

## ПОЛУЧЕНИЕ ПОРИСТЫХ УГЛЕРОДНЫХ МАТЕРИАЛОВ И ИХ ЭЛЕКТРОКАТАЛИТИЧЕСКИЕ СВОЙСТВА ДЛЯ ВОССТАНОВЛЕНИЯ КИСЛОРОДА

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*Хотя катализаторы на основе благородных металлов достигли превосходных показателей в реакциях восстановления кислорода на электродах (катодах) топливных элементов, дефицит, высокая стоимость и низкая долговечность этих металлических катализаторов затрудняют реализацию крупномасштабных применений. Цинк-кислородно-воздушная батарея – это экологически чистая батарея со многими преимуществами, такими как малый размер, малая масса, большой заряд, безопасность и надежность, а также она может поддерживать нормальную работу в широком диапазоне температур без коррозии. В данной статье основное внимание уделяется изучению легированных азотом углеродных материалов на основе железа. С помощью пиролиза и стратегий «хозяин-гость» были разработаны и проконтролированы морфология, структура и состав материалов для приготовления катализаторов  $OCB@g-C_3N_4$  и катализаторов  $OCB-Nb@g-C_3N_4$  с превосходной активностью в реакции восстановления кислорода (ORR), но и высокой стабильностью. Высокотемпературные карбонизированные материалы образуют покрытую углеродом структуру, которая закрепляет частицы железа в углеродном слое. Частицы железа присутствуют в форме носителей гемоглобина, синергически взаимодействуют с активными центрами для инициирования эффективных реакций восстановления кислорода. Поэтому оптимизация материала путем изменения температуры прокаливания может увеличить количество и экспозицию активного центра.*

**Ключевые слова:** пористые углеродные материалы, реакция восстановления кислорода, катализатор, структурное регулирование

## PREPARATION OF POROUS CARBON MATERIALS AND THEIR ELECTROCATALYTIC PROPERTIES FOR OXYGEN REDUCTION

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***Although noble metal catalysts have achieved superior performance in fuel cell cathode oxygen reduction electrode reactions, the scarcity, cost and low durability of these metal catalysts make it difficult to carry out large-scale applications. Zinc-oxygen-air battery, is an environmentally friendly battery with many advantages such as small size, small mass, large charge, safety and reliability, and can maintain normal operation in a wide temperature range without corrosion. This paper focuses on the study of iron-based nitrogen-doped carbon materials. Through pyrolysis and host-guest strategies, the morphology, structure, and composition of the materials were designed and controlled to prepare OCB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> catalysts and OCB-Hb@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> catalysts with excellent ORR (oxygen reduction reaction) activity and high stability. The high-temperature carbonized materials form a carbon-coated structure that anchors iron particles in the carbon layer. The iron particles are present in the form of hemoglobin carriers, which synergistically interact with active centers to initiate efficient oxygen reduction reactions. Electrochemical test results show that the synthesized catalysts not only have excellent ORR performance and long-term stability but also their outstanding ORR catalytic performance is determined by factors such as specific surface area, porous structure, appropriate graphitization, and degree of defects as revealed by physical characterization results. Therefore, optimizing the material by changing the calcination temperature can increase the number and exposure of active site.***

**Keywords:** porous carbon materials, oxygen reduction reaction, catalyst, structural regulation

**Для цитирования:**

Сунь Линтао, Цзинь Жун, Лиан Тан, Джунжи Жои, Черкасова Т.Г., Чаоджонг Гао Получение пористых углеродных материалов и их электрокаталитические свойства для восстановления кислорода. *Изв. вузов. Химия и хим. технология*. 2025. Т. 68. Вып. 11. С. 87–95. DOI: 10.6060/ivkkt.20256811.7165.

**For citation:**

Lingtao Sun, Rong Jin, Liang Tan, Junjie Zhou, Cherkasova T.G., Chaozhong Guo Preparation of porous carbon materials and their electrocatalytic properties for oxygen reduction. *ChemChemTech [Izv. Vyssh. Uchebn. Zaved. Khim. Khim. Tekhnol.]*. 2025. V. 68. N 11. P. 87–95. DOI: 10.6060/ivkkt.20256811.7165.

## INTRODUCTION

Zinc-air battery, also known as zinc-oxygen-air battery, is an environmentally friendly battery with many advantages such as small size, small mass, large charge, safety and reliability, and can maintain normal operation in a wide temperature range without corrosion [1-2]. When discharging, zinc loses electrons and oxidizes, electrons flow to the positive electrode through the outer electrode, the oxygen molecule adsorbed on the catalyst obtains electrons, and then the O=O bond breaks at the catalyst/gas interface, and the reduction product is transferred to the negative electrode through the electrolyte after deattachment, and the total reaction is Zn and oxygen to produce ZnO.

