

**Electronic Supplementary Information**

**Covalent functionalization based heteroatom doped graphene nanosheet as a metal-free electrocatalyst for oxygen reduction reaction**

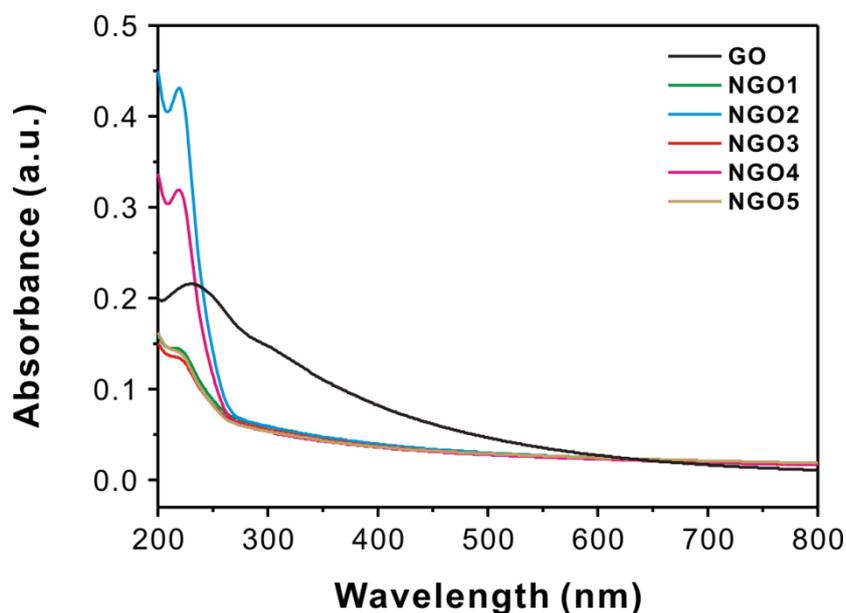
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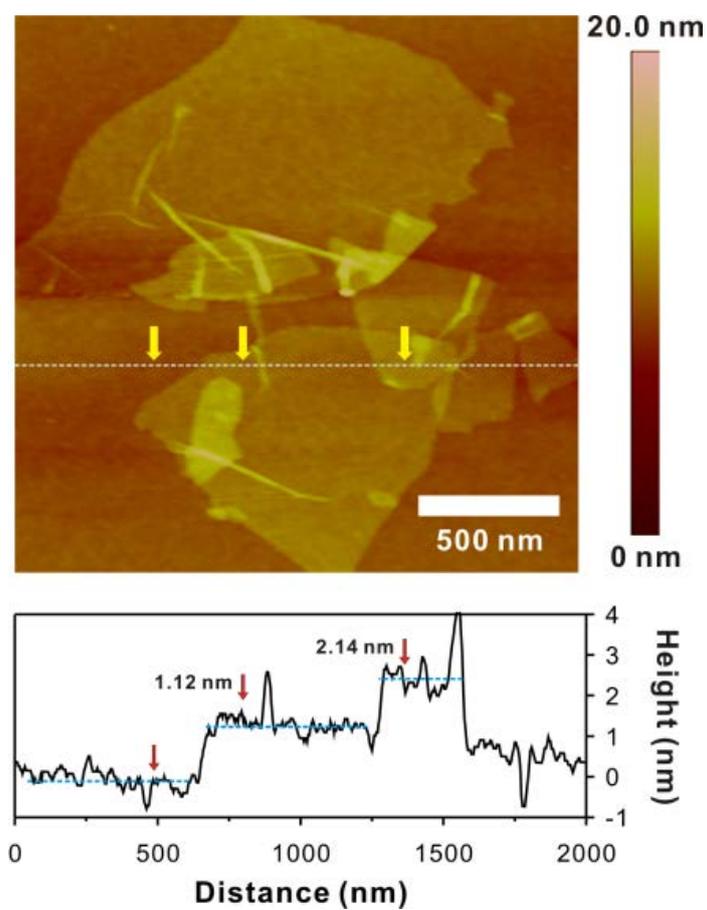
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**Fig. S1** UV-vis absorbance spectra for GO suspension and NGO<sub>n</sub> derivatives. Concentration of suspensions is 0.5  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ .



