Supporting Information

Multifunctional ionic liquid additive providing solvation structure and electrostatic shielding layer for high-stable aqueous zinc ion batteries

4 **1. Experimental section**

Electrolyte preparation: Zinc sulfate (ZnSO₄, Macklin, 99%) was dissolved in deionized (DI) water to
prepare a 2 M ZnSO₄ electrolyte, which was used as a blank electrolyte(BE). The control group used different
concentrations (0.5%, 1%, 1.5%) of 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium hexafluorophosphate (C₈H₁₅F₆N₂P,
Aladdin, 99%, [BMIM]PF₆) was added to the prepared 2 M ZnSO₄ electrolyte to obtain the [BMIM]PF₆
additive-containing .The optimum concentration of [BMIM]PF₆ systems is 1% [BMIM]PF₆ + 2 M ZnSO₄,
and the corresponding electrolyte is abbreviated as [BMIM]PF₆/BE.

11 Preparation of electrodes Purchased zinc foils (thickness: 100 µm, 99.99%) were polished with sandpaper to remove the passivation layer. The Zn foil was then cut into a disc with a diameter of 16 mm to serve as the 12 Zn electrode. NH₄V₄O₁₀ was synthesized using a hydrothermal method. i.e. 1.17 g of ammonium vanadate 13 (NH₄VO₃, Aladdin, AR) was dissolved in 70 mL of deionized water. Then 1.891 g of oxalic acid (Aladdin, 14 AR) powder was added to the NH₄VO₃ solution under magnetic stirring. The solution was transferred to a 100 15 16 mL tetrafluoroethylene lined autoclave and heated at 140 °C for 12 h. After cooling, the product was collected, washed repeatedly with deionized water, and then dried at 70 °C overnight to give the final NH₄V₄O₁₀ powder. 17 18 A NH₄V₄O₁₀ electrode slurry was formed by fusion stirring with NH₄V₄O₁₀ powder, Ketjen black (KB), and 19 PTFE (mass ratio 75:15:10), and then the slurry was cast on a stainless steel mesh. After drying in air at 70 $^{\circ}$ C overnight, NH₄V₄O₁₀ electrodes containing 1.3-2.6 mg cm⁻² were finally obtained. 20 The monomer (2 g acrylamide) was dissolved in 10mL of an aqueous electrolyte (2 M ZnSO₄), and then the 21

22 initiator [15 mg (NH₄)₂S₂O₈ (Aladdin, AR)] and cross-linking agent [2.5 mg N, N'-methylene bis(acrylamide)

23 (Aladdin, 99%)] were added and stirred for 30 min. Alternatively, it was injected into a mold of the designed

thickness. After polymerization at 60 °C for 1.5 h, a Polyacrylamide (PAM) hydrogel film was formed, named
PAM. the composite gel electrolyte obtained by adding 1% [BMIM]PF₆ before polymerization was noted as
PAM-1%[BMIM]PF₆.

27 2.Test section

Materials Characterization: The prepared NH₄VO₃ powder and zinc anode were physically analyzed using 28 a MiniFlex600 X-ray diffractometer. The XRD scanning range used in the experiments was 5~80°, and the 29 XRD scanning speed was set at 10°/min. Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy was tested by a 30 Nicolet IS10 Fourier transform infrared spectrometer, with a scanning range of 4000 cm⁻¹~400 cm⁻¹. X-ray 31 photoelectron spectroscopy was collected by an EscaLab Xi⁺ XPS system. X-ray photoelectron spectra were 32 collected by the EscaLab Xi⁺ XPS system, which uses a monochromatic Al K α X-ray source (hv = 1486.633 eV). The morphology of the samples was observed by a field emission scanning electron microscope (SEM, 34 35 Gemini SEM 300) field emission scanning electron microscope on the morphological structure of the experimental samples. 36

