

Self-templated formation of cobalt-embedded hollow N-doped carbon spheres for efficient oxygen reduction

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ABSTRACT

The slow kinetics at the cathode of oxygen reduction reaction (ORR) seriously limits the efficiencies of fuel cells and metal-air batteries. Pt, the state-of-the-art ORR electrocatalyst, suffers from high cost, low earth abundance, and poor stability. Here a self-templated strategy based on metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) is proposed for the fabrication of hollow nitrogen-doped carbon spheres that are embedded with cobalt nanoparticles (Co/HNC). The Co/HNC manifests better ORR activities, methanol tolerance, and stability than commercial Pt/C. The high ORR performance of Co/HNC can be attributed to the hollow structure which provides enlarged electrochemically active surface area, the formation of more Co-N species, and the introduction of defects. This work highlights the significance of rational engineering of MOFs for enhanced ORR activity and stability and offers new routes to the design and synthesis of high-performance electrocatalysts.

KEYWORDS

cobalt, self-templated, metal organic framework, hollow sphere, oxygen reduction reaction

1 Introduction

The increasing energy demand and environment issues brought by the consumption of fossil fuels have stimulated intensive research on clean and sustainable energy technologies, such as fuel cells and metal-air batteries [1–4]. The performance of fuel cells and metal-air batteries is severely limited by the slow kinetics at the cathode of oxygen reduction reaction (ORR). As the state-of-the-art ORR electrocatalyst, Pt suffers from high cost, low earth abundance, and poor stability, which impede its large-scale applications [5, 6]. Developing high-performance Pt-free ORR electrocatalysts with low cost and high abundance is therefore in urgent demand. Over the past decades, tremendous efforts have been devoted to exploring Pt-free ORR electrocatalysts, and significant achievement has been made. For example, various Pt-free electrocatalysts have been developed, including transition-metal-based inorganic nanomaterials (such as metal oxides [7], chalcogenides [8], carbides [9], and nitrides [10]), metal-free nanocarbon [11] and metal-nitrogen/carbon (M-N/C) nanocomposites [12–23].

Among various alternatives, M-N/C (M= Fe and Co) showed great potential in large-scale applications because of their relatively high activity, good stability, and low cost. Despite tremendous efforts and great achievements, the M-N/C-based catalysts still exhibit high over-potentials for ORR. As a typical

gas-involving electrocatalytic process, the ORR process involves several steps including mass diffusion of oxygen from electrolyte to the active sites, electron transfer from conductive support to the active sites, and the surface reduction reaction [24]. The challenges associated with M-N/C are their relatively lower intrinsic activity than Pt, poor mass transfer, and limited active sites [25]. According to recent reports, three key components should be realized in M-N/C composites for high ORR performance, including the presence of M-N_x sites, high surface area, and good conductivity. First, a high density of M-N_x sites is crucial in M-N/C composites, because they are generally regarded as the active sites for ORR [26]. Second, a high surface area is required because it ensures efficient mass diffusion to the active sites. Third, the conductivity of the composite is important as it can facilitate the electron transfer.

Metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) have flourished as promising scaffolds for the synthesis of various electrocatalysts because of their abundant source of metal, nitrogen, and carbon [27, 28]. As a subclass of MOFs, cobalt-based zeolitic imidazolate frameworks (ZIFs) are ideal precursors for Co-N/C based ORR electrocatalysts [29–35]. As high-temperature pyrolysis of ZIFs is necessary for the formation of Co-N/C composites, it often leads to severe fusion and aggregation of the active Co-N sites. In this regard, hollow N-doped carbon is highly desirable for enhanced mass diffusion and electron transfer. On the one

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hand, hollow micro/nanostructures have their unique advantages, such as multiple interphases and short mass diffusion lengths, which are beneficial for the exposure of active sites and mass transfer of oxygen [36–38]. On the other hand, N-doping could effectively alter the electronic structure of carbon species, enhance their electric conductivity, and facilitate the fast electron transfer [39].

