

## Rationally Designed Yolk-Shell $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S}$ Hollow Spheres for High-Performance Sodium Storage

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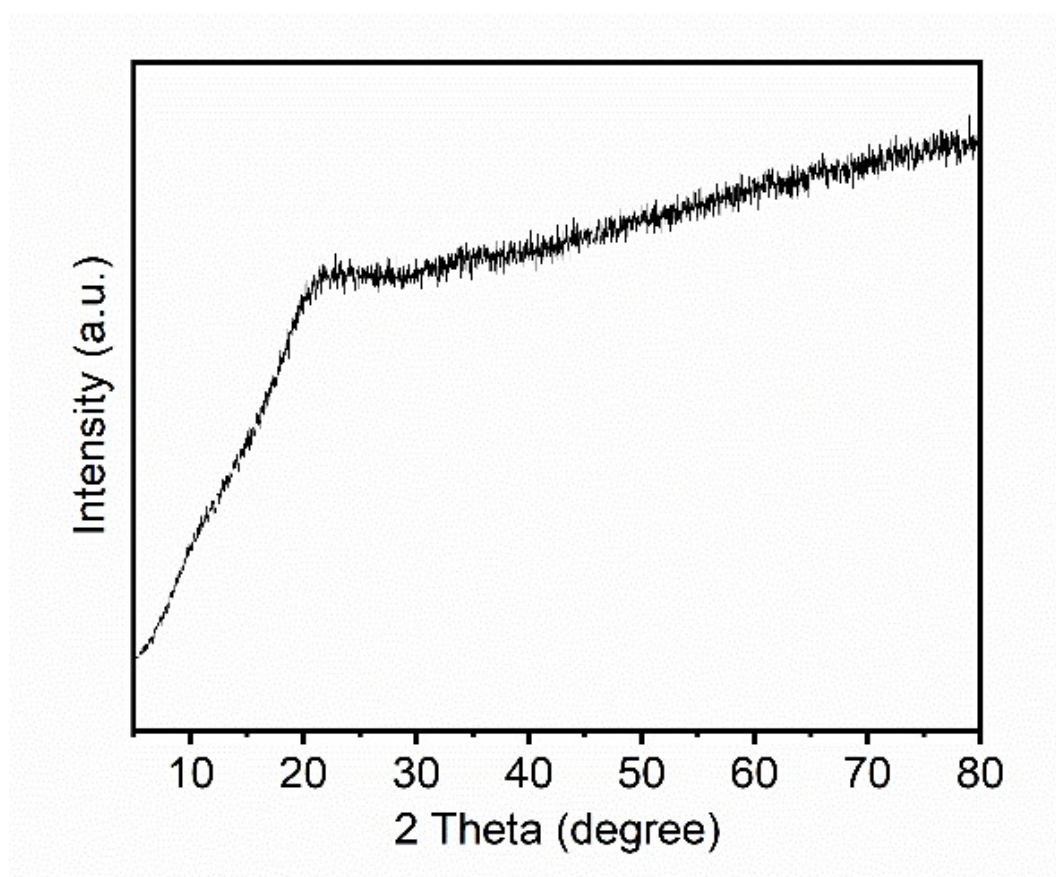
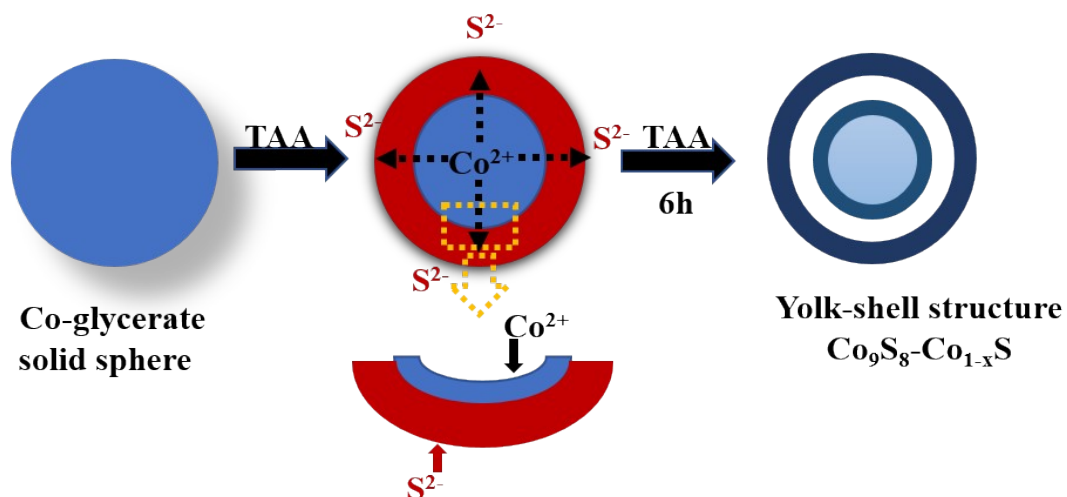
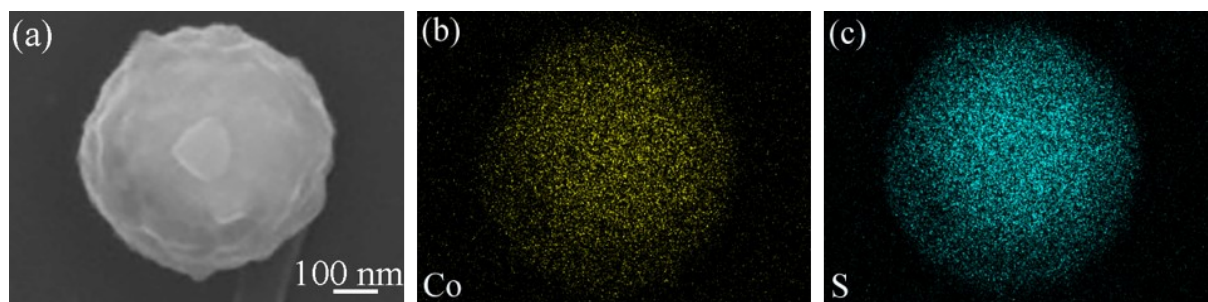