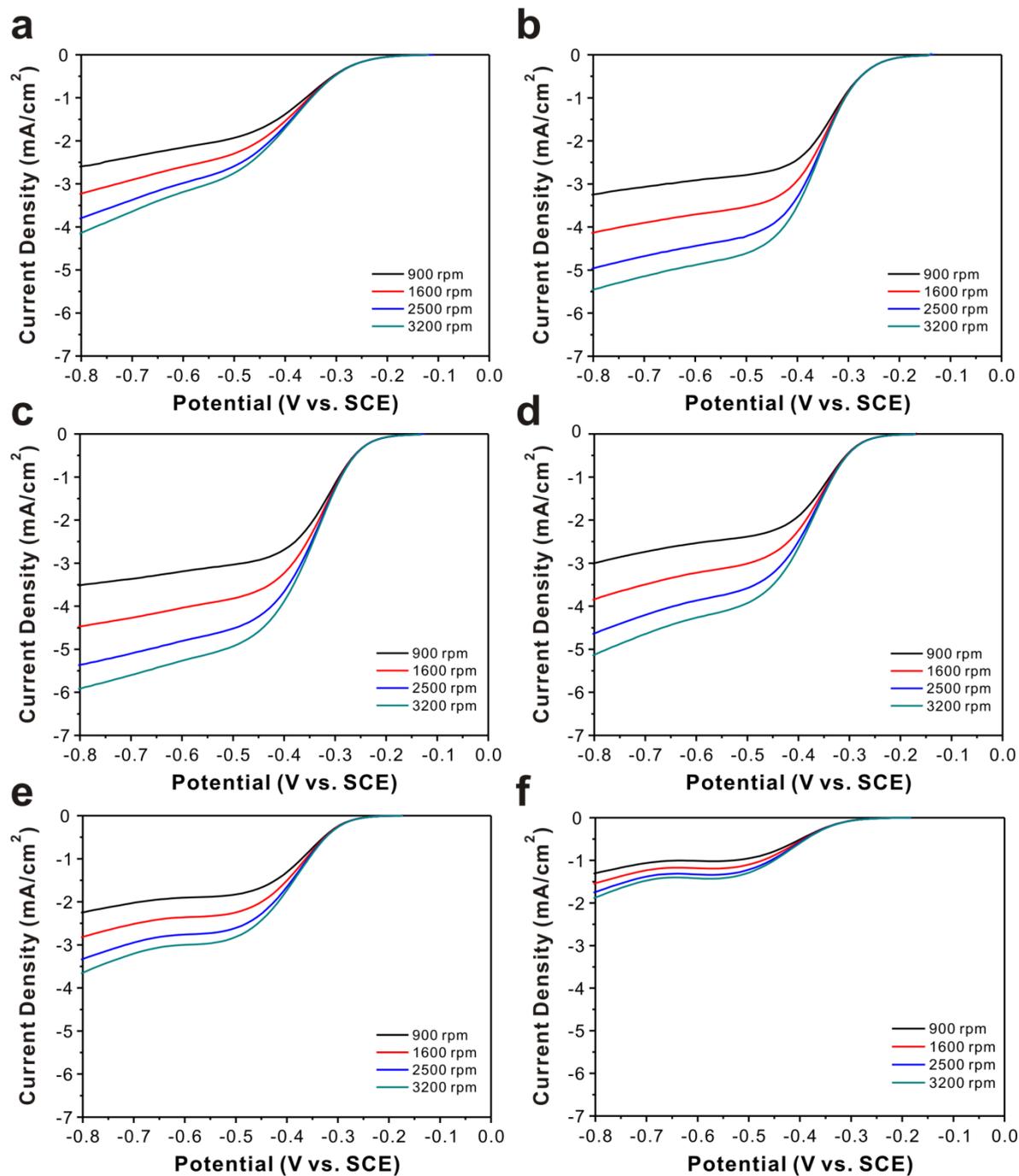
**Fig. S2** Representative height-mode AFM images of NGO3 with the corresponding line scan profiles. The height of monolayer and bilayer is about 1.12 nm and 2.14 nm, respectively.

