

## Supporting Information

### **High-Performance Aprotic Li–CO<sub>2</sub> Battery Enabled by the Ru Heterophase Catalyst**

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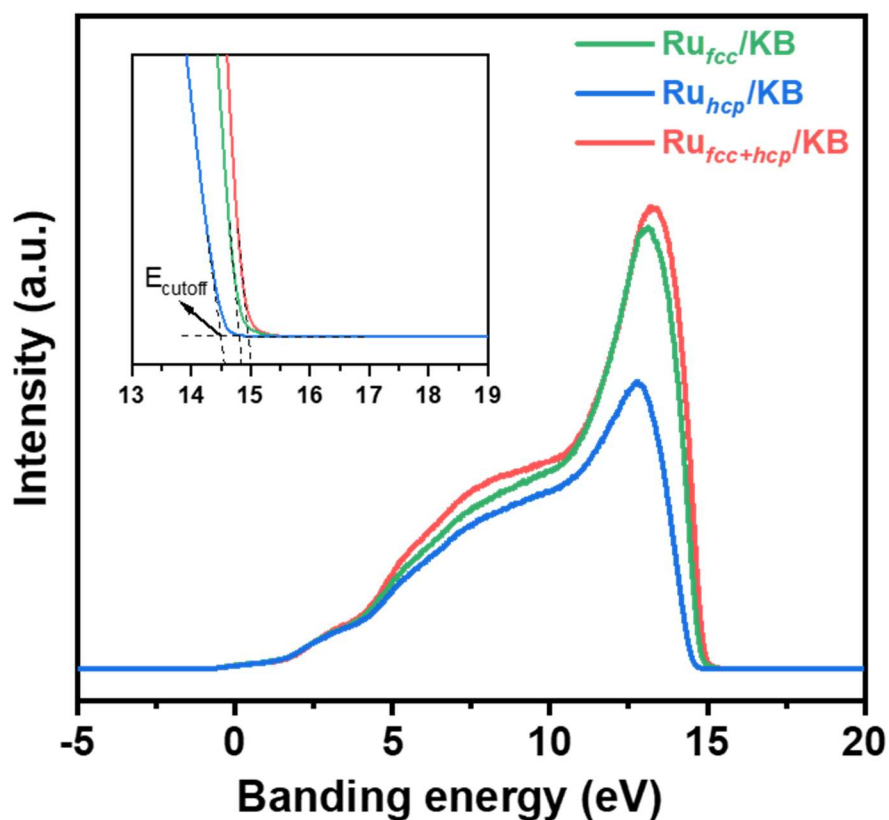
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Figure S1



**Figure S1.** The local magnification of UPS of Ru<sub>fcc</sub>/KB (5.54 eV) Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB (5.84 eV) and Ru<sub>fcc+hcp</sub>/KB (5.36 eV).

Ultraviolet photo-electron spectroscopy (UPS) were recorded after Ar<sup>+</sup> sputtering at 2 kV for 45 s to minimize surface contamination. A He discharge lamp (He I,  $h\nu = 21.22$  eV) was used for UPS measurements, with a sample bias of -10 eV. The Au 4f<sub>7/2</sub> core-level signal at a binding energy of 83.8 eV served as the reference for electron energy calibration. The work function was determined using the equation  $\phi = h\nu - (E_{\text{cutoff}} - E_{\text{Fermi level}})$ , where  $h\nu$  corresponds to the UV photon energy (21.22 eV),  $E_{\text{cutoff}}$  indicates the final state energy, and  $E_{\text{Fermi level}}$  represents the initial state energy.<sup>1</sup> A lower work function reduces the energetic barrier for catalysts to transfer surface electrons to adsorbed CO<sub>2</sub>, facilitating intermediate formation—the rate-determining step in CRR. This work function modulation strategy offers valuable insight into designing efficient electrocatalysts for enhanced CRR performance.<sup>2</sup>

Figure S2

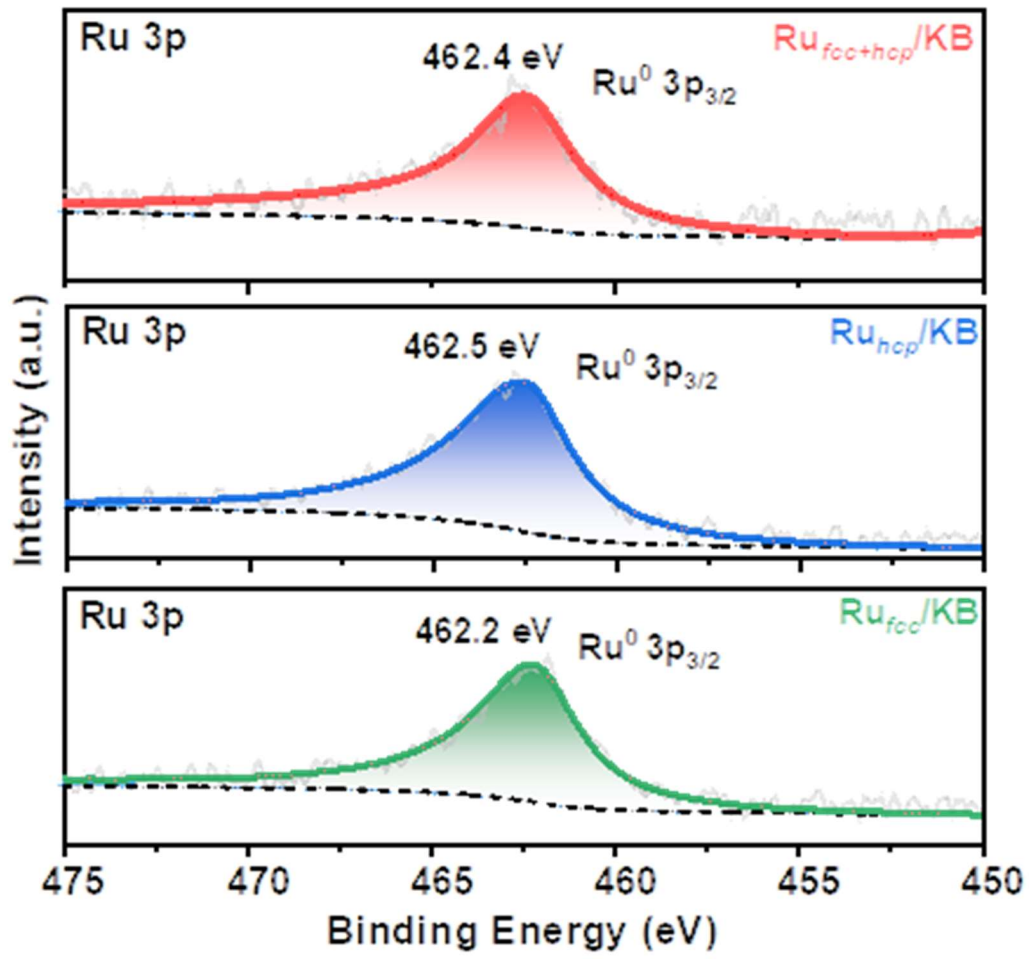
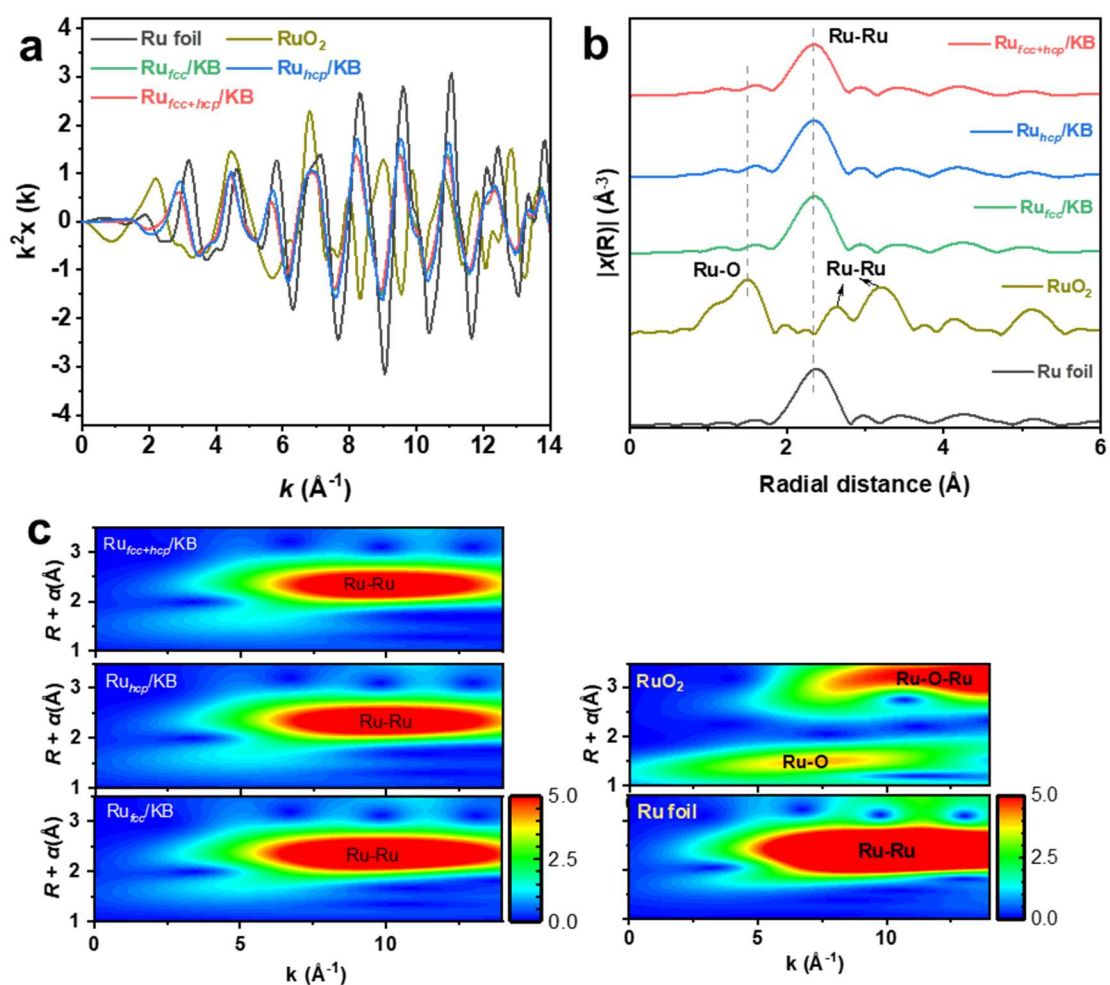


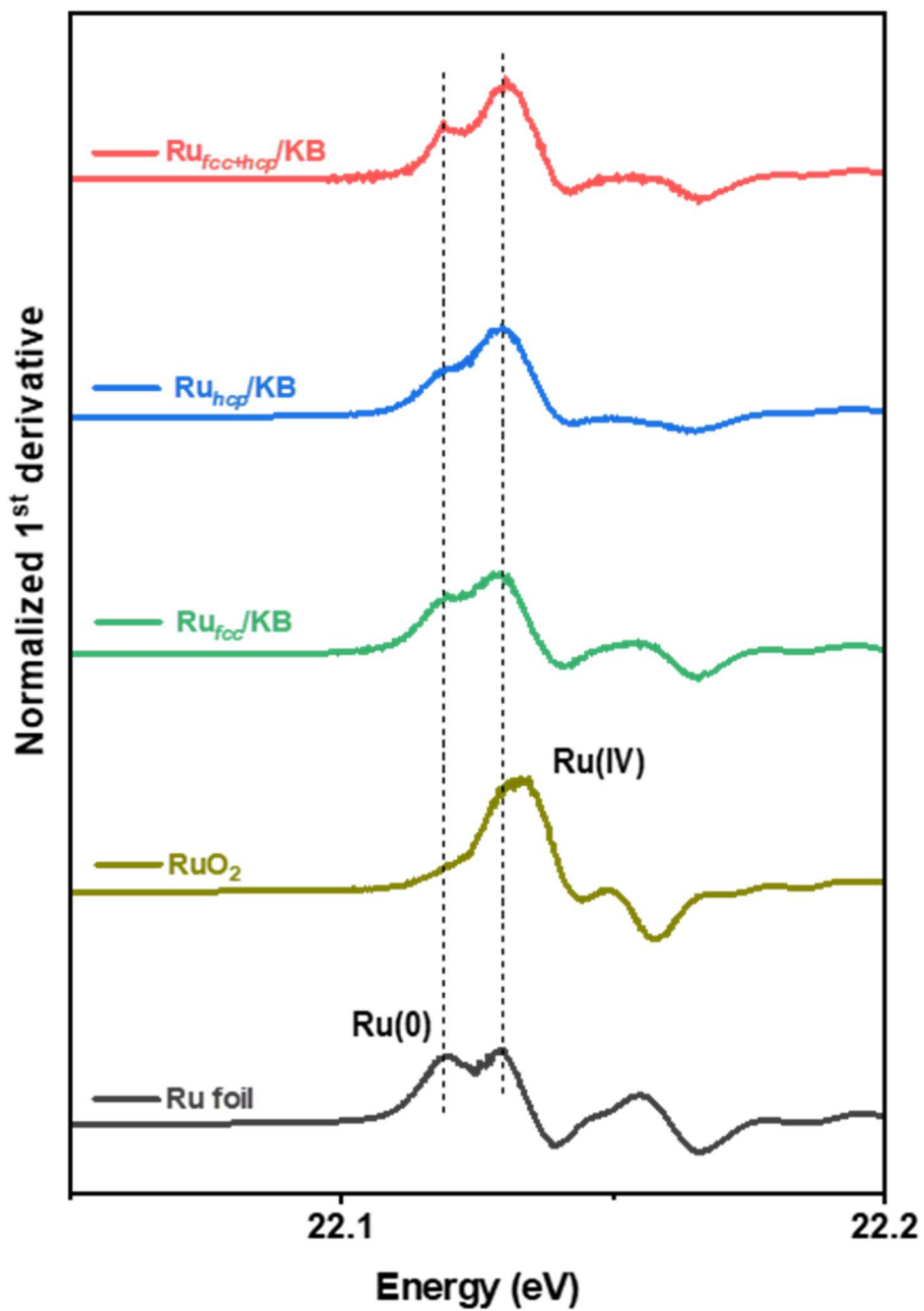
Figure S2. XPS analysis of the Ru<sub>fcc</sub>/KB, Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB, and Ru<sub>fcc+hcp</sub>/KB.

