2	Integrating Pd-Doped Perovskite Catalysts with Ceramic Hollow
3	Fibre Substrate for Efficient CO Oxidation
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#### Abstract

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Doping Pd into perovskite catalysts helps to reduce light-off temperatures, improve thermal-22 23 chemical stability and lowered catalyst cost by decreasing Platinum Group Metals (PGMs). In this study, LaFe<sub>0.7</sub>Mn<sub>0.225</sub>Pd<sub>0.075</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (LFMPO) and LaFe<sub>0.7</sub>Co<sub>0.225</sub>Pd<sub>0.075</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (LFCPO) were 24 synthesised, characterized and evaluated for catalytic treatment of automotive emissions, using 25 CO oxidation as the model reaction. Such catalysts were further incorporated inside micro-26 structured ceramic hollow fibre substrates, and compared with a packed bed configuration by 27 28 light-off temperatures. Performance evaluations suggest that, LFMPO deposited inside the hollow fibre substrate could be light up at 232 °C, which is 10 °C lower than a packed-bed 29 counterpart with the same amount of catalyst (5 mg) and GHSV of ~5300 h<sup>-1</sup>. While excessive 30 31 incorporation of the catalyst (10 mg) generates significantly higher transfer resistance, which impairs catalytic performance of hollow fibre reactors, with CO conversion per gram of catalyst 32 reduced from 0.01 mole  $g^{-1}$  to 0.0051 mole  $g^{-1}$ . 33

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*Keywords:* Catalytic Converter, Ceramic Hollow Fibre, Perovskite Catalyst, Palladium, CO
Oxidation, Light-off Temperature

# 37 Graphical Abstract

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#### 42 1. Introduction

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Noxious gases such as carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and hydrocarbons 44 (HCs) can be released from internal combustion engines due to incomplete combustion, which 45 needs to be thoroughly treated for compliance with regulatory standards established [1]. As a 46 common and efficient practice, exhaust systems involve catalytic converters as a core 47 48 component, which enable catalytically conversion of noxious emissions into non-harmful species. Catalytic converters normally consist of three essential components: i) a monolithic 49 50 substrate, ii) a washcoat layer with a high surface area, and iii) catalytic active metals, conventionally Platinum Group Metals (PGM) catalysts. Despite of significantly successful 51 application of this technology, exhaust gases from gasoline combustion engines can reach 52 temperatures of up to 1000 °C, leading to severe sintering of washcoat oxide,  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [2], due 53 to irreversible phase transition from  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> to  $\alpha$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> under elevated temperatures. This 54 significantly reduces surface area of the washcoat layer in which metal catalysts are dispersed, 55 and consequently reduce catalytic performance and efficiency of catalytic converters As a 56 result, a highly thermally and chemically robust catalytic washcoat is always essential to good 57 long-term performance of catalytic converters. 58

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In addition to long-term stability, scarcity of PGMs and their price volatility belong to a second challenge of catalytic converter technology [3]. These challenges have also sparked a lot of research with the aim to reduce the dependability on PGMs, and to formulate supported PGM catalysts with better thermal stability. Among the various catalyst technologies available for substituting PGMs, perovskite catalysts are attracting more and more research interest, due to the unique regenerative properties of perovskites reported in letters to Nature regarding their potential applications in exhaust treatment [4]. Other attractive characteristics of perovskite

catalysts include good flexibility and adaptability in their composition, thermal stability, 67 abundant availability, and most importantly, much lower costs than PGMs, which also enables 68 69 the use of this type of material for numerous applications other than exhaust treatment [5,6]. And similar to other reactions, the highly defective perovskite structure enables rapid exchange 70 between oxygen atoms from surface carbonate and perovskite lattice oxygen, which enables 71 efficient CO oxidation although detailed mechanism can be subject to chemical compositions 72 73 of perovskites. A typical perovskite structure follows a ABO<sub>3</sub> formulation, with a large cation at a 12 coordinated A site, 6 smaller cations in the B site and an anion, most often oxygen [7]. 74 75 In order to tailor the properties of a perovskite oxide, the A site and B site can be substituted by various elements. However, B site substitution normally has a more significant impact on 76 the material properties, such as catalytic activity, and affects oxygen vacancy, which is 77 important in altering the other properties of perovskites [8–11]. Till date, out of the many 78 options of transition-based metal perovskites, lanthanum based perovskites have shown higher 79 reactivity for an oxidation process, when coupled with Co, Mn, Fe, Cr or Ni in their B sites 80 [12]. 81

