



Covalent Organic Functionalization of Graphene Nanosheets and Reduced Graphene Oxide via 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition of Azomethine Ylide

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OUTLINE

➤ Why GRAPHENE?

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OUTLINE

- Why GRAPHENE?
- 1,3 Dipolar Cycloaddition of GNS and rGO

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OUTLINE

- Why GRAPHENE?
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- Results (EDX/EELS – XPS – Raman – DFT)

OUTLINE

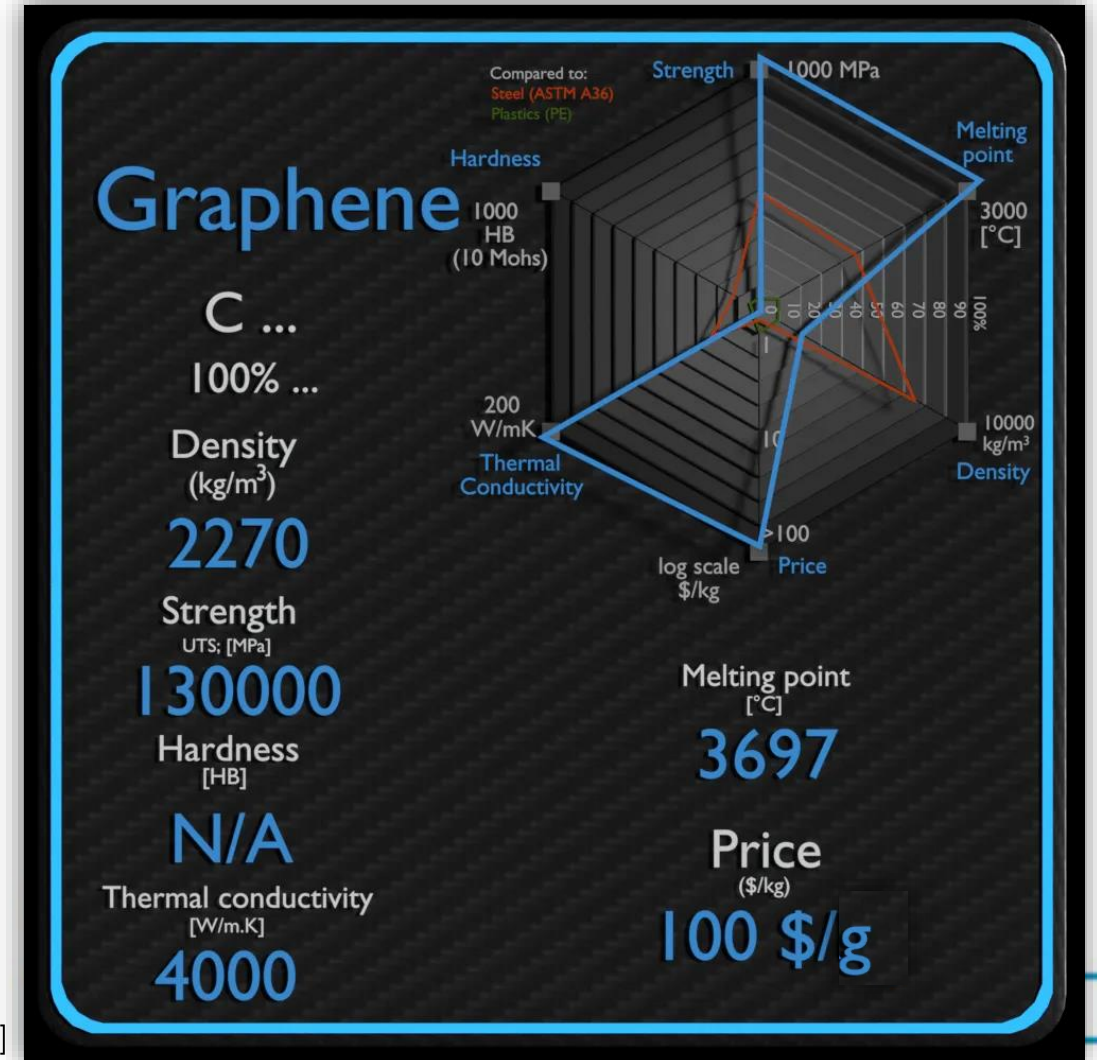
- Why GRAPHENE?
- 1,3 Dipolar Cycloaddition of GNS and rGO
- Results (EDX/EELS – XPS – Raman – DFT)
- Conclusions & Outlooks

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GRAPHENE

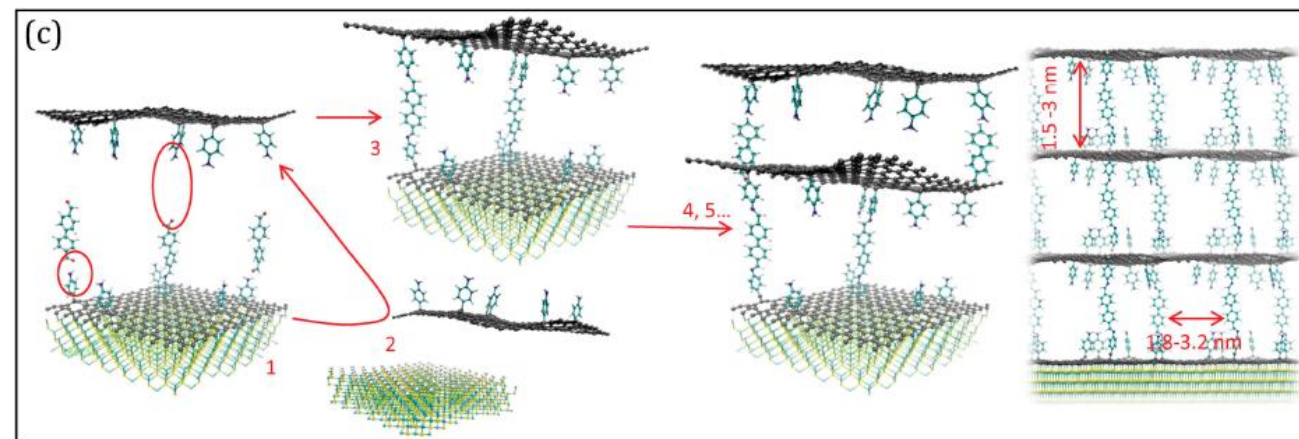
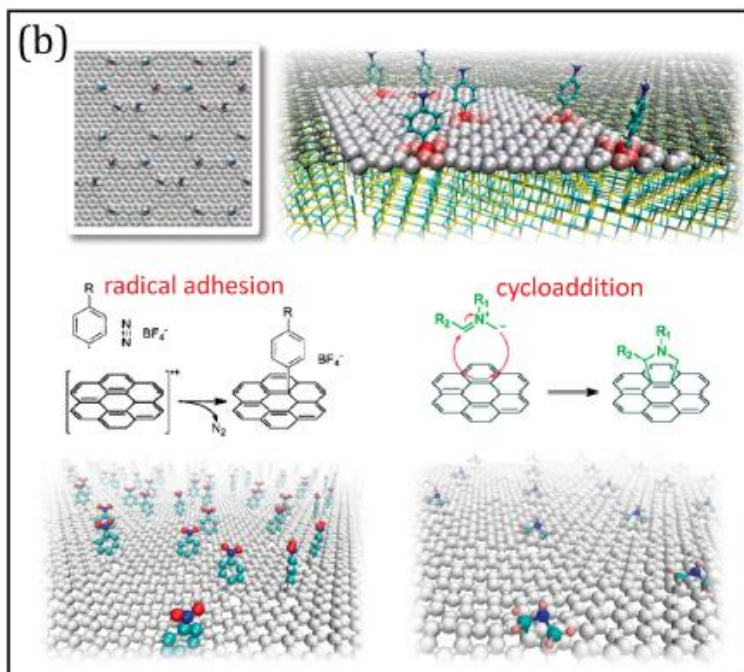
The high specific surface area and the excellent mechanical, electrical, optical and thermal properties of graphene make it an attractive component for high-performance devices.



[Material Properties (web)]

CHEMICAL FUNCTIONALIZATION

Covalent functionalization of graphene with organic molecules offers the possibility to finely tune the system's physical and chemical properties

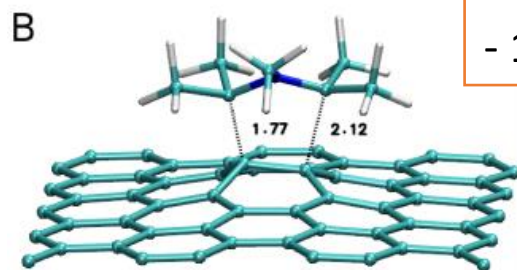
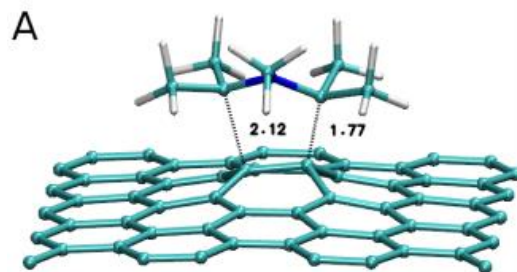


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[L. Bellucci and V. Tozzini, *Molecules*, 2020, 25, 339]

1,3 DIPOLAR CYCLOADDITION

1,3-DC of azomethine ylide: selectivity, stability (up to 300 °C), reversibility



- 43 kcal/mol
- 1.87 eV

[L. Bellucci @ NEST]



COMMUNICATION www.rsc.org/chemcomm | ChemComm

Organic functionalisation of graphenes

Vasilios Georgakilas,^a Athanasios B. Bourlinos,^a Radek Zbo
Panagiotis Dallas,^a Athanasios K. Stubos^{cd} and Christos Trap

Received (in Cambridge, UK) 22nd October 2009, Accepted 14th December
First published as an Advance Article on the web 13th January 2010
DOI: 10.1039/b922081j

Graphene sheets derived from dispersion of graphite in pyridine
are functionalised by the 1,3 dipolar cycloaddition of azomethine
The organically modified graphene sheets are easily dispersible

stable dis
and few-l
it produc

Functionalization of Graphene via 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition

Mildred Quintana,^a Konstantinos Spyrou,^a Marek Grzelczak,^a Wesley R. Browne,^b Petra Rudolf,^a and Maurizio Prato^{1,*}

^aCenter of Excellence for Nanostructured Materials (CENMAT) and INSTM, Unit of Trieste, Dipartimento di Scienze Farmaceutiche, University of Trieste, Piazzale Europa 1, I-34127 Trieste, Italy, ^bZemke Institute for Advanced Materials, and ^cStratingh Institute for Chemistry, University of Groningen, Nijenborgh 4, NL-9747AG Groningen, The Netherlands

ARTICLE

Graphene is a single layer of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal lattice and one of the few structures that are stable in two dimensions. Its extraordinary properties, such as high carrier mobility, half-integer quantum Hall effect at

ABSTRACT Few-layer graphenes (FLG) produced by dispersion and exfoliation of graphite in *N*-methylpyrrolidone were successfully functionalized using the 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of azomethine ylides. The amino functional groups attached to graphene sheets were quantified by the Kaiser test. These amino groups selectively bind to gold nanorods, which were introduced as contrast markers for the identification of the graphene sheets. The interaction between gold nanorods and functionalized graphene was followed by TEM.

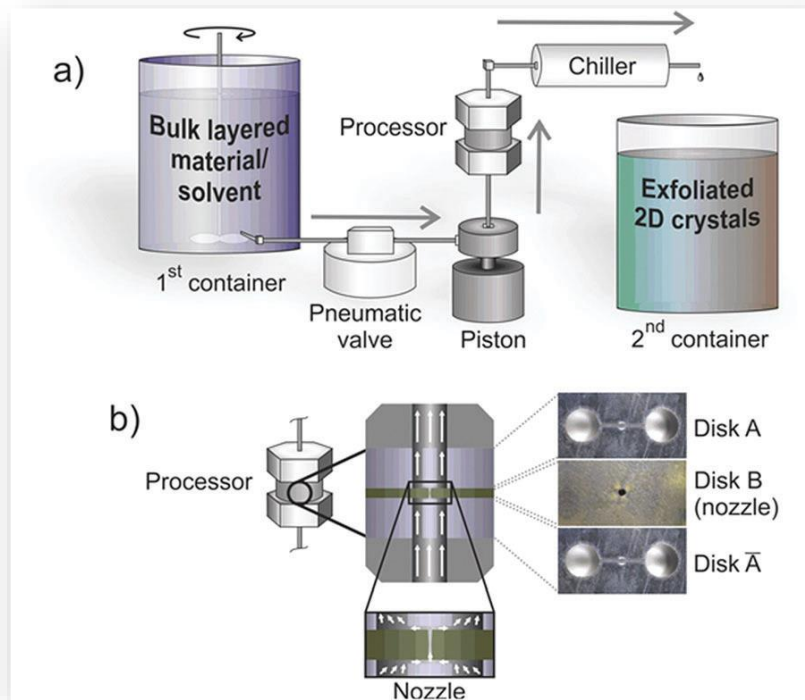
[V. Georgakilas et al., *Chem. Commun.*, **2010**, 46, 1766;
M. Quintana et al., *ACSNano*, **2010**, 4, 6]

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GRAPHENE NANOSHEETS

Exfoliated GNS are produced by high-pressure wet-jet milling (BeDimensional)



Materials Horizons ROYAL SOC. OF CHEMISTS

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High-yield production of 2D crystals by wet-jet milling†

Cite this: *Mater. Horiz.*, 2018, 5, 890
Received 25th April 2018, Accepted 6th July 2018
DOI: 10.1039/c8mh00487k
rsc.li/materials-horizons

A. E. Del Rio Castillo,^{a,*,†} V. Pellegrini,^{ab} A. Ansaldo,^c F. Ricciardella,^a H. Sun,^a L. Marasco,^a J. Buha,^c Z. Dang,^c L. Gagliani,^a E. Lago,^a N. Curreli,^{ad} S. Gentiluomo,^a F. Palazon,^c M. Prato,^{de} R. Oropesa-Nuñez,^d P. S. Toth,^a E. Mantero,^a M. Crugliano,^a A. Gamucci,^a A. Tomadin,^a M. Polini^a and F. Bonaccorso^{a,†}

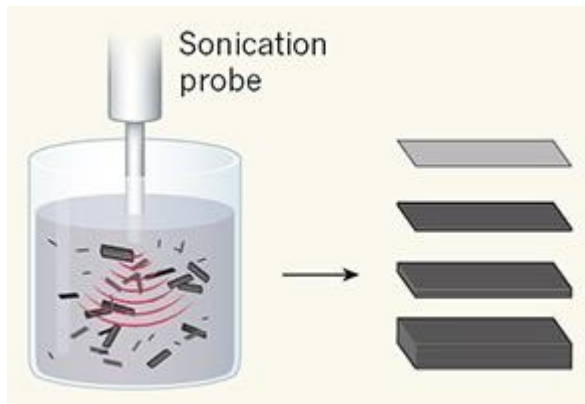
Efficient and scalable production of two-dimensional (2D) materials is required to overcome technological hurdles towards the creation of a 2D-material-based industry. Here, we present a novel approach developed for the exfoliation of layered crystals, i.e. graphite, hexagonal-boron nitride and transition metal dichalcogenides. The process is based on high-pressure wet-jet-milling (WJM), resulting in a 10 g L⁻¹ production of single- and few-layer 2D crystal dispersion making the scaling-up more affordable. The WJM enables the production of defect-free and high quality nanosheets on a large scale, opening the way for their

