

# NANOMETRIC HIGH ASPECT RATIO FILLERS AND CHEMICAL REACTIVITY WITH THE POLYMER MATRIX

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2018 International Elastomer Conference  
194<sup>th</sup> Technical Meeting ACS Rubber Division  
Louisville (KY) October 9 - 11, 2018

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## Objective of the research

To take advantage  
of nanometric high aspect ratio fillers  
for the mechanical reinforcement of rubbers.

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## Objective of the research

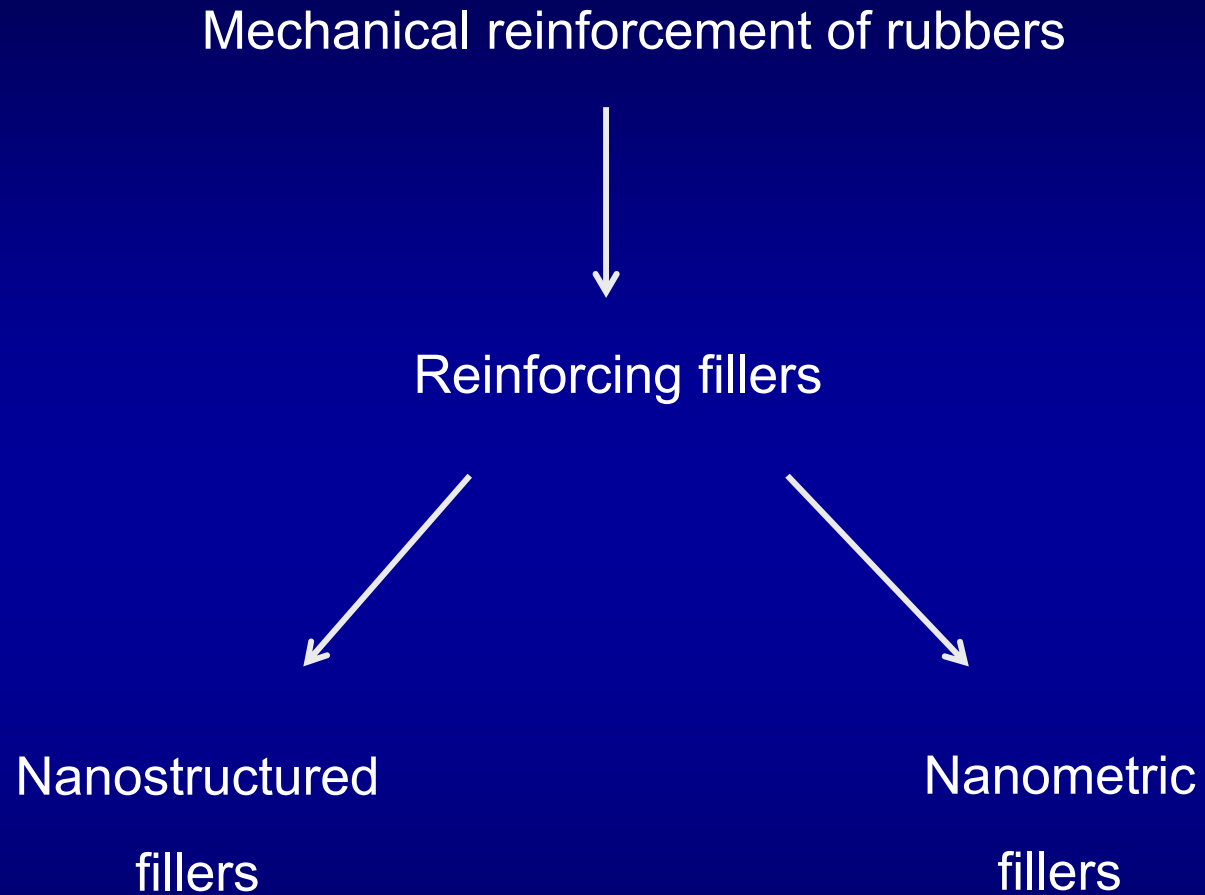
To take advantage  
of nanometric high aspect ratio fillers  
for the mechanical reinforcement of rubbers.

## How?

By fostering their chemical reactivity.

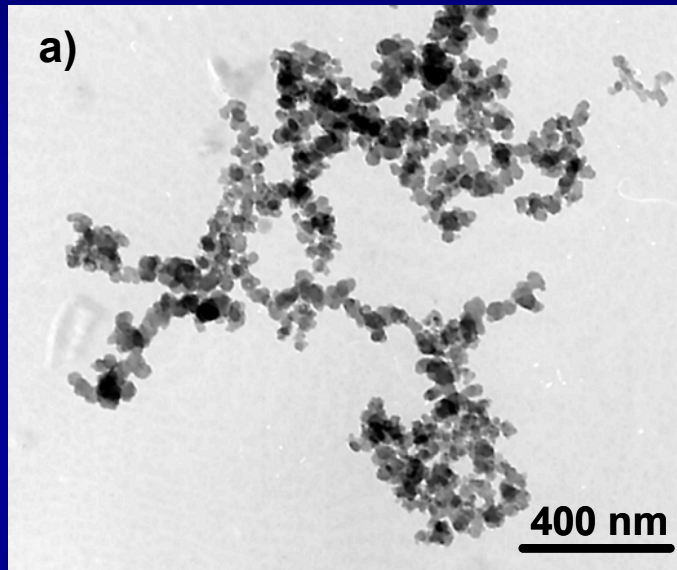
# Mechanical reinforcement of rubbers

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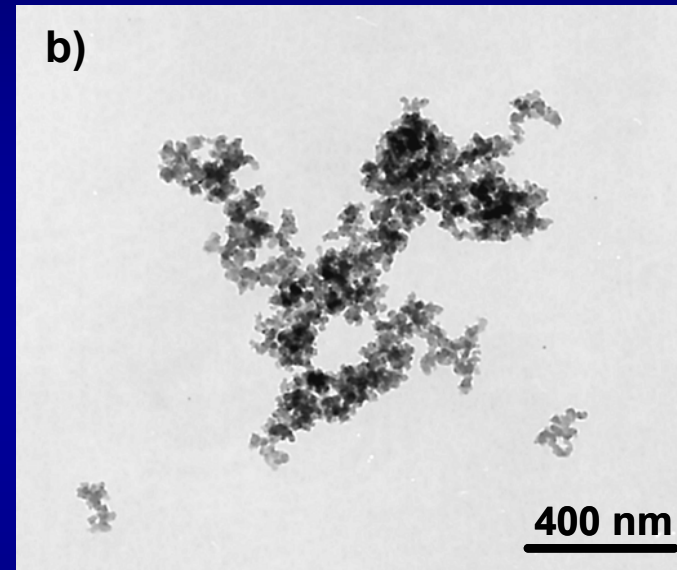


# Reinforcing fillers - Nanostructured fillers

Carbon black

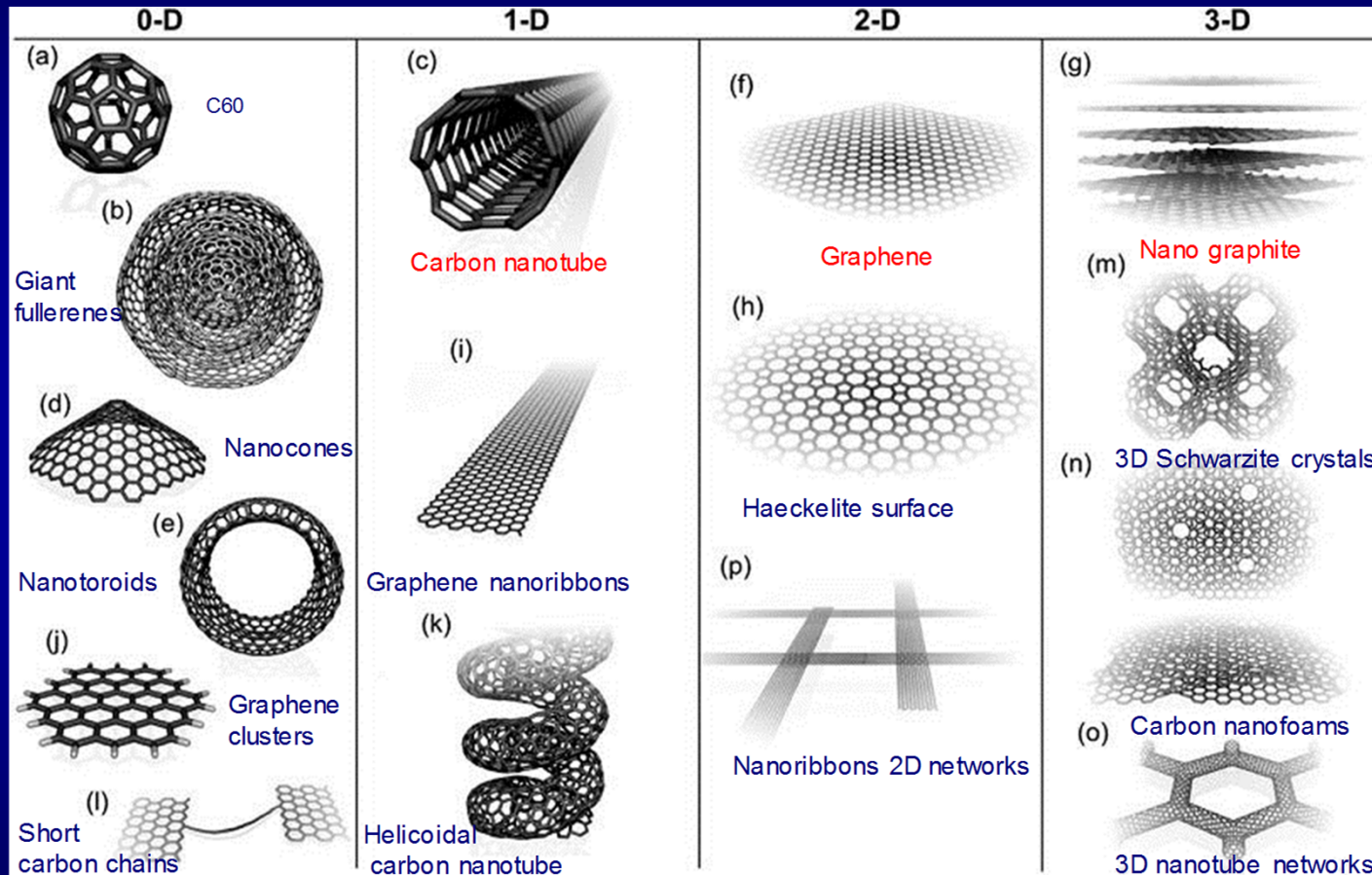


Silica



# Reinforcing fillers - Nanometric fillers

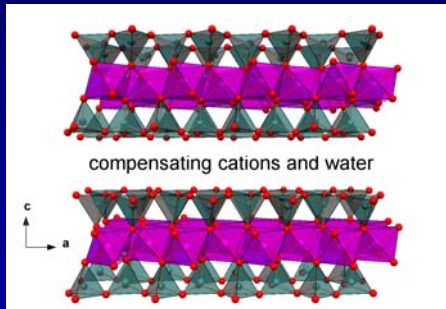
## sp<sup>2</sup> carbon allotropes



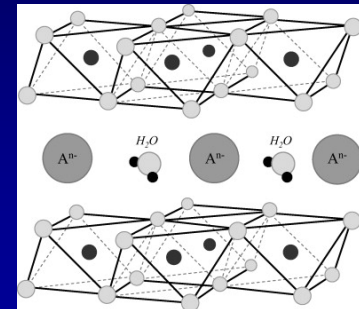
M. Terrones, et al. *Nano Today* 5 (4) (2010) 351-372.

# Reinforcing fillers - Nanometric fillers

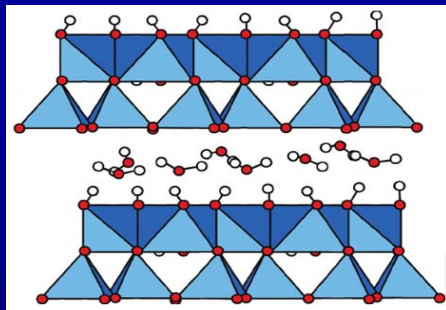
## Inorganic Oxides and Hydroxides



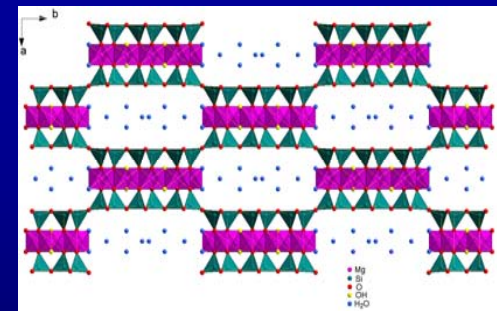
montmorillonite



hydrotalcite



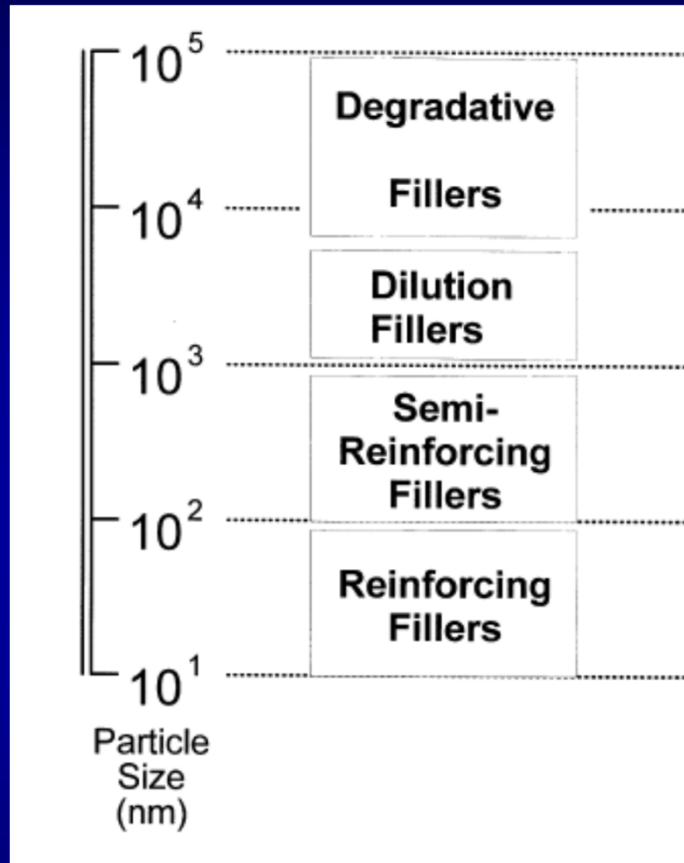
halloysite



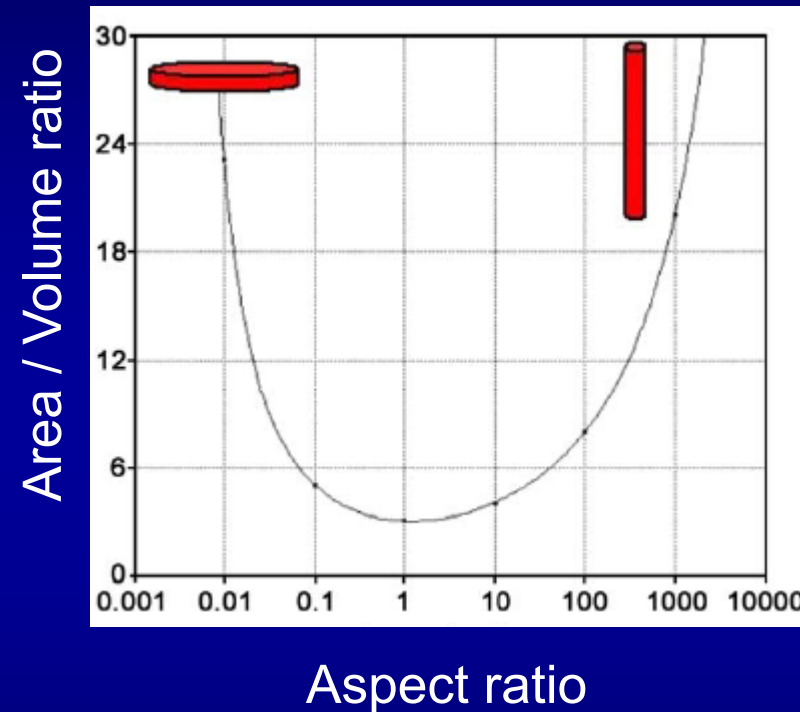
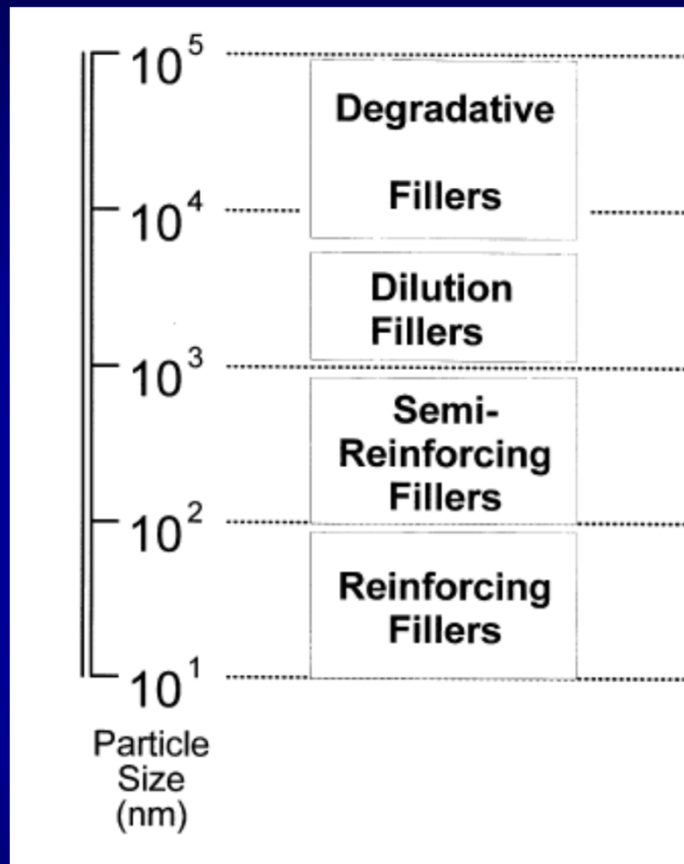
sepiolite

