Caterpillar-like Graphene Confining Sulfur by Restacking Effect for High Performance Lithium Sulfur Batteries

Guiyin Xu, ^{†, ‡} Jiaren Yuan, [‡] Xiumei Geng, [†] Hui Dou, ^{‡,} * Liao Chen, [†] Xiaohong Yan, [§] Hongli Zhu^{†,}*

[†]Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA

[‡]Jiangsu Key Laboratory of Material and Technology for Energy Conversion, College of Material Science and Engineering, Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Nanjing 210016, China

[§]College of Electronic Science and Engineering, Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications, Nanjing 210046, China



Figure S1. High-resolution scanning electron microscopy (HRSEM) image of graphene. The

HRSEM image shows that the caterpillar-like graphene has a wrinkled structure.



Figure S2. Raman spectra of the graphene. In the Raman spectra of the graphene, two bands at ~1355 and ~1582 cm⁻¹ correspond to the D-band (D) and the G-band (G), respectively. The D-band corresponds to the disorder induced the carbon and structural defects. The G-band corresponding to the sp² carbon-bonded graphitic structure can enhance the electrical conductivity of carbon materials.



Figure S3. High-resolution TEM images of graphene-sulfur. After encapsulating sulfur, the layer distance of graphene-sulfur is 0.42 nm, indicating that graphene expands after sulfur intercalation.



Figure S4. Thermal gravimetric (TG) curve of the graphene. The mass loss before 200 °C may result from the evaporation of water.



Figure S5. SEM images of the graphene-sulfur electrode (a) before cycling and (b) after 200 cycles at a high current density of 1675 mA g⁻¹. The small particles are Super C65. After cycling

at a high current density, the laminar structure of the graphene-sulfur is still remained,

indicating the graphene-sulfur electrode has excellent mechanical stability.



Figure S6. Impedance plots of the graphene-sulfur electrode before cycling and after 200 cycles at a high current density of 1675 mA g⁻¹. The Nyquist plots consist of a depressed semicircle at high frequency region and an oblique line at low frequency region. The diameter of the depressed semicircle represents the charge transfer resistance (R_{ct}). The charge transfer resistance of the cycled graphene-sulfur electrode is smaller than that of the fresh graphene-sulfur electrode, indicating that the relocation of sulfur species to the caterpillar-like graphene decreases the tendency of passivation layer formation on the electrode.