

Electronic Supplementary Information

Boosting NH₃ production from nitrate electroreduction via electronic structure engineering of Fe₃C nanoflakes

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Table of contents

Equation 1: d-band center

Equation 2: Work function

Equation 3: Applied potential relative to the reversible hydrogen electrode

Equation 4: Yield of NH_3

Equation 5: Faradaic efficiency of NH_3

Equation 6: Partial current density of NH_3

Equation 7: Selectivity of NH_3

Equation 8: Energy efficiency for nitrate electroreduction to ammonia

Equation 9: Yield of NO_2^-

Equation 10: Faradaic efficiency of NO_2^-

Equation 11: Yield of N_2H_4

Equation 12: Faradaic efficiency of N_2H_4

Equation 13: Tafel plots

Equation 14: Pseudo-first order kinetic equation

Equation 15: Linear expression of the Langmuir-Hinshelwood model

Equation 16: Adsorption free energy of NO_3^-

Equation 17: Apparent activation energy

Equation 18: Charge transfer number

Figure S1. Photographs for the Fe-NTA mixture, Fe-NTA precursor, Fe-NTA complex and $\text{Fe}_3\text{C}/\text{NC}$.

Figure S2. The possible crystal structure of the Ni-NTA complex.

Figure S3. XRD patterns of NTA, $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and the Fe-NTA complex.

Figure S4. FTIR spectra of the Fe-NTA complex and pure NTA.

Figure S5. XRD patterns for samples prepared under different annealing and solvothermal conditions.

Figure S6. SEM images for samples prepared at different annealing temperatures.

Figure S7. SEM images for samples prepared at different annealing durations or ramp rates.

Figure S8. SEM images for samples prepared using different dosages of reactants.

Figure S9. SEM images for samples prepared at different solvothermal temperatures and durations.

Figure S10. TG curves of the Fe-NTA complex under Ar with a ramp rate of $10^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$.

Figure S11. XRD patterns of the annealed sample before and after etching.

Figure S12. Photograph of the reactor for NO_3RR .

Figure S13. Chronoamperometric results for $\text{Fe}_3\text{C}/\text{NC}$ at different potentials.

Figure S14. UV-vis absorption, IC and ^1H NMR spectra of NH_4^+ standard solutions and the

corresponding calibration curves.

Figure S15. Quantification of the produced ammonia using K^{15}NO_3 as the feeding nitrate

Figure S16. Yield of NH_3 for NC after electrolysis for 1 h at different potentials.

Figure S17. Yield and FE of NH_3 and Raman spectra for $\text{Fe}_3\text{C/NC-600}$, $\text{Fe}_3\text{C/NC-650}$, $\text{Fe}_3\text{C/NC}$, $\text{Fe}_3\text{C/NC-750}$ and $\text{Fe}_3\text{C/NC-800}$.

Figure S18. XRD patterns, SEM and EDS elemental mapping images for NC-600, NC and NC-800.

Figure S19. N 1s and O 1s XPS for NC-600, NC and NC-800.

Figure S20. NO_3RR performances for NC-600, NC and NC-800.

Figure S21. NO_3RR performances of samples prepared under different annealing and solvothermal conditions.

Figure S22. Chronoamperometric responses during the recycling test for $\text{Fe}_3\text{C/NC}$ at -0.5 V.

Figure S23. TEM images and XRD patterns for $\text{Fe}_3\text{C/NC}$ after recycling for 13 runs.

Figure S24. IC spectra and the corresponding calibration curves of NO_2^- and NO_3^- standard solutions.

Figure S25. Time-dependent concentrations of NO_3^- , NO_2^- and NH_4^+ and the corresponding selectivity, yield and FE of NH_4^+ during the continuous long-term electrolysis for 13 h at -0.5 V. Potential-dependent yield and FE of NO_2^- after chronoamperometric electrolysis for 1 h.

Figure S26. Determination of the possible by-product of N_2H_4 using the Watt-Chrisp method.

Figure S27. GC spectra of the products after electrolysis at different potentials in 1 M KOH aqueous solutions with $\text{Fe}_3\text{C/NC}$ as the catalyst.

Figure S28. Determination of the possible escaped NH_3 in the gas phase.

Figure S29. XRD patterns for Air-200, Air-100, H_2 -100, H_2 -300 and the pristine sample of $\text{Fe}_3\text{C/NC}$.

Figure S30. Raman spectra for H_2 -300, Air-200 and the pristine sample of $\text{Fe}_3\text{C/NC}$.

Figure S31. SEM images for Air-200, Air-100, H_2 -100 and H_2 -300.

Figure S32. TEM images for Air-200, Air-100, H_2 -100 and H_2 -300.

Figure S33. LSV curves for H_2 -300, H_2 -100, Air-100 and Air-200 in electrolytes with or without KNO_3 .

Figure S34. Chronoamperometric responses at different potentials for Air-200, Air-100, H_2 -100 and H_2 -300 in aqueous solutions containing 1 M KOH and 75 mM KNO_3 .

Figure S35. UV-vis absorbance spectra of the indophenol blue-stained catholytes after electrolysis at given potentials with Air-200, Air-100, H_2 -100 and H_2 -300 as the catalysts, respectively.

Figure S36. Yield and FE of NH_3 at different potentials for H_2 -300, H_2 -100, Air-100, Air-200 and the pristine sample of $\text{Fe}_3\text{C/NC}$.

Figure S37. Potential-dependent energy efficiencies for nitrate reduction to ammonia over Air-200, H_2 -300 and the pristine sample of $\text{Fe}_3\text{C/NC}$.

Figure S38. N_2 adsorption-desorption isotherms and the corresponding pore size distributions for Air-

100 and H₂-100.

Figure S39. Scan rate-dependent CV curves and the derived double layer capacitances for H₂-300, H₂-100, Air-100, Air-200 and the pristine sample of Fe₃C/NC.

Figure S40-42. Linear fitting plots of $\ln C_0/C_t$ vs. reaction time t based on the pseudo first order kinetic equation for H₂-300, Fe₃C/NC and Air-200 with different initial nitrate concentrations in the electrolytes, respectively.

Figure S43. Fe 2p, C 1s, N 1s and O 1s XPS for H₂-300, H₂-100, Air-100, Air-200 and the pristine sample of Fe₃C/NC.

Figure S44. Secondary electron cutoff regions of UPS and the derived work functions for H₂-300, H₂-100, Air-100, Air-200 and the pristine sample of Fe₃C/NC.

Figure S45. Contact angles for Air-200, Fe₃C/NC and H₂-300 before and after chronamperometric electrolysis at -0.5 V for 1 h.

Figure S46. Nyquist plots for H₂-300, H₂-100, Air-100, Air-200 and the pristine sample of Fe₃C/NC.

Figure S47. Time-dependent concentrations of nitrate ions for the investigated samples after electrolysis at -0.5 V for 1 h.

Figure S48. Temperature-dependent partial current densities of ammonium for H₂-300, Air-200 and the pristine sample of Fe₃C/NC after electrolysis at -0.5 V for 1 h.

Table S1. Summary of the synthetic conditions for the control samples in this work.

Table S2. Origin of weight losses in TG curves of the Fe-NTA complex under Ar.

Table S3. Yield, faradaic efficiency and selectivity of NH₃ at different potentials for Fe₃C/NC determined by three methods.

Table S4. Contents of N, O and C in NC-600, NC and NC-800 from XPS analysis

Table S5. Contents of Fe, C, N and H elements in the as-synthesized samples.

Table S6. Ratios of Fe³⁺/Fe²⁺ obtained by XPS analysis.

Table S7. Comparison of ammonia yield and selectivity from nitrate electroreduction over Fe₃C/NC with literature results.

The equations involved in this work are listed as follows:

$\varepsilon_d = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} n_d(\varepsilon) \varepsilon d\varepsilon / \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} n_d(\varepsilon) d\varepsilon$ (1), where ε_d is the d-band center, ε is the energy relative to the fermi level and $n_d(\varepsilon)$ is the photoelectron intensity after the subtraction of the shirley-type background. The upper level of the integration was fixed at 8.0 eV for accurate comparison.

$\Phi = 21.2 - \text{SEE}$ (2), where Φ is the work function and SEE is the binding energy corresponding to the secondary electron cutoff edge.

$E (\text{vs. RHE}) = E (\text{vs. Hg/HgO}) + 0.059 \times \text{pH} + 0.098$ (3), where $E (\text{vs. RHE})$ and $E (\text{vs. Hg/HgO})$ are the applied potentials relative to the reversible hydrogen electrode and to the Hg/HgO electrode, respectively.

$Y_{\text{NH}_3} = C(\text{NH}_3) \times V / (t \times m_{\text{cat.}})$ (4), $FE_{\text{NH}_3} = 8F \times C(\text{NH}_3) \times V / (17Q) \times 100\%$ (5), and $J_{\text{NH}_3} = (I \times FE_{\text{NH}_3}) / A$ (6), where Y_{NH_3} , FE_{NH_3} and J_{NH_3} are the yield, faradaic efficiency and partial current density of NH_3 , respectively; $C(\text{NH}_3)$ is the molar concentration of measured NH_3 , V is the volume of the electrolyte, t is the electrolysis time, $m_{\text{cat.}}$ is the mass of the loaded catalyst, F is the Faraday constant (96485 C mol^{-1}) and Q is the total charge passing through the electrode ($Q = \int_0^t j dt$, j is the geometric current density), I is the current during the constant potential electrolysis, A is the surface area of the cathode.

$\text{Selec.} = C(\text{NH}_3) / \Delta C(\text{NO}_3^-) \times 100\%$ (7), where Selec. is the selectivity of NH_3 , C_0 is the initial concentration of NO_3^- in the electrolyte and $\Delta C(\text{NO}_3^-)$ is the concentration difference of NO_3^- before and after electrolysis

$EE_{\text{NH}_3} = (1.23 - E_{\text{NH}_3}^0) FE_{\text{NH}_3} / (1.23 - E)$ (8), where EE_{NH_3} is the energy efficiency for nitrate electroreduction to ammonia, $E_{\text{NH}_3}^0$ is the equilibrium potential of nitrate electroreduction to ammonia (0.69 V), FE_{NH_3} is the faradaic efficiency for ammonia, 1.23 V is the equilibrium potential of water oxidation and E is the applied potential vs. RHE.

$Y_{\text{NO}_2^-} = C(\text{NO}_2^-) \times V / (t \times m_{\text{cat.}})$ (9), $FE_{\text{NO}_2^-} = 2F \times C(\text{NO}_2^-) \times V / (46Q) \times 100\%$ (10), where $Y_{\text{NO}_2^-}$ and $FE_{\text{NO}_2^-}$ are the yield and faradaic efficiency of NO_2^- , respectively; $C(\text{NO}_2^-)$ is the molar concentration of measured NO_2^- , V is the volume of the electrolyte, t is the electrolysis time, $m_{\text{cat.}}$ is the mass of the loaded catalyst, F is the Faraday constant (96485 C mol^{-1}) and Q is the total charge passing through the electrode ($Q = \int_0^t j dt$, j is the geometric current density).

$Y_{\text{N}_2\text{H}_4} = C(\text{N}_2\text{H}_4) \times V / (t \times m_{\text{cat.}})$ (11), $FE_{\text{N}_2\text{H}_4} = 7F \times C(\text{N}_2\text{H}_4) \times V / (32Q) \times 100\%$ (12), where $Y_{\text{N}_2\text{H}_4}$ and

$FE_{N_2H_4}$ are the yield and faradaic efficiency of N_2H_4 , respectively; $C(NO_2^-)$ is the molar concentration of measured NO_2^- , V is the volume of the electrolyte, t is the electrolysis time, m_{cat} is the mass of the loaded catalyst, F is the Faraday constant (96485 C mol^{-1}) and Q is the total charge passing through the electrode ($Q = \int_0^t j dt$, j is the geometric current density).

$E = a + b \log(J_{NH_3})$ (13), where E is the applied potential vs. RHE, J_{NH_3} is the partial current density of NH_3 , a is a constant and b is the Tafel slope

$\ln(C_0/C_t) = k_{ap}t$ (14), where k_{ap} is the apparent rate constant, C_0 and C_t are the concentrations of NO_3^- in the electrolytes at the beginning and at reaction time t , respectively

$1/r_0 = 1/(kK_{ads}C_0) + 1/k$ (15), where K_{ads} is the equilibrium adsorption constants for NO_3^- , r_0 is the initial reduction rate of NO_3^- ($r_0 = k_{ap}C_0$), k is the rate constant for the adsorbed NO_3^- , C_0 is the initial concentration of NO_3^-

$\Delta G_{ads} = -RT \ln K_{ads}$ (16), where ΔG_{ads} is the adsorption free energy of NO_3^- , R is the gas constant, T is the reaction temperature and K_{ads} is the equilibrium adsorption constants for nitrate ions.

$i_k = Ae^{(-E_a/RT)}$ (17), where E_a is the apparent activation energy, i_k is the kinetic current at -0.5 V , A is the pre-exponential factor, T is the reaction temperature and R is the universal gas constant

$j_p = (-2.99 \times 10^5) n \alpha^{1/2} C D^{1/2} \nu^{1/2}$ (18), where n is the charge transfer number, j_p is the peak current density ($A\text{ cm}^{-2}$), α is transfer coefficient (0.5), C is the nitrate concentration in electrolytes ($7.5 \times 10^{-5}\text{ mol cm}^{-3}$), D is the diffusion coefficient of nitrate ions ($2.0 \times 10^{-5}\text{ cm}^2\text{ s}^{-1}$) and ν is the scan rate ($V\text{ s}^{-1}$).

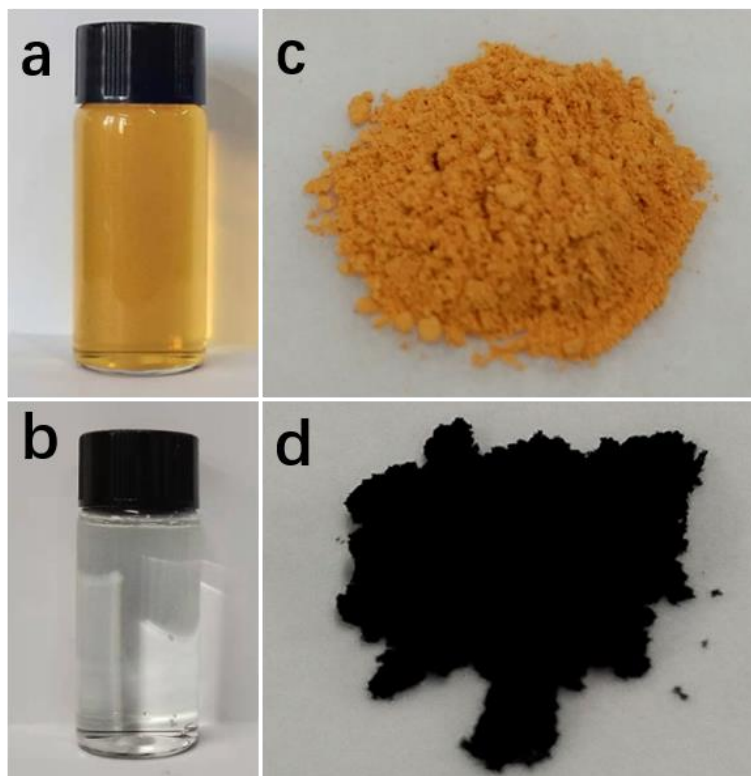


Figure S1. Photographs for the Fe-NTA mixture (a), Fe-NTA precursor (b), Fe-NTA complex (c) and Fe₃C/NC (d).

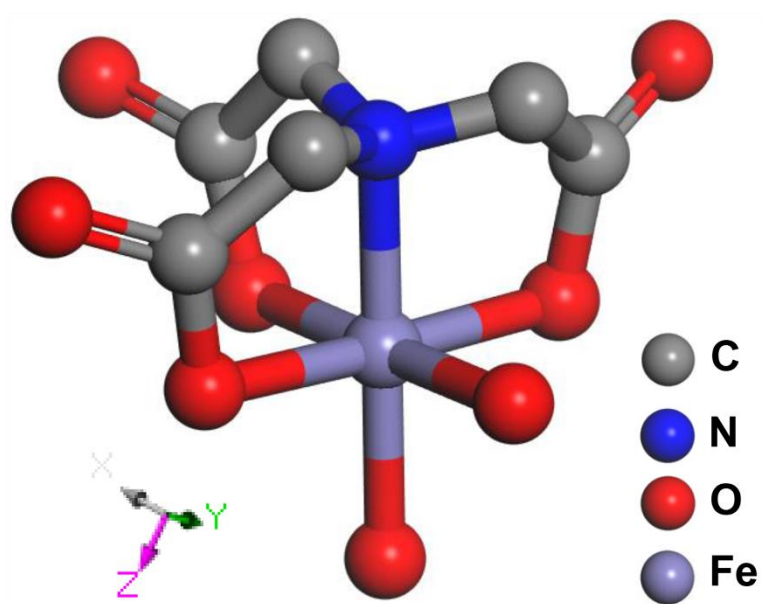


Figure S2. The possible crystal structure of the Fe-NTA complex.

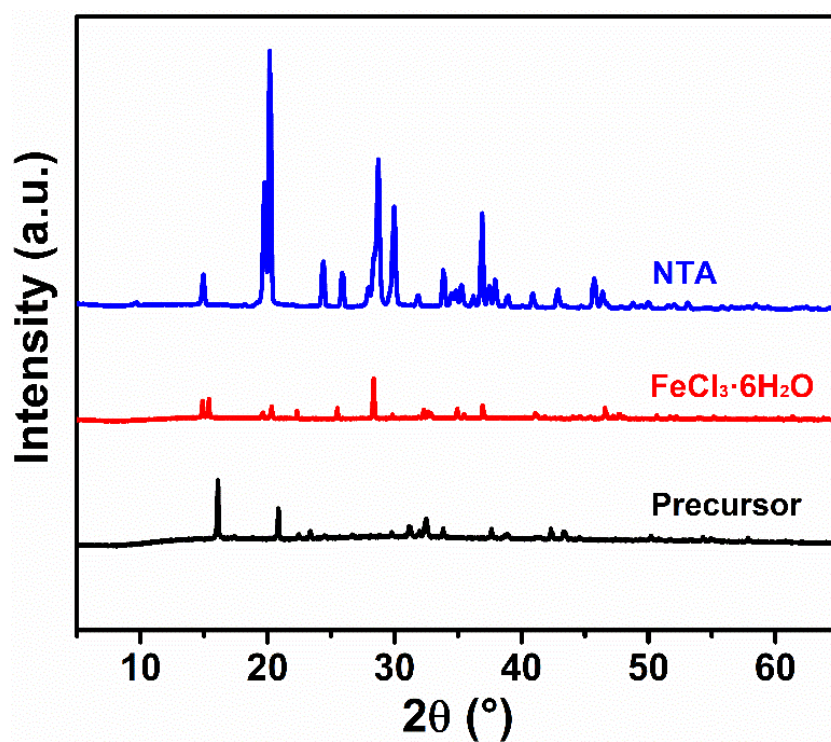


Figure S3. XRD patterns of NTA, FeCl₃·6H₂O and the Fe-NTA complex.