F. Bergaya, M. Jaber, J.F. Lambert, Natural and synthetic layered clays sepiolite, Chapter 1 in Rubber-Clay Nanocomposites. Galimberti, M. Ed, Wiley 2011

# Fillers - Classified by dimensions

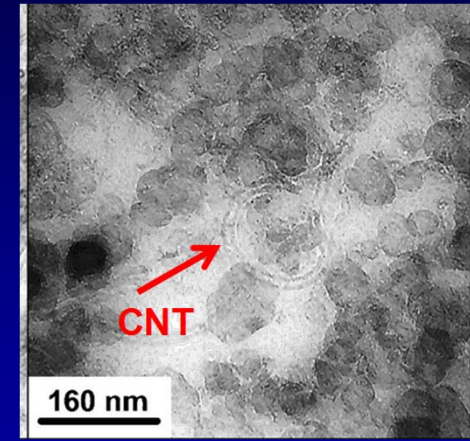
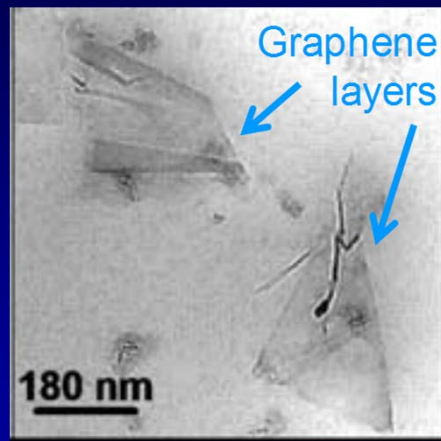
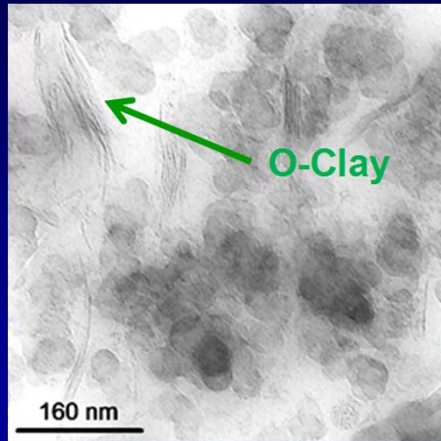


# Fillers - Dimensions and aspect ratio



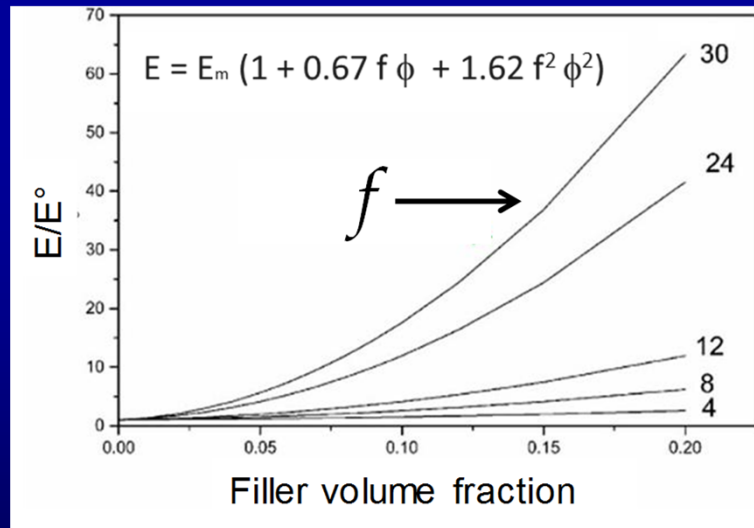
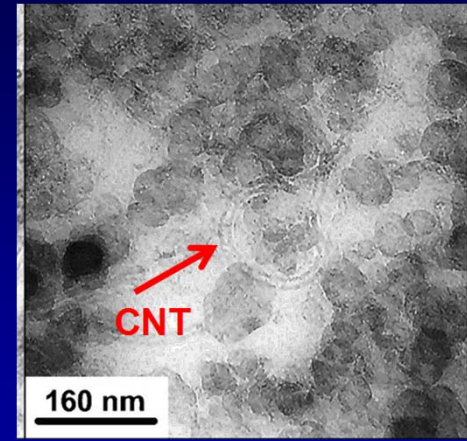
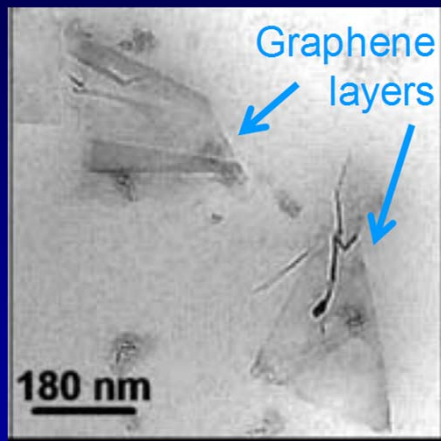
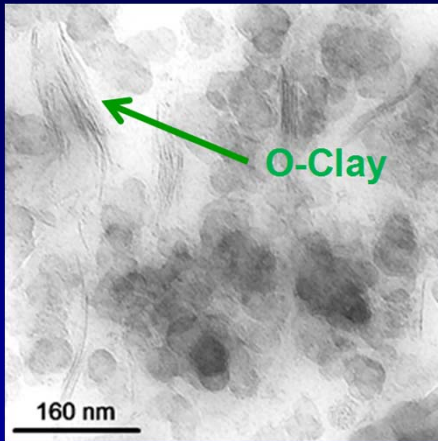
$$\text{Interfacial area} = \text{surface area} \times \text{density} \times \text{volume fraction}$$

# Nanometric Fillers: large reinforcement



Galimberti M., Coombs M., Riccio P., Ricco` T., Passera S., Pandini S., Conzatti L., Ravasio A., Tritto I., *Macromol. Mater. Eng.*, 298 (2012), 241-251  
Galimberti M., Coombs M., Cipolletti V., Riccio P., Ricco` T., Pandini S., Conzatti L., *Applied Clay Science* 65–66 (2012) 57–66.  
Galimberti M., Coombs M., Cipolletti V., Ricco` T., Agnelli S., Pandini S., *KGK* 7-8 (2013) 31-36  
Galimberti M., V. Kumar, M. Coombs, V. Cipolletti, S. Agnelli, S. Pandini, L. Conzatti, *RCT* 87(2) (2014) 197-218

# Nanometric Fillers: large reinforcement



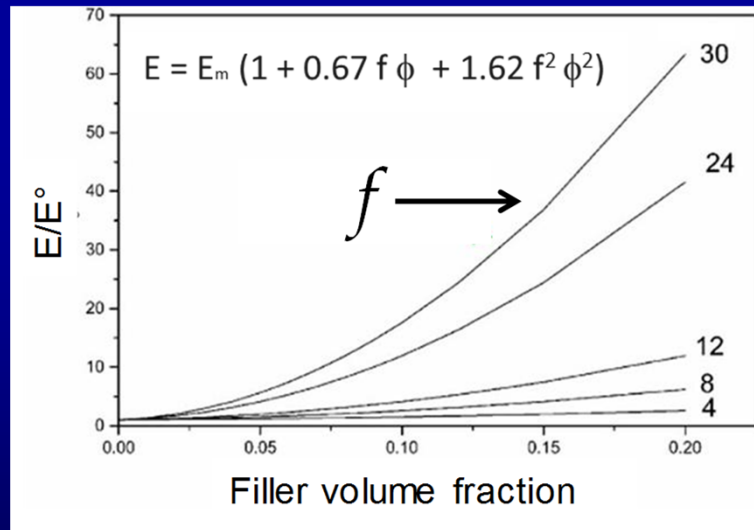
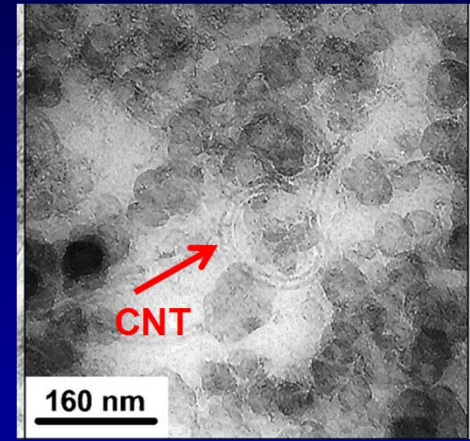
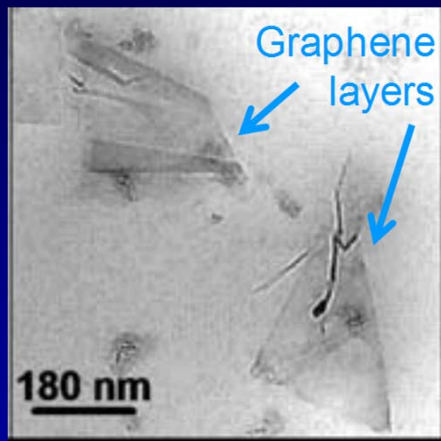
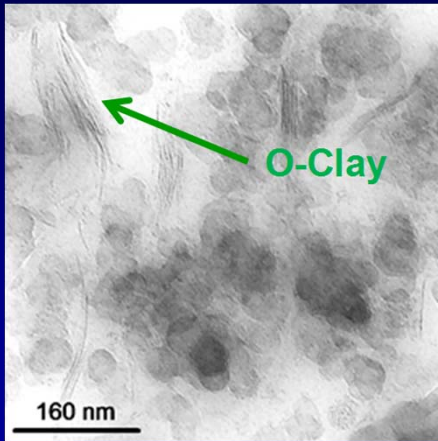
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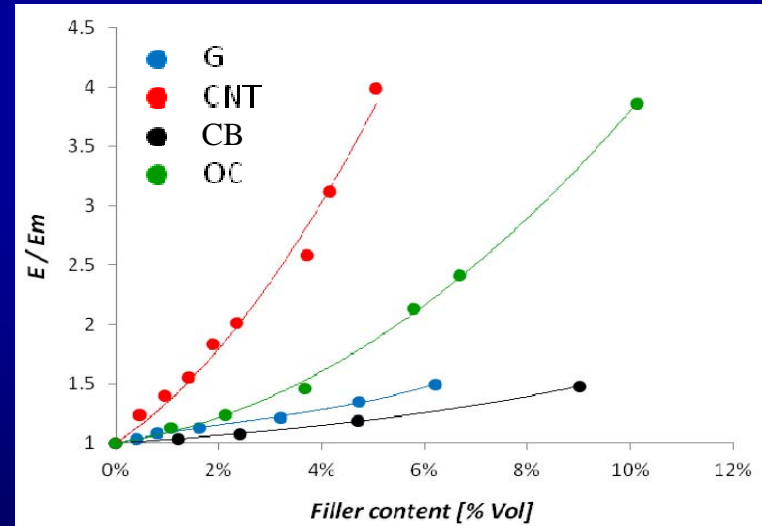
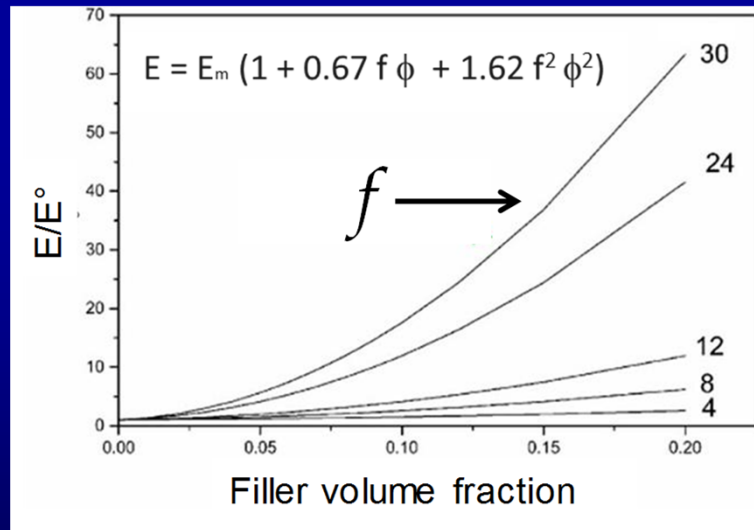
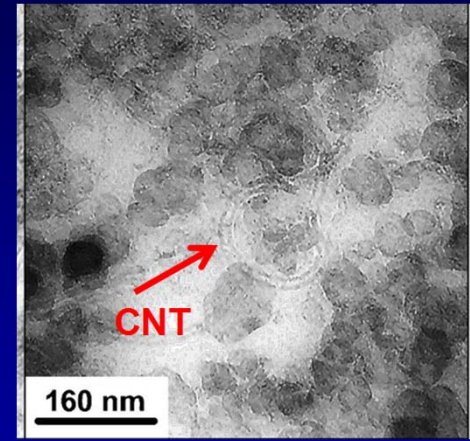
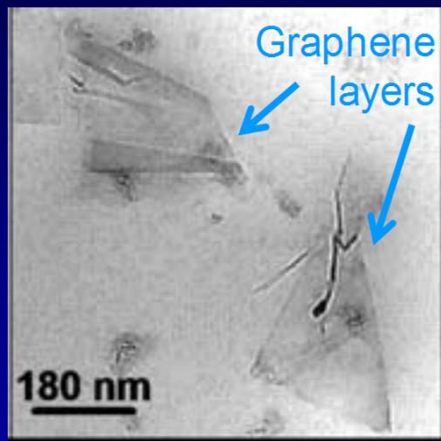
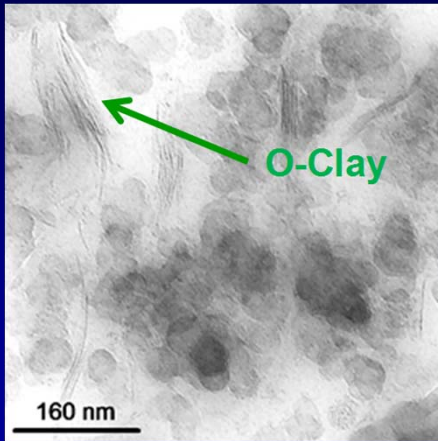
IR 100

ZnO 4, stearic acid 2,

sulfur 2, CBS 1

Galimberti M., Coombs M., Riccio P., Ricco` T., Passera S., Pandini S., Conzatti L., Ravasio A., Tritto I., *Macromol. Mater. Eng.*, 298 (2012), 241-251  
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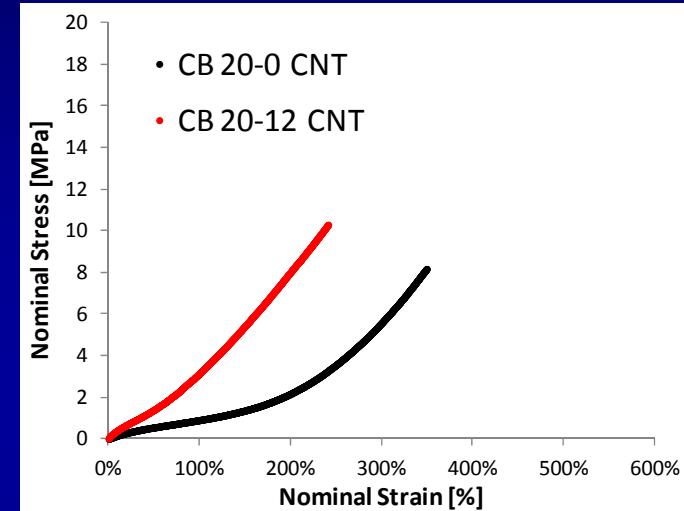
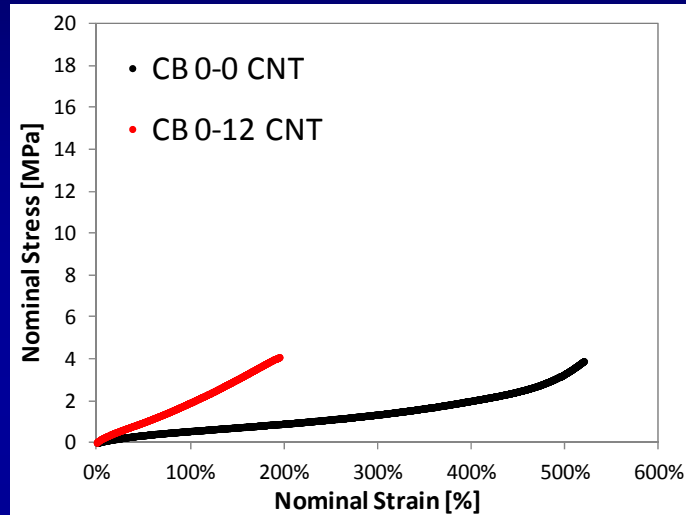
# Nanometric Fillers: large reinforcement



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# Nanometric high aspect ratio fillers: large reinforcement at low strain



