
**From master curves
for the mechanical reinforcement of rubber based nanocomposites
to lightweight materials for automotive**

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Department of Chemistry, Materials and Chemical Engineering G. Natta

Department of Mechanical Engineering

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering



Objectives of the work

- ☞ To develop lightweight elastomeric materials for automotive application
- ☞ To prepare elastomer composites based on sp^2 carbon allotropes
- ☞ To identify a common correlation between features of sp^2 carbon allotropes and properties of elastomer composites

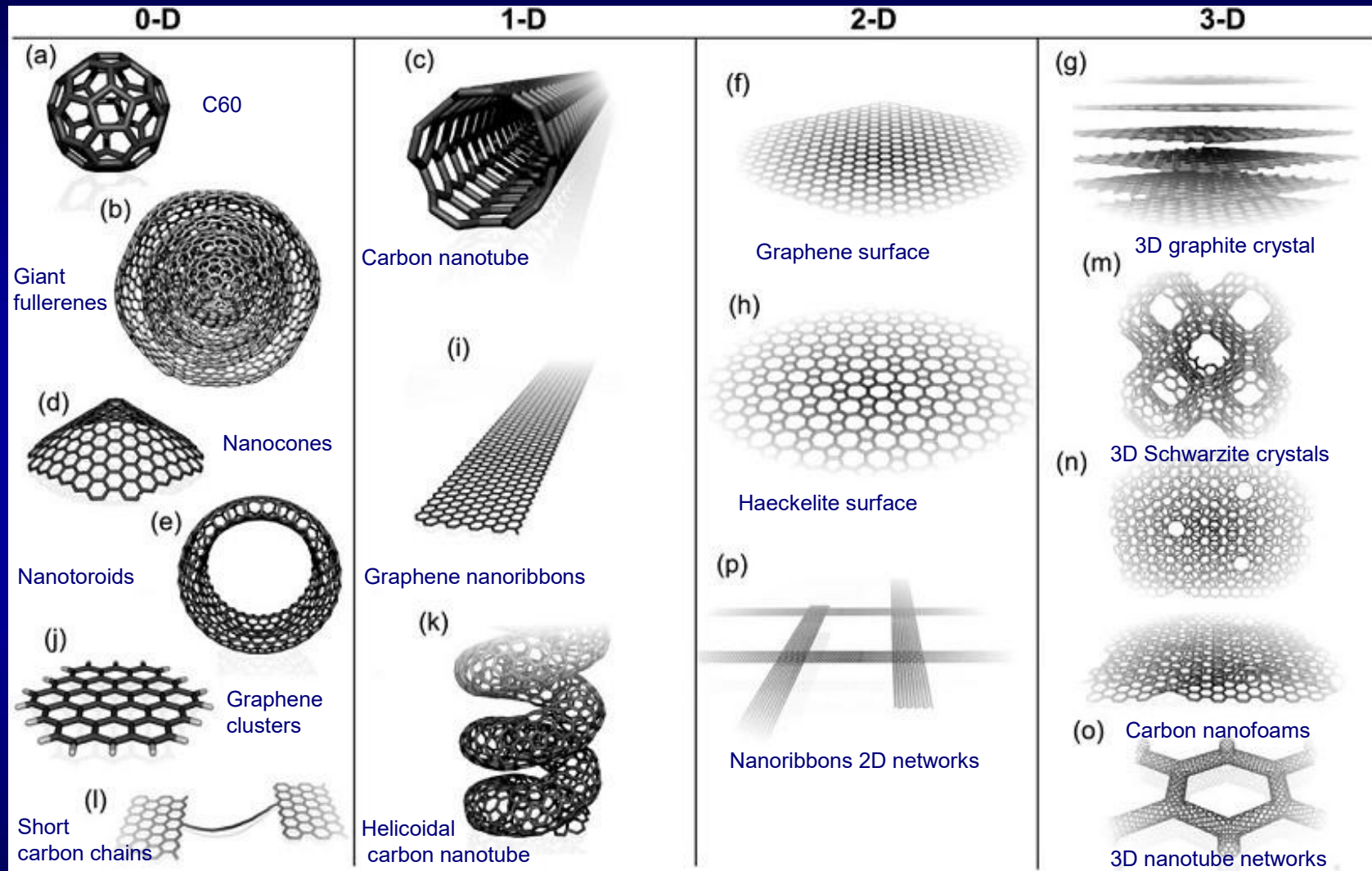
Objectives of the work

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- ☞ To design composites suitable for automotive application on the basis of this correlation

Outline of the presentation

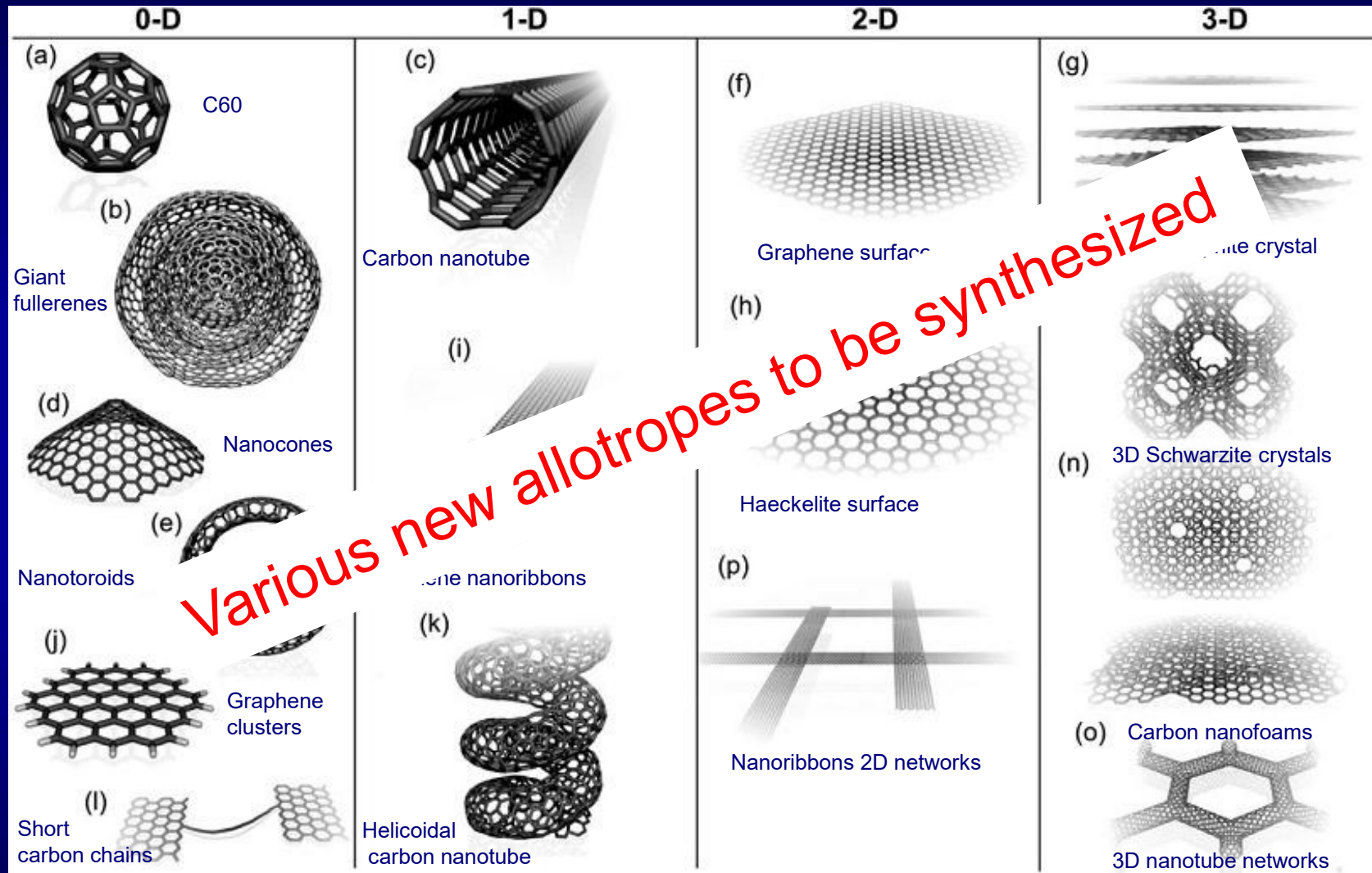
- ☞ Characterization of sp^2 carbon allotropes
- ☞ Master curves for the mechanical reinforcement of elastomer composites based on sp^2 carbon allotropes
- ☞ Anisotropic properties of composites
- ☞ Design and preparation of lightweight materials
- ☞ Impact on CO_2 emission

Carbon allotropes



M. Terrones, et al. [Nano Today 5 \(4\) \(2010\) 351e372.](#)

Carbon allotropes



M. Terrones, et al. *Nano Today* 5 (4) (2010) 351e372.

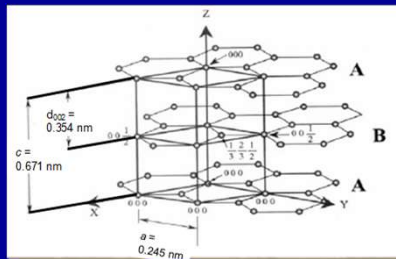
Jin Zhang et al, *Carbon* 98 (2016) 708e732

Carbon fillers from a layer of sp^2 -bonded carbon atoms

graphene

stacked

wrapped



few stacked layers

few layers graphene

grades with different
shape anisotropy

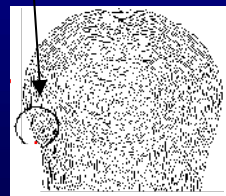
many stacked layers

graphite

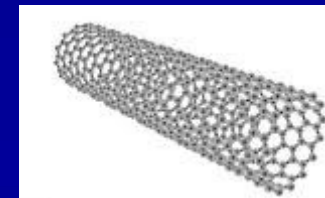


carbon black

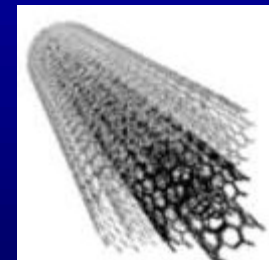
few stacked layers
randomly arranged
in spheres



