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Zheng Yi, Ning Lin, Tianjun Xu, Yitai Qian

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TiO₂ Coated Si/C interconnected Microsphere with Stable Framework and Interface for High-Rate Lithium Storage

Zheng Yi, Ning Lin,* Tianjun Xu, and Yitai Qian*

Department of Chemistry, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, Anhui 230026, P. R. China.

Corresponding author: E-mail: ningl@mail.ustc.edu.cn, yitaiqian@ustc.edu.cn.

Tel: 86-551-63601589; Fax: 86-551-6360006.

Abstract:

Si is considered as the most promising anode material for lithium ion batteries (LIBs) because of the high specific capacity (3579 mAh g⁻¹). However, the huge volume changes (> 300%) causes structural cracking and unstable solid state electrolyte (SEI) film, leading to fast capacity fading. Herein, TiO₂ coated Si/C-interconnected microsphere (Si/C@TiO₂) with dual-protection is designed and fabricated via a two-step procedure. In this composite, the inner flexible carbon and outer rigid TiO₂ layer work together to maintain the structural integrity, stabilize the SEI film, and enhance the conductivity of the anode composite. As a result, the obtained Si/C@TiO₂ composite delivers a reversible capacity of 1077.3 mA h g⁻¹ at 0.2 A g⁻¹ after 100 cycles, capacity retention of 58.4% at even 10 A g⁻¹, and improved coulombic efficiency. In addition, a full cell consisted of Si/C@TiO₂ anode and LiCoO₂ cathode exhibits a reversible capacity of 1048 mAh g⁻¹ at 0.2 A g⁻¹ and 820 mAh g⁻¹ at 1.5 A g⁻¹ based on the anode active material with a working potential beyond 3.1 V.

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