



# Characterization of Surface Oxides on Carbon Nanotubes and their Influence on Environmental Properties

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DoGEE, JHU

## Collaborators:

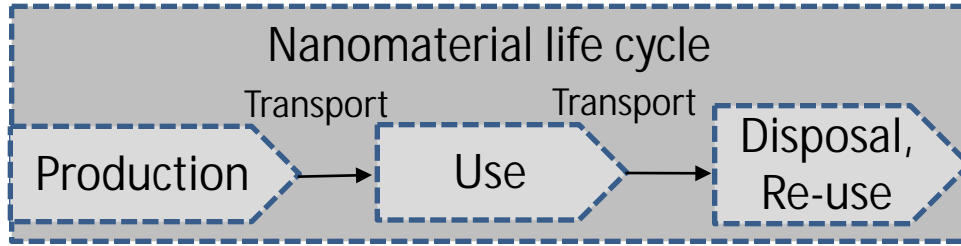
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Billy A. Smith\*, Kevin A. Wepasnick\*  
Prof. D. Howard Fairbrother\* (\*Chemistry)

## Funding:

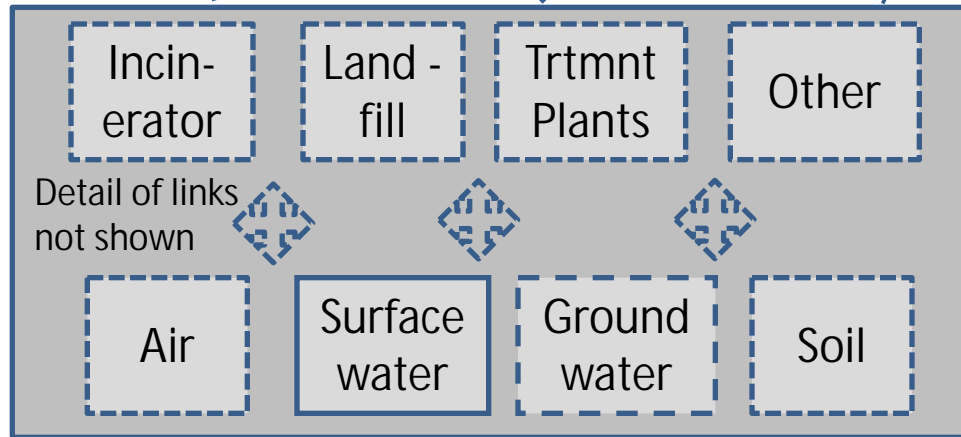
National Science Foundation (CBET-0731147)  
U.S. EPA - NCER (EPA-G200-STAR-R1)



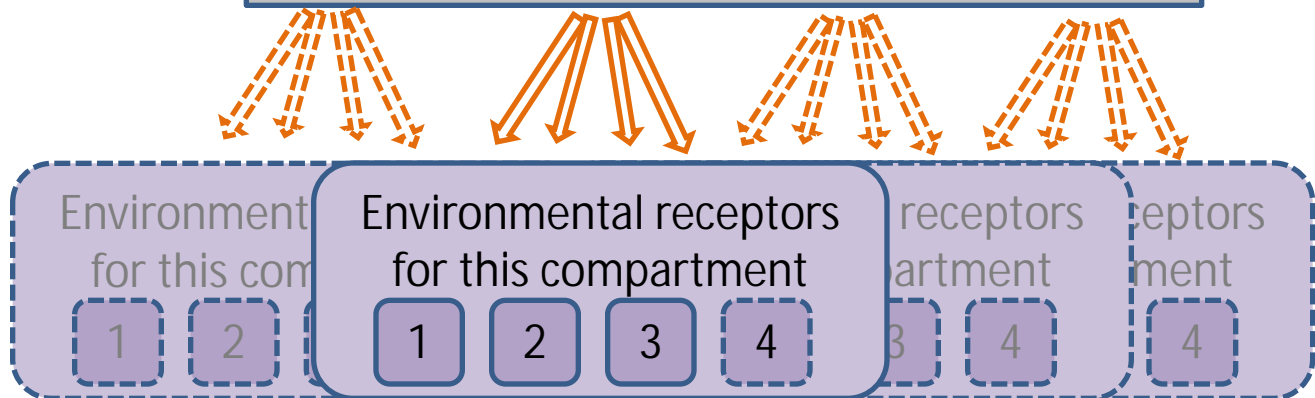
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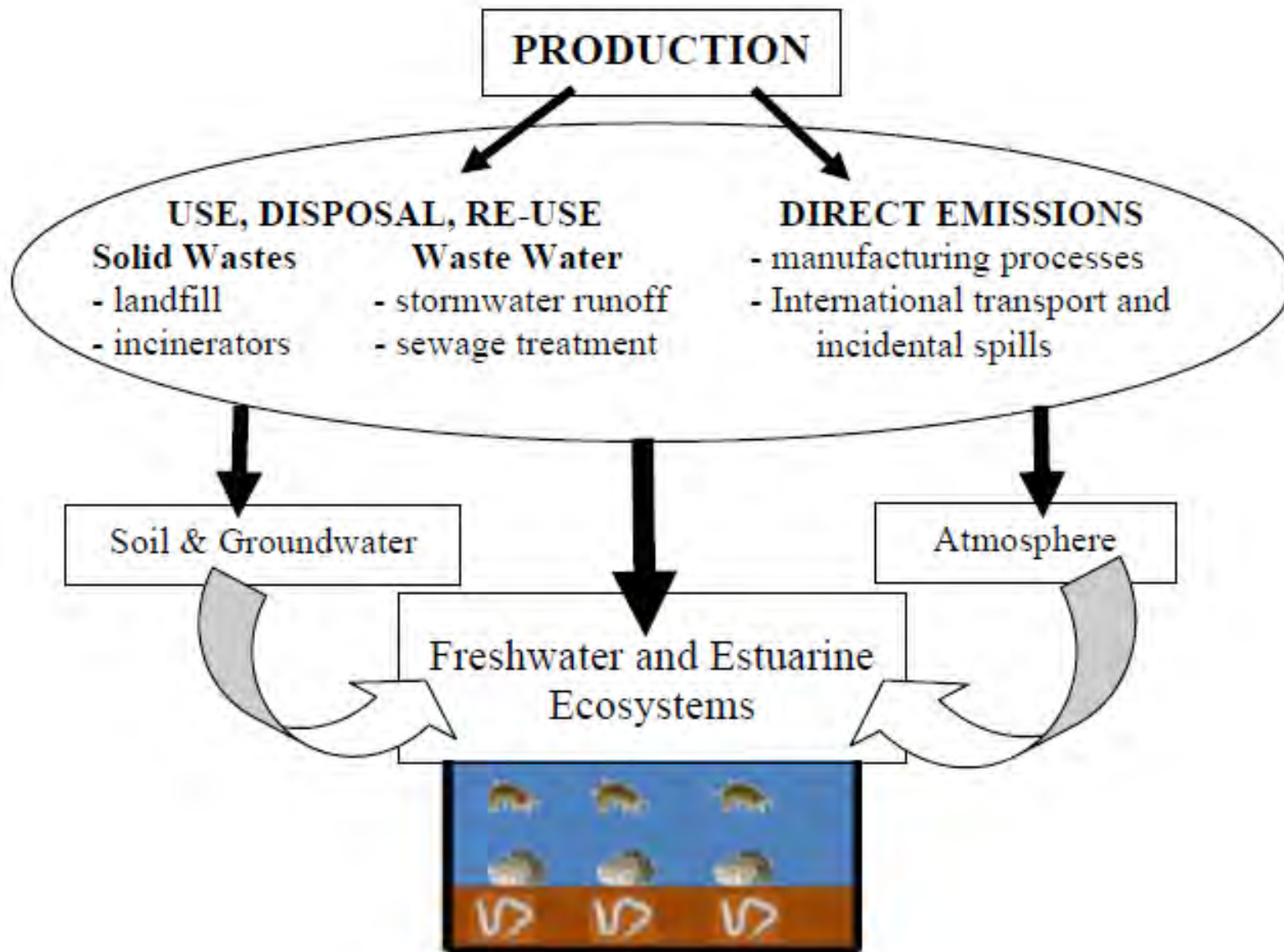


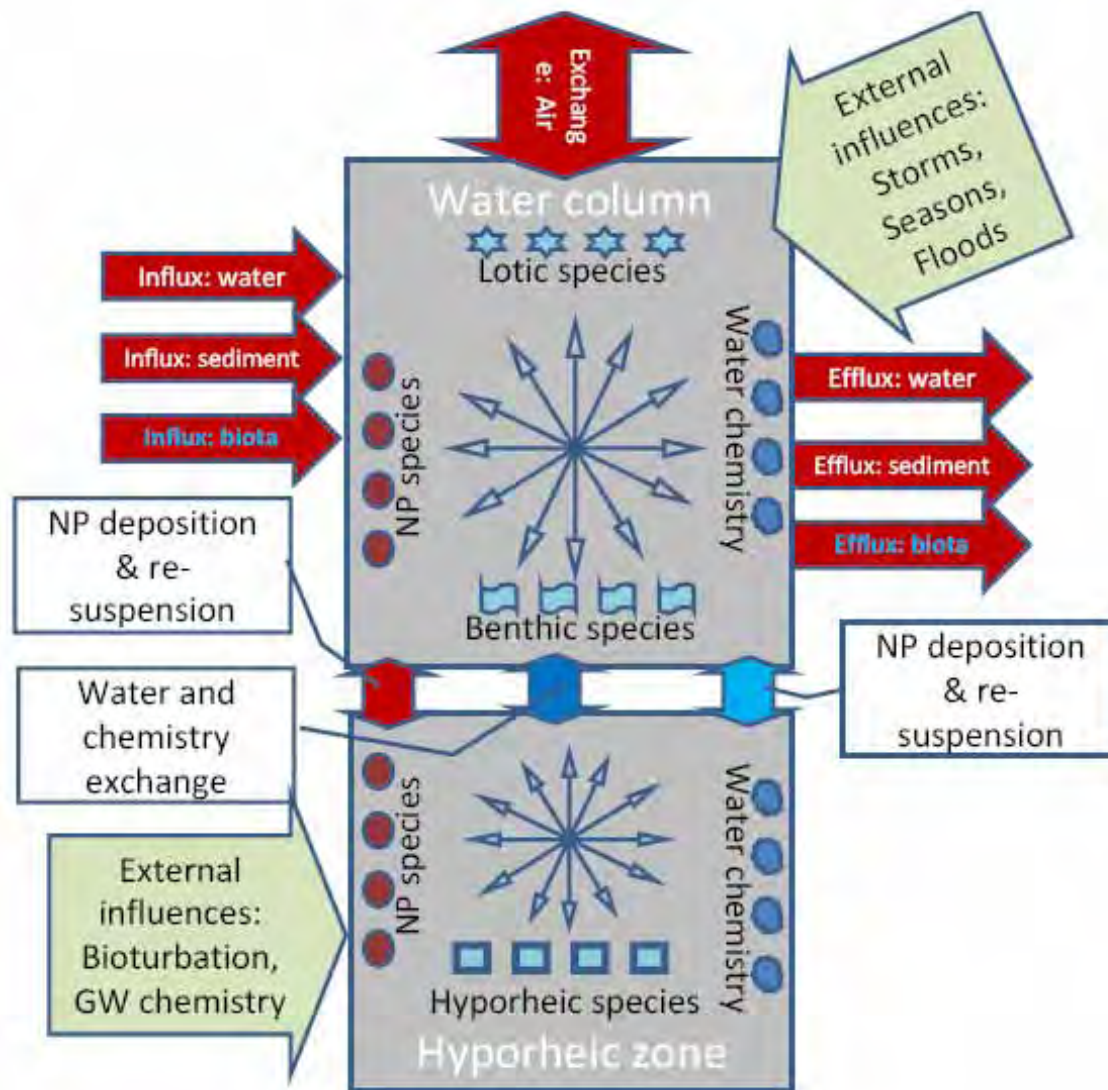
PATHWAYS AND COMPARTMENTS



RECEPTORS

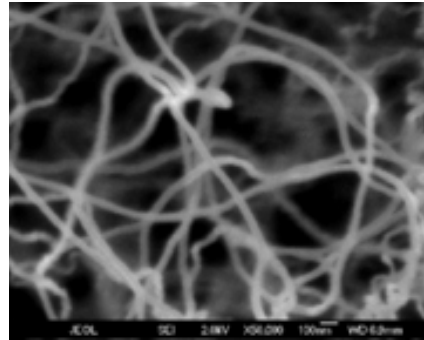






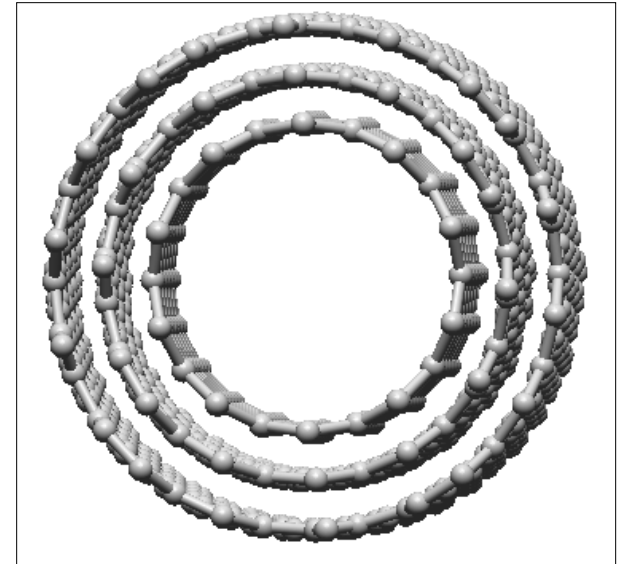
# What are Carbon Nanotubes?

Rolled up graphene sheets



## Materials Properties

- Mechanical Strength
- Electrical Conductivity
- High Aspect Ratio

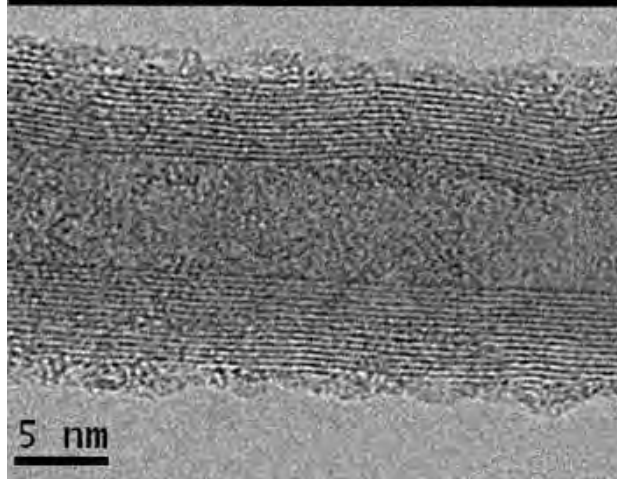
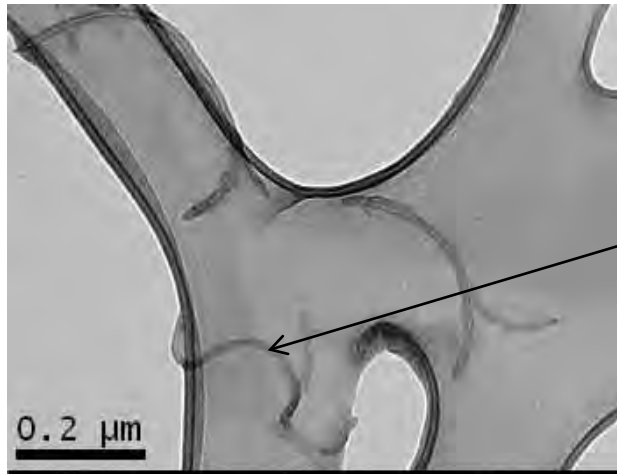


**Multi Walled  
Carbon  
Nanotubes  
(MWCNT)**

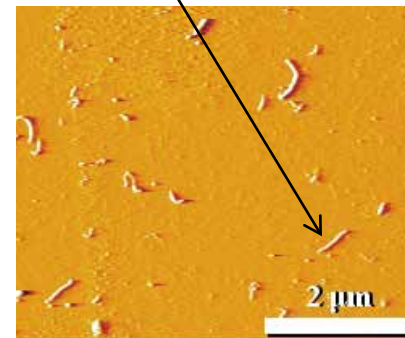
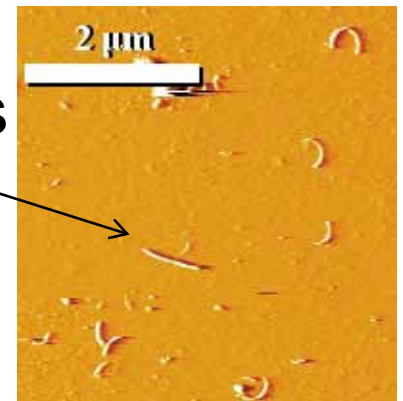


**Single Walled  
Carbon  
Nanotube  
(SWCNT)**

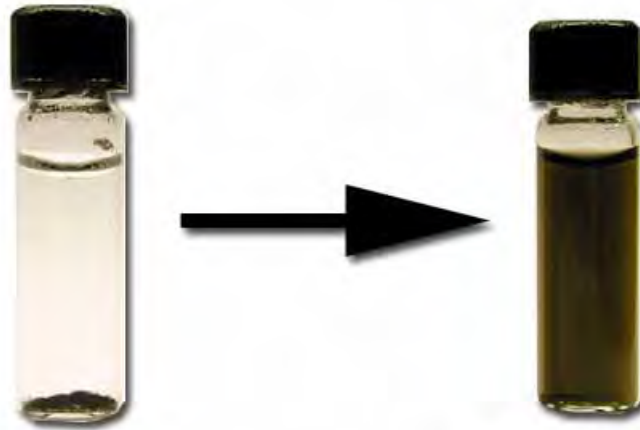
# Oxidized MWCNTs in Colloidal Suspension



Individual nanotubes



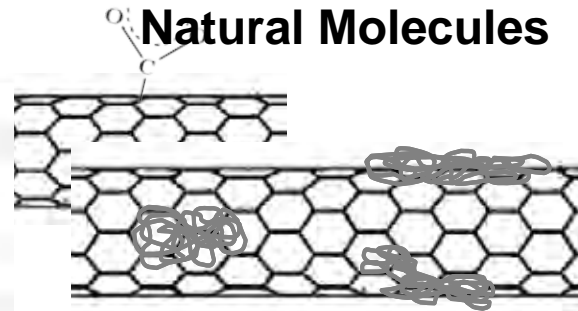
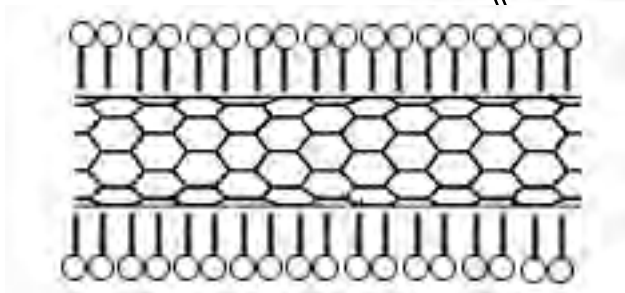
# Stabilizing CNTs in Solution



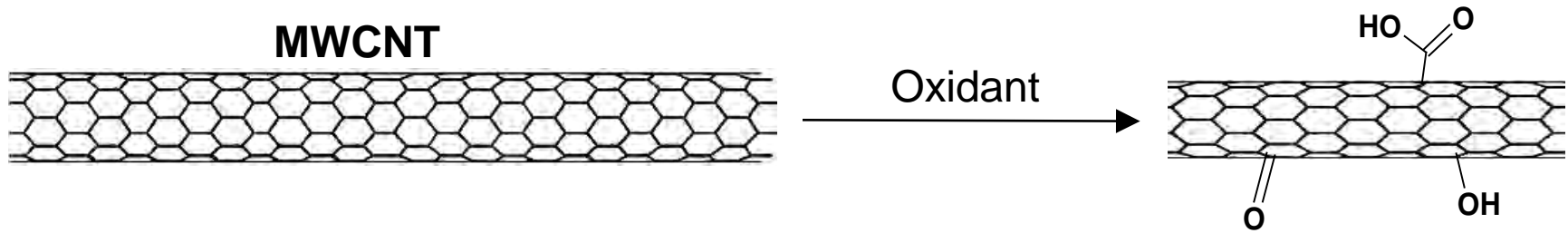
**Surface Oxidation**

**Surfactant Adsorption**

**Natural Molecules**



# Surface Oxidation



## Oxidative Routes

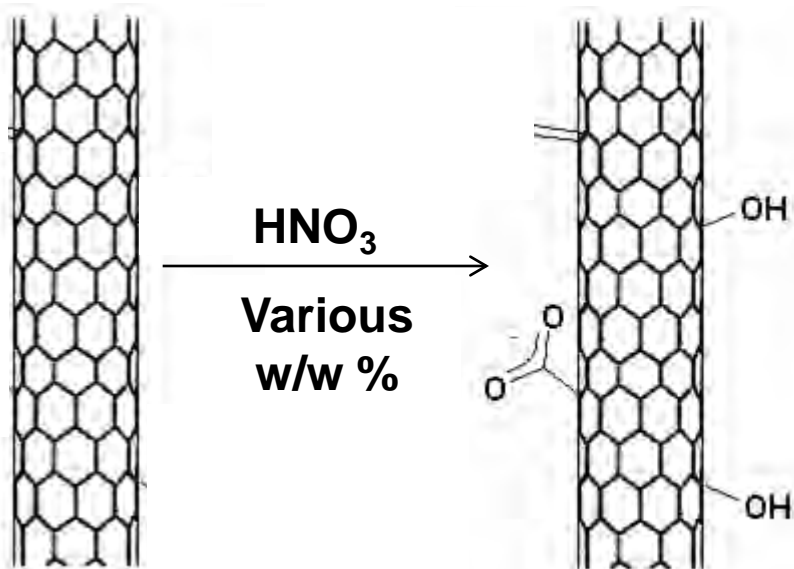
- Purification
- Functionalization
- Environmental Transformation

