Supplementary information

Connected iridium nanoparticle catalysts coated onto silica with high density for oxygen evolution in polymer electrolyte water electrolysis

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Materials

Poly(diallyldimethylammonium chloride) solution (PDDA, 35 wt% in H₂O), tetraethylene glycol (TEG, 99%) and Nafion® perfluorinated resin solution (5 wt% Nafion® solution, 20 wt% Nafion® solution) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Co. LLC, United States. Tris(2,4-pentanedionato)iridium(III) (Ir acac, Ir: 38.0–41.0%) was purchased from Tokyo Chemical Industry Co., Ltd., Japan. Ethanol (EtOH, 99.5%), 1-propanol (NPA, 99.5%), 2-propanol (IPA, 99.7%) and perchloric acid (HClO₄, 60.0–62.0%) were purchased from FUJIFILM Wako Pure Chemical Corporation, Japan. Iridium black (99.8%) was purchased from Alfa Aesar. United States. Platinum supported on carbon (Pt/C, Pt: 46.6%, TEC10E50E) was purchased from Tanaka Kikinzoku Kogyo Co., Ltd., Japan. Spherical silica particles (seahostar® KE-P30, diameter: 300 nm) was purchased from Nippon Shokubai Co., Ltd., Japan. Nafion® membrane (N-115, thickness: 127 μm) was purchased from DuPont, United States.

Synthesis of Ir/SiO₂

Connected Ir nanoparticle catalysts (Ir/SiO₂) were synthesized by 2 steps: modification of the SiO₂ surface by applying a coating of PDDA and the formation of Ir nanoparticles on PDDA/SiO₂ in a similar way as for the connected Pt-Fe nanoparticle catalysts.¹,² Spherical silica particles (0.16 g) and ultra-pure water (5.0 mL, 18.2 MΩ cm, supplied by Direct-Q® 5 UV,
Merck Millipore, United States) were dispersed in a 50 mL centrifuge tube with ultrasonication for 1 hour. PDDA solution (12 g) and ultra-pure water (19.0 mL) were mixed in another 50 mL centrifuge tube with a vortex for 5 min; then, the SiO$_2$ dispersion was added to the PDDA solution. The mixture was dispersed with ultrasonication for 1 hour and then cleaned by centrifugation with ultra-pure water (25 mL). After 4 cycles of centrifugation, ultra-pure water (5 mL) was added to the precipitated silica; then, the mixture was dispersed with a vortex. The silica dispersion (approximately 4.5 mL, PDDA/SiO$_2$: 120 mg) and TEG (30 mL) were evaporated in a 100 mL eggplant flask at 80 °C for removing water; then, the mixture was cooled in a refrigerator. Ir acac (673.4 mg, 1.38 mol (9.2 mol/L (M))) and TEG (100 mL) were dispersed in a 500 mL three-neck flask with ultrasonication for several hours before adding the silica dispersion. After stirring at 50 °C for 16 hours, the mixture was bubbled with argon and hydrogen for 30 min and then heated to 230 °C for 2 hours with stirring to form Ir nanoparticles on the silica by polyol reaction. After cooling, the mixture was cleaned by 4 cycles of centrifugation with EtOH (25 mL). Then, Ir/SiO$_2$ powder was obtained by removing EtOH by evaporation. To oxidize Ir/SiO$_2$, the catalyst was heated at 300 °C for 1 hour in air. For comparison, Ir/SiO$_2$ was synthesized using different precursor concentrations of 8.1 M and 10.3 M, as shown in Fig. S5, S6, and Table S2. The obtained crystallite sizes were almost the same. On the other hand, with the lower precursor concentration of 8.1 M, silica surface could not be
covered completely (Fig. S5), and with the higher precursor concentration of 10.3 M, excess nanoparticles were formed on silica (Fig. S6). For control of nanoparticles sizes, Ir/SiO₂ was treated by the silica coating, the supercritical treatment, and the alkaline treatment. As shown in Table S2, crystallite sizes of the catalysts after the supercritical treatment at 330 °C or 380 °C were calculated to be 2.5 nm and 2.8 nm, respectively.

