

Supporting Information for

Atomically Ordered Pt₃Mn Intermetallic

Electrocatalysts for Oxygen Reduction Reaction in

Fuel Cells

*Jeonghoon Lim^{1, †, ‡}, Chanwon Jung^{1, †, §}, Doosun Hong¹, Junu Bak¹, Jaewook Shin¹,
MinJoong Kim^{1,2}, DongHoon Song¹, Changsoo Lee^{1,2}, Jinkyu Lim³, Hyunjoo Lee³, Hyuck Mo
Lee¹, and EunAe Cho^{1,*}*

¹Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), 291 Daehak-ro, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon, 34141, Republic of Korea

²Hydrogen Research Department, Korea Institute of Energy Research (KIER), 152 Gajeong-ro, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon, 34129, Republic of Korea

³Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Daejeon 34141, South Korea.

†J. Lim and C. Jung contributed equally to this work.

‡ Current address: George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia 30332, United

States

§ Current address: Max-Planck-Institut für Eisenforschung GmbH, Düsseldorf 40237, Germany

** Corresponding Author: eacho@kaist.ac.kr*

Calculation of mass activity

The kinetic current (j_k) was calculated by using the Koutecky-Levich equation,¹ which is expressed by

$$j_k = \frac{j_d \times j}{|j_d - j|}, \frac{1}{j} = \frac{1}{j_k} + \frac{1}{j_d} = \frac{1}{j_k} + \frac{1}{0.62nF(D_{O_2})^{2/3}v^{-1/6}C_{O_2}\omega^{1/2}}$$

where j is the measured current density, j_d is the diffusion-limited current density, n is the number of electrons transferred, F is Faraday's constant (96,485 C mol⁻¹), D_{O_2} is the diffusion coefficient of O₂ in 0.1 M HClO₄ solution (1.93×10^{-5} cm² s⁻¹), v is the kinematic viscosity of the electrolyte (1.01×10^{-2} cm² s⁻¹), C_{O_2} is the concentration of oxygen in 0.1 M HClO₄ solution (1.26×10^{-6} mol cm⁻³), and ω is the angular rate of the rotating disk electrode.

From calculated kinetic current, mass activity was calculated using below equation.

$$\text{Mass activity} = \frac{j_k}{m_{Pt}} \text{ where } m_{Pt} \text{ is the total mass of Pt loaded on the electrode.}$$

Calculation of electrochemically active surface area (ECSA)

ECSA was calculated by integration of the hydrogen adsorption region (Q_H) between 0.05 and 0.4 V_{RHE} using total mass of Pt loaded on the electrode (m_{Pt}) and 210 μC cm⁻² of monolayer hydrogen adsorption charge on platinum (q_H) as follows.²

$$ECSA = \frac{Q_H}{m_{Pt} \times q_H}$$

Calculation of specific activity

$$\text{Specific activity} = \frac{\text{Mass activity}}{ECSA}$$

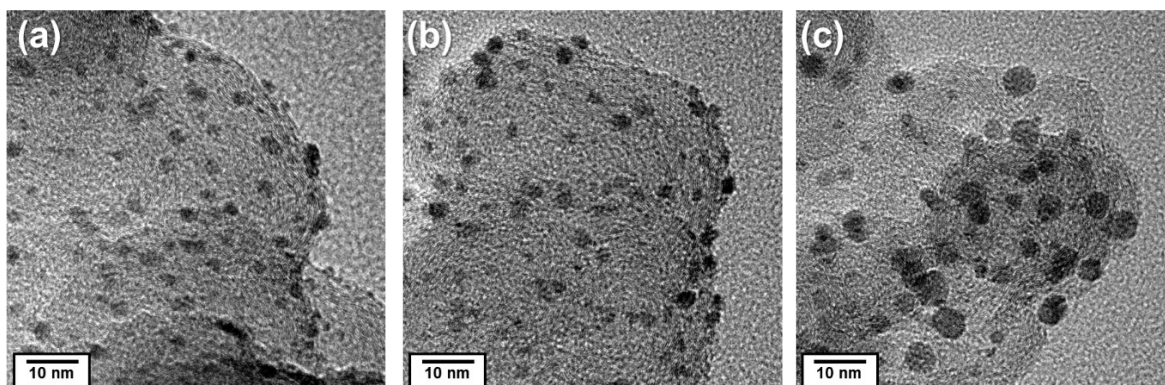


Fig. S1. TEM images of (a) commercial Pt/C, (b) Mn-Pt/C, and (c) Pt₃Mn intermetallic/C.

