

Supporting Information for

## **Interface Engineering of Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/FeS<sub>2</sub> Heterostructure *in-situ***

### **Encapsulated into Nitrogen-Doped Carbon Nanotubes for High**

### **Power Sodium-Ion Batteries**

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## **S1 Material Characterization**

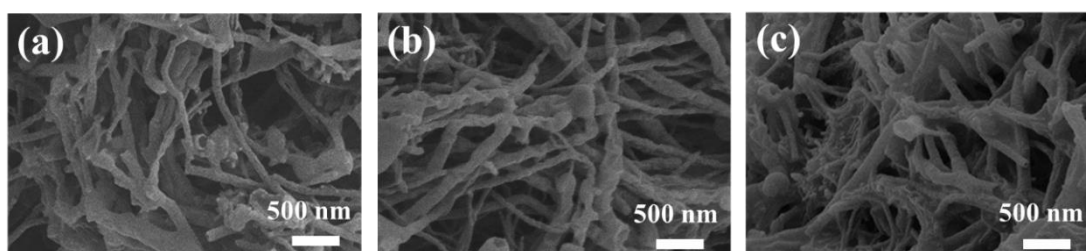
The phase structure of the as-prepared samples was investigated through X-ray powder diffraction (XRD, Holland Panalytical PRO PW 3040/60). Raman spectra were tested on RM-1000 (RENISHAW). The surface chemical composition was performed by X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS, Thermo ESCALAB 250 XI). The morphology and microstructure of the as-prepared samples were investigated through field-emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM, Hitachi-4800), transmission electron microscopy (TEM), and high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HRTEM, JEOL, JEM-2010).

## **S2 Electrochemical Test**

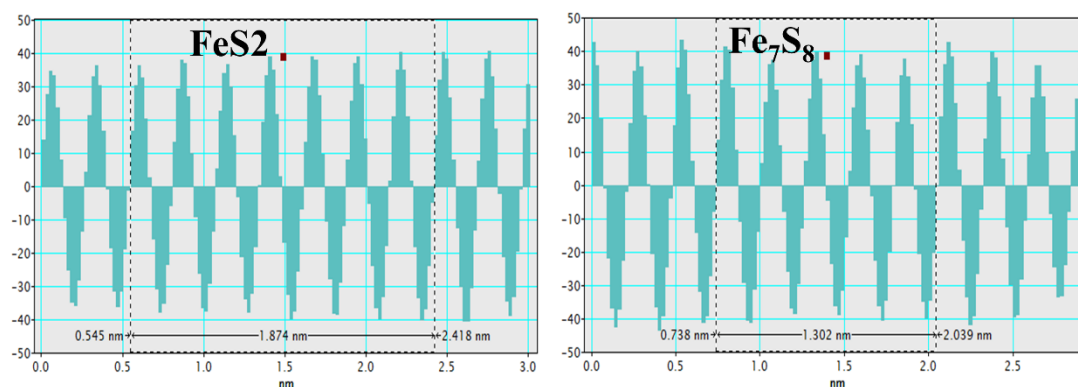
Firstly, the as-prepared samples (Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/NCNT, Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/FeS<sub>2</sub>/NCNT, and FeS<sub>2</sub>/NCNT) were mixed with Super P and carboxymethylcellulose sodium in deionized water at a weight ratio of 7:2:1, respectively, and stirred to obtain a uniform slurry. Then the slurry was coated on copper foil, vacuum-dried at 60 °C overnight, and cut into 12 mm diameter disks to obtain the working electrodes. The average mass loading of the active material is around 1.2×10<sup>-3</sup> g cm<sup>-2</sup>. Then assembling the half cells in an argon-filled glovebox, with sodium foil and Whatman glass fiber as the reference electrode and

separator, respectively. Ester-based electrolyte (1.0 M of NaPF<sub>6</sub> in ethylene carbonate and diethyl carbonate (EC/ DEC = 1/1 by volume)) and ether-based electrolyte (1 M NaPF<sub>6</sub> in diglyme (DME)) were employed. The galvanostatic cycle tests of half cells were conducted in the NEWARE battery test system with a wide voltage window of 0.01-3 V. To further investigate the Na<sup>+</sup> storage kinetics, cyclic voltammetry (CV) curves were obtained using an electrochemical workstation (CHI 660D) at different scan rates. The electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) measurements were carried out on the same electrochemical workstation (CHI 660D).

