



# Tailor made functionalizations of graphene layers and their application as carbocatalyst for organic reactions

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## **ISCaMaP**

*Innovative **S**ustainable **C**hemistry and **M**aterials and **P**roteomics  
Group*

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

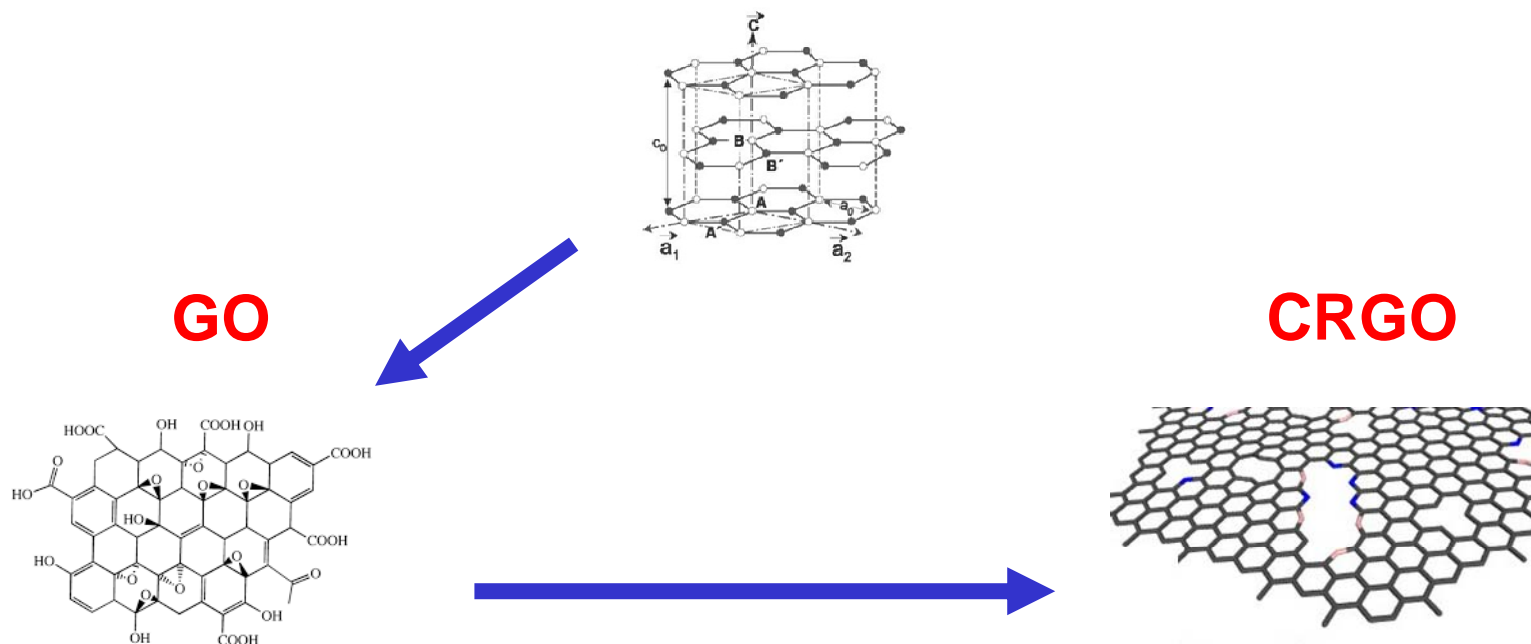
## Objectives of the research activity

- ☞ To reduce the synthetic footprint  
in carbon allotropes functionalization
  
- ☞ To perform tailor made functionalization  
of graphene layers  
with a sustainable, facile, versatile method,  
preserving the  $sp^2$  hybridization

# Functionalization of graphene layers

Facile preparation of graphene layers and graphene layers with controlled functionalities is a Holy Grail in the field of materials chemistry.

## Suitable approach





# Functionalization of graphene layers

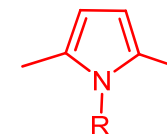


# Functionalization of graphene layers



+

➤ Pyrrole derivatives



➤ KOH

- Reactions
- Products' characterization
- Hypothesis of mechanisms

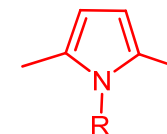
Galimberti, M., Barbera, V., Guerra, S., Conzatti, L., Castiglioni, C., Brambilla, L., A. Serafini, *RSC Advances*, 5(99), (2015) 81142-81152  
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V. Barbera, A. Bernardi, G. Torrisi, A. Porta, M. Galimberti, *Elastomery*, 2017, 21(4), 235-251

# Functionalization of graphene layers



+

➤ Pyrrole derivatives

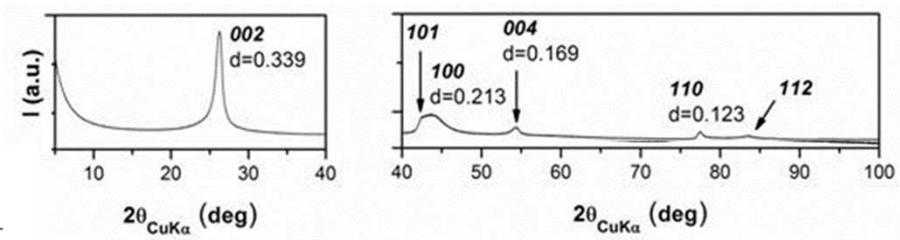
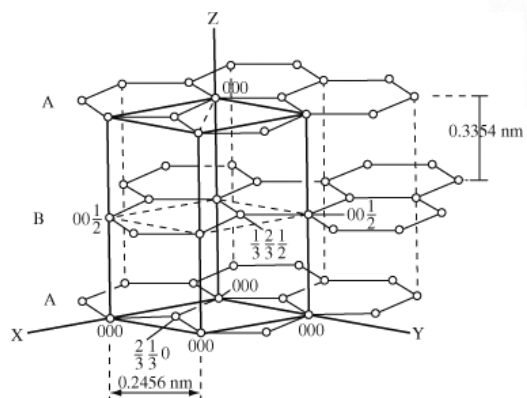


➤ KOH

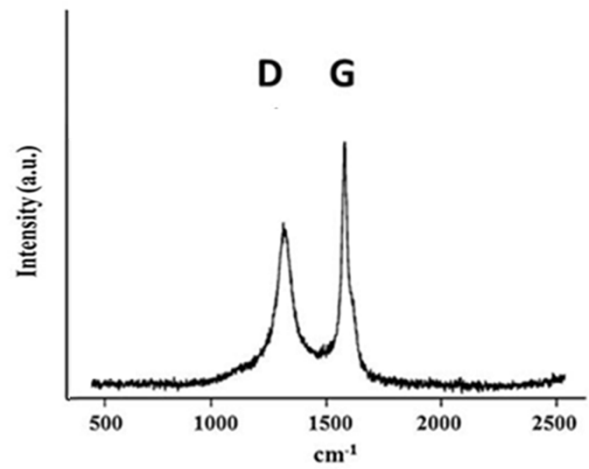
- ☞ Reactions
- ☞ Products' characterization
- ☞ Hypothesis of mechanisms
- ☞ Catalyst for organic reactions

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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V. Barbera, A. Bernardi, G. Torrisi, A. Porta, M. Galimberti, [Elastomery](#), 2017, 21(4), 235-251



# High Surface Area Graphite (HSAG)



Surface area (m <sup>2</sup> /g)	number of layers	D <sub>  </sub> / D <sub>⊥</sub>
330	35	3.1

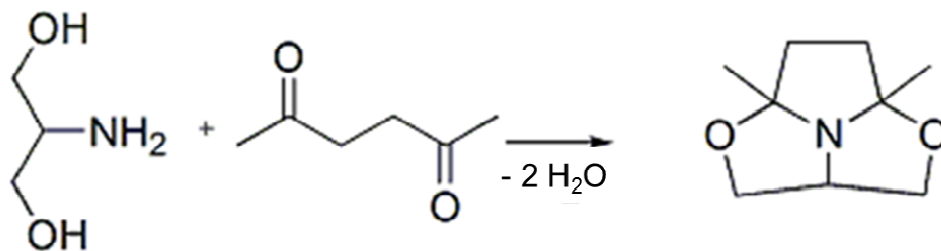






# Functionalization of carbon materials with pyrrole derivative

## Reaction of serinol with dicarbonyl compound



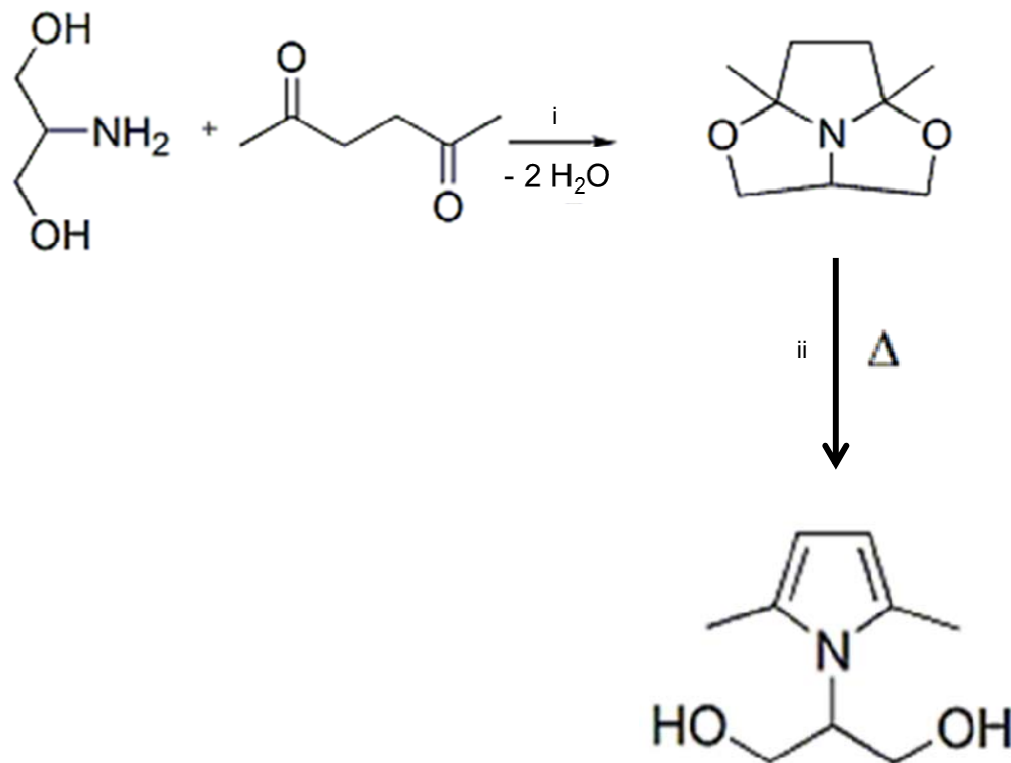
V. Barbera, A. Citterio, M. Galimberti, G. Leonardi, R. Sebastiano, S. U. Shisodia, A. M. Valerio *WO 2015 189411 A1*

M. Galimberti, V. Barbera, A. Citterio, R. Sebastiano, A. Truscillo, A. M. Valerio, L. Conzatti, R. Mendichi, *Polymer*, vol 63, 20 April 2015, Pages 62–70

M. Galimberti, V. Barbera, S. Guerra, L. Conzatti, C. Castiglioni, L. Brambilla, A. Serafini, *RSC Adv.*, 2015, 5, 81142-81152 DOI: 10.1039/C5RA11387C

V. Barbera, S. Musto, A. Citterio, L. Conzatti, M. Galimberti, *eXPRESS Polymer Letters* 2016, 10 (7) 548–558

## Reaction of serinol with dicarbonyl compound



Serinol pyrrole - SP

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

i. r.t. 6h; ii.150°C, 2h

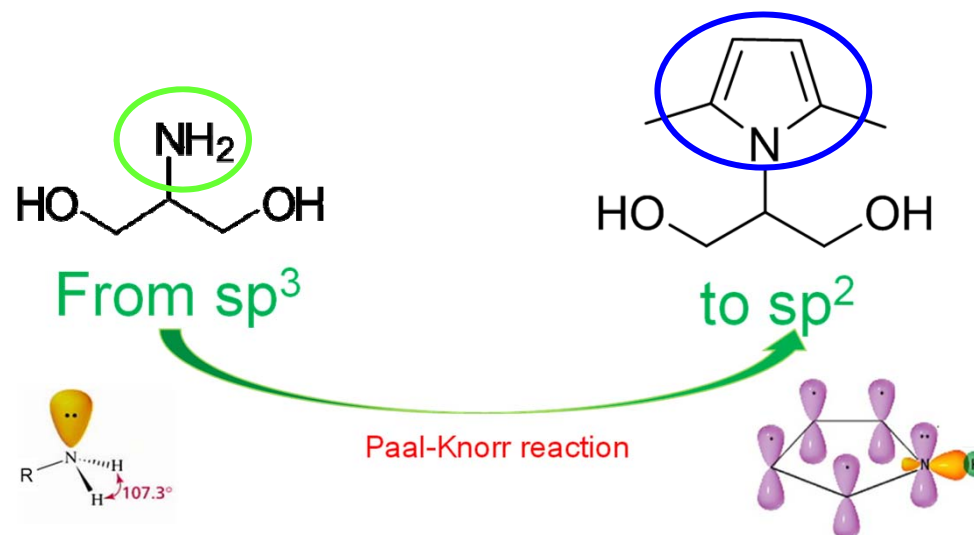
V. Barbera, A.Citterio, M. Galimberti, G. Leonardi, R. Sebastiano, S.U.Shisodia, A.M. Valerio *WO 2015 189411 A1*

