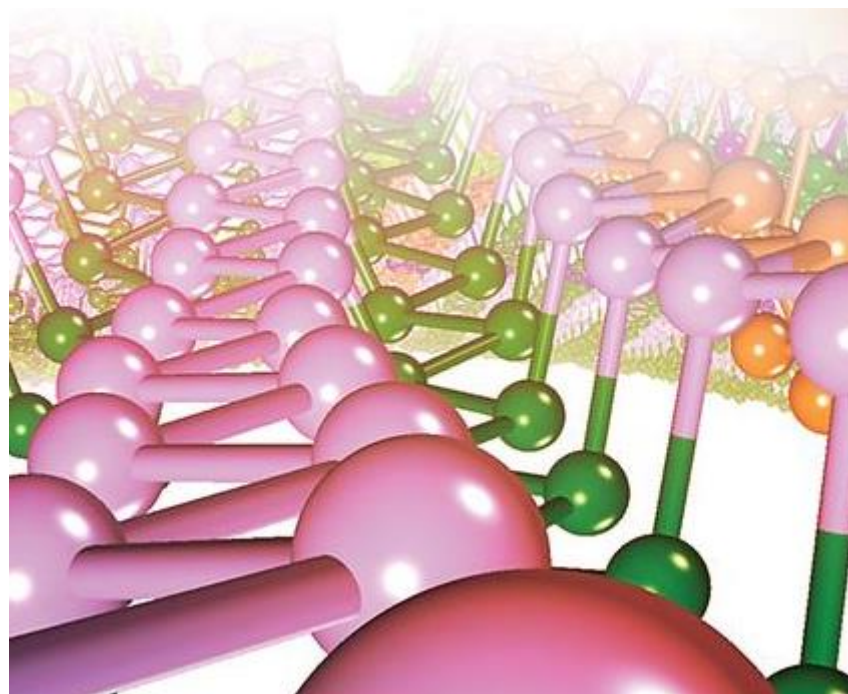
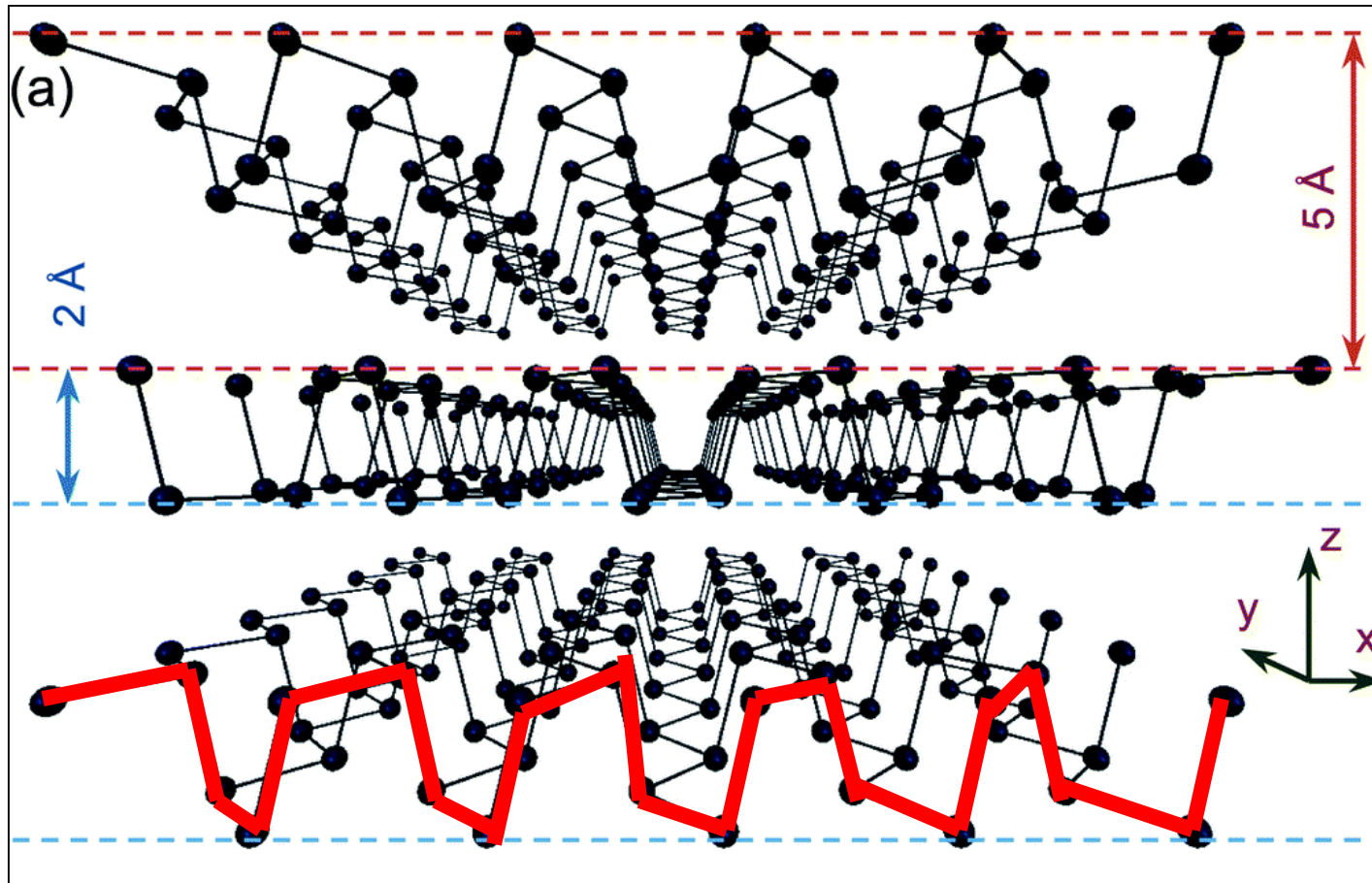


# Surface functionalization of exfoliated black phosphorus with transition metal nanoparticles: enhancement of ambient stability and selectivity in chemical processes



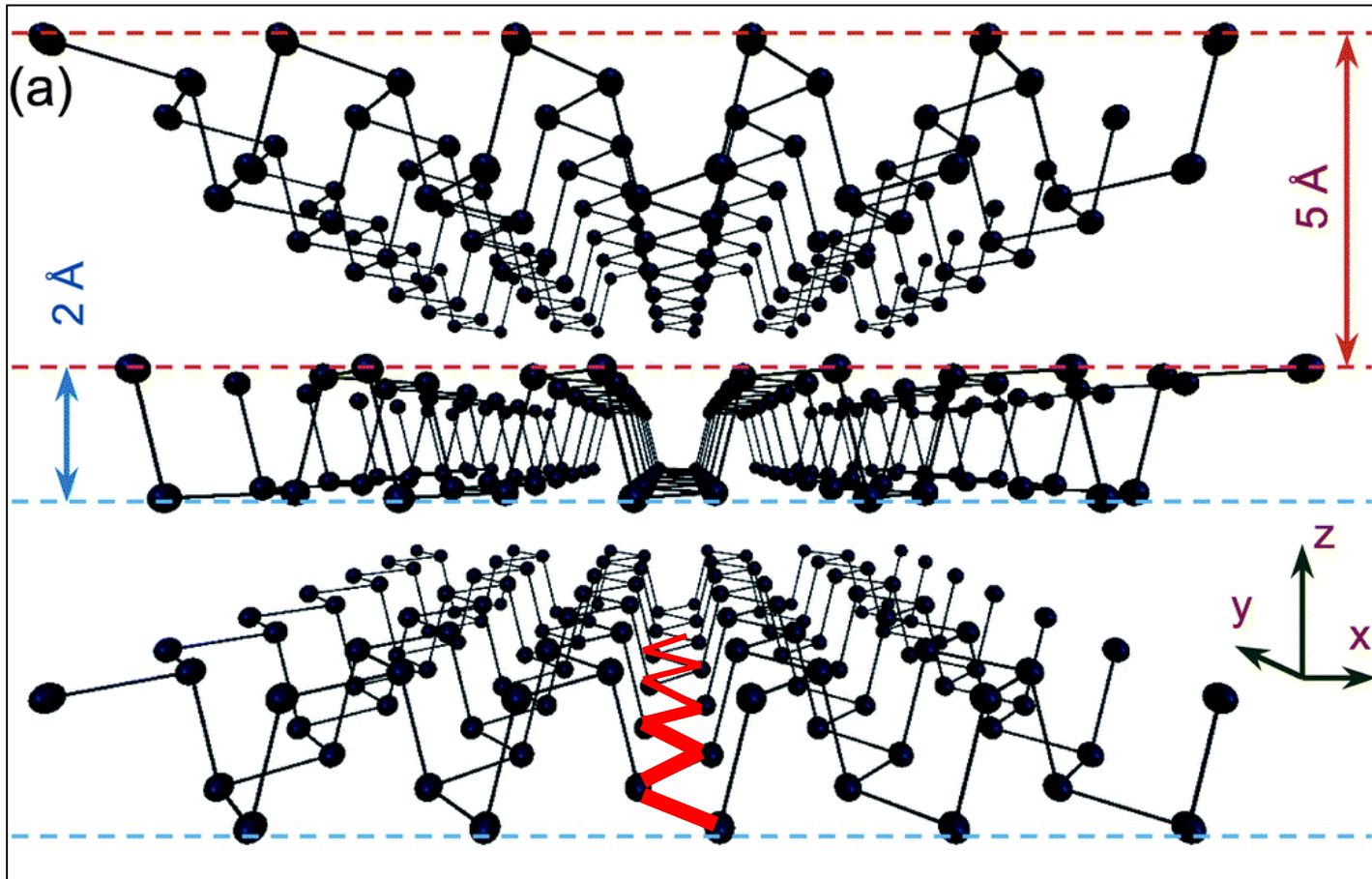
**Maria Caporali**  
CNR ICCOM, Florence (ITALY)

# Anisotropic structure of black phosphorus



Armchair (x-axis)

# Anisotropic structure of black phosphorus



Zig-zag (y-axis)