Figure S3



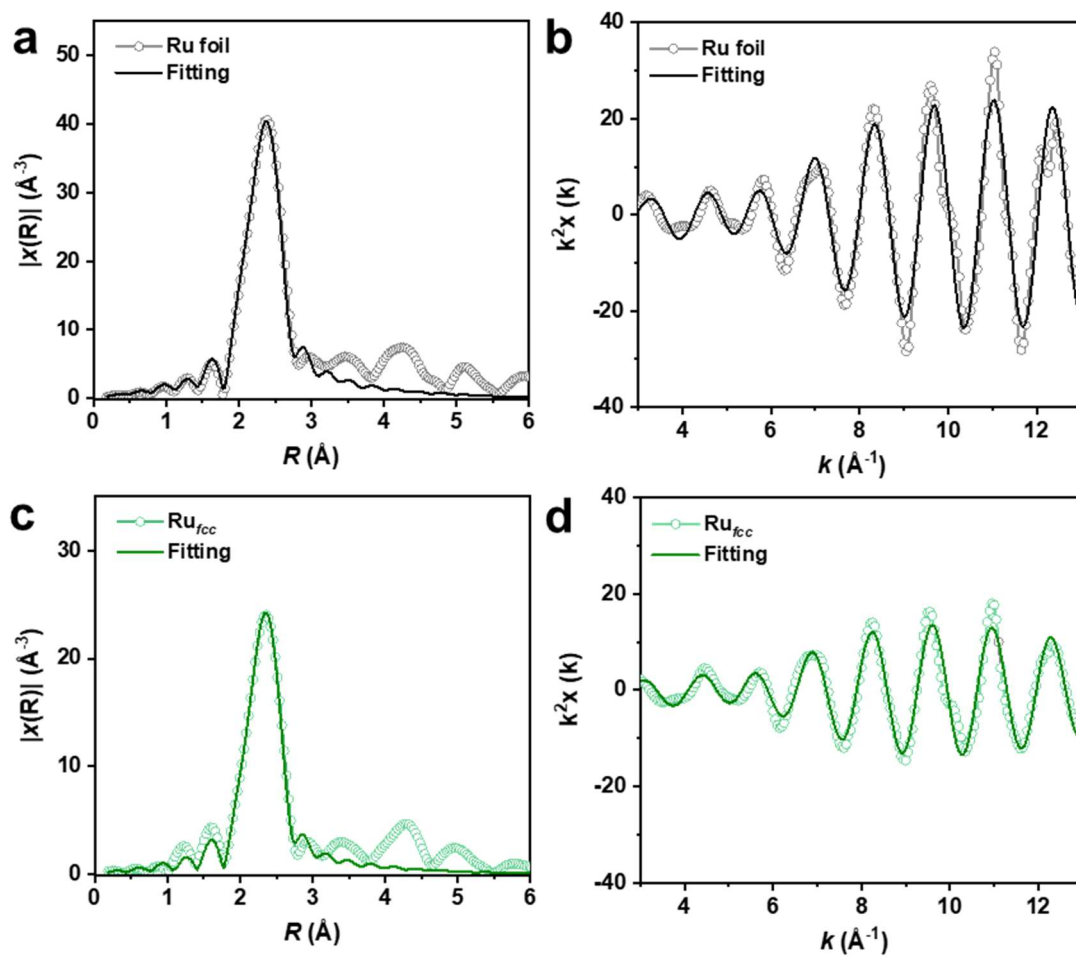
**Figure S3.** a) Experimental  $k^2$ -weighted EXAFS oscillations and b) extended XAFS spectra at Ru k-edge for Ru foil,  $\text{RuO}_2$ ,  $\text{Ru}_{\text{fcc}}/\text{KB}$ ,  $\text{Ru}_{\text{hcp}}/\text{KB}$ , and  $\text{Ru}_{\text{fcc+hcp}}/\text{KB}$  samples. c) WT for the EXAFS signals of Ru foil,  $\text{RuO}_2$ ,  $\text{Ru}_{\text{fcc}}/\text{KB}$ ,  $\text{Ru}_{\text{hcp}}/\text{KB}$ , and  $\text{Ru}_{\text{fcc+hcp}}/\text{KB}$  samples.

Figure S4



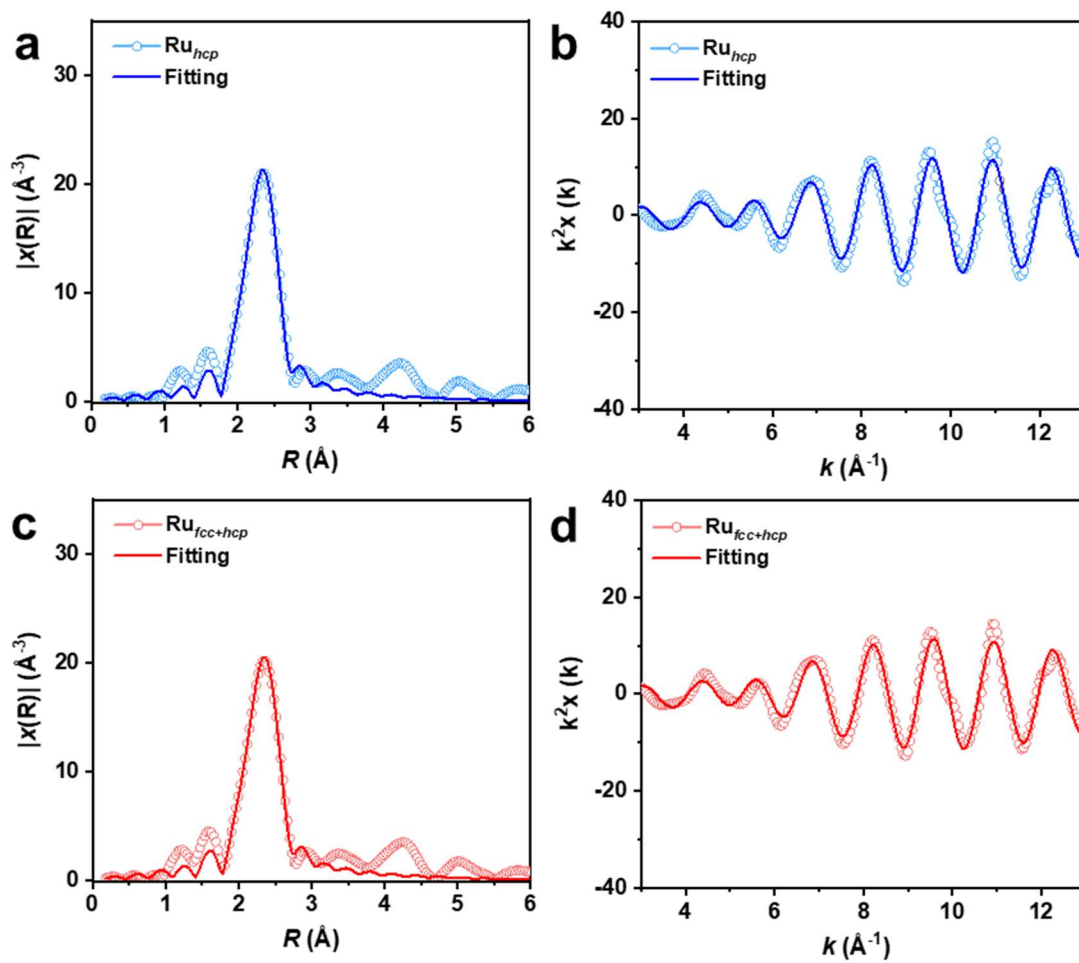
**Figure S4.** The corresponding first-order derivatives of the XANES spectra for Ru foil, RuO<sub>2</sub>, Ru<sub>fcc</sub>/KB, Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB, and Ru<sub>fcc+hcp</sub>/KB sample in Figure 2a.

Figure S5



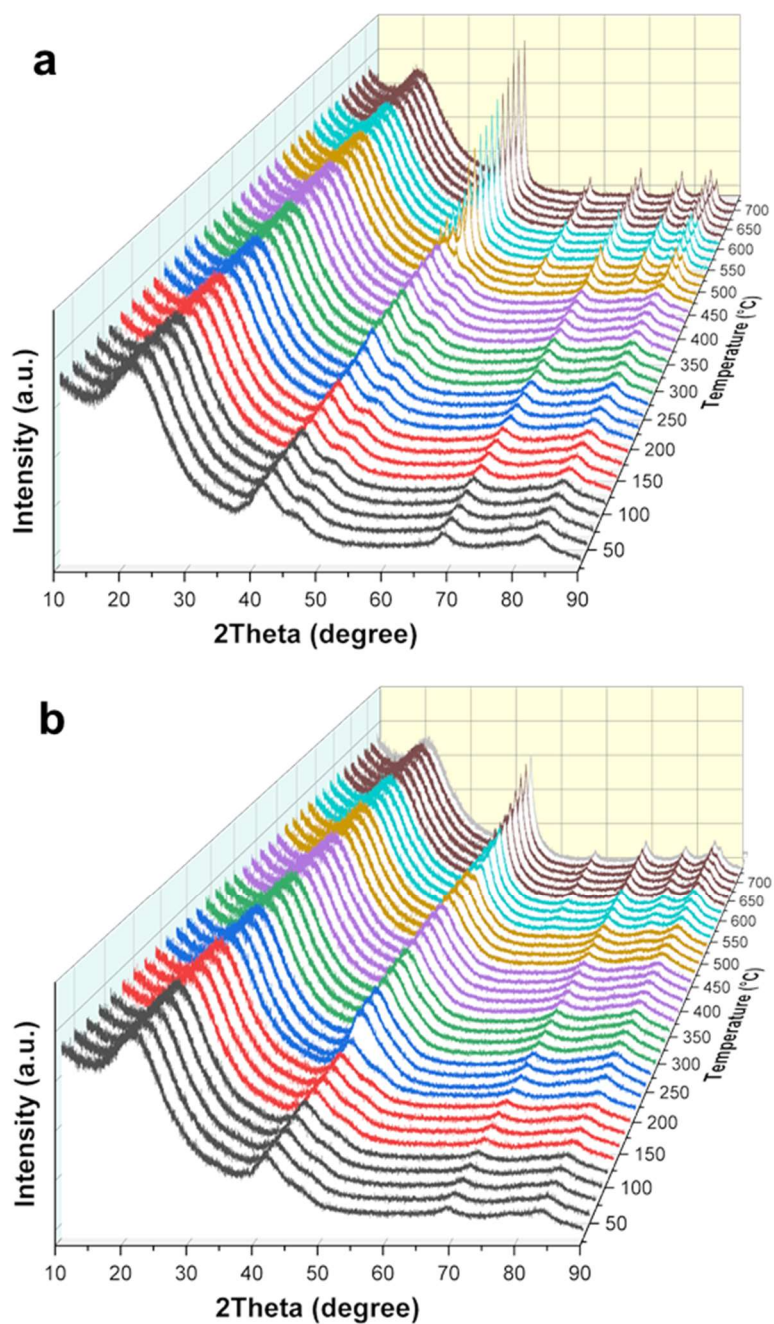
**Figure S5. a-d)** Fitted EXAFS data in R and K space of Ru K-edge; the detailed fitting information can be found in **Table S2**.

Figure S6



**Figure S6. a-d)** Fitted EXAFS data in R and K space of Ru K-edge; the detailed fitting information can be found in **Table S2**.

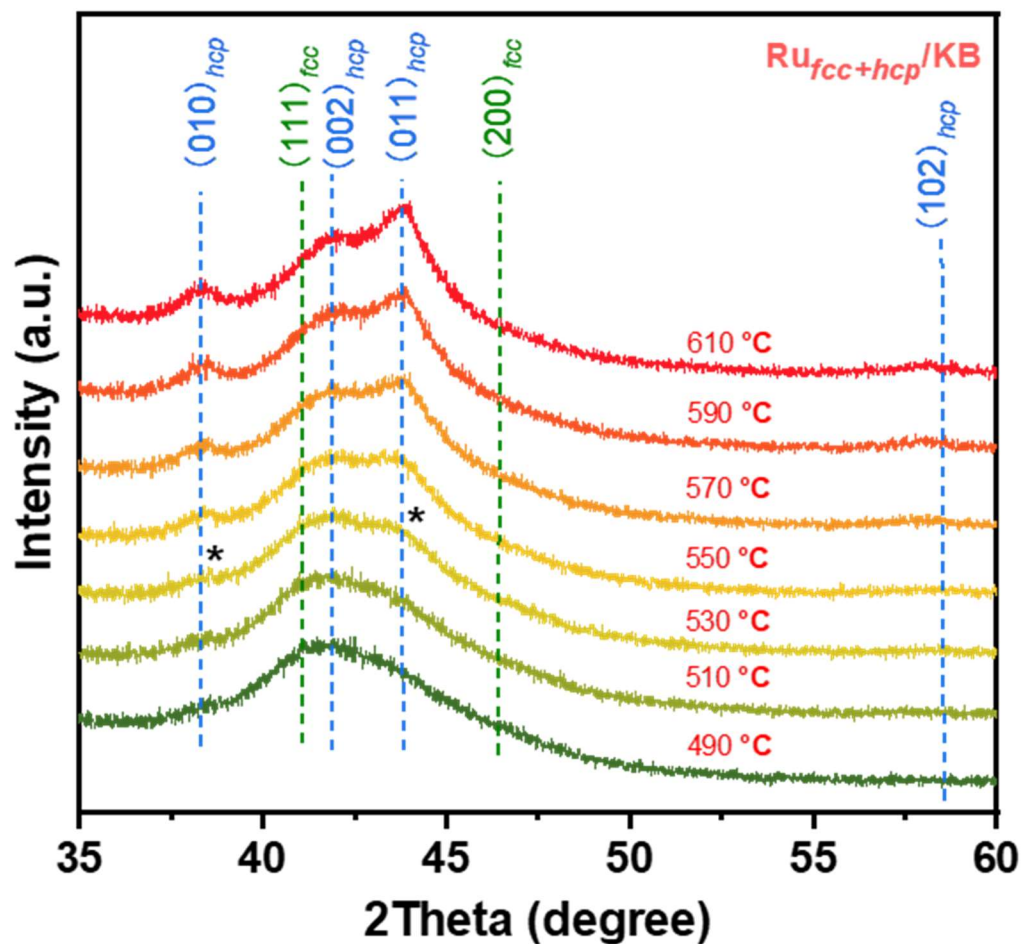
Figure S7



**Figure S7.** *In situ* XRD patterns of **a)**  $\text{Ru}_{\text{fcc}}/\text{KB}$  and **b)**  $\text{Ru}_{\text{hcp+fcc}}/\text{KB}$  under Ar in the temperature range between 30–690 °C.

