



# Solid-state NMR studies of carbon materials – a multinuclear approach

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# Research on Carbon Materials in Vitória

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## Some materials of interest:

- ✓ Chars produced from natural resources (peat, rice hulls, coconuts, etc).
- ✓ Carbon blacks produced by plasma pyrolysis of natural gas.
- ✓ Plasma modified vacuum residues of oil refinement.
- ✓ Activated carbons.
- ✓ Composites of porous carbons and nanoparticles.

## Some characterization techniques:

- ✓ XRD, SEM, NMR ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{29}\text{Si}$ , etc), Mössbauer spectroscopy, TG, DSC, CHNSO analysis, etc.
- ✓ Textural properties (BET surface area, pore size distribution, true density, etc).
- ✓ Physical properties (electrical resistivity, magnetic susceptibility, etc).



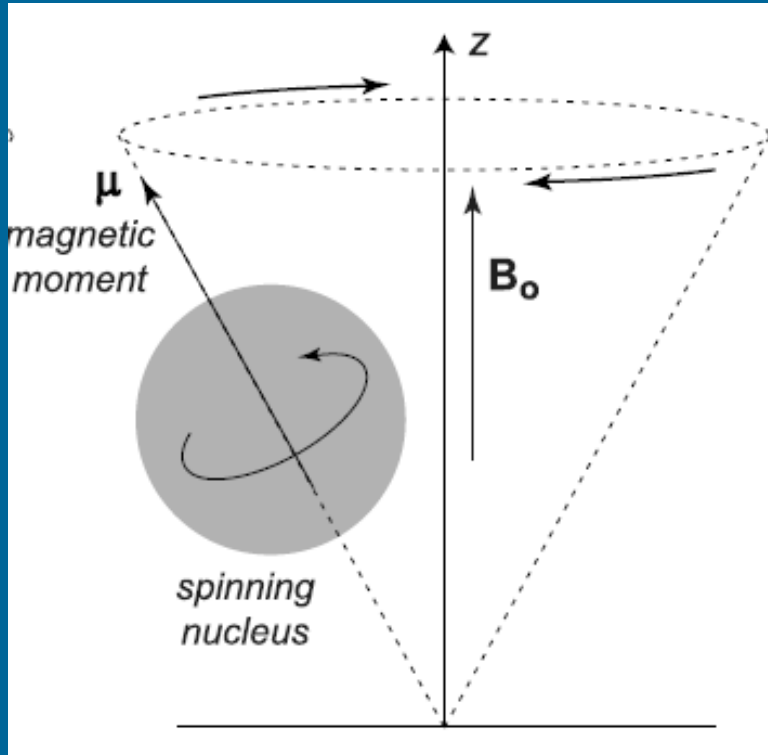
# Outline

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- **Background on solid-state NMR spectroscopy.**
- **Solid-state NMR methods applied to carbon materials.**
- **Selected applications:**
  - **Activated carbons.**
  - **Plasma-derived carbon blacks.**
  - **Alumina-carbon nanocomposites.**

# NMR background

## Larmor Precession:



## Larmor frequency:

$$\omega_L = \gamma B_0 \quad (\sim 10^7 \text{ rad/s})$$

$$f_L = \gamma B_0 / 2\pi \quad (\sim \text{MHz})$$

↓  
Radiofrequency (RF)

# NMR background

Some nuclides of interest for studies of carbons:

| <i>Nuclide</i>    | <i>Natural abundance (%)</i> | <i>Nuclear spin</i> | <i>Larmor frequency</i> <sup>a</sup><br>(MHz) | <i>Sensitivity</i> <sup>b</sup> |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <sup>1</sup> H    | 99.99                        | 1/2                 | 100.000                                       | 1.000                           |
| <sup>13</sup> C   | 1.07                         | 1/2                 | 25.145                                        | $1.70 \times 10^{-4}$           |
| <sup>14</sup> N   | 99.632                       | 1                   | 7.226                                         | $1.00 \times 10^{-3}$           |
| <sup>17</sup> O   | 0.038                        | 5/2                 | 13.556                                        | $1.11 \times 10^{-5}$           |
| <sup>23</sup> Na  | 100                          | 3/2                 | 26.452                                        | $9.27 \times 10^{-2}$           |
| <sup>27</sup> Al  | 100                          | 5/2                 | 26.057                                        | 0.207                           |
| <sup>29</sup> Si  | 4.683                        | 1/2                 | 19.867                                        | $3.68 \times 10^{-4}$           |
| <sup>31</sup> P   | 100                          | 1/2                 | 40.481                                        | $6.65 \times 10^{-2}$           |
| <sup>33</sup> S   | 0.76                         | 3/2                 | 7.676                                         | $1.72 \times 10^{-5}$           |
| <sup>39</sup> K   | 93.258                       | 3/2                 | 4.666                                         | $4.76 \times 10^{-4}$           |
| <sup>43</sup> Ca  | 0.135                        | 7/2                 | 6.730                                         | $8.68 \times 10^{-6}$           |
| <sup>129</sup> Xe | 26.44                        | 1/2                 | 27.810                                        | $5.72 \times 10^{-3}$           |

<sup>a</sup> Corresponding to the magnetic field of 2.35 T of a 100 MHz NMR spectrometer.

<sup>b</sup> Relative to <sup>1</sup>H.

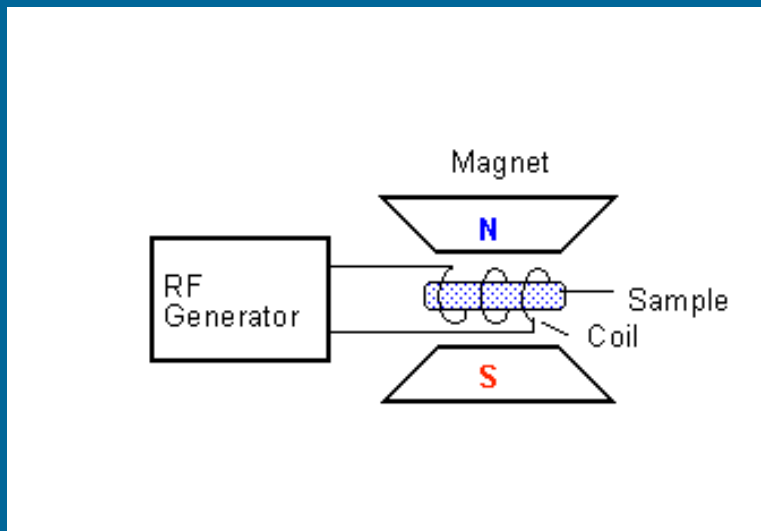
# NMR background

## MOST ABUNDANT NMR ACTIVE NUCLEI

|           |           |                                                                                          |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |  |
|-----------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|
| IA        |           |                                                                                          |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           | VIIIA     |  |
| <b>H</b>  | IIA       | <div>Spin = <math>\frac{1}{2}</math></div> <div>Spin &gt; <math>\frac{1}{2}</math></div> |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           | <b>He</b> |  |
| <b>Li</b> | <b>Be</b> |                                                                                          |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           | <b>B</b>  | <b>C</b>  | <b>N</b>  | <b>O</b>  | <b>F</b>  | <b>Ne</b> |           |  |
| <b>Na</b> | <b>Mg</b> | IIIB                                                                                     | IVB       | VB        | VIB       | VIIIB     | VIIIB     |           |           |           | IB        | IIB       | <b>Al</b> | <b>Si</b> | <b>P</b>  | <b>S</b>  | <b>Cl</b> | <b>Ar</b> |  |
| <b>K</b>  | <b>Ca</b> | <b>Sc</b>                                                                                | <b>Ti</b> | <b>V</b>  | <b>Cr</b> | <b>Mn</b> | <b>Fe</b> | <b>Co</b> | <b>Ni</b> | <b>Cu</b> | <b>Zn</b> | <b>Ga</b> | <b>Ge</b> | <b>As</b> | <b>Se</b> | <b>Br</b> | <b>Kr</b> |           |  |
| <b>Rb</b> | <b>Sr</b> | <b>Y</b>                                                                                 | <b>Zr</b> | <b>Nb</b> | <b>Mo</b> | <b>Tc</b> | <b>Ru</b> | <b>Rh</b> | <b>Pd</b> | <b>Ag</b> | <b>Cd</b> | <b>In</b> | <b>Sn</b> | <b>Sb</b> | <b>Te</b> | <b>I</b>  | <b>Xe</b> |           |  |
| <b>Cs</b> | <b>Ba</b> | <b>La</b>                                                                                | <b>Hf</b> | <b>Ta</b> | <b>W</b>  | <b>Re</b> | <b>Os</b> | <b>Ir</b> | <b>Pt</b> | <b>Au</b> | <b>Hg</b> | <b>Tl</b> | <b>Pb</b> | <b>Bi</b> | <b>Po</b> | <b>At</b> | <b>Rn</b> |           |  |
| <b>Fr</b> | <b>Rd</b> | <b>Ac</b>                                                                                |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |  |
|           |           |                                                                                          | <b>Ce</b> | <b>Pr</b> | <b>Nd</b> | <b>Pm</b> | <b>Sm</b> | <b>Eu</b> | <b>Gd</b> | <b>Tb</b> | <b>Dy</b> | <b>Ho</b> | <b>Er</b> | <b>Tm</b> | <b>Yb</b> | <b>Lu</b> |           |           |  |
|           |           |                                                                                          | <b>Th</b> | <b>Pa</b> | <b>U</b>  | <b>Np</b> | <b>Pu</b> | <b>Am</b> | <b>Cm</b> | <b>Bk</b> | <b>Cf</b> | <b>Es</b> | <b>Fm</b> | <b>Md</b> | <b>No</b> | <b>Lr</b> |           |           |  |

# NMR background

$$B_0 \sim 1\text{T} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} f_L \sim 43 \text{ MHz } (^1\text{H}) \\ f_L \sim 28 \text{ GHz (electron)} \end{cases}$$



RF magnetic field:  $B_1 \sim 10\text{G} = 10^{-3}\text{T}$

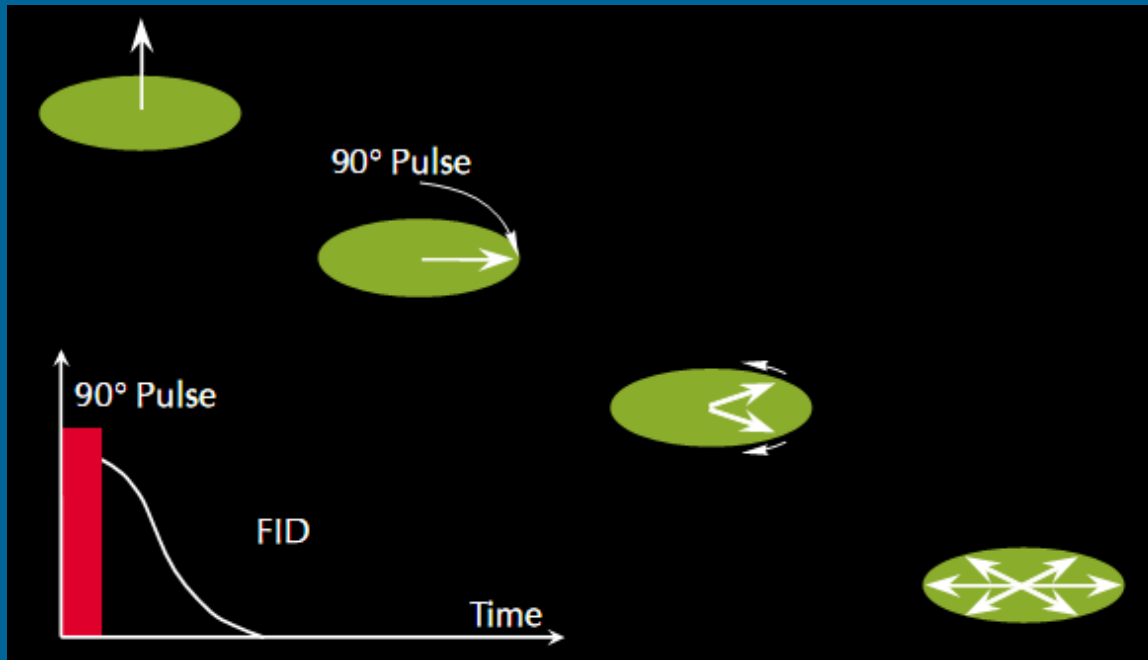
Earth magnetic field:  $B_T \sim 10^{-5}\text{T}$

$$\vec{B}_0 = B_0 \hat{z}$$

$$\vec{B}_1 = (2B_1 \cos \omega t) \hat{x}$$

# NMR background

Single pulse experiment (**SPE**) or **Bloch decay**:



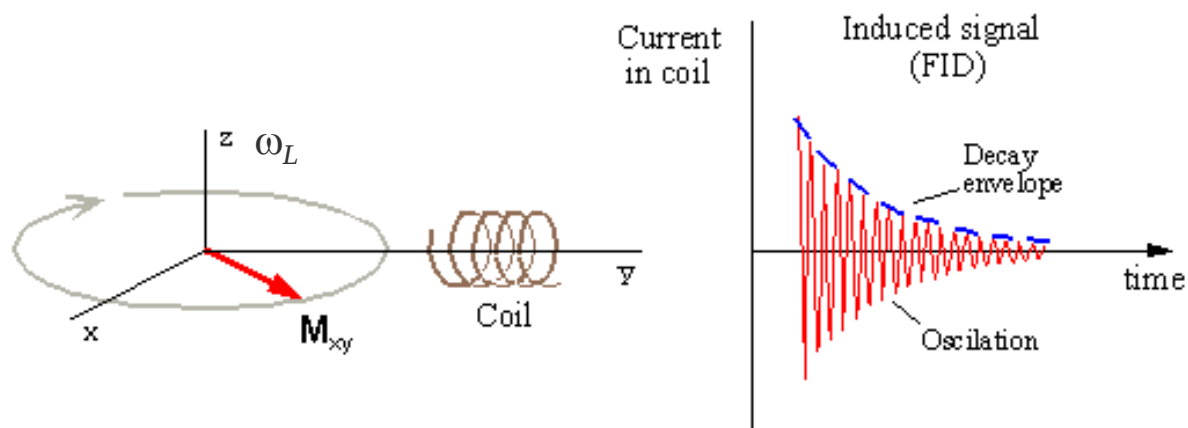
Signal detected at audio frequency:

$$\Delta f = f_L - f_{RF}$$

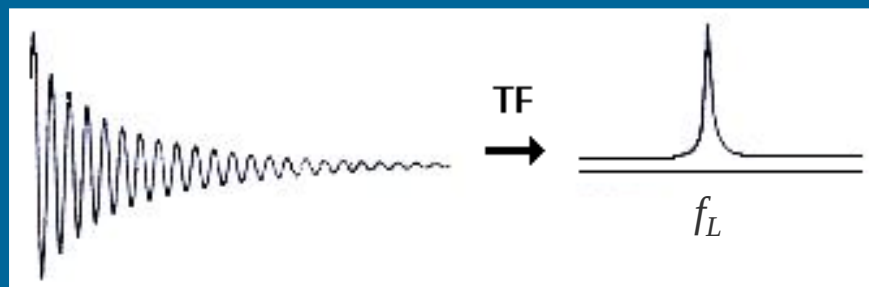
On resonance:  $\Delta f = 0$

# NMR background

FID = free induction decay



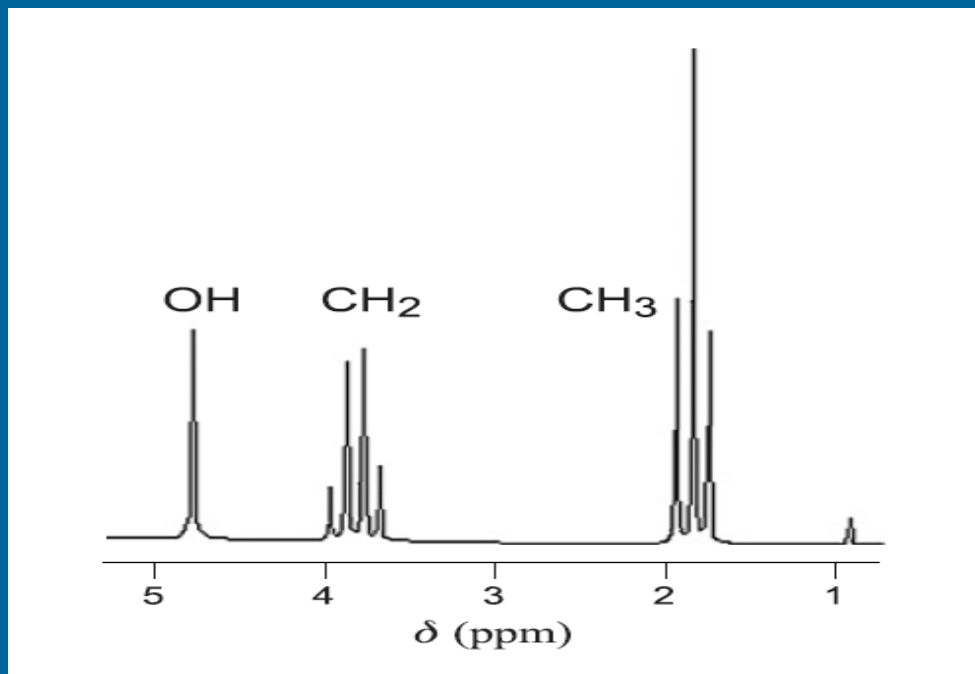
Fourier transform (FT)



FID

Spectrum

# Chemical shielding and chemical shift



Chemical shift:

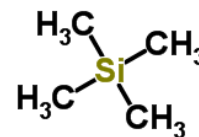
$$\delta = \frac{f_{\text{obs}} - f_{\text{ref}}}{f_{\text{ref}}}$$

Typical values ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR):

$f_{\text{ref}} \sim 400 \text{ MHz}$  (**TMS**)

$f_{\text{obs}} - f_{\text{ref}} \sim 400\text{-}4000 \text{ Hz}$

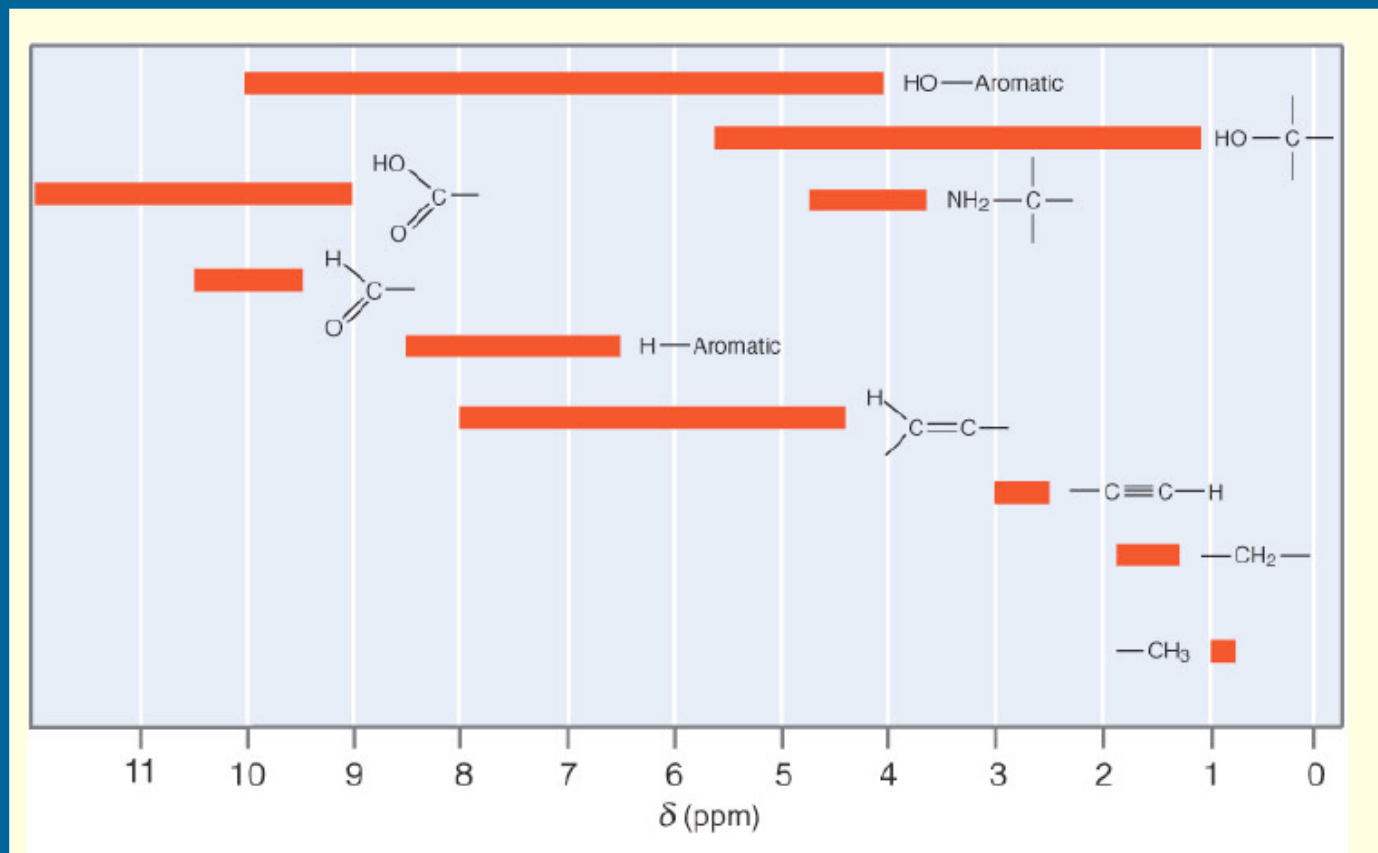
$\delta \sim 10^{-6} \text{ (ppm)}$



Common reference  
for  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^{29}\text{Si}$   
NMR experiments.

# Chemical shielding and chemical shift

## $^1\text{H}$ chemical shift chart:



frequency

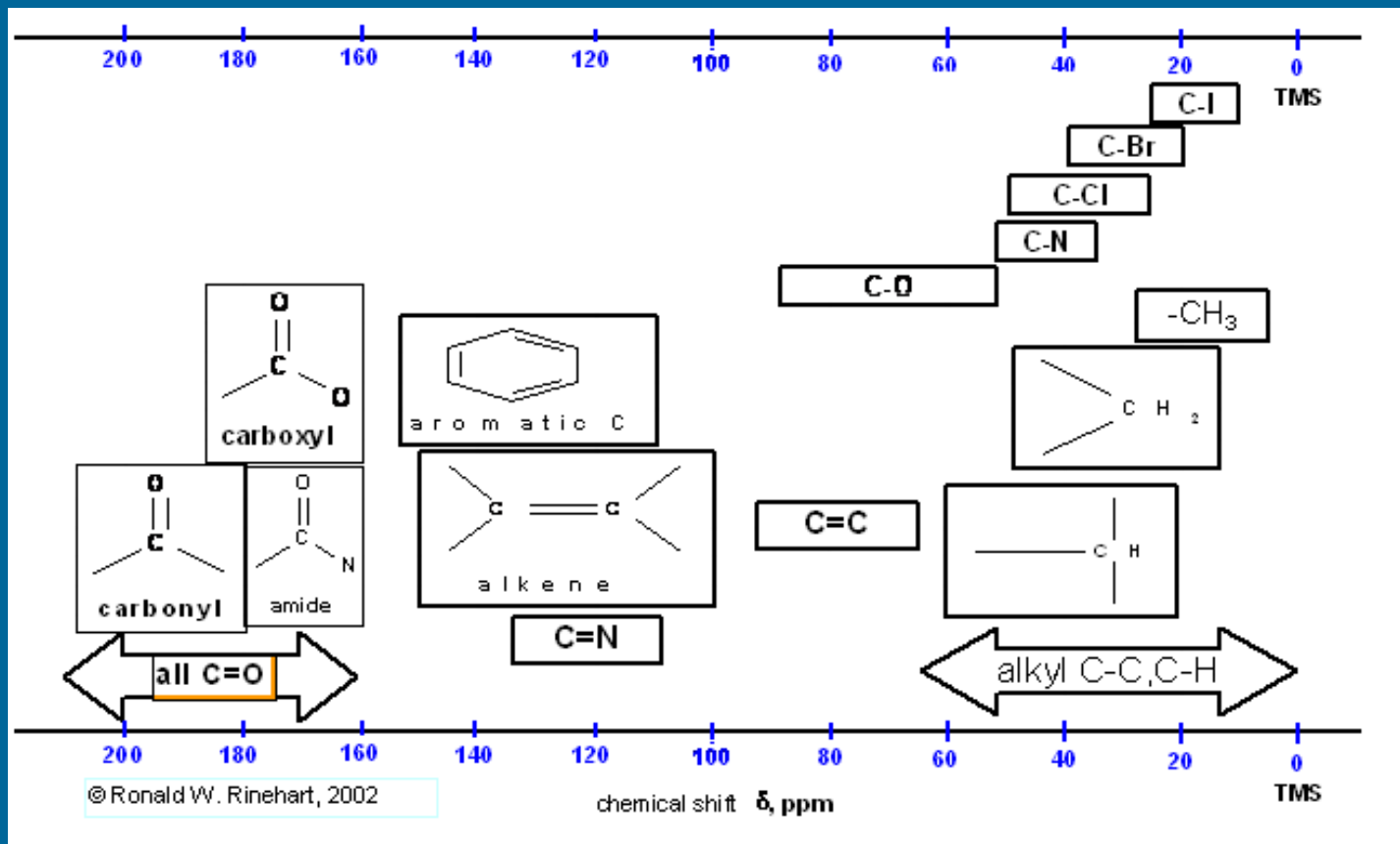


shielding



# Chemical shielding and chemical shift

## $^{13}\text{C}$ chemical shift chart:



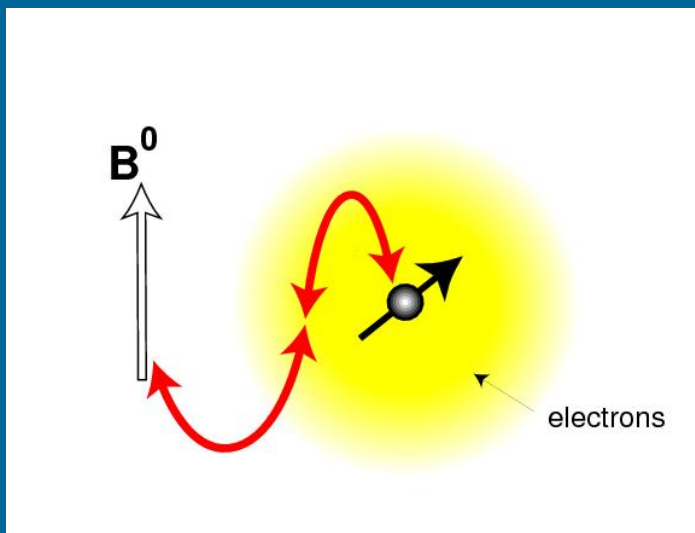
frequency



shielding



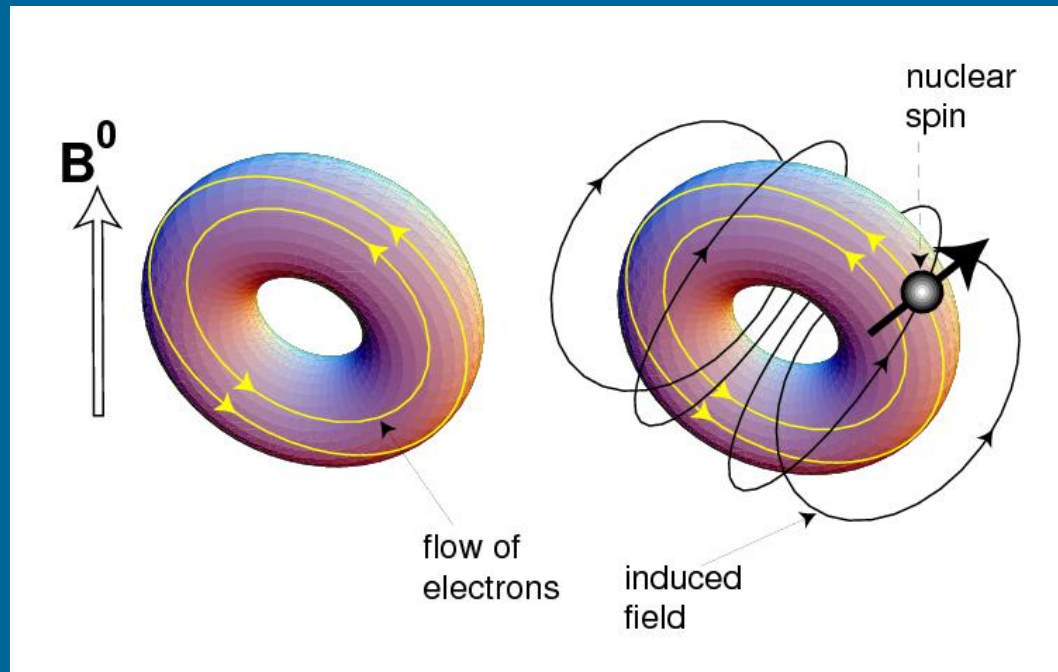
# Chemical shielding and chemical shift



In liquids:

$$\vec{B}_{loc} = (1 - \sigma_{iso}) \vec{B}_0$$

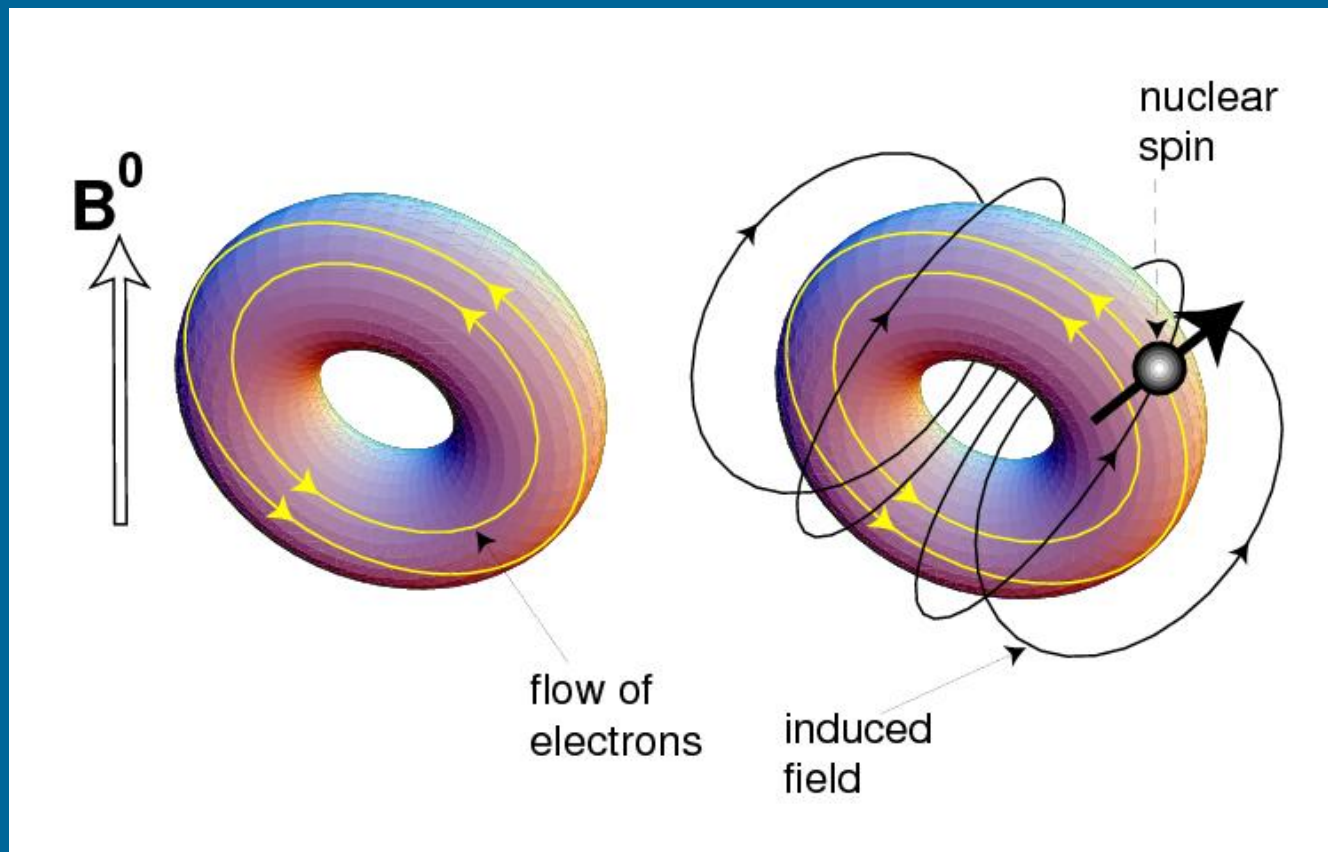
$$f_{obs} = \frac{\gamma B_{loc}}{2\pi} = f_L (1 - \sigma_{iso})$$



$$\delta = \frac{f_{obs} - f_{ref}}{f_{ref}} = \frac{\sigma_{ref} - \sigma_{obs}}{1 - \sigma_{ref}} \cong \sigma_{ref} - \sigma_{obs}$$

"Spin dynamics", M. H. Levitt. John Wiley & Sons, 2002.

# Chemical shielding in solids

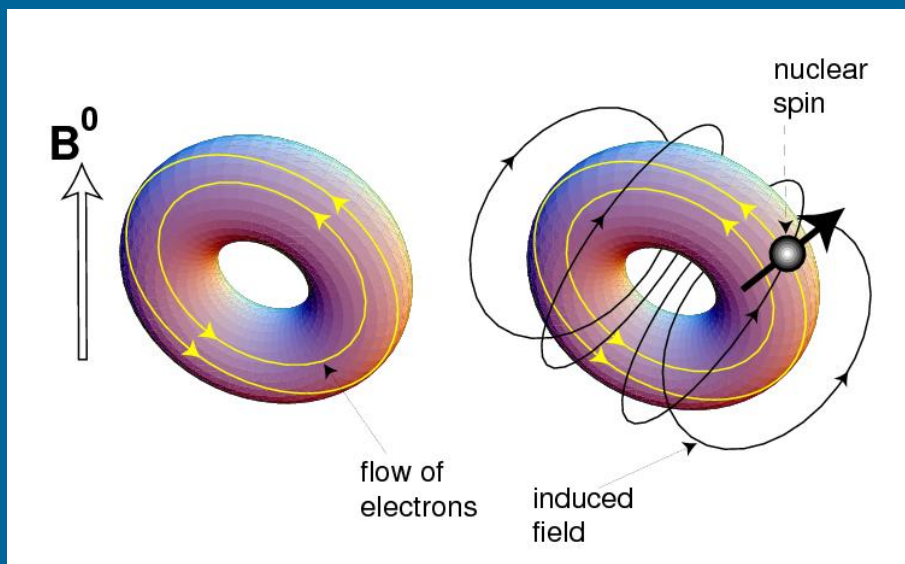


$$\vec{B}^{ind} = -\tilde{\sigma} \cdot \vec{B}_0$$

$$\vec{B}^{loc} = \vec{B}_0 + \vec{B}^{ind} = (1 - \tilde{\sigma}) \cdot \vec{B}_0$$

$\tilde{\sigma}$ : shielding tensor

# Chemical shielding in solids



$$\vec{B}_{loc} = (1 - \tilde{\sigma})\vec{B}_0$$

$$\tilde{\sigma} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sigma_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|\sigma_{33} - \sigma_{iso}| \geq |\sigma_{11} - \sigma_{iso}| \geq |\sigma_{22} - \sigma_{iso}|$$

“Spin dynamics”, M. H. Levitt. John Wiley & Sons, 2002.

Isotropic chemical shielding:

$$\sigma_{iso} = \frac{1}{3}(\sigma_{11} + \sigma_{22} + \sigma_{33})$$

Shielding anisotropy:

$$\zeta = \sigma_{33} - \sigma_{iso}$$

Shielding asymmetry :

$$\eta = \frac{\sigma_{22} - \sigma_{11}}{\zeta}$$

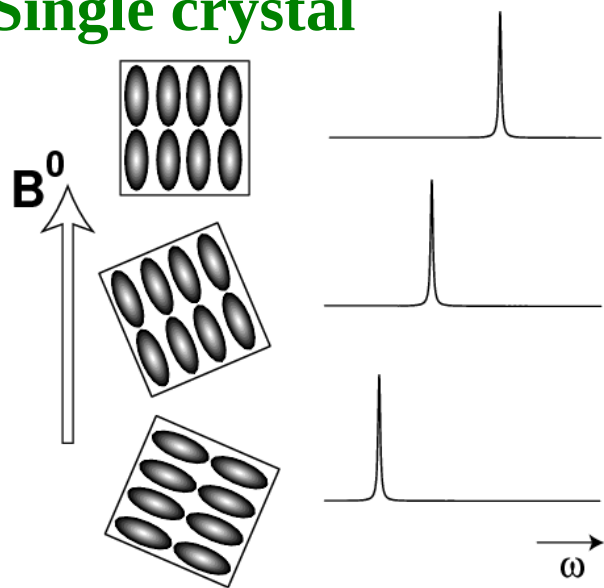
$$0 \leq \eta \leq 1$$

# Chemical shielding anisotropy

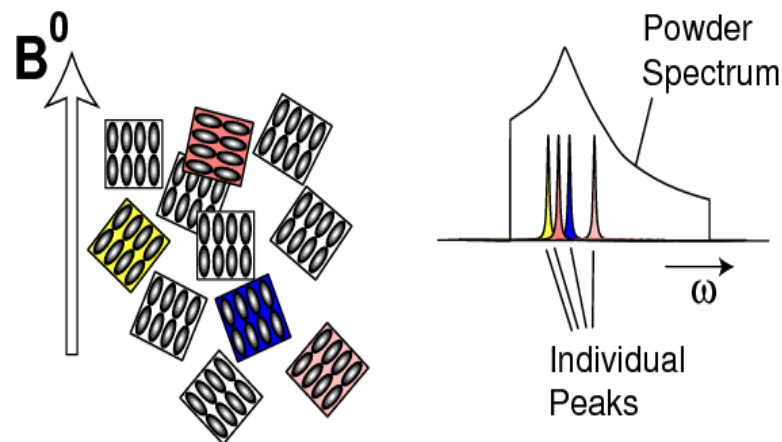
Orientation-dependent NMR frequency:

$$\omega(\theta, \phi) = \omega_L - \omega_L \left\{ \sigma_{iso} + \frac{\zeta}{2} \left[ (3 \cos^2 \theta - 1) + \eta \sin^2 \theta \cos 2\phi \right] \right\}$$

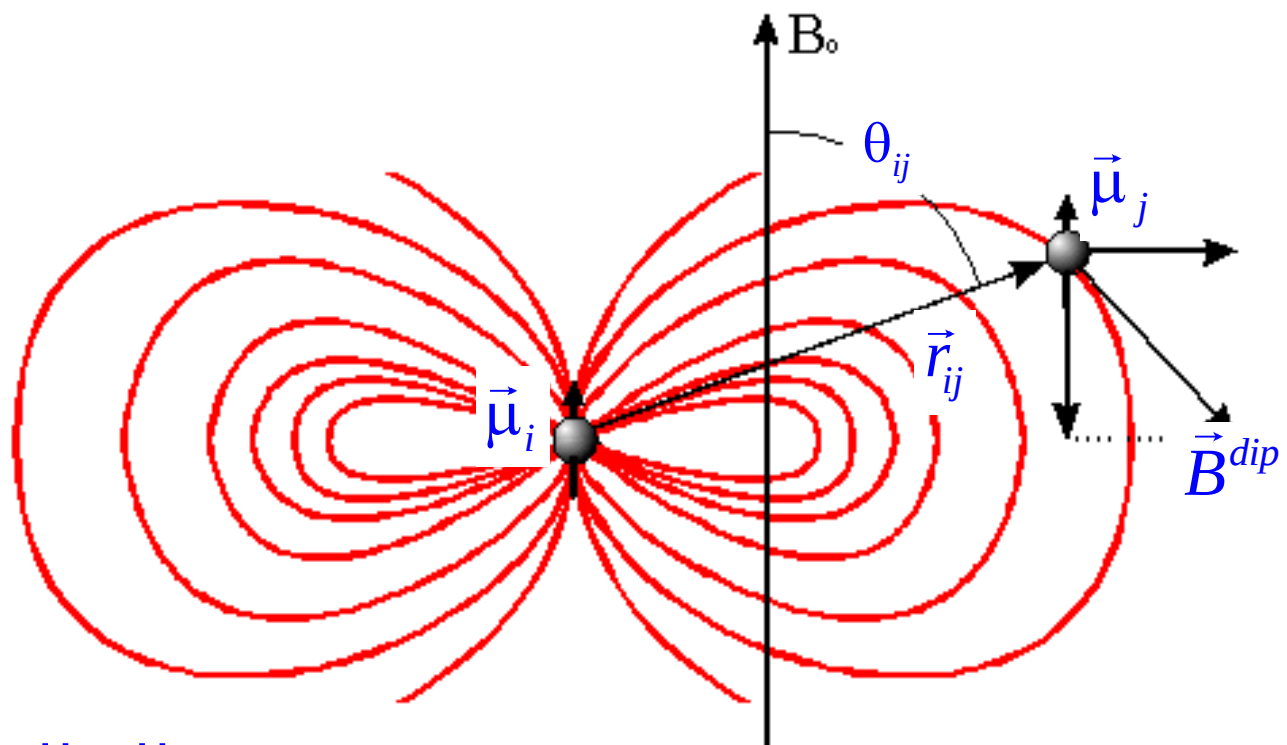
## Single crystal



## Powder



# Dipolar coupling



$$B_z^{dip} \cong \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{\mu}{r_{ij}^3} (3\cos^2 \theta_{ij} - 1)$$

Through-space interaction

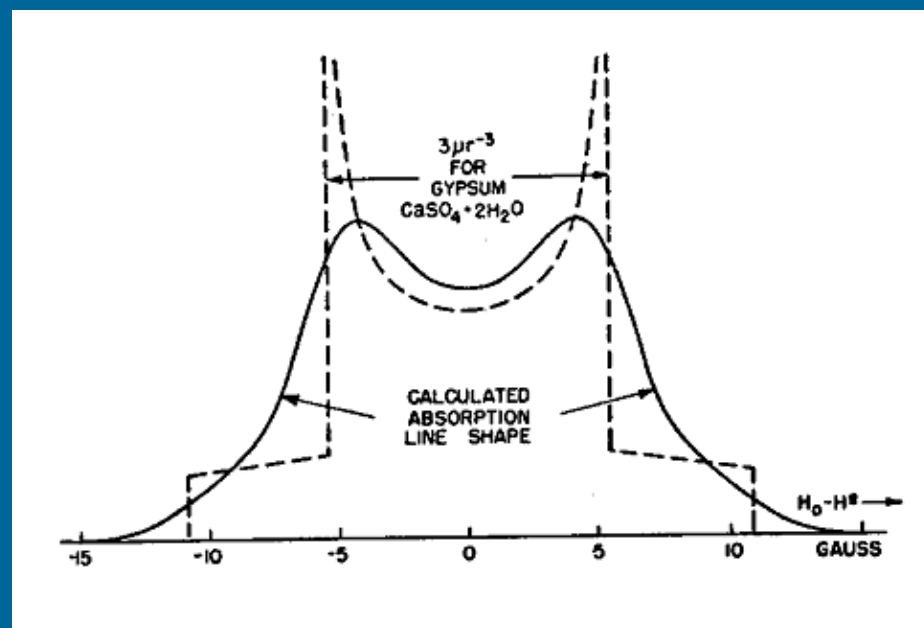
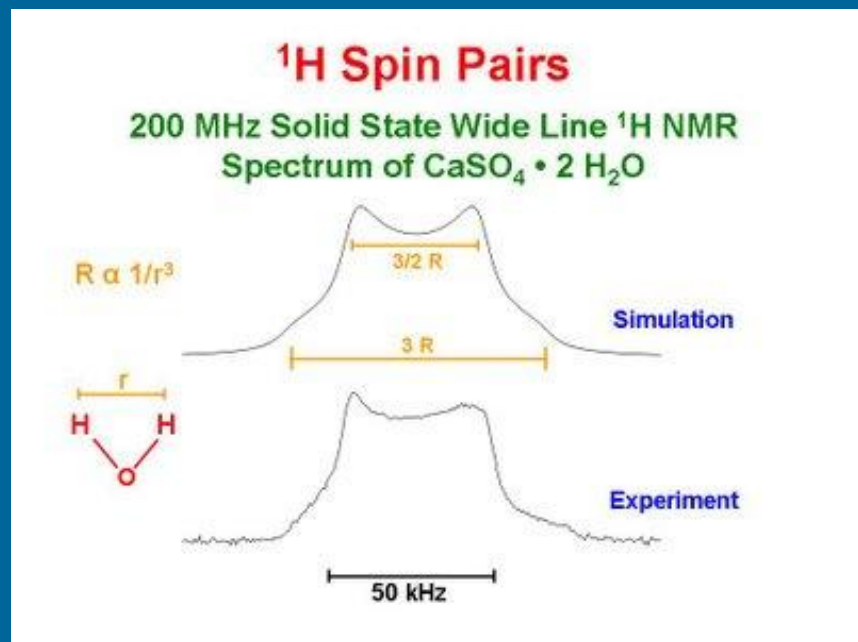
# Dipolar coupling – powder patterns

Orientation-dependent NMR frequency (**homonuclear case**):

$$\omega(\theta) = \omega_I \pm d \frac{3\cos^2 \theta - 1}{4}$$

$$d = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{\gamma_I \gamma_S \hbar}{r^3}$$

Pake doublet

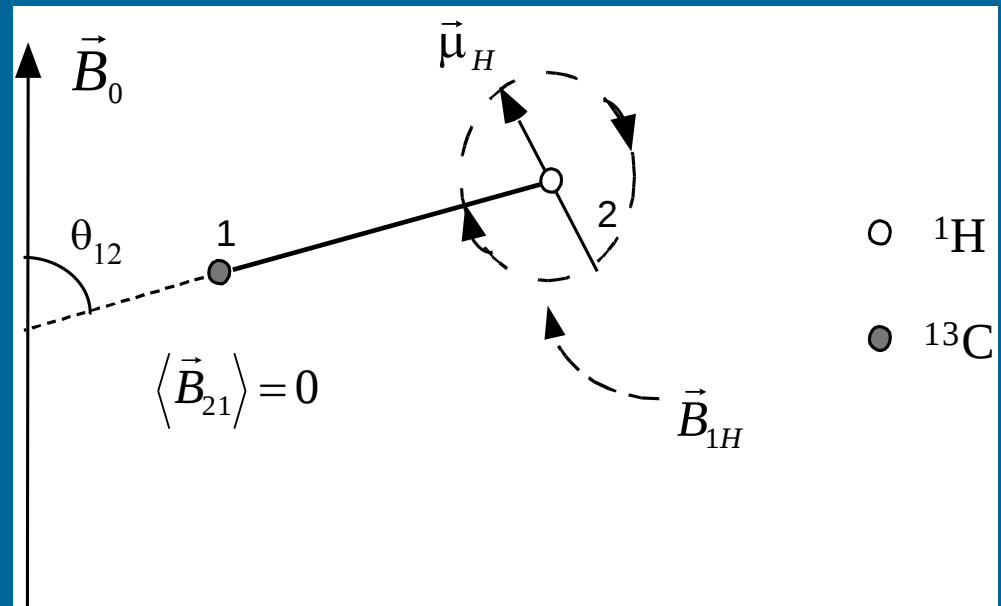


# High power decoupling

Heteronuclear decoupling:

$$\gamma_H B_{1H} / 2\pi > \Delta f_{dip}$$

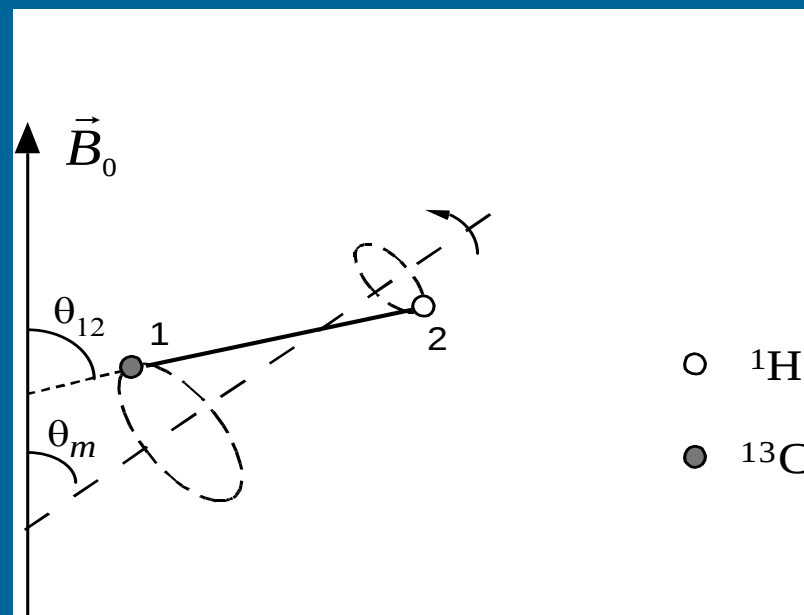
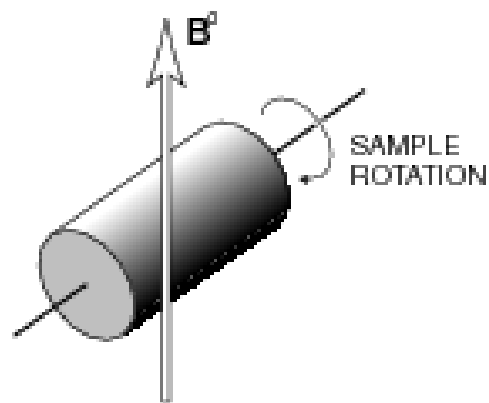
$$\Delta f_{dip} \sim d = \frac{\mu_0}{8\pi^2} \frac{\gamma_I \gamma_S \hbar}{r^3}$$



For a  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  pair in a C-H single bond:

$$\Delta f_{dip} \sim 70 \text{ kHz}$$

# Magic angle spinning (MAS)

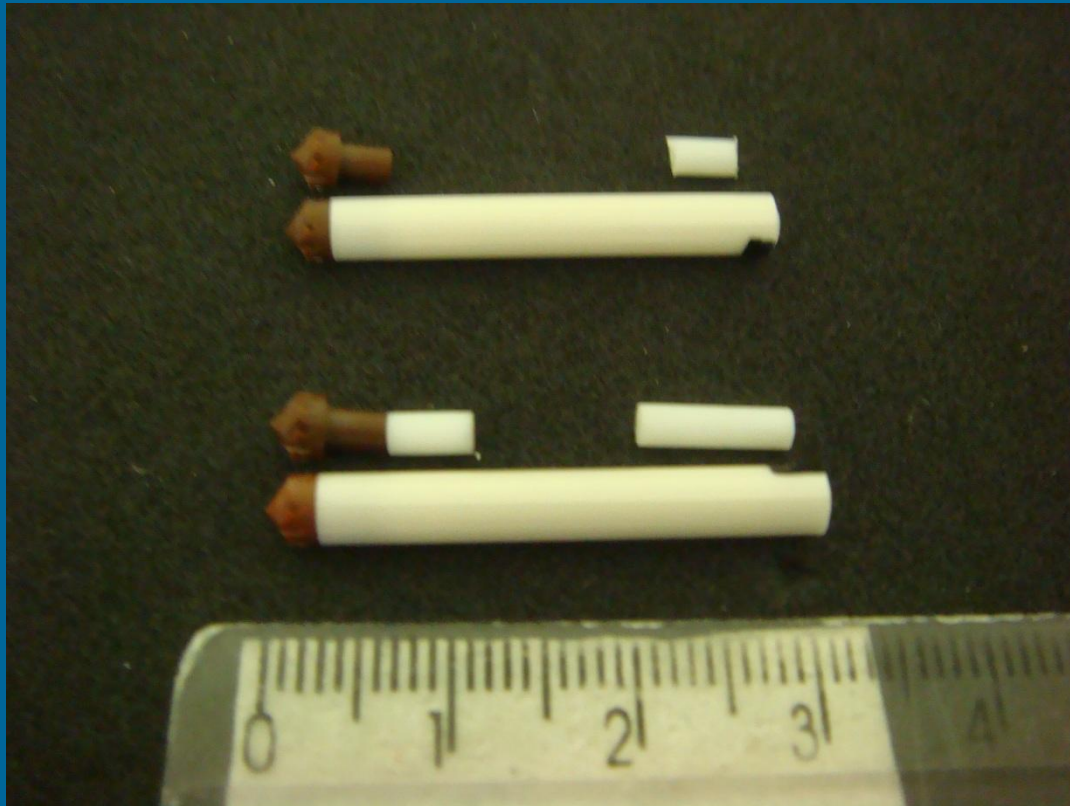


$$\langle 3\cos^2 \theta_{12} - 1 \rangle \propto 3\cos^2 \theta_m - 1 = 0$$

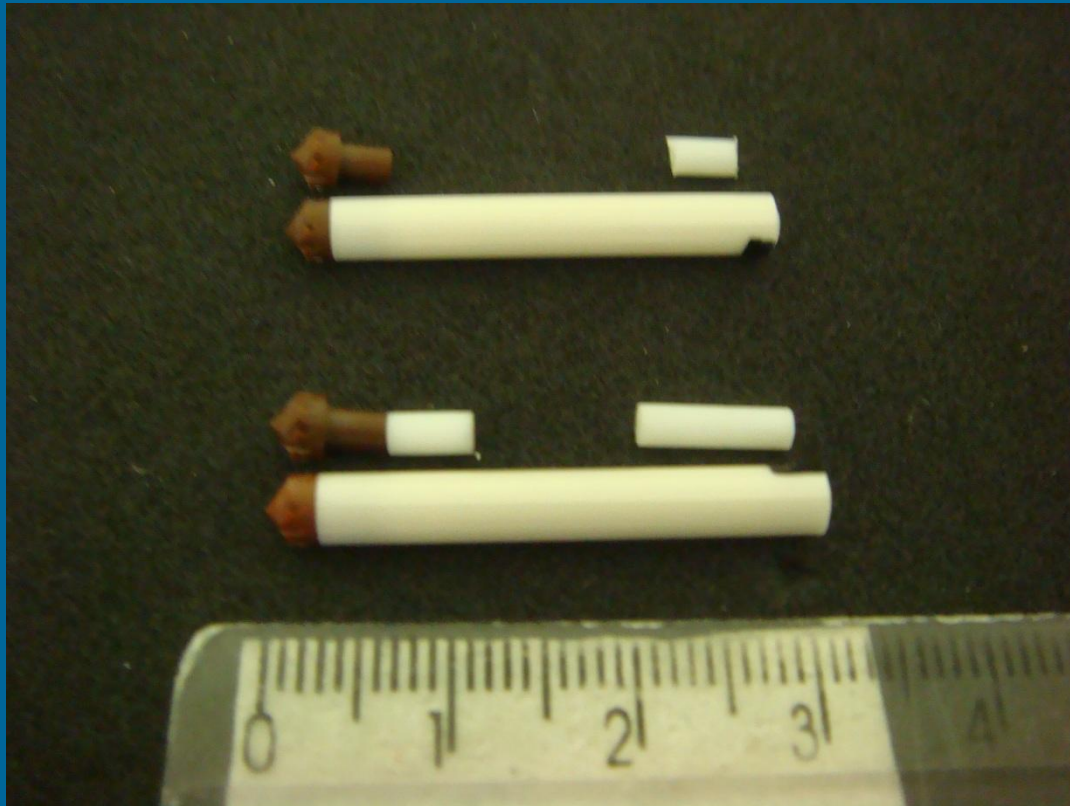
$$\theta_m = \cos^{-1}(1/\sqrt{3}) = 54.74^\circ$$

$$B_z^{dip} \cong \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{\mu}{r_{ij}^3} (3\cos^2 \theta_{ij} - 1)$$

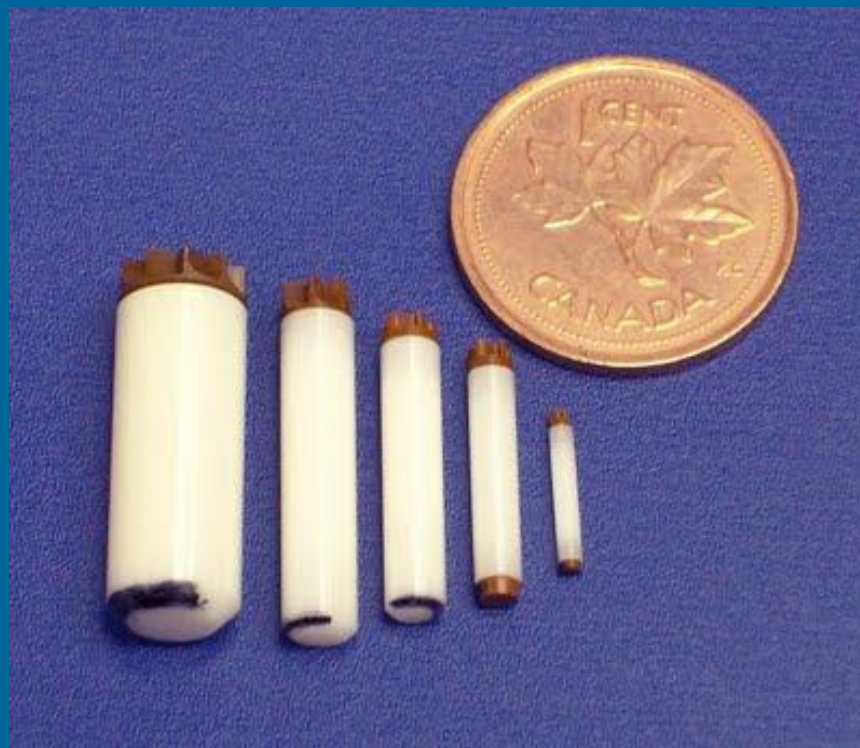
# Magic angle spinning (MAS)



