

Supplementary Information

Morphology-Controlled Fe₃O₄@CNF Nanocomposites for Sustainable Paper-Based Energy Storage with Recyclability

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References

S-1. Materials and Instrumentations

Cellulose nanofiber (CNF) was purchased by Moorim P&P resided in Ulsan, Korea. The ferric chloride hexahydrate ($\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 98%, MW = 270.3), ferrous chloride tetrahydrate ($\text{FeCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 99%, MW = 198.81), anhydrous ethanol ($\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, 99.5%, MW = 46.07), ammonia (NH_3 , 28%, MW = 17.031), Furfuryl alcohol (FFA, 99%, MW = 98.1), p-benzoquinone (BQ, 99%, MW = 108.09) and Ammonium oxalate (AO, 99%, MW = 124.1) were purchased from the sigma Aldrich, Korea. Carbon black (95%, MW = 12.01), polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF, 98%, MW = 180,000), N-Methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP; 99%, MW = 99.13) were purchased from the sigma Aldrich, South Korea.

The crystal lattice was studied using X-ray diffraction (XRD; Panalytical). The spectra were recorded using Cu $K\alpha$ radiation ($\lambda = 0.15418 \text{ nm}$) at 30 mA and 40 kV in the 2θ range of 10° to 80° with a scanning speed of $2^\circ/\text{min}$. The morphological analysis was further shown by using the field-emission scanning electron microscope (FESEM; TESCAN Mira3) and Transmission electron microscopy (TEM; JEM 2010 FEF (UHR)). In addition, the detailed microstructure, as well as elemental mapping, were evaluated by using high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HRTEM) and energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy by using the same stated TEM instruments by altering the mode. For the sample preparation procedure for the TEM measurement; the synthesized samples were dissolved into the absolute ethanol solution and then ultrasonicated for 5 min. Approximately, $0.5 \mu\text{L}$ drop was added to the carbon grid

and then dried in the vacuum oven overnight at 100 °C. The electronic chemistry and valance states were characterized by employing the X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS; ESCALAB 250Xi (Thermo Scientific). X-ray photoelectron spectrometer with monochromatic Al K α (1486.6 eV) radiation as the excitation source). The surface area measurements of the synthesized samples were described through Brunauer–Emmett–Teller (BET) and Barrett–Joyner–Halenda (BJH) methods using the Quantachrome NOVA 2000e sorption analyzer at liquid nitrogen temperature (77 K). An electrochemical potentiostat (BioLogic SP 150) was employed to perform the electrochemical test on the CNF, Fe₃O₄, and Fe₃O₄@CNF devices.

S-2 Calculations of the specific capacity, Trasattis's and Dunn's method

The specific capacity (C_s) in F/g was calculated from galvanostatic discharge curves as:

$$C_s = \frac{2 \times I}{m \Delta V} \int V dt \text{-----} (1)$$

where m is the mass of active material (mg), and I is the current in mA, ΔV is the voltage window and $\int V dt$ is the area under the discharge curve¹. Then, we utilized Trasattis's method ² (equation S1) to dissect the total stored charge into capacitive and diffusion-controlled contributions from the plots of $1/Q_s$ vs. $\sqrt{(\text{scan rate})}$ and Q_s vs. $1/\sqrt{(\text{scan rate})}$ (Potential window is 0.5 and 1.0 V and Q_s = specific capacitance, C_{sp})

$$Q_t = Q_{cap} + Q_{diff} \text{-----} (2)$$

Where, Q_t is total charge storage capacity (capacitance), Q_{cap} is capacitive mechanisms (surface-controlled capacitance) and Q_{diff} is diffusion-controlled processes (diffusion-controlled capacitance).

To determine the charge storage contribution, we applied the following modified power law or Dunn's method³ equation S2.

$$\frac{iV}{v^{0.5}} = K_1 v^{0.5} + K_2 \text{-----} (3)$$

Where, (iV) is the response current having values at current peak (i) and applied voltage window (V) and v is the scan rate. K_1 and K_2 are the slope and intercepts of

the line after plotting graph between $\frac{iV}{v^{0.5}}$ and $v^{0.5}$ ^{4, 5}. For the full device, we use peak potentials at 0.5 V (oxidation and reduction peak potentials).

S-3 Calculations of the symmetric supercapacitor capacitance, capacity retention, columbic efficiency, energy and power density

$$C_s = \frac{(2 \times I \times \Delta t)}{m \times \Delta V} \text{-----} (4)$$

Wherein:

- I is the discharge current (A),
- Δt is the discharge time (s),
- m is the mass of active material (g),
- ΔV is the potential window (V).

The **retention (%)** is then calculated as:

$$\text{Retention (\%)} = \frac{C_{final}}{C_{initial}} \times 100 \text{-----(5)}$$

Where, C_{final} = Specific capacitance at the 1st cycle

$C_{initial}$ = Specific capacitance at the last cycle.

$$\text{Columbic efficiency (\%)} = \frac{t_{discharge}}{t_{charge}} \times 100 \text{-----(6)}$$

Wherein,

$t_{discharge}$: discharge time (in s)

t_{charge} : charge time (in s)

$$\text{Energy density} = \left(\frac{C \times (\Delta V)^2}{8} \right) \text{-----(7)}$$

$$\text{Power density} = \left(\frac{3600 \times E}{\Delta t} \right) \text{-----(8)}$$

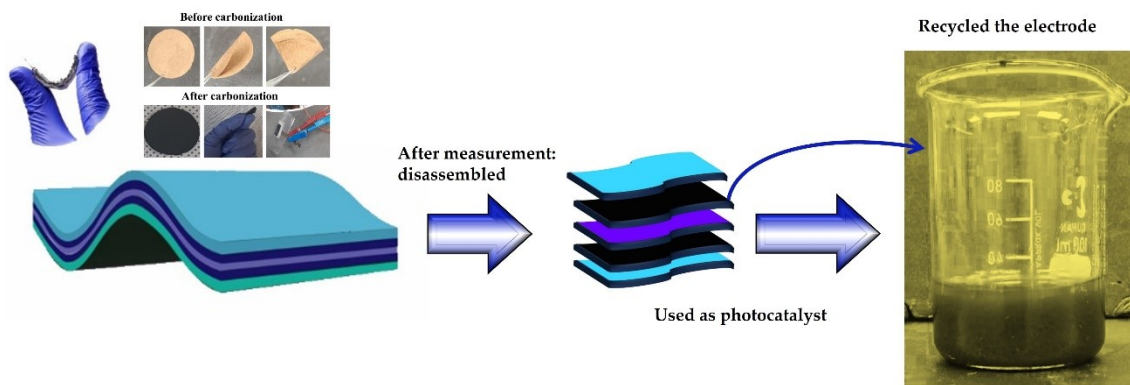


Figure S1. Schematic representation and experimental procedure for reusing the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{CNF}_4$ -based paper electrode.

