

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### **Ruthenium Oxychloride Supported by Manganese Oxide for Stable Oxygen Evolution in Acidic Media†**

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# 1. Experimental Section

## 1.1 Material fabrication

All chemicals were used as received without further purification.  $\text{RuCl}_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was purchased from Wokai Chemical Reagent Co. Ltd.  $\text{RuO}_2$  was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and manganese nitrate (50% w/w solution) was purchased from Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co. Ltd. Carbon fiber paper (CFP, TGP-H-060, Toray Co. Ltd.) or glass plate served as the substrate materials, which was sequentially cleaned using ultrasonication by acetone, ethanol, and deionized water, followed by hydrophilic treatment (for CFP) by heating on a hot plate at 250 °C for 30 min in static air.  $\text{RuOCl@MnO}_x$  sample was fabricated via one-step heating treatment method as follows. 1 mg  $\text{RuCl}_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$  powder and 30  $\mu\text{l}$  2.15 M  $\text{Mn}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  solution were dissolved in 2 ml deionized water by stirring at room temperature to form mixed precursor solution. Afterward, the solution was dropped slowly onto a 2- $\text{cm}^2$  CFP heated on a hot plate at 210 °C, then the sample was heated at 210 °C for another 10 minutes before being thoroughly rinsed with water. About 46% solution (by comparing mass increments between CFP substrate and underlying quartz spacer after heating deposition) was deposited onto CFP substrate due to its porous structure and hydrophilic surface, corresponding to a loading mass of 0.23  $\text{mg cm}^{-2}$   $\text{RuCl}_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$  precursor on CFP. Individual  $\text{RuCl}_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$  solution or  $\text{Mn}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  solution dropped on substrate was also prepared using the same heating method to obtain CFP-loaded  $\text{RuOCl}$  or  $\text{MnO}_x$  control sample, respectively.  $\text{RuOCl/MnO}_x$  serving as another control sample was also fabricated by dropwise adding  $\text{RuCl}_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$  solution onto as-prepared CFP-loaded  $\text{MnO}_x$  sample following the same heating procedure.

For the commercial  $\text{RuO}_2$  catalyst sample, 4 mg  $\text{RuO}_2$  was added to 1 ml of water/ethanol (3:1, v/v) containing 20  $\mu\text{l}$  Nafion solution (5%, DuPont D520), and dispersed by sonication for 1 h to generate homogenous ink. Then 38  $\mu\text{L}$  ink was dropped into 1  $\text{cm}^2$  CFP (by sealing a 2- $\text{cm}^2$  CFP with silicone rubber to define the area) substrate to reach a  $\text{RuO}_2$  loading mass of 0.15 mg (denoted as  $\text{RuO}_2|0.15\text{@CFP}$ ), which corresponds to the same Ru atomic mass as that in  $\text{RuOCl@MnO}_x$ , and dropping-drying cycles gave higher loading mass denoted as  $\text{RuO}_2|x\text{@CFP}$  ( $x=0.15, 0.3, 0.45, 0.6, 0.75, 0.9, 1.05$ ). In addition, 0.15 mg (38  $\mu\text{L}$ )  $\text{RuO}_2$  was dropped to as-synthesized CFP-loaded  $\text{MnO}_x$  (by sealing a 2- $\text{cm}^2$   $\text{MnO}_x$ -coated CFP with silicone rubber to define the area to 1  $\text{cm}^2$ ) to donate  $\text{RuO}_2/\text{MnO}_x$  working electrode.

## 1.2 Structural characterizations

The morphologies were characterized via field-emission scanning electron microscopy (Hitachi, S-4800; FEI QUANTA 250 FEG; Hitachi, Regulus 8230) and transmission electron microscopy (Thermo Fisher, Talos F200x; JEM-ARM200P). Energy dispersive X-Ray spectrometry (EDS) analyses were conducted by the TEM equipment (Talos F200x) equipped with a four quadrant FEI Super-X detector, and by FEI QUANTA 250 FEG SEM equipment. Electron energy loss spectroscopy (EELS) measurement was carried out by another transmission electron microscopy (FEI Tecnai F20). Crystal structure information was investigated by X-ray diffraction (XRD; Bruker D8 Advance Davinci) using Cu K $\alpha$  ( $\lambda = 1.5406$  Å) radiation. Raman spectra were collected via a Renishaw in Via reflex spectrometer at an excitation wavelength of 532 nm. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) study was conducted with a Kratos AXIS SUPPA and a Thermo VG Scientific Escalab 250 system. The concentrations of ions were measured by inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES, SPECTRO ARCOSII). X-ray absorption spectroscopy (XAS) of samples were collected with the fluorescence mode at beamline station (TPS 44A) in National Synchrotron Radiation Research Center (NSRRC) in Hsinchu, Taiwan. Several metal foils were used for the photon energy calibration.

### 1.3 Electrochemical measurements

Electrochemical performance tests were carried out on an electrochemical workstation (CHI 660E) with a standard three-electrode setup in an electrolyte of 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> after purging with O<sub>2</sub>. CFP loaded RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub>, RuOCl, MnO<sub>x</sub>, RuOCl/MnO<sub>x</sub>, RuO<sub>2</sub>/MnO<sub>x</sub>, and RuO<sub>2</sub>|x@CFP samples were used as the working electrodes. An Ag/AgCl (saturated KCl) electrode and a Pt wire were used as the reference electrode and counter electrode, respectively. All LSV (linear sweep voltammetry) curves were recorded with the potential sweep rate at 5 mV s<sup>-1</sup>, and chronopotentiometric measurements were performed at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, 100 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, 300 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, and 500 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, respectively. The geometric areas used for electrochemical LSV testing, 10 and 100 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> chronopotentiometric measurements were 1 cm<sup>2</sup> (by sealing a 2-cm<sup>2</sup> catalyst-coated CFP with silicone rubber to define the area), and the areas used for 300 and 500 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> chronopotentiometric measurements were 0.5 cm<sup>2</sup>. Test areas of LSV curves extended to high anodic potential for CFP-loaded RuO<sub>2</sub>|0.15@CFP, RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub> and MnO<sub>x</sub> were 1, 0.5 and 0.5 cm<sup>2</sup>, respectively, and the potential scan rate was 0.1 mV s<sup>-1</sup>. All potentials, with full iR correction (manual iR compensation, where R<sub>s</sub> was obtained from EIS result under open-circuit voltage) if not mentioned separately, were converted to a reversible hydrogen electrode (RHE) scale, *i.e.*,  $E(\text{RHE})=E(\text{Ag}/\text{AgCl}) + 0.197 \text{ V} + 0.059 \times \text{pH}$ .

## 1.4 Density Functional Theory (DFT) simulations

In the calculations, bulk RuO<sub>2</sub> (space group: 136, Cell: 8.984 Å×8.984×6.213 Å, α=β=γ=90°), and Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (space group: 205, Cell: 9.416 Å×9.423 Å×9.405 Å, α=β=γ=90°) were used based on the experimental results. RuO<sub>2</sub> (110) and Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (110) with a vacuum region of 15 Å were built to simulate the surface reactions. CASTEP module of the Materials Studio software (Accelrys Inc.) was employed for the quantum chemistry calculations. Self-consistent periodic DFT was adopted to explore the electronic structure and catalytic activities. Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE) approximation was selected as the Generalized Gradient Approximation (GGA) method to calculate the exchange-correlation energy. The Broyden-Fletcher-Goldfarb-Shanno (BFGS) scheme was selected as the minimization algorithm. Elexreonic minimizer was performed by using an all-bands method that allows simultaneous update of all wavefunctions. And ionic cores were represented by an ultrasoft pseudopotential in reciprocal space. The energy cutoff was 340 eV and the SCF tolerance was 1.0×10<sup>-6</sup> eV/atom. And the k-points were set as 2×2×2 for bulk Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and RuO<sub>2</sub>, 2×2×1 for RuO<sub>2</sub> (110), and 2×1×1 for Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (110) surfaces.

