

# Gram-scale bottom-up flash graphene synthesis

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大多数大块石墨烯是通过自上而下的方法生产的，即剥离石墨，这通常需要大量的溶剂进行高能混合、剪切、超声或电化学处理。Most bulk-scale graphene is produced by a top-down approach, exfoliating graphite, which often requires large amounts of solvent with high-energy mixing, shearing, sonication or electrochemical treatment<sup>1–3</sup>. Although chemical oxidation of graphite的氧化剂，并且在随后的还原步骤后，石墨烯会留下有缺陷的穿孔结构。如果通过化学气相沉积或先进的合成有机 to graphene oxide promotes exfoliation, it requires harsh oxidants and leaves the method进行，高质量石墨烯的自下而上合成通常仅限于超少量，或者如果在大量溶液中进行，则生成满是缺陷的结构。 graphene with a defective perforated structure after the subsequent reduction step<sup>3,4</sup>.

Bottom-up synthesis of high-quality graphene is often restricted to ultrasmall amounts if performed by chemical vapour deposition or advanced synthetic organic methods, or it provides a defect-ridden structure if carried out in bulk solution<sup>4–6</sup>. 在这里，我们表明，对廉价碳源（如煤、石油焦、生物炭、炭黑、废弃食品、橡胶轮胎和混合塑料废物）进行快速 Here we show that flash joule heating of inexpensive carbon sources—such as coal, petroleum coke, biochar, carbon black, discarded food, rubber tyres and mixed

plastic waste—can afford gram-scale quantities of graphene in less than one second. 该产品因其生产工艺而命名为闪蒸石墨烯（FG），在堆叠的石墨烯层之间显示出涡轮层状排列（即微有序）。 The product, named flash graphene (FG) after the process used to produce it, shows

turbostratic arrangement (that is, little order) between the stacked graphene layers. FG合成不使用熔炉，也不使用溶剂或反应性气体。产量取决于碳源的碳含量；当使用 FG synthesis uses no furnace and no solvents or reactive gases. Yields depend on the 炭黑、无烟煤或煅烧焦炭等高碳源时，产量可在80%至90%之间，碳纯度大于99%。 carbon content of the source; when using a high-carbon source, such as carbon black,

anthracitic coal or calcined coke, yields can range from 80 to 90 per cent with carbon

purity greater than 99 per cent. No purification steps are necessary. Raman 分析显示FG具有低强度或缺失的D带，表明FG是迄今为止报道的石墨烯最低缺陷浓度之一，并证实了FG是涡轮层状堆叠的，这与 spectroscopy analysis shows a low-intensity or absent D band for FG, indicating that 涡轮层叠石墨烯明显不同。 FG has among the lowest defect concentrations reported so far for graphene, and

confirms the turbostratic stacking of FG, which is clearly distinguished from turbostratic graphite. The disordered orientation of FG layers facilitates its rapid exfoliation upon mixing during composite formation. FG合成的电能成本仅为约7.2千焦耳/克，这可使FG适用于塑料、金属、胶合板、混凝土和其他建筑材料的大块复合材料。 synthesis is only about 7.2 kilojoules per gram, which could render FG suitable for use

in bulk composites of plastic, metals, plywood, concrete and other building materials.

在快速焦耳加热（FJH）过程中，非晶导电碳粉在两个电极之间的石英管或陶瓷管内被轻微压缩。 In the flash joule heating (FJH) process, amorphous conductive carbon powder is lightly compressed inside a quartz or ceramic tube between

two electrodes (Fig. 1a, Supplementary Fig. 1). The system can be at atmospheric pressure, or under a mild vacuum (~10 mm Hg) to facilitate outgassing. The electrodes can be copper, graphite or any conductive refractory material, and they fit loosely into the quartz tube to permit outgassing upon FJH. High-voltage electric discharge from a capacitor bank brings the carbon source to temperatures higher than 3,000 K in less than 100 ms, effectively converting the amorphous carbon into turbostratic FG. In high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HR-TEM) analysis (Fig. 1b, c), the misoriented layers of FG exhibit the expected Moiré patterns, whereas FG derived from spent coffee grounds also shows hexagonal single-layer graphene (Fig. 1d).

