

Supporting Information for

Multi-Dimensional Composite Frame as Bifunctional Catalytic Medium for Ultra-Fast Charging Lithium-Sulfur Battery

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S1 Preparation of Related Solutions and Testing Method

Materials characterizations: The structures and morphologies of the prepared samples were characterized by field-emission scanning electron microscopy (FE-SEM, Apero S) and high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HRTEM, FEI Tecnai G2 F30). The crystal structure of the samples was identified by X-ray powder diffraction (XRD, Rigaku RINT2400 with Cu K α radiation). X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) analysis was carried out using a Kratos Axis Ultra DLD instrument with Al K α probe beam.

Preparation of the Li₂S₆ and Li₂S₈ solution: Li₂S₆ and Li₂S₈ were selected as prototype of LiPS. The 0.5 M Li₂S₆ solution was prepared by mixing sulfur and Li₂S (5:1 in weight) in 1,3-dioxolane (DOL) and dimethoxymethane (DME) (1:1, v/v) mixed solvent, followed by stirring at 60 °C for 24 h. 1 M Li₂S₈ is also configured according to the above method, but the solvent is changed to ethylene glycol dimethyl ether. In adsorption and cell test, the difference between LiPS is whether to add 1 M LITFSI or not. In addition, Li₂S₆ and Li₂S₈ blank electrolyte is also configured.

LiPS adsorption tests: Add 20 mL Li₂S₆ (3 mM) to one side of the electrolyzer and 20 mL blank electrolyte to the other side, and sandwich the modified diaphragm in the middle of the electrolyzer. After the adsorption test, absorb the electrolyte on the blank side for UV-vis spectroscopy, and the active material can be used for XPS analysis.

Assembly and tests of symmetric cells: Dissolve 5 mg of active substance in 10 mL of ethanol, ultrasonic for 30 min, measure the corresponding solution with a pipette and drop it on carbon paper to prepare electrode materials. Add 20 μ L Li₂S₆ (0.5 M) to both sides of the diaphragm to assemble symmetrical batteries for electrochemical test, and the voltage window is -1 – 1 V. EIS measurements were conducted in the frequency range of 0.01 Hz to 10 kHz.

Li₂S precipitation measurement: The electrode material is prepared by the above method. The electrode material and lithium sheet are used to assemble the battery, and 20 μ L blank electrolyte is dripped on one side of the lithium sheet and 10 μ L Li₂S₈ (0.3 M) is dripped on one side of the electrode material. The lithium-catalyst batteries were galvanostatically discharged at 0.112 mA to 2.06 V, and then potentiostatically discharged at 2.05 V for 21,600 s.

Li₂S dissolution measurement: The electrode material is prepared by the above method. The electrode material and lithium sheet are used to assemble the battery, and 20 μ L blank

electrolyte is dripped on one side of the lithium sheet and 10 μL Li_2S_8 (0.3 M) is dripped on one side of the electrode material. The lithium-catalyst batteries were galvanostatically discharged at 0.1 mA to 1.7 V, and then potentiostatically discharged at 2.35 V for 20000 s.

Lithium ion diffusion measurement: Cyclic voltammetry tests were carried out at different sweep speeds of 0.1 to 0.5 mV s^{-1} (Figure 4b, S8 and S9) to study the lithium ion diffusion caused by different samples on the electrode surface. There is a linear relationship between the current density of two reduction peaks and one oxidation peak in lithium-sulfur battery and the square root of scanning rate, which can be fitted by Randles-Sevcik equation:

$$I_p = (2.69 \times 10^5) \cdot n^{1.5} \cdot A \cdot D^{0.5} \cdot C_{\text{Li}^+} \cdot \nu^{0.5} \quad (\text{S1})$$

where I_p is the peak current density, n is the number of electrons in the reaction, A is the active electrode area, D is lithium ion diffusion coefficient, C_{Li^+} is the lithium ion concentration and ν is the scanning rate [54].

Cell assembly and measurements: CR2032-type button were assembled and sealed in a high-purity argon-filled glovebox (H_2O , $\text{O}_2 < 0.01$ ppm) Lithium foil (15.6 mm) was used as anode and S@C electrode as cathode. The electrolyte was prepared by dissolving 1 M LiTFSI and 2.0 wt% LiNO_3 in DME and 1,3-dioxolane (DOL) (1:1, v/v). The electrolyte amount added in the common cell is 40 μL . The galvanostatic charge-discharge test was carried on a LAND battery tester in voltage range between 1.7 - 2.8 V. CV and EIS measurements (0.01- 10^5 KHz) were performed on the CHI-760E electrochemical workstation.

DFT calculations: All the spin-polarized density functional theory (DFT) calculations were performed by using the projected augmented wave (PAW) pseudopotentials, as implemented in the Vienna ab-initio Simulation Package (VASP). The generalized gradient approximation (GGA) in the Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE) form was employed. The cut-off energy was set to 450 eV and the convergence threshold was set to 10^{-5} and 0.02 eV \AA^{-1} for energy and force, respectively. The van der Waals (vdW) interactions between $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{O}_2$ and Li_2S_n were dealt with using the Grimme's D3-type of the semiempirical method. A $4 \times 4 \times 1$ k-mesh was employed for the Brillouin zone integrations, and a vacuum layer of 15 \AA was employed to avoid interactions of neighbouring images. In addition, the climbing nudged elastic band method (CNEB) method was used for computing Li_2S decomposition barriers. To construct the surface slab models, (4×4) $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{O}_2$ and the (111) surface of $(\sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{3})$ CoS_2 supercell were used with the total 202 atoms.

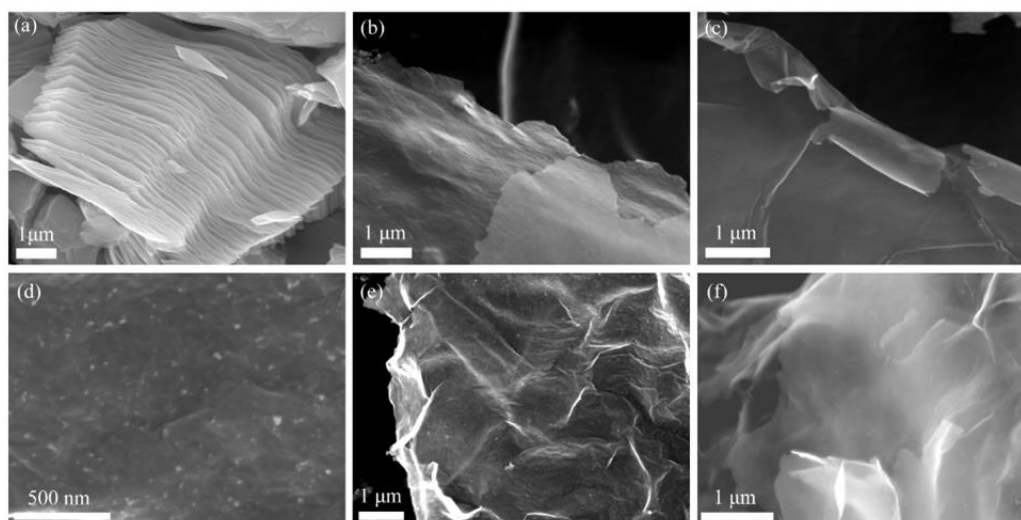


Fig. S1 a) SEM image of MX, b-c) SEM images of MX nanosheets, d-e) SEM images of MX@ $\text{Co}(\text{OH})_2$, f) SEM image of MX@ CoS_2

