



SPECIAL ISSUE: Flexible and Stretchable Energy

# Recent advances and challenges of stretchable supercapacitors based on carbon materials

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**ABSTRACT** Stretchable energy storage devices are essential for the development of stretchable electronics that can maintain their electronic performance while sustain large mechanical strain. In this context, stretchable supercapacitors (SSCs) are regarded as one of the most promising power supply in stretchable electronic devices due to their high power densities, fast charge-discharge capability, and modest energy densities. Carbon materials, including carbon nanotubes, graphene, and mesoporous carbon, hold promise as electrode materials for SSCs for their large surface area, excellent electrical, mechanical, and electrochemical properties. Much effort has been devoted to developing stretchable, carbon-based SSCs with different structure/performance characteristics, including conventional planar/textile, wearable fiber-shaped, transparent, and solid-state devices with aesthetic appeal. This review summarizes recent advances towards the development of carbon-based SSCs. Challenges and important directions in this emerging field are also discussed.

**Keywords:** carbon, stretchable, supercapacitor

## INTRODUCTION

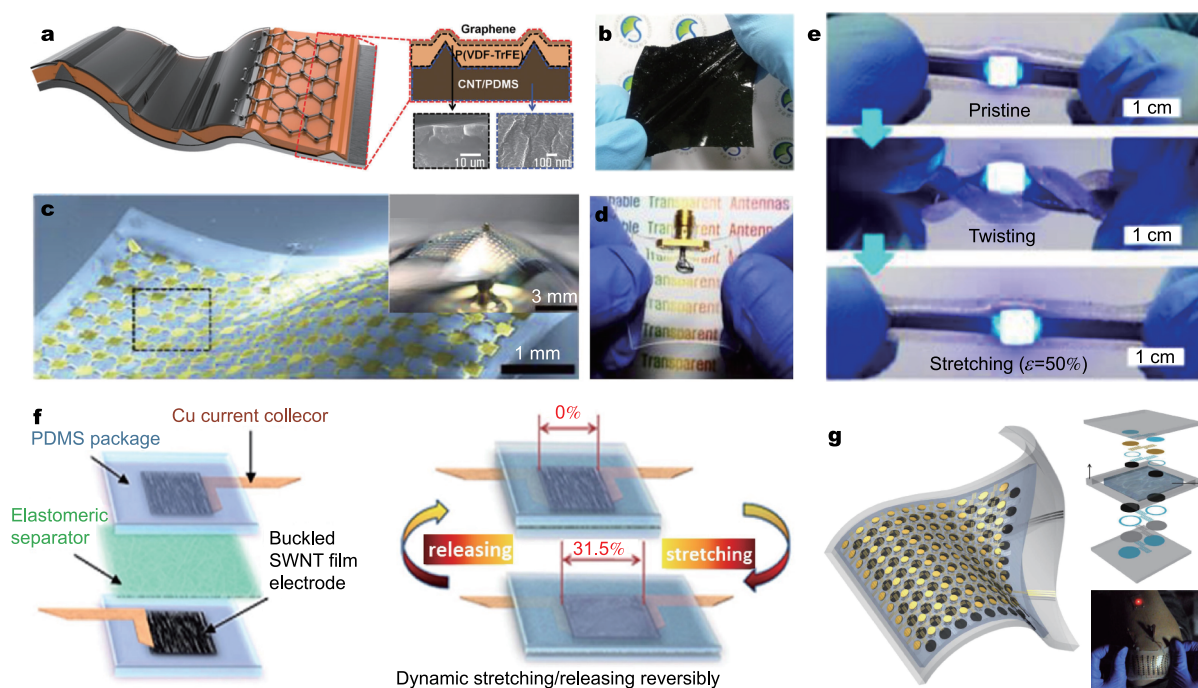
Recently, with the development of lightweight, flexible and stretchable materials, advances in materials science and electronics have boomed a nascent field of unconventional electronic devices, such as bending, twisting and stretching [1–5]. As a promising class in demand, it is increasingly more imperative to fabricate and optimize stretchable electronic devices (Figs 1a–g) by changing its rigid materials into one including soft and/or elastic materials for stretchable logic devices [6–8], organic/inorganic light-emitting diode (LED) devices [9], radio frequency devices [10,11], photodetectors [12,13], field effect transistors [14], pressure and strain sensors [15,16], temperature sensors [17,18], artificial skin sensors [19,20], and bio-inspired devices [21,22]. Since most of the stretchable electronics

run on electricity, an indispensable requirement is raised to develop the ideal stretchable energy storage devices that can be integrated and sustain large deformations while maintaining both high mechanical stretchability and excellent electrochemical performance [23–27]. Supercapacitors (SCs) are one kind of the efficient energy storage devices that harness the alternative energy produced and enable the sustainable development of our society [28–30]. It has the advantages of rapid charge/discharge response, simple operating mechanisms, high specific power (Fig. 2a) and long operating life (>100,000 cycles) [31–33]. In this context, stretchable supercapacitors (SSCs), which can sustain large mechanical strain without degradation in their electronic performance, are perceived as one of the most promising power supply in stretchable electronic devices due to their high power density, fast charge-discharge capability and modest energy density [34]. Also, it has a simple device structure with no toxic or inflammable materials, which is safe, durable and relatively facile design [35].

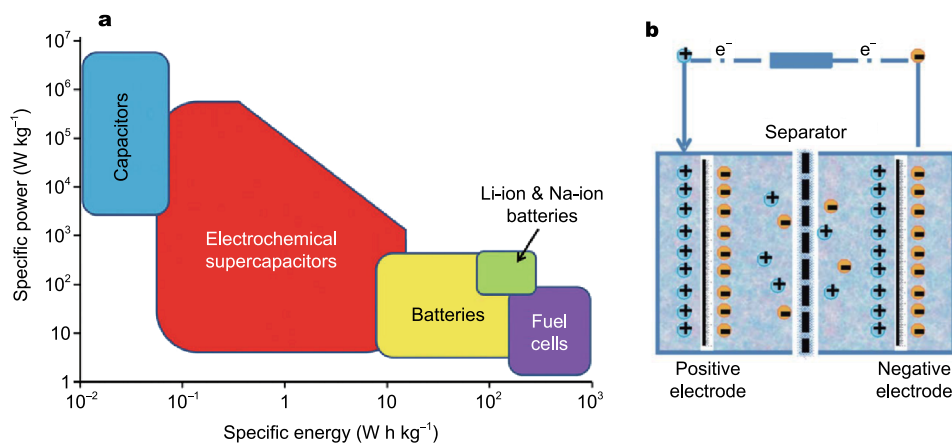
According to the type of the electrode material and the energy storage mechanism, SCs can essentially be classified into three types: [36–38] electrical double-layer capacitors (EDLCs), pseudocapacitors (PCs) and hybrid capacitors in which both the EDLC and PC work together in a single device. The former storage mode is an electrostatic (physical) process in which the electrostatic charge accumulates and separates at the interface between the electrode surface and the electrolyte (Fig. 2b). The latter is a chemical (Faradaic) process with fast and reversible redox reactions between electrode materials and electrolyte ions occurring on the surface of electrodes. In EDLCs, the electrode surface area plays a crucial role in the performance of a capacitor, which can provide higher power densities, fast charge-discharge

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**Figure 1** (a, b) Scheme and optical image of a stretchable hybrid nanogenerator. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [72], Copyright 2014, Wiley). (c) Scheme and optical image of a stretchable logic devices. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [7], Copyright 2011, American Chemical Society). (d) Optical image of stretchable, transparent radio-frequency antenna. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [10], Copyright 2016, American Chemical Society). (e) A demonstration of a deformable LED fabricated on the plasticized PEDOT: PSS circuit. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [14], Copyright 2016, American Chemical Society). (f) Scheme of an SSC. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [73], Copyright 2012, American Chemical Society). (g) Scheme and optical image of a stretchable lithium-ion battery. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [27], Copyright 2013, Nature Publishing Group).



**Figure 2.** (a) A Ragone plot of various energy storage devices. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [76], Copyright 2014, Wiley). (b) The scheme of electrical double layer capacitors (EDLCs). (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [77], Copyright 2013, Royal Society of Chemistry).

processes, excellent cycling stabilities, but inferior energy densities. Carbon materials with large specific surface areas and excellent conductivity, such as activated carbon [39,40], carbon nanofibers [41,42], mesoporous carbon [43,44], carbon nanotubes (CNTs) [45,46], graphene [47,48], and carbide-derived carbon [49,50], have been

widely employed in EDLCs. While in PCs, composite materials composed of carbon nanomaterials together with electrically conductive polymers (e.g., polyaniline (PANI) [51–54], polypyrrole (PPy) [55–58], and poly[3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene] (PEDOT) [59]) or transition metal oxides (e.g., MnO<sub>2</sub> [60,61], NiO [62,63], RuO<sub>2</sub>

[64,65],  $\text{VO}_x$  [66–68], and  $\text{TiO}_2$  [69,70]) have been widely used for the electrodes. PCs, utilizing redox reactions to store/release energy, possess much higher energy densities with compromised power densities [71]. Moreover, conductive polymers usually have a poor cycling life due to the structural instability intrinsically associated with them [74,75]. On the other hand, the limited electrical conductivity and intrinsic rigidity of metal oxides often leads to low power density and poor flexibility. To achieve high electrochemical performance and good mechanical stability for SSCs, therefore, hybrid capacitors could realize further gains if they are used as stretchable power sources.

