

# Università degli Studi di Salerno

## Dipartimento di Chimica e Biologia



### **Aerogeli Polimerici** **Dottorato in Chimica** **XII ciclo**

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**Prof. Antonio Proto**

# Monolithic aerogels

Solid materials that are so porous that they contain mostly air (the pores occupy a very high percentage of a sample volume, above 90%).

- ✓ Inorganic Aerogels
- ✓ Chemically crosslinked polymeric aerogels
- ✓ Carbon Aerogels
- ✓ Physically crosslinked polymeric aerogels



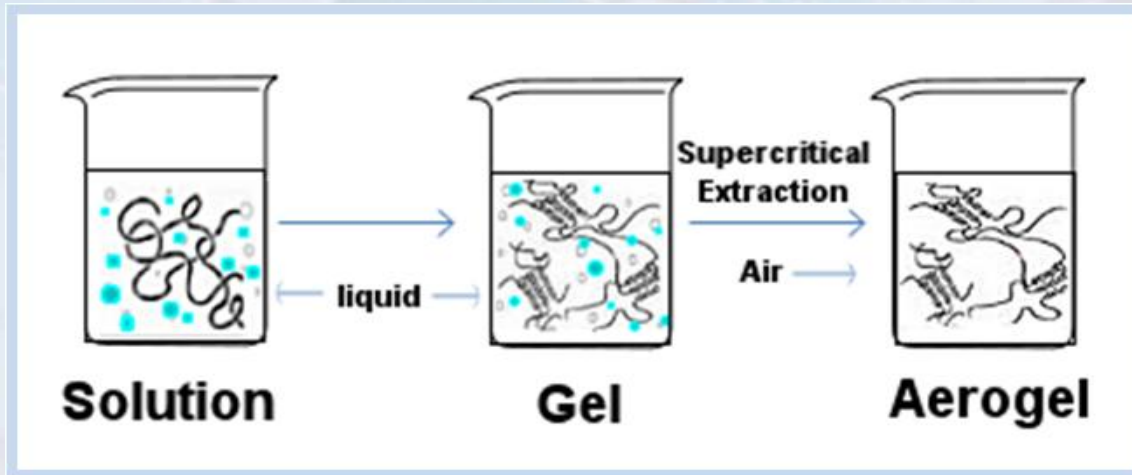
# Monolithic physically crosslinked polymeric aerogels

## Physical Gels

• Polymers should be →

- High MM (preferentially)
- **Regular and stereoregular(stable crystalline phases)**

• Hot polymer solutions are sudden cooled to lower temperature where gelation occurs.



High temperature  
solution

Low temperature  
physical gel

Gels and Aerogels where links between chains are **crystalline regions**



# Monolithic physically crosslinked polymeric aerogels

## Monolithic physically crosslinked polymeric aerogels based on thermoplastic commercial polymers :

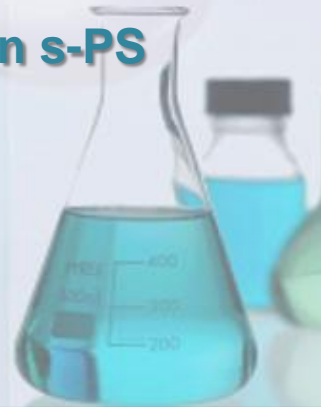
- Isotactic poly(4-methyl-pentene-1) i-P4MP1
- Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene UHMWPE

## Monolithic physically crosslinked polymeric aerogels based on thermoplastic polymers with **nanoporous crystalline phase** :

- Syndiotactic polystyrene (s-PS)
- Aerogels based on syndiotactic polystyrene and poly(2,6- dimethyl-1,4-phenylenoxide ) PPO
- Aerogels based on syndiotactic polystyrene and poly(2,6-diphenyl-1,4-phenylenoxide) PPPO

## **Nanocomposites** Physically Crosslinked Polymeric Aerogels based on s-PS with :

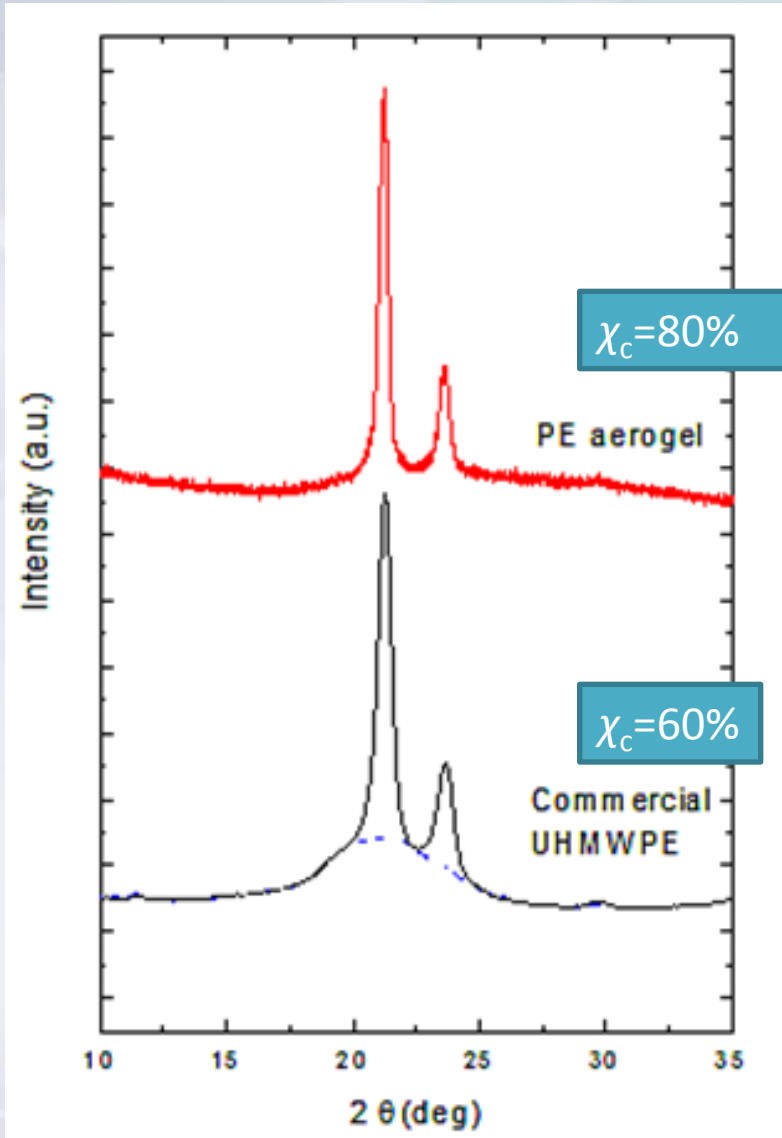
- Organically Modified Montmorillonite (OMMT)
- Reduced Graphene Oxide (r-GO)





**Monolithic physically  
crosslinked polymeric  
aerogels based on  
thermoplastic commercial  
polymers**

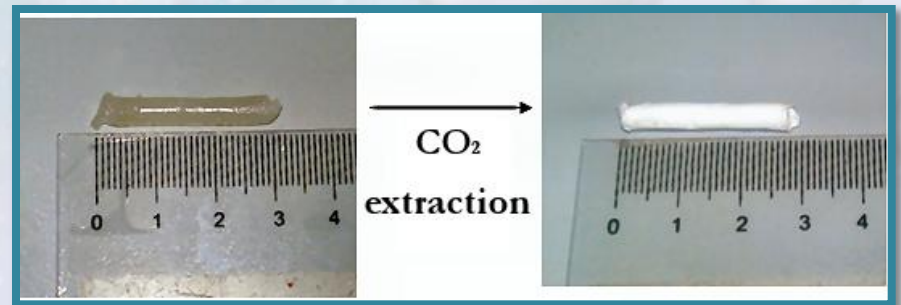
# Polyethylene Aerogels



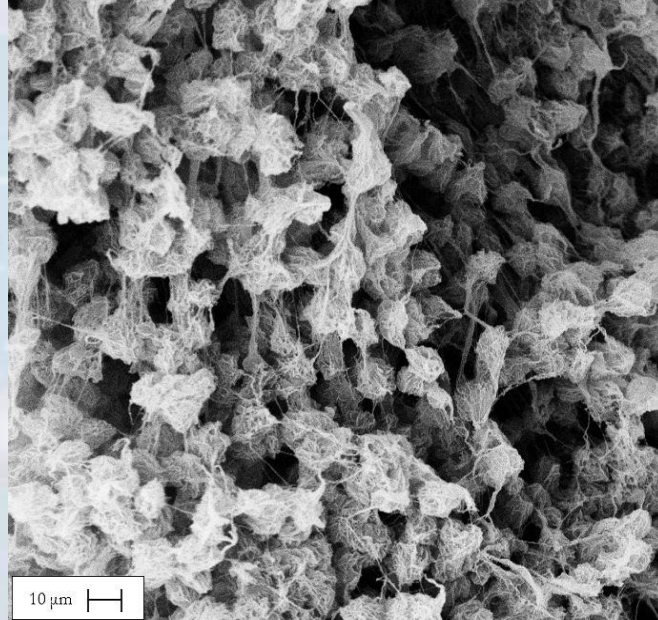
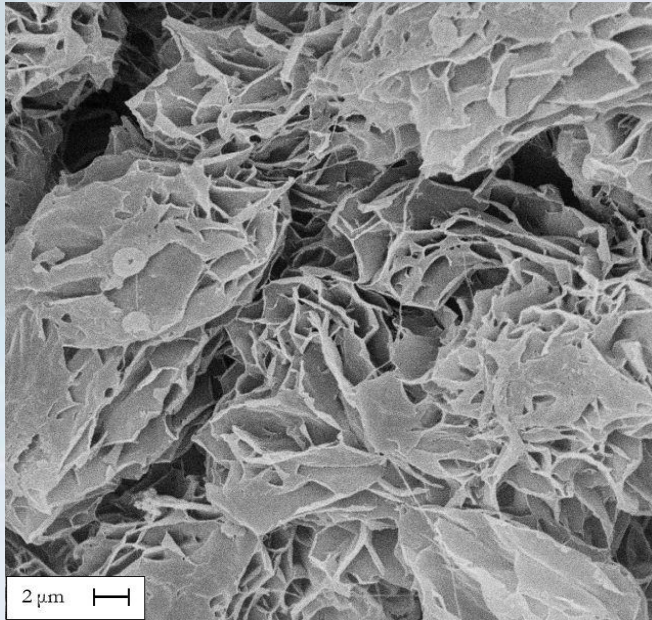
- 10 wt% of polymer (solv.decaline)

- 0.5 % w/w of the anti-oxidant di-t-butyl-p-cresol

P. Smith, P. J. Lemstra, H. C. Booij, J. Polym. Sci., Phys., **1981**, Ed. 19, 877




# Polyethylene Aerogels



Sample	$S_{\text{BET}}$ ( $\text{m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$ )
Commercial UHMWPE	2,7
UHMWPE aerogel	66

Total area evaluated following the BET model in the standard  $0.05 < P/P_0 < 0.3$  pressure range.





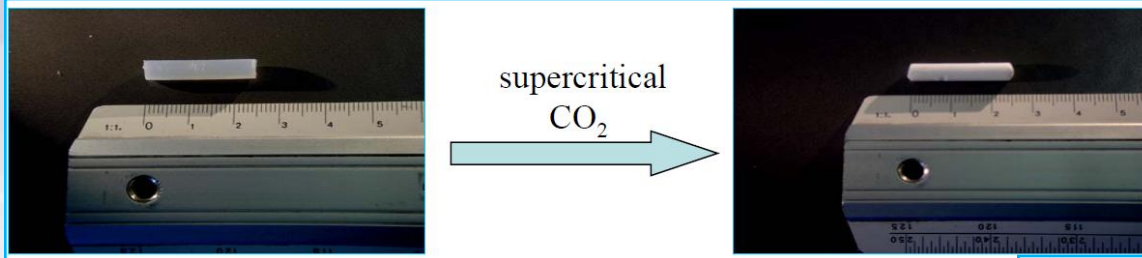
**Monolithic physically  
crosslinked polymeric  
aerogels based on  
thermoplastic polymers  
with nanoporous  
crystalline phase**



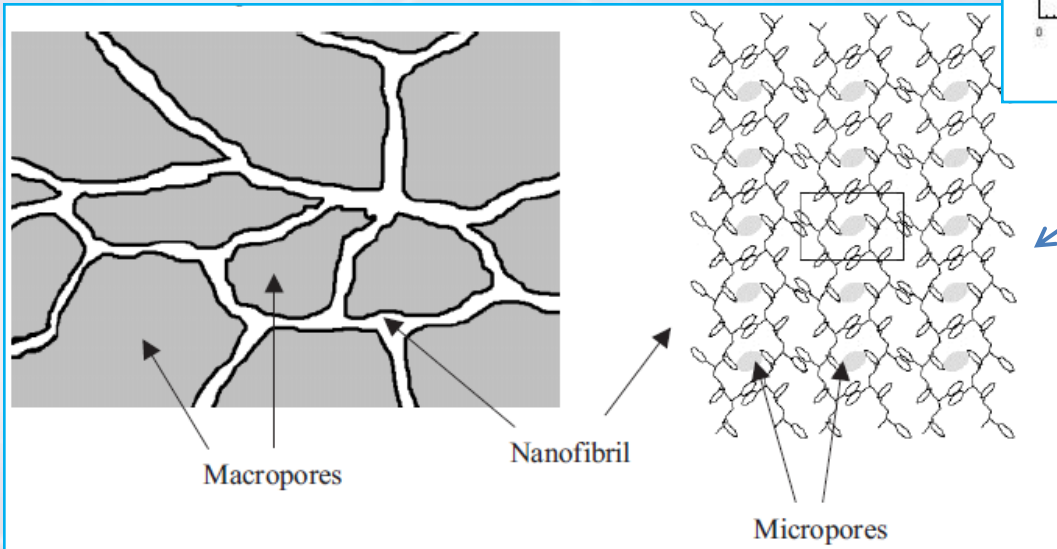
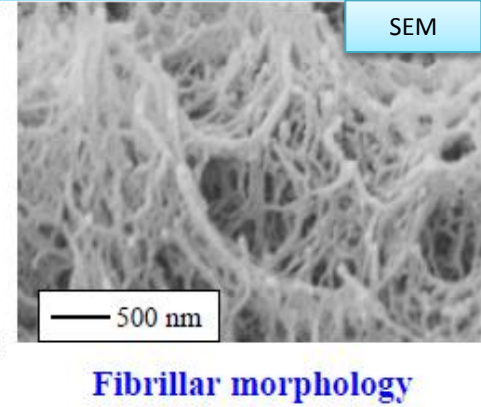
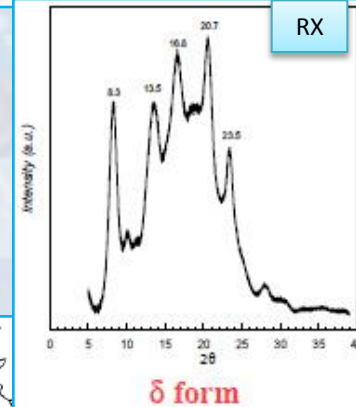
# Polymeric aerogels with nanoporous crystalline phase

## Monolithic physically crosslinked polymeric aerogels

sPS aerogel

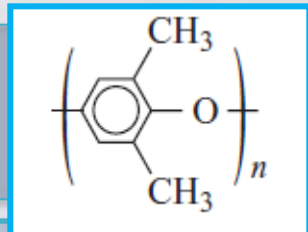


crystalline regions consist of a clathrate phase



# Monolithic Nanoporous Crystalline Aerogels based on PPO

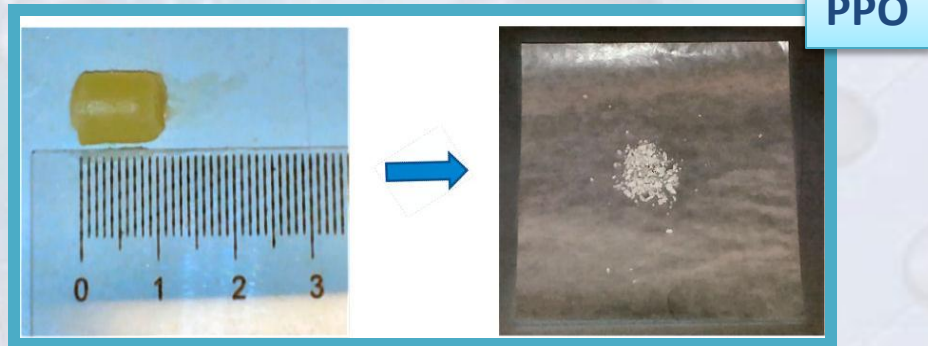
## Preparation of monolithic aerogels, including PPO nanoporous-crystalline phases



### PROBLEM :

solvent extraction by supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> from PPO gels leads to powders rather than to aerogels

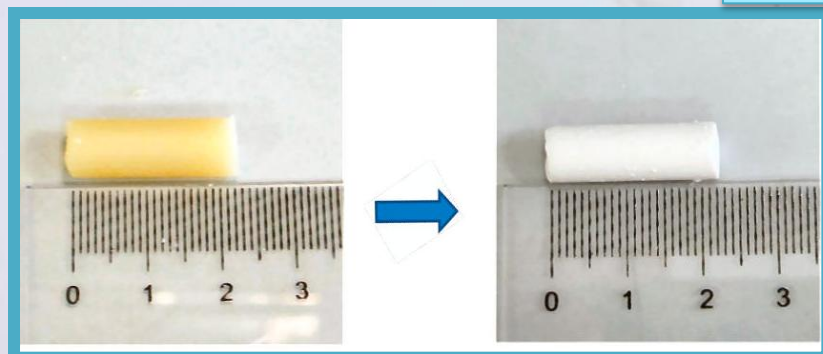
Daniel, C.; Longo, S.; Vitillo, J.G.; Fasano, G.; Guerra, G. *Chem. Mater.* **2011**, *23*, 3195



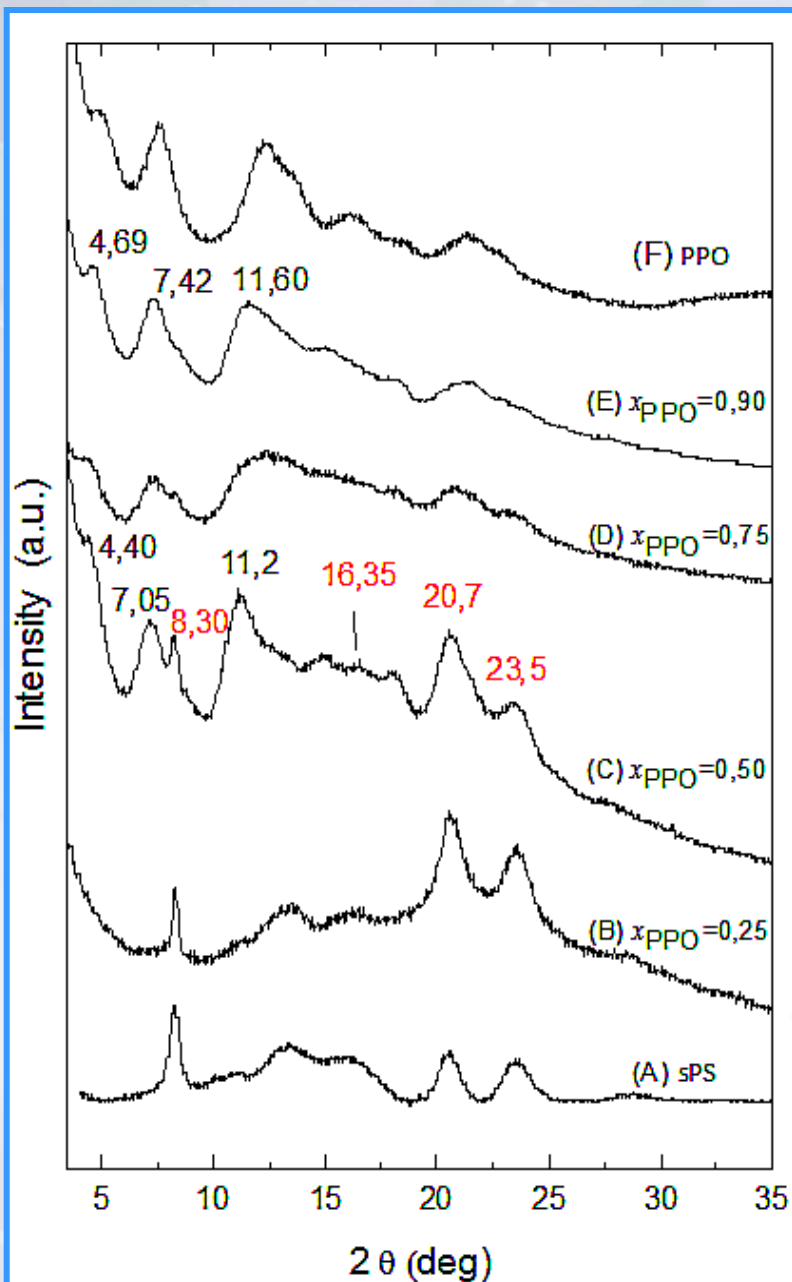
### SOLUTION:

s-PS/PPO aerogels

PPO 90wt%  
sPS 10wt%



# Influence of s-PS on PPO crystallization



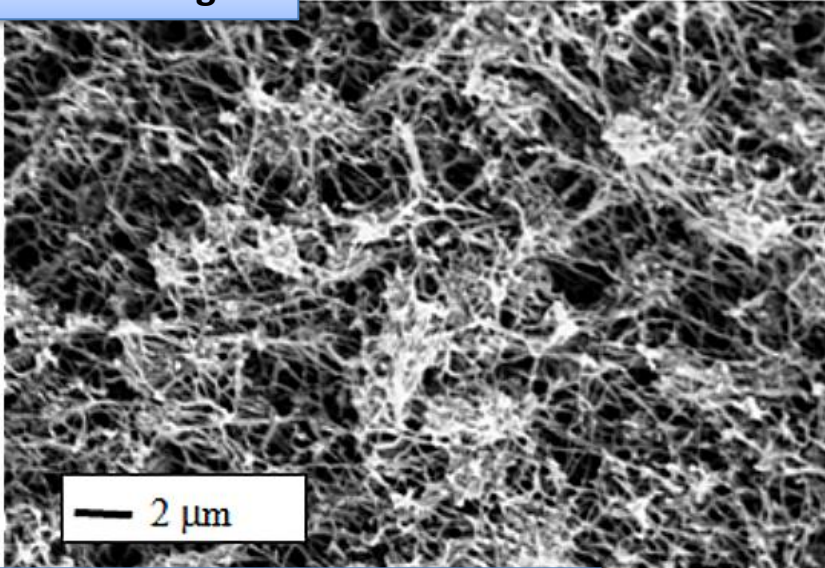
PPO crystallinity diffraction peak positions change with  $x_{\text{PPO}}$

Both s-PS  $\delta$  form and PPO crystallinities are clearly present

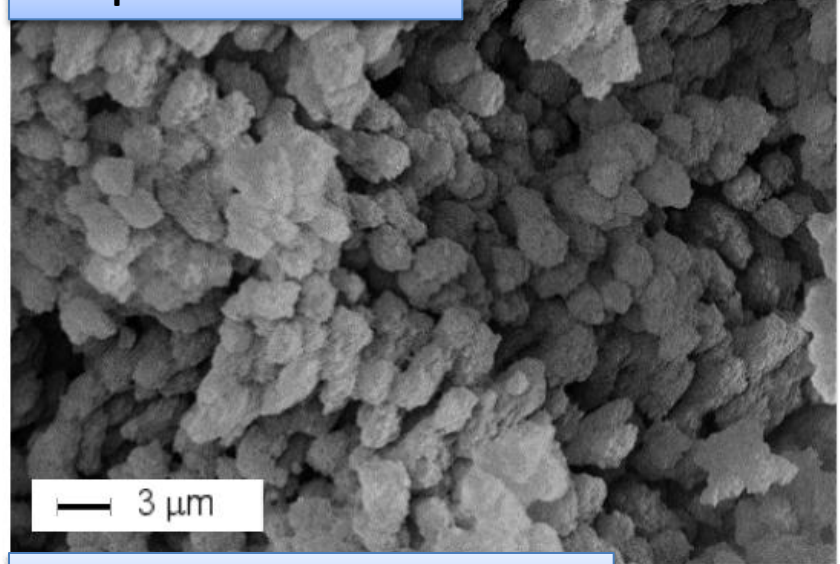
For low PPO contents only the crystallinity of the  $\delta$  form of s-PS, is present.