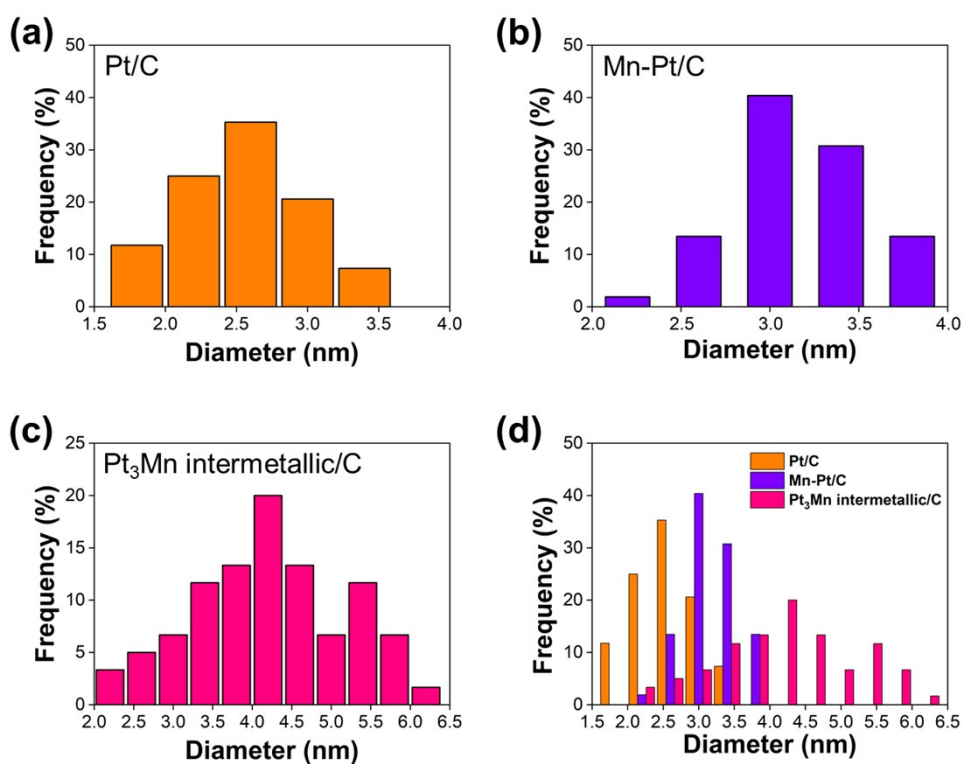


Fig. S2. Particle size distribution of (a) Pt/C, (b) Mn-Pt/C, and (c) Pt₃Mn intermetallic/C.

Average particle sizes are 2.55, 3.16, and 4.23 nm for Pt/C, Mn-Pt/C, and Pt₃Mn intermetallic/C. For comparison, particle size distributions of Pt/C, Mn-Pt/C, and Pt₃Mn intermetallic/C are presented in (d).

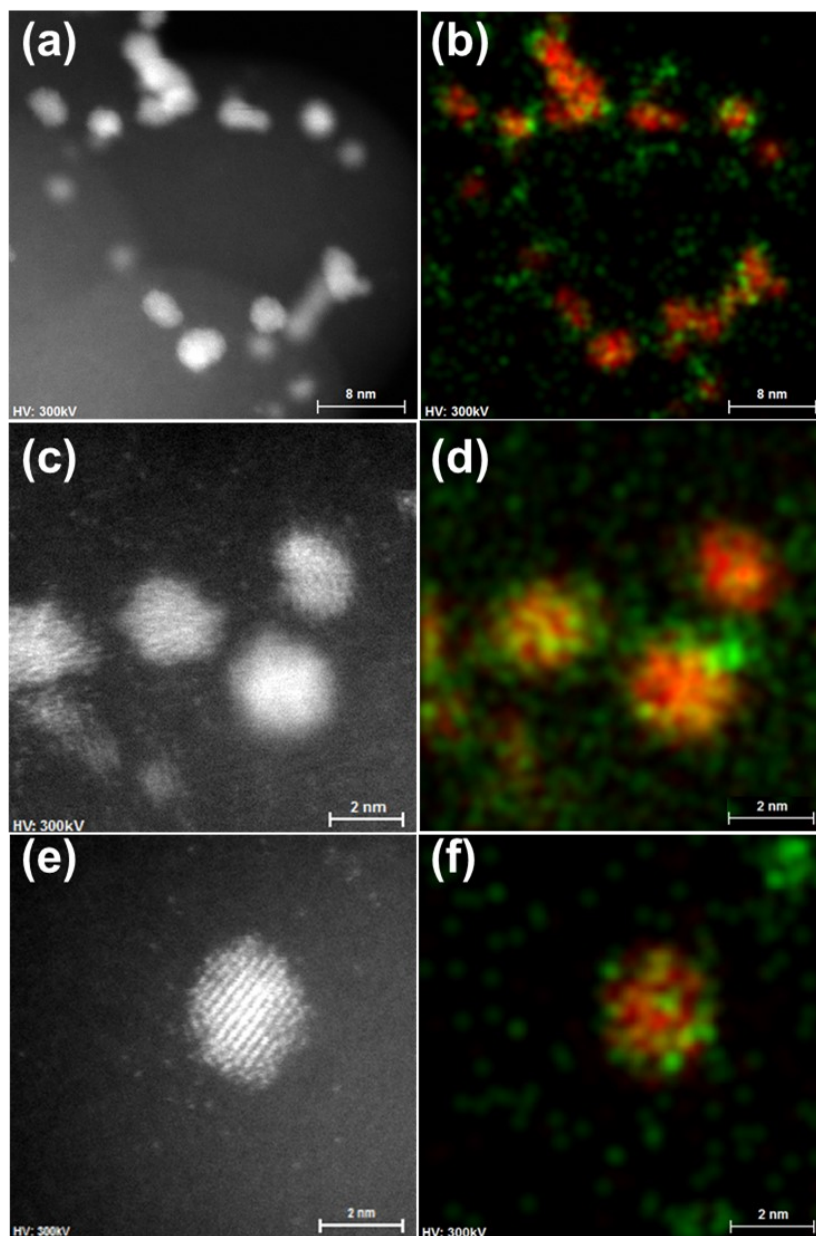


Fig. S3. EDS mapping images of Mn-Pt/C. Mn (green) atoms are mostly observed on Pt (red) nanoparticles.

