Electronic Supplementary Information

Supercapacitor and Photocatalytic Performances of Hydrothermally-derived Co$_3$O$_4$/CoO@ Carbon Nanocomposite

E. Duraisamy, Himadri T. Das, A. Selva Sharma and P. Elumalai*

Electrochemical Energy and Sensors Lab, Department of Green Energy Technology, Madanjeet School Green Energy Technologies Pondicherry University, Puducherry-605014, India.

Fig. S1 (a) Powder XRD pattern and (b) Raman spectrum of the acid-leached Co$_3$O$_4$/CoO@ carbon samples

The acid-leached sample was confirmed to contain mostly carbon as evidenced from XRD and Raman studies.
For the Co$_3$O$_4$/CoO @ carbon sample, the bands at 3736 and 3623 cm$^{-1}$ are ascribed to N-H group. The peaks at 1562, 1348 and 1083 cm$^{-1}$ are attributed to C=C, C=N and C-N bonds, respectively. In addition, the peak at 665 and 510 cm$^{-1}$ is ascribed to the Co-O bond. Thus, the hydrothermally-derived sample has N-H, C-N and C=N bonds in it along with Co-O. Interestingly, as-pyrolyzed salen complex has the peaks at 3500, 1348 and 1083 cm$^{-1}$. These bands are assigned to N-H, C=N and C-N bonds, respectively. This means that the N-H, C=C and C-N bonds are present in both as-pyrolyzed sample and hydrothermally treated sample. This clearly indicates that the salen acts as source of the carbon as well as nitrogen moiety.

Thus, the comparison of FT-IR spectra recorded for the hydrothermally-derived Co$_3$O$_4$/CoO @ carbon matrix and pyrolysed salen complex confirmed that the N-H and C-N have resulted from salen and not from the urea.