

## Supporting Information

# Enriched Graphitic N in Nitrogen-doped Graphene as A Superior Metal-free Electrocatalyst for Oxygen Reduction Reaction

Xiangyu Lu,<sup>a</sup> Dan Wang,<sup>a</sup> Liping Ge,<sup>a</sup> Lihui Xiao,<sup>a</sup> Haiyan Zhang,<sup>\*b</sup> Lilai Liu,<sup>c</sup> Jinqiu Zhang,<sup>a</sup> Jinqiu Zhang,<sup>a</sup> Maozhong An<sup>a</sup> and Peixia Yang<sup>\*a</sup>

a MIIT Key Laboratory of Critical Materials Technology for New Energy Conversion and Storage, School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Harbin Institute of Technology, Harbin, 150001 China.

b College of Life Science, Henan University, Kaifeng, 475004 China

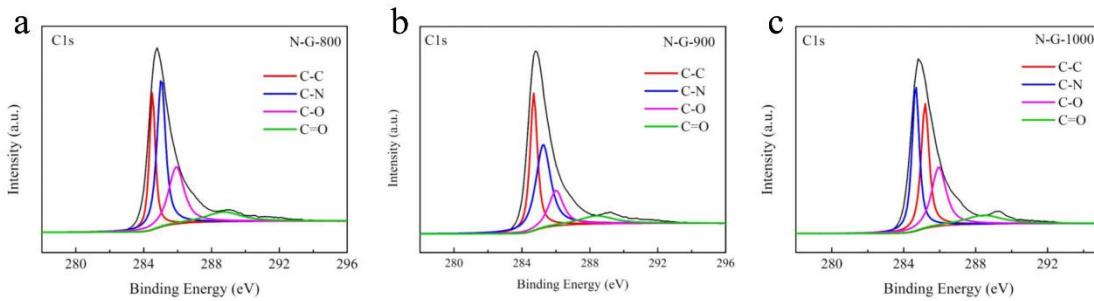
c College of Environmental and Chemical Engineering, Heilongjiang University of Science and Technology, Harbin, 150022 China.

<sup>a</sup>\*E-mail: yangpeixia@hit.edu.cn

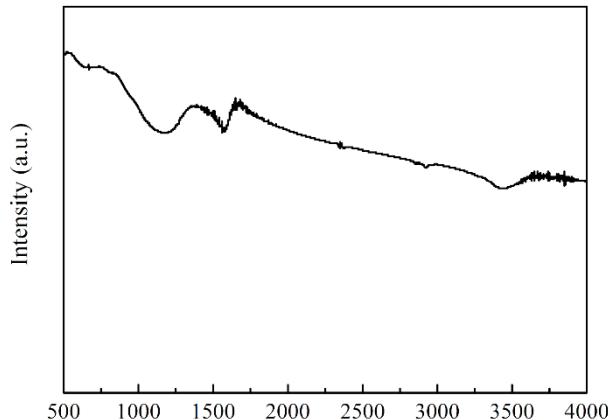
<sup>b</sup>\*E-mail: zhanghy150@sina.com

Table S1 The content of N, C and O for N-G-800, N-G-900 and N-G-1000 (at%)

| Samples  | C     | N    | O    |
|----------|-------|------|------|
| N-G-800  | 88.34 | 6.65 | 5.01 |
| N-G-900  | 89.58 | 4.68 | 5.57 |
| N-G-1000 | 89.1  | 3.46 | 7.44 |



**Fig. S1** High-resolution C1s spectra of (a) N-G-800, (b) N-G-900 and (c) N-G-1000.



**Fig. S2** FT-IR spectra of N-G-1000

Table S2. Summary of N contents N-G-800, N-G-900 and N-G-1000.

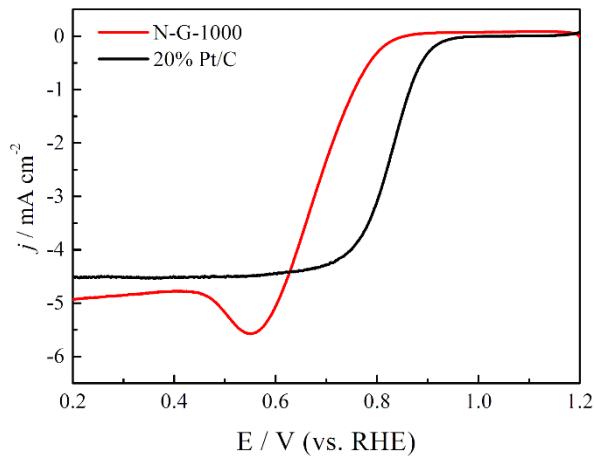
| Samples  | Species     | contents (%) | contents (at%) |
|----------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| N-G-800  | pyridinic N | 36.98        | 2.46           |
|          | pyrrolic N  | 30.27        | 2.01           |
|          | graphitic N | 16.93        | 1.13           |
|          | oxidized N  | 15.82        | 1.05           |
| N-G-900  | pyridinic N | 29.97        | 1.40           |
|          | pyrrolic N  | 19.72        | 0.92           |
|          | graphitic N | 30.15        | 1.41           |
|          | oxidized N  | 20.16        | 0.94           |
| N-G-1000 | pyridinic N | 29.25        | 1.01           |
|          | pyrrolic N  | 15.29        | 0.53           |
|          | graphitic N | 41.54        | 1.44           |
|          | oxidized N  | 13.92        | 0.48           |