M. Galimberti, V. Barbera, A. Citterio, R. Sebastiano, A. Truscello, A. M. Valerio, L. Conzatti, R. Mendichi, *Polymer*, vol 63, 20 April 2015, Pages 62–70

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V. Barbera, S. Musto, A. Citterio, L. Conzatti, M. Galimberti., *eXPRESS Polymer Letters* 2016, 10 (7) 548–558

## Neat synthesis of Serinol pyrrole

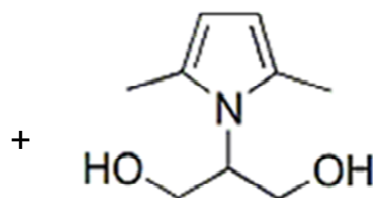


- Yield: at least 96%
- Atom efficiency: 85%
- Easy procedure
- No solvent
- By product: H<sub>2</sub>O

# Adduct of SP with HSAG



HSAG

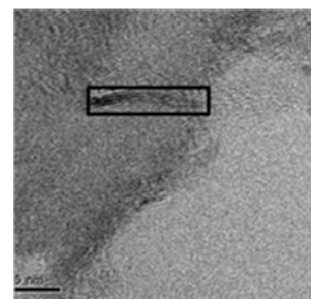


SP = 1 – 20 phc  
phc = per hundred carbon

80 - 180 C  
0,5 - 4 h



HSAG/SP  
adduct



**Functionalization  
Yield(%)\*:**

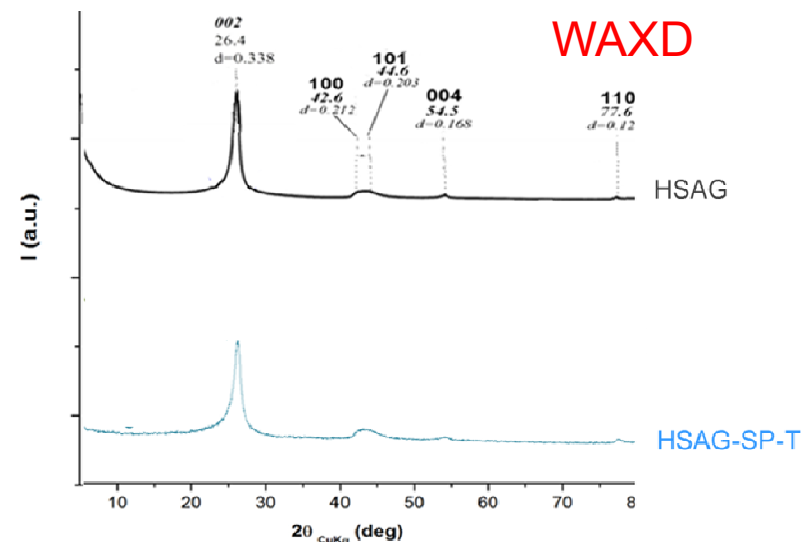
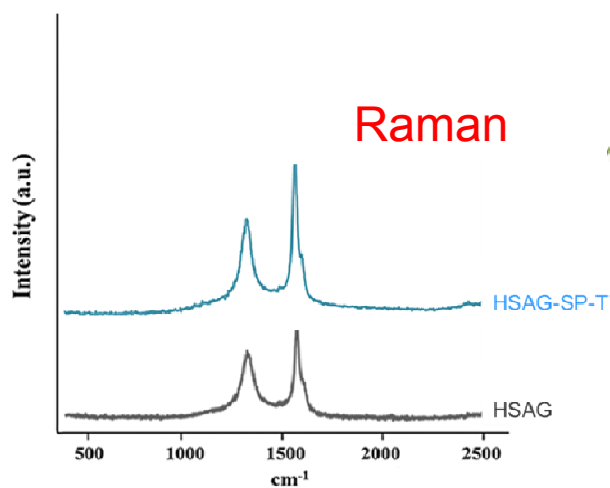
**96**

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

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

Galimberti M., Barbera V., Guerra S., Bernardi A., *Rubber Chemistry and Technology*, 2017, 90(2), 285-307.

# Adduct of SP with HSAG



👉 Unaltered in plane order

👉 No expansion of the interlayer distance

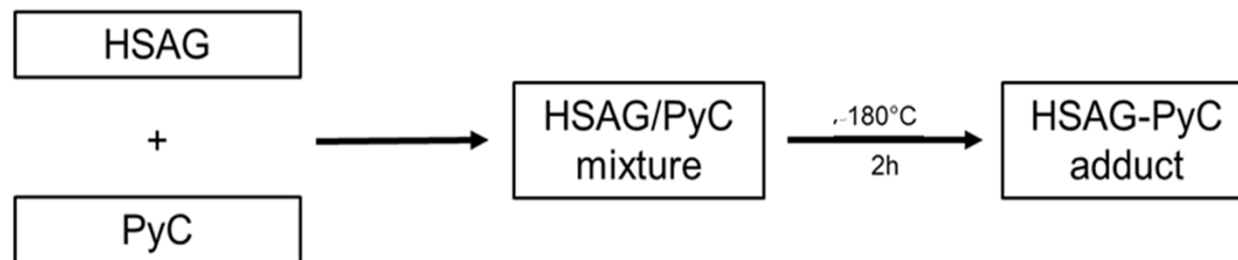
👉 Reaction with SP  
does not substantially alter, *per se*,  
the bulk crystalline order of HSAG

Sample	number of stacked layers
HSAG	35
HSAG-SP	24

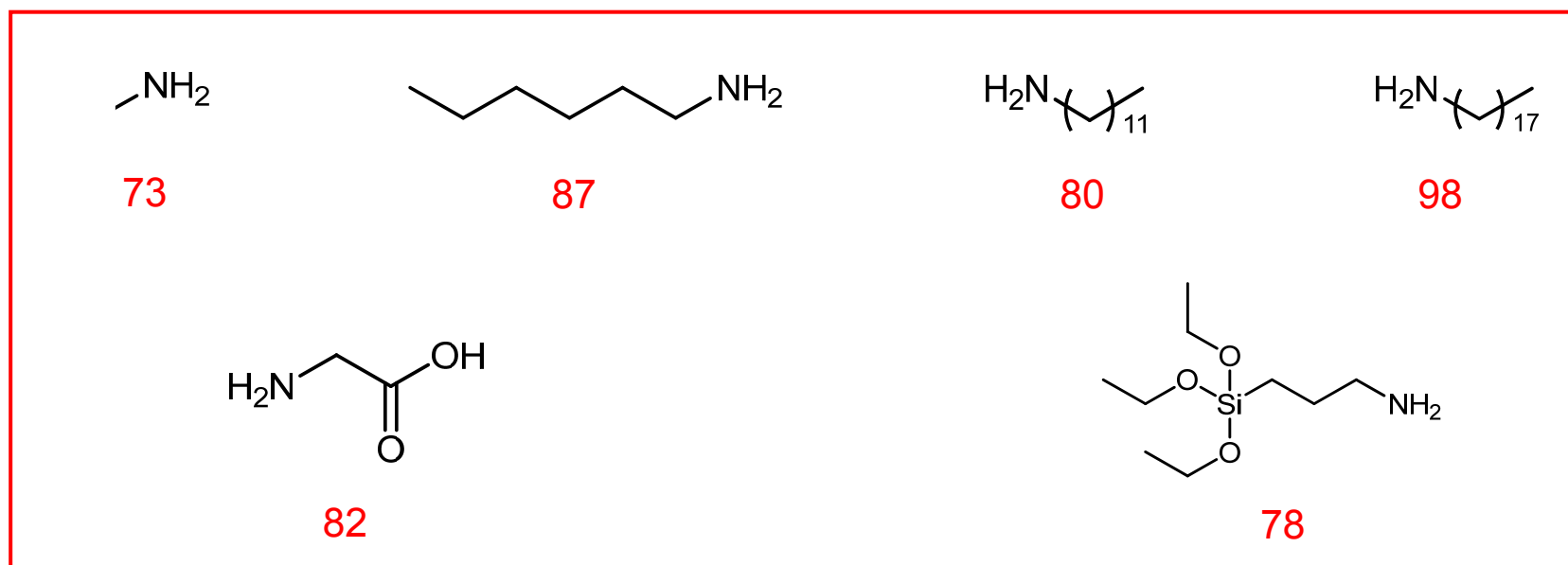
Galimberti, M., Barbera, V., Guerra, S., Conzatti, L., Castiglioni, C., Brambilla, L., A. Serafini, *RSC Advances*, 5(99), (2015) 81142-81152

Galimberti M., Barbera V., Guerra S., Bernardi A., *Rubber Chemistry and Technology*, 2017, 90(2), 285-307.

# HSAG / PyC adducts



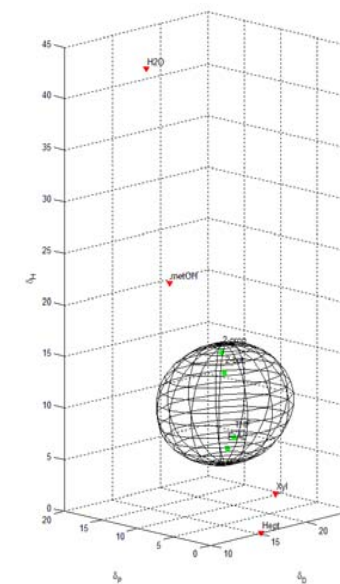
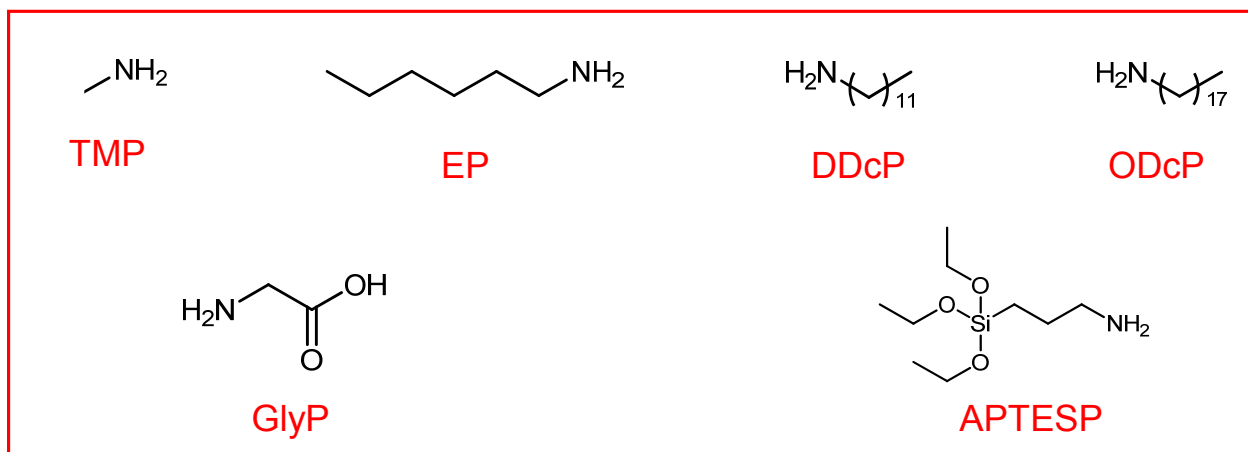
Functionalization Yield %



# Evaluation of solubility parameters of HSAG-PyC - $\delta$ values

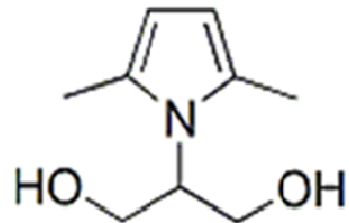
Amount of PyC  
on HSAG:  
about 5% mol

Sample	$\delta_D$	$\delta_P$	$\delta_H$	Radius
HSAG	17.8	3.1	5.7	1.0
HSAG-TMP	14.6	10.3	5.6	11.6
HSAG-DDcP	8.5	7.5	8.3	12.3
HSAG-APTESP	12.7	2.3	0.5	8.3
HSAG-SP	12.8	2.0	8.9	13.8
HSAG-GlyP	6.9	12.1	5.3	15.3





