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Large Scale Synthesis of NiCo OPENLayered Double Hydroxides for Superior Asymmetric Electrochemical Capacitor

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We report a new environmentally-friendly synthetic strategy for large-scale preparation of 16 nmultrathin NiCo based layered double hydroxides (LDH). The Ni50Co50-LDH electrode exhibited excellent specific capacitance of 1537F g[−]1 at 0.5A g−1 and 1181F g−¹ even at current density as high as 10A g[−]1, which 50% cobalt doped enhances the electrical conductivity and porous and ultrathin structure is helpful with electrolyte diffusion to improve the material utilization. An asymmetric ultracapacitor was assembled with the N-doped graphitic ordered mesoporous carbon as negative electrode and the NiCo LDH as positive electrode. The device achieves a high energy density of 33.7Wh kg[−]1 (at power density of 551W kg−1) with a 1.5V operating voltage.

Ultracapacitors (UCs) are attractive energy storage devices, due to their high power density and excellent cycling stability¹⁻⁴. They have been widely used in electrical vehicles and microelectronic devices. Carbon based materials such as graphene $^{5-7}$, carbon nanotubes 8 8 and activated carbon 9 9 are the most commonly used electrodes for electrochemical double layer (EDL) ultracapacitors. However, relatively low specific capacitance (~200 F g^{-1}) is the major drawback for EDL capacitors. Alternatively, metal oxide¹⁰⁻¹⁵, metal hydroxide^{[16](#page-7-5),[17](#page-7-6)}, layered double hydroxides^{[5,](#page-7-1)[18,](#page-7-7)[19](#page-7-8)} and conducting polymers^{12,20-23} are commonly used as pseudocapacitive materials. They store charges via superficial Faradic reactions and exhibit higher specific capacitance than EDL materials.

Among these pseudocapacitive materials, NiO and Ni(OH)₂ have attracted a lot of attention due to their high theoretical capacitance, excellent chemical stability, low cost and low toxicity. For example, *β*-Ni(OH)₂ achieved its theoretical value of specific capacitance up to 2358 F g^{-1} at a voltage of 0.44 V¹⁷. However, the relatively poor electrical conductivity (0.01~0.32 S m⁻¹)^{[24](#page-7-11)} of Ni(OH)₂ or NiO is the major drawback as the electrode material. Thus, cobalt was introduced in $Ni(OH)_2$ or NiO to improve the conductivity of electrode materials²⁵ and raise the oxygen overpotential helpful with widening potential window^{[18](#page-7-7)}. It has been reported that Co^{2+} can be oxidized to conductive CoOOH during discharge process, resulting in the increase of conductivity of electrode materials²⁶. Besides, the slow kinetics of Faradic reactions of NiCo based materials is another factor that limits their electrochemical performance[27](#page-7-14). It is desirable to develop NiCo based electrodes with large ion accessible surface area. Previous studies have primarily been focused on development of NiCo based nanomaterials with controlled morphology and enhanced surface area, such as nanorods^{[3](#page-7-15)}, nanowires^{[28](#page-7-16)}, and nanosheets^{[29](#page-7-17)}. However, the large scale synthesis of these nanostructures is rarely reported, while it is critical for practical applications.

Here we developed a large-scale and environmentally-friendly strategy to prepare ultrathin 2-dimensional (2D) porous $Ni(OH)_2-Co(OH)_2$ layered double hydroxide. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report on the large-scale production of NiCo based LDH in a homogeneous ethylene glycol-water system. In comparison to the traditional oil/water methods, which use toxic or flammable solvents such as 1-butanol, toluene, formamide, dime-thyl formamide (DMF) and dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO)^{[30](#page-8-0)}, our approach involving non-toxic ethylene glycol-water as the solvent system is more environmentally friendly. Moreover, the as prepared porous, ultrathin LDH nature provides extremely large ion-accessible surface area, which improves the kinetics of superficial Faradic reaction. Asymmetric ultracapacitors using $Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH$ electrode with a high mass loading of 8 mg as cathode and N-doped graphitic ordered mesoporous carbon (GOMC) as anode showed excellent performance in charge storage.

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Figure 1. Schematic illustration of growth mechanism of Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH.

