

## Supplementary Information

# Regulating the Size and Assembled Structure of Graphene Building Blocks for High-Performance Silicon Nanocomposite Anodes

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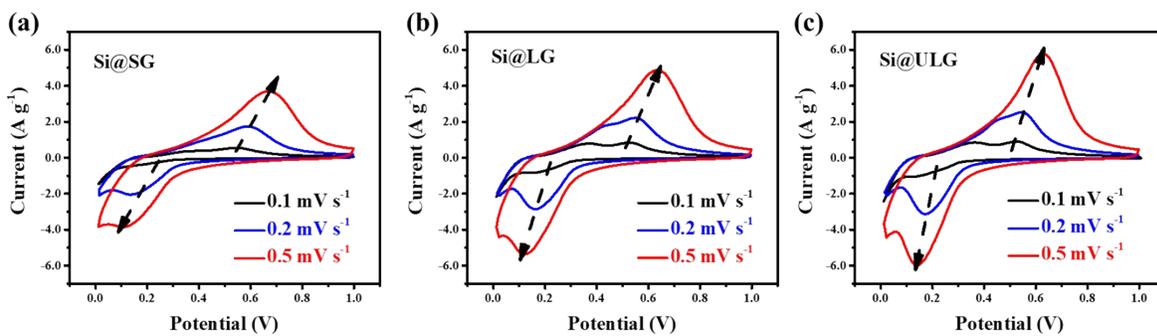
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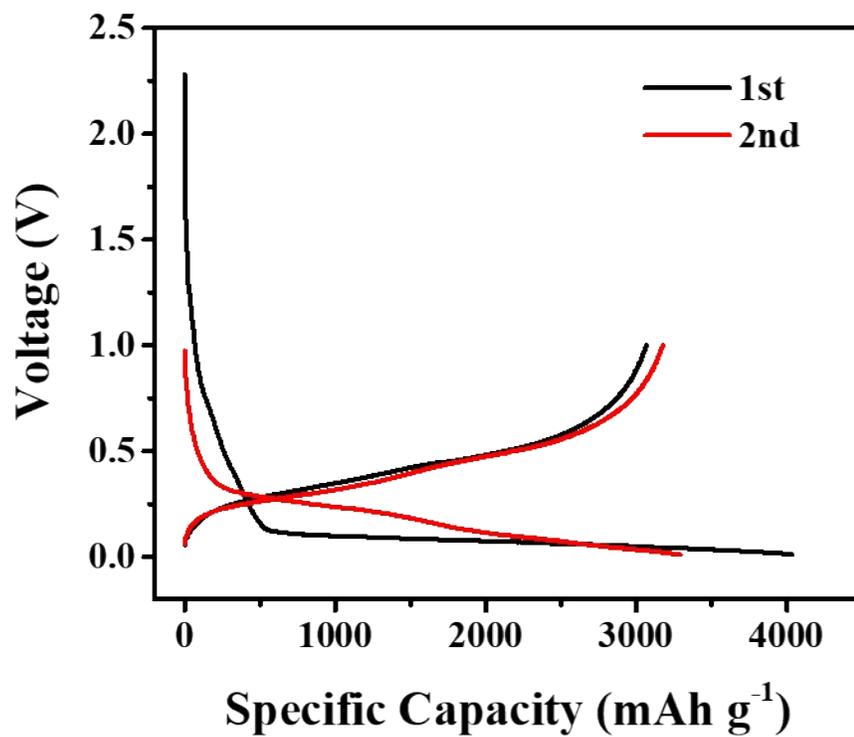
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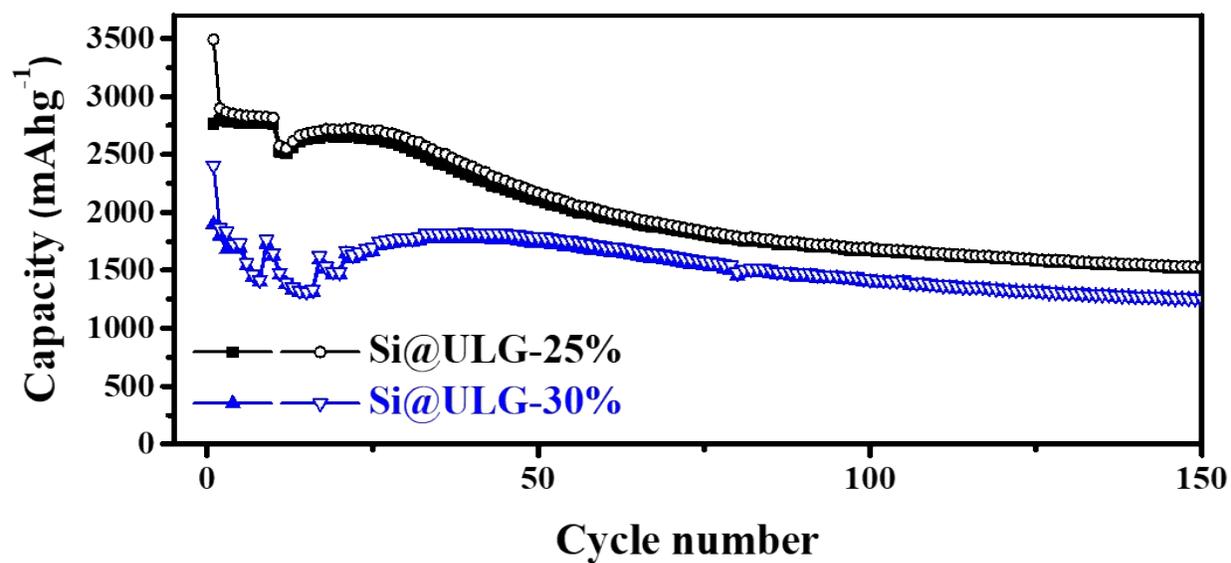
