

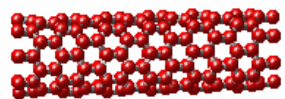
# Production of few-layer graphene by catalytic-CVD

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*Laboratoire de Chimie de Coordination UPR 8241 CNRS, Toulouse, France*

*philippe.serp@ensiacet.fr*

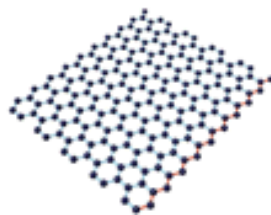
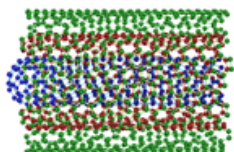
*Atelier de prospective du GFP  
Graphène et nanocomposites polymères  
Paris, 16 avril 2013*



Fullerenes



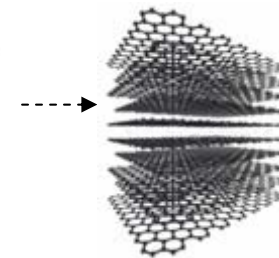
Nanotubes



Graphene



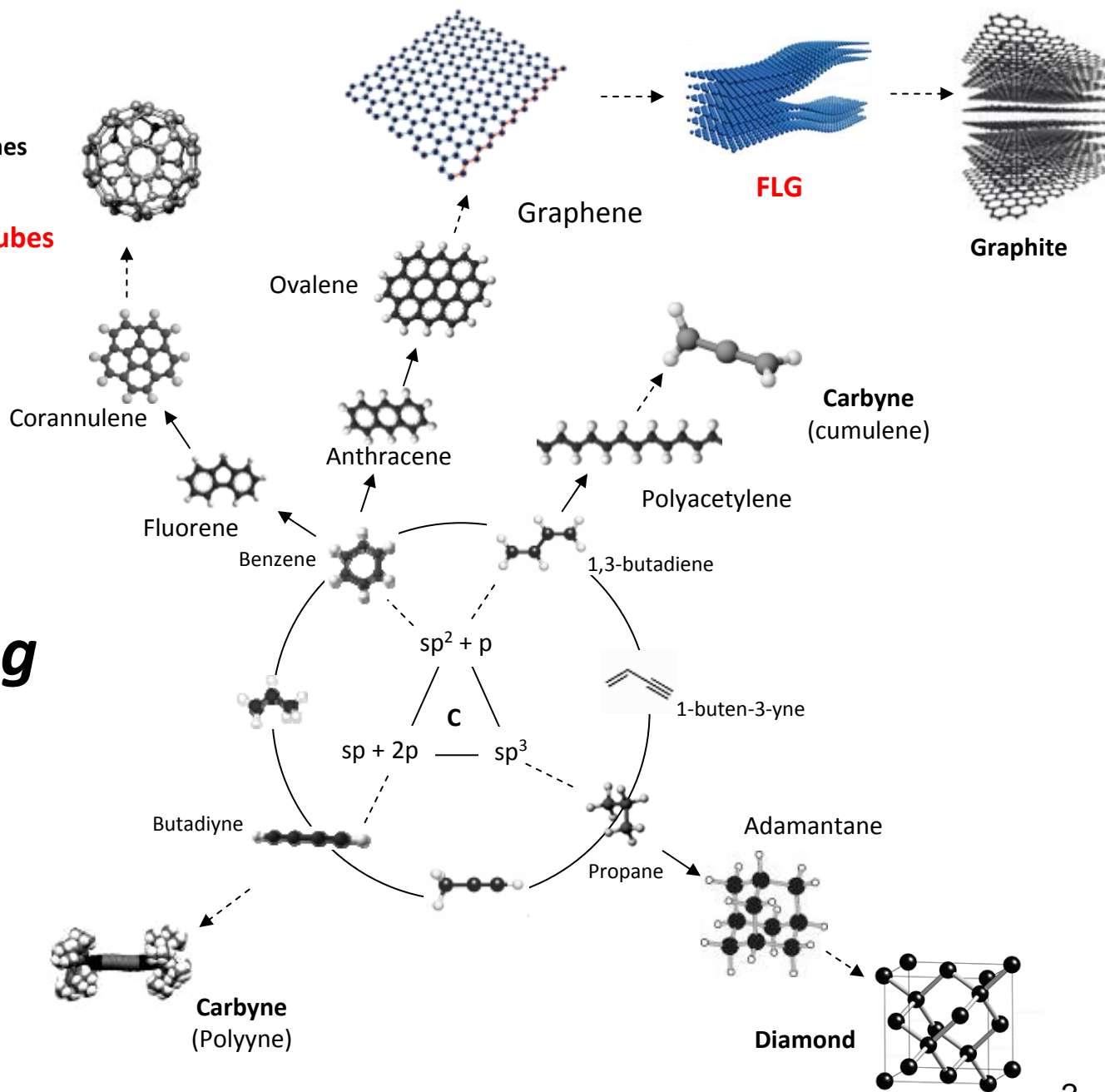
FLG



Graphite

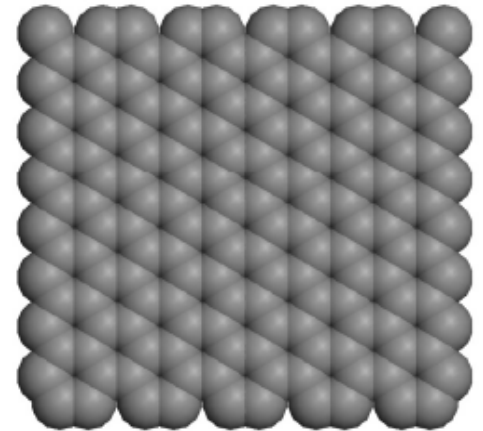
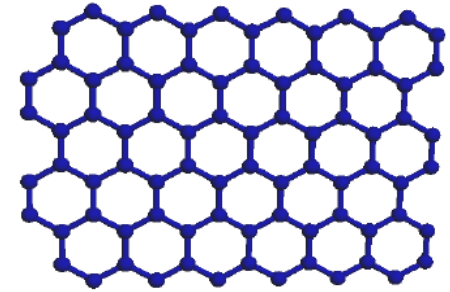
# Carbon engineering

## Bottom-up



# Why graphene?

- ~ 1100 GPa modulus, fracture strength ~ 130 GPa
- Low density ~ 2 g/cm<sup>3</sup>
- Thermal conductivity ~3000 W/m-K in plane - but highly anisotropic; ~ 2 W/m-K out of plane
- Electrical conductivity: ballistic electron transfer; high mobility
- High specific surface area (limit: 2630 m<sup>2</sup>/g)
- Physical properties can be 'chemically tuned'
- Barrier material - impermeable if defect-free?
- High temperature 'base' (support) material (in reducing or neutral conditions)



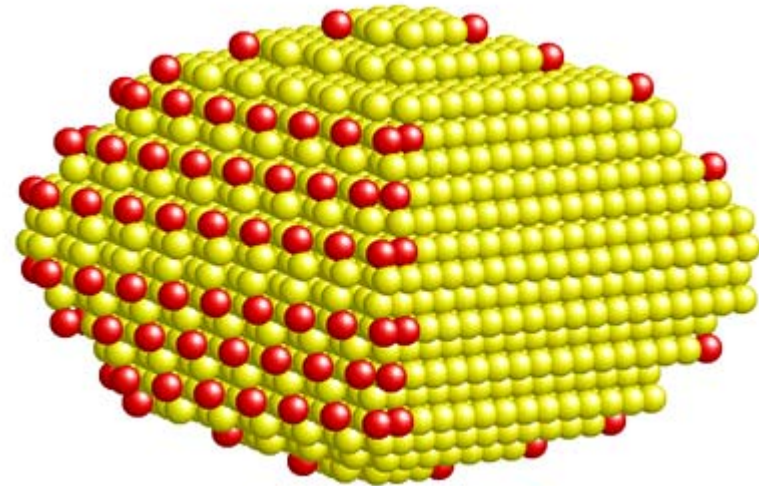
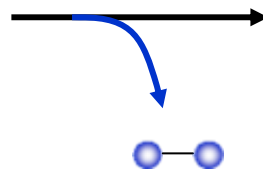
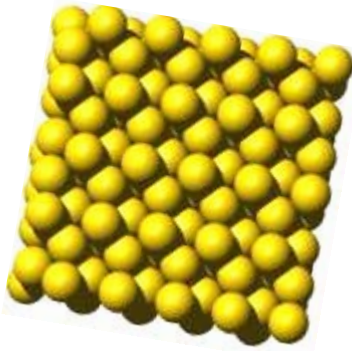
***Graphene is thus a material of great interest and also multilayer graphene and ultrathin graphite (such as <1 μm thick)***

# Catalysis for nanocarbons: a minimalist catalysis...

Rapidly a two-player game



+

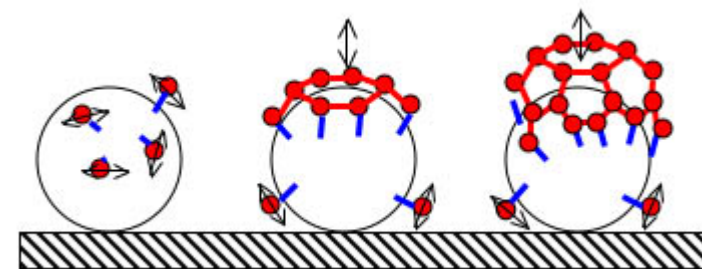
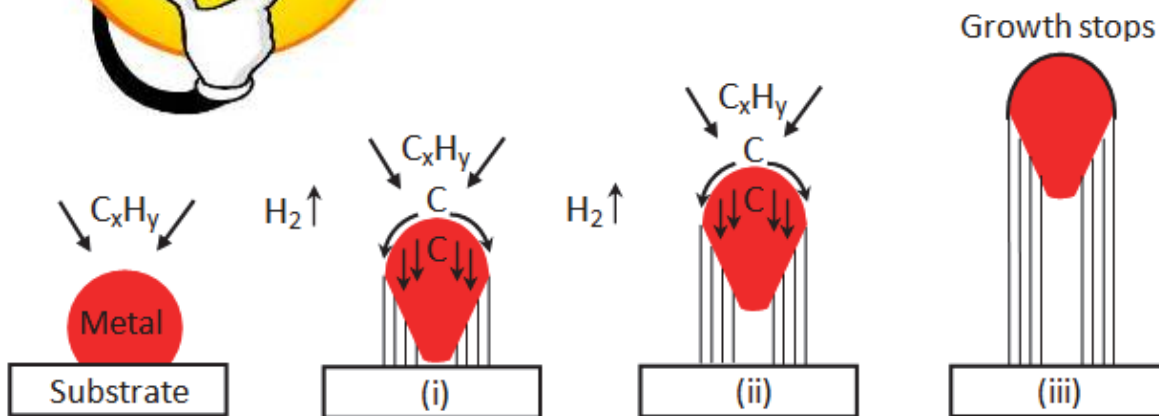
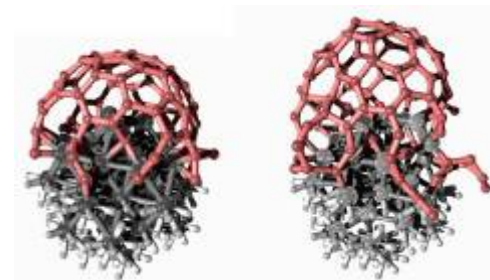


