

# An original tuneable plasma process for the synthesis of tailored nanoparticles

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Namur Institute of Structured Matter



# Outline

## The process

*A versatile plasma process*

## Some plasma diagnostic

*A first approach to study the degradation kinetic of organometallic*

## The different type of nanoparticles

*Tailor-made nanoparticles*

## Conclusions & perspectives



# 1. The process

*A versatile plasma process*



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# The process

An easy plasma process

Plasma degradation of a solid organometallic precursor (M-acac) mixed with powder substrate, in a inert or reactive atmosphere

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Plasma degradation of a solid organometallic precursor (M-acac) mixed with powder substrate, in a inert or reactive atmosphere

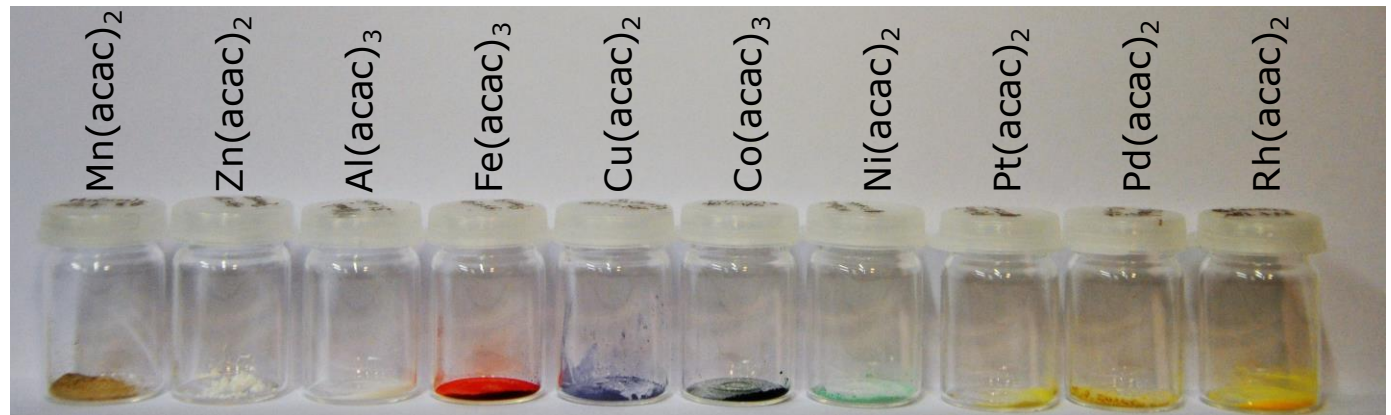
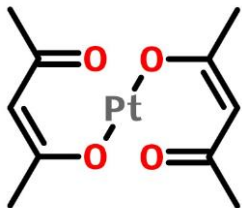
ICP-RF plasma 13.56 MHz

# The process

An easy plasma process

Plasma degradation of a solid organometallic precursor (M-acac) mixed with powder substrate, in a inert or reactive atmosphere

Metal acetylacetonate



# The process

An easy plasma process

Plasma degradation of a solid organometallic precursor (M-acac) mixed with powder substrate in a inert or reactive atmosphere

Graphene nanoplatelets  
Carbon black  
Nanotubes  
Carbon xerogel  
TiO<sub>2</sub>

# The process

An easy plasma process

Plasma degradation of a solid organometallic precursor (M-acac) mixed with powder substrate, in a inert or reactive atmosphere

Argon  
Oxygen  
Nitrogen  
Ammonia



# The process - methodology

## Methodology

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## Methodology

### I. Mixing



Powdery material

Solid OM precursor

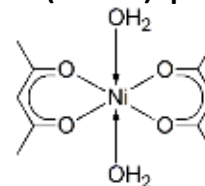


### Raw materials:

Mesoporous carbon xerogel

Graphene, xerogel,  $\text{TiO}_2$ , ...

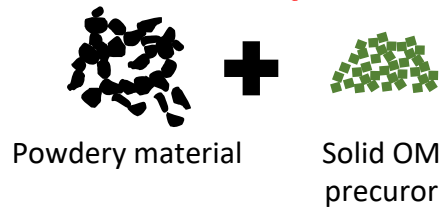
M(acac) powder precursor (crystalline)



# The process - methodology

## Methodology

### I. Mixing

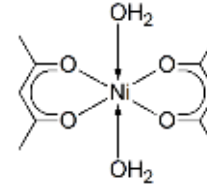


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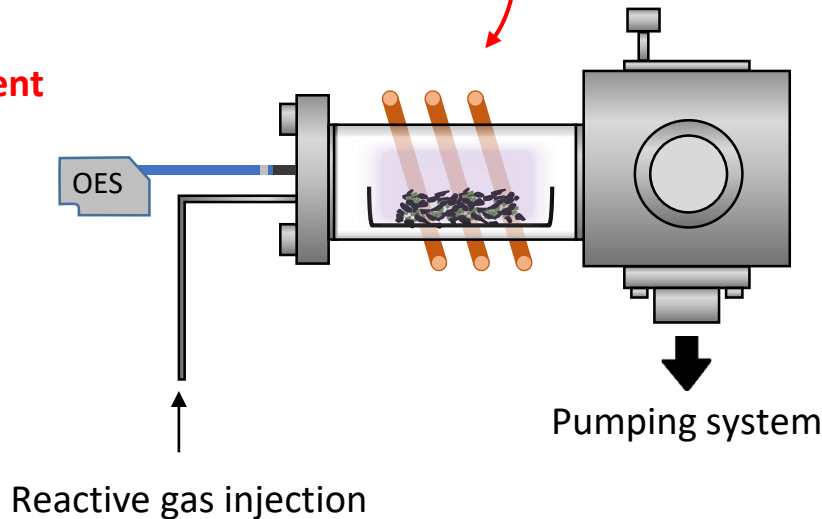
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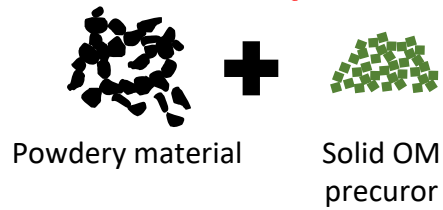
### II. Plasma treatment



# The process - methodology

## Methodology

### I. Mixing

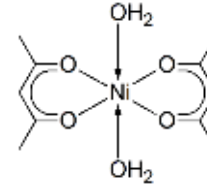


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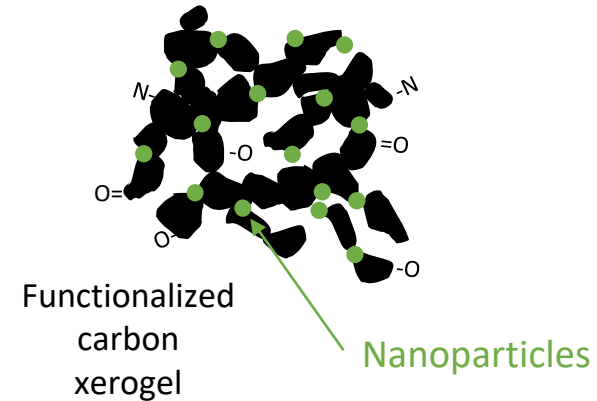
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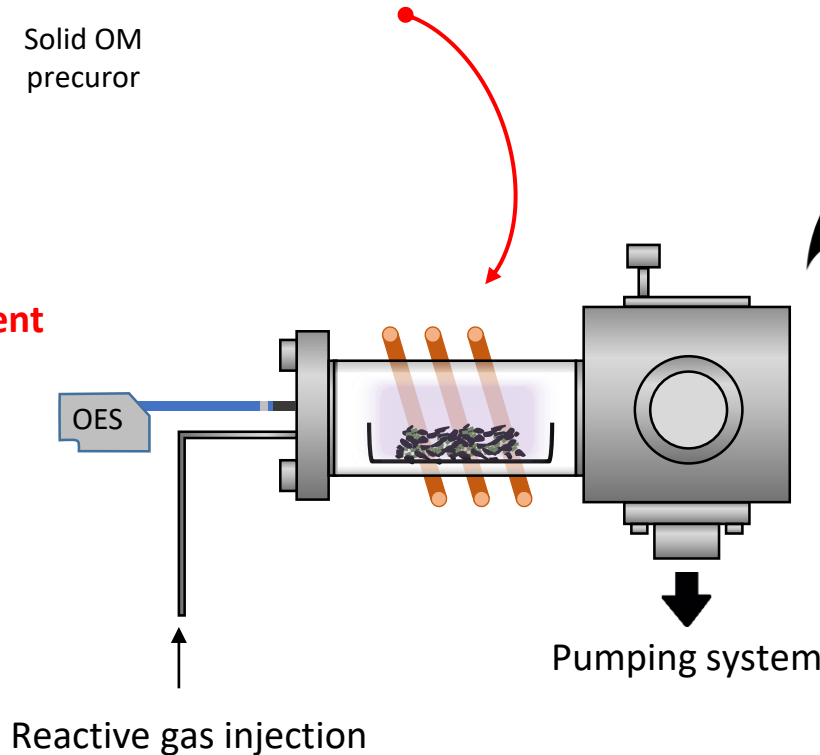
M(acac) powder precursor (crystalline)



