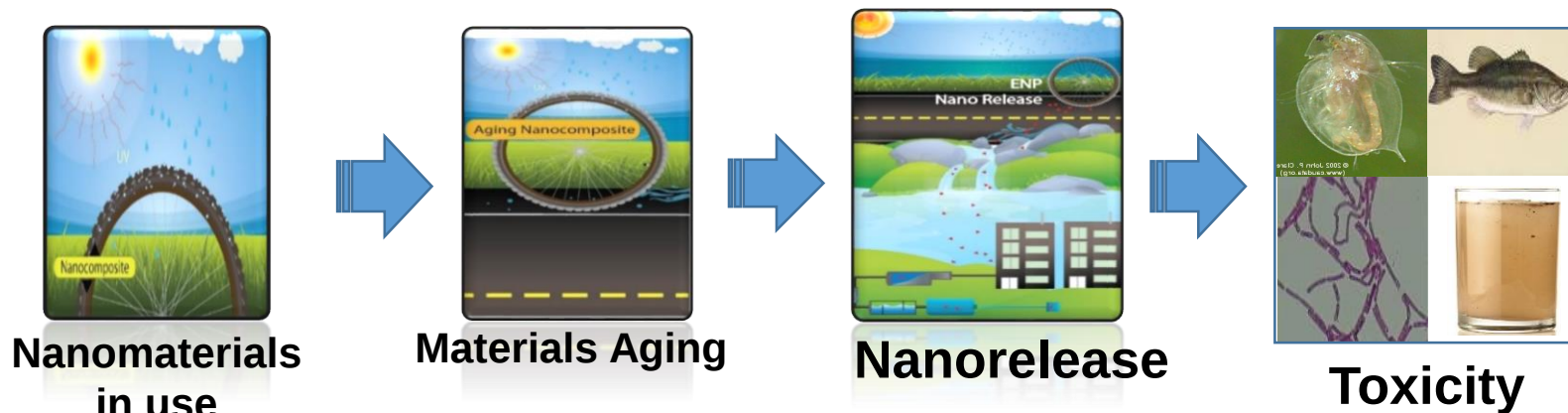


The Impacts of Nanocomposites Across their Life Cycle



E. Sahle-Demessie

U.S. EPA, Office of Research and Development, NRMRL, 26 W. M. Luther
king Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45268