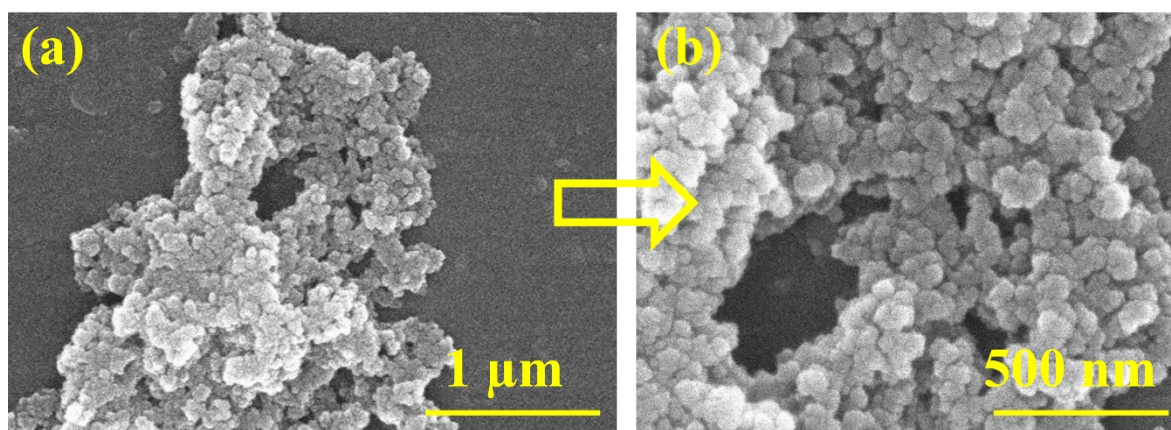


Figure S2. (a-b) FESEM micrographs of the Fe_3O_4 NPs at high and low magnifications.

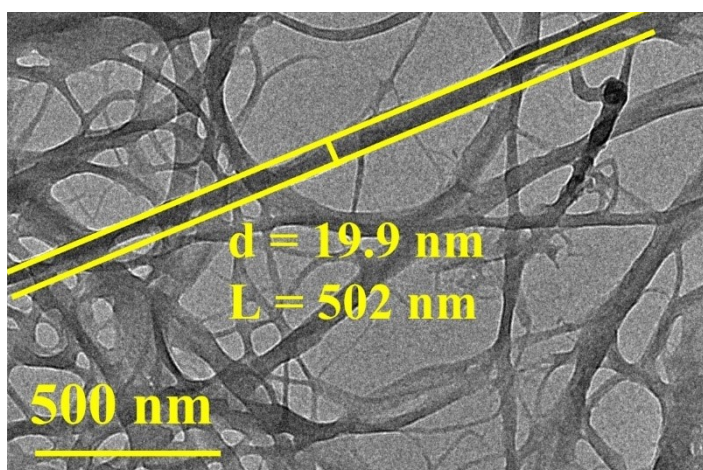


Figure S3. TEM micrograph for the CNF.

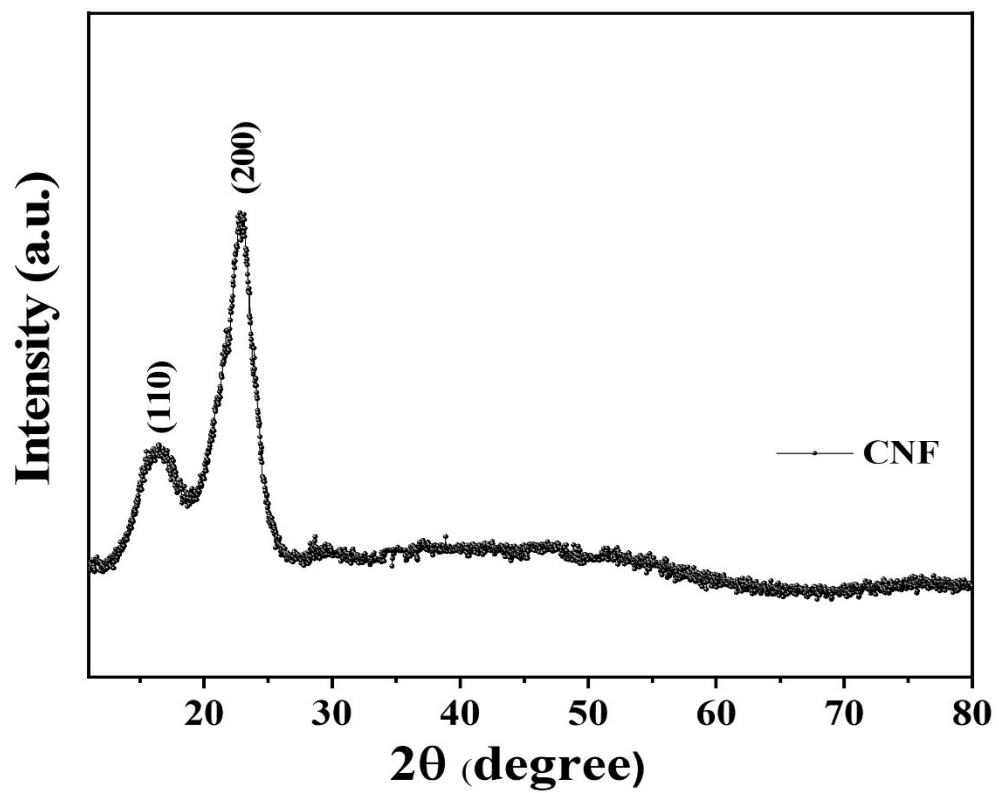


Figure S4. XRD pattern for the CNF.

