

Supplementary Information for

Unconventional Catalytic Kinetics of Dual Field Regulated Pyrochlore-type

High-entropy Ceramics towards Li₂S₄ Intermediate

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Table S1. Comparison of electrochemical performances of HEZO-S electrode with previously reported metal oxide or carbon-based cathodic material.

Products	Electrode formulation ^a	Capacity for first cycle (A/B)	Cycling stability (A/B/n) ^b	Ref.
(Ni _{0.2} Co _{0.2} Cu _{0.2} Mg _{0.2} Zn _{0.2})O	70:30	1244/0.2	784/0.2/500	[S1]
CoNiCuMnZnFe-PBA	70:20:10	1335/0.1	571/0.1/200	[S2]
La _{0.8} Sr _{0.2} (Cr _{0.2} Mn _{0.2} Fe _{0.2} Co _{0.2} Ni _{0.2})O ₃	70:20:10	1218/0.2	714/1/200	[S3]
CC/ (Fe, Co, Ni, Mn, Cr) O	80:10:10	1294/0.1	458/2/1000	[S4]
HE-O _x	80:20	1224/0.2	919/0.2/100	[S5]
Polymeric zwitterion	80:10:10	1279/0.2	808/1/1000	[S6]
La _{0.8} Sr _{0.2} MnO ₃	80:13:7	920/0.1	510/0.1/150	[S7]
Eugenol phosphazene	70:20:10	958/0.2	392/0.5/200	[S8]
Nb ₄ N ₅ -Nb ₂ O ₅	80:10:10	1354/0.5	856/2/1000	[S9]
Sr _{0.9} Ti _{1-x} Mn _x O _{3-δ}	70:20:10	1313/0.2	634/1/500	[S10]
In ₂ O _{3-x} @C	/	1190/0.2	872/3/500	[S11]
S/Co-V ₂ O ₅	70:20:10	1168/0.3	630/5/300	[S12]
A/R-TiO ₂	80:10:10	1210/0.1	946/1/100	[S13]
ZrO _{2-x} /CNTs-OH	/	1240/0.1	~670/3/1000	[S14]
W ₁₈ O ₄₉	70:20:10	1234/0.2	600/2/1000	[S15]
Co@CoO _{1-x}	70:20:10	1167/0.1	527/2/400	[S16]
(CrMnFeNiMg) ₃ O ₄	80:10:10	857/0.1	552/0.5/300	[S17]
CoFeMnO	60:30:10	1082/0.2	952/1/600	[S18]
δ-MnO ₂ nanosheets	80:10:10	1377/0.1	698/1/500	[S19]
HEZO-S	70:20:10	1507/0.1	1238/0.1/150 667/0.5/4000	This work

^aWeight ratio of the active material, carbon and binder. PVDF was used as a binder. Other values used were specified.

^bA/B/n means the capacity of A (mAh g⁻¹) remained after *n* cycles at the certain current density of B (C).

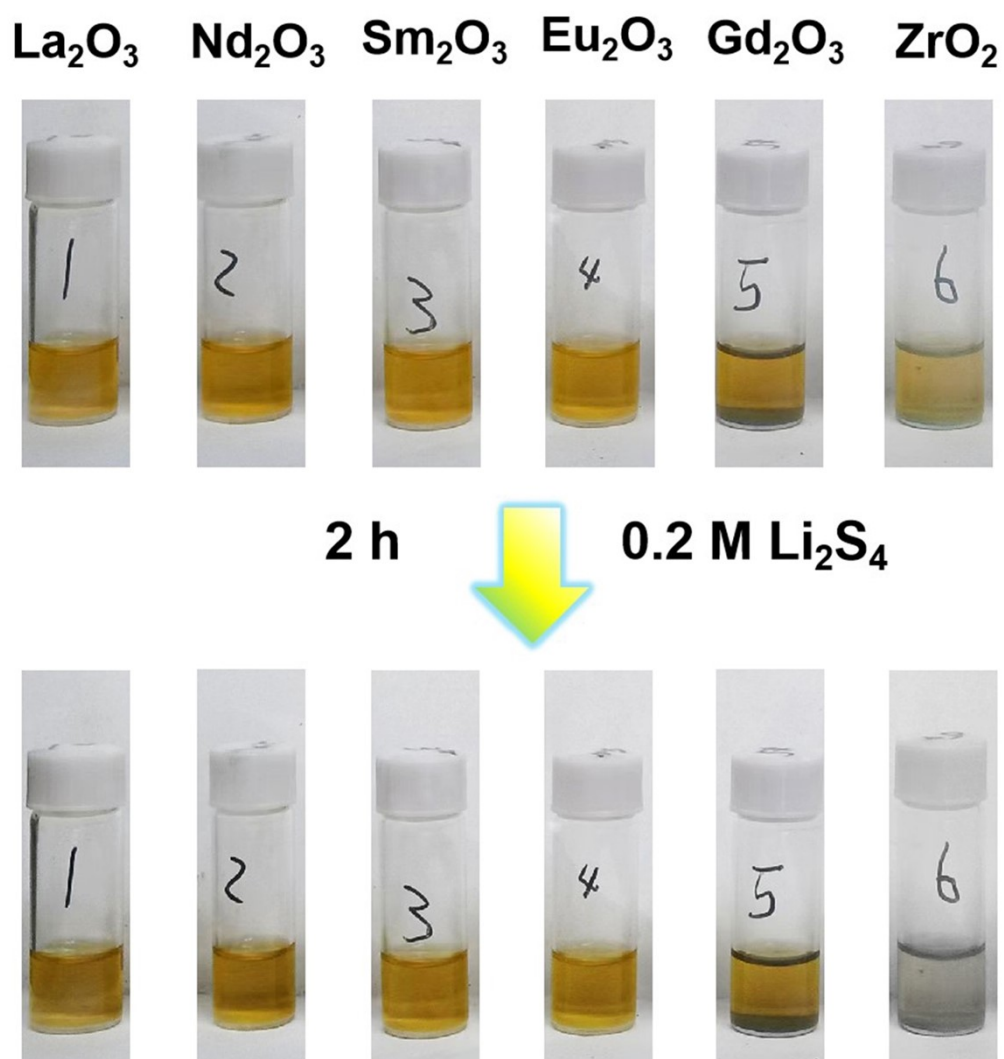


Figure S1. Adsorption experiment of La₂O₃, Nd₂O₃, Sm₂O₃, Eu₂O₃, Gd₂O₃, and ZrO₂ coated PP separator.

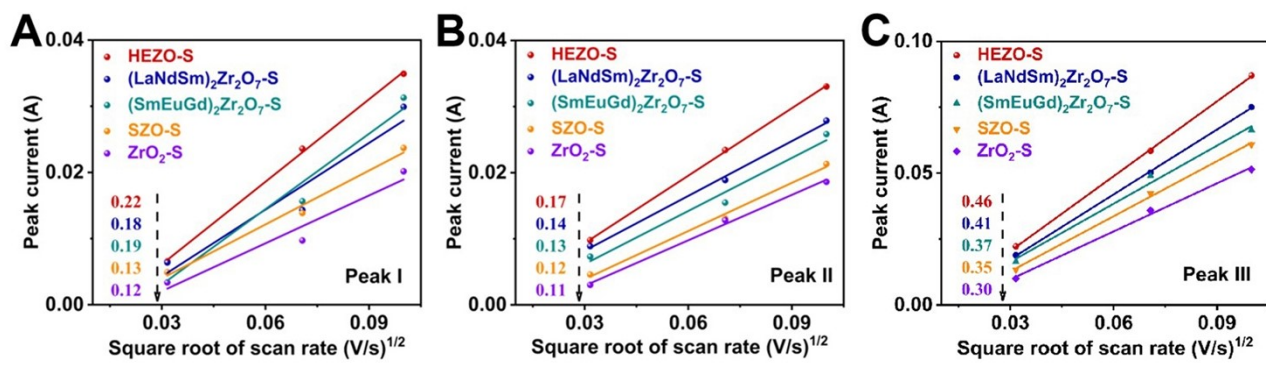


Figure S2. **A**, Current linear fitting curves and D_{Li+} values of Peak I. **B**, Current linear fitting curves and D_{Li+} values of Peak II. **C**, Current linear fitting curves and D_{Li+} values of Peak III.

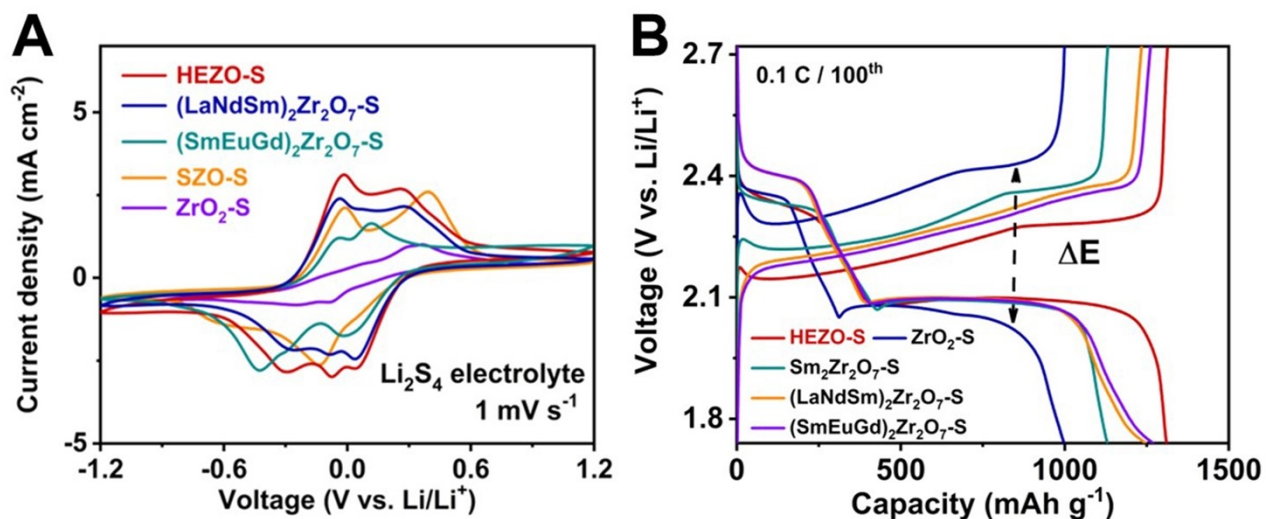


Figure S3. **A**, CV curves of Li_2S_4 catholyte symmetric cells for HEZO / Li_2S_4 / HEZO, $(\text{LaNdSm})_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ / Li_2S_4 / $(\text{LaNdSm})_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$, $(\text{SmEuGd})_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ / Li_2S_4 / $(\text{SmEuGd})_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$, $\text{Sm}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ / Li_2S_4 / $\text{Sm}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$, and ZrO_2 / Li_2S_4 / ZrO_2 electrodes. **B**, Galvanostatic discharge-charge curves of different cycle numbers at 0.1 C with HEZO-S, $(\text{LaNdSm})_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7\text{-S}$, $(\text{SmEuGd})_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7\text{-S}$, $\text{Sm}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7\text{-S}$, and $\text{ZrO}_2\text{-S}$.

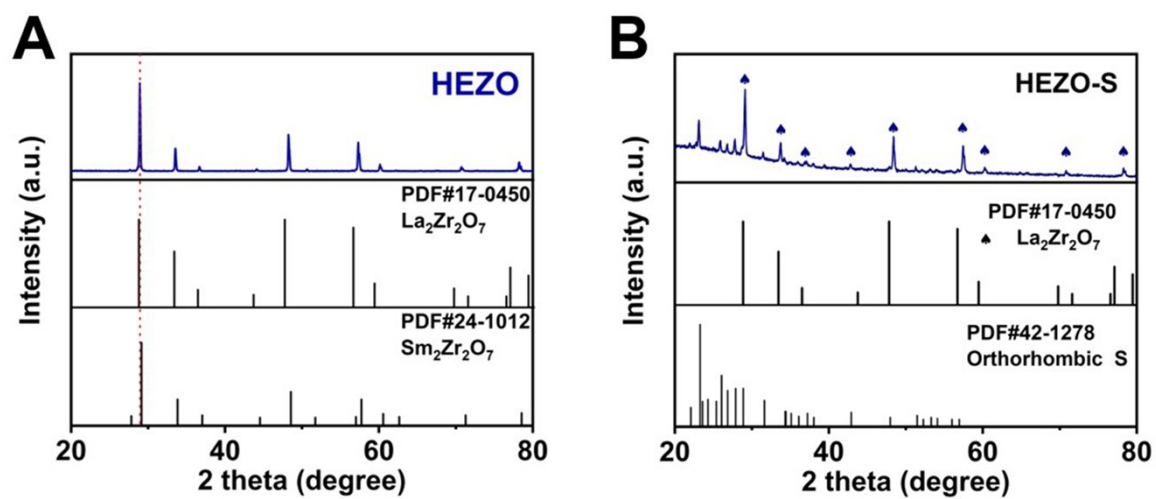


Figure S4. XRD spectra of HEZO-S, and Standard pdf card of $\text{La}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$, $\text{Sm}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$, and S.