Although noble metal catalysts have achieved superior performance in fuel cell cathode oxygen reduction electrode reactions, the scarcity, cost and low durability of these metal catalysts make it difficult to carry out large-scale applications [3-5]. Pt/C catalyst is an oxygen reduction reaction catalyst based on metal platinum nanoparticles (Pt NPs) loaded on carbon, and only platinum atoms on the surface of Pt NPs participate in the reaction [6]. Therefore, reducing the size of Pt NPs to the single-atom scale represents the best way to maximize the utilization of Pt [7-9]. As the most commonly used cathodic oxygen reduction catalyst among all pure metal catalysts, the oxygen reduction activity of Pt is mainly affected by the crystallinity, morphology and size. For example, the oxygen reduc-

tion activity of Pt (100) is much higher than that of Pt (111) due to the different adsorption rate of sulfuric acid in sulfuric acid medium. The performance of catalyst can be effectively improved by controlling the shape and form of platinum. By dispersing platinum on the gold nanorods, this hybrid electrocatalyst greatly reduces the amount of platinum and shows extremely high ORR high activity to oxygen reduction reactions (ORR) [10].

Wang et al. [11] prepared ordered and vertically arranged Pt nanotubes by template method. Pt nanotubes are composed of highly dispersed platinum nanoparticles with an average thickness of about 15nm, and their catalytic activity is greatly improved. In order to overcome the limitations of precious metals, researchers are increasingly focusing on alloying precious metals with transition metals (such as Ni, Co, Mn, Fe) and other precious metals (such as Rh, Ru, Pd, Au, Ag) when designing and synthesizing catalysts. Studies have shown that Pt-Pd alloy and PtNi<sub>3</sub> alloy catalysts with core-shell structure show unprecedented catalytic activity and stability, which provides a beneficial exploration for the selection of bimetallic oxygen reduction catalysts with low platinum content [12-13]. Ternary metal alloys, such as Pt-Co-Cu, also show superior catalytic activity and are expected to replace simple Pt oxygen reduction catalysts. In addition to Pt, other Pt group precious metals include Ruthenium (Ru) [14], Iridium (Ir) [15], etc., and non-Pt group precious metals such as silver (Ag) [16], etc., which can also exhibit high ORR activity due to its adsorption and desorption energy to oxygen-containing species similar to Pt. At present, the design focus of noble metal oxygen reduction catalyst has changed from single precious metal to noble metal alloy and non-noble metal catalyst, which provides important technical support for promoting the sustainable development of oxygen reduction reaction in the field of energy.

As a catalyst, platinum (Pt) is limited by its scarcity, high price and instability in the reaction process. Platinum-based catalysts usually do not have tolerance to alcohols, and the resulting toxic CO tends to occupy the active site, resulting in decreased performance and mixing potential problems. Therefore, the search for alternative materials that can reduce or completely replace the precious metal platinum as oxygen reduction catalyst is an important research direction in the field of chemistry and materials science. At present, it mainly focuses on the non-precious metals represented by transition metal oxides, nitrogen-doped carbon materials containing transition metals, and completely nonmetallic heteroatomic-doped carbon materials. Transition metal oxides, which typically contain

elements such as iron, cobalt, and nickel, are much cheaper than platinum and are abundant. By changing their surface structure and composition, these oxides can optimize their activity for oxygen reduction reaction (ORR). Nitrogen-doped carbon materials containing transition metals can also exhibit good oxygen reduction activity, and in these materials, the introduction of nitrogen atoms can create active sites and enhance the electron conductivity of the material, thereby improving its catalytic performance. Due to the cheapness and availability of carbon-based materials, these materials have significant advantages in terms of cost. Among them, metal carbides, such as tungsten carbide and iron carbide, have been intensively studied in oxygen reduction reaction (ORR) and hydrogen evolution reaction (HER) due to their excellent electrical conductivity and unique electronic structure [17,18]. Metal nitrides are a special class of compounds that are composed of transition metal elements and nitrogen. These compounds have many unique physical and chemical properties, including high hardness, high melting point and good electrical conductivity, and the main advantage is their stability. Under high temperature and high potential conditions, these catalysts are not susceptible to corrosion and can maintain stable catalytic performance. In addition, nitrogen is easily embedded in the vacancy of the transition metal and does not cause significant changes in the crystal, which helps to improve the D-band structure of the catalyst and reduce the Fermi level of the transition metal, thereby improving the catalytic performance of metal oxides (such as CoO, MnO<sub>2</sub>, etc.) as catalytic materials are easy to prepare, and show good stability in alkaline or oxidizing media. However, due to its poor electrical conductivity, its activity in the catalytic process is somewhat limited [19].