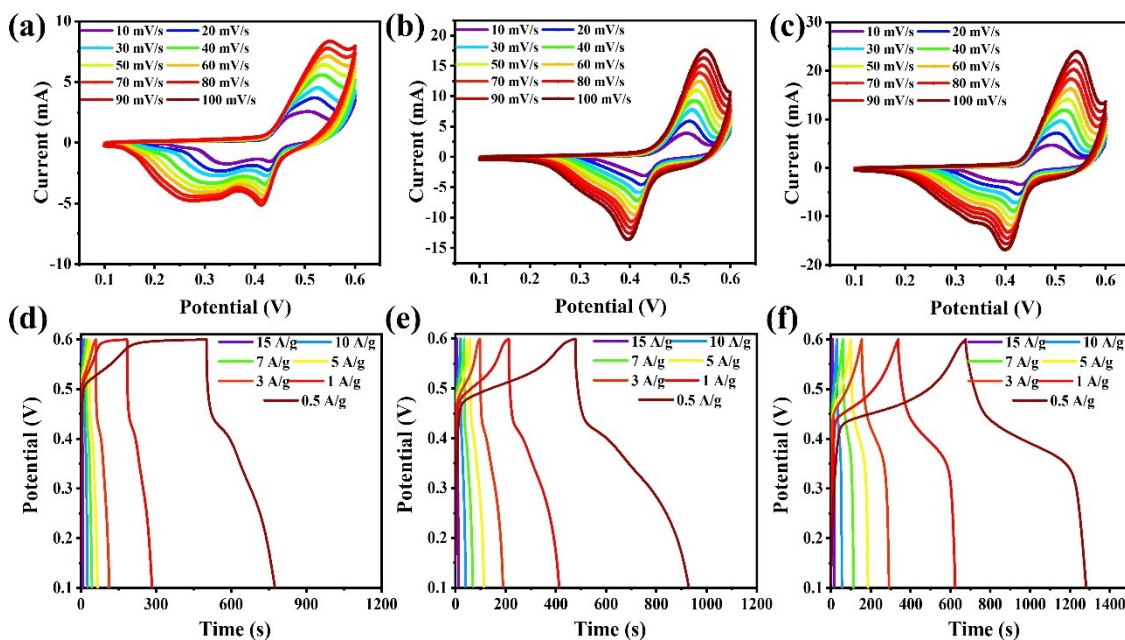


Figure S5(a-d). Cyclic Voltammetry (CV) profiles at the diverse scan rates ranging from 10-100 mV/s for the (a) $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{CNF1}$, (b) $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{CNF2}$ and (c) $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{CNF3}$. Galvanostatic charging-discharging (GCD) profiles at the various current densities ranging from 0.5 to 10 A/g for the (d) $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{CNF1}$, (e) $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{CNF2}$ (f) $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{CNF3}$ nanocomposites.

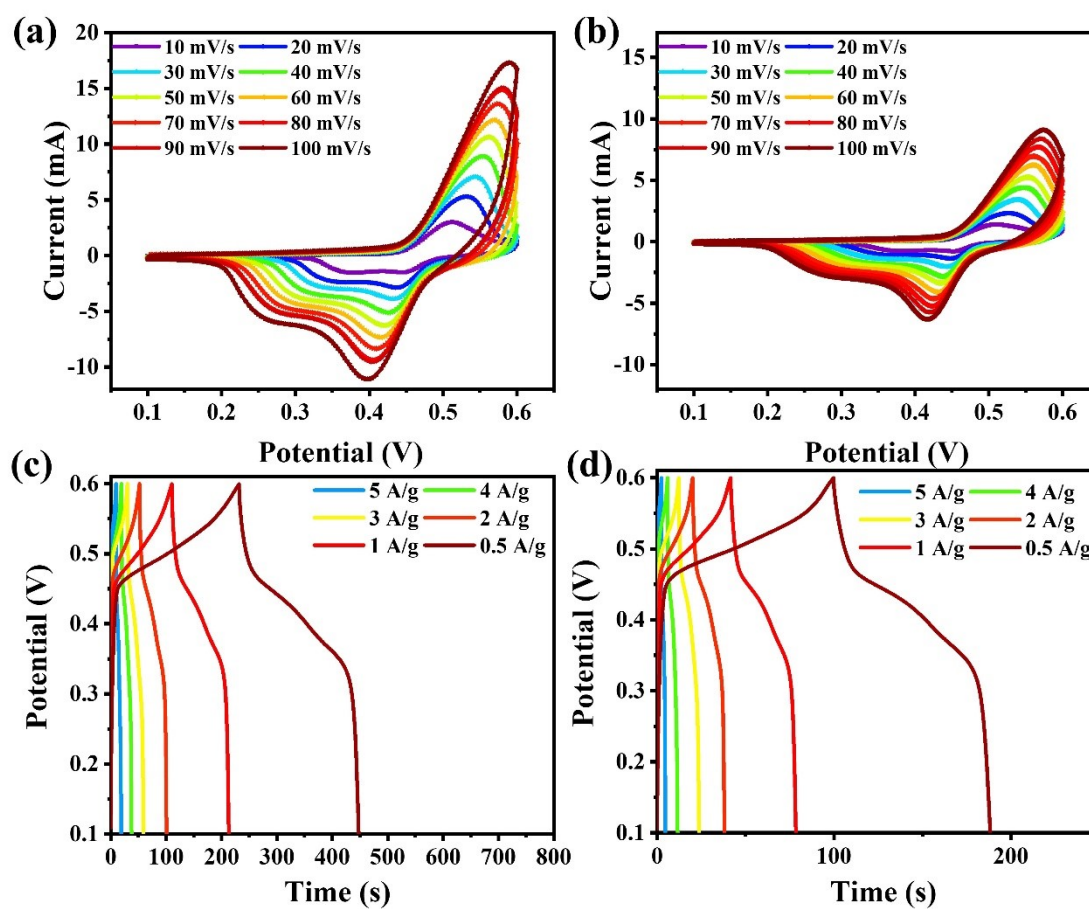


Figure S6. (a-b) CV profiles for the Fe_3O_4 NPs and CNF at diverse scan rates, respectively and (c-d) GCD profiles for Fe_3O_4 NPs and CNF at different current densities, respectively.

