



Sintesi di nanostrutture cristalline inorganiche  
con metodi colloidali e di chimica umida

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## Green chemistry & wet chemistry

*Green chemistry is based on “the utilization of a set of principles that reduces or eliminates the use or generation of hazardous substances in the design, manufacture and application of chemical products”*

*Energy requirements of chemical processes should be recognized for their environmental and economic impacts and should be minimized. **If possible, synthetic methods should be conducted at ambient temperature and pressure.***

Anastas, P. T.; Warner, J. C. *Green Chemistry Theory and Practice, Paperback Ed.*; Oxford University Press: New York, 2000

# Ambito di ricerca



## Linee guida sintetiche

- low operative temperatures ( $< 150^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and pressures
- resort to safe, common and cheap precursors chemicals and solvents
- replacement of solvents with water or other less hazardous solvents
- resort to not critical raw materials (CRM)
- easy processing (typically one batch/one step)
- economic and environmental sustainable processes
- simple separation/recovery of the products
- wet chemistry, solution chemistry
- high yield, high throughput
- high selectivity in terms of target stoichiometry and crystalline phases
- reduction of waste and of by-products, easy recycling

S. Diodati, P. Dolcet, M. Casarin and S. Gross\*

*Pursuing the Crystallization of Mono- and Polymetallic Nanosized Crystalline Inorganic Compounds by Low-Temperature Wet-Chemistry and Colloidal Routes*  
Chem. Rev., 2015, 115, 11449–11502



## Chimica umida e chimica colloidale

- Sintesi idrotermale subcritica
- Miniemulsione
- Nucleazione e crescita da soluzione
- Combinazione delle precedenti (miniemulsione/idrotermale)

## Argomenti correlati:

- Studi di cristallizzazione *in situ*, risolti in temperatura e in tempo
- Strategie di funzionalizzazione di ossidi e solfuri

# Ambito di ricerca



## Open issues:

- Structure and structural evolution at different length scale as a function of T and atmosphere
- Understanding the material also at atomic level (for instance to understand OSC et al.)

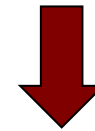
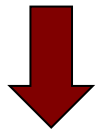
*length scale*

Atomic, local order  
( $< 1$  nm)

Nanosize range order  
( $\sim 10$  nm)

Long range order  
( $>10$  nm)

Macroscopic structure



### XAS (bulk)

- Structural information (bond lengths, coordination number & geometry, symmetry)
- Chemical information (neighbouring atoms, oxidation states)
- Atomic intermixing: M-O-M' bonds

### XPS (only surface)

- Chemical information (neighbouring atoms, oxidation states)
- Atomic intermixing