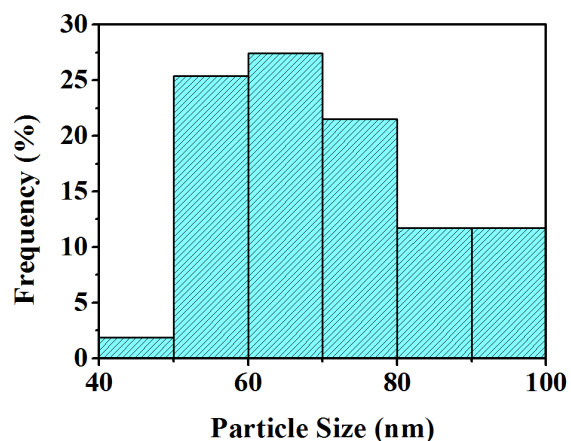


Fig. S2 The size distribution of CoS₂ nanoparticles obtained from Figure 1b

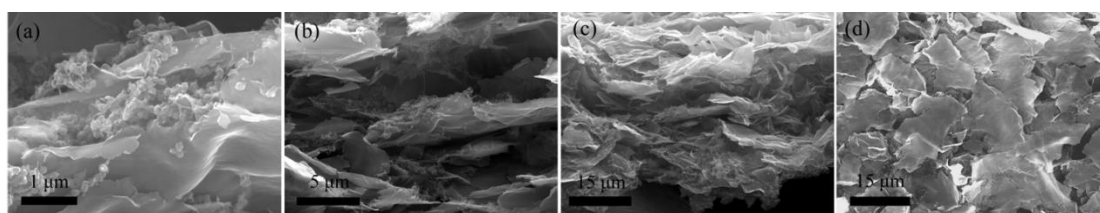


Fig. S3 **a-c)** A typical sectional view of the M/PP modified separator, **d)** top view

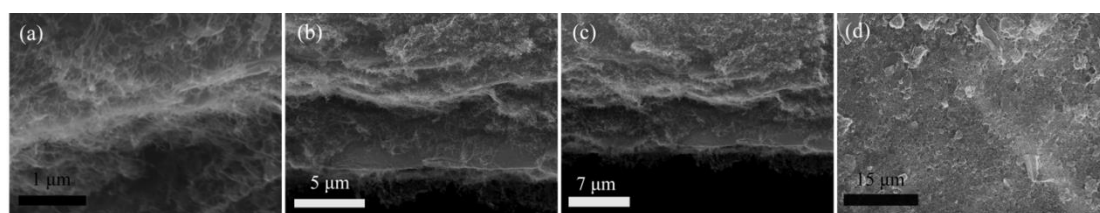


Fig. S4 **a-c)** A typical sectional view of the MCCoS/PP modified separator, **d)** top view

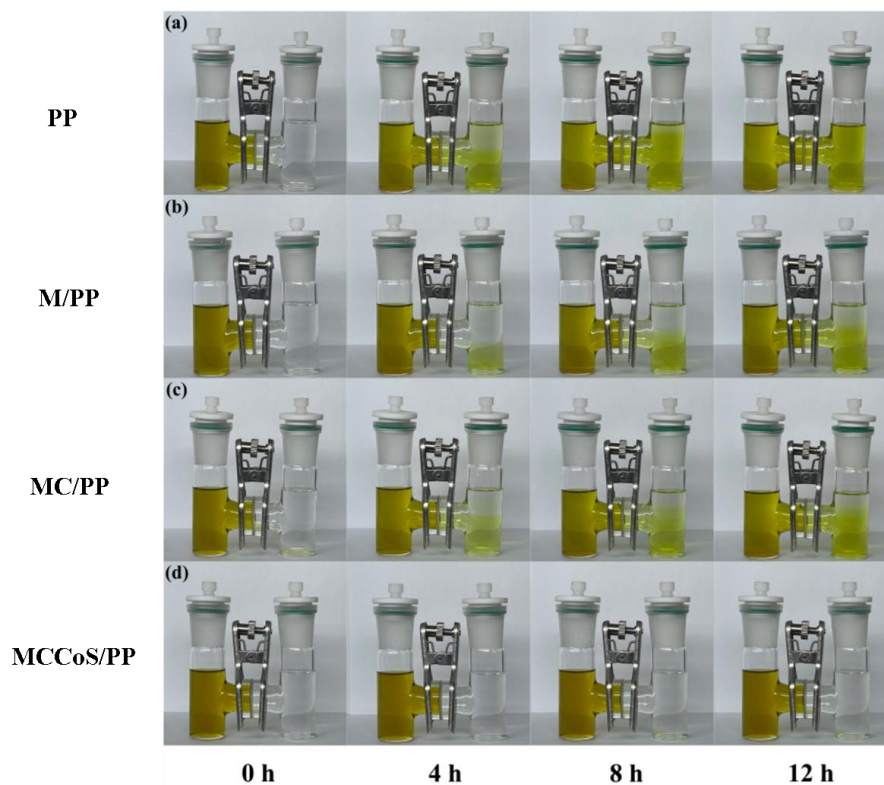


Fig. S5 Diffusion tests of Li₂S₆ with **a)** PP, **b)** M/PP, **c)** MC/PP, and **d)** MCCoS/PP separator

