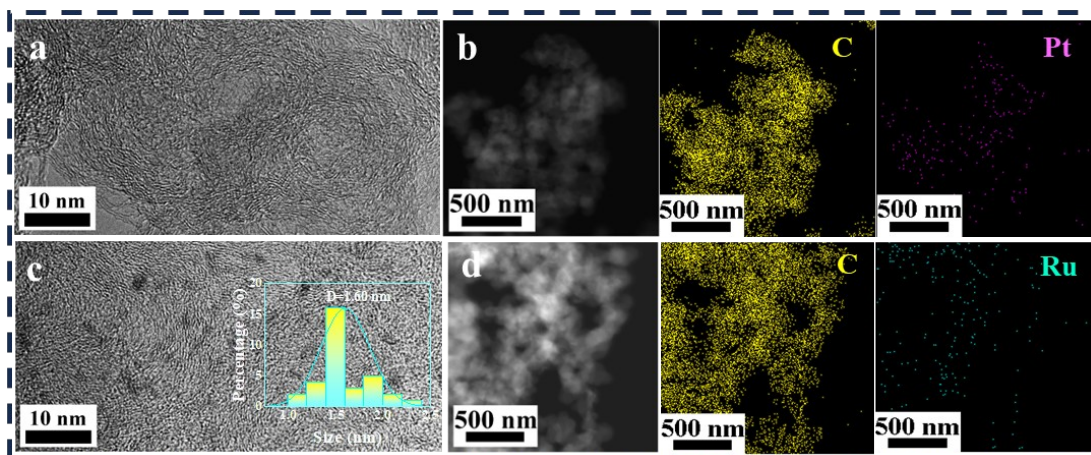


*Supporting Information*

**Rapid synthesis of active Pt single atoms and Ru clusters on carbon  
black via high-efficiency microwave strategy for hydrogen evolution  
reaction in acidic and alkaline media**

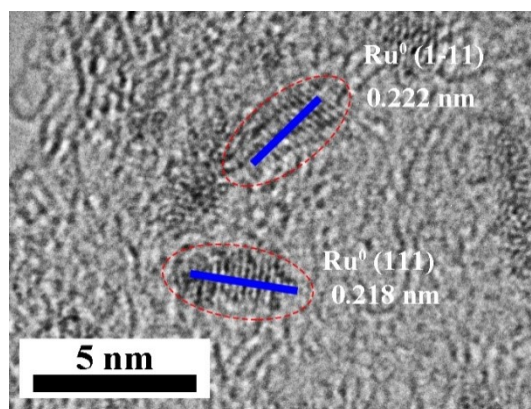
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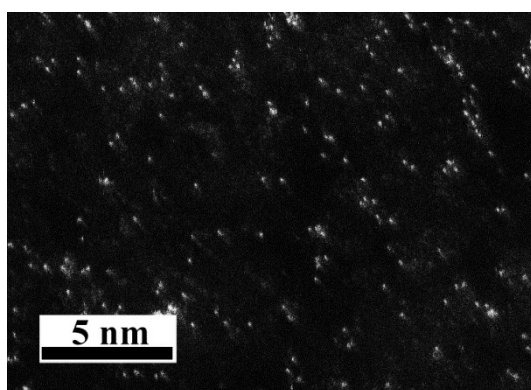


**Fig. S1.** TEM images at a range of magnifications of (a)  $\text{Pt}_1@\text{C}$  and (c)  $\text{Ru}_x@\text{C}$ , respectively.

EDS selected area and corresponding mappings of (c)  $\text{Pt}_1@\text{C}$  (d) and  $\text{Ru}_x@\text{C}$ , respectively.



