

Supporting Information

Supplementary Texts

Text S1: Details of the flow-through experiments

Reactors were 10 cm in length, 5 cm in width, and 6 cm in height. Each reactor contained 8 pairs of electrodes, and 1mm thick meshed plastic sheets were used to separate the cathodes and anodes. Preliminary experiments guided the use of 0.1 mol/L Na₂SO₄ at pH 2 as the electrolyte (Fig. S6). Upon introducing new electrochemical conditions, the system was given time to stabilize, processing 0.6 L of electrolyte before sampling for analysis.

Text S2: Details of the *in operando* visualization

To set up the *in operando* visualization reactor, a 2×2 cm² coverslip was affixed to the base of a modified circuit board which had a central cavity. The coverslip was then used to hold the electrolyte. Further, a 1×1 cm² Ir-Ta coated Ti plate was positioned on one side of the coverslip to serve as the anode. To prepare the carbon cathode, active carbon felts were ground into powder firstly. Secondly, the powder was added to the mixture of Nafion, ethanol, and water. Thirdly, drops of the suspension were applied onto the coverslip until there was enough active carbon powder on the coverslip. Finally, the reactor was placed into a 60°C oven until the suspension on the coverslip was thoroughly dried, and the powder was attached to the coverslip. The electrolyte was prepared by integrating the pH-sensitive fluorescence probe into the

Na₂SO₄ solution (0.1 mol/L, pH = 4). When performing fluorescence imaging with the laser scanning confocal microscope (LSCM), A 63x lens was utilized with a scope field dimension of 134.69 μm × 134.69 μm, and excitation was provided by the AF488 laser channel.

Supplementary Figures

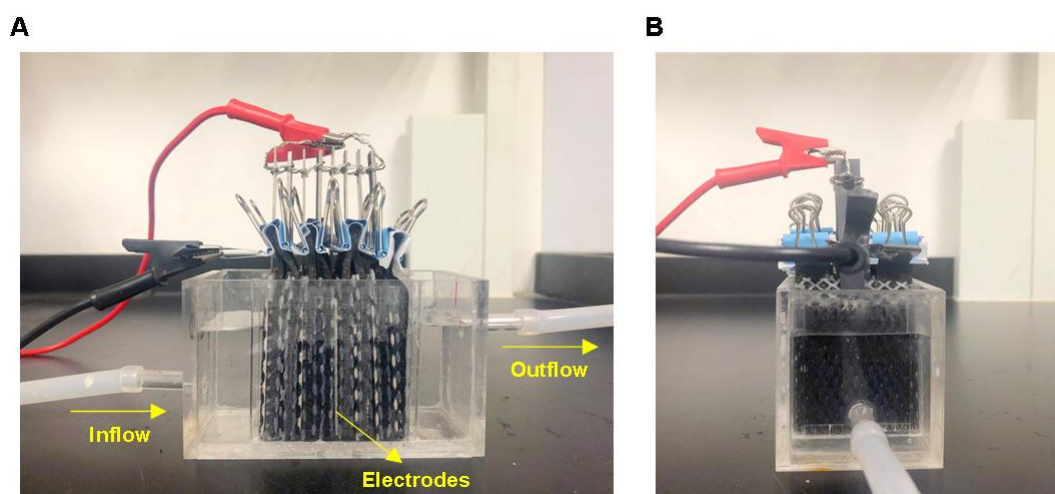


Fig. S1 Digital photos of the flow-through reactor with coupled anodes and cathodes for H_2O_2 electro-synthesis.

(A) The front view. (B) The left view.

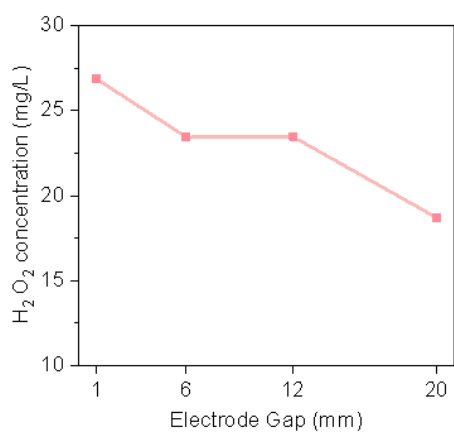


Fig. S2 Effect of electrode gap on H_2O_2 concentration. Three-electrode system, constant 1.5 V vs SHE, sampling at 30 min, the 0.1 mol/L Na_2SO_4 solution at pH 2 was used as the electrolyte.