Conceptual insights
A reproducible and large-scale production of high-quality 2D crystals is urgently needed to promote the technological revolution foreseen for this class of nanomaterials. However, there are severe hurdles to be tackled before 2D crystal production methods can fulfil the industrial requirements. In particular, the production time and cost of the 2D crystals have to be minimized without compromising the crystalline-integrity and production yield. Currently, there is no methodology that fulfills the industrial requirements of materials processing for 2D crystals. Here, we present a breakthrough in the exfoliation of bulk layered crystals, based on high-speed

[A. E. Del Rio et al., *Mater. Horiz.*, 2018, 5, 890]

GRAPHENE NANOSHEETS DISPERSION

Sonication: exfoliation through growth and collapse of micro-bubbles due to pressure fluctuations in solvents (NMP and DMF)



[P. Bøggild, *Nature* 562, 502, 2018]



60 W

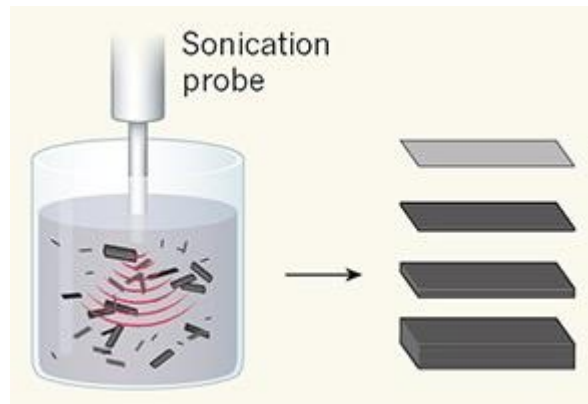
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GRAPHENE NANOSHEETS DISPERSION

Sonication: exfoliation through growth and collapse of micro-bubbles due to pressure fluctuations in solvents (NMP and DMF)

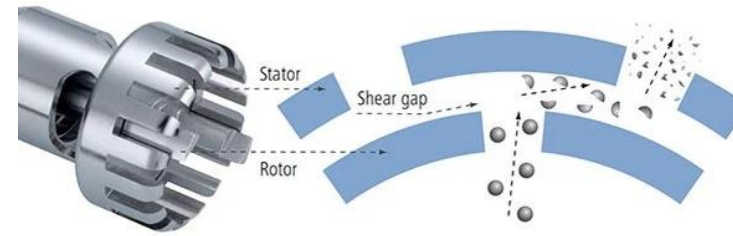
Homogenization: exfoliation via shear mixing in suitable stabilizing solvents



[P. Bøggild, *Nature* 562, 502, 2018]



60 W



[IKA (Web)]



30000 rpm

DYNAMIC LIGHT SCATTERING

Average lateral dimension of GNS

<i>Solvent</i>	<i>Dispersion technique</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>After 30 min</i>	<i>After 60 min</i>	<i>After 120 min</i>
NMP	<i>sonication</i>	(850 ± 100) nm	-	(600 ± 100) nm	(500 ± 100) nm
	<i>homogenization</i>	(850 ± 50) nm	(600 ± 40) nm	(400 ± 20) nm	-
DMF	<i>sonication</i>	(950 ± 150) nm	-	(850 ± 150) nm	(800 ± 150) nm
	<i>homogenization</i>	(950 ± 150) nm	(800 ± 50) nm	(600 ± 50) nm	-

[L. Basta et al., *Nanoscale Advances*, 2021]

DYNAMIC LIGHT SCATTERING

Average lateral dimension of GNS

<i>Solvent</i>	<i>Dispersion technique</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>After 30 min</i>	<i>After 60 min</i>	<i>After 120 min</i>
NMP	<i>sonication</i>	(850 ± 100) nm	-	(600 ± 100) nm	(500 ± 100) nm
	<i>homogenization</i>	(850 ± 50) nm	(600 ± 40) nm	(400 ± 20) nm	-
DMF	<i>sonication</i>	(950 ± 150) nm	-	(850 ± 150) nm	(800 ± 150) nm
	<i>homogenization</i>	(950 ± 150) nm	(800 ± 50) nm	(600 ± 50) nm	-

BETTER!

FASTER!

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[L. Basta et al., *Nanoscale Advances*, 2021]

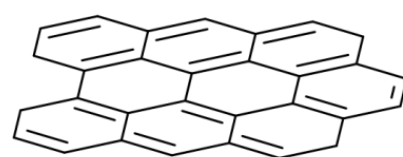
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1,3-DC OF GNS AND rGO

GNS in NMP/DMF, rGO in DFM: 0.2 mg/mL

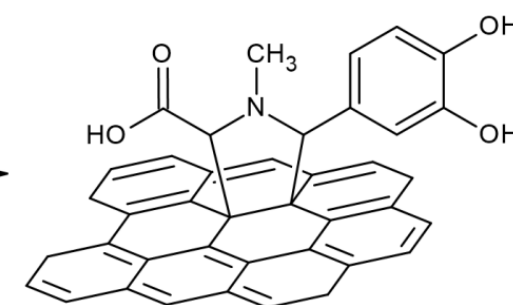
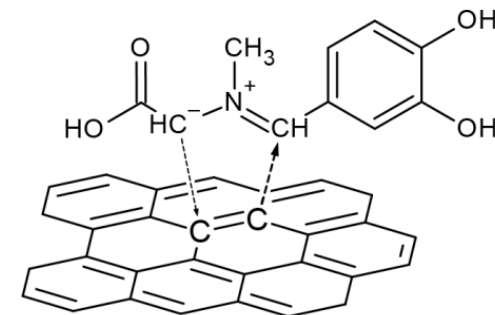
150 °C – 120 h

(under N₂ flux)

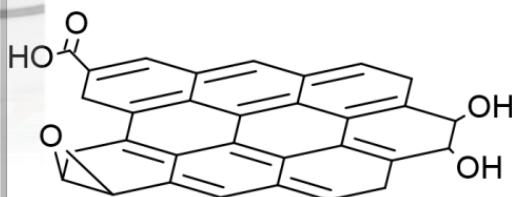


GNS

N-methylglycine,
3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde
(150 °C - 120 h)

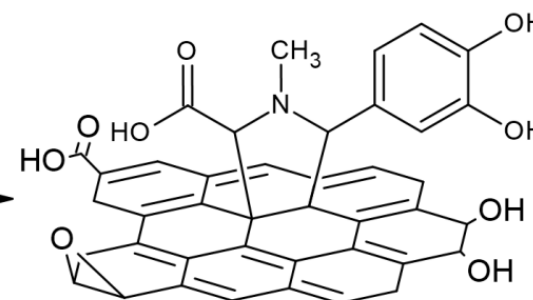
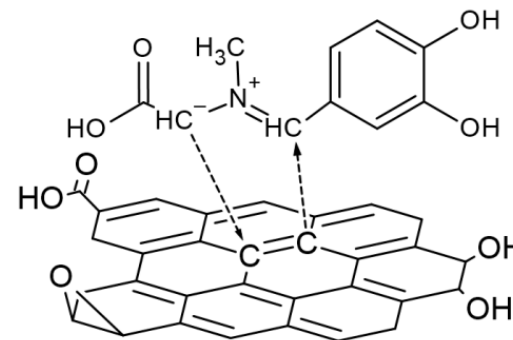


functionalized GNS



rGO

N-methylglycine,
3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde
(150 °C - 120 h)

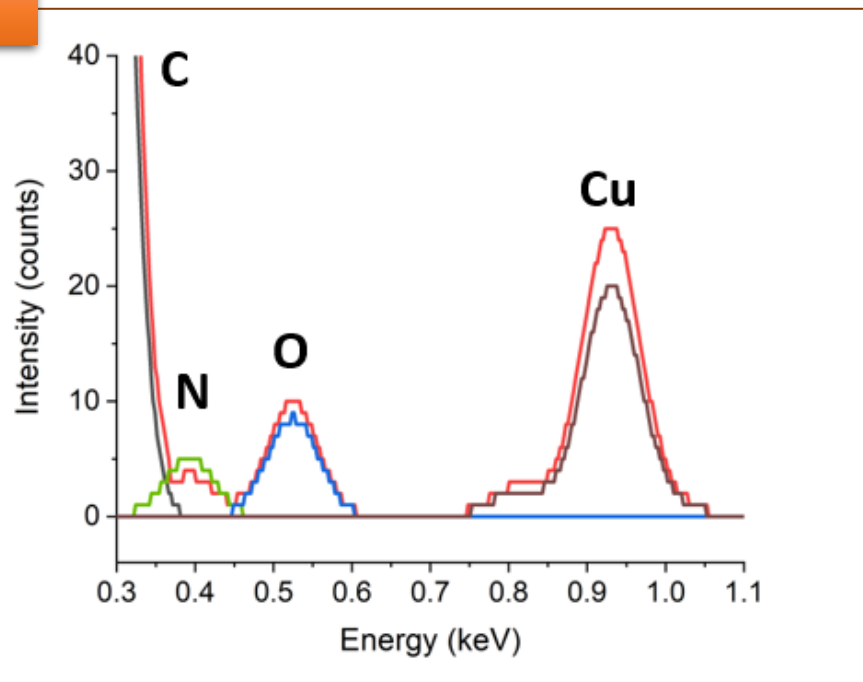


functionalized rGO

EDX – EELS

(functionalized GNS and rGO)

EDX



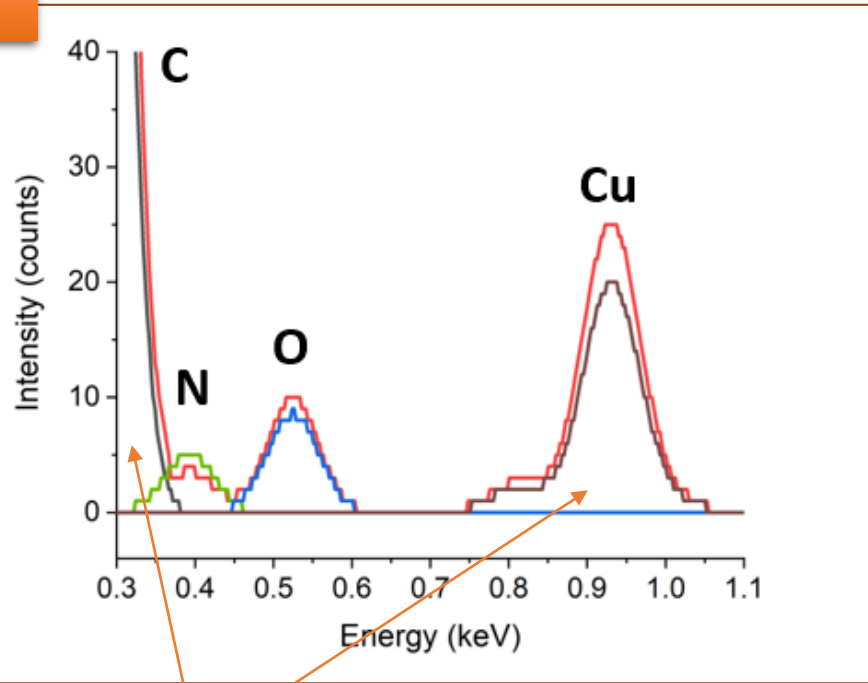
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[L. Basta et al., *Nanoscale Advances*, 2021]

EDX – EELS

(functionalized GNS and rGO)

EDX



Carbon film-supported
copper grids

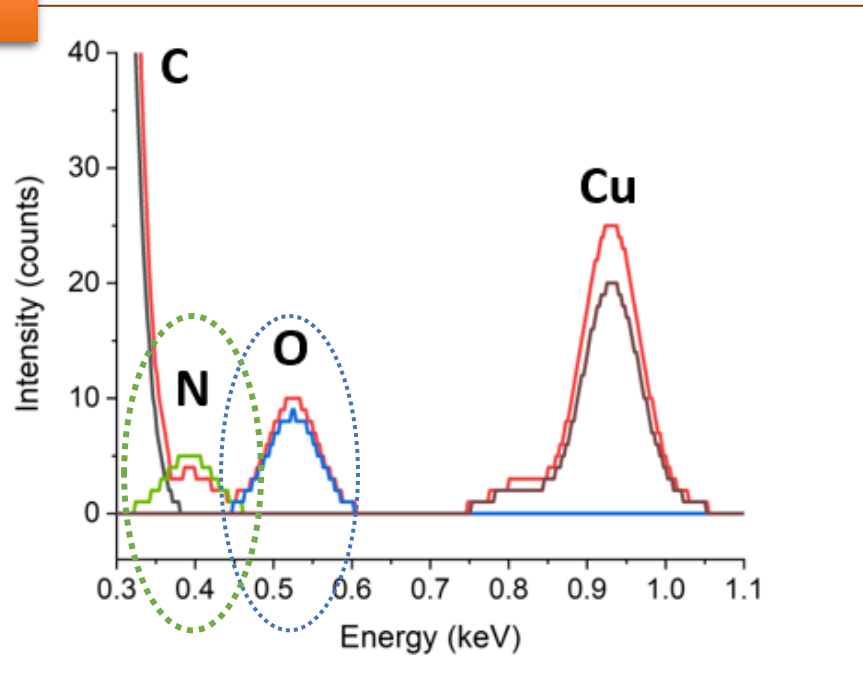
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[L. Basta et al., *Nanoscale Advances*, 2021]

EDX – EELS

(functionalized GNS and rGO)