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Tanaka et al. investigated regeneration ability of a perovskite, which responded in accordance 83 with environmental input [13,14]. This enables the perovskite framework to accommodate 84 85 metals that can also migrate from one site to another [4,15–18]. For example, the status of Pd 86 inside the lattices of a perovskite changes reversibly between oxidation and reduction atmospheres, which benefits its long-term catalytic performance for exhaust treatment [10]. 87 Such a change in the status of Pd suppresses the growth of Pd particles, which is usually caused 88 89 by the sintering effects of conventional catalysts such as  $Pd/\gamma$ -alumina. As a result, doping Pd into perovskite will improve the long-term stability of the catalysts, while also using much 90 lesser amounts of PGMs than conventional catalysts for exhaust treatment. Although 91

perovskites without PGMs are catalytic active to CO oxidation, the doping of Pd can effectively
reduce light-off temperatures (Table 1). This is mainly due to increased concentration of
oxygen vacancy which facilitates oxygen transport from catalyst bulk to surface [19–23].
Moreover, perovskite is subject to sulphur poisoning [24], which can be effectively delayed by
doping Pd [25].

98 Despite aforementioned advantages of perovskite catalysts, their specific surface area is normally much smaller than conventional washcoat materials. This creates challenges in the 99 100 potential applications of perovskites, since a larger amount of such catalysts have to be used in order to compensate for the high surface area required for a sufficiently good reaction 101 efficiency. To address a challenge of this nature, a more advanced substrate enabling intensified 102 103 interactions between the catalyst and reactants is necessary. In one of our previous studies, the potential of using a micro-structured ceramic hollow fibre substrate for a new catalytic 104 converter design has been proved [26]. This new design offers a greater accessible surface area 105 that originates from the unique microchannel structure inside the substrate, which also 106 facilitates the deposition of different catalysts. Intensified transfer processes inside such 107 substrates significantly increase catalyst utilisation, which is key to addressing the low specific 108 surface area of perovskite catalysts. As a second benefit of depositing perovskite catalyst into 109 such substrates, conventional washcoating materials are not needed, which ease the issue of 110 sintering of washcoat layers, a main reason of the reduced performance of a conventional 111 catalytic converter. 112

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In this study, two different types of perovskites,  $LaFe_{0.7}Mn_{0.225}Pd_{0.075}O_3$  (LFMPO) and LaFe\_{0.7}Co\_{0.225}Pd\_{0.075}O\_3 (LFCPO) were synthesised using a sol-gel method via citrate complexation. These perovskite catalysts were deposited inside a hollow fibre substrate, with

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117	no was	hcoat materials, for catalytic conversion of CO, and compared with conventional packed
118	bed rea	actor. This study presents research, conducted for the first time, into the incorporation of
119	a pero	vskite catalyst without any washcoat layer, into a hollow fibre substrate for catalytic
120	conver	ter applications. Effects of catalyst packing inside hollow fibre substrates on CO
121	oxidati	on was also outlined.
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124	2.	Experimental
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126	2.1	Materials
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128	Lantha	num (III) nitrate hydrate 99.9% trace metals basis, iron (III) nitrate nonahydrate, $\geq$
129	99.95%	6 trace metals basis, manganese (II) nitrate hydrate 98%, cobalt (III) nitrate hexahydrate,
130	and pa	lladium (II) chloride 99.999% were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Hydrochloric acid
131	37% v	ol%, ethanol absolute, AnalaR NORMAPUR, Assay (V/V) 99.95%, and ethylene glycol
132	(Assay	on anhydrous substance min. 98% and citric acid anhydrous (ACS Reagent $\geq$ 99.5%)
133	were p	urchased from VWR. $\gamma\text{-Alumina}$ powder (Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ) with a surface area of 100 $\pm$ 30 m² $g^{-1}$
134	and α-	alumina (Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ) powder (1 $\mu$ m, 99.9% metal basis, surface area 6 –8 m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> ) were
135	purcha	sed from Inframat Advance Materials. All chemicals were used as supplied.
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137	2.2	Catalyst Preparation
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139	Two p	erovskite oxide catalysts, LaFe <sub>0.7</sub> Mn <sub>0.225</sub> Pd <sub>0.075</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (LFMPO) and LaFe <sub>0.7</sub> Co <sub>0.225</sub> Pd <sub>0.075</sub> O <sub>3</sub>

(LFCPO), were synthesised by a sol-gel method via citrate complexation (Figure 1).
Stoichiometric amounts of lanthanum, iron, manganese or cobalt nitrate were dissolved in a
solution of de-ionised water (5 ml) and ethanol (15 ml). The stoichiometric ratio was calculated

on the basis of 4 mmol of lanthanum. The mixture obtained was treated in an ultrasonic bathfor 15 minutes, to ensure uniform mixing of the chemicals.