**Structural characterization of the catalysts**

The as-synthesized Ir/SiO₂ was characterized using inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectroscopy (ICP-AES), X-ray diffraction (XRD), scanning transmission electron microscopy (STEM), energy dispersive X-ray spectrometry (EDX), electron energy loss spectroscopy (EELS), and X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS). For comparison, commercially available Ir black (Alfa Aesar (AA)) was used as a catalyst. The Ir loading for Ir/SiO₂ was measured by ICP-AES. Ir/SiO₂ (5 mg) was dissolved in aqua regia (10 mL) and hydrogen fluoride, which was diluted to 50 mL with water. Then, ICP-AES for the solution was measured using ICP Emission Spectroscopy ICPS-8100 (Shimadzu Corporation, Japan). XRD for the catalysts was conducted using a Multipurpose X-ray diffraction system Ultima IV (Rigaku Corporation, Japan) with a CuKα (λ = 0.154 nm) X-ray source. The peaks were ascribed with card data for fcc Ir (Inorganic Crystal Structure Database (ICSD) No. 64992). The powder X-ray analysis software PDXL 2.6
(Rigaku Corporation) was used for peak separation in the obtained XRD patterns, following which the Bragg angles and full width at half maximum (FWHM) were obtained. The crystallite sizes for the catalysts were calculated using the Scherrer equation\(^3\), which is expressed as
\[
D = \frac{K\lambda}{\beta \cos \theta},
\]
where the Bragg angle is \(\theta\), FWHM of the Ir (111) peak is \(\beta\), wavelength of the X-ray is \(\lambda\) (0.154 nm) and the value of the shape factor is \(K\) (1.0747), assuming spherically shaped nanoparticles.\(^4\) Field emission transmission electron microscope HF5000 (Hitachi High-Technologies Corporation, Japan) was used for STEM, EDX, and EELS analysis of Ir/SiO\(_2\). Spherical aberration-corrected STEM/SEM HD-2700 (Hitachi High-Technologies) was used for parts of STEM of IrSiO\(_2\), and a transmission electron microscope H-8100 (Hitachi High-Technologies) was used for transmission electron microscopy (TEM) of Ir/SiO\(_2\) and Ir black (AA). The average diameter of Ir/SiO\(_2\) obtained by STEM was calculated from the diameter values of 32 particles. XPS analysis was measured using PHI Quantera II (ULVAC-PHI, Inc., Japan).