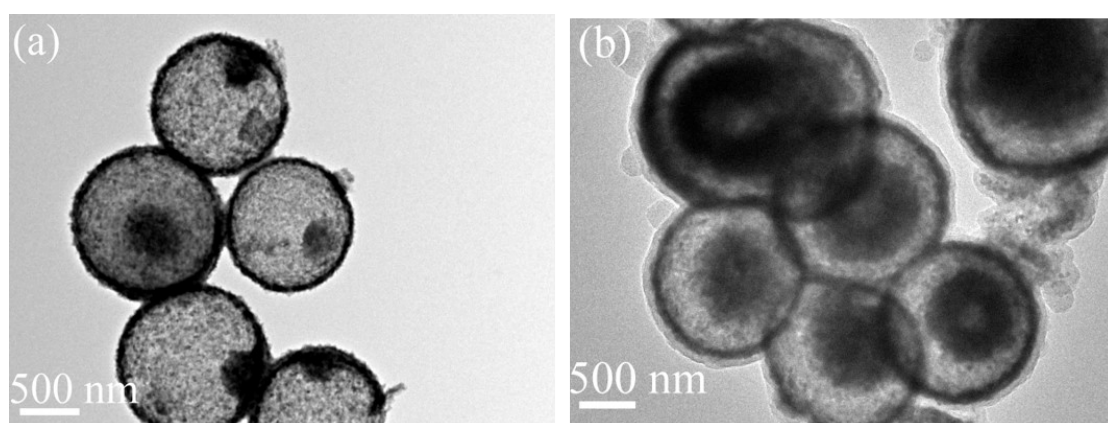
Fig. S1. XRD pattern of Co-G.



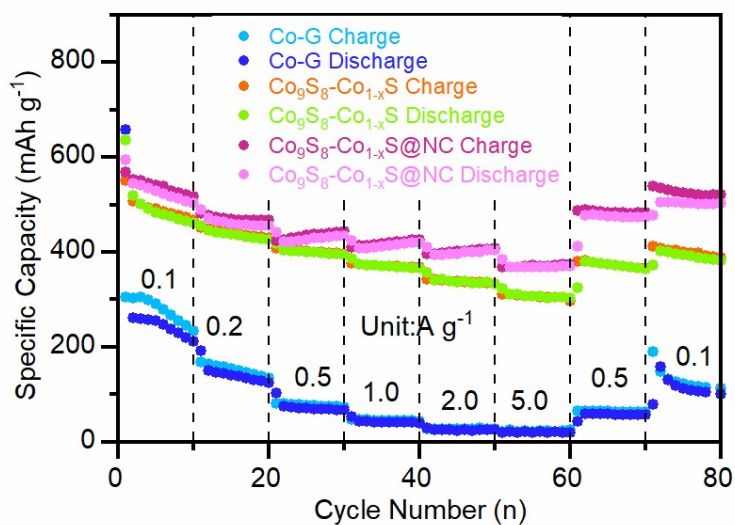
**Fig. S2.** Schematic illustration of the formation process of yolk-shelled  $Co_9S_8-Co_{1-x}S$  hollow spheres.



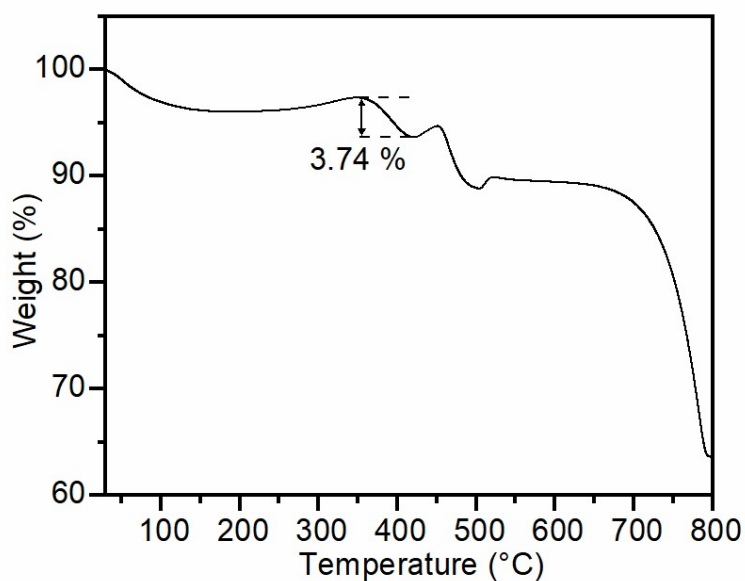
**Fig. S3.** EDS mapping of  $Co_9S_8-Co_{1-x}S$ .



