

## **Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)**

### **Dodecylamine-derived thin carbon-coated single Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanocrystals for advanced lithium ion batteries**

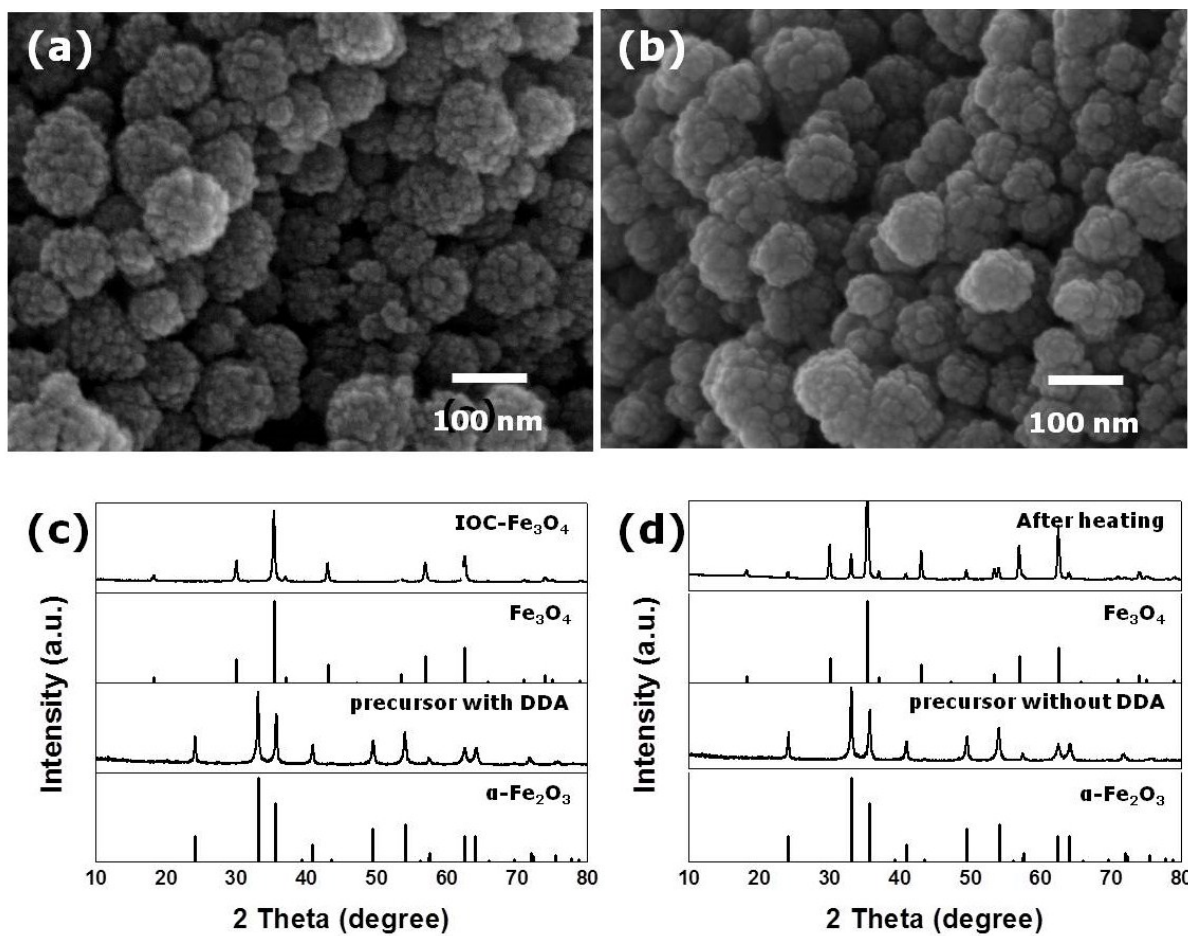
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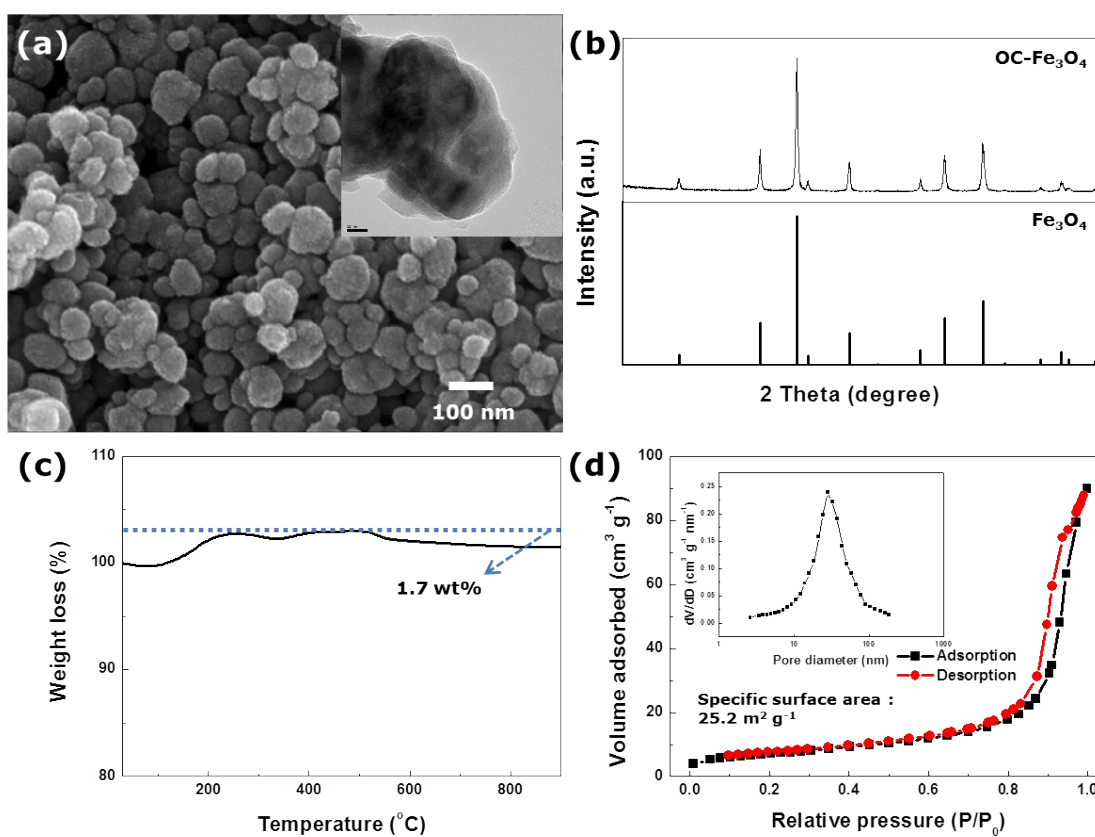