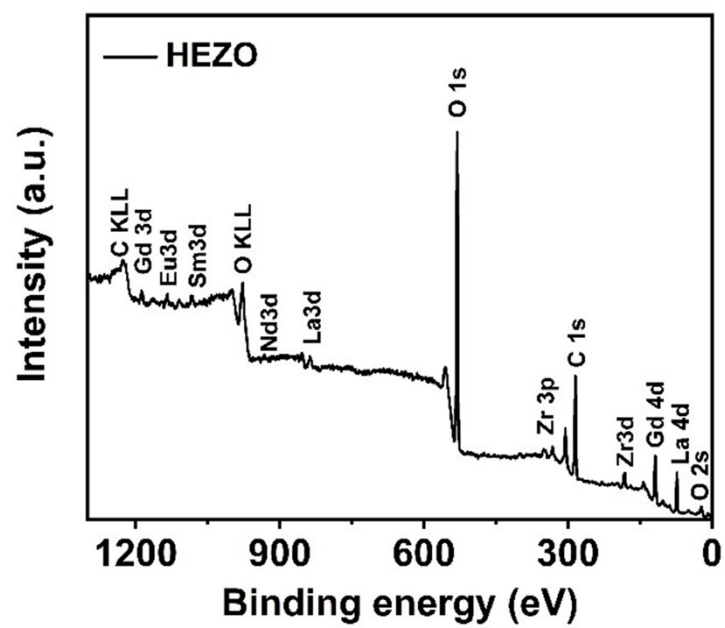


Figure S5. High-resolution full spectra of HEZO.

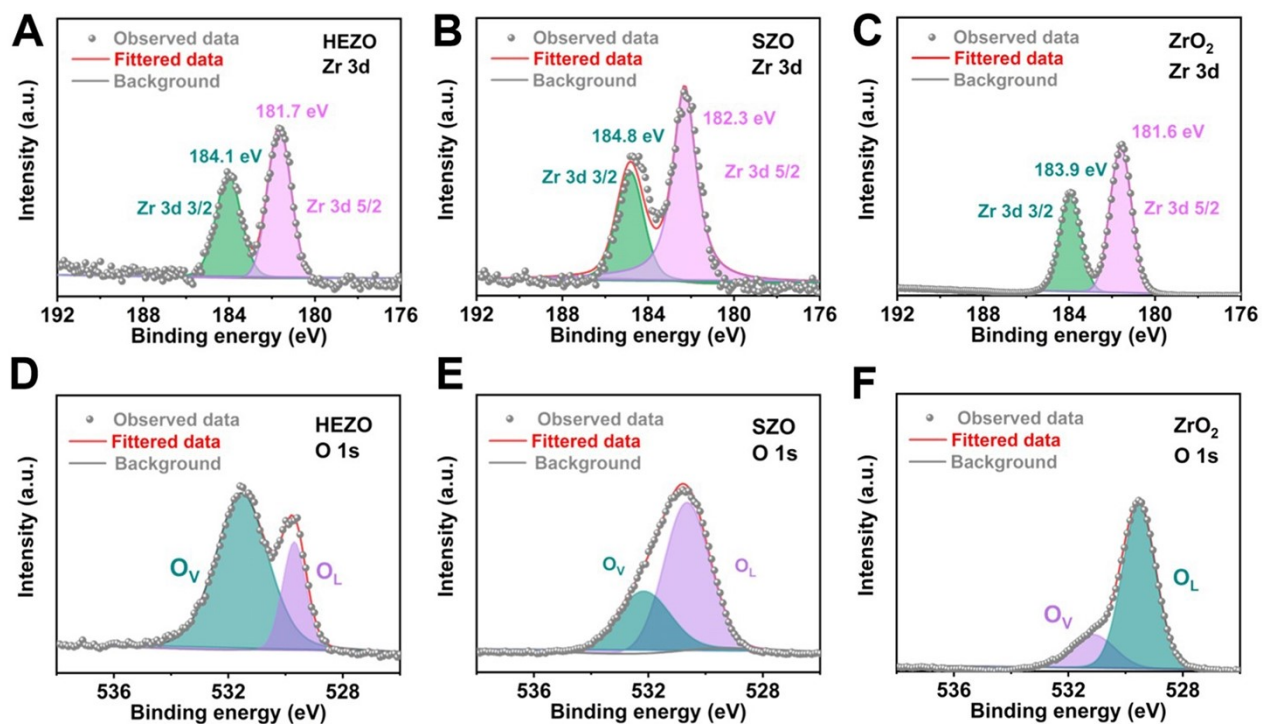


Figure S6. High-resolution full spectra. **A–C**, Zr 3d spectra of HEZO, Sm₂Zr₂O₇, and ZrO₂.

D–F, O 1s spectra of HEZO, Sm₂Zr₂O₇, and ZrO₂.

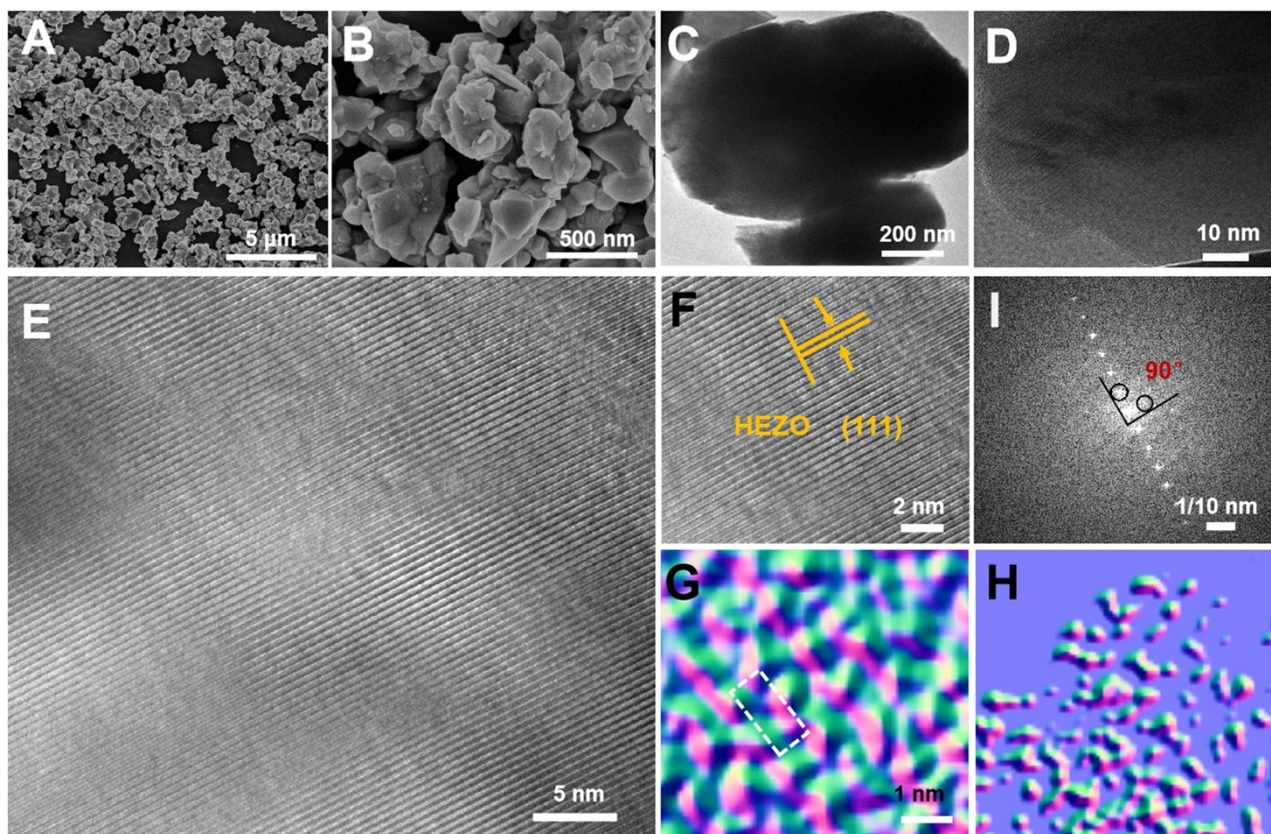


Figure S7. **A–D**, FESEM images of HEZO. **E–F**, HRTEM images of HEZO. The three-dimensional AOGF mapping corresponding to the magnified high-resolution spherical aberration electron microscope image of **G**, $\text{Sm}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$, **H**, HEZO. **I**, Inverse FFT of HRTEM images.

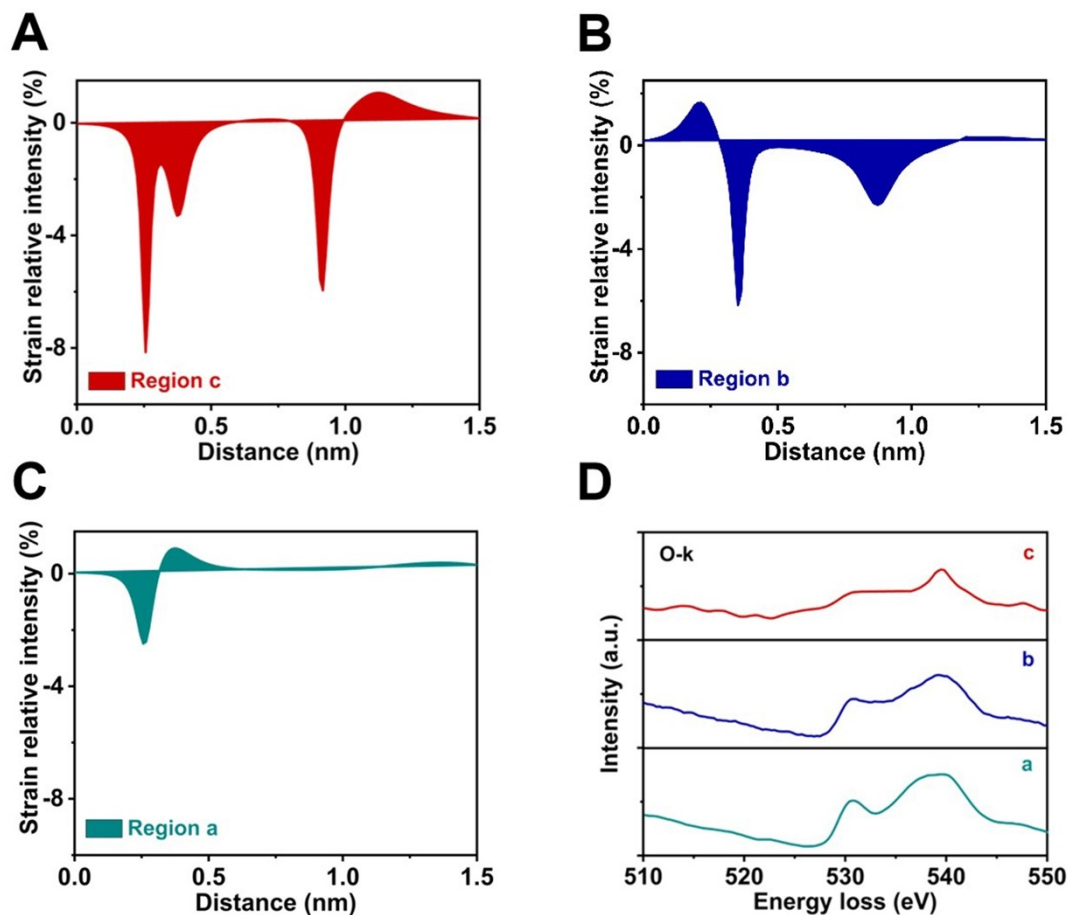


Figure S8. Cumulative stress intensity in a 1.5 nm width region along the heterogeneous interface (>0 for tensile stress, <0 for compressive stress) of HEZO, **A**, c region of Fig. 2I, **B**, b region of Fig. 2I, **C**, a region of Fig. 2I. **D**, Oxygen K-edges of the EELS spectra acquired from the regions in the inset of TEM image of a, b, c, region.