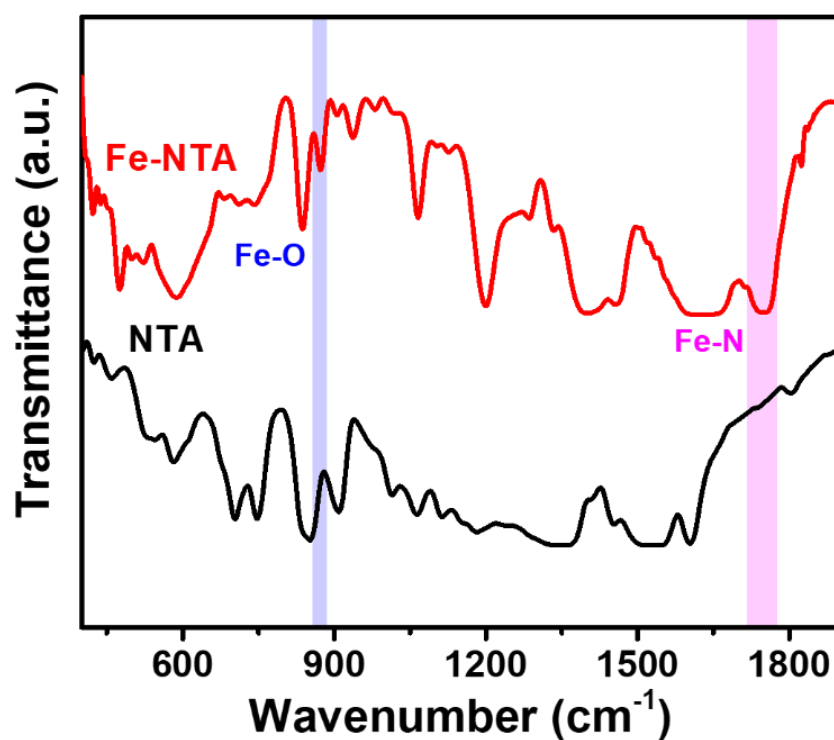


Figure S4. FTIR spectra of the Fe-NTA complex (red) and pure NTA (black). The peaks located at about 850 cm⁻¹ and 1770 cm⁻¹ were assigned to the vibrations of Fe-O and Fe-N bonds, respectively.

Table S1. Summary of the synthetic conditions for the control samples in this work

Entry	Sample	Solvothermal				Calcination			Etching	Post treatment
		n(Fe) (mmol)	n(NTA) (mmol)	Temp. (°C)	Time (h)	Temp. (°C)	Time (h)	Rate (°C min ⁻¹)	C(HCl) (M)	Temp. (°C)
1	Fe ₃ C/NC	4	2	180	6	700	2	2	2	-
2	Fe ₃ C/NC-0.5Fe	2	2	180	6	700	2	2	2	-
3	Fe ₃ C/NC-2Fe	8	2	180	6	700	2	2	2	-
4	Fe ₃ C/NC-0.5C	2	1	180	6	700	2	2	2	-
5	Fe ₃ C/NC-2C	8	4	180	6	700	2	2	2	-
6	Fe ₃ C/NC-2NTA	4	4	180	6	700	2	2	2	-
7	Fe ₃ C/NC-0.5NTA	4	4	180	6	700	2	2	2	-
8	Fe ₃ C/NC-140	4	2	140	6	700	2	2	2	-
9	Fe ₃ C/NC-220	4	2	220	6	700	2	2	2	-
10	Fe ₃ C/NC-3h	4	2	180	3	700	2	2	2	-
11	Fe ₃ C/NC-9h	4	2	180	9	700	2	2	2	-
12	Fe ₃ C/NC-600	4	2	180	6	600	2	2	2	-
13	Fe ₃ C/NC-650	4	2	180	6	650	2	2	2	-
14	Fe ₃ C/NC-750	4	2	180	6	750	2	2	2	-
15	Fe ₃ C/NC-800	4	2	180	6	800	2	2	2	-
16	Fe ₃ C/NC-1R	4	2	180	6	700	2	1	2	-
17	Fe ₃ C/NC-5R	4	2	180	6	700	2	5	2	-
18	Fe ₃ C/NC-0.5H	4	2	180	6	700	0.5	2	2	-
19	Fe ₃ C/NC-4H	4	2	180	6	700	4	2	2	-
20	NC ^a	4	2	180	6	700	2	2	12	-
21	NC-600 ^a	4	2	180	6	600	2	2	12	-
22	NC-800 ^a	4	2	180	6	800	2	2	12	-
23	H ₂ -100 ^b	4	2	180	6	700	2	2	2	100
24	H ₂ -300 ^b	4	2	180	6	700	2	2	2	300
25	Air-100 ^c	4	2	180	6	700	2	2	2	100
26	Air-200 ^c	4	2	180	6	700	2	2	2	200

^a NC, NC-600 and NC-800 were synthesized using a 12 M concentrated HCl solution in the etching process under otherwise identical conditions with Fe₃C/NC, Fe₃C/NC-600 and Fe₃C/NC-800, respectively.

^b H₂-100 and H₂-300 were prepared by heating Fe₃C/NC under H₂/Ar at 100 and 300 °C for 2 h, respectively.

^c Air-100 and Air-200 were prepared by heating Fe₃C/NC in air at 100 and 200 °C for 2 h, respectively.

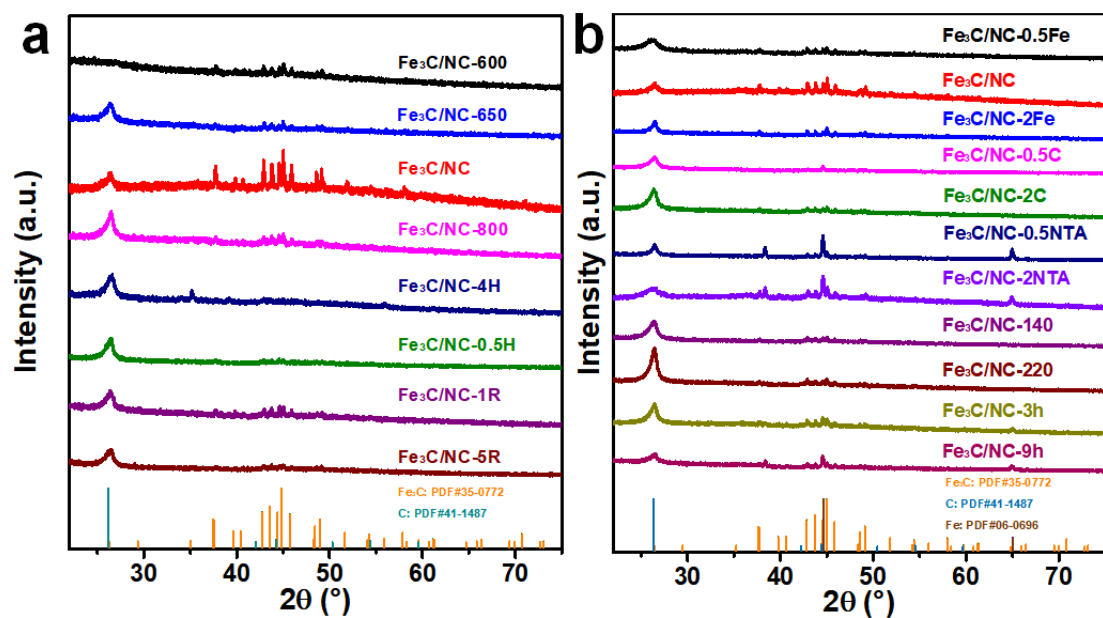


Figure S5. XRD patterns of samples prepared under different annealing (a) and solvothermal (b) conditions. All samples possessed similar compositions with Fe₃C/NC except for Fe₃C/NC-0.5NTA, Fe₃C/NC-2NTA, Fe₃C/NC-3h and Fe₃C/NC-9h, which contained additional species of metallic Fe.

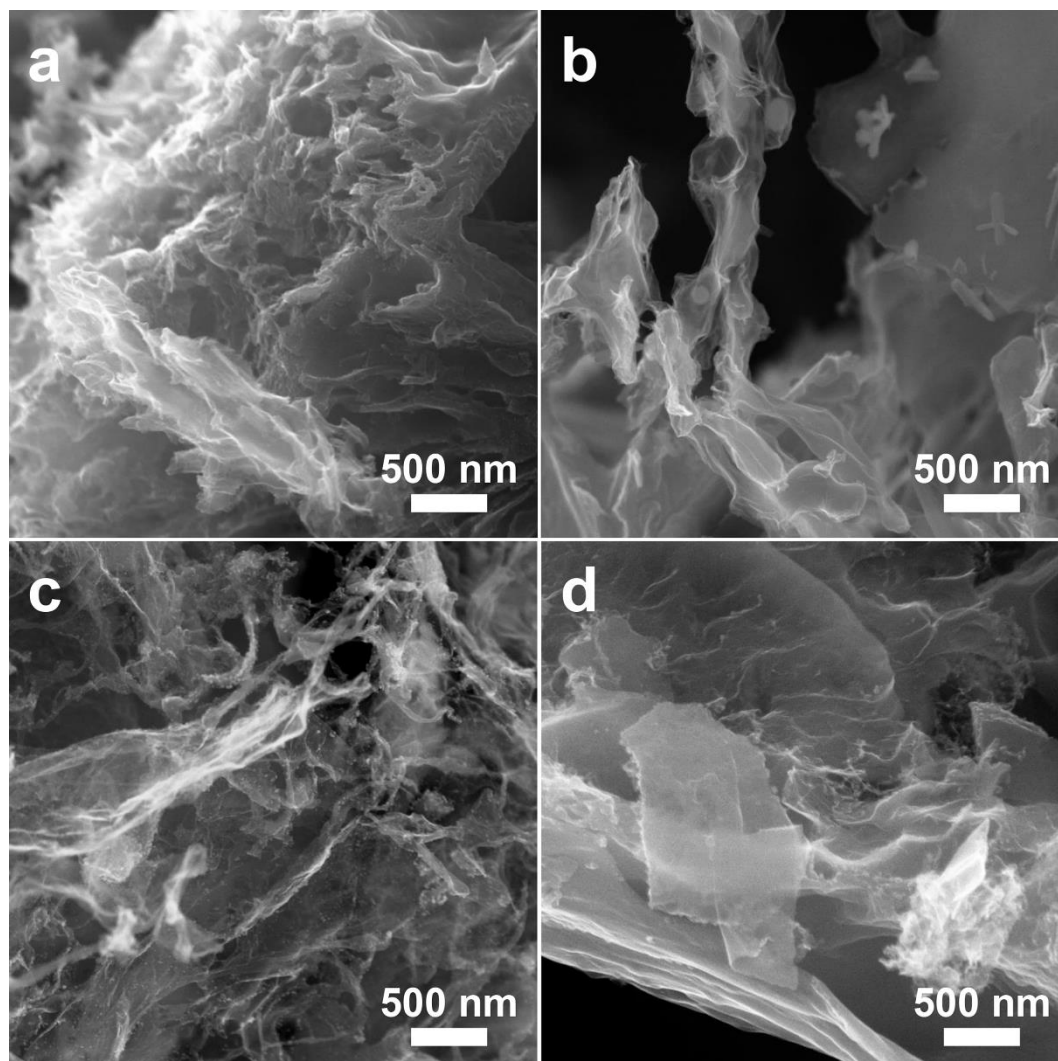


Figure S6. SEM images for samples prepared at different annealing temperatures. (a) Fe₃C/NC-600, (b) Fe₃C/NC-650, (c) Fe₃C/NC, (d) Fe₃C/NC-800.

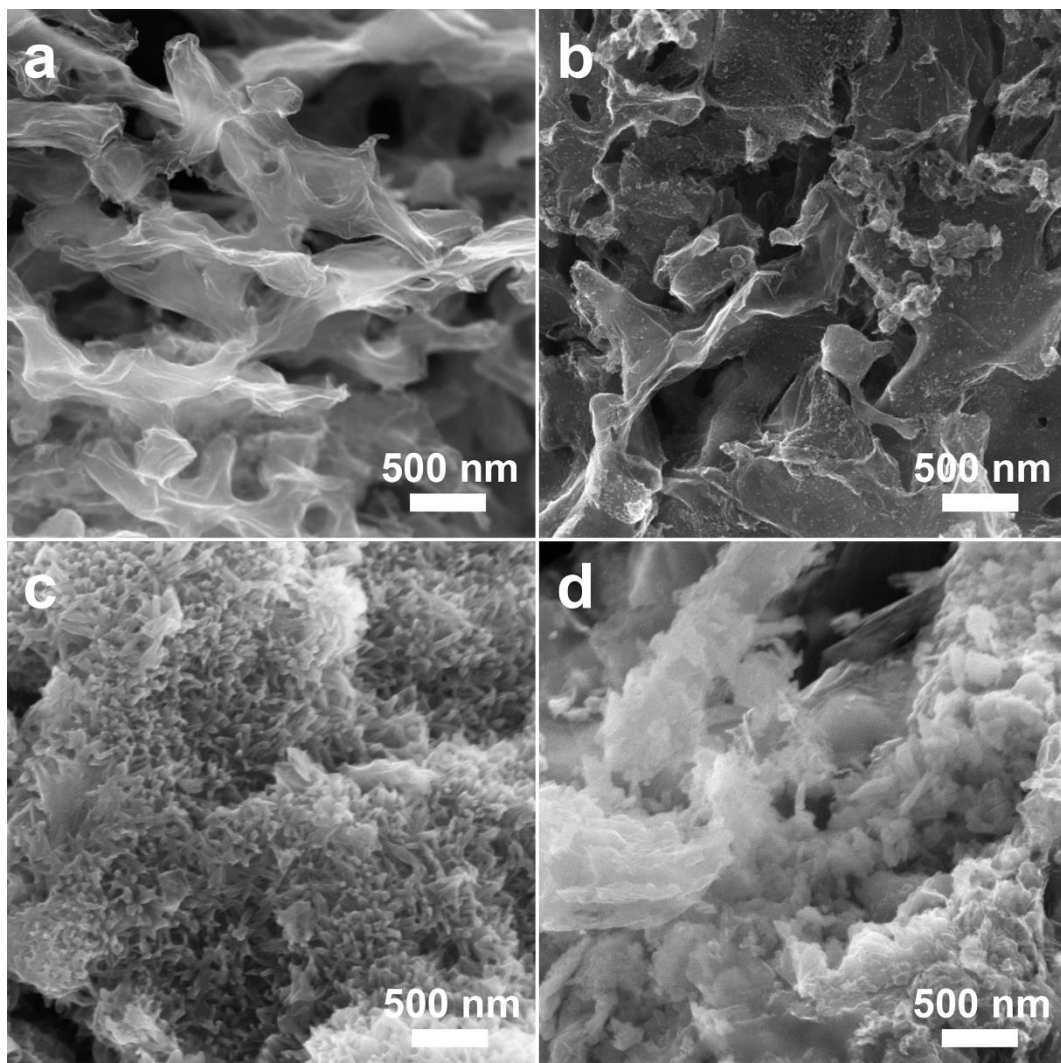


Figure S7. SEM images for samples prepared at different annealing durations (a-b) or ramp rates (c-d). (a) Fe₃C/NC-0.5H, (b) Fe₃C/NC-4H, (c) Fe₃C/NC-1R, (d) Fe₃C/NC-5R.

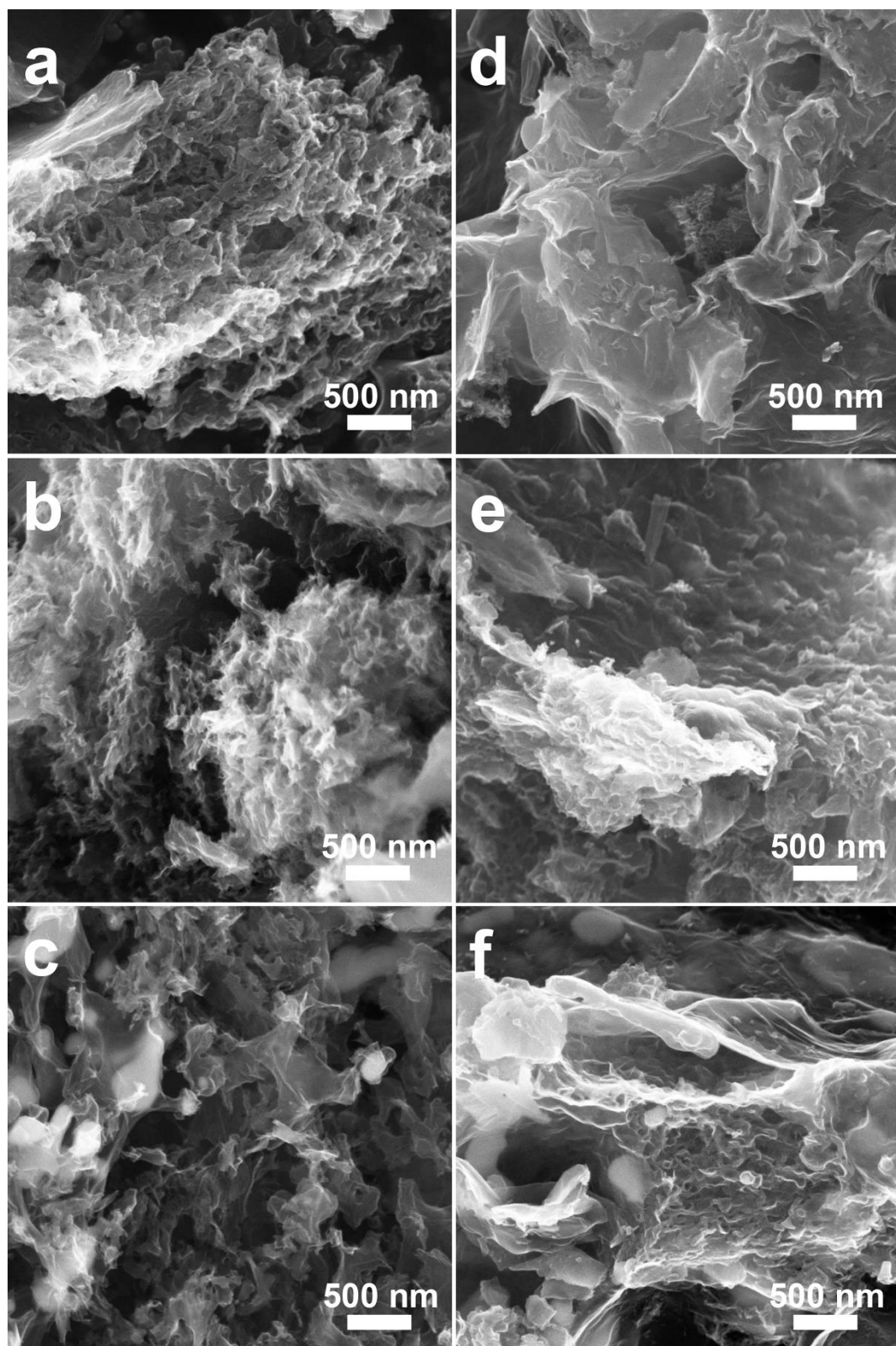


Figure S8. SEM images for samples prepared using different dosages of reactants. (a) Fe₃C/NC-0.5Fe, (b) Fe₃C/NC-2Fe, (c) Fe₃C/NC-0.5C, (d) Fe₃C/NC-2C, (e) Fe₃C/NC-0.5NTA, (f) Fe₃C/NC-2NTA.