The coordination number of Ru is determined based on bond length tolerance from 0.6 to 1.1 by Calculate Bonds tool. The Calculate Bonds tool creates bonds between two atoms if the following criteria are met: (1) neither of the two atoms is excluded from forming bonds, *i.e.*, they are not elements in the element exclusion list, and (2) the sum of the covalent radii of the two atoms fulfills the bond-length criterion, *i.e.*, TolFac<sub>lower</sub> × ideal distance < distance < TolFac<sub>upper</sub> × ideal distance, where distance = distance between the two atoms forming the bond. TolFac<sub>lower</sub>, the lower tolerance factor, determines the smallest distance between two atoms for which a bond may still be formed. The distance between the atoms has to be at least the ideal bond length times this value. TolFac<sub>upper</sub>, upper tolerance factor, determines the largest distance between two atoms for which a bond may still be formed. The distance between the atoms has to be smaller than the ideal bond length times this value. Ideal distance = R<sub>cov</sub>(Atom1) + R<sub>cov</sub>(Atom2), where R<sub>cov</sub> denotes the covalent radius of the atom.

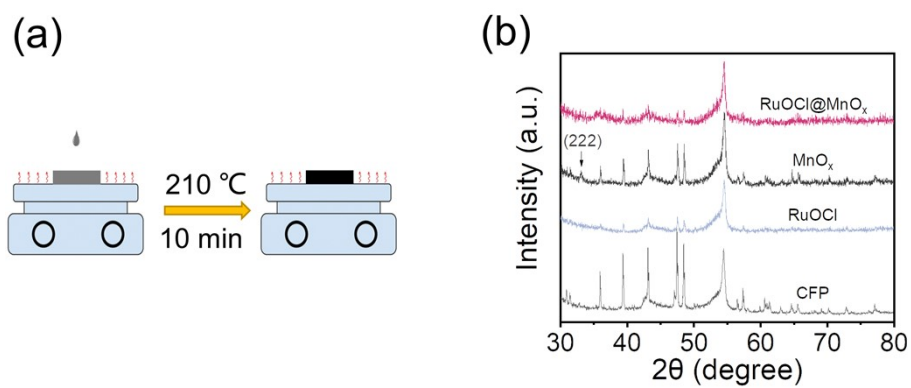
The optimization was completed when the energy, maximum force, maximum stress, and maximum displacement were smaller than 1.0×10<sup>-5</sup> eV/atom, 0.03 eV/ Å, 0.05 GPa, and 0.001 Å, respectively. The Gibbs free energy during OER process was calculated based on four-electron-transfer process, and detailed calculation can be found in the previous publication [Hu, J., et al. ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces 10, 5475-5484 (2018)]. The solvation effect was not taken into account in the calculation of the adsorption energies of species. The surface energy ( $E_{sur}$ ) and formation energy ( $E_{form}$ ) were calculated by the following eq. (1) and (2):

$$E_{sur} = \frac{1}{2A}(E_{surface} - nE_{bulk}) \quad (1)$$

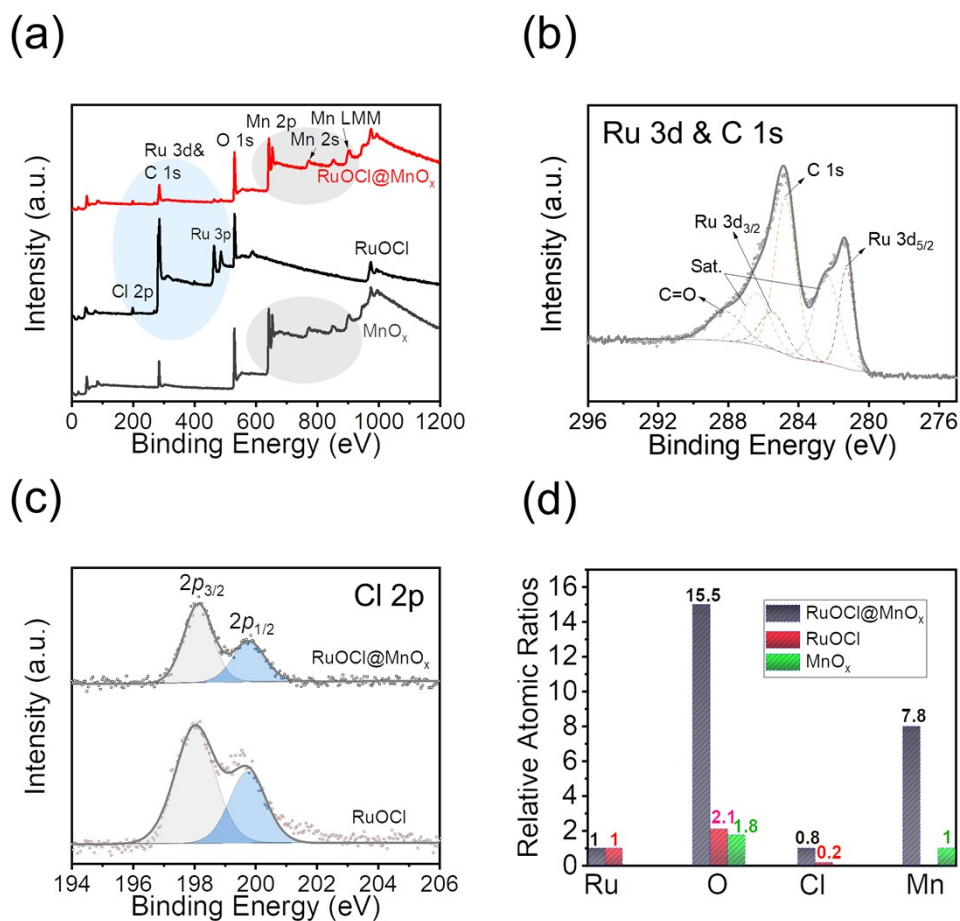
$$E_{form} = \frac{1}{n_M + n_O}(nE_{bulk} - n_M E_M - n_O E_O) \quad (2)$$

where  $E_{bulk}$  is the total energy per unit cell of the bulk,  $n$  is the number of unit cells that the slab model contains, and  $A$  is the surface area of the slab model.  $E_M$  is the bulk energy of per metal atom.  $E_O$  is half of oxygen energy.  $n_M$  and  $n_O$  are the number of metal and oxygen atom in bulk system, respectively.