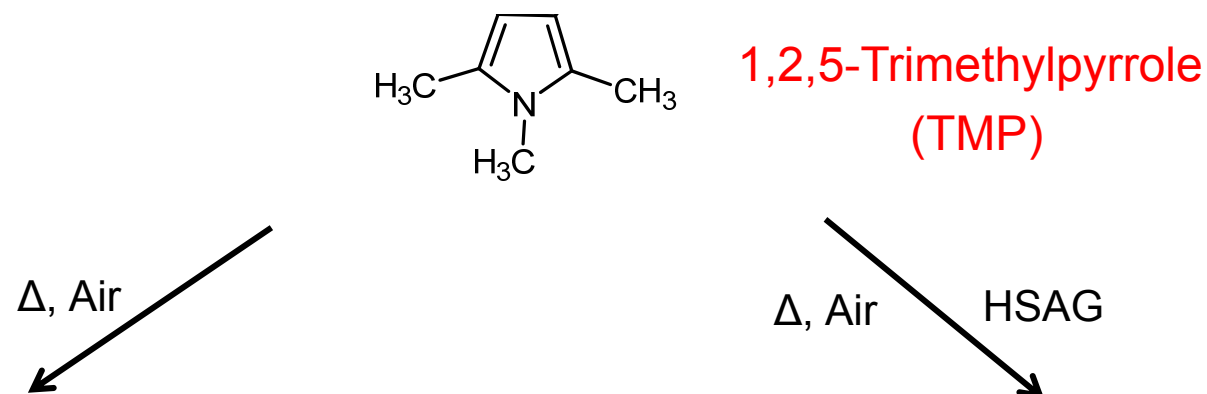
# NanoCarbon Up Technology



WO 2015/189411 A1; WO2016/023915A1; WO 2016/050887 A1; WO 2018/087688 A1 ;  
Italian patent 102016000113012; Italian Patent 10201800005161; Italian Patent 102018000002919; Italian Patent 102018000005206;  
Italian Patent 10201800005164

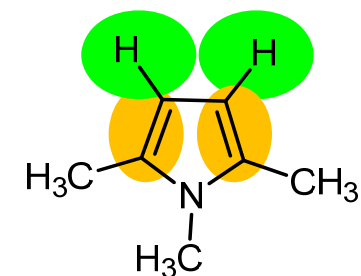
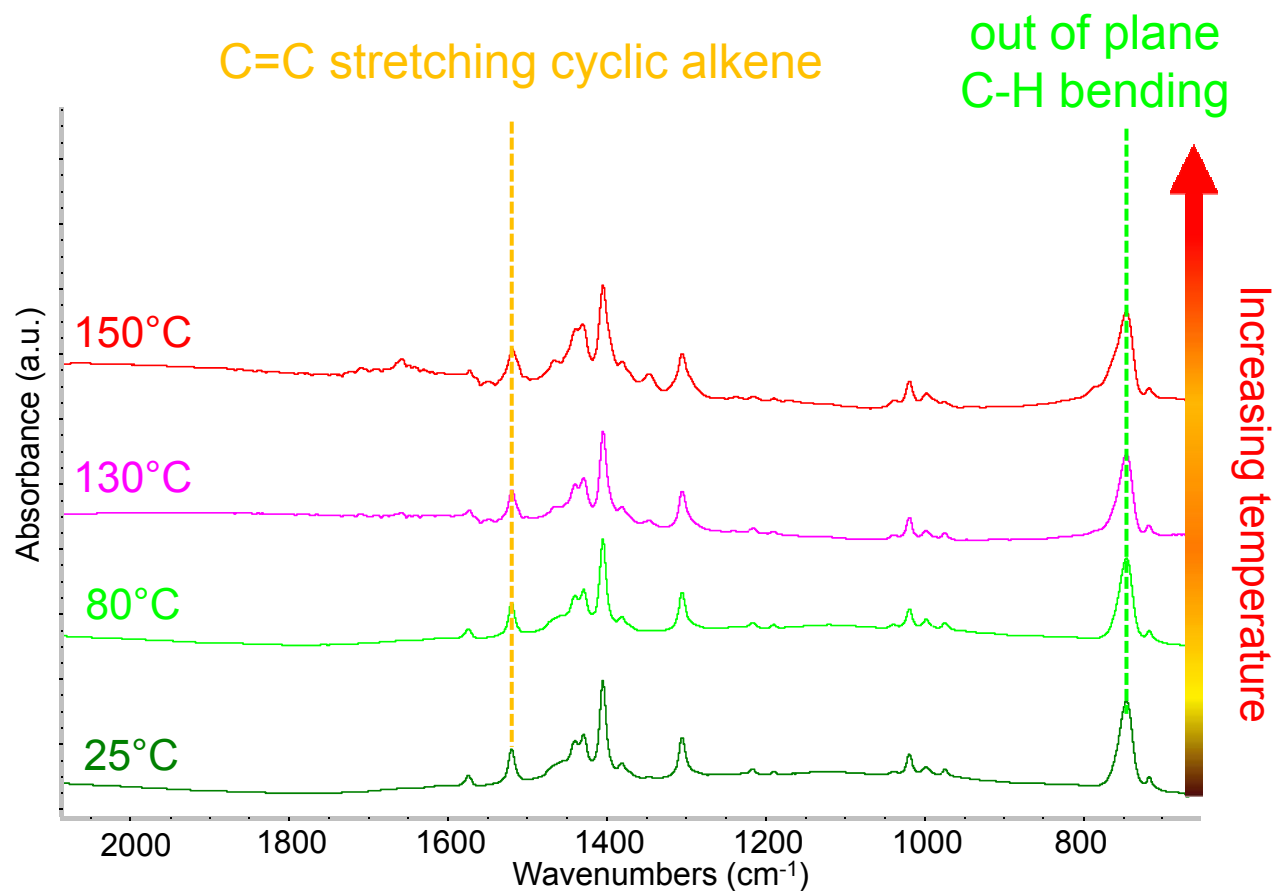
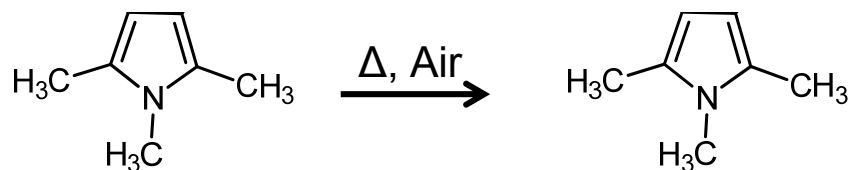
# Mechanism of the functionalization reaction

## Investigation with a model compound

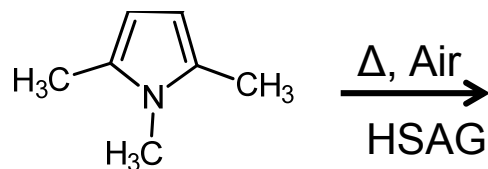


- ☞ Analysis of: liquids, HSAG/TMP adducts
- ☞ FT-IR and <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectroscopies
- ☞ FT-IR spectra generation with Density Functional Theory (DFT) quantum chemical modelling

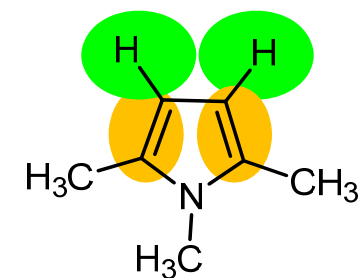
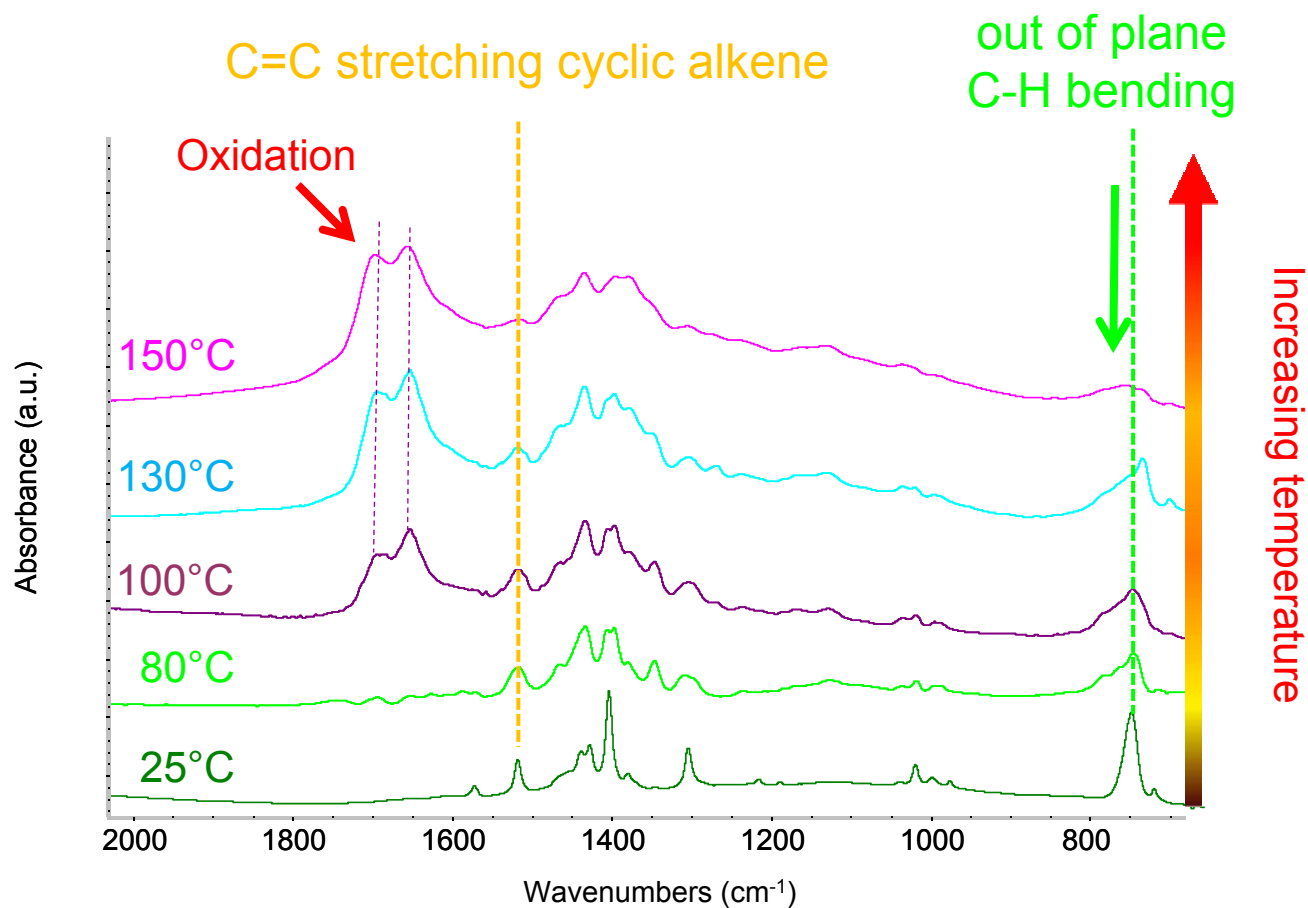
# TMP + Air - From 25°C to 150°C



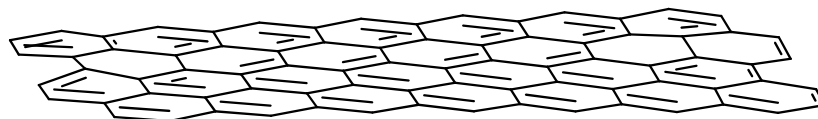
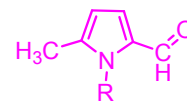
# TMP + HSAG - from 100°C to 150°C



