



# SUSTAINABLE FUNCTIONALIZATION OF $sp^2$ CARBON ALLOTROPES AS FILLERS FOR RUBBER COMPOUNDS WITH LOWER DISSIPATION OF ENERGY

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

➤ Strategy of Research

➤ C-3 building blocks

➤ Valorization:

functionalization of carbon allotropes

reinforcement of diene elastomers



## **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”



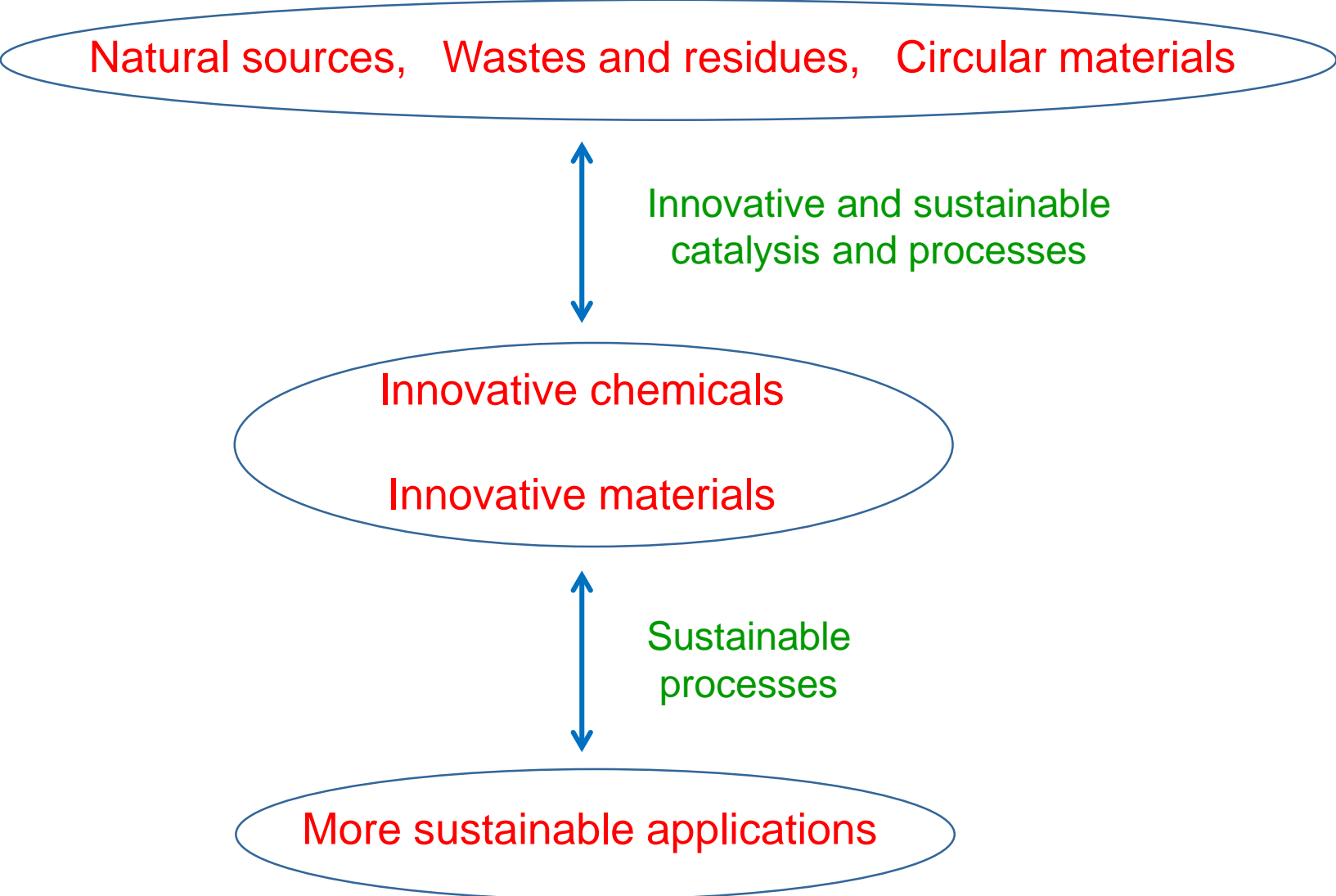
## **ISCaMaP**

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## **Strategy of Research**

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

# Strategy: sustainability for innovation



Natural sources

Wastes and residues

```
graph TD; A[Natural sources] --> C[Building blocks for chemical platforms]; B[Wastes and residues] --> C;
```

Building blocks  
for chemical platforms

Natural sources

Wastes and residues

Building blocks  
for chemical platforms

```
graph TD; A[Natural sources] --> B[Building blocks for chemical platforms]; C[Wastes and residues] --> B; B --> D[Innovative chemicals]; B --> E[Innovative materials];
```

Innovative  
chemicals

Innovative  
materials

Natural sources

Wastes and residues

Building blocks  
for chemical platforms

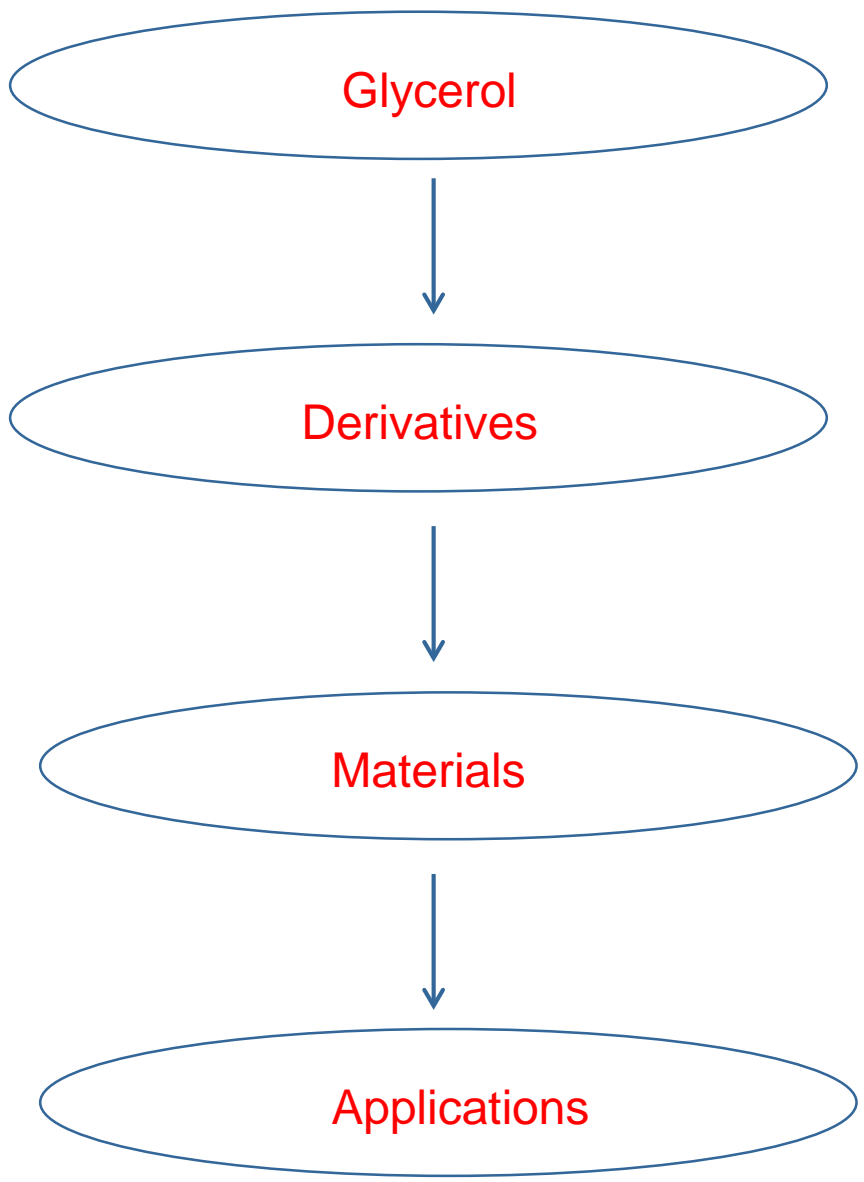
Innovative  
chemicals

Innovative  
materials

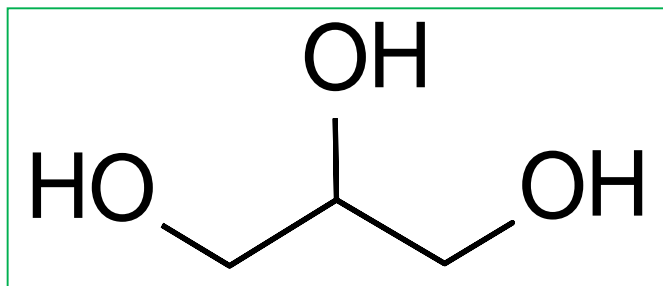
👉 Chemicals, Additives, Modifiers, Polymers



# The ISCaMaP Group. One example



# Glycerol



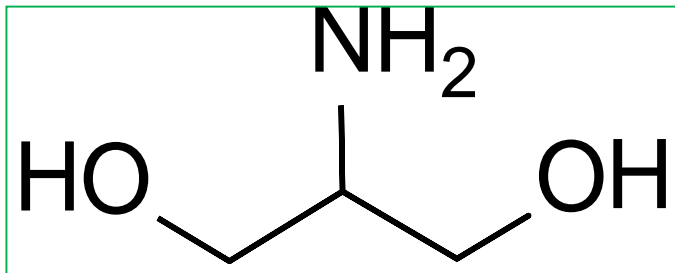
IUPAC: propane-1,2,3-triol

Formula:  $C_3H_8O_3$

92.09 Da

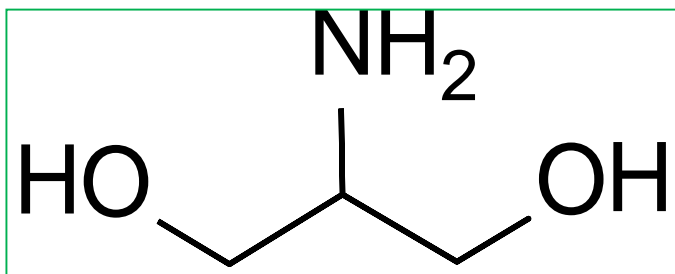
- ☞ easily available, cheap raw material
- ☞ main by-product of bio-diesel production
- ☞ not toxic
- ☞ biodegradable

## Selection of the building block: serinol



- ➔ Starting building block for many reaction pathways: many derivatives
- ➔ Chemoselectivity

## Selection of the building block: serinol



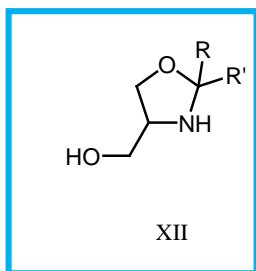
- ➡ Starting building block for many reaction pathways: many derivatives
- ➡ Chemoselectivity



Reactions of the amino group with carbonyl compounds

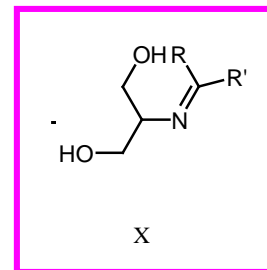
# Specific reactions of serinol with carbonyl compounds.

Without steric hindrance  
and aromatic substituents



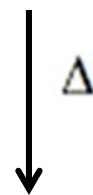
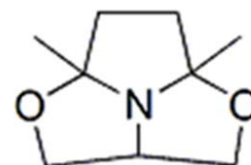
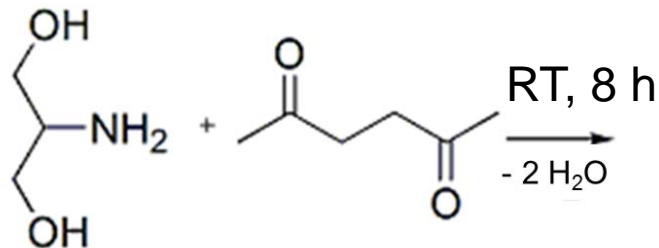
Oxazolidines

With steric hindrance  
and aromatic substituents

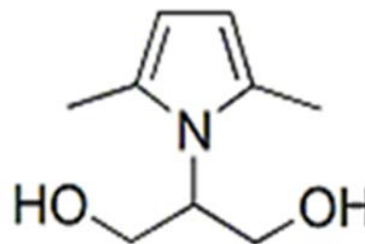


Imines

# Reaction of serinol with dicarbonyl compound



180°C, 3 h

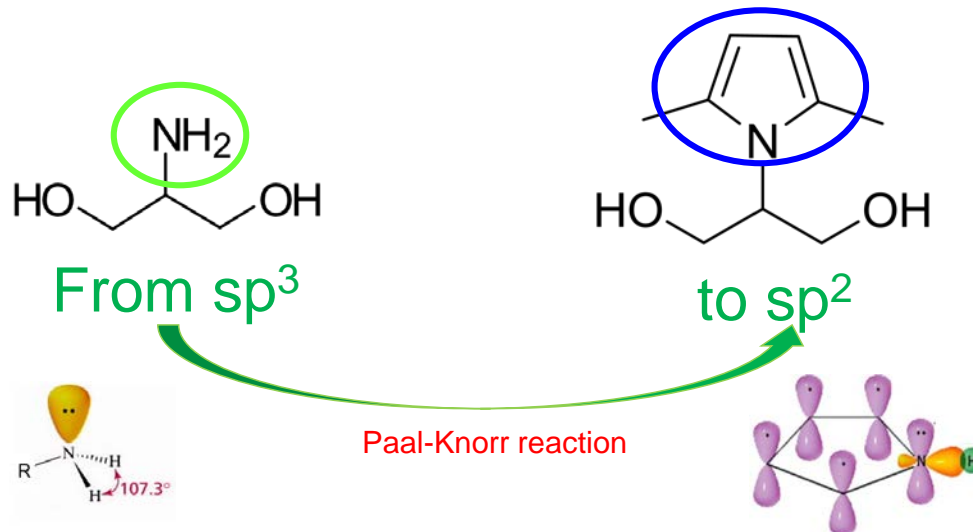


Serinol pyrrole - SP

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

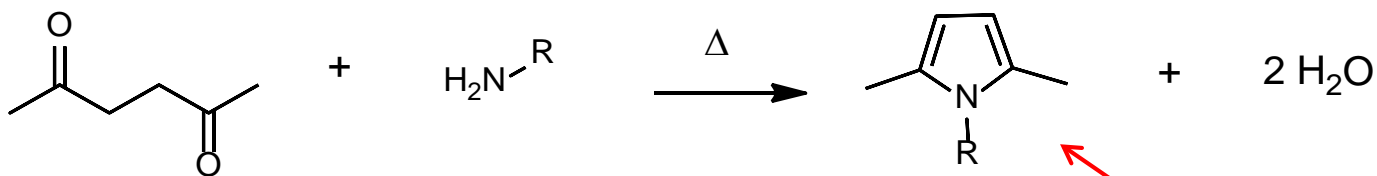
- V. Barbera, A. Citterio, M. Galimberti, G. Leonardi, R. Sebastiano, S.U. Shisodia, A.M. Valerio *WO 2015 189411 A1*  
M. Galimberti, V. Barbera, A. Citterio, R. Sebastiano, A. Truscillo, A. M. Valerio, L. Conzatti, R. Mendichi, *Polymer*, vol 63, 20 April 2015, Pages 62–70  
M. Galimberti, V. Barbera, 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

