



Controlled functionalization of sp^2 carbon allotropes for the reinforcement of diene elastomers

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Politecnico di Milano, Department of Chemistry, Materials and Chemical Engineering “G. Natta”

ISCaMaP

Innovative Sustainable Chemistry and Materials and Proteomics Group

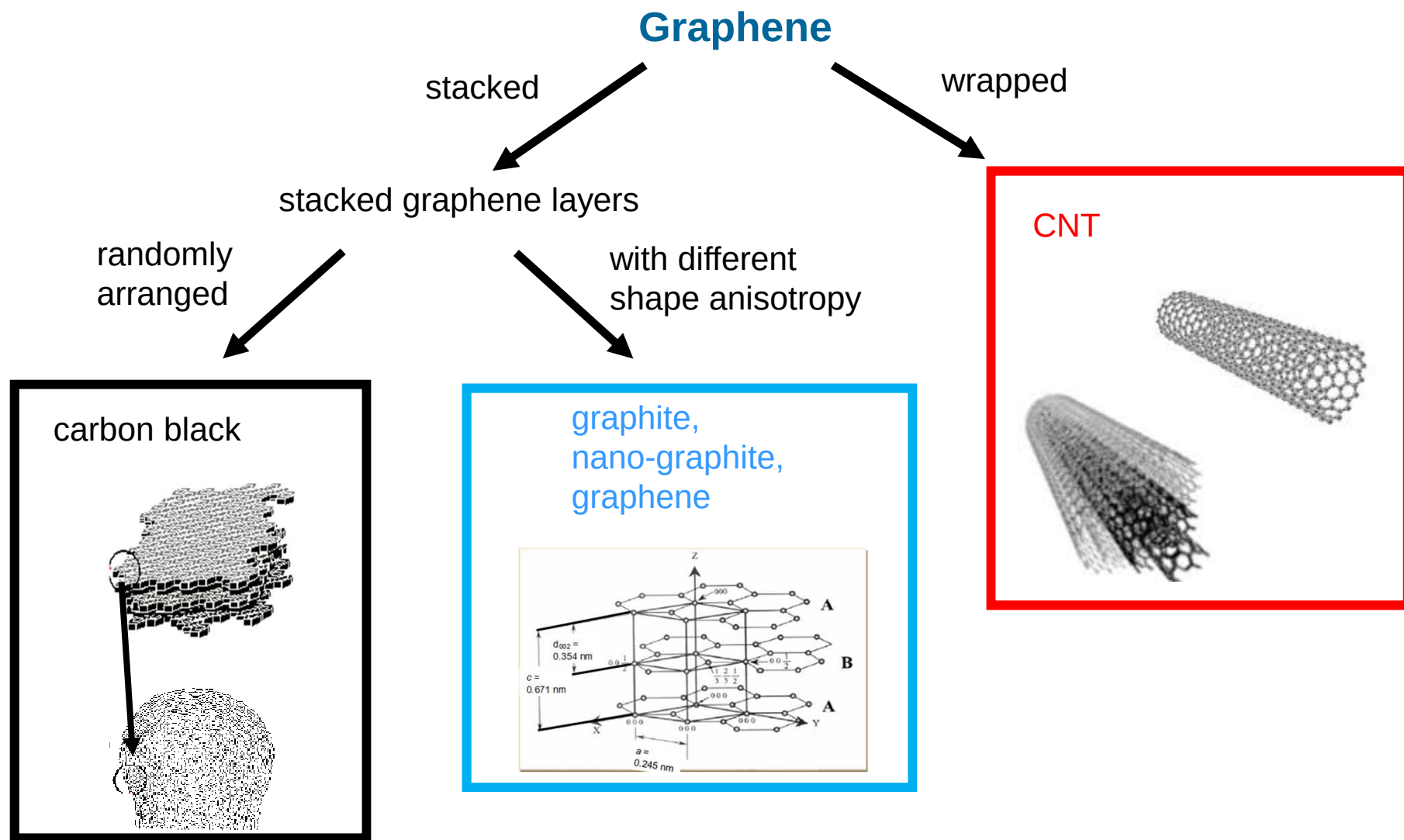
Objectives of the research activity

- ☞ To reduce the synthetic footprint in carbon allotropes functionalization
- ☞ To functionalize various carbon allotropes with a sustainable, facile, versatile method, preserving the sp^2 hybridization
- ☞ To prepare tailor made materials, in view of the final application

Objectives of the research activity

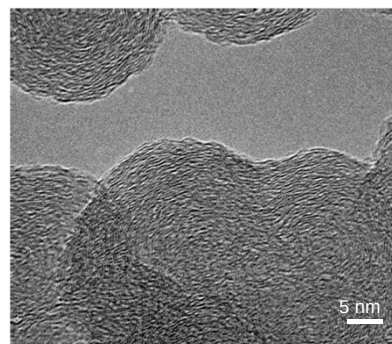
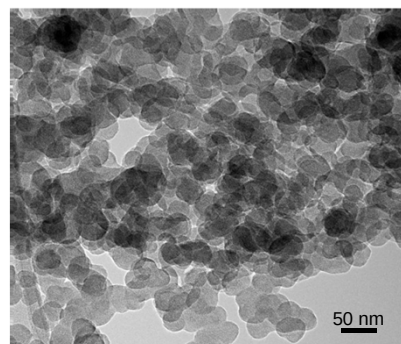
- ☞ To reduce the synthetic footprint in carbon allotropes functionalization
- ☞ To functionalize various carbon allotropes with a sustainable, facile, versatile method, preserving the sp^2 hybridization
- ☞ To prepare tailor made materials, in view of the final application: reinforcement of diene elastomers

Carbon fillers from a layer of sp^2 -bonded carbon atoms

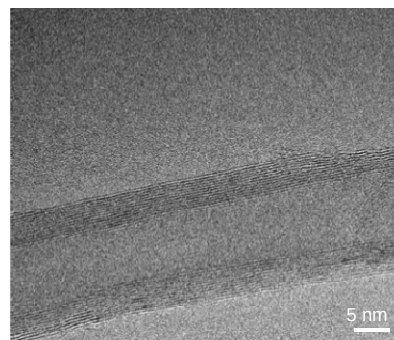
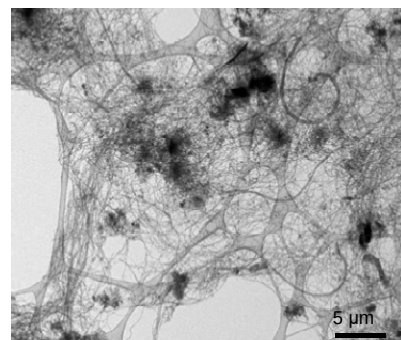


Characterization of carbon allotropes (CA)

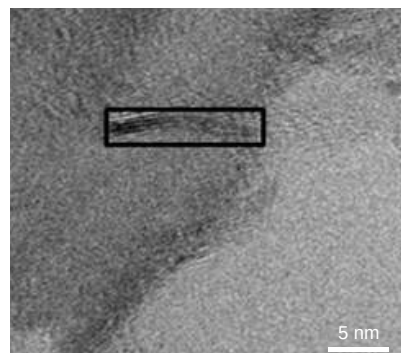
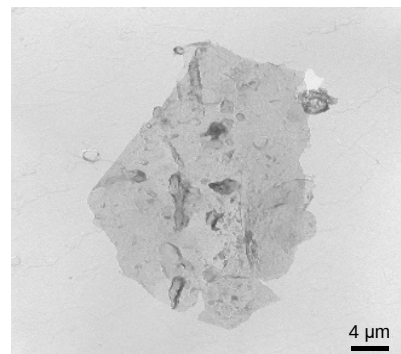
CB



CNT



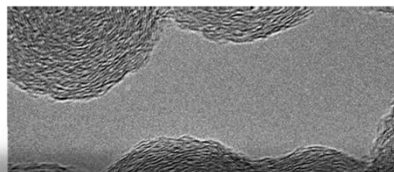
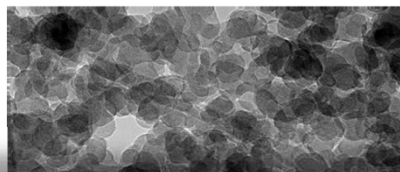
FLG



High-resolution
transmission electron microscopy
(HR-TEM)

Characterization of carbon allotropes (CA)

CB



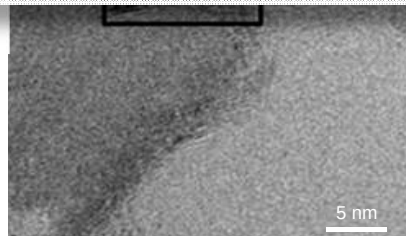
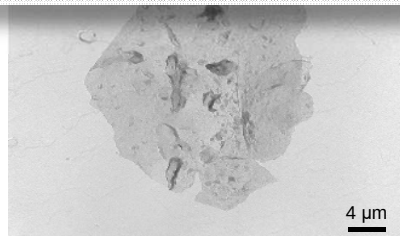
TGA, Elemental Analysis: carbon purity

BET: surface area, activity

Infrared, XPS: functional groups

Raman, X-ray: bulk structure

TEM, HRTEM: morphology



High-resolution
transmission electron microscopy
(HR-TEM)

The starting point: sustainable oxidation



KOH



H₂O₂



Serinol derivative

Galimberti, M., Barbera, V., Guerra, S., Conzatti, L., Castiglioni, C., Brambilla, L., A. Serafini, [RSC Advances](#), 5(99), (2015) 81142-81152
Barbera, V., Porta, A., Brambilla, L., Guerra, S., Serafini, A., Valerio, M.A., Vitale, A., Galimberti, M. [RSC Adv.](#), 2016, 6, 87767-87777
Barbera, V., Bernardi, A., Torrisi, G., Porta, A., Galimberti, M. [Elastomery](#) (submitted)

The starting point: sustainable oxidation

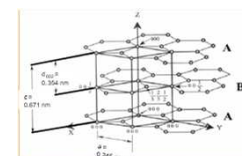
☞ KOH

☞ H₂O₂

☞ Serinol derivative

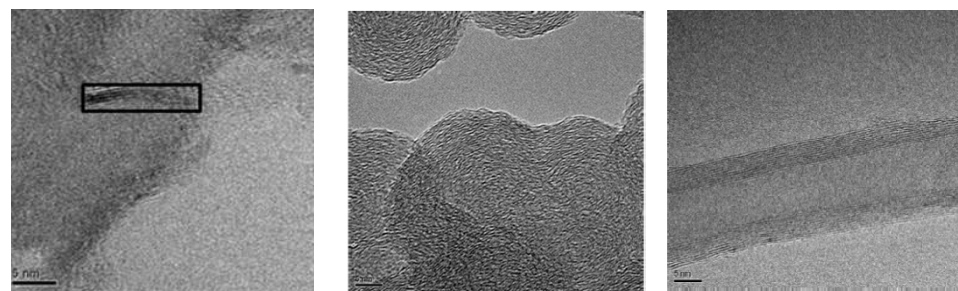
+

sp² carbon allotropes
(CA)



Galimberti, M., Barbera, V., Guerra, S., Conzatti, L., Castiglioni, C., Brambilla, L., A. Serafini, [RSC Advances](#), 5(99), (2015) 81142-81152
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Oxidation of CA with KOH



BET Surface area: [m ² /g]	300	77	275
Initial functional groups*: [mmol/g]	1.7	0.9	2.0

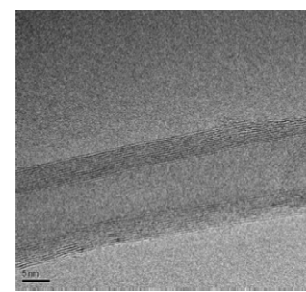
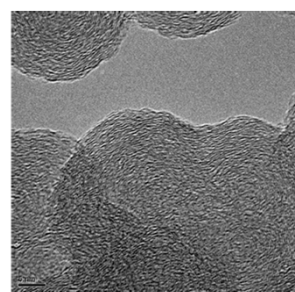
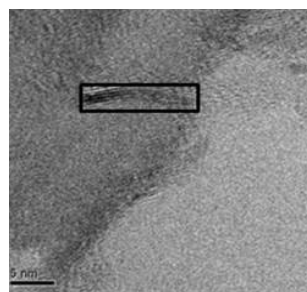
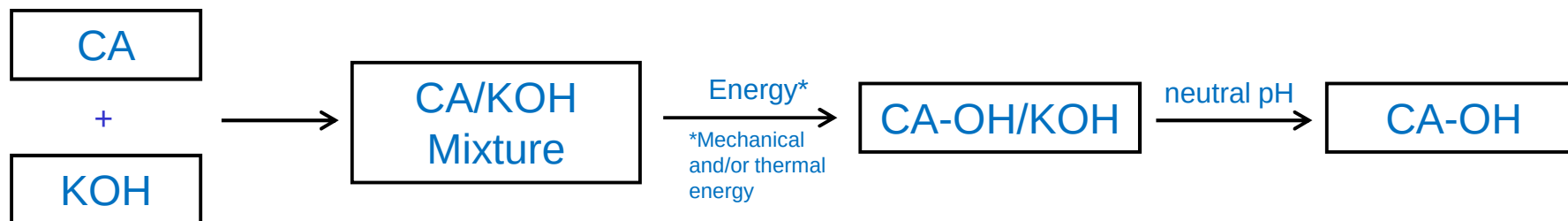
* By means of Boehm titration

Porta, A. [Master Thesis, Politecnico Milano, 2015](#)

Barbera, V., Porta, A., Brambilla, L., Guerra, S., Serafini, A., Valerio, M.A., Vitale, A., Galimberti, M. [RSC Adv., 2016, 6, 87767-87777](#)

Barbera, V., Bernardi, A., Torrisi, G., Porta, A., Galimberti, M. [Elastomery \(submitted\)](#)

Oxidation of CA with KOH



BET Surface area:
[m²/g]

300

77

275

Initial functional groups:
[mmol/g]