**Fig. S2.** TEM images at a range of magnifications of  $\text{Ru}_x@\text{C}$ .



**Fig. S3.** HAADF-STEM image of  $\text{Pt}_1@\text{C}$ .

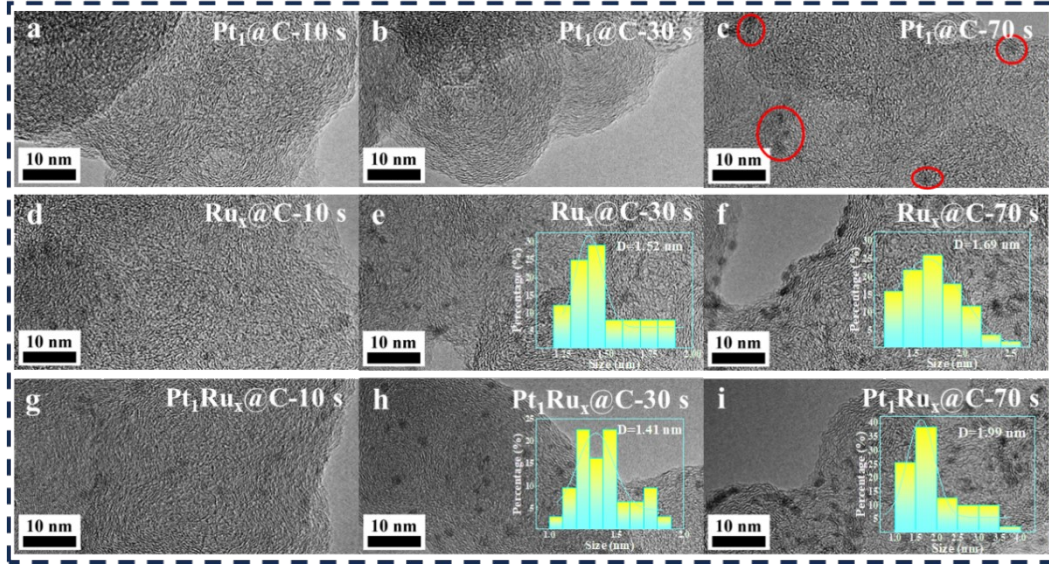


Fig. S4. TEM images of samples under different microwave durations.

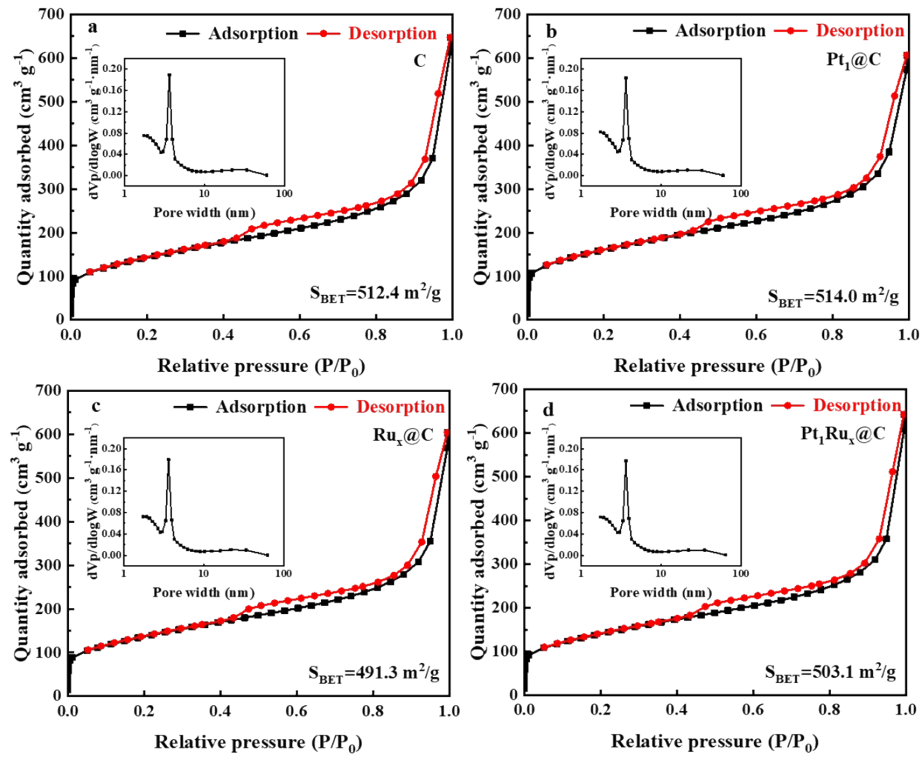


Fig. S5.  $N_2$  adsorption-desorption isotherm curves of samples.

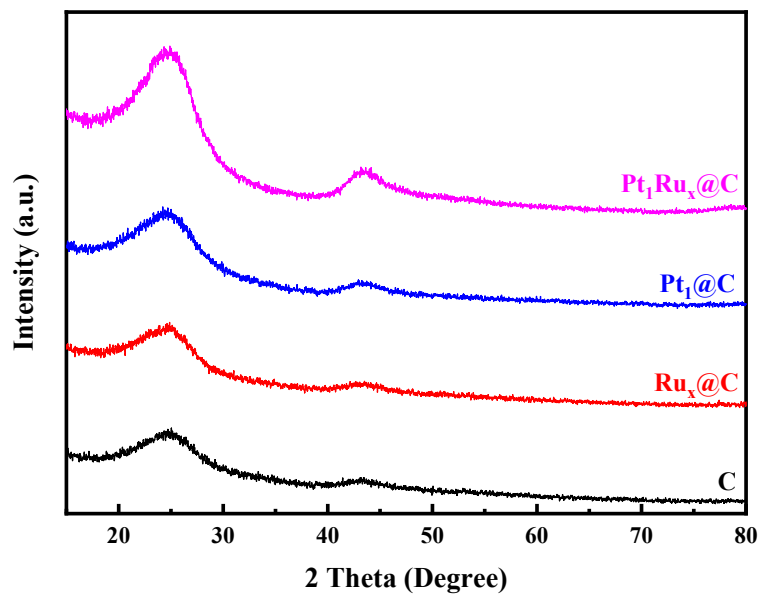


Fig. S6. XRD spectra of Pt<sub>1</sub>Ru<sub>x</sub>@C, Pt<sub>1</sub>@C, Ru<sub>x</sub>@C and C.

