

*Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for*

**An Fe(III)-doped coordination polymer of Mn<sub>13</sub>-clusters with improved activity for the oxygen reduction reaction**

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## **Part I: Experimental Section**

### **1. Structural determination**

All powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) analyses were performed on a Rigaku Dmax2500 diffractometer with Cu K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.54056 \text{ \AA}$ ) using a step size of  $0.05^\circ$ . Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) spectra were taken on a Nicolet Magna 750 FT-IR spectrometer in the  $4000\text{--}500 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  region by using KBr pellets.

### **2. Electrochemical characterization**

ORR measurements were carried out in a three-electrode glass cell. The data were recorded using a CHI760 D. The synthesized samples were used as the working electrode for electrochemical characterizations. The current density was normalized to the geometrical surface area and the measured potentials vs. Ag/AgCl were converted to a reversible hydrogen electrode (RHE) scale according to the Nernst equation. A flow of O<sub>2</sub> was maintained over 0.1M KOH electrolyte during electrochemical measurements. The working electrodes were scanned for several times before the data for polarization curves were collected.

### **3. Synthesis of Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer**

Typically, a mixture of MnCl<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O (0.197g), KMnO<sub>4</sub> (0.033g), tert-butylphosphonate acid (0.140g), 4,4'-trimethylenedipyridine (0.303 g) and CH<sub>3</sub>OH (40 ml) was stirred for 5 h, and then the solution was filtered. The CH<sub>3</sub>OH evaporated at room temperature, and the Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer samples were formed after two weeks.

### **4. Synthesis of Fe@Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer**

The fresh Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer was successively washed with H<sub>2</sub>O before immersing it in FeCl<sub>3</sub> (20 mM) solution for one 24 hours. Further, the obtained Fe@Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer was washed with water three times before use.

### **5. Fe@Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer coated on glassy carbon electrode**

The as-synthesized Fe@Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer was ultrasonically dispersed in the mixture of 1.5 ml of Nafion solution (0.05 wt.% water solution), and then transferred onto the glassy carbon electrode with a loading amount of  $\sim 0.23 \text{ mg cm}^{-2}$ . The resulting electrode was subjected to overnight solvent evaporation in air.

### **6. Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer coated on glassy carbon electrode**

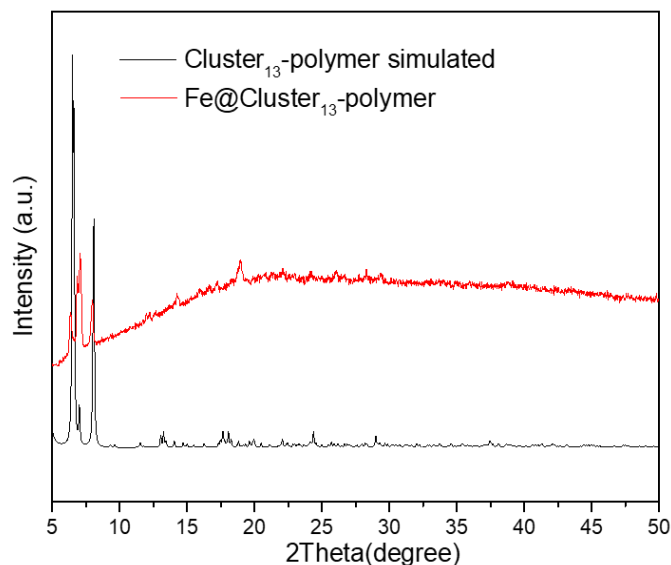
The procedure for preparation of Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer coated on glassy carbon electrode was the

same as that for Fe@Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer except for using Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer instead of Fe@Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer.

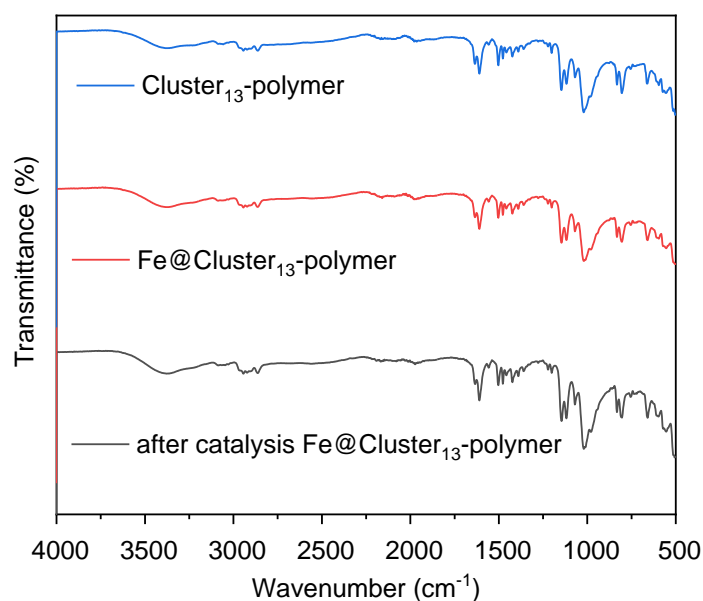
### 7. Pt/C coated on glassy carbon electrode

The procedure for preparation of Pt/C coated glassy carbon electrode was similar to that for 5.