Note: the anode potential was kept the same to ensure a similar anodic O_2 production. Electrode gap below 1 mm was not tested as a too small electrode spacing will increase the possibility of a short circuit.

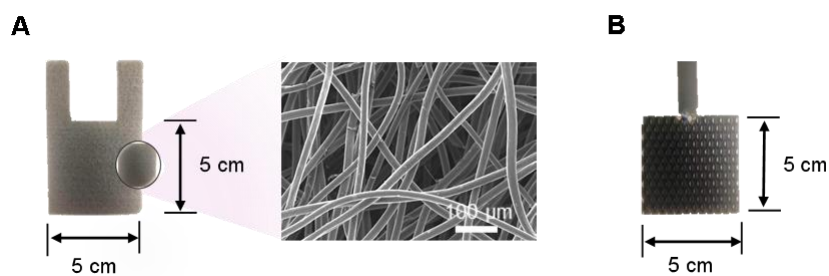


Fig. S3 Electrodes used in H_2O_2 electro-synthesis in the flow-through reactors. (A) Physical diagram and SEM image of the activated carbon felt cathode. (B) Physical diagram of the mesh Ir-Ta coated Ti anode.

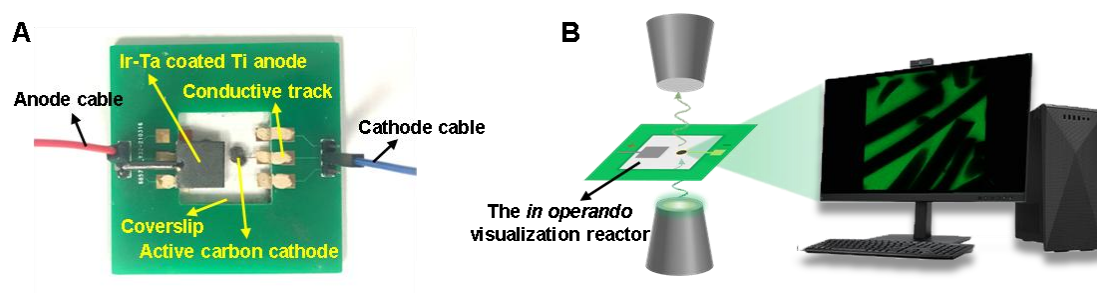


Fig. S4 The *in operando* visualization system. (A) Digital photos of the *in operando* visualization reactor. (B) Schematic of imaging fluorescence intensity at the cathode-solution interface using an LSCM.

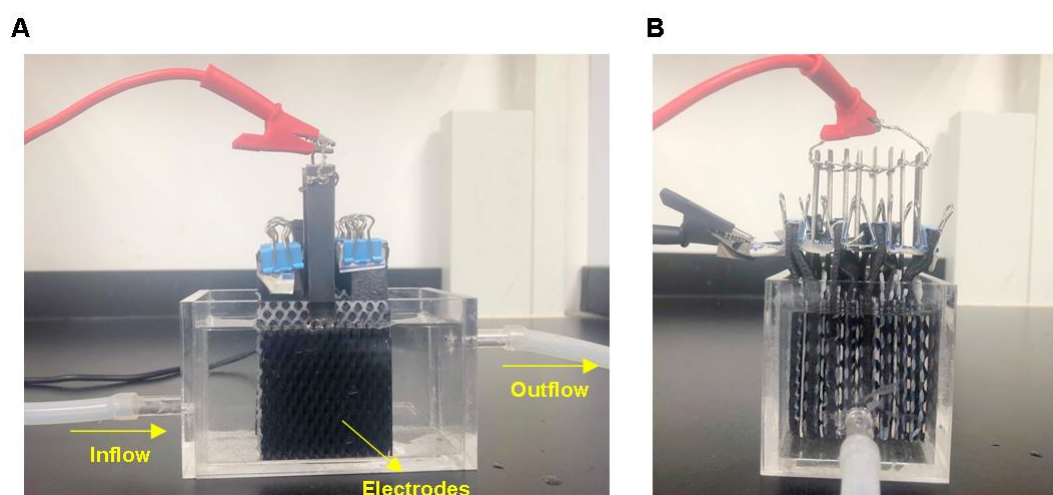


Fig. S5 Digital photos of the reactor with non-coupled anodes and cathodes for H_2O_2 electro-synthesis. (A) The front view. (B) The left view.