The self-templating method, which refers to the template materials that are fully or partially converted by the shells during the formation of a hollow structure, is widely applied for the synthesis of hollow-structured nanomaterials [40, 41]. Compared with other methods such as hard- or soft-templating methods, the self-templating method can avoid the heterogeneous coating on the templates [42–44], providing a relatively simple synthesis procedure which has high reproducibility and low production cost [45]. Inspired by the above discussion, here we demonstrate a MOF-engaged self-templated strategy for the synthesis of cobalt-embedded hollow N-doped carbon spheres (Co/HNC). The Co/HNC manifests high ORR activity with half-wave potential ($E_{1/2}$) of 0.83 V and diffusion-limiting current density (j_L) of 5.46 mA·cm⁻², which is better than commercial Pt/C ($E_{1/2}$ = 0.82 V and j_L = 5.17 mA·cm⁻²). In addition, Co/HNC also shows much better methanol tolerance and ORR stability than commercial Pt/C. The high ORR performance of Co/HNC can be attributed to the hollow structure which provides high electrochemically active surface area, the formation of abundant Co-N species, and the introduction of defects.

2 Results and discussion

The formation process of Co/HNCs was schematically illustrated in Fig. 1. In the first step, bimetallic CoZn-glycolate (CoZn-Gly) microspheres were synthesized via a solvothermal method using Co(NO₃)₂ and Zn(NO₃)₂ in a mixed solvent of ethanol and ethylene glycol (see Experimental Section for details). During the solvothermal process, the hydroxyl group in ethylene glycol can coordinate with Co²⁺ and Zn²⁺ ions, resulting in the formation of CoZn-Gly complex. In the second step, Co²⁺ and Zn²⁺ ions in CoZn-Gly coordinated with 2-methylimidazole (2-MI) and formed a bimetallic ZIF shell on the outside of CoZn-Gly. Finally, the core/shell CoZn-glycolate/bimetallic ZIFs (CoZn-Gly/BMZIF) were calcined under H₂/N₂ atmosphere to obtain cobalt-embedded hollow nitrogen-doped carbon spheres (Co/HNC). During the pyrolysis, the ZIF shell was converted into Co/HNC phase and the evaporation of Zn species in the core led to the formation of void space inside the shells.

The morphologies of CoZn-Gly, CoZn-Gly/BMZIF, and Co/HNC were investigated by scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and transmission electron microscopy (TEM). From the SEM images (Fig. 2(a) and Fig. S1 in the Electronic Supplementary Material (ESM)), the CoZn-Gly showed spherical morphology

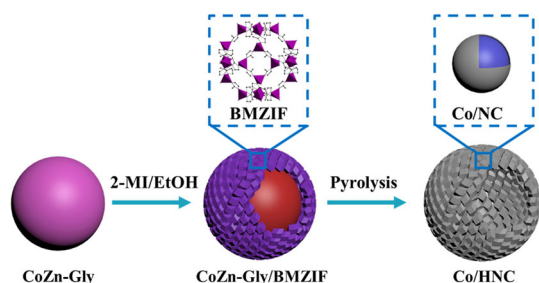


Figure 1 Schematic illustration describing the formation process of Co/HNC.

