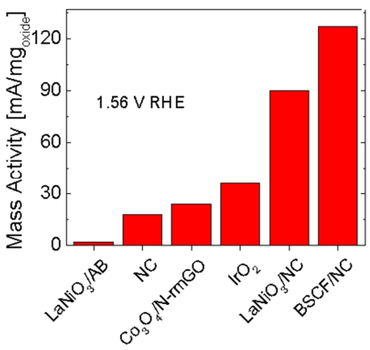
Bifunctional, Non-precious Metal Perovskite Electrocatalysts with High Mass Activities for Water Oxidation and Oxygen Reduction

William G. Hardin,[a] Daniel A. Slanac,[b] Tyler Mefford,[c] Xiqing Wang,[d] Sheng Dai,[d] Keith P. Johnston,[b,a] and Keith J. Stevenson[c,a,*]

[a]Texas Materials Institute, [b]Department of Chemical Engineering, [c]Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, The University of Texas at Austin, 1 University Station, Austin, Texas, 78712
[d]Chemical Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Nanocrystal perovskite catalysts with high phase purity are of great interest as replacements for precious metals and oxides used in the oxygen evolution reaction (OER) and oxygen reduction reaction (ORR). Perovskite electrocatalysts have been shown to have greater specific activities than precious metals and their oxides, but high mass activities have not yet been realized due to inadequate synthesis techniques which often result in unwanted phase impurities and micron-scale materials. Herein, we demonstrated precise control over the synthesis of essentially phase pure perovskite nanocrystals with mass activities exceeding that of IrO_2 and possessing comparable or greater bifunctional character than leading precious metals. In this presentation we discuss the robust aqueous synthesis of ABO_3 perovskites such as $LaNiO_3$ and $Ba_xSr_{1-x}Co_yFe_{1-y}O_{3+\delta}$. We present the resulting electrocatalytic activities of these materials, while also examining them in the current context of proposed perovskite activity descriptors. Catalytic activity is determined using electroanalytical techniques such as rotating disk electrochemistry and cyclic voltammetry in conjunction with materials characterization enabled by dynamic light scattering, electron microscopy, nitrogen sorption, X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy and X-ray diffraction. It is demonstrated that these highly active perovskite catalysts are an emerging replacement for the precious metals used not just for the OER and ORR, but also for the chlor-alkali and oxygen depolarized cathode industries as well.



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* Corresponding author: Keith J. Stevenson (stevenson@cm.utexas.edu) (T) +1-512- 232-9160; (F) +1-512-471-8696