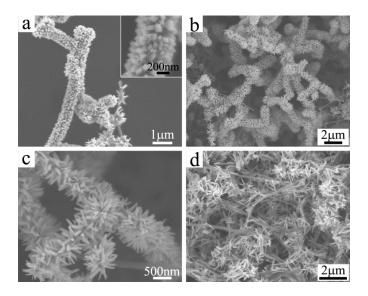
## Branched CNT@SnO<sub>2</sub> nanorods@carbon hierarchical heterostructures for lithium ion batteries with high reversibility and rate capability

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## **Electronic supplementary information**



**Fig. S1** SEM images of CNT@SnO<sub>2</sub> heterostructures obtained with different amounts of CNTs: (a) 0.05 mg, (b, c) 2 mg, (d) 4 mg. The inset in (a) shows a high-magnification image.

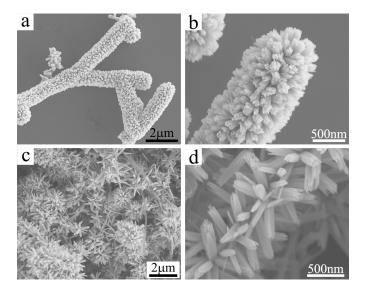
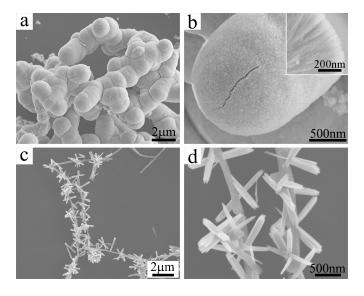


Fig. S2 SEM images of CNT@SnO $_2$  heterostructures obtained with different amounts of glacial acetic acid: (a, b) 5 mL, (c, d) 7 mL.



**Fig. S3** SEM images of CNT@SnO<sub>2</sub> heterostructures obtained with different amounts of NaBr: (a, b) 0 mmol, (c, d) 0.35 mmol. Inset shows a cross section the thick  $SnO_2$  shell, suggesting that the  $SnO_2$  shell consists of densly packed rod-like subunits.

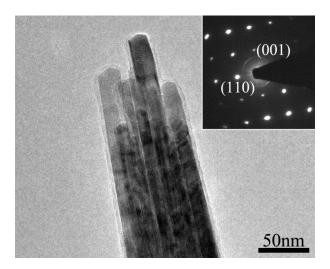
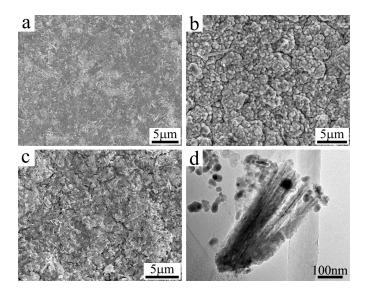
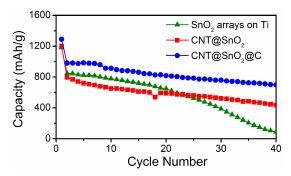


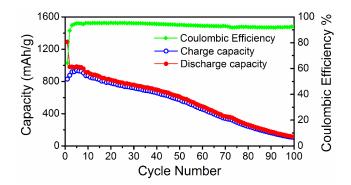
Fig. S4 TEM image of polymeric carbon-coated  $SnO_2$  nanorod after hydrothermal carbonization of glucose in solution. The inset is the corresponding SAED pattern.



**Fig. S5** (a-c) SEM images of the CNT@SnO $_2$ @C anode before and after cycling: (a) as prepared, (b) after 40 cycles, (c) after 40 cycles followed by soaking in N-methylpyrrolidone for 2 days to dissolve binder polymers and SEI. (d) TEM image of nanorod bundles separated from the electrode after 40 cycles by ultrasonic treatment.



**Fig. S6** Comparative cycling performance of branched CNT@SnO<sub>2</sub>@C and CNT@SnO<sub>2</sub> heterostructures at a current density of 720 mA  $g^{-1}$  and SnO<sub>2</sub> nanorod arrays grown on Ti substrate at a current density of 780 mA  $g^{-1}$ .



**Fig. S7** Cycling performance of branched CNT@SnO<sub>2</sub>@C heterostructures up to 100 cycles at a current density of 720 mA  $g^{-1}$ .

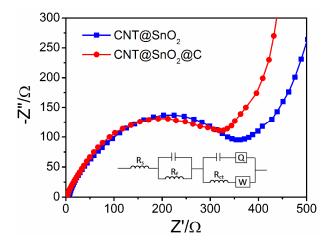


Fig. S8 Nyquist plots of branched CNT@SnO<sub>2</sub>@C and CNT@SnO<sub>2</sub> heterostructures.