### III. Nanoparticles formation



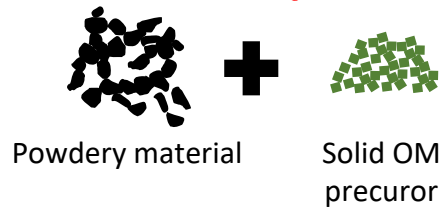
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# The process - methodology

## Methodology

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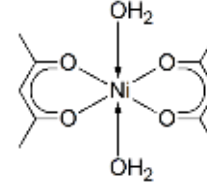


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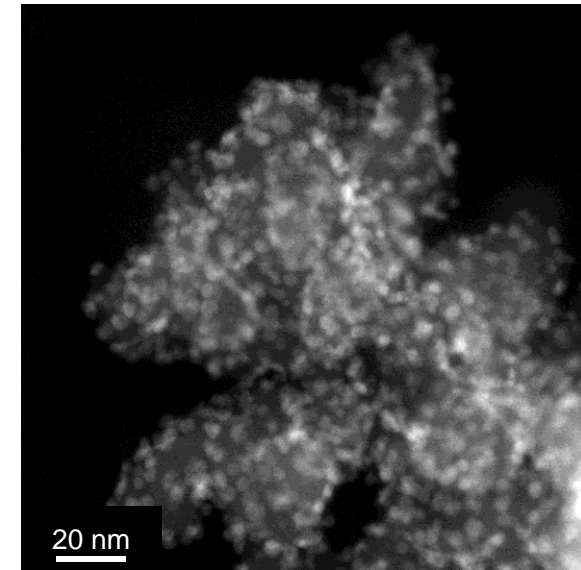
Mesoporous carbon xerogel

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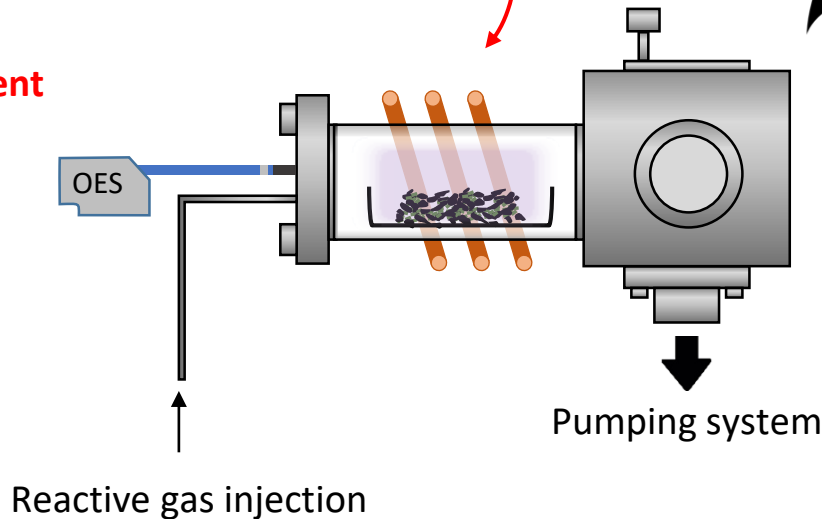
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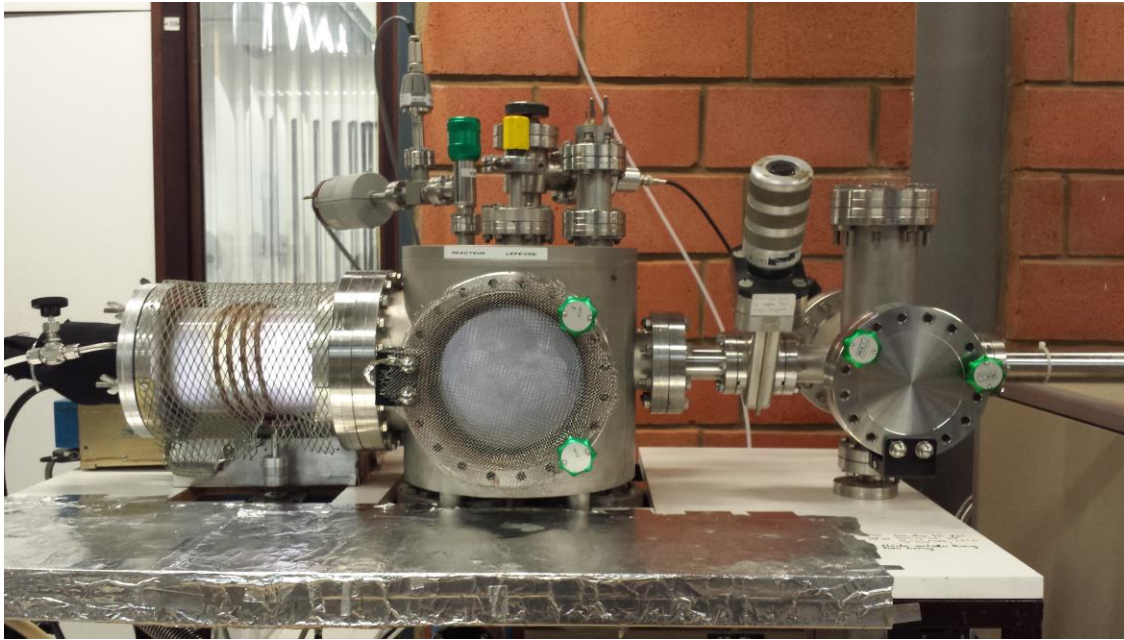
### III. Nanoparticles formation



### II. Plasma treatment



# The process – Pros & Cons



## Variable parameters

Pressure

Power/time

Gas (Ar/O<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub> or NH<sub>3</sub>)

## Pros

Dry & cheap\* process

Short ( $\approx 1$ h), low temperature

Upscalable

Substrate functionalization

Control of the chemistry, size and crystallinity

**Plasma diagnostic**

## Cons

Difficult to adjust the metal loading

What happens to organic part?