EDX



Carbon film-supported
copper grids

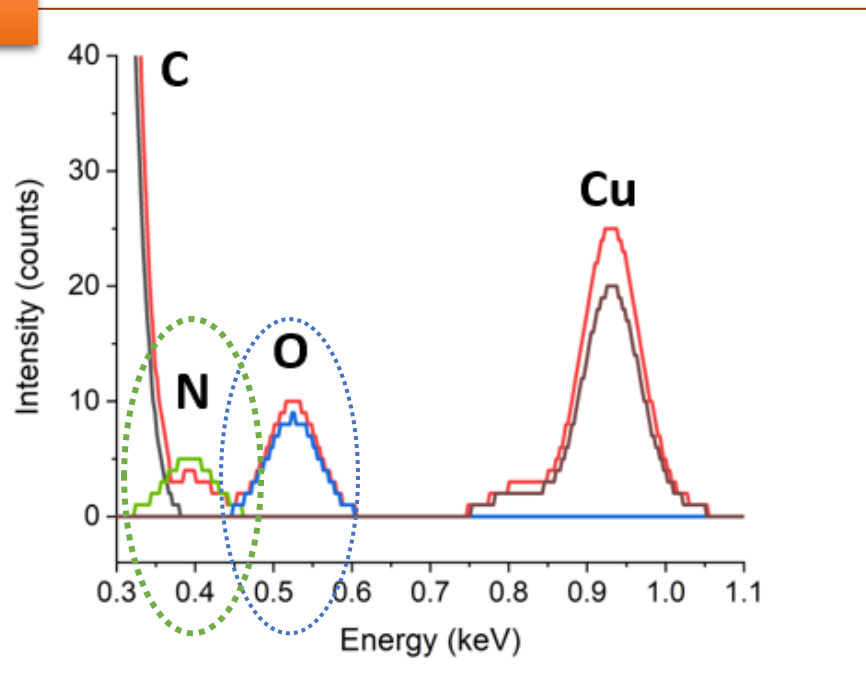
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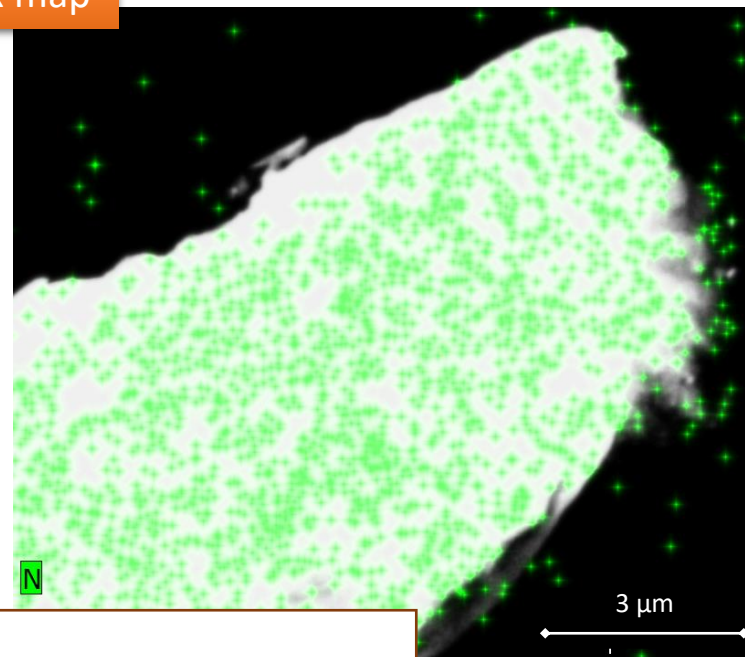
EDX – EELS

(functionalized GNS and rGO)

EDX



EDX map



homogeneous coverage



Carbon film-supported
copper grids

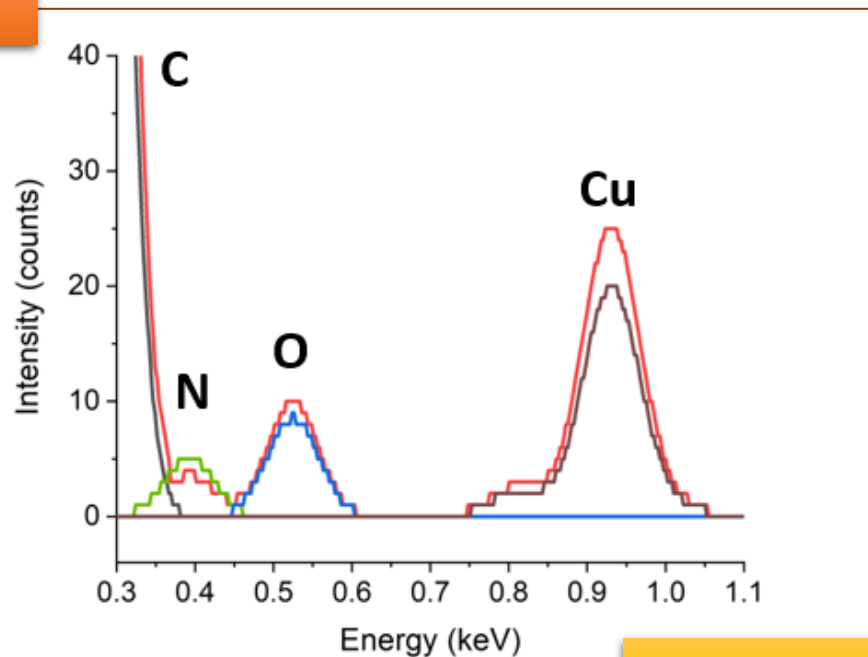
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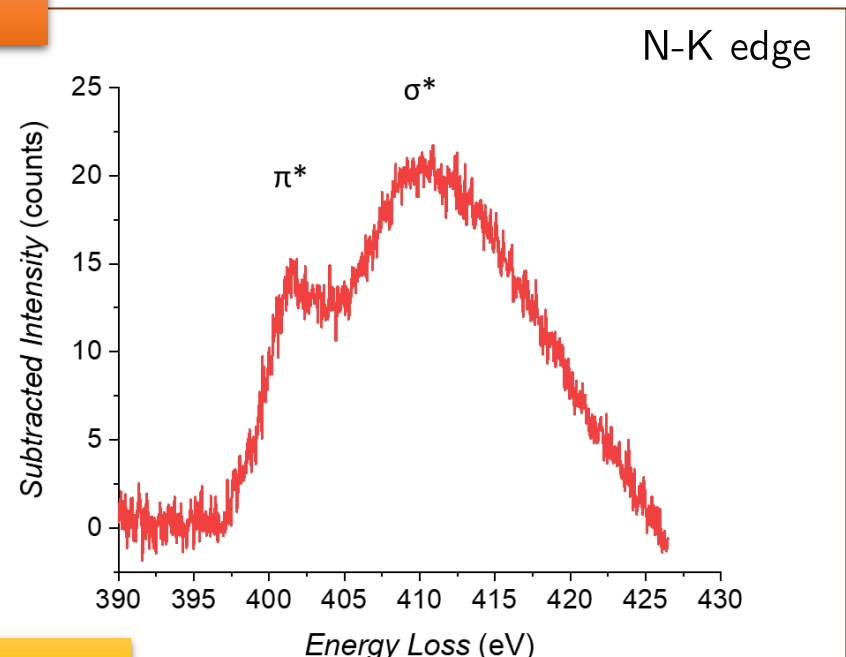
EDX – EELS

(functionalized GNS and rGO)

EDX



EELS



1,3-DC of azomethine ylide



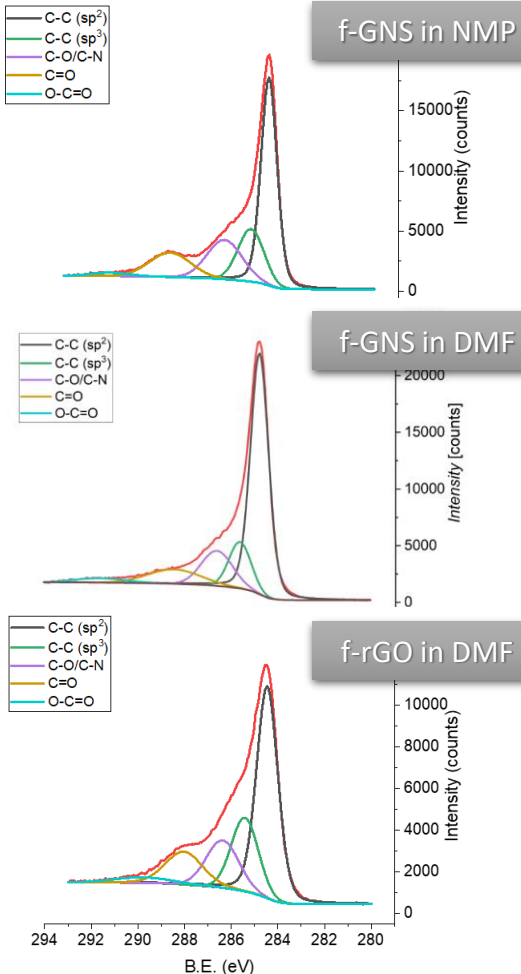
Carbon film-supported
copper grids

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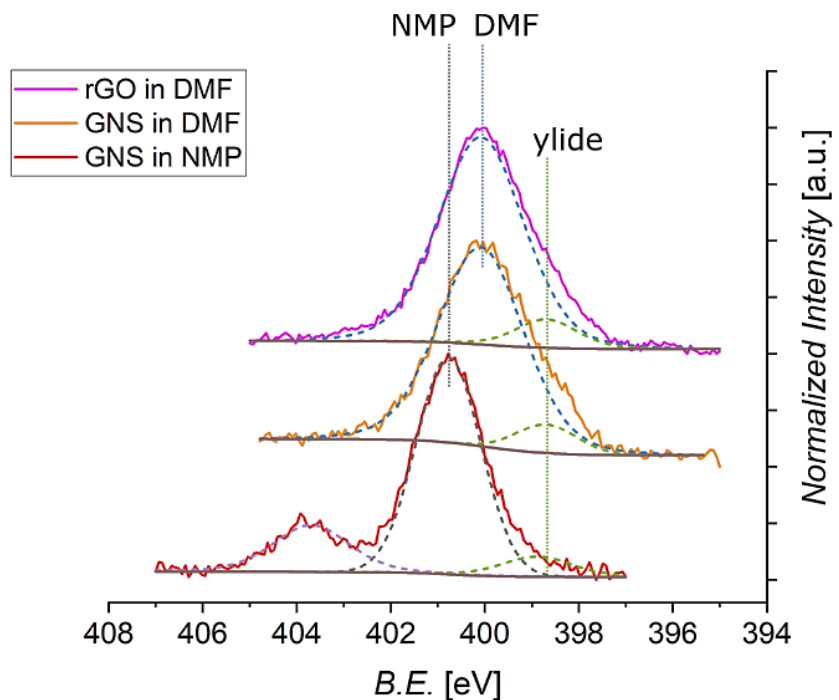
[L. Basta et al., *Nanoscale Advances*, 2021]

XPS

C 1s

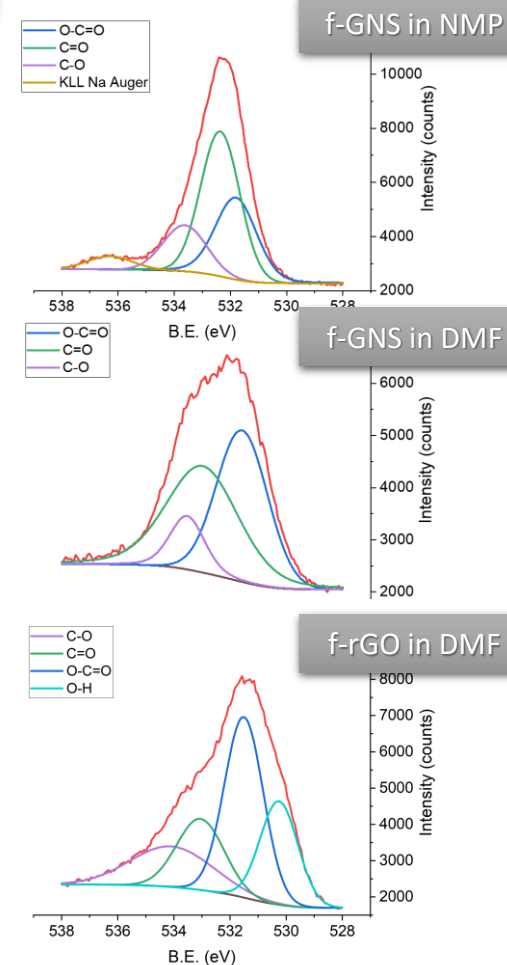


N 1s



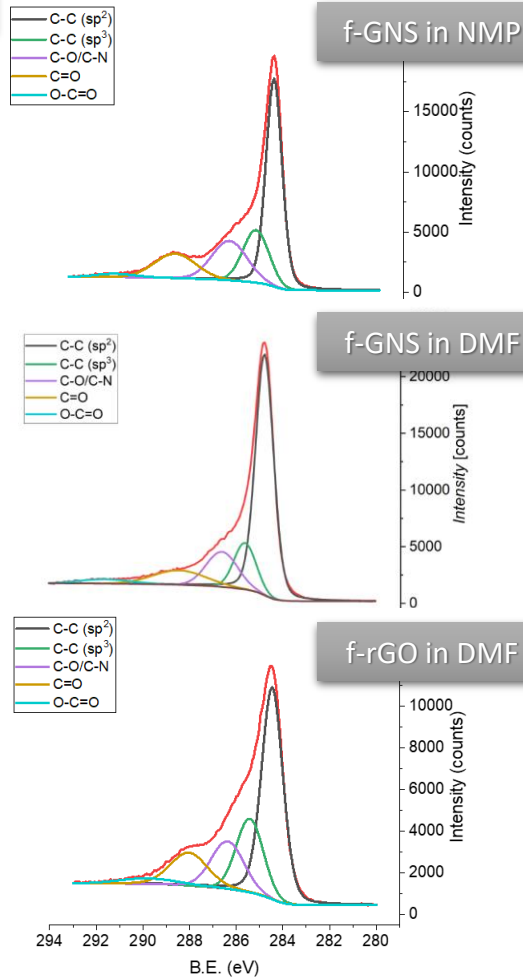
[L. Basta et al., *Nanoscale Advances*, 2021]

