

Supplementary Information

Single-Iron, Cobalt, Nickel and Copper-Atom Catalysts for Selective Reduction of Oxygen to H₂O₂

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Chemicals

Anhydrous ethanol was purchased from the Nanjing Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd. (Nanjing, China). Isopropyl alcohol was purchased from Tianjin Fuyu Fine Chemical Co., Ltd. Hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid and hydrogen peroxide 30% were provided by Guangdong chemical factory. Sodium dodecyl benzene sulfonate (SDBS, $C_{18}H_{29}NaO_3S$) was purchased from the Shanghai Lingfeng Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd. Nickel nitrate was purchased from the Tianjin Damao Chemical Reagent Factory (Tianjin, China). Cupric nitrate trihydrate was purchased from Saen Chemical technology Co., Ltd. Iron nitrate nonahydrate, cobalt nitrate hexahydrate, furfural (99%), cyanamide (50% aqueous solution containing 0.25% methyl formate stabilizer), were purchased from Shanghai Aladdin Biochemical Technology Co., Ltd. Titanic sulfate ($Ti(SO_4)_2$, $\geq 96\%$), potassium hydroxide (99.99% electronic grade) and copper nanoparticles (Cu NPs, 99.9% metals basis) were purchased from Shanghai Macklin Biochemical Co., Ltd. Nitrogen and oxygen (purity $> 99.99\%$) were purchased from the Guangzhou Yuejia Gas Co., Ltd. (Guangzhou, China). Nafion solution (20%) was purchased from the Chemours Company FC, LLC. The 18.25 M Ω /cm deionized water was produced by an ultra-pure water system (WP-UP-YJ-40, Sichuan, China).

Characterization

A transmission electron microscope (TEM, FEI Tecnai F30) was used to observe the morphology of the samples. High-angle annular dark field scanning transmission

electron microscopy (HAADF-STEM) was conducted on an alternative microscope (ARM200F JEOL). The metal content in the catalyst was quantified by inductively coupled plasma - optical emission spectrometer (ICP-OES). The crystal structures of the catalysts were revealed by X-ray diffraction (XRD, D8 advance, polycrystalline powder diffraction). Raman spectra was recorded on Renishaw InVia Raman spectrometer with the laser source 532 nm. **The Brunauer–Emmett–Teller (BET) surface area and pore size distribution of samples were determined by TriStar II 3020.**

Table S1 Metal contents in the samples as determined by ICP-AES

Sample	Metal content by ICP (wt. %)
Fe/NCNSs	0.31
Co/NCNSs	0.24
Ni/NCNSs	0.26
Cu/NCNSs	0.34

Table S2 Onset potentials of the catalysts in 0.1 M KOH, HClO₄ and PBS solutions

Samples	Disk electrode			Ring electrode		
	KOH	HClO ₄	PBS	KOH	HClO ₄	PBS
Fe/NCNSs	0.72	0.70	0.70	0.69	0.77	0.73
Co/NCNSs	0.74	0.76	0.75	0.68	0.71	0.77
Ni/NCNSs	0.77	0.69	0.75	0.77	0.68	0.75
Cu/NCNSs	0.75	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.82	0.77
NCNSs	0.74	0.75	0.72	0.70	0.80	0.72
CuNPs	0.65	0.29	0.31	0.66	0.025	0.12
GCE	0.63	0.69	0.48	0.72	0.50	0.55

Table S3 Summary of the performance of the electrocatalysts for H₂O₂ production in alkaline media

Catalyst	Catalyst loading ($\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$)	J_L or $J_{0.1\text{V}}$ (Disk, mA cm^{-2})	J_L or $J_{0.1\text{V}}$ (Ring, mA cm^{-2})	H ₂ O ₂ %	Potential	Productivity ($\text{mol}/\text{g}/\text{L}/\text{h}$)	Stability test	Reference
Cu/NCNSs	100	2.5 (0.53 mA)	2.15 (0.45 mA)	96 ~ 100%	0.1 ~ 0.6 V	5.1 (204 mmol/g/h)	20 h	This work
Mo ₂ CT _x :Fe	250	~1.7	~1.4	67 ~ 100%	0.2 ~ 0.7 V	NA	4 h	J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2021, 143, 5771–5778 ¹
CuO _x /G-30	NA	~1.6	NA	76 ~ 84%	0.4 ~ 0.7 V	NA	~8.3 h	Chem. Commun., 2021, 57, 4118 ²
MCHS-9:1	100	3.0	0.8	56%	0.4 ~ 0.8 V	NA	2500 cycles	ACS Catal. 2020, 10, 7434–7442 ³
Co-N-C	100	3.8	0.13 mA	60 ~ 70%	0.1 ~ 0.5 V	193.1 mmol/g/h	3 h	J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2019, 141, 12372–12381 ⁴
FA-15TRZ	232	NA	NA	NA		0.5 mmol/g/h	NA	Catal. Today 2020, 356, 132–140 ⁵
Ni MOF NSs-6	NA	0.65 mA	0.175 mA	~ 98%	0.2 ~ 0.6 V	80 mmol/g/h	20000 cycles	Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2021, 60, 11190–11195 ⁶
Mo ₁ /OSG-H	100	2.78	0.2 mA	95%	0.35 ~ 0.75 V	NA	8 h	Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2020, 59, 9171–9176 ⁷
Co-POC-O	100	~ 0.57 mA	~ 0.35 mA	~ 85.6%	0.5 ~ 0.8 V	813 mg L ⁻¹ h ⁻¹	10 h	Adv. Mater. 2019, 31, 1808173 ⁸
Fe-N-C	100	4	NA	32%	0.1 ~ 0.8 V	NA	1000 cycles	Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2017, 56, 8809 – 8812 ⁹
S-MC-1	255	2.373	0.065 mA	70 ~ 80%	-0.3 ~ 0.4 V	NA	NA	Carbon 2015, 95, 949-963 ¹⁰
MesoC	510	4	2	60 ~ 80%	0.2 ~ 0.7 V	NA	11000 cycles	ACS Sustainable Chem. Eng. 2018, 6, 311–317 ¹¹
Printex B	810	0.3 mA	0.010 mA	82 ~ 92%	0.1 ~ 1.0 V	NA	NA	Electrocatalysis 2016, 7, 60–69 ¹²

O-CNTs	200	0.54 mA	0.41 mA	~ 90%	0.4 ~ 0.7 V	NA	NA	Nat. Catal. 2018, 1, 156–162 ¹³
CNTs	200	0.35 mA	0.14 mA	~ 60%	0.4 ~ 0.7 V	NA	NA	Nat. Catal. 2018, 1, 156–162 ¹³
BN-C1	510	3.5	2.1	60 ~ 90%	0.2 ~ 0.8 V	NA	50 h	J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2018, 140, 7851–7859 ¹⁴
Urea-C ₃ N ₄	NA	0.4 mA	0.1 mA	88 ~ 90 %	0.1 ~ 0.6 V	56.3	~ 24 h	Adv. Mater. Interfaces 2022, 9, 2201325 ¹⁵
6h-Pd/TiC	100	~ 2.3	~ 1.7	82 ~ 90%	0.1 ~ 0.7 V	594 mg L ⁻¹ h ⁻¹	10 h	J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2022, 144, 2255–2263 ¹⁶
In SAs/NSBC	100	0.7 mA	0.208 mA	~ 95%	0.4 ~ 0.7 V	6.49 mol/g/h By PEMFC	12 h	Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2022, 61, e202117347 ¹⁷
COF-366-Co	350	2.5	0.8	< 91%	0.3 V	909 mmol/g/h on GDE	3 h	J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2020, 142, 21861–21871 ¹⁸

Note: J_L is the limited current density. NA, this data is not available.