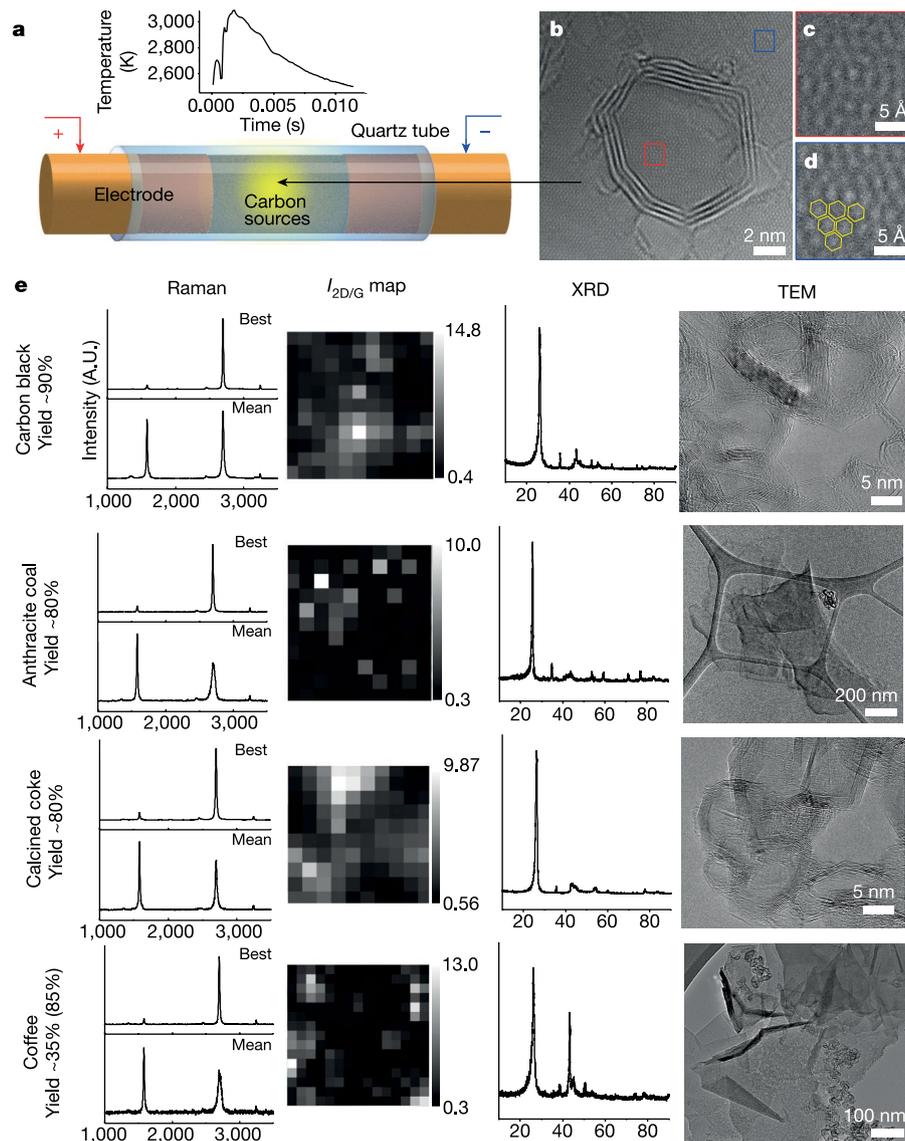
高质量的石墨烯可以通过拉曼光谱快速表征。炭黑的FG(CB-FG)有一个强的2D峰。 High-quality graphene can be quickly identified by Raman spectroscopy<sup>7–10</sup>. FG from carbon black (CB-FG) has an intense 2D peak. As

从图1e中CB-FG的拉曼映射中可以看出，2D带相对于G带（I<sub>2D</sub>/I<sub>G</sub>）的强度在许多位点大于10。 seen in the Raman mapping of CB-FG in Fig. 1e, the intensity of the 2D band relative to the G band (I<sub>2D</sub>/I<sub>G</sub>) is greater than 10 in many locations. D带的极低强度表明这些FG产品的缺陷浓度较低，这有助于2D带的放大。 The extremely low intensity of the D band indicates the low defect

concentration of these FG products, which contributes to the amplification of the 2D band. Thus, the unusually high I<sub>2D</sub>/I<sub>G</sub> = 17 (Fig. 1e) of CB-FG is the highest value reported so far for any form of graphene, and is probably an outcome of the extreme temperature reached in the flash process, which outgasses non-carbon elements from the system. 此外，分别位于约1886 cm<sup>-1</sup>和约2031 cm<sup>-1</sup>处的两个峰值TS<sub>1</sub>和TS<sub>2</sub>证实了FG的涡轮层性质。 Additionally, the two peaks TS<sub>1</sub> and TS<sub>2</sub> at ~1,886 cm<sup>-1</sup> and ~2,031 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, confirm the turbostratic nature of FG (Supplementary Figs. 2, 3), which is discussed extensively in Supplementary Information and Supplementary Table 1<sup>11,12</sup>.

FG的X射线衍射（XRD）图显示了一个明确的（002）峰，表明非晶碳成功石墨化。 The X-ray diffraction (XRD) pattern of FG shows a well defined (002) peak indicating successful graphitization of the amorphous carbon. The (002) peak of FG occurs at diffraction angle 2θ = 26.1°. FG的（002）峰值出现在衍射角2θ = 26.1°时，对应于层间距d = 3.45 Å.

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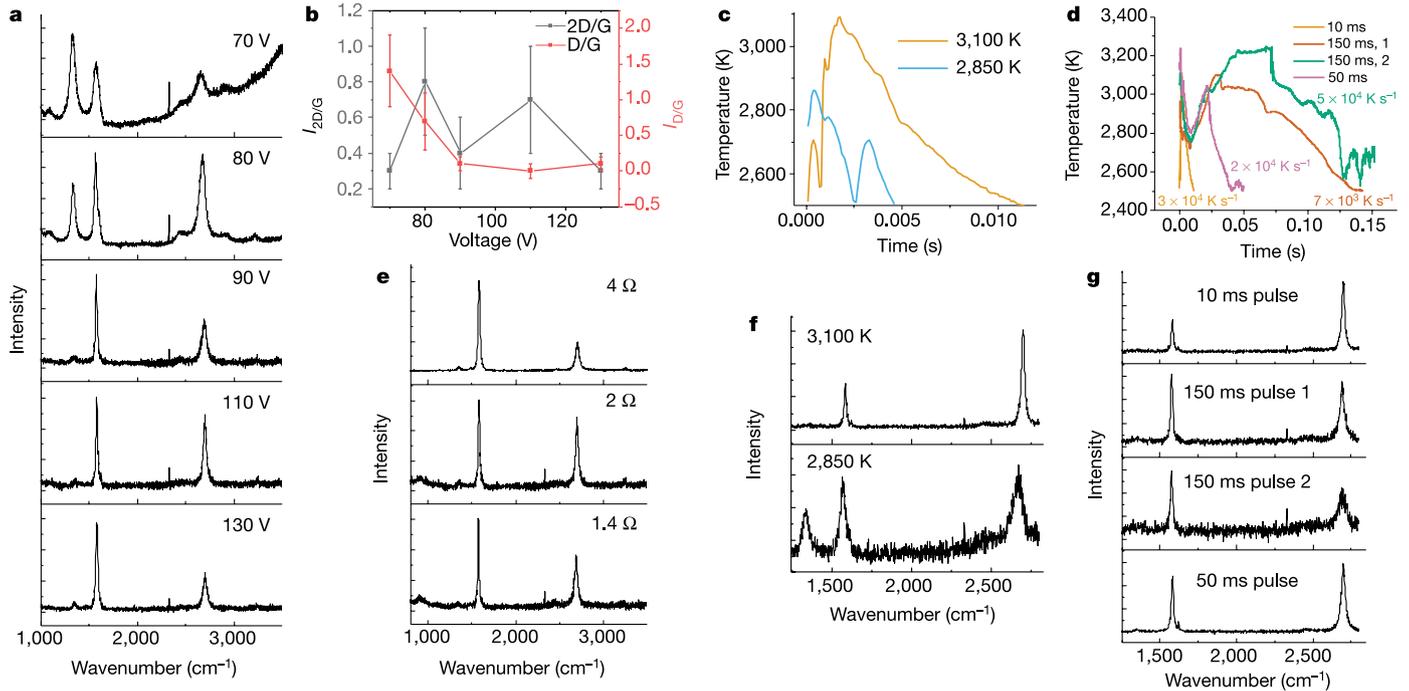