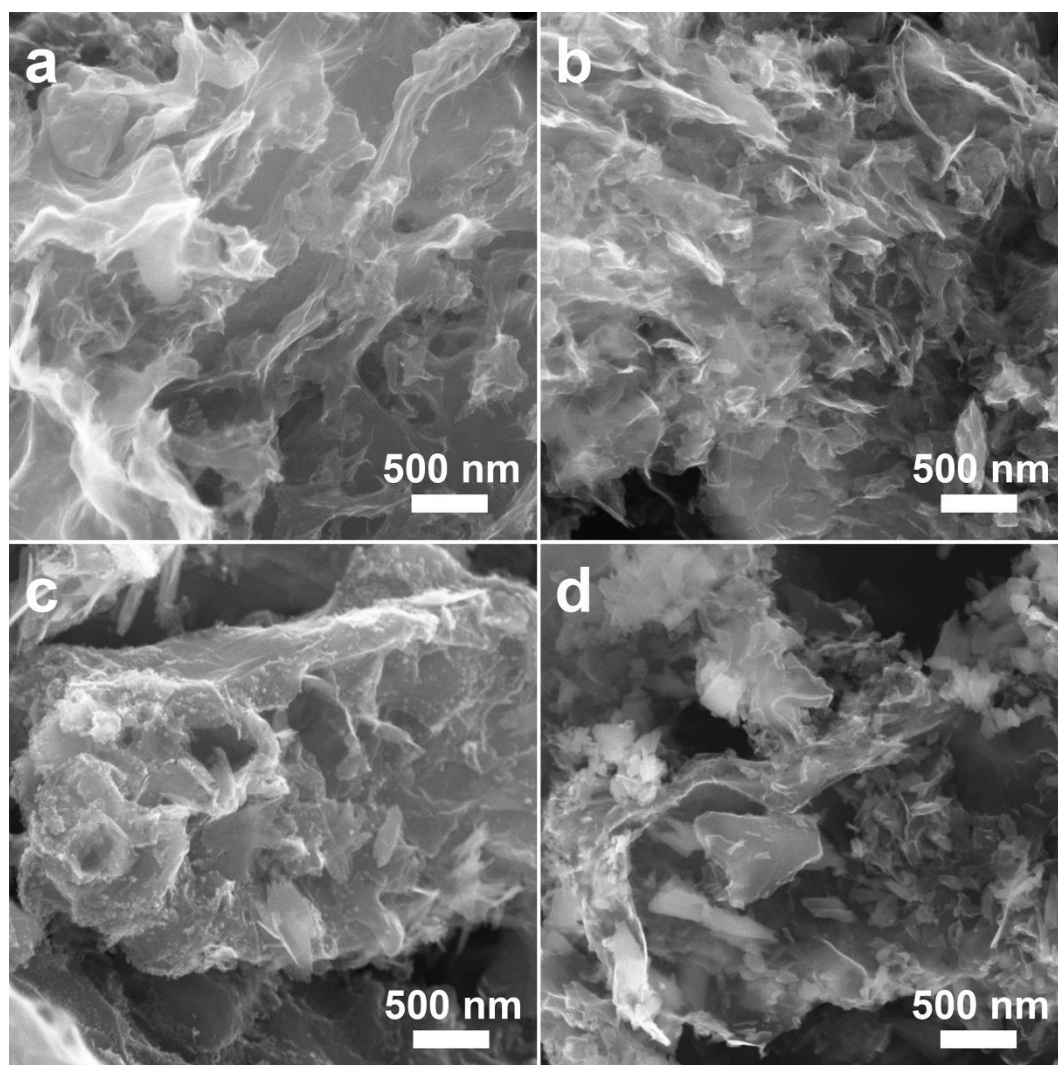


Figure S9. SEM images for catalysts prepared at different solvothermal temperatures (a-b) and durations (c-d). (a) $\text{Fe}_3\text{C}/\text{NC-140}$, (b) $\text{Fe}_3\text{C}/\text{NC-220}$, (c) $\text{Fe}_3\text{C}/\text{NC-3h}$, (d) $\text{Fe}_3\text{C}/\text{NC-9h}$.

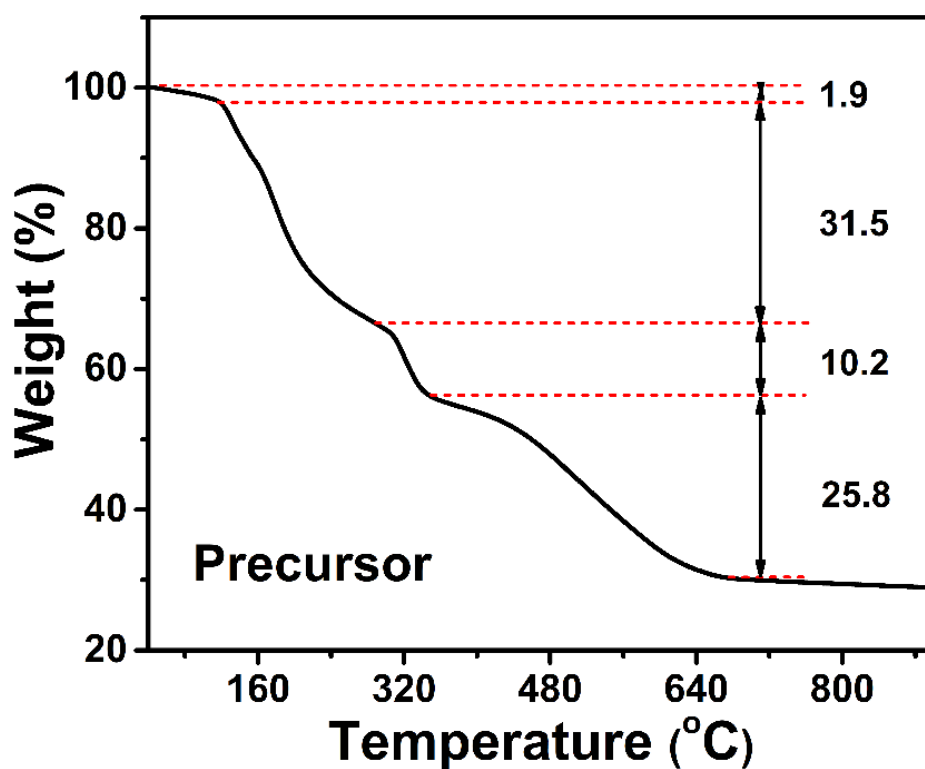


Figure S10. TG curves of the Fe-NTA complex under Ar with a ramp rate of 10 °C min⁻¹.

Table S2. Origin of weight losses in TG curves of the Fe-NTA complex under Ar.

Temperature (°C)	Origin of weight losses
<175	Evaporation of surface adsorbed moistures
175-350	Partial decomposition of NTA
350-700	Graphitization of the carbon species and formation of Fe and Fe ₃ C

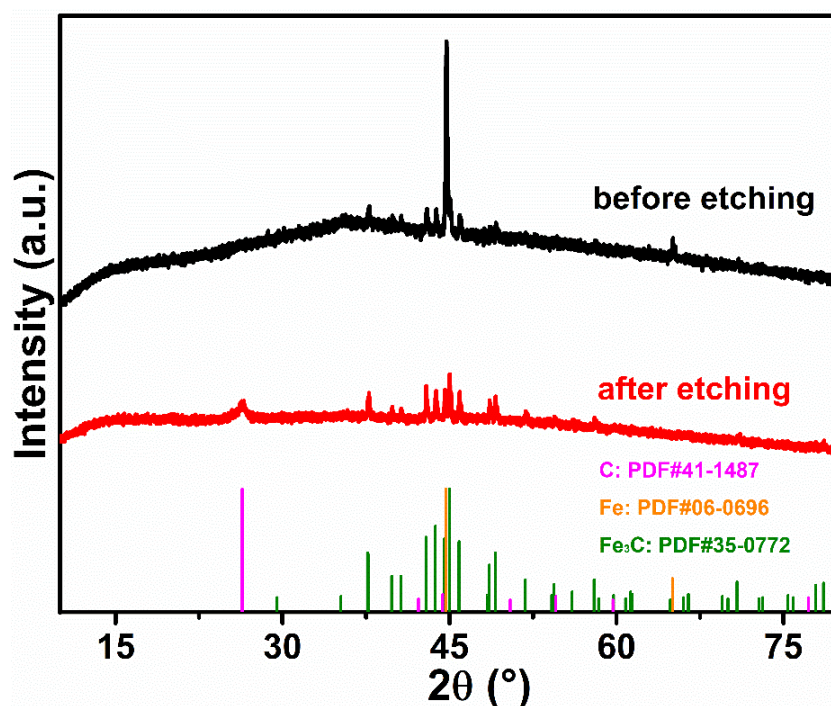


Figure S11. XRD patterns of the annealed sample before (black) and after (red) etching in 2 M HCl for 12 h. The metallic species of Fe were removed by etching.

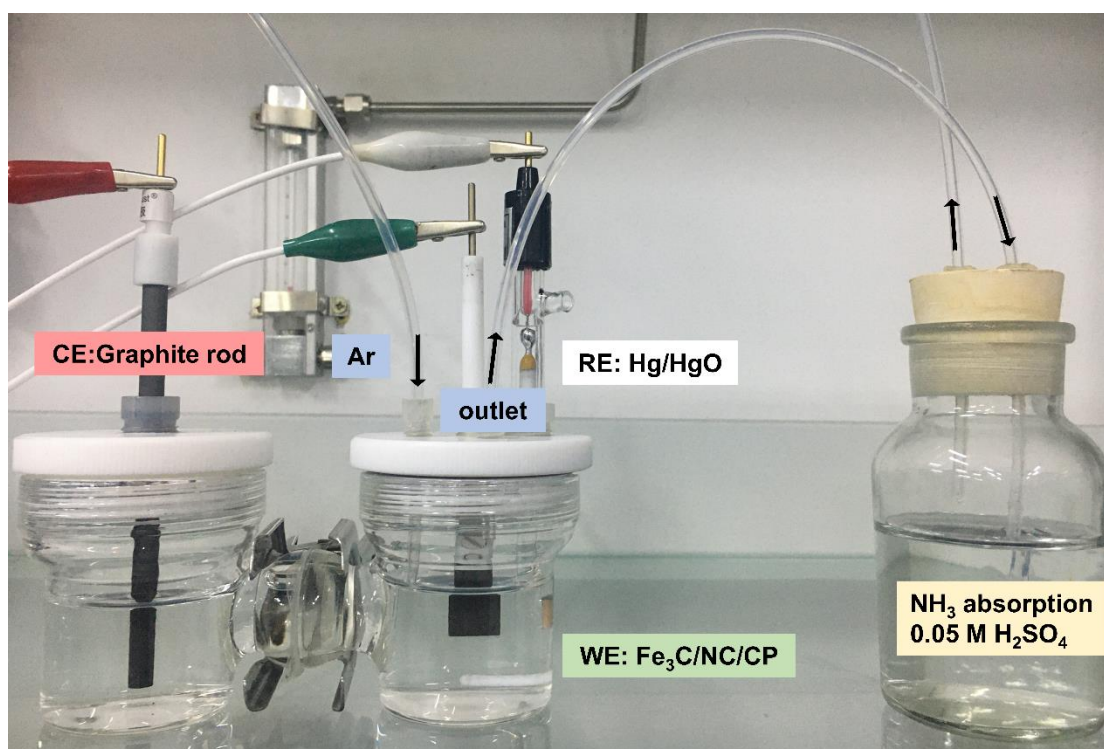


Figure S12. Photograph of the reactor for NO_3RR with a gas absorption device connected with the outlet to capture and collect the lost NH_3 in the gas phase. 0.05 M H_2SO_4 aqueous solution was used to trap the escaped NH_3 .

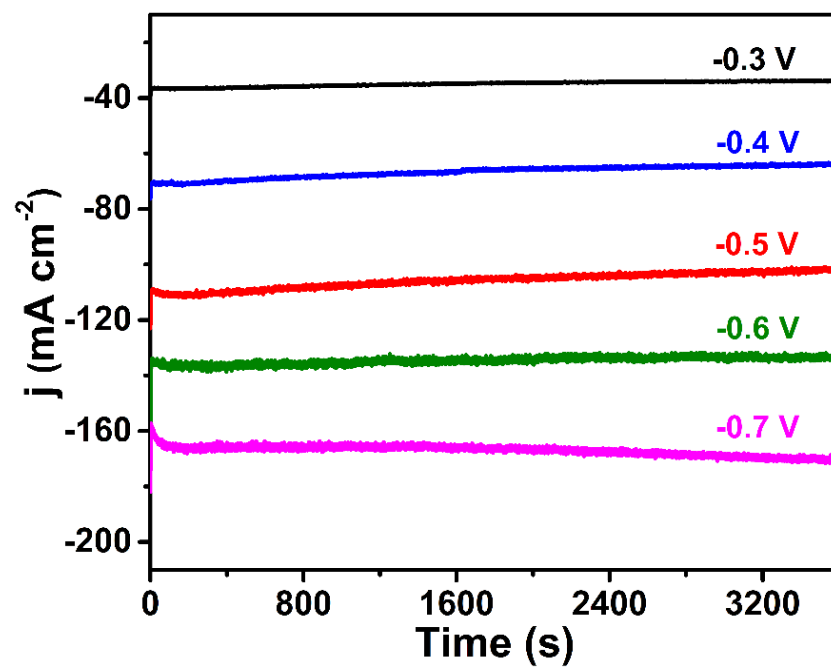


Figure S13. Chronoamperometric results for $\text{Fe}_3\text{C/NC}$ at different potentials.

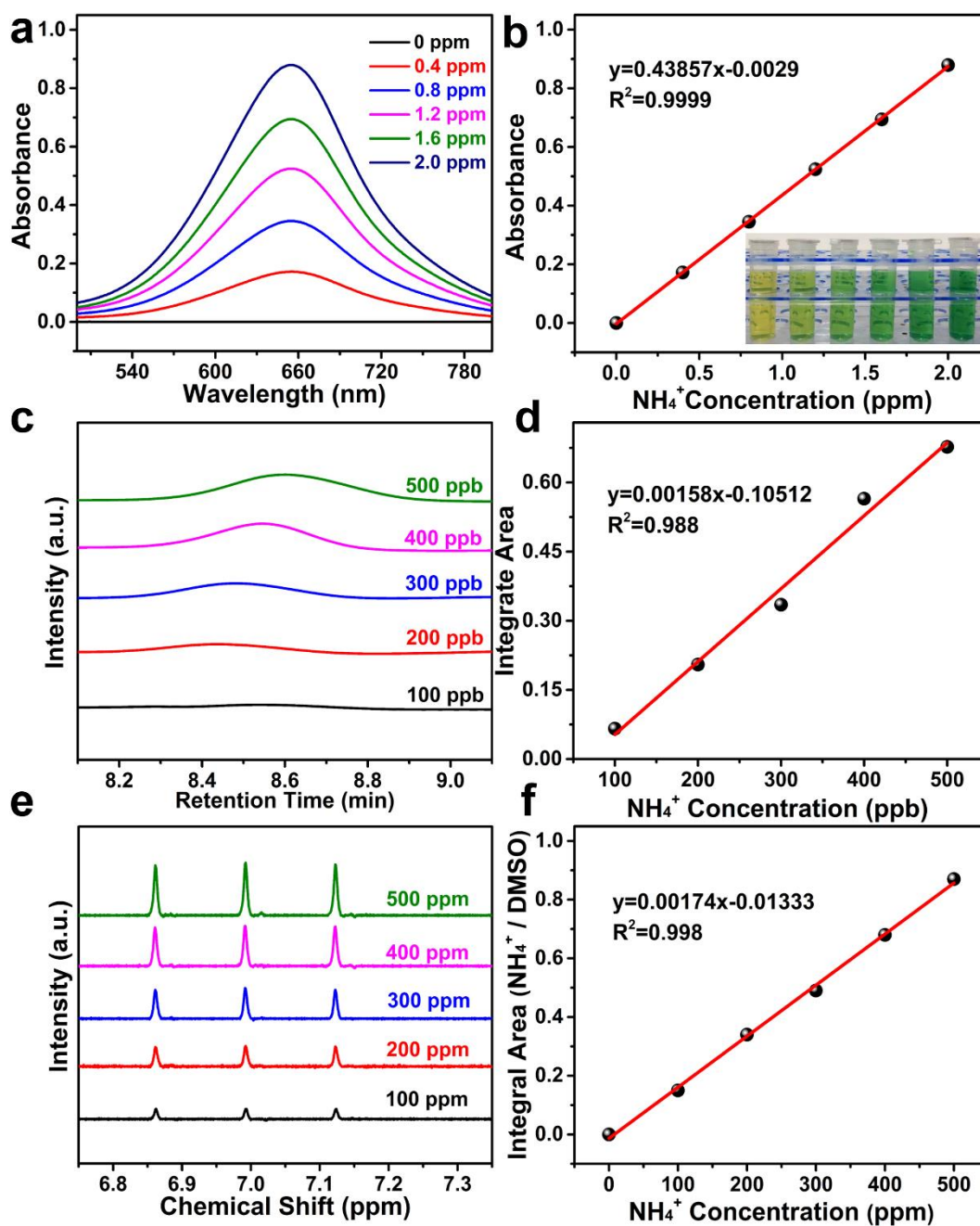


Figure S14. UV-vis absorption spectra of NH_4^+ standard solutions stained with indophenol blue (a), the corresponding calibration curves (b) and the photograph of the colorimetric assays (inset in b). IC spectra of NH_4^+ standard solutions (c) and the corresponding calibration curves (d). ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz) of NH_4^+ standard solutions with pH values adjusted to 3 (e) and the corresponding calibration curves (f).

Table S3. Yield, faradaic efficiency (FE) and selectivity of NH_3 at different potentials for $\text{Fe}_3\text{C}/\text{NC}$ determined by three methods including the indophenol blue method (UV), the ion chromatography (IC) and ^1H -nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra.

Potential (V vs. RHE)	Yield ($\text{mmol} \cdot \text{mg}^{-1} \cdot \text{h}^{-1}$)			FE (%)			Selectivity (%)		
	UV	IC	NMR	UV	IC	NMR	UV	IC	NMR
-0.3	0.37	0.39	0.35	91.2	96.1	85.8	78.1	84.5	73.5
-0.4	0.74	0.75	0.72	95.1	96.8	92.7	78.5	79.8	76.6
-0.5	1.19	1.16	1.16	96.7	94.0	94.1	79.0	76.8	76.9
-0.6	1.44	1.34	1.36	91.7	85.4	86.9	86.5	80.6	82.0
-0.7	1.77	1.80	1.63	90.8	92.5	83.9	86.1	87.7	79.5

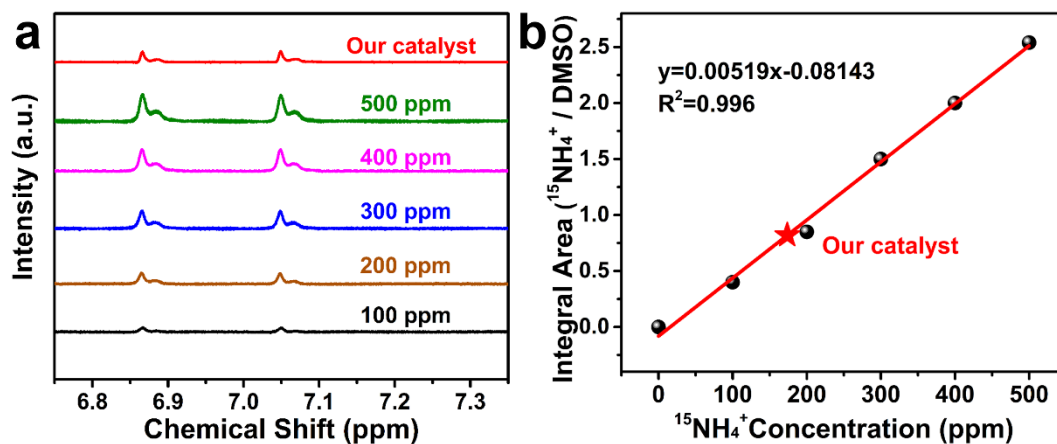


Figure S15. Quantification of the produced ammonia using K^{15}NO_3 as the feeding nitrate. ^1H -NMR spectra (a) and the corresponding calibration curve (b) of the standard solutions of $^{15}\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$. For comparison, the ^1H -NMR spectrum and the concentration of $^{15}\text{NH}_4^+$ of our work were also included in (a) and (b), respectively. The electrolysis was performed at -0.5 V for 1 h in aqueous solutions containing 75 mM K^{15}NO_3 and 1 M KOH with $\text{Fe}_3\text{C}/\text{NC}$ as the catalyst.