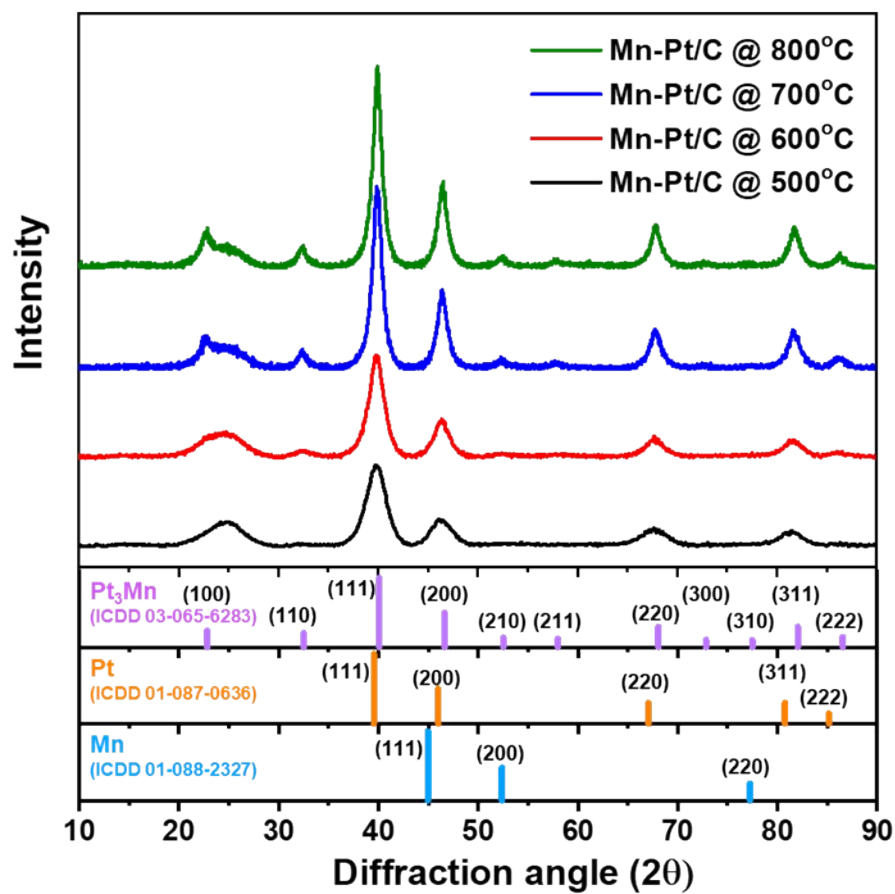


Fig. S4. XRD patterns of Mn-Pt/C annealed at 500, 600, 700, and 800 °C. With an increase in the annealing temperature, the XRD peaks from the Pt₃Mn intermetallic phase are intensified. Pt₃Mn intermetallic/C catalyst was annealed at 700 °C in this work.