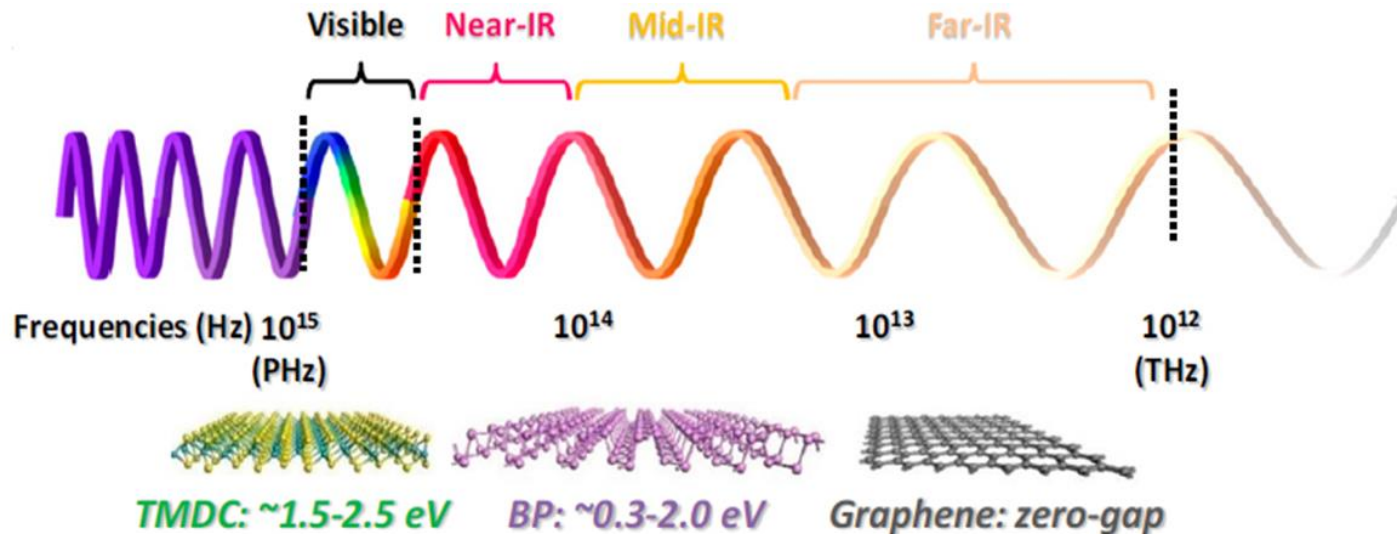
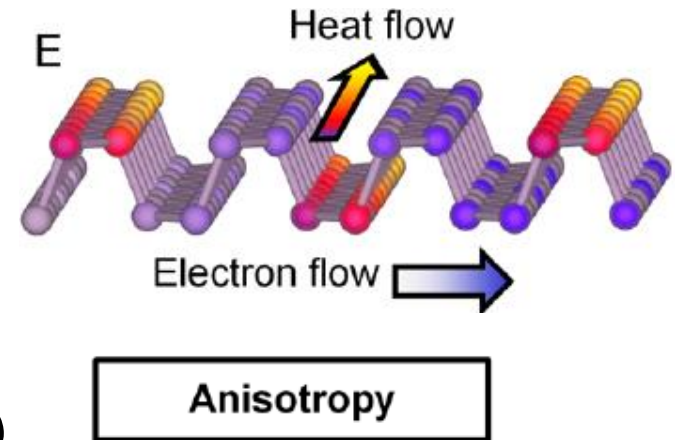
# Physical properties of few-layer bP

✓ High carrier mobility: 1000 cm<sup>2</sup>/Vs

✓ On / off ratio: 10<sup>3</sup> – 10<sup>5</sup>

✓ Thermal conductivity (300 K):

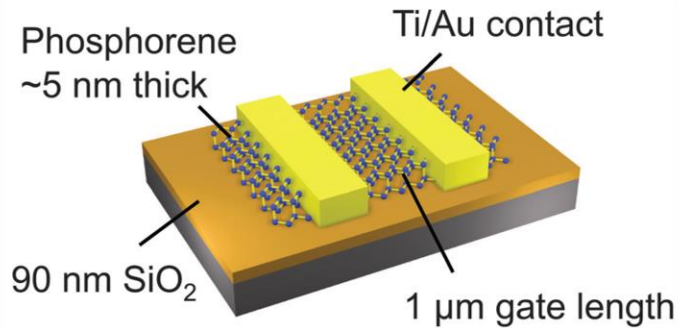
30 W/m K (zig-zag); 13.7 W/m K (armchair)



✓ *p*-type semiconductor, with a thickness-dependent direct band gap (0.3-2.0 eV)

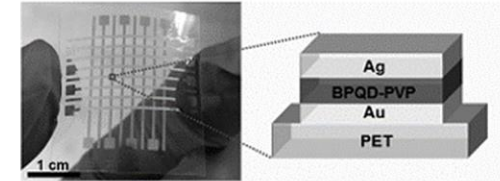
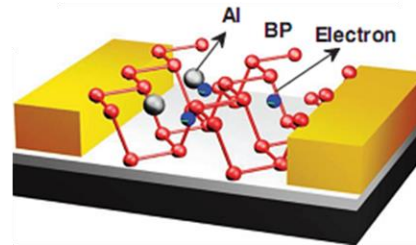
✓ The band gap can be modulated either applying an electrical field or by strain.

# Applications of black phosphorus

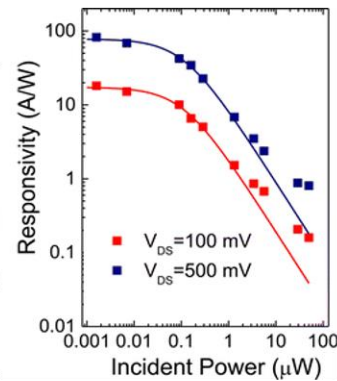
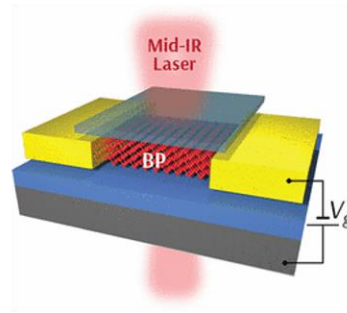
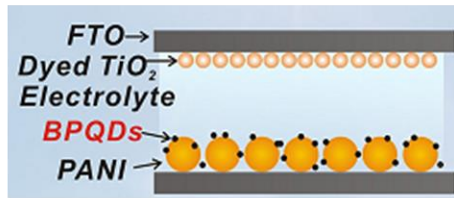


2D BP-based *p*-FET

Al-doped 2D BP *n*-FET

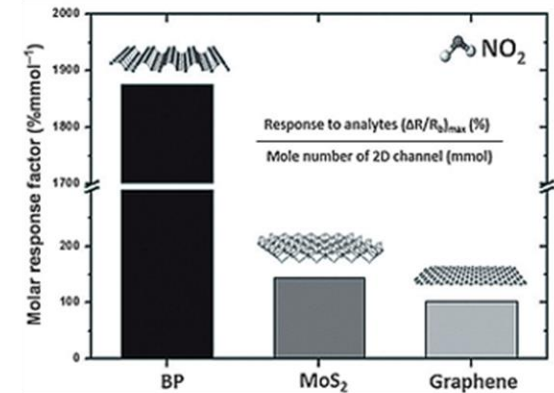


2D BP-based memory device



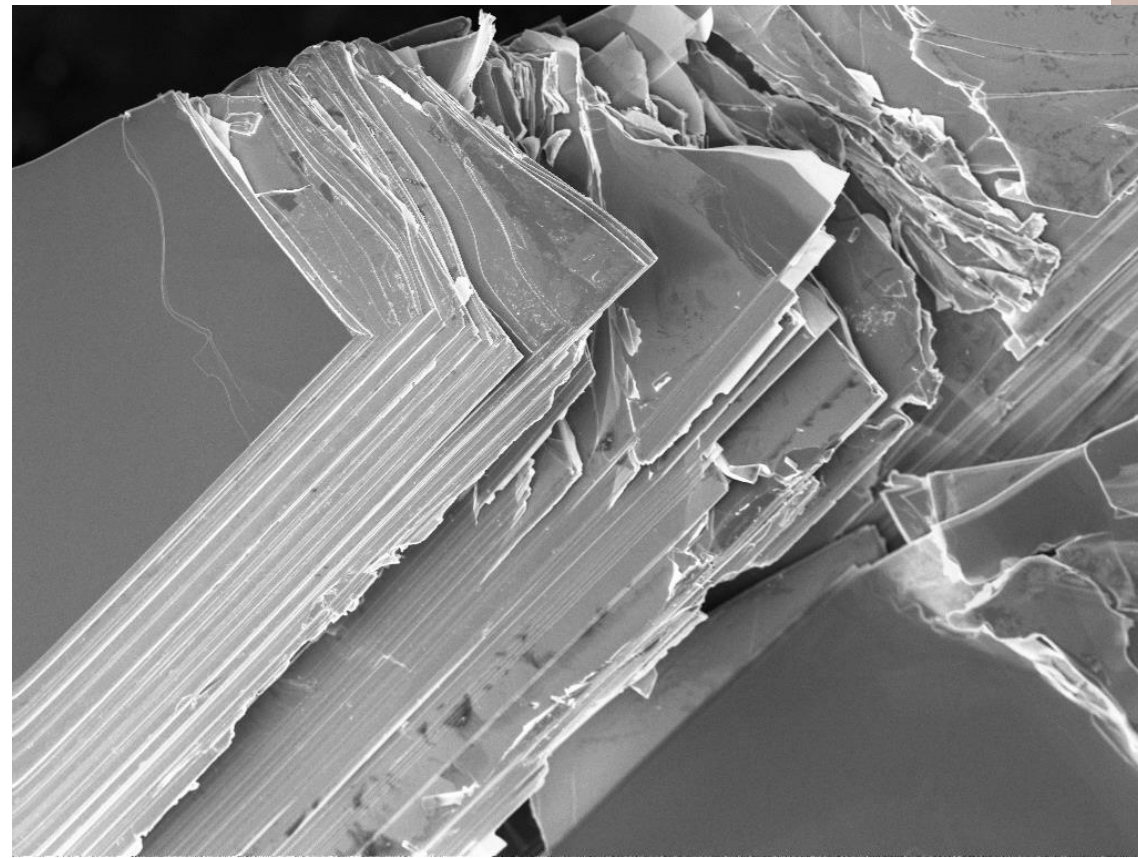
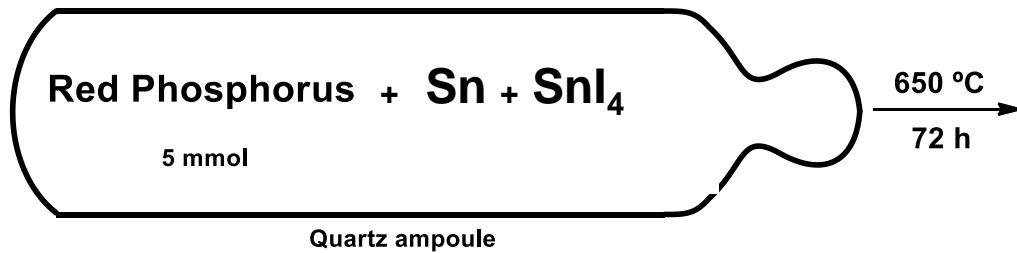
BP QDs-based solar cell

