



## Review of supercapacitors: Materials and devices

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### ABSTRACT

Supercapacitors have gained a lot of attention due to their unique features like high power, long cycle life and environment-friendly nature. They act as a link for energy-power difference between a traditional capacitor (having high power) and fuel cells/batteries (having high energy storage). In this perspective, a worldwide research has been reported to address this and rapid progress has been achieved in the advancement of fundamental as well as the applied aspects of supercapacitors. Here, a concise description of technologies and working principles of different materials utilized for supercapacitors has been provided. The main focus has been on materials like carbon-based nanomaterials, metal oxides, conducting polymers and their nanocomposites along with some novel materials like metal-organic frameworks, MXenes, metal nitrides, covalent organic frameworks and black phosphorus. The performance of nanocomposites has been analysed by parameters like energy, capacitance, power, cyclic performance and rate capability. Some of the latest supercapacitors such as electrochromic supercapacitor, battery-supercapacitor hybrid device, electrochemical flow capacitor, alternating current line filtering capacitor, micro-supercapacitor, photo-supercapacitor, thermally chargeable supercapacitor, self-healing supercapacitor, piezoelectric and shape memory supercapacitor have also been discussed. This review covers the up-to-date progress achieved in novel materials for supercapacitor electrodes. The latest fabricated symmetric/asymmetric supercapacitors have also been reported.

### 1. Introduction

Energy is vital for human development. Energy consumption and production, which depend on combustion of fossil fuels, is going to affect the world economy and ecology severely. So, there has been an increasing demand for environment-friendly, high-performance renewable energy storage devices. Electrochemical energy is an unavoidable part of the clean energy portfolio. Batteries, supercapacitors (SCs) and fuel cells are unconventional energy devices working on the

principle of electrochemical energy conversion. SCs have gained much attention on account of high specific capacitance ( $C_s$ ), long life cycle, high power density ( $P_d$ ), being almost maintenance free, experiencing no memory effect, safe and function as a bridge for power-energy difference that exists between capacitor (high  $P_d$ ) and fuel cells/batteries (large energy storage) [1–4]. These present a viable solution for providing energy in rural areas, where no public grids are available or where a heavy cost of wiring and providing electricity is involved. SCs can also be utilized as power supplies for portable devices like mobile

*Abbreviations:* SC, supercapacitor; SCs, supercapacitors; ASCs, asymmetric supercapacitors;  $C_s$ , specific capacitance;  $P_d$ , power density;  $E_d$ , energy density; EDLCs, electric double layer capacitors; ACs, activated carbons; CNTs, carbon nanotubes; CDC, carbide derived carbon; TMOs, transition metal oxides; MOs, metal oxides; CPs, conducting polymers; PANI, polyaniline; PPy, polypyrrole; PVA, polyvinyl alcohol; PEDOT, poly(3,4-ethylene-dioxythiophene); PSS, poly(4-styrene sulfonate); PPV, poly-phenylene vinylene; PW, potential window; MOFs, metal organic frameworks; COFs, covalent organic frameworks; ACFM, activated carbon fibre material; SSA, specific surface area; ILs, ionic liquids; CFC, carbon fibre cloth; MWCNTs, multi walled carbon nanotubes; PVDF, poly-vinylidene fluoride; PTFE, poly tetra-fluoroethylene CVD chemical vapour deposition; GO, graphene oxide; SILAR, successive ionic layer adsorption and reaction; HPCNTs, hierarchical porous carbon microtubes; GMAs, graphene macro assemblies; AQ, anthraquinone; CMG, chemically modified graphene; SWCNTs, single walled CNTs; Pind, polyindole; NWs, nanowires; NS, nanosheets; ESR, equivalent series resistance; rGO, reduced graphene oxide; DMF, N,N-dimethyl formamide; TGA, thermogravimetric analysis; SEM, scanning electron microscopy;  $\eta$ , coulombic efficiency; CV, cyclic voltammetry; CoS<sub>2</sub>-rGO, cobalt disulphide-reduced graphene oxide; N-CNFs, nitrogen functionalized carbon nanofibres; NFs, nanofibres; rGO@HTC, N-doped hydrothermal carbon coated graphene; PpPD, poly(phenylenediamine); HEG, hydrogen exfoliated graphene; CQDs, Carbon Quantum Dots; +ve, positive; -ve, negative; photo-SCs, photosupercapacitors; DSSC, dye-sensitized solar cells; ATO, anodic titanium oxide; PSSH, polystyrene sulfonic acid; PEO-NaOH, NaOH-treated polyethylene oxide; BC, biochar; SMSC, shape memory supercapacitor; FESEM, field effect scanning electron microscopy; XRD, X-ray diffraction; TEM, transmission electron microscopy; CD, charge-discharge; NF, nickel foam

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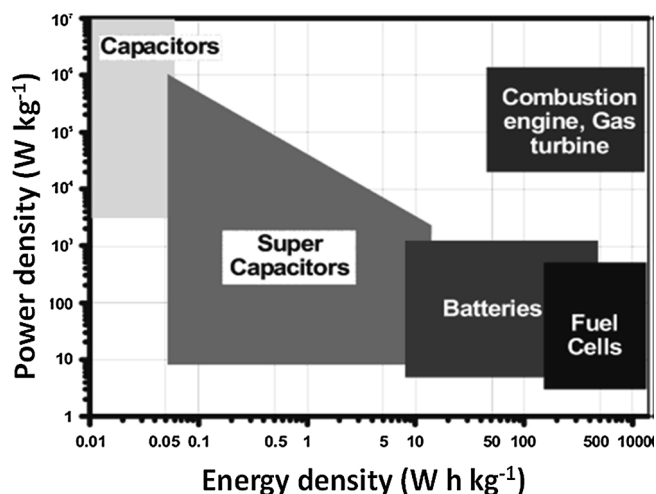


Fig. 1. Ragone plot of different electrochemical energy conversion systems, combustion engine, turbines and traditional capacitors [5]. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [5] Copyright American Chemical Society (2004)).

phones, notebook computers, digital cameras etc. -being small, light-weight and flexible. In electric and hybrid vehicles, SCs may be used to offer high  $P_d$  required for short-term acceleration along with recuperation of energy during braking, hence saving energy and shielding the batteries from the high frequency rapid charging-discharging process (dynamic operation). The  $P_d$  and energy density ( $E_d$ ) are represented by Ragone plot (Fig. 1). This plot explains that the fuel cells are high-energy systems; whereas SCs are high-power systems. Batteries have intermediary power and energy capabilities. There exists some overlap in  $E_d$  and  $P_d$  of fuel cells and SCs with batteries. Also, it is apparent from the figure that any single electrochemical device cannot compete with an internal combustion engine. So  $E_d$  and  $P_d$  of electrochemical devices have to be increased to compete with the combustion engine [5].

The credit for the beginning of capacitor technology goes to the invention of the Leyden Jar (1745–1746) which was made up of a glass vessel with metal foils. The metal foils acted as electrodes and the jar acted as a dielectric. In the charging process of the above mentioned device, positive (+ve) charges accumulated on one electrode and negative (-ve) charges on the other. When these two charges were connected using a metal wire, a discharging process would take place. The first electrolytic capacitor came in the 1920s. In 1957, the first supercapacitor (electric double layer capacitors-EDLCs) was patented by General Electric using activated charcoal as the plates. In EDLCs, charge storage takes place electrostatically (non-Faradaic) i.e. no shifting of charge takes place between electrode and electrolyte (which makes them highly reversible along with high cycling stability). Carbon nanomaterials, like carbon aerogels, activated carbons (ACs), carbon nanotubes (CNTs), graphene, carbide-derived carbon (CDC) etc. are unique structures for EDLCs with the huge specific surface area (SSA), great mechanical and chemical stability and good electrical conductivity. To increase the  $C_s$  of SCs, new electrochemically active

materials had been investigated for pseudocapacitors (Faradaic charge transfer).

During 1975–1980, B. E. Conway explored  $RuO_2$  pseudocapacitors extensively. These capacitors store charge through electrosorption, oxidation-reduction reactions and intercalation mechanism [6]. These faradaic processes would let pseudocapacitors attain higher  $C_s$  and  $E_d$  compared to EDLCs. Pseudocapacitance is linked to the electron charge-transfer among electrolyte and electrode impeding from de-solvated and adsorbed ion. The adsorbed ions do not react with the atoms of the material, but only the transfer of charge occurs. The capacity of electrodes to achieve pseudocapacitance effect depends on the chemical affinity of materials to the ions adsorbed on the surface of the electrode along with the structure and the dimension of the electrode pores. The charge storage increases linearly with the applied voltage. Materials that exhibit redox behaviour and used in pseudocapacitors are transition-metal oxides (TMOs) eg.  $IrO_2$ ,  $RuO_2$ ,  $Fe_3O_4$ ,  $MnO_2$ ,  $NiO$ ,  $V_2O_5$ ,  $Co_3O_4$  etc. transition metal sulphides and conducting polymers (CPs) eg. polyaniline (PANI), polythiophene, polypyrrole (PPy), polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), poly (3,4-ethylene dioxythiophene) (PEDOT), polyacetylene, poly (4-styrene sulfonate) (PSS), poly-phenylene-vinylene (PPV) etc.

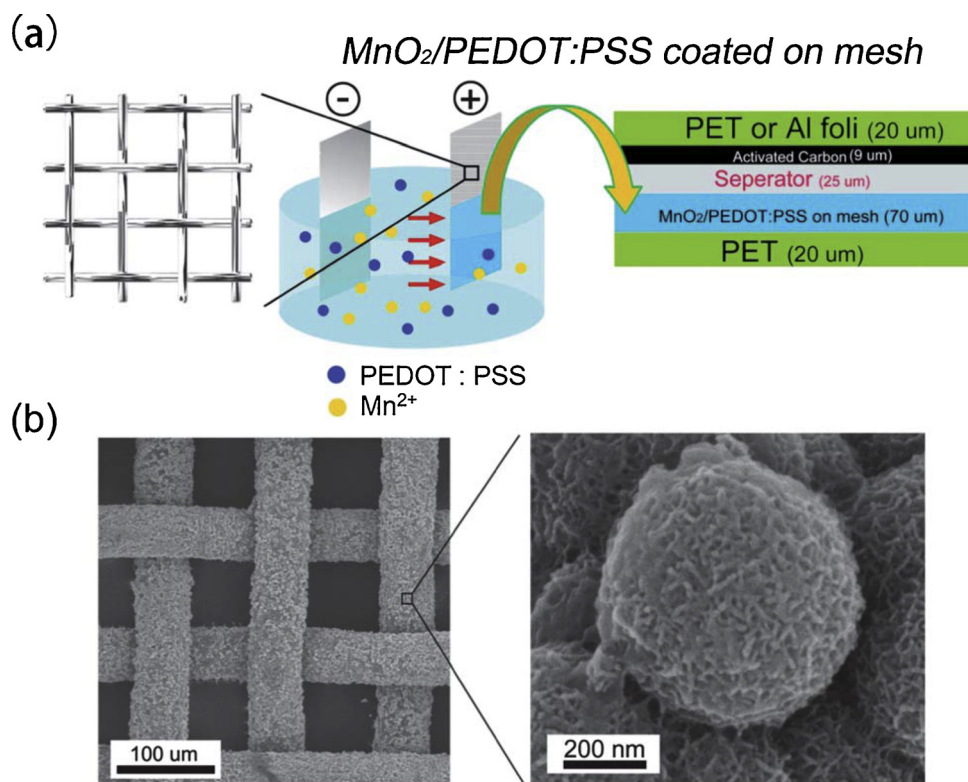
Li-ion capacitors (hybrid capacitors) were explored by FDK in 2007. In such capacitors, a carbon electrode was combined with a Li-ion electrode which increased the capacitance, lowered the anode potential with enhanced cell voltage and hence increased the  $E_d$ . In such systems, the faradaic electrode, with high  $C_s$ , provides higher  $E_d$  and the non-faradaic electrode provides higher  $P_d$ . Hence, research has been focussed on hybrid capacitors such as composites (coupling of carbon materials with either CPs or TMOs) and battery type (coupling a supercapacitor (SC) electrode with a battery electrode) etc. Table 1 shows the comparison of EDLC, pseudocapacitor and hybrid supercapacitor [7].

The traditional capacitors have a rigid and massive structure and hence are not suitable for future applications. Thinner, lighter, flexible, transparent SCs with a number of novel features and functions are required for multifunctional consumer electronics. The ACs and TMOs are still the generally used electrode materials. The ACs possess non-regular morphologies, feebly graphitized frameworks with wide pores, whereas TMOs exhibit low electronic conductivity, which is not able to keep pace with high rate energy storage environments [8]. So, new materials for SC electrodes have been explored such as covalent organic frameworks (COFs), metal-organic frameworks (MOFs), MXenes, metal sulphides, metal nitrides, mixed conductors, 2-D materials etc. [9–11].

The key challenge for supercapacitor is the small  $E_d$ . As the  $E_d$  of capacitors is directly proportional to  $C_s$  and the square of the voltage (V), so to increase  $E_d$ , either  $C_s$  or potential or both of these quantities should be increased. This can be accomplished by using electrode materials having high  $C_s$ , electrolytes having broad potential windows and optimization of the structure of integrated systems. Even though the fabrication of individual components (like electrode materials, electrolytes) of the SCs is relatively simple, but to promote their combined effect, the compatibility between the pore size and structure of electrode material with the electrolyte ion size is essential. Electrolytes/solutions play an essential role in setting up important properties like

Table 1  
Comparison of EDLC, pseudocapacitor and hybrid capacitor [7].

Electrochemical double layer capacitor (EDLC)	Pseudocapacitor	Hybrid capacitor
1. Carbon is used as electrode material.	MOs and CPs are used as electrode material.	A combination of carbon and MOs/CPs is used.
2. Charge storage mechanism is through the electrochemical double layer formation (non-Faradaic process).	The charge is stored through the redox reactions (Faradaic process).	The charge is stored both by Faradaic and non-Faradaic processes.
3. Low $E_d$ , good rate capability, good cyclic stability, low $C_s$ .	High $C_s$ , High $E_d$ , high $P_d$ , low rate capability.	High $E_d$ , high $P_d$ , good cyclability, polymer/carbon composite has moderate cost and moderate stability, Li/Carbon capacitors are of high cost.



**Fig. 2.** (a) Schematic of the fabrication process of  $\text{MnO}_2$ -PEDOT:PSS nanostructured composite by co-electrodeposition on the stainless steel mesh and its fabrication as an asymmetrical supercapacitor (b) SEM images of  $\text{MnO}_2$ -PEDOT:PSS at diverse magnifications [23]. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [23] Copyright Royal Society of Chemistry (2013)).

$P_d$ , temperature range and conductivity. Other requirements of electrolytes for SC are: a wide potential window (PW), high ionic concentration, good electrochemical stability, low equivalent series resistance (ESR), less volatility, less viscosity, non-toxicity, small solvated ion radius and low cost [12].

Aqueous, organic, redox-type, solid or semi-solid electrolytes and ionic liquids (ILs) have been investigated extensively for SCs. Aqueous electrolytes (like KOH,  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  and  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  aqueous solution etc.) provide higher ionic concentration, lower resistance, smaller ionic radius, higher  $C_s$  and higher  $P_d$  than the organic electrolyte. Moreover, in the case of aqueous electrolytes, there is no strict need of controlling the parameters during their preparation process, whereas in an organic electrolyte, there are strict processes and conditions to get ultra-pure electrolytes. The conductivity of the aqueous electrolyte is  $\sim 1 \text{ Scm}^{-1}$  and it also has a minimum pore size requirement in comparison to the organic electrolyte [13].

The main shortcoming of the aqueous electrolyte is its small PW (approximately 1.2 V) due to water decomposition at 1.23 V. Organic electrolytes have smaller electrical conductivity ( $10$  to  $60 \text{ mScm}^{-1}$ ), so lower  $P_d$ , but have higher  $E_d$  (due to wide PW of 2.5–2.7 V). ILs are appropriate for making SCs electrolyte because of their properties like high thermal and chemical stability [14–16], low vapor pressure, wide potential window, low flammability and conductivity around  $10 \text{ mScm}^{-1}$ . Ion size in ILs is well-identified because solvation shell is not there due to the solvent-free nature of ILs [13]. With the advancements in ILs, PW of the SCs can be extended up to 4 V, though they have small ionic conductivity and high viscosity. Furthermore, the study of semi-solid electrolytes has led to the growth of flexible or solid-state SCs which have no potential leakage issues. Of late, redox-type electrolytes are introduced because of their additional pseudocapacitance from the redox reactions at the electrode/electrolyte interface [17].

## 2. Synthesis approach for electrode materials

The method of synthesis of electrode materials plays an important role in controlling the structures and properties of the materials. Some

synthesis methods are described here briefly:

### 2.1. Sol-gel method

Sol-gel is a facile method to prepare materials with greater purity and homogeneity. The sol-gel method is so named, as in it micro-particles in the solution (sol) agglomerate and link together in regulated conditions to form an integrated network (gel). Two basic variations of the sol-gel method are the colloidal method and the polymeric or the alkoxide method, which are different from each other on the type of precursors used. In both methods, the precursor is mixed in a liquid (usually water is used for the colloidal method and alcohol for polymeric method) and is then activated with the addition of an acid or a base. Then, as obtained activated precursor reacts forming a network, which it develops with temperature and time maximally up to the container size [18]. Many TMOs have been prepared by this method. This process provides the advantage of preparing materials of different morphologies. The electrode material prepared by this process possesses high SSA with better electrochemical behaviour which can also be controlled by temperature, change of surfactants, solvents and reaction time [19].