Earlier studies have demonstrated that carbon materials are promising for the development of SCs in general and flexible SCs in particular, owing to their large surface area, excellent electrical, mechanical, and electrochemical properties. Several recent reviews for SCs based on carbon materials have appeared [78–80], however, recent advances and challenges of carbon-based SSCs has not been tackled in the open literature. The aim of this article is to provide a comprehensive review of various newly-developed SSCs based on carbon materials, including microfilm, sheet, planar-shaped, fiber-shaped, all-solid-state and transparent SCs. We first illustrate CNT-based SSCs with (micro-) film, sheet, planar-shaped and fiber-shaped, followed by synthetic methods of SSCs. Then, we describe graphene-based SSCs and other types of carbon-based SSCs. Finally, strategies to render devices highly stretchable and conductive based on the properties of basic building blocks (substrates, electrolytes and electrodes) will be discussed along with challenges and perspectives in this emerging field.

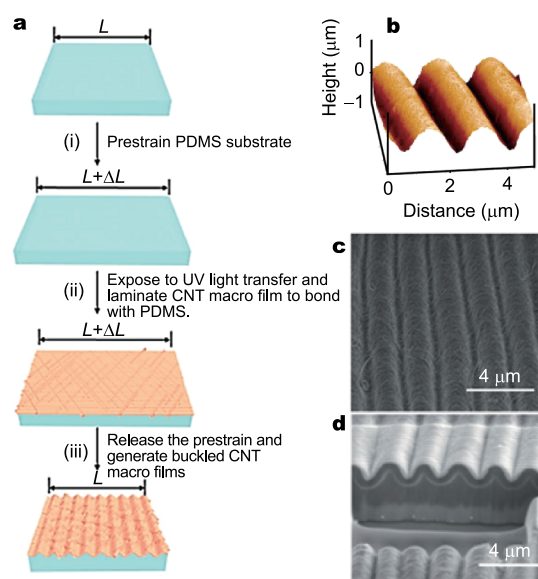
## CNT-BASED STRETCHABLE SUPERCAPACITORS

CNTs possess not only excellent electrochemical performance but also superb mechanical robustness. Owing to their unique porous structures [82], elastic modulus [83], remarkable thermal properties [84], inherent superior conductivity [85], and large specific surface area [86], CNTs or their composites have been extensively investigated as promising electrode materials to make SSCs. Existing SSCs mostly use films or meshes of CNTs as electrodes. The CNTs bridge the mechanical gaps of the metal layer and reduce resistance variations during the stretching process [28]. They will facilitate the charge transfer by providing more channels for electrolyte access and reducing the ion diffusion distance even under mechanical strain. Developed to date, established methods for the preparation of CNTs include laser ablation, arc discharge, and chem-

ical vapor deposition (CVD) [87]. CNTs can be put into mass production at relatively low cost and therefore have attracted widespread academic and industrial interest.

CNT films could buckle and become stretchable via “prestrain-stick-release” approach [88] to assemble SSCs, which consists of three steps: 1) prestraining the elastomeric substrate; 2) transferring the active materials onto the prestrained elastomeric substrate; and 3) releasing the prestrained substrate (Fig. 3a). On this basis, the intrinsically deformable single-walled carbon nanotubes (SWNTs) films are buckled to a periodically sinusoidal pattern (Figs 3b–d). The wavy films after buckling will effectively enhance the interaction with electrolyte and inhibit the decrease of coverage of their active regions that can be realized to withstand the large strain (>30%) generated from large stretching (1%). Several hybrid films can be spread onto the large substrate end to end by this method, which will scale up the area of CNT electrodes and resolve the limitation of CNT film area for large-scale SC electrodes [89].

In a film, where the nanotubes are bundled and entangled together, the conduction of electrons in the film takes place through the bundles as well as by a hopping mechanism where the electrons tunnel from one bundle to another. For the pristine SWNT macrofilm, the resistance (squares in

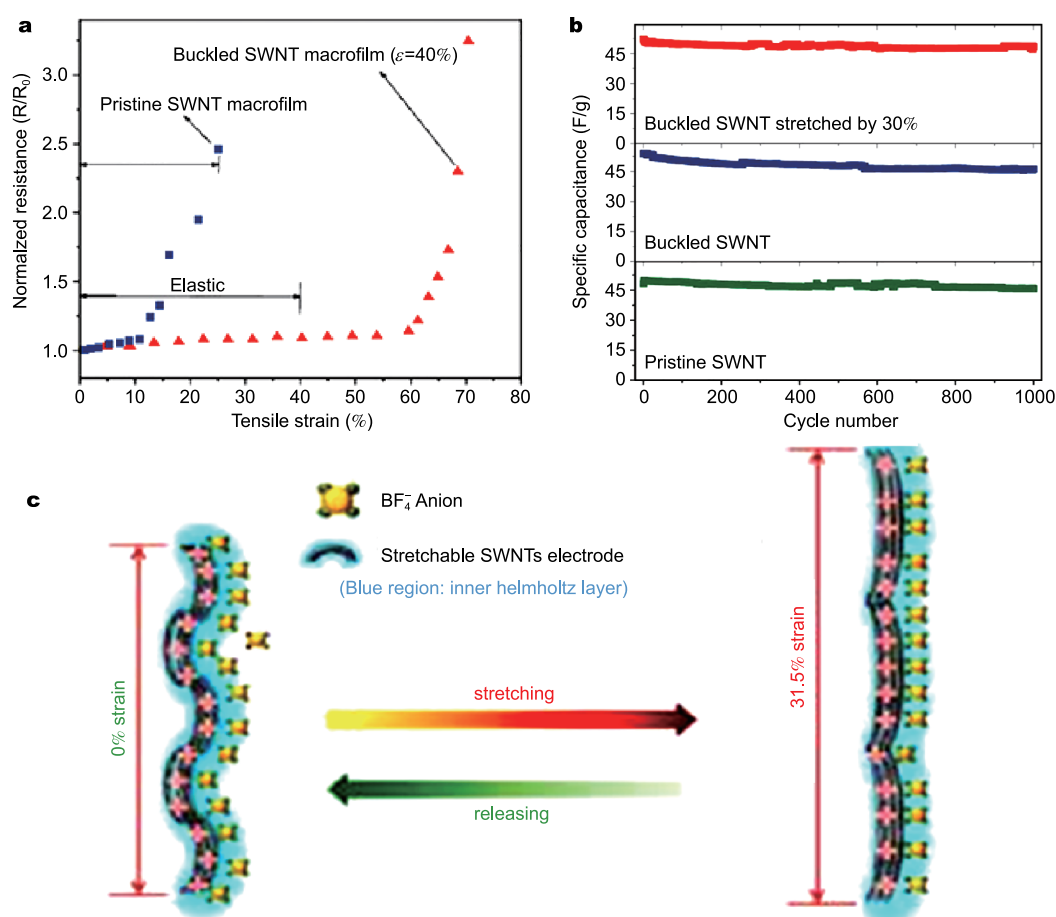


**Figure 3** (a) Illustration of the fabrication flow of a buckled SWNT macrofilm comprising surface treatment, transfer, and relaxation of the prestrained PDMS substrate. (b) AFM image of the buckling profile of the SWNT macrofilm. (c) SEM image of a buckled SWNT macrofilm. The buckling wavelength is 2  $\mu\text{m}$ . (d) SEM image of the buckled SWNT macrofilm/PDMS substrate interface. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [81], Copyright 2009, Wiley).

Fig. 4a) first increases slowly when the tensile strain is less than about 10%, which could be attributed to the combined effects associated with the stretching-induced increase in the active sites of the CNT sheet and loss of the nanotube-nanotube contacts [90]. During the tensile strain and stretch-induced alignment, the overlap length of randomly distributed SWNTs increases and the irreversible elongation of the SWNT macrofilms causes the resistance to increase significantly. Distinguished from the pristine SWNT macrofilms, the electrical resistance of buckled SWNT macrofilms (triangle in Fig. 4a) is also remained while being stretched because the buckled SWNT macrofilms are able to accommodate the applied tensile strains by self-adjusting the wavy pattern's parameters (increasing the wavelength and decreasing the amplitude). By *in situ* electrochemical measurements under dynamic stretching/releasing (DSR) cycles, the electrochemical

properties of the SCs remain unchanged with and without 30% uniaxial tensile strain as shown in Fig. 4b. And by various strain rates applied, the fluctuation on the capacitive performance was also observed [73]. Under the DSR mode within  $\sim 1\%$  range where the ample time facilitated full access of the ions to the electrode, the diffusion element increased favorably [91,92] (Fig. 4c), but would not significantly affect the electrochemical performance of the cell [74,93,94]. Many studies have demonstrated the feasibility of the buckled SWNT macrofilms to achieve stretchability and meanwhile exhibit excellent electrical conductance, which is critical for SSCs [81].

Due to their ability to sustain large deformation, buckled CNT has higher mechanical properties than CNT films, thus motivated considerable research interest in SSCs. For examples, Yu *et al.* [81] first reported on an SSC based on periodically sinusoidal SWNT macrofilms applied to ultra-



**Figure 4** (a) Normalized electrical resistances versus tensile strains of buckled and pristine SWNT macrofilms. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [81], Copyright 2009, Wiley). (b) Long charge-discharge cycling at  $1 \text{ A g}^{-1}$  demonstrates the stability of the SSC under 0 and 30% applied tensile strain. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [81], Copyright 2009, Wiley). (c) Schematic of the stretchable electrode at different strains showing changing electrode/electrolyte interface due to stretching/releasing. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [73], Copyright 2012, American Chemical Society).