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Meanwhile, palladium (II) chloride was added into a hydrochloric acid solution (0.05 M) at a 146 molar ratio of 1:1.5(PdCl<sub>2</sub>:HCl), which was heated at 80 °C for 30 minutes until a clear solution 147 was obtained. It was then mixed with the metal nitrate solution and further treated in an 148 149 ultrasonic bath for 30 minutes. Subsequently, an aqueous solution containing excessive citric acid (115% of the total moles of metal cations) was added, which enabled the complexation of 150 151 metal cations after being stirred for one hour. The mixture obtained was continuously stirred and treated at 80 °C overnight to obtain the precursor powder, prior to a second drying at 80 °C 152 for eight hours to remove remaining moisture. The precursor powder was then calcined at 700 153 °C for four hours, as shown in Figure 1. The catalyst obtained was then ground into fine 154 particles for characterizations and tests. 155

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157 Meanwhile, catalysts consisting of 0.075 wt.% palladium supported on  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> were prepared 158 by a wet incipient impregnation method. In a general process, a palladium chloride solution 159 was mixed with  $\gamma$ -Alumina powder, stirred for one hour, dried overnight at 120 °C, and calcined 160 for one hour at 500 °C, or 700 °C for four hours to obtain the catalysts.

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## 162 2.3 Incorporation of Perovskite Catalysts into Hollow Fibre Substrates

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Incorporation of catalysts into alumina hollow fibre substrates, which were prepared through a phase-inversion assisted extrusion process, has been described in our previous work [26]. For preparation of a hollow fibre substrate, a uniform slurry consisting of poly(methyl methacrylate) (PMMA) binder, N-Methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP) solvent, Arlacel P135

dispersant, and  $\alpha$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> powder was prepared. It was then extruded through a spinneret, 168 together with a second stream of internal coagulant, into an external water bath to form the 169 precursor hollow fibre substrates. The precursor hollow fibre was then straightened, dried at 170 room temperature, cut, and finally sintered at 1500 °C to obtain the alumina hollow fibre 171 substrates. Incorporation of catalysts into hollow fibre substrate has been described in 172 Supplementary Information of our earlier work [26]. In general, 50 mg of perovskite catalyst 173 was first dispersed inside 500 ml of distilled water (ultrasonic bath for one hour). The mixture 174 was then pumped through hollow fibre substrates with pre-determined length for a certain 175 period of time, and dried at 150 °C for one hour. Weight increment due to catalyst deposition 176 was measured and recorded, before a second cycle of catalyst incorporation. This process was 177 repeated until the target loadings of perovskite catalyst were obtained. No extra secondary 178 oxide / washcoat layer was used in this study. 179

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### 181 **2.4** Characterisation

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A morphology evaluation of hollow fibre substrates was carried out at different magnifications 183 using a JOEL JSM-5610 scanning electron microscopy (SEM). Brunauer-Emmett-Teller 184 (BET) was used to investigate the surface area of catalysts and catalyst/hollow fibre composite, 185 and performed via a Micromeritics TRISTAR Surface area analyser using N2 as the non-186 corrosive gas. Prior to the analysis, samples were dried overnight at 110 °C. A porometer 187 (Porolux 100) and gas permeation tests (hollow fibre samples of 25 mm long) were used to 188 189 investigate the effect of the catalyst deposition on the transport process of CO oxidation. Phase composition of the perovskite catalysts were analysed via a PANalytical X-ray diffractometer 190 (XRD). Crystallite size was calculated by using the Scherrer equation below: 191

$$D = \frac{K\lambda}{\beta\cos\theta}$$
(Eq. 1)

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195 Where D = the average thickness in a vertical direction of the crystal face, K is Scherrer 196 constant,  $\lambda$  is the wavelength of X-ray,  $\beta$  is the half high width of the diffraction peak of the 197 sample,  $\theta$  is the Bragg diffraction angle.