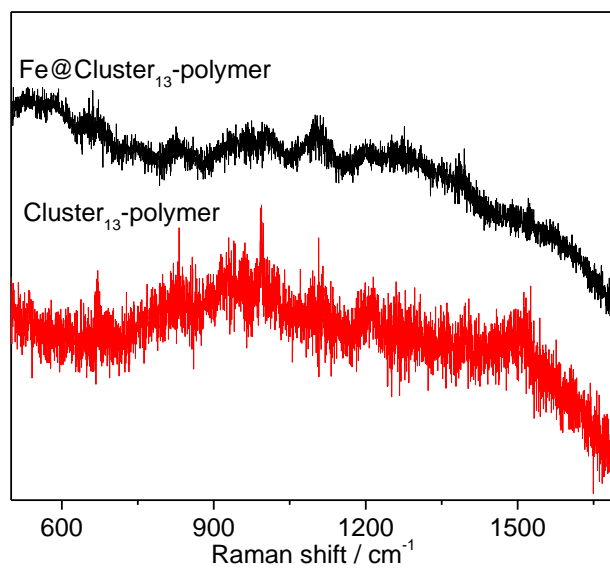
## Part II: Supplementary Results



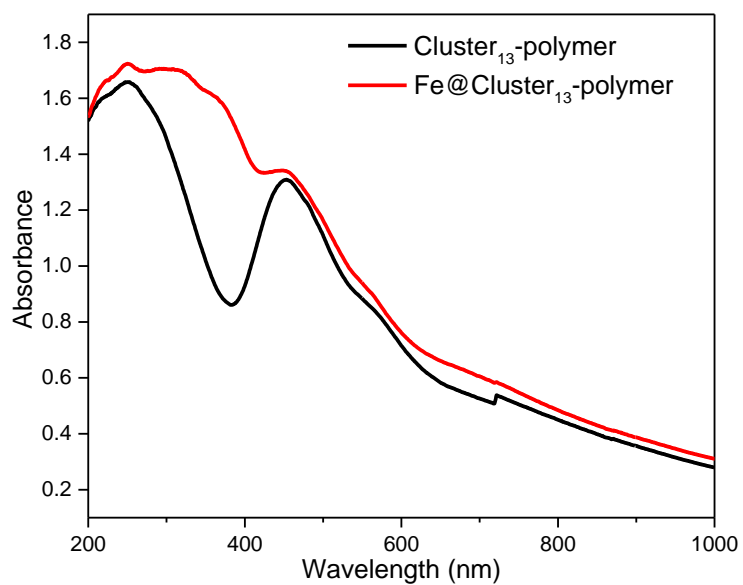
**Figure S1.** The PXR D pattern of Fe@Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer compared with the simulated pattern of original Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer.



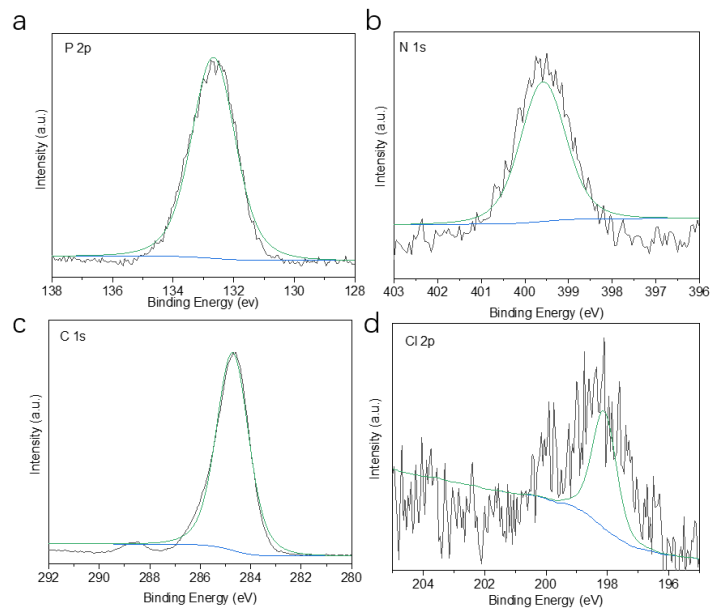
**Figure S2.** FTIR spectra of Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer and Fe@Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer (before and after ORR test).



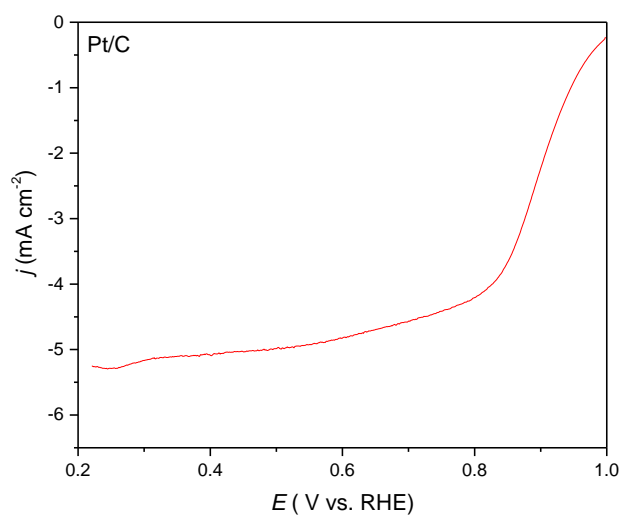
**Figure S3.** Raman spectra of Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer and Fe@Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer.