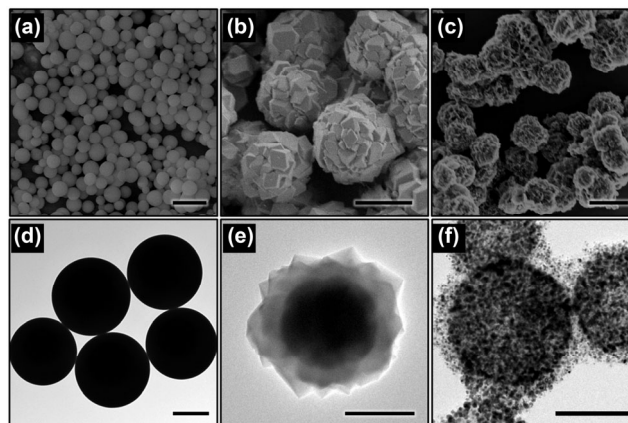


Figure 2 SEM (a)–(c) and TEM (d)–(f) images of (a) and (d) CoZn-Gly, (b) and (e) CoZn-Gly/BMZIF and (c) and (f) Co/HNC-1. Scale bars: 2 μm in (a), 1 μm in (b)–(e), 200 nm in (f).

with smooth surfaces. The solid nature of CoZn-Gly was further revealed by the TEM images (Fig. 2(d)). The particle sizes of CoZn-Gly solid spheres were 2.00 ± 0.15 μm in diameter. CoZn-Gly-0.5 and CoZn-Gly-2 also showed spherical morphology with particle sizes of 2.61 ± 0.35 μm and 0.93 ± 0.22 μm in diameters, respectively. The morphological change was observed owing to the reaction with 2-MI. The surface of CoZn-Gly/BMZIF became rough and rhombic dodecahedral particles were oriented grown on the surfaces of the microspheres (Fig. 2(b)). The well-defined structure with a spherical core (~ 1.35 μm in diameter) and polyhedral shell (~ 0.4 μm in thickness) could be further observed in the TEM image (Fig. 2(e)). After pyrolysis, the Co/HNC maintained the spherical structure with rough surfaces (Fig. 2(c) and Fig. S2 in the ESM). Small nanoparticles distributed in the hollow matrix could be seen in the TEM image of Co/HNC-1 (Fig. 2(f)). Zn has a low boiling point (~ 907 °C) and can evaporate to vapor phase at a high temperature (> 900 °C). The formation of hollow structure could be attributed to the evaporation of Zn during pyrolysis. High-resolution TEM (HRTEM) image of Co/HNC-1 (Fig. S3 in the ESM) further confirmed that cobalt nanoparticles were encapsulated in the graphitic carbon shells, in which the interplanar spacing of wrapped nanoparticle (0.204 nm) and the outer layer (0.334 nm) could be indexed as the (111) plane of metallic cobalt and the (002) plane of graphitic carbon, respectively. The formation of metallic cobalt and graphitic carbon could be attributed to the carbonization of 2-MI linker and the *in situ* reduction of Co²⁺. The distribution of different element was further revealed by high-angle annular dark-field scanning transmission electron microscopy (HAADF-STEM), in which C, N, Co and Zn element overlapped well with the STEM image, suggesting the uniform distribution of these elements (Fig. S4 in the ESM).

The phases of CoZn-Gly and CoZn-Gly/BMZIF were further examined using X-ray diffraction (XRD). From the XRD patterns (Fig. 3(a) and Fig. S5 in the ESM), no obvious diffraction peaks were detected for CoZn-Gly, indicating its amorphous nature. The CoZn-Gly/BMZIF showed strong diffraction peaks which matched well with the simulated XRD pattern of ZIF, suggesting the formation of zeolite-type shells with high crystallinities. After pyrolysis, diffraction peak for Co/HNC (Fig. 3(b) and Fig. S6 in the ESM) around 26.2° was indexed to the (002) plane of graphitic carbon and peaks at 44.5°, 51.8° and 75.9° can be assigned to the (111), (200) and (220) planes of metallic cobalt (PDF No. 89-4307), in agreement with the HRTEM results. No peaks for metallic Zn were observed in the XRD pattern because of its evaporation during

