

# Tuning Co-Ni Electrochemical Active Sites via Iron Incorporation in Carbonate Hydroxide Frameworks for High-Performance Supercapacitors

Dwititapa Mohanty<sup>a</sup>, Trupti Tanaya Mishra<sup>a</sup>, Sudhansu B Barik<sup>a</sup>, Ankita Dey<sup>b</sup>, R. Thangavel<sup>b</sup>, , Santosh Kumar Mishra<sup>c</sup>, Dhrubojyoti Roy<sup>#a</sup>, Mohua Chakraborty<sup>\*a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Physics, C. V. Raman Global University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-752054, India.

<sup>b</sup>Department of Physics, IIT(ISM), Dhanbad, Jharkhand 826004, India.

<sup>c</sup>School of Chemical Sciences, National Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhubaneswar, Jatni, Khurda, Odisha, 752050, India.

\*Corresponding E-mail: mchakraborty1988@gmail.com.

#Corresponding E-mail: dhrubojyoti27@gmail.com.

We have tested the pH value of solutions in each possible steps of reactions for all nine samples as follows:

Sample	Nickel Nitrate and Cobalt Nitrate before hydrothermal	Nickel Nitrate, Cobalt Nitrate and Iron Nitrate before hydrothermal	Containing Nickel Nitrate, Cobalt Nitrate, (Iron Nitrate) and Urea before hydrothermal	Containing Nickel Nitrate, Cobalt Nitrate, Iron Nitrate and Urea after hydrothermal
NiCo-CH	≈ 6.2	NA	≈ 6.2	≈ 8.9
Fe <sub>0.05</sub> Co <sub>0.95</sub> Ni-CH	≈ 6.1	≈ 5.9	≈ 5.9	≈ 7.5
Fe <sub>0.1</sub> Co <sub>0.90</sub> Ni-CH	≈ 6.1	≈ 5.2	≈ 5.2	≈ 7.3
Fe <sub>0.15</sub> Co <sub>0.85</sub> Ni-CH	≈ 6.0	≈ 4.9	≈ 4.9	≈ 7.2
Fe <sub>0.2</sub> Co <sub>0.80</sub> Ni-CH	≈ 6.0	≈ 4.8	≈ 4.8	≈ 7
Fe <sub>0.05</sub> Ni <sub>0.95</sub> Co-CH	≈ 6.3	≈ 5.9	≈ 5.9	≈ 7.9
Fe <sub>0.1</sub> Ni <sub>0.90</sub> Co-CH	≈ 6.2	≈ 5.3	≈ 5.3	≈ 7.8
Fe <sub>0.15</sub> Ni <sub>0.85</sub> Co-CH	≈ 6.1	≈ 5.1	≈ 5.1	≈ 7.5
Fe <sub>0.2</sub> Ni <sub>0.80</sub> Co-CH	≈ 6.1	≈ 4.9	≈ 4.9	≈ 7.1

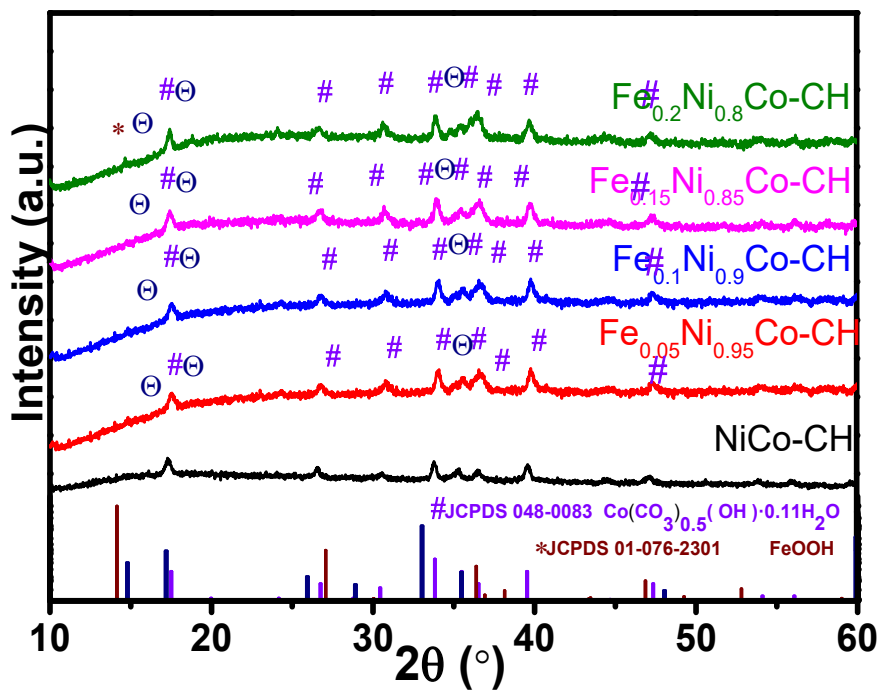


Fig. S1: XRD pattern of  $\text{Fe}_x\text{Ni}_{(1-x)}\text{CoCH}$  samples in zoomed view.