Results

A new synthetic method was used to prepare NiCo-LDHs and $Ni(OH)$, and $Co(OH)$, in a homogeneous ethylene glycol-water system. The ultrathin 2D nanostructure was obtained for these materials. Among them, $Ni_{50}Co_{50}$ -LDH exhibited excellent electrochemical performance, being listed in Table S1 (Support Information, SI). Therefore, Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH was mainly characterized the structure and perform the electrochemical measurement. The synthetic mechanism was illustrated in [Fig. 1.](#page-1-0) Ammonia was gradually generated by the hydrolysis of urea (Eq. 1). Then NH_3 molecules reacted with Ni and Co metal ions and formed complexes (Eq. 2). Excess amount of NH_3 molecules produced OH[−] and the nickel and cobalt ions were formed Ni(OH)₆ and Co(OH)₆ octahedra with OH[−] (Eq. 3 and 4).

$$
CO(NH2)2 + 2H2O \leftrightarrow H2CO3 + NH3
$$
\n(1)

$$
Ni^{2+} + 6NH_3 \leftrightarrow [Ni(NH_3)_{6}]^{2-}; Co^{2+} + 6NH_3 \leftrightarrow [Co(NH_3)_{6}]^{2+}
$$
 (2)

$$
NH_3 + H_2O \leftrightarrow NH^{4+} + OH^-
$$
 (3)

$$
\text{OH}^- + \text{Ni}^{2+} \leftrightarrow \text{Ni}(\text{OH})_2; 2\text{OH}^- + \text{Co}^{2+} \leftrightarrow \text{Co}(\text{OH})_2 \tag{4}
$$

 $Ni(OH)_6$ and $Co(OH)_6$ octahedra nuclei were self-assembled to form the infinite 2D sheets composed of metal cations occupy the centre of octahedra's edge and hydroxide ions at vertexes. These 2D sheets further extended and form the $\rm Ni_{50}Co_{50}$ -LDH nanosheets. The nanosheets were washed with ethanol and water. It is expected that H₂O molecules and $\rm NO_3^-$ ions will be retained within the interlayer space of LDH through hydrogen bond. Importantly, 10 gram scale of $\mathrm{Ni}_{50}\mathrm{Co}_{50}$ -LDH can be readily prepared by this simple synthetic method (Fig. S1, SI), which holds great promise for mass production.

The morphology of as-prepared samples was characterized by SEM and TEM techniques. SEM images in Fig. S2 showed that ultrathin nanosheets were about a thickness of ~16nm. TEM, HRTEM images and the selected-area electron diffraction (SAED) patterns of *α*-Ni(OH)₂,*α*-Co(OH)₂ and Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH were shown in [Fig. 2.](#page-2-0) TEM images confirmed that this method could be used to prepare the ultrathin nanosheets transition metal hydroxides and LDHs ([Fig. 2a,c,e\)](#page-2-0). In the HRTEM images, lattice fringes were observed on the nanosheets [\(Fig. 2b,d,f\)](#page-2-0). At the same time, the SAED patterns collected from the nanosheet also exhibited diffraction rings but vague spots, indicating the crystallinity of these samples is relatively low. In addition, some pore structure was also found, which will be advantageous to the electrolyte diffusion.

The crystal structure of Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH and α -Ni(OH)₂ and α -Co(OH)₂ were further characterized by XRD analysis. As shown in [Fig. 3a,](#page-3-0) the $Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH$ sample exhibited diffraction peaks centered at 11.6°, 23.9°, 34.4° and 60.5° that can be indexed as the (003), (006), (012) and (110) planes of nickel cobalt carbonate hydroxide hydrate (JCPDS 33-0429). The diffraction peaks obtained for Ni(OH)₂ sample are 12.1°, 24.0°, 33.5°, 35.4° and 59.8°, which can be ascribed to the (001), (002), (110), (111), and (300) planes of layered nickel hydroxide hydrate [*α*-3 Ni(OH)2•H2O, JCPDS 22–0444]. As-prepared cobalt hydroxide was low-crystalline *α*-hydroxides in good agreement with previous reported results[31,](#page-8-1)[32](#page-8-2) showing typical low-crystalline *α*-hydroxides with weak diffraction peaks of (003), (006) and (012) planes in the XRD patterns. The low crystallinity is in accordance with the above-mentioned HRTEM and SAED characterization.