## 2. Supplementary Results

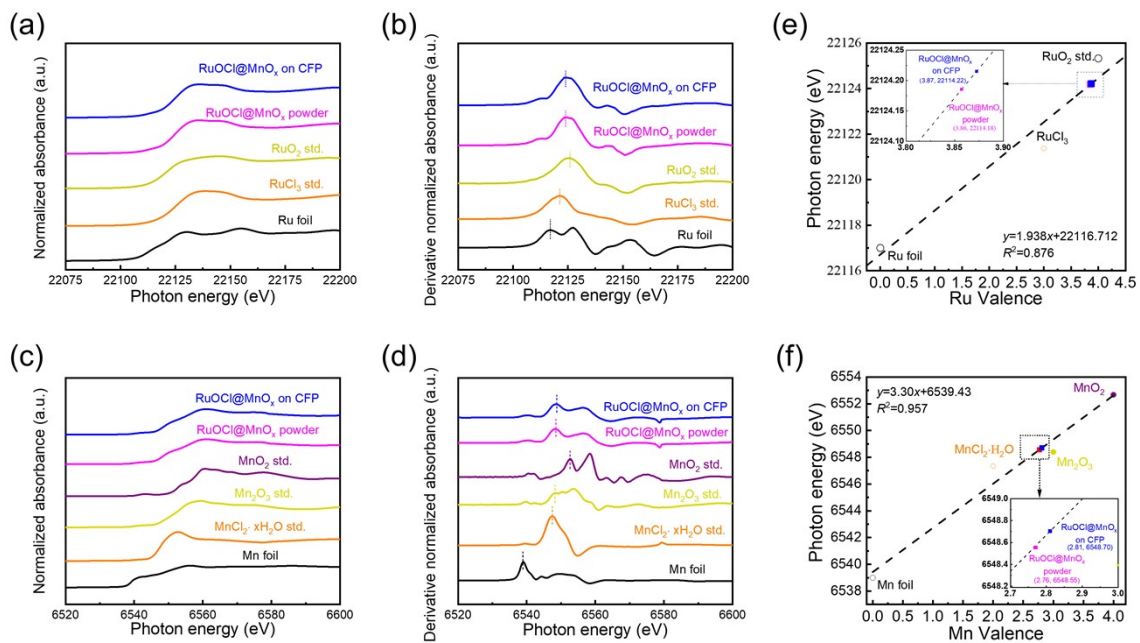


**Fig. S1** (a) Schematic illustration of the material fabrication procedure. (b) XRD pattern of CFP-loaded RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub>, MnO<sub>x</sub>, RuOCl, and CFP.

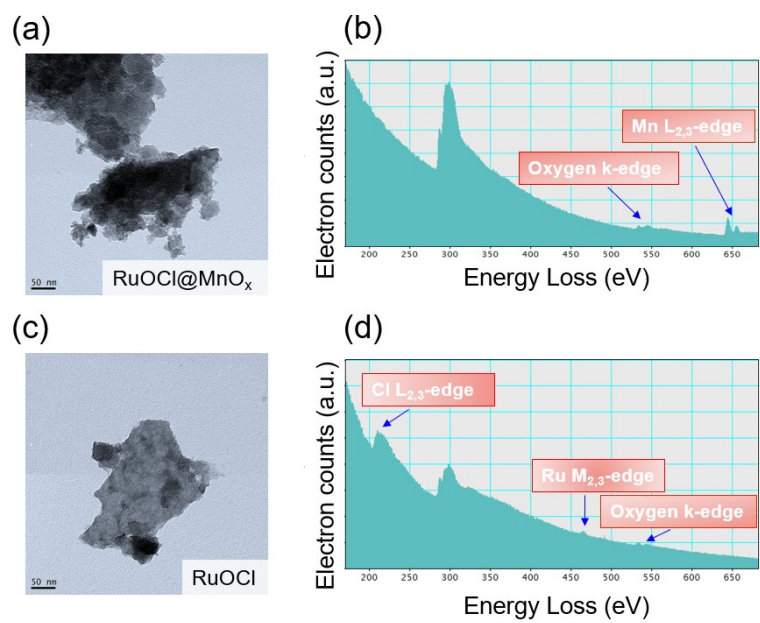


**Fig. S2** (a) XPS full spectra of RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub>, RuOCl, and MnO<sub>x</sub>. (b) Ru 3d/C 1s XPS profiles of RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub>. Sat. represents the satellite peaks of Ru 3d [Tian, Y., *et al. iScience* 23, 100756 (2020)]. (c) XPS spectra of Cl 2p of RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub> and RuOCl. (d) The atomic ratios obtained from XPS results, where the atomic concentrations are normalized to that of Ru in RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub> and RuOCl samples, and to that of Mn in MnO<sub>x</sub>.

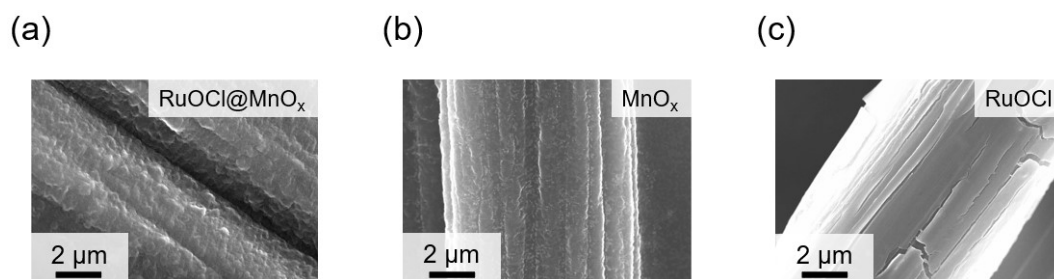




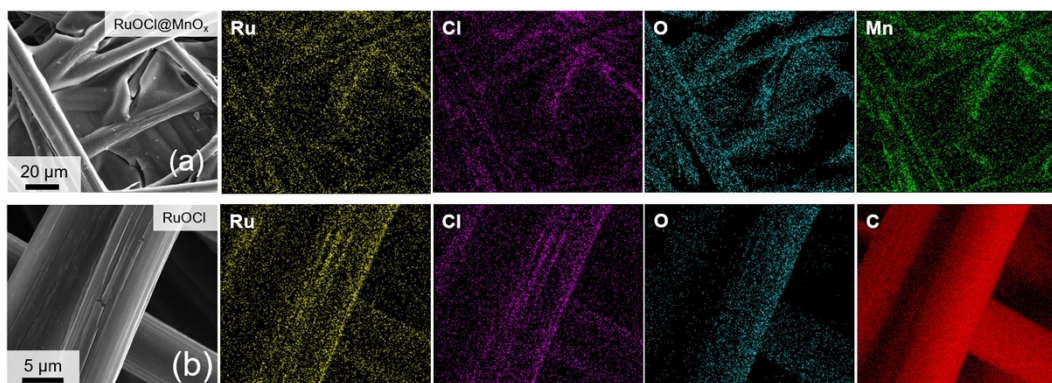
**Fig. S3** Ru K-edge (a-b) and Mn K-edge (c-d) normalized XANES and derivative normalized XANES spectra. Standard-driven linear regression for Ru (e) and Mn (f) samples.



**Fig. S4** TEM images of (a) RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub> and (c) RuOCl, and electron energy loss spectroscopy (EELS) pattern of (b) RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub> and (d) RuOCl samples.



**Fig. S5** SEM images of (a) RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub>, (b) MnO<sub>x</sub>, and (c) RuOCl.



**Fig. S6** SEM-EDS (Energy Dispersive Spectrometer) images of RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub> and RuOCl samples. The elemental mapping region is (a) and (b), and Ru L<sub>α</sub>, Cl K<sub>α</sub>, O K<sub>α</sub>, Mn K<sub>α</sub>, C K<sub>α</sub> SEM-EDS mappings are displayed.