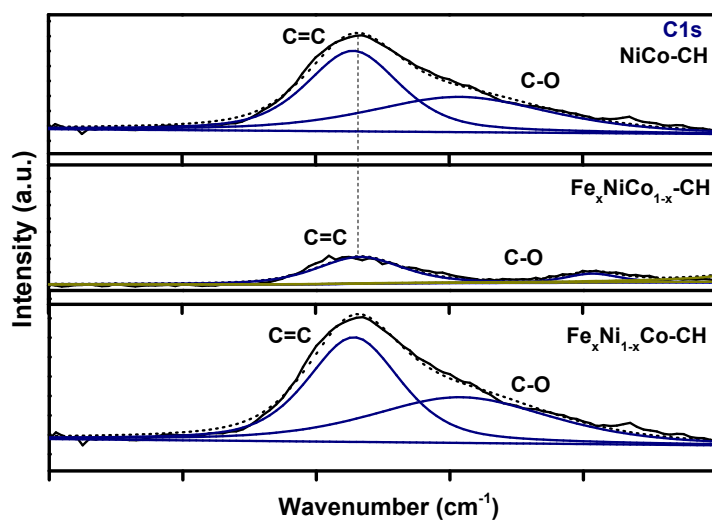
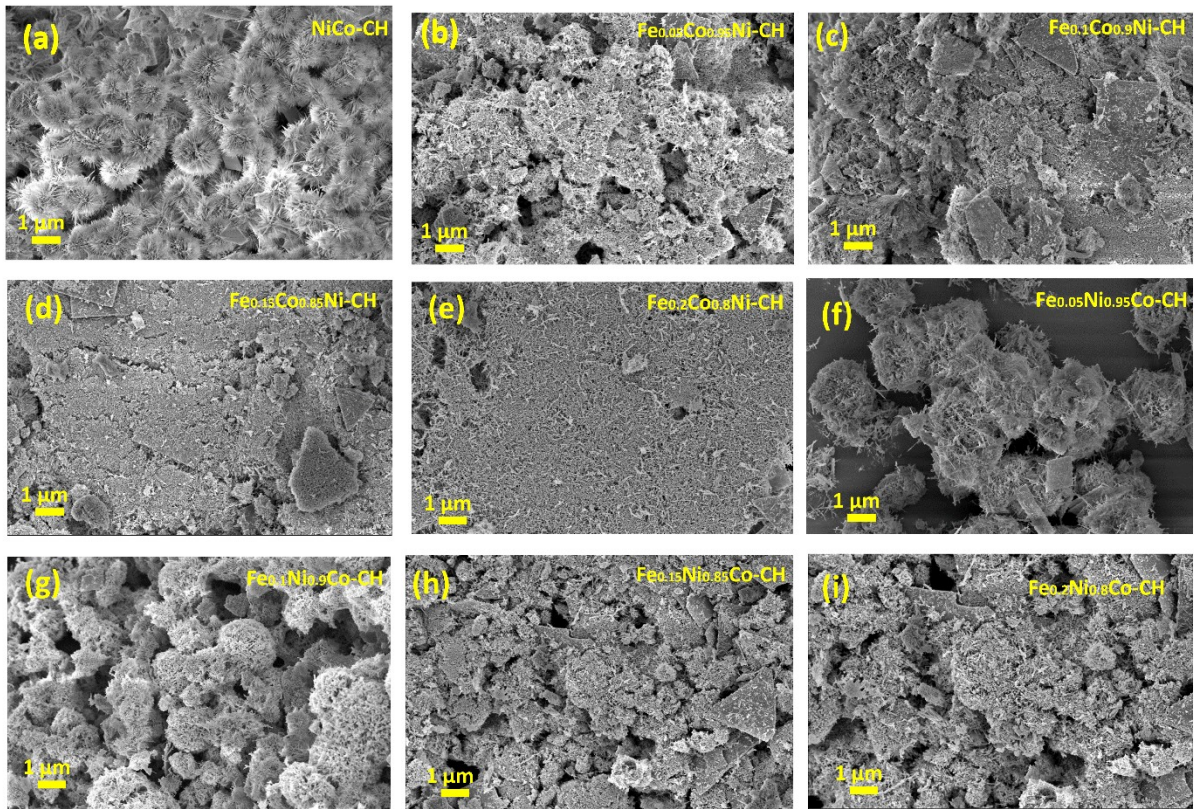
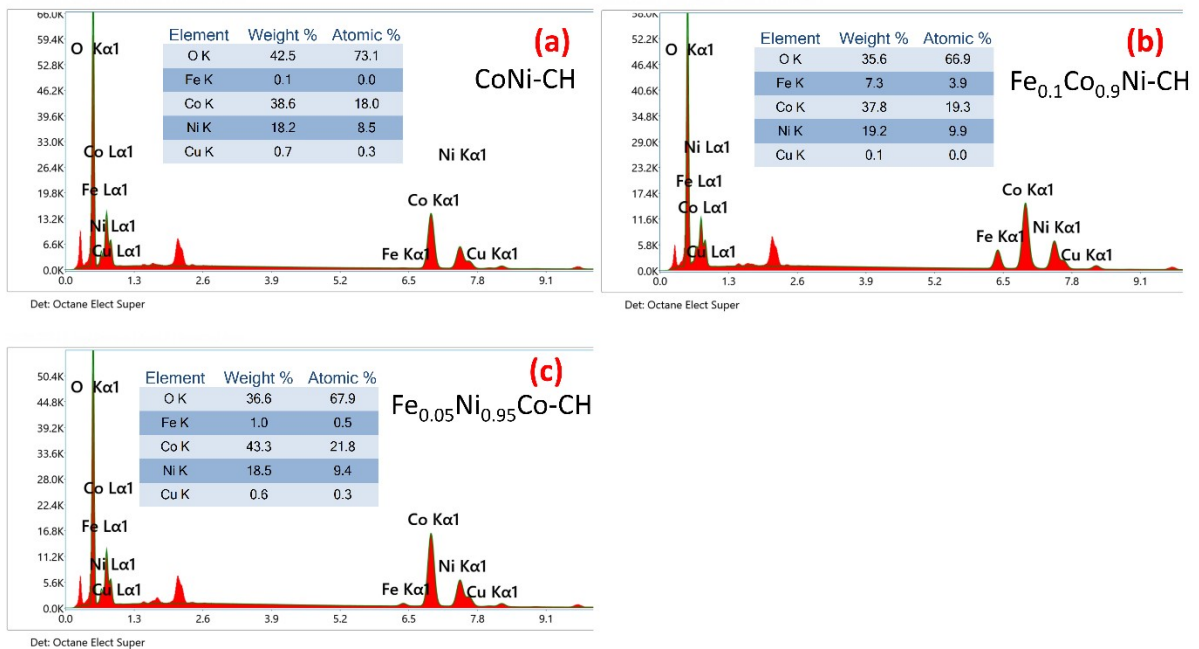


