

V4-Japan joint research project

Atomic Design of Carbon-Based Materials for New Normal Society

**AtomDeC 4<sup>th</sup> International Symposium**



<https://atomdec.info/>

# AtomDeC project: the renaissance of carbon-material research



**Hiroto Nishihara**

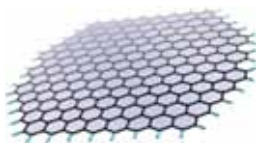
hirotomo.nishihara.b1@tohoku.ac.jp

*Advanced Institute for Materials Research,  
Tohoku University*

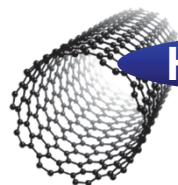
# Carbon materials



Fullerene



Graphene



Nanotube

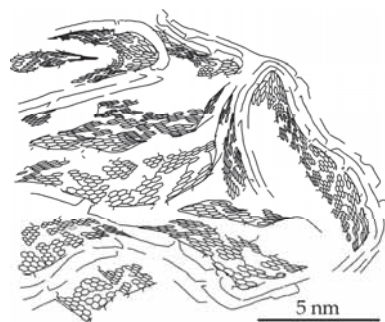
High performance



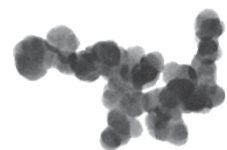
Graphene oxide

Expensive

**Nanocarbons**



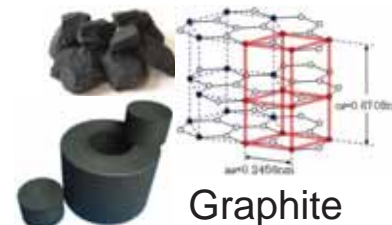
Activated carbon



Carbon black



Glassy carbon



Graphite



Carbon fibers



Expanded graphite



Diamond

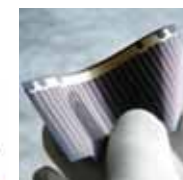
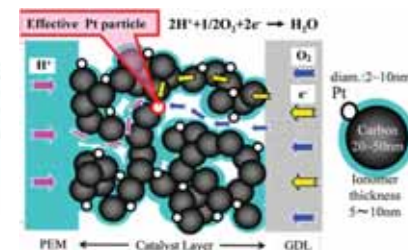
**Carbon materials**

Practical

Purification, deodorant

N<sub>2</sub>/O<sub>2</sub> separation

Batteries

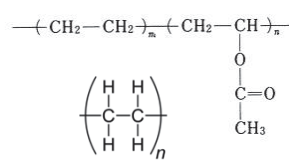


Space, airplane, transportation

Sports goods

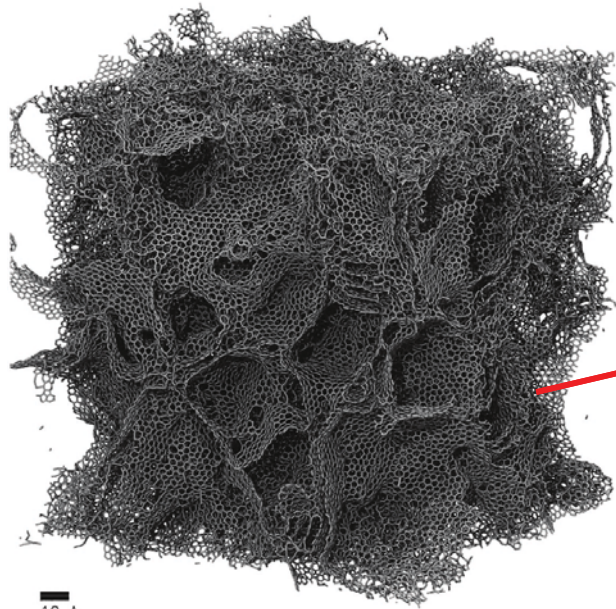
Catalysts

Medicine



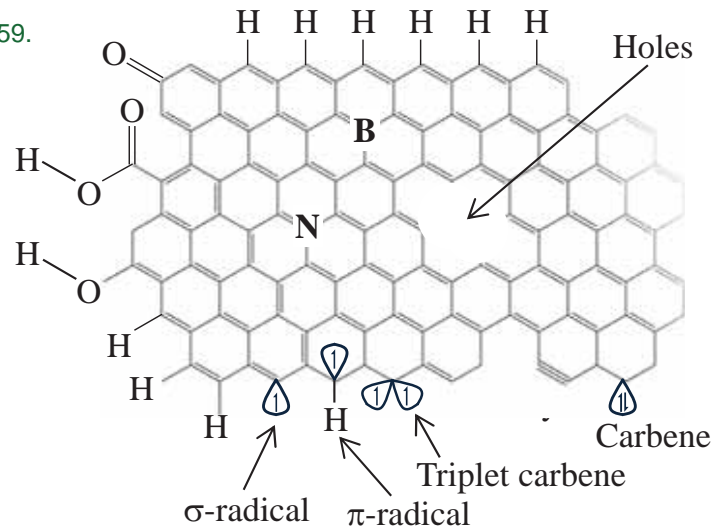
Carbon materials are widely used for various applications.  
But, a poor structure controllability hampers further development.

# Objective of the project



Cheng *et al.*, *Adv. Sci.* **4** (2017) 1700059.

Very complex structure



## Edge plane

Catalysis, chemical stability, corrosion

## Basal plane

Conductivity, chemical stability, mechanical strength and elasticity

## Nanopores

Adsorption, molecular sieve, mass transfer

The development of new science & technologies which allow **atomic design of carbon-based materials** is demanded.

“Atomic Design of Carbon-Based Materials for New Normal Society”





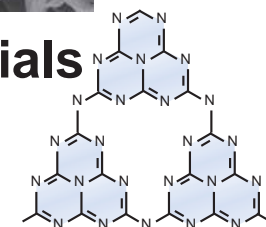
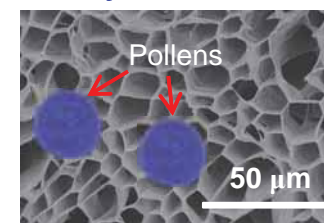
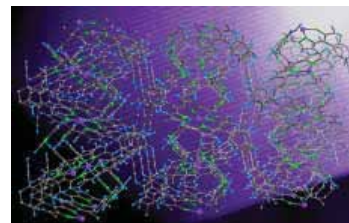
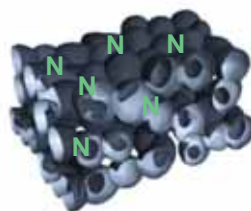
Japan

## Work Package 1

### Synthesis of atomically designed carbon-based materials

Nanoporous graphene, B,N,S,P-doping, MOF-like carbon alloys, honeycomb monoliths

WP1, WP2  
Synthesis



Czech

## Work Package 2

### Synthesis of atomically designed carbon-based composite materials

g-CN materials, inorganic materials

Dr. Monica Michalska



Hungary

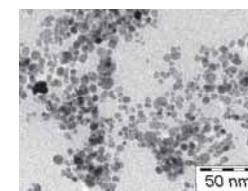
## Work Package 3

WP3 Analytics

### Comprehensive characterization at the atomic/molecular/colloidal scale

2D carbon nanosheets, analysis of colloidal systems, nano-ESCA

Dr. Tamás Szabó



Slovakia



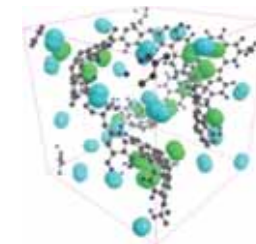
Canada

## Work Package 4

WP4 Modeling

### Modelling of atomically designed carbon-based materials

Theoretical calculations, synchrotron analysis



Poland

## Work Package 5

WP5 Devices

### Emerging applications and technological implications

Polymer electrolytes, flexible devices, supercapacitors

SPL: Dr. Amrita Jain



# International advisory board members



**Prof. Ljubisa Radovic**  
The Pennsylvania State University



**Prof. Magda Titirici**  
Imperial College London



**Prof. Siegfried Eigler**  
Freie Universität Berlin



**Dr. Stephan Irle**  
Oak Ridge National Laboratory



**Prof. Diego Cazorla-Amorós**  
Universidad de Alicante

**World top scientists support the AtomDeC project!**

# Targets of the project

WP1, WP2  
Synthesis

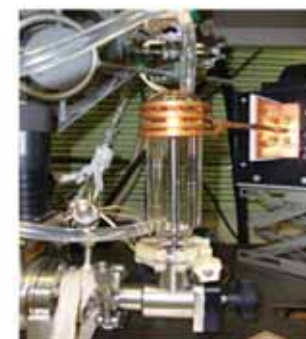
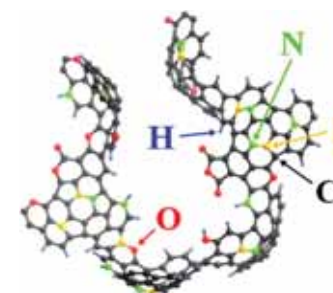
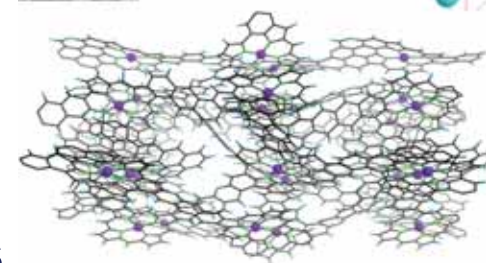
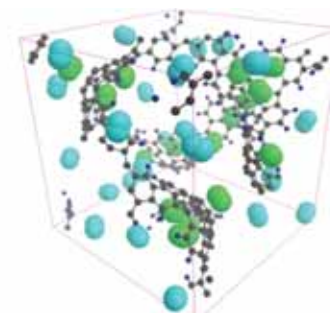
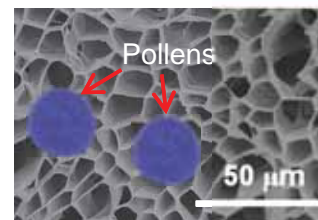
WP3 Analytics

WP4 Modeling

WP5 Devices

## Expected achievements for **new normal society**

- High throughput COVID-19 masks/filter
- Supercapacitors (double energy density)
  - Flexible supercapacitors for extreme environments
  - Ionic-liquid based green electrolytes
  - H<sub>2</sub> storage (at least 20% increase)
  - CO<sub>2</sub> fixation and conversion into C1 and C2 compounds
- Materials for environmental hazard mitigation
- New type power generation devices
  - Heat-pumps using natural refrigerants





## 1<sup>st</sup> symposium (online) January 18-19, 2022



## 3<sup>rd</sup> symposium (Warsaw) May 23-25, 2023



## 2<sup>nd</sup> symposium (Smolenice) November 2-4, 2022



## 4<sup>th</sup> symposium (Sendai) August 1-3, 2024



# AtomDeC acknowledged original papers 2022'

WP1

Synthesis of microporous polymers with exposed C<sub>60</sub> surface by polyesterification of fullerenol

*Chem. Commun.*, **58** (2022) 7086.

WP1

Synthesis of hexa-aminated trinaphtho[3.3.3]propellane and its porous polymer solids with alkane adsorption properties

*Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.* **95** (2022) 1296.

WP1

Adsorption properties of templated nanoporous carbons consisting of 1-2 graphene layers

*Carbon Reports*, **1** (2022) 123.

WP1

Capacitance of Edge-Free Three-Dimensional Graphene: New Perspectives on the Design of Carbon Structures for Supercapacitor Applications

*Electrochim. Acta*, **10** (2022) 141009.



WP1

WP4

Mechanical Properties of Zeolite-Templated Carbons from Approximate Density Functional Theory Calculations

*Carbon Reports*, **1** (2022) 231.

WP1

The carbon chain growth during the onset of CVD graphene formation on  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is promoted by unsaturated CH<sub>2</sub> ends

*Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, **24** (2022) 23357.

WP1

Pore-size control of soft mesoporous carbon by hot pressing

*Carbon Reports*, **1** (2022) 214.

WP2

The role of the g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> precursor on the P doping using HCCP as a source of phosphorus

*J. Mater. Res. Technol.*, **18** (2022) 3319.

WP2

The effect of surface modification with Ag nanoparticles on 21 nm TiO<sub>2</sub>: anatase/rutile material for application in photocatalysis

*Mater. Today Chem.*, **26** (2022) 101123.

WP2

Structural studies and selected physical investigations of LiCoO<sub>2</sub> obtained by combustion synthesis

*Beilstein J. Nanotech.*, **13** (2022) 1473.

WP2

WP5

Surface modification of activated carbon with silver nanoparticles for electrochemical double layer capacitors

*J. Energy Storage*, **54** (2022) 105367.