2D BP-based photodetector



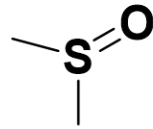
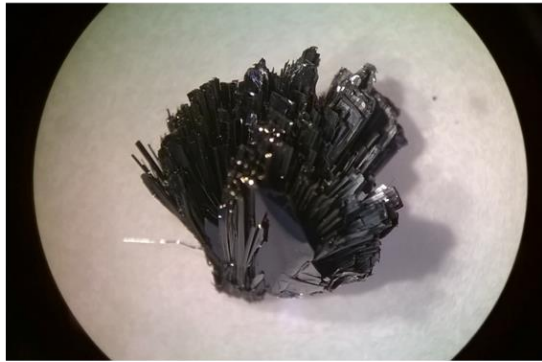
NO<sub>2</sub>-sensor based on 2D BP

# Synthesis of black phosphorus



J. Crystal Growth **2014**, *405*, 6.

# Liquid-phase exfoliation



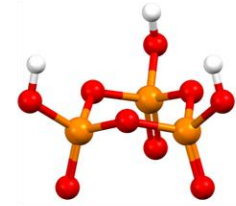
Ultrasound, 37 kHz  
30 °C, 20h

P/H<sub>2</sub>O

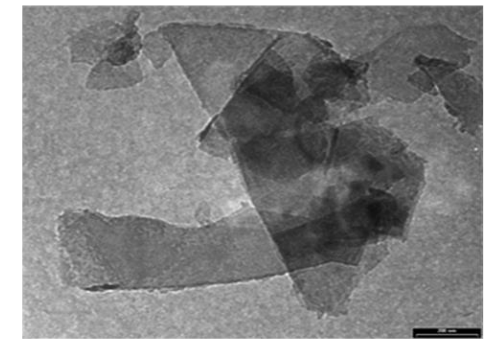
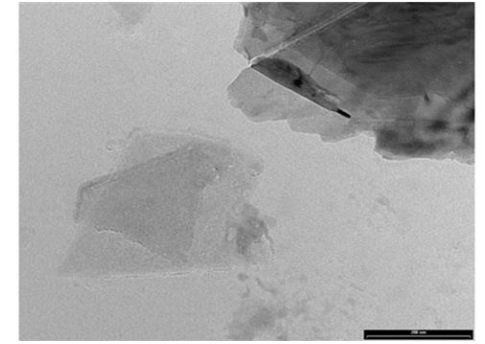
≥ 15

14 - 1.5

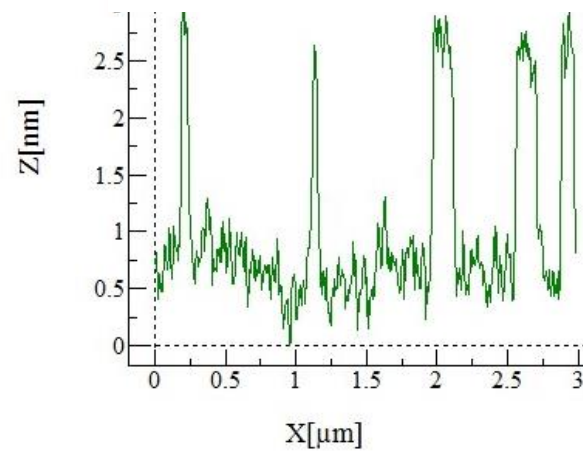
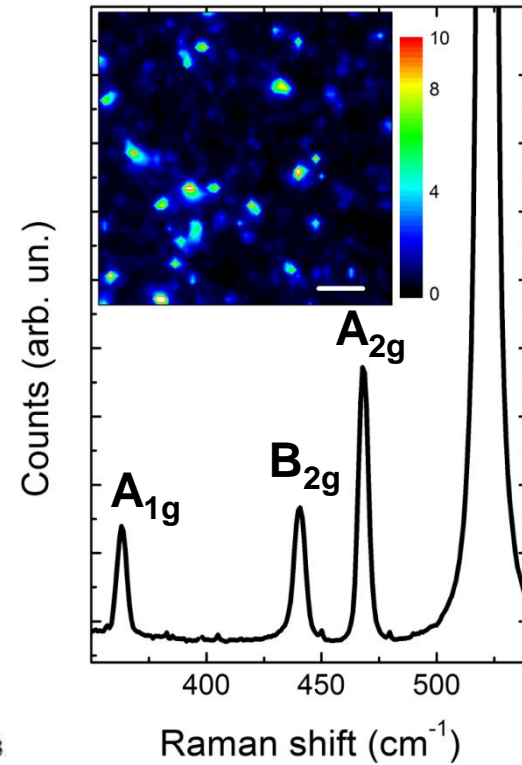
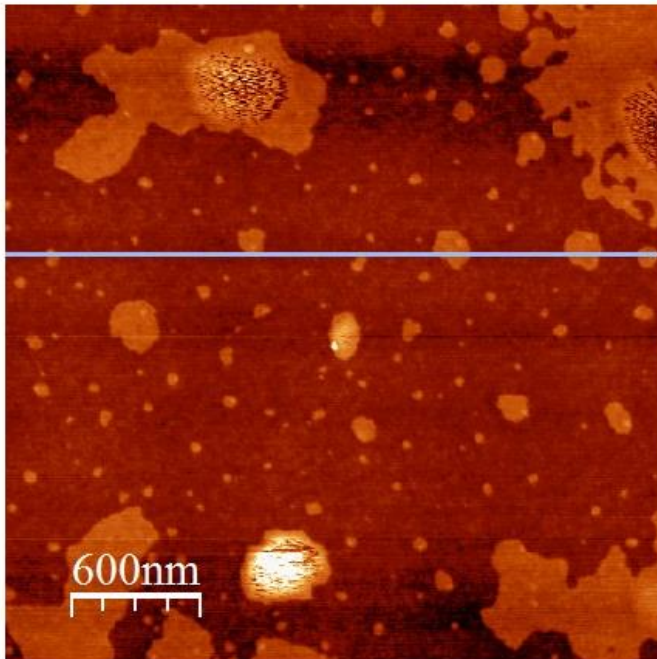
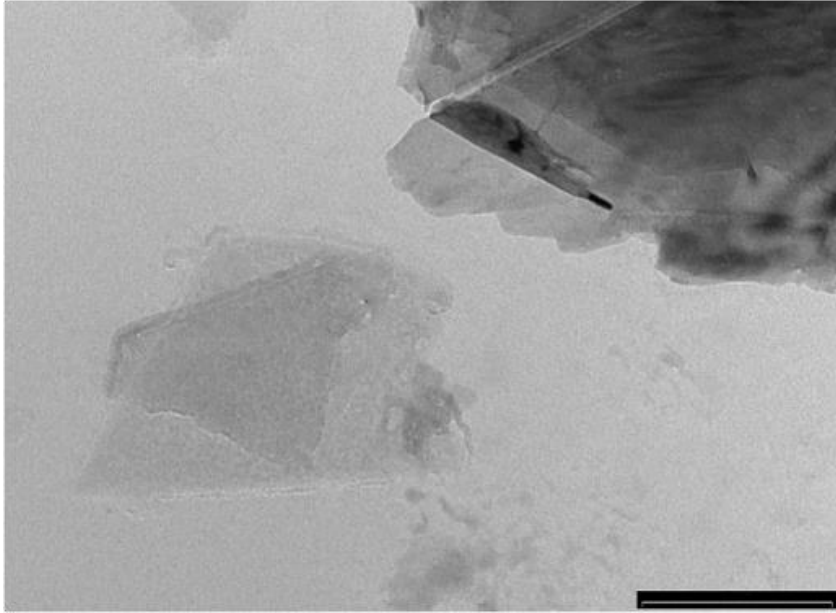
1.4 - 0.3