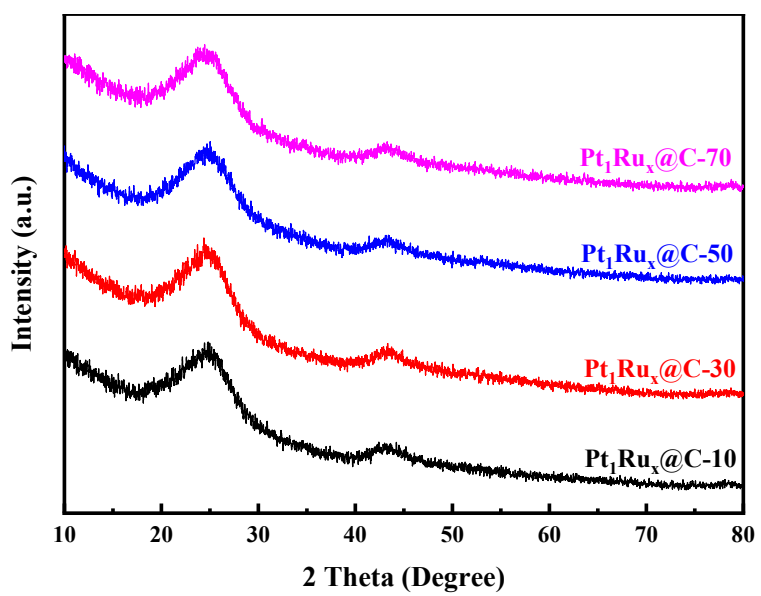


Fig. S7. XRD spectra of Pt<sub>1</sub>Ru<sub>x</sub>@C at different microwave time.

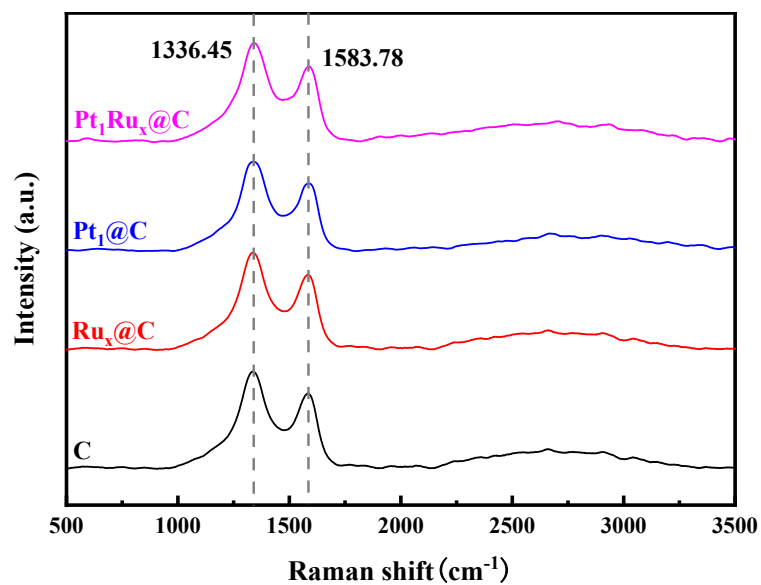


Fig. S8. Raman spectra of Pt<sub>1</sub>Ru<sub>x</sub>@C, Pt<sub>1</sub>@C, Ru<sub>x</sub>@C and C.

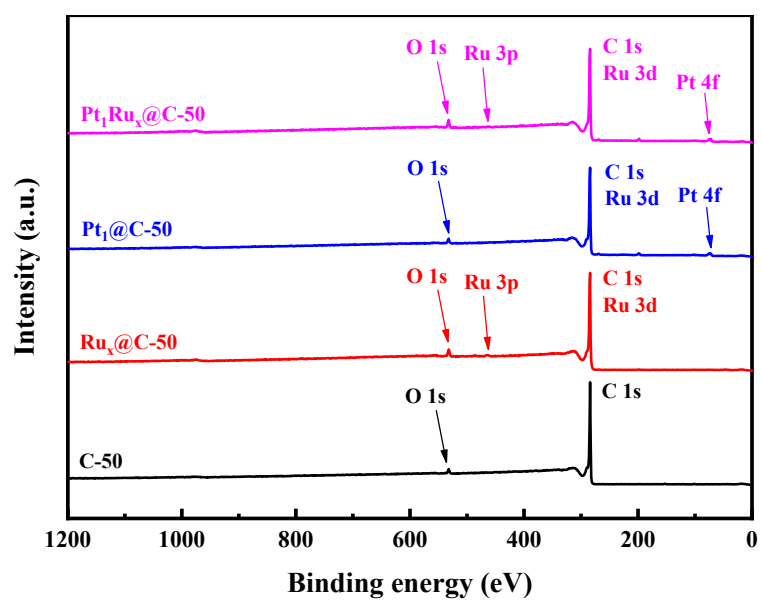


Fig. S9. XPS survey spectra of samples of Pt<sub>1</sub>Ru<sub>x</sub>@C, Pt<sub>1</sub>@C, Ru<sub>x</sub>@C and C.