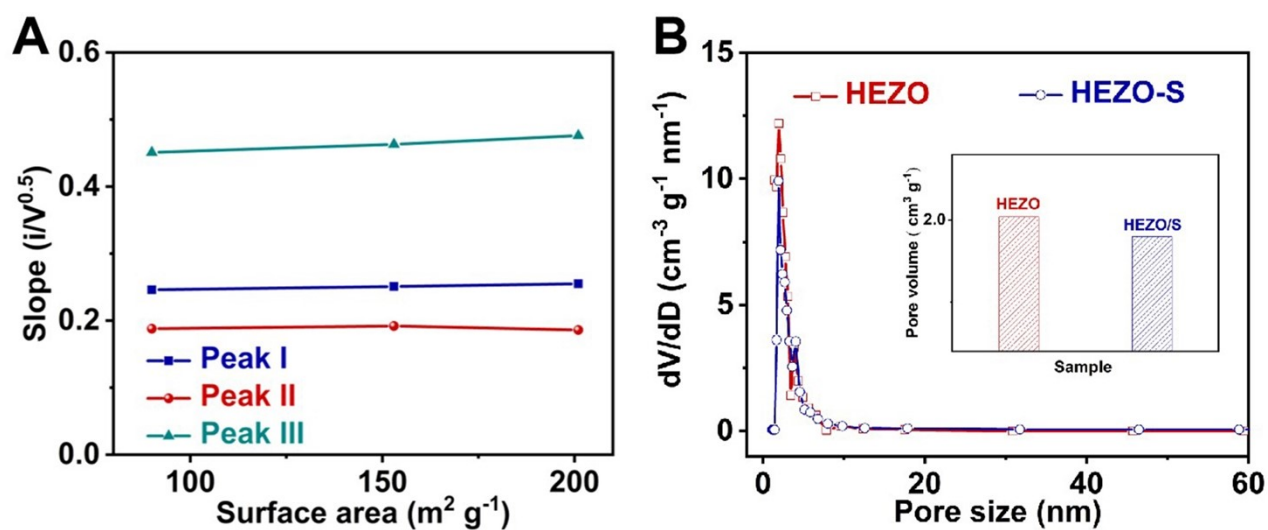


Figure S9. A, The D_{Li^+} value of the peak value of the linear fitting curve varies with the specific surface area. **B**, The aperture distribution of HEZO, the embedded small plot is the pore volume.

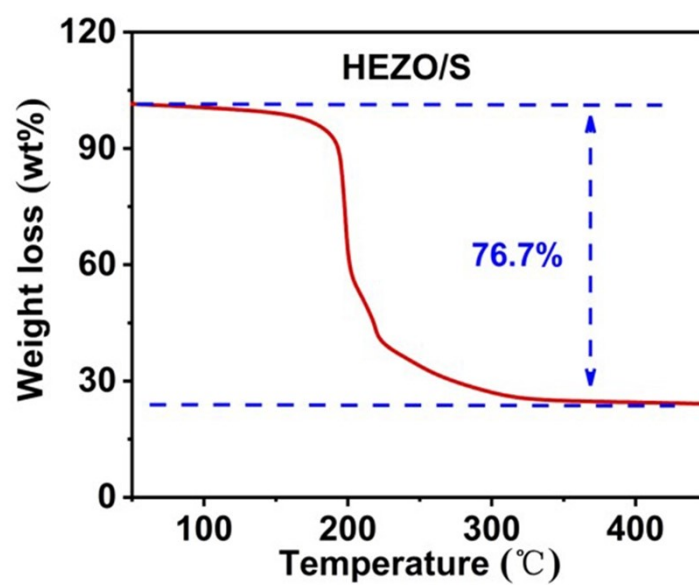


Figure S10. Sulfur content of HEZO-S by TGA measured under N₂ atmosphere from room temperature to 800 °C with a heating rate of 10 °C min⁻¹.

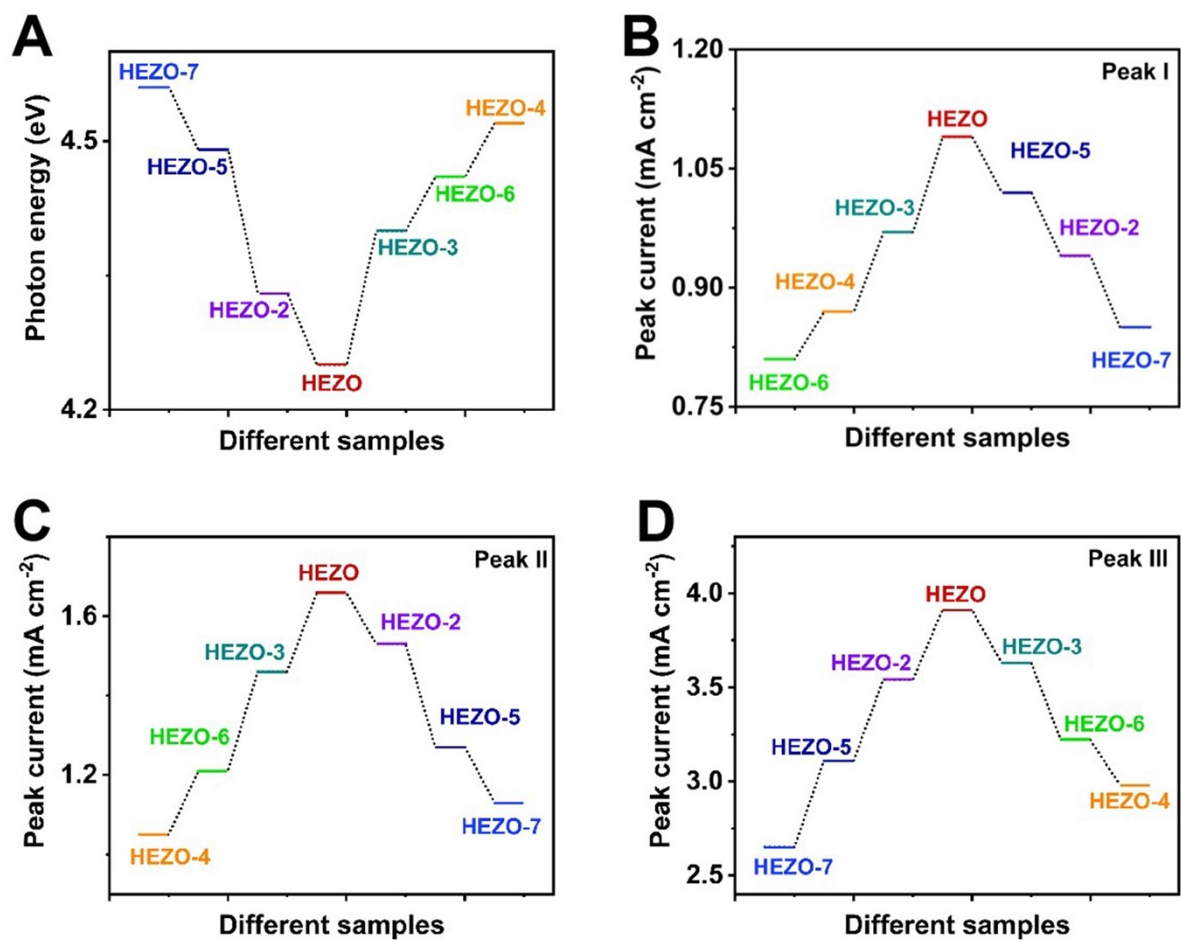


Figure S11. HEZO, HEZO-2, HEZO-3, HEZO-4, HEZO-5, HEZO-6, HEZO-7 of **A**, band gap sizes, **B**, the current intensity of characteristic peak I, **C**, the current intensity of characteristic peak II, **D**, the current intensity of characteristic peak III.

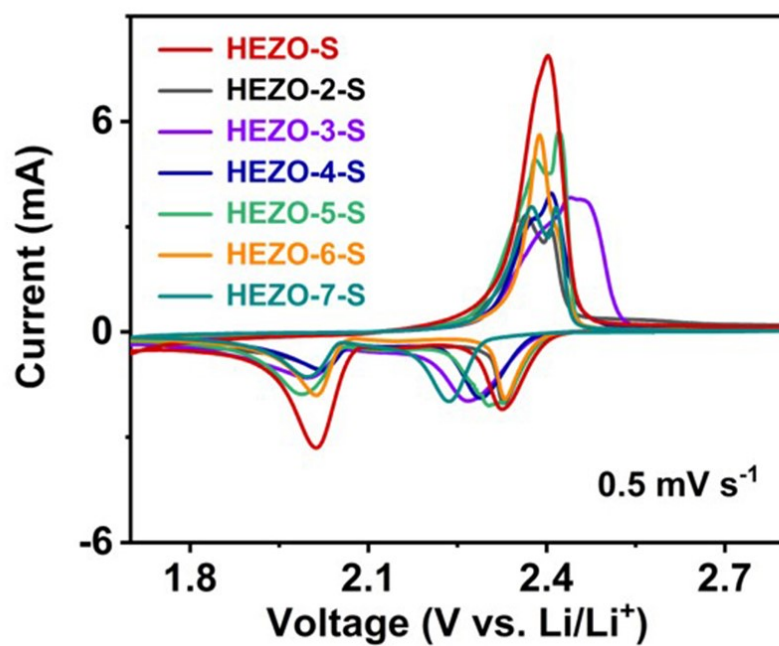


Figure S12. CV curves of HEZO-S, HEZO-2-S, HEZO-3-S, HEZO-4-S, HEZO-5-S, HEZO-6-S, HEZO-7-S cathodes.

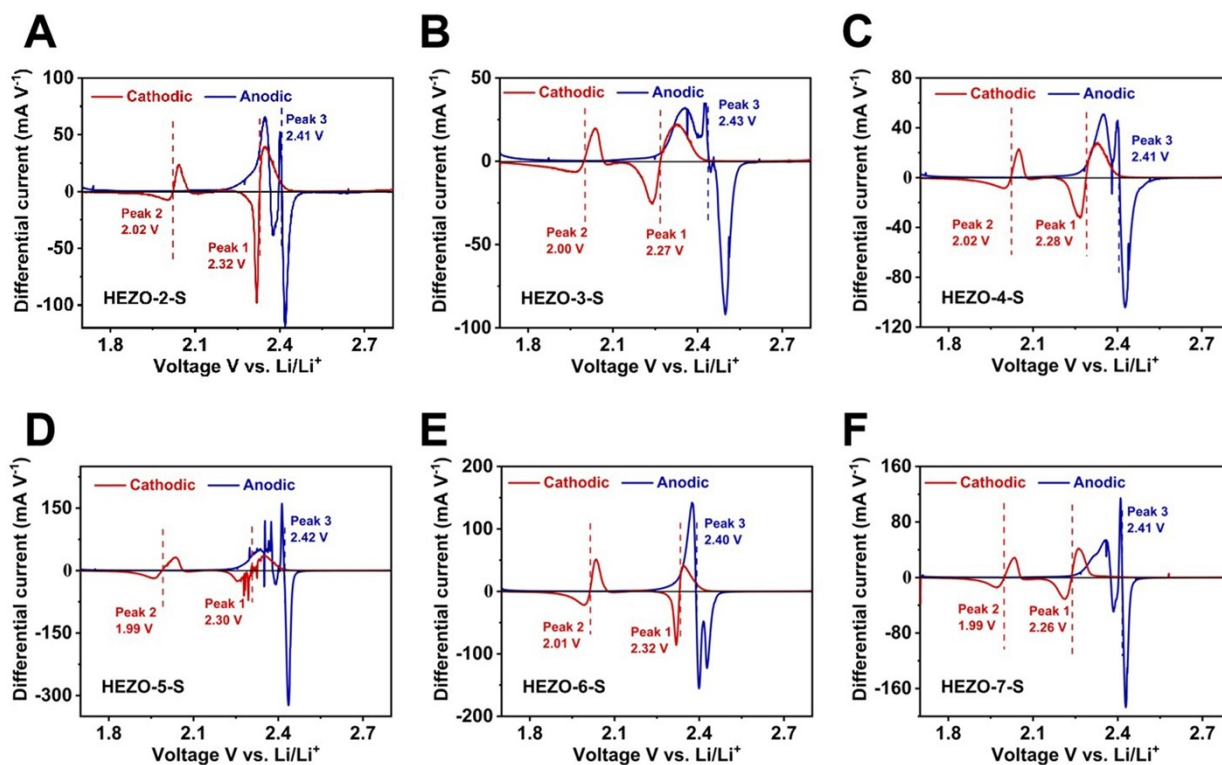


Figure S13. **A**, Differential CV curves of HEZO-2-S. **B**, Differential CV curves of HEZO-3-S. **C**, Differential CV curves of HEZO-4-S. **D**, Differential CV curves of HEZO-5-S. **E**, Differential CV curves of HEZO-6-S. **F**, Differential CV curves of HEZO-7-S.

