## **Supporting information**

## Ca<sup>2+</sup> doped ultrathin cobalt hydroxyloxides from coordination

## polymers as efficient electrocatalysts for water oxidations

Panpan Su<sup>a</sup>, Shuangshuang Ma<sup>a,b</sup>, Wenjuan Huang<sup>a,c</sup>, Yash Boyjoo<sup>a</sup>, Shiyang Bai<sup>b\*</sup>, and Jian Liu<sup>a,d,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>State Key Laboratory of Catalysis, Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 457 Zhongshan Road, Dalian 116023, China, E-mail: jianliu@dicp.ac.cn

<sup>b</sup>Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Beijing University of Technology, 100 PingLeYuan, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100124, China

<sup>c</sup>College of Mathematics and Physics, Shanghai University of Electric Power, Shanghai, 200090, China

<sup>d</sup>DICP-Surrey Joint Centre for Future Materials, Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, UK, E-mail: jian.liu@surrey.ac.uk

| Table S1 Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) fitting results. Rs: electrolyte resistance, |
|--|
| R <sub>CT</sub> : charge-transfer resistance.  |

| Catalysts                                  | R <sub>s</sub> /ohms | R <sub>CT</sub> /ohms |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Co-CPs                                     | 8.7                  | 3.8                   |
| Co <sub>0.91</sub> Ca <sub>0.09</sub> -CPs | 6.9                  | 3.7                   |
| Co <sub>0.89</sub> Ca <sub>0.11</sub> -CPs | 7.3                  | 2.5                   |
| Co <sub>0.83</sub> Ca <sub>0.17</sub> -CPs | 7.5                  | 2.9                   |

Table S2 Comparison of the OER performance of  $Co_{0.89}Ca_{0.11}$ -CPs with selected cobalt based catalysts from the literature. GC: glass carbon; NF: nickel foam.

| Catalyst                                     | Substrate | Electrolyte | η@10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> (V) | Tafel slopes (mV dec-1) | References                           |
|--|-----------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Co <sub>0.89</sub> Ca <sub>0.11</sub> -CPs   | GC        | 1.0 M KOH   | 0.37                         | 58.8                    | This work                            |
| 2D Co-ZIF-9                                  | GC        | 1.0 M KOH   | 0.38                         | 55                      | Adv. Sci. 2018, 5,<br>1801029        |
| СоР  | NF        | 1.0 M KOH   | 0.39                         | 65                      | Adv. Funct. Mater.<br>2015, 25, 7337 |
| CoOx-ZIF                                     | GC        | 1.0 M KOH   | 0.32                         | 70.3                    | Adv. Funct. Mater.                   |
| ZIF-67                                       |           |             | 0.40                         | 108.8                   | 2017, 27, 1702546                    |
| Co(OH)2@NCNTs                                | NF        | 1.0 M KOH   | 0.27                         | 72                      | Nano Energy, 2018,<br>47, 96         |
| Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> film          | Au        | 1.0 M KOH   | 0.39                         | 61                      | Electrochimica Acta 2014, 140, 359.  |
| Co@C-MWCNTs                                  | GC        | 1.0 M KOH   | 0.32                         | 67                      | J. Mater. Chem. A,                   |
| Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @C-<br>MWCNTs |           |             | 0.39                         | 62                      | 2015, 3, 17392                       |
| Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /CNW-C        | GC        | 1.0 M KOH   | 0.41                         | 54                      | J. Mater. Chem. A, 2015, 3, 11615    |



Fig. S1 SEM images of Co-CPs (a),  $Co_{0.91}Ca_{0.09}$ - CPs (b),  $Co_{0.89}Ca_{0.11}$ - CPs (c), and  $Co_{0.83}Ca_{0.17}$ - CPs (d).



Fig. S2 TEM images of Co-CPs (a),  $Co_{0.91}Ca_{0.09}$ -CPs (b),  $Co_{0.89}Ca_{0.11}$ -CPs (c) and  $Co_{0.83}Ca_{0.17}$ -CPs (d).



Fig. S3 HRSEM images of (a) Co-CPs, (b)  $Co_{0.91}Ca_{0.09}$ -CPs, (c)  $Co_{0.89}Ca_{0.11}$ -CPs and (d)  $Co_{0.83}Ca_{0.17}$ -CPs.



Fig. S4 XRD patterns of Co-CPs, Co<sub>x</sub>Ca<sub>y</sub>-CPs and Ca-CPs.



Fig. S5 Cyclic voltammetry (CV) curves without IR compensation during the potential range of 0.85V to 1.65V vs RHE in 1M KOH electrolyte for the catalysts: (a) Co-CPs, (b)  $Co_{0.91}Ca_{0.09}$ -CPs, (c)  $Co_{0.89}Ca_{0.11}$ -CPs and (d)  $Co_{0.83}Ca_{0.17}$ -CPs.



Fig. S6 The first CV curves for Co-CPs and Co<sub>x</sub>Ca<sub>y</sub>-CPs in 1 M KOH electrolyte.



Fig. S7 The stable CV curves for Co-CPs and Co<sub>x</sub>Ca<sub>y</sub>-CPs in 1 M KOH electrolyte.



Fig. S8 EIS of anodic oxidized products of Co-CPs and Co<sub>x</sub>Ca<sub>y</sub>-CPs measured at a constant potential of 1.55 V versus RHE.



Fig. S9 LSV polarization curves of  $Co_{0.89}Ca_{0.11}$ -CPs before and after cycling for 1000 cycles.



Fig. S10 EDS result of Co<sub>0.89</sub>Ca<sub>0.11</sub>-CPs before OER stability test.



| Element | Wt%-       | At%    |
|---------|------------|--------|
| CK.     | 09.37.     | 23.29. |
| OK.     | 20.30.     | 37.880 |
| SK.     | 00.71.     | 00.66  |
| KK.     | 06.55.     | 05.00. |
| CaK.    | 05.13.     | 03.82. |
| CoKe    | 57.94.     | 29.350 |
| Matrix  | Correction | ZAF    |

Fig. S11 EDS result of Co<sub>0.89</sub>Ca<sub>0.11</sub>-CPs after OER stability test.



Fig. S12 TEM images of anodic oxidized products of Co-CPs (a),  $Co_{0.91}Ca_{0.09}$ -CPs (b),  $Co_{0.89}Ca_{0.11}$ -CPs (c) and  $Co_{0.83}Ca_{0.17}$ -CPs (d) in 1.0 M KOH aqueous electrolyte.



Fig. S13 HRTEM image of anodic oxidized product of Co-CPs after OER.



Fig. S14 XPS spectra of Co-2p of Co-CPs and Co<sub>x</sub>Ca<sub>y</sub>-CPs.



Fig. S15 XPS spectra of Co-2p for hydrolyzed samples of Co-CPs and Co<sub>x</sub>Ca<sub>v</sub>-CPs in 1 M KOH.



Fig. S16 Raman spectra of the anodic oxidized products of Co-CPs and  $\mathrm{Co}_x\mathrm{Ca}_y$ -CPs after OER.