**Electrochemical measurements**

Electrochemical characterization of the catalysts was then performed on glassy carbon electrodes (GCE). The Ir/SiO\(_2\) catalysts ink was prepared by mixing Ir/SiO\(_2\) (4.4 mg), 25 wt% IPA aq. (6.3 mL) and 5 wt% Nafion® solution (6.3 \(\mu\)L) with ultrasonication for 1 hour. Then, 10 \(\mu\)L of the
catalyst ink was drop cast onto a GCE, which was dried at room temperature with rotation at a speed of 600 rpm. A GCE for Ir black (AA) was prepared using almost the same method. The Ir loading for the Ir/SiO$_2$ and Ir black (AA) electrodes was 9.3 $\mu$g/cm$^2$ and 10.0 $\mu$g/cm$^2$, respectively. All electrochemical characterization of the catalysts was performed in 0.1 M HClO$_4$ aq. at room temperature with an electrochemical measurement system HZ-7000 (HOKUTO DENKOU CORPORATION, Japan) using a reversible hydrogen electrode (RHE) as reference electrode and platinum electrode as counter electrode. The electrochemical surface area (ECSA) and OER activity of the catalysts were evaluated using cyclic voltammetry (CV) and IR measurement. A potential range of 0.05–1.5 V was used for the pretreatment, 0.05–1.0 V for ECSA by the hydrogen desorption of metallic Ir, 0.4–1.4 V for ECSA by the capacitance of IrO$_2$ and 1.2–1.8 V for OER. Pretreatment was performed to oxidize the surfaces of the catalysts by CV of 50 cycles at a scan rate of 500 mV s$^{-1}$. The ECSA was calculated from the capacitance of IrO$_2$ after the pretreatment of both Ir/SiO$_2$ and Ir black (AA). The capacitances were calculated from the average values of the absolute current for the anodic and cathodic sweeps; these values were then converted to an ECSA using the specific capacitance of IrO$_2$ (100), 650 of $\mu$F cm$^{-2}$. Fig. S2(a) and (b) shows cyclic voltammograms with various potential sweep rates, from which the average anodic and cathodic currents were calculated using the currents at 0.65–0.75 V, as shown in Fig. S2(c). For comparison, the ECSA of Ir/SiO$_2$ was calculated using another method.
based on the charge of the hydrogen desorption before the pretreatment with a conversion factor of 179 μC cm\textsuperscript{-2}.\textsuperscript{8,9} The charge was calculated from the anodic current of the peak near 0.1 V after correcting for double layer charging by subtraction of the current at 0.3 V from the total current. CVs for OER were measured at a scan rate of 10 mV s\textsuperscript{-1} and rotation speed of 1600 rpm for 10 cycles. IR-free OER curves were obtained by averaging the current densities of the anodic and cathodic scans, and then removing the overpotential due to an ohmic resistance, which is dependent on the concentration of electrolyte, the distance between electrodes, and so forth. The overpotential was calculated by multiplying the measured current (I) and cell resistance (R) using the cyclic voltammetry and the solution resistance measurement, respectively. Subsequently, the IR-free curves were obtained by subtracting the overpotential from the measured potential, as shown in following literature. Mass activities for the OER were calculated using the IR-free currents at 1.48 V and the Ir loading on the electrode (9–10 μg cm\textsuperscript{-2}). The OER performance was evaluated based on the highest performance in 2–10 cycles for each catalyst: 2nd cycle for Ir/SiO\textsubscript{2}, 5th cycle for Ir black (AA). The Tafel slope for the catalysts was calculated using Tafel plots for the IR-free OER curves in the low current density region below 1 mA cm\textsuperscript{-2}.

**MEA measurements**

A 3.5 cm square Nafion® membrane N115 was treated in 1 M HNO\textsubscript{3} aq. at 90 °C for 2 hours;
then, the membrane was cleaned in RO water (12.8 MΩ cm, supplied by Elix 3UV Essential, Merck Millipore) at 100 °C for 1 hour. The membrane electrode assembly (MEA) was made by using the treated Nafion® N115 as electrolyte membrane, Ir/SiO₂ as anode catalyst, Pt/C as cathode catalyst and Nafion® solution as ionomer. An ink of the anode catalyst was prepared by mixing Ir/SiO₂ (60 mg), 20 wt% Nafion® solution (11.25 mg), IPA (6.6 mL) and RO water (8.4 mL) with ultrasonication for a few hours, followed by treatment in an autoclave at 200 °C for 20 hours to ensure the formation of a uniform ionomer coating on the catalyst. After ultrasonication for 1 hour, the obtained ink was coated onto the membrane with a catalyst layer size of 5 cm² with a spray method using a pulse spray system (Nordson Corporation, United States). An ink of the cathode catalyst was prepared by mixing Pt/C (2 g), RO water (8.5 g), 20 wt% Nafion® solution (5.3 g), NPA (8.5 g) and IPA (8.5 g) with ball milling at a rotating rate of 200 rpm for 1 hour using zirconia balls with a diameter of 5 mm. A cathode catalyst layer was prepared using a decal method using the ink, which was then attached onto the opposite side of the membrane by pressing at 5.11 kN at 135 °C for 5 min to obtain an MEA. An electrolyzer cell (FC Development Co., Ltd., Japan) was set up with the MEA using carbon paper (SGL carbon, Germany) as a porous transfer layer. Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) was measured using an electrochemical interface SI 1287 and impedance/gain-phase analyzer SI 1260 (TOYO Corporation, Japan) at a cell potential of 1.5 V in the frequency range of 1 Hz to
100 kHz. Water electrolysis was measured using battery charge/discharge system HJ1010SD8 (HOKUTO DENKO CORPORATION) from 0.1 A cm\(^{-2}\) to 1.1 A cm\(^{-2}\) with each current density value held constant for a few minutes. The EIS and water electrolysis performance of the cell was measured at 80 °C with water circulating in the anode flow channel at a flow rate of 10 mL min\(^{-1}\).
Fig. S1. XRD patterns for Ir/SiO$_2$ and spherical SiO$_2$ particles. The peak data for fcc-Ir was obtained from a database (ICSD No. 64992).