WP3

Amino Acid Complexes of Zirconium in a Carbon Composite for the Efficient Removal of Fluoride Ions from Water

*Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health*, **19** (2022) 3640.

WP1

WP2

WP5

Vanadium oxide nanorods as an electrode material for solid state supercapacitor

*Sci. Rep.*, **12** (2022) 21024.

WP2

Synthesis of vacant graphitic carbon nitride in argon atmosphere and its utilization for photocatalytic hydrogen generation

*Sci. Rep.*, **12** (2022) 13622.

WP2

Post-synthetic modification of graphitic carbon nitride with PCI<sub>3</sub> and POCl<sub>3</sub> for enhanced photocatalytic degradation of organic compounds

*Diamond Related Mater.*, **130** (2022) 109439.



# AtomDeC acknowledged original papers 2023'

WP1

Synthesis and electrocatalysis of ordered carbonaceous frameworks from Ni porphyrin with four ethynyl groups  
*Catal. Today*, **411-412** (2023) 113830.

WP1

WP4

Edge-Site-Free and Topological-Defect-Rich Carbon Cathode for Li-O<sub>2</sub> Batteries  
*Adv. Sci.*, **10** (2023) 2300268.

WP1

Critical impact of nanocellulose on the synthesis of porous cellulose monolith with oriented microchannels: Structure control, mechanics, and mass transport  
*Nano Res.*, **16** (2023) 8018.

WP1

Quantitative study on catalysis of unpaired electrons in carbon edge sites  
*Carbon*, **210** (2023) 118069.

WP1

Development of Microdrip Enzyme Device Using Carbon-Coated Porous Silica Spheres  
*ACS Appl. Eng. Mater.*, **1** (2023) 1426.

WP1

Bimetallic ordered carbonaceous frameworks from Co- and Cu-porphyrin bimolecular crystals  
*Carbon*, **201** (2023) 338.

WP1

Nanoporous Membrane Electrodes with an Ordered Array of Hollow Giant Carbon Nanotubes  
*Adv. Funct. Mater.*, **33** (2023) 2303730.

WP1

Chemistry of zipping reactions in mesoporous carbon consisting of minimally stacked graphene layers  
*Chem. Sci.*, **14** (2023) 8448.

WP2

WP5

Utilization of compressible hydrogels as electrolyte materials for supercapacitor applications  
*RSC Adv.*, **13** (2023) 11503.

WP2

Effect of Ag modification on TiO<sub>2</sub> and melem/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> composite on photocatalytic performances  
*Sci Rep.*, **13** (2023) 55270.

WP2

WP5

Chemical synthesis of polyaniline and polythiophene electrodes with excellent performance in supercapacitors  
*J. Energy Storage*, **73** (2023) 108811.

WP2

WP5

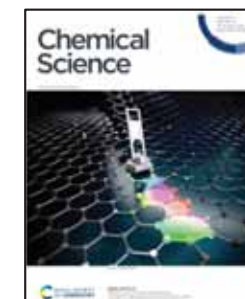
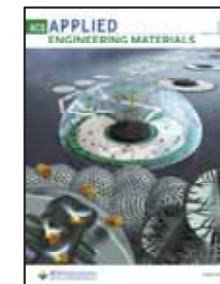
One-step synthesis of a sustainable carbon material for high performance supercapacitor and dye adsorption applications  
*Mater. Sci. Eng. B*, **297** (2023) 116766.

WP2

Graphitic carbon nitride/xylene soot metal-free nanocomposites for photocatalytic degradation of organic compounds  
*Diamond Related Mater.*, **139** (2023) 110434.

WP1

Structural Engineering of Nanocarbons Comprising Graphene Frameworks via High-Temperature Annealing  
*Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.*, **96** (2023) 510.



# AtomDeC acknowledged original papers 2024'

WP1

**Hierarchically Porous and Minimally Stacked Graphene Cathodes for High-Performance Lithium–Oxygen Batteries**

*Adv. Energy Mater.*, **14** (2024) 2303055.

WP1

**Silicon Radical-Induced CH<sub>4</sub> Dissociation for Uniform Graphene Coating on Silica Surface**

*Small*, **20** (2024) 2306325.

WP1

**Highly Permeable and Regenerative Microhoneycomb Filters**

*ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces*, **16** (2024) 29177.

WP1

**A thermodynamically favorable route to the synthesis of nanoporous graphene templated on CaO via chemical vapor deposition**

*Green Chem.*, **26** (2024) 6051.

WP1

**Theoretical Insights into the Role of Defects in the Optimization of the Electrochemical Capacitance of Graphene**

*Energy Mater. Devices*, in press.

WP1

**Unlocking Chemical Environment of Nitrogen in Perovskite-Type Oxides**

*Chem. Sci.*, **15** (2024) 10350.

WP1

WP4

**Quantitative and qualitative analysis of nitrogen species in carbon at the ppm level**

*Chem.*, in press

WP2

WP3

WP5

**Flexible, tough and high-performing ionogels for supercapacitor application**

*J. Materiomics*, in press

WP2

WP5

**Carbon framework modification; an interesting strategy to improve the energy storage and dye adsorption**

*Energy Adv.*, **3** (2024) 1354.

WP2

WP5

**Enhanced electrochemical properties of multiwalled carbon nanotubes modified with silver nanoparticles for energy storage application**

*Mater. Chem. Phys.*, **317** (2024) 129200.

WP2

WP3

**Comparative study of photocatalysis with bulk and nanosheet graphitic carbon nitrides enhanced with silver**

*Sci. Rep.*, **14** (2024) 11512.

WP3

**Aqueous heterocoagulation-driven assembly of graphene oxide and polycation-coated sulfur particles for nanocomposite Li-S battery cathodes**

*J. Colloid. Interf. Sci.*, **655** (2024) 931.

WP2

**Graphitic C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> and Ti<sub>3</sub>C<sub>2</sub> nanocomposites for the enhanced photocatalytic degradation of organic compounds and the evolution of hydrogen under visible irradiation**

*J. Photobio. A Chem.*, **447** (2024) 115260.

WP4

**Metal-free hybrid nanocomposites of graphitic carbon nitride and char: Synthesis, characterisation and photocatalysis under visible irradiation**

*J. Taiwan Inst. Chem. Eng.*, **158** (2024) 104864.

WP5

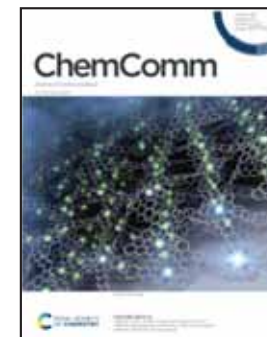
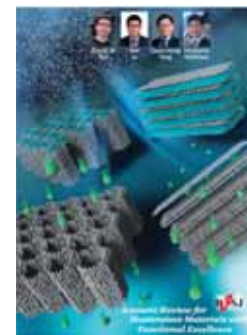
**Could halide perovskites revolutionalise batteries and supercapacitors: A leap in energy storage**

*J. Energy Storage*, **88** (2024) 111468.



# AtomDeC acknowledged review/book chapter

- WP1** Ordered carbonaceous frameworks: A new class of carbon materials with molecular-level design  
*Chemical Communications*, **58** (2022) 3578
- WP1** Aligned Macroporous Monoliths by Ice-Templating  
*Bulletin of the Chemical Society of Japan*, **95** (2022) 611
- WP1** Coordination chemistry for innovative carbon-related materials  
*Coordination Chemistry Reviews*, **466** (2022) 214577
- WP1** Progress in templated nanocarbons and related materials chemistry  
*Carbon Reports*, **3** (2024) 47
- WP1** Structural control of nanoporous frameworks consisting of minimally stacked graphene walls  
*Frontiers in Materials*, **10** (2024)
- WP1** Carbon-Coated Anodic Aluminum Oxide: Synthesis, Characterization, and Applications  
*Appl. Phys. Rev.*, **in press**
- WP5** Role of Dielectric Permittivity in Electrode Materials for Energy Storage Device Applications: A Fundamental and Brief Overview  
*An Introduction to Permittivity*, Nova Science Publishers, 2022, pp. 219-238.
- WP5** Porous Carbon Materials for Supercapacitor Application  
*Handbook of Porous Carbon Materials*, Springer Nature, Singapore, 2023, pp. 117-146.
- WP3** Recycling waste sources into nanocomposites of graphene materials: Overview from an energy-focused perspective  
*Nanotech. Rev.*, **12** (2023)
- WP5** Sustainable electrochemical energy storage devices using natural bast fibres  
*Chem. Eng. J.*, **465** (2023) 142845
- WP2** Highly Carbonized, Porous Activated Carbon Derived from Ziziphus Jujuba for Energy Storage  
*Advanced in Clean Energy and Sustainability*, Springer, Singapore, 2023, pp. 549-559.



44 papers & 11 reviews/book chapters!



# Collaborations of WP1

## Published projects



WP1

WP4

Mechanical Properties of Zeolite-Templated Carbons from Approximate Density Functional Theory Calculations

*Carbon Reports*, **1** (2022) 231.

WP1

WP2

WP5

Vanadium oxide nanorods as an electrode material for solid state supercapacitor

*Sci. Rep.*, **12** (2022) 21024.

WP1

WP4

Edge-Site-Free and Topological-Defect-Rich Carbon Cathode for Li-O<sub>2</sub> Batteries

*Adv. Sci.*, **10** (2023) 2300268.

WP1

WP4

Quantitative and qualitative analysis of nitrogen species in carbon at the ppm level

*Chem*, *in press*



WP1

Structural Model of Oxidatively Unzipped Narrow Single-Walled Carbon Nanotubes

*Carbon*, *in press*



## On-going projects



WP1

Electrocatalytic glycerol oxidation with OCF

*On going*



WP1

Analysis of hard carbons by TPD

*On going*



WP1

TPD analysis of N-doped carbons

*On going*

WP1

WP3

Sonication of mechanically soft carbon frameworks

*On going*

WP1

WP4

TPD for S-containing carbons

*On going*

WP1

WP2

TPD analysis of g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>

*On going*

WP1

WP2

WP5

Electrochemical properties of Ag/GMS

*On going*

WP1

WP4

WP5

GMS for liquid phase adsorption

*On going*

WP1

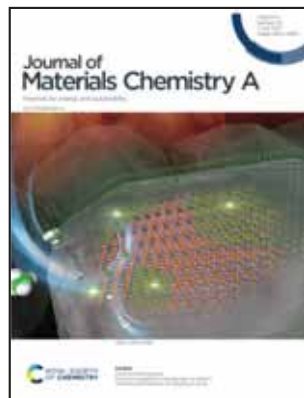
WP4

WP5

GMS/gel electrolyte supercapacitors

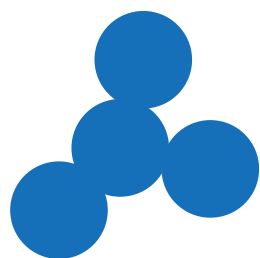
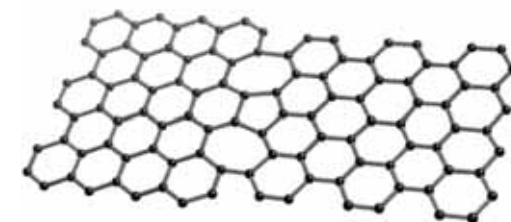
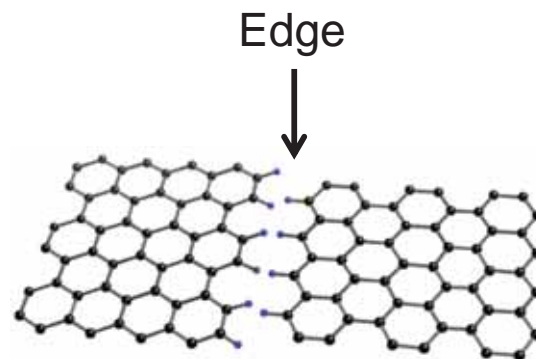
*On going*

# A strategy for seamless graphene frameworks

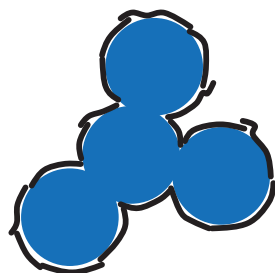


*J. Mater. Chem. A*,  
**9**, 14296 (2021).