Fig. S2: High-resolution narrow scan XPS spectra for C1s of the as-prepared NiCo-CH,  $\text{Fe}_{0.1}\text{Co}_{0.9}\text{Ni-CH}$  and  $\text{Fe}_{0.05}\text{Co}_{0.95}\text{Ni-CH}$  materials.



**Fig. S3:** SEM images of (a) NiCo-CH (b-e)  $\text{Fe}_x\text{Co}_{(1-x)}\text{Ni-CH}$  (f-i)  $\text{Fe}_x\text{Ni}_{(1-x)}\text{Co-CH}$  samples

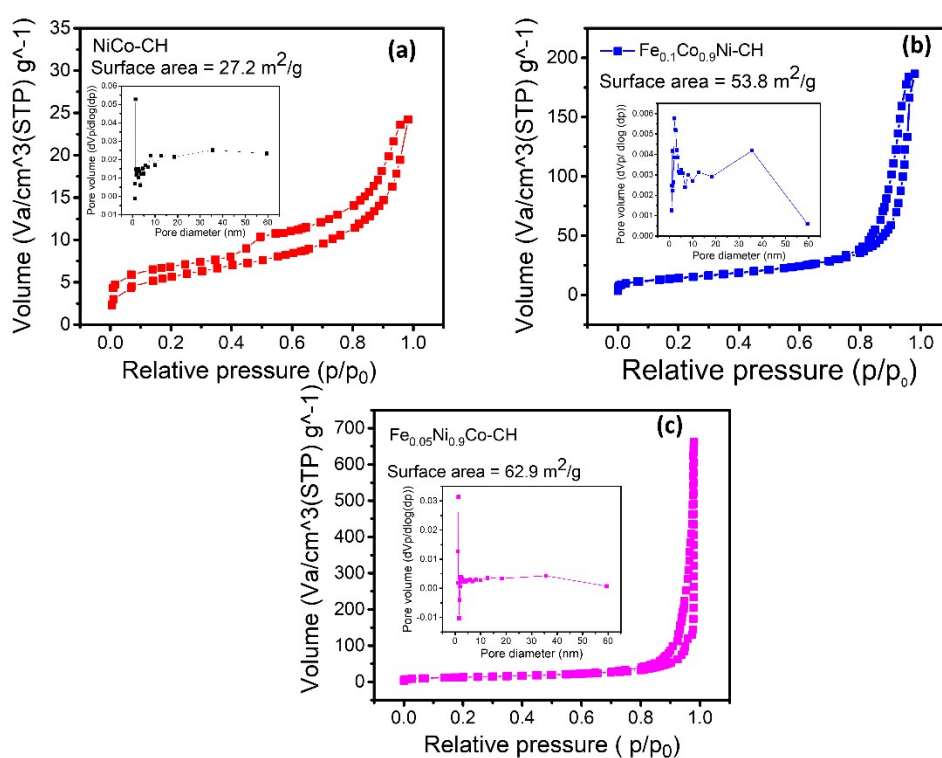


**Fig. S4:** EDAX data of (a) NiCoCH (b)  $\text{Fe}_{0.1}\text{Co}_{0.9}\text{Ni-CH}$  (c)  $\text{Fe}_{0.05}\text{Ni}_{0.95}\text{Co-CH}$  samples

