



CataLM: empowering catalyst design through large language models

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Abstract

The field of catalysis holds paramount importance in shaping the trajectory of sustainable development, prompting intensive research efforts to leverage artificial intelligence (AI) in catalyst design. Presently, the fine-tuning of open-source large language models (LLMs) has yielded significant breakthroughs across various domains such as biology and healthcare. Drawing inspiration from these advancements, we introduce **CataLM (Catalytic Language Model)**, a large language model tailored to the domain of electrocatalytic materials. Our findings demonstrate that **CataLM** exhibits remarkable potential for facilitating human-AI collaboration in catalyst knowledge exploration and design. To the best of our knowledge, **CataLM** stands as the pioneering LLM dedicated to the catalyst domain, offering novel avenues for catalyst discovery and development.

Keywords AI for science (AI4S) · Large language models (LLMs) · Electrocatalytic materials · Catalyst design

1 Introduction

The field of catalysis is crucial to the future of sustainable development. Innovative catalysts can generate clean fuels, reduce the impact of global warming and provide solutions to environmental pollution [1, 2]. Theoretical calculations and simulations can accelerate catalyst screening through activity descriptors that link structure to catalyst activity [3–5]. However, numerous variables exist in the synthesis, composition, structure, and performance of electrocatalysts, with much of this critical knowledge often elusive within scientific literature. This poses challenges in elucidating the intricate correlations from limited experimental data.

Artificial intelligence can be used to extract, analyze and understand key information embedded in the vast scientific literature on catalysis that can be dedicated to predicting new catalysts. Natural language processing techniques and generative language models enable the extraction and analysis of textual information from scientific literature and the generation of domain-relevant on-demand text, which has shown potential in recent biological and thermoelectric research. However, language models in the field of catalysis are sparse and limited in scale, which restricts their use in empowering knowledge extraction in catalytic materials research and further enabling the discovery of new catalysts.

Pre-trained models have demonstrated their powerful capabilities in Natural Language Processing (NLP). There are two main types of pre-trained models: (1) BERT-like

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models [6–8], which are mainly used for language comprehension tasks, and (2) GPT-like models [9–11], which are mainly used for language generation tasks. Currently, large-scale language models (LLMs) such as GPT-4.0 [12] have laid a solid foundation for various applications. Although current large language models are effective in general domains, they often fail to meet the needs of catalytic scientists. Much of this inadequacy is attributed to the lack of reliable knowledge about catalysts, as relevant catalyst structural features and performance analyses are rarely present in commonly used pre-trained text corpora, such as C4 [13] and the Pile [14]. Furthermore, the best performing large language models like ChatGPT are only served through APIs, which creates a barrier to research and progress in external domains. Fine-tuning open-source large language models is an effective way to meet domain-specific needs.

Currently, fine-tuning open-source large language models have reached considerable success in fields such as biology, healthcare, and finance. In biology, a domain-specific pre-trained Transformer language model, BiOGPT [15], has been developed for biomedical text generation and mining. The model can be optimised and enhanced for performance in tasks such as biological named entity tasks and protein molecular design. In healthcare, models like HuatuoGPT [16] and DoctorGLM [17] have been developed to address healthcare challenges, which exhibit a high degree of expertise and provide valuable insights into the healthcare domain. In recent years, researchers have utilized existing databases such as Atomly [18], OQMD [19], MaterialsProject [20] and others. They have successfully explored the complex relationship between material structure and properties [21], addressing the challenges posed by the scarcity of material data by developing more accurate AI optimisation [22] and training methods [23]. With the application of LLMs, materials science researchers have explored the use of these models to address challenges such as chemical reactions and the complex nature of structures. Examples include the MatSciBERT [24] model for the task of materials named entity recognition. MatSciBERT uses a large amount of materials science literature to fine-tune the BERT model [6], demonstrating the ability to automatically extract information from the literature, perform data mining, and construct knowledge graphs. MatChat [25] optimises the LLaMA2-7B model using knowledge of inorganic materials science literature and presents a viable solution for predicting chemical synthesis pathways of inorganic materials, opening up new possibilities for the use of language models in materials science. To the best of our knowledge, there has been no reported utilization of large language models in catalyst science so far.