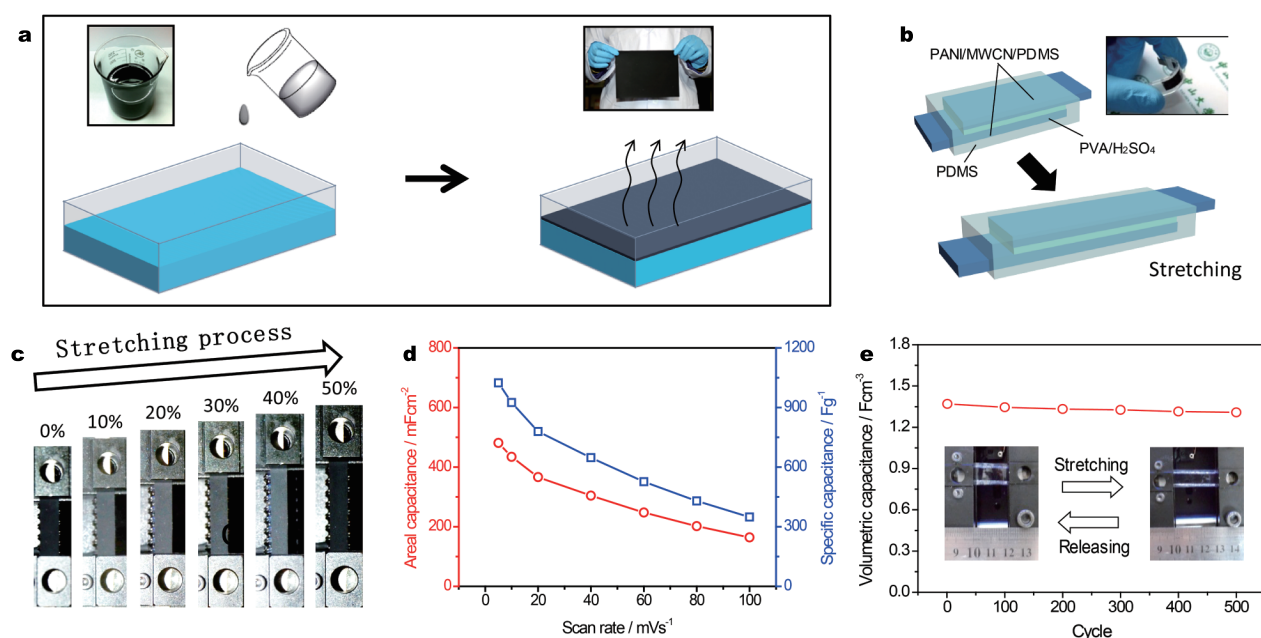
violet (UV) treated PDMS, by using an organic electrolyte, and a non-elastomeric filter paper as separator. The buckled SWNTs-based SSCs showed a maximum specific capacitance of  $54 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  and a power density of  $0.5 \text{ kW kg}^{-1}$  with an energy density of  $4.2 \text{ W h kg}^{-1}$ . Under the application of 30% strain, a specific capacitance value of  $52 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  was achieved. By changing the separator to electrospun polyurethane (PU) membrane, Li *et al.* [73] demonstrated the buckled SWNTs macrofilms could also stretch up to 30% strain with  $50 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  of specific capacitance at a scan rate of  $100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . Nevertheless, the capacitance values for SSCs based on the SWNTs are not capable of reaching their theoretical performance. To further boost their capacitive performance, Jeong *et al.* [95] developed a stretchable electrode using SWNTs spray coated Au modified latex film, which showed good capacitive behavior of 80% retained after stretching to 100% strain, and the highest capacitance value obtained for the un-stretched SWNTs electrode was  $119 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  in  $1 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  at  $5 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . Then they further introduced the reduced graphene oxide (rGO) into SWNTs by ink-jet printing onto PU [96], to reduce the internal resistance and achieve a maximum specific capacitance of  $265 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  in  $1 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ H}_2\text{SO}_4$  at  $5 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ .

To compensate for the low energy density, researchers have deposited nanostructured PC materials such as metal oxides and conductive polymers that can enhance the capacity by 200%–300% [97,98]. An integrated PC was fabricated by Zhang *et al.* [89] based on free-standing buckled SWCNT/PANI reticulate hybrid films. Taking advantages of  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interactions between SWCNT and PANI [99,100], both a high specific capacitance of  $435 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  (for a single electrode) and a high strain tolerance of 140% have been achieved. Gu *et al.* [74] reported the electrochemical performance of buckled  $\text{MnO}_2/\text{CNT}$  hybrid electrodes, with the obtained specific capacitance decreasing to  $100 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  from about  $119 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  as the scan rate increases from 50 to  $200 \text{ mA s}^{-1}$ , and the capacitance retention for the hybrid  $\text{MnO}_2/\text{CNT}$  electrodes dropped to 76.15% and 59% after 10,000 cycles at the strain rates of 3% and 6%, respectively. Furthermore, the outstanding durability is achieved by Tang *et al.* [101] with 96% capacitance retention after 500 cycles at 100% strain. SSC was fabricated by using two electrodeposition prepared CNT/PPy and CNT/ $\text{MnO}_2$  films electrodes adhered to two sides of the prestretched hydrogel electrolyte, which reached a specific capacitance of  $281.3 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  at  $2 \text{ mA cm}^2$ , and a power density of  $519 \text{ kW kg}^{-1}$  at an energy density of  $40 \text{ W h kg}^{-1}$ .

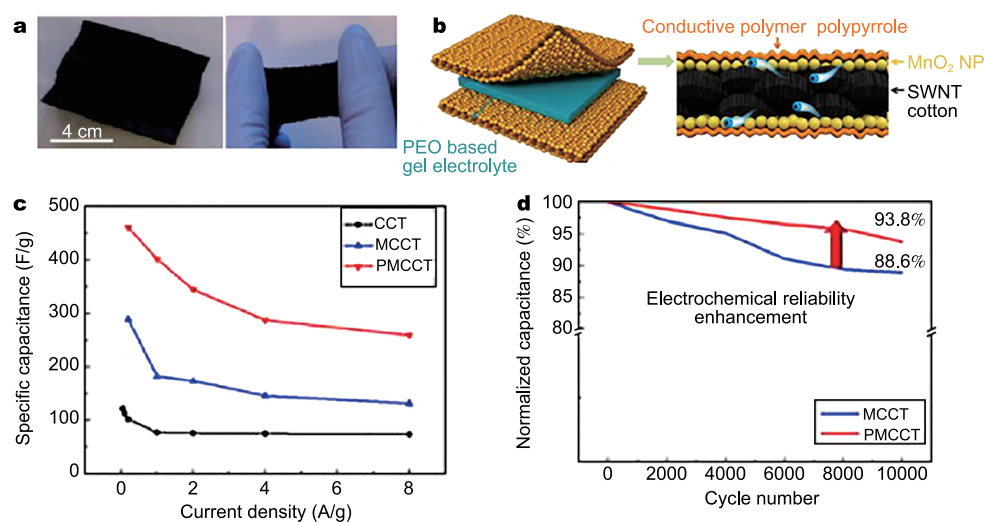
However, in the prestrain-stick-release strategy, the prestraining step might present a challenge for large-scale

manufacturing processes. To avoid this prestraining step, Lu and his coworkers [35] have presented a multiwall carbon nanotube (MWCNT) based stretchable film via a facile and large-scale water surface assisted synthesis shown in Figs 5a and b. By combining the excellent conductivity of MWCNTs with the high stretchability of PDMS, numerous CNTs are tangled and form three-dimension (3D)-like network, confirming efficient electron transport through the film which exhibited a high conductivity of  $4.19 \text{ S cm}^{-1}$  and could be stretched to a high strain of 50% without damaging its conductivity and structure (Fig. 5c). After depositing a layer of PANI nanofibers, the PANI/MWCNT/PDMS film electrode exhibited a benchmark specific capacitance of  $1023 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  and areal capacitance of  $481 \text{ mF cm}^{-2}$  at a scan rate of  $5 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  (Fig. 5d). The as-fabricated SSCs possessed more than 95% capacitance retention after 500 cycles during the DSR process (Fig. 5e), and delivered a considerably higher maximum energy density of  $0.15 \text{ mW h cm}^{-3}$  ( $11 \text{ W h kg}^{-1}$ ).