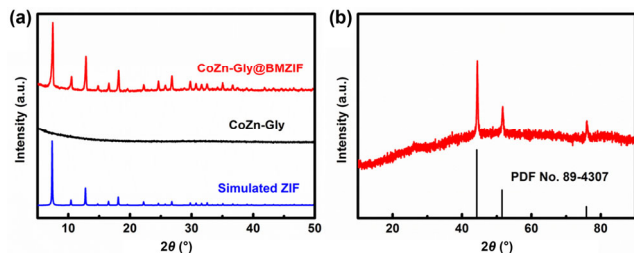


Figure 3 XRD patterns of (a) CoZn-Gly and CoZn-Gly/BMZIF and (b) Co/HNC-1.

pyrolysis. The composition of Co/HNC-1 was further analyzed by the X-ray photoelectron spectra (XPS) survey scan, in which C, N, O, and Co elements could be detected (Fig. S7 in the ESM). The oxygen peak may derive from the surface oxidation because of the exposure to the air atmosphere. High-resolution C 1s XPS spectrum (Fig. S8 in the ESM) could be deconvoluted into four peaks, which were attributed to four types of carbon species, namely C–C (284.6 eV), C–N (285.6 eV), C–O (286.9 eV) and π – π^* (290.4 eV), further verifying the presence of N element [15]. By combining the TEM, HRTEM, XRD, and XPS results, one can confirm that cobalt-embedded hollow nitrogen-doped carbon spheres were successfully prepared.

The ORR activity of different samples was evaluated in three-electrode system using catalysts covered glassy carbon, graphitic rod, saturated calomel electrode (SCE), O₂-saturated 0.1 M KOH as the working electrode, counter electrode, reference electrode, and electrolyte, respectively [46–48]. The Co/HNC with different Co and Zn amounts (Co/HNC-0.5, Co/HNC-1, Co/HNC-2), ZIF-67 derived Co-N/C (ZIF-950), and commercial Pt/C were also tested for comparison. From the linear sweep voltammetry (LSV) curves (Fig. 4(a)), ZIF-950 showed the highest overpotential and lowest diffusion-limiting current density among the samples. TEM characterization (Fig. S9 in the ESM) indicated severe aggregation in ZIF-950, which led to

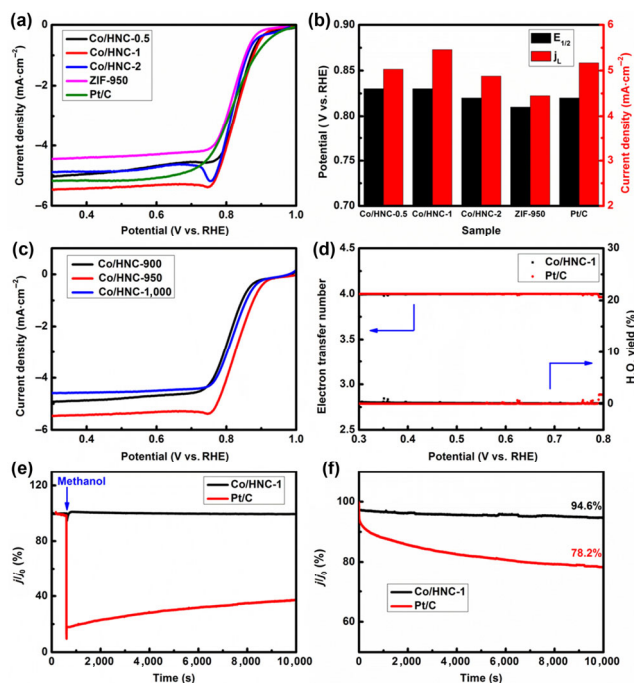


Figure 4 (a) LSV curves, and (b) half-wave potential ($E_{1/2}$) and diffusion-limiting current density (j_L) of Co/HNC-0.5, Co/HNC-1, Co/HNC-2, ZIF-950 and Pt/C. (c) LSV curves of Co/HNC-900, Co/HNC-950, Co/HNC-1,000. (d) Electron transfer number of Co/HNC-1 and Pt/C. (e) Methanol crossover test of Co/HNC-1 and Pt/C. (f) Stability test of Co/HNC-1 and Pt/C.