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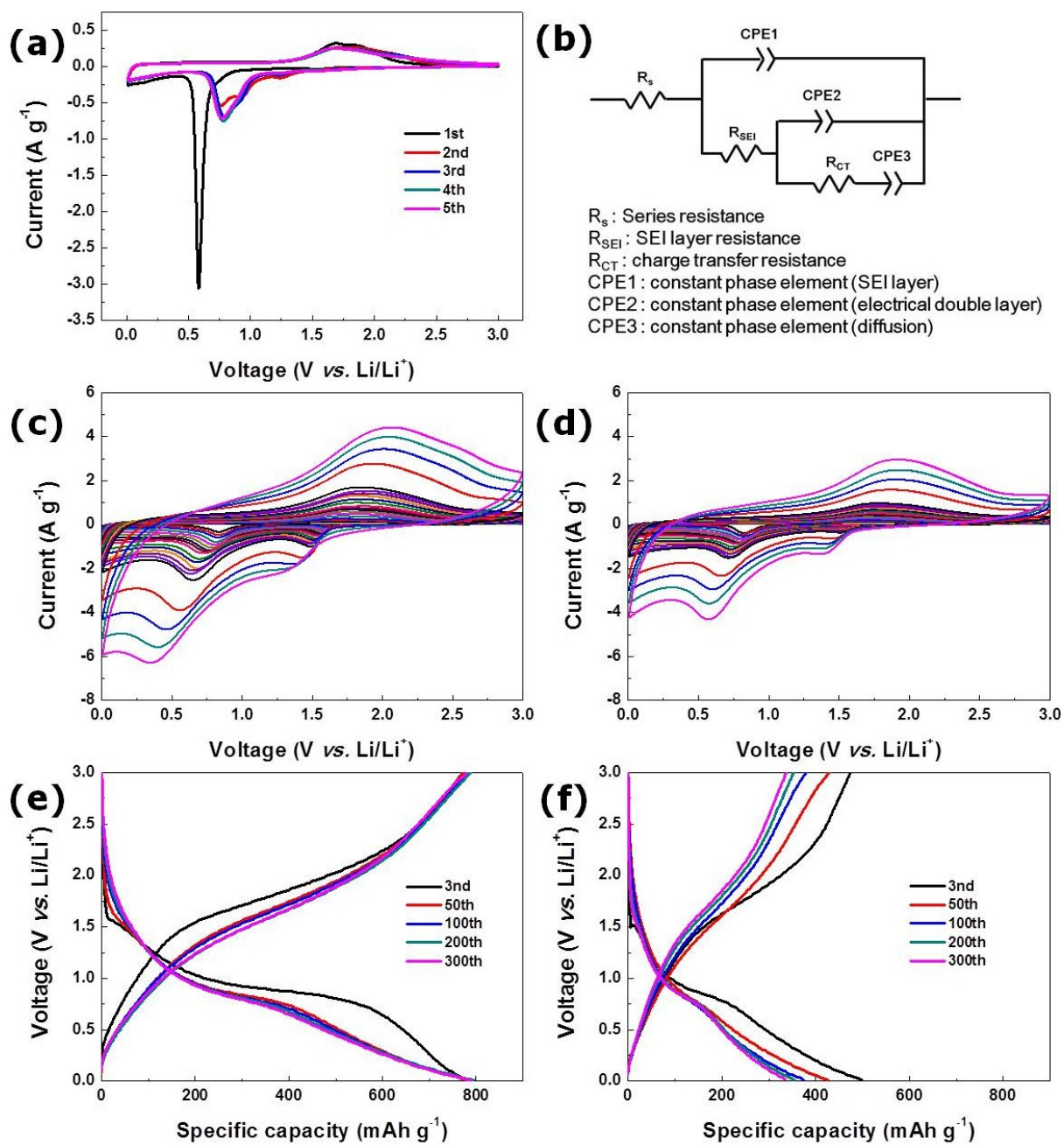
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**Fig. S1** FE-SEM images of the precursors (a) with and (b) without DDA. XRD patterns of precursors and synthesized samples after heat treatment at 500 °C for 4 h under argon (c) with and (d) without DDA.