Uniform coating with  
quasi-single-layer graphene



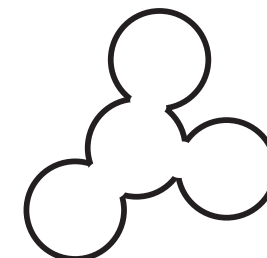
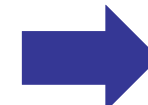
CVD



Template  
removal



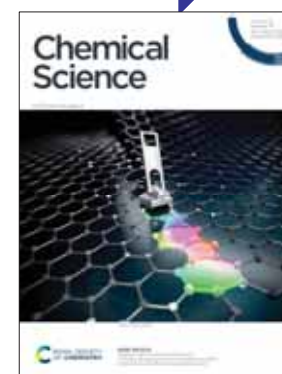
Zippering  
reactions



Seamless graphene  
frameworks

*Adv. Funct. Mater.*  
**26**, 6418-6427 (2016).

*Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.*  
**96**, 510-518 (2023).



*Chem. Sci.* **14**, 8448 (2023).

Thermally stable template



$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  *Adv. Funct. Mater.* **26**, 6418-6427 (2016).

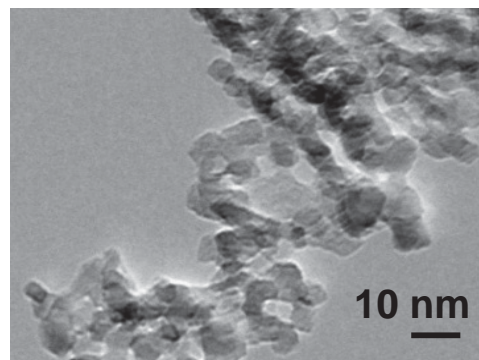
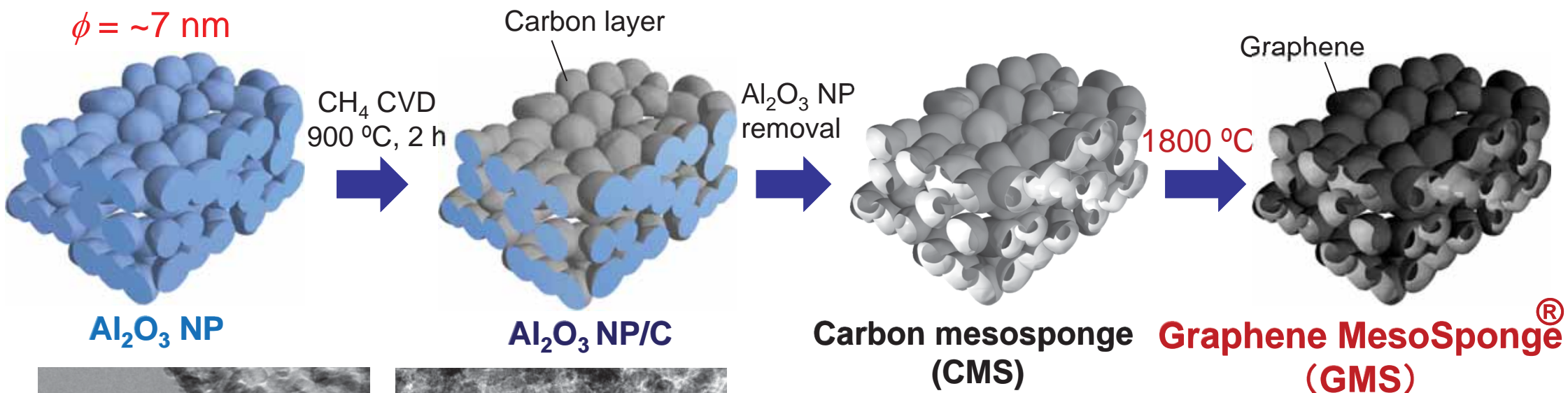
$\text{MgO}$  *J. Mater. Chem. A*, **9**, 14296 (2021).

$\text{CaO}$  *Green Chem.*, **26**, 6051 (2024); *Catal. Today*, **437**, 114763 (2024).

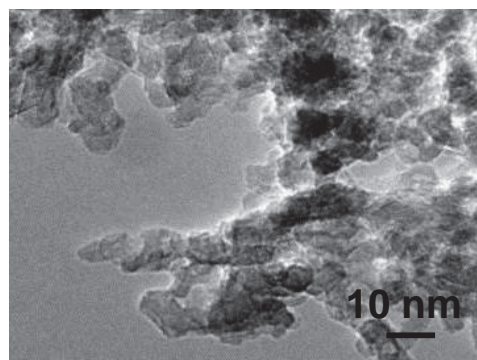
$\text{SiO}_2$  *Small*, **20**, 2306325 (2024).

# Graphene MesoSponge<sup>®</sup> (GMS)

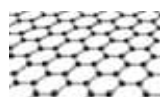
*Adv. Funct. Mater.* **26**, 6418-6427 (2016).



$S_{\text{BET}} = 220 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$



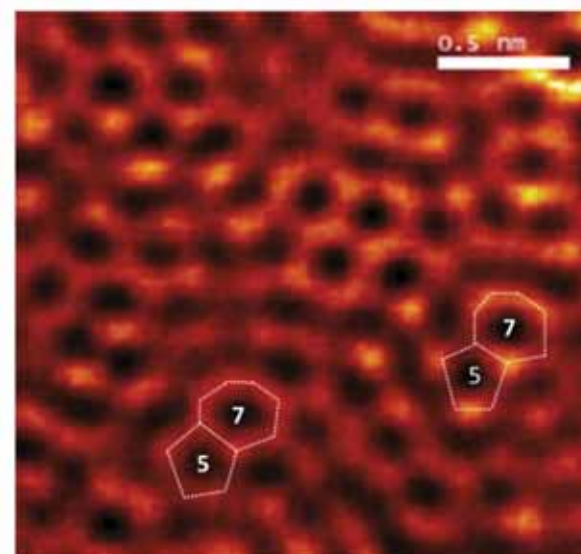
C: 16 wt% (0.19 g/g)



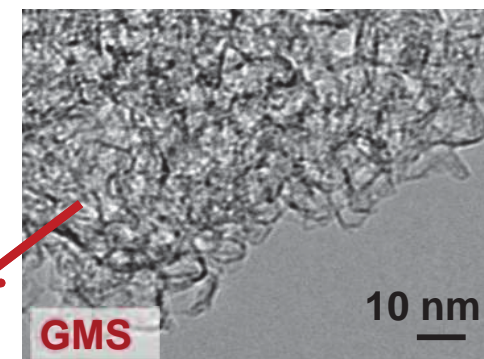
Areal density of carbon:  $8.60 \times 10^{-4} \text{ g/m}^2$

\*Areal density of graphene:  $7.61 \times 10^{-4} \text{ g/m}^2$

Average stacking number  $\approx 1.1$

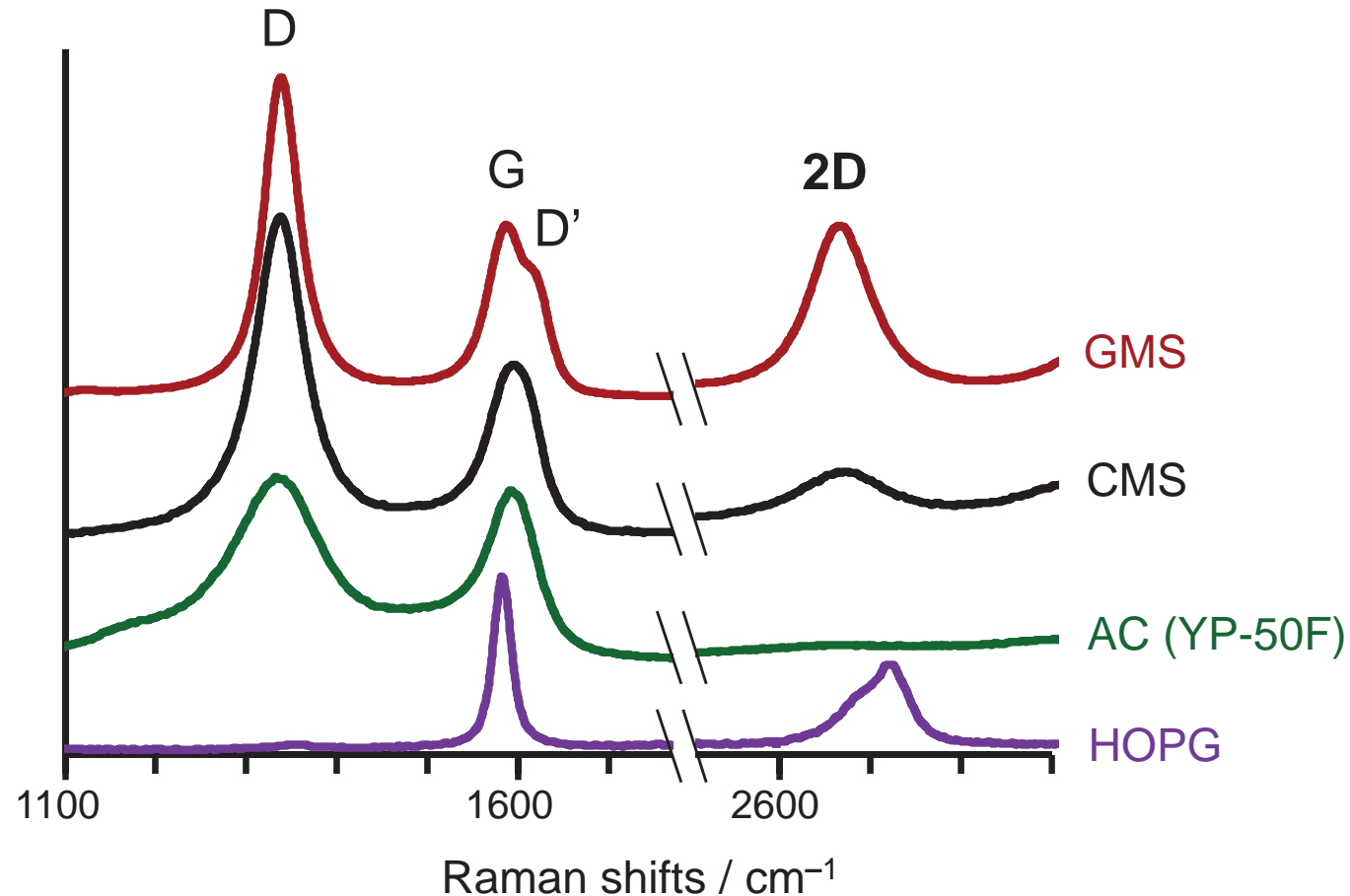


*Adv. Sci.*, **10** (2023) 2300268.



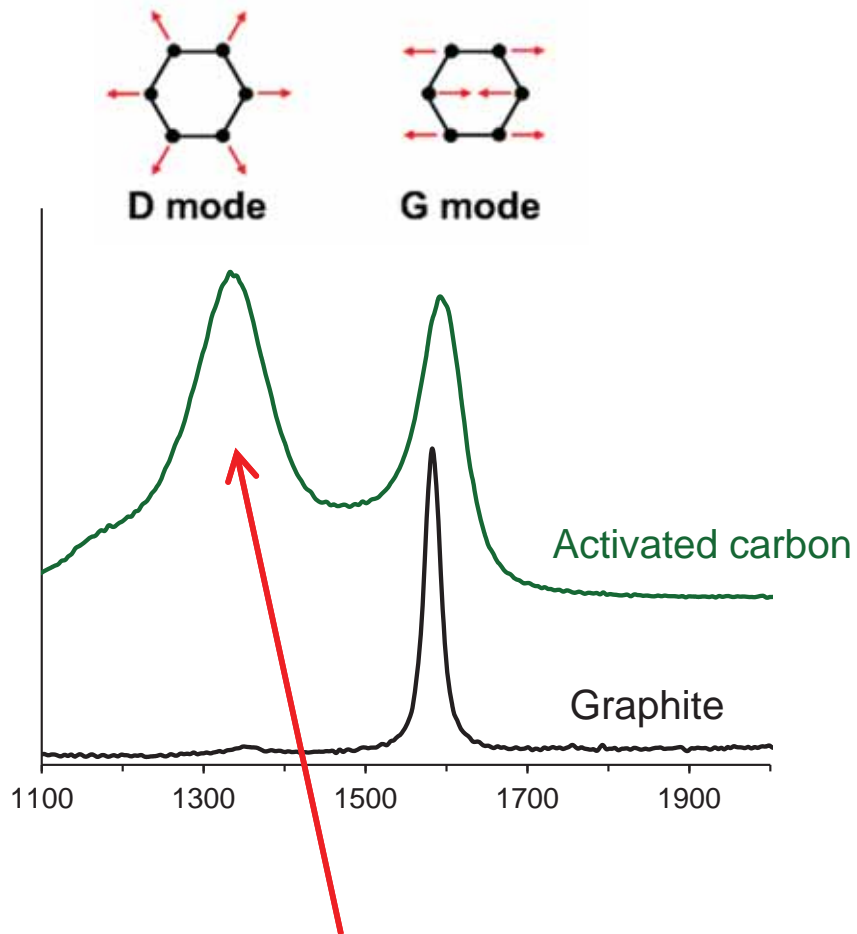


# Raman spectrum of GMS

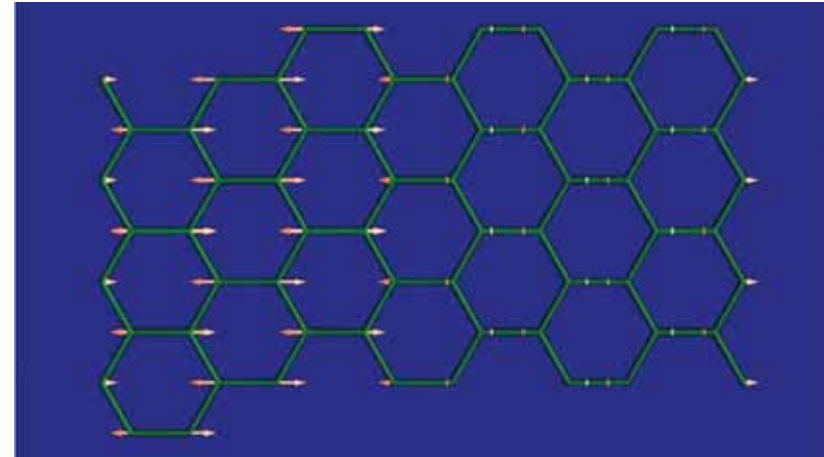


GMS shows intense D and D' peaks derived from 'defects,' although GMS has a few number of edge sites.  
Why??