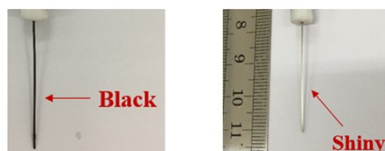
(a)

ions	Ru / mg L <sup>-1</sup>	Mn / mg L <sup>-1</sup>
	0.419	2.192

(b)

ions dissolved in electrolyte	Working electrode area	Ru / mg L <sup>-1</sup>	Mn / mg L <sup>-1</sup>
10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> for 280 h	1 cm <sup>2</sup>	1.405	1.502
100 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> for 200 h	1 cm <sup>2</sup>	1.469	1.685
300 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> for 100 h	0.5 cm <sup>2</sup>	0.857	0.982
500 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> for 50 h	0.5 cm <sup>2</sup>	1.004	1.275

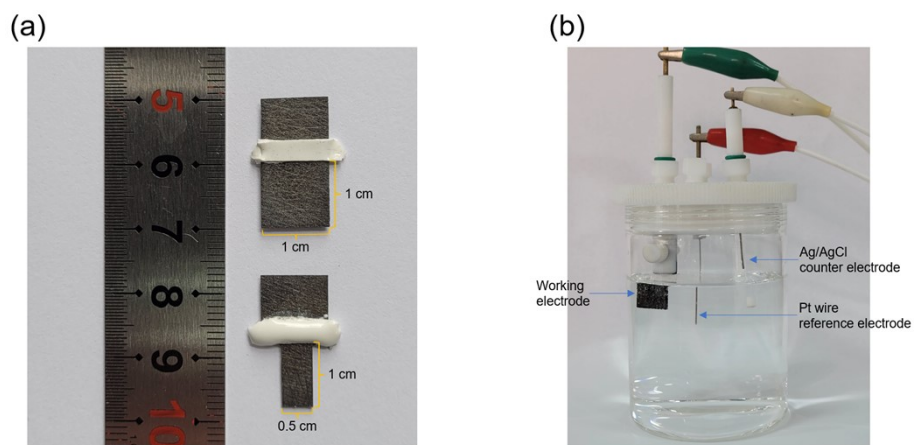
(c)



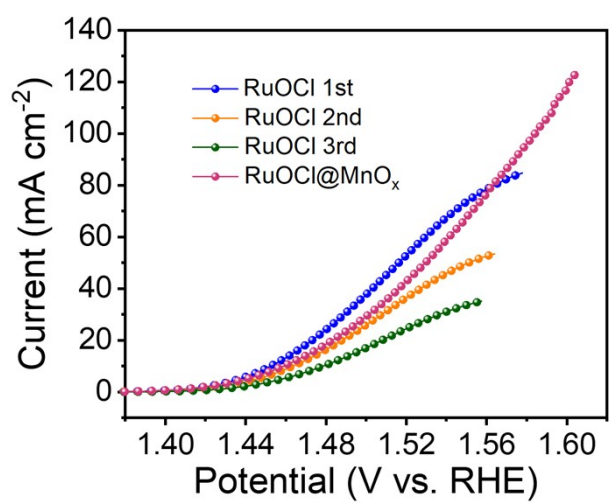
**Fig. S7** (a) ICP-OES results of the prepared RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub>. A piece of CFP-loaded RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub> (1 cm<sup>2</sup>) was placed into 10 mL concentrated hydrochloric acid at 60 °C for 20 min, and then the solution was transferred to a 250-mL volumetric flask for quantification with 0.23 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HNO<sub>3</sub>. The blank sample with pure CFP was subjected to the same treatment. (b) ICP-OES results of the electrolytes (50 mL) after 280-h, 200-h, 100-h, and 50-h chronopotentiometry tests at 10, 100, 300, and 500 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, respectively. The acidity was adjusted with 0.23 M nitric acid and the ionic concentration has been converted to be similar to that dissolved in the original electrolyte. The blank sample was subjected to the same treatment, except that no chronopotentiometry test was performed. (c) Deposition of Ru on cathodic Pt wire was observed after long-term test (left panel), and the Ru was returned to solution by applying a high voltage (2 V) for a short time (30 s) to obtain a shiny Pt wire (right panel) and more accurate ion concentrations. Notably, the Ru deposited on the cathode Pt has no significant effect on the anodic OER process studied here.

Atomic ratio	RuOCl@MnO <sub>x</sub>				MnO <sub>x</sub>		RuOCl		
	Ru	Mn	O	Cl	Mn	O	Ru	O	Cl
XPS	1	7.8	15.5	0.8	1	1.8	1	2.1	0.2
EDS	1	11.1	18.0	1.6	1	1.7	1	2.4	0.4
ICP-OES	1	9.6							

**Table S1.** A summary of atomic ratios obtained from XPS/EDS/ICP-OES, where the atomic concentrations are normalized to that of Ru in RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub> and RuOCl samples, and to that of Mn in MnO<sub>x</sub>.

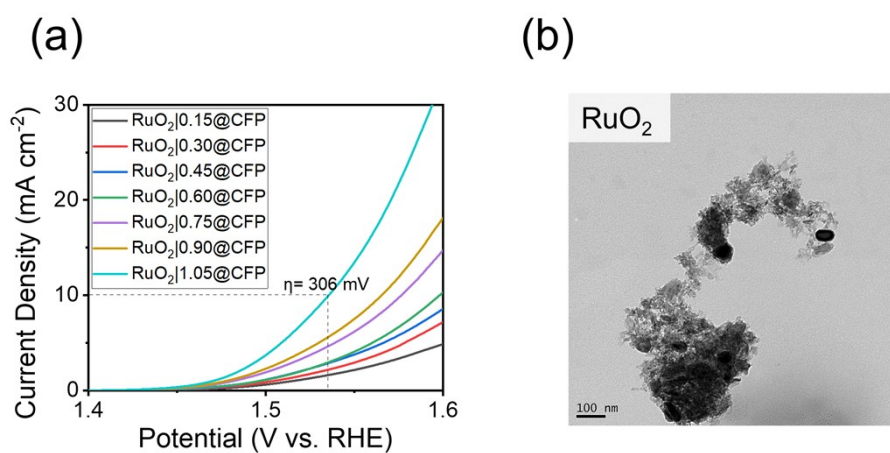


**Fig. S8** Photographs of (a) prepared carbon fiber paper electrodes coated with  $\text{RuOCl@MnO}_x$ , where silicone rubber isolates the testing area of  $1 \text{ cm}^2$  (upper) or  $0.5 \text{ cm}^2$  (lower), and (b) a three-electrode setup for OER chronopotentiometric measurement at  $10 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$  in  $0.5 \text{ M H}_2\text{SO}_4$ .

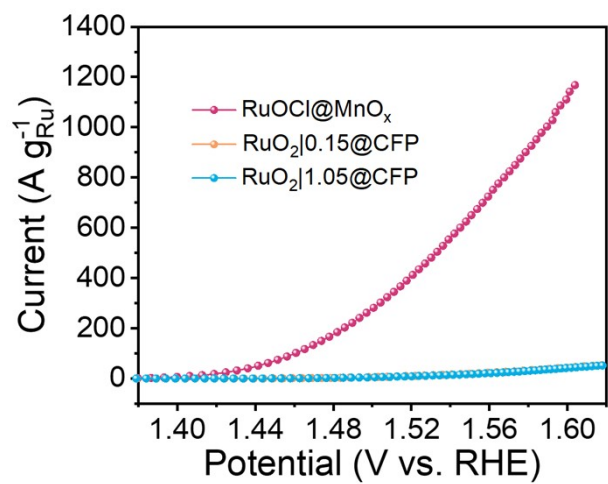


**Fig. S9** LSV curves of RuOCl for the first, second, and third tests, and the LSV curve of RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub>.