trimetaphosphoric acid



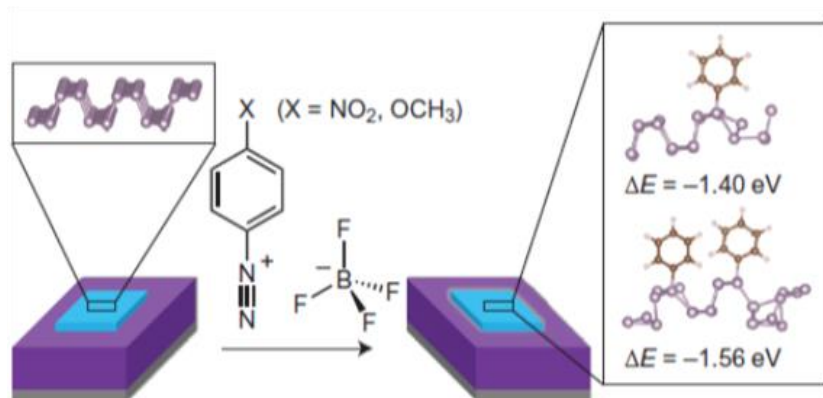
# 2D black phosphorus: characterization



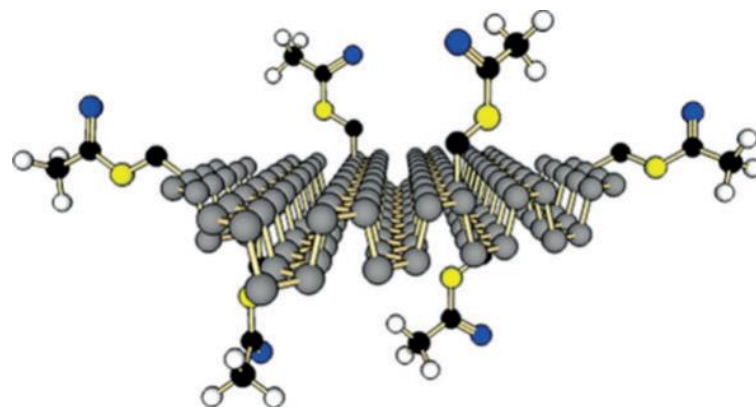


# Why is the chemistry of 2D bP important?

- ✓ improve the **processability** and the **solubility** of the nanomaterial;
- ✓ contribute to its **stabilization** in ambient conditions;
- ✓ provide the opportunity for **modulations** and **fine tuning** of the physical properties;
- ✓ serve as a basis for the development of **devices**.



Nat. Chem. 2016, 8, 598.

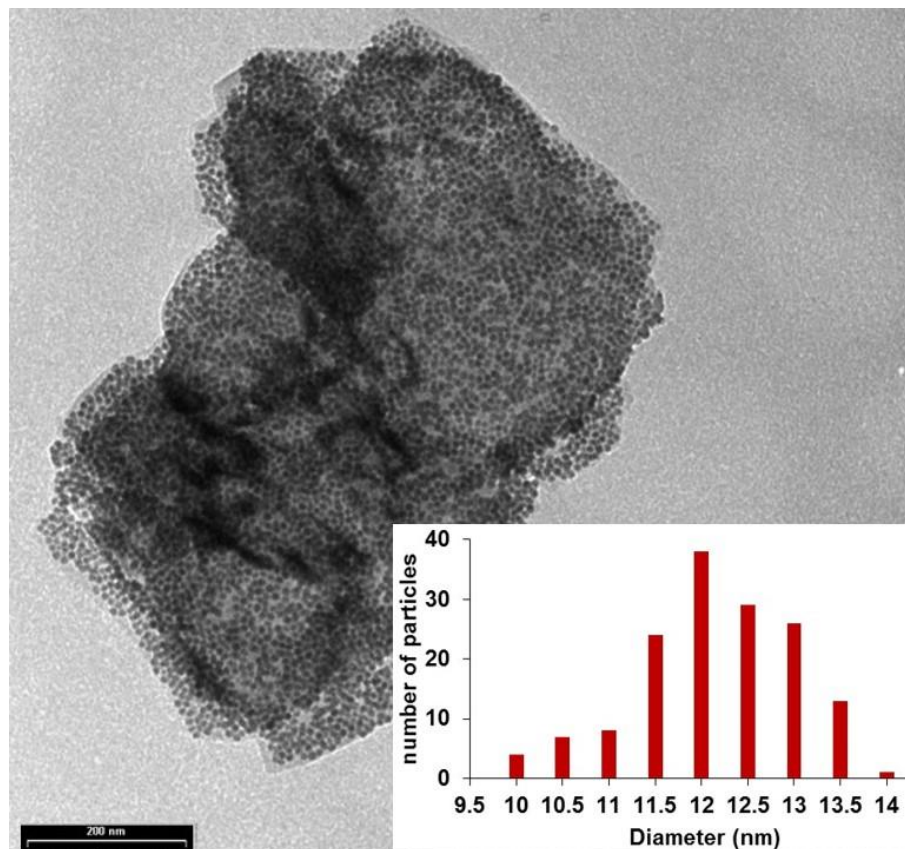
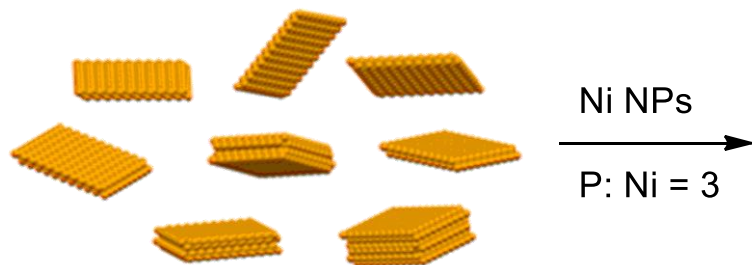
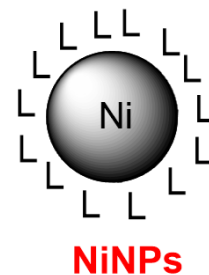


Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2017, 56, 9891.

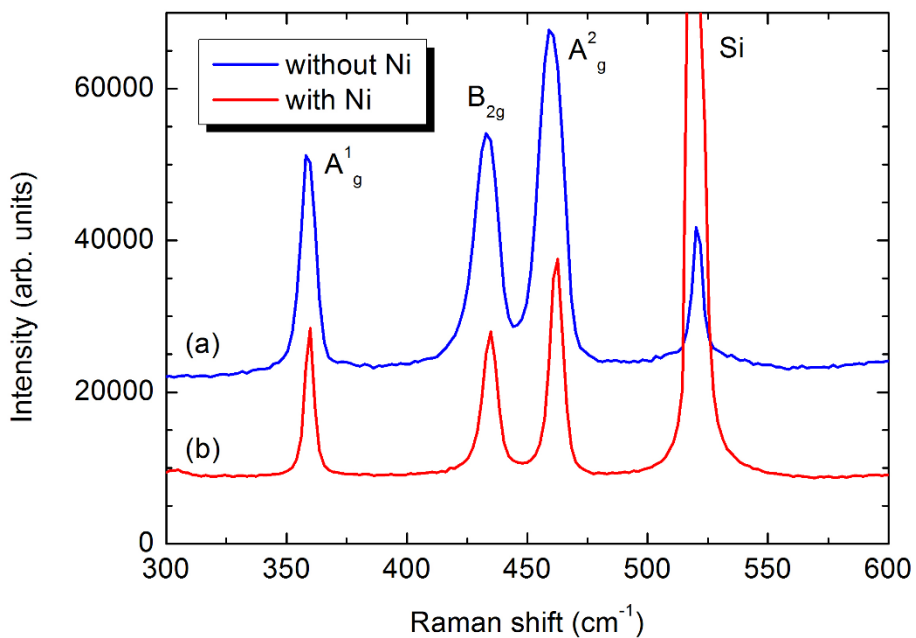
# Surface functionalization of 2D bP with Ni NPs



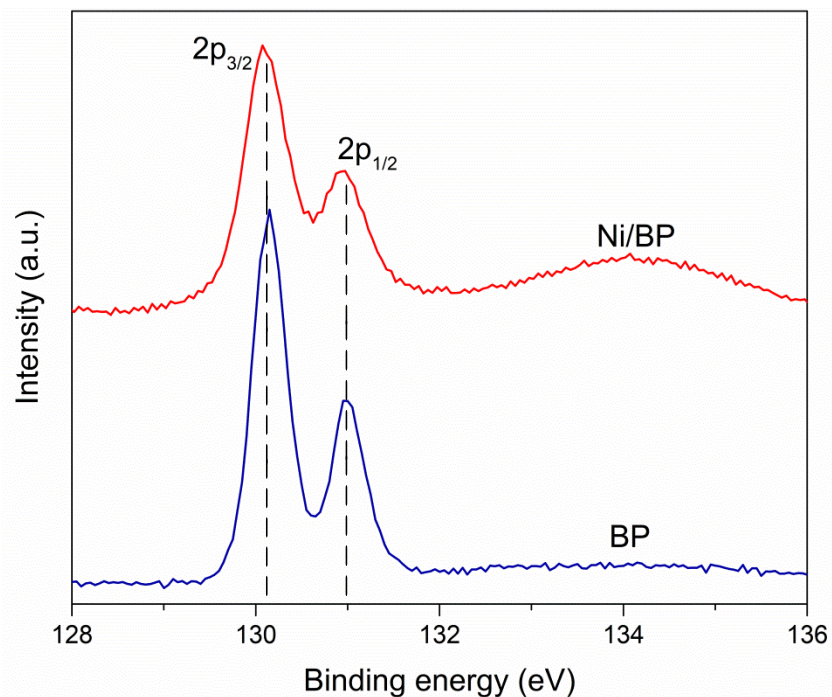
OA : oleylamine  
TOP: trioctylphosphine (L)



