

SYNTHESIS OF SUPER-NANOPOROUS CARBON ALLOY BY ELECTROOOXIDATION OF A ZEOLITE TEMPLATED CARBON



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Tohoku University

Strategic Japanese-Spanish Cooperative Program (FY2011)

**“UNIQUE SUPER-POROUS CARBON
ALLOYS FOR ASYMMETRIC HYBRID
SUPERCAPACITORS”**



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Japan Science and Technology Agency



PRI-PIBJP-2011-0766



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Sendai



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SJ-NANO 2013
Workshop (2013)

Japan-Spain Cooperation Project (2012-2014)

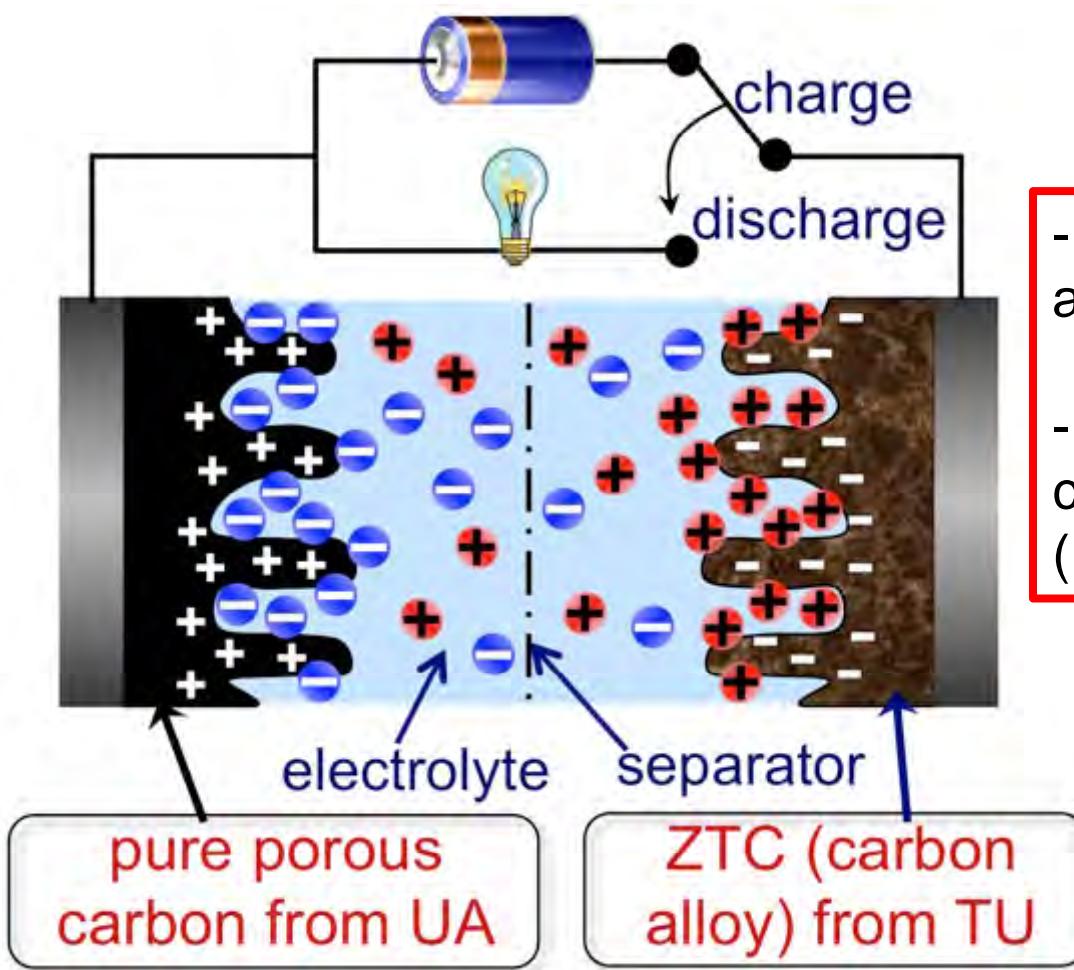
Project Title:

“Unique super-porous carbon alloys for asymmetric hybrid supercapacitors”

Objective:

The aim of this project is to synthesize unique porous carbon alloy and to develop a carbon-based asymmetric hybrid supercapacitor using the carbon alloy as a positive electrode.





- High surface area → DLC
- High pseudo-capacitance (redox rxn.)



Concept of Carbon Alloy:

Carbon materials can be developed with a wide range of structures, textures and properties. This led to **the Japanese Carbon Group** to propose in 1992:

“Carbon alloys are materials mainly composed of carbon atoms in multi-component systems, in which each component has physical and/or chemical interactions with each other. Here carbons with different hybrid orbitals account as different components”

(Carbon alloys, E Yasuda et al Editors, Elsevier, 2003, p.9).



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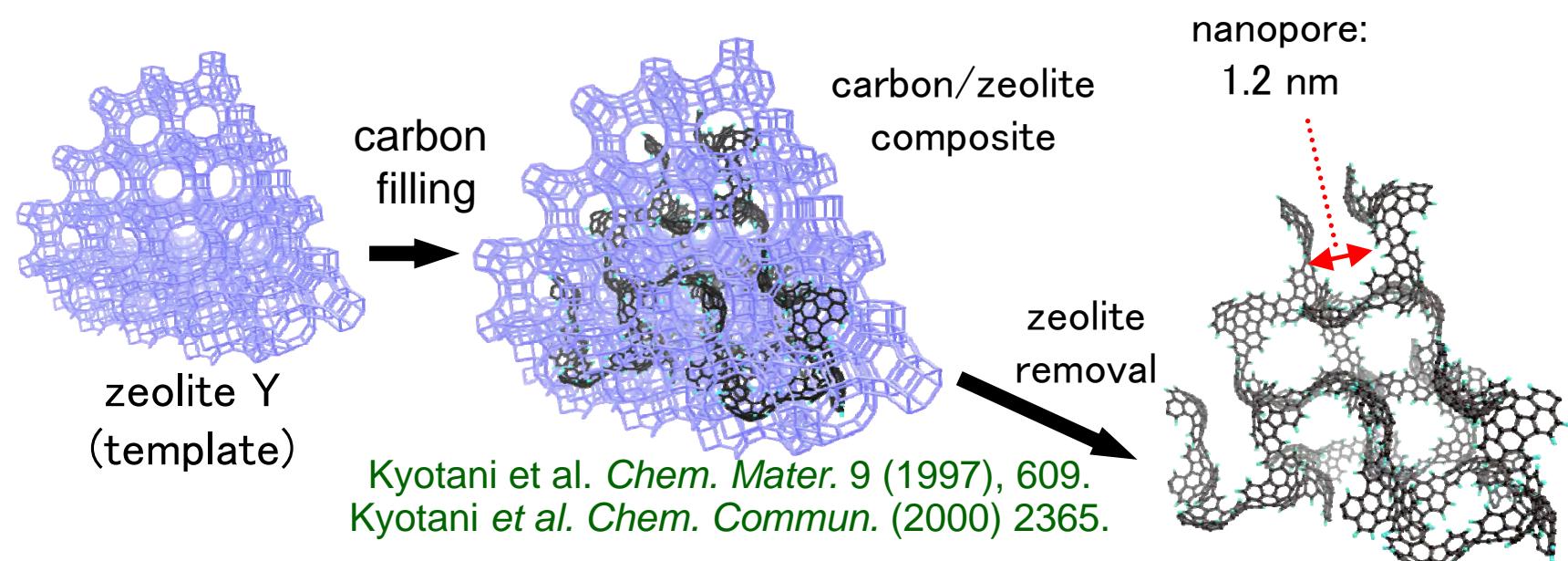
TO SYNTHESIZE A SUPER-NANOPOROUS CARBON ALLOY BASED ON ZEOLITE TEMPLATED CARBON (ZTC)

“carbons with different hybrid orbitals account as different components”

(Carbon alloys, E Yasuda et al Editors, Elsevier, 2003, p.9).