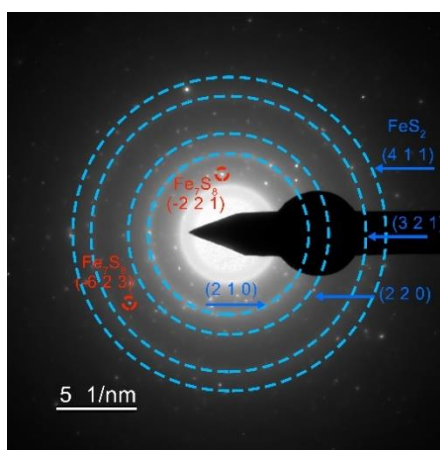
### S3 Supplementary Figures and Table



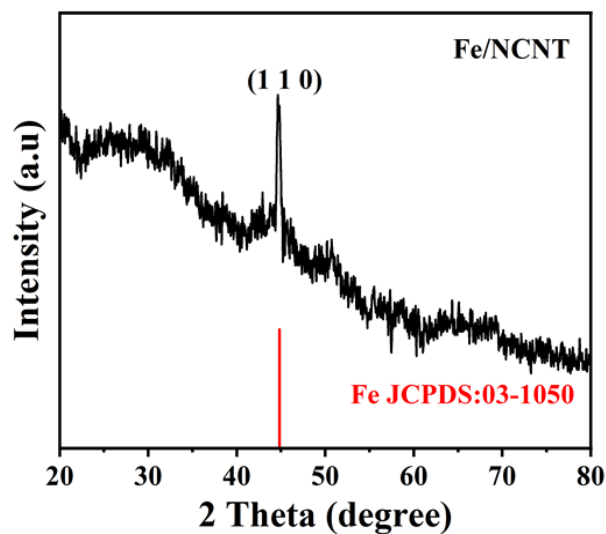
**Fig. S1** SEM images of **a** Fe/NCNT, **b** Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/NCNT, and **c** FeS<sub>2</sub>/NCNT



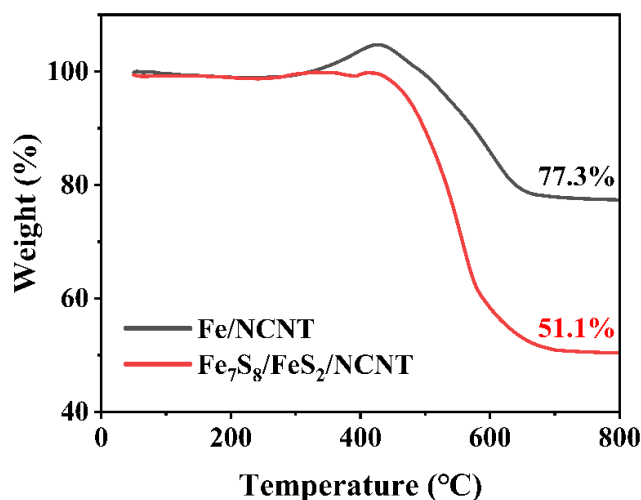
**Fig. S2** Crystal plane spacing periodogram of Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/ FeS<sub>2</sub>/NCNT