[Figure 3b](#page-3-0) shows the FTIR spectra of Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH, α -Ni(OH)₂ and α -Co(OH)₂ samples. They have similar IR bands. The signal at 3453 cm^{−1} is the O-H stretching band, arising from interlayer water molecules and metal-hydroxyl groups. The band centered at 1634 cm⁻¹ can be ascribed to the bending vibration of water. Additionally, the band at 1388 cm⁻¹ can be assigned to the vibration of interlayer CO₃^{2−} and NO₃[−] anions. CO₃^{2−} participated to form the nickel cobalt carbonate hydroxide hydrate with Ni^{2+} and Co^{2+} ions via coordinate bonds

Figure 2. TEM, HRTEM images and SAED patterns of as-prepared samples. α -Ni(OH)₂ (**a**,**b**), α -Co(OH)₂ (c,d) , $Ni_{50}Co_{50}$ -LDH (e,f) .

while NO₃[−] retained in the interlayer of LDH. The broad peak at 634 cm⁻¹ can be assigned to the M–O, O–M–O, and M-O-M ($M=Co$ and Ni) vibrations^{32,33}.

Figure S3a and b show the N_2 adsorption–desorption isotherms and the corresponding Barret-Joyner-Halenda (BJH) pore size distribution of these samples, respectively. The samples presented a type III curve with H1 hysteresis loop at high relative pressure, indicating the presence of macropores and mesopores. The adsorption isotherms became rapidly saturated at low relative pressure, illustrating the low adsorption volume of metal oxides or LDHs. A platform at $P/P_0 = 0.20-0.80$ originated from the outer superfacial adsorption of nanosheets, contributing the low adsorption volume. In addition, a hysteresis loop at a higher relative pressure $(P/P_0= 0.80-0.99)$ was obtained. This loop resulted from the macroporous adsorption among the overlap gaps of the nanosheets. It was noted that the desorption branch of LDH showed type IV with H2 hysteresis loop, suggesting the existence of mesoporous structure. The BET surface areas of the Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH, α -Co(OH)₂ and α -Ni(OH)₂ were 80, 97 and 119 m²g⁻¹, respectively, and the average pore size was mainly less than 10nm. On the other hand, the ion radii (74pm) of $Co²⁺$ is larger than 72 pm of $Ni²⁺$, thus with cobalt doping, the interlayer distance was widened and facilitate ion transfer. Nitrogen absorption-desorption measurement indicates that the specific surface of LDHs is increased with the increase of cobalt contents and confirms the presence of mesoporous loop (see Fig. S4).

Figure 3. (a) XRD patterns and (b) FT-IR spectra of the Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH and α -Ni(OH)₂ and α -Co(OH)₂.

Figure 4. (**a**) CV curves, (**b**) galvanostatic charge/discharge curves, (**c**) cycling stability and (**d**) Nyquist plot of EIS analysis of $\mathrm{Ni_{50}Co_{50}}\text{-}LDH$ in 6 mol L^{-1} KOH electrolyte.

Electrochemical measurements were carried out to study the charge storage performance of the $Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH$ samples in 6 mol L⁻¹ KOH electrolyte. [Figure 4a](#page-3-1) shows the CV curves for the LDH electrode at different scan rates. A set of distinct redox peaks were observed between 0.1V and 0.5V vs. Hg/HgO, which are consistent with the capacitive behavior reported for $\rm Ni(OH)_2$ and $\rm Co(OH)_2^{34,35}$ $\rm Co(OH)_2^{34,35}$ $\rm Co(OH)_2^{34,35}$. The current intensity increased almost linearly with the increase of scan rate, implying excellent reversibility and rapid charge-discharge response^{36,37}.

The mechanisms of electric energy storage for pseudo-capacitor are proposed as follows (Eq. 5–7). The pseudo-capacitance of LDH is attributed from both α -Co(OH)₂ and α -Ni(OH)₂. Redox reactions of α -Co(OH)₂ contain two steps as shown in [Fig. 5a.](#page-4-0) The electrons were transported among Co^{2+} , Co^{3+} and, Co^{4+} ions with the protons transfer (Eq. 5 and 6). Equation 7 illustrates the charge/discharge mechanism of $Ni(OH)_2$.

$$
Co(OH)2 + OH- \leftrightarrow CoOOH + H2O + e-
$$
 (5)

Figure 5. CV curve of (**a**) α -Co(OH)₂ at 10 mV s⁻¹ and (**b**) the Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH, α -Ni(OH)₂ and α -Co(OH)₂ at 100 mV s^{−1}. The (**c**) compared specific capacitance and (**d**) the capacitance retention for Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH, α -Co(OH)₂ and α -Ni(OH)₂.