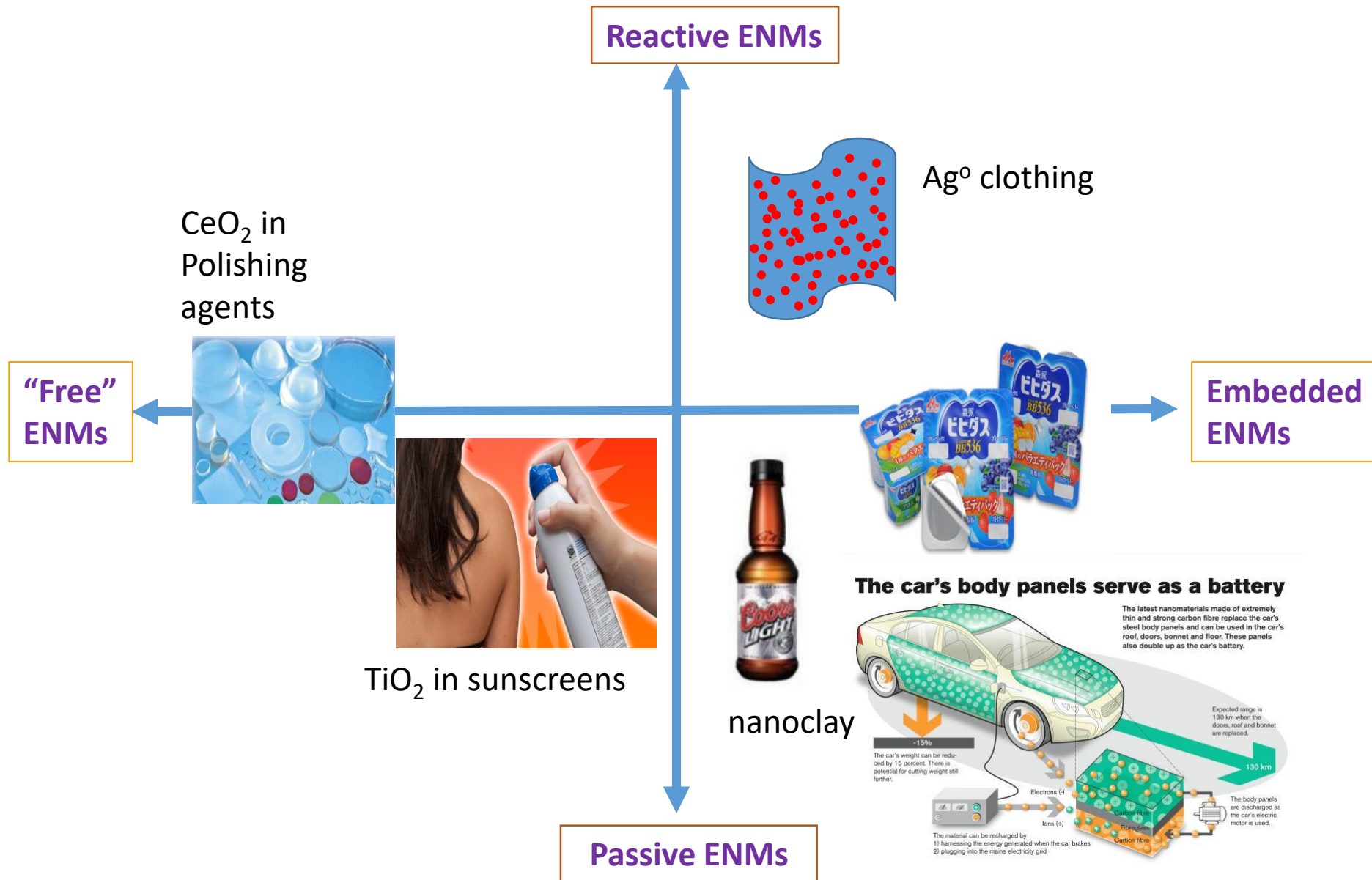
Sahle-demessie.endalkachew@epa.gov

Applications of Nanotechnology

- **Energy** – Improved efficiency of energy production and use production, catalysis, storage
- **Material** – New materials, Improved functionality of materials, → coatings, composites Lubrication, abrasives, paints, tires, sport ware
- **New processes** green nanotechnology, e.g., catalysis, adsorbents
- **Electronics & Optics** chips, screens
- **Food** – additives, package
- **Cosmetics** – skin, lotion, sun screen
- **Medicine** – diagnostics, drug delivery
- **Environmental Remediation** – Pollution prevention: Reducing use of chemicals Improved information and communication, absorption, water filtration, disinfection and sensor/detection



