

## Supporting Information

### **Lignosulfonate functionalized g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/carbonized wood sponge for highly efficient heavy metal ions scavenging**

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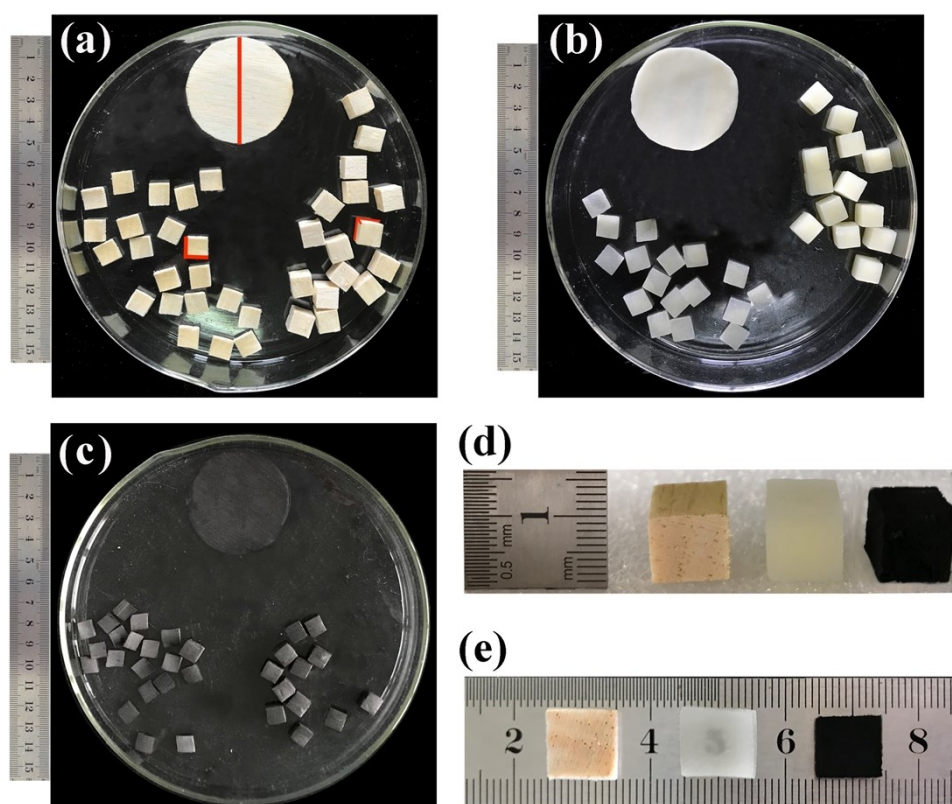
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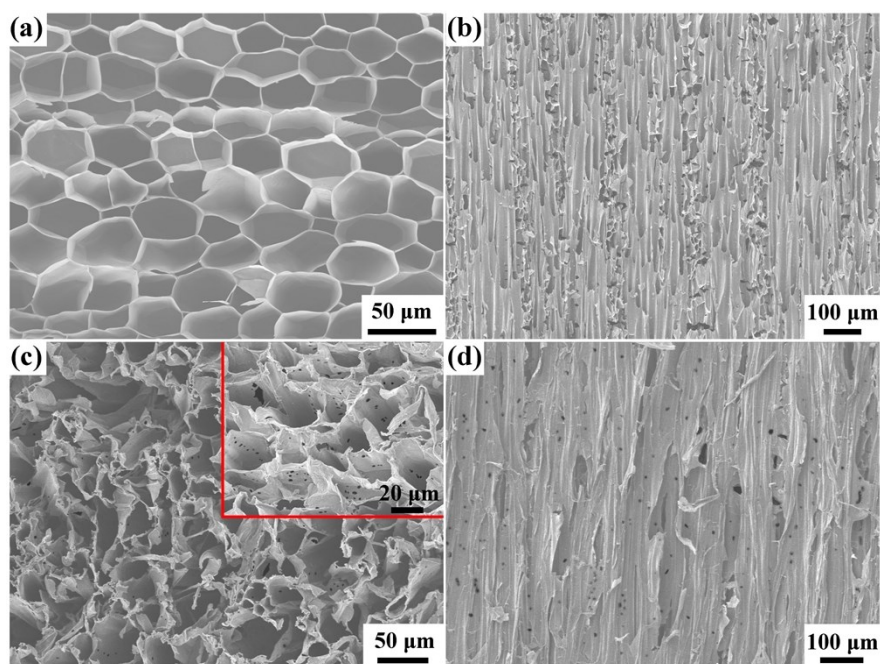
The  $K_d$  values are defined by the equation:

$$K_d = \frac{(C_0 - C_e)}{C_e} \times \frac{V}{m}$$

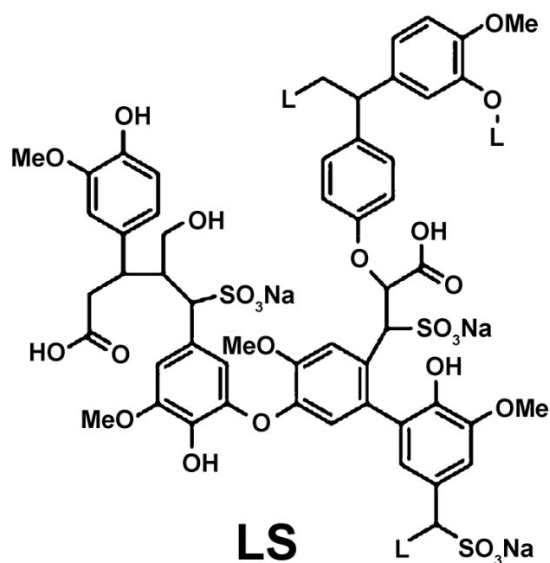
where  $C_0$  (mg/L) and  $C_e$  (mg/L) are the initial and equilibrium concentrations of metal ions;  $V$  is the volume of the treated solution (mL);  $m$  is the weight of adsorbent (g). In generally,  $K_d$  values above  $10^4$  are generally regarded as very good, while values above  $10^5$  are exceptional.



**Fig. S1** Photograph illustration of (a) natural balsa wood, (b) delignified balsa wood aerogel, (c) LS-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/CWS. Graphical comparison from left to right of natural balsa wood, delignified balsa wood aerogel and g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/CWS: (d) cube with a size of 10 mm × 10 mm × 10 mm and (e) slice with a size of 10 mm × 10 mm × 1 mm. The size of these three materials are similar but colors change significantly: delignified balsa wood aerogel appears to be white and transparent; while LS-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/CWS is black due to pyrolysis at 550 °C. According to statistics, the qualities of cube-shape natural balsa wood, delignified balsa wood aerogel and LS-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/CWS are 0.1308 g, 0.0315 g and 0.0436 g, respectively; while the sliced natural balsa wood, delignified balsa wood aerogel and LS-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/CWS are 0.0131 g, 0.0030 g and 0.0044 g, respectively.



**Fig. S2** SEM images: (a) cross-section of natural balsa wood slice; (b) longitudinal section of natural balsa wood slice; (c) cross-section of delignified balsa wood aerogel; (d) longitudinal section of natural balsa wood slice.



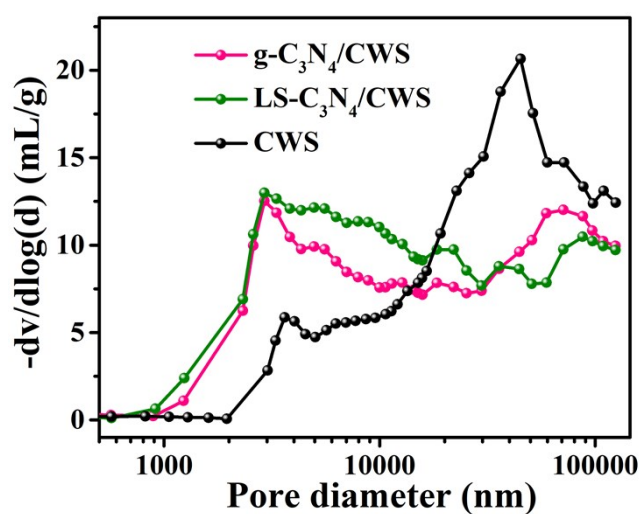
**Fig. S3** Chemical structure of a typical lignosulfonate (LS) segment (L= Lignin).