# Neat synthesis of Serinol pyrrole



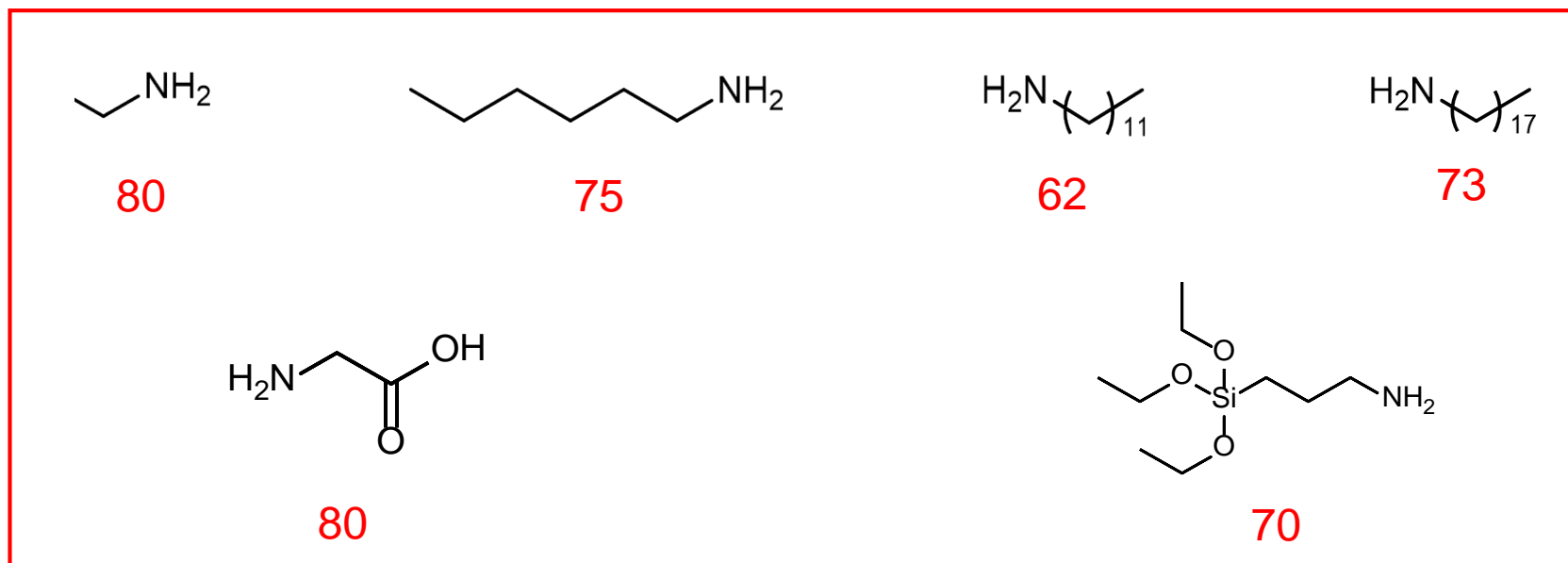
- ➡ Yield: at least 96%
- ➡ Atom efficiency: 85%
- ➡ Easy procedure
- ➡ No solvent
- ➡ By product: H<sub>2</sub>O

# Pyrrole compounds (PyC) from neat Paal Knorr reaction



Same reaction conditions used for SP

Yield %





# Objectives of the research activity

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

# Objectives of the research activity

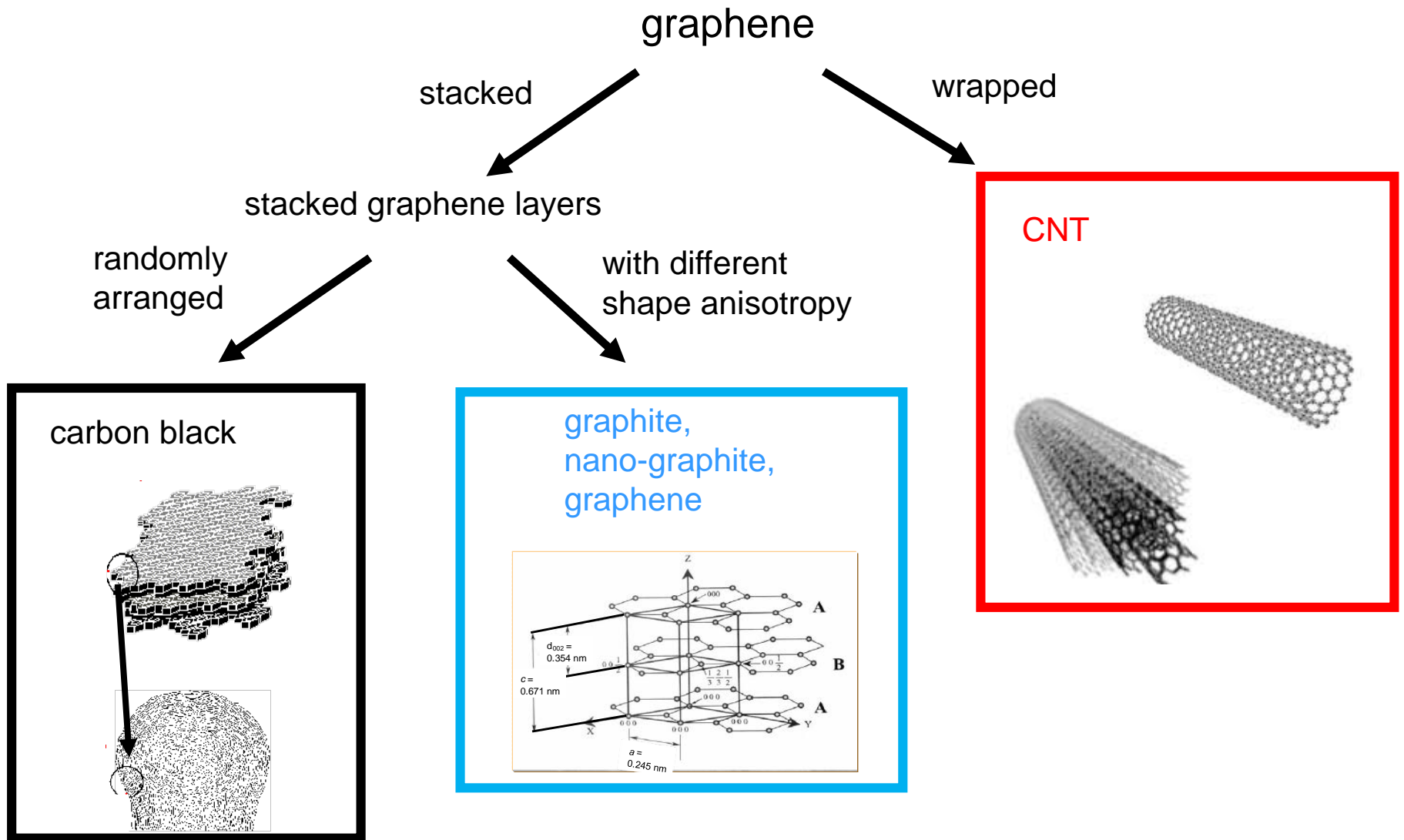
- 👉 To functionalize various carbon allotropes with a sustainable, facile, versatile method, preserving the  $sp^2$  hybridization
- 👉 To reduce the synthetic footprint in carbon allotropes functionalization
- 👉 To prepare tailor made materials, in view of the final application: reinforcement of diene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

# Functionalization of $sp^2$ carbon allotropes

## Playing with chemistry on $sp^2$ carbon allotropes

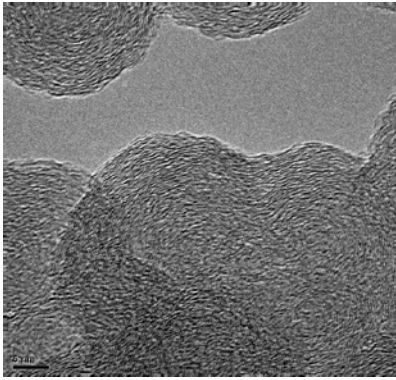
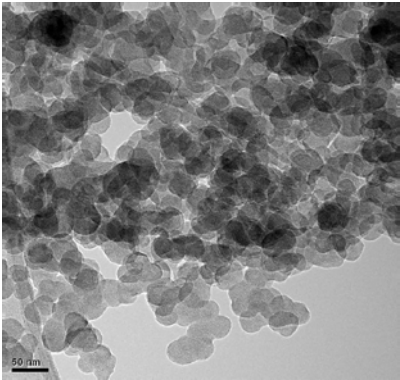


# Carbon fillers from a layer of $sp^2$ -bonded carbon atoms

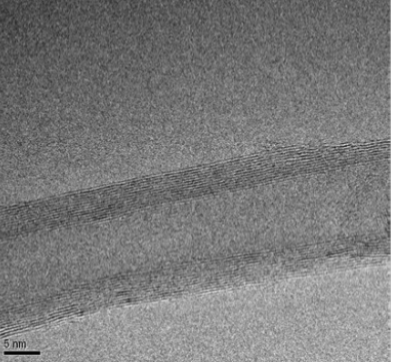
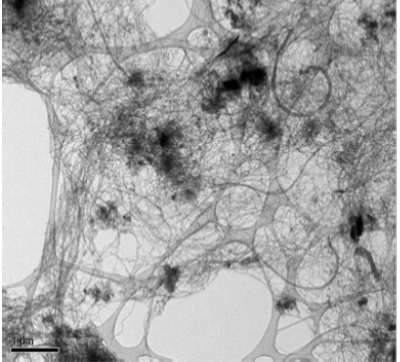


# Carbon allotropes (CA)

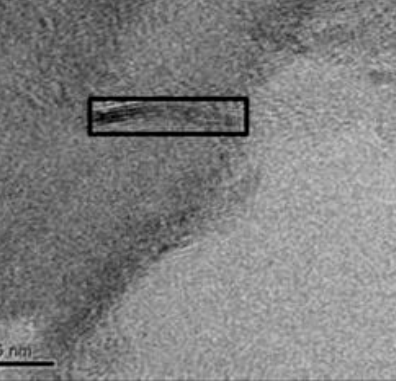
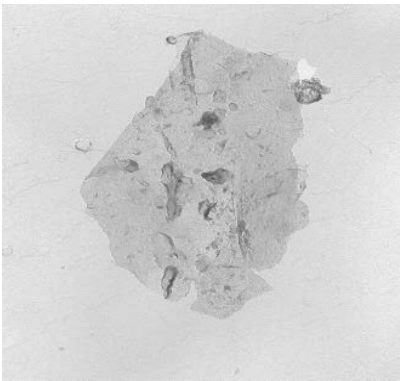
CB



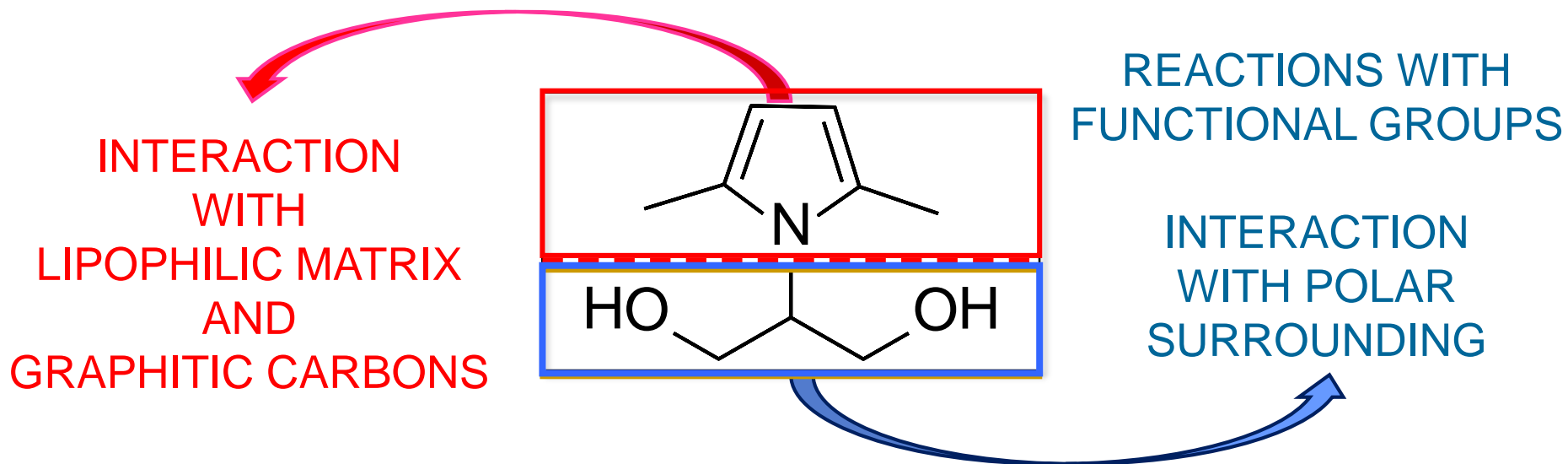
CNT



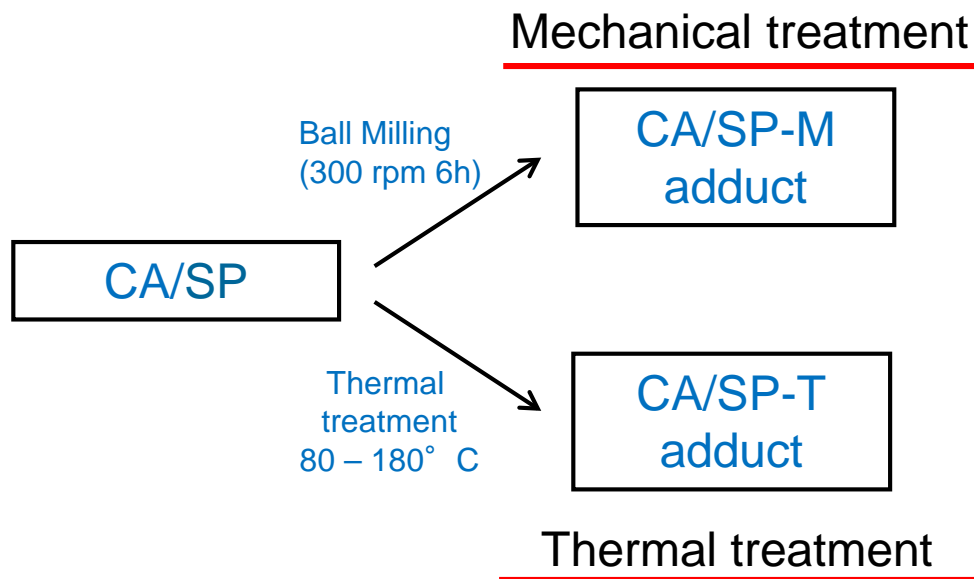
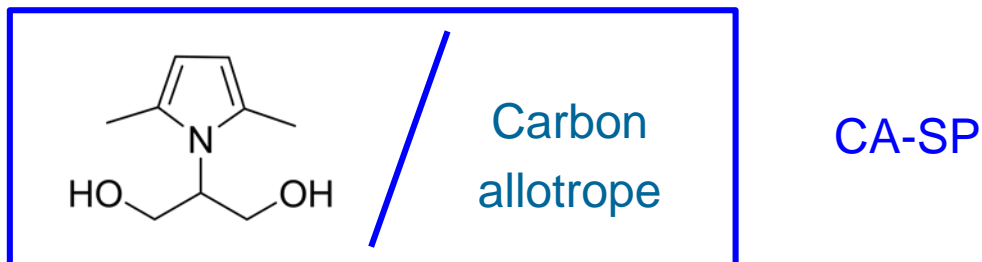
FEW LAYERS  
GRAPHENE