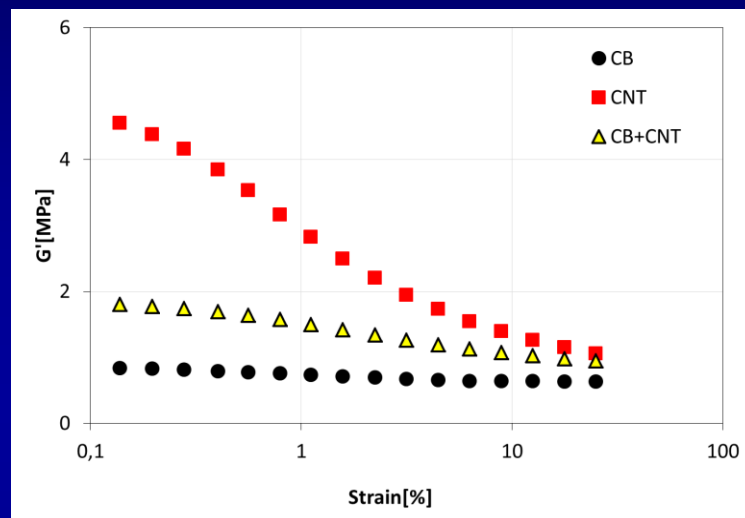
IR 100

Dicumyl peroxide 2

M. Galimberti, M. Coombs, V. Cipolletti, L. Giannini, T. Riccò, S. Pandini, L. Conzatti, M. Mauro, G. Guerra  
"A comparative study of nano-fillers effects in rubber composites"  
181th Technical Meeting of the Rubber Division of the American Chemical Society, Inc., San Antonio (TX) -  
April 22-25, 2012



# Initial Modulus and Payne effect as a function of the total filler content



0.09 - 0.1  
as total filler  
volume fraction

Data from  
shear stress tests,  
@50°C

SBR 100

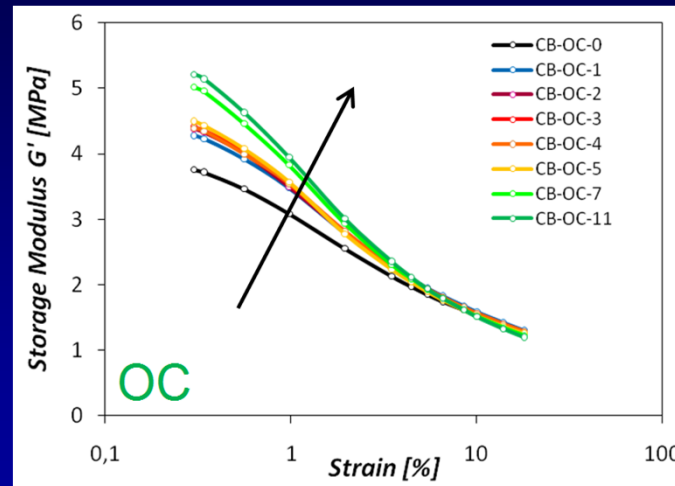
Dicumyl peroxide 2



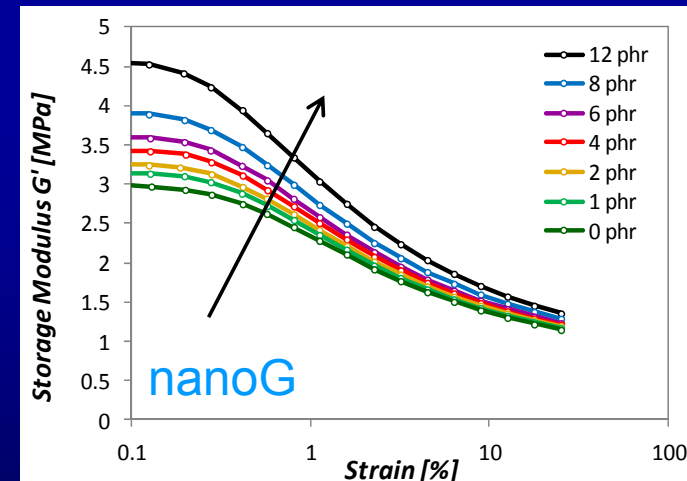
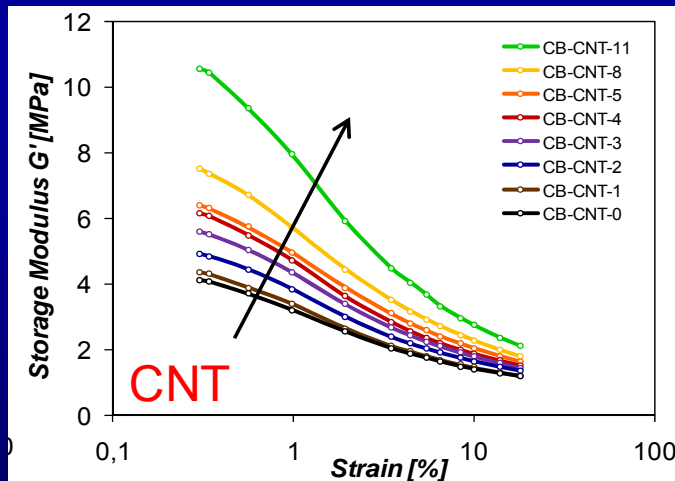
M. Galimberti, G. Infortuna, S. Guerra, V. Barbera, S. Agnelli, S. Pandini, *eXPRESS Polymer Letters* 2018, 12(3) 265–283

# Nanometric Fillers: large Payne Effect

Data from shear stress tests, 50°C

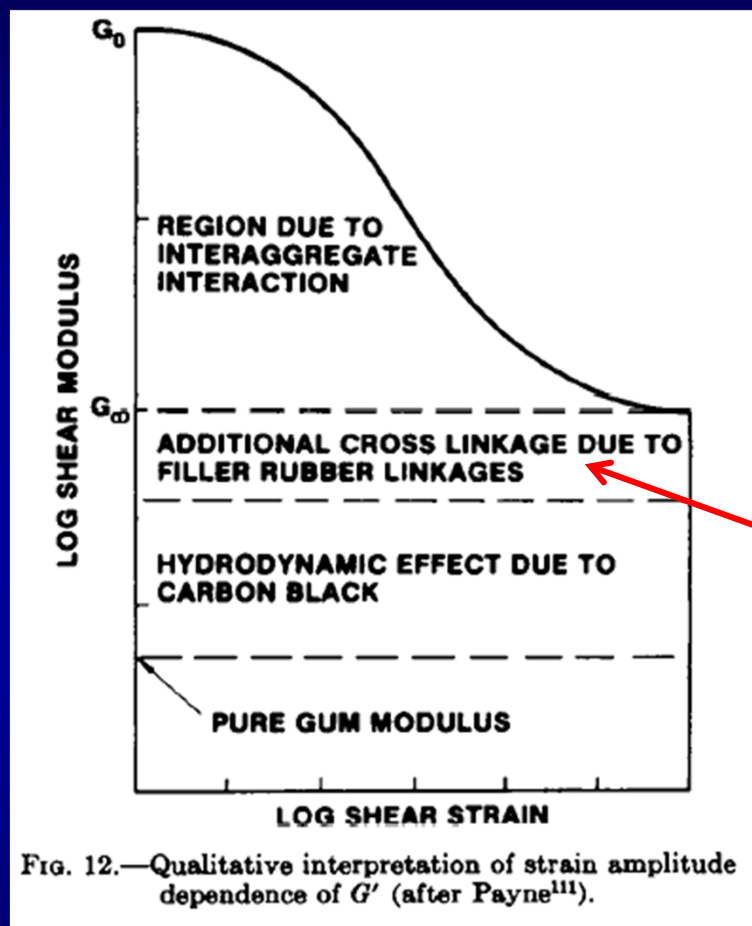


IR 100, CB 60,  
TESPT 1 (with OC),  
stearic acid 2, ZnO 4, 6PPD 2,  
S 2, DCBS 1.8, PVI 0.5



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## Qualitative interpretation of strain amplitude dependence of $G'$

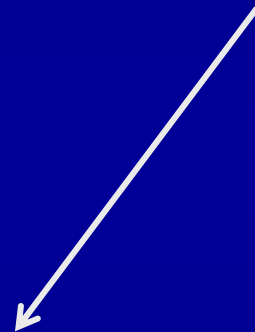


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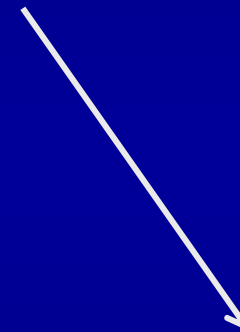
To foster the chemical reactivity  
of high aspect ratio nanometric fillers

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of high aspect ratio nanometric fillers

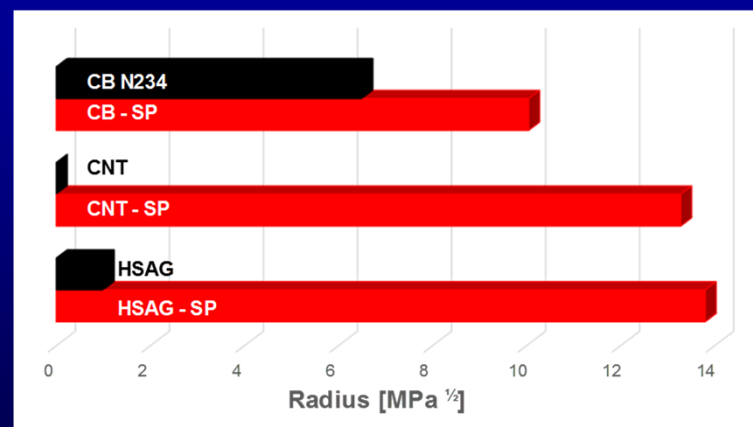
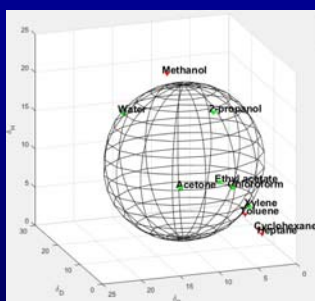
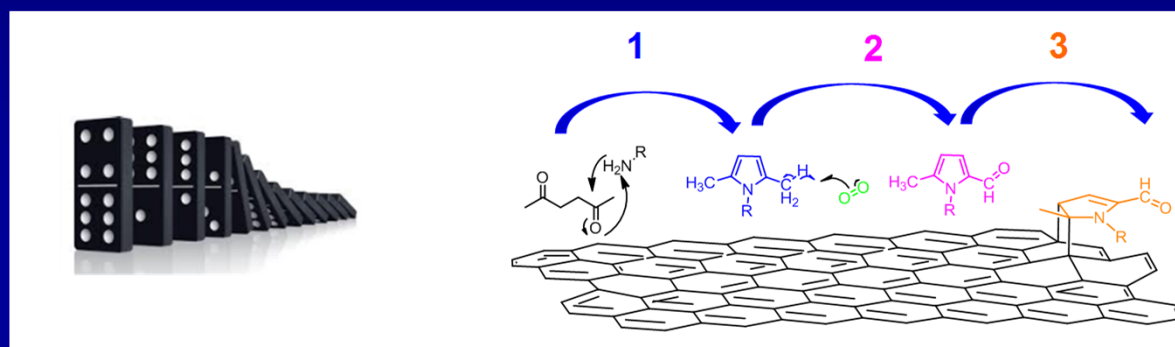
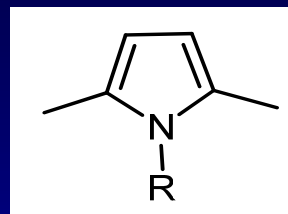
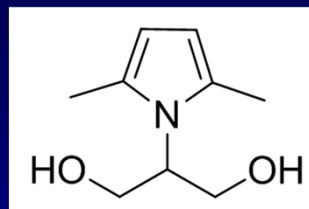


sp<sup>2</sup> carbon allotropes



inorganic  
oxides and hydroxides

# Functionalization of $sp^2$ carbon allotropes





## ISCaMap

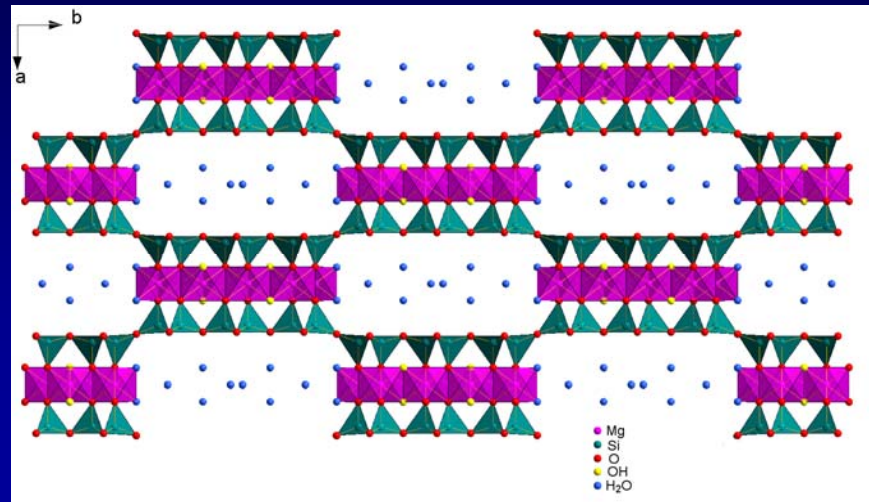
Innovative Sustainable Chemistry and Materials and Proteomics  
*Innovation for sustainability*



[www.lidup.polimi.it](http://www.lidup.polimi.it)

# A bio-filler: Sepiolite

σήπιον (sepion)  
+  
λίθος (lithos)

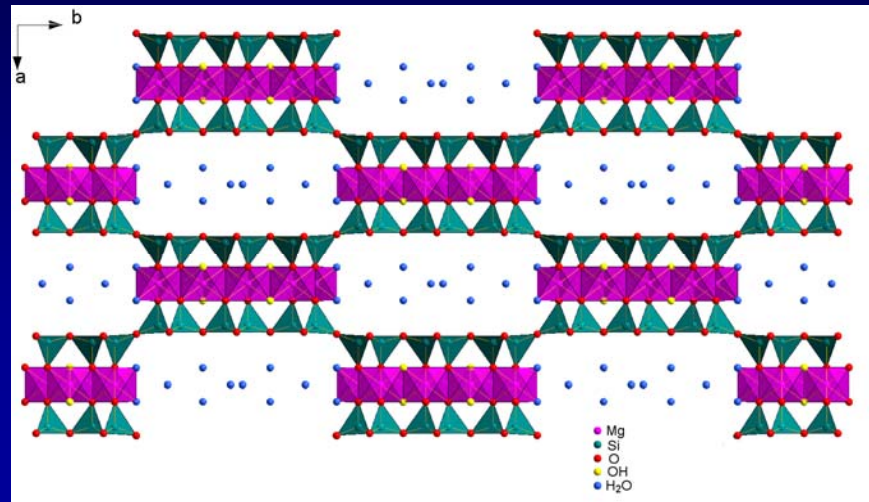


cuttlebone

- ☞ naturally occurring, easily available, low cost
- ☞ high mechanical and thermal stability

# Sepiolite

σήπιον (sepion)  
+  
λίθος (lithos)



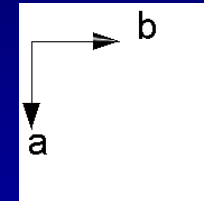
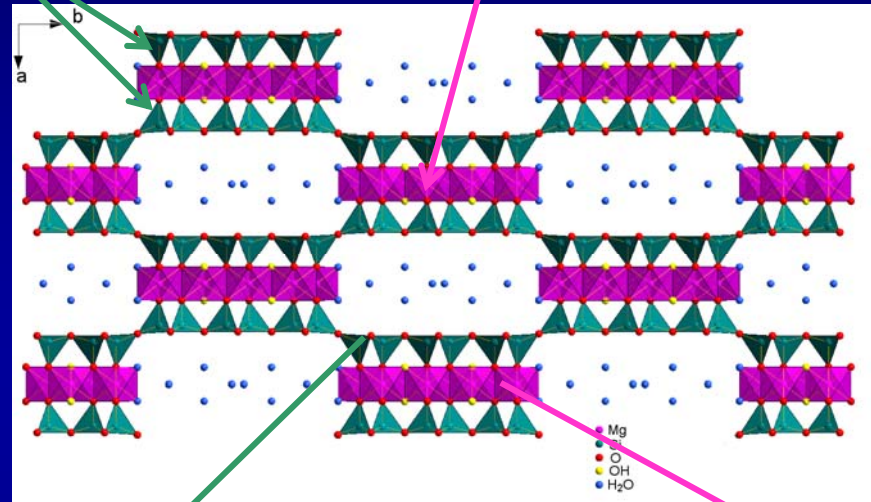
cuttlebone

- ➔ naturally occurring, easily available, low cost
- ➔ high mechanical and thermal stability
- ➔ crystals are long, very thin, lath-like
- ➔ sepiolite is in laths or fibers, which form dense, spongy bundles
- ➔ fibers are typically 40–150 nm wide and 1–10 μm long

# Sepiolite

two-dimensional layers of tetrahedral  $\text{SiO}_4$  units

magnesium atoms, octahedrally coordinated

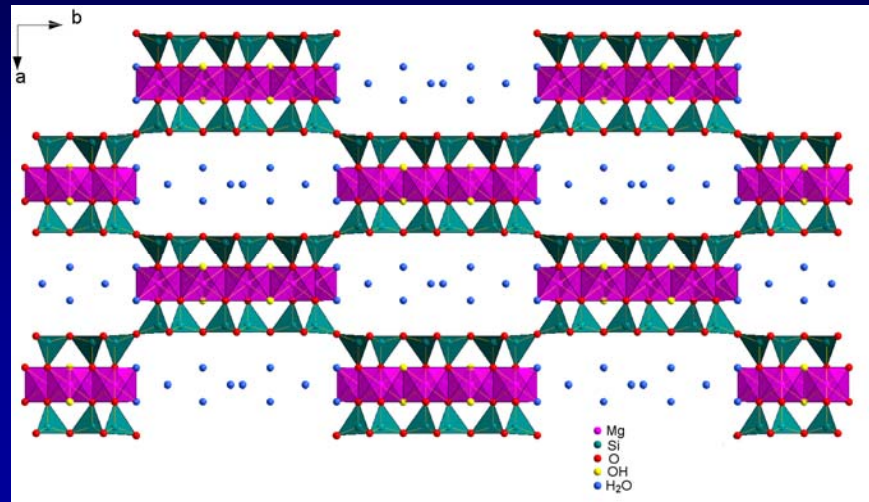


the tetrahedral sheet is continuous

the octahedral sheet is discontinuous

- ☞ the TOT units develop indefinitely along the c-axis
- ☞ channels are perpendicular to the plane of the slide

# Sepiolite



Connections in the direction perpendicular to the layers:  
due, in part, to covalent bonds.