**Fig. S2** (a) FE-SEM image (inset: TEM image), (b) XRD pattern, (c) TGA curve, and (d) N<sub>2</sub> adsorption-desorption isotherms (inset shows the pore size distribution by the BJH method) of the OC-Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> sample, which was synthesized without dodecylamine and then carbon layer added to the surface.



**Fig. S3** The second CV curves of (a) OC- $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  during the initial three cycles at a scan rate of  $0.1 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . (b) The equivalent circuit model for fitting the EIS plots. The second CV curves of (c) IOC- $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  and (d) OC- $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  in the voltage range of 0.01–3 V vs.  $\text{Li}/\text{Li}^+$  at various scan rates from 0.04 to  $10 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . Charge and discharge profiles of (e) IOC- $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  and (f) OC- $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  during 300 cycles at a current density of  $1 \text{ A g}^{-1}$ .

**Table S1.** The carbon contents and electrochemical performances of various Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> composited or coated with carbonaceous materials.

| Materials  | Carbon content (wt.%)         |                  | Total carbon content (wt%) | Current density (mA g <sup>-1</sup> ) | Capacity (mAh g <sup>-1</sup> ) | Ref.          |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
|  | Composited or coated material | Conductive agent |                            |                                       |                                 |               |
| Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @C                    | 4.2                           | 10               | 14.2                       | 3000                                  | 563                             | In this study |
| Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @C                    | 21.5                          | 15               | 36.5                       | 4620                                  | 190                             | 1             |
| Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @C                    | 54.6                          | 20               | 74.6                       | 800                                   | 118                             | 2             |
| Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @C                    | 18                            | 10               | 28                         | 1000                                  | 702                             | 3             |
| Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @C                    | 19                            | 10               | 29                         | 1000                                  | 290                             | 4             |
| Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @C                    | 17                            | 10               | 27                         | 2000                                  | 341                             | 5             |
| N-doped carbon coated Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> | 16                            | 15               | 31                         | 2000                                  | 396                             | 6             |
| Graphene@Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>              | 13.3                          | 10               | 23.3                       | 1750                                  | 520                             | 7             |
| Graphene@Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>              | 35.2                          | 10               | 45.2                       | 2500                                  | 393                             | 8             |
| Graphene oxide@Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>        | 45.5                          | 10               | 55.5                       | 2000                                  | 385                             | 9             |
| Porous carbon fiber@Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>   | 39.2                          | 20               | 59.2                       | 2000                                  | 523                             | 10            |

## References

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**Table S2.** Resistance parameters fitted by the equivalent circuit model (Fig. S3b) for IOC-Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and OC-Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.

| Sample                             | Process   | R <sub>S</sub> (Ω) | R <sub>SEI</sub> (Ω) | R <sub>CT</sub> (Ω) |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| IOC-Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> | Discharge | 4.69               | 17.37                | 36.49               |
|                                    | Charge    | 4.28               | 18.81                | 32.67               |
| OC-Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>  | Discharge | 6.14               | 41.29                | 51.75               |
|                                    | Charge    | 6.26               | 35.4                 | 38.82               |