Table S4 Summary of the performance of the electrocatalysts for H₂O₂ production in acidic media

Catalyst	Catalyst loading($\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$)	Onset potential(V)	J _L or J _{-0.2V} (Disk, mA cm ⁻²)	J _L or J _{-0.2V} (Ring, mA cm ⁻²)	H ₂ O ₂ %	Productivity (mol/g/L/h)	Stability test	electrolyte	Reference
Cu/NCNSs	102	0.76	2.0 (0.39 mA)	0.9 (0.18 mA)	70 ~ 81	3.2	20 h	0.1 M HClO ₄	This work
GO-250	NA	0	NA	0.33	> 62.5	NA	2 h	0.1 M Na ₂ SO ₄ and H ₂ SO ₄ (pH 3)	ChemSusChem 2016, 9, 1194 – 1199 ¹⁹
S-MC	255	~ 0.3	0.45 mA	0.07 mA	> 68	NA	NA	0.5 M H ₂ SO ₄	Carbon 2015, 95, 949e963 ¹⁰
Co-N-C	100	0.83	2.97 (at 0.1 V)	0.18 mA (at 0.1 V)	< 80	90.9 mmol/g/h	6 h	0.5 M H ₂ SO ₄	J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2019, 141, 12372–12381 ⁴
Pt-Hg/C	23	NA	3.0	~ 0.6	65 ~ 90	NA	8000 cycles	0.1 M HClO ₄	Nat. Mater. 2013, 12, 1137-1143 ²⁰
O-CNTs	200	0.28	0.44 mA	0.15 mA	~ 50	NA	NA	0.1 M HClO ₄	Nat. Catal. 2018, 1, 156–162 ¹³
MoTe ₂	10	0.56	2.25	0.13 mA	< 93	NA	~12 h	0.5 M H ₂ SO ₄	National Science Review 2020, 7, 1360–1366 ²¹
Co ₁ -NG(O)	1000	0.7	2.1	0.9	40 ~ 50	NA	NA	0.1 M HClO ₄	Nat. Mater. 2020, 19, 436-442 ²²

Note: NA, this data is not available.

Table S5 Summary of the performance of the electrocatalysts for H₂O₂ production in neutral media

Catalyst	Catalyst loading($\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$)	Onset potential(V)	J_L or $J_{-0.2V}$ (Disk, mA cm^{-2})	J_L or $J_{-0.2V}$ (Ring, mA cm^{-2})	H ₂ O ₂ %	Productivity (mol/g/L/h)	Stability test	electrolyte	Reference
Cu/NCNSs	102	0.76	1.64 (0.32 mA)	0.89 (0.18 mA)	70 ~ 81	2.2 (86.4 mmol/g/h)	20 h	0.1 M PBS	This work
MNC-600	NA	0.71	1.4	0.09 mA	30 ~ 85.4	9.6 mmol/g/h	NA	0.1 M K ₂ HCO ₃	ChemElectroChem 2022, 9, e202101336 ²³
Co-TPP	NA	~ 0.8	1.0	0.1	43 ~ 79	NA	NA	0.1 M PBS	Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2020, 59, 4902–4907 ²⁴
MicroC	510	0.5	3	~ 1.0	40 ~ 80	NA	NA	0.1 M PBS	ACS Sustainable Chem. Eng. 2018, 6, 311–317 ¹¹
Co ₁ -NG(O)	10	~ 0.7	2.6	1.25	60 ~ 70	NA	NA	0.1 M PBS	Nat. Mater. 2020, 19, 436-442 ²²
Mo ₁ /OSG-H	100	~ 0.6	3	0.13	77	NA	NA	pH 8.7	Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2020, 59, 9171–9177
Co-N-C	100	~ 0.6	3.8	0.13	55	89.8	NA	0.1 M K ₂ SO ₄	J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2019, 141, 12372–12381 ⁴
Pd _x -NC	162	~ 0.7	3.3	0.35	> 30	NA	NA	0.1 M PBS	ACS Catal. 2022, 12, 4156–4164 ²⁵

Table S6 J_k values of the samples at different potentials in 0.1 M KOH, HClO₄ and PBS solutions

Samples	KOH					HClO ₄						PBS					
	0.1 V	0.2 V	0.3 V	0.4 V	0.5 V	-0.2 V	-0.1 V	0 V	0.1V	0.2 V	0.3 V	-0.2 V	-0.1 V	0 V	0.1 V	0.2 V	0.3 V
Fe/NCNSs	7.1	4.9	3.1	1.9	1.0	1.08	0.56	0.34	0.24	0.19	0.16	2.47	2.25	1.91	1.30	0.72	0.38
Co/NCNSs	9.4	6.0	3.5	1.9	1.0	2.64	1.74	1.17	0.85	0.66	0.50	-	2.69	2.32	1.76	1.15	0.70
Ni/NCNSs	8.3	6.0	4.3	3.1	2.1	3.03	2.06	1.27	0.80	0.49	0.29	2.90	2.63	2.31	1.83	1.26	0.76
Cu/NCNSs	18.2	11.6	7.1	4.3	2.3	4.09	2.66	1.39	0.75	0.52	0.38	2.87	2.68	2.37	1.82	1.22	0.75
NCNSs	5.0	3.8	2.7	1.6	0.9	2.17	1.40	0.95	0.71	0.53	0.38	2.81	2.57	2.23	1.63	0.98	0.54

Table S7 Selectivity, J_k , w and M values of the catalysts in acidic, neutral and alkaline media at 1600 rpm on RRDE

Catalysts		H ₂ O ₂ selectivity (%)			J _k			n			w (%)	M
		KOH	HClO ₄	PBS	KOH	HClO ₄	PBS	KOH	HClO ₄	PBS		
Fe/NCNSs	0.1 V	83.1	80	76.4	7.1	0.24	1.30	2.34	2.40	2.39	0.31	56.0
	0.2 V	86.6	78.9	78.8	4.9	0.19	0.72	2.27	2.42	2.30		
	0.3 V	90.2	76.6	80.3	3.1	0.16	0.38	2.19	2.47	2.19		
	0.4 V	91.3	75.2	81.9	1.9	-	-	2.17	2.50	2.02		
	0.5 V	92.9	71.6	81.6	1.0	-	-	2.14	2.57	1.86		
Co/NCNSs	0.1 V	88.4	43.7	67.0	9.4	0.85	1.76	2.23	3.12	2.55	0.24	58.9
	0.2 V	90.0	43.6	69.2	6.0	0.66	1.15	2.20	3.12	2.47		
	0.3 V	91.3	43.8	69.9	3.5	0.50	0.70	2.17	3.12	2.40		
	0.4 V	91.4	44.8	67.5	1.9	-	-	2.17	3.10	2.35		
	0.5 V	91.4	46.1	65.9	1.0	-	-	2.17	3.08	2.26		
Ni/NCNSs	0.1 V	80.1	42.6	66.9	8.3	0.80	1.83	2.40	3.14	2.59	0.26	58.7
	0.2 V	85.8	48.7	68.2	6.0	0.49	1.26	2.28	3.03	2.54		
	0.3 V	88.3	56.5	70.2	4.3	0.29	0.76	2.23	2.87	2.47		
	0.4 V	88.7	61.3	76.5	3.1	-	-	2.23	2.77	2.25		
	0.5 V	91.4	55.8	82.0	2.1	-	-	2.17	2.88	1.92		
Cu/NCNSs	0.1 V	95.6	80.9	75.8	18.2	0.75	1.82	2.09	2.38	2.48	0.34	63.5
	0.2 V	97.7	78.5	76.5	11.6	0.52	1.22	2.05	2.43	2.47		
	0.3 V	98.6	76.7	77.7	7.1	0.38	0.75	2.03	2.47	2.45		
	0.4 V	98.7	75.5	78.2	4.3	-	-	2.03	2.49	2.44		
	0.5 V	99.7	67.2	82.6	2.3	-	-	2.00	2.65	2.36		

Table S8 TOF values of the samples in 0.1 M KOH, HClO₄ and PBS solutions

Samples	KOH					HClO ₄			PBS		
	0.1 V	0.2 V	0.3 V	0.4 V	0.5 V	0.1 V	0.2 V	0.3 V	0.1 V	0.2 V	0.3 V
Fe/NCNSs	4.6	3.4	2.3	1.5	0.8	0.15	0.11	0.09	0.76	0.45	0.25
Co/NCNSs	9.3	6.1	3.7	2.0	1.0	0.29	0.23	0.17	1.15	0.80	0.51
Ni/NCNSs	6.3	5.2	3.9	2.8	2.0	0.25	0.18	0.13	1.08	0.77	0.49
Cu/NCNSs	15.8	10.5	6.5	4.0	2.2	0.48	0.32	0.22	1.06	0.72	0.45