### TEM/SAED/SAXS

- Structural information

### XRD

- Structural information
- Phase stability
- Temperature dependence

### Raman spectroscopy

- Structural information
- Symmetry

### SEM

- Morphology



# Perché condizioni idrotermali



## Definition of hydrothermal reaction

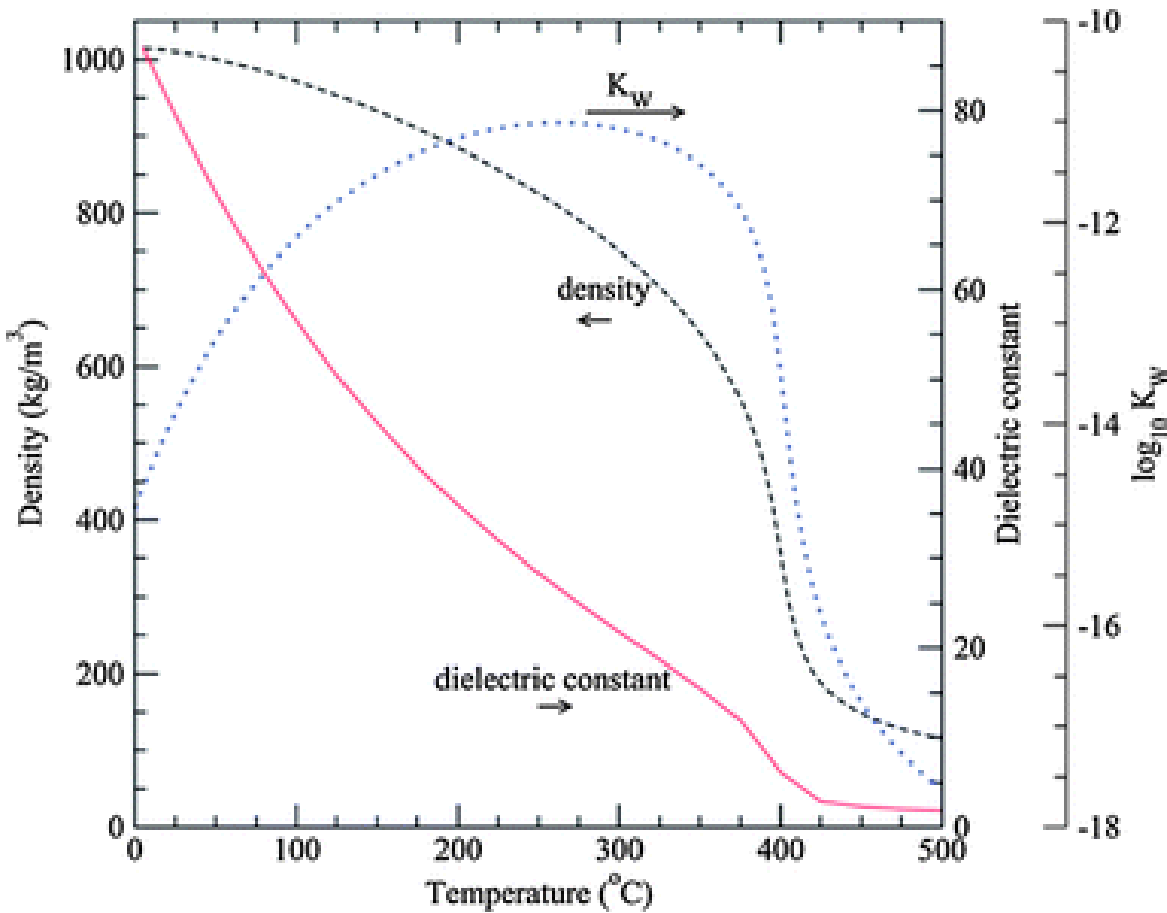
Heterogeneous chemical reaction in aqueous media above room temperature (normally above 100 °C) and at a pressure greater than 1 atm

- supercritical
- subcritical

Mari-Ann Einarsrud and Tor Grande, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2014, 43, 2187-2199

A. Rabenau, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.*, 1985, 24, 1026–1040

# Perché condizioni idrotermali



M.A. Einarsrud , T. Grande  
Chem. Soc. Rev., 2014, 43, 2187-2199

Fig. 1 Density, dielectric constant and ionic product,  $K_w$ , of pure water at 30 MPa as a function of temperature.

# Sistemi realizzati (idrotermale)



Synthesis of nanocrystalline  $\text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{MnFe}_2\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{NiFe}_2\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{ZnFe}_2\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{ZnMn}_2\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{ZnMnO}_3$ ,  $\text{CuMnO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ ,  $\text{ZnS}$ ,  $\text{Ag}_2\text{S}$ ,  $\text{CuO}$ ,  $\text{CuS}$

combining coprecipitation of oxalates and hydrothermal treatment

- At very low temperature (100-150°C)
- Using water as solvent: greenest solvent!
- Very easy and reproducible procedure
- Very common, cheap and safe precursors
- Effective control over the products stoichiometry
- Compounds obtained in highly crystalline form
- Small crystallite size (15-40 nm, depending on conditions)
- High yields (60-90%)
- Very pure compounds (clean decomposition of oxalates)
- Magnetic properties assessed

