_K} + \frac{1}{J_L} = \frac{1}{J_K} + \frac{1}{B_{\omega^{1/2}}}$$
(2)
$$B = 0.62nFC_0 (D_0)^{2/3} v^{-1/6}$$
(3)
$$J_K = nFkC_0$$
(4)

In which ω is the angular velocity, J is the current density measured in the electrochemical test, J_K and J_L are the kinetic-limiting and diffusion-limiting current densities, respectively, F is the Faraday constant of 96485 C mol⁻¹, D₀ is the diffusion coefficient, where for O₂ is 1.65×10^{-3} cm² s⁻¹, v is the kinematic viscosity of the electrolyte, which is 0.95×10^{-2} cm² s⁻¹, C₀ is the bulk concentration, where for O₂ is 0.83×10^{-6} mol cm⁻³ and n is the electron transfer number. B can be obtained by the slope of K-L plots, and then n can be calculated. [1, 2]

Estimation of "x" in Co_xNi_{1-x}O bimetallic oxides

The mole fraction, x, of Co (vs Co+Ni) in $Co_xNi_{1-x}O$ of CoNi/rGO-2/8 to 6/4 was calculated by the peak position belonged to (200) plane of $Co_xNi_{1-x}O$ based on Vegard's law and (200) XRD peak position of $Co_xNi_{1-x}O$, CoO, and NiO.

The XRD peak position of (200) plane of CoO and NiO according to the reference located at 42.388 ° and 43.280 °, respectively.

The (200) peak position detected by XRD for $Co_xNi_{1-x}O$ located at m °.

Then, according to Vegard's law, the x value in $Co_x Ni_{1-x}O$ can be obtained by:

$$x \times 42.388 + (1 - x) \times 43.280 = m$$

Thus,
$$x = \frac{43.280 - m}{0.892}$$

Estimation of molar ratio of CoxNi1-xO bimetallic oxide and spinel NiCo2O4 phase

Co:Ni molar feeding ratios of CoNi/rGO-i/j samples is as Co:Ni = i:j (mol/mol)

In the CoNi/rGO product, the molar ratio of $Co_xNi_{1-x}O:NiCo_2O_4 = f:g$ (mol:mol).

Assuming the reaction was completed with only two products (Co_xNi_{1-x}O and NiCo₂O₄) and

spinel NiCo₂O₄ exists in its stoichiometric form, the conservation of mole gives us:

Mole of Co: fx + 2g = i

And mole of Ni: f(1-x) + g = j

Thus, $f = \frac{i-2j}{3x-2}$ and $g = \frac{(i+j)x-i}{3x-2}$



Figure S1. Temperature profile for the synthesis of CoNi/rGO catalysts.



Figure S2. Photo of the ZAB cell used in the battery test.



Figure S3. XRD patterns of the as-prepared CoNi/rGO samples with different metal loading amounts of 0-100 wt%. The standard patterns of NiCo₂O₄ (JCPDS No. 00-020-0781), CoO (JCPDS No. 00-048-1719), NiO (JCPDS No. 00-047-1049), and Ni₂O₃ (JCPDS No. 00-014-0481) are shown at the bottom of the figure.



Figure S4. (left to right) TEM images, size distributions, and SAED patterns of CoNi/rGO with metal loading of (a) 0, (b) 20, (c) 40, (d) 60, (e) 80, and (f) 100 wt %.



Figure S5. (left to right) TEM images, size distributions, and SAED patterns of CoNi/rGO-i/j with Co:Ni = (a) 10/0, (b) 8/2, (c) 6/4, (d) 4/6, (e) 2/8, and (f) 0/10 (mol/mol).



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Figure S7. Summary of CV, LSV, and K-L plots of CoNi/rGO-i/j with i/j = (a) 10/0, (b) 8/2, (c) 6/4, (d) 4/6, (e) 2/8, and (f) 0/10.



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Figure S11. Discharge profile of ZAB with CoNi/rGO-5/5 catalyst for the air electrode at 100 mA·cm⁻². The discharge voltage (vs. Zn anode) was more than 0.6 V during the first 1 h discharge.



Figure S12. Charge and discharge polarization curves for ZAB using CoNi/rGO-10/0, 5/5, and 0/10 catalysts.



Figure S13. Discharge voltage using CoNi/rGO-5/5 over cycles at 1, 5, 10, and 30 min of discharging process in cycle test of ZABs.



Figure S14. Discharge-charge cycle test results of ZABs at 100 mA·cm⁻² using CoNi/rGO-i/j with Co:Ni = (a) 10/0, (b) 8/2, (c) 6/4, (d) 4/6, (e) 2/8, and (f) 0/10 (mol/mol).



Figure S15. Charging voltage of each discharge-charge cycle in long-term cycle stability test of ZABs using CoNi/rGO catalysts with different metal loading amounts.

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