

**Supplementary information**

**Alleviated Mn<sup>2+</sup> dissolution drives long-term cycling stability in  
ultrafine Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/PPy core-shell nanodots for zinc-ion battery**

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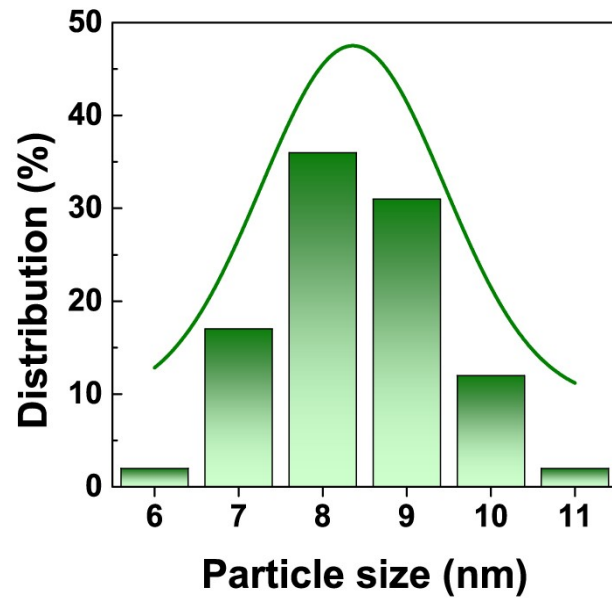
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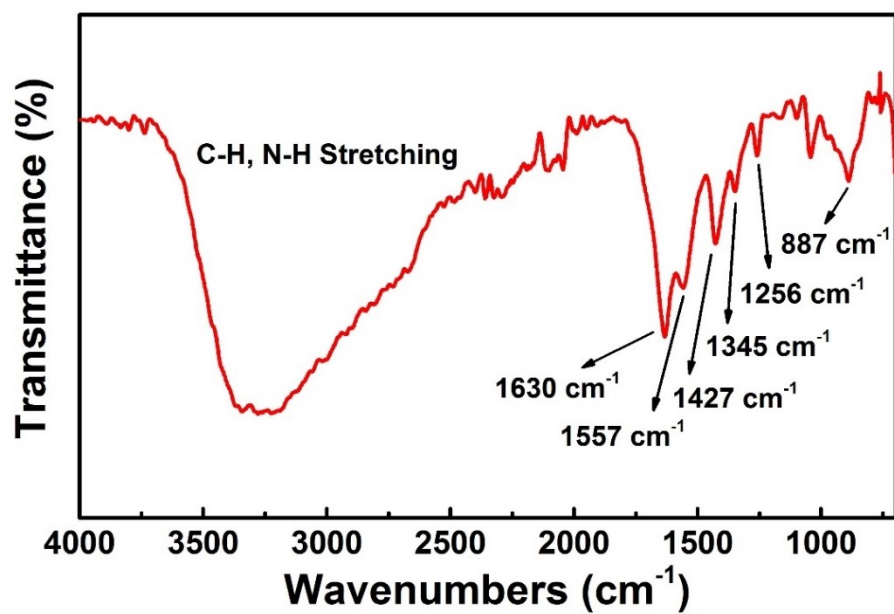
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Fig. S1-Fig. S13