# Magic angle spinning (MAS)



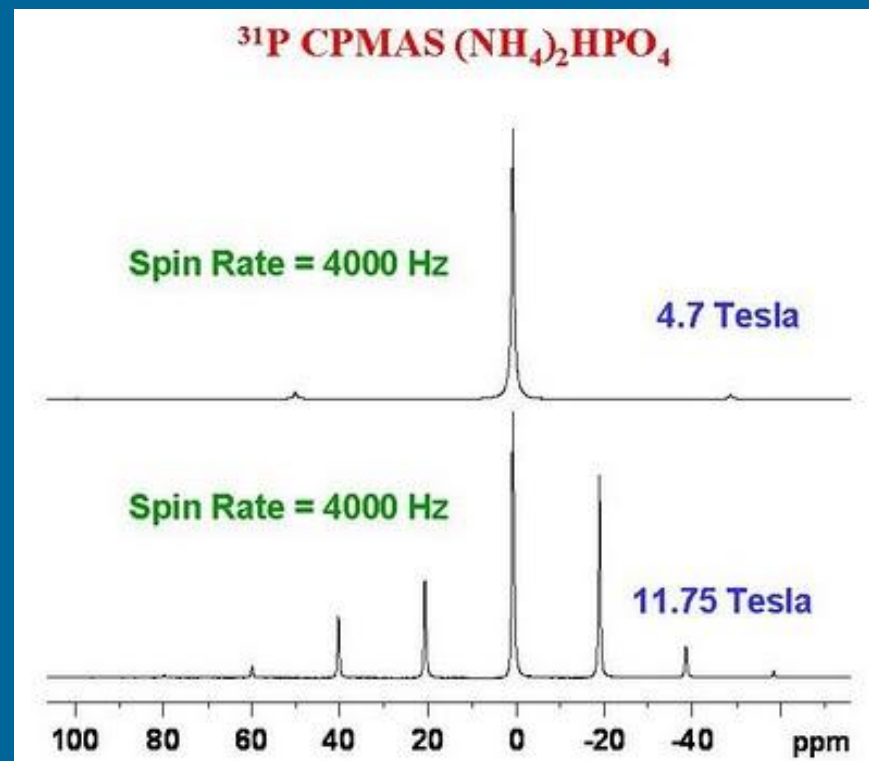
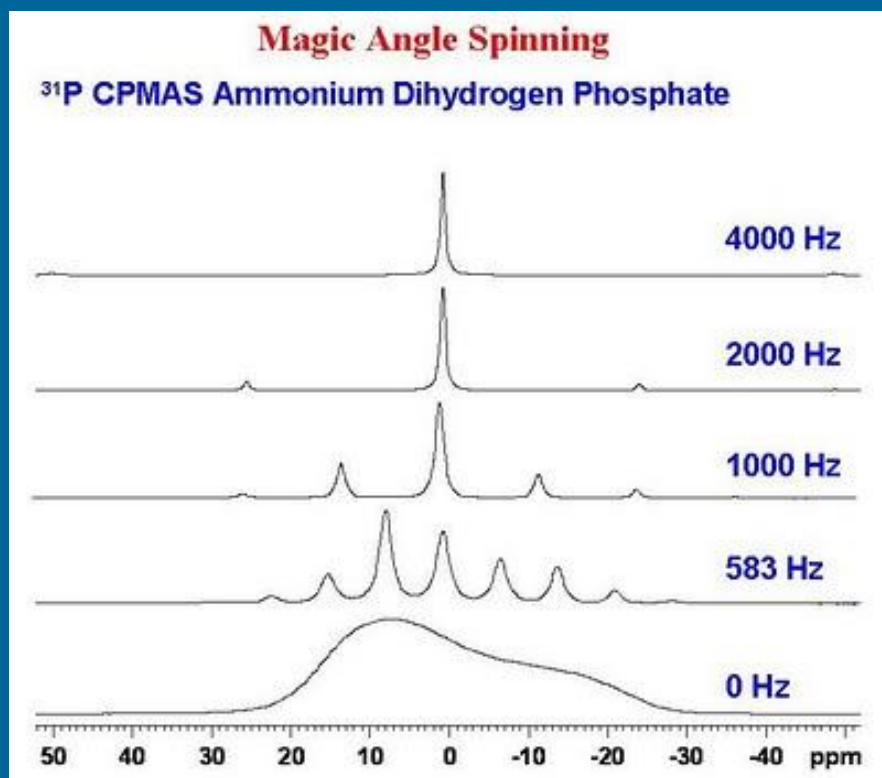
# Magic angle spinning (MAS)



$\phi$  (mm): 7.0 4.0 3.2 2.5 1.3

$f_{\text{rot}}^{\text{max.}}$  (kHz): 8 18 23 35 70

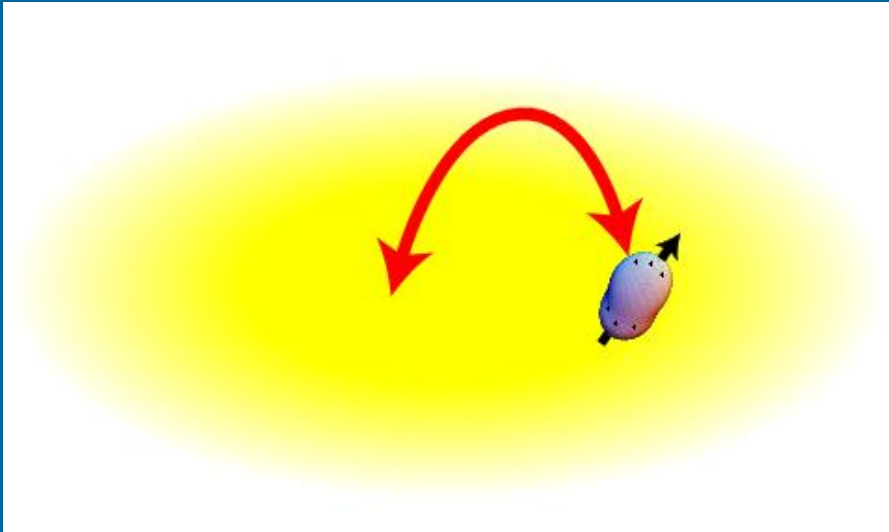
# Magic angle spinning (MAS)



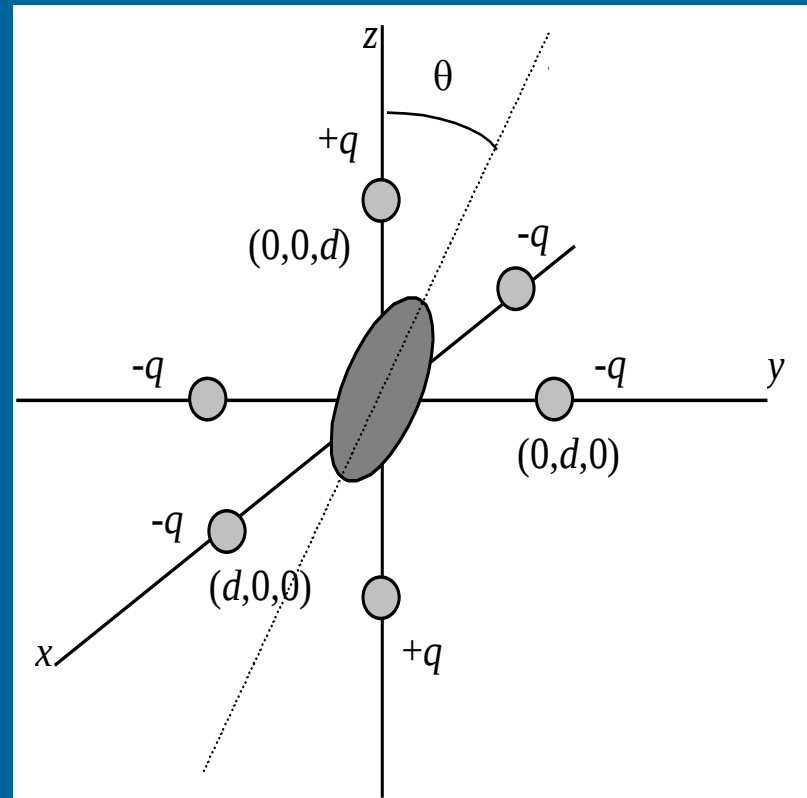
# Electric quadrupole interaction

Quadrupolar nuclei ( $I > \frac{1}{2}$ ):

$^2\text{H}$ ,  $^{23}\text{Na}$ ,  $^{25}\text{Mg}$ ,  $^{27}\text{Al}$ ,  $^{35}\text{Cl}$ ,  $^{55}\text{Mn}$ , ...



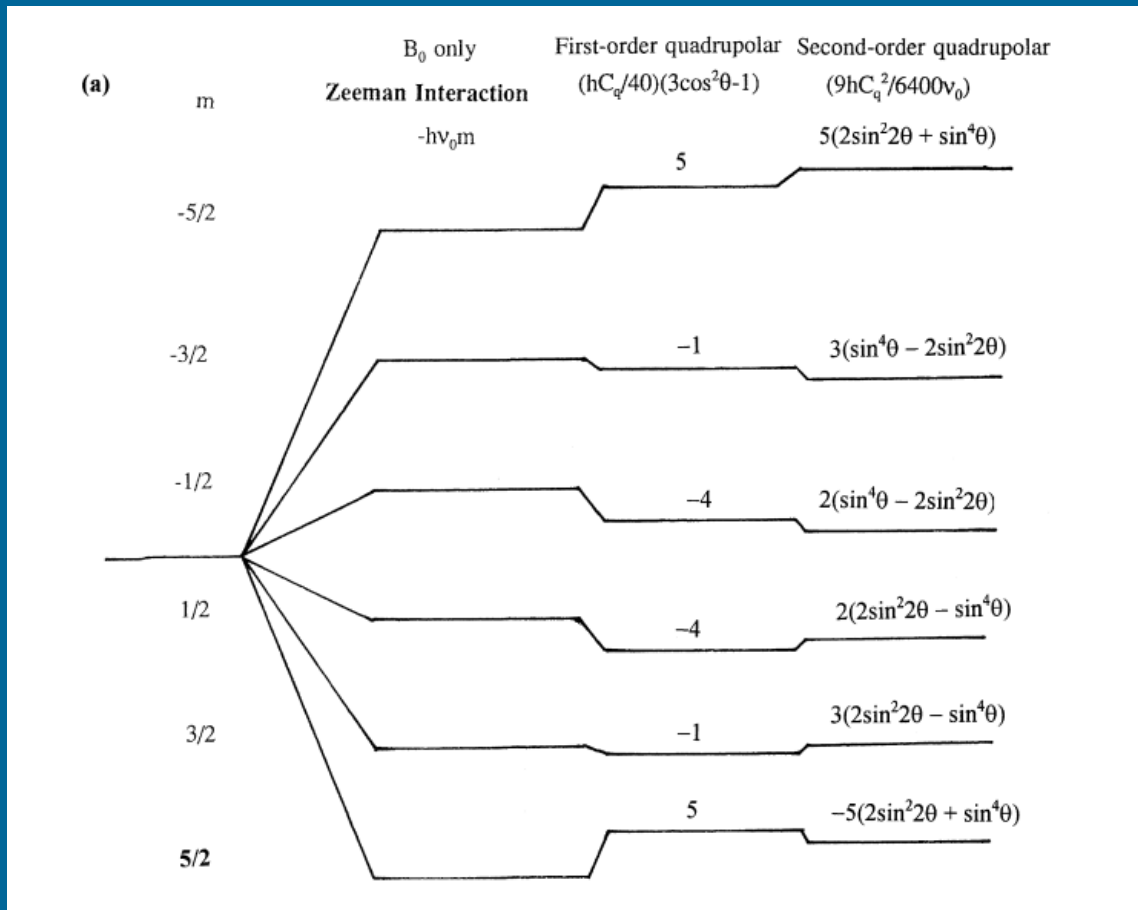
Coupling to electric field gradient (EFG)



$$E_Q = (eqQ / d^3)(3\cos^2 \theta - 1)$$

# Electric quadrupole interaction

Combined effects: **magnetic** (*dominant*) and **quadrupolar** (*perturbation*) interactions:



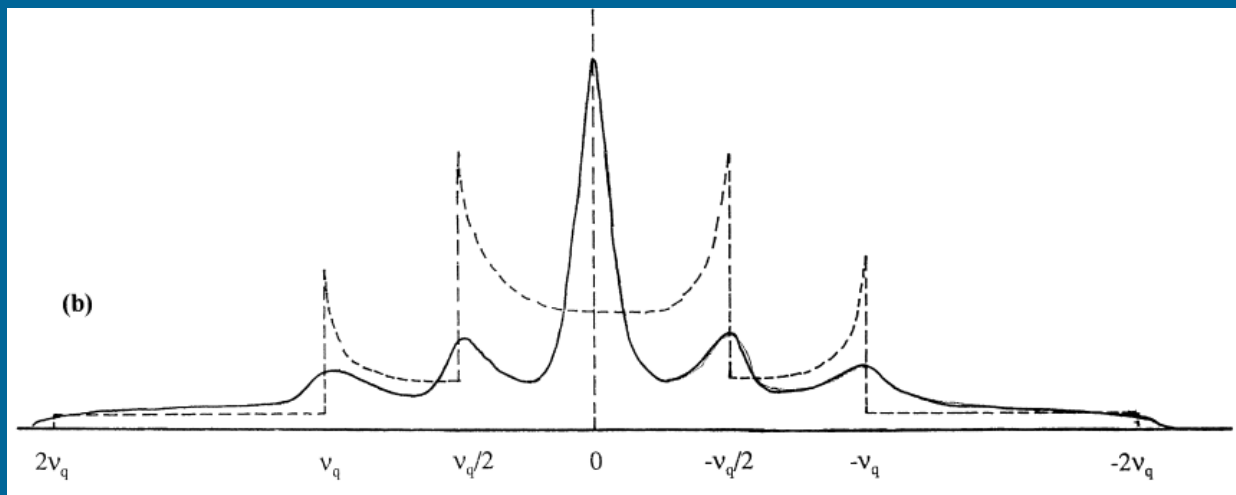
$$C_Q = \frac{e^2 q Q}{h}$$

$$I = 5/2$$

$$\eta_Q = 0$$

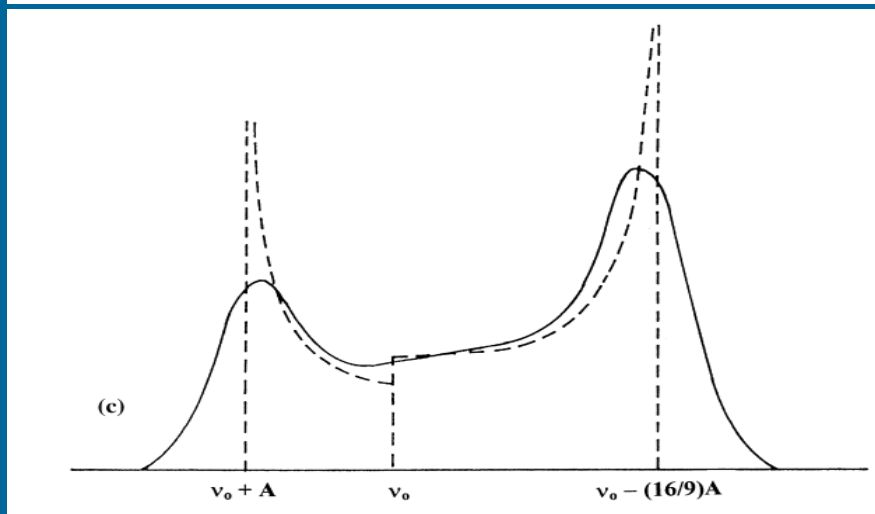
# Electric quadrupole interaction

Powder patterns – half-integer spin nuclei



1<sup>st</sup> order

$$\nu_q = \frac{3e^2qQ}{2I(2I-1)h}$$



2<sup>nd</sup> order –central transition

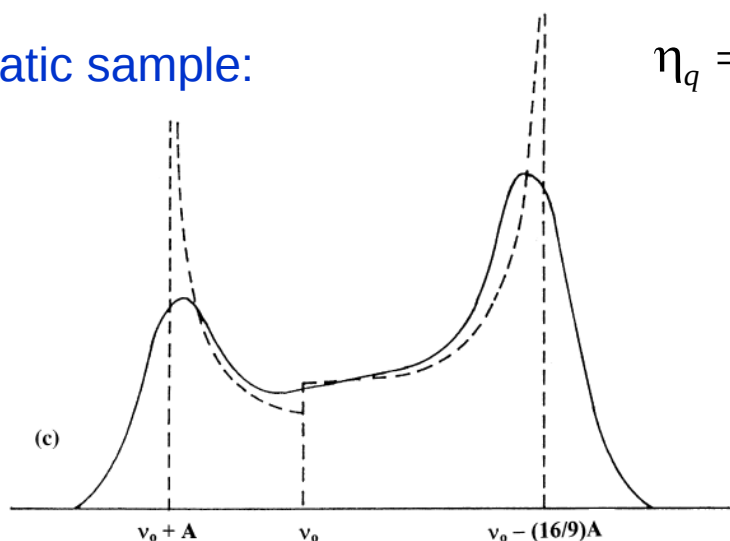
$$A = \left[ I(I+1) - \frac{3}{4} \right] \frac{\nu_q^2}{\nu_0}$$

# Quadrupole effects in MAS NMR spectra

Powder patterns – half-integer spin nuclei:

Static sample:

$$\eta_q = 0$$

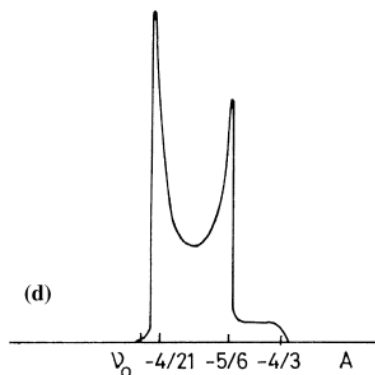


2<sup>nd</sup> order – central transition:

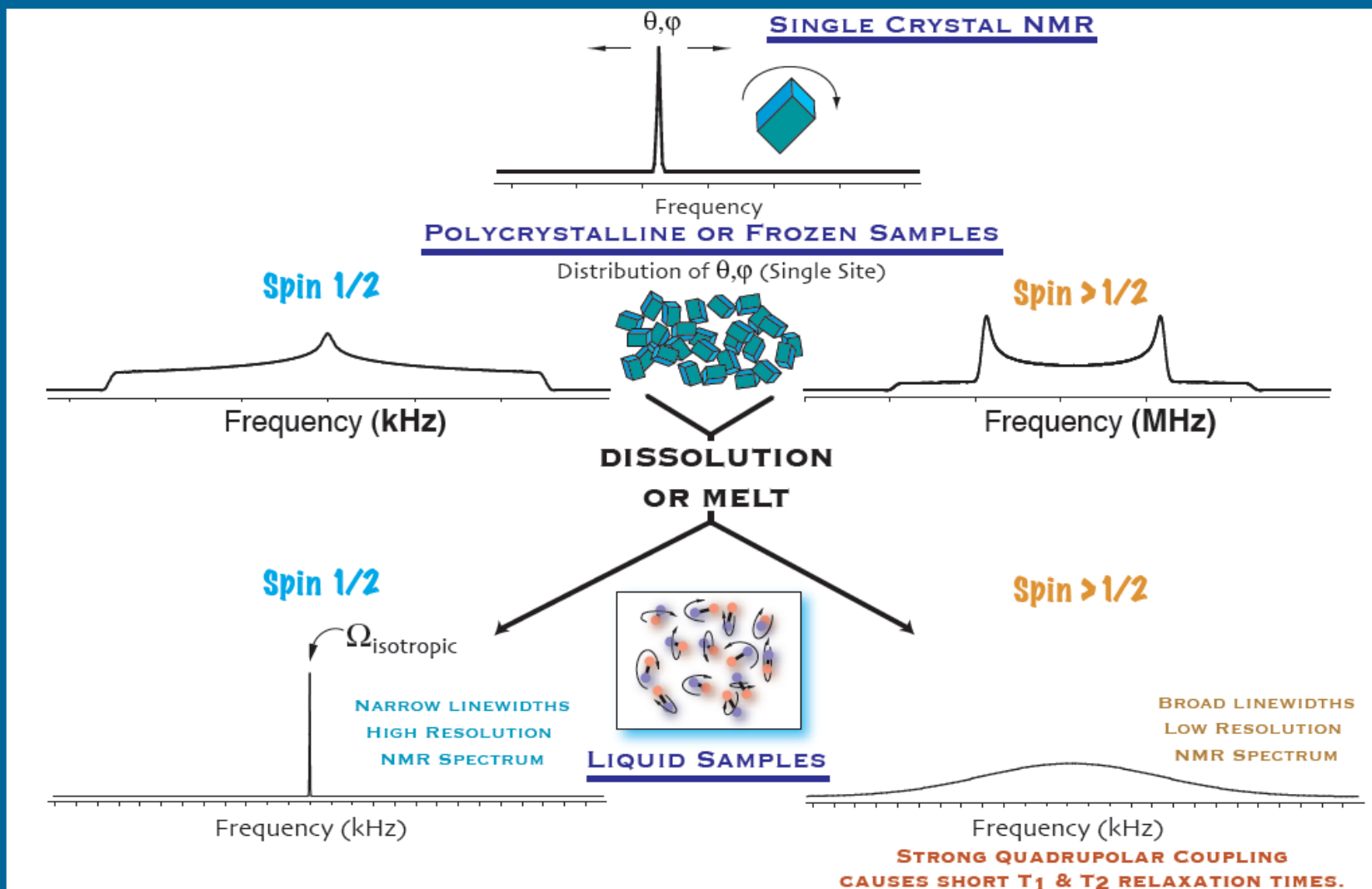
$$\nu_q = \frac{3e^2qQ}{2I(2I-1)h}$$

$$A = \left[ I(I+1) - 3/4 \right] \frac{\nu_q^2}{\nu_0}$$

MAS:



# Nuclear spin interactions – summary



# Solid-state $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR of carbon materials

## Typical chemical shifts in $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR:

**TABLE 2.2**

**Isotropic Chemical Shifts ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$ ) for Some Chemical Groups Typically Found in Organic Matter and in Carbon Materials**

| Chemical Group                                     | $\delta_{\text{C}}$ (ppm TMS) |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| $-\text{CH}_3$                                     | 0–23                          |
| $-\text{CH}_2-$                                    | 23–60                         |
| $-\text{OCH}_3$                                    | 50–60                         |
| $-\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{C}-$                     | 70–95                         |
| $\text{H}-\text{C}_{\text{aro}}$                   | 110–120                       |
| $\text{C}-\text{C}_{\text{aro}}^*$                 | 130–140                       |
| $\text{O}-\text{C}_{\text{aro}}$                   | 140–160                       |
| $\text{C}-(\text{C}^*=\text{O})-\text{OH}$         | 160–180                       |
| $\text{C}-(\text{C}^*=\text{O})-\text{C},\text{H}$ | 180–220                       |

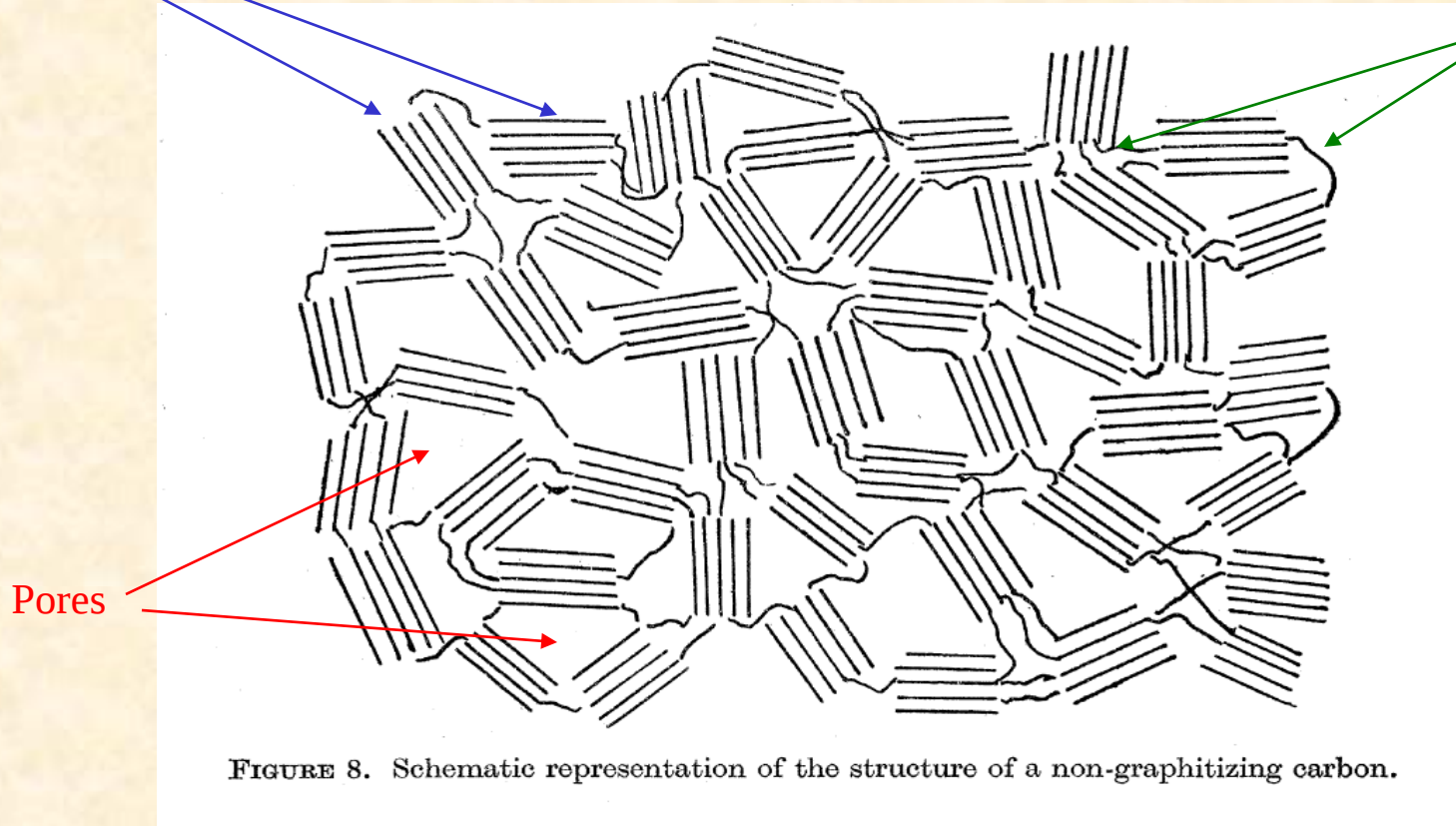
*Note:* In the case of the presence of chemically distinct carbon atoms, the  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  value corresponds to the atom indicated by an asterisk.