# Influence of s-PS on PPO crystallization

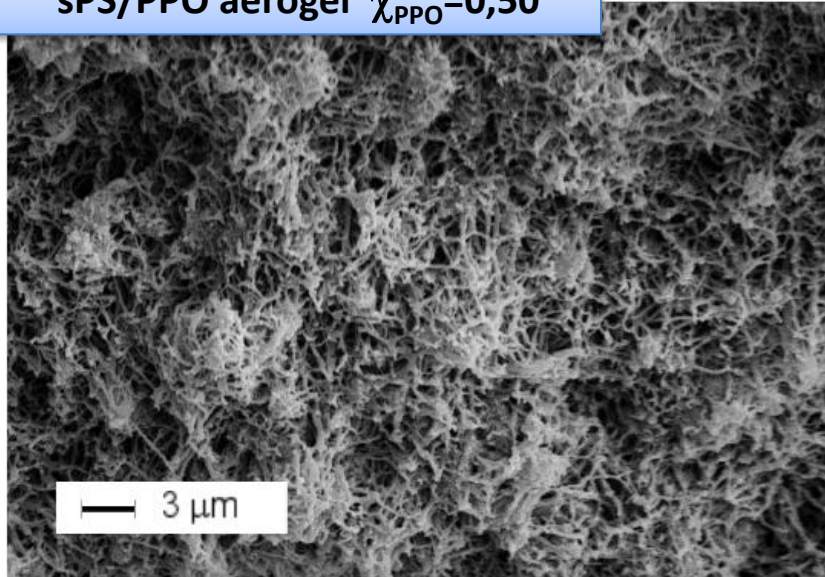
$\delta$  sPS aerogel



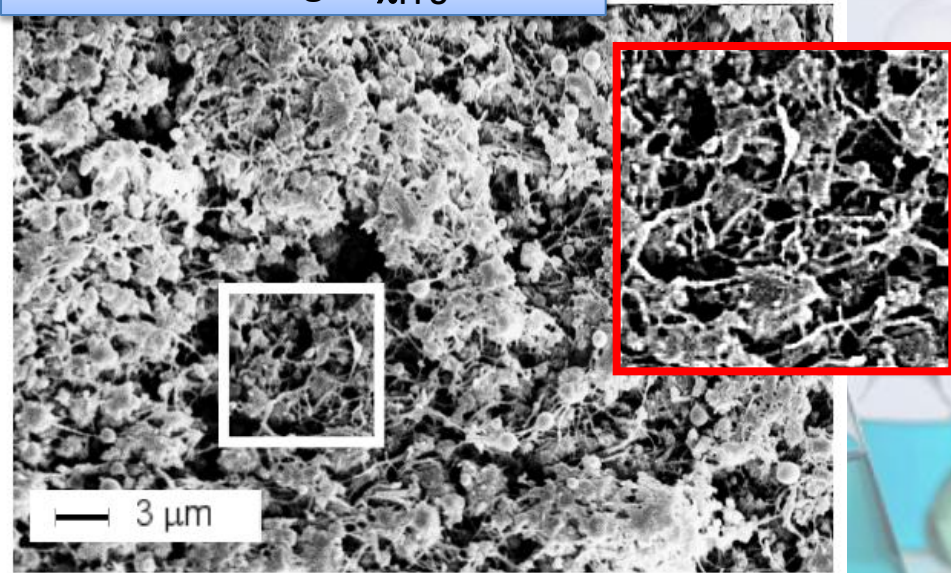
PPO powder from DCE



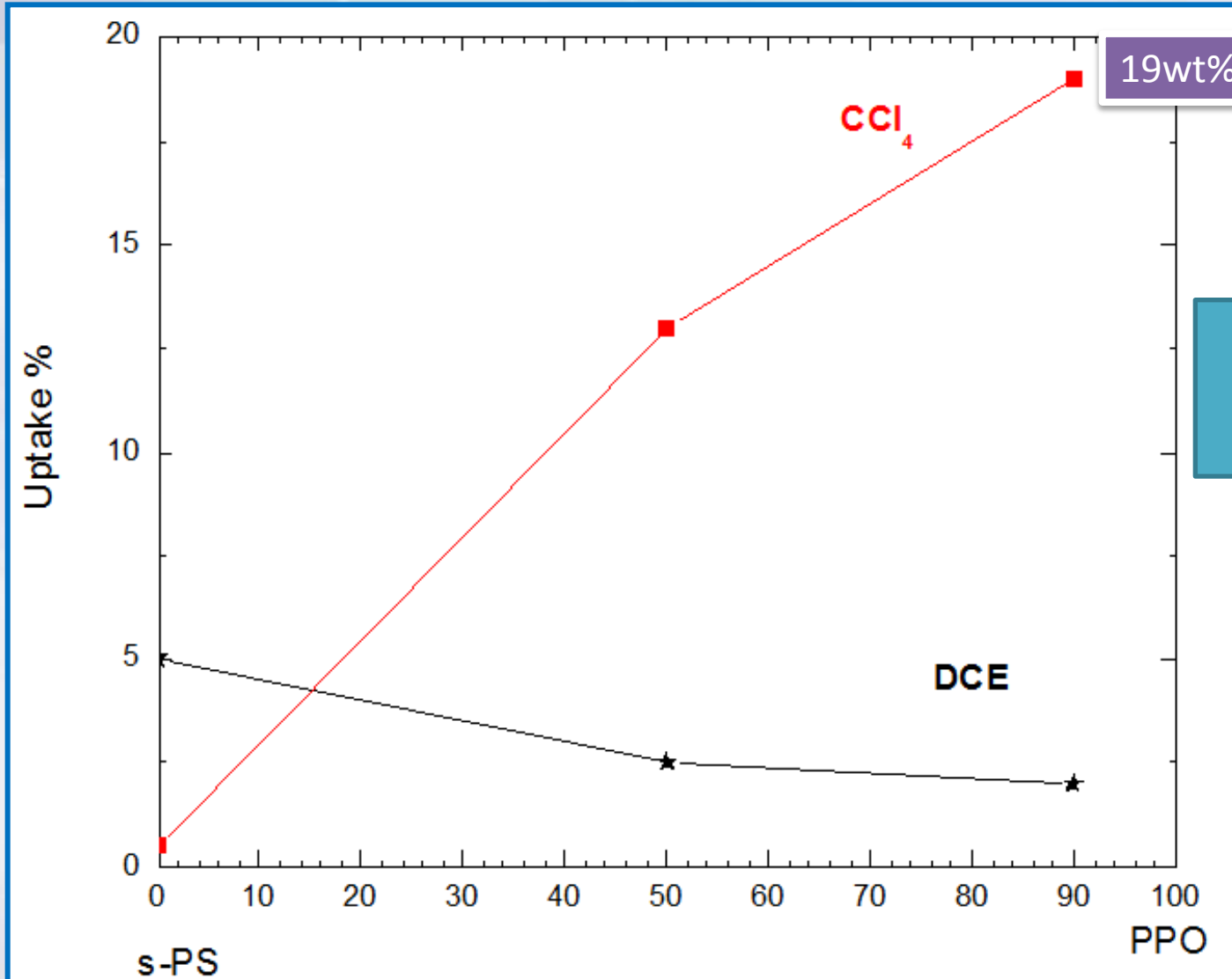
sPS/PPO aerogel  $\chi_{\text{PPO}}=0,50$



sPS/PPO aerogel  $\chi_{\text{PPO}}=0,90$



# Sorption from diluted aqueous solutions



19wt%

$\text{CCl}_4$

DCE

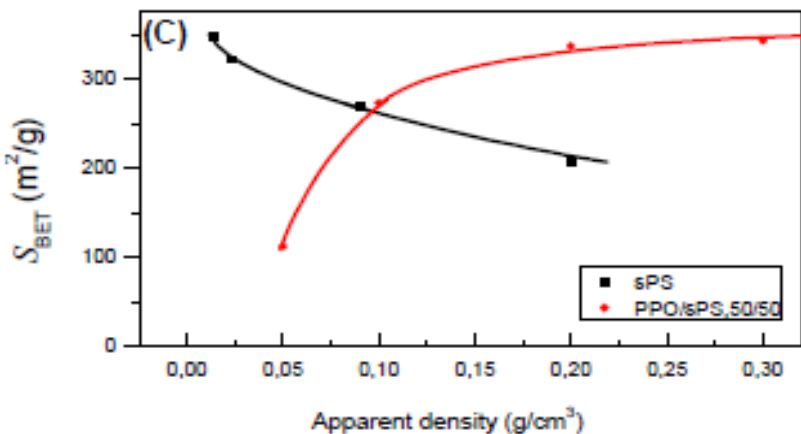
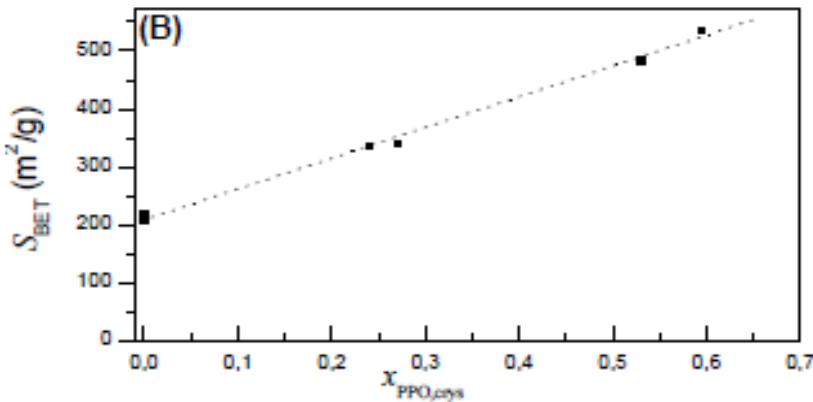
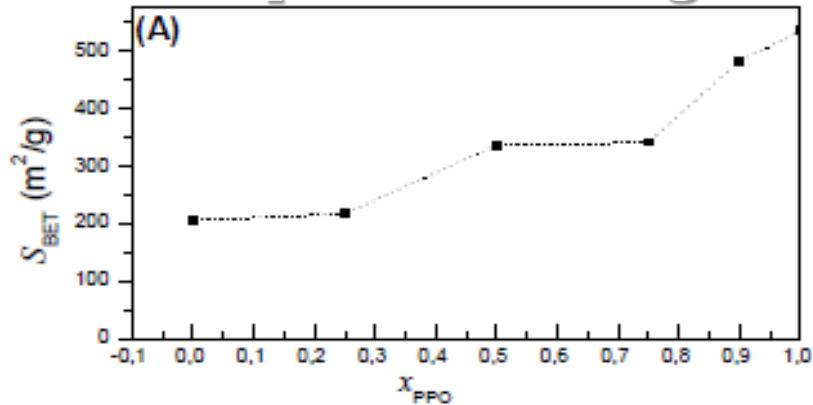
Selective  
Absorption

10 ppm



# Sorption Properties:

## Properties of aerogels based on nanoporous-crystalline PPO



The surface area,  $S_{BET}$ , increases with the PPO content but only for aerogels with crystalline PPO

The surface area increases when the density **increases**

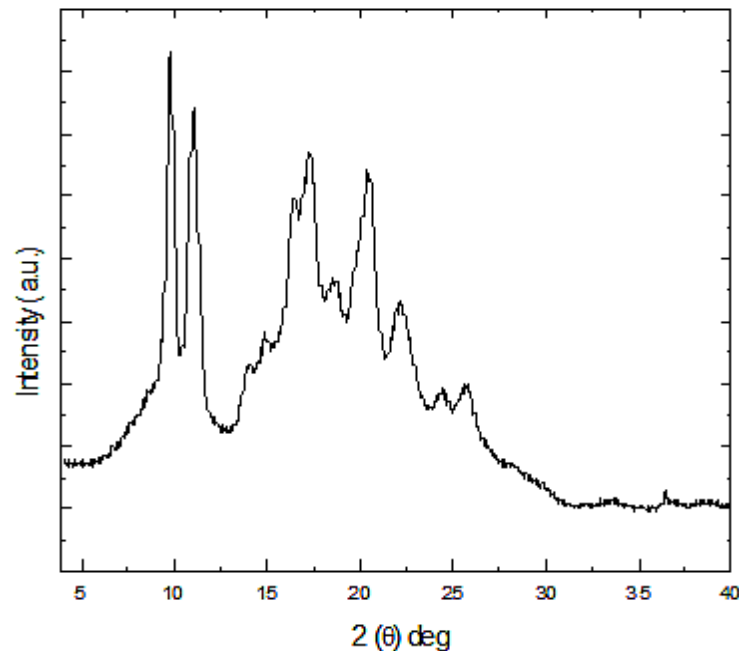
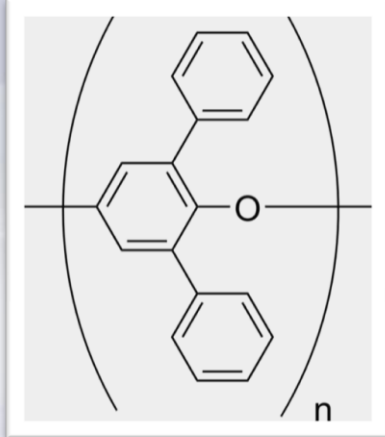
Total surface areas and micropore areas, as obtained from N<sub>2</sub> isotherms (BET experiments) for the mixed PPO/s-PS aerogels



# Monolithic aerogels based on PPPO

## Poly(2,6-diphenyl-1,4-phenylene oxide)

High sorbent nanoporous amorphous phase



- **Thermally stable (up to 350 °C)**

K. Dettmer, W. Engewald, *Anal. Bioanal. Chem.* 2002, 373 (6), 490–500

- **High glass transition temperature ( $T_g=220^{\circ}\text{C}$ )**

I. Maier, M. Fieber, *J. High. Resolut. Chromatogr.* 1988, 11 (8), 566–576

- **An adsorbent material for monitoring air or water quality and industrial emissions**

W. Bertsch, A. Zlatkis, H.M. Liebich, *J. Chromatogr.* 1974, A 99, 673–687

M. Harper, *J. Chromatogr.* 2000, A 885 (1-2), 129–151

Commercial Tenax TA

# Monolithic aerogels based on PPPO

## Main Goals

- Establish if the occurrence of a nanoporous crystalline phase could be at the origin of the high sorption properties of this polymer.
- Explore the possibility to obtain PPPO aerogels, in the attempt to improve the already high sorption capability.





# Monolithic aerogels based on PPPO

PPPO is not  
able  
to give thermoreversible  
gels



**IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN  
AEROGELS**

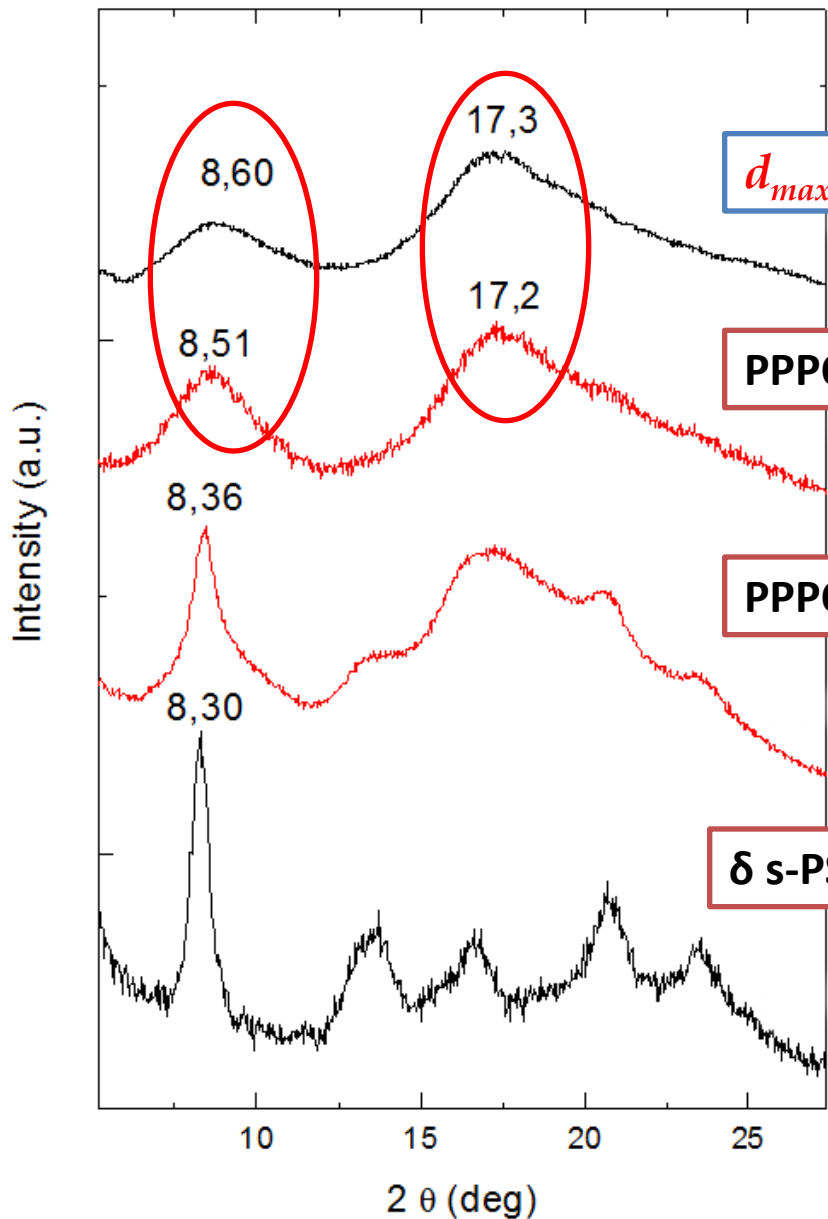


**BUT**

Monolithic PPPO aerogels can be  
prepared from thermoreversible gels  
based on PPPO/syndiotactic polystyrene  
(s-PS) blends