# Origins of Raman G and D peaks



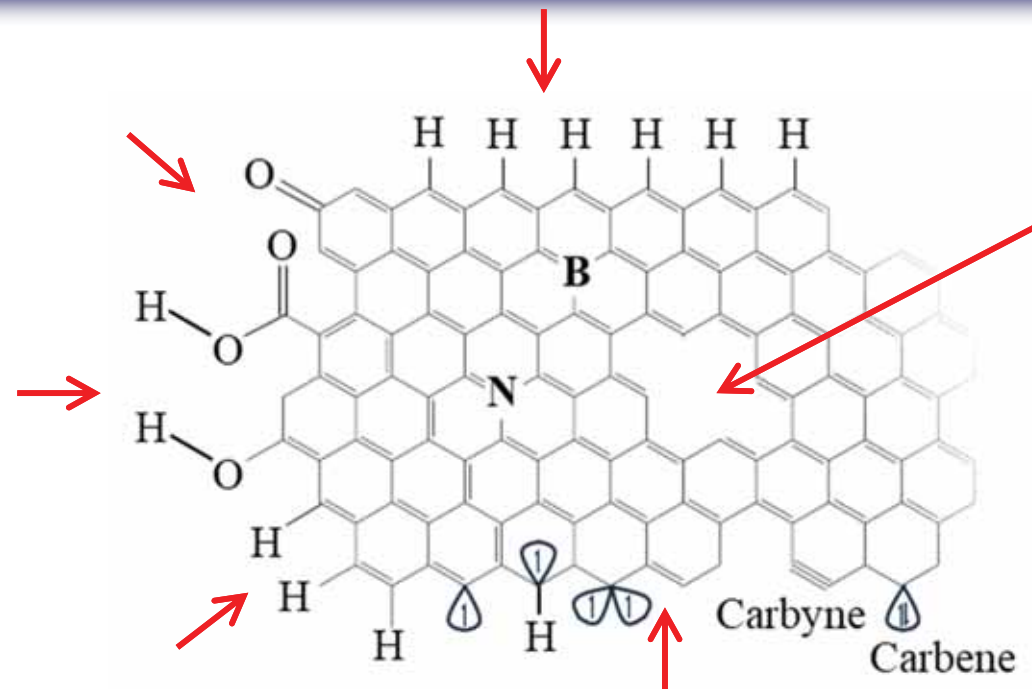
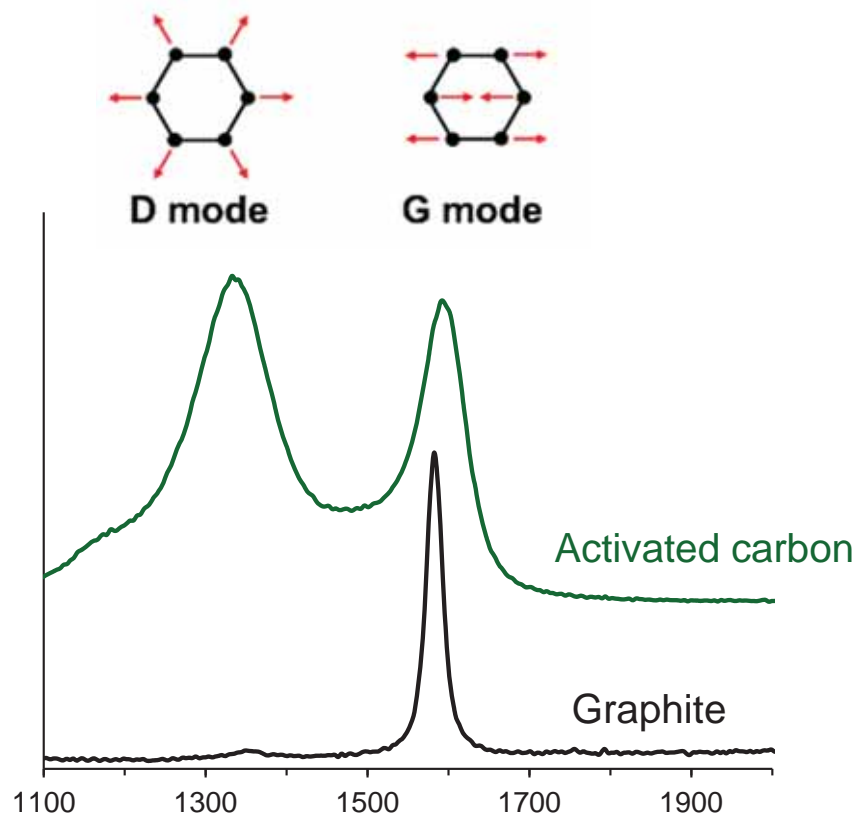
Calculated by Dr. Eva Scholtzová



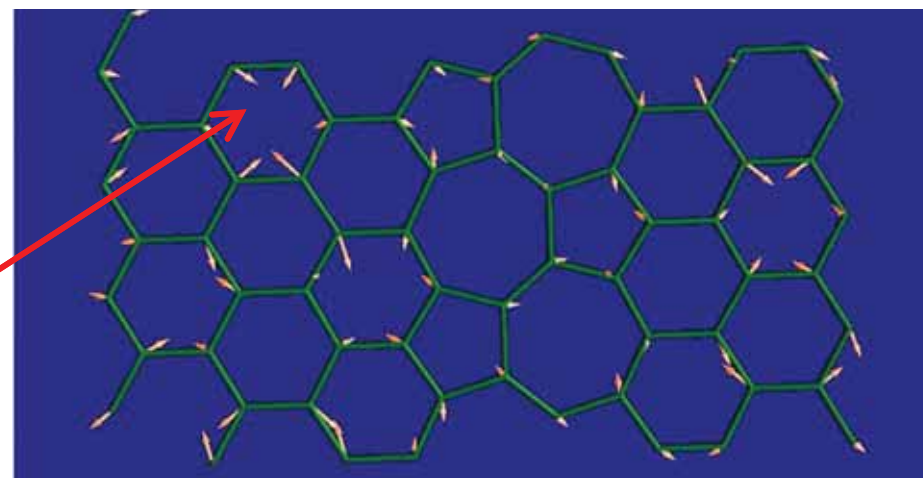
**D band is originated from “defects” of graphene.**

**However, what is “defects”?**

# Topological defects



**Edge sites** are generally recognized as 'defects'.



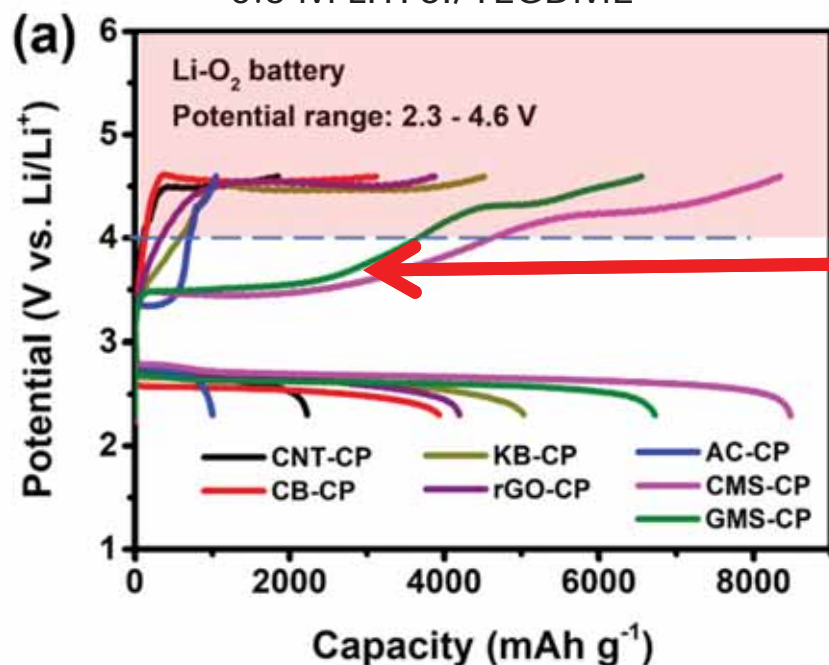
D mode becomes active also near **5,7-membered rings (topological defects)**.



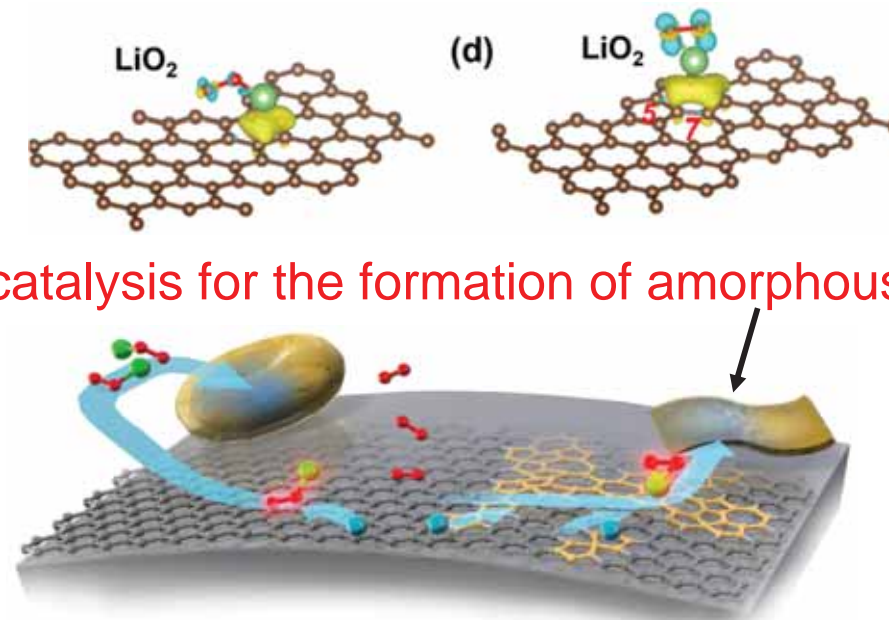
# Function of Topological defects: catalysis



