

## **Supporting Information**

### **CoFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> Hollow Spheres Decorated Three-Dimensional rGO Sponge for Highly Efficient Electrochemical Charge Storage Device**

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## **S1. Materials Synthesis**

**S1.1. Chemicals used.** Cobalt chloride hexahydrate ( $\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), Ferric chloride hexahydrate ( $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), and ethylene glycol were purchased from Merck, India. Polyethylene glycol (PEG-2000), Sodium hydroxide (NaOH), Hydrazine hydrate, Sulphuric acid ( $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), Potassium Hydroxide (KOH), Methanol (HPLC grade) and ethanol were purchased from Fisher Scientific. Graphite powder (mean particle size of  $<20$  mm), Polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF), acetylene black, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone (NMP) and polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. All the chemicals were used without further purification. Deionized water was used throughout the experiment.

### **S1.2. Synthesis of Graphene oxide (GO)**

GO was synthesized by using modified Hummer's method. In the standard synthetic process, 0.6 g  $\text{NaNO}_3$  was added to 35 mL conc.  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  taken in a beaker kept inside an ice-bath. Then 1.3 g of graphite powders were added to the mixture and stirred for 8 h by maintaining the temperature below  $5^\circ\text{C}$ . To this mixture, 3.8 g of  $\text{KMnO}_4$  was added slowly and the temperature of the mixture was raised to  $\sim 35^\circ\text{C}$  and stirred for 8-10 h. Then 180 mL of distilled water was added to the mixture and the temperature was raised to  $98^\circ\text{C}$  and maintained for  $\sim 1$  h. After that 2 mL of 30%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  solution was added to the mixture and stirred for 1 h. The obtained product (GO) was washed with 10% HCl solution, distilled water and ethanol and then dried at  $60^\circ\text{C}$  for 10 h.

### **S1.3. Synthesis of reduced graphene oxide (rGO) with nanosheet-like structure**

1 g of GO was dispersed in 200 mL distilled water and then 2 M NaOH was added drop by drop to this mixture till pH reaches  $\sim 12$ . The mixture was stirred for  $\sim 30$  min and then 56 mL of hydrazine hydrate was added and refluxed for 4 h. The black ppt. obtained was washed with distilled water till pH of the mixture reaches  $\sim 7$  followed by washing with ethanol and finally dried at  $60^\circ\text{C}$  for 10 h.

### **S1.4. Preparation of GO sponge ( $\text{GO}_{\text{sp}}$ ) and rGO sponge ( $\text{rGO}_{\text{sp}}$ )**

In a beaker, GO was well-dispersed in minimum amount of water and then kept in  $-80^\circ\text{C}$  for overnight followed by lyophilisation for 72 h. The obtained GO sponge was kept in vacuum oven at  $60^\circ\text{C}$  for 10h. The prepared  $\text{GO}_{\text{sp}}$  was placed in an alumina crucible and 6

mL hydrazine hydrate and then the crucible was covered with a lid. Then it was heated for 3 h at 150°C to obtain rGO<sub>sp</sub>.

### **S1.5. Synthesis of CoFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> hollow spheres (CF<sub>hs</sub>)**

In a beaker CoCl<sub>2</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O and FeCl<sub>3</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O (molar ratio=1:2) were dissolved in 80 ml of ethylene glycol. To this mixture sodium acetate and poly ethylene glycol-2000 (PEG-2000) (weight ratio 1:3.6) were added and then stirred vigorously until NaAc and PEG-2000 gets completely dissolved. The mixture was then transferred to a stainless steel autoclave and heated at 200°C for 22 h. The obtained ppt. was separated from the reaction mixture by using an external magnet followed by washing with distilled water and ethanol and then dried at 60°C for 10 h.

### **S1.6. Synthesis of CF<sub>hs</sub>-rGO<sub>sp</sub> nanocomposites**

CF<sub>hs</sub>-rGO<sub>sp</sub> nanocomposites were prepared by employing a simple wet-impregnation method. In a round bottom flask, desired amount of CF<sub>hs</sub> and rGO<sub>sp</sub> were dispersed in methanol and the refluxed for 3 h and then the obtained product was separated from the solvent by using an external magnet and then dried at 60°C for 10 h, for further use.

**S2. Characterization and Instrumentation.** For this work, we have used an Alpha 1-2 LD plus freeze dryer (Martin Christ, Germany) to prepare the GO sponge. Then, characterization of the synthesized materials were carried out by using the following characterization techniques: (i) X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were recorded using a powder X-ray diffractometer (Mini Flex II, Rigaku, Japan) with Cu K $\alpha$  ( $\lambda$  = 0.15405 nm) radiation at a scanning speed of 3 ° min<sup>-1</sup>, (ii) Field emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM) images of samples were obtained using Quanta 250 FEG (FEI), (iii) High-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HRTEM) and selected area electron diffraction (SAED) images were obtained by JEM-2100 (JEOL), 200 kV equipped with LaB<sub>6</sub> filament, (iv) Energy dispersive X-ray spectra (EDS) and elemental mapping of the synthesized material was obtained from X-Max (Oxford Instruments) attached to a JEOL JEM 2100 TEM operated at 200 kV, (v) Fourier Transform Infrared spectra (FTIR) were recorded using Spectrum two FT-IR spectrometer (Perkin Elmer), (vi) Raman spectra were recorded on a Horiba via Raman microscope with a 633 nm laser excitation, (vii) XPS measurements were carried out by using a Thermo-Scientific ESCALAB Xi<sup>+</sup> spectrometer having a monochromatic Al K $\alpha$  X-ray source (1486.6 eV) and a spherical energy analyzer that

operates in the CAE (constant analyzer energy) mode. (vii) Multiple point BET surface area was determined by a Surface area and porosimetry analyzer (Micromeritics Tristar 3000, USA).

IVIUMSTAT (10V/5A/8MHz) workstation was used to perform the electrochemical studies.

### **S3. Electrode preparation:**

To fabricate the working electrode, first, a viscous paste of 80 wt % active electrode material with 10 wt % poly(vinylidene fluoride) in N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone and 10 wt % acetylene black was prepared and then this paste was coated on the nickel foam with dimensions (1.5 cm × 1.5 cm) and dried at 80 °C for 24 h under vacuum to remove the residual solvent. Mass loading on the Ni foam was ~2 mg.

Only one side of the Ni foam was coated in case of the working electrode for asymmetric cell.