Nanomaterials in Consumer Products



Microplastics and nanoparticles in the Environment

Microplastics in the Ocean



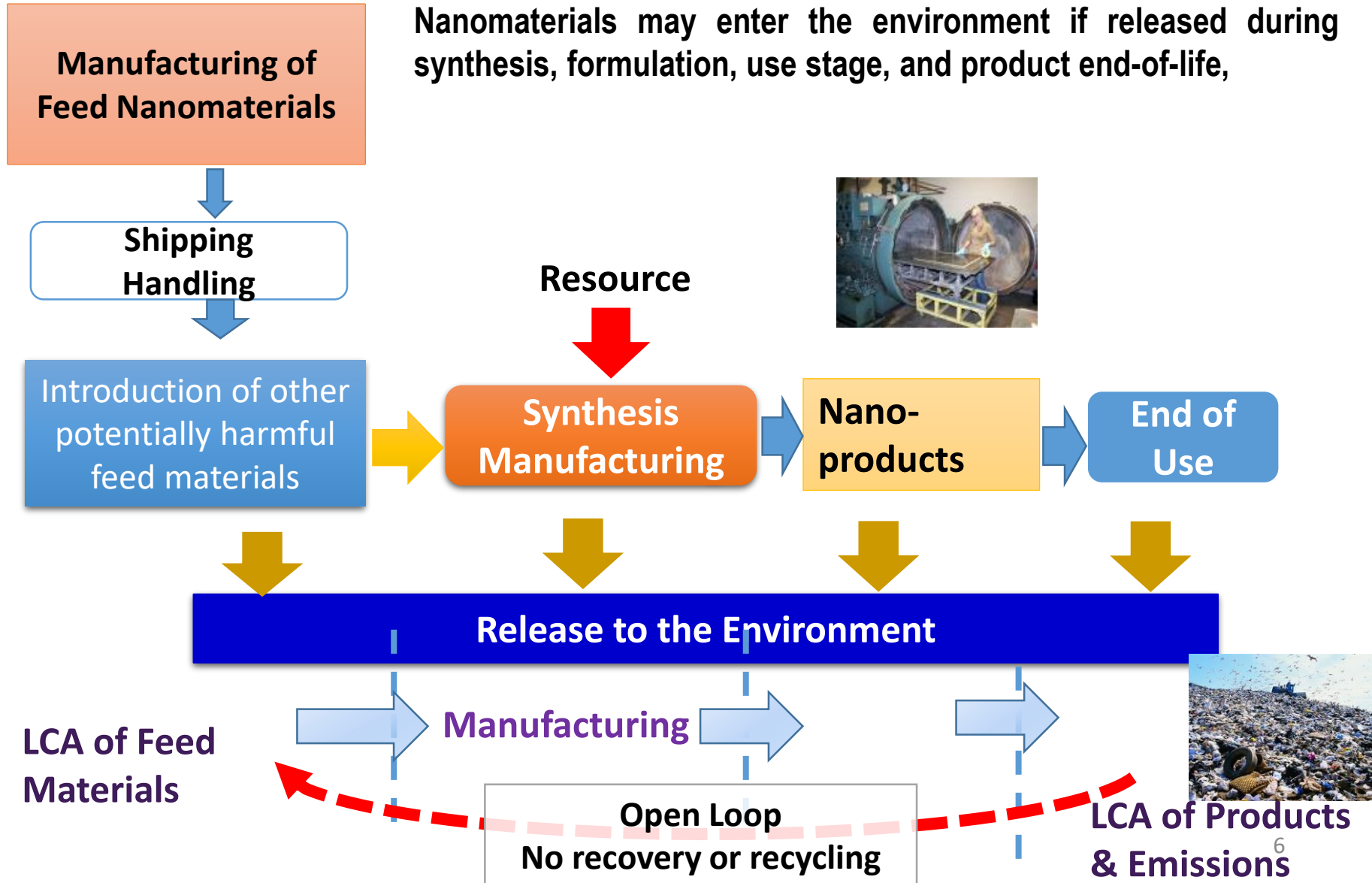
the health risks of nanomaterials in cosmetics and personal care products

Exfoliating microplastics bead for facial rubs



Environmental, Safety, and Health (ESH) Impact of Nano-products Across the Life Cycle

Nanomaterials may enter the environment if released during synthesis, formulation, use stage, and product end-of-life,

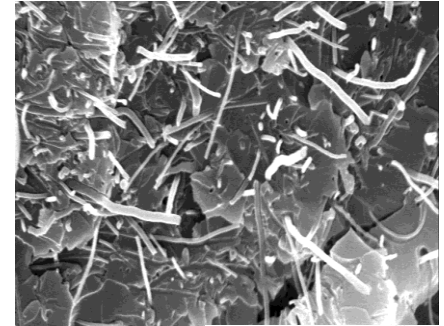


Potential Environmental Impacts of Nanomaterials

1) Increase use of Resources

- Increased exploitation and loss of scarce resources
- Higher requirement to materials and chemicals
- Increased energy demand in production lines

