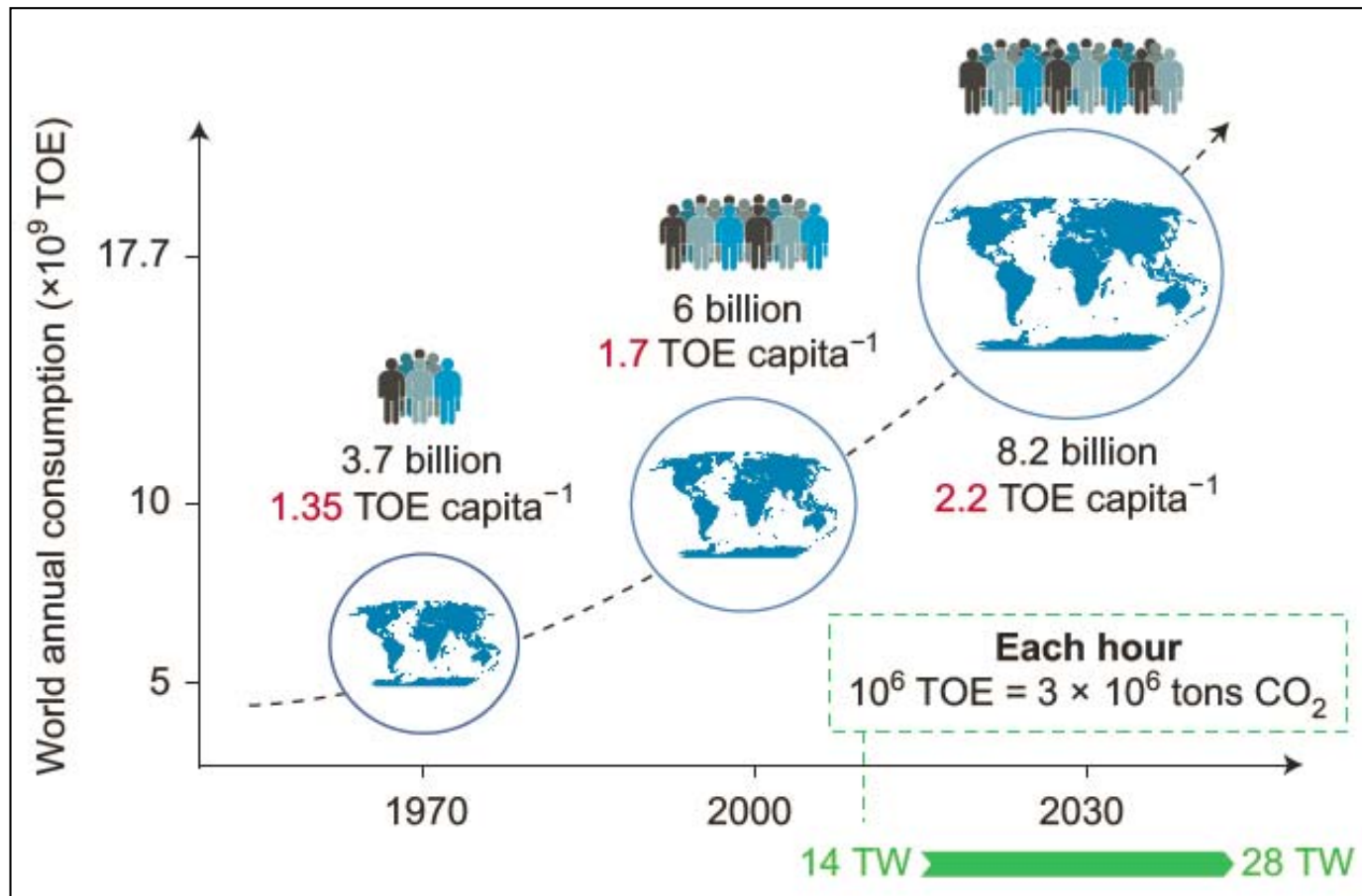


# Graphene Materials for High-Performance Li Storage

Hui-Ming Cheng (成会明)

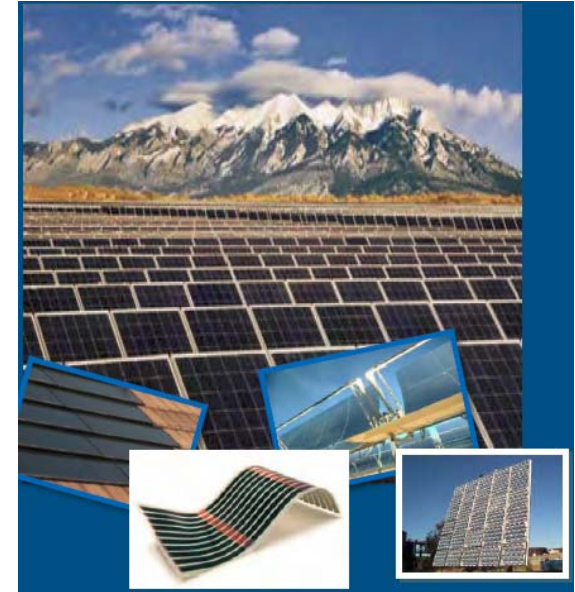
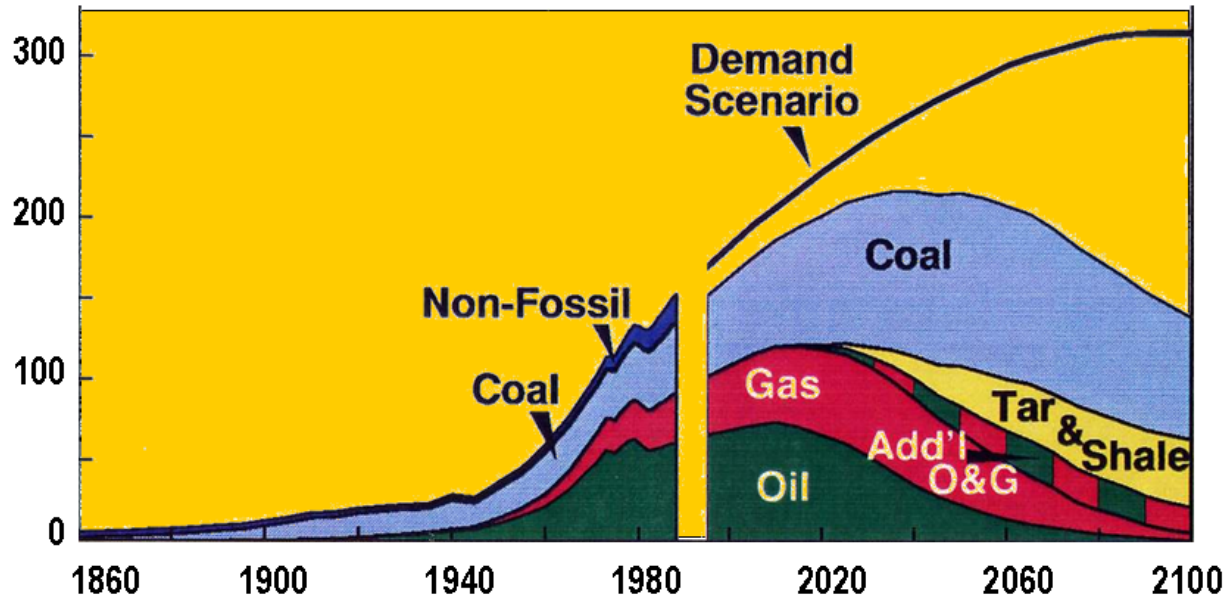
1. **Advanced Carbon Division, Shenyang National Laboratory for Materials Science, Institute of Metal Research (IMR), CAS, Shenyang 110016, China**
2. **Low-Dimensional Material and Device Laboratory, Tsinghua-Berkeley Shenzhen Institute (TBSI), Shenzhen 518055, China**

# World's Energy Needs up to 2050



**14 TW (2010) to 28 TW (2050)**

# World Energy Production



R. E. Smalley. 27<sup>th</sup> Illinois Junior Science & Humanities Symposium, Apr. 3(2005)

# Stationary and Mobile Electric Energy Storage



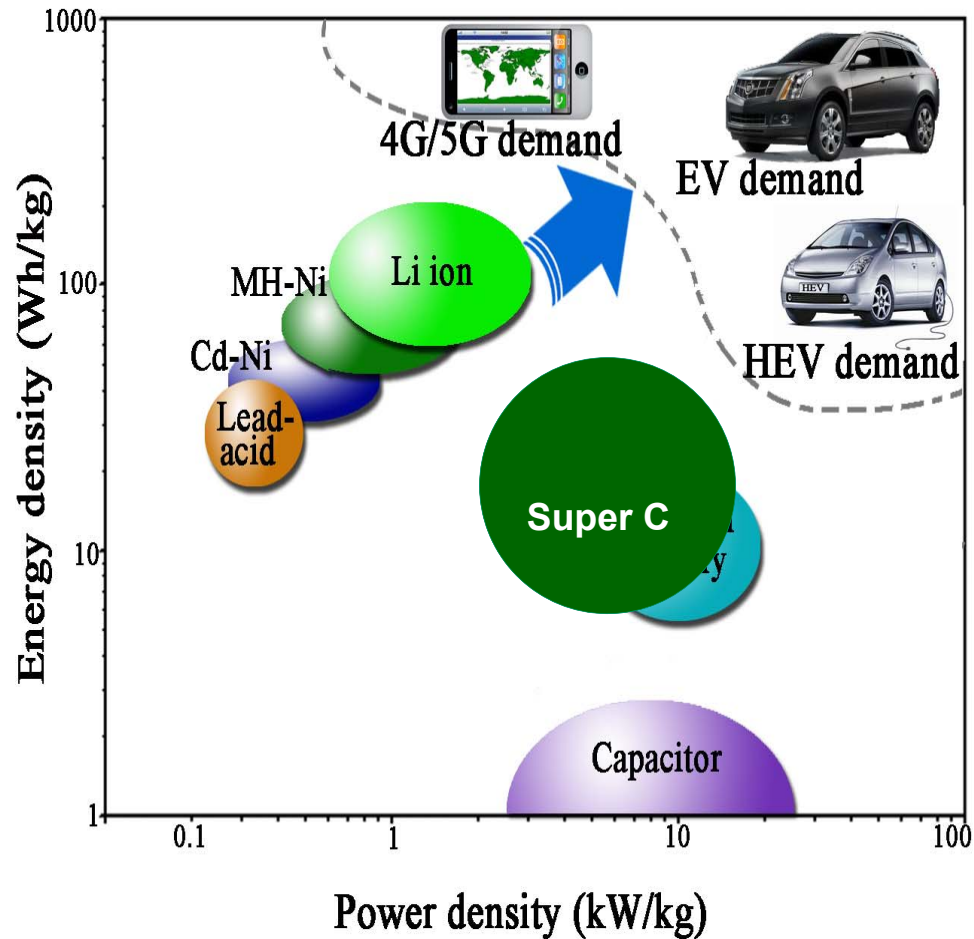
## Large scale electricity storage



## Electricity storage for EVs & MDs

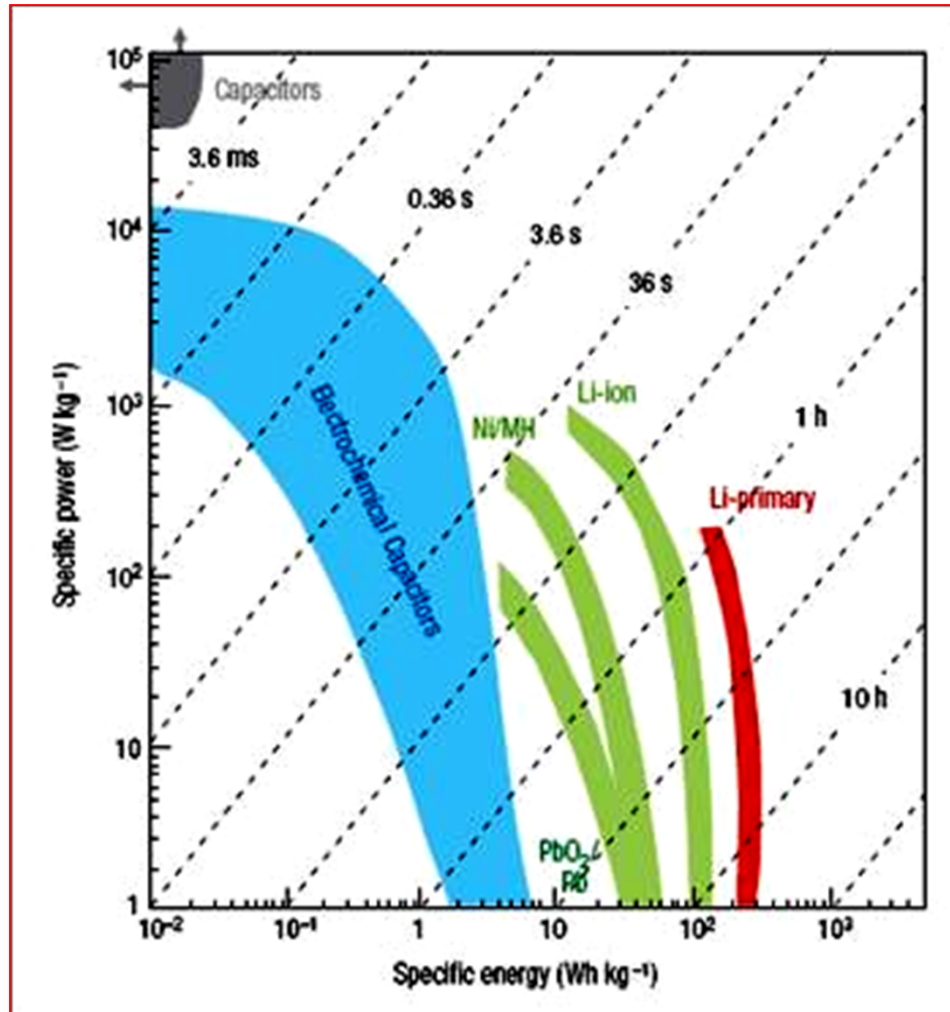


# Requirements for Mobile Electrical Energy Storage



- Larger energy capacity
- Higher power capability
- **Higher reliability**
- **Longer life**
- **Wider temperature range**
- **Better safety**

# Challenge for electrical energy storage



Common Features:  
Lower Energy Density  
@ Higher Power Density

Materials  
development plays  
a key role!

# Strategies for R & D of EES Materials

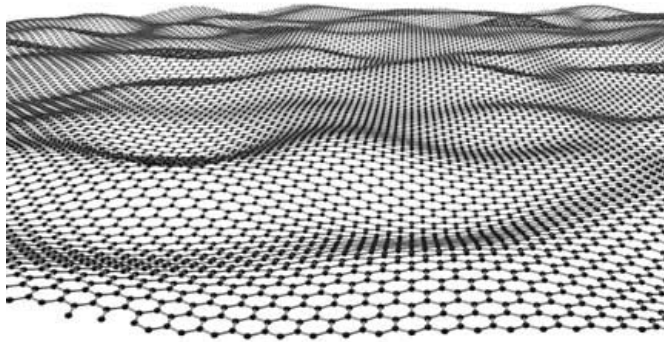


- **Nanostructuring**
- **Nano/micro combination**
- **Core-shell structuring**
- **Materials combination**
- **Hybridization**
- **Pore structure control**
- **Surface modification**
- **Configuration design**
- **New device design**

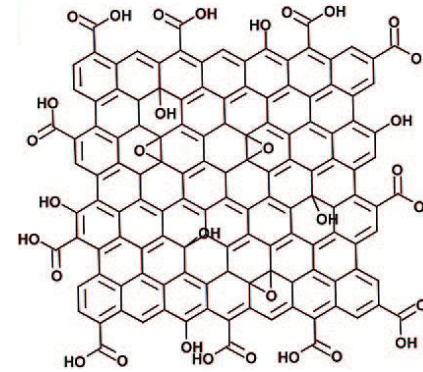


**Higher energy density**  
**Higher power density**  
**Higher reliability**  
**Longer life**  
**Lower cost**

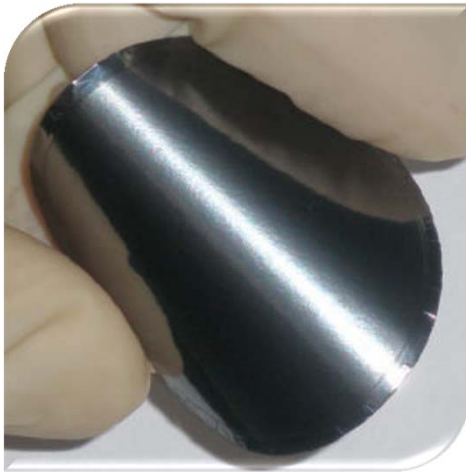
# Graphene Materials



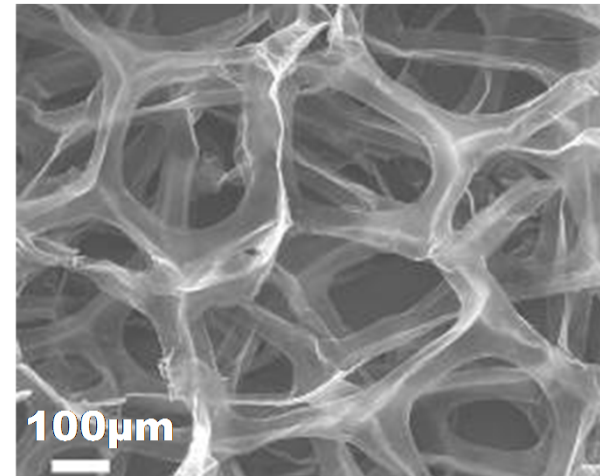
**Graphene**



**Graphene Oxide**



**Graphene Membrane**



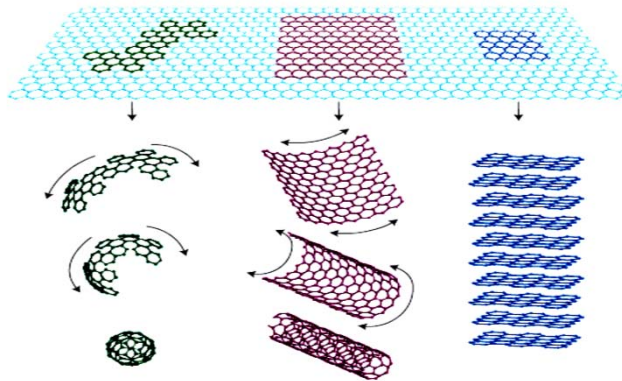
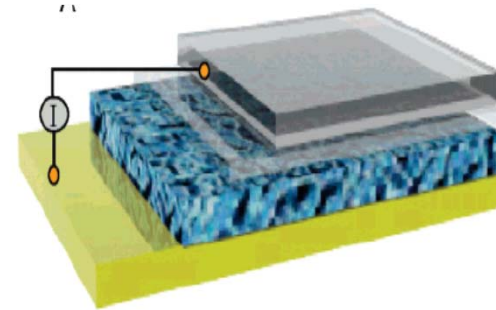
**Graphene 3D structure**