### **S4. Fabrication of an asymmetric supercapacitor (ASC) cell.**

The voltammetric charges (Q) were calculated based on the following equations:

$$Q = C_{\text{single}} \times \Delta V \times m \quad (\text{S1})$$

where m is the mass of the electrode (g),  $\Delta V$  is the potential window (V), and  $C_{\text{single}}$  is the specific capacitance ( $\text{F g}^{-1}$ ) of each electrode measured in three-electrode setup (calculated from cyclic voltammograms at a scan rate of  $10 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ ).

Considering the charge/mass ratio for both anode and cathode, balancing of charge was carried out by substituting above equation as:

$$\frac{q_+}{q_-} = \frac{m_+}{m_-} = \frac{C_{\text{sp}}^- \times \Delta V^-}{C_{\text{sp}}^+ \times \Delta V^+} \quad (\text{S2})$$

Where  $C_{\text{sp}}^-$  is the  $C_s$  value obtained for the anode material in the potential window  $\Delta V^-$ ,  $C_{\text{sp}}^+$  is the  $C_s$  value obtained for the cathode material in the potential window  $\Delta V^+$ .

### **S5. Fabrication of the flexible supercapacitor device.**

30 mL distilled water was taken in a beaker and heated on a hotplate. 1.6 g KOH was added to the boiling water followed by the addition of 0.42 g  $\text{K}_4[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]$ . Then 3.2 g of PVA was

added gradually to the reaction mixture and stirred till a thick gel was formed. This gel was then pasted between the positive and negative electrode and allowed to cool and dried at room temperature for overnight.

#### S6. Equations used:

The values of specific capacitance ( $C_s$ ) for the three-electrode cell and the two-electrode asymmetric cells were calculated by using the following equation:

$$C_s = \frac{i\Delta t}{m\Delta V} \quad (S3)$$

Where,  $i$  represents the charge or discharge current in Ampere (A),  $\Delta t$  is the discharge time in seconds (s),  $m$  represents the mass of supercapacitive material in gram (g) and  $\Delta V$  is the applied potential window.

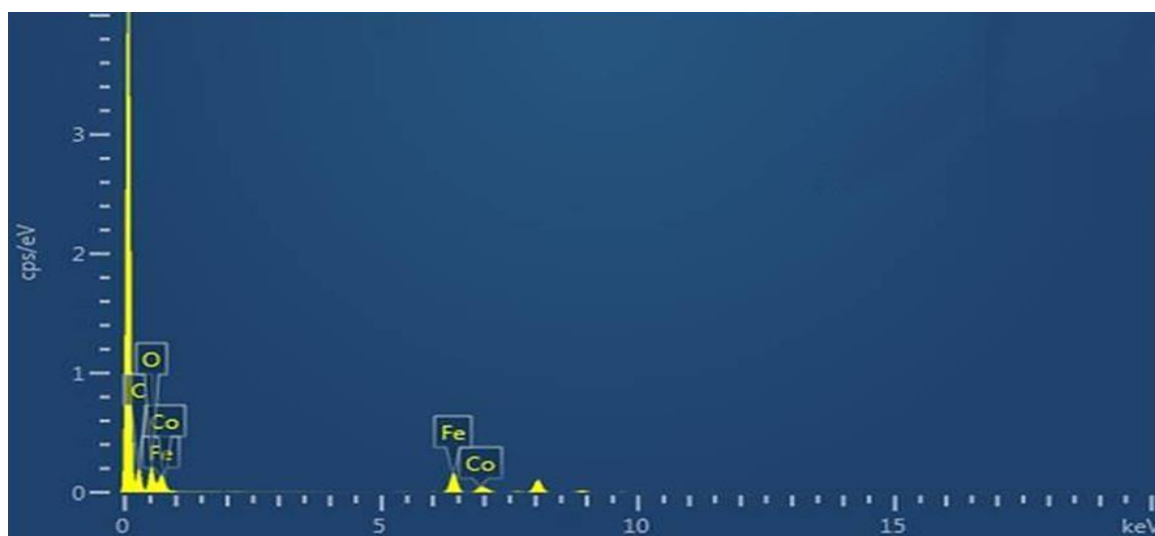
For the two-electrode asymmetric cell, the energy density ( $E$ ), the power density ( $P$ ), and the Coulombic efficiency ( $\eta$ ) were determined by using the following equations:

$$E = \frac{C_s \times (\Delta V)^2}{2} \quad (S4)$$

$$P = \frac{E}{\Delta t} \quad (S5)$$

$$\eta(\%) = t_d/t_c \times 100 \quad (S6)$$

where,  $t_d$  is the discharging time,  $t_c$  is the charging time.



**Figure S1.** EDS spectra of 80CF<sub>hs</sub>-20rGO<sub>sp</sub>

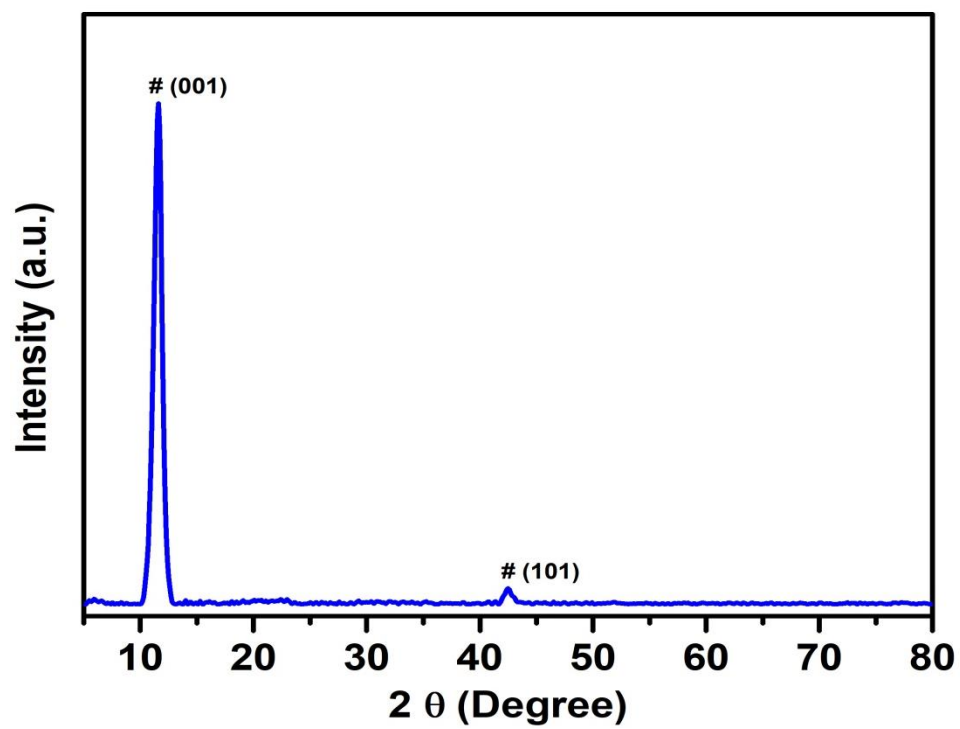


Figure S2. XRD of Graphene oxide (GO)