**Fig. S3** SEAD pattern of Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/ FeS<sub>2</sub>/NCNT



**Fig. S4** XRD pattern of Fe/NCNT

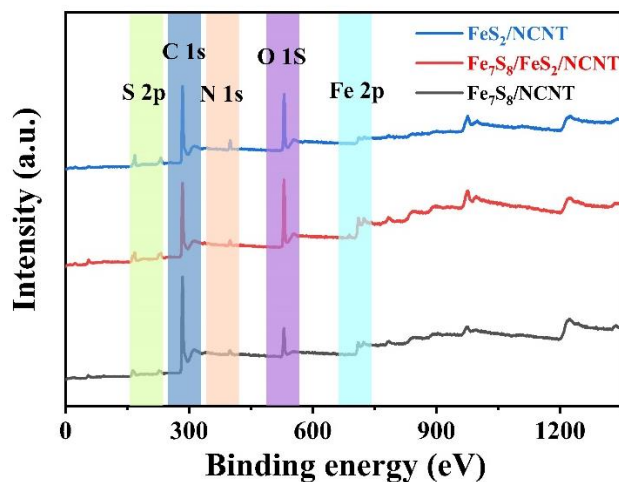


**Fig. S5** TG curves of Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/FeS<sub>2</sub>/NCNT and Fe/NCNT in air

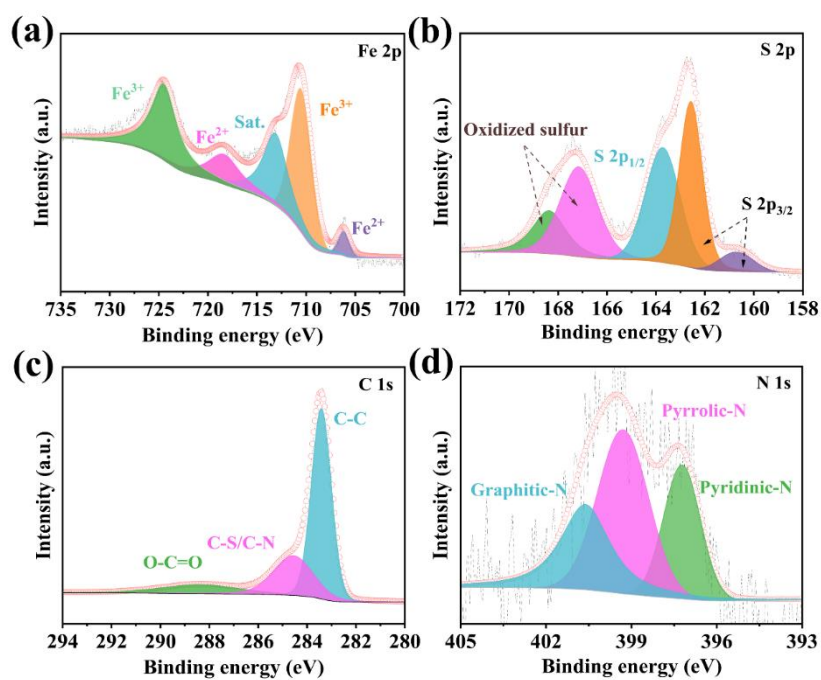
For the Fe/NCNT, the content of Fe in Fe/NCNT is calculated to be 54.1 wt% based on the remaining 77.3 wt% of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> after the TG test. Similarly, the the content of Fe in the Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/FeS<sub>2</sub>/NCNT is calculated to be 35.8 wt%. Besides, since the sulfidation process will not change the mass ratio of Fe element to NCNT from Fe/NCNT to Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/FeS<sub>2</sub>/NCNT, thus the content of NCNT in Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/FeS<sub>2</sub>/NCNT is calculated to be 30.4% based on the following relationship:

$$W_{1Fe}/W_{1NCNT} = W_{2Fe}/W_{2NCNT}$$

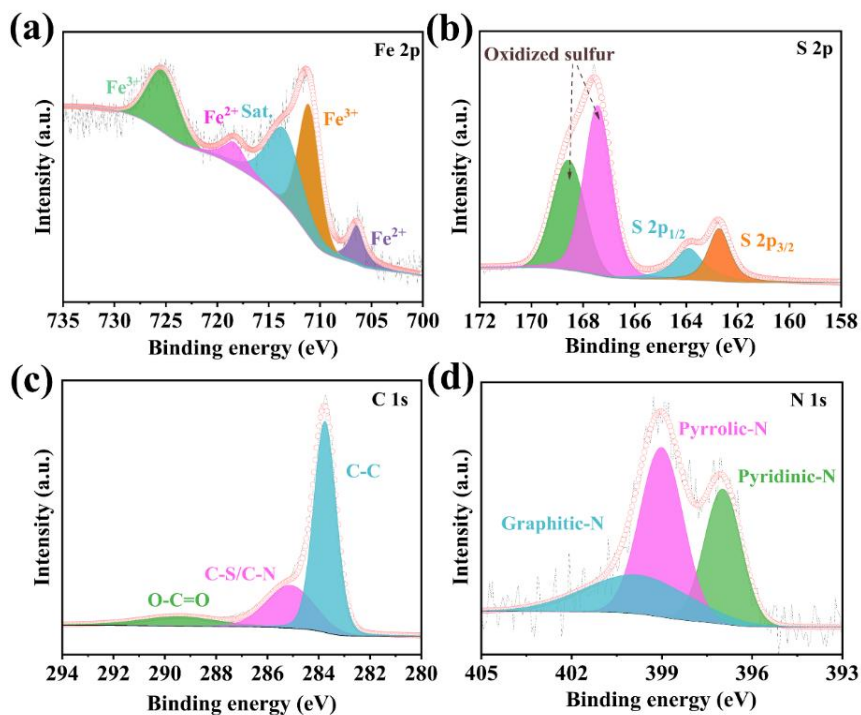
where the  $W_{1Fe}$  and  $W_{1NCNT}$  correspond to the mass ratio of Fe element and NCNT in Fe/NCNT,  $W_{2Fe}$  and  $W_{2NCNT}$  correspond to the mass ratio of Fe element and NCNT in Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/FeS<sub>2</sub>/NCNT.