# Serinolpyrrole: *Janus* molecule

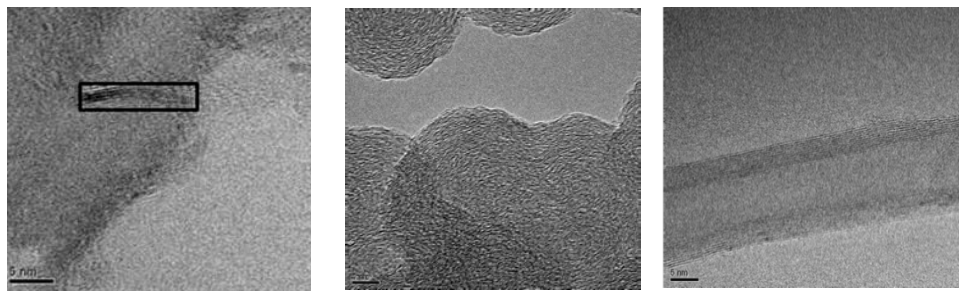


# Adducts of SP with CA - Preparation





# High yield functionalization!



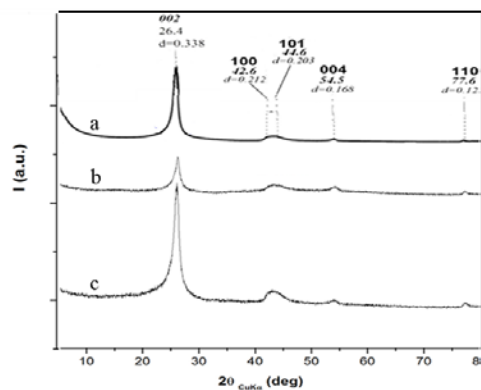
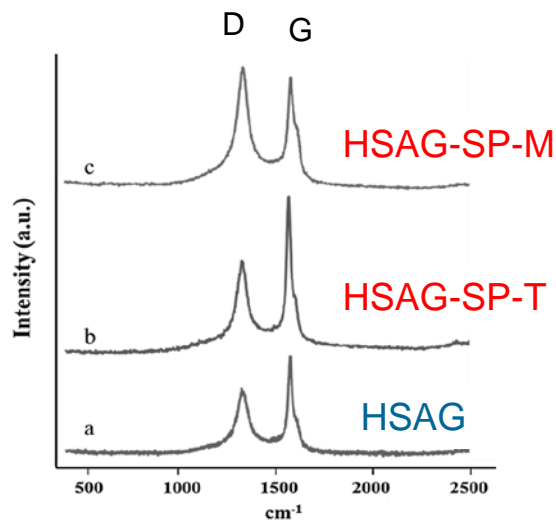
<b>BET Surface area:</b> [m <sup>2</sup> /g]	<b>300</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>275</b>
<b>Initial functional groups:</b> [mmol/g]	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Yields (%)*:</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>92</b>

\*was estimated through:

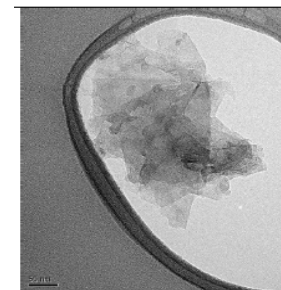
$$\text{Functionalization Yield (\%)} = 100 * \frac{\text{SP mass \% in (CA-SP adduct) after acetone washing}}{\text{SP mass \% in (CA-SP adduct) before acetone washing}}$$

# Adducts of SP with HSAG

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



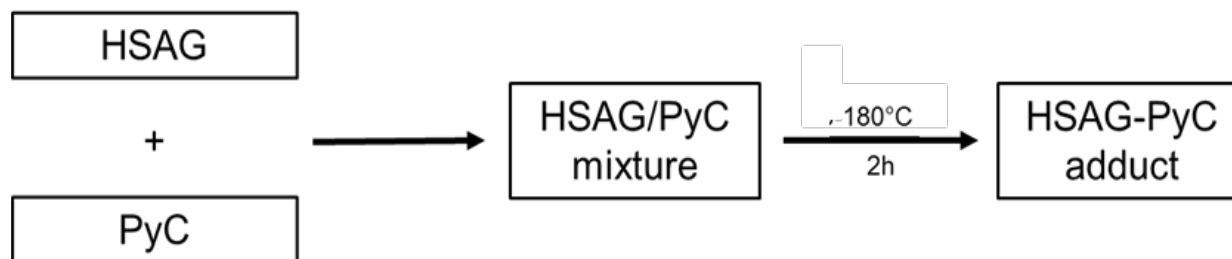
Few layers graphene



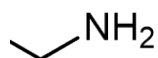
From water suspension

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

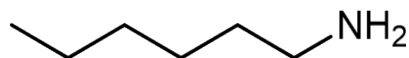
# HSAG / PyC adducts



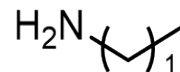
Functionalization Yield %



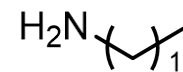
73



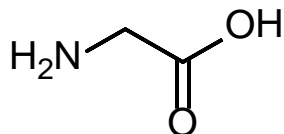
87



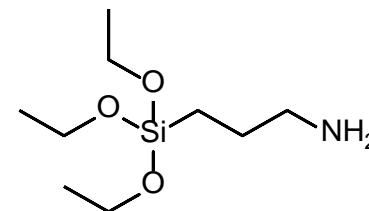
80



98



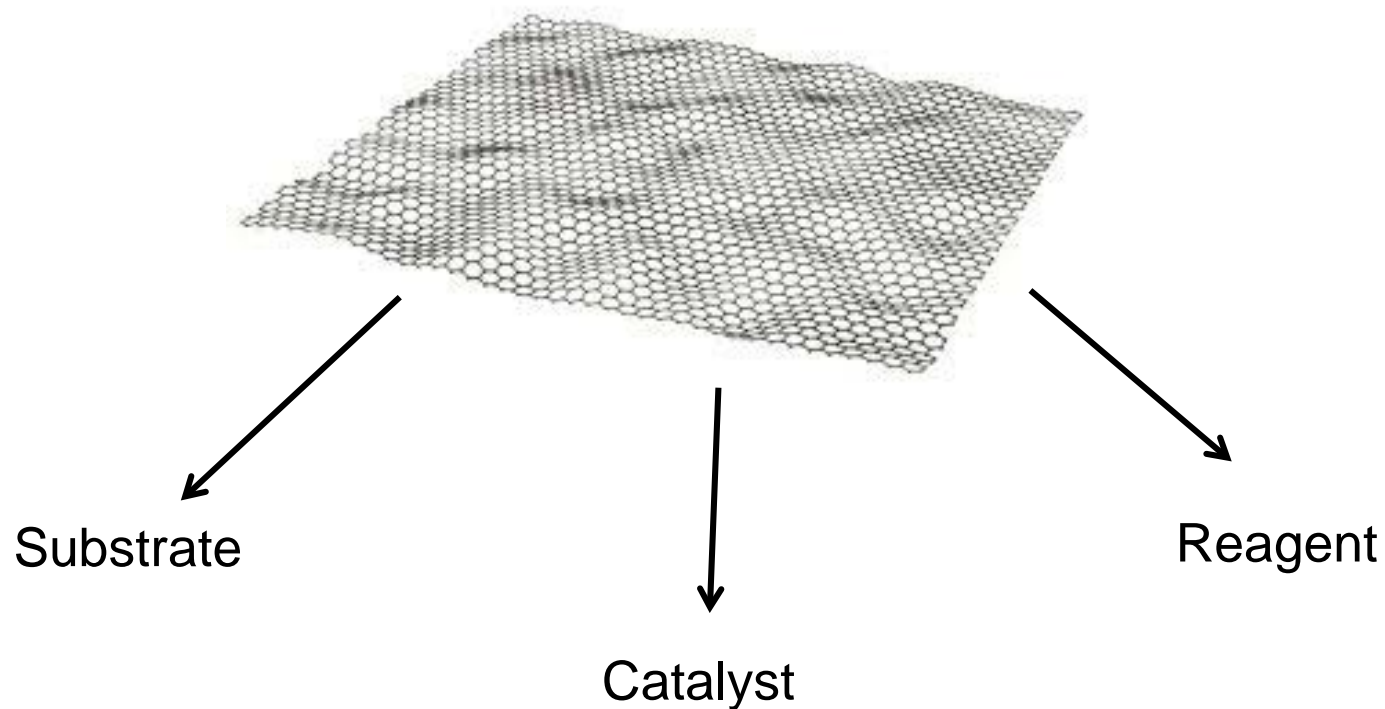
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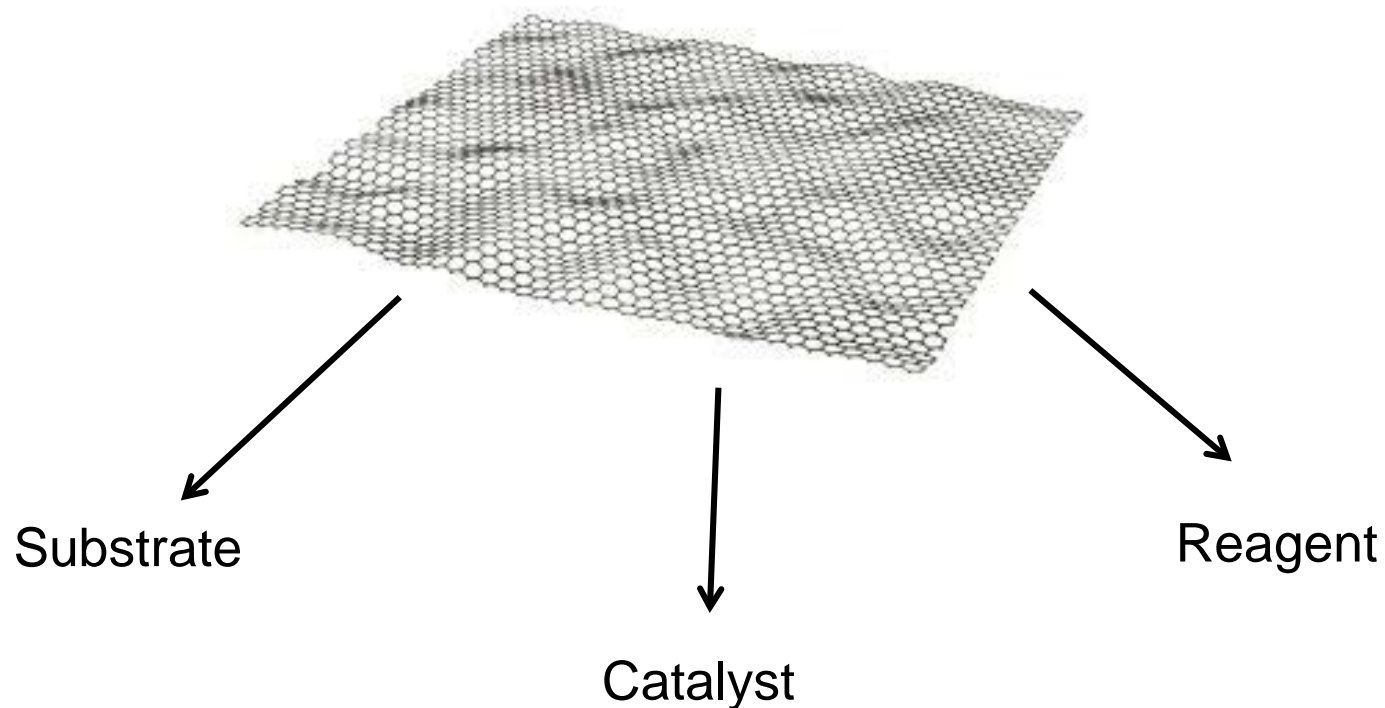
78

# Mechanistic considerations

## Manifold role for the carbon allotrope



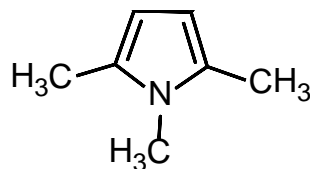
## Manifold role for the carbon allotrope



## Investigation of mechanisms

# Mechanism of the functionalization reaction

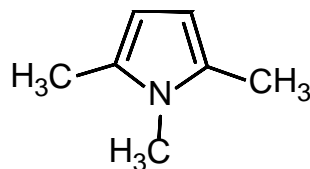
## Investigation with a model compound



1,2,5-Trimethylpyrrole  
(TMP)

# Mechanism of the functionalization reaction

## Investigation with a model compound



1,2,5-Trimethylpyrrole  
(TMP)