*Metallic surface*

# Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) growth mechanism

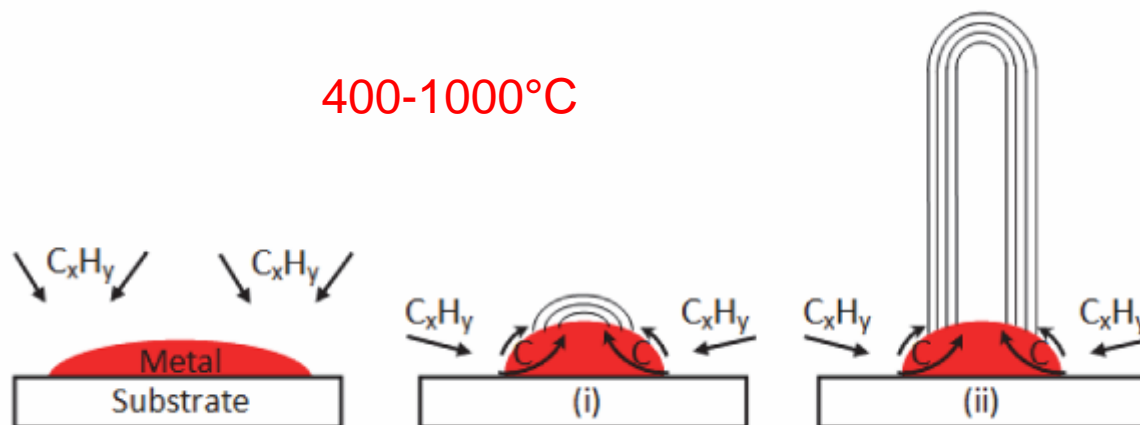


A catalytic process...  
A template effect



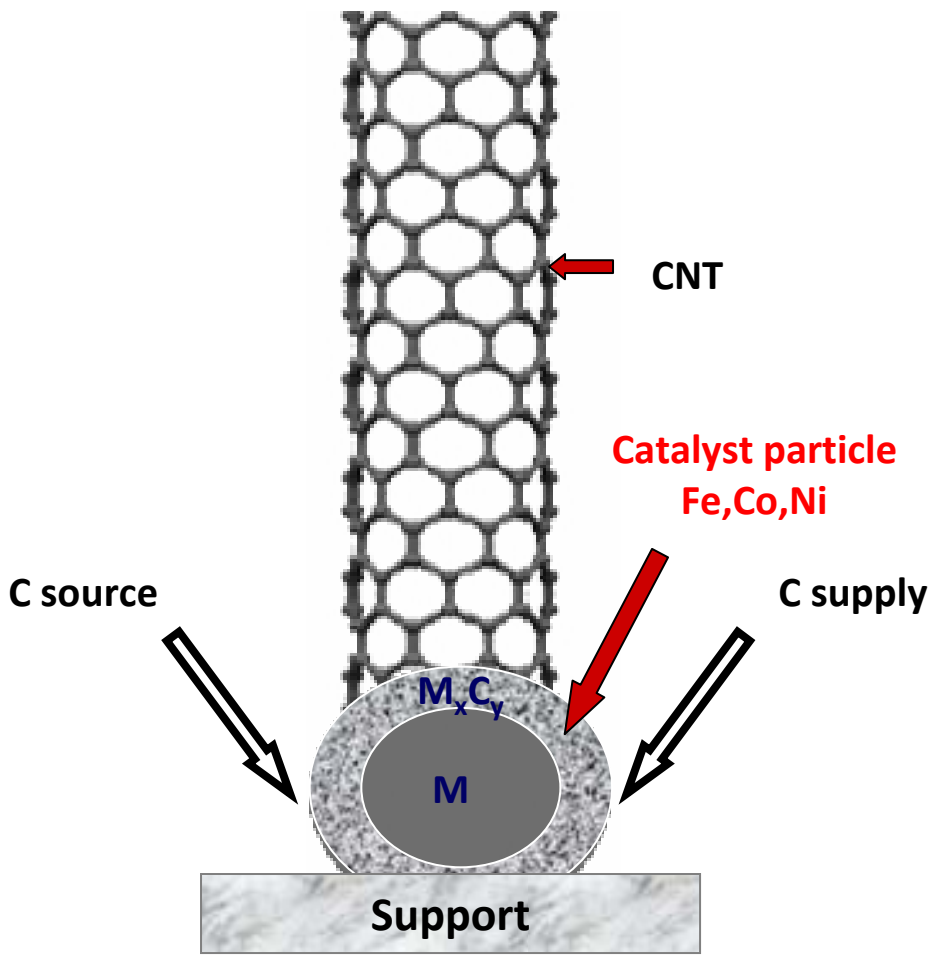
rds: often C diffusion

400-1000°C

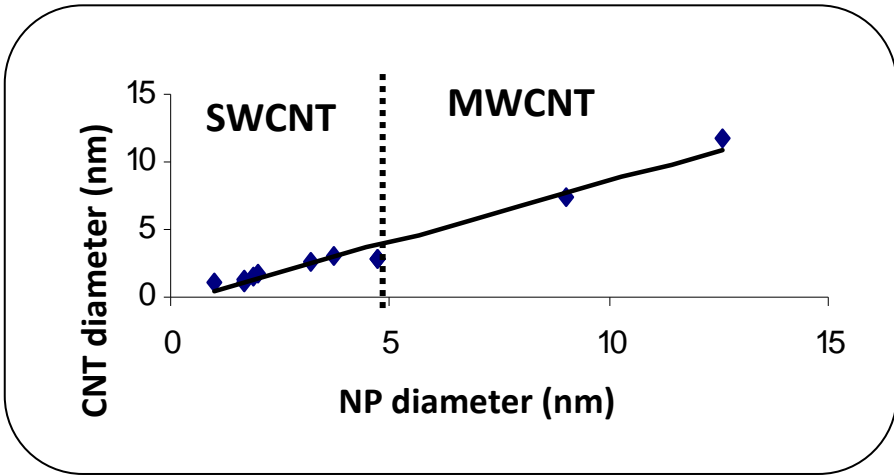


# Designing selective catalyst for CNT growth

*A very peculiar reaction*



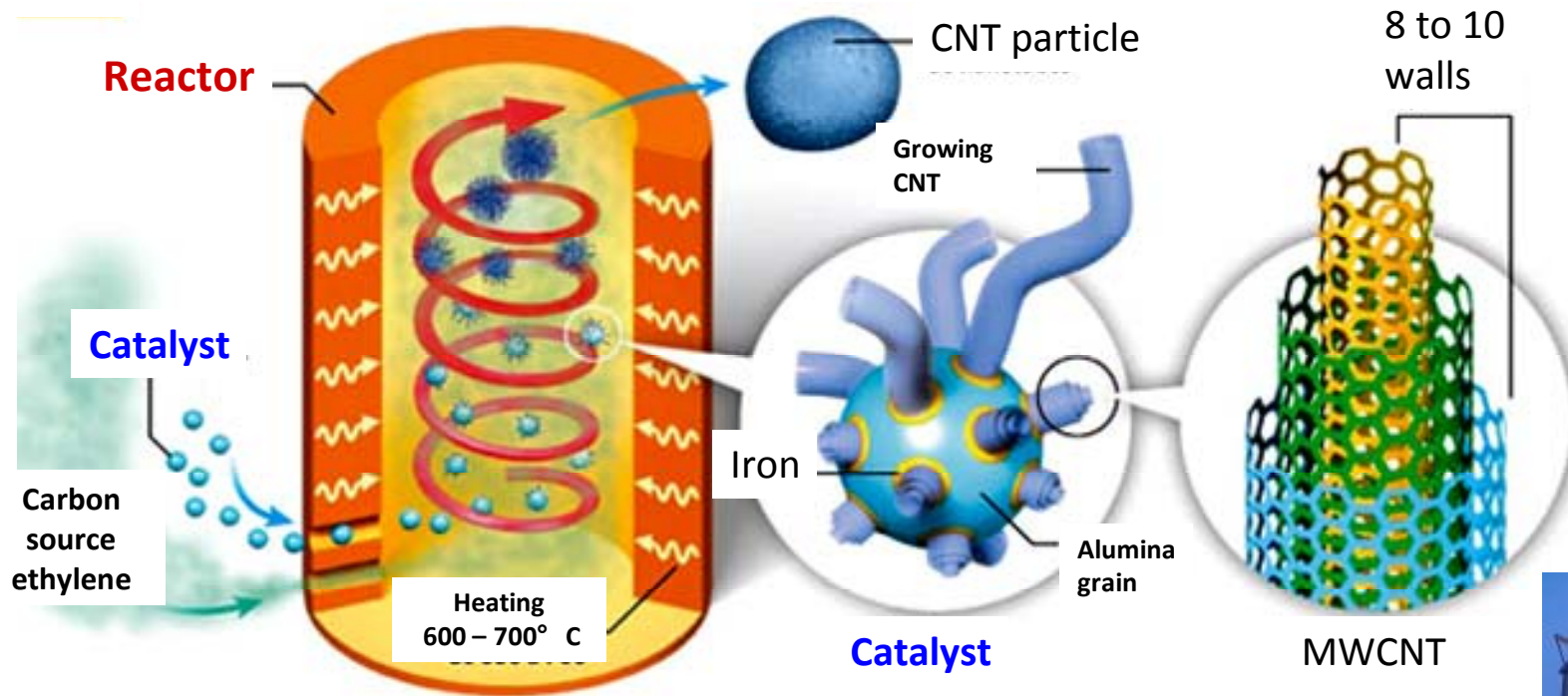
**T = 500 – 1000°C**



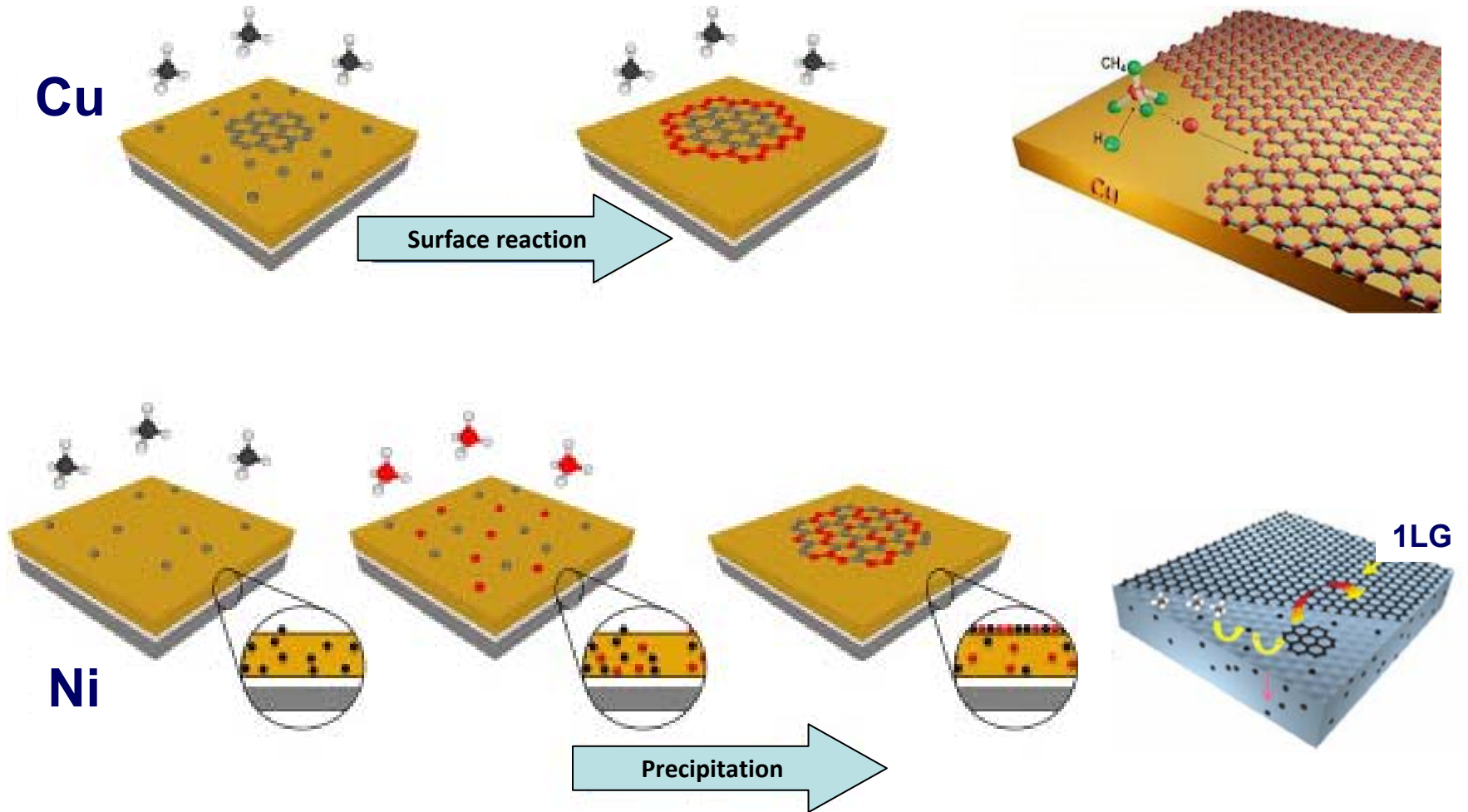
- ➔ Catalyst particle size
- ➔ Metal-Support Interaction
- ➔ Metastable carbides
- ➔ Carbon diffusion in the metal
- ➔ CVD operating conditions