CNT

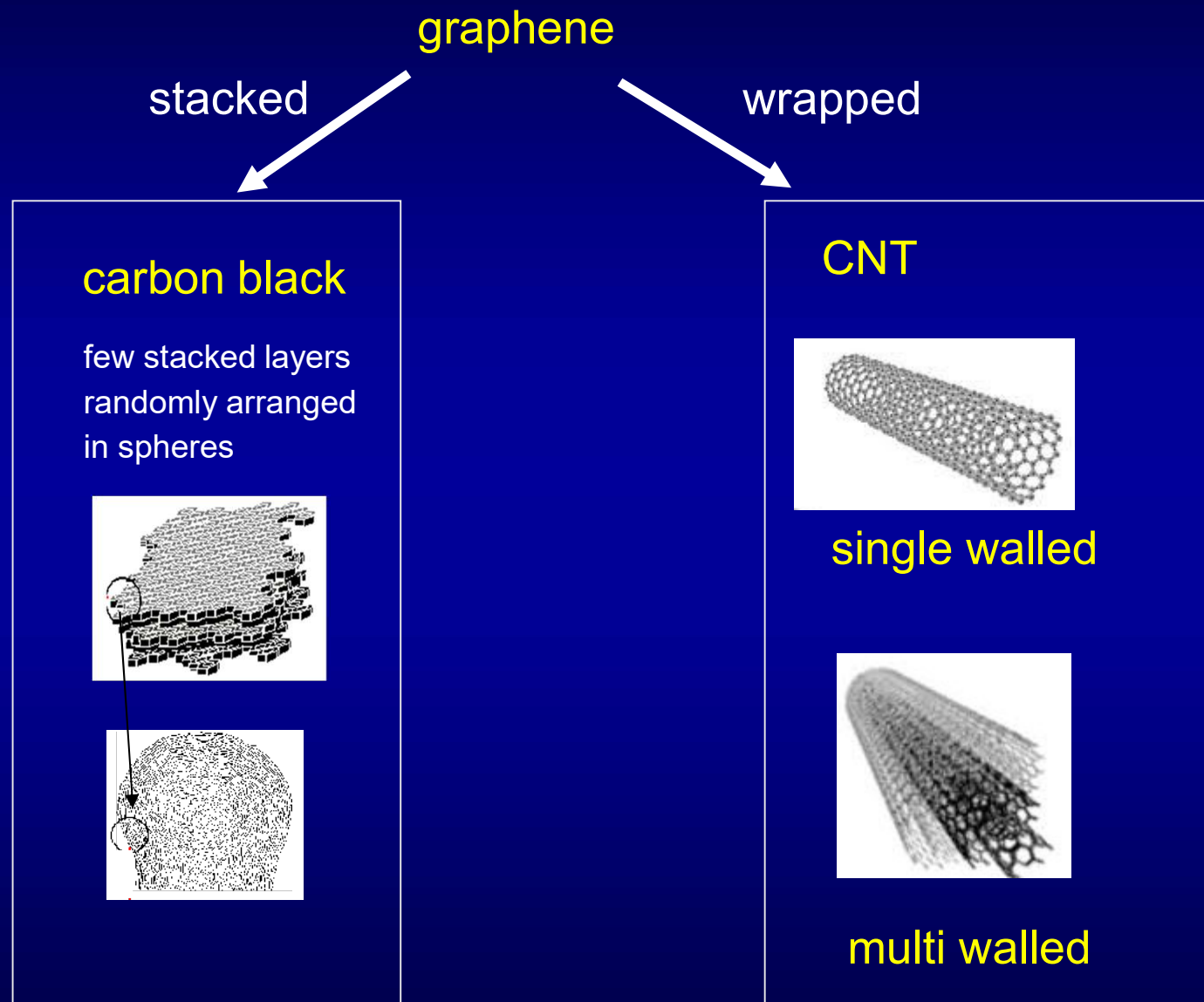


single walled



multi walled

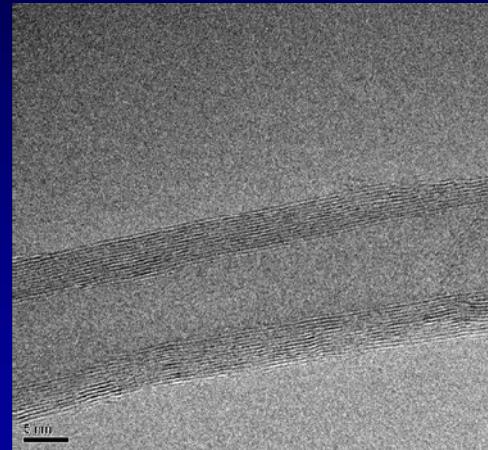
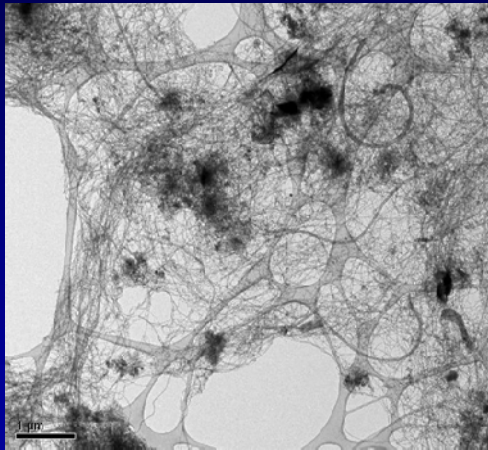
Carbon fillers from a layer of sp^2 -bonded carbon atoms



Analysis of mechanical reinforcement

CNT and CB as the sp^2 carbon allotropes

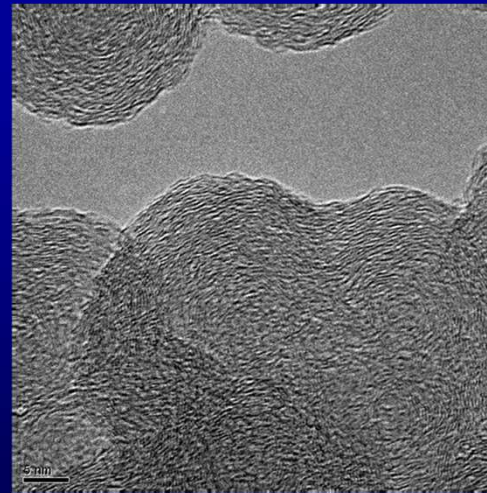
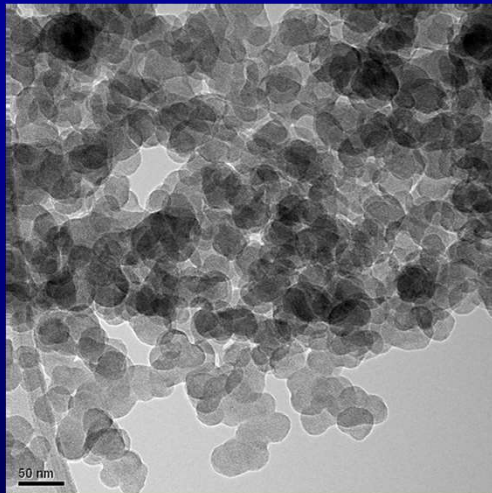
CNT



NANOCYL® NC7000™
from Nanocyl

Carbon purity \approx 90% (TGA)

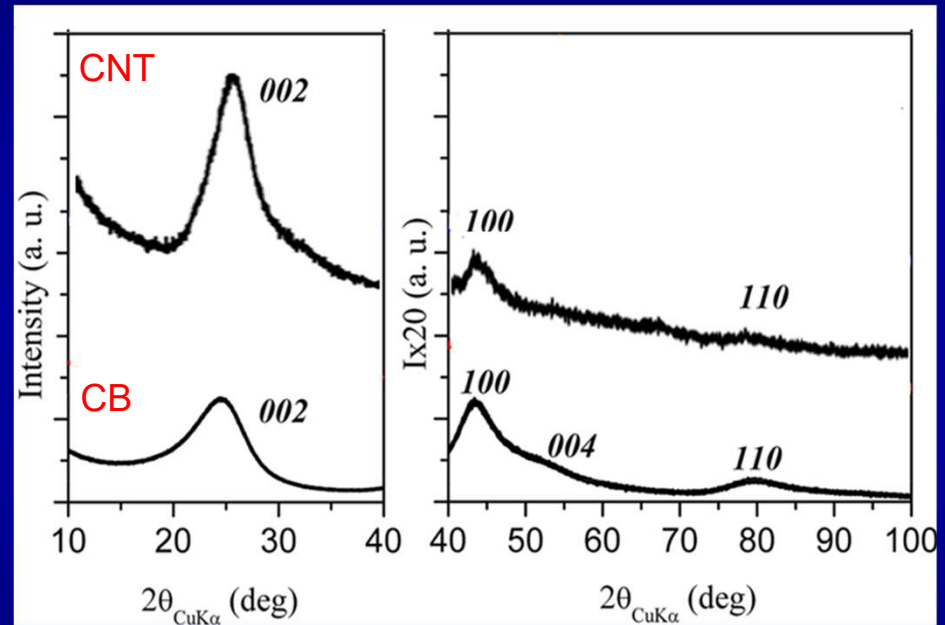
CB



CBN326
from Cabot

Carbon purity \approx 98% (TGA)

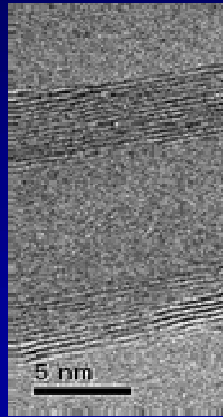
WAXD patterns of CNT and CB



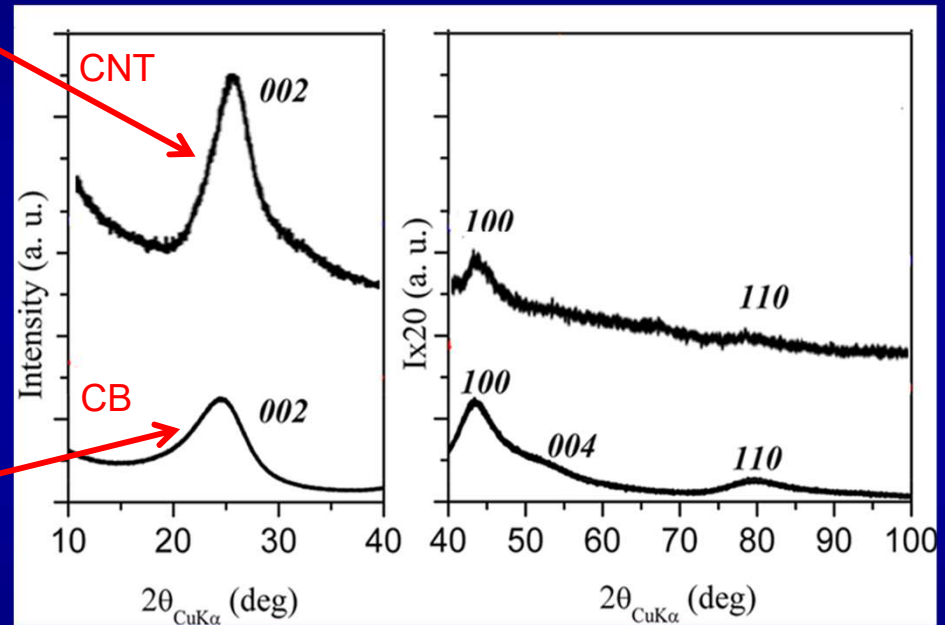
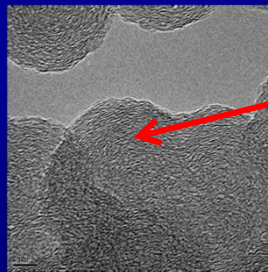
☞ Turbostratic structure

WAXD patterns of CNT and CB

10 - 8

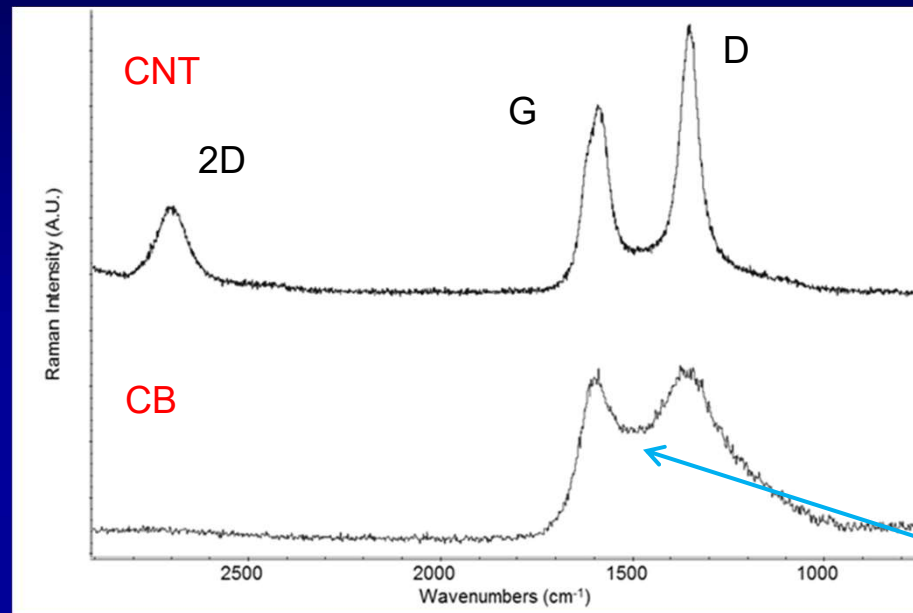


≈ 5



☞ Turbostratic structure

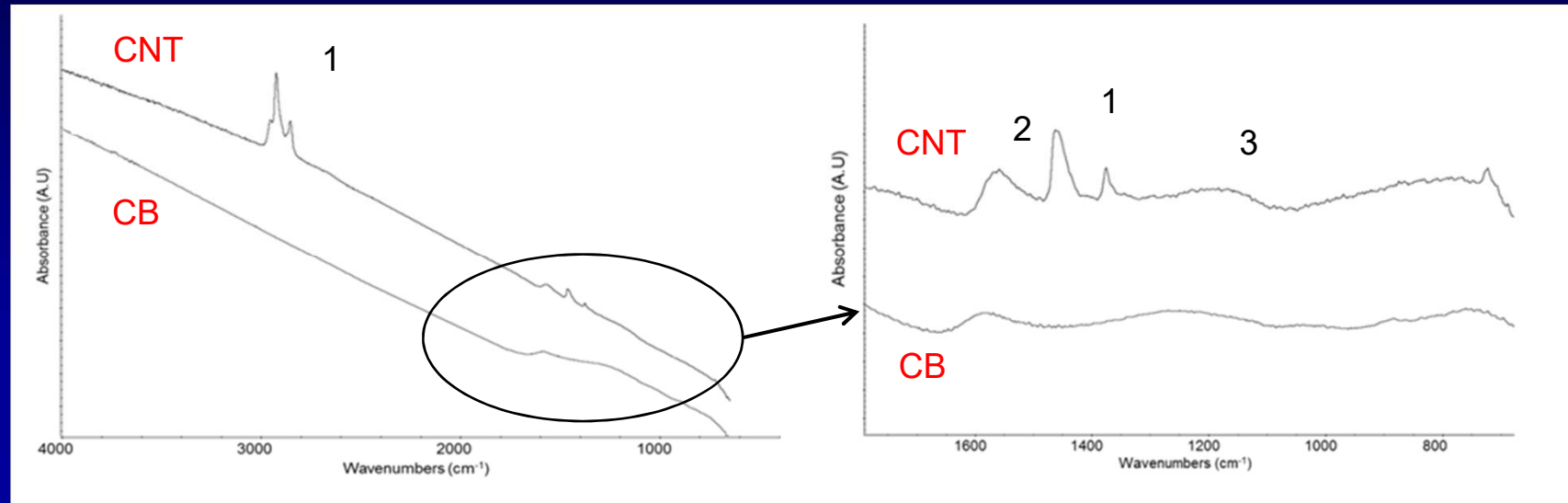
Raman spectra of CNT and CB



disordered
sp³ carbon structures

☞ much higher degree of disorder in CB

Infrared spectra of CNT and CB



- 1 vibrations of CH_2 and CH_3 groups
- 2 E_{1u} IR active mode of the collective $\text{C}=\text{C}$ stretching vibration
- 3 vibration of OH groups, bending of epoxy or ether groups



Functional groups in CNT

Carbon nanofillers: main features

Carbon filler	BET surface area (m ² /g)	Acidic groups (mmol/g) ^a	pH
CB N326	77	1.3	7.6
CNT	275	2	8.7

^a by Boehm titration: carboxy, epoxy, hydroxy groups

Analysis of mechanical reinforcement

Composites with carbon allotropes, based on IR

Composites with only one filler (phr)