In this work, we provide **CataLM**, a large language model aligned with knowledge in the field of electrocatalytic materials. This large language model takes advantage of the

pre-trained Vicuna-13B model, and is trained on domain literature and data annotated by experts. With this extensive and diverse data, the original LLM is specialized with two phases: *Domain Pre-training*, where the model harvests the chemical knowledge from domain field literature, and *Instruction Tuning*, where the model further understands the requirements of downstream task with the annotation data. We use two tasks to validate **CataLM**, namely entity extraction task and control method recommendation task. In addition to using the constructed knowledge base for validation, we also invited domain experts to evaluate the answers of **CataLM** to verify its generalization ability. Results show that our large language model has potent potential for human-AI collaboration in catalyst knowledge search and design. To the best of our knowledge, **CataLM** is the first LLM that focus on the catalyst domain field, and we believe it can bring new possibilities for the preparation of new catalysts.

2 Related work

ChatGPT was selected as one of Nature's Top 10 Individuals of 2023, marking the unprecedented selection of a computer program-the first non-human entity in history-to receive such recognition. Nature states that this award aims to recognize the role of large language models (LLMs) in scientific development and progress. In the field of materials, numerous studies have utilized language models to address diverse tasks. Chen et al. provide the model MatChat [25], for predicting inorganic material synthesis pathways. Xie et al. [26] use FAIR database to fine-tune LLMs and design a downstream task named SII which aims to extract hierarchical, domain specific material and device information, such as composition, structure, preparation conditions, etc., from unstructured scientific texts. Zheng et al. [27] used prompt engineering to guide ChatGPT in the automation of text mining of metal-organic framework (MOF) synthesis conditions from diverse formats and styles of the scientific literature. InstructMol [28] adopts Vicuna to multiple chemical tasks with task-specific fine-tuning. Meta FAIR researchers launched the Open Materials 2024 (OMat24) dataset and large pre-trained models focusing on structural and compositional diversity. OMat24 dataset [29] is one of the largest publicly available datasets in material fields. Leong et al. [30] explored a multimodal large language model (MLLM) based on scientific literature to analyze various data inputs for automated electrosynthetic reaction mining. However, previous works focus on the development of new materials instead of new catalyst designing. Considering the diversity of structural characteristics such as composition, crystal structure, and crystal plane of materials, potential catalysts are very abundant. Secondly, domain fine-tuning data sets

which are consistent with downstream applications are crucial for the capability migration of LLMs, which is lacking in the field of catalyst design. This deficiency results in the model's lack of catalyst knowledge, making it challenging to achieve satisfactory parameters.

To promote the creative utilization of large language models in catalysts science, this study utilizes a meticulously crafted database for question-answering to investigate their capabilities in the field of catalysts science. While building this model, we also refer to the successful experiences in the field of other science domains. For example, DeepGO-SE [31] tries to predict GO functions from protein sequences using a pretrained large language model. MedPaLM2 [32] and PMC-LLaMa [33] attempt to tailor LLMs specifically for the fields of biology and medicine through fine-tuning with domain-specific instructions. In addition, Chen et al construct the xTrimo model [34] based on massive protein sequence data training, achieving sota levels on multiple prediction tasks.

3 CataLM

As shown in Fig. 1, the training of **CataLM** consists of two stages, which are Domain Pre-training and Instruction Tuning respectively. Due to the lack of open-source corpora for recommending catalyst control methods, we utilized expert annotated corpora, as well as the retrieval enhanced corpora generated by large language models for training during the instruction fine-tuning stage.