# Monolithic aerogels based on PPPO

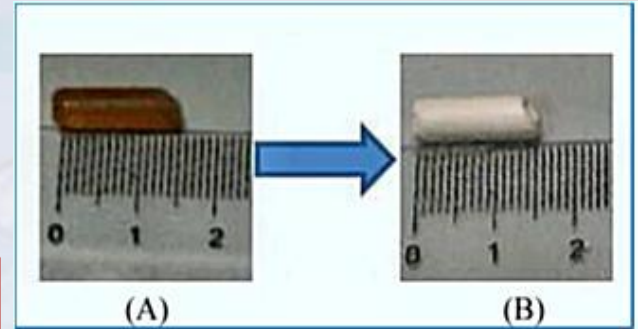


$$d_{max} = 5.12 \text{ \AA}$$

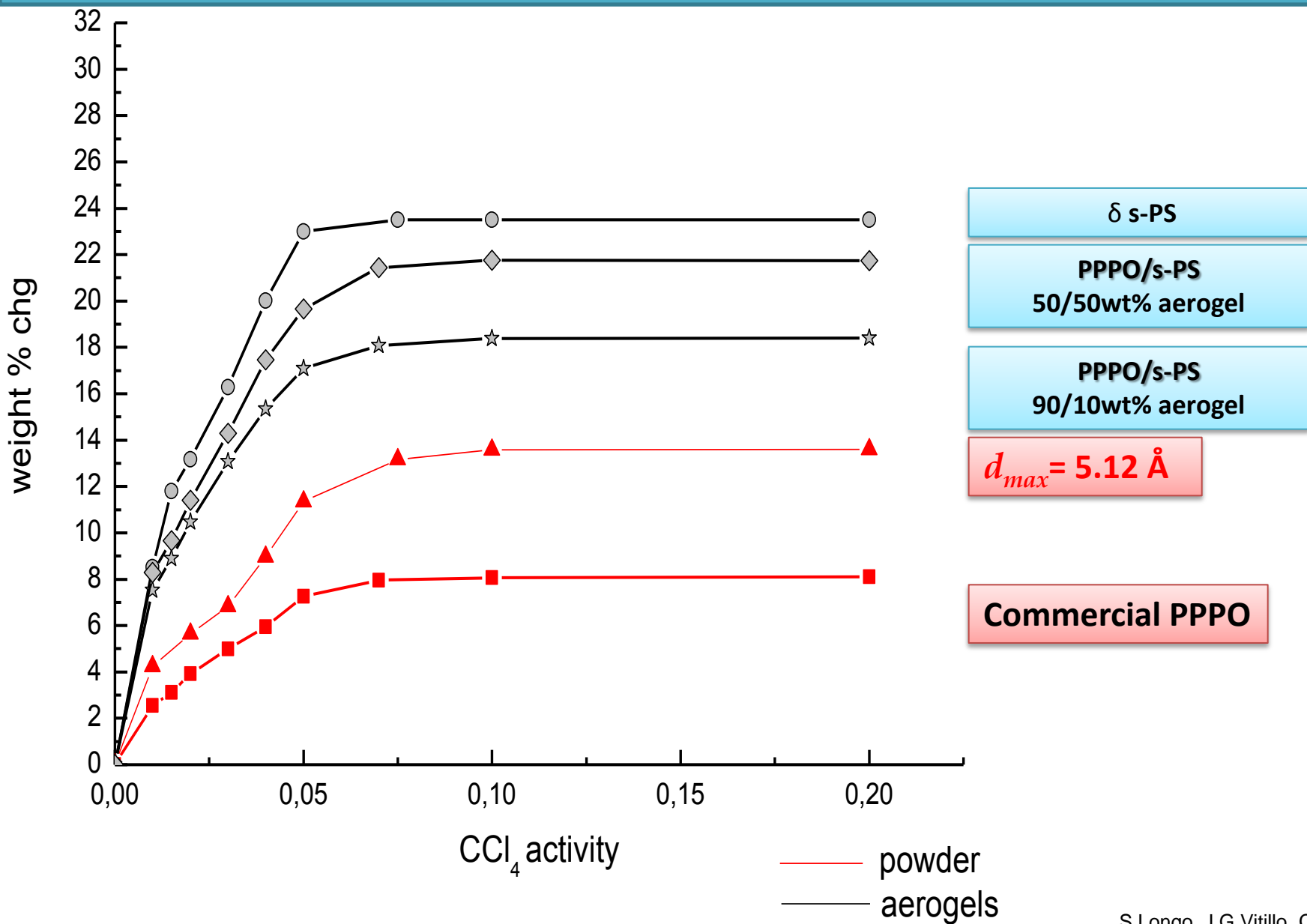
PPPO/ $\delta$  s-PS 90-10

PPPO/ $\delta$  s-PS 50-50

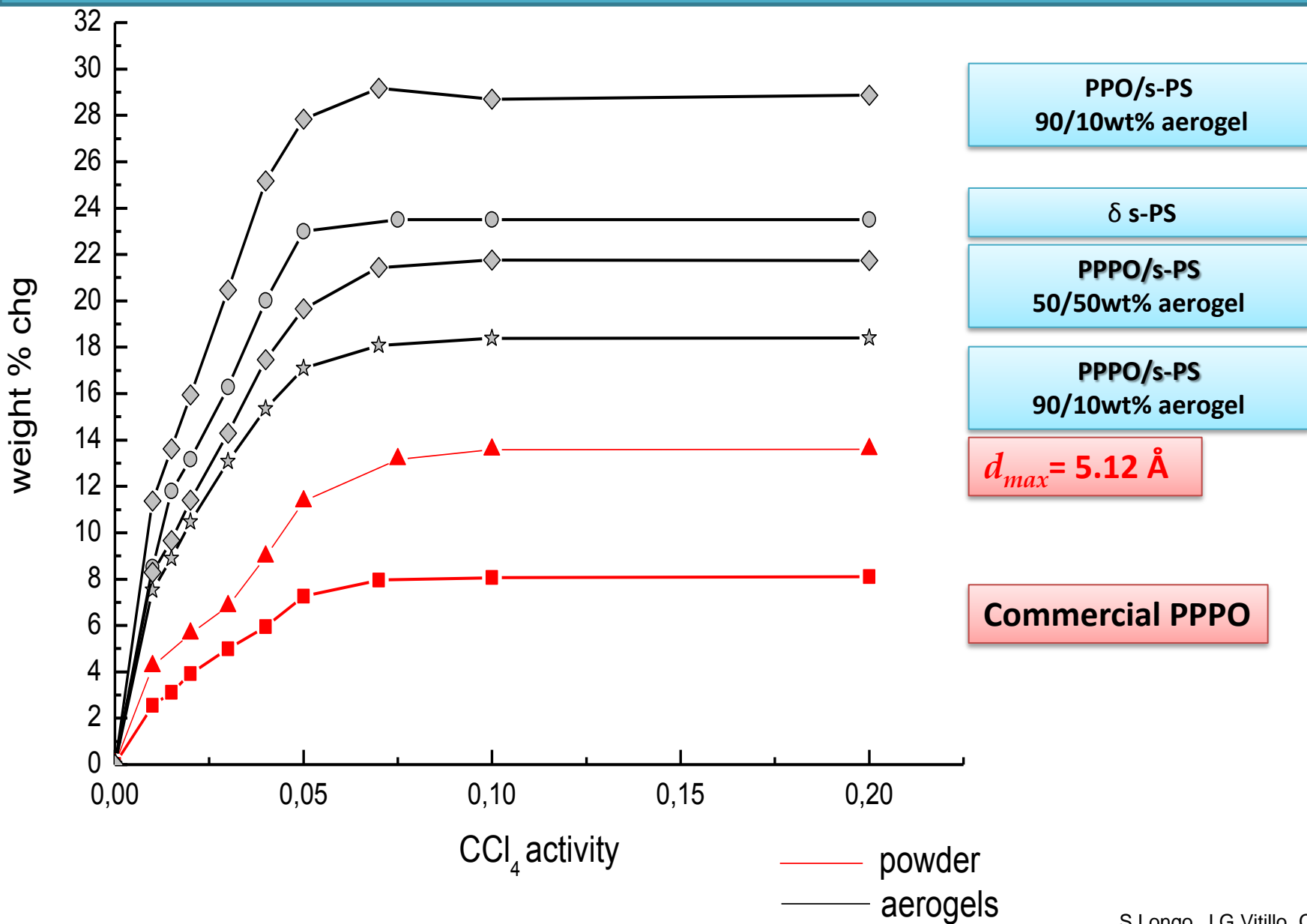
$\delta$  s-PS from  $\text{CHCl}_3$



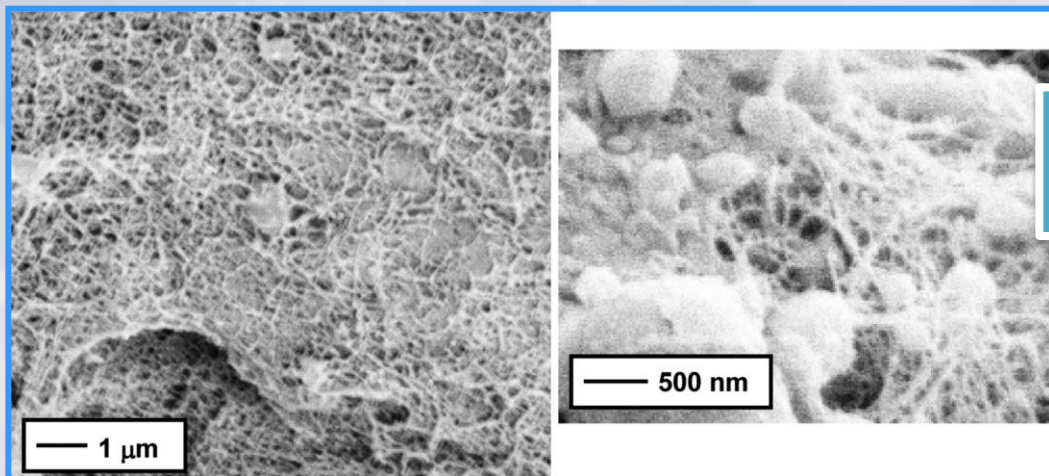
# Monolithic aerogels based on PPPO:sorption properties



# Monolithic aerogels based on PPO:sorption properties



# Monolithic aerogels based on PPPO




PPPO/s-PS aerogel with porosity  $P = 90\%$

## BET measurements

Total area evaluated following the BET model in the standard  $0.05 < P/P_0 < 0.3$  pressure range.

Samples	Polymer composition (wt/wt)	$S_{\text{BET}}$ ( $\text{m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$ )
Aerogels	s-PS( $\delta$ -form)	290
	PPPO/s-PS, 50/50	<b>197</b>
	PPPO/s-PS, 90/10	<b>47</b>
Powders	s-PS( $\delta$ -form)	43
	PPPO	<b>20</b>

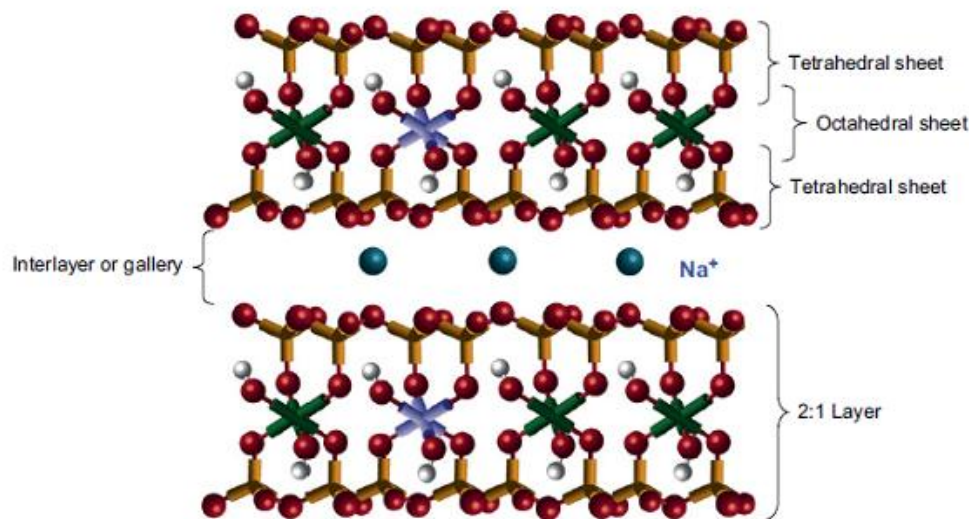


**Nanocomposites**  
**Physically Crosslinked  
Polymeric Aerogels based  
on s-PS**

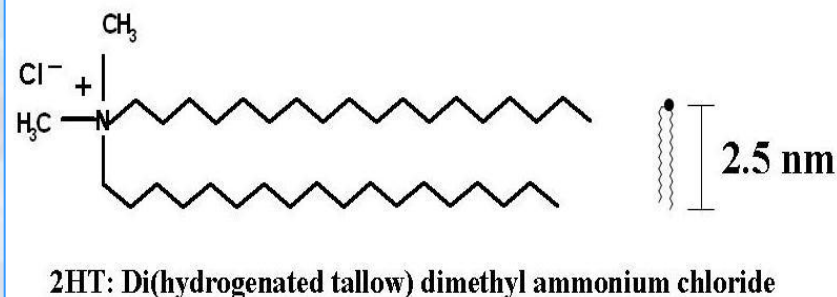
# Nanocomposites Physically Crosslinked Polymeric Aerogels

## Polymer/Clay Aerogels

### $\text{Na}^+$ -MMT sodium montmorillonite



### OMMT :organically modified montmorillonite



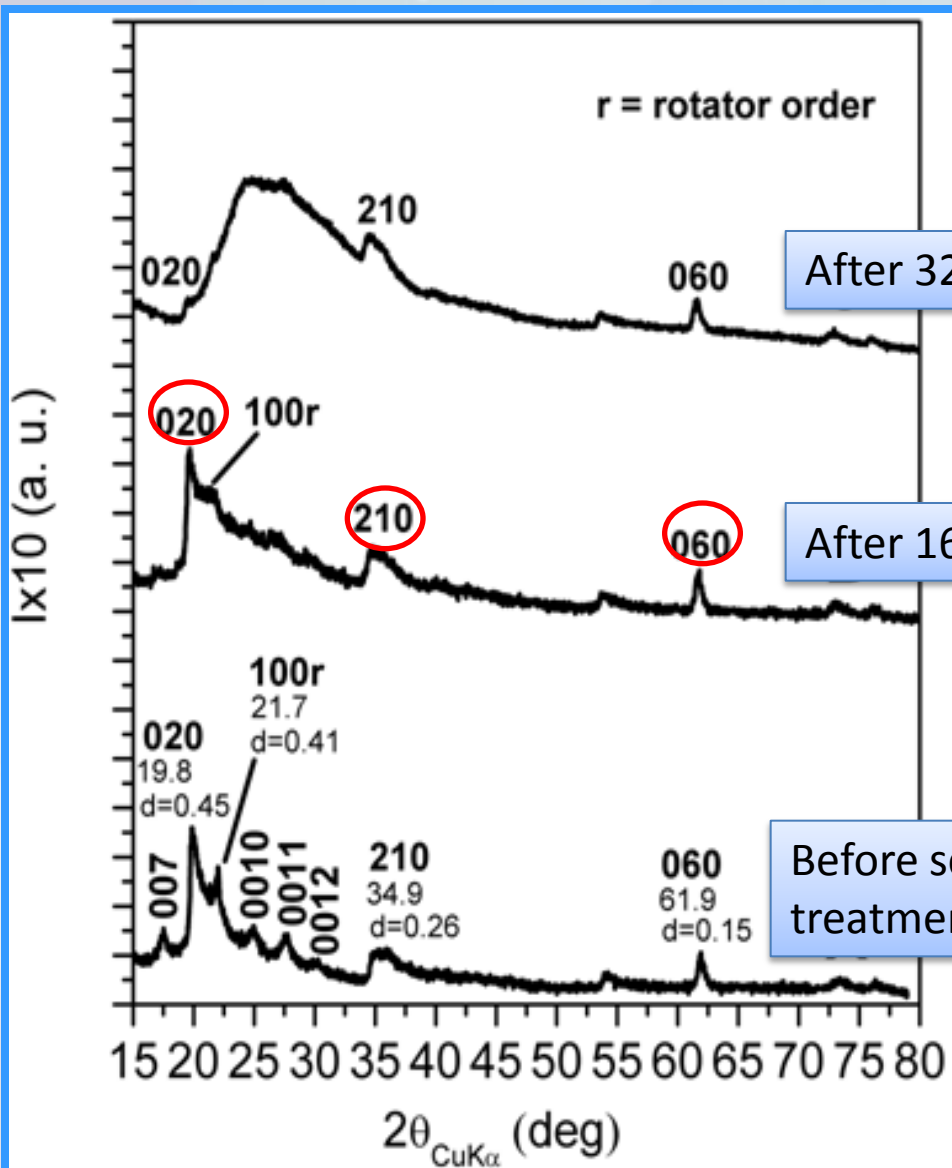
### Main goals

- Investigation of the scCO<sub>2</sub> induced organoclay exfoliation
- Preparation of composite aerogels containing large amounts of exfoliated organoclay as well as a nanoporous-crystalline polymer phase.

# Nanocomposites Physically Crosslinked Polymeric Aerogels

## OMMT exfoliation by scCO<sub>2</sub>

- a) S. Horsch, G. Serhatkulu, E. Gulari, R. M. Kannan. *Polymer*, **2006**, 47, 7485–7496.  
 b) M. Manitiu, R. J. Bellair, S. Horsch, E. Gulari, and R. M. Kannan, *Macromolecules*, **2009**, 41, 8038–8046.