**Fig. 1 | FG synthesized from various carbon sources.** a, FJH过程示意图以及升温时间与温度的关系图(插图)。b-d, 咖啡制备的单层FG上面CB-FG的HR-TEM图像。e, 表征结果, 包括来自不同碳源的FG的拉曼光谱(显示最佳和平均获得的谱)、XRD光谱和TEM图像。e, Characterization results, including Raman spectra (showing the best and the mean obtained spectra), XRD spectra and TEM images for FG derived from various carbon sources. The coffee-derived FG is made from used coffee grounds; the smaller graphene particles within large graphene sheets come

来自炭质导电添加剂。使用50倍放大率, 拉曼映射中的每个像素为4 μm<sup>2</sup>。每个拉曼样品均由粉末状产物经FJH后制备; 拉曼分析之前, 样品未接触溶剂。咖啡含碳量约为40%, 因此, 根据起始含碳量, 产率约为85%。咖啡碳含量转化为石墨烯的转化率约为85%, 而杂原子在这些反应温度(>3000 K)下升华。平均拉曼光谱的样本量为10。

which corresponds to an interlayer spacing of  $l_c = 3.45 \text{ \AA}$ . This spacing is larger than that in a typical Bernal (AB-stacked) graphite, 3.37 Å, indicating the expanded and turbostratic structure of FG. The (002) peak was found to be unsymmetric, with a tail at small angles, which further suggests the turbostratic nature of FG<sup>13</sup>. The flash process is fast enough to prevent AB stacking. CB-FG has a surface area of ~295 m<sup>2</sup>/g with pore size <9 nm, as measured by Brunauer–Emmett–Teller analysis (Supplementary Fig. 4). Calcined petroleum coke (CPC) also works well for conversion to CPC-FG (Fig. 1e, Supplementary Table 2) which has a similar nanostructure to that of CB-FG. Together with carbon black, CPC is listed as a non-graphitizing carbon source (Supplementary Table 3)<sup>14</sup>. The average size of CB-FG and CPC-FG is ~13 nm and ~17 nm, respectively (Supplementary Figs. 5, 6). The yield of the FJH process is as high as 80% to 90% from high-carbon sources such as carbon black, calcine coke or anthracite coal, and

转换所需的电能约为7.2 kJ/g(补充信息)。the electric energy needed for their conversion is ~7.2 kJ g<sup>-1</sup> (Supplementary Information). 在咖啡渣的情况下, 使用过的咖啡渣与5 wt%的炭黑混合以增加其导电性。In the case of coffee grounds, the used grounds were mixed with 5 wt% carbon black to increase its conductivity—alternatively, we could use 2–5 wt% FG from a previous run as the conductive additive. Coffee grounds are predominantly carbohydrate, are ~40% carbon. Hence, the yield of graphene of ~35% (Fig. 1e) would be ~85% conversion of the coffee carbon content into graphene, whereas the heteroatoms sublime out at these reaction temperatures (>3,000 K). Anthracite can be sufficiently conductive to be used in the FJH reactor, but better results were obtained by adding 5 wt% carbon black. Although a black FG powder is produced regardless of the starting material, FG from graphitizing carbons—such as from used coffee grounds (C-FG) and anthracite coal (A-FG) (see Supplementary Information for definitions of graphitizing and non-graphitizing carbons; see also Supplementary Table 3)—has