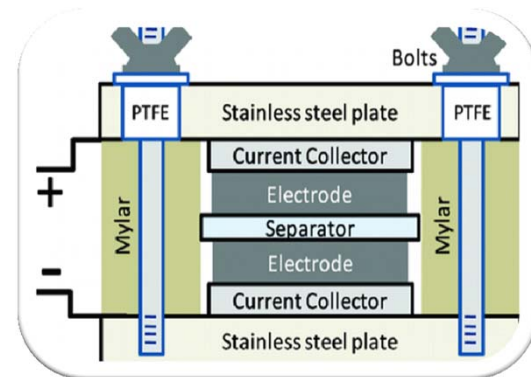
# Advantages of graphene for EES



- ✓ High electric conductivity
- ✓ Flexible and transparent
- ✓ Rich porous structures
- ✓ Easy surface functionalization
- ✓ Facile fabrication of membranes, coatings and 3D structures



Geim AK, et al., *Nature Mater.* 6(2007) 83

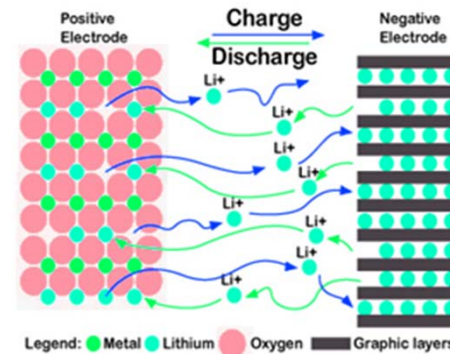


Toller MD, et al *NanoLett.* 8(2008)3498

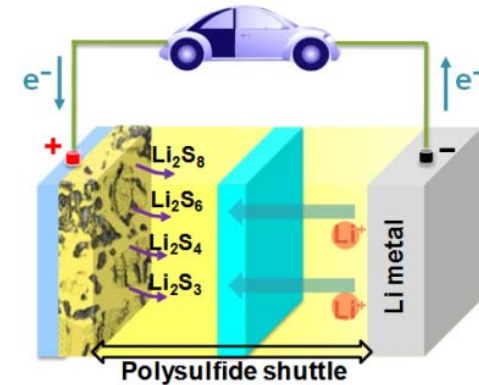
# Graphene can be a Core Component in energy storage devices



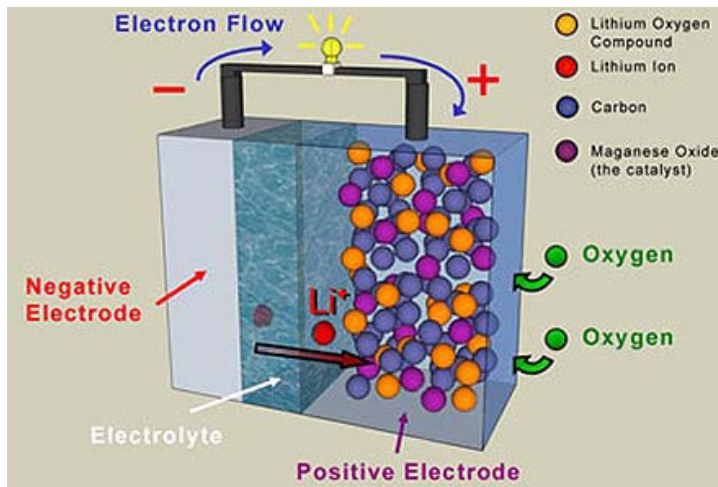
- Active substance
- Conducting network
- Catalysis
- Catalyst support
- Interface controller
- Substrate for composites



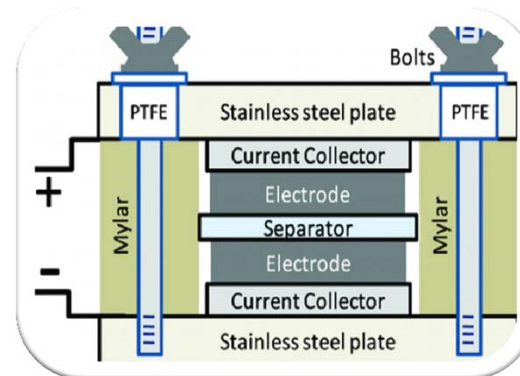
Li (Na, ...) ion battery



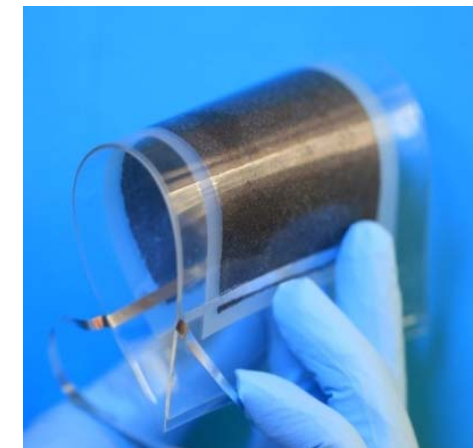
Li-S battery



Li-O<sub>2</sub> battery



Supercapacitor

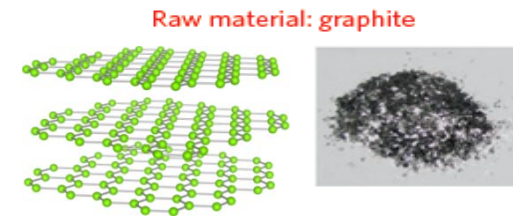
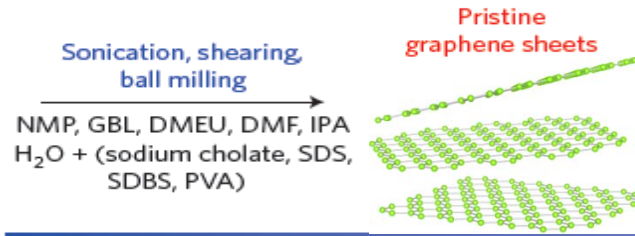


Flexible battery

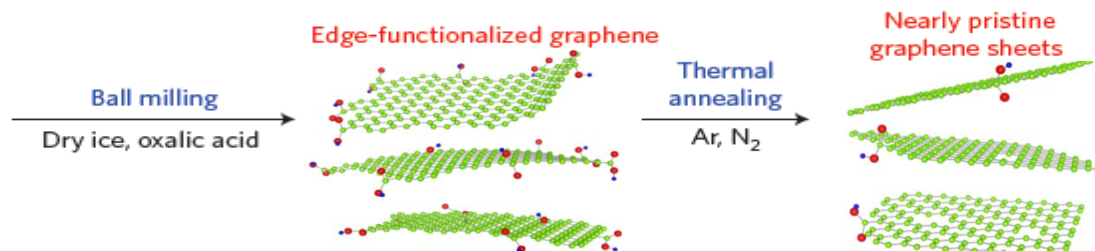
# Synthesis of graphene sheets by chemical exfoliation of graphite



## Liquid exfoliation

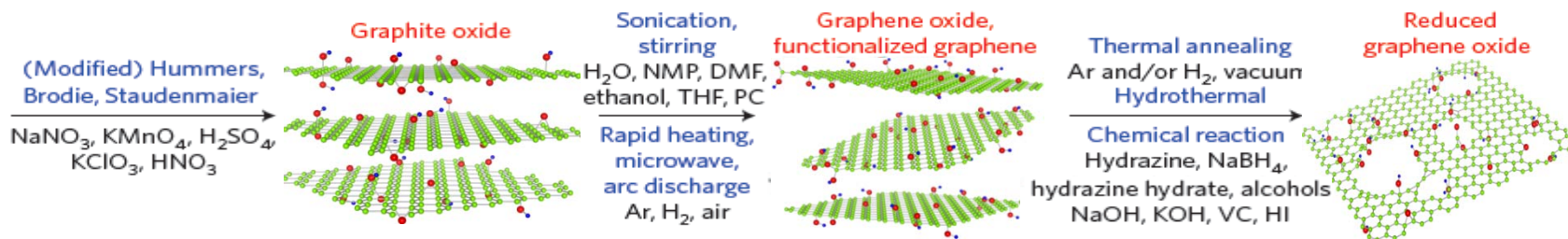


## Solid exfoliation

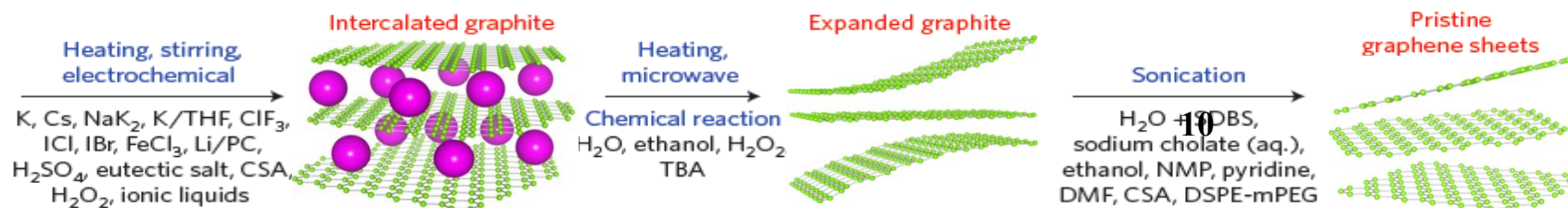


WC Ren, HM Cheng,  
*Nature Nano.* 9, 726-730 (2014).

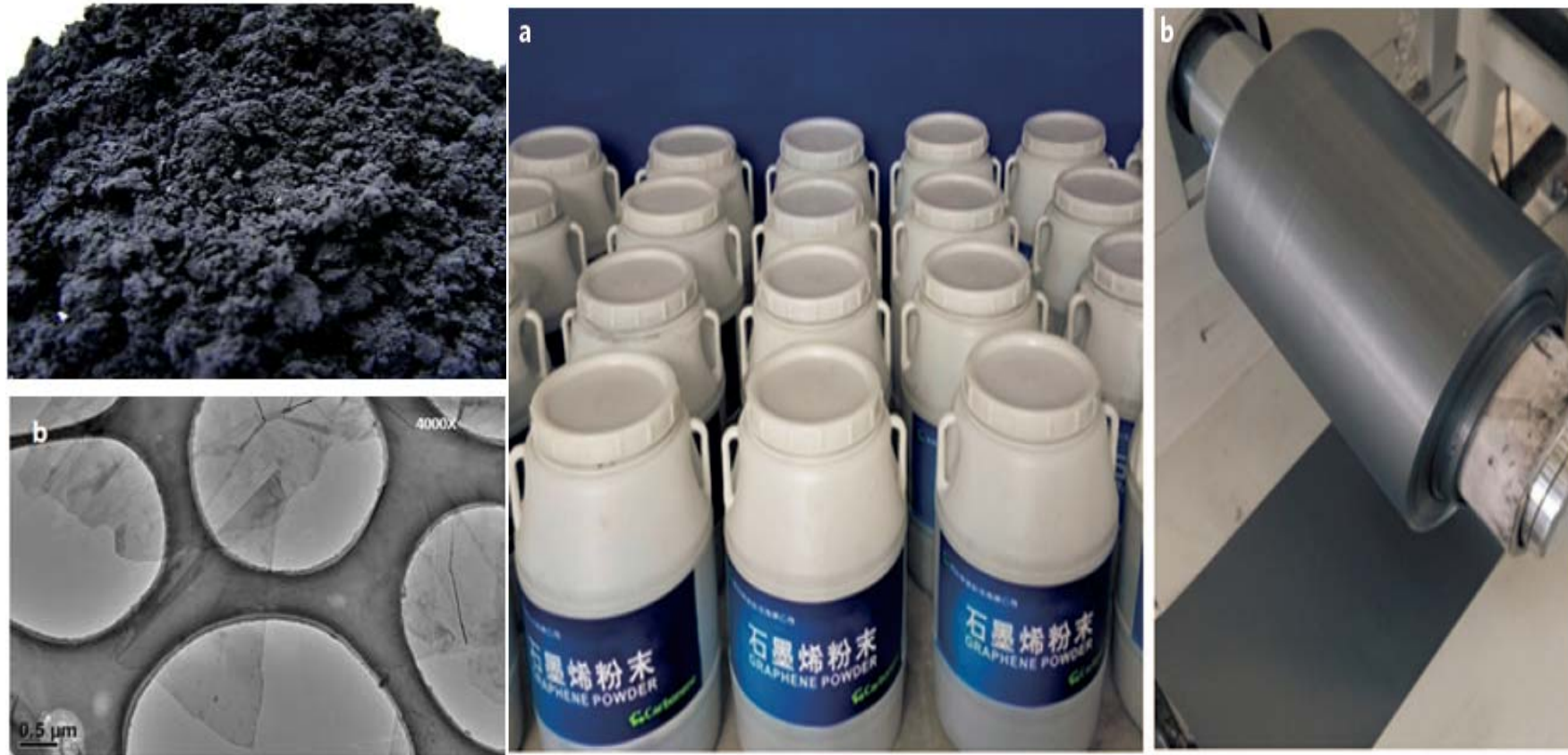
## Oxidation-exfoliation-reduction



## Intercalation-exfoliation

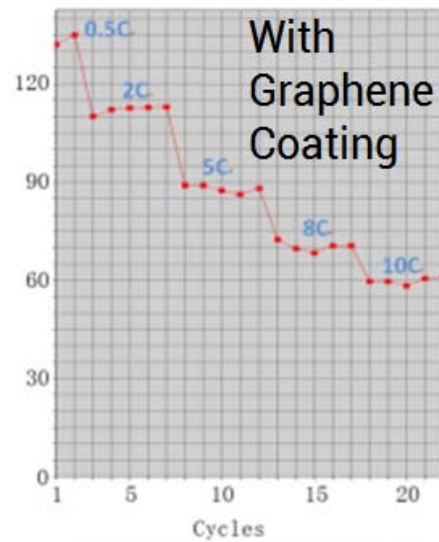
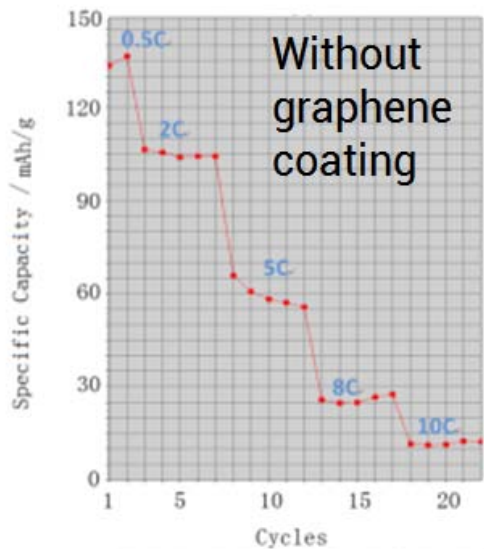
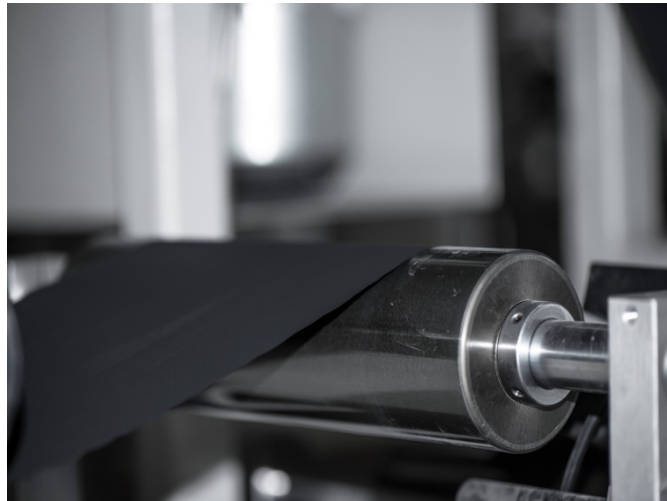


# Large-Scale Production of High-Quality Graphene Materials

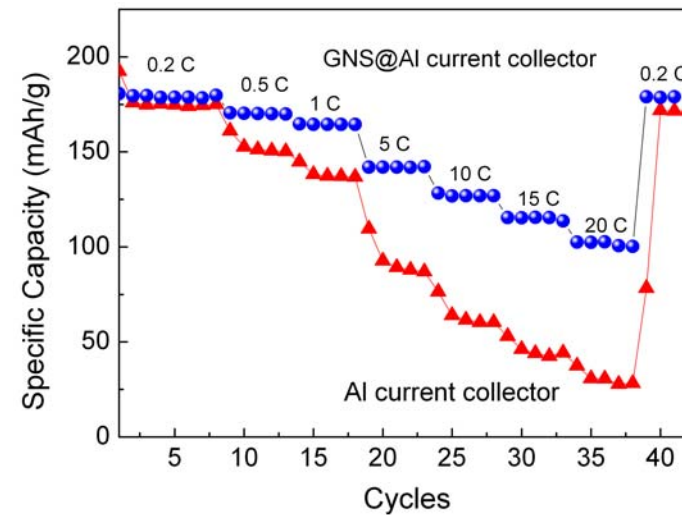


- **Prototype line: 1.5 T/year (2012); production line: 30 T/year (2016)**
  - Number of layers: < 10; Size: 1-5 μm; Purity: >98wt%; Conductivity: ~1,000 S/cm
- **Deyang Carbonene Technology Co., Ltd.**  
Patent: A new method to produce high-quality graphene, 201110282370.5.