O 1s

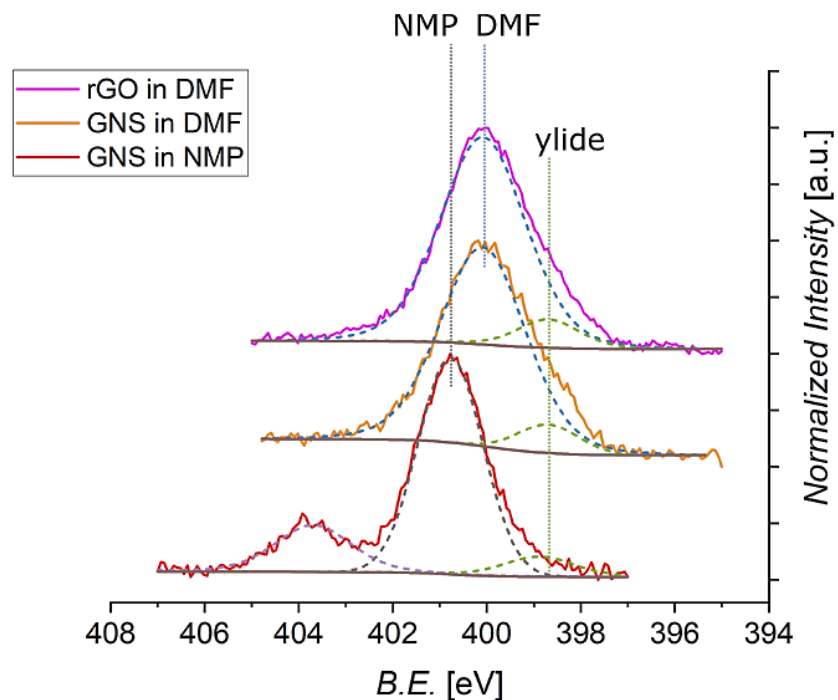


XPS

C 1s

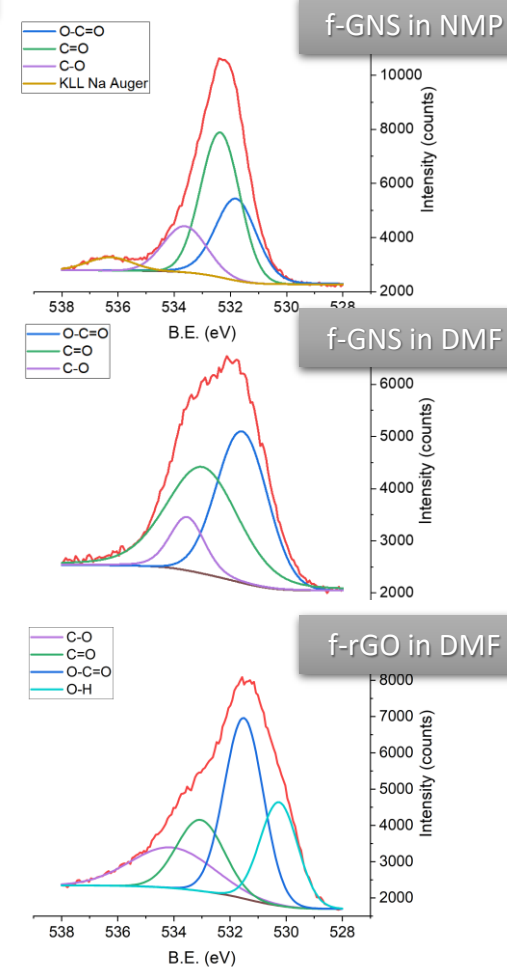


N 1s



1,3-DC of azomethine ylide

O 1s

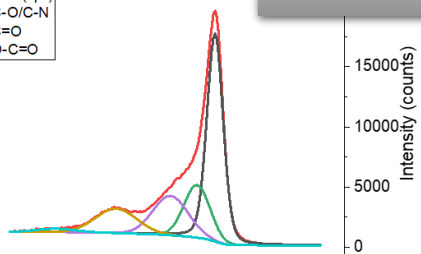


XPS

C 1s

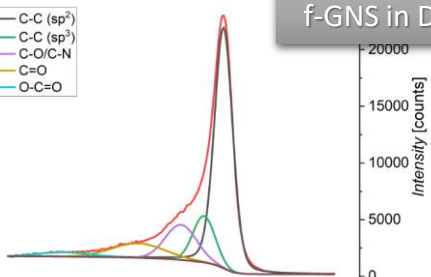
- C-C (sp²)
- C-C (sp³)
- C-O/C-N
- C=O
- O-C=O

f-GNS in NMP



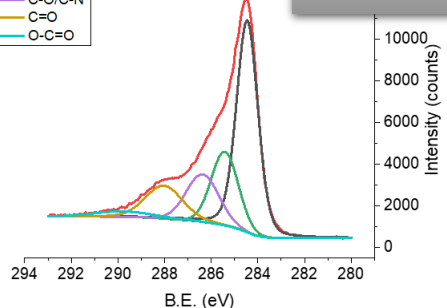
f-GNS in DMF

- C-C (sp²)
- C-C (sp³)
- C-O/C-N
- C=O
- O-C=O



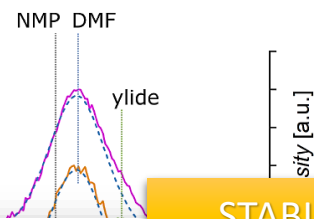
f-rGO in DMF

- C-C (sp²)
- C-C (sp³)
- C-O/C-N
- C=O
- O-C=O



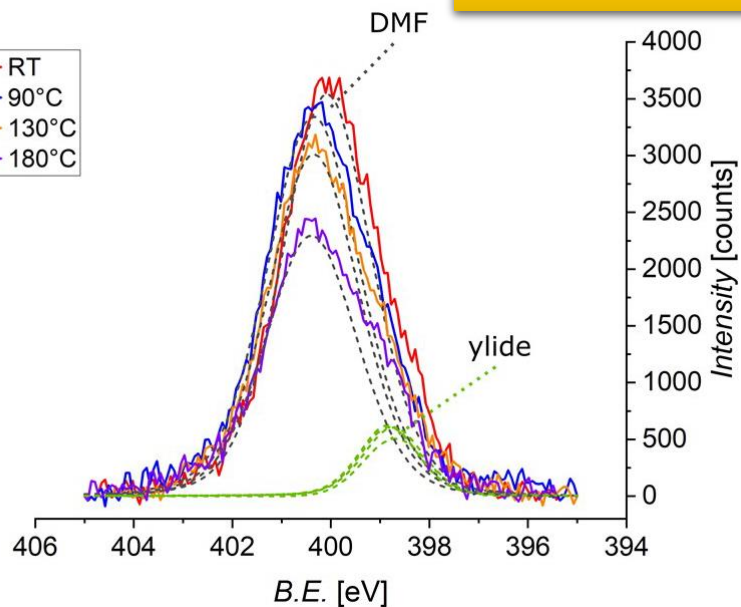
N 1s

- rGO in DMF
- GNS in DMF
- GNS in NMP



STABILITY

- RT
- 90°C
- 130°C
- 180°C

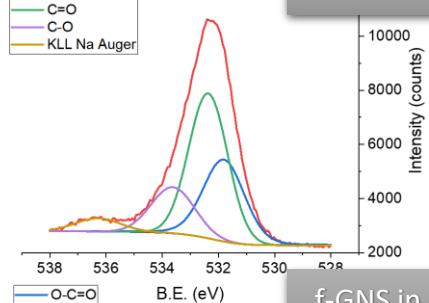


[L. Basta et al., *Nanoscale Advances*, 2021]

O 1s

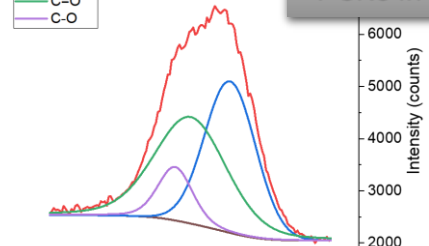
- O-C=O
- C=O
- C-O
- KLL Na Auger

f-GNS in NMP



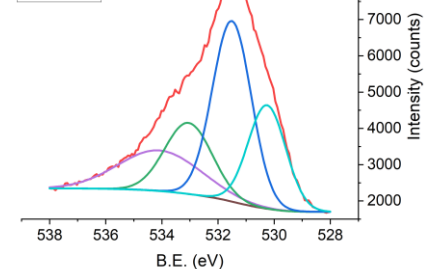
f-GNS in DMF

- O-C=O
- C=O
- C-O



f-rGO in DMF

- C-O
- C=O
- O-C=O
- O-H



XPS

The estimated efficiency of the functionalization is 1 azomethine ylide every 225 carbons in case of GNS in NMP, 1 ylide every 170 carbons for GNS in DMF, and 1 ylide every 110 carbons for rGO in DMF.

Elemental composition of f-GNS and f-rGO

	C (%)	N(mol) (%)	N(solv) (%)	O (%)
GNS in NMP	80.3	0.14	4.05	15.6
GNS in DMF	83.1	0.18	3.92	12.8
rGO in DMF	72.3	0.71	5.69	21.3

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[L. Basta et al., *Nanoscale Advances*, 2021]

XPS

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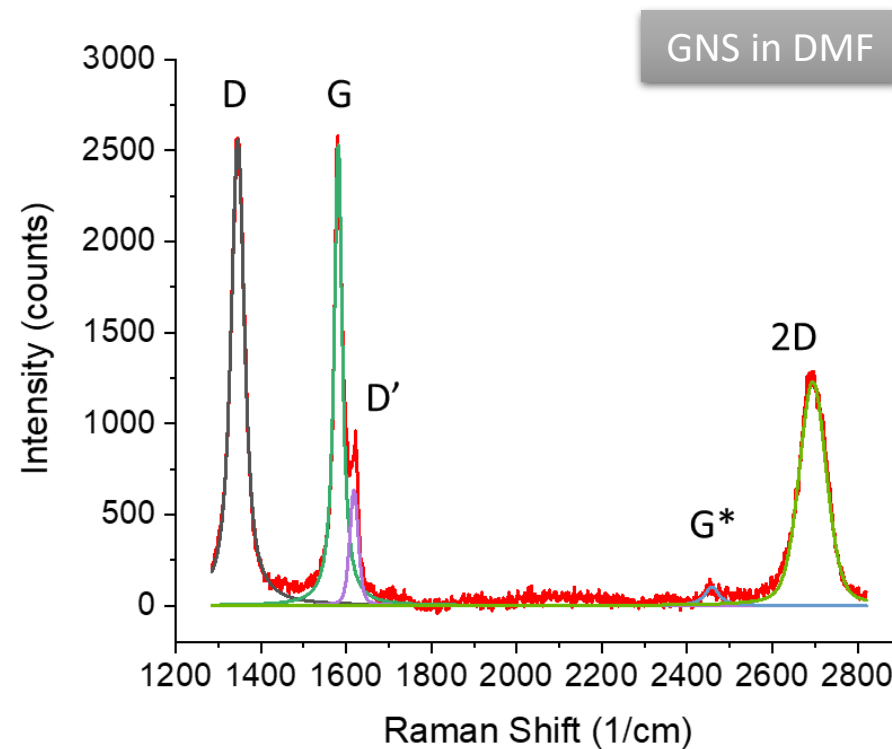
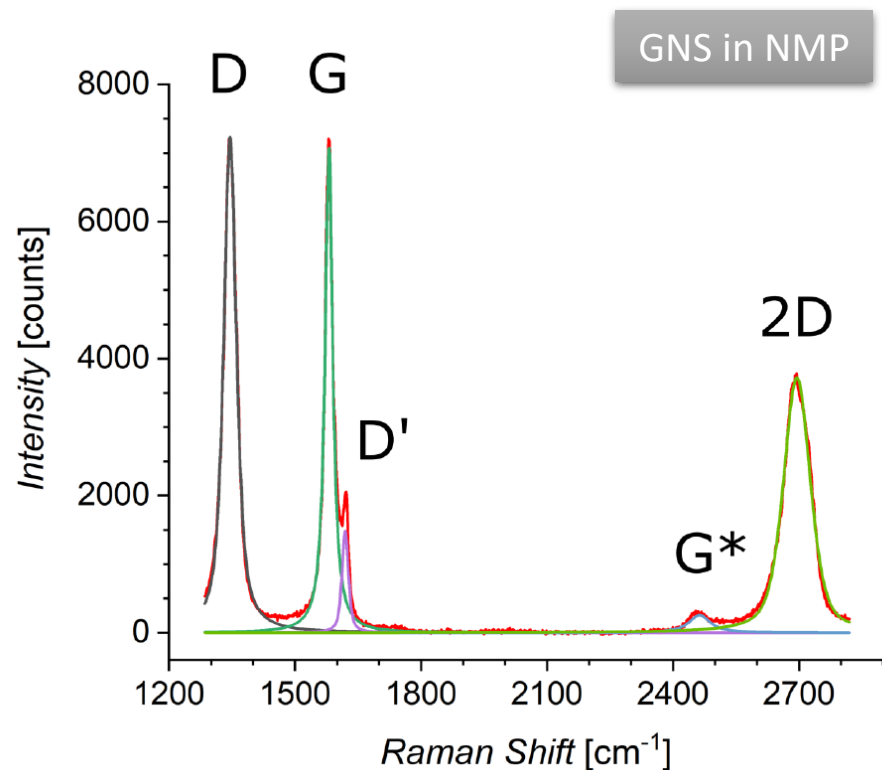
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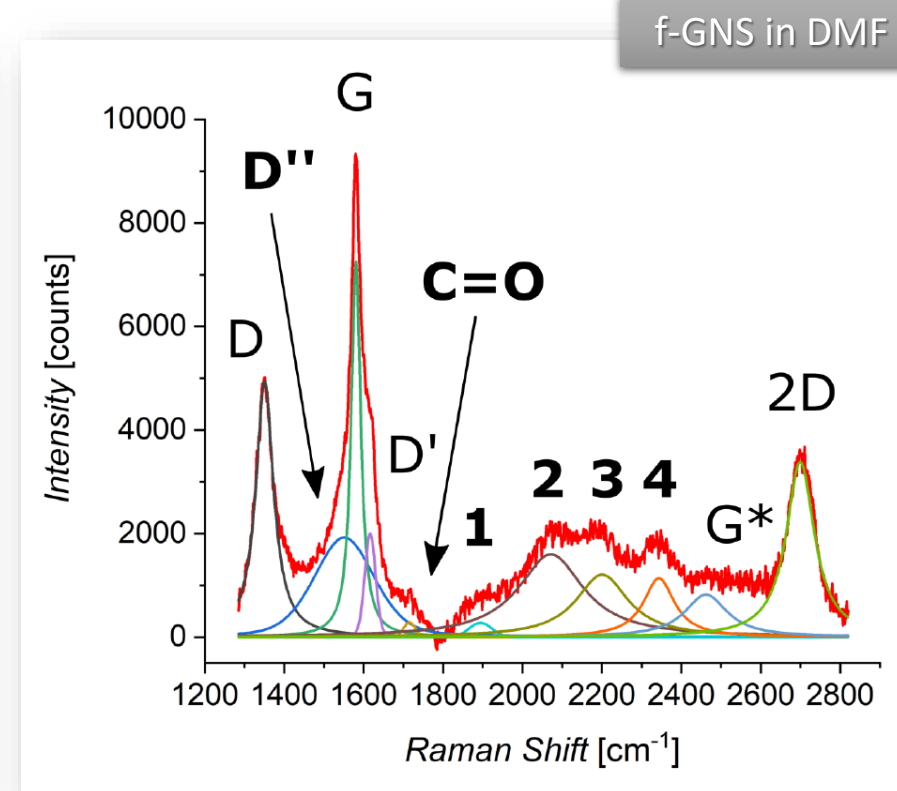
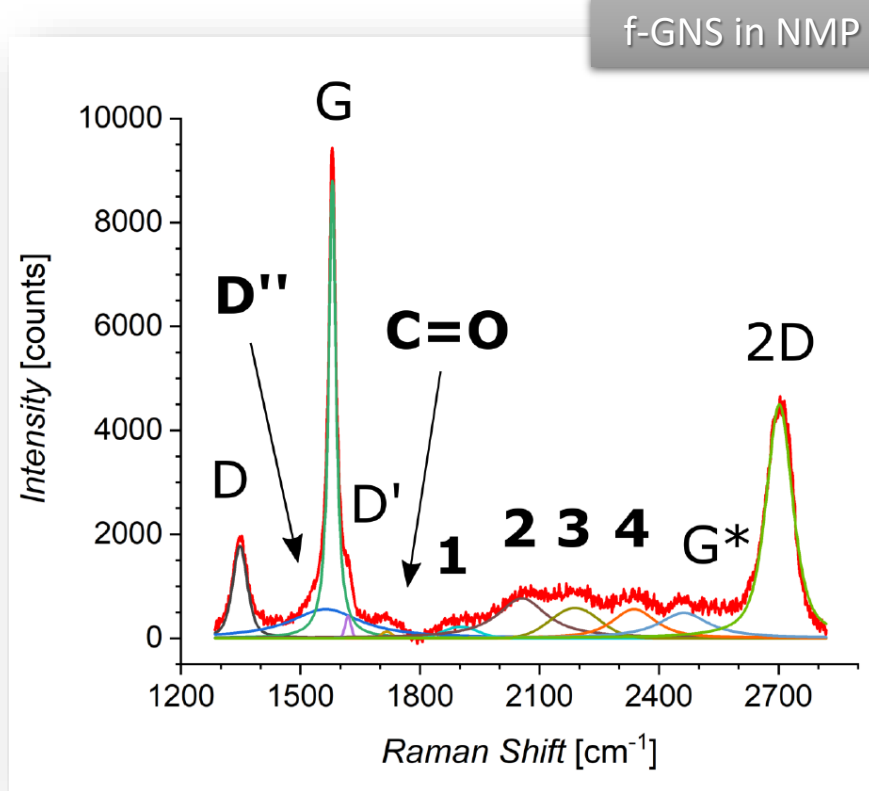
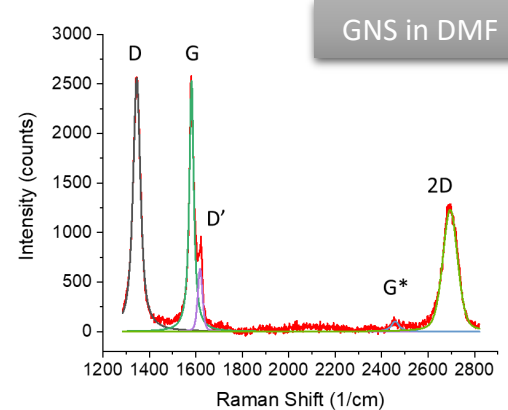
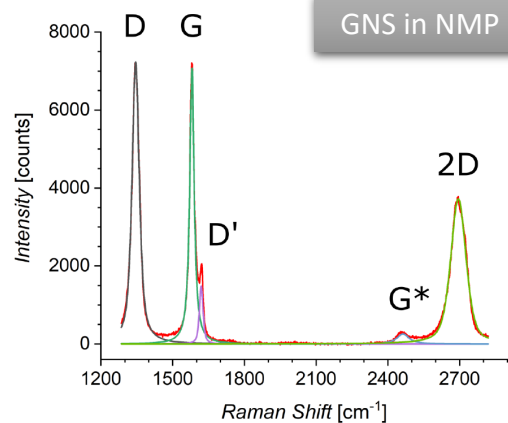
RAMAN ANALYSIS