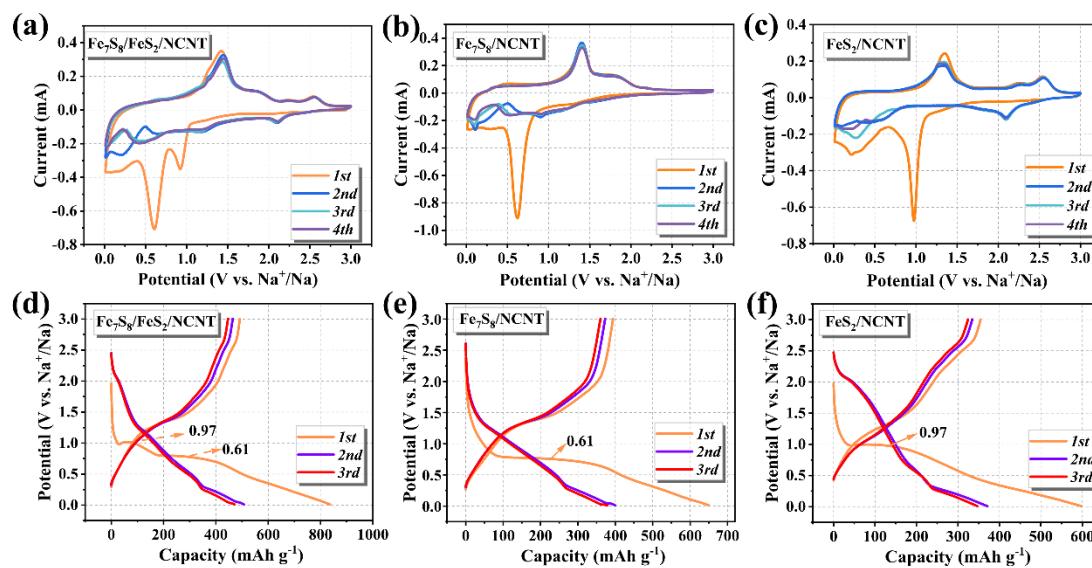
**Fig. S6** XPS survey spectra of the Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/NCNT, Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/FeS<sub>2</sub>/NCNT, and FeS<sub>2</sub>/NCNT



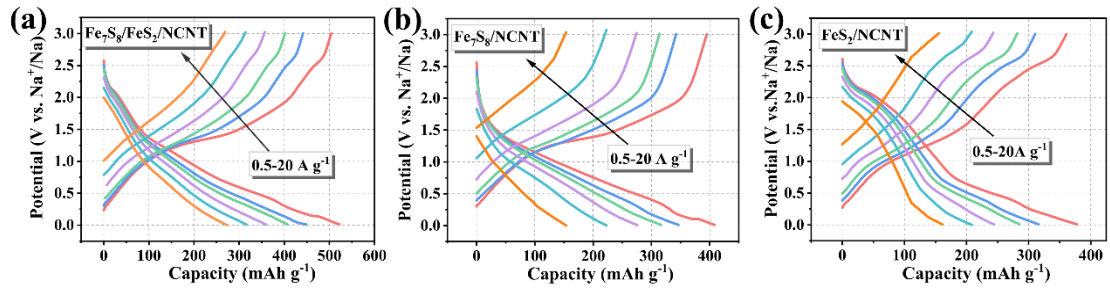
**Fig. S7** High-resolution XPS spectra of Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/NCNT: **a** Fe 2p, **b** S 2p, **c** C 1s, and **d** N 1s



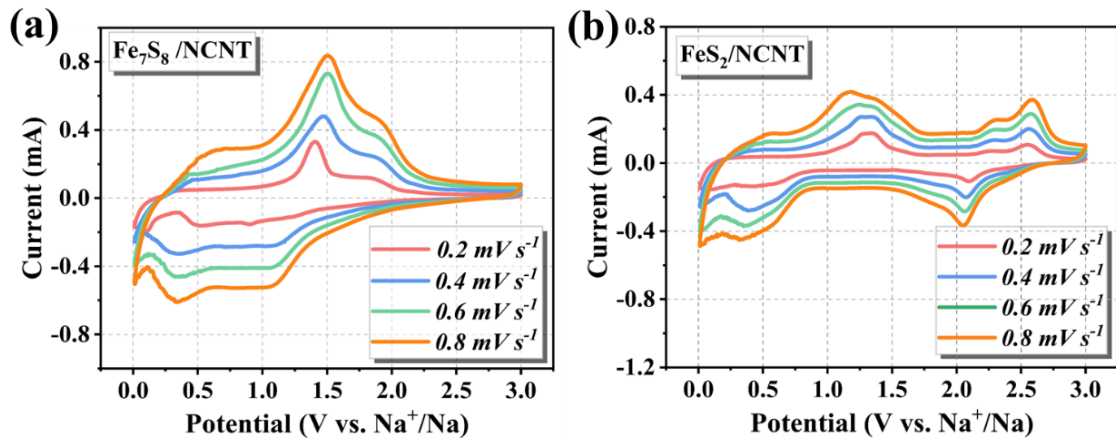
**Fig. S8** High-resolution XPS spectra of  $\text{FeS}_2/\text{NCNT}$ : **a** Fe 2p, **b** S 2p, **c** C 1s, and **d** N 1s