Table S9 H₂O₂ yield rates at 0, 0.2 and 0.3 V in 0.1 M KOH solutions

Potentials	Production in KOH (mol g ⁻¹ L ⁻¹ h ⁻¹)	
	6 h	average
0 V	21.5	3.5
0.2 V	27.2	4.5
0.3 V	24.6	4.1

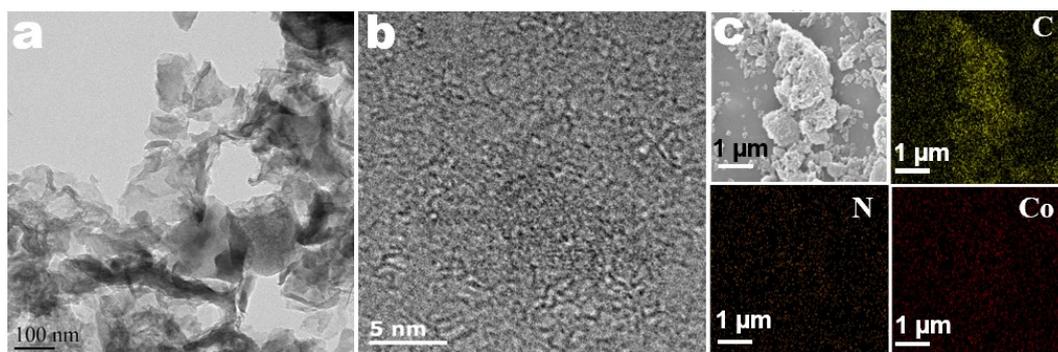


Figure S1 Structural characterization of Co single atoms catalysts. TEM image (a), high-resolution TEM image (b), SEM image and the corresponding elemental mapping images of carbon, nitrogen and cobalt (c) of the Co/NCNSs.

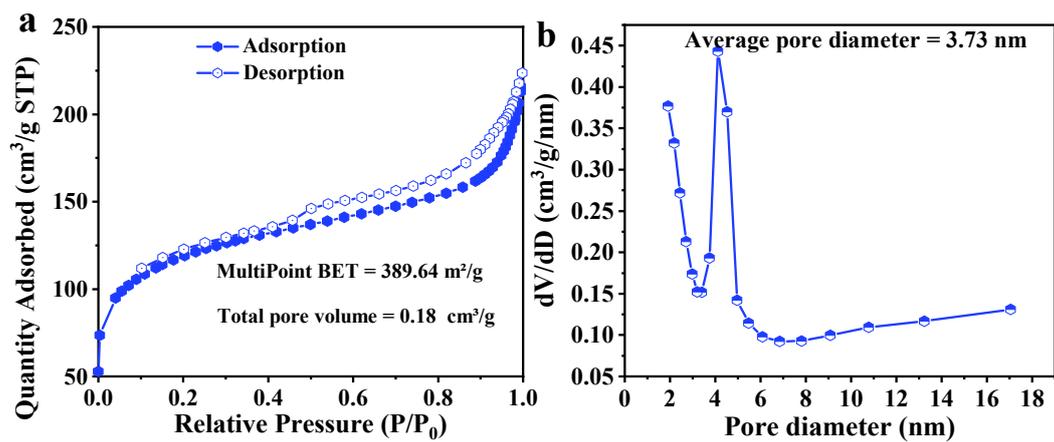


Figure S2 N_2 adsorption-desorption isotherm of the Fe/NCNSs (a) and corresponding pore size distribution (b).

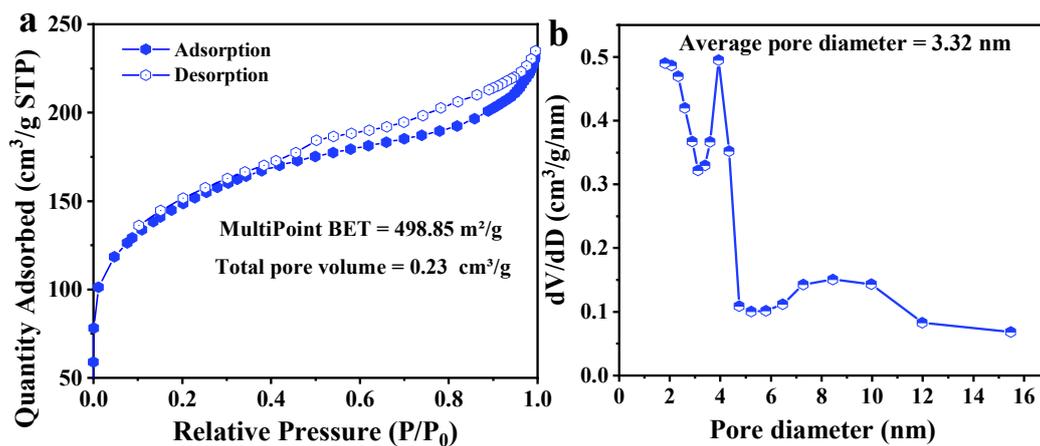


Figure S3 N_2 adsorption-desorption isotherm of the Co/NCNSs (a) and corresponding pore size distribution (b).

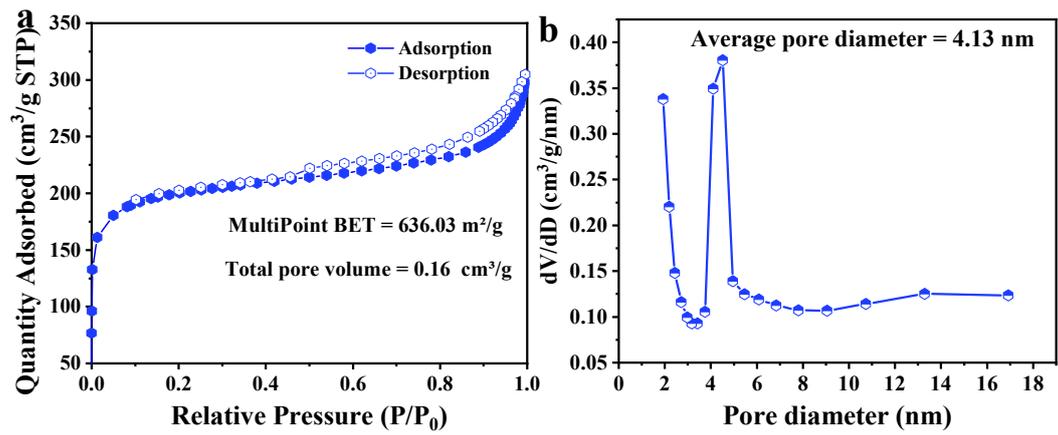


Figure S4 N₂ adsorption-desorption isotherm of the Ni/NCNSs (a) and corresponding pore size distribution (b).

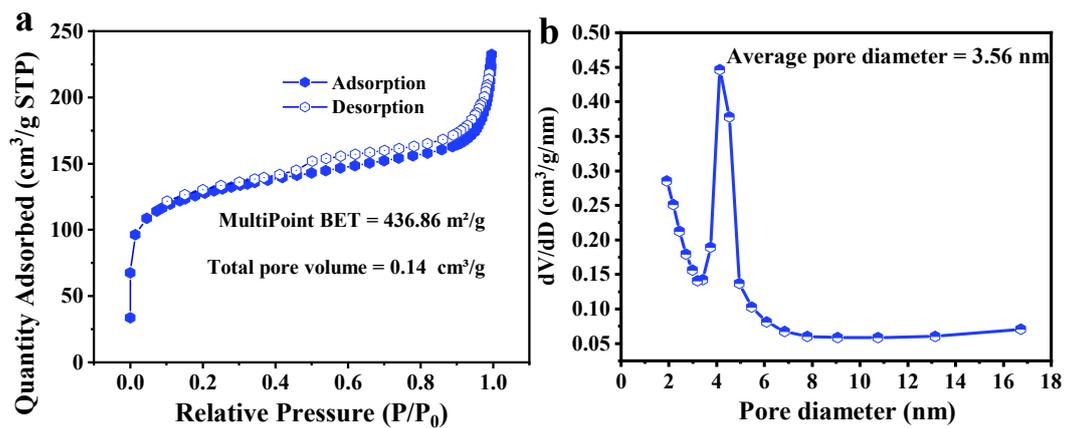


Figure S5 N_2 adsorption-desorption isotherm of the Cu/NCNSs (a) and corresponding pore size distribution (b).