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[L. Basta et al., *Nanoscale Advances*, 2021]

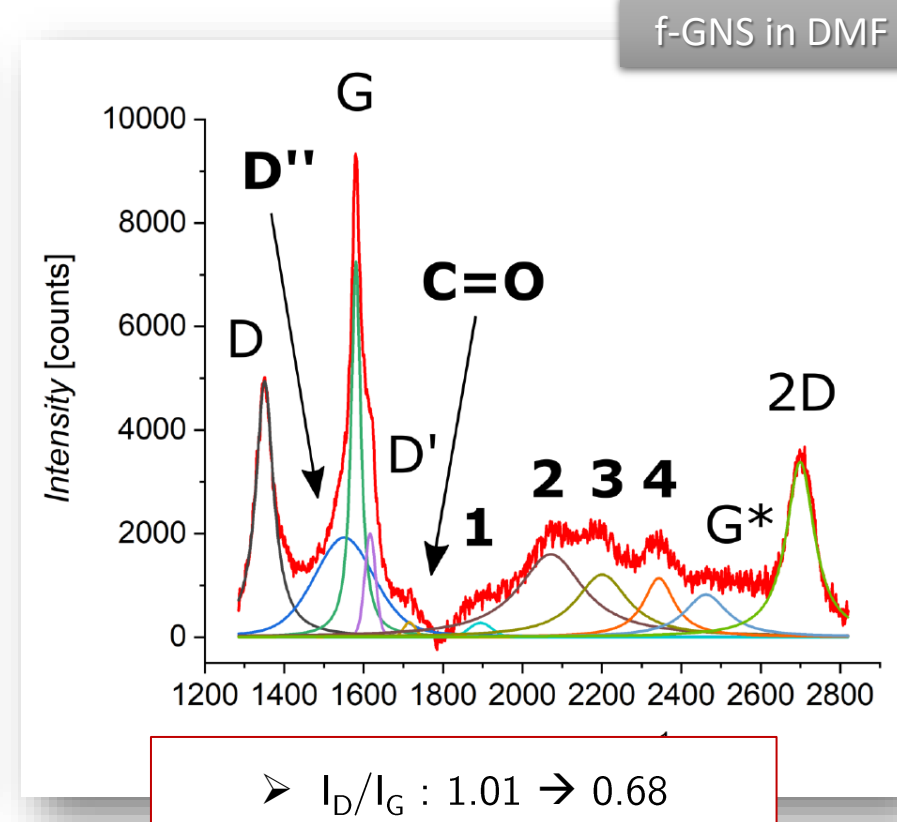
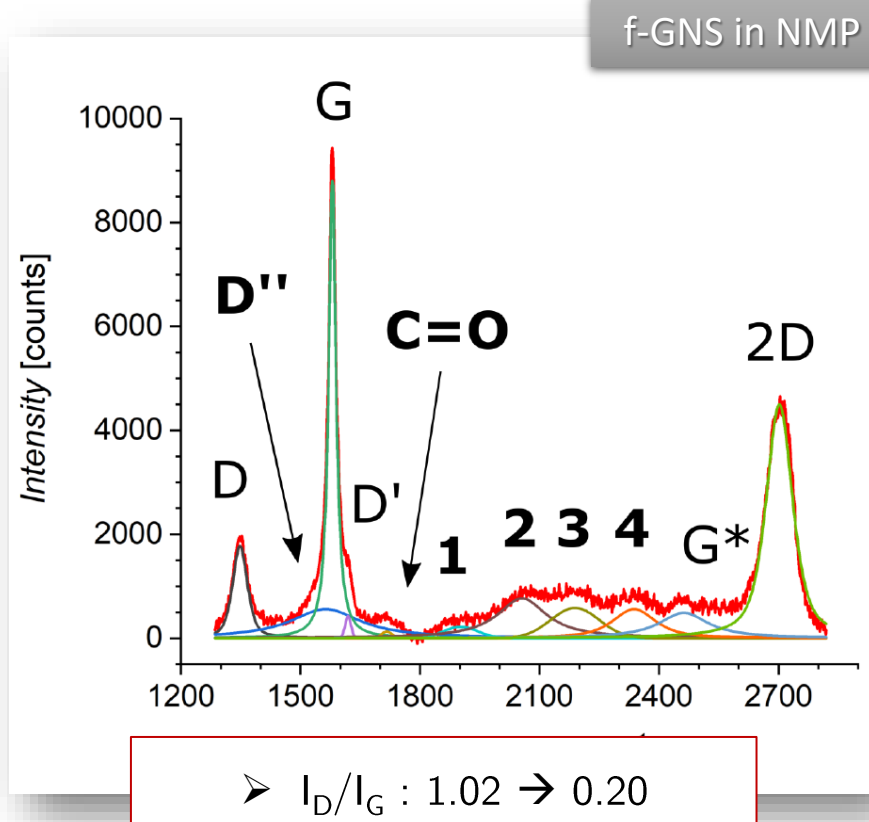
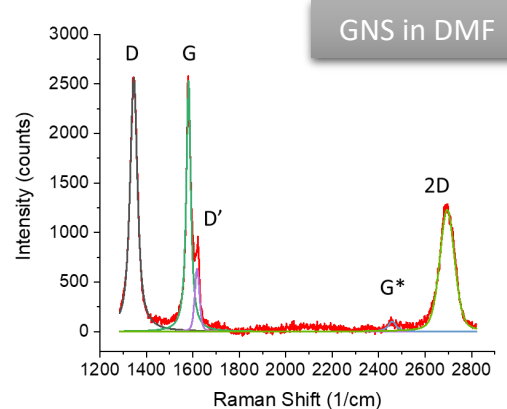
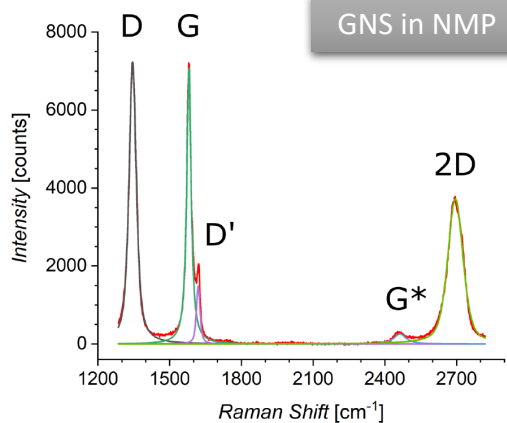
RAMAN ANALYSIS



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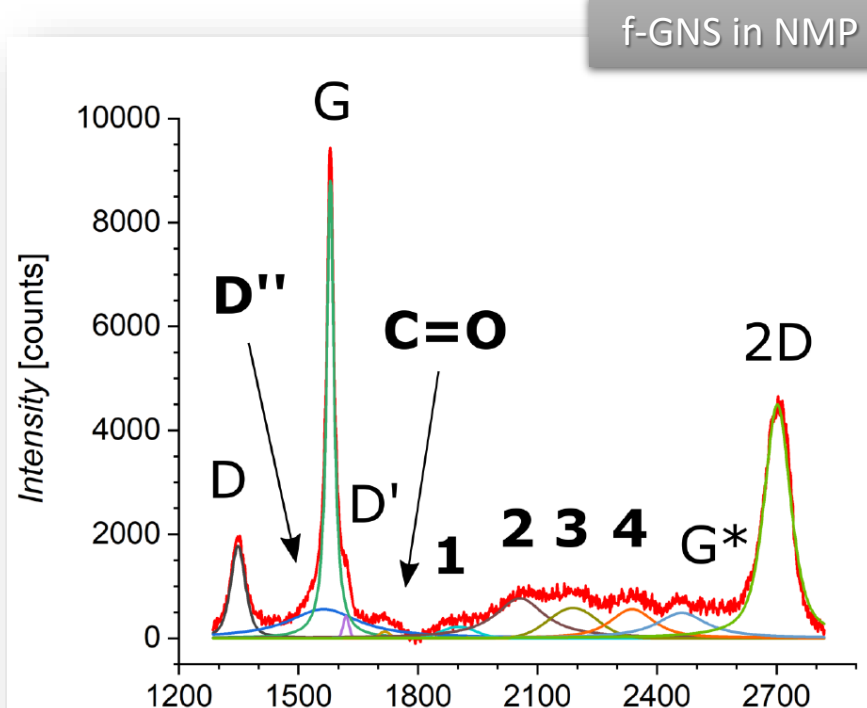
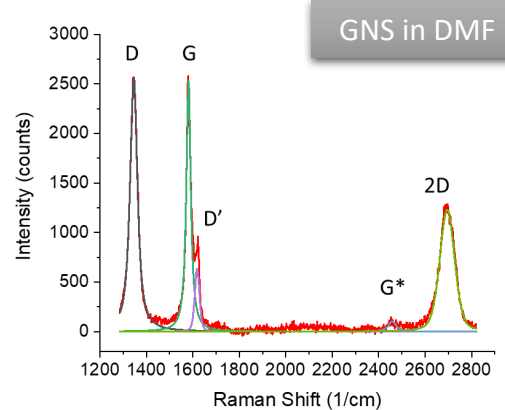
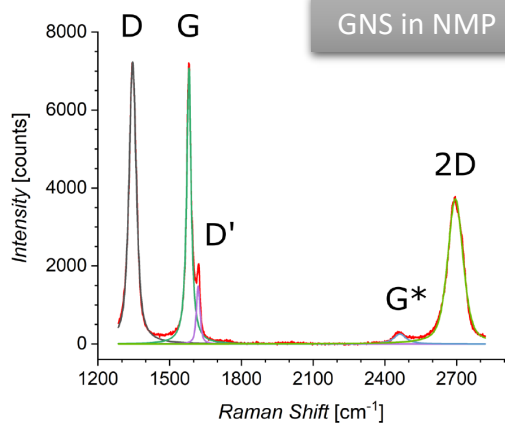
RAMAN ANALYSIS



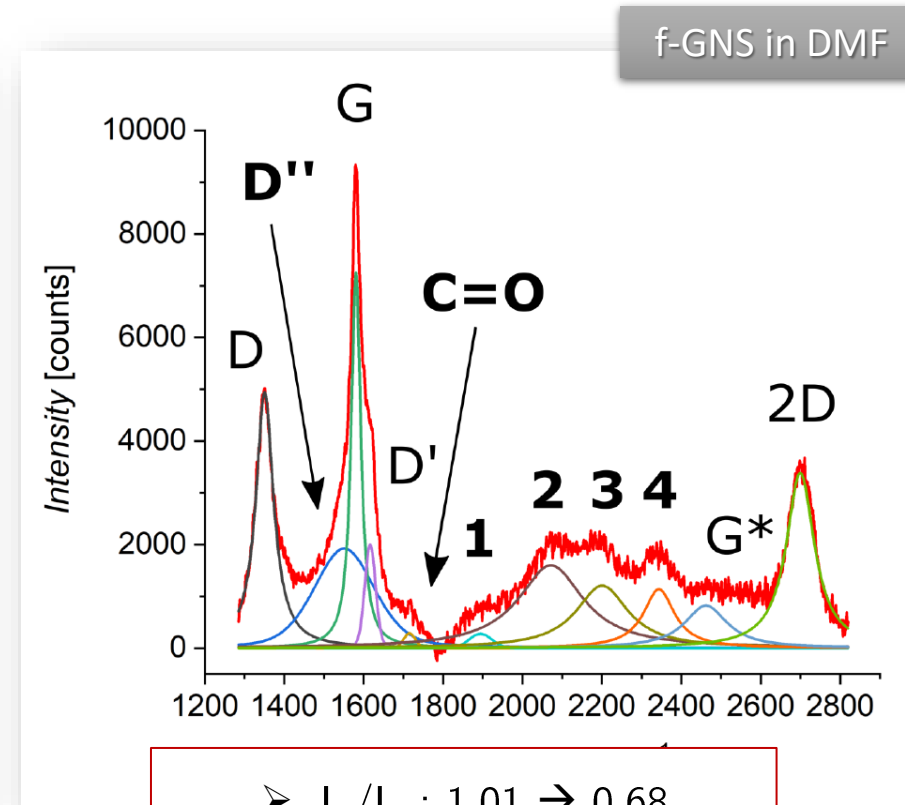
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[L. Basta et al., *Nanoscale Advances*, 2021]