Moreover, textiles or papers are directly used as two-dimensional substrates to carry electrochemical active materials [94,102,103]. With a simple “dipping and drying” process using SWNT ink, Hu *et al.* [94] produced highly conductive textiles (Fig. 6a) with conductivity of  $125 \text{ S cm}^{-1}$  and high specific capacitance of  $62 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  at a current density of  $1 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$ , which was well maintained after being subjected to 100 stretching cycles with 120% elongation. After loading of PPy, the specific capacitance on coated fabric increased to  $125.1 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  with 60% elongation. Yun *et al.* [104] have further reported PPy- $\text{MnO}_2$ -coated CNT textile SC (Fig. 6b), which can reliably operate with high energy ( $31.1 \text{ W h kg}^{-1}$ ) and power densities ( $22.1 \text{ kW kg}^{-1}$ ) with *in situ* application of both tensile and bending strains. PPy conductive polymer was coated on top of  $\text{MnO}_2$  nanoparticles that are deposited on CNT textile SC to prevent delamination of  $\text{MnO}_2$  nanoparticles. An increase of 38% in electrochemical energy capacity to  $461 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  was observed, with the cyclic reliability also improved, as 93.8% of energy capacity was retained over 10,000 cycles (Figs 6c and d). However, the leakage of liquid electrolyte is a risk when those fabricated SCs are integrated into electronic systems. Huang *et al.* [105] designed a new polyelectrolyte comprising polyacrylic acid dual crosslinked by hydrogen bonding and vinyl hybrid silica nanoparticles (VS-NPs-PAA). The PPy deposited CNT paper electrodes with a pre-stretched wavy structure connect the broken parts effectively, which contribute to the high electrical conductivity, excellent self-healing property (100% efficiency during all 20 breaking/healing cycles) and stretchability (600%



**Figure 5** (a) Schematic diagram of fabricating stretchable MWCNT/PDMS film. (b) Schematic diagram of stretchable PANI-SSC. Inset: Digital photograph of a PANI-SSC device. (c) Photographs of the MWCNT/PDMS film containing 10 wt.% MWCNTs with different stains. (d) Areal and specific capacitance as a function of the scan rate of PANI/MWCNT/PDMS electrode. (e) Cycling performance of the PANI-SSC device collected at 10 mV s<sup>-1</sup> under DSR condition. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [35], Copyright 2014, Wiley).



**Figure 6** (a) Excellent mechanical properties of conductive textile. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [94], Copyright 2010, American Chemical Society). (b) Schematic illustration of the fabrication of PPy-MnO<sub>2</sub>-coated textile SC. (c) Specific capacitance normalized by the mass for the PPy-MnO<sub>2</sub>-coated CNT-textile (PMCCT), MnO<sub>2</sub>-coated CNT-textile (MCCT) and CNT-cotton (CCT) electrodes. (d) Electrochemical reliability testing 10,000 cycles for PMCCT and MCCT. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [104], Copyright 2015, American Chemical Society).

strain with enhanced performance) with the fewest number of components and facile fabrication.

However, the SCs depended on the elasticity materials and the prestrain approaches hindered the integration of SCs into the circuits of stretchable electronics [106]. Huang

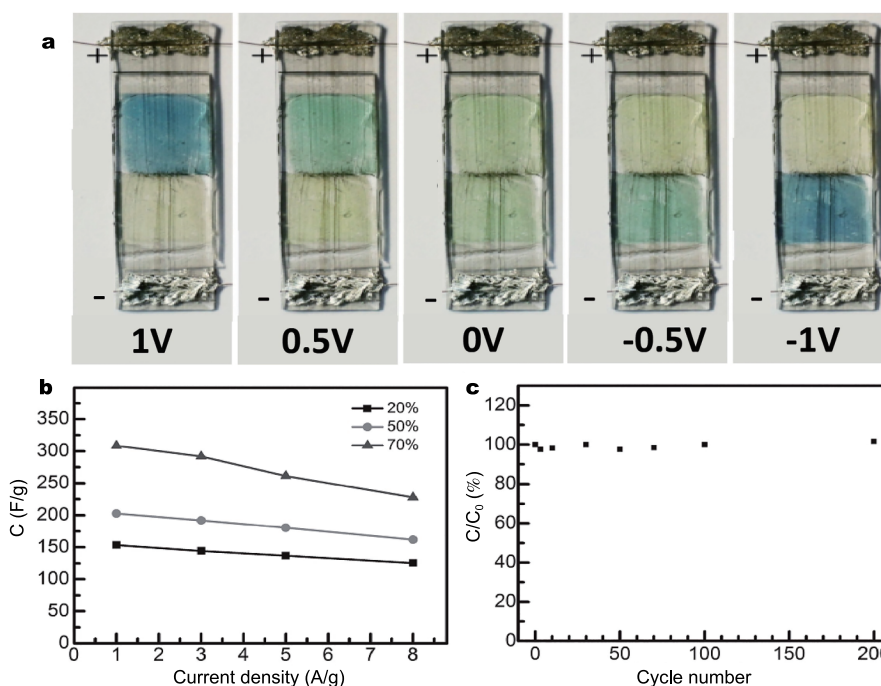
and his coworkers designed planar-type SCs called a micro-supercapacitor (MSC) [107–109], capacitance of which can be increased by reducing the path length of ions in the gel electrolyte. They demonstrated a stretchable MSC array interconnected by serpentine metal lines, with planar

spray-coated SWCNT electrodes and an ionic liquid-based triblock copolymer electrolyte [110]. To avoid the possible degradation of the SC upon repeated stretching and releasing, they further fabricated the stretchable MSC arrays on a deformable polymer substrate [106], the strain on the active devices was minimized and all of the strain was accommodated by the soft thin film. With this arrangement, the single and array MSCs exhibit the areal capacitance of 0.63 and 0.57 mF cm<sup>-2</sup> and maximum volumetric energy densities of 2.6 and 2.4 mW h cm<sup>-3</sup>, at power densities of 23 and 8 W cm<sup>-3</sup>, respectively, even under mechanical deformation such as bending, twisting, and uniaxial strain of up to 40%.

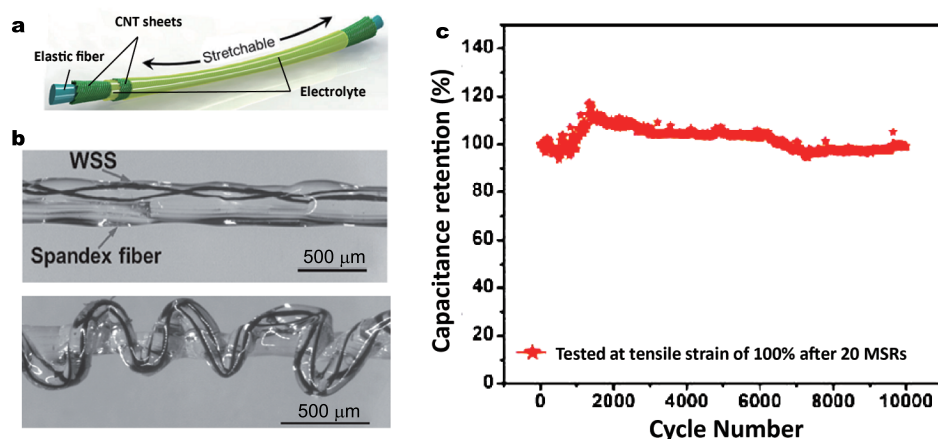
In comparison with random CNTs, the aligned CNT sheets offer combined remarkable properties like tensile strength, and excellent optical transmittance [111]. It could be continuously drawn from the spinnable CNT arrays by CVD and easily attached to various substrates to achieve transparent and high electrical conductivities. Due to the decreasing resistance along the aligned direction, the specific capacitance was increased with the increasing thickness of aligned CNT sheets while optical transmittance was decreased [93]. By using two highly aligned CNT sheets as both the current collector and active electrode, Chen *et al.* [90] fabricated a cross-over transparent

SSC with a specific capacitance of 7.3 F g<sup>-1</sup>, which can be biaxially stretched up to 30% strain without any obviously electrochemical change even over hundreds of stretching cycles. By depositing PANI onto aligned CNT sheet electrodes, Peng and his coworkers [93] further developed smart chromatic stretchable capacitors which rapidly and reversibly change colors among yellow, green and blue (Fig. 7a). Due to the improved pseudo-capacitance from the PANI, a specific capacitance of 308.4 F g<sup>-1</sup> was achieved and well maintained after stretching up to 100% for 200 cycles or bending for 1000 cycles (Figs 7b and c).

As a special kind of SSCs, the SSCs in fiber configuration could be directly weaved into cloth, enabling them to have special application for wearable or on-body electronics. Plenty of attentions were attracted to the fabrication of fiber-shaped SSCs. Recently, to expand the capability of elastic fiber based stretchability, Yang *et al.* [111] demonstrated a fiber-shape SSCs by wrapping aligned CNT sheets on an elastic fiber (Fig. 8a). The high stretchability and specific capacitance (19.2 F g<sup>-1</sup> at 0.1 A g<sup>-1</sup>) have been simultaneously achieved by designing a coaxial structure that favors high contact areas between the electrode and electrolyte. And the specific capacitance was further enhanced to 41.4 F g<sup>-1</sup> by introducing ordered mesoporous carbon components among aligned CNTs in the two electrodes via



**Figure 7** (a) Chromatic transition during a charging-discharging process. (b) Electrochemical characterizations dependence of specific capacitance on PANI weight percentage and current density of the SC. (c) Specific capacitance on stretched cycle number at a strain of 100%. C<sub>0</sub> and C correspond to the specific capacitances before and after stretching. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [93], Copyright 2014, Wiley).



**Figure 8** (a) Schematic illustration for the coaxial stretchable wire-shaped SC (WSS) with an elastic fiber. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [111], Copyright 2013, Wiley). (b) Photographs of straight WSS combined with prestrained spandex fiber and the buckled WSS with relaxed spandex fiber. (c) Cycling performance of the asymmetric SC at current density of  $2.8 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$  after 20 mechanical stretching releasing cycles (MSRCs). (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [113], Copyright 2014, Wiley).

