

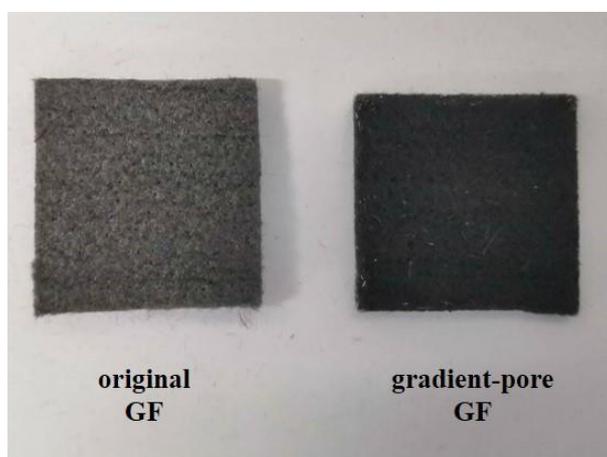
## Supporting Information

### **Achieving gradient-pore-oriented graphite felt for vanadium redox flow batteries: meeting improved electrochemical activity and enhanced mass transport from nano to micro scale**

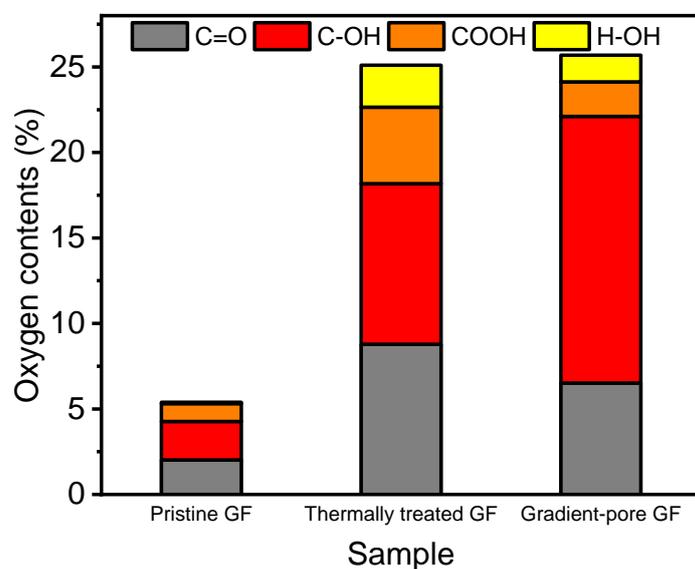
Rui Wang,<sup>a</sup> Yinshi Li,<sup>\*a</sup> and Ya-ling He<sup>a</sup>

*Key Laboratory of Thermo-Fluid Science and Engineering of MOE, School of Energy  
and Power Engineering, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710049, P. R.  
China.*