Both materials were subjected to heat under an Ar atmosphere, starting from 30 °C with a heating rate of 20 °C per minute. The characteristic peaks of *fcc*-Ru and *hcp*-Ru are marked by green and blue dashed lines, respectively. Green dashed lines: PDF#80-2333 (*fcc*-Ru). Blue dashed lines: PDF#70-0274 (*hcp*-Ru).

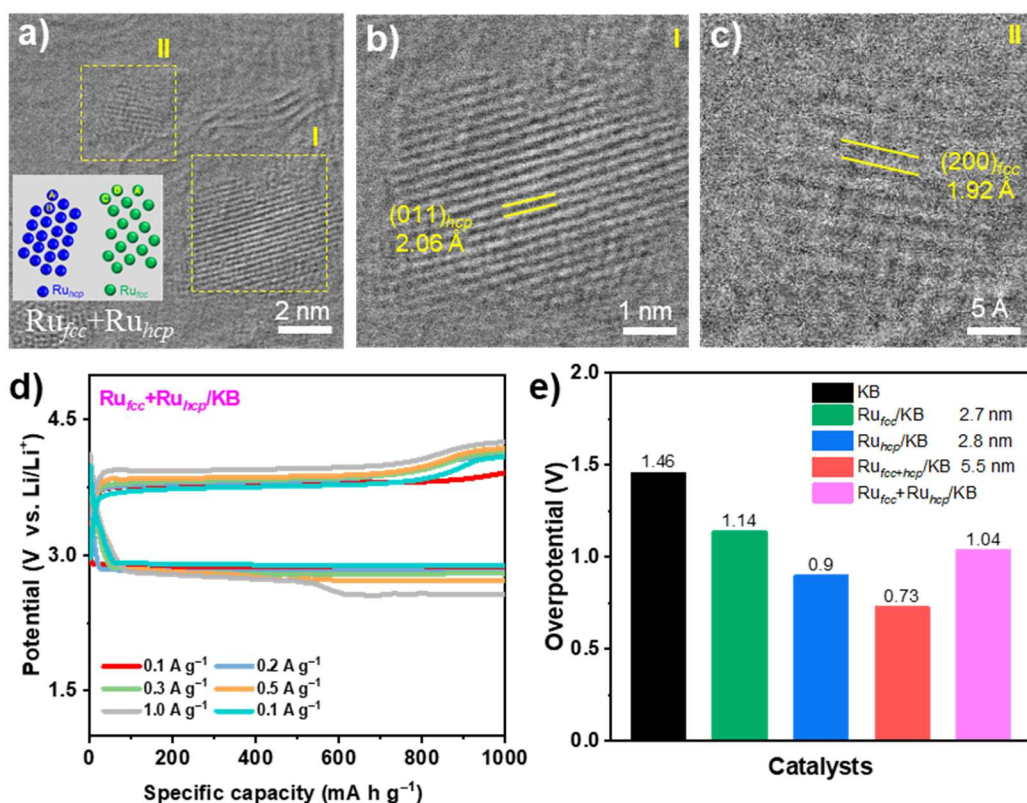
Figure S8



**Figure S8.** *In situ* XRD patterns of Ru<sub>hcp+fcc</sub>/KB under Ar in the temperature range between 490-610 °C.

Both materials were subjected to heat under an Ar atmosphere, starting from 30 °C with a heating rate of 20 °C per minute. The characteristic peaks of *fcc*-Ru and *hcp*-Ru are marked by green and blue dashed lines, respectively. Green dashed lines: PDF#80-2333 (*fcc*-Ru). Blue dashed lines: PDF#70-0274 (*hcp*-Ru).

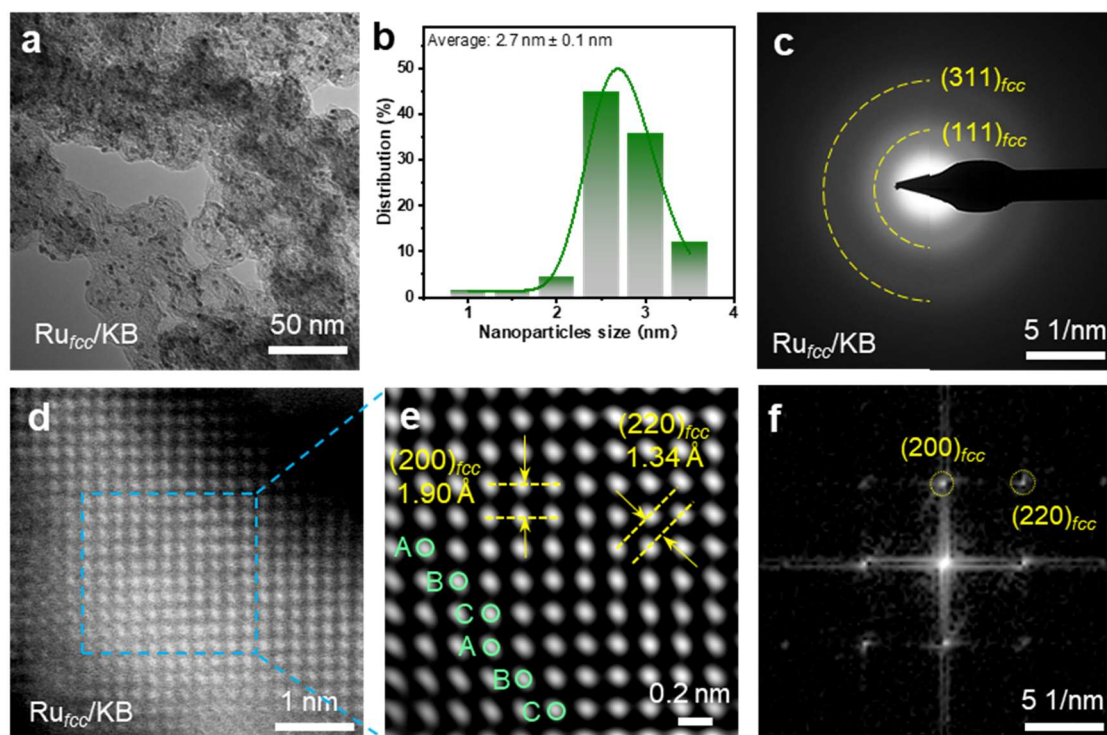
Figure S9



**Figure S9.** a-c) Atomically resolved HAADF-STEM image of the Ru<sub>fcc</sub>+Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB. d) Charge and discharge curves of Ru<sub>fcc</sub>+Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB at different current densities. e) Overpotentials of different crystal phases Ru<sub>fcc</sub>/KB, Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB, Ru<sub>fcc+hcp</sub>/KB and Ru<sub>fcc</sub>+Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB at current densities of 100 mA g<sup>-1</sup> within a limiting capacity of 1000 mAh g<sup>-1</sup>.

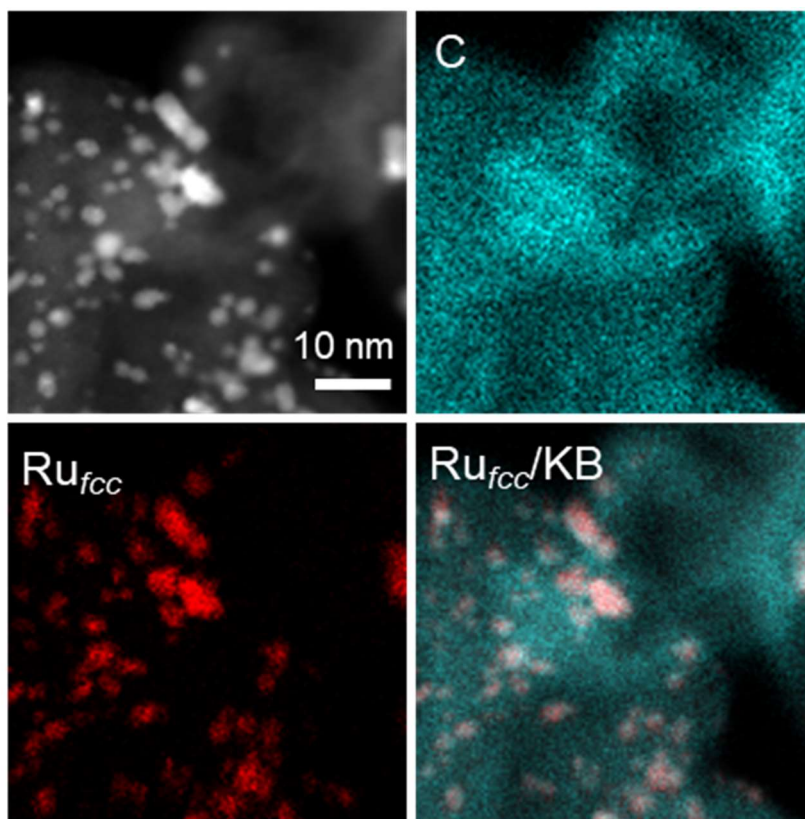
To investigate the effects of simultaneously loading two types of crystalline particles onto a carbon material without forming a heterophase interface, we attempted a one-pot wet-chemical method. This involved mixing KB, EG and TEG with RuCl<sub>3</sub>·xH<sub>2</sub>O, Ru(acac)<sub>3</sub>, and PVP (the quantities of the aforementioned chemicals are listed in Table S1) to synthesize Ru<sub>fcc</sub>+Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB and evaluated its rate performance. The HAADF-STEM image of individual Ru<sub>fcc</sub> and Ru<sub>hcp</sub> particles, without interfacial formation, reveals lattice spacings of 2.06 Å and 1.92 Å, corresponding to the (011) facet of the hcp phase and the (200) facet of the fcc phase, respectively (Figure S9a-c). The results showed an overpotential of 1.04 V for Ru<sub>fcc</sub>+Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB catalyst (Figure S9e), which is higher than that of Ru<sub>fcc+hcp</sub>/KB (0.73 V). This mixture does not generate a heterophase interface, which explains why its performance does not surpass that of the Ru heterophase materials.

Figure S10



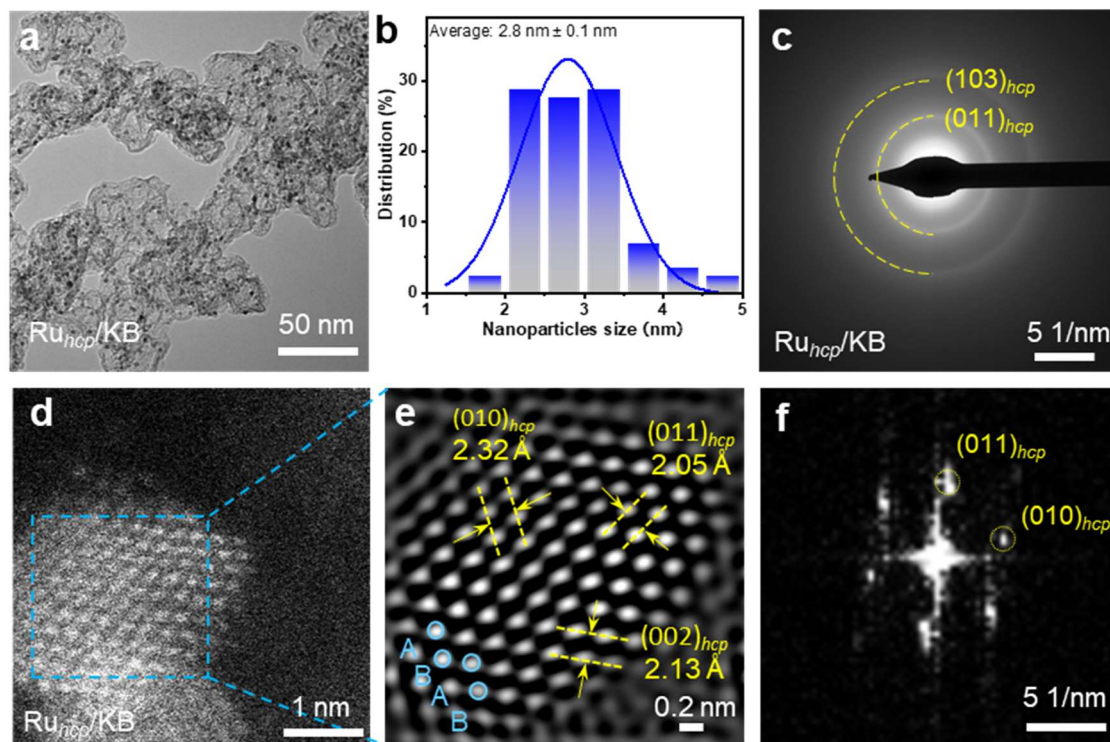
**Figure S10.** **a)** Representative HAADF-STEM image of the Ru<sub>fcc</sub>/KB catalyst. **b)** Size distribution histogram (counted number of particles, 100). **c)** Selected-Area Electron Diffraction (SAED) pattern. **d)** Atomically resolved HAADF-STEM image of a Ru<sub>fcc</sub> particle. **e)** Simulated crystal structure image of the selected region in **d)**. **f)** Fast Fourier transformation (FFT) pattern of a full region in images **e)**.