Email address: [hongtao.sun@psu.edu](mailto:hongtao.sun@psu.edu) (H. Sun); [tq15160@psu.edu](mailto:tq15160@psu.edu) (T. Liu);  
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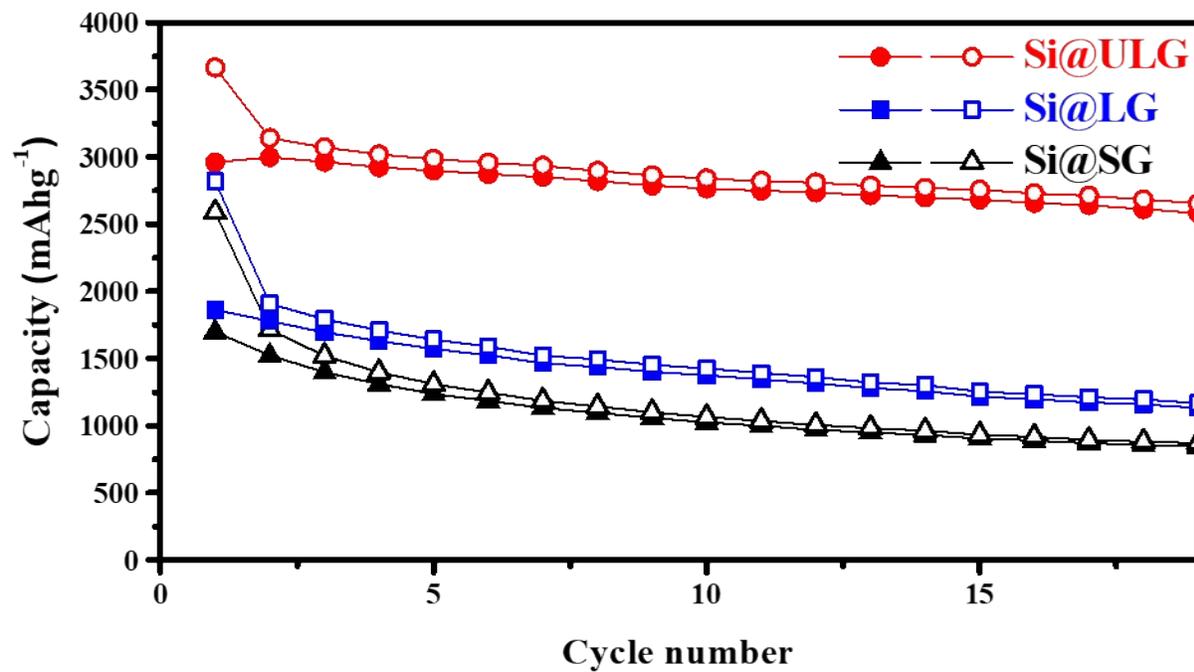
**Fig. S1.** The cyclic voltammetry curves for the Si@ULG, Si@LG, and Si@SG nanocomposite anodes at scan rates of 0.1, 0.2, and 0.5  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$ .