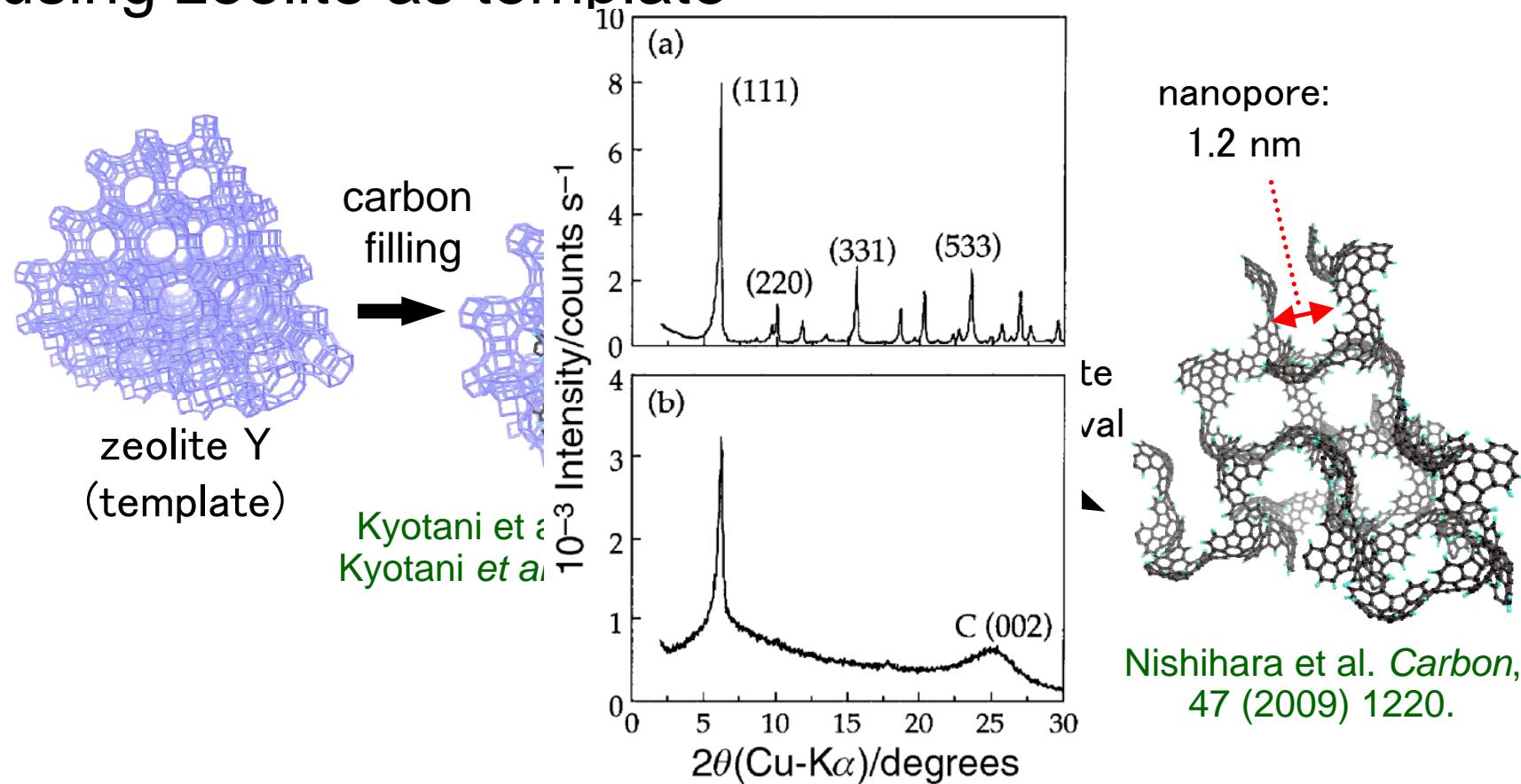
What is ZTC? Nano-sized carbon material with tailored and ordered pore network prepared using zeolite as template



Nishihara et al. *Carbon*,
47 (2009) 1220.

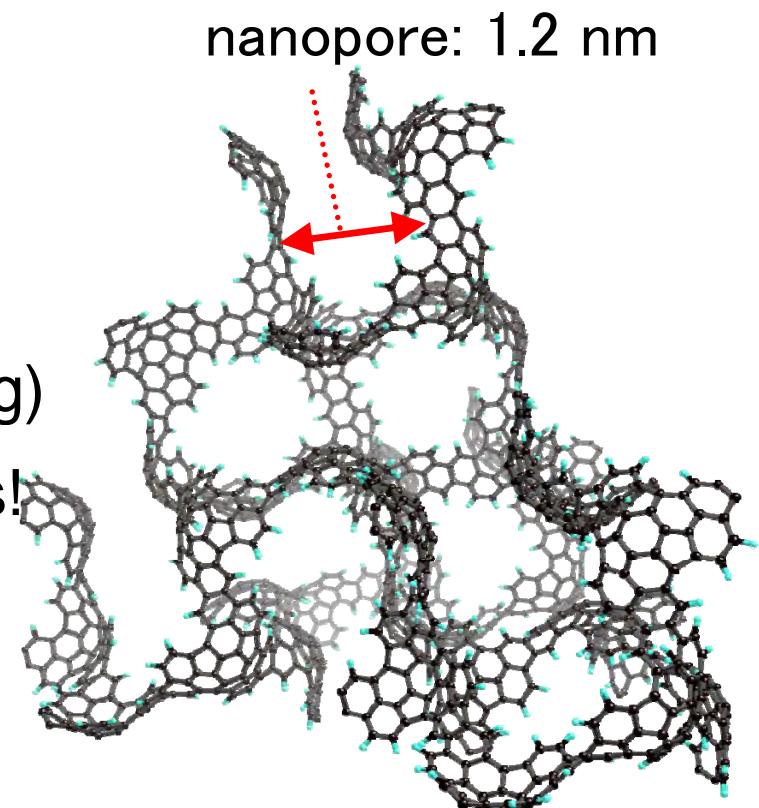


What is ZTC? Nano-sized carbon material with tailored and ordered pore network prepared using zeolite as template



Unique features ZTC

- 3D-nanographene network
- uniform nanopore size (1.2 nm)
- high surface area (up to 4000 m²/g)
- large amount of carbon edge sites!
- all edge sites and graphene surface are fully exposed!



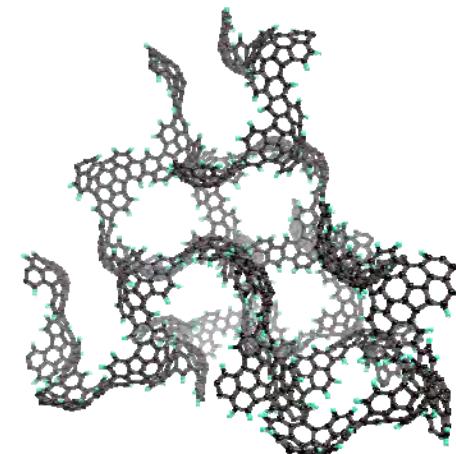
These features are beneficial to use ZTC as an electrode for electrochemical capacitors



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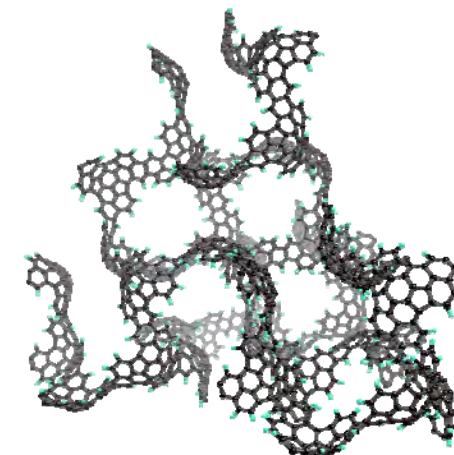
- Adequate electrolyte accessibility
- High mass transfer rate
- High surface area (high double layer capacitance)
- Formation of large amount of functional groups (redox properties, pseudocapacitance)



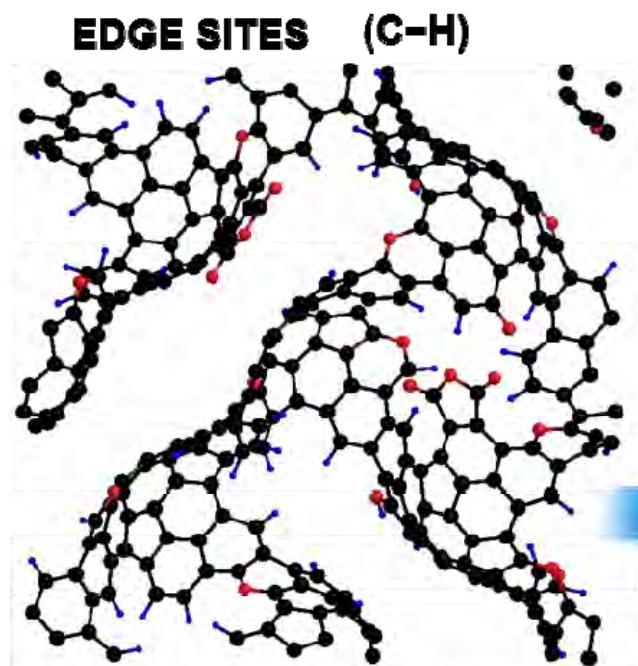
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These features are beneficial to the use ZTC as an electrode for electrochemical capacitors