Transition metal composite nitrogen-doped carbon materials (M-N-C, M=Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, etc.) have been widely studied, and their active site is usually M-NX. The research of such materials dates back to 1964 when Jasinski et al. [20] found that cobalt phthalocyanine can also catalyze the reaction of oxygen in alkaline electrolyte, and this nitrogen-doped carbon-supported single atom catalyst can further improve the catalytic efficiency and atomic utilization, and improve the selectivity through the metal-carrier interface. Therefore, nitrogen-doped carbon supported single atom catalyst has the advantages of low cost, good stability, friendly environment and easy to obtain, and is expected to become a potential new catalyst. The realization of efficient ORR reaction is of great significance for promoting the commercial application of a new generation of green energy conversion devices

such as fuel cells, and atomically dispersed transition metal-nitrogen-doped carbon-based materials show great application potential in the field of ORR catalysis due to their multiple advantages such as high intrinsic activity, atomic utilization rate and clear active site [21].

In view of the above research hotspots, this paper develops a new catalyst by loading hemoglobin (Hb) and carbon trinitrogen ( $g-C_3N_4$ ) on porous carbon materials to reduce costs and improve stability, and improves the structure and performance of electrocatalysts by means of material engineering, so as to achieve a more efficient and environmentally friendly energy conversion system to meet the future needs of society for sustainable energy.

## EXPERIMENTAL PART

### 1. Preparation method of catalyst

1 mg of catalyst was weighed and dissolved into a mixture of 20 isopropyl alcohol and 160 L ultra-pure water, then 5 wt.% 20  $\mu$ L of naphthol solution was added, ultrasonic dispersion was carried out for 30 min, and 15  $\mu$ L of ink solution drops were removed onto a clean surface of a glassy carbon electrode. The catalyst thin film electrode with a load of  $0.196 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$  was prepared by natural drying at room temperature. Then the electrodes were dried at room temperature, and CV curves and LSV curves were measured at an electrochemical workstation. Pre-oxidized carbon black (OCB) synthesis: First, 0.2 g BP2000 carbon black was added to 50 ml beeper, and 30 ml 6 mol/L  $\text{HNO}_3$  was ultrasonically added to form a uniform suspension, and then the mixture was magnetically stirred at  $70^\circ\text{C}$  for 12 h. Finally, the carbon black was filtered after pre-oxidation and washed and dried in sufficient ultra-pure water for use.

$G-C_3N_4$  synthesis: 10 g melamine was placed in a corundum crucible with a lid at  $5^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$  to  $550^\circ\text{C}$  and held for 4 h to obtain  $G-C_3N_4$  yellow powder.

(1) OCB-Hb@ $g-C_3N_4$  catalyst: 50 mg OCB and X mg ( $X = 50, 100, 150$ ) Hb were added to 30 ml ultra-pure water to form a uniform suspension. The mixture was then magnetically stirred at 300 rpm at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  for 12 h and then steamed in a vacuum drying oven at  $80^\circ\text{C}$ . 100 mg of dried OCB-Hb and 240 mg of  $g-C_3N_4$  were ground in agate body for 0.5 h. The obtained powder was pyrolyzed at a high temperature under Ar at a pyrolysis rate of  $5^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$ , held at  $350^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 h, and at  $900^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 h. The resulting product was acid-washed in 0.5M  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  solution at  $80^\circ\text{C}$  for 10 h to remove metal oxides, and dried in a vacuum drying oven at  $60^\circ\text{C}$ .

(2) CB-Hb@ $g-C_3N_4$  catalyst: CB-Hb@ $g-C_3N_4$  catalyst type is in the OCB-Hb@ $g-C_3N_4$  step, CB is carbon black that has not been treated by 6 mol/L  $\text{HNO}_3$ .

(3) CB@ $g-C_3N_4$  catalyst: CB@ $g-C_3N_4$  The catalyst is similar to the CB-Hb@ $g-C_3N_4$  step, except hemoglobin is not added.

### 2. Preparation method of membrane electrode.

A quantity of 1 mg catalyst is weighed out and dissolved into a mixed solution containing 20 (specify units, such as  $\mu\text{L}/\text{mL}$ ) isopropyl alcohol and 160 L ultra-pure water. After that, 20  $\mu\text{L}$  of 5 wt% naphthol solution is introduced into the system, and the mixture is subjected to ultrasonic dispersion for 30 min. Subsequently, 15  $\mu\text{L}$  of the resulting ink solution is pipetted and deposited onto the surface of a pre-cleaned glassy carbon electrode. The catalyst thin film electrode with a load of  $0.196 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$  was prepared by natural drying at room temperature. Then the electrodes were dried at room temperature, and CV curves and LSV curves were measured at an electrochemical workstation.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Characterization of physical and chemical properties of carbon black