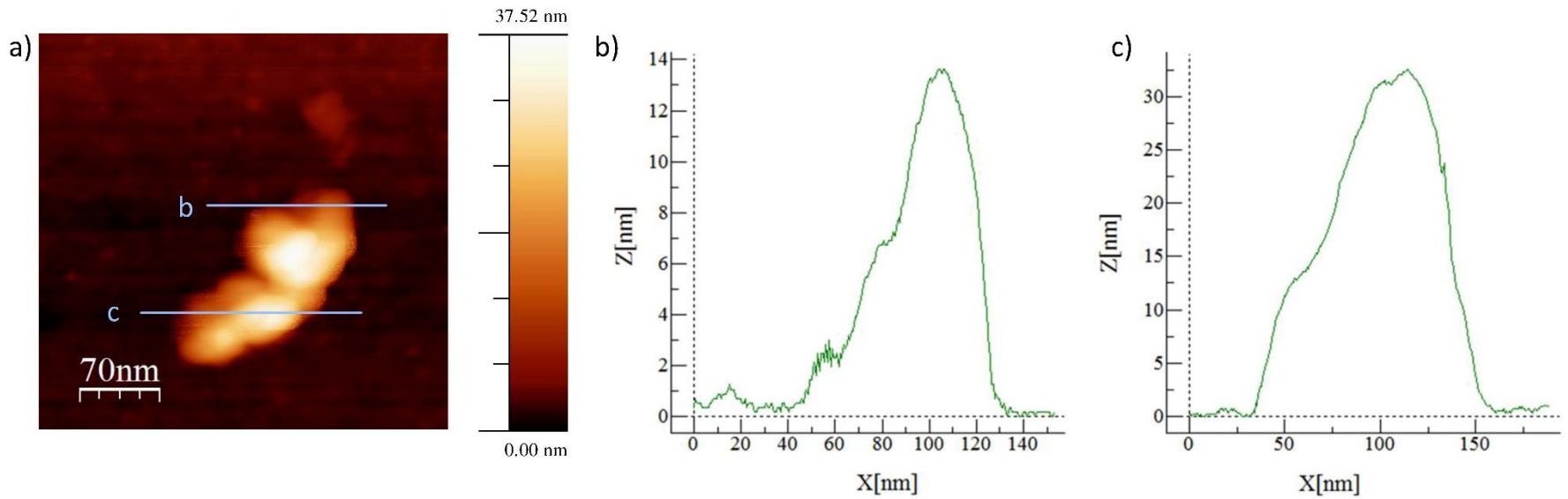
# Raman



# High Resolution XPS

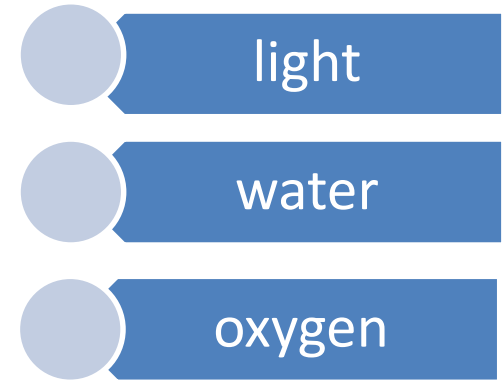


# Atomic Force Microscopy



# Ambient instability of 2D bP

The degradation is influenced by the following key-factors:



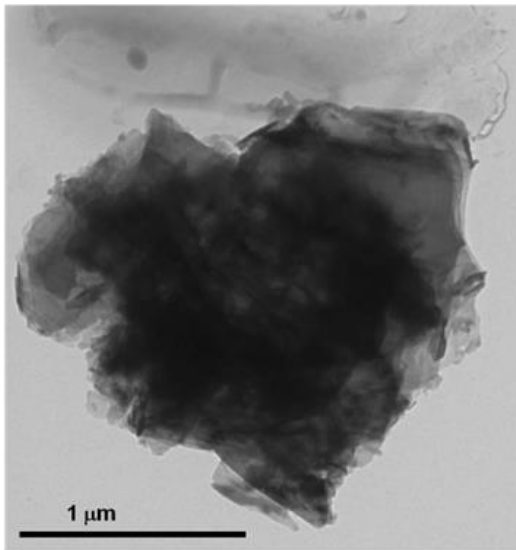
## Passivation strategies

The solution to avoid degradation is capping 2D bP to minimize its interaction with the ambient:

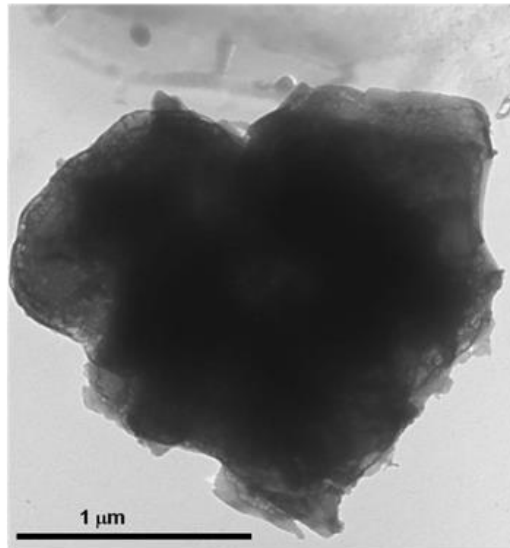
- ✓ passivation with  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{SiO}_2$ , PMMA, ionic liquids,  $\text{AgNO}_3$ ;
- ✓ surface coordination and covalent functionalization;
- ✓ sandwiched 2D bP heterostructures with graphene, *h*-BN.

# Ambient degradation of 2D bP

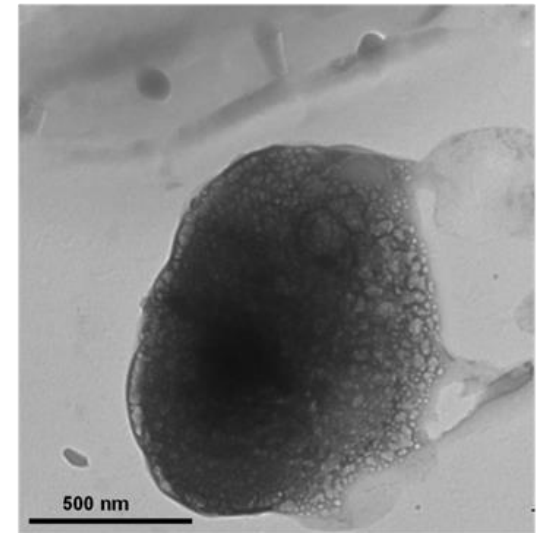
fresh sample



aged 1 week

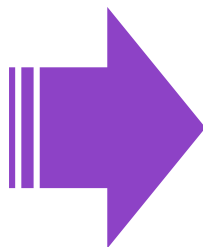
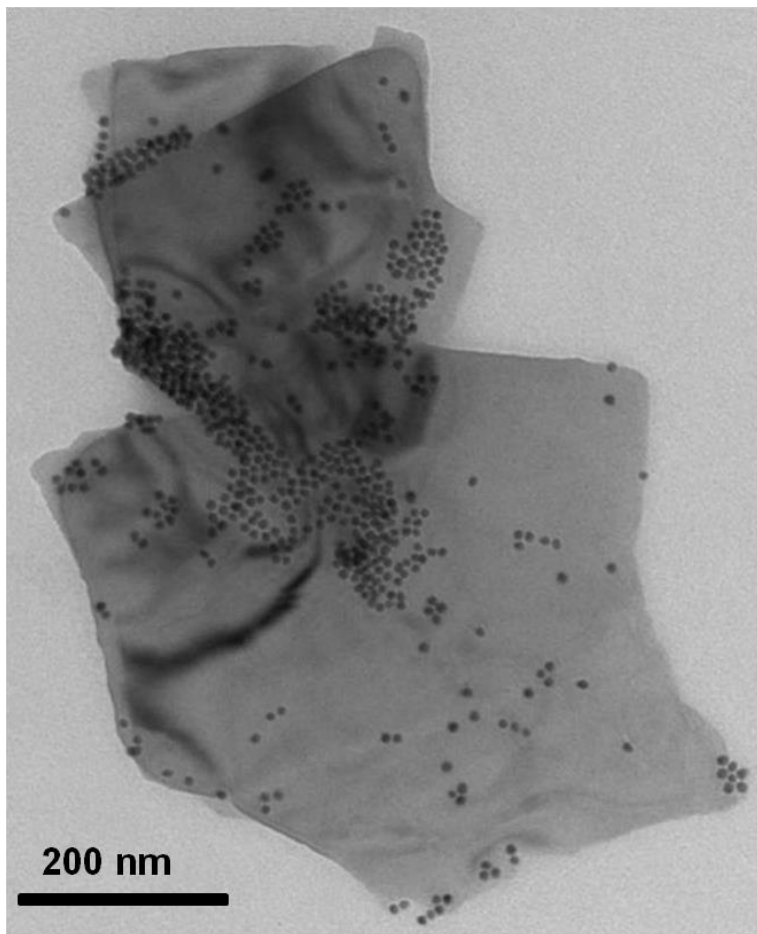