Sepiolite and the minerals of this group  
cannot swell or exfoliate!

# Sepiolite

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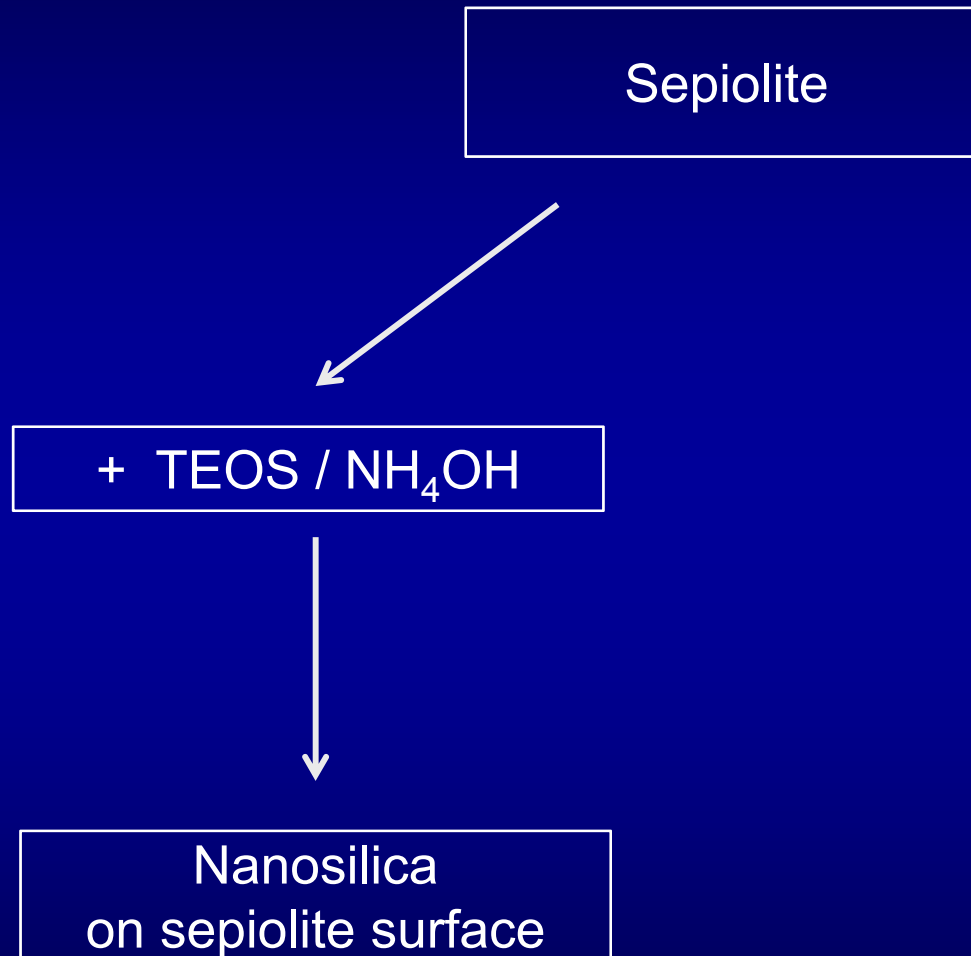
max length = 2  $\mu\text{m}$

## How to foster the chemical reactivity of sepiolite?

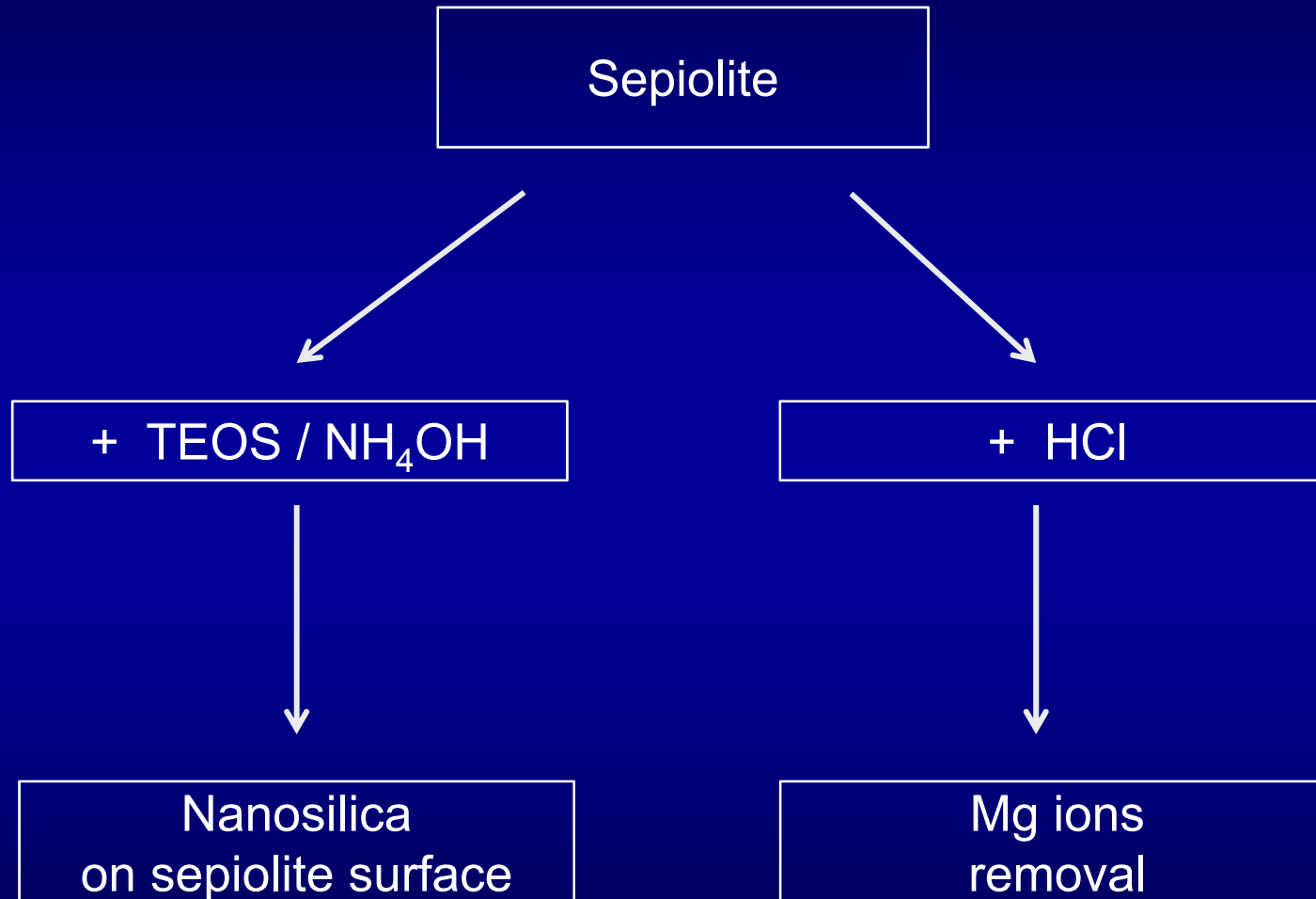
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## How to foster the chemical reactivity of sepiolite?

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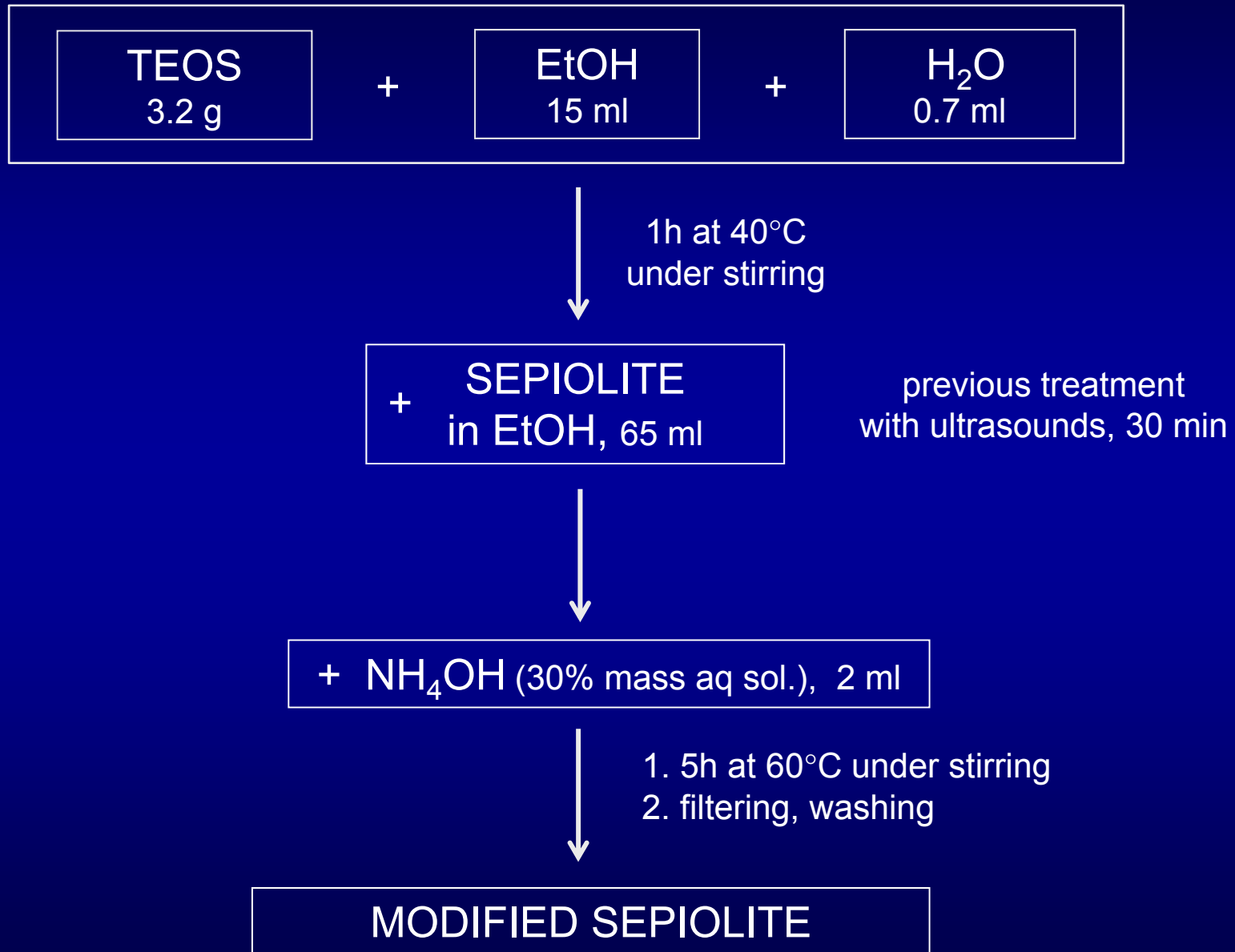
## How to foster the chemical reactivity of sepiolite?



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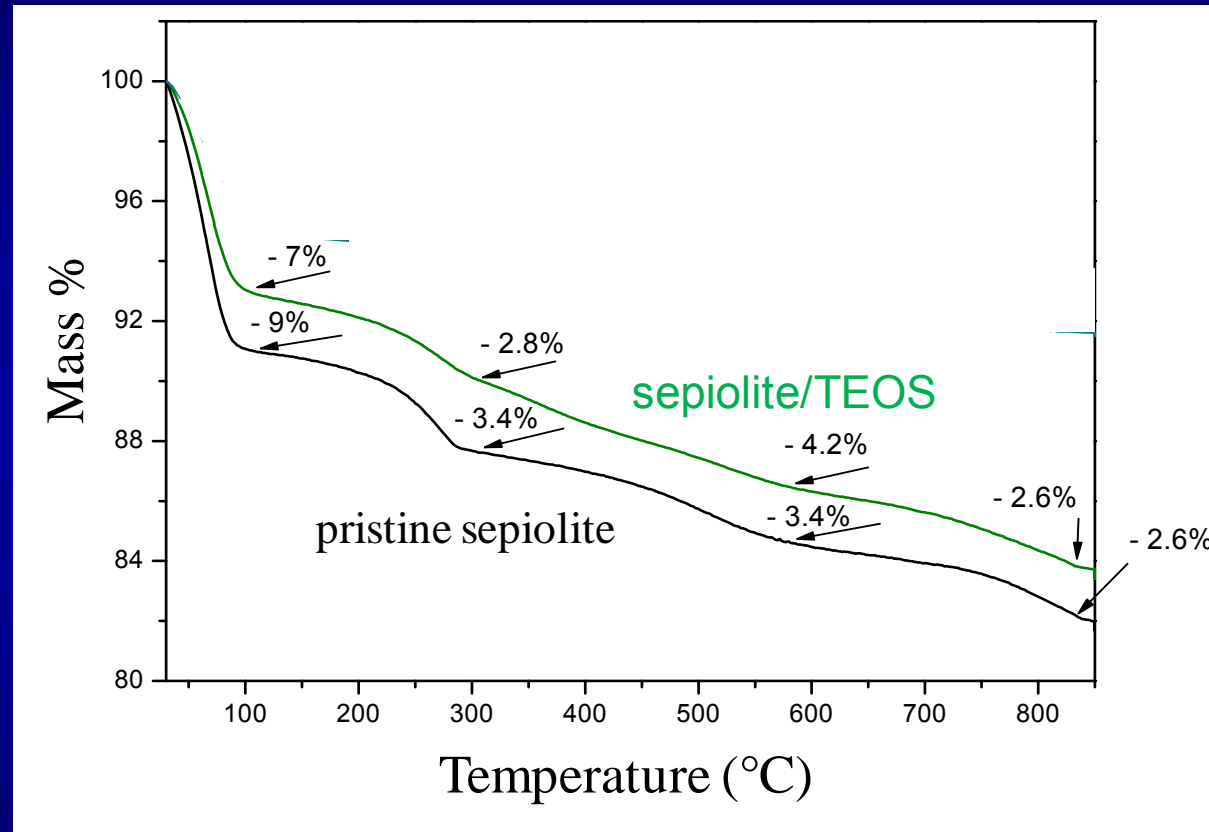
## Treatment of sepiolite with TEOS

## Treatment of sepiolite with TEOS



# Sepiolite modified with TEOS

## Thermogravimetric analysis

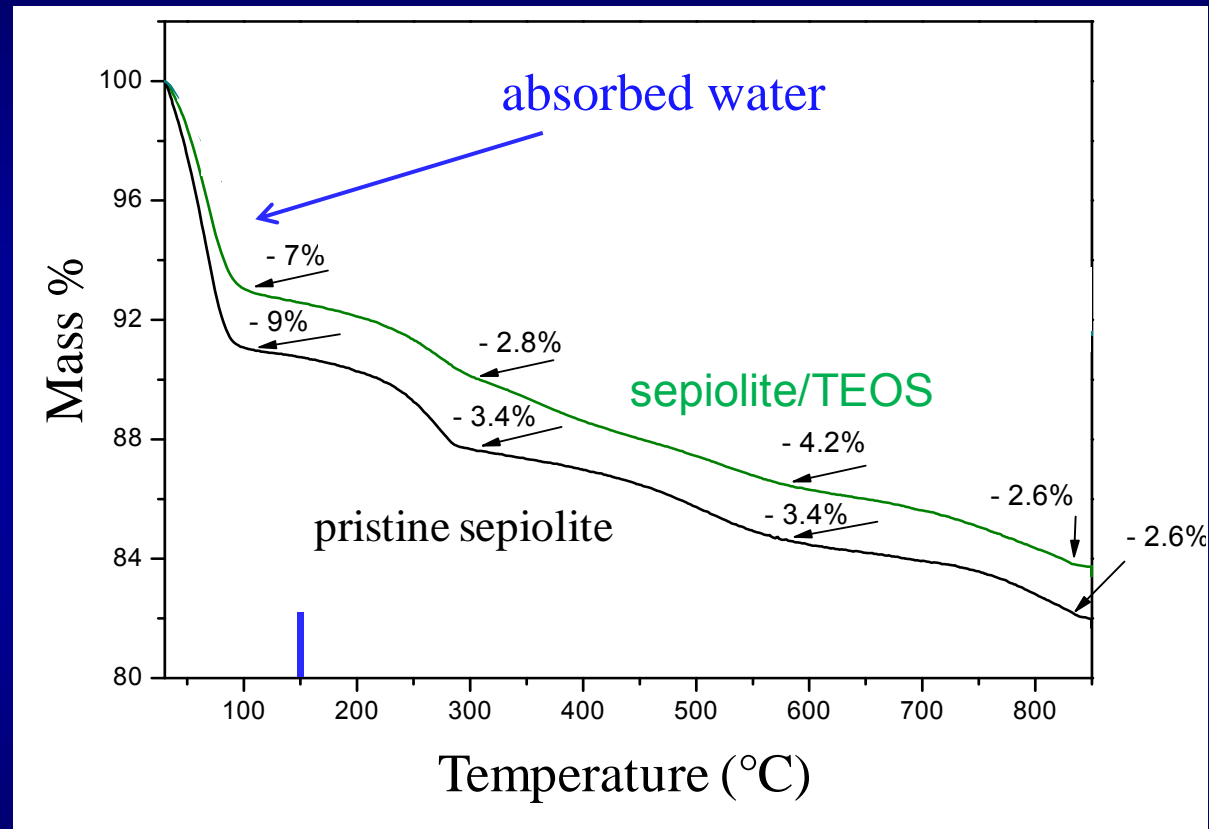


Nagata, H., Shimoda, S., & Sudo, T. *Clays & Clay Minerals*, **1974**.