Field emission scanning electron microscopy (SEM) was used to study the influence of the morphology and structure of carbon black BP2000 on the non-pre-oxidation and pre-oxidation respectively, as shown in Fig. 1(a) and (b). Fig. 1(a) shows the microscopic morphology of carbon black BP2000. Due to its special nanoscale branched chain structure, carbon black BP2000 not only has high electrical conductivity, but also ensures that active substances can be effectively packed tightly in it. This loose porous property allows it to hold more active substances, which is crucial for improving the performance of the catalyst, especially in terms of increasing the current density of the catalyst and the battery capacity. It can be seen from Fig. 1(b) that the carbon black BP2000 obtained after pre-oxidation treatment does not agglomerate, and the dispersion is very uniform. The pre-oxidized carbon black BP2000 was also subjected to a BET test (MikeTriStarII3020  $\text{N}_2$ ), and the results are shown in Table 1, further demonstrating its porous properties.

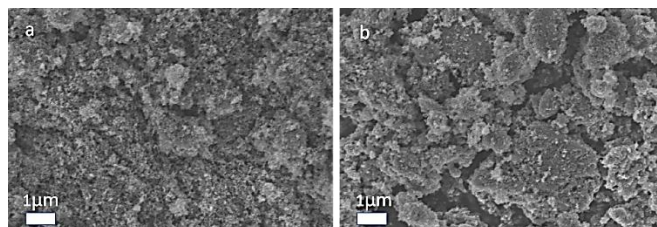


Fig. 1: SEM image of carbon black BP2000 (a) without pre-oxidation; (b) SEM image of pre-oxidation

Рис. 1. СЭМ-изображение технического углерода BP2000 (a) без предварительного окисления; (b) СЭМ-изображение с предварительным окислением

Table 1

## Textural properties of BP2000 after pre-oxidation

Таблица 1. Текстуальные свойства BP2000 после предварительного окисления

| Sample                     | SBET (m <sup>2</sup> /g) | Total pore volume (cm <sup>3</sup> /g) | Micropores volume (cm <sup>3</sup> /g) | Mesopores volume (cm <sup>3</sup> /g) |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| BP2000 after pre-oxidation | 1458                     | 2.05                                   | 0.24                                   | 1.81                                  |

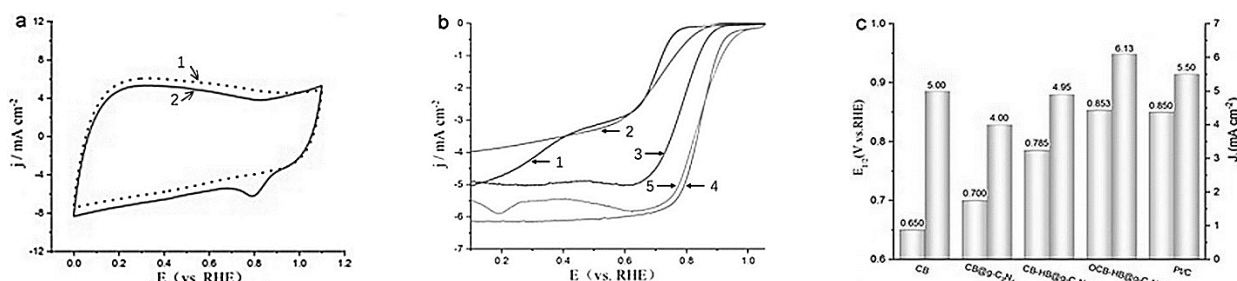


Fig. 2. (a) curve 1: CV curve of OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> catalyst in 0.1mol/L KOH electrolyte saturated with N<sub>2</sub>, curve 2: CV curve of OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> catalyst in 0.1mol/L KOH electrolyte saturated with O<sub>2</sub>; (b) Curves 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 correspond to the LSV curves of CB, CB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, CB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, and Pt/C catalysts in O<sub>2</sub>-saturated 0.1mol/L KOH electrolyte; (c) Histogram of half wave potential and limit current density of catalysts with different contrast samples

Рис. 2. (a) кривая 1: циклическая вольтамперная (ЦВ) кривая катализатора OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> в электролите 0,1 моль/л KOH, насыщенном N<sub>2</sub>; кривая 2: циклическая вольтамперная (ЦВ) кривая катализатора OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> в электролите 0,1 моль/л KOH, насыщенном O<sub>2</sub>; (b) кривые 1, 2, 3, 4 и 5 соответствуют линейно-сканировочным вольтамперным (ЛСВ) кривым катализаторов CB, CB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, CB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> и Pt/C в электролите 0,1 моль/л KOH, насыщенном O<sub>2</sub>; (c) гистограмма полувольтного потенциала и предельной плотности тока катализаторов с различными контрольными образцами