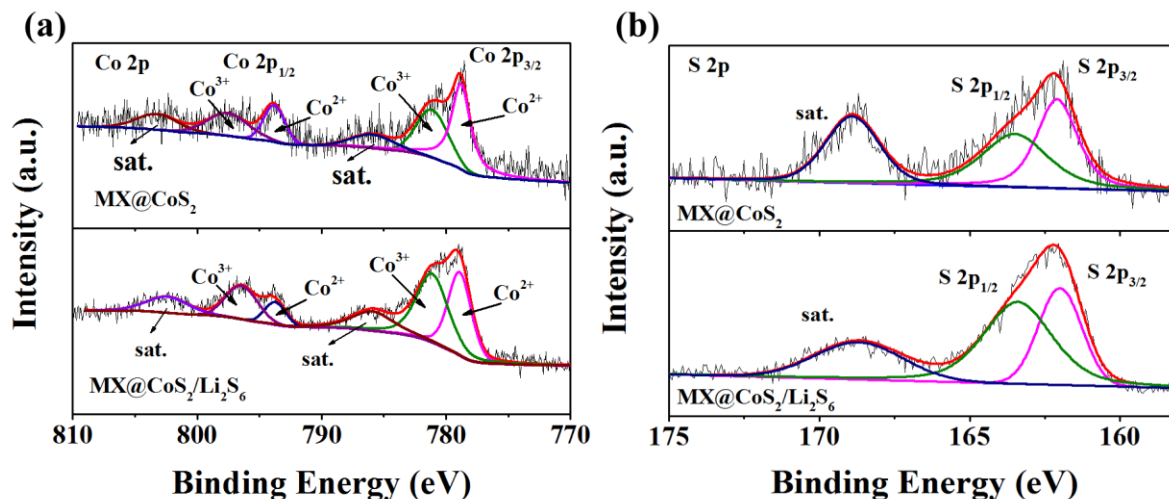


Fig. S6 a) XPS Co 2p and b) XPS S 2p spectra of MX@CoS₂ after Li₂S₆ adsorption

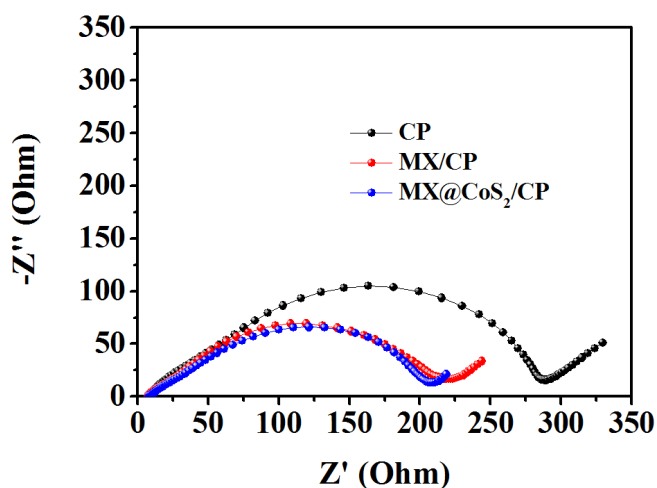


Fig. S7 EIS spectra of the symmetric cells assembled using CP, MX, and MX@CoS₂

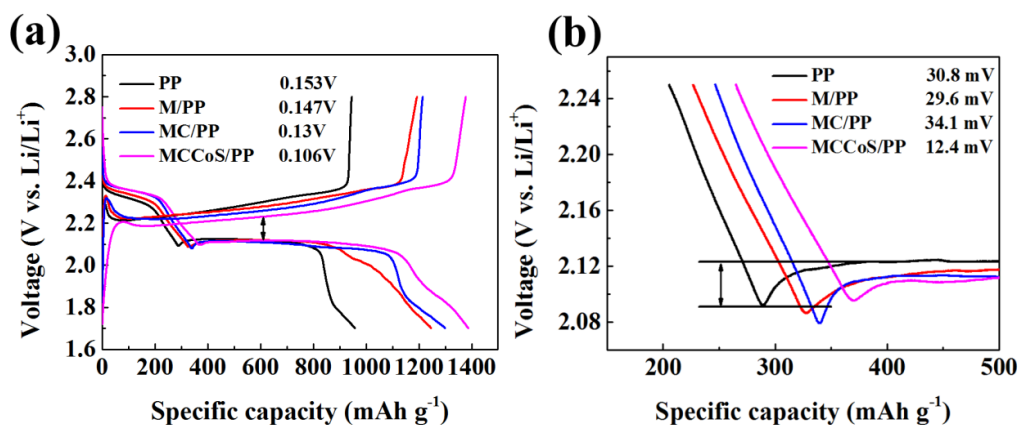


Fig. S8 a) XPS Co 2p and b) XPS S 2p spectra of MX@CoS₂ after Li₂S₆ adsorption

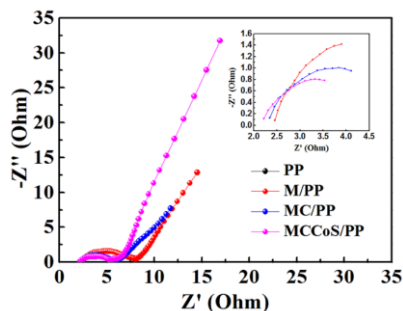


Fig. S9 EIS of Li-S battery based on the different separators

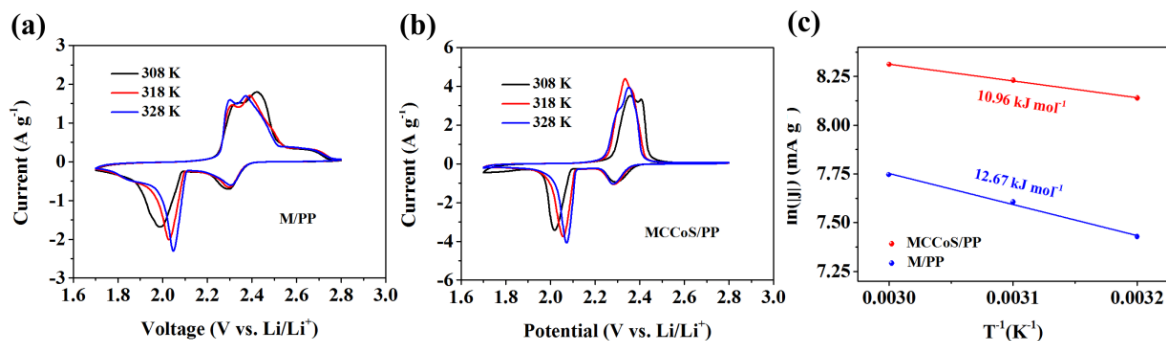


Fig. S10 CV curves of the Li-S batteries using (a) M/PP, and (b) MCCoS/PP separator at various temperatures. (c) Relation of Li_2S_4 conversion reaction with respect to temperatures of Li-S battery based on M/PP and MCCoS/PP separator