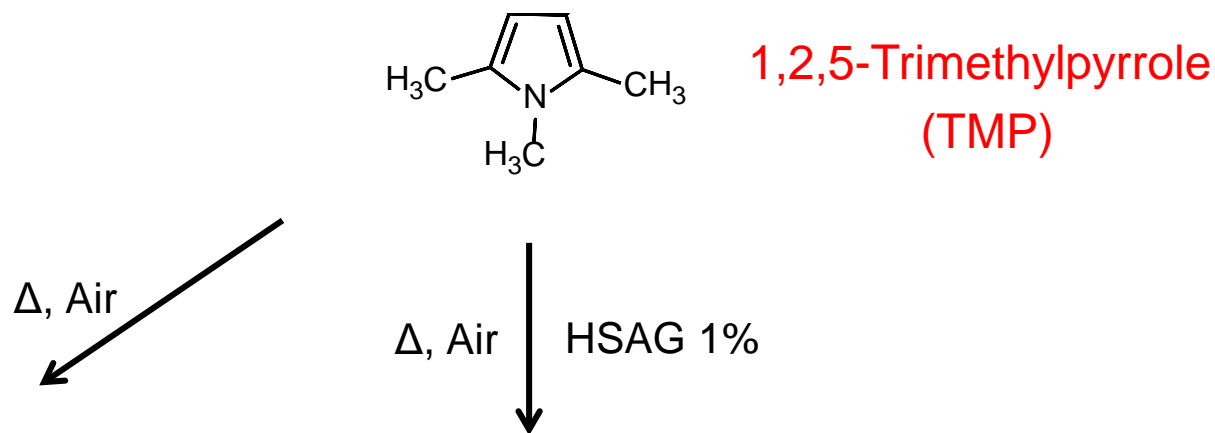
$\Delta$ , Air





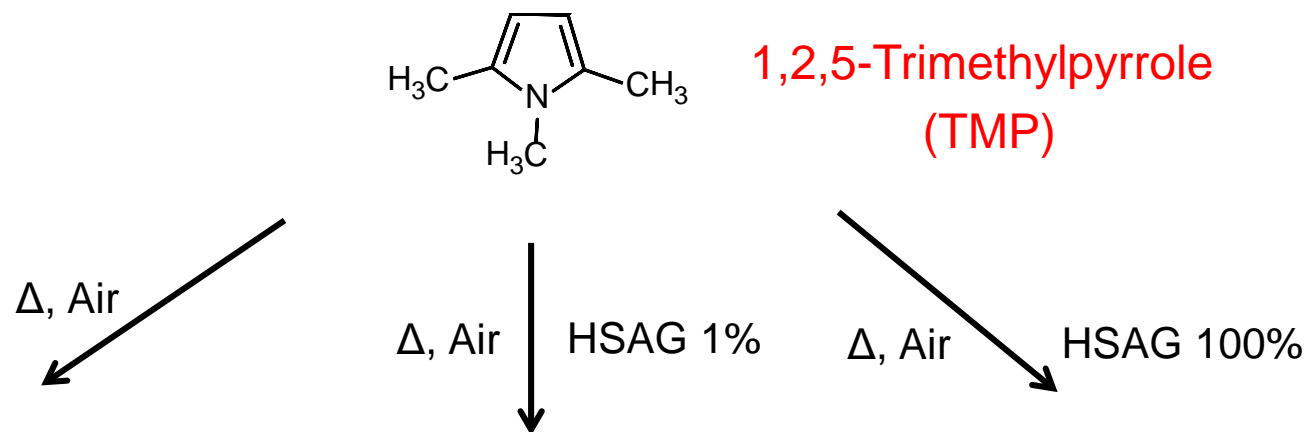
# Mechanism of the functionalization reaction

## Investigation with a model compound



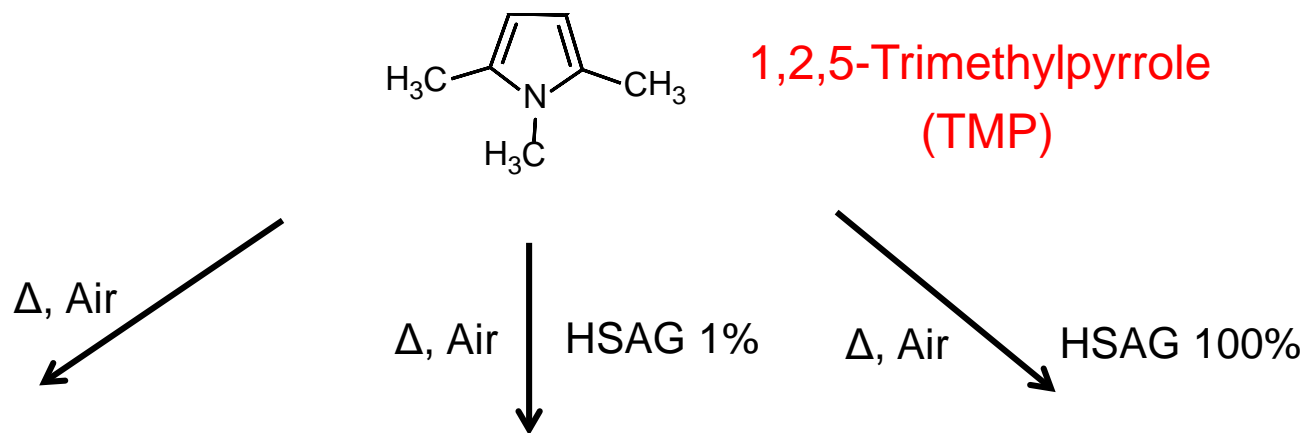
# Mechanism of the functionalization reaction

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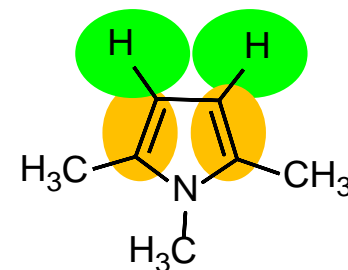
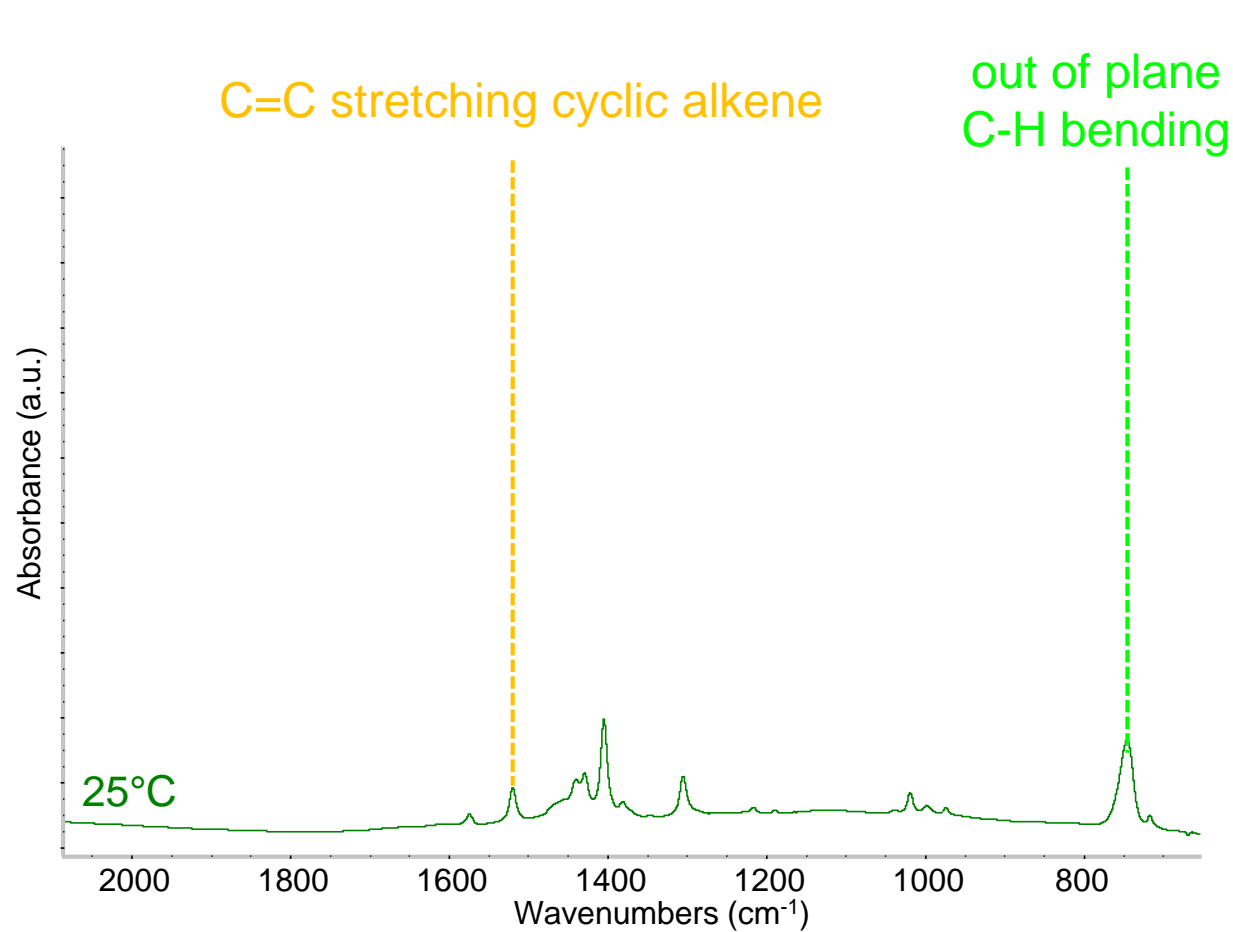
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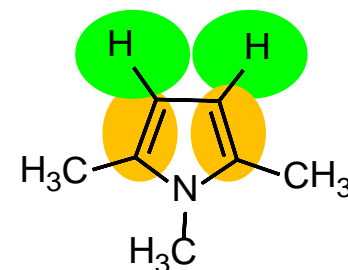
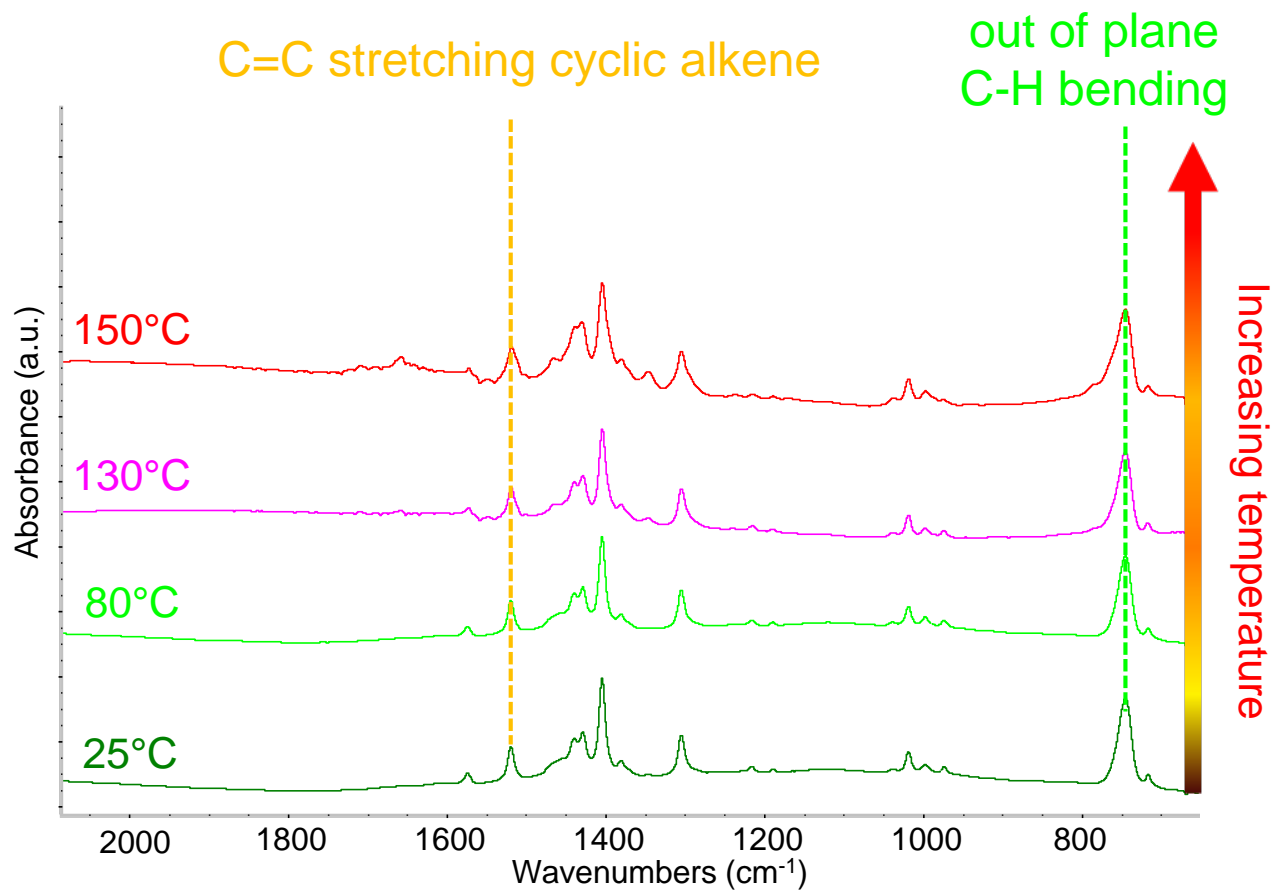
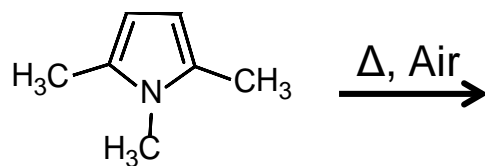


- ☞ Analysis of: liquids, HSAG/TMP adducts
- ☞ FT-IR and  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectroscopies
- ☞ FT-IR spectra generation with Density Functional Theory (DFT) quantum chemical modelling.