## 2. Catalyst kinetic process test

The electrochemical test was carried out on the CHI 760E electrochemical workstation with 0.1M KOH solution as electrolyte, 100 mL/min oxygen flow, graphite rod as auxiliary electrode and Hg/HgO as reference electrode. Cyclic voltammetry (CV) tests were performed in a 0.1 M KOH solution saturated with N<sub>2</sub> or O<sub>2</sub> at a scan rate of 50 mV/s. Linear sweep voltammetry (LSV) is performed at 1600 rpm from 0 V to 1.1 V at a scan rate of 10 mV/s. The H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> % and the number of transferred electrons (n) of the catalyst in ORR are calculated by formulas (1.1) and (1.2):

$$H_2O_2(\%) = 200 \cdot \frac{I_{R/N}}{(I_{R/N}) + I_D} \quad (1.1)$$

$$n = 4 \cdot \frac{I_D}{(I_{R/N}) + I_D} \quad (1.2)$$

Where  $I_R$  and  $I_D$  are ring current and disk current respectively, the current collection efficiency of N is 0.38.

The K-L equation is:

$$\frac{1}{j} = \frac{1}{j_k} + \frac{1}{j_l} = \frac{1}{j_k} + \frac{1}{B\omega^{1/2}} \quad (1.3)$$

$$B = 0.2nFC_0D_0^{2/3}\nu^{-1/6} \quad (1.4)$$

Where  $J$  is the current density value measured during the experiment;  $J_k$  is the kinetic current density obtained by calculation;  $J_l$  is the limit current density obtained during experimental testing;  $\omega$  is the angular velocity obtained by converting the rotation speed of the selected disk electrode;  $n$  is the calculated number

of electrons transferred in the ORR process.  $F$  is the Faraday coefficient (96485 C/mol); The actual concentration of the reactants provided during the experimental test ( $1.2 \cdot 10^{-6}$  mol/cm<sup>3</sup>);  $D_0$  is the diffusion parameter of reactant O<sub>2</sub> during ORR process ( $1.9 \cdot 10^{-5}$  cm<sup>2</sup>/s);  $\nu$  is the viscosity parameter of solution in ORR (0.01 cm<sup>2</sup>/s).

## 3. Oxygen reduction performance test

Fig. 2(a) shows the catalyst OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> using a rotating disk electrode (RDE) to perform cyclic voltammetry test in 0.1M KOH solution saturated with O<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>. As shown in the figure, there is no reduction peak in the cyclic voltammetry curve under N<sub>2</sub> saturation state, while under O<sub>2</sub> saturation state, there is a reduction peak in the cyclic voltammetry curve. The cyclic voltammetry curve shows an obvious reduction peak at 0.80V (vs. RHE), which indicates that the catalyst has good oxygen reduction performance. In order to explore the influence of different preparation conditions on the catalytic performance of the catalyst for oxygen reduction, linear sweep voltammetry tests were performed at 1600 rpm in 0.1M KOH electrolyte with saturated oxygen, as shown in Fig. 2(b). CB, CB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, CB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> are compared with commercial Pt/C as shown in Fig. 2(c). The half-wave potential and limiting current density of g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (as a small molecular nitrogen source) and hemoglobin (as an iron source) catalysts are much higher than those of commercial carbon black BP2000, indicating that these two substances play an important role in improving the catalytic activity of carbon black.

The optimal sample OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> has a half-wave potential of 0.853V (vs. RHE) that is similar to the commercial Pt/C half-wave unit of 0.850V (vs. RHE), but the limiting current density is much higher than that of commercial Pt/C, as shown in Table 2. It is speculated that the reasons are as follows: firstly, after the cheap BP2000 carbon black is treated with high concentration nitric acid, its surface is enriched with oxygen-containing functional groups such as hydroxyl carboxyl groups. These oxygen-containing functional

groups will act as metal anchoring sites to capture more metals, thus improving the oxygen reduction performance of the catalyst. [22] Secondly, the BP2000 carbon black adsorbed with hemoglobin is ground with g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>. As a small molecular nitrogen source, g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> can first physically block the aggregation of hemoglobin in space, and secondly, more importantly, it can be used to capture Fe atoms in the migration process during pyrolysis to prevent a large loss of Fe atoms.