1.7

0.9

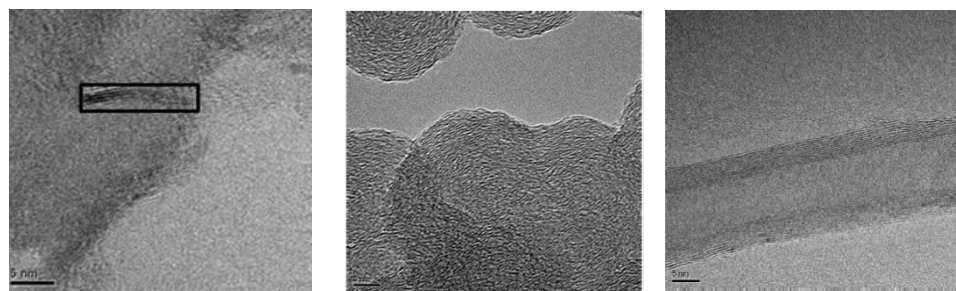
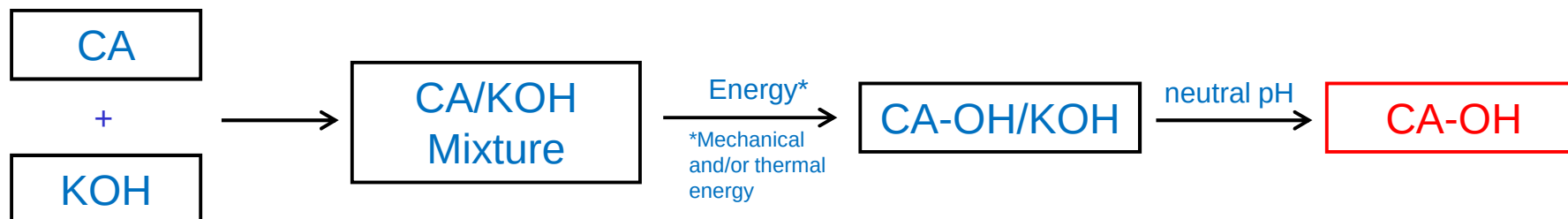
2.0

Porta, A. [Master Thesis, Politecnico Milano, 2015](#)

Barbera, V., Porta, A., Brambilla, L., Guerra, S., Serafini, A., Valerio, M.A., Vitale, A., Galimberti, M. [RSC Adv., 2016, 6, 87767-87777](#)

Barbera, V., Bernardi, A., Torrioni, G., Porta, A., Galimberti, M. [Elastomery \(submitted\)](#)

Oxidation of CA with KOH



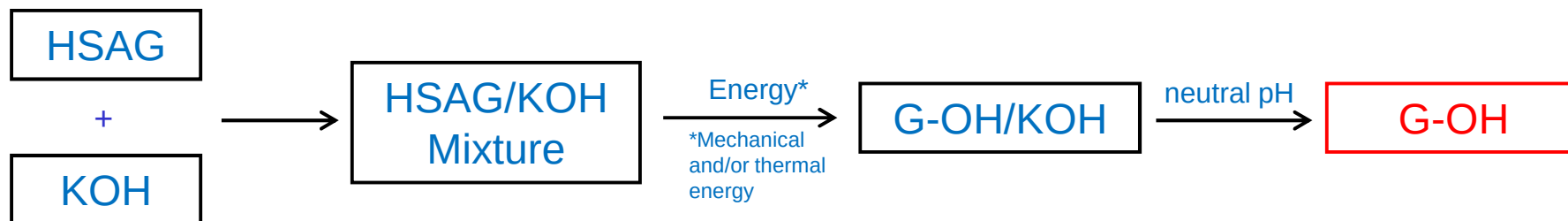
BET Surface area: [m ² /g]	300	77	275
Initial functional groups: [mmol/g]	1.7	0.9	2.0
Adducts' functional groups: [mmol/g]	10.0	2.0	3.0

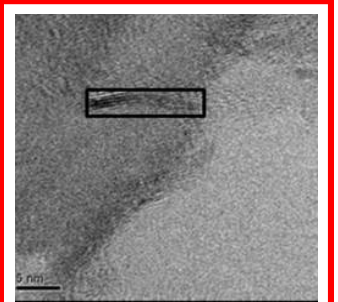
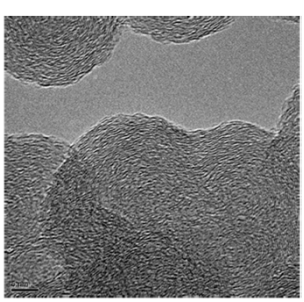
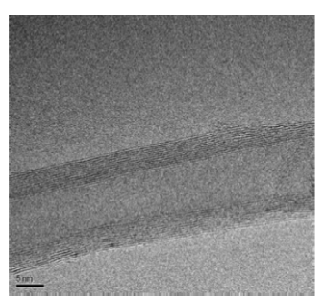
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Barbera, V., Porta, A., Brambilla, L., Guerra, S., Serafini, A., Valerio, M.A., Vitale, A., Galimberti, M. RSC Adv., 2016, 6, 87767-87777

Barbera, V., Bernardi, A., Torrisi, G., Porta, A., Galimberti, M. Elastomery (submitted)

Oxidation of high surface area graphite (HSAG) with KOH



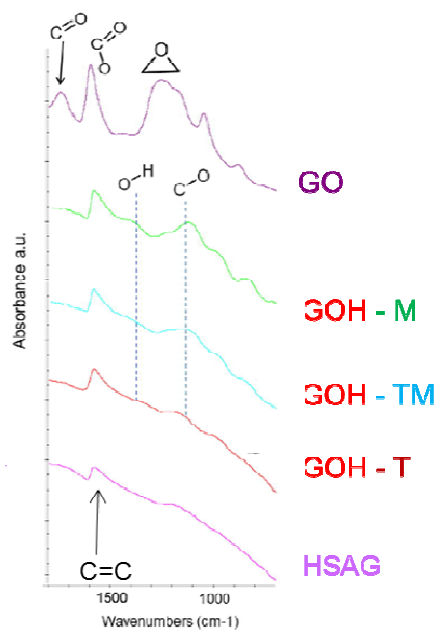
			
BET Surface area: [m ² /g]	300	77	275
Initial functional groups: [mmol/g]	1.7	0.9	2.0
Adducts' functional groups: [mmol/g]	10.0	2.0	3.0

Porta, A. [Master Thesis, Politecnico Milano, 2015](#)

Barbera, V., Porta, A., Brambilla, L., Guerra, S., Serafini, A., Valerio, M.A., Vitale, A., Galimberti, M. [RSC Adv., 2016, 6, 87767-87777](#)

Barbera, V., Bernardi, A., Torrisi, G., Porta, A., Galimberti, M. [Elastomery \(submitted\)](#)

Polyhydroxylated graphene layers from HSAG + KOH



XPS

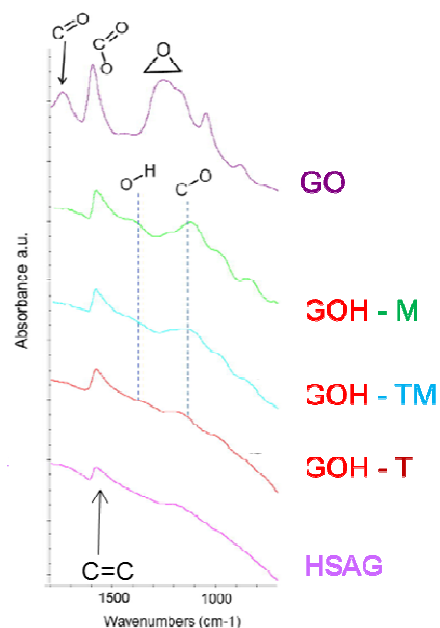
→ Increase of C-O / C=O ratio

	HSAG	GOH
O1s / C1s atomic ratio	0.04	0.07
O atomic %	4.2	6.4

Results from elemental, TGA, IR, XPS, Raman, XRD, HRTEM analysis

Barbera, V., Porta, A., Brambilla, L., Guerra, S., Serafini, A., Valerio, M.A., Vitale, A., Galimberti, M. *RSC Adv.*, 2016, 6, 87767-87777

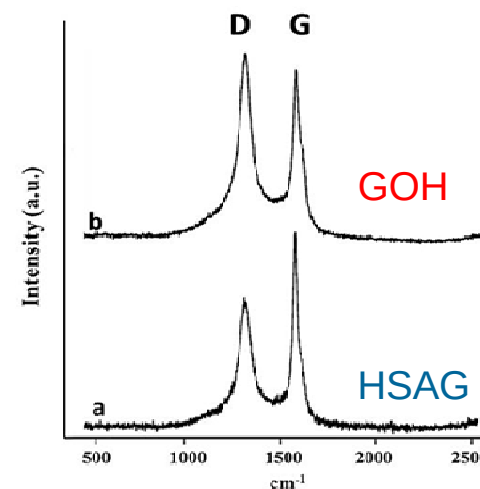
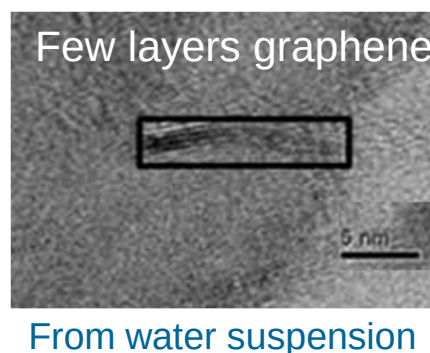
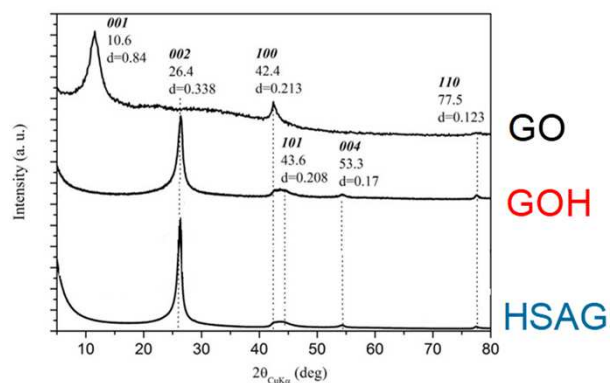
Polyhydroxylated graphene layers from HSAG + KOH



XPS

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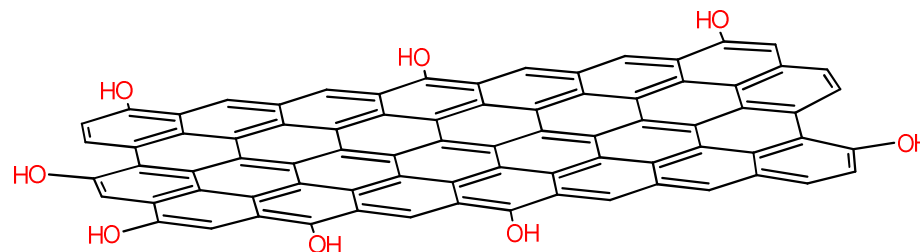
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Oxidation of HSAG with KOH



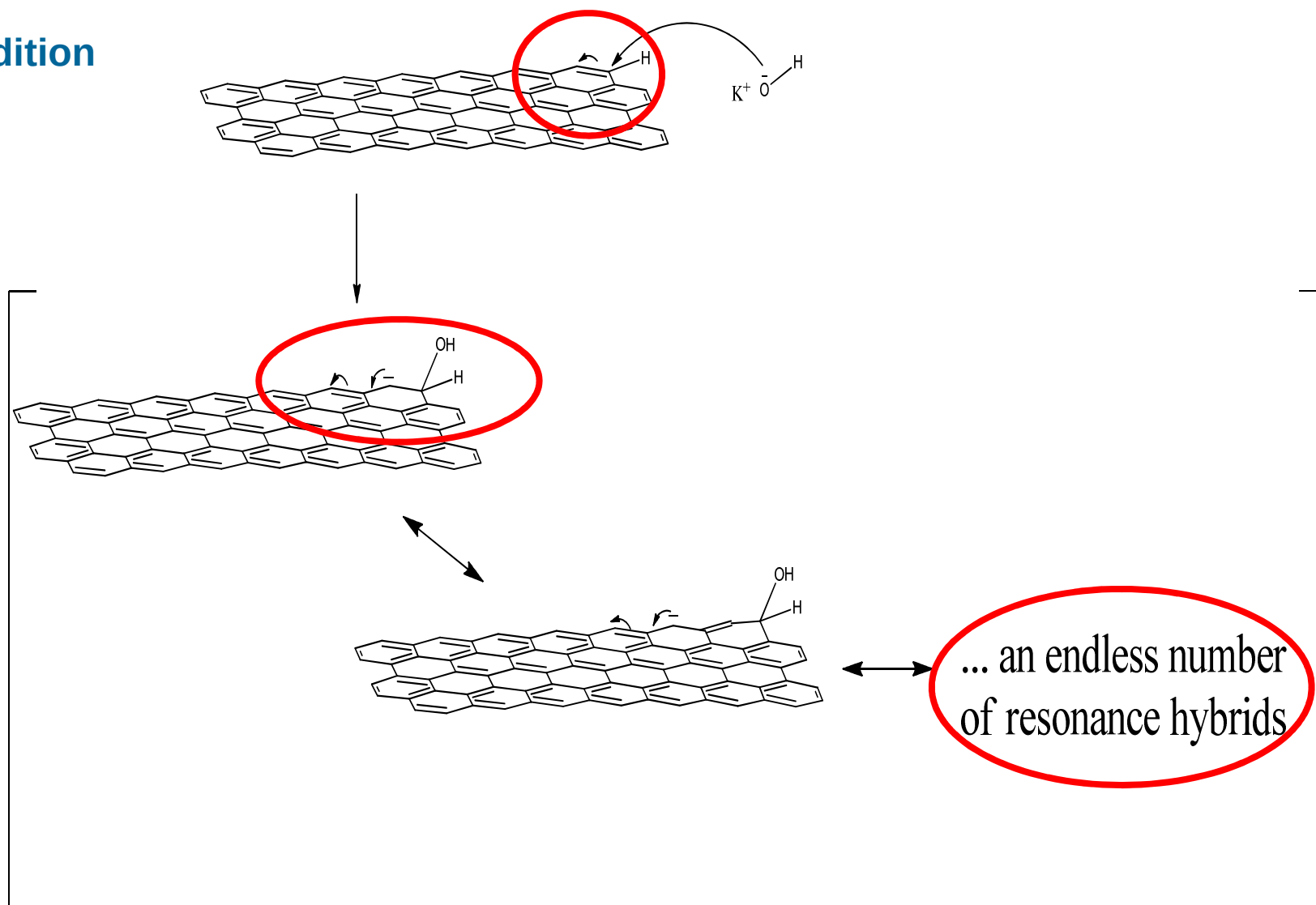
Polyhydroxylated
few layers graphene

- ➡ Selective introduction of OH groups up to 15 mass%
- ➡ In plane order substantially unaltered
- ➡ No expansion of interlayer distance