# CNT synthesis – a bottom-up approach

Fe/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst / Ethylene / Fluidized Bed Reactor



# Graphene growth by CVD – planar catalytic substrates



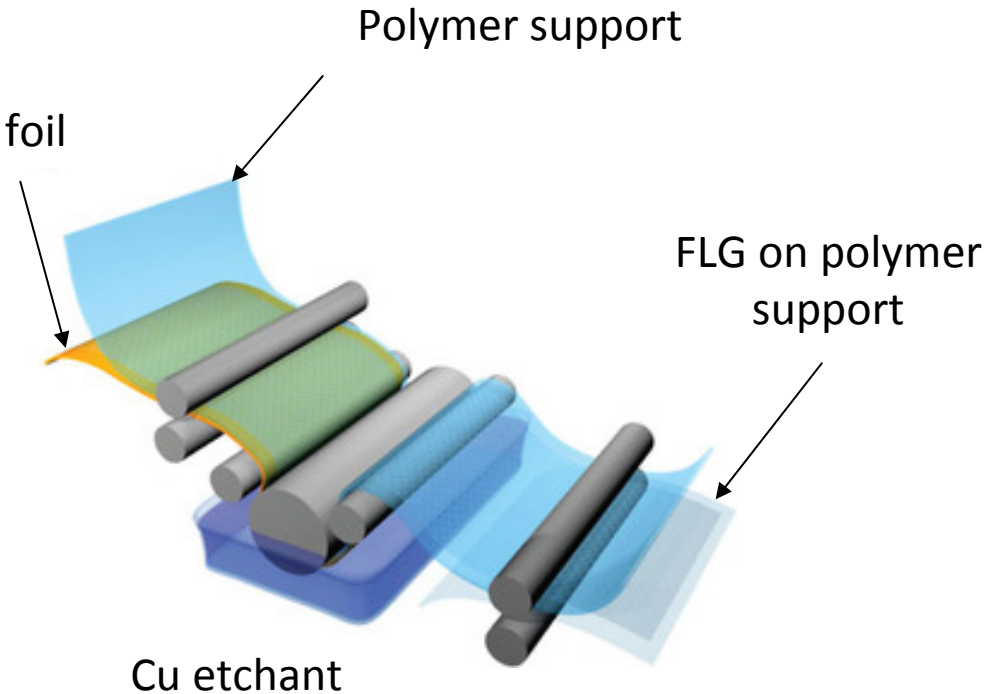


# Flexible, conductive, translucent surfaces capable of absorbing light

Large area graphene



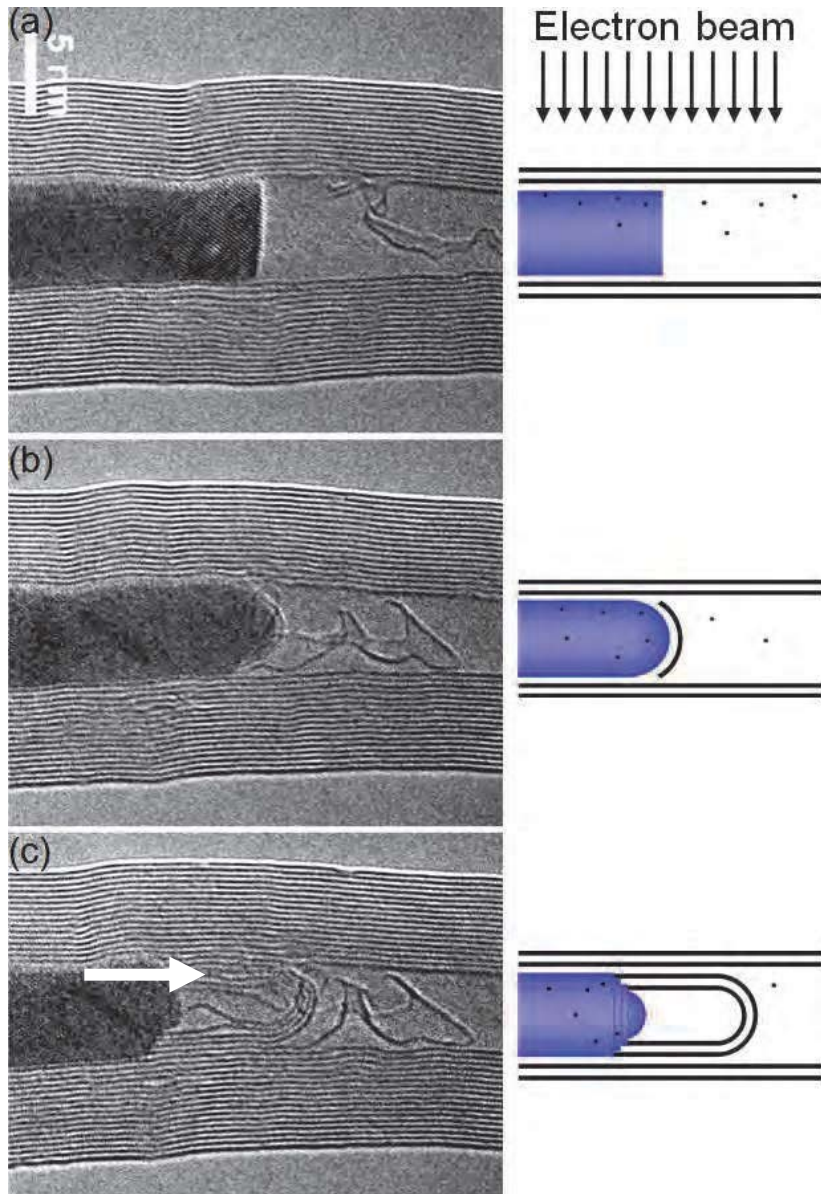
FLG on Cu foil



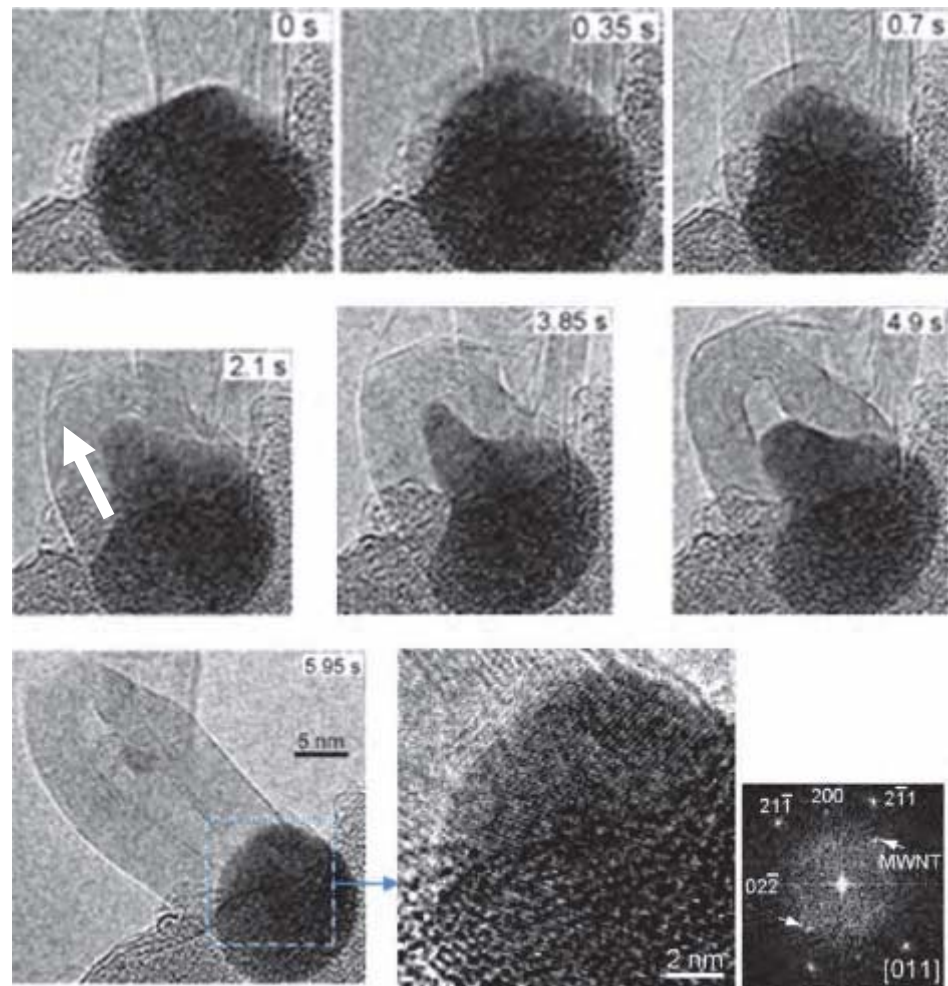
*P. Yong et al. Nature Nanotech. 5, 2010, 559.*

## Graphene/FLG powders – which catalytic substrates?

The mechanical, thermal, electrical and structural properties of graphene make it possible to obtain **composites** with potential applications in many fields because of their improved properties.