Figure S11



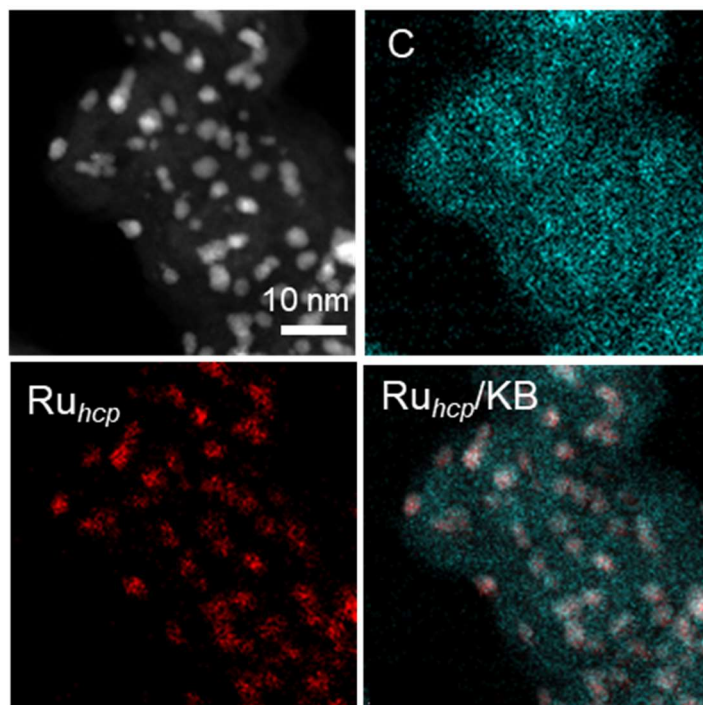
**Figure S11.** HAADF-STEM image of the chosen area of Ru<sub>fcc</sub>/KB with corresponding elemental mapping.

Figure S12



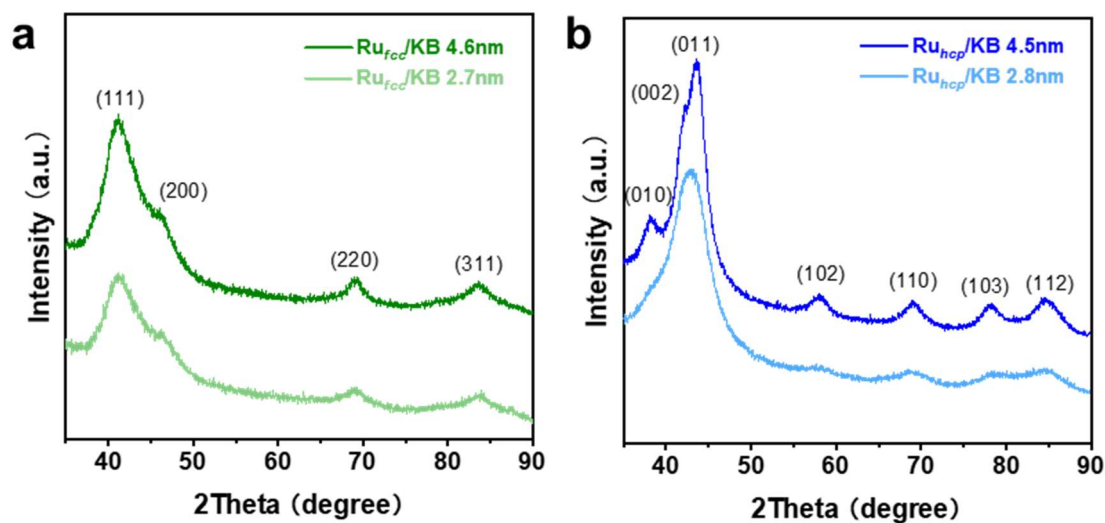
**Figure S12.** **a)** Representative HAADF-STEM image of the Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB catalyst. **b)** Size distribution histogram (counted number of particles, 100). **c)** Selected-Area Electron Diffraction (SAED) pattern. **d)** Atomically resolved HAADF-STEM image of a Ru<sub>hcp</sub> particle. **e)** Simulated crystal structure image of the selected region in **d)**. **f)** FFT image of a full region in images **e)**.

Figure S13



**Figure S13.** HAADF-STEM image of the chosen area of Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB with corresponding elemental mapping.

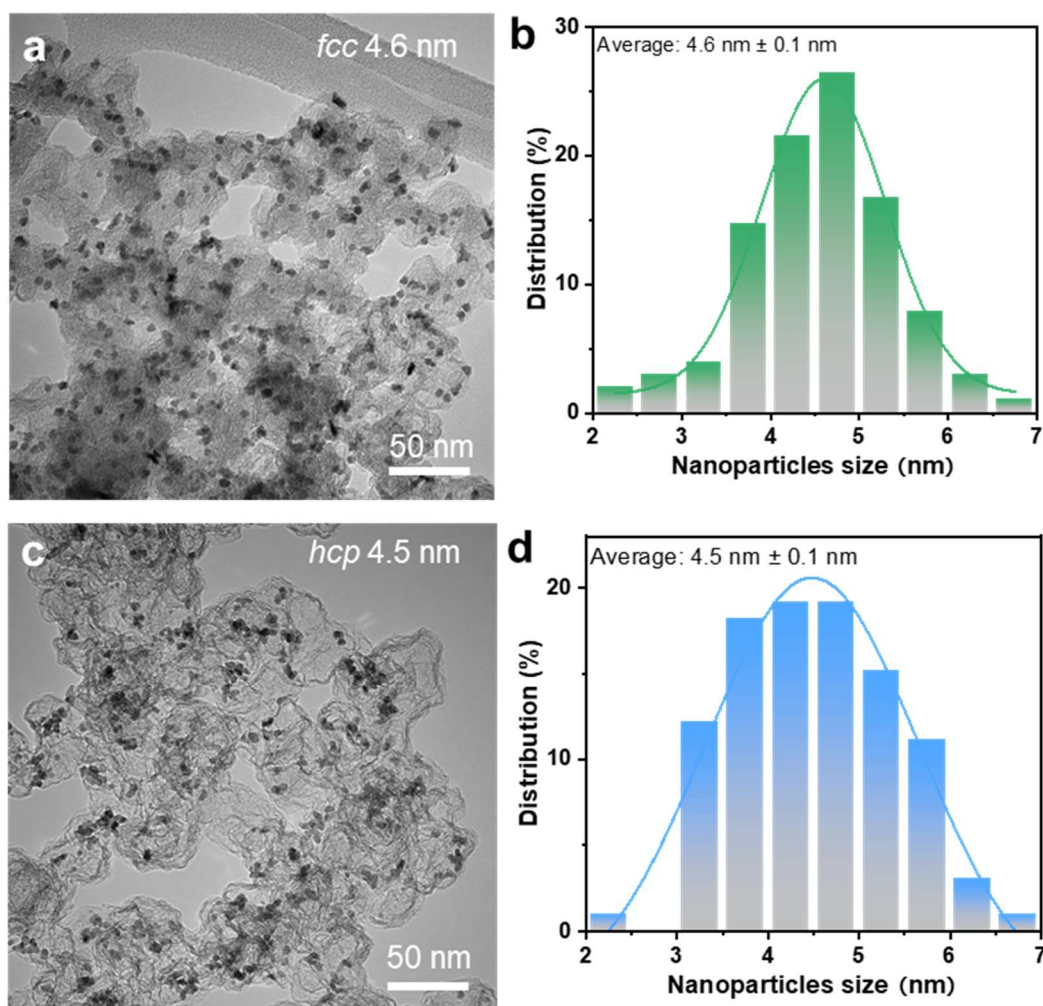
Figure S14



**Figure S14.** XRD pattern of **a)** Ru<sub>fcc</sub>/KB and **b)** Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB with different diameters.

We also synthesized Ru<sub>fcc</sub>/KB and Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB with sizes of approximately 3 and 5 nm. It was observed that the Ru NPs exhibit diffraction lines corresponding to the *fcc* and *hcp* structure in XRD patterns. The XRD peaks, including (111), (200), (220), and (311), align well with the standard *fcc* ruthenium patterns (JCPDS No. 80-2333). The XRD peaks, including (011), (102), (110), (103), and (112), align well with the standard *hcp* ruthenium patterns (JCPDS No. 70-0274).

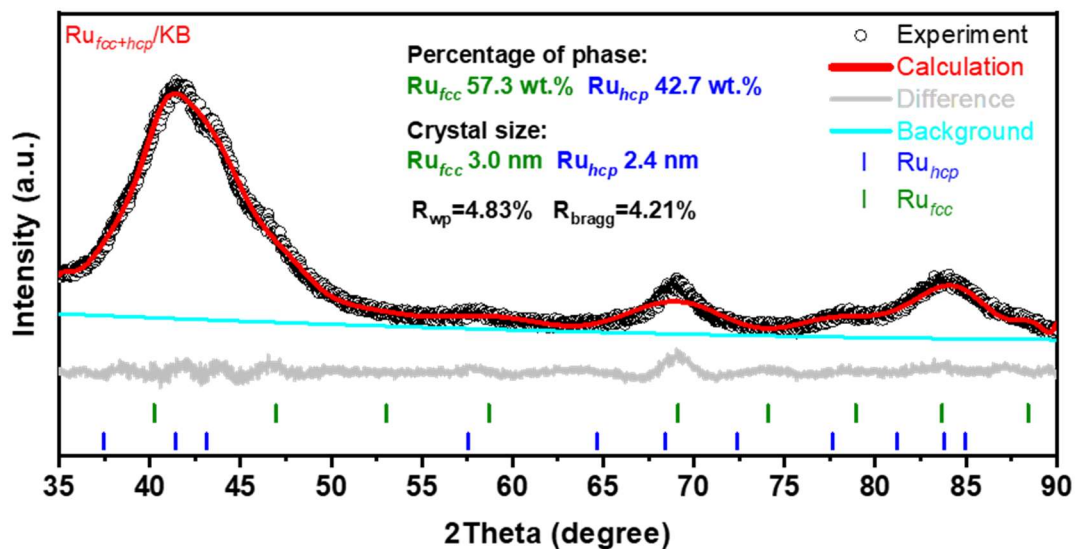
Figure S15



**Figure S15. a,b)** TEM and size distribution histogram of Ru<sub>fcc</sub>/KB with diameters of ~5nm. **c,d)** TEM and size distribution histogram of Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB with diameters of ~5nm.

We also synthesized Ru<sub>fcc</sub>/KB and Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB with sizes of approximately 5 nm. TEM images reveal that Ru nanoparticles had relatively comparable size distributions, measuring 4.6 nm for Ru<sub>fcc</sub> and 4.5 nm for Ru<sub>hcp</sub>.

Figure S16



**Figure S16.** Rietveld refinement analysis of the Ru<sub>fcc+hcp</sub>/KB. The tested XRD patterns are shown as black circles. The red curve is the calculated patterns for Ru<sub>fcc+hcp</sub>/KB. The difference and background profiles are gray and cyanine curves, respectively.

Figure S17

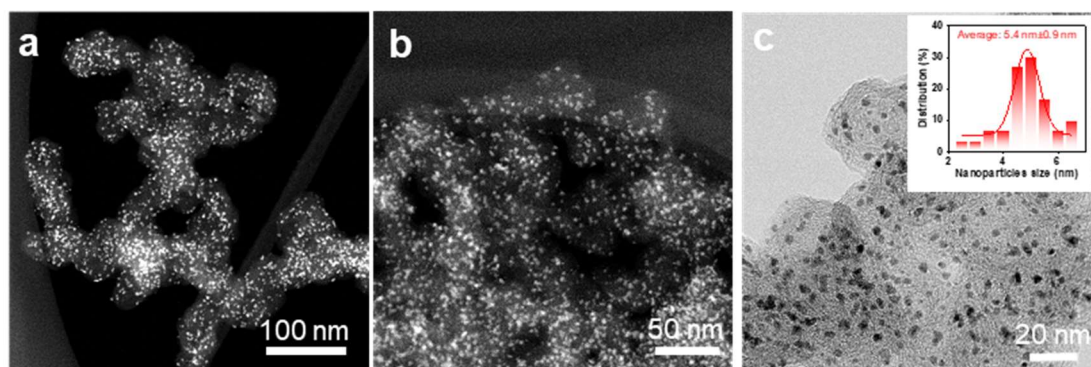
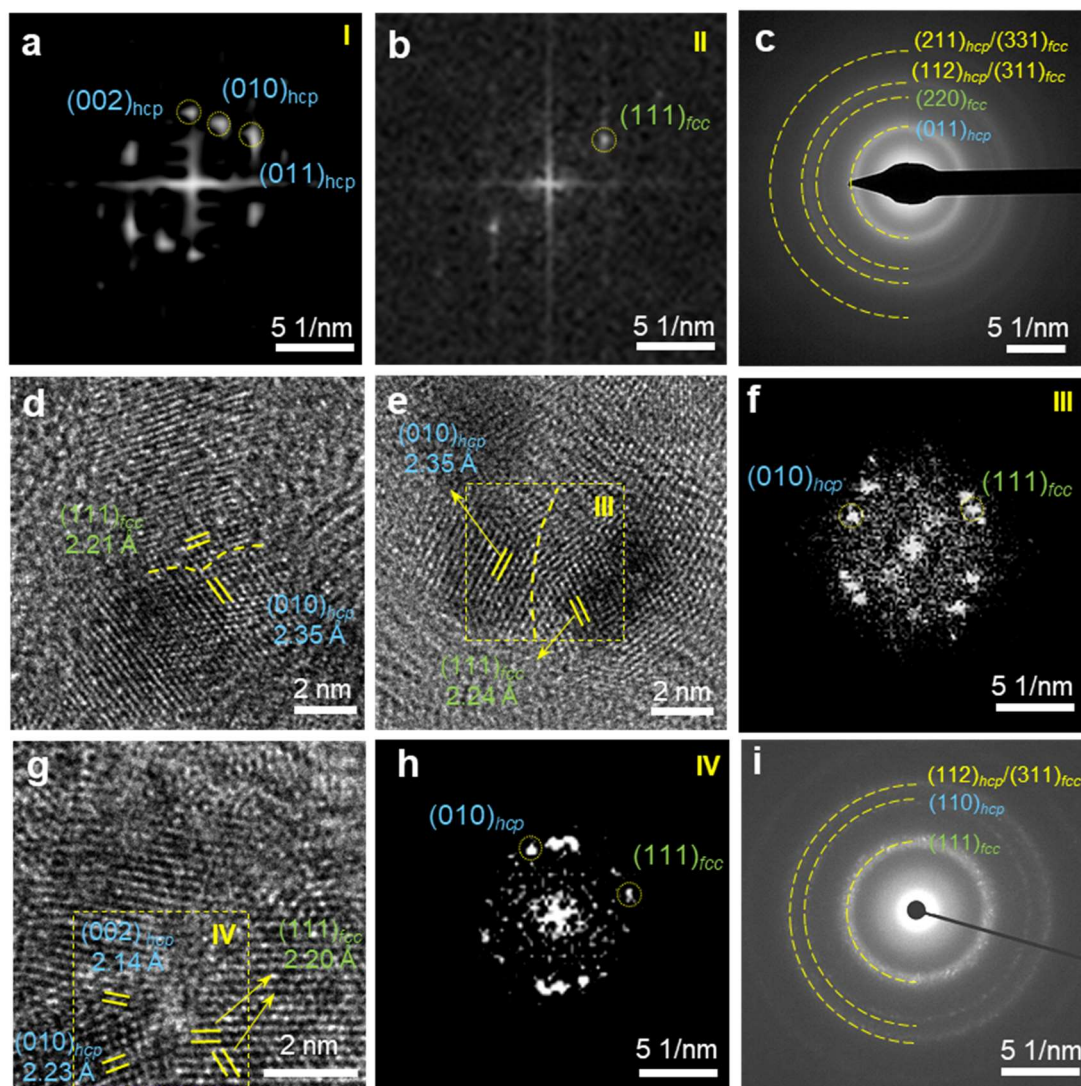