RAMAN ANALYSIS



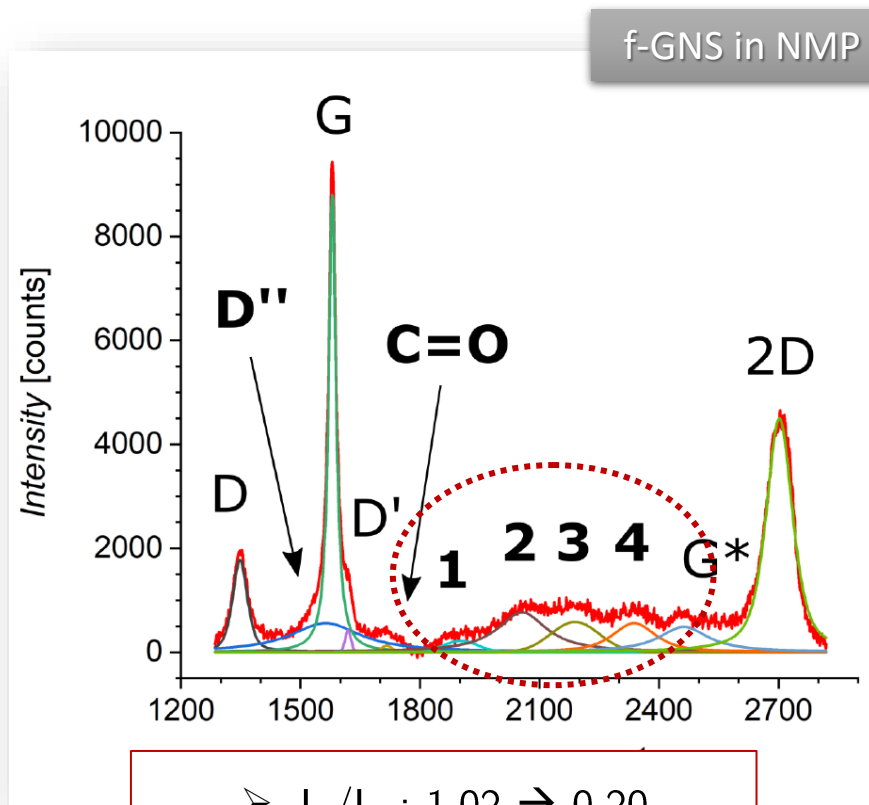
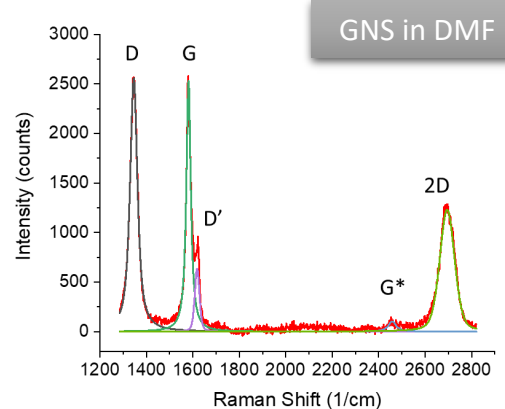
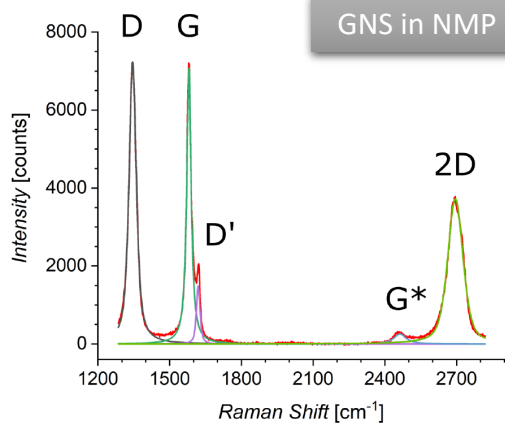
- $I_D/I_G : 1.02 \rightarrow 0.20$
- $I_{2D}/I_G : 0.53 \rightarrow 0.51$



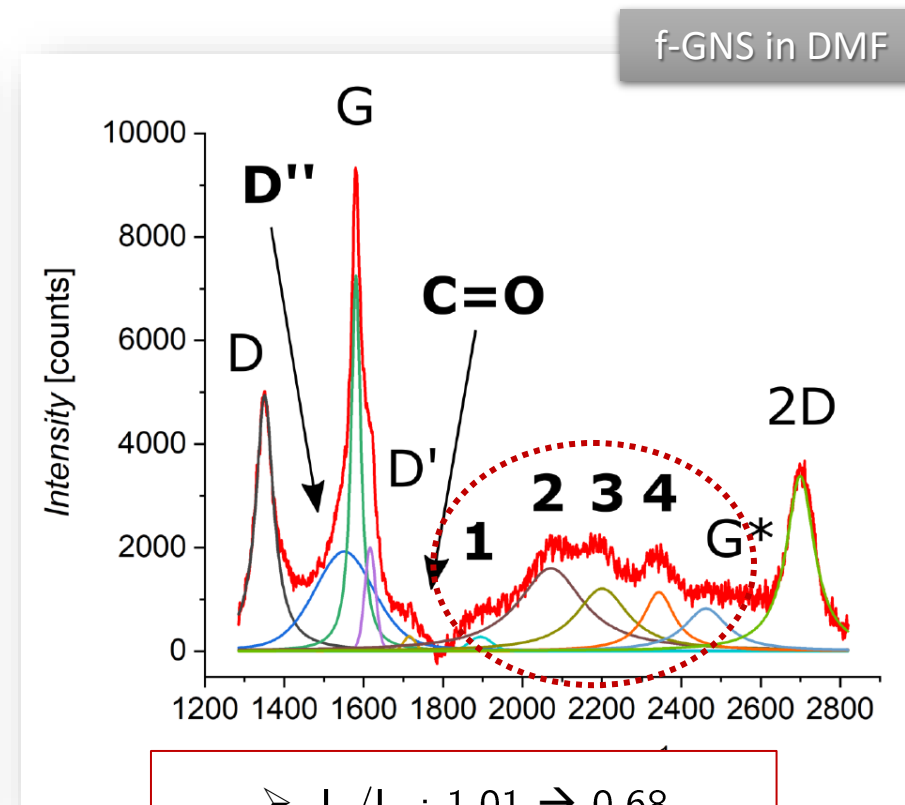
- $I_D/I_G : 1.01 \rightarrow 0.68$
- $I_{2D}/I_G : 0.49 \rightarrow 0.49$

[L. Basta et al., *Nanoscale Advances*, 2021]

RAMAN ANALYSIS



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- New peaks!

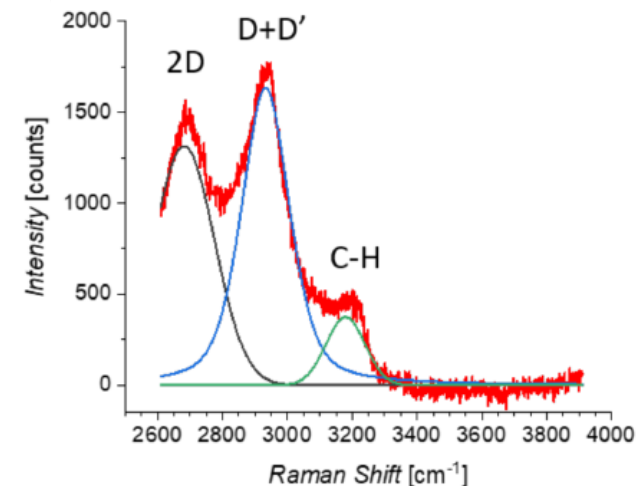
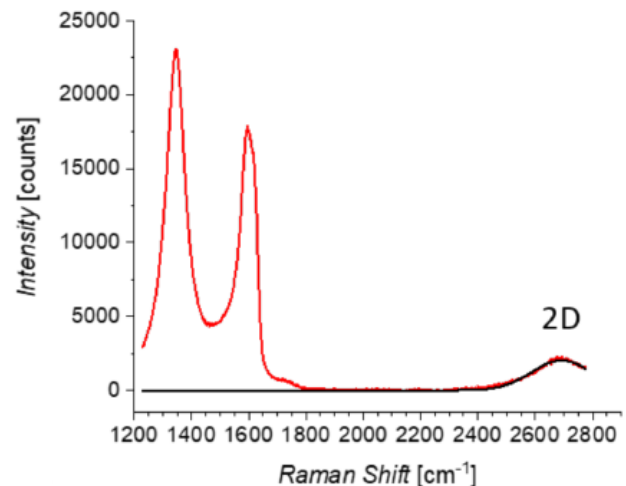
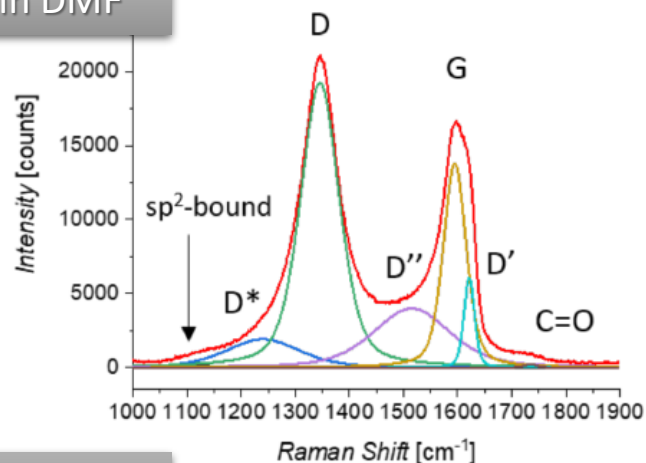


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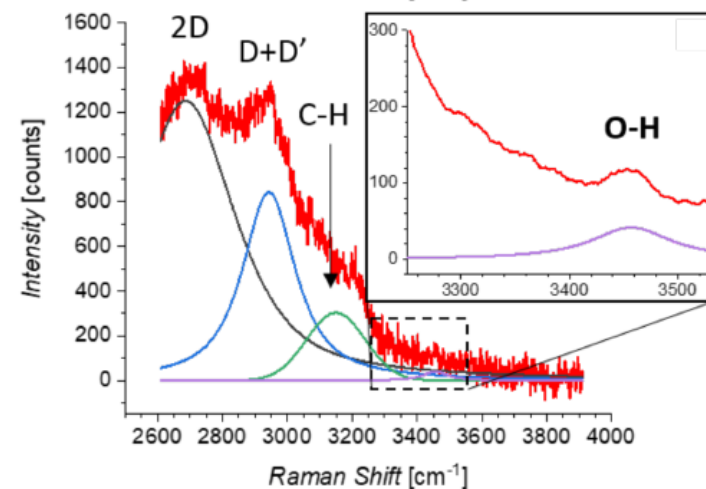
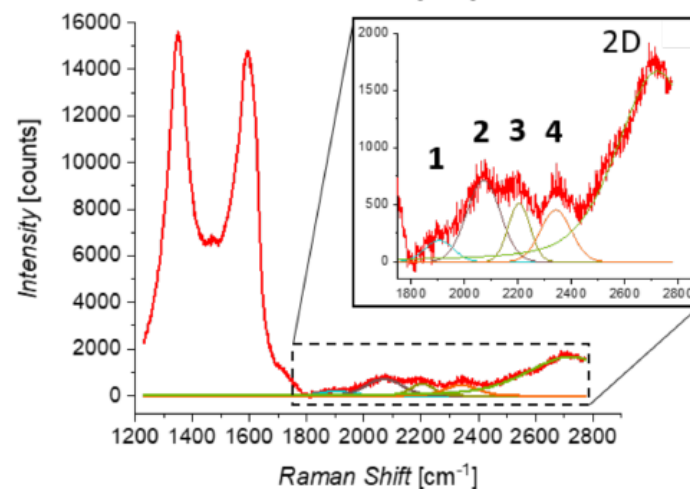
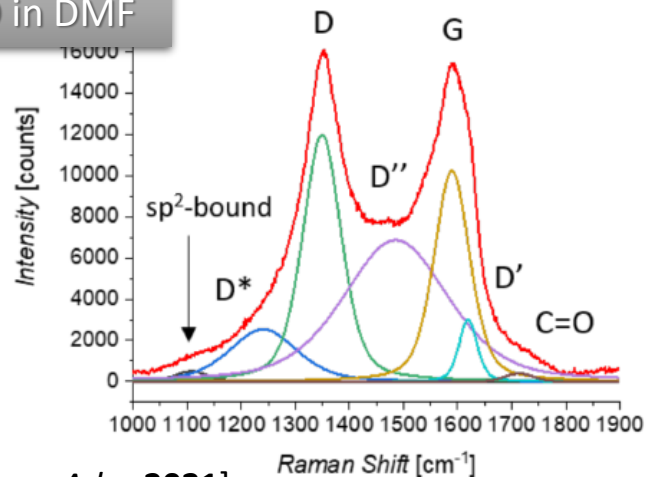
[L. Basta et al., *Nanoscale Advances*, 2021]

RAMAN ANALYSIS

rGO in DMF



f-rGO in DMF

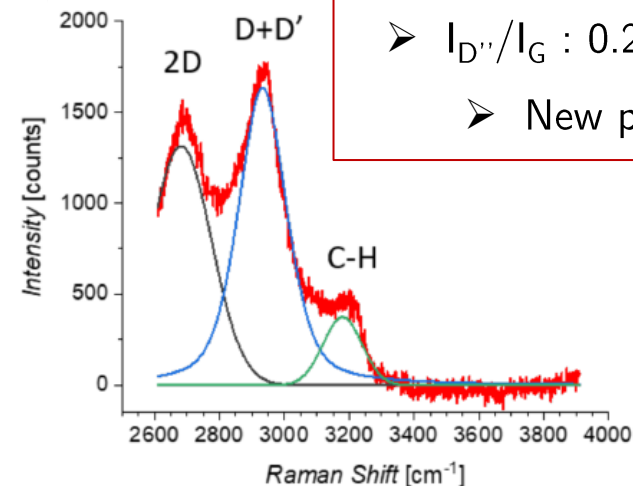
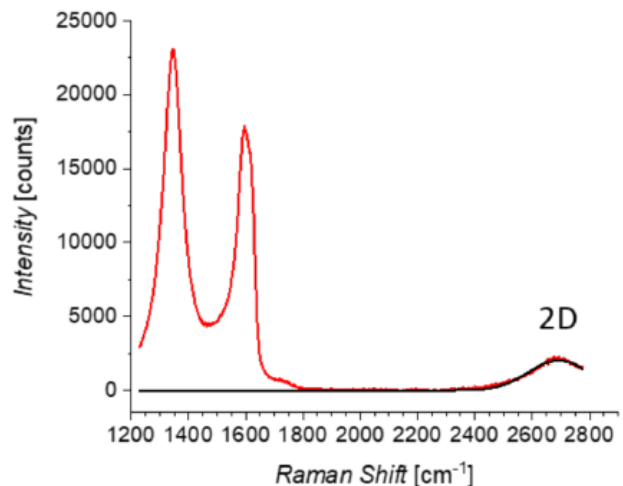
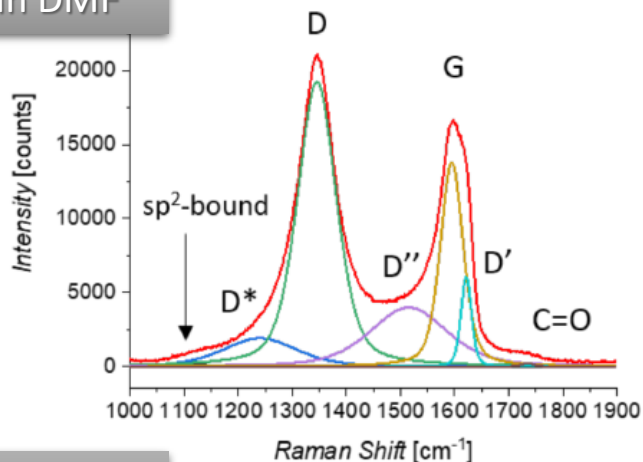