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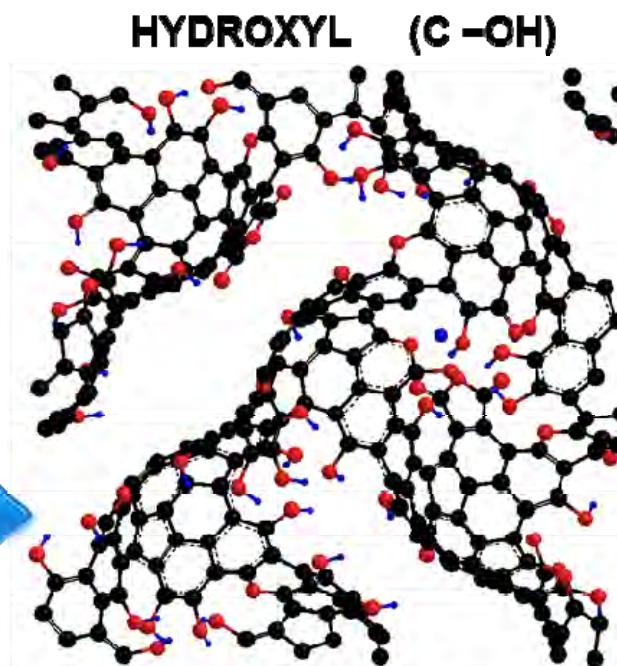
Unique features ZTC



PRISTINE ZTC

$S_{BET} = 3600 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$

Oxygen = 8.9 %



OXIDIZED ZTC

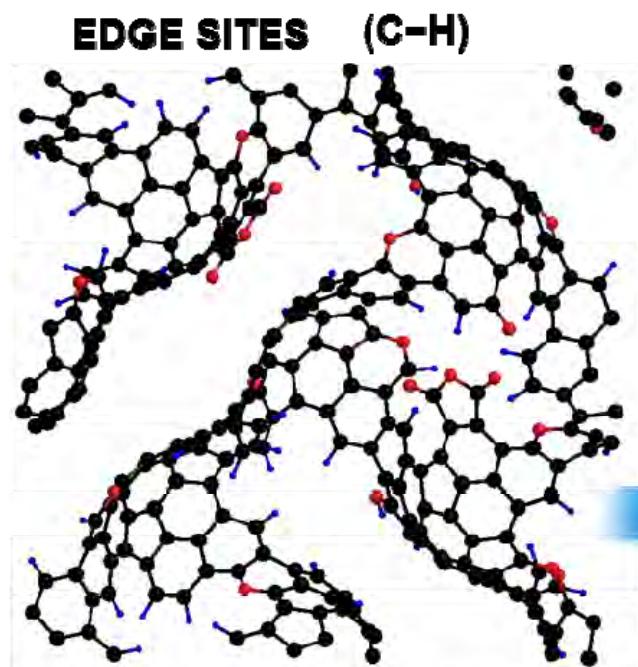
$S_{BET} = 2938 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$

Oxygen = 25.7 %

Hypothetical oxidation process of ZTC and the modelled molecular structure of fully-oxidized ZTC.



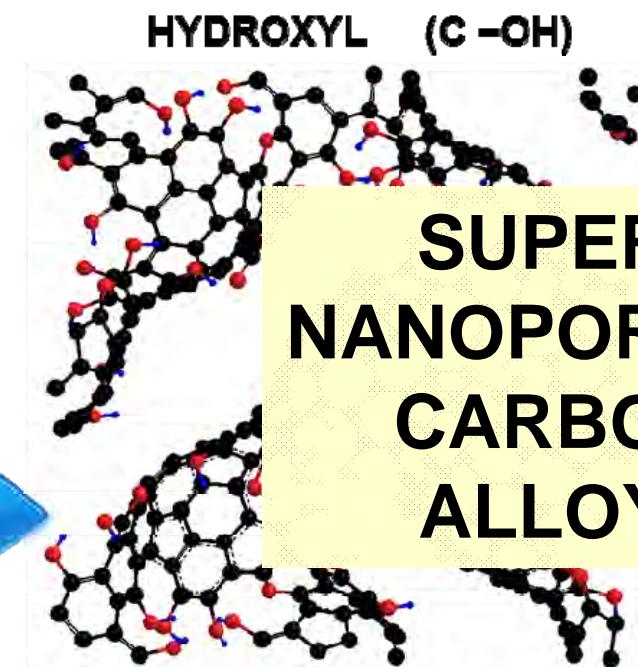
Unique features ZTC



PRISTINE ZTC

$S_{BET} = 3600 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$

Oxygen = 8.9 %



**SUPER-
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ALLOY!**

OXIDIZED ZTC

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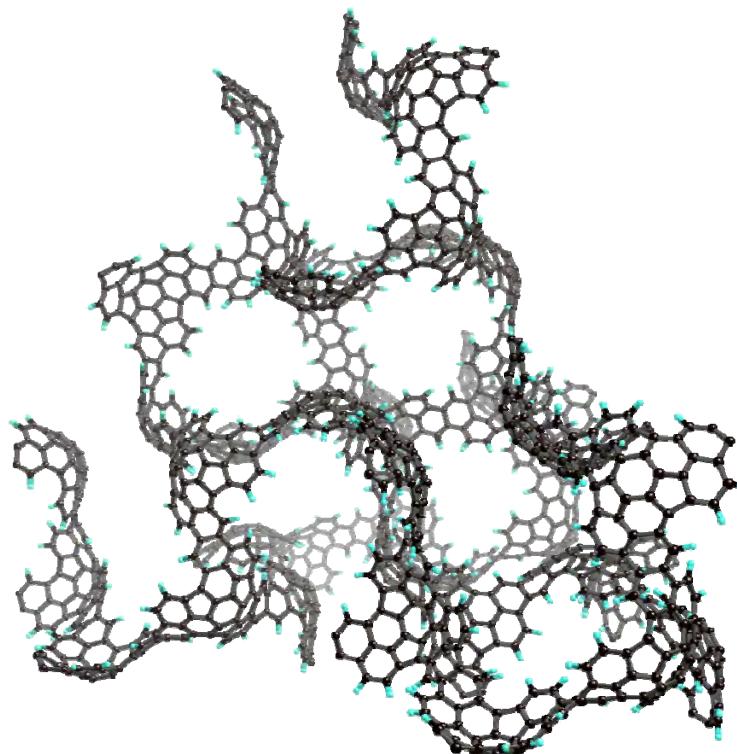
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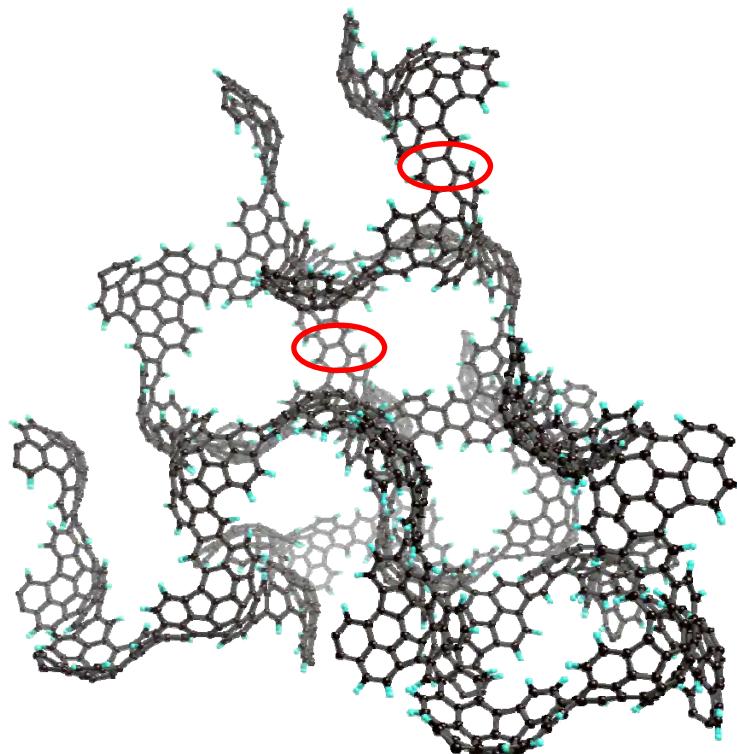
Main problems to achieve the objective

- ZTC has a quite fragile structure
- ZTC is very reactive
- Easy structure degradation