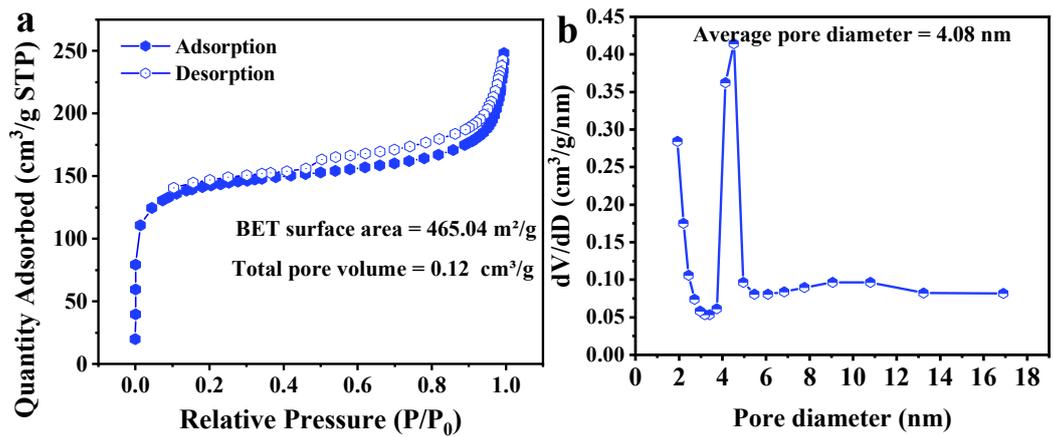


Figure S6 N₂ adsorption-desorption isotherm of the NCNSs (a) and corresponding pore size distribution (b).

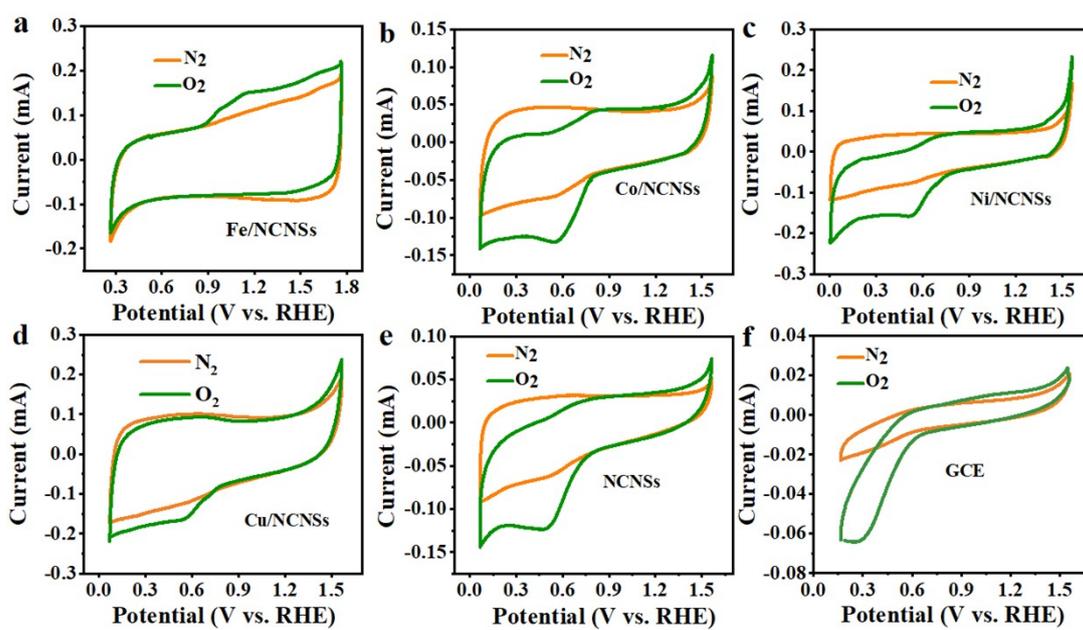


Figure S7 Cyclic voltammetry curves of (a) Fe/NCNSs, (b) Co/NCNSs, (c) Ni/NCNSs, (d)

Cu/NCNSs, (e) NCNSs and (f) blank GCE acquired in O₂-saturated and N₂-saturated 0.1 M KOH

at a scan rate of 50 mV s⁻¹.

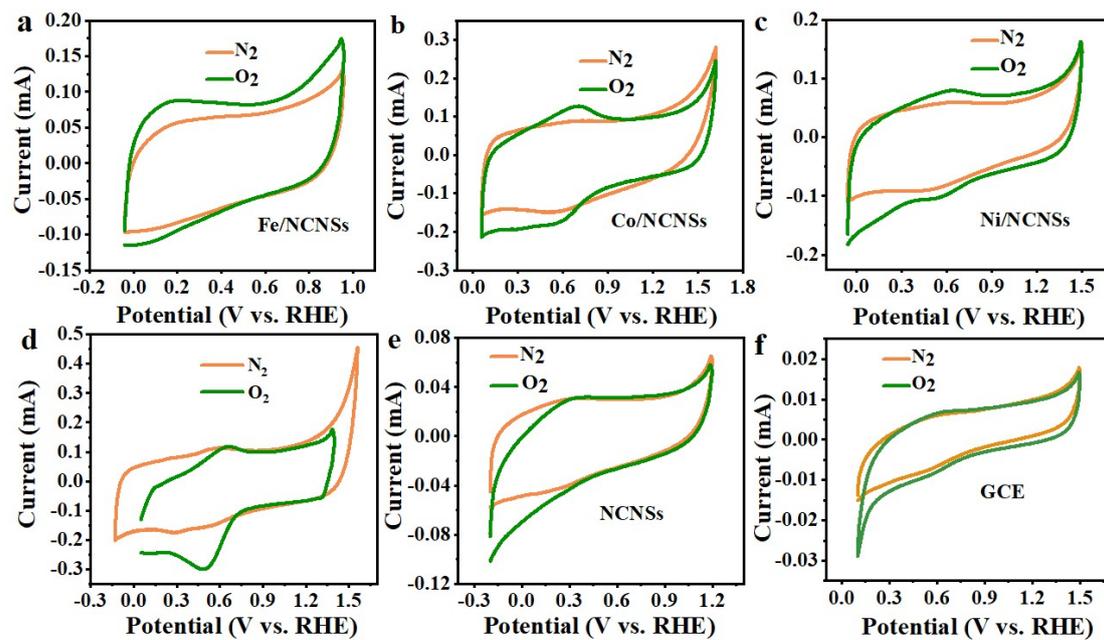


Figure S8 Cyclic voltammetry curves of (a) Fe/NCNSs, (b) Co/NCNSs, (c) Ni/NCNSs, (d) Cu/NCNSs, (e) NCNSs and (f) blank GCE acquired in O_2 -saturated and N_2 -saturated 0.1 M $HClO_4$ at a scan rate of 50 $mV s^{-1}$.

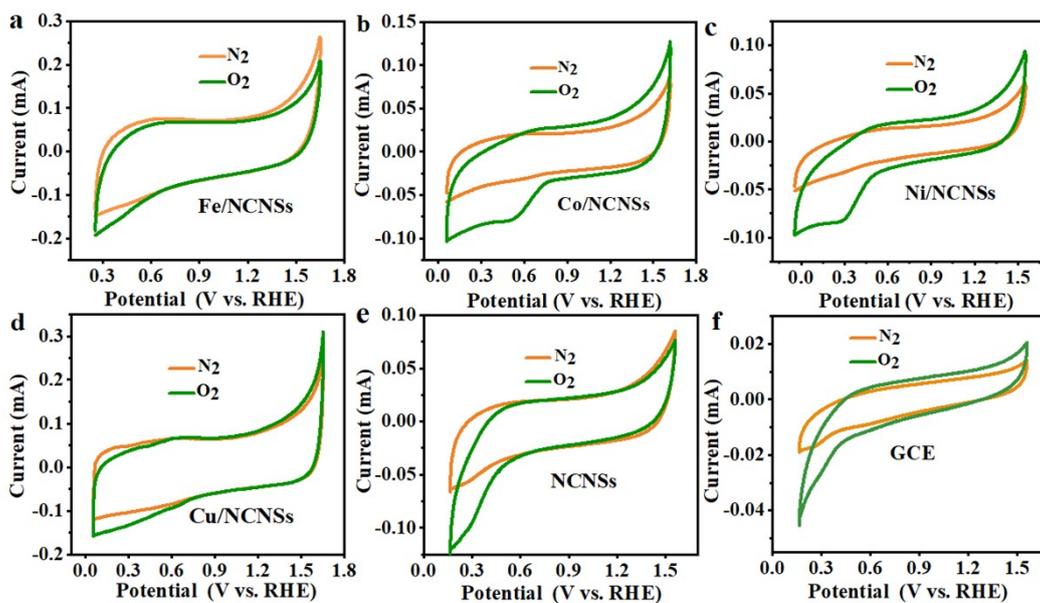


Figure S9 Cyclic voltammetry curves of (a) Fe/NCNSs, (b) Co/NCNSs, (c) Ni/NCNSs, (d) Cu/NCNSs, (e) NCNSs and (f) blank GCE acquired in O₂-saturated and N₂-saturated 0.1 M PBS at a scan rate of 50 mV s⁻¹.