sustainable oxidation

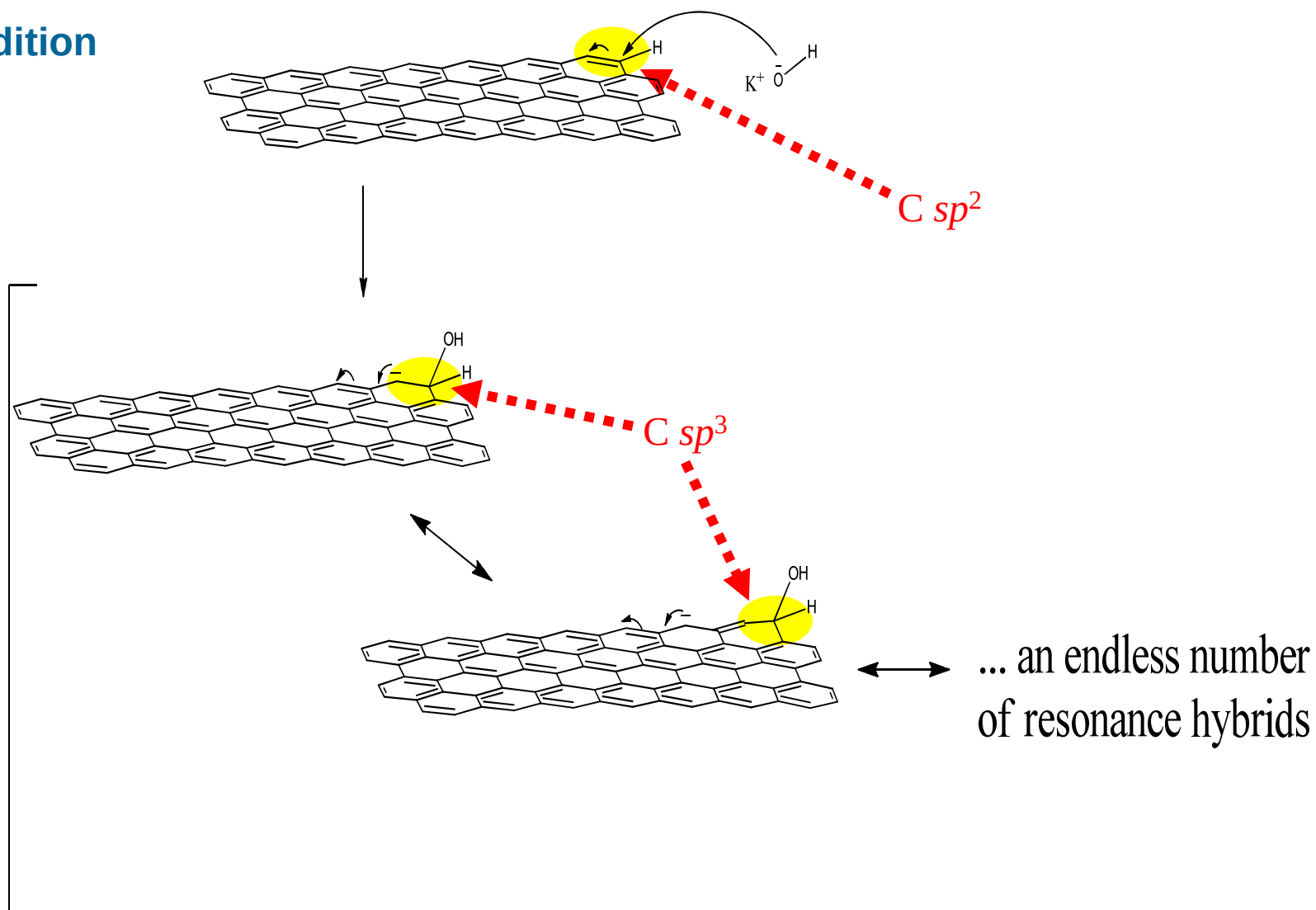
Oxidation with KOH – Proposed mechanism

Addition



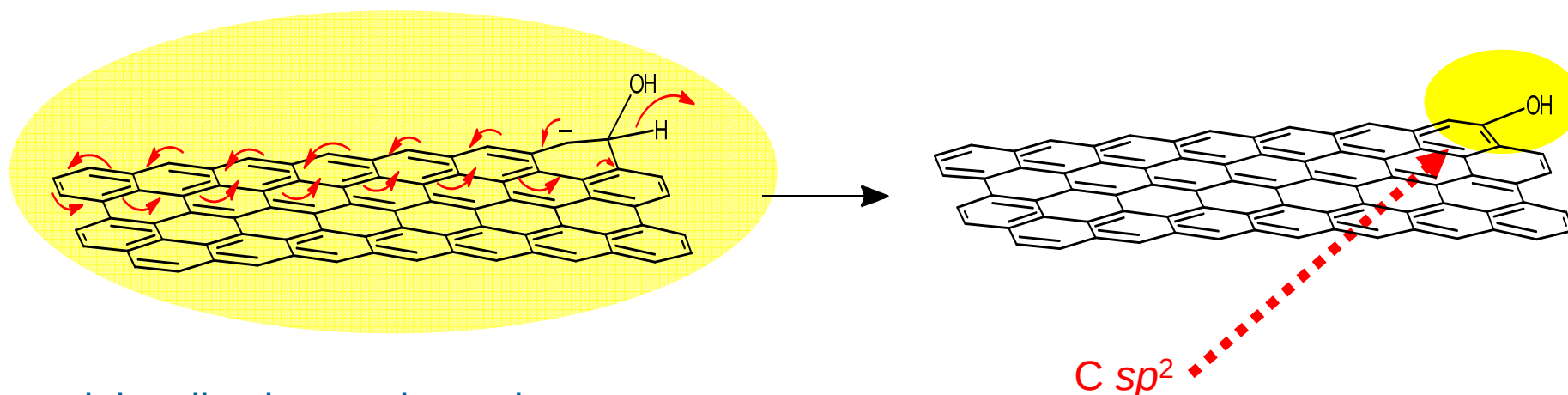
Oxidation with KOH – Proposed mechanism

Addition



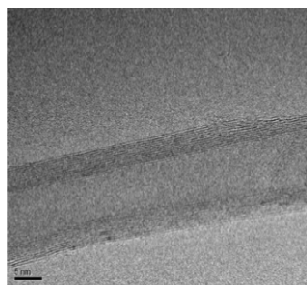
Oxidation with KOH – Proposed mechanism

Elimination



More electronrich structure,
the oxygen lone pairs delocalized
on the polyconjugated system

Oxidation of CNT with KOH

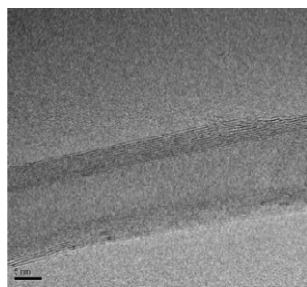


BET Surface area: **275**
[m²/g]

Initial functional groups: **2.0**
[mmol/g]

Adducts' functional groups: **3.0**
[mmol/g]

Oxidation of CNT with KOH

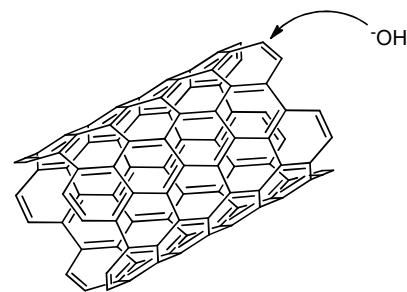


BET Surface area: **275**
[m²/g]

Initial functional groups: **2.0**
[mmol/g]

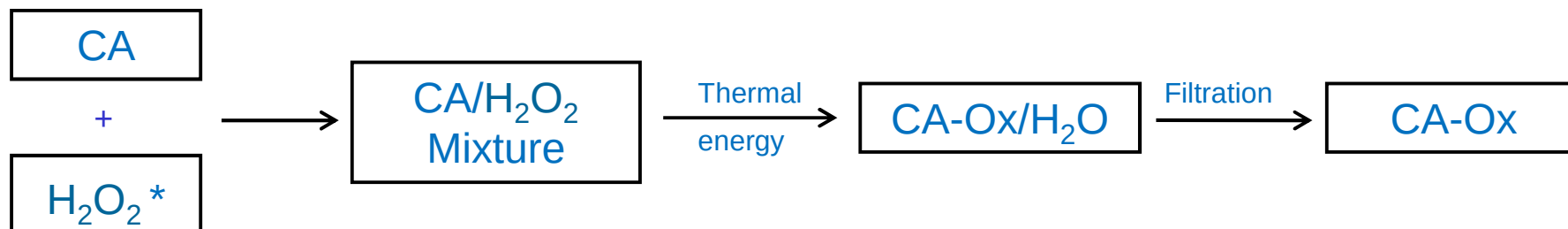
Adducts' functional groups: **3.0**
[mmol/g]

CNT reactivity:

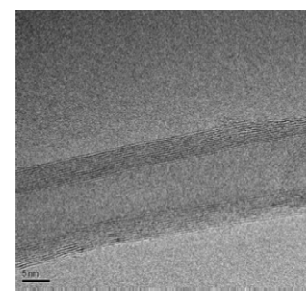
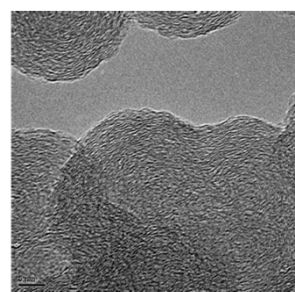
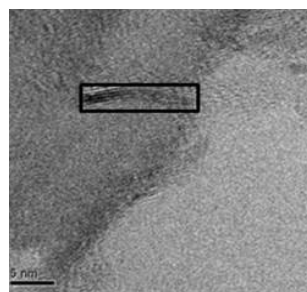


- 👉 on defects
- 👉 on pentagon or heptagon rings
- 👉 Fullerene like cap

Oxidation of CA with H₂O₂

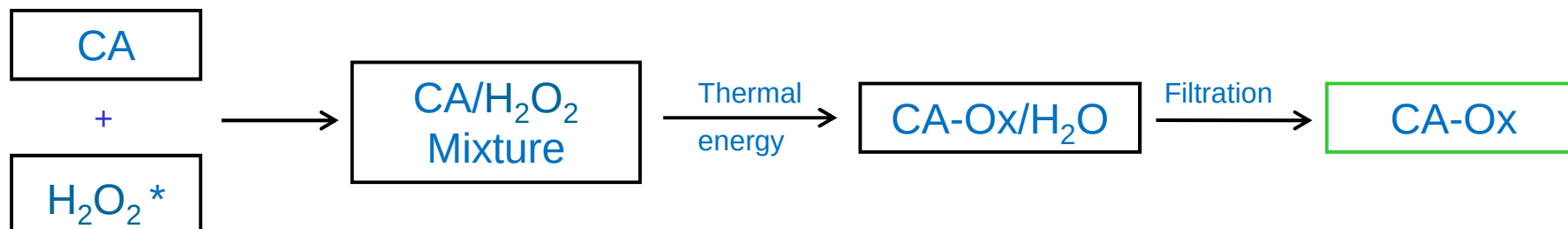


* 30 % (w/w) in H₂O

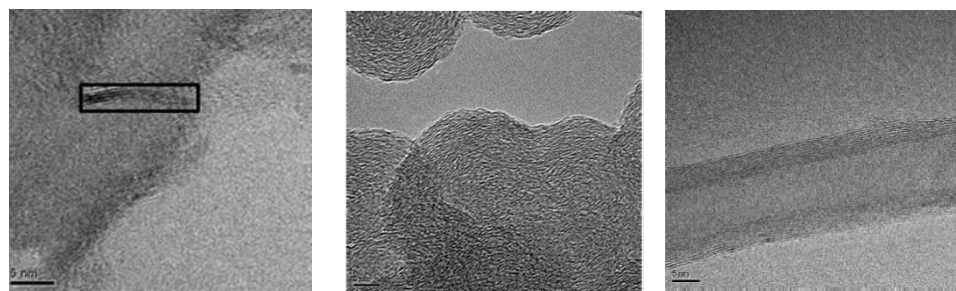


BET Surface area:	300	77	275
[m ² /g]			
Initial functional groups:	1.7	0.9	2.0
[mmol/g]			