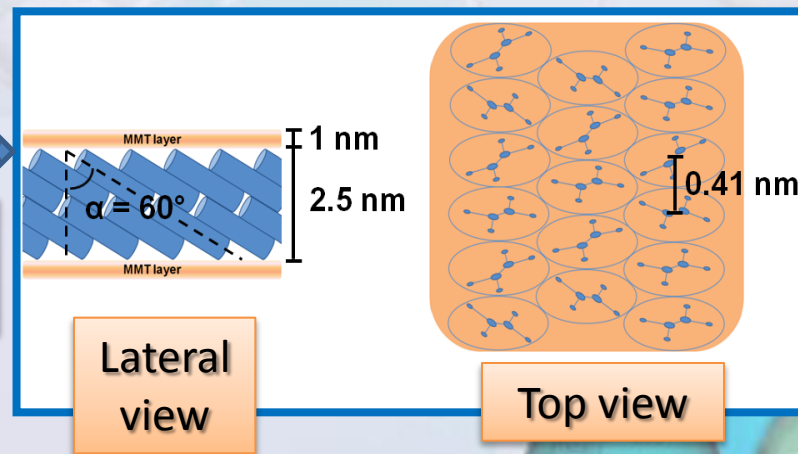
After 32h scCO<sub>2</sub> treatment

Exfoliation is achieved

After 16h scCO<sub>2</sub> treatment

maintenance of the in-plane order

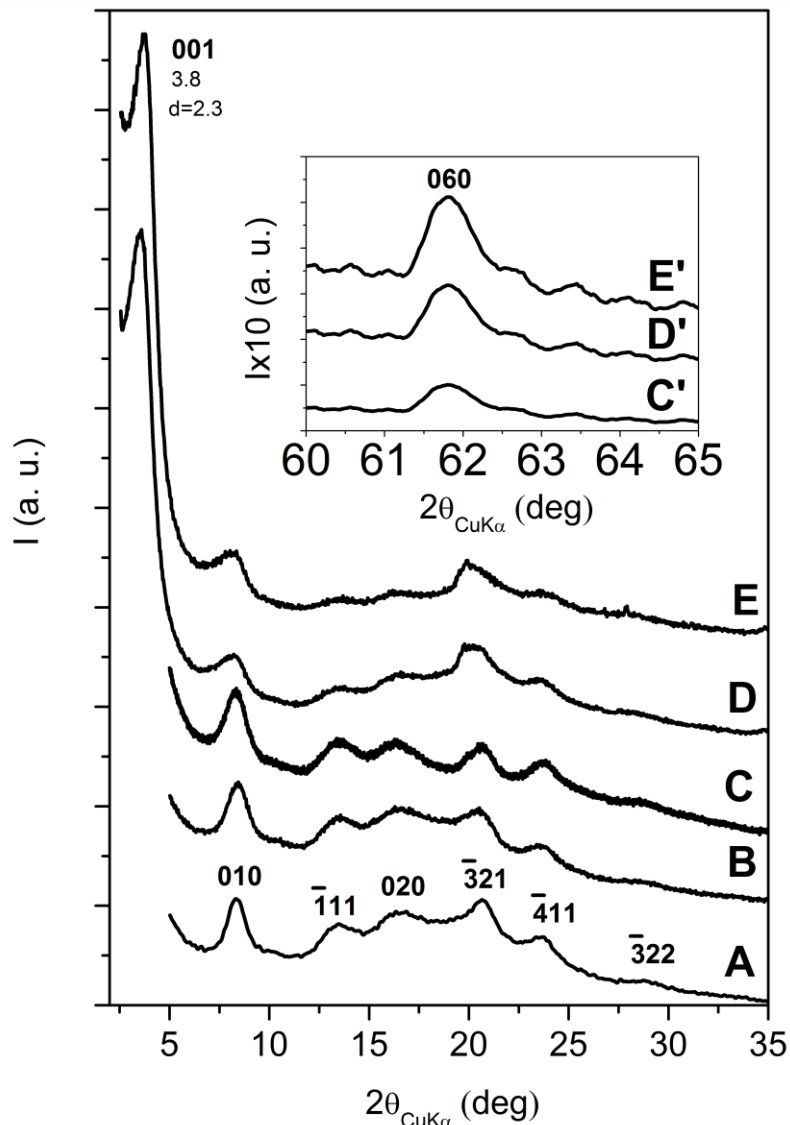
Before scCO<sub>2</sub> treatment



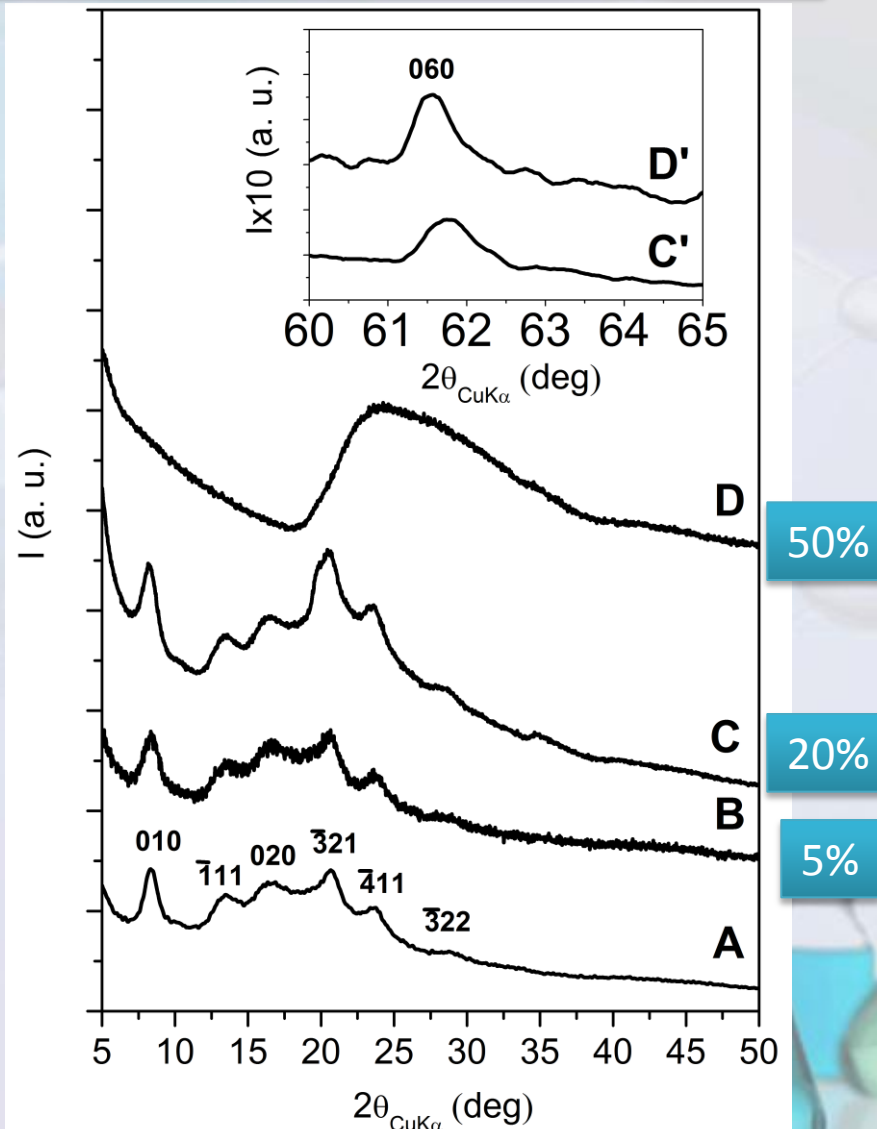


# Nanocomposites Physically Crosslinked Polymeric Aerogels

s-PS aerogels with as received OMMT



s-PS aerogels with exfoliated OMMT

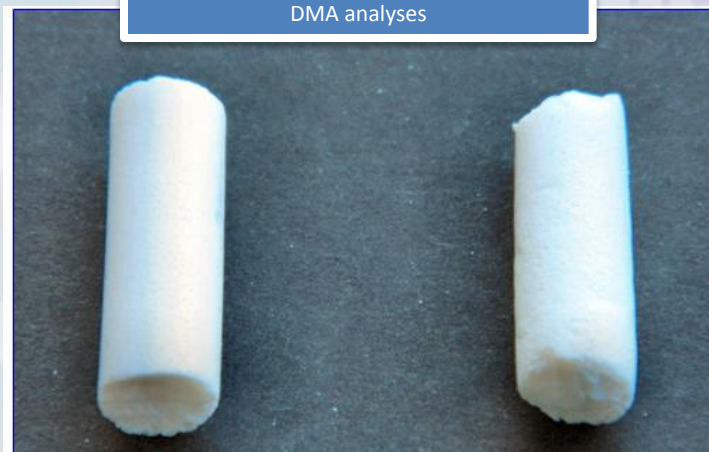


# Nanocomposites Physically Crosslinked Polymeric Aerogels

36 MPa vs 15 Mpa

DMA analyses

**ELASTIC MODULUS**



80/20 weight ratio

P=90%

s-PS aerogels with  
exfoliated OMMT

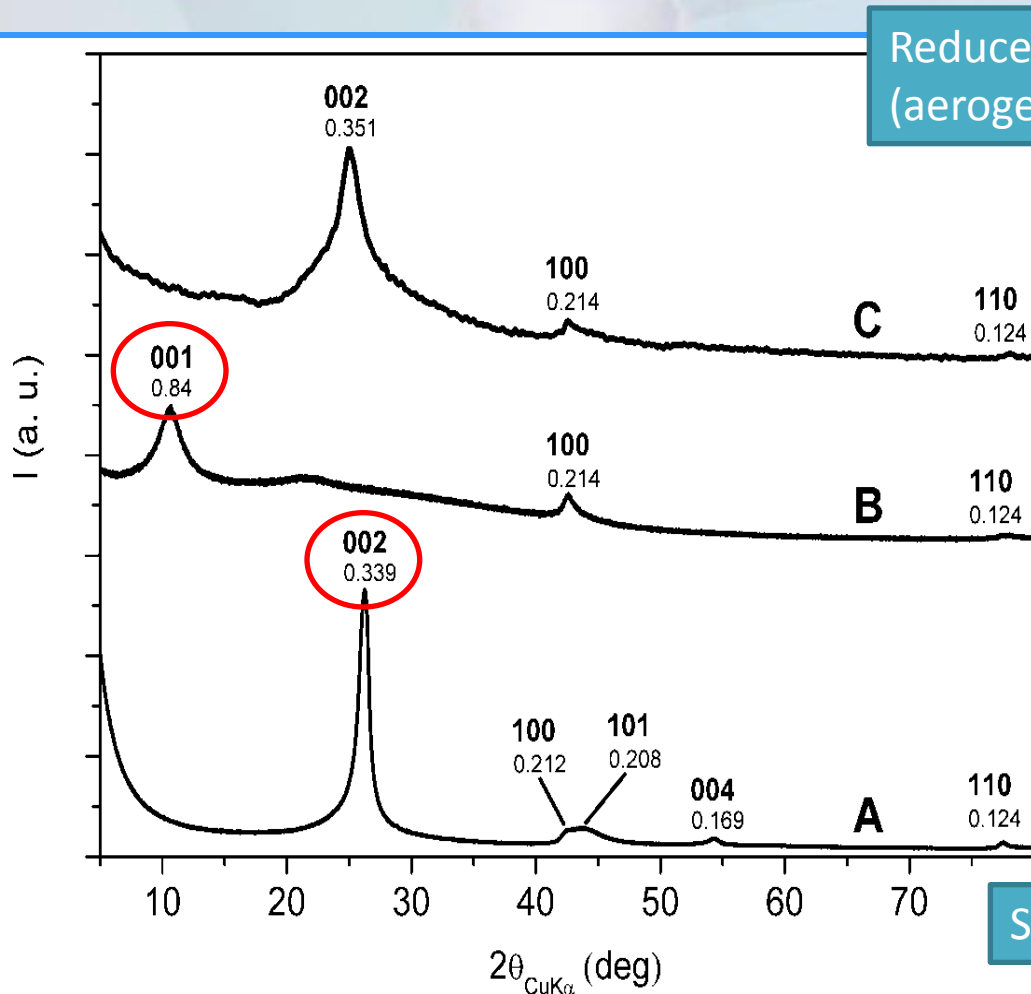
s-PS aerogels with as  
received OMMT

Sample	$S_{\text{BET}}^a$ ( $\text{m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$ )
Intercalated OMMT	10
Exfoliated OMMT (scCO <sub>2</sub> treated)	18
s-PS/intercalated-OMMT, 80/20 aerogel	166
s-PS/exfoliated-OMMT, 80/20 aerogel	281
Aerogel $\delta$ s-PS	312

Total area evaluated following the BET model in the standard  $0.05 < P/P_0 < 0.3$  pressure range.

# Nanocomposites Physically Crosslinked Polymeric Aerogels

## Polymer/GO Aerogels



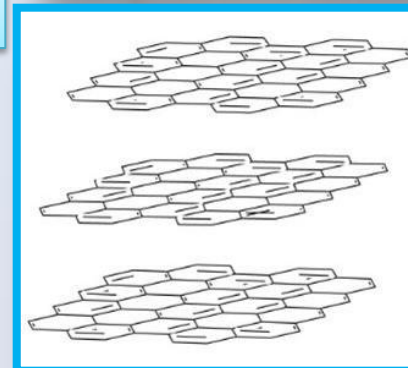
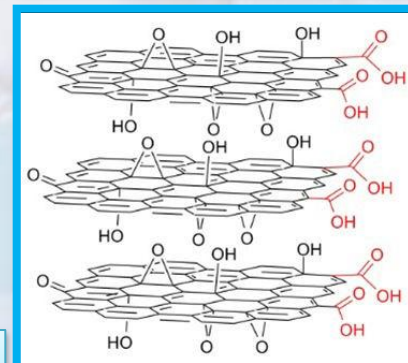
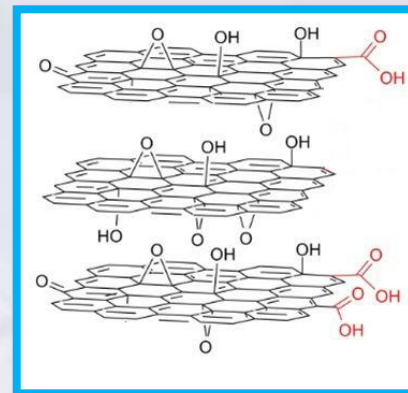
Reduced GO  
(aerogel preparations)

Derived GO

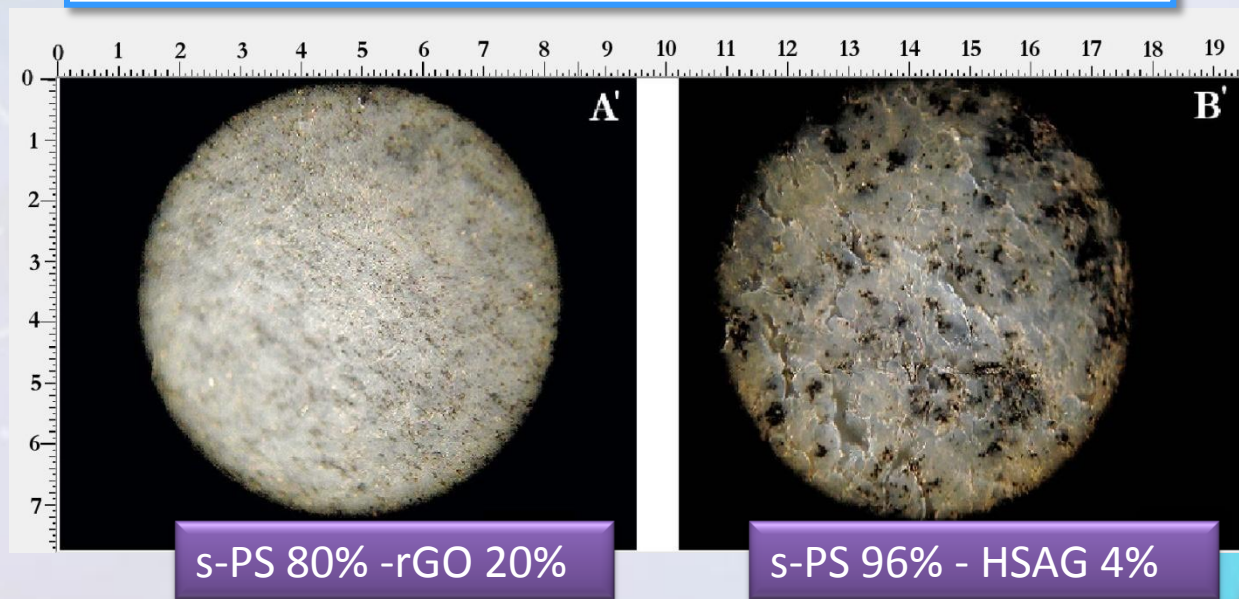
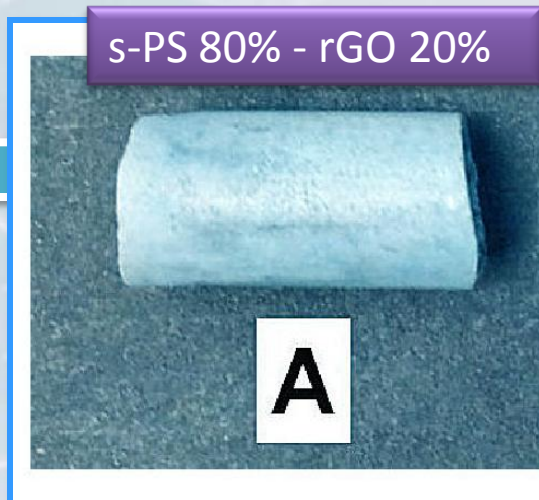
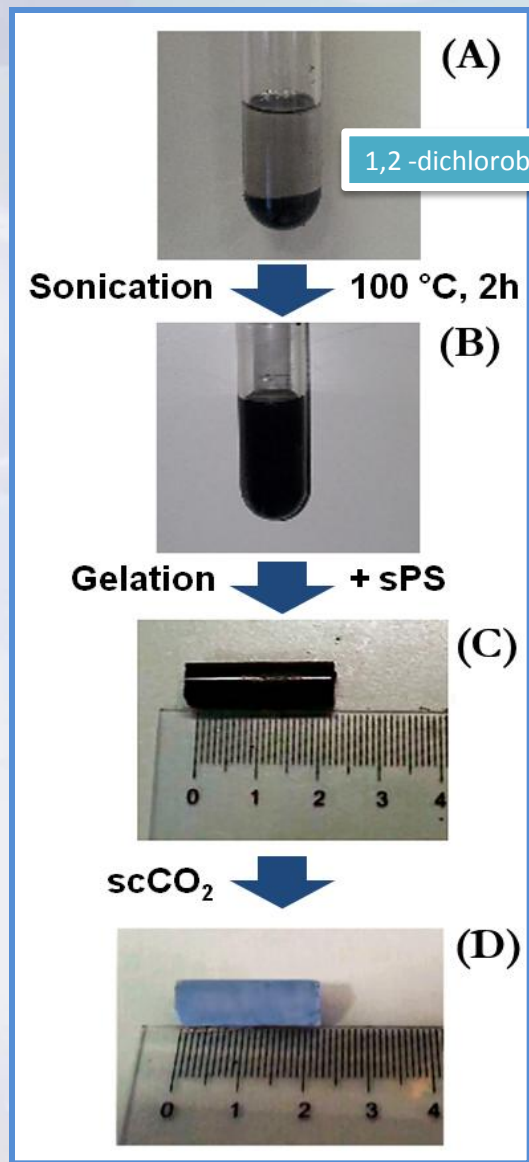
Hummers'  
method

W.S. Hummers, R.E.  
Offeman, *J. Am. Chem.  
Soc.*, 1958, 80, 1339

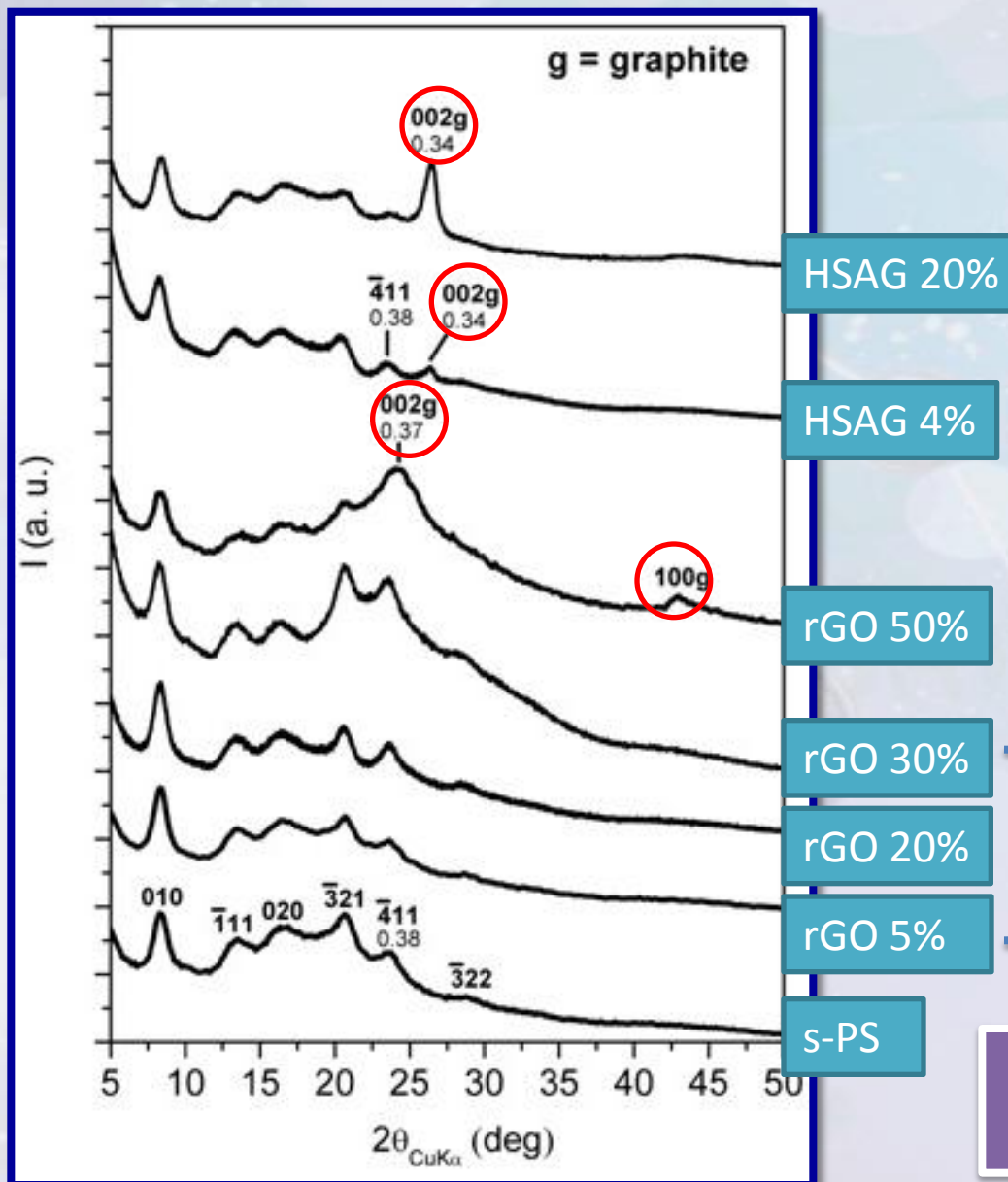
Starting Graphite



# Nanocomposites Physically Crosslinked Polymeric Aerogels



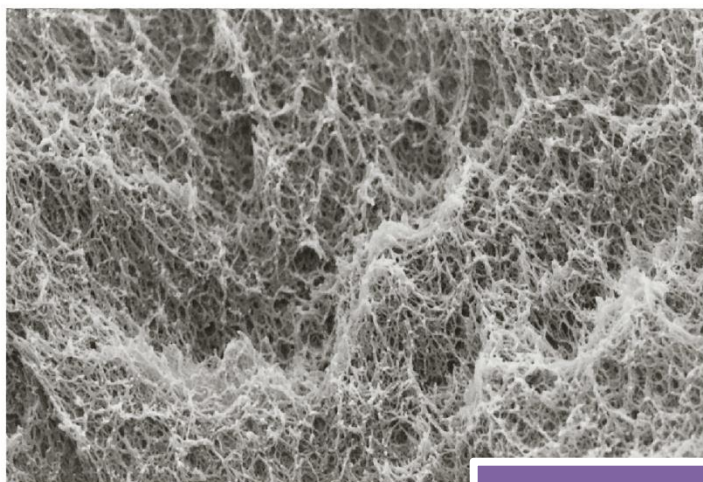
# Nanocomposites Physically Crosslinked Polymeric Aerogels



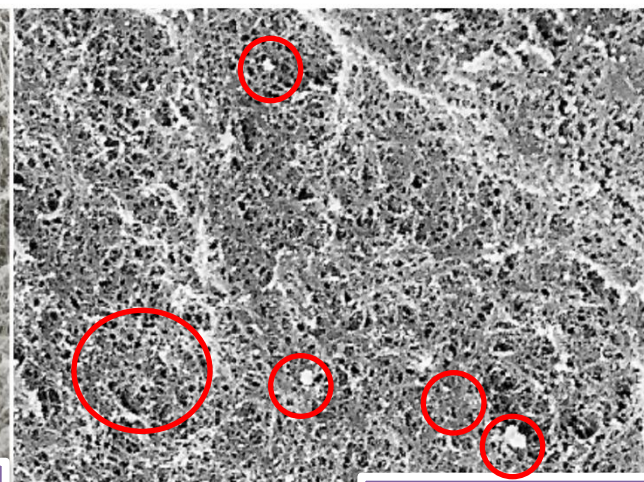
Absence of the narrow 002 peak of the rGO

Negligible order in the direction perpendicular to the graphitic plane

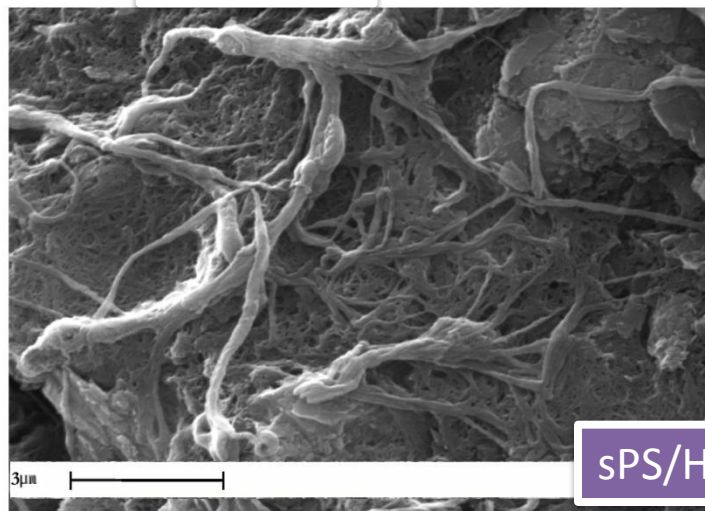
# Nanocomposites Physically Crosslinked Polymeric Aerogels



Pure s-PS



sPS/rGO, 80/20



sPS/HSAG, 96/4

# Nanocomposites Physically Crosslinked Polymeric Aerogels

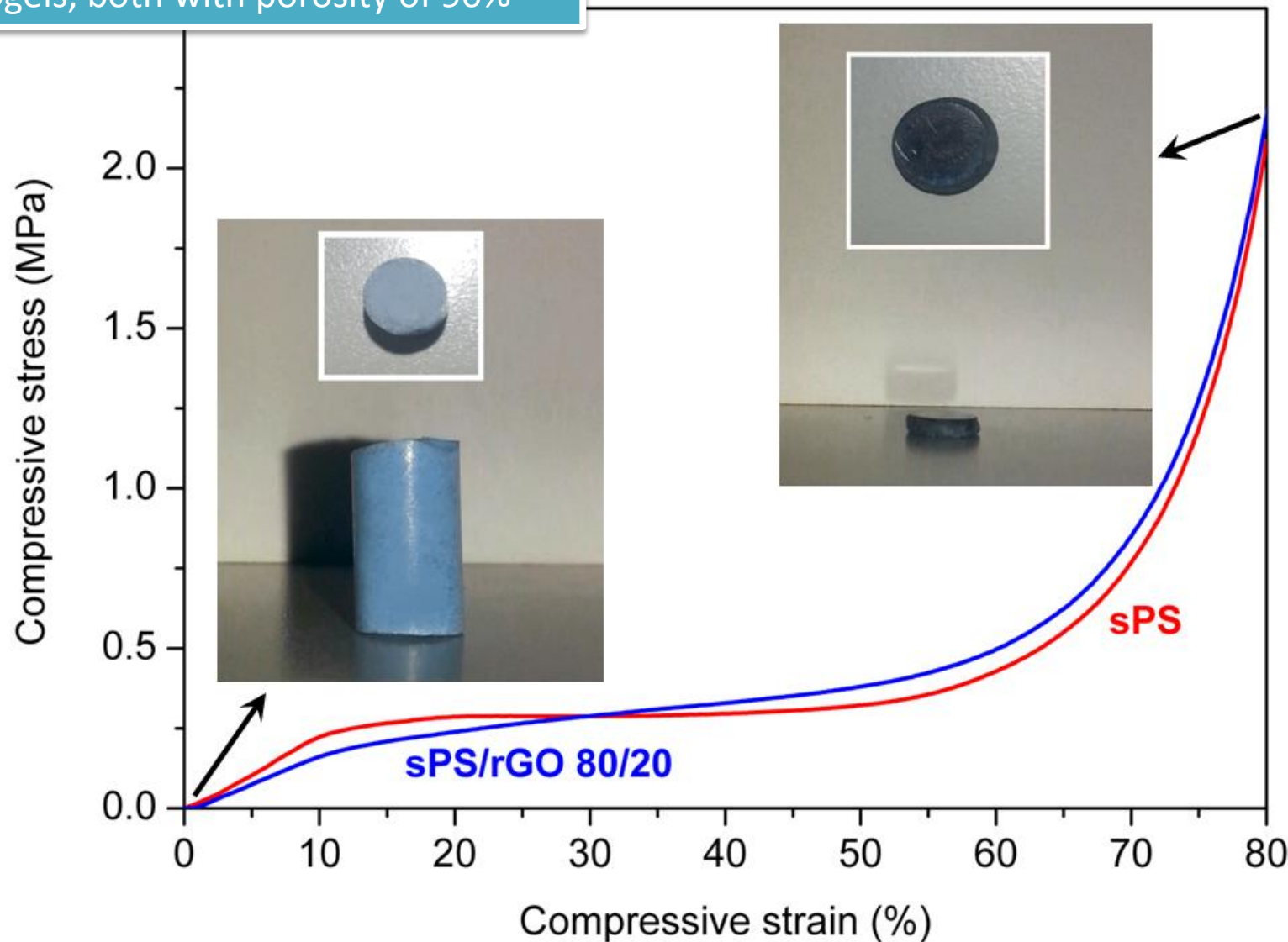
## BET measurements

Sample	$S_{\text{BET}}^a$ ( $\text{m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$ )
HSAG	308
<b>sPS/HSAG, 80/20</b>	<b>173</b>
GO	0.8
<b>sPS/rGO 80/20 aerogel</b>	<b>289</b>
sPS aerogel	312

Total area evaluated following the BET model in the standard  $0.05 < P/P_0 < 0.3$  pressure range.

