Electronic Supplementary Information

Nanofibrillar hydrogels outperform Pt/C for hydrogen evolution reactions under high-current conditions

Jinwoo Park,^{‡a} Dasom Jeon,^{‡ab} Yunseok Kang,^{ab} Jungki Ryu^{*abc} and Dong Woog Lee^{*a}

^aDepartment of Energy Engineering, School of Energy and Chemical Engineering, Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST), Ulsan 44919, Republic of Korea.

^bEmergent Hydrogen Technology R&D Center, Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST), Ulsan 44919, Republic of Korea.

^cGraduate School of Carbon Neutrality, Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST), Ulsan 44919, Republic of Korea.

‡J. Park and D. Jeon contributed equally to this work.

*Corresponding authors.

Email addresses: jryu@unist.ac.kr (J. Ryu); dongwoog.lee@unist.ac.kr (D. W. Lee).



Fig. S1. Air contact and sliding angles of a) fNi and b) hydrogel-coated fNi (HG-fNi).



Fig. S2. High-speed camera images of air bubbles (volume = 25μ L) colliding with a) NiF and b) HG-NiF.

а	fNi	0.0000 s	0.0050 s	0.0100 s	0.0150 s	0.0200 s	0.0250 s	0.0300 s	0.0350 s
	†	•	•			•	•		
	Air bubble			deformation	bouncing				
	0.0400 s	0.0450 s	0.0500 s	0.0550 s	0.0600 s	0.0650 s	0.0700 s	0.0750 s	0.0800 s
	•	0	•						
	L	, pinnning	<i>I</i>	Ŀ	J.	Wenzel / transition		, - , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Ŀ
h									
D	HG-fNi	0.0000 s	0.0025 s	0.0050 s	0.0075 s	0.0100 s	0.0125 s	0.0150 s	0.0175 s
	1	•			U	Ο	•	•	•
	Air bubble			deformation	bouncing				
	0.0200 s	0.0225 s	0.0250 s	0.0275 s	0.0300 s	0.0325 s	0.0350 s	0.0375 s	0.0400 s
	•	0	•						
				no pinning		rolling			rolling out

Fig. S3. High-speed camera images of air bubbles (volume = 1 μ L) colliding with a) fNi and b) HG-fNi.

		R ₂ ^b (Ω)	
	$R_1^{a}(\Omega)$	CPE ^c (mF)	
		29.86	
NI	4.46	46.98	
		21.85	
HG-NiF	3.877	30.78	

Table S1. Fitting results of electrochemical impedance spectra shown in Figure 4d.

 ${}^{a}R_{1}$ is a series resistance of electrical conduction through an external circuit and ionic conduction through an electrolyte.

^bR₂ represents a resistance related to catalytic hydrogen evolution reaction.

^cCPE represent a constant phase element.

Catalyst	Electrolyte	Overpotential (mV)	Ref.
HG-NiF	1.0 M KOH	-750 @ -1000 mA cm ⁻²	This work
Pt/C	1.0 M KOH	-750 @ -693 mA cm ⁻²	This work
CoMoS _x	1.0 M KOH	-280 @ -600 mA cm ⁻²	[1]
P-Ni(OH) ₂ /NiMoO ₄	1.0 M KOH	-500 @ -300 mA cm ⁻²	[2]
NSF/CNT	1.0 M KOH	-320 @ -300 mA cm ⁻²	[3]
CoSF/CNT	1.0 M KOH	-700 @ -350 mA cm ⁻²	[3]
FeSF/CNT	1.0 M KOH	-500 @ -300 mA cm ⁻²	[3]
FeCoNi-HNTAs	1.0 M KOH	-280 @ -150 mA cm ⁻²	[4]
MoS ₂	1.0 M KOH	-600 @ -150 mA cm ⁻²	[4]
Cu ₃ P	1.0 M KOH	-400 @ -120 mA cm ⁻²	[5]
CoMnP/Ni ₂ P	1.0 M KOH	-200 @ -50 mA cm ⁻²	[6]

Table S2. Overpotentials of various superaerophobic electrodes shown in Figure 4e for alkalinehydrogen evolution reaction.