**Table. S1** Relative ratio of nitrogen configurations in NRGO $n$  by deconvoluted high-resolution XPS N1s spectra. Number in parenthesis represents the binding energy in eV.

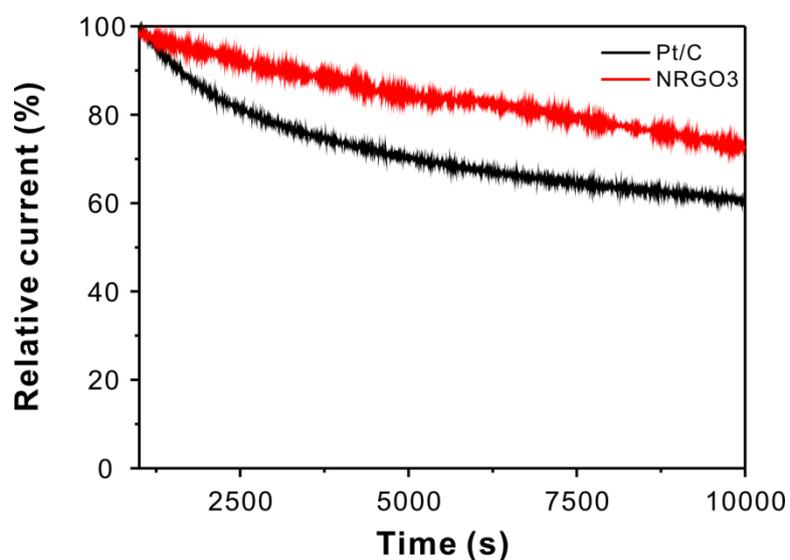
	Pyridinic-N	Pyrrolic-N	Graphitic-N	Oxide-N
<b>NRGO1</b>	39.99 (398.21)	34.42 (399.87)	20.42 (401.39)	5.17 (403.04)
<b>NRGO2</b>	29.87 (398.00)	19.72 (399.35)	35.55 (401.12)	14.86 (403.11)
<b>NRGO3</b>	43.22 (398.07)	22.70 (399.87)	26.65 (401.20)	7.44 (403.21)
<b>NRGO4</b>	31.98 (398.15)	36.90 (399.62)	23.21 (401.03)	7.90 (403.12)
<b>NRGO5</b>	38.91 (398.24)	27.12 (400.07)	27.06 (401.00)	6.91 (403.05)

**Table. S2** Relative ratio of atomic compositions by XPS measurement.

	C	O	N
<b>TRGO</b>	84.99	15.01	ND
<b>NRGO1</b>	84.17	15.11	0.72
<b>NRGO2</b>	90.48	8.32	1.19
<b>NRGO3</b>	93.77	3.17	3.06
<b>NRGO4</b>	91.75	4.98	3.28
<b>NRGO5</b>	89.47	6.22	4.3



**Fig. S3** RDE measurements at  $10 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  scan rate in  $\text{O}_2$ -saturated 0.5 M KOH electrolyte. (a) NRG01, (b) NRG02, (c) NRG03, (d) NRG04, (e) NRG05, and (f) TRGO at 2500 rpm.



**Fig. S4** The chronoamperometric durability response for 10000 s with Pt/C and NRG03.

NRGO3 exhibited a slow attenuation with high current retention of 73%, which is higher than that of Pt/C in the O<sub>2</sub>-saturated 0.1 M KOH solution at -0.25 V (*vs.* SCE) with 1600 rpm.