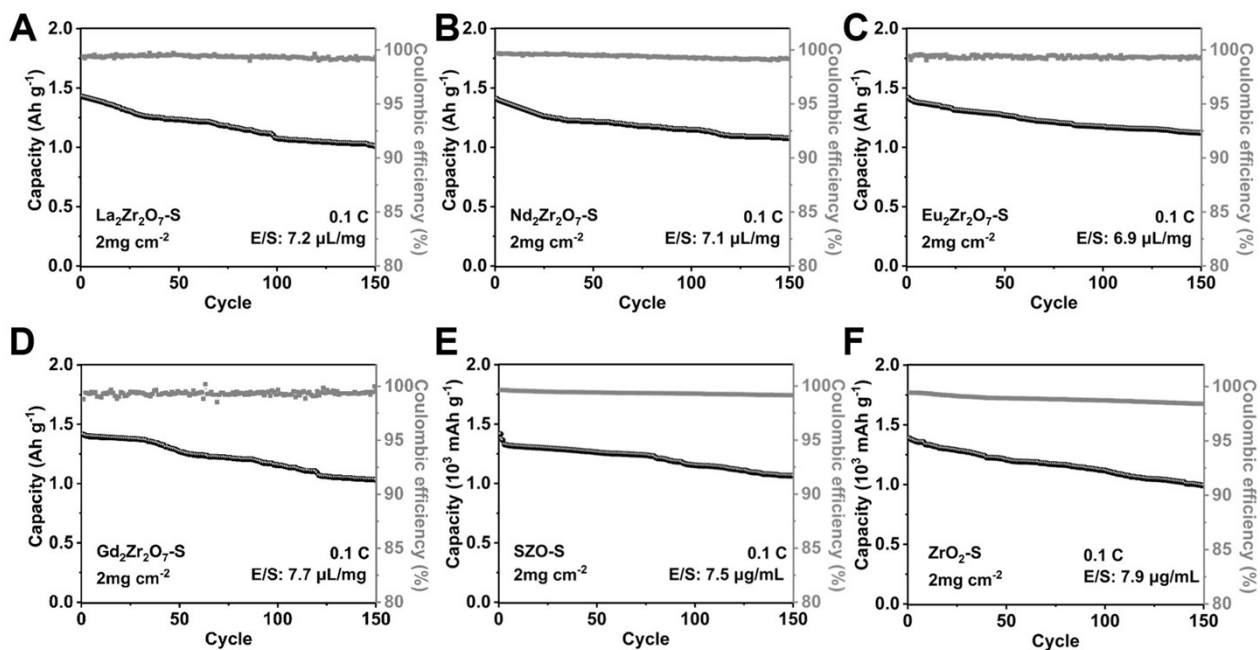


Figure S14. Long-cycling performance at 0.1 C of **A**, La₂Zr₂O₇-S, **B**, Nd₂Zr₂O₇-S, **C**, Eu₂Zr₂O₇-S, **D**, Gd₂Zr₂O₇-S, **E**, Sm₂Zr₂O₇-S, **F**, ZrO₂-S.

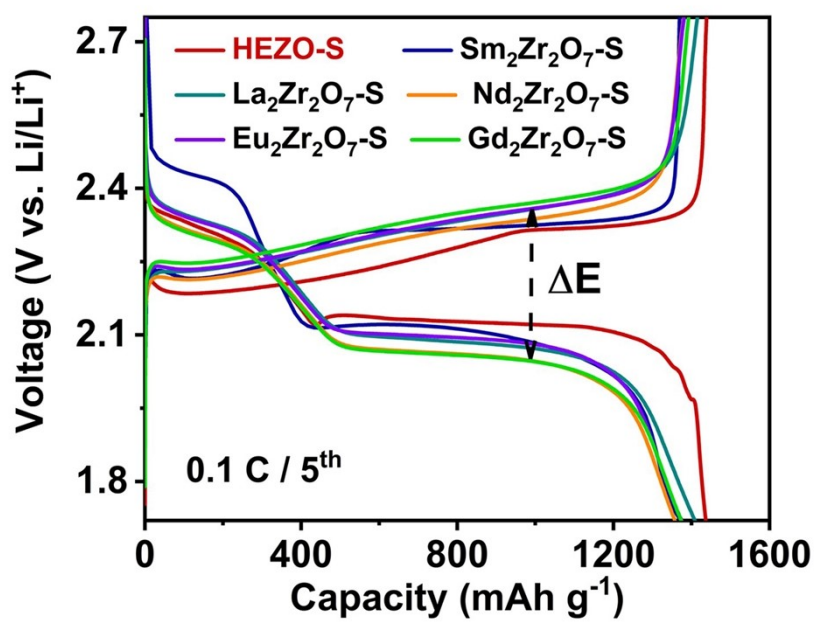


Figure S15. Different samples for discharge/charge curve at 0.1 C after 5th cycles.

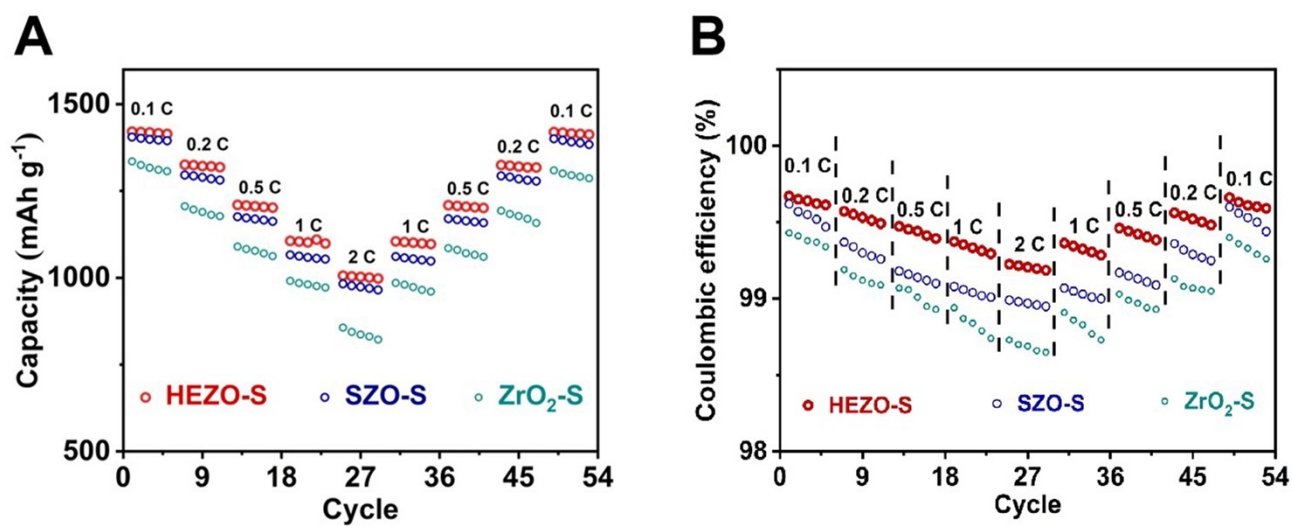


Figure S16. Rate capabilities from 0.1 C to 2 C of **A**, $\text{Sm}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7\text{-S}$, **B**, $\text{ZrO}_2\text{-S}$.

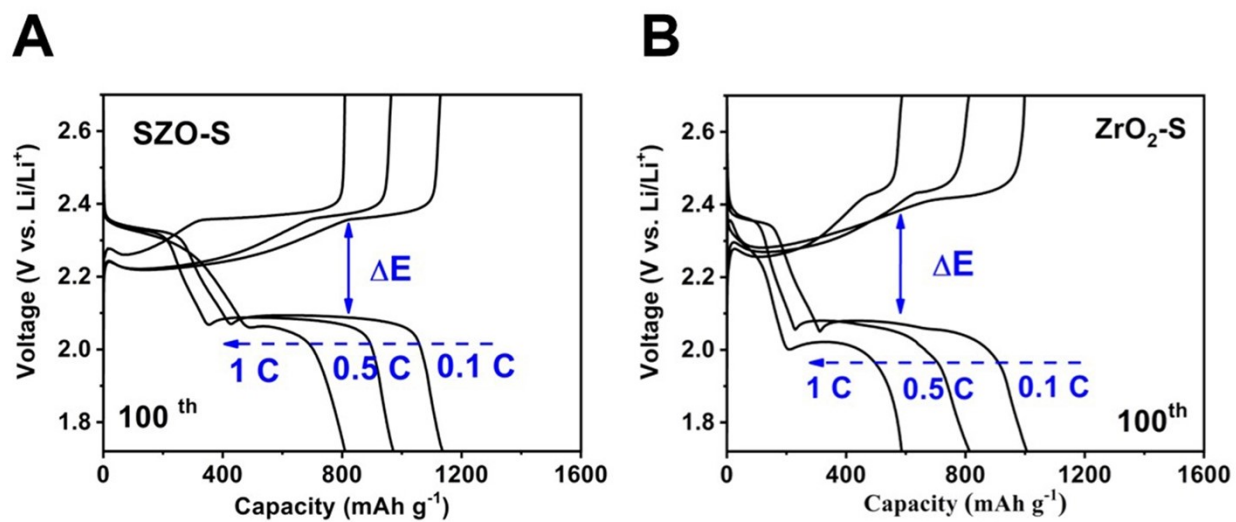


Figure S17. Different rates (0.1 C, 0.5 C, and 1 C) for discharge/charge curve of **A**, Sm₂Zr₂O₇-S, **B**, ZrO₂-S after 100 cycles.

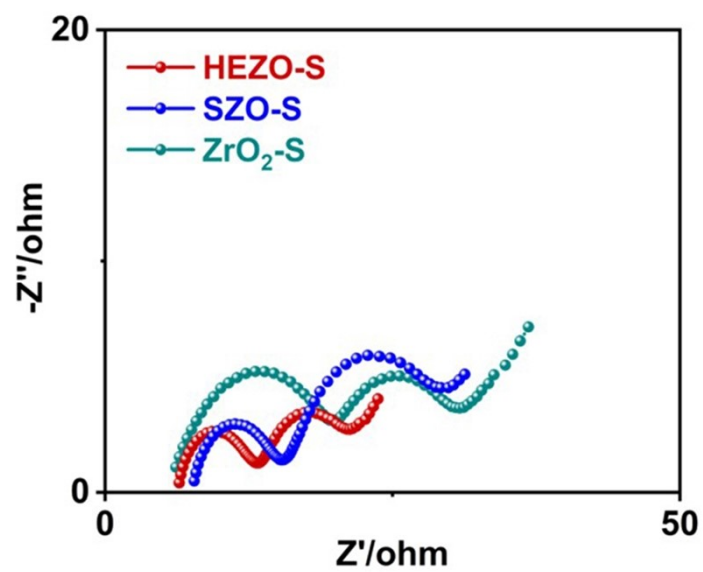


Figure S18. EIS of HEZO-S, Sm₂Zr₂O₇-S, and ZrO₂-S cathodes under room temperature.