Poor control of the morphology

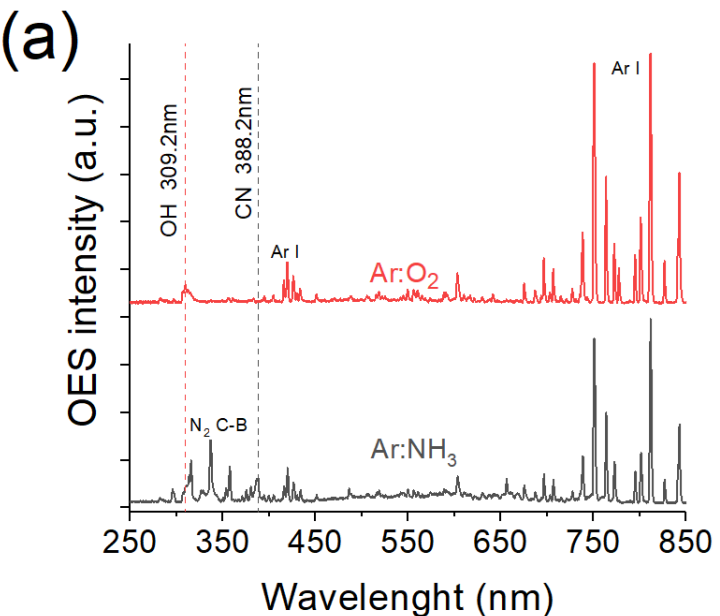
*\* 0.5-2€/g for Fe, Cu, Zn, or Mn(acac)<sub>2</sub>  
compared to Fe sputtering target  $\approx 20-30$ €*

## 2. Some plasma diagnostic

*A first approach to study the degradation kinetic of organometallic*

# Plasma diagnostic – degradation kinetic of organometallic

## Plasma treatment of Ni(acac) in different atmosphere



*Plasma emission at the beginning of the treatment*

HAYE et al., ACS Appl. Nano Mater. 1, 1, 265-273 (2018)

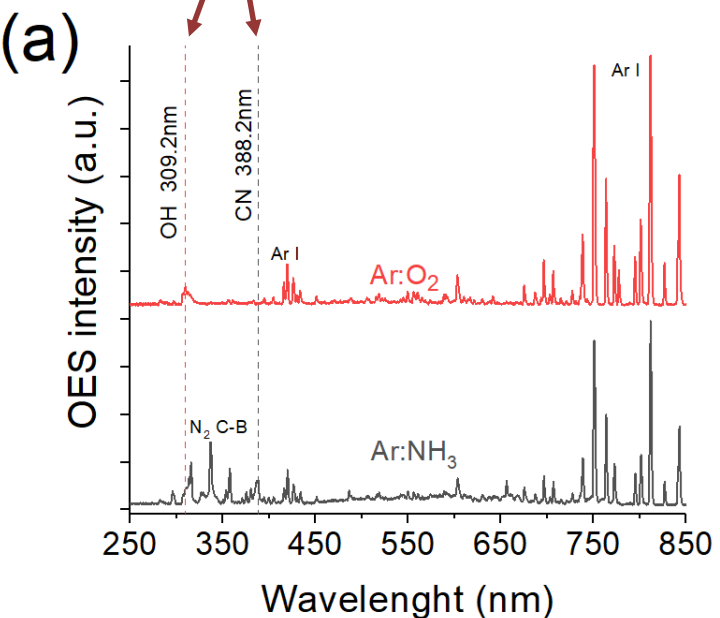


# Plasma diagnostic – degradation kinetic of organometallic

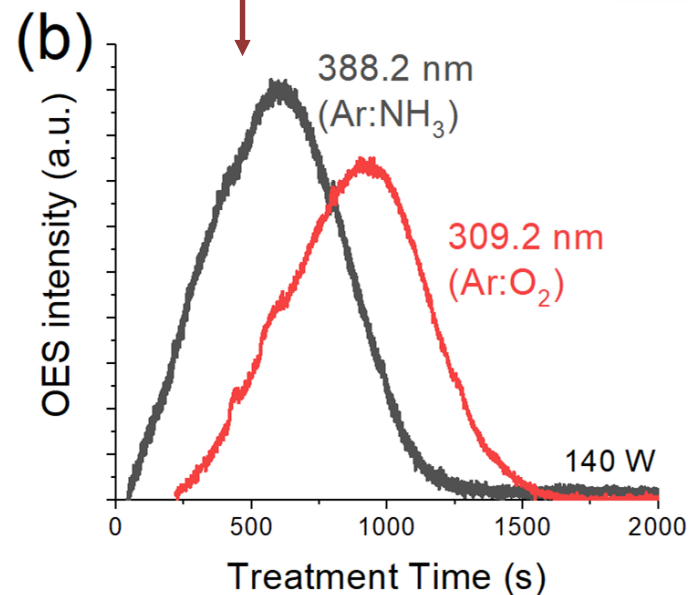
## Plasma treatment of Ni(acac) in different atmosphere

**Organic lines:** rise and fall evolution with time (**OH** or **CN**)

**Ar lines:** constant intensity with time



*Plasma emission at the beginning of the treatment*



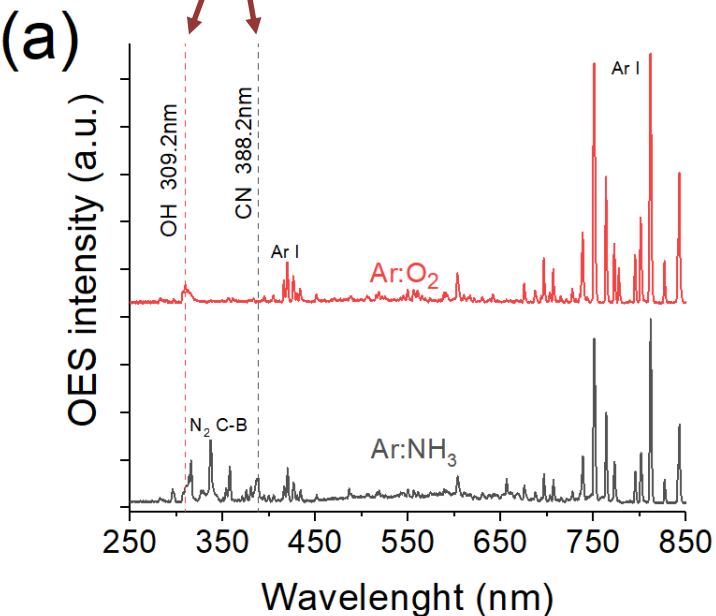
*Evolution of OH lines for Ar:O<sub>2</sub> and CN lines for Ar:NH<sub>3</sub> treatment with time*

# Plasma diagnostic – degradation kinetic of organometallic

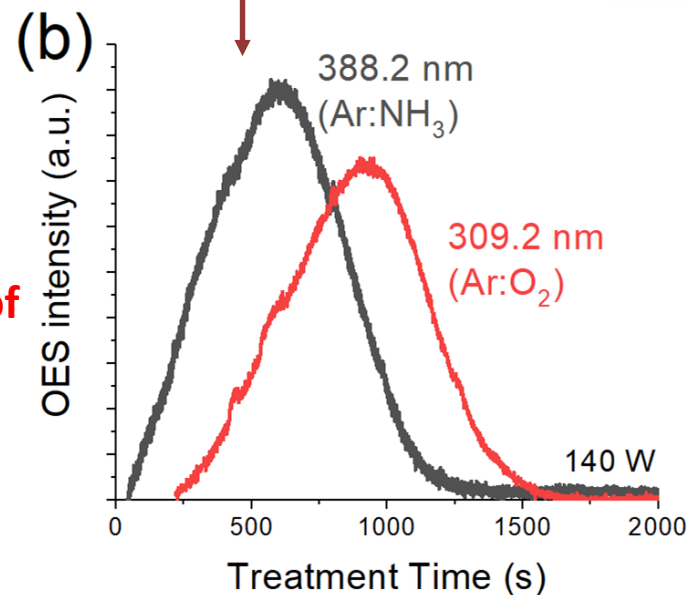
## Plasma treatment of Ni(acac) in different atmosphere