Figure S17. Representative **a,b**) dark-field and **c**) bright-field TEM images of the Ru<sub>fcc+hcp</sub>/KB catalyst.

Figure S18



**Figure S18.** a,b) Fast Fourier transform (FFT) image and c) selected-area electron diffraction (SAED) pattern of Figure 1d. d,e,g) Representative HAADF-STEM image of the Ru<sub>fcc+hcp</sub>/KB catalyst. f) FFT image of e). h) FFT image of g). i) Selected-area electron diffraction (SAED) pattern.

The HAADF-STEM image (Figure S18d, S18e and S18g) of individual Ru<sub>fcc+hcp</sub> particles reveals lattice spacings of around 2.21 Å and 2.35 Å, corresponding to the (111) of Ru<sub>fcc</sub> phase and (010) facets of Ru<sub>hcp</sub> phase, respectively. Besides, the *fcc* and *hcp* structure can be further confirmed by the corresponding FFT patterns in Figure S18f and S18h. The SAED patterns (Figure S18c and S18i) taken on samples show clear distinct rings corresponding to different planes of Ru<sub>fcc</sub> and Ru<sub>hcp</sub> structures, which indicate the formation of Ru<sub>fcc+hcp</sub> particles.

Figure S19

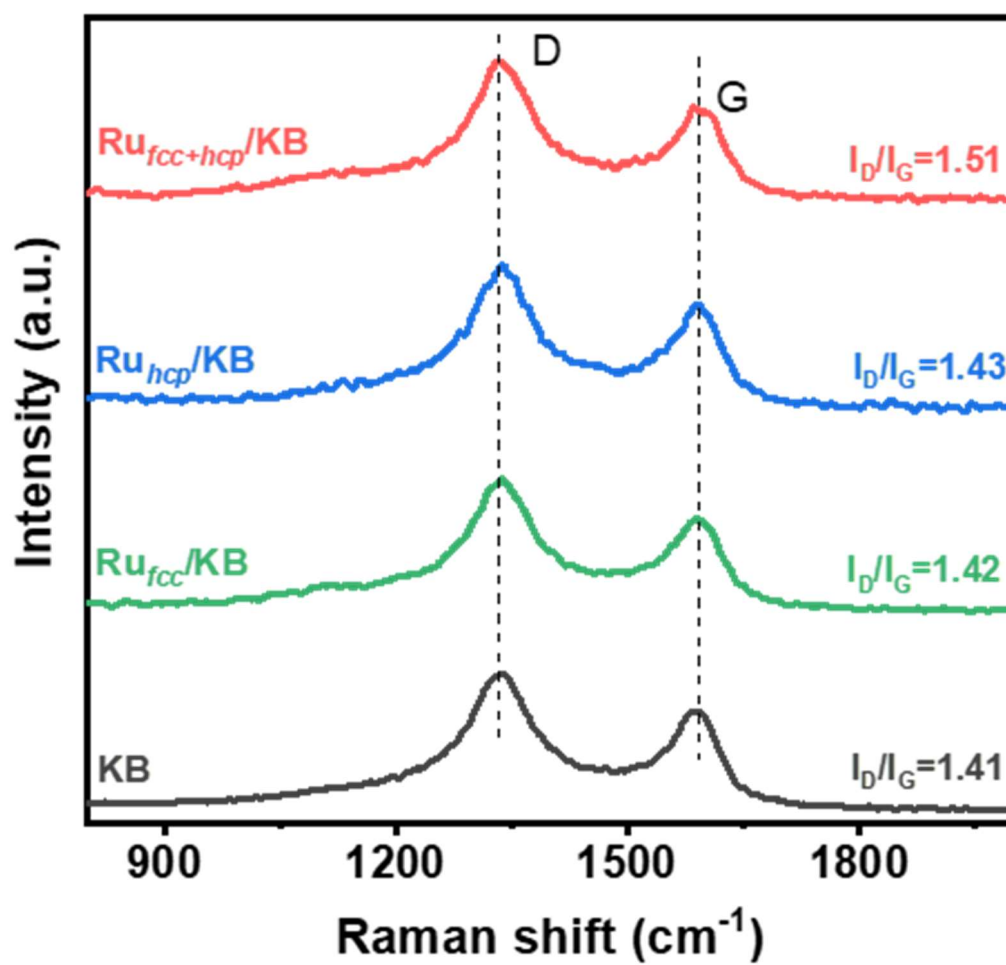


Figure S19. Raman spectra of pristine KB, Ru<sub>fcc</sub>/KB (2.7 nm), Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB (2.8 nm), Ru<sub>fcc+hcp</sub>/KB (5.5 nm) materials.

Figure S20

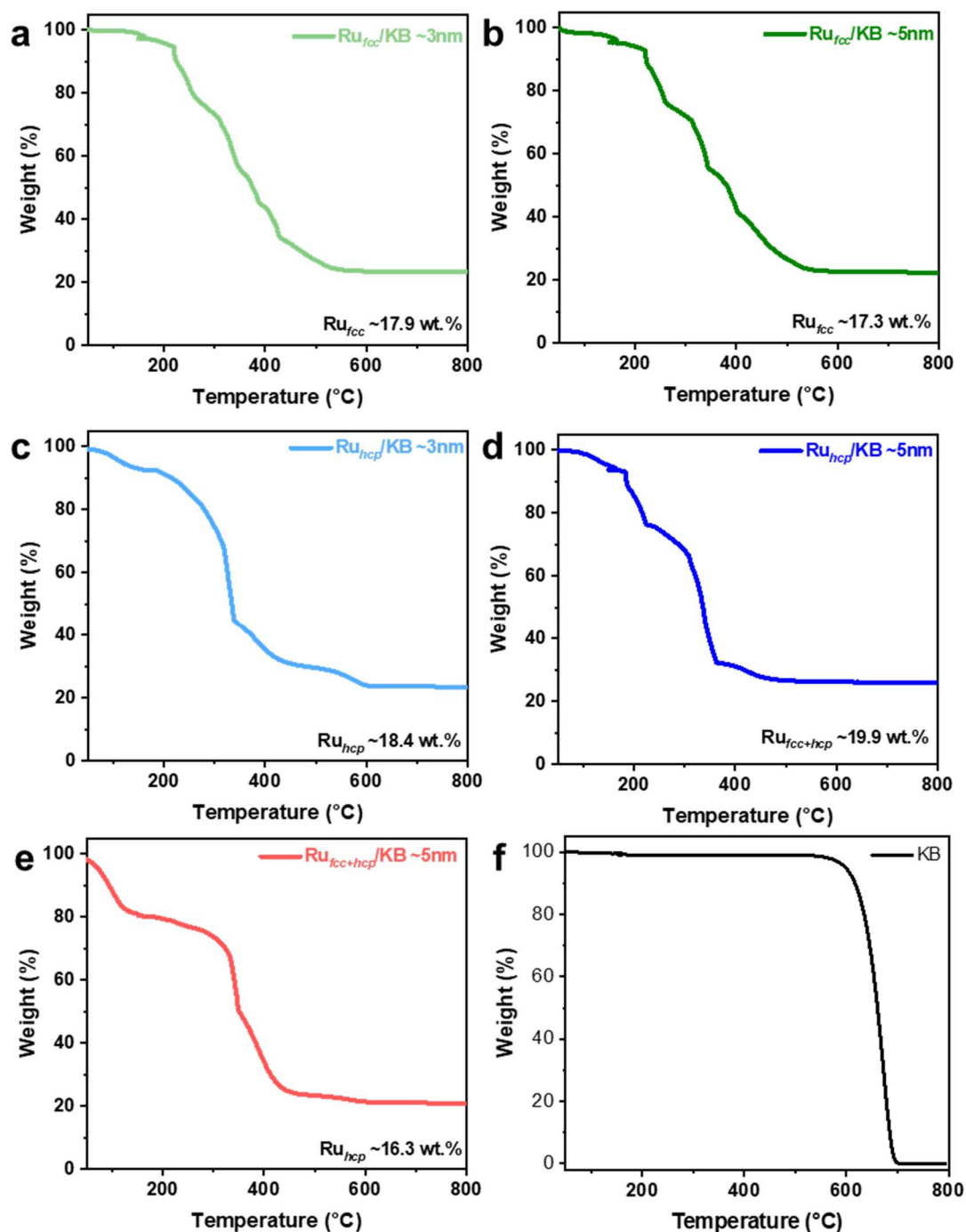


Figure S20. TGA analysis of the **a,b**) Ru<sub>fcc</sub>/KB, **c,d**) Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB, **e**) Ru<sub>fcc+hcp</sub>/KB, and **f**) KB.

Assuming complete combustion of carbon and the conversion reaction of Ru to metal oxides (Ru<sub>2</sub>O), the content of Ru in the Ru/KB catalysts can be determined using the following equation (1).

$$m_{Ru} (\text{wt. } \%) = \frac{m_{Ru}}{m_{Ru_2O}} \times \frac{\text{Final weight}}{\text{Initial weight}} \times 100\% \quad (\text{Equ.1})$$