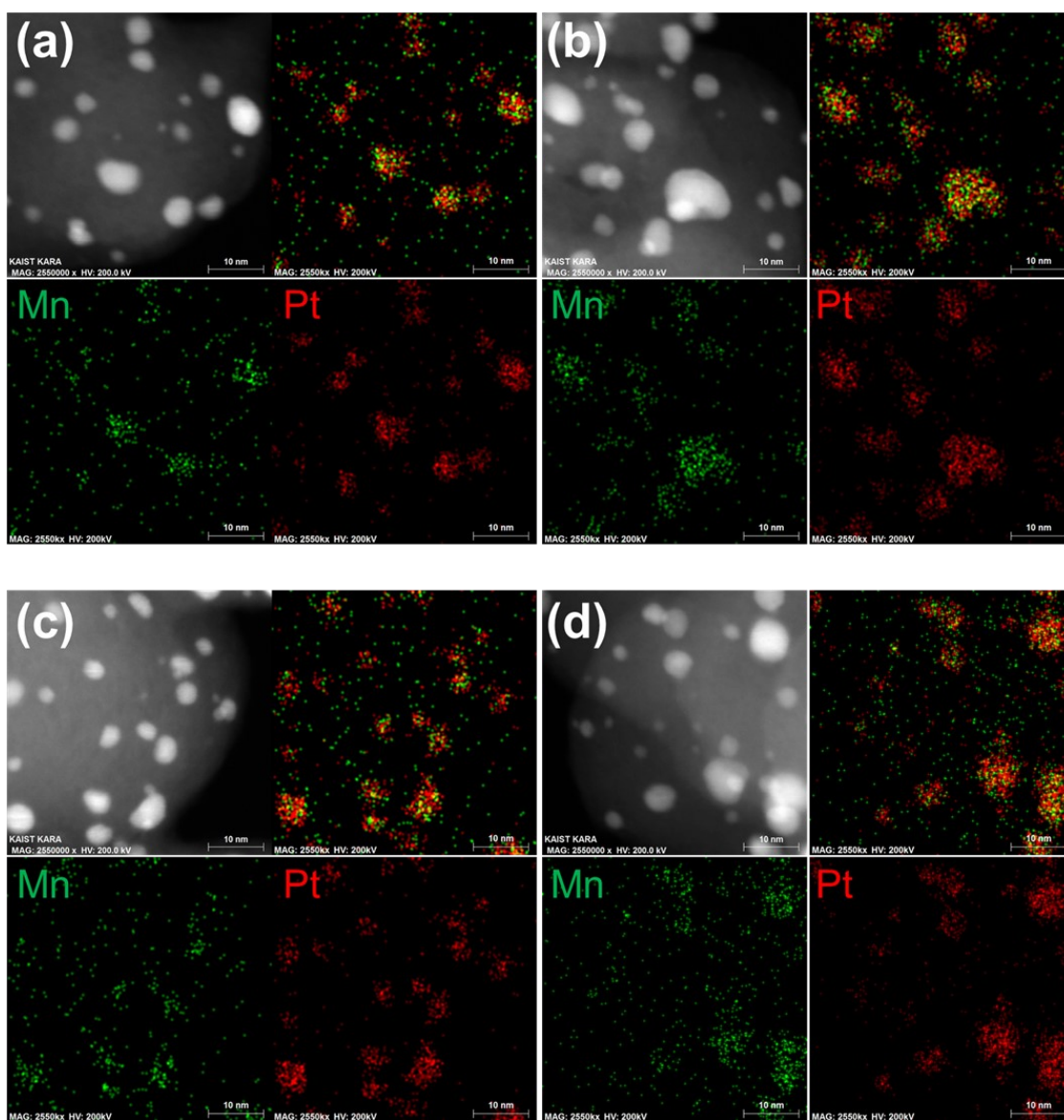


Fig. S5. (a-d) STEM and EDS mapping images of Pt₃Mn intermetallic/C.

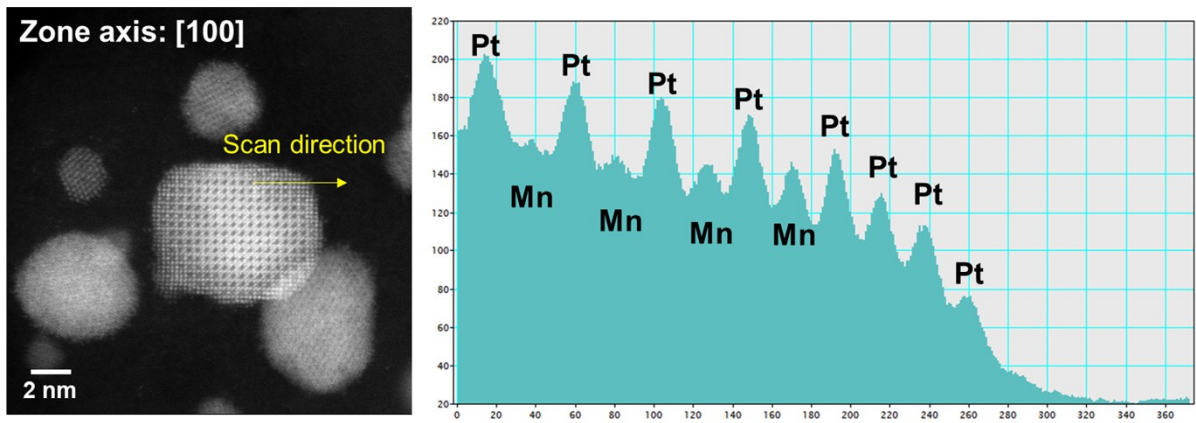


Fig. S6. HR-STEM images and their intensity profiles of Pt₃Mn intermetallic nanoparticles with [100] zone axis.