$$
CoOOH + OH^- \leftrightarrow CoO_2 + H_2O + e^-
$$
 (6)

$$
\text{Ni(OH)}_{2} + \text{OH}^{-} \leftrightarrow \text{NiOOH} + \text{H}_{2}\text{O} + \text{e}^{-}
$$
\n⁽⁷⁾

[Figure 4b](#page-3-1) shows the galvanostatic charge-discharge curves of the LDH electrode at different current densities. As a typical battery material, the LDH showed almost symmetrical charge and discharge curves, indicating fast and good electrochemical reversibility. The specific capacitance of the LDH achieved excellent initial specific capactance of 1537 F g⁻¹ at 0.5 A g⁻¹ and 1181 F g⁻¹ even at current density as high as 10 A g⁻¹. A 1000-cycle stability curve collected at 2 A g⁻¹ is shown in [Fig. 4c](#page-3-1). The initial specific capacitance was 1494 F g⁻¹, the value slowly increased to a maximal value of 1542 around 400th cycle, which was attributed to the activation of Ni-based electrode materials[38](#page-8-8). The retention of the specific capacitance was 80.3% after 1000 cycles. Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) was carried out to evaluate the diffusion of electrolyte ions to porous structure and charge transfer at the interface of LDH ([Fig. 4d\)](#page-3-1). The impedance plots exhibited two distinct parts including a semicircle in the high-frequency region and a sloped line in the low-frequency region. The charge transfer resistance (R_{ct}) was estimated to be ~0.8 Ω from the semicircle diameter at the high-frequency. The small R_{ct} could be attributed to the ultrathin nanosheets morphology, which allows efficient charge transfer between the electrolyte and LDH. In addition, the solution resistance (R_s) was estimated to be ~0.48 Ω from the left intersection point of the semi-circle and Z'-axis. The low $R_{\rm ct}$ and $R_{\rm s}$ as well as high specific capacitance support that the Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH is an excellent capacitive electrode material for ultracapacitors.

The specific capacitance and capacitance retention were measured for $\text{Ni}_{50}\text{Co}_{50}$ -LDH, α -Co(OH)₂ and *α*-Ni(OH)₂ using galvanostatic charge/discharge. As shown in [Fig. 5c,d](#page-4-0), the specific capacitance of LDH is substantially larger than that of *α*-Ni(OH)₂ and *α*-Co(OH)₂ [\(Fig. 5c\)](#page-4-0). The capacitance of *α*-Ni(OH)₂ rapidly decreased with the increase of current density. However, the capacitance retention of α -Co(OH)₂ at 10 A g^{−1} is lightly over that at 0.5 A g⁻¹ (see [Fig. 5d](#page-4-0)). Though the specific capacitance of α -Co(OH)₂ is much less than that of pure α -Ni(OH)₂, 50% cobalt-doped α-Ni(OH)₂ (Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH) visibly exhibits excellent electrochemical performance, involving superior specific capacitance and the capacitance retention to pure α -Ni(OH). This is also confirmed by the other reseaches. Lang *et al.* obtained Ni₄₄Co₅₆ oxide nanoflakes with a maximum specific capacitance of 1227 F g^{−1} at 0.625 A g^{−1} based on 0.4 V operating potential^{[39](#page-8-9)}. When the atom ratio of nickel and cobalt is close to 1:1, these kinds of materials exhibit the superior electrical conductivity[25](#page-7-12). Cobalt was introduced in LDH to improve the conductivity of electrode materials^{[25](#page-7-12)} and raise the oxygen overpotential advantageous to widening potential window^{[18](#page-7-7)}. Co²⁺ were oxidized to form the conductive CoOOH in discharge process, resulting in the increase of

Figure 6. (a) Schematic illustration of GOMC//Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH device. (b) 1st~8th CV curves, (c) CV curves at different scan rates. (**d**) Galvanostatic charge/discharge curves. (**e**) Ragone plots of GOMC//Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH. (**f**) CV curves from cycling-stability measurement for GOMC//Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH in 6 mol L⁻¹ KOH aqueous electrolyte.

conductivity of electrode materials²⁶. Due to the cobalt introduced to participate in the electrochemical redox reaction, good conductivity improves the charge transfer and $\log R_c$ and R_s are helpful with Faradic reaction, resulting in Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH presents high performance in electrochemical energy storage than nickel hydroxide. The comparable CV curves for the LDH and α -Ni(OH)₂ and α -Co(OH)₂ at 100 mV s⁻¹ is shown in [Fig. 5b](#page-4-0). The serious polarization is shown in CV curve of α -Ni(OH)₂. The reversibility of LDH is visibly improved due to cobalt doped, which is helpful with the Columbic efficiency and the materials utilization.