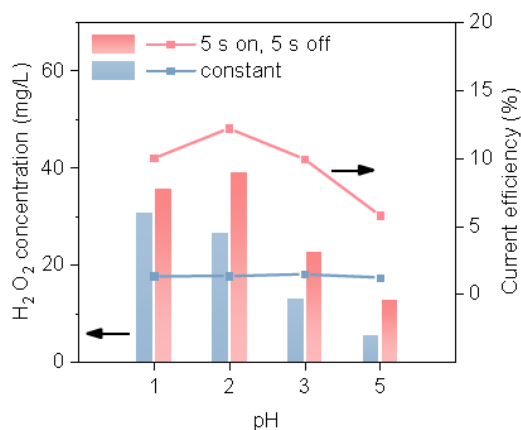


Fig. S6 Effects of pH on H₂O₂ concentration and current efficiency. The 3.0 V constant voltage was applied. The flow rate was 10 mL/min. The 0.1 mol/L Na₂SO₄ solution at different pH levels was used as the electrolyte.

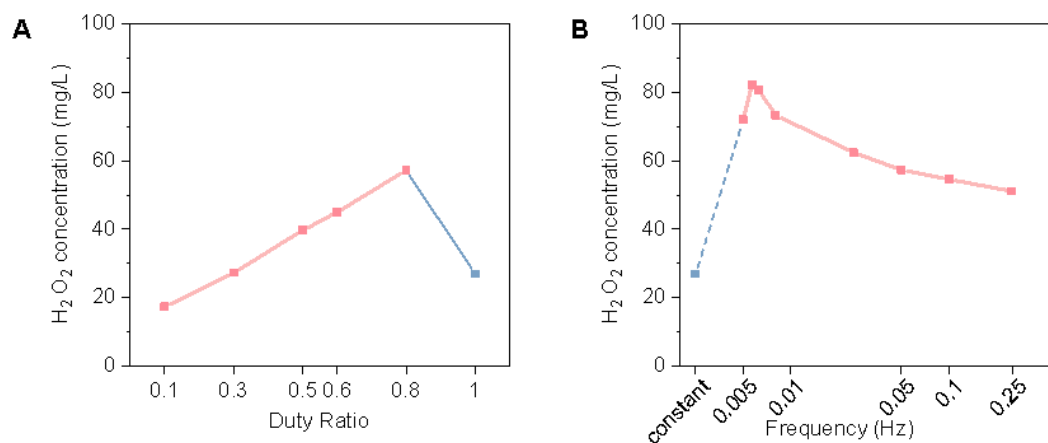


Fig. S7 (A) Effect of duty ratio on H₂O₂ concentration (t_{on} was 5 s). (B) Effects of frequency on H₂O₂ concentration (duty ratio was 0.8). The 3.0 V constant voltage was applied. The flow rate was 10 mL/min. The 0.1 mol/L Na₂SO₄ solution at pH 2 was used as the electrolyte.

Note: Duty Ratio = $t_{on}/(t_{on}+t_{off})$, Frequency = $1/(t_{on}+t_{off})$. Quite large duty ratio (>0.8) and low frequency (<0.01) were observed as the proper condition. For a simple regulation, t_{on} and t_{off} were used as the parameters in the main experiments rather than Duty Ratio and Frequency.

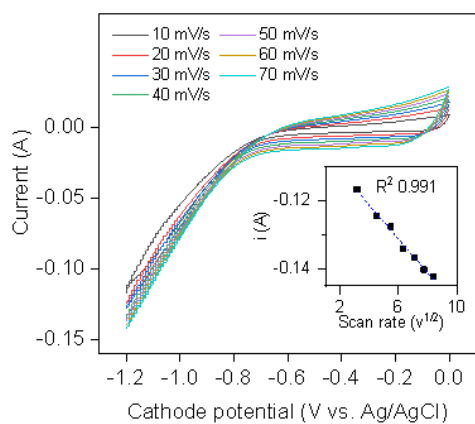


Fig. S8 CV curves of active carbon felts under different scan rates. The three-electrode system was used, where Ir-Ta-Ti, Ag/AgCl, and 0.1 mol/L Na₂SO₄ solution at pH 2 were used as the counter electrode, reference electrode, and electrolyte, respectively.