Valentin, J.L., M.A. López-Manchado, A. Rodríguez, P. Posadas, L. Ibarraet, *Applied Clay Science*, **2007**, 36(4), 245-255

# Sepiolite modified with TEOS

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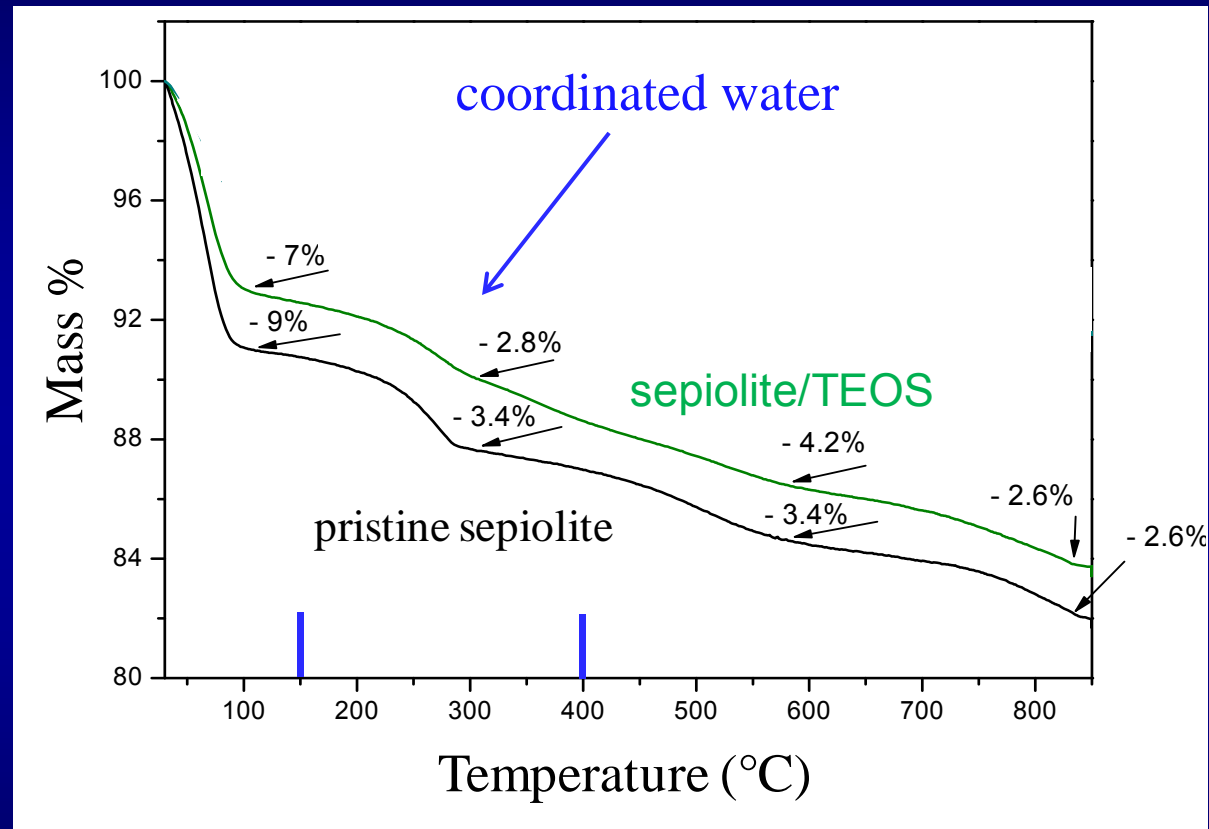


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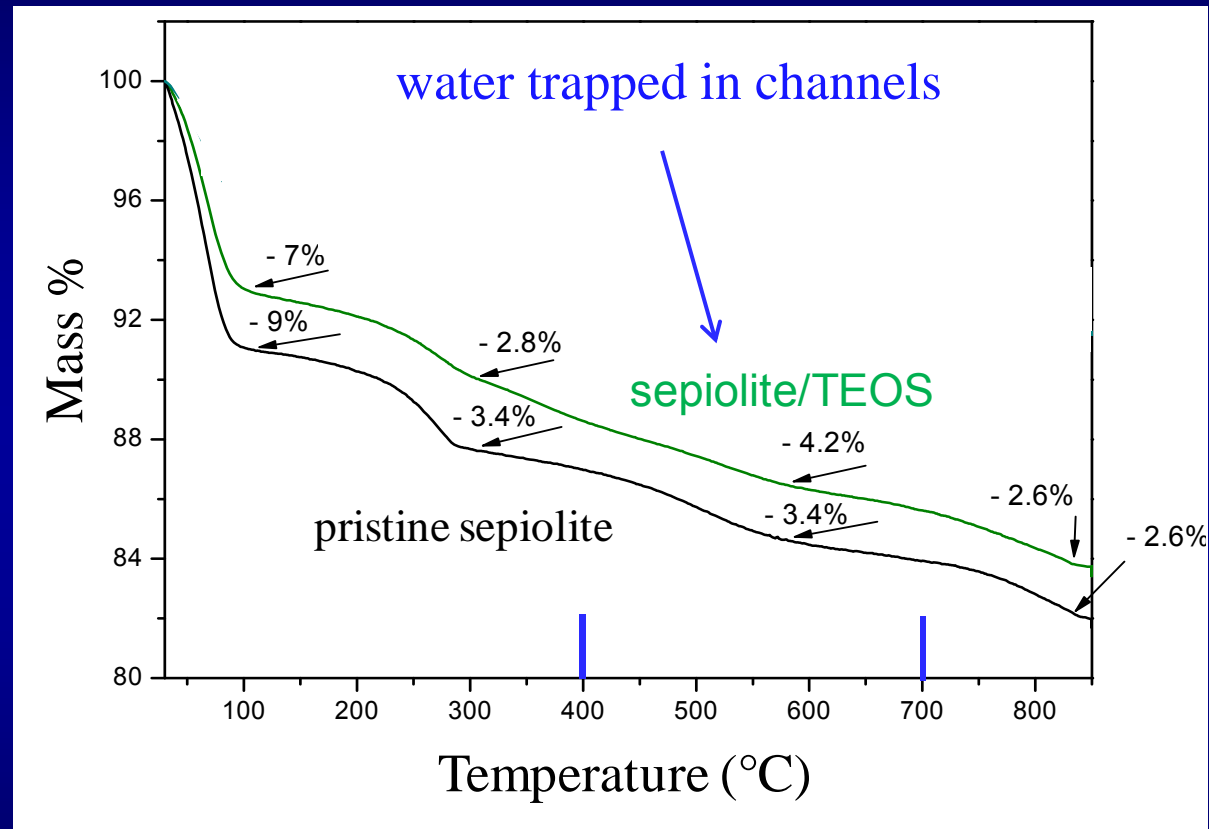


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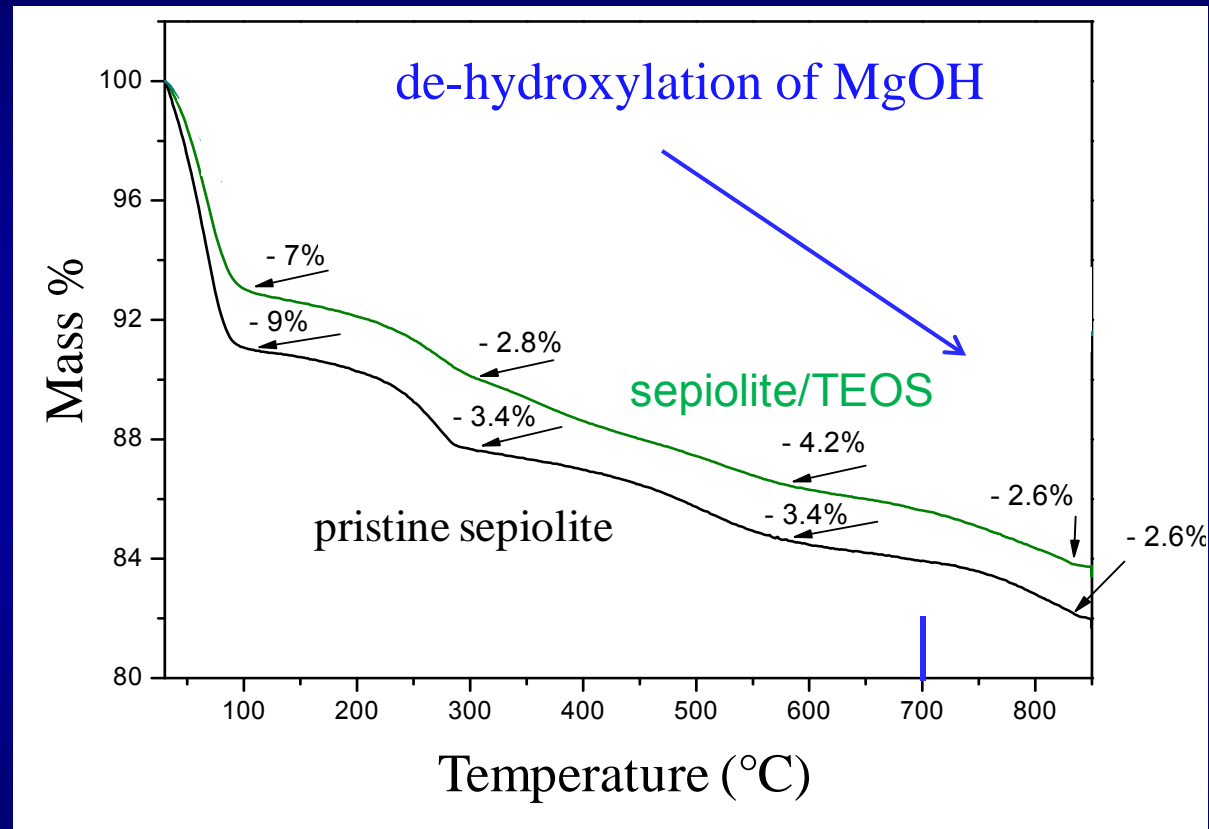


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# Sepiolite modified with TEOS

## Thermogravimetric analysis



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# Sepiolite modified with TEOS

## Thermogravimetric analysis

	Mass losses in different T (°C) ranges				Residue
	T < 150	150 < T < 400	400 < T < 700	700 < T < 850	T > 850°C
Pristine Sepiolite	9.0	3.4	3.4	2.6	82.0
Sepiolite / TEOS	7.0	2.8	4.2	2.6	83.8

### Sepiolite / TEOS

Lower mass loss in 150 < T < 400

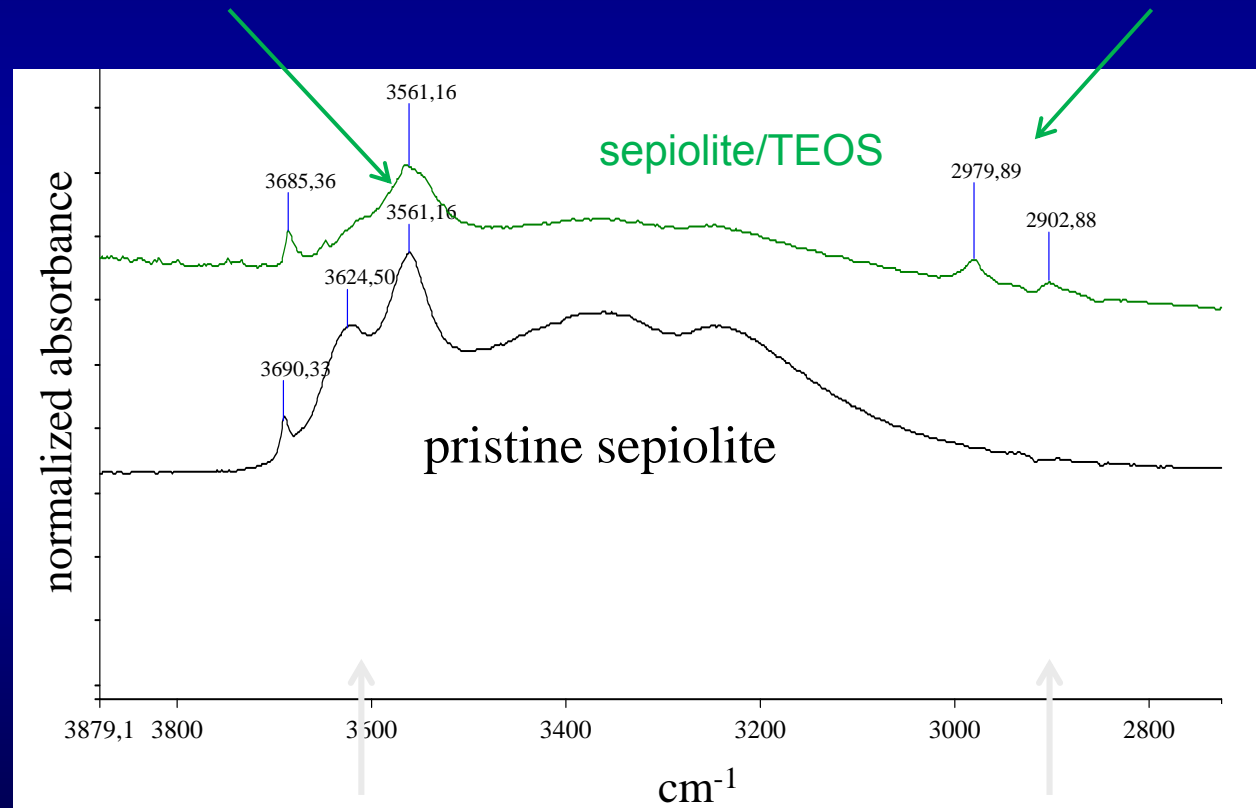
Larger mass loss in the range 400 < T < 700

# Sepiolite modified with TEOS

## ATR-IR analysis

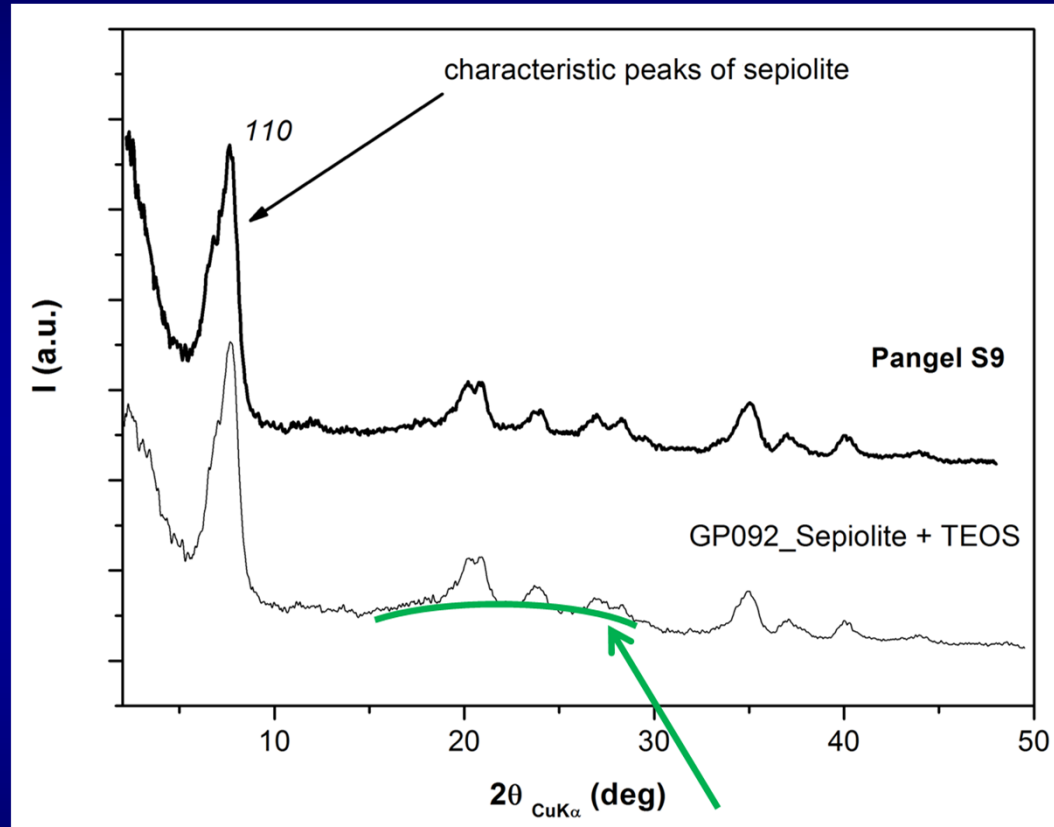
reduction of the intensity of the peak due to H<sub>2</sub>O coordinated to the octahedral layers of sepiolite

