

Table of Contents

Abstract	i
Zusammenfassung	iii
Acknowledgements	v
Abbreviations	vii
Chapter 1: Topic scope	1
Chapter 2: Theoretical background	5
2.1 Principles of electrochemical methods and devices	5
2.1.1 Faradaic process: kinetics of electrons transfer	8
2.1.2 Butler-Volmer Model and Tafel linearization	11
2.1.3 Non-faradaic process at Electrode-electrolyte interfaces	13
2.2 Electrode materials: Conductors and semiconductors	15
2.3 Structural characterization	17
2.3.1 Electron Microscopy	17
2.3.1.1 Scanning Electron Microscopy SEM	20
2.3.1.2 Transmission Electron Microscopy TEM	20
2.3.1.3 Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy EDX	22
2.3.2 X-ray Diffraction XRD	23
2.3.3 X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy XPS	25
2.3.4 N ₂ sorption	27
Chapter 3: Instruments	31
3.1 Electrochemical characterization	31
3.2 SEM	32
3.3 TEM	32
3.4 STEM	32
3.5 X-ray Diffraction XRD	32
3.6 X-ray Photoelectron spectroscopy XPS	33
3.7 N ₂ sorption	33
3.8 ICP-OES	33
3.9 Elemental Analysis	34
3.10 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR)	34

Chapter 4: Polyformamide derived Iron modified Nitrogen doped carbon materials as electrocatalysts for ORR	35
4.1 Introduction	35
4.1.1 Synthesis of M-N-C catalyst	37
4.1.2 Active Sites	38
4.2 Experimental details	41
4.3 Results	43
4.3.1. Synthesis PFA derived Iron modified N-doped carbon composites.	43
4.3.1.1 PFA as nitrogen rich precursor for Fe-N-C composites	43
4.3.1.2 Effect of iron impregnation in PFA.	44
4.3.1.2 Effect of pyrolysis temperature.	47
4.3.1.3 Effect of iron loading.	50
4.3.1.4 Effect of acid leaching.	54
4.3.2 ORR electrocatalytic activity.	60
4.3.3 XPS analysis of N speciation.	64
4.3.4 Stability of most active PFA derived catalyst.	66
4.4 Conclusion and Outlook.	68
Chapter 5: ITO_{TR} as support electrode material in yolk-shell MO_x@ITO_{TR} nanocomposites for OER	71
5.1 Introduction	71
5.1.1 Tin-Rich Indium Tin Oxide ITO _{TR} : a novel electrode material	72
5.1.2 Water oxidation for sustainable fuel production.	74
5.1.2.1 OER catalysts based in Nickel and Cobalt oxides	76
5.2 Experimental details	79
5.3 Results	81
5.3.1 Electrochemical stability of ITO _{TR}	81
5.3.2 Synthesis of ITO _{TR} supported transition metal oxides MO _x @ITO _{TR}	87
5.3.2.1 Synthesis of single metal oxide composites MO _x @ITO _{TR}	87
5.3.2.2 Synthesis of mixed metals M _A M _B O _x @ITO _{TR}	91
5.3.3 Oxygen Evolution Reaction OER electrocatalysis.	96
5.3.3.1 OER activity of single metal oxide composites MO _x @ITO _{TR}	96
5.3.3.2 OER activity of mixed metals M _A M _B O _x @ITO _{TR}	99
5.4 Conclusion and Outlook.	103
Chapter 6: ITO_{TR} derived composites as electrocatalysts for CO₂ reduction to formate	105
6.1 Introduction	105
6.1.1 Mechanism.	109
6.1.2 CO ₂ reduction to formate on Sn and In based electrocatalysts.	111
6.2 Experimental details	113

6.3 Results	116
6.3.1 CO ₂ RR Electrocatalytic activity of ITO _{TR}	117
6.3.2 ITO _{TR} films <i>in-situ</i> re-structuration during electrolysis.	119
6.3.3 Effect of the pretreatment on the catalytic activity of ITO _{TR}	125
6.3.3.1 Effect of electrochemical pre-reduction.	125
6.3.3.2 Effect of air exposure.	131
6.3.3.3 XPS study of surface composition.	134
6.3.4. Comparative study of performance of pretreated samples.	140
6.3.4.1 Comparative performance in long term CO ₂ RR catalysis.	140
6.3.4.2 Formate stability during electrolysis.	142
6.3.4.3 Catalytic activity as a function of reductive bias.	143
6.3.4.4 Tafel slopes.	146
6.3.5 Structural changes over long term catalysis and application of high overpotential	148
6.3.6 CO ₂ RR activity of Sn, In and Sn-In films synthesized from alternative precursors.	157
6.3.6.1 Tin, Indium and Tin-Indium films synthesized from organometallic precursors.	157
6.3.6.2 Tin, Indium and Tin-Indium films synthesized by <i>in-situ</i> electrodeposition	159
6.4 Discussion of results.	162
6.5 Conclusion and Outlook	166
Chapter 7: Summary and Outlook	169
List of publications, talks and poster contributions.	175
Appendix.	177
Appendix to chapter 4.	177
Appendix to chapter 5.	183
Appendix to chapter 6.	191
References.	199