In EDAX pattern, the small Cu signal ( $\sim 0.7$  wt%) observed in Fig. S4 is most likely due to trace contamination from the copper SEM grid or instrumental background during analysis rather than from the synthesis process itself.

**Table S2 : ICP-AES data of optimized samples**

Sample	Element	Concentration ppm	Weight of element in sample weight	Weight (%)
<b>Fe<sub>0.05</sub>Ni<sub>0.95</sub>Co-CH</b>	Ni	13.744	0.6872	14.0244898
	Co	34.364	1.7182	35.0653061
	Fe	0.912	0.0456	0.93061224
<b>Fe<sub>0.1</sub>Co<sub>0.90</sub>Ni-CH</b>	Ni	7.821	0.39105	17.0021739
	Co	16.272	0.8136	35.3739130
	Fe	0.985	0.04925	2.14130434
<b>NiCo-CH</b>	Ni	18.018	0.9009	19.1680851
	Co	33.905	1.69525	36.0691489



**Fig. S5:** BET measurement for (a) NiCo-CH (b) Fe<sub>0.1</sub>Co<sub>0.9</sub>Ni-CH (c) Fe<sub>0.05</sub>Ni<sub>0.95</sub>Co-CH samples, *in inset* pore volume-pore diameter, respectively.

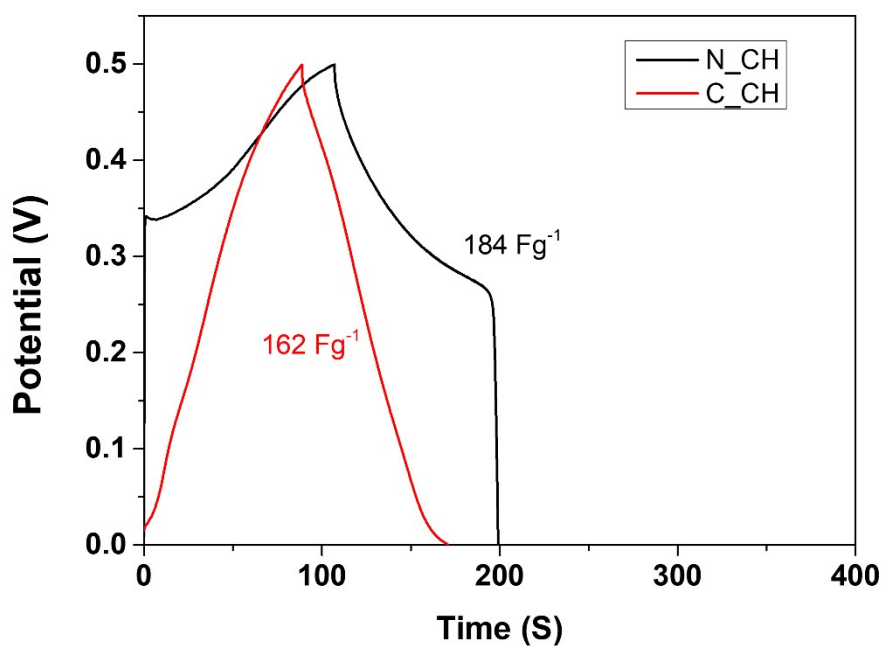


Fig. S6: GCD plot of Ni-CH and Co-CH at 2mVs<sup>-1</sup>.