stretching of -CH<sub>2</sub> coming from TEOS



# Sepiolite modified with TEOS

## WAXD analysis

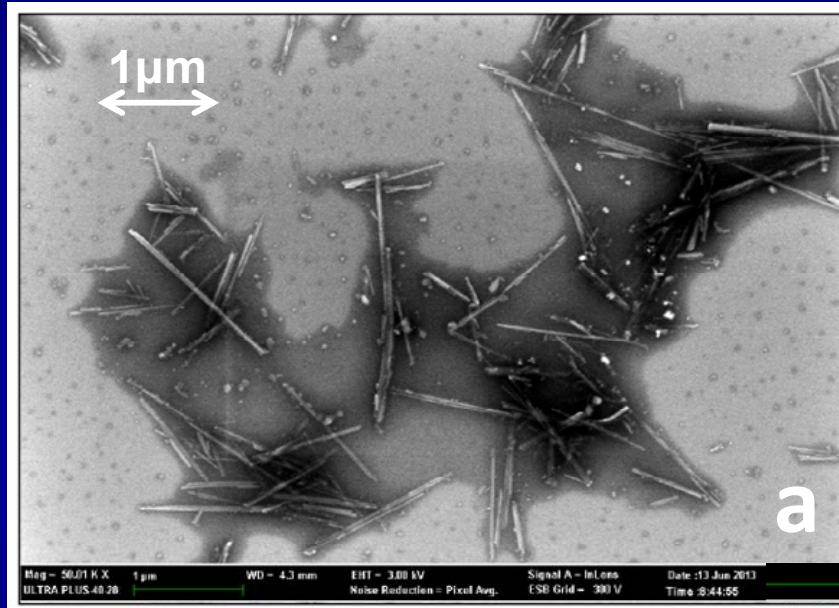


halo attributed to amorphous silica

# Sepiolite modified with TEOS (Sepiolite/TEOS)

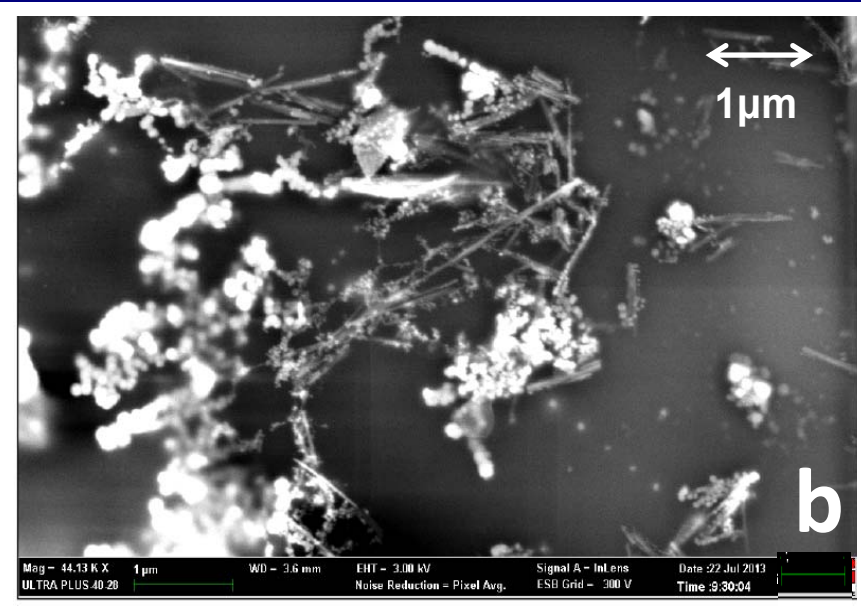
## FESEM analysis

pristine sepiolite



typical fibrillar shape  
of pristine sepiolite

sepiolite / TEOS



silica nanoparticles  
on sepiolite fibrils

## NR based compounds with silica and sepiolite/TEOS

### Formulations (phr)

Ingredient	Filler(s) in the composite	
	Silica	Silica + sepiolite/TEOS
NR	100	100
Silica	45	35
Sepiolite/TEOS	0	10
Silane TESPT	3.6	3.6

Other ingredients: ZnO 3.6, Stearic acid 2, 6-PPD 2, Sulphur 2.8, TBBS 1.8

# NR based compounds with silica and sepiolite/TEOS

## Strain sweep tests

Property	Filler(s) in the composite	
	Silica	Silica + sepiolite/TEOS
G' (0.4%)	1.51	1.28
$\Delta G'$ (0.4%-35%)/G' (0.4%)	0.30	0.26
Tan Delta max	0.071	0.067

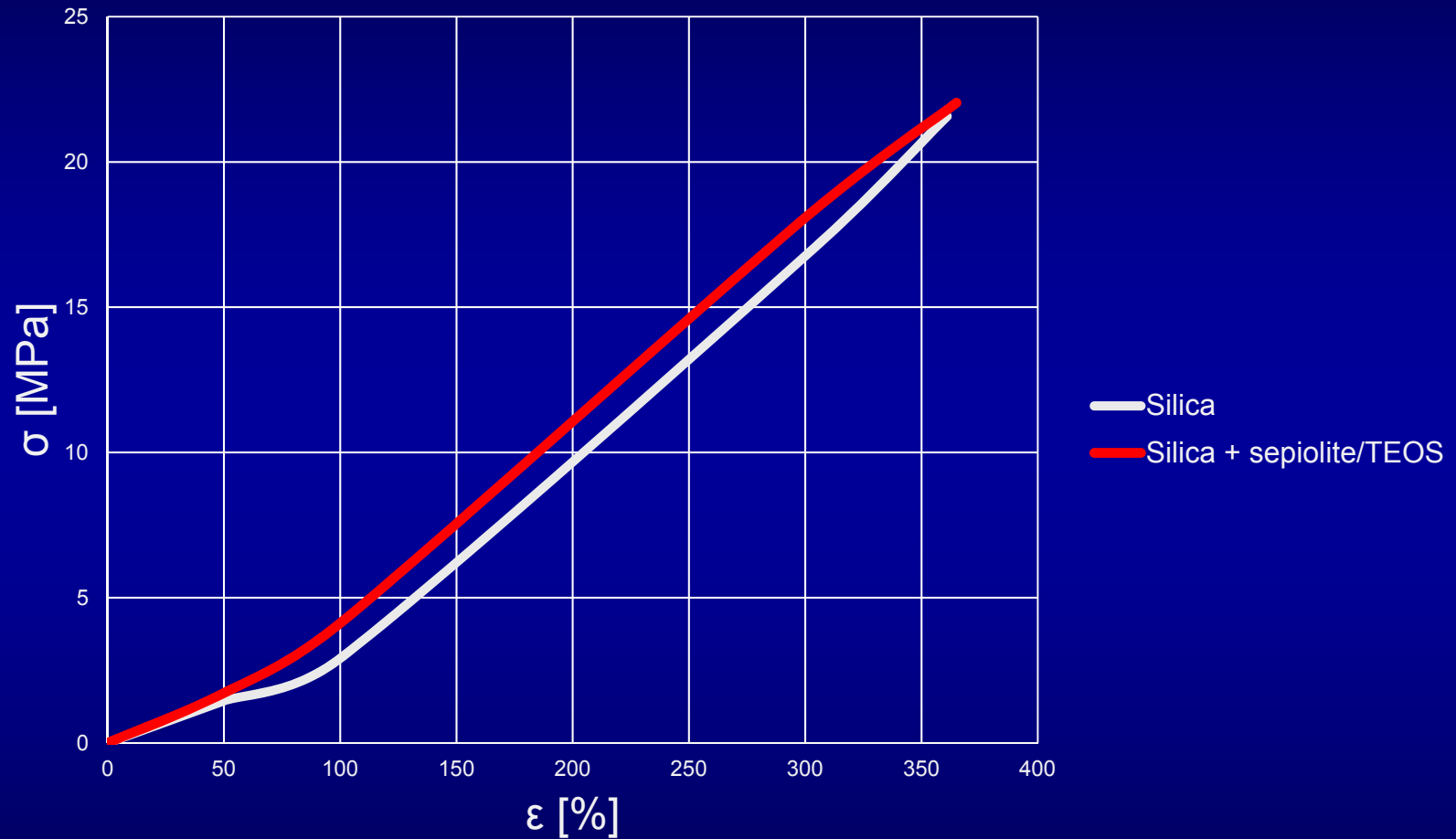
# NR based compounds with silica and sepiolite/TEOS

## Tensile tests

Property	Filler(s) in the composite	
	Silica	Silica + sepiolite/TEOS
$\sigma_{50}$ (MPa)	1.45	1.72
$\sigma_{100}$ (MPa)	2.91	4.12
$\sigma_{300}$ (MPa)	16.76	18.08
$\sigma_B$ (MPa)	21.57	22.04
$\epsilon_B$ (%)	361.05	365.07

# NR based compounds with silica and sepiolite/TEOS

## Tensile tests

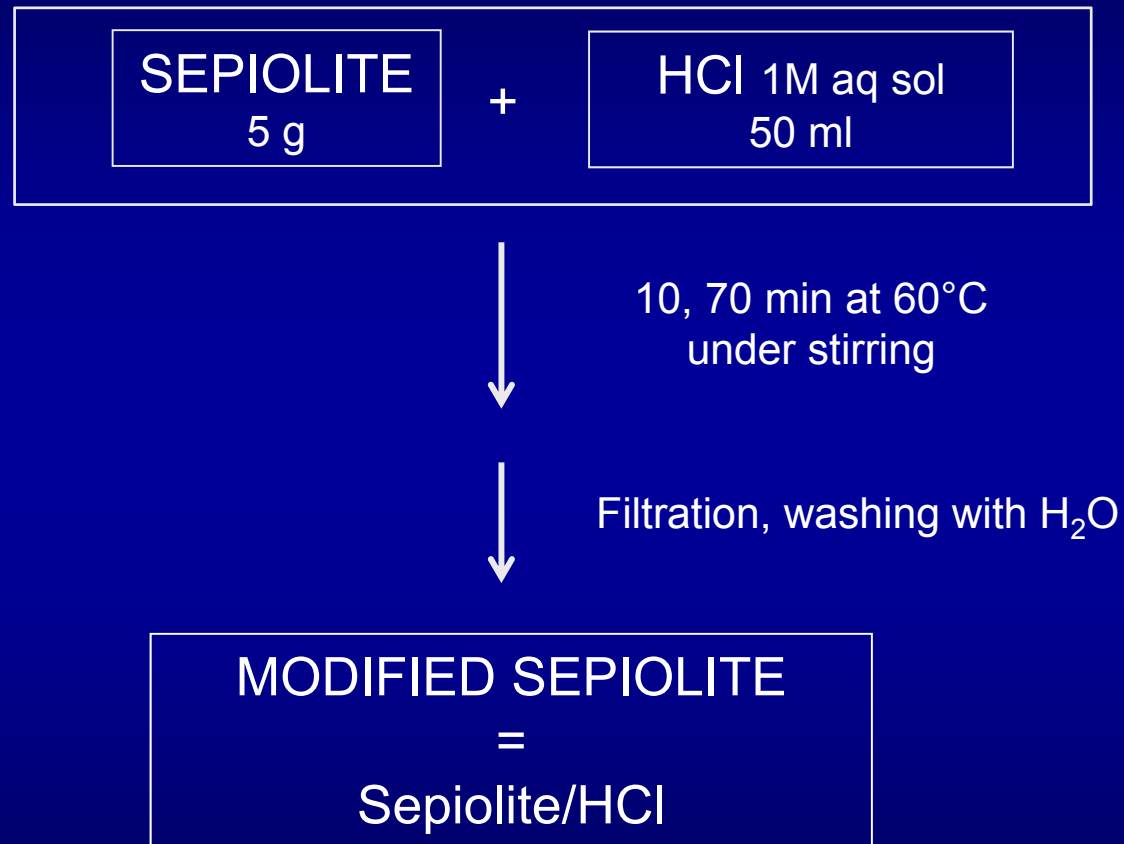


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## Treatment of sepiolite with Acid

## Treatment of sepiolite with acid



## Sepiolite treated with HCl

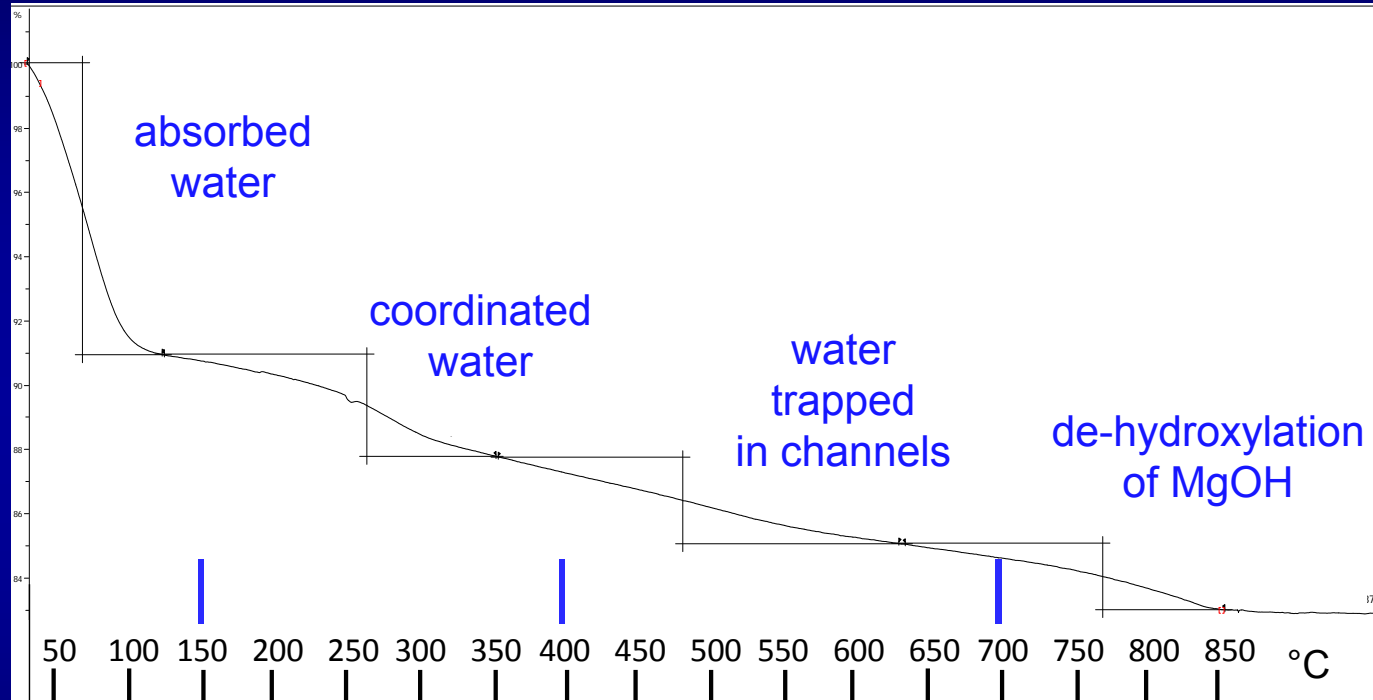
### Extracted Magnesium

Treatment time (min)	Extracted Mg <sup>a</sup>			Residual Mg
	mmol/(g of sepiolite)	%		%
10	2.1	34.0		66.0
70	5.1	82.0		18.0

<sup>a</sup> determined through titration

# Sepiolite treated with HCl - Residual Mg: 66%

## Thermogravimetric analysis



Nagata, H., Shimoda, S., & Sudo, T. *Clays & Clay Minerals*, **1974**.

Valentin, J.L., M.A. López-Manchado, A. Rodríguez, P. Posadas, L. Ibarraet , *Applied Clay Science*, **2007**, 36(4), 245-255

# Sepiolite treated with HCl

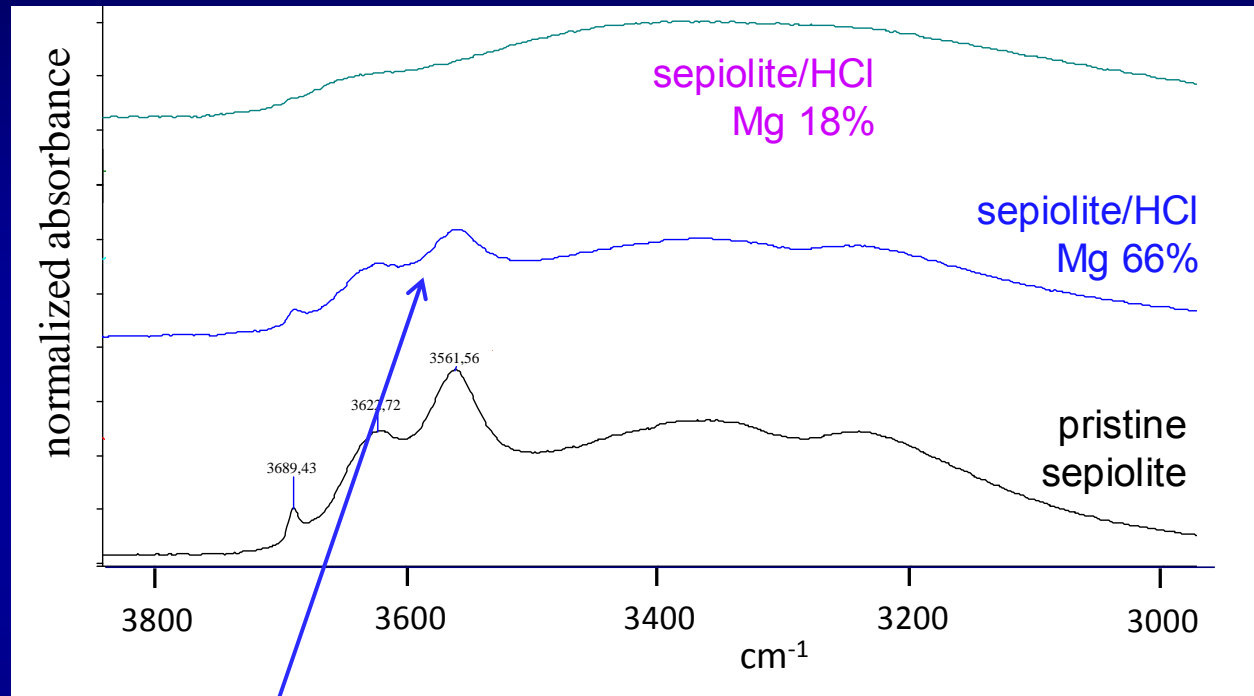
## Thermogravimetric analysis

	Mass losses in different T (°C) ranges				Residue
	T < 150	150 < T < 400	400 < T < 700	700 < T < 850	T > 850°C
Pristine Sepiolite	9.0	3.3	3.3	2.3	82.1
Sepiolite / HCl Mg 66% <sup>a</sup>	9.0	3.2	2.7	2.0	83.1
Sepiolite / HCl Mg 18% <sup>a</sup>	7.2	=	=	4.5	88.3