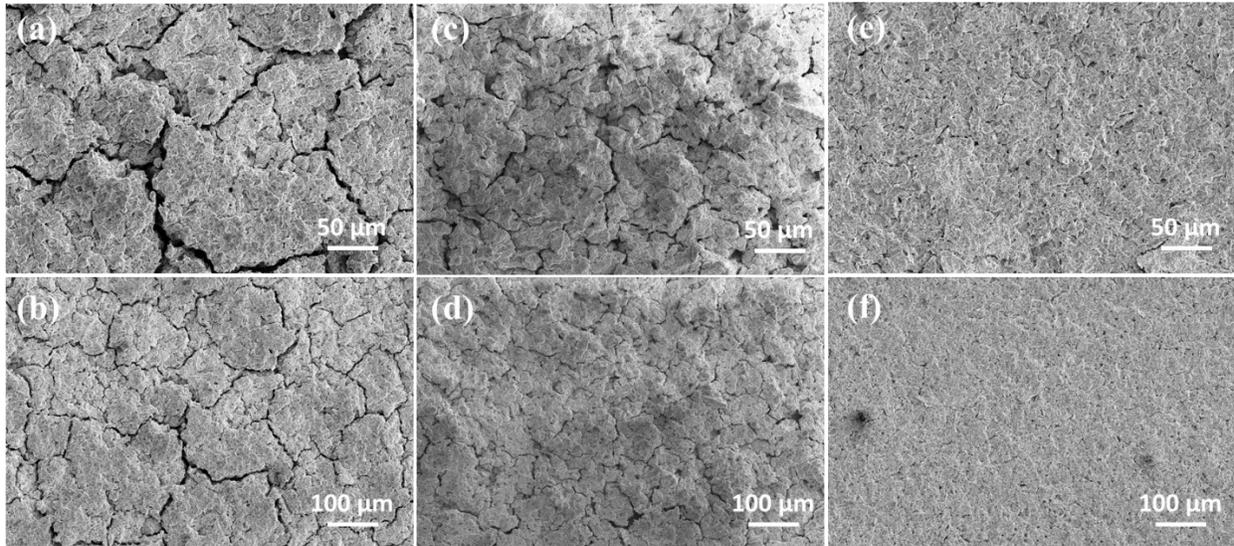
**Fig. S2.** The first two charge-discharge curves for the Si@ULG nanocomposite anode at C/20.



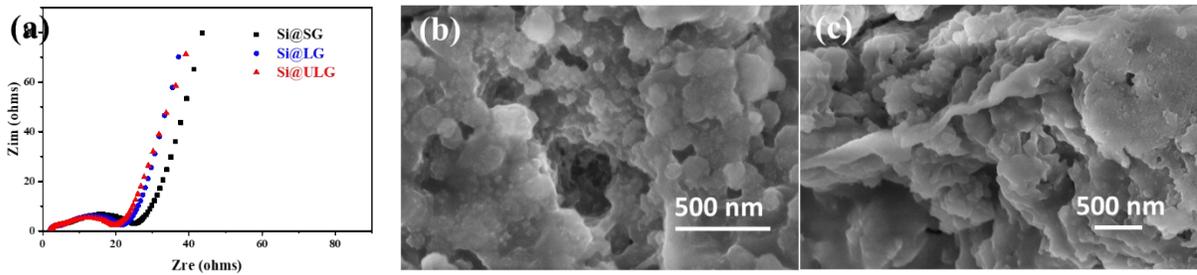
**Fig. S3.** The cyclic performance of Si@ULG nanocomposite electrode with different ULG weight percentages at C/5.