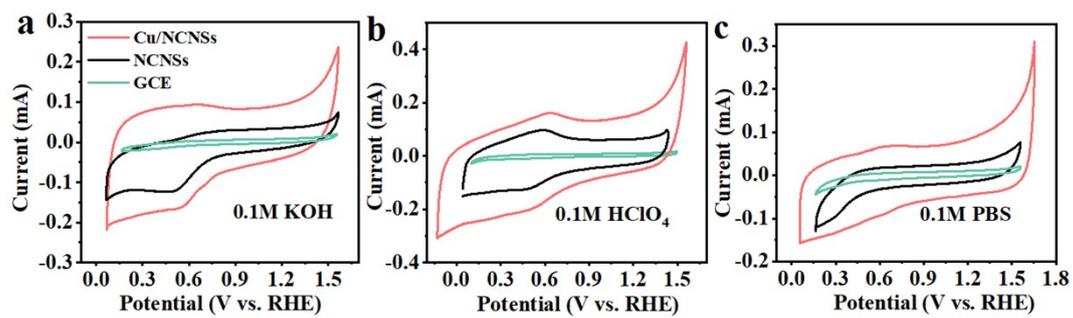


Figure S10 CV curves of Cu/NCNSs, NCNSs and GCE recorded in 0.1 M KOH (a), HClO₄ (b) and PBS solutions (c).

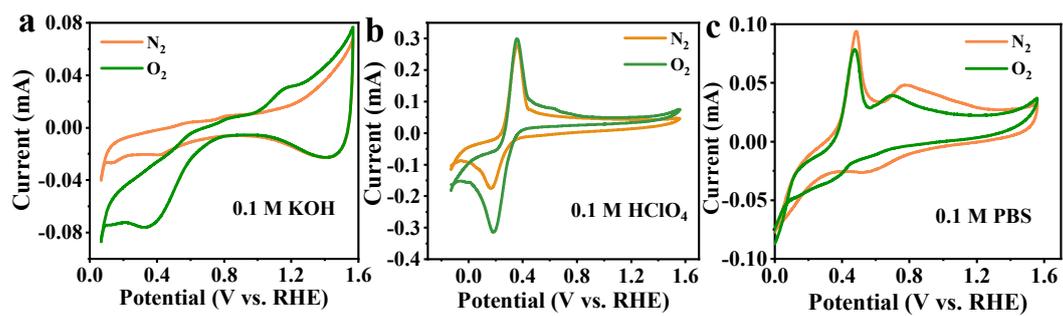


Figure S11 CV curves of Cu NPs recorded in O₂/N₂-saturated 0.1 M KOH (a), 0.1 M HClO₄ (b) and 0.1 M PBS (c) solutions.

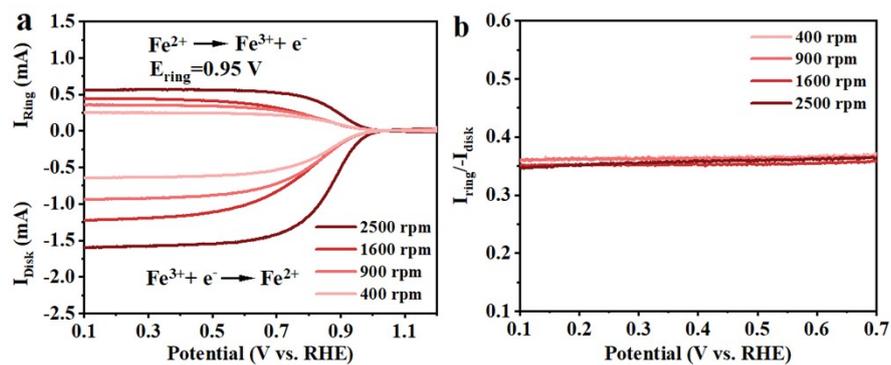


Figure S12 Calibration of the RRDE collection efficiency. (a) potentiodynamic curves recorded on the glassy carbon disk electrode and potentiostatic curves recorded on the platinum ring electrode in 1.0 M KCl + 10 mM $\text{K}_3[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]$ at rotation rates between 400 and 2500 rpm. (b) collection efficiency of the RRDE determined by the redox of $\text{K}_3[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]$.

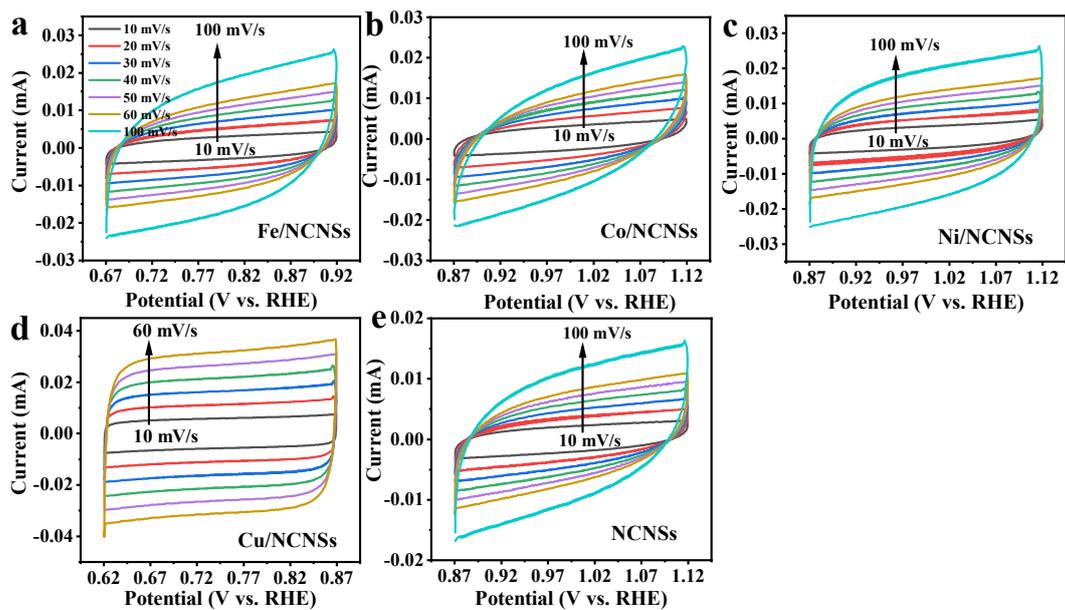


Figure S13 Cyclic voltammety curves of the Fe/NCNSs (a), Co/NCNSs (b), Ni/NCNSs (c), Cu/NCNSs (d) and NCNSs (e) recorded with different scan rates in 0.1 M KOH solutions.