**Table S1** The apparent densities of various samples.

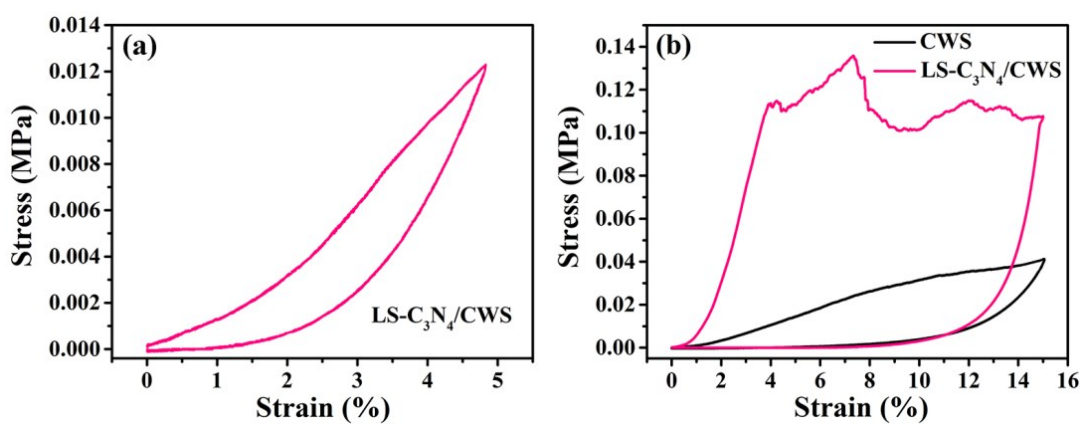
Materials	Density (mg/cm <sup>3</sup> )	Materials	Density (mg/cm <sup>3</sup> )
WS	29.8	g-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> /CWS	38.2
CWS	9.2	LS-CWS	10.2
LS-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> /CWS	49.3		

**Table S2** Element composition of CWS, g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/CWS and LS-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/CWS.

samples	Elemental analysis/wt%				
	C	H	N	O	S
CWS	78.05	1.54	1.19	12.34	0.01
g-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> /CWS	54.79	1.96	35.68	6.89	0.00
LS-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> /CWS	64.11	2.15	9.09	21.71	1.15



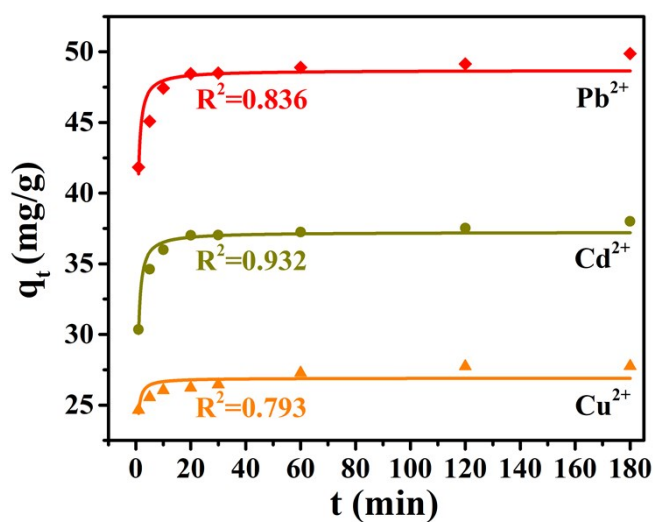
**Fig. S4** Macropore size distribution curves of the obtained samples by mercury intrusion porosimetry.