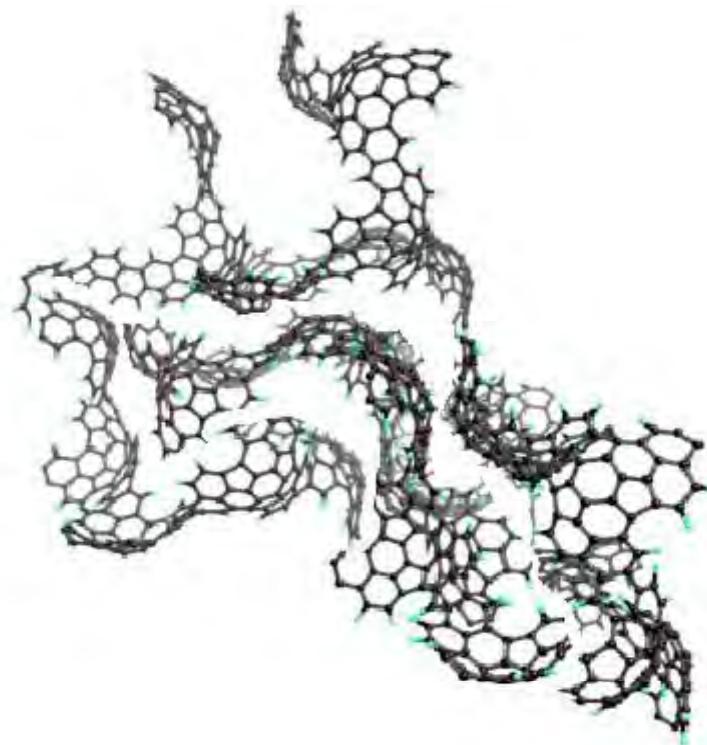
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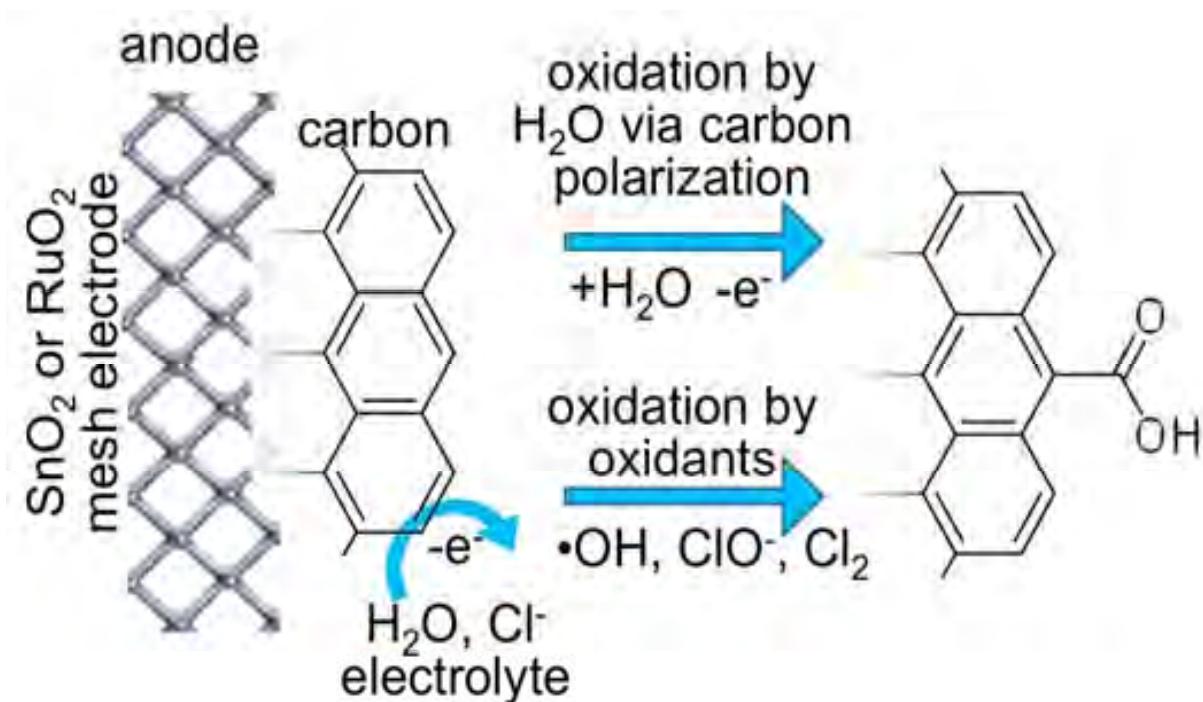
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- Easy structure degradation



Objective of this work:

To make a detailed study of the ZTC electrooxidation to get large concentration of surface oxygen groups and high surface area



Experimental section



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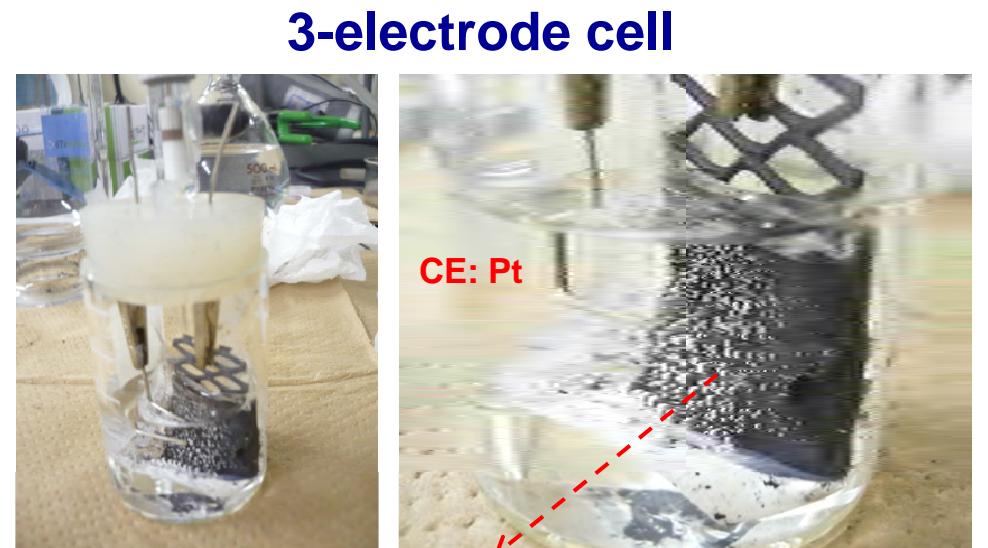
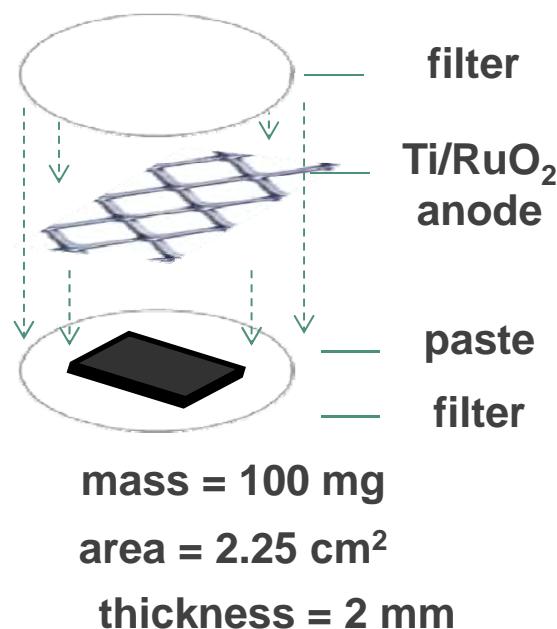
Electrochemical oxidation:

- Galvanostatic oxidation: $I = 2-50 \text{ mA}$, $t = 1-15 \text{ h}$,
 $T = 25^\circ\text{C}$; Electrolytes: 1.0M NaOH, 1.0M H_2SO_4 ,
2wt% NaCl
- Cyclic voltammetry: $\Delta E = -0.1-1.2 \text{ V}$, $v = 1 \text{ mV/s}$,
1.0M H_2SO_4