Fig. S2. TEM images of Ir black (AA).
Fig. S3. Cyclic voltammograms for a varying scanning rate for (a) Ir/SiO$_2$ and (b) Ir black (AA).

(c) Average current calculated from the currents measured at 0.65–0.75 V in (a) and (b).
**Fig. S4.** Tafel plots from the OER curves of Ir/SiO$_2$ and Ir black (AA).

**Fig. S5.** SEM images of Ir/SiO$_2$ synthesized using the lower precursor concentration of 8.1 M.
Fig. S6. SEM and TEM images of Ir/SiO$_2$ synthesized using the higher precursor concentration of 10.3 M.
**Fig. S7.** Cyclic voltammograms of Ir/SiO$_2$ before and after heat treatment.

**Fig. S8.** Ir4f curves from XPS analysis of Ir/SiO$_2$ before and after heat treatment.
Table S1. Parameters and performance of Ir/SiO$_2$ and Ir black (AA).

| catalyst            | crystallite size by XRD [nm] | particle size by STEM/TEM [nm] | ECSA [m$^2$ g$^{-1}$] | overpotential @10 mA cm$^{-2}$ [mV] | mass activity @1.48 V [mA mg$^{-1}$] |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Ir/SiO$_2$          | 1.7                          | 1.8 ± 0.3                     | 76.5 ± 1.9           | 305 ± 2                             | 50.5 ± 2.2                          |
| Ir black (AA)       | 4.0                          | (2–5)                         | 29.7 ± 1.5           | 374 ± 3                             | 9.6 ± 1.1                           |

Table S2. Crystallite sizes of Ir/SiO$_2$ synthesized by each precursor conditions and after treatments such as silica coating, supercritical treatment (SCT) and alkaline treatment.

| before or after treatments | crystallite size by XRD [nm] | amount of precursor [mol] | SCT temperature [°C] |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Before (this study)        | 1.67 ± 0.06                  | 1.38                       | -                    |
| Before                     | 1.59 ± 0.04                  | 1.21                       | -                    |
| Before                     | 1.69 ± 0.02                  | 1.54                       | -                    |
| After                      | 2.5                          | 1.21                       | 330                  |
| After                      | 2.8                          | 1.21                       | 380                  |

Table S3. Composition of each iridium state of Ir/SiO$_2$ calculated from XPS analysis.

| before or after heat treatment | metallic Ir [%] | IrOx, Ir(OH)x [%] | satellite [%] |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Before                        | 39.9            | 58.1              | 2.1           |
| After                         | 1.4             | 90.7              | 7.9           |
Table S4. Water electrolysis performance of MEAs using Ir-based catalysts as anode and Pt-based catalysts as cathode.