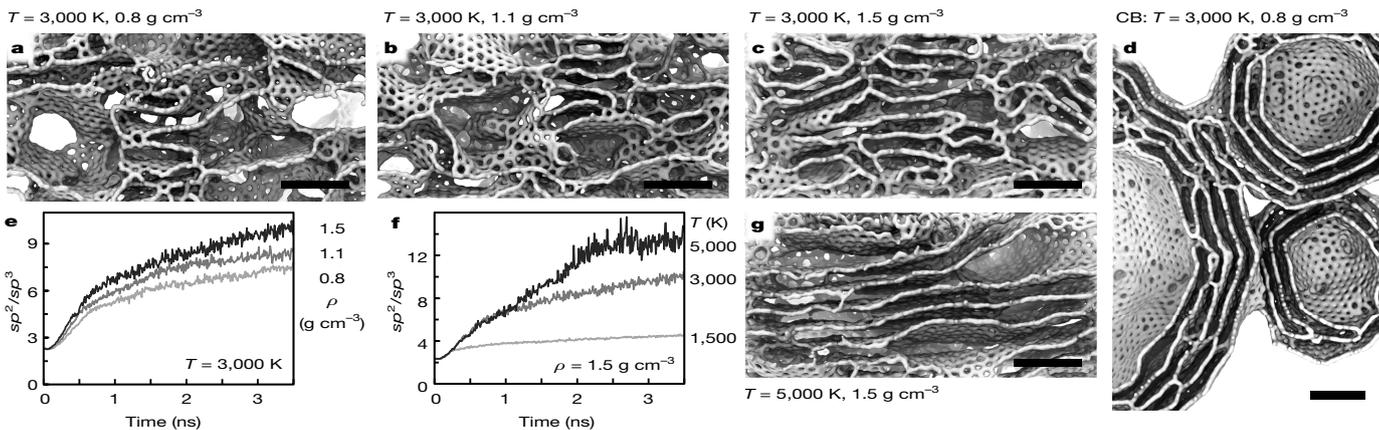


**Fig. 2 | FJH critical parameters.** **a**, Raman spectra of CB-FG with increasing flashing voltage (top to bottom). **b**,  $I_{2D/G}$  and  $I_{D/G}$  ratios of CB-FG at different flashing voltages. The bars represent 1 s.d. ( $n = 10$ ). **c**, Time-temperature graph of CB-FG reacted at different temperatures. The temperature is regulated by the flashing voltage. **d**, Time-temperature graph of CB-FG reacted at different flashing durations. The flashing duration is regulated by the sample compression between the electrodes, which affects the sample conductivity.

**e**, Raman spectra of CB-FG at different compression ratios. Higher compression provides lower resistance to the sample. **f**, Raman spectra of the CB-FG samples shown in **c**. **g**, Raman spectra of the CB-FG samples shown in **d**. The 150-ms pulses 1 and 2 have similar duration but different cooling rates, as shown in **d**. All Raman spectra in the figure were taken at low magnification (5 $\times$ ) to obtain a mean spectrum of the sample from 10 spectra.

CB-FG的不同形态。易石墨化碳产生较大的石墨薄片(补充图7)。不同形态的石墨薄片由CB-FG。Graphitizing carbons produce larger graphene sheets (Supplementary Fig. 7). XRD analysis of C-FG shows, in addition to the dominant (002) peak at  $2\theta = 26.0^\circ$ , a sharp (100) peak at  $2\theta = 42.5^\circ$ , which is associated with the in-plane interatomic spacing (Fig. 1e). The narrow full width at half-maximum of the (100) peak suggests larger in-plane sheet sizes relative to FG formed from some of the other starting materials. HR-TEM reveals folded graphene sheets in A-FG and C-FG (Fig. 1e) with an average size of 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  and 1.2  $\mu\text{m}$  (Supplementary Fig. 7), respectively, similar to the size of graphene sheet obtained by exfoliation of graphite<sup>18</sup>. Selected-area electron diffraction measurements on these samples show both monolayer and turbostratic graphene (Supplementary Figs. 8–10). Other carbons that are abundant, renewable or waste-sourced can be used, such as charcoal, biochar, humic acid, keratin (human hair), lignin, sucrose, starch, pine bark, olive oil soot, cabbage, coconut, pistachio shells, potato skins, rubber tyres and mixed plastic (Supplementary Fig. 11, Supplementary Table 4), including polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE), high- or low-density polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride, polypropylene and polyacrylonitrile. When converting synthetic polymers into FG, the non-carbon atoms sublime out as small molecules, leading to a very-high-carbon-content product, as shown here. However, polymer and rubber can also be used as feedstocks. FJH工艺可以提供一种高价值的途径, 将这些废物转化为FG, 这是一种潜在的高价值碳基添加剂。Optimization was performed only on CB-FG, as described below. The FJH process can provide a facile route to convert these waste products into FG, a potential high-value building-composite additive<sup>18–21</sup>.

石墨薄片2D/G通过调整电极之间的样品压缩(影响样品电导率)、电容器电压和开关持续时间来优化, 以控制内蒸的温度和持续时间(图2a–g)。The graphene I<sub>2D/G</sub> is optimized by adjusting the sample compression between the electrodes (which affects sample conductivity), the capacitor voltage and the switching duration to control the temperature and duration of the flash (Fig. 2a–g). Increasing the voltage will increase the temperature of the process. The temperature is estimated by fitting the black-body radiation spectrum in the 600–1,100 nm emission (Supplementary Fig. 12). We investigated the quality of CB-FG using Raman spectroscopy at low magnification (see Methods) by varying the time and temperature in the FG synthesis process. At <90 V and <3,000 K, FG has a high D peak, indicating a defective structure (Fig. 2a–c, f). By increasing the voltage output, CB-FG is formed at 3,100 K, which has a low number of defects and almost no D band in the Raman spectrum. Therefore, 3,000 K is a critical temperature for producing higher-quality graphene with a larger I<sub>2D/G</sub> value. By increasing the compression on the sample between the two electrodes, the conductivity of the carbon source increases, thus decreasing the discharge time (Fig. 2d, e, g). While maintaining the 3,100 K左右的条件下, 10 ms的短闪蒸时间会产生较高的2D带, 而50–150 ms的闪蒸时间会产生较低的2D带的产物(图2g)。Increasing the voltage output, CB-FG is formed at 3,100 K, which has a low number of defects and almost no D band in the Raman spectrum. Therefore, 3,000 K is a critical temperature for producing higher-quality graphene with a larger I<sub>2D/G</sub> value. By increasing the compression on the sample between the two electrodes, the conductivity of the carbon source increases, thus decreasing the discharge time (Fig. 2d, e, g). While maintaining the 3,100 K左右的条件下, 10 ms的短闪蒸时间会产生较高的2D带, 而50–150 ms的闪蒸时间会产生较低的2D带的产物(图2g)。50–150 ms results in a lower 2D band product (Fig. 2g). This indicates that, given more time, the graphene flakes stack, orient and form more layers, lowering the 2D band of the resulting FG. A low cooling rate increases the flash duration and decreases the 2D band<sup>22</sup>. Therefore, to obtain a high I<sub>2D/G</sub>, a thin quartz tube is chosen to accelerate the radiative cooling rate. Interestingly, although the internal temperature exceeds 3,000 K, the external walls of the quartz tubes are only warm to the touch (<60 °C) after the flash process. Most of the heat exits as black-body radiation. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy analysis shows a considerable reduction of elements other than carbon in FG and increases in the sp<sup>2</sup> carbon bond content (Supplementary Figs. 13, 14). Carbon has a



