Supplementary Information

Dissecting Ionic Favorable Hydrogen Bond Chemistry in Hybrid Separator for Aqueous Zinc-Ion Batteries

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1. Experimental methods

Materials Preparation. Boron nitride (BN) modified polyacrylonitrile (PAN) separators were prepared by non-solvent thermal phase separation method using a blade coating method. 36.25 mL of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) was mixed with 5 mL of DI water by stirring for 30 min. Then, 1 g of BN powder was added and stirred for an additional 30 min, followed by the addition of 5 g polyacrylonitrile (M_W =1000000), which was stirred for another 30 min. For the preparation of the pure polyacrylonitrile separator, BN powder was not added. The stirred solution was heated at 60 °C for 3 h and then at 80 °C for 3 h. During this period, the solution was stirred every 40 min for 30 min. The obtained solution was poured onto a stainless-steel substrate that had been preheated to 70°C, and the film was scraped with a 750 µm preparator. After resting for 10 min, the film was transferred to DI water to remove the solvent and washed again with water changes every 12 h for a total of 4 times. Additionally, the size of the BN-PAN separator was determined by the size of the coated substrate and the preparator. The maximum width of the labscale separators was 7.5 cm and the maximum length was 20 cm, using a stainless-steel substrate with a length of 28 cm and a preparator with a width of 10 cm. The separators with greater surface areas could be fabricated by employing larger scrapers and substrates. NVO cathode was prepared by a hydrothermal method. 0.64 g NH₄VO₃ was

added to 80 mL of deionized water and stirred at 60 °C in an oil bath. 1.16 g $H_2C_2O_4$ ·2 H_2O was added to the above solution and stirred until dissolved. The solution was transferred to a 100 mL autoclave and reacted at 180 °C for 4 h. The product was washed with DI water and ethanol 5 times, centrifuged at 8000 rpm, and dried in a vacuum oven at 60 °C for 12 h.

Characterizations. The X-ray diffraction (XRD) data was obtained by using a Multifunctional Rotating-anode X-ray Diffractometer (SmartLab) with Cu radiation (λ =1.54 A). Scanning electron microscope (SEM: SU8220) was used to observe the of morphology samples. The Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) was taken by using the Fourier transform infrared spectrometer (Nicolet 8700). Synchrotron radiation small-angle X-ray scattering (SR-SAXS) and wide-angle X-ray scattering (SR-WAXS) tests were carried out at the beamline BL10U1 in Shanghai Synchrotron Radiation Facility. The nitrogen absorption/desorption isotherms were obtained by surface area and porosity analyzer (Micromeritics ASAP 2460). The contact angle of 2 M ZnSO₄ electrolyte on the surface of the separators was obtained by using optical contact angle measuring instrument (Theta Flex). Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA: SDT 650) was utilized to test the thermal stability of the separators. The X-ray photoelectron spectrometer (XPS) analysis was conducted obtained with an Al Ka spectrometer (Thermo Scientific ESCALAB 250Xi). In situ FTIR was carried out at Infrared spectroscopy and microspectroscopy (BL01B) in Hefei Synchrotron Radiation Facility. XAFS measurement for Zn K-edge was launched at the beamline BL14W1 in Shanghai Synchrotron Radiation Facility.