Table S3. The electrochemical parameters of the samples

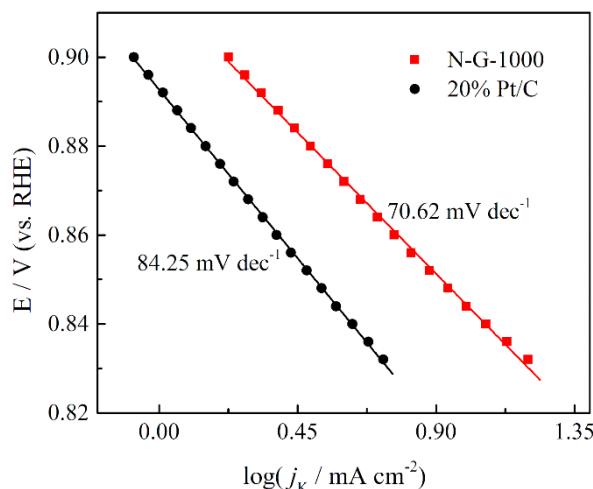
| Samples  | $E_{\text{onset}} / \text{V (vs.RHE)}$ | $E_{1/2} / \text{V (vs.RHE)}$ | $j@0.3 \text{ V} / \text{mA cm}^{-2}$ |
|----------|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| N-G-800  | 0.929                                  | 0.820                         | 5.23                                  |
| N-G-900  | 0.979                                  | 0.845                         | 5.54                                  |
| N-G-1000 | 0.982                                  | 0.862                         | 5.48                                  |
| 20% Pt/C | 0.968                                  | 0.833                         | 5.30                                  |

Table S4. ORR activity comparison between this work and catalysts in the literature.

| Materials        | $E_{1/2} (\text{V})$ in 0.1 M KOH | References |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| This work        | 0.862 (vs. RHE)                   | This work  |
| NDGs-800         | 0.85 (vs. RHE)                    | 1          |
| NGS4-900         | 0.859 (vs. RHE)                   | 2          |
| NGA              | -0.17 (vs. Ag/AgCl)               | 3          |
| N/3D-GNS-850     | 0.80 (vs. RHE)                    | 4          |
| NMGF             | 0.714 (vs. RHE)                   | 5          |
| NGC900           | 0.84 (vs. RHE)                    | 6          |
| NGM              | 0.77 (vs. RHE)                    | 7          |
| G-CN/C-2         | 0.79 (vs. RHE)                    | 8          |
| NGCNPs-T600      | -0.131 (vs. SCE)                  | 9          |
| NHCS-1000        | -0.215 (vs. SCE)                  | 10         |
| CNx/CMK-3        | 0.83 (vs. RHE)                    | 11         |
| NMNC-1000        | 0.759 (vs. RHE)                   | 12         |
| FeNx-PNC         | 0.85 (vs.RHE)                     | 13         |
| C-FeZIF-900-0.84 | 0.86 (vs.RHE)                     | 14         |
| NiO/CoN PINWs    | 0.68 (vs.RHE)                     | 15         |
| cal-CoZIF-VXC72  | 0.84 (vs.RHE)                     | 16         |



**Fig. S3** N-G-1000 and commercial 20 wt % Pt/C in O<sub>2</sub>-saturated 0.1 M HClO<sub>4</sub> at a scan rate of 10 mV s<sup>-1</sup> and electrode-rotation speed of 1600 rpm



**Fig. S4** Tafel plots with 1600 rpm RDE of N-G-1000 and Pt/C.

Table S5. Active centers of the N-doped graphene catalysts for ORR between this work and the recent reports in the literature.

| Names of nitrogen doped graphene                 | Active centers   |
|--|--|
| N-G-1000 (this work)                             | Carbon atoms neighboring Graphitic N.  |
| N-doped zigzag graphene ribbons <sup>17</sup>    | Graphitic N next to the edge.  |
| Polyaniline/RG-O, polypyrrole/RG-O <sup>18</sup> | Graphitic N determines the limiting current density, and pyridinic N improves the onset potential. |
| Nitrogen doped graphene <sup>19</sup>            | Graphitic N configuration.   |
| Mesoporous nitrogen-doped graphene <sup>20</sup> | Pyrrolic nitrogen along with the mesoporous structure of graphene.                                 |
| Nitrogen-doped graphene <sup>21</sup>            | Pyridinic N.   |
| Highly oriented pyrolytic graphite <sup>22</sup> | Carbon atoms next to pyridinic N.  |

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