Yusin et al. [20] have reported this method for the production of activated carbon fibre material (ACFM)- $\text{Ni}(\text{OH})_2$  composite which exhibits the  $C_s$  of  $\sim 370$ – $380 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$ . Also, the dependence of shape, structure and volume of material on the composition and concentration of the solution was established. Liu et al. [21] have deposited  $\text{NiCo}_2\text{O}_4$  films by a sol-gel method which exhibit the  $C_s$  of  $2157 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at a  $0.133 \text{ mAcm}^{-2}$  current density and good cycling stability (96.5%  $C_s$  retained after 10,000 cycles).  $\text{NiO}/\text{LaNiO}_3$  electrode fabricated by spin-coating on Pt/Ti/SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si (100) substrate by Liu et al. [22] showed a  $C_s$  of  $2030 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at a  $0.5 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$  and high stability (83% of the  $C_s$  retention after 1000 cycles). This superior electrochemical response can be related to high porosity, well-connected network structures with reduced mass-transfer resistance between electrolyte and ion which facilitates the electron hopping in nanoparticles.

## 2.2. Electro-polymerization/Electrodeposition

This is a common synthesis technique which provides precise regulation over the thickness of films and on the rate of polymerization. By suitable choice of deposition solution, nanostructured films with different mass loading and morphologies can be prepared by this method. This technique involves simple processing conditions and not much toxic chemicals are used in it. It is generally used for preparing CPs such as PANI, PEDOT, PPy etc. Su et al. [23] have prepared MnO<sub>2</sub>-PEDOT: PSS composite by co-electrodeposition strategy which exhibits an areal C<sub>s</sub> of 1670 mF cm<sup>-2</sup> at 0.5 mAcm<sup>-2</sup> and excellent mechanical robustness. Fig. 2 depicts the fabrication process of MnO<sub>2</sub>-PEDOT: PSS composite and its scanning electron microscopy (SEM) images. Also, an ultra thin (< 200 μm) asymmetric supercapacitor (ASC) is fabricated with high E<sub>d</sub>, P<sub>d</sub> and rate capability. Nanosized MnO<sub>2</sub> electrodes on Au nanowire stems are grown electrochemically by Chen et al. [24] which exhibit high C<sub>s</sub> (1130 Fg<sup>-1</sup> at 2 mVs<sup>-1</sup>), high E<sub>d</sub> (15 Whkg<sup>-1</sup> at 50 Ag<sup>-1</sup>), high P<sub>d</sub> (20 kW kg<sup>-1</sup> at 50 Ag<sup>-1</sup>) and long-term stability (90% of C<sub>s</sub> left after 5000 cycles). ZnO@Ni<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> core-shell nanorods are formed by the electrodeposition method by Xing et al. [25] which exhibit a C<sub>s</sub> of 1529 Fg<sup>-1</sup> at 2 Ag<sup>-1</sup> and retain 42% of initial C<sub>s</sub> after 2000 cycles. Stretchable CNT-PPy films are deposited by electrochemical deposition by Guo et al. [26].

## 2.3. In-situ polymerization

In this process, monomers are dispersed into an aqueous solution using the sonication process. Then an oxidizing agent is mixed to initialize the polymerization in the aqueous solution and the sample is obtained by filtering the solution. Earlier this method yielded only irregular aggregates with a little portion of nanofibres, but with slight modification, nanoparticles, nanorods, and nanofibres were reported with better solution processability and better physical and chemical properties. A simple strategy for growth of PEDOT structures on carbon fibre cloth (CFC) by in situ polymerization is reported [27]. When a supercapacitor device is fabricated with these nanostructures, it exhibits a C<sub>s</sub> of 203 Fg<sup>-1</sup> at 5 mVs<sup>-1</sup>, an E<sub>d</sub> of 4.4 Whkg<sup>-1</sup> and P<sub>d</sub> of 40.25 kW kg<sup>-1</sup> in 1 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> electrolyte. Also, it possesses 86% C<sub>s</sub> retention after 12,000 cycles. Wang et al. [28] have deposited PANI nanowires within the multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) by in situ electro-polymerization. The aligned MWCNTs provide support to the organic polymers along with providing a pathway for the transfer of charge. Also, confined MWCNT channels limit the structural changes in PANI chains while charging-discharging and enhance the lifetime of the structure. The films made with CPs encapsulated in MWCNTs showed a C<sub>s</sub> of 296 Fg<sup>-1</sup> at 1.6 Ag<sup>-1</sup>. Different π-conjugated sulfonate templates and additional assistance of graphene and MWCNTs are employed to enquire the polymerization behaviour of PEDOT by Zhou et al. [29]. As prepared PEDOT: MWCNT composite reveals interconnected network due to the π-π interaction of PEDOT with non-covalent functionalized MWCNT and exhibits a C<sub>s</sub> of 199 Fg<sup>-1</sup> at 0.5 Ag<sup>-1</sup>.

## 2.4. Direct coating

This technique is employed for the fabrication of those SC electrodes in which active material, in the form of slurry, is applied directly on the substrate. Often, additives such as carbon black, polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF), acetylene black, polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) are introduced as binders to provide maximum adhesion along with retaining electrical conductivity. The working electrode is fabricated with 90 wt% electrode materials (NiO) and 10 wt% PVA in millipore water as a solvent and the slurry obtained is pasted on the Pt disc. [30]. Jana et al. [31] prepared supercapacitor electrode slurry by mixing nitric acid treated carbon cloth with 10% PVDF and DMF (*N,N*-dimethyl formamide) and the prepared slurry is coated on a stainless-steel substrate. Du et al. [32] synthesized supercapacitor electrode by coating

the slurry formed by adding active material with acetylene black and PTFE onto Ni foam.

## 2.5. Chemical vapour deposition (CVD)

CVD technique is generally used where the porosity is very important. This process is performed under vapour phase, where the initial material is prepared in vapour form, flowed and subjected to a high temperature (800–1000 °C). The as-prepared structures have even morphology [33]. Among various synthesis methods of graphene for instance, mechanical cleavage of graphite, chemical exfoliation of graphite (in organic solvents), manufacturing of multi-layered graphene by arc discharge, reduction of graphene oxide (GO) synthesized from the oxidation of graphite, graphene synthesized by CVD provides better results owing to their large crystal domains, monolayered structure and fewer defects in the sheets, which are helpful for enhancing carrier mobility [34]. Kalam et al. [35] demonstrated that high-efficiency SCs with improved electrochemical characteristics can be fabricated by CVD grown graphene hybridized with MWCNTs. Lobiak et al. [36] prepared hybrid carbon materials consisting of MWCNTs and graphitic layers, produced by CVD, over MgO assisted metal catalyst, as depicted in Fig. 3. Such materials provide fast charge transport in the cell.

## 2.6. Vacuum filtration technique

This quick and proficient technique uses the simple concept of vacuum filtration to prepare nanocomposites from a physical combination of different materials. Generally, a mixture of materials is prepared followed by simple vacuum filtration and drying the filtrate. In this method, the composition can be simply altered by varying the concentration or the weight percentage of each constituent in the mixture. Graphene suspension, developed by vacuum filtration deposition by Zhang et al. [37] for fabricating graphene-based Ni foam electrode, shows a higher E<sub>d</sub> and P<sub>d</sub> along with good cycling performance. Xu et al. [38] have synthesized a nanocomposite of graphene/AC/PPy by vacuum filtration method. As prepared electrode exhibits the C<sub>s</sub> of 178 Fg<sup>-1</sup> at 0.5 mAcm<sup>-2</sup> and retains 64.4% of C<sub>s</sub> after 5000 charge/discharge cycles. Y. Gao [39] has used this technique to prepare graphene/polymer electrode on Ni foam in which the vacuum pressure and its duration controls the distribution of graphene.

## 2.7. Hydrothermal/solvothermal method

The hydrothermal process can be ascribed as environment-friendly superheated aqueous solution dispensation. In addition, this provides controlled diffusivity within a closed system. The process has superiority over other techniques as it is ideal for preparing designer particulates (particles with high purity, crystallinity, quality and controlled chemical and physical characteristics). Also, this is a low-temperature sintering process with a small energy requirement which is simple to implement and scale up [40]. However, this process has a lesser control over nanoparticle aggregation. The solvent properties (e.g. dielectric constant, solubility) change radically in the supercritical phase. Thus, supercritical phase gives a favourable condition for particle formation owing to increased reaction rate and great supersaturation. If some other solvent is used instead of water, then the method is called solvothermal synthesis. A lot of SC electrodes have been fabricated using this process such as rod-like hollow CoWO<sub>4</sub>/Co<sub>1-x</sub>S [41], Cobalt disulfide-reduced graphene oxide (CoS<sub>2</sub>-rGO) [42], hexagonal NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles [43] etc.

## 2.8. Co-precipitation method

This is a facile method for large-scale production of powder samples. For precipitation to take place, the concentration of one solute

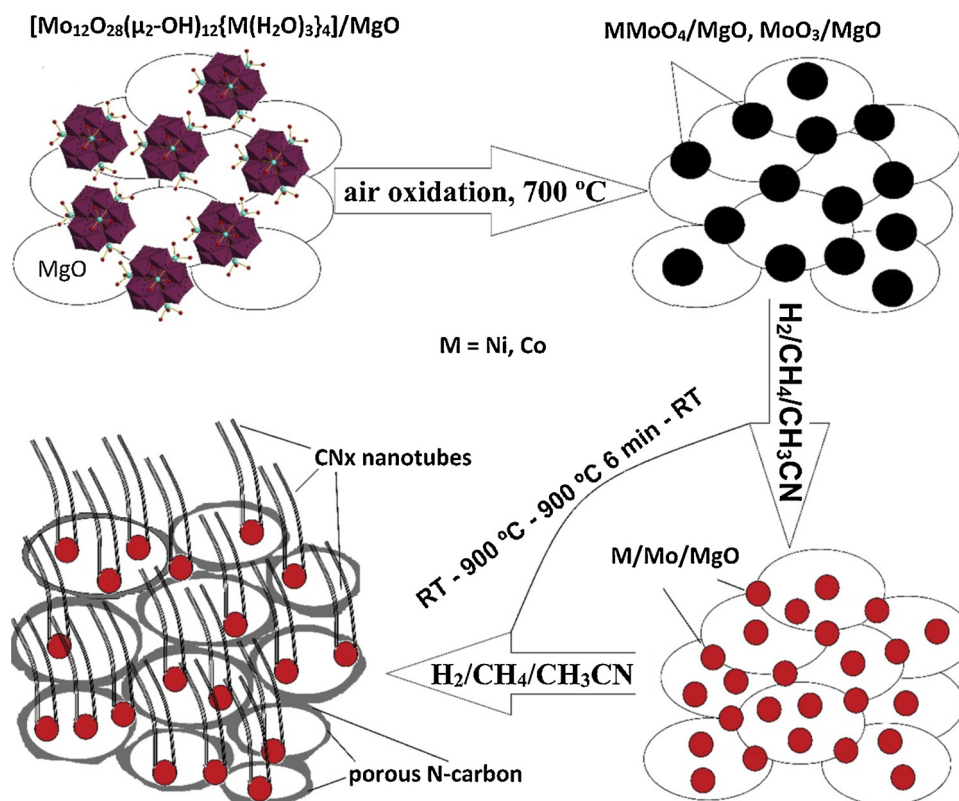


Fig. 3. Schematic representation of the preparation of nitrogen-doped porous MWCNTs hybrid by using Ni or Co polyoxomolybdate clusters [36].

should be more than the solubility limit and temperature should be high enough for fast separation into precipitates. Here, it is difficult to regulate the morphology of prepared samples due to the fast rate of precipitation. Various supercapacitor structures have been reported using this method such as  $\text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4$ -magnetic nanoparticles with different precursors [44],  $\text{Ni}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2@\text{GO}$  composite [45] which exhibits a  $C_s$  of  $1329.59\text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at a  $0.5\text{ Ag}^{-1}$  and 88% of the  $C_s$  retention after 1000 cycles.

## 2.9. Dealloying method

Dealloying method, also known as selective dissolution, is an easy, flexible and economical technique to produce nanoporous metallic materials (NPMs) with structures like core-shell, hollow core-shell and porous nanoparticles [46]. In this method, more active material is removed from a solution of binary metallic solid by electrolytic dissolution thus producing an interconnected porous structure. Such structures possess higher surface area, good mechanical and compression strength along with size-scale dependent elastic modulus [46–48]. Much attention has been given to NPMs prepared by this method since the important work of Erlebacher et al. [46] and has become a very important method to produce NPMs in the last decade. Li et al. [49] examined the fixed voltage dealloying of  $\text{AgAu}$  alloy particles in the size range of 2–6 nm and 20–55 nm. They demonstrated that only the core-shell structures (2–6 nm in diameter) evolved above the potential corresponding to  $\text{Ag}^+/\text{Ag}$  equilibrium.  $\text{CuS}$  nanowire on nanoplate network with improved electrochemical performance has been prepared by Wang et al. [50] using an improved dealloying method at two contrasting reaction temperatures.  $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$  has been synthesized by oxidation assisted dealloying method [51]. Free-dealloying method has been used for the synthesis of Cu-based metallic glasses in HF and HCl solutions [52]. Lu et al. [53] reported a green and universal technique (vapour-phase dealloying) for fabricating porous materials by using vapour pressure among constituent elements in an alloy, to selectively

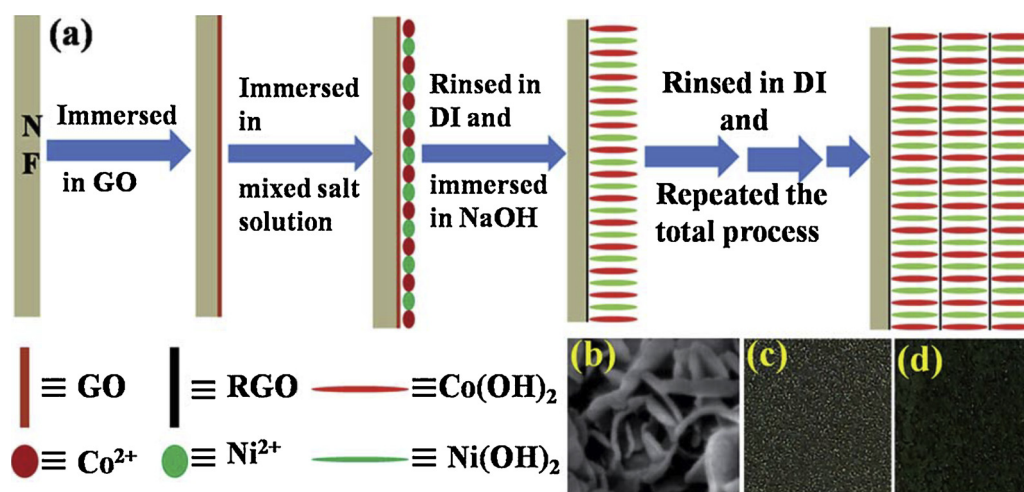
eliminate a component with high vapour pressure, for producing 3-dimensional bicontinuous open nanoporosity. With this technique, extensive elements can be fabricated with tunable pore sizes along with full recovery of the evaporated component. Flexible electrodes of  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  flakes and  $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  nanoparticles have been prepared by oxidation assisted dealloying method for the first time by Wang et al. [54].

## 2.10. Other synthesis methods

Several other synthesis methods have been reported for SC electrodes. The microwave assisted method has been used for rapid synthesis of tin selenide [55]. Nitrogen functionalised carbon nanofibres (N-CNFs) are prepared by carbonizing PPy-coated nanofibres (NFs), which in turn are obtained by ‘electrospinning’ and deacetylation of electrospun cellulose acetate NFs and PPy polymerization [56]. An additive free, cost-effective and scalable ‘successive ionic layer adsorption and reaction (SILAR) method’ has been quoted to prepare Ni-Co binary hydroxide on rGO [31] shown in Fig. 4. The pulsed layer deposition method is used to fabricate NiO on graphene foam [57]. Free-standing 3D porous rGO and PANI hybrid foam has been fabricated by ‘dipping and dry method’ [58]. Hierarchical porous carbon microtubes (HPCNTs) have been synthesized by carbonization along with KOH activation [59].

## 3. Electrode materials

Electrodes of SCs must have high conductivity, temperature stability, good chemical stability (inertness), high SSA, corrosion resistance, should be environment-friendly and have lower cost. Also, the capability of the material to carry out faradaic charge transfer increases the total  $C_s$ . In general, the smaller the pores, the greater is the  $C_s$  and hence the  $E_d$ . But, smaller pore enhances ESR and hence decrease  $P_d$ . So, applications which require more peak currents should have SC electrodes with larger pores, whereas electrode materials having smaller



**Fig. 4.** a) Schematic illustration of Ni-Co binary hydroxide (BH) on a rGO surface by SILAR method (b) SEM images of the prepared composite (c) digital photograph of nickel foam (NF) and (d) NF coated with Ni-Co-BH-G [31]. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [31] Copyright Royal Society of Chemistry (2016)).

pores are useful in applications which need higher  $E_d$  [59,60].

### 3.1. Nanostructured carbon-based materials

Carbon nanomaterial with high SSA is the suitable electrode material. It provides high electrical conductivity, chemical and electrochemical stability with less cost. Also, the good rectangular shape of Cyclic Voltammetry curves and symmetrical galvanostatic charge-discharge profile of carbon materials suggest that carbon based materials are the suitable capacitive materials. The factors which influence the electrochemical performance are their SSA, structure and shape of the pore, pore-size distribution, electrical conductivity and functionality of the surface [60–63].