Table S1. Comparison of charge transfer resistance (R_{ct}) values for various electrode compositions under three-electrode and symmetric supercapacitor configurations, indicating improved conductivity with $Fe_3O_4@CNF4$ composite.

Electrode Composition	R_{ct} (Ω) – Three-Electrode Setup	R_{ct} (Ω) – Symmetric Supercapacitor
CNF (pristine)	22.1	26.4
Fe_3O_4 NPs	8.2	13.4
$Fe_3O_4@CNF1$	18.2	
$Fe_3O_4@CNF2$	14.0	
$Fe_3O_4@CNF3$	11.2	
$Fe_3O_4@CNF4$	4.5	7.5

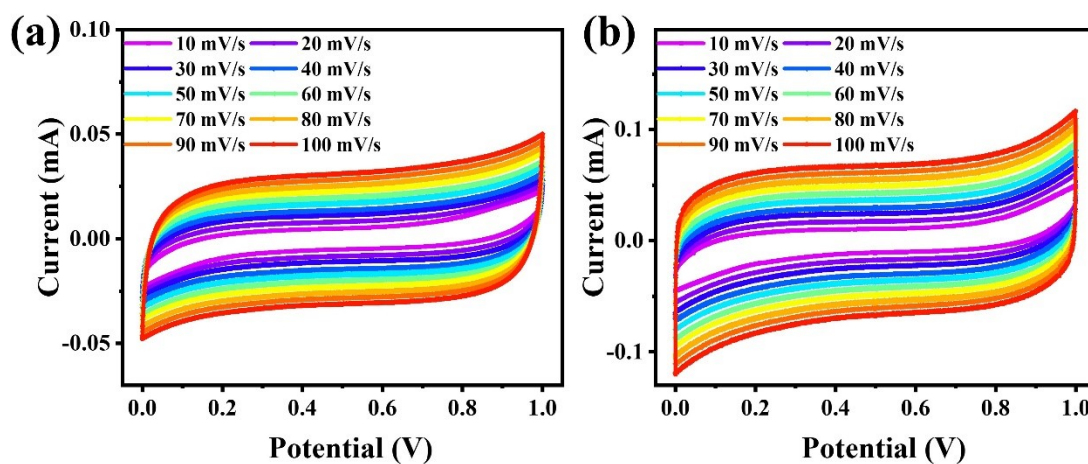


Figure S7(a-b). CV profiles for the CNF and Fe_3O_4 NPs at diverse scan rates, respectively (Symmetric supercapacitor performance; two electrode measurement).

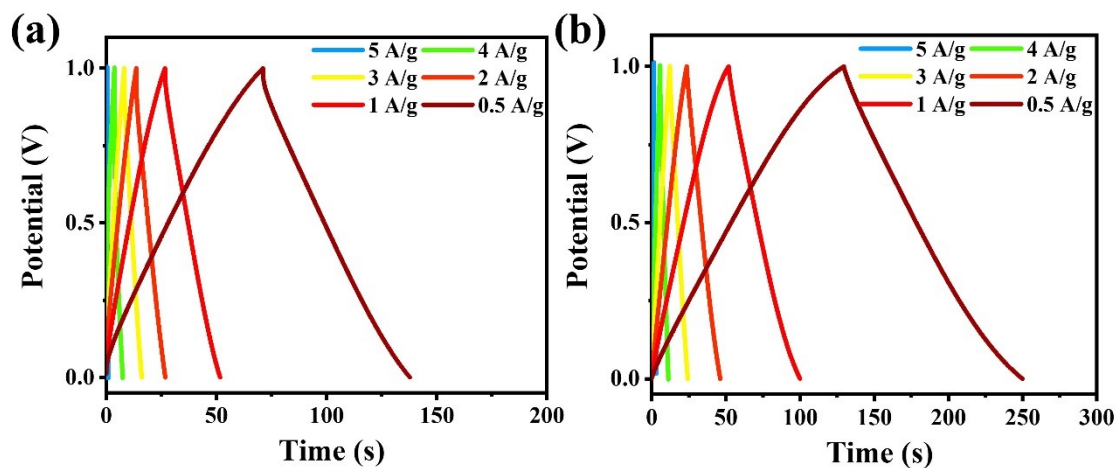


Figure S8(a-b). GCD profiles for the CNF and Fe_3O_4 NPs at the diverse current density, respectively (Symmetric supercapacitor performance; two electrode measurement).