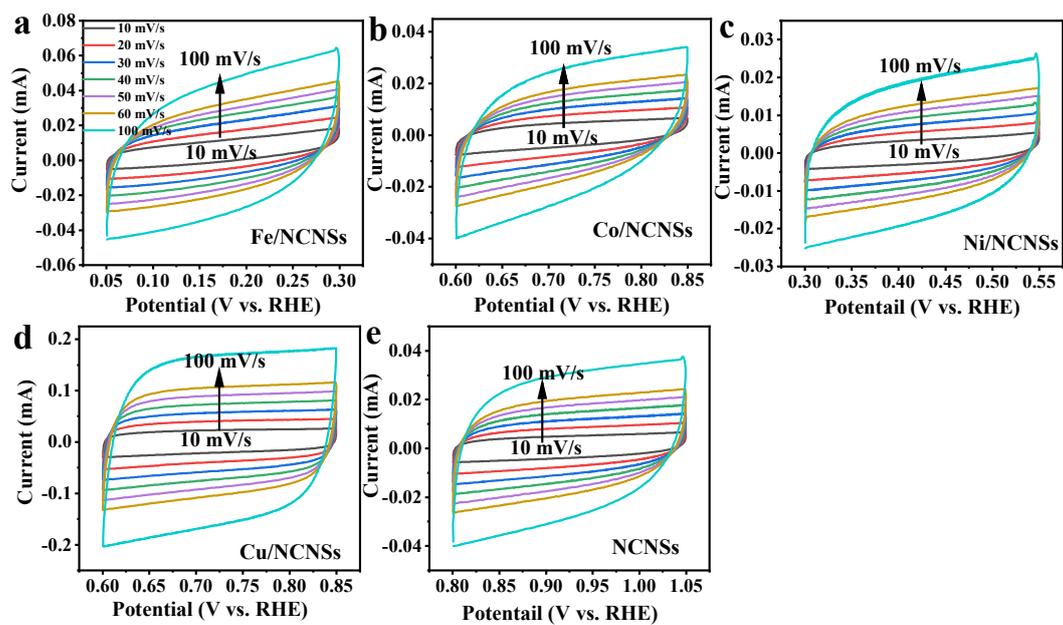


Figure S14 Cyclic voltammetry curves of Fe/NCNSs (a), Co/NCNSs (b), Ni/NCNSs (c), Cu/NCNSs (d) and NCNSs (e) recorded with different scan rates in 0.1 M HClO₄ solutions.

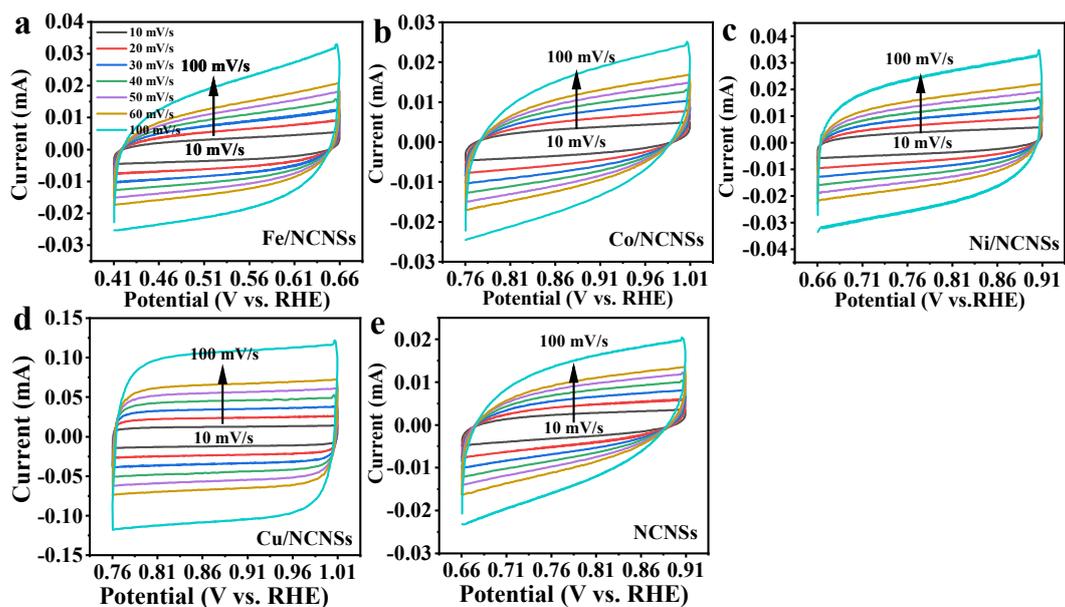


Figure S15 Cyclic voltammetry curves of Fe/NCNSs (a), Co/NCNSs (b), Ni/NCNSs (c), Cu/NCNSs (d) and NCNSs (e) recorded with different scan rates in 0.1 M PBS solutions.

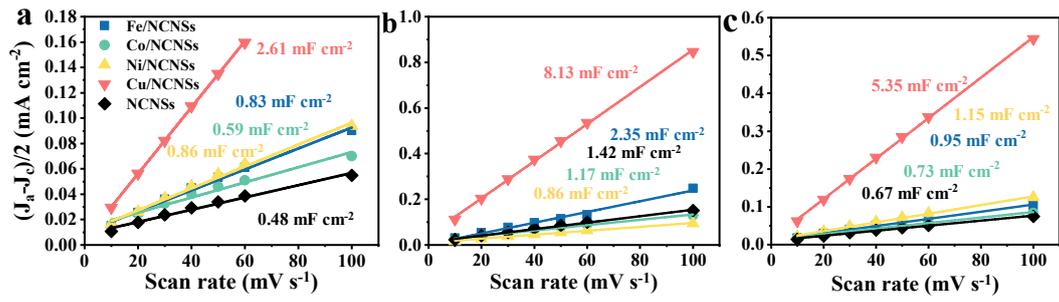


Figure S16 C_{dl} values of the samples in 0.1 M KOH solutions (a), 0.1 M HClO_4 solutions (b) and 0.1 M PBS solutions (c).

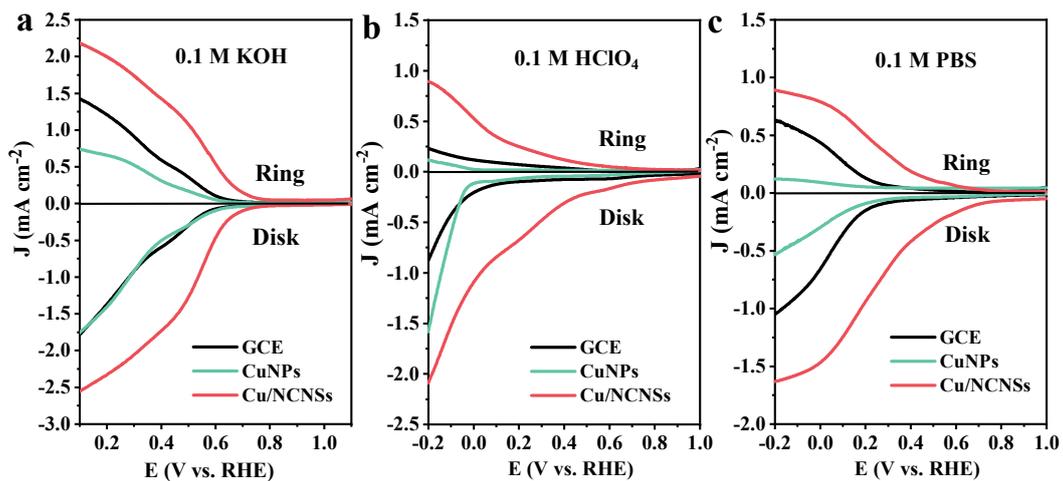


Figure S17 Polarization curves of GCE, Cu NPs and Cu/NCNSs recorded from the RRDE in 0.1 M KOH (a), 0.1 M HClO₄ (b) and 0.1 M PBS (c).

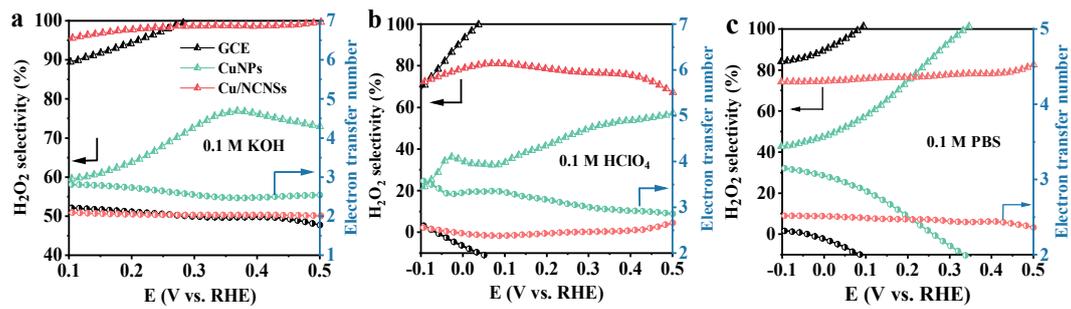


Figure S18 H₂O₂ selectivity and electron transfer number of GCE, Cu NPs and Cu/NCNSs in O₂-saturated 0.1 M KOH (a), 0.1 M HClO₄ (b) and 0.1 M PBS (c).