Figure S21

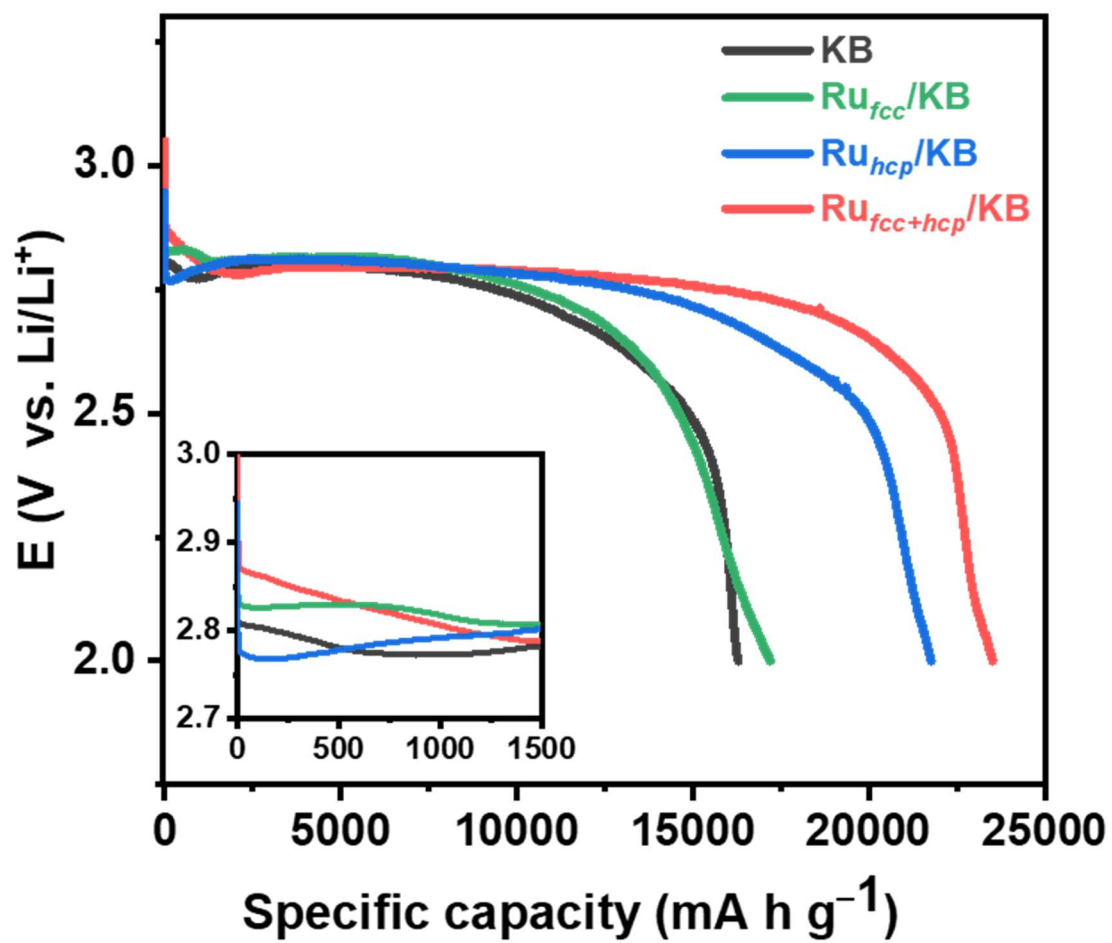
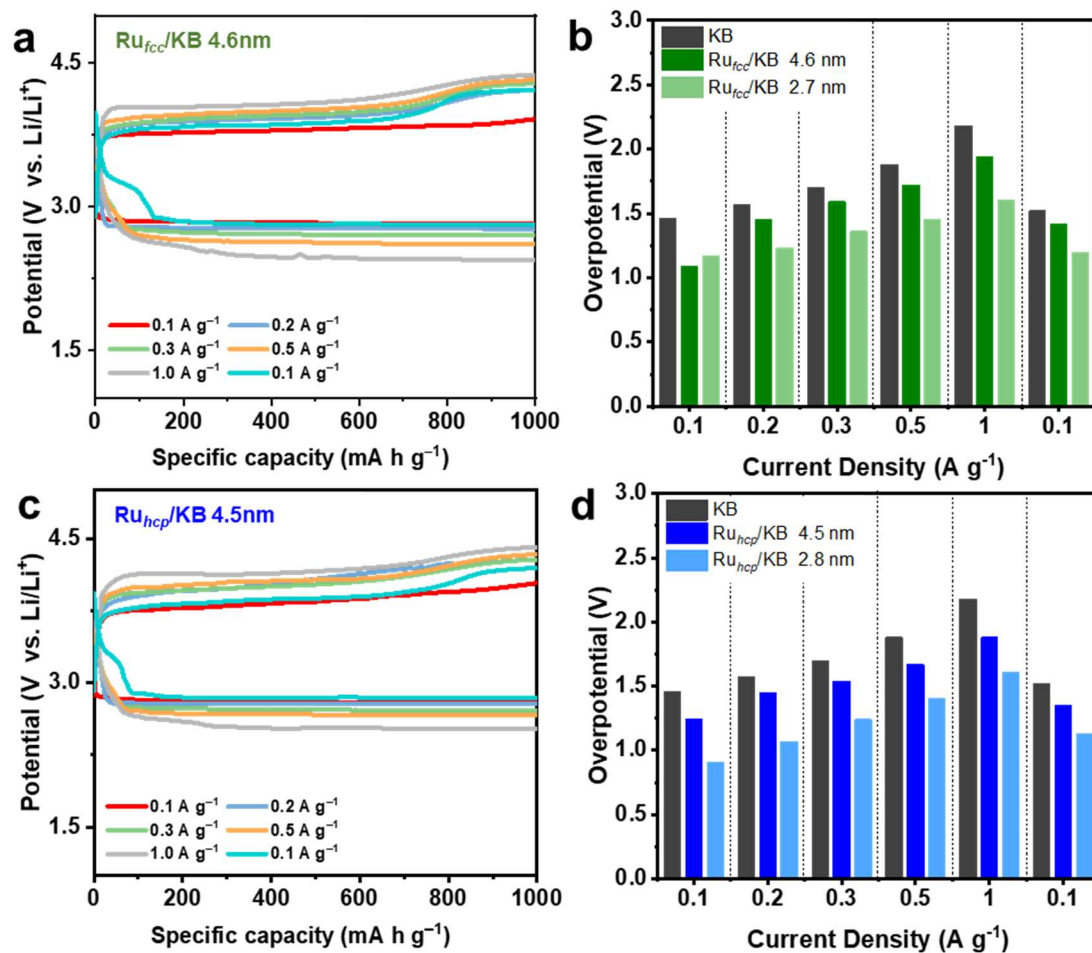


Figure S21. Full discharge curves of KB, Ru<sub>fcc</sub>/KB, Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB, and Ru<sub>fcc+hcp</sub>/KB at 100 mA g<sup>-1</sup>.

Figure S22



**Figure S22.** a) Charge and discharge curves of  $Ru_{fcc}/KB$  in 4.6 nm at different current densities. b) Battery overpotentials at various current densities of  $Ru_{fcc}/KB$ . c) Charge and discharge curves of  $Ru_{hcp}/KB$  in 4.5 nm at different current densities. d) Battery overpotentials at various current densities of  $Ru_{hcp}/KB$ .

Figure S23

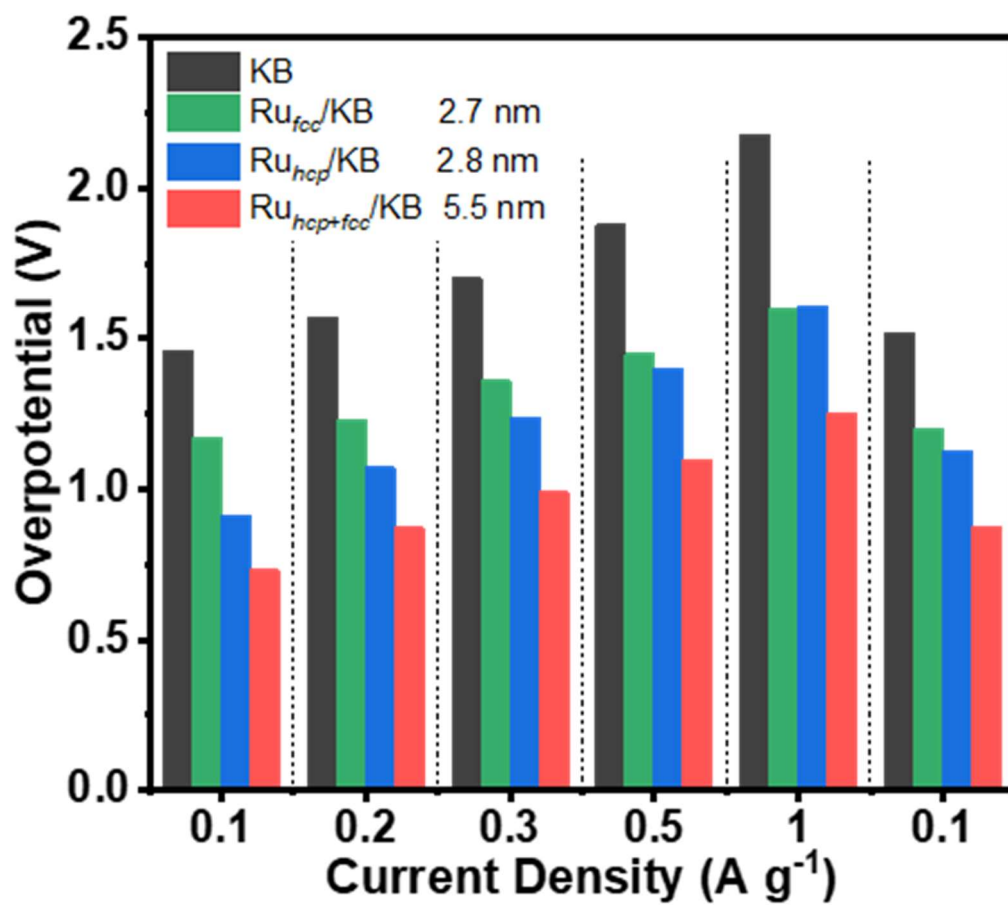


Figure S23. Overpotentials at various current densities of  $\text{Ru}_{fcc}/\text{KB}$ ,  $\text{Ru}_{hcp}/\text{KB}$ , and  $\text{Ru}_{fcc+hcp}/\text{KB}$  within a limiting capacity of  $1000 \text{ mAh g}^{-1}$ .

Figure S24

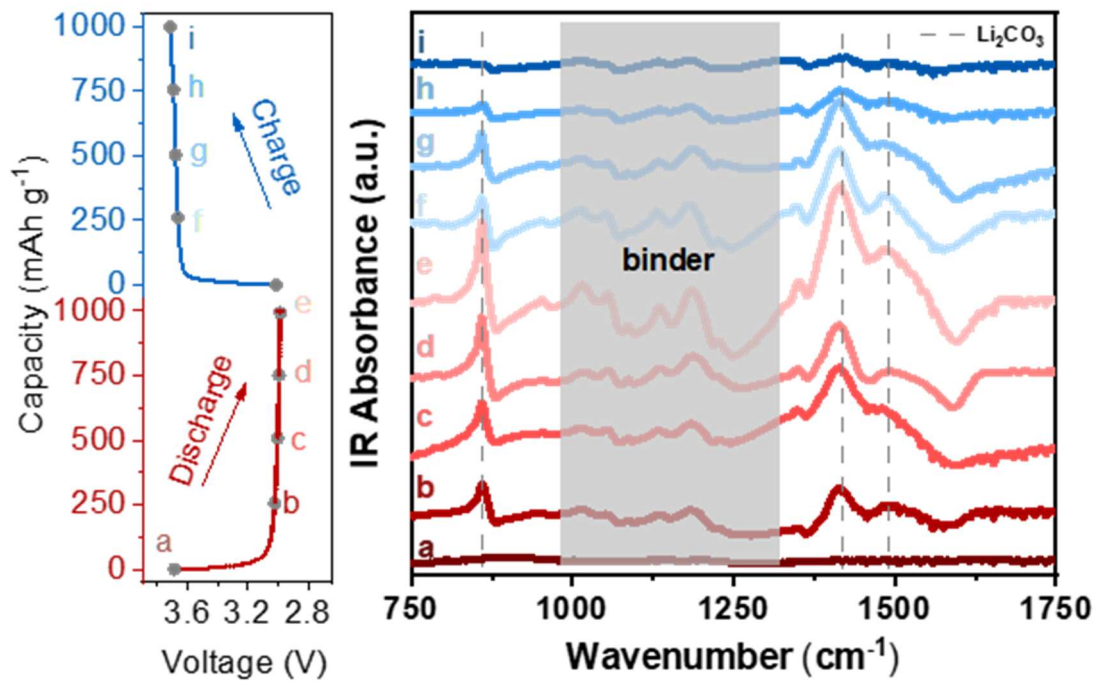
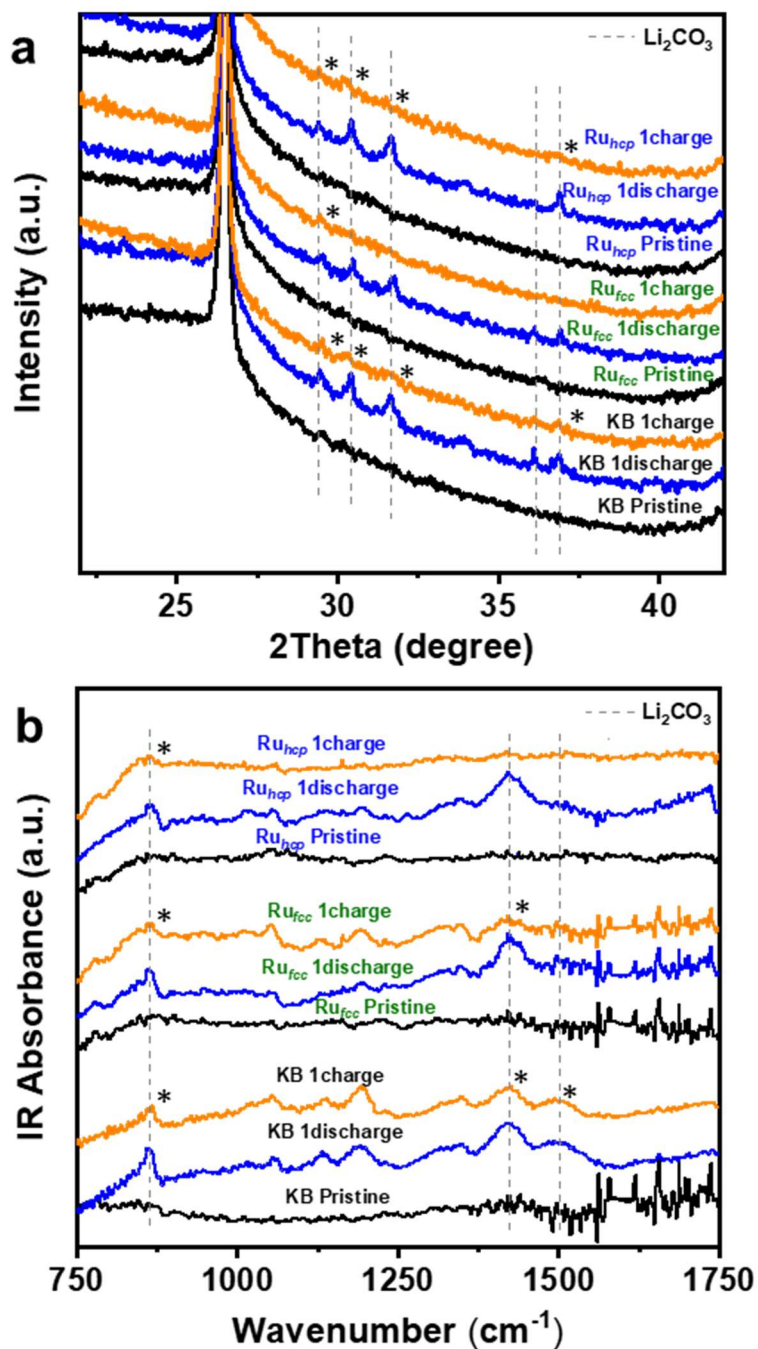