Electrochemical Characterization: Purchased zinc foils (thickness: 100 µm and 20 µm, 99.99%) were 37 polished with sandpaper to remove the passivation layer. The zinc foil was then cut into a 16 mm diameter 38 disc to serve as the zinc electrode. All tested CR2032 type coin batteries were assembled in an open-air 39 environment using glass fiber filters (GF/D, Whatman) as diaphragms. The amount of electrolyte used for the 40 coin battery was 120 µL. two identical zinc plates with a thickness of 100 µm were used to make a symmetrical 41 battery. Zn//Cu half batteries were assembled using a copper foil of 20 µm thickness as the working electrode 42 and a zinc foil of 100 μ m thickness as the reference and counter electrodes. The NH₄V₄O₁₀//Zn full battery 43 was assembled using a Zn plate with a thickness of 100 µm as the anode and NH₄V₄O₁₀ as the cathode. The 44 blank electrolyte and [BMIM]PF₆ electrolyte were used for the electrolyte. The NH₄V₄O₁₀ cathode (16 mm 45

diameter, circular piece) was combined with the Zn anode (100 μ m thickness), and glass fiber was used as the diaphragm to assemble the NH₄V₄O₁₀//Zn full battery. The NH₄V₄O₁₀ cathode (2 cm²) was combined with a Zn anode (100 μ m thickness) and assembled into NH₄V₄O₁₀//Zn flexible batteries using PAM-[BMIM]PF₆ hydrogel electrolyte as a flexible diaphragm. The NH₄V₄O₁₀//Zn battery was discharged/charged under a potential control of 0.3 ~ 1.4 V using a NEWARE battery tester.

Electrochemical characterization: Tafel plots were measured with Zn plate as the working electrode, Pt foil as 51 the counter electrode, and saturated dimercury dichloride as the reference electrode, scanning at $-0.7 \sim -1.2$ V 52 in 2 mV s⁻¹ band. Chronoamperometry (CA), when measured at a fixed overpotential of -0.15 V. Cyclic 53 voltammetry (CV) curves of plated/stripped zinc, were measured with a Zn//Ti battery in the voltage range of 54 -1.5 V ~ 2.0 V at 1 mV s⁻¹. Hydrogen precipitation potentials were determined using linear scanning 55 voltammetry (LSV) with a scan rate of 1 mV s⁻¹ in the BE and [BMIM]PF₆/BE systems. The electrochemical 56 impedance spectroscopy (EIS) of the Zn//Zn symmetric battery was analyzed in the frequency range of 0.01 57 Hz ~ 100 k Hz. By fitting the obtained R_{ct} , the activation energy E_a was calculated according to Arrhenius' 58 59 law.

60 **DFT calculation method:**

61 The density functional theory (DFT) simulations are performed using the CASTEP program package in 62 Materials Studio. The exchange-correlation interaction is described by generalized, gradient approximation 63 (GGA) with the Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE) functional.

For the construction of surface models, a 15 Å vacuum is used to eliminate interactions between periodic structures. And the Zn (002) slab is constructed with lattice constants of a = b = 15.6862 Å, c = 22.3097 Å, α $= \beta = 90^{\circ}$ and $\gamma = 120^{\circ}$. And one molecular of [BMIM]⁺ or H₂O is put on the Zn (002) surface. And the adsorption energy (E_{abs}) of [BMIM]⁺ or H₂O on Zn (002) surface was calculated, by the formula: E_{abs} = E_{total} $= E_{M} - E_{S}$, where E_{total}, E_M and E_S are the energy of, respectively, the total system, the [BMIM]⁺ or H₂O 69 molecular, and Zn (002) surface.

The binding energy ($E_{binding}$) between Zn^{2+} , [BMIM]⁺, SO_4^{2-} and H_2O molecular was calculated by the, formula: $E_{binding} = E_{total} - E_a - E_b$, where E_{total} is the energy of the total system, E_a and E_b are the, energies of components in the system.

73 Molecular dynamic (MD) simulations

Molecular dynamic (MD) simulations were applied to investigate the solvation structures for two 74 considered electrolytes denoted as S1 and S2. For S1 system, the solution was comprised of 50 ZnSO₄ and 75 76 1375 H₂O molecules. For S2, the solution contained 50 ZnSO₄, 10 [BMIM]PF₆ and 1375 H₂O molecules. All solution components were randomly packed into cubic simulation boxes. All MD simulations were carried 77 out by Forcite module with COMPASS III force field ^{1,2} in MS 2020. Van der Waals and Coulomb interactions 78 were respectively considered by atom based and Ewald methods with a cut-off value of 12.5 Å. Equations of 79 motion were integrated with a time step of 1 fs. After energy minimization, the electrolyte system was fully 80 relaxed under periodic boundary conditions for 400 ps in the NPT (P = 1 atmosphere, T = 298.0 K) ensemble 81 using the Nose thermostat and Berendsen barostat, which was long enough for system temperature, potential 82 and total energy to get stable. After reaching equilibrium state, another 400 ps simulation under NVT ensemble 83 was performed to extract trajectory and data for radical distribution function (RDF) and coordination number 84 (CN) calculation. The dynamic trajectory for each system was outputted at an interval of 4 ps. The 85 coordination number Ni of atom i in the first solvation shell surrounding Zn^{2+} was calculated as: 86

