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Rencheng Jin, Yuming Cui, Shanmin Gao, Shaohua Zhang, Lixia Yang, Guihua Li

PII: S0013-4686(18)30624-8

DOI: 10.1016/j.electacta.2018.03.122

Reference: EA 31488

To appear in: Electrochimica Acta

Received Date: 5 February 2018

Revised Date: 17 March 2018

Accepted Date: 20 March 2018

Please cite this article as: R. Jin, Y. Cui, S. Gao, S. Zhang, L. Yang, G. Li, CNTs@NC@CuCo₂S₄ nanocomposites: An advanced electrode for high performance lithium-ion batteries and supercapacitors, *Electrochimica Acta* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.electacta.2018.03.122.

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CNTs@NC@CuCo₂S₄ nanocomposites: An advanced electrode for high

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Rencheng Jin,* Yuming Cui, Shanmin Gao, Shaohua Zhang, Lixia Yang, and

Guihua Li

School of Chemistry & Materials Science, Ludong University, Yantai 264025, P. R.

China. E-mail: jinrc427@126.com

Abstract: The design and fabrication of the materials to improve their performance are crucial for energy storage of lithium-ion batteries and supercapacitors. Herein, the CuCo₂S₄ nanocrystallites grown on N-doped amorphous carbon coated CNTs are synthesized via a facile solvothermal method (CNTs@NC@CuCo₂S₄). The N-doped amorphous carbon layer with functional groups can effectively strengthen the adhesion between CNTs matrix and CuCo₂S₄ nanocrystallites. The combination of nanocrystallites and the CNTs not only shortens the diffusion path of the electrolyte, but also enhances the electrical conductivity of the electrode. As a result, the CNTs@NC@CuCo2S4 displays excellent electrochemical performance both in lithium-ion batteries and supercapacitors. The reversible capacity can be retained at 783 mAh g⁻¹ after 100 cycles at the current density of 100 mA g⁻¹. And the discharge capacity of 507 mAh g⁻¹ is still maintained after 60 cycles even at high rate of 5000 mA g⁻¹. As the electrode for supercapacitors, the CNTs@NC@CuCo₂S₄ delivers good capacitive performance with high capability (1604 F g⁻¹ at 1 A g⁻¹), good rate capability, and enhanced cycling stability, with 93.6% capacitance retention after 2000 cycles at the current density of 2 Ag^{-1} .

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