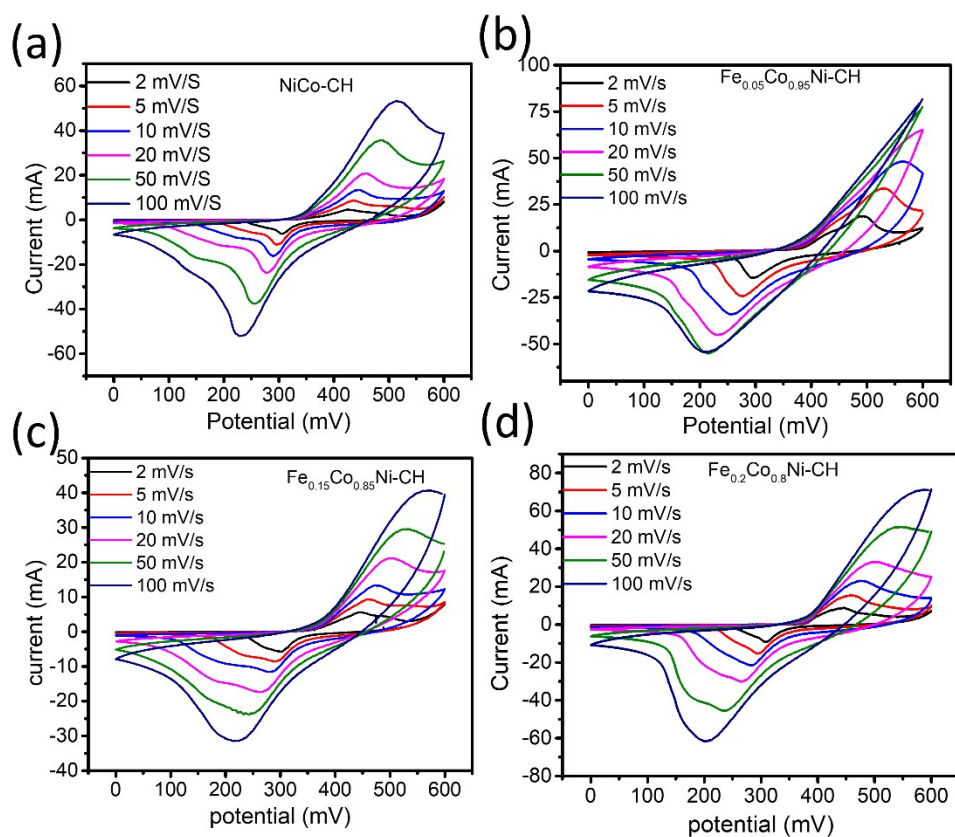
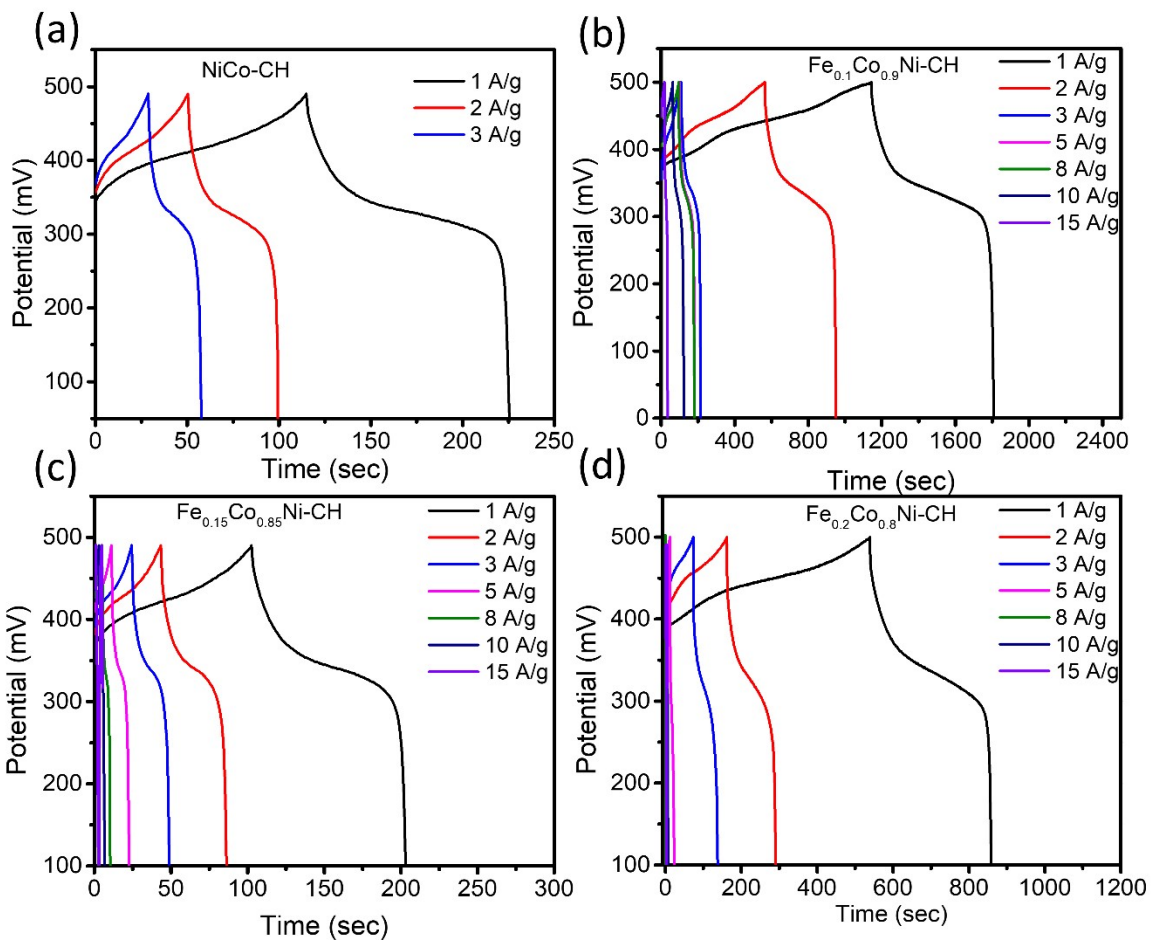
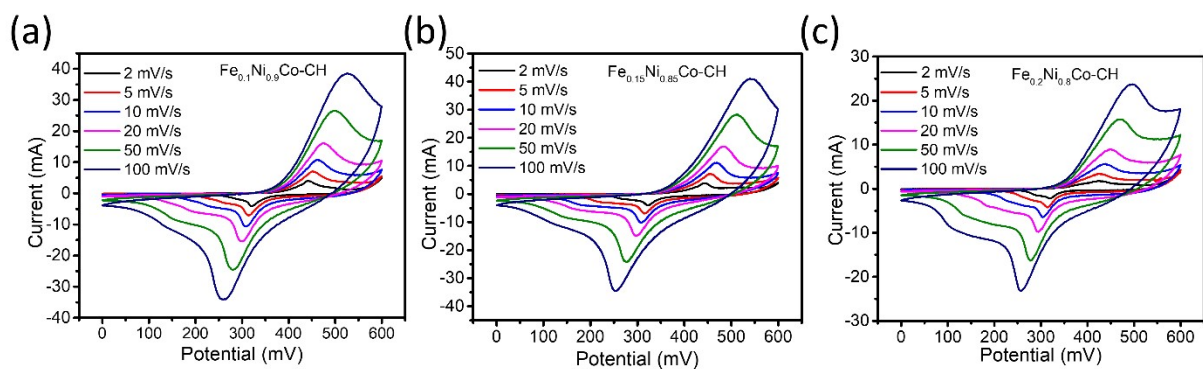