**Organic lines:** rise and fall evolution with time (OH or CN)

**Ar lines:** constant intensity with time



**In-situ monitoring of the precursor degradation**



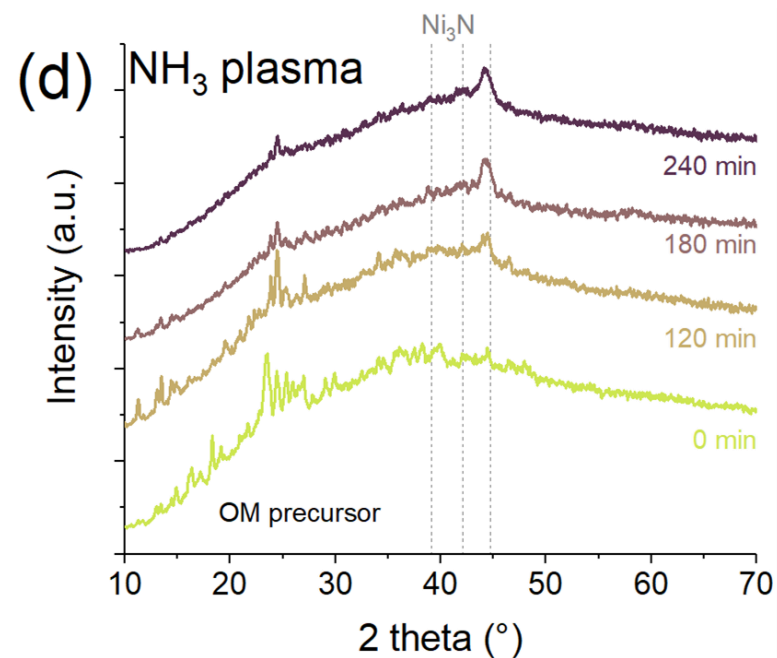
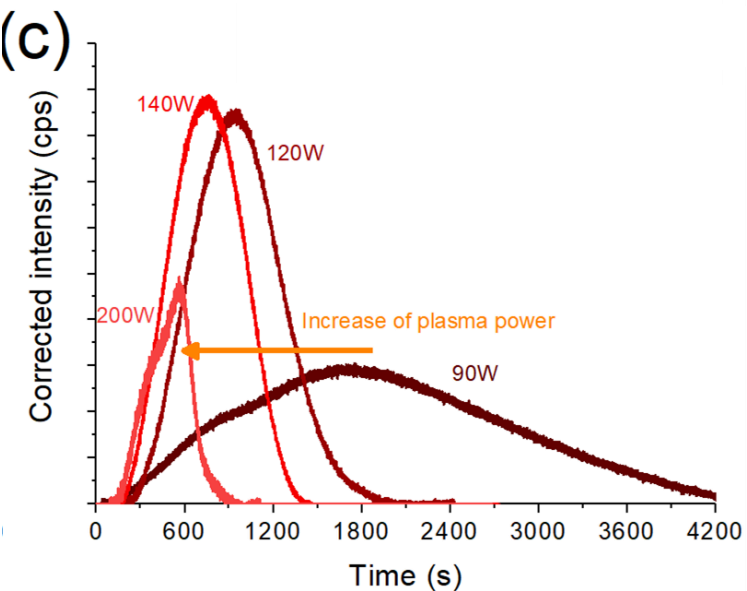
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# Plasma diagnostic – degradation kinetic of organometallic

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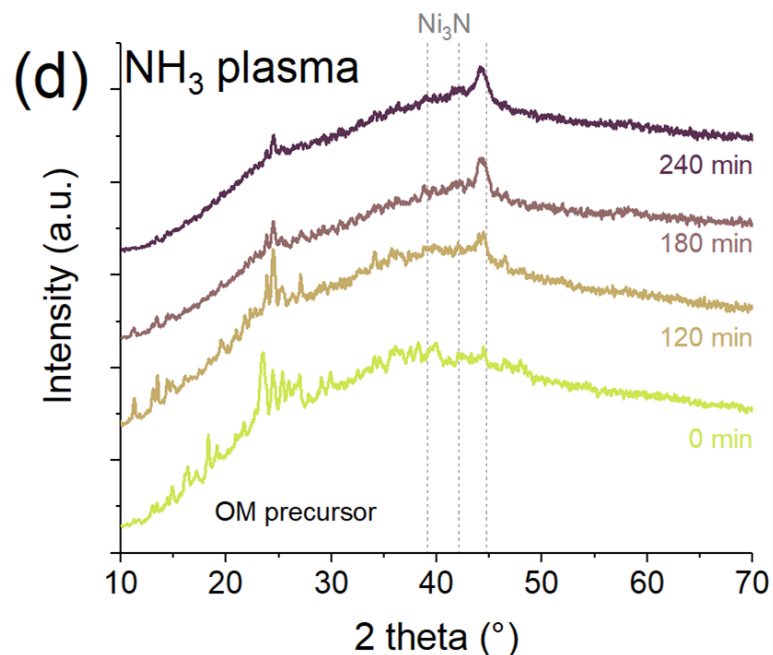
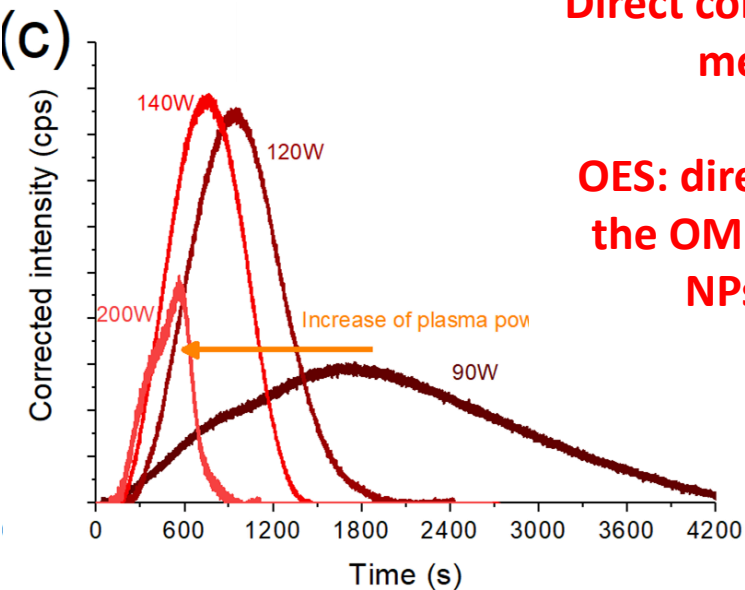
# Plasma diagnostic – degradation kinetic of organometallic

## Plasma treatment of Ni(acac) in different atmosphere

Shift of the evolution with the plasma power

Direct correlation with XRD measurement

OES: direct observation of the OM degradation and NPs generation



### 3. The different nanoparticles

*Tailor made nanoparticles*

# The different nanoparticles – some examples

## Fe<sub>3</sub>N nanoparticles on carbon xerogel

Fe(acac)<sub>2</sub> + XG in

Ar:NH<sub>3</sub>

60min, 200W

Variation of the pressure

6 to 45 mTorr (0.8 to 6 Pa)

