

Supporting Information

Facet-Engineered Fe- and Co-Decorated Cu₂O (111) for Highly Efficient Concurrent Electrocatalytic Ammonia Synthesis and Methanol Oxidation

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S1. Experimental section

S1.1 Chemicals

$\text{CuCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, NaOH, PVP, $\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ purchased from Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd (SCRC), All chemicals were used without further purification.

Throughout this process, PVP served as the reducing agent. By varying the ratios of $\text{CuCl}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ and PVP, cuprous oxide (Cu_2O) particles featuring different crystal planes could be synthesized. Through precise control of the PVP amount, Cu_2O particles with distinct exposed crystal planes were obtained. Based on these achievements, by doping a certain proportion of $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, FeCo - Cu_2O catalysts could be fabricated.

S1.2 Catalyst Characterization

Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) images and energy dispersive X-ray (EDX) elemental mapping images were obtained by the JEOL JSM 7800F instrument. Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) images and high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HRTEM) images were obtained using a FEI Tecnai G2F30 S-Twin transmission electron microscope. X-ray diffraction (XRD) and X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) were collected by Bruker-D8 Advance and Thermo Scientific K-Alpha, respectively. The C 1s peak at 284.80 eV was used as an energy reference for all binding energies. The PL spectra was obtained by using a FLS 980 fluorescence spectrophotometer at room temperature.

S1.3. Electrochemical NRR measurement

Catalyst was employed as the working electrode, Pt foil and a Hg/HgO electrode were used as the counter electrode and reference electrode, respectively. All electrochemical tests of the catalyst samples were conducted under the same conditions using a CHI 604E electrochemical station. For the study of linear sweep voltammetry and cyclic voltammetry curves, we utilized a scan rate of 5 mV/s, and all LSV curves were corrected by 90% iR compensation to account for the influence of solution resistance. Additionally, Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy was employed to explore the reaction impedance with 10 mV amplitude in the frequency range 0.05 Hz to 100 KHz. To ensure the accuracy of the experiment, nitrogen gas was flowed through the 1 M KOH solution for 30 minutes to eliminate any interference from air. Furthermore, as shown in Figure S1, the

nitrogen was purified by passing it through 0.05 M H₂SO₄ and 0.1 M KOH solutions before NRR reaction, ensuring reliable quantification of the NH₃ product in the experiment.

The electrocatalytic nitrogen reduction reaction was carried on an H-type electrolytic cell at ambient temperature and pressure (all electrochemical reactions were carried out on a CHI604E electrochemical workstation), in which the electrolytic cell was separated by a Nafion 117 membrane, which needs to undergo pre-treatment before use consisting of sonication in 5 % H₂O₂, deionized water, 0.5 M H₂SO₄, and deionized water for 20 minutes each, followed by treatment with deionized water at 80 °C for more than 12 hours. Before electrochemical testing, the cathode chamber's electrolyte underwent a 30-minute purge with N₂.

S1.4. Product Quantification:

The UV-Vis spectrophotometer was used to detect the ion concentration of pre- and post-test electrolytes after dilution to appropriate concentration to match the range of calibration curves, as shown in Figure S2.

Determination of NH₃

Concentration of produced NH₃ was determined by the indophenol blue method. In detail, 2 ml post-tested solution was removed from the cathodic chamber, and then added into 2 ml 1.0 M NaOH solution containing C₇H₆O₃ and C₆H₅Na₃O₇·2H₂O. Next, 1ml NaClO (0.05 M) and 0.2 ml Na₂[Fe(NO)(CN)₅]·2H₂O (1 wt%) aqueous solutions were added sequentially. The mixture was allowed to stand at room temperature for 2 hours, after which the UV-Vis absorption spectrum was measured.

Determination of hydrazine (N₂H₄)

The N₂H₄ in the electrolyte was determined by UV-Vis using the Watt and Chrisp method. The C₉H₁₁NO (5.99 g), HCl (30 mL), and C₂H₅OH (300 mL) were mixed and used as a color reagent. In detail, 5 mL of electrolyte was taken from the electrochemical reaction cell, and added into 5 mL prepared color reagent and stirred for 10 min at 25 °C.

S1.5. Density functional theory (DFT) calculations

The density functional theory (DFT) calculations were carried out with the VASP code. The Perdew–Burke–Ernzerhof (PBE) functional within generalized gradient approximation (GGA) was used to process the exchange–correlation, while the projector-augmented-wave pseudopotential (PAW)² was applied with a kinetic energy cut-off of 500 eV, which was utilized to describe the

expansion of the electronic eigenfunctions. The vacuum thickness was set to be 20 Å to minimize interlayer interactions. The Brillouin-zone integration was sampled by a Γ -centered $5 \times 5 \times 1$ Monkhorst–Pack k-point. All atomic positions were fully relaxed until energy and force reached a tolerance of 1×10^{-5} eV and 0.03 eV/Å, respectively. The dispersion corrected DFT-D method was employed to consider the long-range interactions³.

The adsorption energy (E_{ads}) of a complex formed between two molecules, A and B, can be calculated using the following equation:

$$E_{\text{ads}} = E_{\text{complex}} - (E_{\text{A}} + E_{\text{B}})$$

Where: E_{complex} is the total energy of the molecular complex of A and B.

