

Supporting Information for

## Highly Reversible Li–Se Batteries with Ultra-Lightweight N,S-Codoped Graphene Blocking Layer

Xingxing Gu<sup>1,\*</sup>, Lingbao Xin<sup>2</sup>, Yang Li<sup>3</sup>, Fan Dong<sup>1</sup>, Min Fu<sup>1</sup>, Yanglong Hou<sup>4,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Chongqing Key Laboratory of Catalysis and New Environmental Materials, College of Environment and Resources, Chongqing Technology and Business University, Chongqing 400067, People's Republic of China

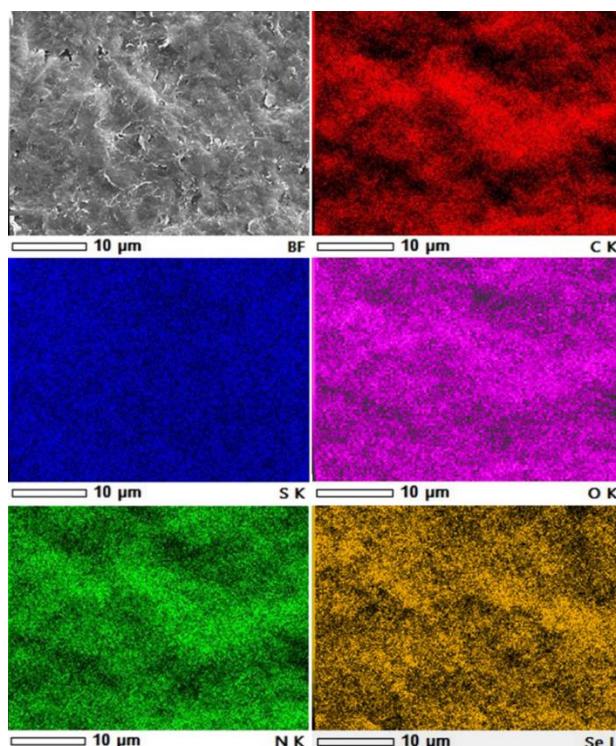
<sup>2</sup>School of Chemical Engineering, Shandong University of Technology, Zibo, Shandong 255049, People's Republic of China

<sup>3</sup>College of Arts, Chongqing Technology and Business University, Chongqing 400067, People's Republic of China

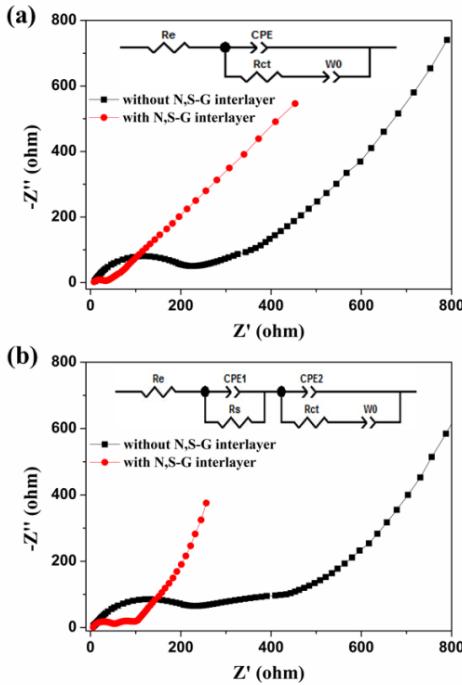
<sup>4</sup>Beijing Key Laboratory for Magnetoelectric Materials and Devices (BKLMMD), BIC-ESAT, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering, Peking University, Beijing 100871, People's Republic of China

\*Corresponding authors. E-mail: [x.gu@ctbu.edu.cn](mailto:x.gu@ctbu.edu.cn) (Xingxing Gu), [hou@pku.edu.cn](mailto:hou@pku.edu.cn) (Yanglong Hou)

### Supplementary Figures



**Fig. S1** SEM images of the N-S-G interlayer after 500 cycles and the corresponding element mapping of C, S, O, N, Se



**Fig. S2** Nyquist plots and equivalent circuit (inset) of the polyselenides catholyte with and without N,S-G interlayer: **a** before cycling and **b** after 500 cycles