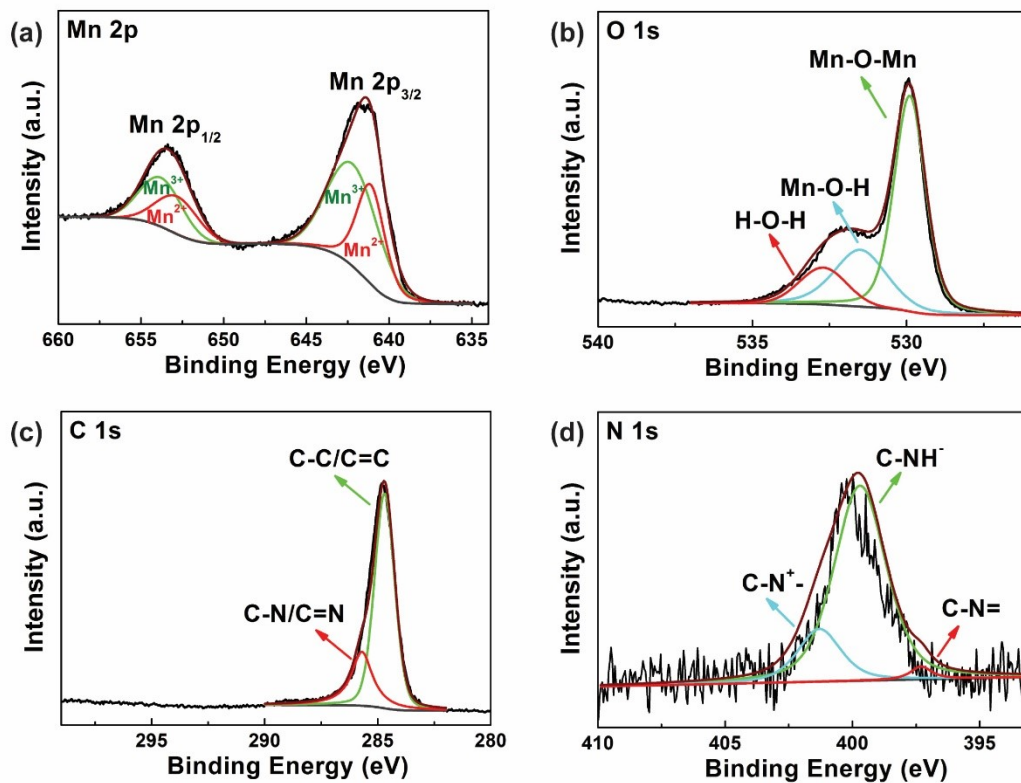
Table S1



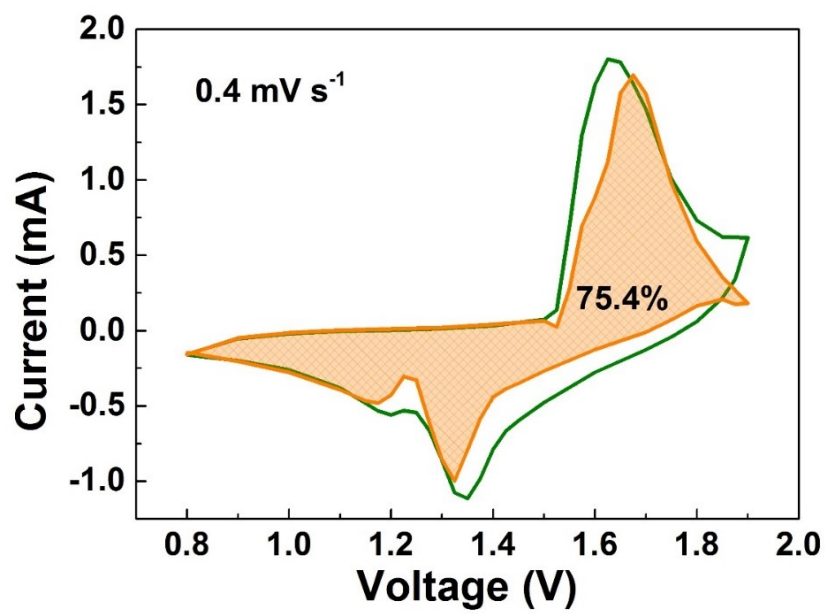
**Fig. S1** Size distribution of the as-prepared Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/PPy nanodots.



