

## **Supplementary Materials**

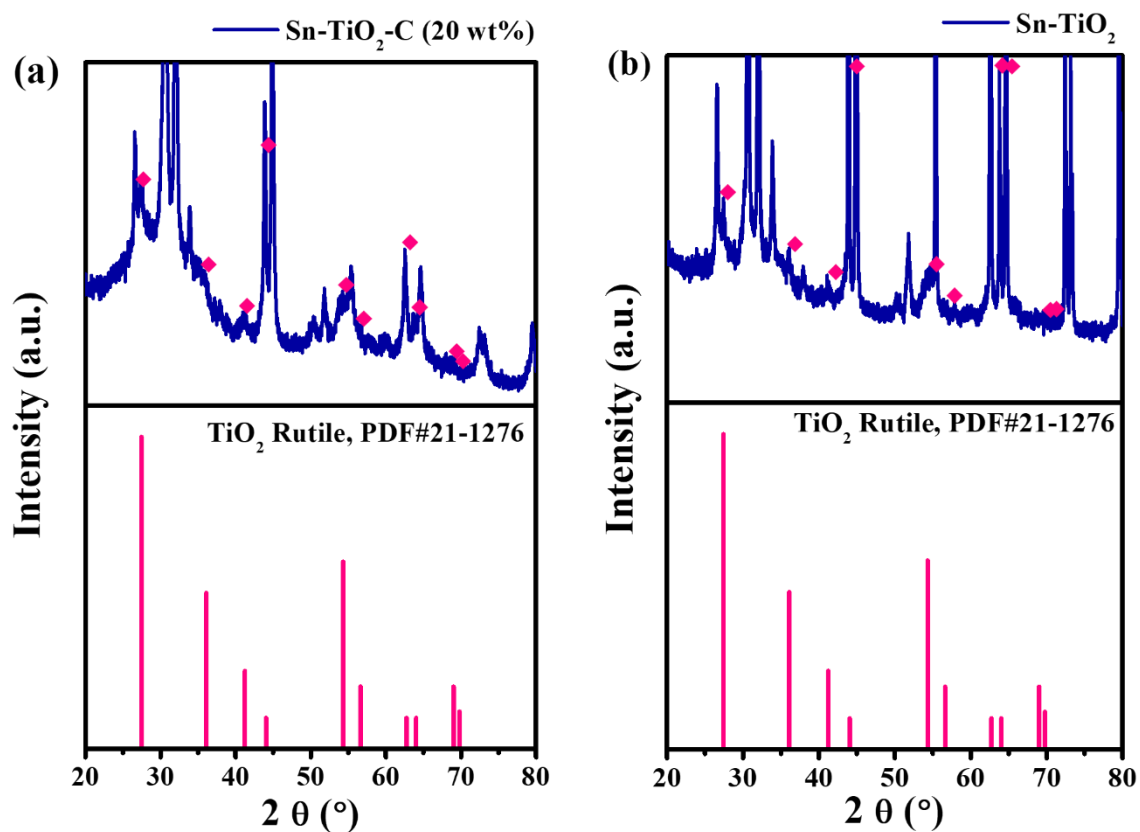
### **Superb Li-ion storage of Sn-based anode assisted by the conductive hybrid buffering matrix**