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## **199 2.5 Performance evaluation – CO oxidation**

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201 CO oxidation was used to evaluate the catalytic performance of the perovskite catalysts and the perovskite/hollow fibre structured composite, which also facilitated the comparison with 202 our earlier work which involved  $Pd/\gamma$ -alumina as the catalyst. Two different catalyst packing 203 204 configurations were chosen (Figure 2). For the packed-bed configuration, 5 mg of perovskite catalyst (average particle size of 5  $\mu$ m) was mixed with 200 mg of  $\alpha$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> powder (particle 205 size of  $\sim 1 \,\mu\text{m}$ ), before being loaded into a quartz tube and secured by quartz wool at both ends 206 of the catalyst bed. The catalyst bed was approximately 20 mm in length. For the structured 207 configuration,  $5 \pm 0.5$  mg of catalyst was deposited into alumina hollow fibre of 50 mm long, 208 209 which weighed at approximately  $200 \pm 10$  mg. The hollow fibre sample was mounted into the quartz tube connected to a metal coil to pre-heat the gaseous reactants to the reaction 210 temperature. The quartz tube was placed horizontally in a furnace (Vecstar Furnace, 211 212 VCTF/SP). Mass flow controllers (Model 0154, Brooks Instrument) were used to control the gas flow into the system. A mixture of air and CO (10% CO in 90% Argon) at a ratio of 1:1 213 214 was fed into the reactor system, which represents the lean-burn condition with an excess of oxygen. The flow rate of the feed gas was calculated to achieve a space velocity GHSV of ~ 215 5300 h<sup>-1</sup>. An on-line gas chromatograph (Varian 3900) was connected to the outlet stream to 216 analyse the effluent. The reaction temperature was gradually increased, and the sampling was 217

taken after thirty minutes of temperature stabilisation intervals. A series of reaction temperatures were used, from room temperature until 100% of the CO conversion. The conversion of CO was calculated based on the equation below (Eq. 2) % conversion of CO =  $\frac{C_{CO inlet} - C_{CO outlet}}{C_{CO inlet}} \times 100\%$ (Eq. 2) Where C CO inlet and C CO outlet are the CO concentrations at the inlet and outlet of the system, respectively. The details of the reaction test set up has been described in our previous study [26]. 

**3.** Results and Discussion

#### **3.1** Phase composition of perovskite catalysts

Figure 3 shows the XRD pattern of the LFMPO and LFCPO, which were calcined at 700 °C for four hours and have an orthorhombic crystal structure. The XRD patterns also indicate that a calcination temperature of 700 °C can enable good transformation of the synthesised perovskites [27]. Further reducing the calcination temperature helps to reduce grain size of perovskites, which can benefit catalytic reactions by providing larger catalytic areas. However, phase segregation can occur at 660 °C [28], which changes catalyst composition and impairs catalytic performance as a consequence. As a result, 700 °C was used for calcination of LFMPO and LFCPO in this study. 

The XRD patterns in Figure 3 indicate that there is a small peak at the  $2\theta$  value of  $33^\circ$ , which 242 is next to the main perovskite peak of LFMPO and LFCPO. This small peak indicates the 243 presence of PdO [29], as a result of incomplete integration of Pd into perovskite oxides. If a 244 calcination temperature higher than 700 °C was used, a full integration of Pd can be possible 245 [29]. However, it should be noted that full integration of Pd into perovskite lattices may retard 246 catalytic performance, compared to Pd supported on perovskites which is more active due to 247 248 easier interactions with reactants [30,31]. In contrast to washcoat materials such as  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, perovskites are thermally more robust. Integrating Pd with perovskite is thus expected to have 249 250 less problems of catalyst sintering as  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, benefiting life-time of catalysts.