Oxidants	
• $\text{KMnO}_4$	• $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$
• $\text{HNO}_3$	• $\text{O}_3$

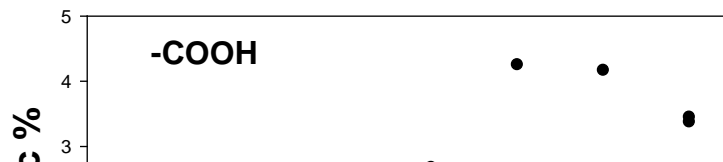
Prevalent Oxidative  
Method



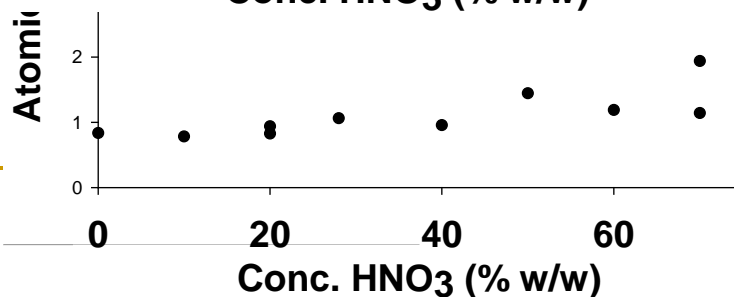
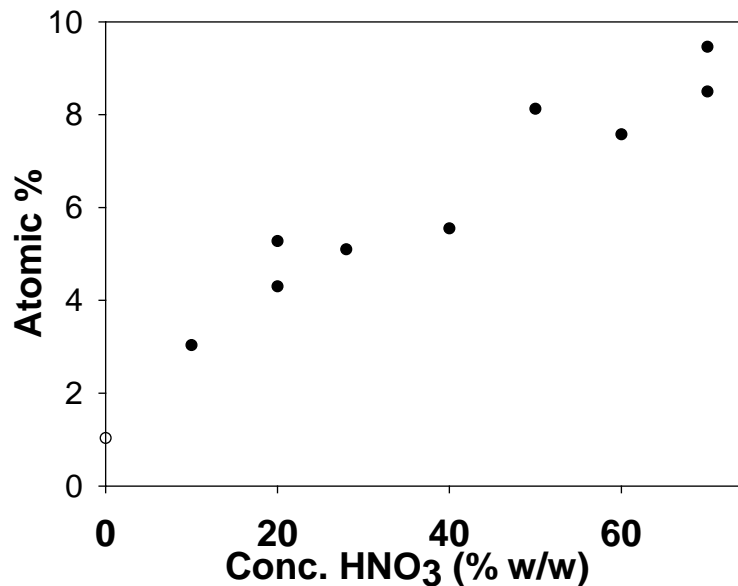
# Influence of Oxidizing Conditions



## Functional Groups

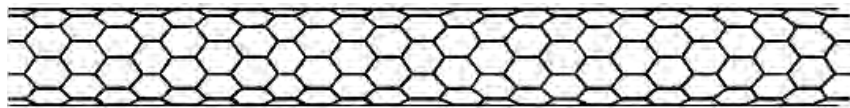


## Total Oxygen

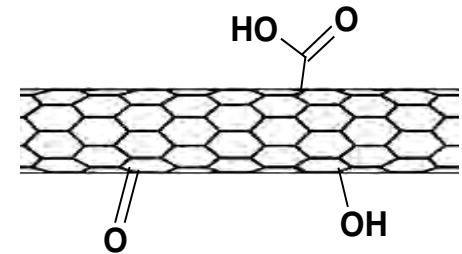


# Research Motivation/Objectives (aquatic stability: aggregation, deposition)

Pristine CNTs



Oxidant



Stability



Instability

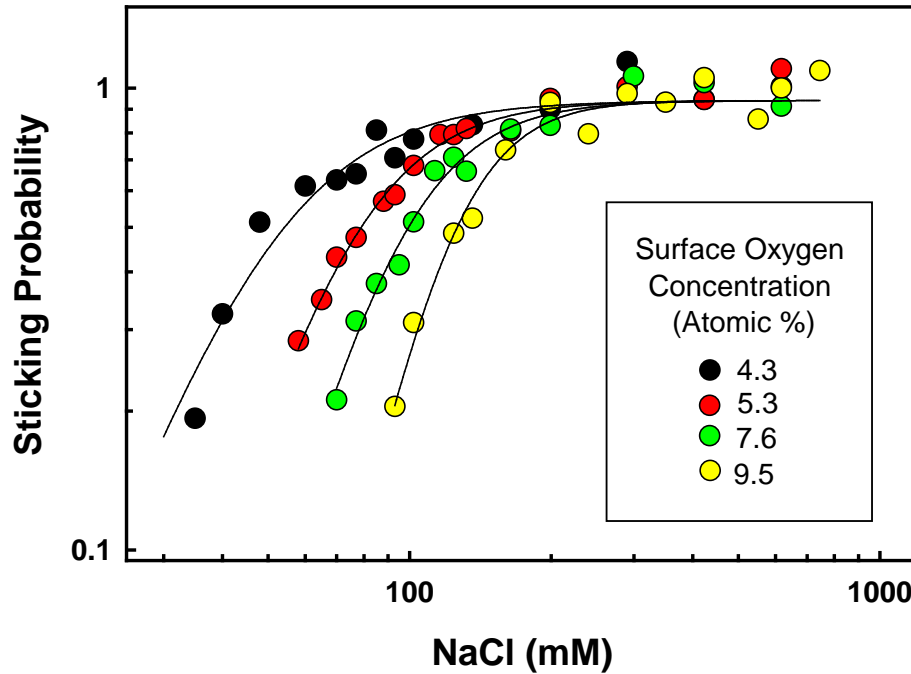


Pristine CNTs

Oxidized CNTs

Aggregating CNTs

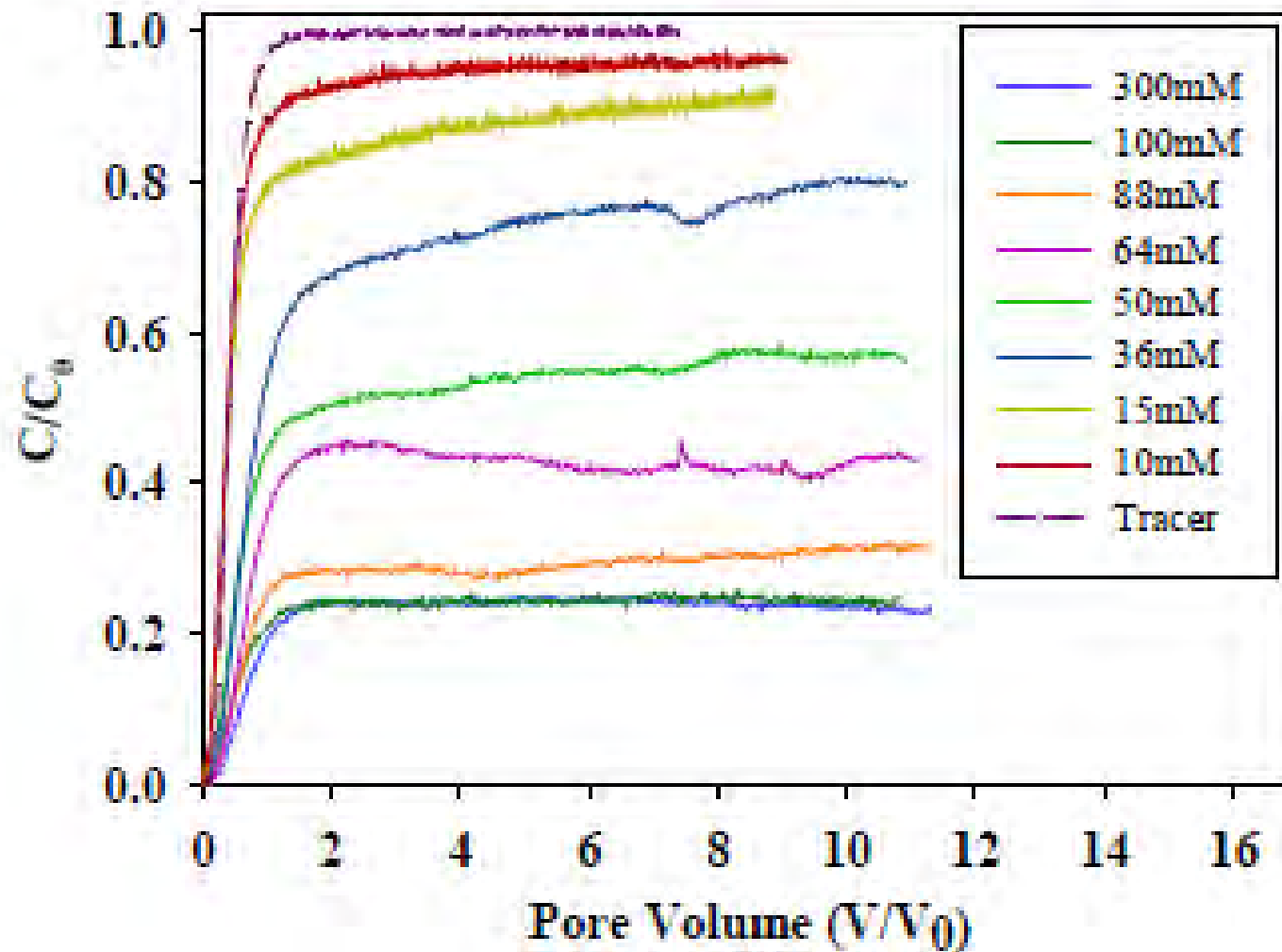
# Stability and The CCC



Stability profiles for several oxidized MWCNTs

$$\text{Sticking Probability} = \frac{1}{1 + ([\text{CCC}]/[\text{NaCl}])^b}$$

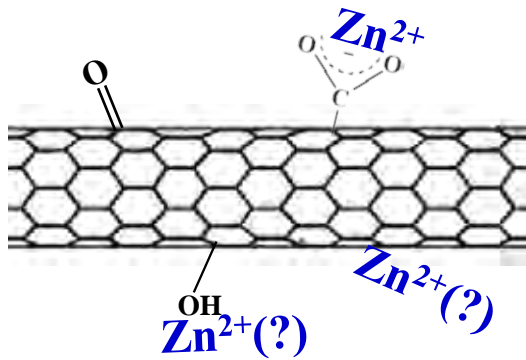
# O-MWCNT Transport as Function of NaCl Concentration (pH 7.0; oxidized with 30% HNO<sub>3</sub>)



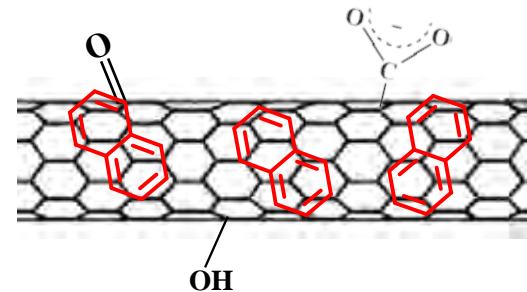
# Research Motivation/Objectives (sorption)

- Surface Oxidation is expected to increase sorption of polar or charged contaminants.
- Better understanding is needed of the relationships between surface oxidation and metal sorption isotherms.

## Metals (e.g. Zinc)



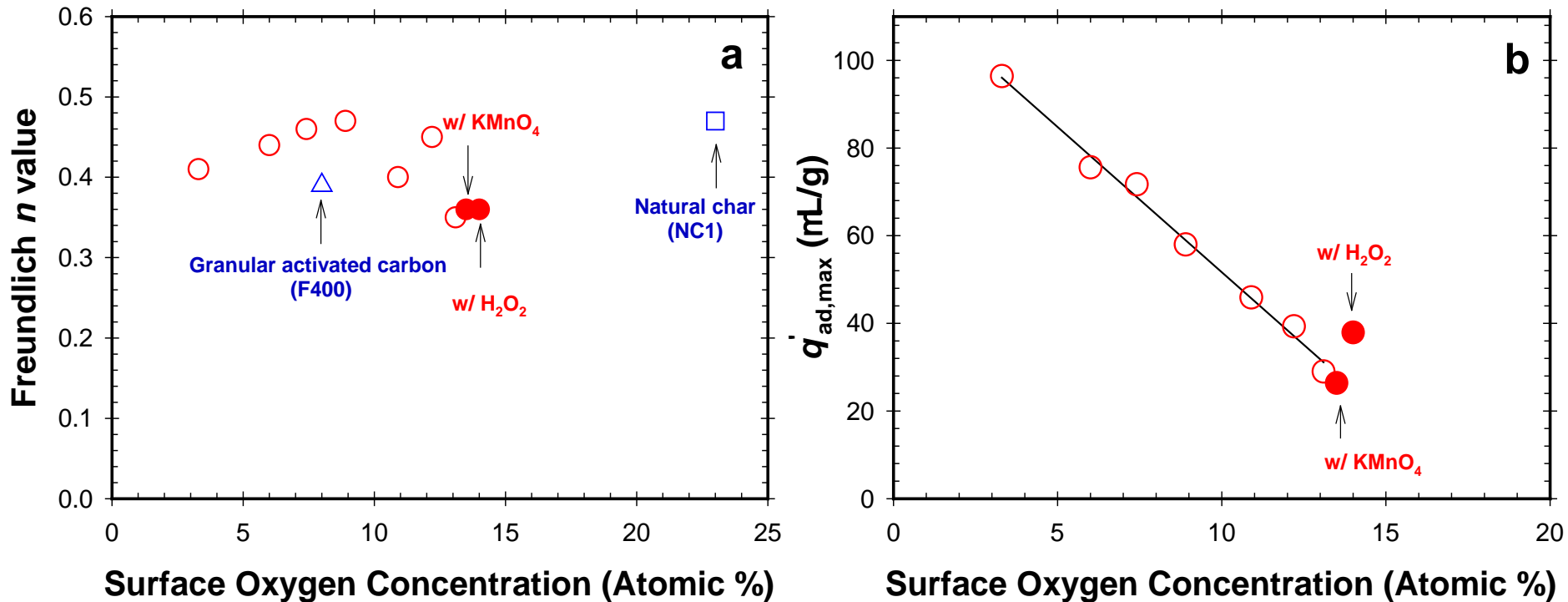
## Nonpolar organic compounds (e.g. Naphthalene)



1. Determine the effects of surface oxidation on Zn(II) sorption by MWCNTs under controlled water quality conditions.
2. Relate changes in sorption to measured changes in the surface functional group distribution.

# Naphthalene sorption with MWCNTs

(Cho et al., *ES&T*, 2008)



**Figure 4.** (a) Freundlich  $n$ -values for naphthalene adsorption plotted against surface oxygen concentration for MWCNTs, natural char (NC1), and granular activated carbon (F400). (b) Maximum adsorption capacity ( $q'_{ad,max}$ ) for naphthalene from the Polanyi-based Dubinin-Astikov adsorption model plotted against surface oxygen concentration.

# Langmuir Two-Site Model:

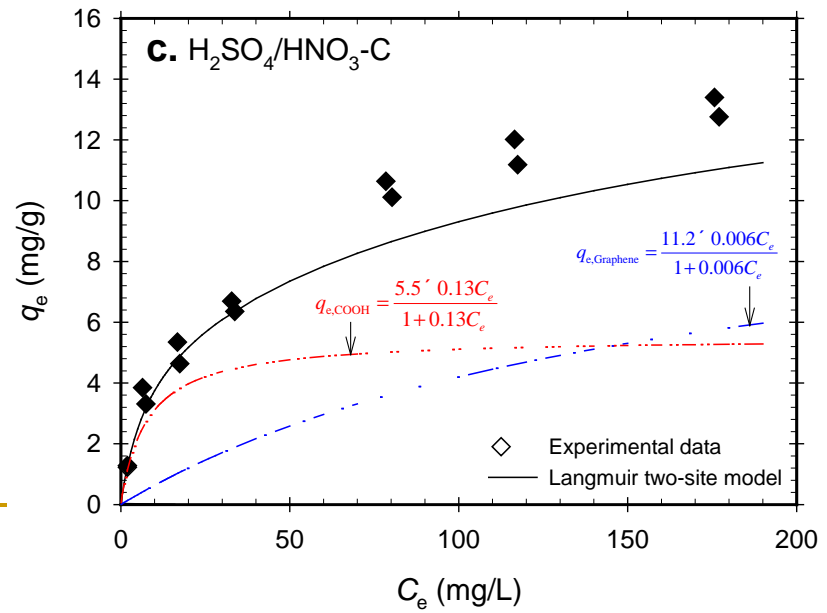
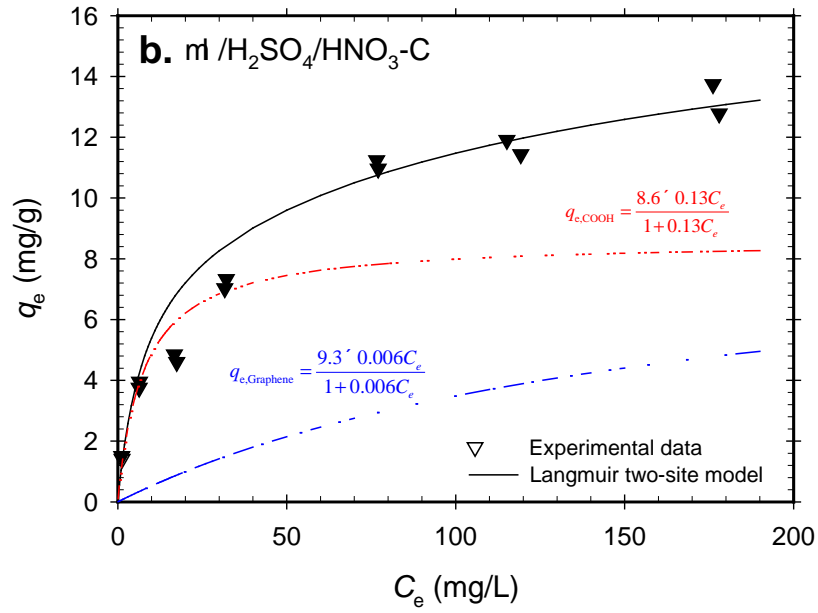
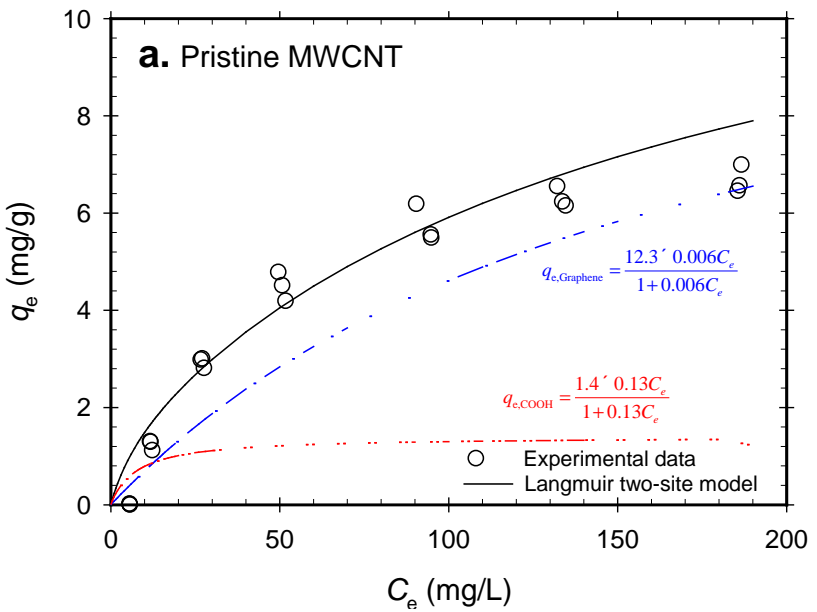
Common  $K_{L,G}$ ,  $K_{L,C}$ ,  $a$ , and  $b$ :

$$q_{e,180} = a[\%C_{\text{Graphene}}] + b[\%C_{\text{COOH}}]$$

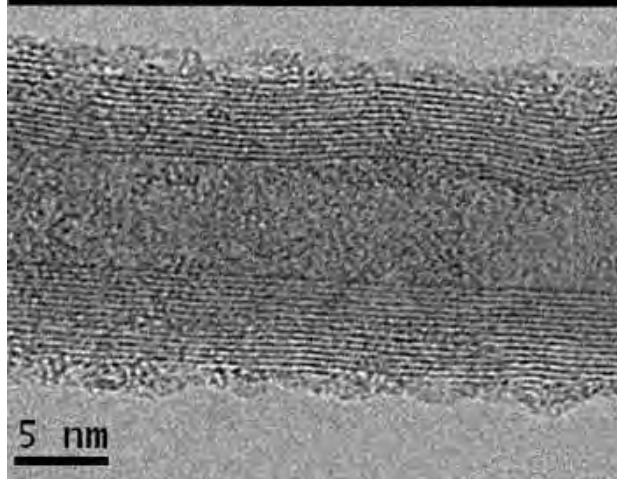
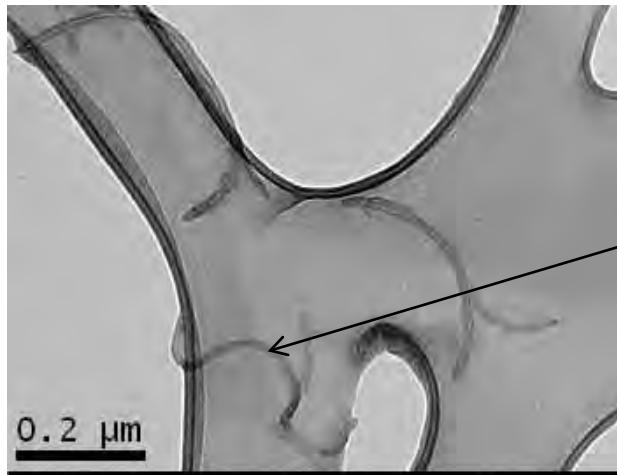
$$q_e = \frac{q_{\max,G} K_{L,G} C_e}{1 + K_{L,G} C_e} + \frac{q_{\max,C} K_{L,C} C_e}{1 + K_{L,C} C_e}$$

if  $C_e = \text{mg/L}$ ,  $a = \frac{q_{\max,G}}{[\%C_{\text{Graphene}}]}$ ,  $b = \frac{q_{\max,\text{COOH}}}{[\%C_{\text{COOH}}]}$