# Structure of disordered carbons

Graphite-like  
crystallites

Franklin model

Cross-links

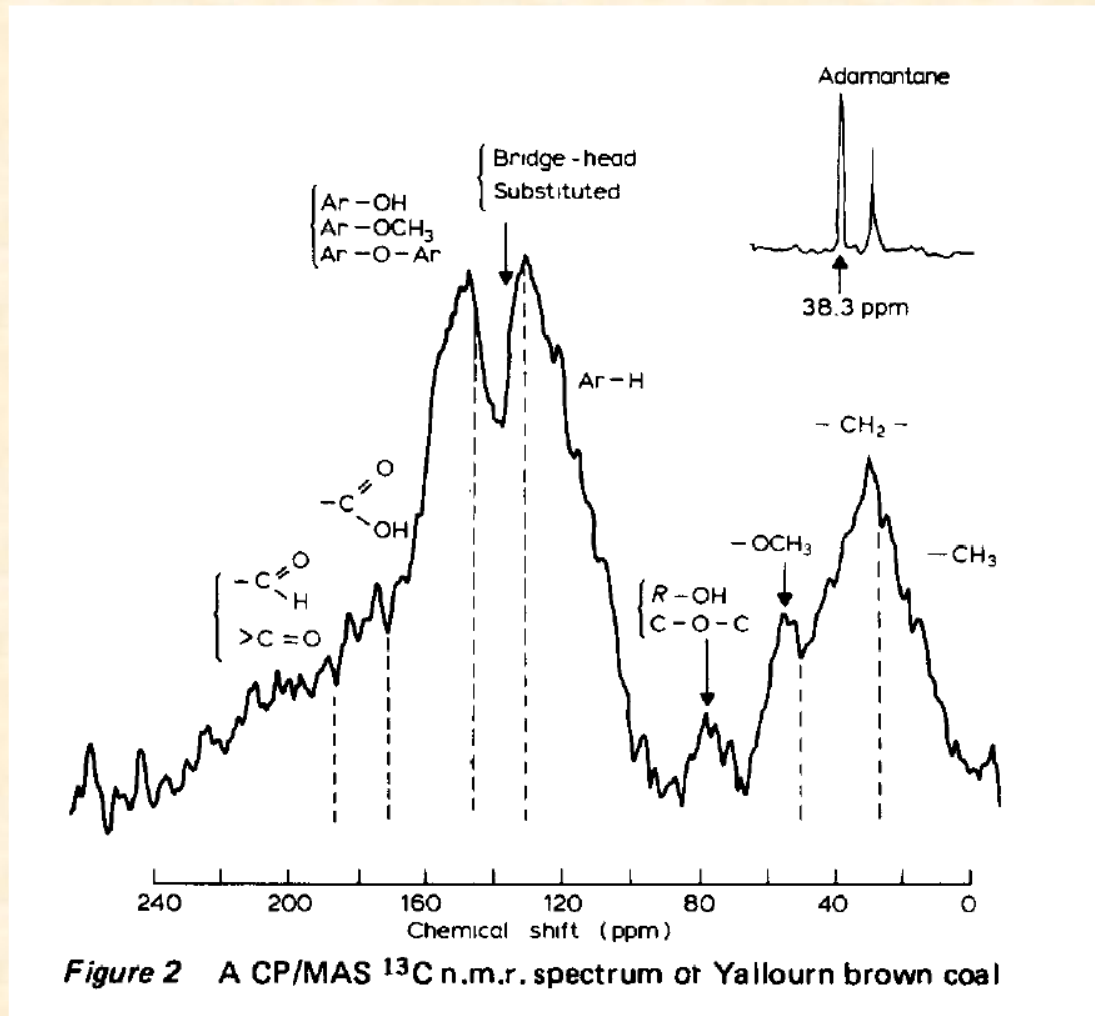


R. E. Franklin, *Proc. Roy. Soc. London A* 1951;209:196

Composition: C, H, O (major), N, S, ashes,...

# Solid-state $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR of carbon materials

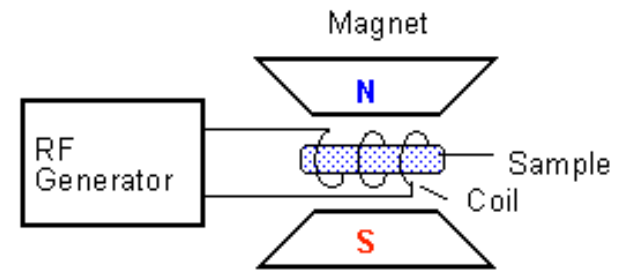
Typical chemical shifts in  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



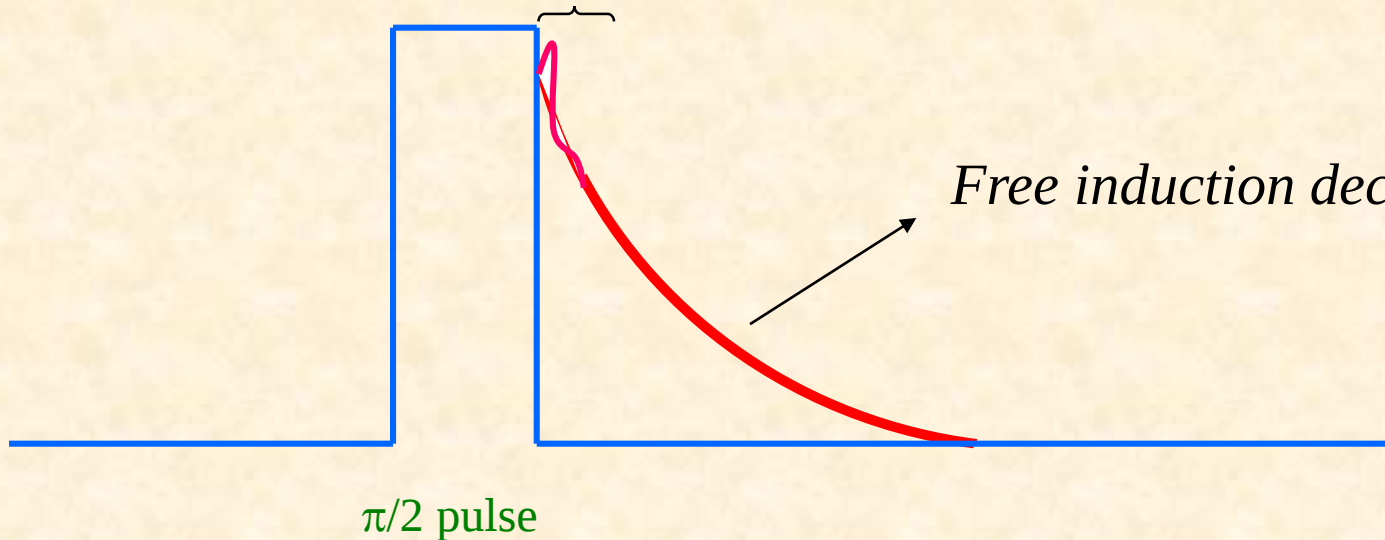
# Solid-state $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR experiments

## Single pulse excitation (SPE):

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



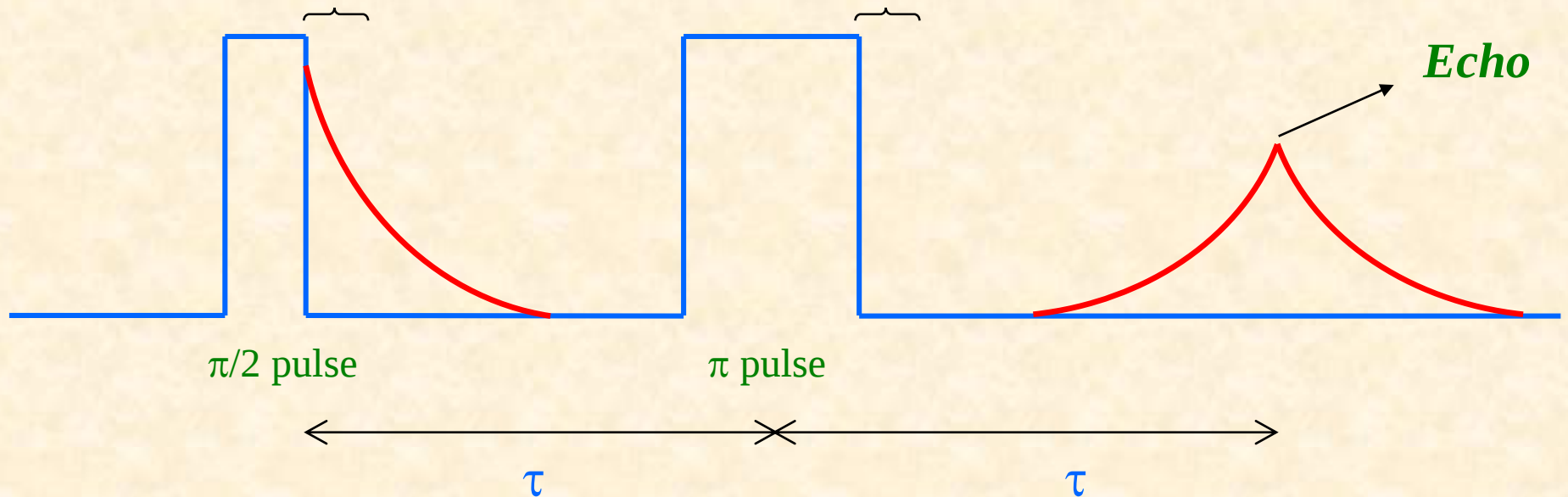
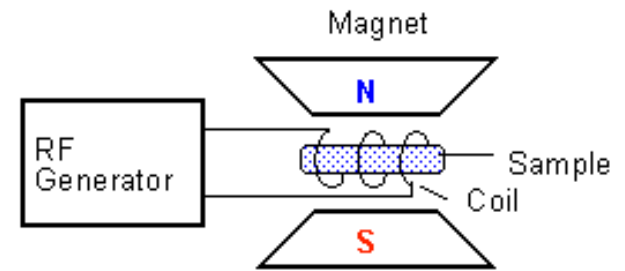
*Corrupted points*



# Solid-state $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR experiments

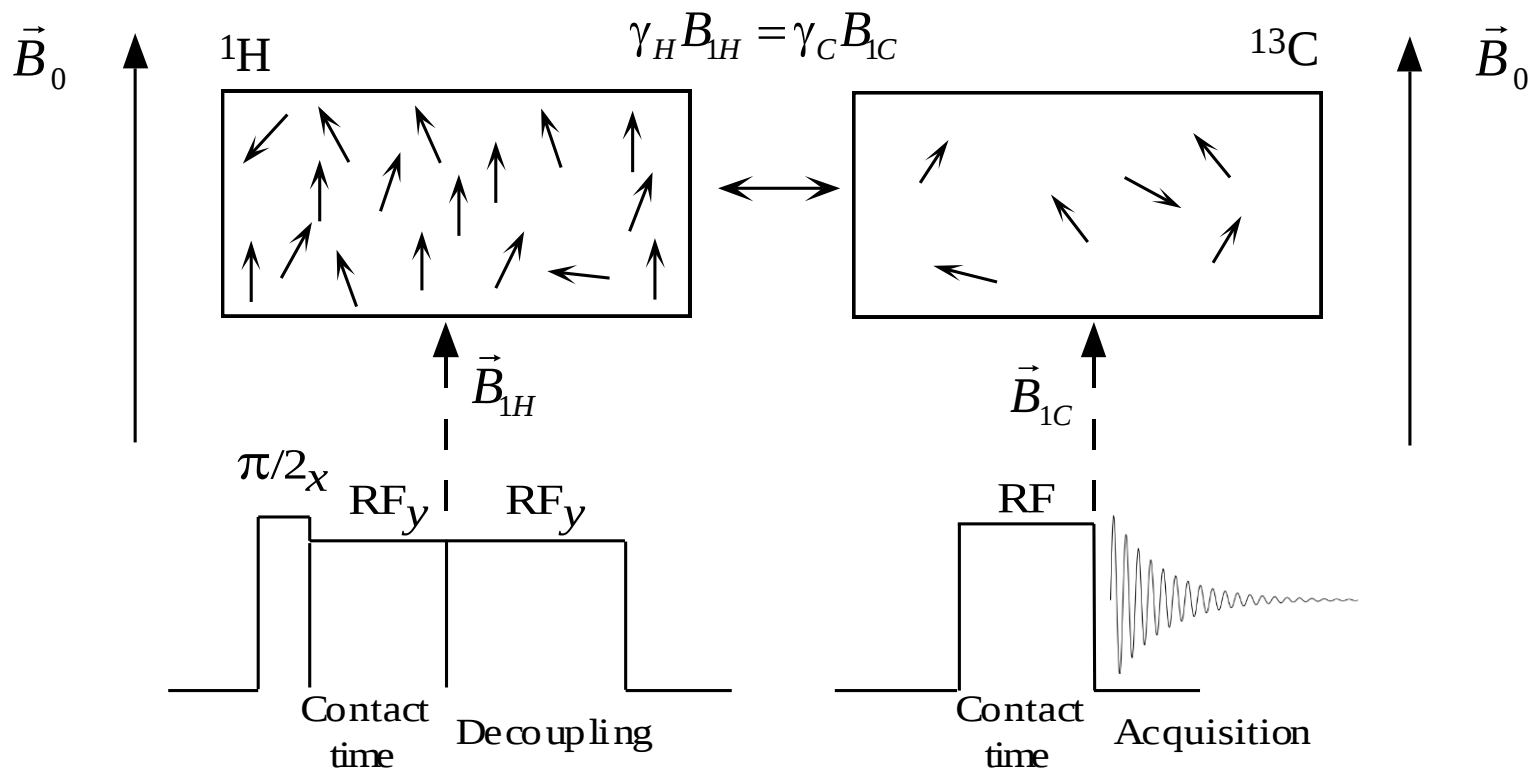
Two pulse excitation – *spin-echo*:

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR:



# Solid-state $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR experiments

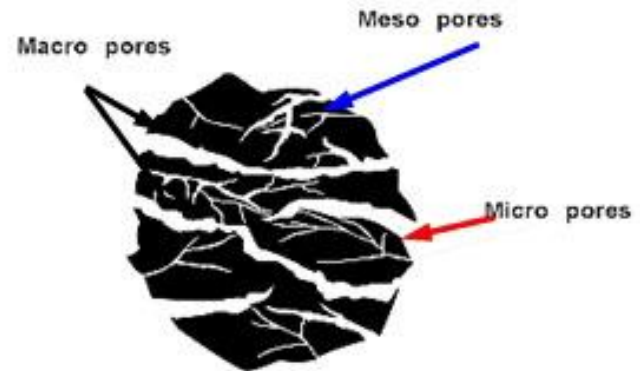
$\{^1\text{H} \rightarrow ^{13}\text{C}\}$  Cross-polarization (**CP**):



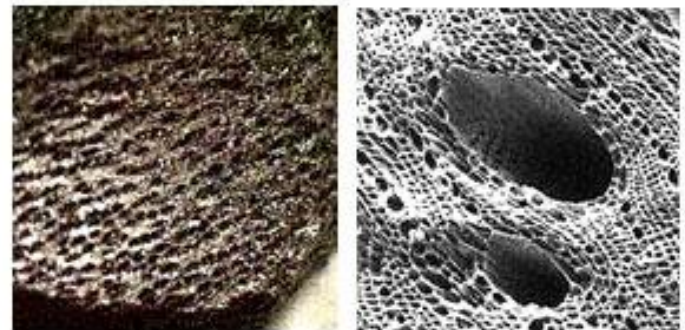
Detection of carbon groups close to hydrogen  $\Rightarrow$   
**surface groups in carbon-rich materials.**

# Activated carbons

- Disordered solids with irregular porous network.
- Presence of macropores, mesopores and micropores.
- Applications: catalysis, water treatment, gas storage, ...
- Basic constitution: C, H, O (major), N, S, ...
- Mineral fraction: depends on the precursor.



**Figure 1:** Activated carbon structure - schematic.



**Figure 2:** Activated carbon structure – SEM pictures.

# Activated carbons

---

## – Manufacture:

- **Physical activation**: steam, air,  $\text{CO}_2$ , ...
- **Chemical activation**:  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$ , NaOH, KOH,  $\text{CaCl}_2$ , ...
- Precursors: coal, anthracite, chars, lignocellulosic materials, ...
- Heat-treatments, washing, drying, chemical post-treatments, ...
- Presence of “inorganic” elements: Na, K, Ca, P, ...
  - ✓ Associated with mineral matter in the precursor and with the reactants used in chemical activation.
  - ✓ Affect the surface chemistry of the porous carbons.

# Surface groups in porous carbons

- Oxygen in surface functional groups influences most of the properties of porous carbons.

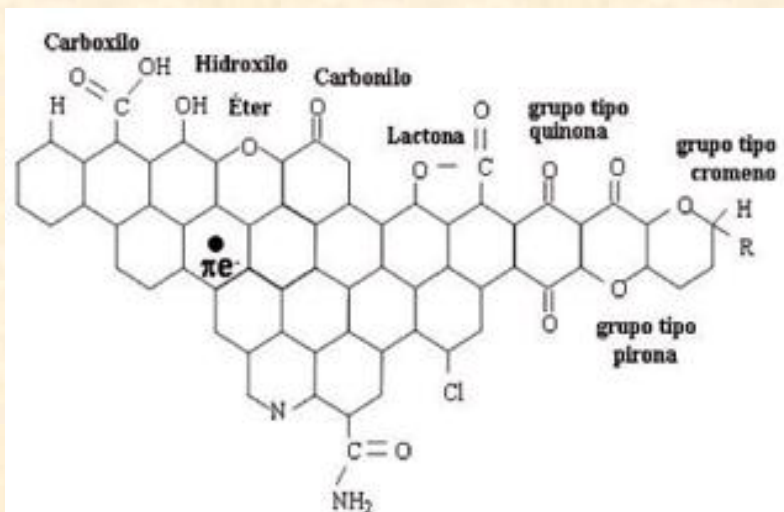
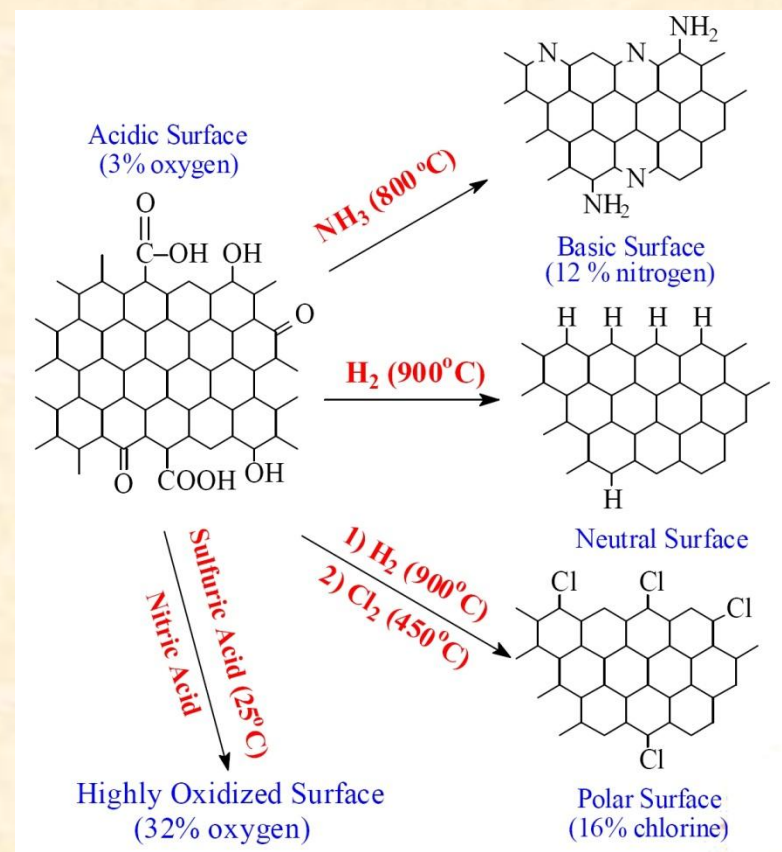


Figure 2. Schematic representation of the main superficial groups present on a carbon.

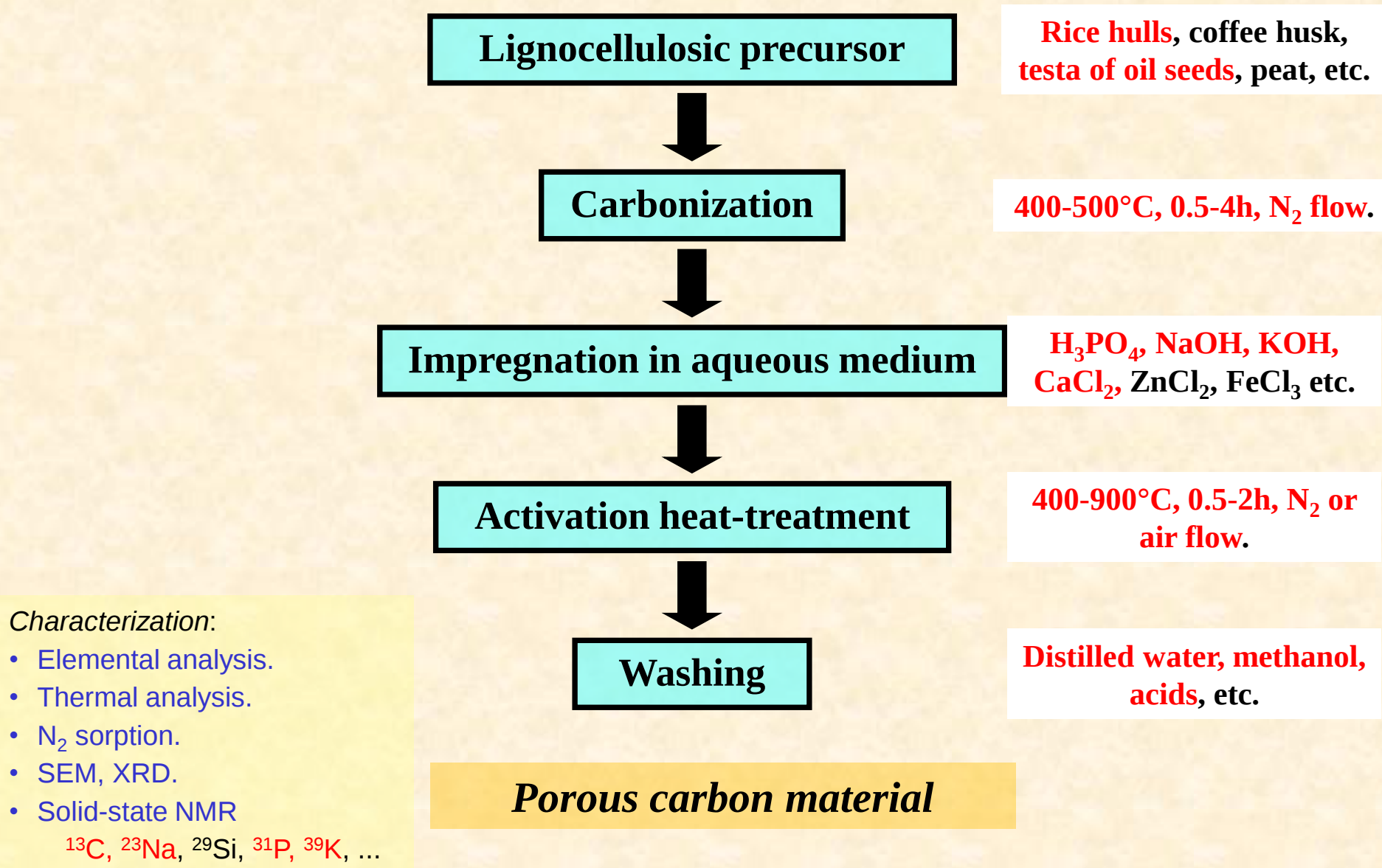


# Surface groups in porous carbons

---

- Characterization methods: Titration, FT-IR, XPS, TPD, NMR, etc.
- Advantages of solid-state NMR: Boehm, *Carbon* 2002;40:145
  - ✓ Non-destructiveness.
  - ✓ Element-selective technique.
  - ✓ Sensitiveness to chemical environment and to structural features around the nuclear site.
- Main drawback:
  - ✓ Little sensitiveness to nuclei in surface groups.

# Synthesis of the AC samples



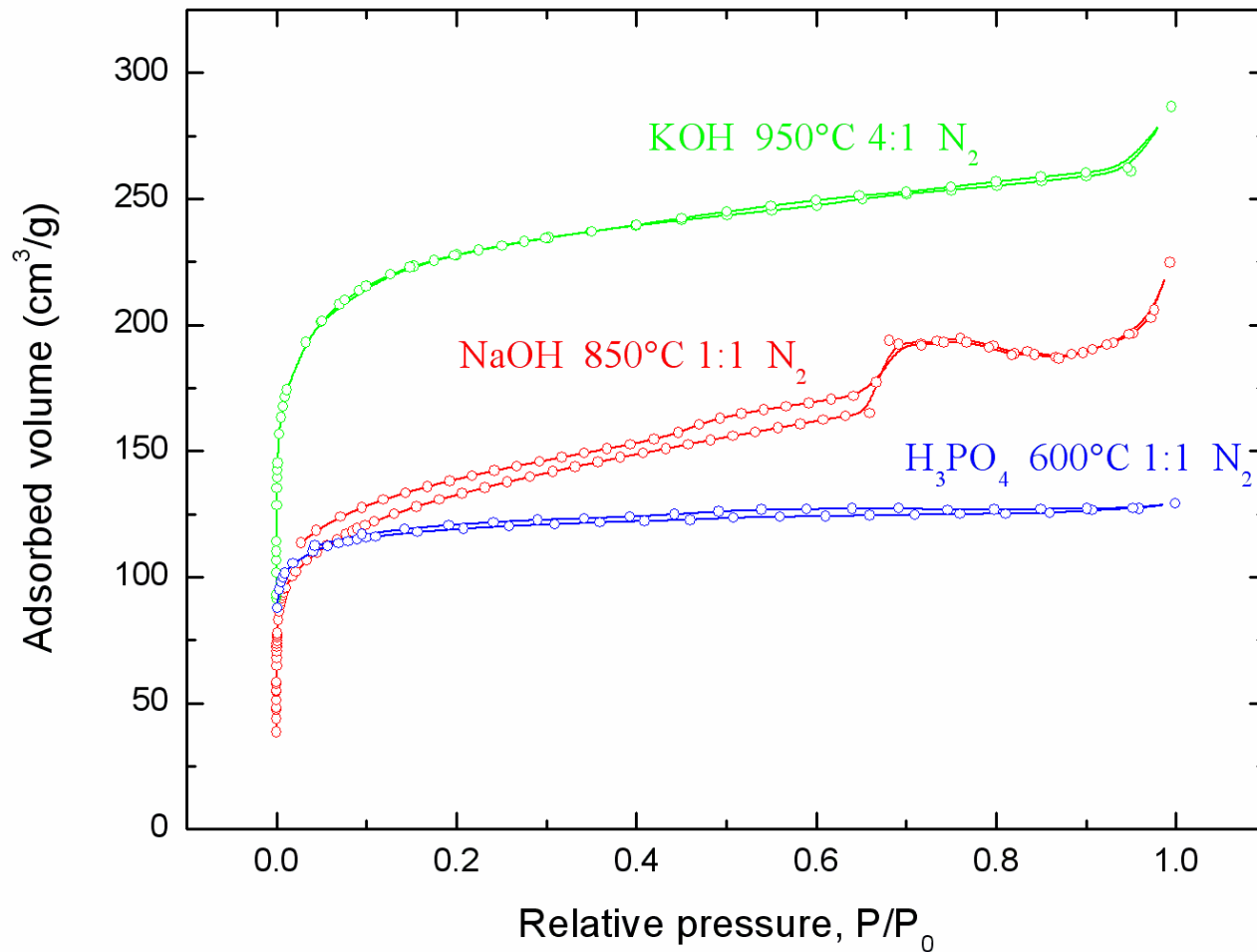
# Properties of the AC samples

## H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>-activated carbons (testa of oil seeds):

| Label | Precursor | Chemical Agent / Wt. Ratio         | Temp. / Atmosphere   | Washing    | SSA m <sup>2</sup> /g | C wt. % | H wt. % | N wt. % | O wt. % | Diff. wt. % |
|-------|-----------|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|
| DB1   | NOS       | None                               | 550°C Closed         | Water MeOH | 258                   | 82.6    | 2.4     | 1.1     | 13.9    | 0.1         |
| DB18  | NOS       | H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> 1:1 | 500°C N <sub>2</sub> | Water MeOH | 341                   | 74.3    | 2.9     | 1.1     | 19.4    | 2.4         |
| DB19  | NOS       | H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> 1:1 | 600°C N <sub>2</sub> | Water MeOH | 399                   | 69.7    | 2.7     | 1.1     | 23.0    | 3.6         |
| DB20  | NOS       | H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> 1:1 | 700°C N <sub>2</sub> | Water MeOH | 434                   | 70.5    | 2.7     | 1.0     | 22.3    | 3.5         |
| DB21  | NOS       | H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> 1:1 | 800°C N <sub>2</sub> | Water MeOH | 1022                  | 63.6    | 3.4     | 0.8     | 28.7    | 3.5         |