Oxidation of CA with H₂O₂

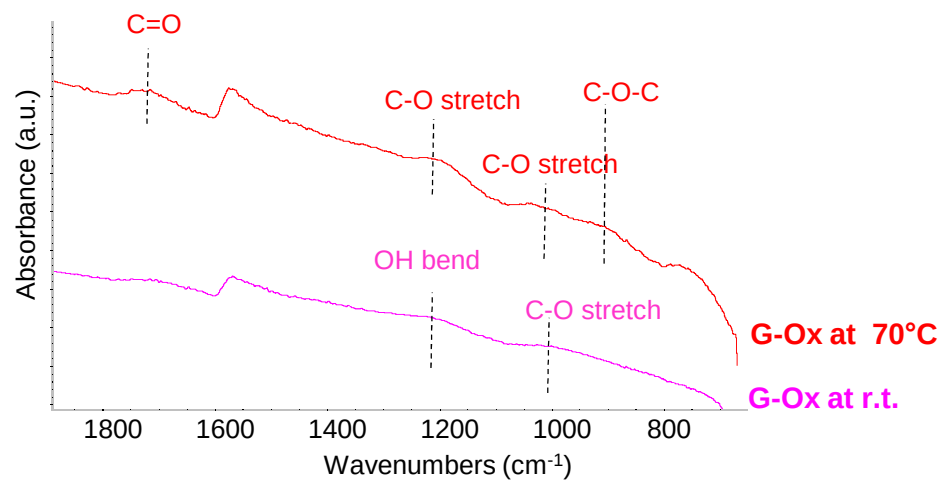


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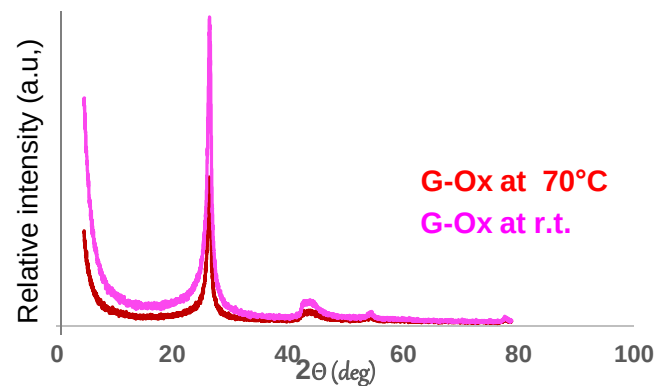
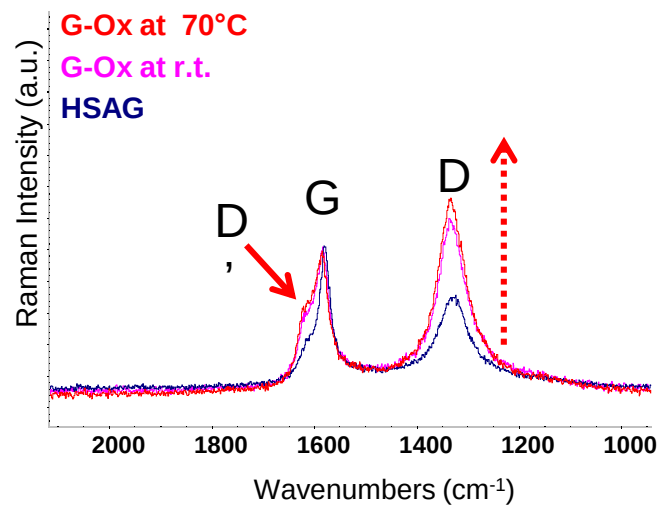
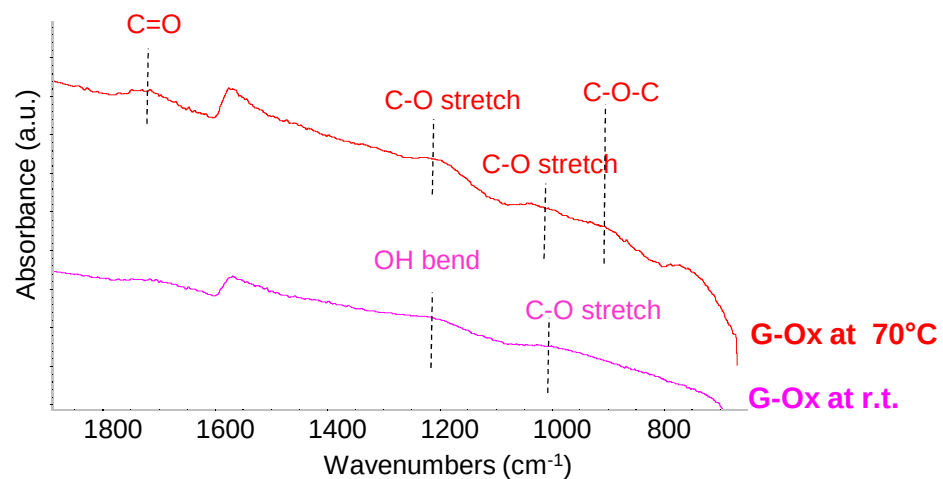


BET Surface area: [m ² /g]	300	77	275
Initial functional groups: [mmol/g]	1.7	0.9	2.0
Adducts' functional groups: [mmol/g]	3.1	5.8	3.2

Oxidation of HSAG with H_2O_2

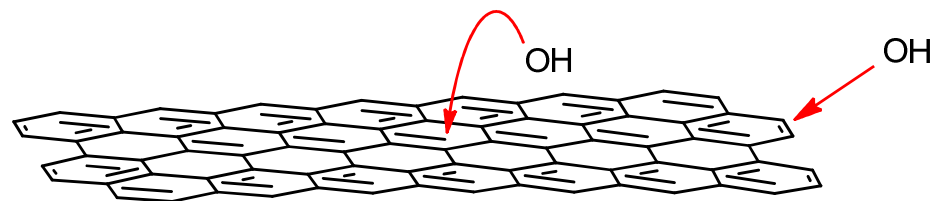


Oxidation of HSAG with H_2O_2



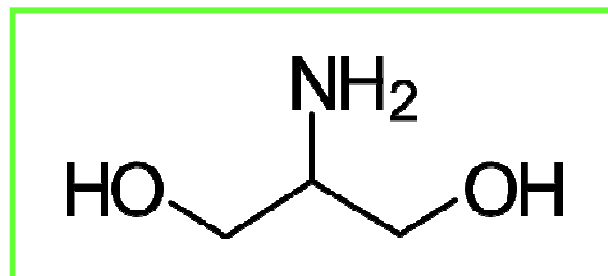
Oxidation of HSAG with H_2O_2

- ➡ Selective introduction of OH groups at room temperature
- ➡ In plane order substantially unaltered
- ➡ No expansion of interlayer distance

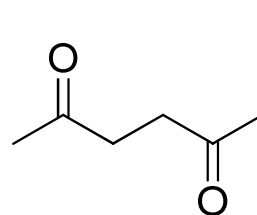
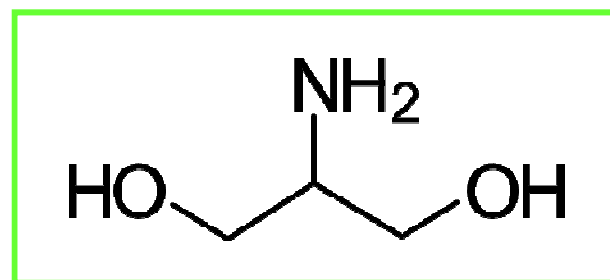


sustainable oxidation

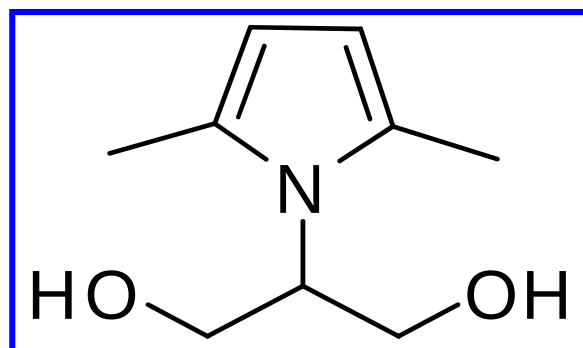
Oxidation of CA with serinol derivative



Oxidation of CA with serinol derivative



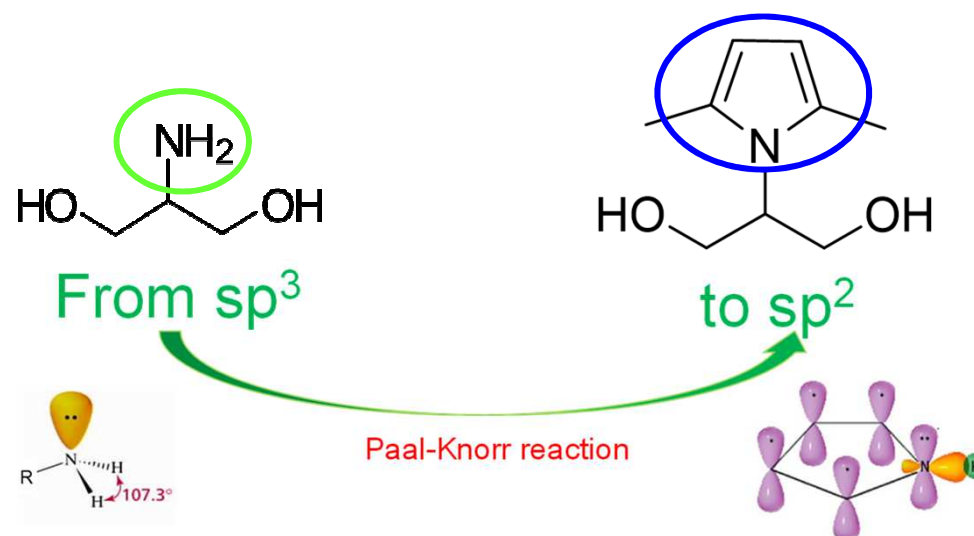
Paal Knorr reaction



Serinol pyrrole - SP

2-(2,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)-1,3-propanediol

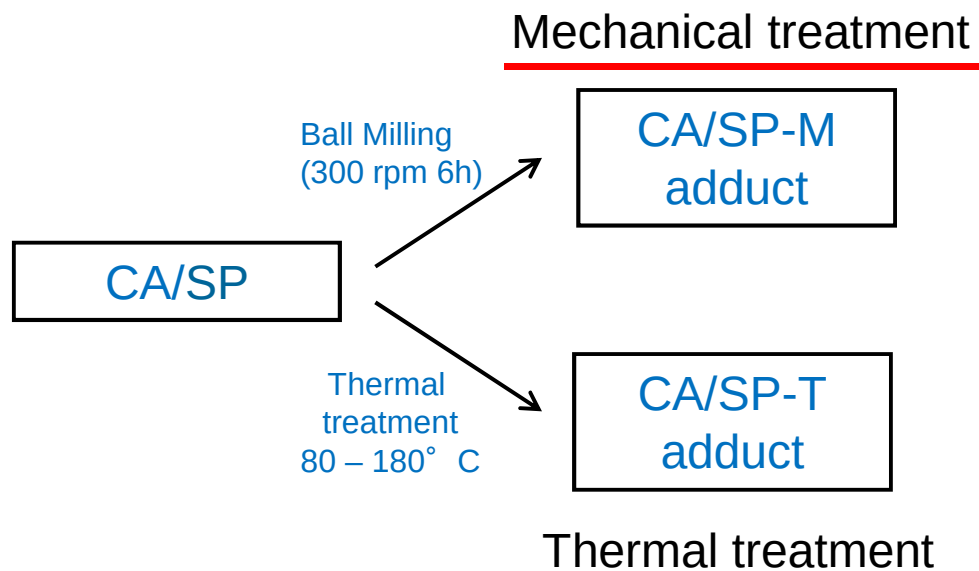
Neat synthesis of Serinol pyrrole



- ➡ Yield: at least 96%
- ➡ Atom efficiency: 85%
- ➡ Easy procedure
- ➡ No solvent
- ➡ By product: H_2O

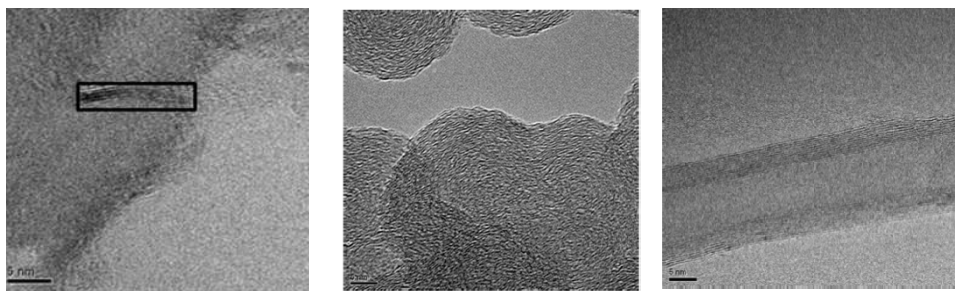
Barbera, V., Citterio, A., Galimberti, M., Leonardi, G., Sebastiano, R., Shisodia, S.U., Valerio A.M. [WO 2015 189411 A1](#)
Galimberti, M., Barbera, V., Guerra, S., Conzatti, L., Castiglioni, C., Brambilla, L., A. Serafini, [RSC Advances, 5\(99\), \(2015\) 81142-81152](#)

Adducts of SP with CA - Preparation



Barbera, V., Citterio, A., Galimberti, M., Leonardi, G., Sebastiano, R., Shisodia, S.U., Valerio A.M. [WO 2015 189411 A1](#)
Galimberti, M., Barbera, V., Guerra, S., Conzatti, L., Castiglioni, C., Brambilla, L., A. Serafini, [RSC Advances, 5\(99\), \(2015\) 81142-81152](#)

High yield functionalization!

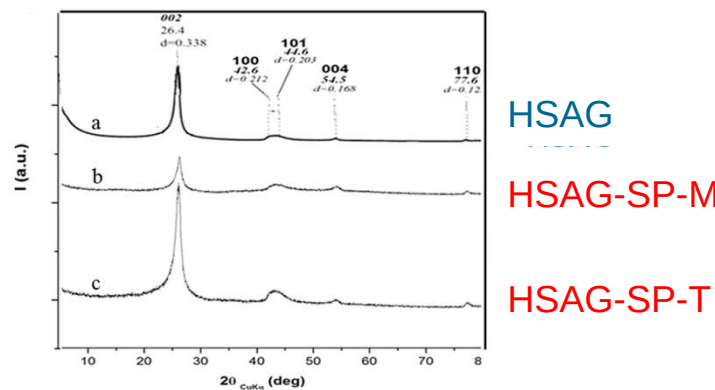
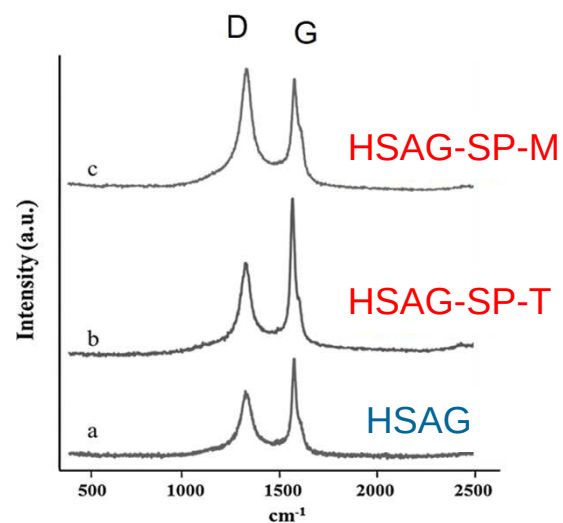


BET Surface area: [m ² /g]	300	77	275
Initial functional groups: [mmol/g]	1.7	0.9	2.0
Yields (%)*:	96	82	92

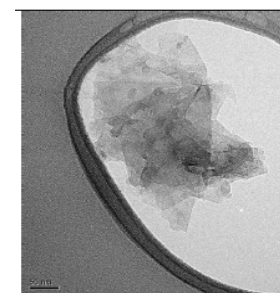
*was estimated through:

$$\text{Functionalization Yield (\%)} = 100 * \frac{\text{SP mass \% in (CA-SP adduct) after acetone washing}}{\text{SP mass \% in (CA-SP adduct) before acetone washing}}$$