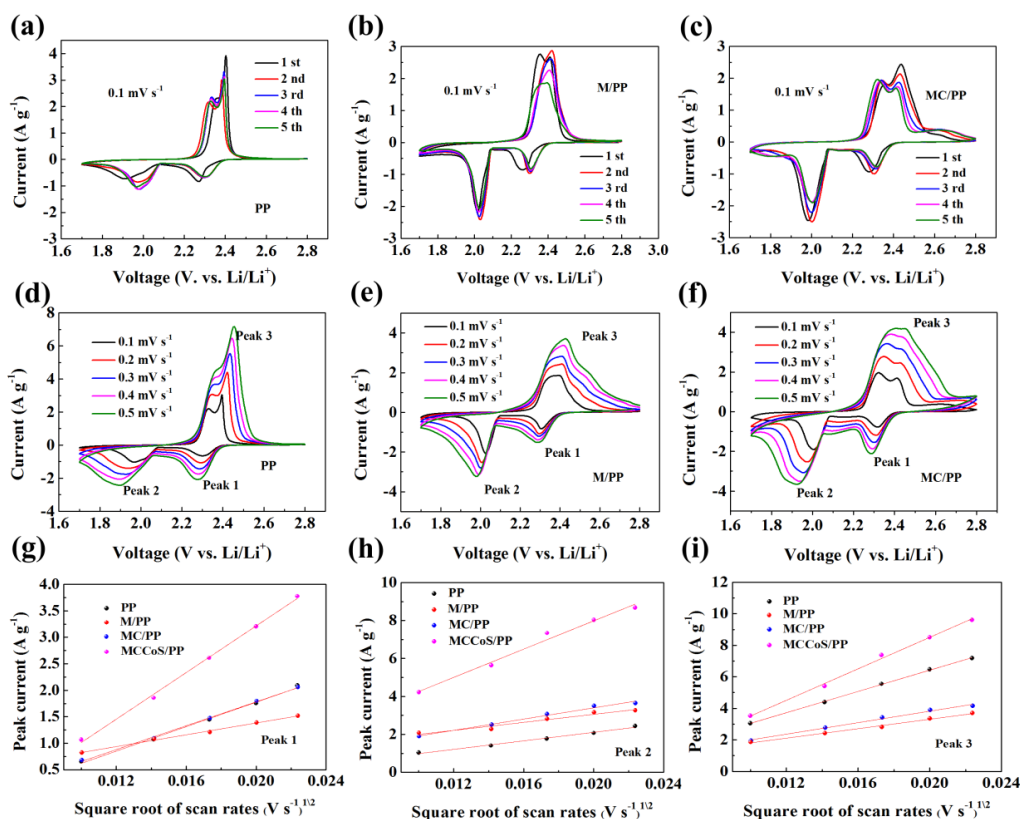


Fig. S11 a-c) CV curves of Li-S battery based on the different separators, d-e) CV curves of Li-S battery based on the different separators at various scan rates, g-i) Plot of CV peak of g) Peak 1 ($\text{S}_8\text{-Li}_2\text{S}_4$), h) Peak 2 ($\text{Li}_2\text{S}_4\text{-Li}_2\text{S}$), and i) Peak 3 ($\text{Li}_2\text{S-S}_8$) versus the square root of scan rates

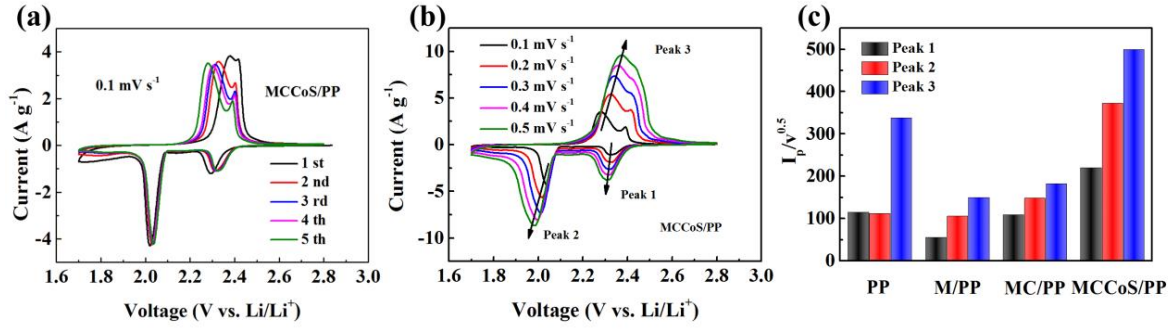


Fig. S12 a) CV curves of Li-S battery based on the MCCoS/PP separator b) CV curves of Li-S battery based on the MCCoS/PP separator at different scan rates from 0.1 to 0.5 mV s⁻¹. c) Values of CV peak current (I_p)/square root of the scan rates ($v^{0.5}$) for the four different separators in the first (peak A: S₈ → Li₂S_x) and second (peak B: Li₂S_x → Li₂S₂/Li₂S) cathodic reduction processes and the anodic oxidation process (peak C: Li₂S₂/Li₂S → S₈)

S2 Assembling, Electrochemical Tests, and Analysis of LIBs

The Ti₃C₂@CoS₂/CNTs and PVDF were mixed at a mass ratio of 9:1 and ground for 1 h, and then NMP was added for grinding for 0.5 h. The obtained samples were coated on aluminum foil and dried under vacuum at 60 °C for 24 h. The obtained sample was cut into electrode disks with a diameter of 12 mm. CR2032-type button were assembled and sealed in a high-purity argon-filled glovebox (H₂O, O₂ <0.01 ppm). Lithium foil (15.6 mm) was used as anode and Ti₃C₂@CoS₂/CNTs electrode as cathode. The electrolyte was prepared by dissolving 1 M LiTFSI and 2.0 wt% LiNO₃ in DME and 1,3-dioxolane (DOL) (1:1, v/v). The electrolyte amount added in the common cell is 40 μL. The galvanostatic charge-discharge test was carried on a LAND battery tester in voltage range between 1.7 - 2.8 V. The applied current values are based on Li-S batteries to guarantee the accuracy of the data. That is, in the cycling performance test, the current density of the Li-S battery is set to 0.1C (for an average sulfur loading of 1.2 mg cm⁻², the actual current is about 0.227 mA), so on the Land CT2001A program-controlled test system, The current per cell is set to 0.227 mA. The test results are as follows (Fig. S13).

In this discussion, we assume that the capacity (C_{All}) of the Li-S battery comes from the active material sulfur (C_S) and the separator material Ti₃C₂@CoS₂/CNTs (C_H), therefore,

$$C_{All} = C_S + C_H \quad (S2)$$

The masses of sulfur and Ti₃C₂@CoS₂/CNTs in Li-S battery are m_s and m_H , respectively. The specific capacities they contribute are SC_S and SC_H , respectively. In a typical calculation without considering the capacity contribution of Ti₃C₂@CoS₂/CNTs, the specific capacity of sulfur (SC) as shown in Fig. 5a, d in our manuscript is expressed as (All specific capacity calculations used in the manuscript are based on this formula),

$$SC = \frac{C_{All}}{m_s} \quad (S3)$$

However, the actual specific capacity of sulfur (SC_S) can be obtained by deducting the influence of the separator material,

$$SC_S = \frac{C_S}{m_s} = \frac{C_{All} - C_H}{m_s} = SC - SC_H \cdot \frac{m_H}{m_s} \quad (S4)$$

where $SC_H \cdot \frac{m_H}{m_s}$ is the additional capacity contributed by Ti₃C₂@CoS₂/CNTs. m_H and m_s are known for a certain battery. SC and SC_H have been given (Figs. 5a and S13). Additional capacity contributions can be easily calculated and deducted.

