

## **Electronic supplementary information**

### **Three-dimensional self-assembled SnS<sub>2</sub>-Nano-Dots@Graphene Hybrid Aerogel as an Efficient Polysulfide Reservoir for High-performance Lithium-sulfur Batteries**

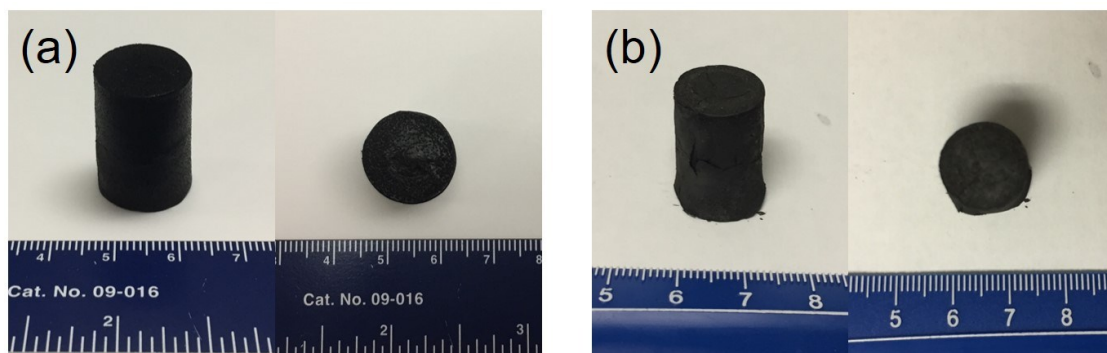
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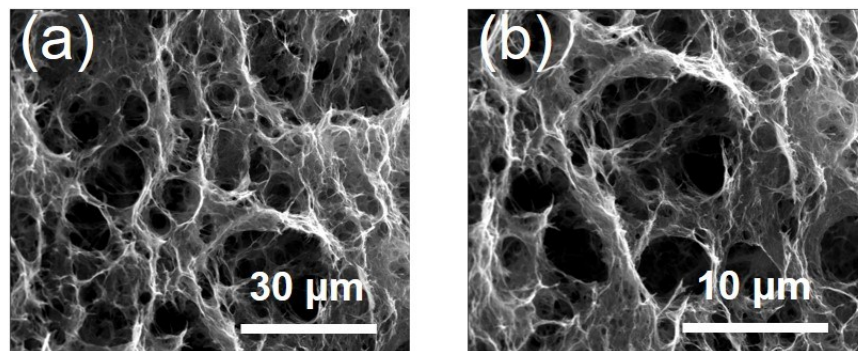
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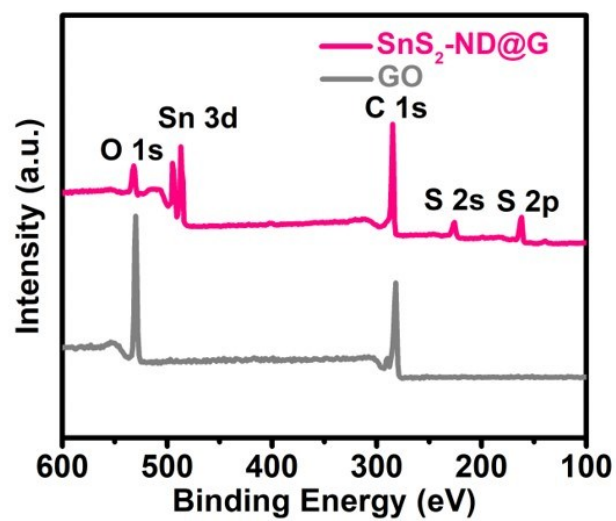
## Supporting figures



**Fig. S1** Digital photos of the as-prepared (a)  $\text{SnS}_2\text{-ND@G}$  and (b) graphene aerogels with front and top views.



**Fig. S2** SEM images of graphene aerogel under (a) high and (b) low magnifications.



**Fig. S3** XPS survey spectra of GO (gray line) and SnS<sub>2</sub>-ND@G aerogels (pink line).



**Fig. S4** Digital picture of the cycled lithium metal anode retrieved from the cell employing the SnS<sub>2</sub>-ND@G cathode.

**Table S1** Comparative summary of the Li-S cell parameters of the cell parameters in this work and other reported studies involving metal-sulfide/carbon and other metal compounds as sulfur cathode materials