3.1 Domain pre-training

In this work, the text corpus we used to further pre-train Vicuna-33b-v1.3, including the full text of open-access catalytic papers published in selected high-quality journals in the field of electrocatalytic science. We used Web of Science to find scientific literature on electrocatalytic CO₂ reduction. Specifically, we exported the metadata of more than 22,000 articles from Web of Science using the keywords “CO₂”, “Reduction”, and “Electro*” as subject indexes. Eventually, we used the full-text PDFs of 12,643 open-access papers to build the text corpus.

PDF parsing. We build an automatic PDF parsing toolkit based on the PyMuPDF library [35]. Since the processed documents contain irrelevant tags, we developed a data cleaning method for parsing article tag strings into consistently formatted text paragraphs while retaining the same section and paragraph structure as the original paper. Finally, we use regular expressions and rule-based scripts to clean the data, removing the text obstructing reading, garbled, and impurity data.

Vector database. Despite the fact that Language Model Models (LLMs) are capable of responding to broad inquiries, they are limited in their ability to provide in-depth, precise, and timely information within specific vertical domain. To tackle this issue, we have employed vector databases to augment the reasoning capabilities of LLMs in vertical domain contexts. Vector databases can transform literature and data into vector representations through the process of embedding vectors. For the establishment of vector

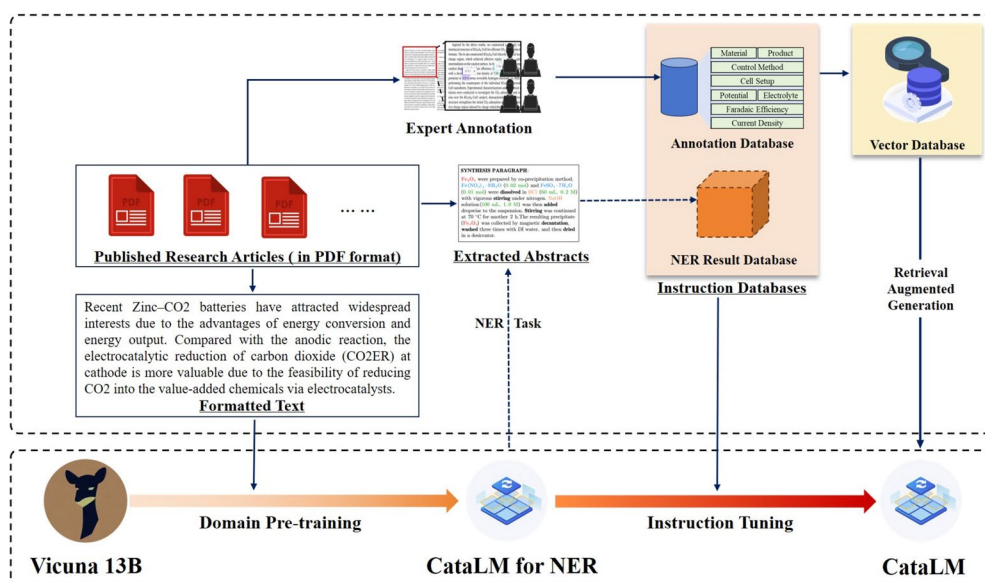


Fig. 1 The training pipeline of **CataLM**. The bottom part illustrates the primary training pipeline of **CataLM**, while the top part of the figure delineates the entire data preparation process for training

databases, Sci-BERT [36] has been utilized as an embedding model.

The study involved retrieving titles and abstracts from a dataset containing 12,643 documents, manually annotating catalytic reaction processes by domain experts, and then merging and converting these textual elements into vector representations using Sci-BERT as an embedding framework. In the context of a catalytic domain-specific task such as Name Entity Recognition (NER), the embedding model operates by converting the user query into vector form. Relevant articles are then identified by vector distance calculations to facilitate the retrieval of accurate and relevant information.