Catalyst	Electrolyte	Overpotential (mV)	Current density (mA cm ⁻²)	Mass loading (mg cm ⁻²)	Price (\$ mg ⁻¹)	Ref.
HG-NiF	1.0 M KOH	750	1000	0.002	22.5	This work
Pt/C	1.0 M KOH	750	693	28	0.0070	This work
Ru@Co-SAs	1.0 M KOH	7	10	0.285	0.0032	[7]
RuCo	1.0 M KOH	28	10	0.28	0.0021	[8]
Ni-MOF	1.0 M KOH	40	10	0.5	0.000018	[9]
Ni(OH) ₂ /CuS	1.0 M KOH	95	10	0.29	0.000012	[10]
CoSAs-CoNPs	1.0 M KOH	205	10	14	0.000053	[11]

Table S3. Comparison of HG-NiF to the efficiency and prices of various inorganic catalysts in 1.0 M KOH solution.

Supporting References

[1] X. Shan, J. Liu, H. Mu, Y. Xiao, B. Mei, W. Liu, G. Lin, Z. Jiang, L. Wen, L. Jiang, An engineered superhydrophilic/superaerophobic electrocatalyst composed of the supported CoMoSx chalcogel for overall water splitting, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 59 (2020) 1659-1665.

[2] W. Xi, G. Yan, H. Tan, L. Xiao, S. Cheng, S.U. Khan, Y. Wang, Y. Li, Superaerophobic Pdoped Ni(OH)₂/NiMoO₄ hierarchical nanosheet arrays grown on Ni foam for electrocatalytic overall water splitting, Dalton Trans. 47 (2018) 8787-8793.

[3] M. Guo, A. Qayum, S. Dong, X. Jiao, D. Chen, T. Wang, In situ conversion of metal (Ni, Co or Fe) foams into metal sulfide (Ni₃S₂, Co₉S₈ or FeS) foams with surface grown N-doped carbon nanotube arrays as efficient superaerophobic electrocatalysts for overall water splitting, J. Mater. Chem. A 8 (2020) 9239-9247.

[4] H. Li, S. Chen, Y. Zhang, Q. Zhang, X. Jia, Q. Zhang, L. Gu, X. Sun, L. Song, X. Wang, Systematic design of superaerophobic nanotube-array electrode comprised of transition-metal sulfides for overall water splitting, Nat. Commun. 9 (2018) 2452.

[5] J. Hao, W. Yang, Z. Huang, C. Zhang, Superhydrophilic and superaerophobic copper phosphide microsheets for efficient electrocatalytic hydrogen and oxygen evolution, Adv. Mater. Interfaces, 3 (2016) 1600236.

[6] M. Liu, Z. Sun, S. Li, X. Nie, Y. Liu, E. Wang, Z. Zhao, Hierarchical superhydrophilic/superaerophobic CoMnP/Ni₂P nanosheet-based microplate arrays for enhanced overall water splitting, J. Mater. Chem. A 9 (2021) 22129-22139.

[7] S. Yuan, Z. Pu, H. Zhou, J. Yu, I.S. Amiinu, J. Zhu, Q. Liang, J. Yang, D. He, Z. Hu, G. Van Tendeloo, S. Mu, A universal synthesis strategy for single atom dispersed cobalt/metal clusters heterostructure boosting hydrogen evolution catalysis at all pH values, Nano Energy 59 (2019) 472-480.

[8] J. Su, Y. Yang, G. Xia, J. Chen, P. Jiang, Q. Chen, Ruthenium-cobalt nanoalloys encapsulated in nitrogen-doped graphene as active electrocatalysts for producing hydrogen in alkaline media, Nat. Commun. 8 (2017) 14969.

[9] L. Wang, L. Ren, X. Wang, X. Feng, J. Zhou, B. Wang, Multivariate MOF-templated pomegranate-like Ni/C as efficient bifunctional electrocatalyst for hydrogen evolution and urea

oxidation, ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces 10 (2018) 4750-4756.

[10] S.-Q. Liu, H.-R. Wen, G. Ying, Y.-W. Zhu, X.-Z. Fu, R. Sun, C.-P. Wong, Amorphous Ni(OH)₂ encounter with crystalline CuS in hollow spheres: A mesoporous nano-shelled heterostructure for hydrogen evolution electrocatalysis, Nano Energy 44 (2018) 7-14.

[11] M. Wang, M. Li, Y. Zhao, N. Shi, H. Zhang, Y. Zhao, Y. Zhang, H. Zhang, W. Wang, K. Sun, Y. Pan, S. Liu, H. Zhu, W. Guo, Y. Li, Y. Liu, C. Liu, Construction of N-doped carbon frames anchored with Co single atoms and Co nanoparticles as robust electrocatalyst for hydrogen evolution in the entire pH range, J. Energy Chem. 67 (2022) 147-156.