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$$N_{i} = 4\pi\rho \int_{0}^{R_{M}} g\left(r\right) r^{2} dr \tag{1}$$

in which R_M is the distance of the first minimum following the first peak in the RDF g(r) and ρ is the number density of atom i³.





Fig. S1 The cyclic voltammetry (CV) curves for Zn//Zn cells in (a) BE system, (b) [BMIM]PF₆/BE system.
 The calculated electric double layer capacitance for cells in (c) BE system, (d) [BMIM]PF₆/BE system.



Fig. S2. The electrochemical stability window of the electrolytes with various doping concentrations of [BMIM]PF₆ additives was tested on Ti electrodes by scanning at a rate of 1 mV s⁻¹.



Fig. S3. Tafel curves for BE system and different concentrations of [BMIM]PF₆/BE systems.



Fig. S4. Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy of batteries assembled with [BMIM]PF₆ at different
 concentrations.







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106 Fig. S6. High resolution XPS spectra of zinc metal electrodes after 50 cycles with (a) [BMIM]PF₆/BE

107 system and (**b**) BE system at 1 mA cm⁻² and 1 mAh cm⁻². High-resolution XPS spectra of the Zn metal

electrodes after 50 cycles with BE system at 1 mA cm⁻² and 1 mAh cm⁻²: (c) S 2p.



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Fig. S7. Comparison of EIS curves of Zn//Zn symmetric cells in different electrolytes (a) initial and (b) after
 i-t test; current-time plots of electrolytes (c) without [BMIM]PF₆ and (d) with [BMIM]PF₆,

respectively, at a constant voltage of 15 mV for 1000 seconds.

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Auxiliary note: The Zn^{2+} transfer number (t_{zn}^{2+}) was calculated according to the BruceVincent method:

115
$$t_{zn^{2+}} = \frac{I_s(V - I_0 R_0)}{I_0(V - I_S R_S)}$$

where V is the applied potential (15 mV); I₀ and R₀ are the initial current and the interface resistance; I_s and R_s represent the steady-state current and interface resistance, respectively. Therefore, the value of t_{zn}^{2+} can be calculated to be 0.66 for the [BMIM]PF₆/BE system, while the value is only 0.36 for the BE system.





Fig. S8. The comparison of binding energies between $Zn^{2+}\&H_2O$, $Zn^{2+}\&[BMIM]^+$ and $[BMIM]^+\&H_2O$.





Fig. S9. (a) Impedance spectra and **(b)** ionic conductivities in the BE and [BMIM]PF₆/BE systems.



124 Fig. S10. Nyquist plots of Zn//Zn symmetric cells at different temperatures in (a) BE and (b)

125 [BMIM]PF₆/BE systems.

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Fig. S11. Nyquist plots and fitted curves in the BE system without [BMIM]PF₆ (upper panel) and with
[BMIM]PF₆ (lower panel) at (a), (e) 0 cycling cycle, (b), (f) 10 cycling cycles, (c), (g) 20 cycling cycles,
(d), (h) 30 cycling cycles (three tests at the same cycle are shown in the same figure).



Fig. S12. Stability of Zn//Zn cells using electrolytes with [BMIM]PF₆ and without [BMIM]PF₆ additive at 4 mA cm⁻² conditions.



Fig. S13. Cycling stability of Zn//Zn batteries with and without [BMIM]PF₆ electrolytes under 4 mA cm⁻²:

137 (a) 10-20h; (b) 210-220h; (c) 310-320h.



Fig. S14. Rate performance of Zn//Zn batteries in 2 M ZnSO₄+0.5% [BMIM]PF₆.