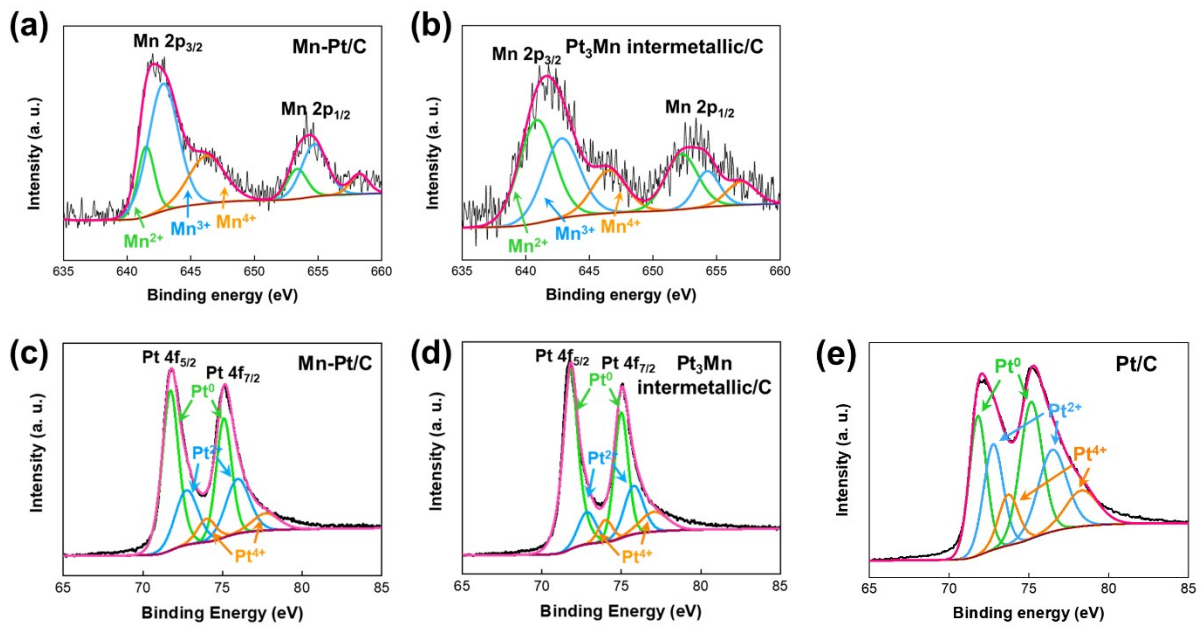


Fig. S7. Mn 2p XPS spectra of (a) Mn-Pt/C and (b) Pt₃Mn intermetallic/C. Pt 4f XPS spectra of (c) Mn-Pt/C, (d) Pt₃Mn intermetallic/C, and (e) Pt/C.

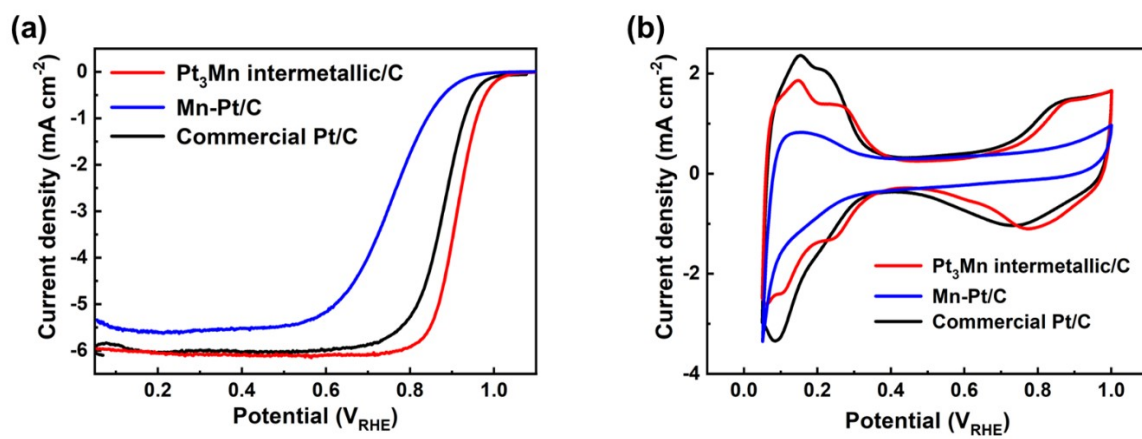


Fig. S8. ORR polarization and CV curves of pristine Pt₃Mn intermetallic/C (700 °C), Mn-Pt/C, and commercial Pt/C catalysts.

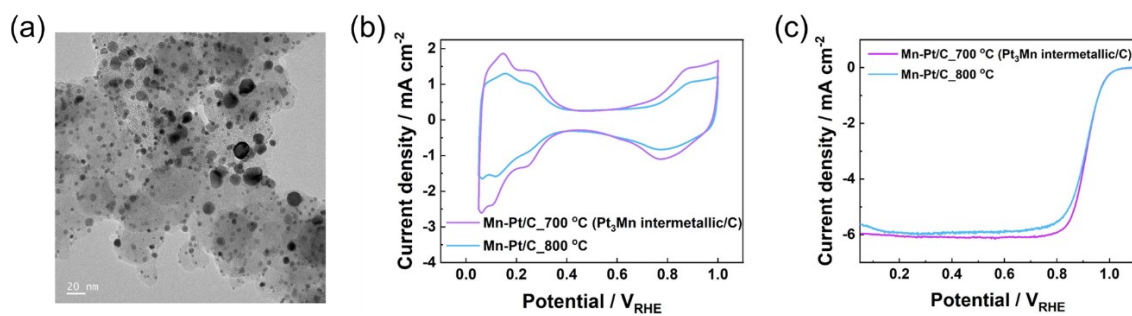


Fig. S9. (a) TEM image of Mn-Pt/C annealed at 800 °C under Ar/H₂ reductive environment for 4 hours (Mn-Pt/C_800 °C). (b) Cyclic voltammograms and (c) ORR polarization curves of Mn-Pt/C_800 °C and Mn-Pt/C_700 °C (Pt₃Mn intermetallic/C). The values of ECSAs, mass activity, and specific activity are summarized in **Table S3**.