Table 2

Comparison of ORR properties of OCB-Hb@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> catalyst with other non-precious metal catalysts

Таблица 2. Сравнение свойств ORR катализатора OCB-Hb@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> с другими катализаторами на основе недрагоценных металлов

| Catalysts                                     | E <sub>1/2</sub> (V) | J <sub>L</sub> (mA/cm <sup>2</sup> ) | Mass loading(mg/cm <sup>2</sup> ) | References |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| CoFe@NC-SE                                    | 0.82                 | 6.25                                 | 0.25                              | [23]       |
| NiCo-N-TC-H                                   | 0.80                 | 5.94                                 | -                                 | [24]       |
| Co <sub>0.25</sub> Ni <sub>0.75</sub> @NCNT30 | 0.84                 | -                                    | 0.6                               | [25]       |
| MnO-Co@NC                                     | 0.75                 | 5.90                                 | 0.5                               | [26]       |
| Fe-NCCs                                       | 0.82                 | -                                    | 0.1                               | [27]       |
| Bi-CoP/NP-DG                                  | 0.81                 | -                                    | -                                 | [28]       |
| In-CoO/CoPFNS                                 | 0.81                 | -                                    | -                                 | [29]       |
| HNCSs                                         | 0.82                 | 5.48                                 | 0.2                               | [30]       |
| DAC-N800                                      | 0.79                 | 6.17                                 | -                                 | [31]       |
| CoNC@CoFeS <sub>2</sub>                       | 0.80                 | -                                    | 0.35                              | [32]       |
| NMC-1                                         | 0.82                 | 4.50                                 | -                                 | [33]       |
| Pt/C                                          | 0.85                 | 5.80                                 | 0.384                             | This Work  |
| OCB@HB-g-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>        | 0.853                | 6.13                                 | 0.384                             | This Work  |

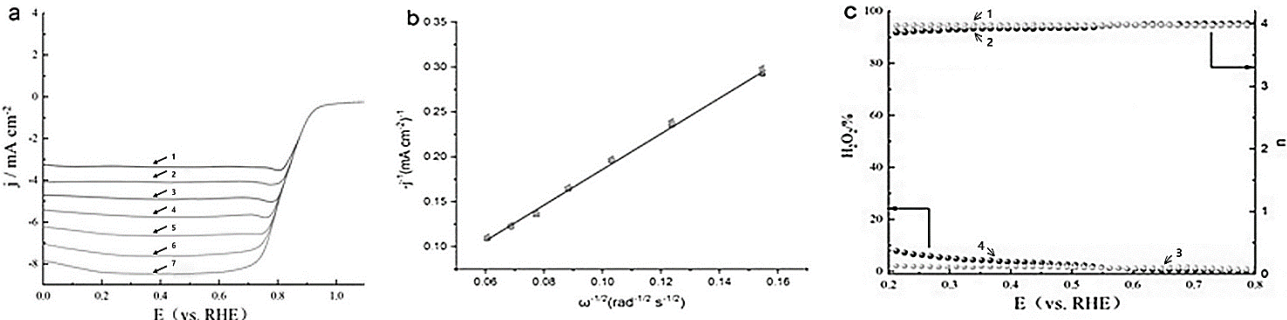


Fig. 3. (a) Curves 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 correspond to the LSV curves of OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> catalyst at 400, 625, 900, 1225, 1600, 2025, 2500 rpm ; (b) KL diagram of OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> catalyst at different potentials; (c) Curves 1 and 2 correspond to the electron transfer number of OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> catalyst and Pt/C, Curves 3 and 4 correspond to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> yield of OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> catalyst and Pt/C  
Рис. 3. (а) кривые 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 и 7 соответствуют линейно-сканировочным вольтамперным (ЛСВ) кривым катализатора OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> при скоростях вращения 400, 625, 900, 1225, 1600, 2025 и 2500 об/мин; (б) диаграмма К-Л (Куттлера-Лэнгмюра) катализатора OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> при различных потенциалах; (с) кривые 1 и 2 соответствуют числу переносимых электронов катализаторов OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> и Pt/C; кривые 3 и 4 соответствуют выходу пероксида водорода (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) катализаторов OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> и Pt/C

In order to further study the ORR reaction kinetics on the catalyst, LSV at OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> at different speeds of 400-2500 rpm was measured. As shown in Fig. 3(a), the limiting current density increases with the increase of rotational speed because, to a certain extent, the higher the rotational speed, the shorter the diffusion distance. According to the limit

current density and voltage, the LSV curves at different speed are drawn. It is found that the limit current density has a linear relationship with the speed in the range of 0.35V to 0.6V. Correspondingly, Fig. 3(b) shows that the polarization curve of the catalyst at different sweep speeds has good linearity and normalization, the potential range is 0.35V to 0.60V, and the electron

transfer number is 3.75. In addition, the hydrogen peroxide yield and electron transfer number during ORR were measured with a rotating ring disk device (RRDE), as shown in Fig. 3(c). The  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  yield of OCB-HB@g- $\text{C}_3\text{N}_4$  is about 7%, which is slightly higher than that of Pt/C. According to the formula, the electron transfer number of OCB-HB@g- $\text{C}_3\text{N}_4$  is between 3.72 and 3.78. Based on the above data, it can be seen that OCB-HB@g- $\text{C}_3\text{N}_4$  is nearly four electron reaction paths.