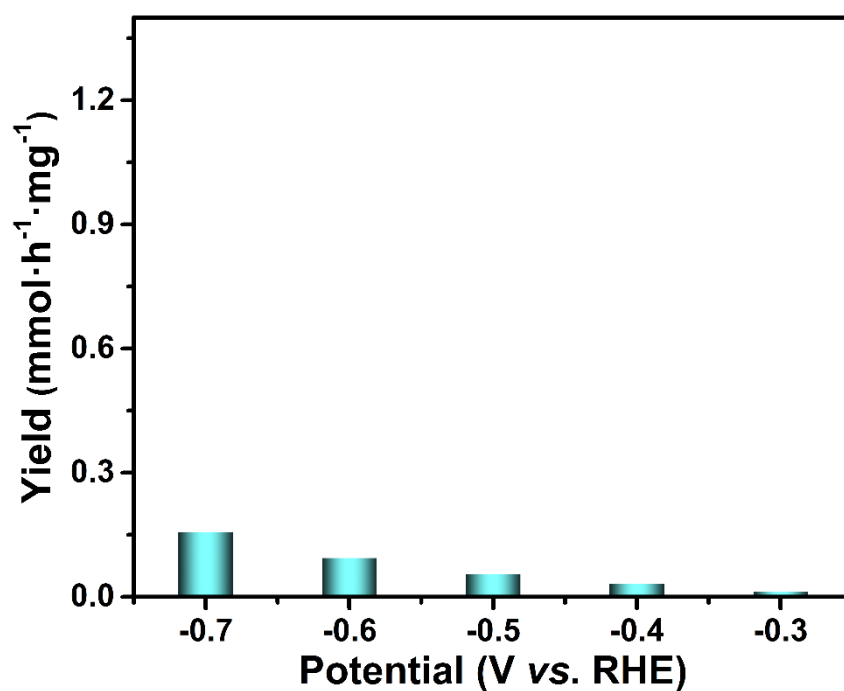


Figure S16. Yield of NH₃ for NC after electrolysis in aqueous solutions containing 1 M KOH and 75 mM KNO₃ for 1 h at different potentials.

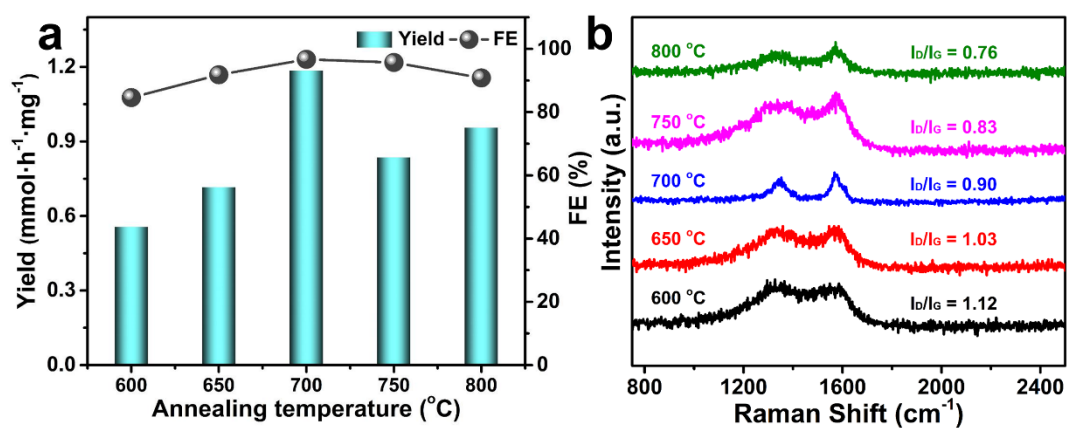


Figure S17. Yield and FE of NH₃ (a) and Raman spectra (b) for Fe₃C/NC-600, Fe₃C/NC-650, Fe₃C/NC, Fe₃C/NC-750 and Fe₃C/NC-800. Electrolysis was conducted at -0.5 V for 1 h in aqueous solutions containing 1 M KOH and 75 mM KNO₃.

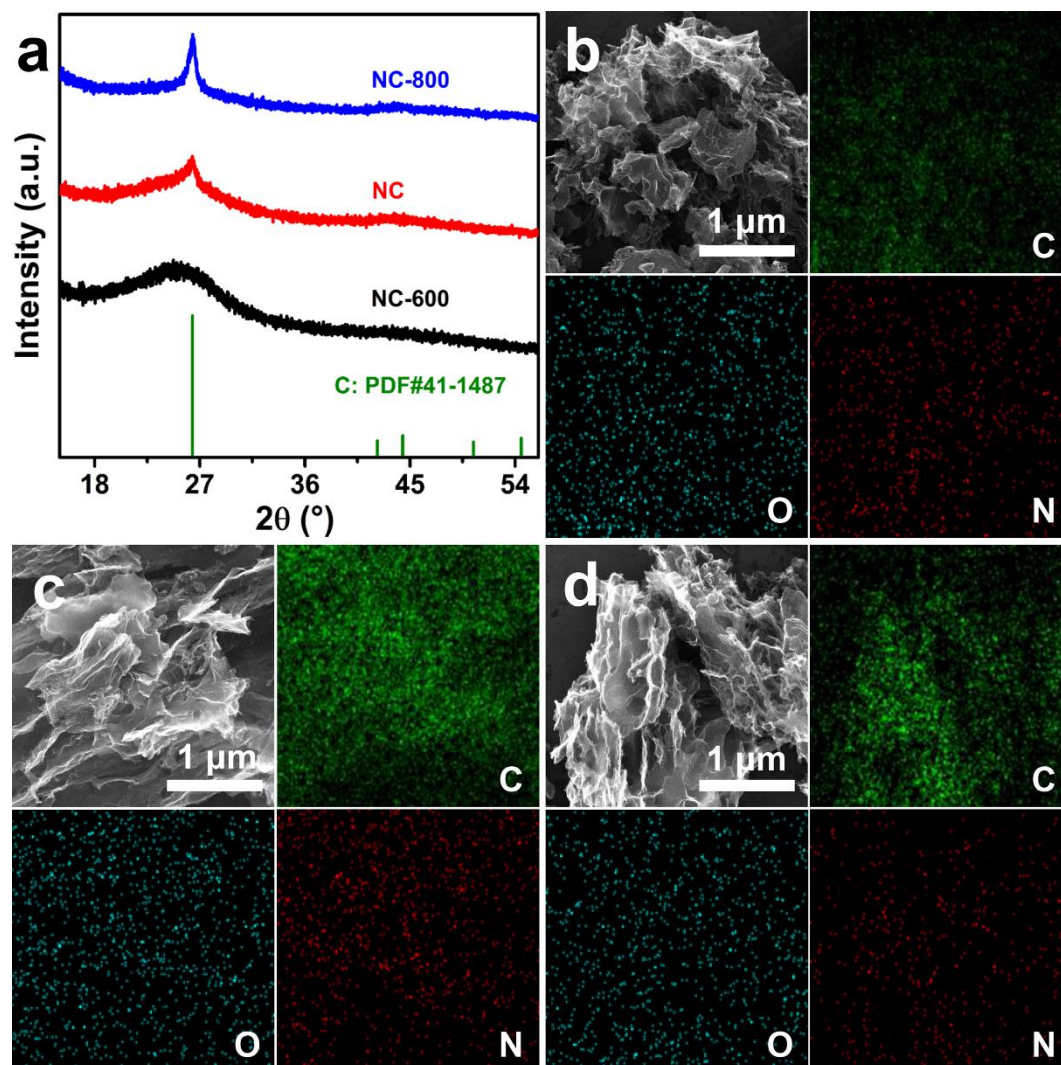


Figure S18. Structural characterizations for carbon supports prepared at different annealing temperatures. XRD patterns (a), SEM and EDS elemental mapping images (b-d) for NC-600 (b), NC (c) and NC-800 (d).

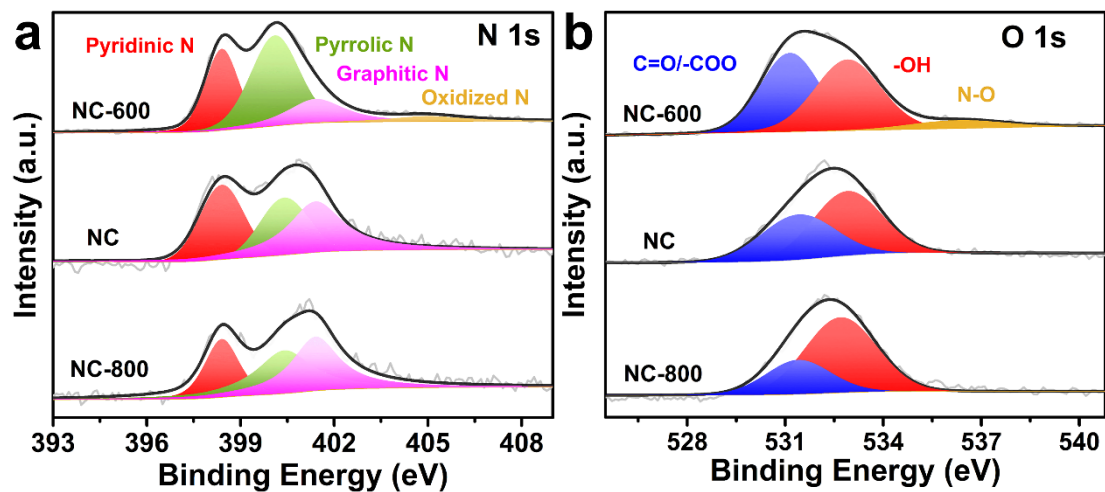


Figure S19. N 1s (a) and O 1s (b) XPS for NC-600, NC and NC-800.

Table S4. Contents of N, O and C in NC-600, NC and NC-800 from XPS analyses.

Sample	C (at%)	N (at%)	O (at%)	N/O
NC-600	80.54	10.85	8.61	1.26
NC	89.07	5.36	5.57	0.96
NC-800	91.52	3.75	4.73	0.79

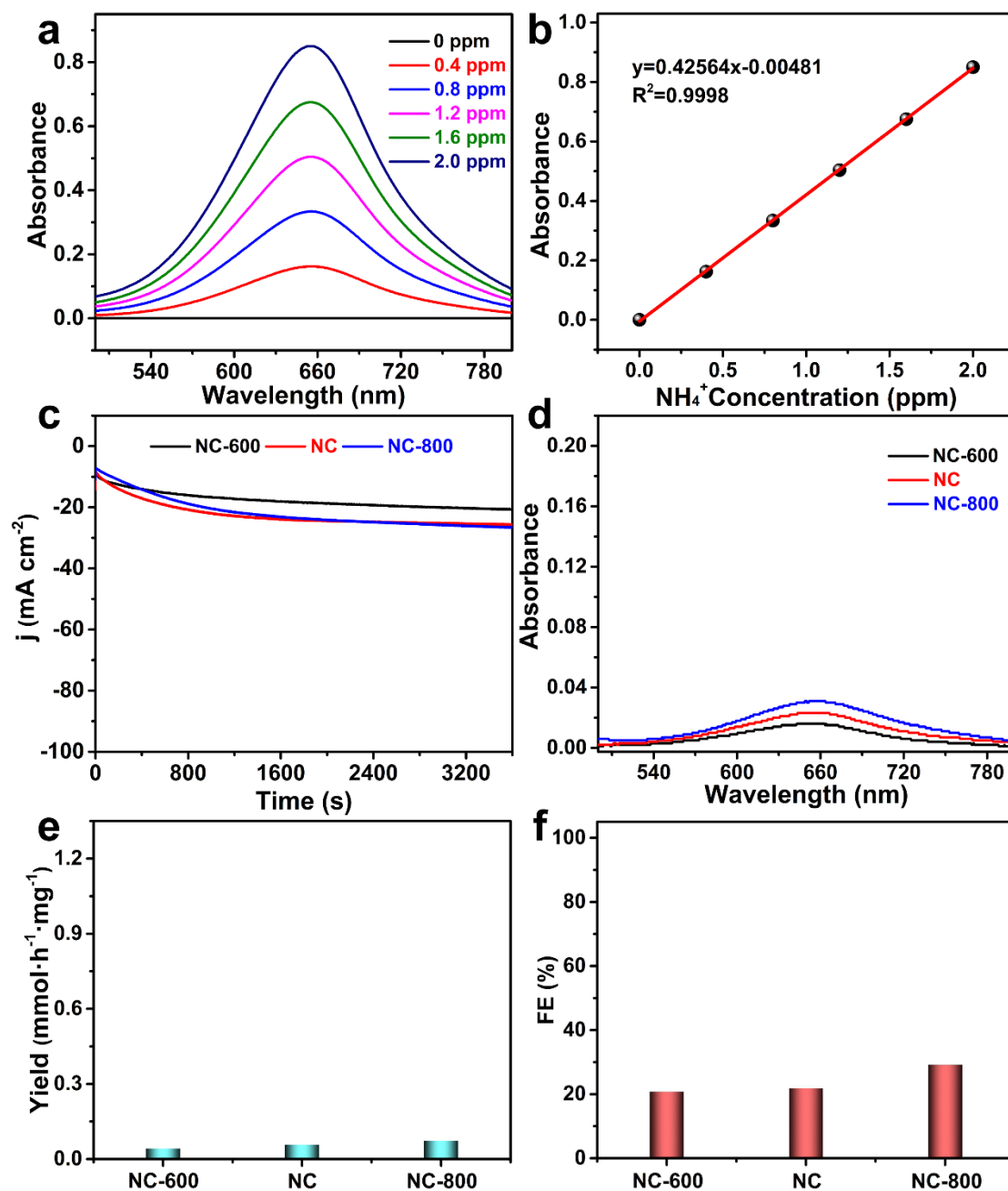


Figure S20. NO_3RR performances for carbon supports prepared at different annealing temperatures. UV-absorption spectra (a) and the calibration curve (b) of standard NH_4Cl aqueous solutions. Chronoamperometric responses (c), UV-vis absorption spectra (d) and yield (e) and FE (f) of NH_3 for NC-600, NC and NC-800 (d) after electrolysis at -0.5 V for 1 h in aqueous solutions of 1 M KOH and 75 mM KNO_3 .

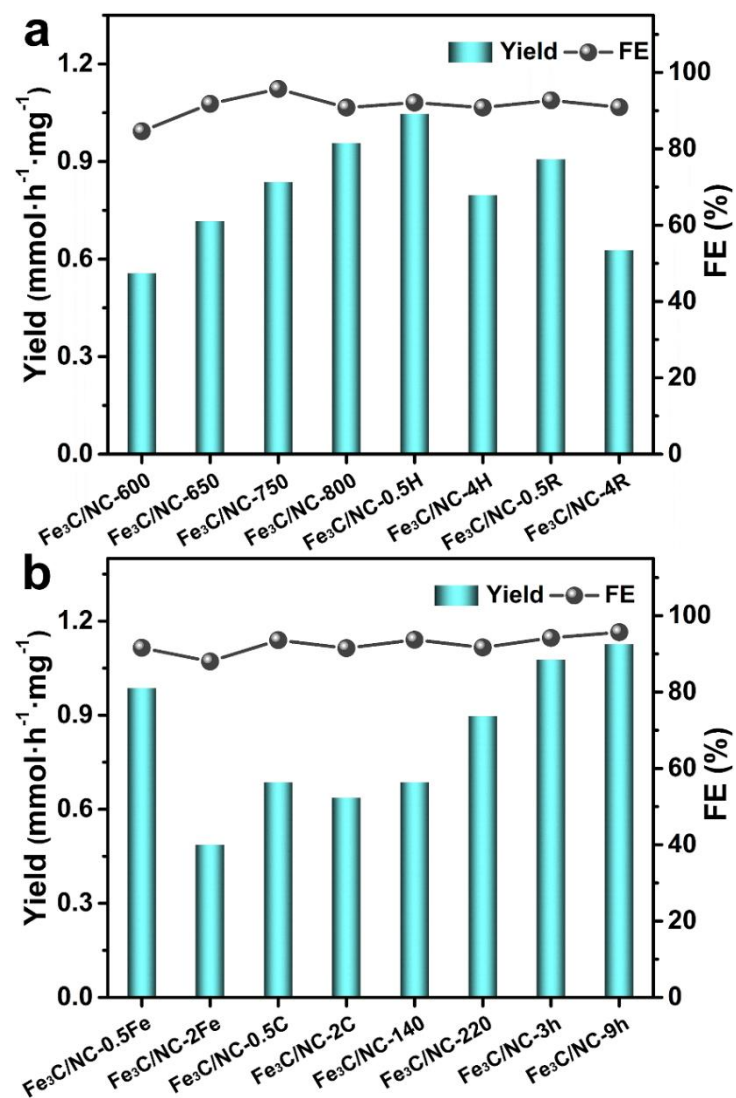


Figure S21. NO₃RR performances for samples prepared under different annealing (a) and solvothermal (b) conditions.

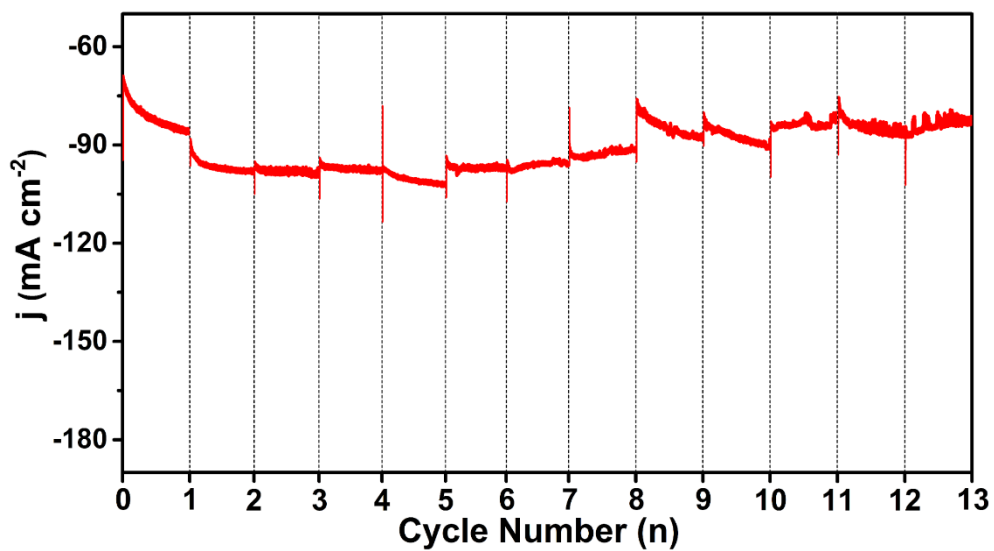


Figure S22. Chronoamperometric responses during the recycling test for $\text{Fe}_3\text{C}/\text{NC}$ at -0.5 V vs. RHE in an aqueous solution containing 1 M KOH and 75 mM KNO_3

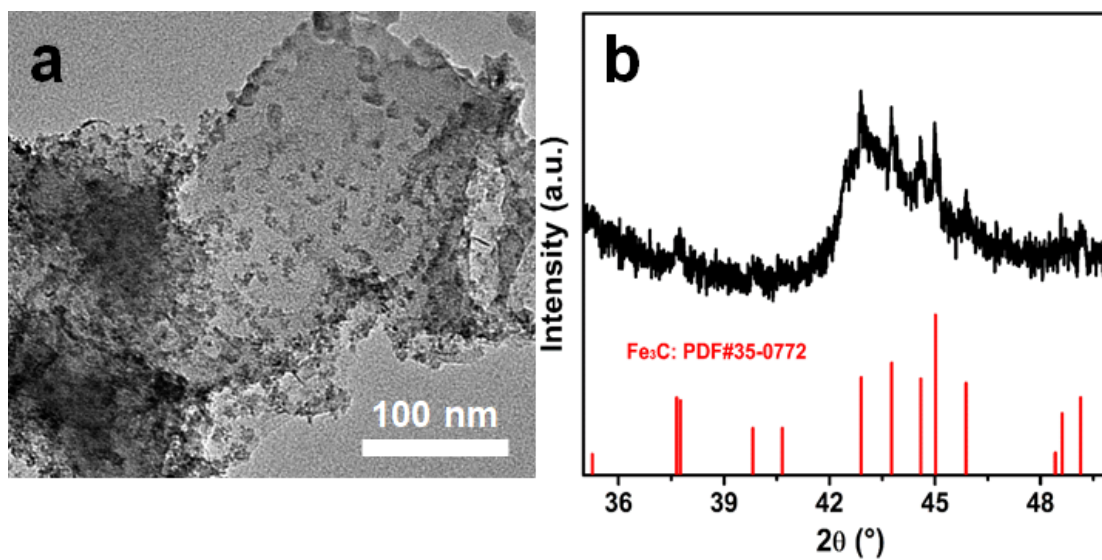


Figure S23. TEM images (a) and XRD patterns (b) for $\text{Fe}_3\text{C}/\text{NC}$ after recycling for 13 runs.