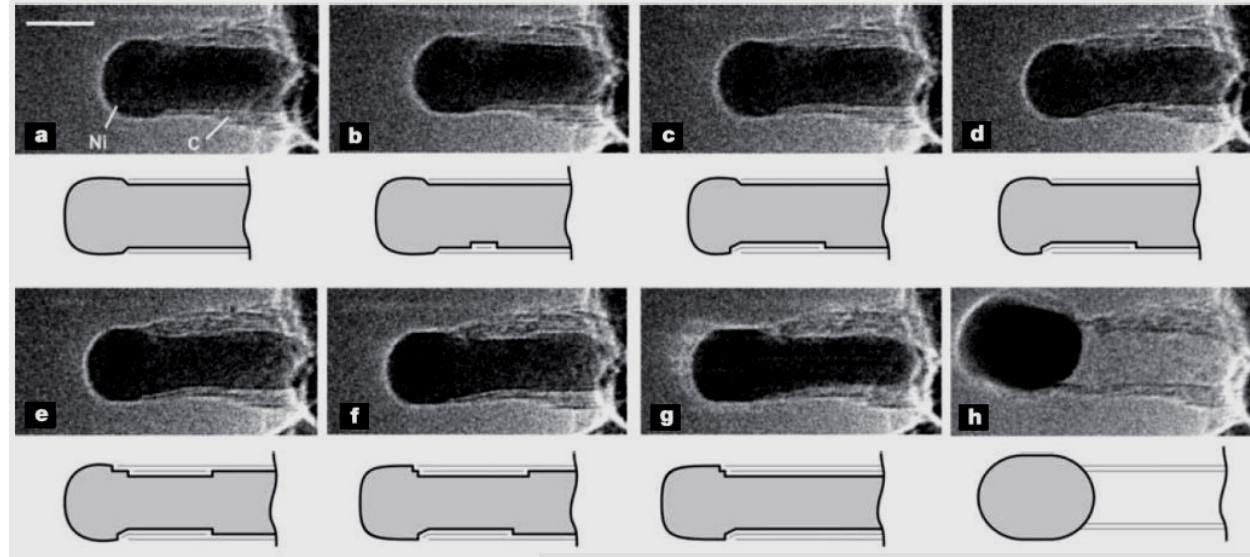


**Iron catalyst at 600°C - acetylene**

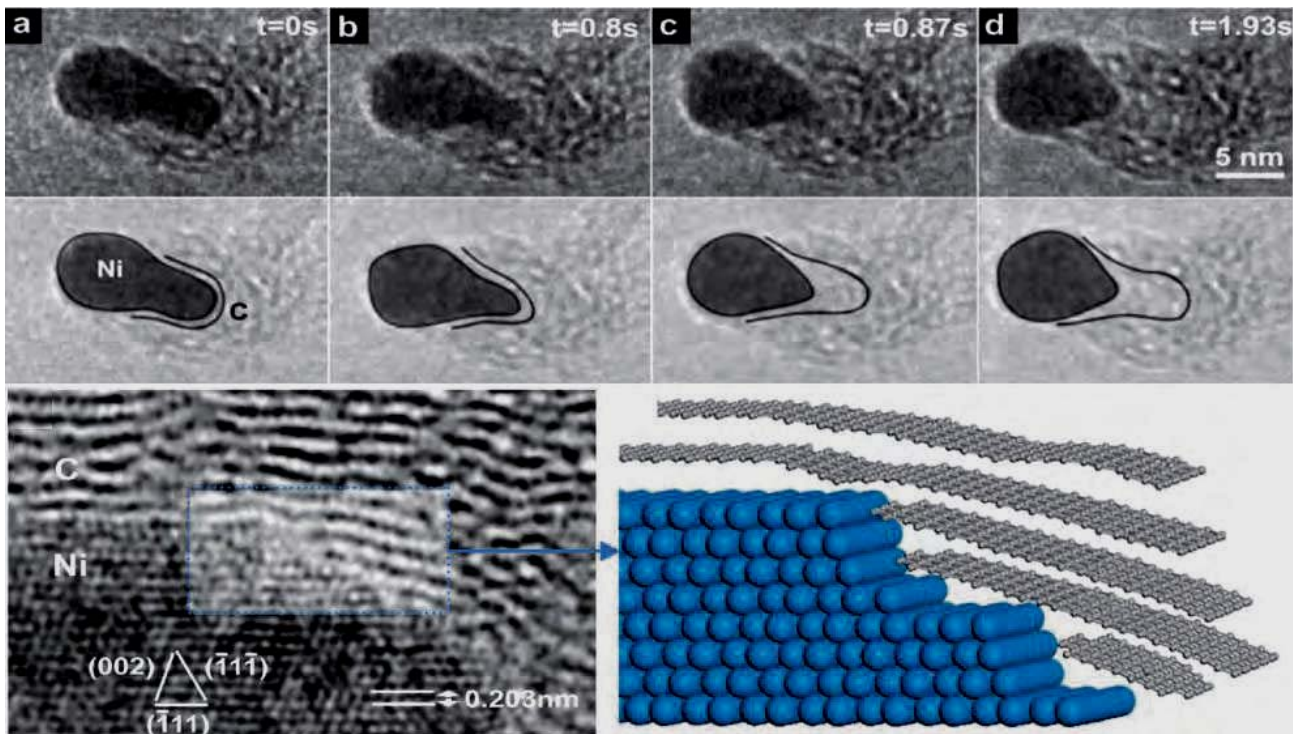


Yoshida et al. *Nano Lett.* 8, 2008, 2082-2086.

## Elongation/contraction process

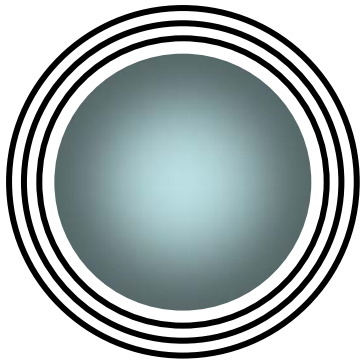


*Helveg et al. Nature 427, 2004, 426-429.*



*Hofmann et al. Nano Lett. 7, 2007, 602-608.*

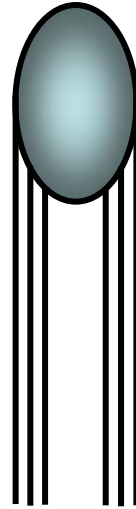
# How to control carbon diffusion/precipitation?



C onion



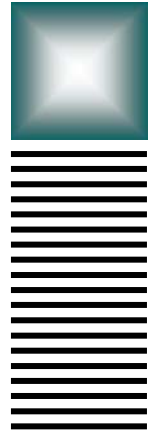
SWCNT



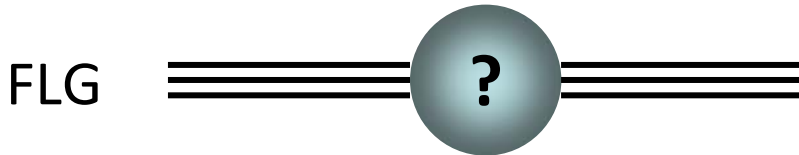
MWCNT



CNF  
*Herring bone*

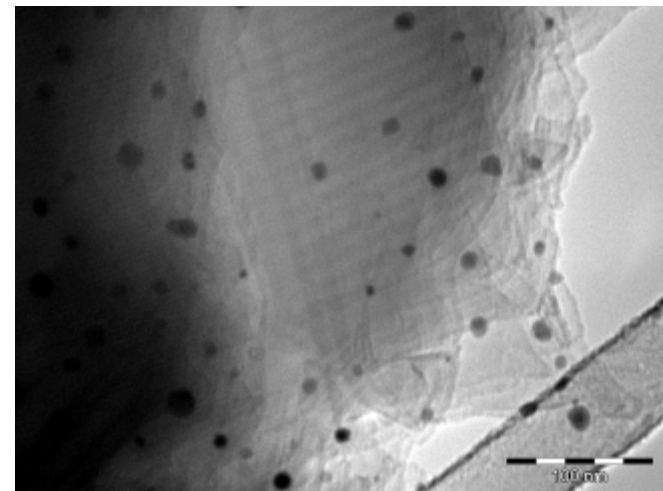
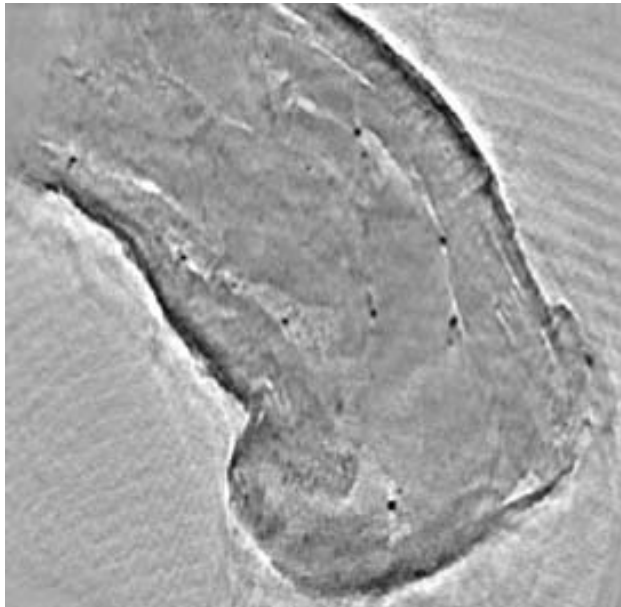
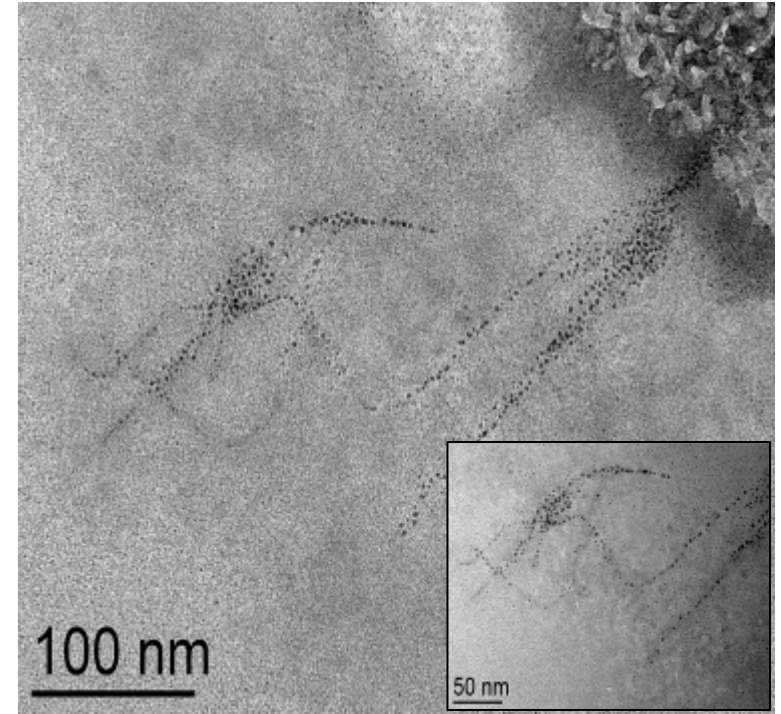
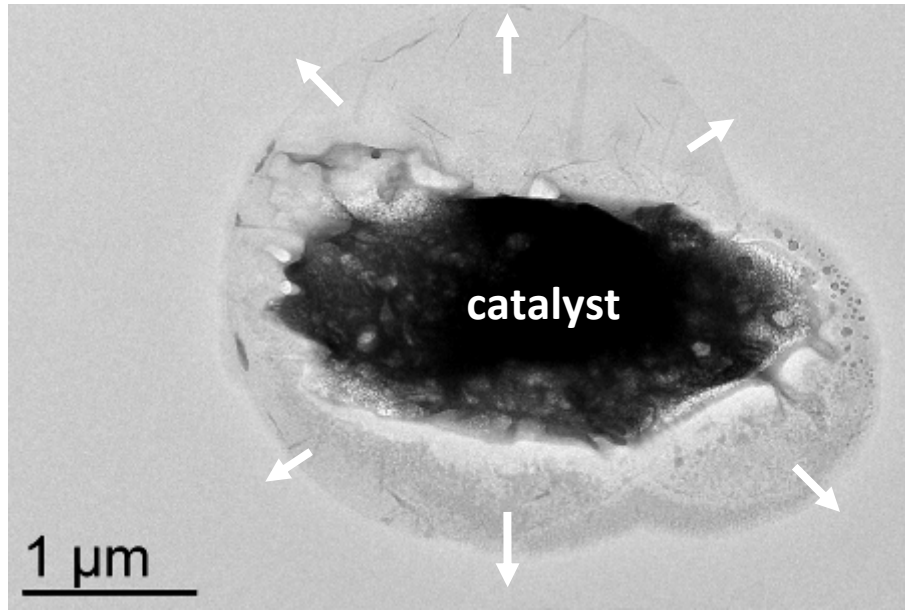


CNF  
*Platelet*

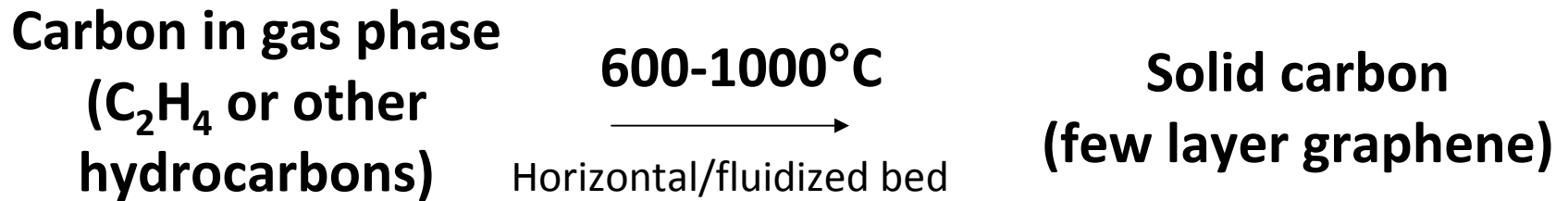


$C\pi$ - $C\pi$  vs  $M$ - $C\pi$  interaction  
C-support interaction  
Anisotropy (composition)

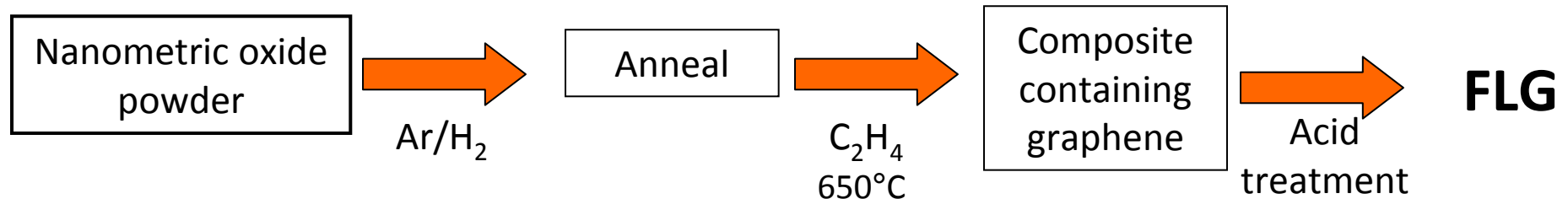
# Catalytic synthesis of few layer graphene (FLG)