the reduced active sites and poor ORR activity. The Co/HNC-1 manifested the lowest overpotential and the highest diffusion-limiting current density among all the samples. The half-wave potential ($E_{1/2}$) and the diffusion-limiting current density (j_L) were applied to evaluate the ORR activities (Fig. 4(b)). The Co/HNC-1 had the $E_{1/2}$ of 0.83 V and j_L of 5.46 mA·cm⁻², which was higher than that of commercial Pt/C (with $E_{1/2}$ = 0.82 V and j_L = 5.17 mA·cm⁻²). The ORR activity of the Co/HNC-1 also depended on the pyrolysis temperature. The Co/HNC-1 obtained at 950 °C showed the highest activity among the samples prepared at different pyrolysis temperatures (Fig. 4(c)). A typical LSV curve showed two regions, including the kinetic-controlled region at a low current density and the diffusion-controlled region at a high current density. The kinetics of different samples was evaluated by the Tafel plots (Fig. S10 in the ESM). Co/HNC-1 showed a Tafel slope of 63 mV·dec⁻¹, which was lower than those of Co/HNC-2 (67 mV·dec⁻¹), ZIF-950 (72 mV·dec⁻¹) and Pt/C (90 mV·dec⁻¹), suggesting that Co/HNC-1 had the fastest ORR kinetics among different samples. The high ORR activity also made Co/HNC-1 among one of the best recently reported cobalt-based ORR electrocatalysts in alkaline media (Table S1 in the ESM).

The ORR pathway in alkaline media could be divided into the direct four-electron pathway in which O₂ was reduced into OH⁻ or the two-electron pathway in which O₂ was reduced into H₂O₂. For the application in fuel cells, the formation of H₂O₂ was not desired because it can destroy the membrane and deteriorate the performance of fuel cells. To investigate the ORR pathway in Co/HNC-1 and Pt/C, we utilized the rotating-ring disk electrode (RRDE) technique (Fig. 4(d)) [49]. The calculated electron transfer number for Pt/C was about 4 because commercial Pt/C was well-known for its four-electron pathway for ORR. The yield of H₂O₂ was less than 2% for Co/HNC-1, and its electron transfer number was more than 3.95, indicating that the Co/HNC-1 followed the direct four-electron pathway and the formation of H₂O₂ was much prohibited.

The resistance to methanol was another important parameter for ORR electrocatalysts in direct methanol fuel cells. The tolerance against methanol crossover was evaluated by injection of methanol during the chronoamperometric test. Upon the injection of methanol, a significant current drop in Pt/C was observed, indicating the poor methanol tolerance of Pt/C. In contrast, there was no obvious current drop for Co/HNC-1, suggesting the excellent resistance to methanol for Co/HNC-1 (Fig. 4(e)). For practical applications, long-term stability is also crucial. From the chronoamperometric curves of Co/HNC-1 and Pt/C (Fig. 4(f)), 94.6% of the original current could be maintained for Co/HNC-1 after 10,000 s, which was larger than that of Pt/C (78.2%), suggesting better stability of Co/HNC-1. The high ORR activity, low yield of H₂O₂, excellent resistance to methanol, and good stability of the sample may provide a great opportunity for fuel-cell applications.

To get a deeper insight into the high ORR activity of Co/HNC-1, we evaluated the surface areas of Co/HNC-1 and ZIF-950 based on the nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms (Fig. 5(a)). Both samples showed a steep increase at low pressure and hysteresis loops at high pressure, which can be ascribed to the presence of both micropores and mesopores. The Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) surface area and pore volume of Co/HNC-1 were measured at 195 m²·g⁻¹ and 0.27 m³·g⁻¹, which was larger than those of ZIF-950 (175 m²·g⁻¹ and 0.23 m³·g⁻¹). The mesoporous structure was further confirmed in the pore size distribution plots based on the desorption curves, in which Co/HNC-1 and ZIF-950 showed mesopores