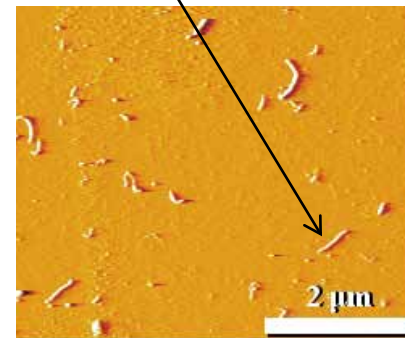
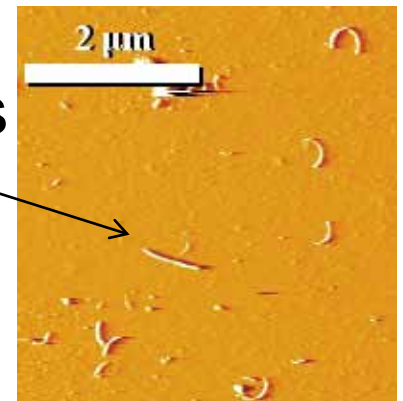
$K_{L,G} = 0.006, K_{L,C} = 0.13, a = 0.13, b = 0.94$



# Oxidized MWCNTs in Colloidal Suspension



Individual nanotubes





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# Thank You

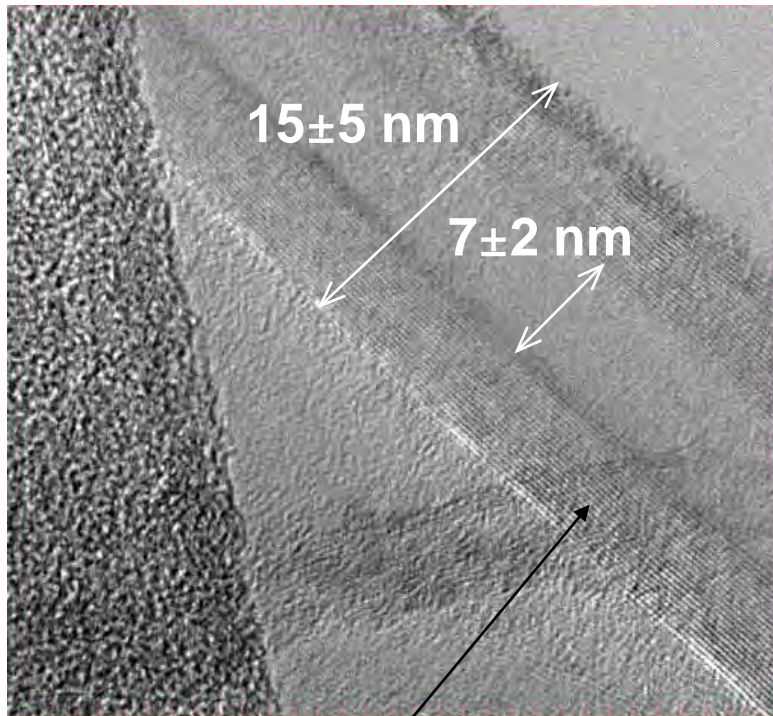


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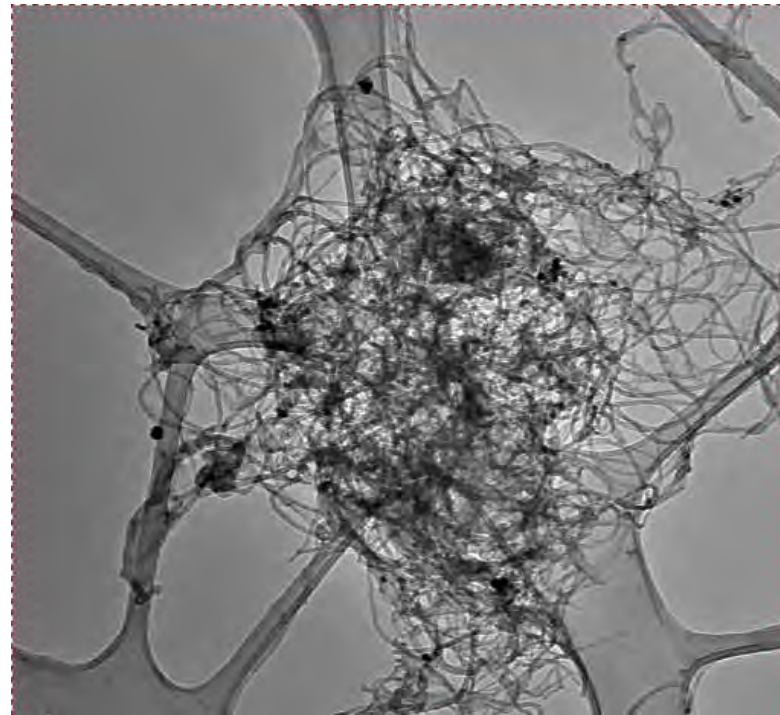
# **Preparing & Characterizing Oxidized CNTs**

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# TEM images of MWCNTs used in our study

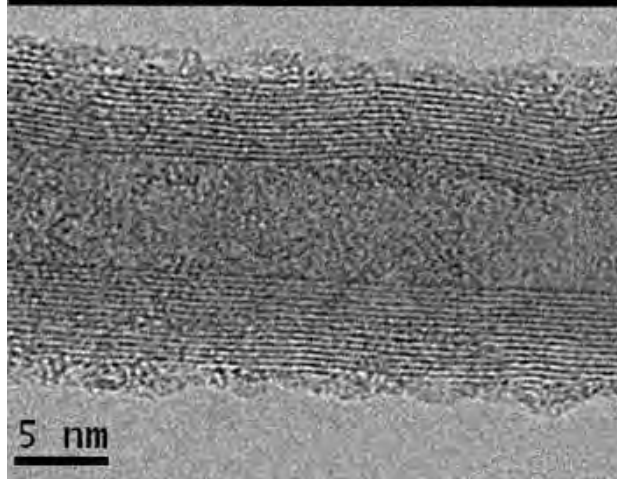
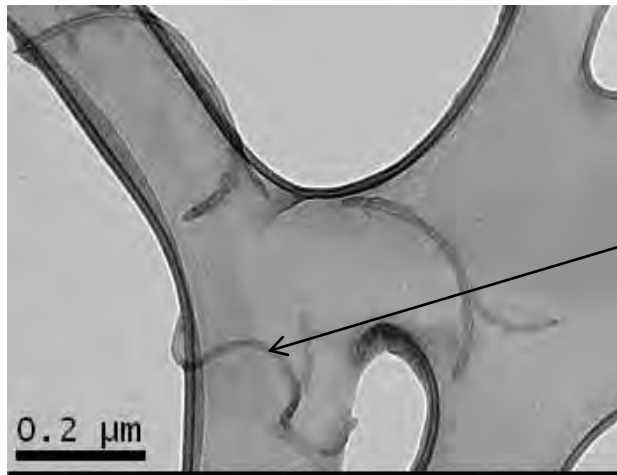


Multiwall CNTs

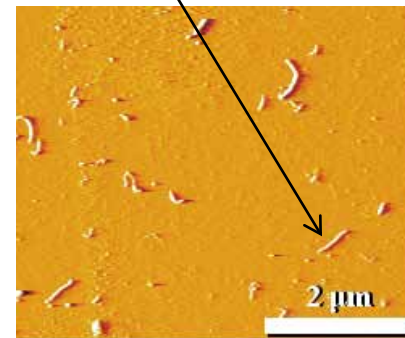
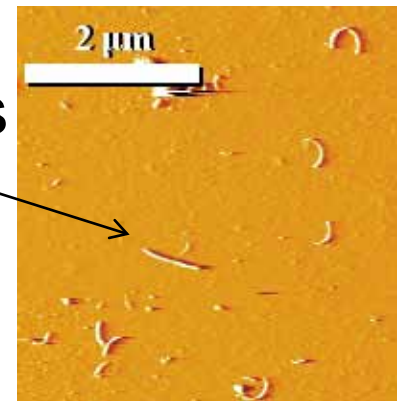


CNT aggregates

# Oxidized MWCNTs in Colloidal Suspension

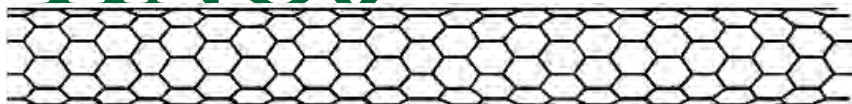


Individual nanotubes



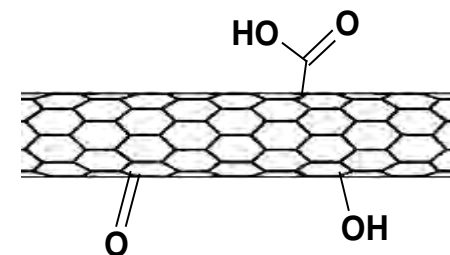
# Controlled Oxidation with $\text{HNO}_3$

Pristine - MWCNT



$\text{HNO}_3$

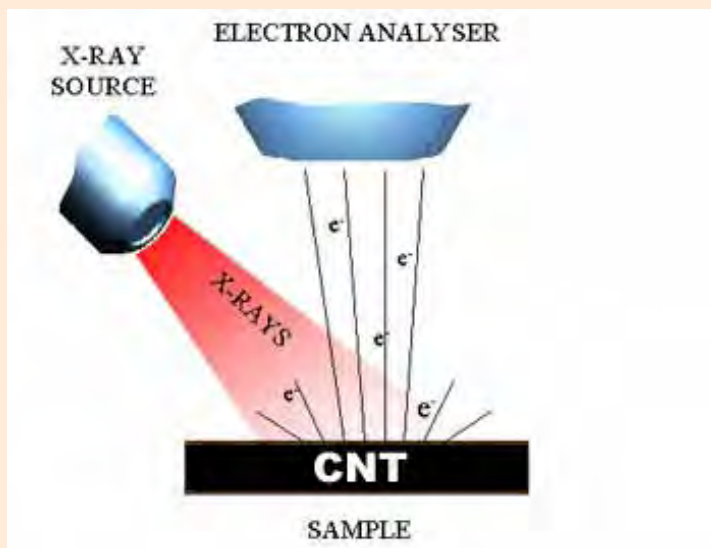
Reflux



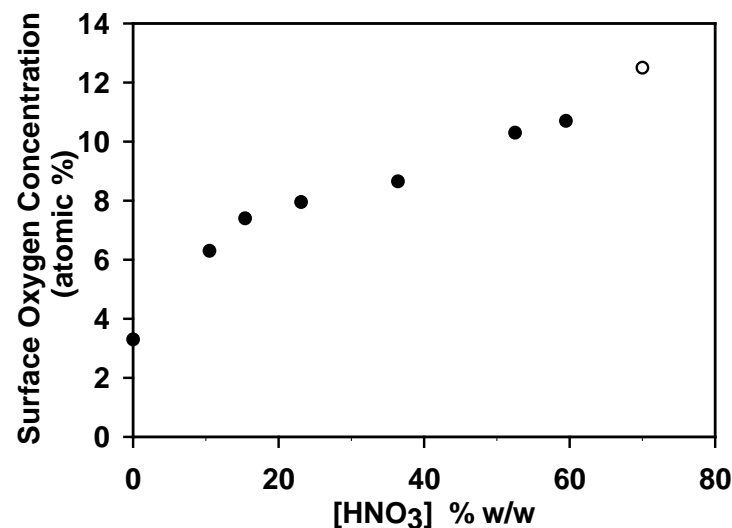
Surface Oxides

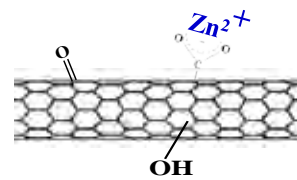
## Surface Analysis

X-ray photoelectron Spectroscopy



Determine Surface Oxygen Concentration

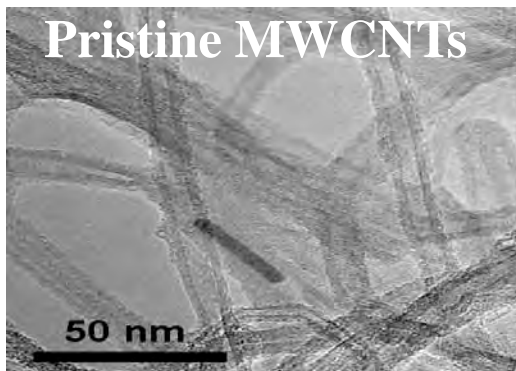




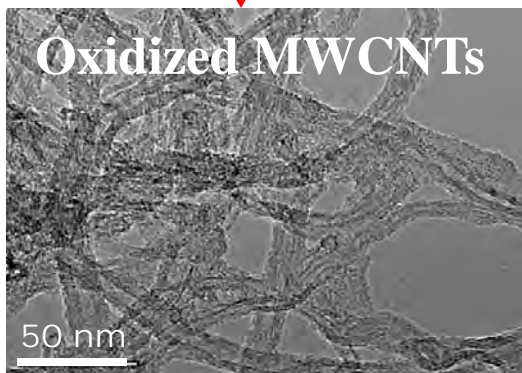
# Physical Characterization:

## CNTs Before and After Oxidation with HNO<sub>3</sub>:

### Transmission Electron Microscopy



**MWCNTs remain structurally intact**



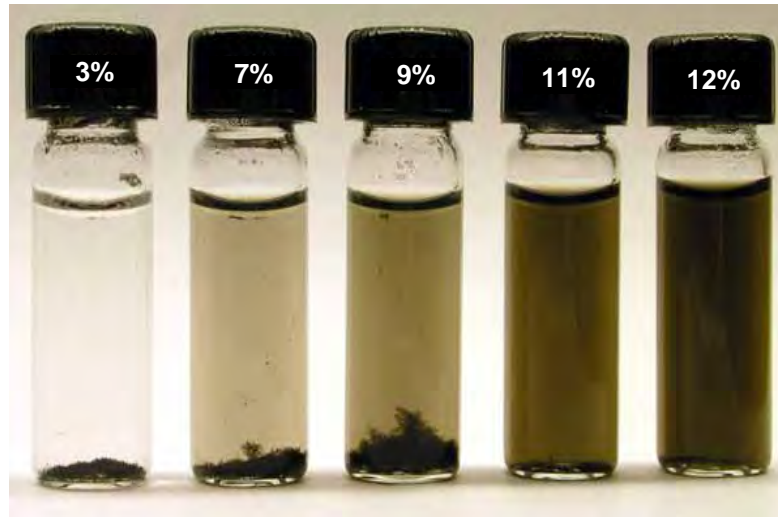
### BET-Surface Area

Sorbent		Surface oxygen (%)	BET-SA (m <sup>2</sup> /g)	
	Treatment			
NC1	-	23.0	46.0	0.2
GAC	-	8.0	1,004.0	1.0
Pristine MWCNT	-	<b>2.1</b>	<b>270.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>
O-MWCNT	<b>HNO<sub>3</sub> (35%)</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>270.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>
"	<b>HNO<sub>3</sub> (53%)</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>283.3</b>	<b>0.8</b>
"	<b>HNO<sub>3</sub> (70%)</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>255.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>
"	<b>HNO<sub>3</sub> (70%)_F<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>261.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>
"	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> /HNO <sub>3</sub> -C <sup>b</sup>	6.1	210.4	0.3
"	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> /HNO <sub>3</sub>	10.6	199.8	0.7
"	m /H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> /HNO <sub>3</sub> -C <sup>b</sup>	10.8	254.9	0.8

<sup>a</sup>F means that the MWCNTs were treated in the furnace at 400 °C.

<sup>b</sup>C represents commercial samples

# Initial Observations of Stability

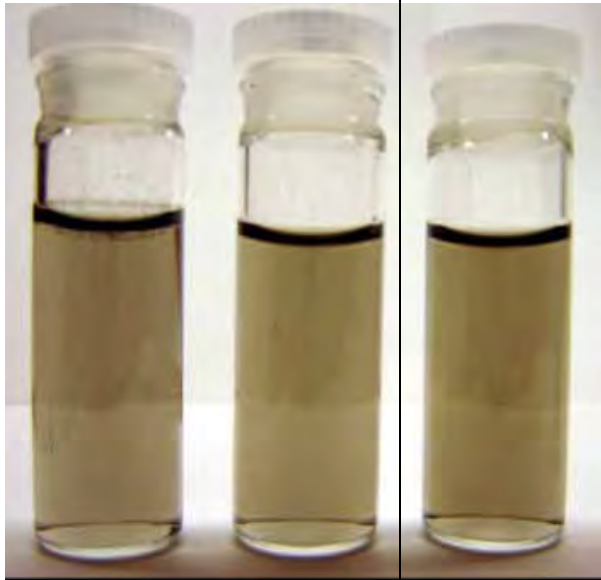


Increasing Aquatic Stability

Colloids

# But sometimes oxidation is not a perfect metric

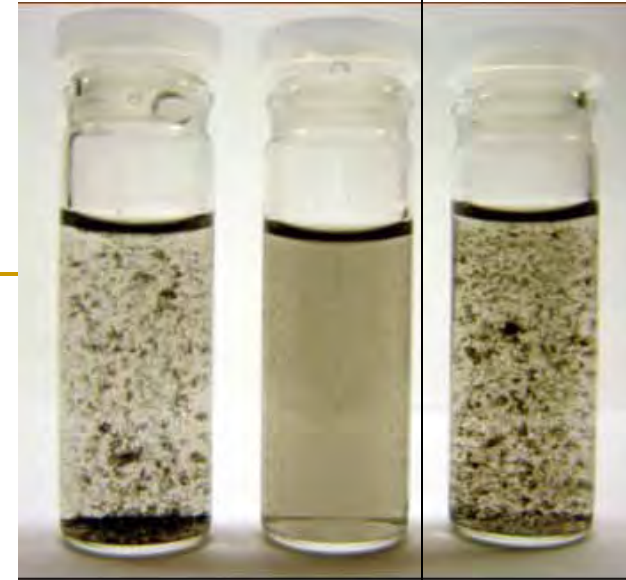
$t_0$



4 %  
8 %  
9 %

0.07M NaCl

$t_{120}$

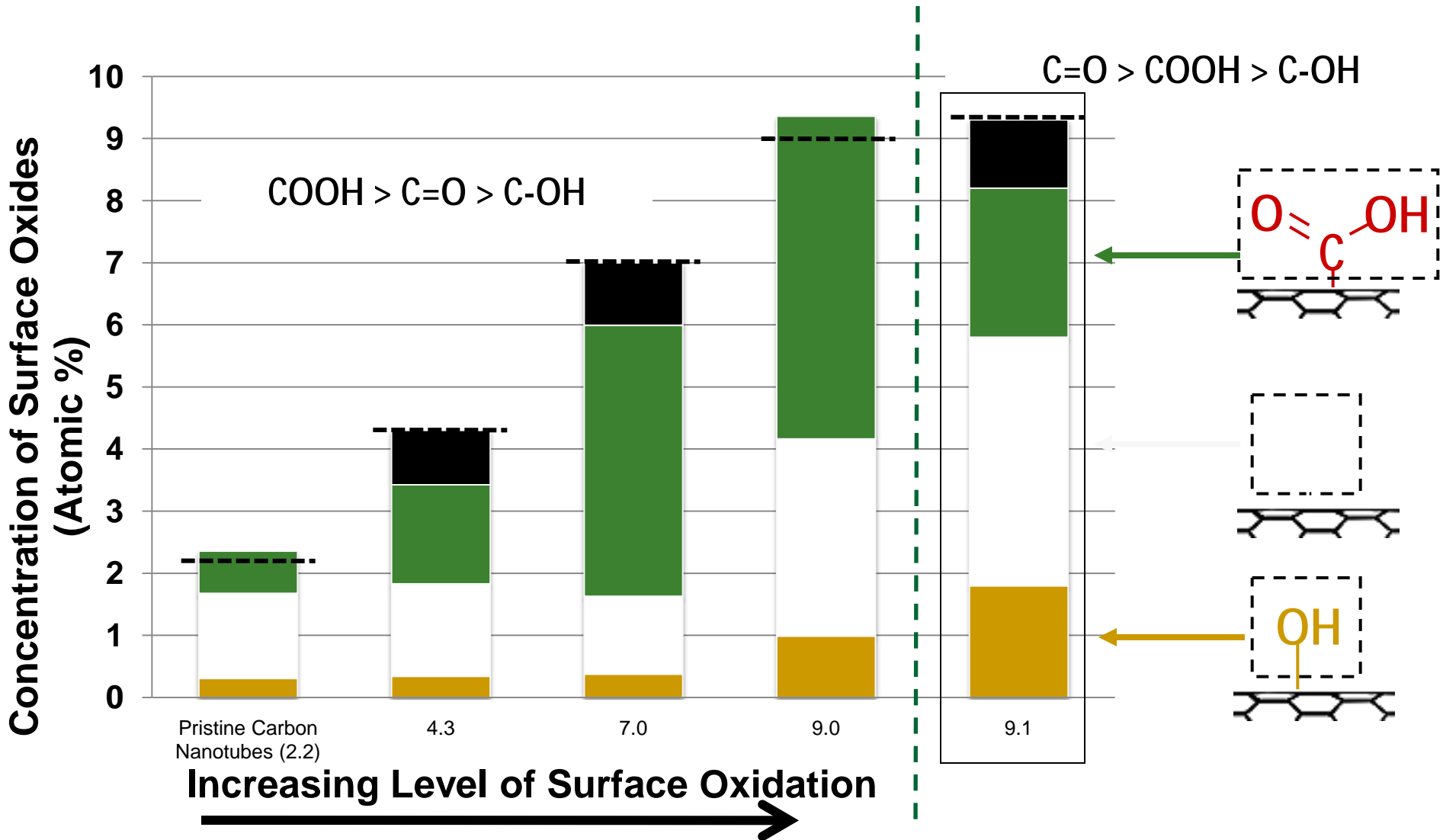


4 %  
8 %  
9 %

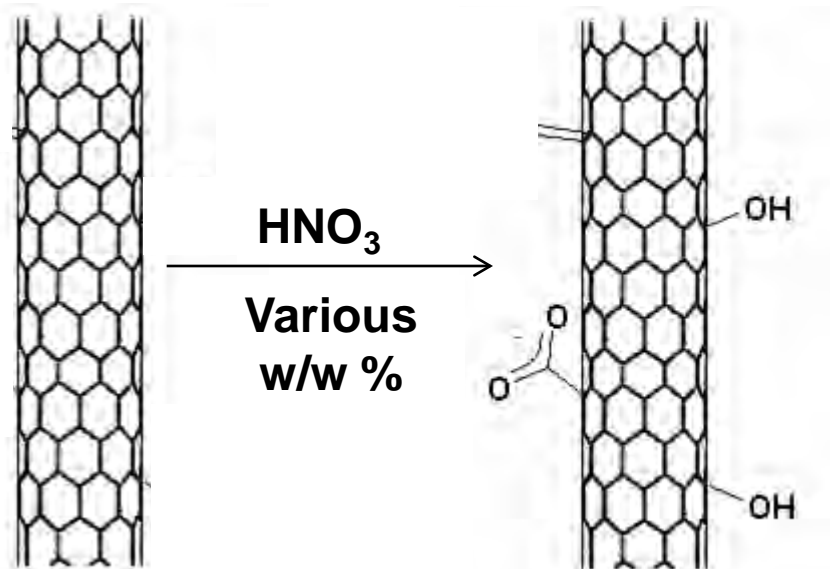
Increasing Surface Oxidation



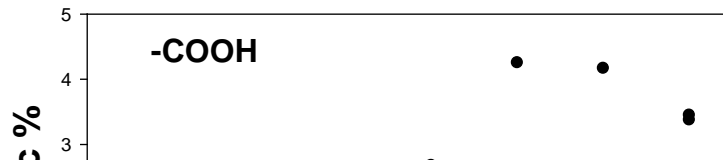
# Distribution of Hydroxyl, Carbonyl and Carboxylic Acid Groups on CNTs