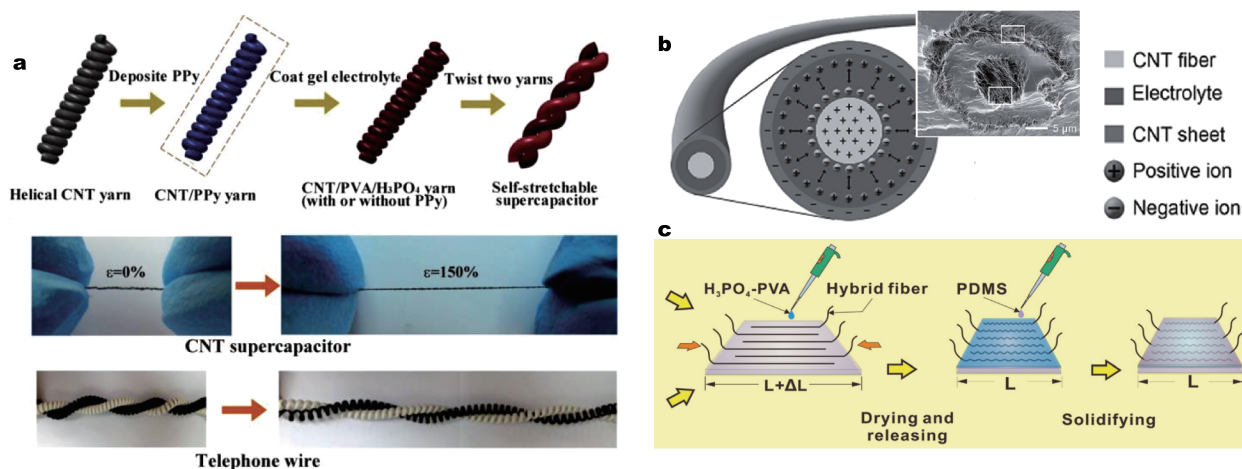
dip-coating method. Then, by utilizing the coiling method, the SSCs undergo considerable tensile deformation. Chen *et al.* [112] twisted two such CNT-wrapped elastic wires together to fabricate a fiber-shape SSC, which exhibited an extremely high elasticity of up to 350% strain with a higher device capacitance up to  $30.7 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  by coating a thin layer of PEDOT/poly(styrene sulfonate) (PEDOT-PSS) onto the electrodes before assembling them into an SC. Xu *et al.* [113] studied an SSC consisting of two undulating CNT fiber electrodes twisted together on a spandex fiber (Fig. 8b), with area specific capacitance of  $4.63\text{--}4.99 \text{ mF cm}^{-2}$ , and the ability to undergo large cyclic tensile strain of 100%. The electromechanical properties of the SC were somewhat improved after 20 mechanical stretching-releasing cycles with the maximum strain of 100% (Fig. 8c). Additionally, Choi *et al.* [114] used a nylon sewing thread that is helically wrapped with a carbon nanotube sheet, and then electrochemically depositing pseudocapacitive  $\text{MnO}_2$  nanofibers to achieve the length, area and volume-normalized specific capacitances of  $5.4 \text{ mF cm}^{-1}$ ,  $40.9 \text{ mF cm}^{-2}$  and  $3.8 \text{ F cm}^{-3}$  respectively.

However, the introduction of non-capacitive elastomeric polymers increases the volume and weight of the device, showing low specific capacitance and energy density when all the components are taken into account [115]. The construction of lightweight and stretchable power systems without using elastic polymer substrates is critical but remains challenging. Recently, Zhang *et al.* [115] fabricated a free standing SSC by two parallel spring-like CNT fibers and it can withstand tensile strain reaching 100%. These spring-like electrodes can be stretched by over 300%, show-

ing the specific capacitance converted to  $0.51 \text{ mF cm}^{-1}$  and  $27.07 \text{ mF cm}^{-2}$  at  $150 \text{ mA cm}^{-3}$ , with energy densities up to  $0.629 \text{ mW h cm}^{-3}$  and power densities up to  $37.74 \text{ mW cm}^{-3}$ . Furthermore, an extremely fiber-shape SSC with a stretchability of up to 350% and a capacitance of  $8.0 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  at  $0.5 \text{ A g}^{-1}$  was also reported [112]. Such SCs still suffer from the low capacitance, low working potential (usually 0.8 V), and thus low energy and power densities, preventing them from practical applications. Designing CNTs-based composite electrodes has proven to be an effect strategy to boost the energy storage capacity of fiber-shape SSCs. Xu *et al.* [116] reported a stretchable asymmetric SC with  $\text{MnO}_2/\text{CNT}$  hybrid fiber as the positive electrode and pristine aerogel CNT fiber as the negative electrode, and KOH-PVA gel as electrolyte. The fiber-shape SSC possessed a high specific capacitance of around  $157.53 \text{ } \mu\text{F cm}^{-1}$  at  $50 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  and a high energy density varying from  $17.26$  to  $46.59 \text{ nW h cm}^{-1}$  with the corresponding power density changing from  $7.63$  to  $61.55 \text{ } \mu\text{W cm}^{-1}$ . Additionally, after 10,000 cycles, the specific capacitance retained over 99%, demonstrating a long cyclic stability. Shang *et al.* [117] further reported a substrate-free, self-stretchable CNT yarn SC based on two twisted CNT yarns consisting of uniformly arranged micro-loops. Under super-elongation (tensile strain up to 150%), arbitrary shape change (entangling), and high frequency stretching (up to 10 Hz over 10,000 cycles), this helical structure can work stably with capacitance retention of 96.6%. And after PPy layer deposition (Fig. 9a), the assembled WSSs boost a specific capacitance from  $11.8$  to  $63.6 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  at  $100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ .

Avoiding a high internal resistance in the twisted struc-





**Figure 9** (a) Schematic illustration of the process in which two of CNT yarns were twisted into a double-helix SC and snapshots of a double-helix CNT yarn SC manually stretched to 1.5 times of original length, resembles stretching two telephone wires. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [117], Copyright 2014, Elsevier). (b) Schematic illustration to both the cross-sectional structure and mechanism for the high electrochemical property of the coaxial EDLC fiber. Insert: SEM images for a cross section. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [118], Copyright 2013, Wiley). (c) Schematic illustration of the assembly of the omni-directionally SSC. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [119], Copyright 2015, Royal Society of Chemistry).

ture, the fiber with a coaxial structure has fully taken advantage of the large surface area of CNTs also with a much lower internal resistance and high stability. Chen *et al.* [118] have designed and produced a novel family of coaxial EDLC fibers fabricated from a CNT-fiber scrolling by the CNT sheet with a polymer gel sandwiched between them, which can be easily scaled up with high efficiency and low cost (Fig. 9b). This coaxial EDLC fiber exhibited a much higher specific capacitance of  $59 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  compared with  $4.5 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  for the twisted structure and power densities up to  $755.9 \text{ W kg}^{-1}$  at a power density of  $1.88 \text{ W h kg}^{-1}$ .

However, fiber-based SCs with stretchability along all directions in the plane, like biaxial, have not been reported. Based on porous SWCNT/PEDOT hybrid fiber, Zhang *et al.* [119] designed and fabricated a biaxially SSC, which possesses a unique porous structure both outwardly and inwardly (Fig. 9c). The SC exhibited good transparency, as well as excellent electrochemical properties. Owing to its buckled structure and its fibrous quasi 1D structure, the hybrid fiber manifested a superior capacity of  $215 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  with 100% stretchability along all directions and stability after being stretched 5000 times.

## GRAPHENE-BASED STRETCHABLE SUPERCAPACITORS

Graphene with single-layered two-dimensional  $sp^2$  hybridized carbon sheets has become of central interest due to its unique properties, including large specific surface area, giant electron mobility [120,121], high chemical and thermal stability [122,123], ultrahigh strength [124,125],

higher conductivity, ideal electrochemical capacitance [126–128] and excellent optical transparencies [129,130], compared with those of other carbon nanomaterials [131]. In this regard, graphene holds great potential as stretchable electrodes in SSCs.

For instance, 3D interpenetrating graphene electrodes, which allow the access of electrolyte ions to the internal surface of the graphene film thus lowering internal contact resistance compared to CNT network, have been fabricated by electrochemical reduction of GO for ultrahigh rate SCs [132–134]. Li *et al.* [135] fabricated rGO-based SSCs with 3D interdigital electrodes and solid electrolyte multilayers via pressure spray printing and machine coating to achieve high and adjustable volumetric capacitance ( $77.9 \text{ F cm}^{-3}$  with the  $5 \mu\text{m}$  rGO layer), excellent flexibility, and stretchability. By introducing the concept of hybrid electrode, later, Xie *et al.* [136,137] showed that 3D  $\text{MnO}_2$ /graphene electrode collapsed, and cracked easily during bending or stretching operations due to the intrinsic rigidity of  $\text{MnO}_2$ . So that Nam *et al.* [138] recently illustrated that deformation can be accomplished using a stretching component like CNT cluster as a motor riding on the graphene track. So a graphene–CNT-layered structure is fabricated for SSCs with a high value of capacitance in the deformed state of  $329 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  (based on mass of the graphene) without a decrease while stretched up to 80% strain. The interaction and moving motion of the graphene–CNT electrodes are also revealed by first-principle calculations and 3D finite-element methods which can be demonstrated by comparing them to the actin–myosin interaction in muscles. In

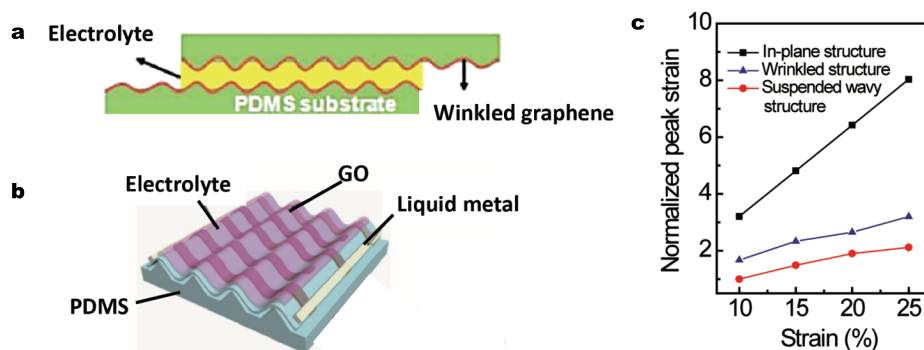
addition, the energy density of SCs has been increased by varying the operating voltage and using ionic liquid electrolyte [139]. The higher stability and rate capability of the graphene based SSC are achieved in an ionic liquid incorporated PMMA/[BMIM][TFSI] electrolyte where hydrogen exfoliated graphene has been dispersed as electrode by Tamilarasan *et al.* [140]. In terms of mass of total electrode material, the specific capacitance, energy density and power density of the device was  $83 \text{ F g}^{-1}$ ,  $26.1 \text{ W h kg}^{-1}$  and  $5 \text{ kW kg}^{-1}$ , respectively, at the specific current of  $2.67 \text{ A g}^{-1}$ , with at least 90% capacitance retained under repeated 30% strain cycles.

