

Supplementary Information

**Vertically Distributed VO<sub>2</sub> Nanosheets on Hollow Spheres  
with Enhanced Thermochromic Properties**

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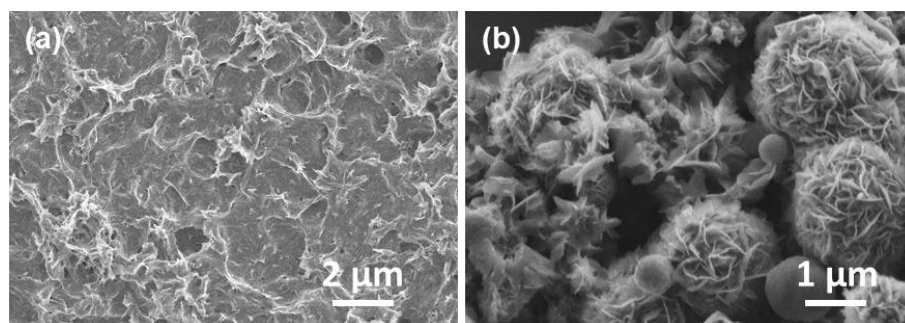
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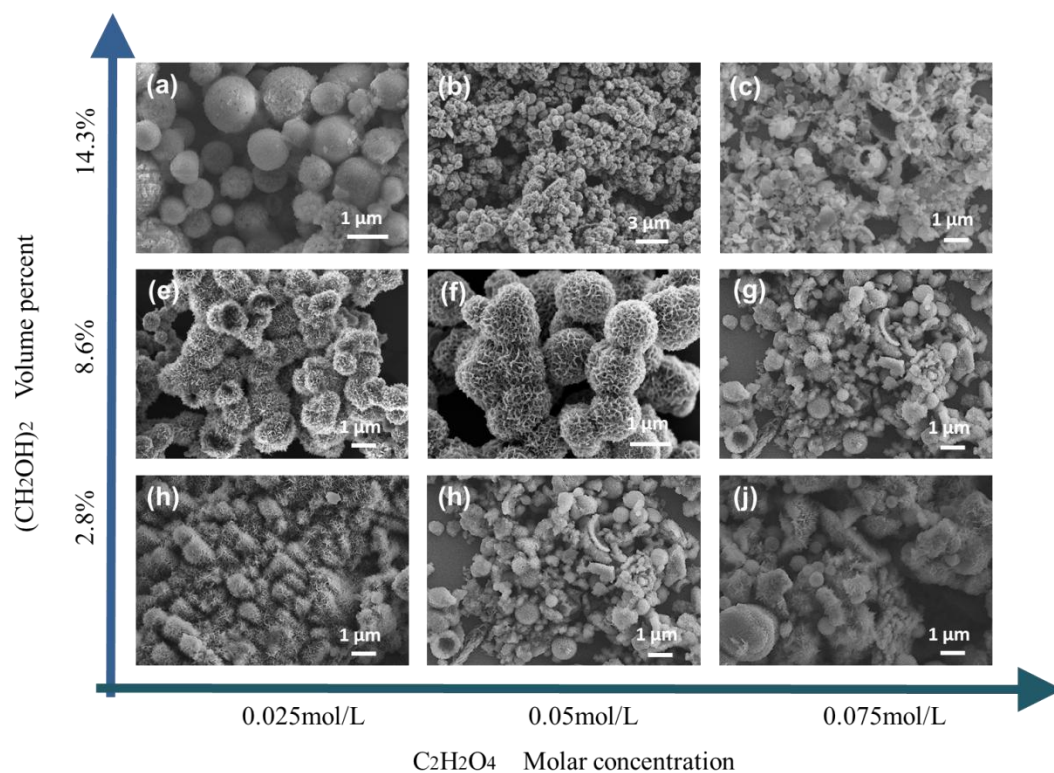
paul.chu@cityu.edu.hk (P. K. Chu)

**Fig. S1**



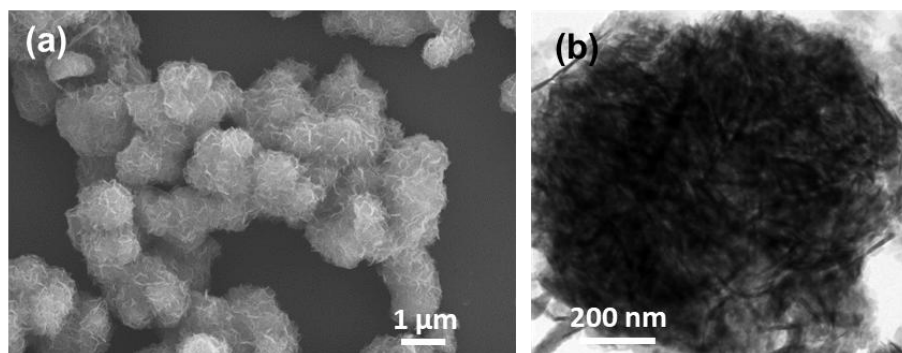
**Fig. S1** SEM images of the samples with different volume percentage of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH (a) 0%, (b) 100%.