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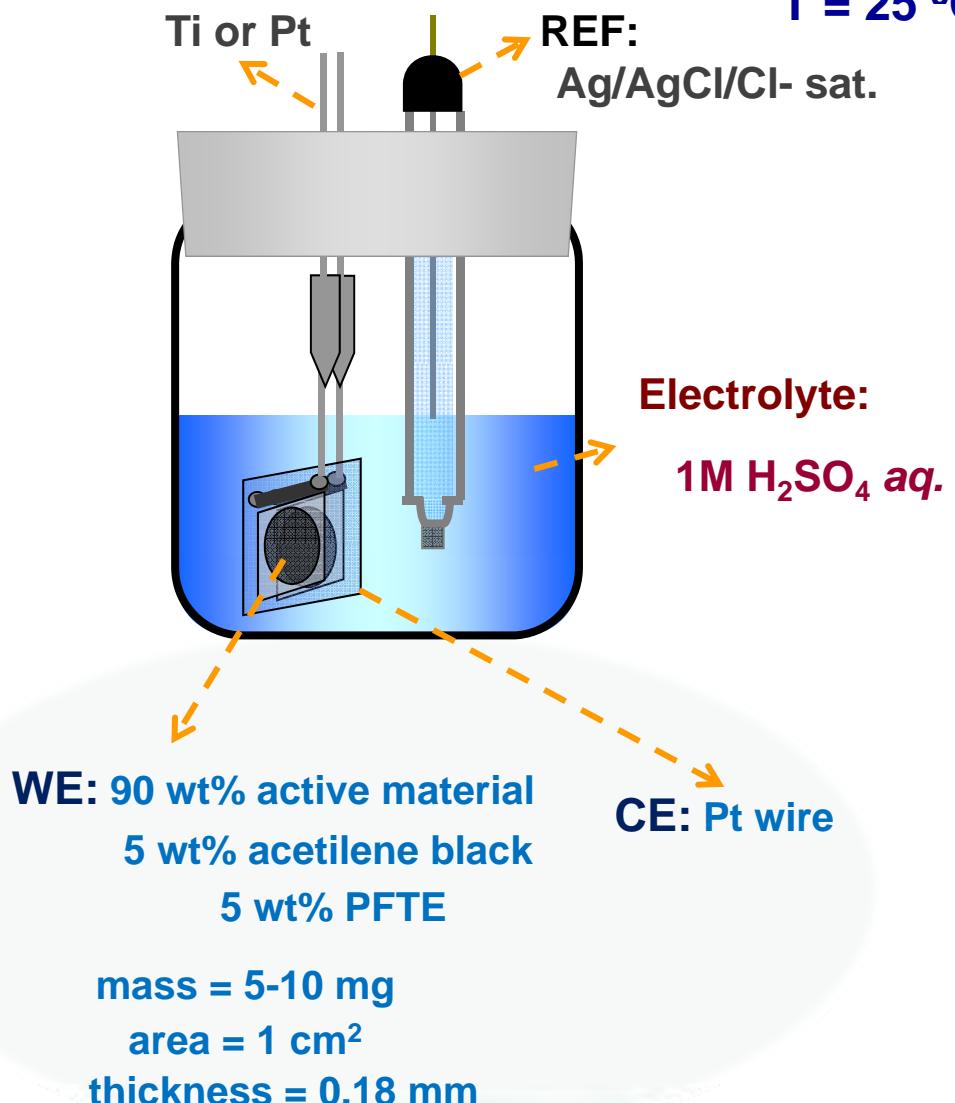


Electrochemical oxidation:

-Cyclic voltammetry:
 $\Delta E = -0.1\text{--}1.2 \text{ V}$, $v = 1 \text{ mV/s}$, $1.0 \text{ M H}_2\text{SO}_4$

3-electrode cell

$T = 25 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$



Chemical oxidation:

- Oxidation by HNO_3 at different temperatures (45°C , 80°C) and times (from 15 min to 15h). Oxidation by H_2O_2 was also done.



Characterization

Structural-Textural

- N₂ adsorption (-196 °C)
- CO₂ adsorption (0 °C)
- X-ray diffraction (XRD)

Surface Chemistry

- Temperature-programmed desorption (TPD)
- X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS)



Results and discussion.



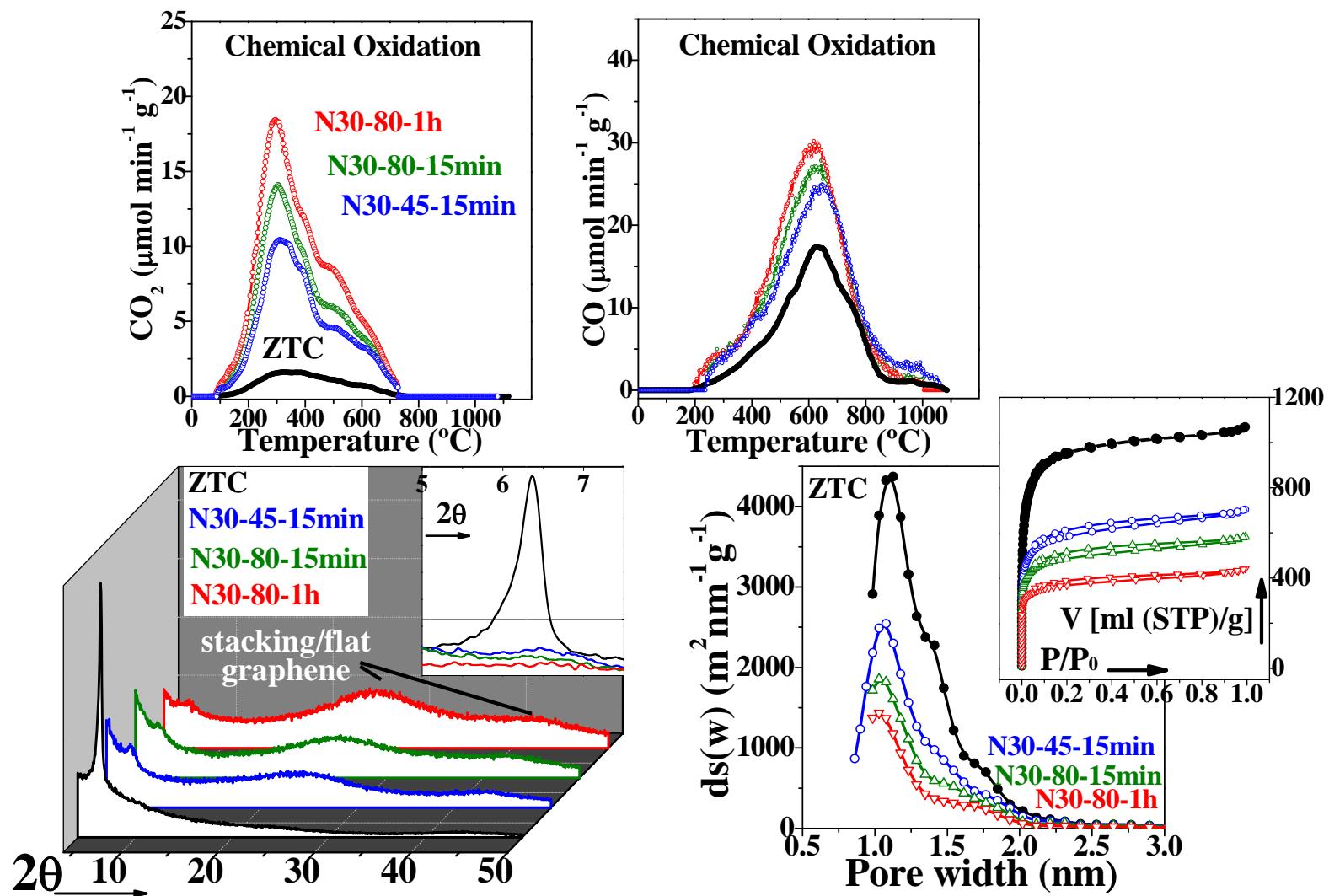
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Results and discussion.

Chemical oxidation





| Sample | TPD | | | | | N_2 adsorption | | |
|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| | CO μmol/g | CO ₂ μmol/g | O μmol/g | ΔO* μmol/g | $\frac{CO}{CO_2}$ | S_{BET} (m ² /g) | $V_T(N_2)$ (cm ³ /g) | % S_{BET} |
| ZTC | 2644 | 286 | 3216 | 0 | 9.24 | 3650 | 1.63 | 100 |
| ZTC N30-45-15min | 4181 | 1506 | 7193 | 3977 | 2.78 | 2230 | 1.07 | 61 |
| ZTC N30-80-15min | 4327 | 1923 | 8173 | 4957 | 2.25 | 1870 | 0.88 | 51 |
| ZTC N30-80-1h | 4676 | 2555 | 9786 | 6570 | 1.83 | 1420 | 0.66 | 39 |
| ZTC N30-80-2h | 4708 | 2864 | 10436 | 7220 | 1.64 | 1140 | 0.52 | 31 |



SUMMARY ABOUT CHEMICAL OXIDATION:

- Chemical oxidation is a fast process that easily destroys the unique structure of ZTC.
- It produces a very important decrease in porosity and structural order.
- High selectivity to CO₂-type groups, since it favours the oxidation of surface-oxidized sites.





Results and discussion.

