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Interconnected quasi-nanospheres of SnO<sub>2</sub>/TiO<sub>2</sub>/C with gap spaces for improved lithium

storage

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Abstract: Herein, by combining the advantages of SnO<sub>2</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub> and carbon elaborately, we present a

stable nanostructure of SnO<sub>2</sub>-based composite. As a promising anode for lithium-ion batteries (LIBs), it

delivers a high capacity of 642.5 mAh g<sup>-1</sup> after even 450 cycles, exhibiting outstanding lithium storage

performance. This work provides a facile and effective method for addressing the undesirable volume

variation issue of SnO<sub>2</sub> anodes.

Keywords: Crystal structure; Functional; Tin dioxide; Anode; Lithium-ion batteries

1. Introduction

Due to its high specific capacity and safe working potential, SnO2 anode currently gains extensive

attention. However, its practical application in lithium-ion batteries (LIBs) still suffers from a

tremendous challenge [1]. The large volume variation of SnO<sub>2</sub> happened during cycling can easily

cause the solid electrolyte interface (SEI) layer broken and expose the generated fresh surface of active

materials to electrolyte, resulting in continuous growth of the SEI layer. Moreover, Sn nanoparticles

derived from reduction of SnO2 are easily aggregated to larger particles, which causes electrode

fracture and loss of electrical contact during battery cycles [2, 3]. Taken together, severe capacity decay

is often observed in SnO2 electrodes [4]. Therefore, the fatal issues of large volume variation and

aggregation need to be well addressed.

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