aged 2 weeks

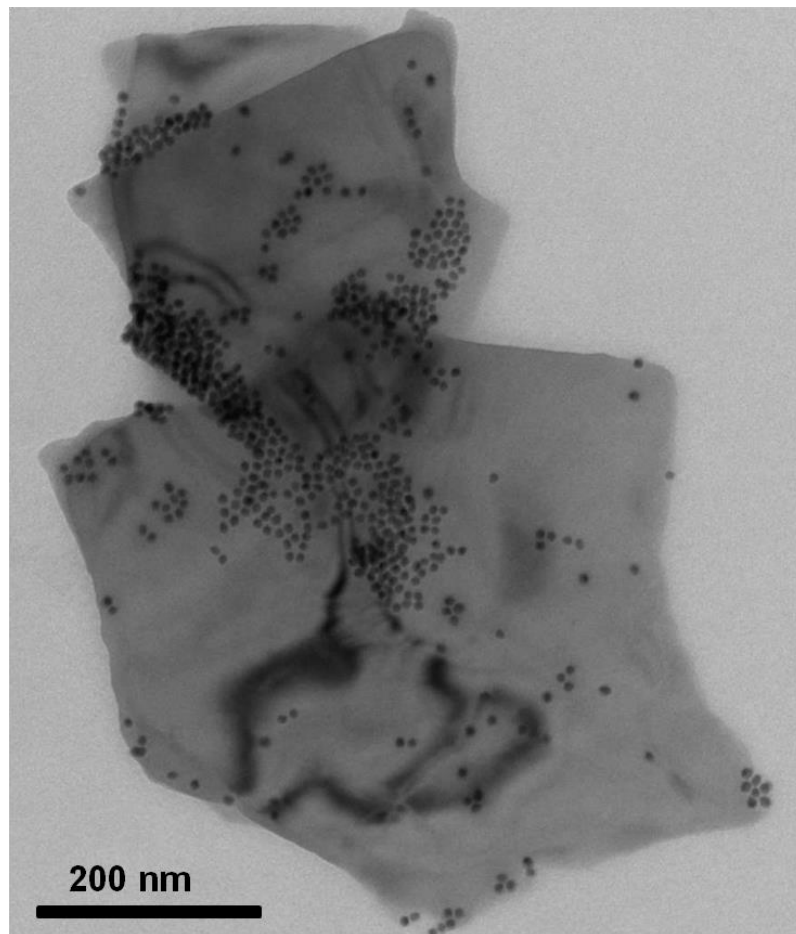


# Ambient degradation of Ni/2D bP

fresh sample

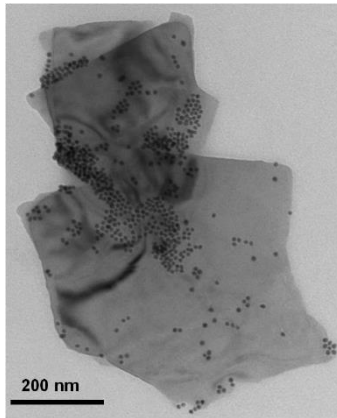


aged 1 week

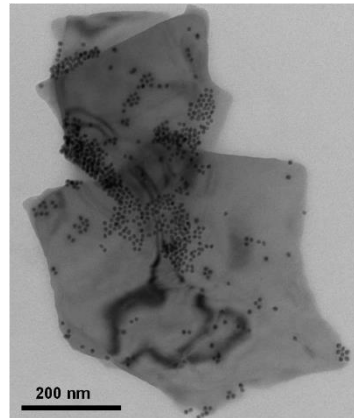


# Ambient degradation of Ni/2D bP

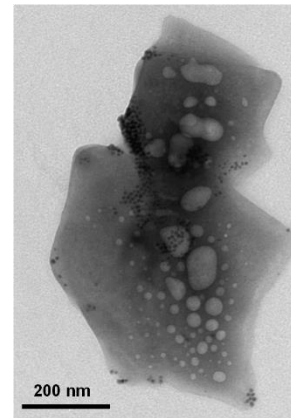
fresh sample



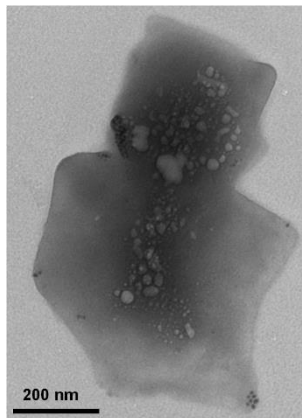
aged 1 week



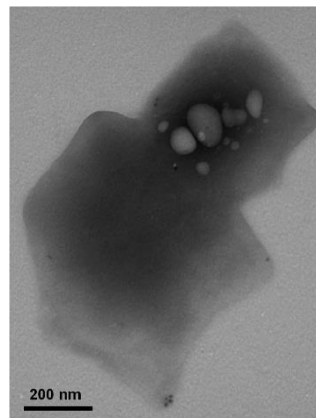
aged 18 days



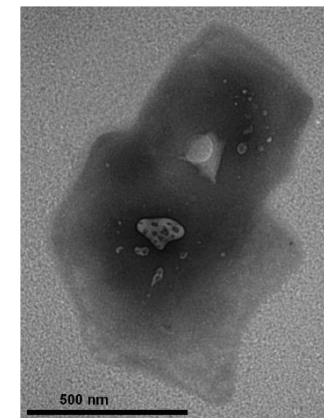
aged 2 months



aged 3 months

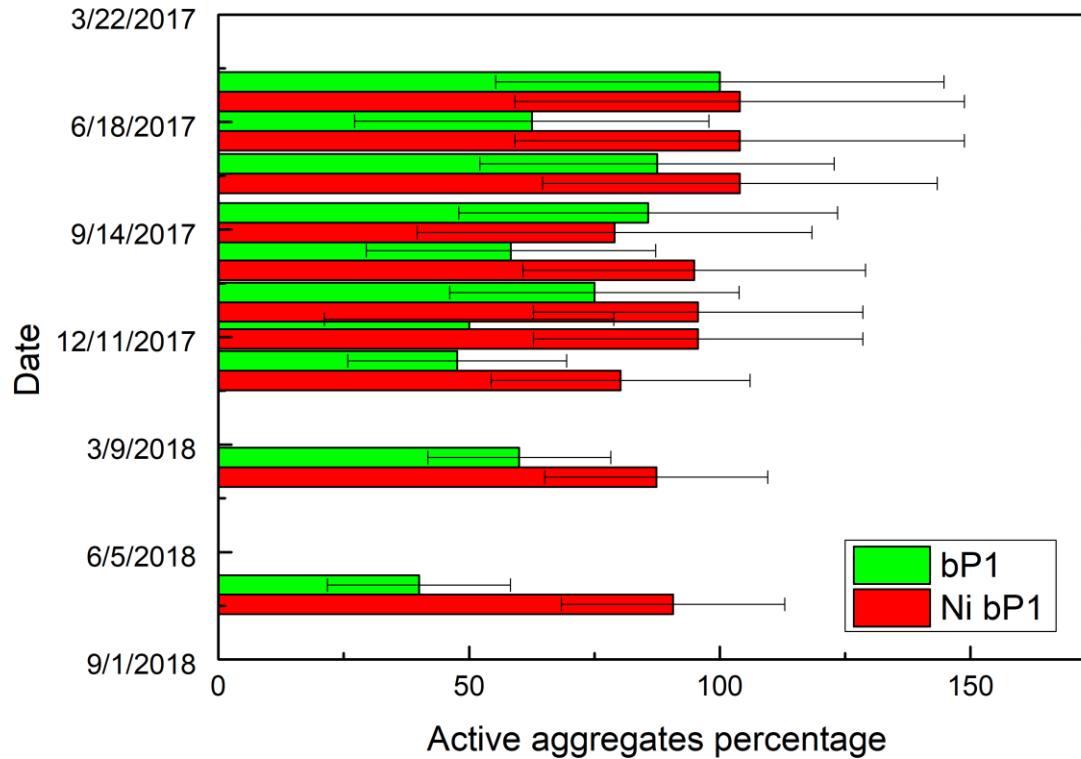


aged 7 months

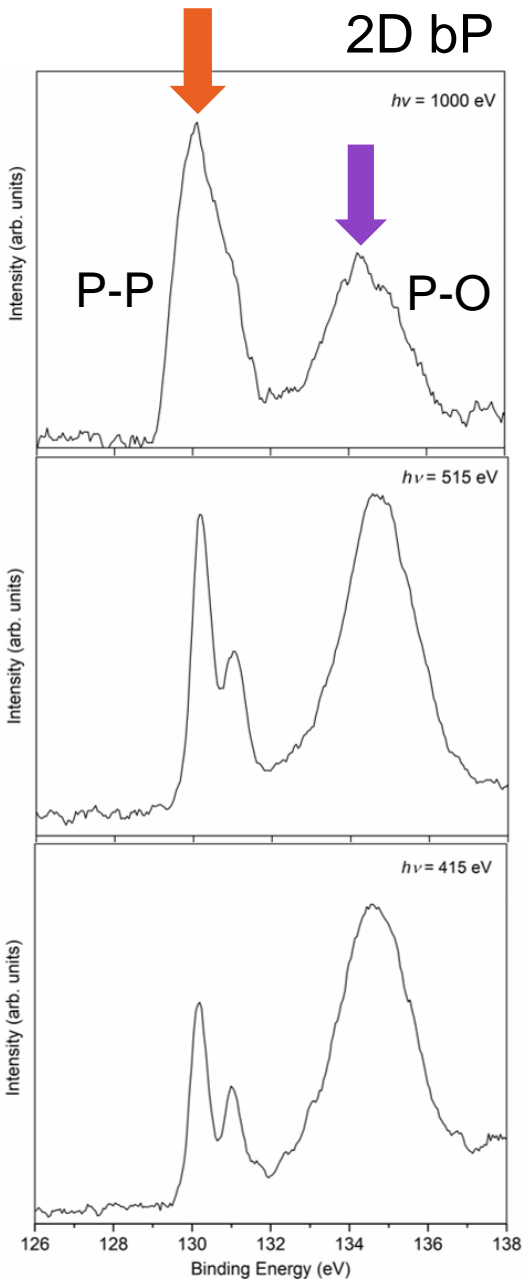




# Raman analysis of aging process



# XPS after aging 18 days



*Thickness of P-oxide layer,  $d$*

$$d = \lambda \ln (I_{\text{oxide}} / I_{\text{bP}} + 1)$$

$\lambda$  = electron mean free path  
 $I_{\text{oxide}}, I_{\text{bP}}$  = area underneath curve