Fig. S7: CV plots of (a) NiCo-CH, (b) Fe<sub>0.05</sub>Co<sub>0.95</sub>Ni-CH (c) Fe<sub>0.15</sub>Co<sub>0.85</sub>Ni-CH (d) Fe<sub>0.2</sub>Co<sub>0.8</sub>Ni-CH at different scan rates



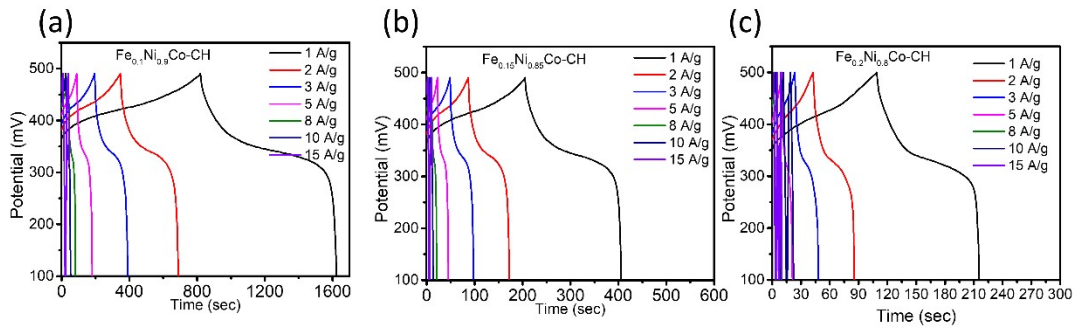
**Fig. S8:** GCD profiles of (a) NiCo-CH, (b)  $\text{Fe}_{0.05}\text{Co}_{0.95}\text{Ni-CH}$  (c)  $\text{Fe}_{0.15}\text{Co}_{0.85}\text{Ni-CH}$  (d)  $\text{Fe}_{0.2}\text{Co}_{0.8}\text{Ni-CH}$  at different current densities