**Fig. 3 | Molecular dynamics simulations.** Structures with various characteristics (such as micro-porosity, misalignment and size of graphitic domains) kept at a given temperature range (1,500 to 5,000 K) for up to  $5 \times 10^{-9}$  s with a Nosé–Hoover thermostat. **a–c**, Sample structures for carbon materials of density 0.8 g cm<sup>-3</sup> (**a**); sponge-like structure, 1.1 g cm<sup>-3</sup> (**b**) and 1.5 g cm<sup>-3</sup> (**c**); 高度石墨化的碳材料在3000 K. **d**, 退火后的样品结构, 炭黑. **e–f**, Change of the structural composition of materials during annealing for materials of different densities  $\rho$  (**e**) and for annealing at different temperatures  $T$  (**f**). **g**, Structure of material with density 1.5 g cm<sup>-3</sup> after annealing at 5,000 K; the initial structure is the same as that shown in **c**. All scale bars are 1.5 nm.

碳具有高升华温度约3900 K; 其他元素, 如铝或硅, 在低于3000 K的温度下挥发。high sublimation temperature of ~3,900 K; other elements such as aluminium or silicon volatilize out at <3,000 K.

Hummers方法获得的还原氧化石墨烯更稳定。Thermogravimetric analysis in air shows that FG products are more oxidatively stable than the materials from which they are derived (Supplementary Fig. 15) and more stable than reduced graphene oxide obtained with Hummer's method<sup>23</sup>. 在某些情况下, 检测到氧化硅残留物, 这些残留物来自多次使用后磨损的石英管。In some cases, silicon oxide residues are detected, which come from worn out quartz tubes after multiples uses.

先前的研究表明, 石墨烯可以在极高的温度下无需催化合成。Previous studies have shown that graphene can be synthesized without catalysts at extremely high temperatures<sup>24–26</sup>. However, when FG is optimized as shown here, it can have exceptionally high quality

当控制反应时间和温度时, 它可以具有非常高的质量。when the reaction time and temperature are controlled. Furthermore, 石墨烯的结晶。In the FJH过程中, 氢、氮和氧的脱气可能有助于在咖啡衍生FG中形成大而薄的石墨烯。the electric current can facilitate the crystallization of graphene<sup>27</sup>. 因为这可能阻止石墨烯层的堆叠, 从而允许片层进一步生长。Degassing of hydrogen, nitrogen and oxygen during the FJH process

might contribute to the formation of large and thin graphene sheets in coffee-derived FG because it could prevent stacking of graphene layers, thereby permitting further growth<sup>25,28,29</sup>.

为了评估FG快速生长的机制, 我们采用了在LAMMPS包(见方法)中实现的具有AIREBO原子间势的大规模模拟。To assess the mechanism of the rapid FG growth, we employ large-scale simulations with the AIREBO<sup>30,31</sup> interatomic potential as implemented in the LAMMPS package (see Methods)<sup>32</sup>. 一些获得的结构如图3a–d所示。Some of the acquired structures are shown in Fig. 3a–d. 低密度材料在退火过程中产生海绵状结构(图3a), 而密度的增加导致深度石墨化(图3c). The low-density materials yield a sponge-like structure (Fig. 3a) during annealing, whereas increased density leads to a high level of graphitization (Fig. 3c). We note the CB样品中石墨化程度较高, 局部密度大幅增加, 同时大孔隙率较高(图3d). High level of graphitization in the low-density CB sample, where the substantially increased local density is combined with high macro-porosity (Fig. 3d). 此外, 在模拟期间, 通过 $sp^2/sp^3$ 比率可以量化退火过程(图3e, f). Additionally, the annealing process is quantified by the  $sp^2/sp^3$  ratio during simulation (Fig. 3e, f). We find that the graphitization (<2000 K) 下受到严重破坏, 但在较高温度(5000 K)下会大大加速(图3g). We find that the graphitization process is strongly impaired at lower temperatures (<2,000 K) but greatly accelerated at higher temperature (5,000 K).

对于炭黑, 在FJH过程中的连续缺陷修复导致最初大致球形的质心颗粒逐渐转变为多面体形状(图3d)。In the case of carbon black, continuous defect healing during FJH results in the gradual conversion of initially roughly spherical centroid particles into polyhedral shapes (Fig. 3d) that appear as fringes at clearly defined angles in TEM images (see Fig. 1b, e), further confirming the low-defect nature of the produced materials.