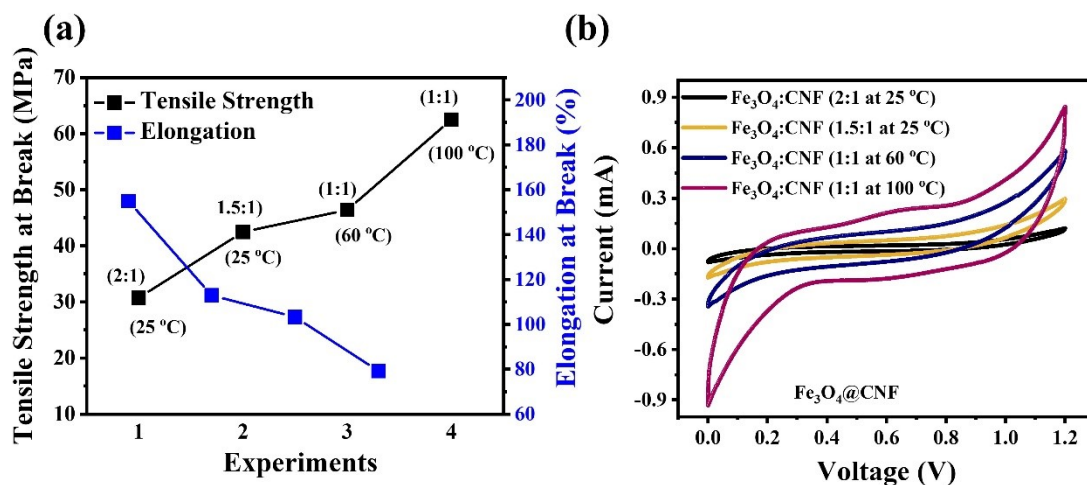


Figure S9. (a) Tensile strength and elongation at break and (b) CV profiles at the 10 mV/s of scan rate for the series of the compositions comprises $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4\text{@CNF1}$ (2:1:: $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4\text{:CNF}$ at 25 °C), $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4\text{@CNF2}$ (1.5:1:: $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4\text{:CNF}$ at 25 °C), $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4\text{@CNF3}$ (1:1:: $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4\text{:CNF}$ at 60 °C) and $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4\text{@CNF4}$ (1:1:: $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4\text{:CNF}$ at 100 °C) nanocomposite papers.

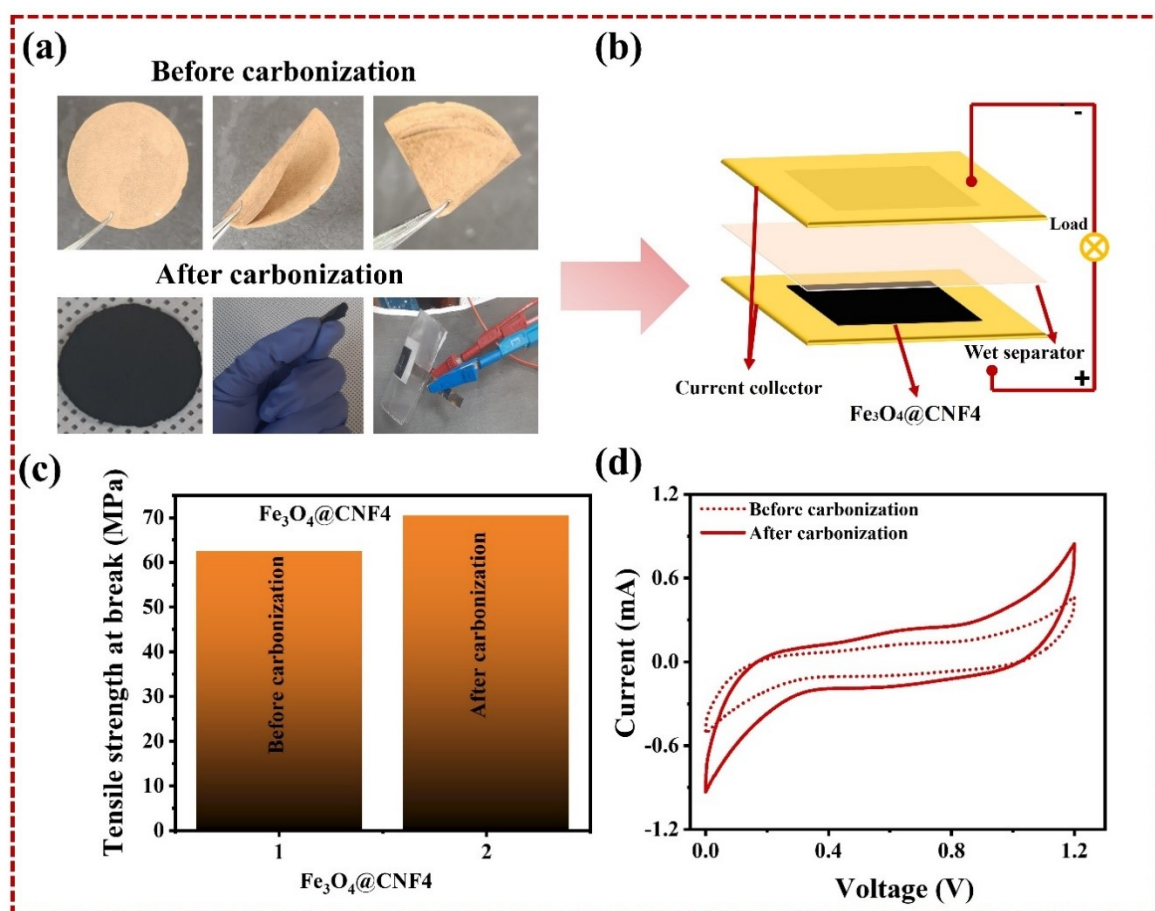


Figure S10. (a-b) Photo digital images for the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{CNF}_4$ nanocomposite before and after carbonization and the assembly of the symmetric supercapacitor device and (c-d) The tensile strength at break and CV profiles at the 10 mV/s of scan rate for the $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4@\text{CNF}_4$ before and after carbonization.

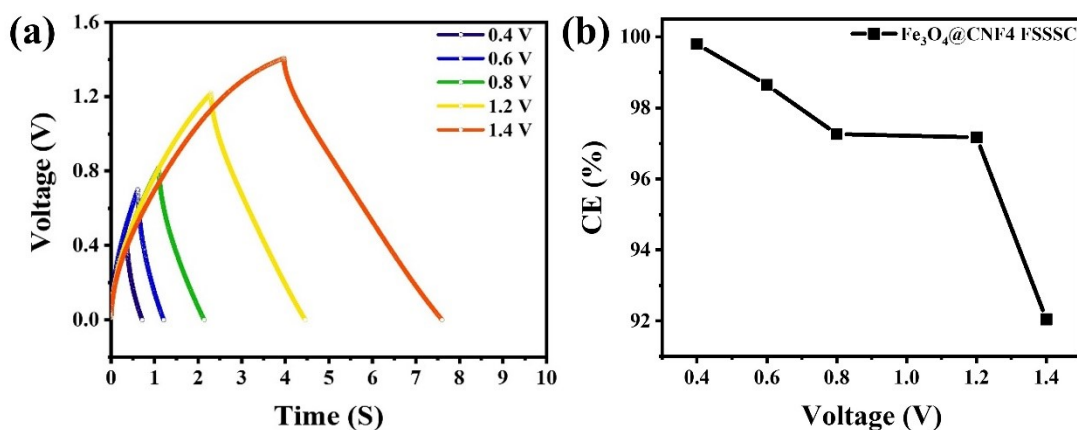


Figure S11. (a) GCD profiles at 5 A/g of current density under varying voltage windows and (b) Coulombic efficiency vs. voltage, stable at 97.1% up to 1.2 V and dropping to 92% at 1.4 V due to electrolyte decomposition.