# The different nanoparticles – some examples

## Fe<sub>3</sub>N nanoparticles on carbon xerogel

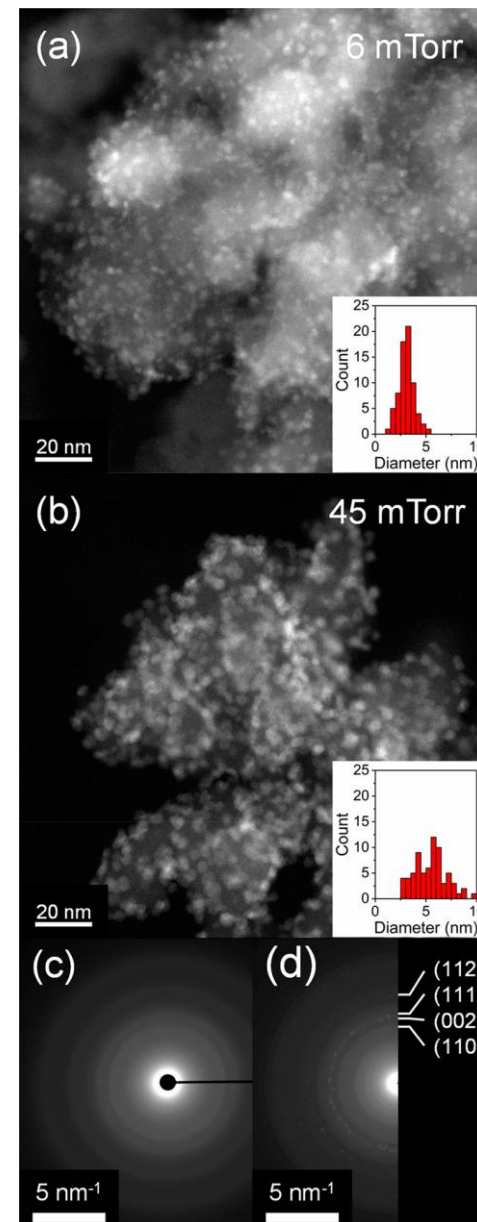
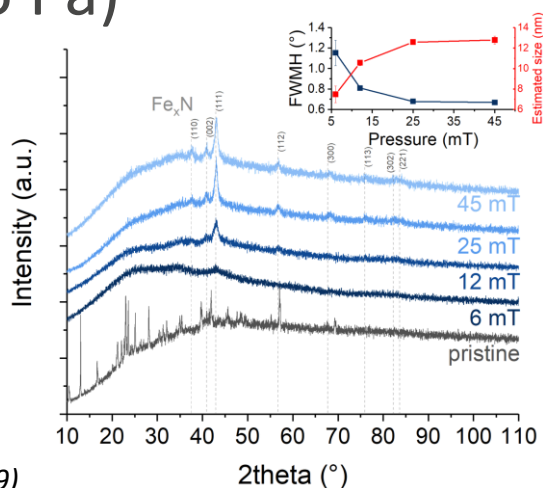
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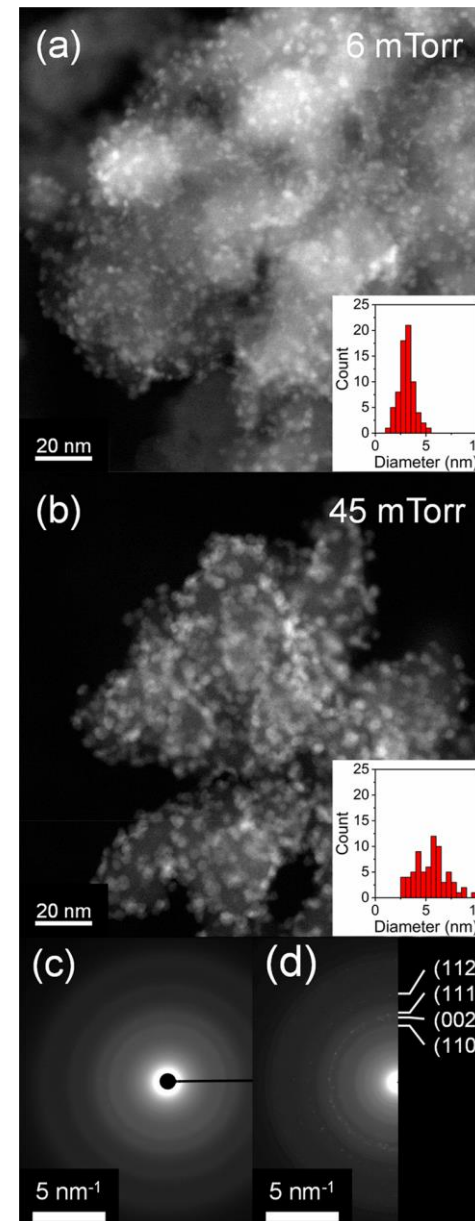
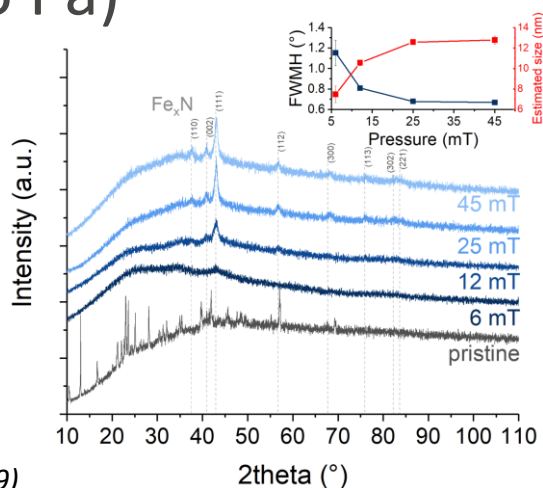
Ar:NH<sub>3</sub>

60min, 200W

Variation of the pressure

6 to 45 mTorr (0.8 to 6 Pa)

Change of crystallinity

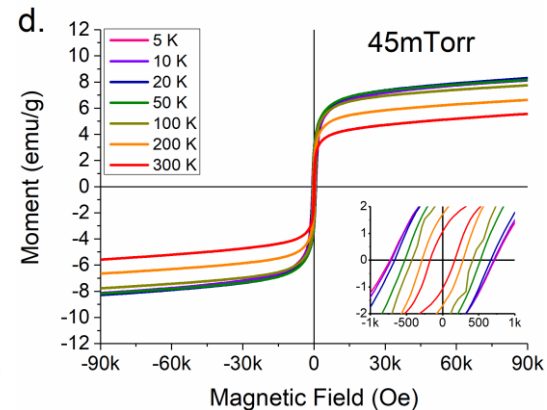
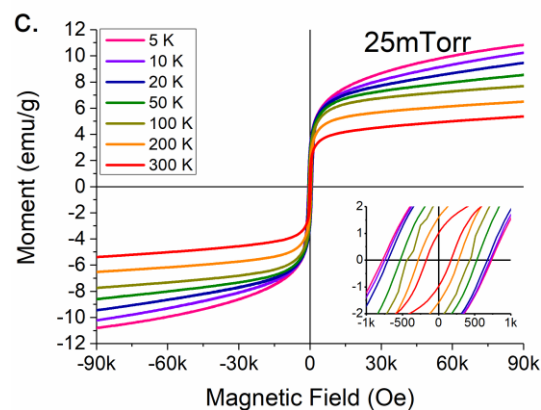
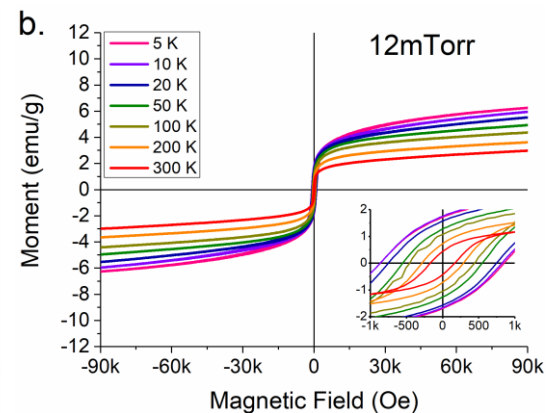
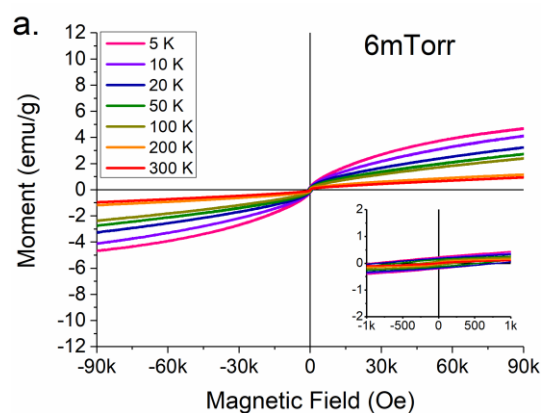