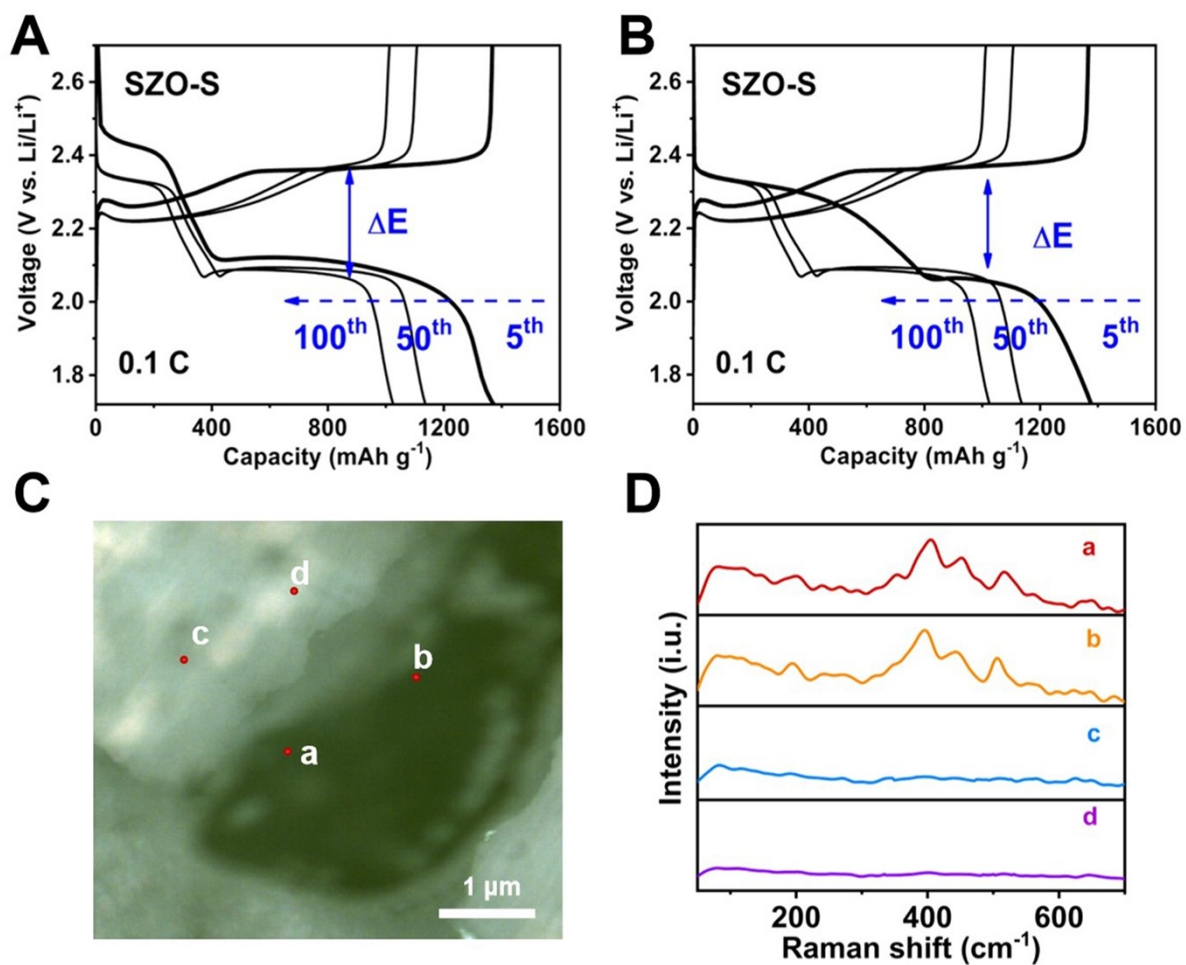


Figure S19. **A**, Different cycles (5th, 50th, and 100th) for discharge/charge curve of Sm₂Zr₂O₇-S at 0.1 C without 532 nm laser. **B**, Different cycles (5th, 50th, and 100th) for discharge/charge curve of Sm₂Zr₂O₇-S at 0.1 C without 532nm laser. **C**, Raman image of high-magnification objective lens at a discharge depth of 10%. **D**, Raman characteristic peak signals in different regions.

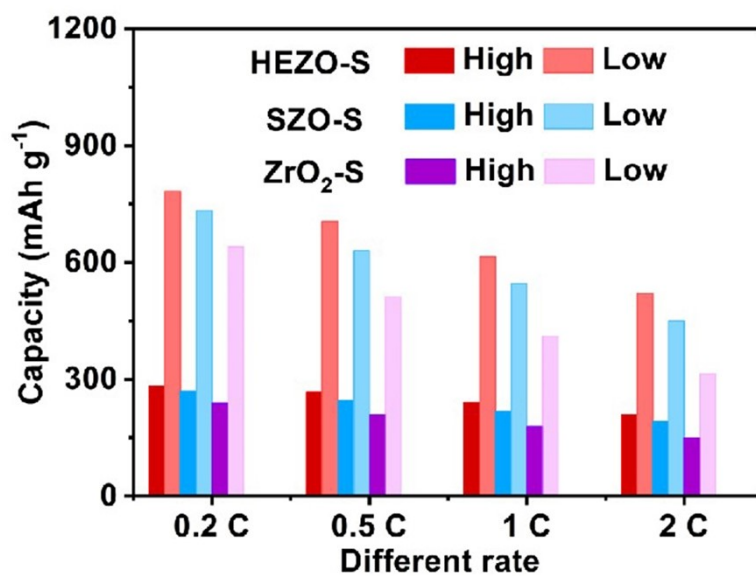


Figure S20. Contribution value of high and low potential platform capacity of HEZO-S, Sm₂Zr₂O₇-S ZrO₂-S electrode under different current densities.

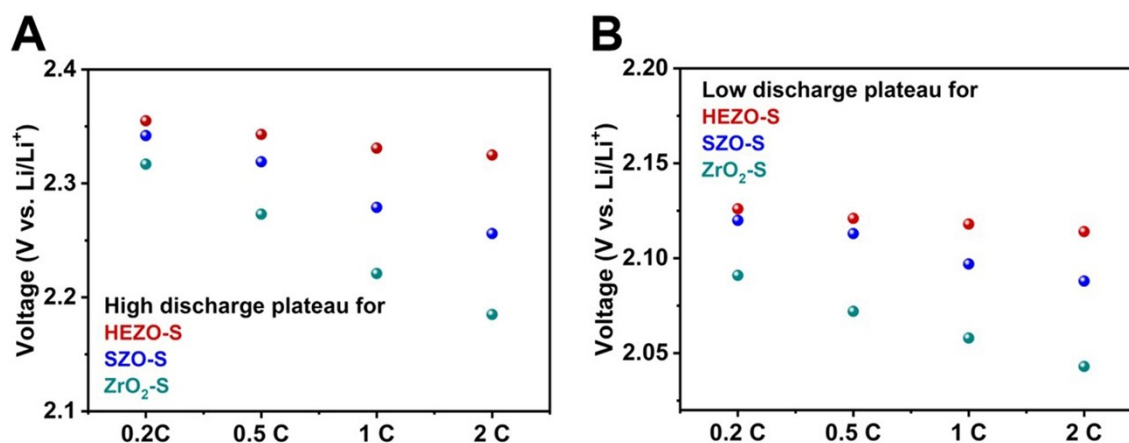


Figure S21. A, High discharge plateau voltage and **B**, low discharge plateau voltage of HEZO-S, Sm₂Zr₂O₇-S, ZrO₂-S cathodes at different C (0.2, 0.5, 1, 2) rates.

Figure S21 shows the high and low discharge plateau voltages of HEZO-S, Sm₂Zr₂O₇-S ZrO₂-S electrodes at different C-rates. Low discharge plateau voltage of HEZO-S was 2.126, 2.121, 2.118, and 2.114 V at 0.2 C, 0.5 C, 1 C, and 2 C, respectively, while high discharge plateau voltage was 2.355, 2.343, 2.331, and 2.325 V, respectively. Low discharge plateau voltage of Sm₂Zr₂O₇-S was 2.12, 2.113, 2.097, and 2.088 at 0.2 C, 0.5 C, 1 C, 2 C, respectively, while high discharge plateau voltage was 2.342, 2.319, 2.279, and 2.256, respectively. Low discharge plateau voltage of ZrO₂-S was 2.091, 2.072, 2.058, and 2.043 V at 0.2 C, 0.5 C, 1 C, 2 C, respectively, while high discharge plateau voltage was 2.317, 2.273, 2.221, and 2.185 V, respectively.

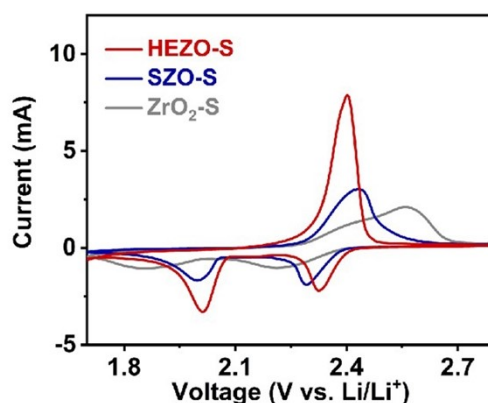


Figure S22. CV curves of HEZO-S, $\text{Sm}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7\text{-S}$, $\text{ZrO}_2\text{-S}$ cathodes.

The observed pairs of peaks on the redox scanning curves belong to the lithiation of S and the decomposition of Li_2S . During the reduction process, the current density at the maximum reduction peak and its corresponding potential for HEZO-S are 1.02 mA cm^{-2} (at 2.33 V) and 1.47 mA cm^{-2} (at 2.01 V), respectively. In the oxidation decomposition of Li_2S , the current density at the maximum oxidation peak was 3.33 mA cm^{-2} , and the corresponding potential was 2.40 V. For the $\text{Sm}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7\text{-S}$ composite, the current density at the maximum reduction peak was 0.88 mA cm^{-2} (at 2.28 V) and 0.75 mA cm^{-2} (at 1.99 V), respectively. During the oxidation, the current density at the maximum reduction peak is 1.32 mA cm^{-2} (at 2.43 V). The $\text{ZrO}_2\text{-S}$ composite exhibits a current density of 0.49 mA cm^{-2} (at 2.20 V) and 0.62 mA cm^{-2} (at 1.86 V) at the maximum reduction peak, while the current density at the maximum oxidation peak was 0.93 mA cm^{-2} , and the corresponding potential was 2.56 V. Furthermore, the differential cyclic voltammetry curves were analyzed to accurately compare the initial potentials of the electrochemical conversion reactions. For the reduction reaction, the initial potentials of the HEZO-S electrode were 2.45 V and 2.08 V, while for the oxidation reaction, the initial potential is 2.15 V. In comparison, the initial potentials of the $\text{Sm}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7\text{-S}$ electrode for the reduction reaction were 2.40 V and 2.06 V, and the initial potential was 2.22 V for the oxidation reaction. The $\text{ZrO}_2\text{-S}$ electrode has initial potentials of 2.37 V and 2.03 V for the reduction reaction, and 2.27 V for the oxidation reaction. Comparatively, the HEZO-S composite exhibits a negative shift in both the maximum and onset potentials during S reduction and Li_2S oxidation, indicating its enhanced electrocatalytic activity.