# A. Graphene Materials as Current Collector Coatings in LIBs

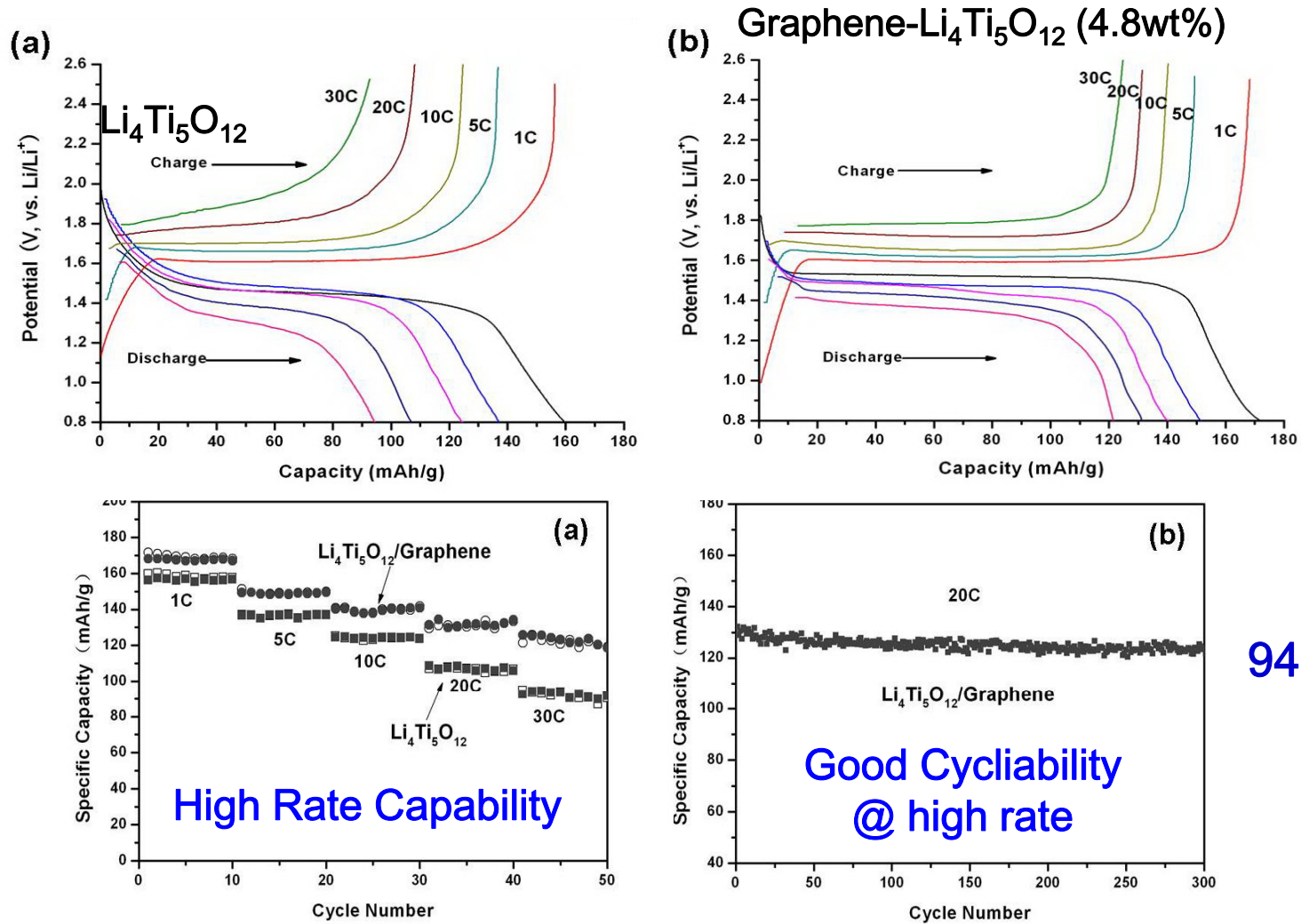


LFP materials

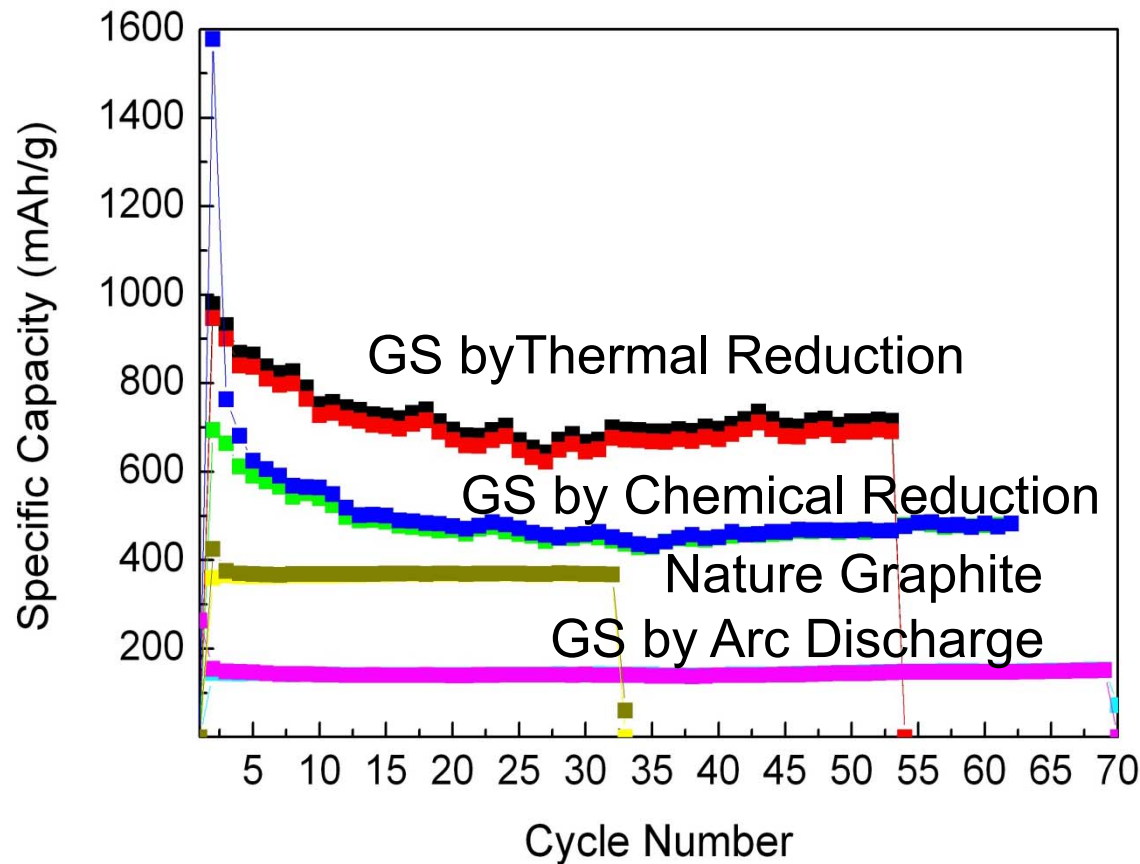


LTO materials

# B. Graphene Materials as Conducting Additive for LIBs



# C. Graphene materials as anode materials?



**High irreversible capacity:**

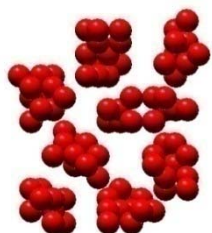
- High surface area
- Rich functional groups
- Many defects
- ...

- High irreversible capacity
- Low first Coulombic efficiency

# D. Making Hybrids: Use Graphene as Electrode Materials for EES

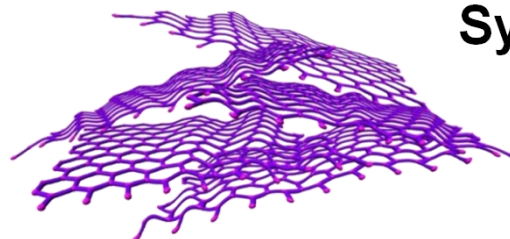


Oxides



+

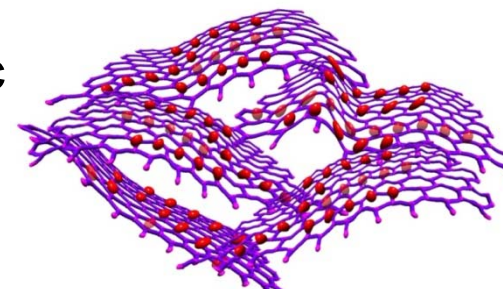
GO, rGO or GS



Synergistic  
effect



Hybrids



- High capacity
- High density

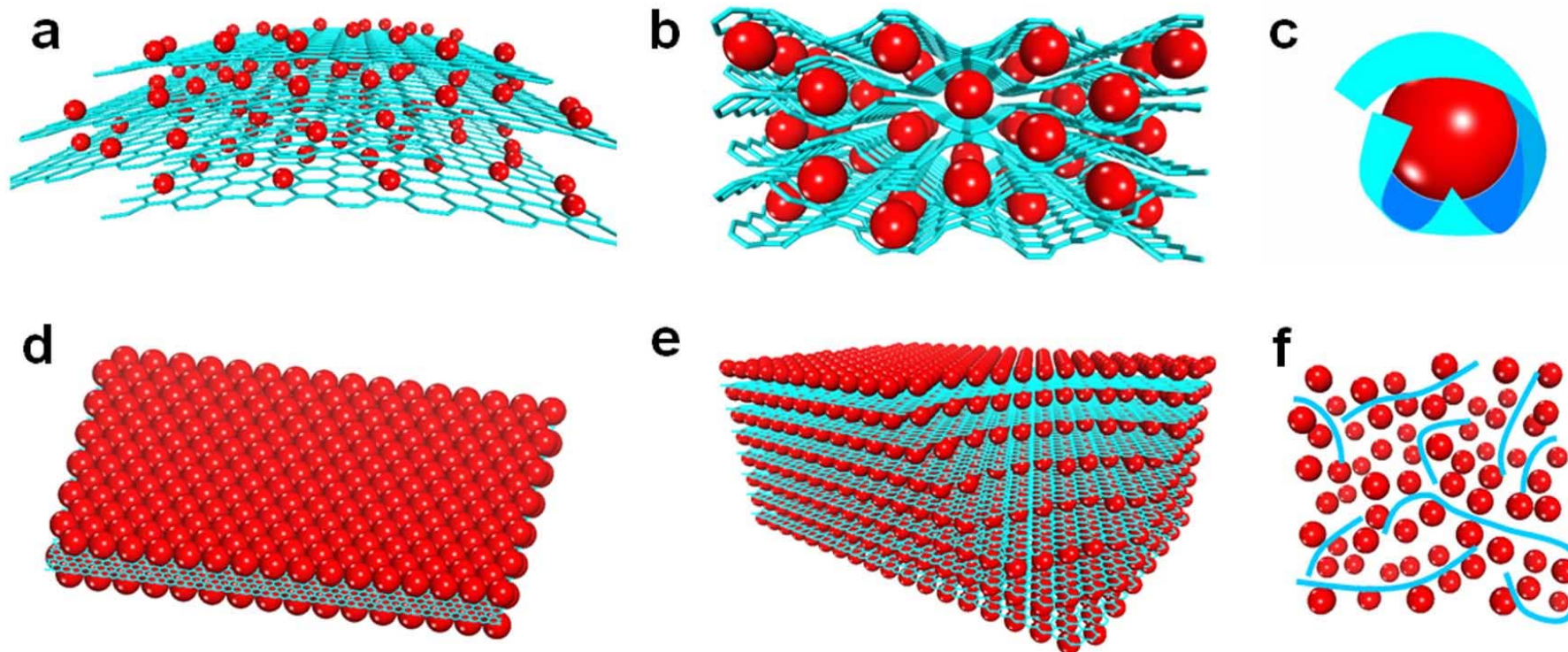
- Agglomeration
- Poor conductivity
- Big volume change

- Suppression of agglomeration, restacking, and volume change
- Formation and uniform dispersion of NPs
- Highly conductive and flexible network