<sup>a</sup>residual Mg

# Sepiolite treated with HCl

## ATR-IR analysis

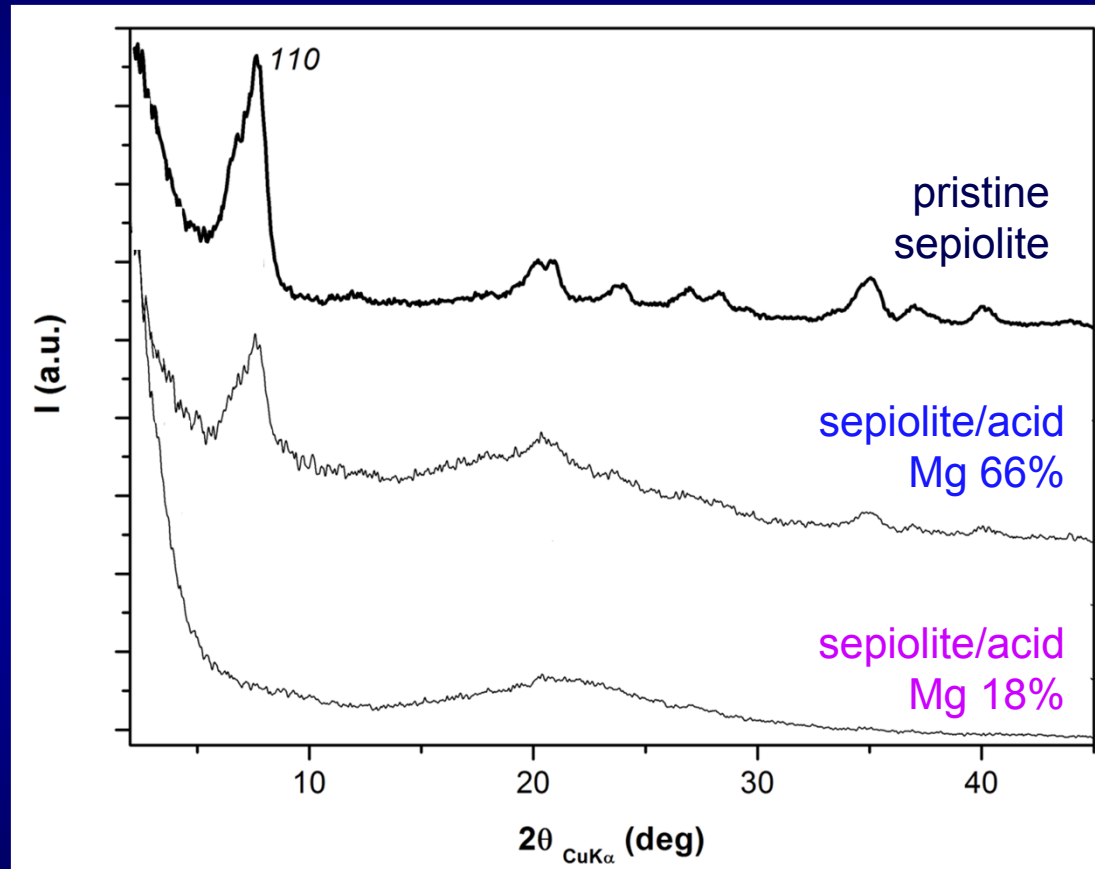


Reduction of the intensity of bands due to

- hydroxyl groups bound to Mg ( $3688 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ )
- water molecules bound to the octahedral Mg layers ( $3566 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ )

# Sepiolite treated with HCl

## WAXD analysis

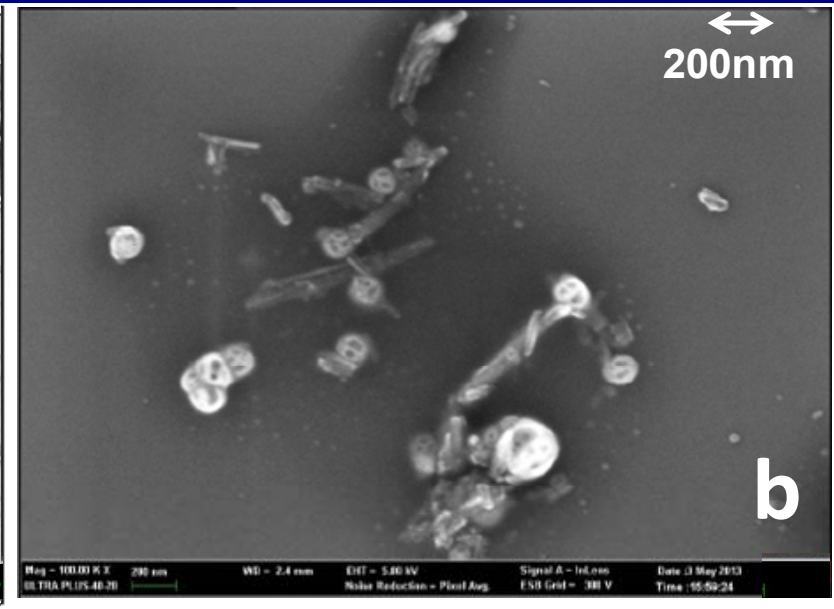
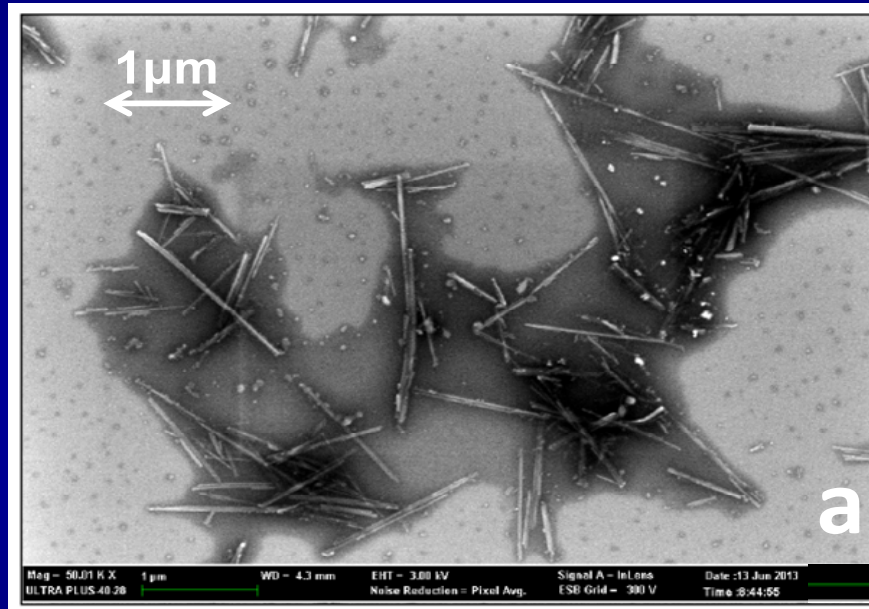


# Sepiolite treated with HCl

## FESEM analysis

pristine sepiolite

sepiolite / HCl - Mg 18%

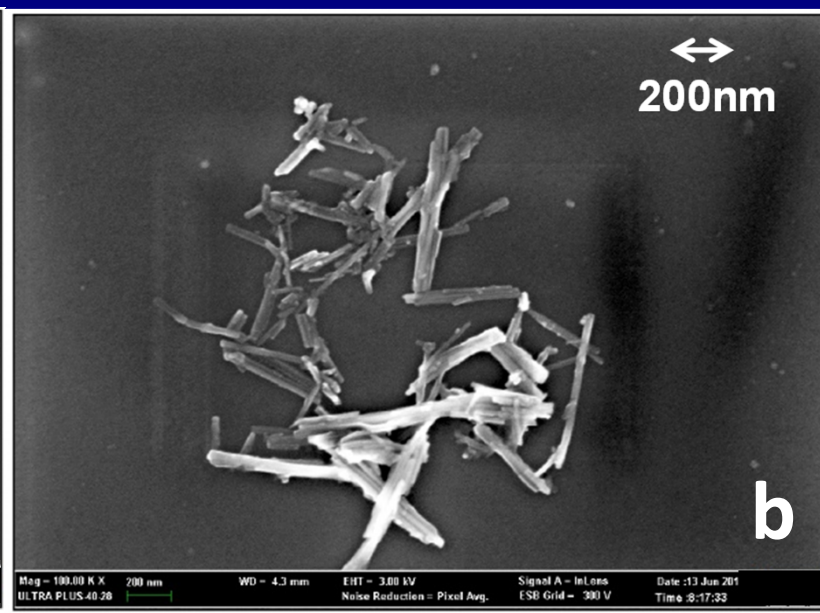
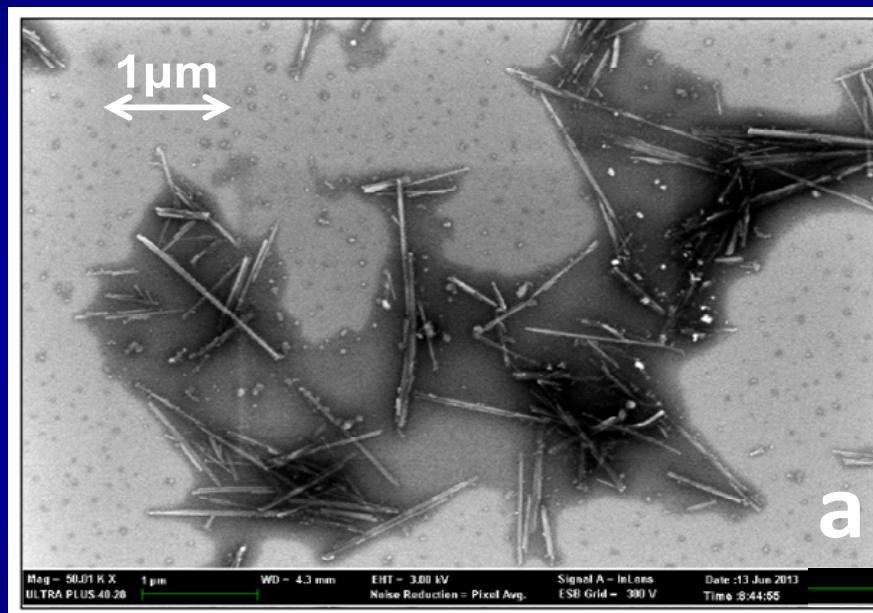


# Sepiolite treated with HCl (Sepiolite/HCl)

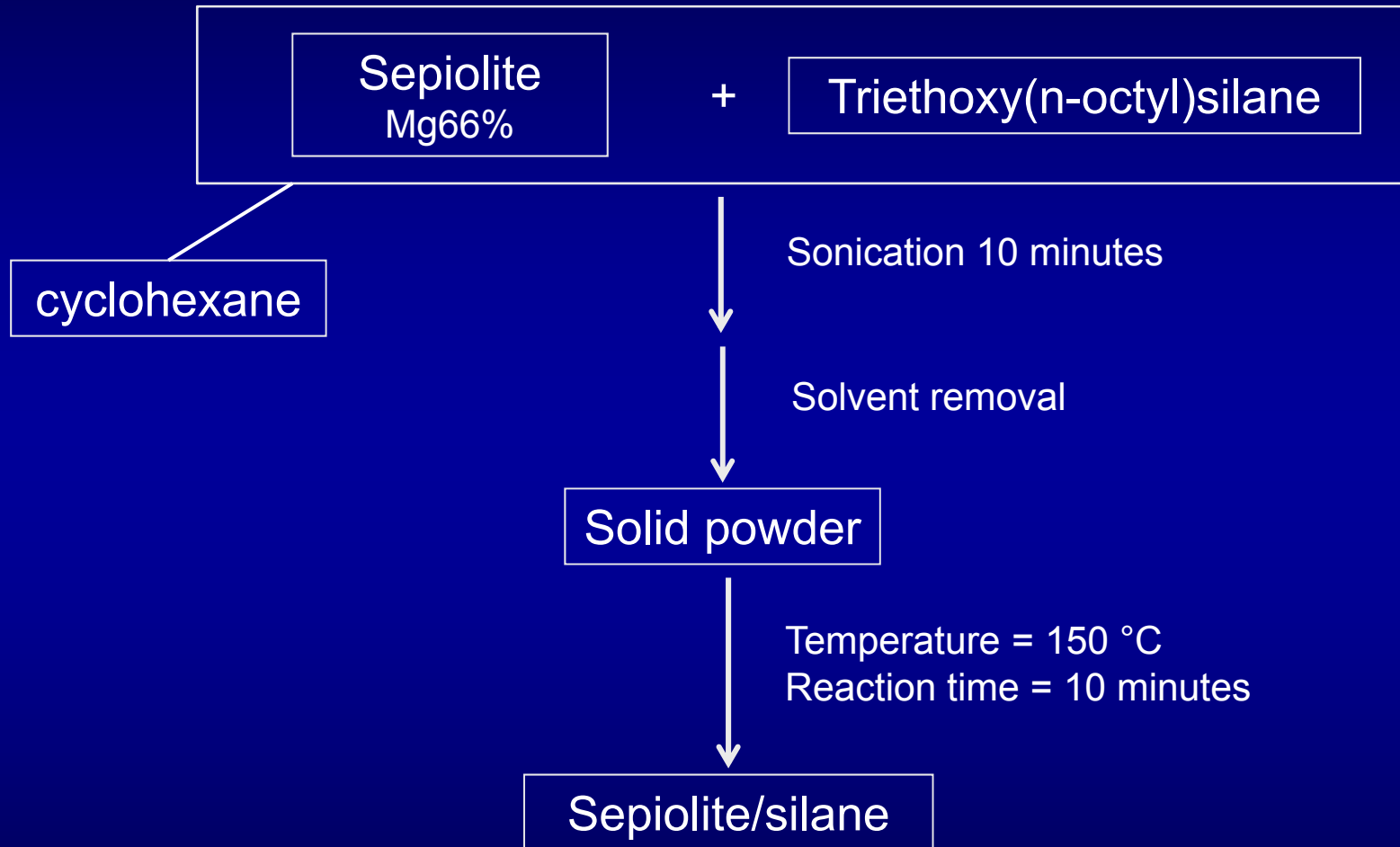
## FESEM analysis

pristine sepiolite

sepiolite / HCl - Mg 66%



# Sepiolite/HCl - Silanization with triethoxy(n-octyl)silane



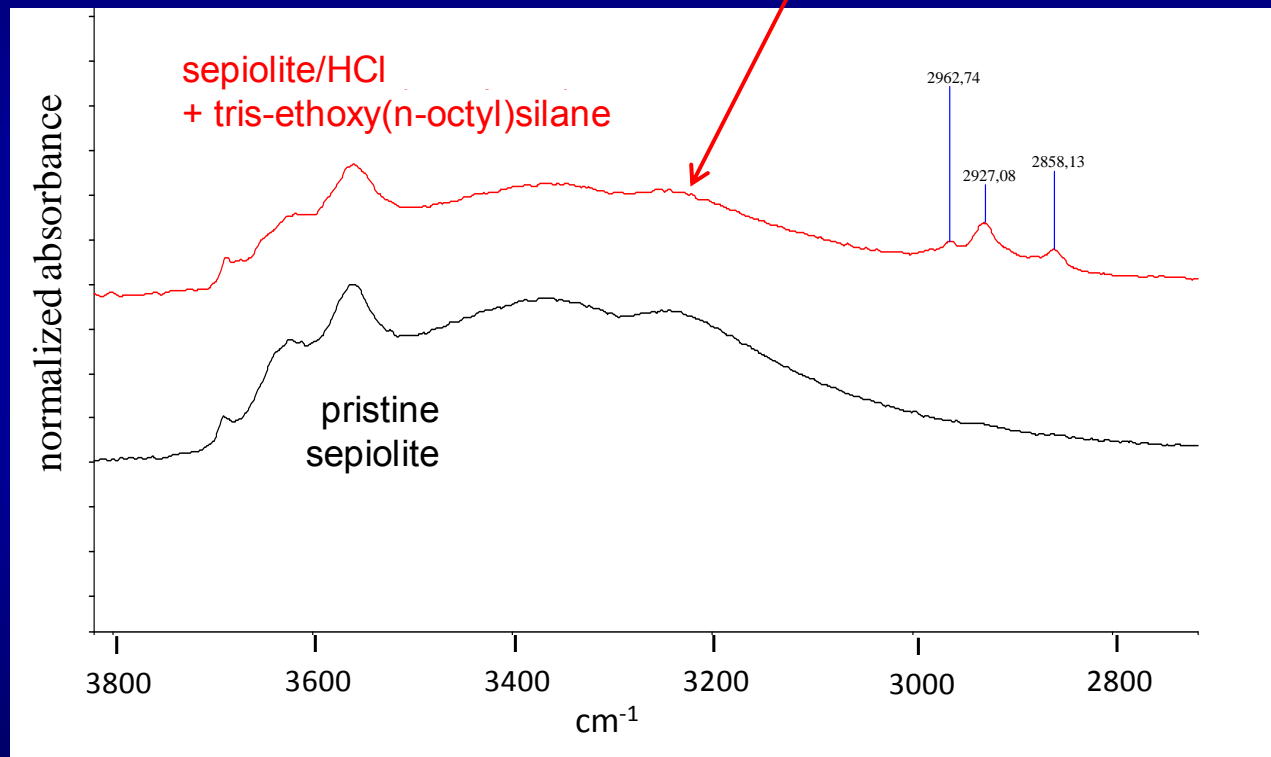
## Sepiolite/HCl - Silanization with triethoxy(n-octyl)silane

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Silicate	Silane in the final adduct (mass%)
Silica	4.1
Pristine sepiolite	3.5
Sepiolite/HCl. Mg 66%	4.0

# Sepiolite/HCl - Silanization with triethoxy(n-octyl)silane

typical stretching of CH and CH<sub>2</sub> (2964 cm<sup>-1</sup> ; 2856 cm<sup>-1</sup> )