# The different nanoparticles – some examples

## Fe<sub>3</sub>N nanoparticles on carbon xerogel

### Magnetic nanoparticle

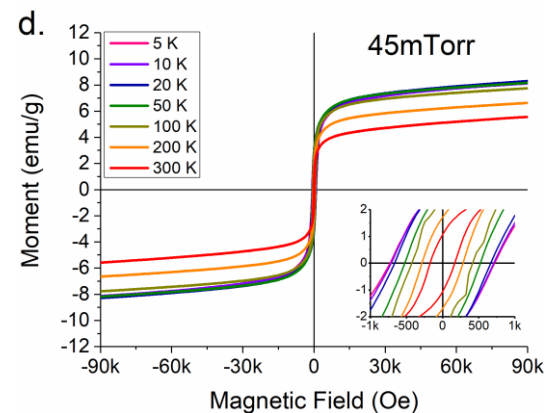
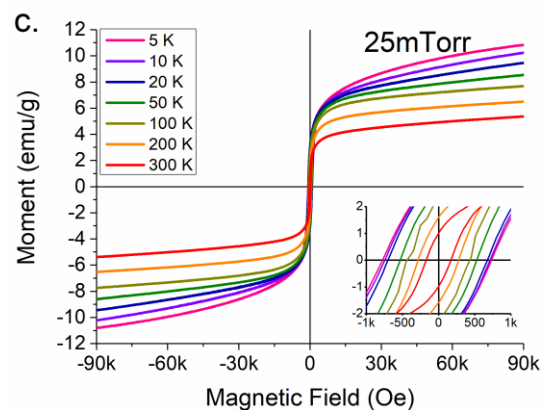
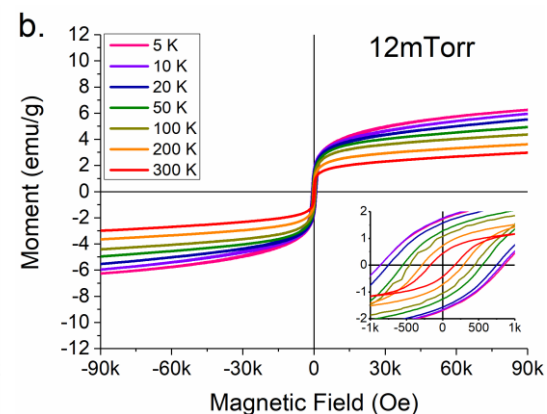
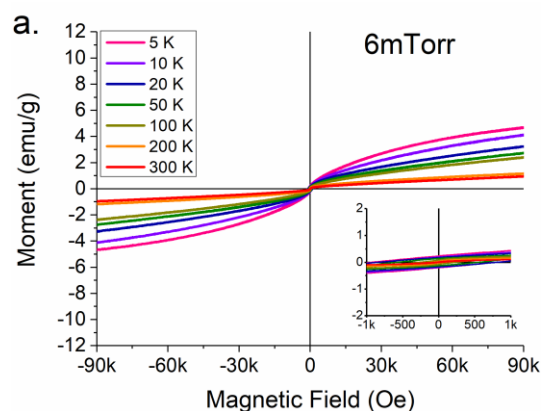
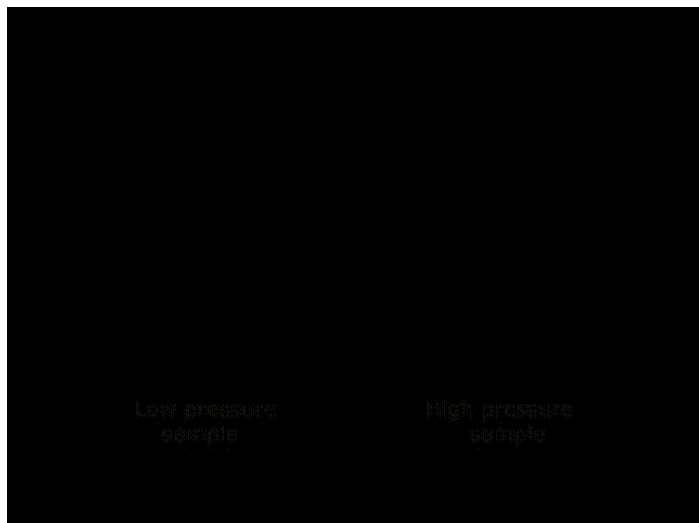


# The different nanoparticles – some examples

## Fe<sub>3</sub>N nanoparticles on carbon xerogel

### Magnetic nanoparticle

Control of the crystallinity  
→ control of the magnetism



# The different nanoparticles – some examples

## ZnO nanoparticles on carbon xerogel

Zn(acac)<sub>2</sub> + XG in

Ar:O<sub>2</sub>

# The different nanoparticles – some examples

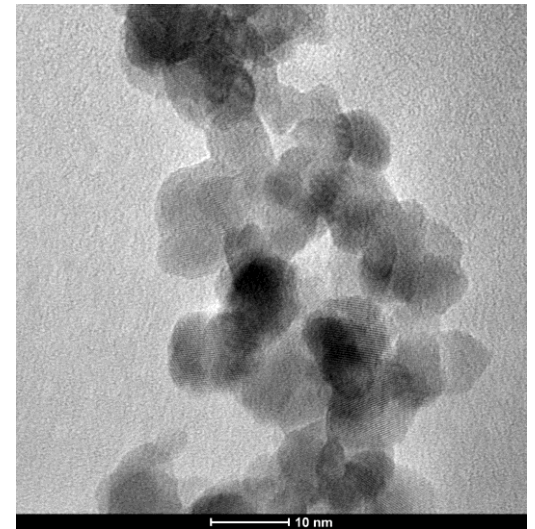
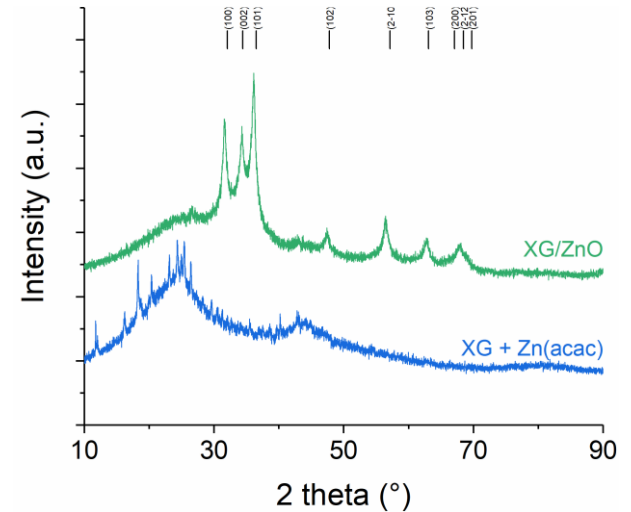
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Zn(acac)<sub>2</sub> + XG in