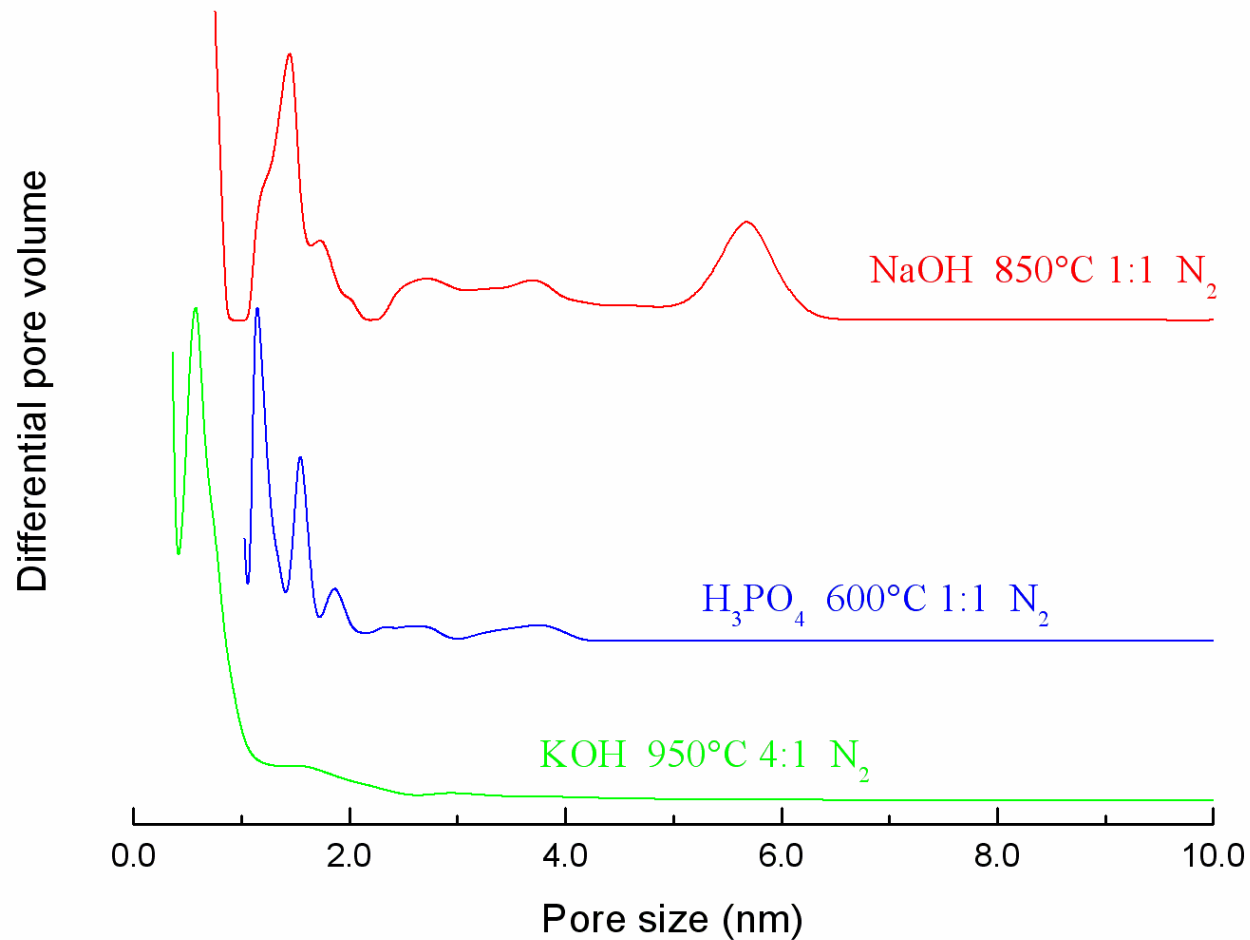
# Textural analysis

## N<sub>2</sub> sorption isotherms (77 K) – AC from testa of oil seeds



# Textural analysis

## Pore size distributions (NLDFT) – AC from testa of oil seeds

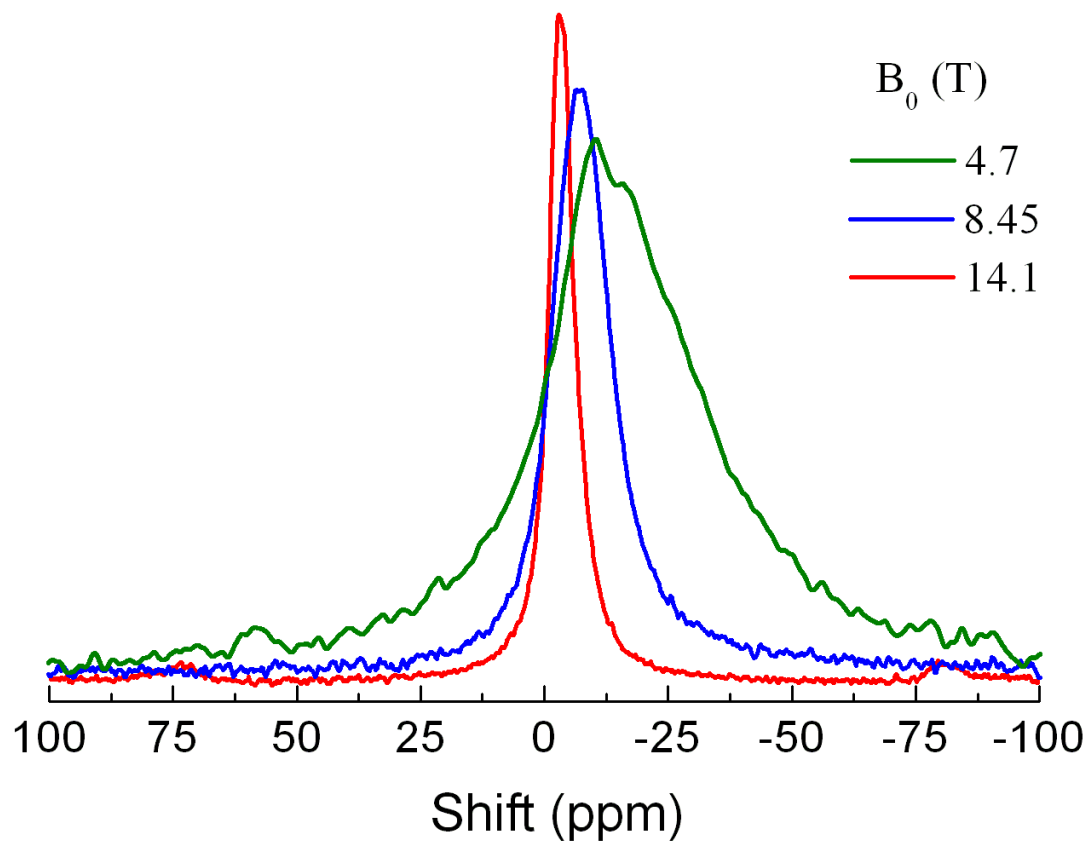


# $^{23}\text{Na}$ NMR results

## NaOH activated carbons

(rice hulls)

- Single-pulse experiments.
- MAS at 12 kHz.
- Probes: 4 mm.



# Quadrupole effects in MAS NMR spectra

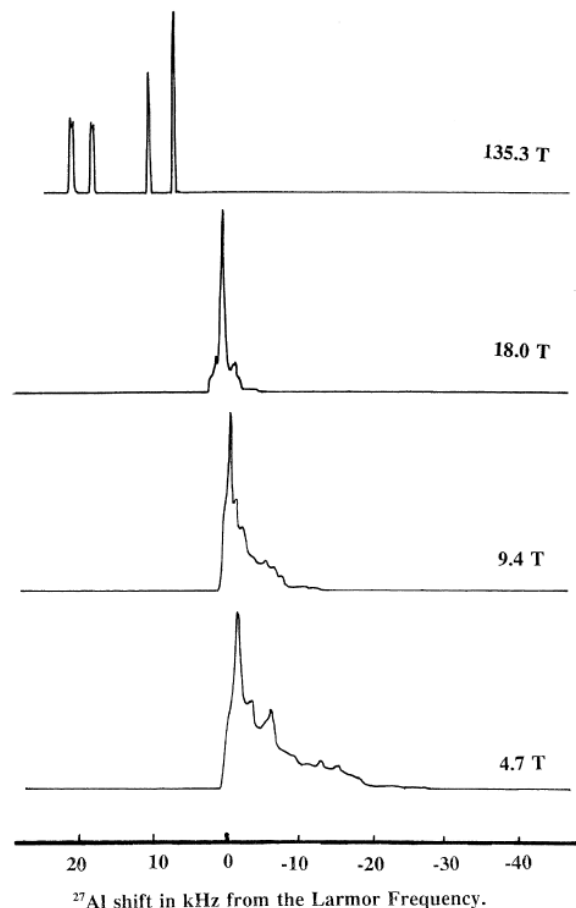


Fig. 7. Simulations of the  $^{27}\text{Al}$  MAS centreband of kyanite ( $\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_5$ ) as a function of the applied magnetic field.

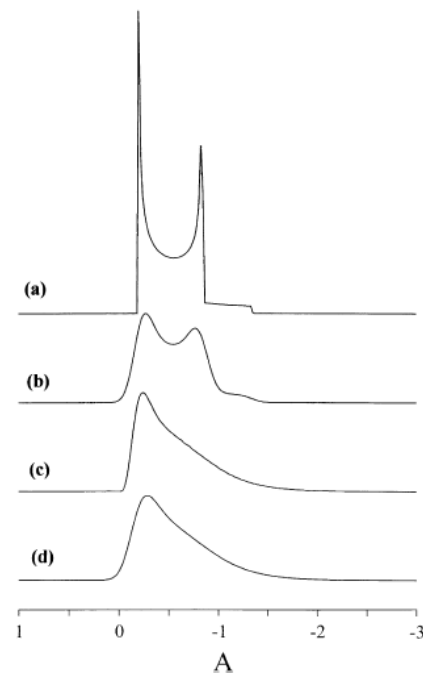


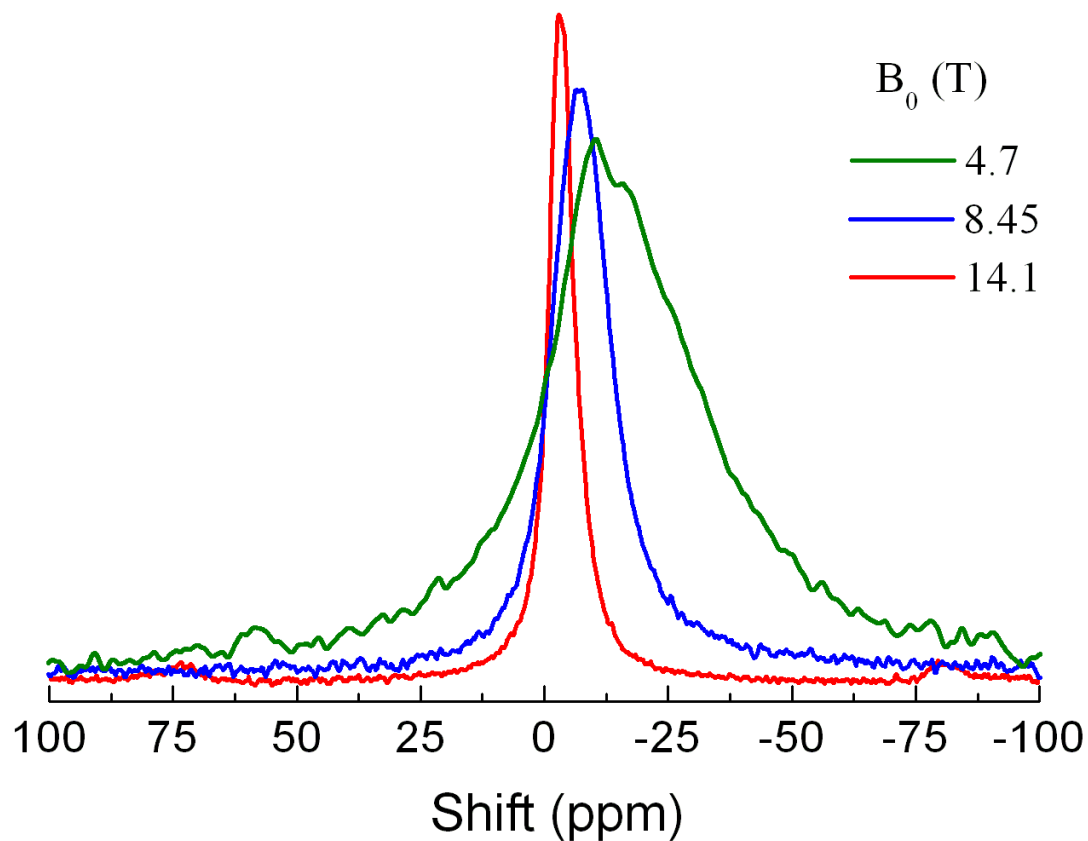
Fig. 14. The effect of a distribution in the isotropic chemical shift and the quadrupole coupling constant on the central transition MAS lineshape. For these simulations the average  $C_q$  is 2 MHz,  $\eta_q = 0$  and the isotropic chemical is 0 ppm. The Larmor frequency is 80 MHz so  $A = 2343.8$  Hz. (a) No distribution, (b) Gaussian distribution of the isotropic chemical shift of FWHM = 400 Hz (5 ppm) or 0.17 A, (c) Gaussian distribution of FWHM = 0.8 MHz and (d) Gaussian distribution of both the isotropic chemical shift and  $C_q$  which are the same as in (b) and (c). ( $A = (I(I+1) - 3/4)\nu_q^2/\nu_0$ ).

# $^{23}\text{Na}$ NMR results

## NaOH activated carbons

(rice hulls)

- Single-pulse experiments.
- MAS at 12 kHz.
- Probes: 4 mm.

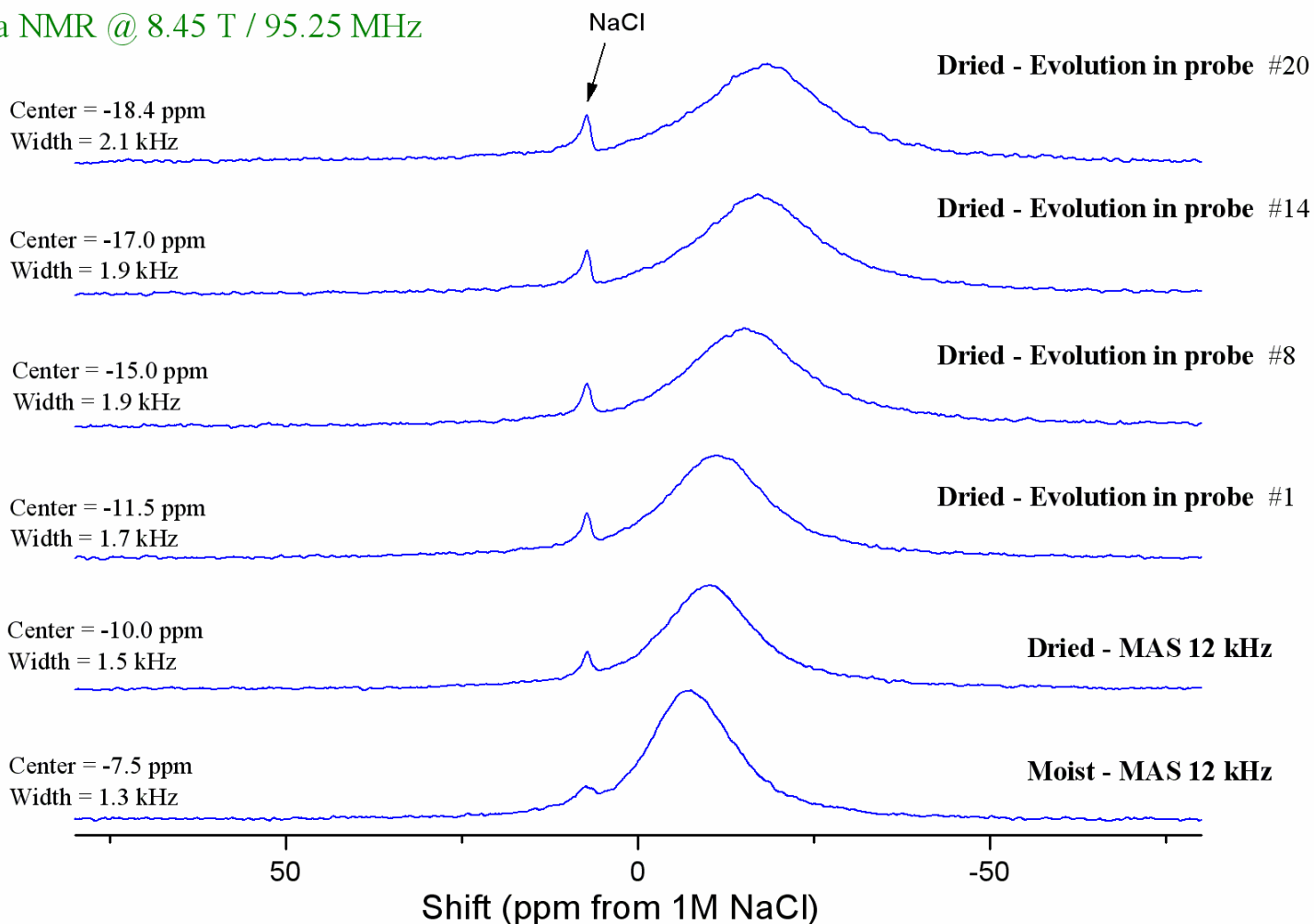


Disordered materials: no quadrupolar features directly observed.

# $^{23}\text{Na}$ NMR results

NaOH Activated Carbon

$^{23}\text{Na}$  NMR @ 8.45 T / 95.25 MHz

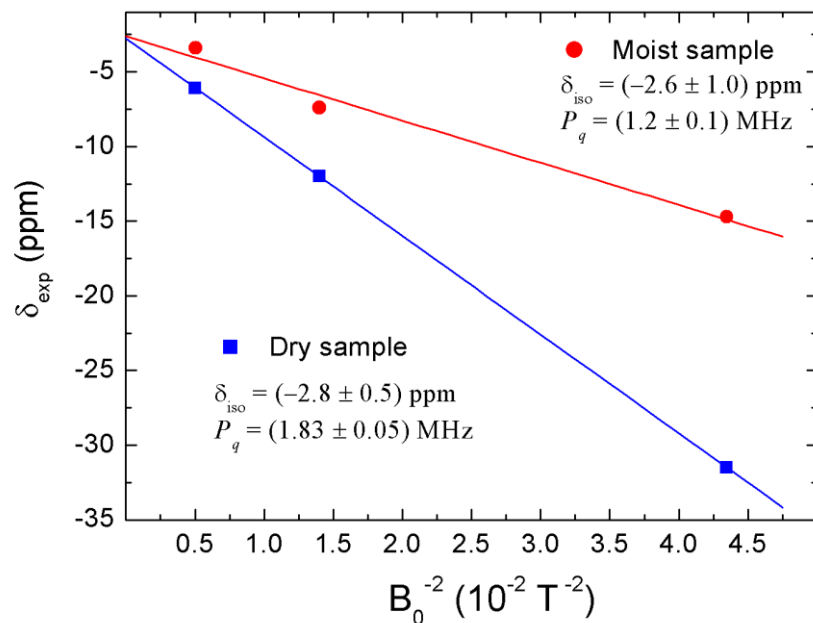


Spectra change as a function of experiment time – effects of drying.

# $^{23}\text{Na}$ NMR results

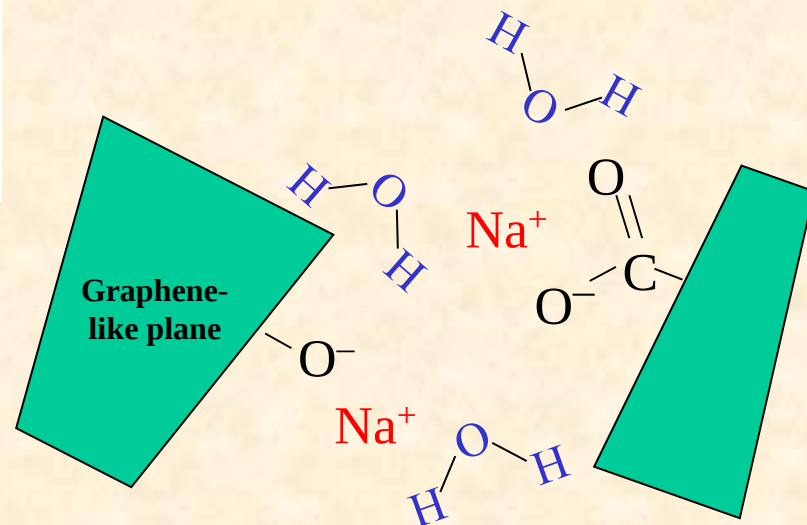
## NaOH activated carbons

(rice hulls)



Freitas et al., SSNMR 2007;32:109

- ✓ Isotropic chemical shifts are indicative of the occurrence of oxygenated Na groups.
- ✓ Possible existence of **surface groups containing Na-O-C** bonds at the edges of aromatic lamellae.
- ✓ Strong effect of hydration on quadrupolar coupling.

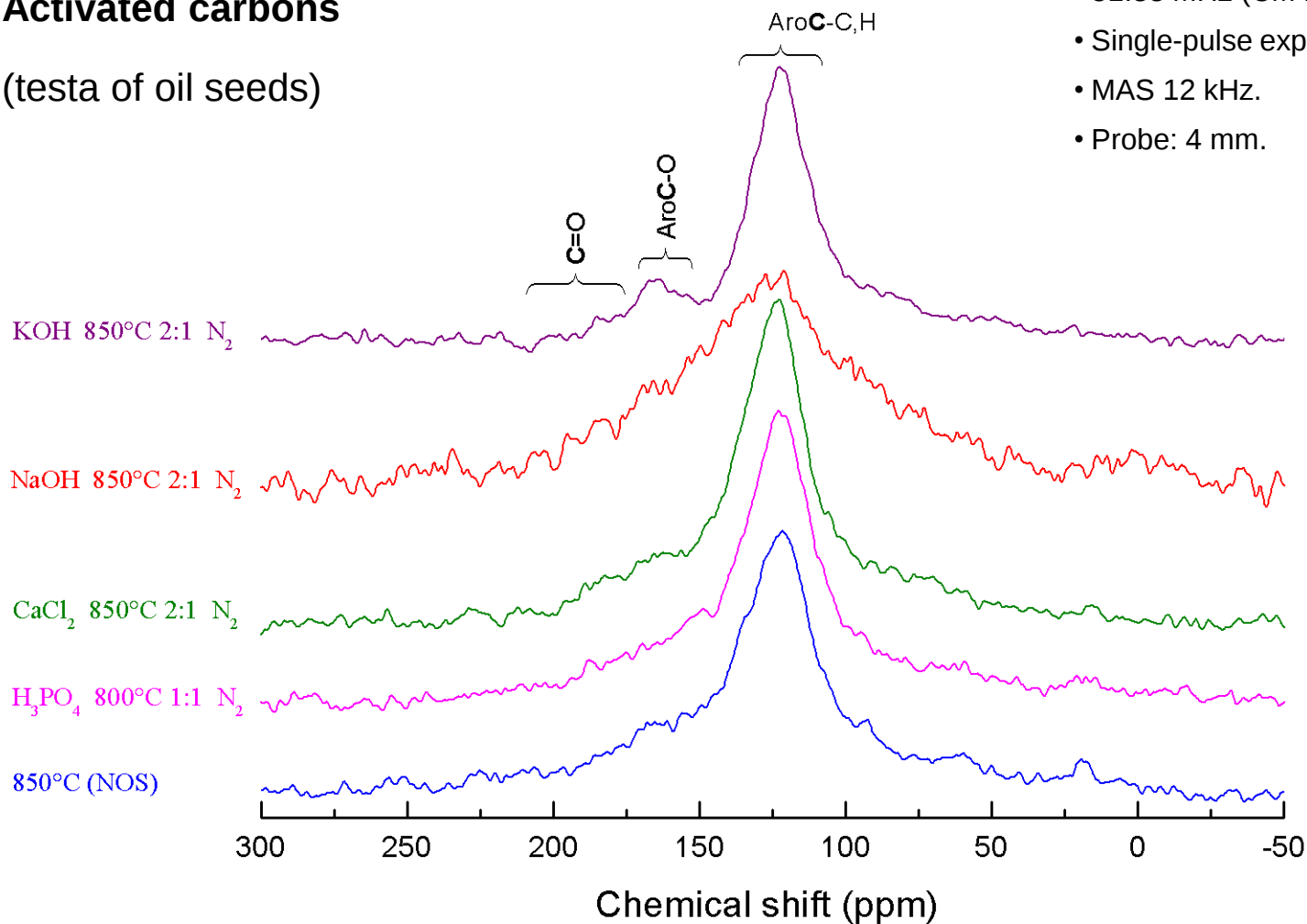


# $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR results

## Activated carbons

(testa of oil seeds)

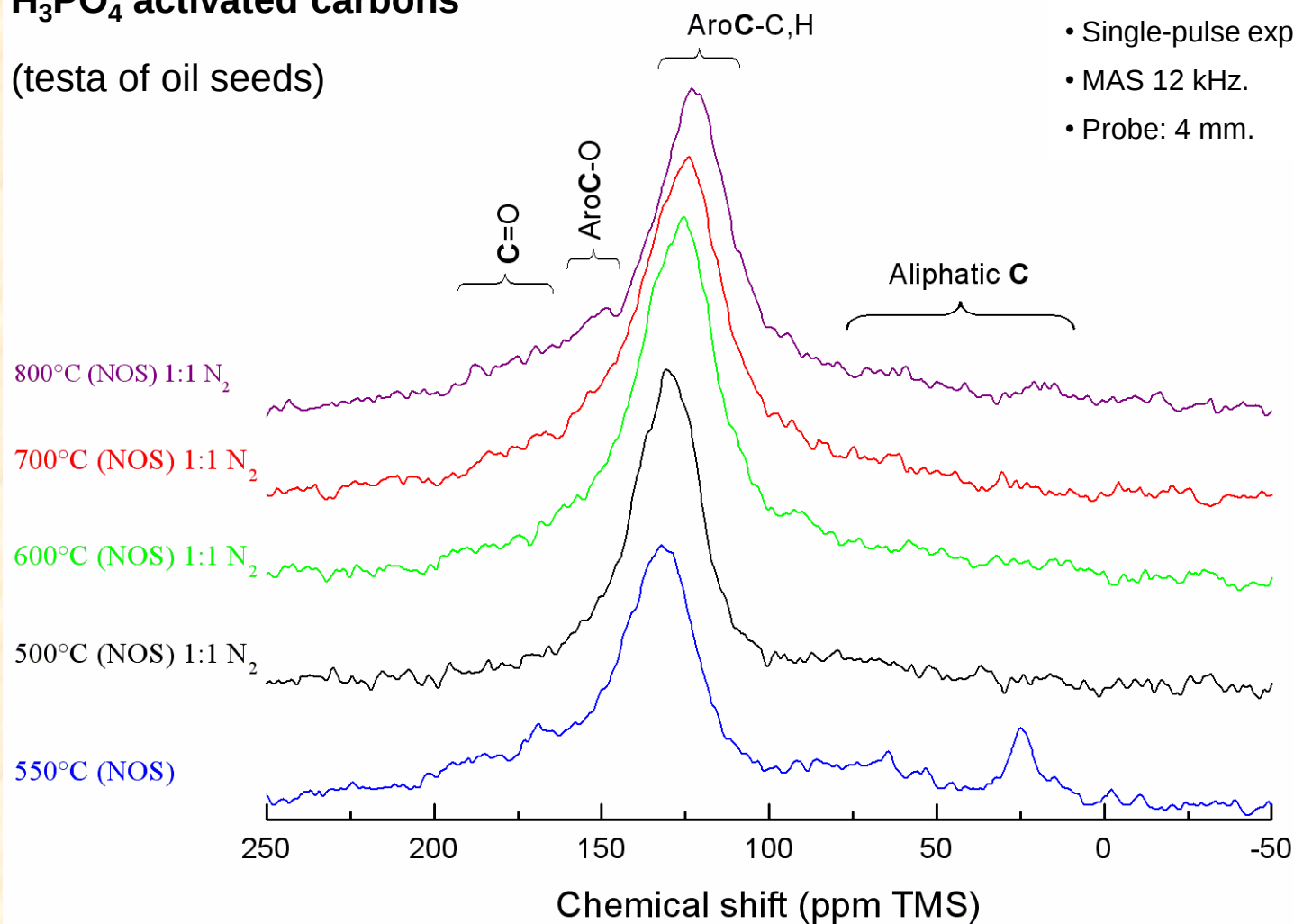
- 51.38 MHz (CM 200).
- Single-pulse experiments.
- MAS 12 kHz.
- Probe: 4 mm.



# $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR results

## $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$ activated carbons

(testa of oil seeds)



# $^{31}\text{P}$ NMR results

## $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$ activated carbons

(testa of oil seeds)

- 145.77 MHz (CM 360).
- Single-pulse experiments.
- MAS 10 kHz.
- Probe: 4 mm.