Adducts of SP with HSAG



Few layers graphene



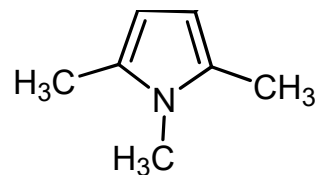
From water suspension

Results from elemental, TGA, IR, XPS, Raman, XRD, HRTEM analysis

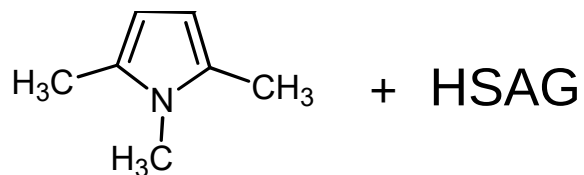
Galimberti, M., Barbera, V., Sebastiano, R., Citterio, A., Leonardi, G. [WO/2016/050887 A1 \(2016\)](#)

Galimberti, M., Barbera, V., Guerra, S., Conzatti, L., Castiglioni, C., Brambilla, L., A. Serafini, [RSC Advances](#), 5(99), (2015) 81142-81152

Mechanistic investigation



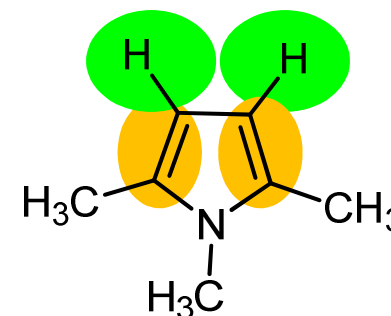
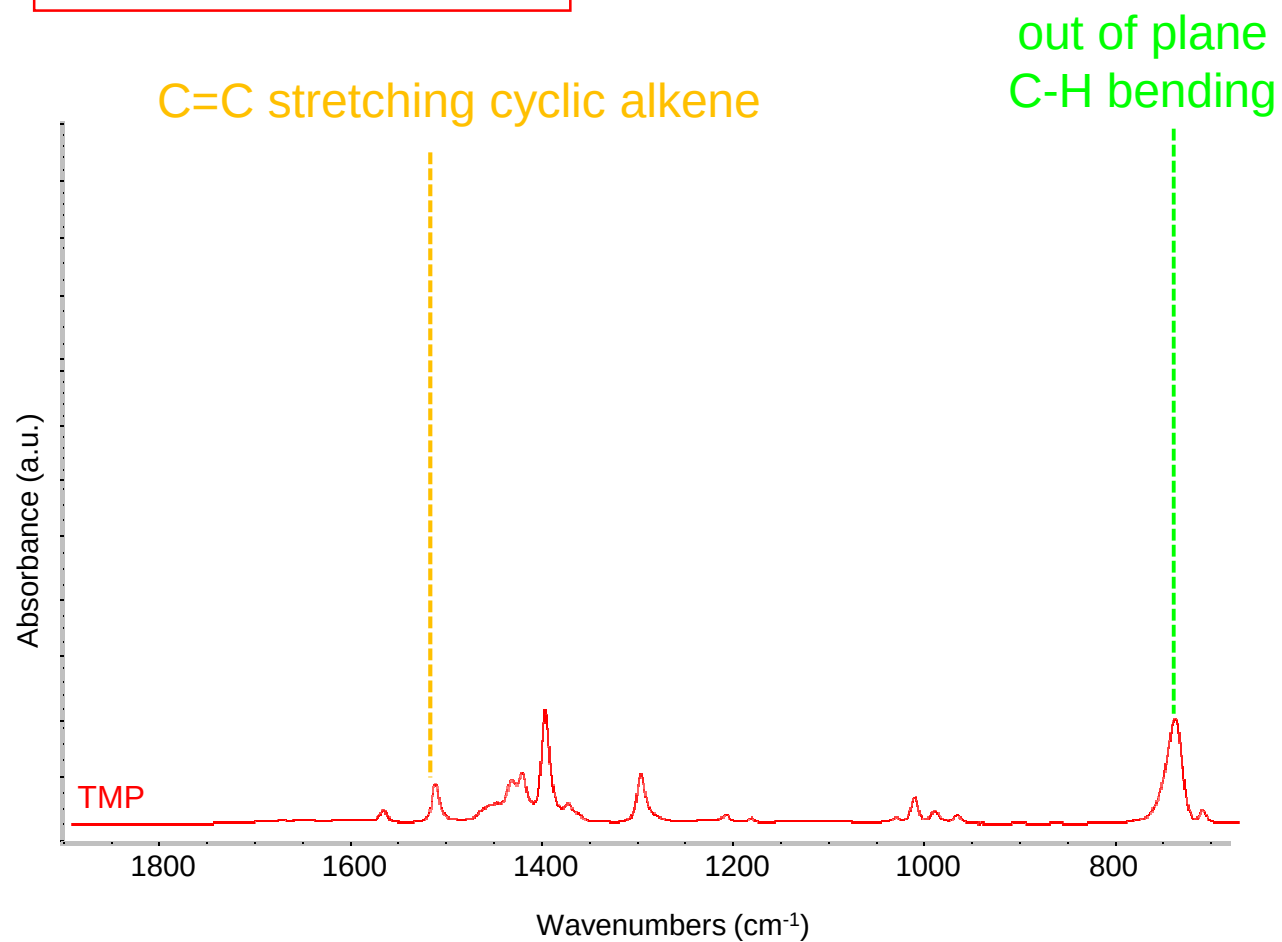
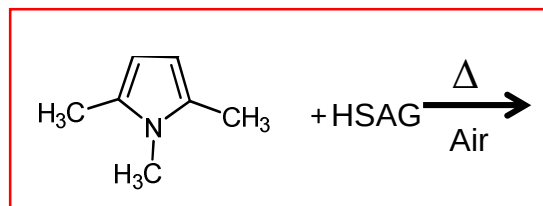
Model compound



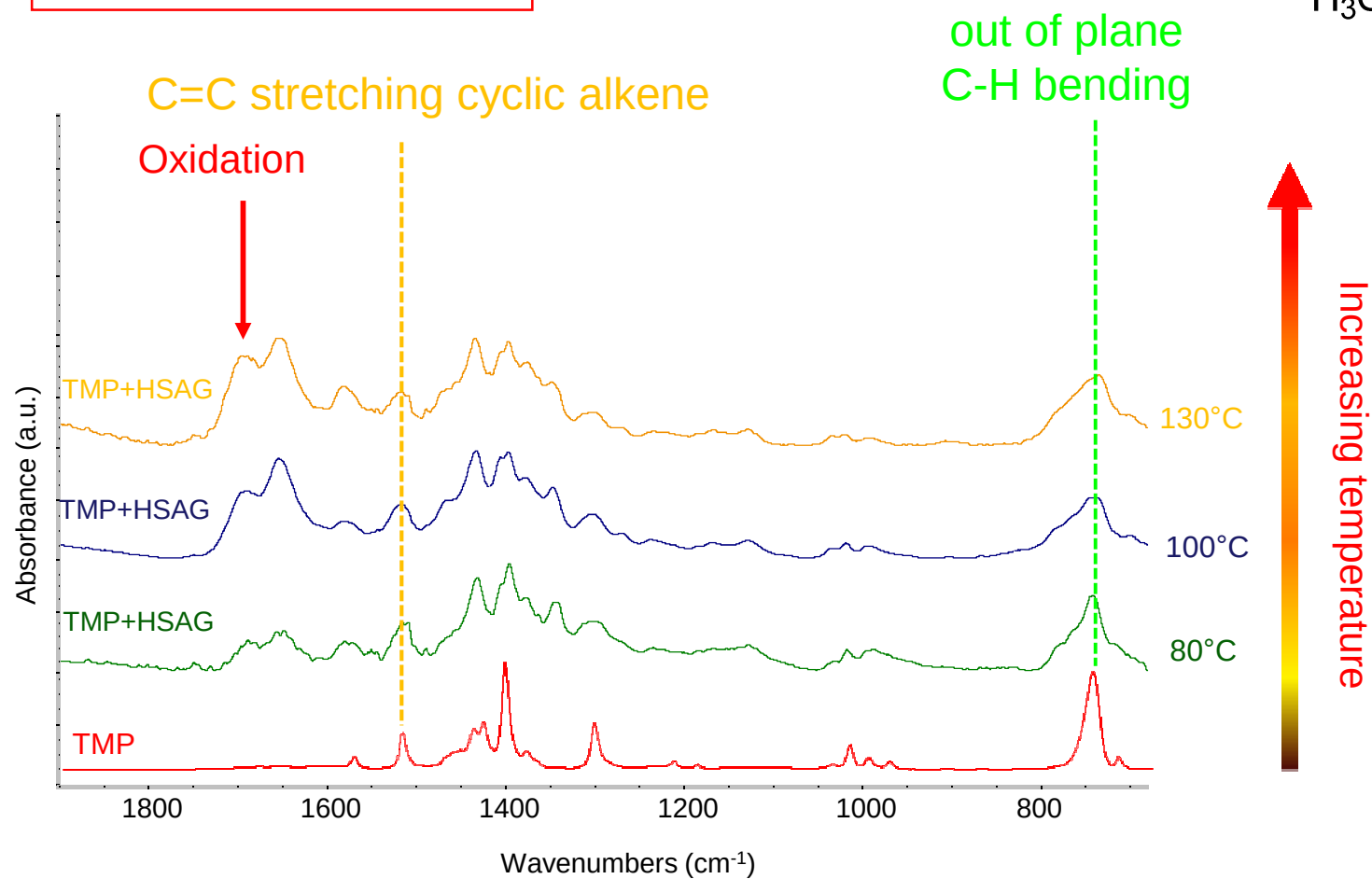
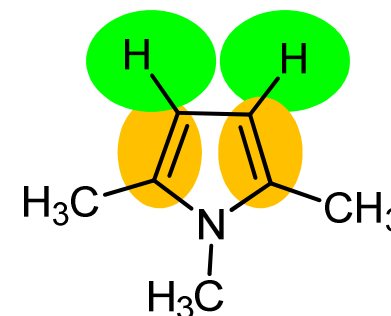
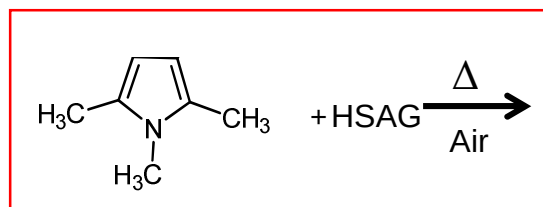
In air

Thermal energy

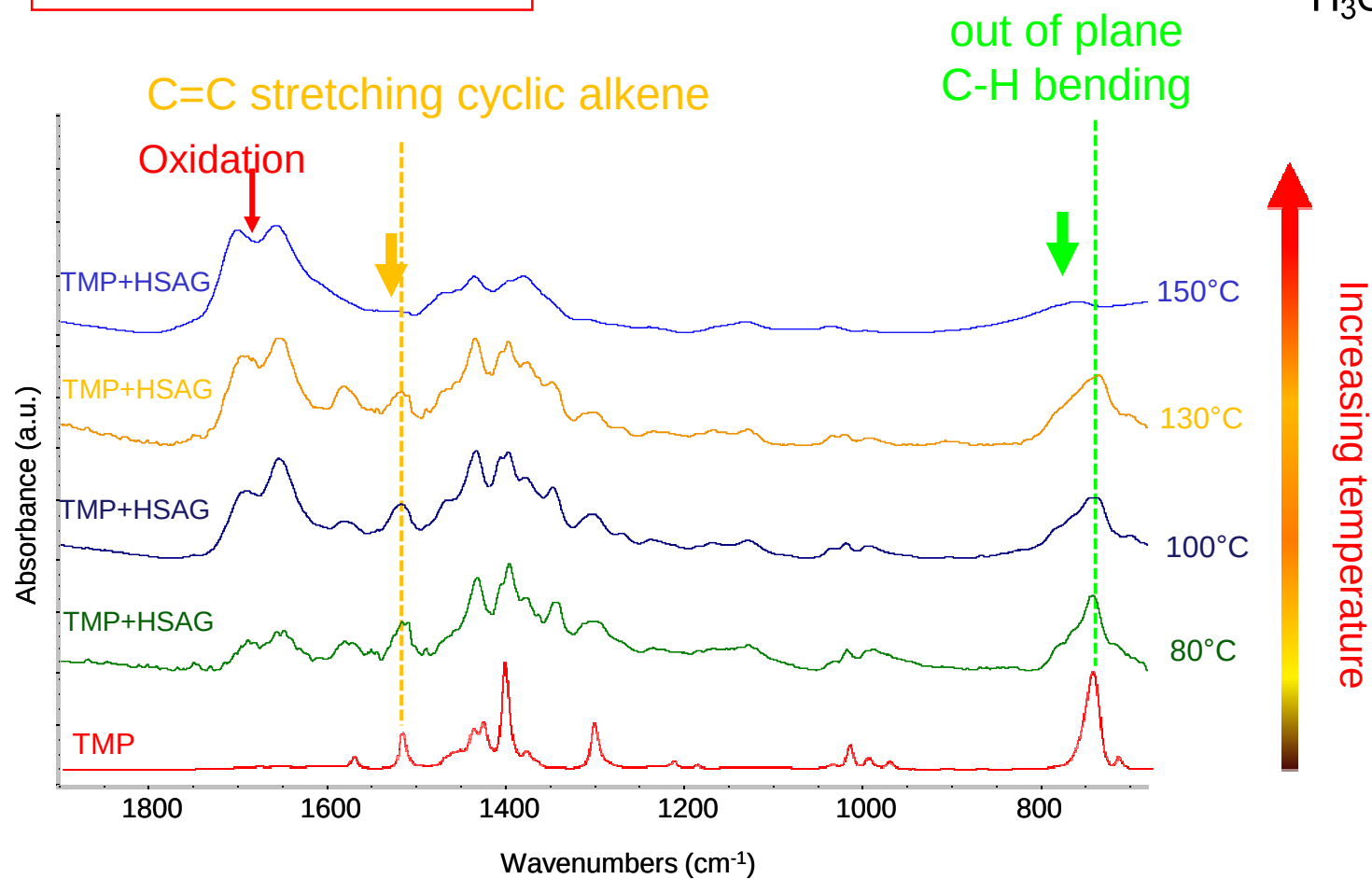
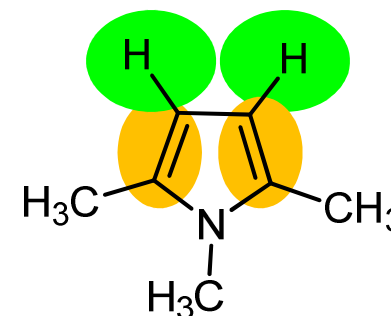
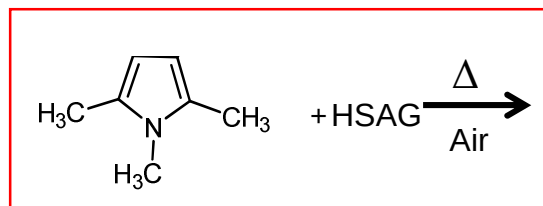
TMP + HSAG 1/1 - from 25 to 150°C