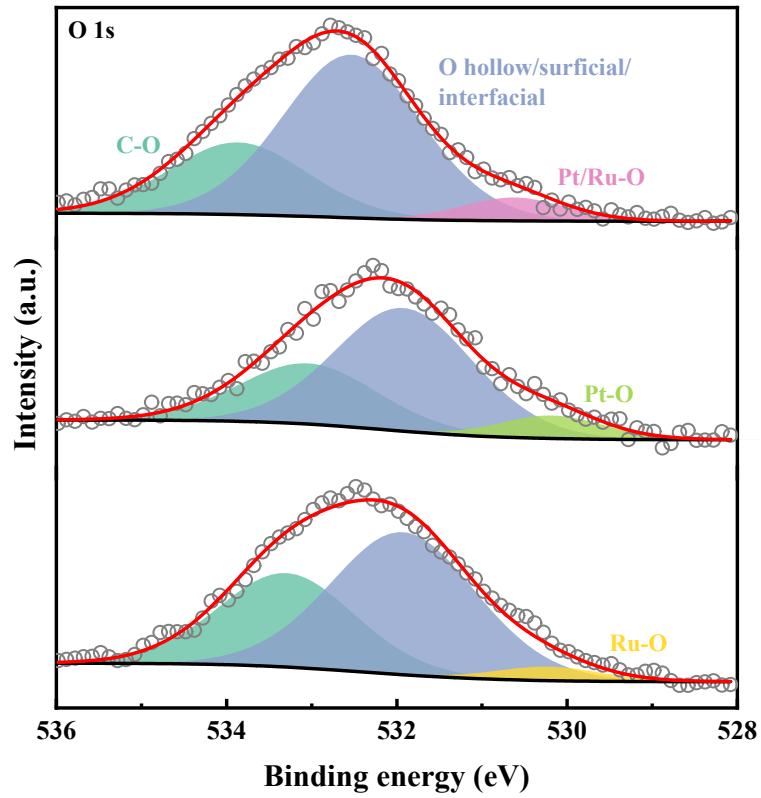


Fig. S10. XPS O 1s spectra of samples.

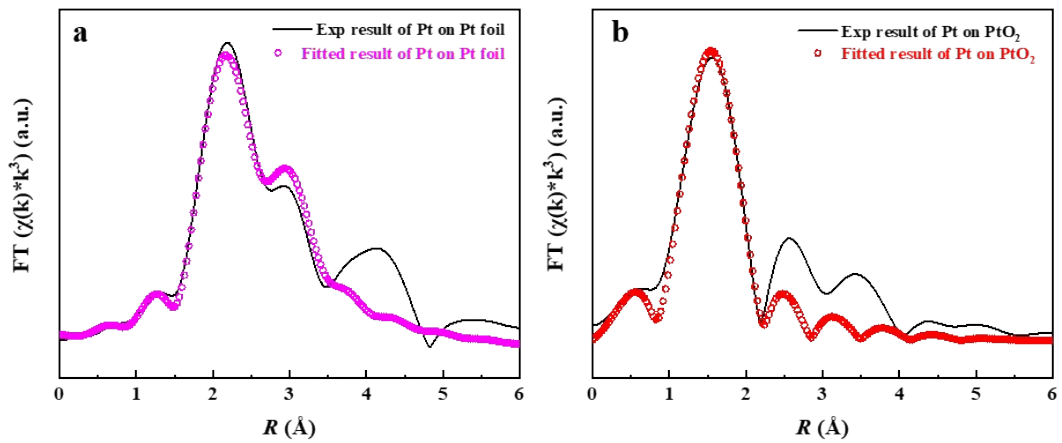
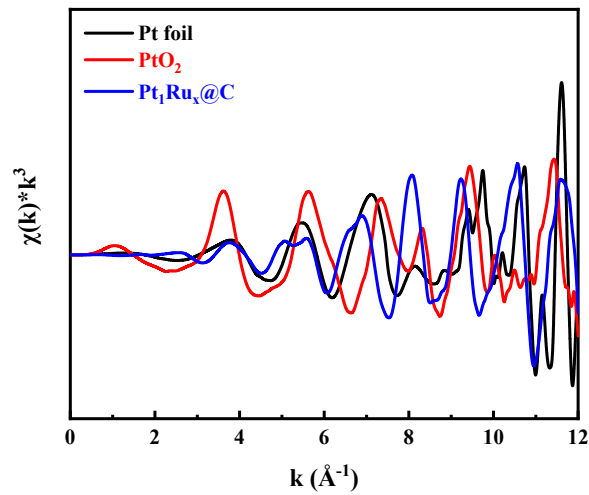
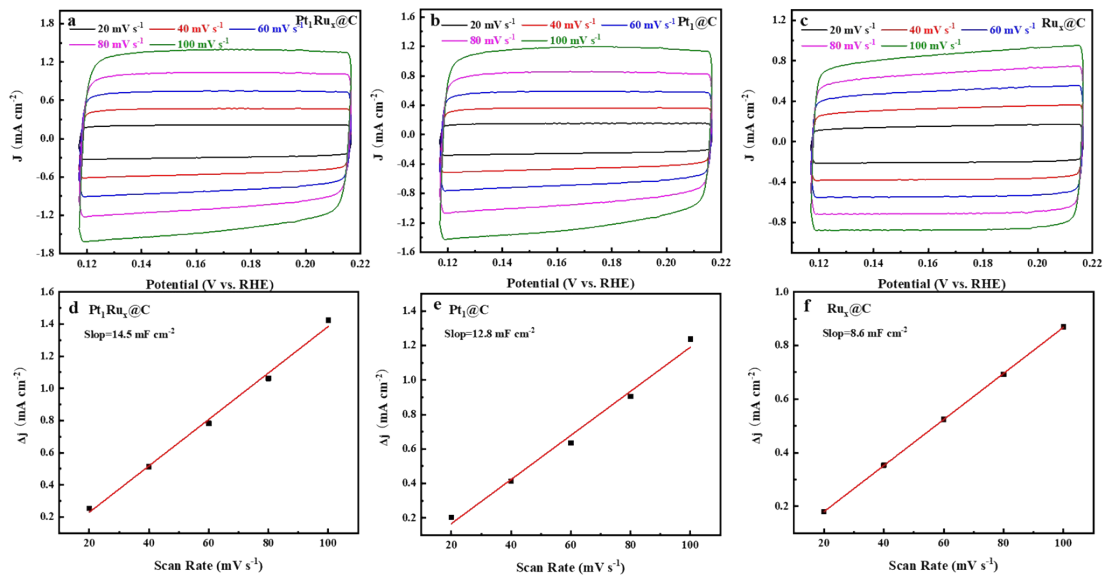