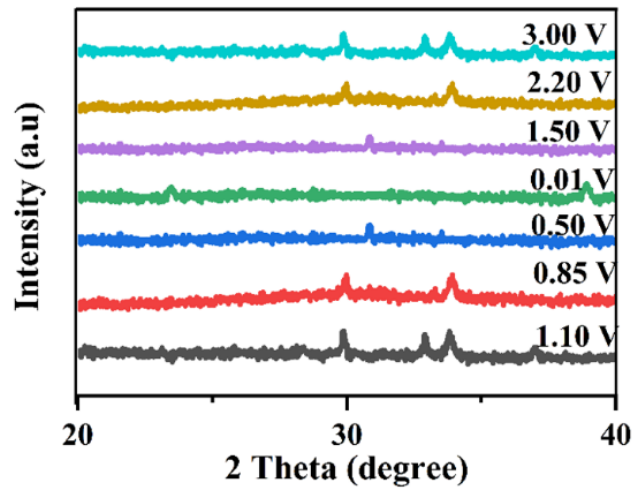
**Fig. S9** CV curves of **a**  $\text{Fe}_7\text{S}_8/\text{FeS}_2/\text{NCNT}$ , **b**  $\text{Fe}_7\text{S}_8/\text{NCNT}$ , and **c**  $\text{FeS}_2/\text{NCNT}$  for the first four cycles at a scan rate of  $0.2 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . Charge/discharge voltage profiles of **d**  $\text{Fe}_7\text{S}_8/\text{FeS}_2/\text{NCNT}$ , **e**  $\text{Fe}_7\text{S}_8/\text{NCNT}$ , and **f**  $\text{FeS}_2/\text{NCNT}$  for the first three cycles at a current density of  $1.0 \text{ A g}^{-1}$



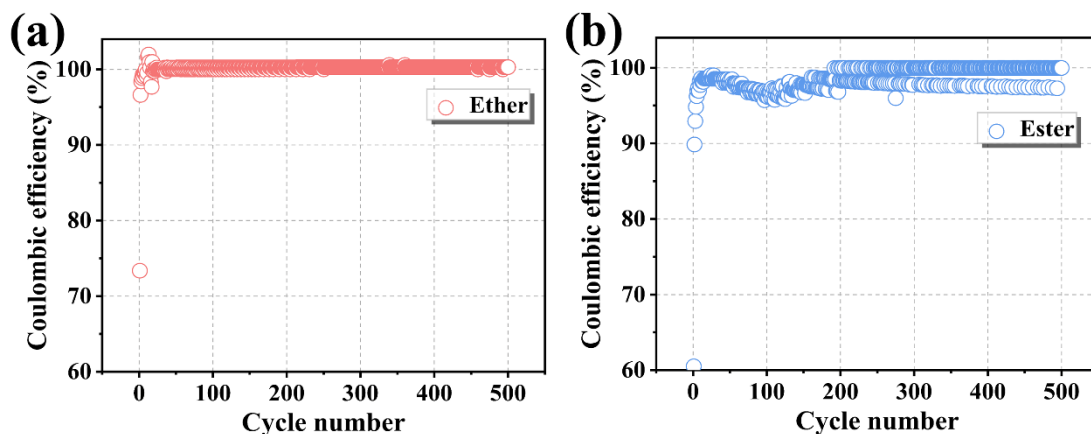
**Fig. S10** Charge/discharge voltage profiles of **a** Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/FeS<sub>2</sub>/NCNT, **b** Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/NCNT, and **c** FeS<sub>2</sub>/NCNT at various current densities