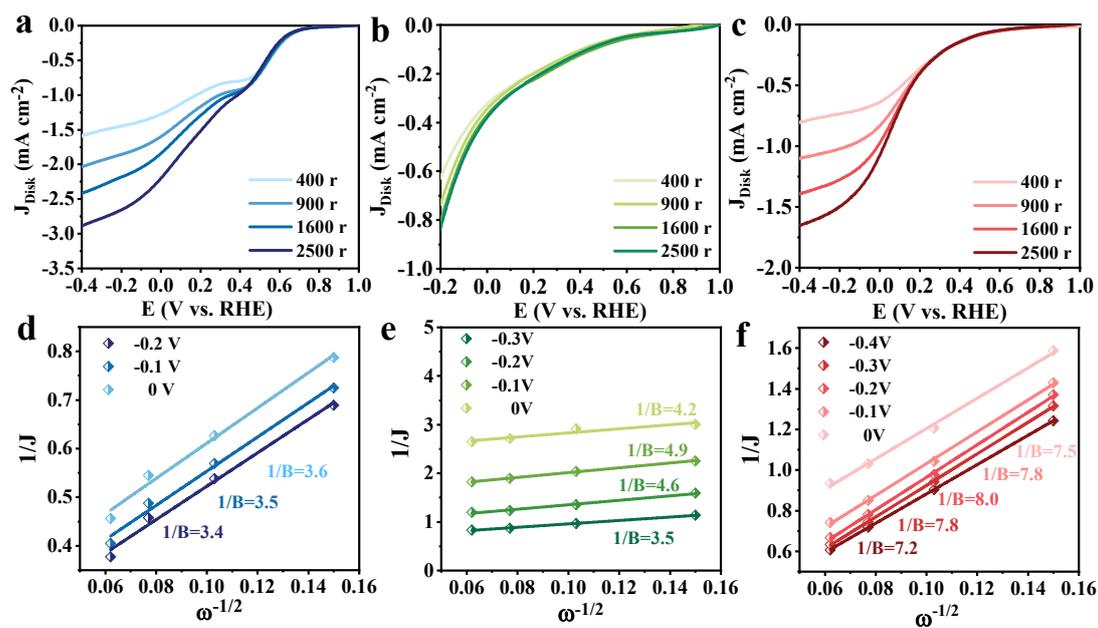


Figure S19 Disk polarization curve of Fe/NCNSs recorded in O₂ saturated 0.1 M KOH (a), 0.1 M HClO₄ solution (b) and 0.1 M PBS (c) at different rotation rates between 400 rpm and 2500 rpm, and corresponding K-L plots at different potentials in 0.1 M KOH (d), 0.1 M HClO₄ (e) and 0.1 M PBS (f).

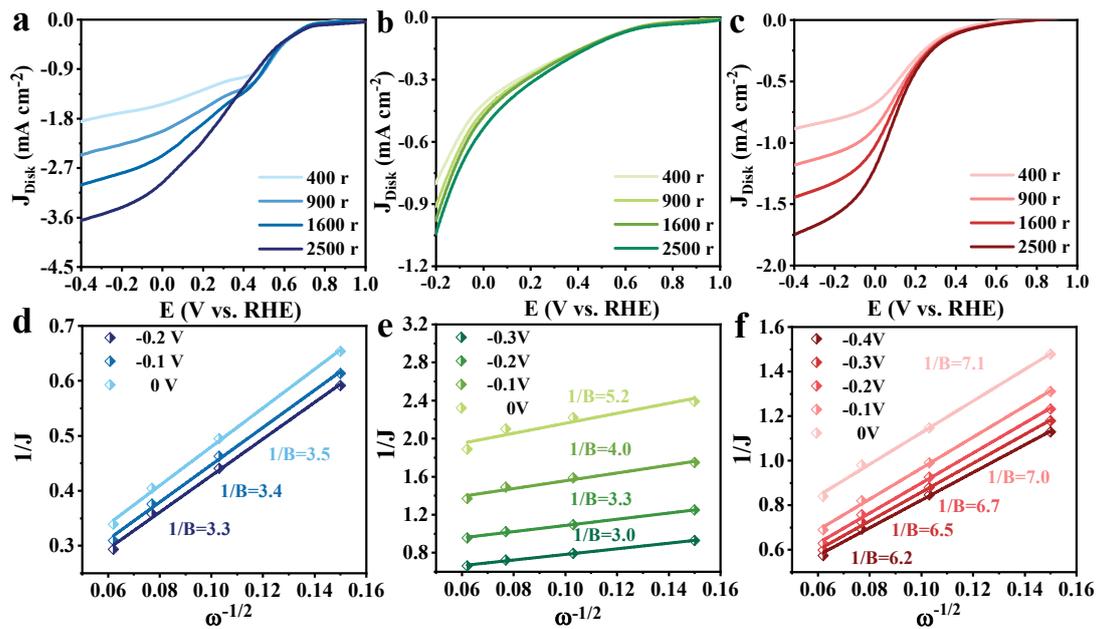


Figure S20 Disk polarization curve of Co/NCNSs recorded in O₂ saturated 0.1 M KOH (a), 0.1 M HClO₄ solution (b) and 0.1 M PBS (c) at different rotation rates between 400 rpm and 2500 rpm, and the corresponding K-L plots at different potentials in 0.1 M KOH (d), 0.1 M HClO₄ (e) and 0.1 M PBS (f).

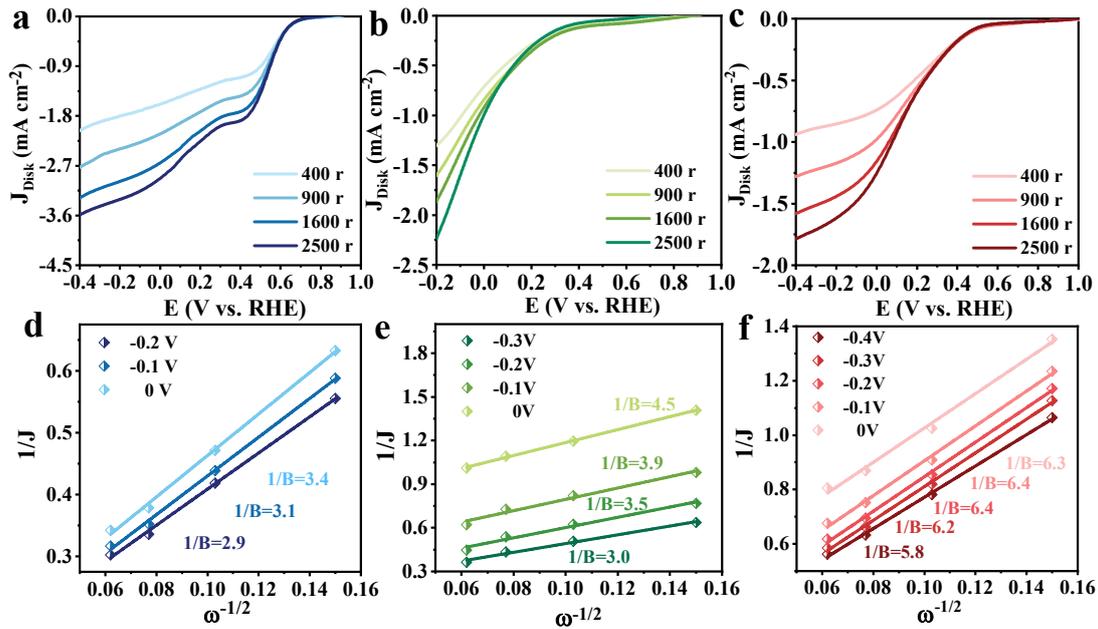


Figure S21 Disk polarization curve of Ni/NCNSs recorded in O₂ saturated 0.1 M KOH (a), 0.1 M HClO₄ solution (b) and 0.1 M PBS (c) at different rotation rates between 400 rpm and 2500 rpm, and corresponding K-L plots at different potentials in 0.1 M KOH (d), 0.1 M HClO₄ (e) and 0.1 M PBS (f).