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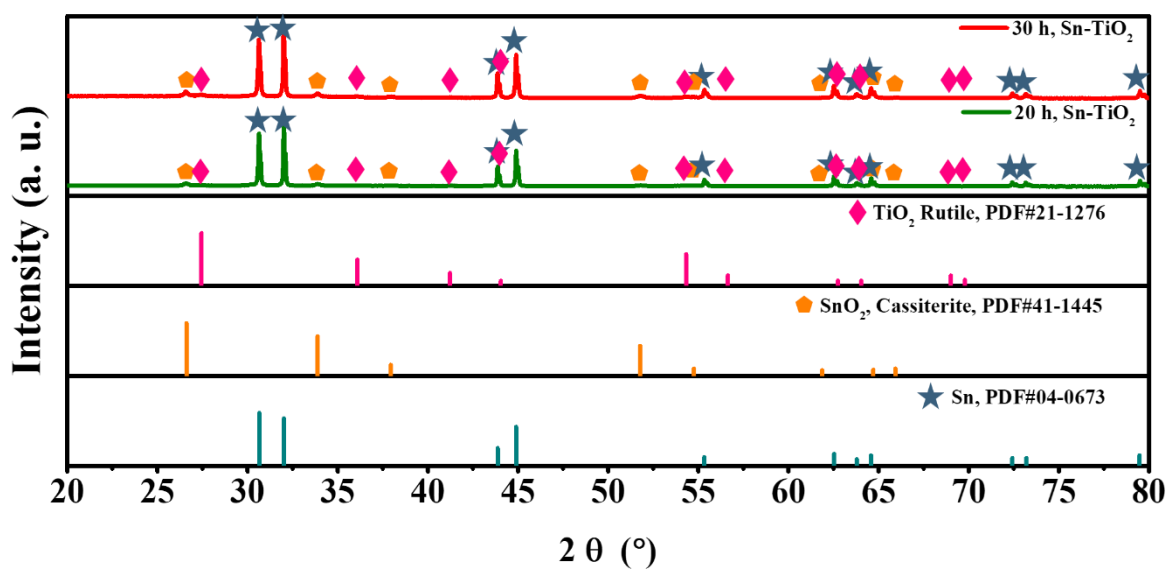
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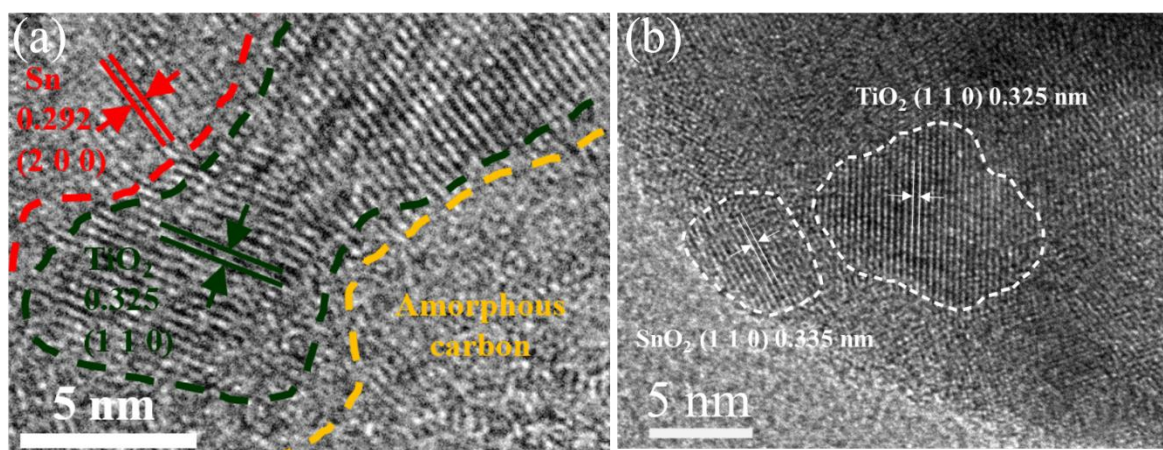
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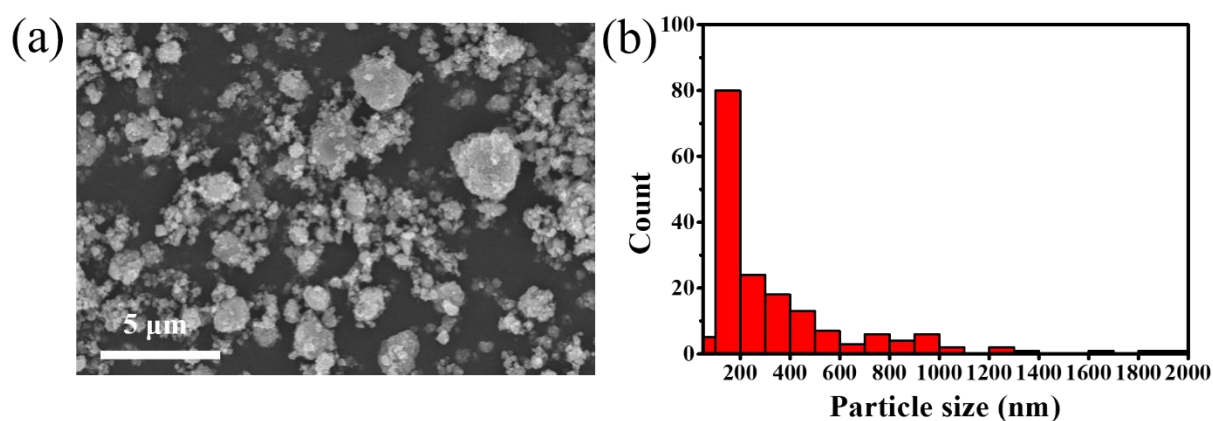
**Figure S1.** Enlarged view of XRD spectra of (a) Sn-TiO<sub>2</sub>-C (20 wt%) and (b) Sn-TiO<sub>2</sub> along with theoretical peak of rutile TiO<sub>2</sub> (PDF#21-1276).