S. Diodati, L. Pandolfo, S. Gialanella, A. Caneschi and S. Gross

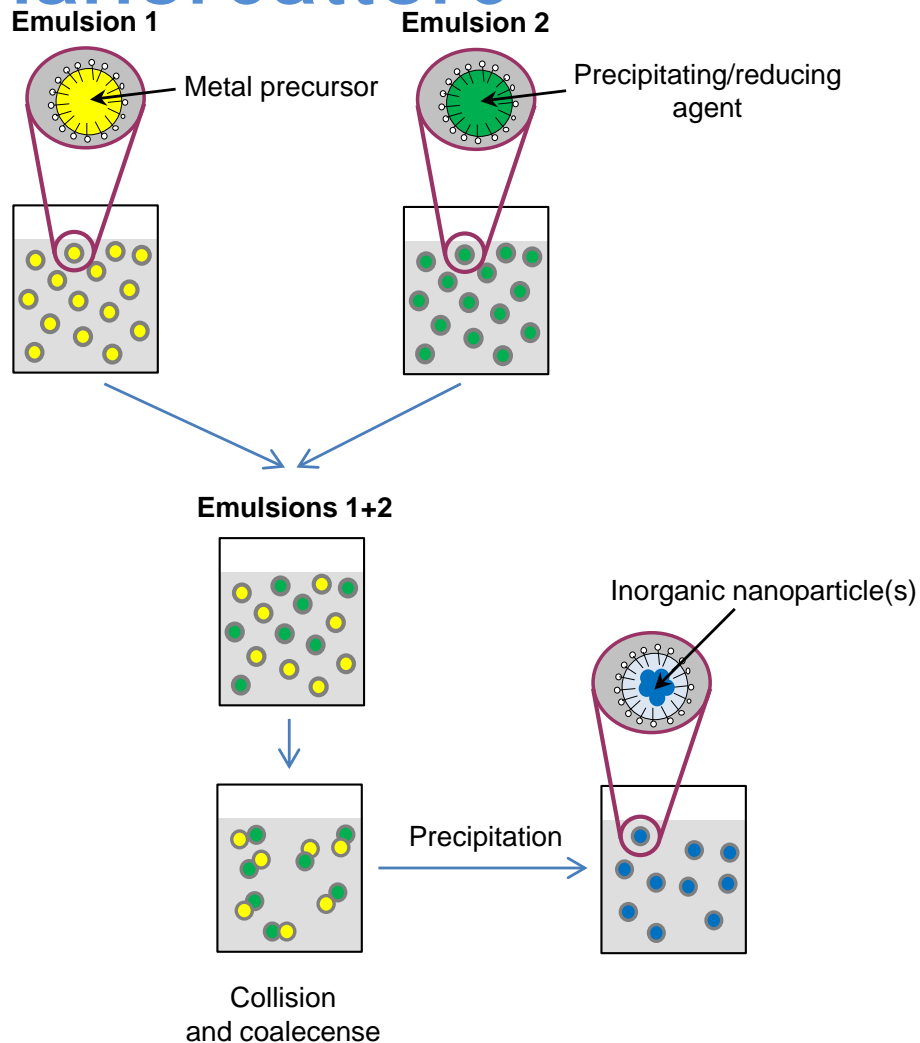
*Green and low temperature synthesis of nanocrystalline transition metal ferrites by simple wet chemistry routes*

Nano Res., 2014, 7, 1027-1042

A. Minelli, P. Dolcet, S. Diodati, A. Caneschi and S. Gross et al. submitted



# Miniemulsione: chimica in nanoreattore



## Two mini/microemulsion approach

### Miniemulsion

- heterogeneous systems
- dispersing phase: direct/inverse ME
- reaction confinement in the droplet