Polypropylene with CNF

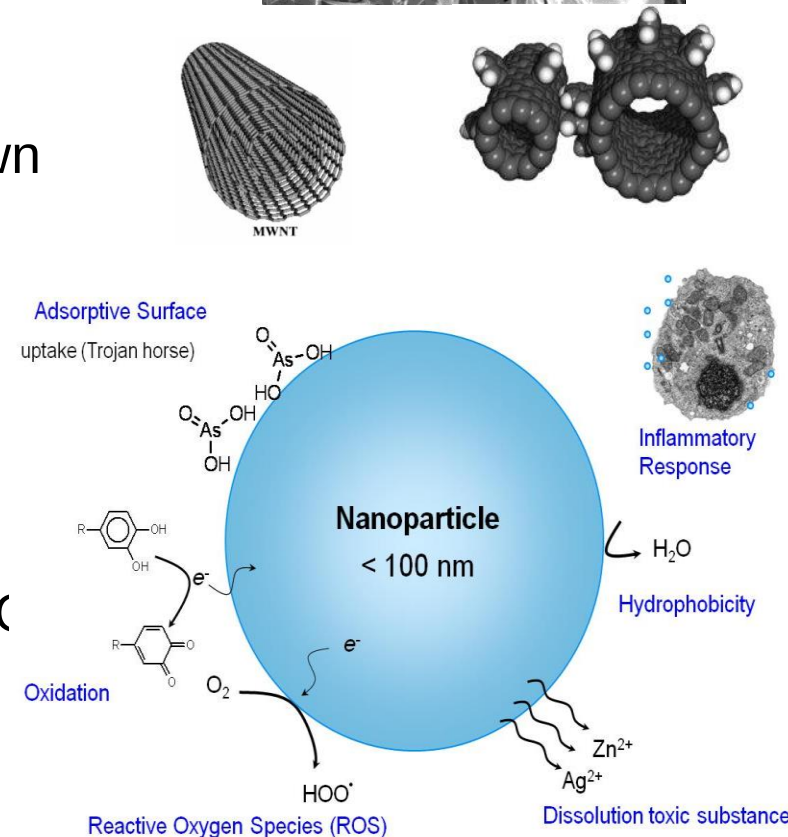


2) Waste generation

- Increased waste production in top down production
- One way system: little disassembly, recycling or incineration problems

3) Toxicity

- Toxicological risks to humans and the environment
- Potential released from products or EC