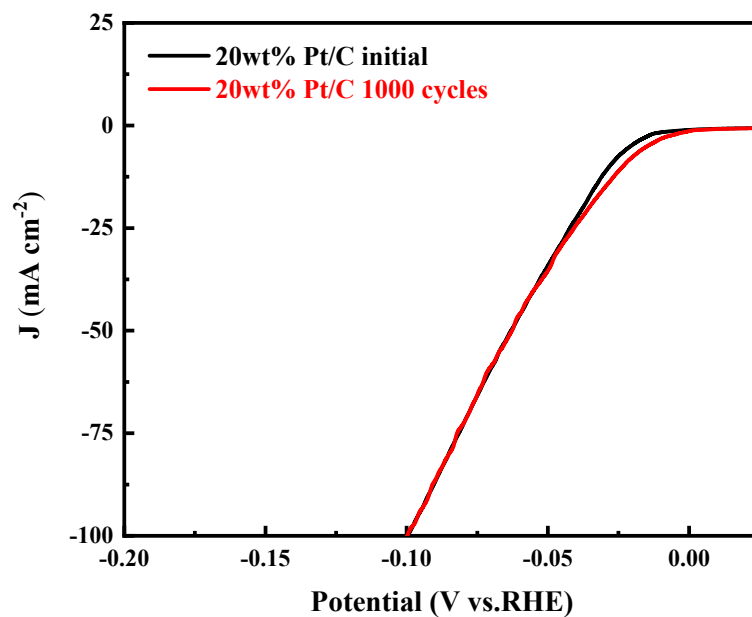
Fig. S11. Fitted spectra of Pt sites in (a) Pt foil and (b) PtO<sub>2</sub>.