E_{A} and E_{B} are the total energies of isolated molecules A and B, respectively.

The Gibbs free energy change (ΔG) was calculated by computational hydrogen electrode (CHE) model as follows:

$$\Delta G = \Delta E + \Delta \text{ZPE} - T\Delta S \quad (1)$$

where ΔE is the reaction energy obtained by the total energy difference between the reactant and product molecules absorbed on the catalyst surface and ΔS is the change in entropy for each reaction, ΔZPE is the zero-point energy correction to the Gibbs free energy. T represents room temperature (298.15 K).

S2. Figure

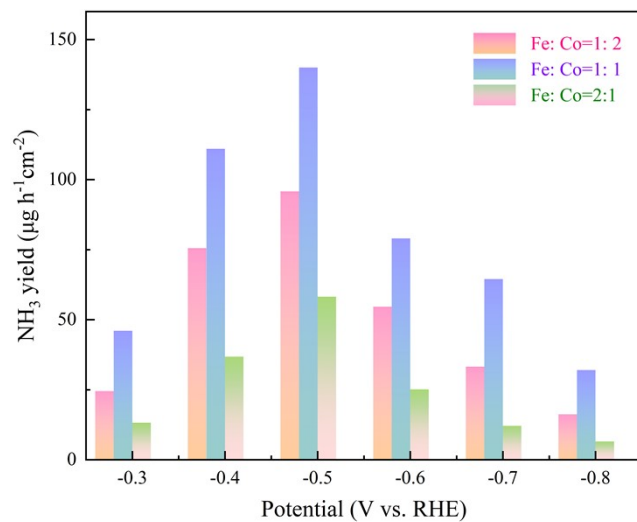


Fig. S1. Ammonia yield of catalysts with different Fe:Co ratios

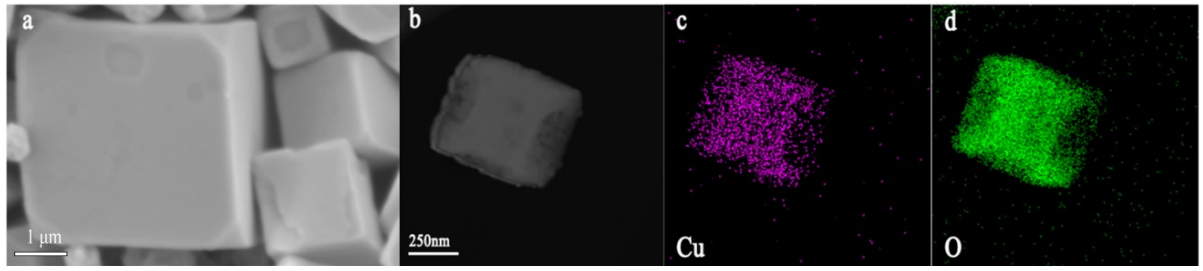


Fig. S2. (a-b) The TEM image of Cu₂O (100), (c-d) TEM-EDX image of Cu₂O (100).

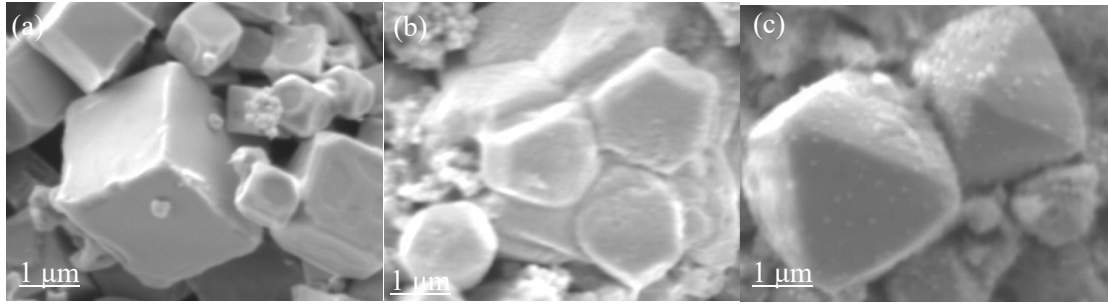


Fig. S3. The SEM image of (a) FeCo-Cu₂O (100), (b) FeCo-Cu₂O (100) & Cu₂O (111), (c) FeCo-Cu₂O (111)