| Ref. | Anode catalyst | Cathode catalyst | An. Ir loading [mg cm\(^{-2}\)] | Ca. Pt loading [mg cm\(^{-2}\)] | Electrolyte membrane | Pres.-sure | Cell temp. [C °] | Cell voltage [V@1 A cm\(^{-2}\)] | CL. fabrication (An. / Ca.) |
|------|----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| This Work | Ir/SiO\(_2\) | 46%Pt/C (TKK) | 0.3 | 0.3 | N115 | - | 80 | 1.76 | S-mem / Decal |
| 10 | Ir-black | 40%Pt/C | 1.4 | 0.5 | N117 | - | 80 | 1.95 | Decal |
| 10 | IrO\(_2\) (AA) | 40%Pt/C | 1.1 | 0.2 | N117 | - | 80 | 1.93 | Decal |
| 10 | IrO\(_2\) (AA) | 40%Pt/C | 1.4 | 0.2 | N117 | - | 80 | 1.90 | Decal |
| 10 | IrO\(_2\) (AA) | 40%Pt/C | 1.7 | 0.2 | N117 | - | 80 | 1.88 | Decal |
| 11 | IrO\(_x\)/Nafion\(^\circledast\) | Pt/Vulcan | 0.08 | 0.3 | N117 | 2.76 MPa | 80 | 1.88 | @1.8 A cm\(^{-2}\) | RSDT |
| 12 | Ir-Ni nanowires | - | 0.1 | - | - | - | 80 | 1.61 | S (3M) |
| 13 | Ir\(_{0.7}\)Ru\(_{0.3}\)O\(_x\) | Pt/Vulcan | 0.34 | 0.1 | Aquivion\(^\circledast\) (90 μm) | - | 80 | 1.63 | S-CC / Sp-CC |
| 14 | Ir-black/Ti\(_4\)O\(_7\) | Pt/C (JM) | 0.42 | 0.5 | N212 | - | 40 | 0.26 A mg\(^{-1}\) @1.7 V | SP |
| 15 | IrO\(_2\) (1:100)-450 °C | Pt black | 2.0 | 2.0 | N115 | - | 80 | 1.649 | S-mem / Sp-CC |
| 16 | IrO\(_2\) | 46%Pt/C (TKK) | 1.5 | 0.5 | N117 | 0.1 MPa | 80 | 1.66 | S-mem |
| 16 | IrO\(_2\) | 46%Pt/C (TKK) | 1.5 | 0.5 | N117 | 0.3 MPa | 120 | 1.56 | S-mem |
| 17 | IrO\(_2\) | 30%Pt/C (oxide) (Premetek) | 4 (oxide) | 1.8 | N117 | - | 80 | 1.82 | Decal/ S-CP |
| 18 | Ir\(_{0.7}\)Ru\(_{0.3}\)O\(_x\) (EC) | 40%Pt/C (JM) | 1 (oxide) | 0.4 | N212 | - | 80 | 1.70 | S-mem |
| 19 | IrO\(_2\) (SK) | 20%Pt/C (SH) | 2 (oxide) | 0.2 | N117 | - | 80 | 1.72 | S-mem-wet |