## NR based compounds with silica and sepiolite/HCl (Mg66%)

### Formulations (phr)

Ingredient	Filler in the composite	
	Silica	Silica + Sepiolite (Sample 1)
NR	100	100
Silica	45	35
Sepiolite/HCl Mg 66%	0	10
Silane TESPT	3.6	3.6

Other ingredients: ZnO 3.6, Stearic acid 2, 6-PPD 2, Sulphur 2.8, TBBS 1.8

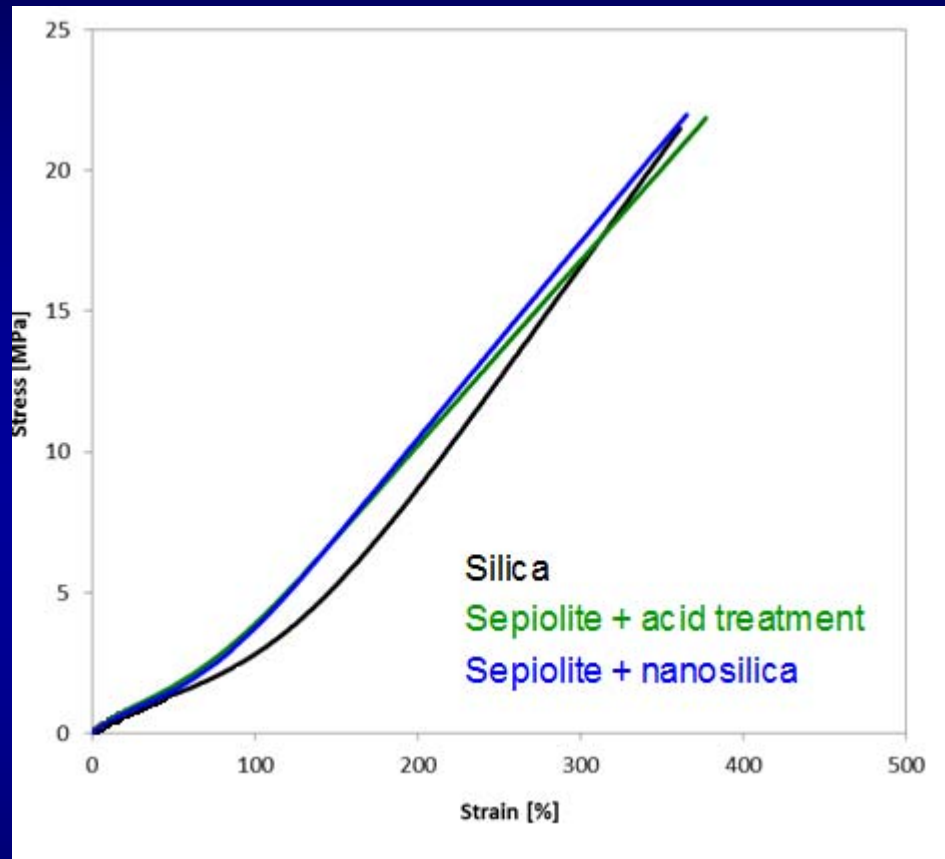
## NR based compounds with silica and sepiolite/HCl (Mg66%)

### Dynamic mechanical properties

Property	Filler in the composite	
	Silica	Silica + Sepiolite/HCl (Mg 66%)
E' (23°C) 100 Hz	10.57	13.95
E' (70°C) 100 Hz	7.70	9.72
Tan Delta (23°C) 100 Hz	0.296	0.281
Tan Delta (23°C) 100 Hz	0.152	0.141

☞ Tan Delta: the lower, the better

## NR based compounds with silica and modified sepiolite



Phr: NR 100, Silica 45, Silane TESPT 3.6, Stearic acid 2.0, 6PPD 2, ZnO 3.6, S 2.8, TBBS 1.8

L. Giannini, M. Galimberti, V. Cipolletti, G. Peli [WO 2016/174628 A1](#)

L. Giannini, L. Tadiello, T. Hanel, M. Galimberti, V. Cipolletti, G. Peli, F. Morazzoni, R. Scotti, B. Di Credico [WO 2016/174629A1](#)

## IR/BR based compounds with silica and sepiolite/HCl (Mg 80%)

### Formulations (phr)

Ingredient	Filler in the composite		
	Silica	Silica + Sepiolite	Silica + Sepiolite/HCl (Mg 80%)
IR	40	40	40
BR (Nd)	60	60	60
CB N550	25	25	25
Silica Zeosil 1115	30	20	20
Sepiolite	0	7	7
Sepiolite/HCl Mg80%	0	0	7
Silane TESPT	5.0	5.0	5.0

Other ingredients: ZnO 4.0, Stearic acid 1, 6-PPD 1.5, TMQ 1, Sulphur 2.3, TBBS 80 4

## IR/BR based compounds with silica and sepiolite/HCl (Mg 80%)

### Dynamic mechanical properties

Property	Filler in the composite		
	Silica	Silica + Sepiolite	Silica + Sepiolite/HCl (Mg 80%)
E' (23°C) 100 Hz	100	103	113
E' (70°C) 100 Hz	100	102	113
Tan Delta (23°C) 100 Hz	100	107	87
Tan Delta (23°C) 100 Hz	100	106	85

☞ Tan Delta: the lower, the better

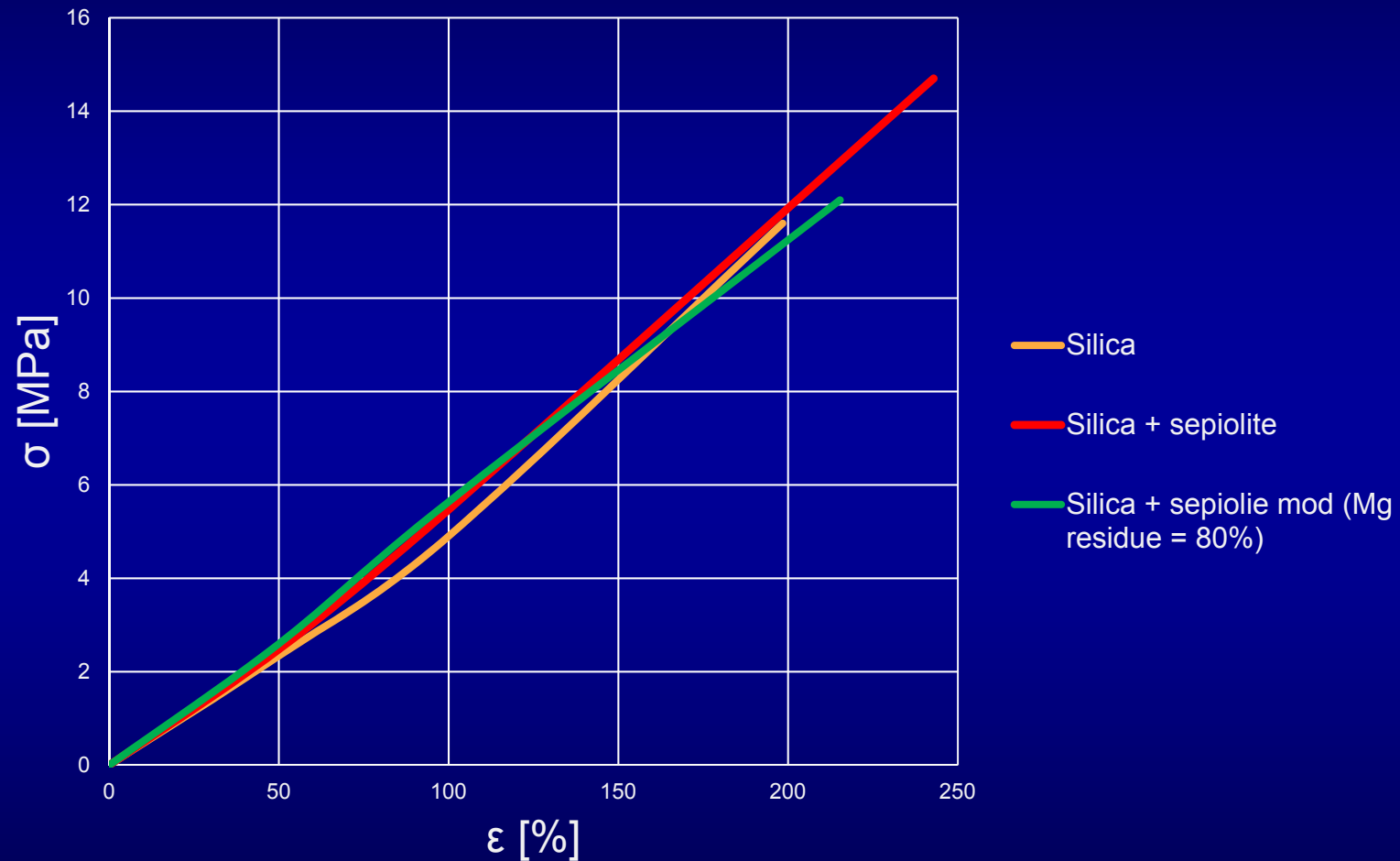
## IR/BR based compounds with silica and sepiolite/HCl (Mg 80%)

### Tensile tests

Property	Filler in the composite		
	Silica	Silica + Sepiolite	Silica + Sepiolite/HCl (Mg 80%)
$\sigma_{50}$ (MPa)	100	106	111
$\sigma_{100}$ (MPa)	100	112	115
$\sigma_B$ (MPa)	100	127	104
$\epsilon_B$ (%)	100	122	109

# IR/BR based compounds with silica and sepiolite/HCl (Mg 80%)

## Tensile tests



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## From basic research to commercial development

# From basic research to commercial development

## Aramid Pulp and Nanobase (Nano.Co)



Anisotropic behavior:  
high strength  
in longitudinal direction



Isotropic behavior:  
equal performance in  
longitudinal and  
lateral directions

Higher Stiffness

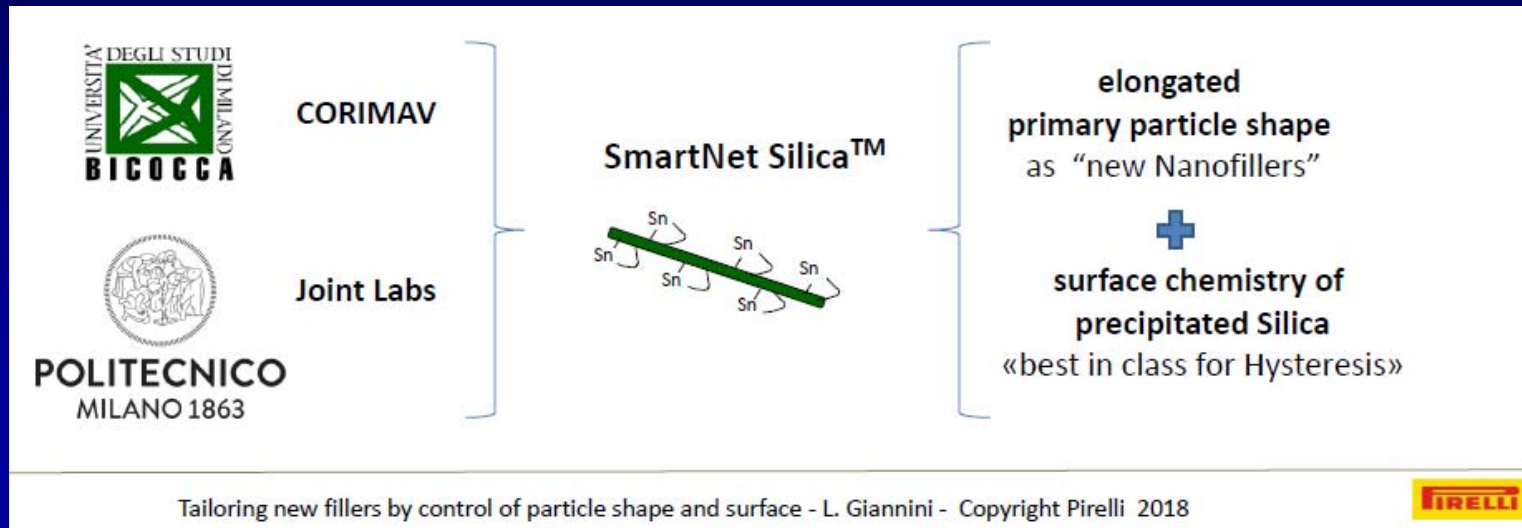
Better Trade-off  
Handling/Comfort

Thermoplastic stability

No Decay

Maurizio Boiocchi  
Mission Zero  
PZero Technical Presentation  
Dubai, February 2007

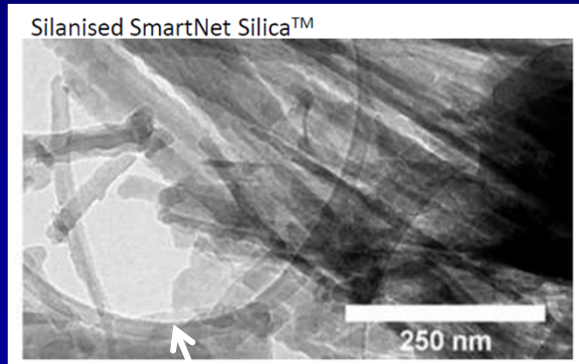
# From basic research to commercial development



## Silicate route to SmartNetSilica™

L. Giannini. Tailoring new fillers by control of particle shape and surface. Presentation at TyreTech 2018

# From basic research to commercial development



The new P ZERO™ VELO; SmartNet Silica™ at work

UNCONDITIONAL PERFORMANCE

ROLLING RESISTANCE ——— TRADE-OFF ——— WET GRIP

THE SOLUTION

SMARTNET SILICA™

P ZERO™ VELO

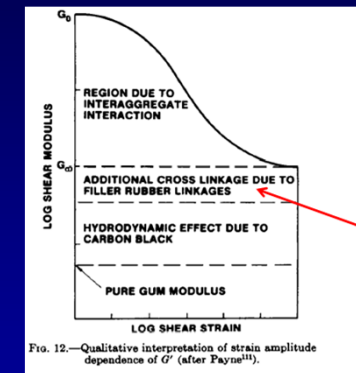
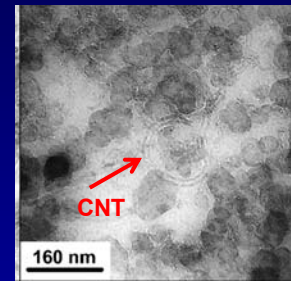
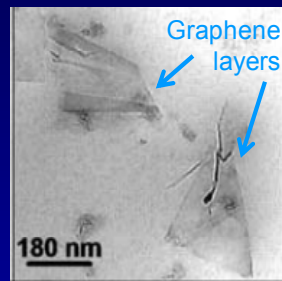
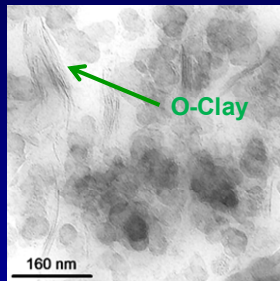
PIRELLI

A promotional graphic for the P ZERO VELO tire. It features a central image of a cyclist on a road bike. Above the cyclist, two circular icons are connected by a horizontal line with the text 'TRADE-OFF' in the middle. The left icon shows a road bike on a dry road, labeled 'ROLLING RESISTANCE'. The right icon shows a road bike on a wet road, labeled 'WET GRIP'. Below the cyclist, the text 'THE SOLUTION' is written above a downward-pointing arrow, which points to a box containing the 'SMARTNET SILICA™' logo. The background is a blurred green landscape. The 'P ZERO™ VELO' logo is in the bottom left and the 'PIRELLI' logo is in the bottom right.

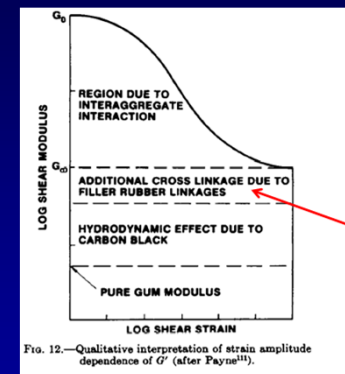
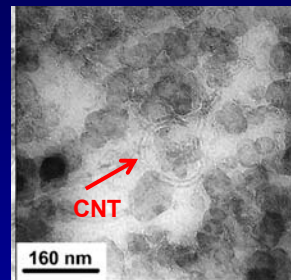
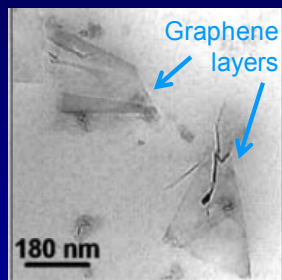
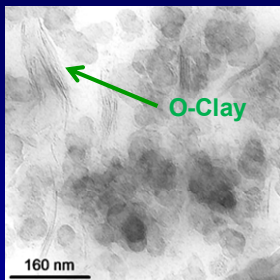
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Silanised route to SmartNetSilica™

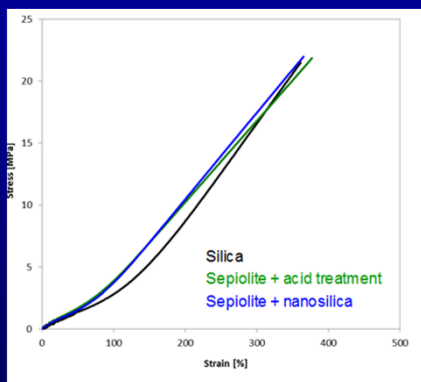
# Conclusions



# Conclusions



Enhancement of chemical reactivity of high aspect ratio nanometric fillers



L. Giannini. Tailoring new fillers by control of particle shape and surface. Presentation at TyreTech 2018



ISCaMap

*Innovation for sustainability*



[www.lidup.polimi.it](http://www.lidup.polimi.it)

## Acknowledgments

Luciano Tadiello    Pirelli Tyre



*Enhancing science, technology and business across  
the evolving elastomeric community.*

*Thanks  
for the attention!*