**Fig. S4.** FESEM of the  $Co_9S_8-Co_{1-x}S$  before (a) and after carbonization (b) at  $600^\circ C$  for 2h.

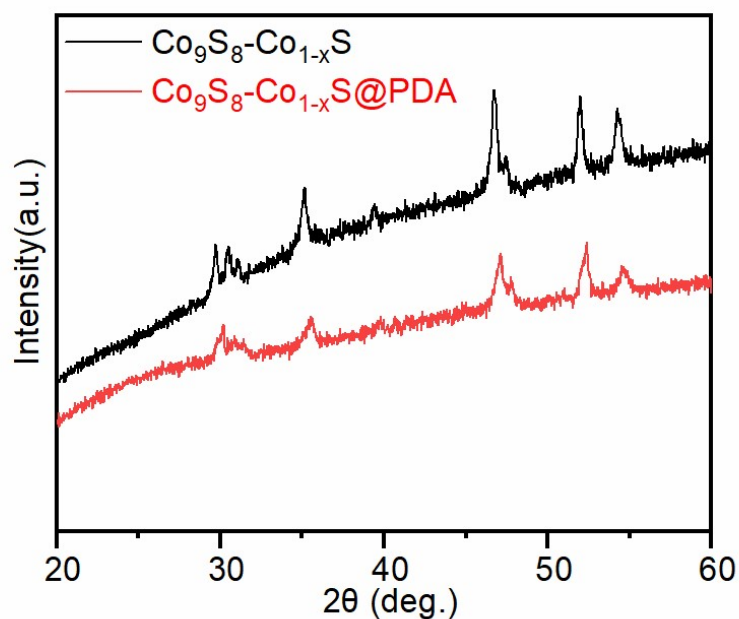


**Fig. S5.** Rate performance of Co-G,  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S}$ , and  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S@NC}$ .