Nanomaterial Implication EPA's Research

Distribution in soils, water, air

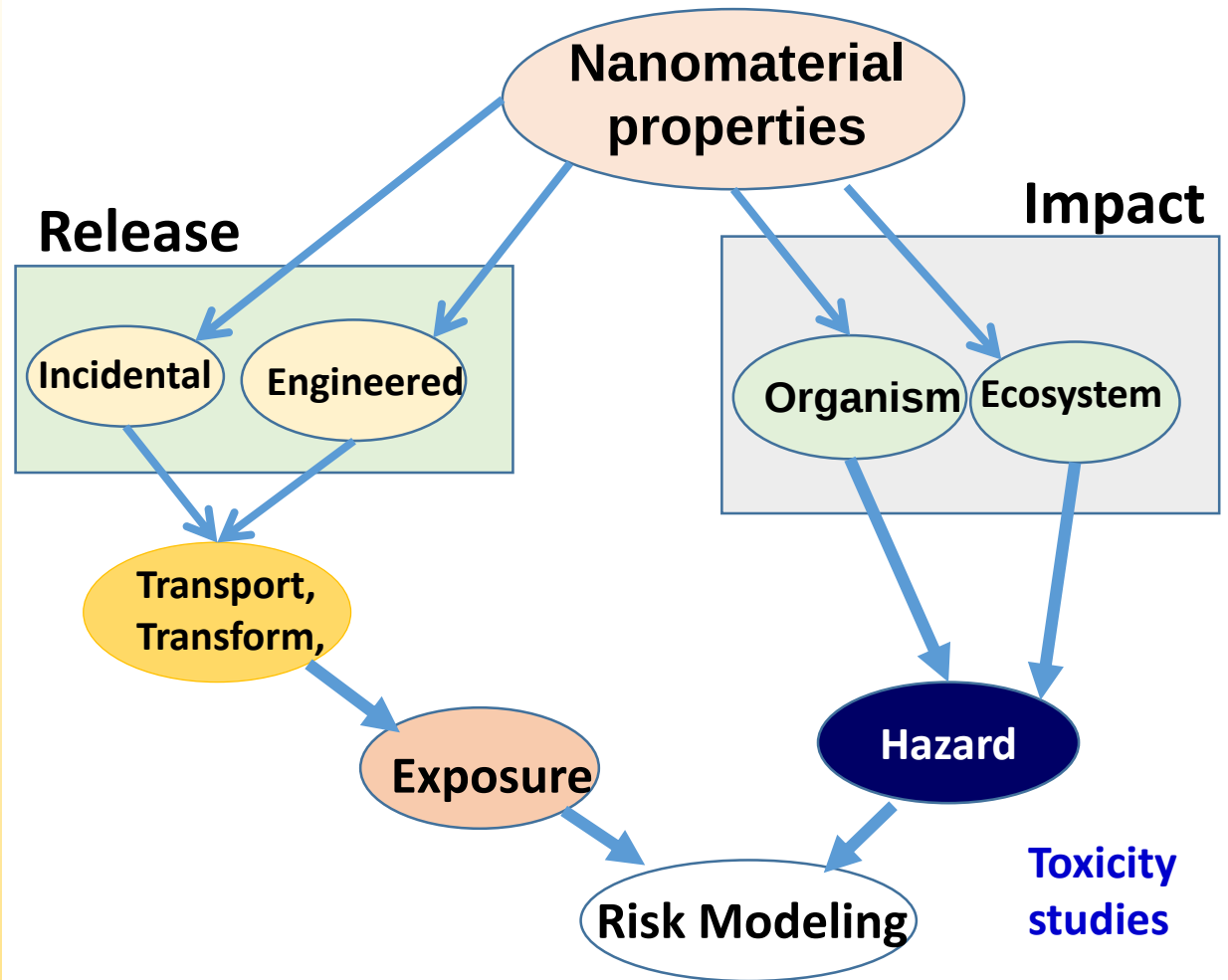
- Transport, transformation and fate
- Reactivity
- Unique challenges?

Impacts on ecosystems and particular species

- Either direct (toxicity)
- Indirect (changes local conditions or prey)

Toxics - Impacts on human health -

- Exposure--Inhalation, ingestion, contact
- Dose-Response
- Bioaccumulation, biotransformation, bioavailability



Analysis of ENM in different matrices is critical !