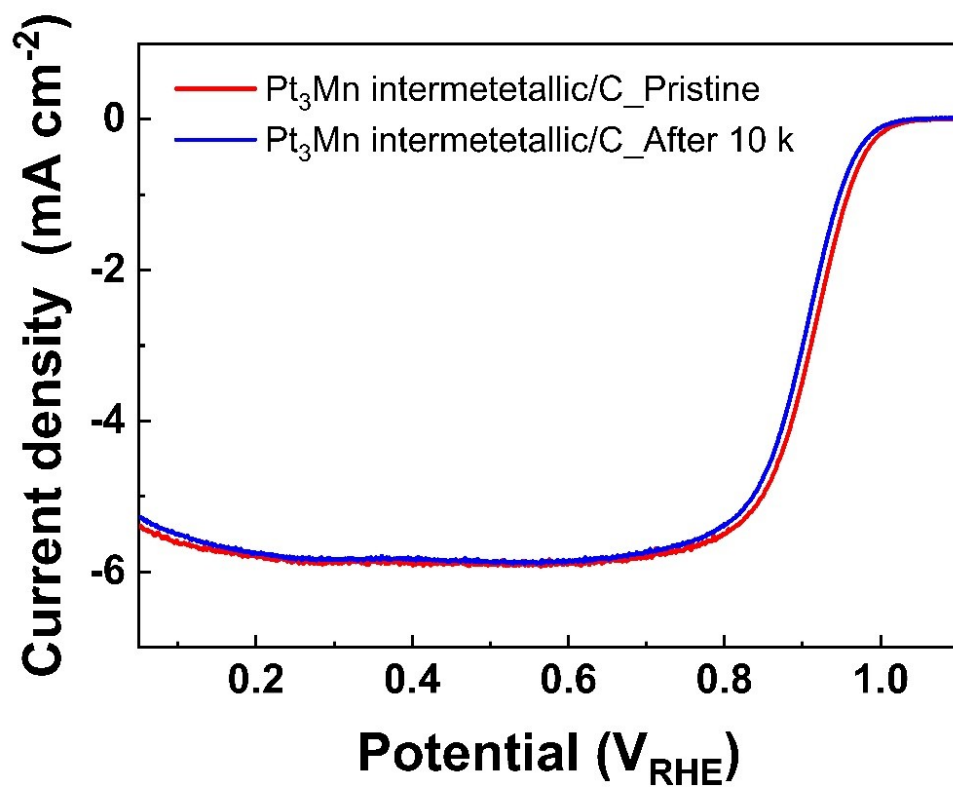


Fig S10. ORR polarization curves of Pt₃Mn intermetallic/C and commercial Pt/C catalysts before and after 10 k ADT potential cycling test in 0.1 M HClO₄ solution.

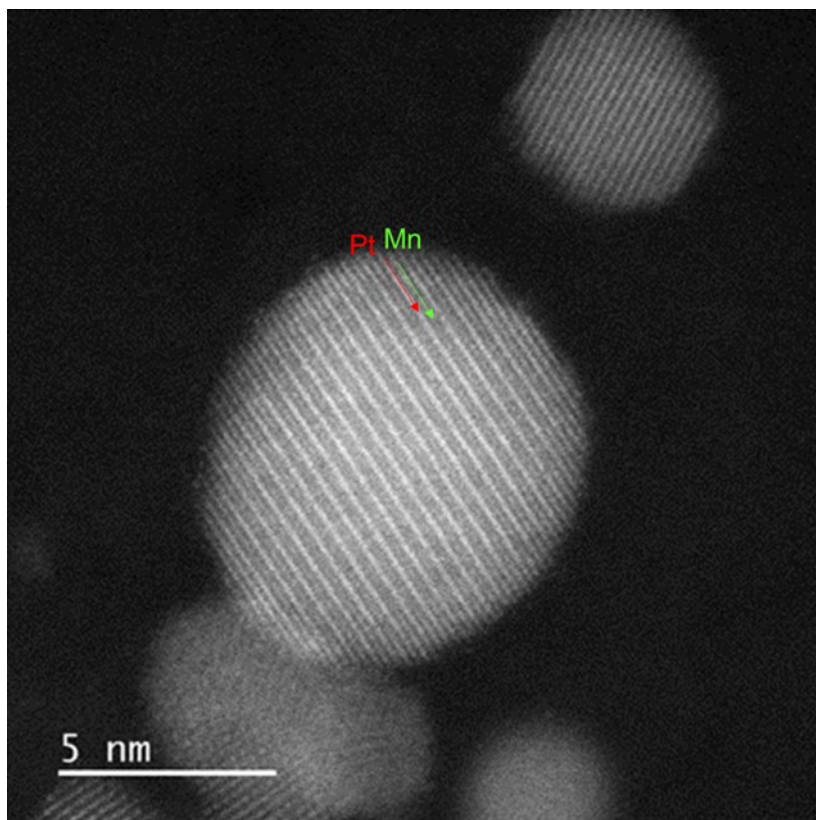


Fig. S11. STEM image of Pt₃Mn intermetallic nanoparticle after 10k cycles.