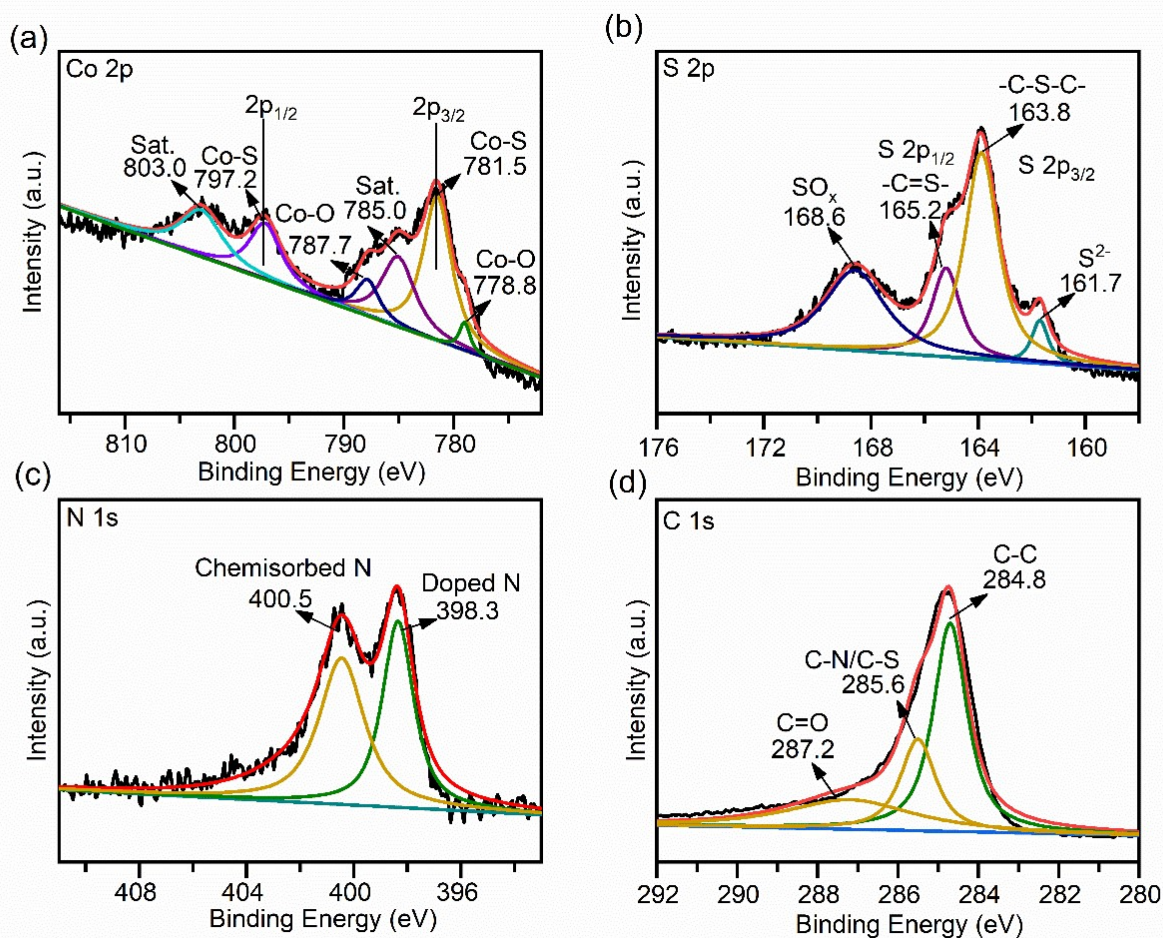


**Fig. S6.** TGA curves of the  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S@NC}$  composite.

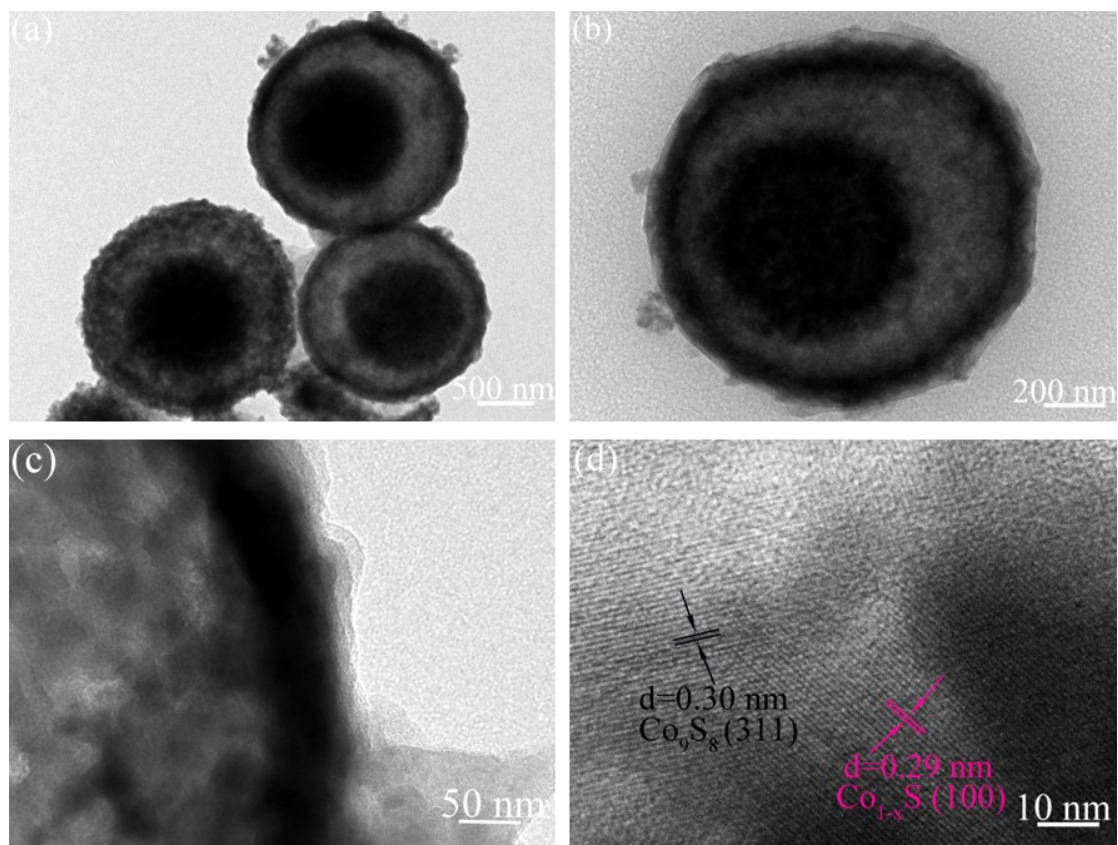
During the TGA test, the  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S@NC}$  composite undergoes a multi-step reaction.  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S}$  was oxidized to  $\text{CoSO}_4$ ,  $\text{CoO}$ ,  $\text{Co}_3\text{S}_4$  between 200 and 350°C, corresponding to the weight increase in the TGA curve. The weight loss around 400 °C could be ascribed to the gasification of carbon content and the weight fluctuation beyond 450°C could be assigned to the sequential oxidation of  $\text{CoO}$  to  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{Co}_3\text{S}_4$  to  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  and  $\text{CoSO}_4$  to  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$ .<sup>1</sup>



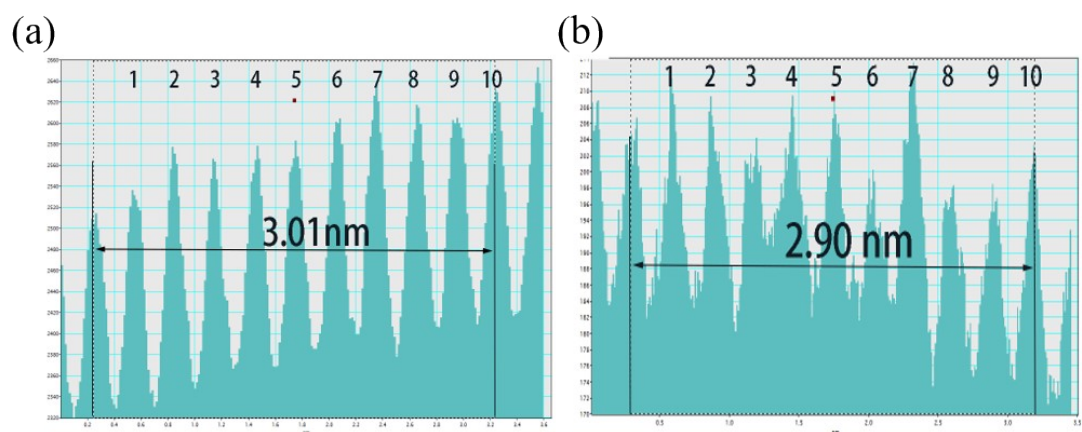
**Fig. S7.** XRD patterns of the  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S@NC}$  and  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S@PDA}$  composites.