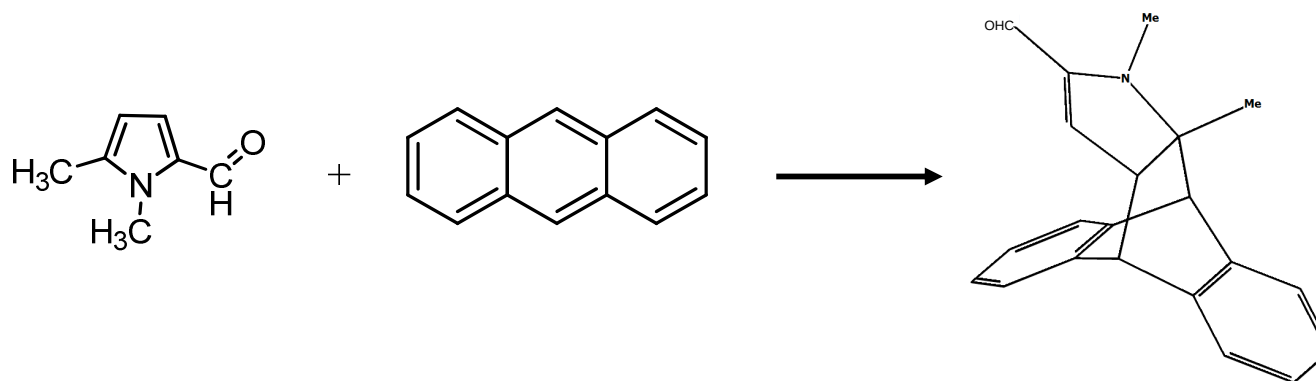
TMP + HSAG 1/1 - from 25 to 150°C



TMP + HSAG 1/1 - from 25 to 150°C



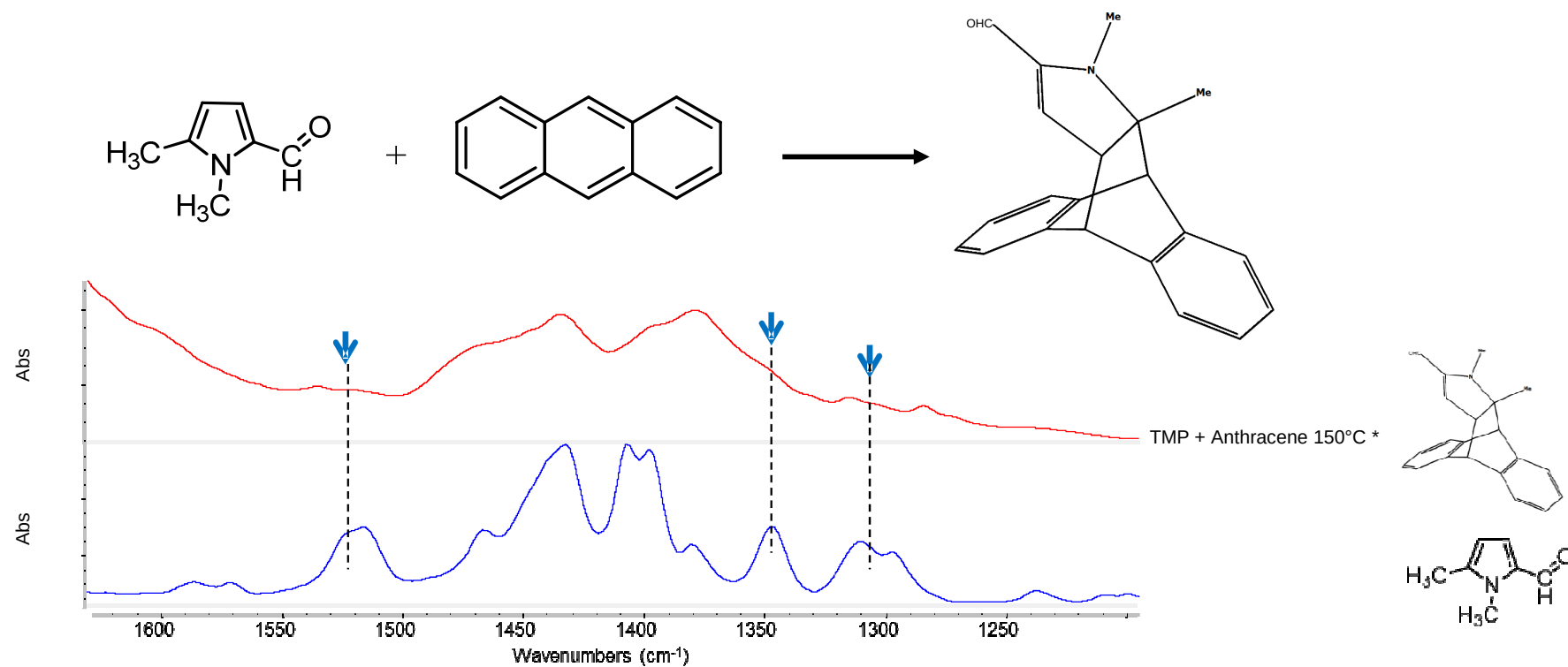
Model reaction and DFT calculation



* Structure confirmed by means of FT-IR and NMR spectroscopy

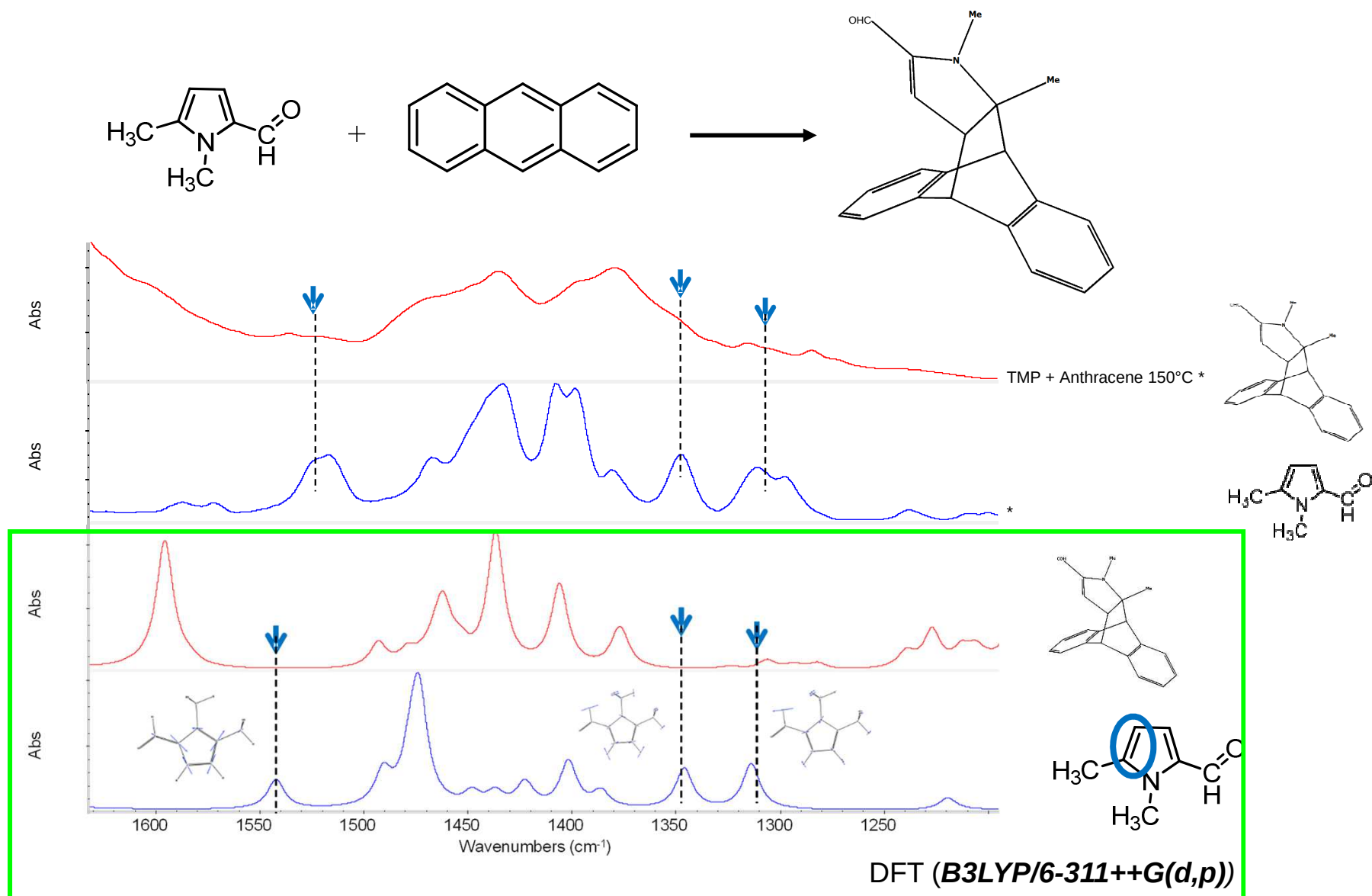
DFT (*B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p)*)

Model reaction and DFT calculation



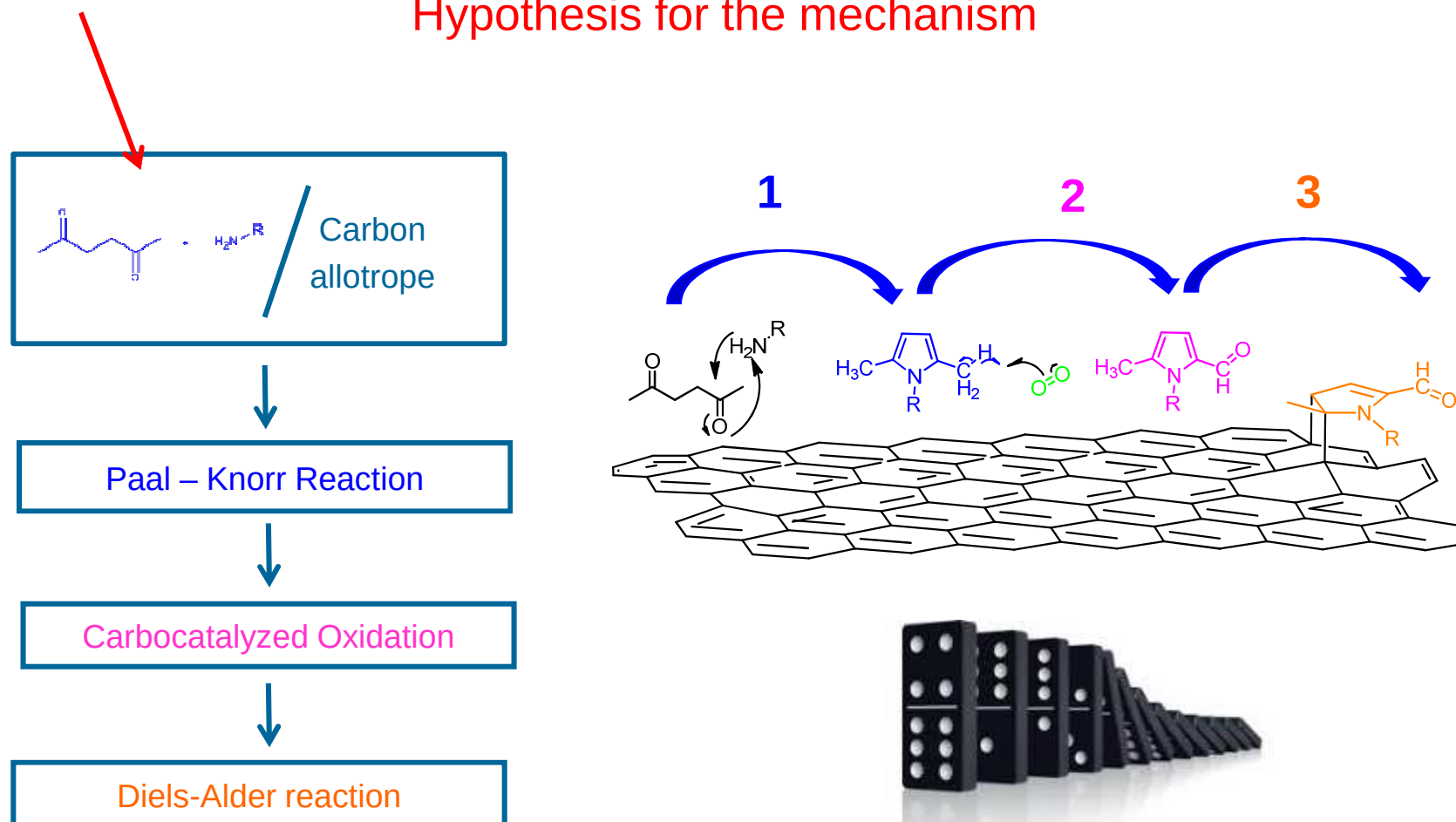
* Structure confirmed by means of FT-IR and NMR spectroscopy

Model reaction and DFT calculation



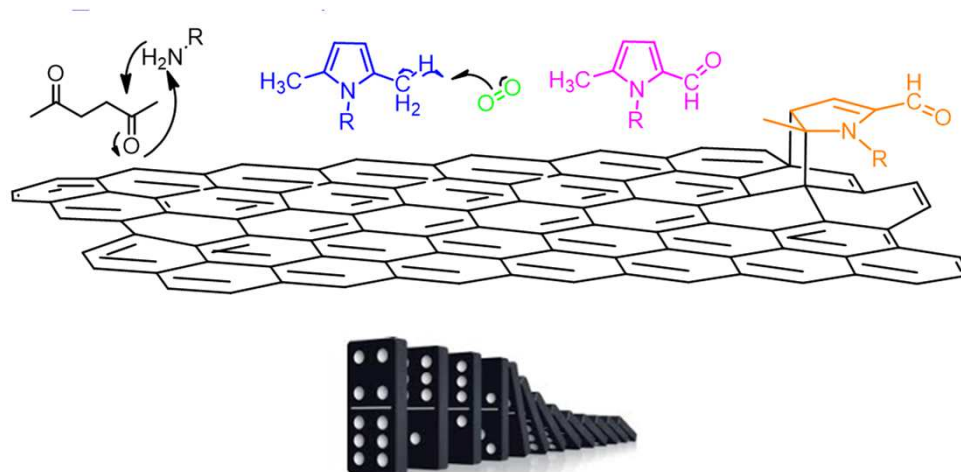
Facile functionalization of graphene layers (carbon materials)

Hypothesis for the mechanism



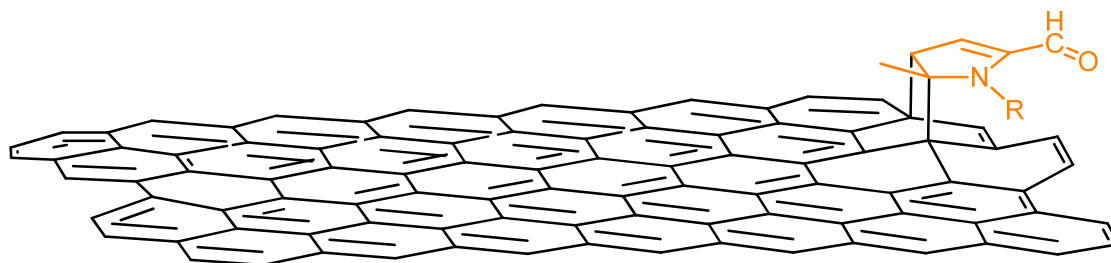
Thanks to the carbon allotrope!