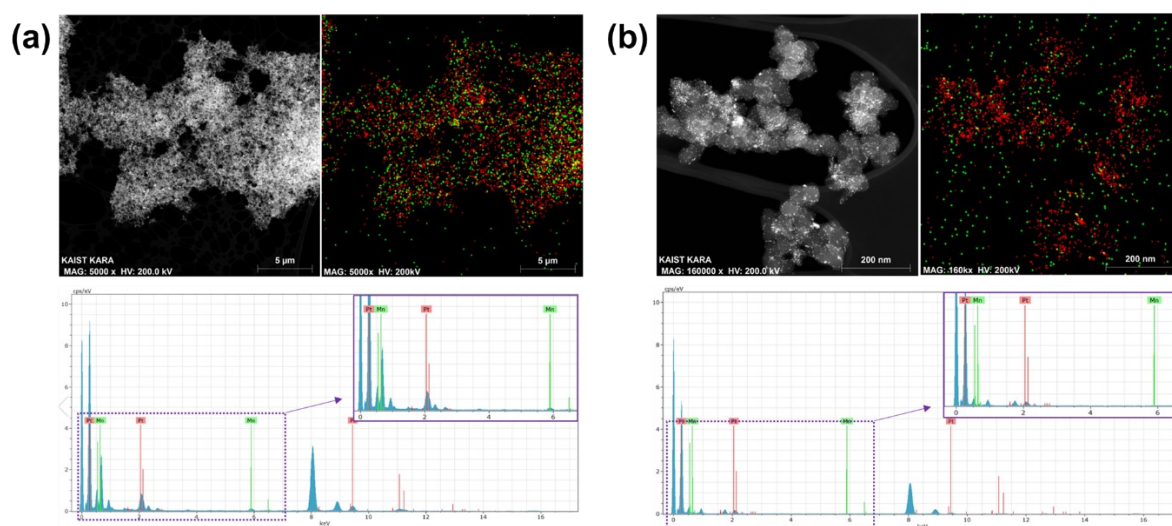


Fig. S12. Low magnification EDS mapping images of (a) Pt₃Mn intermetallic and (b) Mn-Pt/C after 10k cycles. Corresponding chemical compositions are summarized in **Table S4**.

Table S1. Chemical composition of Mn-Pt/C and Pt₃Mn intermetallic/C measured using ICP-OES (at%).

	Mn-Pt/C	Pt ₃ Mn intermetallic/C (pristine)	Pt ₃ Mn intermetallic/C (after RDE 10k cycles)
Pt	75.2	75.1	74.7
Mn	24.8	24.9	25.3
Pt-to-Mn ratio	3.03	3.02	2.95

Table S2. Mass activity, ECSA, and specific activity of Pt₃Mn intermetallic/C, Mn-Pt/C, and commercial Pt/C. (RDE results)

	Mass activity [A mg _{Pt} ⁻¹]	ECSA _{Hupd} [m ² g _{Pt} ⁻¹]	Specific activity [mA cm ⁻²]
Pt ₃ Mn intermetallic/C	0.386	44	0.877
Mn-Pt/C	0.014	30	0.047
Commercial Pt/C	0.125	62	0.202

Table S3. ECSA, mass activity (@ 0.9 V_{RHE}) and specific activity (0.9 V_{RHE}) of Mn-Pt/C annealed at 700 °C (Pt₃Mn intermetallic/C) and Mn-Pt/C annealed at 800 °C catalysts. (RDE results)

	ECSA _{Hupd} [m ² g _{Pt} ⁻¹]	Mass activity [A mg _{Pt} ⁻¹]	Specific activity [mA cm ⁻²]
Mn-Pt/C_700 °C	44	0.386	0.877
Mn-Pt/C_800 °C	38.94	0.312	0.801

Table S4. Chemical composition changes of Pt₃Mn intermetallic/C and Mn-Pt/C after 10k cycles.

Catalyst after 10k cycles (RDE)	wt%		at%	
	Mn	Pt	Mn	Pt
Pt ₃ Mn intermetallic/C	7.62	92.38	22.65	77.35
Mn-Pt/C	0.81	99.19	2.83	97.17

Table S5. Concentrations of Pt and Mn in the electrolytes dissolved from Pt₃Mn intermetallic/C and Mn-Pt/C during 10k potential cycles. (ICP-MS, unit: ppb = $\mu\text{g/L}$).

	Mn	Pt
Blank	0.048	0.015
Pt ₃ Mn intermetallic/C	38.757	0.650
Mn-Pt/C	205.477	4.213

Table S6. Numbers of Pt atoms and Mn atoms in each sublayer of the slabs.

Layer	Slab (1)		Slab (2)		Slab (3)		Slab (4)		
	Pt	Mn	Pt	Mn	Pt	Mn	Pt	Mn	
Pt-skin	4	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	
1st	4	0	3	1	2	2	1	3	
Sub-	2nd	2	2	3	1	4	0	4	0
surface	3rd	3	1	3	1	3	1	4	0
	4-5th	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1

Table S7. Single-cell performance of representative Pt-based intermetallic ORR catalysts.