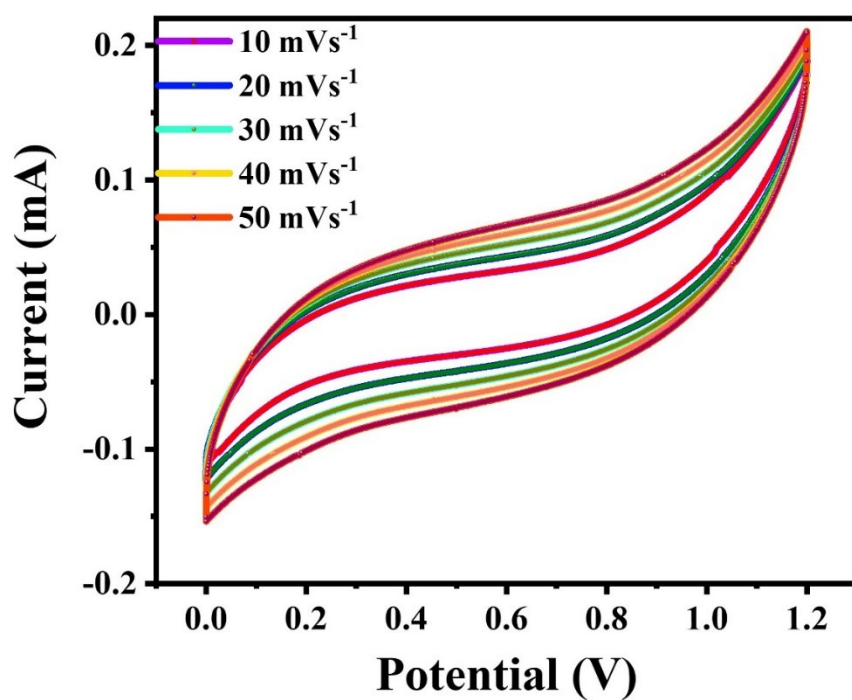


Figure S12. CV profiles for the CNF FSSSCs at diverse scan rate, respectively (Symmetric supercapacitor performance; two electrode measurement).

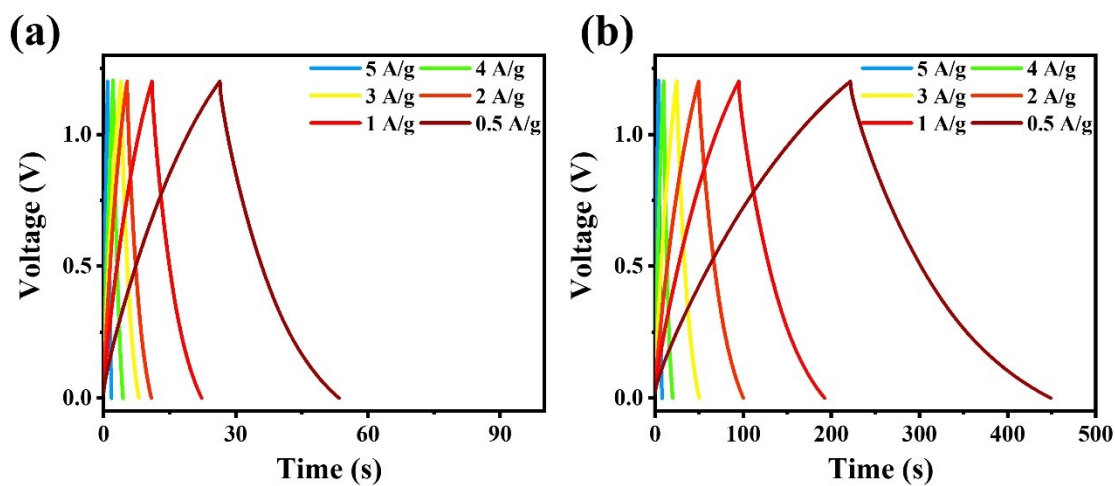


Figure S13. GCD profiles for the (a) CNF and (b) Fe_3O_4 @CNF FSSSCs at diverse current density, respectively (Symmetric supercapacitor performance; two electrode measurement).

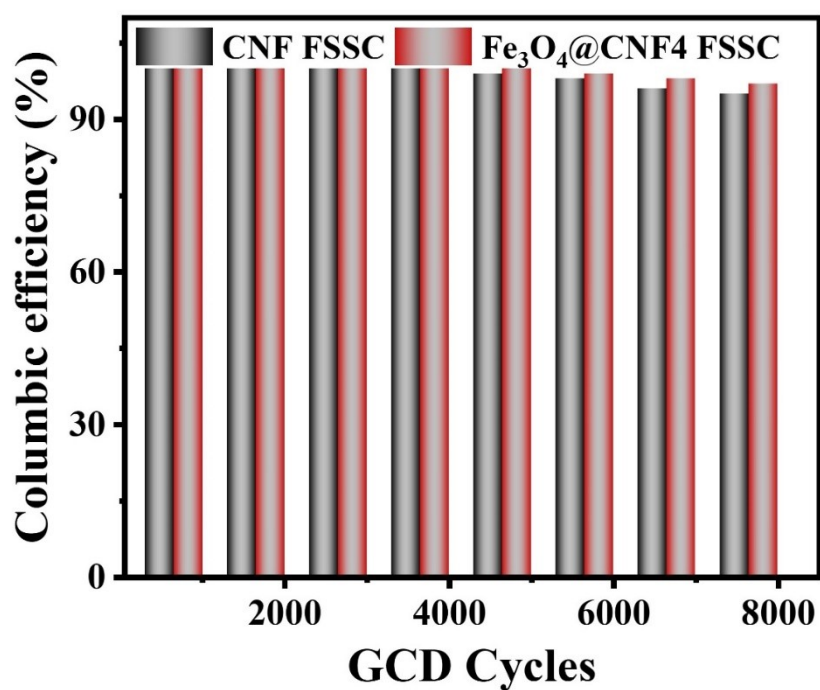


Figure S14. Coulombic efficiency (%) against GCD cycles for the Fe_3O_4 @CNF FSSSC and CNF FSSSC at 5 A/g of current density.