[L. Basta et al., *Nanosc. Adv.*, 2021]

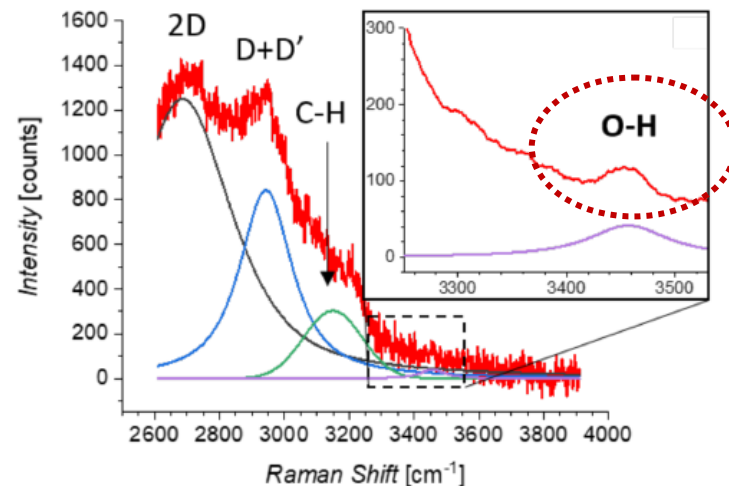
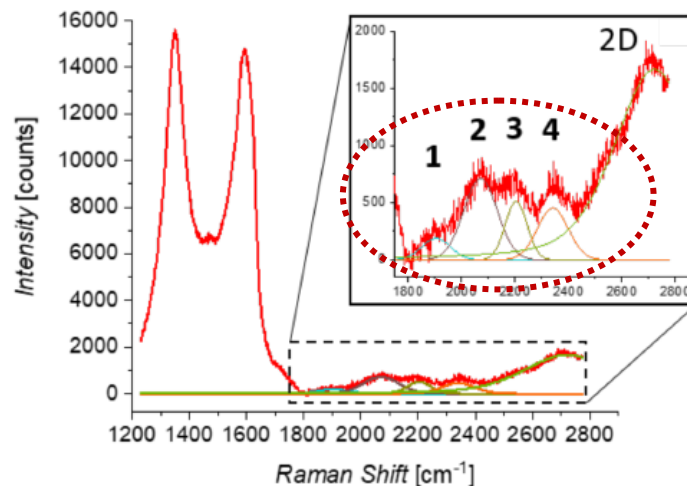
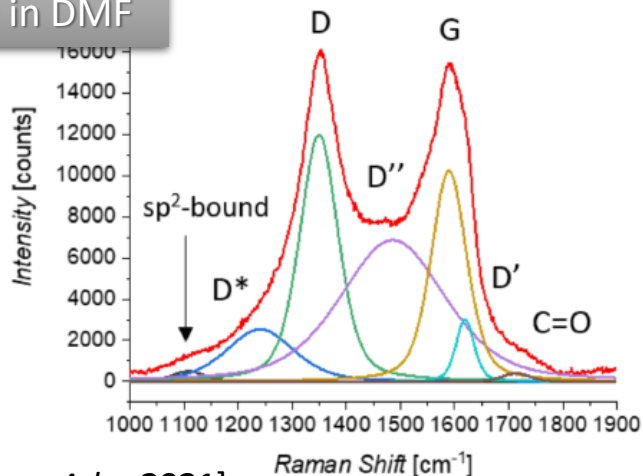
RAMAN ANALYSIS

- $I_D/I_G : 1.39 \rightarrow 1.17$
- $I_{D''}/I_G : 0.29 \rightarrow 0.67$
- New peaks!

rGO in DMF

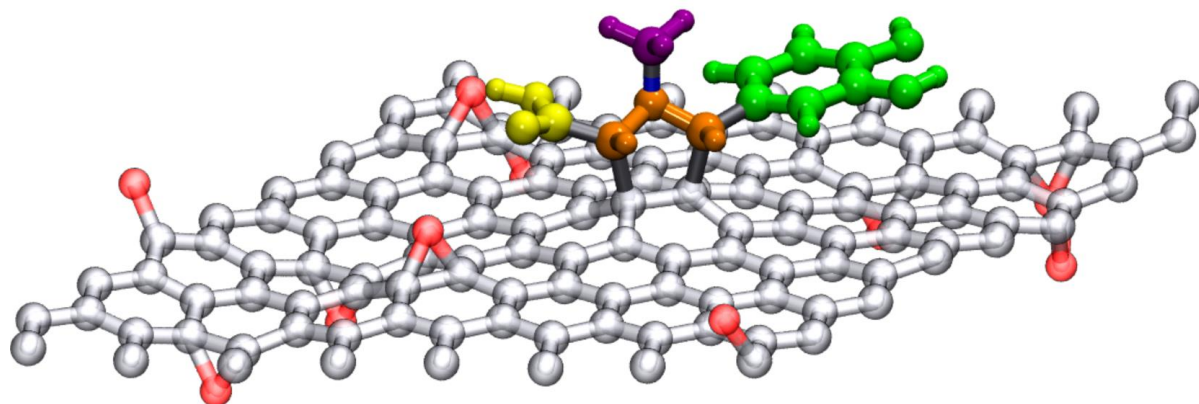


f-rGO in DMF



[L. Basta et al., *Nanosc. Adv.*, 2021]

DFT – POWER SPECTRUM



[L. Bellucci @ NEST]

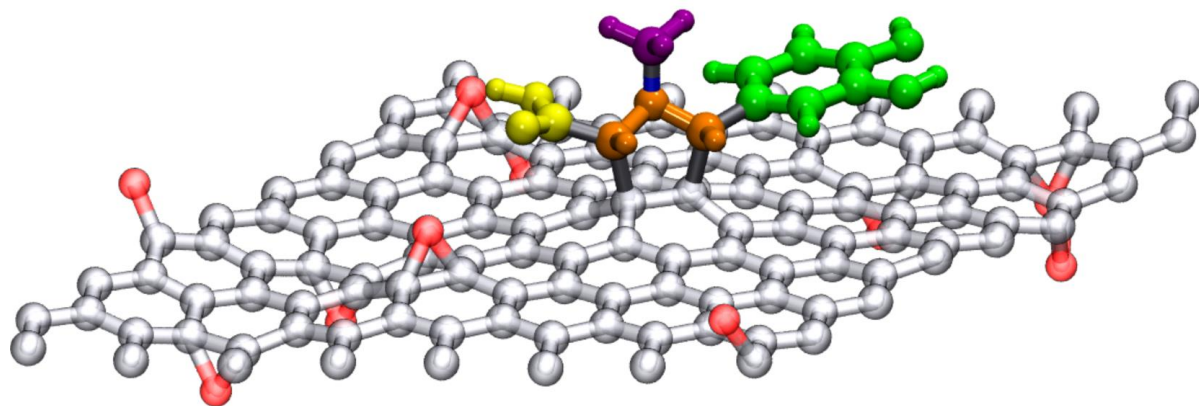


[L. Basta et al., *Nanoscale Advances*, 2021]

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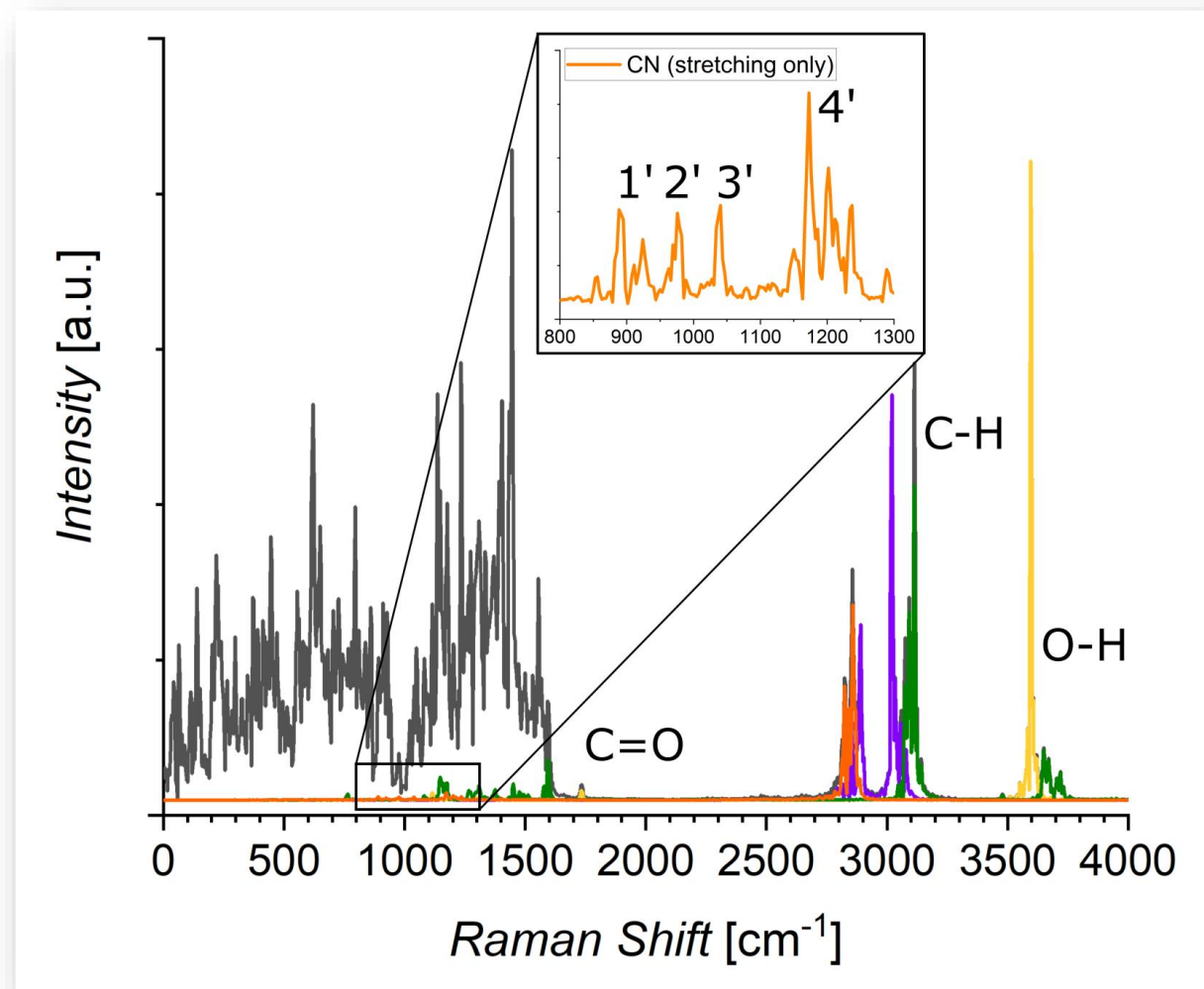
DFT – POWER SPECTRUM



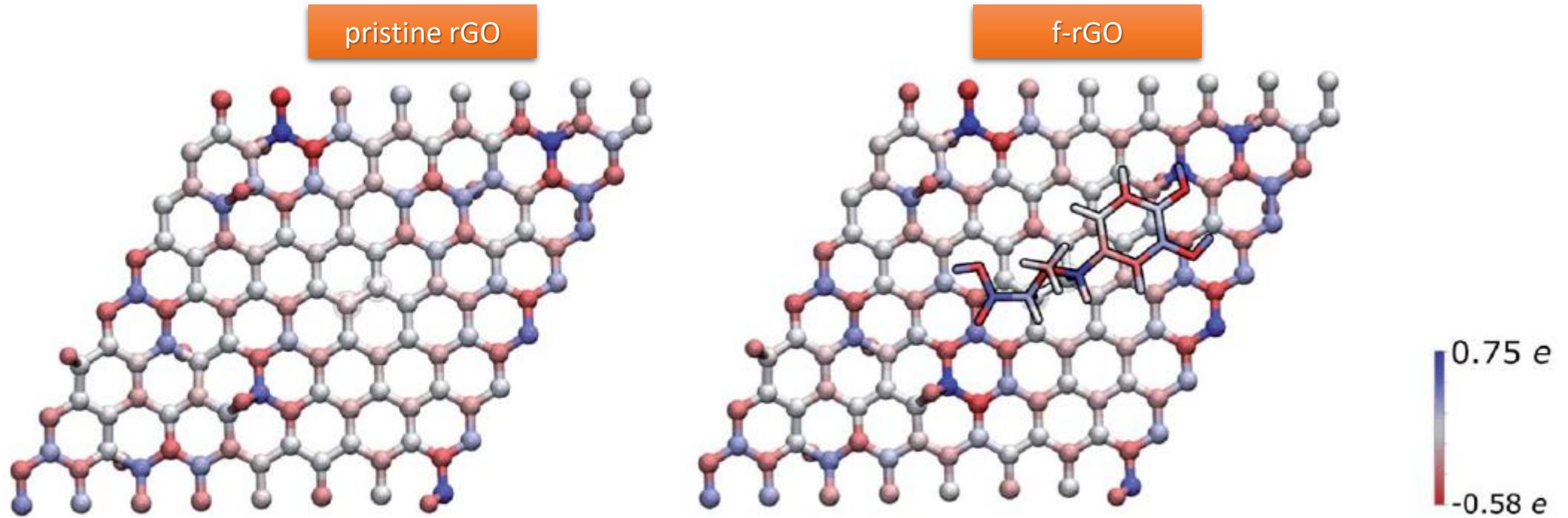
[L. Bellucci @ NEST]