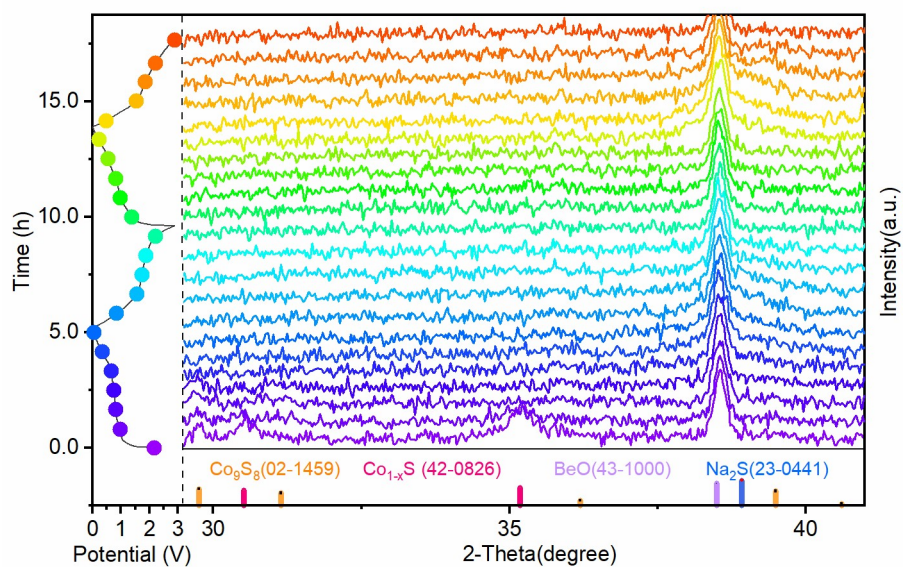
**Fig. S8.** XPS spectra of  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S@NC}$ : (a) Co 2p; (b) S 2p; (c) N 1s and (d) C 1s.



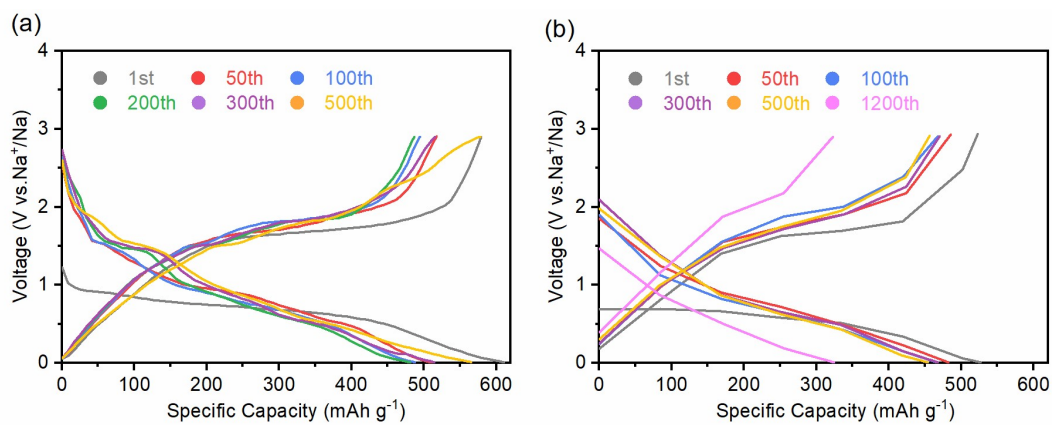
**Fig. S9.** (a) TEM images of  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S@NC}$ . (b, c) TEM of an individual  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S@NC}$  and (d) HRTEM images of (b, c) of  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S@NC}$ .



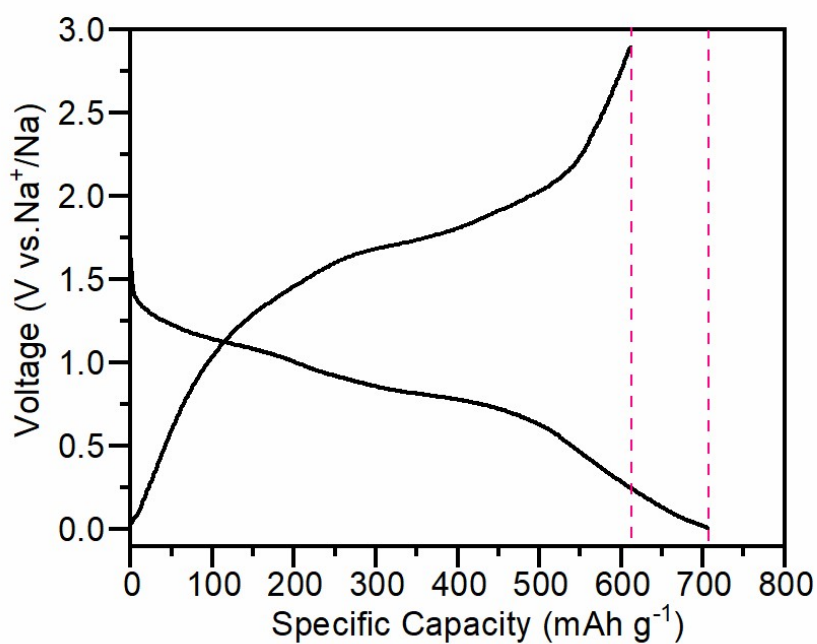
**Fig. S10.** Intensity profiles of the  $d$ -spacing in Fig. S9d.