3.2 Instruction tuning

In order to align pre-trained models with domain user intent, we need to construct instruction tuning datasets. Currently available generic instruction tuning datasets such as Alpaca-GPT4 [37] and ToolBench [38] can only teach models to follow human instructions. For the specialized field of catalytic materials, we need to train models with knowledge-intensive data that can reflect domain knowledge. Considering the relatively small sample of data annotated by the experts, we use the large language model pre-trained in the previous section to expand it by automatically extracting abstracts from 12,643 documents. The entities were extracted based on an expert-constructed system of electrocatalytic reduction systems for literature content, including materials, conditioning methods, products, faradaic efficiency, cell setup, electrolyte, synthesis method, current density and voltage. The specific meanings and dataset formats of these entities can be found in the previous corpus construction work [39].

Firstly, we invite experts in the field of catalysis to perform manual annotation using a well-developed annotation tool, AutoDive [40]. This tool allows annotators to access material literature through a web browser, view sentences for annotation, and interact with predefined entity types and descriptions. Annotators have the flexibility to include new entities, rearrange existing ones, or make edits in a separate view. We end up with a standard corpus [39] in the field of electrocatalytic CO₂ reduction containing 6985 entities, with each record containing the entity extracted from the paper, its corresponding label, and the context sentence in which the entity is located. The standard corpus is provided as a file in CSV format, and the details are shown in Table 1.

Next, we used the pre-trained large language model based on vector database augmentation from the previous section to perform automatic extraction of literature abstracts in the field of catalysis, which extracts a total of 30,283 entities. It is important to highlight that the synthetic method of expert annotation in the dataset is an unstructured text paragraph description. We used a multi-model algorithm combining

Table 1 The summary of the standard corpus

Entity type	Benchmark Corpus
Material	1092
Control method	1086
Product (including the second and third product)	1340
Faradaic efficiency (including the Faradaic efficiency of second and third product)	1135
Cell setup	435
Electrolyte	475
Synthesis method	228
Current density	393
Voltage	801
Total	6985

pattern recognition and neural networks to convert it into a structured synthetic pathway containing information about the prepared and target materials, synthetic operations and operating conditions. This structuring of information enhances the interpretability of domain knowledge by the expansive models.

After rigorous filtering, de-duplication and cleaning, we obtained a training set consisting of 13,432 highly reliable catalytic process descriptions, based on the combination of domain entities. Next, this dataset is further pre-processed and integrated into an instruction question-answering format. For example, for a certain catalytic reaction, using the entities provided in the dataset, we can reconstruct it as a recommendation task for catalyst preparation for a given product. As shown in Fig. 2, the prompt involves a specific catalyst material query for a given product, and the answer provides the recommended material and its preparation method.

3.3 Training process

The parameters of the model fine-tuning stage and application stage are listed in Table 2. In named entity recognition task, we set temperature as 0.1 to limit the divergence of CataLM, and we tried various temperature values to verify the recommendation ability of the CataLM. We use NVIDIA A100 GPUs for training, and techniques such as low-rank adaptation [41] is adopted to save storage memory and accelerate the process. Low Rank Adaptation of Large Language Models, also known as LoRA, is a technology developed by Microsoft researchers to address fine-tuning of large language models. The approach of LoRA is to freeze the pre-trained model weight parameters, and then inject trainable layers into each Transformer block. Since there is no need to recalculate the gradient of the model weight parameters, it greatly reduces the computational workload that needs to

Fig. 2 Catalytic material recommended scenario's command format

Entities:	doi	title	material	material type	product	method type	faradaic efficiency	control method
Input:	Please give the a suitable catalyst material and its detailed control method based on the following information: product: product material type: material type faraday efficiency: faradaic efficiency control method type: method type							
Answer:	The main catalyst material is material . The control method of pre-material 1 is: control method							

Table 2 Parameter set

Parameter	Value
Fine-tuning stage	
Batch size	10
Learning rate	$3 * 10^{-4}$
Lora r	8
Lora alpha	32
Lora dropout	0.1
NER stage	
Temperature β	0.1
Top p	0.75
Top k	40
Beams	4
Max tokens	1248
Recommendation stage	
Temperature β	0.1/0.5
Top p	0.75
Top k	40
Beams	4
Max tokens	1248

be trained. Research has found that the fine-tuning quality of LoRA is comparable to that of full model fine-tuning, thus we chose this method in the training process of **CataLM**. Due to hardware limitations, we will batch size as 10, and the lora r was default setting in the work [41]. The alpha and dropout are set refer to PEFT in Huggingface library [42].