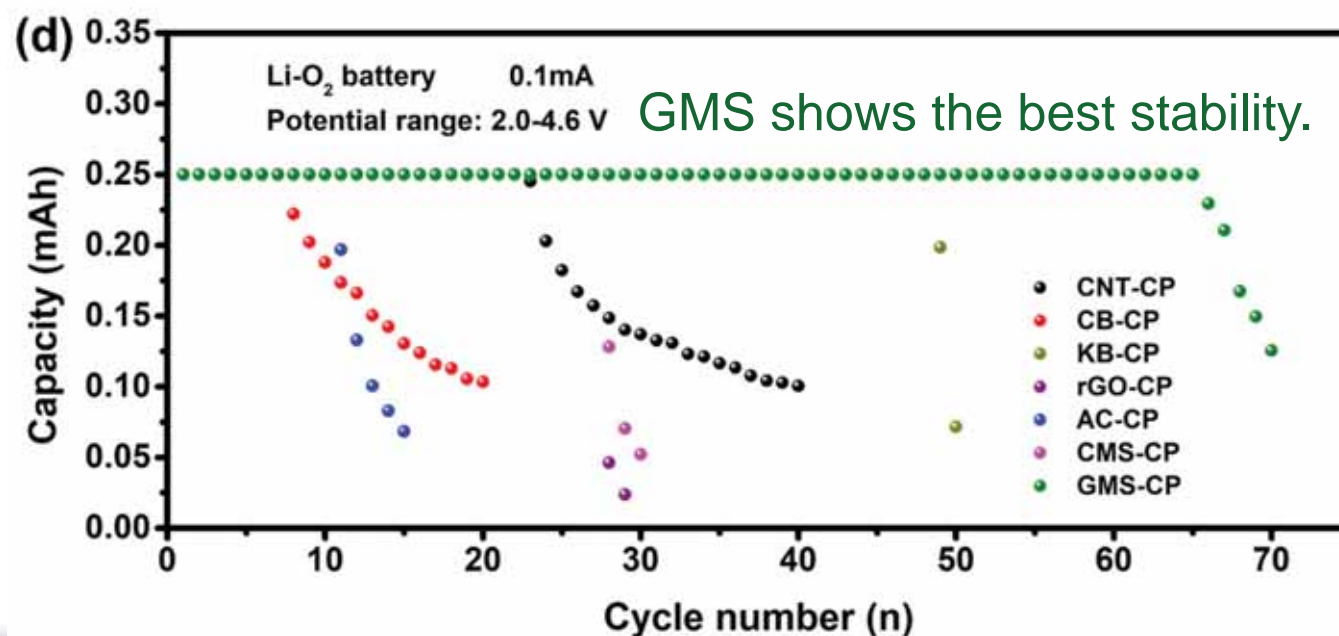
0.5 M LiTFSI/TEGDME



Unique catalysis for the formation of amorphous Li<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

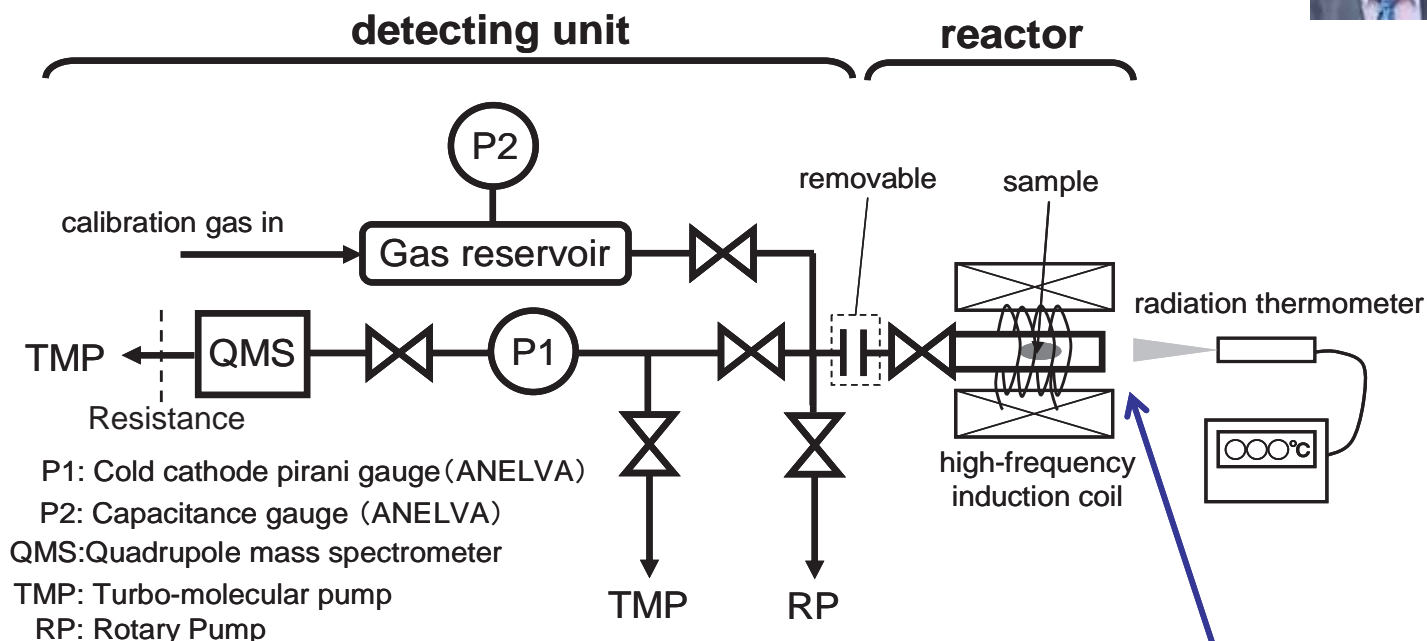
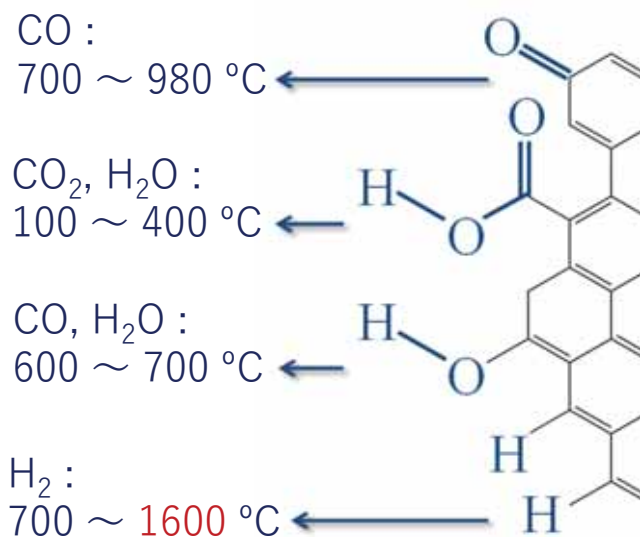


*Adv. Sci.*, **10**, 2300268 (2023).



# HT-TPD (up to 1800 °C)

Carbon, **80**, 135 (2014)



## <High-temperature vacuum TPD>

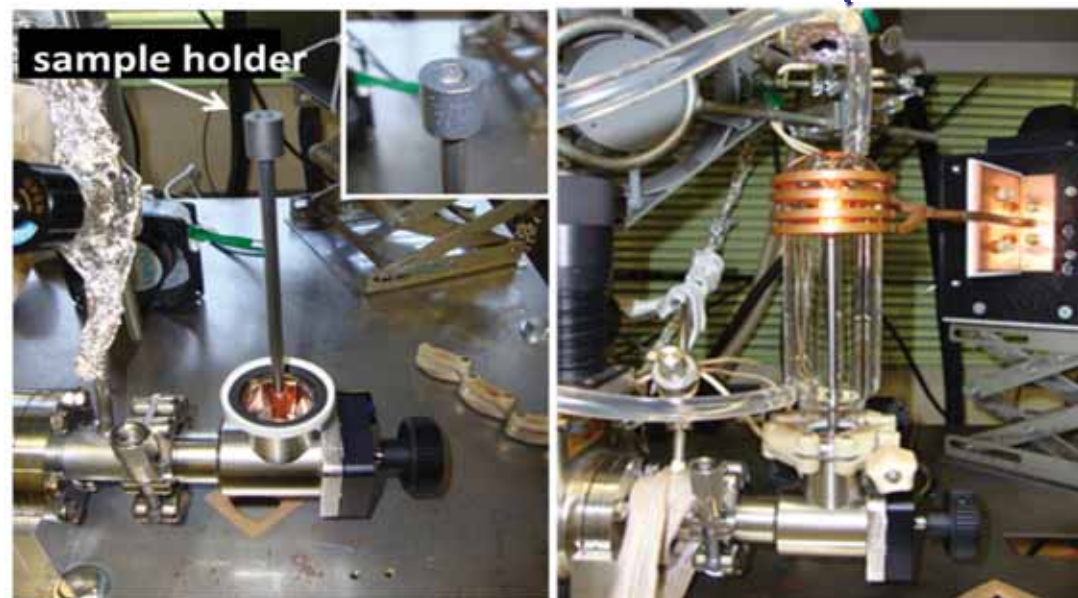
Sensitivity:

**100 times higher** than commercial TPD

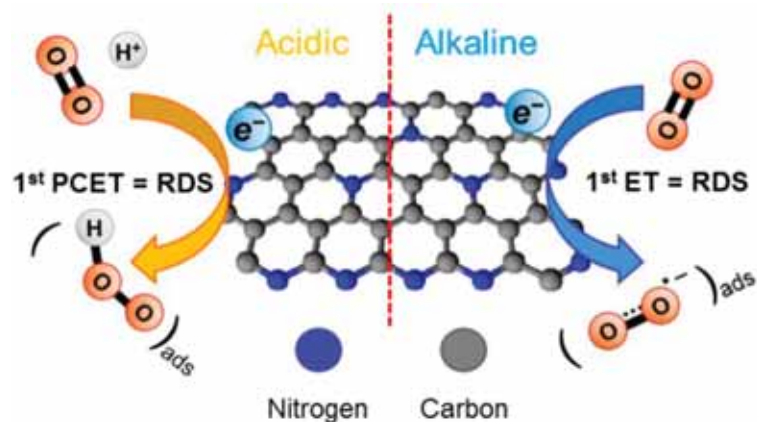
Maximum temperature: **1800 °C**



**Quantitative estimation** of  
carbon edge sites is possible.



# Application of HT-TPD to N-doped carbons

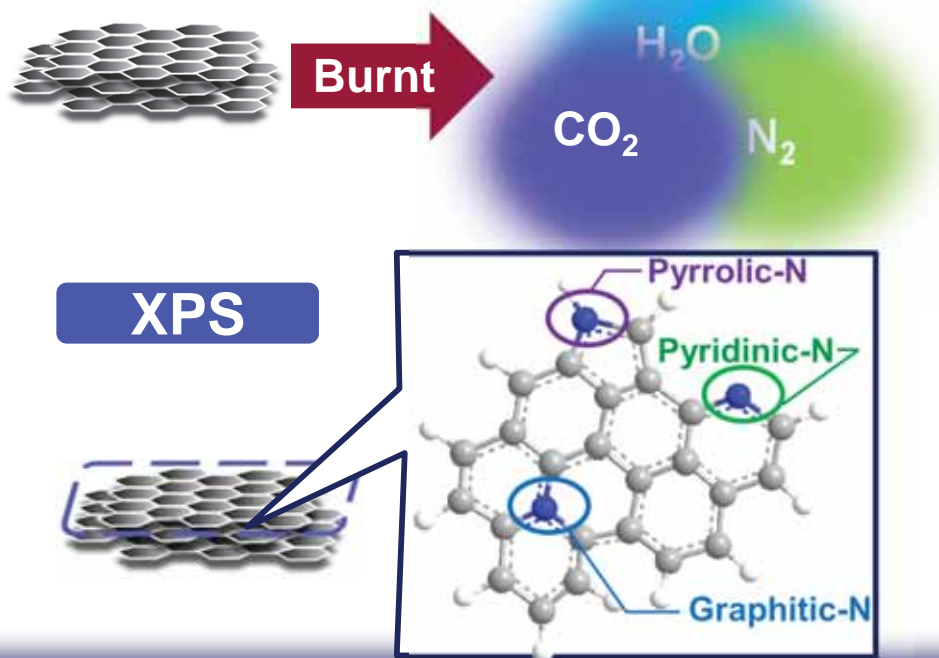


## N-doped carbons

► Promising materials for many applications including fuel cells, supercapacitors, and batteries.