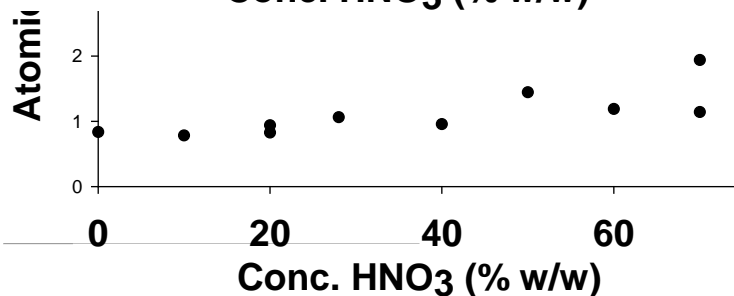
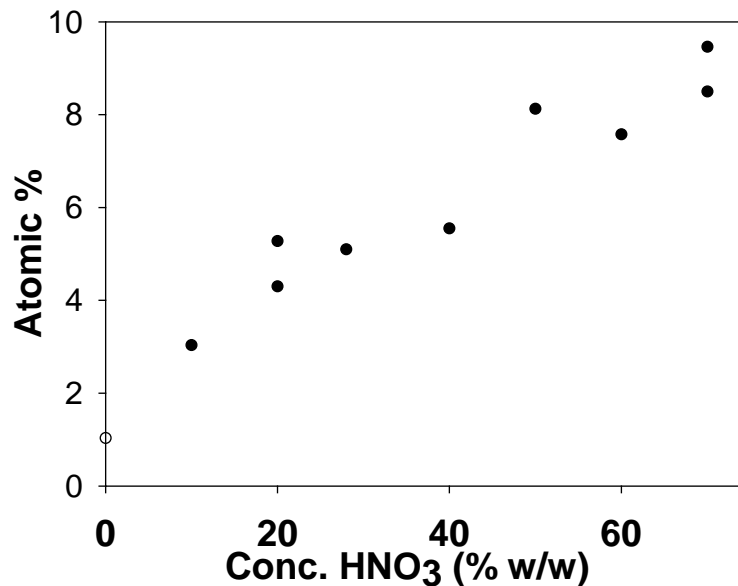
# Influence of Oxidizing Conditions



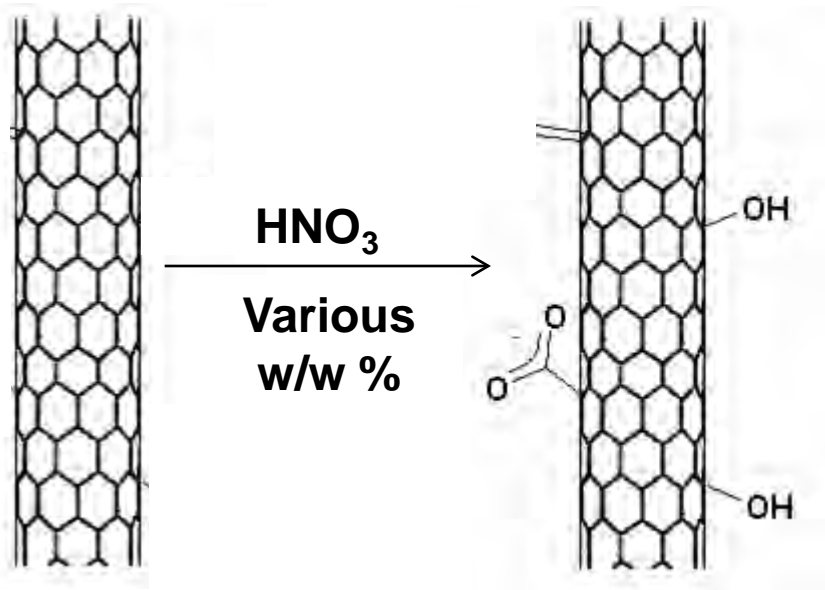
## Functional Groups



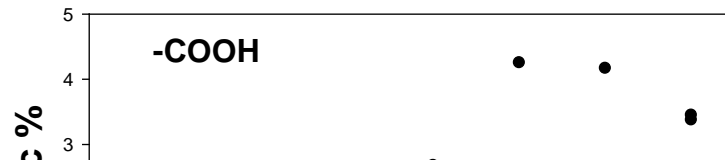
## Total Oxygen



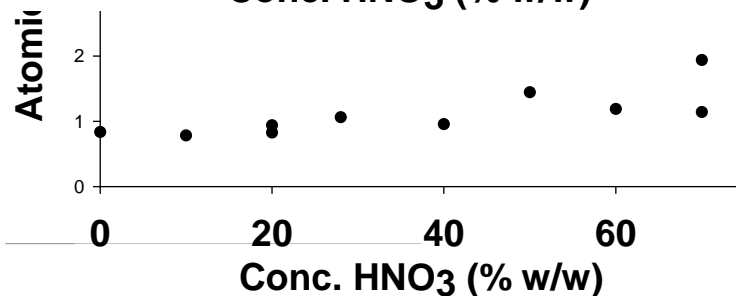
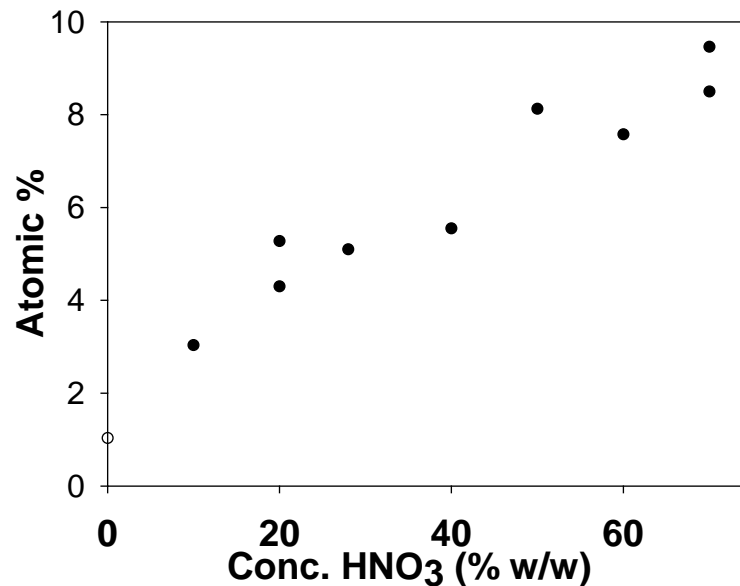
# Influence of Oxidizing Conditions



## Functional Groups



## Total Oxygen



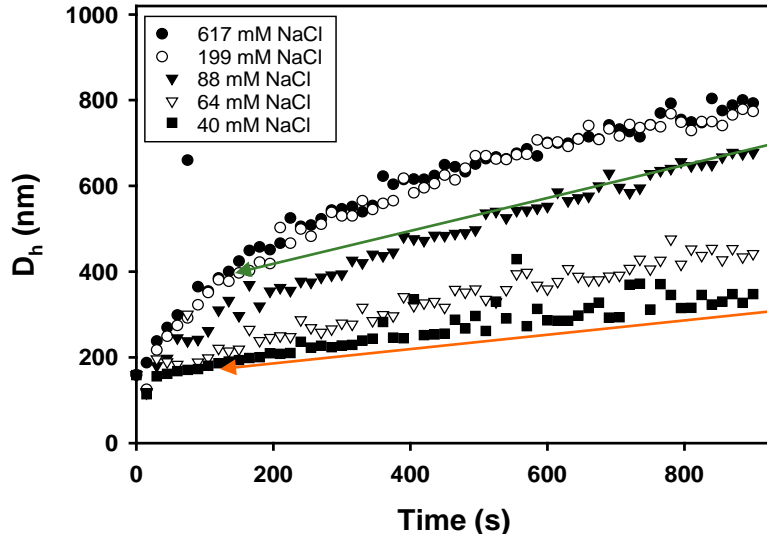
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# **Influence of Surface Oxidation and Water Chemistry on Homogeneous Aggregation**

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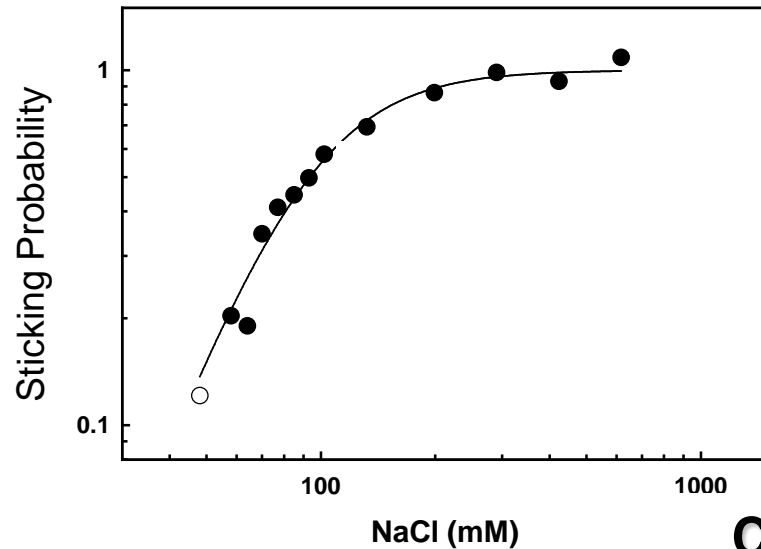
# Kinetics with Dynamic Light Scattering

8.1% Oxidized



$$\frac{dD_h}{dTime} = k_{agg,fast} N_o$$

$$\frac{dD_h}{dTime} = k_{agg} N_o$$

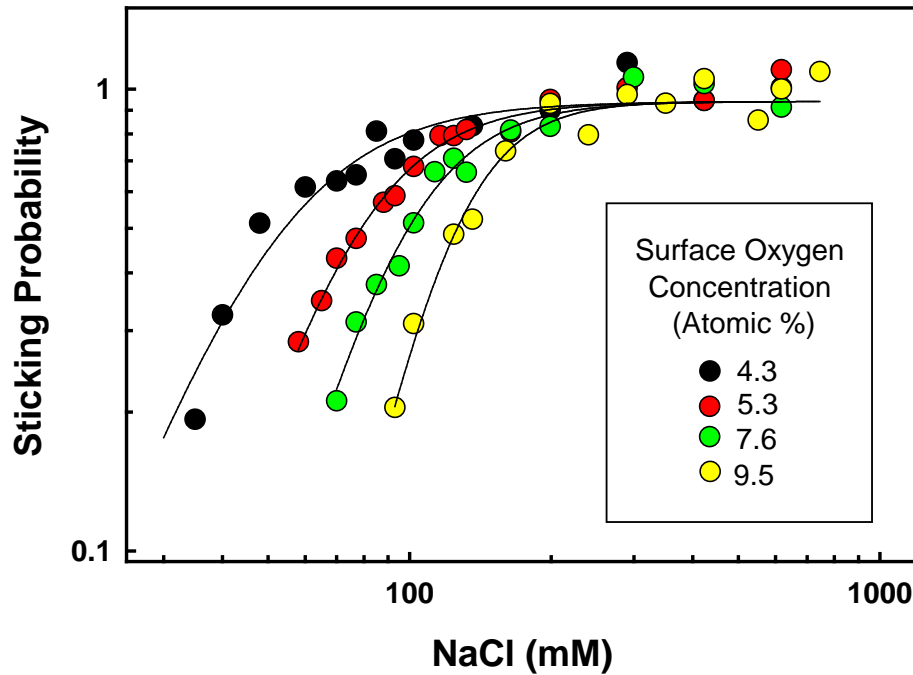


$$\text{Sticking Probability} = \frac{\frac{dD_h}{dTime} \sim k_{agg} N_o}{\frac{dD_h}{dTime} \sim k_{agg,fast} N_o}$$

$$\text{Sticking Probability} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{[CCC]}{[NaCl]}^b}$$

**CCC provides a mathematical metric for colloidal stability**

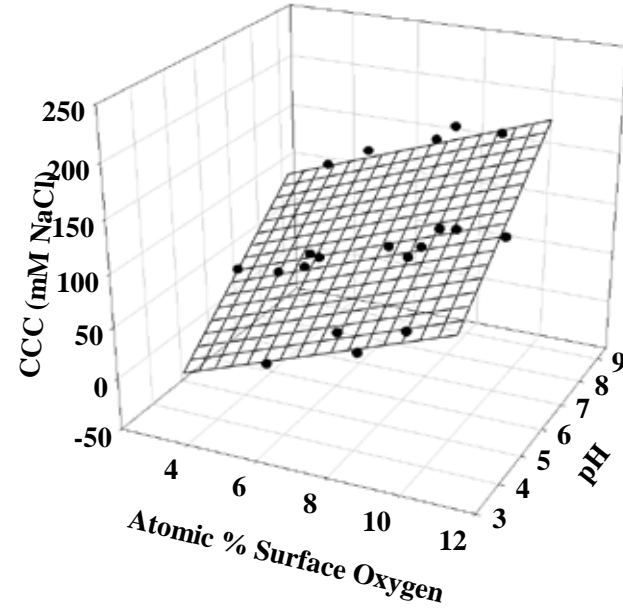
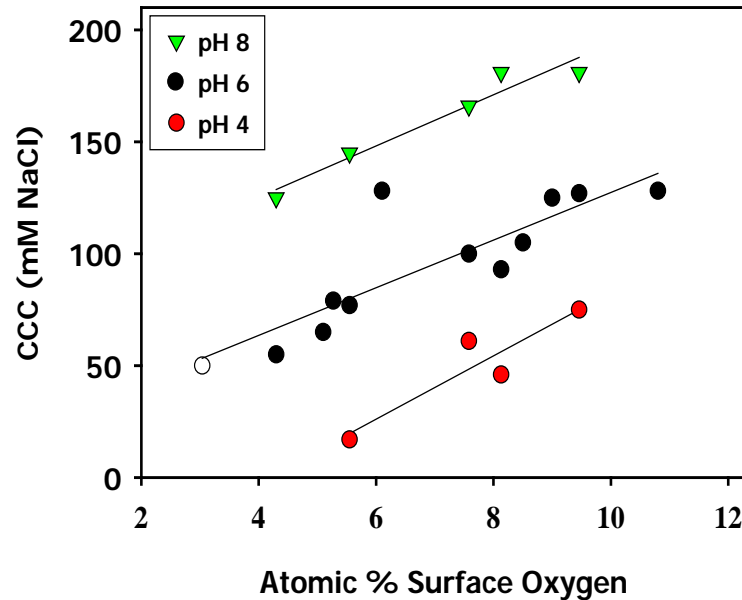
# Stability and The CCC



Stability profiles for several oxidized MWCNTs

$$\text{Sticking Probability} = \frac{1}{1 + ([\text{CCC}]/[\text{NaCl}])^b}$$

# Surface Oxidation, the CCC and pH



Total oxidation provides a good metric for colloidal stability

Measurements of materials properties can be used to predict colloidal properties

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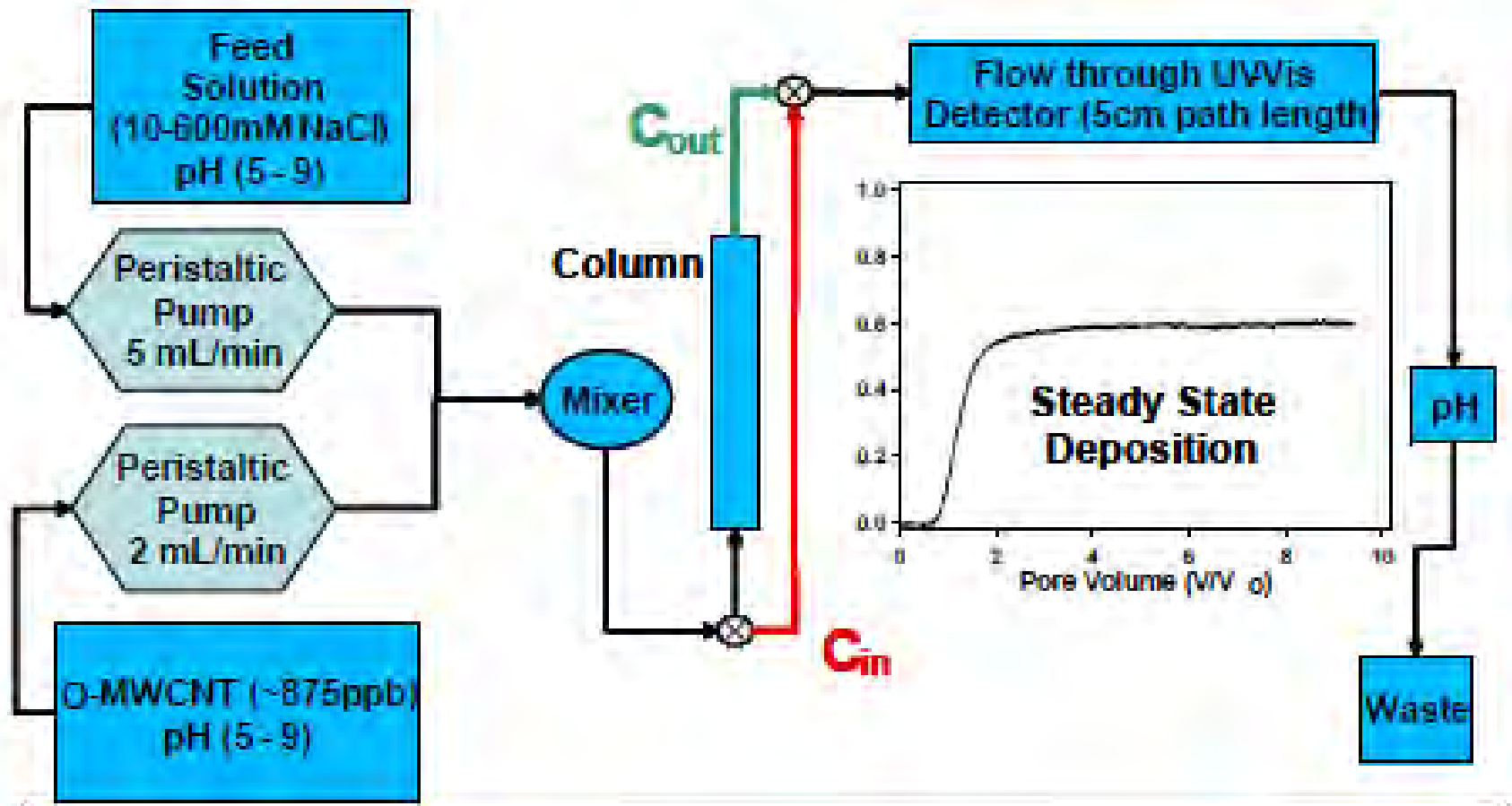
# **Influence of Surface Oxidation and Water Chemistry on Deposition**