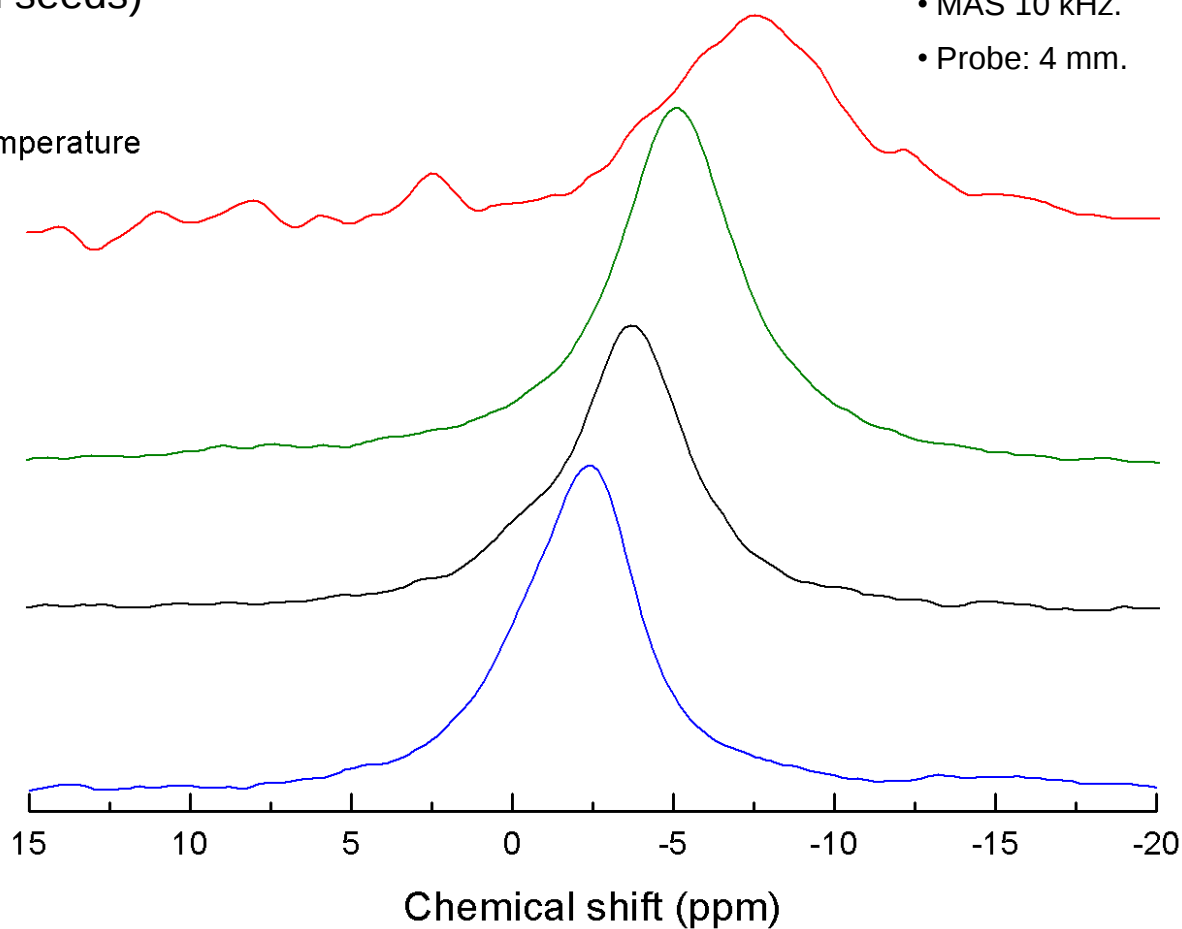
Activation Temperature

800°C

700°C

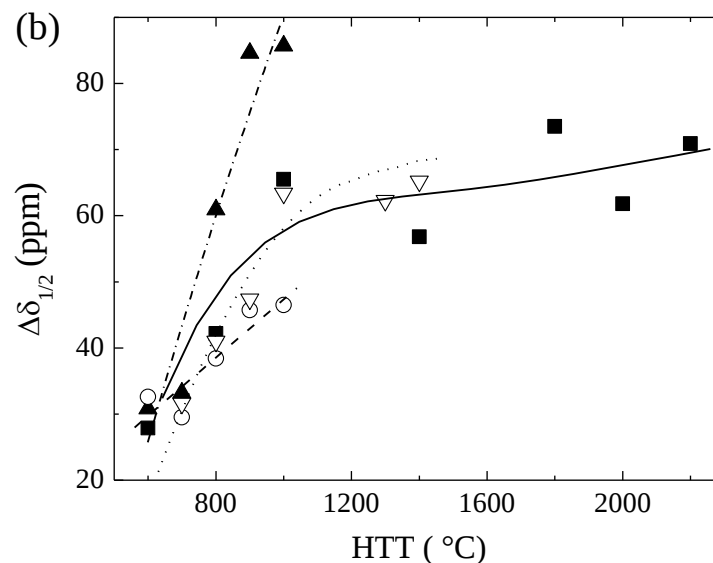
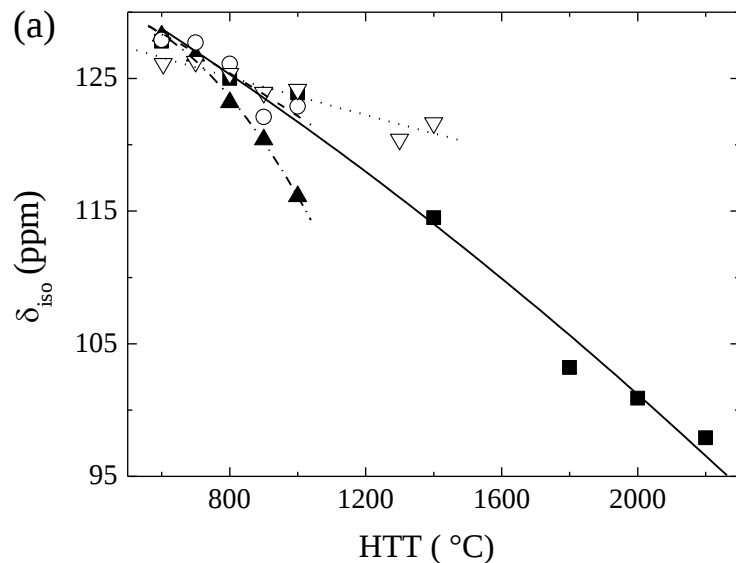
600°C

500°C

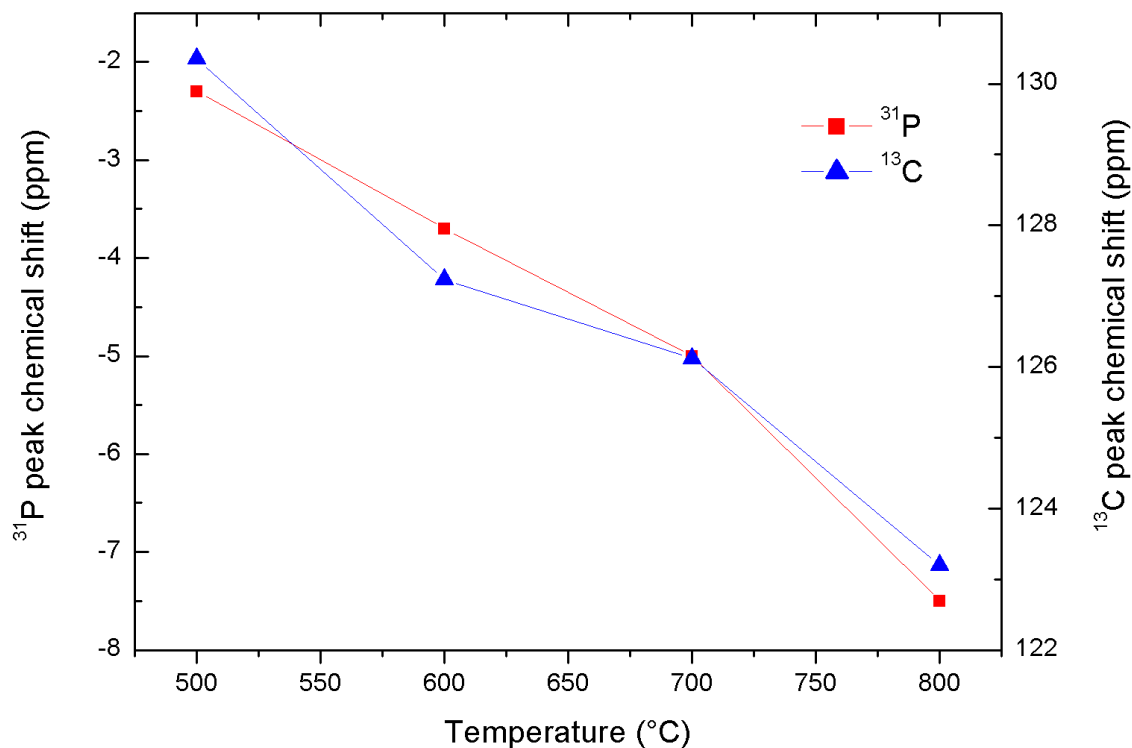


# Effect of heat-treatment temperature

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of heat-treated carbon materials:



# Effect of heat-treatment temperature



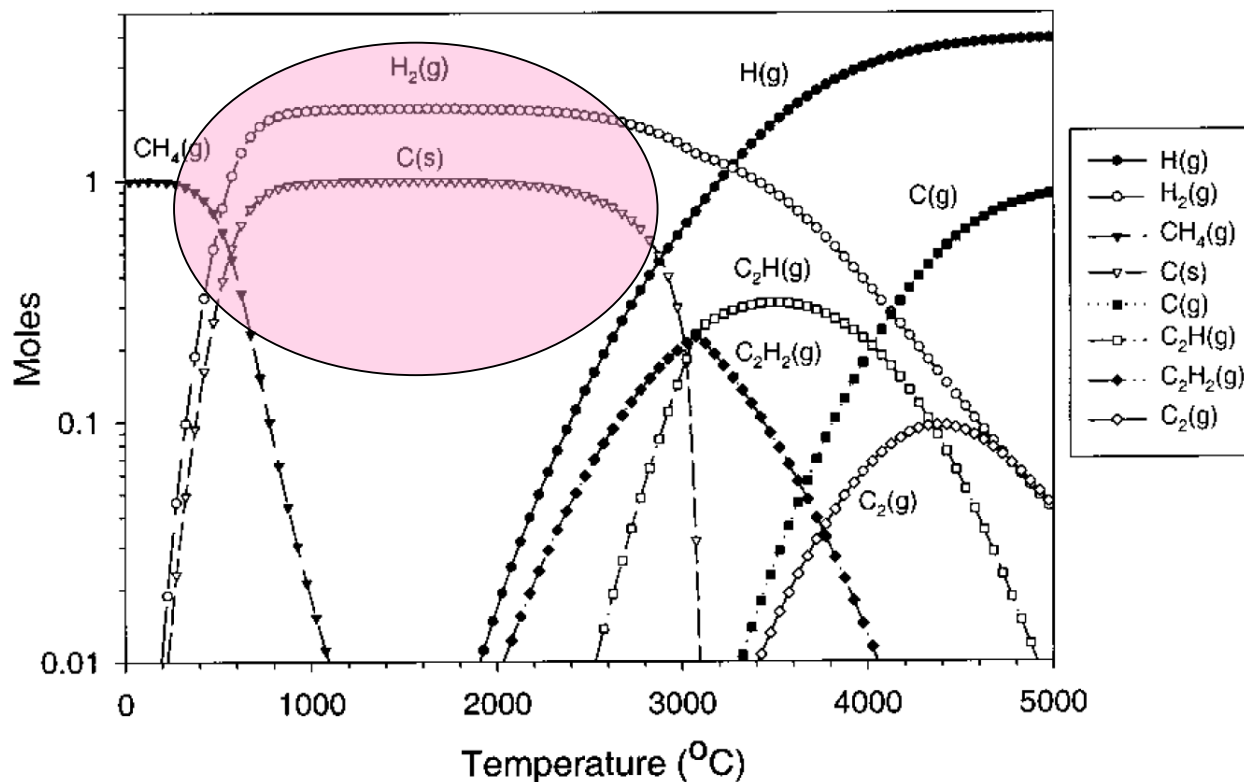
Increase in the locally anisotropic diamagnetic susceptibility associated with the graphene-like planes.

# $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR in plasma blacks

---

- Investigation of plasma-derived carbon blacks produced by pyrolysis of natural gas, correlating their physical properties with details of the plasma processes.
- Development of solid-state  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR as an effective method for characterizing the physical and chemical properties of plasma blacks, with support of other techniques (XRD, SEM, TEM, Raman spectroscopy, etc.)

# Plasma pyrolysis of methane



**Figure 1.** Simplified equilibrium diagram for 1 mol of methane.

Fincke et al., *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* 2002;41:1425-1435

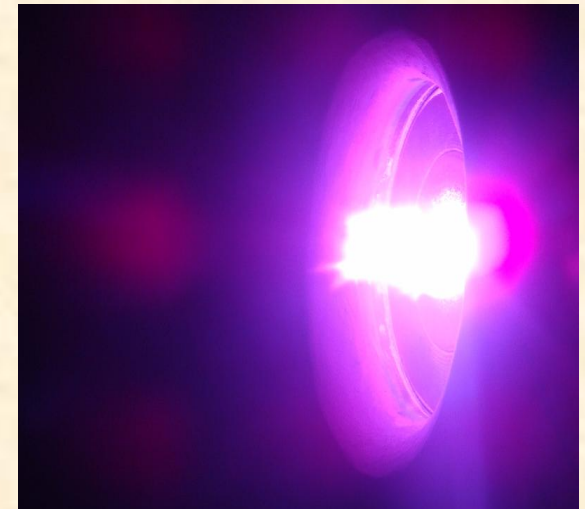
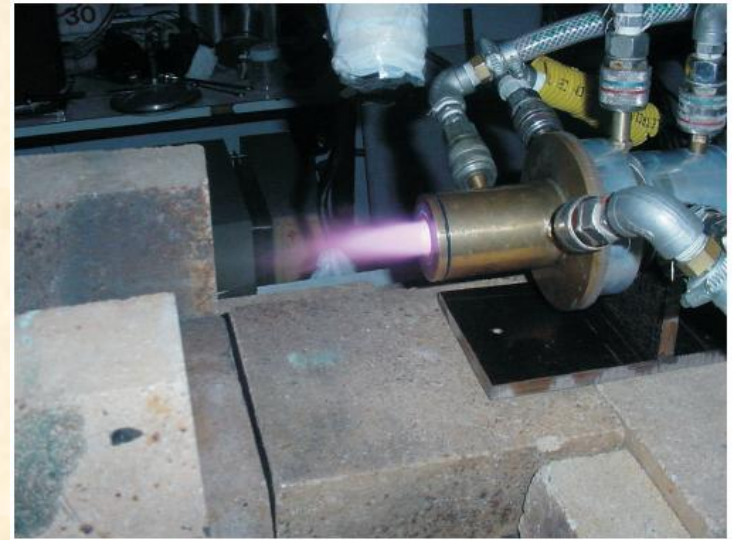
Overall reaction:  $\text{CH}_4 \rightarrow 2\text{H}_2 + \text{C}$

# Plasma pyrolysis of methane

---

The Plasma Lab. at UFES / Vitória:

- Production of Hydrogen and carbon blacks from natural gas.
- Different torch and reactor designs.
- Use of different plasma gases:
  - ✓ Argon.
  - ✓ Nitrogen.
  - ✓ Hydrogen.

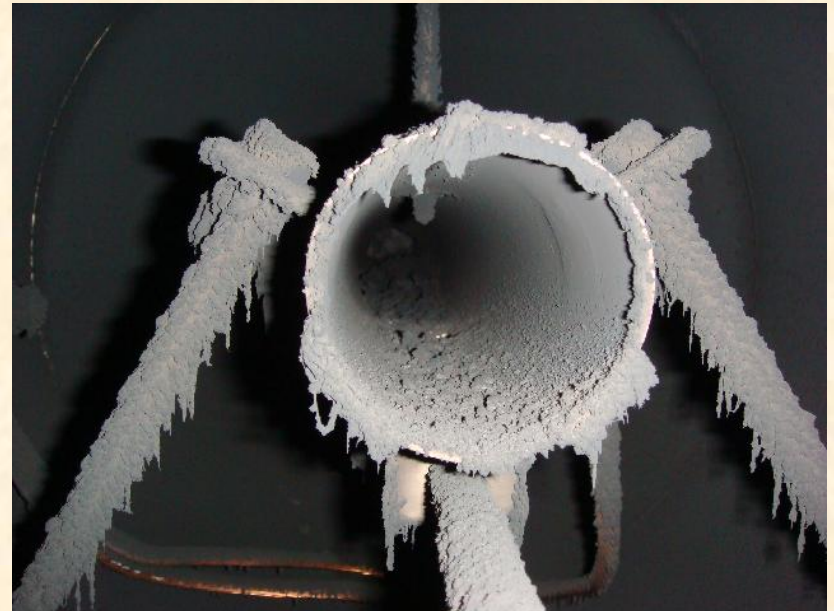


Details about plasma methods: Dr. Alfredo Cunha, [alfredo@cce.ufes.br](mailto:alfredo@cce.ufes.br).

# Plasma pyrolysis of methane

---

Production of carbon blacks and other solid residues:



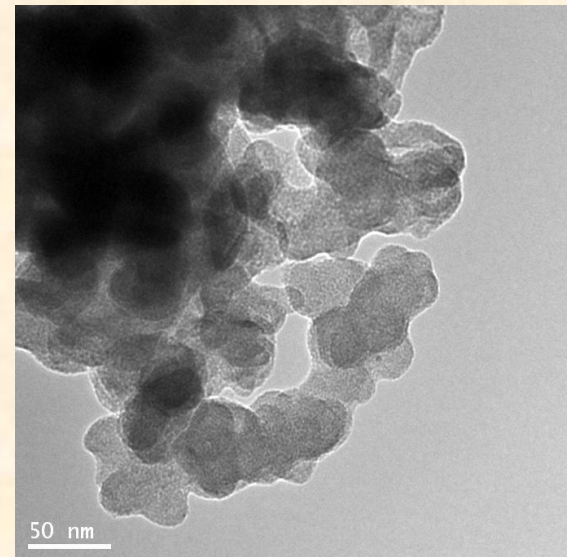
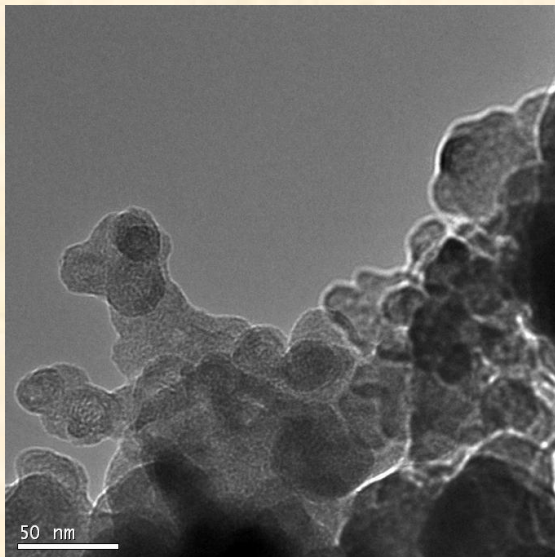
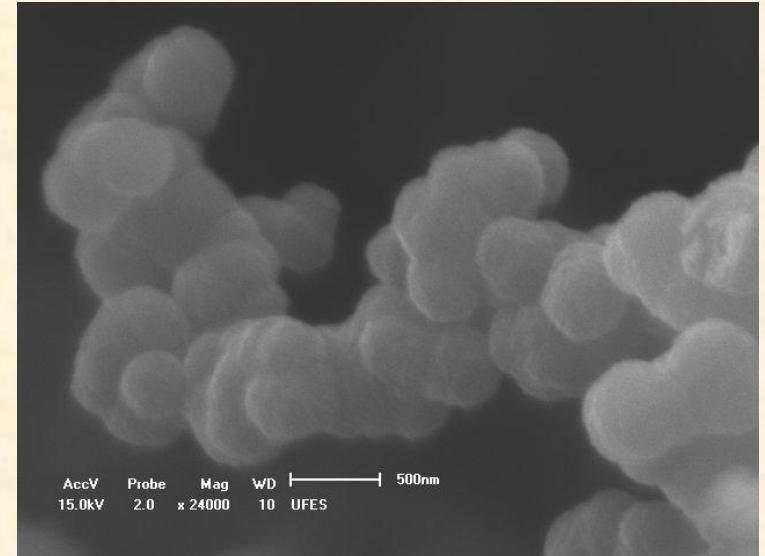
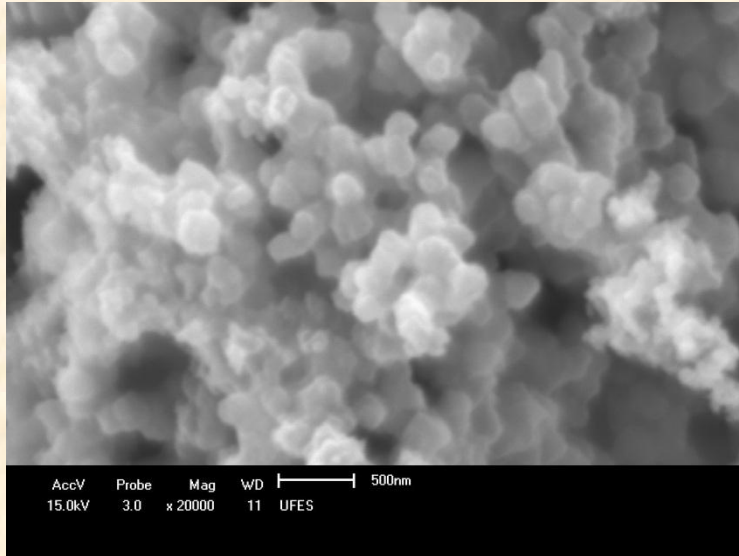
# Plasma pyrolysis of methane

---

Production of carbon blacks and other solid residues:



# SEM and TEM images



# Surface groups in carbon blacks

---

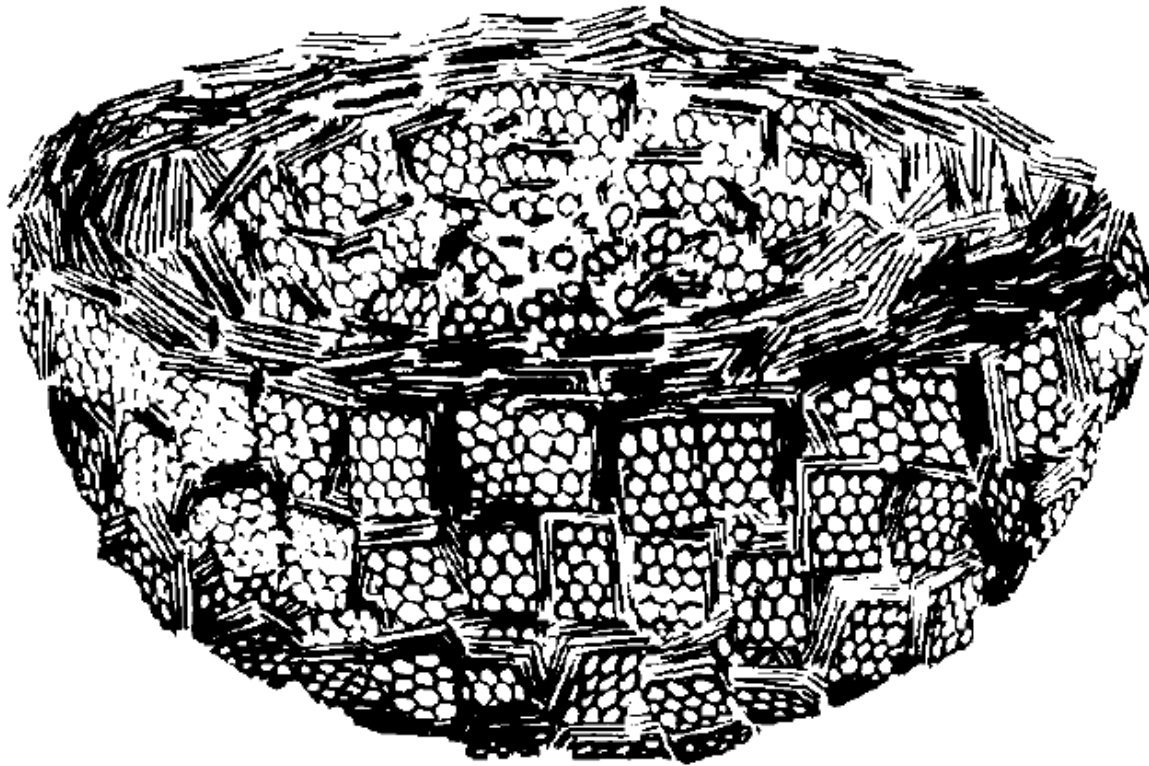


Fig. 15. Microtexture of carbon black according to[19].

# Surface groups in carbon blacks

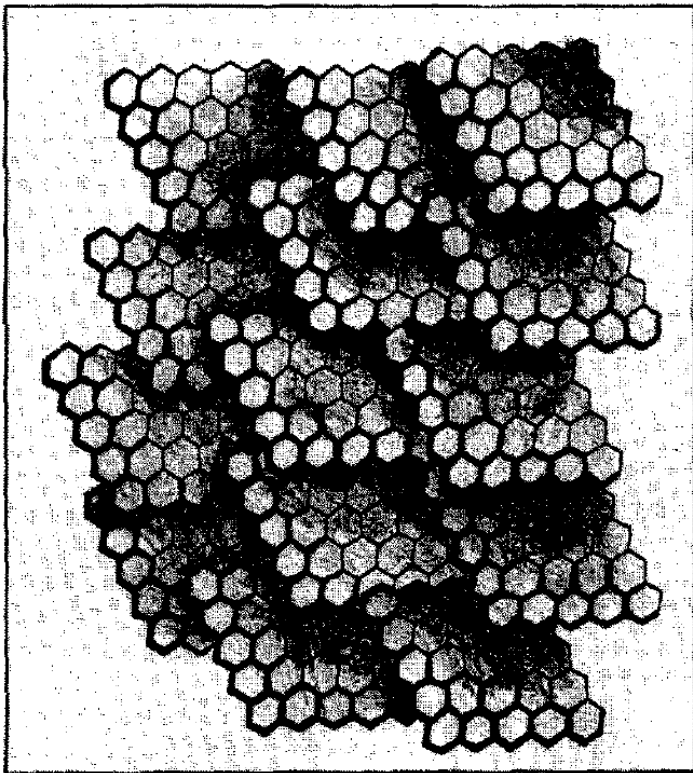


Figure 6. Topview surface model of carbon black particles according to STM observations (small overlapping graphitic layers).