4 Evaluation

4.1 Named entity recognition task

The first task is named entity recognition, which aims to extract entity from the abstract of given literature. In this task, we use a dataset of 12,643 abstract from electrocatalytic

scientific literature (the full text of these literature also be used in the fine-tuning of **CataLM**) for named entity recognition. We extracted eight types of entity labels, including material, control method, product, faradaic efficiency, cell setup, electrolyte, current density, and voltage. When performing entity recognition, the user first inputs the text to be extracted, and the embedding model transforms it into vectors. Then the similar articles will be obtained by calculating the vector distance, and will be used to generate precise and pertinent information, which be shown in Fig. 3. The prompt will be fed into the fine-tuned LLM for entity recognition.

For the evaluation and validation of the the entity extraction capability of **CataLM**, we randomly select 160 entries and validate the LLM's answers for them by experts, and ensure that each category has 20 test data. The evaluation result is shown in Table 3. The Count represents the total amount of samples from different categories, the Correct represents the number of correctly identified entities, and the Existence represents the number of entities of this type that do exist in the text input to the large language model. It is worth mentioning that if there is indeed no corresponding entity in the text input to the large language model, the situation where the large language model answers empty should also be considered as correct recognition. Therefore, we use Modified Correct to remove the above influence. We have redesigned the validation method, comparing and analyzing the results extracted from the large model with those annotated by experts, and calculating specific indicators based on binary classification. The calculation method is shown in the Fig. 4.

To the best of our knowledge, CataLM is the first work to use LLMs for extracting knowledge content in the field of photocatalysis. However, in the field of materials, some scholars have used supervised intelligent methods to assist in the recognition of material entities. Wang et al. [43] proposed CHEMNER, an ontology guided, distantly-supervised method for fine grained chemistry NER, and achieved 45.96% F1. In the work [44], a supervised entity extraction

Fig. 3 Prompt in the named entity recognition task**Instruction:**

Given the following extracted parts of a long document and a question, Let's think about this logically.
Keep the conclusive Answer Explanatory and Holistic. The conclusive Answer Must Base on Given long document.
Try to reply a conclusive Answer within five words.

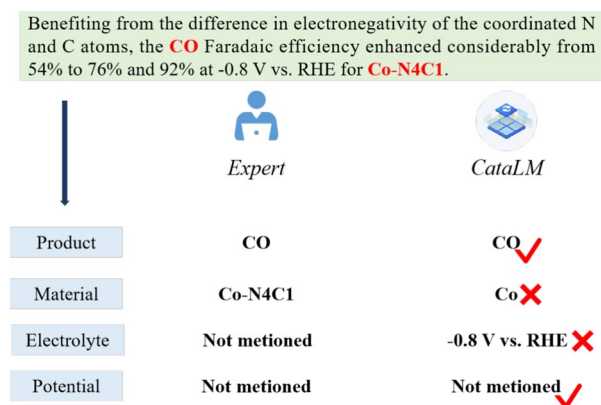
Input:

What are the materials, material type, product, faraday efficiency, control method, control method type, electrolyte, current density, cell setup, potential in the above text?
Material type should be selected one from **#material list#**
Control method type should be selected one from **#control method list#**

Reference:

Example 1: Abstract 1, Entity in Abstract 1

Example 2: Abstract 2, Entity in Abstract 2

**Fig. 4** Metric setting in CataLM

method was proposed in the field of Catalyst (the entity label are material, product, control method and faradaic efficiency), and obtain 57.68% F1. In this work, the ontology is more complex and hard to recognize, in the entity label as catalyst, product and faraday efficiency, CataLM's

modified accuracy (which also can be seen as F1) are 75, 85 and 90%, but it performs poorly in entity extraction for control method, cell setup, and the reason may be those entity are more difficult to understand and cause hallucinations in LLMs.