IR = 100

CNT	0	1.25	2.50	5.00	10.00	15.00	30.00
G	0	1.39	2.78	5.56	11.11	16.67	33.30
CB N326	0	1.25	2.50	5.00	10.00	15.00	30.00

Fillers with the same volume fraction

Composites crosslinked with dicumyl peroxide: 1.40 phr

M. Galimberti, S. Agnelli, V. Cipolletti, "Progress in Rubber Nanocomposites 1st Edition" ISBN: 9780081004098, Elsevier

S. Agnelli, V. Cipolletti, S. Musto, M. Coombs, L. Conzatti, S. Pandini, T. Riccò, M. Galimberti, eXPRESS Polymer Letters 8(6) (2014) 436

Composites with carbon allotropes, based on IR

Composites with hybrid filler systems (phr)

IR = 100

CNT	0	1.25	2.50	5.00	10.00	15.00	30.00
CNT/CB			1.25/ 1.25	2.50/ 2.50	5.00/ 5.00	7.50/ 7.50	15.00/ 15.00
G	0	1.39	2.78	5.56	11.11	16.67	33.30
G/CB	0		1.39/ 1.25	2.78/ 2.50	5.55/ 5.00	8.34/ 7.70	16.65/ 15.00
CB N326	0	1.25	2.50	5.00	10.00	15.00	30.00



Fillers with the same volume fraction

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Composites with carbon allotropes, based on S-SBR

Composites with hybrid filler systems (phr)

SBR = 100

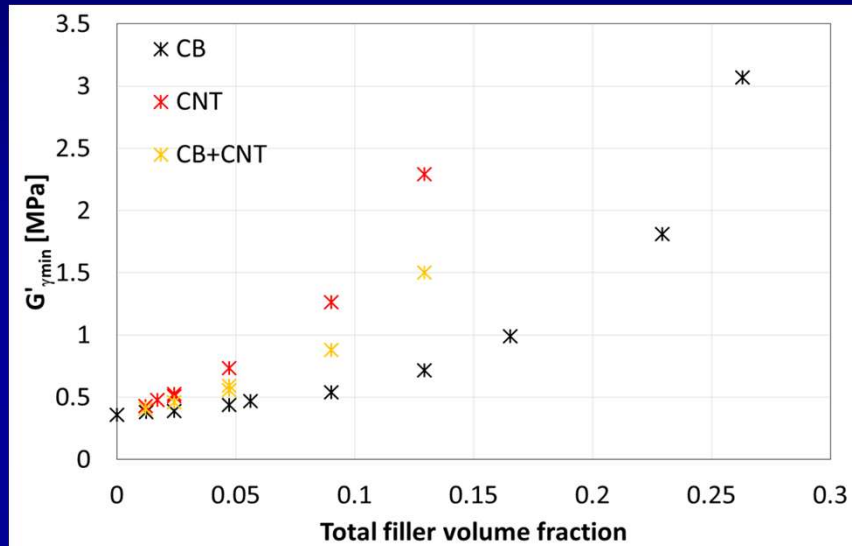
CNT	0; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 6.5; 7.5; 10; 11; 14; 18; 20						
CB N326	0; 10; 15; 20; 22; 30; 35; 45; 50; 60						
CB N326	10	+ CNT: 0 ÷ 14					
CB N326	22	+ CNT: 0 ÷ 14					
CB N326	35	+ CNT: 0 ÷ 14					

Fillers with the same volume fraction

Composites crosslinked with dicumyl peroxide: 1.40 phr

Initial Modulus as a function of the total filler content

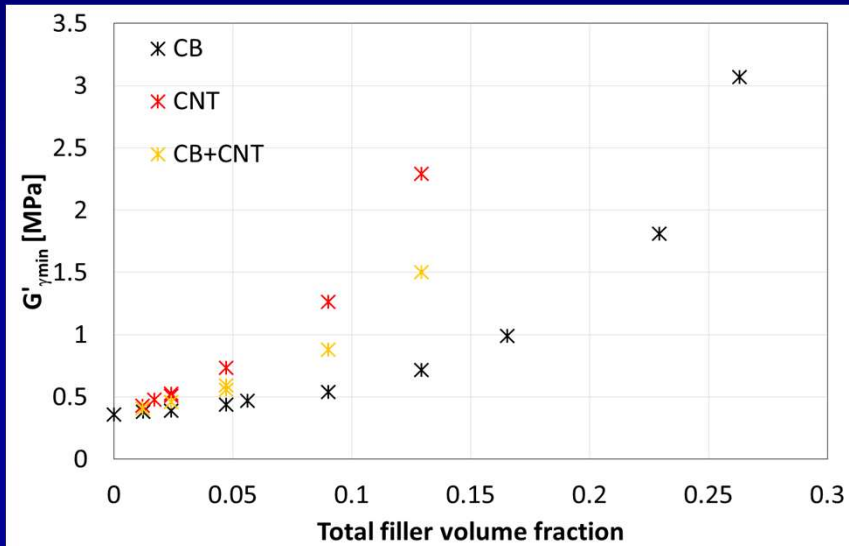
IR



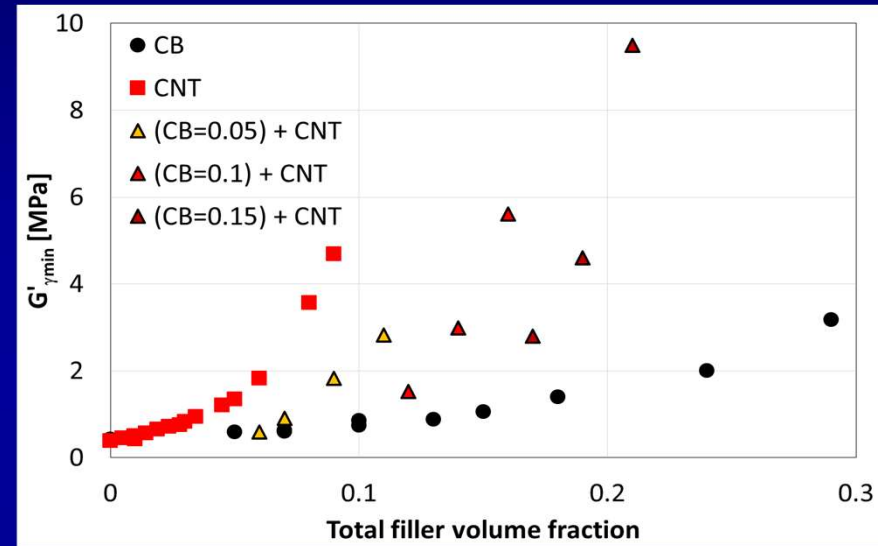
Data from shear stress tests, 50°C

Initial Modulus as a function of the total filler content

IR



SBR

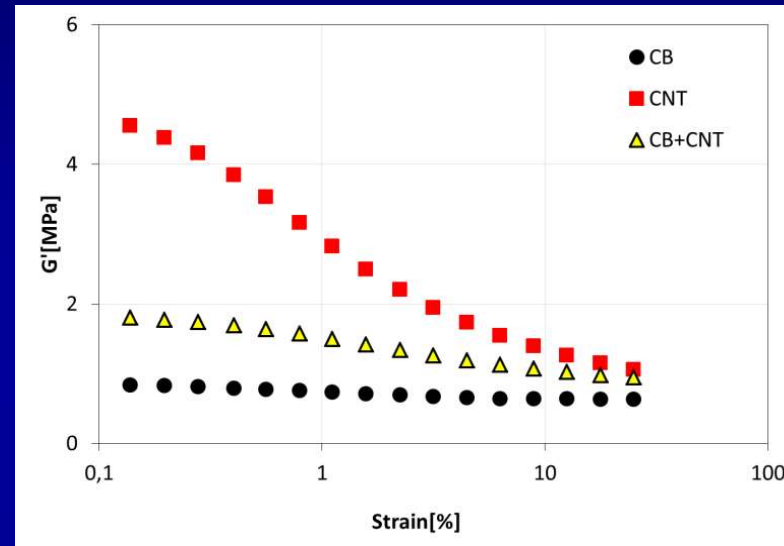


☞ Composites with CNT have larger modulus than composites with only CB

Data from shear stress tests, 50°C

Initial Modulus as a function of the strain amplitude

SBR

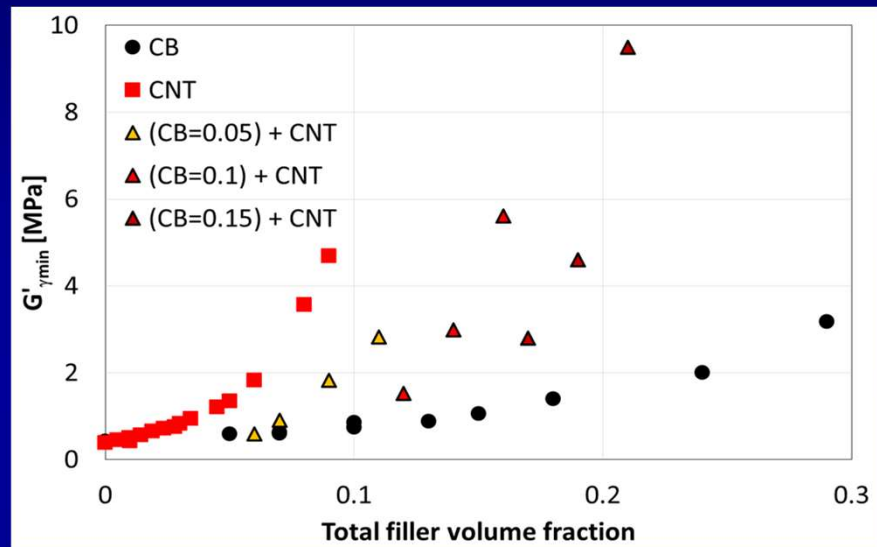


0.09 - 0.1 as total filler volume fraction

☞ Composites with CNT have larger Payne effect than composites with only CB

Data from shear stress tests, 50°C

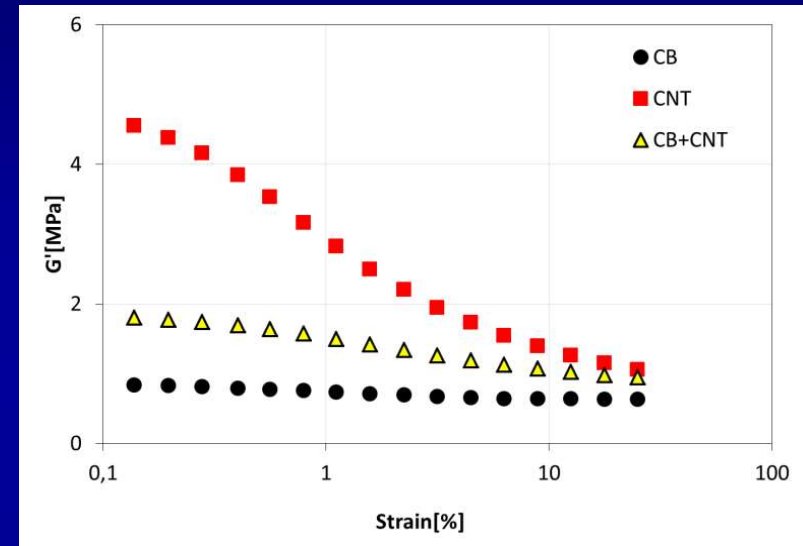
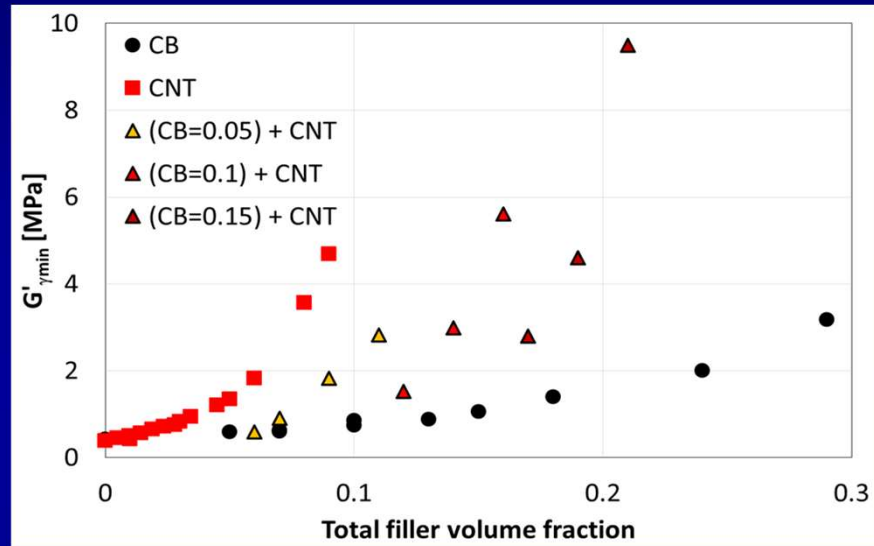
Initial Modulus and Payne effect as a function of the total filler content



SBR as the elastomer

Data from shear stress tests, 50°C

Initial Modulus and Payne effect as a function of the total filler content



SBR as the elastomer

Data from shear stress tests, 50°C

Back to the objectives

- ☞ To identify a common correlation between features of sp^2 carbon allotropes and properties of elastomer composites
- ☞ To design composites suitable for automotive application on the basis of this correlation