ACs are the first material selected for EDLC electrodes. These are porous carbon materials with high SSA. Although their electrical conductivity is less ( $1250\text{--}2500 \text{ Sm}^{-1}$ ), still it is enough for SCs. Their porous structure consists of micropores ( $< 20 \text{ \AA}$ ), mesopores ( $20\text{--}500 \text{ \AA}$ ) and macropores ( $> 500 \text{ \AA}$ ) to attain high SSA [60,61]. For ACs, whole SSA is not useful for the capacitance because electrolyte ions that are very big to enter into smaller micropores do not contribute in charge storage. Research is going to estimate the most suitable pore size for a given ion size and getting better methods to adjust the pore size distribution in the fabrication process. A few studies show that pore size of either 0.4 or 0.7 nm can be suitable for the aqueous electrolyte, while pore size of 0.8 nm may be helpful for organic electrolytes [62,63]. In some papers, the coordination among the pore size and the ion size was confirmed by getting a maximum  $C_s$  [17,64]. Also, the functional groups attached to the surface of carbon materials may enhance faradaic redox reactions resulting in about 5–10 % increase in  $C_s$  [65]. An electrode having an approximate SSA of  $1000 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$  results in  $C_s$  of  $\sim 10 \mu\text{Fcm}^{-2}$  ( $100 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$ ). Many commercial SCs make use of AC obtained from coconut shells. ACs obtained from coconut shells possess more micropores than AC made from charcoal. ACF obtained from activated carbon (surface area  $\sim 2500 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ ) can have micropores with a very narrow pore size distribution which can be conveniently controlled. The advantage of AFC electrode is its small electrical resistance and good contact with the collector [66]. These electrodes possess mainly double-layer capacitance. A little pseudocapacitance arises due to micropores.

Carbon Aerogel (frozen smoke) is a very porous, ultra light, synthetic material made up of a continuous network of carbon nanoparticles with mixed mesopores. It does not require a binding agent as it can itself bond chemically with the current collector. Thus, it has low ESR which provides high  $P_d$  [67]. Aerogel electrodes prepared by pyrolysis of resorcinol-formaldehyde aerogels are better conductors than activated carbons. They provide thin and firm electrodes so that

they can give mechanical and vibrational constancy for SCs for their use in the high-vibration environment. Carbon aerogel electrodes with the  $C_s$  of  $104 \text{ Fcm}^{-3}$ , yielding an  $E_d$  of  $90 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  and  $P_d$  of  $20 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$  have been obtained [68]. Roldan et al. [69] increased the  $C_s$  of many carbon electrodes by adding hydroquinone (HQ) to the electrolyte, but their stability remained a challenge (65% of the  $C_s$  retention after 4000 cycles). Wang et al. [70] used rGO electrodes treated with hydrophobic tBu-hydroquinone and achieved good  $C_s$  by retaining 94% capacitance after 800 cycles. Anjos et al. [71,72] have studied the capacitive performance of many PAH-quinones adsorbed on carbon and shows their superior cycling stability (97% of the initial  $C_s$  retention after 10,000 cycles). Wang et al. [73] have reported an enhancement in capacitance by adding anthraquinone with porous CNT.

Campbell et al. [74] have reported a method to improve the  $E_d$  of graphene macro assemblies (GMAs) through non-covalent functionalization with anthraquinone (AQ) and the resulting AQ-GMAs hybrid electrodes possess 2.9 times (up to  $23 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$ )  $E_d$  in comparison to untreated GMA electrodes. Fig. 5 shows the synthesis procedure of GMA electrodes by non-covalent functionalization and Thermo-gravimetric analysis (TGA) curves of bulk AQ and AQ-GMA disk.

CDC possesses high SSA with tunable pore diameter to increase ion confinement and hence increasing pseudocapacitance. CDC electrodes with designed pore distribution can give approximately 75% greater  $E_d$  than ACs [75]. The theoretical SSA of graphene is  $2630 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$  which can theoretically provide the  $C_s$  of  $550 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$ . El-Kady et al. [76] utilized graphene sheets as electrodes. A graphene-based SC have used curved graphene sheets which do not stack, forming mesopores which were wetted by ionic electrolytes (up to voltages of 4 V). Also, the SC exhibits the  $E_d$  of  $85.6 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  (equal to nickel metal hydride battery) with larger  $P_d$  greater than that of batteries [77]. The 2-D structure of graphene enhances the charging-discharging process and charge carriers can quickly enter into and out from the deep pores of the electrodes, thus increasing power. Such SCs may be employed for 100/120 Hz filter applications [78]. Chemically modified graphene (CMG) materials prepared from one-atom-thick carbon sheets, functionalized according to our need, exhibits a  $C_s$  of  $135 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  in aqueous electrolyte and  $99 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  in organic electrolyte [79]. Xu et al. [80] showed that flexible SCs with a  $120 \mu\text{m}$  thick graphene film could show good capacitive behaviour with the high  $C_s$  of  $186 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  (up to  $196 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  for a  $42 \mu\text{m}$  thick electrode), small leakage current ( $10.6 \mu\text{A}$ ), good cycling stability and remarkable mechanical flexibility.

The  $C_s$  of Graphene electrodes (in the form of rGO) is only  $100\text{--}150 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  in organic electrolytes [81,82] and  $150\text{--}230 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  in inorganic electrolytes [83,84] which is less than theoretical capacitance ( $550 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$ ). The lower capacitances are essentially due to the irreversible

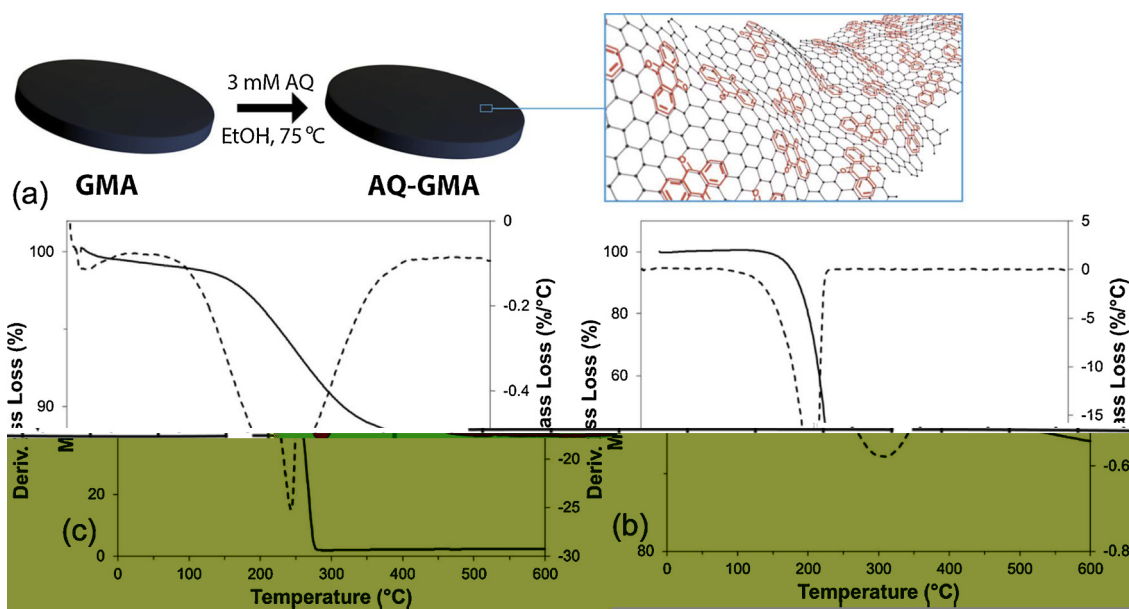


Fig. 5. (a) Schematic of synthesis of non-covalent AQ functionalization of GMA electrodes (b) TGA curve for AQ-GMA disk (c) TGA curve of AQ. Dashed lines show their derivative mass loss curves [74]. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [74] Copyright Royal Society of Chemistry (2014)).

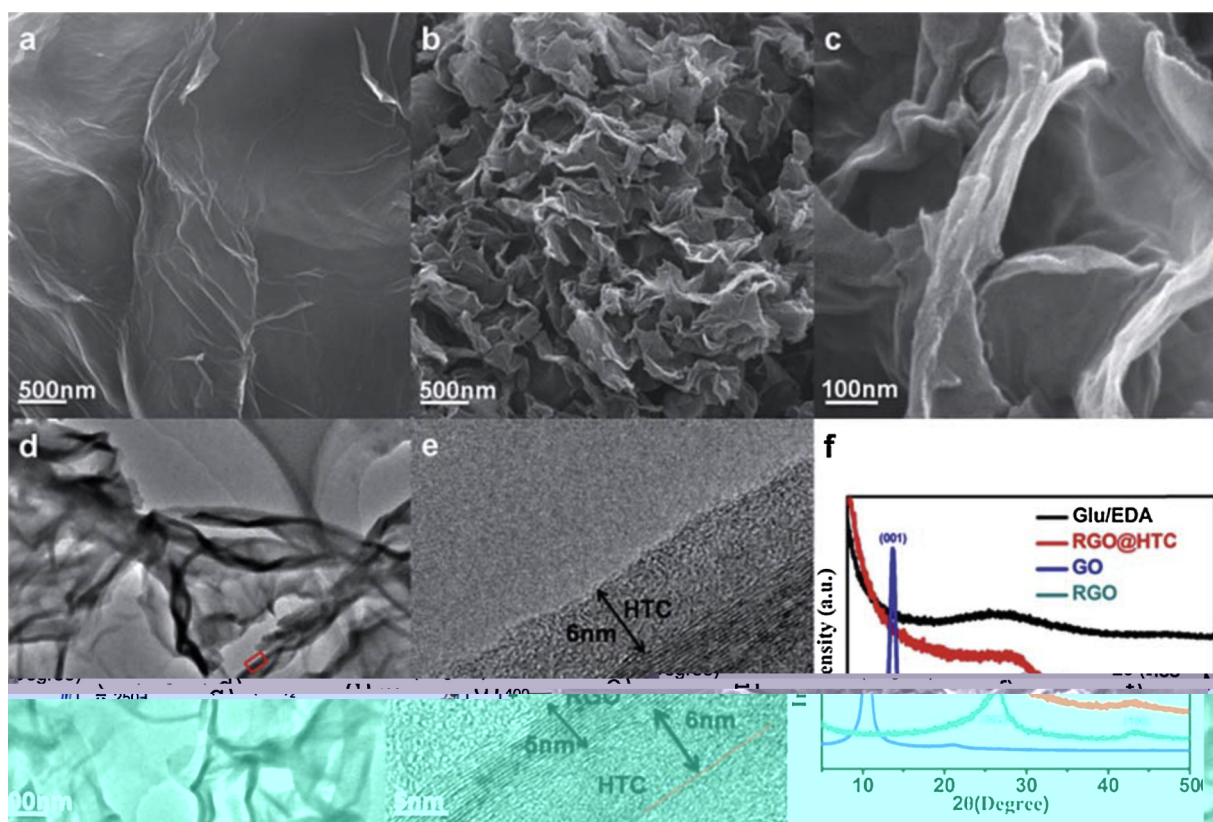


Fig. 6. (a) SEM image of rGO (b) & (c) SEM images of rGO@HTC (d) & (e) TEM and HRTEM images of rGO@HTC (f) XRD pattern of Glu/EDA, rGO@HTC, GO and rGO [86]. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [86] Copyright Royal Society of Chemistry (2015)).

restacking of individual rGO sheets in the reduction and drying processes [81], which make the major surface of rGO not available for storing charge. Huang et al. [85] explained that a small quantity of GO addition might improve the electrochemical performance of biomass-derived carbon. The rGO@HTC (N-doped hydrothermal carbon coated graphene) composites exhibited high  $C_s$  ( $340 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $0.1 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ ), high rate capability ( $203 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $50 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ ) and good cycling stability (no  $C_s$

decay over 2000 cycles) in  $6 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  KOH electrolyte solution [86]. Fig. 6 shows the schematic of formation rGO@HTC, SEM, transmission electron microscopy (TEM), high-resolution TEM (HRTEM) and X-ray diffraction (XRD) pattern of the as-prepared composite.

Electrodes of CNTs have been developed as an intertwined mat of carbon nanotubes, with an open and available network of mesopores. The mesopores in CNTs are interconnected, forming a continuous

distribution, thus utilizing the SSA more efficiently [87]. CNT electrode has lower ESR than ACs, as the ions of the electrolyte can easily penetrate into the mesoporous network [88]. Li et al. [89] deduced that the ion size and the electrode/electrolyte accessibility are the prominent factors which affect the performance of flexible single-walled CNTs (SWCNTs) SCs. SWCNTs have a theoretical SSA of  $1315 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ , whereas MWCNTs has lower SSA compared to that of ACs. MWCNTs have mesopores that permit easy flow of ions across the electrode-electrolyte interface. When the pore size becomes comparable to the size of the ion, the molecules of the solvent are partially exposed which results in high ionic packing density. However, their mechanical stability decreases due to significant volume change due to repetitive intercalation and depletion [90]. Peng et al. [91] reported a  $C_s$  of  $50 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  for MWCNTs. Xie et al. [59] have prepared HPNCTs with willow catkins by an easy carbonization process and exhibit SSA of  $1775.7 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ ,  $C_s$  of  $292 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $1 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$  and good rate capability with 83.5% of the  $C_s$  retention at  $10 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$  for HPNCT-800. Ogata et al. [92] have proposed a rGO/GO/rGO device which operates as an SC till 1.2 V and as a battery for voltages greater than 1.5 V. A high  $C_s$  of  $185 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $0.5 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$  for a symmetrical supercapacitor of HSG (hierarchically porous nanocarbon and graphene) has been obtained accompanying an  $E_d$  of  $78 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  at  $P_d$  of  $875 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$  [93].

### 3.2. CPs based materials

CPs have attained considerable attention as they supply high  $C_s$  (due to their redox behaviour), rapid charge-discharge process, lesser cost than carbon-based material and a low ESR value. Particularly, the n/p type polymer configuration has huge potential for high  $E_d$  and  $P_d$  [15] but, the lack of proficient n-doped conducting material and less cycling stability has delayed the progress of CPs pseudocapacitor. PANI is lightweight, highly conductive, mechanically flexible, low cost, environment-friendly and possesses high theoretical capacitance. The problem is that, because of ion doping/dedoping, PANI shrinks and swells during the charge/discharge process. To surmount this problem, the PANI layer is coated on MOs/carbon materials forming PANI/MOs/nanocarbon ternary hybrid which possesses good cyclic stability and  $C_s$  [94]. Also, PANI exhibits a wide range of colours due to their many protonation and oxidation forms. These electrochromic properties can be used for fabrication of electrochromic SCs. Polyacetylene is the most crystalline CP, but it is easily oxidized in air. Polypyrrole and polythiophene can be synthesized directly in doped form and are very stable [15]. PPy has greater density and higher flexibility than other CPs. It has a high electrical conductivity ( $10\text{--}500 \text{ Scm}^{-1}$ ) and it itself can undergo a rapid redox reaction for charge storage [95]. Lignin-PPy composite has been prepared by coating lignin with PPy by the polymerization of PPy with and without the presence of methyl orange, which leads to the formation of PPy films of globular and nanotubular morphology. Thereafter the composites are converted to carbon materials rich in nitrogen atoms by pyrolysis in  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere. The SSA of the prepared materials has been increased up to 10 times than that of carbon materials [96]. PEDOT is an intrinsically CP (ICP). Although the conductivity of ICP is much less than metals, but still it is useful due to its other properties such as flexibility, easy processing and drying at low temperatures [15].

Polythiophenes (PTs) have been prepared by chemical oxidative polymerization using  $\text{FeCl}_3$  as an oxidant in the presence and absence of different surfactants. It is observed that surfactants change the morphology of PTs which is clear from the results as PTs prepared with TritonX-100 shows a  $C_s$  of  $117 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  whereas the  $C_s$  for surfactant-free PTs is  $78 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  [97]. PVA is a low cost, environment-friendly, water-soluble, colourless and odourless synthetic polymer. It possesses high tensile strength, an excellent capability of film formation, emulsifying and bonding properties along with flexibility. However, the properties described above are humidity dependent. More humidity reduces its tensile strength, but increases its elongation and tear strength [98]. The

only conducting polymer which can be converted into highly ordered films is PPV. It has a small band gap and doping can be done to form an electrically conductive polymer with the maximum conductivity of  $10^{-3} \text{ Scm}^{-1}$ . Its properties can be altered by linking functional side groups [15]. Polyindole (Pind) has gathered attention due to the mixed properties of both poly (p-phenylene) and PPy, such as high redox property, good thermal stability, meager degradation, and better air stability [99] in comparison to PPy and PANI [100]. PANI-Sol nanocrystal, PANI-Eml nanopetal, and PANI-Int nanosphere (depending on the pathway of polymerization: solution (Sol), emulsion (Eml), interfacial (Int)) are reported [101] which exhibit the  $C_s$  of 460, 424 and  $300 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$ , the  $E_d$  of 23, 21.2, and  $15 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$ , respectively at  $P_d$  of  $200 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$ . Symmetric SCs based on alternate layers of different CPs have been studied by Aradilla et al. [102]. The capacitive properties of as-prepared multilayered system are better than individual CP which may be related to the better porosity of multilayered material. Flexible worm-like SC electrodes are fabricated using cellulose nanofibres (CNFs) and graphite nanoplatelets (GNP), doped with PANI by in situ polymerizations [103]. The  $C_s$  of  $421.5 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  has been obtained for hybrid PANI electrodes at  $1 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$  with 20 wt% CNFs loading along with excellent electrochemical properties and  $C_s$  retention over 1000 cycles of repeated bending. Also, an all-solid-state symmetric SC has been fabricated using PANI/CNF (20% loading)/ GNP electrodes which shows good  $C_s$  retention at various bending angles as shown in Fig. 7. Self-doped PANI nanofibres are fabricated on the Pt electrode by reverse pulse voltammetry which exhibits the  $C_s$  of  $400 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$ , an  $E_d$  of  $9.4 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  and  $P_d$  of  $436 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$  at  $5 \text{ mAcm}^{-2}$  current density [104]. Stable PPy films with high doping degree have been obtained by pulse polymerization by Sharma et al. [105]. Pulse on time controls the chain size along with chain defects and pulse off time controls orientation and conjugation of the polymer chain. In these films, a  $C_s$  of  $400 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  has been obtained with  $E_d$  of  $250 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  at  $5 \text{ mAcm}^{-2}$  current density along with long cycle life.