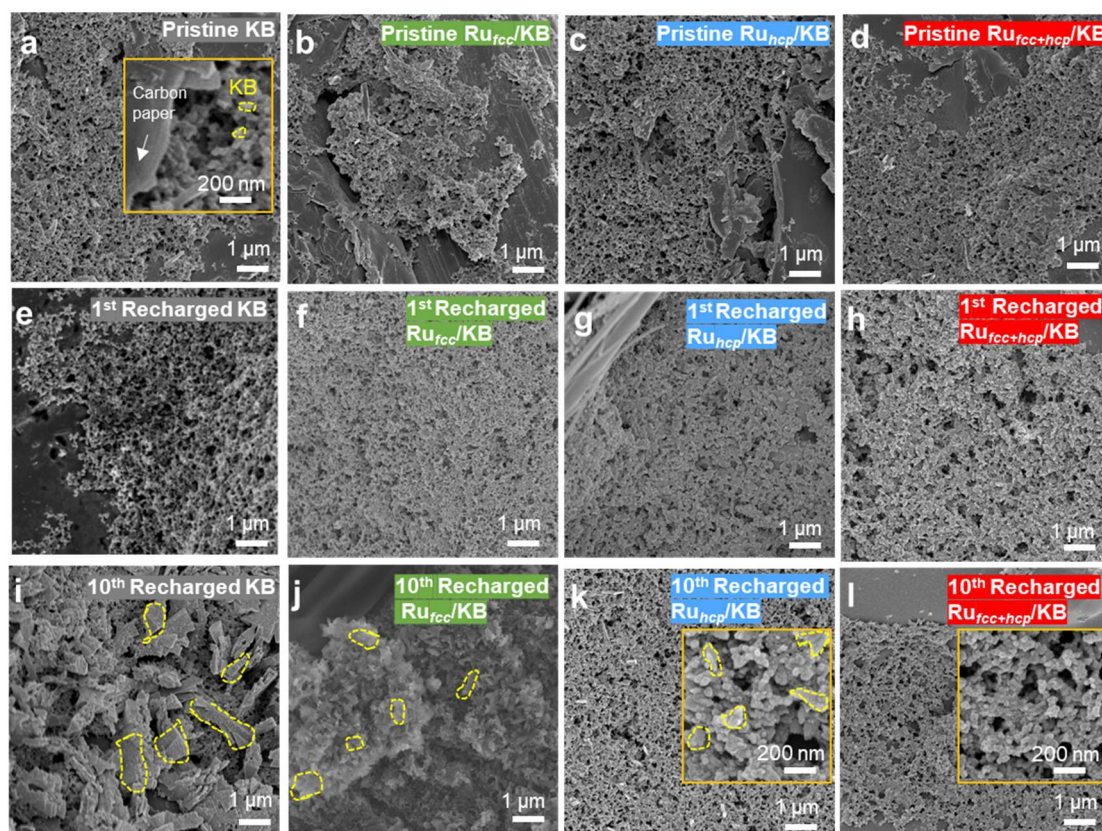
Figure S24. *Ex situ* FTIR spectra of Ru<sub>hcp+fcc</sub>/KB cathodes during the first cycle at current densities of 100 mA g<sup>-1</sup> within a limiting capacity of 1000 mAh g<sup>-1</sup>.

Figure S25



**Figure S25. a)** Ex situ XRD of KB, Ru<sub>fcc</sub>/KB, and Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB cathodes during the first cycle. and **b)** Ex situ FTIR spectra of KB, Ru<sub>fcc</sub>/KB, and Ru<sub>hcp</sub>/KB cathodes during the first cycle at current densities of 100 mA g<sup>-1</sup> within a limiting capacity of 1000 mAh g<sup>-1</sup>.

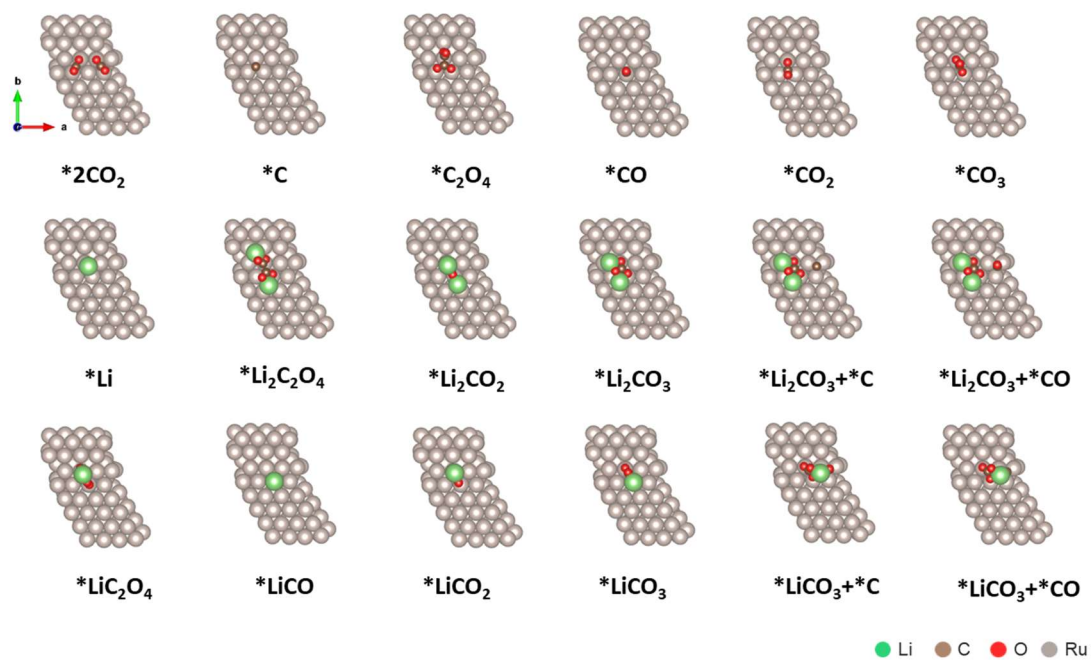
Figure S26



**Figure S26.** Typical SEM images of **a-d)** pristine and after **e-h)** first/ **i-l)** tenth recharged KB,  $\text{Ru}_{\text{fcc}}/\text{KB}$ ,  $\text{Ru}_{\text{hcp}}/\text{KB}$ , and  $\text{Ru}_{\text{fcc+hcp}}/\text{KB}$  cathodes.

Figure S26a-d shows that pristine KB and the three Ru-based catalysts exhibit uniform particle sizes ranging from 50 to 100 nm (Figure S26a), with minimal agglomeration. The SEM images (Figure S26e-h) of these four materials after first recharge display similar morphologies to their pristine forms, indicating that the discharge products are nearly decomposed across the KB,  $\text{Ru}_{\text{hcp}}/\text{KB}$ ,  $\text{Ru}_{\text{fcc}}/\text{KB}$ , and  $\text{Ru}_{\text{fcc+hcp}}/\text{KB}$  catalysts after the first recharge cycle. This suggests comparable levels of residual discharge products among them. To further understand the long-term behavior of discharge product decomposition, we extended our SEM analysis to cathodes after ten cycles at a current density of  $100 \text{ mA g}^{-1}$  with a limiting capacity of  $1000 \text{ mAh g}^{-1}$ . As shown in Figure S26i-l, the  $\text{Ru}_{\text{fcc+hcp}}/\text{KB}$  cathode exhibits a surface morphology similar to the initial state, suggesting that the discharge products were nearly fully decomposed after ten repeated cycling. In contrast, different from the morphologies observed in its initial status, noticeable residual discharge products (outlined by yellow area) are observed in the KB,  $\text{Ru}_{\text{fcc}}/\text{KB}$ , and  $\text{Ru}_{\text{hcp}}/\text{KB}$  cathodes after ten cycles.

Figure S27



**Figure S27.** Structural modelling of reactants or intermediates at different sites of the Ru<sub>fcc+hcp</sub> cluster.

Figure S28

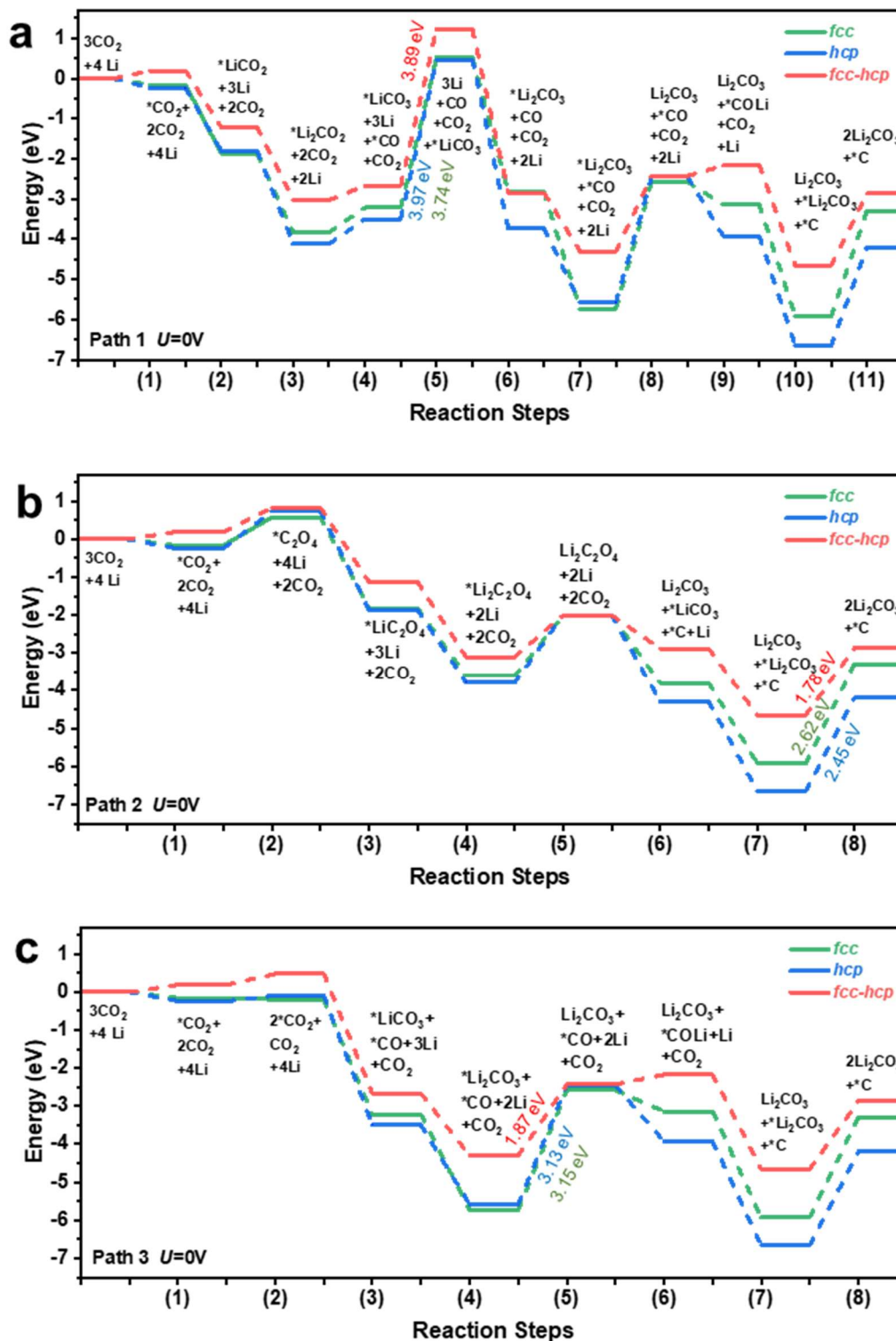


Figure S28. The free energy diagram of Ru-cluster under an applied potential  $U = 0 V$ .

**Table S1.** Reaction conditions for the synthesis of *fcc* and *hcp* Ru nanoparticles/KB materials.

No.	Catalysts	metal precursor/mmol	solvent/mL	mmol of PVP	Temperature °C
1	Ru <sub>fcc</sub> /KB-3nm	Ru(acac) <sub>3</sub> /0.21	TEG/30	1.0	200
2	Ru <sub>fcc</sub> /KB-5nm	Ru(acac) <sub>3</sub> /0.21	TEG/10	0.5	200
3	Ru <sub>hcp</sub> /KB-3nm	RuCl <sub>3</sub> ·xH <sub>2</sub> O/0.21	EG/30	1.0	180
4	Ru <sub>hcp</sub> /KB-5nm	RuCl <sub>3</sub> ·xH <sub>2</sub> O/0.21	EG/10	0.5	180
5	Ru <sub>fcc+hcp</sub> /KB-5nm	Ru(acac) <sub>3</sub> /0.21	TEG/30	1.0	200
		RuCl <sub>3</sub> ·xH <sub>2</sub> O/0.21	EG/30	1.0	180
		RuCl <sub>3</sub> ·xH <sub>2</sub> O/0.21	TEG/30		
6	Ru <sub>fcc</sub> + Ru <sub>hcp</sub> /KB	RuCl <sub>3</sub> ·xH <sub>2</sub> O/0.21	TEG/30	2.0	200
		Ru(acac) <sub>3</sub> /0.21	EG/30		

**Table S2.** EXAFS fitting results for different materials at Ru K-edge.

<b>Materials</b>	<b>pair</b>	<b>CN</b>	<b>R (Å)</b>	<b><math>\sigma^2 (\times 10^{-3} \text{Å}^2)</math></b>	<b><math>\Delta E_0(\text{eV})</math></b>	<b>R-factor</b>
Ru foil	Ru-Ru	12.0	2.670	2.7±0.7	0.7±1.0	0.011
Ru <sub>fcc</sub>	Ru-Ru	7.3±1.0	2.674	5.0±0.8	-4.8±1.1	0.017
Ru <sub>hcp</sub>	Ru-Ru	6.2±1.0	2.674	4.8±0.9	-5.7±1.3	0.024
Ru <sub>fcc+hcp</sub>	Ru-Ru	5.2±1.0	2.681	7.1±1.3	-12.0±1.5	0.027

CN - Coordination number

R - Interatomic distance

$\sigma^2$  - Debye-Waller factor (thermal and static disorder in absorber-scatterer distances)

$\Delta E_0$  - Edge energy shift (the difference between the zero kinetic energy value of the sample and that of standard theoretical model)