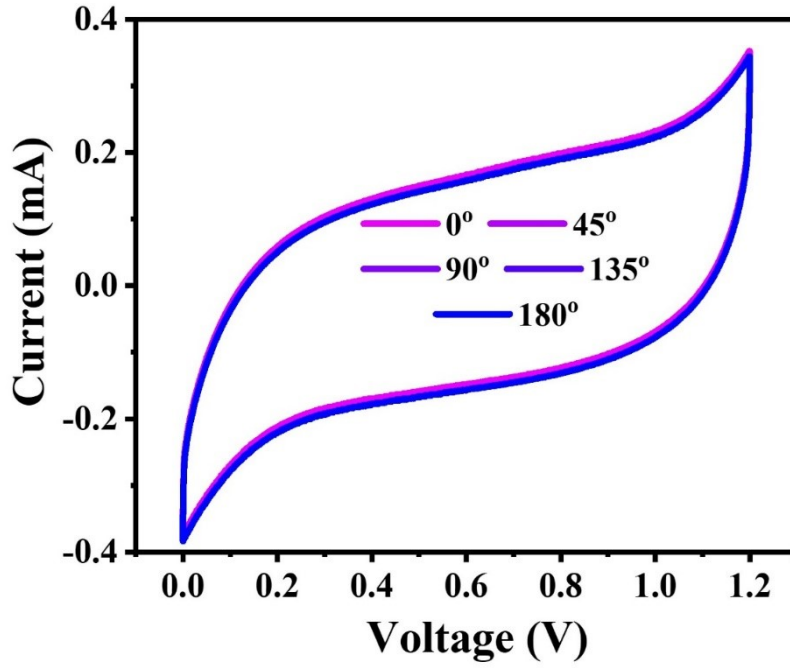


Figure S15. CV profiles for the Fe_3O_4 @CNF FSSSCs at various bending states for optimizing the flexibility.

Table S2. Comparative electrochemical performance of Fe_3O_4 @CNF nanocomposite in the three-electrode system with other previously reported materials.

Electrode materials	Electrolyte	Voltage window (V)	Specific capacitance	Ref.
Fe_3O_4 @CNF4	3 M KOH	0.1 to 0.6	2046.32 $\text{F}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ at 0.5 $\text{A}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$	Present work
Fe_3O_4 NPs	3 M KOH	0.1 to 0.6	410.34 $\text{F}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ at 0.5 $\text{A}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$	
CNF	3 M KOH	0.1 to 0.6	172.98 $\text{F}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ at 0.5 $\text{A}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$	
Co_3O_4 @CNF	3 M KOH	-0.2 to 0.6	789.9 $\text{F}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ at 1 $\text{A}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$	⁶
ZnMn_2O_4 /C	6 M KOH	0 to 1.2	589 $\text{F}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ at 1 $\text{A}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$	⁷
ZnO/MnO	1 M Na_2SO_4	0 to 0.8	14 mF/cm^2 at 0.1 mA/cm^2	⁸
ZnO/MnO ₂ nanowires	1 M Na_2SO_4	0 to 0.9	501 $\text{F}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ at 2 $\text{A}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$	⁹
ZnMn_2O_4 /carbon	6 M KOH	-1 to -0.3	105 $\text{F}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ at 0.3 $\text{A}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$	¹⁰
ZnO nanocones	1 M KOH	0.1 to 0.6	236 $\text{F}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ at 1 $\text{A}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$	¹¹

NCA/Co ₃ O ₄	6 M KOH	-0.05 to 0.45	616 F·g ⁻¹ at 1.2 A·g ⁻¹	¹²
CuCo ₂ S ₄ /CNT/graphene	1 M Na ₂ SO ₄	0 to 0.6	504 F·g ⁻¹ at 10 A·g ⁻¹	¹³
CPSC-3rGO	0.2 M Na ₂ SO ₄	-0.2 to 0.8	446 F·g ⁻¹ at 1 A·g ⁻¹	¹⁴
CS@ZnO Core-shell	6 M KOH	0 to 0.4	630 F·g ⁻¹ at 2 A·g ⁻¹	¹⁵
Co ₃ O ₄ nanoflakes@SrGO	2 M KOH	-0.2 to 0.5	406 F·g ⁻¹ at 1 A·g ⁻¹	¹⁶
CoMoO ₄ nanoclusters	6.0 M KNO ₃	-0.9 to 0.6	367 F·g ⁻¹ at 1.2 A·g ⁻¹	¹⁷
Ni-Co selenide	6 M KOH	0 to 0.6	742.4 F·g ⁻¹ at 1 mA cm ⁻²	¹⁸
NiCo ₂ O ₄	6 M KOH	-0.2 to 0.6	225 C. g ⁻¹ at 0.5 A g ⁻¹	¹⁹

Table S3. Comparative electrochemical performance of symmetric supercapacitor devices with other previously reported materials.