The potential window of $\rm{Ni}_{50}Co_{50}$ -LDH is relatively small (~0.55 V), which seriously limit its practical application. In order to enlarge the operating voltage window, we fabricated an asymmetric device using GOMC as negative electrode and Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH as positive electrode (denoted as GOMC//Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH), as shown in [Fig. 6a](#page-5-0). GOMC is a promising negative electrode material that has long cycling stability and 1.0V operating potential window in alkaline electrolyte[40](#page-8-10). The CV of GOMC presented a typical rectangular shape in agreement with its electric double-layer capacitive behavior.

The designated asymmetric capacitor has an optimal operating voltage of 1.5V. When the voltage reached 1.6V, water splitting occurs and the current drastically increased [\(Fig. 6b](#page-5-0) and Fig. S5b). For asymmetric UCs, the charges on anode and cathode should be balanced (*q*+ = *q*−). This can be achieved by manipulating the mass loading of active materials on each electrode. According the following equation, the total charge (*q*) of one electrode stored is depending on the specific capacitance (*C*), the potential window (ΔE) and the mass of the electrode $(m)^{41,42}$.

Figure 7. (a) Cycling stability for GOMC//Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH device; (b) A red LED (1.5 V) was powered by the device.

$$
q = C \times \Delta E \times m \tag{8}
$$

Therefore, the ratio of mass loading of negative and positive electrode materials can be calculated by Eq. 9.

$$
m_+/m_- = C_- \times \Delta E_- / (C_+ \times \Delta E_-) \tag{9}
$$

Based on the data of the specific capacitances and potential windows of two electrodes, the optimal mass ratio between GOMC and LDH was 5:1.

Cyclic voltammetry and galvanostatic charge/discharge measurements were collected from the asymmetric UC device. As shown in [Fig. 6b](#page-5-0), the capacitance of $GOMC/Ni_{50}Co_{50}$ -LDH asymmetric UC increase gradually due to the activation of nickel hydroxide. [Figure 6c](#page-5-0) shows CV curves measured at different scan rates, the large area of different curves clarified superior performance of this device. Galvanostatic charge/discharge curves were conducted at different current densities ([Fig. 6d\)](#page-5-0) to evaluate the capacitance, power density and energy density of asymmetric device. Areal capacitances of 86.3, 70.4, 56.4, 51.2, 44.0 and 40.3 F cm⁻² were obtained at 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 mA cm⁻², which correspond to gravimetric capacitance of 107.8, 88.0, 70.5, 64, 55 and 50.4 F g⁻¹, respectively. The Ragone plot for the device is presented in [Fig. 6e.](#page-5-0) The device achieved an excellent energy density of 33.7Wh $\rm kg^{-1}$ and a high power density of 5.4 kW $\rm kg^{-1}$ (see Formula, SI).

Cycling stability is a key factor for evaluating the device performance in practical application. [Figure 6f](#page-5-0) shows the CV curves collected at 200 mV s^{−1} as a function of number of cycles. The capacitance quickly increased in the first 500 cycles, which is in good agreement with the $Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH$ electrode performance measured in 3-electrode system. Thereafter, the capacitance decrease gradually. The specific capacitance retention rate was 109% after 10000 cycles ([Fig. 7a](#page-6-0)). The asymmetric device exhibits high specific energy density and excellent cycling stability. These excellent electrochemical performances could be attributed to: (i) the ultrathin and porous nature of $Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH$ and (ii) fast charge transfer, rapid mass transport and anti-corrosion of GOMC. Moreover, GOMC//Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH device could successfully power a red light-emitting-diode (LED) with a nominated voltage of 1.5V for over 6min after charging with current density of 4mA cm[−]² [\(Fig. 7b\)](#page-6-0).