通过增加石英管的尺寸, FJH工艺得以放大。The FJH process was scaled up by increasing the quartz tube size. With quartz tubes of 4 mm, 8 mm and 15 mm diameter, 30 mg, 120 mg and 1 g of CB-FG can be synthesized per batch, respectively. Figure 4a shows the amount of CB-FG obtained with the three tube sizes. The shorter flash times lead to higher yields of CB-FG. 为了保持FG质量的同时增加反应量, 使用扁管很有帮助, 因为它们可以实现更高的冷却速率(图4b). To increase the batch size while maintaining FG quality, flat tubes are helpful because they enable a higher cooling rate (Fig. 4a). For industrial production, we

在3600 K下长时间(5 × 10<sup>-9</sup> s)退火后, 密度为0.8 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, 宏观孔隙率大; 多边形条纹很明显。density 0.8 g cm<sup>-3</sup> and large macro-porosity, after prolonged (5 × 10<sup>-9</sup> s) annealing at 3,600 K; polygonal fringes are apparent. **e–f**, Change of the structural composition of materials during annealing for materials of different densities  $\rho$  (**e**) and for annealing at different temperatures  $T$  (**f**). **g**, Structure of material with density 1.5 g cm<sup>-3</sup> after annealing at 5,000 K; the initial structure is the same as that shown in **c**. All scale bars are 1.5 nm.

设想该过程可以自动进行连续FG合成(补充图16)。envision that the process can be automated for continuous FG synthesis (Supplementary Fig. 16).

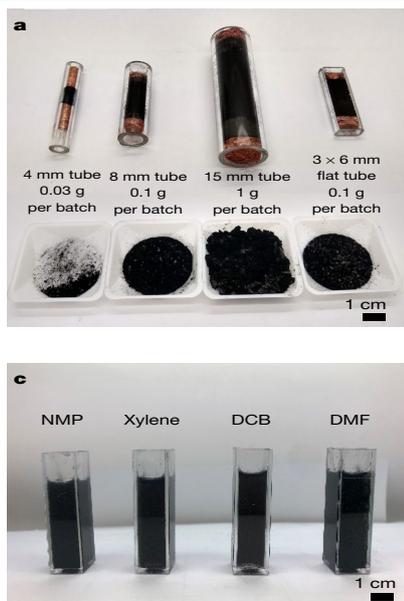
对FG复合材料进行了研究, 发现在添加少量FG下, 物理性能显著增强。FG composites were explored, revealing considerably enhanced physical properties at small FG loadings. 含0.05% FG并固化28天的CB-FG水泥复合材料的抗压强度比不含FG的对照样品高约25%(补充图18). CB-FG–cement composites with 0.05% FG and cured for 28 days had ~25% higher compressive strength than the FG-free control sample (Supplementary Fig. 18).

这种抗压强度的增强比最近报道的采用电化学剥离石墨烯增强的水泥复合材料的抗压强度高出三倍, 且略大于其他水泥-石墨烯复合材料的抗压强度。This enhancement in the compressive strength is three times higher than the values reported recently for cement composites reinforced by electrochemically exfoliated graphene with the same graphene loading, and slightly larger than those of other cement–graphene composites<sup>36,37</sup>. The seven-day compressive and tensile strength of CB-FG–cement composites with 0.1% FG loading are ~35% and ~19% higher, respectively, than those of the FG-free control sample (Fig. 4d). 这些增强几乎是其他报道的石墨烯水泥复合材料在相同添加量下的三倍, 表明强度提高很快。These enhancements are almost three times larger than those of other reported graphene–cement composites with the same loading, demonstrating rapid strength development. Scanning electron microscopy images (补充图19)显示FG在水泥浆中均匀分布。microscopy images of CB-FG–cement composites (Supplementary Fig. 19) show a homogeneous distribution of FG in the cement matrix. CB-FG水泥复合材料的性能大幅度提高, 强度快速提高。这再次归因于涡轮层状CB-FG的高分散性, 这可用于更均匀和更坚固的复合材料(有关进一步解释, 请参阅补充信息)。The largely enhanced properties and rapid strength development of CB-FG–cement composites is again attributed to the high dispersibility of the turbostratic CB-FG, which results in greater homogeneity and robust composites (see Supplementary Information for further explanations).

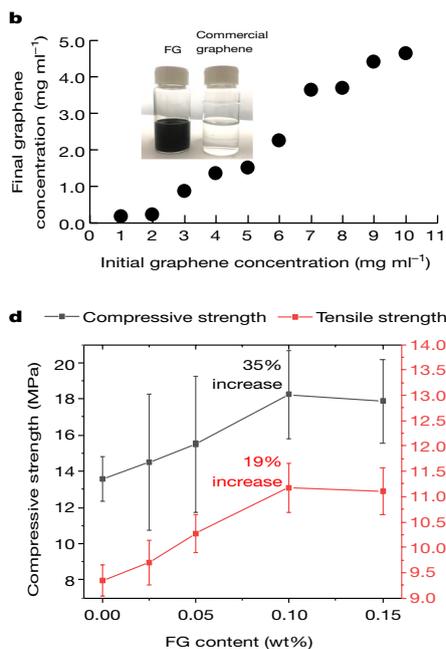
此外, CB-FG有效地提高了聚合物的性能。In addition, CB-FG effectively enhances polymer properties. A 不含石墨烯的聚二甲基硅氧烷(PDMS)相比, 0.1 wt% CB-FG-聚二甲基硅氧烷(PDMS)复合材料 的抗压强度增加约250%(补充图20)。increase in compressive strength compared with PDMS without graphene (Supplementary Fig. 20).

为了证明其在电化学储能装置中的应用, C-FG和CPC-FG也被用作锂离子电池和锂离子电池中的电极材料(补充图21), 证明了FG在新能源应用中的潜力。To demonstrate its applicability in electrochemical energy storage devices, C-FG and CPC-FG were also used as electrode materials in a Li-ion capacitor and a Li-ion battery (Supplementary Fig. 21), demonstrating the potential to use FG in advanced energy applications.