Size and size distribution control

*Munoz-Espi R.; Weiss C.K.; Landfester K.  
Current Opin. Coll. Interface Sci. 2012 (7) 212–224*

*R. Muñoz-Espí, Y. Mastai, S. Gross, K. Landfester  
CrystEngComm 15 (2013) 2175-2191*

# Sistemi realizzati (miniemulsione)



Synthesis of nanocrystalline ZnO, ZnS, CuO, CuS, Ag<sub>2</sub>S, CaF<sub>2</sub>, Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>, Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>, (all pure or doped with Ln<sup>3+</sup>), Au/TiO<sub>2</sub>

- Crystallisation at room temperature
- Very easy and reproducible procedure
- Very common, cheap and safe precursors
- Effective control over the products stoichiometry
- Nanoreactor concept works

R. Muñoz-Espí, Y. Mastai, S. Gross and K. Landfester, *Colloidal systems for crystallization processes from liquid phase* (Invited highlight), CrystEngComm, 2013, 15, 2175-2191

N. A. Heutz, P. Dolcet, S. Gross et al., *Inorganic chemistry in a nanoreactor: Au/TiO<sub>2</sub> nanocomposites by photolysis of a single-source precursor in miniemulsion*, Nanoscale, 2013, 5, 10534-10541

P. Dolcet, S. Diodati, M. Casarin and S. Gross, *Very low temperature wet-chemistry colloidal routes for mono- and polymetallic nanosized crystalline inorganic compounds*, Journal of Sol-Gel Science and Technology, 2015, 73, 591-604

P. Dolcet, S. Gross et al. *Room temperature crystallization of highly luminescent lanthanide-doped CaF<sub>2</sub> in nanosized droplets: first example of the synthesis of metal halogenide in miniemulsion with effective doping and size control* RSC Advances, 2015, 5, 16302-16310

P. Dolcet, S. Gross et al., *An Effective Two-Emulsion Approach to the Synthesis of Doped ZnS Crystalline Nanostructures* European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry, 2015, 2015, 4, 706-714

P. Dolcet, S. Gross et al., *Simple, Common but Functional: Biocompatible and Luminescent Rare-Earth Doped Magnesium and Calcium Hydroxides from Miniemulsion*, J. Mater. Chem. B, 2014, 2, 6639-6651

# Combinazione di condizioni non standard: miniemulsione e idrotermale



Obtain complex inorganic nanostructures in miniemulsion under non-standard conditions:  
better dispersibility/processability and higher crystallinity

Complex Inorganic Systems in  
Confined Droplets:  
Miniemulsions under  
Hydrothermal Conditions

Ph.D. Project A. Antonello  
Max Planck Institut Polymerforschung  
Supervisors: K. Landfester, S. Gross