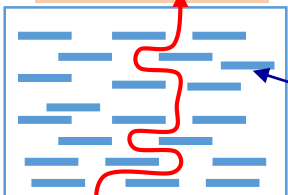
Enhanced Materials with Nanoadditives



Mechanical
Strength

Heat
stability

Barrier
Water/air



Permeability

Clay

Transparency /
Optics

Cellulose
nanofiber

Carbon
nanofiber

Nanoclay

CNT

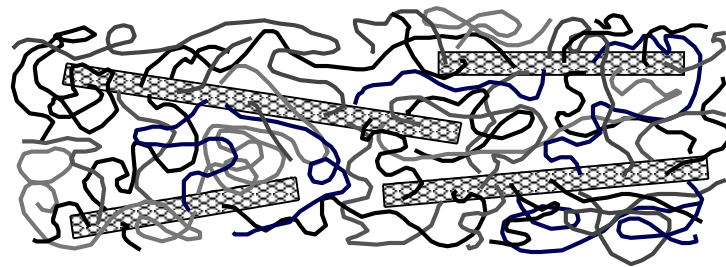
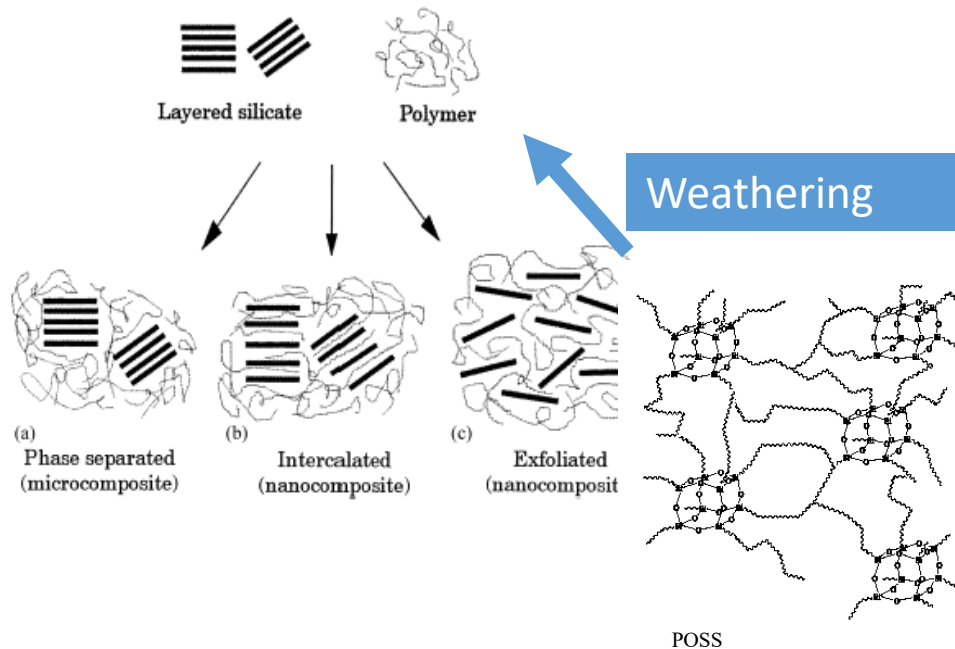
Water-solvent
sensitivity

Biocompatibility

Electrical
Anti-static
ESD, EMI conductivity

Fire retardants

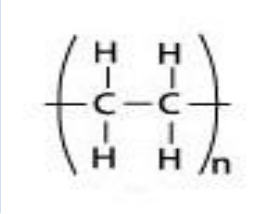
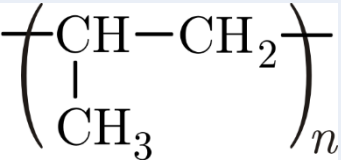
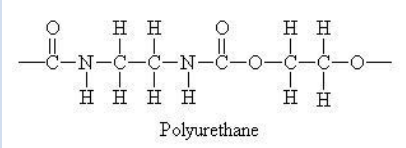
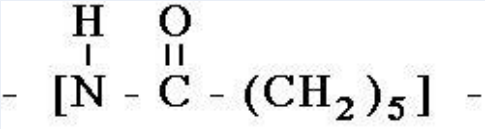
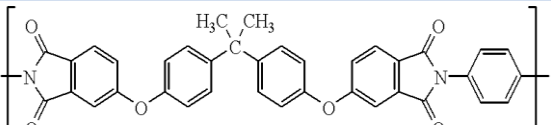
Polymer Nanocomposites