## Conventional analysis methods

### CHN Elemental Analysis

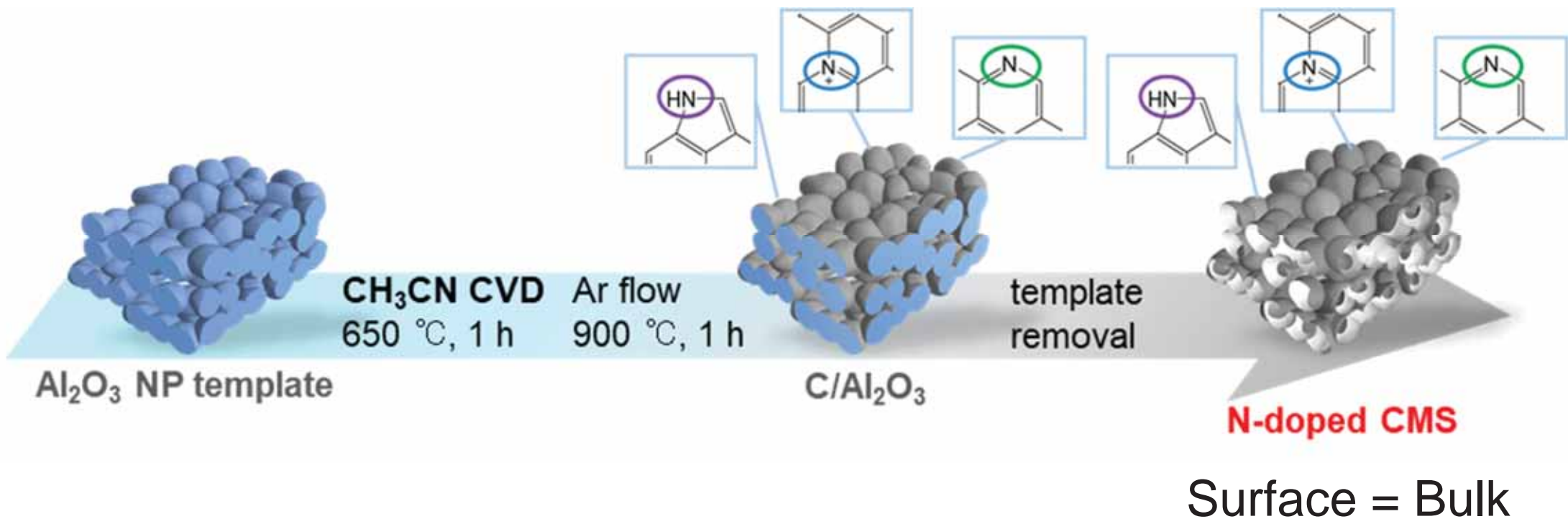


	Bulk analysis	Identification of N species	High-sensitivity (< 0.1 wt%)
CHN	○	✗	✗
XPS	✗	○	✗
HT-TPD	○	○	○

We propose HT-TPD as a new method.



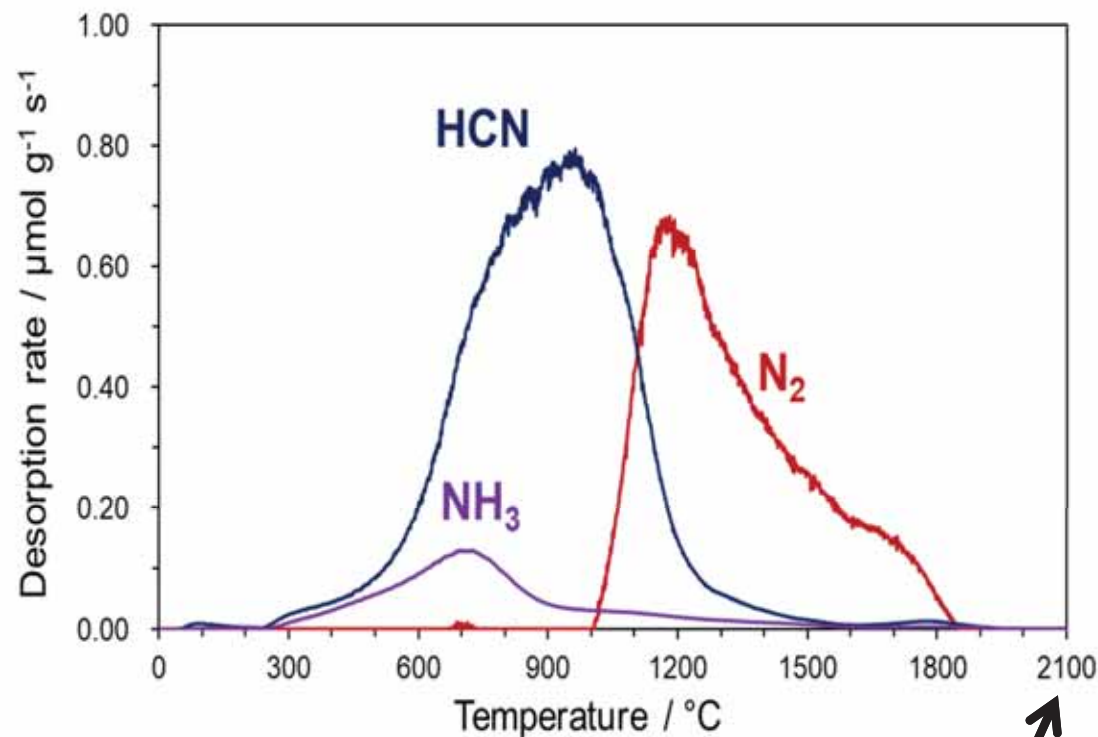
# N-doped CMS as a model material



We can compare the three methods: CHN, XPS, and HT-TPD.

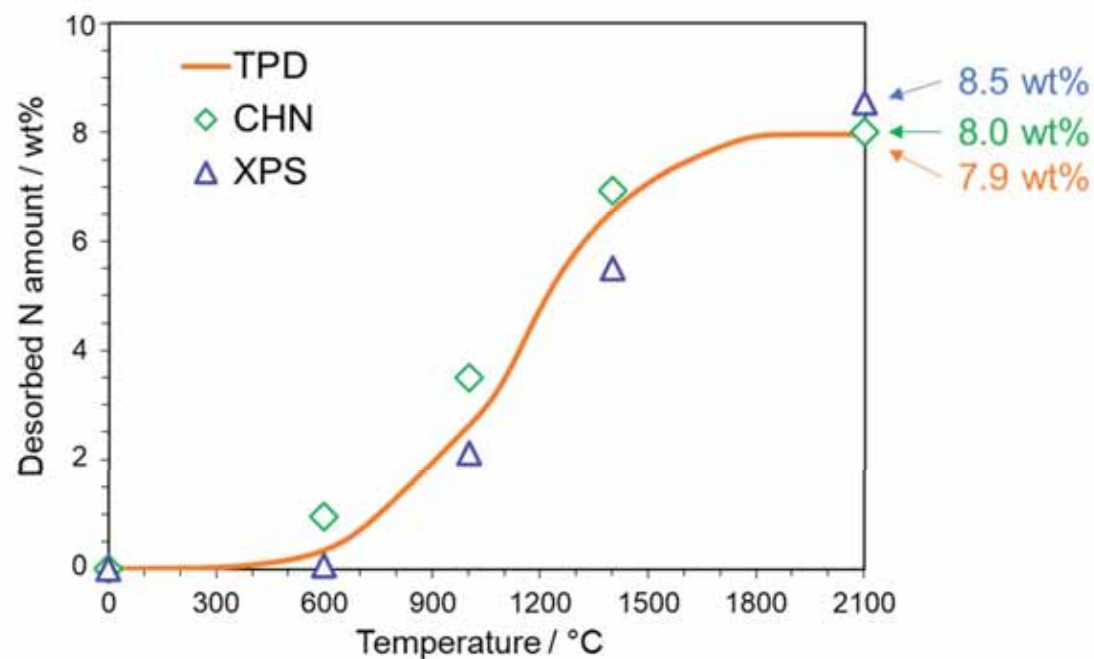
# HT-TPD results

N species are desorbed as  $\text{NH}_3$ , HCN, and  $\text{N}_2$ .



Maximum temperature was increased up to 2100  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

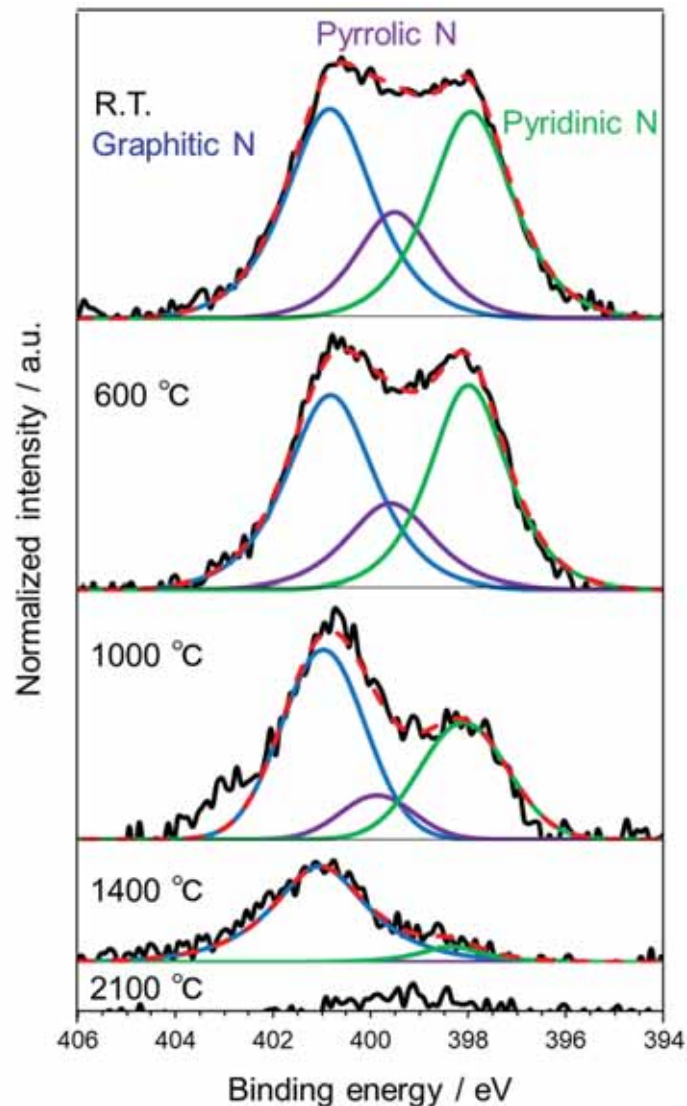
Comparison of CHN, XPS, and HT-TPD.



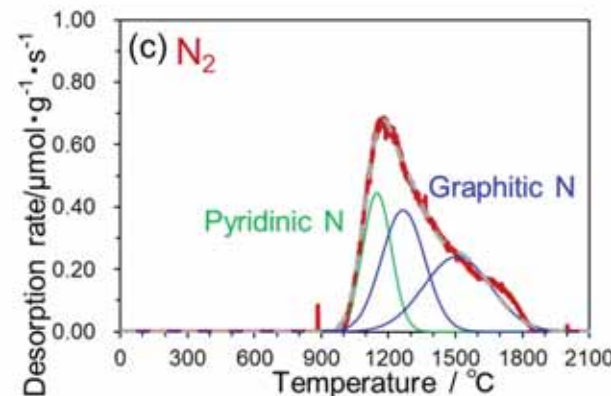
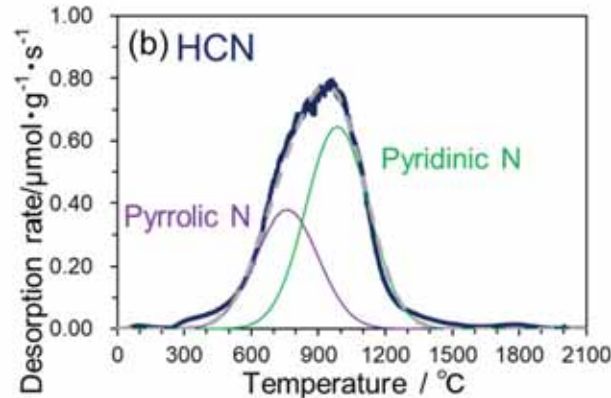
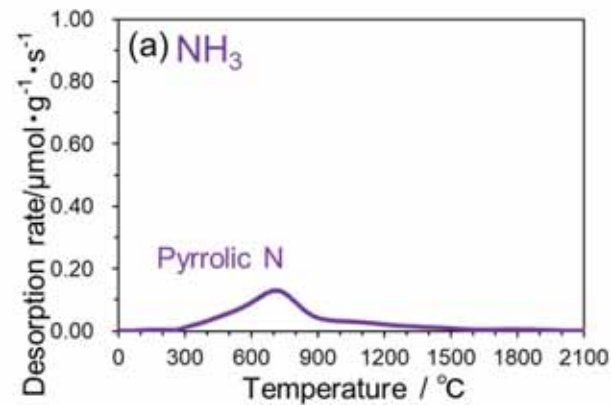
Quantification of HT-TPD is reasonable.  
(The sum of  $\text{NH}_3$ , HCN, and  $\text{N}_2$ )

# XPS vs HT-TPD

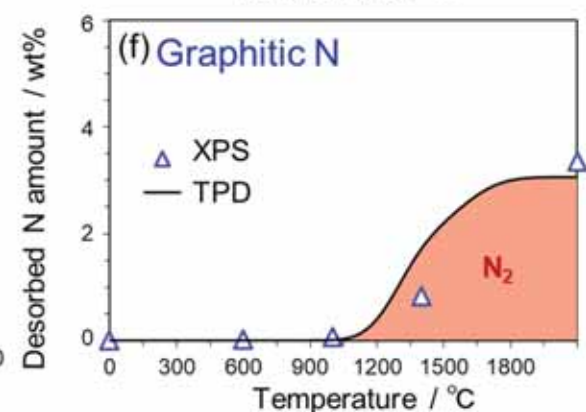
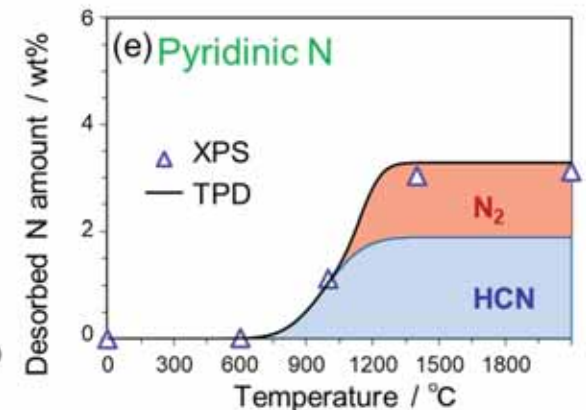
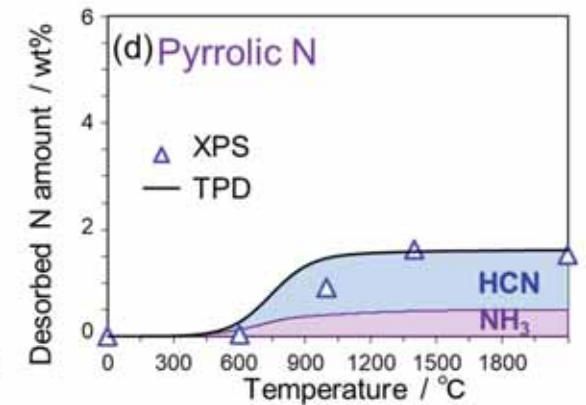
## XPS



## HT-TPD



## XPS vs HT-TPD



HT-TPD can quantify each amount of different N species.