Oxidation products

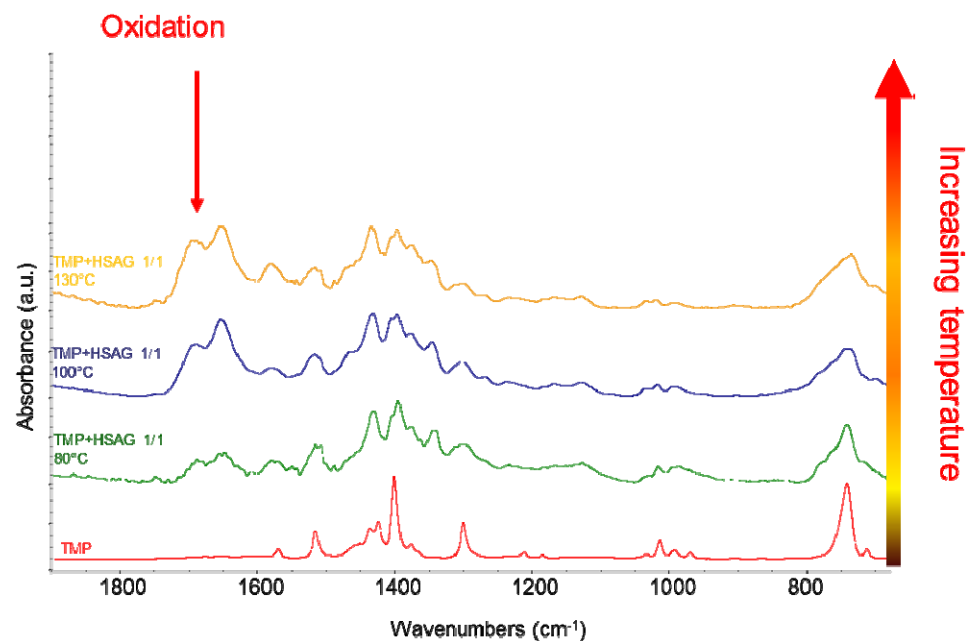


# TMP oxidation product



1,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde

\* Structure confirmed by means of NMR spectroscopy

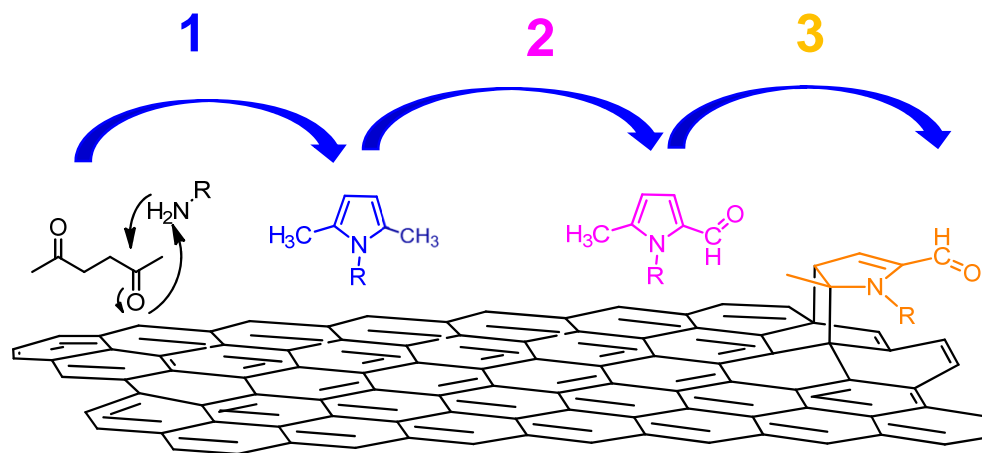
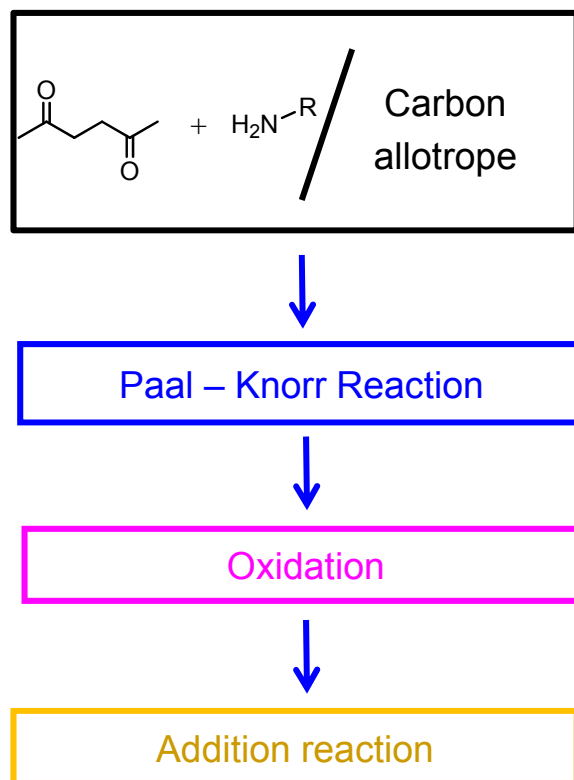


FT-IR and <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectroscopies; FT-IR spectra generation with Density Functional Theory (DFT) quantum chemical modelling

V. Barbera, L. Brambilla, C. Castiglioni, A. Milani, A. Palazzolo, M. Galimberti [Submitted manuscript 2018](#)

# Facile functionalization of carbon materials

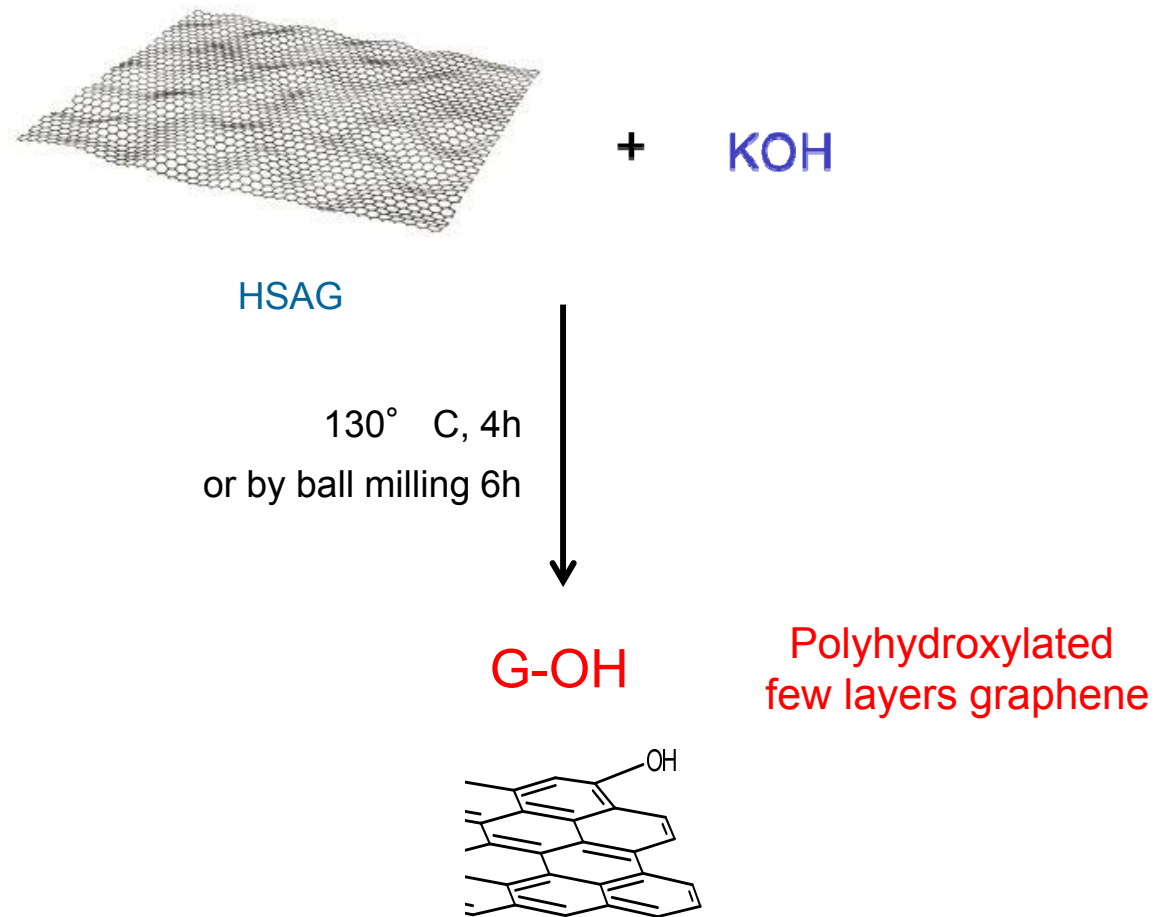
## Hypothesis for the mechanism





# Functionalization of carbon materials with KOH

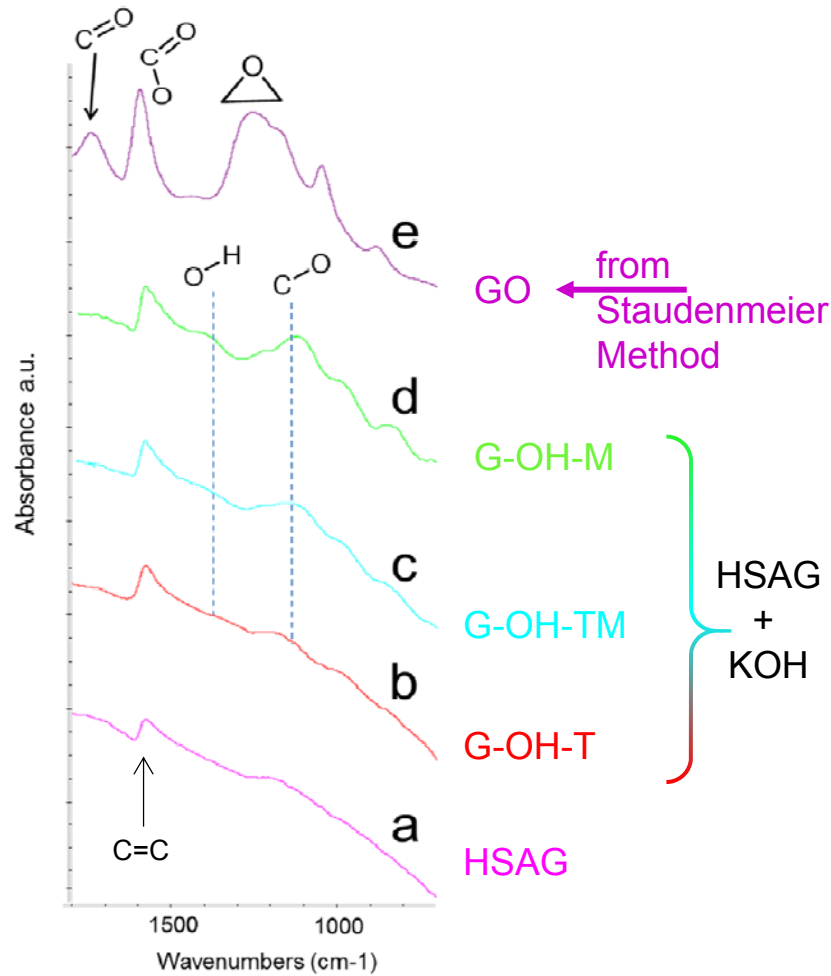
# Preparation of G-OH



V. Barbera, A. Porta, L. Brambilla, S. Guerra, A. Serafini, A. M. Valerio, A. Vitale, M. Galimberti, [RSC Adv., 2016, 6, 87767-87777](#)  
V. Barbera, A. Bernardi, G. Torrisi, A. Porta, M. Galimberti, [Elastomery, 2017, 21\(4\), 235-251](#)



# Preparation of G-OH



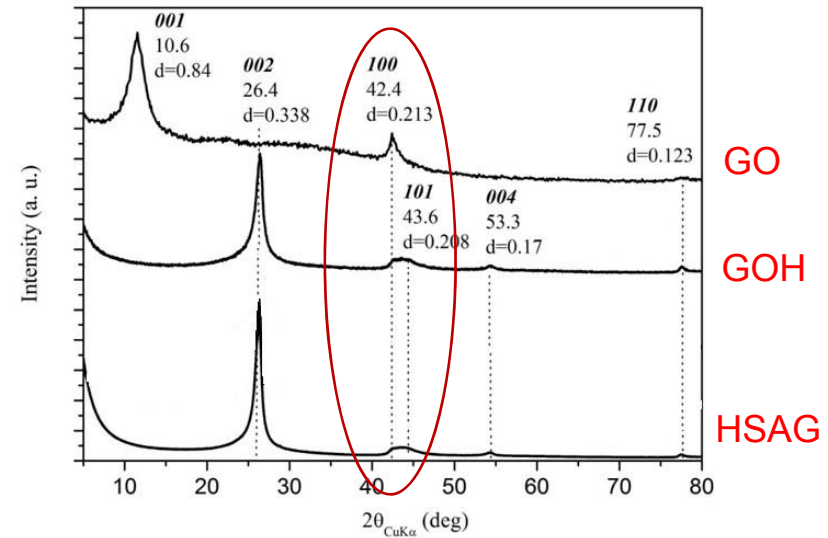
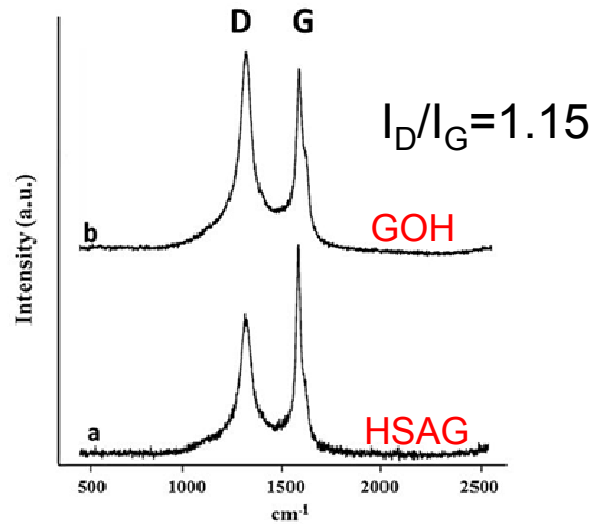
XPS → Increase of C-O / C=O ratio