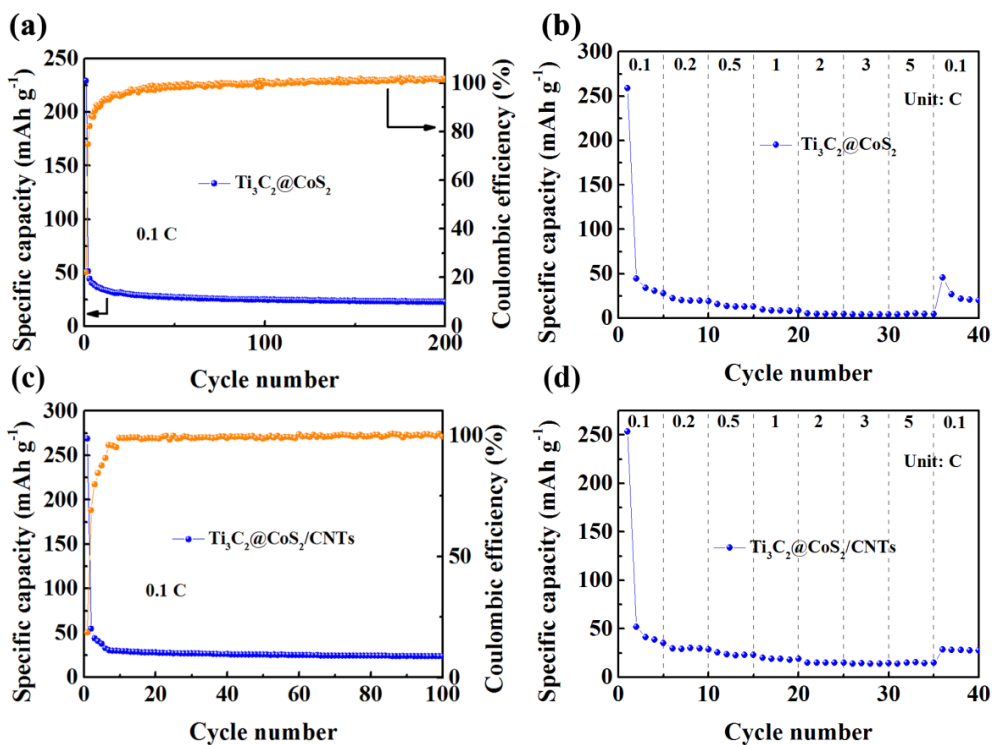


Fig. S13 **a** Cyclic performance, **b** rate performance of $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2@\text{CoS}_2$, **c** Cyclic performance, **d** rate performance of $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2@\text{CoS}_2/\text{CNTs}$

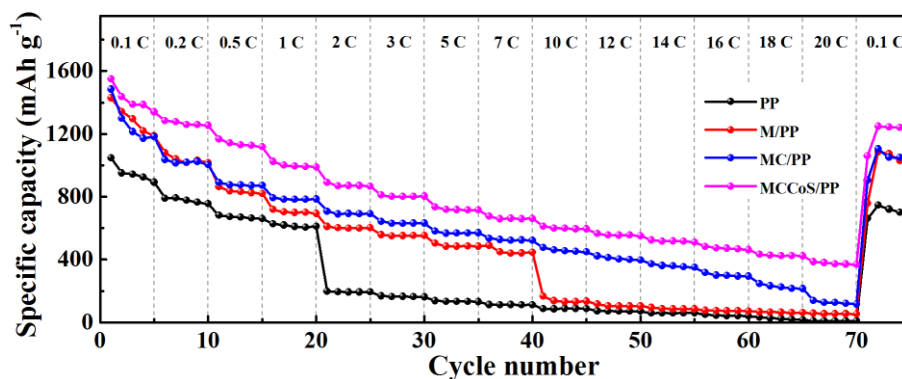


Fig. S14 Rate performance of the different separators after removing the contribution of separator capacity