[L. Basta et al., *Nanoscale Advances*, 2021]



DFT – CHARGE LOCALIZATION



RESP (restrained electrostatic potential) derived partial atomic charges

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[L. Basta et al., *Nanoscale Advances*, 2021]

CONCLUSIONS

- 1,3-DC of GNS and rGO in the liquid phase

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- Solvent comparison:
 - NMP → better dispersion
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- 1,3-DC of GNS and rGO in the liquid phase
- Solvent comparison (NMP vs DMF)
- Raman signature of the functionalization
- Higher reactivity of rGO due to the presence of “defects”

CONCLUSIONS


- 1,3-DC o
- Solvent c
- Raman s
- Higher re

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Cite this: DOI: 10.1039/d1na00335f

Covalent organic functionalization of graphene nanosheets and reduced graphene oxide via 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of azomethine ylide†

Luca Basta, *^a Aldo Moscardini, ^a Filippo Fabbri, ^a Luca Bellucci, ^a Valentina Tozzini, ^a Silvia Rubini, ^b Andrea Griesi, ^{cd} Mauro Gemmi, ^d Stefan Heun ^a and Stefano Veronesi ^a

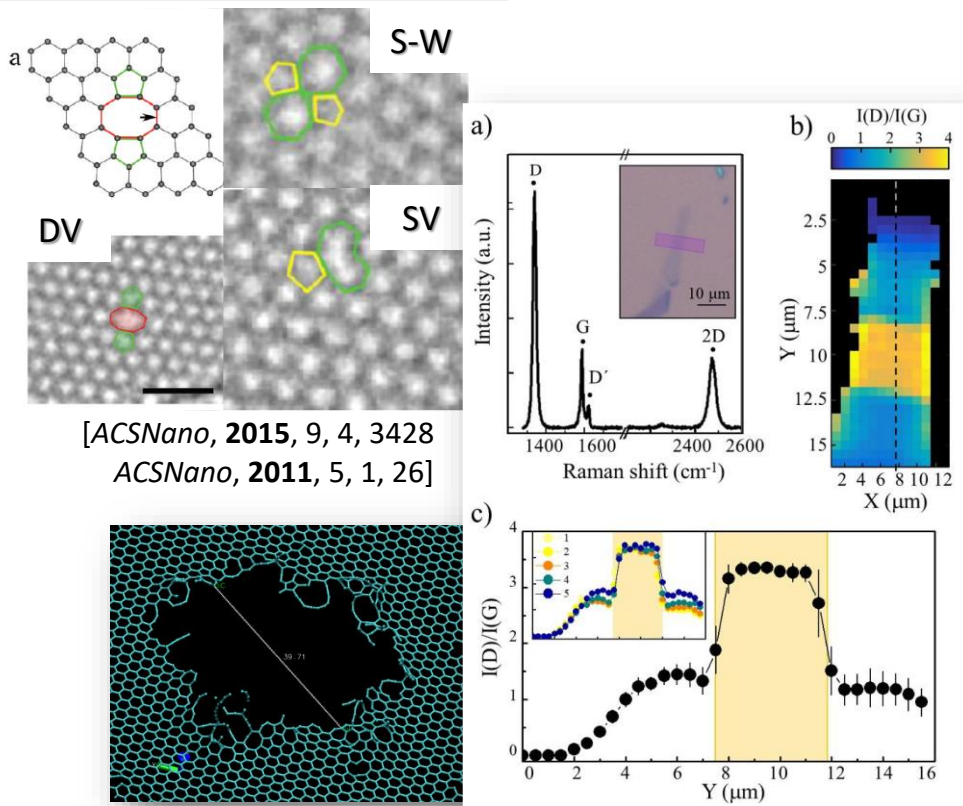
Organic functionalization of graphene is successfully performed via 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of azomethine ylide in the liquid phase. The comparison between 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone and *N,N*-

[L. Basta et al., *Nanoscale Advances*, 2021]

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OUTLOOKS

Investigation on defects

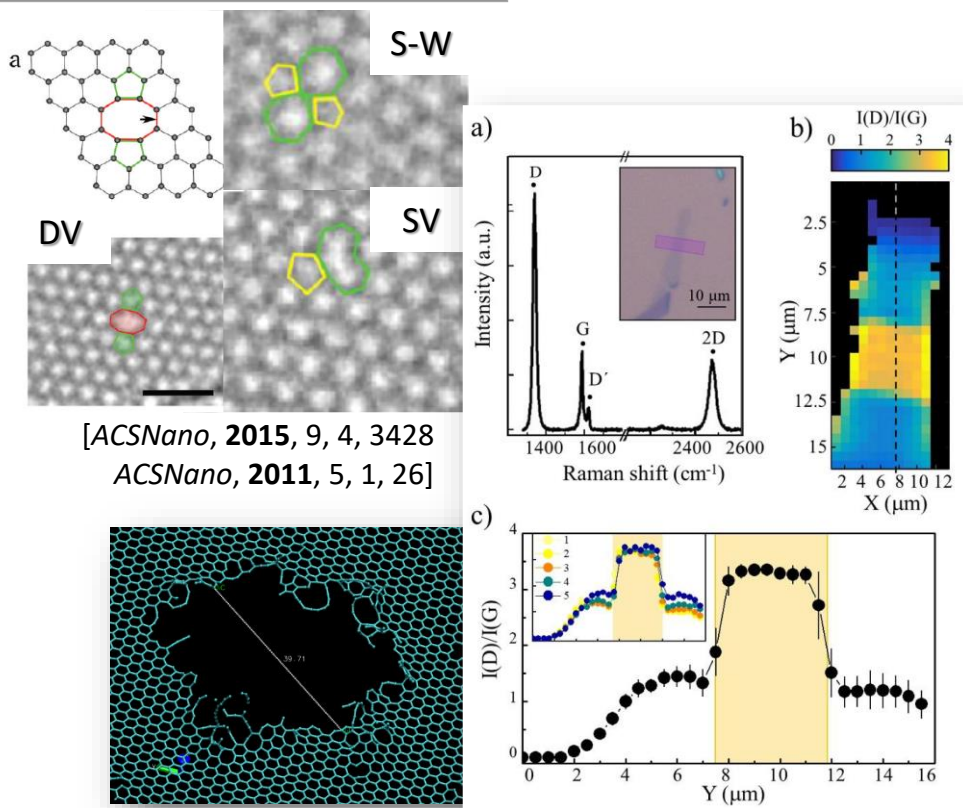


[L. Basta, arXiv, 2021;
L. Bellucci, F. Bianco @ NEST]

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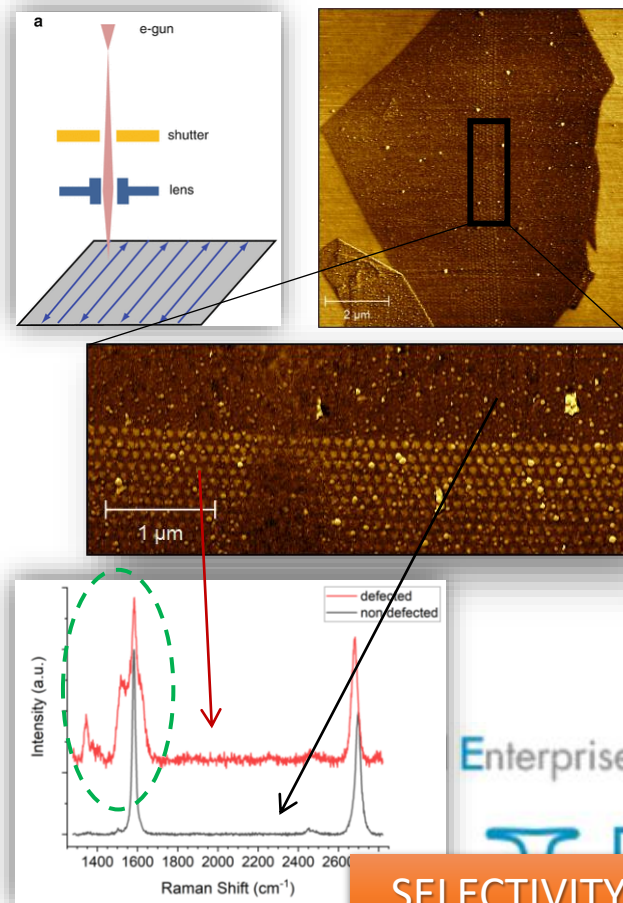
OUTLOOKS

Investigation on defects



[L. Basta, arXiv, 2021;
L. Bellucci, F. Bianco @ NEST]

Patterned graphene flakes

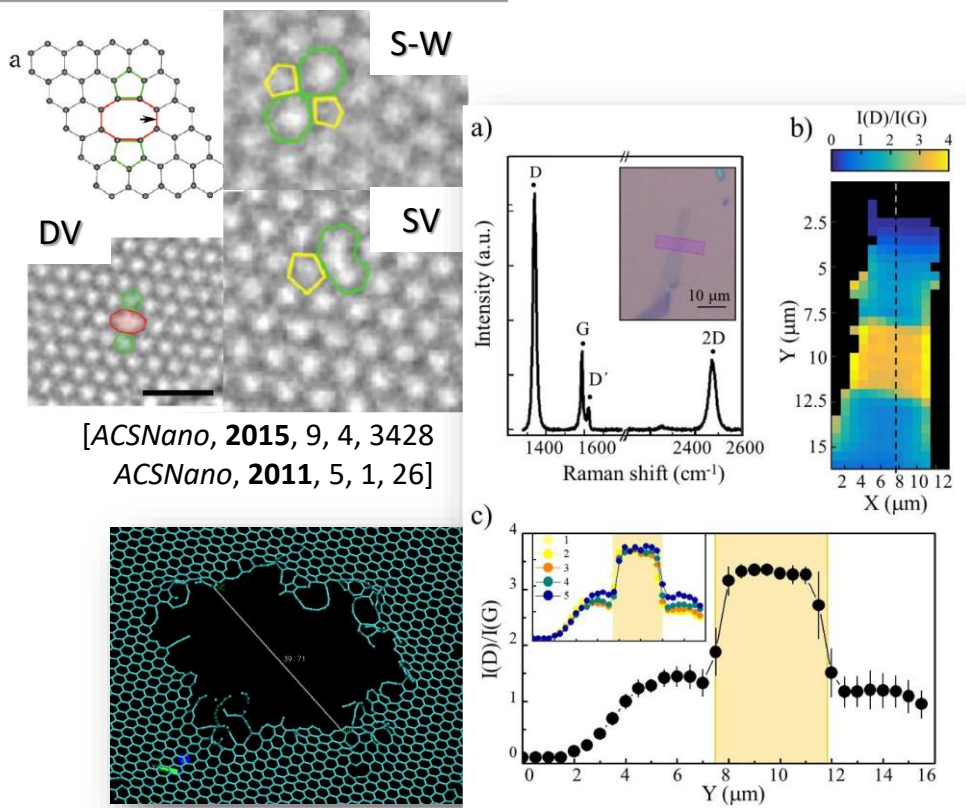


SELECTIVITY

Enterprise for nanoScience and nanoTechnology

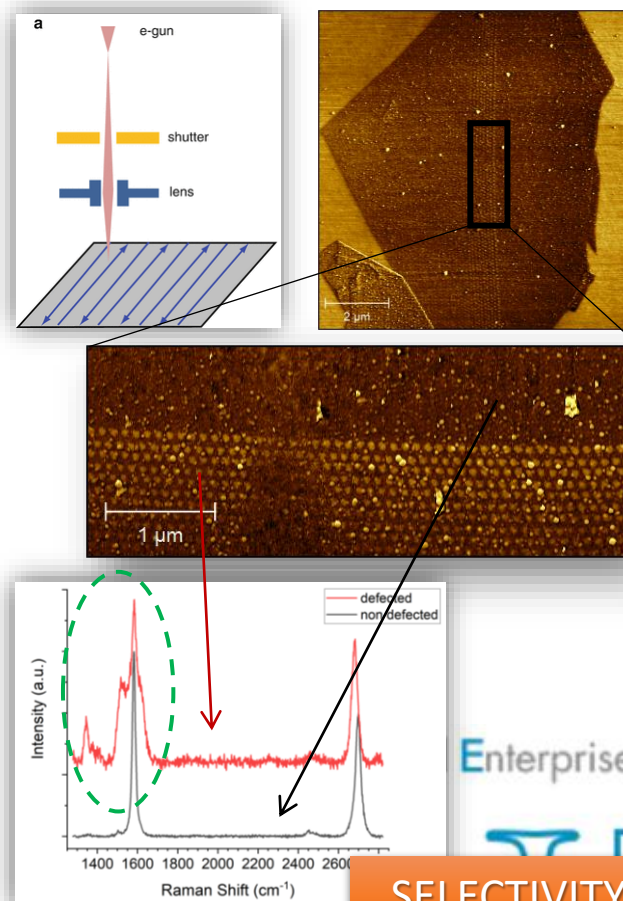
OUTLOOKS

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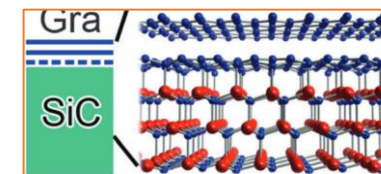
[L. Basta, arXiv, 2021;
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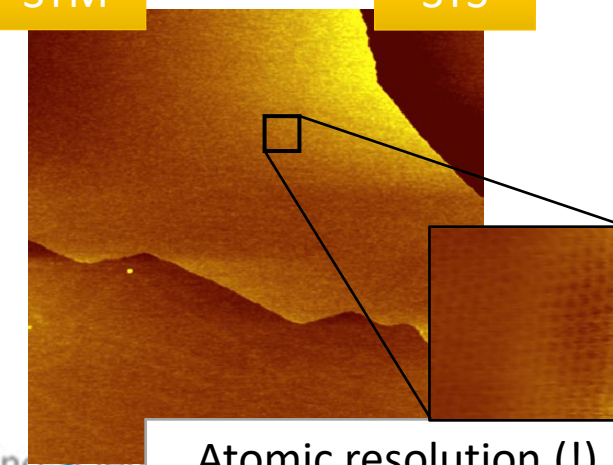
SELECTIVITY

Epitaxial ML Graphene



STM

STS



Atomic resolution (!)



PEOPLE



Aldo Moscardini



Filippo Fabbri



Silvia Rubini



Stefano Veronesi

Stefan Heun



Andrea Griesi



Mauro Gemmi



Luca Bellucci

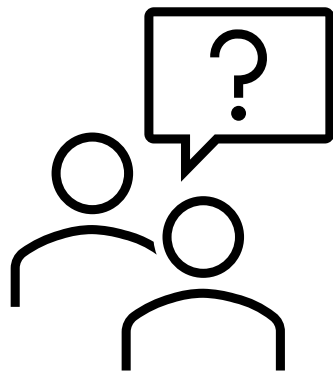


Valentina Tozzini

National Enterprise for nanoScience and nanoTechnology



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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NEST