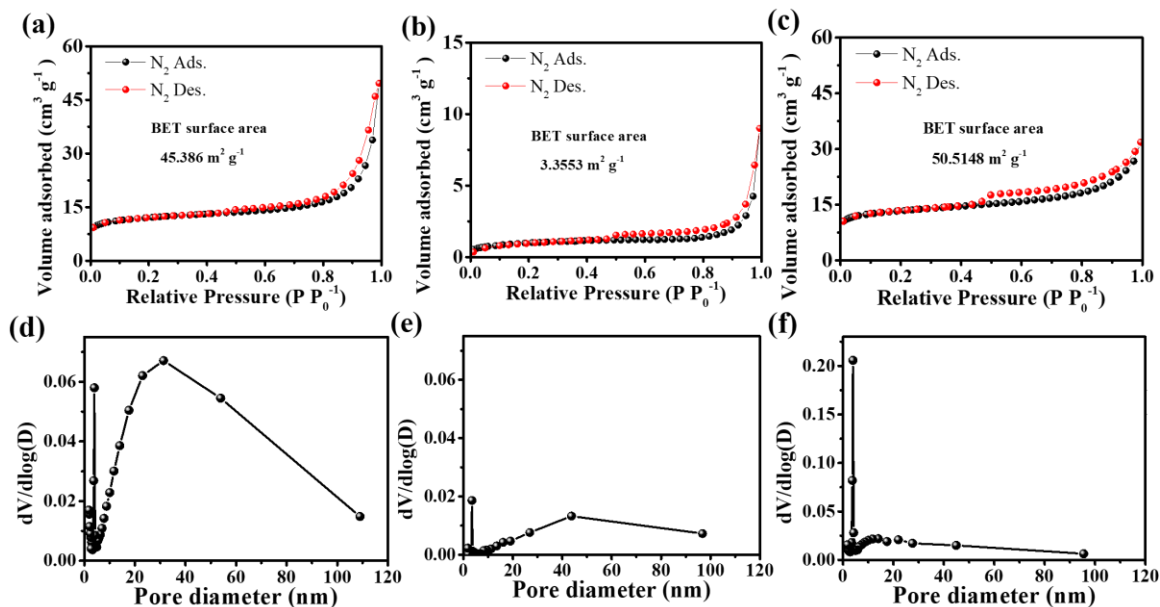
**Figure S2.** XRD spectra of Sn-TiO<sub>2</sub> after 20 h and 30 h milling.



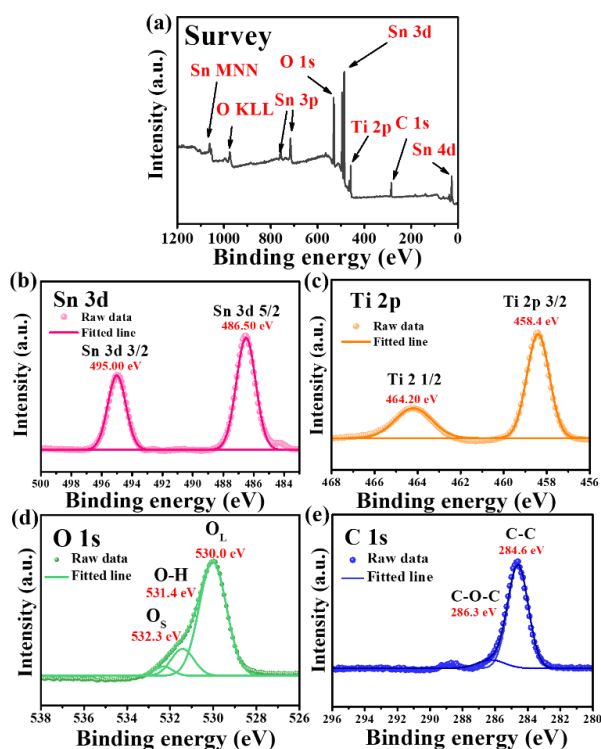
**Figure S3.** HRTEM image of Sn-TiO<sub>2</sub>-C (20 wt%) showing the existence of (a) Sn, TiO<sub>2</sub> and amorphous carbon, (b) SnO<sub>2</sub>.



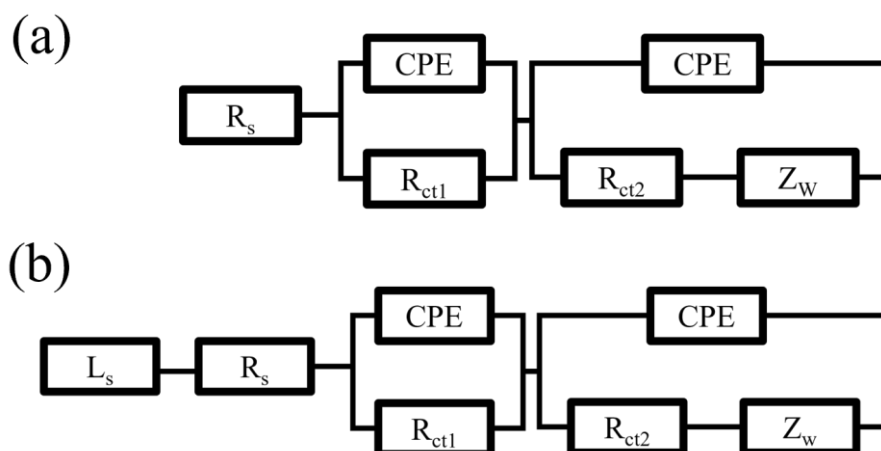
**Figure S4.** (a) SEM image and (b) particle size distribution of Sn-TiO<sub>2</sub>-C (20wt%).