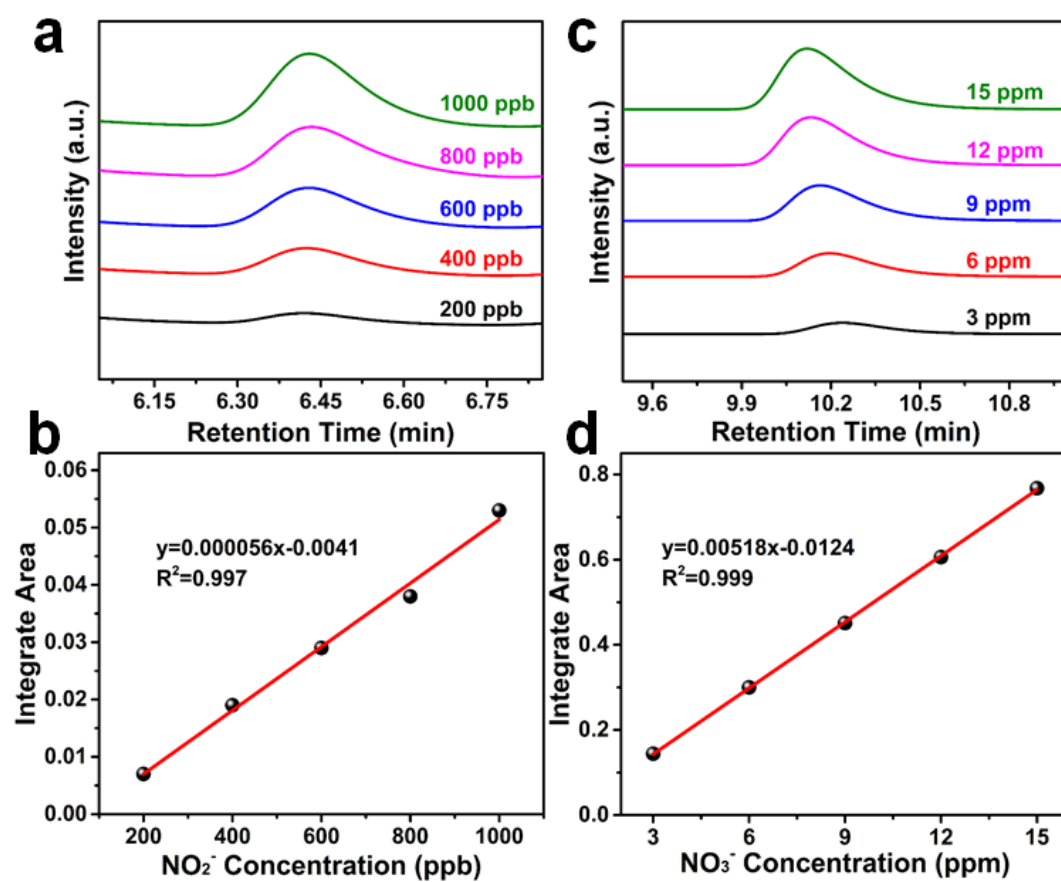


Figure S24. IC spectra (a, c) and the corresponding calibration curves (b, d) of NO_2^- (a-b) and NO_3^- (c-d) standard solutions.

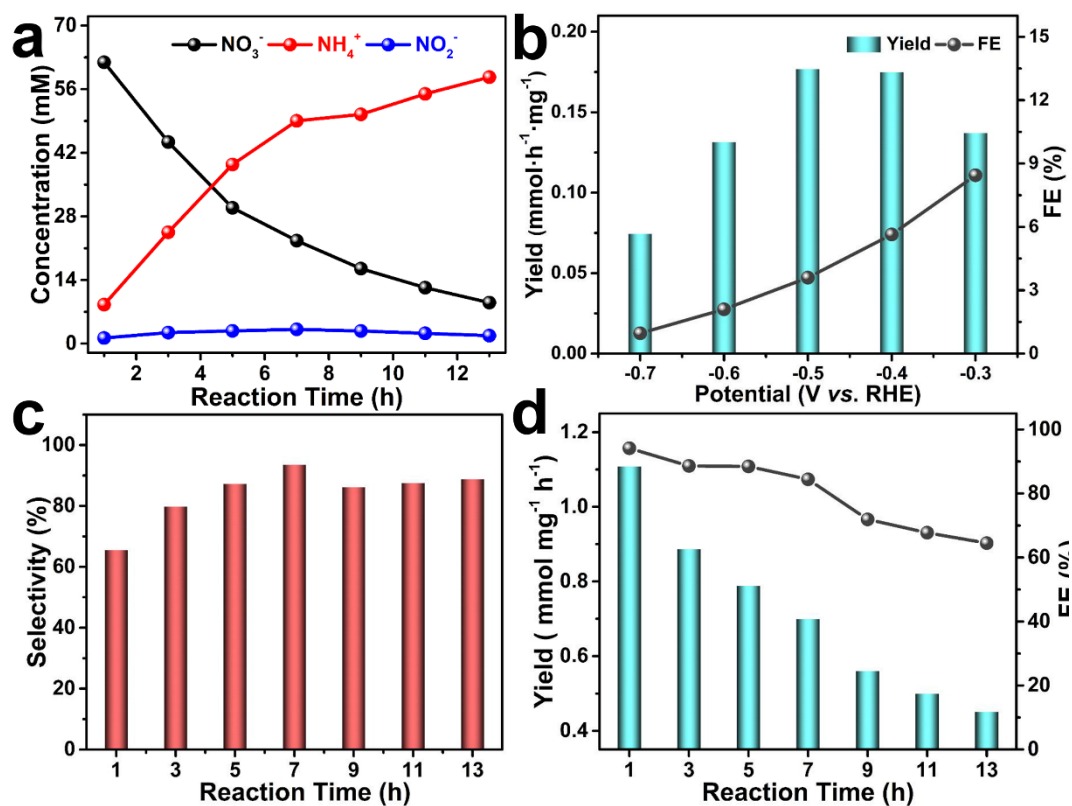


Figure S25. Time-dependent concentrations of NO_3^- , NO_2^- and NH_4^+ (a) and the corresponding selectivity (c), yield and faradaic efficiency (d) of NH_4^+ during the continuous long-term electrolysis for 13 h at -0.5 V. Potential-dependent yield and faradaic efficiency of NO_2^- after chronoamperometric electrolysis for 1 h in 1 M KOH and 75 mM KNO_3 (b).

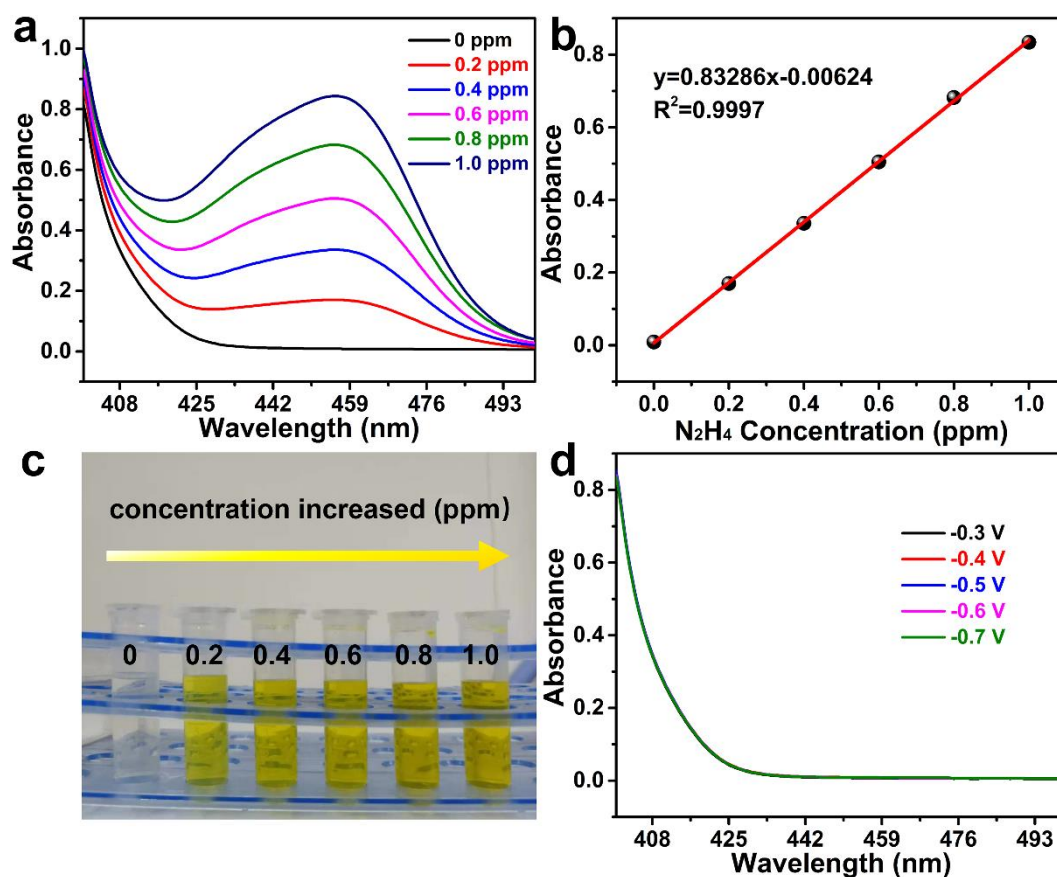


Figure S26. Determination of the possible by-product of N_2H_4 using the Watt-Chrisp method. (a) UV-vis absorption spectra, (b) the calibration curve and (c) the photograph of N_2H_4 standard solutions after color development. (d) UV-vis absorption spectra of the catholytes with the addition of the color reagent after electrolysis in 1 M KOH and 75 mM KNO_3 for 1 h at different potentials.

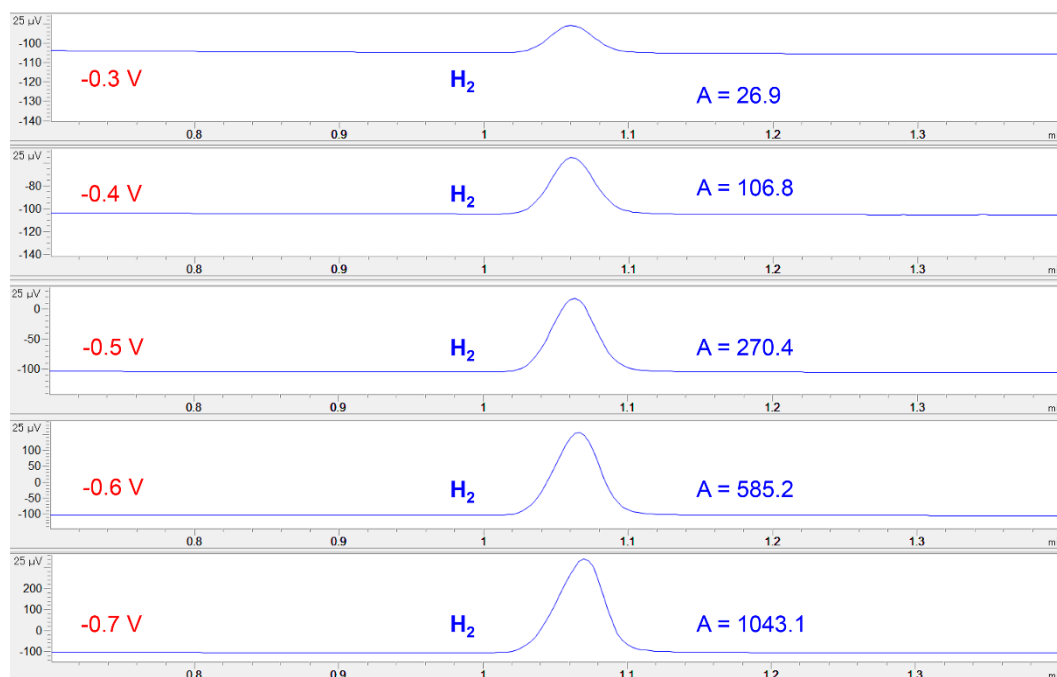


Figure S27. Gas chromatography (GC, Agilent Technologies, 7890B) spectra of the products after electrolysis at different potentials in 1 M KOH aqueous solutions without KNO_3 using Fe_3C/NC as the catalyst. The peaks appeared at about 1.06 min can be assigned to H_2 , which was probably another by-product of NO_3RR . The corresponding peak areas (A) increased as the potentials became more negative, indicating the increase of the amount of generated H_2 .

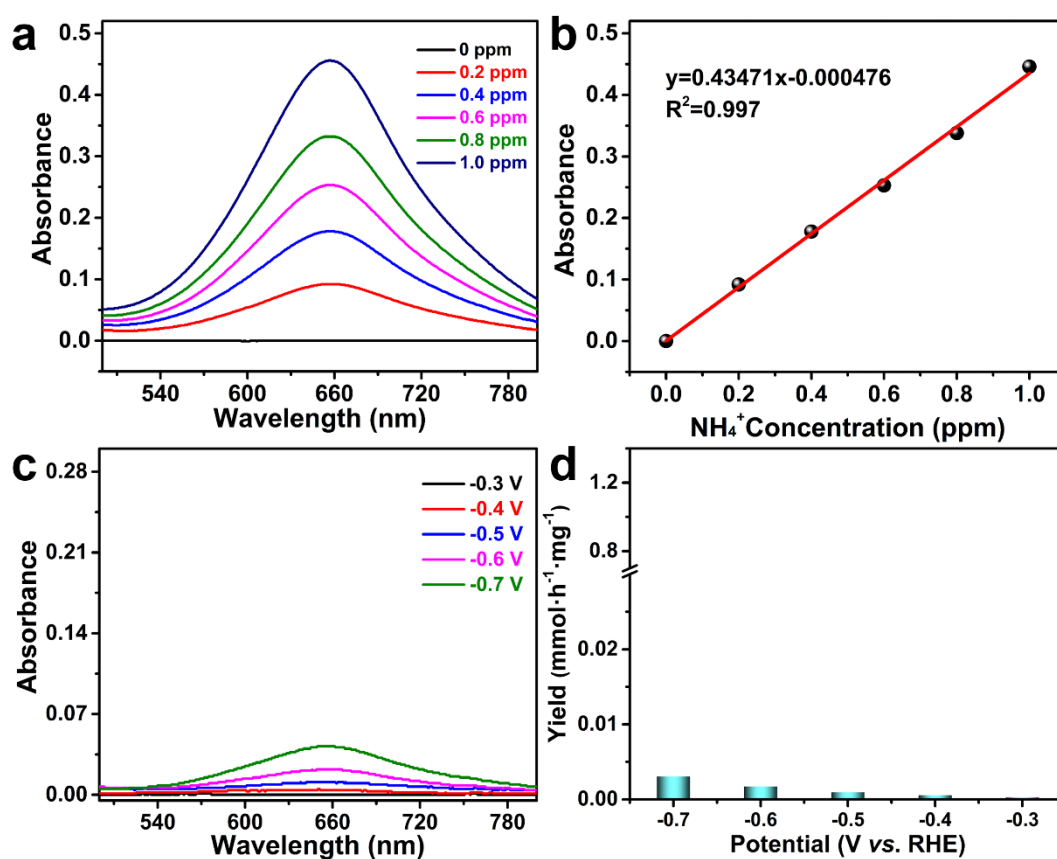


Figure S28. Determination of the possible escaped NH_3 in the gas phase. UV-vis absorption spectra (a) and the corresponding calibration curve (b) of the standard solutions of NH_4Cl stained with indophenol blue. UV-vis absorption spectra (c) and the calculated yields (d) of the trapped NH_4^+ in the 0.05 M H_2SO_4 solution connected with the outlet of the reactor.

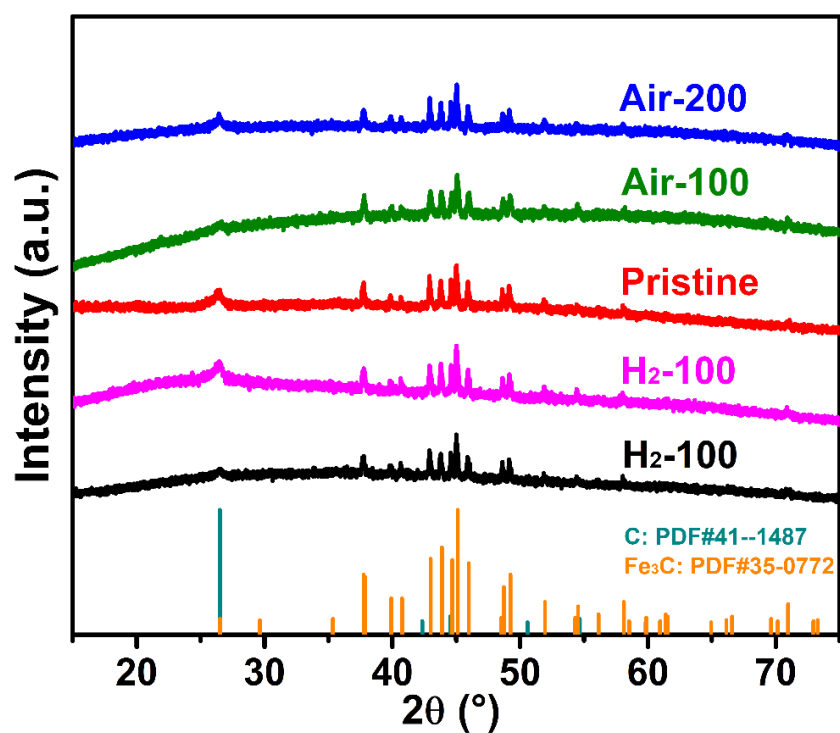


Figure S29. XRD patterns for Air-200, Air-100, H₂-100, H₂-300 and the pristine sample of Fe₃C/NC.