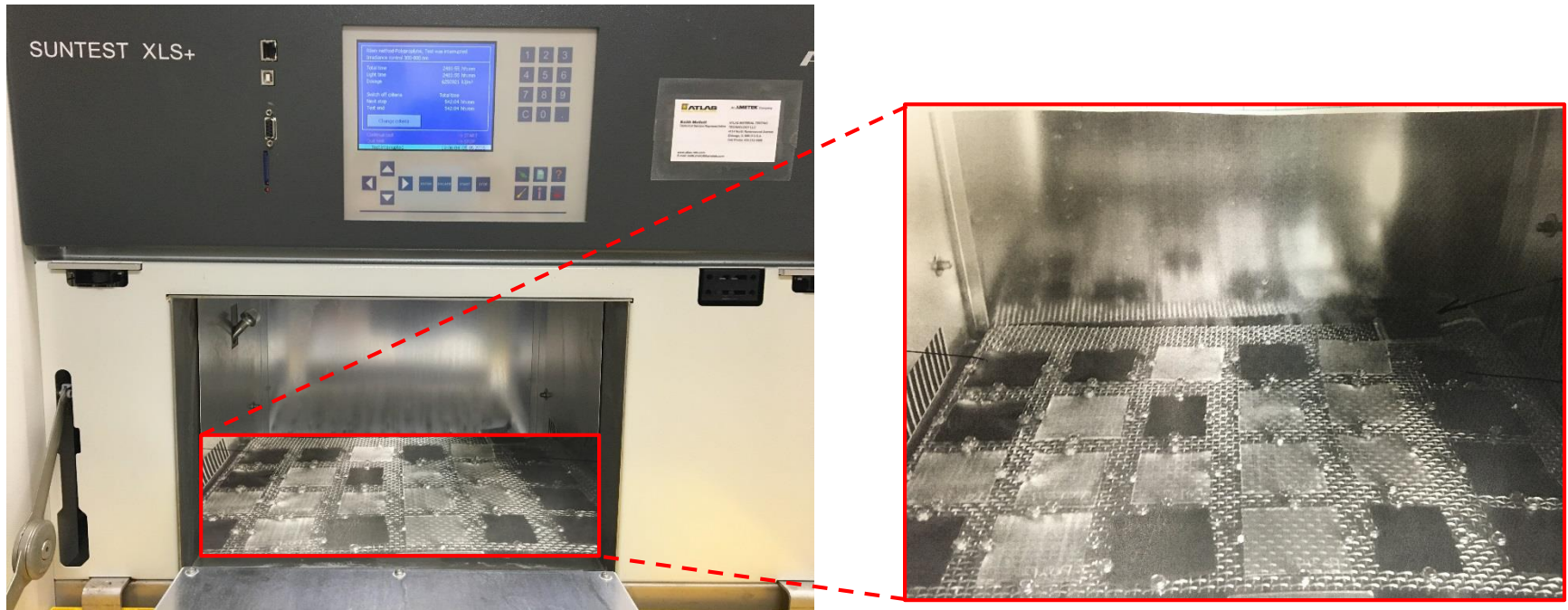
Carbon Nanotubes

- Polymerization develops 3D structure with nano-reinforcement
- How does weathering age composites?
- Does it reverse the process to separate the nano-reinforcement from polymer ?