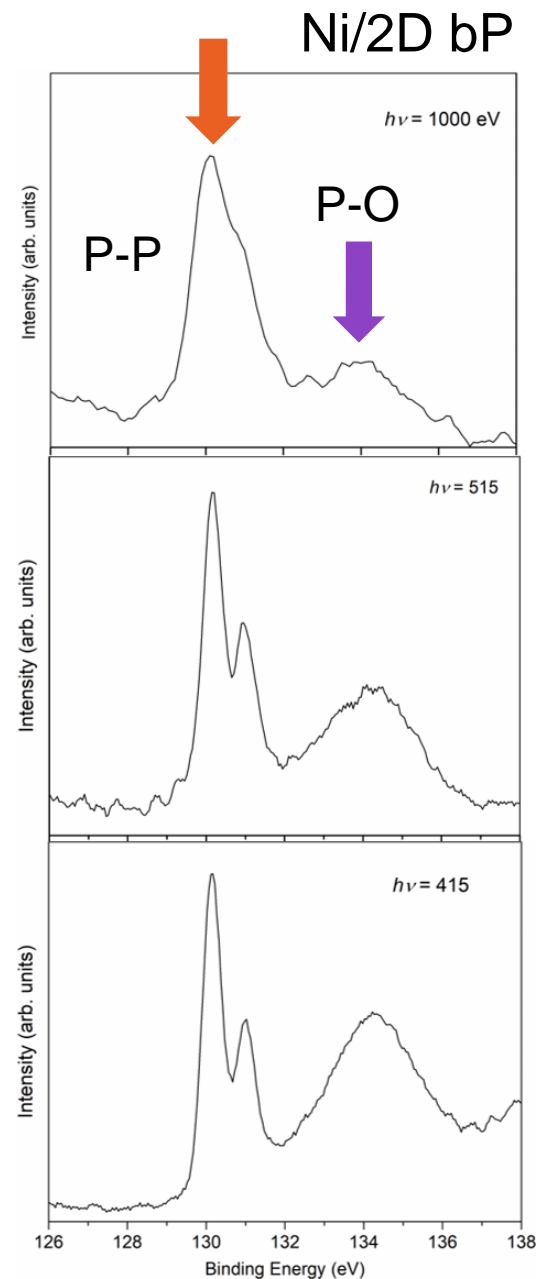


$d = 13.9 \text{ \AA}$  P-oxide in bP

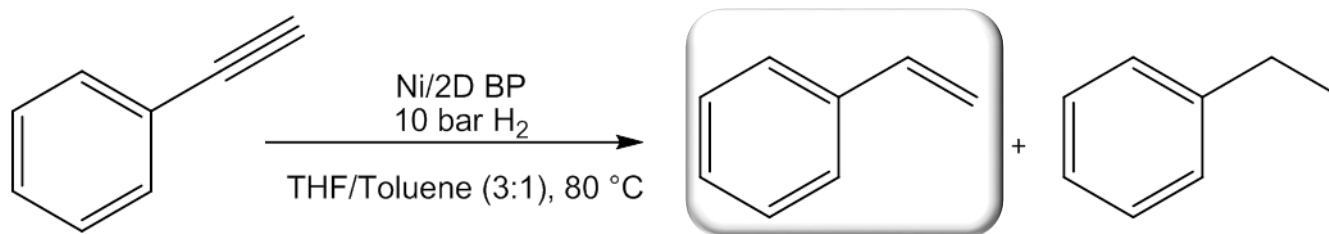
$d = 6.2 \text{ \AA}$  P-oxide in Ni/bP



Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste



# Semihydrogenation of phenylacetylene



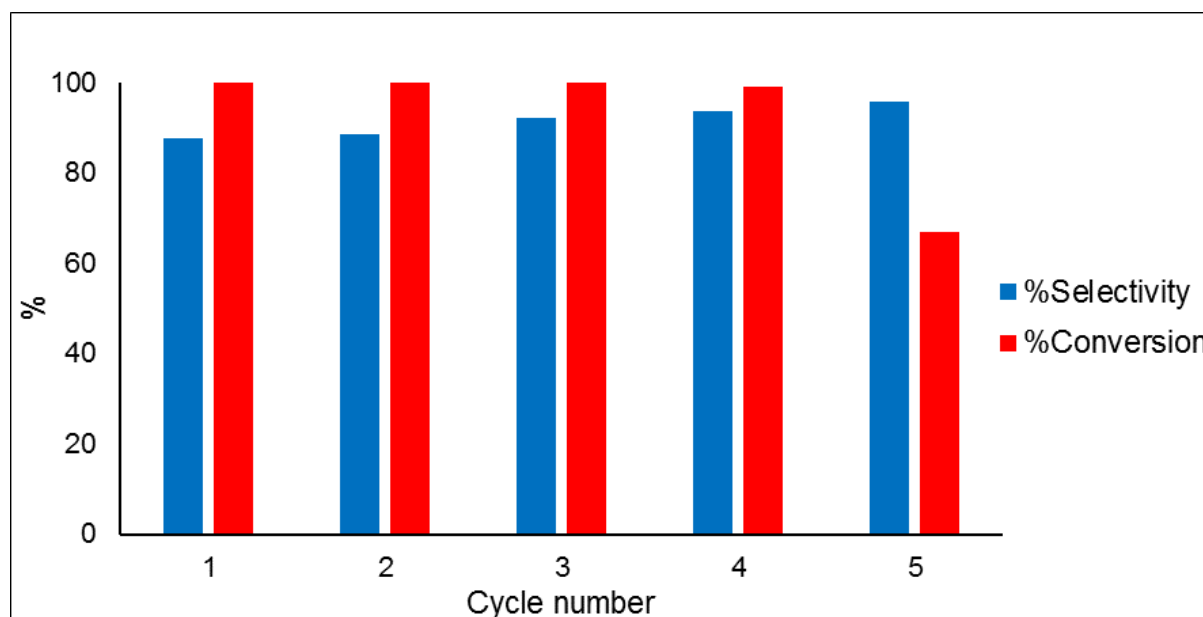
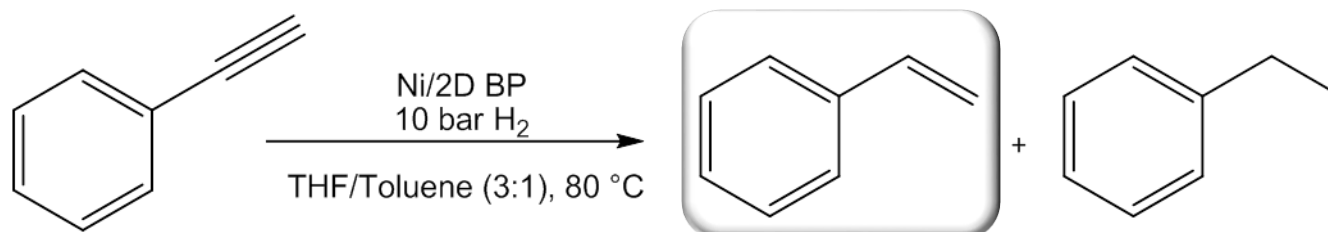
Entry	Conversion (%)	Selectivity to styrene (%)	S/cat	T (°C)
Ni NPs	100.0	78.6	56.0	80
2D BP	0.0	-	-	80
Ni/2D BP	93.2	92.8	56.0	80
Ni/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	99.6	0.7 <sup>a</sup>	16.5	100
Ni/MgO	98.5	36.0 <sup>b</sup>	15.0	50
Ni@C	99.8	59.6 <sup>c</sup>	-	100-150

<sup>a</sup>ACS Catal. **2015**, 5, 5756: 2 hours, 3 bar H<sub>2</sub>

<sup>b</sup>Chem. Cat. Chem. **2014**, 6, 824: 5 bar H<sub>2</sub>, 2 h

<sup>c</sup>Carbon **2014**, 74, 291: flow bed reactor.

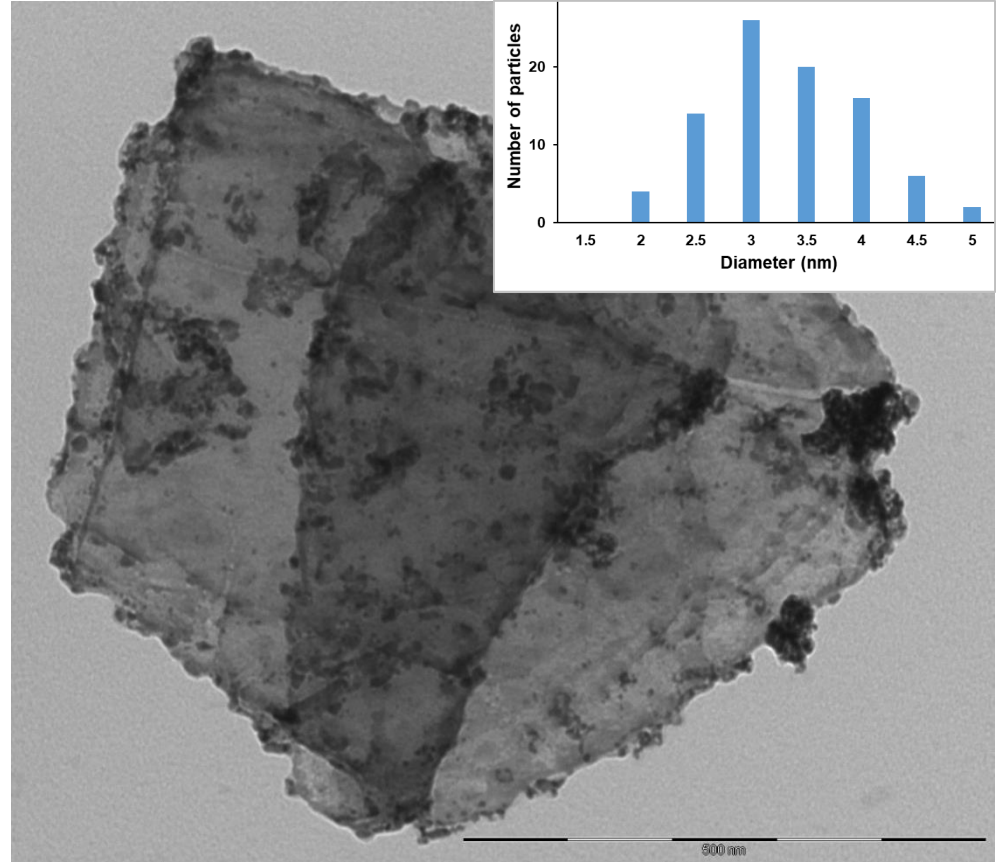
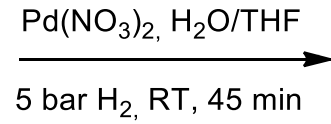
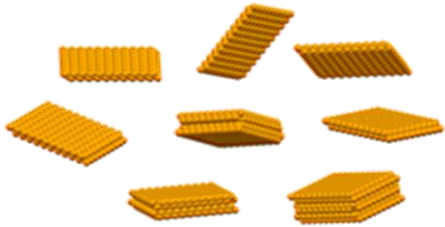
# Recycling Ni/2D BP