Electrochemical measurements. Electrochemical measurements were taken with CR-2032 coin-type cell. Zn//Zn and Zn//Cu batteries were assembled by using zinc metal foils with thickness of 100 µm and 12 mm in diameter as anode, 100 µL 2 M ZnSO4 as electrolyte and BN-PAN or PAN membranes as separator. Cu foil with the radius of 8 mm as cathode in Zn//Cu batteries, respectively. The cathode materials for full batteries consisted of NVO (~30 mg), Super P and polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) with a mass ratio of 7:2:1. The three components were mixed in a mortar and grinded for 15 minutes. 200 µL N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP) was added into the mixture and further grinded for 15 minutes. The stainless steel meshes of 1000-mesh were used as electrode current collectors, which were cut into circles with the radius of 6 mm, washed with ethanol solution in ultrasonic machine and dried in the 70 °C oven. The prepared cathode slurry was coated onto the stainless steel meshes, pre-dried in the 70 °C oven for 30 minutes and then transferred to the 100 °C vacuum oven for 12 hours. The average mass loading of the active material is about 1.025 mg cm⁻². The cathode material of Zn-I₂ full battery was made up of I₂/active carbon, Super P and PVDF with a mass ratio of 8:1:1. The I₂/active carbon material was first mixed with a ratio of 1:2 and then heated at 100 °C for 12 h before use. The carbon cloth with the radius of 6 mm was used as electrode current collectors. The coating process of the cathode material was the same as that described above for the NVO cathode. After coating, the prepared cathode was dried in the 25°C oven for 24 hours. The average mass loading of the active material for Zn-I₂ full battery is about 2.853 mg cm⁻². CV, EIS, Tafel plots, LSV and amperometric i-t curve were performed on the electrochemical work-station (CHI660D, Shanghai CH Instrument Company, China). The EIS spectrograms were obtained from the above-mentioned

electrochemical workstation starting from open circuit potential over the frequency range from 10⁵ to 0.01 Hz. The rate performance, cycling stability and galvanostatic intermittent titration technique (GITT) of the cell were measured on the Land CT2001A battery test system at the 25 °C thermostat. The voltage ranges for Zn//NVO cell and Zn-I₂ cell were 0.2-1.6 V and 0.6-1.7 V, respectively. The flexible pouch cells were assembled using NVO coated carbon cloth as the cathodes with a size of 7*5 cm, zinc metal foils with a size of 7*5 cm as the anodes, and BN-PAN or PAN membranes with a size of 8*6 cm as separators. The coating area of NVO active materials was 5*5 cm. These components were then vacuum-encapsulated into aluminum plastic film-sealed bags.

In the GITT test, batteries were charged and discharged for 10 min at the current density of 100 mA g⁻¹, followed with an open circuit step for 60 min to relax back to equilibrium. The Zn-ion diffusion coefficients ($D_{Zn^{2+}}$) was calculated by using the following equation.

$$D_{Zn^{2+}}^{GITT} = \frac{4}{\pi \cdot \tau} \left(\frac{n_m V_m}{S}\right)^2 \left(\frac{\Delta E_s}{\Delta E_t}\right)^2 \tag{1}$$

Where, τ is the current pulse duration (10 min); n_m is the quantity of moles; V_m is the molar volume; *S* is the interface area between electrode and electrolyte (served as the geometric area of the electrode); ΔE_s and ΔE_t are the steady-state voltage change and the overall voltage change after adding a current pulse in a cycle of GITT test.

The ionic conductivities of the separators were tested by using Stainless Steel (SS) //SS cells and calculated as following equation.

$$\sigma = \frac{l}{R \cdot S} \tag{2}$$

Where, l represents the thickness of the separator; R represents the resistance measured in EIS test; S represents the contact area between stainless steel electrode and the separator.

The activation energy (Ea) of the separators was evaluated by Zn symmetric batteries and calculated by using the Arrhenius equation.

$$\frac{1}{R_{ct}} = Ae^{-\frac{E_a}{RT}}$$
(3)

where R_{ct} represents the charge transfer resistance, A represents frequency factor, R represents gas constant, T represents absolute temperature.

The Zn²⁺ transference number ($t_{Zn^{2+}}$) of the separators are measured by using Zn symmetric batteries based on the following equation.

$$t_{Zn^{2+}} = \frac{I_{S}(\Delta V - I_{0}R_{0})}{I_{0}(\Delta V - I_{S}R_{S})}$$
(4)

Where, ΔV is the constant polarization voltage (10 mV); I_0 and I_s are the initial current and the stable current respectively; R_0 and R_s are the initial resistance and the stable resistance respectively.