### 3.3. MOs-based materials

TMOs have been explored a lot as a material for SCs electrodes because they possess high conductivity [6]. B.E. Conway described TMOs such as  $\text{RuO}_2$ ,  $\text{IrO}_2$ ,  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{MnO}_2$ ,  $\text{NiO}$ ,  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  etc. which possessed high pseudocapacitance [6]. The ESR of  $\text{RuO}_2$  is much less than other electrode materials. Thus, it has higher  $E_d$  and  $P_d$  than EDLCs and CPs supercapacitors, but it is very costly and shows poor performance at high current densities [106]. TMOs are a suitable material for SCs electrode due to their chemical stability and variable valence. Co oxide has been investigated much due to high theoretical  $C_s$  ( $3560 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$ ), reversibility [107] and better electrochemical performance. Several Co oxide nanostructures are prepared. For instance, ultra layered  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  structure synthesized by Rao et al. [108] exhibits a  $C_s$  of  $548 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $8 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ , Wang et al. [109] have reported 3D hollow  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  with a  $C_s$  of  $820 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $5 \text{ mVs}^{-1}$ , nanoporous  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  prepared using solvothermal method exhibits  $C_s$ ,  $E_d$ , and  $P_d$  of  $476 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$ ,  $42.3 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  and  $1.56 \text{ kW kg}^{-1}$  respectively [110]. Reddy et al. [111] reported a symmetric  $\text{MnO}_2/\text{MnO}_2$  supercapacitor, Dubal et al. [112] fabricated a symmetric  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$  supercapacitor and Lu et al. [113] designed a symmetric SC, based on Ni-Co oxide electrodes. Xia et al. [114] prepared a  $\text{RuO}_2/\text{RuO}_2$  supercapacitor with a PW of 1.6 V. Juodkazis et al. [115] suggested a high theoretical  $C_s$  of Ru ( $3800 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$ )

Das et al. [116] reported  $C_s$  of  $1715 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  (very close to its predicted theoretical  $C_s$  of  $2000 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$ ) for  $\text{RuO}_2$  based SCs in which  $\text{RuO}_2$  is electrodeposited on the SWCNTs film electrode.  $\text{RuO}_2$  deposited on graphene foam exhibits the  $C_s$  of  $502.78 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$ , the  $E_d$  of  $39.28 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  and  $P_d$  of  $128.01 \text{ kW kg}^{-1}$  for greater than 8000 cycles with stable performance [117]. Hu et al. [118] have utilized AAO membrane-templates to deposit hydrous  $\text{RuO}_2$  arrayed nanotubes onto graphite and obtained a  $C_s$  of  $1300 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$ . Zhang et al. [119] have made a nanotubular hydrous  $\text{RuO}_2$  based electrode from manganite nanorods and



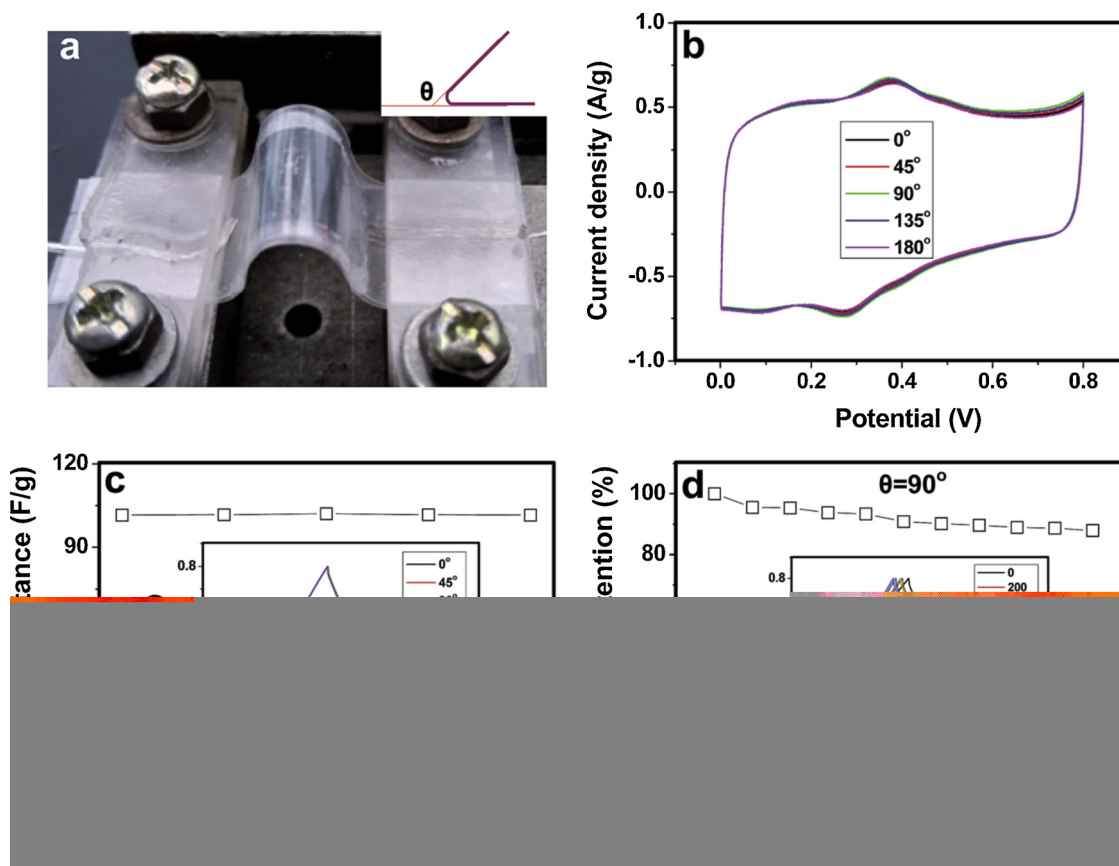


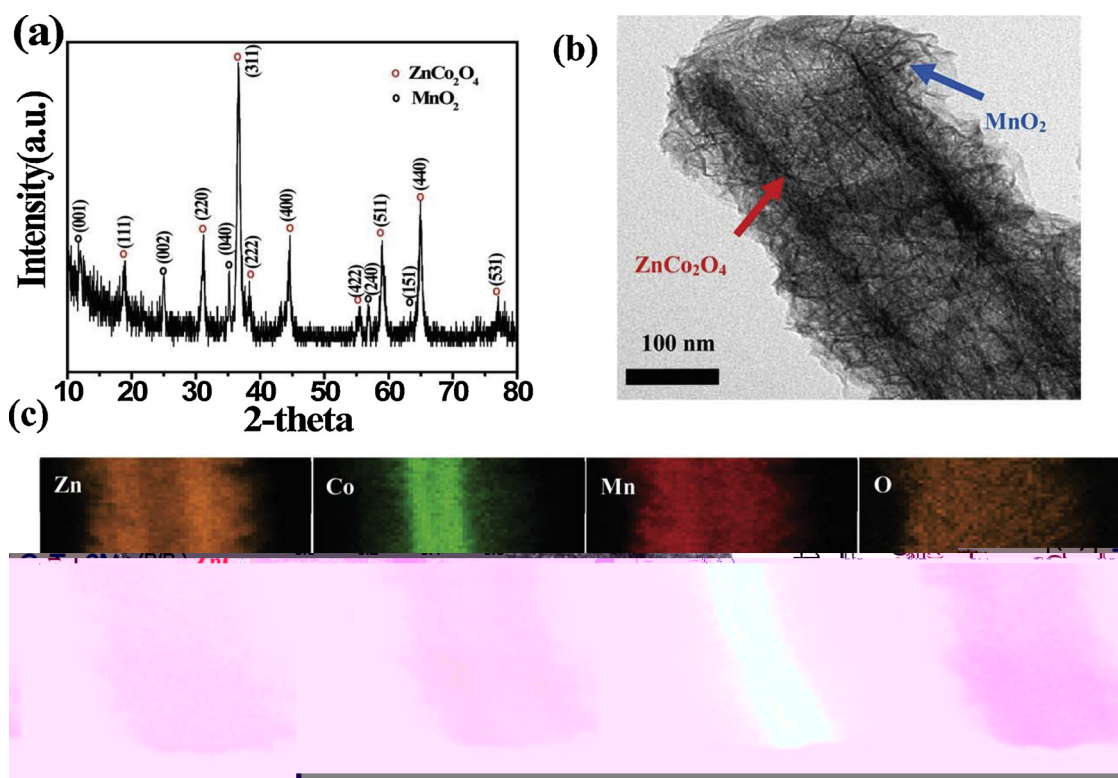
Fig. 7. Electrochemical behavior of all solid state symmetric SC assembled using PANI/CNF (20% loading)/GNP electrodes: (a) Optical image showing bending of SC (b) CV curves at  $5 \text{ mVs}^{-1}$  scan rate (c)  $C_s$  and GCD curves at various bending angles (d)  $C_s$  retention at bending angle of  $90^\circ$  [103]. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [103] Copyright Royal Society of Chemistry (2017)).

a  $C_s$  of  $861 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  is obtained. Also, low-cost oxides of vanadium, iron, cobalt and nickel have been checked in aqueous electrolytes. NiO nanostructures ( $E_g = 3.6$  to  $4.2 \text{ eV}$ ) may increase  $C_s$  due to improved faradic redox reactions [57]. Several methods have been used to synthesize nanostructured NiO by both chemical as well as physical methods, for instance, sol-gel method, wet-chemical solution method, evaporation and oxidation, electrochemical deposition, coprecipitation and reactive pulsed laser ablation. Dutt et al. [30] synthesized porous NiO nanostructures (particle size  $\sim 70 \text{ nm}$ ) by the hydrothermal method which showed a  $C_s$  value of  $132 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $10 \text{ mVs}^{-1}$ .

Wang et al. [120] have reported Ni-Zn system materials ( $\text{Ni}_x\text{Zn}_{1-x}\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{NiO-ZnO}$  and  $\text{Ni}_x\text{Zn}_{1-x}$ ). In this system,  $\text{Ni}_x\text{Zn}_{1-x}\text{S}$  porous nanoparticles (diameters  $\sim 30 \text{ nm}$ ) with an SSA of  $148.4 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$  exhibit the  $C_s$  of  $1867 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $1 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$  along with excellent rate capability.  $\text{Cd(OH)}_2$  nanowires (NWs) have been fabricated on a stainless-steel substrate by Patil et al. [121].  $\text{Cd(OH)}_2$  NWs electrode exhibits the  $C_s$  of  $267 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $5 \text{ mVs}^{-1}$  with good cycling life. A symmetric device fabricated using this electrode exhibited an  $E_d$  of  $11.09 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  and  $P_d$  of  $799 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$  at  $0.84 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ . Rui et al. [122] have prepared the hydrated  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  nanosheets by sol-gel technique and used them in organic electrolyte ultracapacitors. Zhu et al. [123] have prepared 3-D nanostructures of  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  NS by the freeze-drying process and studied their symmetrical device behaviour. Nagaraju et al. [124] have reported the synthesis of 2D  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  nanosheets (NS) and rGO composite. The  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  and rGO/ $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  NS delivered a  $C_s$  of  $253 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  and  $635 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  and the corresponding  $E_d$  of  $39 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  and  $79.5 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  at a  $P_d$  of  $900 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$  in an ASC. The  $E_d$  is higher than reported for Ppy@ $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  nanoribbon composite ( $32 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$ ,  $900 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$ ) [125],  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  and PANI nanofibers ( $26.7 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$ ,  $222 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$ ) [126], graphene composites of  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  nanowires and  $\text{MnO}_2$  nanorods ( $15.4 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$ ,  $436 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$ ) [127] etc.  $\text{MnO}_2$  doped  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$

nanostructures exhibited a  $C_s$  of  $450 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $0.5 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$  and retains 89% of  $C_s$  after 500 cycles [128]. An ASC developed using  $\text{MnO}_2$  doped  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  and AC as electrodes exhibits a  $C_s$  of  $61 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  with an  $E_d$  of  $8.5 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$ .

Compared to monometallic compounds, bimetallic compounds reveal improved performance.  $\text{NiCo}_2\text{O}_4$  shows more electronic conductivity and better electrochemical performance than NiO and  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  [129–131]. The Ni-Co hydroxide shows higher  $C_s$  along with the improved rate capability than  $\text{Ni(OH)}_2$  and  $\text{Co(OH)}_2$  [132–134]. Wang et al. [135] have synthesized  $\text{GeSe}_2$  nanostructures and obtained a  $C_s$  of  $300 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $1 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ . Zhang et al. [136] synthesized SnSe and obtained a  $C_s$  of  $228 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $0.5 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ . Chen et al. [137] synthesized bimetallic Ni-Co selenides with different Ni-Co ratios and obtained  $C_s$  of  $535 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $1 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$  and  $C_s$  retention  $\sim 82\%$  after 2000 cycles higher than Ni-Co oxides and Ni-Co sulphides. An ASC synthesized using  $\text{Ni}_{0.67}\text{Co}_{0.33}\text{Se}$  and rGO as electrodes exhibited a  $C_s$  of  $176 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $1 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$  and  $E_d$  of  $36.7 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  at a  $P_d$  of  $750 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$ . Wang et al. [138] have prepared hierarchical  $\text{NiCo}_2\text{O}_4$  electrode material by the hydrothermal method which displays a  $C_s$  of  $1393 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $0.5 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ , a high  $E_d$  ( $21.4 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$ ) at a  $P_d$  of  $350 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$  with remarkable stability. Ma et al. [139] have developed  $\text{ZnCo}_2\text{O}_4@\text{MnO}_2$  core-shell nanotube arrays as shown in Fig. 8, which possesses  $C_s$  of  $1981 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $5 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ . Also, an ASC with  $\text{ZnCo}_2\text{O}_4@\text{MnO}_2$  nanotubes on Ni foam as anode and porous  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  on Fe foil as cathode is fabricated which acquired a  $C_s$  of  $161 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$ ,  $E_d$  of  $37.8 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  at  $2.5 \text{ mAcm}^{-2}$  and superior stability with 91% of the  $C_s$  retention after 5000 cycles, in voltage window of 1.3 V.  $\text{H}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7$  nanotubes prepared by Yang et al. [140] when employed as an electrode in SC material with non-aqueous electrolyte, possessed the  $C_s$  of  $414 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $0.5 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ . The theoretical values of  $C_s$  and electrical conductivity of some TMOs are reported such as NiO ( $2584 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  [141],  $0.01\text{--}0.32 \text{ Scm}^{-1}$  [142]),  $\text{MnO}_2$  ( $1380 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  [143],  $10^{-5}\text{--}10^{-6} \text{ Scm}^{-1}$



**Fig. 8.** (a) XRD of  $\text{ZnCo}_2\text{O}_4/\text{MnO}_2$  nanotube arrays (b) TEM images of  $\text{ZnCo}_2\text{O}_4/\text{MnO}_2$  nanotube arrays (c) EDS (electron diffraction spectroscopy) mapping of individual  $\text{ZnCo}_2\text{O}_4/\text{MnO}_2$  nanotube arrays [139]. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [139] Copyright Royal Society of Chemistry (2015)).

[144],  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  ( $2120 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$ ,  $10^{-4}$ – $10^{-2} \text{ Scm}^{-1}$  [145]),  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  ( $3560 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  [146,147],  $10^{-4}$ – $10^{-2} \text{ Scm}^{-1}$  [148] and  $\text{RuO}_2$  ( $1200$ – $2200 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  [149],  $10^3$ – $1 \text{ Scm}^{-1}$  [150]).

### 3.4. Nanocomposite materials

Generally, the composites contain two or more materials in which each individual component possesses its own properties (physical, chemical and mechanical). Nanocomposite electrodes incorporate carbon materials into MOs or CPs and put together a non-faradaic (physical) and a faradaic (chemical) charge storage mechanism in a single electrode. High SSA is provided by the carbon materials and pseudocapacitive materials further increase the capacitance. CNTs act as a backbone for uniform distribution of MOs or CPs, producing high pseudocapacitance and electric double-layer capacitance. Such type of electrodes attains higher  $C_s$  than individual carbon, MOs or CPs electrodes [151].

#### 3.4.1. Carbon materials with CPs

The AC cathode coupled with a CPs anode provides higher  $E_d$  and  $P_d$  than EDLCs and improved cycling performance than pseudocapacitors [151]. A CNT hydrogel with PANI had a  $C_s$  of  $680 \text{ mFcm}^{-2}$  at  $1 \text{ mAcm}^{-2}$  [152]. Jaidev and S. Ramaprabhu have prepared poly (phenylenediamine) (PpPD) and hydrogen exfoliated graphene (HEG) sheets which shows a  $C_s$  of  $248 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $2 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$  [153]. Also, an ASC is fabricated which exhibits an  $E_d$  of  $8.6 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  at a  $P_d$  of  $0.5 \text{ kW kg}^{-1}$ .