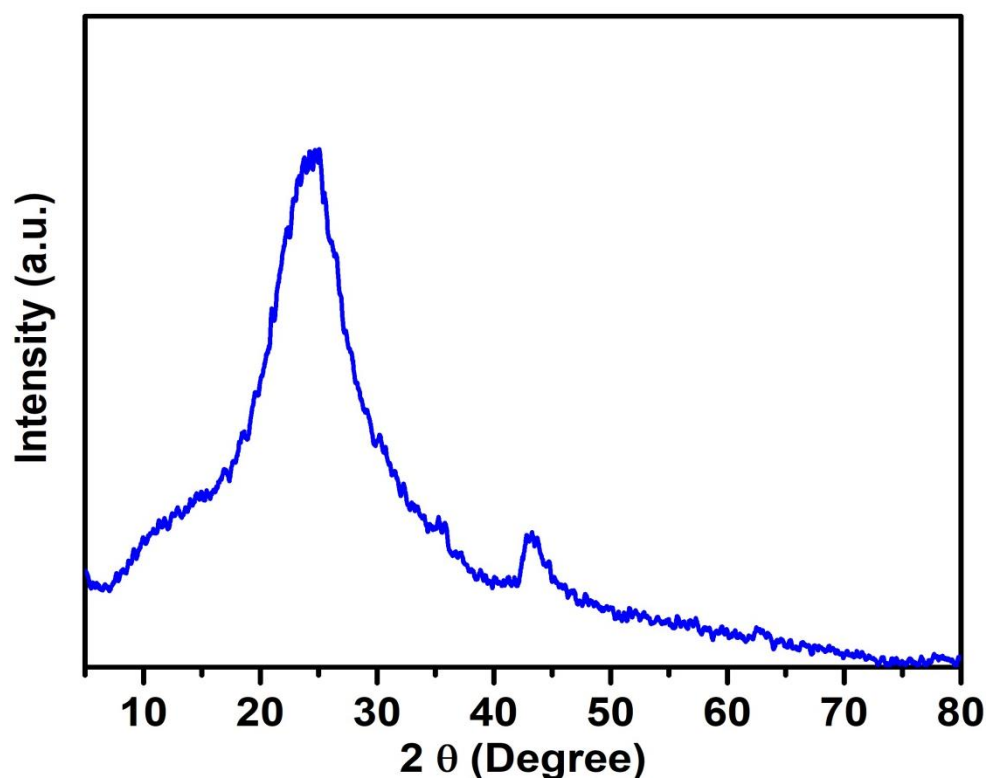
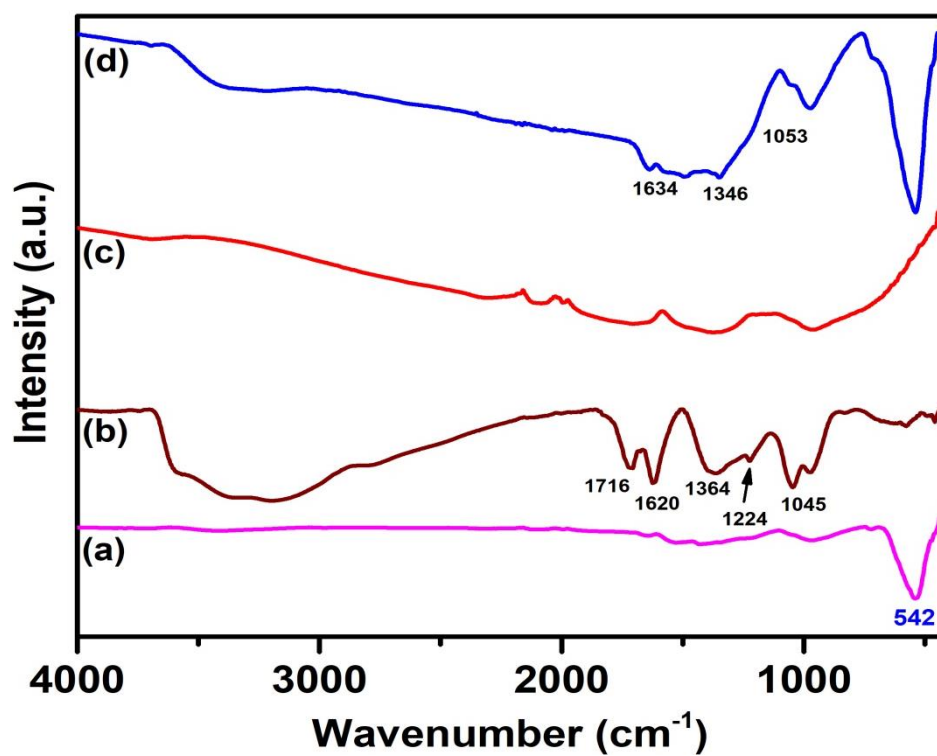
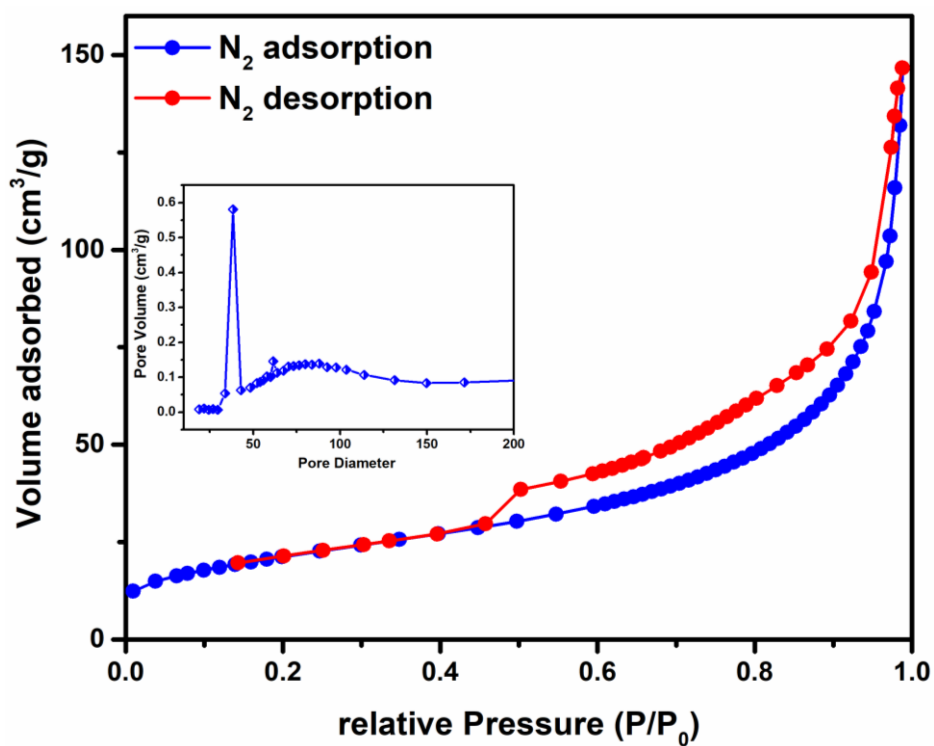