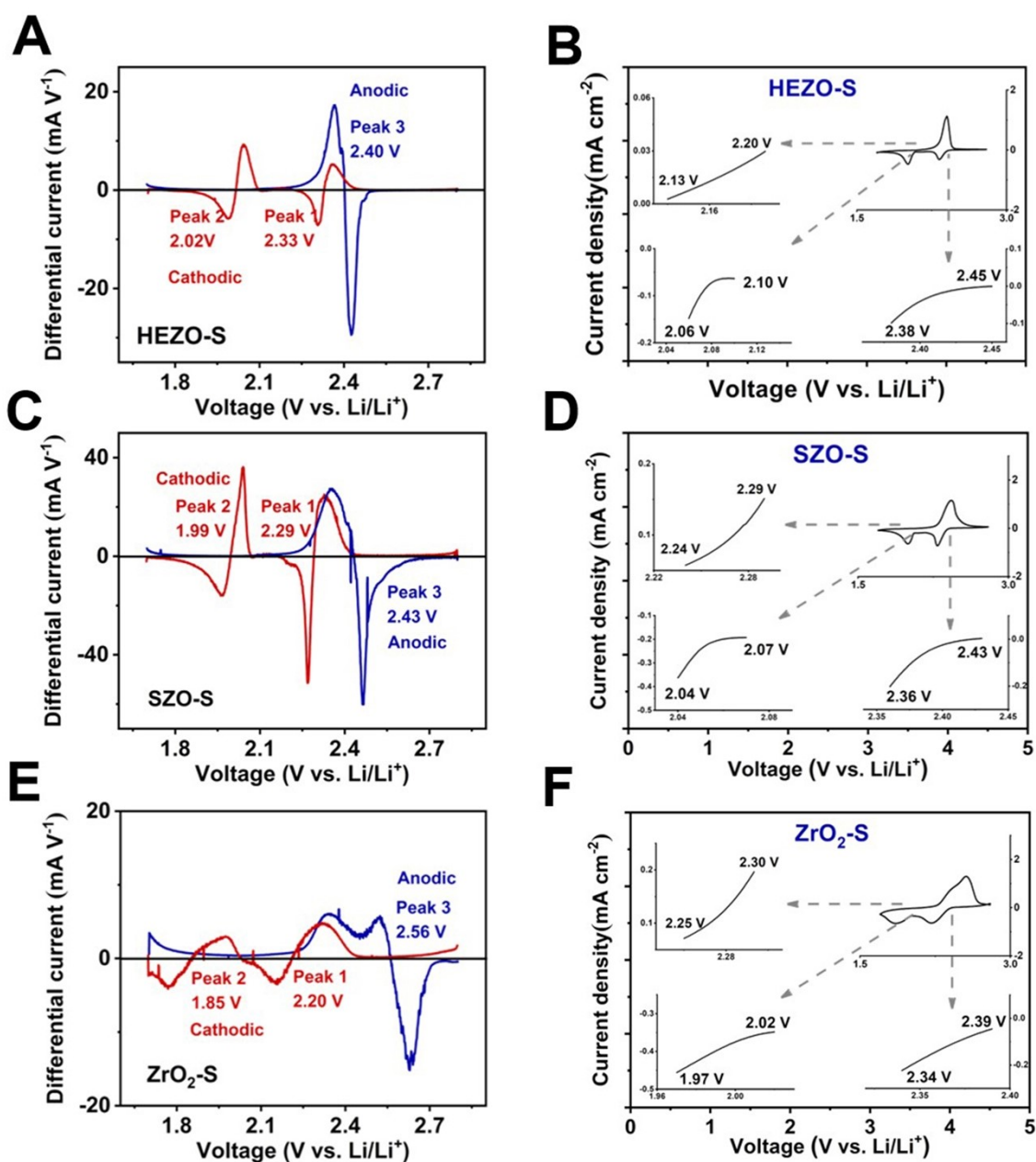


Figure S23. **A**, Differential CV curves of HEZO-S. **B**, CV curves and corresponding onset potentials of redox peaks of HEZO-S. **C**, Differential CV curves of Sm₂Zr₂O₇-S. **D**, CV curves and corresponding onset potentials of redox peaks of Sm₂Zr₂O₇-S. **E**, Differential CV curves of ZrO₂-S. **F**, CV curves and corresponding onset potentials of redox peaks of ZrO₂-S.

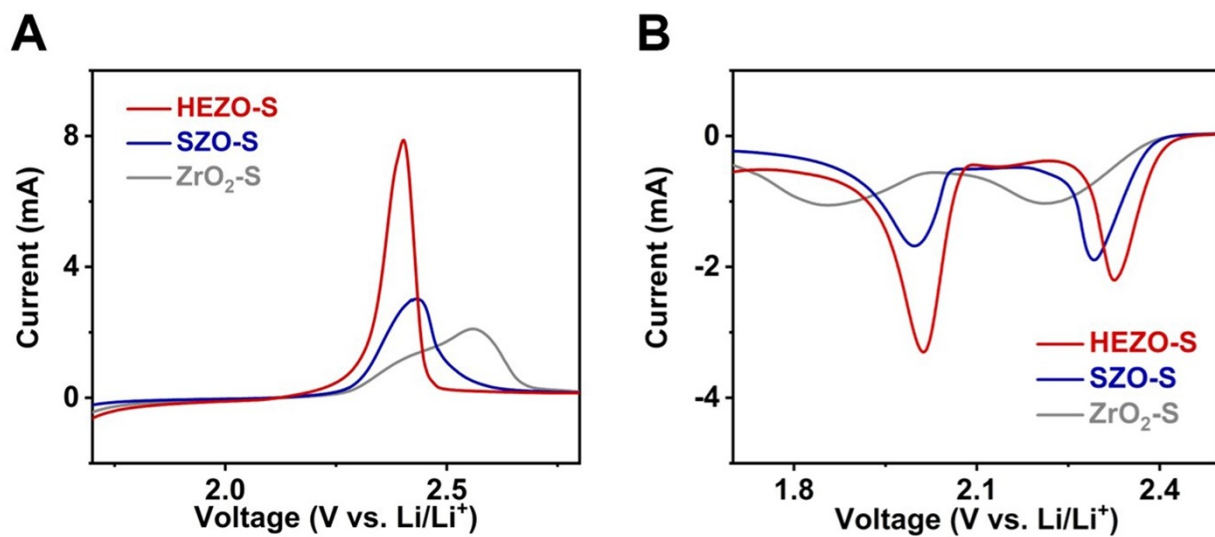


Figure S24. Linear voltammetry curve of HEZO-S, Sm₂Zr₂O₇-S, ZrO₂-S cathodes **A**, Charge progress. **B**, discharge progress.

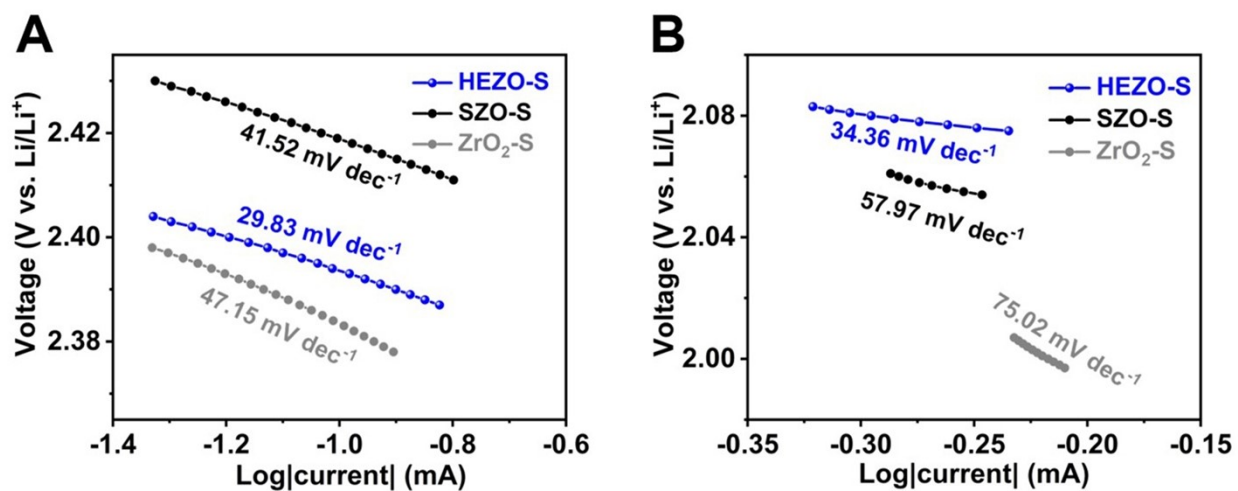


Figure S25. Tafel plots of HEZO-S, Sm₂Zr₂O₇-S, ZrO₂-S cathodes **A**, Reduction peak I. **B**, Reduction peak II.

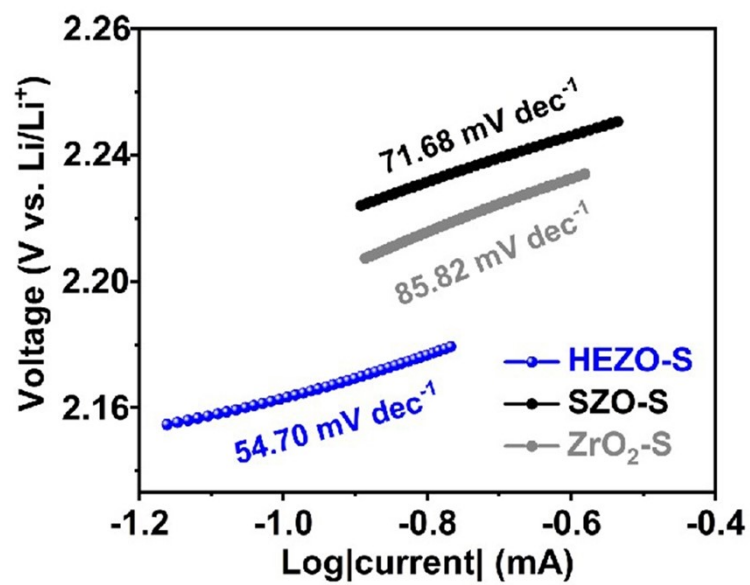


Figure S26. Tafel plots of HEZO-S, Sm₂Zr₂O₇-S, and ZrO₂-S cathodes during the oxidation peak.

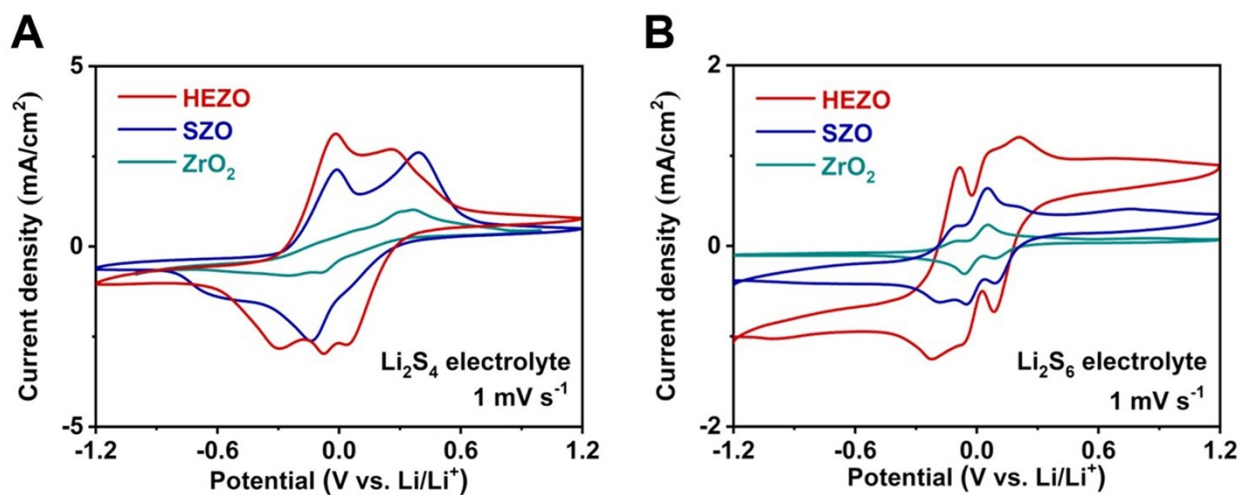


Figure S27. **A**, CV curves of Li_2S_4 catholyte symmetric cells for HEZO / Li_2S_4 / HEZO, $\text{Sm}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ / Li_2S_4 / $\text{Sm}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$, and ZrO_2 / Li_2S_4 / ZrO_2 electrodes. **B**, CV curves of Li_2S_6 catholyte symmetric cells for HEZO / Li_2S_6 / HEZO, $\text{Sm}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ / Li_2S_6 / $\text{Sm}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$, and ZrO_2 / Li_2S_6 / ZrO_2 electrodes.