# Nanocomposites Physically Crosslinked Polymeric Aerogels

Stress-strain curves in compression for aerogels, both with porosity of 90%





# Conclusions

## 1) Monolithic aerogels based on Polyethylene

- Thermal insulation
- Support for heterogeneous catalysis

## 2) Monolithic aerogels based on PPO

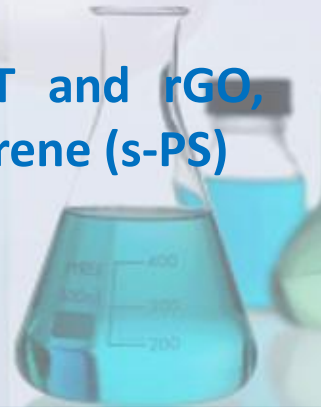
- Nanoporous crystalline phases of both PPO and sPS can be obtained for the 50/50 composition
- High and selective uptake of VOC

## 3) Monolithic aerogels based on PPPO

- Aerogels with high sorbent amorphous phase can be obtained for the PPPO 90 sPS 10 composition
- PPPO-sPS aerogels present higher uptake of VOC than commercial PPPO

## 4) Monolithic composite aerogels, with large amounts of OMMT and rGO, including the nanoporous-crystalline $\delta$ form of syndiotactic polystyrene (s-PS)

- Masterbatches for polymer composites
- Monolithic supported catalysts



# Acknowledgments

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**Dr.ssa Maria Rosaria Acocella**  
**Dr. Mario Maggio**  
**Dr. Gianluca Fasano**

**Prof. Ernesto Reverchon**  
**Prof. Roberto Pantani**  
**Prof. Paolo Ciambelli**  
**Prof. Diana Sannino**

**Dr. Felice de Santis**  
**Dr. Stefano Cardea**  
**Dr. Vincenzo Vaiano**

**Dr. Francesco di Renzo**  
**Dr. Pellegrino Musto**



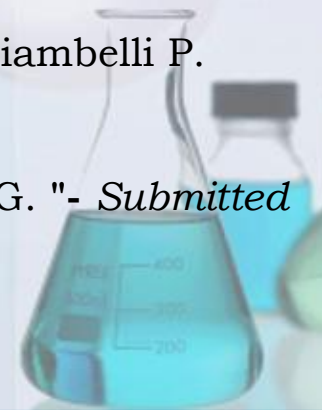
# Grazie!



# Publications

- Daniel, C., **Longo, S.**, Vitillo, J.G., Fasano, G., Guerra, G.(2011). *Chem. Mater.*23,3195-3200.
- Daniel, C., **Longo, S.**, Cardea, S., Vitillo, J.G., Guerra, G.(2012). *RSC Advances*, 2, 12011-12018.
- Daniel, C., **Longo, S.**, Ricciardi, R., Reverchon, E., Guerra, G.(2013) *Macromol.Rapid Commun.*,34,1194-1207.
- **Longo, S.**, Vitillo J.G., Daniel C.,Guerra G. (2013).*ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* 5, 5493–5499.
- **Longo S.**, Mauro M., Daniel C., Galimberti M., Guerra G..(2013).*Frontiers in Polymer Chemistry*, 2013,1,1-9.
- **Longo S.**, Mauro M., Daniel C., Musto P., Guerra G., *Submitted*
- Daniel,C., **Longo, S.**, Galizia M. (2014). *Macromolecular Symposia.*, 335, 70–77.
- Rizzo,P.,Ianniello,G.,**Longo,S.**,Guerra,G.(2013). *Macromolecules.* 46, 3995-4001.
- Vaiano V., Sacco O., **Longo S.**, Sannino D., Venditto V., Daniel C., Guerra G., Ciambelli P. (2013). SA2013A000011 Università di Salerno. Data deposito: 31/10/2013.
- Sannino, D., Vaiano, V.,Sacco, O.,Ciambelli, P.,**Longo S.**, Venditto, V., Guerra, G. "- *Submitted*

+ 8 Contributions at International Congresses





**Thank you for your  
kind attention**

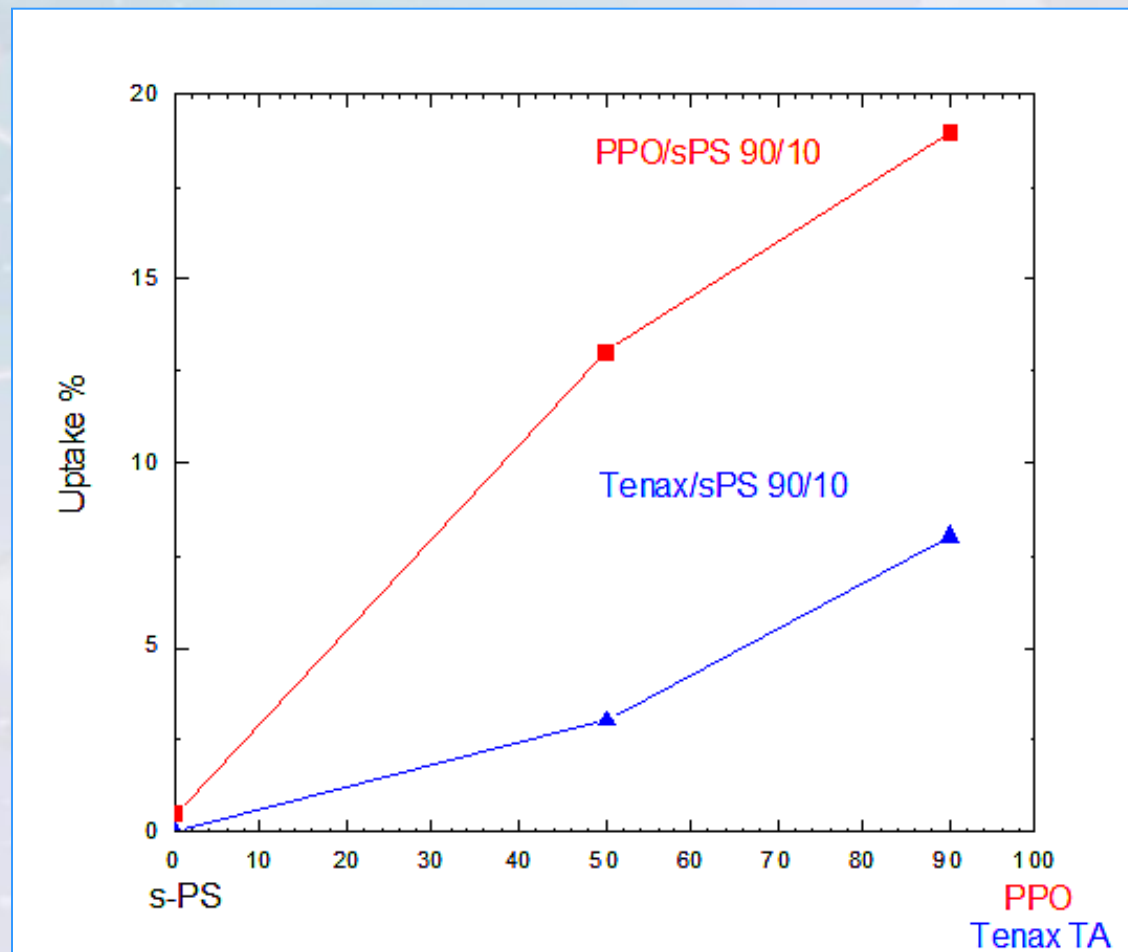




# Second Year PhD Activity

## Monolithic aerogels based on PPO:sorption properties

3 days of sorption





# Sorption from diluted aqueous solutions – aniline 10ppm



**PPO/sPS 50-50**



3 days of  
sorption

Aniline  
uptake

**8 wt%**



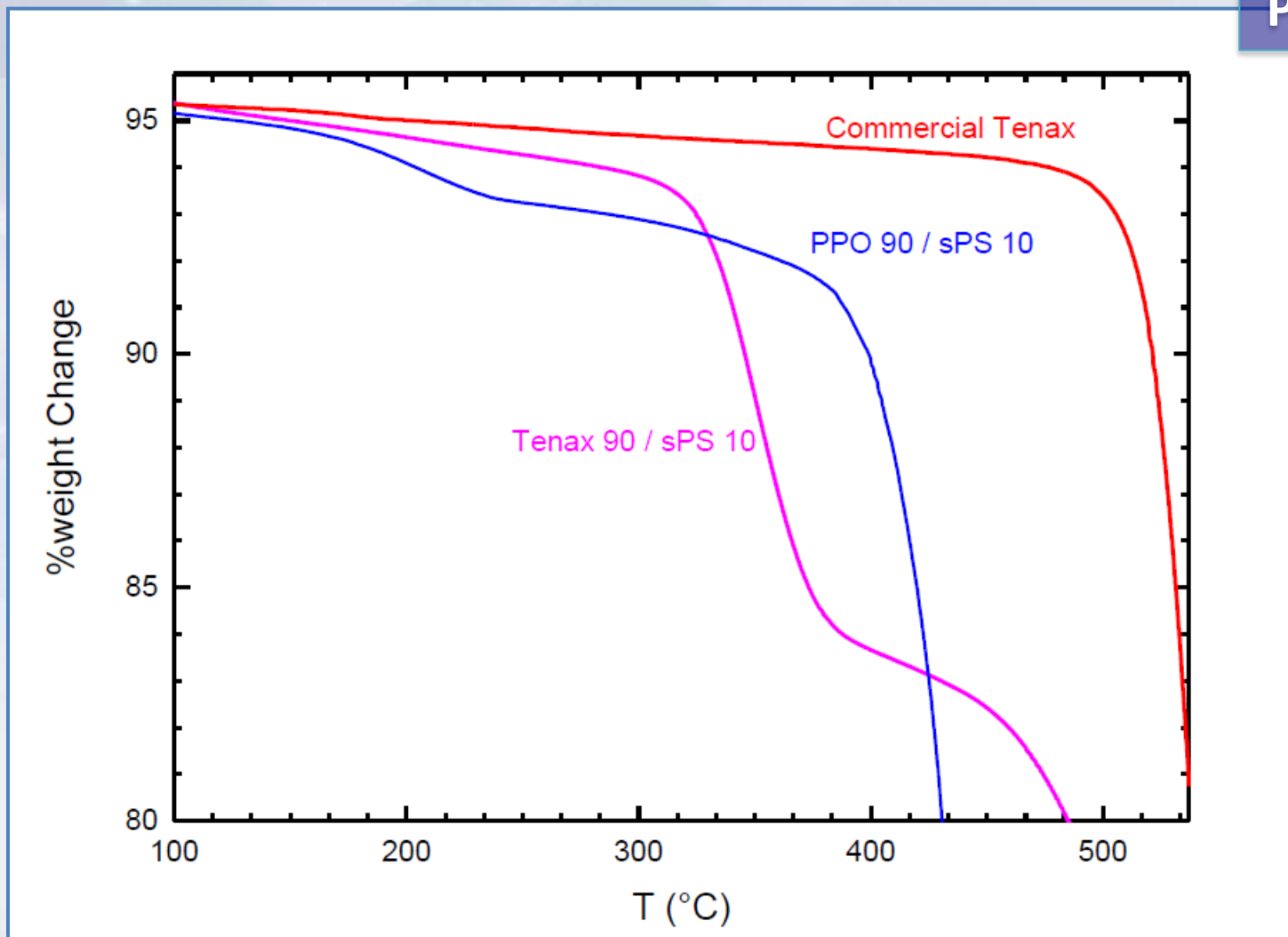
# Properties of aerogels based on nanoporous-crystalline PPO

$x_{\text{PPO}}$	$C_{\text{pol}}$ (wt%)	$x_{\text{PPO,crys}}$	$S_{\text{BET}}^{\text{a}}$ ( $\text{m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$ )	$S_{\text{micro}}^{\text{b}}$ ( $\text{m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$ )	$\chi_{\text{PPO}}$ (%)
<b>s-PS</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>
0.25	20	0	217	49	0
0.5	20	0.24	337	118	48
0.75	20	0.27	341	141	36
0.9	20	0.53	483	172	58
<b>PPO (powder)</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0.59</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>59</b>

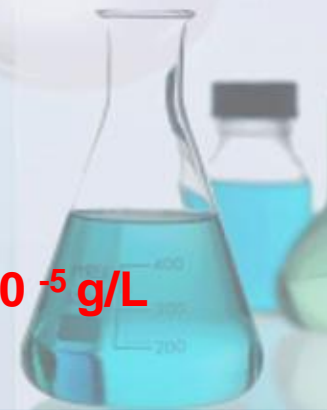
<sup>a</sup>Total area evaluated following the BET model in the standard  $0.05 < P/P_0 < 0.25$  pressure range. <sup>b</sup>Micropore area obtained from the t-plot

# Monolithic aeogels based on Tenax TA :sorption properties

Pyrene uptake



Intrinsic Mass Solubility =  $4.4 \times 10^{-5}$  g/L



# Monolithic physically crosslinked polymeric aerogels

## The importance of obtaining an aerogel

Large surface areas



Faster adsorption kinetics



Fine Dust Hazard



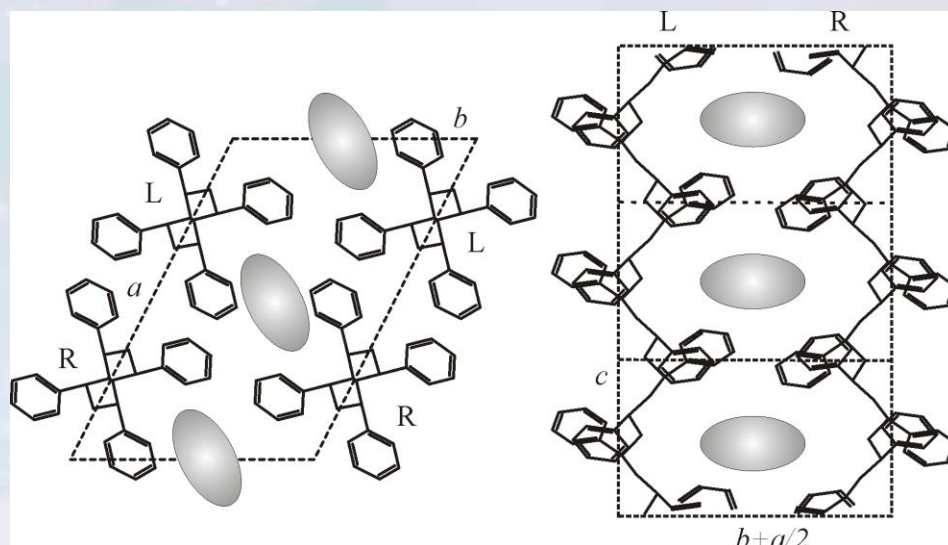
# Nanoporous Crystalline Phases of s-PS

Cavities

$\delta$

cavities volume  $\approx 120 \text{ \AA}^3$

Top view



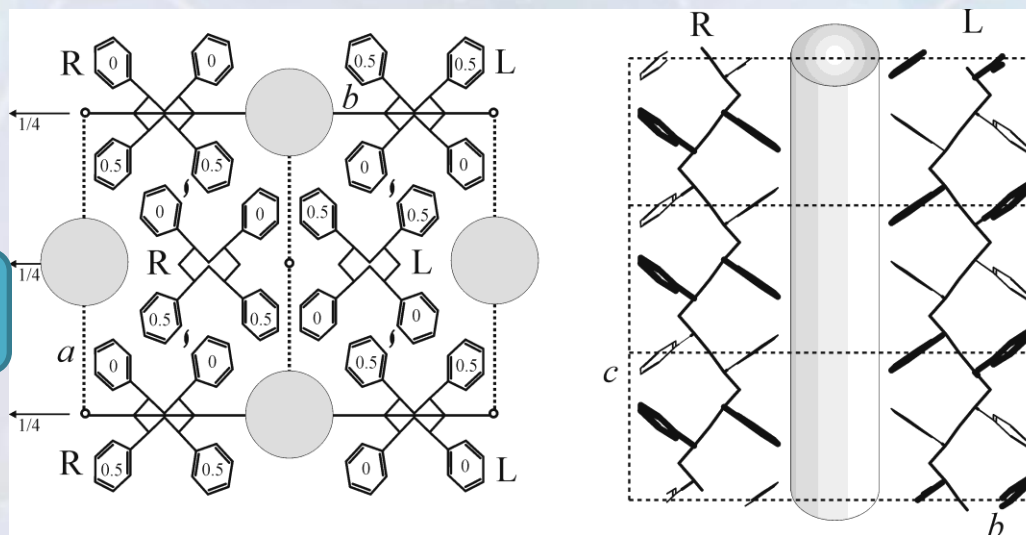
De Rosa, Guerra, Petraccone, Pirozzi *Macromolecules* **1997**, *30*, 4147

Lateral view

Channels

$\epsilon$

channel diameter  $\approx 5 \text{ \AA}$

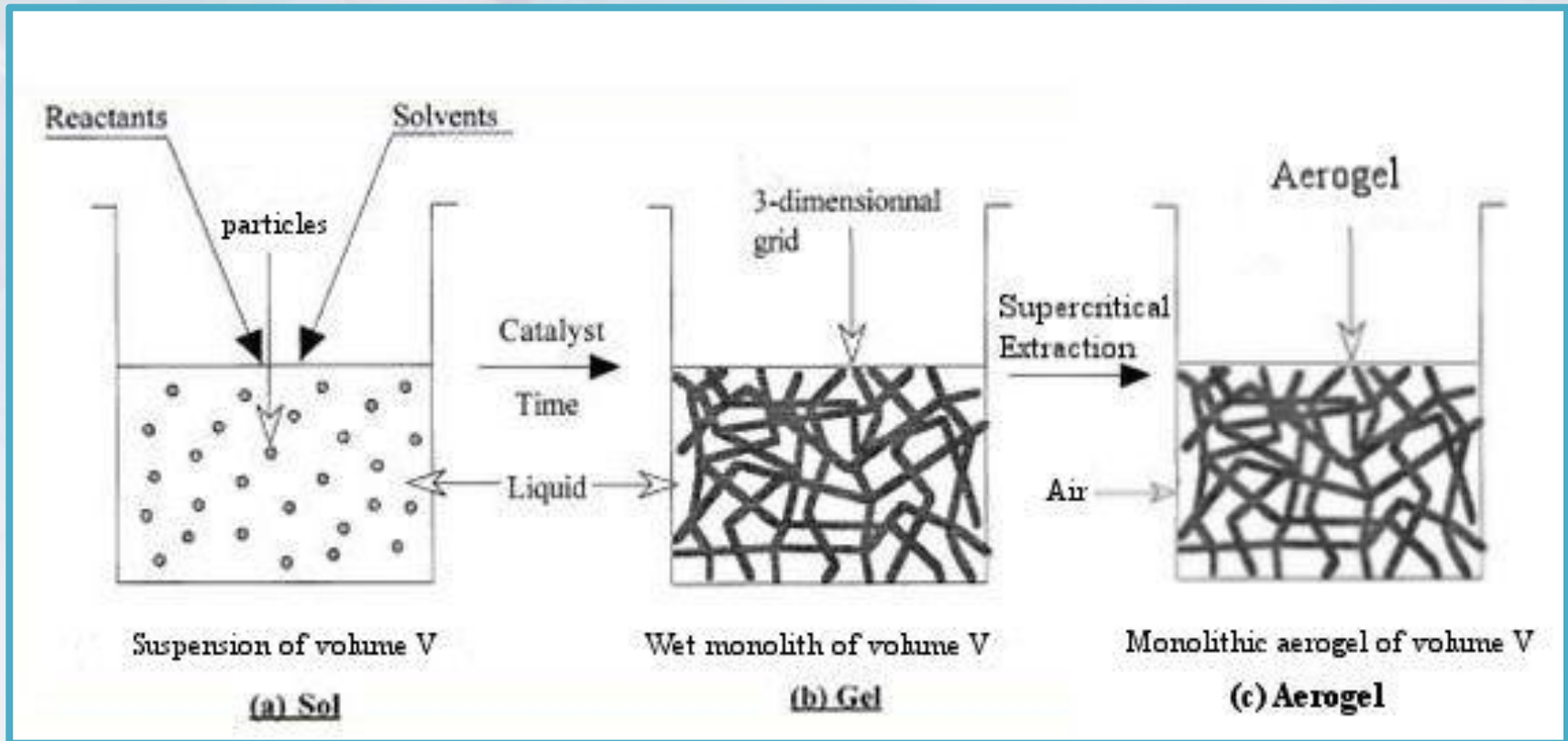


Petraccone, Ruiz, Tarallo, Rizzo, Guerra, *Chem.Mater.* **2008**, *20*, 3663



# Monolithic crosslinked aerogels

## Sol-Gel process



# Monolithic crosslinked aerogels

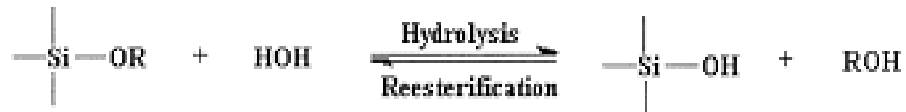
## Inorganic Aerogels

### Silicon

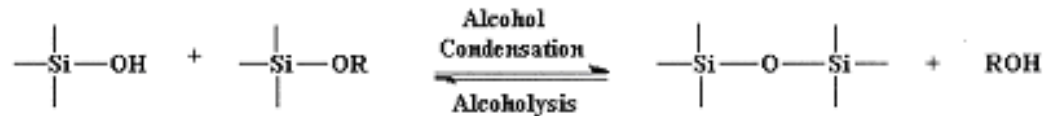
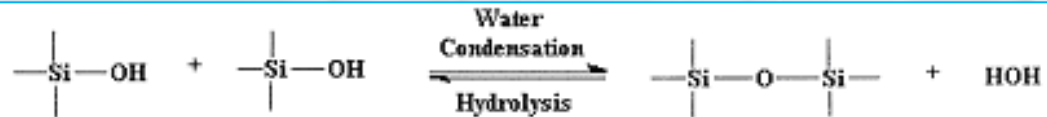
#### Precursor:

$\text{Si}(\text{OR})_4$  where R is often an alkyl  $-\text{CH}_3$

### Hydrolysis

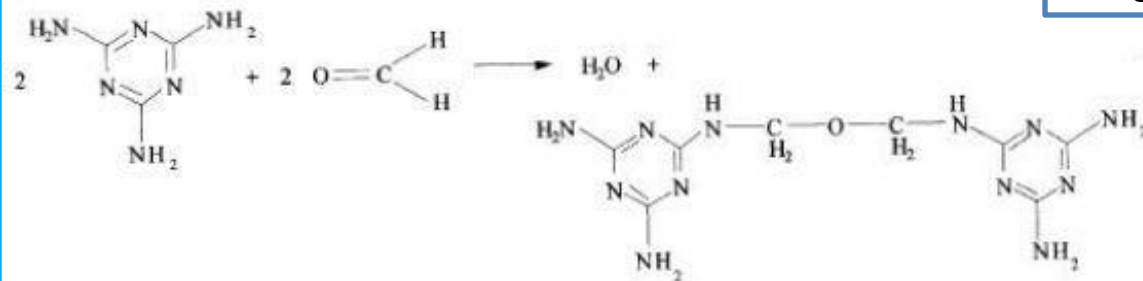


### Condensation



## Polymeric Aerogels Chemically Crosslinked

### Melamine-formaldehyde aerogels



# Monolithic inorganic aerogels



Aerogel consisting of inorganic oxides

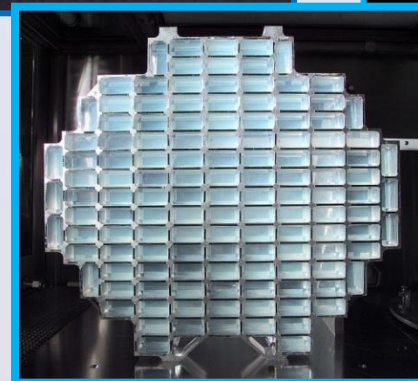
Silica aerogel is the most common type of aerogel and the most extensively studied and used

✓ Silica

✓ Alumina

✓ Zirconia

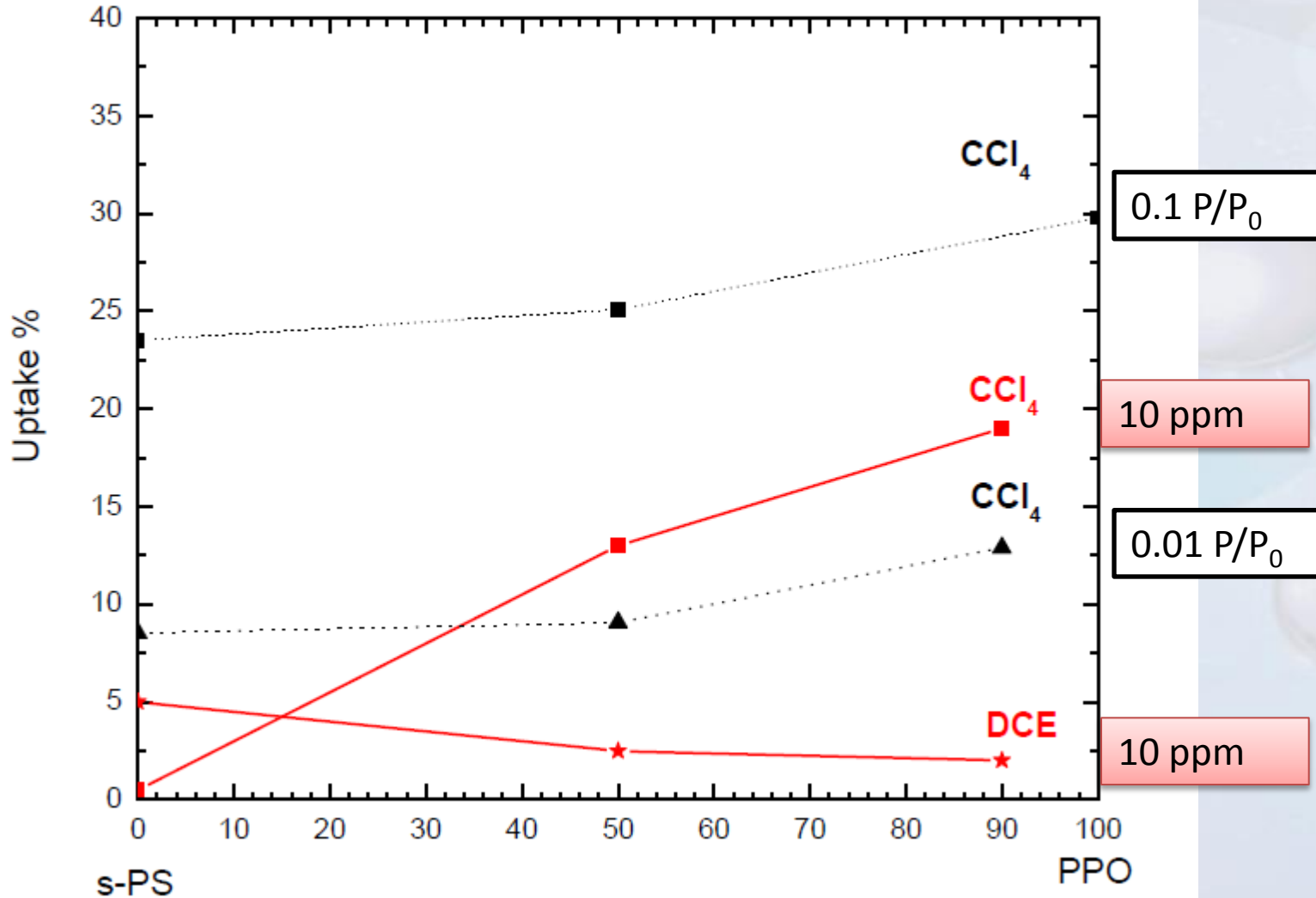
✓ Stannic or tungsten oxide



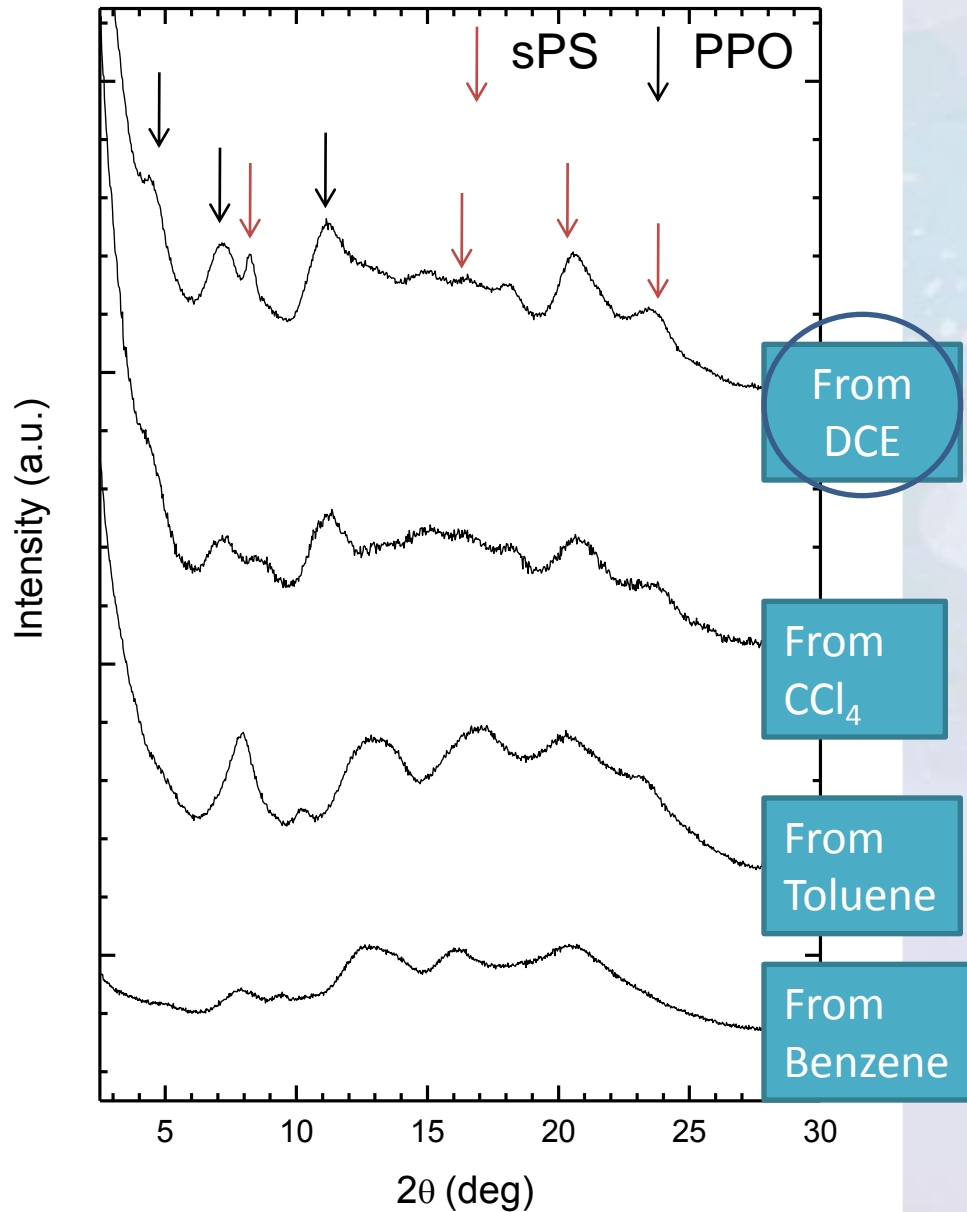


# Monolithic Nanoporous Crystalline Aerogels based on PPO

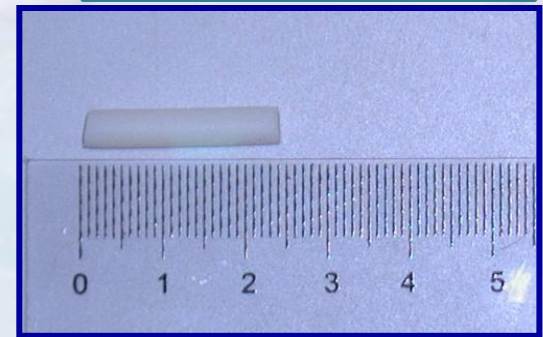
Typical crystalline pores  
of both PPO and s-PS



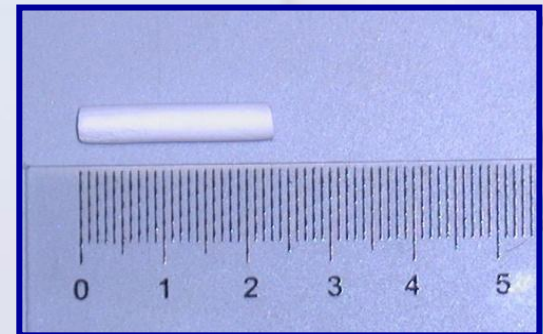
# First Year PhD Activity: Monolithic Nanoporous Crystalline Aerogels based on PPO



$\chi_{\text{PPO}} = 0.50$   
 $\chi_{\text{sPS}} = 0.50$   
Porosity 80%



CO<sub>2</sub>  
Extraction



# First Year PhD Activity: Sorption Properties

## Sorption from diluted aqueous solutions –CCl<sub>4</sub> 10ppm

3 days of sorption

CCl<sub>4</sub> uptake



+



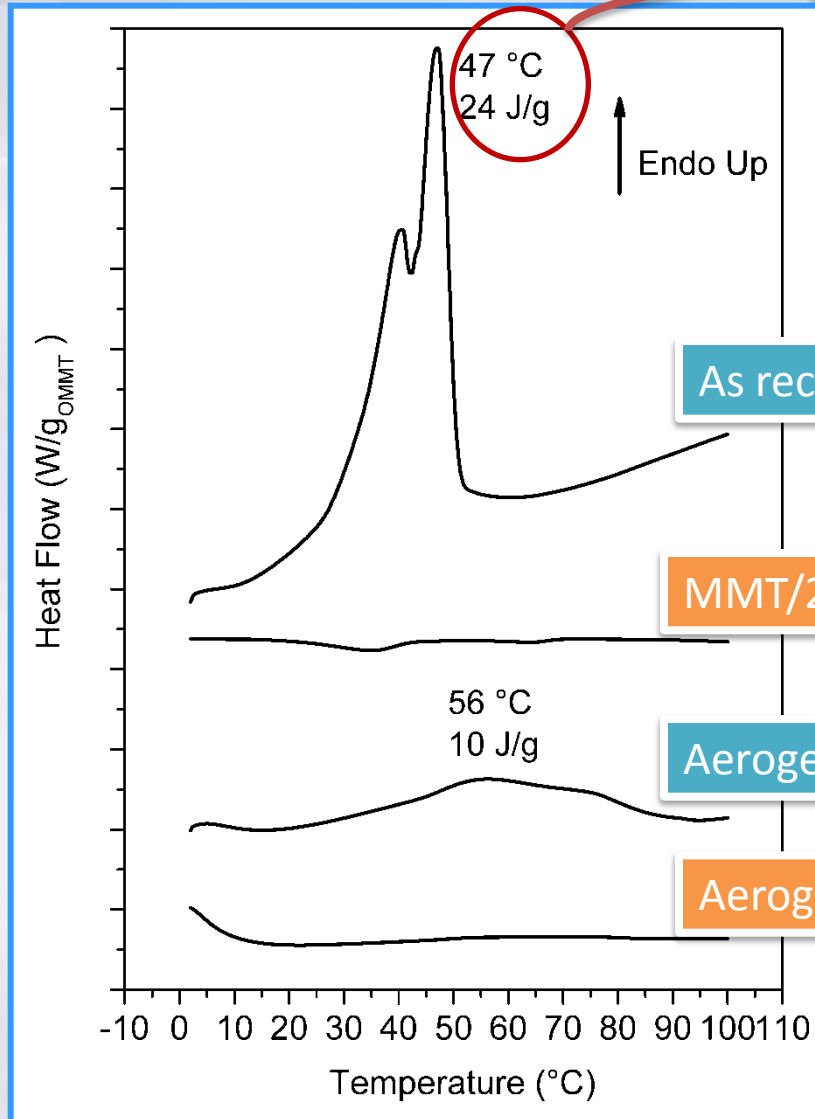
1. Aerogel  $\delta$  sPS → 0.5wt%
2. Aerogel PPO/sPS 50-50 → 13 wt%
3. Aerogel PPO/sPS 90-10 → 19 wt%



# Third Year PhD Activity: Nanocomposites Physically Crosslinked Polymeric Aerogels

OMMT exfoliation by  $\text{scCO}_2$

loss of rotator order of the hydrocarbon tails of the cations intercalated in the interlayer space



As received MMT/2HT

MMT/2HT after treatment by  $\text{scCO}_2$

Aerogels 50/50 s-PS/as received OMMT

Aerogels 50/50 s-PS/exfoliated OMMT



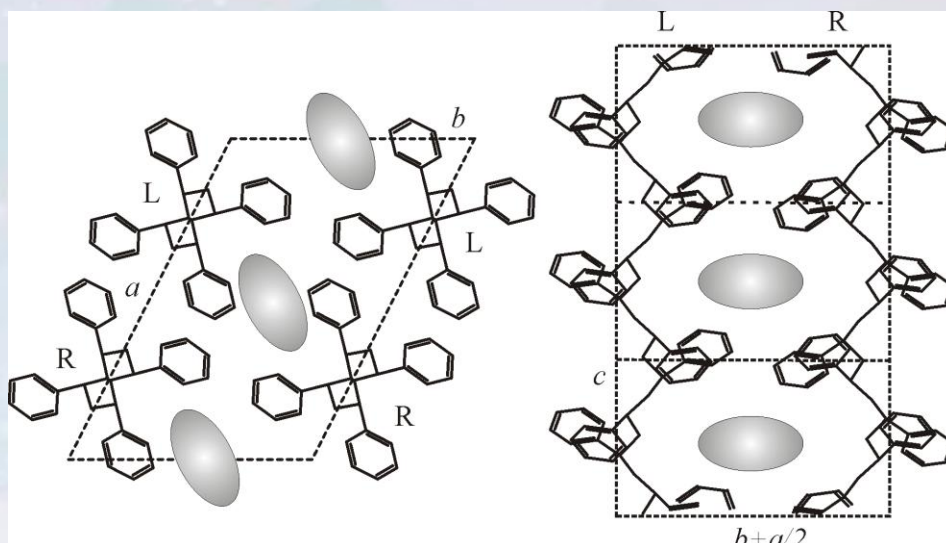
# Nanoporous Crystalline Phases of s-PS

Cavities

$\delta$

cavities volume  $\approx 120 \text{ \AA}^3$

Top view



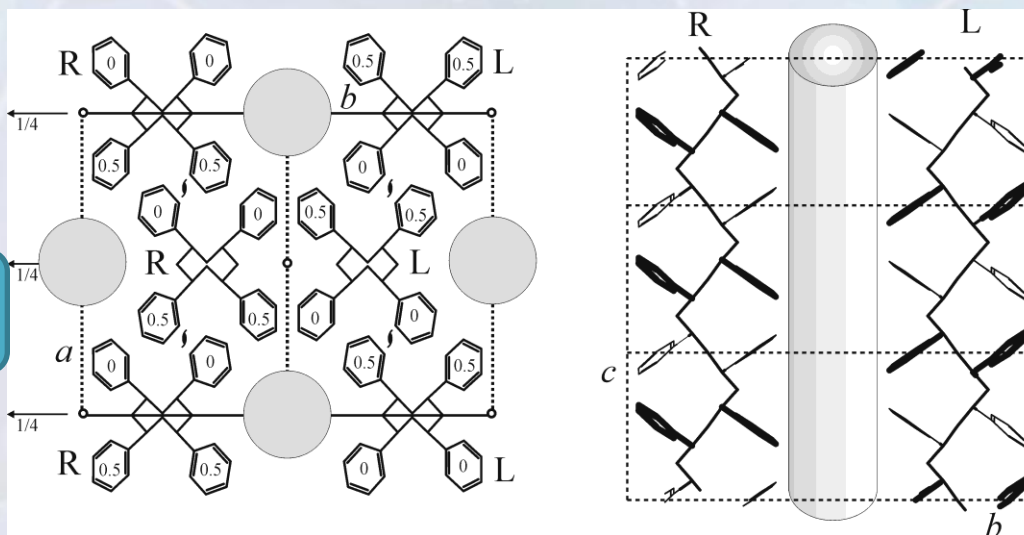
De Rosa, Guerra, Petraccone, Pirozzi *Macromolecules* **1997**, *30*, 4147