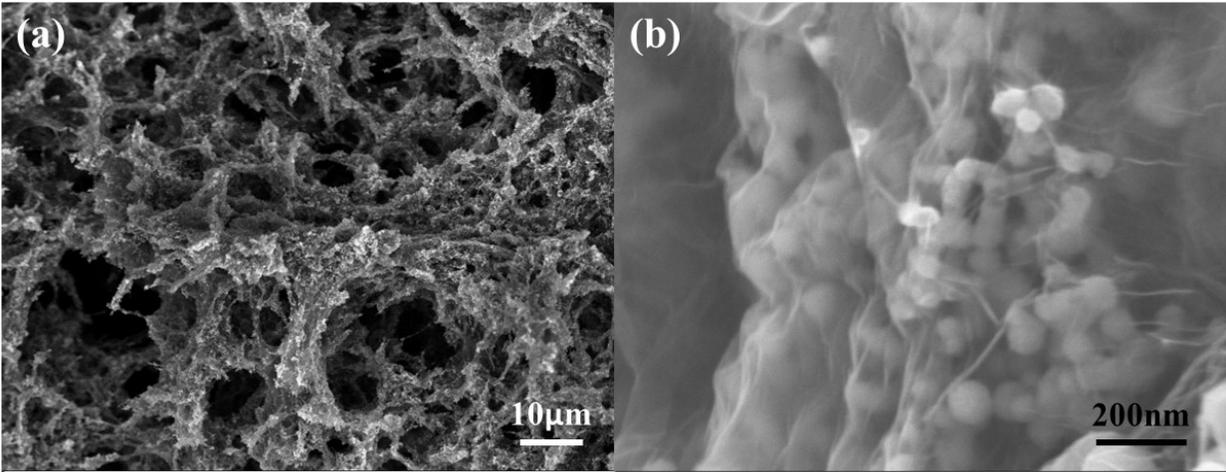
**Fig. S4.** The cyclic performance of the Si@ULG, SI@LG, and Si@SG nanocomposite electrodes using PVDF binders at C/20.



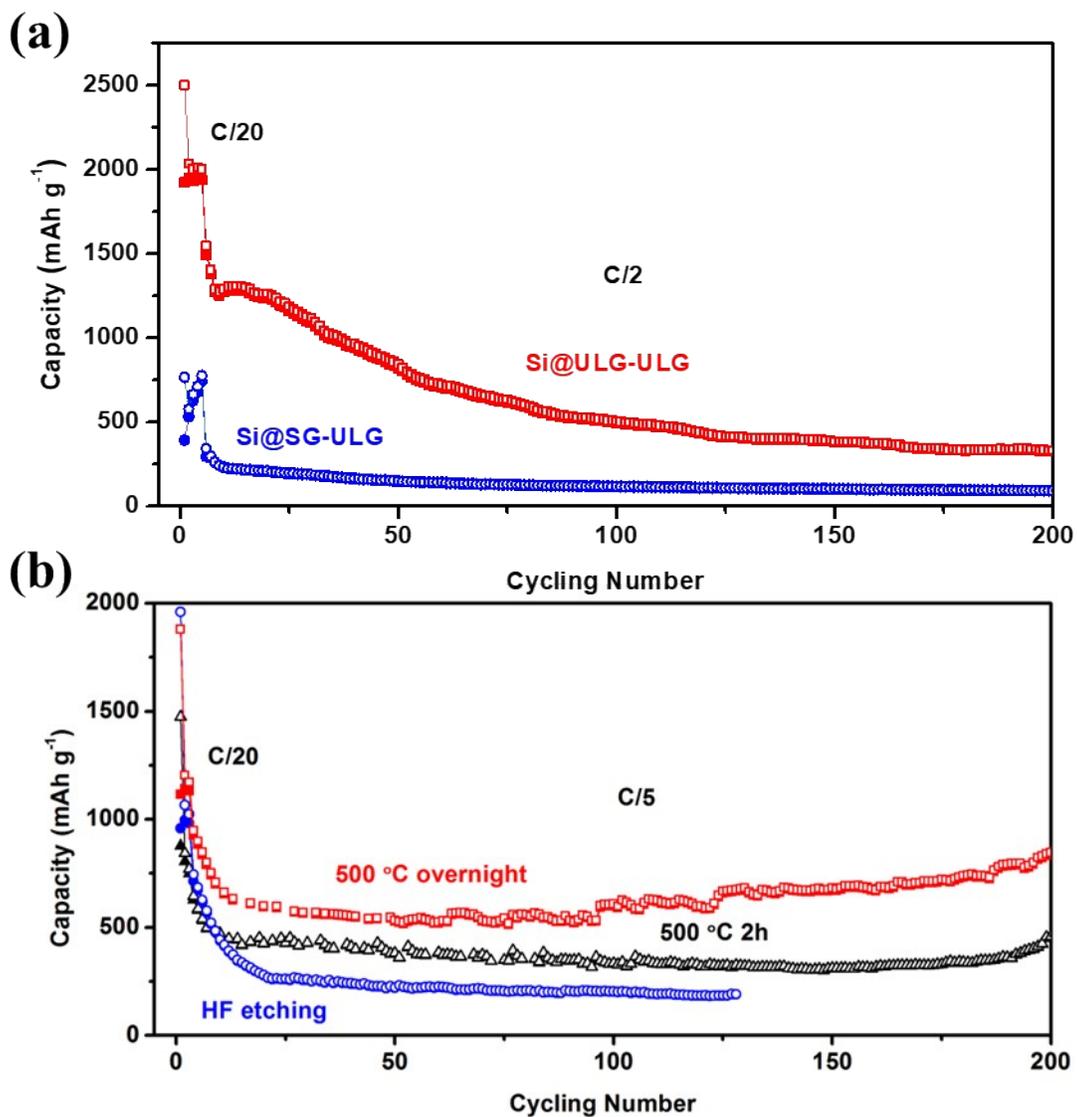
**Fig. S5** The SEM images of the Si-graphene composite electrodes after 50 cycles at 0.2 C. **(a, b)**, Si@SG; **(c, d)**, Si@LG; and **(e, f)**, Si@ULG.