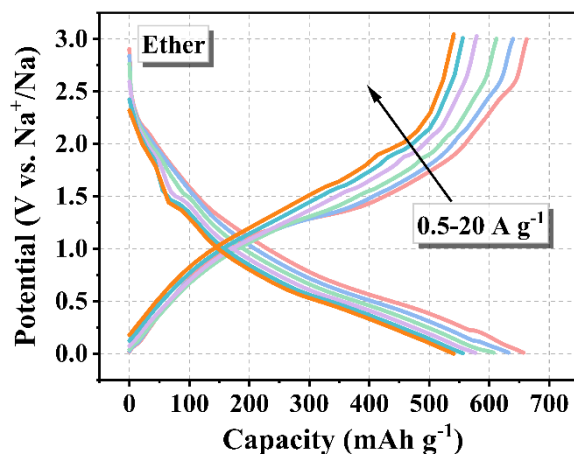
**Fig. S11** CV curves of **a** Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/NCNT and **b** FeS<sub>2</sub>/NCNT at scan rates ranging from 0.2 to 0.8 mV s<sup>-1</sup>



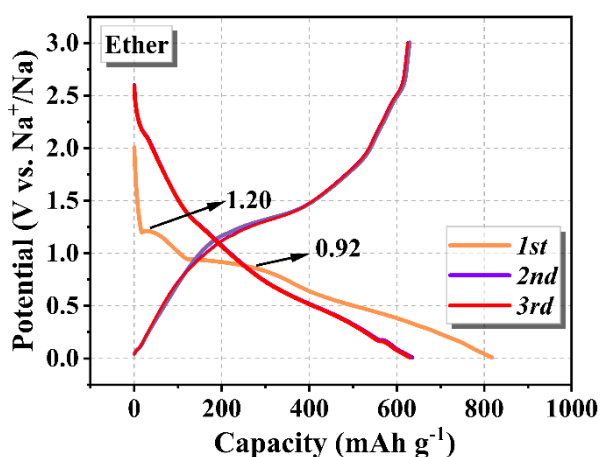
**Fig. S12** Ex-situ XRD pattern of the Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/FeS<sub>2</sub>/NCNT electrode at various charging/discharging states within the 2θ range from 20° to 40°



**Fig. S13** Coulombic efficiency of electrodes circulating in **a** ether- and **b** ester- based electrolytes at  $5 \text{ A g}^{-1}$

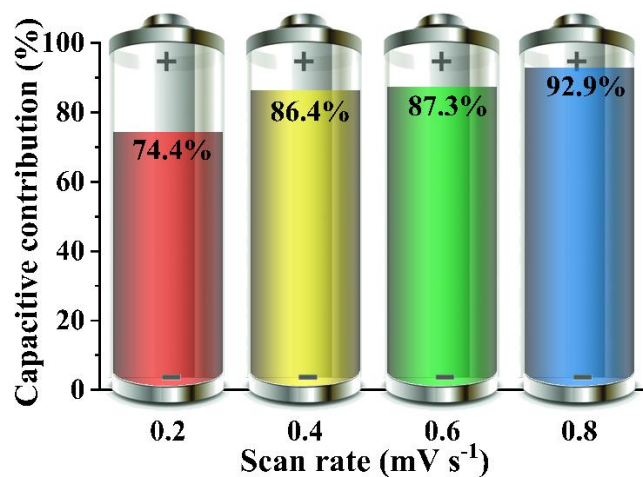


**Fig. S14** Charge/discharge voltage profiles at various current densities of  $\text{Fe}_7\text{S}_8/\text{FeS}_2/\text{NCNT}$  in the ether-based electrolyte