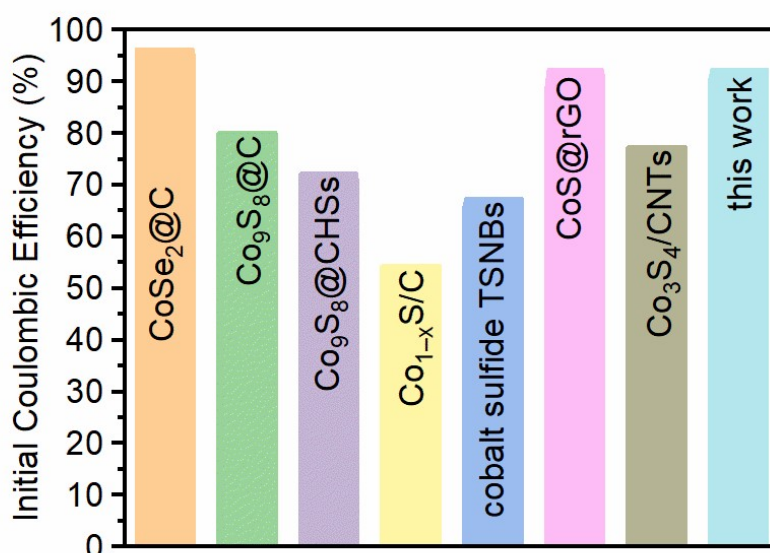
**Fig. S11.** The peak evolution during the in-situ XRD test.



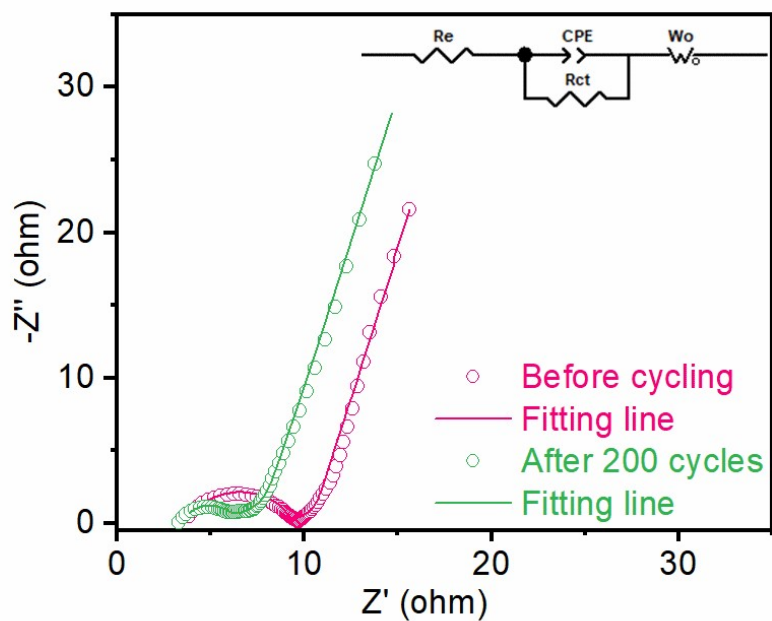
**Fig. S12.** Galvanostatic voltage profiles at (a)  $0.5 \text{ A g}^{-1}$  and (b)  $5 \text{ A g}^{-1}$ .



**Fig. S13.** Initial galvanostatic charge-discharge curves of the bare  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S}$  electrode.



**Fig. S14.** The ICEs of the  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S}@n\text{C}$  and other reported cobalt-based TMDCs ( $\text{CoSe}_2@\text{C}$ : ref.<sup>2</sup>,  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8@\text{C}$ : ref.<sup>3</sup>,  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8@\text{CHSS}$ : ref.<sup>4</sup>,  $\text{Co}_{1-x}\text{S}/\text{C}$ : ref.<sup>5</sup>, cobalt sulfide TSNBs: ref.<sup>6</sup>,  $\text{CoS}@r\text{GO}$ : ref.<sup>7</sup>,  $\text{Co}_3\text{S}_4/\text{CNTs}$ : ref.<sup>8</sup>)

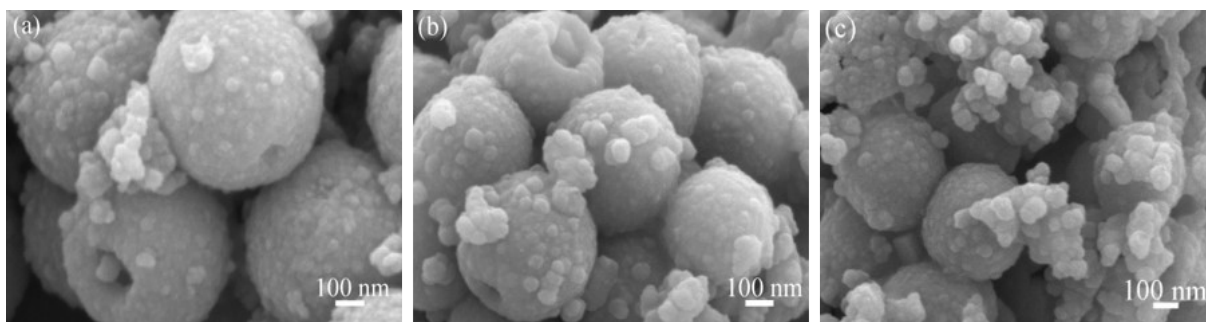


**Fig. S15.** Experimental and fitted Nyquist curves of  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S@NC}$  electrode in before cycling and after 200 cycles at  $0.5 \text{ A g}^{-1}$ . Inset shows the model used to fit the Nyquist curves.