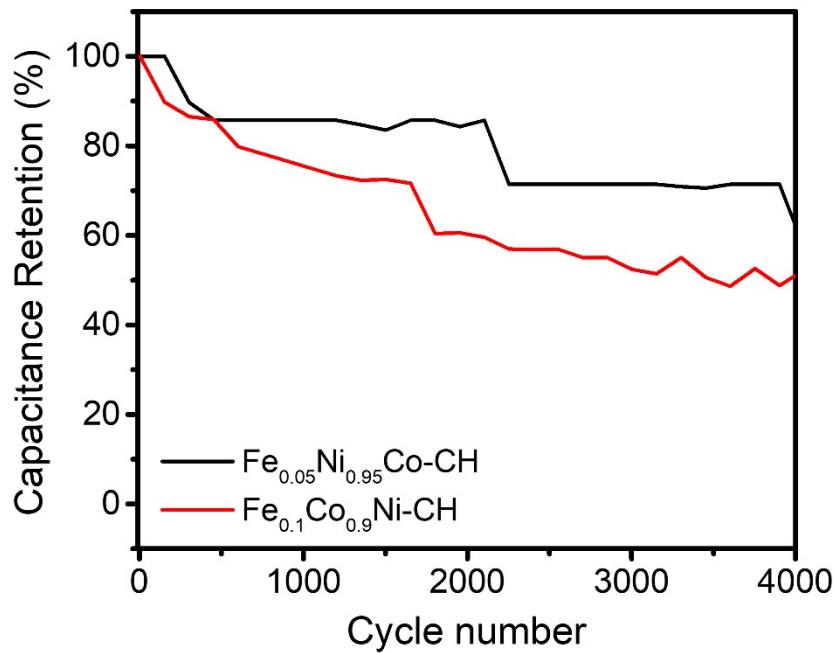
**Fig. S9:** CV plots of (a)  $\text{Fe}_{0.1}\text{Ni}_{0.9}\text{Co-CH}$  (b)  $\text{Fe}_{0.15}\text{Ni}_{0.85}\text{Co-CH}$  (c)  $\text{Fe}_{0.2}\text{Ni}_{0.8}\text{Co-CH}$  at different scan rates

**Table S3: Electrochemical super capacitive parameters of synthesized samples**

Sample	Csp (GCD) Fg <sup>-1</sup>	b value	R <sub>s</sub> (Ω)	R <sub>ct</sub> (Ω)	CPE1 (mF·cm <sup>-2</sup> S)	CPE2 (mF·cm <sup>-2</sup> S)
NiCo-CH	424	0.51	1.48	18.864	16.34	64.79
Fe <sub>0.05</sub> Co <sub>0.95</sub> Ni-CH	895	0.29	0.48	2.81	25.41	1.406
Fe <sub>0.1</sub> Co <sub>0.90</sub> Ni-CH	1080	0.45	2.5	4.72	121	312
Fe <sub>0.15</sub> Co <sub>0.85</sub> Ni-CH	804	0.92	1.8	10.06	7.76	695.84
Fe <sub>0.2</sub> Co <sub>0.80</sub> Ni-CH	841	0.88	0.39	3.22	25.82	1.12
Fe <sub>0.05</sub> Ni <sub>0.95</sub> Co-CH	2898	0.83	2.16	0.769	555	670
Fe <sub>0.1</sub> Ni <sub>0.90</sub> Co-CH	1606	0.56	2.5	10.92	120.5	252.3
Fe <sub>0.15</sub> Ni <sub>0.85</sub> Co-CH	423	0.52	3.96	22.30	215	128
Fe <sub>0.2</sub> Ni <sub>0.80</sub> Co-CH	216	0.25	8.24	9.39	15.23	40.34



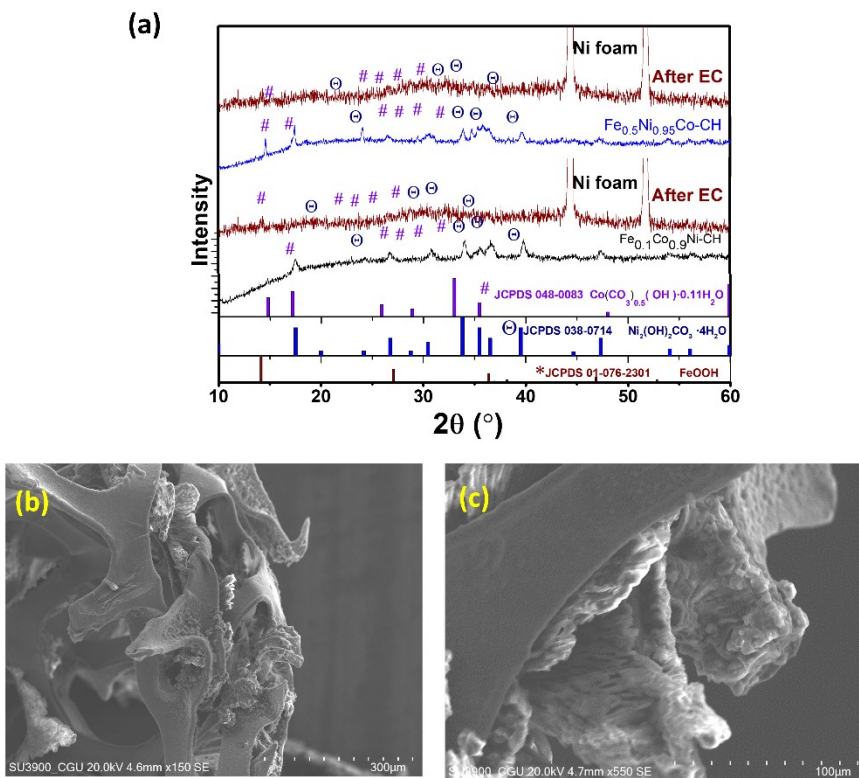
**Fig. S10:** GCD profiles of (a) Fe<sub>0.1</sub>Ni<sub>0.9</sub>Co-CH (b) Fe<sub>0.15</sub>Ni<sub>0.85</sub>Co-CH (c) Fe<sub>0.2</sub>Ni<sub>0.8</sub>Co-CH at different current densities