We also conducted ablation experiments in this paper. We decomposed the model into two modules, namely the model Domain pre-training module and the Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) module, and they were combined in pairs to form four possibilities. From Table 4, it can be seen that our method (i.e. Pre-training LLM + Few shot) performs the best. We can also see that both the fine-tuned module and the RAG module contribute to the improvement of model extraction accuracy. To present the recent trends in the development of CO₂ reduction electrocatalysts, we showcased and analyzed the information in the extracted database. Notably, for the sake of clarity, less frequently reported catalyst categories have been excluded. E/C and E-M are recommended choices for producing CO, while E-M and EOx demonstrate the potential for formic acid production. As for C₂ products like C₂ H₄ and C₂ H₅OH,

Table 3 The evaluation of entity recognition of **CataLM**

Entity	Count	Correct	Existence	Modified correct	Recall	Precision	F1
MATERIAL	20	17	17	15	88.23%	83.33%	75%
CONTROL METHOD	20	19	19	13	68.42%	92.86%	65%
PRODUCT	20	17	17	17	100%	85%	85%
FARADAIC EFFICIENCY	20	11	11	18	100%	84.62%	90%
ELECTROLYTE	20	10	10	10	90%	50%	50%
POTENTIAL	20	7	7	16	100%	63.63%	80%
CURRENT DENSITY	20	7	7	12	100%	46.67%	60%
CELL SETUP	20	6	6	9	100%	35.29%	45%
OVERALL	160	85	94	110	90.43%	67.46%	68.75%

Table 4 Results of ablation experiment

Model	Correct	Modified correct	Recall	Precision	F1
Original LLM + Zero shot	27	59	40.23%	36.05%	36.88%
Original LLM + Few shot	37	66	42.04%	46.25%	41.25%
Pre-training LLM + Zero shot	49	85	50.93%	71.43%	53.12%
Our method	85	110	90.43%	67.46%	68.75%

both E and EO_x are viable alternatives. We also open source the fine-tuning data, and domain experts can conduct more in-depth analysis.

4.2 Control method recommendation task

With the continuous development of big data technology, basic scientific research has shifted from the traditional "random trial and error" to the "data-driven AI" scientific model. Domain experts have also begun to attempt to use large language models to promote scientific innovation, such as literature understanding and summarization, experimental scheme generation, as well as unmanned experimental systems and scientific data sharing platforms, in order to improve scientific research efficiency and promote scientific progress and development. **CataLM** focuses on the scientific problems in the Catalyst Control field, and tries to assist scientists in catalyst design. In Retrieval Augmented Generation(RAG) method, we use Sci-BERT [36] as the embedding method to construct the vector database, and select three papers as the references.

However, how to evaluate the effectiveness of recommended catalyst control methods is a challenge faced by **CataLM**. In this paper, we invite domain experts to evaluate and analyze the recommendation methods generated by **CataLM** and the original LLM. Several representative results are listed in Table 5. The original LLM typically

offers vague material selections and often lacks domain-specific expertise. Additionally, its understanding of control methods usually involves mere restatements of definitions, sometimes leading to significant misconceptions. In contrast, **CataLM** consistently integrates domain knowledge to provide more specific and accurate material choices. Its responses are logically coherent, with reasonable explanations of the mechanisms behind the selected materials. As illustrated in Fig. 5, **CataLM** demonstrates its ability to accurately interpret control methods and offer reasonable suggestions, such as the composite system of Cu and carbon, along with clear explanations for the choice of carbon materials. In contrast, the original LLM's misunderstanding of the control method is evident in its incorrect suggestion of Pt, which is not a catalyst for CO_2 reduction. Additionally, we investigated the impact of hyperparameter selection on the responses generated by CataLM. All CataLMs produced reasonable answers, albeit with varying emphases, similar to how different researchers might provide distinct academic perspectives on the same research question.