AA = Alfa Aesar, EC = electrochemically leaching, JM = Johnson Matthey, RSDT = reactive spray deposition technology, S-CC/CP/mem = spray coating on carbon cloth/carbon paper/membrane, SH = Shanghai Hesen, SK = Shanxi Kaida, S-mem-wet = spray coating on swelling membrane with hot water, SP = screen printing, Sp-CC = spread on carbon cloth, TKK= Tanaka Kikinzoku Kogyo.
| Ref. | Anode catalyst | Cathode catalyst | An. Ir loading [mg cm\(^{-2}\)] | Ca. Pt loading [mg cm\(^{-2}\)] | Electrolyte membrane | Pres. [bar] | Cell temp. [C °] | Cell voltage [V@1 A cm\(^{-2}\)] | CL. fabrication (An. / Ca.) |
|------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 20   | 40Ir/TV-20     | 40%Pt/C (JM)    | 2.5                          | 0.5                           | N117                | 2.02          | S-mem                      |                               |
| 21   | IrO\(_2\) (SC) | 46%Pt/C (TKK)   | 0.1                          | 0.25                          | N115                | 1.89          | S-Decal                    |                               |
| 21   | IrO\(_2\) (SC) | 46%Pt/C (TKK)   | 0.3                          | 0.25                          | N115                | 1.79          | S-Decal                    |                               |
| 21   | IrO\(_2\) (SC) | 46%Pt/C (TKK)   | 0.7                          | 0.25                          | N115                | 1.71          | S-Decal                    |                               |
| 21   | IrO\(_2\) (SC) | 46%Pt/C (TKK)   | 1.0                          | 0.25                          | N115                | 1.73          | S-Decal                    |                               |
| 21   | IrO\(_2\) (SC) | 46%Pt/C (TKK)   | 1.2                          | 0.25                          | N115                | 1.73          | S-Decal                    |                               |
| 21   | IrO\(_2\) (SC) | 46%Pt/C (TKK)   | 1.7                          | 0.25                          | N115                | 1.71          | S-Decal                    |                               |
| 21   | IrO\(_2\) (SC) | 46%Pt/C (TKK)   | 1.2                          | 0.25                          | N115                | 1.73          | S-Decal                    |                               |
| 21   | IrO\(_2\) (SC) | 46%Pt/C (TKK)   | 1.7                          | 0.25                          | N115                | 1.71          | S-Decal                    |                               |
| 22   | IrO\(_2\)/Ti   | 46%Pt/C (TKK)   | 0.12                         | 0.25                          | N115                | 1.73          | S-Decal                    |                               |
| 23   | IrO\(_2\) (AA) | 46%Pt/C (TKK)   | 2                            | 0.4                           | N212                | 1.50          | S-CP                       |                               |
| 23   | IrO\(_2\)/CP   | 46%Pt/C (TKK)   | 0.1                          | 0.4                           | N212                | 1.50          | ED / S-CP                  |                               |
| 24   | IrO\(_2\)/TiO\(_2\) (Umicore) | 46%Pt/C (TKK) | 2.0                          | 0.35                          | N212                | 1.59          | Decal                      |                               |
| 25   | Ir black (JM)  | Pt/C (TKK)      | 0.1                          | 0.4                           | N1110               | 1.77          | Decal                      |                               |
| 25   | Ir black (JM)  | Pt/C (TKK)      | 0.4                          | 0.4                           | N1110               | 1.72          | Decal                      |                               |
| 26   | IrO\(_2\)/CP   | 46%Pt/C (TKK)   | 0.1                          | 0.4                           | N212                | 1.60          | ED / S-CP                  |                               |
| 27   | Ir\(_{0.7}\)Ru\(_{0.3}\)O\(_x\) (E-TEK) (oxide) | Pt/Vulcan (E-TEK)   | 1.5                          | 0.5                           | N115                | 1.60          | S-mem / Sp-CC              |                               |
| 27   | IrO\(_x\)      | Pt/Vulcan (E-TEK) (oxide) | 1.5                          | 0.5                           | N115                | 1.65          | S-mem / Sp-CC              |                               |
| 28   | 60%IrO\(_2\)/ATO | 20%Pt/C (AA)   | 1                             | 0.5                           | N115                | 1.80          | S-mem                      |                               |
| 29   | 90%IrO\(_2\)/ITO | 20%Pt/C (AA)   | 2 (oxide)                     | 0.5                           | N115                | 1.73          | S-mem                      |                               |

AA = Alfa Aesar, ATO = antimony doped tin oxide, CP = carbon paper, ED = electrodeposition, ITO = indium tin oxide, JM = Johnson Matthey, SC = Surepure® Chemets, S-CP/mem = spray coating on carbon paper/membrane, S-Decal = spray coating on PTFE and
then decal method, SP = screen printing, Sp-CC = spread on carbon cloth, TKK= Tanaka Kikinzoku Kogyo.