- ➡ **Support:** absorption of pyrrole ring thanks to π - π interaction
- ➡ Oxidation **catalyst:** protection of pyrrole ring and oxidation of lateral substituent
- ➡ **Substrate** for the cycloaddition reaction, i.e. for functionalization



Adducts of SP with HSAG

- ➡ Functional groups up to 20%
- ➡ In plane order substantially unaltered
- ➡ No expansion of interlayer distance



Facile functionalization of carbon materials

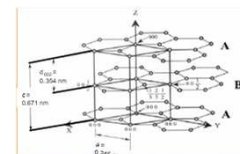
☞ KOH

☞ H₂O₂

☞ Serinol derivative

+

sp² carbon allotropes
(CA)



Functional groups on carbon allotrope surface

Bulk structure substantially unaltered

Barbera, V., Porta, A., Brambilla, L., Guerra, S., Serafini, A., Valerio, M.A., Vitale, A., Galimberti, M. *RSC Adv.*, 2016, 6, 87767-87777

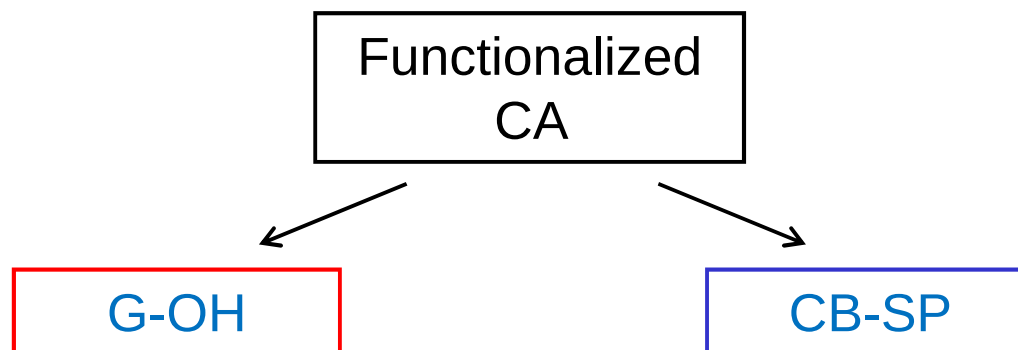
Barbera, V., Bernardi, A., Torrisi, G., Porta, A., Galimberti, M. *Elastomery* (submitted)

Galimberti, M., Barbera, V., Guerra, S., Conzatti, L., Castiglioni, C., Brambilla, L., A. Serafini, *RSC Advances*, 5(99), (2015) 81142-81152

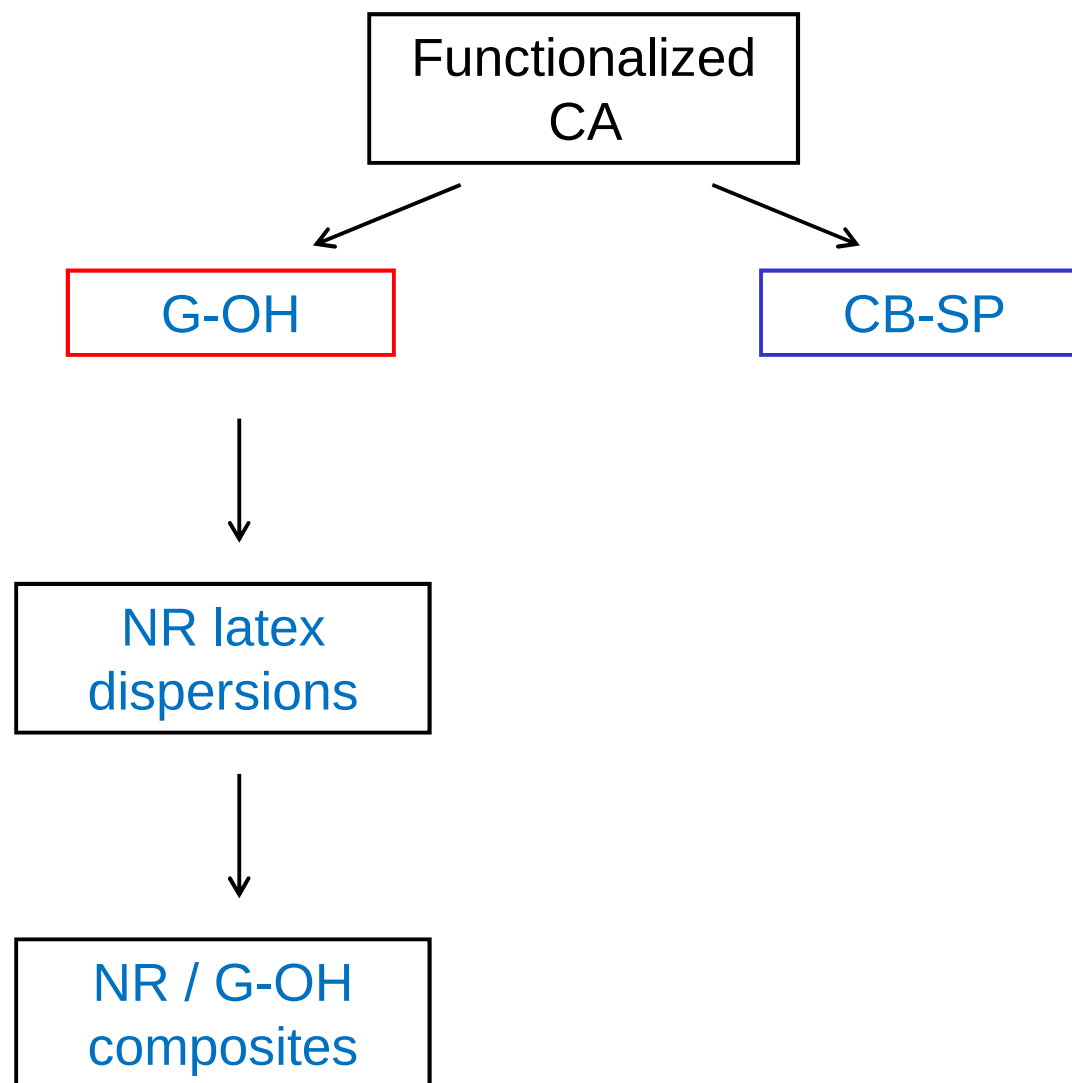


Elastomers composites based on G-OH and CB-SP

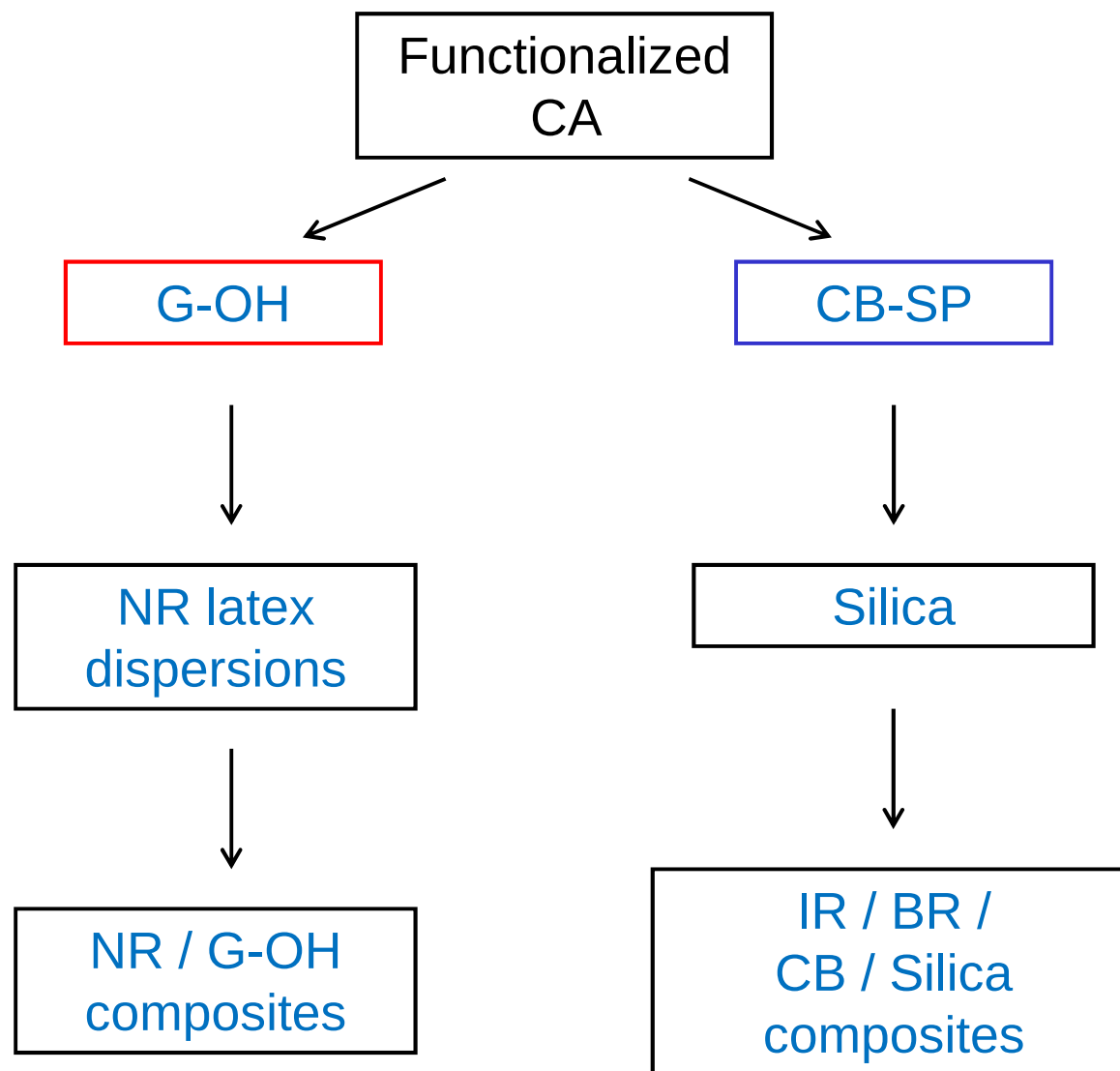
Elastomers composites based on G-OH and CB-SP



Elastomers composites based on G-OH and CB-SP



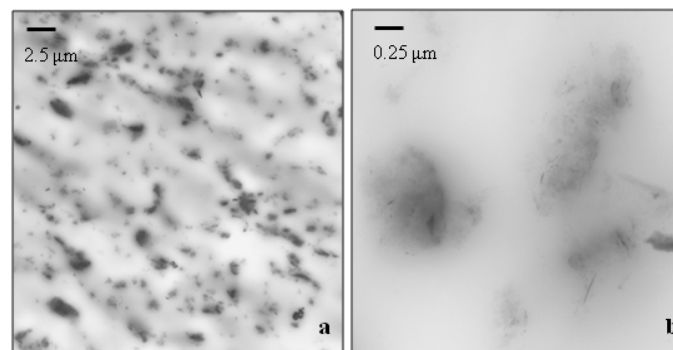
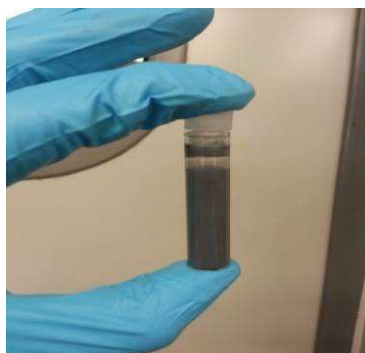
Elastomers composites based on G-OH and CB-SP