- Large capacity/capacitance
- Enhanced cycling stability
- Good rate capability

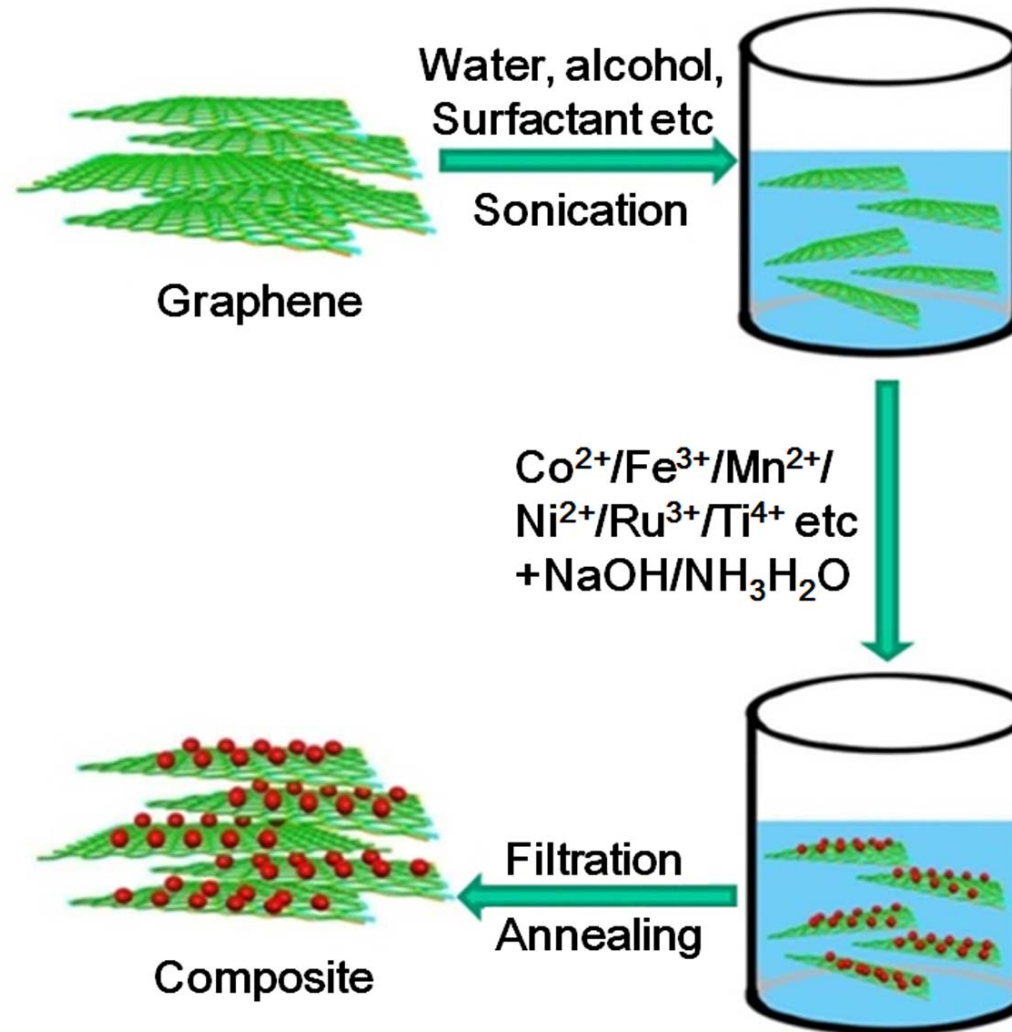


# Structure of Graphene Hybrids



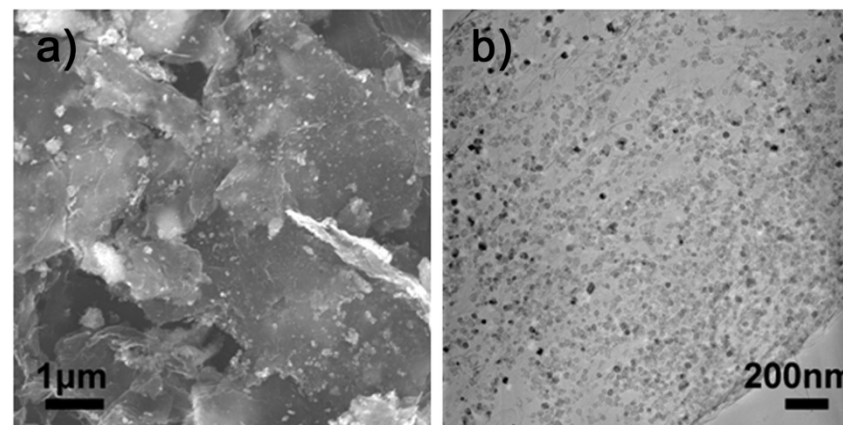
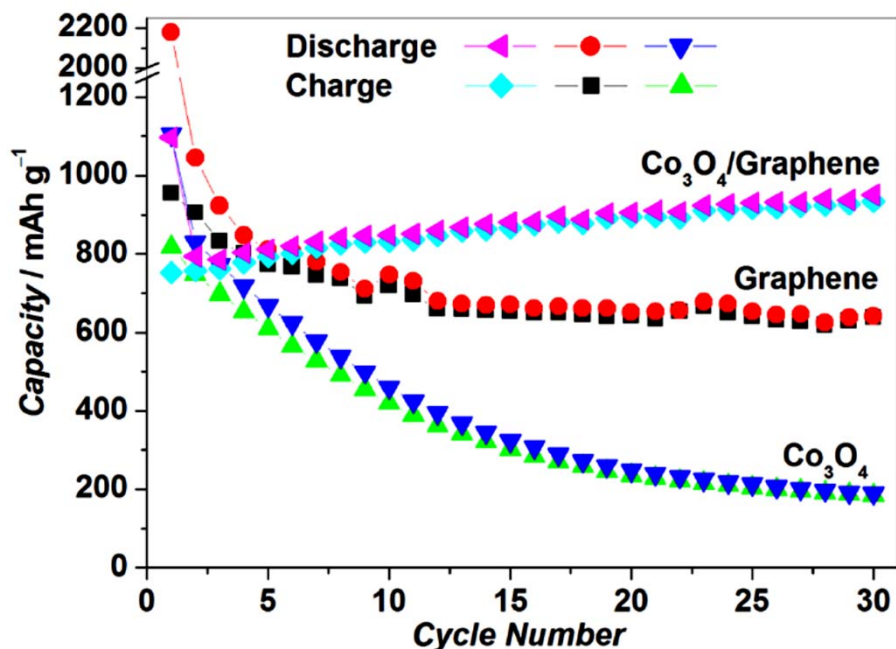
**(a) Anchoring, (b) Wrapping, (c) Encapsulation,  
(d) Sandwich, (e) Layering, (f) Mixing**

# Wet Chemistry Synthesis of Graphene Hybrids



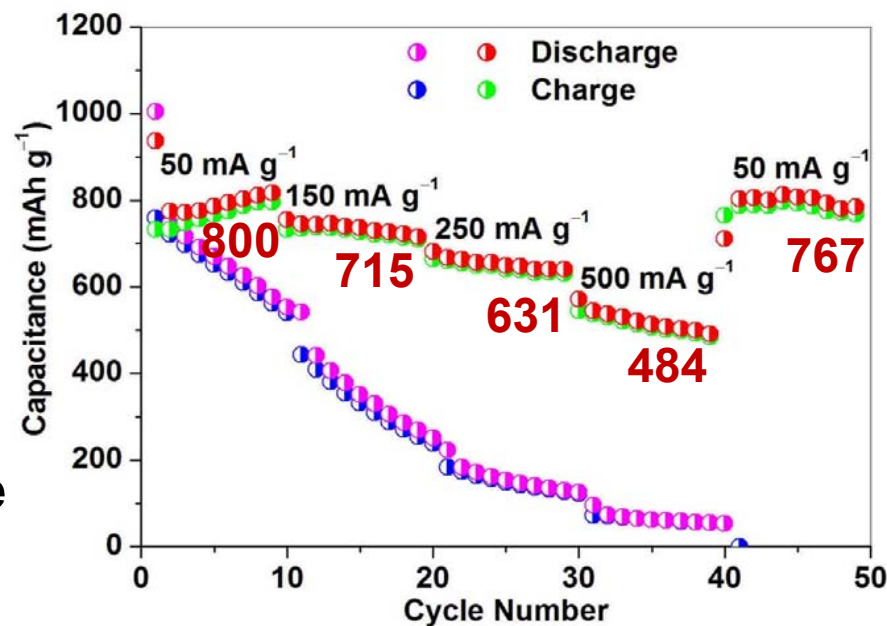
# Anode for High Energy LIBs

## -- $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4/\text{rGO}$ Hybrids (Anchoring)

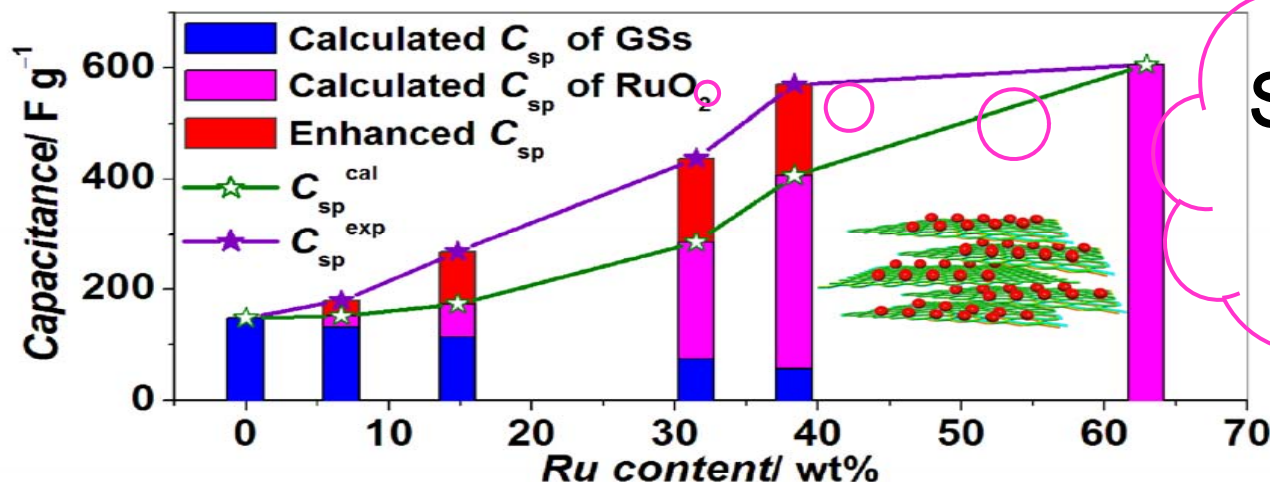


High capacity + improved cyclability

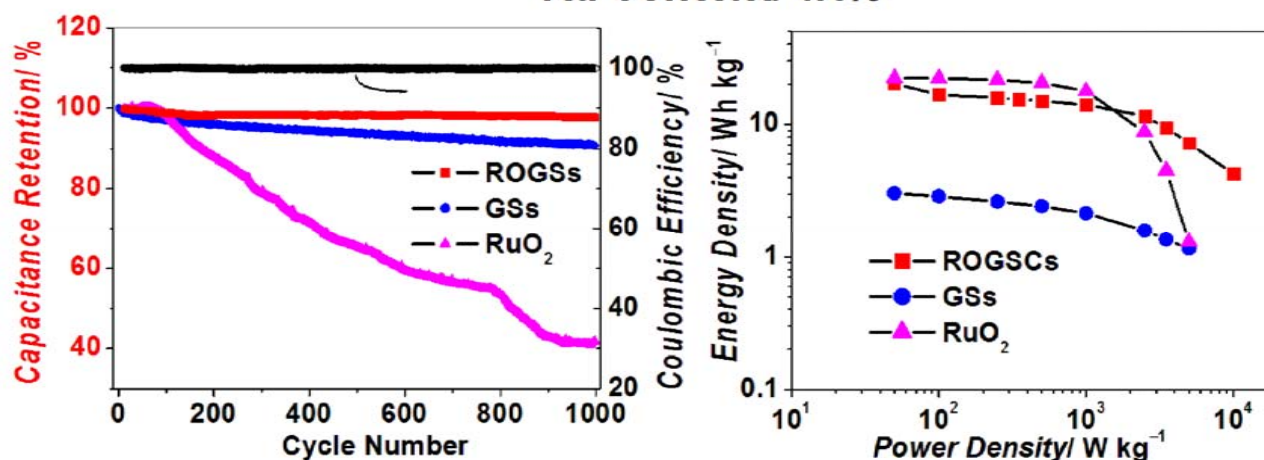
Improvement of rate performance



# Electrode for High-Energy ECs -RuO<sub>2</sub>/rGO Symmetric ECs



Synergistic Effect



Better cyclic performance

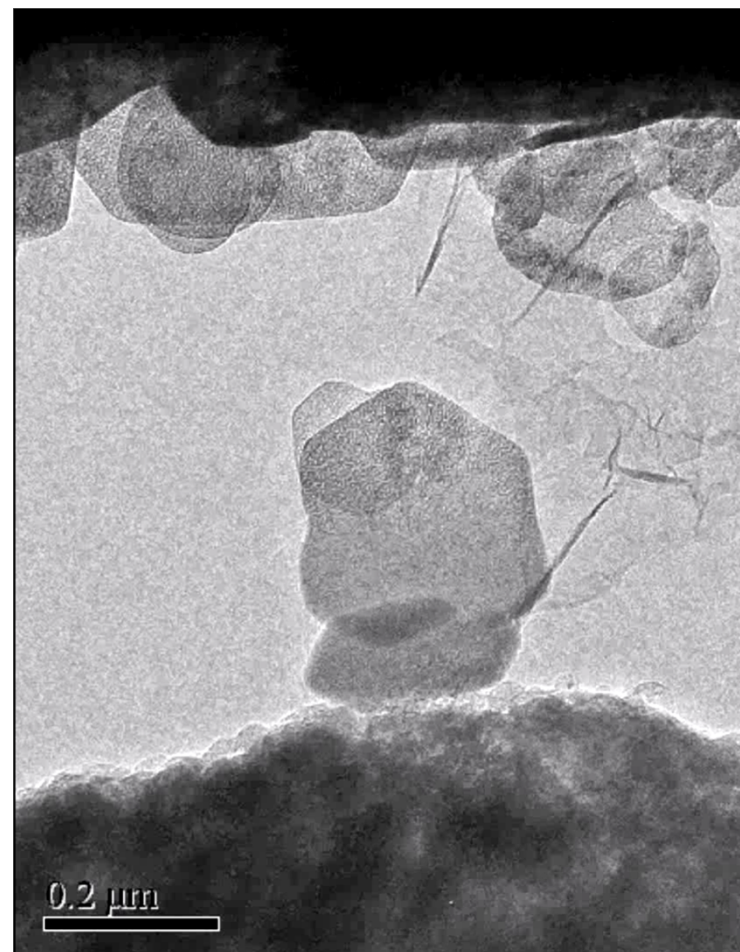
Higher energy at high power

# 1+1>2

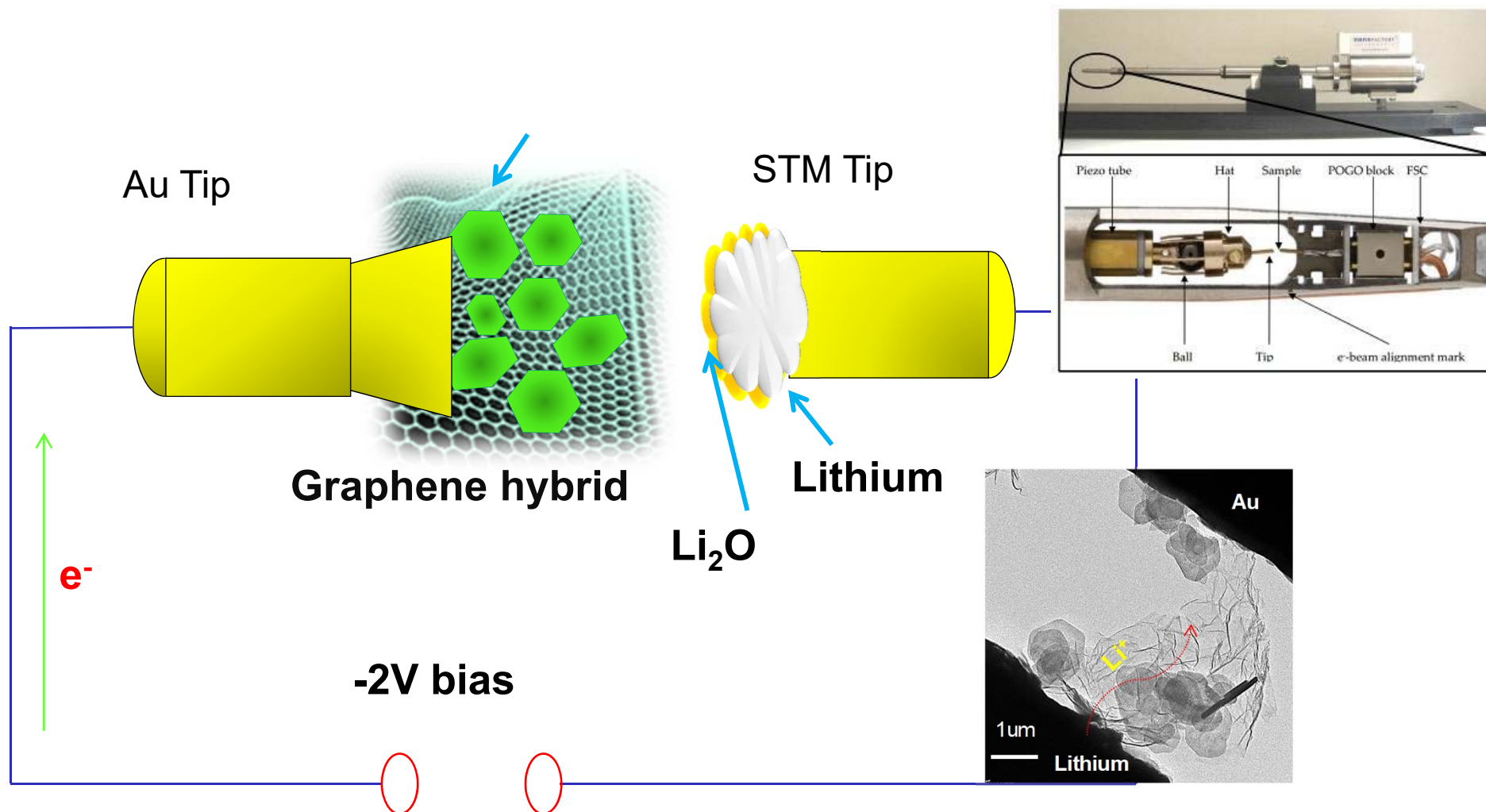


- **Macroscopic mechanism (*ex situ*)**
  - Formation of well-dispersed uniform oxide nanoparticles on graphene
  - Suppression of pulverization of oxide particles
  - Formation of a conductive network
  - Prevention of re-stacking of rGO
- **Microscopic mechanism (*in situ*)**
  - Increase of  $Li^+$  diffusion rate to improve reaction kinetics
  - Restriction of volume expansion

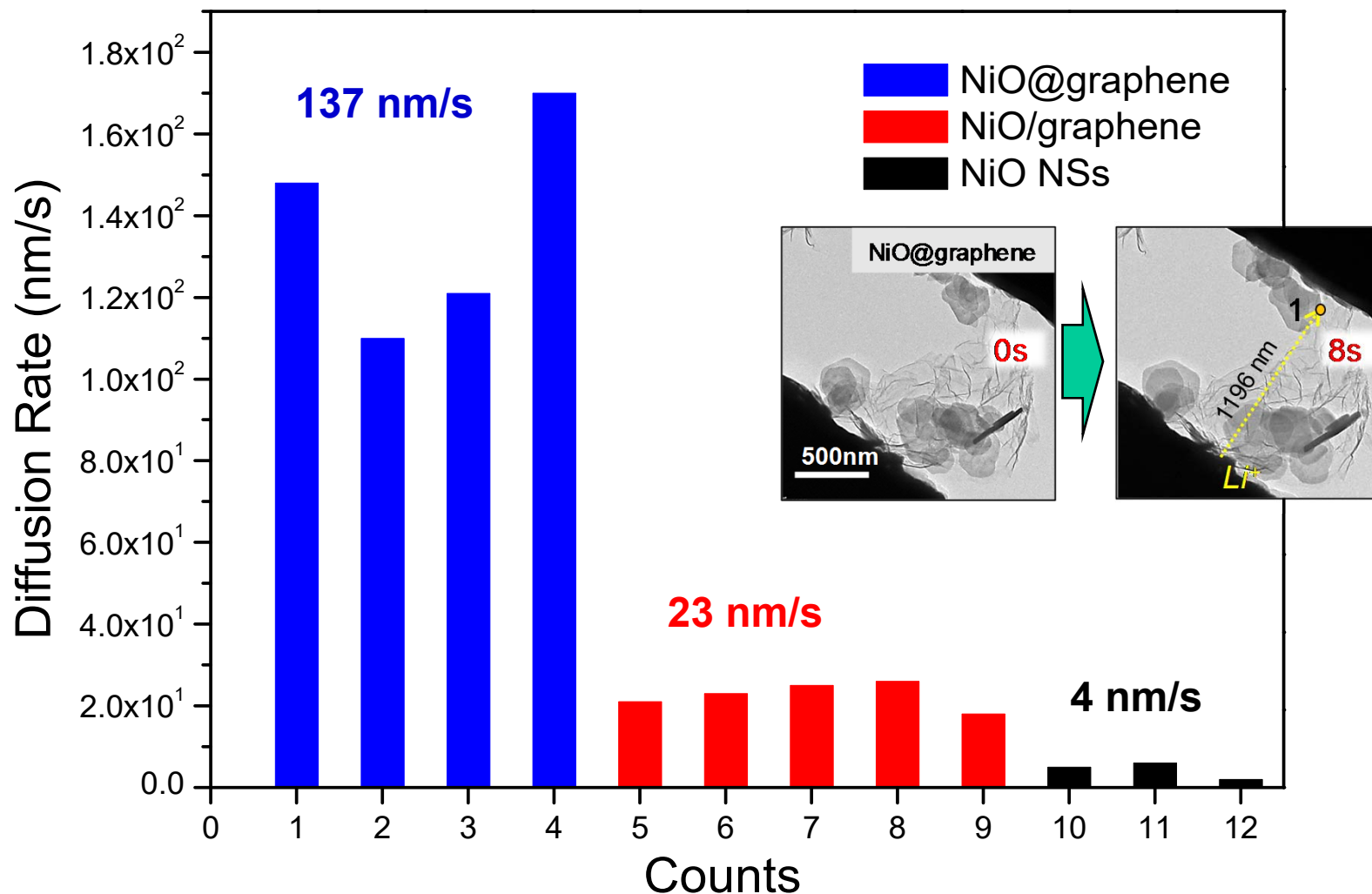
XY Shan, et al. *J Mater Chem A*,  
2014, 2, 17808.