Lateral view

Channels

$\epsilon$

channel diameter  $\approx 5 \text{ \AA}$

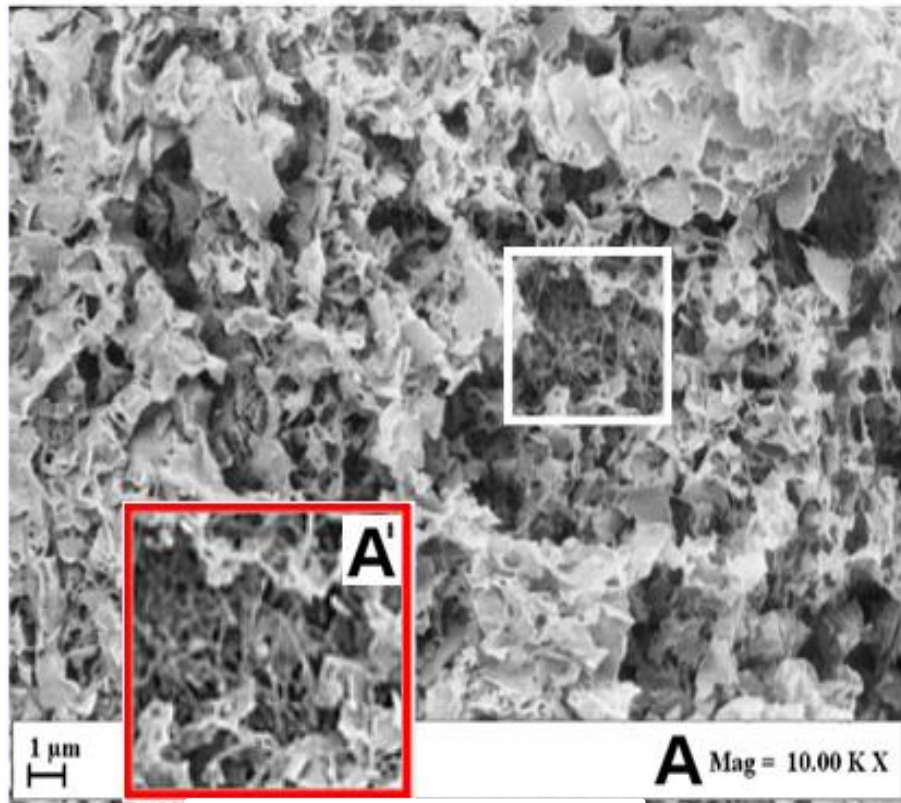


Petraccone, Ruiz, Tarallo, Rizzo, Guerra, *Chem.Mater.* **2008**, *20*, 3663

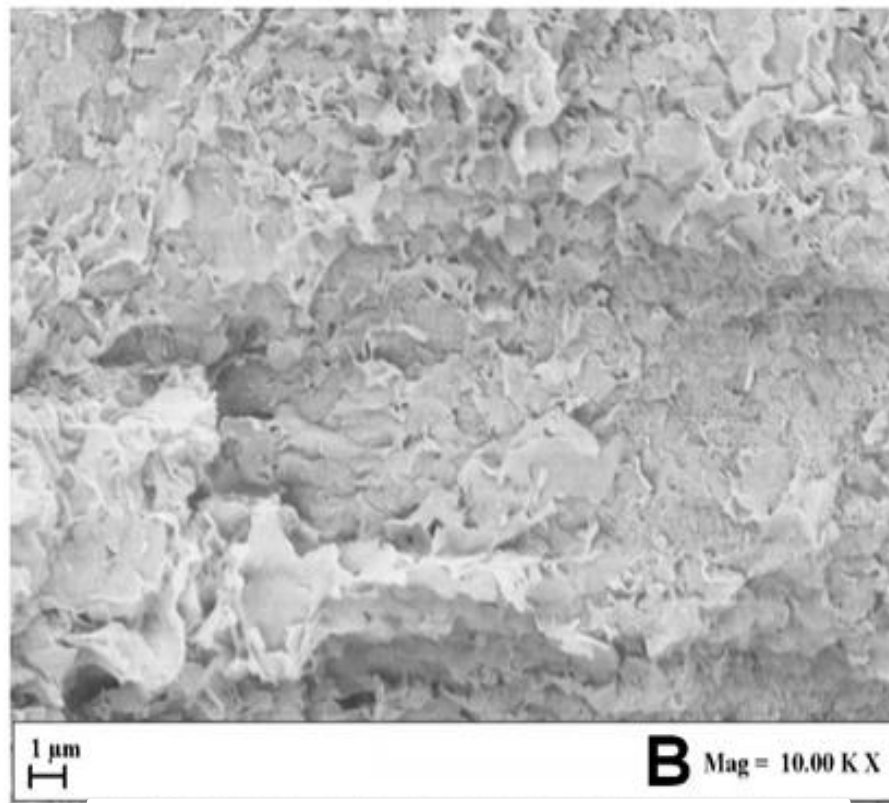


# Third Year PhD Activity: Nanocomposites Physically Crosslinked Polymeric Aerogels

80/20 weight ratio  
P=90%



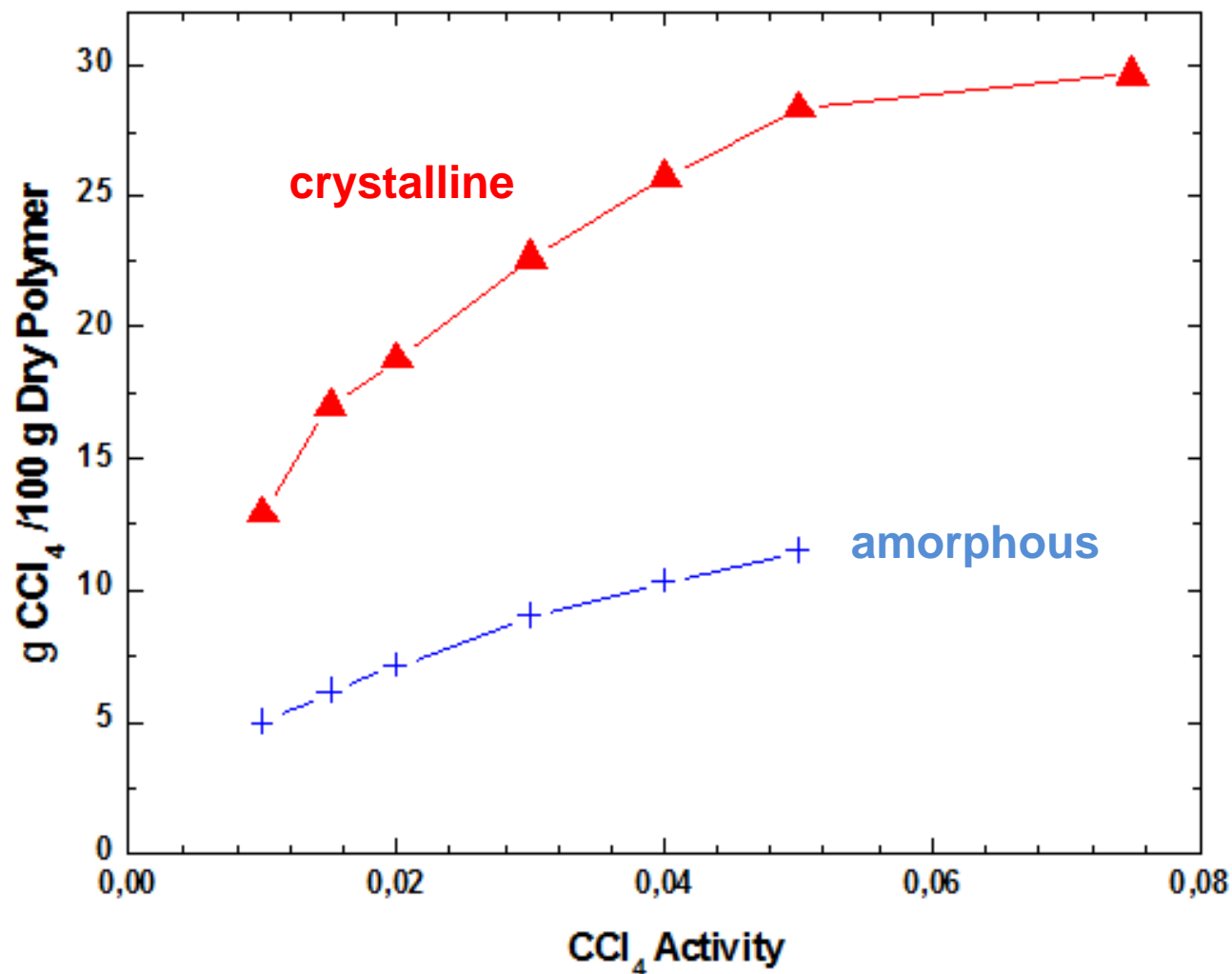
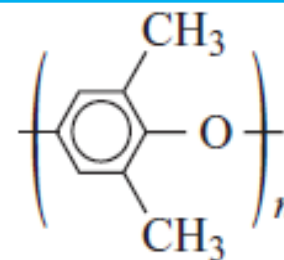
s-PS aerogels with  
exfoliated OMMT



s-PS aerogels with as received  
OMMT

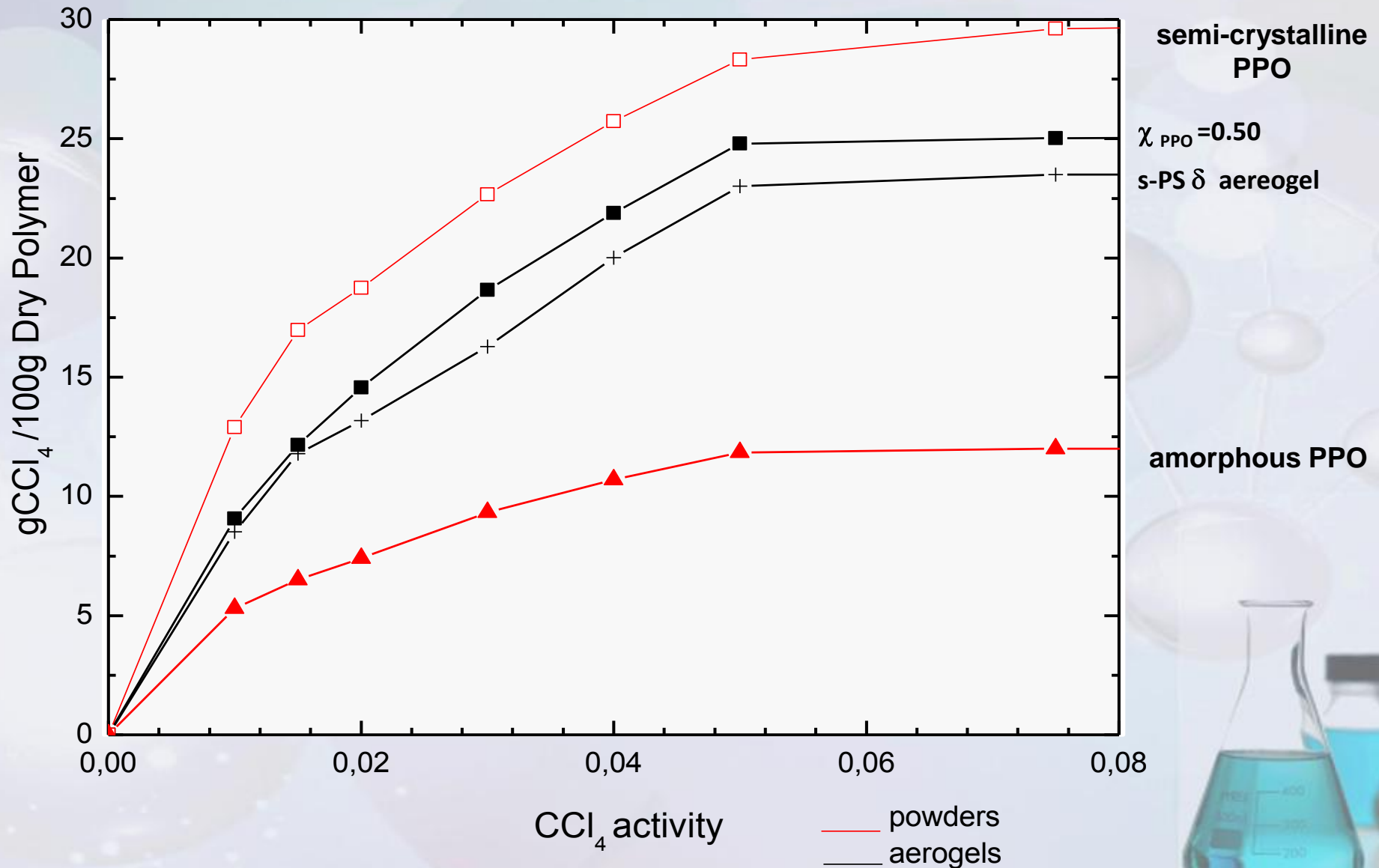
# Polymeric aerogels with nanoporous crystalline phase

Poly(2,6-dimethyl-1,4-phenylene oxide) (PPO)



# First Year PhD Activity: Sorption Properties

## Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from vapors at low activity





# Third Year PhD Activity: Nanocomposites Physically Crosslinked Polymeric Aerogels

## Graphene Preparation



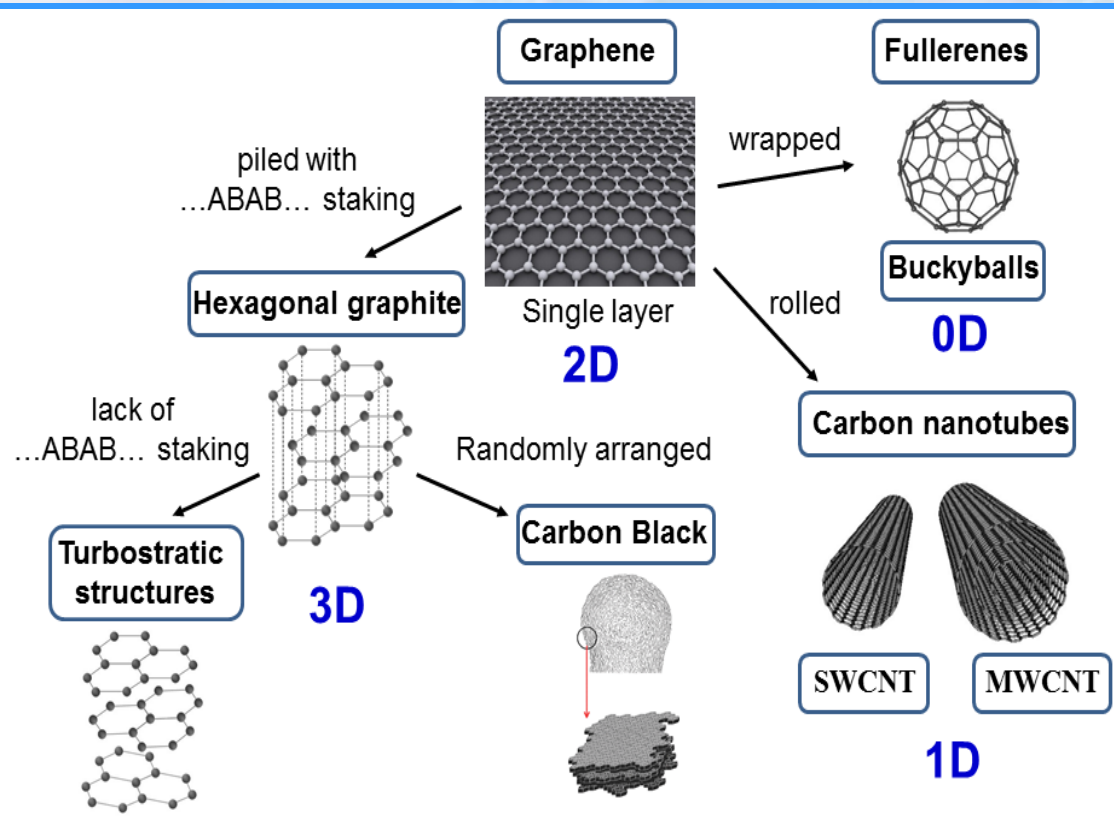
- Micromechanical exfoliation
- Epitaxial growth on silicon carbide
- Chemical vapor deposition (CVD)
- Arc discharge method

• Small molecules intercalation within multilayered graphite

• Unzipping of CNTs

• Electrochemical method

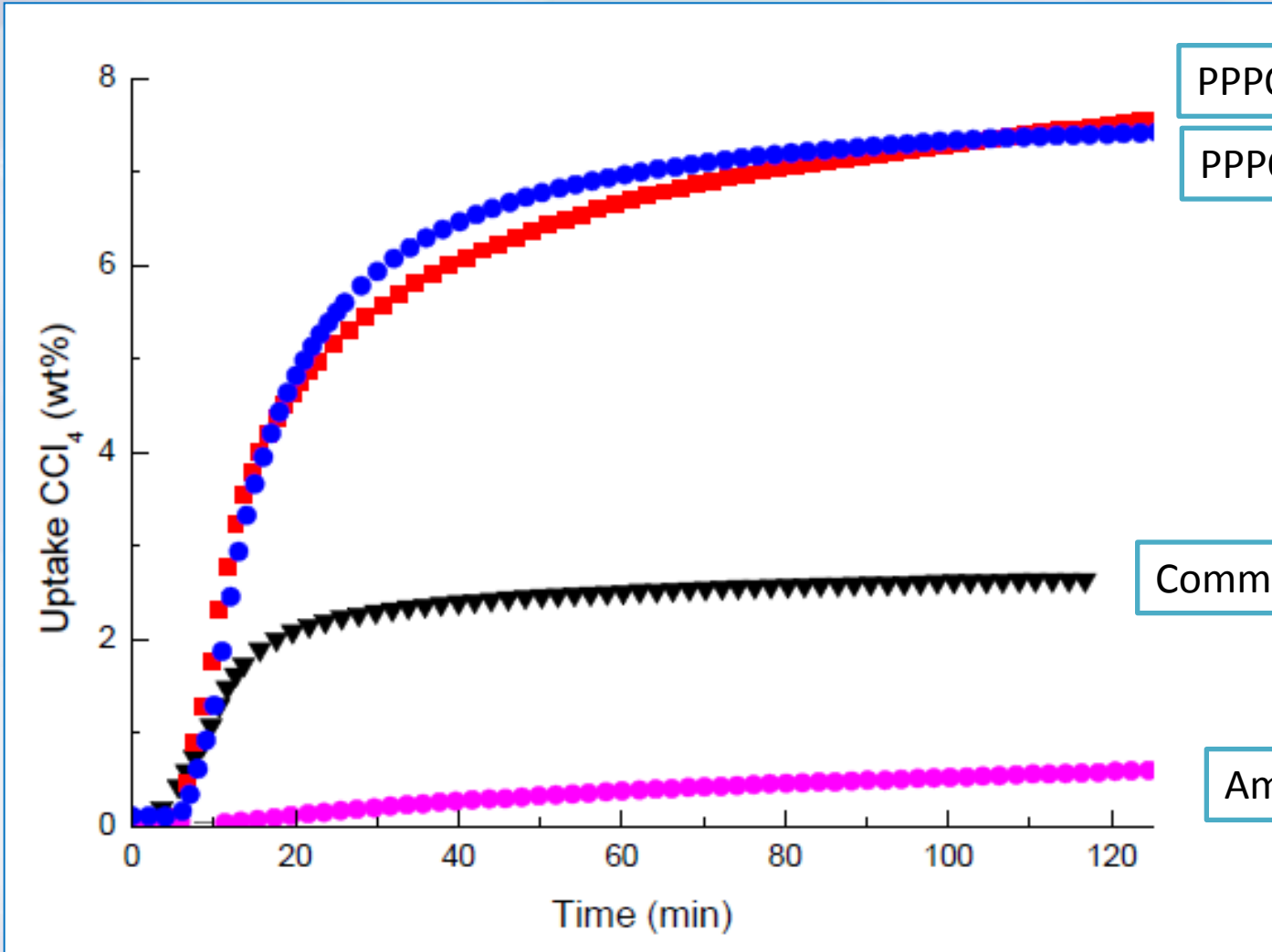
• **Chemical reduction of exfoliated GO**



a) P. Avouris, F. Xia, *MRS Bull.*, **2012**, 37,1225. b) N. Zhang, Y. Zhang, Y.J. Xu, *Nanoscale*, **2012**, 4, 5792. c) T.H. Tsai, S.C. Chiou, S.M. Chen, *Int. J. Electrochem. Sci.*, **2011**, 6, 3333. d) K. Zhang, L.L. Zhang, X.S. Zhao, J. Wu, *Chem. Mater.* **2010**, 22,1392. e) K. Yang, L. Feng, X. Shi, Z. Liu, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, **2013**, 42, 530. f) V. Mani, A.P. Periasamy, S.M. Chen, *Electrochem. Commun.*, **2012**, 1775. g) S.W. Ting, A.P. Periasamy, S.M. Chen, R. Saraswathi, *Int. J. Electrochem. Sci.*, **2011**, 6,4438.