Table S4. (continued)

| Ref. | Anode catalyst | Cathode catalyst | An. Ir loading [mg cm$^{-2}$] | Ca. Pt loading [mg cm$^{-2}$] | Electrolyte membrane | Pres. -sure | Cell temp. [°C] | Cell voltage [V@1 A cm$^{-2}$] | CL. fabrication (An. / Ca.) |
|------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5    | Ir-ND/ATO      | 46%Pt/C (TKK)    | 1.0                           | 0.4                           | N212                 | -           | 80             | 1.67                          | S-mem                     |
| 5    | Ir-ND/Carbon   | 46%Pt/C (TKK)    | 1.0                           | 0.4                           | N212                 | -           | 80             | 1.68                          | S-mem                     |
| 5    | Ir-ND          | 46%Pt/C (TKK)    | 1.0                           | 0.4                           | N212                 | -           | 80             | 1.71                          | S-mem                     |
| 30   | Ir$_{0.6}$Sn$_{0.4}$O$_2$ | 70%Pt/C | 1.5                   | 0.4                           | N115                 | -           | 80             | 1.63                          | S-mem                     |
| 31   | Ru$_{0.9}$Ir$_{0.1}$O$_2$ | 46%Pt/C (TKK) | 1.0 | 0.18  | N117 | - | 80 | 1.68 | S-Decal / Decal |
| 32   | Ru$_{0.7}$Ir$_{0.3}$O$_2$ | 46%Pt/C (TKK) | 2.5 | 0.4  | N115 | - | r.t. | 2.30 | Decal |
| 33   | IrO$_2$/SnO$_2$ (2:1) | 40%Pt/C (JM) | 1 | 0.2 | N112 | - | 80 | 1.60 | S-Decal |
| 34   | Ru$_{0.3}$Ir$_{0.7}$O$_2$/Pt$_{0.15}$ | 40%Pt/Vulcan (JM) | 1.8 | 0.3 | N117 | - | 60 | 1.76 | S-mem |
| 35   | IrO$_2$ (JM)  | 40%Pt/C (JM)    | 0.5                           | 0.5                           | N212                 | -           | 80             | 1.67                          | S-mem-IR                  |
| 35   | IrO$_2$ (JM)  | 40%Pt/C (JM)    | 1                            | 0.5                           | N212                 | -           | 80             | 1.62                          | S-mem-IR                  |
| 35   | IrO$_2$ (JM)  | 40%Pt/C (JM)    | 1.5                           | 0.5                           | N212                 | -           | 80             | 1.58                          | S-mem-IR                  |
| 35   | IrO$_2$ (JM)  | 40%Pt/C (JM)    | 2                            | 0.5                           | N212                 | -           | 80             | 1.57                          | S-mem-IR                  |
| 36   | Ir black       | Pt/Vulcan       | 2                            | 0.8                           | N115                 | -           | 90             | 1.72                          | -                          |
| 36   | Ir black       | Pt/GNF          | 2                            | 0.8                           | N115                 | -           | 90             | 1.67                          | -                          |
| 37   | IrO$_2$/SnO$_2$ | 40%Pt/C (JM) | 1.5 (oxide) | 0.5 (Pt/C) | N212 | - | 80 | 1.58 | S-Decal |
| 37   | IrO$_2$/SnO$_2$ | 40%Pt/C (JM) | 1.5 (oxide) | 0.5 (Pt/C) | N212 | - | 80 | 1.60 | S-Decal |
| 38   | Ir black       | 40%Pt/Vulcan    | 2                            | 0.7                           | N115                 | 1 bar       | 90             | 1.67                          | S-Ti                       |

ATO = antimony doped tin oxide, ED = electrodeposition, GNF = graphitic nano-fibers, JM = Johnson Matthey, ND = nanodendrites, r.t. = room temperature, S-Decal = spray coating on PTFE and then decal method, S-mem/Ti = spray coating on membrane/porous-Ti,
S-mem-IR = spray coating on membrane with infrared radiation, TKK= Tanaka Kikinzoku Kogyo.