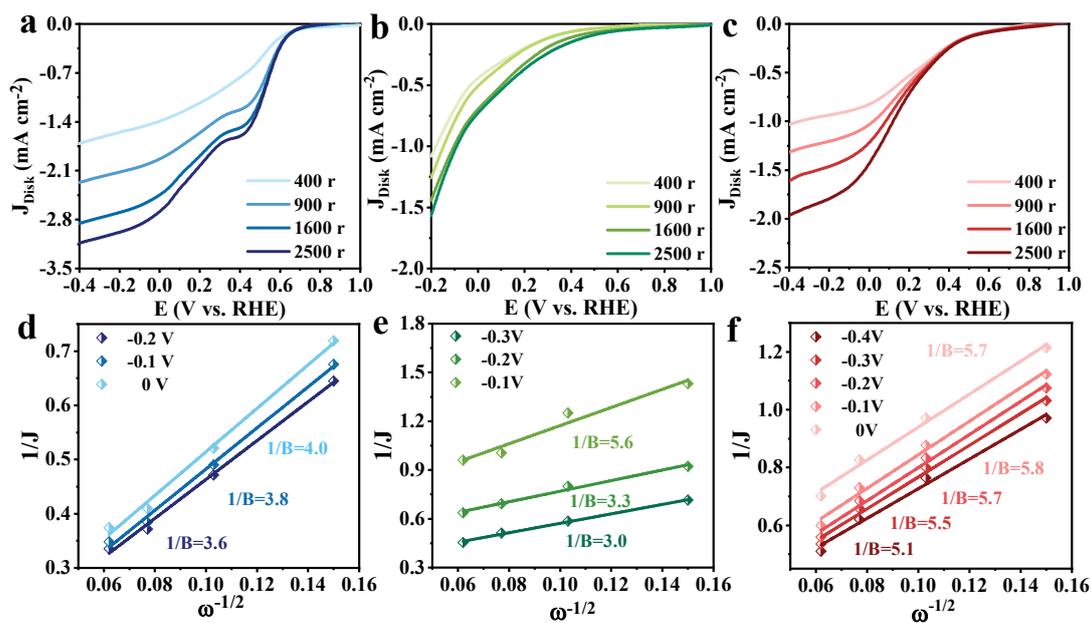


Figure S22 Disk polarization curve of NCNSs recorded in O₂ saturated 0.1 M KOH (a), 0.1 M HClO₄ solution (b) and 0.1 M PBS (c) at different rotation rates between 400 rpm and 2500 rpm, and corresponding K-L plots at different potentials in 0.1 M KOH (d), 0.1 M HClO₄ (e) and 0.1 M PBS (f).

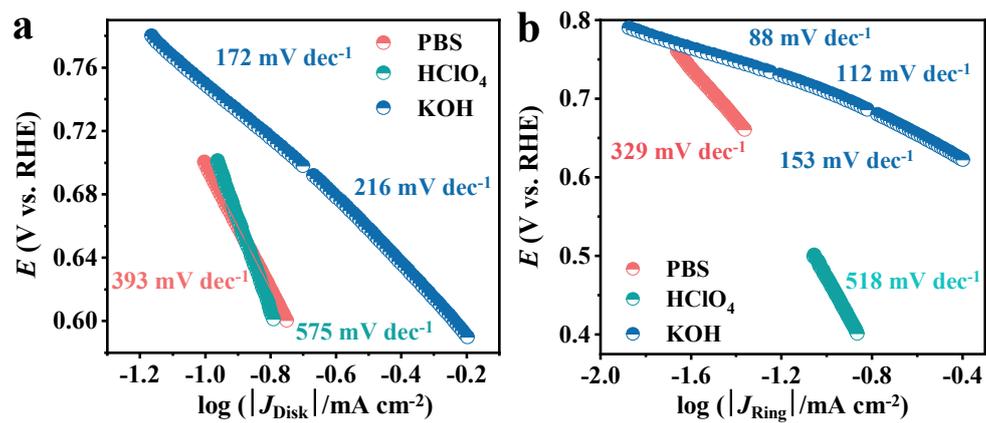


Figure S23 Tafel plots of Cu/NCNSs on the disk (a) and ring (b) electrodes at a rotating rate of 1600 rpm in the O₂-saturated KOH, HClO₄ and PBS media.

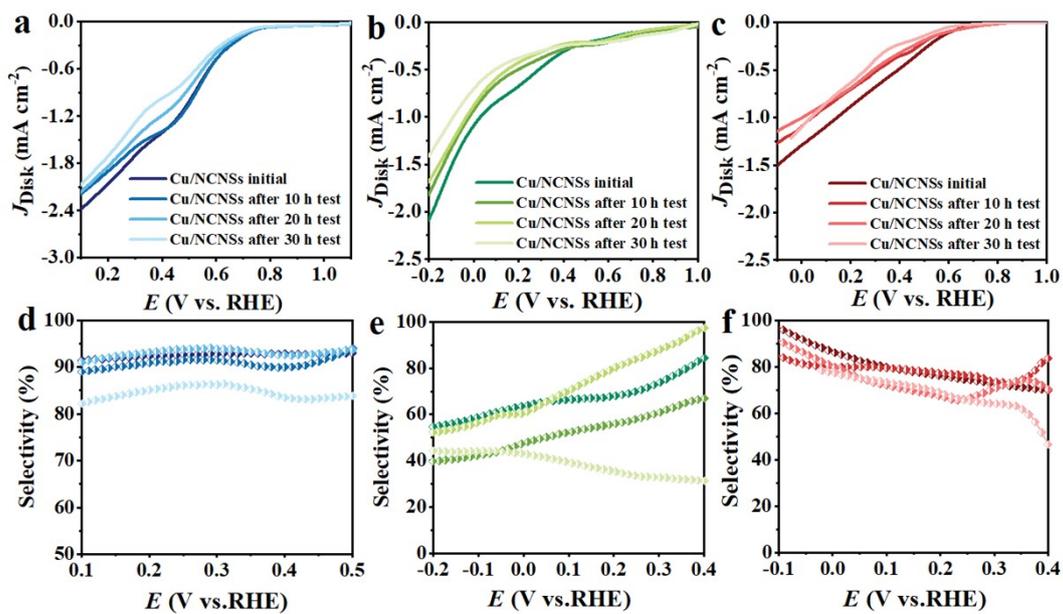


Figure S24 Polarization curve of Cu/NCNSs recorded in 0.1 M KOH (a), 0.1 M HClO₄ (b) and 0.1 M PBS (c) solutions, and the corresponding selectivity in 0.1 M KOH (d), 0.1 M HClO₄ (e) and 0.1 M PBS (f).

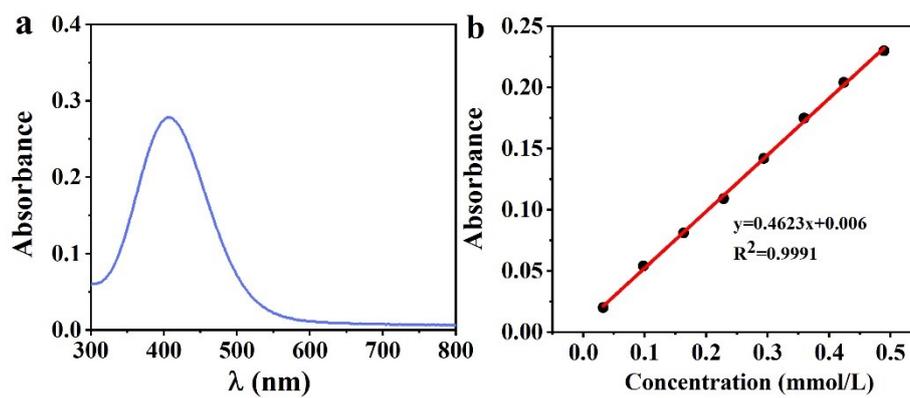


Figure S25 A typical UV curve of H_2O_2 scanning spectrum (a), and standard curve of H_2O_2 determined by titanium sulfate spectrophotometric method (b).

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