# CVD synthesis process for graphene



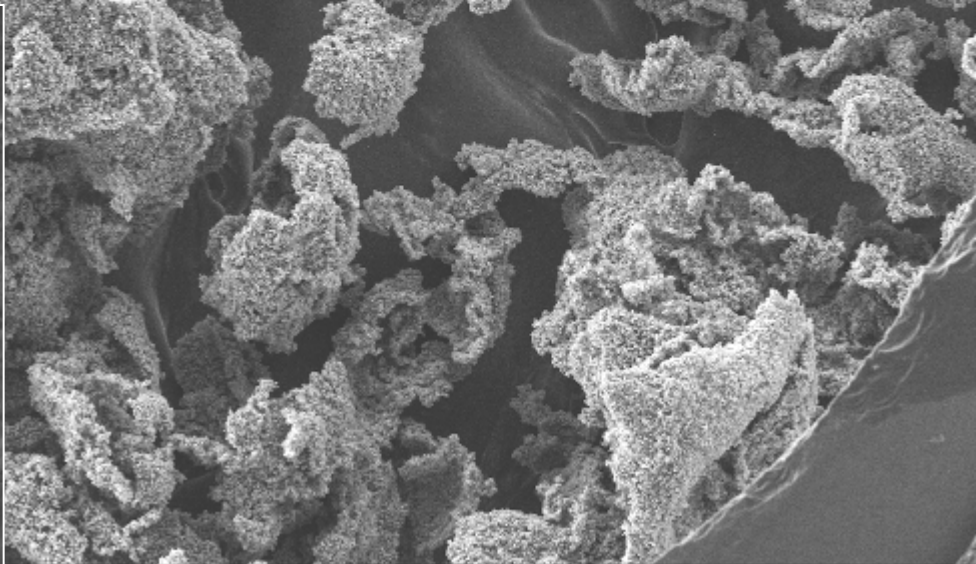
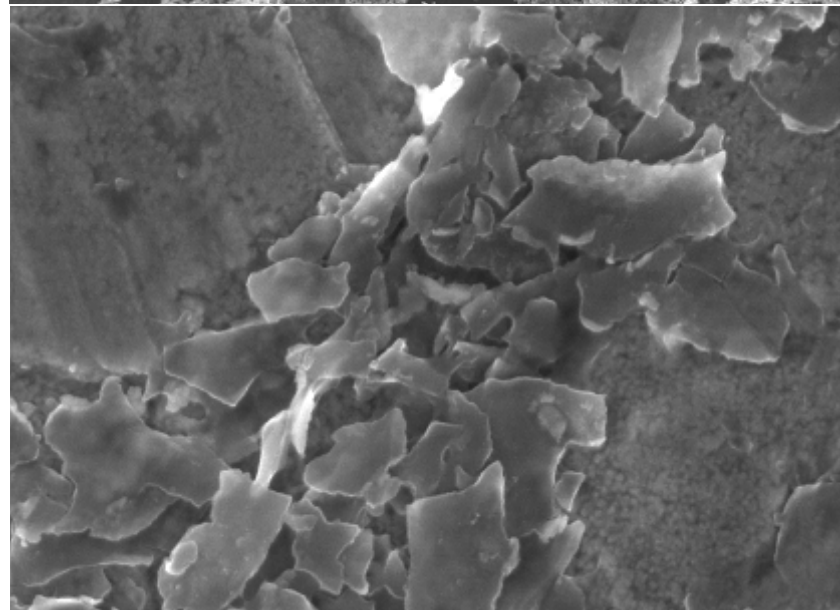
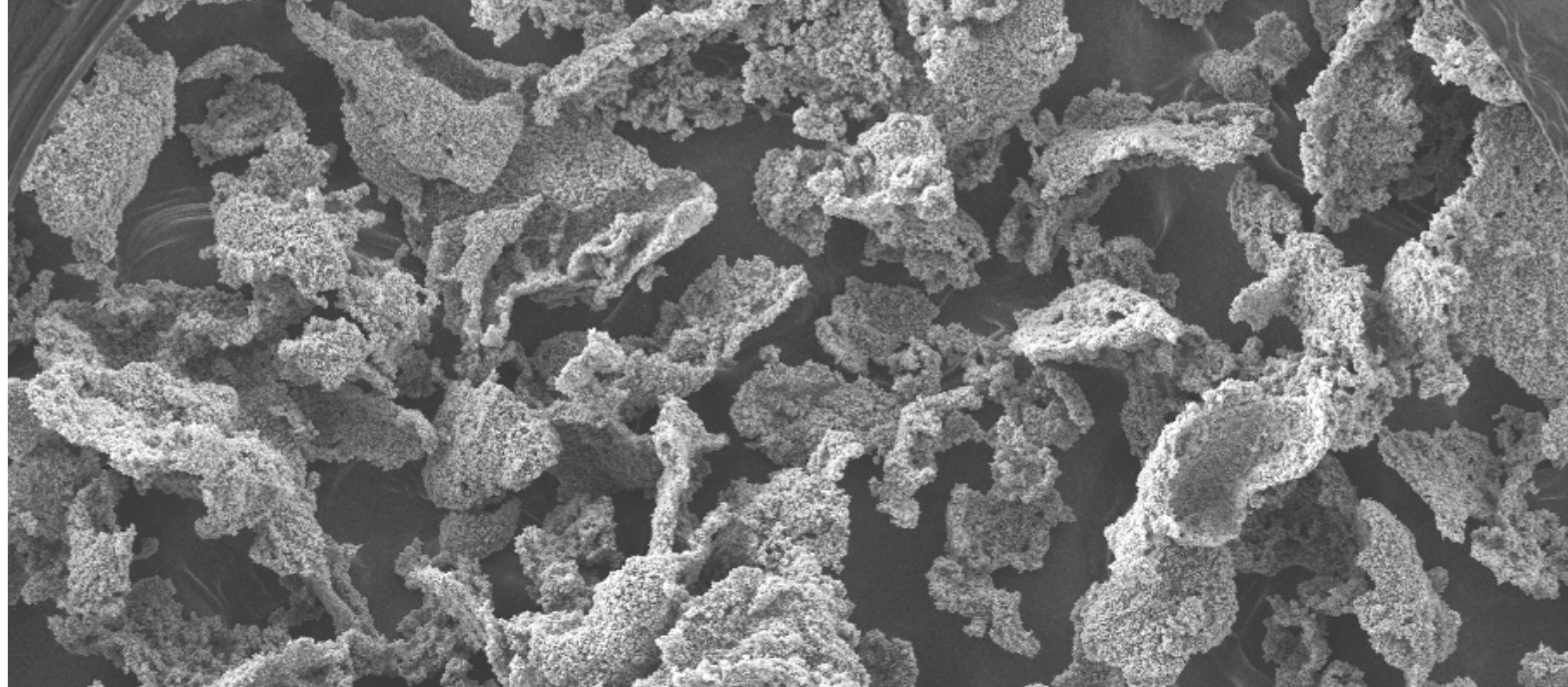
**Catalyst = Mixed oxides containing Co, Fe, Ni, Cu**



- Low temperatures of production
- **Selective production of CNT, FLG and CNT-FLG hybrids**
- Lower cost of production
- In situ doping, domain size and thickness control

# CVD reactor





TEMSCAN SEI 5.0kV X50,000 WD 6.0mm 100nm

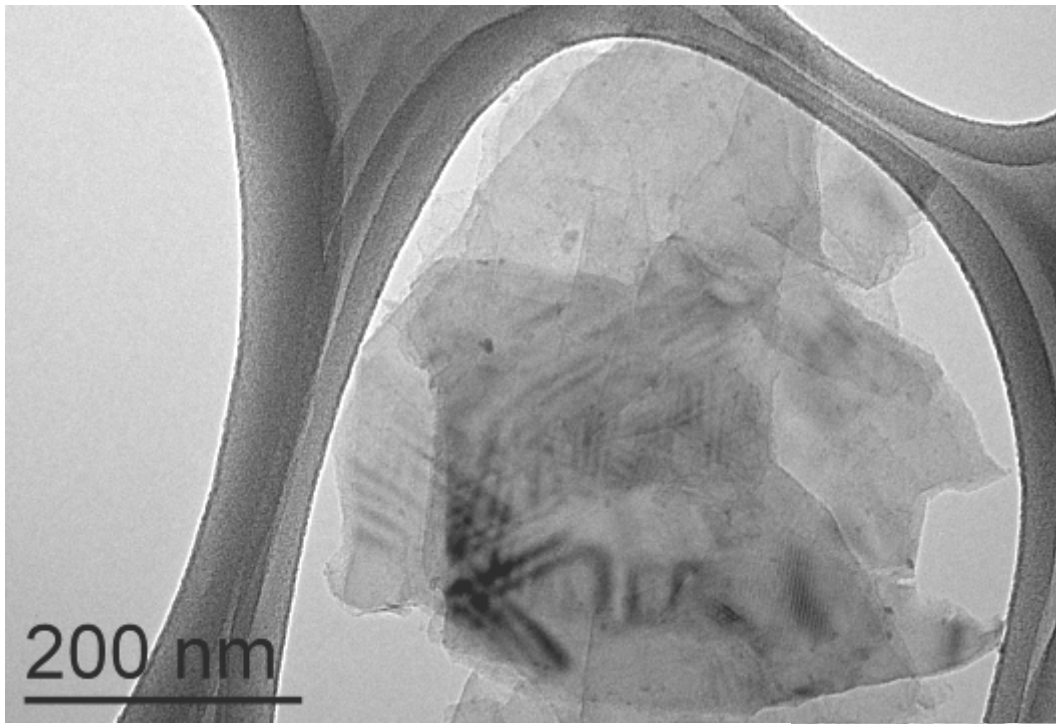
10.0kV

X100

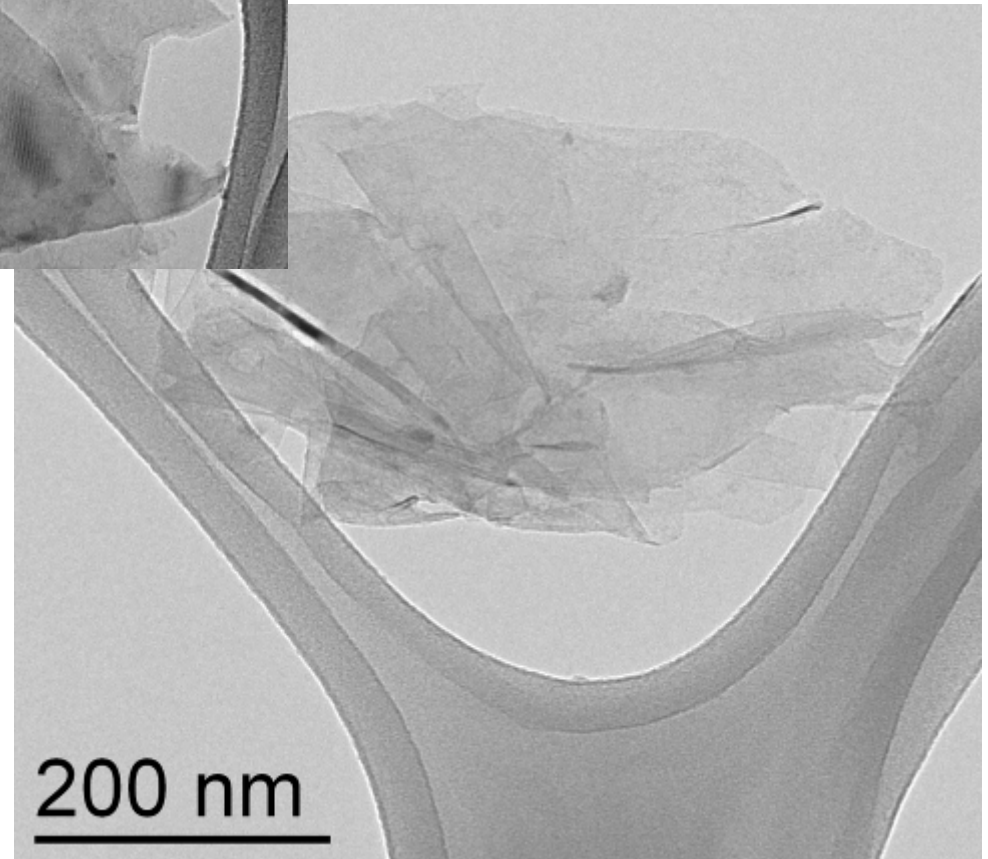
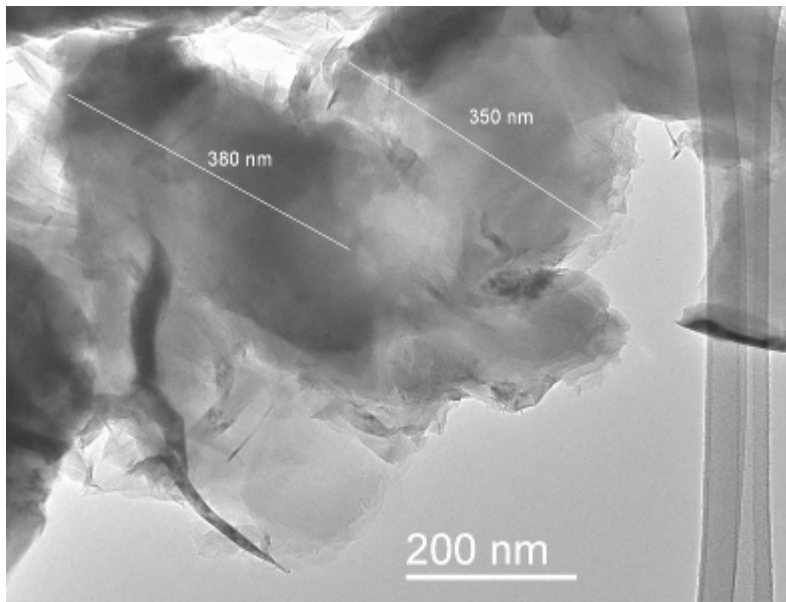
WD 9.8mm