**Table S4.** (continued)

| Ref. | Anode catalyst | Cathode catalyst | An. Ir loading $[\text{mg cm}^{-2}]$ | Ca. Pt loading $[\text{mg cm}^{-2}]$ | Electrolyte membrane | Pres. -sure | Cell temp. $[\text{C}^\circ]$ | Cell voltage $[\text{V@1 A cm}^{-2}]$ | CL. fabrication (An. / Ca.) |
|------|----------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 39   | Ru$_{0.7}$Ir$_{0.3}$O$_2$ | 20%Pt/C (AA)  | 1.5 (oxide)                          | 0.5 (Pt/C)                          | N117                 | -          | 80                         | 1.586                           | S-Decal                      |
| 40   | IrO$_2$         | 28%Pt/C (TKK)   | 1.5 (oxide)                          | 0.5 (Pt/C)                          | N1035                | -          | 80                         | 1.67                            | S-mem                        |
| 40   | IrO$_2$         | 28%Pt/C (TKK)   | 1.5 (oxide)                          | 0.5 (Pt/C)                          | N1035                | -          | 80                         | 1.60                            | S-mem                        |
| 41   | Ir$_{0.4}$Ru$_{0.6}$O$_2$ | 28%Pt/C (TKK)  | 1.5 (oxide)                          | 0.5 (Pt/C)                          | N1035                | -          | 80                         | 1.646                           | S-mem                        |
| 41   | Ir$_{0.4}$Ru$_{0.6}$Mo$_x$O$_y$ | 28%Pt/C (TKK) | 1.5 (oxide)                          | 0.5 (Pt/C)                          | N1035                | -          | 80                         | 1.606                           | S-mem                        |
| 42   | Ir black        | Pt/C            | 2.0                                  | 0.8 (Pt/C)                          | N115                 | 1 bar      | 90                         | 1.68                            | S-mem                        |
| 43   | Ir black        | Pt/Vulcan       | 2.4                                  | 0.7                                 | N115                 | -          | 90                         | 1.68                            | S-Ti                         |
| 44   | Ir              | 28%Pt/C (TKK)   | 3 (oxide)                            | 0.5 (Pt/C)                          | N112                 | -          | 80                         | 1.72                            | S-mem                        |
| 44   | IrO$_2$ (A)     | 28%Pt/C (TKK)   | 3 (oxide)                            | 0.5 (Pt/C)                          | N112                 | -          | 80                         | 1.66                            | S-mem                        |
| 44   | IrO$_2$ (C)     | 28%Pt/C (TKK)   | 3 (oxide)                            | 0.5 (Pt/C)                          | N112                 | -          | 80                         | 1.62                            | S-mem                        |
| 44   | Ru$_{0.5}$Ir$_{0.5}$O$_2$ | 28%Pt/C (TKK)  | 3 (oxide)                            | 0.5 (Pt/C)                          | N112                 | -          | 80                         | 1.65                            | S-mem                        |
| 45   | IrO$_2$         | Pt black (SCR)  | 2.5                                  | 2                                   | N115                 | -          | 80                         | 1.60                            | S-mem                        |
| 46   | IrO$_2$         | Pt/Vulcan (E-TEK) | 2 (oxide)                           | 0.4                                 | N115                 | -          | 80                         | 1.65                            | S-mem                        |

AA = Alfa Aesar, IrO$_2$ (A) = IrO$_2$ prepared by Adams method, IrO$_2$ (C) = IrO$_2$ prepared by colloid method, JM = Johnson Matthey, ND = nanodendrites, SCR = Shanghai Chemical Reagent, S-Decal = spray coating on PTFE and then decal method, S-mem/Ti = spray coating on membrane/porous-Ti, S-mem-IR = spray coating on membrane with infrared radiation, TKK= Tanaka Kikinzoku Kogyo.
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