Specific interfacial area as the parameter to correlate mechanical reinforcement

$$\text{Specific interfacial area} = A \cdot \rho \cdot \Phi$$

filler properties

A = BET surface area

ρ = density

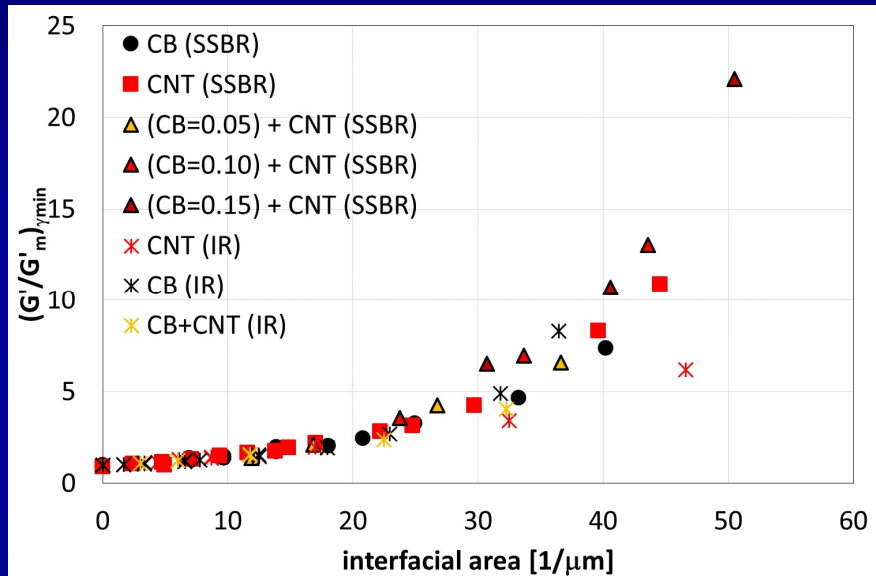
Φ = volume fraction

measure unit: m^2 / m^3

Surface / volume in the composite

Master curve for the initial modulus of elastomers composites

with sp^2 carbon allotropes

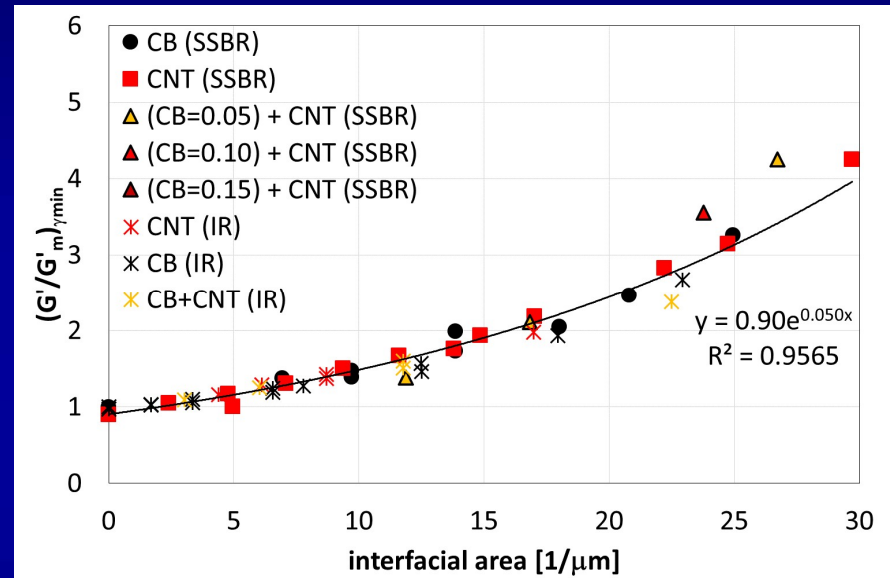
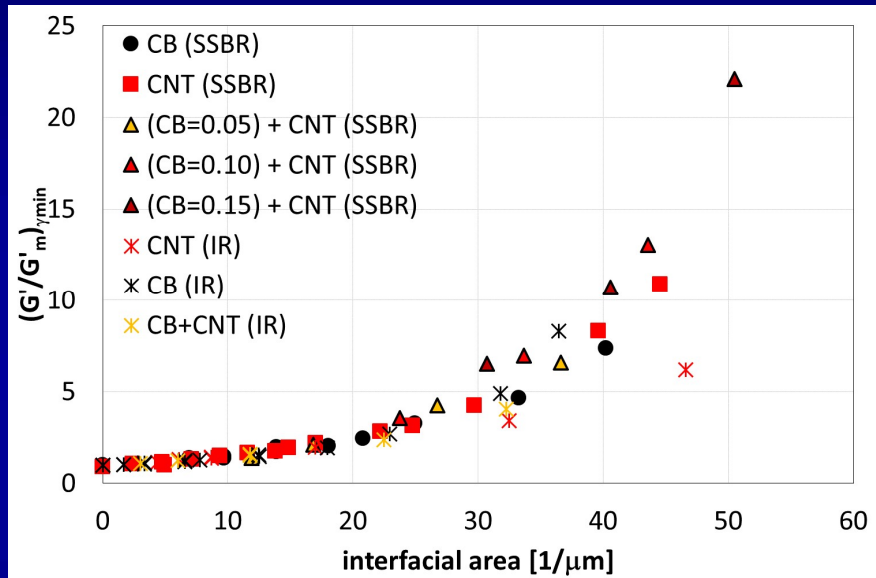


Elastomers: IR, SBR

Data from shear stress tests, 50°C

Master curve for the initial modulus of elastomers composites

with sp^2 carbon allotropes

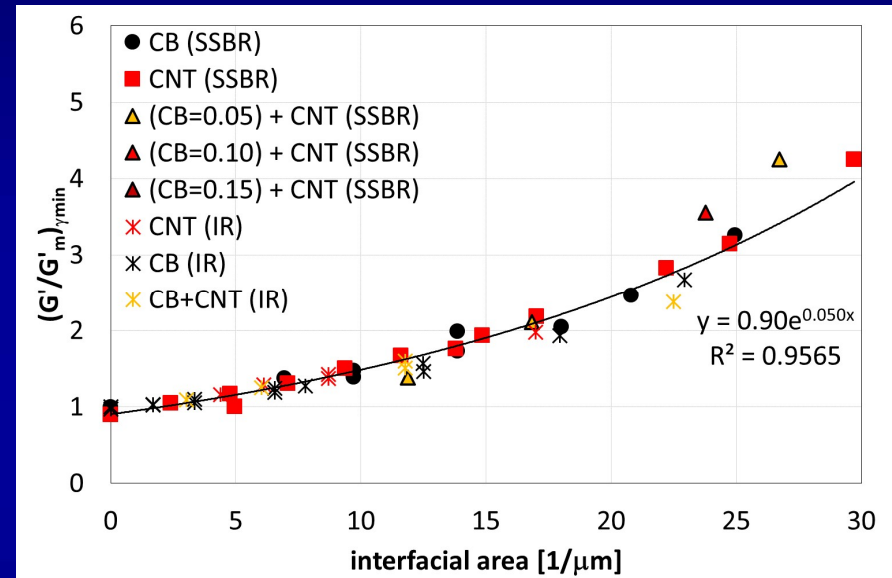
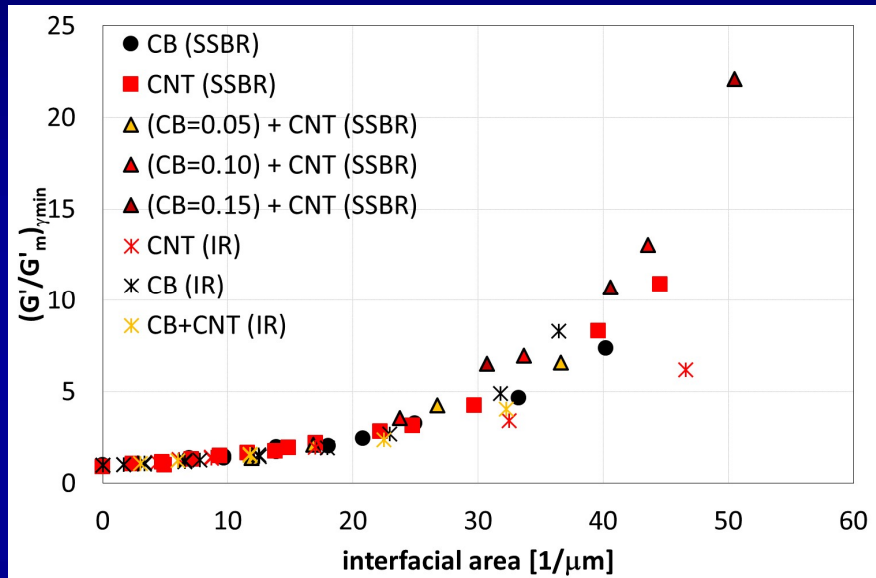


Elastomers: IR, SBR

Data from shear stress tests, 50°C

Master curve for the initial modulus of elastomers composites

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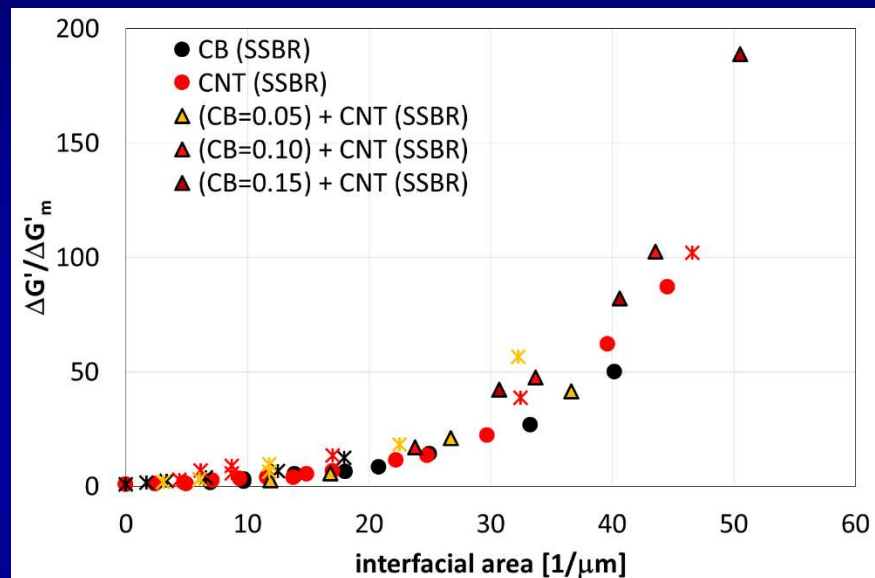
Elastomers: IR, SBR

Up to
40 phr CB, 12 phr CNT

Data from shear stress tests, 50°C

Master curve for the Payne effect of elastomers composites

with sp^2 carbon allotropes



Elastomers: IR, SBR

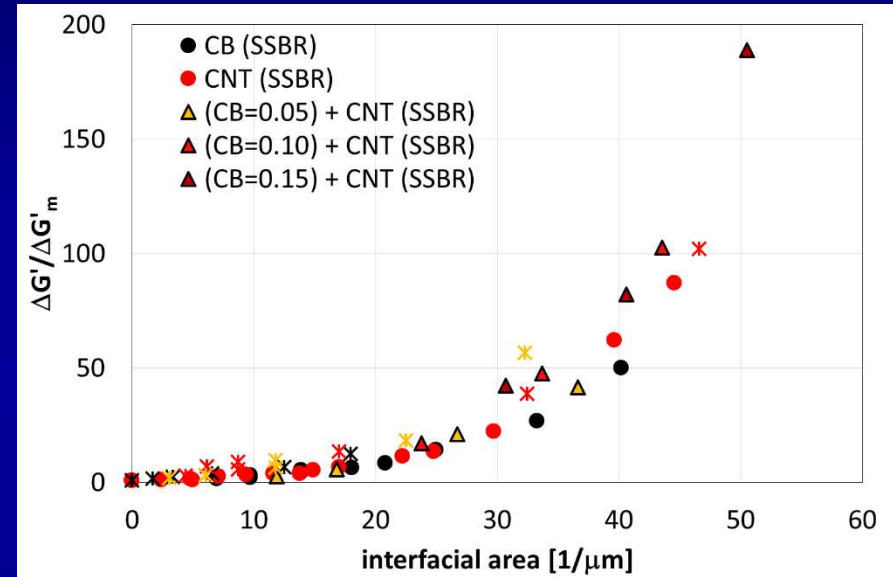
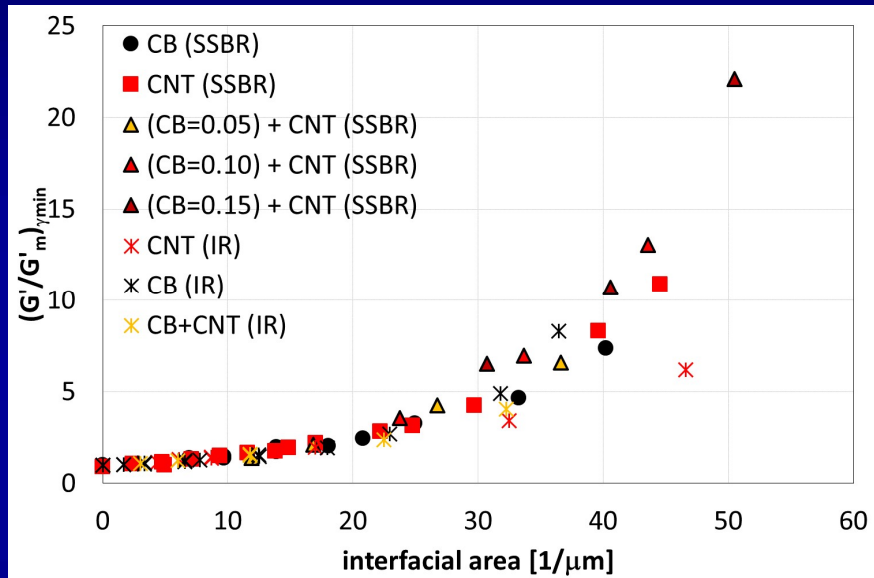
Data from shear stress tests, 50°C