# Quantification of N at a ppm level

N-doped CMS

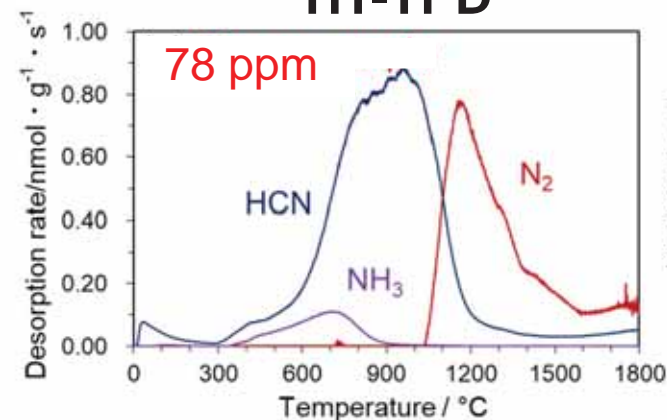
+

Graphite

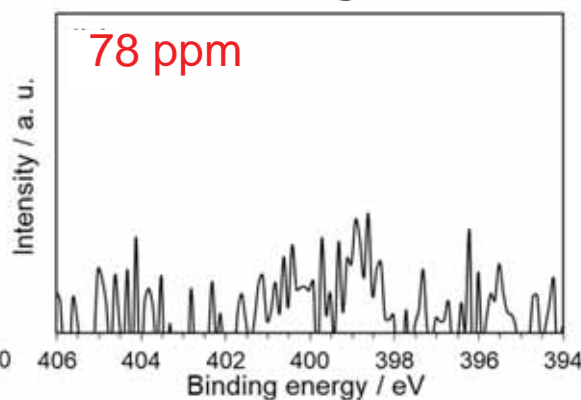
→

Samples with small N content (~ 9 ppm)

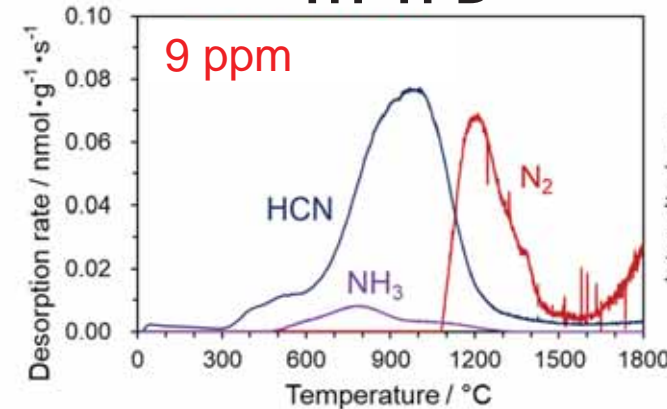
HT-TPD



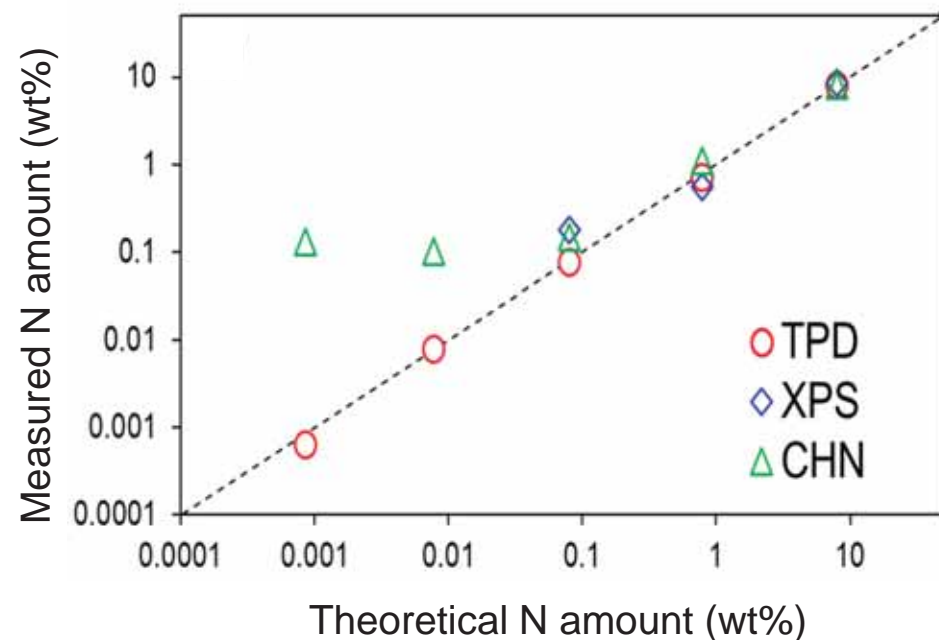
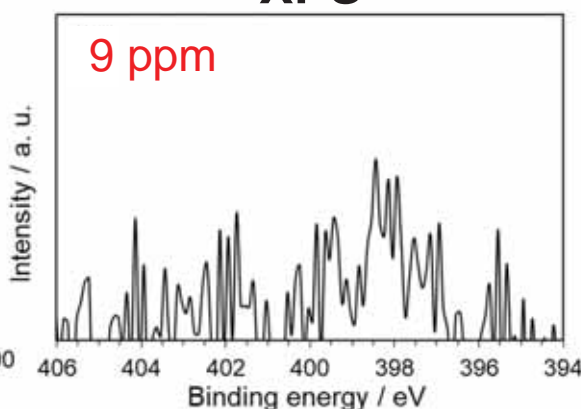
XPS



HT-TPD



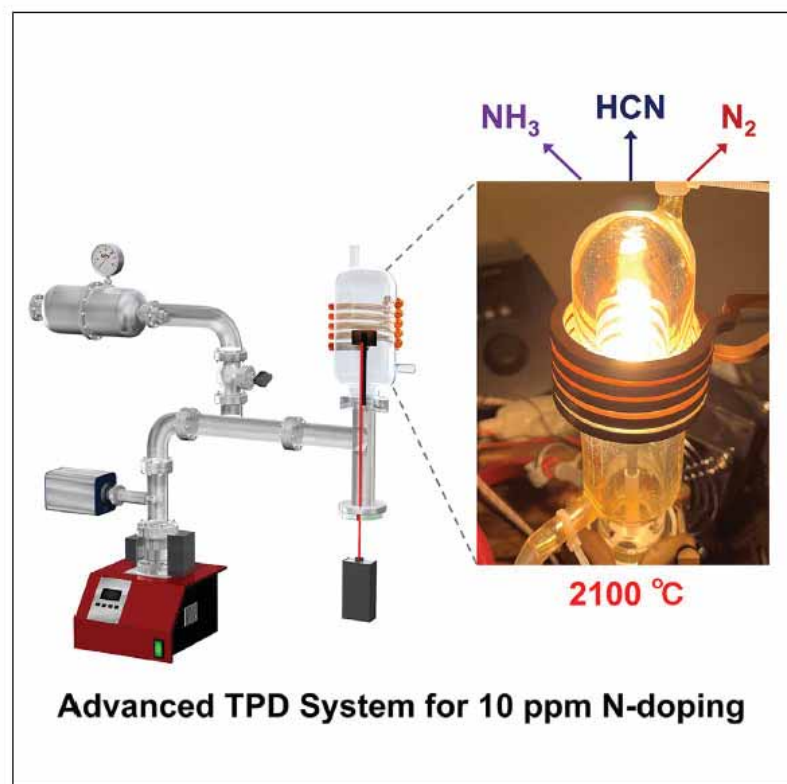
XPS



HT-TPD can quantify N species at a ppm-level.

## Article

## Quantitative and qualitative analysis of nitrogen species in carbon at the ppm level



Takeharu Yoshii, Ginga Nishikawa, Viki Kumar Prasad, ..., Eva Scholtzová, Robert Karoly Szilagyi, Hirotomo Nishihara

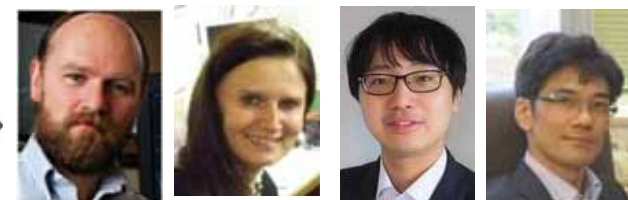
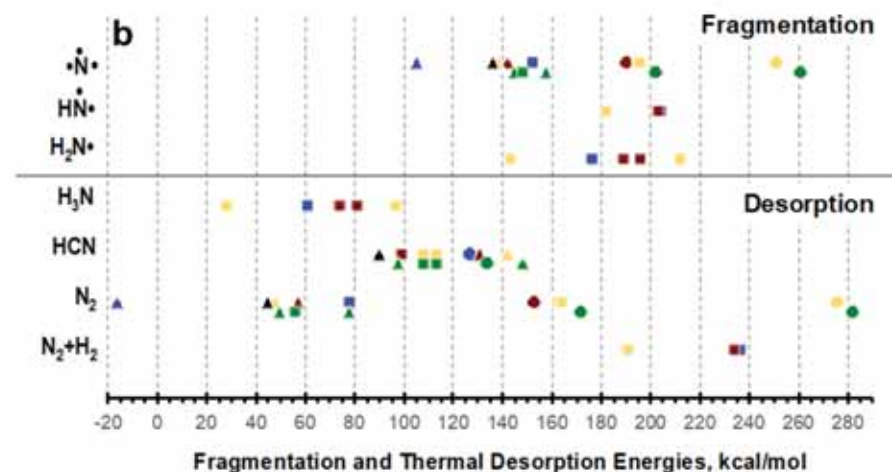
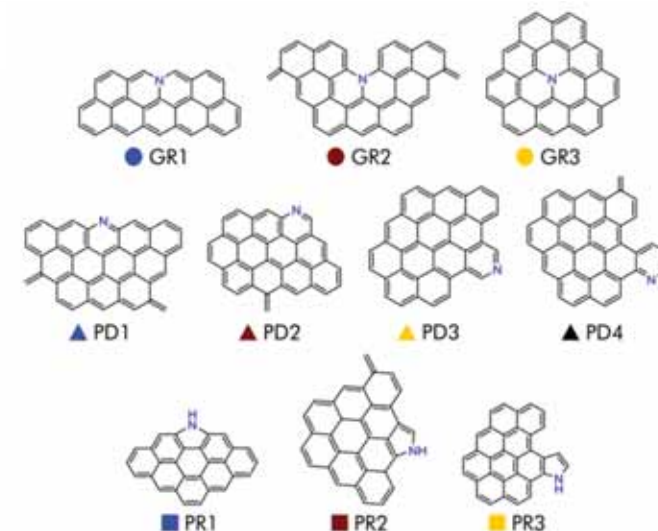
takeharu.yoshii.b3@tohoku.ac.jp (T.Y.)  
robert.szilagyi@ubc.ca (R.K.S.)  
hirotomo.nishihara.b1@tohoku.ac.jp (H.N.)