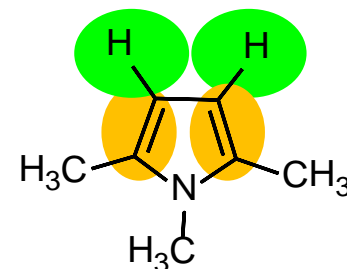
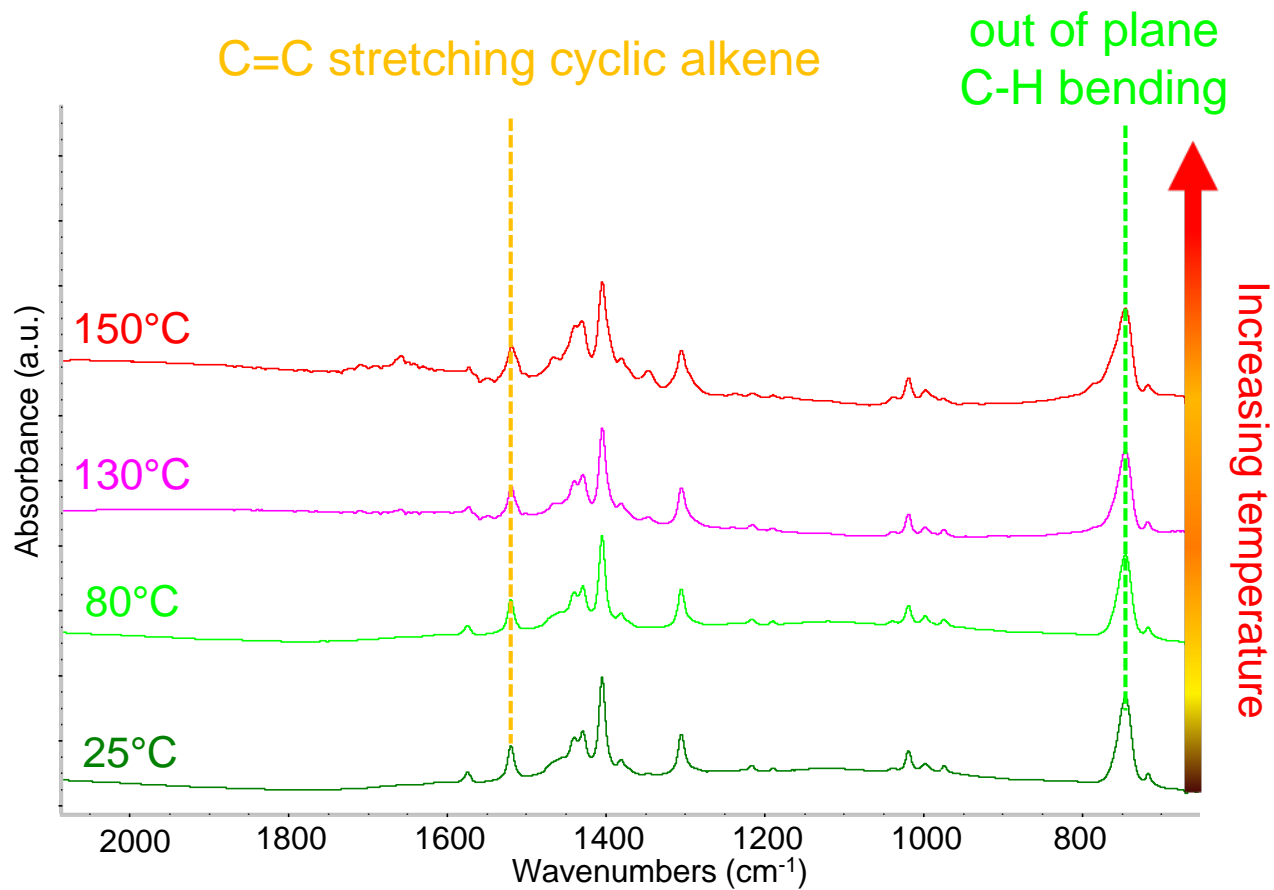
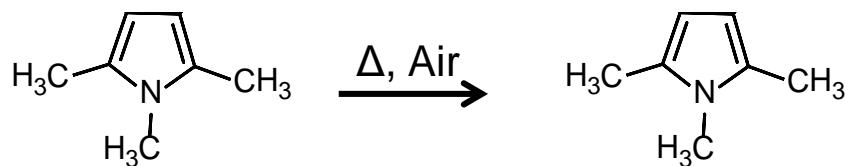
# 1,2,5-Trimethylpyrrole (TMP)



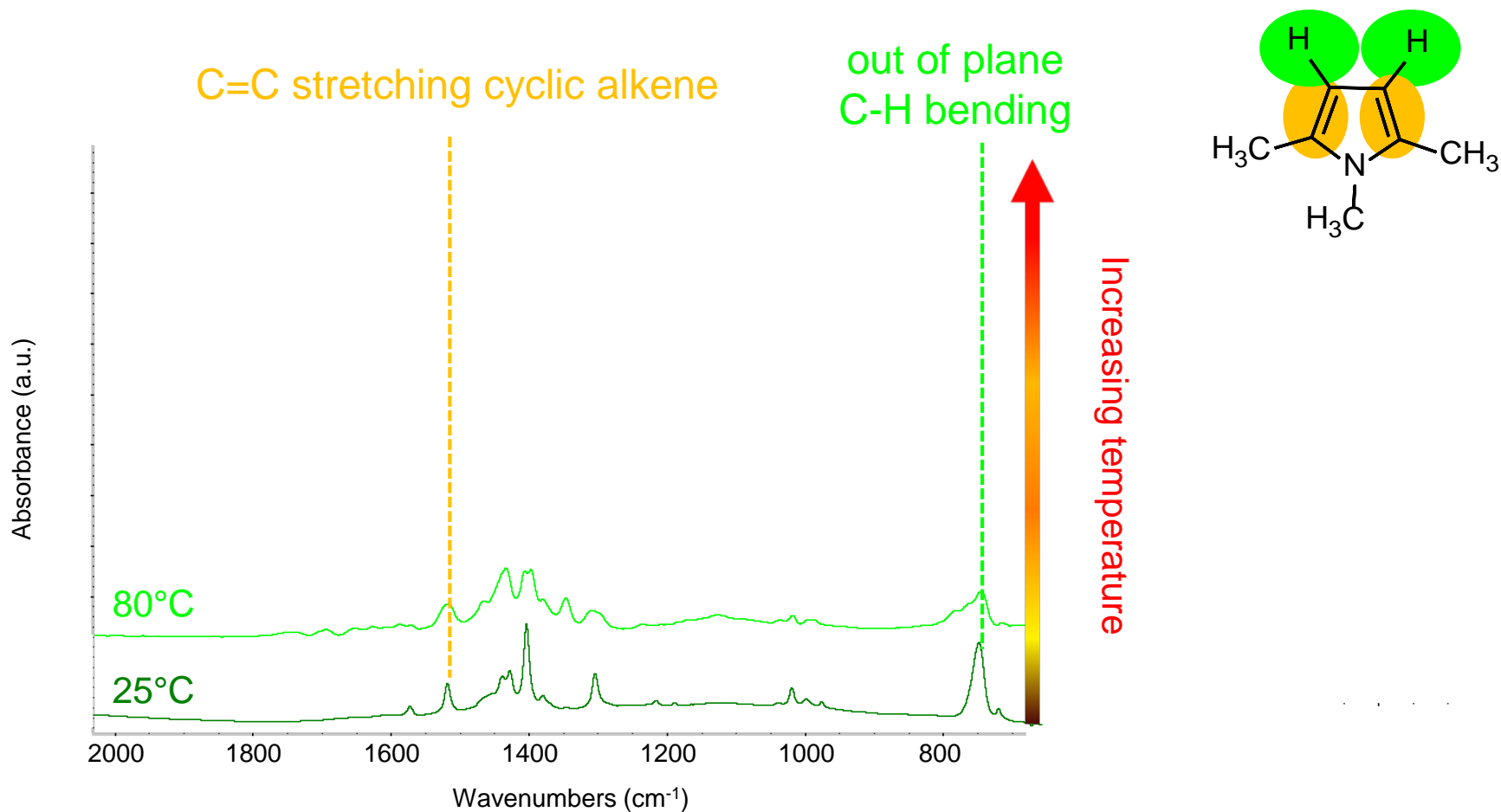
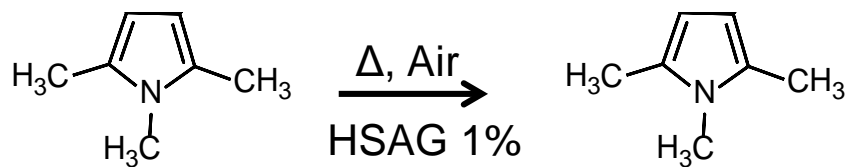
# TMP + Air - From 25°C to 150°C



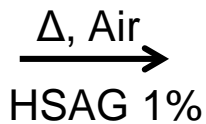
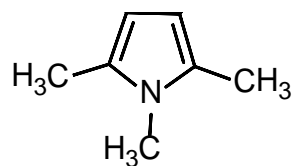
# TMP + Air - From 25°C to 150°C



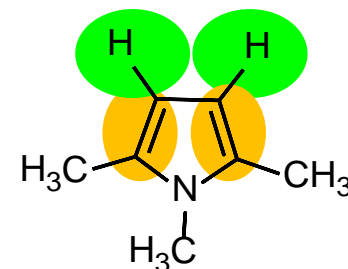
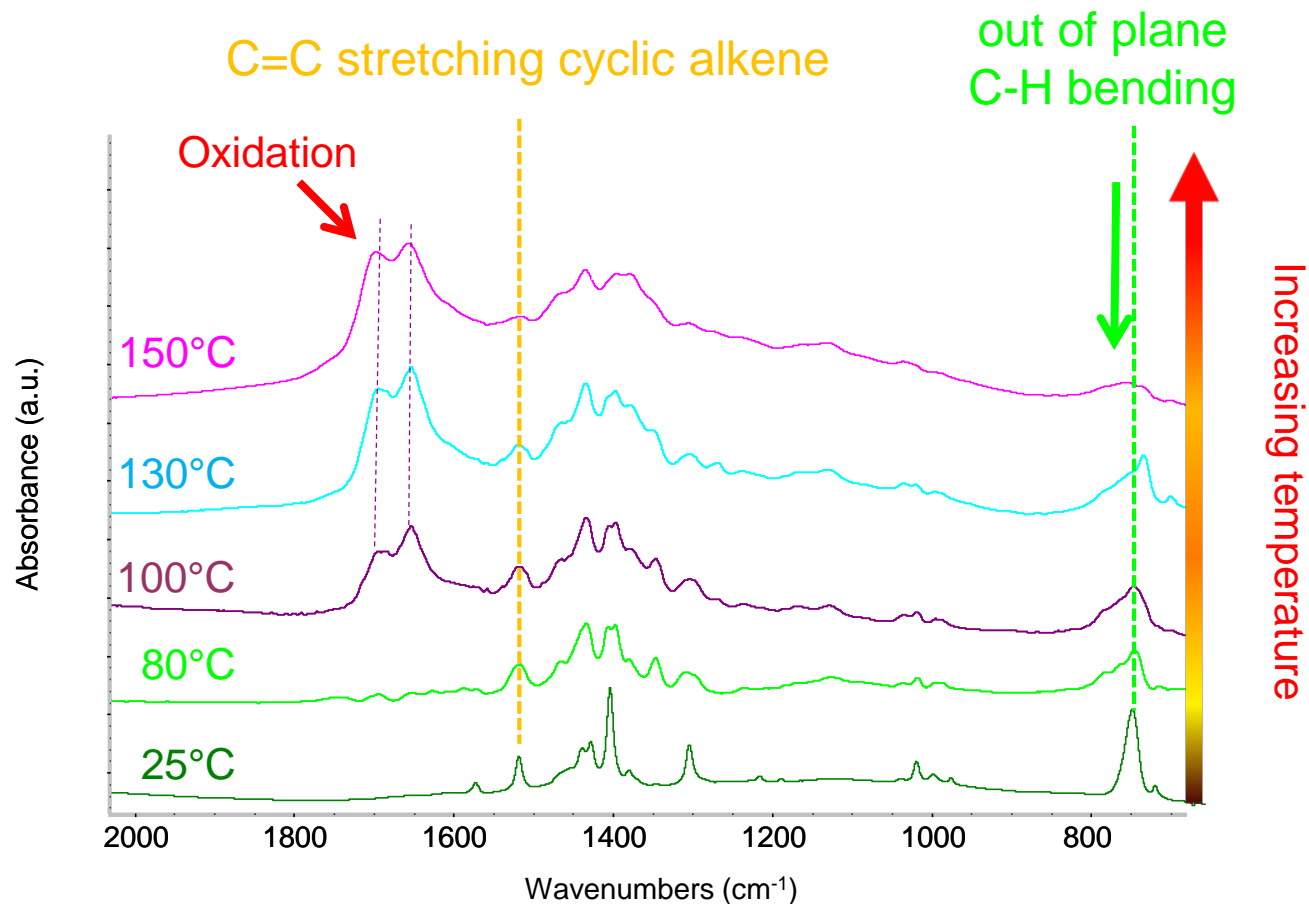
# TMP + HSAG 1% / Air - From 25°C to 80°C



# TMP + HSAG 1% - from 100°C to 150°C

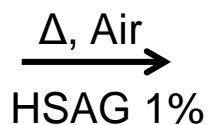
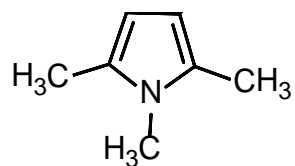


Oxidation products

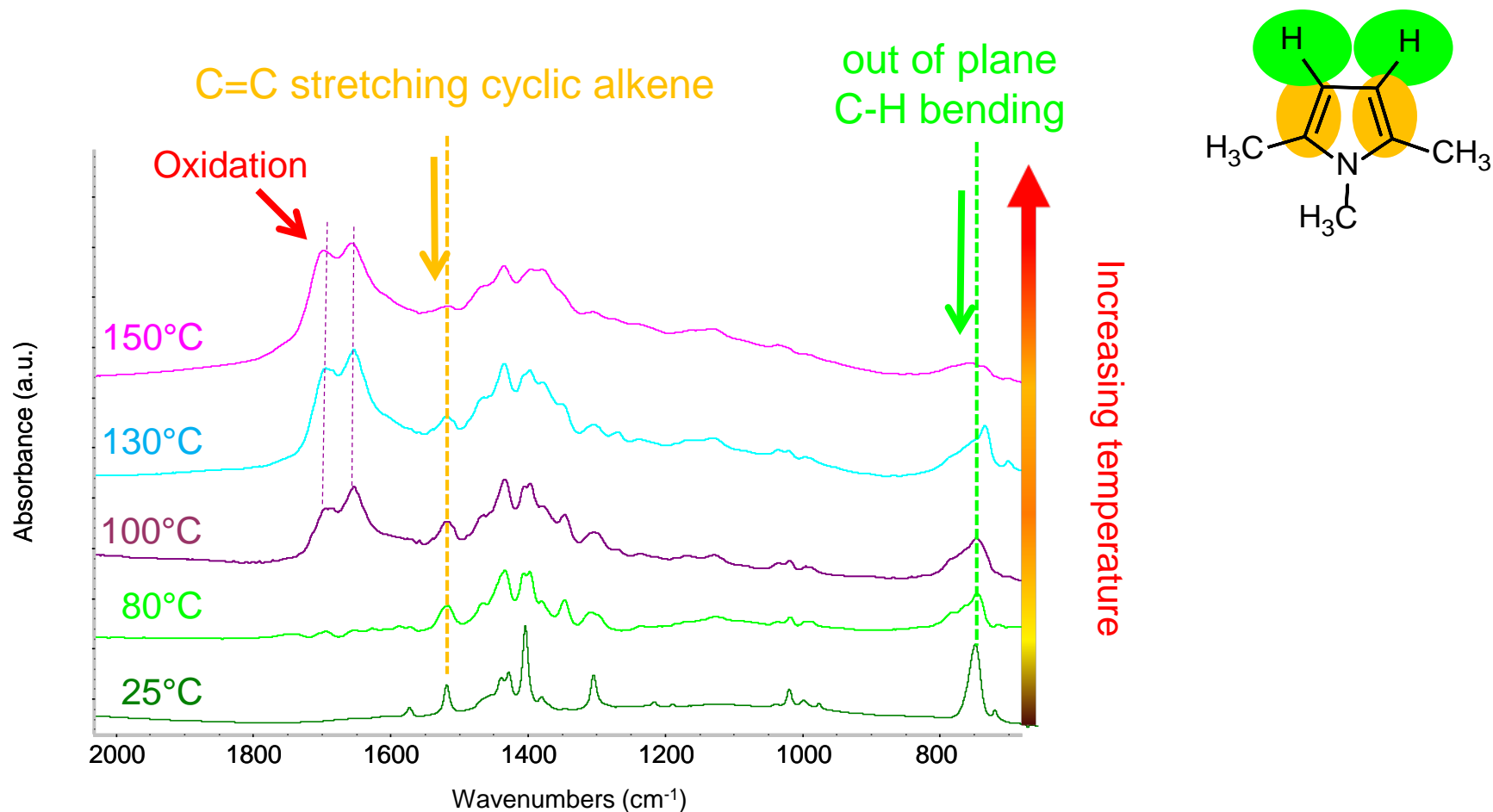




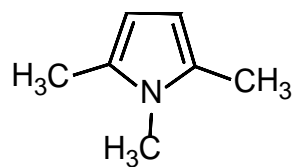
# TMP + HSAG 1% - @ 150°C



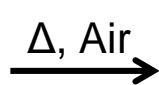
Reaction products of  
intra-annular double bonds