Li et al. [154] have synthesized PANI nanorods on graphite NS which exhibit a  $C_s$  of  $1665 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $1 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ . Zhao et al. [155] synthesized graphene-based PVA composites with 150% better tensile strength and approximately 10 times increase in Young's modulus with graphene loading of 1.8 vol %. Yu et al. [156] prepared PANI/eCFC (etched carbon fibre cloth) composite with  $C_s$  of  $1035 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $1 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ , 88% capacity retention. Wang et al. [157] have investigated the GNS/PANI composite which shows a  $C_s$  of  $532.3 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $2 \text{ mVs}^{-1}$ , 99.6%  $C_s$

retention at  $50 \text{ mVs}^{-1}$ . Mao et al. [158] also reported the synthesis of graphene/PANI nanofiber composites with  $C_s$  of  $526 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $0.2 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ . Freestanding PEDOT-PSS/SWCNTs have been reported which exhibit the  $C_s$  of  $104 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $0.2 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ ,  $E_d$  of  $7 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$ ,  $P_d$  of  $825 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$  and 90% of the  $C_s$  retention after 1000 cycles [159]. Snook et al. [15] prepared PEDOT/PSS and CNTs composite that could reach  $C_s$  varying from  $85 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  to  $150 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$ ; while the  $E_d$  could exceed  $0.92 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  and  $P_d$  could range from  $100 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$  to  $3000 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$ . Frackowiak et al. [160] reported PEDOT/PSS and MWNT composites with a  $C_s$  value of  $100 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$ . Han et al. [161] have reported electrodes of PEDOT/PSS and GO in  $1 \text{ M H}_2\text{SO}_4$  which yield capacitance of  $108 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  with  $C_s$  retention of 78% over 1200 cycles. Symmetric (PPy//PPy) and asymmetric (PPy//AC) SCs have been prepared using Cladophora algae-derived cellulose as a binder [162]. These SCs exhibit capacitance values ranging from 0.45 F to 3.8 F. The rGO aerogels generally suffer from low  $E_d$ , small life cycle and poor flexibility. Yang et al. [163] have prepared rGO aerogel-PANI composite by electro-deposition of PANI arrays on rGO aerogel which possesses the usefulness of rich open pore and high conductivity of cross-linked framework of 3D aerogel and high capacitance of PANI. The prepared composite exhibits a specific capacitance of  $432 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at a current density of  $1 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ , the energy density of  $25 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$ , 85% capacitance retention after 10,000 cycles with outstanding stability in different bending conditions.

#### 3.4.2. Carbon-based nanomaterials with MOs

TMOs have low electronic conductivity, poor  $C_s$  and low electrochemical stability. To improve its performance, nanostructured TMOs are mixed with the carbon material to make composites. This combination of MOs and carbon is useful for high-performance SCs. Various hybrid materials such as  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4/\text{graphene}$  [164,165],  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4/\text{CNTs}$  [166], and  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4/\text{CNFs}$  [167] with improved electrical conductivity and a huge surface area have been prepared. Wang et al. [57] have reported a NiO/GF hybrid electrode which shows a  $C_s$  ( $1225 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $2 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ ). An ASC has been synthesized using NiO/GF as anode and

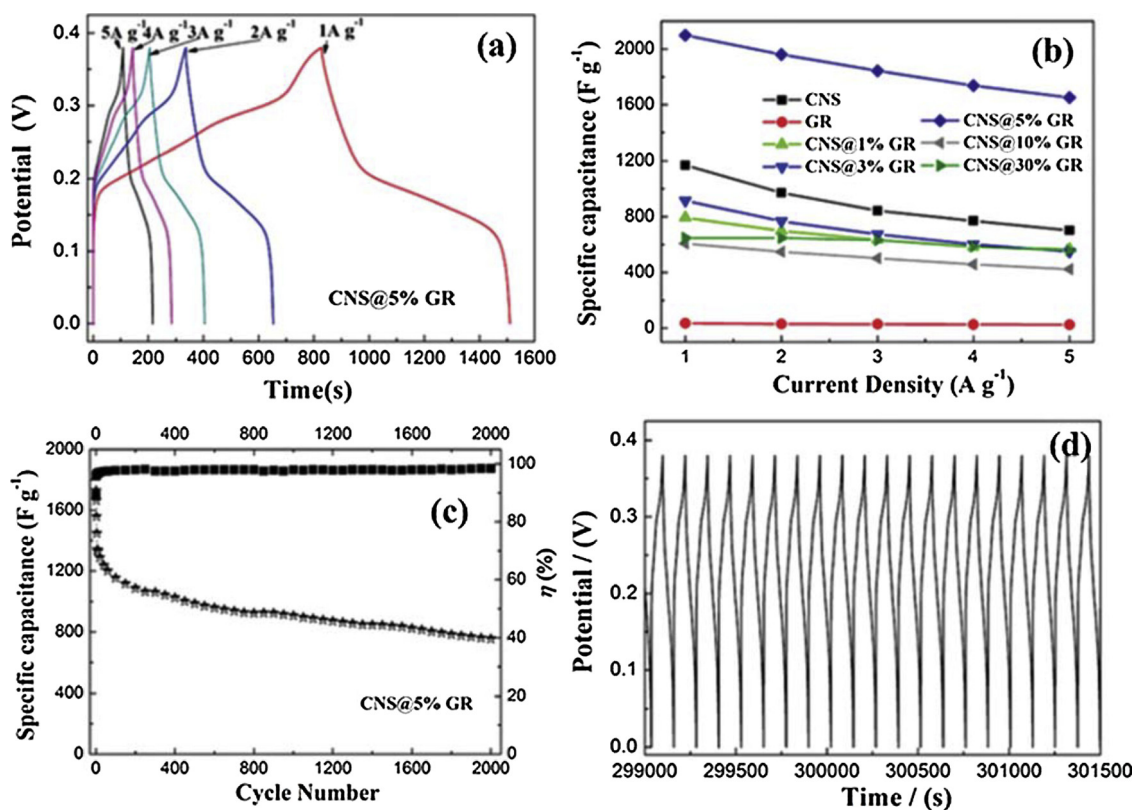


Fig. 9. (a) CD curves of electrodes based on CNS@5%GR nanocomposite (b)  $C_s$  comparison of CNS/GR nanocomposite, CNS nanoparticles and GR at diverse current densities (c) Cyclic performance and (d) CD curves for the last 20 cycles at  $4 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$  current density of CNS@5%GR nanocomposite [32]. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [32] Copyright Royal Society of Chemistry (2014)).

HPNCNTs as a cathode in the KOH solution which exhibits an  $E_d$  of  $32 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  at a  $P_d$  of  $700 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$  with 94%  $C_s$  retention after 2000 cycles. Li et al. [168] presented CNTs@NCS@MnO<sub>2</sub> composites which had  $C_s$  of  $312.5 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $1 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$  with good cycling stability (92.7%  $C_s$  retention after 4000 cycles). An ASC was designed with CNTs@NCS@MnO<sub>2</sub> (+ve electrode) and ACs (-ve electrode) which possessed a high  $C_s$  with a stable PW of 1.8 V,  $E_d$  of  $27.3 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  at  $P_d$  of  $4500 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$ . Perera et al. [169] have assembled a coin cell type ASC using V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>-CNT as an anode and carbon fibre as a cathode which delivers an  $E_d$  of around  $46.3 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  and a  $P_d$  of  $5.26 \text{ kW kg}^{-1}$ . Du et al. [32] constructed the CoNi<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>@graphene (CNS@GR) nanocomposite showing  $C_s$   $2009.1 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $1 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$  and the  $C_s$  could be retained at  $755.4 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  ( $4 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ ) after 2000 cycles. Fig. 9 shows the CD curves and cycle performance of CNS@GR nanocomposites.

Many single-phase materials or nanocomposites of Ni<sub>x</sub>Co<sub>3-x</sub>O<sub>4</sub> have been prepared with superior energy storage properties e.g. nanosheets [170], nanoneedles [171] and nanowires [172] of NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, Ni<sub>0.3</sub>Co<sub>2.7</sub>O<sub>4</sub> hierarchical structures [173], NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/(CNTs) [174] and NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/graphene oxide (GO) [175] etc. Yuan et al. [176] reported NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanosheets with  $C_s$  of  $1450 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $20 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ . Ternary NiCo<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> also offer richer redox reactions, as ternary NiCo<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> have a higher electronic conductivity than Ni<sub>x</sub>Co<sub>3-x</sub>O<sub>4</sub> which can reduce the charge transfer resistance, resulting in a smaller interior resistance (IR) loss at higher current density. Hence, a greater rate capability and  $P_d$  can be achieved [177]. The synthesis of NiCo<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> nanotubes through sacrificial templates with  $C_s$  of  $933 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $1 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$  has been reported [178]. Urchin-like NiCo<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub>, prepared by a precursor transformation method, with  $C_s$  of  $1050 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $2 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$  has been reported [179]. However, the two-step transformation method increased the preparation cost. Hence, composite of NiCo<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> nanosheets/graphene is again produced by hydrothermal method with a  $C_s$  of  $760 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $20 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$  [180].

Xiong et al. [181] have prepared Ni-Co-Mn hydroxide nanoneedles

by a hydrothermal method which show the  $C_s \sim 1400 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$ , higher  $E_d$  ( $30 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$ ) and  $P_d$  ( $39 \text{ kW kg}^{-1}$ ) at  $100 \text{ mAcm}^{-2}$  with no loss of  $C_s$  after 3000 cycles. Ratha et al. [182] have reported patronite hybrid, VS<sub>4</sub>/rGO, which shows  $C_s$  of  $\sim 877 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $0.5 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ , an  $E_d$  of  $117 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  and  $P_d$  of  $20.65 \text{ kW kg}^{-1}$ . Lu et al. [183] constructed an aqueous sodium-ion ASC by using Mn hexacyanoferrate (HCF) as -ve electrode and Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/rGO nanocomposites as +ve electrode with an extended PW of 1.8 V which exhibited  $C_s$  of  $96 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$ , higher  $P_d$  ( $2183.5 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$ ) and  $E_d$  ( $27.9 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$ ). Guan et al. [184] have presented needle-like Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> deposited on graphene as the supercapacitor material with  $C_s$  of  $157 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $0.1 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ .

Liu et al. [185] prepared cobalt-based nanoparticle on mesoporous carbon nanospheres. The synthesis technique used was the 'colloidal amphiphile template oxidative polymerization of dopamine'. Polydopamine possesses enough binding sites to coordinate metal ions. As prepared composite exhibited very fine size, porous structure, complete usage of conductive carbons and manageable chemical compositions which provided high rate capability with long-term cyclic stability. Wu et al. [186] have prepared hybrid structure consisting of graphene-encapsulated carbon and Ni-Al layered double hydroxide which shows a high  $C_s$  ( $1710.5 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $1 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ ) and  $E_d$  of  $35.5 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  at a  $P_d$  of  $670.7 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$  at  $1 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ . Sahoo et al. [187] have prepared ZnCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/rGO/NiO composite on Ni foam which possesses the  $C_s$  of  $1256 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  at  $3 \text{ Ag}^{-1}$ , higher  $E_d$  of  $62.8 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$ ,  $P_d$  of  $7492.5 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$  and low ESR ( $0.58 \Omega$ ). The composite retained 80% of  $C_s$  after 3000 charge-discharge cycles. The effect of concentration of electrolyte on the electrochemical behaviour has also been examined.

Table 2 compares supercapacitor electrodes of carbon and its composites in terms of various parameters such as pore size, surface area,  $C_s$ , rate capability, stability and cost. It is clear from the table that for obtaining a good performance supercapacitor, composites of carbon materials and MOs is a suitable candidate with high  $C_s$ , high rate

**Table 2**  
Comparison of carbon and its composite as SC electrodes [177].

Electrode material	Pore size	SSA	C <sub>s</sub>	Rate capability	Stability	Cost
Carbon	Pore size can be designed	High	Low	High	Good	Low
MOs	Difficult to tailor	Low	High	Low	Poor	High
Carbon-MOs composite	Pore size can be tailored	Controlled by the carbon material	High	Good	Good	Moderate

capability and stability with moderate cost.

### 3.4.3. MOs and CPs composites

The composite of MOs and CPs may give an improved electrochemical performance in SCs due to compatibility between them [188,189]. Therefore, many efforts have been done to develop MOs embedded with CPs that increase the conductivity of electrodes very much by enhancing the C<sub>s</sub>, rate capability and cyclic stability. Liu et al. [190] fabricated PPy coated MoO<sub>3</sub> by in-situ polymerization which showed C<sub>s</sub> of 110 Fg<sup>-1</sup> at 100 mA g<sup>-1</sup> and E<sub>d</sub> of 20 Whkg<sup>-1</sup> at P<sub>d</sub> of 75 Wkg<sup>-1</sup>. The ASC designed with PPy@ MoO<sub>3</sub> as the + ve electrode and AC as the -ve electrode in 0.5 M K<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> aqueous solution exhibited an E<sub>d</sub> of 12 Whkg<sup>-1</sup> at 3 kW kg<sup>-1</sup>. Raj et al. [191] prepared Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-Pind which achieved C<sub>s</sub> of 1805 Fg<sup>-1</sup> at 2 Ag<sup>-1</sup> and C<sub>s</sub> of 1625 Fg<sup>-1</sup> at 25 Ag<sup>-1</sup>. Table 3 shows some of the latest fabricated SC electrodes (non-flexible) with their various parameters such as C<sub>s</sub>, E<sub>d</sub>, P<sub>d</sub>, capacitance retention etc. Table 4 shows the summary of flexible planar SC electrodes/devices.

## 4. Asymmetric supercapacitors (ASCs)

ASCs have superiority over symmetrical SCs as these SCs use the faradaic active electrode, which significantly contributes to the pseudocapacitance, besides increasing the PW, along with EDLC electrode which supplies high power. Moreover, the longer discharge times and dissimilar discharge profiles provide higher E<sub>d</sub> and P<sub>d</sub> to ASCs [237]. As ASCs combine the advantages of both pseudocapacitive electrode and the capacitive electrode, so ASCs can provide higher E<sub>d</sub> than symmetric SCs while maintaining cyclic and rate performance [238,239]. Wang et al. [240] fabricated a non-aqueous ASC from two spherical materials: an activated mesocarbon microbead-AMCMB (-ve electrode) and MnO<sub>2</sub> nanowire-sphere (+ve electrode) over a voltage range (0.0–3.0 V) using 1 M Et<sub>4</sub>NBF<sub>4</sub> in acetonitrile as electrolytes. The AMCMB/MnO<sub>2</sub> supercapacitor explored a C<sub>s</sub> of 228 Fg<sup>-1</sup> and E<sub>d</sub> of 128 WhKg<sup>-1</sup> at 10 mVs<sup>-1</sup>. An asymmetric high voltage SC (1.9 V) had been produced [241] using AC as the -ve electrode and a silicon carbide-MnO<sub>2</sub> (SiC-N-MnO<sub>2</sub>) composite as the + ve electrode in Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> electrolyte solution having C<sub>s</sub> of 59.9 Fg<sup>-1</sup> at 2 mVs<sup>-1</sup> and E<sub>d</sub> of 30.06 Whkg<sup>-1</sup> and P<sub>d</sub> of 113.92 Wkg<sup>-1</sup> with an approximate 3.1% C<sub>s</sub> loss after 1000 charge-discharge cycles.

An ASC using Cu<sub>2</sub>O as + ve electrode and AC as -ve electrode exhibited an E<sub>d</sub> of 20.04 Whkg<sup>-1</sup> with an extended PW of 1.65 V and retained 93.3% capacitance after 5000 cycles [51]. As-prepared flexible all-solid-state ASC illuminated 52 red coloured LEDs using four charged devices in series. A flexible solid-state ASC has been fabricated by Wang et al. [54] using Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> flakes and γ-Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles as electrodes which delivers a high E<sub>d</sub> of 38.1 Whkg<sup>-1</sup> along with extended PW of 1.7 V. Also, the fabricated device illuminated 52 LEDs, for at least 7 min, along with good charge-discharge behaviour under different bending conditions. Wu et al. [242] reported an E<sub>d</sub> of 30.4 Whkg<sup>-1</sup> and P<sub>d</sub> of 5 kW kg<sup>-1</sup> using graphene/MnO<sub>2</sub>/graphene hybrid cells. An ASC with Carbon Quantum Dots (CQDs)/NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> composite as + ve electrode and the AC as -ve negative electrode has been designed which possesses a C<sub>s</sub> of 88.9 Fg<sup>-1</sup>, E<sub>d</sub> of 27.8 Whkg<sup>-1</sup>, P<sub>d</sub> of 128 Wkg<sup>-1</sup>, great cycling stability (101.9% of C<sub>s</sub> retention over 5000 cycles) and high coulombic efficiency (η) of almost 100% during the cycling process [243]. Hadi et al. [244] have fabricated an ASC with Ni<sub>4.5</sub>Co<sub>4.5</sub>S<sub>8</sub> and g-

Fe<sub>3</sub>C/Fe as the + ve and -ve electrodes which possesses the E<sub>d</sub> of 89 Whkg<sup>-1</sup> at P<sub>d</sub> of 1.1 kW kg<sup>-1</sup> and retained 91% of C<sub>s</sub> after 2500 cycles. Xie et al. [245] have designed C-LiFePO<sub>4</sub> over titanium nitride substrate as the electrode for a Li-ion supercapacitor which exhibits the C<sub>s</sub> of 972 Fg<sup>-1</sup> at 1.0 Ag<sup>-1</sup>, presenting a C<sub>s</sub> improvement of 210% in comparison to 314 Fg<sup>-1</sup> for LiFePO<sub>4</sub>/TiN. The C-LiFePO<sub>4</sub>/TiN nanowires exhibit excellent cyclic stability with a 3.7% loss of C<sub>s</sub> after 400 cycles. Table 5 shows the summary of some of the reported asymmetric/symmetric SCs.