Composites based on NR and G-OH

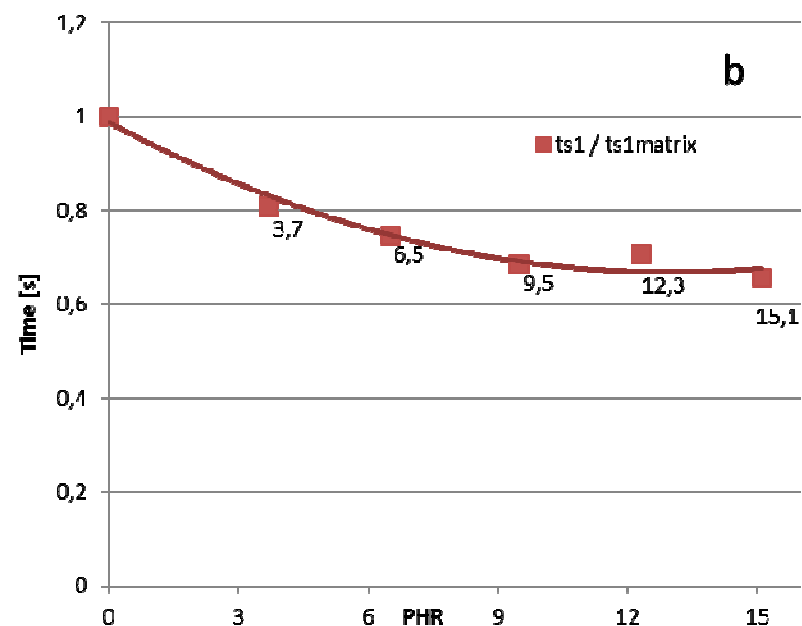
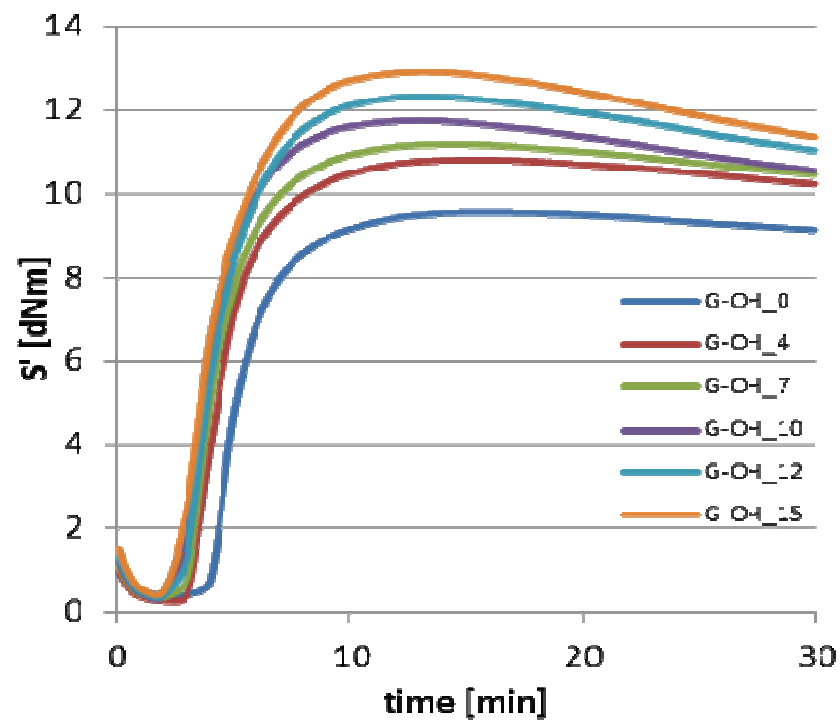
Ingredient	G-OH_0	G-OH_4	G-OH_7	G-OH_10	G-OH_12	G-OH_15	G-OH_25
NR	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
G-OH	0	3.7	6.5	9.5	12.3	15.1	25

Silane TESPT 2, Stearic acid 2, ZnO 4, 6PPD 2,
Sulphur 3, TBBS 1.8



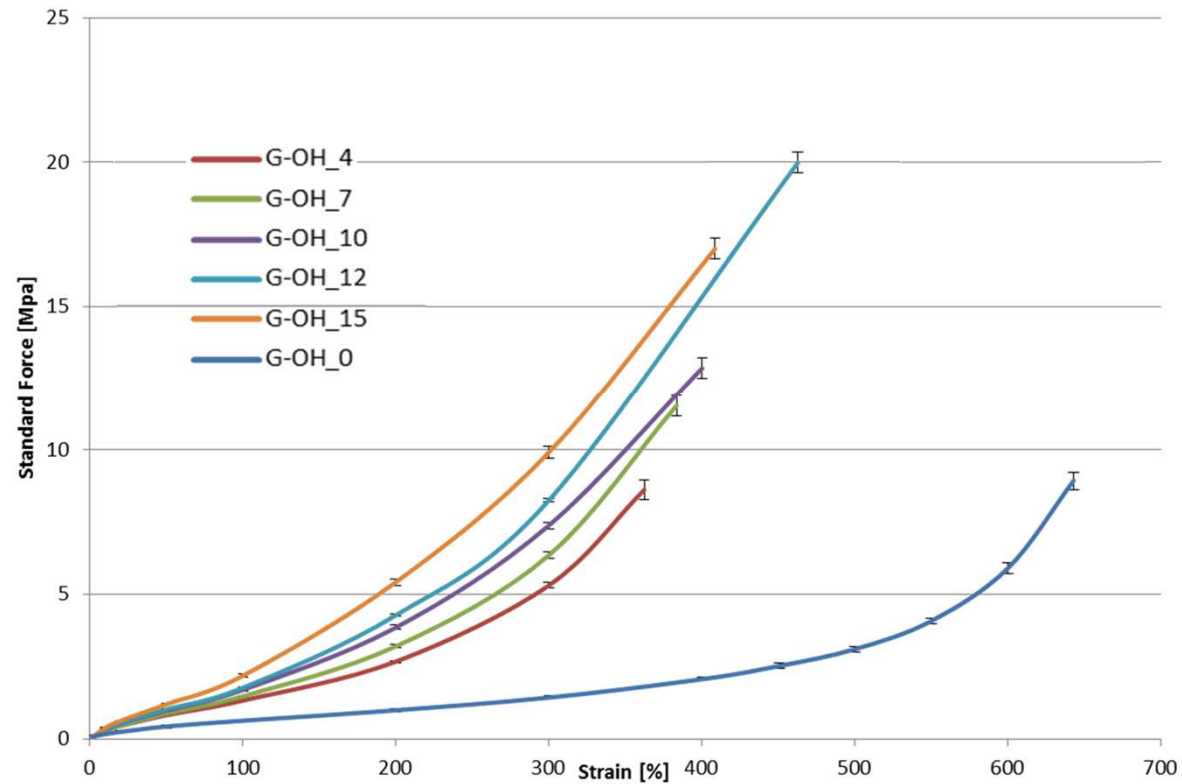
TEM micrographs
NR-GOH-9 composite
(precipitated from the latex)

Vulcanization reaction



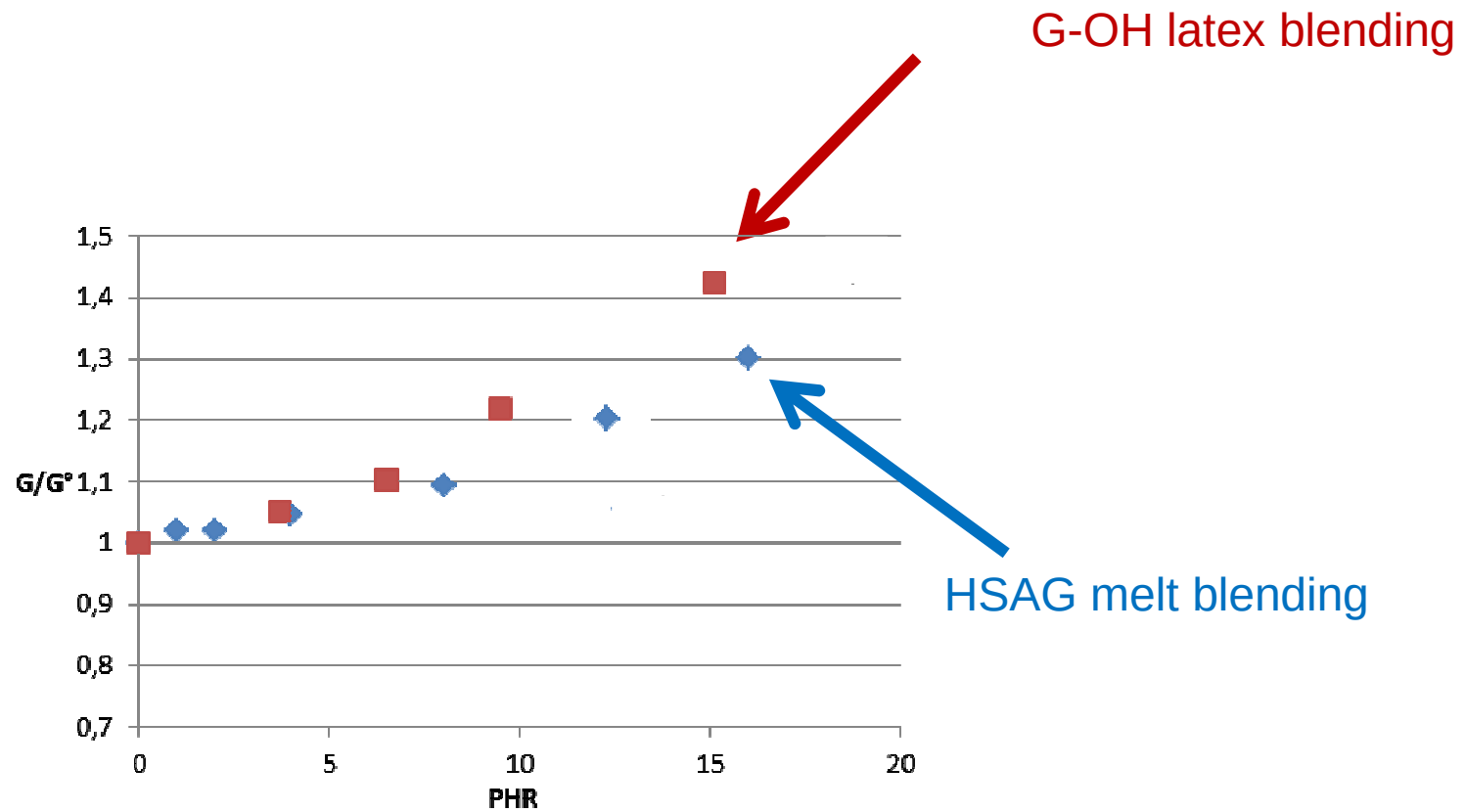
☞ Vulcanization reaction becomes faster
as G-OH content increases

Tensile properties



☞ Stresses at all elongations increase with G-OH content

G/G⁰ ratios vs G-OH content



👉 Higher G' moduli with G-OH: better dispersion

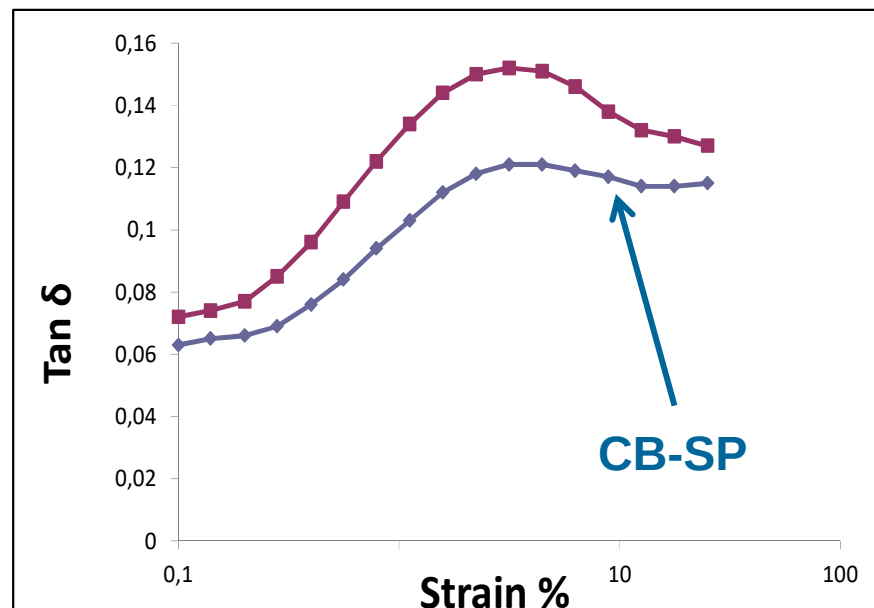
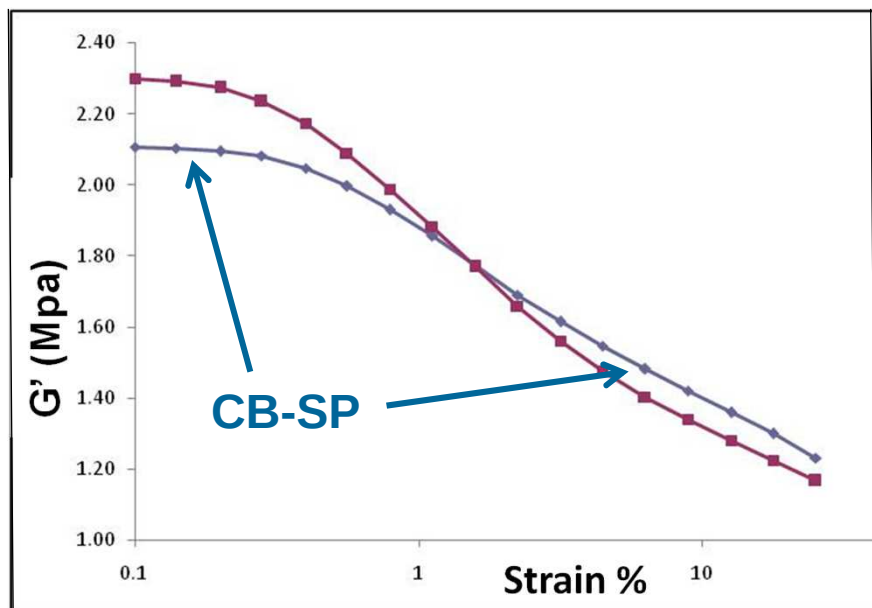
CB-SP in CB/Silica based composite

Recipes

Ingredient	With CB	With CB-SP
IR	50	50
BR	50	50
Silica	25	25
CB N326	25	0
CB N326-SP	0	27
CB N326	0	25
SP	0	2

Silane TESPT 2, Stearic acid 2, ZnO 4, 6PPD 2,
Sulphur 1.5, TBBS 1.8

Dynamic-mechanical properties



With CB-SP

- ➡ Lower Payne Effect and crossover of the curves
- ➡ Lower Tan delta



Conclusions



- ➡ Sustainable oxidation of sp^2 carbon allotropes
was developed with: KOH, H_2O_2 , serinolpyrrole
- ➡ Serinol pyrrole: very high functionalization yield
- ➡ Unaltered structure of carbon allotropes
- ➡ Functionalized carbon allotropes:
better mechanical properties and lower Payne effect

Thanks for the Attention

- ➡ Prof. Chiara Castiglioni, (Politecnico Milano)
- ➡ Dr. Luigi Brambilla, (Politecnico Milano)
- ➡ Dr. Andrea Serafini, (Politecnico Milano)