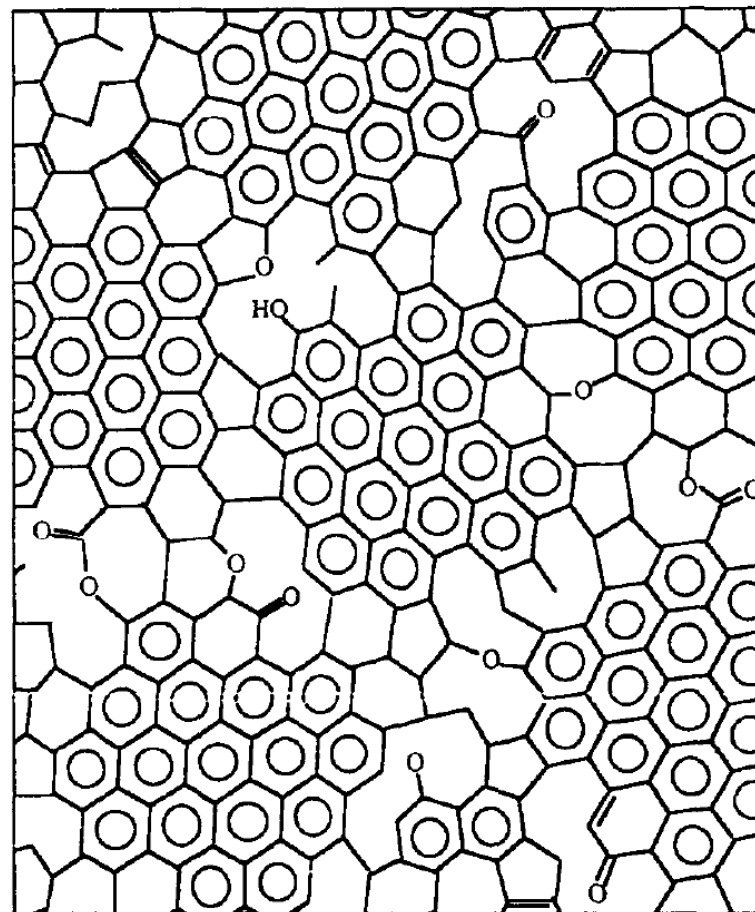
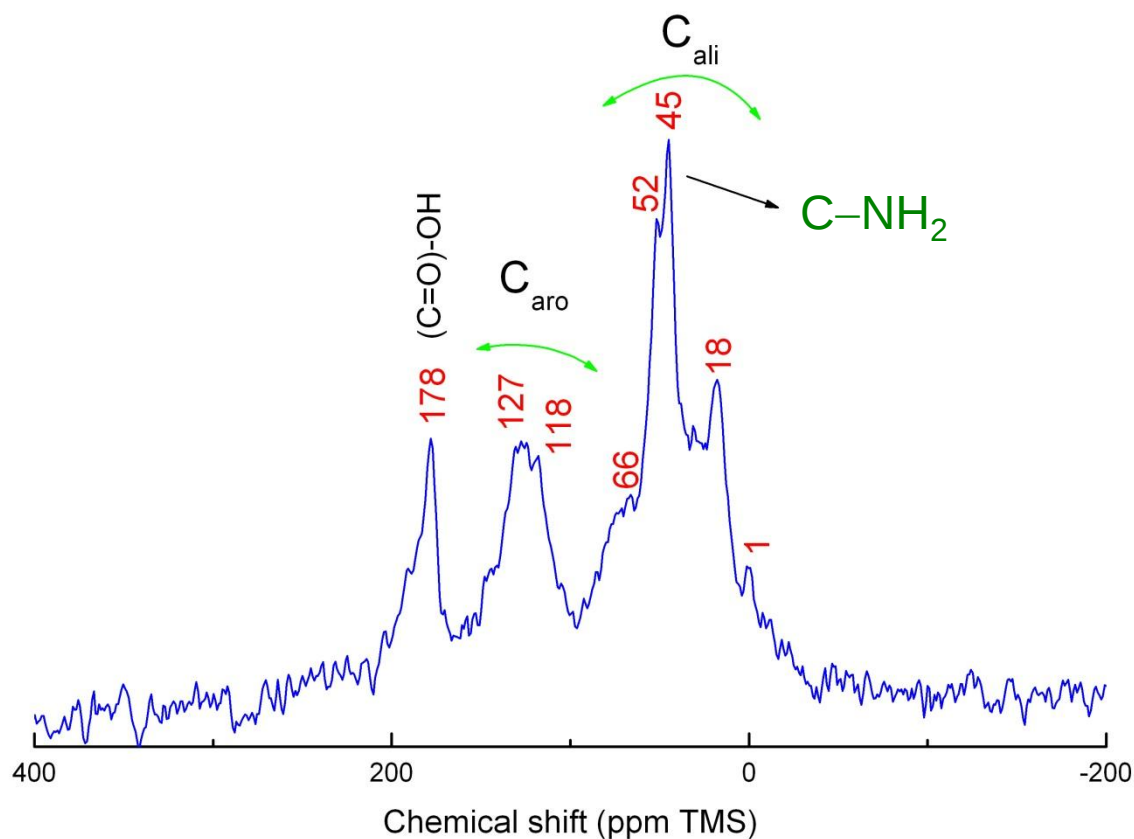


Figure 1. Model surface of particles with ordered zones of small graphitic crystallites and functional groups.

# Solid-state $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra

**Nitrogen** plasma black:

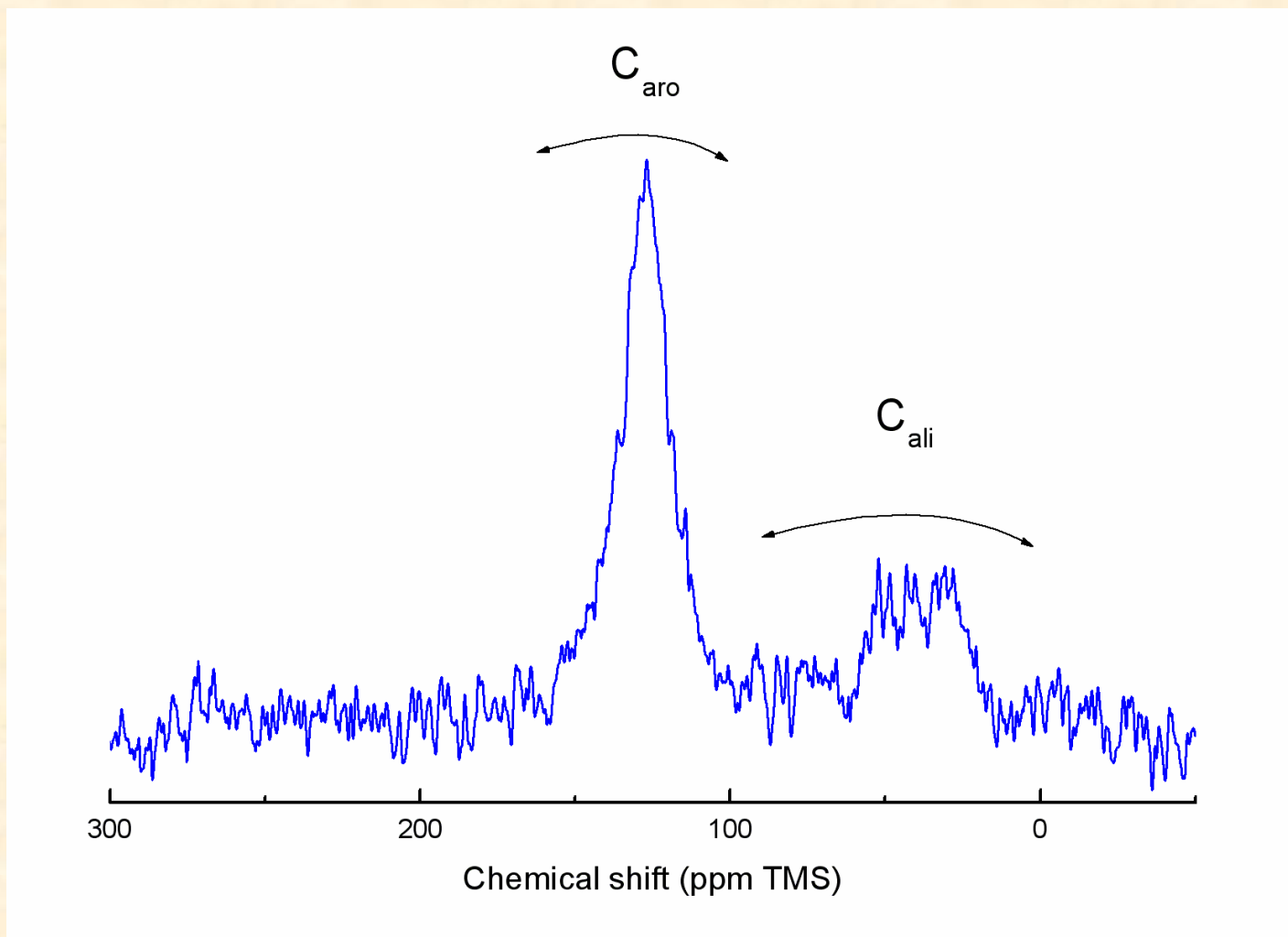
$\{^1\text{H} \rightarrow ^{13}\text{C}\}$  CP



# Solid-state $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra

**Nitrogen** plasma black:

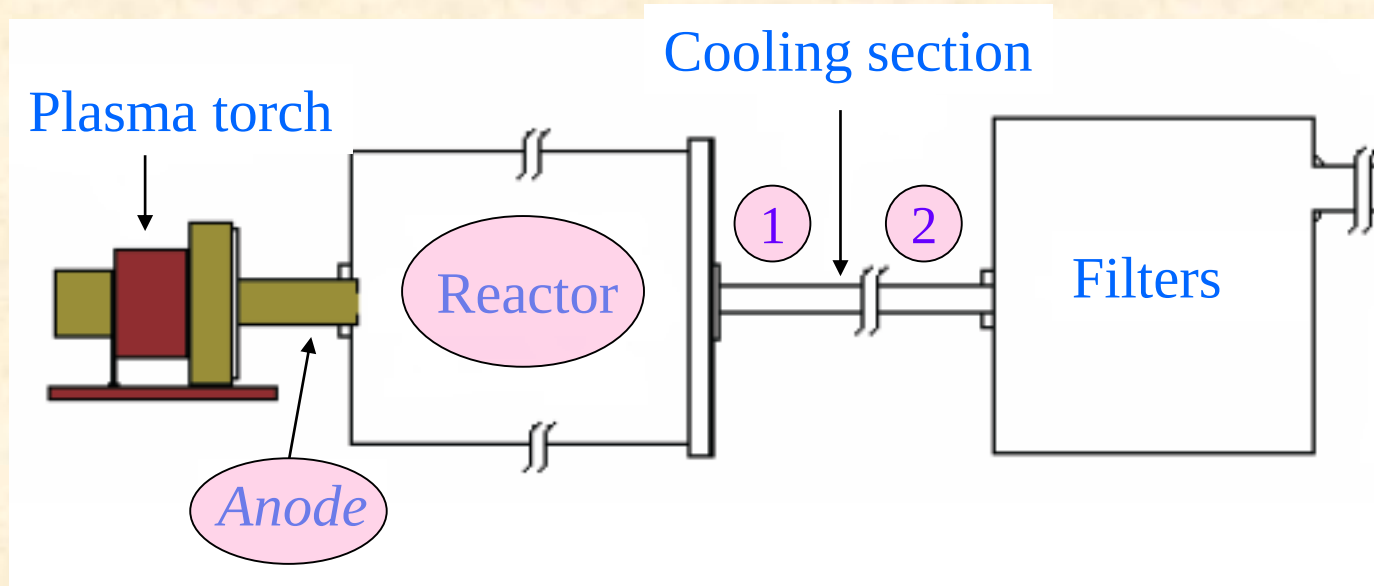
$\{^1\text{H} \rightarrow ^{13}\text{C}\}$  CP



# Characterization of plasma blacks

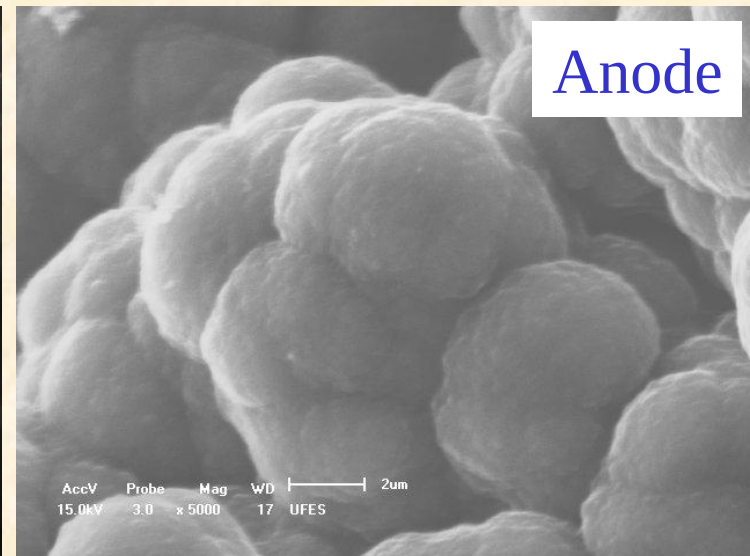
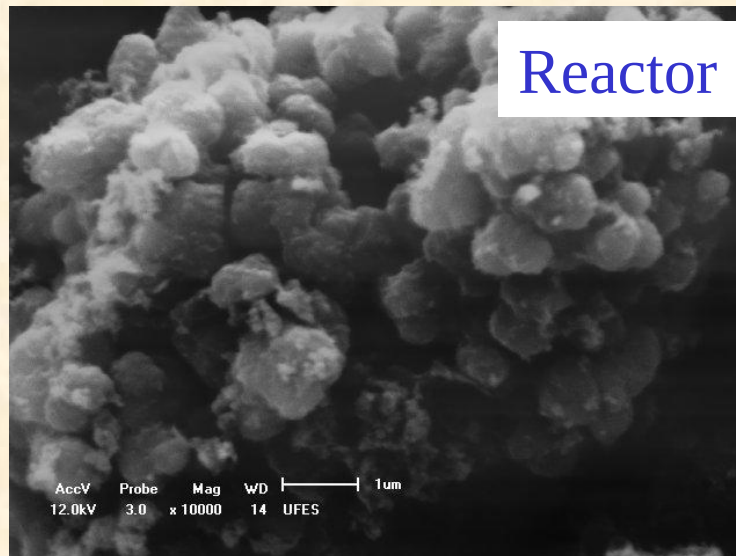
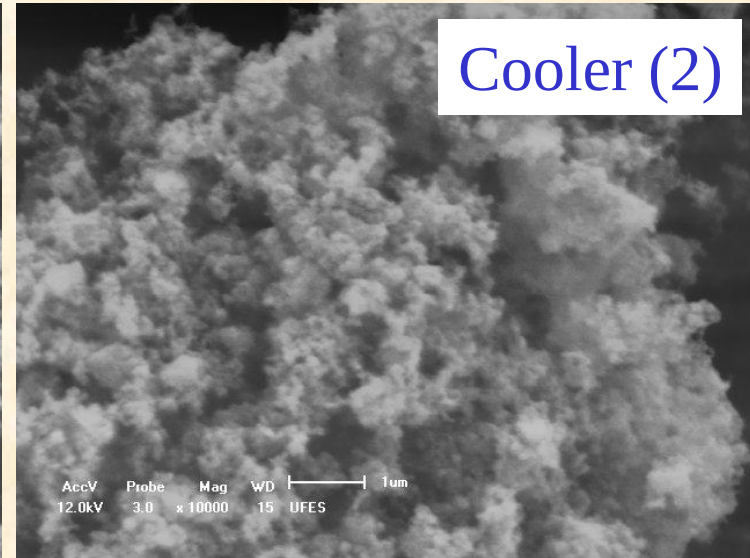
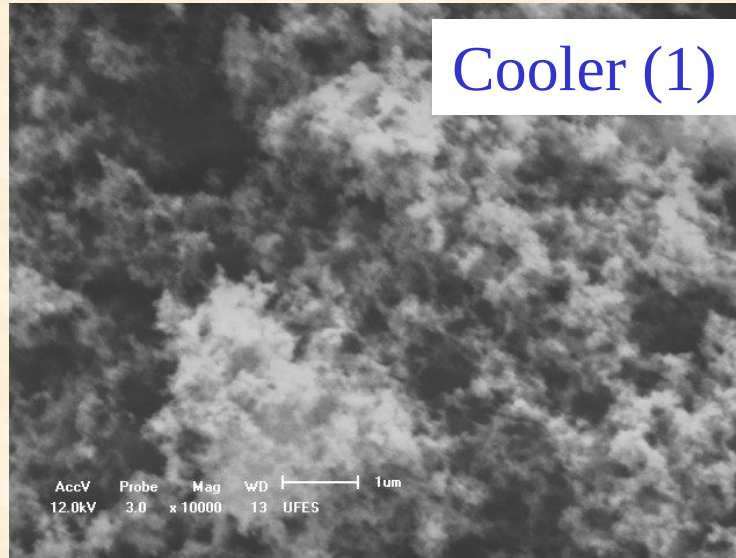
---

Apparatus:



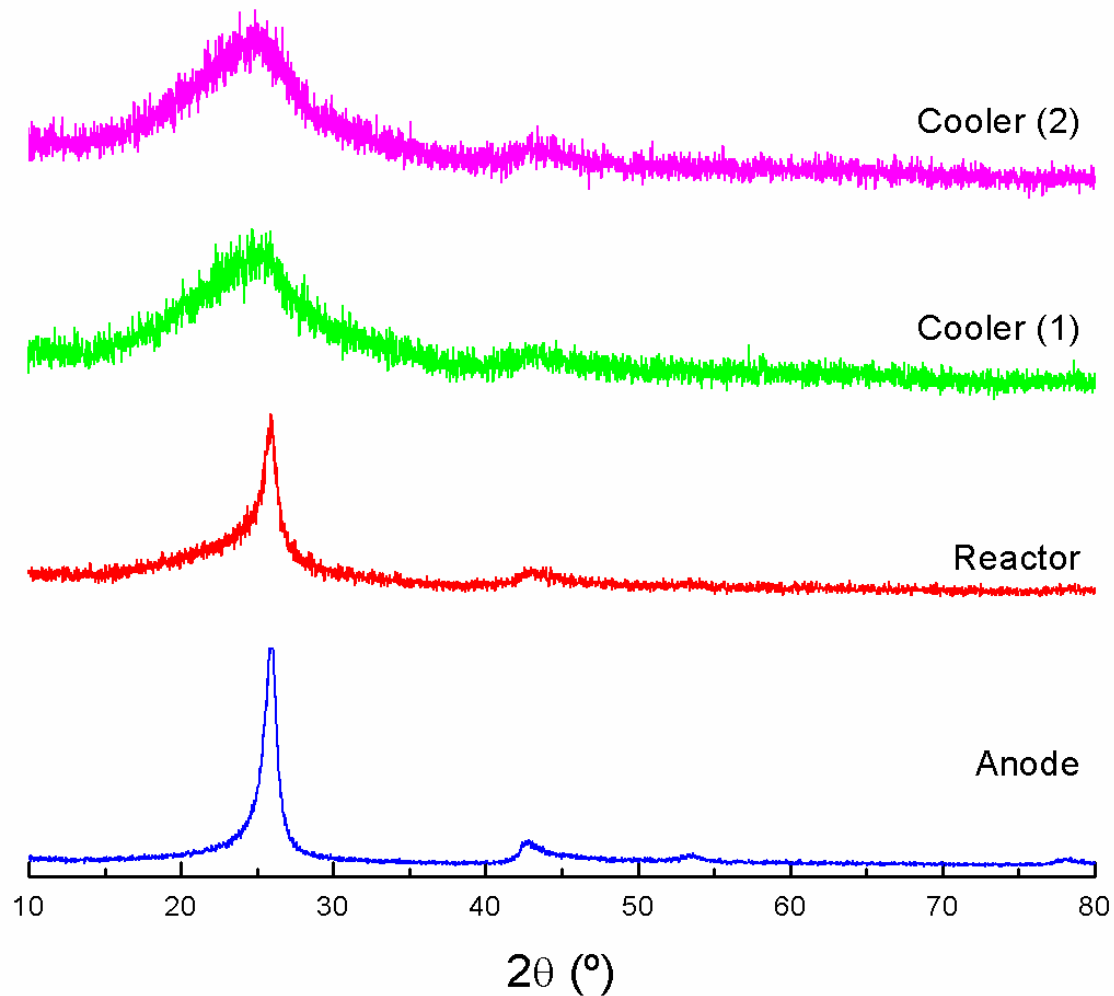
# Scanning electron microscopy

Comparison of SEM images – **Argon plasma blacks**:



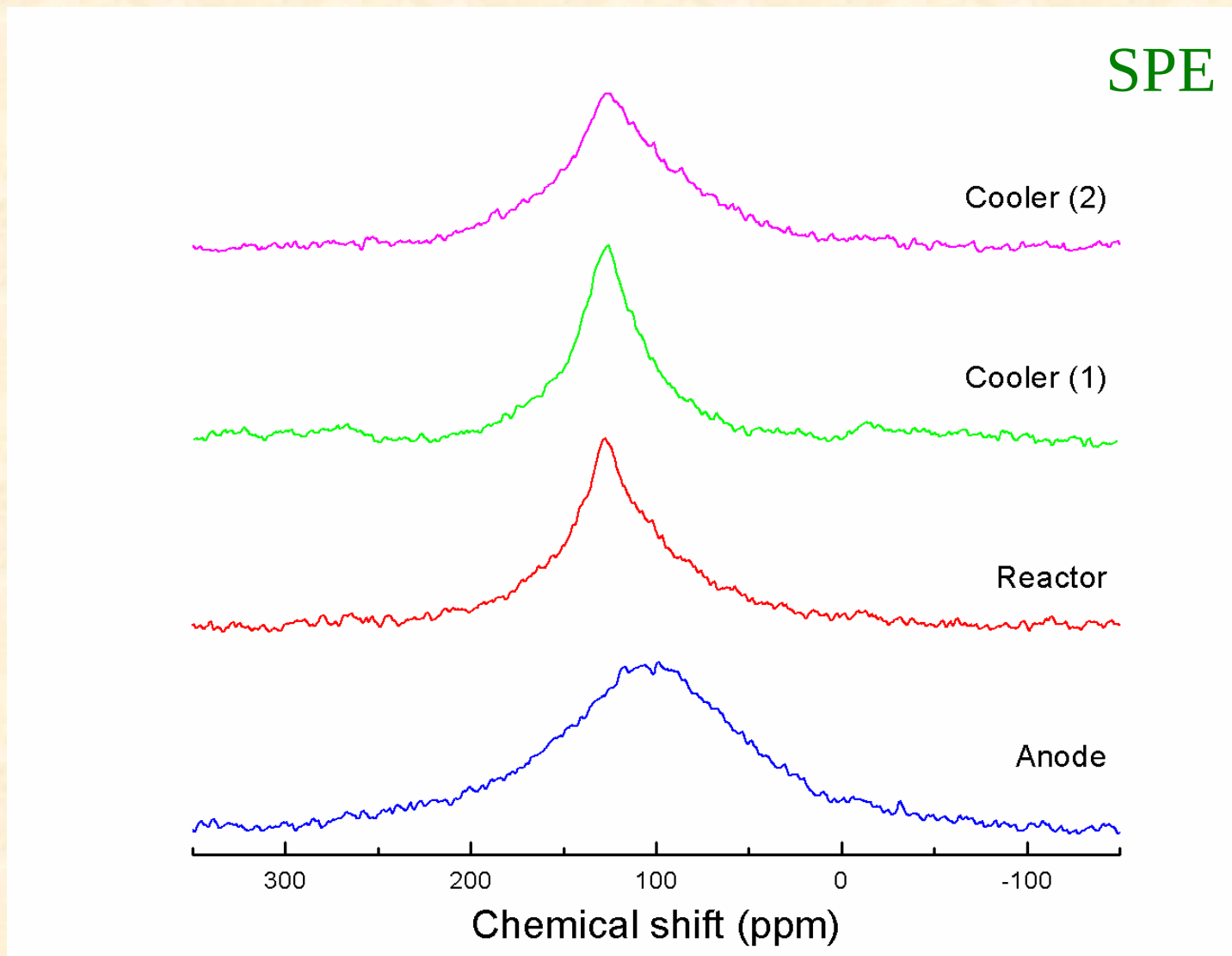
# X-ray diffraction

Comparison of X-ray diffractograms – **Argon plasma blacks:**



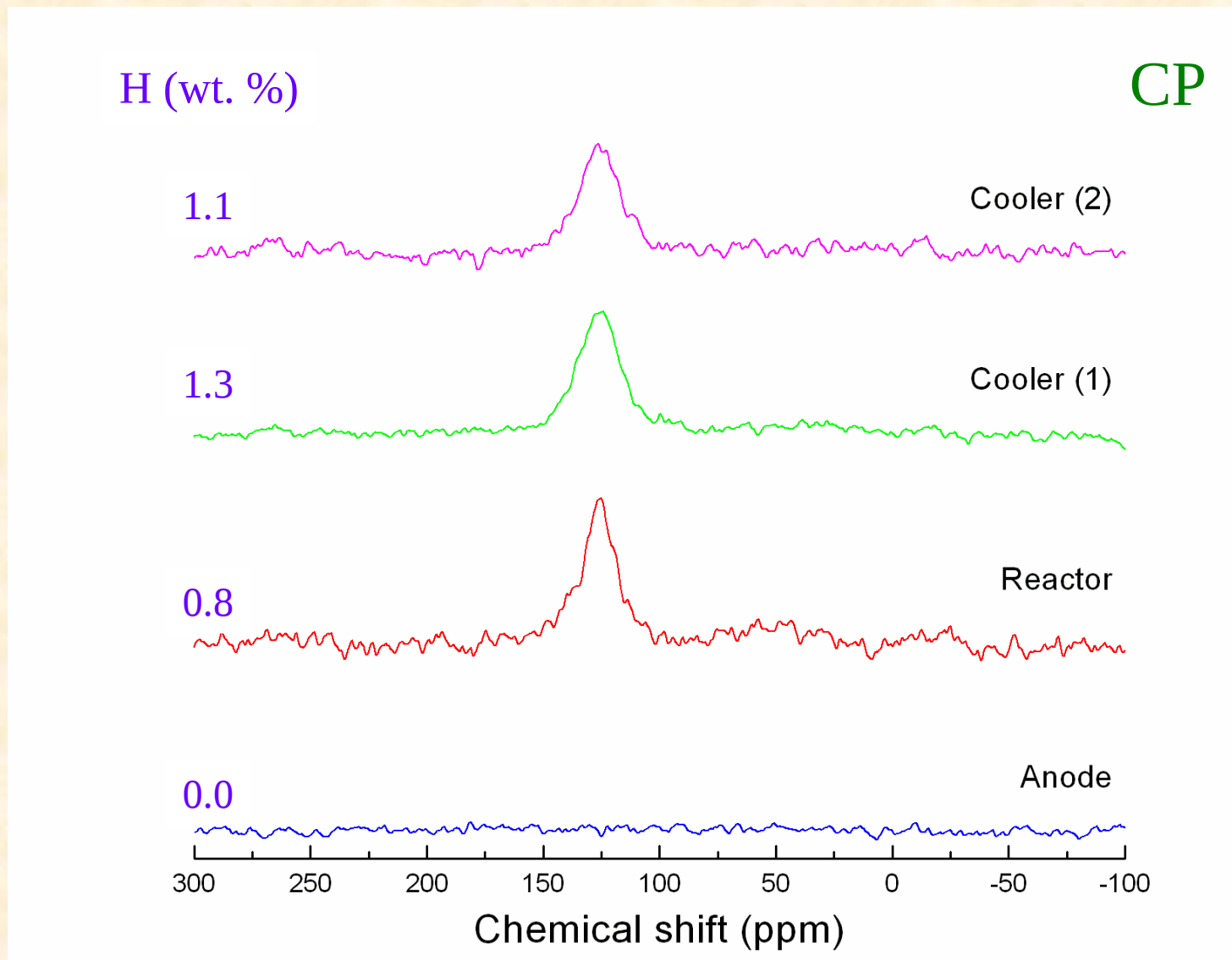
# Solid state $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR

Comparison of  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra – **Argon plasma blacks:**



# Solid state $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR

Comparison of  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra – **Argon plasma blacks:**