**Table S1** Electrochemical performances comparison with different carbon-Se composites cathode and carbon interlayer

Sample name	Selenium content in the cathode (%)	Se loading (mg cm <sup>-2</sup> )	Long-cycle performances	Rate capability	References
polyselenides catholyte with N,S-G interlayer	~79 (including N,S-G weight)	~5.0	330.7 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 500 cycles at 1 C	301.4 mA h g <sup>-1</sup> at 4 C	This work
Se/porous carbon microcubes composite	40	1.0-1.5	231.4 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 460 cycles at 0.5 C	218.1 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 5 C	[1]
Se-impregnated hollow carbon microspheres	41.7	0.72	525 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 1000 cycles at 0.74 C	496 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 2.97 C	[2]
Se/CNT@microporous carbon composite	50.2	2.0	~200 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 1000 cycles at 1 C	~150 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 5 C	[3]
Graphene-CNT@Se	51	1.6	504.3 mA h g <sup>-1</sup> after 150 cycles at 0.2 C	436.4 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 4 C	[4]
Se@hollow-core nitrogen-doped carbon nanobelts	62.5	3.0	~453.2 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 1000 cycles at 1 C	~450 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 2.37 C	[5]
Graphene-encapsulated selenium/polyaniline core-shell nanowire	52.9	3.0	461.7 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 200 cycles at 0.2 C	510.9 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 2 C	[6]
Porous carbon nanofibers-selenium	52.3	0.8	516 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 900 cycles at 0.74 C	306 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 5.9 C	[7]

Se/chitosan-derived hierarchical porous carbon	35	1.37-1.77	537.6 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 100 cycles at 0.2 C	325.2 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 4.7 C	[8]
Se/CMK-3	39.2	2.0	600 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 50 cycles at 0.1 C	—	[9]
Se/carbon aerogel	44.8	1.5-2.0	309 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 100 cycles at 0.5 C	301 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 5 C	[10]
Se/porous carbon sphere	56.4	2.0	417 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 1200 cycles at 1 C	384.75 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 20 C	[11]
Se/nitrogen-doped microporous carbon spheres	35	2.0	570 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 350 cycles at 0.5 C	200 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 5 C	[12]
Core-shell structured selenium@ carbon spheres	54.4	1.0-2.0	300 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 100 cycles at 0.1 C	447 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 4.7 C	[13]
Selenium in nitrogen-containing hierarchical porous carbon	45.0	1.0	267 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 100 cycles at 1 C	~300 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 5 C	[14]
Selenium/microporous carbon nanofiber composite	40	1.0–1.2	400 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 2000 cycles at 1 C	420 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 5 C	[15]
Se@Carbide-derived carbon	46.5	1.0	~450 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 150 cycles at 0.2 C	310 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 2 C	[16]
Se@mesoporous carbon/ graphene	49.6	1.2	385 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 1300 cycles at 1 C	274 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 3 C	[17]
Se@erylene-3,4,9,10-tetracarboxylic dianhydride derived carbon	43.2	1.2	430 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 250 cycles at 0.15 C	280 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 1.78 C	[18]
Hollow carbonized polyaniline spheres/selenium composites	32.96	1.5-2.0	298.7 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 100 cycles at 0.5 C	246.8 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 2 C	[19]
Selenium/micro-mesoporous carbon sphere nanocomposite	48	2.0	540 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 100 cycles at 0.1 C	430 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 5 C	[20]
Selenium@mesoporous carbon	38.4	0.55–0.71	306.9 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 100 cycles at 0.5 C	275.9 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 2 C	[21]
Cellulose based carbon interlayer	80 (without carbon interlayer weight) 64% (without CNT interlayer weight)	1.6	282 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 100 cycles at 0.5 C	—	[22]
Se@reduced graphene oxide with CNT interlayer	(without CNT interlayer weight) 52% (including graphene weight)	2.0	265 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 200 cycles at 0.2 C	250 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 5 C	[23]
Graphene-coated polymer separator		4.0	331 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> after 1000 cycles at 0.5 C	~3400 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> at 5 C	[24]