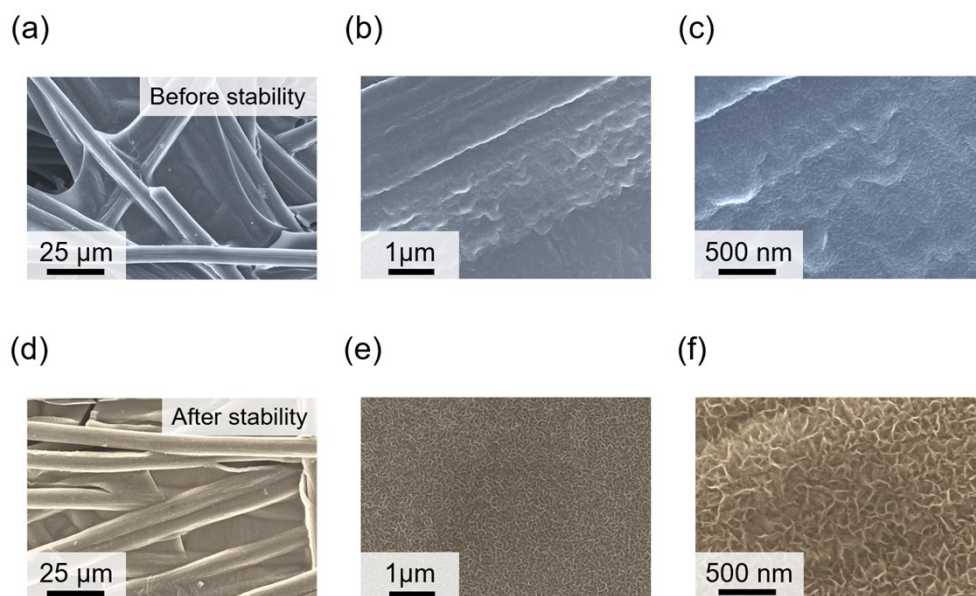




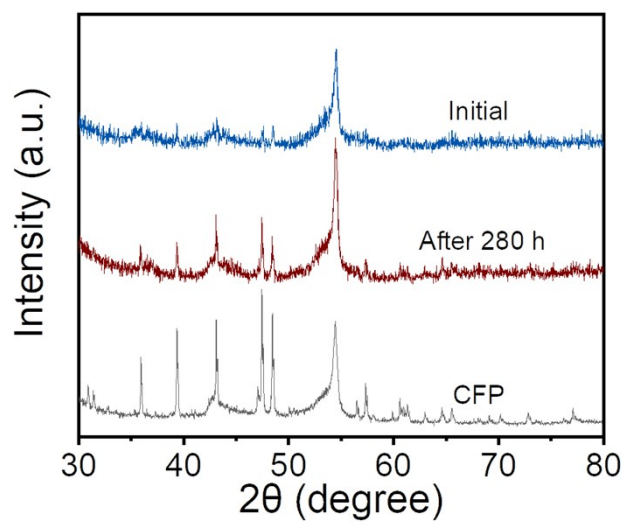
**Fig. S10** (a) LSV curves of  $\text{RuO}_2|x@CFP$  ( $x=0.15, 0.3, 0.45, 0.6, 0.75, 0.9, 1.05$ ). (b) TEM image of commercially purchased  $\text{RuO}_2$ .



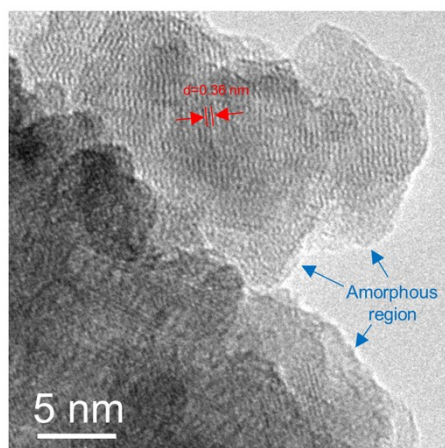
**Fig. S11** Mass activity of RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub>, RuO<sub>2</sub>|0.15@CFP, and RuO<sub>2</sub>|1.05@CFP.



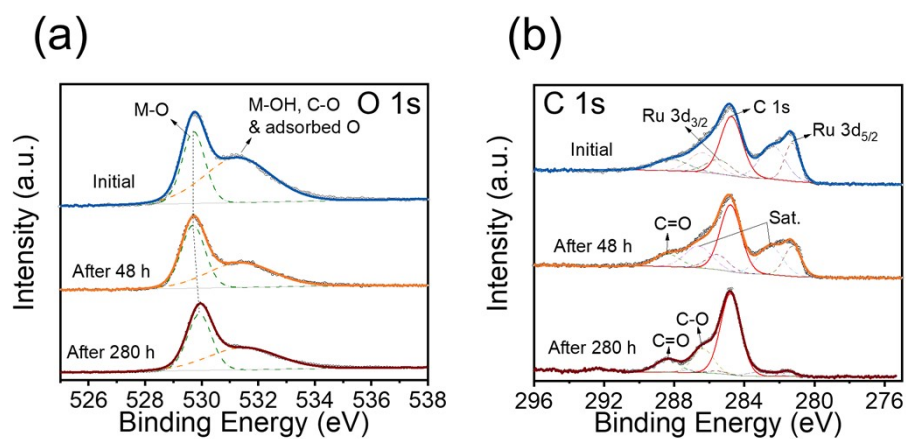
**Fig. S12** SEM images of RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub> before (a-c) and after (d-f) 280-h stability test with enlarged magnification from left to right.



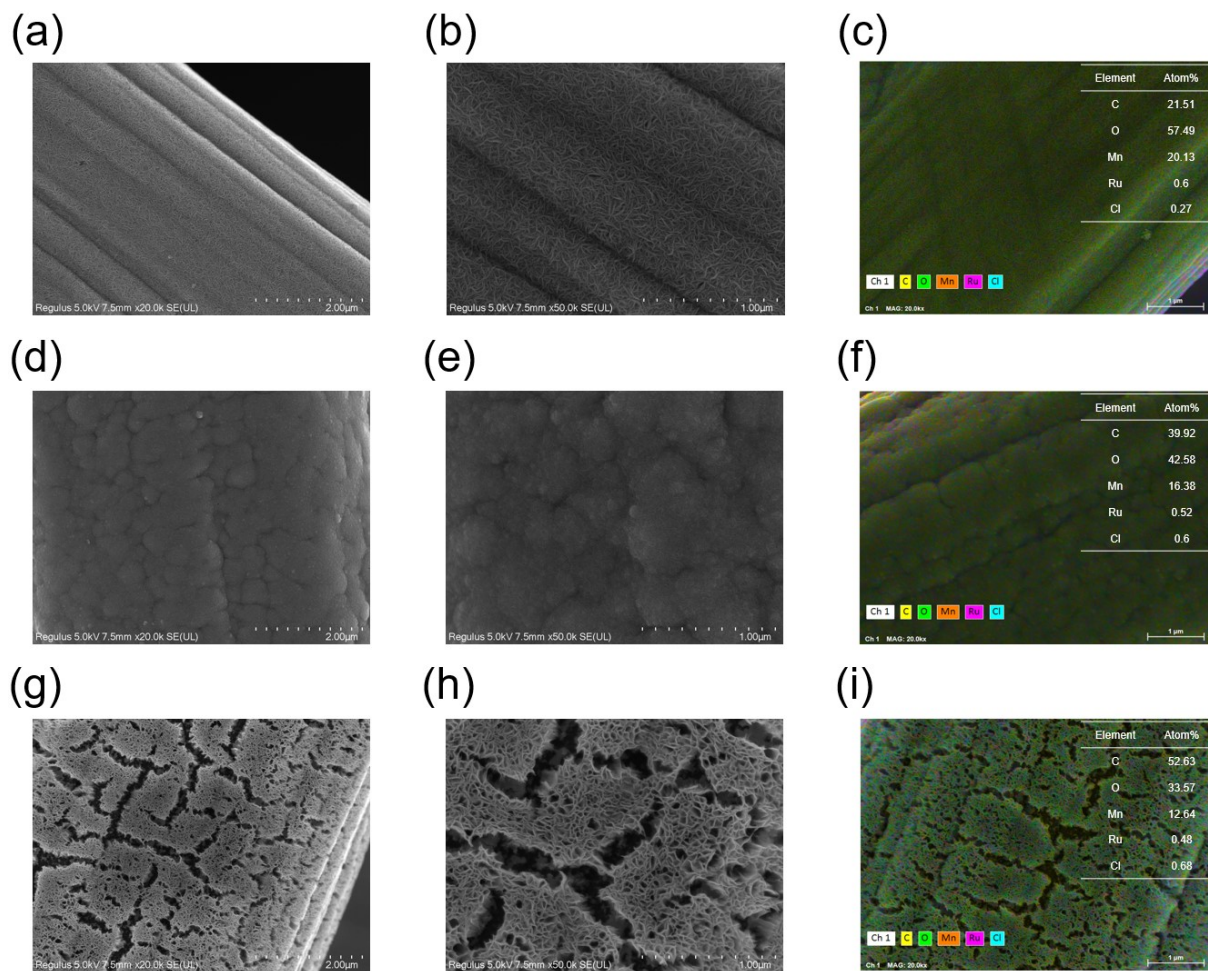
**Fig. S13** XRD pattern of initial RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub>, and that after 280-h stability test, and carbon fiber paper (CFP).