## 5. New materials

### 5.1. MOFs

TMOs, despite exhibiting attractive properties as good electrical conductivity, superior electrochemical response, less manufacturing cost and simple processability, have limited practical use due to decline in their capacitive response after some time during continuous Faradaic reactions. Hence, there is a requirement of new synthesis techniques, which could provide stable porous structures and control over phase with dimensions of MOs for getting better capacitive performance. Nowadays, MOFs have gathered much attention as templates for the synthesis of porous MOs and nanocomposites of porous carbons and metal/metal oxides [264] first developed by Yaghi et al. in 1995 [265]. MOFs have been prepared by joining inorganic and organic units via strong chemical bonds. The polyvalent organic carboxylates, when associated with metal-containing units, can yield three-dimensional structures which have well-defined pore size distributions and large SSA (1000–10,000 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>). Transition metals (eg Zn, Co, Cu, Fe, Ni), alkaline earth elements (eg Ba, Sr), p-block elements (eg In, Ga) and mixed metals are used for the development of MOFs [266]. The annealing time and temperature variation can control the composition, pore size and SSA of MOF derived oxides. MOF based oxides can be combined with different carbon-based materials such as rGO, CNTs, graphene etc. to enhance their electrochemical performance. Few of the porous TMOs obtained from MOFs are cupric oxide, zinc oxide, iron oxide, nickel oxide, cerium oxide, cobalt oxide, titanium dioxide, manganese oxide, magnesium oxide. Also, MOFs may be favourable for the synthesis of mixed MOs and their composites, such as Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/ZnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, CuO/Cu<sub>2</sub>O, Cu/Cu<sub>2</sub>O@TiO<sub>2</sub>, CuO@NiO, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@TiO<sub>2</sub>, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/NiCo<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, NiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, ZnO@ Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, ZnO/ZnFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [267]. Thus, these materials can be employed for manufacturing SCs electrodes because of the multiple functions and high SSA, but still face some major hurdles, such as low electrical conductivity at higher charge-discharge rates, short cycle life at higher rates, shortcomings in the diffusion distance of the electrolyte within porous MOs owing to high crystallinity [268].

The capacitive performance of MOF-derived MOs can be enhanced by: (a) mixing the MOF-derived MOs with conductive carbon materials as rGO, CNTs, graphene etc. along with a secondary metal oxide, thereby improving the electrical conductivity (b) increasing the SSA of MOF-derived MOs by heating the MOF precursors under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere prior to heating them in air, which is beneficial for stopping the fast release of volatile gases which would have resulted in the collapse of the frameworks (c) optimizing the pore size of MOF-derived materials with size of electrolyte ion by matching the heating conditions so that the ions can enter in to the pores of MOs up to larger distances which

**Table 3**  
Summary of the latest fabricated SC electrodes.

Electrode material	Electrolyte	Preparation method	C <sub>s</sub> (Fg <sup>-1</sup> )	E <sub>d</sub> (Whkg <sup>-1</sup> )	P <sub>d</sub> (kWhkg <sup>-1</sup> )	Retention (cycles)	Ref
Porous Au/MnO <sub>2</sub>	-	-	1145 at 50 mVs <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	80%(500)	[192]
Ni Co <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> nanoneedle arrays	-	-	1118.6	-	-	89.4%(2000)	[193]
CuO@ AuPd@MnO <sub>2</sub> core-shell Whiskers	1 M KOH	Electrodeposition	1376 at 5 mVs <sup>-1</sup>	0.55 mWhcm <sup>-3</sup>	413 mWhcm <sup>-3</sup>	99%(5000)	[194]
Ni <sub>0.65</sub> Co <sub>0.35</sub> oxide on Ni foam	-	Electrodeposition	1523 at 2 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	36.46	0.142	95.3%(1000)	[195]
CoO <sub>2</sub> PPY on 3D Ni foam	-	-	2223 at 1 mAcm <sup>-2</sup>	-	-	99.8%(2000)	[95]
Mn/MinO <sub>2</sub> core-shell 3D porous structure	2 M KOH	Electrodeposition	1200 at 5 mVs <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	96%(2000)	[196]
VA-CNT-graphene with Ni(OH) <sub>2</sub> coating	-	-	1065 at 22.1 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	96%(20,000)	[197]
B-Ni(OH) <sub>2</sub> /GO /CNTs	-	Phase transformation method	1815 at 2 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	97%(2000)	[198]
Ni Co <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-	Hydrothermal method with annealing at 300 °C	1393 at 0.5 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	21.4	0.35	-	[138]
CoNi <sub>2</sub> S <sub>4</sub> / graphene	-	-	2009.1 at 1 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	-	[32]
Ni-Co-Mn triple hydroxide (NCMTH)/(GPs)	-	Hydrothermal method	1400	30	39	~100% (10,000)	[181]
Ni(OH) <sub>2</sub> /graphitic petals	-	-	1985	54	-	-	[199]
Ni(OH) <sub>2</sub> /rGO on Ni foam	-	Hydrothermal method	3328.7 at 1.5 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	15.65 Fcm <sup>-2</sup>	-	90.6%(5000)	[200]
N-CNF/N-CNF and Ni(OH) <sub>2</sub>	6 M KOH	Electro-spinning	1045	51	117	84%(5000)	[56]
Co(OH) <sub>2</sub> -NPG	-	-	1800	-	-	-	[201]
Ni-CO-BH (binary hydroxide)/rGO	-	SILAR method	2130 at 2 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	92	7.0	80%(10,000)	[31]
GF/Ni foam/Co(OH) <sub>2</sub>	0.08 M K <sub>3</sub> Fe(CN) <sub>6</sub> / 1 M KOH	-	7514 at 16 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	-	[202]
Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /NH <sub>2</sub> -GS	-	Hydrothermal method	2108.4 at 1 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	59.3	.225	-	[203]
Ni-Mn LDH/rGO	-	Co-precipitation method	1635 at 1 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	33.8 (at potential 1.7 V)	-	-	[204]
nickel-based metal organic frameworks (MOFs)	-	-	1698 at 1 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	94.8%(1000)	[205]
Manganese molybdate nanosheet/Ni foam	-	Hydrothermal	1271 at 5mVs <sup>-1</sup>	31.6	.935	84.5%(2000)	[206]
NiO/LaNiO <sub>3</sub>	-	Spin coating	2030 at 0.5 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	83%(1000)	[22]
nanopore NiCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-	Sol-gel	2157 (mass Cs) 40.6 mFcm <sup>-2</sup> (areal capacitance)	-	-	96.5%(10,000)	[21]
Ni <sub>3</sub> S <sub>2</sub> /NiCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-	-	4569.1 mFcm <sup>-2</sup> at 1mAcm <sup>-2</sup>	-	-	89.2%(1000)	[207]
Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NCS	-	-	1913 at 8 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	-	[208]
V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> nanosheets/rGO	1 M KCl	-	635 at 1 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	-	[124]
RuO <sub>2</sub> decorated TiO <sub>2</sub> nanotube	-	-	1263	-	-	-	[209]
V <sub>5</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /Rgo	-	Hydrothermal synthesis	877 at 0.5 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	117	20.65	-	[182]
Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> / polyindole	1 M KOH	In situ cathodic electrodeposition	1805 at 2 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	83%(1000)	[191]
NiO/GF	-	Pulsed laser deposition	1225 at 2 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	89%(1000)	[57]
Ni <sub>x</sub> Zn <sub>1-x</sub> S	3 M KOH	Hydrothermal method	1867 at 1 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	77.4%(1000)	[120]
ZnO@Ni <sub>3</sub> S <sub>2</sub>	-	Electrodeposition	1529 at 2 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	42%(1000)	[25]
ZnCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /rGo/NiO	6 M KOH	-	1256 at 3 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	62.8	7.4925	-	[187]
Ni(OH) <sub>2</sub> /CNS	-	-	2218 at 1.0 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	-	[210]

**Table 4**  
Summary of the fabricated flexible planar SC electrodes/devices.

Electrode material	Electrolyte	Preparation method	C <sub>s</sub> (Fg <sup>-1</sup> )	E <sub>d</sub> (Whkg <sup>-1</sup> )	P <sub>a</sub> (kWkg <sup>-1</sup> )	Retention (cycles)	Ref
CNT-graphene films	1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Drop casting, vacuum filtration, air brush spraying	~140 at 0.1 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	-	[211]
rGO/carbon black	PVA/H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	-	79 at 1 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	-	[212]
Carbon black pillared graphene film	1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	vacuum filtration	215 at 0.1 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	414	97%(10,000)	[213]
Functionalized rGO film	Nafion	vacuum filtration	118.5 at 0.1 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	90%(1000)	[214]
Macroporous graphene film	-	Hard template, vacuum filtration	92.7 at 3 mVs <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	-	[215]
Graphene/PANI composite paper	1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Vacuum filtration& electro- polymerization	233 at 2 mVs <sup>-1</sup>	-	33.9	96%(500)	[216]
Graphene/PANI hybrid paper	1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Vacuum filtration& polymerization	489 at 0.4 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	~100%(2000)	[217]
NiO-graphene 3D networks	3 M KOH	CVD & sacrificial template	~816 at 5 mVs <sup>-1</sup>	-	42	~95%(1000)	[218]
Graphene-MnO <sub>2</sub> -CNTs nanocomposite films	1 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Co-precipitation & vacuum filtration	372	2.2	44	95%(1000)	[219]
Embossed rGO-MnO <sub>2</sub> hybrid films	1 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Vacuum filtration & sacrificial template	389 at 1 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	44	25	95%(1000)	[220]
PPy/graphene	KCl	-	237 at 0.01 Vs <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	-	[221]
Functionalized graphene hydrogel	1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Hydrothermal treatment	441 at 1 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	86%(10,000)	[222]
3D N&B co-doped graphene hydrogel	1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Hydrothermal treatment	239 at 1 mVs <sup>-1</sup>	8.7 (all solid state)	1.65(all solid state)	100%(1000)	[223]
PANI-oriented graphene hybrid film	-	Vacuum filtration & in situ polymerization	574	-	-	93%(10,000)	[224]
Graphene - PANI composite	1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Coating & electro- polymerization	763 at 1 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	82%(1000)	[225]
3D graphene -MnO <sub>2</sub> composite networks	0.5 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	CVD & electro- chemical deposition	465 at 2 mVs <sup>-1</sup>	6.8	2.5	81.2%(5000)	[226]
Graphene-MnO <sub>2</sub> nano structured textiles	0.5 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Dip drying & electro- chemical deposition	~315 at 2 mVs <sup>-1</sup>	12.5	110	~95%(5000)	[227]
Co-Al LDH/rGO films	1 M KOH	Layer by layer assembly	1240 at 5 mVs <sup>-1</sup> (90 mFcm <sup>-2</sup> )	-	-	99%(2000)	[228]
Graphene- MnO <sub>2</sub> nanostructured sponges	1 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Dip-drying	~450 at 2 mVs <sup>-1</sup>	8.34	94	90%(10,000)	[229]
PANI nanowire-carbon cloth	-	-	1079 at 1.73 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	86%(2100)	[230]
PANI nanowire arrays-Au coated PET films	-	-	588 F cm <sup>-3</sup>	-	-	-	[231]
Ultra-thin MnO <sub>2</sub> / Zn <sub>2</sub> SnO <sub>4</sub> nanowire-carbon microfibers	-	-	621.6 at 2 mVs <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	98.8%(1000)	[232]
PANI nanoparticles-carbon nanofiber	-	-	638 at 2 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	90%(1000)	[233]
Ni(OH) <sub>2</sub> nanosheet-graphene	-	-	660.8 F cm <sup>-3</sup>	-	-	98.2%(2000)	[234]
NiCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @ polypyrrole core-shell nanowire on hemp-derived carbon (HDC) microfiber	-	-	2055	17.5	0.5	90%(5000)	[235]
3D rGO-F/ PANI	-	Dipping and drying method	790	17.6	98	80%(5000)	[58]
NiAs-type Cobalt sulphide	-	Hydrothermal method	867	-	-	-	[236]
Co <sub>2</sub> O	1 M KOH	Dealloying method	210.9 at 0.5 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	94.5%(5000)	[51]
Co <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> flakes	1 M KOH	Dealloying method	410 at 0.7 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	80.5%(5000)	[54]
γ - Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> nanoparticles	1 M KOH	Dealloying method	187 at 0.7 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	-	-	93.2%(5000)	[54]

**Table 5**  
Summary of some of the reported asymmetric/symmetric SCs.

Electrodes	$C_s$ ( $Fg^{-1}$ )	$E_d$ ( $Whkg^{-1}$ )	$P_d$ ( $kWkg^{-1}$ )	Capacitance retention	Ref
CNT/PANI//CNT/MnO <sub>2</sub> /GR, by vacuum filtration method in 1 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> /PVP	–	24.8 at 1.6 V	–	–	[246]
e-CMG/MnO <sub>2</sub> //e-CMG in 1 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	–	44	11.2	95% after 1000 cycles	[247]
MnO <sub>2</sub> /OCN/PVDF//MnO <sub>2</sub> /OCN/PVDF	363.28	64.39	3.87	–	[248]
Co <sub>2</sub> AlO <sub>4</sub> @MnO <sub>2</sub> nanosheet//Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> nanoflakes	99.1	35.3	0.8001	92.4% after 5000 cycles	[249]
		24.11	8.033		
MnO <sub>2</sub> -V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> //AC(activated carbon) in 0.5 M K <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	61	8.5	–	–	[128]
NiO-GF//HPN CNTs in 1 M KOH	116 at 1Ag <sup>-1</sup>	17	42	94% after 2000 cycles	[57]
NiO//porous carbon	–	11.6	0.028	–	[250]
Ni(OH) <sub>2</sub> nanosphere//AC	120 at 4.8 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	–	–	–	[251]
Ni <sub>0.67</sub> Co <sub>0.33</sub> Se//RGO	176 at 1Ag <sup>-1</sup>	36.7	0.750	–	[142]
Ni Co <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -RGO//AC	–	–	–	83% after 2500 cycles	[252]
Ni-Co oxide//AC	–	7.4	1.9	85% after 2000 cycles	[253]
V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> NS//RGO	95 at 1Ag <sup>-1</sup>	39	0.900	92% after 3000 cycles	[124]
rGO - V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> NS//RGO	195 at 1 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	75.9	0.900	94% after 3000 cycles	[124]
Ni Co <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> //AC in 2 M KOH	135 at 1 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	21.4	0.350	95.6% after 1000 cycles	[138]
Ni Co <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> - MnO <sub>2</sub> //activated graphene	–	5.8	2.5	–	[254]
Ni Co <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> //AC	–	6.8	2.8	–	[255]
Ni-Zn-Co oxide/ hydroxide//AC	–	16.62	2.9	–	[256]
ZnCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @MnO <sub>2</sub> // Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> in 1 M KOH by hydrothermal method	161 at 2.5 mAcm <sup>-2</sup>	37.8	0.648	91% after 5000 cycles at 20 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	[139]
NiO//AC	73.4	15	0.447	–	[257]
Ni Co <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @MnO <sub>2</sub> //AC	–	35	0.163	–	[258]
Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @MnO <sub>2</sub> //AC	–	17.7	0.600	–	[259]
Ni-Co sulphide//AC	–	25	0.447	–	[260]
CNT@NCS@MnO <sub>2</sub> //AC in 1 M Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	–	27.3	4.5 at 1.8 V	78.8% after 2000 cycles	[168]
H <sub>2</sub> Ti <sub>6</sub> O <sub>13</sub> //CMK-3 (mesoporous carbon)	–	90	11	–	[140]
PPy@MoO <sub>3</sub> //AC in 0.5 M K <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	–	12	3	–	[190]
Mn HCF//Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> @rGO	96 at 1 mAcm <sup>-1</sup>	27.9	2.183 at 1.8 V	82.2% after 1000 cycles	[183]
CNT/graphene//Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /graphene	72.6 at 0.5 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	22.9	9	86% after 10,000 cycles	[261]
MnO <sub>2</sub> // MnO <sub>2</sub>	26 mF cm <sup>-2</sup> at 0.7 V	–	–	–	[262]
Ru//Ru	68 mF cm <sup>-2</sup> at 1 mAcm <sup>-2</sup>	–	–	–	[115]
Cd(OH) <sub>2</sub> //Cd(OH) <sub>2</sub> , by chemical bath deposition in 1 M NaOH	51 at 5mVs <sup>-1</sup>	11.09	0.799 at 0.84 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	–	[121]
HPCNTs//HPCNTs in 1 M LiPF <sub>6</sub>	139 at 1 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	37.9	0.700 at 1 A g <sup>-1</sup>	90.6% after 4000 cycles	[59]
RGO//RGO	–	6.8	49.8	–	[263]
Ni-Mn LDH/rGO//AC	82.26 at 1Ag <sup>-1</sup>	33.8 at 1.7 V	–	–	[204]
MnMoO <sub>4</sub> .nH <sub>2</sub> O//AC	–	31.6	0.935	–	[206]
CNG@NCH//rGO	–	78.75	0.473	–	[213]
RuO <sub>2</sub> -NPG//Co(OH) <sub>2</sub> -NPG	350	120	–	–	[21]
N-CNFS/Ni(OH) <sub>2</sub> //N-CNFS	–	51	117	84% after 5000 cycles	[22]
Ni-Co-BH-G//CCN	340	92	7	–	[31]
Ni(OH) <sub>2</sub> -CNS//AC	198	56.7	4.0	93% after 10,000 cycles	[217]
CoWO <sub>4</sub> /Co <sub>1-x</sub> S <sub>4</sub> //AC	103.1	22.5	4	87.27% after 5000 cycles	[41]
Cu <sub>2</sub> O//AC by dealloying method	53 at 0.5 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	20.04	7.1	93.3% after 5000 cycles	[51]
Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> flakes//γ-Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> nanoparticles by dealloying method	94.7 at 0.7 Ag <sup>-1</sup>	38.1	–	80.1% after 5000 cycles	[54]

can be made feasible by reducing the crystallinity of material [268].