**Table S2** Impedance parameters of the Li-Se batteries calculated according to the equivalent circuits

Sample name	Cycle number	Resistance		
		$R_e$ ( $\Omega$ )	$R_s$ ( $\Omega$ )	$R_{ct}$ ( $\Omega$ )
Without N,S-G interlayer	Before cycling	3.75	—	38.64
	500 <sup>th</sup> cycles	5.87	34.23	65.92
With N,S-G interlayer	Before cycling	7.90	—	176.80
	500 <sup>th</sup> cycles	4.93	195.70	479.10

## References

- [1] T. Liu, M. Jia, Y. Zhang, J. Han, Y. Li et al., Confined selenium within metal-organic frameworks derived porous carbon microcubes as cathode for rechargeable lithium–selenium batteries. *J. Power Sources* **341**, 53-59 (2017). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpowsour.2016.11.099>
- [2] Y.J. Hong, Y.C. Kang, Selenium-impregnated hollow carbon microspheres as efficient cathode materials for lithium-selenium batteries. *Carbon* **111**, 198-206 (2017). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.carbon.2016.09.069>
- [3] S. Xin, L. Yu, Y. You, H.P. Cong, Y.X. Yin et al., The electrochemistry with lithium versus sodium of selenium confined to slit micropores in carbon. *Nano Lett.* **16**(7), 4560-4568 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.nanolett.6b01819>
- [4] J. He, Y. Chen, W. Lv, K. Wen, P. Li et al., Three-dimensional hierarchical graphene-CNT@Se: A highly efficient freestanding cathode for Li–Se batteries. *ACS Energy Lett.* **1**(1), 16-20 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsenergylett.6b00015>
- [5] Q. Cai, Y. Li, L. wang, Q. Li, J. Xu et al., Freestanding hollow double-shell Se@CN<sub>x</sub> nanobelts as large-capacity and high-rate cathodes for Li-Se batteries. *Nano Energy* **32**, 1-9 (2017). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nanoen.2016.12.010>
- [6] J. Zhang, Y. Xu, L. Fan, Y. Zhu, J. Liang, Y. Qian, Graphene-encapsulated selenium/polyaniline core–shell nanowires with enhanced electrochemical performance for Li-Se batteries. *Nano Energy* **13**, 592-600 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nanoen.2015.03.028>
- [7] L.C. Zeng, W.C. Zeng, Y. Jiang, X. Wei, W.H. Li et al., A flexible porous carbon nanofibers-selenium cathode with superior electrochemical performance for both Li-Se and Na-Se batteries. *Adv. Energy Mater.* **5**(4), 1401377-1401387 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1002/Aenm.201401377>
- [8] C. Chen, C. Zhao, Z. Hu, K. Liu, Synthesis of se/chitosan-derived hierarchical porous carbon composite as Li–Se battery cathode. *Funct. Mater. Lett.* **16**50074 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1142/s1793604716500740>
- [9] C.P. Yang, S. Xin, Y.X. Yin, H. Ye, J. Zhang, Y.G. Guo, An advanced selenium-carbon cathode for rechargeable lithium-selenium batteries. *Angew. Chem. Int. Edit.* **52**(32), 8363-8367 (2013). <https://doi.org/10.1002/anie.201303147>
- [10] S. Jiang, Z. Zhang, Y. Lai, Y. Qu, X. Wang, J. Li, Selenium encapsulated into 3D interconnected hierarchical porous carbon aerogels for lithium–selenium batteries with