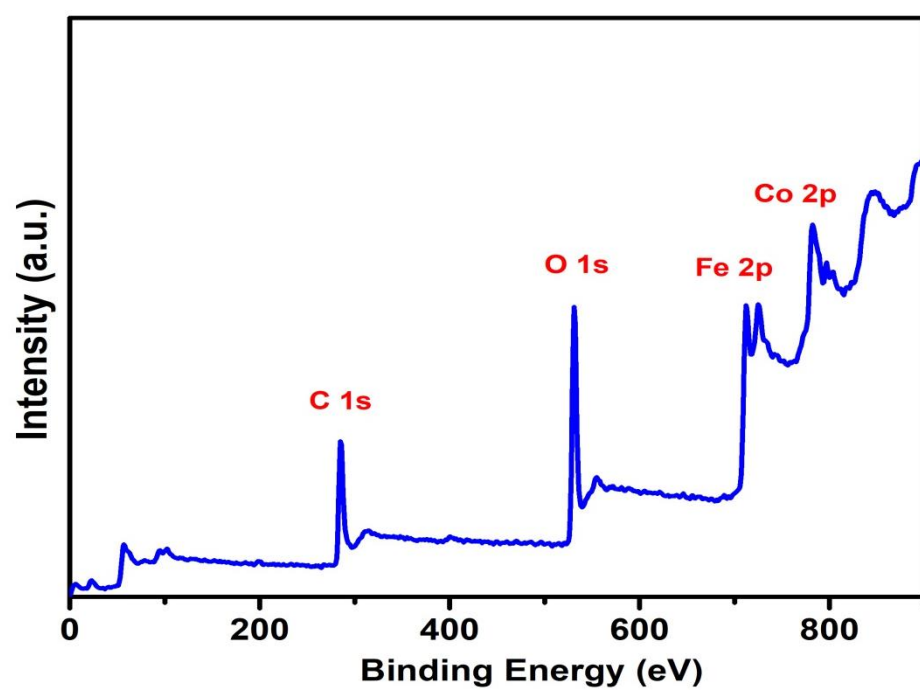
Figure S3. XRD of rGO nanosheets



**Figure S4.** FTIR spectra of (a) CF<sub>hs</sub>, (b) GO<sub>sp</sub>, (c) rGO<sub>sp</sub>, and (d) 80CF<sub>hs</sub>-20rGO<sub>sp</sub>

