

Photoelectrocatalytic Activity of ZnO-Modified Hematite Films in the Reaction of Alcohol Degradation

Vitali A. Grinberg *, Vitoor V. Emets , Natalia A. Mayorova, Aleksey A. Averin and Andrei A. Shiryayev

Frumkin Institute of Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry, Russian Academy of Sciences, Leninsky Prospekt 31, Building 4, 119071 Moscow, Russia

* Correspondence: vgrinberg@phche.ac.ru; vitgreen@mail.ru

Supplementary materials

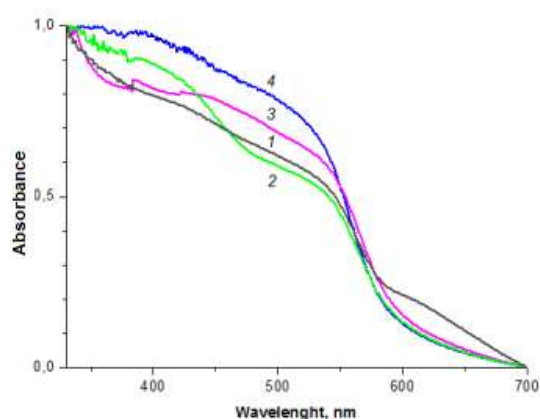


Figure S1. Normalized absorption spectra for the film photoanodes: (1) $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{FTO}$; (2) $\text{ZnO}(0.07)/\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{FTO}$; (3) $\text{ZnO}(0.2)/\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{FTO}$; and (4) $\text{ZnO}(0.87)/\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{FTO}$.

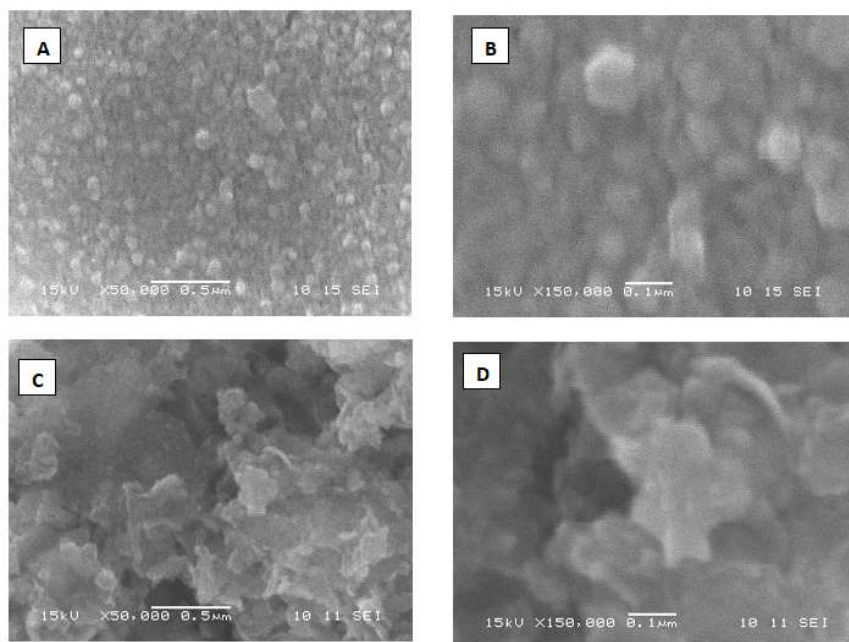


Figure S2. SEM images of the hematite films modified with different amounts of electrodeposited ZnO: (A,B) $\text{ZnO}(0.2)/\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{FTO}$; and (C,D) $\text{ZnO}(0.87)/\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{FTO}$. Conditions of the samples preparation are described in section 3.1.