	HSAG	G-OH-M
O1s / C1s atomic ratio	0.04	0.07
O atomic %	4.2	6.4

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

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# Preparation of G-OH

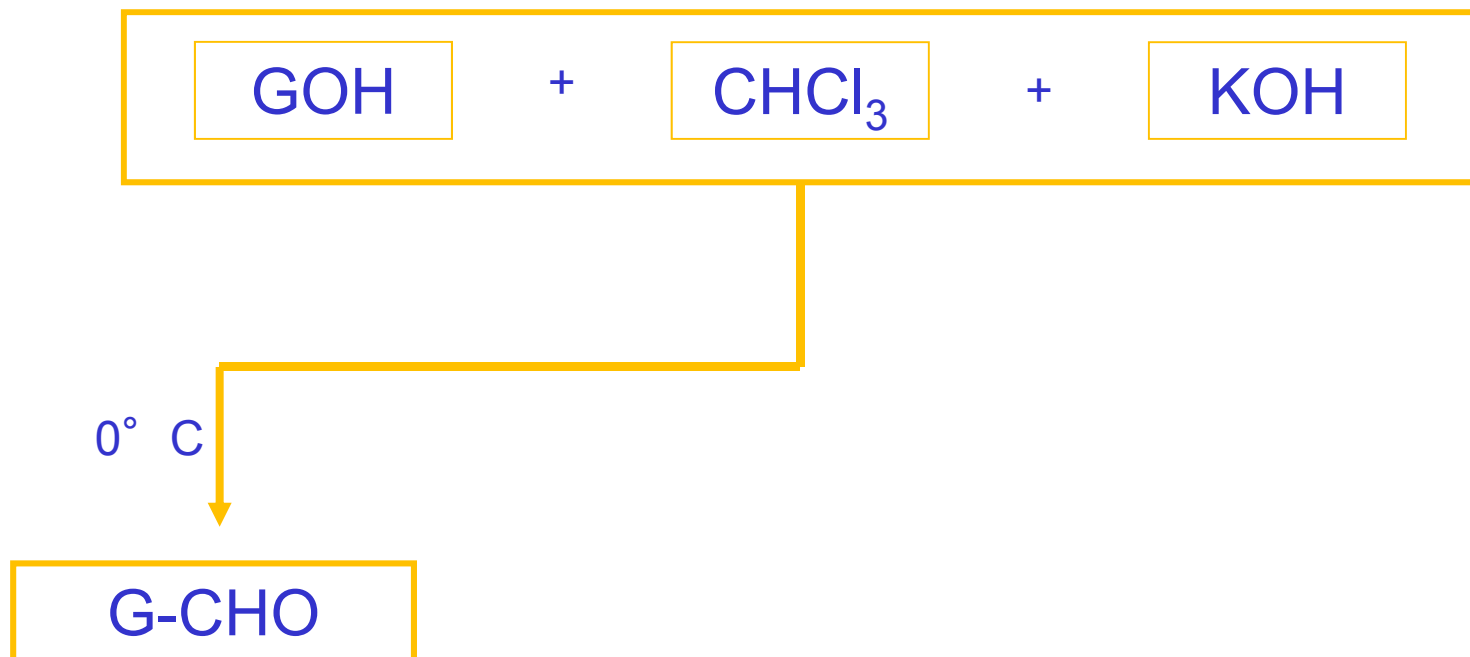


- ☞ Selective introduction of OH groups up to 15 mass%
- ☞ In plane order substantially unaltered
- ☞ No expansion of interlayer distance

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

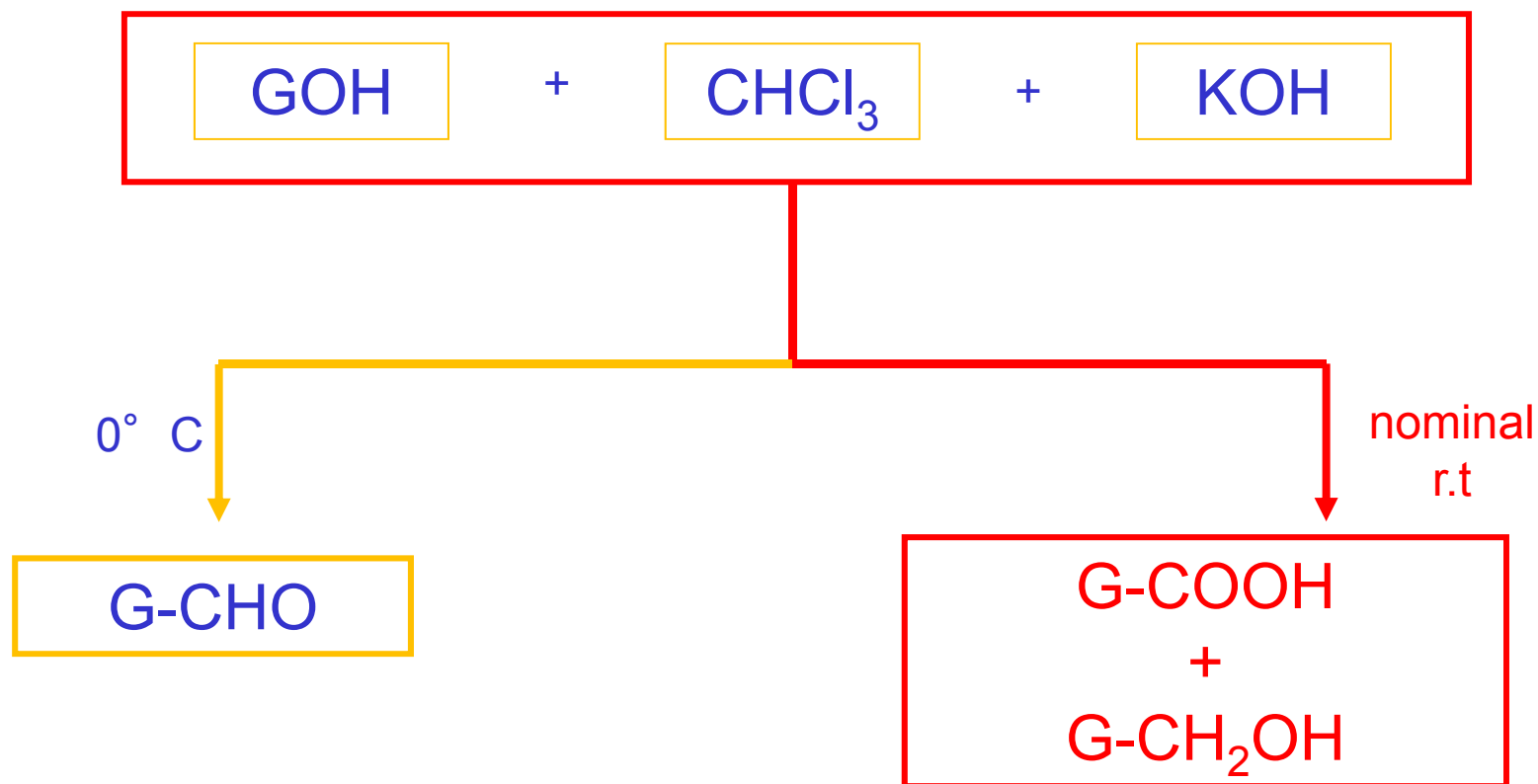
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# GOH – Polyhydroxylated FLG



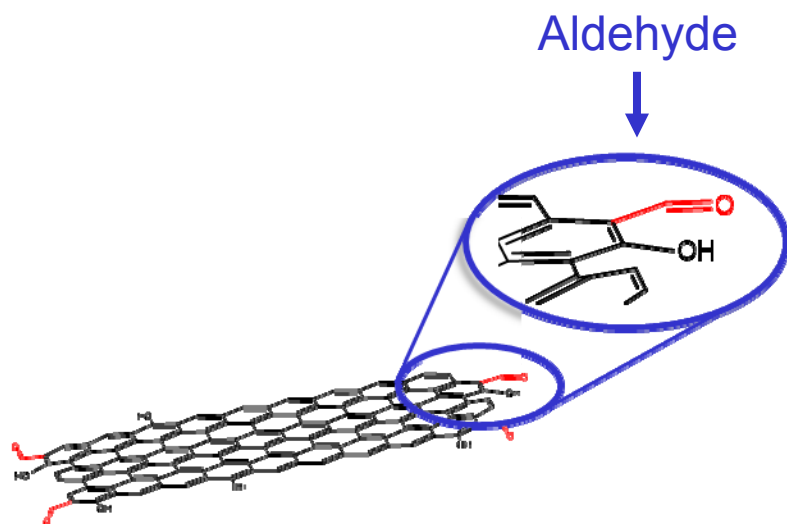
Barbera V., Brambilla L., Porta A., Bongiovanni R., Vitale A., Torrìs G., Galimberti M., *Journal of Materials Chemistry A*, (2018) 6, 7749-7761.

# GOH – Polyhydroxylated FLG

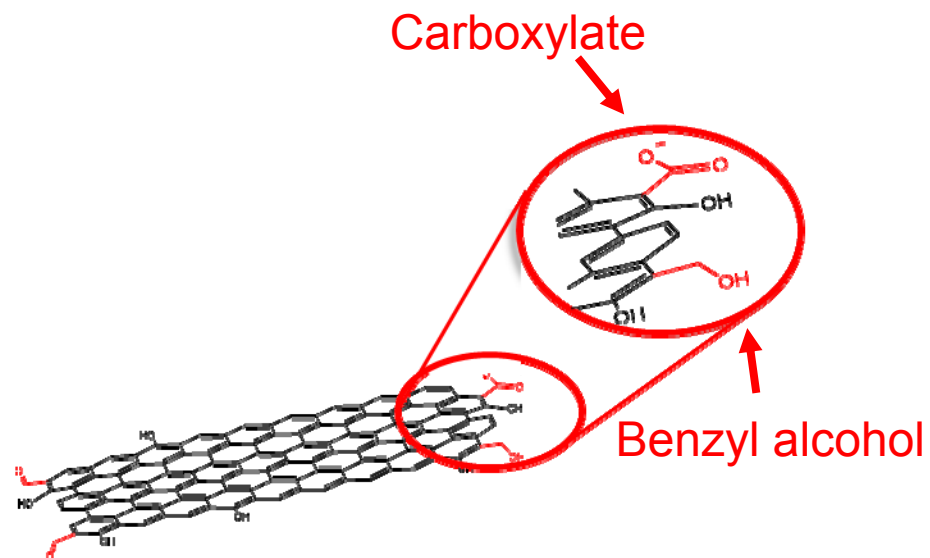


FT-IR, XPS analysis

# G-CHO and G-COOH FLG

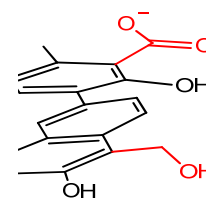
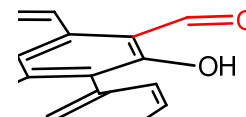
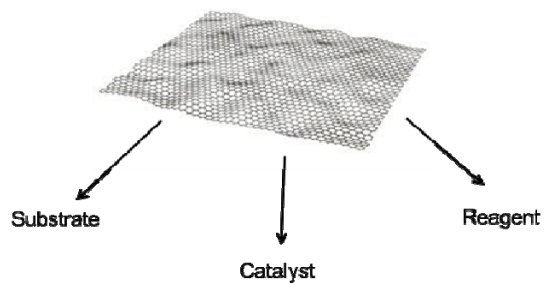