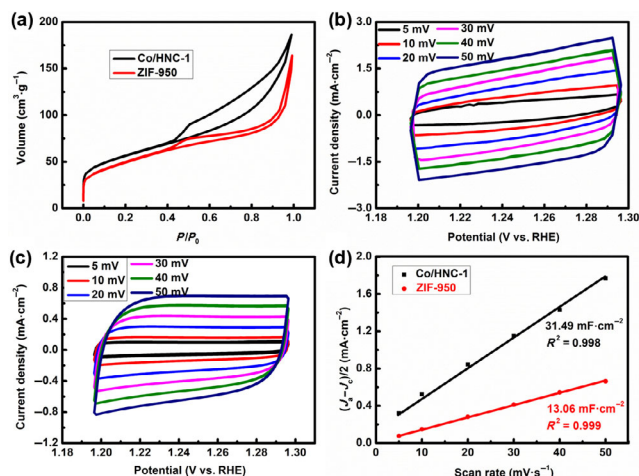


Figure 5 (a) Nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms of Co/HNC-1 and ZIF-950. CV curves of Co/HNC-1 (b) and ZIF-950 (c). ECSA of Co/HNC-1 and ZIF-950.

with diameters of 3.9 and 3.6 nm, respectively (Fig. S11 in the ESM). The abundant mesopores could serve as the reaction regions for the gas-liquid-solid tri-phase ORR. In addition, the electrochemically active surface areas (ECSA) of Co/HNC-1 and ZIF-950 were estimated using the cyclic voltammetry (CV) method in non-Faradic region (Figs. 5(b) and 5(c)) [50]. The CV curves of Co/HNC-1 and ZIF-950 showed quasi-rectangular shapes and the current densities increased in proportion with the scan rate, suggesting their double-layer capacitance profile (Fig. 5(d)). The slope of Co/HNC-1 was 31.49 mF·cm⁻², which was larger than that of ZIF-950 (11.02 mF·cm⁻²). The larger slope of Co/HNC-1 indicated its higher ECSA than ZIF-950, which could be attributed to its hollow structure that provided multiple interfaces and more exposed active sites.

The surface chemistry of Co/HNC-1 was further investigated by using XPS to gain better understanding of its high ORR activity. The high-resolution Co 2p XPS spectrum (Fig. 6(a), Figs. S12 and S13 in the ESM) of Co/HNC-1 was deconvoluted into 2p_{3/2} and 2p_{1/2} of metallic Co (778.5/794.1 eV) and Co-N species (780.6/796.5 eV) [35, 51]. The high-resolution N 1s spectrum was deconvoluted into pyridinic-N (398.2 eV), Co-N (399.0 eV), pyrrolic-N (401.1 eV), graphitic-N (402.2 eV), and oxidized-N (404.8 eV) [33]. In previous report, Yao et al. demonstrated that in the core-shell Co@C system, the removal of Co nanoparticles by combining acid washing and electrochemical treatment, in which only single Co species coordinated with the nitrogen in the carbon layers (Co-N) existed, did not affect the ORR performance of the resulting sample [52]. Bao et al. reported that encapsulated Co nanoparticles in Co@CoNC could improve the efficiency and accelerate the ORR reaction by improving the interfacial electron transfer kinetics [53]. Yang et al. demonstrated that the introduction of Co core nanoparticles lowered the d band center of surface Co atoms in graphite shells and made the free energy diagrams of the ORR process on Co-N-C shell more close to the ideal case [54]. In the Co/HNC composites, the Co-N species presumably served as the main active sites for ORR, while the metallic Co nanoparticles acted as the promoter. The Co/HNC-1 had higher Co-N content (28.4%) than that of Co/HNC-2 (19.7%), indicating the presence of more active sites in Co/HNC-1, which was crucial for better ORR activity (Figs. 6(b) and 6(c) and Table S2 in the ESM). After ORR test, the 2p_{3/2} and 2p_{1/2} orbitals of metallic Co and Co-N species in Co/HNC-1 were detectable (Fig. S14 in the ESM), implying that the Co/HNC is relatively stable during ORR. Furthermore, from the Raman