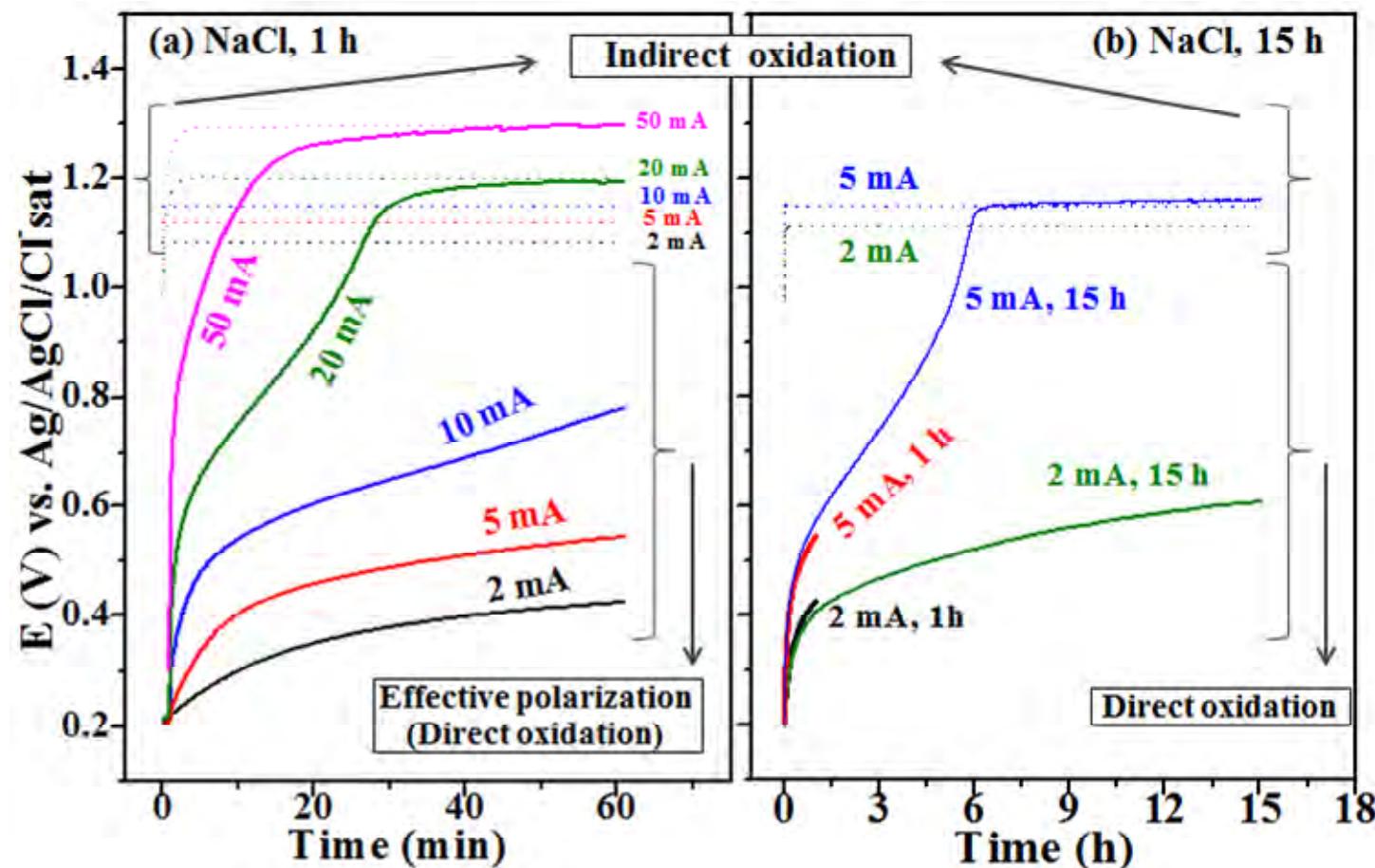
Electrochemical oxidation



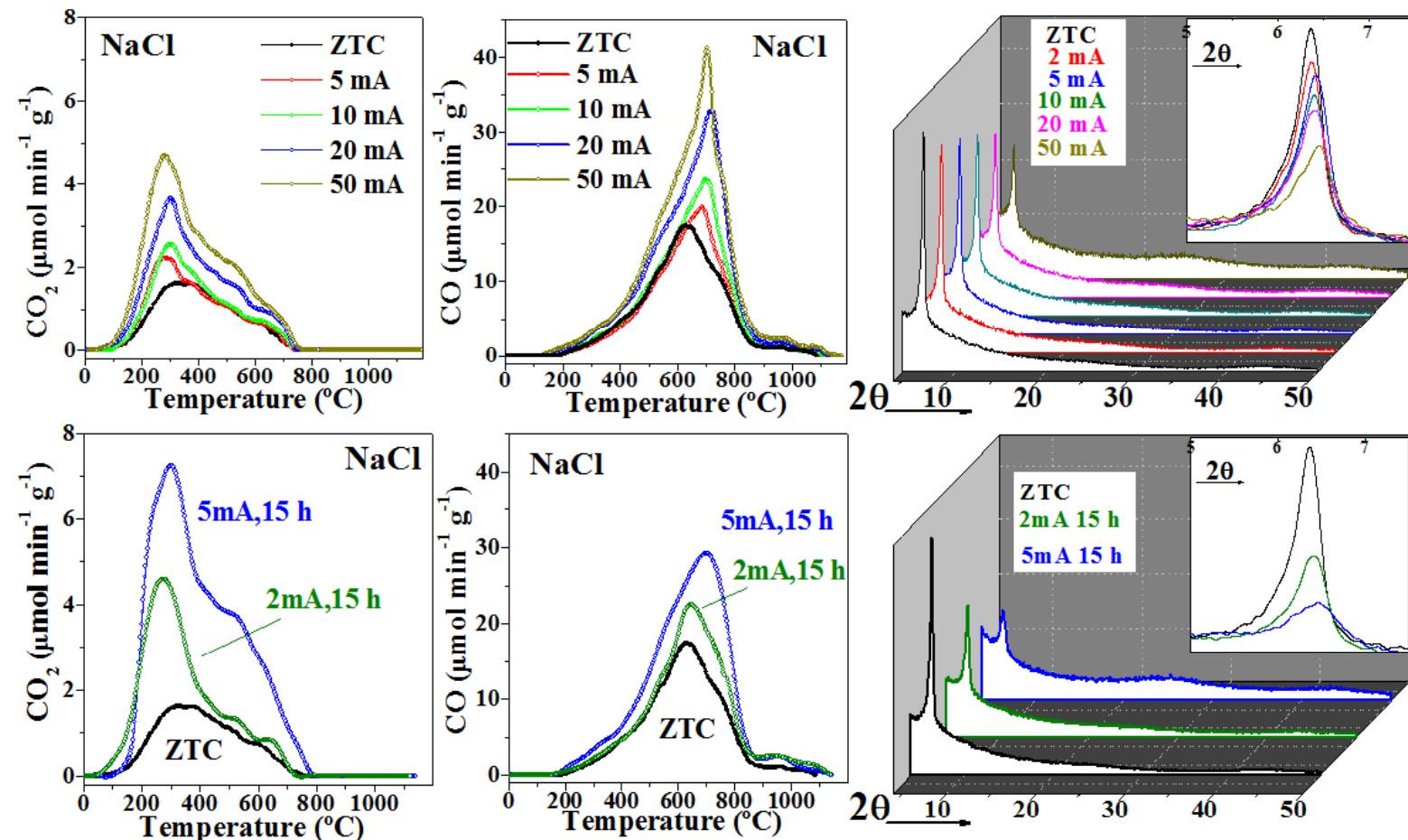
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Electrochemical oxidation: Galvanostatic oxidation



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Electrochemical oxidation: Galvanostatic oxidation

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| ZTC | 2644 | 286 | 3216 | 0 | 9.24 | 3650 | 1.54 | 100 |
| ZTC 20Cl ⁻ 1h | 4398 | 529 | 5456 | 2240 | 8.31 | 2780 | 1.21 | 76 |
| ZTC 50Cl ⁻ 1h | 5083 | 709 | 6501 | 3285 | 7.17 | 2680 | 1.16 | 73 |
| ZTC 5Cl ⁻ 15h | 4669 | 1146 | 6961 | 3745 | 4.07 | 2430 | 1.01 | 67 |
| ZTC 50Cl ⁻ 3h | 5880 | 1760 | 9400 | 6184 | 3.34 | 1210 | 0.50 | 33 |
| ZTC 50Cl ⁻ 10h | 4849 | 4002 | 12853 | 9637 | 1.21 | 150 | 0.06 | 4 |
| ZTC 50H ⁺ 1h | 3442 | 435 | 4312 | 1096 | 7.91 | 3100 | 1.31 | 85 |
| ZTC 5H ⁺ 15h | 6095 | 1090 | 8275 | 5059 | 5.59 | 2290 | 0.89 | 63 |
| ZTC 2H ⁺ 36 h (1.2V) | 7159 | 1966 | 11091 | 7875 | 3.64 | 1863 | 0.77 | 51 |