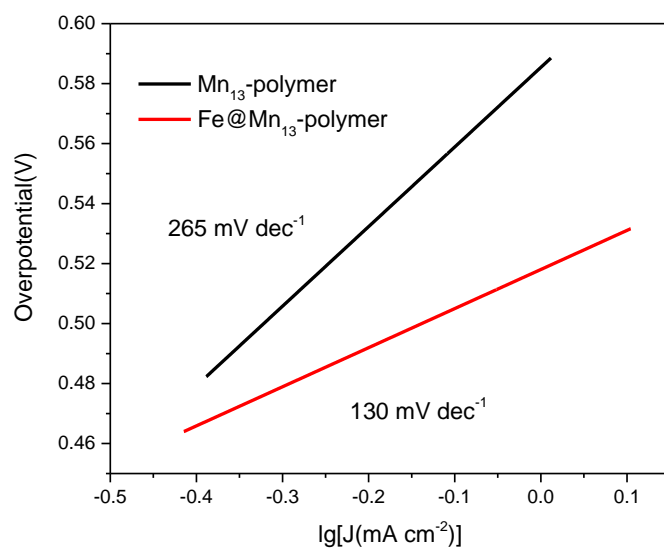
**Figure S4.** UV-vis spectra of as-prepared Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer and Fe@Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer.



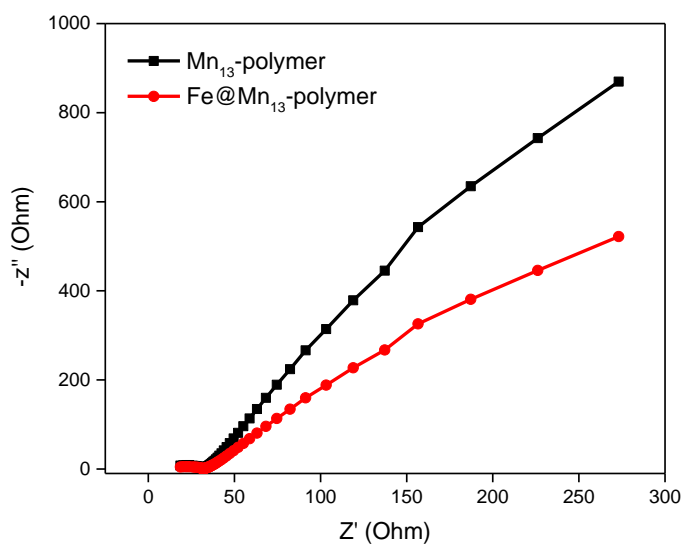
**Figure S5.** High resolution XPS spectrum of Fe@Mn13-polymer in the (a) P 2p (b) N 1s (c) C 1s (d) Cl 2p regions.



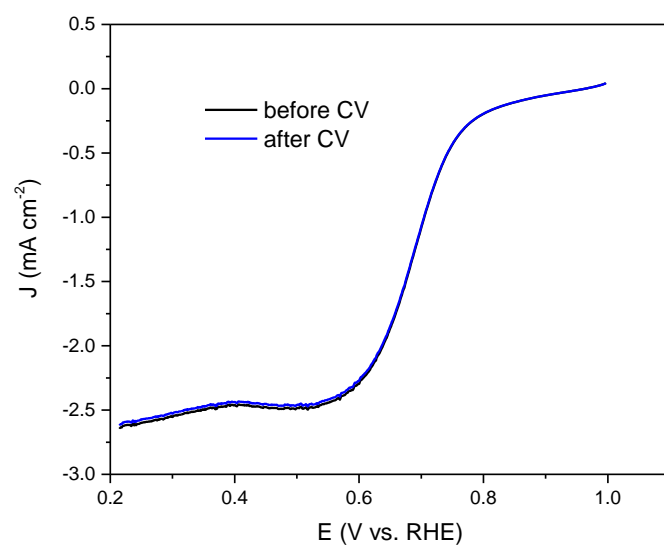
**Figure S6.** LSV of Pt/C in an O<sub>2</sub>-saturated 0.1 M aq KOH solution.



**Figure S7.** Tafel plots of  $\text{Mn}_{13}$ -polymer and  $\text{Fe@Mn}_{13}$ -polymer in 0.1M KOH aqueous solution.



**Figure S8.** EIS of  $\text{Mn}_{13}$ -polymer and  $\text{Fe@Mn}_{13}$ -polymer electrocatalysts under ORR.



**Figure S9.** LSV of Fe@Mn<sub>13</sub>-polymer in an O<sub>2</sub>-saturated 0.1 M aq KOH solution after 5000 continuous cycles.