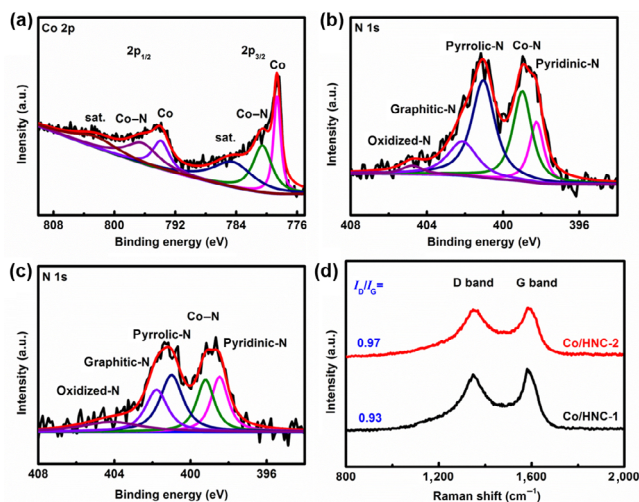


Figure 6 (a) Co 2p XPS spectrum of Co/HNC-1. (b) N 1s spectra of Co/HNC-1. (c) N 1s spectra of Co/HNC-2. (d) Raman spectra of Co/HNC-1 and Co/HNC-2.

spectrum of Co/HNC-1 and Co/HNC-2 (Fig. 6(d)), peaks around 1,586 cm⁻¹ were attributed to the in-plane vibration of sp² carbon (G band), and peaks around 1,350 cm⁻¹ reflected the structural defect in graphitic carbon [55]. The intensity between D band and G band (I_D/I_G) for Co/HNC-1 and Co/HNC-2 were 0.93 and 0.97, respectively. The lower I_D/I_G indicated the formation of more defects in Co/HNC-1, which changed the local electronic structure of carbon and enhanced its catalytic activity towards ORR [56].

For large-scale applications, Co-N/C based ORR electrocatalysts should be synthesized using cost-effective and straightforward methods with high surface area, abundant active sites, and good stability. In terms of the synthesis, the MOF-based self-templated method is simple, robust, and low cost. Benefiting from the hollow structure, Co/HNC-1 showed high surface area with mesoporosity, leading to enlarged ECSA and more exposed active sites. Furthermore, the hollow structure could enhance the matter transfer of charges and molecules [57–59]. The incorporation of Zn brought the spatial isolation of cobalt to suppress its sintering, further favored the formation of more Co-N species and defects, which facilitated the high ORR activity and fast ORR kinetics. In addition, the Co/HNC-1 also manifested better catalytic stability and tolerance to methanol crossover. The simple synthetic method, high ORR activity and stability made Co/HNC promising candidates for the application in renewable energy devices such as direct methanol fuel cells.

3 Conclusions

In summary, we have demonstrated a MOF-based self-templated strategy for the synthesis of Co/HNC. The Co/HNC manifested better ORR activity, methanol tolerance, and stability than commercial Pt/C. The high ORR performance of Co/HNC could be attributed to the hollow structure which provided larger ECSA, the formation of more active Co-N species, and the introduction of defects. This work highlighted the importance of rational engineering MOFs for enhanced electrocatalytic performance, providing excellent opportunities in the design and synthesis of nanostructured electrocatalysts for energy conversion and storage.