In situ FTIR measurement. *In situ* FTIR measurements were conducted in ATR mode using Zn//Ti cell, where Ti mesh and zinc foil served as the cathode and anode, respectively, with BN-PAN or PAN membrane as the separator. In the process of collecting spectra, the infrared beam firstly passed through the silicon crystal to reach the sample and then the reflected infrared beam was ejected from the cell. Finally, the infrared beam would be detected by the detector and further analyzed. The initial infrared spectrum was

collected as the background, and subsequent spectra were processed to obtain corresponding operational signals.

In situ optical microscope measurement. The tailor-made electrochemical cell for *in situ* optical microscope measurement was purchased from Beijing Scistar Technology Co., Ltd. The cell was assembled with two Zn anodes and different separators cycled at the current of 5.0 mA on the LAND battery test system. The test temperature is constant at 25 °C. The cross-section of the anode was observed on the optical microscope (Olympus U-MSSP).

Simulation of ion diffusion. The ion diffusion on the zinc anode was predicted by Nernst-Planck formulation. The modeling domain, geometrical dimensions and major boundary conditions were shown in Fig. 3e and 3f. The length of the electrode is 6 μ m, and the protrusion structures of zinc anode are designed as semicircles with a radius of 0.3 μ m. The thickness of the separator and electrolyte is 2.5 μ m. The governing equations are given as follows.

$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{J}_{\boldsymbol{i}} + \boldsymbol{u} \cdot \nabla \boldsymbol{c}_{\boldsymbol{i}} = \boldsymbol{R}_{\boldsymbol{i}} \tag{5}$$

$$\nabla \cdot i_l = F \sum_i z_i R_i \tag{6}$$

$$\boldsymbol{J}_{i} = -\boldsymbol{D}_{i} \nabla \boldsymbol{c}_{i} - \boldsymbol{z}_{i} \boldsymbol{u}_{m,i} \boldsymbol{F} \boldsymbol{c}_{i} \nabla \boldsymbol{V} + \boldsymbol{u} \boldsymbol{c}_{i}$$
⁽⁷⁾

Where, J_i is the mass flux for each species; D_i is the diffusion coefficient (3.36×10⁻⁵ cm² s for Zn²⁺ and 1.38×10⁻⁵ cm² s for SO₄²⁻); c_i is the concentration; z_i is the charge number (2 for Zn²⁺ and -2 for SO₄²⁻); ∇V is the electrolyte potential; *F* is Faraday constant.

u is set to be 0 as convection is not considered in the process. It is assumed that the entire field is electrically neutral. The boundary conditions are defined that the experimentally determined polarization voltage of the symmetric cell is specified as the cathodic potential, while the anodic potential is held at a constant value of 0 and the Zn^{2+} concentration on the anodic surface is determined to be 2 M. The experimental current is 0.5 mA cm⁻². The model was solved in the solver COMSOL Multiphysics with fully coupled Newton method.

Computational methods. ORCA version 5.0.2 was used for all DFT calculation where B3LYP functional with DEF2-SVP basis set was used to consider the exchange and correlation effects between the electrons.^{1, 2} The def2/J auxiliary basis set and RIJCOSX algorithm were used to accelerate the DFT caculation.^{3, 4} The conductor-like polarizable continuum model (CPCM) was employed to consider the solvation effect for aqueous systems.⁵ All structures were fully relaxed in the optimization until the force was less than 3×10^{-4} Eh bohr⁻¹ with a self-consistent field convergence criterion of 5×10^{-6} Eh. To estimate the transition state (TS) of the migration of the Zn²⁺ and obtain the diffusion energies, A combination of the Nudged Elastic Band and Saddle Point Optimization (NEB-TS) with the Image Dependent Pair Potential (IDPP) method was operated.^{6, 7} Meanwhile, the vibrational analysis was performed to verify the correctness of the TS. The DFT caculation results were visualized by the VESTA software.⁸

2. Supporting Figures



Fig. S1. XRD patterns of BN-PAN separator, PAN separator, commercial PAN powder and commercial BN powder.



Fig. S2. SEM images of a) BN-PAN separator and b) PAN separator.



Fig. S3. Cross-sectional SEM image and corresponding EDS elemental mappings of BN-PAN separator.