Note: the peak current i_p (A) increases linearly with the square root of the scan rate $v^{1/2}$ ($V^{1/2} \cdot s^{-1/2}$). Therefore, the electrochemical process was indicated to be the diffusion-controlled according to the Randles-Sevcik equation

$$(i_p = 0.4463nFAC \left(\frac{nFvD}{RT}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}) \text{ (Ding et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2024).}$$

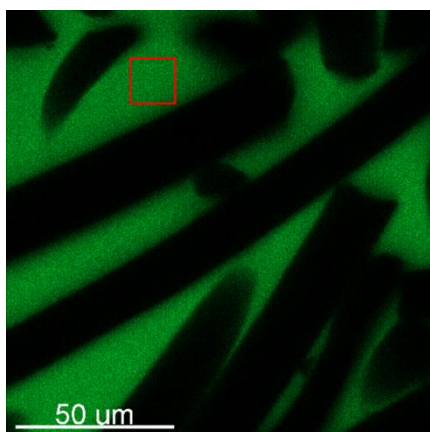


Fig. S9 Selected region for quantitative analysis of fluorescence intensity (red box area in the figure).

Supplementary Table

Table S1 The comparison of H₂O₂ yield, energy consumption, and the reaction system design of this work with the literature.

| Cathodes | Reactor design | Aerated or not | H ₂ O ₂ yield (mg/h) | Electric energy consumption (kWh/kg) | Aeration energy consumption (kWh/kg) | Total energy consumption (Electric + Aeration) (kWh/kg) | Ref. |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Commercial carbon felts | Flow-through | No | 15.8 (2mL/min) -168.0 (60mL/min) | 13.0 (60mL/min) -146.8 (2mL/min) ^a | 0 | 13.0~146.8 | This work |
| carbon-PTFE GDE | Flow-through | Yes (compressed air) | 3894 (pilot scale) | 53.9 ^b | 1077 ^b | 1130.9 | (Salmerón et al., 2019) |
| Carbon felts | Flow-through | Yes (jet aerator) | 76.8 ^c | 68.75 ^c | Not provided | >68.75 | (Leyva-Ruiz et al., 2024) |
| Air self-diffusion electrode | Flow-through | No | 7.5 ^c | 134 | 0 | 134 | (Zhang et al., 2024) |
| Modified GDE | Batch | Yes (O ₂ saturated) | 170.0 ^c | 118.0 | Not provided | >118.0 | (Moreira et al., 2019) |
| Modified GDE | Batch | Yes (0.2 bar O ₂) | 125.8 ^c | 84.5 | Not provided | >84.5 | (Lima et al., 2020) |
| Modified GDE | Batch | Yes (0.2 bar O ₂) | 55.5 ^c | 86.6 | Not provided | >86.6 | (Cordeiro Junior et al., 2022) |
| Modified GDE | Batch | Yes (0.05 L/min O ₂) | 46.0 ^c | 47.85 | Not provided | >47.85 | (O. Silva et al., 2023) |
| Graphite cathode | Batch | No | 1.9 ^c | 213.0-368.8 | 0 | 213.0-368.8 | (Zhang et al., 2020b) |

^a Parameters used for calculation: the optimal conditions of 3 V, 100 s on and 1 s off. At the fastest flow rate of 60 mL/min, the average current (calculated as $\int Idt / t$) was 0.73 A, and the system reached the electric energy consumption of 13.0 kWh/kg. At the slowest flow rate of 2 mL/min, the average current (calculated as $\int Idt / t$) was 0.77 A, and the system reached the electric energy consumption of 146 kWh/kg. Electric energy consumption at flow rates among 2-60 ml/min was among 13.0-146.8 kWh/kg, decreasing as the flow rates increased.

^b Using the calculated results in Zhang et al., 2020a.

^c Calculated based on the data in the corresponding reference.

References of supporting information

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