Fig. S16. corresponding voltage profiles at various cycles in ZnSO₄ electrolyte (a) without and (b) with
[BMIM]PF₆ additive.



- **Fig. S17.** SEM images of Zn anode surface morphology after cycling: (a) in BE system, (b) in [BMIM]PF₆/BE
- 148 system.



Fig. S18. XRD patterns of the Zn anodes with Zn//Cu half-cells in different electrolytes after 20 cycles at 1
 mA cm⁻² and 1 mAh cm⁻².







Fig. S20. XRD patterns of NH₄V₄O₁₀ powder.



Fig. S21. CV profiles of the Zn//NH₄V₄O₁₀ batteries with different electrolytes. (a) Pure ZnSO₄ and (b)
 ZnSO₄+1% [BMIM]PF₆ electrolytes. (c) Comparison of the 3rd cycle of CV curves.





Fig. S22. Electrostatic charge/discharge curves of the Zn//NH₄V₄O₁₀ full cells at different current densities.



Fig. S23. Demonstrate the voltage variation of a PAM-[BMIM]PF₆ battery under (**a**) flat, (**b**) bent, (**c**) twisted,

166 and (**d**) shear conditions.



Fig. S24. Corresponding cycle performance of PAM-[BMIM]PF₆ flexible full cell at 1 A g^{-1} .

1/1							
172		With [BMIM]	PF ₆				
173		T(K)	R _{ct} (Q)	Error (%)	$\ln(R_{ct}^{-1}/Q^{-1})$		
174 175							
175		303	1030.1	0.90	-6.94		
177		313	885.4	0.83	-6.79		
178		323	621.1	1.02	-6.43		
179		333	344.3	1.07	-5.84		
180		343	199.9	1.32	-5.29		
182				1.02			
183		Without [BMIM]PF ₆					
184		T(K)	$R_{ct}(\Omega)$	Error (%)	$\ln(R_{ct}^{-1}/\Omega^{-1})$		
185 186		303	469.6	1.56	-6.16		
180		313	333.6	2.09	-5.81		
188		323	199.9	2.15	-5.29		
189			105.4		4.01		
190		333	135.4	2.23	-4.91		
191 192							
193	The formula o	f the Arrhenius of	equation is expres	sed as follows:			
194	$\frac{1}{R_{ct}} = Aexp(-\frac{E_a}{RT})$						
195	where R_{ct} is the charge-transfer resistance, and A, T, R, and E _a represent the pre-e						
196	absolute temperatur	re, ideal gas con	stant, and activation	on energy, respe	ectively.		

Table S1. Fitting parameters of Nyquist plots.

factor,

Table S2. Fitting parameters of Nyquist plots.

With [BMIM]PF ₆								
	$R_{S}(\Omega)$	$R_{ct}(\Omega)$						
Pristine	1.42 / 1.44 / 1.46	409.19 / 471.17 / 495.32						
10 th	1.58 / 1.59 / 1.54	55.49 / 62.95 / 74.47						
20 th	1.75 / 1.77 / 1.82	24.65 / 32.39 / 57.14						
30 th	1.63 /1.67 / 1.65	25.36 / 30.35 / 43.26						
Without [BMIM]PF ₆								
	$R_{S}(\Omega)$	$R_{ct}(\Omega)$						
Pristine	1.49 / 1.52 / 1.50	1163.69 / 1181.13 / 1208.49						
10 th	1.74 / 1.77 / 1.79	488.49 / 567.05 / 592.21						
20 th	1.92 / 1.93 / 1.91	468.21 / 472.59 / 475.05						
30 th	1.85 / 1.88 / 1.84	389.56 / 393.26 /396.34						

