Supporting Information

## Probing heteroatomic dopant-activity synergy over Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/doped carbon nanotube electrocatalysts for oxygen reduction reaction

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**Figure S1.** Pore size distribution curves of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CNTs, Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/P-CNTs, Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/O-CNTs, Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/N-CNTs.

 Table S1 Pore structure parameters of the samples

Sample	BET surface area(m <sup>2</sup> /g)	Pore volume(cm <sup>3</sup> /g)
Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /CNTs	178.48	0.64
Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /P-CNTs	123.94	0.14
Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /O-CNTs	102.46	0.11
Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /N-CNTs	80.00	0.11



**Figure S2.** Wide-scan XPS spectra of (a)  $Co_3O_4$ /N-CNTs, (b)  $Co_3O_4$ /O-CNTs, (c)  $Co_3O_4$ /P-CNTs, and XPS spectra of (d) C 1s.



Figure S3. LSV polarization curves of CNTs, P-CNTs, O-CNTs and N-CNTs.



**Figure S4.** LSV polarization curves for ORR with various rotation rates and the corresponding K-L plots ( $j^{-1}$  vs  $\omega^{-1/2}$ ) at different potentials of (a, b) Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/CNTs, (c, d) Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/P-CNTs and (e, f) Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/O-CNTs.



Figure S5. The electric double layer capacitance  $(C_{dl})$  test of  $Co_3O_4/N$ -CNTs,  $Co_3O_4/O$ -CNTs  $Co_3O_4/P$ -CNTs with different scan rate.



Figure S6. CV curves of (a)  $Co_3O_4/N$ -CNTs, (b)  $Co_3O_4/O$ -CNTs and (c)  $Co_3O_4/P$ -CNTs after accelerated stability tests.



Figure S7. XRD patterns of (a) the catalysts and SEM images of (b)  $Co_3O_4/N$ -CNTs, (c)  $Co_3O_4/O$ -CNTs and (d)  $Co_3O_4/P$ -CNTs after potential cycling of 10000 cycles.

**Table S2** The energy of LUMO, HOMO and LUMO-HOMO energy gap of pure CNTs and dopedCNTs.

	HOMO (eV)	LUMO (eV)	$\Delta E_{ m LUMO-HOMO}$
CNTs	-4.767	-4.029	0.738
P-CNTs	-4.450	-3.906	0.544
O-CNTs	-4.286	-3.779	0.507
N-CNTs	-4.848	-4.220	0.628

## LUMO



Figure S8. LUMO and HOMO shapes of pure CNTs and doped CNTs.