Master curves for the mechanical reinforcement of elastomer composites

with sp^2 carbon allotropes

G'

$\Delta G'$



IR, SBR as the elastomers

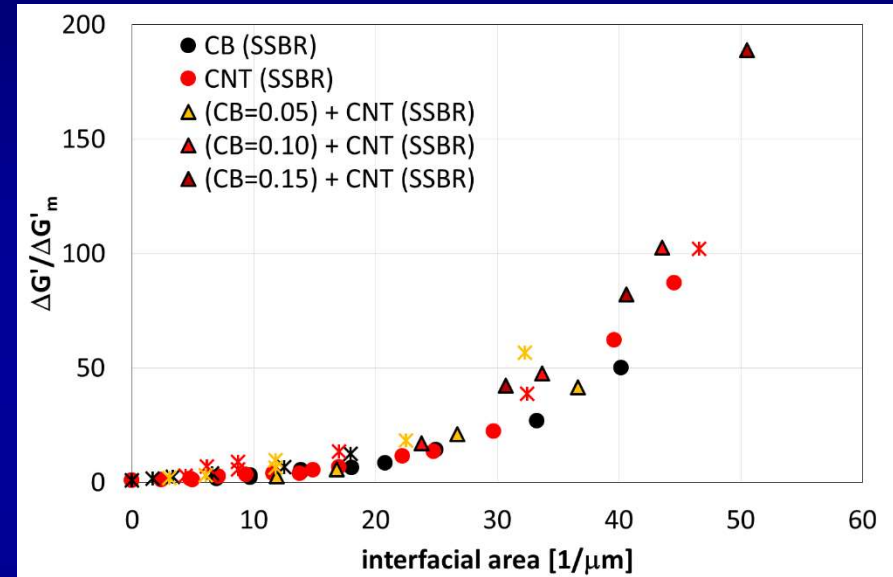
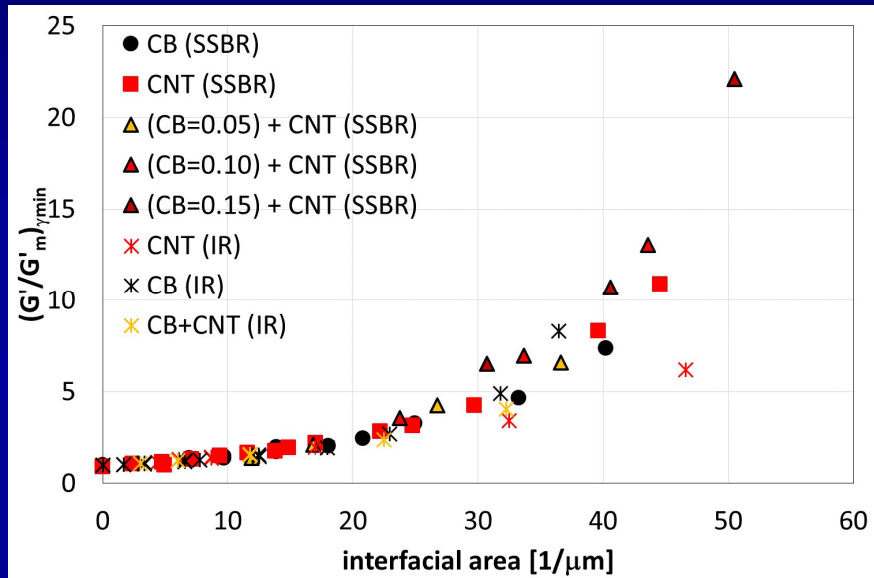
Data from shear stress tests, 50°C

Master curves for the mechanical reinforcement of elastomer composites

with sp^2 carbon allotropes

G'

$\Delta G'$

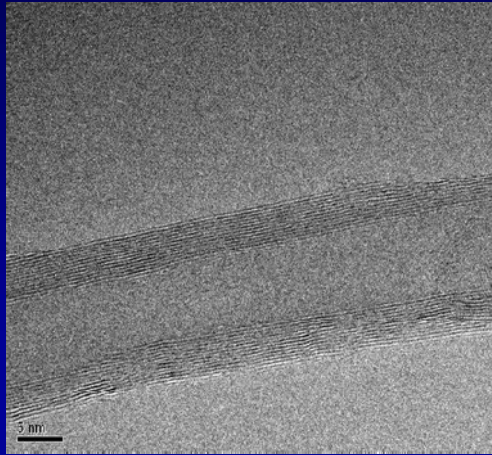


IR, SBR as the elastomers

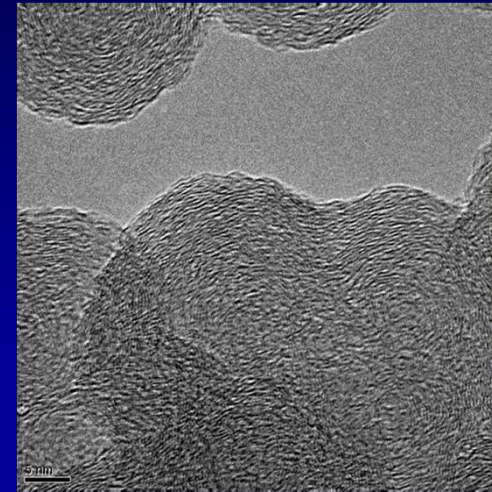
Data from shear stress tests, 50°C

CNT and CB as the sp^2 carbon allotropes

CNT

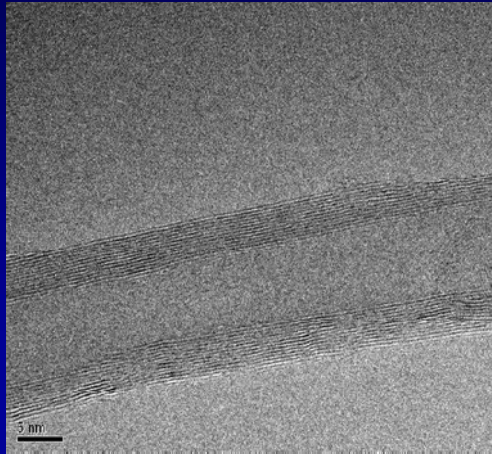


CB

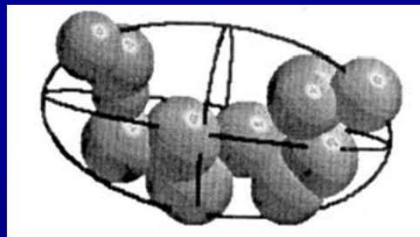
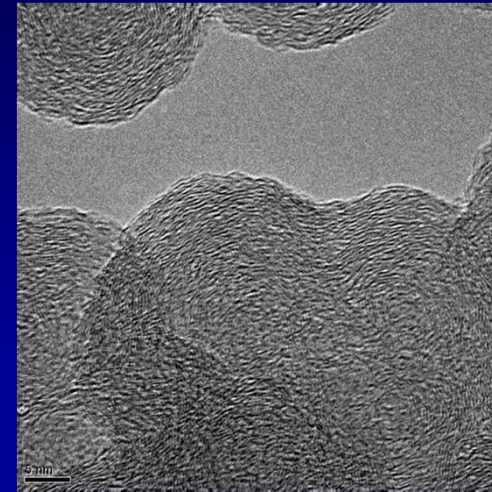


CNT and CB lead to anisotropic properties of composites?

CNT



CB

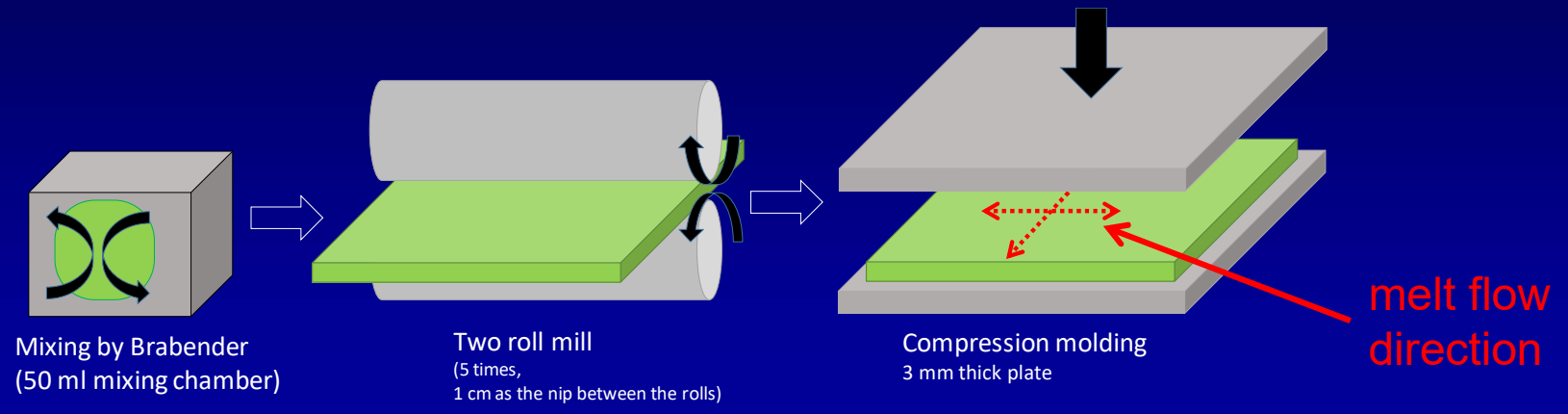


N220 aggregate

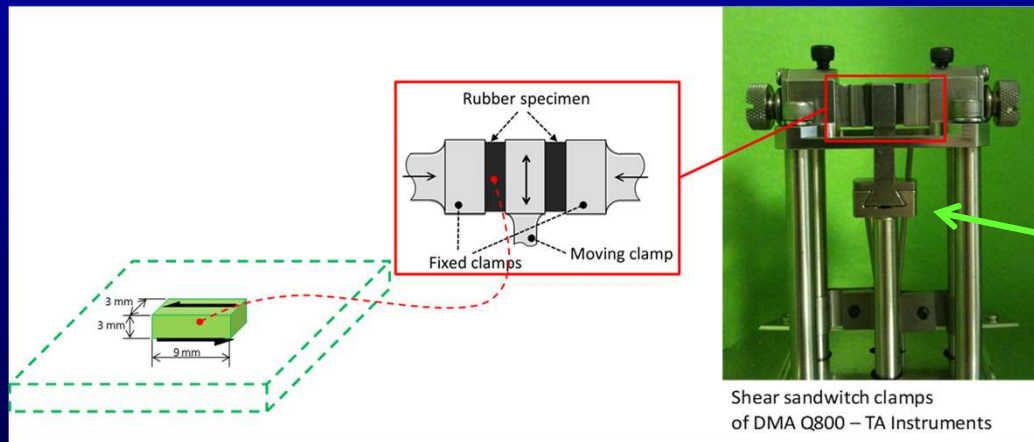
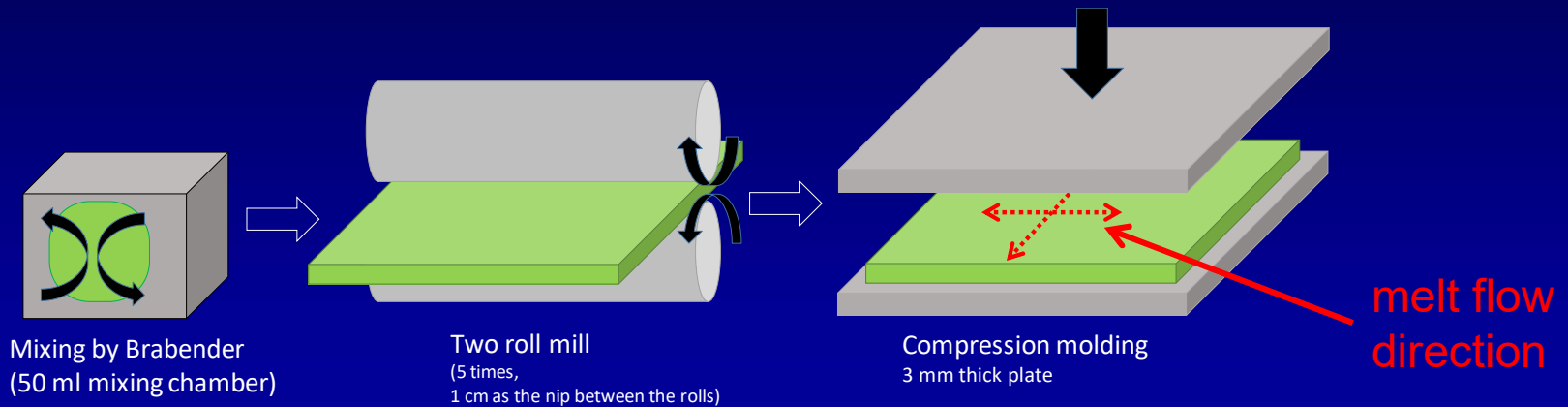
“Aggregates generally exhibit anisotropy,
in the form of a reduction of aggregate breadth, or “flatness”, in one direction”
...but even perfectly spherical particles can give anisotropy, if not homogeneously dispersed!