# TMP + HSAG 1/1 - from 25 to 150°C



+ HSAG

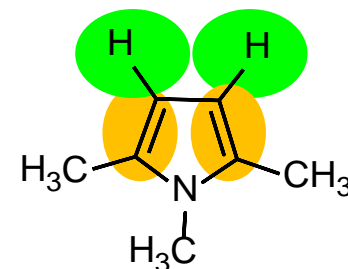
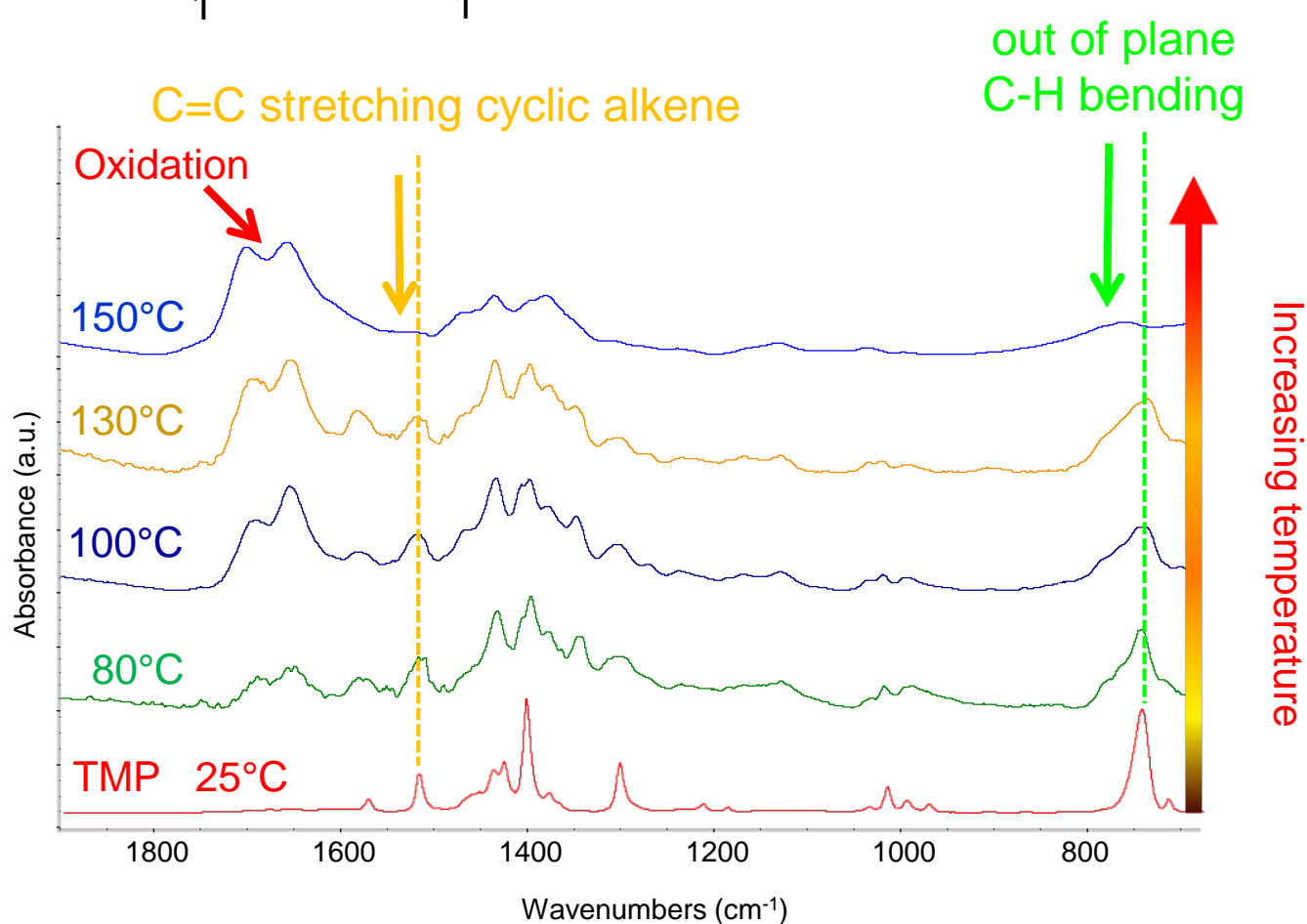


Oxidation products

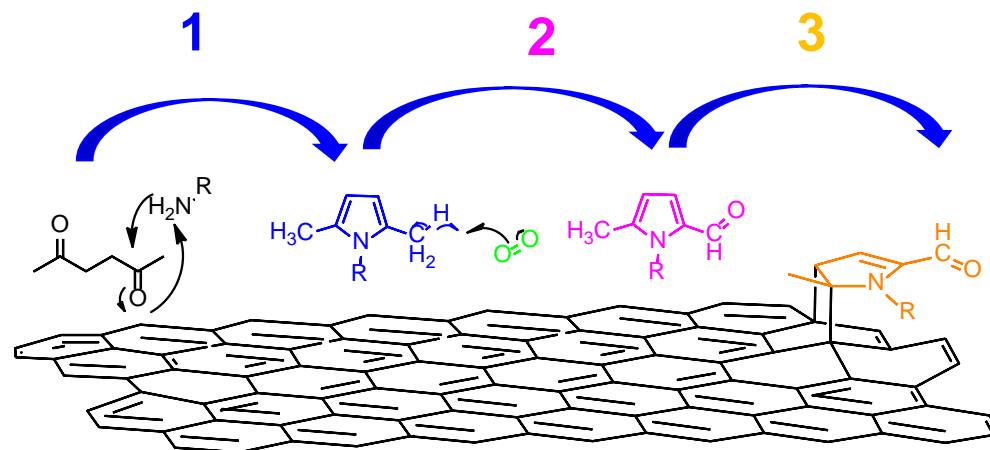
Reaction products of intra-annular double bonds

1

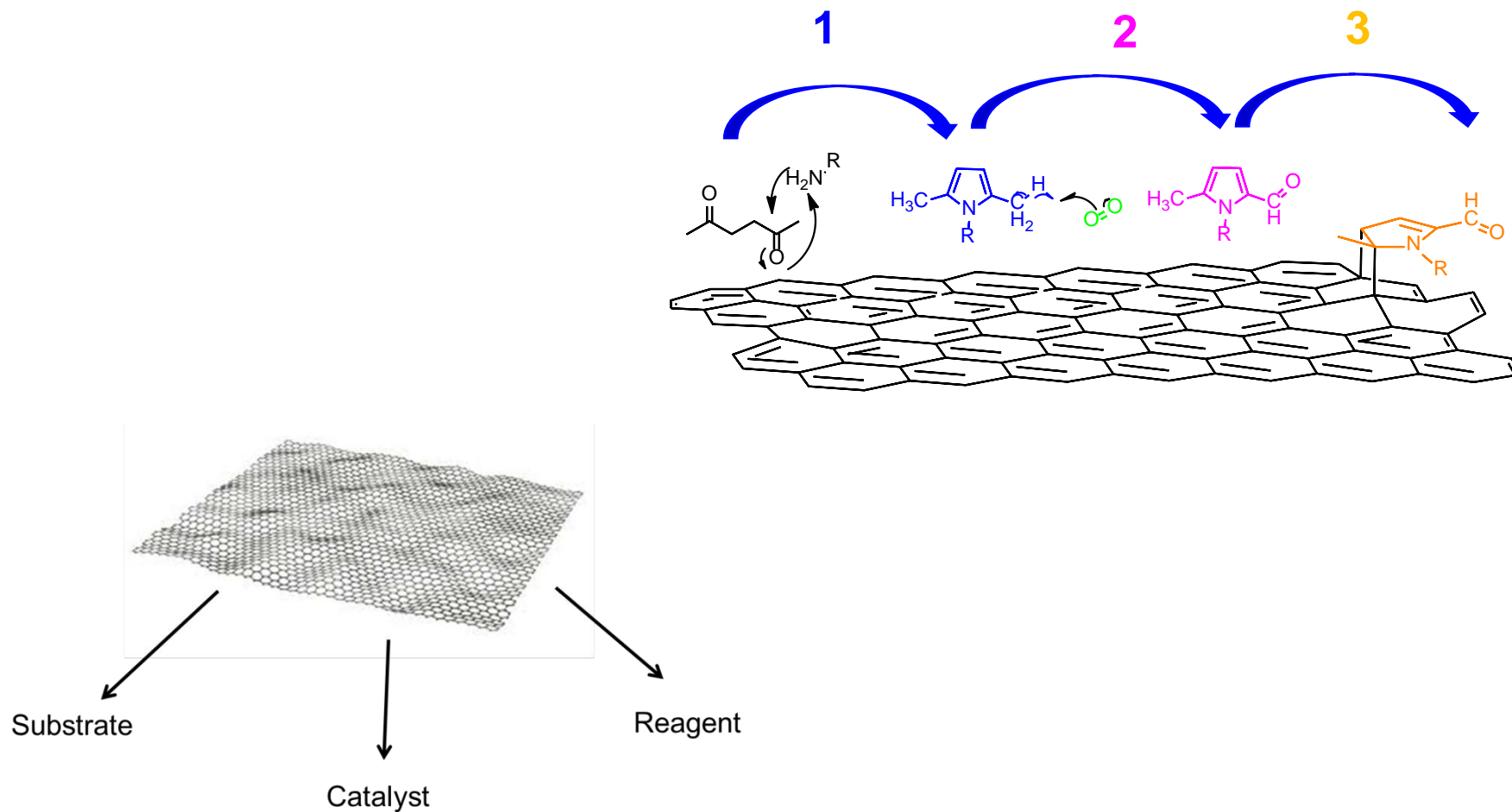
1



## Hypothesis for the mechanism

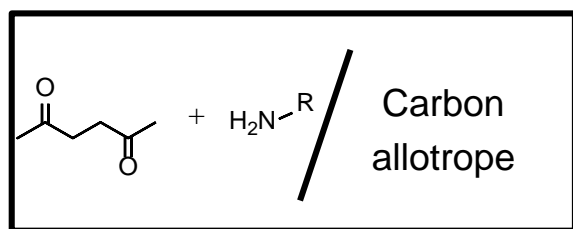


## Hypothesis for the mechanism



# Facile functionalization of carbon materials

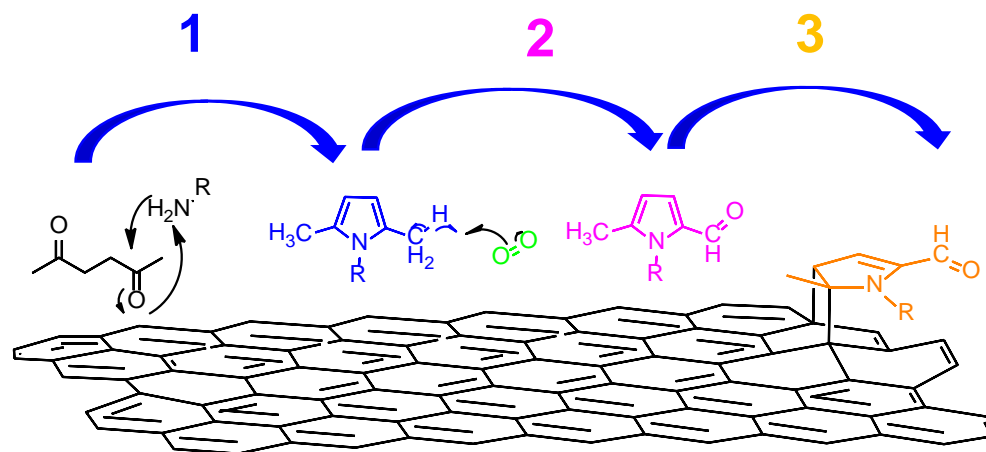
## Hypothesis for the mechanism



Paal – Knorr Reaction

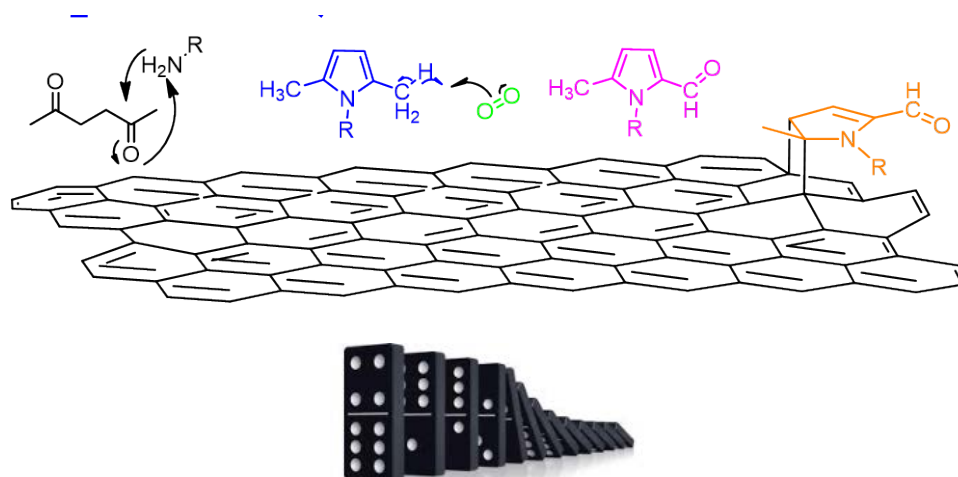
Carbocatalyzed Oxidation

Diels-Alder reaction



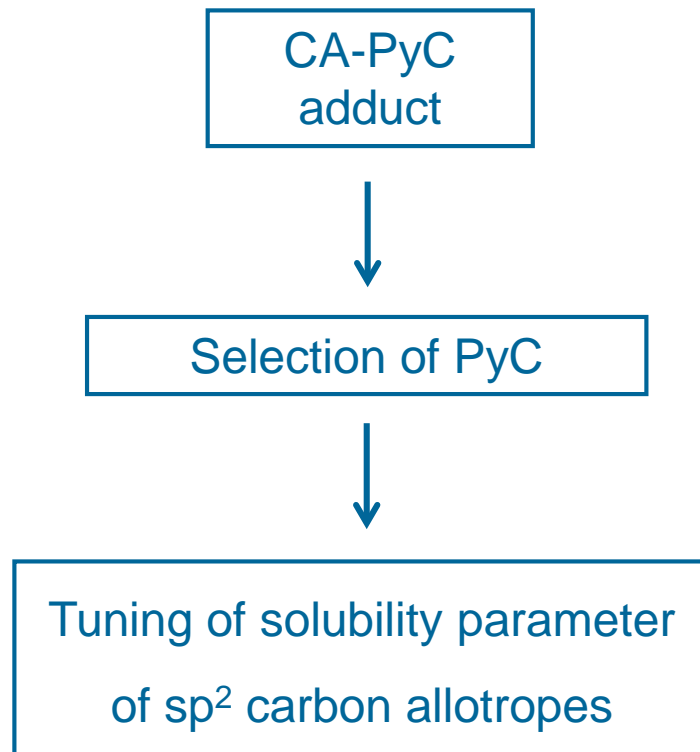
# Thanks to the carbon allotrope!