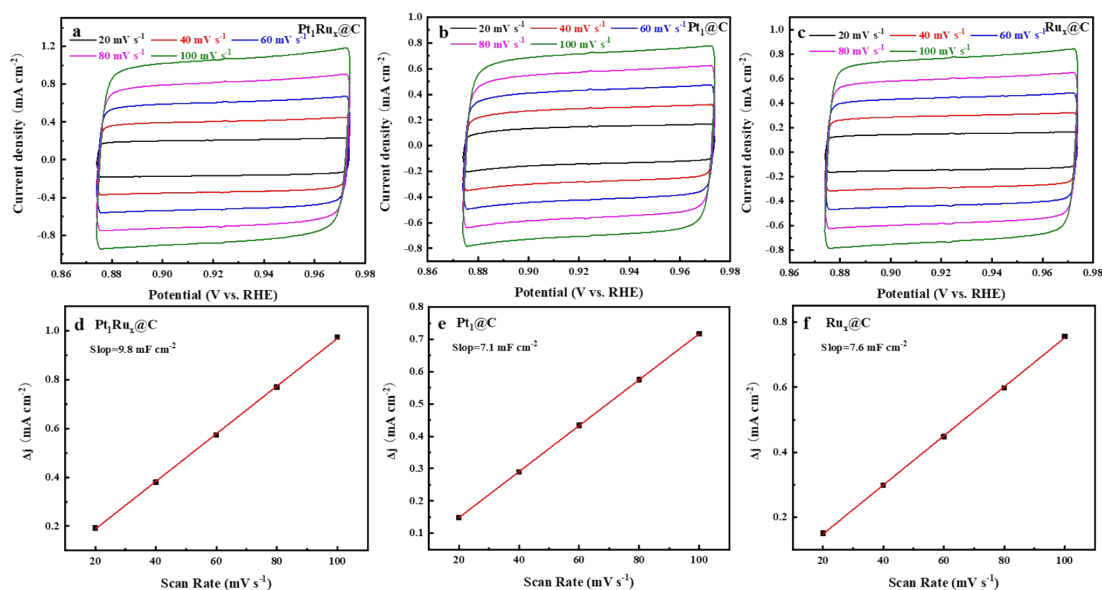
**Fig. S12.** The  $k^3$ -weighted EXAFS in Pt K-space for Pt foil,  $\text{PtO}_2$ , and  $\text{Pt}_1\text{Ru}_x@C$ .



**Fig. S13.** CV curves at different scan rates from 20 to 100  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$  in 0.5 M  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  and capacitive current at 0.167 V as function of scan rates for (a, d)  $\text{Pt}_1\text{Ru}_x@C$ , (b, e)  $\text{Pt}_1@C$ , and (c, f)  $\text{Ru}_x@C$ .

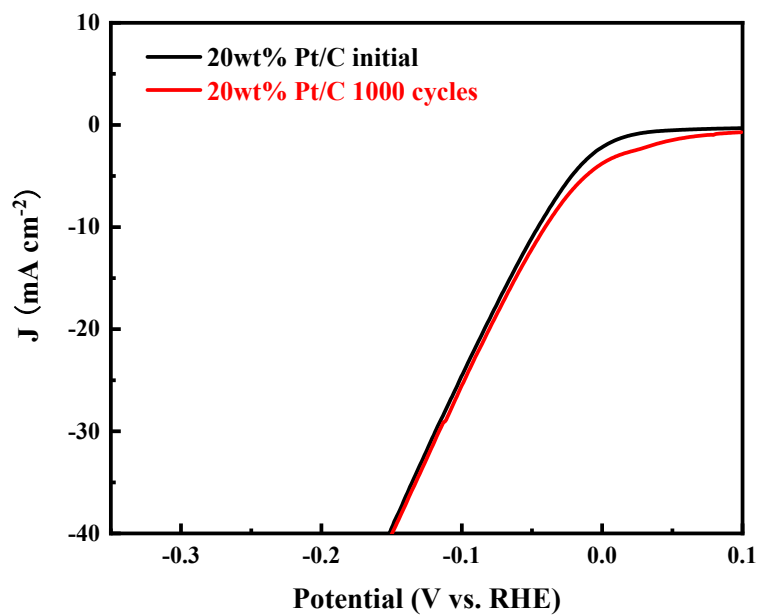


**Fig. S14.** Linear sweep voltammetry curves of 20wt% Pt/C before and after 1,000 CV cycles in 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.

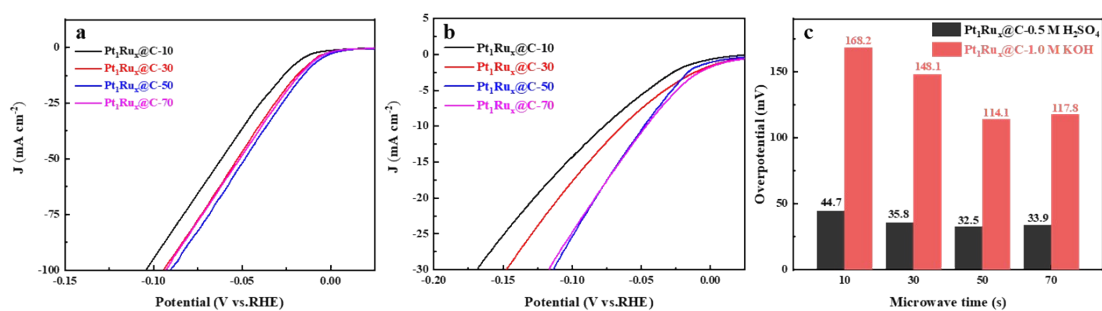


**Fig. S15.** CV curves at different scan rates from 20 to 100 mV s<sup>-1</sup> in 1.0 M KOH and capacitive current at 0.167 V as function of scan rates for (a, d) Pt<sub>1</sub>Ru<sub>x</sub>@C, (b, e) Pt<sub>1</sub>@C, (c, f) and Ru<sub>x</sub>@C.