Fig. S4. Cross-sectional SEM image and corresponding EDS elemental mappings of PAN separator.



Fig. S5. Contact angle test of BN-PAN separator and PAN separator respectively.



Fig. S6. The thermogravimetric analysis of BN-PAN and PAN separator.



Fig. S7. 2D SR-SAXS pattern of PAN separator.



Fig. S8. Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) of SS//SS cells with BN-PAN separator and PAN separator.



Fig. S9. BJH adsorption-desorption pore distribution of BN-PAN separator and PAN separator.



Fig. S10. FTIR spectra of fully discharged and charged state of Zn//Ti cells with a) BN-PAN separator and b) PAN separator from the *in situ* FTIR results.



Fig. S11. EIS of Zn//Zn cells with a) BN-PAN separator and b) PAN separator at different temperatures.



Fig. S12. XPS spectra of Zn 2p spectrum of BN-PAN separator and PAN separator after adsorption in 2 M ZnSO₄ and pure ZnSO₄ salt.



Fig. S13. XPS spectra of N 1s spectrum of BN-PAN separator and PAN separator after adsorption in 2 M ZnSO₄.



Fig. S14. XPS spectra of B 1s spectrum of the BN-PAN separator after immersion in 2 M ZnSO₄ electrolyte for 2 days.



Fig. S15. Zn K-edge XANES spectra of BN-PAN and PAN separators after 10 cycles.



Fig. S16. Zn²⁺ transference number calculated by current-time plot at a constant potential of 10 mV and EIS spectra before and after polarization in Zn symmetric cell based on a) BN-PAN separator and b) PAN separator.



Fig. S17. The ion selectivity of BN-PAN and PAN separators tested by H-cells with 2 M ZnSO₄ in one side and DI water in the other side.



Fig. S18. Zn²⁺ transference number and Zn/S transmission ratio of BN-PAN and PAN separators.



Fig. S19. The SEM images of Zn anode surface after 10 cycles with a) BN-PAN separator and b) PAN separator at a small magnification.



Fig. S20. XRD patterns of cycled Zn anodes.



Fig. S21. EIS of Zn//Zn cells with BN-PAN separator and PAN separator after 10 cycles.



Fig.S22. The SEM images of a) BN-PAN separator and b) PAN separator after cycling for 5 cycles.



Fig. S23. The linear sweep voltammetry (LSV) curves of Zn//Cu cells with BN-PAN separator and PAN separator at 0.1 V s⁻¹.



Fig. S24. The Tafel plots of Zn//Zn cells with BN-PAN separator and PAN separator at 10 mV s⁻¹.



Fig. S25. Voltage profiles of Zn//Cu cells with a) BN-PAN separator, b) PAN separator and c) glass fiber separator.



Fig. S26. Coulombic efficiencies of Zn//Cu cells with BN-PAN separator, PAN separator and glass fiber separator.



Fig. S27. The cycling performance of Zn//Zn cells at 1.0 mA cm⁻² with 1.0 mA h cm⁻² and 5.0 mA cm⁻² with 5.0 mA h cm⁻² of glass fiber separator.



Fig. S28. a) XRD pattern and b) SEM image of NH₄V₄O₁₀.



Fig. S29. The charge-discharge voltage profiles of Zn//NVO cells at the current density of 0.1 A g⁻¹.



Fig. S30. EIS spectra of Zn/BN-PAN/NVO cell and Zn/PAN/NVO cell before and after CV test.



Fig. S31. The cycling stability of Zn/BN-PAN/NVO cell and Zn/PAN/NVO cell at the current density of 5.0 A g⁻¹ with a N/P ratio of 135.02, including 5 cycles of pre-cycling at the low current density of 0.1 A g⁻¹.



Fig. S32. The cycling stability of Zn/BN-PAN/NVO cell and Zn/PAN/NVO cell at the current density of 5.0 A g⁻¹ with a N/P ratio of 27.57, including 5 cycles of pre-cycling at the low current density of 0.1 A g⁻¹.