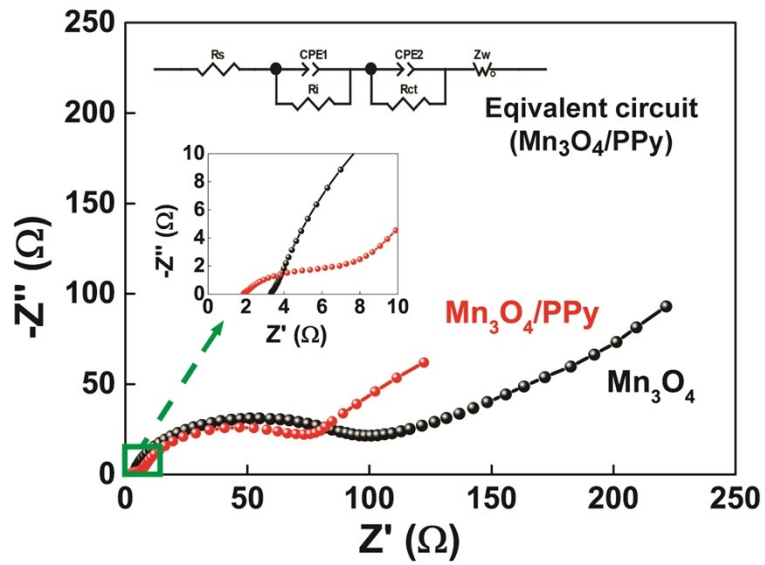
**Fig. S2** High-resolution FTIR spectrum (4000 – 700 cm<sup>-1</sup>) of Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/PPy nanodots.



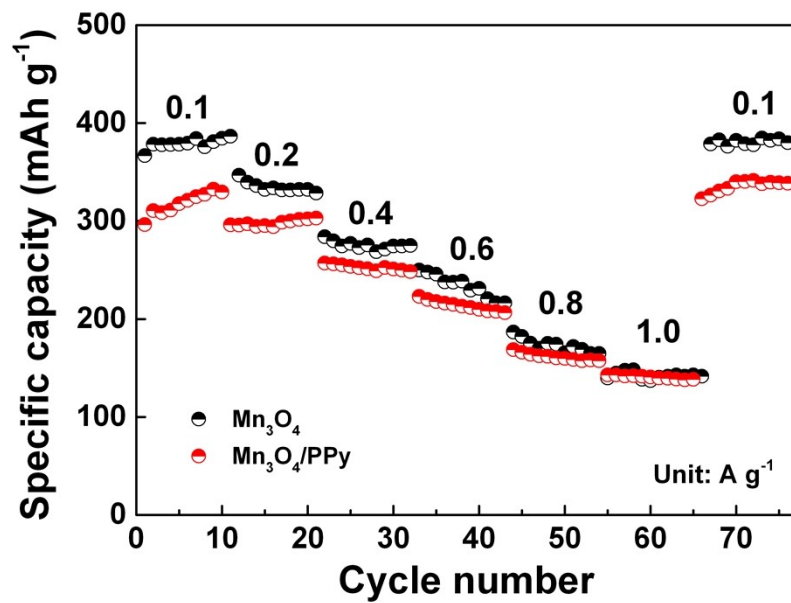
**Fig. S3** X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) spectra of (a) Mn 2p, (b) O 1s, (c) C 1s, and (d) N 1s for  $Mn_3O_4/PPy$  nanodots.



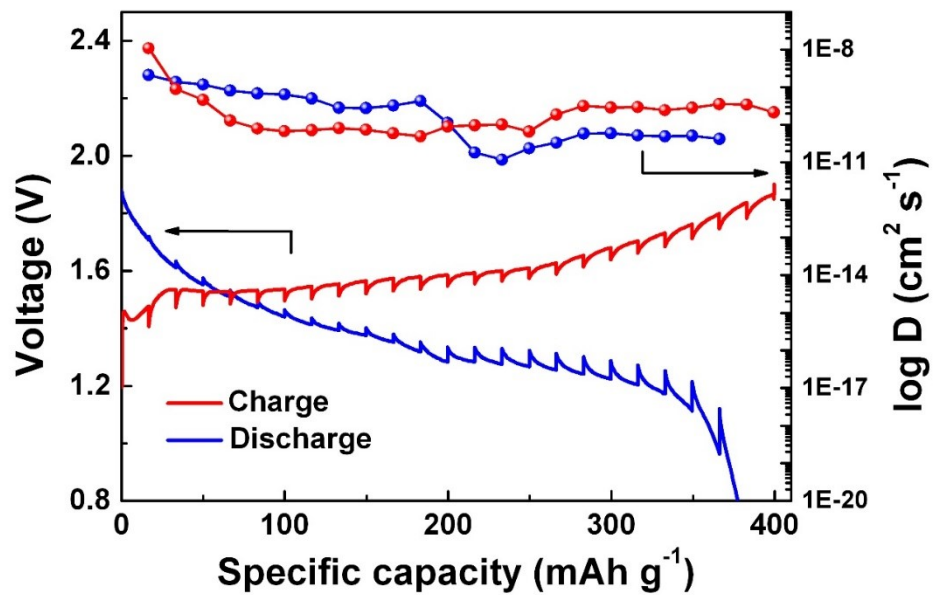
**Fig. S4** Capacitive contribution (shaded) to the total  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  storage capacity at the scan rate of  $0.4 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  of the  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4/\text{PPy}$  nanodots.