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Chains of ZnO nanoparticles

ZnO NPs anchored to XG

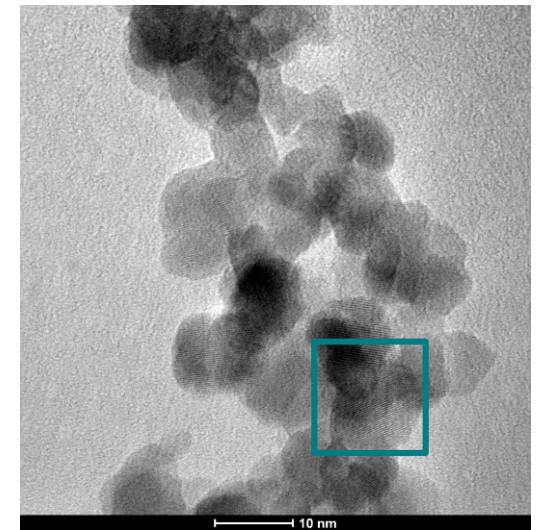
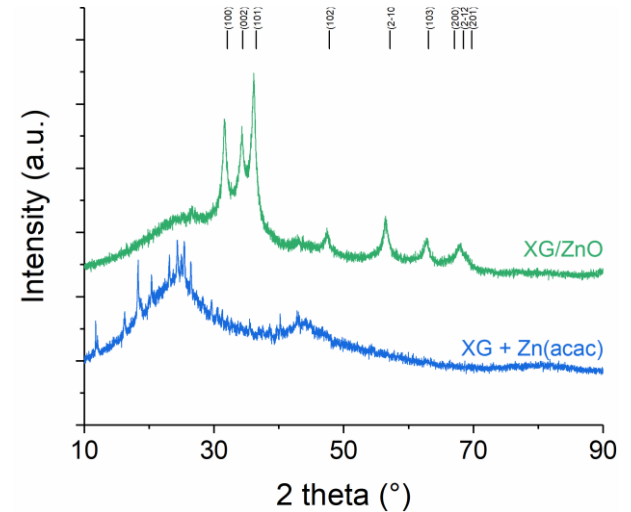
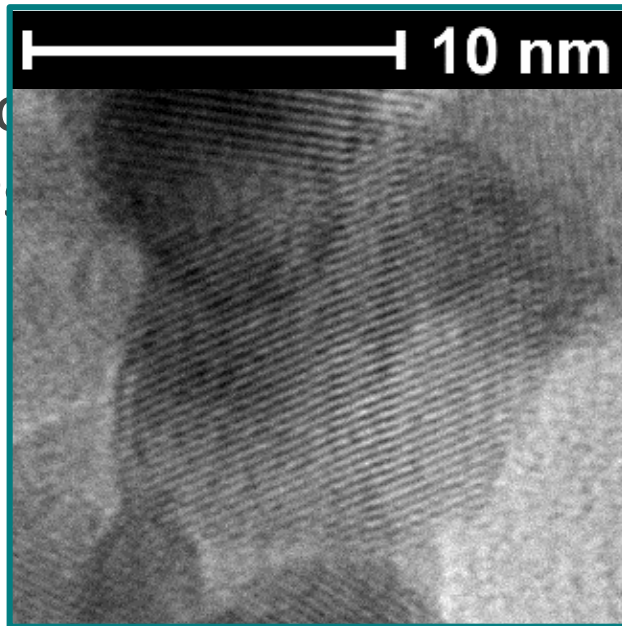


# The different nanoparticles – some examples

## ZnO nanoparticles on carbon xerogel

Zn(acac)<sub>2</sub> + XG in  
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Chains of  
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# The different nanoparticles – some examples

ZnO nanoparticles on carbon xerogel

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Chains of ZnO nanoparticles

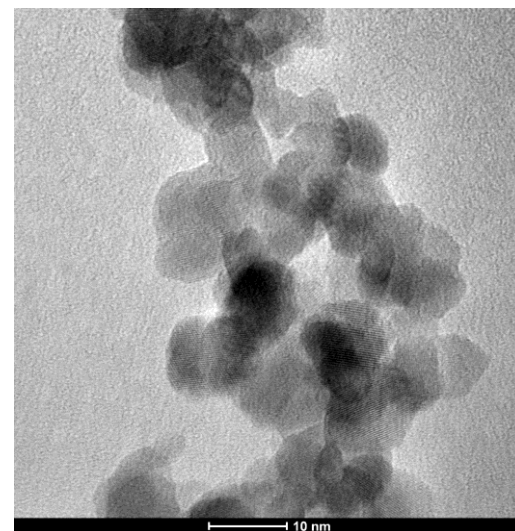
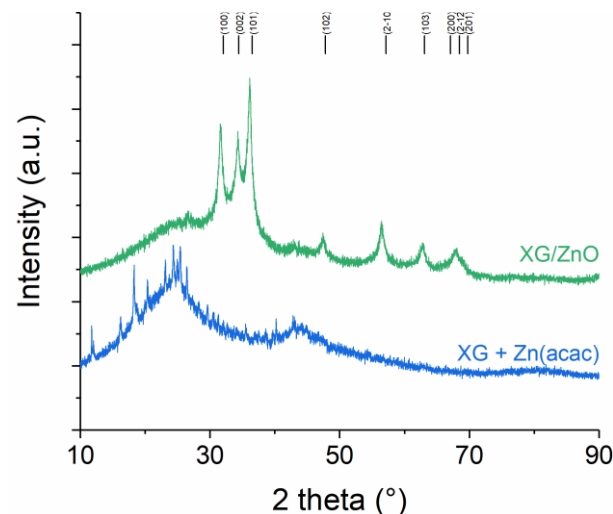
ZnO NPs anchored to XG

**DUAL EFFECT: ZnO nanoparticles synthesis**

**+**

**carbon functionalization**

*Comparison with pure C<sub>XG</sub> treated in O<sub>2</sub> or NH<sub>3</sub>*

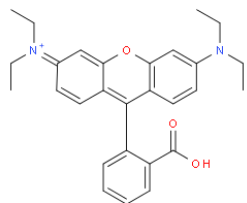


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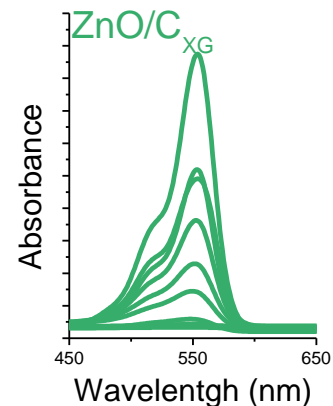
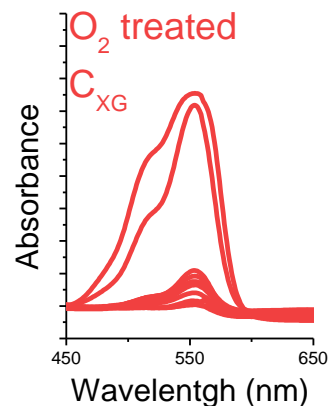
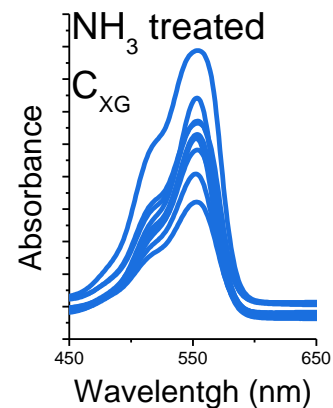
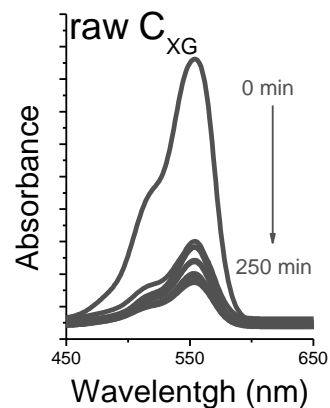
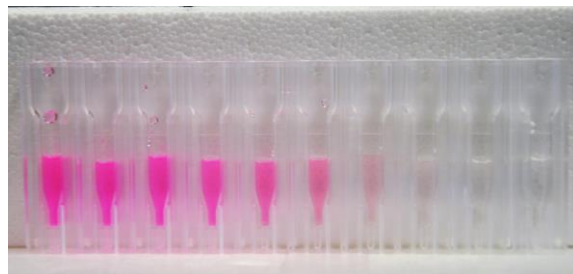
## ZnO nanoparticles on carbon xerogel

Photocatalytic properties  
visible light irradiation (Ne lamps)