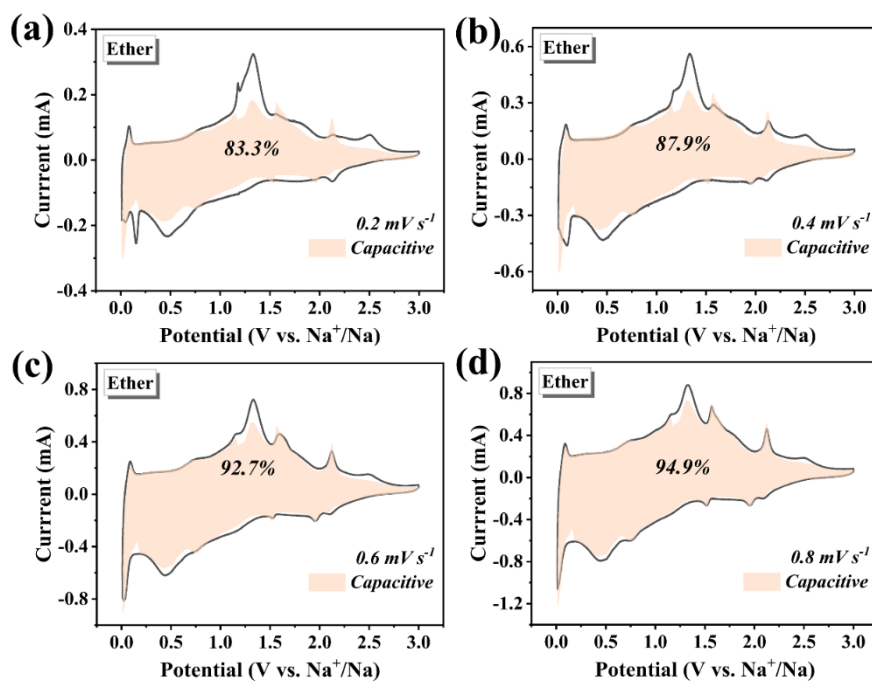


**Fig. S15** Discharge/charge profiles at  $1 \text{ A g}^{-1}$  of  $\text{Fe}_7\text{S}_8/\text{FeS}_2/\text{NCNT}$  in the ether-based electrolyte



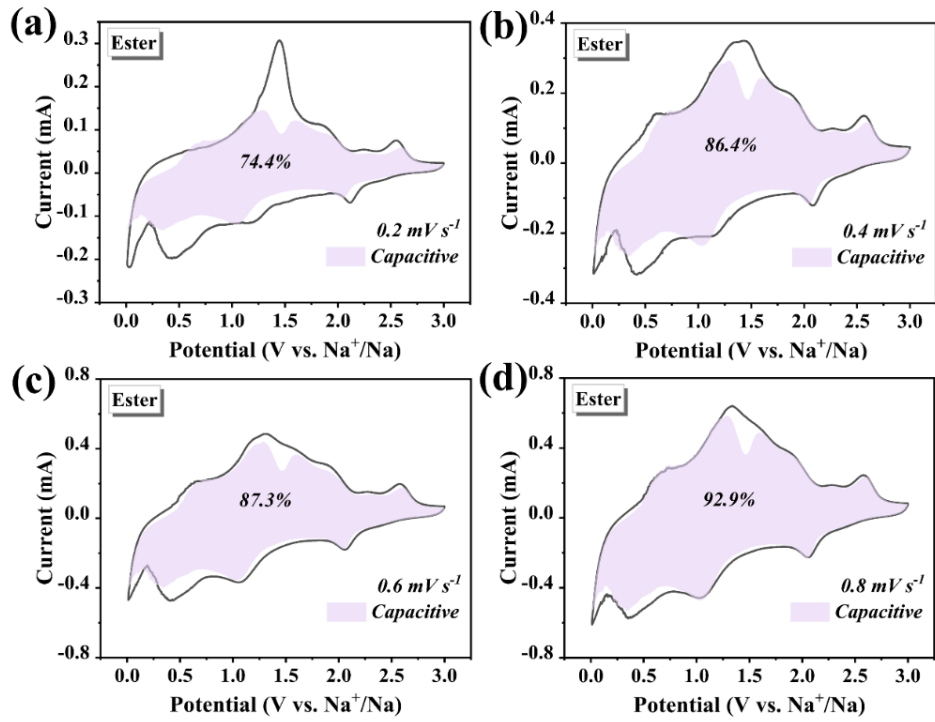


**Fig. S16** Capacity contributions of the capacitive and diffusion-controlled behaviors at different scan rates in ester-based electrolyte

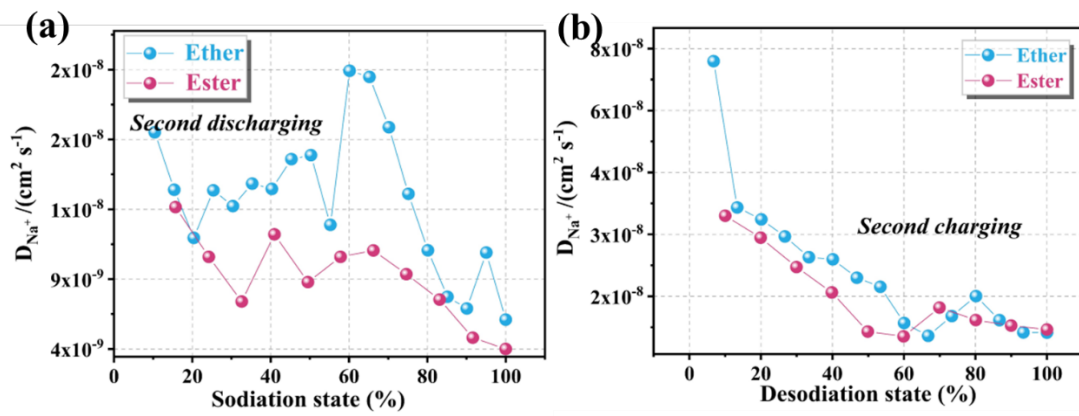


**Fig. S17** Capacitive and diffusion-controlled contributions from 0.2 to 0.8 mV s<sup>-1</sup> in ether-based electrolyte