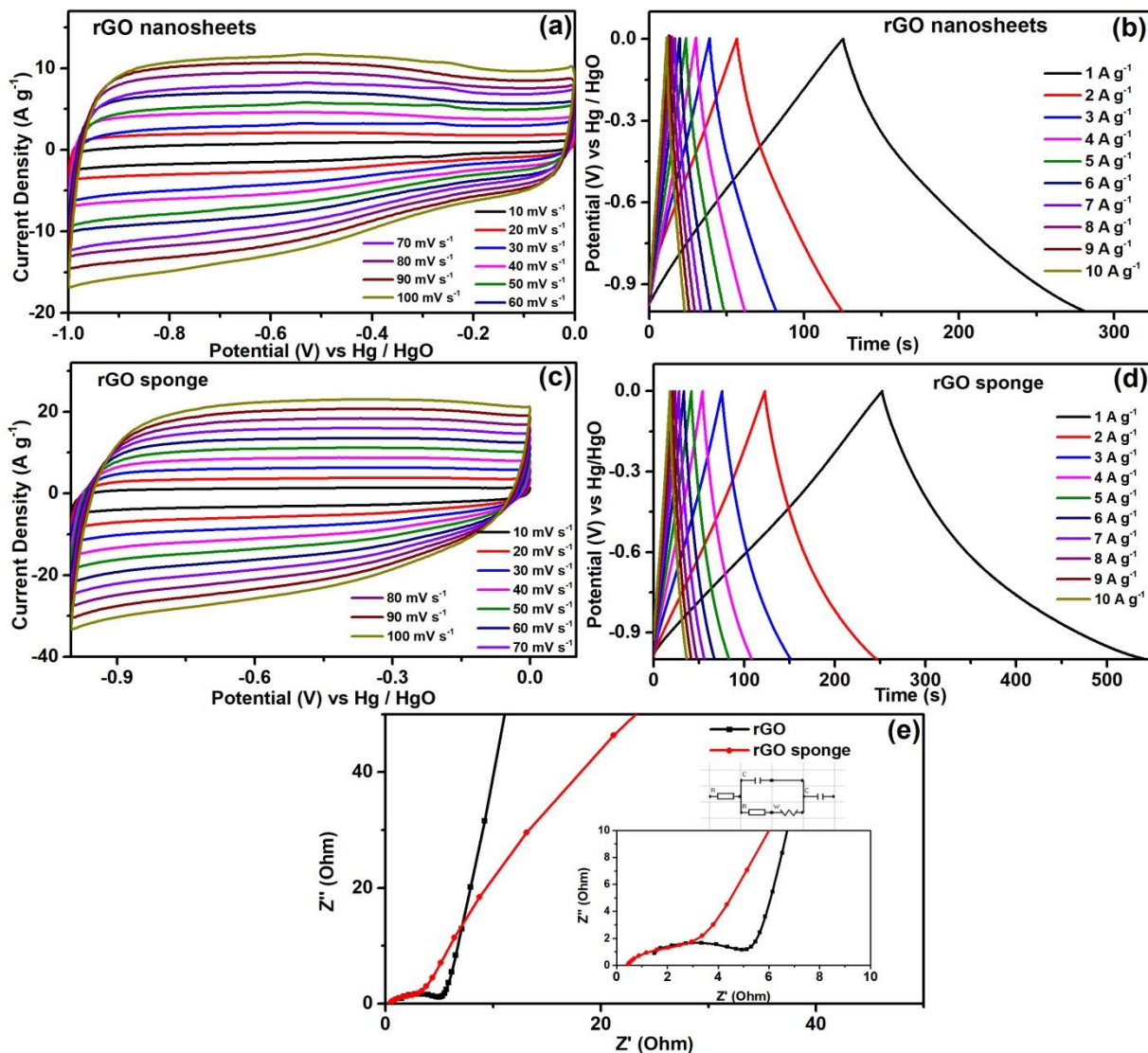


**Figure S5.** N<sub>2</sub> adsorption-desorption isotherm, inset: pore size distribution of 80CF<sub>hs</sub>-20rGO<sub>sp</sub> nanocomposite.