These modifications show valuable characteristics in enhancing the performance of SSCs, especially with the in-plane structure; however, it still remains a great challenge to optimize the tensile properties of graphene-based stretchable electrodes while maintaining high performance. In contrast, wrinkled structure (Fig. 10a) can release the strain by changing its shape with an out-of-plane bend, even though the electrode materials are stiff. Most recently, a transparent SSC based on CVD-grown wrinkled multilayer graphene electrodes has been reported by Chen *et al.* [141], which is capable of sustaining a tensile strain of up to 40% with transparency up to 60% (at 550 nm) even over hundreds of stretching cycles. The surface-specific capacitances thus calculated for the SCs based on the planar and wrinkled graphene sheets are  $4.9$  and  $5.8 \mu\text{F cm}^{-2}$ , respectively, while the corresponding mass-specific capacitances are  $6.4$  and  $7.6 \text{ F g}^{-1}$ . Moreover, Xu *et al.* [91] demonstrated the implementation of a laminated ultrathin four-layer CVD graphene film transferred and buckled on PDMS substrates as a stretchable (40%) and transparent (72.9% at 550 nm) electrode for SCs. As the tensile strain increased up to 40%, the specific capacitance ( $5.33 \mu\text{F cm}^{-2}$

at a scan rate of  $200 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ ) showed no degradation and even increased slightly. Later, they further investigated the strain variation in buckled four-layer graphene/PDMS films as the applied tensile strain increased from 0 to 40% using atomic force microscopy (AFM) and micro-Raman mapping, which confirmed that the graphene film in the buckled state is suitable for its application as a stretchable electrode [142].

The direct adhesion part between electrode materials and stretchable substrate may limit the stretchability and stability of the devices. The decrease of strain induced into the suspended wavy structure (Fig. 10b) is more remarkable after enlarging the stress applied, as shown in the relevant strain distribution (Fig. 10c) [92]. Assuming that the conductive belt deposited on tripod structure PDMS substrates could prevent the deformation with small curve radius and no direct contact between the conductive metal film and the elastic substrate, they designed suspended wavy graphene microribbons for highly stretchable MSCs which showed a capacitance of  $0.54 \text{ mF cm}^{-2}$  at a scan rate of  $500 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ , and remained nearly unchanged (about 92%) when stretched by 100% for as many as 5000 cycles. Furthermore, the wavy-shaped PANI/graphene electrodes were also used to fabricate the SSC [136], which showed a maximum specific capacitance of  $261 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  and an energy density of  $23.2 \text{ W h kg}^{-1}$  at a power density of  $399 \text{ W kg}^{-1}$  for a  $0.8 \text{ V}$  voltage window at a maximum strain of 30%.

A novel road is reported for demonstrating practical applications of the crumpled-graphene-paper electrodes [143]. The nano-porous structure graphene paper is attached on an elastomer film that has been uniaxially or biaxially stretched into patterns, so that the graphene paper is folded and crumpled. The results show that this commercial strategy has its unprecedented set of merits



**Figure 10** (a) Schematic representation of the SSC fabricated by wrinkled graphene sheets. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [141], Copyright 2013, American Chemical Society). (b) Schematic drawing of the stretchable MSC onto the tripod-structured PDMS substrate. (c) The peak strain comparison of in-plane structure, wrinkled structure, and suspended wavy structure, respectively. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [92], Copyright 2015, Wiley).

including low-cost, simple fabrication, extremely high stretchability (e.g., uniaxial strain, 300%, areal strain, 800%), high specific capacitance (e.g., 196 F g<sup>-1</sup>), and high reliability (e.g., 96% over 1000 stretch/relax cycles).

Graphene fibers (GFs) stands for a new type of fibers of practical importance, which integrate such the common characteristics of fibers like the mechanical flexibility for textiles and unique properties such as low cost, light weight, and ease of functionalization in comparison with conventional carbon fibers [144–146]. And graphene based textile electrodes demonstrated high capacitance and flexibility [147–149]. However, the stretchability of those textile electrodes was not discussed. The challenge to assemble two-dimensional (2D) microcosmic graphene sheets into macroscopic fibrillary configuration, has been only handled recently [144–146,150]. Therefore, researchers are striving to find feasible method for preparing graphene-based electrodes with satisfactory electrochemical performance, including high volumetric capacitance and long cycle life [151,152], and to further improve the capacitance, metal oxides, and conducting polymer are introduced to composite with carbon materials [153–155].

So far, only a few papers addressed graphene-based stretchable WSSs or textile SCs. Meng *et al.* [156] fabricated a spring-like SC consisting of two all-graphene core sheath fibers twisted together (Fig. 11a) with highly compressible and stretchable properties, which inherits the intrinsic high conductivity and mechanical flexibility of GF in combination with highly exposed surfaces of graphene sheets, thus the resulting SSCs has a specific capacitance of 25–40 F g<sup>-1</sup> and a power density of 6–100 × 10<sup>-6</sup> W cm<sup>-2</sup> at an energy density of 0.4–1.7 × 10<sup>-7</sup> W h cm<sup>-2</sup>. Moreover, Zang *et al.* [157] designed a dynamically stretchable solid state SC using graphene woven fabric (GWF) assembled by intersecting graphene micron-ribbons with many grids. PANI was deposited on GWF through *in-situ* electropolymerization to improve the capacitance from 26 μF cm<sup>-2</sup> (GWF only) to 8 mF cm<sup>-2</sup> (GWF+PANI). After transferred on pre-stretched PDMS, the SSCs possess excellent static and dynamic stretchability (up to 30%) with excellent galvanic stability even under high strain rates (up to 60% s<sup>-1</sup>) (Fig. 11b). By utilizing the cost-effective technique, Zhao *et al.* [158] reported SCs fabricated from rGO coated pre-existing nylon lycra fabric electrode via a facile dyeing approach. After the addition of a chemically synthesized PPy, the assembled SC achieves an energy density of 2.53 W h kg<sup>-1</sup>, and delivers a specific capacitance from 12.3 F g<sup>-1</sup> to 114 F g<sup>-1</sup> at a scan rate of 5 mV s<sup>-1</sup> with an improved cycling stability (89% capacitance retention after 2000

cycles at 50% strain) and a higher capacitance at 50% strain when compared to the performance observed with no strain. By using a representative conducting polymer of PPy as a mediator, Zhao *et al.* [159] developed a unique strategy for *in-situ* formation of PPy-graphene foam hydrogel (Fig. 11c) to achieve a remarkable compression tolerance and demonstrated a high porosity, conductivity, and excellent mechanical strength (50% compressive strain) with the specific capacitances of 350 F g<sup>-1</sup>. Apart from the contribution to the capacitance performance, the presence of conjugated polymer of PPy could increase the strength of 3D structure via strong π–π interaction to bear a certain extra force and maintain large specific retention under compressive strain of 50% even up to 1000 cycles.