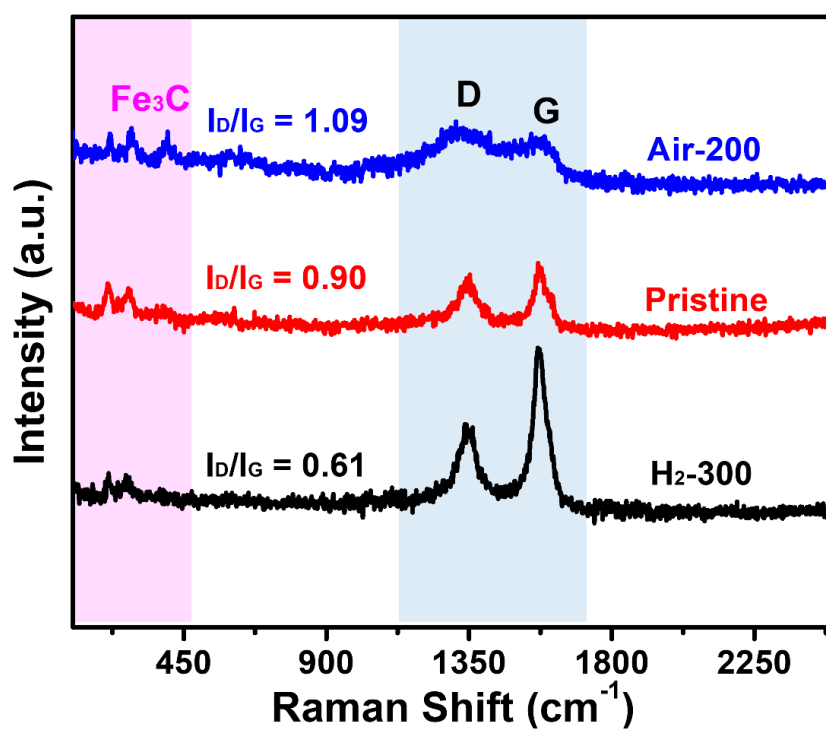


Figure S30. Raman spectra of H₂-300, Air-200 and the pristine sample of Fe₃C/NC.

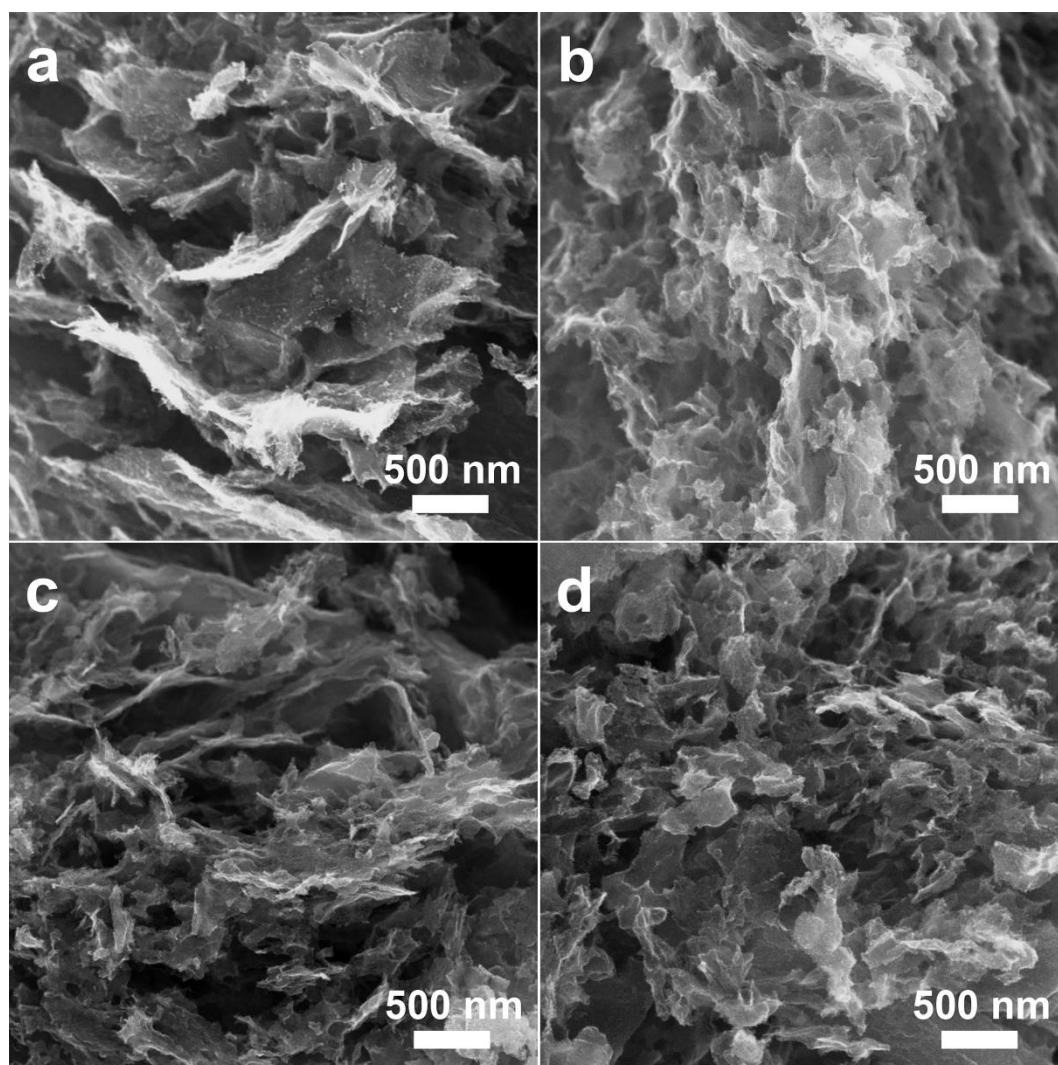


Figure S31. SEM images for Air-200 (a), Air-100 (b), H₂-100 (c) and H₂-300 (d).

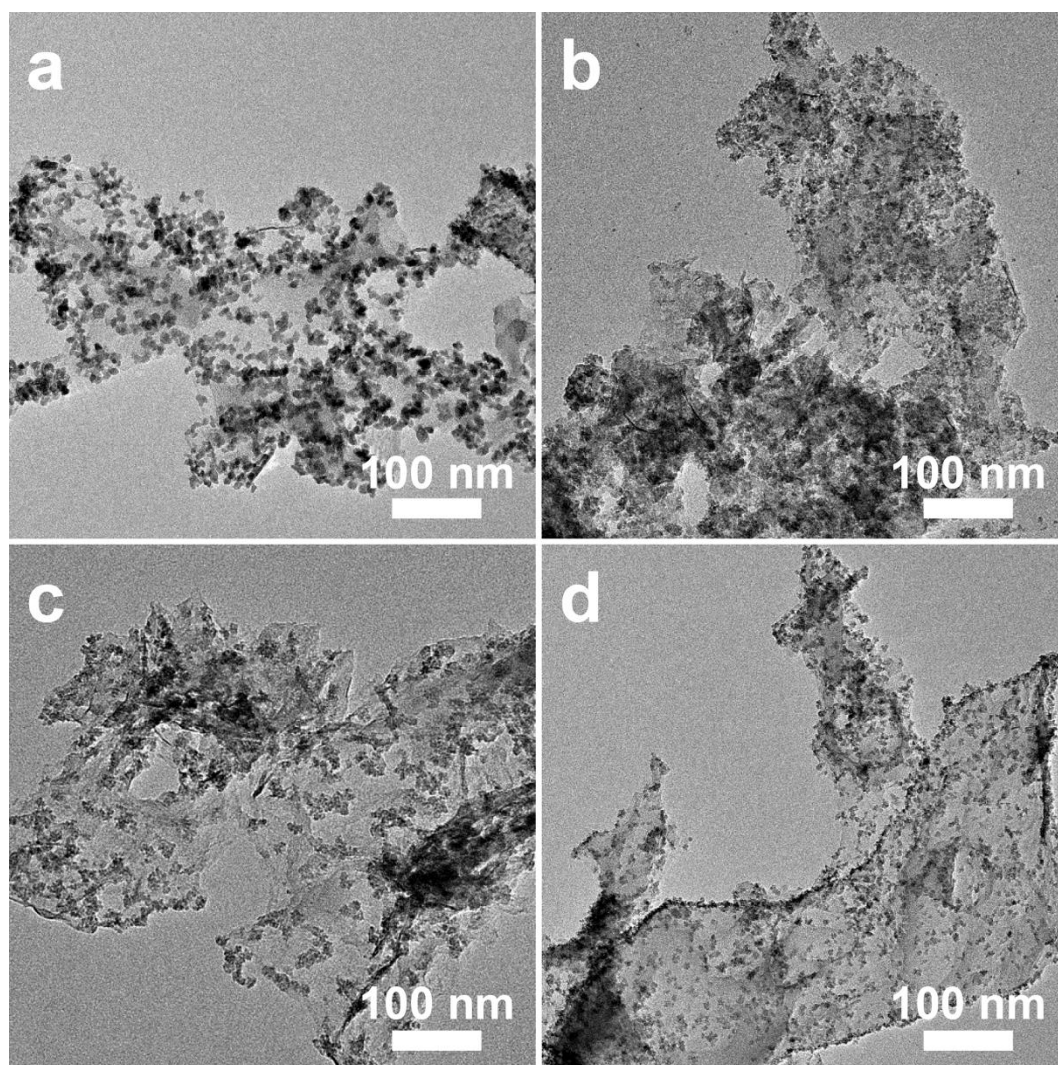


Figure S32. TEM images for Air-200 (a), Air-100 (b), H₂-100 (c) and H₂-300 (d).

Table S5. Contents of Fe, C, N, H and O elements in the as-synthesized samples

Sample	ICP-MS	EA			Calculated
	Fe (wt%)	C (wt%)	N (wt%)	H (wt%)	O (wt%)
Air-200	35.6	45.4	4.9	1.0	13.1
Air-100	33.8	47.9	4.8	1.5	12
Pristine	33.6	46.9	4.8	1.3	13.6
H ₂ -100	33.2	45.1	4.5	1.4	15.8
H ₂ -300	33.4	47.0	4.8	1.2	13.6

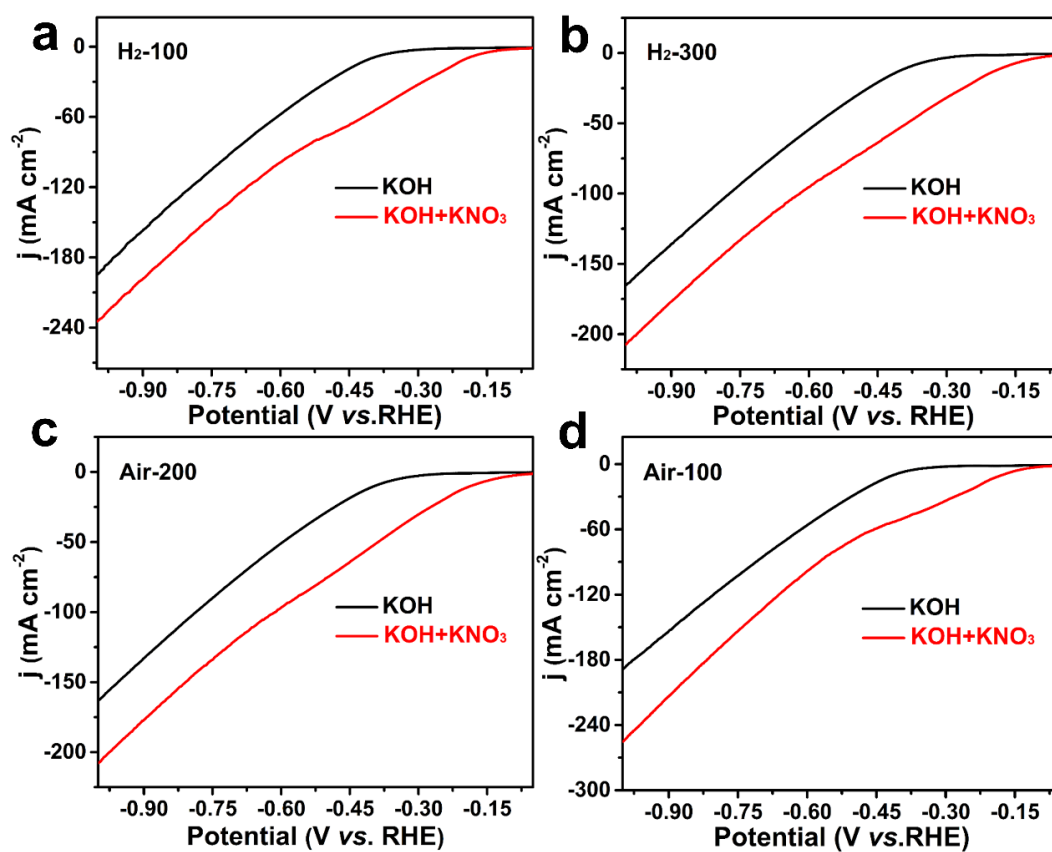


Figure S33. LSV curves for H₂-300 (a), H₂-100 (b), Air-100 (c) and Air-200 (d) in 1 M KOH aqueous solutions with or without 75 mM KNO₃.

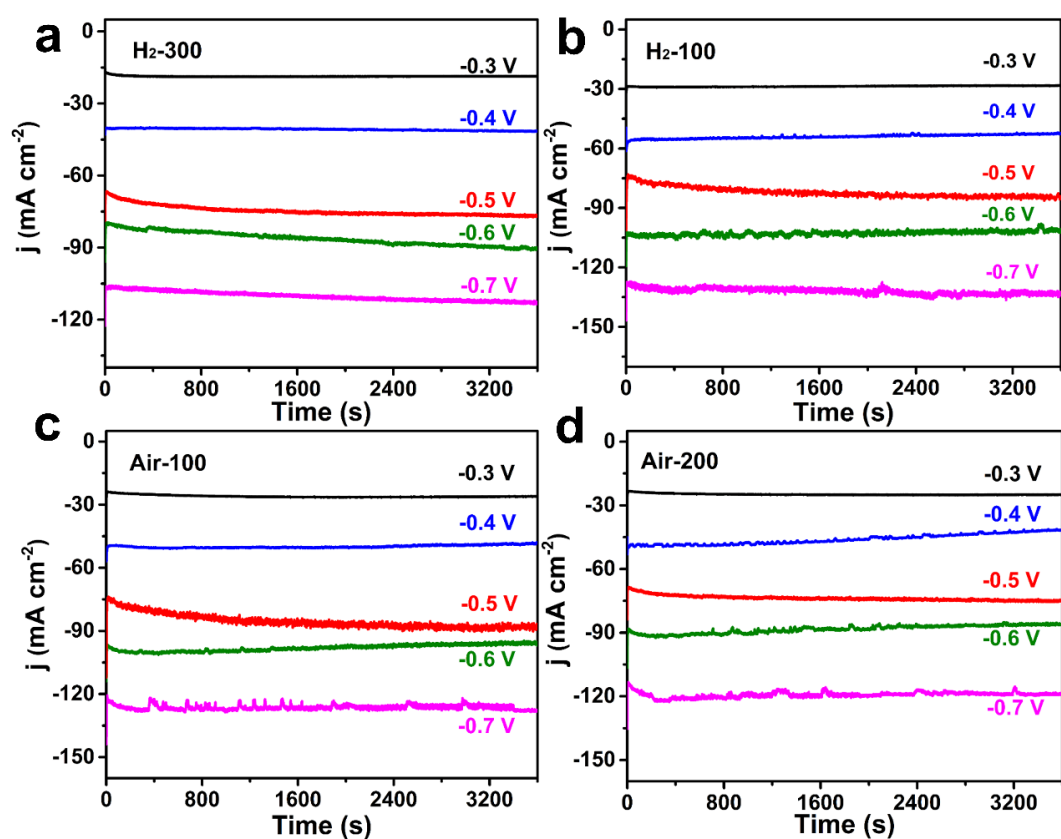


Figure S34. Chronoamperometric responses at different potentials for Air-200 (a), Air-100 (b), H₂-100 (c) and H₂-300 (d) in aqueous solutions containing 1 M KOH and 75 mM KNO₃.

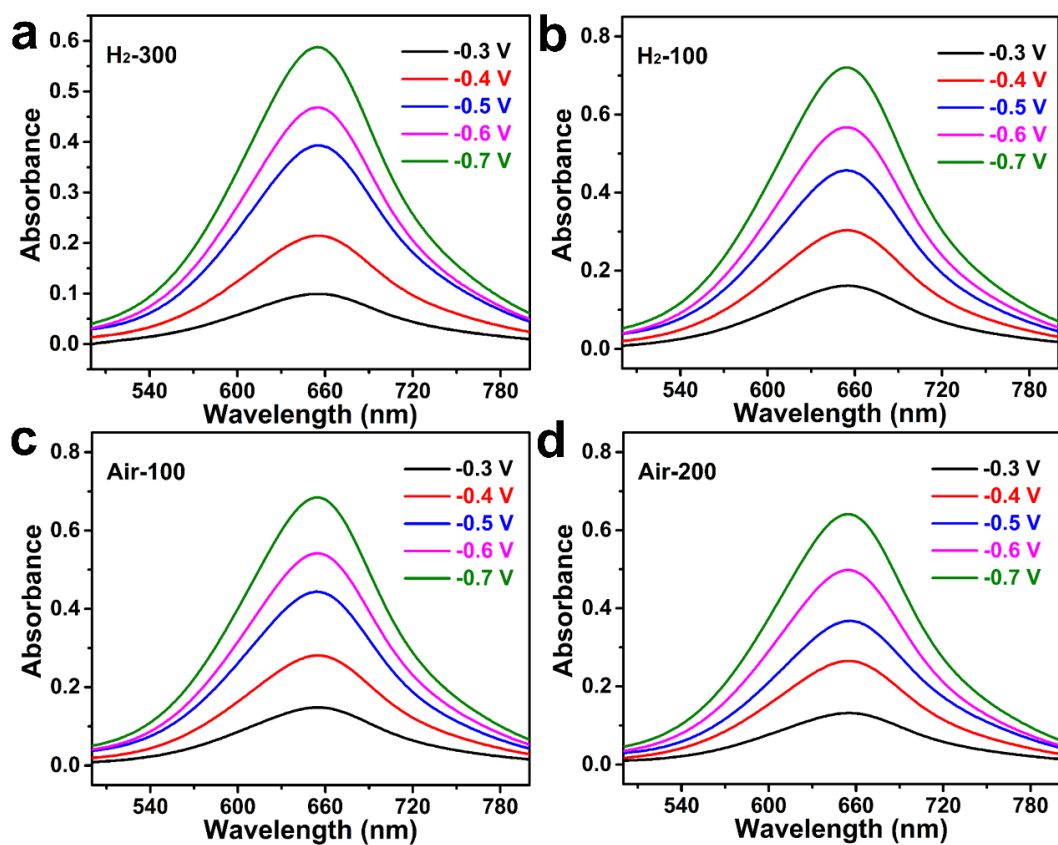


Figure S35. UV-vis absorbance spectra of the indophenol blue-stained catholytes after electrolysis at given potentials with Air-200 (a), Air-100 (b), H₂-100 (c) and H₂-300 (d) as the catalysts, respectively.