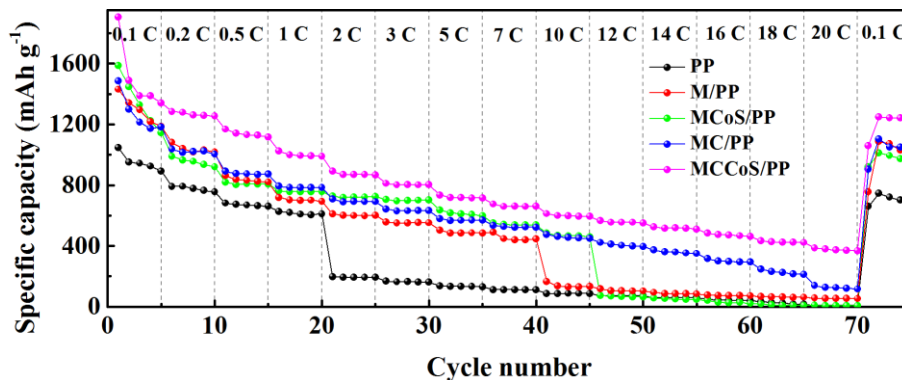


Fig. S15 rate performance of the different separators

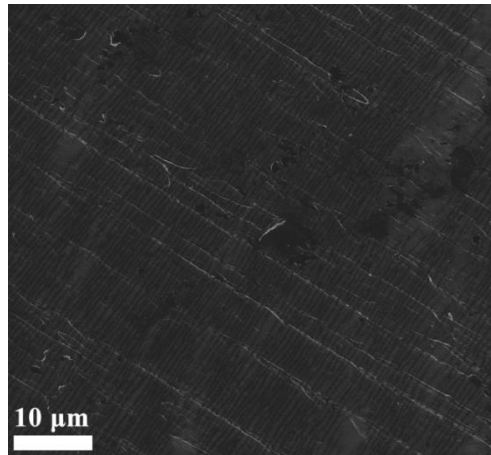


Fig. S16 SEM image of the surface of the unused lithium metal sheet

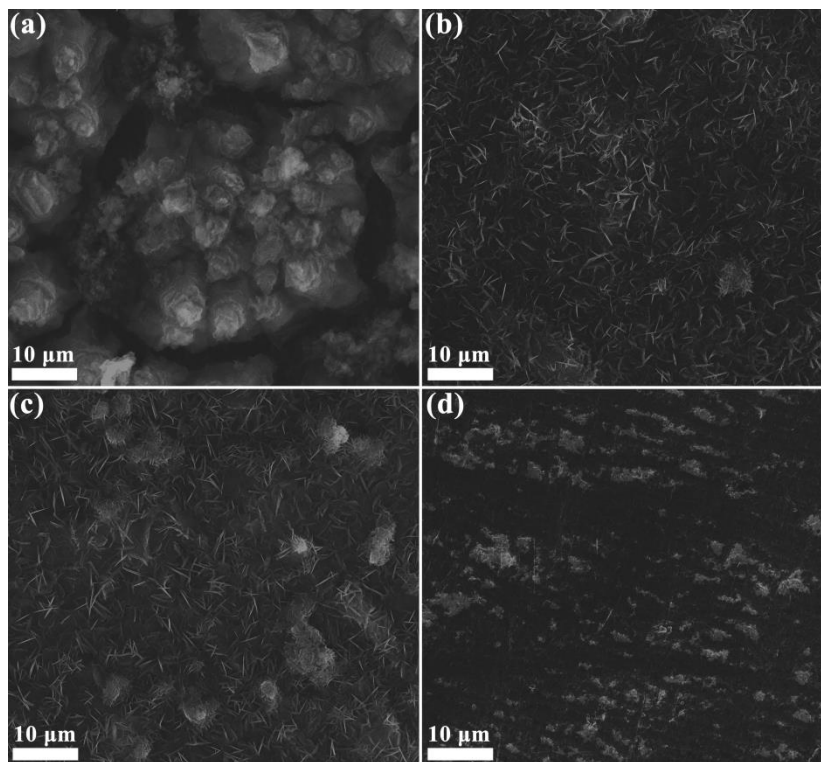


Fig. S17 SEM images of the surface of lithium sheets after high current cycling of Li-S batteries equipped with **a** PP, **b** M/PP, **c** MC/PP, **d** MCCoS/PP

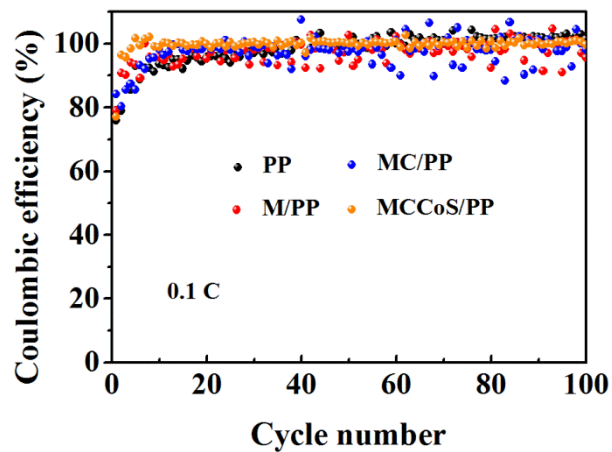


Fig. S18 Coulombic efficiencies of lithium-sulfur battery equipped with different separators

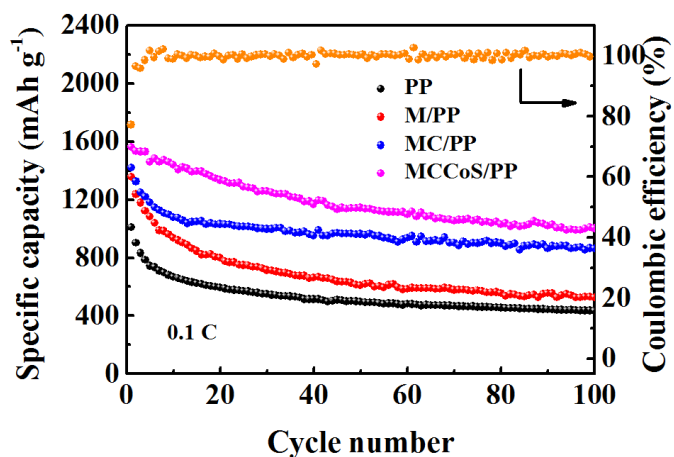


Fig. S19 Cyclic performance of the different separators after removing the contribution of separator capacity

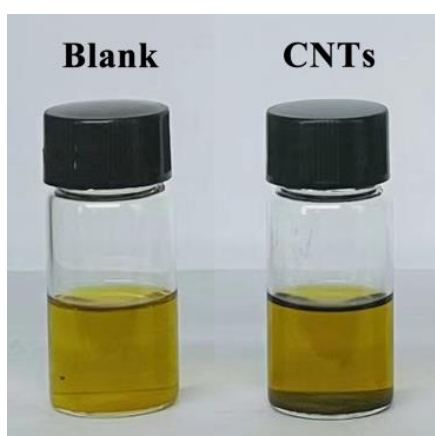


Fig. S20 Photo of CNTs soaked in a Li_2S_6 solution after 12h

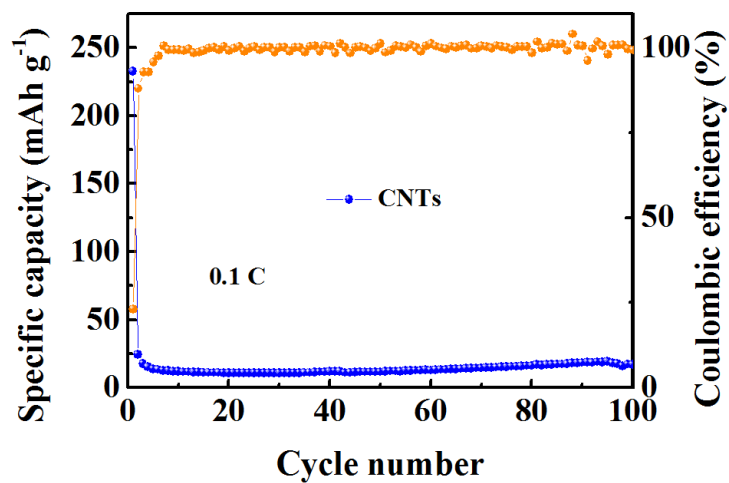


Fig. S21 Cyclic performance of CNTs as cathode material of Li-S battery

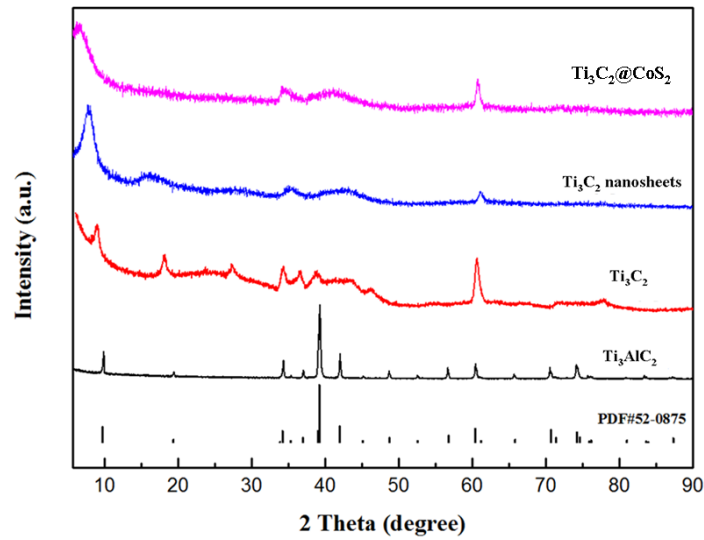


Fig. S22 XRD patterns of Ti_3AlC_2 , Ti_3C_2 , Ti_3C_2 nanosheets and $Ti_3C_2@CoS_2$