Reimer -Tiemann

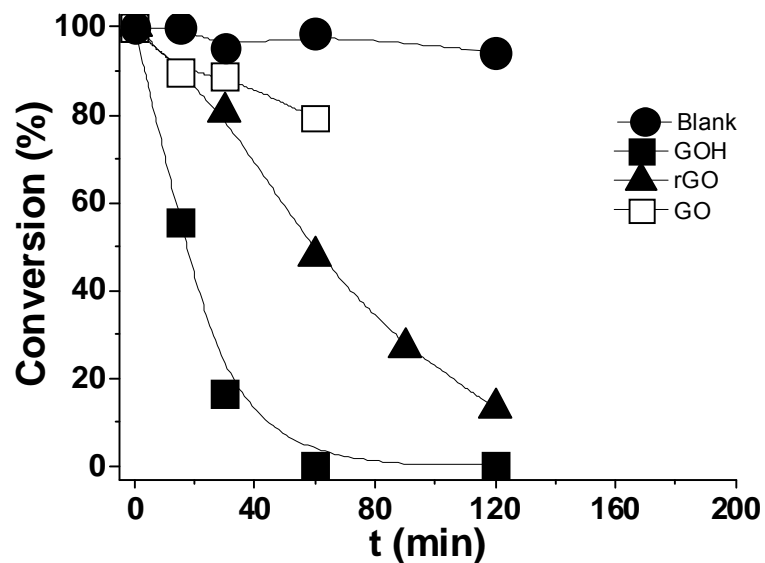
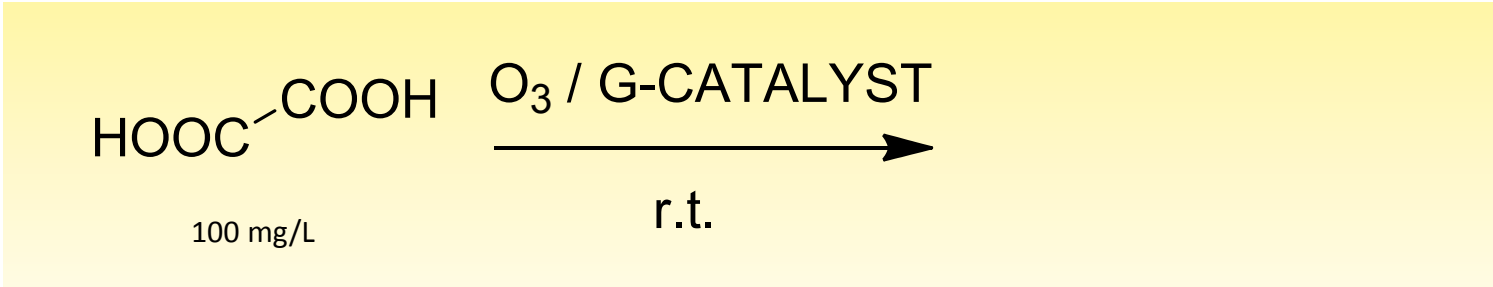


Cannizzaro

# Reimer-Tiemann - Cannizzaro reactions

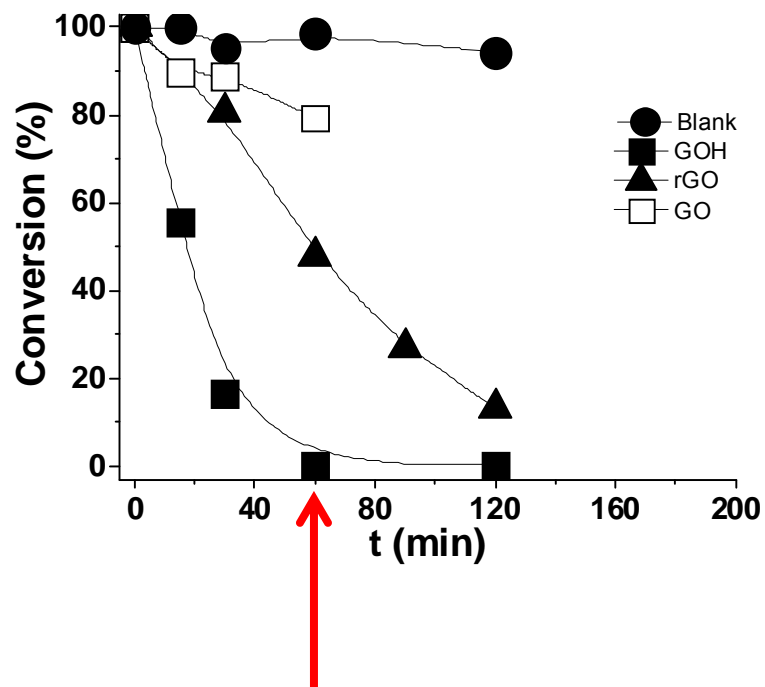
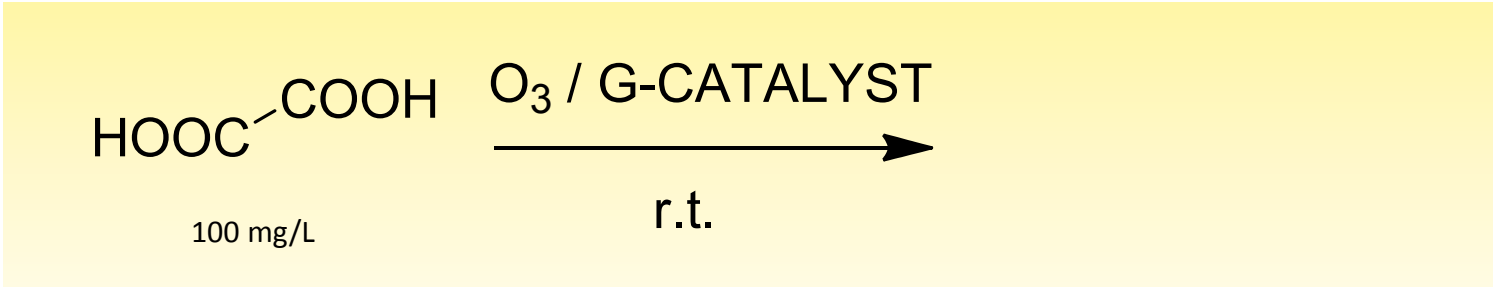


# G-OH and derivatives as catalyst for Ozonation



Navalon S., Barbera V., Galimberti M. et al , [Manuscript in preparation.](#)

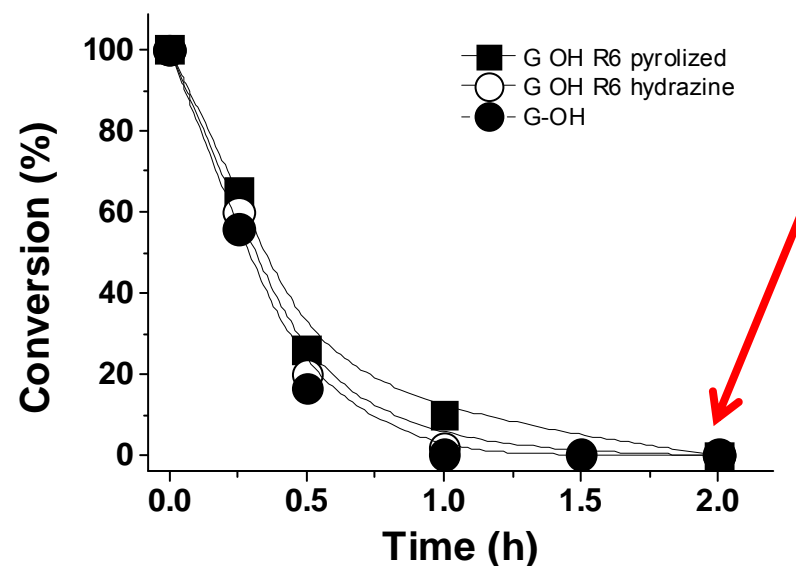
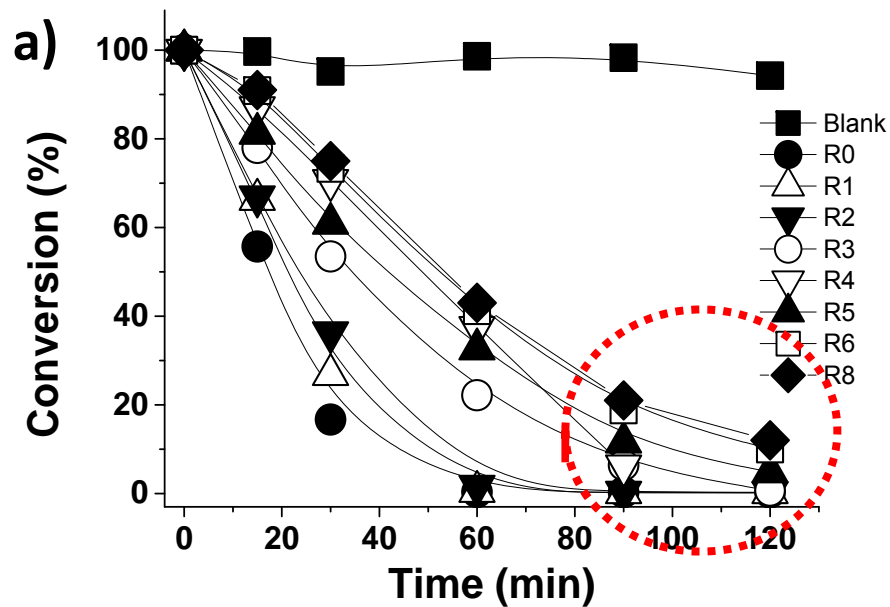
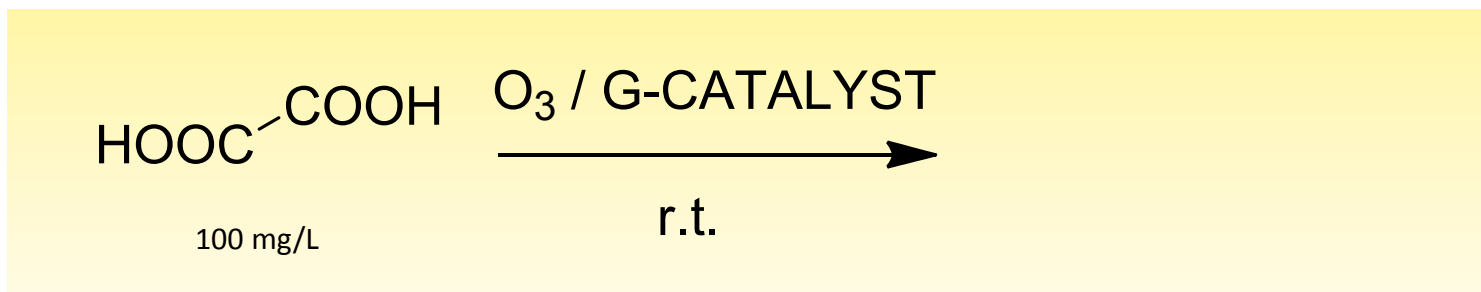
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Navalon S., Barbera V., Galimberti M. et al , [Manuscript in preparation.](#)

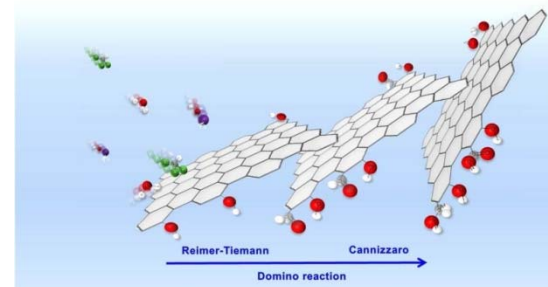
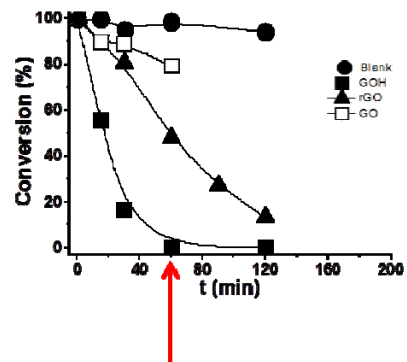
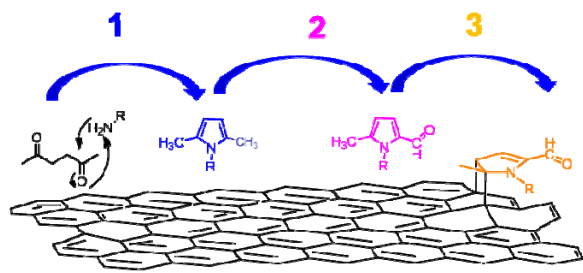
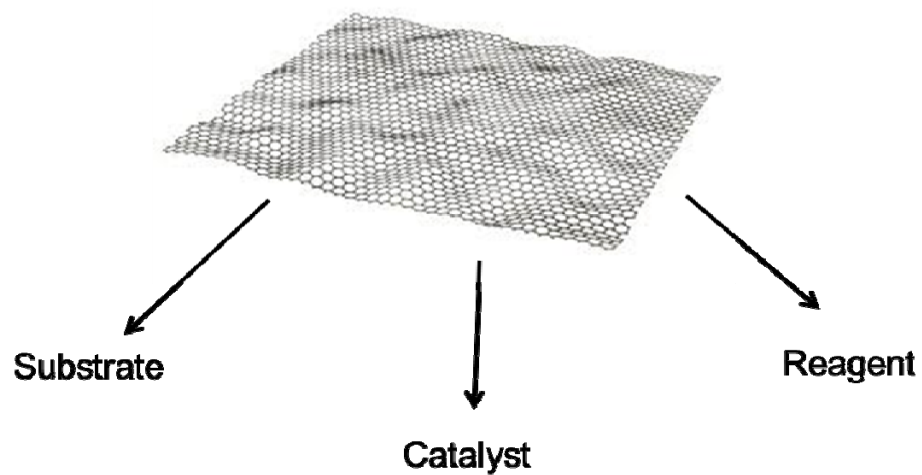