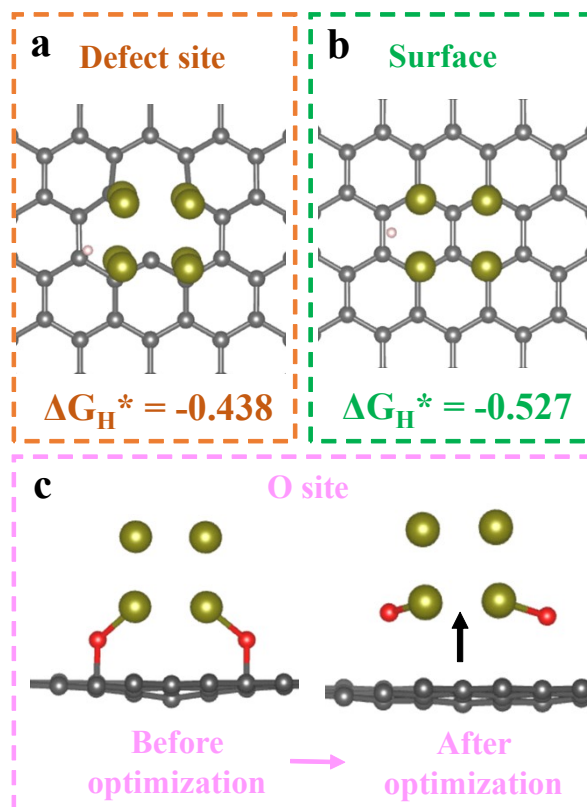




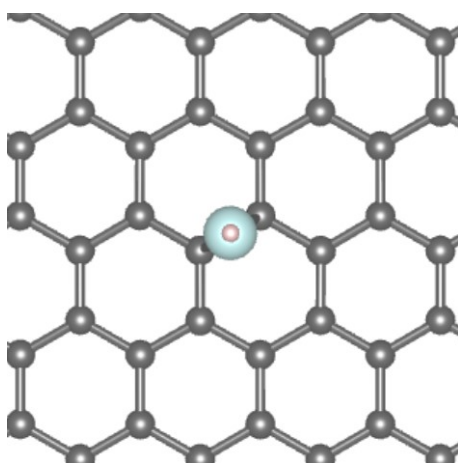
**Fig. S16.** Linear sweep voltammetry curves of 20wt% Pt/C before and after 1,000 CV cycles in 1.0 M KOH.



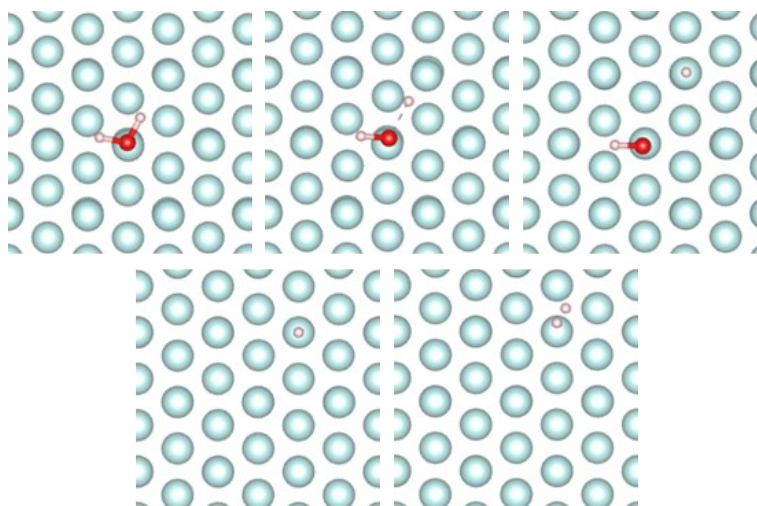
**Fig. S17.** HER performance in 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>/1.0 M KOH solution under different microwave time (a-b) Linear sweep voltammetry curves, (c) overpotentials.



**Fig. S18.** (a-b) Chemisorption atomic models with of H on the surfaces of  $\text{Ru}_x@\text{C}$  at different sites; (c) Optimization process of  $\text{Ru}_x@\text{C}$  with O at site.



**Fig. S19.** Chemisorption atomic models with of H on the surfaces of  $\text{Pt}_1@\text{C}$  at site3.



**Fig. S20.** Chemisorption atomic models with of H and OH intermediates on the surfaces of Pt(111).

**Tab. S1.** The content of different kind of Pt and Ru in the catalysts.

Sample	Elements	
	Pt [wt%]	Ru [wt%]
Pt <sub>1</sub> @C	5.45	/
Ru <sub>x</sub> @C	/	1.49
Pt <sub>1</sub> Ru <sub>x</sub> @C	4.78	1.32

**Tab. S2.** The content of different kind of Pt and Ru of Pt<sub>1</sub>Ru<sub>x</sub>@C at different microwave time.

Sample	Elements	
	Pt [wt%]	Ru [wt%]
Pt <sub>1</sub> Ru <sub>x</sub> @C-10	2.15	0.72
Pt <sub>1</sub> Ru <sub>x</sub> @C-30	4.22	1.03
Pt <sub>1</sub> Ru <sub>x</sub> @C-70	4.80	1.26