| Cathode material                     | Preparation method | Metal sulfide content in the composite (wt.%) | Sulfur content in the cathode (wt.%) | Sulfur loading ( $\text{mg cm}^{-2}$ ) | Peak capacity ( $\text{mA h g}^{-1}$ ) | Remaining capacity ( $\text{mA h g}^{-1}$ ) | Peak areal capacity ( $\text{mA h cm}^{-2}$ ) | Cycle number | Capacity retention (%) | Capacity-fate rate (% per cycle) | E/S ratio | Condition          | Reference |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| $\text{MoS}_2 + \text{rGO}$          | Physical mixing    | 22                                            | 60                                   | 2 – 4                                  | 1200                                   | 628                                         | 3.6                                           | 600          | 52                     | 0.083                            | 13 – 25   | 1.8 – 2.6 V (C/2)  | 45        |
| $\text{CoS}_2 + \text{G}$            | Physical mixing    | 15 – 30                                       | 60                                   | 0.4 – 2.9                              | 1368                                   | 750                                         | 3.2                                           | 250          | 55                     | 0.18                             | 4 – 30    | 1.7 – 2.8 V (C/2)  | 18        |
| $\text{VS}_2@G/\text{CNT}$           | Ball-milling       | 50                                            | 56                                   | 0.5 – 0.6                              | 830                                    | 701                                         | 0.5                                           | 300          | 84                     | 0.052                            | 33 – 40   | 1.5 – 2.8 V (C/2)  | 23        |
| $\text{CoS}_2@G/\text{CNT}$          | Ball-milling       | 50                                            | 56                                   | 0.5 – 0.6                              | 684                                    | 581                                         | 0.41                                          | 300          | 85                     | 0.049                            | 33 – 40   | 1.5 – 2.8 V (C/2)  | 23        |
| $\text{TiS}_2@G/\text{CNT}$          | Ball-milling       | 50                                            | 56                                   | 0.5 – 0.6                              | 700                                    | 546                                         | 0.42                                          | 300          | 78                     | 0.073                            | 33 – 40   | 1.5 – 2.8 V (C/2)  | 23        |
| $\text{FeS}@G/\text{CNT}$            | Ball-milling       | 50                                            | 56                                   | 0.5 – 0.6                              | 705                                    | 334                                         | 0.42                                          | 300          | 47.4                   | 0.175                            | 33 – 40   | 1.5 – 2.8 V (C/2)  | 23        |
| $\text{SnS}_2@G/\text{CNT}$          | Ball-milling       | 50                                            | 56                                   | 0.5 – 0.6                              | 610                                    | 191                                         | 0.37                                          | 300          | 31.3                   | 0.23                             | 33 – 40   | 1.5 – 2.8 V (C/2)  | 23        |
| $\text{Ni}_3\text{S}_2@G/\text{CNT}$ | Ball-milling       | 50                                            | 56                                   | 0.5 – 0.6                              | 526                                    | 153                                         | 0.32                                          | 300          | 29.1                   | 0.24                             | 33 – 40   | 1.5 – 2.8 V (C/2)  | 23        |
| $\text{CuS} + \text{carbon aerogel}$ | Physical mixing    | --                                            | 48                                   | 1.3 – 3.0                              | 1137                                   | 840                                         | 2.4                                           | 500          | 74                     | 0.05                             | --        | 1.8 – 3.0 V (C/2)  | 21        |
| $\text{TiO}_2 + \text{G}$            | Hydrothermal       | 41                                            | 52                                   | 1.1 – 1.3                              | 1065                                   | 663                                         | 1.3                                           | 100          | 62                     | 0.38                             | --        | 1.7 – 2.8 V (C/10) | 8         |
| $\text{Co}_3\text{S}_4 + \text{S}$   | Hydrothermal       | 21 – 34                                       | 53                                   | 2 – 4                                  | 975                                    | 760                                         | 2.1                                           | 200          | 78                     | 0.11                             | 10 – 20   | 1.6 – 2.6 V (C/2)  | 39        |
| $\text{TiS}_2 + \text{S}$            | Physical mixing    | 45                                            | 45                                   | --                                     | 875                                    | 810                                         | --                                            | 30           | 93                     | 0.25                             | --        | 1.7 – 2.8 V (C/10) | 20        |

|                                               |                          |         |    |           |      |      |      |     |    |      |         |                      |           |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|----|-----------|------|------|------|-----|----|------|---------|----------------------|-----------|
| $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8 + \text{S}$            | Melt-diffusion           | 25      | 60 | 1.5       | 857  | 643  | 4.3  | 400 | 75 | 0.06 | --      | 1.8 – 3.0 V<br>(2C)  | 46        |
| $\text{TiO} + \text{carbon}$<br>hollow sphere | Coating and<br>annealing | 57      | 56 | 1.5       | 1190 | 750  | 3.5  | 500 | 63 | 0.08 | 36      | 1.9 – 2.6 V<br>(C/5) | 13        |
| $\text{MgO} + \text{S}$                       | Ball-milling             | 10      | 54 | 1.8 – 2.0 | 860  | 700  | 1.6  | 100 | 81 | 0.19 | --      | 1.5 – 3.0 V<br>(C/5) | 16        |
| $\text{MnO}_2 + \text{S}$                     | Physical<br>mixing       | 25      | 56 | 0.7 – 1.0 | 1120 | 1030 | 1.12 | 200 | 92 | 0.04 | --      | 1.8 – 3.0 V<br>(C/5) | 15        |
| $\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_7 + \text{S}$            | Melt-diffusion           | 30 – 40 | 56 | 1.5 – 1.8 | 850  | 600  | 1.53 | 500 | 88 | 0.06 | 28 – 33 | 1.7 – 3.0 V<br>(2C)  | 14        |
| $\text{SnS}_2\text{-ND@G}$                    | Hydrothermal<br>process  | 16      | 75 | 2.5 – 10  | 1234 | 1016 | 11   | 300 | 82 | 0.06 | 10      | 1.7 – 2.8 V<br>(C/5) | This work |