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



# Applications

# Tuning of solubility parameter of $sp^2$ carbon allotropes (CA)





# CA / PyC adducts - Tuning of solubility parameters

Experimental determination

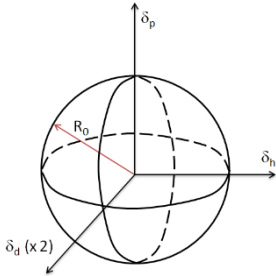


Stable suspensions  
in solvents  
with different  $\delta$

Theoretical predictions



Computational model:  
Hansen solubility parameters

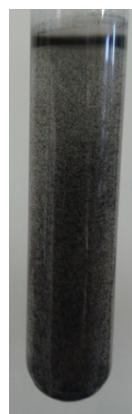


# Evaluation of solubility parameters of HSAG-PyC - Experiments

Adduct	solvents				
	water	isopropanol	ethyl acetate	toluene	heptane
TMP	bad (↓)	good	good	good	good
EP	bad (↑)	bad (↓)	good	bad (↓)	good
DDcP	bad (↑)	good	good	bad (↓)	bad (↓)
APTESP	bad (↑)	bad (↓)	bad (↓)	good	good
Gly	bad (↓)	good	good	good	bad (↓)
SP	good	good	good	bad (↓)	bad (↓)



No suspension:  
**bad**



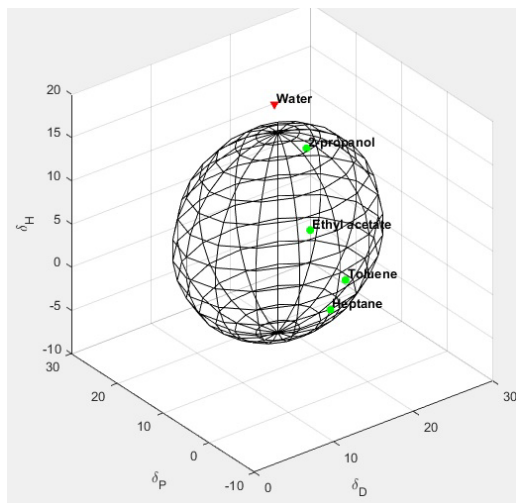
Unstable suspension:  
**bad**



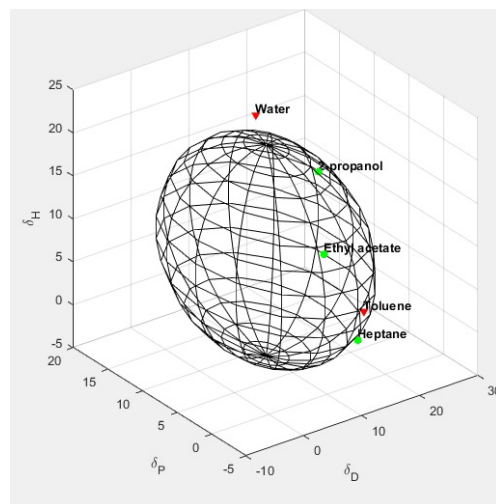
Stable suspension:  
**good**

# Evaluation of solubility parameters of HSAG-PyC - Hansen sphere

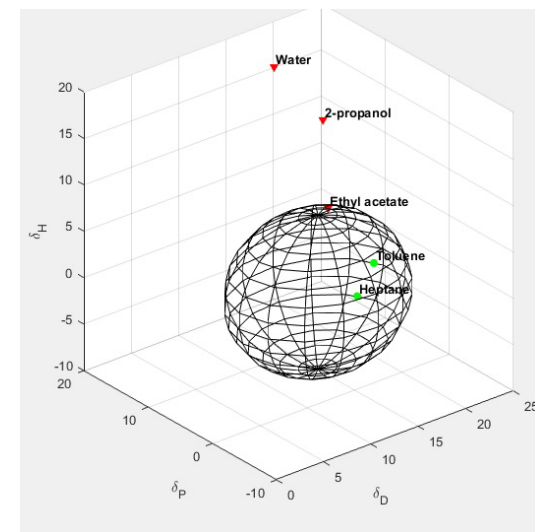
## HSAG-TMP



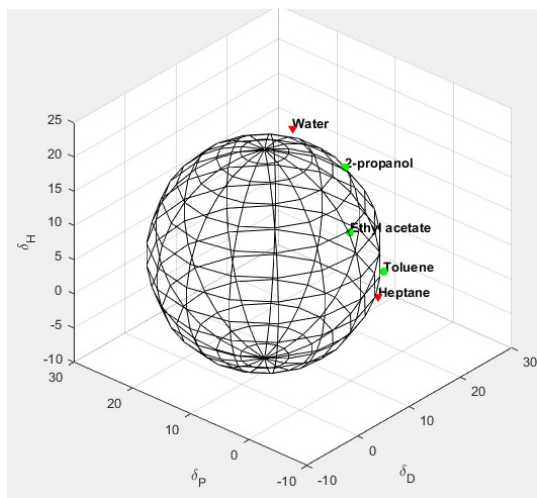
## HSAG-DDcP



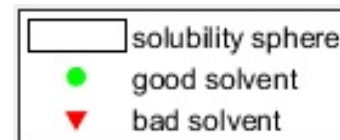
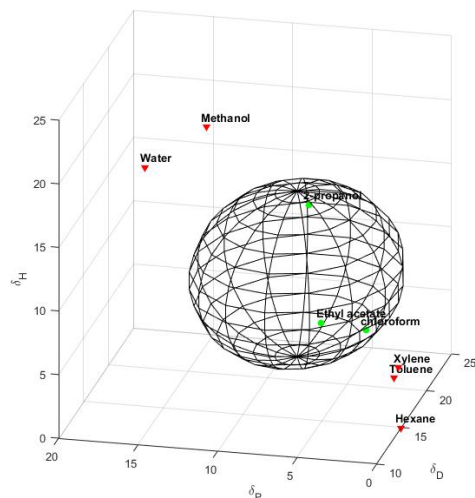
## HSAG-APTESP



## HSAG-GlyP



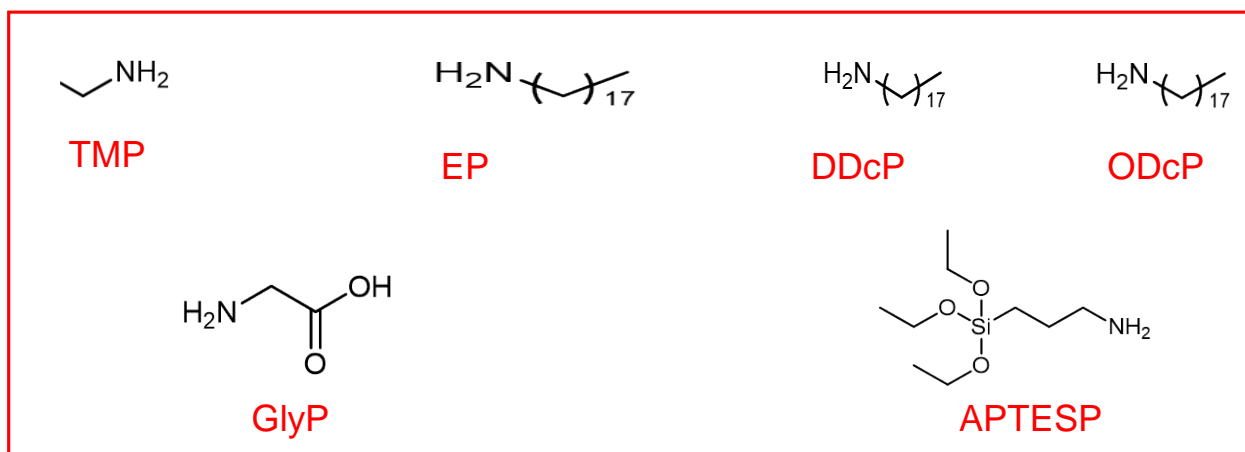
## HSAG-SP



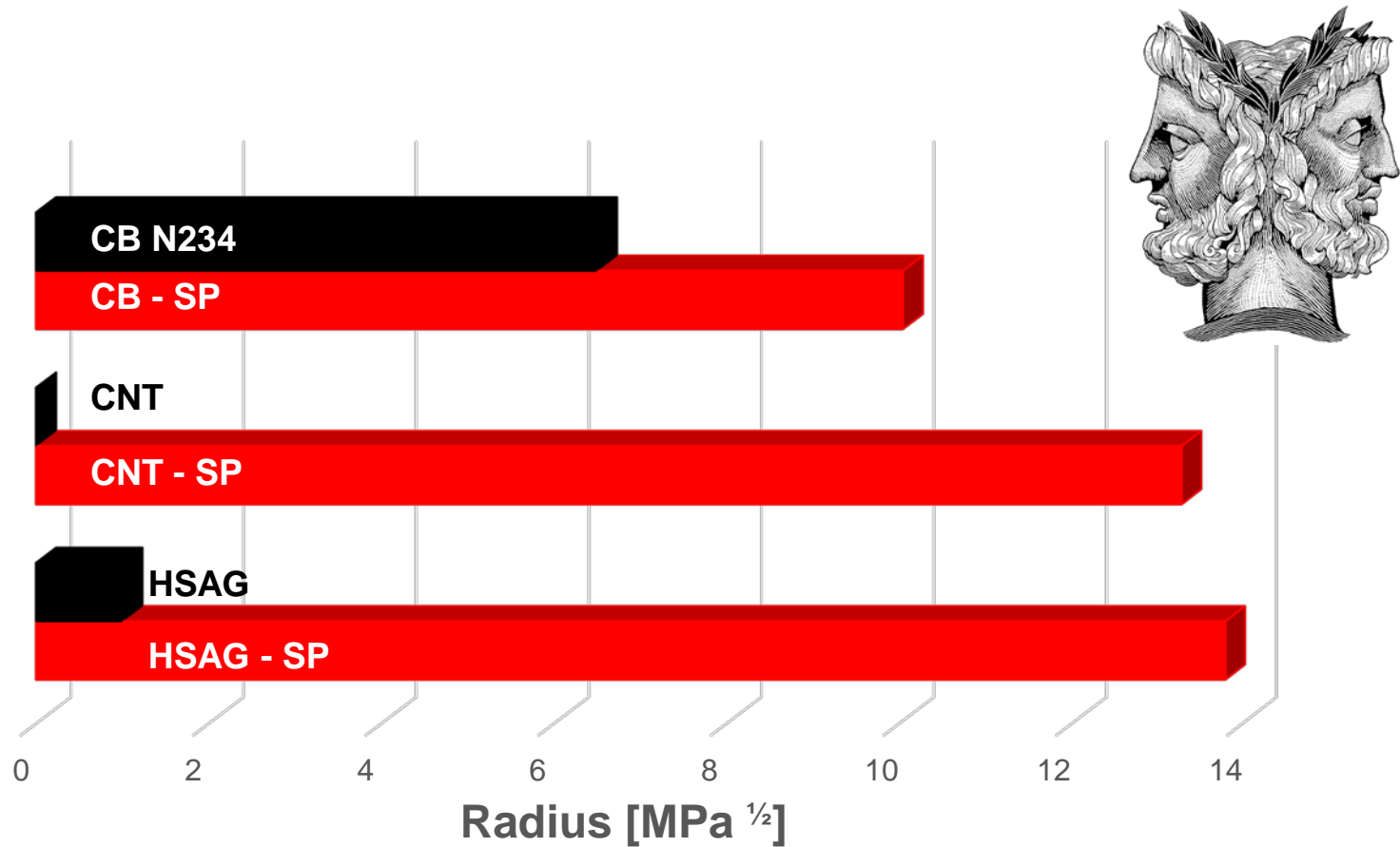
# Evaluation of solubility parameters of HSAG-PyC - $\delta$ values