Grueber et al., *Rubber Chemistry and Technology* 67(2):280-287, 1994

Samples preparation

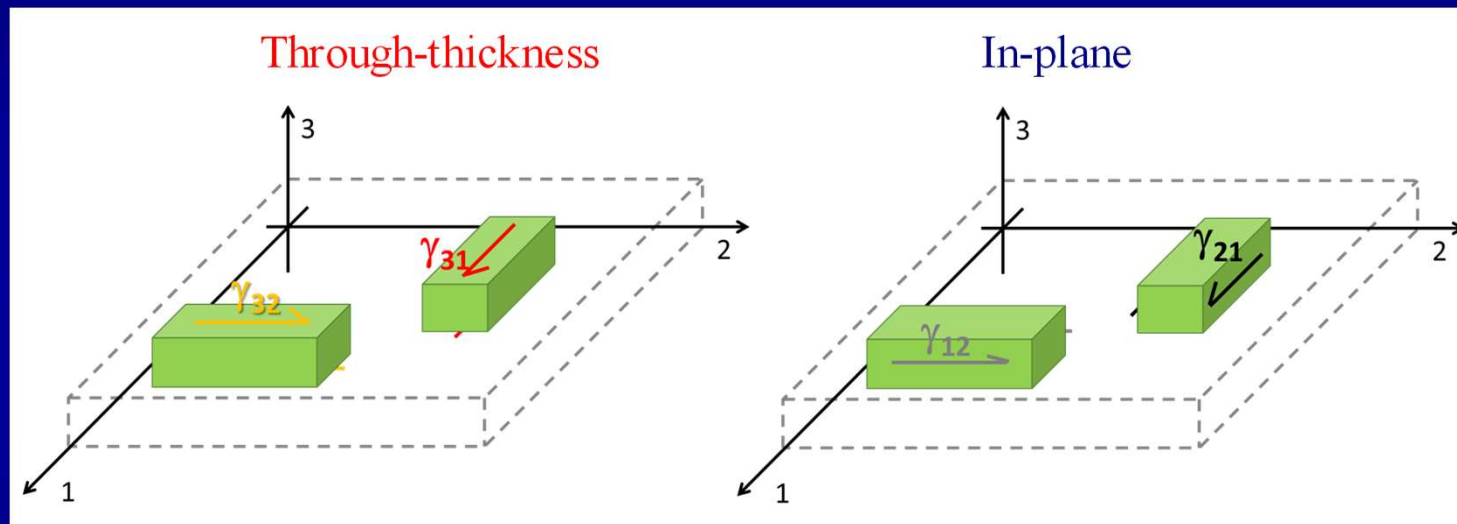


Samples preparation and device for shear stress tests



Device for
shear stress
tests

Shear stress tests: through thickness and in plane

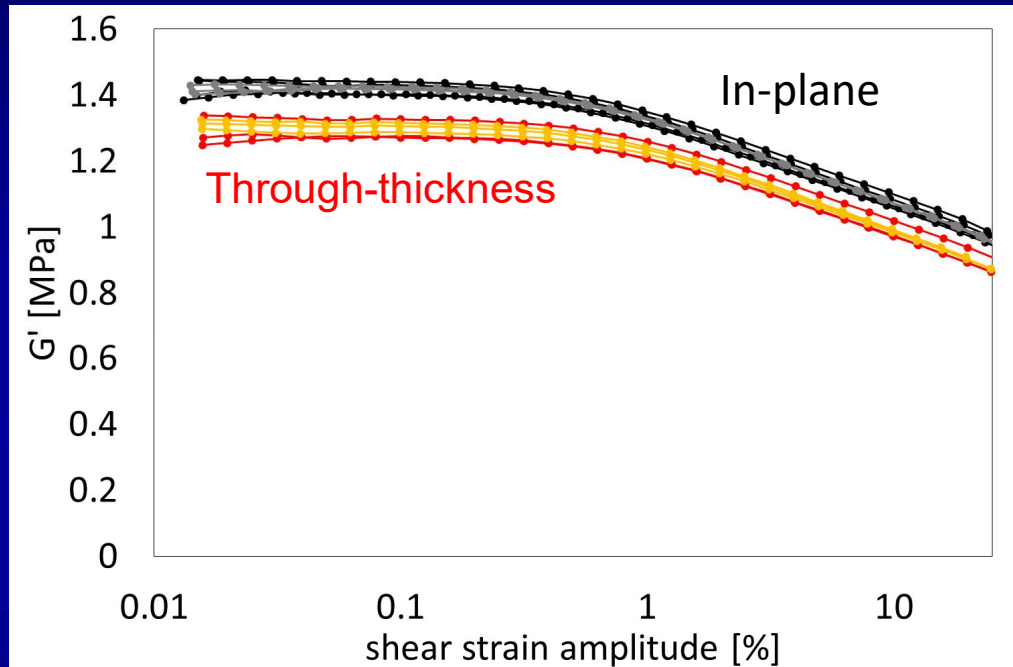


Stress on faces
perpendicular to axis 3

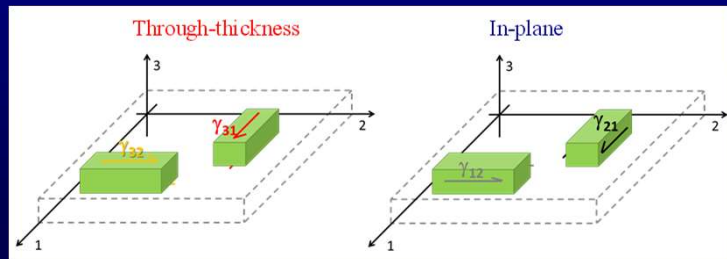
Stress on faces
perpendicular to axis 1

Shear modulus vs shear strain amplitude

NR + 35 phr CB N326



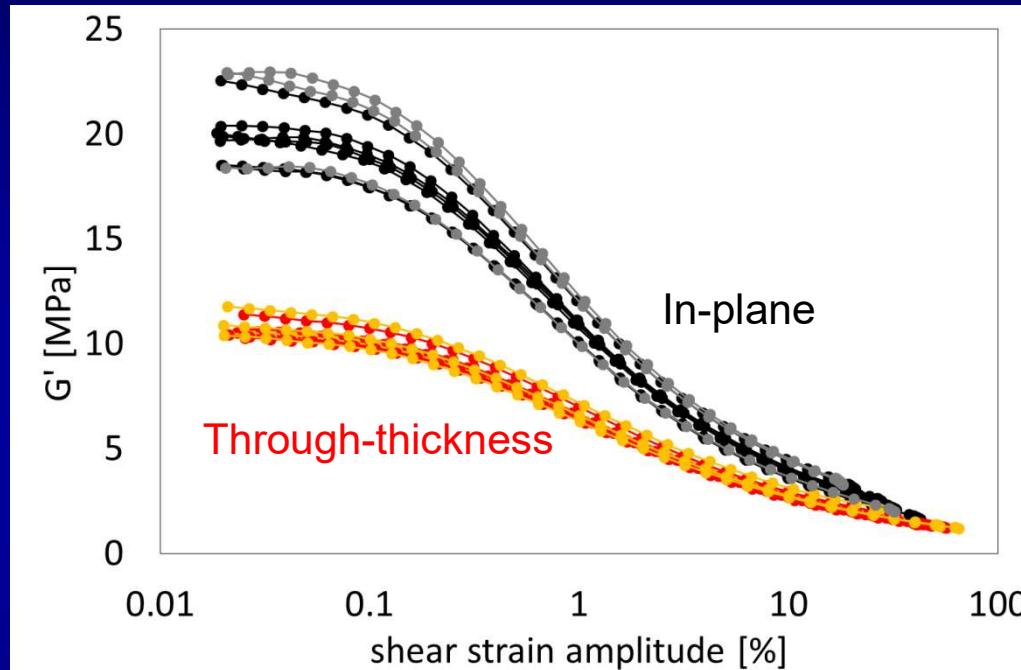
Slight anisotropic behaviour



Peroxide crosslinked

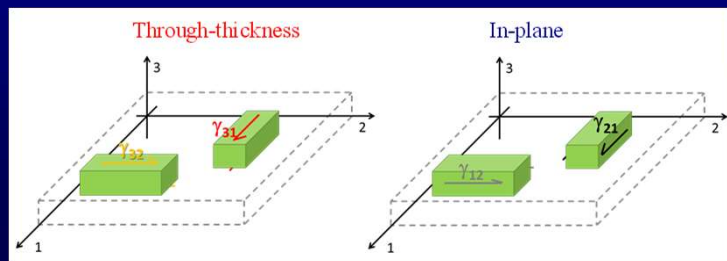
Shear modulus vs shear strain amplitude

NR + 35 phr CNT



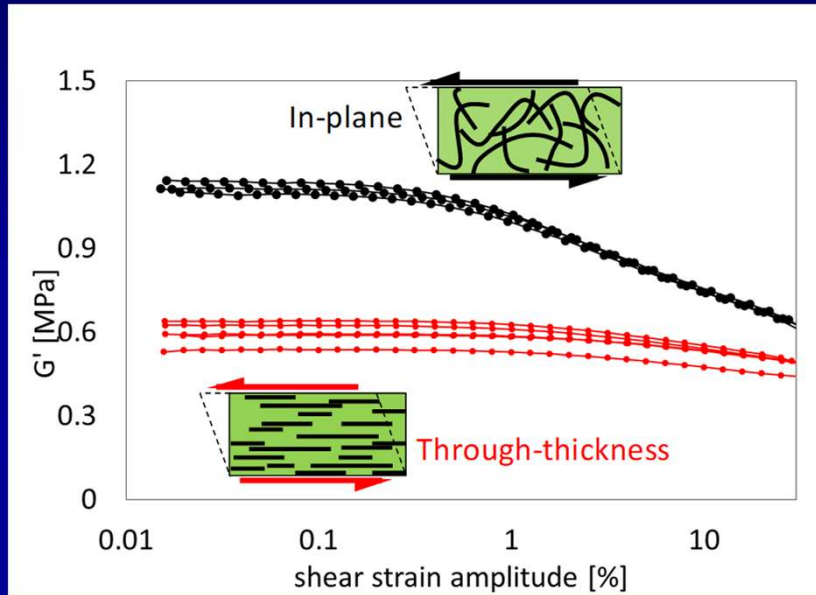
Transversal isotropic behavior

Anisotropic
Payne Effect

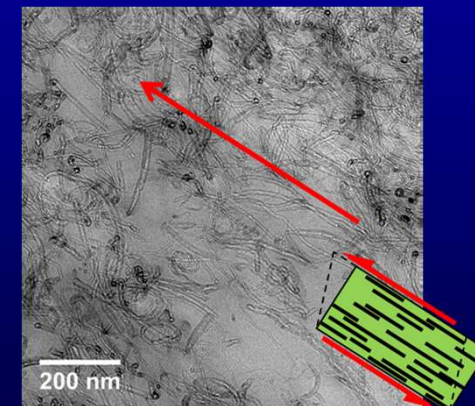
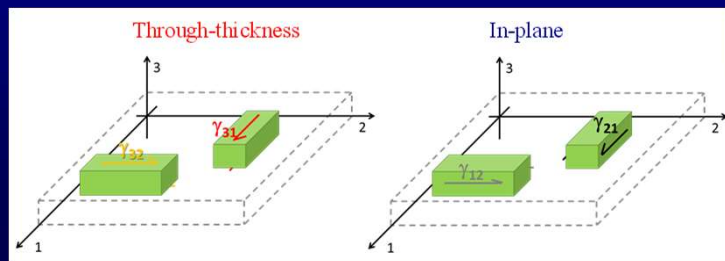
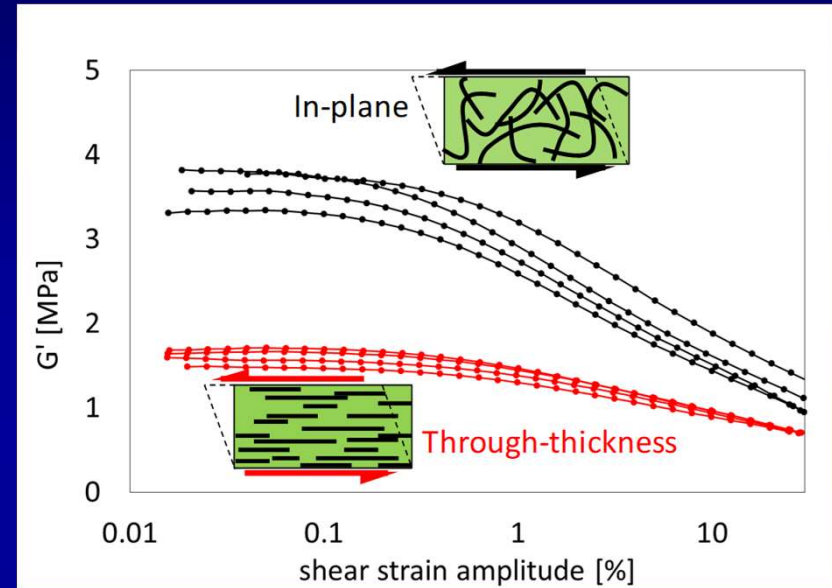


