The critical importance of the ionomer on the electrochemical activity of platinum and platinum-free catalysts for anion-exchange membrane fuel cells

Pietro G. Santori, Abhishek N. Mondal, Dario R. Dekel, and Frédéric Jaouen
Figure S1. TGA curve of PPO-TMA in the temperature range of 30 to 600 °C. The measurement was performed under N₂ flow. The weight loss between 30 and 100°C is assigned to residual water. The PPO-TMA starts decomposing at *ca* 210°C, much earlier than pure PPO (*ca* 400°C). This is in line with TGA results reported for other AEIs based on a PPO polymer backbone, and in particular for another PPO functionalized with TMA cationic group.¹⁻²

Figure S2. XPS survey spectrum and high resolution spectrum of N1s region of PPO-TMA in bromide form.
**Figure S3.** XRD pattern of Fe$_{0.5}$-950. The pattern shows only two broad peaks assigned to the amorphous carbon matrix with nanosized graphite crystallites.

**Figure S4.** *Ex situ* Fe K-edge EXAFS spectrum of Fe$_{0.5}$-950. The spectrum was recorded in air at room temperature. The distance is not corrected for phase-shift. The signal at 1.5 Å is assigned to Fe-N or Fe-O interaction from FeN$_x$ sites and O$_2$ adsorbed on Fe from such sites, at 2.2 Å is assigned to Fe-Fe interaction from a minor fraction of Fe having formed particles during the pyrolysis in NH$_3$, and at 2.6 Å is assigned to Fe-C interactions between Fe from FeN$_x$ sites and C atoms from the second coordination sphere. This result is similar to our previous publication (Ref. 45, Fe-N-C sample prepared similarly to the present Fe$_{0.5}$-950 catalyst), where EXAFS assignments have been discussed also on the basis of a rigorous fitting procedure.
**Figure S5.** XRD patterns for CeO$_2$/C and Pd-CeO$_2$/C. Both patterns show only the reflections from the cubic structure of CeO$_2$ with the large FWHM consistent with nanosized CeO$_2$ particles. No signal for metallic Pd is visible in the pattern of Pd−CeO$_2$/C, indicating non-crystalline and/or high dispersion of palladium in this catalyst.

**Figure S6.** STEM images of Pd−CeO$_2$/C. HAADF image and STEM-EDS elemental mapping of the selected area (highlighted by orange rectangle on the left) showing Ce (red), Pd (green) and carbon (blue) elemental distribution. Reprinted with permission from *ACS Appl. Energy Mater.*, 2019, **2**, 4999–5008. Copyright (2019) American Chemical Society.
Supporting references