For the quantitative analysis in recommendation, we choose Faraday efficiency as a measure of the effectiveness of the regulation methods. This index refers to the percentage of actual product and theoretical product, which is as important as the onset potential and the total current density that can be reached at a certain potential. The specific calculation formula is as follows:

Fig. 5 Answer from **CataLM** and original LLM

Question

Target product:HCOOH
Material type:Composites consisting of metal and carbon
Control method type:composite

Temperature: 0.1
Top p: 0.75
Top k: 40
Beams: 4
Max tokens: 1248

CataLM Output

Based on the given information, the most suitable catalyst material for the synthesis of HCOOH is Cu@CuxO Nanoparticles Decorated on 3D Vertical Graphene, and the control method is The improved CO2 reduction performance of Cu/VG-Ar originates from the well-dispersed Cu@CuxO nanoparticles deposited on the defective VG-Ar.

Original LLM Output

A suitable catalyst material for the production of HCOOH from a composite consisting of metal and carbon would be a metal catalyst, such as platinum or palladium. These metals are known to be effective catalysts for many chemical reactions, including the hydrolysis of acetylene to produce HCOOH.

As for the control method, a feedback control system would be appropriate. This type of control method uses feedback from the system to adjust the control inputs in real-time, ensuring that the system operates at its desired setpoint. In this case, the setpoint would be the desired concentration of HCOOH in the reaction mixture, and the control inputs would be the flow rates of the reactants and the temperature of the reaction. By continuously adjusting these inputs based on the feedback received from the system, the control method can maintain the desired concentration of HCOOH.

Buttons: CLEAR, SUBMIT, CONFIRM

Table 5 The input and answer provided by original LLM and CataLM

Input	Original LLM	CataLM ($\beta=0.1$)	CataLM ($\beta=0.5$)
C_2H_5OH , Single metal, structure control	The suitable catalyst material for the production of C_2H_5OH (ethanol) would be a noble metal such as platinum or palladium. These metals are known for their ability to catalyze a wide range of chemical reactions and are often used in the production of ethanol through the hydrolysis of ethylene. As for the control method type, structure control would be the most appropriate	Based on the given information, the most suitable catalyst material for producing C_2H_5OH is Palladium (Pd). The control method that should be used is creating high-facets of wrinkled Pd surrounded by PdO mesh patterns.	Based on the given information, the most suitable catalyst material for producing C_2H_5OH is Cu, and the suitable control method is nanostructured self-supporting Cu electrodes
C_2H_4 , Metal oxide, structure control	A suitable catalyst material for the production of C_2H_4 (ethylene) would be a metal oxide such as iron oxide or copper oxide. These materials are known to be effective in the production of ethylene through the cracking of hydrocarbons. As for the control method, structure control would be an appropriate method to use. This type of control method involves manipulating the structure of the catalyst material in order to optimize its performance	Based on the information provided, the most suitable catalyst material for producing C_2H_4 is OxygenCu (OCu) combination. The control method that should be used is anodized copper (AN-Cu) Cu(OH)(2) catalysts by a simple electrochemical synthesis method.	Based on the information provided, the most suitable catalyst material is Cu_2O , and the control method is the selectivity and activity of the C_2H_4 production depend strongly on the crystal facets exposed in Cu_2O NPs
HCOOH, Composites consisting of metal and carbon, composite	Based on the given information, a suitable catalyst material for the production of HCOOH would be a composite consisting of metal and carbon. One example of such a catalyst is platinum-on-carbon (Pt/C). As for the control method, a suitable method would be to use a feedback control system. This type of control system uses a sensor to measure the concentration of HCOOH in the reaction mixture, and adjusts the reaction conditions in real-time to maintain a constant concentration of HCOOH	Based on the given information, the most suitable catalyst material for the synthesis of HCOOH would be a composite of Copper nanoparticles embedded in Nitrogen-doped graphene oxide (Cu/N-GO). The control method used in this composite would be the interaction between the copper nanoparticles and the nitrogen-doped graphene oxide support. This interaction is expected to enhance the electrocatalytic reduction of CO_2 to HCOOH, due to the synergistic effects between the copper nanoparticles and the nitrogen-doped	Based on the given information, the most suitable catalyst material for the synthesis of HCOOH is Cu@CuO Nanoparticles Decorated on 3D Vertical Graphene, and the control method is The improved CO_2 reduction performance of Cu/VG-Ar originates from the well-dispersed Cu@CuO nanoparticles deposited on the defective VG-Ar
CO, Alloys/composites of two or more metals, alloy	A suitable catalyst material for producing CO (carbon monoxide) from an alloy or composite of two or more metals would be a metal oxide such as iron oxide or cobalt oxide. As for the control method, a suitable option would be to use a feedback control system	Based on the given information, the most suitable catalyst material for the target product CO is Gold-Copper alloy. The control method for this catalyst material is also Alloy	Based on the given information, the most suitable catalyst material for the target product CO is Copper-Indium (CuIn) and the control method is alloy