Rhodamine B degradation



0 min → 250 min



## 4. Going beyond

*bimetallic*

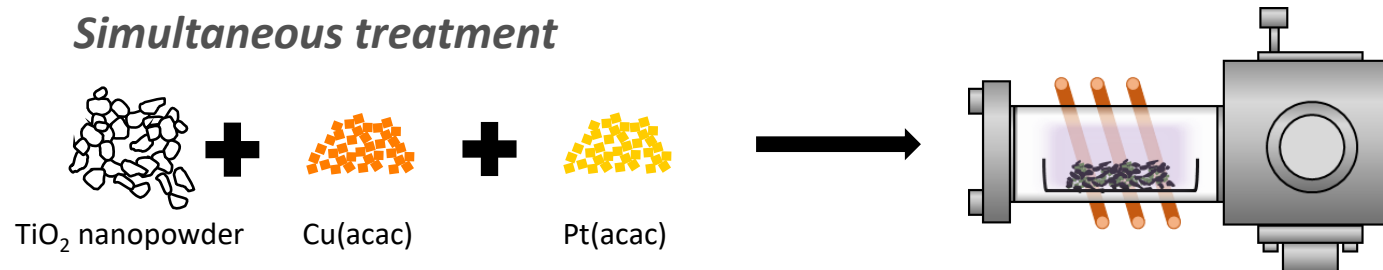


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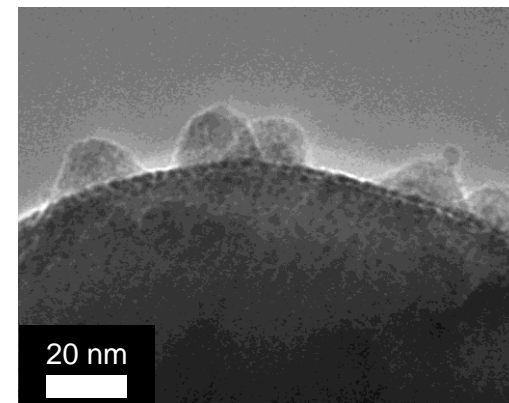
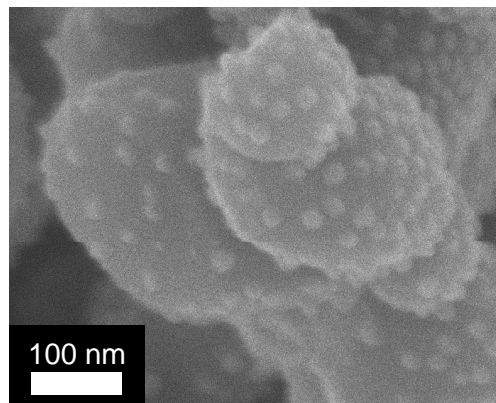
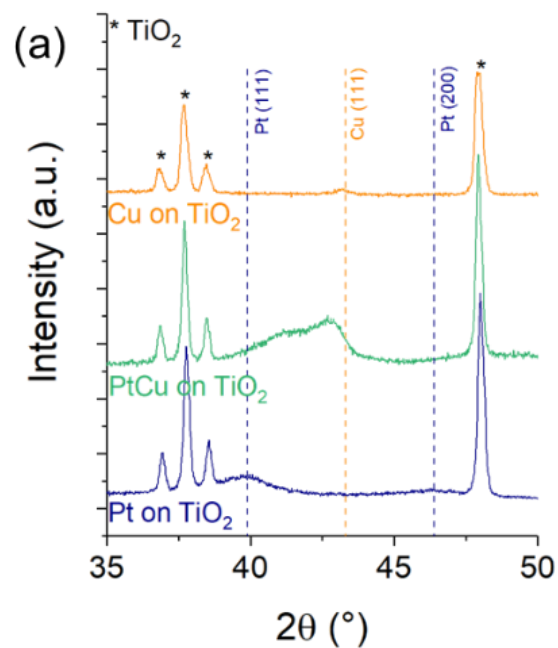
# The different nanoparticles – some examples

## PtCu bimetallic NPs on TiO<sub>2</sub> – simultaneous method



# The different nanoparticles – some examples

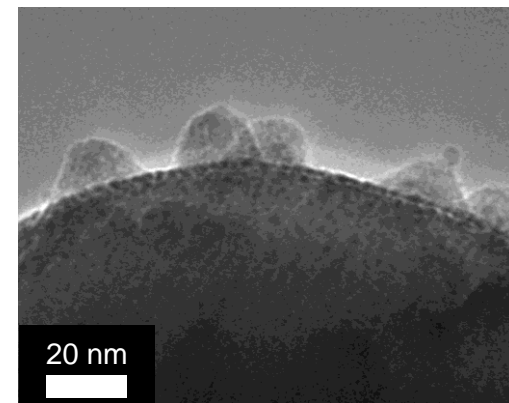
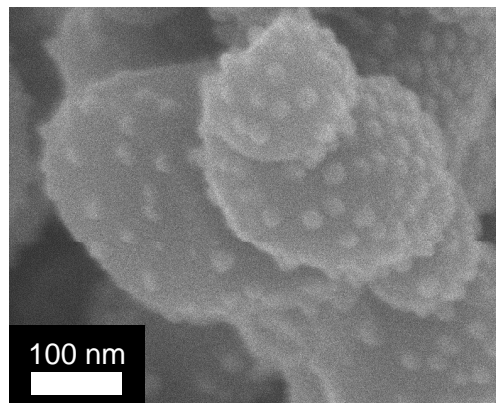
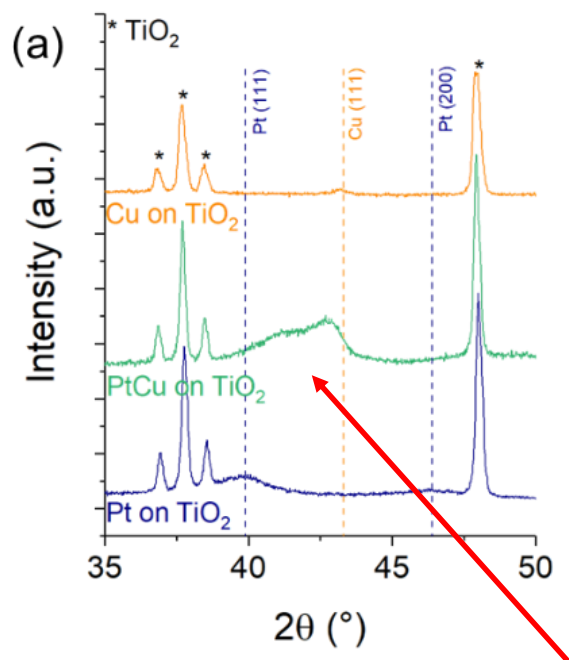
## PtCu bimetallic NPs on TiO<sub>2</sub> – simultaneous method



PtCu on TiO<sub>2</sub>

# The different nanoparticles – some examples

## PtCu bimetallic NPs on TiO<sub>2</sub> – simultaneous method



PtCu on TiO<sub>2</sub>

**Diffraction peak between Cu (111) and Pt (111)  
PtCu alloy formation**

# Conclusions & Perspectives



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# Conclusion

## **A versatile process to synthesis functional nanoparticles**

(Pt, Pd, Rh, Cu, Fe<sub>3</sub>N, Ni<sub>3</sub>N, NiO, ZnO, Cu<sub>x</sub>O<sub>y</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, CoO, MnO<sub>x</sub>, PtNi, PtCu)

**The sky is the limit**

## **Take home message:**

*Possibility to control the size,  
the crystallinity and the chemistry of the NPs*

Pressure ●————● Crystallinity  
Power/time ●————● Size  
Gas ●————● Chemistry

Thank you for your attention  
Question?

## Acknowledgments:

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J. Ghanbaja



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G. Dudek



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**SIAM, PC<sup>2</sup> & Morph'IM platforms**