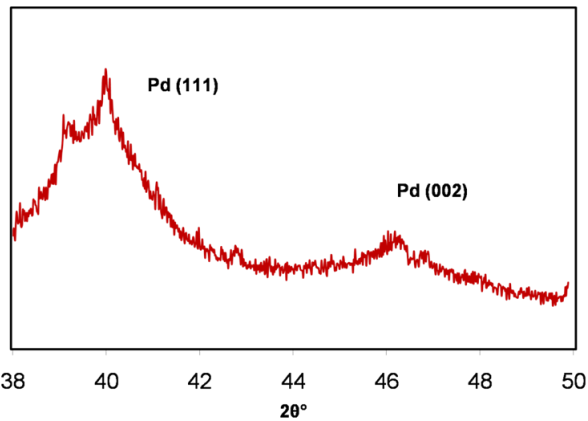
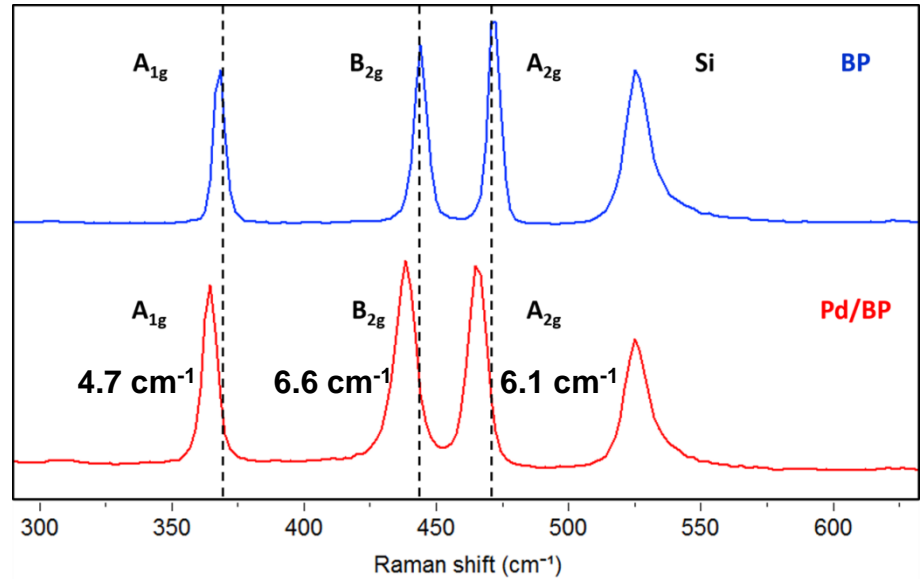
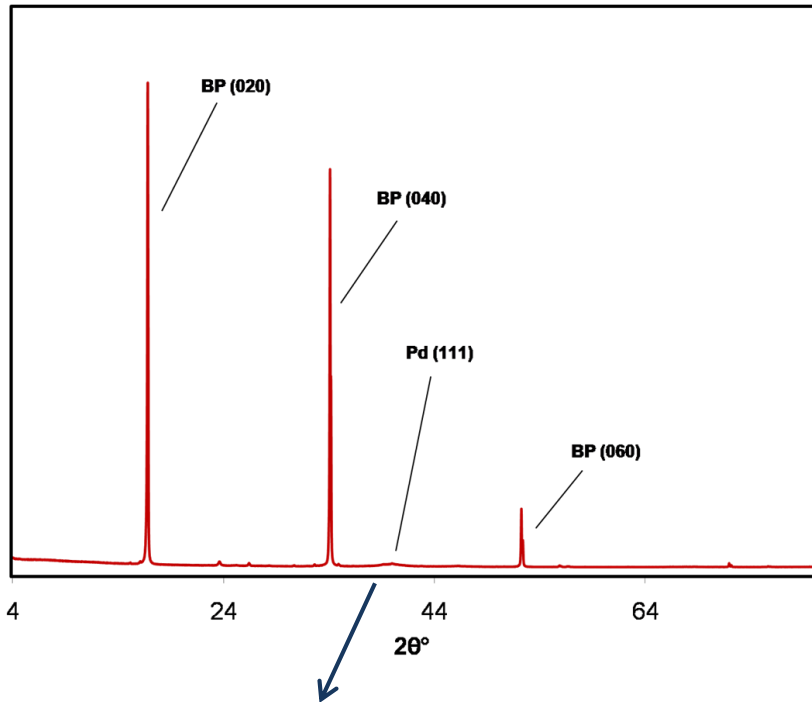
ICP-AES: no leaching of nickel

# *In-situ* growth of Pd NPs on 2D bP

- Reducing agent: H<sub>2</sub>

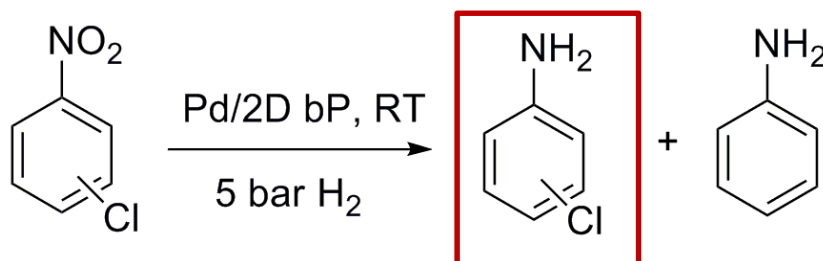


# PXRD and Raman of Pd/2D bP



*Chem. Mater.* **2017**, *29*, 7197;  
*AIP ADVANCES* **2015**, *5*, 057133.

# Selective reduction of nitroarenes to anilines

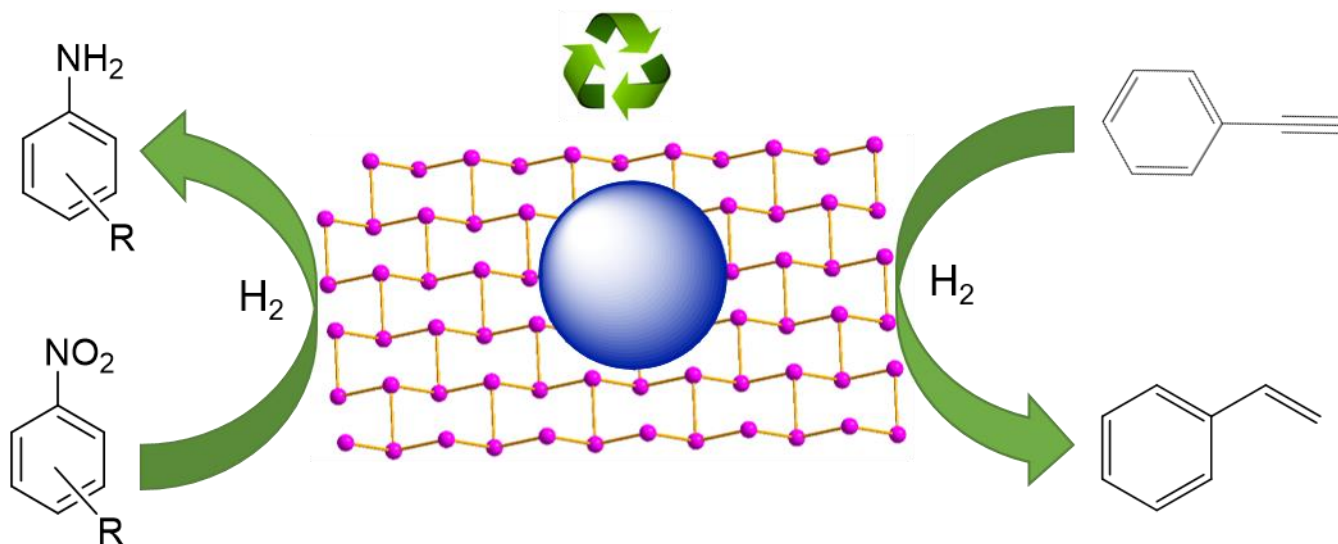


Catalyst	Substrate	Conversion (%)	Selectivity (%)
Pd/Zr-phosphonate*	1-chloro-3-nitrobenzene	99.7	84.0
Pd/C (ketjen black)	1-chloro-3-nitrobenzene	100.0	64.0
Pd/bP	1-chloro-3-nitrobenzene	98.0	<b>99.0</b>
Pd/bP	1-chloro-2-nitrobenzene	99.5	<b>97.3</b>
Pd/bP	4-nitrobenzaldehyde	99.5	<b>100.0</b>
Pd/bP	1-fluoro-3-nitrobenzene	99.9	<b>100.0</b>

ICP-AES: no leaching of palladium

\*M. Caporali, F. Liguori *et al.* *ACS Appl. Nano Mater.* **2018**, *1*, 1750-1757.

# Summary



- Ni/2D bP catalyzed successfully the semihydrogenation of phenylacetylene and showed high selectivity to styrene.
- An improved ambient stability was observed in presence of Ni NPs.
- Pd NPs were grown onto 2D bP and the resulting catalyst showed remarkable selectivity in the reduction of halo-arenes to halo-anilines.



# Acknowledgements



Matteo Vanni



M. Serrano Ruiz

## CNR ICCOM Florence

Maurizio Peruzzini

Andrea Ienco

Gabriele Manca



## CEME (electron microscopy)

Alessandro Lavacchi, M. Cristina Salvatici

## CNR NANO (Pisa)

Stefan Heun

Francesca Telesio



## CNR IMM (Catania)

Giuseppe Nicotra

Corrado Spinella



## CNR IOM (Trieste)

Alberto Verdini



Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

PHOSFUN “Phosphorene functionalization: a new platform for advanced multifunctional materials”,  
ERC-Advanced Grant to M. Peruzzini.

# E-MRS, European Materials Research Society, Spring Meeting

27-31 May 2019, Nice, France.

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- Bio- and Soft Materials
- Nano-functional Materials
- 2 Dimensional Materials
- Materials, Electronics and Photonics
- Modelling and Characterizations

*Symposium T*

*2D semiconductors: applications and perspectives*

Deadline for abstract:

15 January 2019.