Hydrothermal / solvothermal  
route  $\Rightarrow$  non-standard  
conditions

+

Miniemulsion synthesis  $\Rightarrow$   
confinement

Addressed systems

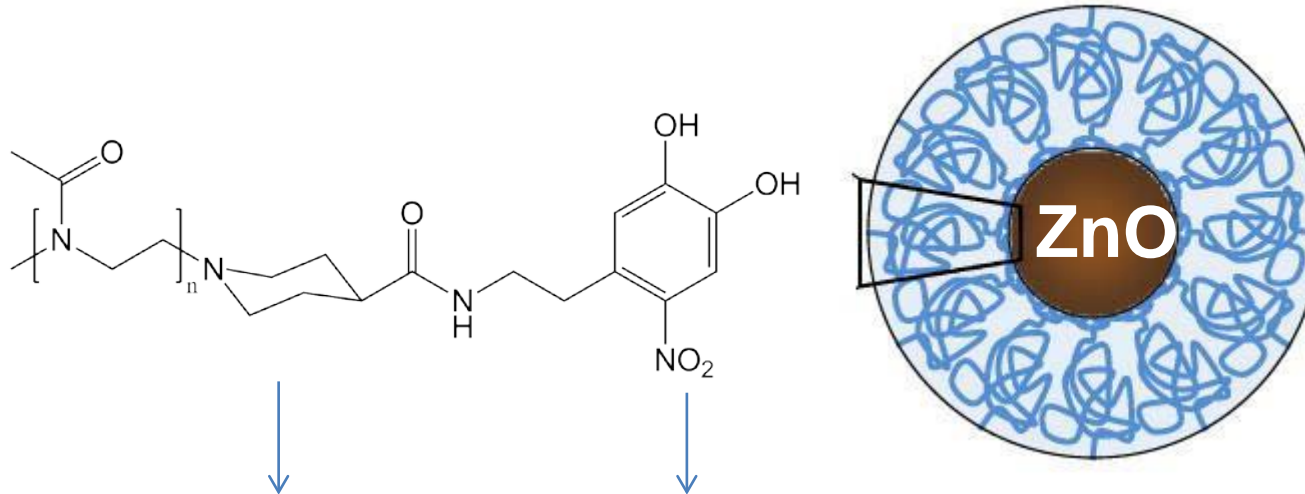
Single metal oxides  
(ZnO, CeO<sub>2</sub>, MoO<sub>3</sub>, WO<sub>3</sub>, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>)

Mixed oxides  $\Rightarrow$  ferrites (MFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>)  
M= Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn

Properties:

- ✓ Optical
- ✓ Thermal
- ✓ Electronic
- ✓ Mechanical
- ✓ Magnetic

# Funzionalizzazione di ossidi



Hydrophilic moiety

Grafting moiety

G. Morgese, V. Causin, M. Maggini, S. Corrà, S. Gross and E. M. Benetti  
*Ultra-stable Suspensions of Polyoxazoline-Functionalized ZnO Single Nanocrystals*  
Chem. Mater., 2015, 27, 2957-2964

F. Klitsche, J. Ramcke, J. Migenda, A. Hensel, T. Vossmeier, H. Weller, S. Gross and W. Maison  
*Synthesis of tripodal catecholates and their immobilization on zinc oxide nanoparticles*  
Beilstein J. Org. Chem., 2015, 11, 678-686

# Funzionalizzazione di solfuri



Nicola Dengo POSTER P37  
Tesi Magistrale in Chimica  
Università di Padova, 2015

*Sviluppo di strategie di funzionalizzazione*

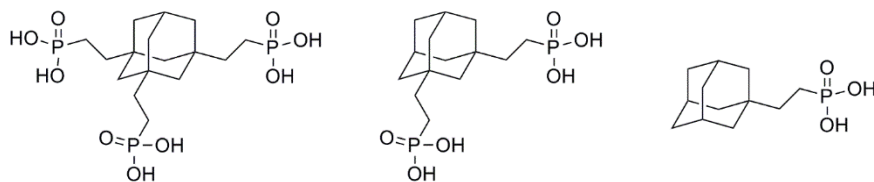
Collaborazione con:

Dr. A. Vittadini, M. Natile, IENI-CNR

Prof. W. Maison and F. Klitsche

Università Hamburg

Implementazione di un modello

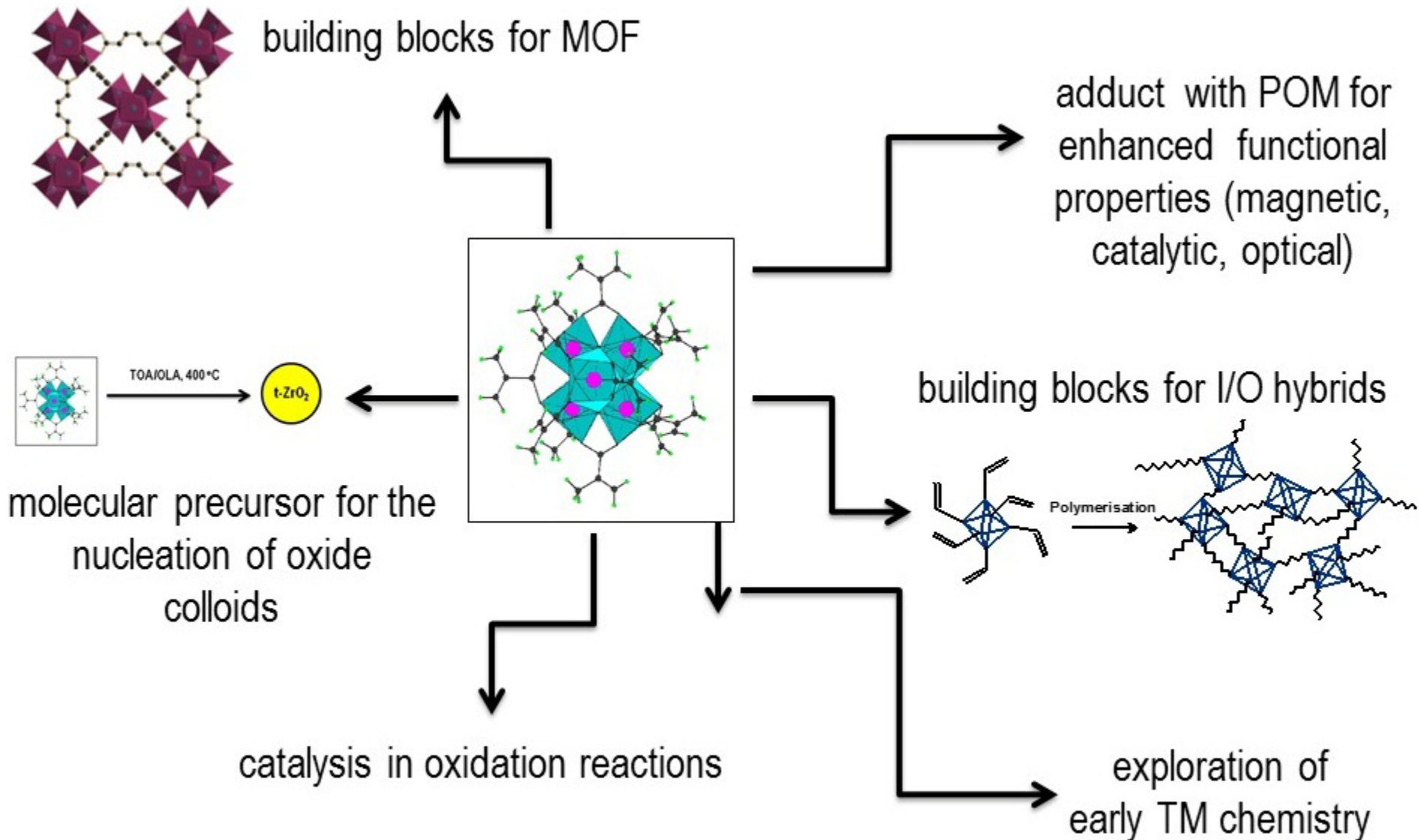


Analisi e modelling superficie

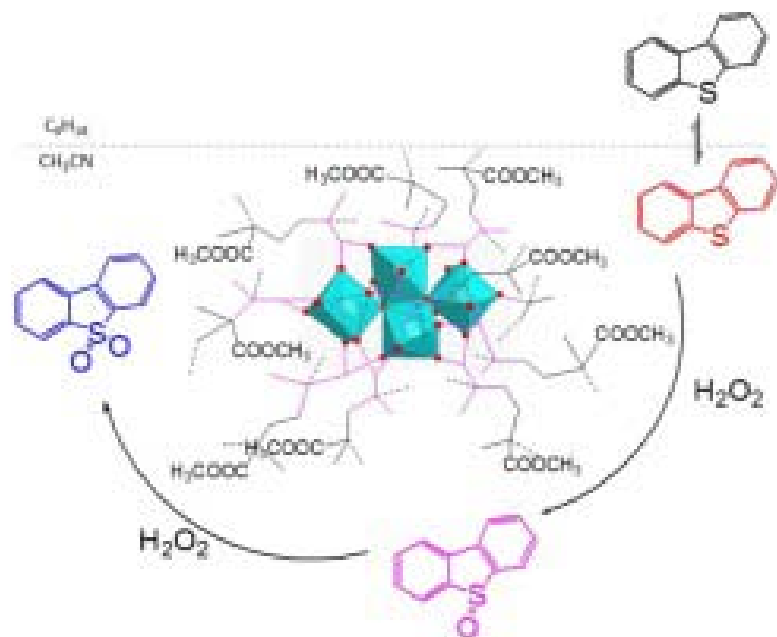
Scelta e sintesi del legante

- Stable dispersion
- Not cytotoxic, biocompatible
- Molecular recognition

# Attività 2: materiali ibridi



# Materiali ibridi come catalizzatori



M. Vigolo, S. Borsacchi, A. Sorarù, M. Geppi, B. Smarsly, P. Dolcet, S. Rizzato, M. Carraro and S. Gross, *Engineering of oxoclusters-reinforced polymeric materials with application as heterogeneous oxydesulfurization catalysts* Appl. Cat. B, 2016, 182, 636-644

F. Faccioli, D. Pedron, A. Sorarù, M. Carraro and S. Gross, *Hydrolytic Stability and Hydrogen Peroxide Activation of Zirconium-Based Oxoclusters*, Eur. J. Inorg. Chem., 2015, 2, 210-225

C. Benedetti, K. Landfester, S. Gross et al. submitted (cooperazione Max Planck, Mainz, DE)

# Gruppo di ricerca



- ❑ Silvia Gross, Primo Ricercatore CNR
- ❑ Paolo Dolcet, Assegnista UniPd, Associato IENI-CNR
- ❑ Nicola Dengo, Borsista CNR
- ❑ Cesare Benedetti, dottorando in co-supervisione con Max-Planck Mainz, Germania
- ❑ Alice Antonello, dottoranda in co-supervisione con Max-Planck Mainz, Germania