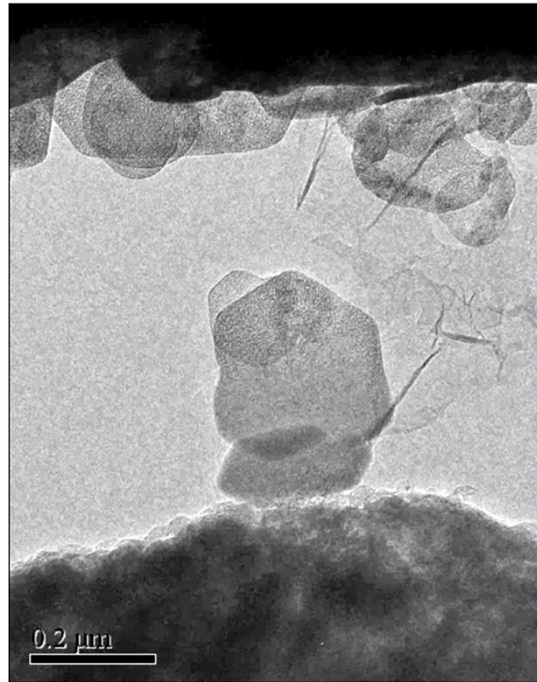
# *In Situ* Studies on the Role of Graphene Materials



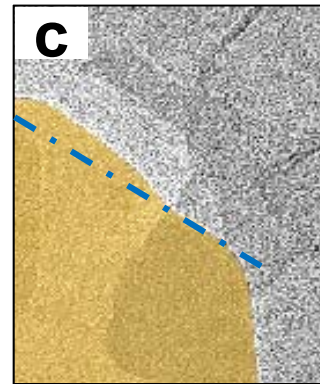
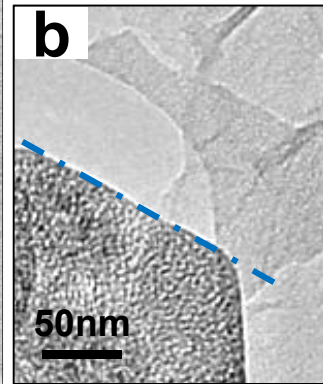
# Role 1: Increasing $Li^+$ Diffusion Rate/ Improving $Li^+$ Reaction Kinetics



# Role 2: Interfacial Expansion-Restriction Effect



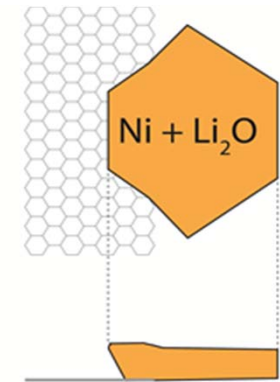
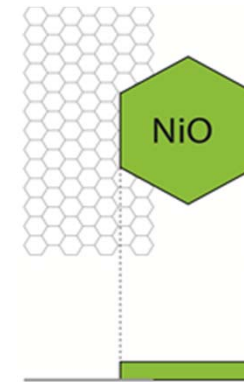
NiO@graphene



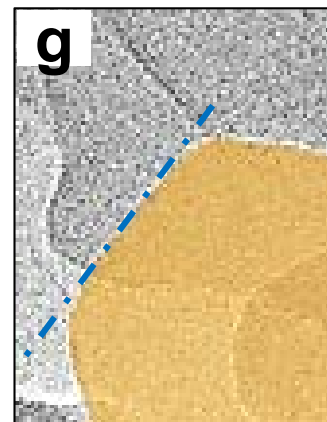
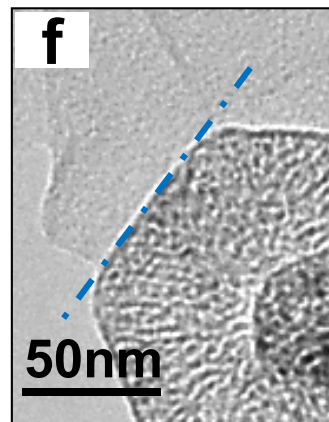
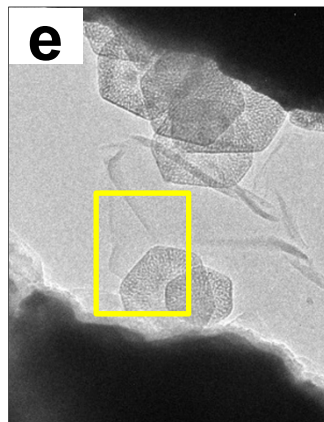
Top-view

side-view

d



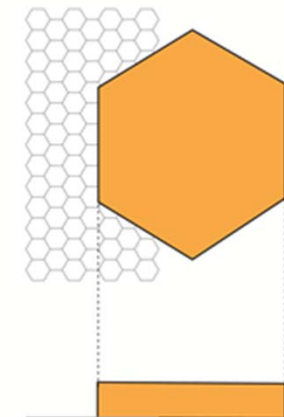
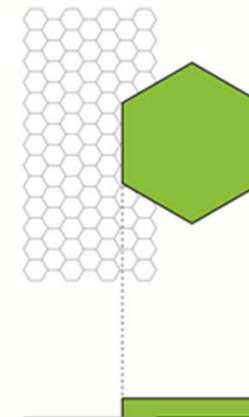
NiO/graphene



Top-view

side-view

h





# Graphene's Role in LIBs



- Increase of the  $Li^+$  diffusion rate



**High power dens**

- Improvement of the  $Li^+$  reaction kinetics



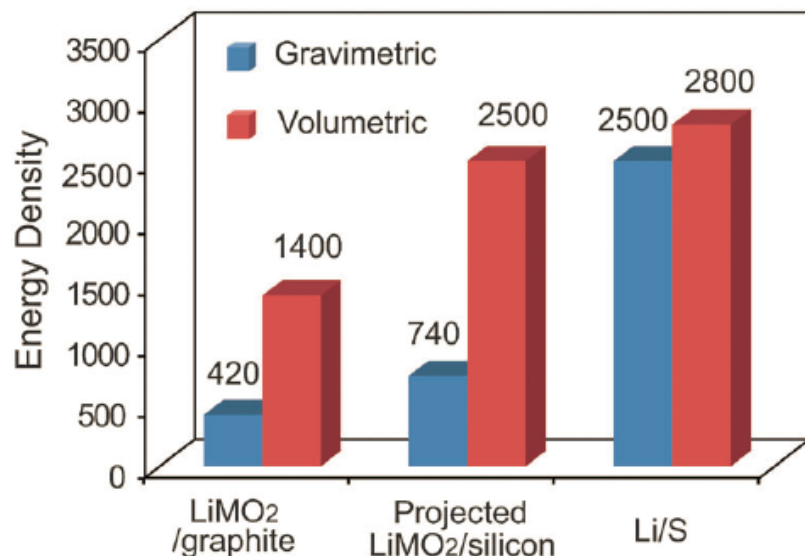
**Superior cycling performance**

- Interfacial expansion restriction

**Excellent Lithium storage**



# Comparison of Li-S batteries with LIBs



Chem Soc Rev

REVIEW ARTICLE

## Nanostructured sulfur cathodes†

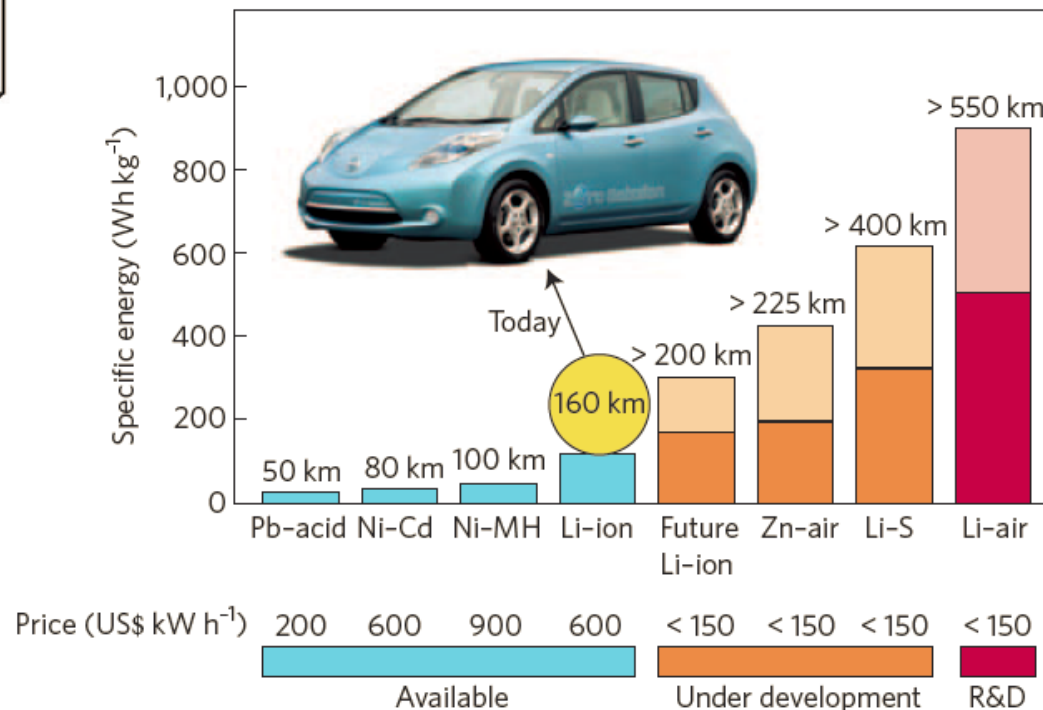
Yuan Yang,<sup>a</sup> Guangyuan Zheng<sup>b</sup> and Yi Cui<sup>\*ac</sup>

Cite this: *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2013, 42, 3018



## Li-O<sub>2</sub> and Li-S batteries with high energy storage

Peter G. Bruce<sup>1\*</sup>, Stefan A. Freunberger<sup>1</sup>, Laurence J. Hardwick<sup>1†</sup> and Jean-Marie Tarascon<sup>2</sup>



# E. Li-S batteries



- **Advantages**

- ✓ **High capacity**

2567 Wh/kg@S Vs 420 Wh/kg@LI

- ✓ **Cheap, rich, Environment friendly**

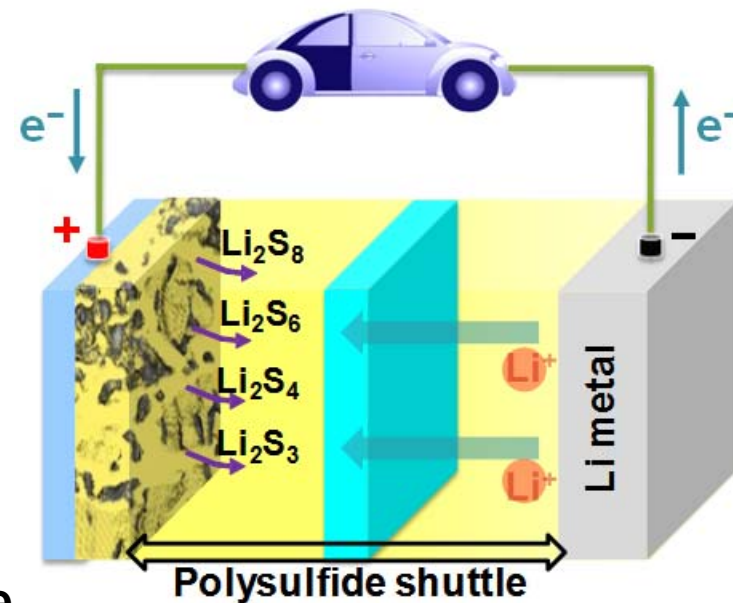


- **Problems**

- **Fast capacity fading**
- **Poor cyclibility**

- **Reasons**

- **Insulating**
- **Shuttle effect of polysulfides**
- **Volume change during charge/discharge**



# Graphene in Li-S Batteries



## ✓ Hybrid Materials

➤ Confinement (*ACS Nano* 2013)

➤ Chemical bonding (O&N)

(*Nano Energy*, 2016; *Nature Commun* 2017)

## ✓ Integrated Cathode

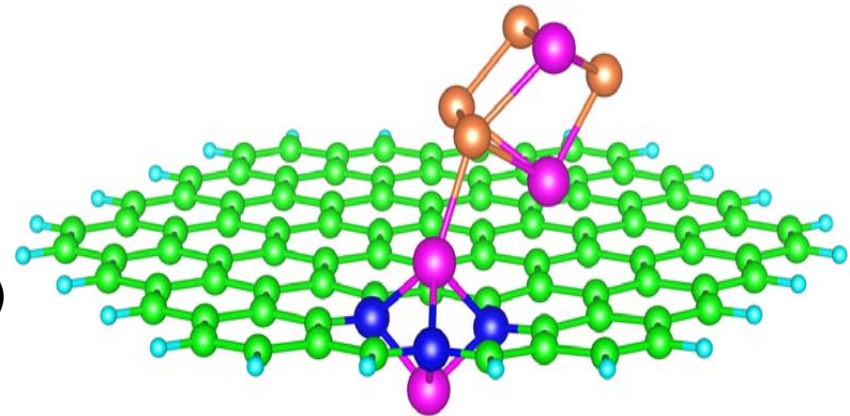
➤ Double layer (*Adv Mater* 2014)

➤ Single layer (*Adv Mater* 2015)

➤ All-in-one (*Nano Energy* 2015; *Adv Mater* 2016)

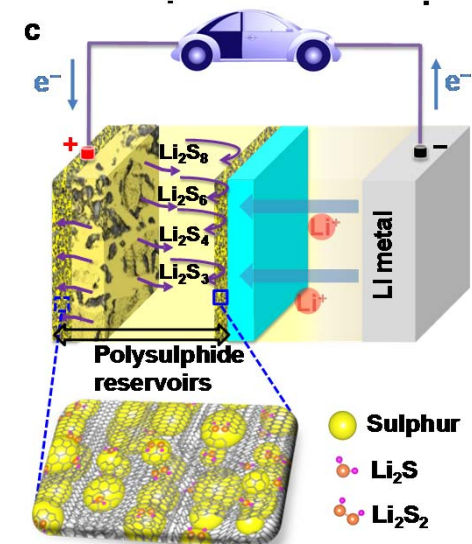
➤ GO + 3D GF (*Adv Mater* 2016)