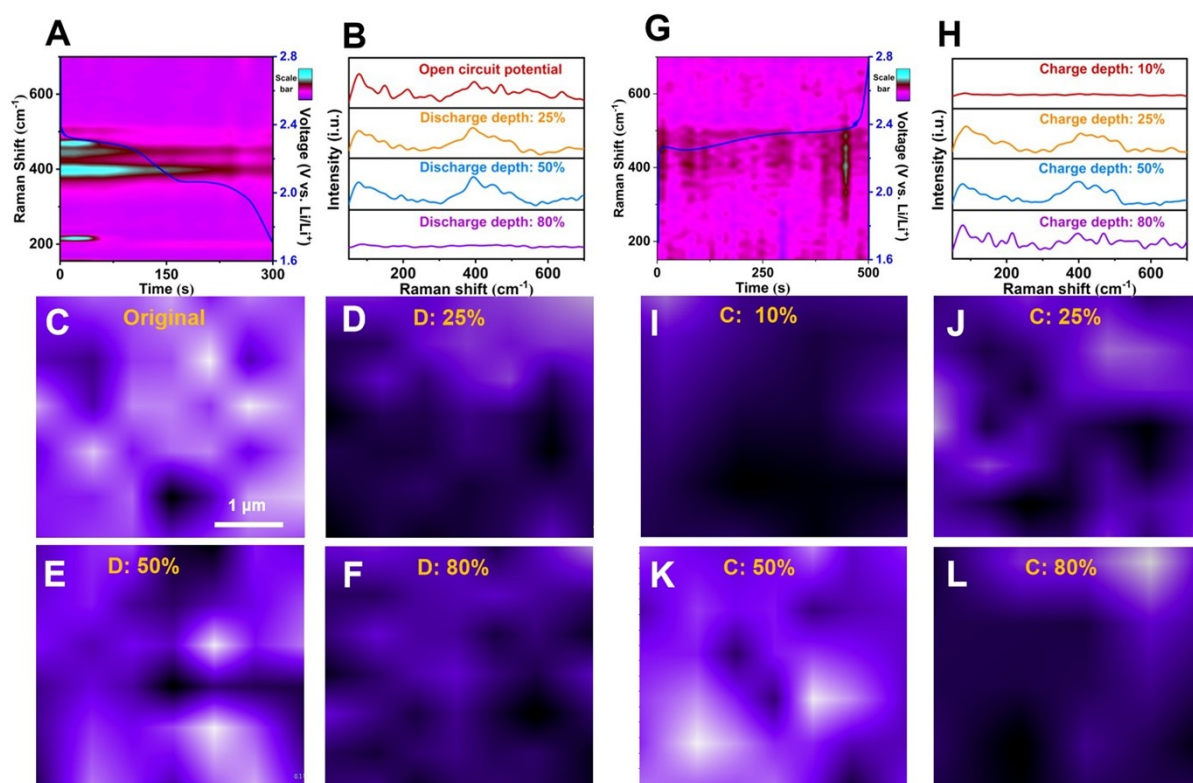


Figure S28. $\text{Sm}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7\text{-S}$ cathode. **A**, Time sequence of Raman spectra obtained during the discharge progress. **B**, *In-situ* cell at OCP, the depth of discharge is 25%, 50% and 80% of the Raman signal. Deconvolution of *in-situ* confocal Raman mapping signals spectra with different discharge states of **C**, open-circuit potential, **D**, discharge depth 25%, **E**, discharge depth 50%, and **F**, discharge depth 80%. **G**, Time sequence of Raman spectra obtained during the charge progress. **H**, *In-situ* cell at OCP, the depth of charge is 10%, 25%, 50% and 80% of the Raman signal. Deconvolution of *in-situ* confocal Raman mapping signals spectra with different discharge states of **I**, charge depth 10%, **J**, charge depth 25%, **K**, charge depth 50%, and **L**, charge depth 80%.

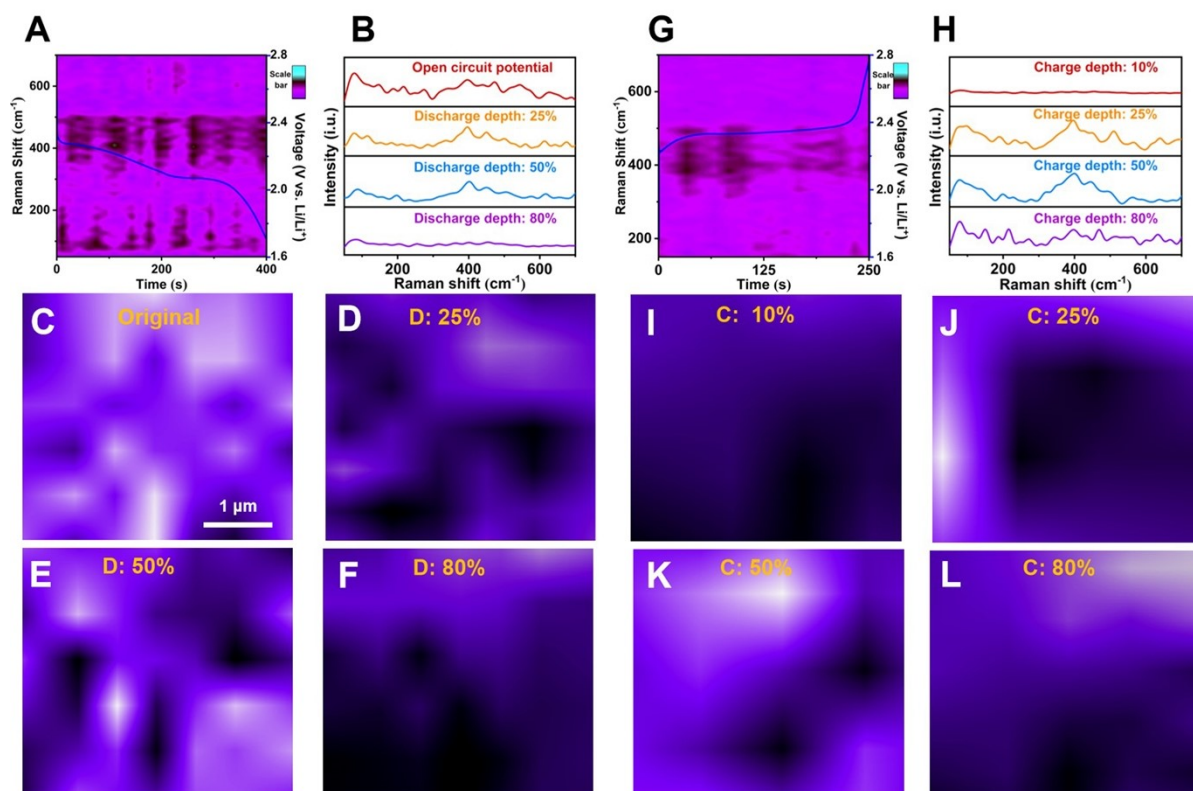


Figure S29. $\text{ZrO}_2\text{-S}$ cathode. **A**, Time sequence of Raman spectra obtained during the discharge progress. **B**, *In-situ* cell at OCP, the depth of discharge is 25%, 50% and 80% of the Raman signal. Deconvolution of *in-situ* confocal Raman mapping signals spectra with different discharge states of **C**, open-circuit potential, **D**, discharge depth 25%, **E**, discharge depth 50%, and **F**, discharge depth 80%. **G**, Time sequence of Raman spectra obtained during the charge progress. **H**, *In-situ* cell at OCP, the depth of charge is 10%, 25%, 50% and 80% of the Raman signal. Deconvolution of *in-situ* confocal Raman mapping signals spectra with different discharge states of **I**, charge depth 10%, **J**, charge depth 25%, **K**, charge depth 50%, and **L**, charge depth 80%.

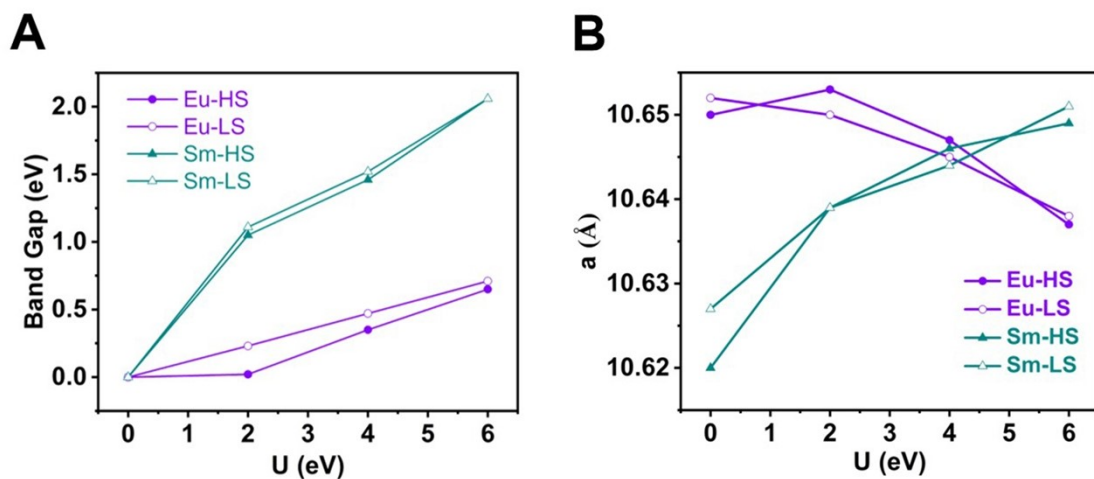


Figure S30. A, The band gap of crystal and the distribution of fine intermediate energy level of orbital in the forbidden band. **B**, The change of lattice size when different U values are applied to the f orbital.

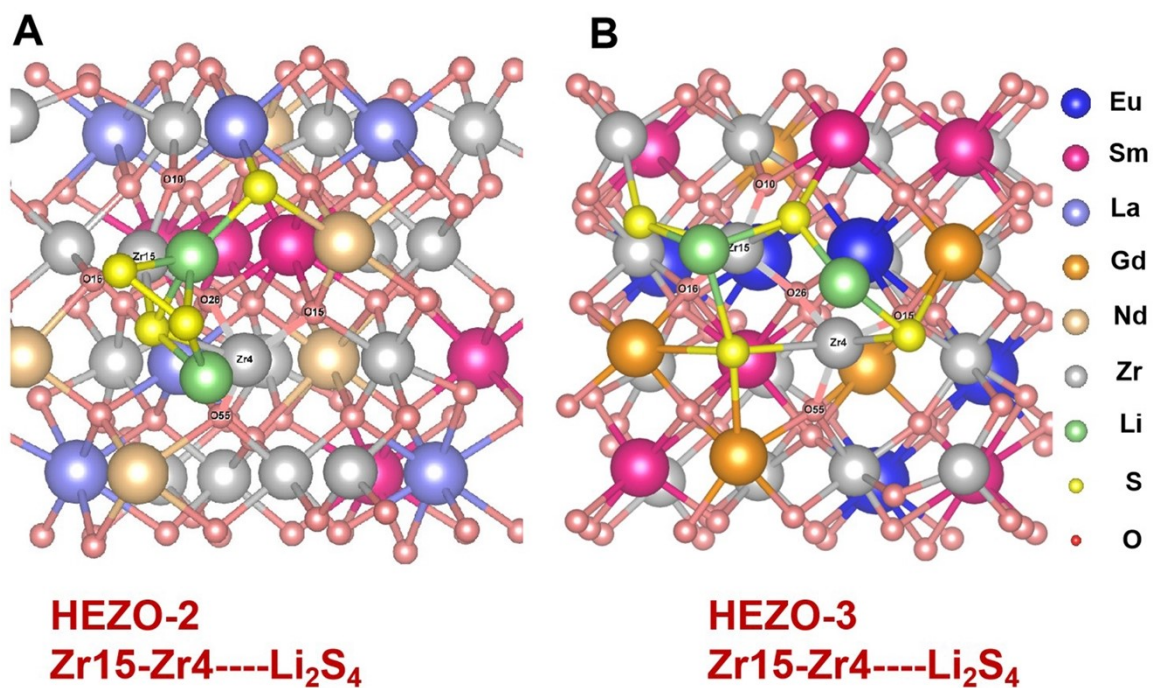


Figure S31. A, The adsorption configuration diagram without oxygen vacancy of Li₂S₄ at the Zr site on the (100) crystal surface of HEZO-2. **B**, The adsorption configuration diagram without oxygen vacancy of Li₂S₄ at the Zr site on the (100) crystal surface of HEZO-3.