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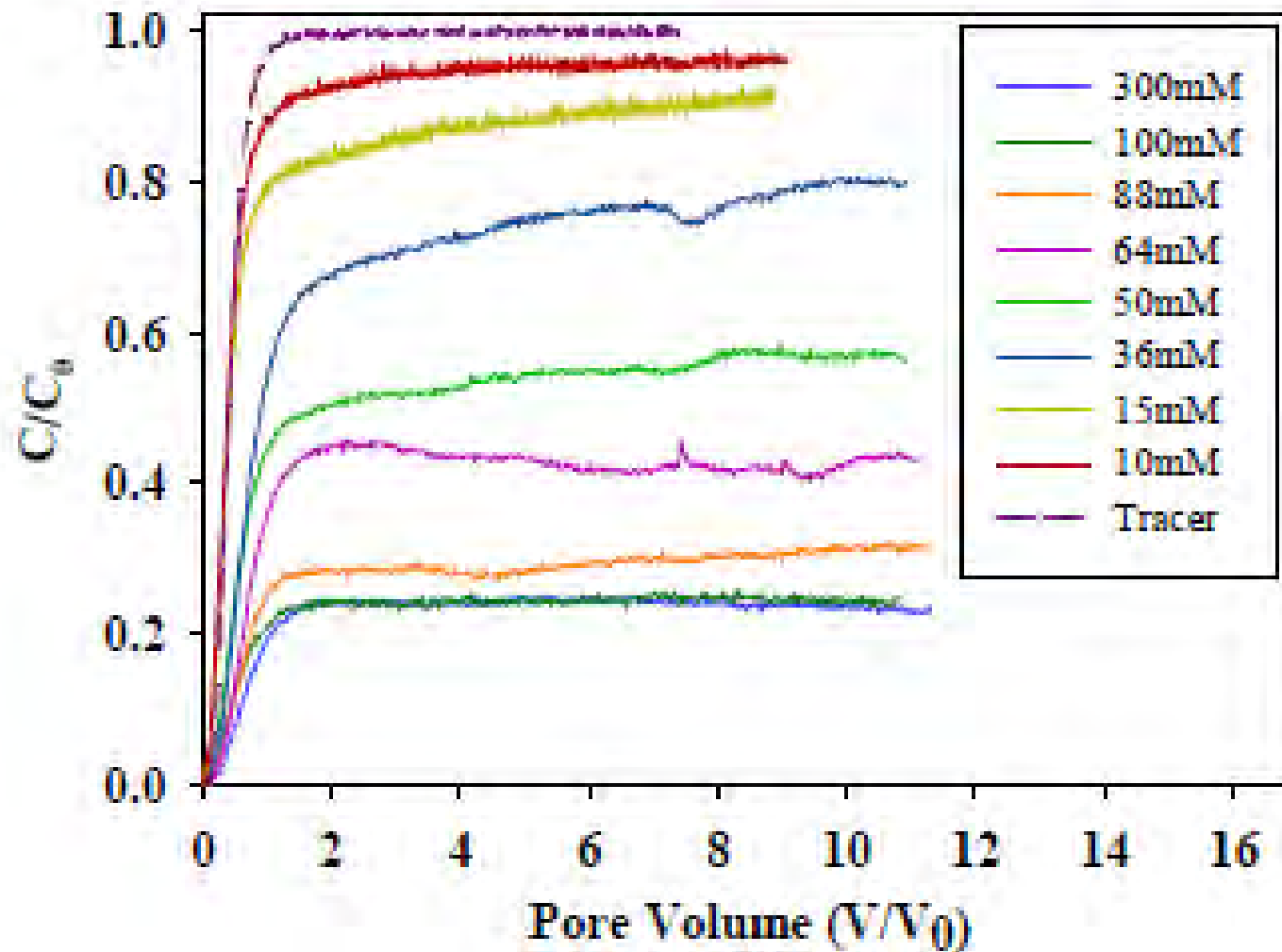


# Studying Deposition in Porous

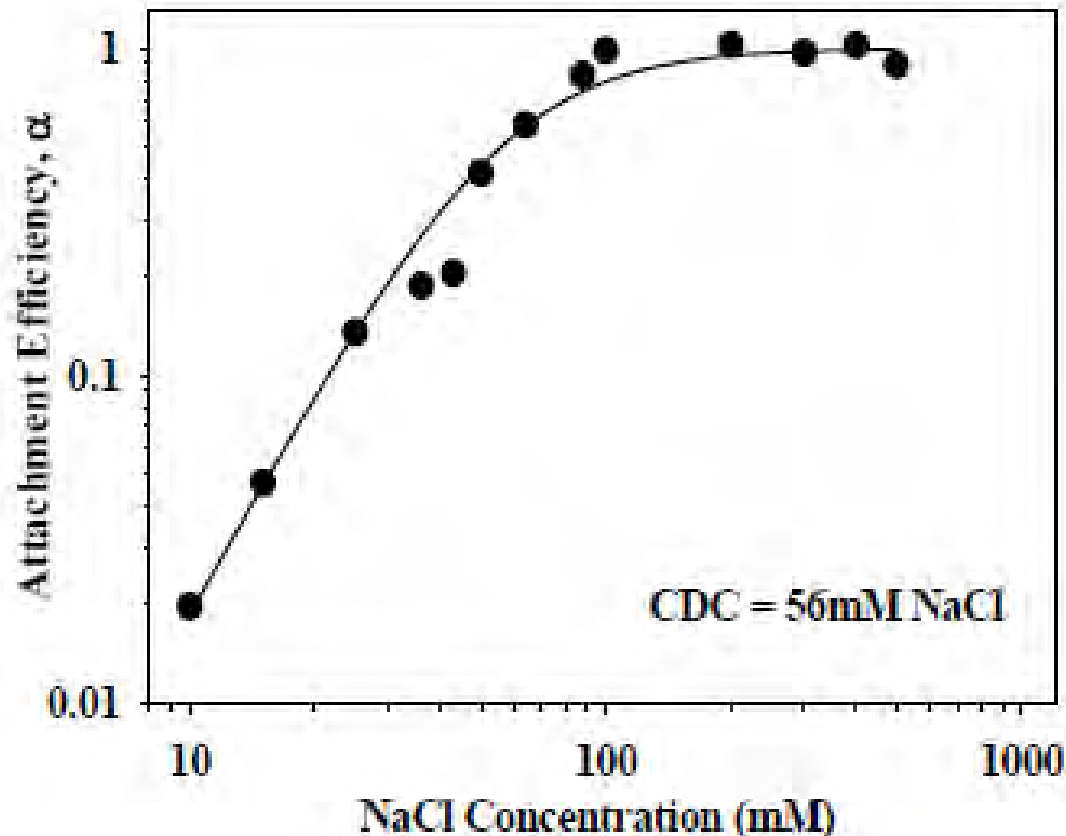
1



# O-MWCNT Transport as Function of NaCl Concentration (pH 7.0; oxidized with 30% HNO<sub>3</sub>)



# O-MWCNT “Sticking Probability” as Function of NaCl (pH 7.0; oxidized with 30% HNO<sub>3</sub>)



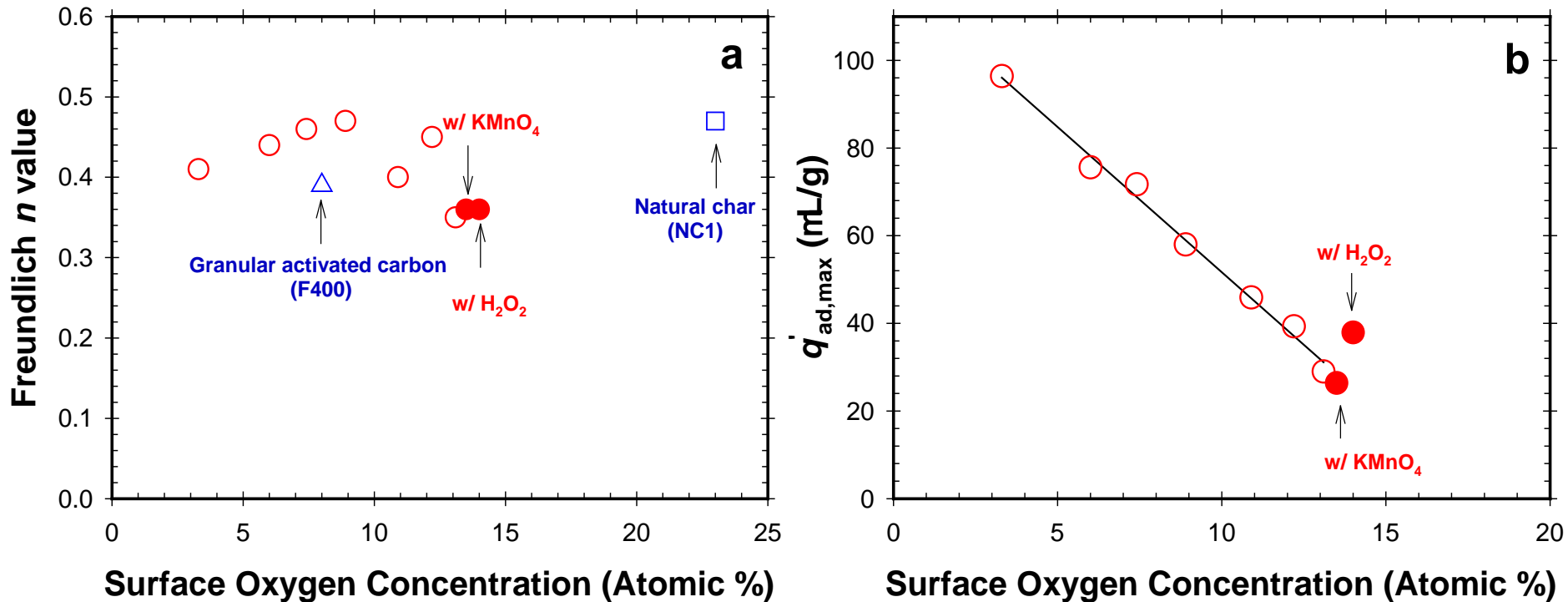
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**Influence of Surface Oxidation  
and Water Chemistry  
on Sorption Properties  
with Respect to HOCs and Metals**

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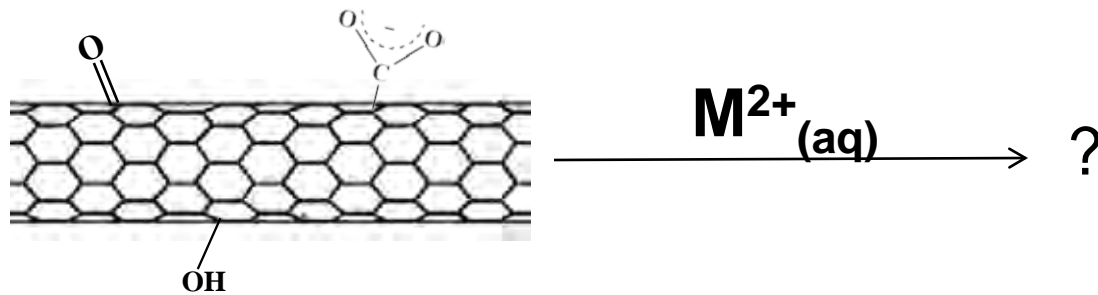
# Naphthalene sorption with MWCNTs

(Cho et al., *ES&T*, 2008)



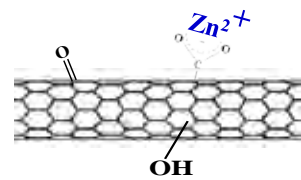
**Figure 4.** (a) Freundlich  $n$ -values for naphthalene adsorption plotted against surface oxygen concentration for MWCNTs, natural char (NC1), and granular activated carbon (F400). (b) Maximum adsorption capacity ( $q'_{ad,max}$ ) for naphthalene from the Polanyi-based Dubinin-Astikov adsorption model plotted against surface oxygen concentration.

# Sorption of Inorganic Contaminants (Metal Cations)



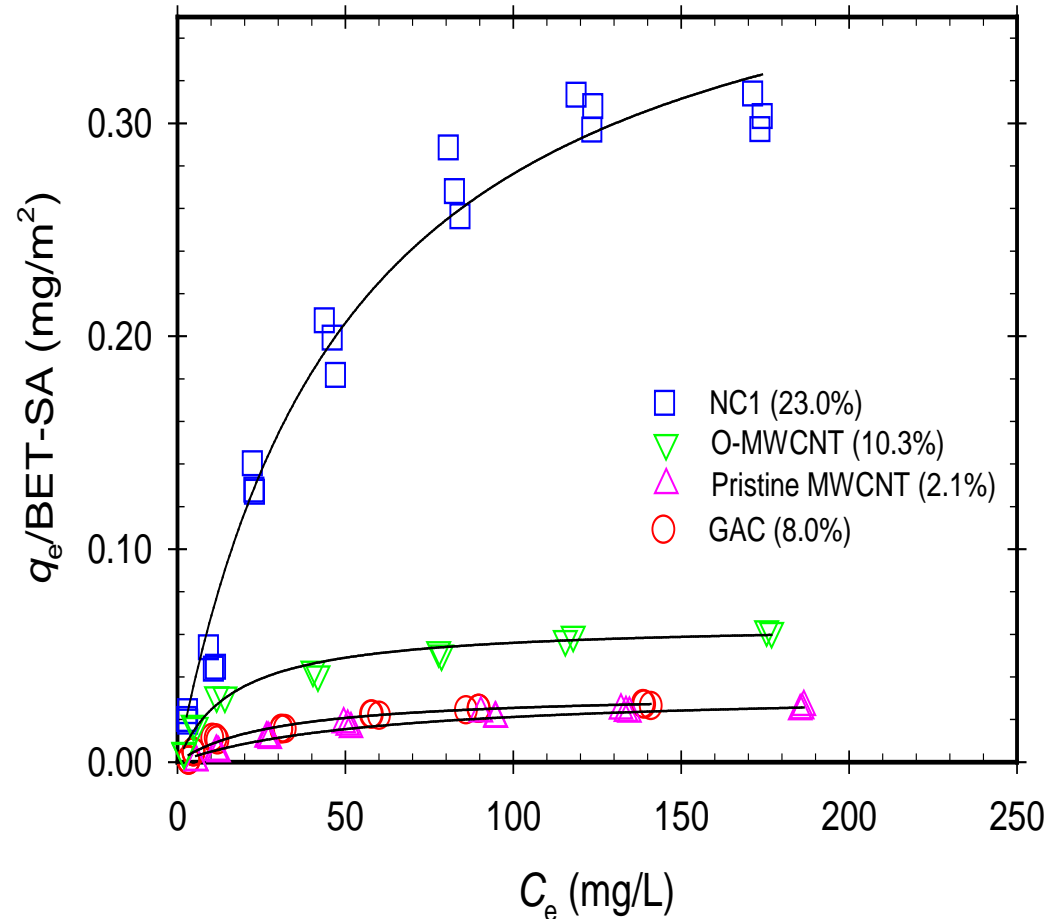
$M^{2+}_{(aq)}$  e.g.:  $Cd^{2+}$ ,  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Pb^{2+}$ ,  $Hg^{2+}$

# Comparison of Zn(II) Sorption: Carbonaceous Materials



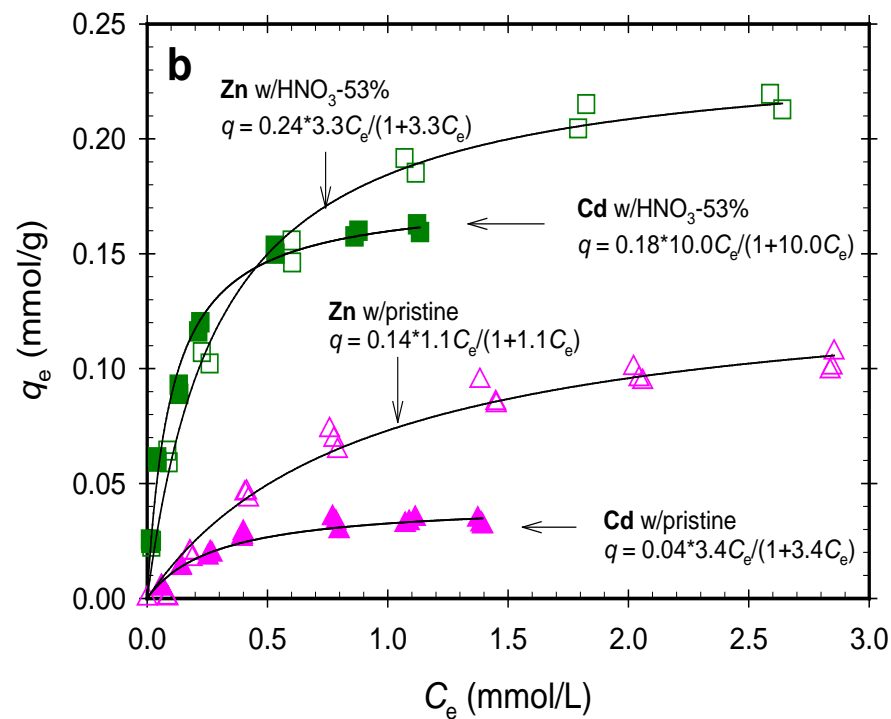
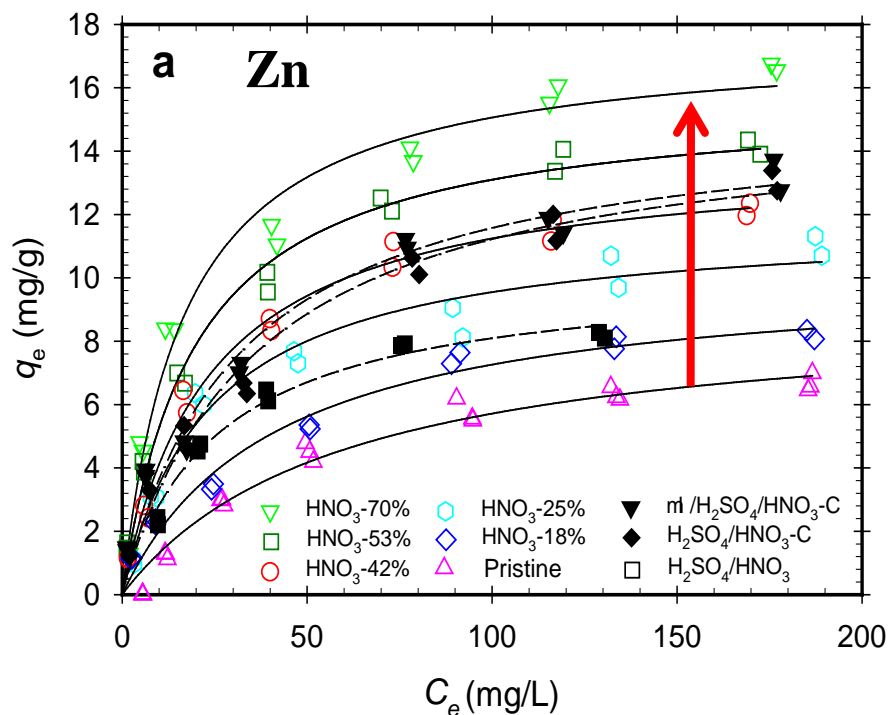
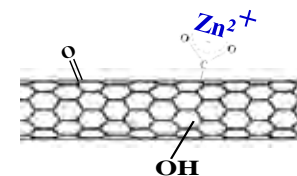
$$q_e = \frac{q_{\max} K_L C_e}{1 + K_L C_e}$$

$q_{\max}$ (mg/g)	SA	Oxid.
GAC (33.1)	High	Mod.
NC1 (20.5)	Low	High
O-MWCNT (17.6)	Mod	Mod.
MWCNT (9.1)	Mod	Low
$q_{\max}/SA$ (mg/m <sup>2</sup> )	SA	Oxid.
NC1 (0.42)	Low	High
O-MWCNT (0.065)	Mod	Mod.
MWCNT (0.034)	Mod	Low
GAC (0.033)	High	Mod.