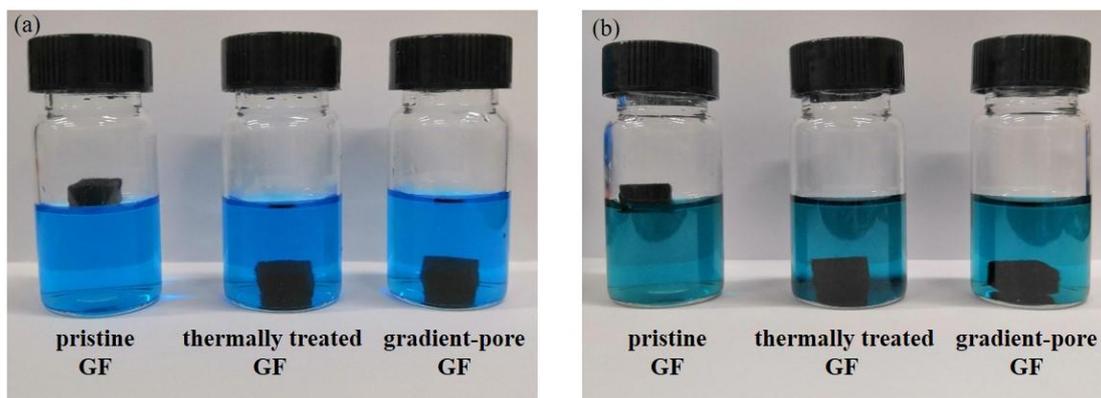
E-mail: ysli@mail.xjtu.edu.cn



**Fig. S1** Digital photos of pristine and gradient-pore graphite felt electrodes.



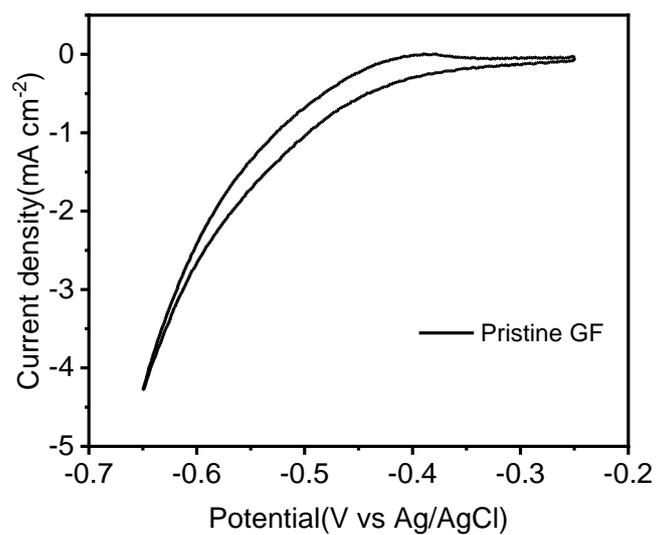
**Fig. S2** Distribution and composition of types of oxygen-functional groups in all element on pristine graphite felt, thermally treated graphite felt and gradient-pore graphite felt.



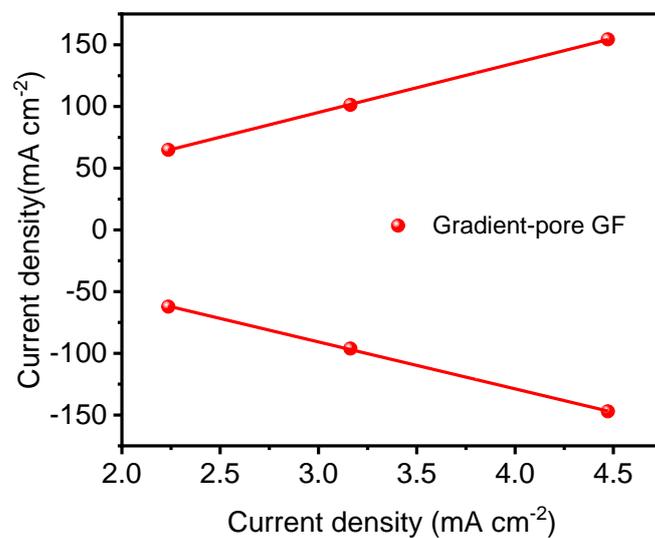
**Fig. S3** Electrolyte accessibility of three electrodes in (a) anolyte and (b) catholyte.



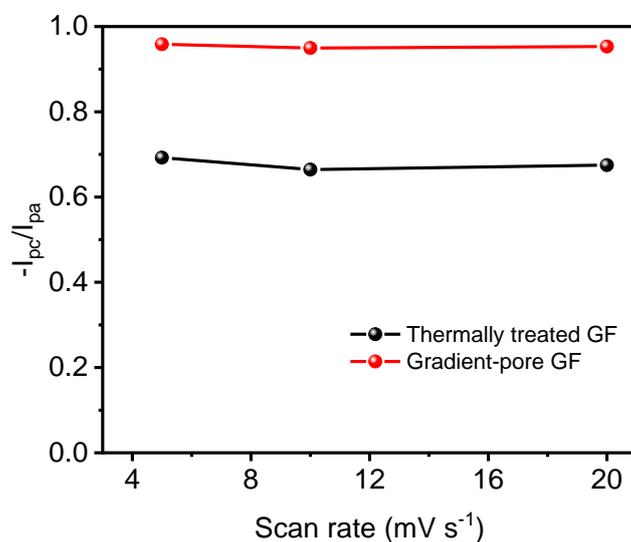
**Fig. S4** Contact angle measurement of the (a) pristine graphite felt, (b) thermally treated graphite felt and (c) gradient-pore graphite felt.