Discussions

Based on the above analysis, it could be found the ultrathin $Ni_{50}Co_{50}$ -LDH has been successfully synthesized by the efficient and low cost strategy. The morphology characterizations showed that ultrathin nanosheets were about a thickness of ~16 nm and the electrochemical results reveal that $Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH$ possesses high specific capacitance. The ultrathin porous nanostructure can not only be beneficial for efficient ion and electron transport but also improve specific surface area to increase active sites for the energy storage. In addition, the excellent conductivity of as-prepared material has demonstrated by the EIS testing which may also attribute to the enhanced capacitance.

In summary, we have demonstrated a scalable and environmentally-friendly strategy for large-scale preparation of ultrathin $Ni_{50}Co_{50}$ -LDH. The $Ni_{50}Co_{50}$ -LDH exhibited high pseudo-capacitance and kinetic properties to be used as the cathode materials for electrochemical energy storage. Therefore, we have developed the asymmetric capacitor composed of $Ni_{50}Co_{50}$ -LDH and GOMC, which exhibits wide operating voltage of 1.5V, excellent stability (109% capacitance retention after 10000 cycles), high energy density (33.7Wh kg[−]¹) and power density (5452W kg[−]¹). We believe this novel strategy can be extended to prepare other ultrathin 2D capacitive materials for charge storage devices.

Methods

Preparation of NiCo layered double hydroxides. The NiCo LDH was prepared by the following optimal procedure. 2.5 mmol of Ni(NO₃). 6H₂O and 5 mmol of Co(NO₃). 6H₂O (Ni:Co= 1:2) were dissolved in a mixture solvent of 37.5mL ethylene glycol and 15mL deionized water. Then, 37.5mmol of urea was added under stirring. The resulting solution was transferred into in a round-bottom flask to be refluxed under vigorous magnetic stirring for 3h at 90 °C. Then, the precipitates were filtered and washed several times with distilled water and ethanol, and then dried at 60 °C. The as-prepared sample was denoted as $\mathrm{Ni}_{50}\mathrm{Co}_{50}$ -LDH. The same experimental procedures were also employed to prepare ultrathin $Ni(OH)_2$, $Ni_{79}Co_{21}$ -LDH, $Ni_{76}Co_{44}$ -LDH, $Ni_{44}Co_{46}$ -LDH, $Ni_{35}Co_{65}$ -LDH and $Co(OH)$, by changing the ratio of the nickel and cobalt source.

Characterization. Powder X-ray diffraction measurements were performed by a MSAL-XD2 X-ray diffractometer (Cu *K*α, 36kV, 20mA, *λ*= 1.5406Å). The morphologies of LDH samples were examined by field-emission scanning electron microscope (SEM) (FSEM, ZEISS Ultra 55) and high resolution transmission electron microscope (TEM) (HRTEM, JEOL JEM-2100F) with an accelerating voltage of 200kV. The FT-IR spectra were collected by a Nicolet 6700 FT-IR spectrometer. Nitrogen sorption isotherms of samples were collected by a Micromeritics TriStar 3000 Analyzer at 77K. Elemental analysis was performed by the inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometer (Perkin Elmer, optima 2000DV), indicating the Ni/Co atom ratio of LDH.

Electrochemical measurements. Working electrode was fabricated by sandwiching the mixture of active materials (8mg), carbon black and PTFE (with a mass ratio of 80:15:5) between two pieces of nickel foams. The mass loading of the electrode was measured by the mass difference before and after sandwiching. A nickel foil and an Hg/HgO electrode were used as current collector and reference electrode, respectively. All electrochemical measurements were performed on a CHI660D electrochemical workstation in a standard three electrodes cell at room temperature. Cyclic voltammetry (CV), galvanostatic charge-discharge and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) tests were all performed in 6 mol $\rm L^{-1}$ KOH aqueous solution. EIS analysis was performed at the frequency range of 100 kHz ~0.1Hz with amplitude of 5mV. Asymmetric capacitors were fabricated by using N-doped graphitic ordered mesoporous carbon (GOMC) as negative electrode and $Ni₅₀Co₅₀-LDH$ as positive electrode, and their electrochemical performance was measured in 6mol L[−]¹ KOH aqueous solution by a 2-electrode cell system.

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Author Contributions

R.L. and D.Y. conceived the idea and carried out data analyses. R.L. and Z.H. did the experiments. X.S. and W.L. conducted the electrochemical tests. S.L. and P.C. performed SEM and TEM characterizations. R.L. and W.Y. co-wrote the manuscript.

Additional Information

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