100μm

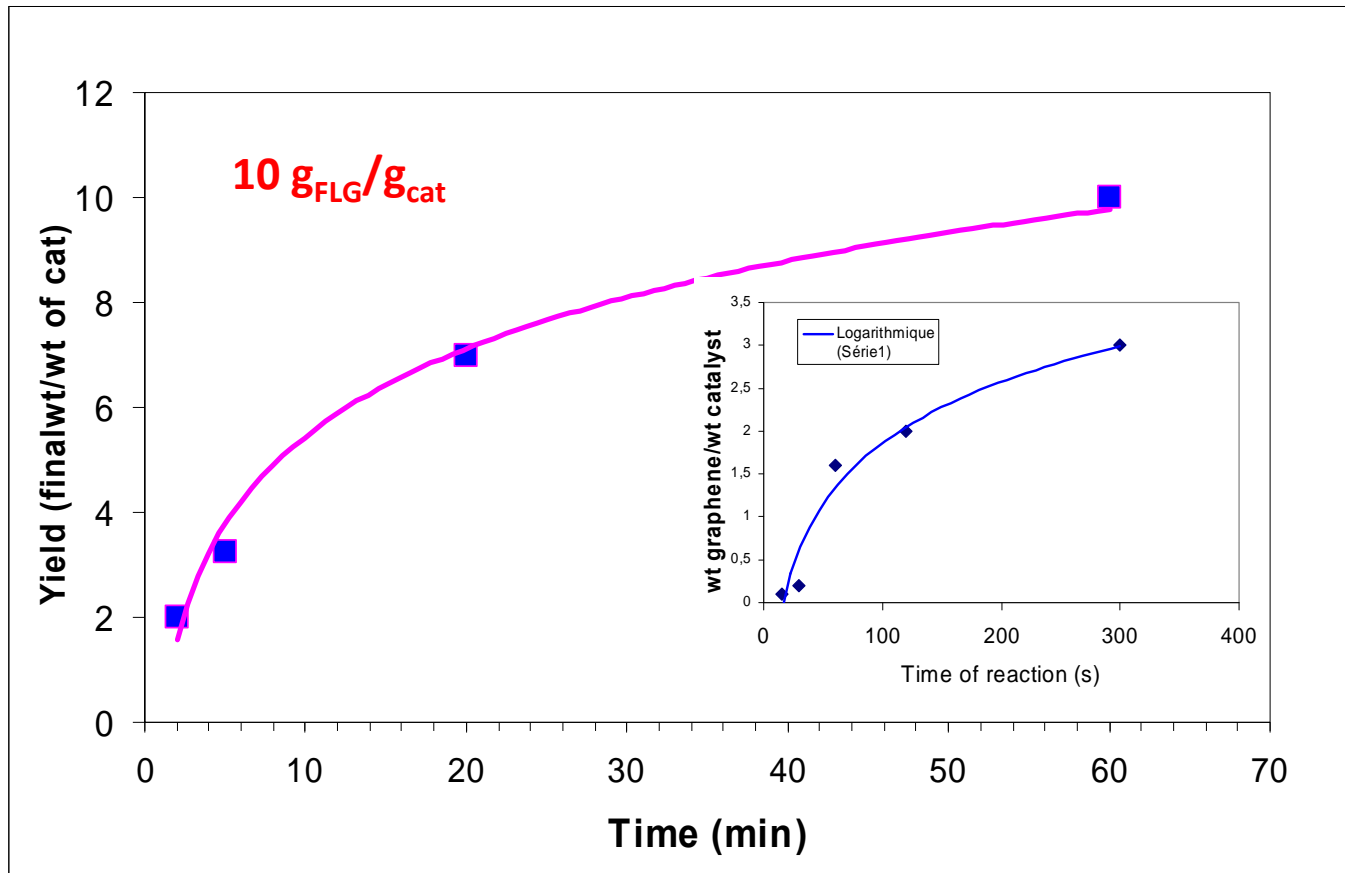




**Catalyst:**  
**M/M' ratio**  
**Particle size**



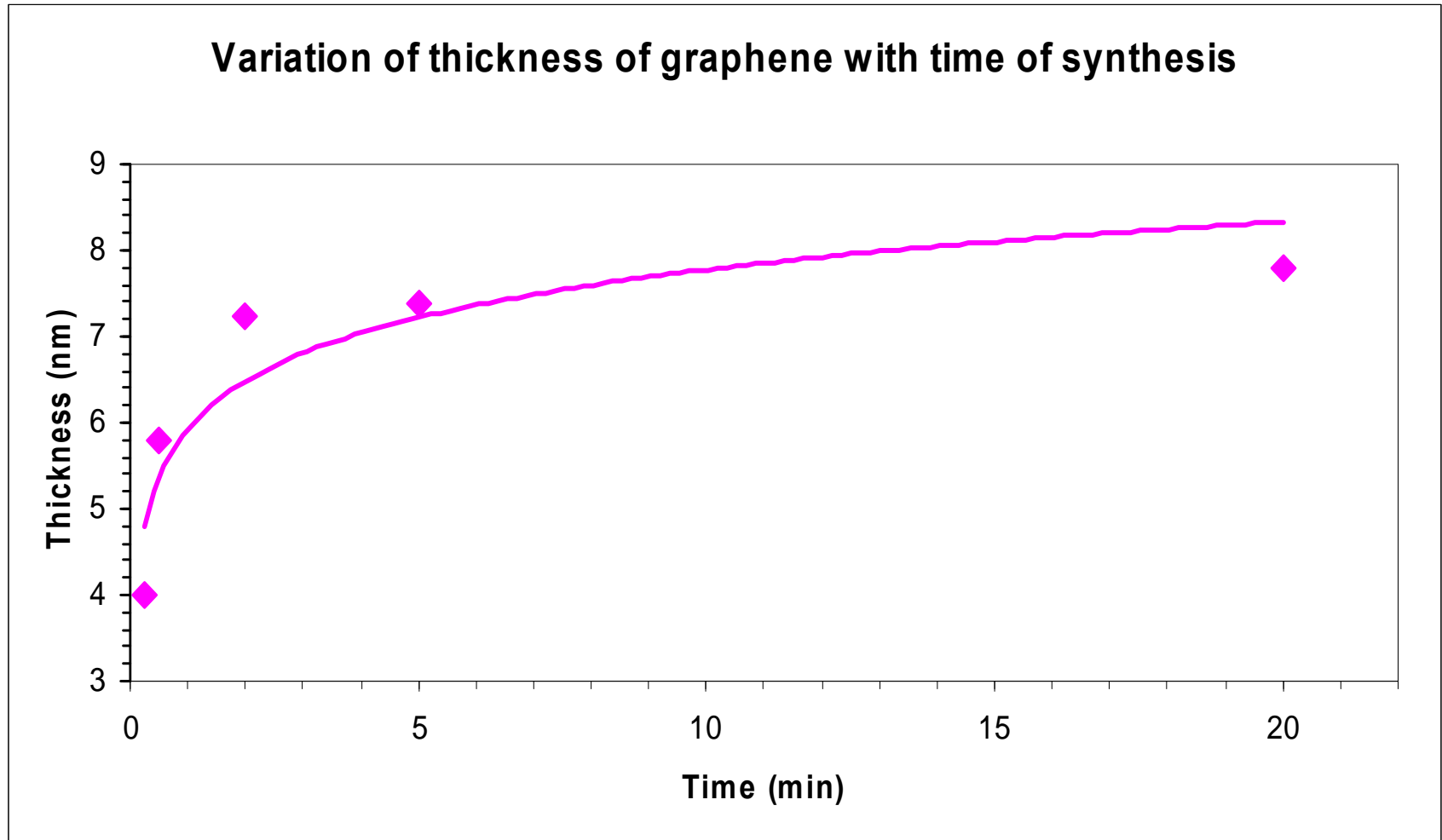
# Reaction yield



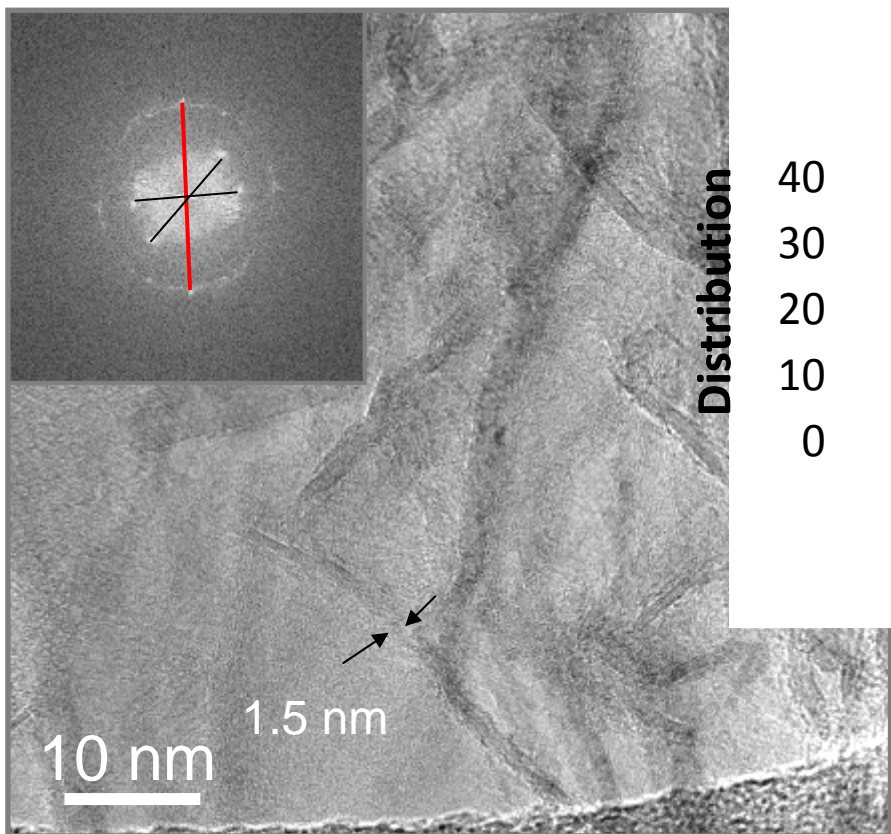
$$X = \frac{\text{Wt. of catalyst + carbon after reaction}}{\text{(Wt of catalyst)}}$$

# Thickness variation

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# Thickness distribution for purified FLG