204 invo	olving electrolyte additives	s and our work.			-		
No.	Electrolyte component	Current density/capacity (Zn//Zn)	Life (h)	Current density/capacity (Zn//Cu)	Coulombic efficiency (%)	Max cumulative capacity plated (Ah cm ⁻²)	Ref
1	2 M ZnSO ₄ + 0.08 M ZnF ₂	1 mA cm ⁻² /1 mAh cm ⁻²	600	1 mA cm ⁻² / 1 mAh cm ⁻²	99.6 (1000cycles)	3.2	4
2	1 M ZnSO ₄ + 4 M EMImCL	1mA cm ⁻² /1 mAh cm ⁻²	500	1 mA cm ⁻² / 1 mAh cm ⁻²	99.9 (90cycles)	0.25	5
3	2 M ZnSO4 in glycerol/water (50/50)	1 mA cm ⁻² /1 mAh cm ⁻² , 2 mA cm ⁻² /6 mAh cm ⁻²	1500, 900	1 mA cm ⁻² / 1 mAh cm ⁻²	98.3 (500cycles)	0.9	6
4	1 M ZnSO ₄ + 75 mM Na4EDTA	2 mA cm ⁻² /2 mAh cm ⁻² , 5 mA cm ⁻² /2 mAh cm ⁻²	450, 2000	0.5 mA cm ⁻² / 0.5 mAh cm ⁻²	98.3 (300cycles)	5	7
5	1 M ZnSO4 + 0.1 M MgSO4	1mA cm ⁻² /0.25 mAh cm ⁻²	600	2 mA cm ⁻² / 0.5 mAh cm ⁻²	expands to 400 h with about 100 C.E.	0.3	8
6	1 M ZnSO ₄ + 0.01 M Ce ₂ (SO ₄) ₃	1 mA cm ⁻² /1 mAh cm ⁻² , 5 mA cm ⁻² /1 mAh cm ⁻²	400, 700	1 mA cm ⁻² / 1 mAh cm ⁻²	97.0 (2000cycles)	1.75	9
7	2 M ZnSO ₄ + 1 vol% DME	$2 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}/2 \text{ mAh cm}^{-2}$	380	1 mA cm ⁻² / 0.4 mAh cm ⁻²	99.1 (200cycles)	0.38	10
8	2 M ZnSO ₄ + 0.05mg mL ⁻¹ Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x	2 mA cm ⁻² /1 mAh cm ⁻² , 4 mA cm ⁻² /5 mAh cm ⁻²	1180, 250	1 mA cm ⁻² / 1 mAh cm ⁻²	98.6 (100cycles)	1.18	11
9	2 M ZnSO ₄ + 0.5 g L ⁻¹ TMBAC	$\frac{2 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}/2 \text{ mAh cm}^{-2}}{10 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}/5 \text{ mAh cm}^{-2}}$	900, 470	0.5 mA cm ⁻² / 1 mAh cm ⁻²	99.0 (200cycles)	2.35	12
10	7.6 mM ZnCl ₂ + 0.05 mM SnCl ₂	$3 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}/3 \text{ mAh cm}^{-2}$	500	0.5 mA cm ⁻² / 0.5 mAh cm ⁻²	99.7 (200cycles)	0.75	13
11	4 M Zn(TFSI) ₂ + 4 M P444(201)-TFSI	0.5 mA cm ⁻² /0.5 mAh cm ⁻² , 1 mA cm ⁻² /1 mAh cm ⁻² , 2.5 mA cm ⁻² /2.5 mAh cm ⁻²	6000, 800, 280	0.5 mA cm ⁻² / 5 mAh cm ⁻²	>99 (16cycles)	1.5	14
12	1 M Zn(TFSI) ₂ + 0.25 M Ace	1 mA cm ⁻² /0.5 mAh cm ⁻²	100	0.5 mA cm ⁻² / 0.5 mAh cm ⁻²	98 (10cycles)	1	15
13	1 M ZnSO4 +0.25PA	$5 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}/1 \text{ mAh cm}^{-2}$	400	/	/	/	16
14	1 M ZnSO ₄ +10% TG	2 mA cm ⁻² /0.67 mAh cm ⁻²	670	2 mA cm ⁻² / 1 mAh cm ⁻²	99.49 (300cycles)	/	17
This work	2 M ZnSO4 + 1 % [BMIM]PF ₆	1 mA cm ⁻² /1 mAh cm ⁻² , 4 mA cm ⁻² /0.5 mAh cm ⁻² , 4 mA cm ⁻² /4 mAh cm ⁻²	800, 1000, 400	1 mA cm ⁻² / 1 mAh cm ⁻²	99.7 (500cycles)	2.31	Thi s work

Table S3. Performance comparison of symmetric Zn//Zn cells from the previously reported works 203

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