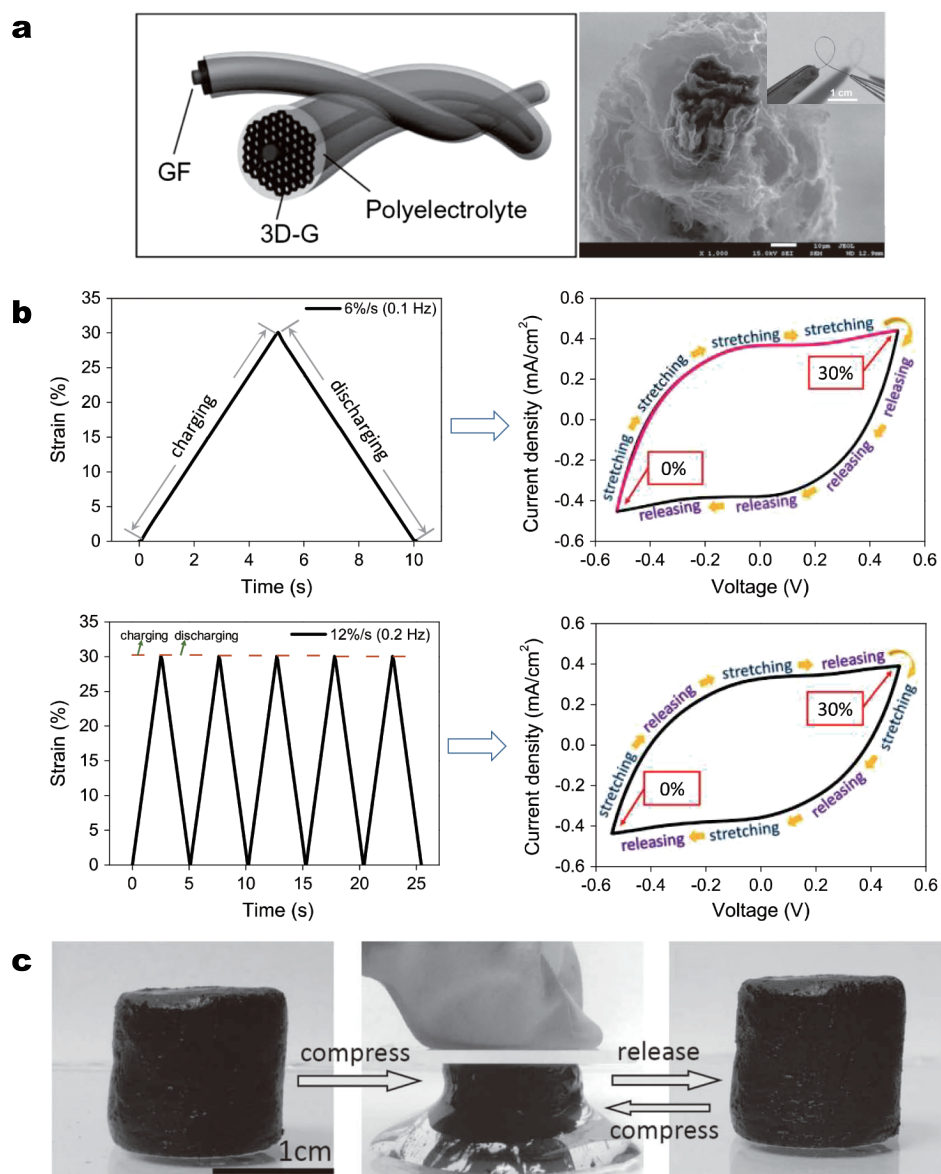
## OTHER TYPES OF CARBON-BASED STRRETCHABLE SUPERCAPACITORS

Beside CNTs and graphene, carbon fiber has attracted initial studies of SCs [153,161–163]. To demonstrate the application of the carbon fiber thread in stretchable electronics, Jin *et al.* [160] twisted carbon fiber thread/polyaniline (CFT/PANI) and functionalized CFT electrodes together to prepare a solid-state asymmetric fiber-shaped SC (Fig. 12a) with high operating voltage (1.6 V). The as-prepared device shows a volumetric energy density up to 2 mW h cm<sup>-3</sup>, with the maximum power density of 11 W cm<sup>-3</sup>, which is comparable to typical commercial SCs. They wound the device onto a conventional elastic thread to form an SSC (Fig. 12b). Other than good rate capability and high volumetric capacitance, the capacitance of the stretchable device is well maintained even after stretching up to 100%, demonstrating its excellent stretchability (Fig. 12c). Table 1 summarizes the electrochemical performance of some representative SSCs.

## CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES

Undoubtedly, existing carbon-based SSCs electrodes are mostly based on graphene and CNT materials. A large variety of stretchable and even transparent SSCs based on carbon electrodes of different shapes (e.g., planar, wire) with controllable architectures (e.g., aligned, buckled, wavy, foam-like) have been developed. Furthermore, metal oxides (MnO<sub>2</sub>), as well as conductive polymers (PANI, PPy, and PEDOT) are two common materials used to enhance the capacity of SSCs by depositing on elastic or carbon coated substrate.

Due to the structural interconnectivities and unique elastic modulus, CNTs possess not only excellent electrochemical performance, but also superb mechanical robustness.



**Figure 11** (a) Schematic illustration of a wire-shaped SC fabricated from two twined GF@3D-Gs with polyelectrolyte and SEM images of cross-section view of a GF@3D-G. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [156], Copyright 2013, Wiley). (b) Schematic illustration of stretchable GWF based SC and its dynamic performance under different stretching states ( $6\% \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $12\% \text{ s}^{-1}$ ). Strain-time curve (left) and corresponding CV curve (right). (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [157], Copyright 2015, Elsevier). (c) The compression-recovery processes of PPy-G foam. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [159], Copyright 2013, Wiley).

In this term, CNTs with various structures like buckled film, aligned sheet, twisted/coaxial fiber or yarns have been used for improving the mechanical properties of different devices such as planar, fiber and textile SSCs. However, there are only a few papers addressing graphene-based stretchable WSSs or textile SCs, which is more promising for further development.

As for the fabrication methods, in general, three main strategies are reported to develop SSCs: 1) assembling de-

vices with all stretchable components; 2) connecting stiff active device islands with stretchable linker; 3) obtaining stretchability through waved or textile structure. Owing to their unique and advantageous design for 2D nanomaterials based energy storage devices, planar SCs have attracted much attention with three structures being developed including in-plane, wrinkled/bulked and suspended wavy structure. In addition, these three main strategies were demonstrated to develop SSCs for textile. For in-



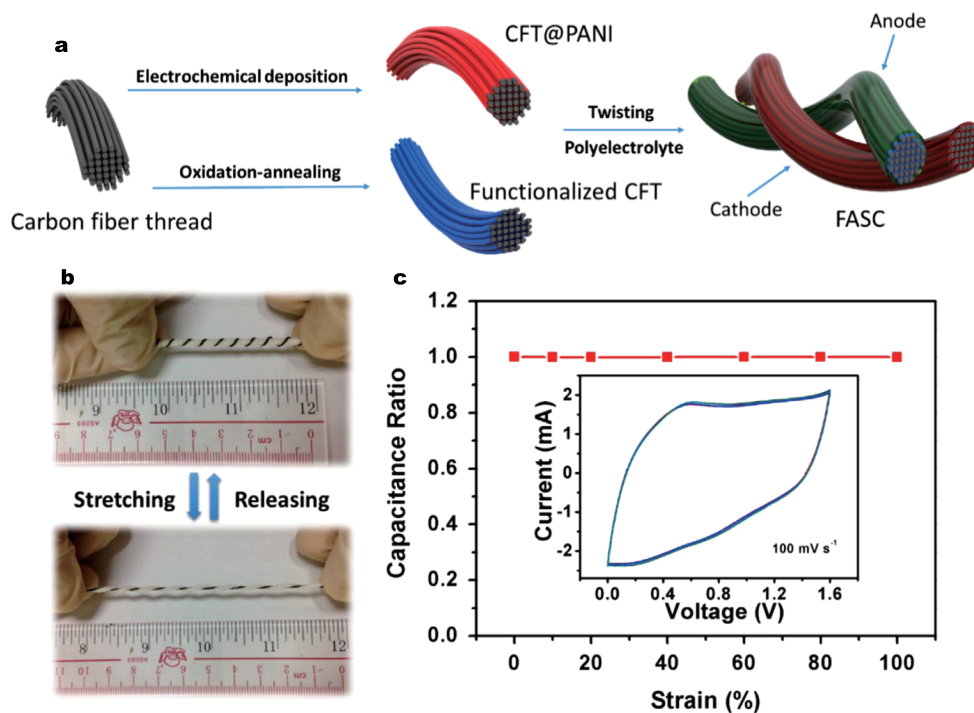
**Table 1** Comparison of the performance of carbon based SSCs