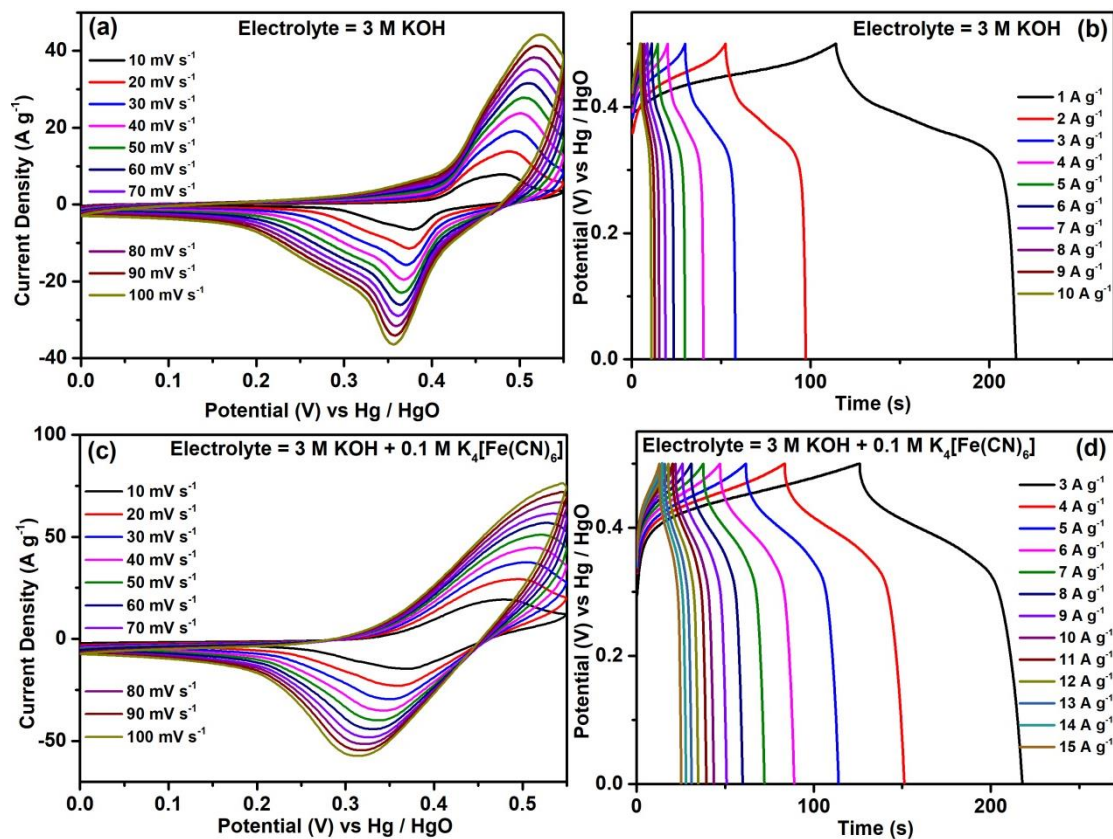


**Figure S6.** XPS survey spectrum of 80CF<sub>hs</sub>-20rGO<sub>sp</sub>

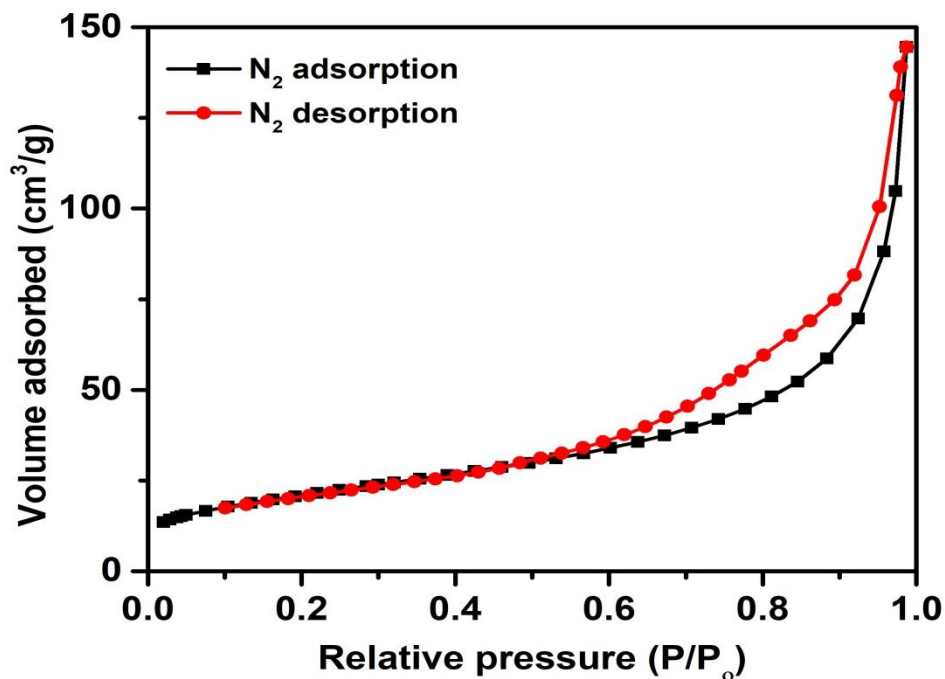




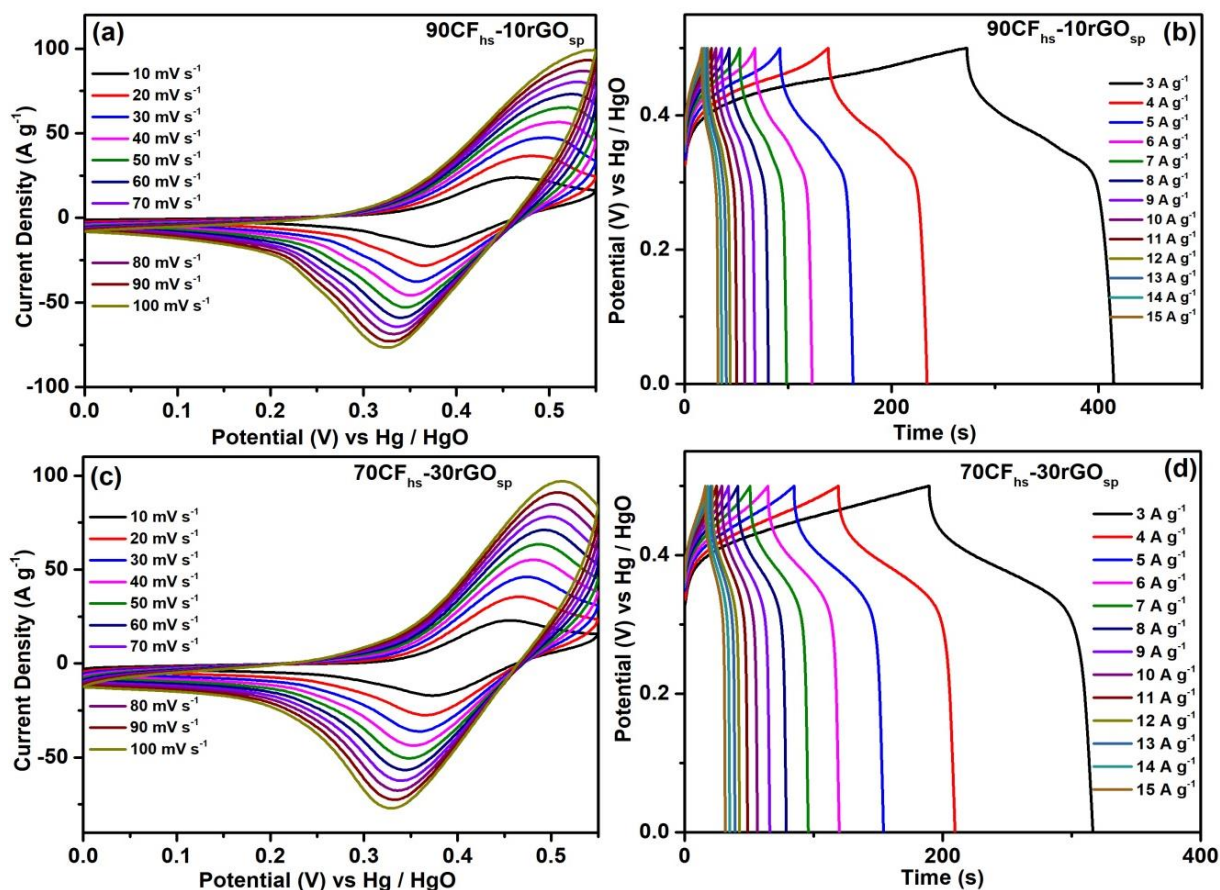
**Figure S7.** CV profiles at various scan rates and GCD curves at various current densities of (a), (b) rGO nanosheet; (c), (d) rGO sponge; and (e) Nyquist plots of rGO nanosheets and rGO sponge, inset shows the equivalent circuit used for fitting the Nyquist plots and the EIS curves at high frequency region.



**Figure S8.** CV profiles at various scan rates and GCD curves at various current densities of  $\text{CF}_{\text{hs}}$  in (a), (b) 3 M KOH electrolyte; (c), (d) 3 M KOH + 0.1 M  $\text{K}_4[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]$  electrolyte.



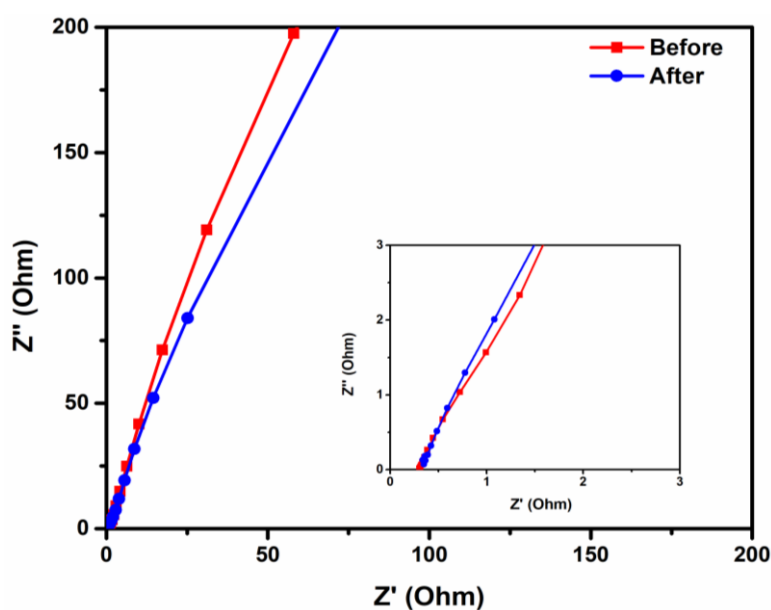
**Figure S9.**  $\text{N}_2$  adsorption-desorption isotherm of  $\text{CF}_{\text{hs}}$ .