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As a common washcoat material with high surface area,  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is well-known for its 252 microstructural evolution when exposed to high temperatures. This is due to phase transitions 253 from  $\gamma$  to the meta-stable  $\delta$ - $\theta$ , and finally thermodynamically-stable  $\alpha$  phase, which results in 254 the densification of washcoat layers, reduction in the specific surface area and consequently in 255 deteriorating catalytic performance. For example, 5mg of 0.075 Pd/ $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> synthesised at 500 256 °C was deposited inside ceramic hollow fibre substrates, which increased BET surface area of 257 the composite, as shown in Table 2. While after thermal treatment at 700 °C, a reduction of 258 12.3 % in specific surface area can be observed. Here, the cations and anions in the  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 259 undergo rearrangement until they reach a dense corundum structure where the rearrangements 260 result in the loss of support surface area [32]. In contrast, perovskite catalysts with fully a 261 developed phase structure (Table 1) have no such problems. But due to the low specific surface 262 area (Table 2) and potential reactions between perovskites and  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> that impairs catalytic 263 performance [33,34], perovskite catalysts are deposited inside hollow fibre substrates made of 264  $\alpha$ -alumina and with a unique bi-modal pore structure in this study. 265

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#### 3.2 Micro-structure of perovskites/hollow fibre substrate

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Figure 4 (a) presents a cross-section of the hollow fibre substrate with a bi-modal pore structure 271 [35], which consists of packed-pores of approximately 200 nm and many oriented 272 273 microchannels for which perovskite catalysts were deposited. LFMPO (Figure 4 (b)) and LFCPO (Figure 4 (c)) catalysts were deposited on the micro-channels and show an average 274 275 particle size of approximately 5  $\mu$ m, which is much larger than the  $\alpha$ -alumina used for preparing the hollow fibre substrates. 276

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Morphologies of hollow fibre substrates deposited with  $5 \pm 0.5$  mg of perovskite catalysts are 278 279 displayed in Figure 5. As seen in a(i) and a(ii), hollow fibre substrates have open microchannel ends at the inner surface that is approximately 40 µm in diameter. Substrates of this type could 280 provide a GSA value of approximately 40.7 cm<sup>2</sup>cm<sup>-3</sup>, which is the same as that of a 281 conventional monolith of 750 CPSI (GSA of 40.2 cm<sup>2</sup>cm<sup>-3</sup>) [26]. A deposition of  $5 \pm 0.5$  mg 282 of perovskite catalysts maintains good microchannel openings at both the inner surface and 283 284 cross-section, as shown in Figure 5(b(i), b(ii), c(i) and c(ii)), by forming a thin catalyst layer 285 along the surface of the microchannels. This is critical to the efficient interaction between the 286 gaseous reactants and catalysts deposited inside the hollow fibre substrate [36].

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288 By increasing the amount of perovskite catalysts to approximately 10 mg, catalyst particles start to form mini-packed-beds inside the microchannel of hollow fibre substrates. As can be 289 290 seen in Figure 6, approximately 50% of the microchannel volume is filled by the LFMPO catalyst, with the microchannel endings at the substrate's inner surface remaining open (a(i) 291

and a(ii)). In contrast, the microchannel is largely filled with the LFCPO catalyst, which also blocks the microchannel endings at the inner surface of the substrate (b(i) and b(ii)). An increasing amount of perovskite catalyst inside the hollow fibre substrates provides more active sites for the catalytic reaction to proceed, which is supposed to benefit the conversion of CO in this study. Meanwhile, the formation of mini-packed-beds (Figure 6) indicates a higher transfer resistance compared to the catalyst layer in Figure 5, which retards the access of CO to the active sites of perovskite catalysts and consequently reduces the efficiency of the reaction.

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#### **300 3.3 Evaluation of catalytic performance - CO oxidation**

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Two reactor configurations were employed in this study to investigate the catalytic performance of perovskite catalysts, which include a conventional packed-bed reactor as the benchmark of catalyst performance, and a second hollow fibre reactor which can potentially be developed into a new generation of catalytic converter for automotive emissions control, due to its structural advantages over ceramic monoliths reported in our earlier work [26].