Fig. S33. The rate performance of Zn-I₂ batteries with BN-PAN and PAN separator at the current density from 0.1 A g^{-1} to 5.0 A g^{-1} .



Fig. S34. The cycling stability of Zn-I₂ batteries with BN-PAN and PAN separator at the current density of 5.0 A g⁻¹ with a N/P ratio of 28.17, including 5 cycles of pre-cycling at the low current density of 0.1 A g⁻¹.

3. Supporting Tables

| | Vibrational | | Vibrational | | Vibrational |
|--------|-----------------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|---------------------|
| Number | frequencies | Number | frequencies | Number | frequencies |
| | (cm ⁻¹) | | (cm ⁻¹) | | (cm ⁻¹) |
| 0 | 0.00 | 45 | 638.70 | 90 | 1165.95 |
| 1 | 0.00 | 46 | 651.16 | 91 | 1168.48 |
| 2 | 0.00 | 47 | 652.95 | 92 | 1204.28 |
| 3 | 0.00 | 48 | 657.78 | 93 | 1205.73 |
| 4 | 0.00 | 49 | 661.31 | 94 | 1244.21 |
| 5 | 0.00 | 50 | 678.22 | 95 | 1251.13 |
| 6 | -58.66 Imaginary mode | 51 | 690.22 | 96 | 1260.27 |
| 7 | 32.74 | 52 | 696.74 | 97 | 1264.79 |
| 8 | 55.11 | 53 | 699.93 | 98 | 1272.79 |
| 9 | 79.90 | 54 | 706.20 | 99 | 1275.97 |
| 10 | 87.79 | 55 | 717.42 | 100 | 1278.60 |
| 11 | 93.10 | 56 | 723.30 | 101 | 1287.62 |
| 12 | 100.02 | 57 | 728.00 | 102 | 1297.83 |
| 13 | 141.51 | 58 | 728.99 | 103 | 1316.85 |
| 14 | 158.65 | 59 | 741.32 | 104 | 1326.27 |

 Table S1. Imaginary frequency verification of transition states for BN given in calculations.

| 15 | 181.11 | 60 | 743.33 | 105 | 1348.46 |
|----|--------|----------|----------|-----|---------|
| 16 | 191.20 | 61 | 765.63 | 106 | 1357.08 |
| 17 | 208.88 | 62 | 779.82 | 107 | 1369.86 |
| 18 | 221.43 | 63 | 785.94 | 108 | 1374.59 |
| 19 | 223.37 | 64 | 795.98 | 109 | 1390.43 |
| 20 | 244.75 | 65 | 810.86 | 110 | 1406.27 |
| 21 | 256.44 | 66 | 893.03 | 111 | 1410.33 |
| 22 | 281.18 | 67 | 895.77 | 112 | 1425.75 |
| 23 | 291.56 | 68 | 908.79 | 113 | 1435.40 |
| 24 | 301.21 | 69 | 917.51 | 114 | 1438.85 |
| 25 | 322.41 | 70 | 921.23 | 115 | 1464.45 |
| 26 | 335.92 | 71 | 922.24 | 116 | 1468.54 |
| 27 | 337.83 | 72 | 936.68 | 117 | 1478.41 |
| 28 | 361.09 | 73 | 937.91 | 118 | 1515.02 |
| 29 | 366.72 | 74 | 955.51 | 119 | 1519.16 |
| 30 | 368.03 | 75 | 959.25 | 120 | 1529.69 |
| 31 | 376.82 | 76 | 973.30 | 121 | 2599.24 |
| 32 | 379.36 | 77 | 986.98 | 122 | 2611.03 |
| 33 | 383.90 | 78 | 1014.26 | 123 | 2615.78 |
| 34 | 406.86 | 79 | 1028.30 | 124 | 2621.37 |
| | | <u> </u> | <u>.</u> | | |