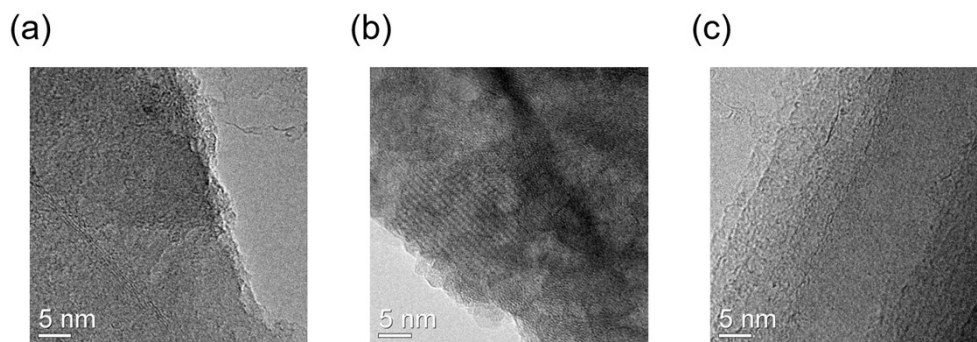
**Fig. S14** HRTEM image of RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub> after 280-h stability test at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>.



**Fig. S15** XPS spectra of (a) O 1s and (b) C 1s/Ru 3d states of initial RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub>, and that after 48-h stability test, after 280-h stability test at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>. The C 1s peaks have been corrected to 284.8 eV.

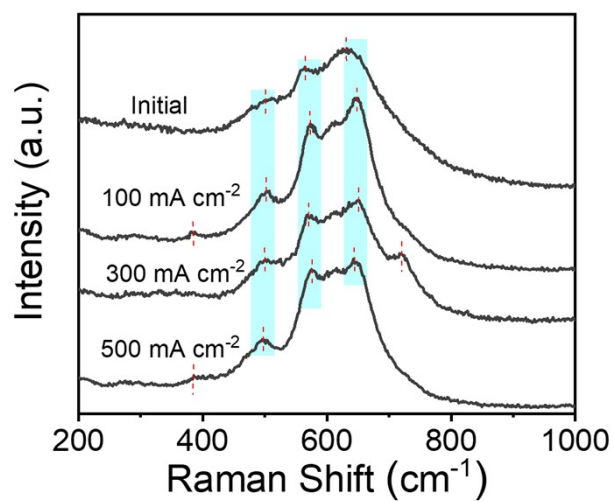


**Fig. S16** SEM images and SEM-EDS full element mappings with atomic ratios of RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub> after (a-c) 200-h stability test at 100 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, (d-f) 100-h stability test at 300 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, (g-i) 50-h stability test at 500 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>.

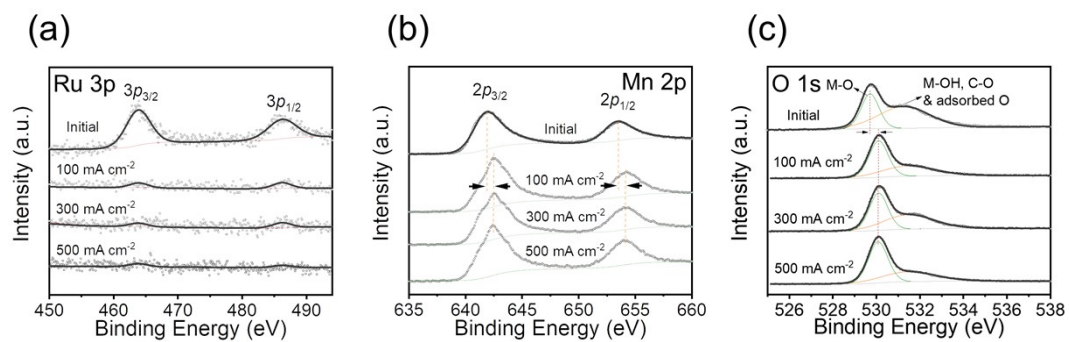


**Fig. S17** HRTEM image of RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub> after (a) 200-h stability test at 100 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, (b) 100-h stability test at 300 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, (c) 50-h stability test at 500 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>.

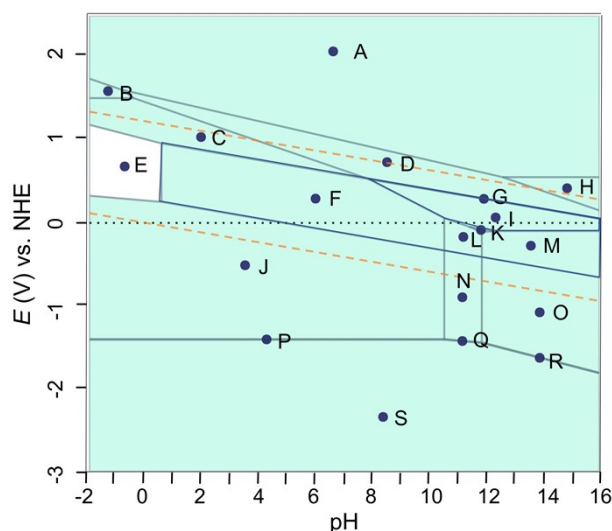




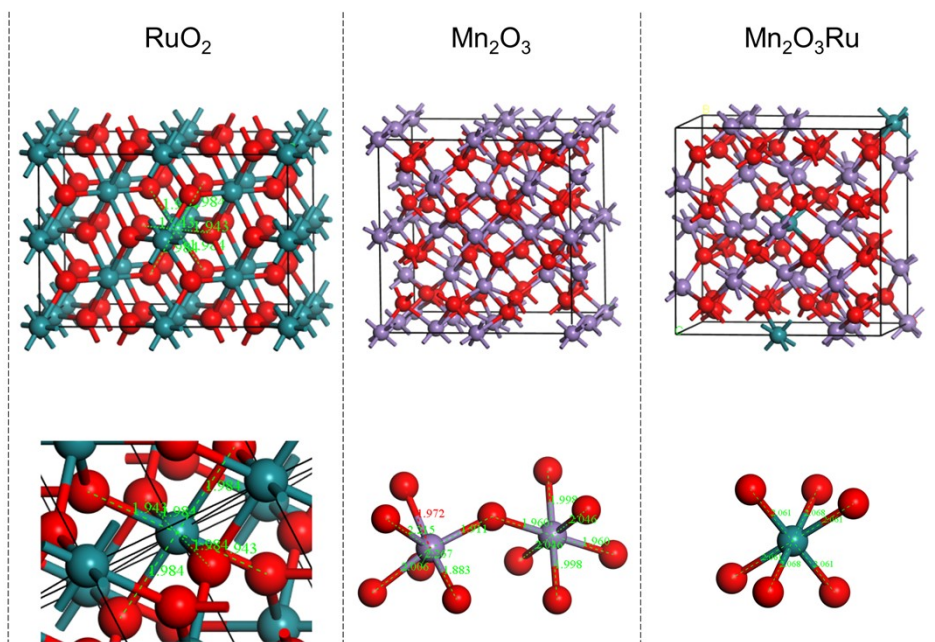
**Fig. S18** Raman spectra of initial RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub>, and that after 200-h stability test at 100 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, after 100-h stability test at 300 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, and after 50-h stability test at 500 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>.