- high rate performance and cycling stability. *J. Power Sources* **267**, 394-404 (2014). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpowsour.2014.05.116>
- [11] Z. Li, L. Yuan, Z. Yi, Y. Liu, Y. Huang, Confined selenium within porous carbon nanospheres as cathode for advanced li–se batteries. *Nano Energy* **9**, 229-236 (2014). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nanoen.2014.07.012>
- [12] J. Guo, Q. Wang, C. Qi, J. Jin, Y. Zhu, Z. Wen, One-step microwave synthesized core-shell structured selenium@carbon spheres as cathode materials for rechargeable lithium batteries. *Chem. Commun.* **52**(32), 5613-5616 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1039/c6cc00638h>
- [13] Y. Jiang, X. Ma, J. Feng, S. Xiong, Selenium in nitrogen-doped microporous carbon spheres for high-performance lithium–selenium batteries. *J. Mater. Chem. A* **3**(8), 4539-4546 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1039/c4ta06624c>
- [14] Y. Qu, Z. Zhang, S. Jiang, X. Wang, Y. Lai, Y. Liu, J. Li, Confining selenium in nitrogen-containing hierarchical porous carbon for high-rate rechargeable lithium–selenium batteries. *J. Mater. Chem. A* **2**(31), 12255 (2014). <https://doi.org/10.1039/c4ta02563f>
- [15] Y. Liu, L. Si, Y. Du, X. Zhou, Z. Dai, J. Bao, Strongly bonded selenium/microporous carbon nanofibers composite as a high-performance cathode for lithium–selenium batteries. *J. Phys. Chem. C* **119**(49), 27316-27321 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jpcc.5b09553>
- [16] J.T. Lee, H.M. Kim, D-C. Lee, F. Wu et al., Micro- and mesoporous carbide-derived carbon-selenium cathodes for high-performance lithium selenium batteries. *Adv. Energy Mater.* **5**(1), 1400981-1400987 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1002/aenm.201400981>
- [17] K. Han, Z. Liu, J. Shen, Y. Lin, F. Dai, H. Ye, A free-standing and ultralong-life lithium–selenium battery cathode enabled by 3D mesoporous carbon/graphene hierarchical architecture. *Adv. Funct. Mater.* **25**(3), 455-463 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1002/adfm.201402815>
- [18] C. Luo, J. Wang, L. Suo, J. Mao, X. Fan, C. Wang, In situ formed carbon bonded and encapsulated selenium composites for Li-Se and Na-Se batteries. *J. Mater. Chem. A* **3**(2), 555-561 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1039/c4ta04611k>
- [19] J. Li, X. Zhao, Z. Zhang, Y. Lai, Facile synthesis of hollow carbonized polyaniline spheres to encapsulate selenium for advanced rechargeable lithium–selenium batteries. *J. Alloys Compd.* **619**, 794-799 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jallcom.2014.09.099>
- [20] H. Ye, Y-X. Yin, S-F. Zhang, Y-G. Guo, Advanced Se–C nanocomposites: A bifunctional electrode material for both Li-Se and Li-ion batteries. *J. Mater. Chem. A* **2**(33), 13293 (2014). <https://doi.org/10.1039/c4ta02017k>
- [21] Y. Lai, Y. Gan, Z. Zhang, W. Chen, J. Li, Metal-organic frameworks-derived mesoporous carbon for high performance lithium–selenium battery. *Electrochim. Acta* **146**, 134-141 (2014). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electacta.2014.09.045>
- [22] Z. Zhang, Z. Zhang, K. Zhang, X. Yang, Q. Li, Improvement of electrochemical performance of rechargeable lithium–selenium batteries by inserting a free-standing carbon interlayer. *RSC Adv.* **4**(30), 15489 (2014). <https://doi.org/10.1039/c4ra00446a>
- [23] X. Peng, L. Wang, X. Zhang, B. Gao, J. Fu et al., Reduced graphene oxide encapsulated selenium nanoparticles for high-power lithium–selenium battery cathode. *J. Power Sources* **288**, 214-220 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpowsour.2015.04.124>

[24] R. Fang, G. Zhou, S. Pei, F. Li, H-M. Cheng, Localized polyselenides in a graphene-coated polymer separator for high rate and ultralong life lithium–selenium batteries. *Chem. Commun.* **51**(17), 3667-3670 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1039/c5cc00089k>