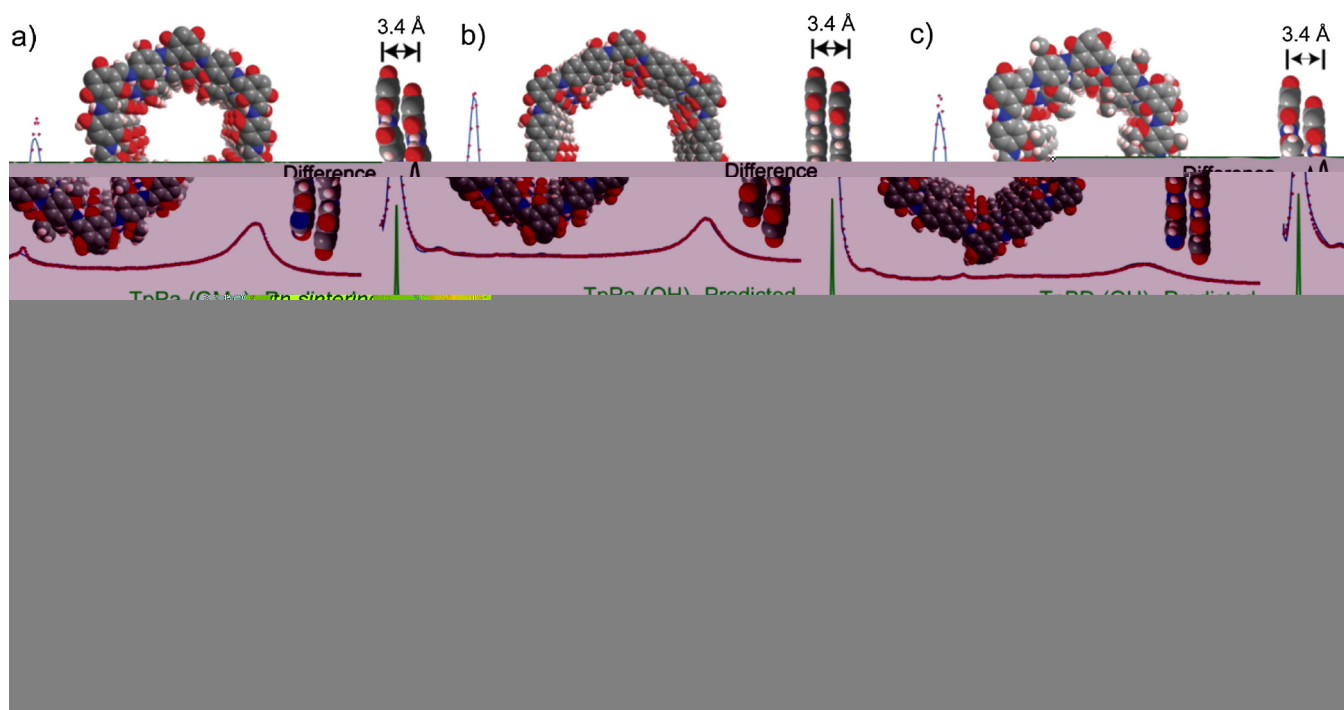
Wang et al. [264] reported MOF (polyhedral ZIF-8) for SC application with enhanced values of  $E_d$ ,  $P_d$  and cycling life in comparison to current hybrid capacitors. Kaur et al. [269,270] assembled graphene-MOF composite on TiO<sub>2</sub>/FTO substrate and QD-MOF (quantum dot-MOF) nanocomposite. The 1-D and 2-D materials can facilitate easy highways for ion intercalation and deintercalation, thus improving charge-discharge. Thus, higher  $E_d$  and  $P_d$  may be obtained by using 3-D materials which can supply many reaction sites in their 3-D networks. But, very few methods provide control over the dimensions of the prepared metal oxides which illustrates the significance of MOF-derived materials. Hence an extensive understanding of the charge-discharge process of MOF-derived MOs is needed to get better electrochemical performance.

## 5.2. COFs

COFs, novel microporous materials, which have molecularly ordered structures formed by the covalent linking of organic building blocks, are gaining importance because of their well-defined structures, high porosity, versatile molecular design and precise control over the placement and character of redox-active groups [271]. The first COF

was reported by Yaghi and co-workers in 2005, utilizing boronate ester with boroxine linkages. It resulted in porous materials with good crystallinity [272]. The COFs are synthesized by using solvent conditions that result in a suspension or slurry [273]. By designing the solvent conditions, the COF formation rate can be obtained by turbidity measurements. In this study, the COF formation rate is related to the aromatic stacking capacity of the monomer. Another report explored the effect of dihedral angles among aromatic rings of the monomers on the crystallinity and porosity in COFs [274]. However, the lesser electrical conductivity and less stability of COFs put hurdles in their practical application. A strategy has been planned to eradicate these limitations by confining conducting polymers within porous frameworks which results in improved cycle stability along with maintaining electrical conductivity and mechanical stability.

Recently, Dichtel et al. [275] have developed this process by using PEDOT-modified COF (DAAQ-TFP COF) to obtain very high-rate charging with higher  $E_d$ . Xu et al. [276] have explained that the PEDOT-modified DAAQ-TFP COF films possess a better current response in CV than pristine DAAQ-TFP COF film which can be ascribed to the wiring effect of PEDOT chains. However, ion transport is improved by vertical pore channels by reducing the diffusion length. Chandra et al. [277] reported COFs [TpPa-(OH)<sub>2</sub>, TpBD-(OH)<sub>2</sub>] for SCs. Fig. 10 shows the



**Fig. 10.** Comparison of XRD pattern for (a) TaPa-(OH)<sub>2</sub> (b)TpBD-(OH)<sub>2</sub> and (c) TaPa-(OMe)<sub>2</sub>; Inset of (a), (b), and (c) shows the pore structure and π-π stacking distance for COFs Comparison of N<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms at 77 K for (d) TaPa series and (e) TpBD series (f) Pore size distribution and (g) TEM images for TaPa-(OH)<sub>2</sub>, TpBD-(OH)<sub>2</sub>, TaPa-(OMe)<sub>2</sub>, and TpBD-(OMe)<sub>2</sub> [277]. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [277] Copyright American Chemical Society (2017)).

XRD, N<sub>2</sub> adsorption curves, pore size distribution and TEM images of COFs. TpPa-(OH)<sub>2</sub> exhibited C<sub>s</sub> of 416 Fg<sup>-1</sup> at 0.5 Ag<sup>-1</sup> with 66% C<sub>s</sub> retention after 10,000 cycles. High C<sub>s</sub> is due to the exact molecular control of redox functionalities in the COF. Han et al. [278] fabricated nanocoatings of COFs on Ni NWs which exhibited C<sub>s</sub> of 314 Fg<sup>-1</sup> at 50 Ag<sup>-1</sup> with 74% of the C<sub>s</sub> retention at 2 Ag<sup>-1</sup>. The high current density made the charge-discharge phenomenon very rapid. Kim et al. [271] fabricated N-doped carbon by carbonization of COFs through an azine-linked 2-D network (ACOF1). In ACOF1, micropores (diameters < 1 nm) have been formed with high SSA (1596 cm<sup>2</sup>g<sup>-1</sup>). The C<sub>s</sub> of carbonized ACOF1 is 234 Fg<sup>-1</sup> at the 1.0 Ag<sup>-1</sup> which is greater than the carbonized COF1 (191 Fg<sup>-1</sup>). Romero et al. [279] fabricated COFs of polyimine with many metal ions (Fe<sup>III</sup>, Co<sup>II</sup>, and Ni<sup>II</sup>).

### 5.3. MXenes

MXenes (2-D inorganic compounds) were first developed in 2011 by Yury Gogotsi [280] and comprise few atom deep layers of transition metal nitrides, carbides or carbonitrides. MXenes provide an exclusive amalgamation of conductivity and hydrophilicity (because of their hydroxyl surfaces) along with the superior mechanical properties. MXenes have the general formula M<sub>n+1</sub>A<sub>x</sub>N<sub>n</sub>, where M is a transition metal, A is group 13 or 14 element, X is C and/or N and n = 1, 2, or 3. These are produced by selective etching of element A from their 3D layered MAX phase. So far, approximately 20 MXenes have been produced which have shown superior C<sub>s</sub> for the reversible intercalation of metal cations (eg. Li<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Al<sup>3+</sup>, etc.) [281].

Fu et al. [282] prepared a flexible paper electrode using layered 2D Ti<sub>3</sub>C<sub>2</sub>T<sub>x</sub> which achieved a high volumetric capacitance of 892 F cm<sup>-3</sup> along with excellent cycling performance (no capacitance loss after 10,000 cycles). Yarn SCs are fabricated using MXenes and PEDOT-PSS which show excellent stability and device performance even during bending and twisting [283]. Shah et al. [284] demonstrated the scrolling, bending and folding of Ti<sub>3</sub>C<sub>2</sub>T<sub>x</sub> nanosheets into 3D crumpled structures and also the change was found to be reversible on rehydration. Rakhi et al. [285] reported the formation of nanocrystalline ε-

MnO<sub>2</sub> on MXene nanosheets (ε-MnO<sub>2</sub>/Ti<sub>2</sub>CT<sub>x</sub> and ε-MnO<sub>2</sub>/Ti<sub>3</sub>C<sub>2</sub>T<sub>x</sub>) by chemical synthesis. The ε-MnO<sub>2</sub> nanocrystalline whiskers enhance the SSA of the nanocomposite electrode and hence improve the C<sub>s</sub> by approximately three times in comparison to that of pure MXene-based symmetric SCs. The fabricated ε-MnO<sub>2</sub>/MXene SCs possess good cycling stability (~88% of the C<sub>s</sub> retention after 10,000 cycles). Hu et al. [286] studied Ti<sub>3</sub>C<sub>2</sub>T<sub>x</sub> MXenes obtained by etching Ti<sub>3</sub>AlC<sub>2</sub> in HF aqueous solution (at different concentrations-6 M and 15 M) as shown in Fig. 11. A higher C<sub>s</sub> had been obtained in 6 M HF-etched MXene (Ti<sub>3</sub>C<sub>2</sub>T<sub>x</sub>-6 M).

### 5.4. Metal nitrides (MNs)

MNs have captured the interest as SC electrode material due to their good electrochemical properties, high chemical stability and standard technological approach [287]. Zhu et al. [288] grew two MNs: TiN porous layers and Fe<sub>2</sub>N nanoparticles on vertical-aligned graphene sheets and used as the electrodes for solid-state SCs. Das et al. [289] prepared MNs (M = Co, Cr) nanoparticles (particle size approximately 20–30 nm) in NH<sub>3</sub> + N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at small temperature. The Cr-urea complex directly changes to CrN, however, CoN has been obtained from Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>. The ASC fabricated using MNs and AC as electrodes shows high C<sub>s</sub> of 37 and 75 Fg<sup>-1</sup> for M = Co, Cr, respectively at 30 mA g<sup>-1</sup>.

### 5.5. Black phosphorus (BP)

BP (newest members in the 2D material family), has recently gathered much attraction due to its higher theoretical C<sub>s</sub> (2596 mAhg<sup>-1</sup>), distinct structures with corrugated planes of P atoms which are linked by strong interlayer P–P bonding and weak interlayer Vander Waals forces [290]. The bulk BP may be converted into thin sheets (few layers to even a single layer) by breaking the weak interactions. Few layered BP (phosphorene) has a direct band gap of 0.3 eV–2.2 eV which can be controlled by the number of layers. Also, BP has an interlayer spacing of 5.3 Å, greater than graphite (3.6 Å) and comparable to that of 1 T MoS<sub>2</sub> phase (6.15 Å) [291]. Hao et al. [292] fabricated flexible SC using liquid-exfoliated BP nanoflakes which



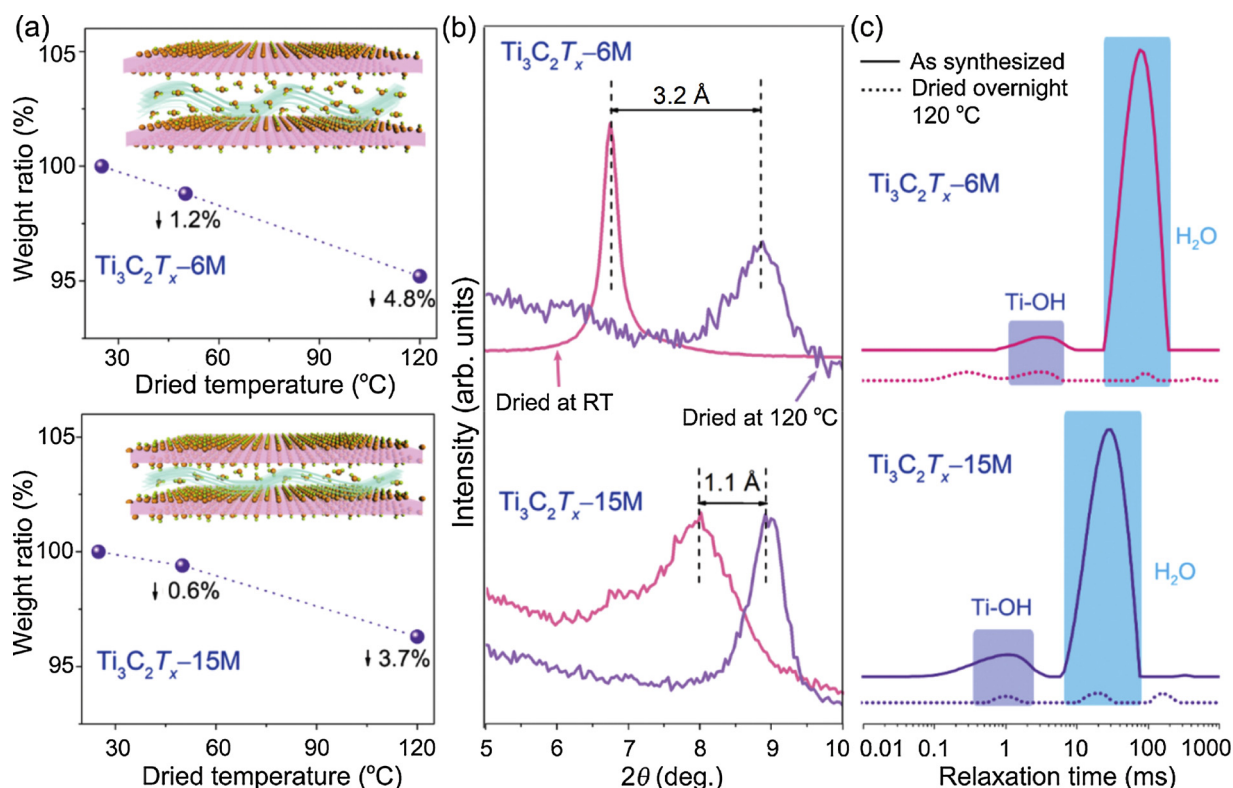


Fig. 11. (a) Normalized weight of  $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x-6\text{M}$  and  $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x-15\text{M}$  dried at different temperatures, Inset shows the schematic of  $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x-6\text{M}$  and  $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x-15\text{M}$  dried at room temperature (b) (0002) peaks of XRD pattern shows the shrinkage of interlayer spacing upon drying at 120 °C for  $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x-6\text{M}$  and  $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x-15\text{M}$  (c)  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of as-synthesized MXenes and those dried at 120 °C overnight [286]. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [286] Copyright American Chemical Society (2018)).

delivered  $C_s$  (volumetric) of  $13.75 \text{ Fcm}^{-3}$ ,  $P_d$  of  $8.83 \text{ Wcm}^{-3}$  and  $E_d$  of  $2.47 \text{ mWhcm}^{-3}$  and a very long lifespan of over 30,000 cycles.

Yang et al. [293] fabricated all-solid-state SC using flexible BP nanoflake/CNT composite paper as electrodes. CNTs increase electrolyte shuttling and forbid the restacking of BP nanoflakes. The prepared SC with BP/CNTs (ratio 1:4) exhibited  $C_s$  (volumetric) of  $41.1 \text{ Fcm}^{-3}$  at  $0.005 \text{ Vs}^{-1}$ , a high  $P_d$  of  $821.62 \text{ Wcm}^{-3}$ , high  $E_d$  of  $5.71 \text{ mWhcm}^{-3}$ , excellent mechanical flexibility and high cycle stability (91.5%  $C_s$  retention after 10,000 cycles). Chen et al. [294] have synthesized a heterostructure of BP and red phosphorus through the sonochemical process. The  $C_s$  of BP/Red Phosphorus hybrid is approximately  $60.1 \text{ Fg}^{-1}$  retaining 83.3% of  $C_s$  after 2000 cycles.

## 6. New Devices/Applications for SCs

### 6.1. Electrochromic SC

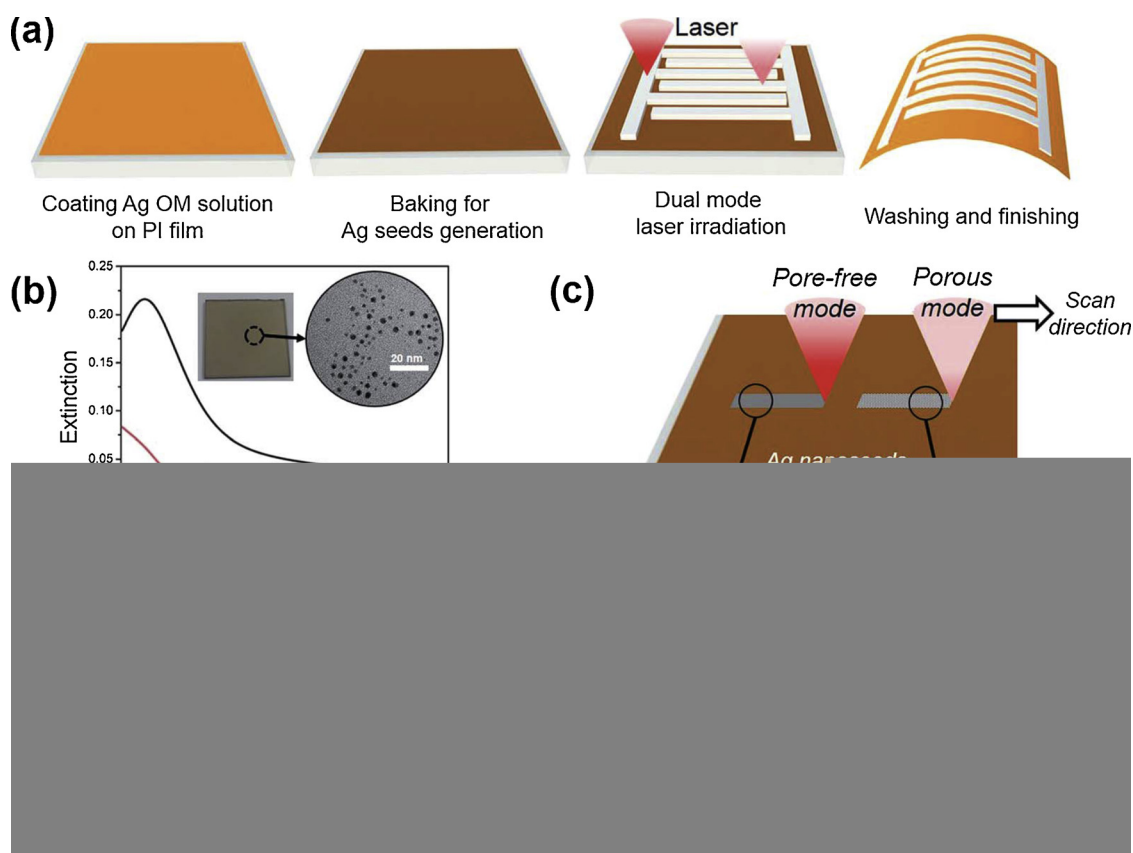
Along with improving electrochemical performance of SCs, research has been focussed on the integration of SCs with multiple functions such as flexibility, wearability for their use in portable devices and adding smart functionalities so that people can easily determine the electrical energy storage (EES) [295]. The most striking change is the visual change which can be easily identified. Among SC materials,  $\text{WO}_3$  has been found to be smart material due to its good contrast amid the bleached transparent state and blue coloured state. The change in colour with potential or EES of the electrode demonstrates its smart function [296]. Zhu et al. [297] synthesized  $\text{WO}_3$  by electro-deposition method (e- $\text{WO}_3$ ) as a smart electrode material. Optical density has been used for investigation of colour change of  $\text{WO}_3$  film based SCs. A linear dependence between optical density and EES is discovered. Then hybrid SC is fabricated to integrate the color-change based EES indicators to various high-performance SCs. As the EES of SCs is visually apparent by

the color change of  $\text{WO}_3$  so e- $\text{WO}_3$  can be integrated with other materials to form a smart hybrid SC.