| 35 | 438.29 | 80 | 1043.74 | 125 | 2625.80 |
|----|--------|----|---------|-----|---------|
| 36 | 443.85 | 81 | 1061.53 | 126 | 2634.46 |
| 37 | 497.01 | 82 | 1065.83 | 127 | 2639.95 |
| 38 | 506.75 | 83 | 1068.36 | 128 | 3576.80 |
| 39 | 540.62 | 84 | 1082.70 | 129 | 3581.68 |
| 40 | 550.96 | 85 | 1093.35 | 130 | 3584.37 |
| 41 | 557.00 | 86 | 1116.93 | 131 | 3596.68 |
| 42 | 584.07 | 87 | 1136.19 | 132 | 3602.30 |
| 43 | 588.05 | 88 | 1148.96 | 133 | 3602.98 |
| 44 | 617.54 | 89 | 1161.19 | 134 | 3606.59 |

Table S2. Imaginary frequency verification of transition states for PAN given incalculations.

| Number | Vibrational frequencies (cm ⁻¹) | Number | Vibrational frequencies (cm ⁻¹) | Number | Vibrational frequencies (cm ⁻¹) |
|--------|---|--------|---|--------|---|
| | | | | | |
| 0 | 0.00 | 52 | 574.66 | 104 | 1340.81 |
| 1 | 0.00 | 53 | 576.78 | 105 | 1350.64 |
| 2 | 0.00 | 54 | 580.24 | 106 | 1361.35 |
| 3 | 0.00 | 55 | 588.51 | 107 | 1366.03 |
| 4 | 0.00 | 56 | 595.60 | 108 | 1368.77 |

| 5 | 0.00 | 57 | 623.27 | 109 | 1374.02 |
|----|-----------------------------|----|---------|-----|---------|
| 6 | -80.46 Imaginary mode | 58 | 659.56 | 110 | 1376.25 |
| 7 | 11.35 | 59 | 686.12 | 111 | 1383.82 |
| 8 | 18.47 | 60 | 713.57 | 112 | 1386.95 |
| 9 | 20.32 | 61 | 740.00 | 113 | 1390.81 |
| 10 | 30.19 | 62 | 761.83 | 114 | 1393.08 |
| 11 | 32.78 | 63 | 784.78 | 115 | 1393.75 |
| 12 | 37.08 | 64 | 808.71 | 116 | 1400.81 |
| 13 | 46.21 | 65 | 813.29 | 117 | 1417.62 |
| 14 | 53.89 | 66 | 839.70 | 118 | 1439.18 |
| 15 | 60.84 | 67 | 858.08 | 119 | 1442.64 |
| 16 | 72.18 | 68 | 870.72 | 120 | 1447.73 |
| 17 | 80.18 | 69 | 886.88 | 121 | 1449.21 |
| 18 | 93.04 | 70 | 893.92 | 122 | 1449.89 |
| 19 | 95.92 | 71 | 913.90 | 123 | 1456.81 |
| 20 | 103.04 | 72 | 920.96 | 124 | 1457.75 |
| 21 | 106.37 | 73 | 944.71 | 125 | 1469.26 |
| 22 | 114.38 | 74 | 966.38 | 126 | 2356.80 |
| 23 | 133.26 | 75 | 992.88 | 127 | 2358.33 |
| 24 | 148.08 | 76 | 1002.78 | 128 | 2362.03 |