Device name	Type	Electrolyte	Specific capacitance	Stability /GCD cycling	Ref.
Fe ₃ O ₄ @CNF4	Symmetric	3 M KOH	390 F/g @ 0.5 A/g	88%/8000	Present Work
Fe ₃ O ₄ NPs	Symmetric	3 M KOH	122 F/g @ 0.5 A/g	75%/8000	
CNF	Symmetric	3 M KOH	67 F/g @ 0.5 A/g	80%/8000	
CoNW/CF//CoNW/CF SSC	Symmetric	3.0 M KOH	517.33 mF/cm ³ @ 0.26 mA/ cm ²	95/5000	²⁰
NCOs	Symmetric	1.0 M KOH	89 F g ⁻¹ @ 0.23 A.g ⁻¹	-	²¹
ZnO/Co ₃ O ₄ -450//AC	Asymmetric	1.0 M KOH	153 F g ⁻¹ @ 1 A.g ⁻¹	-	²²
CC@NiC ₂ O ₄ //CC@NC	Asymmetric	6.0 M KOH	89.7 F g ⁻¹ @ 1 A g ⁻¹	86.7/2000 0	²³
Co ₃ O ₄ @Ni ₃ S ₂	Asymmetric	3.0 M KOH	126 F g ⁻¹ @ 1 A.g ⁻¹	83.5/5000	²⁴
Ag/NiO	Asymmetric	3.0 M KOH	204 C.g ⁻¹ @ 2.5 A.g ⁻¹	96/4000	²⁵
Co ₃ O ₄ @Ni(OH) ₂ //AC	Asymmetric	6.0 M KOH	110 F.g ⁻¹ @ 2.5 A.g ⁻¹	86/1000	²⁶
MoS ₂ -NH ₂ /PANI nanosheets	Symmetric	1 M H ₂ SO ₄	58.6 F g ⁻¹ @ 2 A.g ⁻¹	96.5/1000 0	²⁷
MoS ₂ /CNS	Symmetric	1 M Na ₂ SO ₄	108 F g ⁻¹ @ 1 A.g ⁻¹	-	²⁸

MoS₂/G nanobelts	Symmetric	1 M Na ₂ SO ₄	278.2 F.g ⁻¹ @ 0.8 A.g ⁻¹	-	29
MoS₂/rGO	Symmetric	1 M H ₂ SO ₄	306 F.g ⁻¹ @ 0.5 A.g ⁻¹	-	30
NiS/MoS₂@N-rGO	Symmetric	6 M KOH	1028 F.g ⁻¹ @1 A.g ⁻¹	94.5/5000 0	31
MoS₂/rGO	Symmetric	NaOH	323 F.g ⁻¹ @ 0.2 A.g ⁻¹	76.8/500	32

Table S4. Comparative electrochemical performance of symmetric flexible supercapacitor devices with other previously reported materials.

Device name	Type	Electrolyte	Specific capacitance	Stability (%) / GCD cycling	Ref.
Fe₃O₄@CNF4 FSSSCs	Symmetric	PVA-KOH	188 F.g⁻¹@ 0.5A.g⁻¹	94/8000	Present work
CNF FSSSCs	Symmetric	PVA-KOH	23 F.g⁻¹@ 0.5A.g⁻¹	85/8000	
BC/Porous GO	Symmetric	PVA/H ₃ P O ₄	65.9 F.g ⁻¹ @ 0.4 A.g ⁻¹	----	33
Cellulose/Graphite/PANI	Symmetric	PVA/H ₃ P O ₄	357 F/g@ 80 mV/s	----	34
Cellulose/rGO/Ag/Fe₂O₃	Symmetric	PVA/LiCl	112 mF/cm ² @ 2 mA/cm ²	-----	35
Cellulose-Graphene	Symmetric	PVA-H ₂ SO ₄	120 F/g	99/5000 cycles	36
3D graphene-MoS₂ hybrid	Symmetric	KOH/PVA	58.0F.g ⁻¹ @ 2 A.g ⁻¹	-	37
TaS₂	Symmetric	PVA/LiCl	508 F/cm ³ @ 10 mV/s	92/4000	38
Cu₂WS₄	Symmetric	PVA/LiCl	583.3 F cm ⁻³ @ 0.31 A cm ⁻³	95/3000	39
SS/MWCNTs/MoTe₂	Symmetric	PVA-LiClO ₄	68.01 F.g ⁻¹ @ 0.2 mA.cm ⁻²	94/2000	40
MWCNTs/MoSe₂	Symmetric	PVA-KOH	27 F.g ⁻¹ @ 0.4 A/g	95/1000	41

MoS₂/carbon cloth	Symmetric	PVA-LiClO ₄	368 F.g ⁻¹ @ 5 mV/s	96.5/5000	⁴²
MoS₂/NPG	Symmetric	1 M Na ₂ SO ₄	102.5 F g ⁻¹ @ 1 A g ⁻¹	91.67/5000	⁴³
VSL-MoS₂@3D-Ni foam	Symmetric	Na ₂ SO ₄ /PVA	34.1 F.g ⁻¹ @ 1.3 A.g ⁻¹	82.5/10000	⁴⁴

Table S5: Comparative outcomes for the previously reported photocatalysts with our present results employing the various dye/pollutant.

Photocatalyst	Dye/Pollutant	Degradation efficiency (%) /Time (min)	Catalyst dose (mg/L)	Reference
Recycles Fe₃O₄@CNF4 FSSSCs	CV	95/45	100	Present work
α -MnO₂-Fe₃O₄	Methylene Blue	94.8/120	20	⁴⁵
Porous t-CuFe₂O₄	Acid fuchsin	80/90	---	⁴⁶
δ-MnO₂/montmorillonite	Methylene Blue	92/700	2000	⁴⁷
δ-MnO₂	Methylene Blue	99/700	2000	⁴⁷
MnO₂	Methylene Blue	93/180	200	⁴⁸
MnO₂/Fe₃O₄	Methylene Blue	98.2/180	200	⁴⁸
MnO₂	Methylene Blue	51.1/60	500	⁴⁹
Mn₃O₄- MnO₂	Methylene Blue	93.5/60	500	⁴⁹
HNTs/δ-MnO₂	Methylene Blue	97/60	40	⁵⁰
Meso-MnO₂ - MCM-41	Methylene Blue	99/60	1000	⁵¹
Pelagite	Methylene Blue	98/100	3000	⁵²

3D MnO₂ nanofibrous mesh	Methylene Blue	97/90	200	53
CaFe₂O₃	Methylene Blue	90/700	500	54
Fe₃O₄-coated biochar	Methylene Blue	93/180	400	55
Fe₃O₄/ZnO	Methylene Blue	94/60	200	56
Fe₃O₄/CRC	Methylene Blue	42/90	100	56
ZnO	Methylene Blue	58/120	1000	57
ZnO	Eosin Y	39/120	1000	57
A-ZIF-8	Rhodamine B	70/180	500	58

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