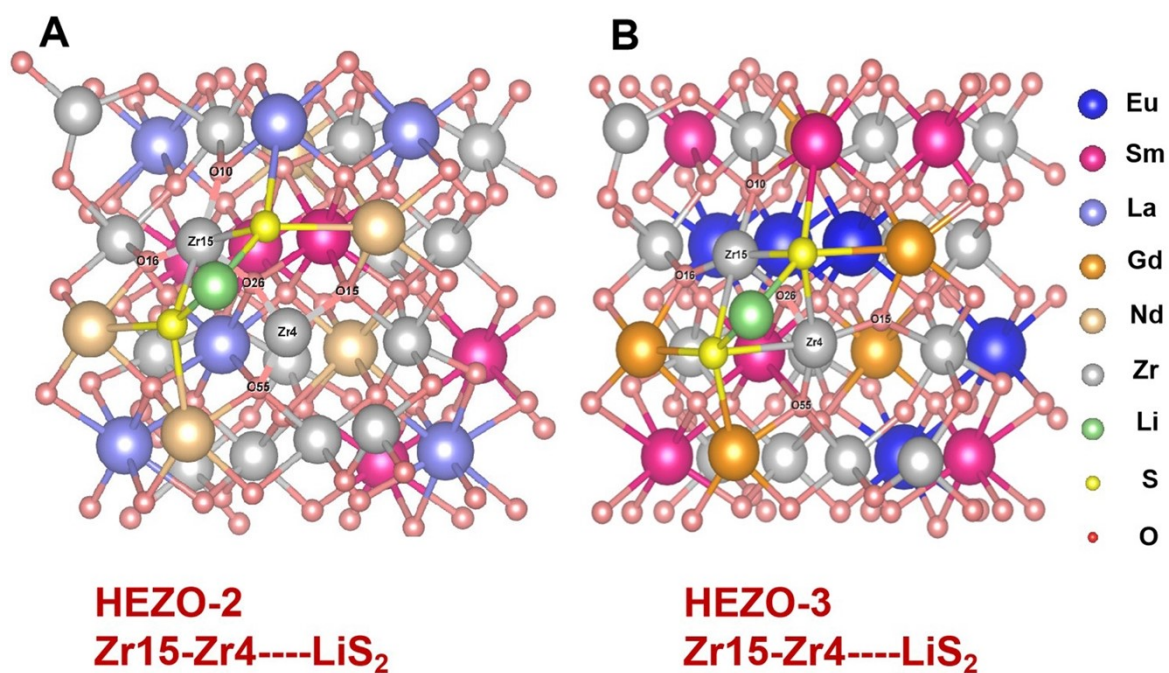


Figure S32. A, The adsorption configuration diagram without oxygen vacancy of LiS₂ at the Zr site on the (100) crystal surface of HEZO-2. **B,** The adsorption configuration diagram without oxygen vacancy of LiS₂ at the Zr site on the (100) crystal surface of HEZO-3.

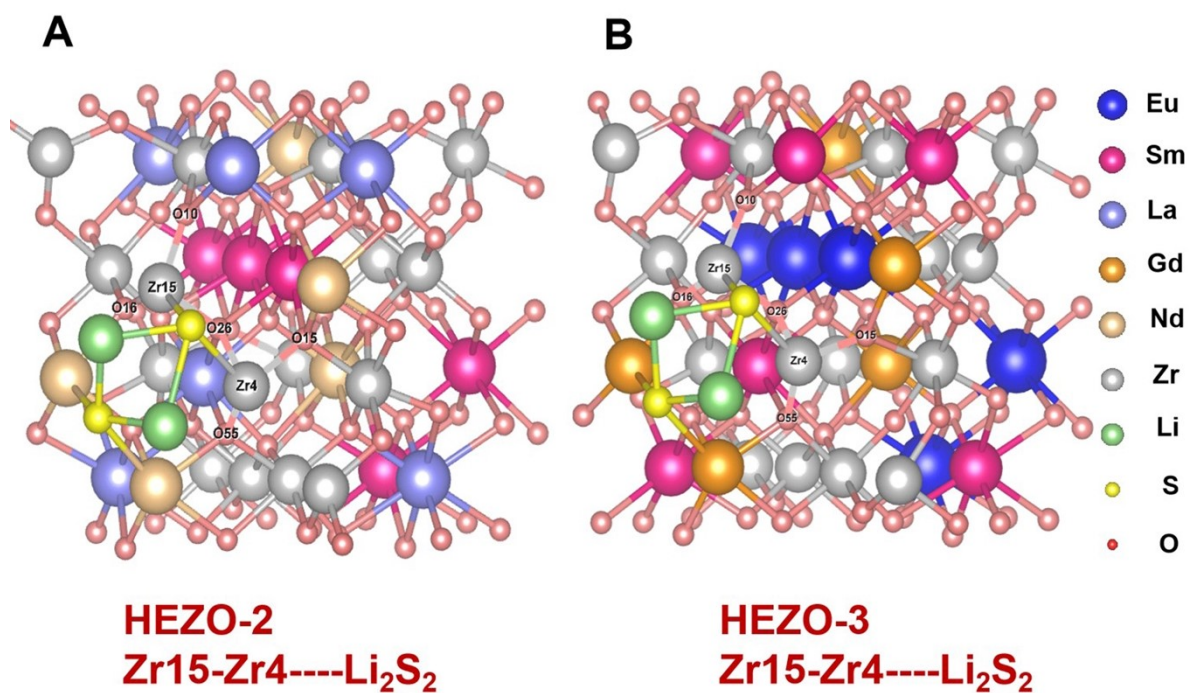


Figure S33. A, The adsorption configuration diagram without oxygen vacancy of Li₂S₂ at the Zr site on the (100) crystal surface of HEZO-2. **B**, The adsorption configuration diagram without oxygen vacancy of Li₂S₂ at the Zr site on the (100) crystal surface of HEZO-3.

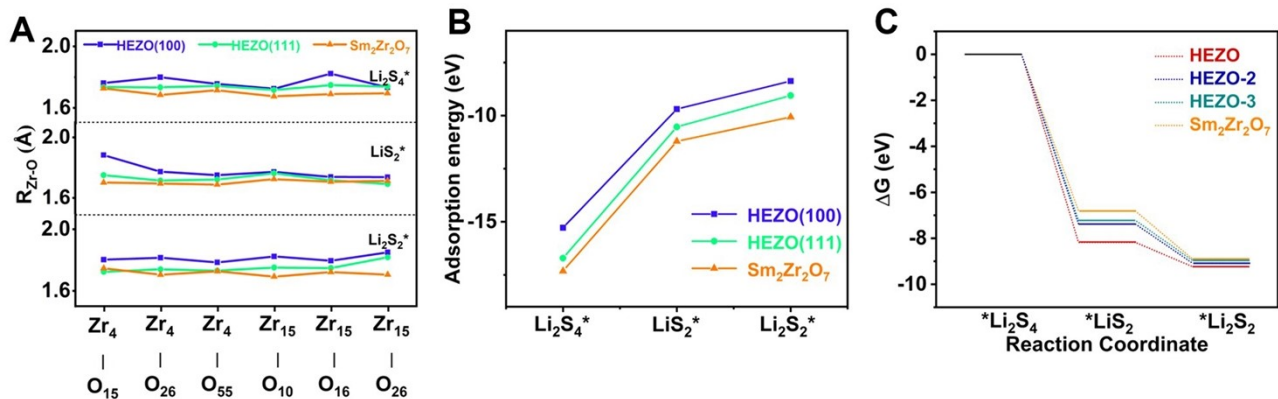


Figure S34. A, The length of the Zr-O bond at the Zr site of (100) and (111) crystal face without oxygen vacancy under three adsorption states in the transformation of Li_2S_4 . **B,** Adsorption energy at Zr site of (100) and (111) crystal face without oxygen vacancy in three adsorption states. **C,** Gibbs free energy diagram of Li_2S_4 conversion steps of HEZO and $Sm_2Zr_2O_7$ substrate without oxygen vacancy.

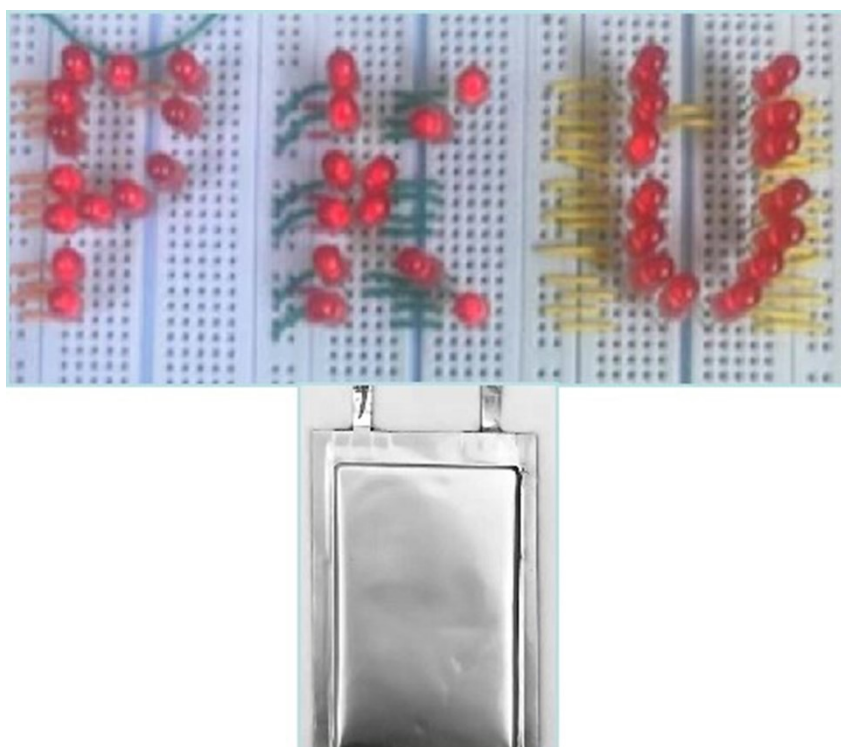


Figure S35. The performance of the pouch battery is shown after 100 cycles.

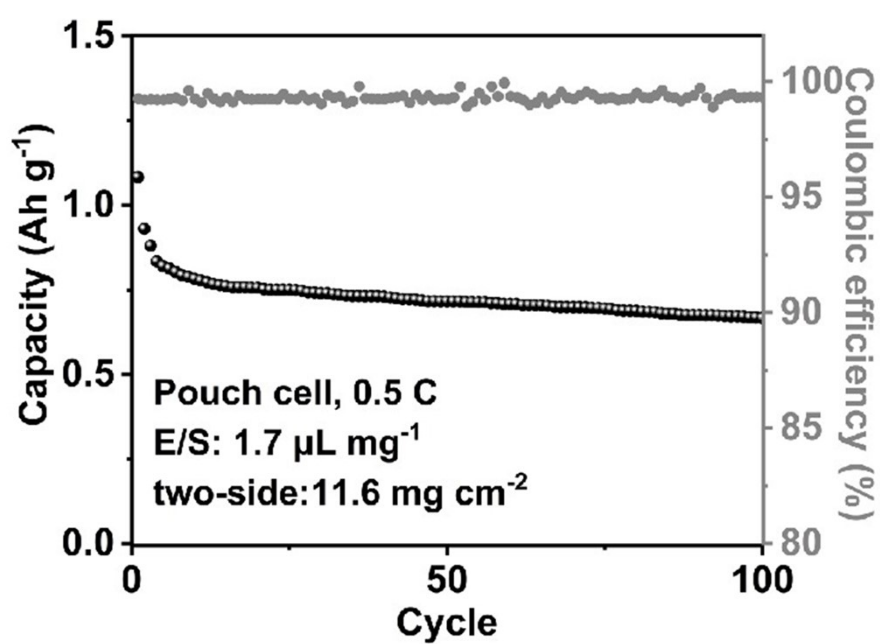


Figure S36. Double-sided high load capacity, low E/S ratio HEZO-S pouch cell performance.

Reference

- [S1] ORaza, H., et al., High-entropy stabilized oxides derived via a low-temperature template route for high-performance lithium-sulfur batteries. *EcoMat* **5**, e12324 (2023).
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- [S3] Tian, L., et al., High-entropy perovskite oxide nanofibers as efficient bidirectional electrocatalyst of liquid-solid conversion processes in lithium-sulfur batteries. *Nano Energy* **106**, 108037 (2023).
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