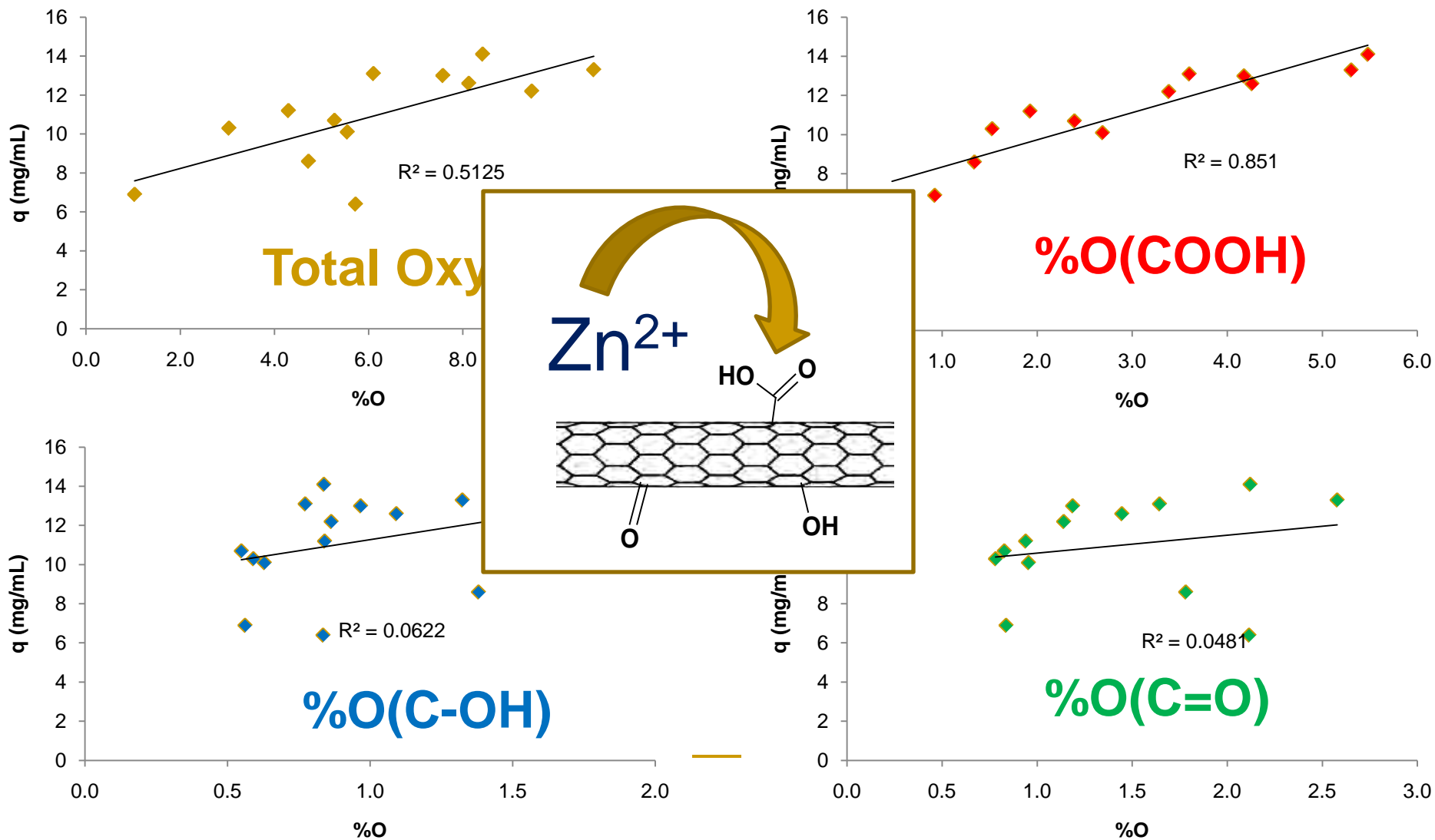
# Effect of Surface Oxidation:

Zn(II) and Cd(II) sorption isotherms





# Correlation of $q_{e,180}$ with Selected Surface Functional Groups:

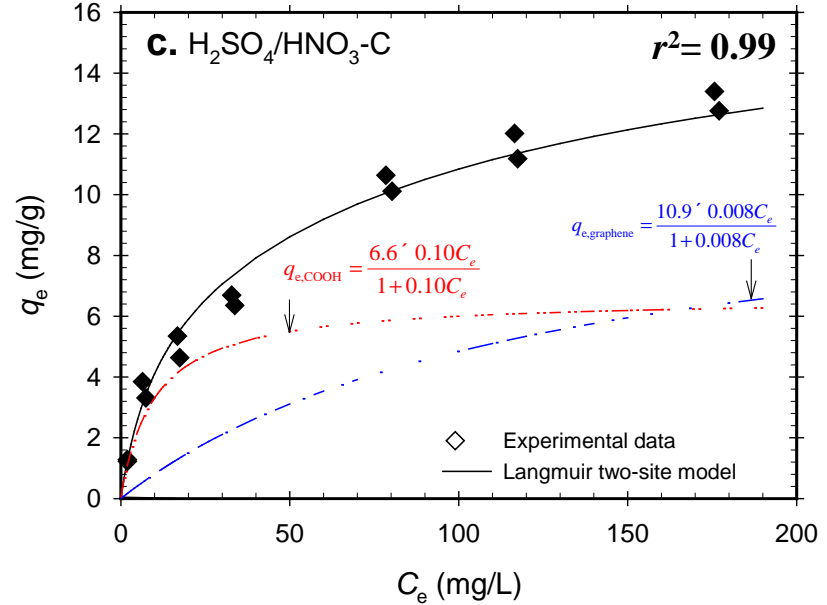
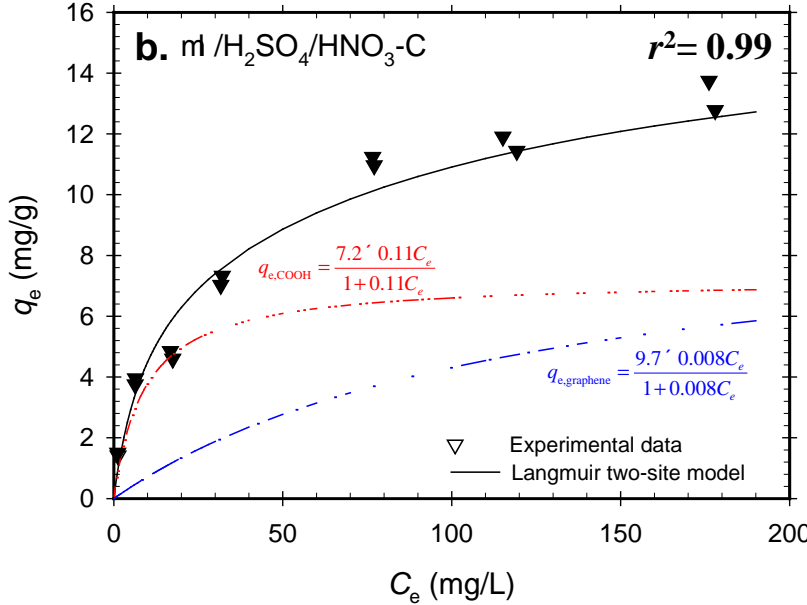
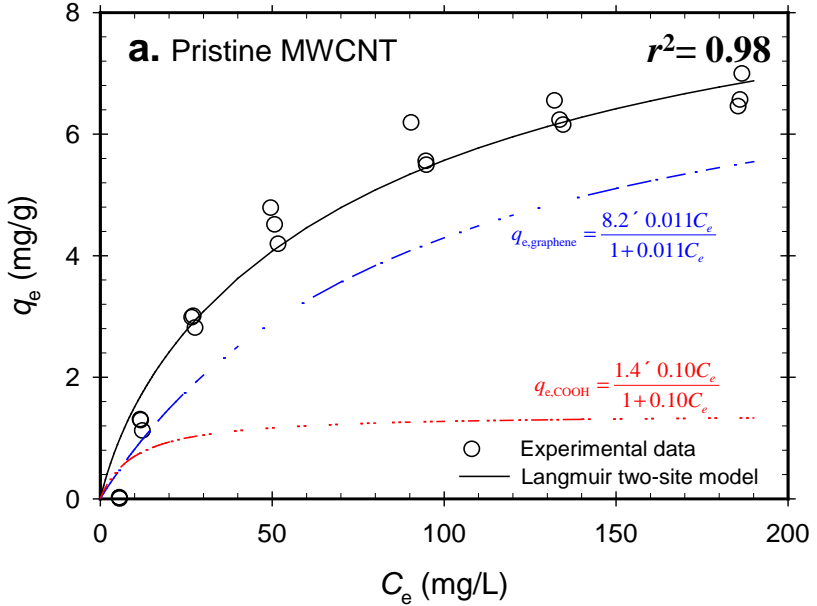


# Langmuir Two-Site Model:

## Individual fits

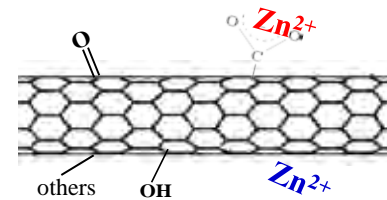
$$\begin{aligned}
 q_e &= q_{e,\text{Graphene}} + q_{e,\text{COOH}} \\
 &= \frac{q_{\text{max,G}} K_{\text{L,G}} C_e}{1 + K_{\text{L,G}} C_e} + \frac{q_{\text{max,C}} K_{\text{L,C}} C_e}{1 + K_{\text{L,C}} C_e}
 \end{aligned}$$

$K_{\text{L,G}} = 0.008 \sim 0.010$   
 $K_{\text{L,C}} = 0.10 \sim 0.11$



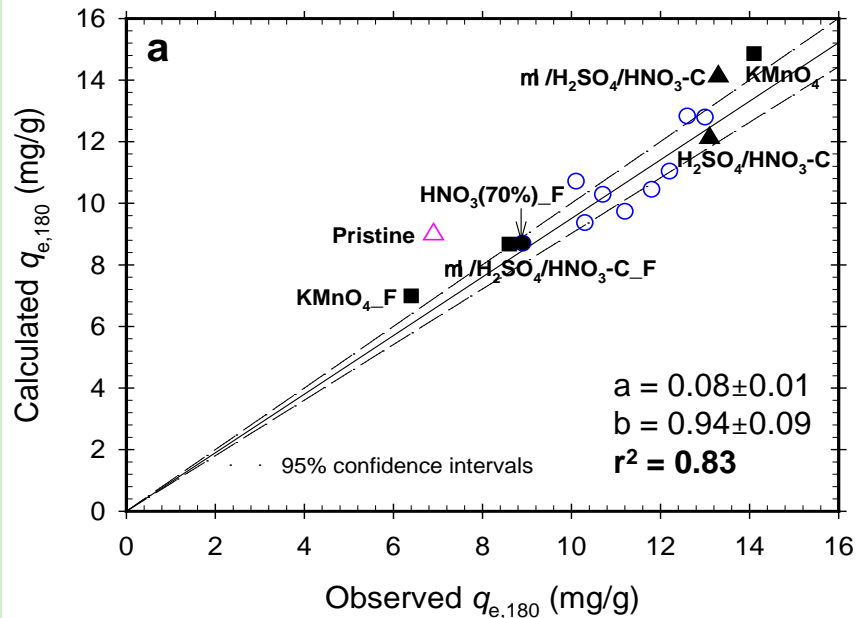
# Correlation of $q_{e,180}$ with Multiple Surface Functional Groups:

Multiple-linear regression analysis

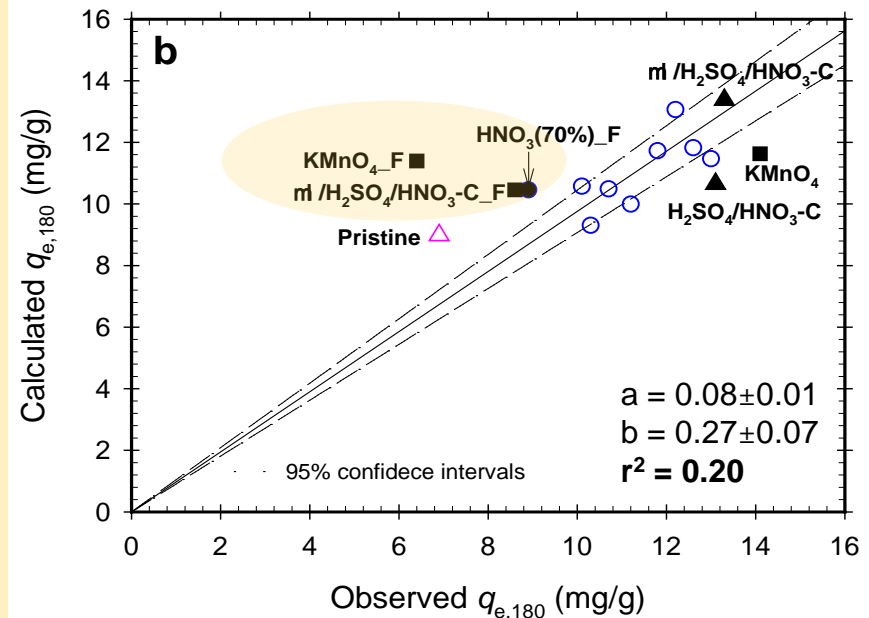


$$q_{e,180} = 0.08[\%C_{\text{Graphene}}] + 0.94[\%C_{\text{COOH}}]$$

$$q_{e,180} = 0.08[\%C_{\text{Graphene}}] + 0.27[\%C_{\text{OT}}]$$



F value= 1.04



F value= 4.45

# Modeling of Cd(II) Sorption:

Two-Site Langmuir isotherm model (in single-solute system):

$$q_e = q_{e,Graphene} + q_{e,COOH} = \frac{q_{\max,G} K_{L,G} C_e}{1 + K_{L,G} C_e} + \frac{q_{\max,C} K_{L,C} C_e}{1 + K_{L,C} C_e}$$

$q_e$  : adsorbed concentration at equilibrium (mmol/g)

$C_e$  : aqueous concentration at equilibrium (mmol/L)

$K_{L,G}$ ,  $K_{L,C}$  : adsorption affinities (L/mmol) for graphenic and carboxyl group sites

$q_{\max,G}$ ,  $q_{\max,C}$  : maximum adsorption capacity (mmol/g) for graphenic and carboxyl group sites

# Langmuir Two-Site Model:

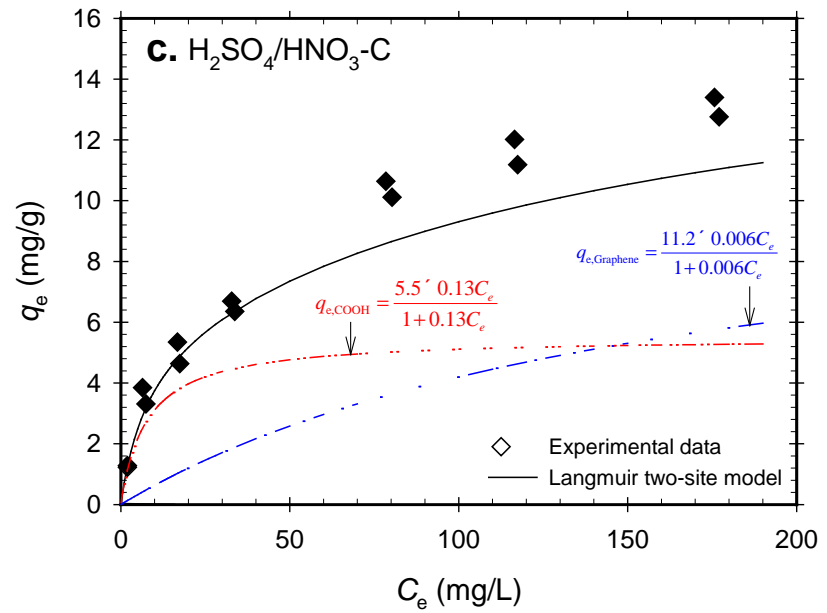
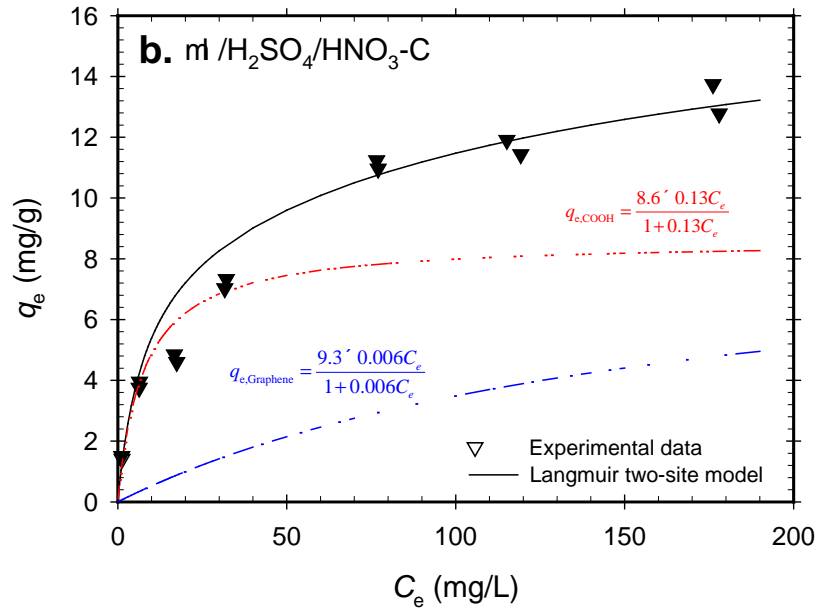
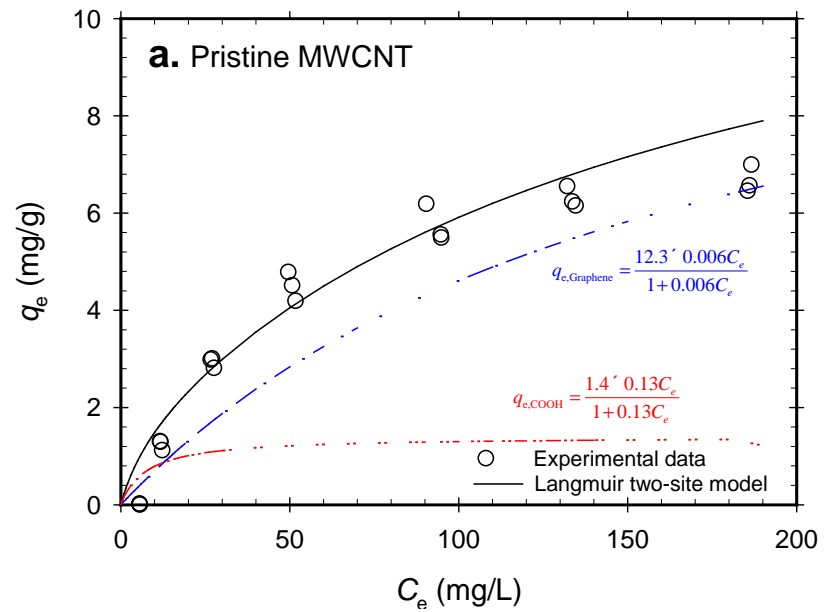
Common  $K_{L,G}$ ,  $K_{L,C}$ ,  $a$ , and  $b$ :

$$q_{e,180} = a[\%C_{\text{Graphene}}] + b[\%C_{\text{COOH}}]$$

$$q_e = \frac{q_{\max,G} K_{L,G} C_e}{1 + K_{L,G} C_e} + \frac{q_{\max,C} K_{L,C} C_e}{1 + K_{L,C} C_e}$$

if  $C_e = \text{mg/L}$ ,  $a = \frac{q_{\max,G}}{[\%C_{\text{Graphene}}]}$ ,  $b = \frac{q_{\max,\text{COOH}}}{[\%C_{\text{COOH}}]}$

$K_{L,G} = 0.006, K_{L,C} = 0.13, a = 0.13, b = 0.94$



# Modeling of competitive sorption of Cd(II):

Competitive Two-Site Langmuir isotherm model (in binary-solute system):

$$q_e = \frac{q_{\max,G} K_{L,G} C_{e,Cd}}{1 + K_{L,G,Cd} C_{e,Cd} + K_{L,G,Co-sorbate} C_{e,Co-sorbate}} + \frac{q_{\max,C} K_{L,C} C_{e,Cd}}{1 + K_{L,C,Cd} C_{e,Cd} + K_{L,C,Co-sorbate} C_{e,Co-sorbate}}$$

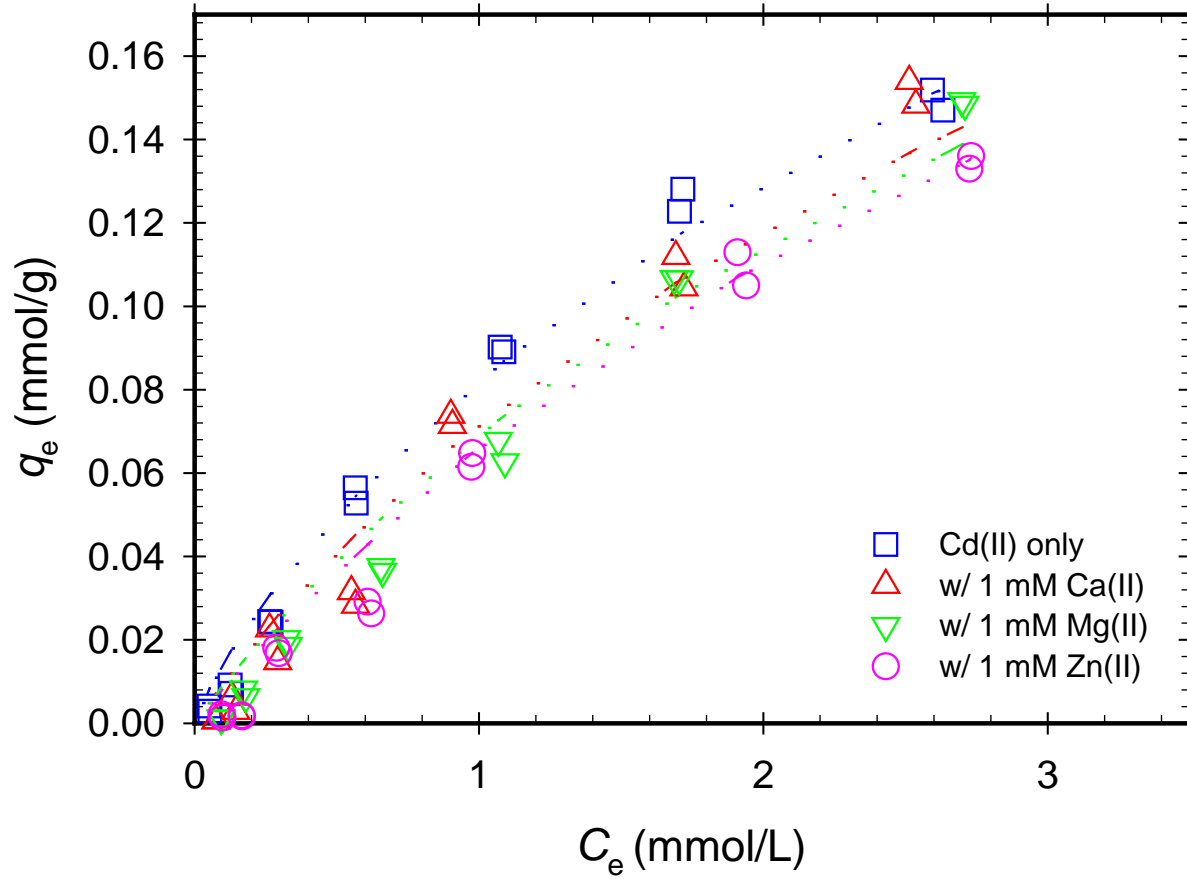
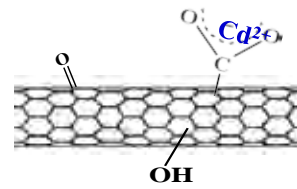
# Parameters for Langmuir isotherm equation for observed Cd(II) with co-sorbate sorption data