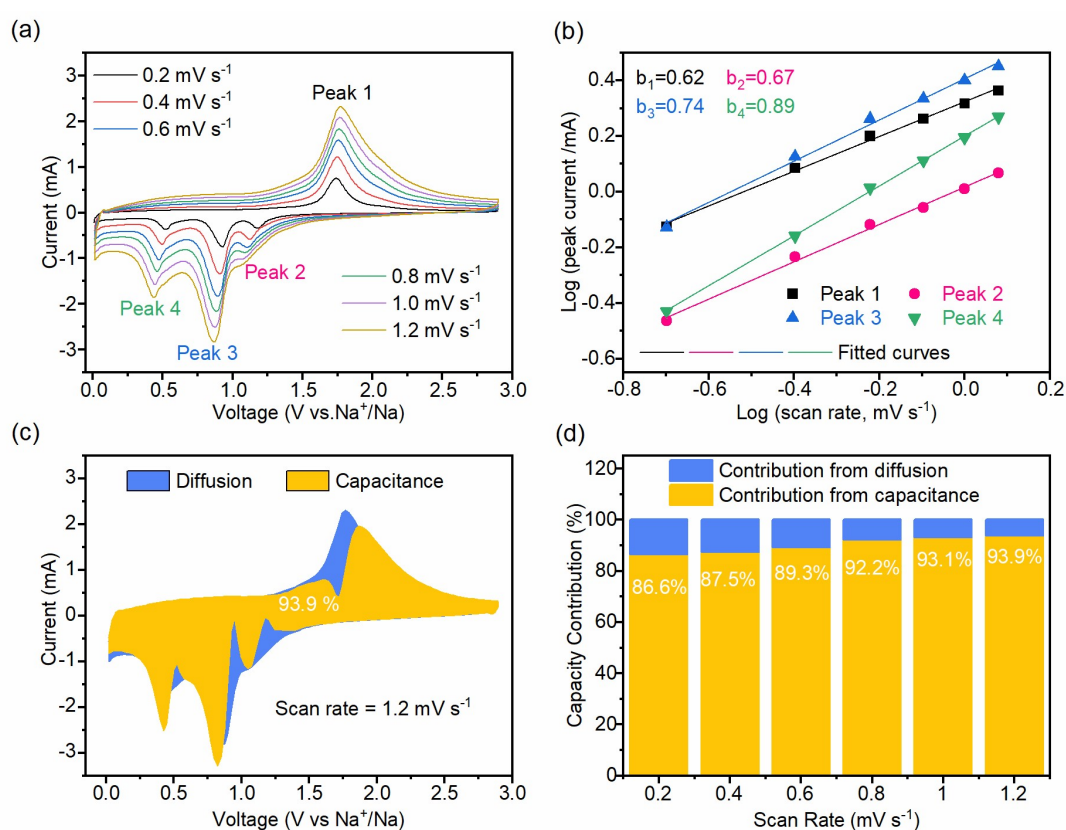
**Table S1.** Fitted electrochemical impedance parameters of  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S@NC}$

Sample	Re	$R_{ct}$	CPE		
			CPE-T	CPE-P	
$\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S@NC}$	Before cycling	3.812	5.392	9.4794E-6	0.85726
	After 200 cycles	3.510	2.264	4.4677E-6	0.97043