Electrochemical oxidation: Galvanostatic oxidation

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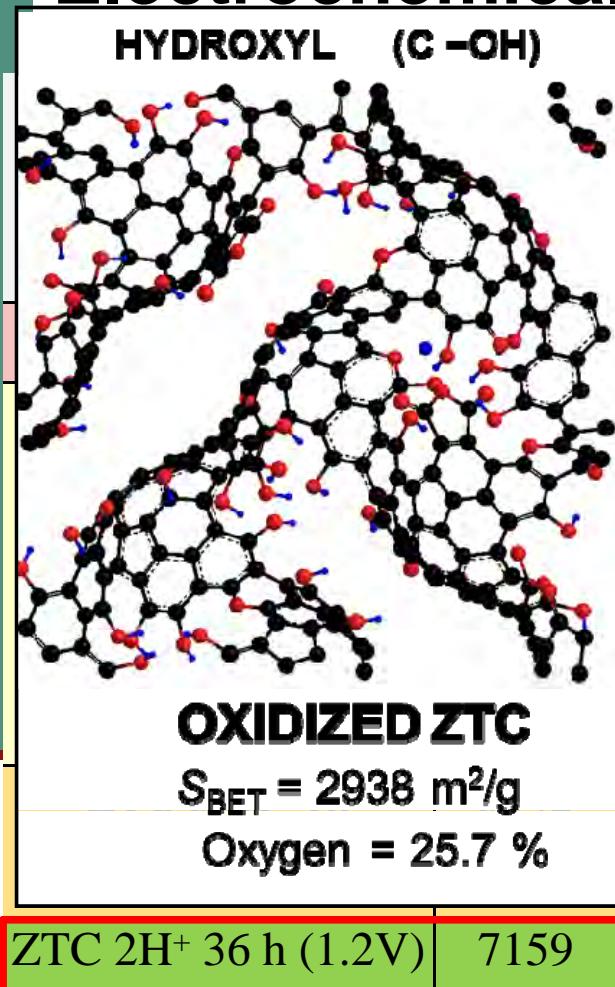


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Electrochemical oxidation: Galvanostatic oxidation

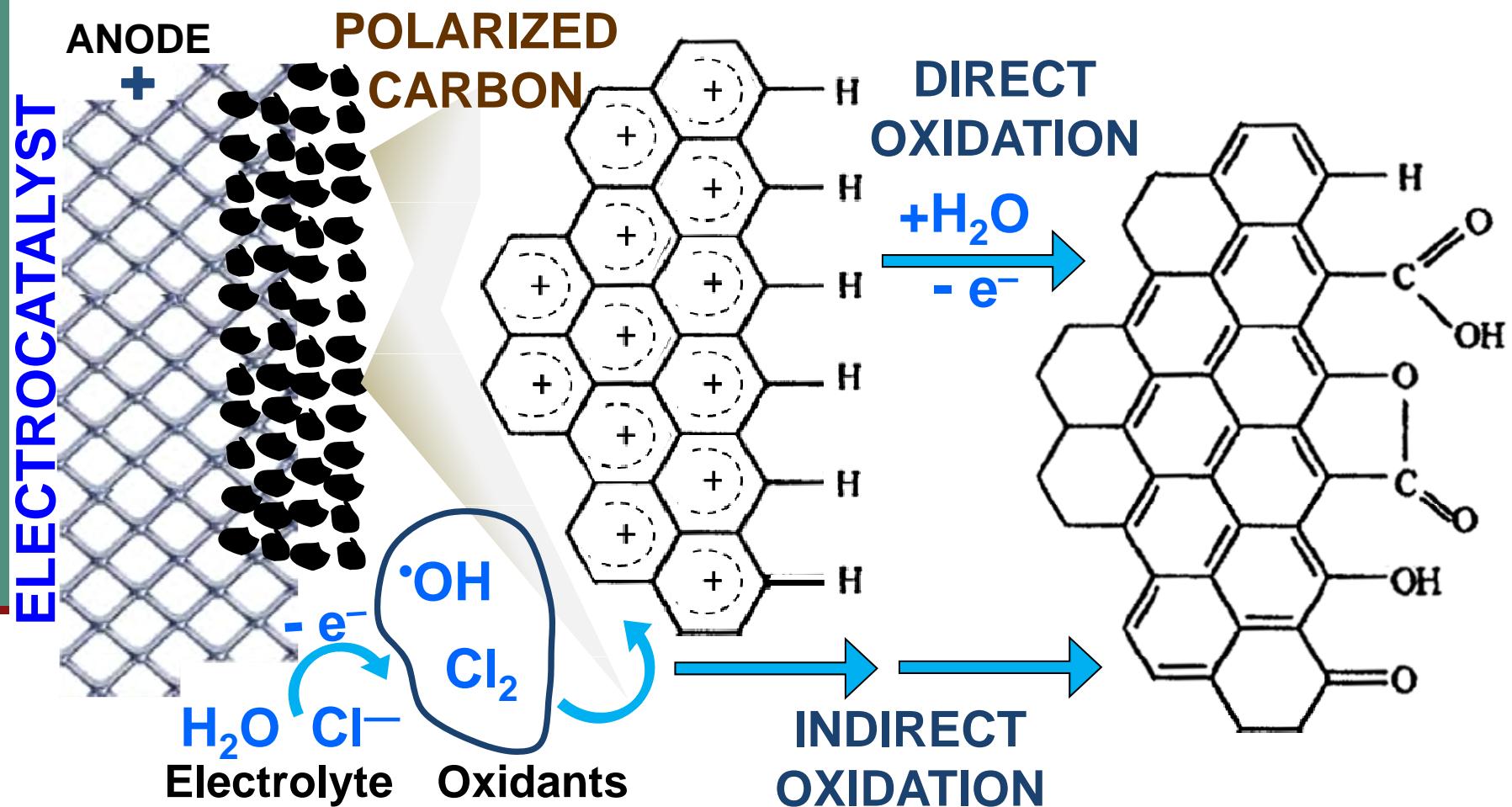


| TPD | | | | N_2 adsorption | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| CO_2 μmol/g | O μmol/g | ΔO^* μmol/g | $\frac{CO}{CO_2}$ | S_{BET} (m^2/g) | $V_{DR}(N_2)$ (cm^3/g) | % S_{BET} |
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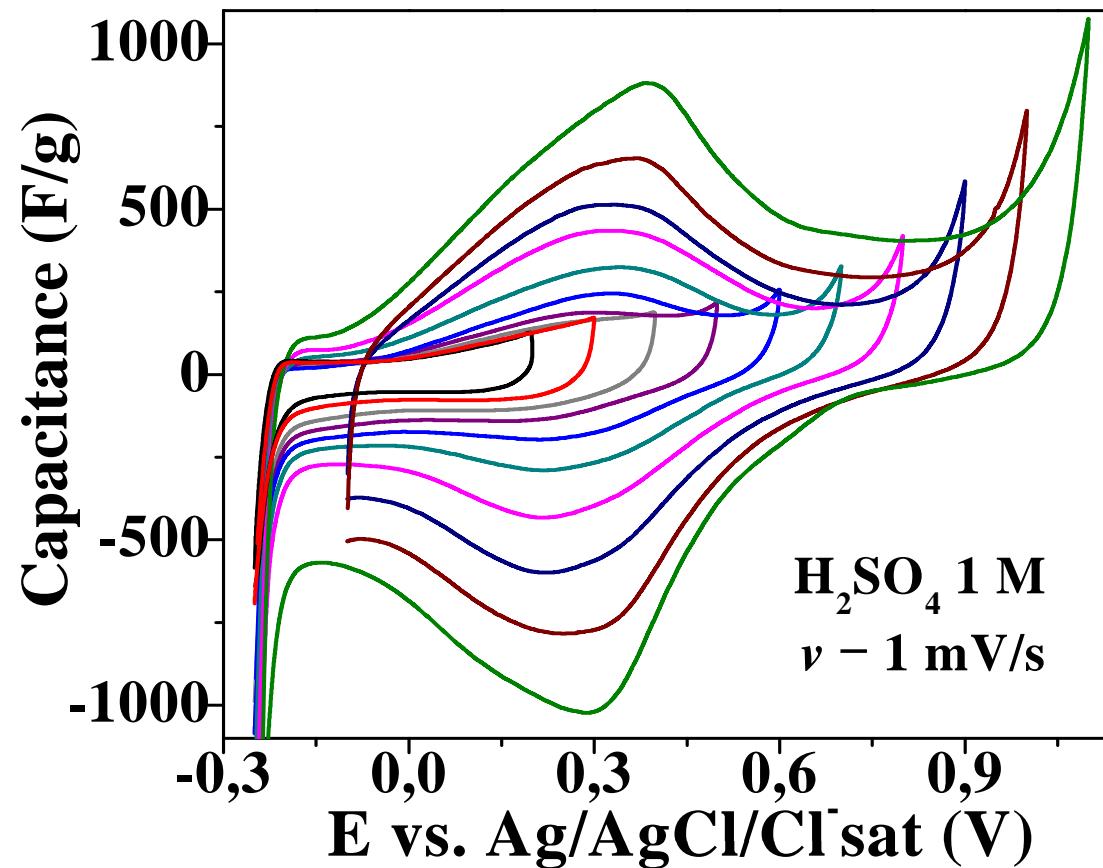
Total oxygen content 18 wt%!