# G-OH and derivatives as catalyst for Ozonation



Navalon S., Barbera V., Galimberti M. et al , [Manuscript in preparation.](#)

# Conclusions





*Thanks  
for the attention!*



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FEDERCHIMICA  
CONFINDUSTRIA

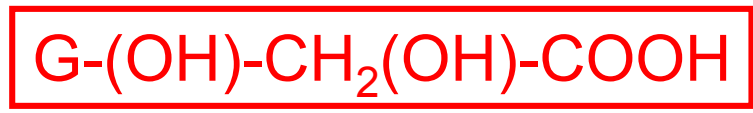
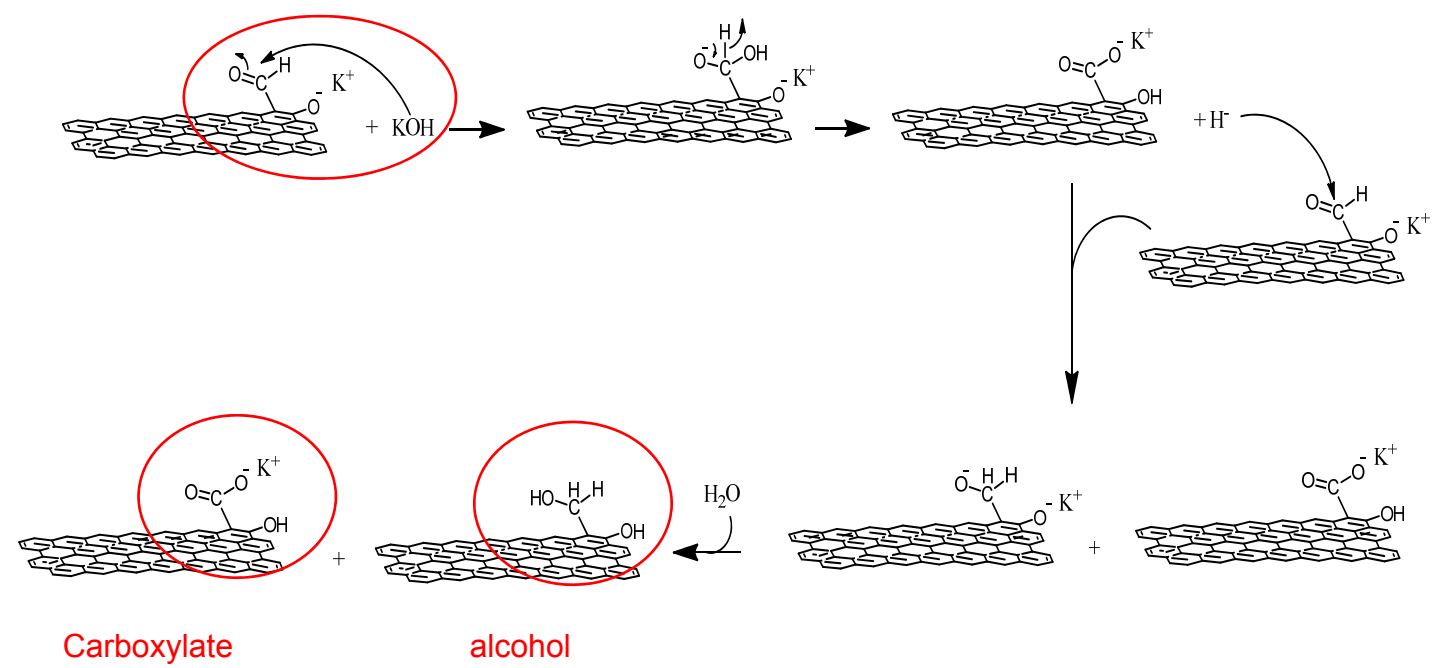








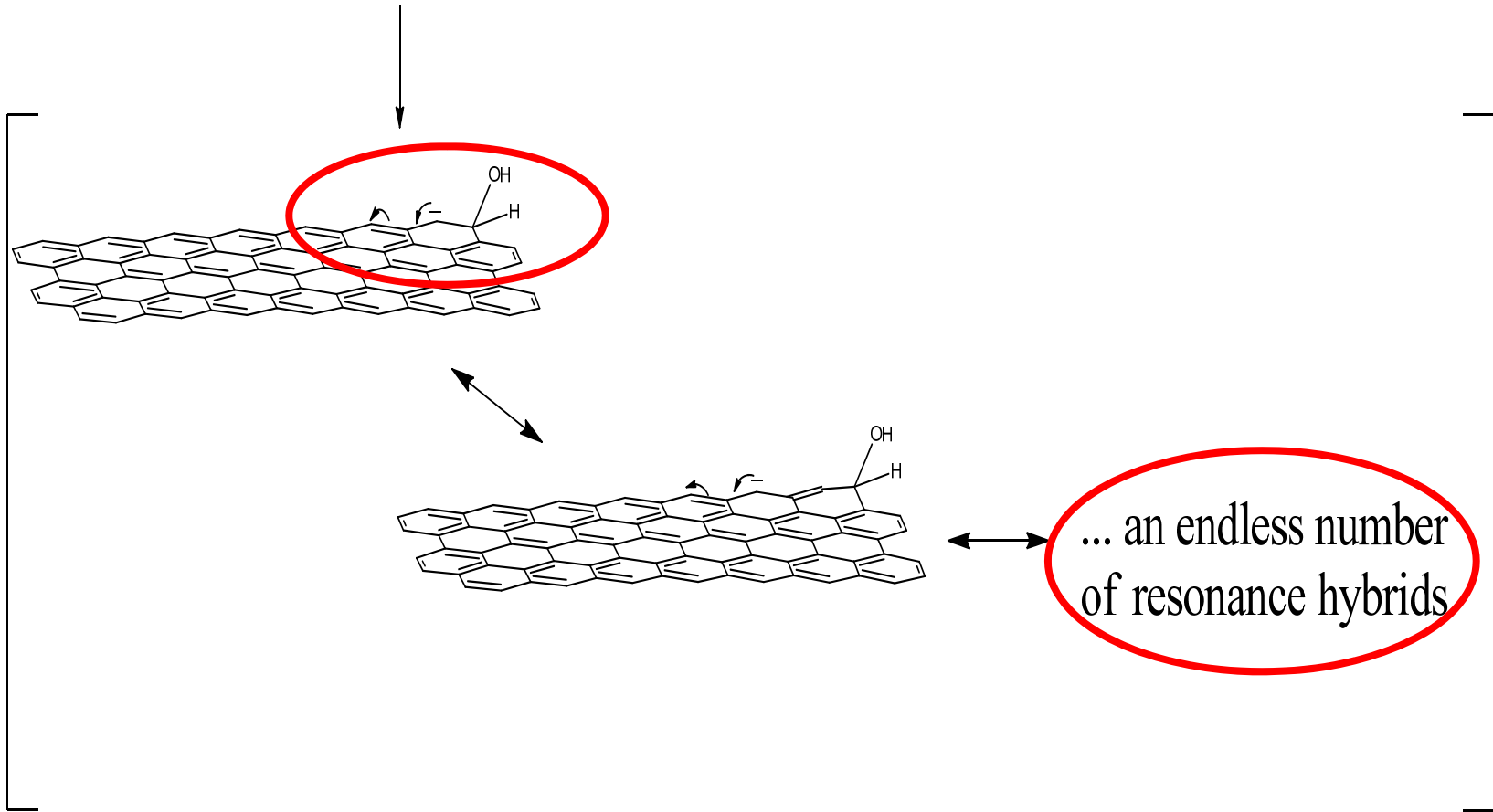
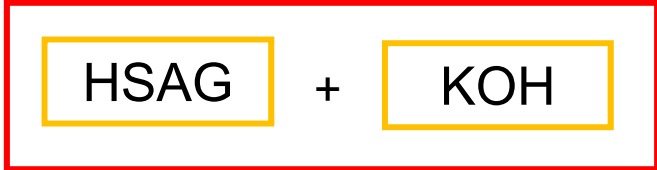
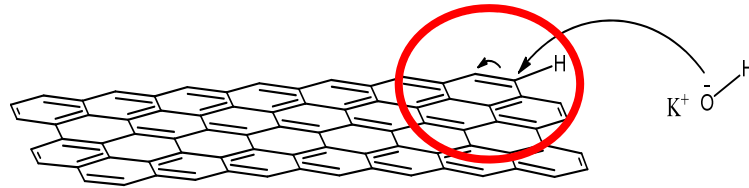
# Reimer-Tiemann - Cannizzaro carbocatalyzed