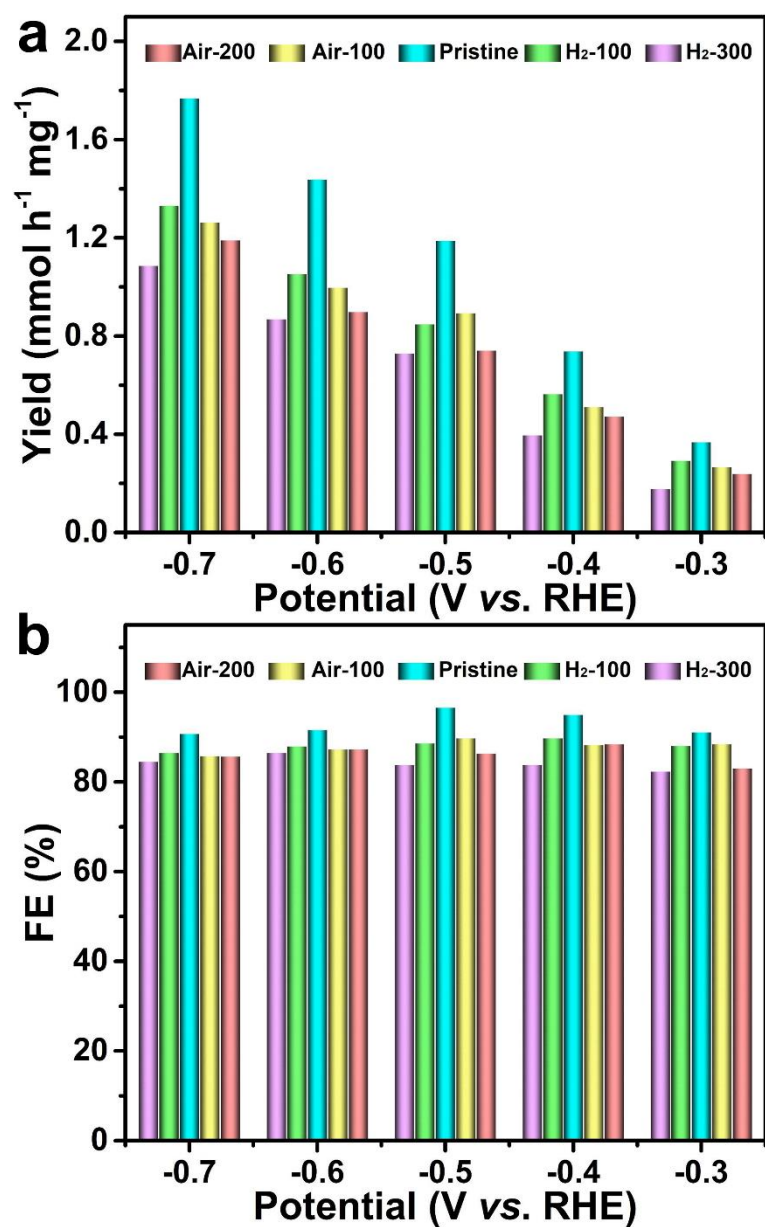


Figure S36. Yield (a) and FE (b) of NH_3 at different potentials for Air-200, Air-100, H_2 -100 and H_2 -300. For comparison, the data for the pristine sample of $\text{Fe}_3\text{C}/\text{NC}$ was also included.

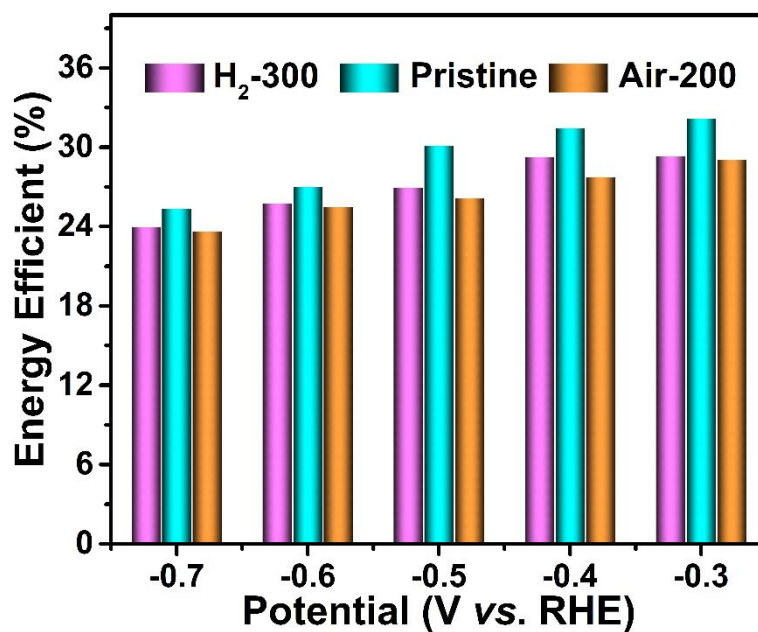


Figure S37. Potential-dependent energy efficiencies for nitrate reduction to ammonia over Air-200, H₂-300 and the pristine sample of Fe₃C/NC.

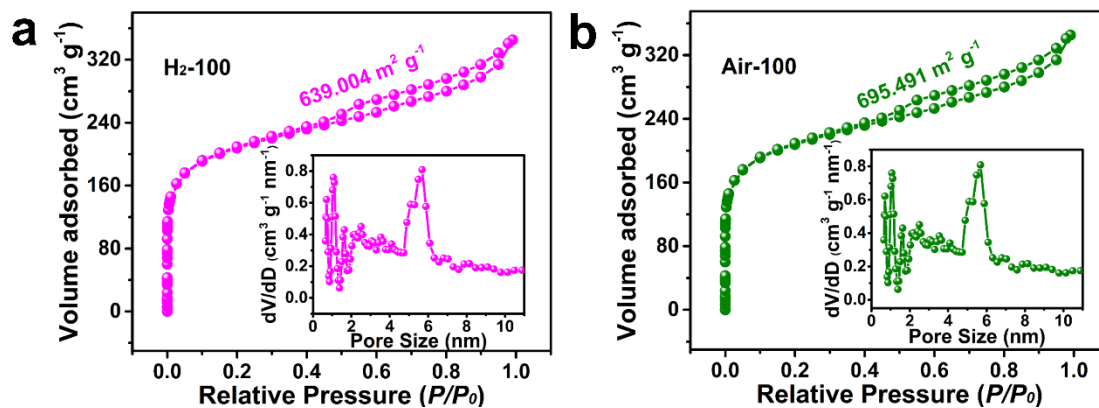


Figure S38. N₂ adsorption-desorption isotherms for Air-100 (a) and H₂-100 (b) and the corresponding pore size distributions (insets).

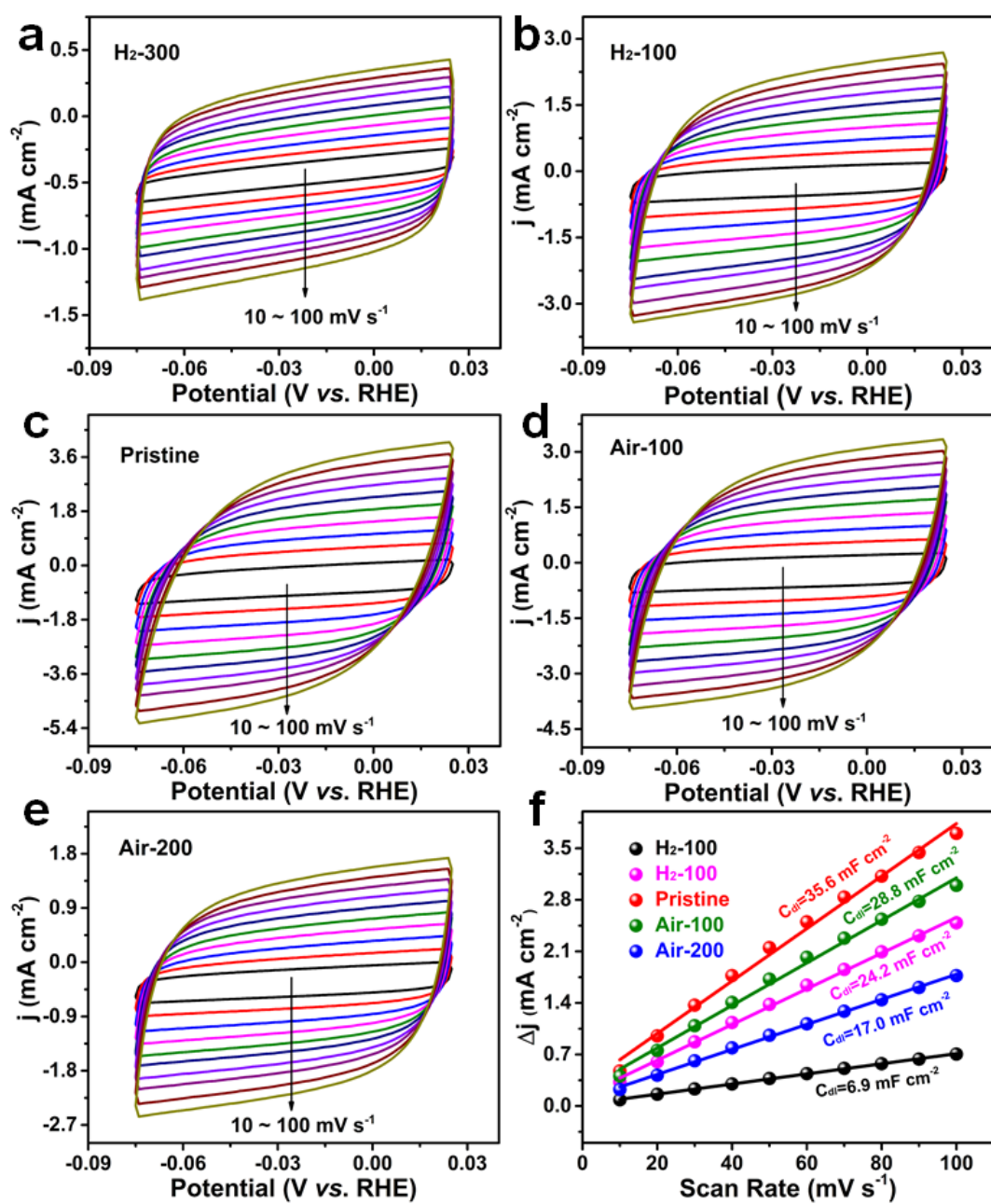


Figure S39. Cyclic voltammetry curves at scan rates from 10 to 100 mV s⁻¹ for Air-200 (a), Air-100 (b), pristine sample of Fe₃C/NC (c), H₂-100 (d) and H₂-300 (e) and the derived double layer capacitances (C_{dl} , f).

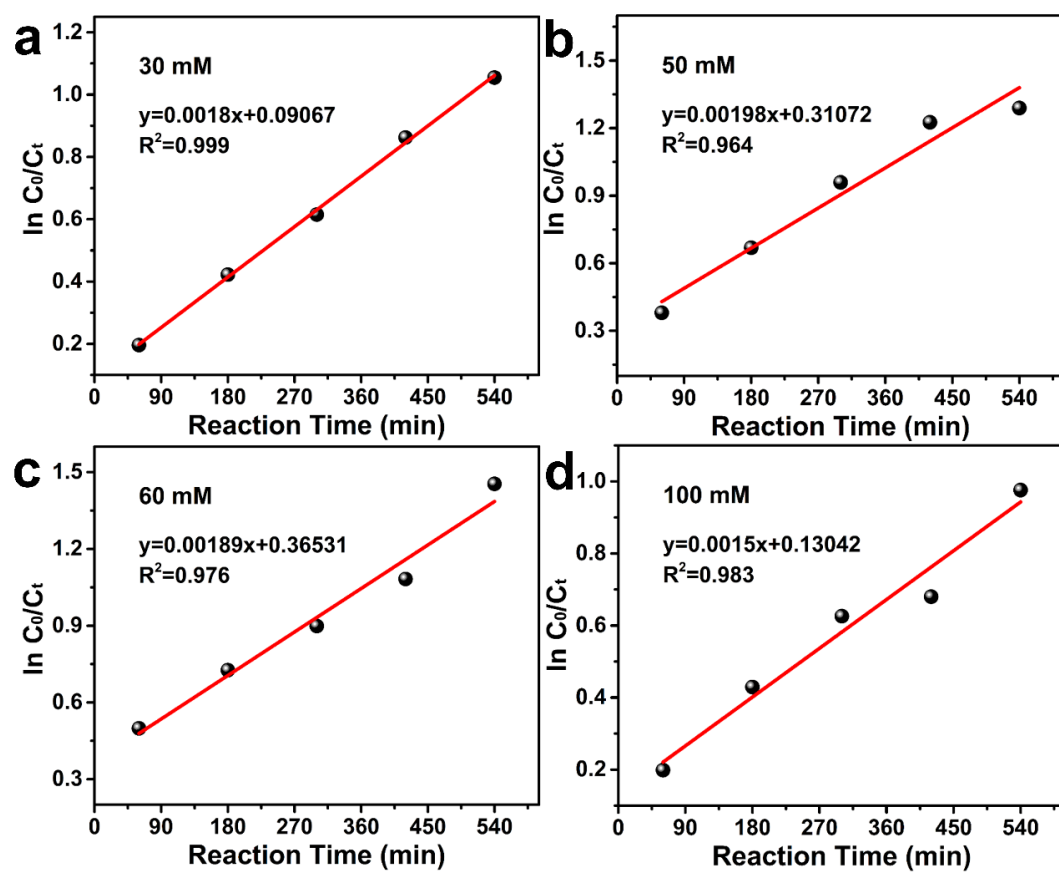


Figure S40. Linear fitting plots of $\ln C_0/C_t$ vs. reaction time t based on the pseudo first order kinetic equation for H_2 -300 with different initial nitrate concentrations in the electrolytes at -0.5 V vs. RHE.

(a) 30 mM, (b) 50 mM, (c) 60 mM, (d) 100 mM.

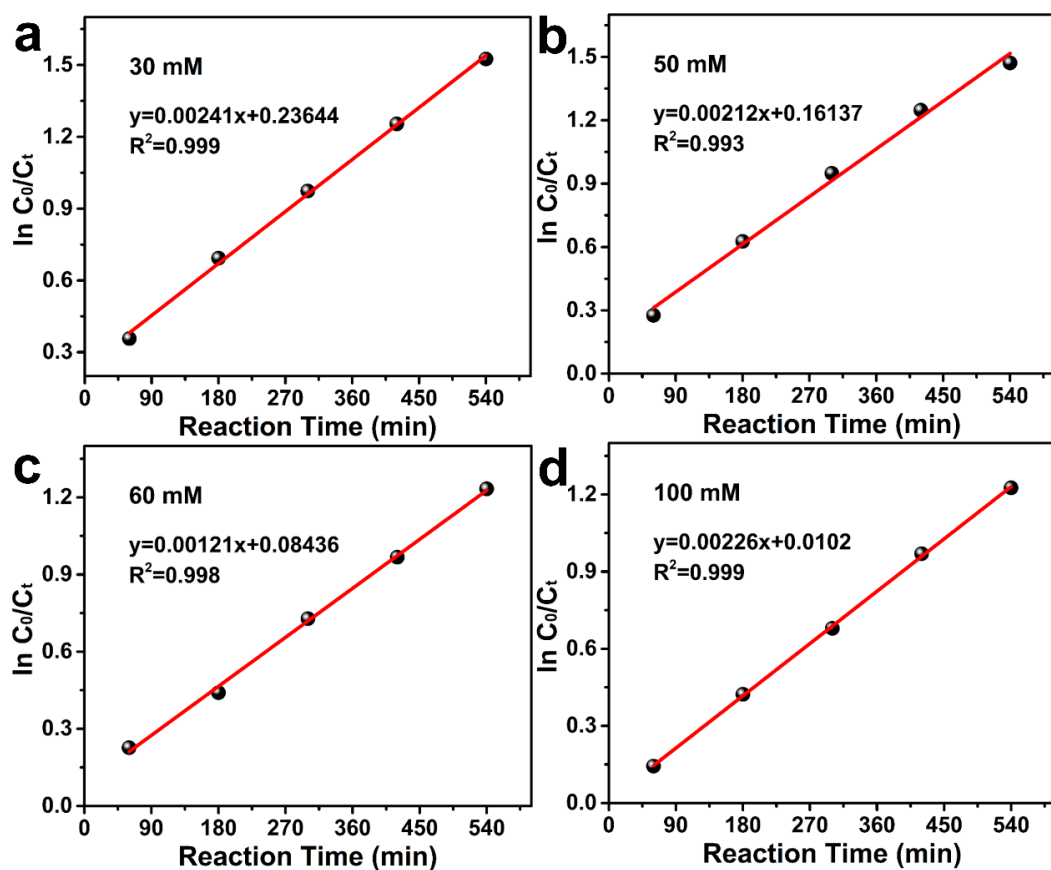


Figure S41. Linear fitting plots of $\ln C_0/C_t$ vs. reaction time t based on the pseudo first order kinetic equation for the pristine sample of $\text{Fe}_3\text{C}/\text{NC}$ with different initial nitrate concentrations in the electrolytes at -0.5 V vs. RHE. (a) 30 mM, (b) 50 mM, (c) 60 mM, (d) 100 mM.

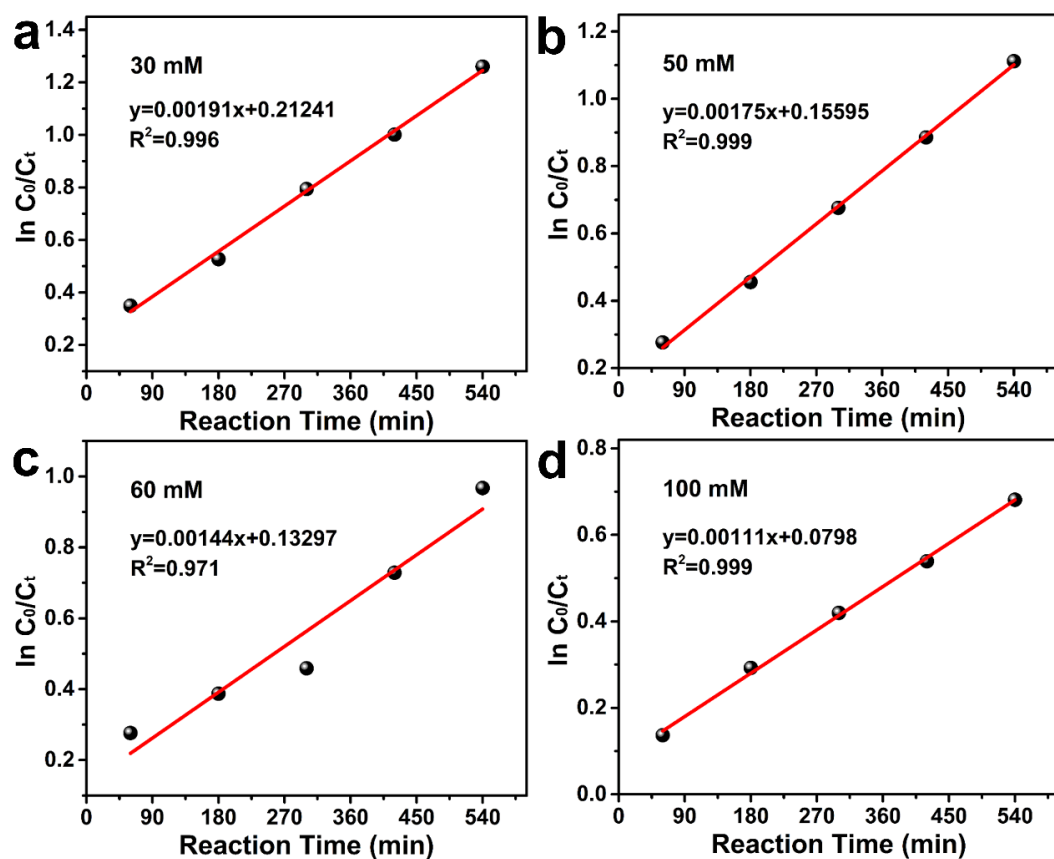


Figure S42. Linear fitting plots of $\ln C_0/C_t$ vs. reaction time t based on the pseudo first order kinetic equation for Air-200 with different initial nitrate concentrations in the electrolytes at -0.5 V vs. RHE.

(a) 30 mM, (b) 50 mM, (c) 60 mM, (d) 100 mM.