Shuttle Impeding



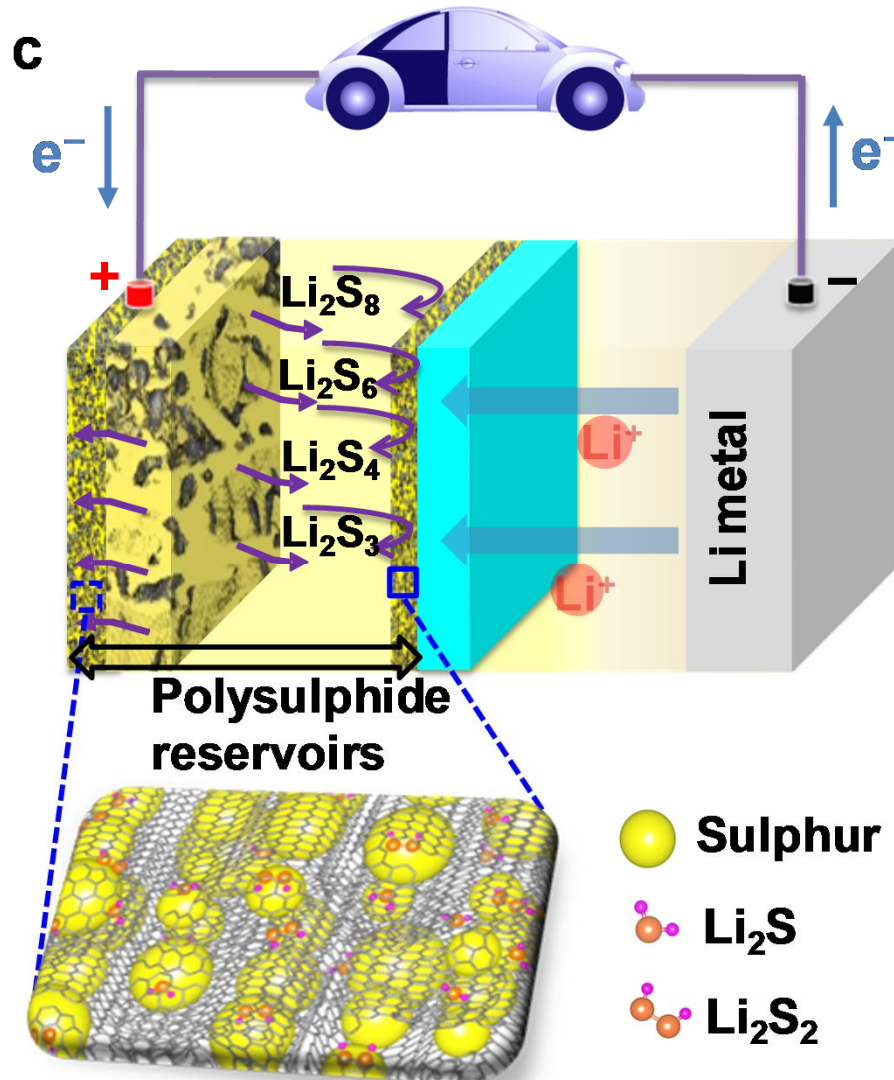
Shuttle Retarding;

Conductive



**Goal:** “Double High” - Loading & Content

# Design of a sandwich structure



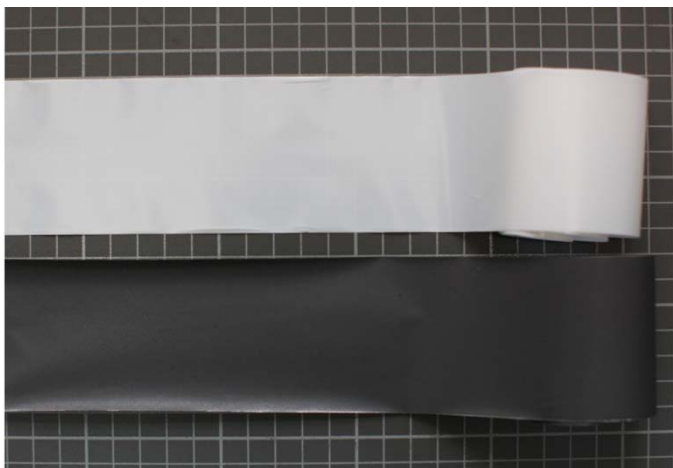
- Improve adhesion
- Lower internal impedance & polarization;
- Act as a site for the retention of ions;
- Adsorb and trap polysulfides
- Increase surface area

- Polysulphides are blocked in cathode and re-used during cycling.

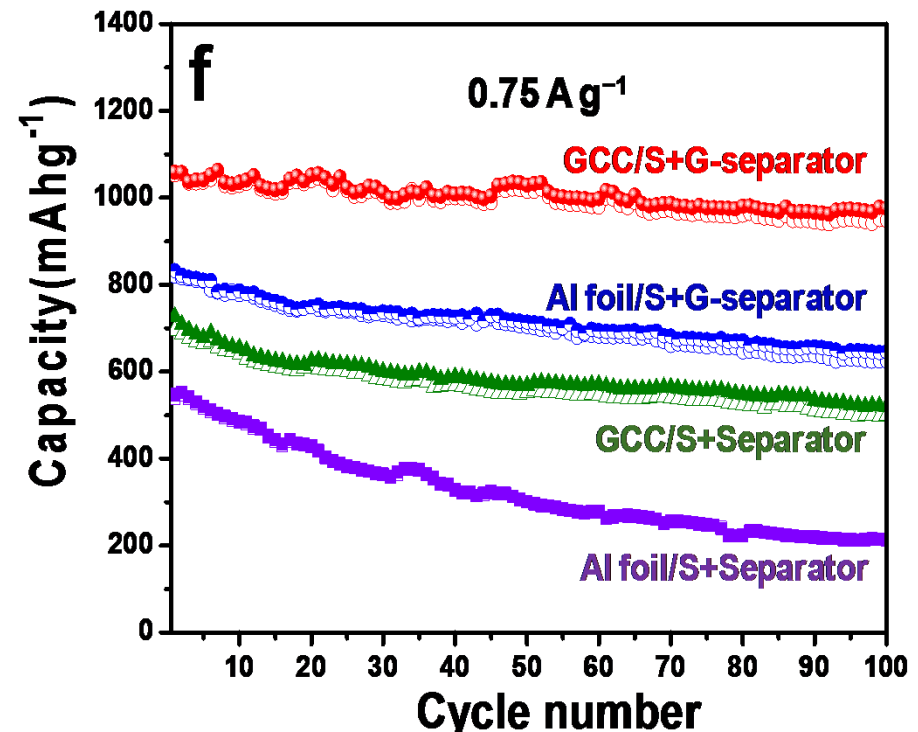
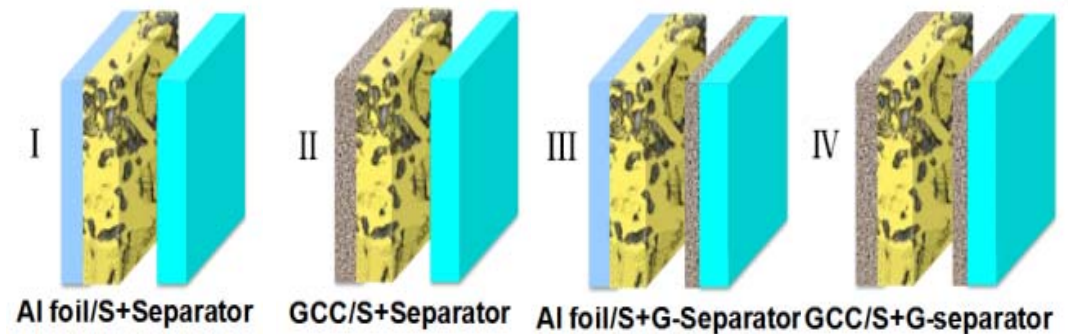
# Electrochemical performance



Graphene current collector



Polymer separator (up) and graphene-coated polymer separator (bottom)



# Design of an all-graphene S cathode



**POG: Partially oxygenated graphene**

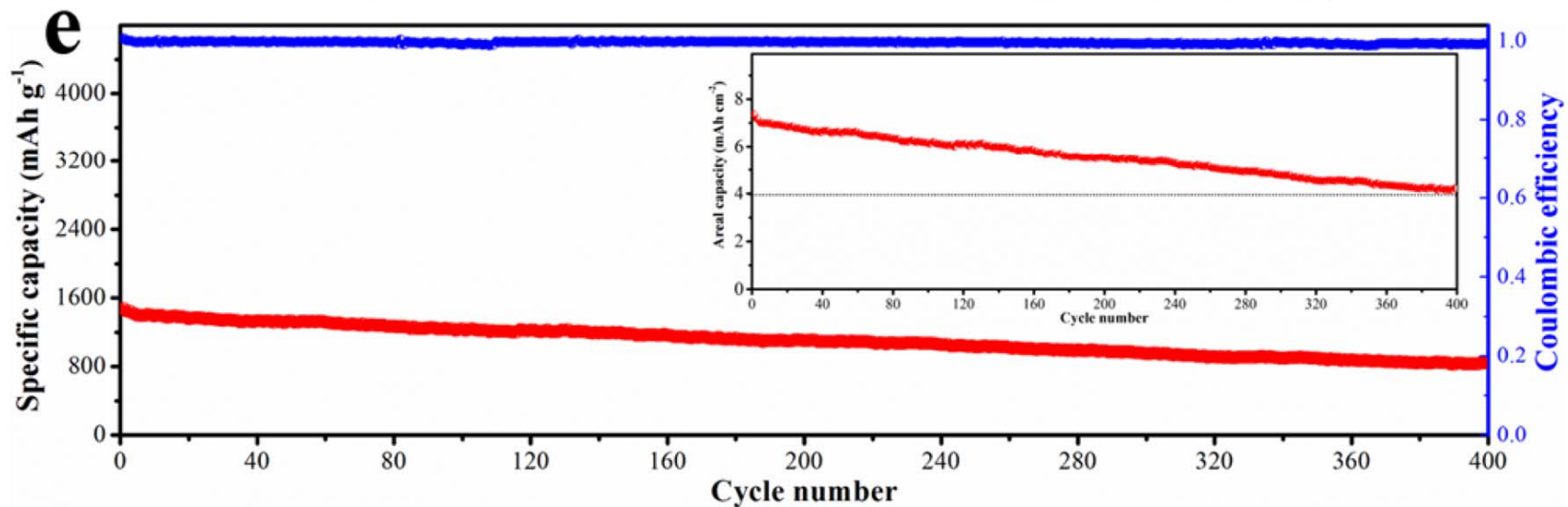
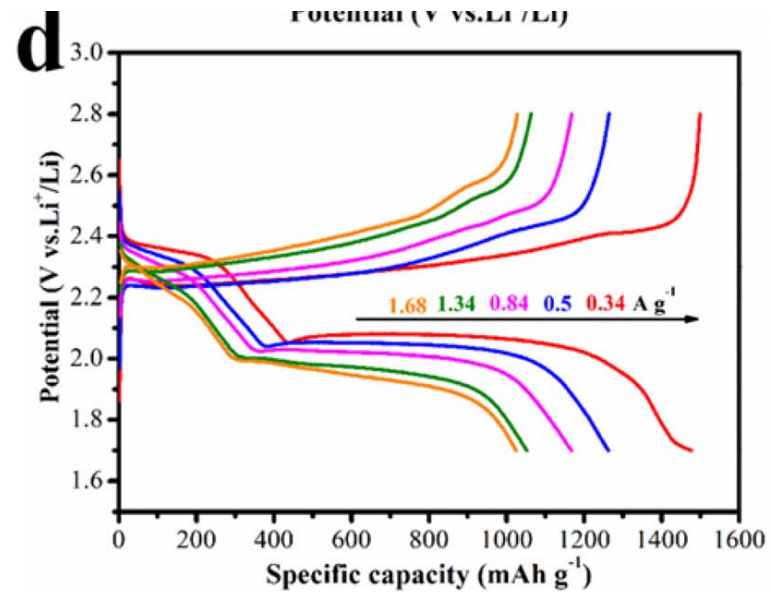
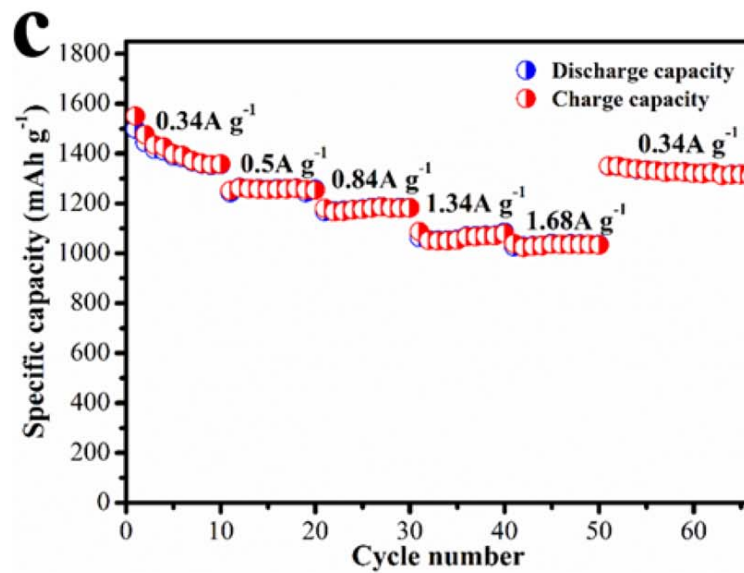
**HCG: Highly conductive graphene**

**HPG: Highly porous graphene**

**S content: 80 wt%**

**S loading: 5 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>**

# Electrochemical performance





# Improvement of areal capacity

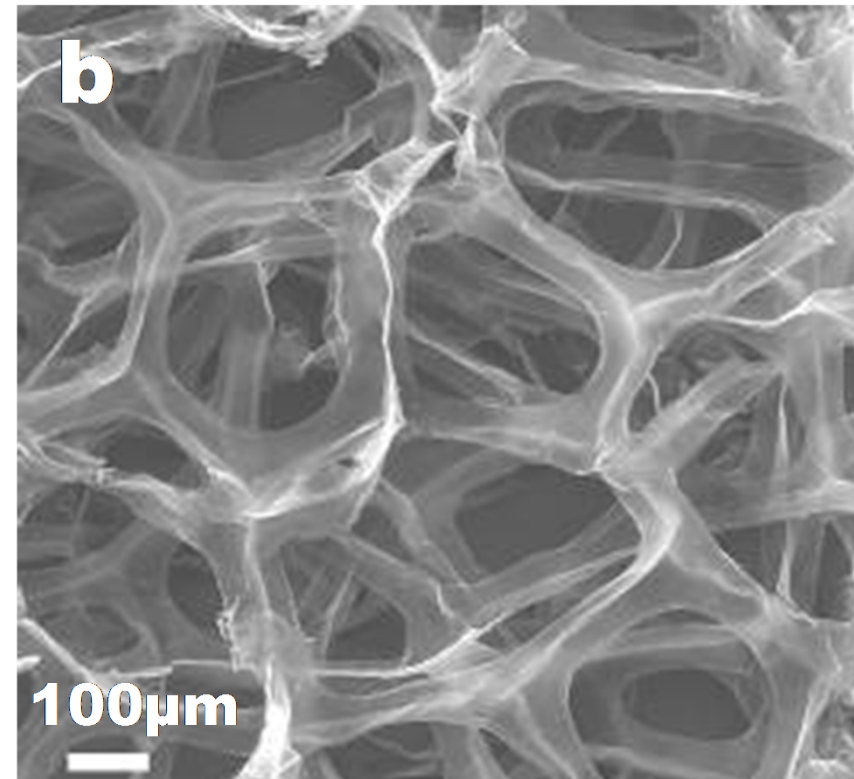


Material Reference	S percentage of material /electrode	Sulfur loading or thickness of cathode	Cycle performance, IC=1.675A/g	Surface capacity/ mAh cm <sup>-2</sup>
CNT@S <sup>1</sup>	53%/45%	0.42mg cm <sup>-2</sup> / 10~15μm	1C, 1000 cycles, 1053~535mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	0.2~0.4
PVP-encapsulated S nanosphere <sup>2</sup>	70.4%/--	1mg cm <sup>-2</sup> /21.3μm	0.5C, 1000 cycles, 990~535mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	0.5~1
Sulphur-TiO <sub>2</sub> yolk-shell nanoarchitecture <sup>3</sup>	71%/53%	0.4~0.6mg cm <sup>-2</sup> /--	0.5C 1000 cycles, 1030~690mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	0.4~0.6
S@C NW <sup>4</sup>	80.85%/--	1mg cm <sup>-2</sup> /--	2C, 1000 cycles, 1138~863mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	0.8~1.1
CTAB -S- GO <sup>5</sup>	80%/56%	0.8 mg cm <sup>-2</sup> /--	1C 1500 cycles, 740~440 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	0.3~0.6
DTG/S nanocomposites <sup>6</sup>	64%/-	0.8~1.1 mg cm <sup>-2</sup> / -	5C, 200 cycles, 1200~832 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	0.6~1.3
GCC/S+G-separator <sup>7</sup>	70%/--	2~2.8mg cm <sup>-2</sup> / /20~30μm	0.9C, 300 cycles, 1052~ 680mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	1.4~2.9
S-Pani yolk-shell structure <sup>8</sup>	58%/46.4%	2mg cm <sup>-2</sup> / --	2C, 200 cycles, 1100~765 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	1.5~2.2
Mesoporous carbon-sulfur (MCS) <sup>9</sup>	50%/40%	--/--	1C 400 cycles, 900~800 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	
PD-coated FLSNS <sup>10</sup>	83%/66%	<1.2mg cm <sup>-2</sup> / 20μm	0.6C 500 cycles, 715~640 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	<0.8
PD- coated RGO/S <sup>11</sup>	74%/56%	<1mg cm <sup>-2</sup>	0.6C 800 cycles, 715~530 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	<0.72
Amphiphilic surface-modified hollow CNF-S composite <sup>12</sup>	--	~1mg cm <sup>-2</sup>	0.5C 300cycles 828~660 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	0.6~0.8
CFC/S	66%	6.7mg cm <sup>-2</sup> / ~150μm	0.3mA/cm <sup>-2</sup> 50 cycles, 1100 mAh g <sup>-1</sup>	>7.0