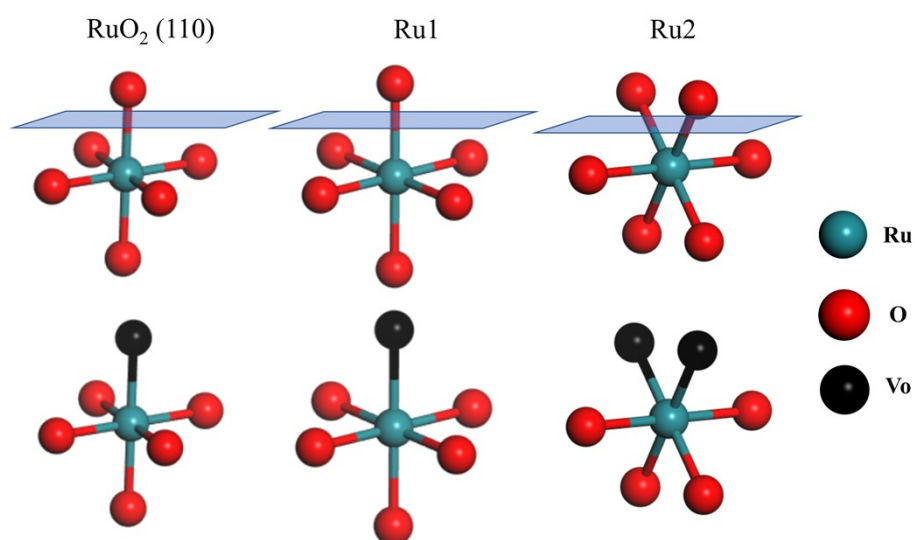
**Fig. S19** XPS spectra of (a) Ru 3p, (b) Mn 2p, and (c) O 1s states of initial RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub>, and that after 200-h stability test at 100 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, after 100-h stability test at 300 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, and after 50-h stability test at 500 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>.



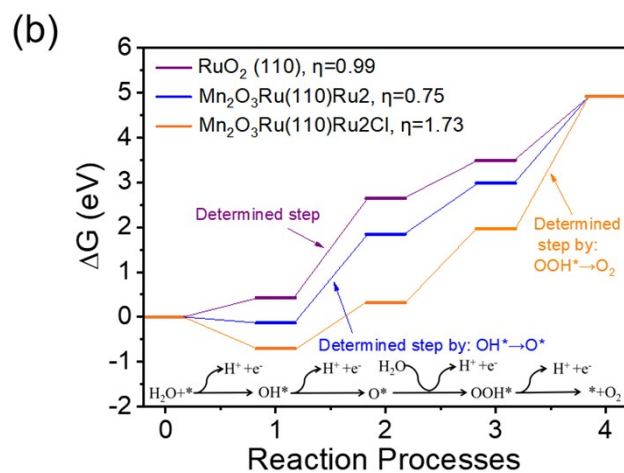
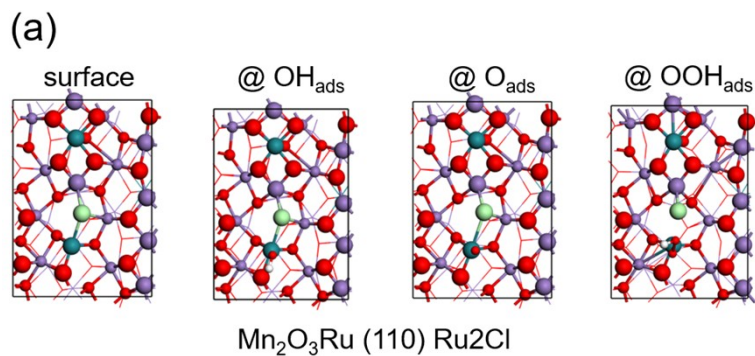
**Fig. S20** The Pourbaix diagram of 89-11% Mn-Ru system in aqueous solution based on the reported method [Toma, F. M., *et al. Nat. Commun.* 7, 12012 (2016)], assuming Mn and Ru ion concentration at  $10^{-8}$  mol.kg $^{-1}$ . RuO $_4$ (aq) is appropriate here to describe the state of Ru at high positive potentials [Lin, C., *et al. J. Electrochem. Soc.* 166, D476 (2019); Cui, H., *et al. J. Electrochem. Soc.* 159, H335 (2012); Juodkazytė, J., *et al. Trans. IMF* 85, 194-201 (2007)]. Regions are labelled for stable phases of: A-MnO $_4^-$ +RuO $_4$ (aq); B-Mn $^{3+}$ +RuO $_4$ (aq); C-Mn $^{2+}$ +RuO $_4$ (aq); D-MnO $_2$ (s)+RuO $_4$ (aq); E-Mn $^{2+}$ +Ru(OH) $_2^{2+}$ ; F-Mn $^{2+}$ +RuO $_2$ (s); G-Mn $_2$ O $_3$ (s)+RuO $_4$ (aq); H-MnO $_4^{2-}$ +RuO $_4$ (aq); I-Mn $_2$ O $_3$ (s)+RuO $_2$ (s); J-Mn $^{2+}$ +Ru(s); K-Mn $_3$ O $_4$ (s)+RuO $_2$ (s); L-MnOH $^+$ +RuO $_2$ (s); M-Mn(OH) $_3^-$ +RuO $_2$ (s); N-MnOH $^+$ +Ru(s); O-Mn(OH) $_3^-$ +Ru(s); P-Mn $^{2+}$ +MnRu $_3$ (s); Q-MnOH $^+$ +MnRu $_3$ (s); R-Mn(OH) $_3^-$ +MnRu $_3$ (s); S-Mn(s)+MnRu $_3$ (s).



**Fig. S21** Established simulation models in bulk forms, and calculated bond lengths after structural optimization of RuO<sub>2</sub>, Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Ru, where Ru, O, and Mn atoms are shown with green, red, and purple spheres, respectively.



**Fig. S22** Comparison of structure units on the (110) surface without vacancy defects (upper) and with vacancy defects (lower) of RuO<sub>2</sub>, Ru1 in Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Ru, and Ru2 in Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Ru.



**Fig. S23** (a) The geometric structures as well as the OER intermediates of Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Ru (110) Ru<sub>2</sub>Cl, where Ru (dark green), Mn (purple), O (red), Cl (light green), and H (white) atoms are shown in colored spheres. (b) Free-energy profiles of OER.

