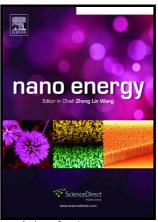
# Author's Accepted Manuscript

Nanostructured Ultrathin Catalyst Layer based on open-walled PtCo bimetallic Nanotube Arrays for Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cells

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## **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

Nanostructured Ultrathin Catalyst Layer based on open-walled PtCo bimetallic Nanotube Arrays for Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cells

Yachao Zeng <sup>a, b</sup>, Zhigang Shao <sup>a,\*</sup>, Hongjie Zhang <sup>a, b</sup>, Zhiqiang Wang <sup>a, b</sup>, Shaojing Hong <sup>a, b</sup>, Hongmei Yu <sup>a, \*</sup>, BaolianYi <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Fuel Cell System and Engineering Laboratory, Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of

Sciences, Dalian, Liaoning 116023, China;

<sup>b</sup>Graduate University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China.

zhgshao@dicp.ac.cn

hmyu@dicp.ac.cn

#### **Abstract**

Nanostructured ultrathin catalyst layer based on open-walled PtCo bimetallic nanotube arrays has been designed and constructed through a hydrothermal and physical vapor deposition method for proton exchange membrane fuel cells (PEMFCs). The open-walled PtCo bimetallic NTAs with a diameter ca. 100 nm were directly aligned with proton exchange membrane, forming an ultrathin catalyst layer with a thickness ca. 300 nm. The incorporation of Co in Pt is realized by a facile thermal annealing method, endowing the catalyst layer with improved activity. During the purification of catalyst-coated-membrane (CCM) electrode, the sealed off PtCo nanotubes cracked into open-walled nanotubes, making both the interior and exterior

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