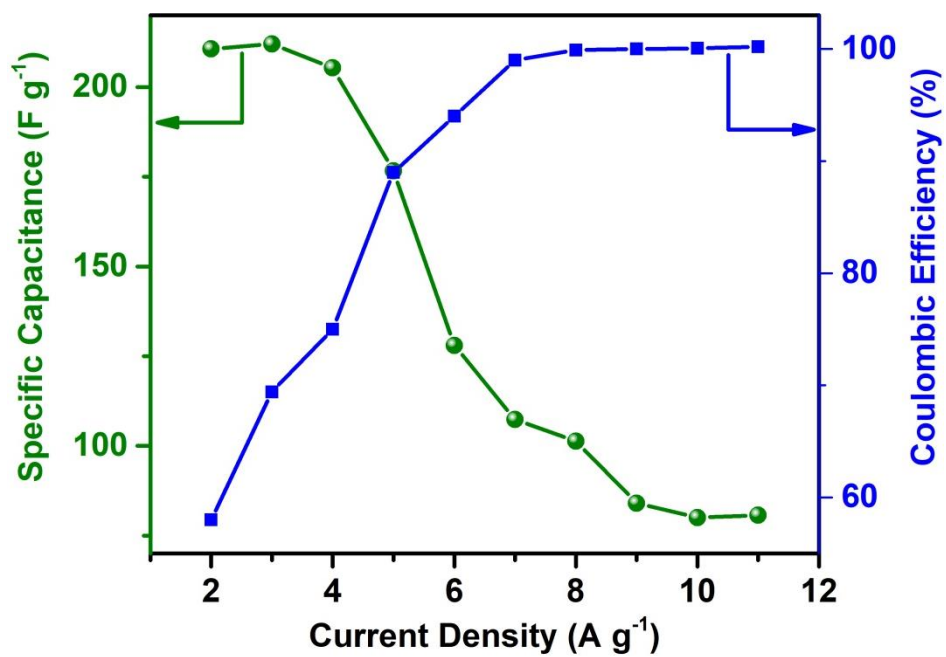
**Figure S10.** CV curves at different scan rates and GCD curves at different current densities of (a), (b) 90CF<sub>hs</sub>-10rGO<sub>sp</sub>, and (c), (d) 70CF<sub>hs</sub>-30rGO<sub>sp</sub>.

**Table S1.** Obtained EIS data of the electrode materials after circuit fitting

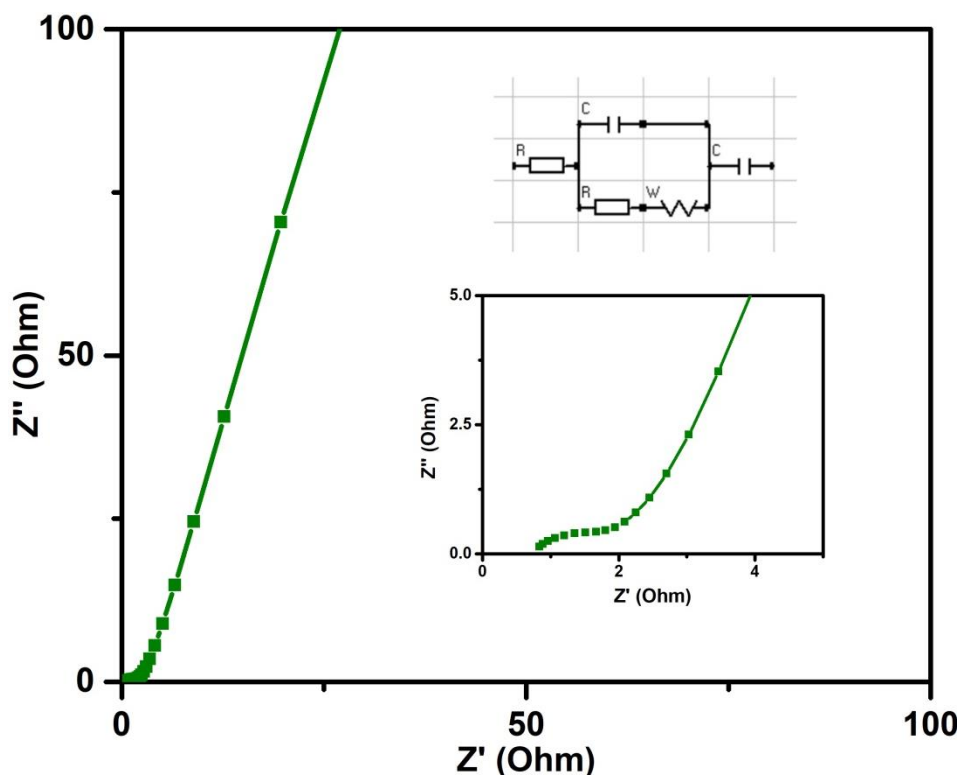
S. No.	Material	Equivalent Series Resistance ( $R_1=R_s$ ) $\Omega$	Charge Transfer Resistance ( $R_2=R_{CT}$ ) $\Omega$	Warburg Resistance (W) $\Omega$	$C_1=C_{DL}$ (F)	$C_2=C_L$ (F)
1	Pure CF (in 3 M KOH)	0.45	19.3	1.66E-03	3.03E-03	8.34E+00
2	Pure CF (in 3M KOH+ 0.1M $K_4[Fe(CN)_6]$ )	0.44	9.2	1.69E-03	3.04E-03	1.00E+01
3	Pure rGO	1.39	3.68	6.52E-01	2.22E-03	1.91E-01
4	rGO sponge	0.68	2.33	2.34E-02	1.76E-01	3.30E-01
5	90CF-10rGO sponge	0.38	0.53	4.34E-02	9.38E-04	7.01E-02
6	80CF-20rGO sponge	0.37	0.38	1.18E-02	1.92E-02	3.89E-01
7	70CF-30rGO sponge	0.47	0.77	3.79E-02	9.52E-04	4.29E-01