OER catalysts	Electrolyte	Mass activity	Stability	Overpotential (mV vs. RHE) @ 10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	Tafel slope (mV dec <sup>-1</sup> )	Ref.
<b>RuOCl@MnO<sub>x</sub></b>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	481 A g <sub>Ru</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=300 mV 288 A g <sub>Ru</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=270 mV	280 h@10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> ; 200 h@100 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	228	43	This work
Y <sub>2</sub> Ru <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7-δ</sub>	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	213 A g <sub>Ru</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=270 mV	8 h@1 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	N/A	55	[1]
Co-RuIr	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	N/A	25 h@10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	235	66.9	[2]
MS-IrO <sub>2</sub> /RuO <sub>2</sub>	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	~129 A g <sub>Ru+Ir</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=300 mV	22 mV decay after 2h@10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	300	121	[3]
RuRh@(RuRh)O <sub>2</sub>	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	~485 A g <sub>Ru+Rh</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=300 mV	~120 mV decay after 2h @5 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	245	51.2	[4]
Y <sub>1.8</sub> Cu <sub>0.2</sub> Ru <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7-δ</sub>	1 N H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	~60 A g <sub>Ru</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=270 mV	6h@1 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	~360	52	[5]
Ni <sub>0.04</sub> Co <sub>0.06</sub> Ru <sub>0.9</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	~240 A g <sub>Ru</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=470 mV	35% decay after 5h@1.7 V	~320	32	[6]
Cr <sub>0.6</sub> Ru <sub>0.4</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	229 A g <sub>Ru</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=270 mV	10 h@10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	178	56	[7]
Ruthenate nanosheets from NaRuO <sub>2</sub>	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	~161 A g <sub>Ru</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=300 mV	260 mV decay after 6h @10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	255	38	[8]
IrRuO <sub>x</sub> /TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	80 A g <sub>Ru+Ir</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=320 mV	10% decay after 100 CV cycles@1-1.63 V	~320	71	[9]
1×RuO <sub>2</sub> @C@SiO <sub>2</sub>	3 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	~76 A g <sub>Ru</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=330 mV	77 mV decay after 24h@10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	282	N/A	[10]
Pt <sub>39</sub> Ir <sub>10</sub> Pd <sub>11</sub>	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	200 A g <sub>Ir+Pt+Pd</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=300 mV	N/A	372	128.7	[11]
Sr <sub>2</sub> NiIrO <sub>6</sub>	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	115 A g <sub>Ir</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=295 mV	1 h@10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	295	48	[12]
IrO <sub>2</sub> Nanoneedle	1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	60 A g <sub>Ir</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=320 mV	2 h@10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	313	57	[13]
Ir black or Ir/C	0.05 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	8.0 or 31.1 A g <sub>Ir</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=280 mV	deactivation after 6 or 10 h @1 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	~495 or ~450	56.8 or 55.6	[14]
Ir-ND/ATO	0.05 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	69.8 A g <sub>Ir</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=280 mV	15 h@ 1 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	~400	56.4	[14]
Pr <sub>2</sub> Ir <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	424.5 A g <sub>Ir</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=300 mV	2.8 h@10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	295	N/A	[15]
IrOOH nanosheets	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	10.5 A g <sub>Ir</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=300 mV	150 mV decay after 7 h @10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	344	58	[16]
IrNiO <sub>x</sub>	0.05 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	~175 A g <sub>Ir</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=270 mV	75 oxidation cycles	N/A	N/A	[17]
P-IrCu <sub>1.4</sub> NCs	0.05 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	~213 A g <sub>Ir</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=320 mV	10 h@10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	311	53.9	[18]
Bi <sub>2</sub> Ir <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	26 A g <sub>Ir</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=295 mV	500 potential step cycles@1.6 V	N/A	45	[19]
Ba <sub>2</sub> PrIrO <sub>6</sub>	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	244 A g <sub>Ir</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=300 mV	1 h@10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	390	60	[20]
IrO <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	70 A g <sub>Ir</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=295 mV	10% decrease after 100 cycles @1.6 V	N/A	42	[21]
W <sub>0.57</sub> Ir <sub>0.43</sub> O <sub>3-σ</sub>	1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	33 A g <sub>Ir</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=370 mV	0.6 h@1 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	370±2	125	[22]
Co-doped SrIrO <sub>3</sub> (6H)	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	140 A g <sub>Ir</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=295 mV	20 h@1 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	235±5	51.8	[23]
H-Ti@IrO <sub>x</sub>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	1500 A g <sub>Ir</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=350 mV	130 h@200 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	277	29	[24]

<b>IrRu@Te</b>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	590 A g <sub>IrRu</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=270 mV	20 h@10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	220	35	[25]
<b>RuIr@CoNC</b>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	2041 A g <sub>RuIr</sub> <sup>-1</sup> @η=300 mV	40 h@10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	223	45	[26]

**Table S2.** Comparison of the performance of Ru- and Ir-based electrocatalysts for the OER under acidic media. Note: the data with “~” are extracted from the related figures or calculated from given data in articles.



To assess the worst-case scenario, we assume both Ru ( $\text{Ru}^{4+} \rightarrow \text{Ru}^{8+}$ ) and Mn ( $\text{Mn}^{3+} \rightarrow \text{Mn}^{7+}$ ) in the catalyst are completely oxidized to the highest valence state at the anode. To determine the Coulomb ratio, the loading masses of Ru and Mn are obtained from inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectroscopy (ICP-OES) measurement results.

The oxidation charges of ruthenium and manganese are thus:

$$(0.105 \times 10^{-3}) \text{ g} \div 101.1 \text{ g/mol} \times 4e^{-} \times (1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C/e}^{-}) \times (6.02 \times 10^{23} / \text{mol}) = 0.4 \text{ C}$$

$$(0.548 \times 10^{-3}) \text{ g} \div 54.94 \text{ g/mol} \times 4e^{-} \times (1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C/e}^{-}) \times (6.02 \times 10^{23} / \text{mol}) = 3.8 \text{ C}$$

The ratios of the charges of ruthenium and manganese oxidized to the highest valence state to the OER charge at the four current (0.01, 0.1, 0.15, and 0.25 A) are:

$$4.2 \text{ C} \div (0.01 \text{ A} \times 280 \text{ h} \times 3600 \text{ s/h}) \times 100\% = 4.2 \times 10^{-4}$$

$$4.2 \text{ C} \div (0.1 \text{ A} \times 200 \text{ h} \times 3600 \text{ s/h}) \times 100\% = 5.8 \times 10^{-5}$$

$$4.2 \text{ C} \div (0.15 \text{ A} \times 100 \text{ h} \times 3600 \text{ s/h}) \times 100\% = 7.8 \times 10^{-5}$$

$$4.2 \text{ C} \div (0.25 \text{ A} \times 50 \text{ h} \times 3600 \text{ s/h}) \times 100\% = 9.3 \times 10^{-5}$$

For the cathode, the HER charge is the same as the anodic OER charge. Similarly, assuming the worst-case scenario of extreme metal reduction  $\text{Ru}^{8+} \rightarrow \text{Ru}^0$  and  $\text{Mn}^{7+} \rightarrow \text{Mn}^0$ , the ratios of the charges of ruthenium and manganese reduced to the lowest valence state to the HER charge at the four current (0.01, 0.1, 0.15, and 0.25 A) can be calculated as:

$$7.5 \text{ C} \div (0.01 \text{ A} \times 280 \text{ h} \times 3600 \text{ s/h}) \times 100\% = 7.4 \times 10^{-4}$$

$$7.5 \text{ C} \div (0.1 \text{ A} \times 200 \text{ h} \times 3600 \text{ s/h}) \times 100\% = 1.0 \times 10^{-4}$$

$$7.5 \text{ C} \div (0.15 \text{ A} \times 100 \text{ h} \times 3600 \text{ s/h}) \times 100\% = 1.4 \times 10^{-4}$$

$$7.5 \text{ C} \div (0.25 \text{ A} \times 50 \text{ h} \times 3600 \text{ s/h}) \times 100\% = 1.7 \times 10^{-4}$$

In actual experiments, the ratio of the charge of Ru and Mn elements oxidized/reduced to the charge of  $\text{O}_2$  or  $\text{H}_2$  evolution is much smaller than those in the above worst-case scenarios, as suggested by the finite dissolved mass of Ru (0.07 mg) and Mn (0.08 mg), as well as the finite valence state shift (*e.g.*, from  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  to the  $\text{Mn}^{4+}$ ) after long-term stability tests. Therefore, the charge involved in redox reactions of the metal elements is negligible with respect to those involved in OER or HER especially at high current density.

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