| 25 | 157.13 | 77 | 1020.40 | 129 | 2362.60 |
|----|--------|----|---------|-----|---------|
| 26 | 162.67 | 78 | 1027.28 | 130 | 2362.92 |
| 27 | 187.22 | 79 | 1029.93 | 131 | 2368.32 |
| 28 | 197.38 | 80 | 1049.21 | 132 | 2403.84 |
| 29 | 203.38 | 81 | 1059.41 | 133 | 3039.05 |
| 30 | 217.83 | 82 | 1080.37 | 134 | 3039.49 |
| 31 | 233.82 | 83 | 1087.25 | 135 | 3041.89 |
| 32 | 244.13 | 84 | 1093.90 | 136 | 3045.75 |
| 33 | 245.60 | 85 | 1105.00 | 137 | 3047.70 |
| 34 | 263.30 | 86 | 1113.77 | 138 | 3048.32 |
| 35 | 271.96 | 87 | 1120.30 | 139 | 3048.37 |
| 36 | 284.31 | 88 | 1133.39 | 140 | 3053.88 |
| 37 | 295.97 | 89 | 1139.07 | 141 | 3063.92 |
| 38 | 297.23 | 90 | 1196.83 | 142 | 3064.79 |
| 39 | 311.78 | 91 | 1200.46 | 143 | 3068.71 |
| 40 | 317.85 | 92 | 1223.63 | 144 | 3078.55 |
| 41 | 328.29 | 93 | 1226.25 | 145 | 3082.38 |
| 42 | 364.47 | 94 | 1228.61 | 146 | 3091.71 |
| 43 | 370.30 | 95 | 1241.91 | 147 | 3105.66 |
| 44 | 393.66 | 96 | 1247.47 | 148 | 3117.31 |
| | | | | | |

| 45 | 420.43 | 97 | 1266.76 | 149 | 3120.60 |
|----|--------|-----|---------|-----|---------|
| 46 | 435.02 | 98 | 1277.92 | 150 | 3131.19 |
| 47 | 460.12 | 99 | 1288.08 | 151 | 3131.79 |
| 48 | 546.69 | 100 | 1299.71 | 152 | 3132.84 |
| 49 | 552.68 | 101 | 1305.39 | 153 | 3137.74 |
| 50 | 561.53 | 102 | 1314.83 | 154 | 3146.05 |
| 51 | 569.54 | 103 | 1333.65 | 155 | 3153.34 |

Table S3. DFT calculation results for the structure of BN and PAN after the absorptionof zinc ions.

| | Average bond length (Å) |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Zn-N bond in PAN | 2.093 |
| Zn-N bond in BN | 2.063 |

Table S4. The comparison based on cycling life of modified separators among BN-PAN separator and previous reports.

| Separator materials | Current density (mA cm ⁻²) | Areal capacity (mA h cm ⁻²) | Cycling life (h) | References |
|------------------------|--|--|---------------------|--------------------|
| CNF+LMS | 5 | 2.5 | 500 | Ref. ⁹ |
| | 1 | 0.5 | 1000 | |
| BPDA PE BisS | 1 | 1 | 1000 | Ref. ¹⁰ |
| F | 5 | 5 | 500 | |

| Zn-Nafion | 5 | 0.5 | 553 | Ref. ¹¹ |
|-----------------|-------|-------|------|--------------------|
| GF@SM | 5 | 3 | 250 | Ref. ¹² |
| BC membrane | 5 | 5 | 300 | Ref. ¹³ |
| PAN | 0.283 | 0.283 | 800 | Ref. ¹⁴ |
| SPSF@PMIA | 1 | 1 | 1000 | Ref. ¹⁵ |
| | 5 | 2.5 | 550 | |
| Zn@C₃N₄@GF | 0.1 | 0.1 | 400 | Ref. ¹⁶ |
| PAN-S | 0.5 | 1 | 350 | Ref. ¹⁷ |
| Zn-BTC | 2 | 2 | 700 | Ref. ¹⁸ |
| | 5 | 2.5 | 350 | |
| GF/PBPT | 2 | 2 | 600 | Ref. ¹⁹ |
| CS-filter paper | 5 | 1 | 450 | Ref. ²⁰ |
| | 0.5 | 0.5 | 2100 | |
| BN-PAN | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1100 | This work |
| | 5.0 | 5.0 | 720 | |

| Zn thickness (μm) | Negative capacity (mAh) | Positive capacity (mAh) | N/P ratio |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| 30 | 19.85 | 0.72 | 27.57 |
| 100 | 66.16 | 0.49 | 135.02 |

 Table S5.
 The N/P ratio of Zn//NVO full cells.