Catalyst	Operating Condition		Loading C/A (mg _{Pt} cm ⁻²)	Voltage (V)	Current Density (mA cm ⁻²)	Power Density (W cm ⁻²)	Ref.
	Gas	Back pressure					
Pt₃Mn intermetallic/C	H₂-Air (1.5:2.0)	No backpressure	0.15 / 0.15	0.7	550	0.38	This work
fcc-PtFe/C	H ₂ -Air (1.5:8.0)	No backpressure	0.2 / 0.2	0.7	~300	~0.21	3
MOF-derived Pt₃Co	H ₂ -Air	1.5 bar _{abs}	0.13 / N/A	0.8	270	0.22	4
L1₀-CoPt/Pt	H ₂ -Air (500/100 0 sccm)	1.5 bar _{abs}	0.105 / N/A	0.7	~700	0.49	5

Computational Details

We performed DFT calculations using the Vienna Ab initio Simulation Package (VASP), in which a plane-wave basis set is employed.⁶⁻⁹ The kinetic energy cutoff was set to 500 eV to expand the plane wave. The generalized gradient approximation (GGA) was used to describe the exchange-correlational interactions with the Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE) functional.¹⁰ The projector-augmented wave method was used to treat core and valence electrons.¹¹ To describe the oxygen reduction reaction on the intermetallic Pt₃Mn and Pt, we modeled the (111) surfaces of periodically repeated 2×2 supercells with 6 atomic layers and a vacuum width of 15 Å. Pt₃Mn (111) was modeled by a so-called Pt-skin structure, where the outermost layer of 6 atomic layers was composed of only platinum atoms and the two bottom-most layers were fixed for both Pt₃Mn and Pt. The Brillouin zone was sampled with a 4 × 4 × 1 Monkhorst–Pack k-point mesh. The geometries were optimized until the Hellmann-Feynman forces were less than 10⁻² eV/Å, and the electronic structures were relaxed with a convergence criterion of 10⁻⁵ eV. An implicit solvation model was implemented to describe the solvent effect by using VASPsol.¹²

In this study, the free energy changes of each step were calculated based on a computational hydrogen electrode model reported by Nørskov et al.¹³ Adding entropy term (TΔS) and zero-point energy (ZPE) corrections to the DFT-calculated energies, we could obtain the Gibbs free energy diagram as follows:

$$\Delta G = \Delta E_{\text{DFT}} + \Delta \text{ZPE} - T\Delta S - neU,$$

where ΔE_{DFT} is the change in the total energy calculated by DFT method; ΔZPE is the difference in zero-point energy; ΔS is the change in entropy; T is temperature, which was set

to the room temperature (298.15K); n is the number of electrons involved in each ORR reaction step; and U is the electrode potential.

The dissolution potential of Pt atoms was calculated as

$$U_{dissolution} = U_{dissolution}^{Bulk Pt} + \frac{1}{2n_{dissolved}} \{E(Pt_{n-n_{dissolved}}M_m) + n_{dissolved}E(Pt_{bulk}) - E(Pt_nM_m)\},$$

where $U_{dissolution}$ and $U_{dissolution}^{Bulk Pt}$ are the dissolution potentials of a surface and bulk Pt into Pt^{2+} .

Here, we calculated $U_{dissolution}^{Bulk Pt}$ as 1.188 V, and $n_{dissolved}$ is defined as the number of Pt atoms dissolved.

REFERENCES

- 1 G. Zhang, C. Li, J. Liu, L. Zhou, R. Liu, X. Han, H. Huang, H. Hu, Y. Liu and Z. Kang, *J. Mater. Chem. A*, 2014, **2**, 8184–8189.
- 2 C. Yao, F. Li, X. Li and D. Xia, *J. Mater. Chem.*, 2012, **22**, 16560–16565.
- 3 D. Y. Chung, S. W. Jun, G. Yoon, S. G. Kwon, D. Y. Shin, P. Seo, J. M. Yoo, H. Shin, Y.-H. Chung, H. Kim, B. S. Mun, K.-S. Lee, N.-S. Lee, S. J. Yoo, D.-H. Lim, K. Kang, Y.-E. Sung and T. Hyeon, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2015, **137**, 15478–15485.
- 4 X. X. Wang, S. Hwang, Y.-T. Pan, K. Chen, Y. He, S. Karakalos, H. Zhang, J. S. Spendelow, D. Su and G. Wu, *Nano Lett.*, 2018, **18**, 4163–4171.
- 5 J. Li, S. Sharma, X. Liu, Y.-T. Pan, J. S. Spendelow, M. Chi, Y. Jia, P. Zhang, D. A. Cullen and Z. Xi, *Joule*, 2019, **3**, 124–135.
- 6 G. Kresse and J. Furthmüller, *Phys. Rev. B*, 1996, **54**, 11169.
- 7 G. Kern, G. Kresse and J. Hafner, *Phys. Rev. B*, 1999, **59**, 8551.
- 8 G. Kresse and J. Furthmüller, *Comput. Mater. Sci.*, 1996, **6**, 15–50.
- 9 G. Kresse and J. Hafner, *Phys. Rev. B*, 1993, **48**, 13115–13118.
- 10 J. P. Perdew, K. Burke and M. Ernzerhof, *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 1996, **77**, 3865–3868.
- 11 P. E. Blöchl, *Phys. Rev. B*, 1994, **50**, 17953–17979.
- 12 K. Mathew, R. Sundararaman, K. Letchworth-Weaver, T. A. Arias and R. G. Hennig, *J. Chem. Phys.*, 2014, **140**, 84106.
- 13 J. K. Nørskov, J. Rossmeisl, A. Logadottir, L. Lindqvist, J. R. Kitchin, T. Bligaard and H. Jonsson, *J. Phys. Chem. B*, 2004, **108**, 17886–17892.