**Highlights**

Vacuum temperature-programmed desorption (TPD) up to 2,100°C is developed

TPD quantifies nitrogen content in carbon materials at 10 ppm levels

Gas emission profiles correlate with chemical environments of N-dopants



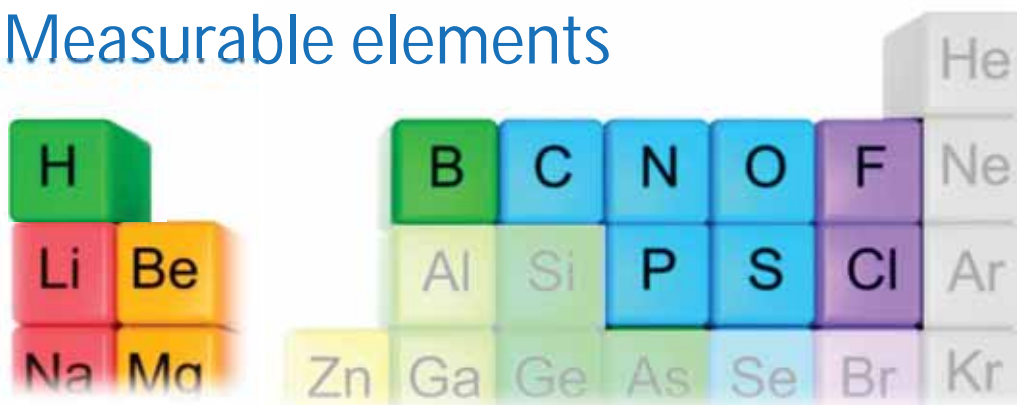
Prof. Robert K. Szilagyi  
Dr. Eva Scholtzová

# HT-TPD for various materials

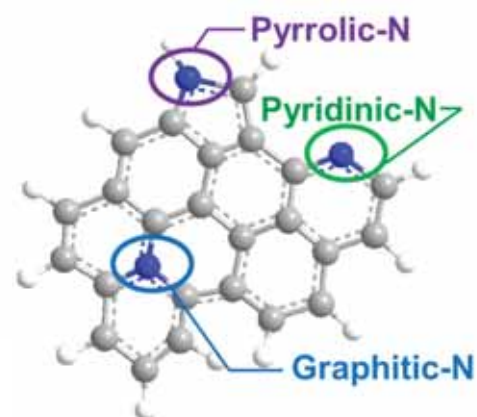


Dr. Yoshii

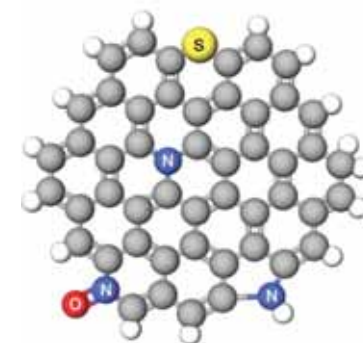
## Measurable elements



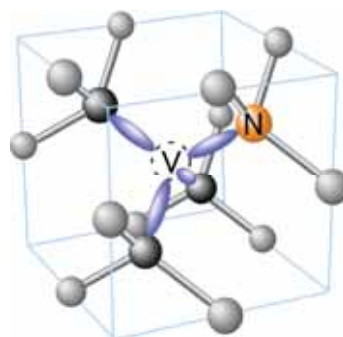
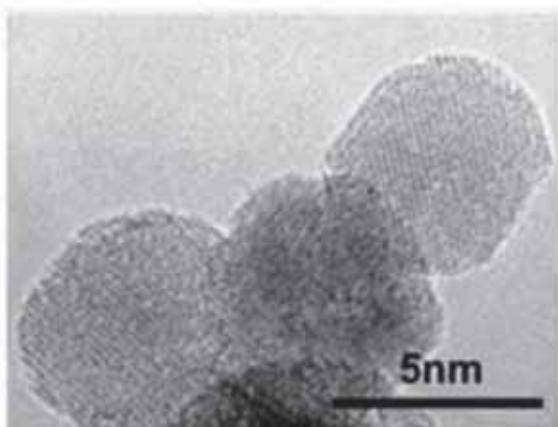
## N-doped carbons



## S-doped carbons



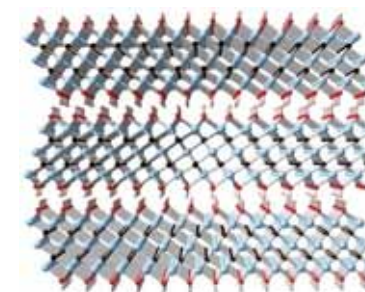
## Nano diamonds



## Inorganic materials



Oxides



Carbides, nitrides



# Analysis of N in perovskite-type oxides



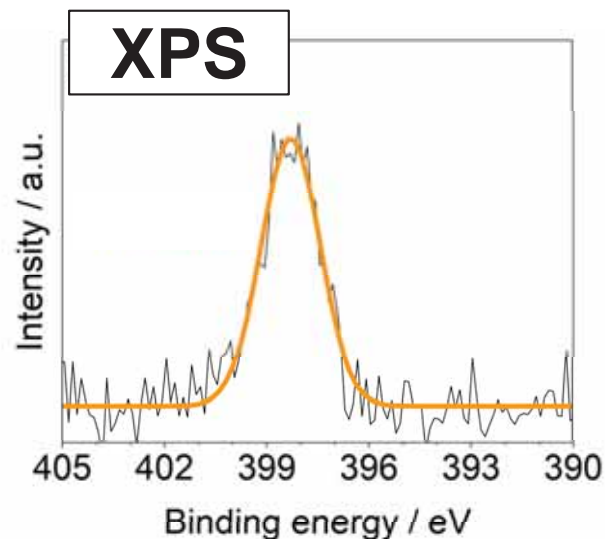
Dr. Yoshii



*Chem. Sci.*, **15** (2024) 10350.

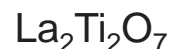
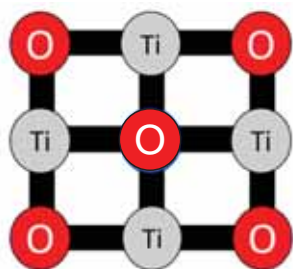
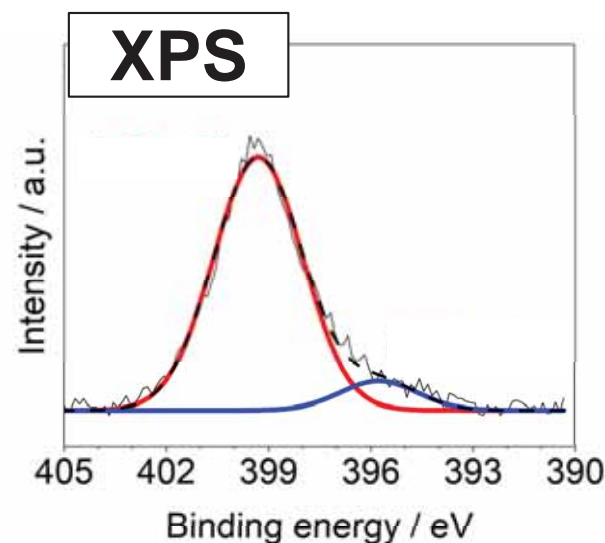
## Photocatalysis $\Delta$

**XPS**

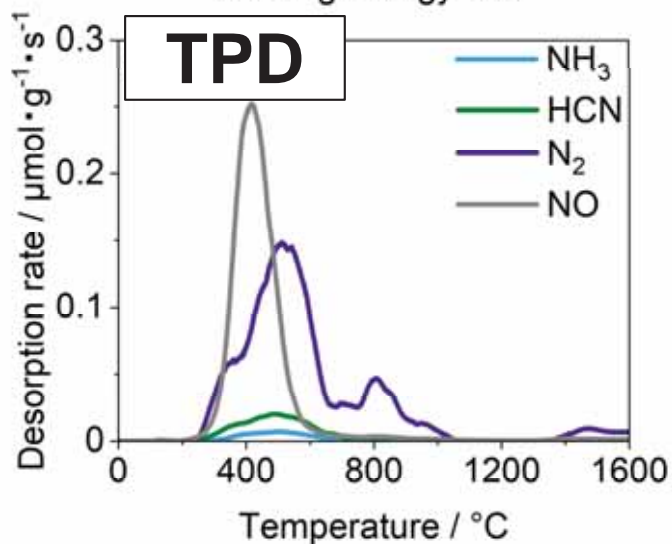


## Photocatalysis $\odot$

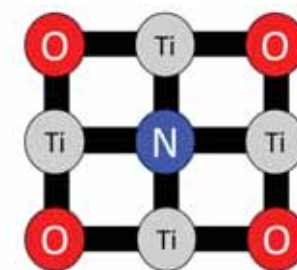
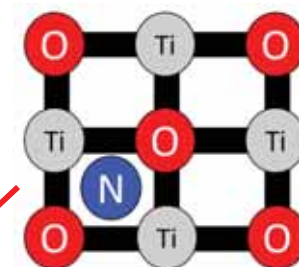
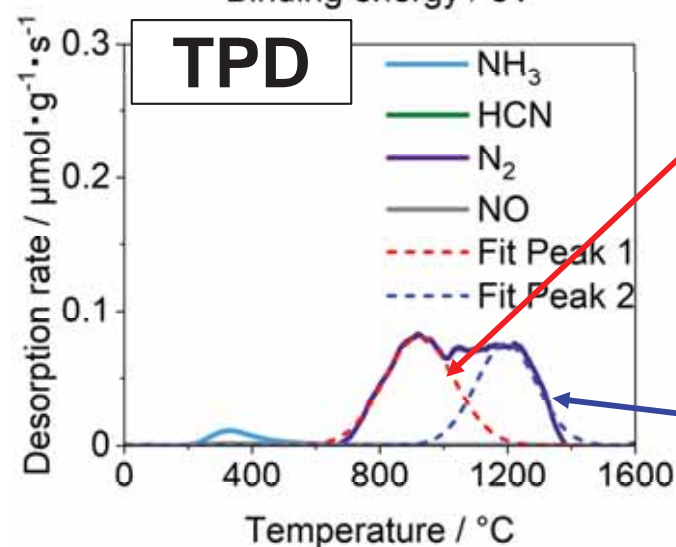
**XPS**



**TPD**



**TPD**



# Summary

We have developed new science, materials, and technologies based on the concept of “**Atomic Design of Carbon-Based Materials**”



<https://atomdec.info/>



**External collaborator**

Canada

**Dr. Robert K. Szilagy**

**The University of British Columbia**

**Dr. Tamás Szabó**

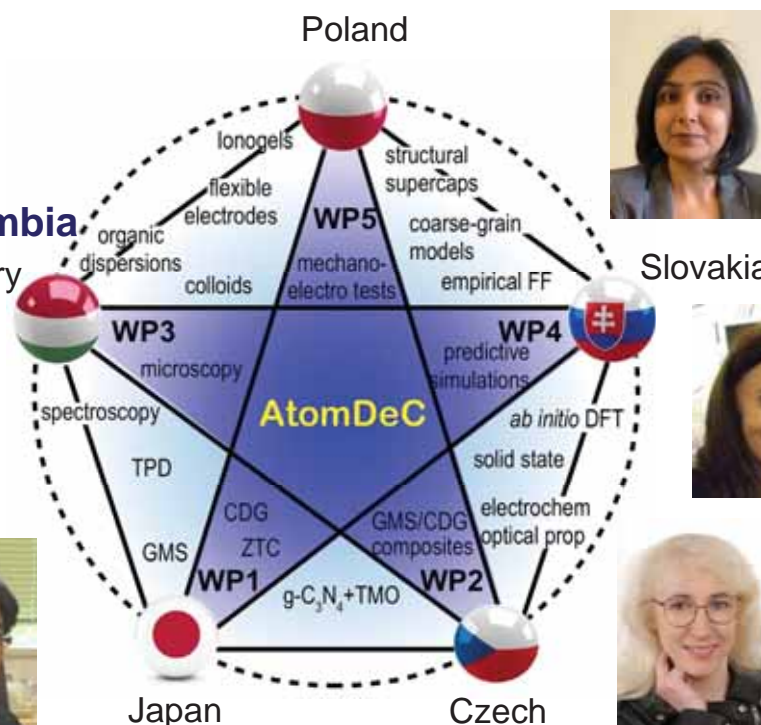
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**Principal Project Leader:**

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**Tohoku University**



**Secondary Project Leader:**  
**Dr. Amrita Jain**

**Polish Academy of Science**



**Dr. Eva Scholtzová**  
**Slovak Academy of Science**



**Dr. Monica Michalska**  
**VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava**



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Prof. Y. Nishina, Okayama Univ.

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Prof. S. Siraishi, Gunma Univ.

Dr. T. Ishii, Gunma Univ.

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Dr. T. Asada, TOC Capacitor Co.

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**Dr. Stephan Irle**, Oak Ridge National Laboratory



*Nishihara lab members*