Table S6. The comparison of the electrochemical performance in full batteries amongBN-PAN separator and previous reports.

| Separator | Cathode | Current density | Capacity (mA h g ⁻¹) | Electrolyte | References |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Titanium Nitride- Cellulose Nanofiber ²¹ | (NH4)2V10O25 | 5 A g ⁻¹ | 200.0 | 2 M ZnSO4 | ACS Appl. Energy Mater., 2024, 7, 17, 7496. |
| Fly ash- cellulose separator ²² | (NH4)2V10O25 | 5 A g ⁻¹ | 177.8 | 2 M ZnSO4 | <i>Small.</i> , 2024, 20, 2311203. |
| polydopamine- functionalized PVDF nanofibrous membrane ²³ | NH4V4O10 | 5 A g ⁻¹ | 215.1 | 3 M ZnSO₄ | <i>InfoMat.</i> , 2023, 5, e12374. |
| Polyacrylonitril e nanofiber separator ¹⁴ | NH4V4O10 | 5 A g ⁻¹ | 195.5 | 2 M ZnSO4 | Adv. Funct. Mater., 2022, 32, 2109671. |
| Oxygen- functionalized biomass bamboo membrane separator ²⁴ | NaV₃Oଃ ∙ 1.5H ₂O | 5 A g ⁻¹ | 192.8 | 1 M Zn(OTf)2 | <i>Adv. Mater.</i> , 2024, 36, 2406429. |

| Mesoporous FE Al ₂ O ₃ /P(VDF- TrFE) membrane ²⁵ | NaV₃Oଃ ∙ 1.5H ₂O | 0.2 A g ⁻¹ | 298.0 | 1 M ZnSO₄+0.1M Na₂SO₄ | <i>Nano Lett.</i> , 2024, 24, 16, 4785. |
|---|---|---------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|--|
| CA@DF separator ²⁶ | V2O5 | 5 A g⁻¹ | 100.68 | 2 M ZnSO₄ | Chem. Eng. J., 2024, 479, 147846. |
| BPDA PE BisS F separator ¹⁰ | V_2O_5 | 5 A g ⁻¹ | 53.0 | 2 M ZnSO₄ | Adv. Funct. Mater., 2024, 34, 2400959. |
| CNF+LMS separator ⁹ | VO2 | 5 A g ⁻¹ | 176.0 | 2 M ZnSO4 | Chem. Eng. J., 2024, 480, 147980. |
| Zn@C₃N₄@GF separator ¹⁶ | Zn₃V₃O₀@CN | 3 A g ⁻¹ | 222.5 | 3 M Zn(CF3SO3)2 | Chem. Eng. J., 2024, 486, 150377. |
| Zn-BTC membrane ¹⁸ | Ketjenblack with 0.5 M ZnSO4, 1 M Lil and 0.1 M I ₂ | 1.28 A g ⁻¹ | 102.6 | 0.5 M ZnSO4 + 0.5 M Li2SO4 | <i>Adv. Mater.,</i> 2020, 32, 2004240. |
| Zeolite Membrane Separator ²⁷ | Ketjenblack with 0.5 M ZnSO4, 1 M Lil and 0.1 M I ₂ | 4 A g ⁻¹ | 47.8 | 0.5 M ZnSO4 + 0.5 M Li2SO4 | <i>Nano Lett.,</i> 2022, 22, 6, 2538. |
| Modified cotton fiber separator ²⁸ | I2/MCN | 0.5 A g ⁻¹ | 114 | 1 M ZnSO4 | Colloids Surf., A., 2024, 684, 133239. |
| ODGelMA ²⁹ | l ₂ | 5 C | 109.2 | 1 M ZnSO₄ | <i>Adv. Mater.,</i> 2024, 36, 2403214. |
| PC- PVA/Zn(CF ₃ S O ₃) ₂ gel electrolyte ³⁰ | I₂/CNTs | 1 A g ⁻¹ | 120.1 | 1 M Zn(CF₃SO₃)₂ | Energy Storage Mater., 2025, 74, 103981. |
| BN-PAN separator | NH4V4O10 | 5 A g ⁻¹ | 222.3 | 2 M ZnSO4 | This work |
| | l₂/active carbon | 5 A g ⁻¹ | 121.2 | 2 M ZnSO4 | |

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