In addition, the electrochemical active region is analyzed by scanning rate and non-Faraday current slope in cyclic voltammetry, and the Cdl of the optimal sample OCB-HB@g- $\text{C}_3\text{N}_4$  is calculated. According to

relevant literature reports, the larger the electrochemical double layer capacitance, the larger the effective surface area of the catalyst for catalytic reaction, and the higher the catalytic activity of ORR.

Fig. 4(a) shows CV curves drawn at different scanning speeds. The electrocatalytic active area is characterized by the fitting of scanning rates of different CV with non-Faraday current slopes. As shown in Fig. 4(b), the prepared catalyst double layer capacitance (Cdl) of  $54.2 \text{ mF/cm}^2$  was fitted. The catalytic active area is relatively large, indicating that the optimal OCB-HB@g- $\text{C}_3\text{N}_4$  catalyst has better oxygen reduction performance.

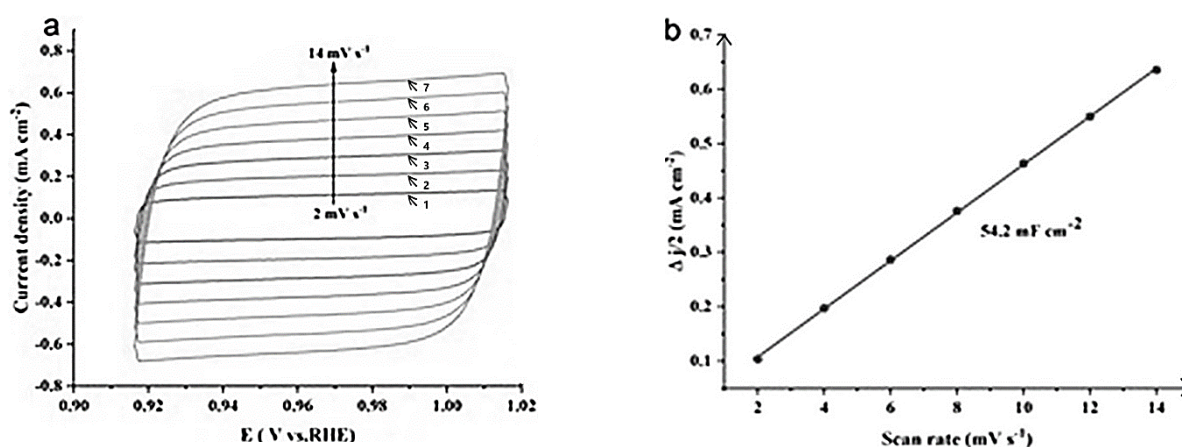


Fig. 4. (a) Curves 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 correspond to the CV curve of OCB-HB@g- $\text{C}_3\text{N}_4$  catalyst in the non-Faraday potential range at the scan rate of 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$ ; (b) Double layer capacitance of OCB-HB@g- $\text{C}_3\text{N}_4$  catalyst

Рис. 4. (а) кривые 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 и 7 соответствуют циклическим вольтамперным (ЦВ) кривым катализатора OCB-HB@g- $\text{C}_3\text{N}_4$  в диапазоне нефарадеевских потенциалов при скорости сканирования 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 мВ/с; (б) двойной слой ёмкости катализатора OCB-HB@g- $\text{C}_3\text{N}_4$