Thickness of graphene flakes

Distribution

40  
30  
20  
10  
0

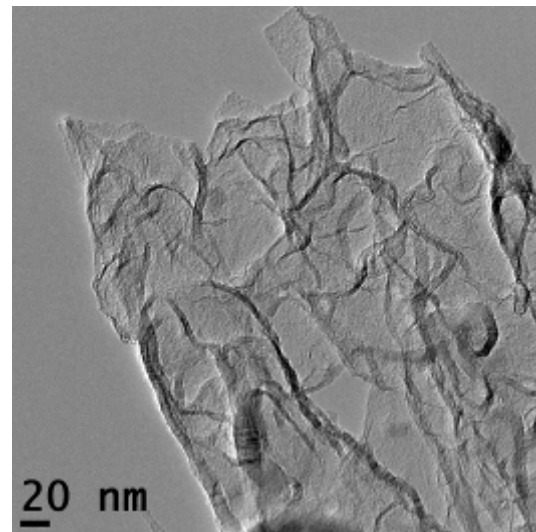
[0.08[ [0.97[ [1.86[ [2.75[ [3.64[ [4.53[

Thickness range (nm)

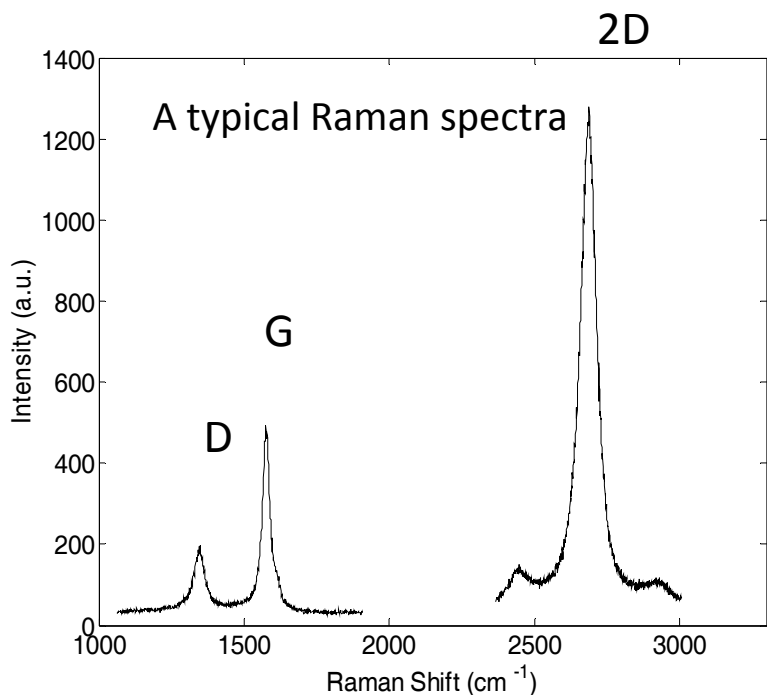
$d_{002} = 0.34 \text{ nm}$

$d_{100} = 0.21 \text{ nm}$

**Petal like flakes of thickness ranging from 1-5 graphene layers**



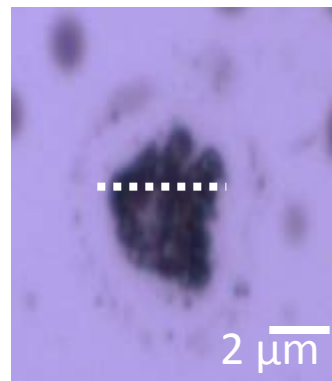
# Raman mapping of purified FLG



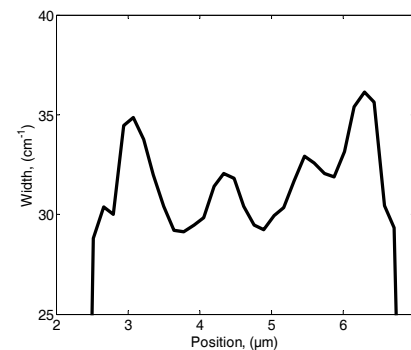
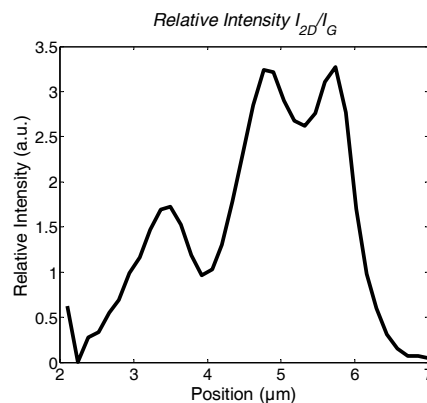
Spectrometer Xplora (Horiba Inc.), 532 nm

**2D band is 2-3 times more intense than G band: typical for graphene**

Optical microscope image of the FLG agglomerate



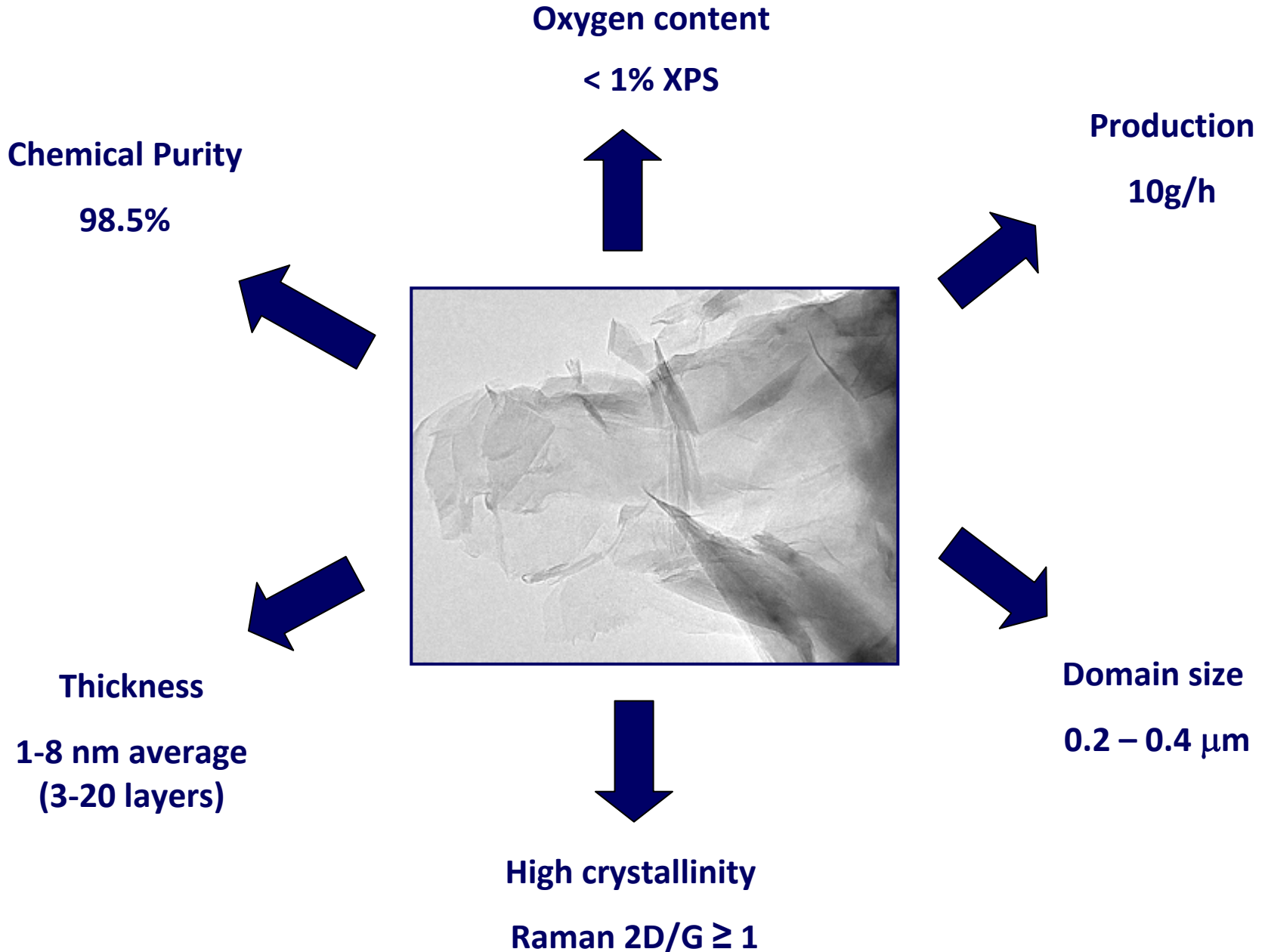
Raman spectra were taken along the white line: 50 points, step 0.14  $\mu\text{m}$



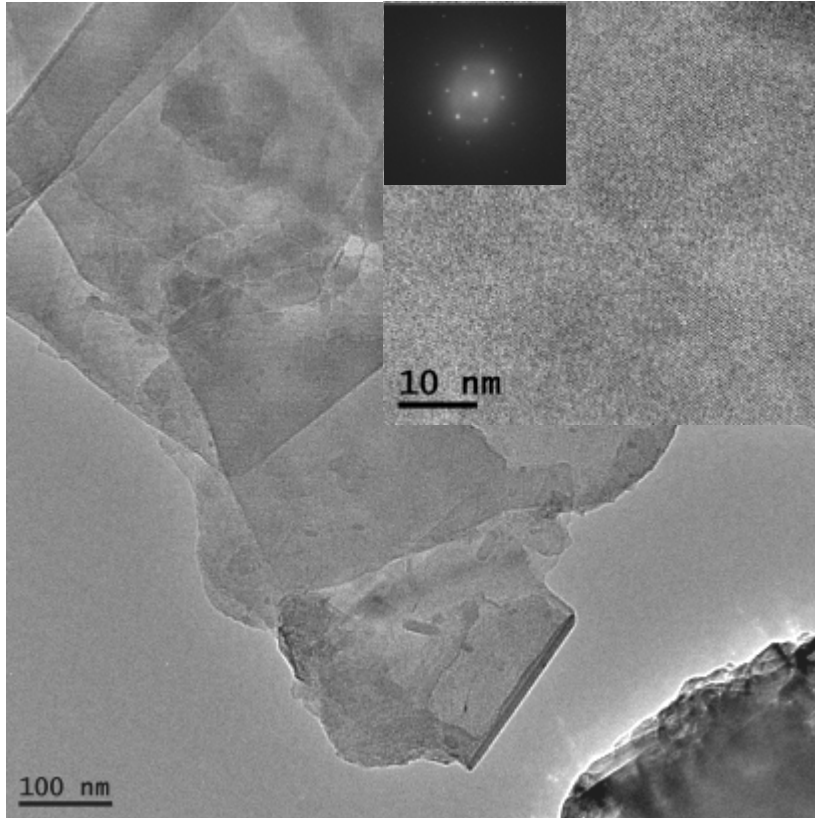
Profile of the relative intensity  $I_{2D}/I_G$  and the width of the 2D band

# Purified FLG properties

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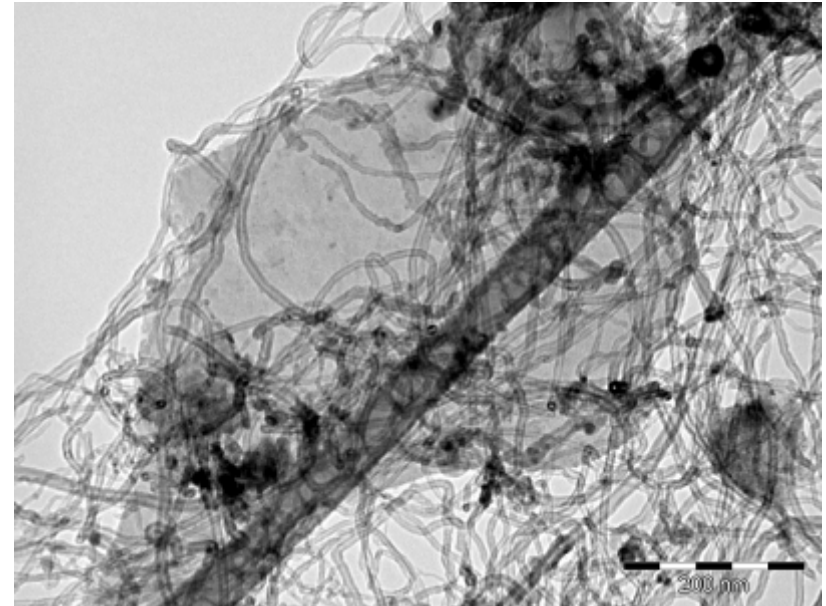