## “Double Low” Issues

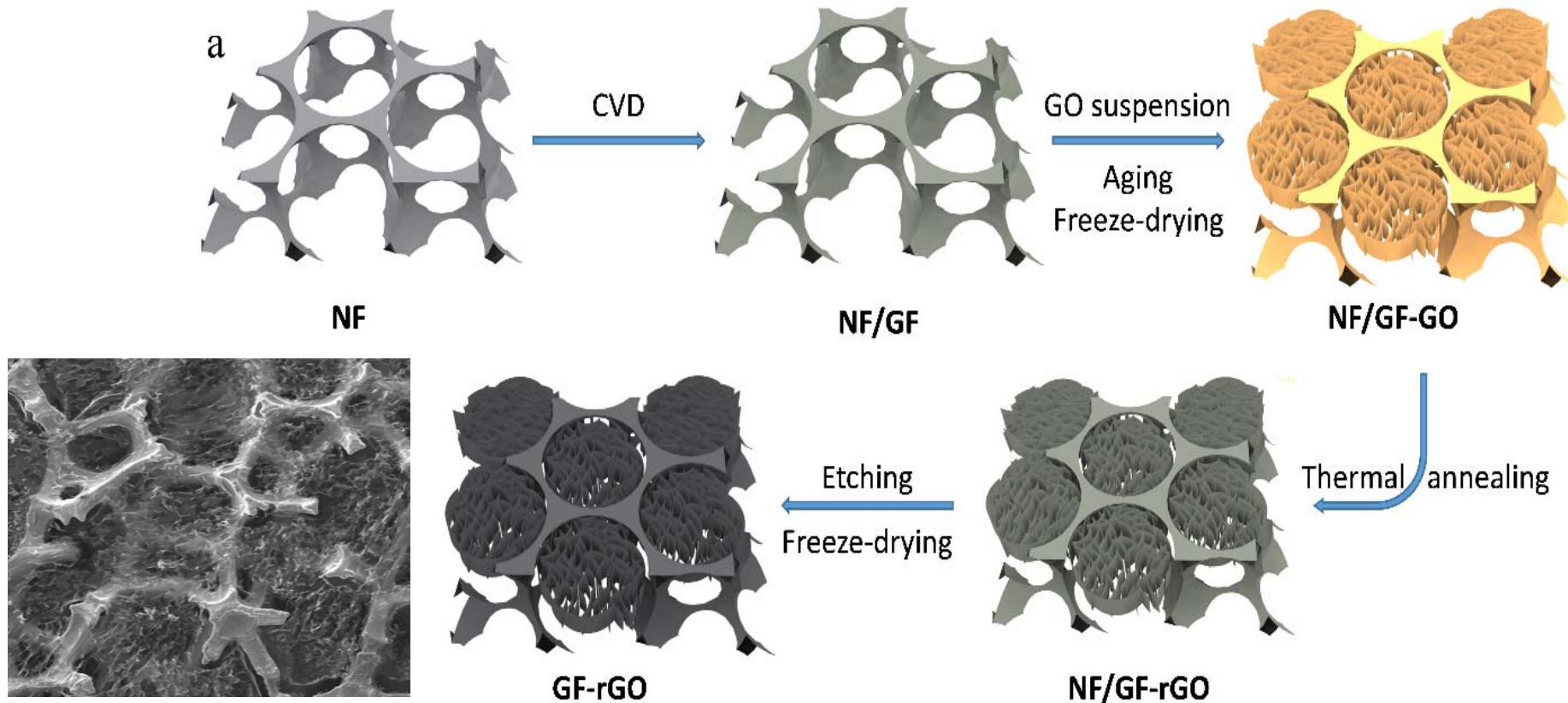
- **Low sulfur loading**
  - typically <2 mg cm<sup>-2</sup>
- **Low sulfur content**
  - typically <70 wt%
- **Low areal capacity**
- **Low energy density**

# Free Standing Graphene Foam (GF)



- Ultra-low density:  $\sim 5 \text{ mg/cm}^3$ , very light aerogel
- A very high porosity:  $\sim 99.7\%$
- Specific surface area:  $\sim 900 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$

# Graphene Foam-rGO 3D Nested Hierarchical Network

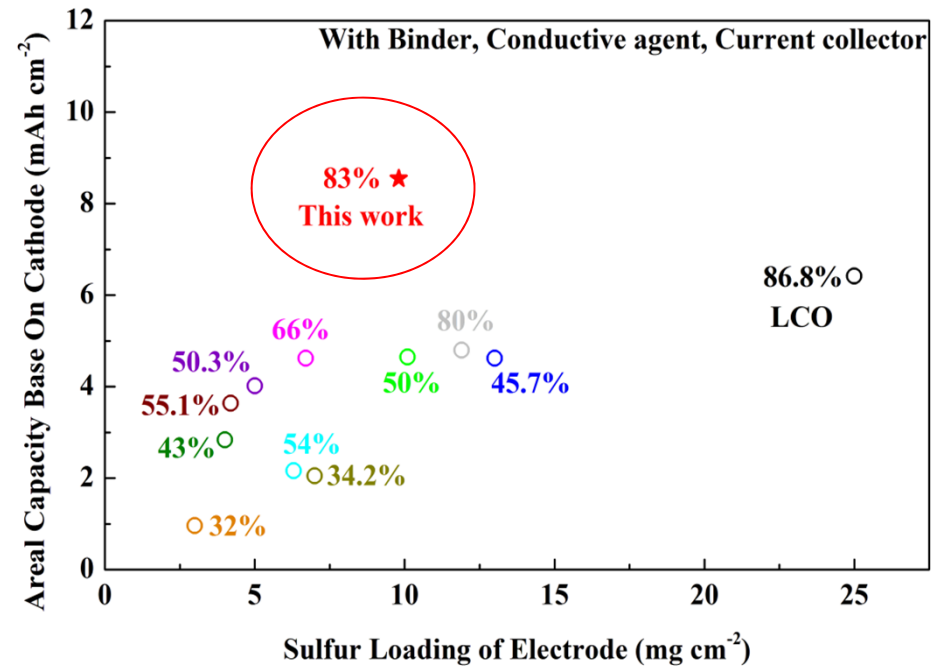
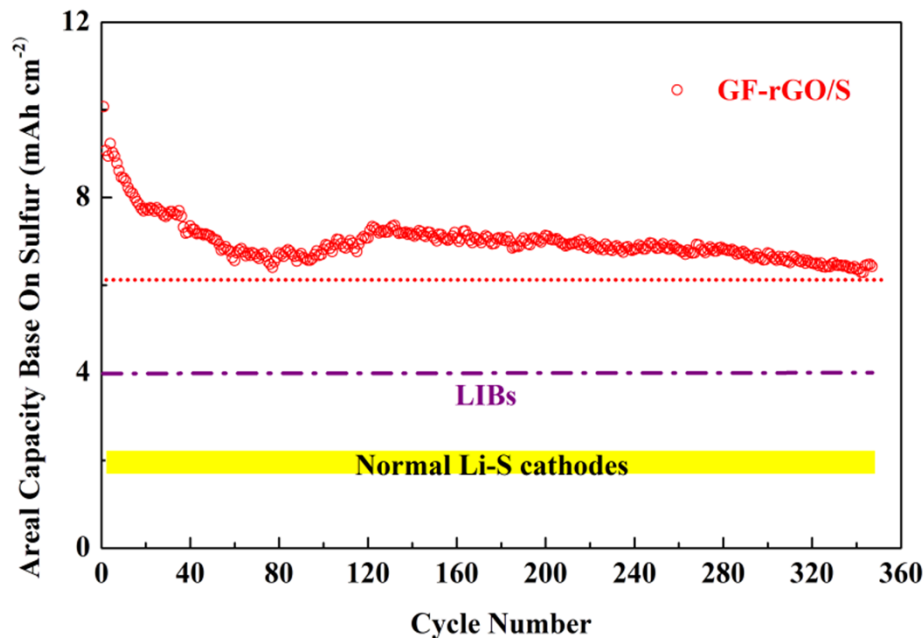


- **GF-rGO**: high porosity and specific surface area; 3D networks
- **GF**: highly conductive network
- **rGO**: anchoring sulfur nanoparticles via functional groups

# Areal Capacity Comparison



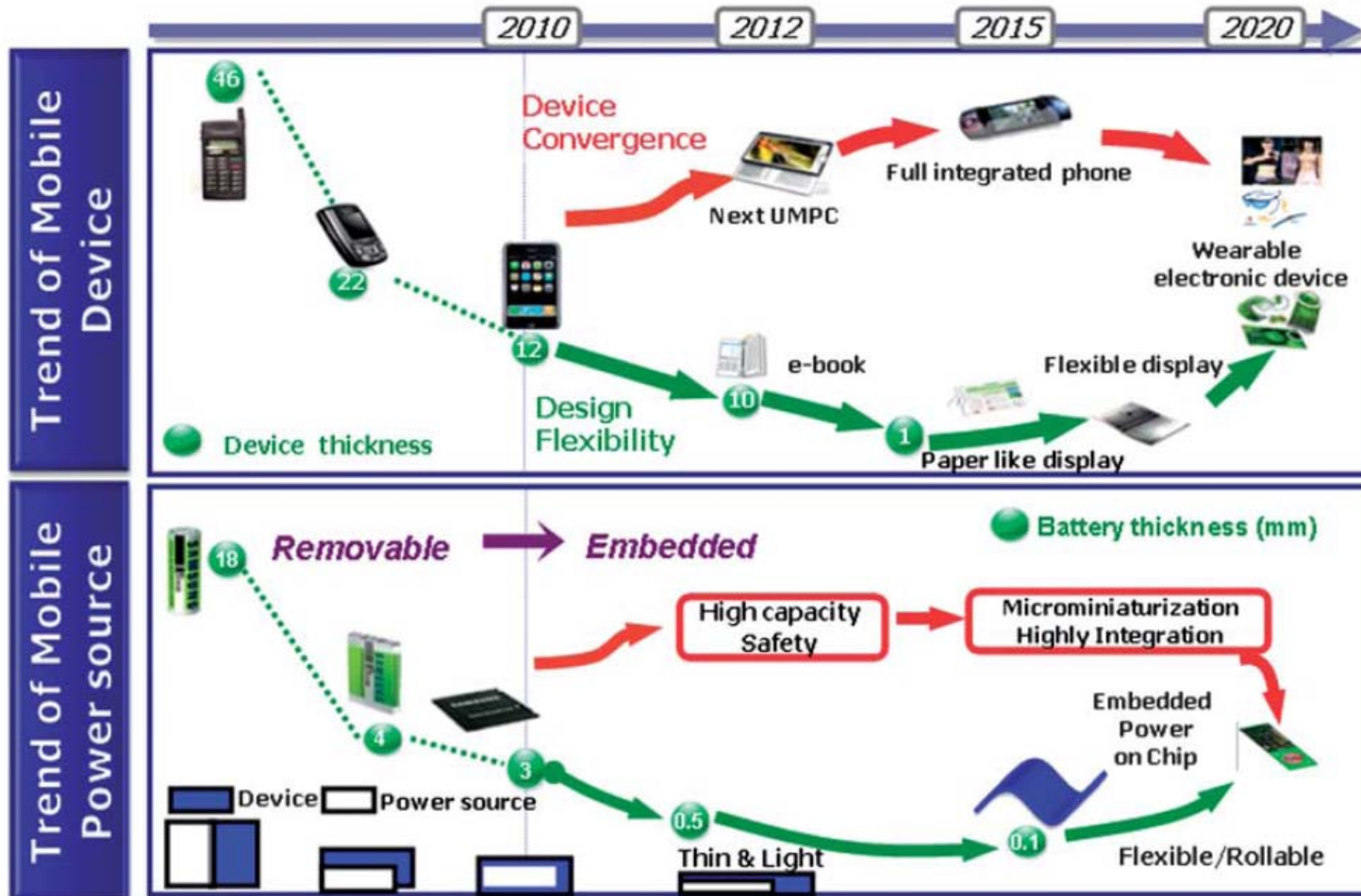
- Sulfur loading: **14.4** mg cm<sup>-2</sup>; Sulfur content: **89.4** wt%



- High sulfur loading and high sulfur content
- High areal capacity, good rate capability and cycling stability

**Graphene —  
A Promising Material for Flexible  
and Smart Energy Storage**

# Trend of mobile devices & power sources



Nokia Humanform



Samsung

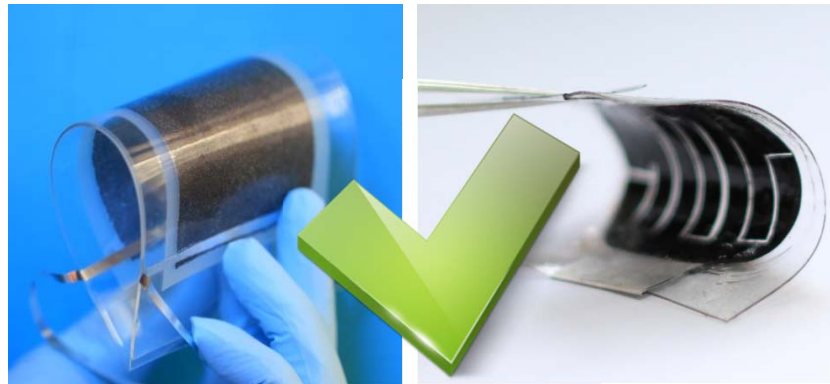


**Heavy & Thick & Stiff → Light & Thin & Flexible**

# Power for Flexible Devices



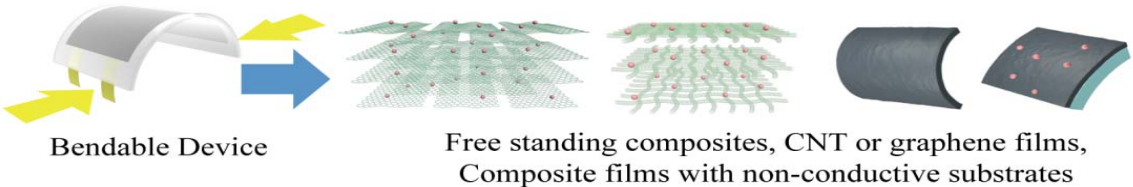
**Stiff & bulky**



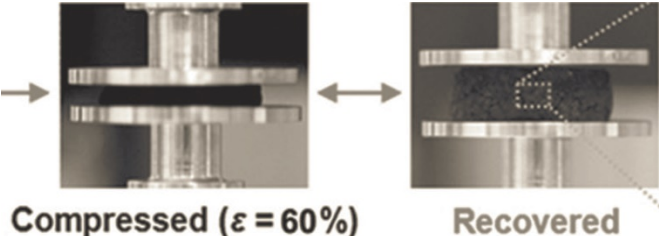
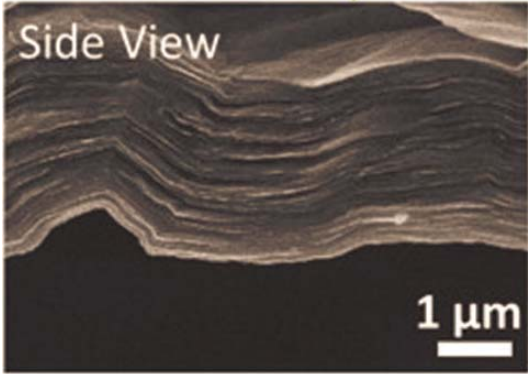
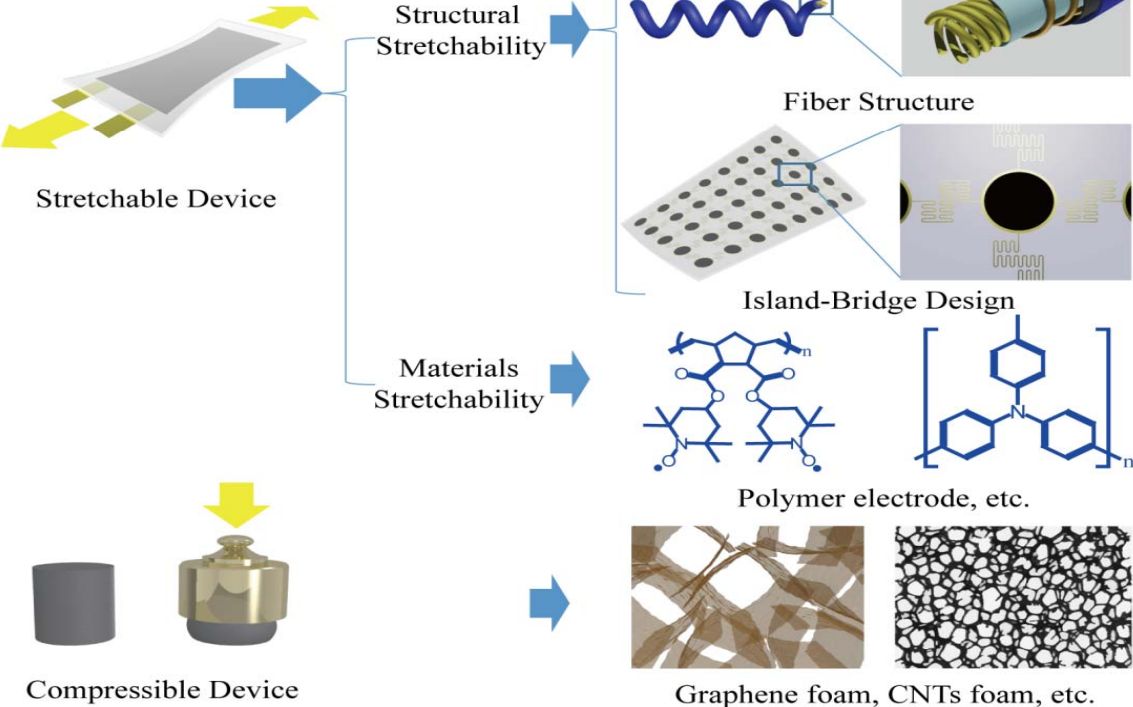
**Light, thin & flexible**