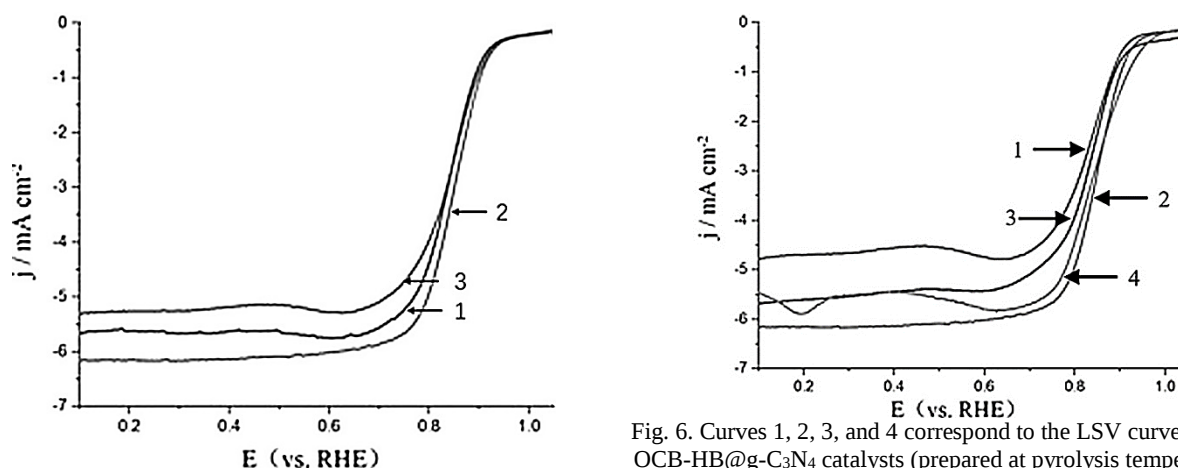


Fig. 5. Curves 1, 2, and 3 correspond to the linear sweep voltammetry (LSV) curves of the OCB-HB@g- $\text{C}_3\text{N}_4$  catalysts prepared with hemoglobin contents of 50, 100, and 150 mg, respectively  
Рис. 5. Кривые 1, 2 и 3 соответствуют линейно-сканировочным вольтамперным (ЛСВ) кривым катализаторов OCB-HB@g- $\text{C}_3\text{N}_4$ , приготовленных при содержании гемоглобина 50, 100 и 150 мг соответственно

Fig. 6. Curves 1, 2, 3, and 4 correspond to the LSV curves of the OCB-HB@g- $\text{C}_3\text{N}_4$  catalysts (prepared at pyrolysis temperatures of 800, 900, and 1000  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and the Pt/C catalyst in  $\text{O}_2$ -saturated 0.1mol/L KOH electrolyte, respectively

Рис. 6. Кривые 1, 2, 3 и 4 соответствуют линейно-сканировочным вольтамперным (ЛСВ) кривым катализаторов OCB-HB@g- $\text{C}_3\text{N}_4$  (приготовленных при температурах пиролиза 800, 900 и 1000  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) и катализатора Pt/C в электролите 1 моль/л KOH, насыщенном кислородом ( $\text{O}_2$ ), соответственно

#### 4. Effects of different hemoglobin contents on catalyst ORR

In order to study the effect of hemoglobin content on catalytic activity, ORR activity of catalysts synthesized with different hemoglobin content was tested in 0.1 mol/L KOH solution saturated with O<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 5). According to LSV, there is a corrected half-wave potential of 0.853V (vs. RHE) and a greater limiting current density of 6.13 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> when the hemoglobin supplemental level is 100 mg. The reason for this is that the addition of too much metal may lack the corresponding binding site with carbon black, resulting in metal agglomeration and pore structure blockage in the pyrolysis process, thus reducing the activity of the catalyst.

#### 5. Influence of different pyrolysis temperatures on catalyst ORR

In order to study the effect of pyrolysis temperature on catalytic activity, ORR activity of the synthesized catalyst was tested in 0.1 mol/L KOH solution saturated with O<sub>2</sub> at different temperatures (800, 900, 1000 °C) (Fig. 6). The half-wave potential of OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> obtained at 900 °C is 0.853V, which is higher than that of OCB-HB-1000@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (0.832V) and OCB-HB-800@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (0.835V), indicating that the best ORR performance can be obtained by heat treatment at 900 °C. The results show that temperature can promote the increase of active N species, but too high temperature will lead to the conversion of active N to inactive N species, thus reducing the catalytic performance.

#### CONCLUSION

In this paper, aimed at solving a number of problems such as low activity and poor stability of oxygen reduction electrocatalyst for iron-doped carbon materials, an experimental study was conducted on the change in the electronic structure of the material by doping with hemoglobin. Also, the electrocatalytic activity of oxygen reduction and the stability of the OCB-HB@g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> catalyst were systematically analyzed, as well as ways to improve and enhance the performance of the catalyst.) Through the analysis and comparison of the experimental data, the catalytic performance at 900 °C is better than that at 800 °C and 1000 °C. The catalytic efficiency of hemoglobin at a concentration of 100 mg was better than at a concentration of 50 mg and 150 mg. The ORR performance of the catalyst can be improved by changing temperature, pre-oxidizing carbon black, adding hemoglobin, adding carbon triazine and using different types of carbon black. These findings provide new ideas for the development of catalysts for oxygen reduction reaction (ORR) of cathode core reaction in energy conversion devices such as zinc-air batteries.

Авторы заявляют об отсутствии конфликта интересов, требующего раскрытия в данной статье.

The authors declare the absence of a conflict of interest warranting disclosure in this article.

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Поступила в редакцию 11.11.2024

Принята к опубликованию 13.05.2025

Received 11.11.2024

Accepted 13.05.2025