综上所述, 从超低成本碳源(如煤炭和石油焦)、可再生资源(如生物炭和橡胶轮胎)和混合废物(包括塑料瓶和丢弃的食物)证明了一种低能耗且自上而下合成易剥离涡轮层状石墨烯的方法(such as coal and petroleum coke), renewable resources (such as biochar and rubber tyres) and mixed-waste products (including plastic bottles



**Fig. 4 | Scaling up and applications of CB-FG.** **a**, FJH quartz tubes of different sizes and shapes, used to synthesize FG. Two separate synthesis processes were conducted with each tube, providing the samples in the tube and those in the plastic dishes. **b**, FG dispersion in a water-Pluronic (F-127) solution (1%). The photograph shows the supernatants of  $4 \text{ g l}^{-1}$  of CB-FG and of  $10 \text{ g l}^{-1}$  of a



commercial sample after centrifugation. The commercial graphene was not stable as a colloid at this concentration, resulting in a clear liquid in the supernatant after centrifugation. **c**, FG dispersion in various organic solvents at  $5 \text{ g l}^{-1}$ . **d**, Mechanical performance of cement compounded with FG. The error bars represent one standard error ( $n=3$ ).

FG合成工艺的放大可以为块体结构复合材料提供涡轮层状石墨烯, and discarded food). Scaling up of the FG synthesis process could provide turbostratic graphene for bulk construction composite materials.

## Online content

Any methods, additional references, Nature Research reporting summaries, source data, extended data, supplementary information, acknowledgements, peer review information; details of author contributions and competing interests; and statements of data and code availability are available at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-1938-0>.

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# Article

## Methods

FJH系统

**FJH system**

FJH设置详见补充图1。

The FJH set up is detailed in Supplementary Fig. 1. Inside a quartz tube, two loosely fitting electrodes compress the carbon source using two copper-wool plugs or graphite spacers to contact the carbon sources

to allow degassing of volatile materials. The compressing force is controllable by a modified small vice so as to minimize the sample resistance to 1–1,000 Ω, and is key to obtaining a good flash reaction

(0.004–4 S cm<sup>-1</sup>). To control the discharge time, a mechanical relay with programmable millisecond-level delay time is used. The entire sample reaction chamber is placed inside a low-pressure container (plastic vacuum desiccator) for safety and to facilitate degassing. However, the FJH process works equally well at 1 atm. The capacitor bank consists of 20 capacitors with a total capacitance of 0.22 F. Each capacitor is connected to the main power cable (or bus) by a circuit breaker that is also used as a switch to enable/disable each capacitor. The capacitor bank is charged by a d.c. supply capable of reaching 400 V. The first prototype system is placed conveniently on one plastic mobile cart (Supplementary Fig. 1b). Using a large 15-mm-diameter quartz tube, we achieve synthesis of 1 g of FG per batch using the FJH process.

**Safety notice:** the capacitor bank is capable of generating fatal electric pulses. Therefore, the following steps are taken to protect the operator as well as the circuit, and we strongly suggest that these measures be followed. Details of the circuit can be found in Supplementary Fig. 1a. Darkened safety glasses should be worn to protect eyes from the bright light during the discharge flashing process.

The voltage and current ratings for the circuit breaker are appropriate for the maximum voltage and the anticipated maximum current that will be supplied by each capacitor to the FJH discharge on the basis of a discharge time of 50–200 ms. We use the maximum charging and bleeding voltages at ~400 V with maximum currents of 0.7 A and 0.1 A, respectively. The pulse discharging voltage to the sample is ~400 V and current can reach up to 1,000 A in <100 ms. A 24-mH inductor is used to avoid current spikes while using the mechanical relay. Without the inductor, the mechanical relay could be prone to high-current arcing during the intermittent closing of the circuit. To protect the inductor from the spike voltage when shutting off the current, a diode and a low-resistance resistor with appropriate ratings are connected parallel to the inductor. Additionally, to protect the capacitor from reverse polarity in case of oscillatory decay (which can occur in a fast discharge), an appropriate diode is placed parallel to the capacitor bank.

**Characterization**

使用FEI Helios NanoLab 660双光束SEM系统，在5 kV、工作距离为10 mm的条件下，通过扫描The resultant FG products were characterized by scanning electron microscopy (SEM) for the product using a FEI Helios NanoLab 660 DualBeam SEM system at 5 kV with a working distance of 10 mm. X-ray photoelectron X射线微探针，在5 × 10<sup>-9</sup>托的基础压力下收集X射线光电子能谱(XPS)数据。

Scanning X-ray Microprobe with a base pressure of 5 × 10<sup>-9</sup> torr. Survey spectra were recorded using 0.5-eV steps with a pass energy of 140 eV. Elemental spectra were recorded using 0.1-eV steps with a pass energy of 26 eV. All of the XPS spectra were corrected using the C 1s peak (284.5 eV) as reference.

TEM images were taken with a JEOL 2100F field-emission gun TEM at 200 kV. Atomic-resolution HR-TEM images were taken with an FEI Titan Themis S/TEM system at 80 keV. Samples were prepared by dropping diluted dispersions (~1 mg ml<sup>-1</sup> in isopropanol) of the graphene sample (<200 μl) on the TEM Cu grids. The dispersion was prepared using a bath sonicator (~15 min). Electron diffraction was calibrated by a diffraction standard (evaporated Al grid; Ted Pella).

All Raman spectra were collected with as-prepared FG samples atop a glass slide, before exposure to solvent, using a Renishaw Raman microscope and a 532-nm laser with a power of 5 mW. A 50× lens was used for the local Raman spectra in Fig. 1 and a 5× lens for the mean Raman spectra in Fig. 2.