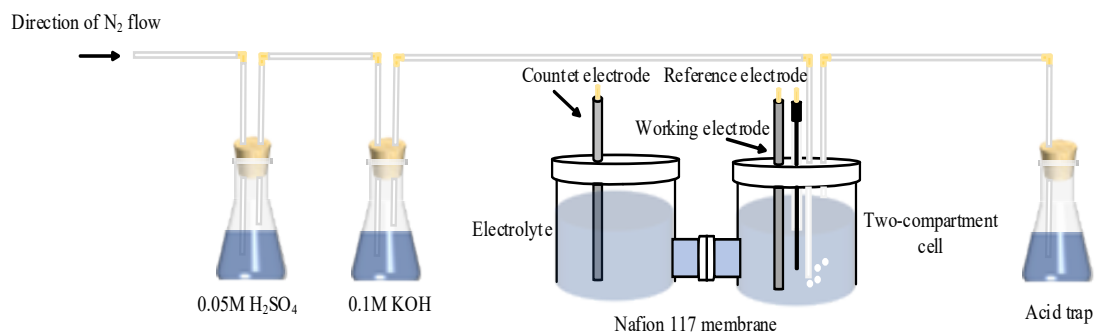


Fig. S4. Ammonia electrolysis device

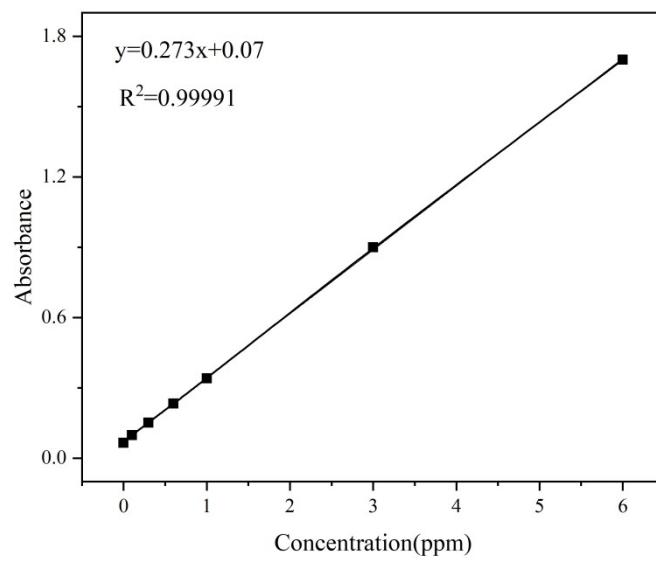


Fig. S5. Standard curve of NH_4^+

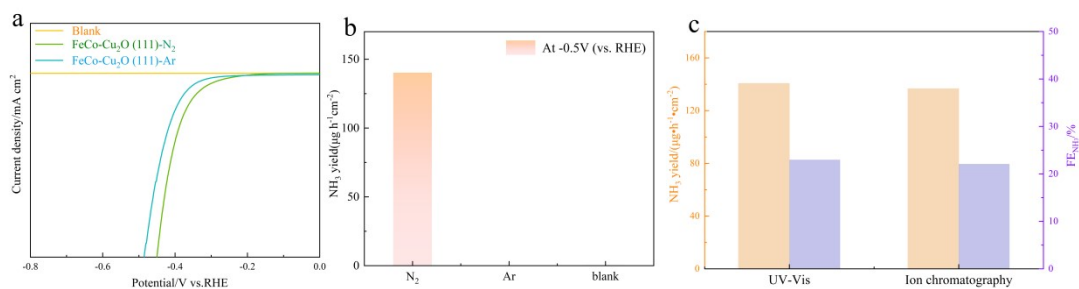


Fig. S6. (a) LSV curves in Ar- and N₂-saturated 1 M KOH solution and blank group, (b) Ammonia yield of catalysts in Ar- and N₂-saturated 1 M KOH solution and blank group, (c) UV-Vis and Ion chromatography test

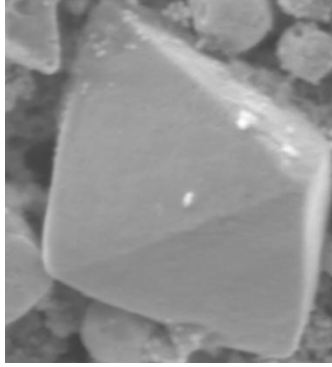


Fig. S7. SEM image of the FeCo-Cu₂O(111) after tests

S3. Table

Table S1. The comparison table of eNRR electrocatalyst performance.

electrocatalyst	Ammonia yield [$\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$]	FE_{NH_3} [%]	Ref.
RuSAs/N-C	120.9	29.6	[5]
FeN_2B_2	115	24.8	[6]
$\text{In}@\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$	89.44	27.01	[7]
Sb-SA/N- $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x$	108.3	41.2	[8]
$\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x/\text{BiCuS}_{2.5}$	62.57	67.69	[9]
MQDs/Cu	78.5	21.3	[10]
MV-MoN@NC	76.9	6.9	[11]
CeMnO_x	82.8	37.3	[12]
NC/BiSAs/TiN/CC	76.15	24.6	[13]
Ni_3Sn	70.60	38	[14]
Sn- CeO_{2-x}	35.3	41.1	[15]
$\text{Fe}@\text{CNF-800}$	37.1	10.2	[16]
$\text{Sn}@\text{Ti}_2\text{CT}_x/\text{Ti}_2\text{SnC-V}$	28.4	15.57	[17]
Fe- Fe_3O_4	25.4	55	[18]
$\text{Ni}_{12}\text{P}_5/\text{FeP}_4$	30.8	39.9	[19]
Nb- $\text{TiO}_2(110)$	21.27	9.17	[20]
$\text{Fe}_3\text{C}/\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$	25	22.5	[21]

S4. References

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