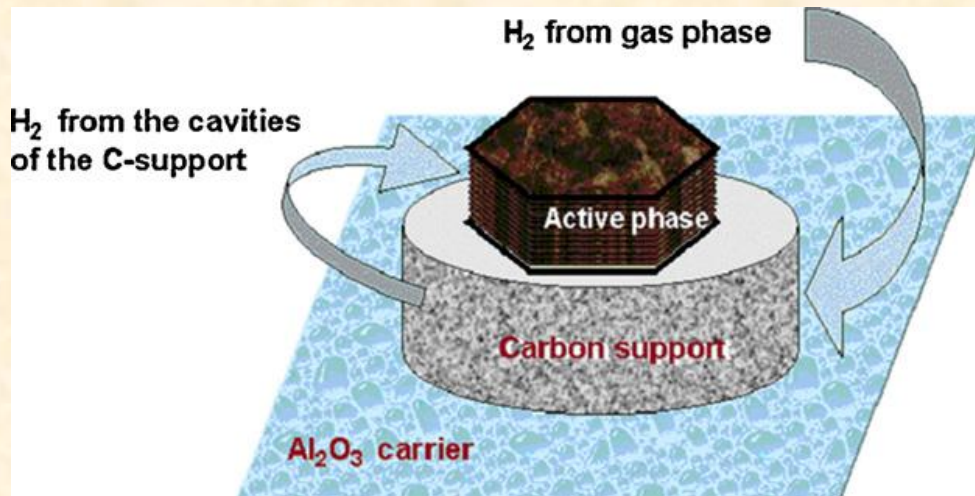
# Alumina-carbon nanocomposites

## Some applications:

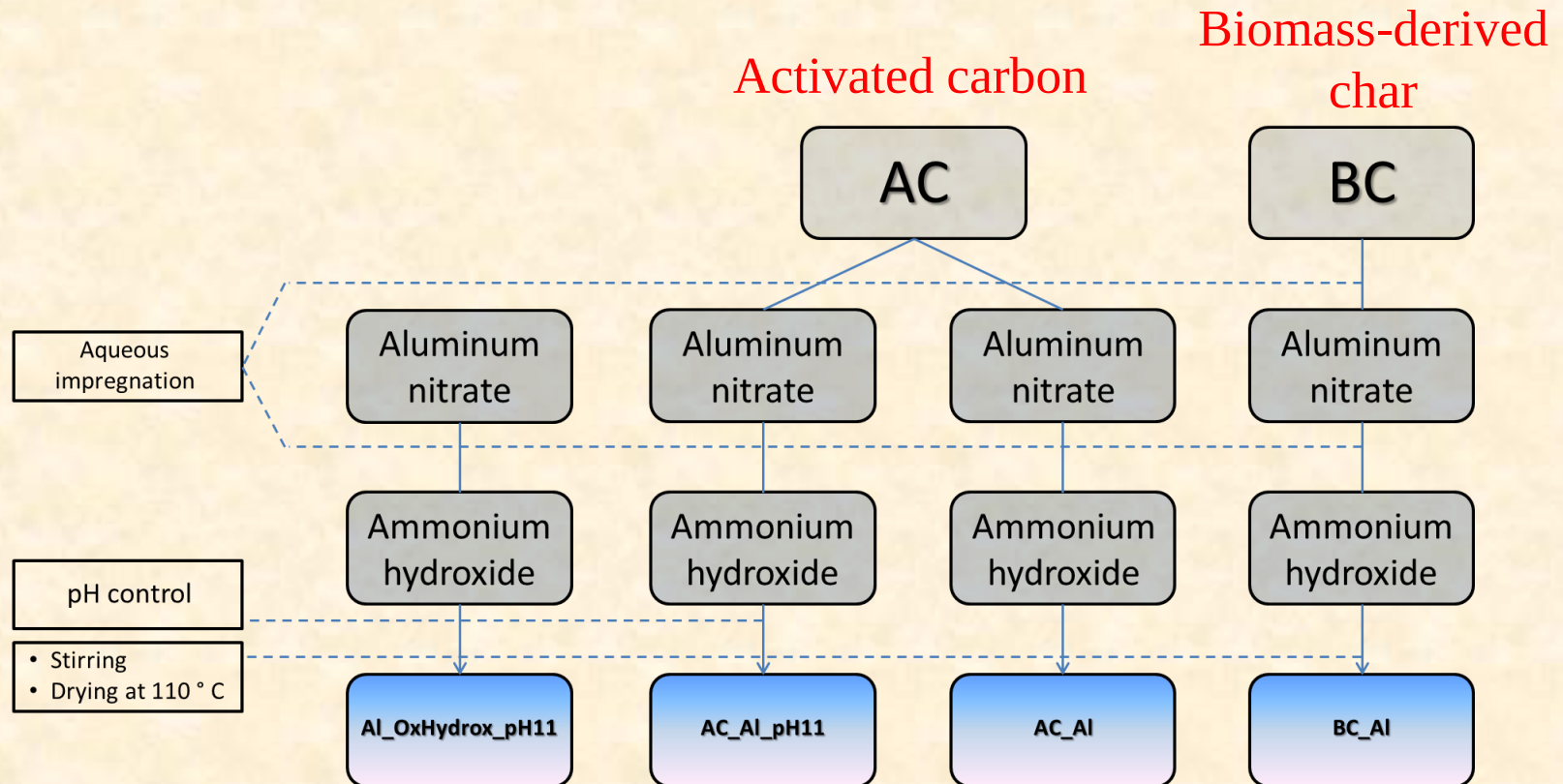
Ammonia adsorption

Removal of fluoride from water

Catalysts supports

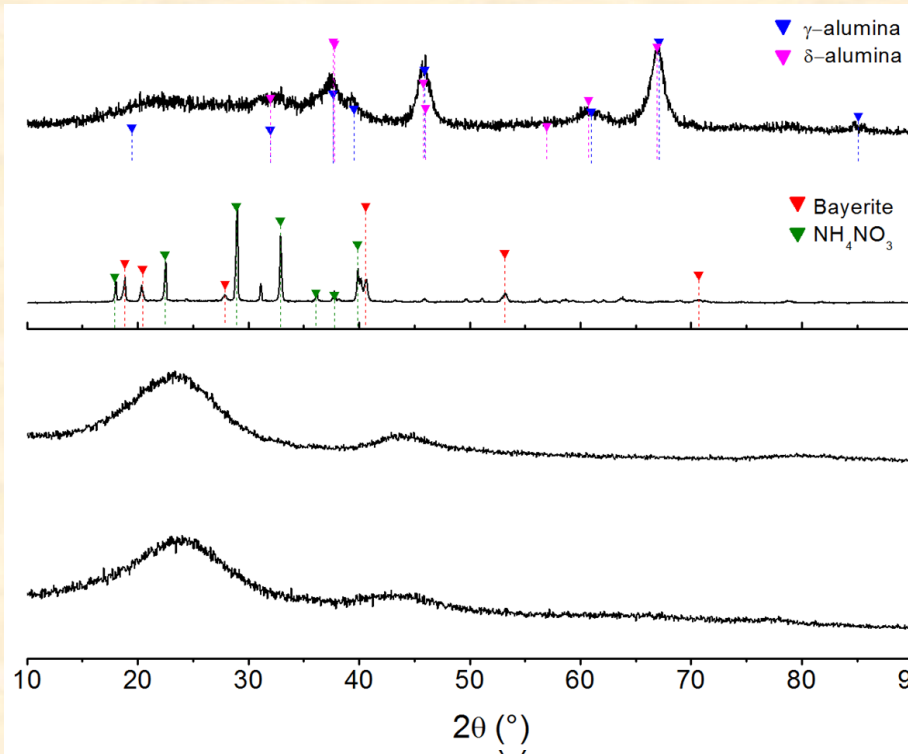


# Alumina-carbon nanocomposites

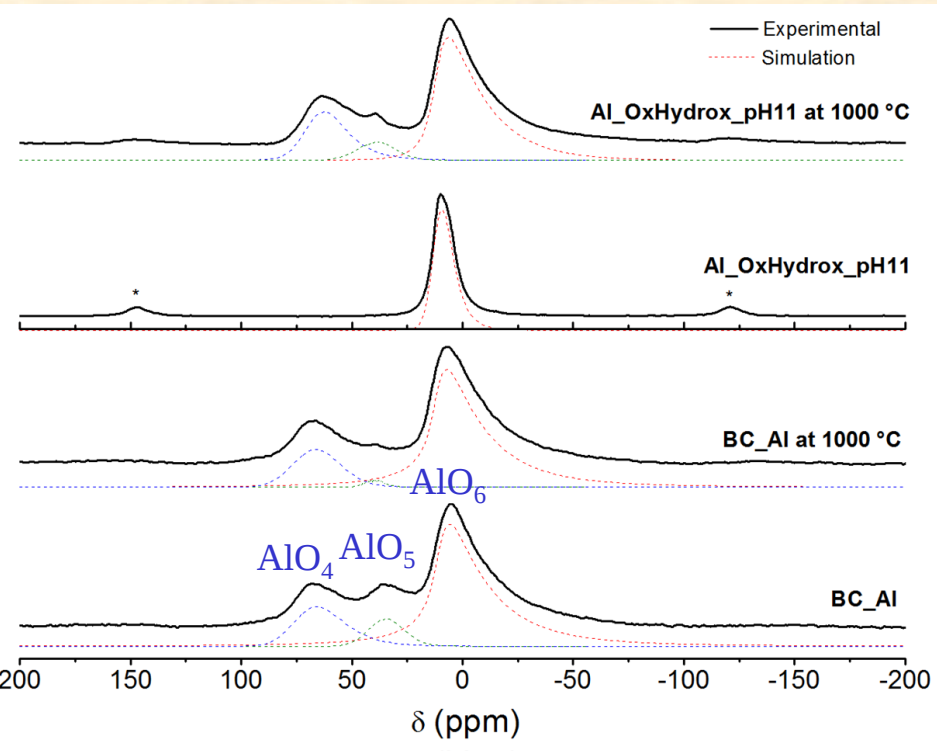


# Alumina-carbon nanocomposites

XRD patterns:



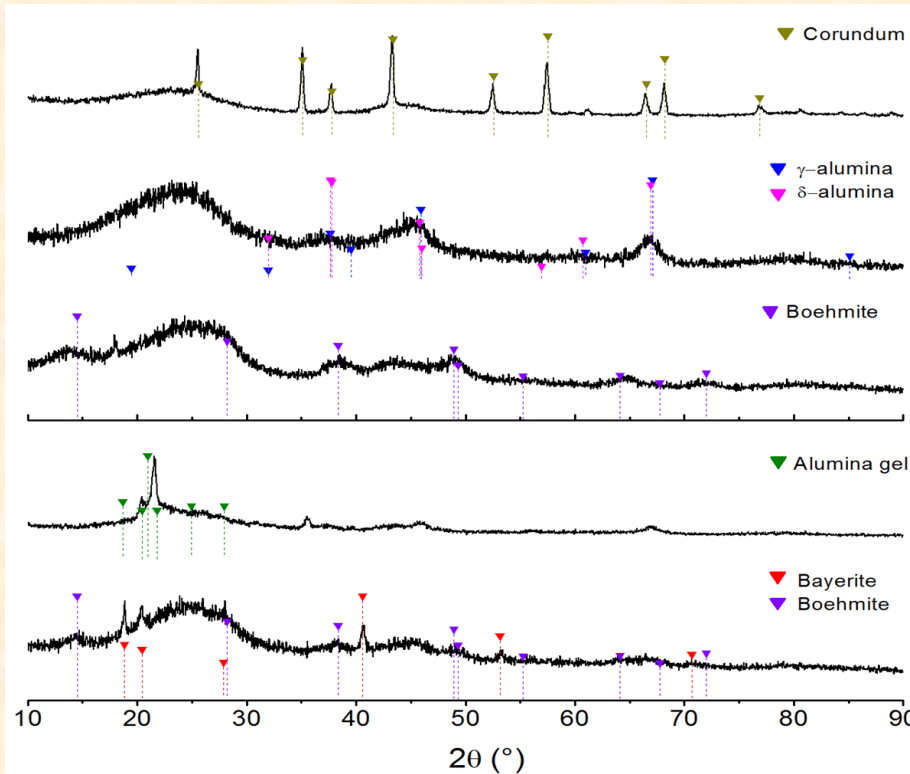
$^{27}\text{Al}$  NMR spectra:



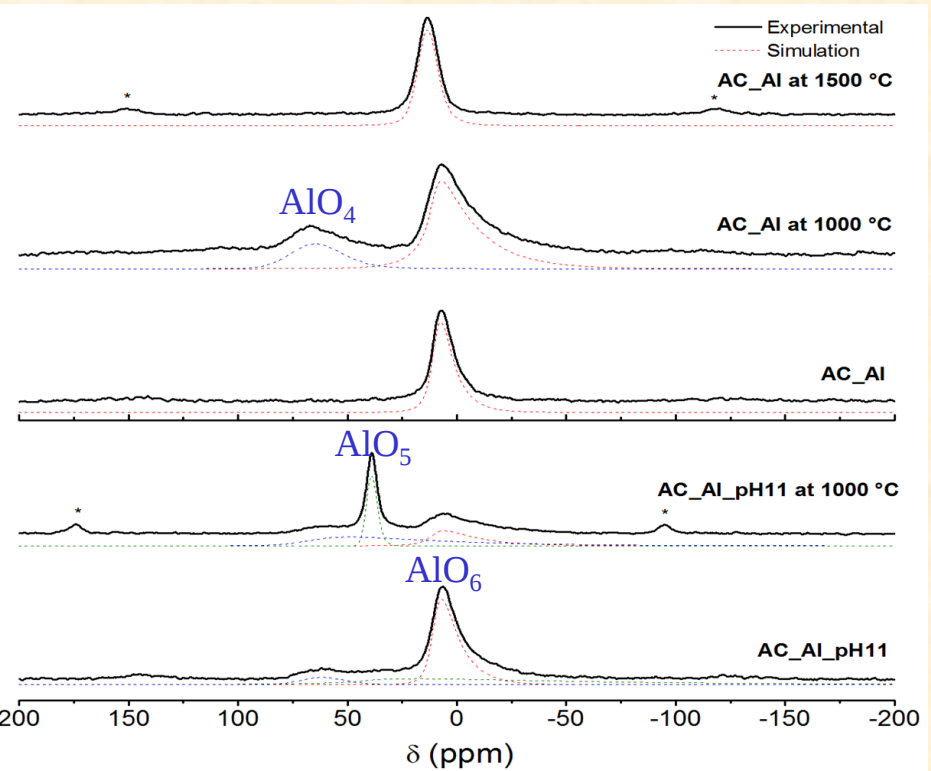
**Figure 3.** XRD patterns and solid-state  $^{27}\text{Al}$  SPE/MAS NMR spectra recorded at room temperature for as-synthesized and heat-treated BC<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-Al and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-pH11 samples.

# Alumina-carbon nanocomposites

XRD patterns:



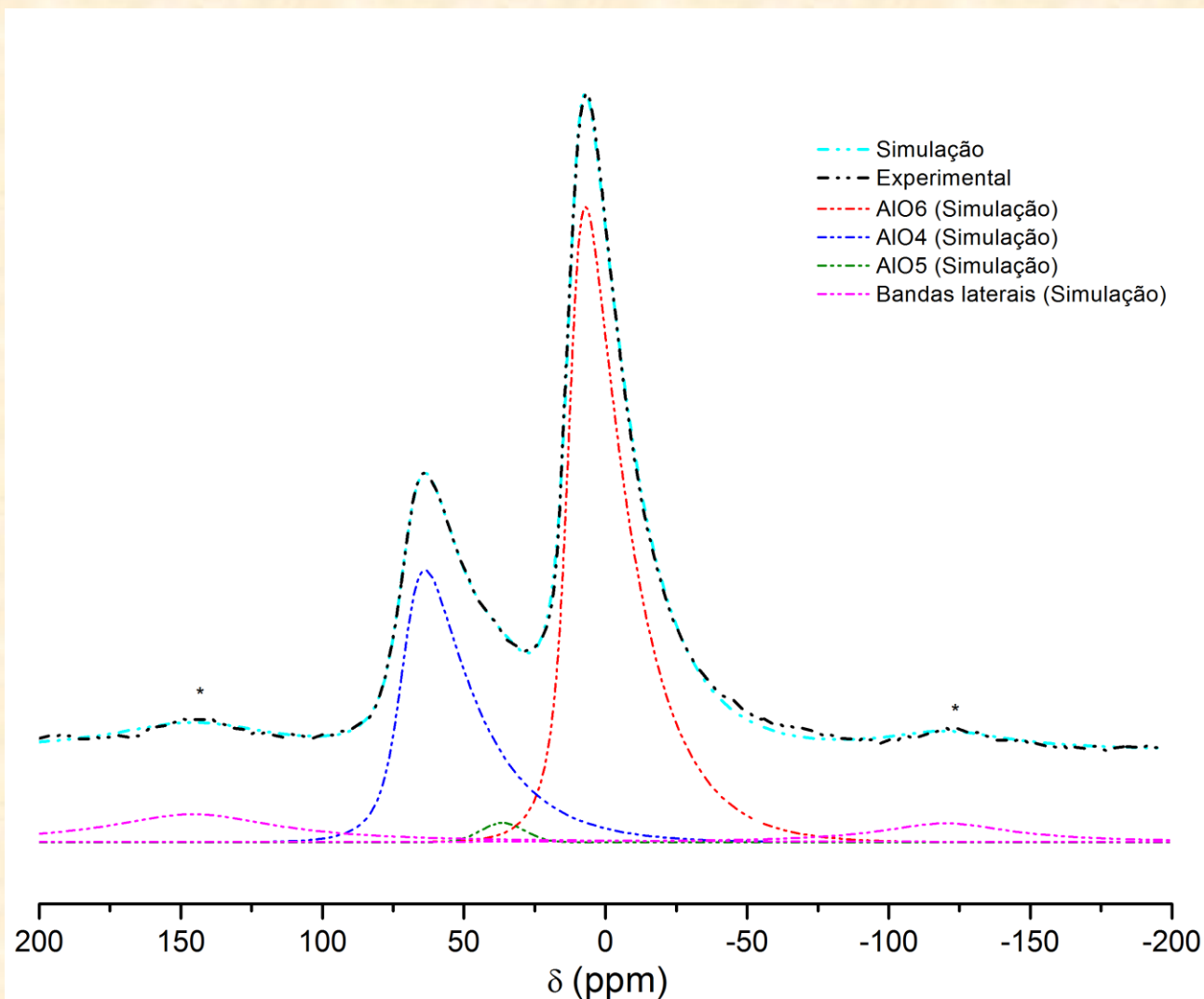
$^{27}\text{Al}$  NMR spectra:



**Figure 2.** XRD patterns and solid-state  $^{27}\text{Al}$  SPE/MAS NMR spectra recorded at room temperature for as-synthesized and heat-treated AC\_Al\_pH11 and AC\_Al samples.

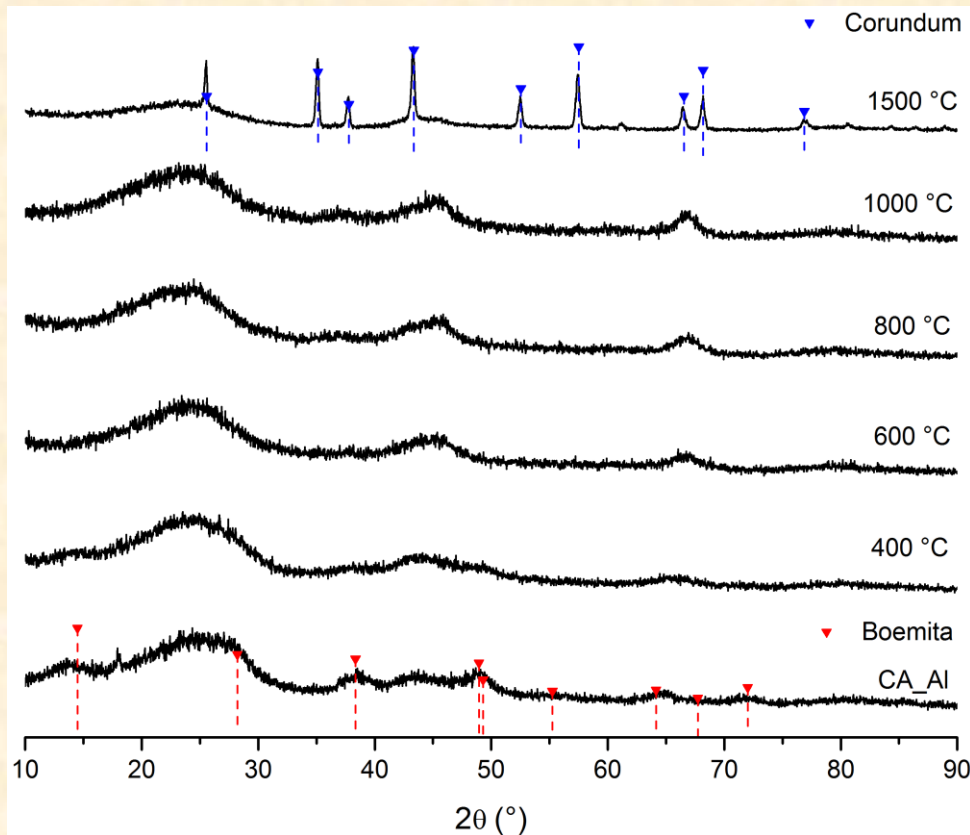
# Alumina-carbon nanocomposites

## $^{27}\text{Al}$ NMR - Spectral simulation:

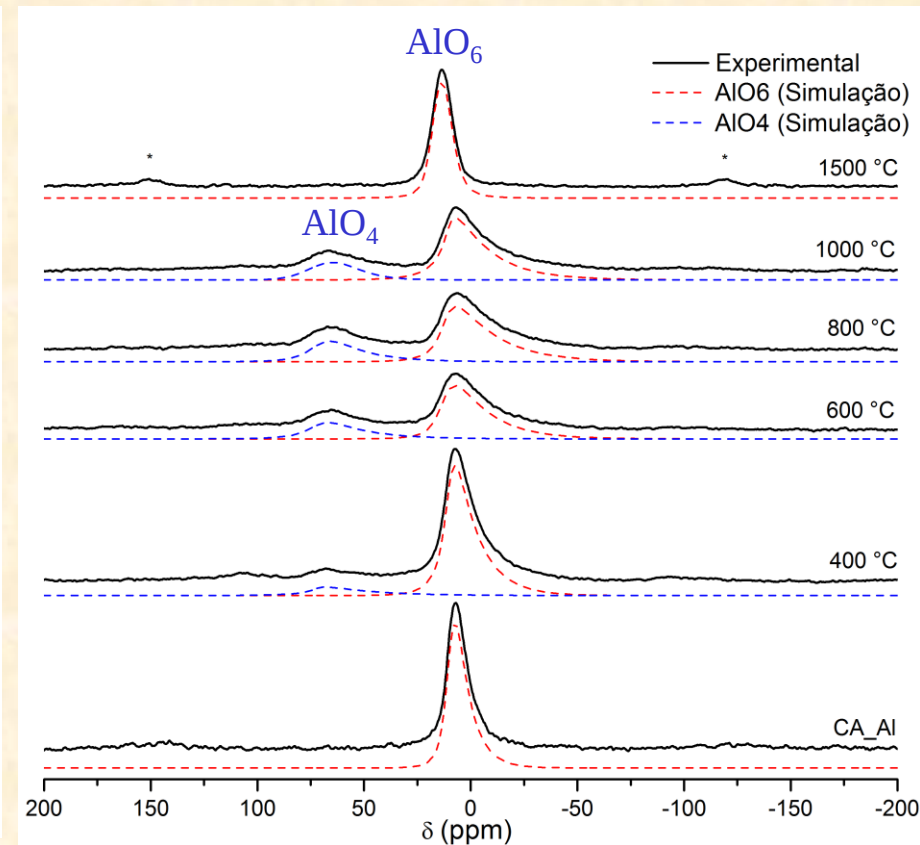


# Alumina-carbon nanocomposites

XRD patterns:



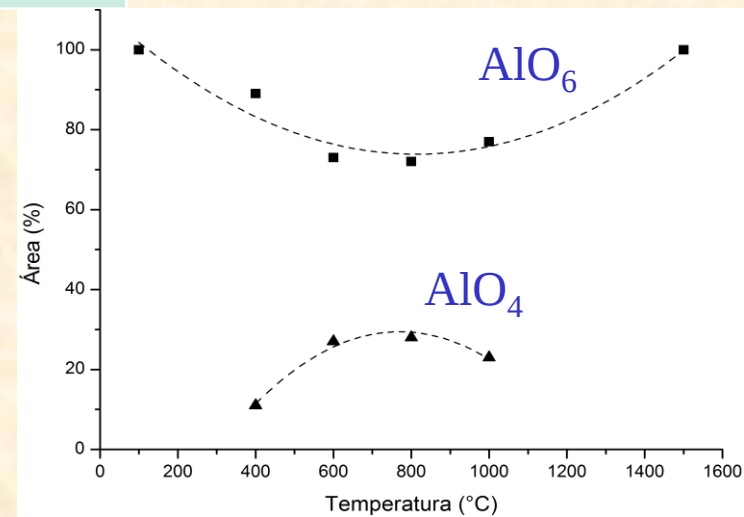
$^{27}\text{Al}$  NMR spectra:



# Alumina-carbon nanocomposites

## Spectral parameters and relative fractions:

|       | AlO <sub>4</sub>               |              |                         |             | AlO <sub>6</sub>               |              |                         |             |
|-------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------|
|       | $\delta_{\text{iso}}$<br>(ppm) | dCS<br>(ppm) | C <sub>Q</sub><br>(MHz) | Área<br>(%) | $\delta_{\text{iso}}$<br>(ppm) | dCS<br>(ppm) | C <sub>Q</sub><br>(MHz) | Área<br>(%) |
| CA_Al | -                              | -            | -                       | -           | 9,5                            | 4,9          | 2,8                     | 100         |
| T400  | 72,2                           | 1,6          | 5,1                     | 11          | 10,1                           | 4,7          | 3,5                     | 89          |
| T600  | 72,1                           | 10,2         | 4,6                     | 27          | 12,8                           | 7,5          | 4,7                     | 73          |
| T800  | 71,1                           | 11,8         | 4,4                     | 28          | 12,6                           | 6,2          | 5,1                     | 72          |
| T1000 | 69,5                           | 21,4         | 3,2                     | 23          | 10,5                           | 4,0          | 4,4                     | 77          |
| T1500 | -                              | -            | -                       | -           | 15,1                           | 8,3          | 1,8                     | 100         |



# Alumina-carbon nanocomposites

Spectral parameters and relative fractions:

| Sample      | Al content<br>(wt. %) | Average crystallite<br>size<br>(nm) | Major Al<br>phase | Site fraction (%) |         |         |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|
|             |                       |                                     |                   | $AlO_4$           | $AlO_5$ | $AlO_6$ |
| CA_Al       | 8                     | 4                                   | Boehmite          | -                 | -       | 100     |
| BAB_Al      | 10                    | -                                   | -                 | 18                | 9       | 73      |
| CA_Al_pH11  | 8                     | 25                                  | Bayerite          | 8                 | 4       | 88      |
| Hid_Al_pH11 | -                     | 52                                  | Bayerite          | -                 | -       | 100     |

# Conclusions

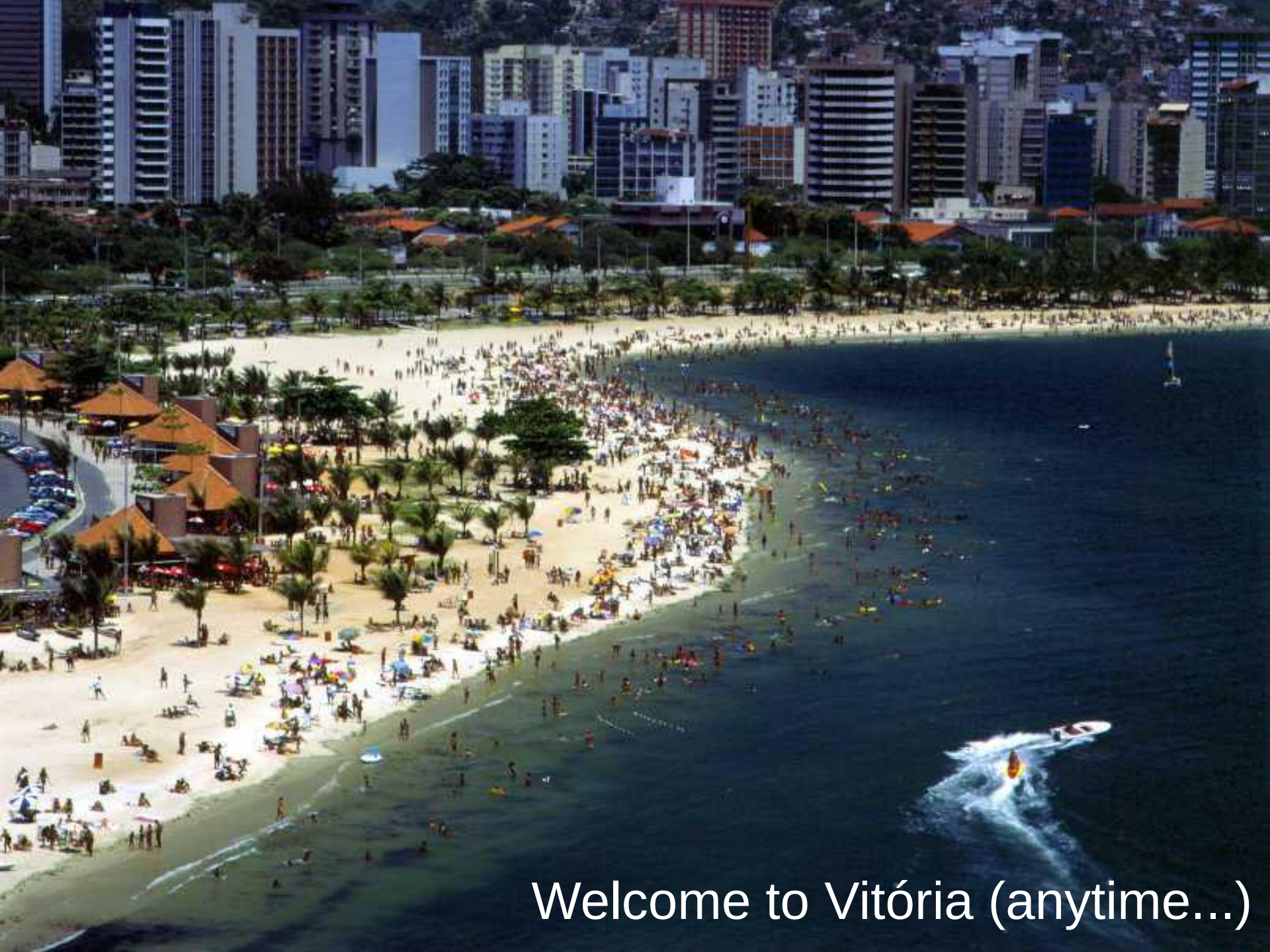
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- Multinuclear solid-state magnetic resonance experiments constitute a powerful tool for the characterization of different types of carbon materials.
- The sensitivity of NMR spectral parameters to the chemical and structural details of the environment of the probe nuclei allows the achievement of information about the structure of the material at the atomic scale.
- As NMR does not depend on crystalline order, the method presents general applicability for studies of carbon materials, including ordered forms (graphite, fullerenes, etc.), nanocarbons (graphene, nanotubes, etc.) and disordered materials (activated carbons, chars, biochars, soot, carbon blacks, etc.).

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Welcome to Vitória (anytime...)