Sorbent	Surface Oxygen (%)	N	$q_{\max,G}$ (mmol/g)	$q_{\max,C}$ (mmol/g)	Cd		Zn		Ca		Mg		$1/n\hat{a}$ $(q_{\text{mea}} - q_{\text{mod}})^2$	$r^2$
					$K_{L,G}$ (L/mol)	$K_{L,C}$ (L/mol)	$K_{L,G}$ (L/mol)	$K_{L,C}$ (L/mol)	$K_{L,G}$ (L/mol)	$K_{L,C}$ (L/mol)	$K_{L,G}$ (L/mol)	$K_{L,C}$ (L/mol)		
<u>Pristine MWCNT</u>	2.1	56	0.36	0.016									0.98	
<u>O-MWCNT (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>/HNO<sub>3</sub>)</u>	12.3	54	0.076	0.67									0.99	
<u>O-MWCNT (70%-HNO<sub>3</sub>)</u>	5.4	24	0.28	0.49	<b>0.23</b>	<b>5.61</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>6.87</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>3.37</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>4.06</b>	0.00011	0.99
<u>Activated Carbon (F400)</u>	8.0	28	0.24	0.22					-	-	-	-	0.99	
Natural Char (NC1)	23.0	28	0.33	0.15					-	-	-	-	0.99	

Sorption affinity for carboxyl group site ( $K_{L,C}$ ): Zn > Cd > Mg > Ca

# Competitive sorption of Cd(II):

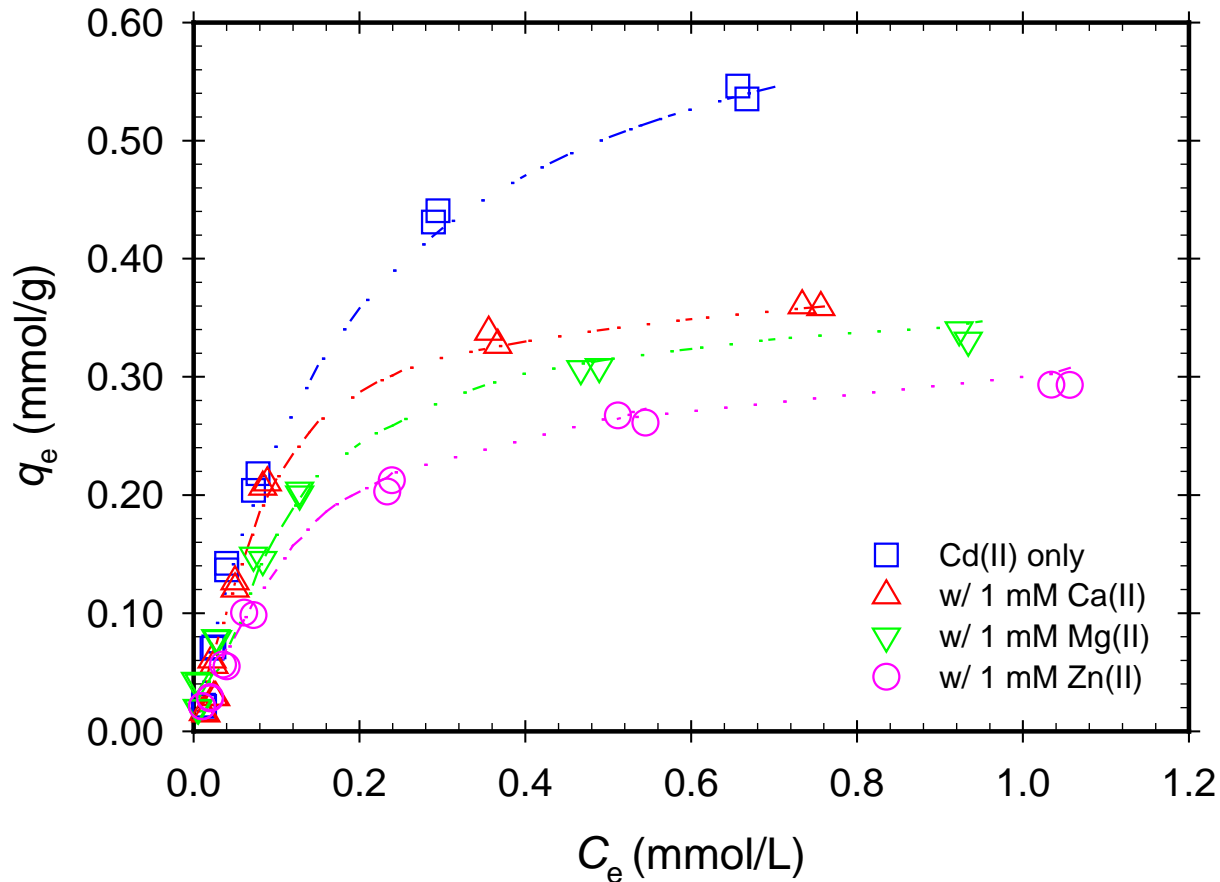
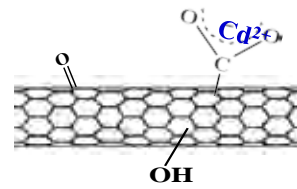
## Pristine MWCNTs





# Competitive sorption of Cd(II):

## Oxidized MWCNTs ( $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4/\text{HNO}_3$ )

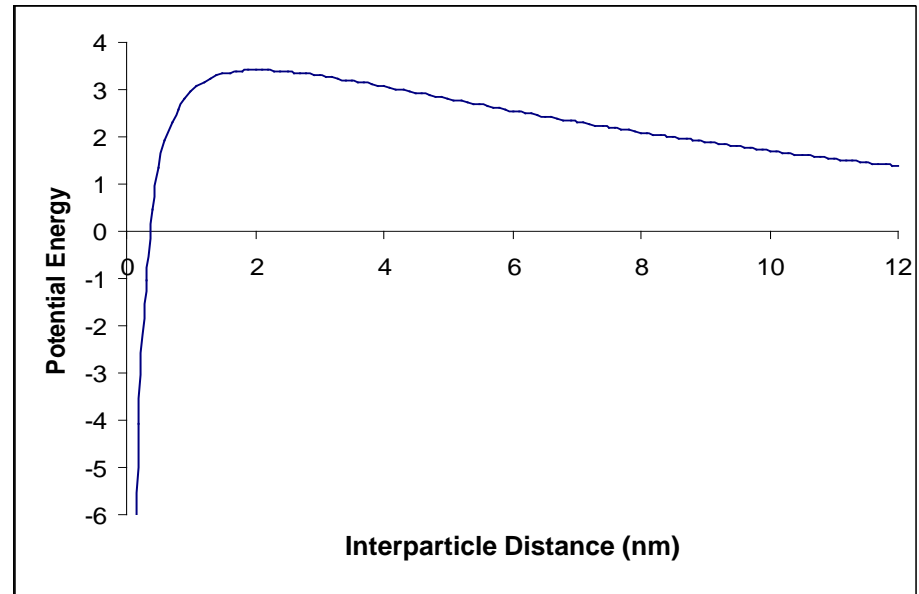
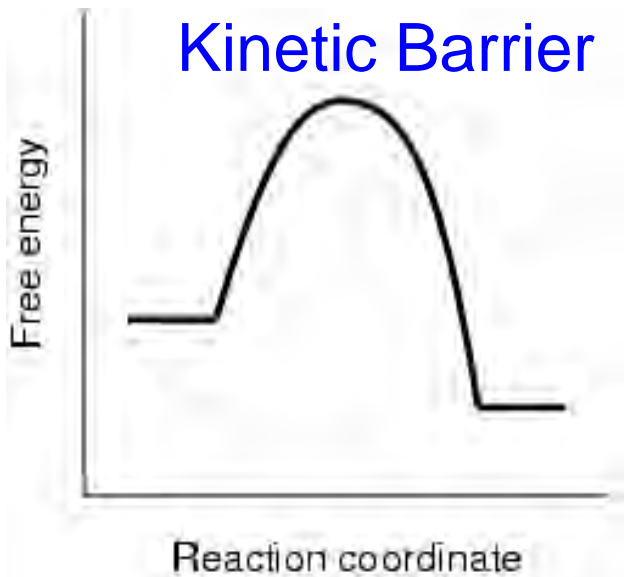


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# Thank You



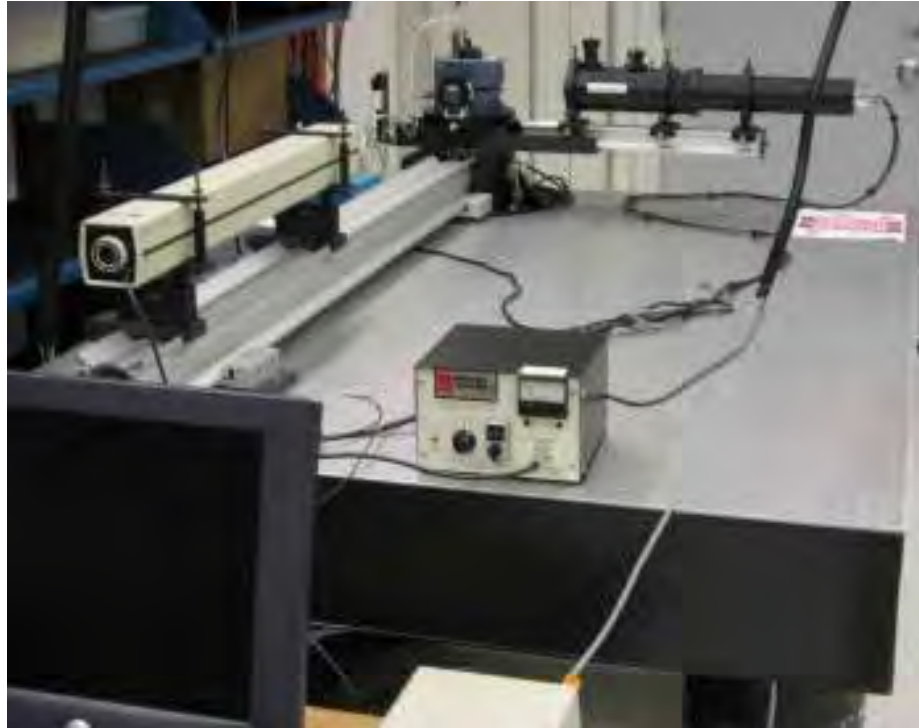
# Why are Colloids “stable/unstable” - (DLVO)



.001 M

INSTITUT

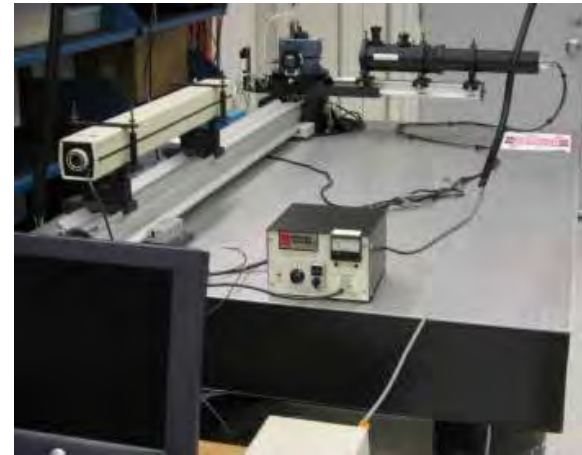
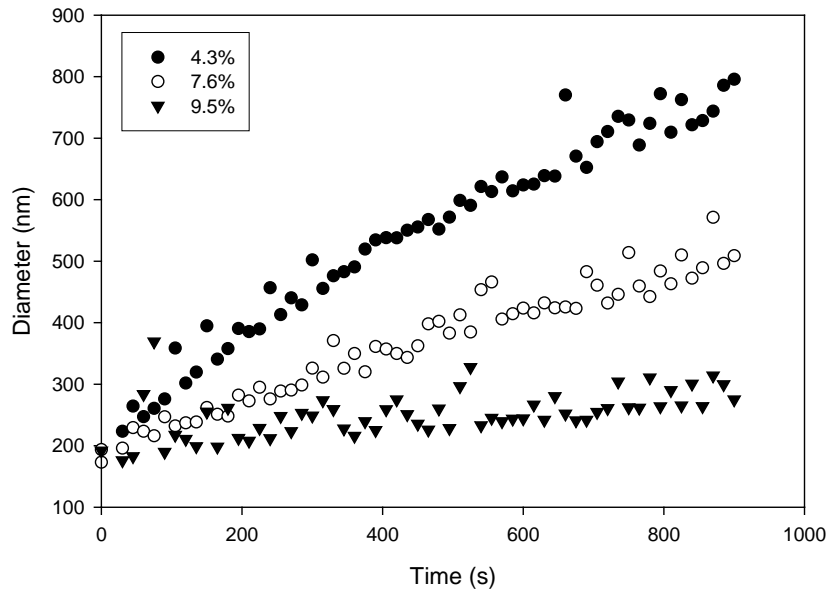
# Determining Particle Stability with Dynamic Light Scattering



- As particles aggregate their scattering properties change
  - DLS allows us to measure the rate of change in the scattering properties  $\Rightarrow$  aggregation rate

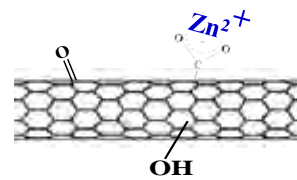
# Kinetics with Dynamic Light Scattering

Time resolved particle size analysis



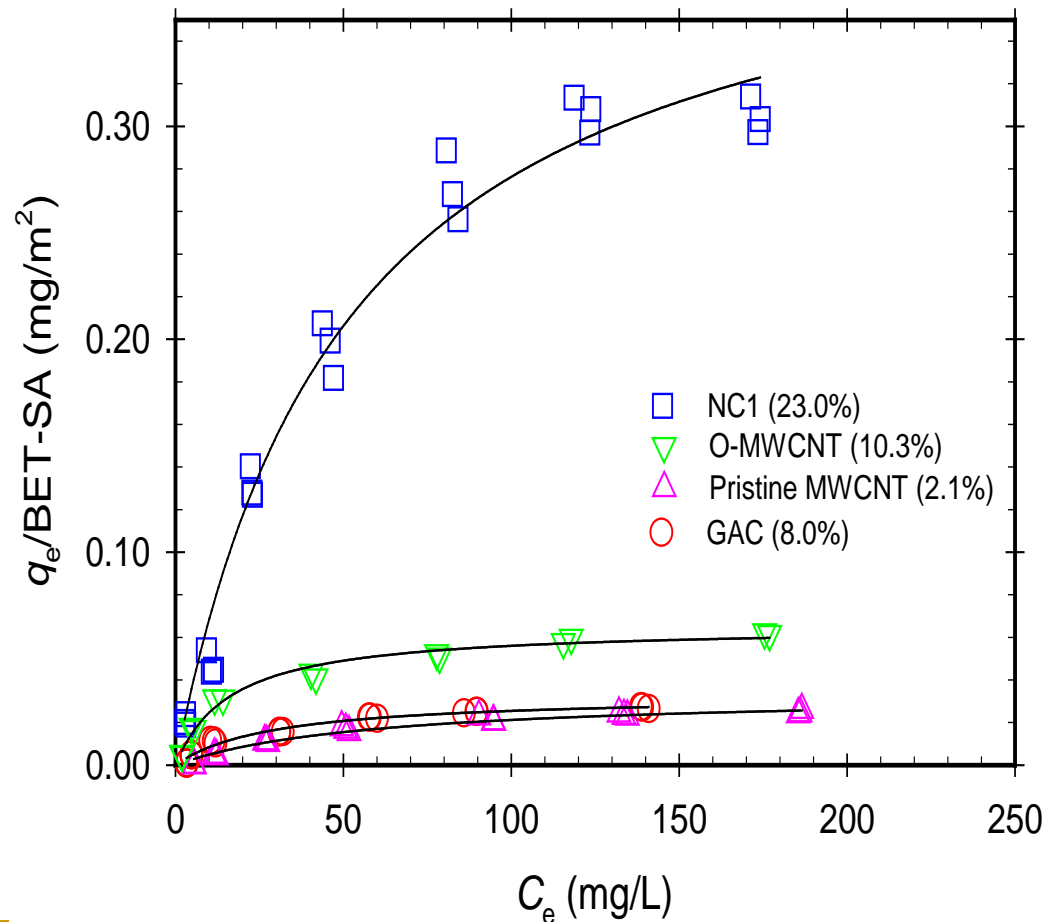
- pH = 6
- 64 mM NaCl
- 7.5 mg CNT/L

# Comparison of Zn(II) Sorption: Carbonaceous Materials

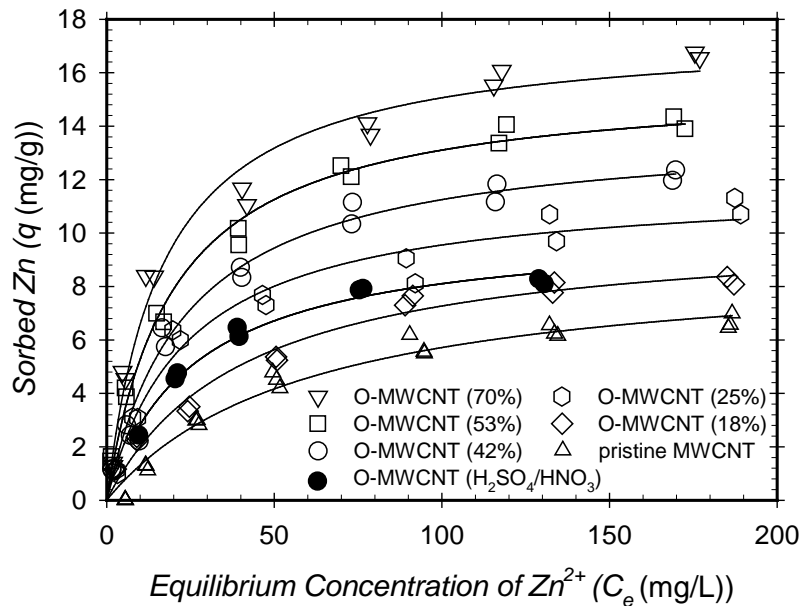


$$q_e = \frac{q_{\max} K_L C_e}{1 + K_L C_e}$$

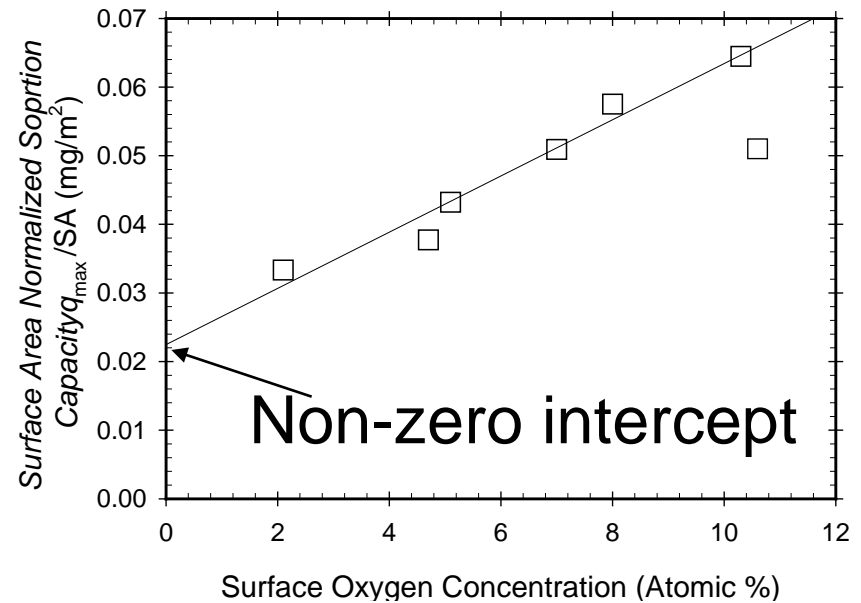
$q_{\max}$ (mg/g)	SA	Oxid.
GAC (33.1)	High	Mod.
NC1 (20.5)	Low	High
O-MWCNT (17.6)	Mod	Mod.
MWCNT (9.1)	Mod	Low
$q_{\max}/SA$ (mg/m <sup>2</sup> )	SA	Oxid.
NC1 (0.42)	Low	High
O-MWCNT (0.065)	Mod	Mod.
MWCNT (0.034)	Mod	Low
GAC (0.033)	High	Mod.