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308 3.3.1 Packed bed reactor

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A packed-bed configuration is commonly used for investigating catalyst performance, due to an irregular flow through the voids of packing, where it creates a turbulent mixing at Reynolds numbers lower than conservative domains. This enhances the fluid transport through the braiding effect and increases contact with the catalyst through enhanced diffusion [37]. For the packed bed reactor in this study, 5 mg or 10 mg of perovskite catalysts were mixed with 200 mg of  $\alpha$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and packed inside a quartz tube reactor. Figure 7 represents the CO conversion as a function of operating temperatures, with the corresponding values of T<sub>50</sub> (the light-off

temperature at 50% of CO conversion) listed in Table 3. As can be seen, LFMPO shows a 317 conversion of CO higher than LFCPO at temperatures over 200 °C, which is in line with the 318 higher surface area of LFMPO (Table 2). In addition, since the catalytic process can be altered 319 by modifying the interactions between the B-site species and the oxygenated species in the 320 perovskite lattice, the change in oxygen vacancy concentration alters the catalytic activity. 321 From a material point of view, Mn has a higher number of oxidation states than Co. This 322 323 contributes to a higher synergistic activity brought about by Mn substitution. By doubling the amount of catalyst inside the packed-bed reactor, T<sub>50</sub> of LFMPO reduces from 242 °C to 213 324 325 °C, with LFCPO reduced from 252 °C to 235 °C (Table 3), which is still higher than commercial counterparts. However, the better thermal stability of perovskite catalysts would enable them 326 to be placed closer to the engine to maintain a good catalytic performance, although this is not 327 perfect to cold start. 328

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### 330 **3.3.2** Packed bed reactor vs hollow fibre reactor

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For hollow fibre reactors, the reaction of CO oxidation was performed by maintaining the same 332 conditions as the packed bed reactors, in terms of the amount of perovskite catalyst and the 333 space velocity (GHSV of ~ 5300 h<sup>-1</sup>). For hollow fibre reactors with 5 mg of perovskite 334 catalysts (Figure 8 and Table 4), LFMPO shows higher conversion of CO than LFCPO, and 335 this is in line with a packed bed reactor (Figure 7). Moreover, the hollow fibre reactor shows a 336 light-off temperature lower than that of the packed bed counterpart. For instance, the light-off 337 temperature of LFMPO shifted from 242 °C in packed-bed to 232 °C in the hollow fibre reactor 338 (Table 4). 339

In contrast to a packed-bed reactor, in which the reactants "flow through" the porous bed, a 341 hollow fibre reactor has a very different flow pattern. Instead of "flowing through", the bulk of 342 the reactants flow along the length of the direction of the hollow fibre substrate, relying on a 343 much slower diffusion process in the radial direction, for accessing the catalyst that is 344 deposited. As a result, the reduction in the light-off temperature is mainly due to the structural 345 346 advantages of hollow fibre substrates, together with the formation of a thin catalyst layer along 347 the microchannels inside the substrate (Figure 5). This enables better and more uniform access of the reactants to the perovskite catalysts deposited, with less transfer resistance and agreeing 348 349 well with our previous studies [26].

350

By increasing the amount of catalyst to 10 mg, mini-packed-beds are formed inside the 351 microchannels (Figure 6). It is interesting to see that hollow fibre reactors performed worse 352 than packed bed counterparts (Figure 9 and Table 5). With the same amount of catalysts 353 involved, the light-off temperatures increased from 215 °C of packed-bed to 222 °C of hollow 354 fibre reactor for LFMPO, while the one for LFCPO increased from 237 °C to 245 °C (Table 5). 355 By comparing the CO oxidation results in Figures 7 - 9, it is quite obvious, that the formation 356 of the mini-packed-beds inside the microchannels significantly increase the diffusion resistance 357 in the radial direction of the hollow fibre substrates, which reduces the efficiency of catalyst 358 utilization and consequently increases the light-off temperature. 359

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To further understand how transfer hindrance affects the conversion of CO, which relies on the format of perovskite catalyst packing inside the microchannels of the hollow fibre substrate, gas permeation tests were performed and the results illustrated in Figure 10. As can be seen, the permeation flux for the hollow fibre reactors with 5 mg catalysts is significantly higher than the one with 10 mg of catalysts. Furthermore, the permeation flux of LFMPO-10 mg is almost double the one of LFCPO-10 mg, which agrees well with Figure 6 (a-ii) and (b-ii). This also indicates that, an excessive catalyst deposition does not work for the hollow fibre reactor design, since the actual catalyst involved in the reaction is reduced due to the significantly increased transfer resistance. In this study, for the hollow fibre reactor with 5 mg of perovskite catalysts, 0.01 mole of CO was oxidized per gram of catalyst involved. This value was reduced significantly to 0.0051 mole  $g^{-1}$  for the hollow fibre reactor with 10 mg of catalyst, representing a nearly 50% reduction in catalyst utilization.

