# Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Nanoscale Horizons. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2018

### **Experimental section**

## **Synthetic Procedure**

The graphene oxides (GO) were prepared from natural graphite using the Hummers' method with minor modifications.<sup>S1</sup> 0.5, 1, 2, and 4 grams of ZnO nanoparticles (Sigma-Aldrich) were added to 20 mL of GO solution (1 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>), to generate the HGN-0.5, HGN-1, HGN-2, and HGN-4 samples, respectively. After sonication for 12 h, the mixed solution was filtered with a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) membrane. The obtained ZnO/GO film was transferred into a horizontal furnace and calcined at 900 °C under nitrogen atmosphere for 4 h, using a ramp rate of 3 °C min<sup>-1</sup>. After cooling the sample down to room temperature, holey graphene materials were obtained. These samples were referred as HGN-*X*, where *X* represents the amount of ZnO used in the reaction.

#### **Structural Characterization**

The scanning electron microscopy (SEM) observation were performed on a Hitachi SU-8000 field-emission scanning electron microscope. Transmission electron microscopy (TEM), scanning transmission electron microscopy (STEM) and energy-dispersive x-ray spectroscopy (EDS) elemental mapping were carried out on a JEOL JEM-2100 operated at 200 kV. Powder X–ray diffraction (XRD) analysis was operated on Rigaku Rint 2000 X-ray 27 diffractometer with monochromated Cu Kα radiation. Analyses of Zn and Co concentration were measured with inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES, SPS3520UV-DD, SII nano technology Inc., Japan). Raman spectroscopy acquired with a HORIBA Scientific Lab RAM HR Raman spectrometer system using 532.4-nm laser excitation. Thermogravimetric (TG) analysis was performed on a Hitachi HT-Seiko Instrument Exter 6300 TG/DTA heating from room temperature to 900 °C (5 °C min<sup>-1</sup>) in nitrogen. The nitrogen adsorption-desorption measurements of the samples were conducted on a Micromeritics BK122T–B analyzer. The specific surface area (SSA) was determined based on Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) theory in the relative pressure range of 0.04 to 0.2. Pore size distributions were determined from the adsorption isotherms, according to the non–local density functional theory (NLDFT) assuming a mixed slit/cylinder pore model. The density was determined by measuring the weight and volume of the active materials.

#### **Electrochemical measurement**

Before the electrochemical measurement, the active materials were pressed with 15 Mpa force to decrease the volume. Then, the electrode film was cut into tablets of  $\sim 1 \text{ cm}^2$  and pressed onto nickel foam working electrode. The three-electrode system was used to measure the electrochemical performance of the working electrode, with a Pt foil as the counter electrode and a saturated calomel electrode (SCE) as the reference electrode, respectively. All the electrochemical measurements were carried out on a CHI 660D electrochemical workstation. The electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) measurements were carried out at open circuit potential within the frequency range of  $10^{-2}$  to  $10^5$  Hz at an AC amplitude of 5 mV. The cycle life tests were conducted by cyclic voltammetry (CV) method at a scan rate of 10 mV s<sup>-1</sup>. The gravimetric capacitance against the electrode was calculated from the galvanostatic discharge curve based on the following formula:

$$C_{\rm M} = \frac{I \cdot \Delta t}{m \cdot \Delta V}$$

where I is current,  $\Delta t$  is discharge time, m is the total mass of active material, and  $\Delta V$  is the voltage variation.



Figure S1. TG-DTA curves of (a) GO, (b) GO/ZnO, and (c) HGN-2 under a nitrogen atmosphere.



Figure S2. FT-IR spectra of GO and HGN-2.



Figure S3. XRD patterns of (a) GO and (b) HGN-2.



Figure S4. STEM images of (a) GO/ZnO and (b) HGN-2 samples.



Figure S5. Galvanic charge-discharge (GCD) curves of (a-b) HGN-0.5, (c-d) HGN-1, (e-f) HGN-2, and (g-h) HGN-4.



Figure S6. Comparison of SSA-normalized capacitance vs. current density.

Table S1. Summary of the surface area (SSA) and pore volume (PV) of HGN-0.5, HGN-1, HGN-2, and HGN-4 samples.

Sample	BET	Micro-SSA/	Ratio of	Total	Micro-PV/	Ratio of	
	SSA/	$m^2 g^{-1}$	Micro-SSA/	PV/	$\mathrm{cm}^3~\mathrm{g}^{-1}$	Micro-PV/	
	$m^2 g^{-1}$		BET SSA	$\mathrm{cm}^3~\mathrm{g}^{-1}$		Total PV	
HGN-0.5	287	83	29%	0.18	0.05	28%	
HGN-1	320	113	35%	0.22	0.08	36%	
HGN-2	370	207	56%	0.33	0.17	52%	
HGN-4	484	329	68%	0.98	0.63	64%	

**Table S2.** Comparison of the  $C_M$  and  $C_V$  of the HGN-0.5, HGN-1, HGN-2, and HGN-4 electrodes with previously reported graphene-based electrodes and carbon nanosheets electrodes.

Sample name	Scan rate/	С <sub>М</sub> /	C <sub>V</sub> /	Electrolyt	Ref
	Current density	F g <sup>-1</sup>	F cm <sup>-3</sup>	e	
Hydrazine reduced GO	10 mV s <sup>-1</sup>	123	~143	6M KOH	S2
Reduced GO with high density	1 A g <sup>-1</sup>	182	255	6M KOH	S3
Porous graphene nanosheets	$2 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$	241	101	6M KOH	S4
Holey graphene framework	1 A g <sup>-1</sup>	310	~220	6M KOH	S5
High density graphene macroform	0.1 A g <sup>-1</sup>	238	376	6M KOH	S6
Chemically converted graphene	0.1 A g <sup>-1</sup>	191.7	255	$1 M H_2 SO_4$	S7
Porous carbon/graphene composite	1 A g <sup>-1</sup>	481	212	6M KOH	<b>S</b> 8
Functionalized graphene sheets	0.5 A g <sup>-1</sup>	456	470	6M KOH	<b>S</b> 9
Thermal reduced GO	$2 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$	276	314	6M KOH	S10
Nitrogen doped carbon nanosheets	$2 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$	305	287	6M KOH	S11
HGN-0.5	1 A g <sup>-1</sup>	125	197	6M KOH	This
HGN-1	1 A g <sup>-1</sup>	253	378	6M KOH	work
HGN-2	1 A g <sup>-1</sup>	295	384	6M KOH	
HGN-4	1 A g <sup>-1</sup>	306	214	6М КОН	

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