**Tab. S3.** Information on the bands that make up the first-order Raman spectrum of samples.

Peak	Raman shift			
	[cm <sup>-1</sup> ]			
	C	Ru <sub>x</sub> @C	Pt <sub>1</sub> @C	Pt <sub>1</sub> Ru <sub>x</sub> @C
G	1219.8	1224.1	1236.3	1225.8
D2	1336.9	1337.6	1343.8	1340.8
D1	1504.3	1506.9	1509.4	1509.3
D3	1586.9	1589.1	1594.1	1592.9

**Tab. S4.** The binding energy of Pt 4f, Ru 3p<sub>3/2</sub> and O 1s from XPS.

Catalysts	Binding energy			Binding energy		Binding energy	
	[eV]		Component	[eV]		[eV]	
	Pt	Pt		Ru 3p <sub>3/2</sub>		O 1s	
	4f <sub>7/2</sub>	4f <sub>5/2</sub>					
Pt <sub>1</sub> Ru <sub>x</sub> @C	72.62	76.00	Pt <sup>2+</sup>	463.59	Ru <sup>0</sup>	530.60	Pt/Ru-O
	74.51	78.01	Pt <sup>4+</sup>	/	/	/	/
Pt <sub>1</sub> @C	72.13	75.46	Pt <sup>2+</sup>	/	/	530.17	Pt-O
	74.16	77.63	Pt <sup>4+</sup>	/	/	/	/
Ru <sub>x</sub> @C	/	/	/	463.79	Ru <sup>0</sup>	530.22	Ru-O

**Tab. S5.** XAFS parameters of Pt<sub>1</sub>Ru<sub>x</sub>@C, Pt foil and PtO<sub>2</sub>.

Sample	Shell	N <sup>a)</sup>	R	σ <sup>2</sup>	R-factor <sup>d)</sup>
			[Å] <sup>b)</sup>	[10 <sup>-3</sup> Å <sup>2</sup> ] <sup>c)</sup>	
Pt <sub>1</sub> Ru <sub>x</sub> @C	Pt-C/O	1.5	2.51	8.42	0.02
Pt foil	Pt-Pt	12	2.76	1.90	0.02
PtO <sub>2</sub>	Pt-O	6	1.99	2.35	0.02

<sup>a)</sup>N, coordination number; <sup>b)</sup>R, distance between absorber and backscattered atoms; <sup>c)</sup>σ<sup>2</sup>, Debye-Waller factor; <sup>d)</sup>R-factor, closeness of the fit, if < 0.05, consistent with broadly correct models. Estimated error: N: ±20%, R: ±0.03.

**Tab. S6.** Summarized acidic/alkaline HER performance of some reported atomic level catalysis with present work.

Catalyst	Electrolyte	$\eta@10 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$ [mV]	Tafel slope [mV dec <sup>-1</sup> ]	Ref.
<b>Pt<sub>1</sub>Ru<sub>x</sub>@C</b>	<b>0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub></b>	<b>13.15</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>This work</b>
<b>Pt<sub>1</sub>Ru<sub>x</sub>@C</b>	<b>1.0 M KOH</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>55.6</b>	<b>This work</b>
Fe/GD	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	66	37.8	1
Co <sub>1</sub> /PCN	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	151	52	2
NiO/Ni@NCNTs	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	87.5	80	3
Mo@NMCNFs	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	66	84.9	4
PtW <sub>6</sub> /C	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	22	/	5
Pt-Ru dimer	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	50	28.9	6
Pt <sub>1</sub> @Fe-C	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	60	42	7
Pt <sub>1</sub> /Ti <sub>1-x</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	22.2	31	8
PtNi-NC	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	30	27	9
NeC@CoP/Ni <sub>2</sub> P	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	153	53.01	10
Cu/Ru@G <sub>N</sub>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	10	25	11
W <sub>1</sub> Mo <sub>1</sub> -NG	1.0 M KOH	67	45	12
Ir <sub>1</sub> @Co/NC	1.0 M KOH	55	119	13
Ru-SA/Ti <sub>3</sub> C <sub>2</sub> T <sub>x</sub>	1.0 M KOH	70	27.7	14
Ru/Ni-MoS <sub>2</sub>	1.0 M KOH	32	41	15
Ru/Co-CAT/CC	1.0 M KOH	38	/	16
Ru-MoS <sub>2</sub> /CC	1.0 M KOH	41	114	17
Ru-W/WO <sub>2</sub> -800	1.0 M KOH	11	31.3	18
12%Rh-Co <sub>2</sub> Fe-P	1.0 M KOH	48	53	19
Fe-N <sub>4</sub> SAs/NPC	1.0 M KOH	202	123	20
Co <sub>1</sub> /PCN	1.0 M KOH	89	/	2

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