**Fig. S5** Nyquist plots of both cathodes before cycling and the corresponding fitting equivalent circuit of  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4/\text{PPy}$  cathode (inset).

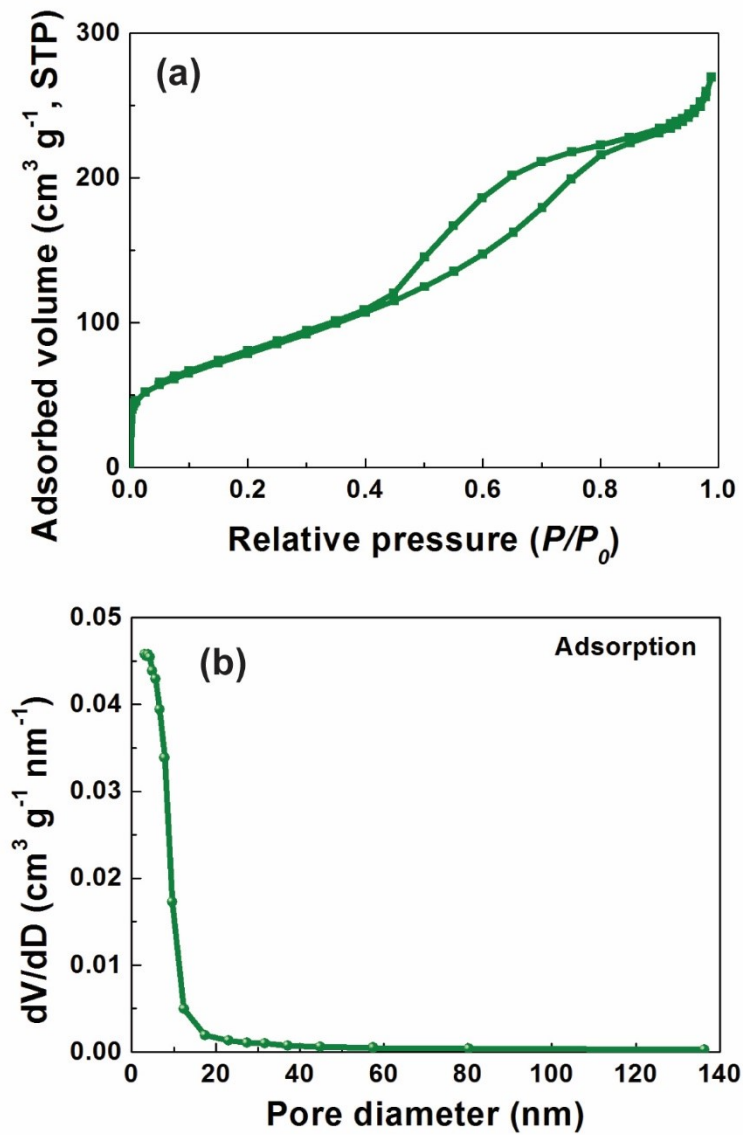


**Fig. S6** Rate performance of the Zn- $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  and Zn- $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4/\text{PPy}$  batteries.