Shear modulus vs shear strain amplitude

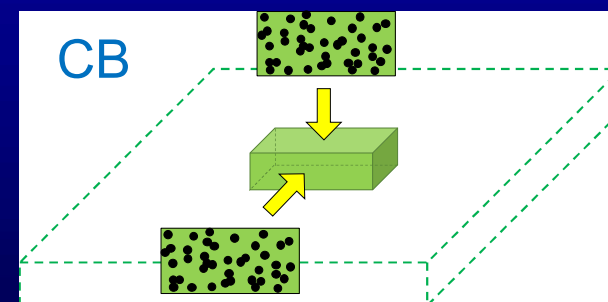
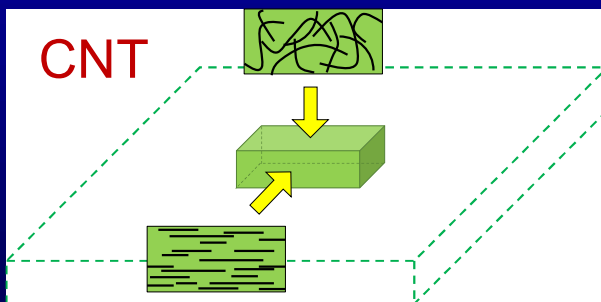
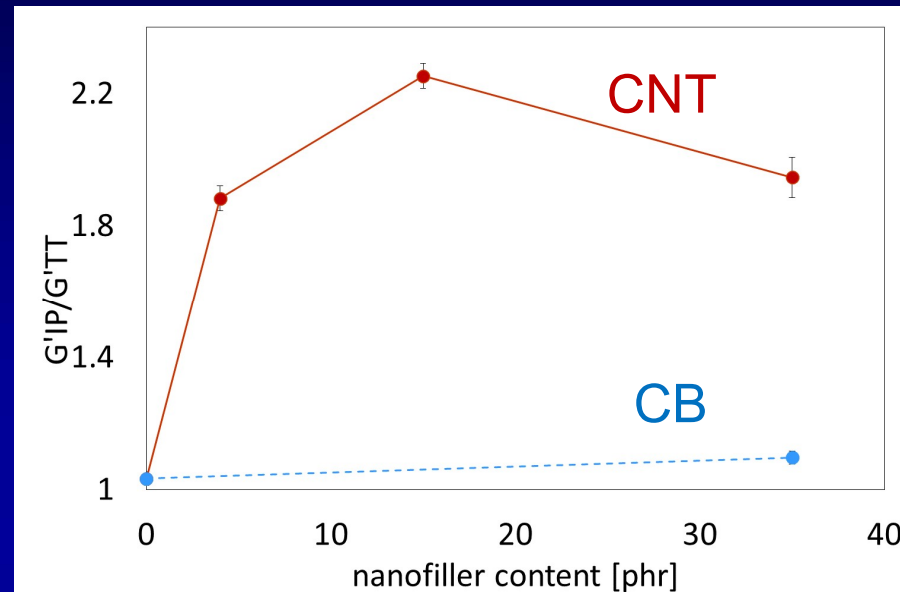
NR + 4 phr CNT



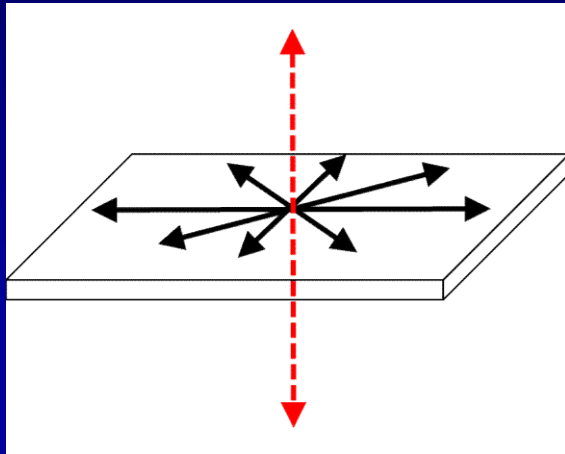
NR + 15 phr CNT



CNT leads to anisotropic properties of the composites



Transversal isotropic behaviour ...



NR composites
with CNT, nano graphite

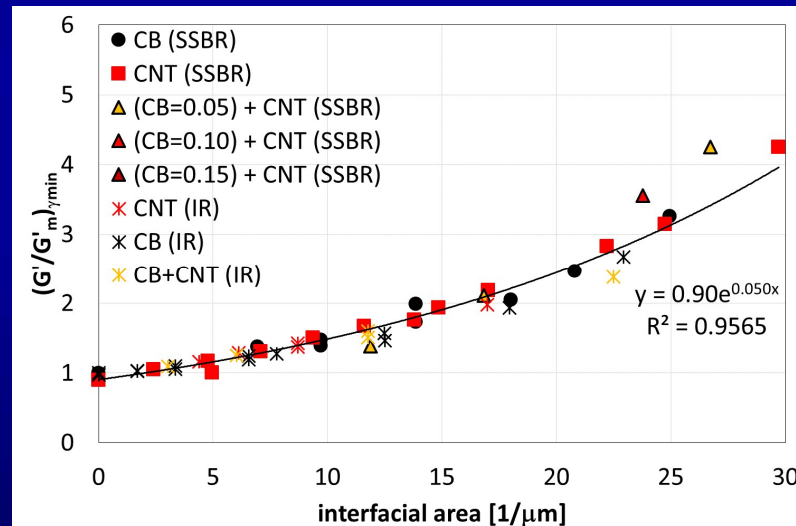
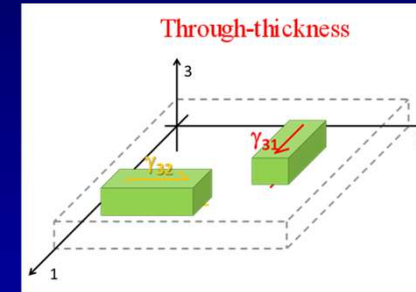
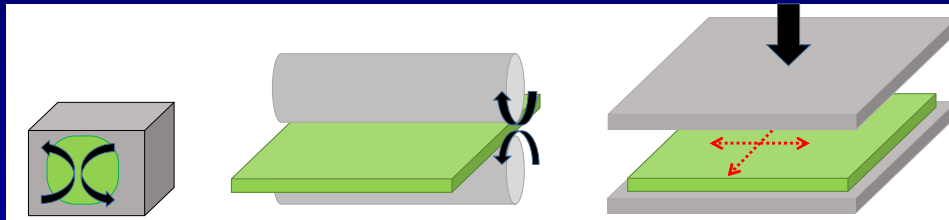


Grand Canyon

... for carbon fillers with high aspect ratio

Master curve for the initial modulus of elastomers composites

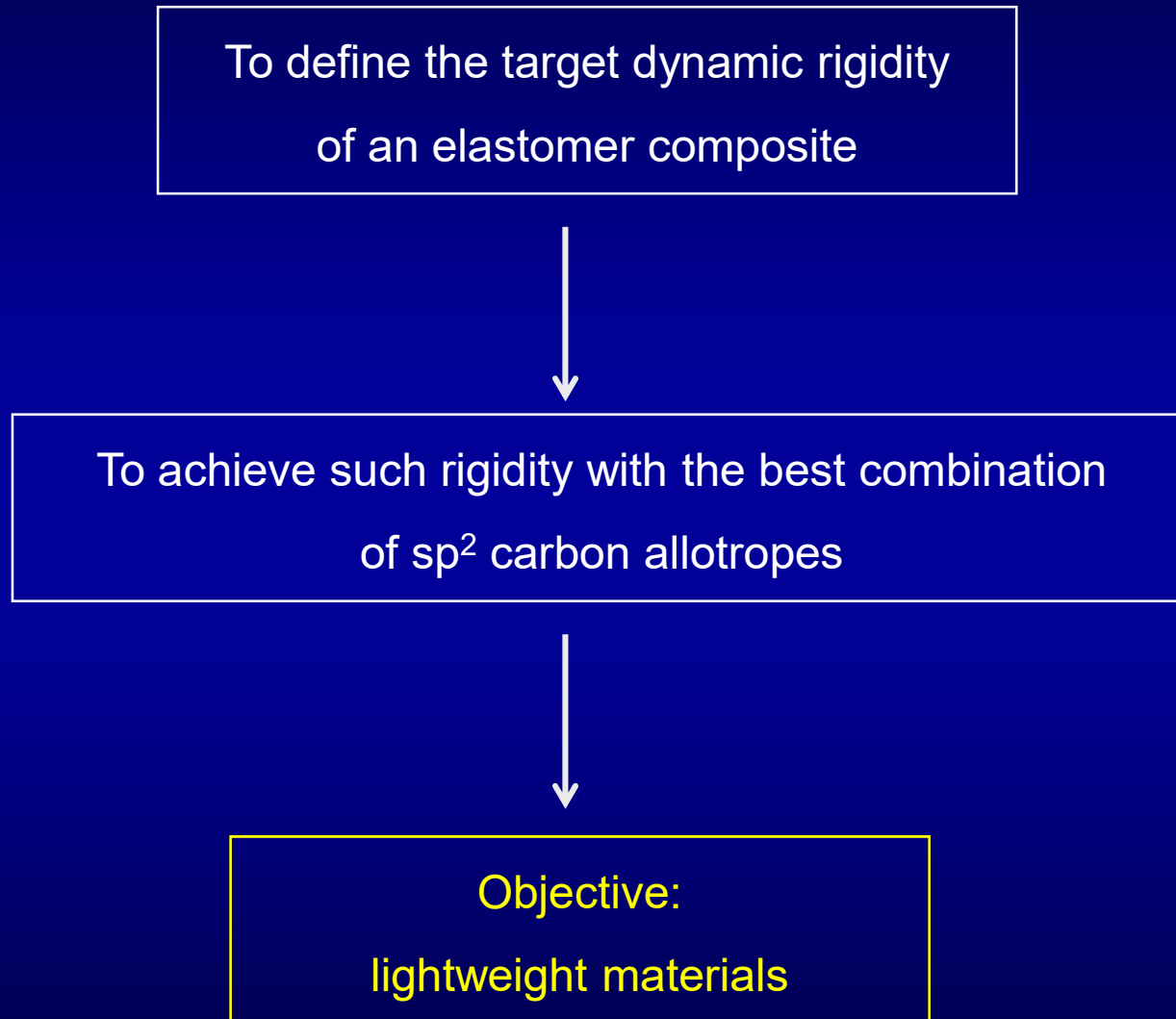
with sp^2 carbon allotropes



Elastomers: IR, SBR

Data from shear stress tests, 50°C

Lightweight materials from the master curve of mechanical reinforcement



What to do?

Master curve based on interfacial area



To solve the equation of the master curve:
equation to correlate modulus and interfacial area



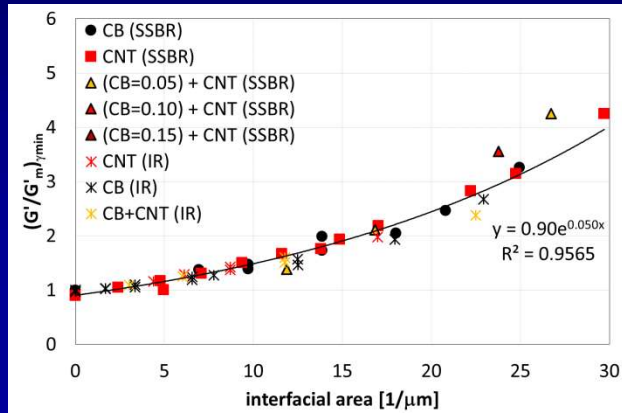
To define target modulus and density



Best combination of sp^2 carbon allotropes

Lightweight materials from the master curve of mechanical reinforcement

☞ To solve the equation of the master curve

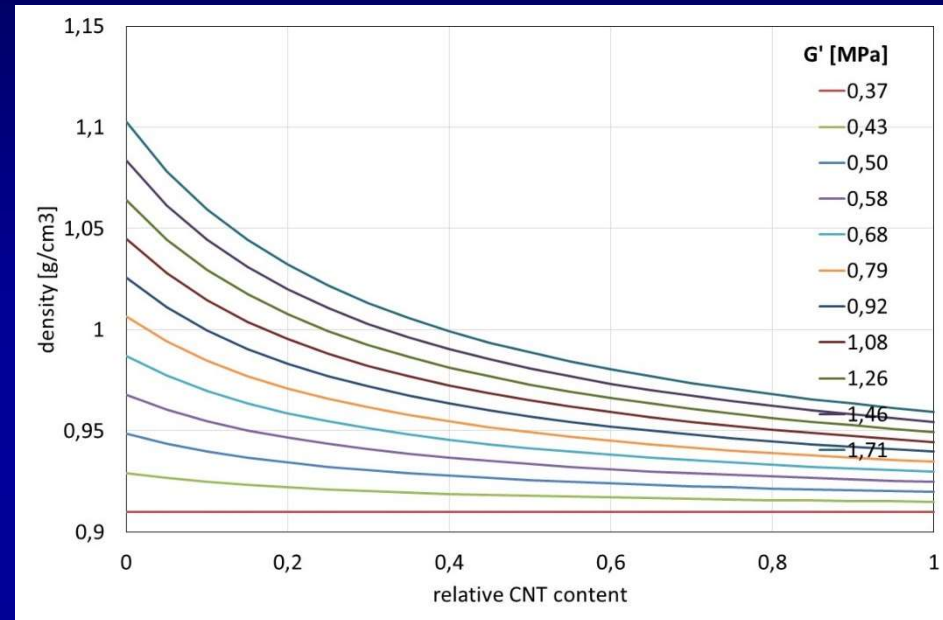


$$G'_{\gamma_{min}}/G'_m = 0.90e^{0.050 \text{ i.a.}}$$

☞ Target density

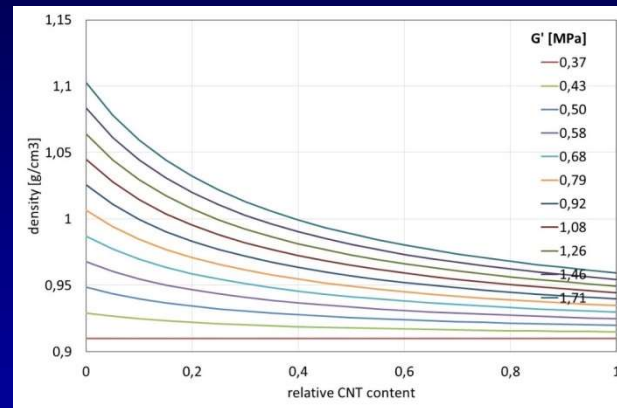
$$\rho_C = \rho_{CB} * \phi_{CB} + \rho_{CNT} * \phi_{CNT} + \rho_m * (1 - \phi_{CB} - \phi_{CNT})$$