Table 6 Results of quantitative analysis

Model	Average predicted faraday efficiency
Original LLM	61.40%
CataLM	64.15%

$$FE = \frac{m \times n \times f}{I \times t} \quad (1)$$

where m is the actual mole number of the product, n is the number of reaction electrons, f is the Faraday constant, that is, the electric quantity contained in one mole of electrons, I is the current, t is the time. In order to quickly and automatically evaluate this indicator, we use the deep learning prediction model based on semantic information (word embedding) and correlation of knowledge triples (graph embedding), which is proposed in work [44]. This method was trained by 533 Faraday efficiency data samples, with the form as [data: (material, product, method, method type, material type), label: Faraday Efficiency], and outperformed other prediction models on Faraday Efficiency prediction. The evaluation result is shown in Table 6.

From the result, we can observe that the control method details generate by CataLM are obtain better performance than original LLM. However, beside the target product and material, the prediction results of the model are also influenced by the category of regulatory methods, which is an input parameter. This means that for the original LLM and CataLM, the regulatory methods are the same, so the difference in the predicted Faraday effect is not significant.

5 Conclusion

In this paper, we introduce **CataLM**, an effective attempt towards catalyst design leveraging the capabilities of large language models. By undergoing domain pre-training and instruction tuning, our large language model has exhibited robust comprehension and reasoning skills in catalyst knowledge and patterns, achieving advanced performance in application tasks like knowledge extraction and recommendation of control methods. We have open sourced the **CataLM** model and fine-tuning data to facilitate further expansion and development by interested researchers, which is available at <https://github.com/kg4sci/CataLM>. The result of NER task is available at Science Data Bank (ScienceDB), which is a public, general-purpose data repository aiming to provide data services for researchers, research projects/teams, journals, institutions, universities, etc, the link is <https://www.scidb.cn/en/detail?dataSetId=3f6204bc48704fac9b64b8e95a904e02>.

Currently, CataLM focuses more on catalyst design in the field of carbon dioxide reduction due to limitations in the scope of field literature. In the future, while continuously enhancing the field understanding ability of **CataLM** by incorporating more domain literature, we will also design and develop an auxiliary platform for field researchers based on it, in order to improve the efficiency of catalyst design work in practical applications. We believe that large language models will bring new and infinite possibilities to basic scientific research.

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Data Availability No datasets were generated or analysed during the current study.

Declarations

Conflict of interest The authors declare no Conflict of interest.

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