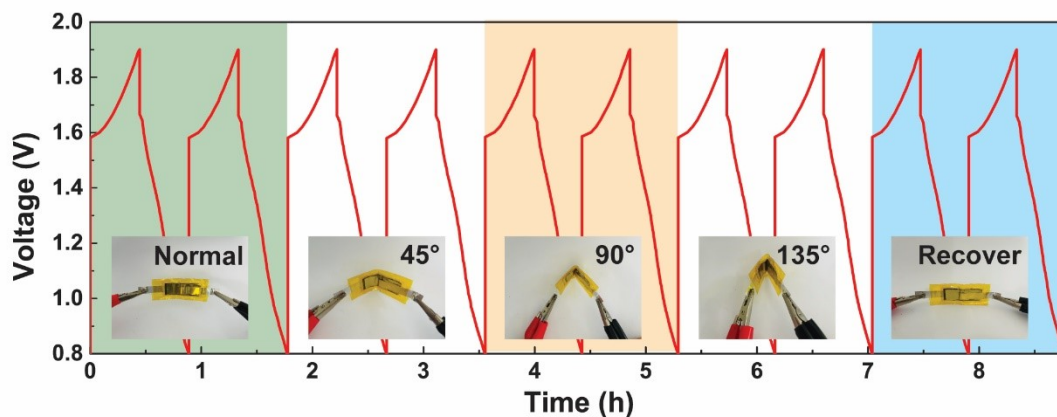


**Fig. S7** GITT profiles and the corresponding calculated ion diffusion coefficient of the  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4/\text{PPy}$  nanodot battery during charge and discharge process.