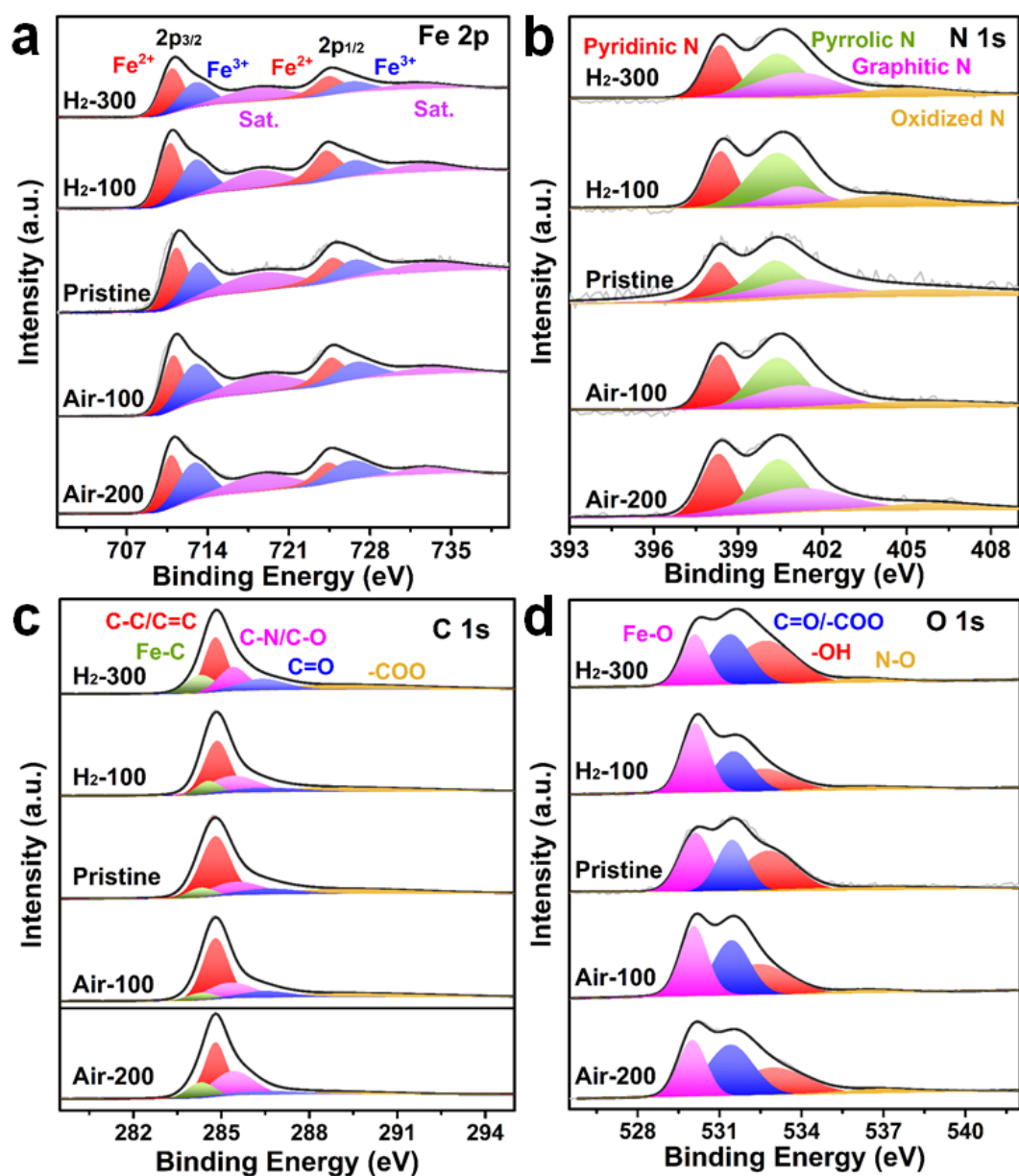


Figure S43. Fe 2p (a), C 1s (b), N 1s (c) and O 1s (d) XPS for the pristine sample of Fe₃C/NC and the control samples of H₂-300, H₂-100, Air-100 and Air-200.

Table S6. The ratio of $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}^{2+}$ obtained by XPS analysis.

Sample	$\text{Fe}^{2+} 2p_{3/2}$	$\text{Fe}^{3+} 2p_{3/2}$	$\text{Fe}^{2+} 2p_{1/2}$	$\text{Fe}^{3+} 2p_{1/2}$	$\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}^{2+}$
H ₂ -300	0.237	0.193	0.178	0.106	0.720
H ₂ -100	0.218	0.209	0.196	0.127	0.812
Pristine	0.195	0.192	0.157	0.127	0.908
Air-100	0.194	0.219	0.156	0.153	1.050
Air-200	0.207	0.229	0.136	0.154	1.118

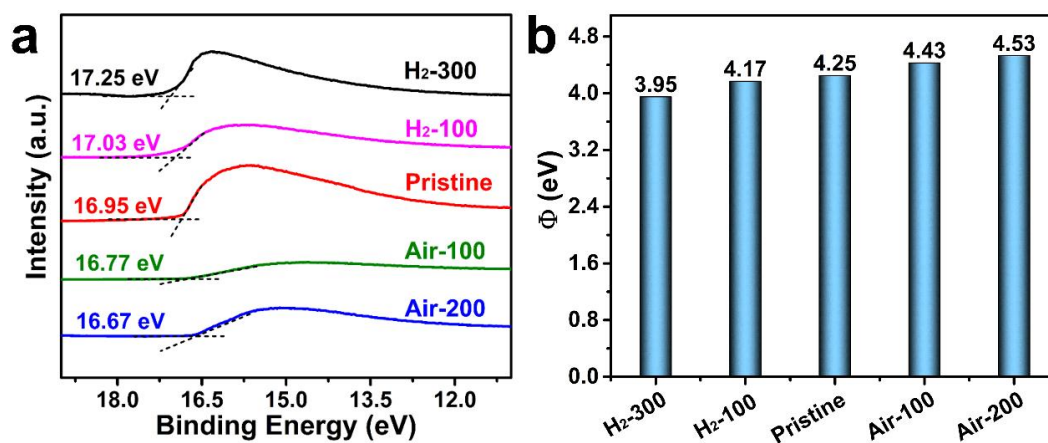


Figure S44. Secondary electron cutoff regions of UPS for Air-200, Air-100, pristine sample of $\text{Fe}_3\text{C}/\text{NC}$, H₂-100 and H₂-300 (a) and the corresponding work functions (Φ , b).

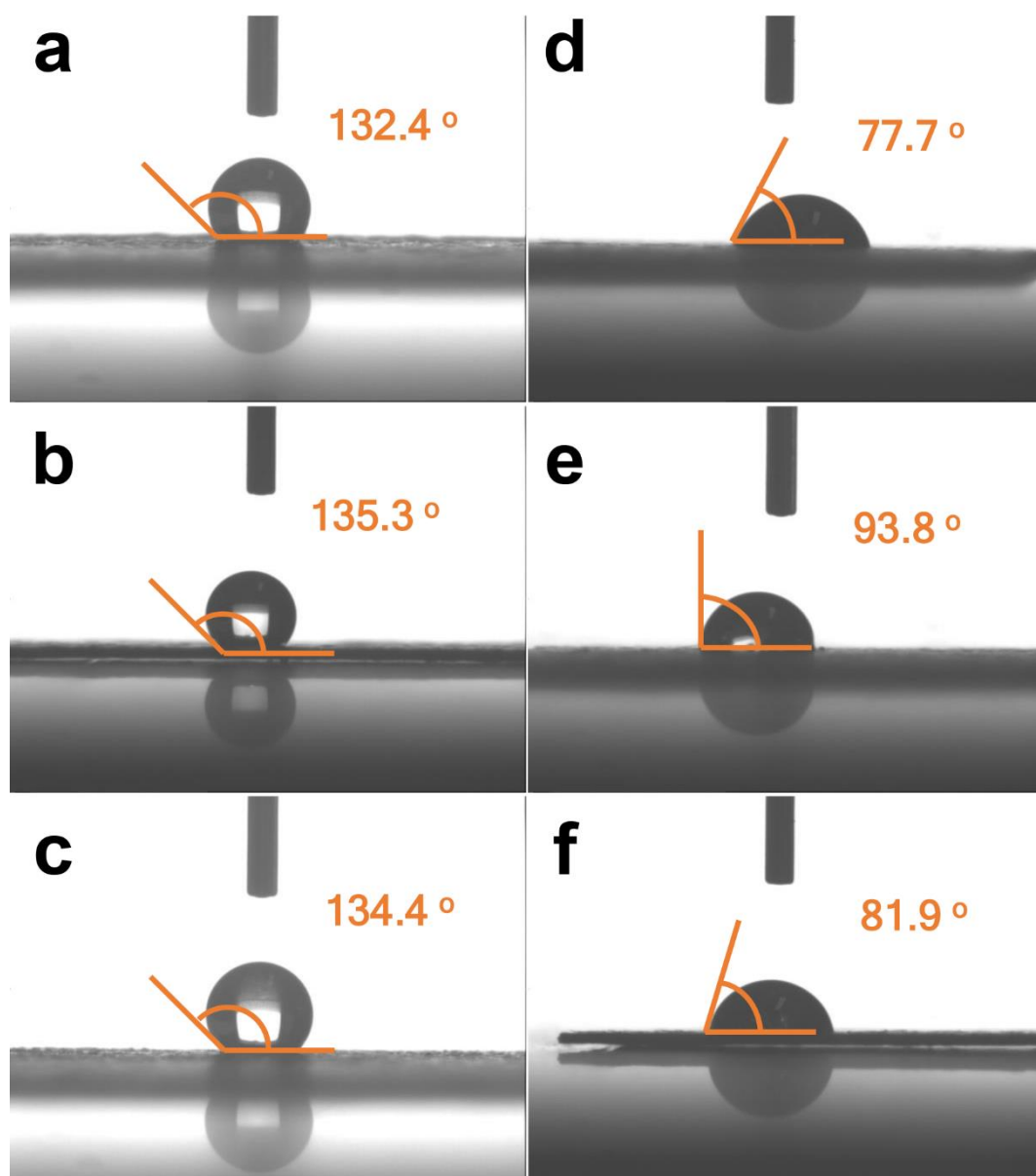


Figure S45. Contact angles for H₂-300 (a, d), Fe₃C/NC (b, e) and Air-200, (c, f) before (a-c) and after (d-f) chronamperometric electrolysis at -0.5 V vs. RHE for 1 h.

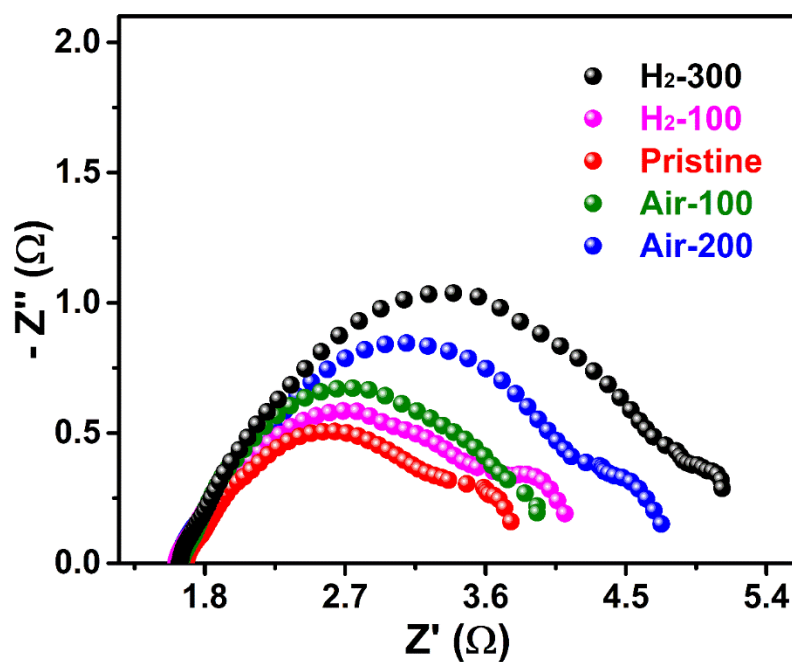


Figure S46. Nyquist plots for Air-200, Air-100, H₂-100, H₂-300 and the pristine sample of Fe₃C/NC at -0.5 V vs. RHE in the frequency range from 0.1 Hz to 100 kHz with an amplitude of 0.05 V.

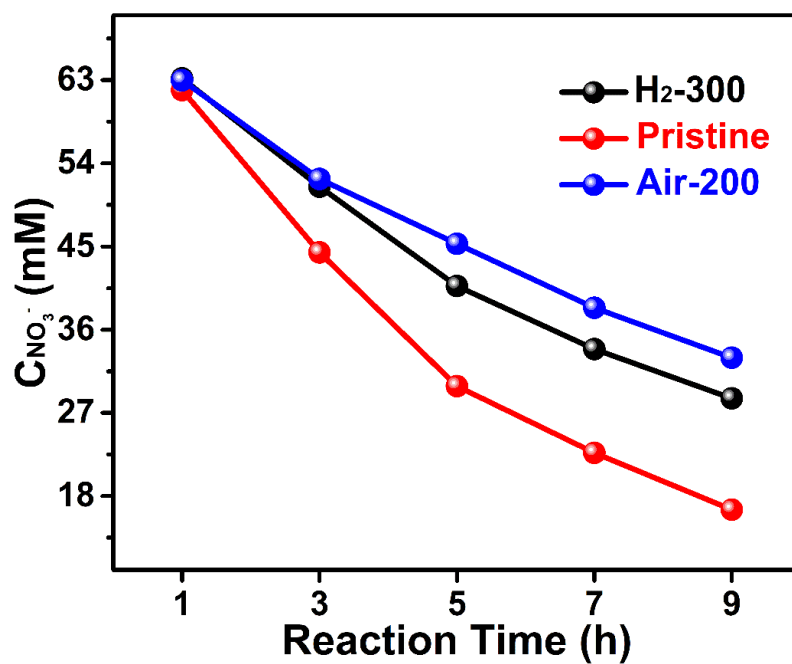


Figure S47. Time-dependent concentrations of nitrate ions in the electrolytes for H₂-300, Air-200 and the pristine sample of Fe₃C/NC after electrolysis at -0.5 V vs. RHE in 1 M KOH and 75 mM KNO₃ for 1 h.

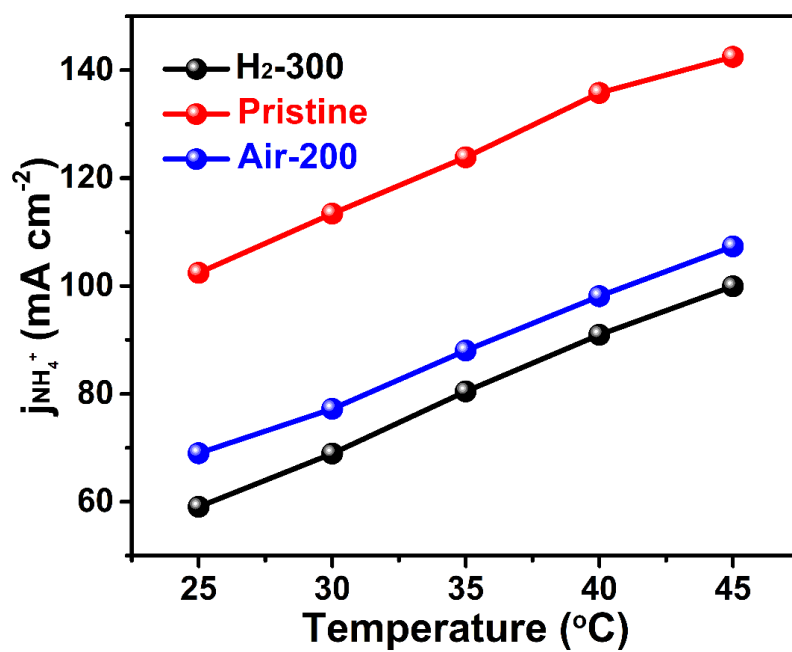


Figure S48. Temperature-dependent partial current densities of ammonium for H₂-300, Air-200 and the pristine sample of Fe₃C/NC after electrolysis at -0.5 V vs. RHE in 1 M KOH and 75 mM KNO₃ for 1 h.

Table S7. Comparison of ammonia yield and selectivity from nitrate electroreduction over Fe₃C/NC with literature results.

Catalyst	Electrolyte	Selectivity (%)	Yield (mmol h ⁻¹ cm ⁻² / mmol h ⁻¹ mg ⁻¹)	Potential (V)	Ref.
Fe₃C/NC	1 M KOH + 75 mM NO₃⁻	86.5	0.4760/1.1900	-0.50^a	This work
Cu/Cu ₂ O NWs	0.5 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 3.2 mM NO ₃ ⁻	81.2	0.2449/-	-0.85 ^a	1
TiO _{2-x}	0.5 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 0.8 mM NO ₃ ⁻	87.1	0.0225/0.0450	-1.60 ^b	2
nZVI/BC12	groundwater + 0.8 mM NO ₃ ⁻	39.5	0.0010/-	-0.21 ^a	3
FeN-NC-140	0.1 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 1.6 mM NO ₃ ⁻	< 10.0	0.0001/0.00004	-1.30 ^b	4
nZVI@OMC-400	0.02 M NaCl + 3.2 mM NO ₃ ⁻	26.0	0.0011/-	-1.30 ^b	5
Fe ⁰ @Fe ₃ O ₄	0.4 M NaCl + 0.8 mM NO ₃ ⁻	< 20.0	0.0009/-	5 ^c	6
FeNC/MC	0.1 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 3.2 mM NO ₃ ⁻	19.0	0.0005/-	-1.30 ^b	7
Co ₃ O ₄ -TiO ₂ /Ti	0.1 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 0.8 mM NO ₃ ⁻	24.0	0.0008/-	-10 ^c	8
Fe/Cu Composite	0.05 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 1.6 mM NO ₃ ⁻	70.0	0.0600/-	-25 ^c	9
Fe/Fe ₃ C-NCNF-2	1.6 mM NO ₃ ⁻ +0.01 M Na ₂ SO ₄	68.0	0.0015/0.0004	-1.30 ^b	10
Sn _{0.8} Pd _{0.2} /SS	0.1 M HClO ₄ + 8 mM NO ₃ ⁻	14.0	0.0013/-	-40 ^c	11
Co ₃ O ₄	1600 mM NO ₃ ⁻ + 0.1 M K ₂ SO ₄	33.6	0.8540/-	-0.65 ^a	12
Bi ₂ O ₃ /CC	0.5 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 0.8 mM NO ₃ ⁻	80.3	0.0027/-	-10 ^c	13
PdCu@OMC	0.1 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 8 mM NO ₃ ⁻	24.5	0.0053/-	-1.30 ^b	14
P _{2.1} -Co ₃ O ₄	0.5 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 0.8 mM NO ₃ ⁻	80.0	0.0005/-	-1.30 ^b	15
Cu/rGO/GP	20 mM NaCl + 20 mM NO ₃ ⁻	19.4	0.0145/-	-1.40 ^b	16
Cu ₄₉ Fe ₁	0.1 M K ₂ SO ₄ + 3.2 mM NO ₃ ⁻	86.8	0.2300/-	-0.70 ^a	17
Ru-ST-12	1M KOH + 100 mM KNO ₃	99.0	1.1700/5.56	-0.20 ^a	18
Cu NS	1M KOH +10 mM KNO ₃	99.7	0.4000/0.0229	-0.15 ^a	19
Co/CoO NAs	0.1 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 3.2 mM NO ₃ ⁻	91.2	0.1940/-	-1.30 ^b	20
Pd ₁₀ %-Cu _{2.5} %/CeO ₂	0.05 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 0.8 mM NO ₃ ⁻	37.0	0.0019/-	-5 ^c	21
Pd _{0.4} Cu _{0.6}	0.01 M NaClO ₄ + 0.8 mM NO ₃ ⁻	49.0	0.0002/-	-0.3 ^b	22
CL-Fe@C	0.1 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 1.6 mM NO ₃ ⁻	58.0	0.0007/0.00018	-1.30 ^b	23
Fe-ppy SACs	0.1 M KOH + 100 mM NO ₃ ⁻	98.0	0.1618/0.6738	-0.70 ^a	24
Fe SAC	0.1 M Na ₂ SO ₄ + 500 mM NO ₃ ⁻	69.0	0.4600/1.1765	-0.66 ^a	25

^a The numbers were potentials relative to the reversible hydrogen electrode (RHE).

^b The numbers were potentials relative to the saturated calomel electrode (SCE).

^c The numbers were current densities (mA cm⁻²) at which the constant current electrolysis were performed and the performances were assessed.

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