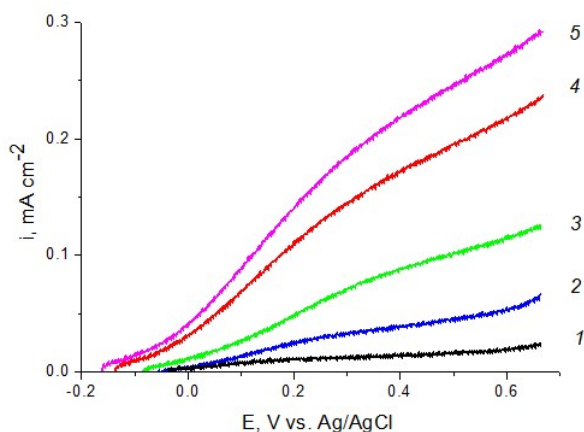


Figure S3. Voltammograms of the ZnO(0.07)/Fe₂O₃/FTO film photoanode obtained: (1) in "dark" conditions, and (2 - 5) under visible light illumination with a power density of 100 mW cm⁻² in aqueous solutions of (2) 0.1 M KOH; (3) 0.1 M KOH + 20% CH₃OH; (4) 0.1 M KOH + 20% C₂H₄(OH)₂; and (5) 0.1 M KOH + 20% C₃H₅(OH)₃. The dark curves for all solutions practically coincide. Potential scan rate is 10 mV s⁻¹.

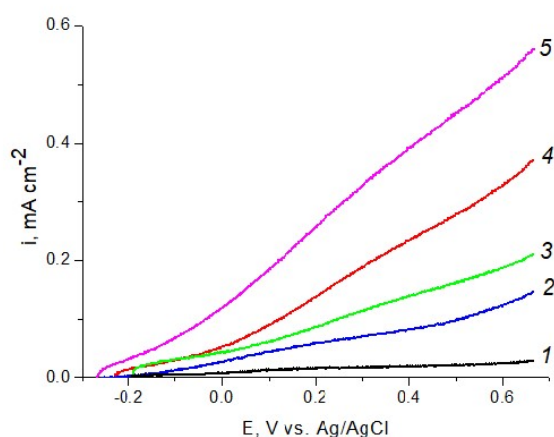


Figure S4. Voltammograms of the ZnO(0.87)/Fe₂O₃/FTO film photoanode obtained: (1) in "dark" conditions, and (2 - 5) under visible light illumination with a power density of 100 mW cm⁻² in aqueous solutions of (2) 0.1 M KOH; (3) 0.1 M KOH + 20% CH₃OH; (4) 0.1 M KOH + 20% C₂H₄(OH)₂; and (5) 0.1 M KOH + 20% C₃H₅(OH)₃. The dark curves for all solutions practically coincide. Potential scan rate is 10 mV s⁻¹.

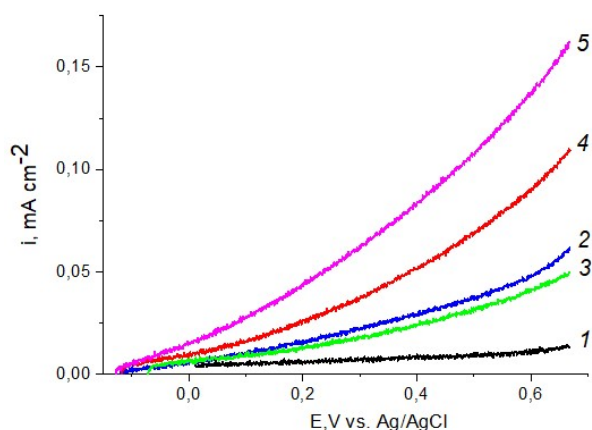


Figure S5. Voltammograms of the $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{FTO}$ film photoanode obtained: (1) in "dark" conditions, and (2 - 5) under visible light illumination with a power density of 100 mW cm^{-2} in aqueous solutions of 0.1 M KOH (2); 0.1 M KOH + 20% CH_3OH (3); 0.1 M KOH + 20% $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4(\text{OH})_2$ (4); and 0.1 M KOH + 20% $\text{C}_3\text{H}_5(\text{OH})_3$ (5). The dark curves for all solutions practically coincide. Potential scan rate is 10 mV s^{-1} .