**Fig. S18** Capacitive and diffusion-controlled contributions from 0.2 to 0.8  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$  in ester-based electrolyte



**Fig. S19** Calculated  $\text{Na}^+$  diffusion coefficients upon the second **a** discharge and **b** charge in two different electrolytes

**Table S1** Comparison of electrochemical performance of the as-fabricated Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/FeS<sub>2</sub>/NCNT with other related electrode materials reported in the literature

Sample	Cut-off voltage (V)	electrolyte	Cycling stability			Rate capability		Refs.
			Current density (A g <sup>-1</sup> )	Cycle number	Capacity retention (mAh g <sup>-1</sup> )	Current density (A g <sup>-1</sup> )	Capacity retention (mAh g <sup>-1</sup> )	
<b>Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub>/FeS<sub>2</sub>/NCNT</b>	<b>0.01-3.0</b>	<b>1 M NaPF<sub>6</sub> in diglyme</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>466.7</b>	<b>10/20</b>	<b>556/537</b>	<b>This work</b>
Fe <sub>7</sub> S <sub>8</sub> @C NCs	0.08-3.0	1 M NaPF <sub>6</sub> in diethylene glycol dimethyl ether	0.18	1000	447	2.7	552	[S1]
Fe <sub>7</sub> S <sub>8</sub> @HD-C	0.01-3.0	1 m NaPF <sub>6</sub> solution in DEGDME	2.0	320	480	5/10	401/326	[S2]
Fe <sub>7</sub> S <sub>8</sub> /N-C	0.01-3.0	1.0 M NaClO <sub>4</sub> in ethylene carbonate/propylene carbonate	0.2	500	451	1.6/3.2	353/328	[S3]
Fe <sub>7</sub> S <sub>8</sub> @C	0.01-3.0	1.25 M NaPF <sub>6</sub> in ethylmethyl carbonate	1.0	1000	531	2.0/5.0	558/537	[S4]
Fe <sub>7</sub> S <sub>8</sub> @C-G	0.01-3.0	1.0 M NaClO <sub>4</sub> in ethylene carbonate/propylene carbonate	0.1	100	478	1.0/2.0	332/306	[S5]
FeS <sub>2</sub> @NC	0.5-3.0	1 M NaClO <sub>4</sub> in propylene carbonate	5.0	1000	375	5.0/10	407/307	[S6]
FeS <sub>2</sub> /rGO	0.01-2.3	1 M NaClO <sub>4</sub> in ethylene carbonate/propylene carbonate	0.1	100	610	10	426/344	[S7]
FeS <sub>2</sub> @C yolk-shell	0.1-2.0	1 M NaSO <sub>3</sub> CF <sub>3</sub> in diethylene glycol dimethyl ether	2.0	800	330	2.0/5.0	470/403	[S8]
FeS <sub>2</sub> /CNS	0.01-3.0	1 M NaCF <sub>3</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> in diglyme	1.0	350	577	2.0/5.0	585/400	[S9]
FeS <sub>2</sub> /NHCFs	0.005-3.0	1 M NaPF <sub>6</sub> in diglyme	1.0	400	414	10/20	320/280	[S10]

## Supplementary References

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- [S8] Z. Liu, T. Lu, T. Song, X.-Y. Yu, X. W. Lou et al., Structure-designed synthesis of FeS<sub>2</sub>@C yolk-shell nanoboxes as a high-performance anode for sodium-ion batteries. *Energy Environ. Sci.* **10**(7), 1576-1580 (2017).  
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- [S9] Z. Lin, X. Xiong, M. Fan, D. Xie, G. Wang et al., Scalable synthesis of FeS<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles encapsulated into N-doped carbon nanosheets as a high-performance sodium-ion battery anode. *Nanoscale* **11**(9), 3773-3779 (2019).  
<https://doi.org/10.1039/c8nr10444a>
- [S10] C. Zhang, D. Wei, F. Wang, G. Zhang, J. Duan et al., Highly active Fe<sub>7</sub>S<sub>8</sub> encapsulated in N-doped hollow carbon nanofibers for high-rate sodium-ion batteries. *J. Energy Chem.* **53** 26-35 (2021).  
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