**Figure S5.** N<sub>2</sub> adsorption/desorption isotherm of (a) Sn-TiO<sub>2</sub>-C (20 wt%), (b) Sn-TiO<sub>2</sub>, and (c) Sn-C (20 wt%) at standard temperature and pressure condition. Pore distribution of (d) Sn-TiO<sub>2</sub>-C (20 wt%), (e) Sn-TiO<sub>2</sub>, and (f) Sn-C (20 wt%).



**Figure S6.** High-resolution XPS spectra of Sn-TiO<sub>2</sub> powder. (a) survey (b) Sn, (c) Ti, (d) O (O<sub>L</sub> (lattice oxygen), O-H bond, and O<sub>s</sub> (adsorbed oxygen)), and (e) C



**Figure S7.** The equivalent circuit for (a) Sn-TiO<sub>2</sub>-C (20 wt%) and (b) Sn-TiO<sub>2</sub> and Sn-C (20 wt%).

**Table. S1.** Theoretical capacity of Sn-TiO<sub>2</sub>-C (20 wt%), Sn-TiO<sub>2</sub>, and Sn-C (20 wt%)

Composite	Theoretical capacity
Sn-TiO <sub>2</sub> -C (20 wt%)	657 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>
Sn-TiO <sub>2</sub>	728 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>
Sn-C (20 wt%)	869 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>

**Table S2.** Performance of Sn-based anode for Li-ion batteries

Composite	Specific capacity	Cycles number	Current density	Ref
Sn-C	410 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	100 cycles	100 mA g <sup>-1</sup>	[19]
Sn-Co	515.5 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	50 cycles	50 mA g <sup>-1</sup>	[20]
Sn/CNT	413 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	100 cycles	30 mA g <sup>-1</sup>	[21]
Sn-Ca	280 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	60 cycles	50 mA g <sup>-1</sup>	[22]
3D Cu-Sn	590 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	50 cycles	0.3 C	[23]

3D DHP Cu-Sn	11.95 mAh cm <sup>-2</sup>	50 cycles	1 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	[24]
Np-GeSn <sub>5</sub>	974mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	500 cycles	200 mA g <sup>-1</sup>	[25]
Sn-MOF/G	462 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	500 cycles	1 A g <sup>-1</sup>	[26]
Sn-Ni	448.9 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	20 cycles	0.1 C	[27]
SnSb-C	300 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	100 cycles	100 mA g <sup>-1</sup>	[28]
SnS <sub>x</sub> /NRGO	562 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	200 cycles	0.2 A g <sup>-1</sup>	[29]
Sn-TiO <sub>2</sub> -C	669 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	100 cycles	200 mA g <sup>-1</sup>	This work

**Table S3.** Coulombic efficiency of Sn-TiO<sub>2</sub>-C (20 wt%), Sn-TiO<sub>2</sub>, and Sn-C (20 wt%) at 1, 2, 3, 10, and 50th cycle at current density of 200 mA g<sup>-1</sup>

Cycle number	Coulombic efficiency		
	Sn-TiO <sub>2</sub> -C (20 wt%)	Sn-TiO <sub>2</sub>	Sn-C (20 wt%)
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	81.89	63.54	73.50
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	84.38	67.56	90.78
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	95.51	89.12	91.24
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	98.31	96.19	94.43
<b>50<sup>th</sup></b>	98.73	98.30	97.54

**Table S4.** Fitted parameter values of  $R_s$ ,  $R_{ct1}$ , and  $R_{ct2}$  of Sn-TiO<sub>2</sub>-C (20 wt%), Sn-TiO<sub>2</sub>, and Sn-C (20 wt%) at 200 mA g<sup>-1</sup> after 20 cycles

Parameter	Sn-TiO <sub>2</sub> -C (20 wt%)	Sn-TiO <sub>2</sub>	Sn-C (20 wt%)
$R_s$	2.62	5.59	3.56
$R_{ct1}$	$4.83 \times 10^1$	$6.45 \times 10^1$	$9.83 \times 10^1$
$R_{ct2}$	$1.80 \times 10^2$	$2.17 \times 10^2$	$1.95 \times 10^2$