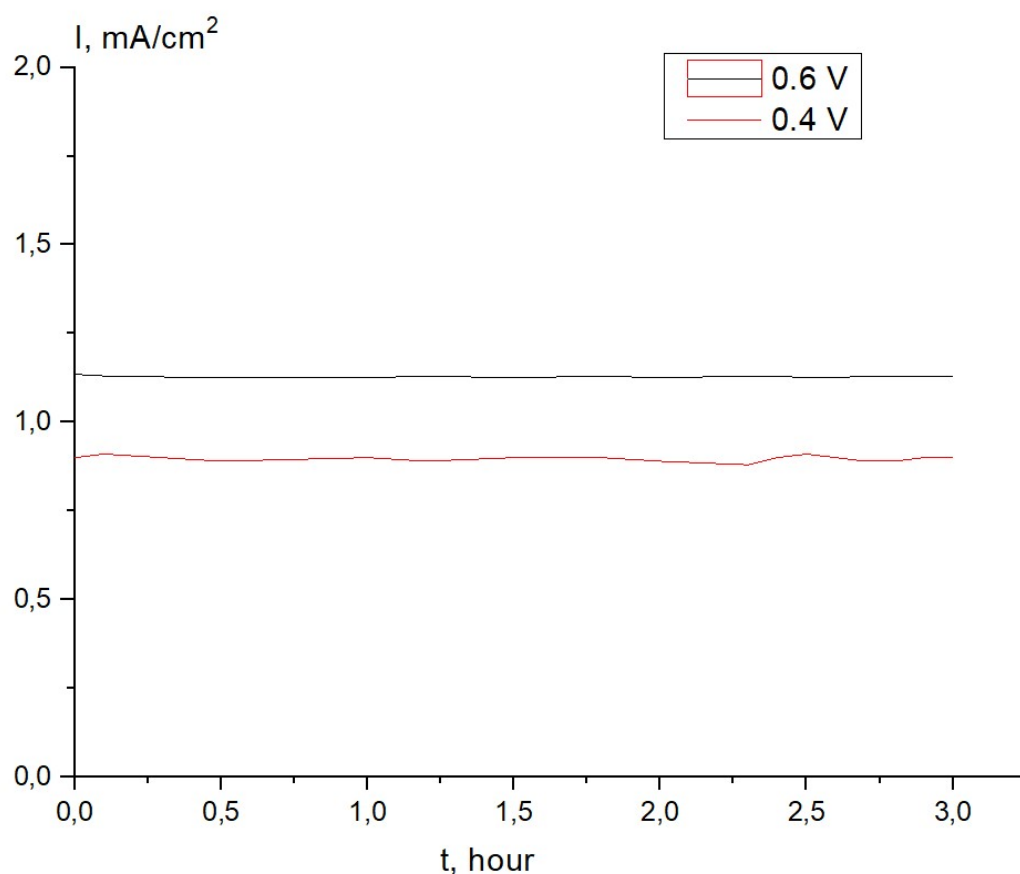


Figure S6. Chronoamperograms obtained at the $\text{ZnO}(0.2)/\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{FTO}$ film photoanode at the bias potentials 0.4 V and 0.6 V vs. Ag/AgCl in 0.1 M KOH + 20% $\text{C}_3\text{H}_5(\text{OH})_3$ aqueous solution under visible light illumination with a power density of 100 mW cm^{-2} .

Table S1. Calculation of the Zn / Fe weight ratio in hematite samples modified with zinc oxide, where: Q_{dep} is the amount of electricity spent on the oxide deposition; L is an average thickness of the oxide layer; d is specific gravity of the oxide; S is the geometric surface area of the photoanode sample; P is the weight of the metal in the oxide; and $WR_{\text{Zn:Fe}}$ is the Zn:Fe weight ratio in the sample.

Sample	$Q_{\text{dep}}, \text{C cm}^{-2}$	L, cm	$d, \text{g cm}^{-3}$	S, cm^{-2}	P, g	$WR_{\text{Zn:Fe}}$
$\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{FTO}$	3 [*]	7×10^{-5} [*]	5.1 [*]	1	2.5×10^{-4} [*]	
$\text{ZnO}(0.07)/\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{FTO}$	0.07 ^{**}	1.75×10^{-6} ^{**}	5.6 ^{**}	1	7.8×10^{-6} ^{**}	3.12×10^{-2}
$\text{ZnO}(0.2)/\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{FTO}$	0.2 ^{**}	5.5×10^{-6} ^{**}	5.6 ^{**}	1	2.5×10^{-5} ^{**}	10^{-1}
$\text{ZnO}(0.87)/\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{FTO}$	0.87 ^{**}	2.24×10^{-5} ^{**}	5.6 ^{**}	1	10^{-4} ^{**}	4×10^{-1}

* The data refer to the $\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ layer electrodeposited onto FTO glass for all samples;

** The data refer to the ZnO layer electrodeposited onto the $\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ layer.