# Second Year PhD Activity

## Monolithic aerogels based on PPPO:sorption properties

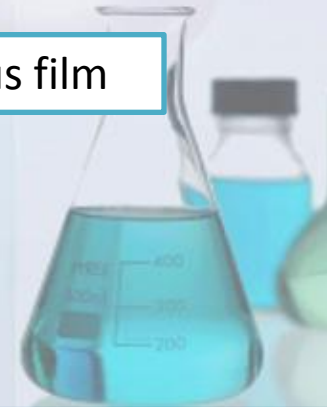


PPPO 90/sPS 10

PPPO 50/sPS 50

Commercial PPPO powder

Amorphous film



# First Year PhD Activity: Sorption Properties

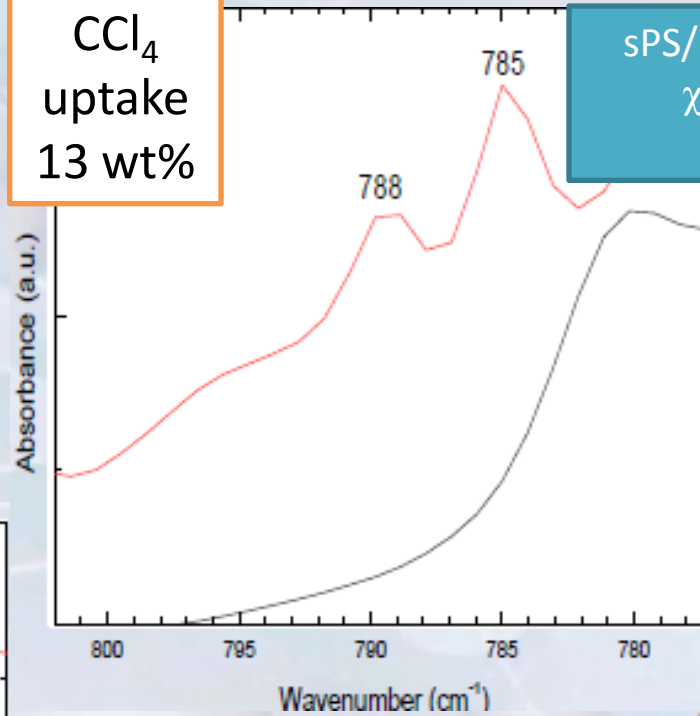
## Sorption from diluted aqueous solutions – $\text{CCl}_4$ 10ppm

$\text{CCl}_4$  10ppm

3 days of sorption

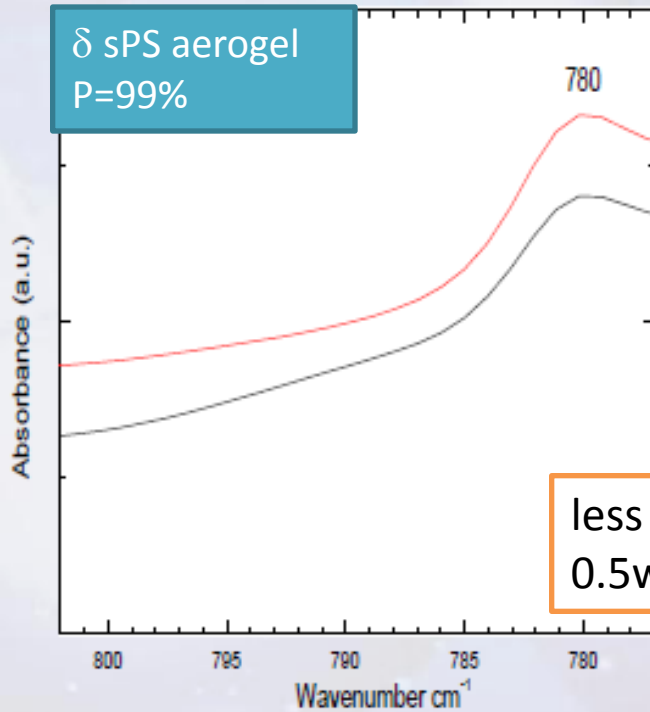
$\text{CCl}_4$  uptake  
13 wt%

sPS/PPO aerogel  
 $\chi_{\text{PPO}}=0,50$   
P=80%



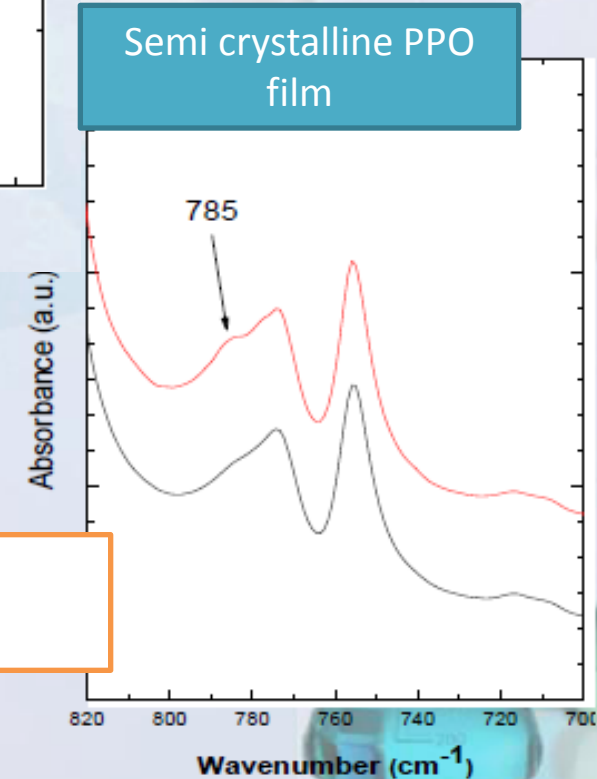
$\delta$  sPS aerogel  
P=99%

less than  
0.5wt%



Semi crystalline PPO  
film

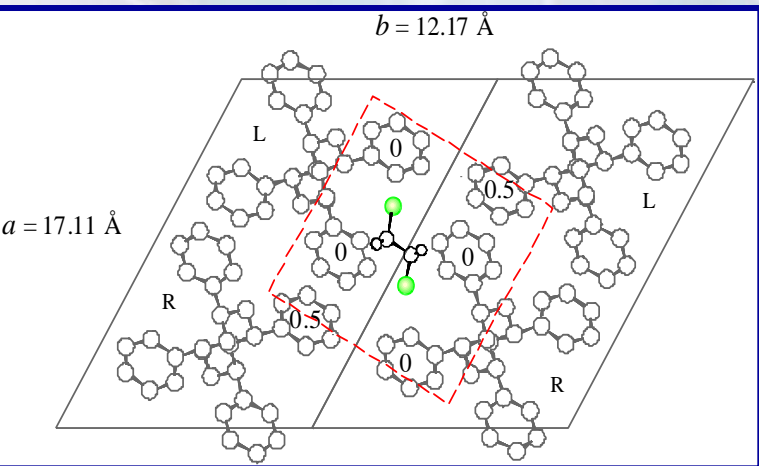
less than  
1wt%



# First Year PhD Activity: Sorption Properties

## Sorption from diluted aqueous solutions –DCE 10ppm

Only trans conformer is included into  $\delta$  sPS crystalline phase



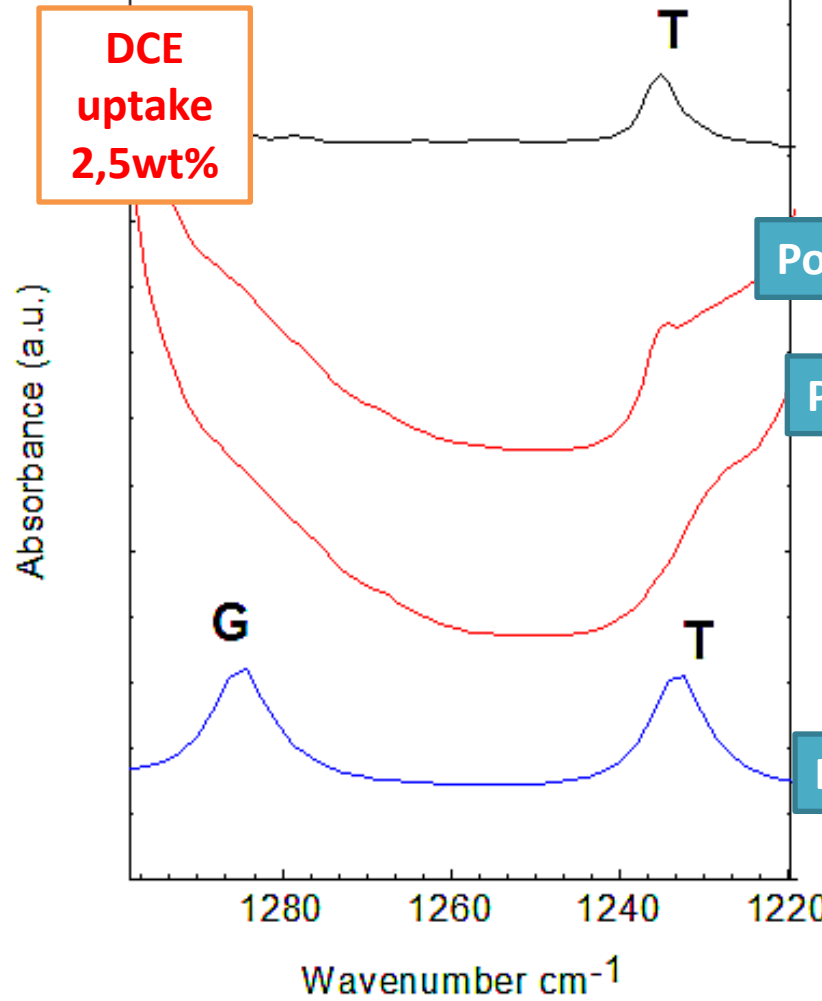
Daniel, C.; Sannino, D.; Guerra, G. *Chem.Mater.* **2008**, 20,577-582

$\delta$ sPS aerogel  
P=99%

5wt%

sPS/PPO aerogel  $\chi_{\text{PPO}}=0,50$   
P=80%

1 days sorption



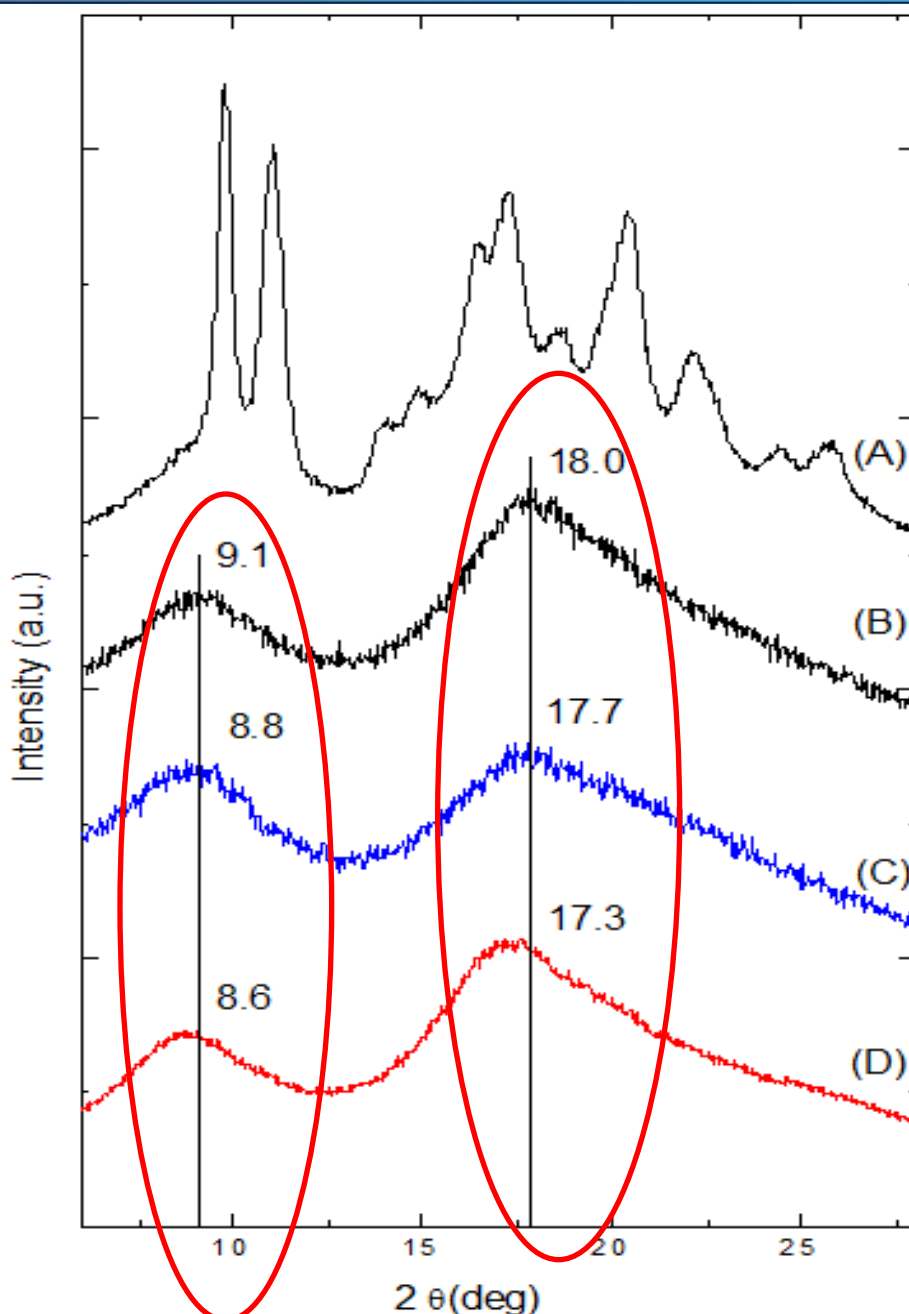
Subtraction

Post-immersion

Pre-immersion

DCE

# PPPO properties



S.Longo, J.G.Vitillo, C.Daniel, G.Guerra, ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces, 2013

Commercial PPPO powder

Amorphous films obtained by casting in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  at 20°C

$$d_{max} = 4.9 \text{ \AA}$$

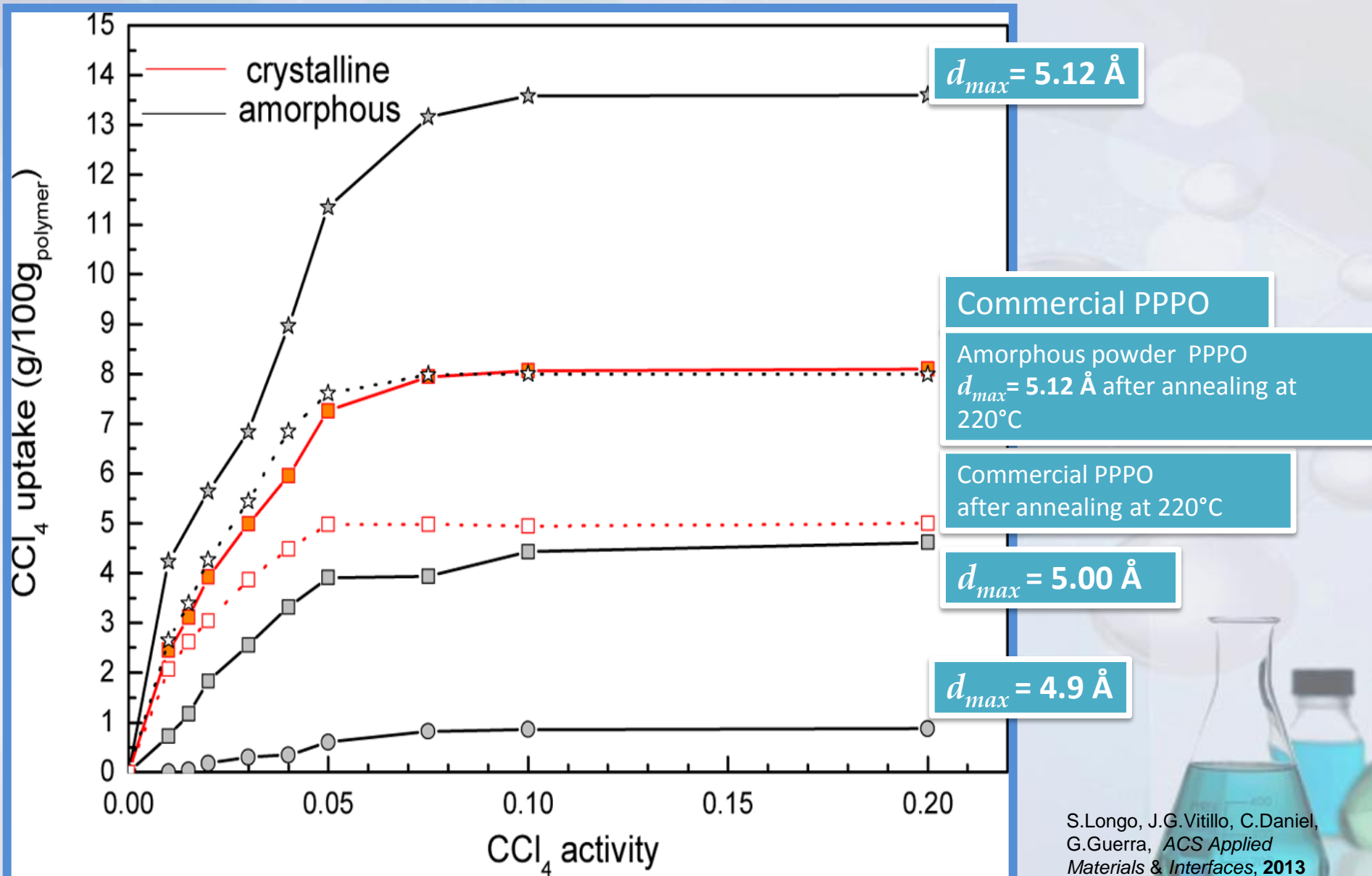
Amorphous films obtained by casting in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  at 135°C

$$d_{max} = 5.00 \text{ \AA}$$

Amorphous powder obtained by concentrated solution ( $C_{\text{pol}}=20\%$ ), successively extracted by supercritical  $\text{CO}_2$ .

$$d_{max} = 5.12 \text{ \AA}$$

# PPPO properties

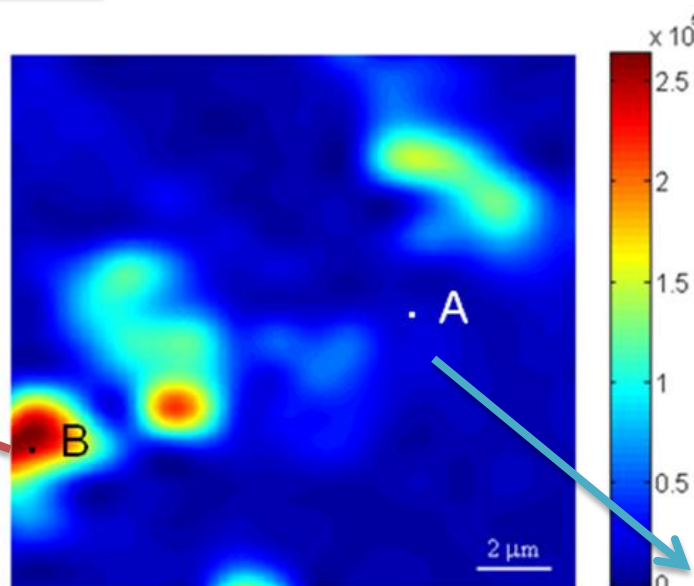


# Nanocomposites Physically Crosslinked Polymeric Aerogels

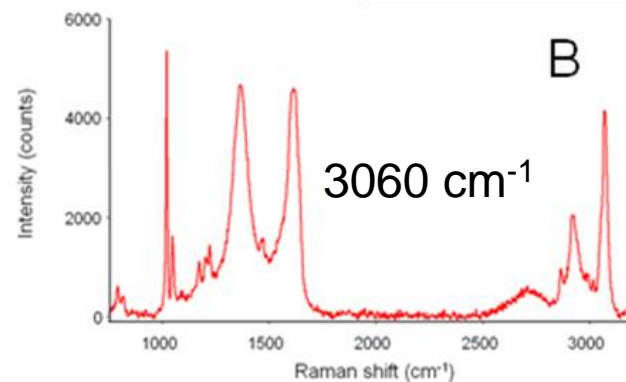
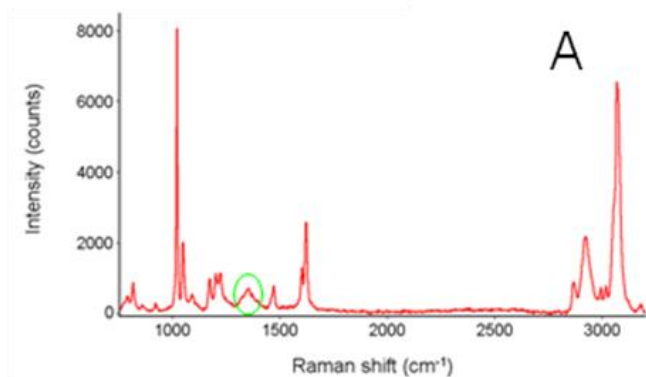
RAMAN microscopy  
map

based on the GO peak at  $1345\text{ cm}^{-1}$

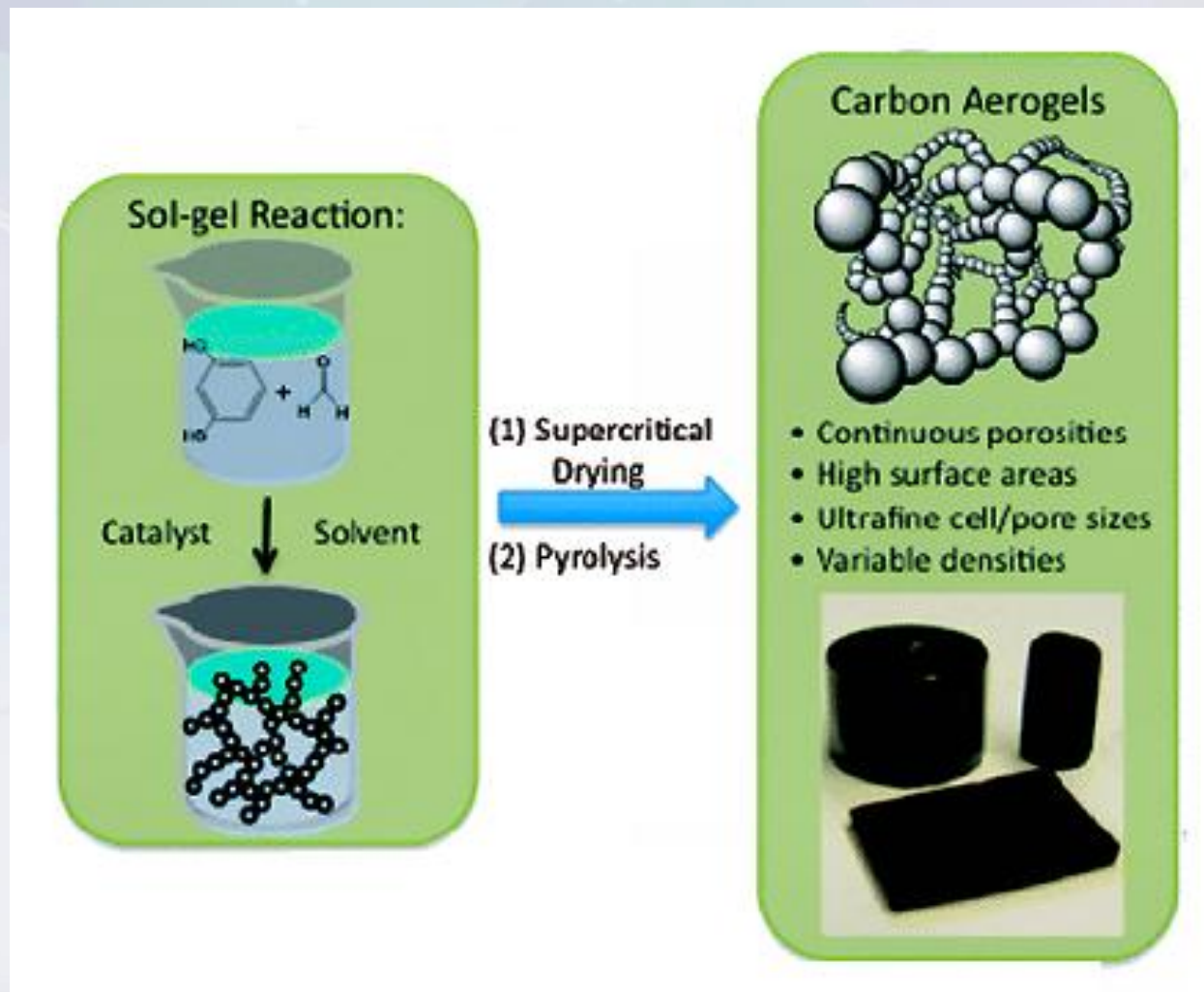
GO rich regions



Polymer rich regions



# Carbon aerogels



Carbon aerogels are exciting materials because they not only have surface areas ranging from about 500 to 2 500  $\text{m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$