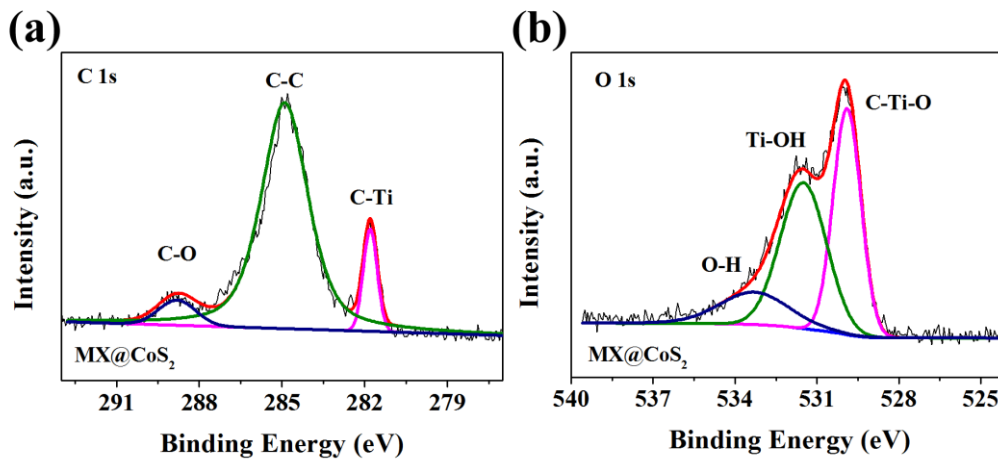


Fig. S23 a) XPS O 1s and b) XPS C 1s spectra of $MX@CoS_2$

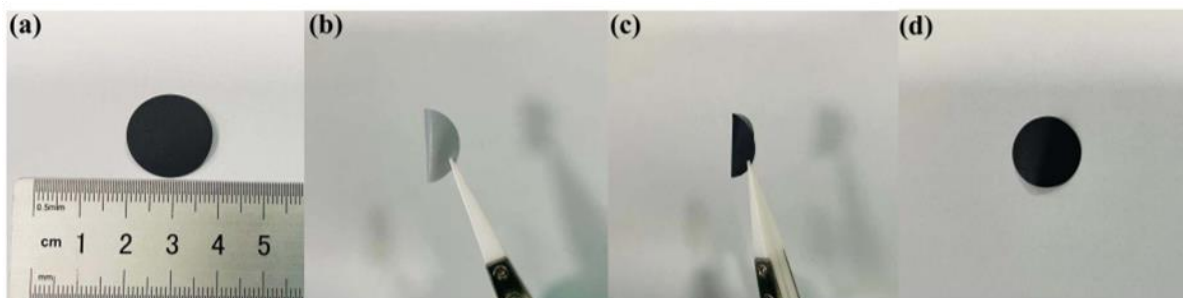


Fig. S24 a-d) Photographs of the $MCCoS/PP$ modified separator

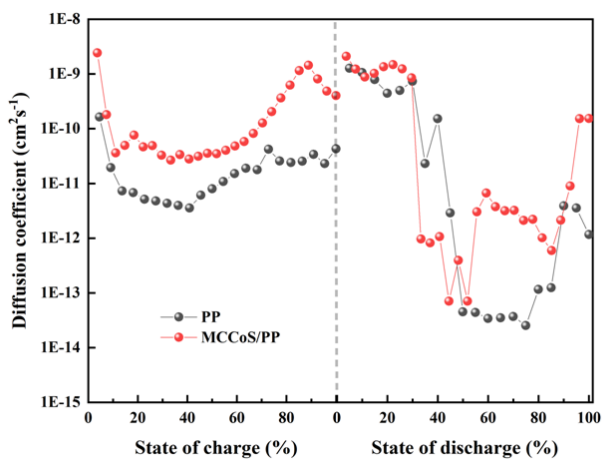


Fig. S25 GITT of Li-S battery based on PP and MCCoS/PP separator

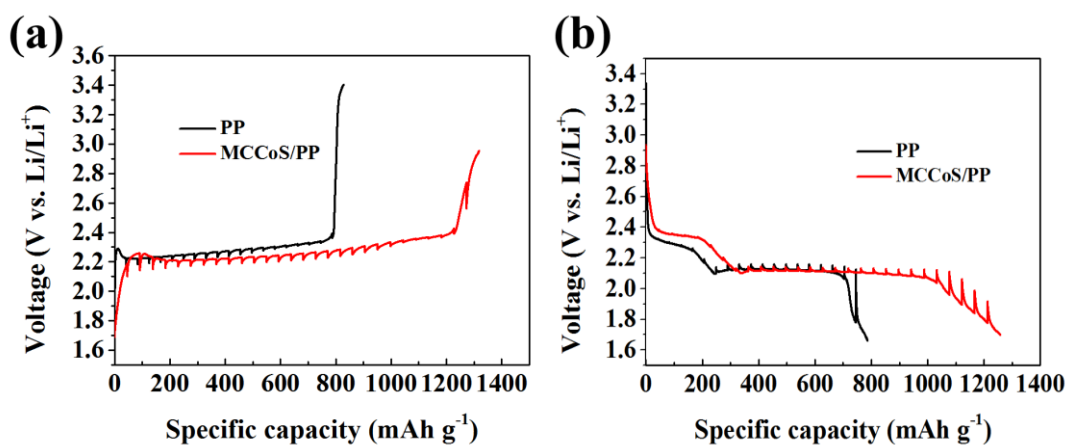


Fig. S26 a-b) GITT charge-discharge profiles of Li-S battery based on PP and MCCoS/PP separator