**Fig. S6.** (a) The EIS of the Si-graphene electrodes after 50 cycles at 0.2C; (b, c) the higher magnification images of the cycled Si@ULG electrode.



**Fig. S7.** Morphology characterization via SEM of freestanding 3D Si@ULG-ULG nanocomposite electrode at low magnification **(a)**, and high magnification **(b)**.



**Fig. S8.** (a) The cyclic performance of various 3D freestanding nanocomposite anodes with different sizes of graphene sheets at C/2. (b) The influence of affinity on the electrochemical performance by tuning the oxidation layer on the surface of Si and remaining function groups in reduced GO sheets (Si@ULG-ULG).

**Table S1. The fitted results from the Nyquist plot of the Si@ULG composite half cells.**

Sample	$R_0$ (ohm)	$R_{ct}$ (ohm)	W (ohm)
Si@ULG	1.92	74.8	1.4
Si@LG	1.47	137.5	122
Si@SG	0.27	290.4	269.2

**Table S2. The capacity retention of the Si@ULG nanocomposite electrodes with different percentages of ULG.**

Sample	1 <sup>st</sup> Charge Capacity (0.2 C)	150 <sup>th</sup> Charge Capacity (0.2 C)	Retention
Si@ULG 30%	1603	1260	79%
Si@ULG 25%	2524	1540	60%

**Table S3. The comparison of Si@graphene composite with the reported Si composite electrodes.**

Electrodes	Areal Mass Loading (mg cm <sup>-2</sup> )	Gravimetric Capacity <sup>1</sup> (mAh g <sup>-1</sup> )	Capacity loss per cycle (cycles)	Current Density (mA g <sup>-1</sup> )	Reference
Si@ULG composite	0.26	2751	0.23% (200)	840	<b>This work</b>
3D Si@ULG-ULG	3	1800	0.2% (250)	840	
Si/graphene composite	NA	2158	1.5%	100	[1]
Si@graphene cage composite	NA	~2100	0.28% (200)	1000	[2]
rGO-porous Si composite	0.33	~1750	0.26% (200)	1000	[3]
SiNP@graphene cage/GNS	NA	2449	0.2% (200)	1000	[4]
rGO/Si composites	1.35	2500	0.25% (300)	210	[5]
3D Si@rGO composite	2.6	2963	0.27% (200)	500	[6]
Sputtered Si on CVD-rMGO	0.23	~1200	0.33% (90)	132	[7]

**Reference:**

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