**Fig. S11:** Cyclic stability of Fe<sub>0.1</sub>Co<sub>0.9</sub>Ni-CH and Fe<sub>0.05</sub>Ni<sub>0.95</sub>Co-CH at current densities 10 A/g.

**Table S4: Literature Comparison for Supercapacitance Performance**

Electrode Material	Morphology	Specific Capacitance	Reference
NiCoFe-LDH	Nanocomposite	3130 F/g at 1A/g	1
Ni <sub>4</sub> /Co <sub>1</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub>	Nanostructure	1820 F/g at 1A/g	2
Fe-Co Hydroxide (1:1 ratio)	—	2255.6 F/g at 1A/g	3
NiCo-CH (CH-S3)	Layered	2130 F/g (at 2 A/g)	4
CoNiFe-LDH/CNFs-0.5	Nanofibers	1203 F/g	5
NiCo-CH-180	Nanorods	762 F/g at 1A/g	6
NiCo-LDH	Nanosheets	1470 F/g	7
Fe <sub>x</sub> Co <sub>(1-x)</sub> Ni-CH (Optimized)	Nanorods (w/ FeOOH)	1080 F/g at 1/A/g	<b>Our Work</b>
Fe <sub>x</sub> Ni <sub>(1-x)</sub> Co-CH (Optimized)	Nanorods	2898 F/g at 1A/g	<b>Our Work</b>



**Fig. S12:** (a) XRD pattern for Fe<sub>0.1</sub>Co<sub>0.9</sub>Ni-CH and Fe<sub>0.05</sub>Ni<sub>0.95</sub>Co-CH after electrochemical cycling stability, (b) and (c) SEM images of Fe<sub>0.1</sub>Co<sub>0.9</sub>Ni-CH and Fe<sub>0.05</sub>Ni<sub>0.95</sub>Co-CH post electrochemical cycling respectively.

## References:

- (1) Pourfarzad, H.; Shabani-Nooshabadi, M.; Ganjali, M. R.; Kashani, H. Synthesis of Ni–Co-Fe Layered Double Hydroxide and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/Graphene Nanocomposites as Actively Materials for High Electrochemical Performance Supercapacitors. *Electrochimica Acta* **2019**, *317*, 83–92. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electacta.2019.05.122>.
- (2) Li, H.; Zhou, X.; Zhao, P. Amorphous Ni–Co Binary Hydroxide with Super-Long Cycle Life and Ultrahigh Rate Capability as Asymmetric Supercapacitors. *Nanotechnology* **2023**, *34* (6), 065703. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6528/aca1cb>.
- (3) Jiang, L.; Sui, Y.; Qi, J.; Chang, Yuan.; He, Y.; Meng, Q.; Wei, F.; Sun, Z.; Jin, Y. Structure Dependence of Fe-Co Hydroxides on Fe/Co Ratio and Their Application for Supercapacitors. *Part & Part Syst Charact* **2017**, *34* (2), 1600239. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ppsc.201600239>.
- (4) Lim, H.; Park, Y. S.; Baek, S. Structure and Electrochemical Performances of NiCo Hydroxide with Anion Exchange by Carbonates for Hybrid Supercapacitor. *J Am Ceram Soc.* **2025**, *108* (10), e70061. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jace.70061>.
- (5) Wang, F.; Sun, S.; Xu, Y.; Wang, T.; Yu, R.; Li, H. High Performance Asymmetric Supercapacitor Based on Cobalt Nickle Iron-Layered Double Hydroxide/Carbon Nanofibres and Activated Carbon. *Sci Rep* **2017**, *7* (1), 4707. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-017-04807-1>.
- (6) Kumar, S.; Satpathy, B. K.; Pradhan, D. Morphology-Controlled Synthesis of a NiCo-Carbonate Layered Double Hydroxide as an Electrode Material for Solid-State Asymmetric Supercapacitors. *Mater. Adv.* **2024**, *5* (6), 2271–2284. <https://doi.org/10.1039/D3MA01008B>.
- (7) Kumar, S.; Pradhan, D. Binder- and Additive-Free Electrophoretic Deposition of Solvothermally Synthesized Nickel–Cobalt Layered Double Hydroxide for High-Performance Asymmetric Solid-State Supercapacitor. *ACS Appl. Energy Mater.* **2025**, *8* (13), 9878–9890. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsaem.5c01703>.