Electrode	Substrate	Electrolyte	Specific capacitance (F g <sup>-1</sup> )	Areal capacitance (mF cm <sup>-2</sup> )	Energy density (W h kg <sup>-1</sup> )	Power density (kW kg <sup>-1</sup> )	V (V)	Capacitance retention	Ref.
SWNT	PDMS	Ion-gel	51.8 (at 1 A g <sup>-1</sup> ) 42.8 (at 10 A g <sup>-1</sup> )	2.88 2.39	15.7 9.59	1.48 12.7	3.0	96.6% (3000 cycles at 20% strain)	[28]
SWNT	PDMS	Ion-gel	55.3 (at 0.5 V s <sup>-1</sup> ) 34.2 (at 10 V s <sup>-1</sup> )	/	20.7 (at 5 A g <sup>-1</sup> ) 11.5 (at 50 A g <sup>-1</sup> )	7.4 70.5	3.0	99% (10 cycles at 30% strain)	[110]
MWNT	/	Gel	/	27.07 (at 0.15 A cm <sup>-3</sup> )	/	/	1.0	94% (300 cycles at 100% strain)	[115]
SWNTs	Latex rubber	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	119 (at 5 mV s <sup>-1</sup> )	/	33.5	50.3	1.0	80% (100 cycles at 100% strain)	[95]
SWNT	Fabric sheet	LiPF <sub>6</sub>	62 (at 1 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> )	19.2	20	10	3.0	94% (8000 cycles at 120% strain)	[94]
MWNT	Elastic fibers	Gel	19.2 (at 0.1 A g <sup>-1</sup> )	/	0.515–0.363	19–421	0.8	95% (1000 cycles at 75% strain)	[111]
MWNT	Elastic fibers	Gel	8 (at 0.5 A g <sup>-1</sup> )	/	/	/	0.8	105% (100 cycles at 200% strain)	[112]
Buckled SWNT	PDMS	Organic	54 (at 1 A g <sup>-1</sup> )	/	4.2	0.5	1.5	99% (1000 cycles at 30% strain)	[81]
Buckled SWNT	PDMS	Organic	50 (at 100 mV s <sup>-1</sup> )	2.64 (at 10 A g <sup>-1</sup> )	/	/	1.5	94.6% (2521 cycles at strain rate of 4.46% s <sup>-1</sup> )	[73]
Aligned CNT sheet	PDMS	Gel	7.3 (at 0.25 A g <sup>-1</sup> )	/	2.4	0.9	0.8	170% and 100% (100 cycles at 30% strain of the parallelly and cross assembled)	[90]
CNT fiber / sheet	/	Gel	59 (at 1 μA)	8.66	1.88	0.756	1.0	90.8, 84.6, and 81.6% (25, 50, and 75 cycles at 10% strain)	[118]
Dry/aerogel spun CNT fiber	PDMS	Gel	/	4.42 8.16 (at 50 mV s <sup>-1</sup> )	/	/	0.8	81.4% 121.9% (10,000 cycles at 40% strain)	[164]
CNT fiber	Spandex fiber	Gel	/	4.28 (at 50 mV s <sup>-1</sup> )	0.8–2.26 × 10 <sup>-7</sup> W h cm <sup>-2</sup>	4.93 × 10 <sup>-4</sup> W cm <sup>-2</sup>	0.8	108% (20 cycles of 100% strains)	[113]
CNT/PPy	/	Gel	63.6 (at 100 mV s <sup>-1</sup> )	/	/	/	1.0	96.6% (10,000 cycles at 50% strain)	[117]
CNT/PEDOT	PDMS	Gel	53 (at 1 A g <sup>-1</sup> )	1.6	6	19.2	0.9	96.9% and 90.1% (5000 cycles at 100% strain in the X- and Y-directions)	[119]
CNT/PEDOT-PSS	Elastic fibers	Gel	30.7 (at 0.5 A g <sup>-1</sup> )	/	/	/	0.8	105% (100 cycles at 200% strain)	[112]
CNT/Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	PDMS	Gel	/	0.63 (single) 0.57 (array)	/	/	0.8 3.0	92% (30,000 cycles at 40% strain)	[106]
CNT/MnO <sub>2</sub>	/	Hydrogel	201.1 (at 0.5 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> )	478.6	/	/	0.8	91.5% (3000 cycles at 150% strain)	[98]

(To be continued on the next page)

(Continued)

Electrode	Substrate	Electrolyte	Specific capacitance (F g <sup>-1</sup> )	Areal capacitance (mF cm <sup>-2</sup> )	Energy density (W h kg <sup>-1</sup> )	Power density (kW kg <sup>-1</sup> )	V (V)	Capacitance retention	Ref.
CNT/MnO <sub>2</sub>	PDMS	TEABF <sub>4</sub> /PC	100 (at 200 mV s <sup>-1</sup> )	/	/	/	1.5	76.15% (10,000 cycles at the strain rates of 3%)	[74]
CNT/MnO <sub>2</sub> /PPy	/	Hydrogel	281.3 (at 2 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> )	281.3	40	519	2.0	96% (500 cycles at 100% strain)	[101]
CNT/PANI	PDMS	Solid	106 (at 1 A g <sup>-1</sup> )	/	8.3	20.1	0.75	85% (1000 cycles at 120% strain)	[89]
CNT/PANI/PDMS film		Gel	1023 (at 5 mV s <sup>-1</sup> )	481	11	/	0.8	95.6% (500 cycles at 50% strain)	[35]
Aligned CNT/PANI	PDMS	Gel	308.4 (at 8 A g <sup>-1</sup> )	/	/	/	1.0	109.4% (200 cycles at 100% strain)	[93]
CNT/MnO <sub>2</sub> /PPy	Cotton textile	PEO/Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> gel	461 (at 0.2 A g <sup>-1</sup> )	38.3	31.1	22.1	2.4	98.5% (a cycle at 21% strain)	[104]
CNT/MnO <sub>2</sub> fiber	Nylon	Solid	/	40.9 (at 10 mV s <sup>-1</sup> )	2.6×10 <sup>-3</sup> W h cm <sup>-2</sup>	/	1.0	86.5, 90.8, and 87.8% (a cycle of 150% strains of 6, 12, and 17.1% strain/s)	[114]
CNT/PPy	/	Polymer	85 (at 500 mV s <sup>-1</sup> )	/	/	/	0.6	220% (a cycle of 600% strains)	[105]
SWNTs/rGO	PU	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	265 (at 5 mV s <sup>-1</sup> )	/	/	/	1.0	68.6% (100 cycles at 100% strain)	[96]
SWNTs/graphene	/	Gel	58.4 (at 0.15 A g <sup>-1</sup> )	/	/	/	0.8	99% (a cycle at 80% strain)	[138]
Graphene film	PDMS	Gel	17.3 (at 200 mV s <sup>-1</sup> )	5.33 ×10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.27×10 <sup>-9</sup> W h cm <sup>-2</sup>	11.77 ×10 <sup>-6</sup> W cm <sup>-2</sup>	0.8	98% (10,000 cycles at 40% strain)	[91]
Graphene film	/	Polymer	83 (at 2.67 A g <sup>-1</sup> )	/	26.1	5	3	90% (10 cycles at 30% strain)	[140]
rGO film	PP	Gel	140.2 (at 0.01 A g <sup>-1</sup> )	/	/	/	1.0	97% (4000 cycles with different ε at 1.0 and 1.3)	[135]
rGO microribbon	PDMS	Gel	/	0.54 (at 500 mV s <sup>-1</sup> )	0.52 ×10 <sup>-3</sup> W h cm <sup>-2</sup>	0.417 W cm <sup>-2</sup>	0.8	92% (5000 cycles at 50% strain)	[92]
Graphene planar or wrinkled sheet	PDMS	Gel	6.4 or 7.6 (at 1.0 V s <sup>-1</sup> )	4.9 × 10 <sup>-3</sup> or 5.8×10 <sup>-3</sup>	/	/	0.8	98% or 100% (100 cycles at 40% strain)	[141]
Crumpled graphene paper	Elastomers	Gel	49 (at 1 A g <sup>-1</sup> )	/	30	/	1.0	96% (1000 cycles at 200% strain)	[143]
Graphene fiber	/	Gel	25–40 (at 50 mV s <sup>-1</sup> )	1.2–1.7	0.4–1.7 ×10 <sup>-7</sup> W h cm <sup>-2</sup>	6–100 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> W cm <sup>-2</sup>	0.8	100% (a cycle at 200% strain)	[156]
rGO/PPy	Nylon lycra	Aqueous	114 (at 5 mV s <sup>-1</sup> )	/	/	/	0.8	79% (2000 cycles at 50% strain)	[158]
Graphene/PPy foam	/	Aqueous	350 (at 1.5 A g <sup>-1</sup> )	/	/	/	1.0	100% (1000 cycles at 50% compressive strain)	[159]
Graphene/PANI	Ecoflex	Gel	261 (at 0.38 A g <sup>-1</sup> )	/	23.2	0.399	0.8	95% (100 cycles at 30% strain)	[136]
Carbon fiber/PANI	Elastic thread	Gel	/	4.8 F cm <sup>-3</sup> (at 20 mV s <sup>-1</sup> )	2 mW h cm <sup>-3</sup>	6.57 W cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.6	100% (a cycle at 100% strain)	[160]



**Figure 12** (a) Schematic diagram of the fabrication procedure of an SSC. (b) Digital images of the stretchable SSC before and after stretching. (c) Capacitance ratio of the SSC under different applied strains at a scan rate of  $100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . Inset shows the CV curves of the SSC measured at different applied tensile strains. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [160], Copyright 2014, Elsevier).

stance, one-dimensional wire format could be fabricated by using buckled or elastomeric electrodes with twisted or coaxial structure. Moreover the pre-existing textile was directly coated by active materials. Compared to the twisted structure, the fiber with a coaxial structure has fully taken advantage of the large surface area of materials with a much lower internal resistance and higher stability, but poorer mechanical properties.

On the other hand, fundamental understanding as well as deep insights on the coupling effects of mechanical electrochemical properties of the SSCs are emerging and the optimal combination of the targeted properties have been accomplished through different stretching mode and SC design. As far as the published work is concerned, however, the fabrication of SSC for the industrialized application and further study into the interface mechanics between nanomaterials and elastomeric substrates of SSCs should have attracted tremendous interest. Overall, accompanying with the technical breakthroughs in material production and device design, we believe that carbon-based stretchable SCs will be seen in our daily lives.

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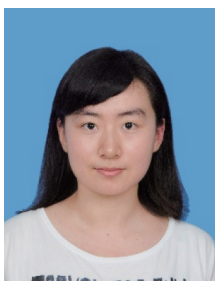
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**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.



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## 基于碳材料的可伸缩型超级电容器的研究进展

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**摘要** 可伸缩型储能器件的研究对现代电子产品的发展至关重要. 可伸缩型超级电容器(SSCs)能在大的应力应变条件下保持其储能性能不受损害, 是近年来发展的一种新型、高效、实用的储能装置. 碳纳米管和石墨烯等碳材料由于具有较大的比表面积、优良的导电性和机械性能优势, 以及突出的电化学性能, 成为伸缩型超级电容器电极材料的新选择. 近年来, 为进一步提高碳基可伸缩型超级电容器的性能, 许多课题组致力于其一维线状、二维平面/网状和三维立体结构的探索研究中. 本篇综述总结了近年来碳基可伸缩型超级电容器的研究策略和方法, 并通过分析讨论该新兴领域的一些重要挑战, 提出未来可行的研究方向.