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

Amount of PyC on HSAG:  
about 5% mol

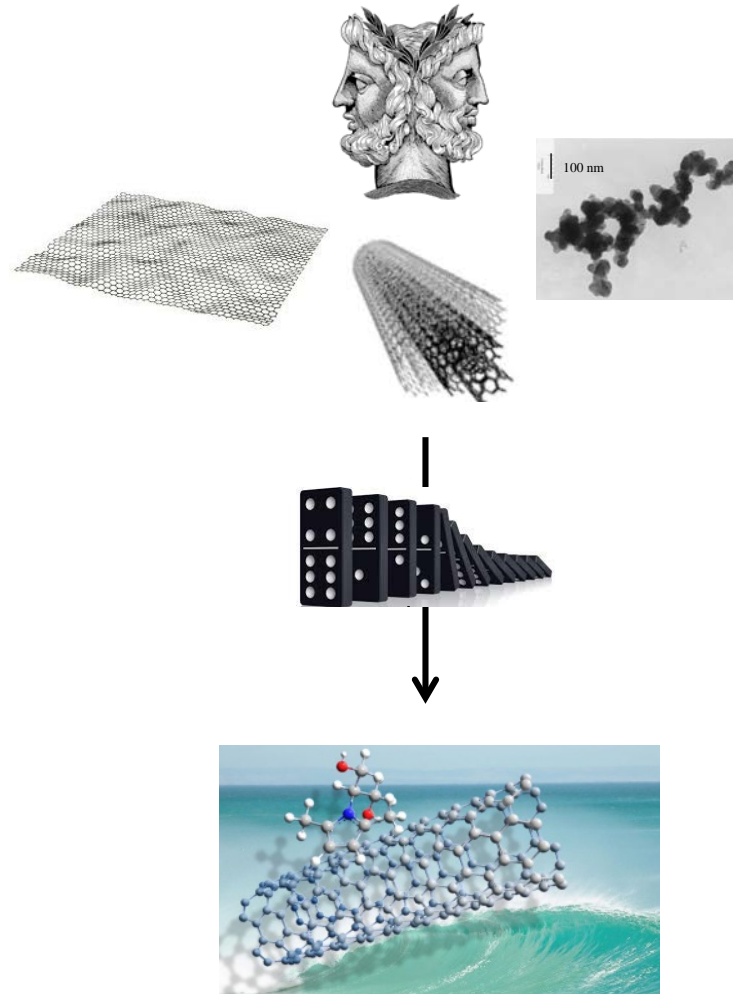


# Evaluation of solubility parameters of CA-SP - Radius comparison



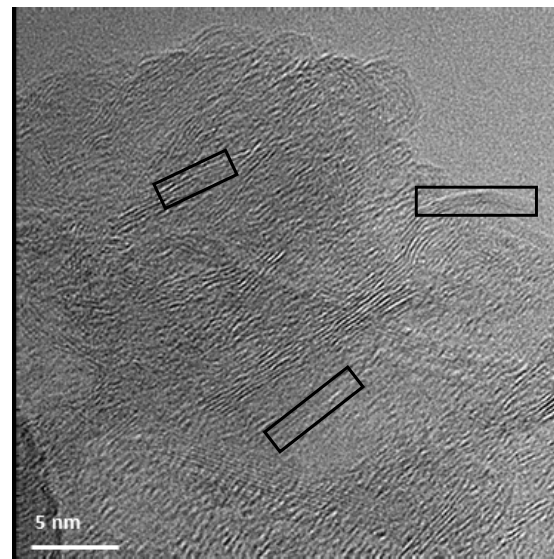
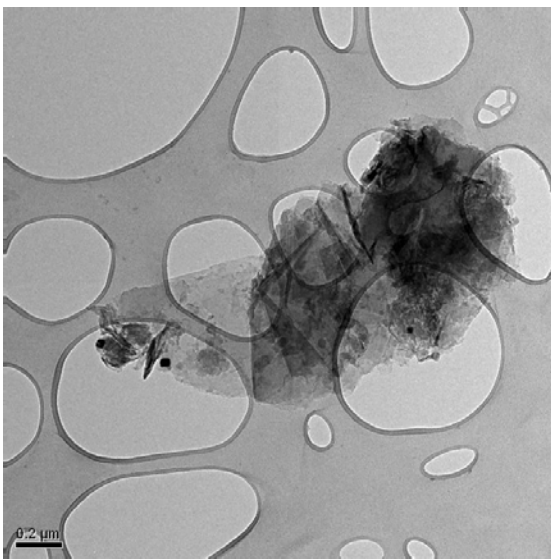
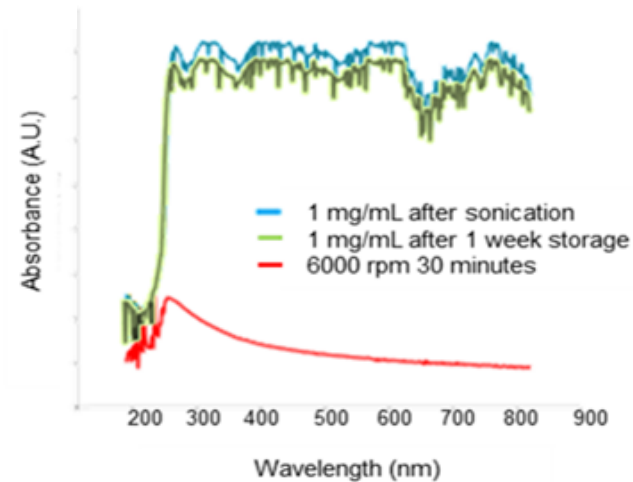
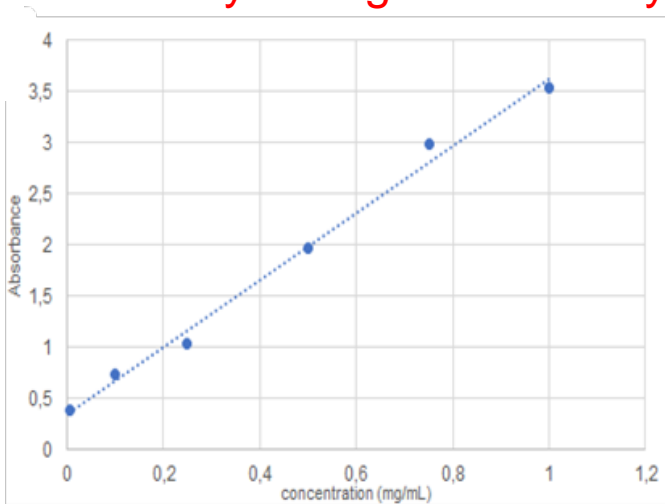
(\*) Amount of SP on CA: 10 mass%

# Applications of functionalized $sp^2$ carbon allotropes



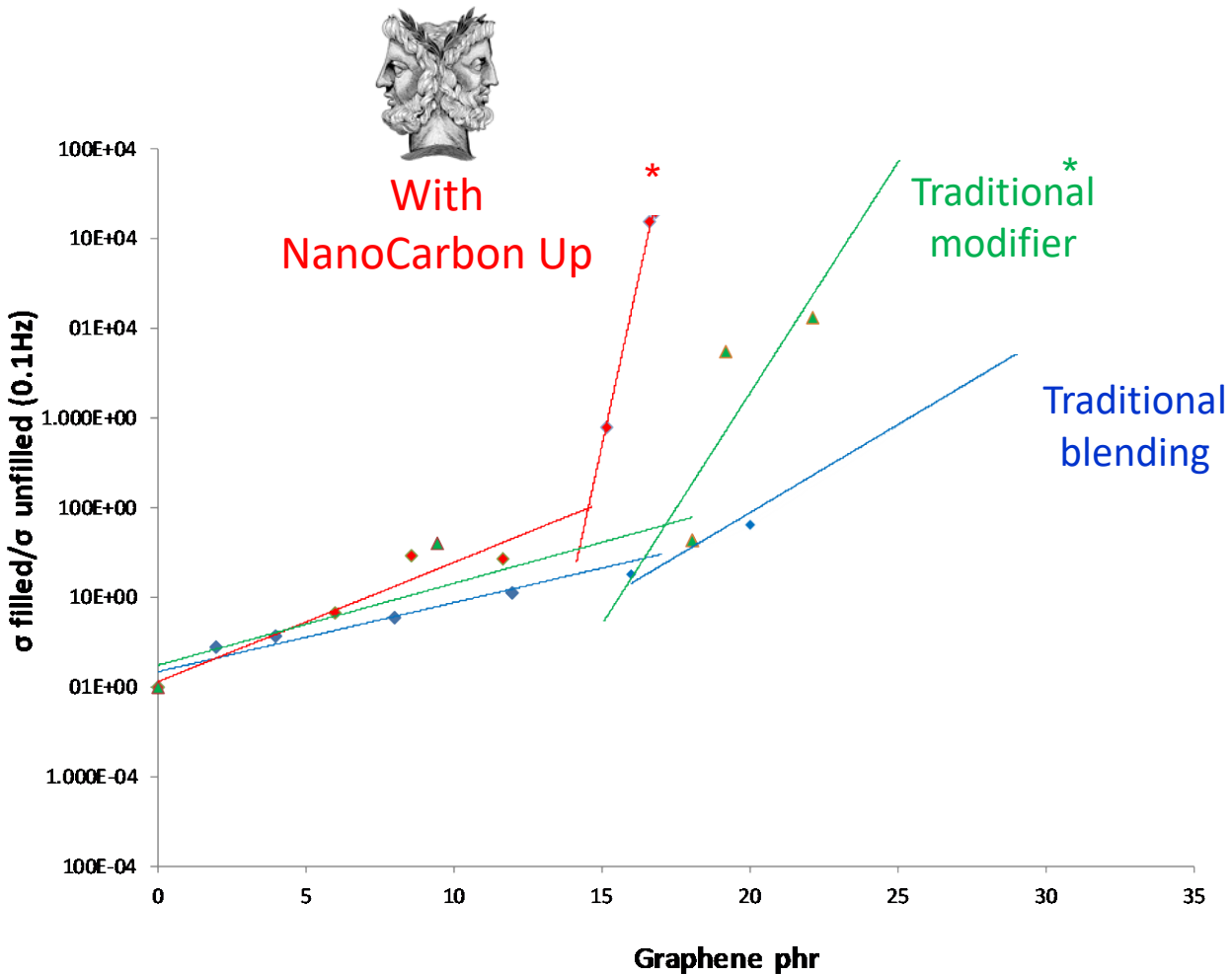
# Ultimate dispersions in water of few layers graphene

By tuning the solubility parameter of graphene layers



2-3 stacked layers

# Graphene based polymer composites



Polymer = NR

\* From NR latex dispersion

👉 Better electrical conductivity

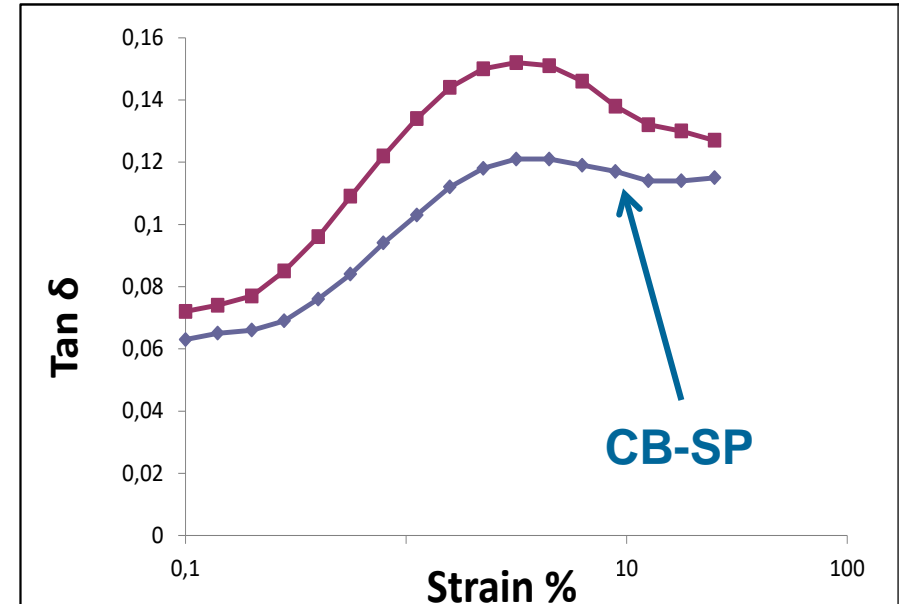
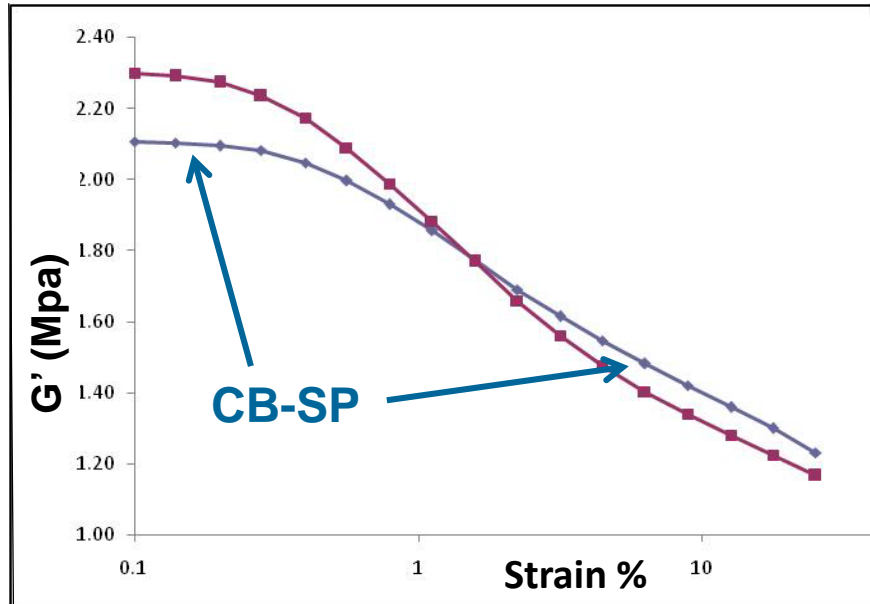


## Recipes

Ingredient	With CB	With CB-SP
IR	50	50
BR	50	50
Silica	25	25
CB N326	25	0
<b>CB N326-SP</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>CB N326</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>SP</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

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

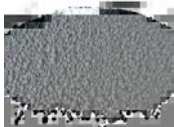
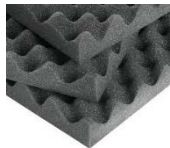
# Dynamic-mechanical properties



With CB-SP

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

# Conclusions



- ➡ 10 families of patents
- ➡ Networking
- ➡ JDA & Licensing
- ➡ Pilot plant production
- ➡ Education and training:  
PhD, Master thesis,  
secondments

# ISCaMaP

*Innovative Sustainable Chemistry and Materials and Proteomics Group*





*M.Sc. students*

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- Gea Prioglio
- Simone Raciti,
- Edoardo Testa
- Roberto Guadagnin
- Enrico Valentini
- Luca Toscano
- Nikola Pavlovich
- Kasra Jahany



**Prof. Maurizio Galimberti**  
(Full professor)

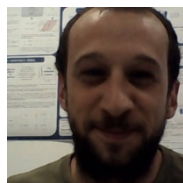
**Dr. Vincenzina Barbera**  
(Assistant professor)

*Post-Doc researcher*

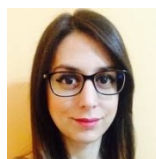


*Dr. Chiara Pennetta*

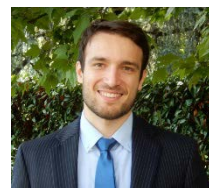
*PhD students*



*Andrea Bernardi*



*Lucia Rubino*



*Daniele Locatelli*



*Fatima Margani*

*Thanks for the attention!*