V. Barbera, M. Galimberti, Submitted, 2016

# Preparation of GOH – Proposed mechanism

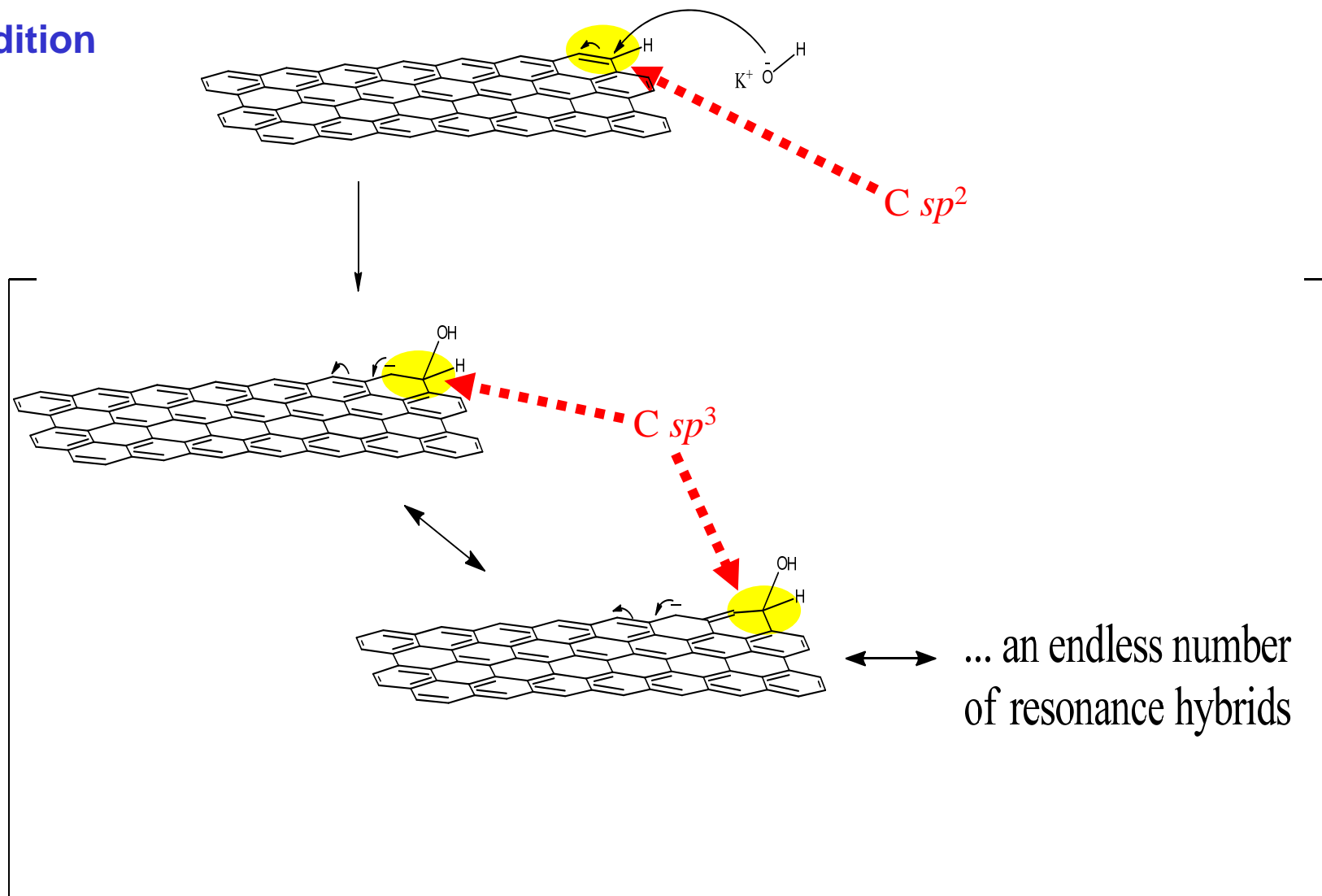
## Addition



V. Barbera, A. Porta, S. Guerra, A. Serafini, L. Conzatti, M. Galimberti, [Submitted, 2016](#)

# Preparation of GOH – Proposed mechanism

## Addition

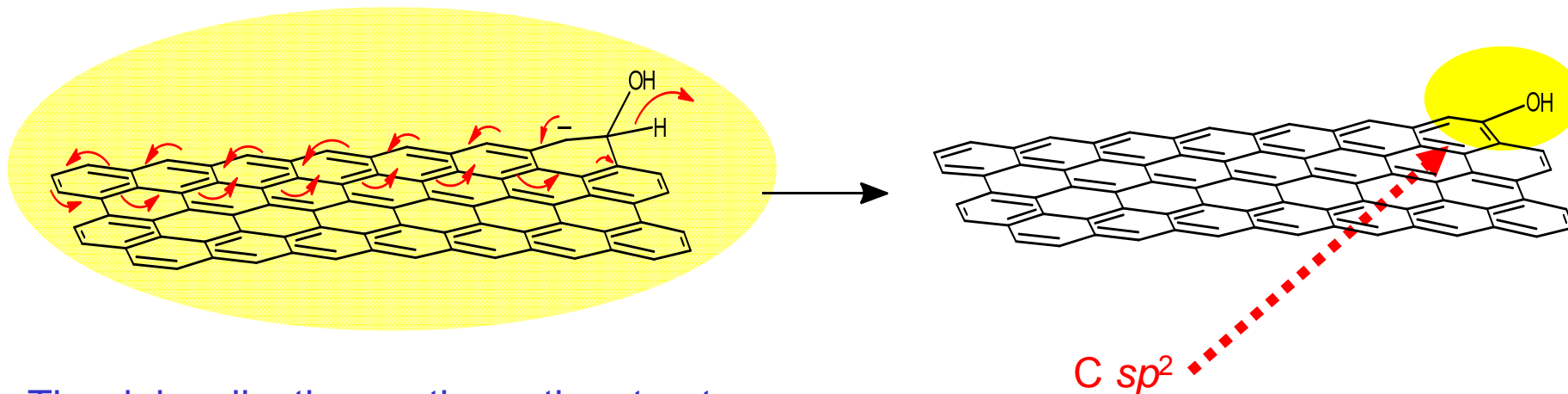


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# Preparation of GOH – Proposed mechanism

## Elimination



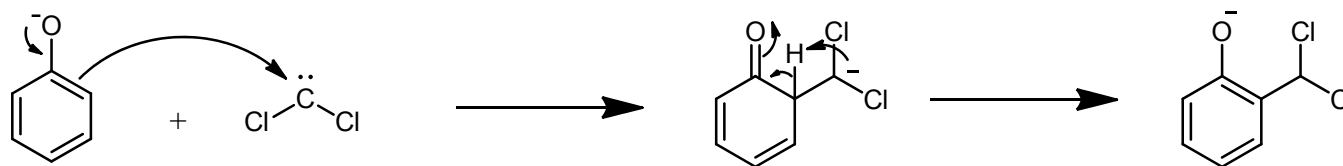
The delocalization on the entire structure and the  $sp^3$  carbon atom in the intermediates, favour the expulsion of an hydride ion!

*“wave effect”*

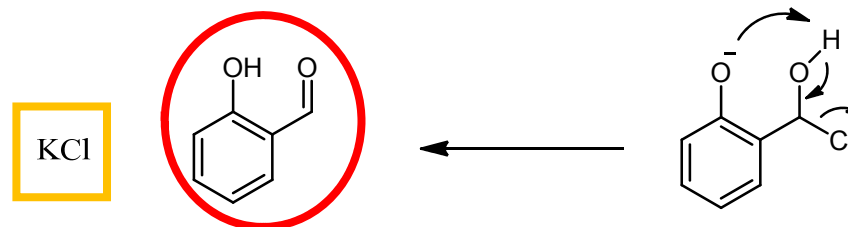
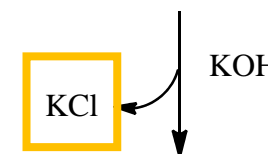


More elettronrich structure, the oxygen lone pairs delocalize on the polyconjugate system

# Mechanistic pathway: the Reimer-Tiemann reaction

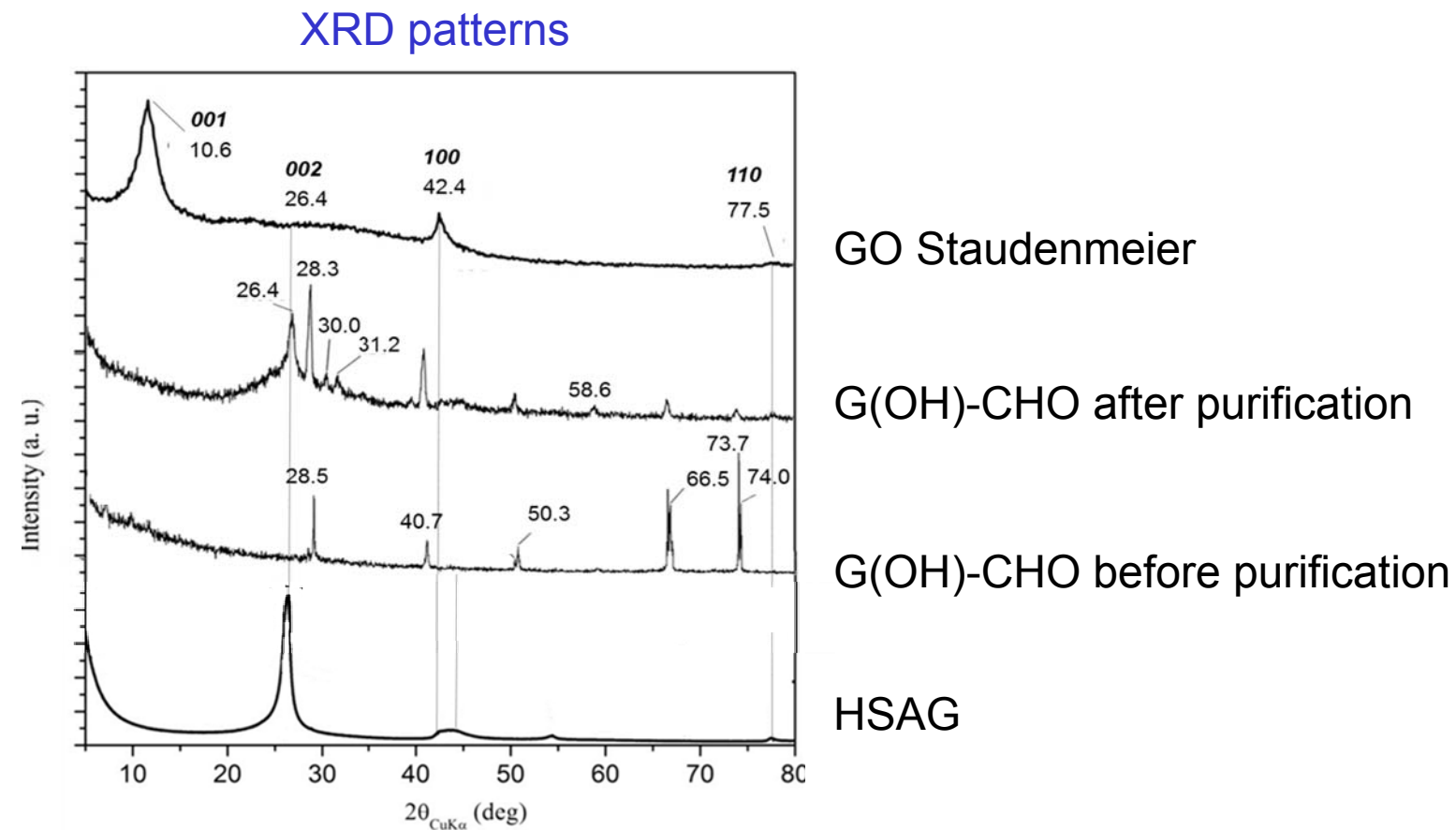


**KCl is the  
by-product of reaction**



**For each Aldehyde formed  
there are also 3 KCl molecules**

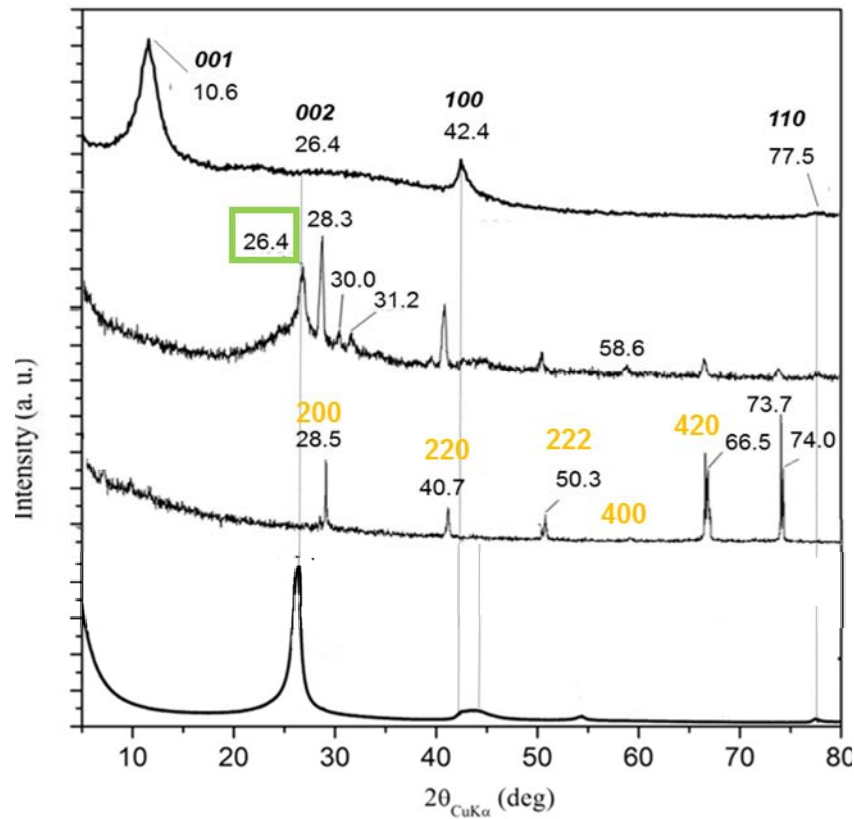
# GOH – The Reimer-Tiemann reaction



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# GOH – The Reimer-Tiemann reaction

XRD patterns



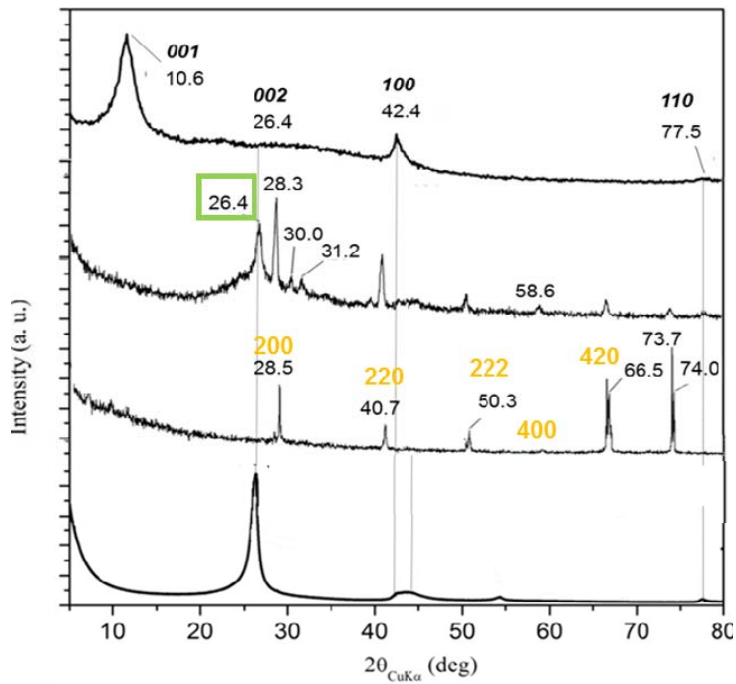
GO Staudenmeier

G(OH)-CHO after purification

G(OH)-CHO before purification

HSAG

# GOH – The Reimer-Tiemann reaction



G(OH)-CHO after purification

G(OH)-CHO before purification

**KCl**  
has the ability to interact  
with graphene layers!