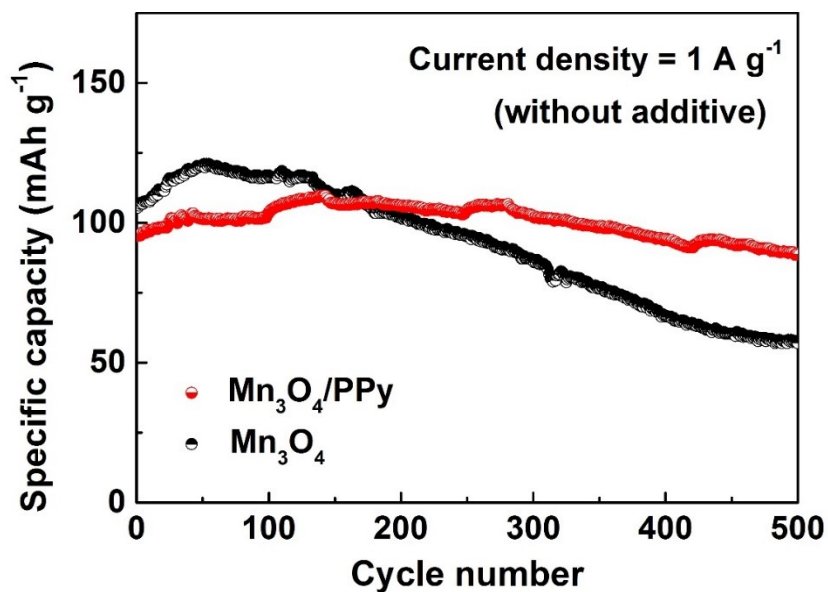




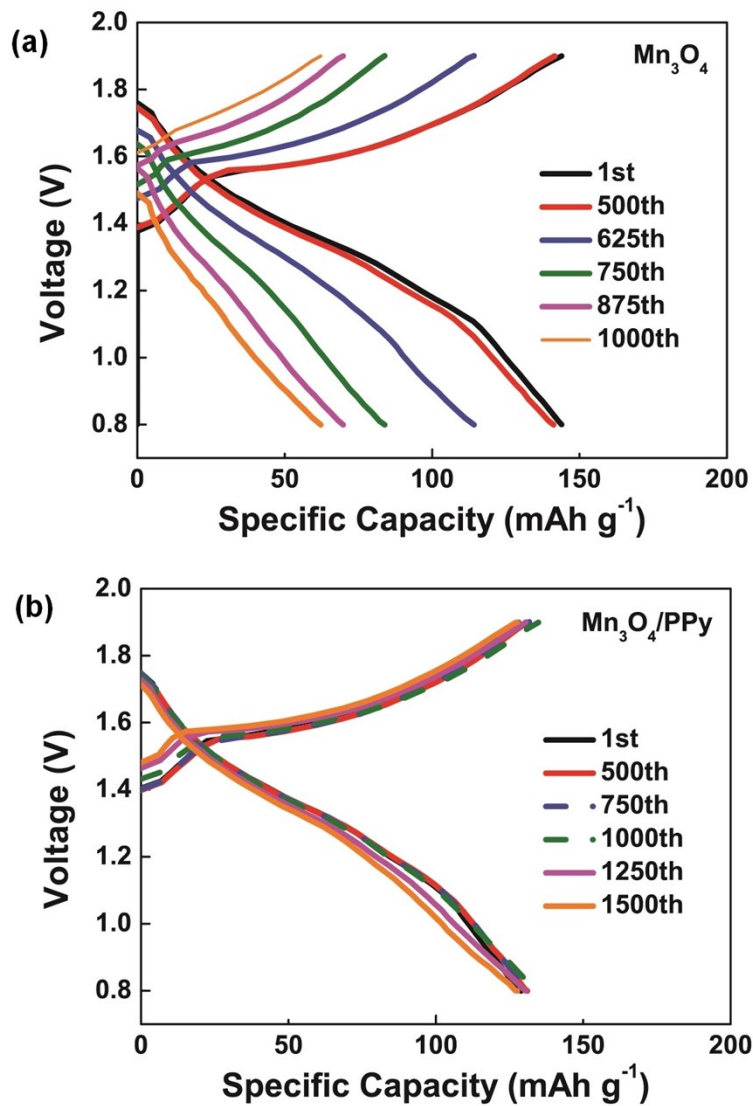
**Fig. S8** (a) N<sub>2</sub> isothermal adsorption curve and (b) the corresponding pore size distribution curve of Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/PPy nanodots.



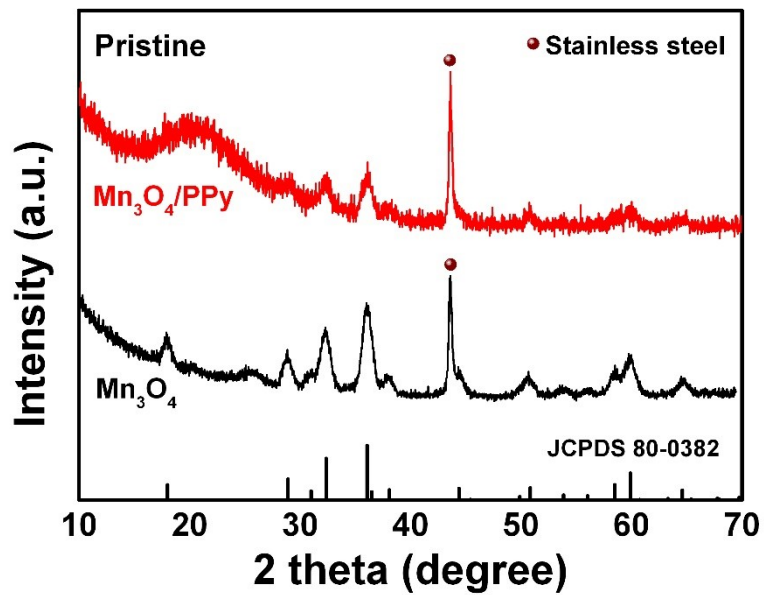
**Fig. S9** Charge/discharge curves (voltage *versus* time) of a single flexible Zn-Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/PPy battery at different bending angles.