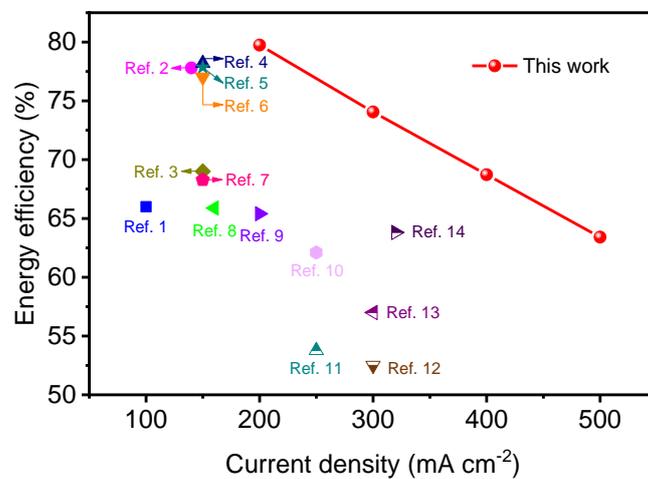
**Fig. S5** CV curve of the pristine graphite felt with the potential windows of -0.7 to -0.2 V.



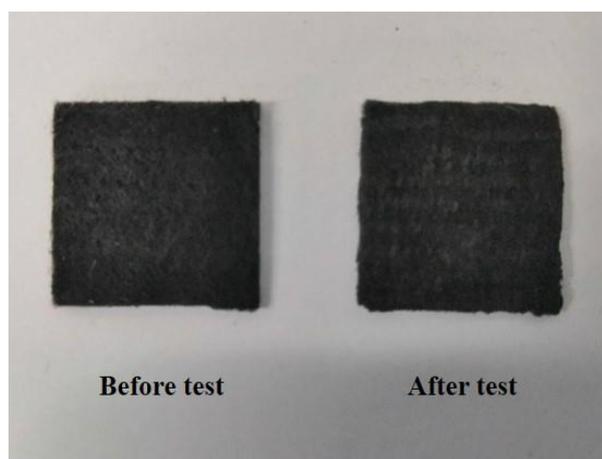
**Fig. S6** Plots of the redox peak current density versus the square root of scan rate for gradient-pore graphite felt in positive electrolyte.



**Fig. S7**  $-I_{pc}/I_{pa}$  values of the redox peak current density versus the square root of scan rate for thermally treated graphite and gradient-pore graphite felt in positive electrolyte.



**Fig. S8** Comparison of VRFB with gradient-pore graphite felt electrodes with previous works.



**Fig. S9.** Digital photos gradient-pore graphite felt electrode before and after cycling tests.

**Table. S1** Experimental parameters of compared works.

Ref.	Sample	electrode size	membrane	electrolyte	flow rate
1	CNF-CNT/GF	5 cm <sup>2</sup>	N117	2.0 M	/
2	CO <sub>2</sub> treated CP	5 cm <sup>2</sup>	N117	2.0 M	50 mL min <sup>-1</sup>
3	Graphene/CF	25 cm <sup>2</sup>	N115	1.5 M	60 mL min <sup>-1</sup>
4	Bi/GF	5 cm <sup>2</sup>	N117	1.6 M	30 mL min <sup>-1</sup>
5	rGO/GF	25 cm <sup>2</sup>	N117	3.0 M	30 mL min <sup>-1</sup>
6	SnO <sub>2</sub> /GF	25 cm <sup>2</sup>	N117	3.0 M	50 mL min <sup>-1</sup>
7	N-CB-CF	25 cm <sup>2</sup>	N115	2.0 M	60 mL min <sup>-1</sup>
8	Nb-WO <sub>3</sub> /GF	10 cm <sup>2</sup>	N115	2.0 M	20 mL min <sup>-1</sup>
9	TiO <sub>2</sub> -C/GF	25 cm <sup>2</sup>	N115	1.5 M	60 mL min <sup>-1</sup>
10	ZrO <sub>2</sub> /GF	4 cm <sup>2</sup>	N211	1.1 M	/
11	PF-GF	12 cm <sup>2</sup>	N115	1.5 M	20 mL min <sup>-1</sup>
12	NCS/GF	4 cm <sup>2</sup>	N212	1 M	46 mL min <sup>-1</sup>
13	FeOOH treated GF	4 cm <sup>2</sup>	N115	0.75 M	/
14	B <sub>4</sub> C/GF	5 cm <sup>2</sup>	N117	2 M	50 mL min <sup>-1</sup>

## References

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