**Fig. S2**



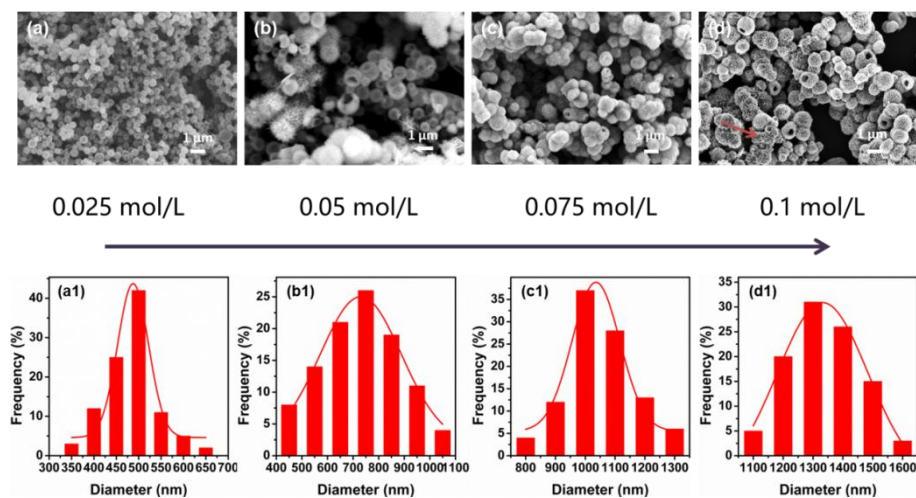
**Fig. S2** SEM images of the samples with different concentration of (CH<sub>2</sub>OH)<sub>2</sub> (EG) and C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>.

**Fig. S3**



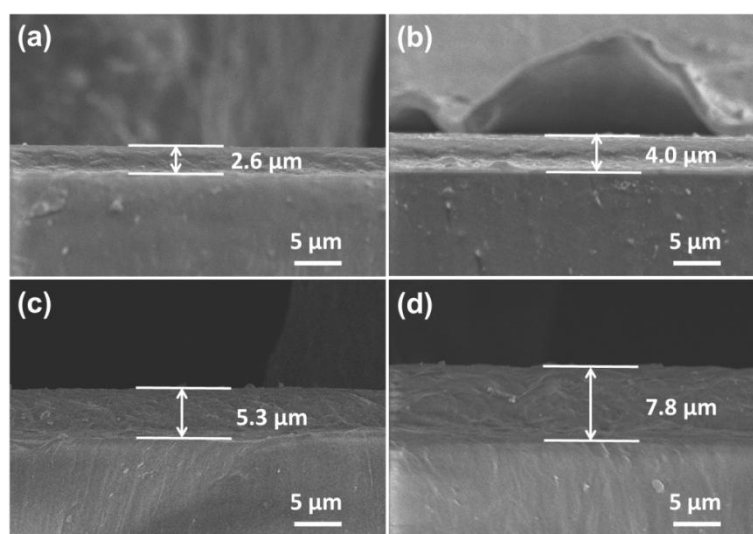
**Fig. S3** SEM image (a) and TEM image (b) of the samples with aggregated nanosheets

**Fig. S4**



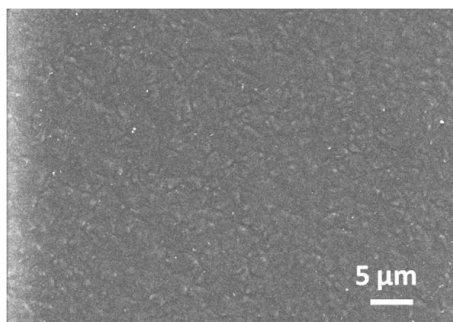
**Fig. S4** (a-e) SEM images of  $\text{VO}_2$  hollow microsphere grown in different precursor concentration. (a1-d1) The distribution of sphere diameter.

**Fig. S5**



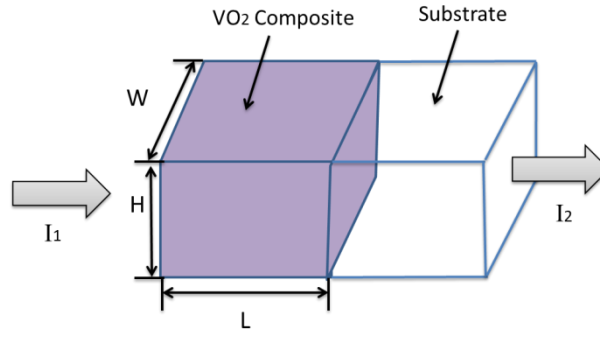
**Fig. S5** SEM images of the cross-sections of the films with different thickness.

**Fig. S6**



**Fig. S6** SEM image of nanosheets-based film.

**Fig. S7**



**Fig. S7** Structural model for composites of VO<sub>2</sub> and substrate with the refractive index equal to 1.5. The thickness of the model (L) is 3  $\mu\text{m}$ .

To simulate the transmittance of VO<sub>2</sub> composite, COMSOL Multiphysics software based finite element analysis (FEA) is used. Fig. S7 shows the structural model for composite film. The VO<sub>2</sub> hollow or solid spheres are embedded in a media with the refractive index equal to 1.5. The incident light waves are plane waves traveling perpendicular to the VO<sub>2</sub> composite film, as shown in Fig. S7. In our simulations, all material property parameters were taken from published literatures. The refractive indexes ( $\tilde{n} = n + ik$ ) of VO<sub>2</sub> are taken from experimental spectroscopic data reported by Li. A constant of 1.51 is used for the glass substrate.