- Integratable with electronic devices
- High capacity per area & mass
- Superior mechanical flexibility
- **Vital component:**  
Free-standing flexible electrodes

# Classification of flexible devices

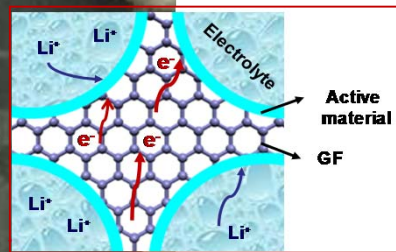
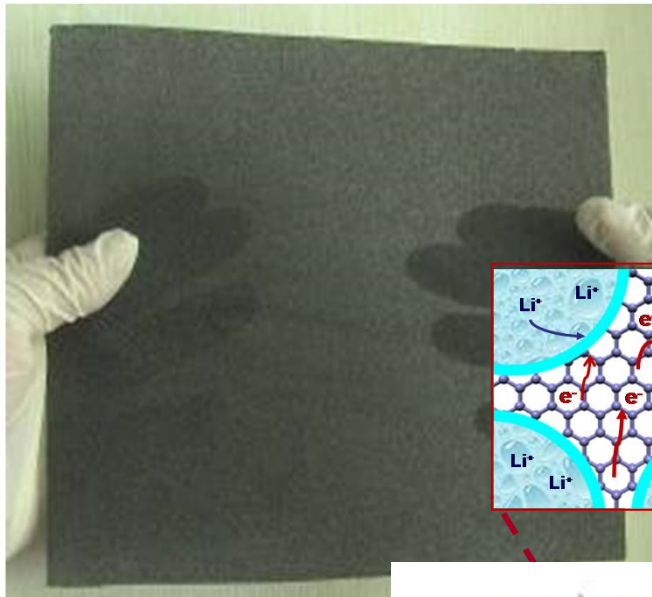


L Wen, F Li, HMC, *Adv Mater*  
(Invited review), 2016

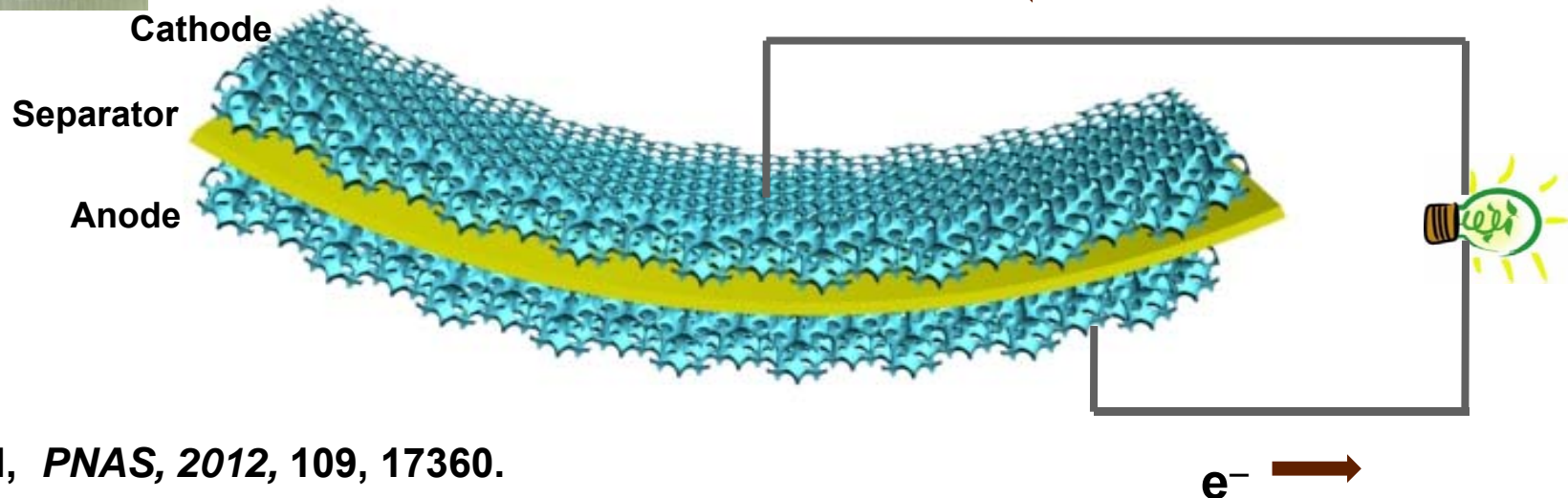




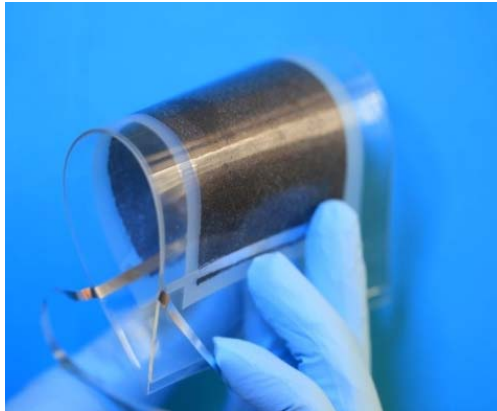
# Graphene Foam-based flexible LIBs



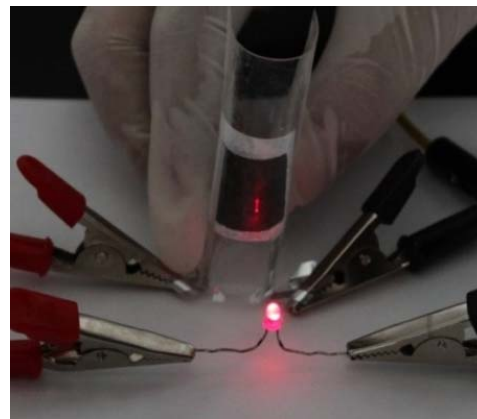
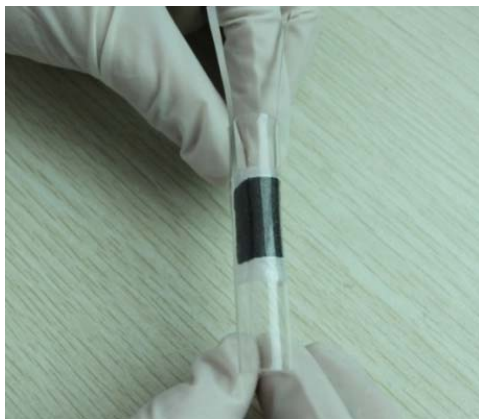
- Sufficiently light
- Flexible and integrated
- Highly conductive
  
- Binder-free
- Conducting additive-free
- Metal current collector-free
- Strong contact and binding



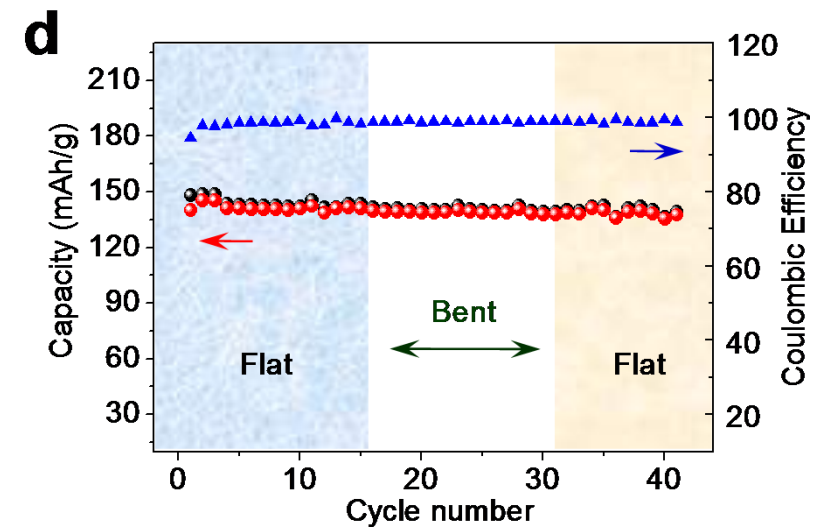
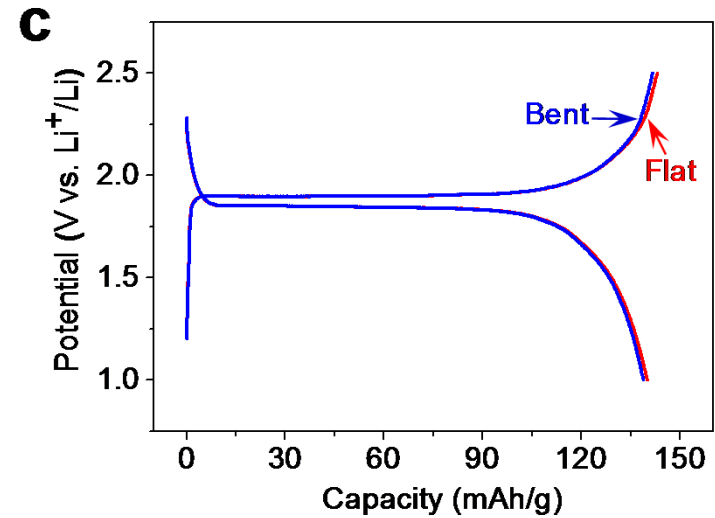
# Performance of A GF-based Flexible LIB



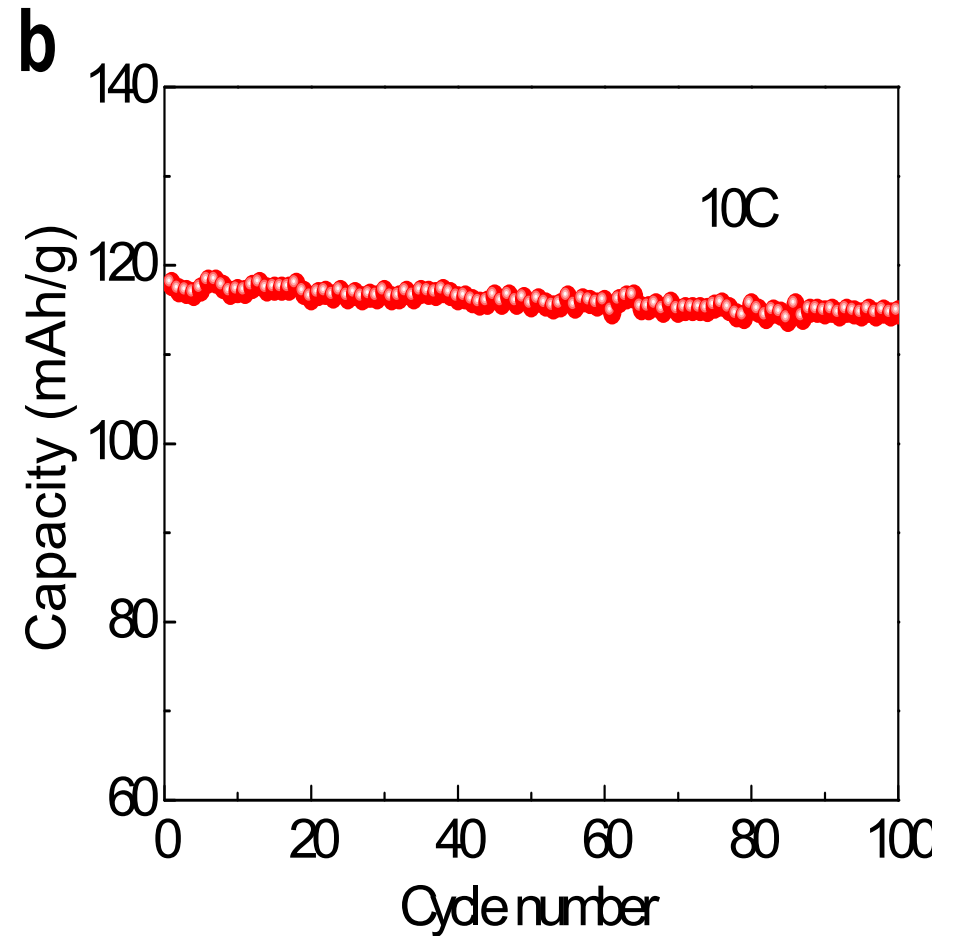
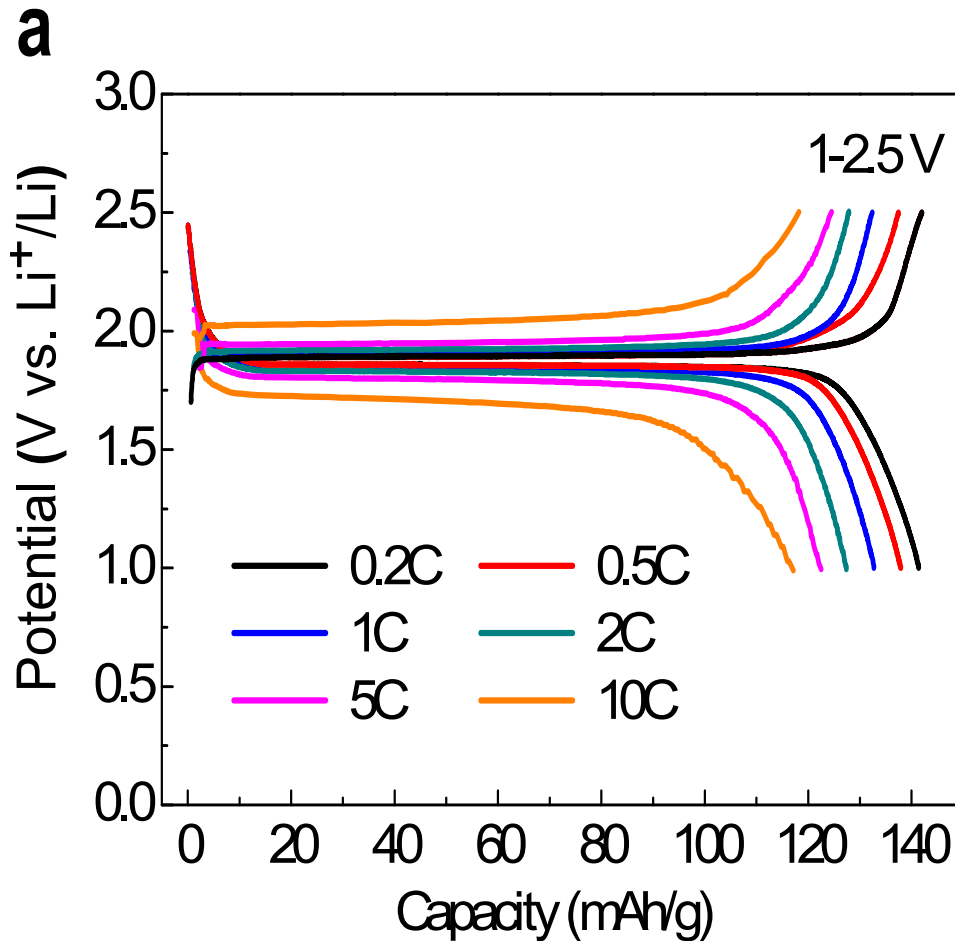
Voltage: 1.9 V  
Capacity (Cell):  
137 mAh/g (0.2C)



**No metal current collector;**  
**No binder; No additive!**



# Performance of A GF-based Flexible LIB



High rate performance. Fully charged in 6 minutes.

# Summary



- 
- **Various uses of graphene materials in Li storage.**
    - LIBs;
    - Li-S;
    - flexible devices;
    - Etc
  - **Different functions of graphene-based materials in Li storage.**
    - Conductive network;
    - Buffer and protection layer;
    - Matrix;
    - Current collector

# Challenges and Perspective



- **Challenges of graphene-based materials in Li storage.**
  - **Customer-tailoring of graphene materials;**
  - **Control of quality**
  - **Design of composition, structure and configuration;**
  - **Improvement of first Coulombic efficiency;**
  - **Control of SEI formation;**
  - **Enhancement of cyclic performance;**
  - **Lowering of cost;**
  - **Understanding of the mechanisms;**
  - **Etc.**
  
- **Great potential of graphene-based materials for Li storage.**

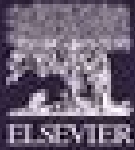
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**Thank you very much  
for your attention!**