# Sorption of $Zn^{2+}$ onto MWCNTs



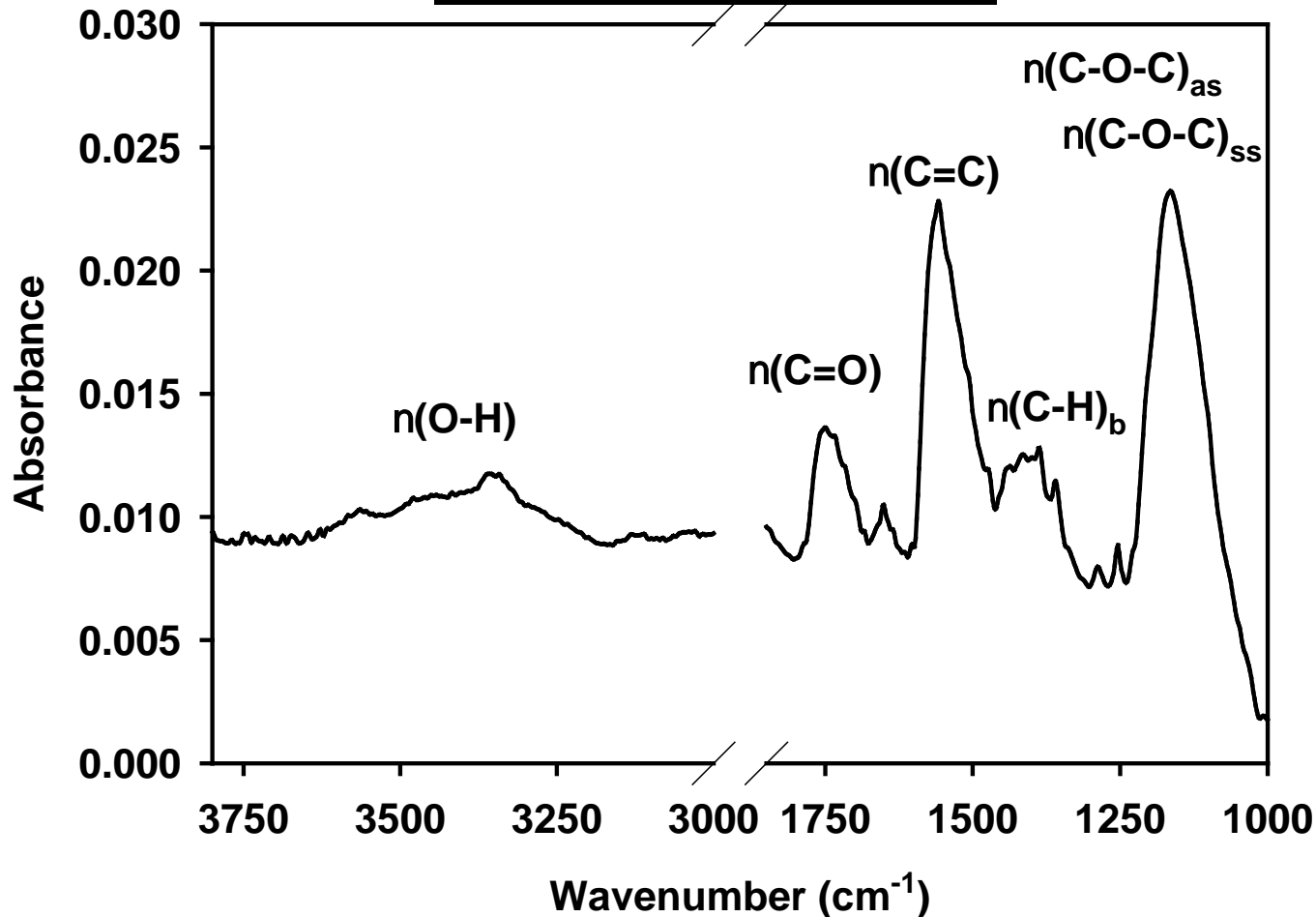
Adsorption of  $Zn^{2+}$  onto MWCNTs



Graphene sheets can adsorb metals

# Characterization of Oxides on CNTs

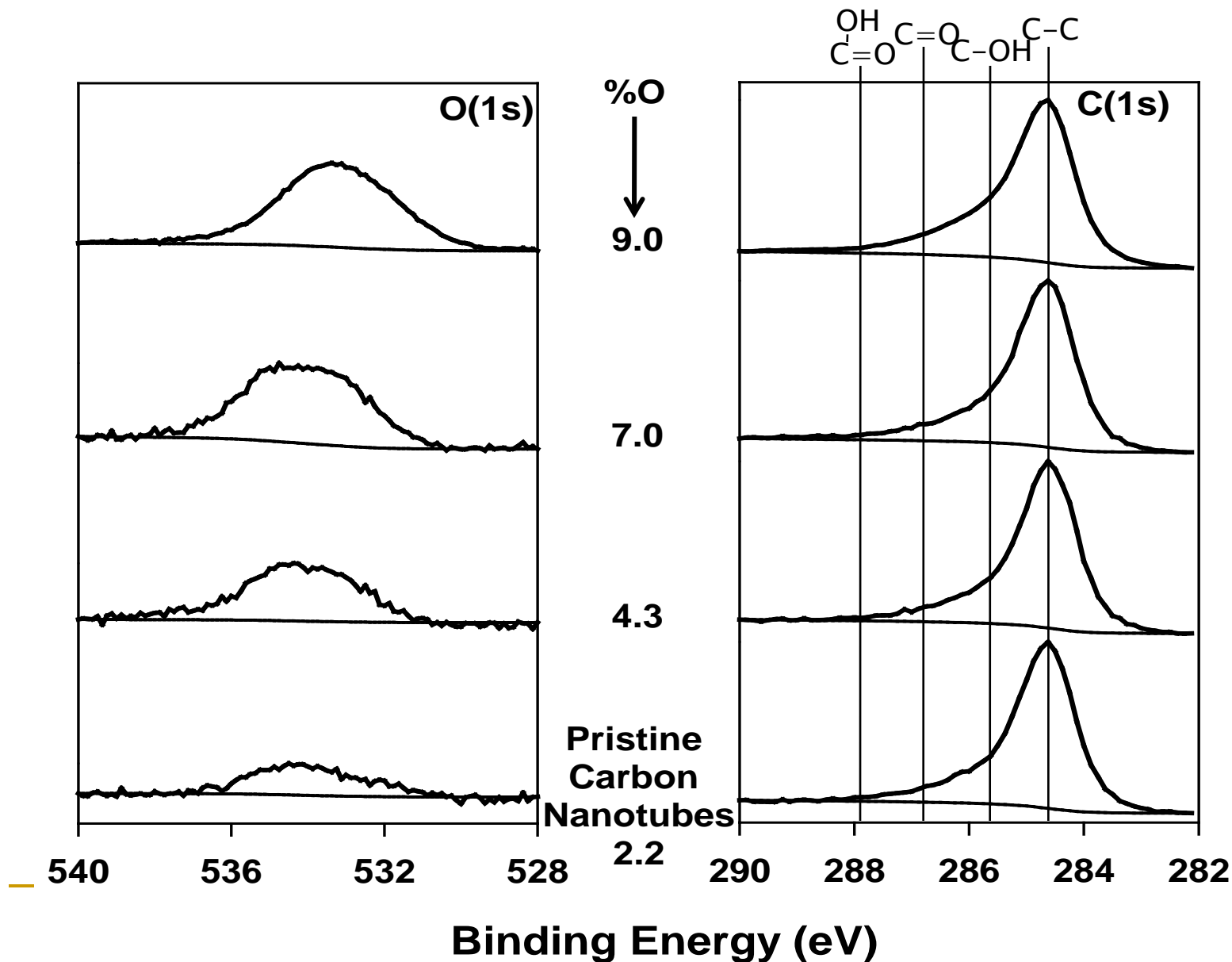
## FTIR Spectroscopy



FTIR identifies oxygen functional groups but provides no quantification

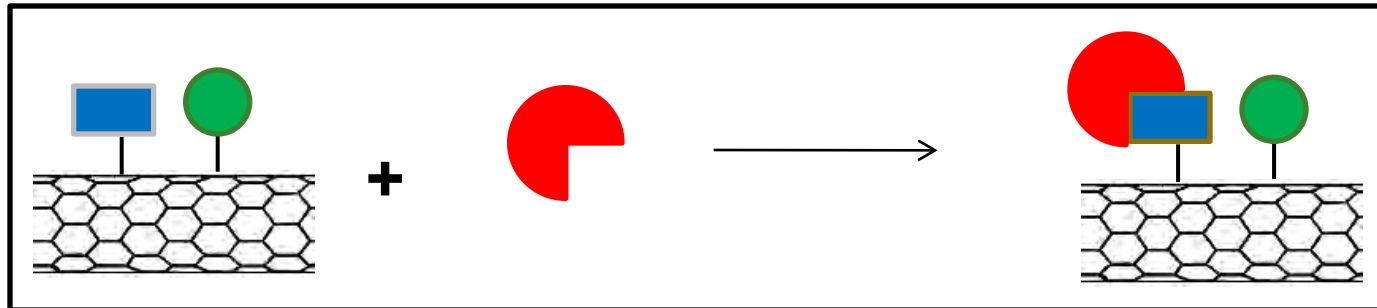


# XPS of Pristine & Oxidized CNTs



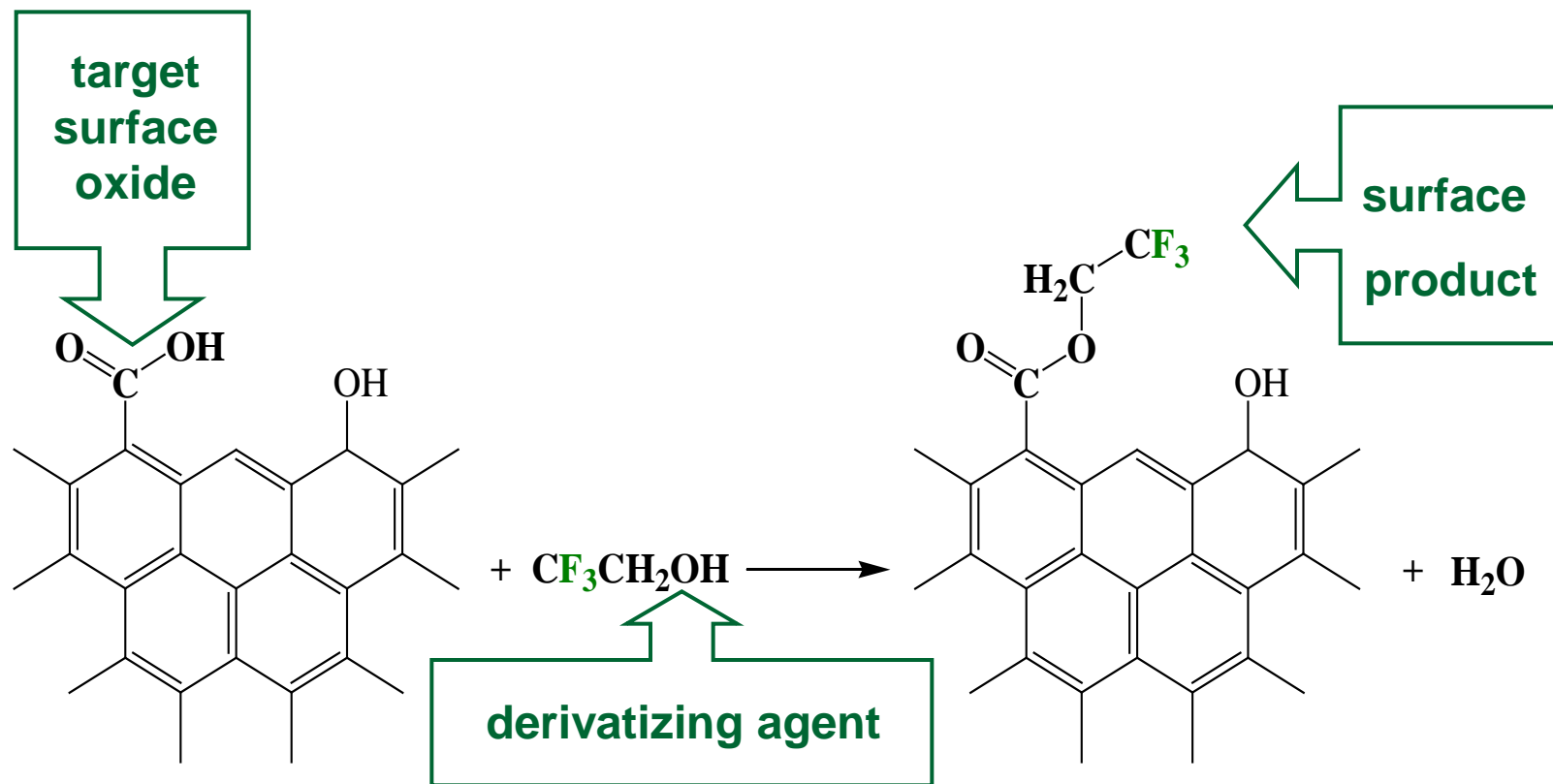
# What is Chemical Derivatization?

- Reagent selectively reacts with specific functional groups
- Reagent contains a **CF<sub>3</sub>** tag.
- Vapor phase chemical process
- Label chemical quantified by XPS

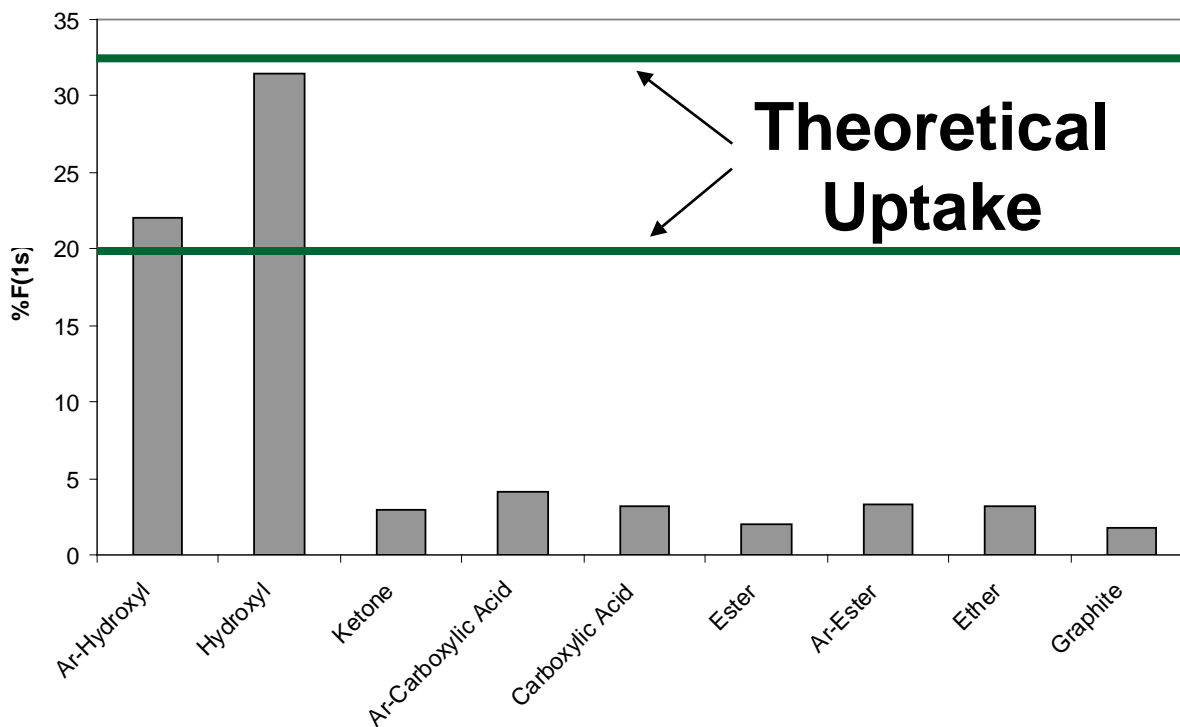
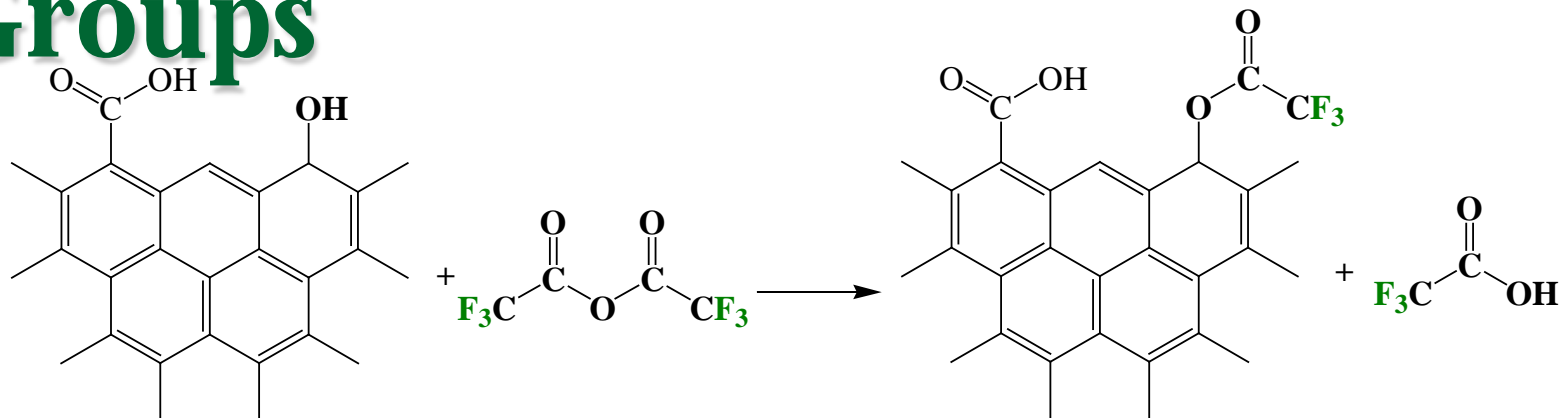


# Chemical Derivatization XPS

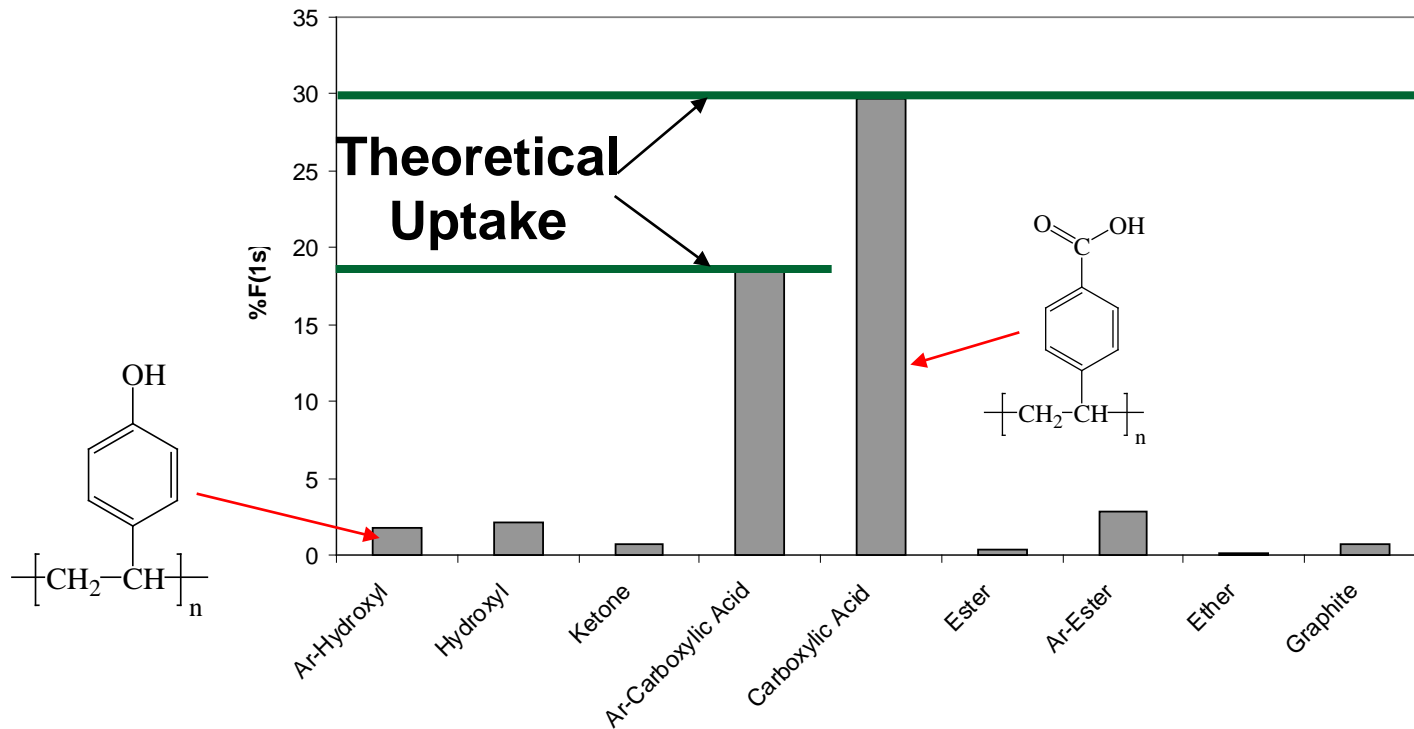
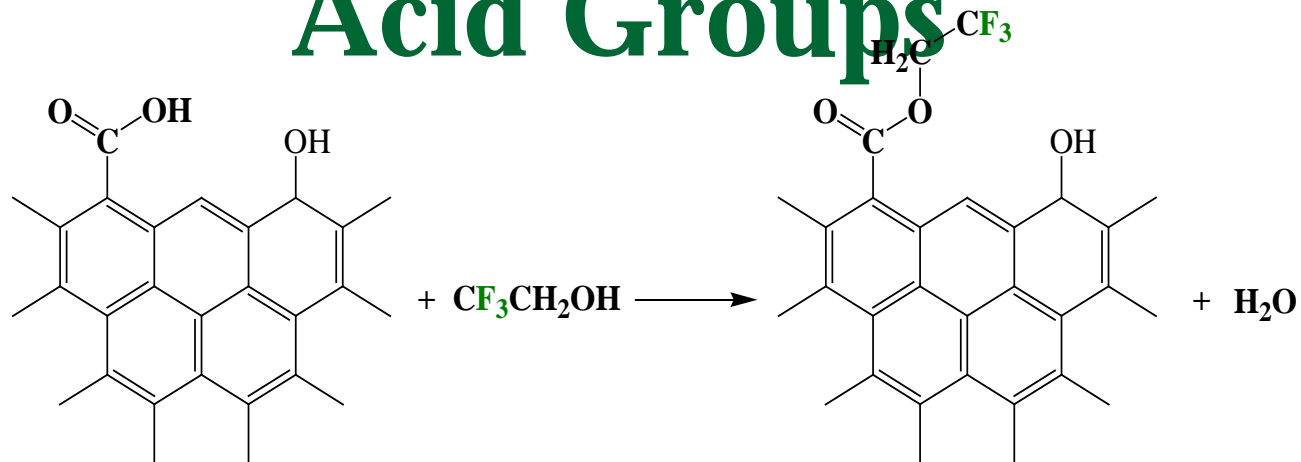
- n Technique exploiting a reaction that selectively targets one surface functionality with a **derivatizing agent**, containing an easily detectable chemical **tag (fluorine)**



# Derivatization of Hydroxyl Groups



# Derivatization of Carboxylic Acid Groups



# Labeling Reaction Schemes