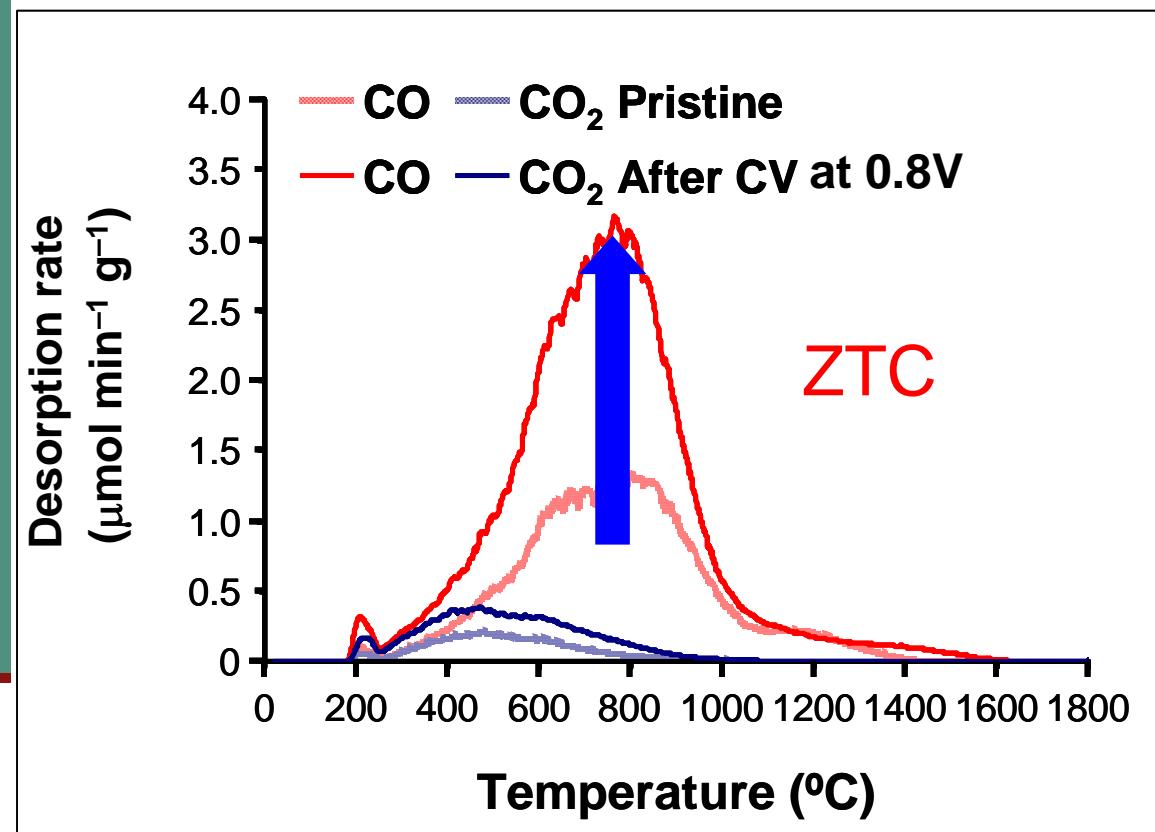
Electroxidation Mechanism



Electrochemical oxidation: Cyclic voltammetry



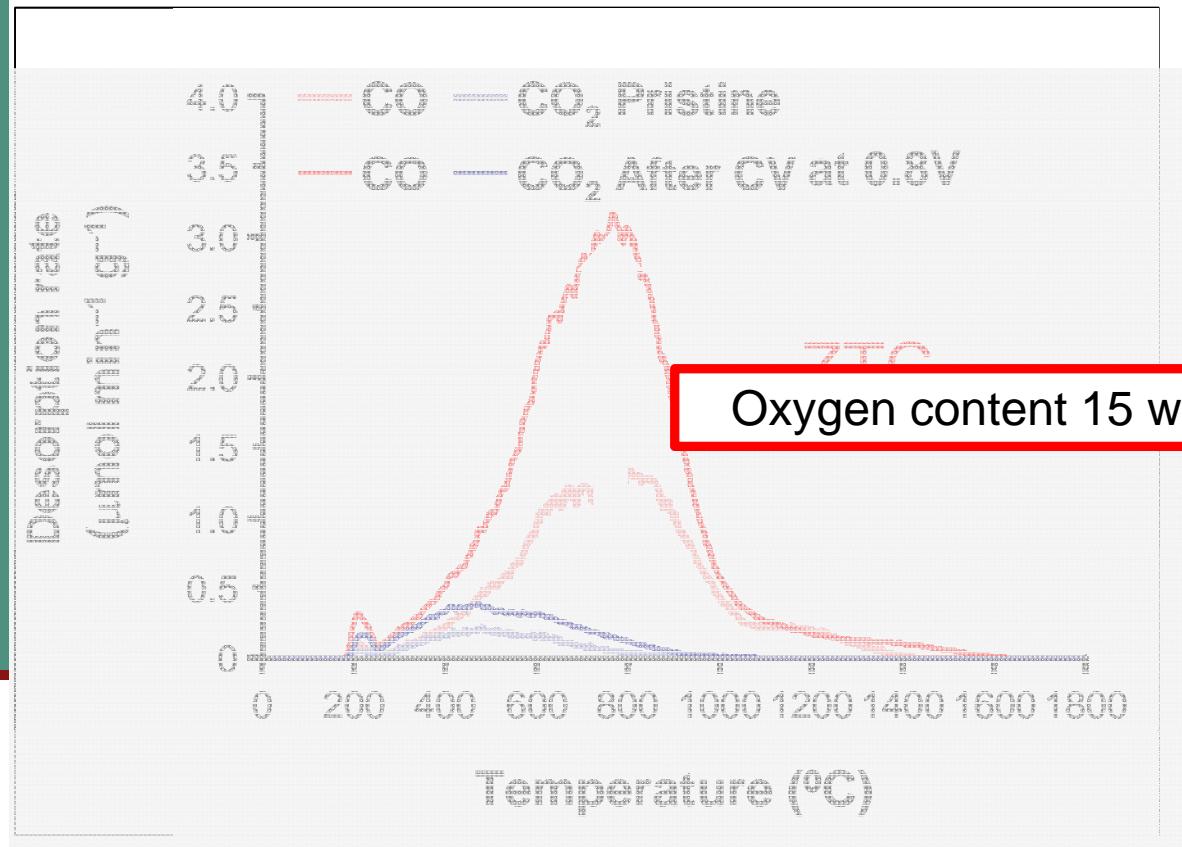
Electrochemical oxidation: Cyclic voltammetry



| | TPD |
|--------|-------------------------|
| Sample | CO/CO_2 |
| ZTC | 9.24 |
| 0.8 V | 7.88 |
| 0.9 V | 5.21 |
| 1.0 V | 4.68 |
| 1.1 V | 3.29 |



Electrochemical oxidation: Cyclic voltammetry



| | TPD |
|--------|--------------------|
| Sample | CO/CO ₂ |
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| 0.8 V | 7.88 |
| 0.9 V | 5.21 |
| 1.0 V | 4.68 |
| 1.1 V | 3.29 |



Electrochemical oxidation: Cyclic voltammetry

Total capacitance (from charge-discharge at 50 mA/g in H_2SO_4):

- After CV oxidation up to 0.8 V, C = 500 F/g
- After CV oxidation up to 1.1 V, C = 700 F/g**



Very close to conducting polymers (Pani nanobelts 873 F/g) or ruthenium oxide (720 F/g)*

(*)JN Tiwari, RN Tiwari, KS Kim, Progress in Materials Sci, 57 (2012) 724



Conclusions



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CONCLUSIONS

- Synthesis of ZTC alloy has been studied by chemical and electrochemical oxidations.
- Chemical oxidation easily destroys the ZTC. Reaction rate is high at the beginning of the oxidation.
- Electrochemical oxidation permits a better control of the kinetics of the process.
- ZTC alloy with BET surface area close to 1900 m²/g and oxygen content of 18 wt% has been successfully synthesised.
- ZTC alloy by cyclic voltammetry has a capacitance as high as 700 F/g.





Thank you very much for your attention