Target modulus and density as a function of relative CNT content



$$\text{Relative CNT content} = \frac{\phi_{\text{CNT}}}{(\phi_{\text{CB}} + \phi_{\text{CNT}})}$$

Target modulus and density as a function of relative CNT content



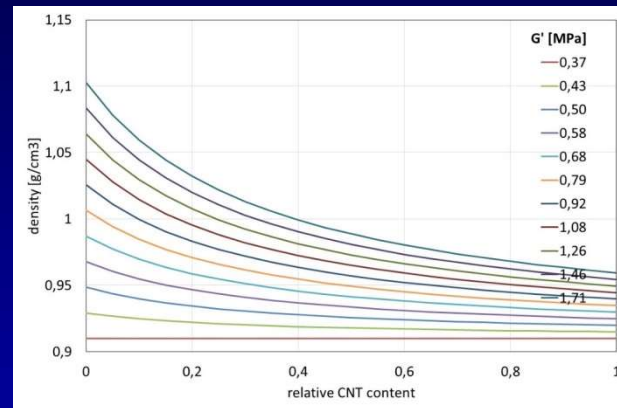
$$\text{Relative CNT content} = \frac{\phi_{\text{CNT}}}{(\phi_{\text{CB}} + \phi_{\text{CNT}})}$$

Target $G' = 1,46 \text{ Mpa}$

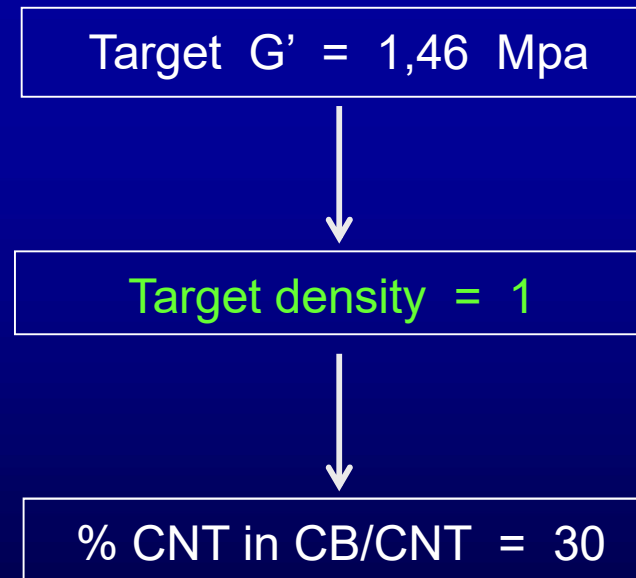
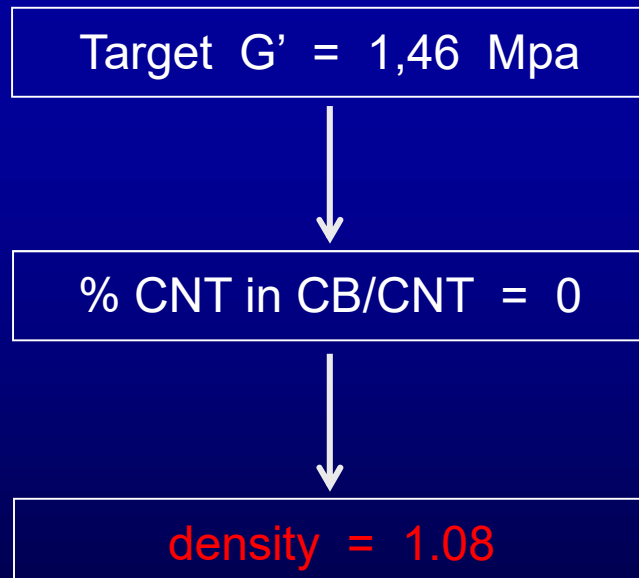
% CNT in CB/CNT = 0

density = 1.08

Target modulus and density as a function of relative CNT content



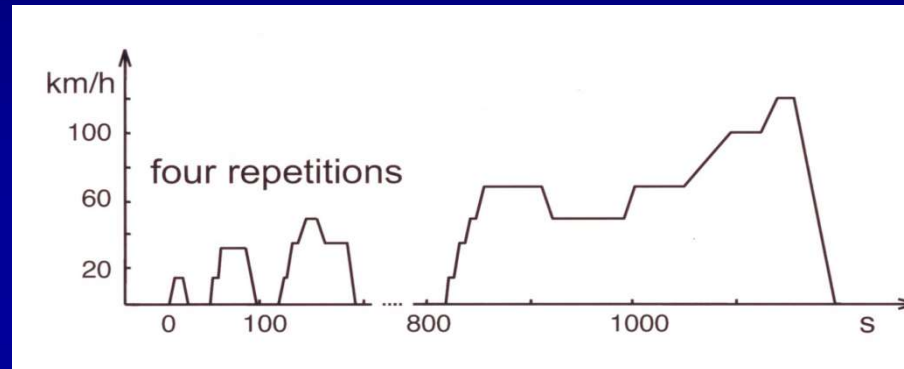
$$\text{Relative CNT content} = \frac{\phi_{\text{CNT}}}{(\phi_{\text{CB}} + \phi_{\text{CNT}})}$$



Reduction of the tyre mass and benefits in terms of CO₂ emission of vehicles

Definition of driving cycle - New European Driving Cycle (NEDC)

4 repetitions of ECE 15 driving cycle
+
1 repetition of Extra Urban Driving Cycle (EUDC)



	Unit	ECE 15	EUDC
Distance	[km]	4×1.013 = 4.052	6.955
Duration	[s]	4×195 = 780	400
Average Speed	[km/h]	18.7 (with idling)	62.6
Maximum speed	[km/h]	50	120

Mastinu, G, Ploechl, M. Road and off-road vehicle system dynamics handbook, CRC Pres, Boca Raton ; USA 2014

NEDC - Energy E required to travel 100 km

$$E = A \cdot C_x \cdot 1.9 \cdot 10^4 + m \cdot f_R \cdot 8.4 \cdot 10^2 + m \cdot 10 \quad (\text{kJ/100km})$$

A cross section area of the vehicle

C_x is the drag coefficient

m is the vehicle mass

f_R is the rolling resistance of tyres

☞ all of the three terms of the sum
are of the same order of magnitude

Sensitivity of E

with respect to

- aerodynamic drag coefficient $p_1 = C_x$,
- tyre rolling resistance $p_2 = f_R$
- vehicle mass $p_3 = m$

$$\lim_{\delta p_i \rightarrow 0} \frac{[E(p_i + \delta p_i) - E(p_i)] / E(p_i)}{\delta p_i / p_i} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial p_i} \frac{p_i}{E}$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial p_1} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial C_x} = A \cdot 1.9 \cdot 10^4$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial p_2} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial f_R} = m \cdot 8.4 \cdot 10^2$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial p_3} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial m} = a \cdot C_x \cdot 1.9 \cdot 10^4 + f_R \cdot 8.4 \cdot 10^2 + 10$$

E percent variations for 10% variation of p_i

Vehicle type	Data					% variation of E due to 10% variation of		
	Rated Power kW	A m ²	C_x	f_R	m kg	C_x	f_R	m
Mid-range	140	2.2	0.26	$12 \cdot 10^{-3}$	1560	2	4	9
Compact	55	2.0	0.29	$10 \cdot 10^{-3}$	1120	4	3	8
Sports	310	1.95	0.29	$12 \cdot 10^{-3}$	1650	2	4	9
SUV	200	2.3	0.41	$14 \cdot 10^{-3}$	2640	2	4	9

aerodynamic drag coefficient $p_1 = C_x$,

tyre rolling resistance $p_2 = f_R$

vehicle mass $p_3 = m$

👉 **Vehicle mass reduction** is the more effective way to reduce the energy required to travel

Mass of tyres

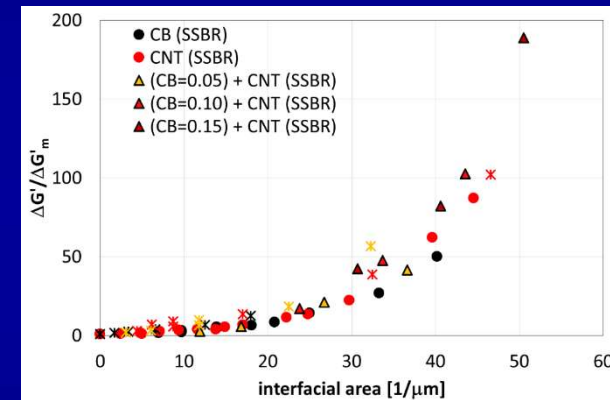
Tyre size	Tyre mass
155/70 R13	6.5 kg
185/70 R13	7.0 - 7.2 kg
175/65 R14	6.5 - 7.2 kg
195/65 R15	8.2 - 9 kg
>R20	>15 kg



Reducing the mass of tyres

Reducing the mass of a tyre means reducing

- the energy consumption E (for travelling 100 km)
- the rolling resistance f_R



Assumption

During normal rolling of the tyre

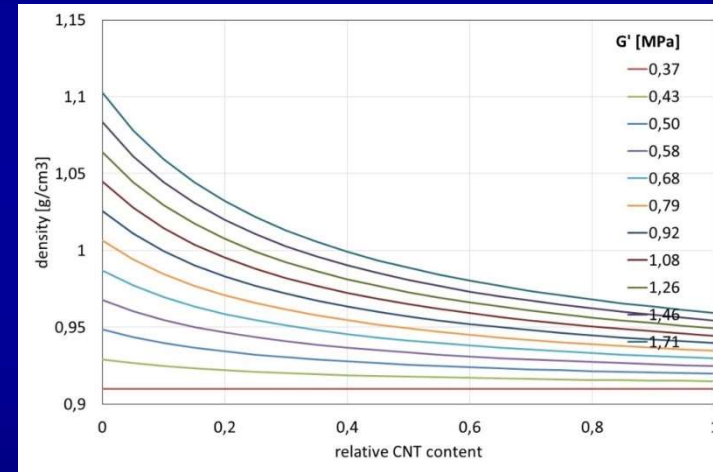
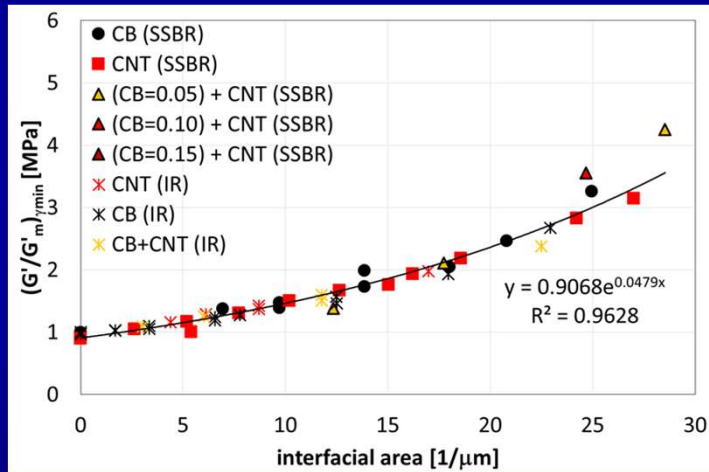
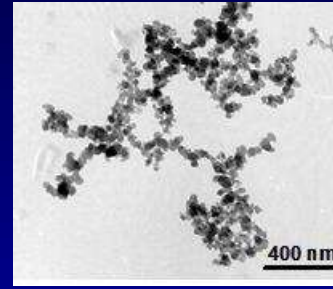
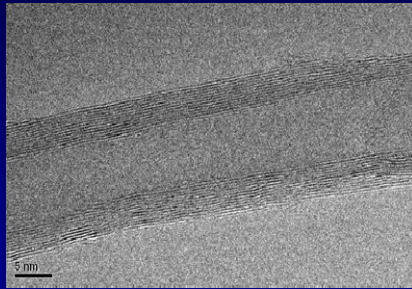
the rolling resistance is related only to hysteresis losses.

Since hysteresis losses are related and proportional to the tyre mass, the percentage rolling resistance reduction is equal to the percentage tyre mass reduction.

Energy saved due to mass reduction

Vehicle type	Tyre	Vehicle mass reduction	% Energy saved due to mass reduction only	% Energy saved due to RR reduction	Total % Energy saved due to mass reduction
Mid-range	195/70 R15	4 kg	0.1	4	4.1
Compact	155/70 R13	3 kg	0.2	3	3.1
Sports	245/45 R19	>5	<0.5	4	4.5
SUV	>R20	>6	<0.2	4	4.2

Conclusions



Acknowledgments

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Pirelli Tyre



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*Thanks
for the attention!*