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375 **4.** Conclusions

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LaFe0.7Mg0.225Pd0.075O3 and LaFe0.7Co0.225Pd0.075O3 with a orthorhombic structure were 377 synthesised in this study. These catalysts were then deposited inside hollow fibre substrates for 378 CO oxidation, the results of which were compared with packed-bed reactors. Results of CO 379 oxidation suggests that incorporation of 5 mg LFMPO and LFCPO catalyst into the hollow 380 381 fibre could be light-up at 232 °C and 248 °C, respectively, which is 3% lower than the packedbed counterpart with the same amount of catalyst at GHSV of ~ 5300 h<sup>-1</sup>. Further incorporation 382 of a 10 mg catalyst inside the hollow fibre resulted in a lowered catalyst utilization, where the 383 moles of CO converted per unit mass of catalyst reduced from 0.01 mole g<sup>-1</sup> for 5mg catalyst 384 to 0.0051 g<sup>-1</sup> for the 10 mg catalyst. This is mainly due to the higher mass transfer resistance 385 when micro-channels were filled with perovskite particles. As a result, a better approach of 386 forming a thin catalytic layer along the surface of micro-channels will be the key to improving 387 performance of catalytic hollow fibre investigated in this study. 388

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# 391 Acknowledgements

The authors would like to acknowledge the research funding provided by EPSRC (EP/R029180/1)\_in the United Kingdom. Nur Izwanne Mahyon would like to extend her gratitude to the Minister of Higher Education, Malaysia and the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia for financing her studies bursaries.

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# 524 Highlights

- 525 Pd-doped perovskite catalysts efficient for catalytic converter.
- 526 Integration of perovskite catalyst into micro-structured ceramic hollow fibre without
- 527 additional washcoating materials.
- 528 Greater catalyst utilisation at low precious metal content.
- 529 Excessive catalyst deposition created high mass transfer resistance.

#### 531 List of Tables

## 532

533	Table 1	Comparison of light-off temperature for CO oxidation with different perovskite
534		catalyst

- Table 2 Structural and chemical properties of the synthesised catalysts 535
- Table 3 Light-off temperatures of CO oxidation for packed-bed reactors 536
- Table 4 Light-off temperature of CO oxidation for packed-bed (5mg of catalyst mixed 537 with 200mg of  $\alpha$ -alumina) and hollow fibre reactor (5mg of catalyst deposited 538 in 50mm of hollow fibre)
- 539
- Light-off temperature of CO oxidation for packed bed (10mg of catalyst mixed Table 5 540 with 200mg of  $\alpha$ -alumina) and hollow fibre reactor (10 mg of catalyst deposited 541 in 50mm hollow fibre substrate) 542
- 543
- 544

Table 1

Catalyst	Catalyst	Reactor	<b>T</b> 50	Reference
	amount	configuration	(°C)	
	( <b>mg</b> )			
LaFe	75	Packed-bed	270	[38]
$LaFe_{0.94}Pd_{0.06}O_3$			240	
$LaFe_{0.74}Cu_{0.2}Pd_{0.06}O_3$			240	
LaSrCuO <sub>4</sub>	250	Packed-bed	220	[19]
$LaSrCu_{0.9}Pd_{0.1}O_4$			200	
LaFe <sub>0.6</sub> Co <sub>0.4</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	100	Packed-bed	285	[23]
$LaFe_{0.57}Co_{0.38}Pd_{0.05}O3$			142	
LaFeO <sub>3</sub>	100	Packed-bed	535	[39]
$LaFe_{0.9}Pd_{0.1}O_3$			495	
LaMnO <sub>3</sub>			485	
$LaMn_{0.9}Pd_{0.1}O_3$			425	
LaFeO <sub>3</sub>	100	Packed-bed	330	[40]
$LaFe_{0.97}Pd_{0.03}O_3$			230	
LaFeO <sub>3</sub>	100	Packed-bed	249	[12]
LaFePd <sub>0.05</sub> O <sub>3</sub>			150	
LaMnO <sub>3</sub>			249	
LaFePd <sub>0.05</sub> O <sub>3</sub>			170	