R factor - Goodness of fitting

**Table S3.** Cycling performance of Ru-based catalysts as cathodes reported in recent literatures.

Cathodes	Overpotential V (current density $\text{mA g}^{-1}$ /cut-off capacity mAh $\text{g}^{-1}$ )	Discharge capacity mAh $\text{g}^{-1}$ (current density $\text{mA g}^{-1}$ )	Cycle stability hours (current density $\text{mA g}^{-1}$ /cut-off capacity mAh $\text{g}^{-1}$ )	Electrolytes	Journal, Year
This work $\text{Ru}_{\text{fcc+hcp}}/\text{KB}$	0.73 (100/1000)	23517 (100)	2260 (100/1000)	1 M LiTFSI/DMSO	
SA Ru- $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4/\text{CC}^3$	1.05 (100/500)	30915 (100)	>2000 (200/800)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM E	Adv. Sci., 2021
SA $\text{Ru}_h\text{-NC}@r\text{GO}^4$	0.97 (100/1000)	44700 (100)	734 (1000/1000)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM E	ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces, 2022
$\text{Ru}_{\text{AC+SA}}@\text{NC}^5$	1.05 (100/1000)	10651.9 (100)	$\approx$ 230 (300/500)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM E	Adv. Mater., 2022
Ru/Co- $\text{CPY}@\text{CNT}-2^6$	0.84 (100/1000)	24740 (200)	720 (500/1000)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM E	Cell Rep. Phys. Sci., 2021
RuCo NSs/CNT <sup>7</sup>	0.94 (100/1000)	8057 (100)	110 (250/500)	1 M LiTFSI/DMSO	Adv. Funct. Mater., 2022
Ru-O-Zr/Ce <sup>8</sup>	1.03 (100/1000)	21 075 (100)	3340 (100/1000)	1 M $\text{LiCF}_3\text{SO}_3$	Adv. Energy Mater., 2023
HOF-FJU-1- $\text{Ru}@\text{CNT}^9$	1.09 (100/1000)	24245 (100)	1800 (400)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM	Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl., 2023
$\text{RuNi}/\text{MWCNTs}^{10}$	1.15 (200/500)	13608 (100)	400 (200/500)	1 M LiTFSI/DMSO	Chemsuschem. , 2023
Ru/CNT <sup>11</sup>	1.24 (100/500)	4541 (100)	450 (100/500)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM	ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces, 2021
Ru/CNTs <sup>12</sup>	0.95 (100/1000)	11888 (100)	2000 (100/1000)	1M LiTFSI/DMSO	ACS Energy Lett., 2024
Ru-GDYS <sup>13</sup>	1.67 (500/1000)	15030 (500)	480 (500/1000)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM	Chin. Chem. Lett., 2024
GNR/Ru <sup>14</sup>	1.34 (100/500)	11470 (100)	1240 (100/500)	1.5 M LiTFSI/0.45 M $\text{LiNO}_3$ / DMSO	J. Mater. Chem. A, 2024
MP-RuCoAl alloy $\perp$ CoAl-LDH <sup>15</sup>	1.3 (200/1000)	-	2270 (200/1000)	0.5 M LiTFSI/TEGDM E	Nano Res., 2024
MP- $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}/\text{RuAl}^{16}$	1.43 (100/1000)	11677 (100)	1750 (200/1000)	0.5 M LiFSl/TEGDM	J. Energy Chem., 2024
Ru-AHCNs <sup>17</sup>	1.38 (100/1000)	11194.4 (100)	1000 (100/1000)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM	J. Power Sources, 2024
4H/fcc Ru-Ni <sup>18</sup>	0.65 (50/500)	17360.1 (50)	800 (250/500)	3 M LiTFSI/DMSO/2 5%vol. EmimBF <sub>4</sub>	Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl., 2024
$(\text{H}_2\text{IMes})(\text{Cl})_2(\text{pyr})_2\text{RuCHPh}^{19}$	0.86 (100/500)	29 697.2 (300)	1267 (300/1000)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM	J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2024
KB/NP-RuAl/Ru <sup>20</sup>	1.18 (200/1000)	-	1400 (200/1000)	0.5 M LiTFSI/TEGDM	Nano Energy, 2023

Cathodes	Overpotential V (current density $\text{mA g}^{-1}$ /cut-off capacity mAh $\text{g}^{-1}$ )	Discharge capacity mAh $\text{g}^{-1}$ (current density $\text{mA g}^{-1}$ )	Cycle stability hours (current density $\text{mA g}^{-1}$ /cut-off capacity mAh $\text{g}^{-1}$ )	Electrolytes	Journal, Year
Ru/Fe-TAPP@GO <sup>21</sup>	0.82 (100/1000)	39000 (100)	800 (300/1000)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM	Chin. Chem. Lett., 2023
IrRu/N-CNT <sup>22</sup>	~1 (100/500)	6228 (100)	7660 (100/500)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM	Adv. Funct. Mater., 2023
Ru/RuO <sub>2</sub> -HPC <sup>23</sup>	1.22 (250/1000)	12398 (250)	2424 (250/1000)	1 M LiCF <sub>3</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> /TEGDME	ChemistrySelect, 2022
Ru(acac) <sub>3</sub> RM-CNT <sup>24</sup>	1.28 (200/1000)	6306 (200)	400 (100/1000)	1 M LiCF <sub>3</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> /TEGDME	Chem. Eng. J., 2022
Ni/Ru HNP <sub>5</sub> <sup>25</sup>	0.88 (200/1000)	~10000 (200)	1200 (200/1000)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM	Adv. Mater., 2022
Ru(bpy) <sub>3</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> <sup>26</sup>	>1 (100/1000)	22119 (200)	400 (300/1000)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM	Angew. Chem., 2021
Ru@CNT <sup>27</sup>	1.39 (100/500)	23102 (100)	1000 (100/500)	LiTFSI/NaTFSI/TEGDM	ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces, 2021
RuRh/VC72 <sup>28</sup>	1.35 (1000/1000)	9600 (200)	1900 (200/1000)	1 M LiTFSI/DMSO	Matter, 2020
RuO <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> NAs/CT <sup>29</sup>	1.05 (250/1000)	16727 (250)	1904 (250/1000)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM	J. Power Sources, 2020
Ru/NS-G <sup>30</sup>	1.13 (100/1000)	12448 (100)	2000 (100/1000)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM	Energy Stor. Mater., 2020
Ru/ACNF <sub>5</sub> <sup>31</sup>	1.35 (100/1000)	11495 (200)	1000 (100/1000)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM	Energy Environ. Sci., 2019
CNT@RuO <sub>2</sub> <sup>32</sup>	1.36 (50/500)	2187 (50)	110 (50/500)	0.2M LiCF <sub>3</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> /TEGDME	ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces, 2019
Ru/Ni foam <sup>33</sup>	>1 (200/1000)	9502 (100)	2000 (200/1000)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM	Electrochim. Acta, 2019
RuP <sub>2</sub> -NPCF <sup>34</sup>	1.3 (200/1000)	11951 (100)	2000 (200/1000)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM	Small, 2019
COF-Ru@CNT <sup>35</sup>	1.24 (200/1000)	27348 (200)	750 (400/1000)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM	Adv. Mater., 2019
Ru-Cu-G <sup>36</sup>	0.88 (200/1000)	13698 (200)	1000 (200/1000)	1 M LiTFSI/TEGDM	Adv. Energy Mater., 2019
RuCu/CNF <sub>5</sub> <sup>37</sup>	1.45 (1000/1000)	15753 (300)	440 (500/1000)	1M LiTFSI/DMSO	Chem. Eng. J., 2019
Ru@Super P <sup>38</sup>	1.71 (100/1000)	8229 (100)	1600 (100/1000)	0.2M LiCF <sub>3</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> /tetraglyme	Energy Environ. Sci., 2017

**Table S4.** The free energy change of each reaction step on the basal plane of Ru cluster and RU cluster (under an applied potential  $U = 0$  V).

Reaction	Step-by-step	Discharge energy barrier (eV)			Charge energy barrier (eV)			
		<i>fcc</i>	<i>hcp</i>	<i>fcc-hcp</i>	<i>fcc</i>	<i>hcp</i>	<i>fcc-hcp</i>	
<b>Path 1</b>								
(0)	$3\text{CO}_2 + 4\text{Li}$							
(1)	$^*\text{CO}_2 + 2\text{CO}_2 + 4\text{Li}$	(0) $\rightleftharpoons$ (1)	-0.16	-0.24	0.19	0.16	0.24	-0.19
(2)	$^*\text{LiCO}_2 + 3\text{Li} + 2\text{CO}_2$	(1) $\rightleftharpoons$ (2)	-1.72	-1.57	-1.41	1.72	1.57	1.41
(3)	$^*\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_2 + 2\text{CO}_2 + 2\text{Li}$	(2) $\rightleftharpoons$ (3)	-1.95	-2.31	-1.81	1.95	2.31	1.81
(4)	$^*\text{LiCO}_3 + ^*\text{CO} + 3\text{Li} + \text{CO}_2$	(3) $\rightleftharpoons$ (4)	0.61	0.62	0.36	-0.61	-0.62	-0.36
(5)	$^*\text{LiCO}_3 + \text{CO} + 3\text{Li} + \text{CO}_2$	(4) $\rightleftharpoons$ (5)	3.74	3.97	3.89	-3.74	-3.97	-3.89
(6)	$^*\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3 + \text{CO} + \text{CO}_2 + 2\text{Li}$	(5) $\rightleftharpoons$ (6)	-3.35	-4.21	-4.07	3.35	4.21	4.07
(7)	$^*\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3 + ^*\text{CO} + \text{CO}_2 + 2\text{Li}$	(6) $\rightleftharpoons$ (7)	-2.9	-1.84	-1.45	2.9	1.84	1.45
(8)	$\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3 + ^*\text{CO} + \text{CO}_2 + 2\text{Li}$	(7) $\rightleftharpoons$ (8)	3.15	3.13	1.87	-3.15	-3.13	-1.87
(9)	$^*\text{COLi} + \text{Li} + \text{CO}_2 + \text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$	(8) $\rightleftharpoons$ (9)	-0.56	-1.48	0.26	0.56	1.48	-0.26
(10)	$^*\text{C} + ^*\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3 + \text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$	(9) $\rightleftharpoons$ (10)	-2.78	-2.72	-2.48	2.78	2.72	2.48
(11)	$^*\text{C} + 2\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$	(10) $\rightleftharpoons$ (11)	2.62	2.45	1.78	-2.62	-2.45	-1.78
<b>Path 2</b>								
(0)	$3\text{CO}_2 + 4\text{Li}$							
(1)	$^*\text{CO}_2 + 2\text{CO}_2 + 4\text{Li}$	(0) $\rightleftharpoons$ (1)	-0.16	-0.24	0.19	0.16	0.24	-0.19
(2)	$^*\text{C}_2\text{O}_4 + 4\text{Li} + \text{CO}_2$	(1) $\rightleftharpoons$ (2)	0.74	0.98	0.64	-0.74	-0.98	-0.64
(3)	$^*\text{LiC}_2\text{O}_4 + 3\text{Li} + \text{CO}_2$	(2) $\rightleftharpoons$ (3)	-2.39	-2.6	-1.96	2.39 <sup>a</sup>	2.6 <sup>a</sup>	1.96
(4)	$^*\text{Li}_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4 + \text{CO}_2 + 2\text{Li}$	(3) $\rightleftharpoons$ (4)	-1.8	-1.93	-1.97	1.8	1.93	1.97 <sup>a</sup>
(5)	$\text{Li}_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4 + \text{CO}_2 + 2\text{Li}$	(4) $\rightleftharpoons$ (5)	1.61	1.79	1.1	-1.61	-1.79	-1.1
(6)	$^*\text{LiCO}_3 + ^*\text{C} + \text{Li} + \text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$	(5) $\rightleftharpoons$ (6)	-1.8	-2.29	-0.88	1.8	2.29	0.88
(7)	$^*\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3 + ^*\text{C} + \text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$	(6) $\rightleftharpoons$ (7)	-2.12	-2.36	-1.77	2.12	2.36	1.77
(8)	$^*\text{C} + 2\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$	(7) $\rightleftharpoons$ (8)	2.62 <sup>a</sup>	2.45 <sup>a</sup>	1.78 <sup>a</sup>	-2.62	-2.45	-1.78
<b>Path 3</b>								
(0)	$3\text{CO}_2 + 4\text{Li}$							
(1)	$^*\text{CO}_2 + 2\text{CO}_2 + 4\text{Li}$	(0) $\rightleftharpoons$ (1)	-0.16	-0.24	0.19	0.16	0.24	-0.19
(2)	$^*2\text{CO}_2 + 4\text{Li} + \text{CO}_2$	(1) $\rightleftharpoons$ (2)	-0.03	0.15	0.29	0.03	-0.15	-0.29
(3)	$^*\text{LiCO}_3 + ^*\text{CO} + 3\text{Li} + \text{CO}_2$	(2) $\rightleftharpoons$ (3)	-3.03	-3.41	-3.15	3.03	3.41	3.15
(4)	$^*\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3 + ^*\text{CO} + 2\text{Li} + \text{CO}_2$	(3) $\rightleftharpoons$ (4)	-2.51	-2.08	-1.63	2.51	2.08	1.63
(5)	$\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3 + ^*\text{CO} + 2\text{Li} + \text{CO}_2$	(4) $\rightleftharpoons$ (5)	3.15	3.13	1.87	-3.15	-3.13	-1.87
(6)	$^*\text{COLi} + \text{Li} + \text{CO}_2 + \text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$	(5) $\rightleftharpoons$ (6)	-0.56	-1.48	0.26	0.56	1.48	-0.26
(7)	$^*\text{C} + ^*\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3 + \text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$	(6) $\rightleftharpoons$ (7)	-2.78	-2.72	-2.48	2.78	2.72	2.48
(8)	$^*\text{C} + 2\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$	(7) $\rightleftharpoons$ (8)	2.62	2.45	1.78	-2.62	-2.45	-1.78

Note: value with <sup>a</sup> represents the rate-determining-step. For the discharging process, the step-by-step direction is  $\rightarrow$ , for example: (0)  $\rightarrow$  (1), while for the charging process, the step-by-step direction is  $\leftarrow$ .

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