- ❑ Jessica Munaro, laureanda UniPd
- ❑ Serena Busatto, laureanda UniPd
- ❑ Martina Marchioro, laureanda UniPd
- ❑ Flavio Massignan, laureando UniPd
- ❑ Tobia Cavalli, laureando UniPd
- ❑ Massimiliano Prior, laureando UniPd
- ❑ Federico Spolaore, laureando UniPd





# Strumentazione

## (in rosso: condivisa)



- 2 laboratori attrezzati per sintesi inorganica e in linea di Schlenk
- XRD, Bruker D8 Advance diffractometer
- XPS, Perkin, Elmer PHI 5600ci Spectrometer
- UV-Vis, Cary 5E Spectrophotometer with diffuse reflectance accessory
- FT- IR, Nicolet Nexus with ATR accessory
- Dynamic contact angle (T fino a 115°C)
- Micro-Raman ThermoFisher (laser 780, 532 nm), con mappature
- SEM (Zeiss Supra) equipped with EDX
- Mulino a palle Retsch MM200
- Durometro
- Spray-coater
- Dip-coater
- Turbidimetro
- Sonicatore per miniemulsione
- Forni e muffole (fino a 1300°C)
- Forno a microonde
- Strumentazione per sintesi idrotermale (10 reattori)
- Lampade UV a 100 W e 400 W per polimerizzazione fotoattivate

# Collaborazioni



- Dr. Andrea Vittadini, Dr. Marta Natile, Dr. Luca Nodari, Dr. Daniel Forrer, Dr. A. Venzo, IENI-CNR
- Prof. Mauro Carraro, Prof. Paolo Pastore, Dr. D. Badocco, Prof. M. Casarin, Dip. Scienze Chimiche
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