Supplementary Information for :

## The surface-sulphurated Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanowire array electrocatalyst for oxygen evolution

## reaction and water-splitting applications

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Fig. S1. SEM images of  $Co_3O_4/NF$ .



**Fig. S2.** SEM images of  $Co_3O_4$ –S/NF when cobalt nitrate hexahydrate: urea = 1:0.2 (a), 1:0.5 (b), 1:1 (c), 1:2 (d).



Fig. S3. EDS elemental mapping of  $Co_3O_4$ –S/NF.



**Fig. S4.** (a) SEM image of elemental mapping (Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/NF); (b-e) EDS elemental mapping images of (c) O, (d) Co, (e) Ni.



**Fig. S5.** Enlarge XRD pattern at 36°–38°.



**Fig. S6.** The XPS spectrum of (a)  $Co_3O_4/NF$  and (b)  $Co_3O_4-S/NF$ .



**Fig. S7.** (a) OER polarization curves of the catalysts; (b) OER polarization curves of the  $Co_3O_4/NF$  synthesized with different reactant ratios in 1.0 M KOH (cobalt nitrate hexahydrate: urea = 1:0.2,1:0.5,1:1,1:2).



**Fig. S8.** (a-b) SEM images of  $Co_3O_4$ -S/NF after 12 h stability test (Cobalt nitrate hexahydrate: urea= 1:0.5).



**Fig. S9.** CV curves of (a)  $Co_3O_4/NF$  and (b)  $Co_3O_4-S/NF$  at different sweep speeds; (c) Electrochemical double-layer capacitance ( $C_{dl}$ );

Catalyst	$R_{s}\left(\Omega ight)$	$R_{\mathrm{ct}}\left(\Omega ight)$	CPE (F)
NF	7.196	65.67	0.735
Ir/C/NF	6.564	54.06	0.618
Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /NF	6.974	55.81	0.723
Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -S/NF	6.567	40.46	0.732

 Table S1 The fitting results of Nyquist plots of different electrocatalysts.