**Figure S11.** Nyquist plot of 80CF<sub>hs</sub>-20rGO<sub>sp</sub> before and after ~5000 GCD cycles.

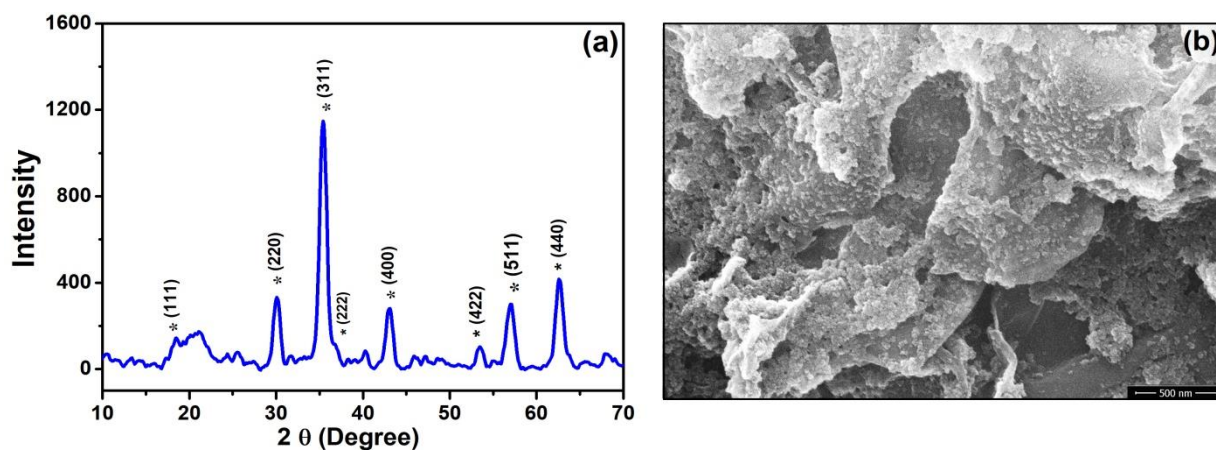


**Figure S12.** Variation of specific capacitance and Coulombic efficiency with current density.



**Figure S13.** Nyquist plot of the fabricated all-solid-state flexible supercapacitor device.





**Figure S14.** (a) XRD patterns (b) FESEM micrograph of used 80CF<sub>hs</sub>-20rGO<sub>sp</sub> nanocomposite.

**Table S2.** Comparison table of the fabricated flexible ASC device (this work) with some of the already reported carbon-based two-electrode asymmetric supercapacitors.

S. No.	Material	Electrolyte	Working Potential (V)	Power Density (W kg <sup>-1</sup> )	Energy Density (W h kg <sup>-1</sup> )	Retention	Ref.
1.	CoFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /rGO   rGO hydrogel	6 M KOH	0-1.3	650	17.84	87% (4000 cycles)	1
2.	CoFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>   graphene	1 M KOH	0-1.5	643	12.14	67% (3000 cycles)	2
3.	CoFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /rGO   Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /rGO	1 M KOH	0-1.7	840	45.5	91% (5000 cycles)	3
4.	Co <sub>1-x</sub> S/CoFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @rGO  AC	2 M KOH	0-1.4	700	61.5	84% (10000 cycles)	4
5.	NS/CoFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /C oOOH  rGO/PE DOT:PSS	3 M KOH	0-1.6	374.9	54.1	-	5
6.	Carbon spheres/MnO <sub>2</sub>    Carbon spheres	0.1 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	0-2	100	22.1	99% (1000 cycles)	6

7.	NiS  CNFs	2 M KOH	0-1.55	387.5	34.9	90.2% (3000 cycles)	7
8.	Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NSs-rGO    AC	2 M KOH	0-1.45	2166	13.4	89% (1000 cycles)	8
9.	Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @CoNiS   NOPC	3 M KOH	0-1.6	400	46.95	95.6% (20000 cycles)	9
10.	CuO  AC	3 M KOH	0-1.4	700	19.7	96% (3000 cycles)	10
11.	NiS  AC	3 M KOH	0-1.8	900	31	100% (1000 cycles)	11
12.	MnO <sub>2</sub>   Graphen e hydrogel	0.1 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	0-2	1000	23.2	83.4% (5000 cycles)	12
13.	CNTG-40  MG- 50	PAAK/KCl	0-1.8	9000	32.7 (22.9)	86% (10000 cycles)	13
14.	AC  δ- ACEP@MnO <sub>2</sub>	1 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	0-2	500	31	92.8% (5000 cycles)	14
15.	MnO <sub>2</sub> /GPCN- SS  GPCN-SS	1 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	0-2	516	50.2	99.1% (10000 cycles)	15
16.	NCS-650  AC	6 M KOH	0-1.2	331	10.3	88% (5000 cycles)	16
17.	NiCoP nanoplates   graphene films	1 M KOH + Porous polymer membrane (Celgrade 3501)	0-1.5	1301	32.9	83.1 % (5000 cycles)	17
18.	CF-200   LRGONR	PVA/KOH	0-1.6	727.8	33.5	95.8% (5000 cycles)	18
19.	L-CoFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /C   AC	2 M KOH	0-1.6	720	14.38	76.6 (800 cycles)	19
20.	CoFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /CNT   AC	2 M KOH	0-1.6	400	30.4	85.6% (1000 cycles)	20

21.	NFO/GNSs-10   AC	6 M KOH	0-1.5	70	14.01	140% (5000 cycles)	21
22.	CC/ZnO@C@ NiO  graphene	3 M KOH + PVA	0-1.4	380.9	35.7	87% (10000 cycles)	22
23.	80MnFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> - 20rGO  rGO	3 M KOH + 0.1 M K <sub>4</sub> [Fe(CN) <sub>6</sub> ]	0-1.5	750	27.7	95% (4000 cycles)	23
24.	(Ag <sub>0.50</sub> Ni <sub>0.50</sub> ) <sub>90</sub> - rGO <sub>10</sub>   rGO	3 M KOH	0-1.7	1700	49	97% (5000 cycles)	24
25	CuFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> - rGO  rGO	3 M KOH + 0.1 M K <sub>4</sub> [Fe(CN) <sub>6</sub> ] in PVA	0-1.3	2600	38	97% (10,000 cycles)	25
26	(CoNiD) <sub>60</sub> - rGO <sub>40</sub>   rGO	3 M KOH + 0.1 M K <sub>4</sub> [Fe(CN) <sub>6</sub> ] in PVA	0-1.6	2000	52.8	95% (4000 cycles)	26
27.	80CF <sub>hs</sub> - 20rGO <sub>sp</sub>   rGO <sub>sp</sub>	3 M KOH + 0.1 M K <sub>4</sub> [Fe(CN) <sub>6</sub> ] in PVA	0-1.5	1500	65.8	96% (5000 cycles)	<b>This Work</b>

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