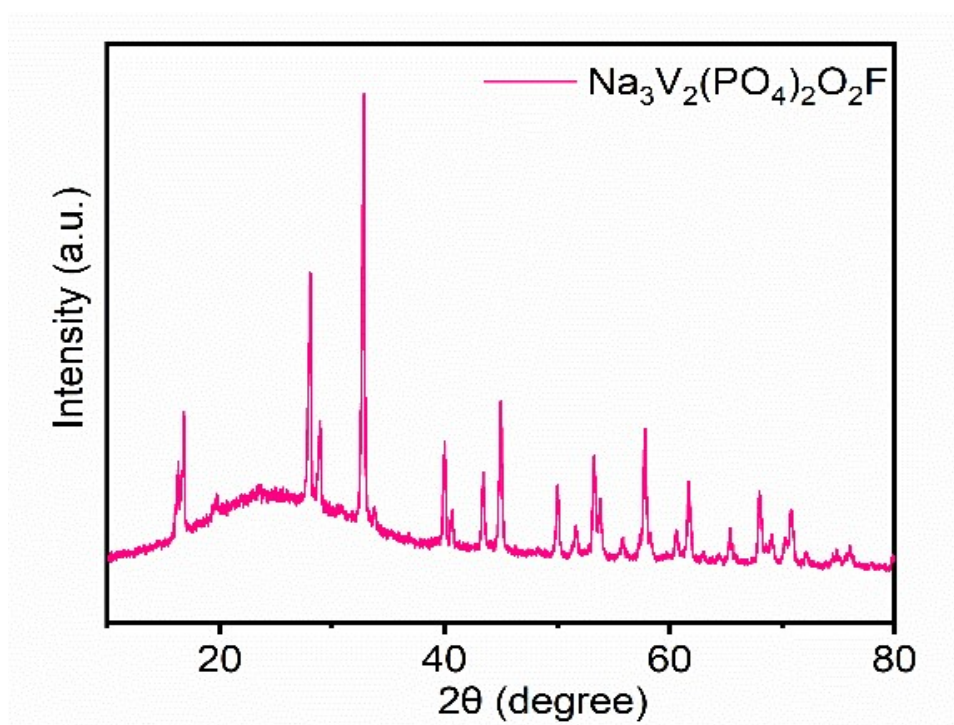




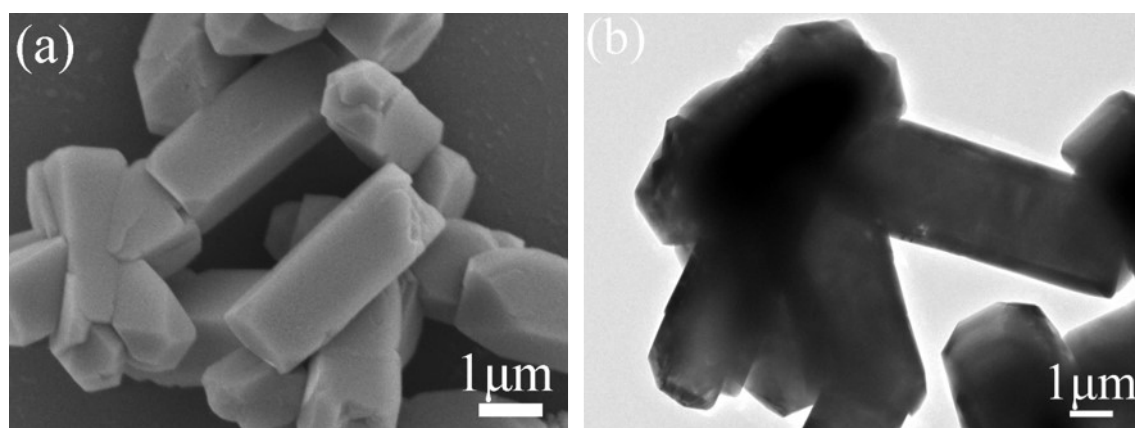
**Fig. S16.** Ex-situ SEM images of  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S@NC}$  electrode in (a) before cycling;(b) after 200 cycles;(c) after 500 cycles at  $0.5 \text{ A g}^{-1}$ .



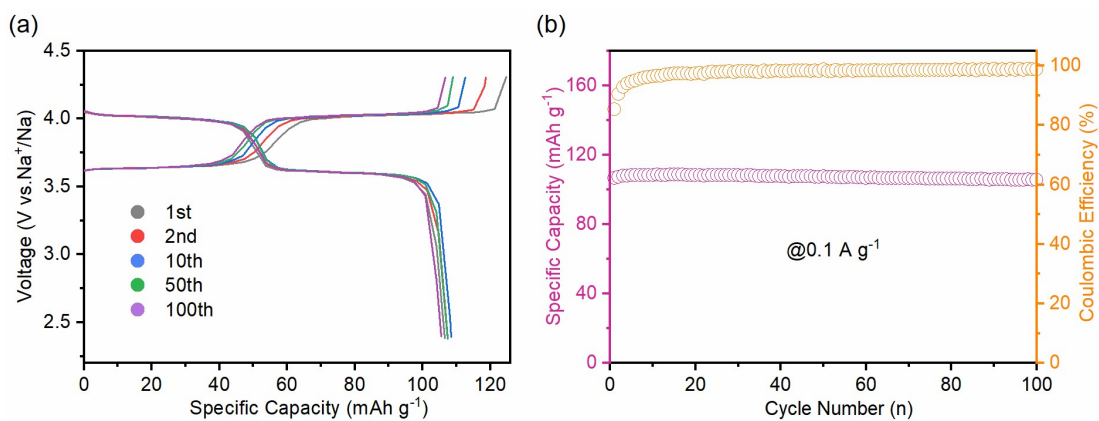
**Fig. S17.** (a) CV curves of the  $\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S@NC}$  electrode at varied scanning rates of from 0.2 to 1.2  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$ . (b) The fitted logarithmic relations between scanning rates and peak currents. (c) The pseudo-capacitive contribution (orange area) at 1.2  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$ . (d) The pseudo-capacitive contribution at different scanning rates.



**Fig. S18.** XRD pattern of the  $\text{Na}_3\text{V}_2(\text{PO}_4)_2\text{O}_2\text{F}$ .



**Fig. S19.** (a) SEM and (b) TEM images of the  $\text{Na}_3\text{V}_2(\text{PO}_4)_2\text{O}_2\text{F}$ .



**Fig. S20.** (a) The galvanostatic discharge-charge curves and (b) cycling performance of the  $\text{Na}_3\text{V}_2(\text{PO}_4)_2\text{O}_2\text{F}$  electrode at  $0.1 \text{ A g}^{-1}$ .

**Table S2** Performance comparison of representative SIB full cells

Anode/cathode	Energy density (Wh/kg)	Reference
$\text{Co}_9\text{S}_8\text{-Co}_{1-x}\text{S@NC}/\text{Na}_3\text{V}_2(\text{PO}_4)_2\text{O}_2\text{F}$	~211	This work
$\text{NiS@rGO}/\text{NVP@C}$	~154	9
$\text{SnS}_2/\text{Co}_3\text{S}_4@\text{CC}/\text{Na}_3\text{V}_2(\text{PO}_4)_2\text{O}_2\text{F}$	~216	10
$1\text{T}/2\text{H MoS}_2@\text{SnO}_2/\text{NVP}$	~117	11
$\text{Sb}/\text{Na}_3\text{V}_2(\text{PO}_4)_3$	~160	12
$\text{Sb}/\text{Na}_3\text{V}_2(\text{PO}_4)_2\text{O}_2\text{F}$	~230	13
$\text{Na}_{0.44}\text{MnO}_2\text{-hard carbon}$	~275	14

## Reference

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