# Catalytic synthesis of FLG and FLG@CNT composite powders



Few layers graphene

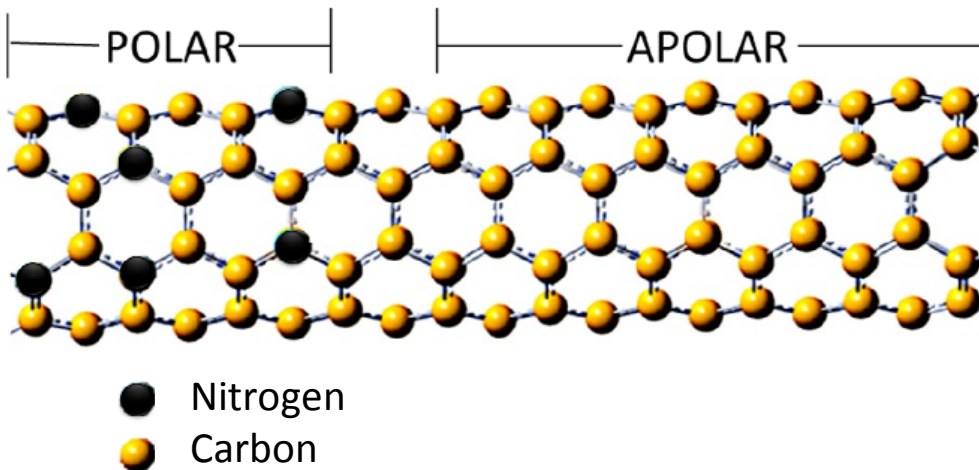
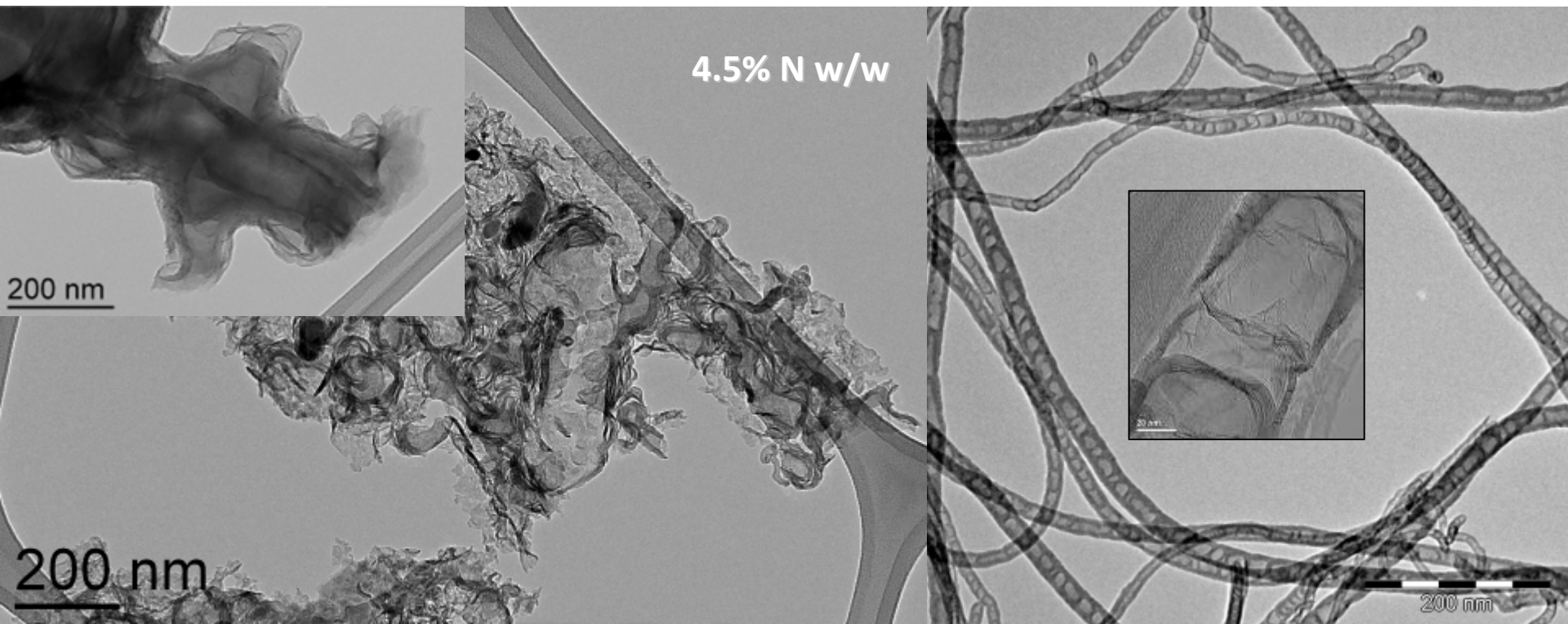
Productivity : 10g/h



Composite powder CNT/graphene

Productivity : 30g/h

# Catalytic synthesis of N-doped FLG and CNT



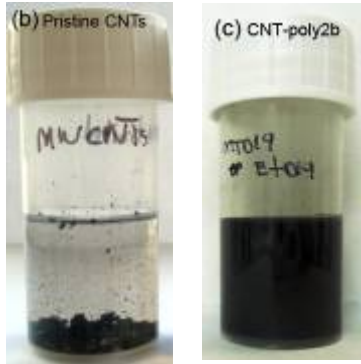


# FLG dispersion???

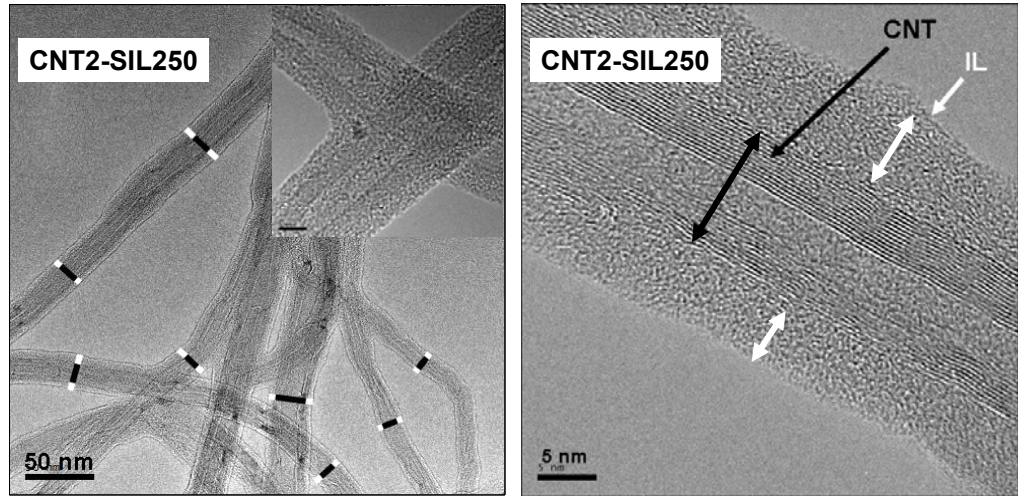
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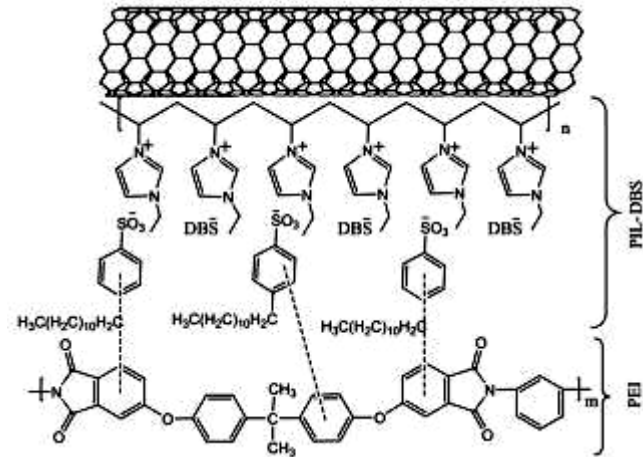
# CNT/graphene & Ionic Liquids



dispersion



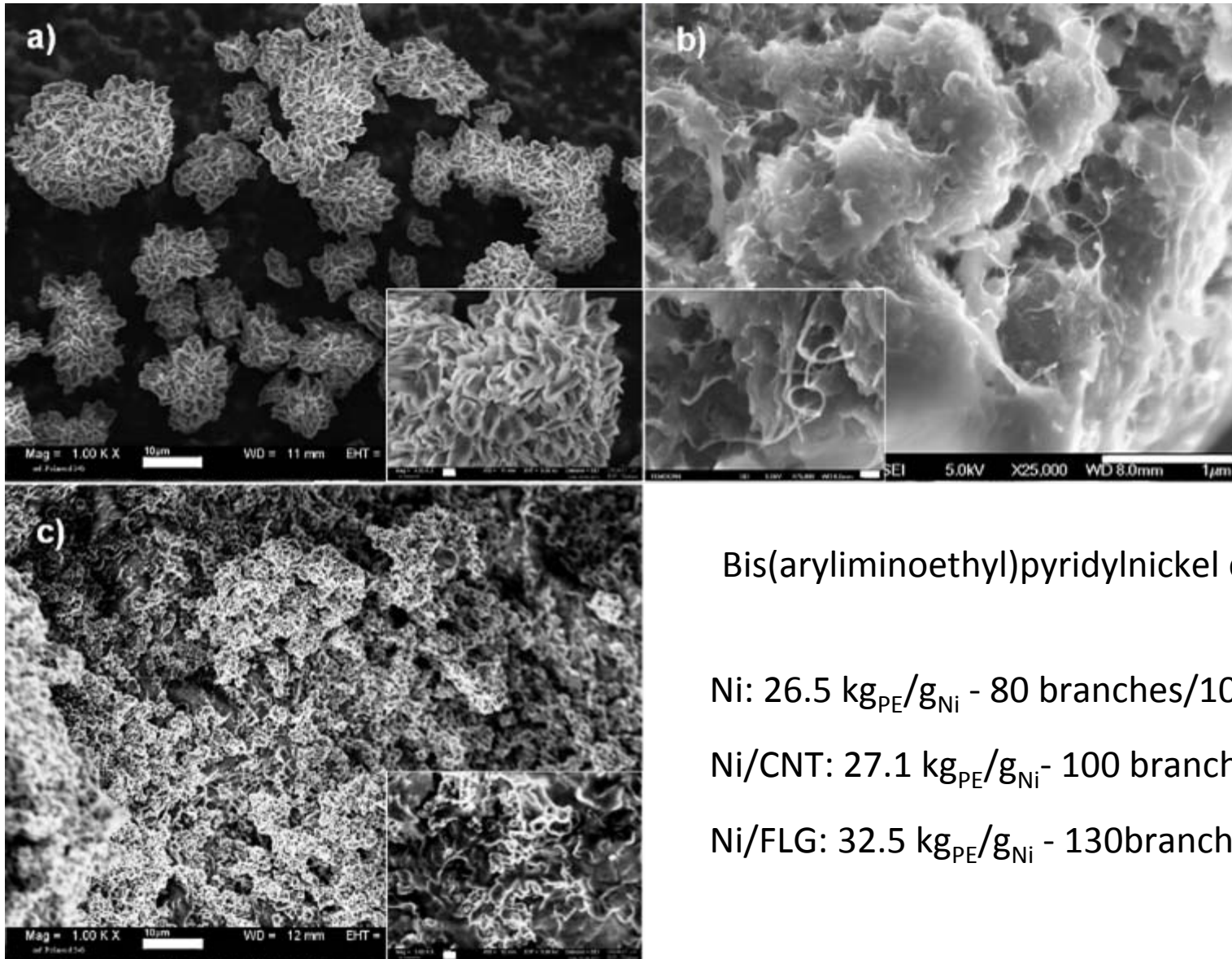
hydrogels  
organogels



M. Tunckol, et al. Carbon, 50, 2012, 4303.

M. Tunckol, et al. Carbon, 57, 2013, 209.

# Dispersion of CNT and FLG in PE waxes



Bis(aryliminoethyl)pyridylnickel chlorides

Ni: 26.5 kg<sub>PE</sub>/g<sub>Ni</sub> - 80 branches/1000C

Ni/CNT: 27.1 kg<sub>PE</sub>/g<sub>Ni</sub> - 100 branches/1000C

Ni/FLG: 32.5 kg<sub>PE</sub>/g<sub>Ni</sub> - 130branches/1000C

# Acknowledgements



R. Bacsa  
B. Machado



W. Bacsa



*Raman*



B. Caussat



*CNT-FLG composites*