LaCoO<sub>3</sub>

LaCoPd<sub>0.05</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

Sample	SBET	Average	XRD	
	(m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> )	Crystallite	Crystal	
		Size	Structure	
		( <b>nm</b> )		
	20.69 ±			
LaFe <sub>0.7</sub> Mn <sub>0.225</sub> Pd <sub>0.075</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.09	24.01	Orthorhombic	
	10.73 ±			
LaFe <sub>0.7</sub> Co <sub>0.225</sub> Pd <sub>0.075</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.05	27.88	Orthorhombic	
Alumina Hollow Fibre	1.42 ±			
Substrate	0.01	-	-	
5mg 0.075 Pd/ γ-Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>				
hollow fibre composite,	4.55 ±	_	-	
Calcination at 500 °C	0.01			
5mg 0.075 Pd/ γ-Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>				
	$3.99 \pm$			
hollow fibre composite,	0.01	-	-	
Calcination at 700 °C				

Catalyst	Condition	T50
		(°C)
LaFe <sub>0.7</sub> Mn <sub>0.225</sub> Pd <sub>0.075</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	5 mg	242
LaFe0.7Mn0.225Pd0.075O3	10 mg	213
LaFe <sub>0.7</sub> Co <sub>0.225</sub> Pd <sub>0.075</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	5 mg	252
LaFe <sub>0.7</sub> Co <sub>0.225</sub> Pd <sub>0.075</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	10 mg	235

Catalyst	Condition	<b>T</b> 50
		(°C)
LaFe <sub>0.7</sub> Mn <sub>0.225</sub> Pd <sub>0.075</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Packed-bed	242
LaFe <sub>0.7</sub> Mn <sub>0.225</sub> Pd <sub>0.075</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Hollow Fibre	232
LaFe0.7Co0.225Pd0.075O3	Packed-bed	252
LaFe <sub>0.7</sub> Co <sub>0.225</sub> Pd <sub>0.075</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Hollow Fibre	248

Table 4

Catalyst	Condition	<b>T</b> 50
		(°C)
LaFe <sub>0.7</sub> Mn <sub>0.225</sub> Pd <sub>0.075</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Packed-bed	215
LaFe <sub>0.7</sub> Mn <sub>0.225</sub> Pd <sub>0.075</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Hollow Fibre	222
LaFe <sub>0.7</sub> Co <sub>0.225</sub> Pd <sub>0.075</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Packed-bed	237
LaFe <sub>0.7</sub> Co <sub>0.225</sub> Pd <sub>0.075</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Hollow Fibre	245

563		List of Figures
564		
565	Figure 1	Experimental steps of preparing perovskite catalysts
566	Figure 2	Reactor configuration
567	Figure 3	XRD diagram of LaFe <sub>0.7</sub> Mn <sub>0.225</sub> Pd <sub>0.075</sub> O <sub>3</sub> and LaFe <sub>0.7</sub> Co <sub>0.225</sub> Pd <sub>0.075</sub> O <sub>3</sub> calcined
568		at 700°C for four hours
569	Figure 4	SEM images of a) cross-section of hollow fibre substrate, b)
570		$LaFe_{0.7}Mn_{0.225}Pd_{0.075}O_3 \text{ and } c) \ LaFe_{0.7}Co_{0.225}Pd_{0.075}O_3 \text{ catalyst deposited inside}$
571		hollow fibre substrate.
572	Figure 5	SEM images of (a) substrate without catalyst; (b) substrate with 5mg LFMPO
573		catalyst; (c) substrate with 5mg of LFCPO catalyst. (i) top-view of substrate
574		inner surface and (ii) side-view of substrate cross-section
575	Figure 6	SEM images of (a) substrate with 10mg LFMPO catalyst; (b) substrate with
576		10mg of LFCPO catalyst. (i) top-view of substrate inner surface and (ii) side-
577		view of substrate cross-section
578	Figure 7	Light-off temperature of CO oxidation for packed bed reactors
579	Figure 8	Light-off temperature of CO oxidation for packed-bed (5mg of catalyst mixed
580		with 200mg of $\alpha$ -alumina) and hollow fibre reactor (5mg of catalyst washcoated
581		in 50mm of hollow fibre)
582	Figure 9	Light-off temperature of CO oxidation for packed-bed (10mg of catalyst
583		supported on 200mg of $\alpha$ -alumina) and hollow fibre (10mg washcoated on
584		50mm of hollow fibre)
585	Figure 10	Gas permeation tests of hollow fibre substrates deposited with different amount
586		of catalysts

Figure 1





Figure 3













Figure 7









Figure 9



Figure 10