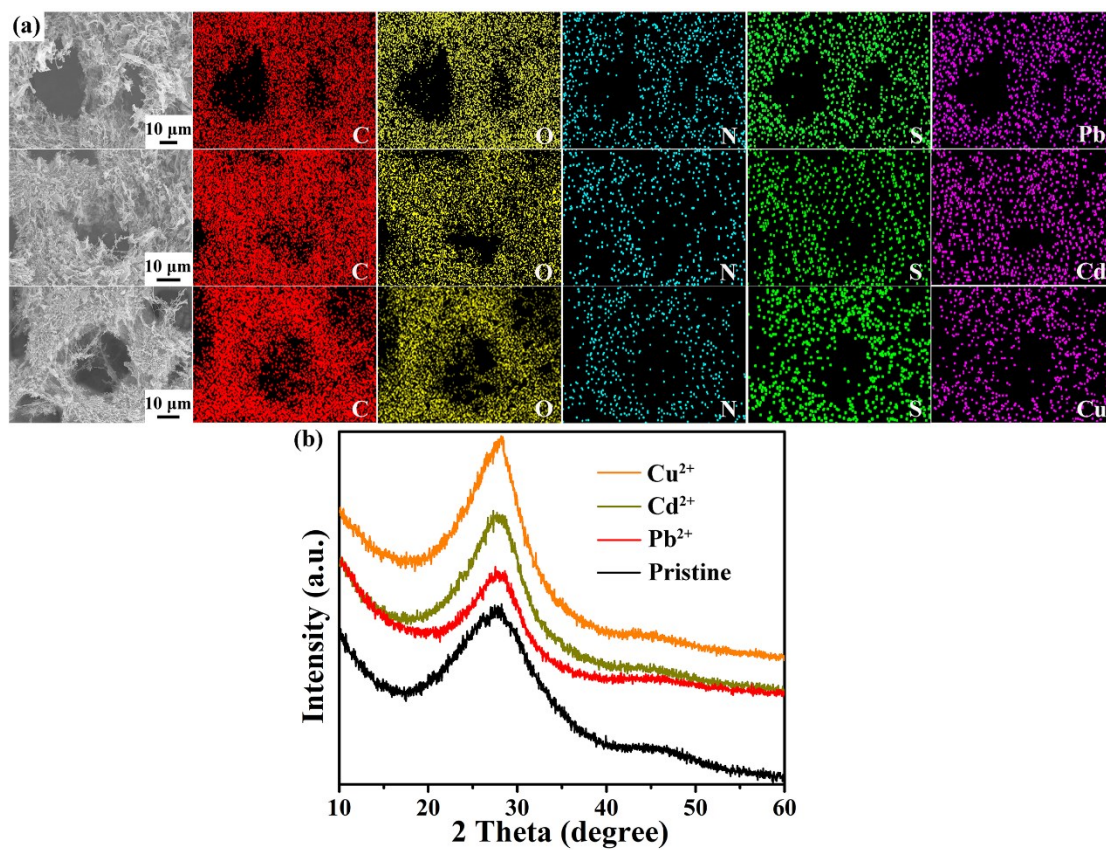
**Fig. S5** (a) Stress–strain curves of LS-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/CWS under compression with maximum strains of 5%; (b) Stress–strain curves of WS and LS-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/CWS under compression with maximum strains of 15%.

**Table S3.** Langmuir and Freundlich isotherm parameters for LS-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/CWS toward Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup> and Cu<sup>2+</sup>.

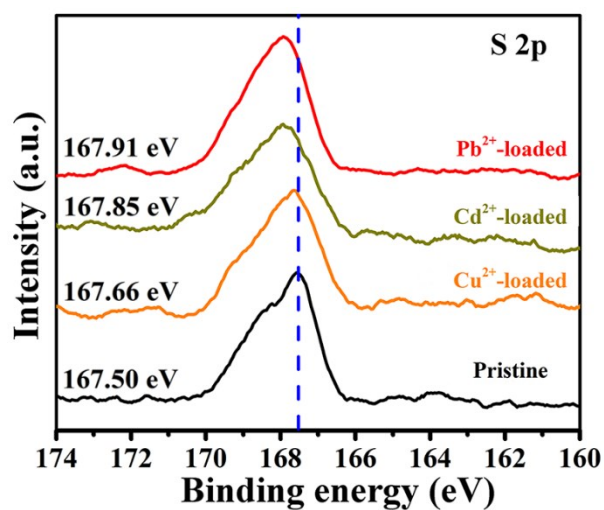
Models	Langmuir model			Freundlich model		
parameters	Q <sub>max</sub> (mg/g)	K <sub>L</sub> (L/mg)	R <sup>2</sup>	K <sub>F</sub> (mg/g)	1/n	R <sup>2</sup>
Pb <sup>2+</sup>	659.6	0.0792	0.9993	80.3	0.3786	0.9352
Cd <sup>2+</sup>	329.1	0.0738	0.9992	72.7	0.2800	0.8872
Cu <sup>2+</sup>	173.5	0.0361	0.9990	38.2	0.2741	0.8808



**Fig. S6** Pseudo-first-order model kinetic fitting curves of Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup> and Cu<sup>2+</sup> on LS-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/CWS adsorbent.



**Fig. S7** SEM images with EDS mapping (a) and XRD patterns of LS-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/CWS (b) after Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup> and Cu<sup>2+</sup> sorption.



**Fig. S8** S 2p spectra for LS-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/CWS before and after adsorption of Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup> and Cu<sup>2+</sup>.