4 Experimental section

Synthesis of CoZn-Gly: In a typical synthesis, 1 mmol Co(NO₃)₂

and 1 mmol Zn(NO₃)₂ were dissolved in 40 mL ethanol and ethylene glycol (V_{EtOH}/V_{EG}=1:4.5). Then the solution was transferred into a 100-mL autoclave and sealed. After reaction at 180 °C for 12 h, the pink product was centrifuged, washed with ethanol three times, and dispersed in 20 mL ethanol.

Synthesis of CoZn-Gly@BMZIF: 10 mL CoZn-Gly dispersion was mixed with 30 mL 2-methylimidazole (6 g) ethanol solution with the assistance of sonication. Then the mixture was reacted at 100 °C for 3 h in an autoclave. The CoZn-Gly@BMZIF was centrifuged, washed with ethanol, and dried in a vacuum oven at 60 °C.

Synthesis of Co/HNC: Co/HNC-1 was obtained by calcining the CoZn-Gly/BMZIF at 950 °C for 2 h under H₂/N₂ (5% H₂) atmosphere. Co/HNC-0.5 (0.5 mmol Co²⁺ and 1.5 mmol Zn²⁺) and Co/HNC-2 (2 mmol Co²⁺) were synthesized using the same procedure as Co/HNC-1 except that different amounts of Co(NO₃)₂ and Zn(NO₃)₂ were added during the synthesis.

Synthesis of ZIF-950: ZIF-67 was first synthesized according to the literature [60]. Then ZIF-950 was prepared by calcining the ZIF-67 at 950 °C for 2 h under H₂/N₂ (5% H₂) atmosphere.

Characterization: The morphology of the samples was investigated using scanning electron microscopy (Zeiss G500) and transmission electron microscopy (FEI Tecnai F20). Powder XRD patterns were obtained with a PANalytical X-ray diffractometer. XPS spectra were collected on an SSI S-Probe XPS spectrometer. Raman spectra were obtained on a LabRAM HR800 Raman microscope. Nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms were collected using a gas sorption system (ASAP2020 HD88). All electrochemical measurements were carried out in a three-electrode cell at room temperature, with a graphitic rod, a saturated calomel electrode (SCE), and 0.1 M KOH as the counter electrode, reference electrode, and electrolyte, respectively. For the preparation of the working electrode, 5 mg of catalysts were dispersed in 750 μL water, 250 μL isopropanol, and 50 μL Nafion solution (5%) with the assistance of sonication for at least 1 h. Then 20 μL of the dispersion was drop-casted on a polished glassy carbon electrode (5 mm in diameter). Commercial Pt/C catalyst was obtained from Alfa Aesar (20% Pt on carbon black, HiSPEC 3000). The loading of Pt/C on RDE is 203 μg·cm⁻². After drying at room temperature, the catalyst-covered glassy carbon electrode was applied as the working electrode. Before the electrochemical tests, cyclic voltammetry was conducted at a scan rate of 50 mV·s⁻¹ for at least 20 cycles with the potential range from 0 to -0.8 V to activate the catalysts under N₂ flow. Linear sweep voltammetry curves were collected at a scan rate of 10 mV·s⁻¹ with a rotating rate of 1,600 rpm under O₂ flow. CV curves were measured at the potential range from 0.15 to 0.25 V vs. SCE at the scan rate of 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 mV·s⁻¹. For the conversion of potential against the reversible hydrogen electrode (RHE), the following equation (Eq. (1)) was applied

$$E_{\text{RHE}} = E_{\text{SCE}} + 0.059 \times \text{pH} + 0.244 \quad (1)$$

For the determination of H₂O₂ yield, the ring potential was set at 1.5 V. The electron transfer number (*n*) was calculated based on the following equations (Eqs. (1) and (2))

$$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2\% = I_r / (I_r + N \times I_d) \times 200 \quad (2)$$

$$n = (N \times I_d) / (I_r + N \times I_d) \times 4 \quad (3)$$

where *I_d* is the disk current, *I_r* is the ring current, and *N* (0.37) is the current collection efficiency of the Pt ring.

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