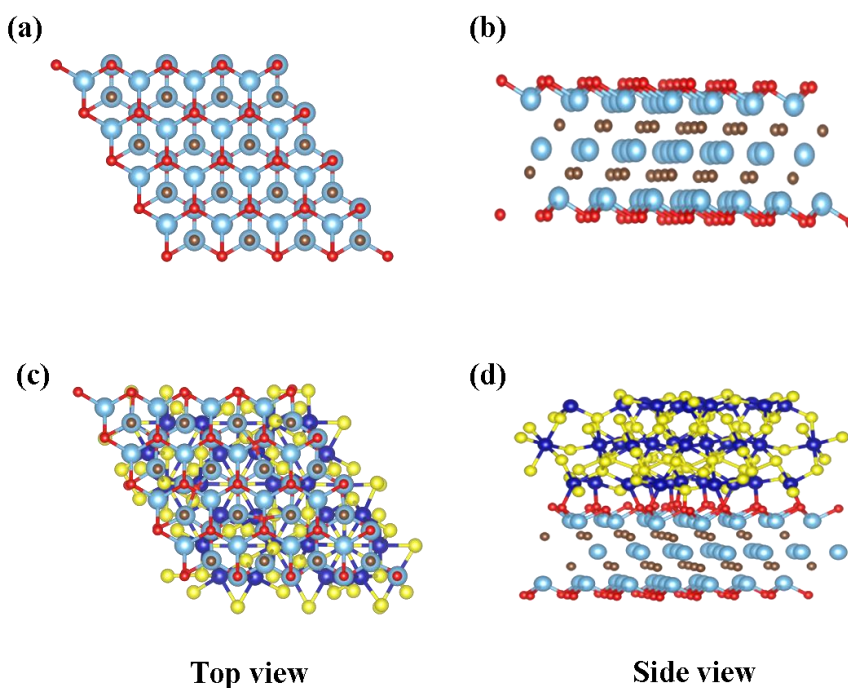


Fig. S27 Optimized structures of a,b) MX and c,d) MX@CoS₂

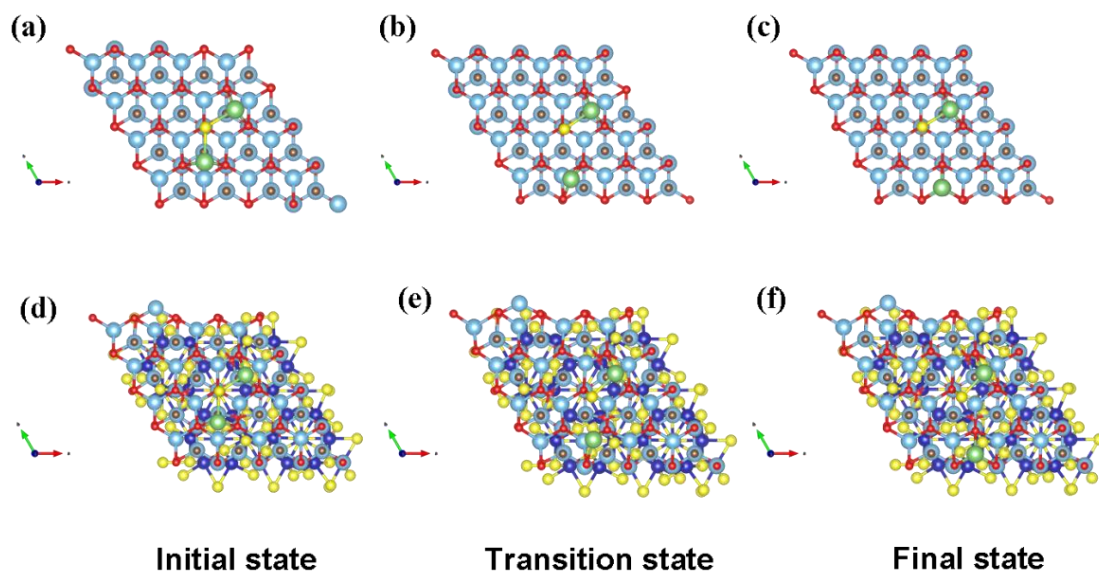


Fig. S28 Li₂S decomposition process of **a-c)** MX, **d-f)** MX@CoS₂

Table S1 Comparison of MCCoS/PP as separator of Li-S battery with state-of-the-art MX based materials

Host material	Capacity (mAh/g) (Low rate)	Capacity (mAh/g) (High rate)	Capacity retention (mAhg ⁻¹ / %) (cycles, low rate)	Decay rate (per cycle, %) (time, rate)
MCCoS/PP This work	1625.5 0.1C	368.6 20C	1002.3/61.7% 100 0.1C	0.033% 1000 7C
S@MXene@PDA [S1]	1439 0.2C	624 6C	1044/73% 150 0.2C	0.048% 770 2C
Ti ₃ C ₂ /S and Ti ₃ C ₂ interlayer [S2]	1062 0.2C	288 10C	632/60% 50 0.5C	0.252% 200 2C
Crumpled N-doped Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x /S [S3]	1144 0.2C	770 2C	950/83.1% 200 0.2C	
Porous N-doped Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x /S [S4]	1072 0.5C	792 3C	1014/94.6% 100 0.5C	0.094% 600 5C
Mo ₂ C/CNTs/S [S5]	1235 0.1C	665 5C	925/74.8% 250 0.1C	0.18% 100 5C
Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x @ mesoporous C/S [S6]	1225.8 0.05C	544.3 4C		
Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x -1T-2H Mo ₂ S- C/S [S7]	1194.7 0.1C	677.2 2C		0.07% 300 0.5C
CoS ₂ @NGCN/S [S8]	1546 0.1C	525.3 2C	900/- 100 0.1C	0.075% 300 1C
CoS ₂ /HPGC/interlayer [S9]	1055 0.2C	650 2C	846/80.1% 250 0.2C	0.07% 500 1C
TiN NM@C [S10]		304 10C		0.059% 1000 4C
S/CoZn-Se@N-MX [S11]	1270 0.2C	844 3C	1016/80% 100 0.2C	0.034% 2000 2C
PM-CNT- Separator	1105	677	801/72.5%	0.07%

[S12]	0.5C	2C	150 0.5C	500 1C
N-P Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x /S [S13]		819.5 2C		
PA-Mxene/CNT-50 [S14]		668 2C		0.025% 800 0.5C
OV-TnQDs@PCN/S [S15]		674 2 C	878/90% 100 0.1C	0.012% 1000 2C
AB- CoS ₂ [S16]	1108 0.2C	475 4 C	650/59% 150 0.2C	0.09% 450 2C
N- Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x /C@PP [S17]	1363 0.1C	675 2C	1018/- 100 0.1C	0.07% 500 0.5C
Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x /GO@PP [S18]		640 5C		0.23% 300 1C
MPF13-550/PP [S19]	1235 0.1C	593 2C	721/61.7% 200 0.2C	0.375% 200 2C
CMP [S20]	1415 0.1C	728 2C	992/70% 100 0.1C	0.06% 600 1C

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