原子建模

**Atomistic modelling**

原子模拟是使用周期性边界条件进行的，除了包含约55000个原子的炭黑模型外，所有结构的每个原子都有约15000个原子。

初始结构是通过任意形状和直径达8–12 nm的小石墨片的随机定位和锚定定位。然后添加随机定位的单个碳原子（碳原子含量约为50%，以表示源材料的非石墨化部分）来创建的。

The initial configurations were created by random positioning and misorientation of small graphitic flakes of arbitrary shape and up to 8–12 Å in diameter, and subsequently adding randomly positioned individual carbon atoms (the atomic carbon content was ~50% to represent a non-graphitized portion of the source material). Car-

bon black centroid particles were created by arranging randomly oriented graphitic flakes in roughly spherical shapes with hollow cores and diameters of up to 12 nm, and adding atomic carbon

(~50%). The initial configurations were subjected to preliminary annealing at 400 K for 2 × 10<sup>5</sup> s to eliminate irregularities caused by the structure creation protocol, then heated to the target annealing temperature with a heating speed of 0.5 × 10<sup>-12</sup> K s<sup>-1</sup> using a Nose-Hoover thermostat (canonical NVT ensemble) with a temperature damping parameter of 0.025 × 10<sup>-12</sup> s. The structures were held at the target annealing temperatures for 5 × 10<sup>-9</sup> s (15 × 10<sup>-9</sup> s for carbon black).

水溶液中闪蒸石墨烯分散液的制备

**Preparation of flash graphene dispersion in water-Pluronic solution**

将FG分散在浓度为1-10 g/l的水-Pluronic(F-127)溶液(1%)中。FG was dispersed in water-Pluronic (F-127) solution (1%) at concentrations of 1–10 g l<sup>-1</sup>. The mixture was sonicated in an ultrasonic bath for 40 min to obtain a dark dispersion. The dispersion was Beckman Coulter Allegra X-12离心机，在1500 rpm(470相对离心力)下离心分散液30分钟，以去除大块材料。

将分散液稀释500倍，并在660 nm处记录吸光度。(Shimadzu). The dispersions were diluted 500 times and the absorbance was recorded at 660 nm. An extinction coefficient of α<sub>660</sub> = 6,600 l g<sup>-1</sup> m<sup>-1</sup> was used to calculate the concentration of graphene in the solution.

水泥样品制备

**Cement sample preparation**

将不同浓度的FG分散在1%水Pluronic(F-127)溶液中。FG at various concentrations was dispersed in 1% water-Pluronic (F-127) solution. The dispersion was agitated for 15 min at 5,000 rpm using a shear mixer (Silverson L5MA). The graphene suspension in water was mixed with Portland cement with a water-to-cement ratio of 0.40. The slurry was cast in 5 × 5 × 5 cm<sup>3</sup> cubic polytetrafluoroethylene moulds (for compressive strength measurements) and in 2.5 cm × 3.8 cm cylindrical moulds (for tensile strength measurements). All cubes and cylinders were taken out of the moulds after 24 h and placed in water for curing for another 24 h. The compressive and tensile mechanical strengths were measured after 7 and 28 days. For each FG-cement ratio, three samples were cast and tested.

抗压强度。压缩强度试验是使用Forney变频驱动自动机器进行的，该机器具有双称重传感器，以达到最大精度。Compressive strength. The compression strength tests were performed using a Forney Variable Frequency Drive automatic machine with dual load cells for maximum accuracy.

抗拉强度。由于水泥基材料的脆性，通过劈裂试验计算抗拉强度，因为它提供了最准Tensile strength. Owing to the brittle nature of cement-based materials, the tensile strength was calculated via a splitting test because it gives the most accurate measurement. Special jigs held the cylinders so that the uniaxial compressive force applied to the centre lines of the bottom and top surfaces of the samples caused tensile stress between the points of contact.

水泥和PDMS测试程序

**Cement and PDMS testing procedures**

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**Author contributions** D.X.L. discovered the FJH conversion of carbon materials to graphene, designed and built the FJH apparatus, designed and built the spectrometer for temperature determination, acquired most of the data, and wrote most of the manuscript. K.V.B. conducted the mechanistic theory calculations under the guidance of B.I.Y. W.A.A. and P.A.A. fabricated some FG samples, and blended and tested the polymer blends. M.G.S. obtained the SEM images and wrote parts of Supplementary Information, especially regarding FG morphology. C.K. assisted with the design of the FG apparatus and the spectrometer, and wrote parts of Supplementary Information regarding turbostratic graphene. R.V.S. obtained most of the TEM images and all of the selected-area electron diffraction data. W.C. and H.G. obtained some of the TEM images. M.R. built and tested the lithium-ion capacitor. C.K. and V.M. assisted D.X.L. in the design and safety features of the FJH system. E.A.M. performed the thermogravimetric analysis. Z.W. obtained the surface area. M.B. obtained the cement and polymer composite

data under the guidance of R.S. All aspects of the research were overseen by J.M.T., who co-wrote some sections of the manuscript.

**Competing interests** The FG synthesis process is the intellectual property of Rice University. J.M.T., D.X.L. and V.M. will be stockholders in Universal Matter Ltd, a company licensing the FG intellectual property of Rice University and scaling up this process. At the time of the writing and submission of this manuscript, the license to Universal Matter has not been consummated. C-Crete Technologies owns intellectual property on the strengthening of graphene-cement/concrete composites. V.M. is now employed by Universal Matter. D.X.L. and J.M.T. will remain full time with Rice University, whereas D.X.L. might be employed by Universal Matter in two years. All conflicts of interest for J.M.T. and D.X.L. are managed through regular disclosure to the Rice University Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Compliance.

**Additional information**

**Supplementary information** is available for this paper at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-1938-0>.

**Correspondence and requests for materials** should be addressed to R.S., B.I.Y. or J.M.T.

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