### 6.2. Battery-supercapacitor hybrid (BSH) device

BSH devices are of immense interest due to their future applications in smart electric grids, electric vehicles and miniaturized electronic-optoelectronic devices etc. Along with traditional Pb-acid, Ni-MH, Ni-Cd, Li-ion batteries (LIBs), several advanced batteries such as Li-air, Li-sulfur, Na-ion, Al-ion batteries and aqueous metal ion batteries are emerging. Energy storage using a high  $C_s$  battery-type electrode and high  $P_d$  capacitive electrode called BSH provides a potential way to fabricate a device with the qualities of both batteries and SCs [298].

In Li-ion BSH, the SC electrode materials are carbon materials (such as ACs, CNTs, graphene etc.) and battery material are MOs, intercalation compounds, and their composites. Zheng et al. [298] combined EDLC type +ve electrode with battery type -ve electrode which achieved an  $E_d$  of  $147 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  at a  $P_d$  of  $150 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$  and also retained an  $E_d$  of  $86 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  at a  $P_d$  of  $2587 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$ . Peng et al. [299] have introduced a new SC/Li-ion battery (SC/BT) topology hybrid energy storage system (HESS) for electric vehicle (EV) using ADVISOR simulator. In this braking regeneration energy is harvested by SC pack. The constraint on Li resources has forced researchers to use other elements abundant on earth. In this context, Na-ion SCs have been explored which couples battery electrode with high  $C_s$  and surface adsorption based SC electrode with good rate capability. Lu et al. [183] constructed an advanced Na-ion SC using Mn hexacyanoferrate as the cathode and  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{rGO}$  as an anode in the aqueous electrolyte with an extended PW of 1.8 V,  $P_d$  of  $2183.5 \text{ Wkg}^{-1}$ ,  $E_d$  of  $27.9 \text{ Whkg}^{-1}$  and good cycling stability (82.2%  $C_s$  retention after 1000 cycles). Along with Na-ion based BSH, potassium-ion based BSH is also attractive due to its low cost and abundance of potassium (K) in nature.



**Fig. 12.** (a) Schematic explanation of nanoporous silver (NPS) electrode and current collector (b) Extinction efficiency of pre-baked organometallic solution and procedure of a laser-sintering process (c) Change in structure of silver conductor based on the laser energy [313]. (Reproduced with permission from Ref. [313] Copyright Royal Society of Chemistry (2017)).

Komaba et al. [300] proposed a graphite-polyacrylate electrode as a -ve electrode for 4 V K-ion SC. Multivalent metal ion (e.g.  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ ) based BSH devices are also of concern along with monovalent metal ions, due to their high  $E_d$ . Li et al. [301] reported a BSH system with an  $E_d$  of 13  $\text{Whkg}^{-1}$  using  $\text{Al}_{0.2}\text{CuFe-PBA}$  as the +ve electrode, AC as the -ve electrode. Another Al-ion BSH system using PPy@ $\text{MoO}_3$  as the -ve electrode with AC as the +ve electrode has been reported with an  $E_d$  of 30  $\text{Whkg}^{-1}$  and operating voltage up to 1.5 V in aqueous electrolyte [302].

### 6.3. Electrochemical flow capacitor (EFC)

In EFC, energy is stored in electric double layers formed by charging carbon particles. Here, a slurry type carbon-electrolyte mixture is deployed as the active material for the charge storage. EFC consists of a cell having two external reservoirs which possess a blend of electrolyte and carbon material. The uncharged mixture is passed from reservoir tanks to flow cell, where the energy is given to the carbon material. After being charged, the slurry can be kept in big tanks until the need for energy arises and at the time of need, the complete process is reversed. EFCs can sustain a large number (hundreds of thousands) of charge-discharge cycles [303,304]. A flowable electrode made up of HQ/carbon spheres yielded a  $C_s$  of 64  $\text{Fg}^{-1}$  which was 50% more than that of only carbon-based flowable electrodes [305].

### 6.4. Alternating current (ac) line-filtering SCs

A supercapacitor can replace bulky Al electrolytic capacitors (AECs) used exhaustively in ac line filtering, resulting in the miniaturization of the devices. However, the SCs developed for this purpose, have restricted applied voltage range of ~20 V. To enhance the voltage range,

designing of carbon electrodes with appropriate pore structure is necessary. Yoo et al. [306] reported graphitic mesoporous carbon as an electrode in SCs and fabricated a 2.5 V SC with a  $C_s$  (areal) of ( $\square$ )560  $\text{mFcm}^{-2}$ ) and rapid frequency response ( $\phi \sim -80^\circ$ ) at 120 Hz. Also, mixing a small amount of CNTs to the electrode material enhanced the voltage to  $\square$ 40 V. Rangom et al. [307] fabricated superior-performance, self-standing composite electrodes with SWCNTs. The 3-D mesoporous SWCNT-based electrodes permitted unimpaired ionic transport in thick films and provided better results in an ac line frequency of 120 Hz. Measurements of 601  $\mu\text{Fcm}^{-2}$  with a  $-81^\circ$  phase angle and a time constant of 199  $\mu\text{s}$  had been obtained and as fabricated electrodes were capable of cycling at higher than 200  $\text{Vs}^{-1}$  showing a parallelepipedic CV shape at 1  $\text{kVs}^{-1}$ . Current densities were greater than 6400  $\text{Ag}^{-1}$  and the electrodes preserved greater than 98% of  $C_s$  over 1 million cycles. Preparation of graphene-based ac line-filters on a large scale has been reported by Wu et al. [308]. Here, GO reduced by patterned metal interdigitals has been employed as the electrode and the fabricated device explored a phase angle of  $-75.4^\circ$  at 120 Hz, a time constant of 0.35 ms, a  $C_s$  of 316  $\mu\text{Fcm}^{-2}$  and retains 97.2% of the  $C_s$  after 10,000 charge-discharge cycles. Kurra et al. [309] have reported PEDOT micro-supercapacitor with ultra-high scan rate capability of 500  $\text{Vs}^{-1}$  and a cross over frequency of 400 Hz at a phase angle of  $-45^\circ$  which exhibits  $C_s$  (areal) of 9  $\text{mF cm}^{-2}$  in 1 M  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ . These devices retain the  $C_s$  of 80% after 10,000 cycles, maintained efficiency ( $\eta$ ) of 100% and exhibit an  $E_d$  of 7.7  $\text{mWhcm}^{-3}$ .

### 6.5. Micro-supercapacitors (Micro-SCs)

Thin film batteries and microsized batteries suffer from certain limitations, for instance, short lifetime, small  $P_d$  and complex architecture, which restrict their integration in portable and miniaturized

devices. Micro-SCs with planar architecture have the advantage of easy fabrication into miniaturized electronics [310]. Shao et al. [311] reported a quasi-solid state micro-SC with cellular graphene films as an active material and PVA/H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> as the gel electrolyte. The 3D graphene films served as high-performance SC electrodes as well as an ion reservoir for the electrolyte. Liu et al. [312] have reported a photo-switchable micro-SC based on the diarylethene-graphene film which exhibits the C<sub>s</sub> modulation up to 20% demonstrating a photoswitchable micro-SC. Terahertz spectroscopy explored that the photoswitching is related to charge transfer at the graphene-diarylethene interface on light modulation. A flexible micro-SC of the self-generated silver layer has been designed by Lee et al. [313] using the laser-induced growth-sintering technique. As designed SC exhibits a high E<sub>d</sub> (volumetric) of 16.3 mWhcm<sup>-3</sup> and a P<sub>d</sub> of 3.54 Wcm<sup>-3</sup> as shown in Fig. 12.

### 6.6. Photo-supercapacitors (photo-SCs)

Photovoltaic energy generation is among the fastest growing power sector. In photo-SCs, the fluctuating electricity generated from solar cells is integrated with SCs. SCs with a photoactive layer along with a supercapacitive layer into a single device have been presented [314]. This device exhibits the capabilities of self-charging upon illumination with self-storage of charge. The photogenerated current is about 2 mA g<sup>-1</sup> along with the C<sub>s</sub> of ~140 Fg<sup>-1</sup>. Xu et al. [315] reported a stack-integrated photo-SC, composed of DSSC (dye-sensitized solar cells) and a SC fabricated on anodic titanium oxide (ATO) nanotube array, where an enhanced SC output was obtained by plasma-assisted hydrogenation process. The C<sub>s</sub> (areal) of selectively hydrogenated ATO had been 1.0 mFcm<sup>-2</sup> at 1 mAcm<sup>-2</sup>. The optimized photo-SCs showed good photo-electric conversion efficiency with storage efficiency (approximately 1.64%) with quick response and better cycling capability.

### 6.7. Thermally chargeable SCs

Low-grade thermal energy, which at present is wasted, can be stored for powering devices such as wearable electronics and sensors. Thermoelectric energy conversion is a good method for waste heat management, but impediments like low output voltage with no energy storing capability require other components (e.g. voltage boosters and capacitors). Thermal self-charging SC uses the Seebeck effect, thermally activated ion diffusion and temperature dependent electrochemical redox potential. It comprises two electrodes kept at dissimilar temperatures [316]. An innovative process of producing a large voltage from the temperature gradient like conventional thermoelectronics is reported [317]. The PANI coated graphene and CNT electrodes sandwich the polystyrene sulphonic acid (PSSH) film in which thermally excited electrochemical reactions result in charging without the requirement of any external source for power supply. With little temperature difference (5 K), the thermally chargeable supercapacitor produces a voltage of 38 mV and a large C<sub>s</sub> (areal) (1200 Fm<sup>-2</sup>). Al-zubaidi et al. [318] examined the thermally-induced phenomena of an ionic electrolyte and solid-liquid interface and also reviewed the studies on thermally excited self-charging in SCs. Wang et al. [319] explored a thermal charging process to restore the energy wasted in SCs after electrical charging and discharging. Zhao et al. [320] used an asymmetric polymer electrolyte prepared from NaOH-treated polyethylene oxide (PEO-NaOH) to generate a thermally-induced voltage in SCs. They employed electrodes of Au and of MWCNTs deposited on Au and obtained a thermopotential of 10 mV K<sup>-1</sup>, the C<sub>s</sub> (areal) of 1.03 mFcm<sup>-2</sup> and E<sub>d</sub> of 1.35 mJcm<sup>-2</sup> at the temperature difference of 4.5 K.

### 6.8. Self-healing SCs

A self-healing SC has been fabricated by Li et al. [321] which exhibits higher E<sub>d</sub> by employing biochar-based electrodes and polyampholyte gel electrolyte. Polyampholyte is a tough hydrogel which

provides self-healing capability along with mechanical flexibility. Biochar (BC), obtained from pyrolysis (low-temperature) of biological wastes along with the inclusion of the rGO, is a carbon material that provides mechanical strength and electrical conductivity. The SC fabricated using BC-rGO electrodes, exhibit higher E<sub>d</sub> of 30 Whkg<sup>-1</sup> with ~90% C<sub>s</sub> retention after 5000 cycles at P<sub>d</sub> of 50 Wkg<sup>-1</sup> at room temperature and an E<sub>d</sub> of 10.5 Whkg<sup>-1</sup> at a P<sub>d</sub> of 500 Wkg<sup>-1</sup> at -300 °C. The low-temperature behaviour excellence may be linked to non-freezable water near hydrophilic polymer chains. This can further inspire researchers to explore the phase performance of water close to polyampholyte chains. Wang et al. [322] reported rGO based spring electrodes for stretchable SCs synthesized by casing fibre springs in a self-healing polymer which show 82.4% C<sub>s</sub> retention after almost 100% stretch, and 54.2% C<sub>s</sub> retention after third healing.

### 6.9. Shape memory SC (SMSC)

Flexible wearable SCs experience deformations which do not reverse after long-term stress, leading to structural and functional fatigue. For solving this problem, an SMSC has been fabricated by Huang et al. [323] which is flexible and gets easily deformed but when heated above a specific temperature, it recuperates its original shape by restoring all deformations. Also, a shape memory textile fabricated with these SMSCs can act as smart sleeves which can remember its previous shape and register automatic cooling when overheated.

### 6.10. Piezoelectric SCs

The advancement in the integration level along with minimizing energy losses in power management circuits is the need of the hour. Generally, a full wave rectifier is employed among the piezoelectric nanogenerator and the storage device which reduces integration density and enhances energy loss. Recently, Xing et al. [324] demonstrated a self-charging cell for energy conversion and storage by integrating piezoelectric separator and Li-ion battery. However, due to slow charging and reduced cyclability of Li-ion battery, the SCs have gained immense attention. The integration of pseudocapacitor and piezoelectric material in the energy storage device has been reported by Ramadoss et al. [325]. Song et al. [326] integrated a PVDF film in SC as the energy harvester and separator. An SC has been formed by using PVDF film coated with H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>/PVA gel as anode and carbon cloth with H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>/PVA electrolyte as a cathode. The piezoelectric PVDF film due to mechanical force showed the charging of the SC and possessed a C<sub>s</sub> of 357.6 Fm<sup>-2</sup>, an E<sub>d</sub> of 400 mW m<sup>-2</sup> and a P<sub>d</sub> of 49.67 mWhm<sup>-2</sup>. Maitra et al. [327] have fabricated a bio-piezoelectric run self-charging ASC consisting of NiCoOH-CuO@Cu foil as a +ve electrode and rGO@Cu foil as -ve electrode with a PVA-KOH gel electrolyte dipped porous fish swim bladder as a bio-piezoelectric separator. This SC can be charged up to 281.3 mV in ~80 s.

## 7. Conclusions and challenges for SCs

Electrochemical SCs are developing as promising devices for energy storage. In this review, a detailed description of electrode materials based on carbon materials, CPs, MOs and their composites has been given. Further research is needed for high-performance SC electrodes which can simultaneously assure high capacitance, cyclic stability and excellent rate. The authors believe that more research should be focussed on different nanocomposite materials made up of carbon, MOs and CPs for fabricating high-performance SC electrodes. Also, the state-of-the-art developments in SC electrode materials have been incorporated in this article along with some novel materials and new devices for SCs. Continuous research efforts are needed to allow these materials and novel devices to meet the growing energy demands. Also, it is essential to improve synthesis parameters and material properties for full capability exploration of the SC electrode materials. MOFs,

COFs, MXenes and metal nitrides are new materials with great potential for SC application. Phosphorene, because of reduced diffusion pathway and highly dense structure, is also a promising candidate for SCs. In the energy industry, fabrication of new devices for SCs such as BSH device, EFC, micro-SC, electrochromic SC, photo-SC, thermally chargeable SC, self-healing SC, shape memory SC and piezoelectric SC have gained attention.

Although encouraging results have been attained in this field; yet the evolution of a new generation of SCs is at its premature stage. To improve the supercapacitor performance, the focus should be on the following parameters: (i) An in-depth knowledge of energy storage mechanisms should be gained for interfacial reactions at the electrode and the electrolyte (ii) Design the electrodes to form hierarchical interconnected porous microstructures and avoid the creation of dead volume (iii) Control the interfacial interactions to obtain a structure with high electrochemical performance.

The main developmental goals are:

- More novel manufacturing techniques should be developed to prepare highly porous material with hollow structures so that a large amount of charge can be stored resulting in increase in  $E_d$ .
- Moreover, to improve the  $E_d$ , along with electrode material, electrolytes with stable and wide potential window along with good ionic conductivity are needed. Also, the compatibility issues between pore size of electrode material and ion size of the electrolyte should be taken into account in order to fully explore the utilization of porous surface of electrode material.
- In addition to the selection of electrode material and electrolyte several other issues such as improvement of the operating temperature range, self-discharge rate, long lifetime, degradation of the current collectors, separators, packaging etc. should be vigorously investigated for improving overall cell performance.
- More focus should be on the development of ASCs as these SCs provide higher  $E_d$  and  $P_d$  simultaneously.

## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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