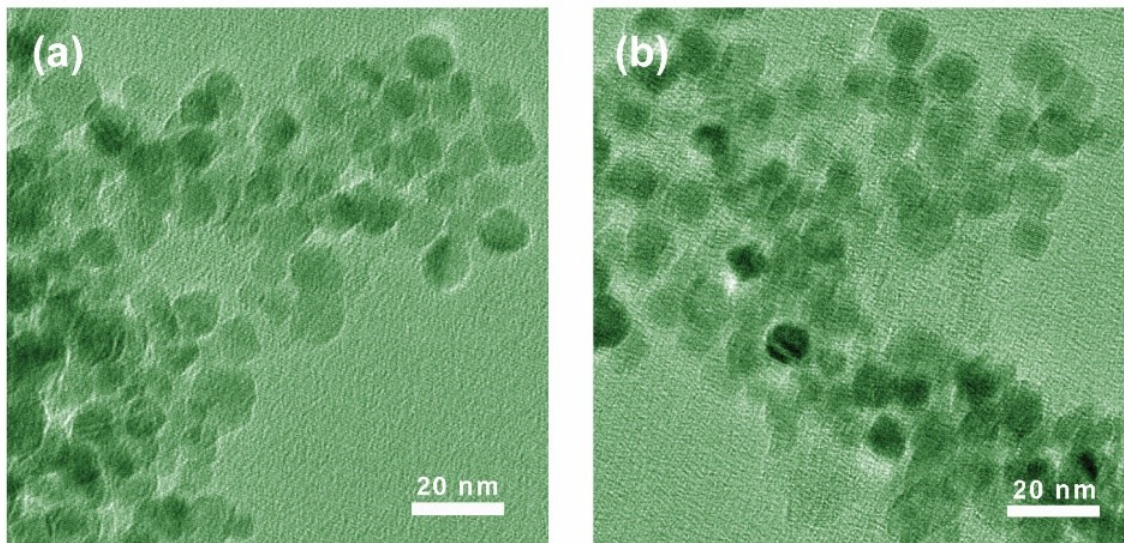
**Fig. S10** Cycling performance of Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/PPy in electrolyte without MnSO<sub>4</sub> additive at 1.0 A g<sup>-1</sup> for 500 cycles.



**Fig. S11** Charge/discharge profiles of (a) Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and (b) Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/PPy at different cycling times at 1.0 A g<sup>-1</sup>.



**Fig. S12** *Ex situ* XRD patterns of Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanodot and Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/PPy composite cathode before cycle.



**Fig. S13** Low magnified TEM images of (a)  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4/\text{PPy-lp}$  and (b)  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4/\text{PPy-mp}$  core-shell nanodots, respectively.

**Table S1.** The comparison for electrochemical performance of various Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-related cathode materials in ZIBs.

Cathode	Specific capacity at 0.1 A g <sup>-1</sup>	Cycling performance	Ref#
Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /PPy	332.5 mA h g <sup>-1</sup>	92.5% after 1500 cycles at 1.0 A g <sup>-1</sup>	This work.
Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @C	323.2 mA h g <sup>-1</sup>	77% after 200 cycles at 0.5 A g <sup>-1</sup>	1
Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> (50~100 nm)	239.2 mA h g <sup>-1</sup>	~70% after 300 cycles at 0.5 A g <sup>-1</sup>	2
Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> nanoflower	296 mA h g <sup>-1</sup>	~67% after 500 cycles at 0.5 A g <sup>-1</sup>	3
Ball-milled Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	221 mA h g <sup>-1</sup>	~80% after 500 cycles at 0.5 A g <sup>-1</sup>	4
Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> nanodots	386.7 mA h g <sup>-1</sup>	~85% after 500 cycles at 0.5 A g <sup>-1</sup>	5
MCM4@ Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	~300 mA h g <sup>-1</sup>	~85% after 1000 cycles at 0.6 A g <sup>-1</sup>	6
Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @NC	280 mA h g <sup>-1</sup>	~75% after 500 cycles at 1.0 A g <sup>-1</sup>	7
Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /GO	215.6 mA h g <sup>-1</sup>	~75% after 500 cycles at 1.0 A g <sup>-1</sup>	8

## Note and references

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