## **Supporting Information**

## Improved lithium ion battery performance by mesoporous $Co_3O_4$

## nanosheets grown on self-standing NiSi<sub>x</sub> nanowires on nickel foam

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Figure S1. Photographs of the synthesis procedure.



Figure S2. DTA-TG curves of Co-precursor (cobalt hydroxide carbonate).



Figure S3. (a) TEM image of an individual  $NiSi_x$  nanowire and (b) TEM image of a  $NiSi_x/Co_3O_4$  core/shell nanowire.



Figure S4. SEM images of  $NiSi_x/Co_3O_4$  core/shell nanowire arrays on nickel foam prepared at different reaction time of CBD: (a) 0 h, (b) 0.5 h, (c) 1h, and (d) 2h.



Figure S5. SEM images of different 3D  $Co_3O_4$ -based heterohierarchical nanostructures: (a)  $Co_3O_4$ /Si nanowires, (b)  $Co_3O_4$ /CuO nanoneedles, (c)  $Co_3O_4$ /CuO nanoflowers, and (d)  $Co_3O_4$ /CuO nanowires.



Figure S6. (a) TEM image of an individual NiSi<sub>x</sub> nanowire, the inset is its HRTEM, (b) TEM image of an individual NiSi<sub>x</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> core/shell nanowire with the growth of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> for 0.5h, (c) the corresponding SAED of an individual NiSi<sub>x</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> core/shell nanowire with the growth of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> for 0.5h, and (d) HRTEM of NiSi<sub>x</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> core/shell nanowire with the growth of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> for 0.5 h.



Figure S7. XRD patterns of the as-prepared NiSi<sub>x</sub> nanowires,  $Co_3O_4$  nanosheets, and NiSi<sub>x</sub>/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> core/shell nanowire arrays on nickel foam.



Figure S8. TEM scan line of  $NiSi_x/Co_3O_4$  core/shell nanowire with the growth of  $Co_3O_4$  for 2h and its corresponding element mapping distribution.



Figure S9. (a) The charge/discharge curve of  $NiSi_x$  grown on Ni foam after the same heat treatment for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cycles and (b) the discharge-charge curves of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Ni foam at a current density of 400 mA g<sup>-1</sup>.