Composites tested for weathering

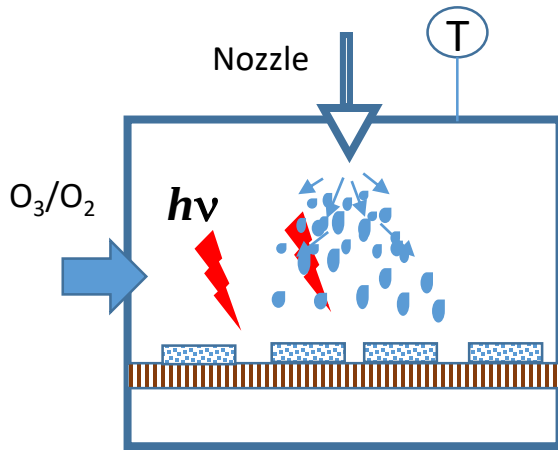
Polymer		Additive	Properties/Use
	Polyethylene	Nano-clay (2 – 6%)	Excellent chemical resistance, robust and flexible. <u>Usage</u> - packaging, plastic bags, plastic films, geomembranes, bottles.
	Polypropylene	CNF / CNT	high temperature resistance, good chemical resistance, translucent. <u>Usage</u> - trays, funnels, pails bottles, instrument jars
	Polyurethane	CNT	- hardness, tensile strength, compression and impact resistance. <u>Usage</u> - rigid and flexible foams, insulation, boating
	Nylon 6 (Polyamide)	CNT	high strength, amorphous, heat and flame resistant. <u>Usage</u> - automotive, healthcare, additive manufacturing
	Ultem® 1000 Polyetherimide	CNT	high-strength amorphous excellent heat and flame resistance, used for additive manufacturing

Solar Aging System



- ❑ A cycle of weathering: 120 min (Sunshine : 98 min and Rain: 12 min)
- ❑ The cycle continuously repeats during the aging process
- ❑ Humidity: 8-20% for Sunshine and over 60% for Rain
- ❑ Irradiation: 700 W/m² and Wavelength: 300-800 nm
- ❑ Chamber Temperature: 33-37 °C
- ❑ Black Substance Temperature: 65 °C
- ❑ Sampling time: 756, 1512, 2268, and 3024 h

Studying Photo-initiated Oxidation of Nanocomposite



Accelerated weathering chamber

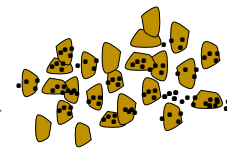
Challenge:

Uniformity
Reproducibility →
Standard Methods

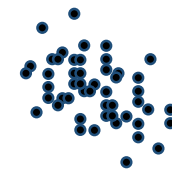
Washing/sonication



Aging:
Characterization
Kinetics
Mechanism
Prediction



NP
embedded in
microplastics

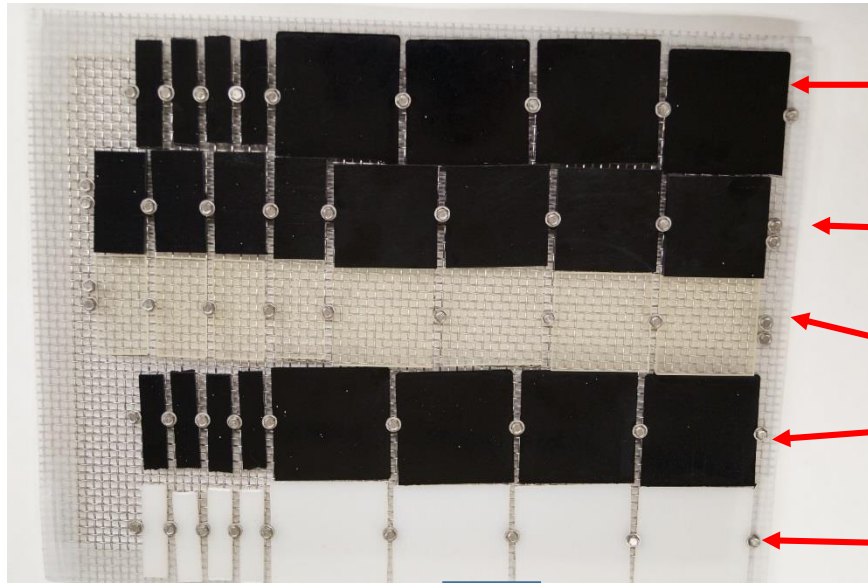


NanoRelease?

Analysis:
*Thermal
Mechanical
Spectroscopic
Imaging
XRD*

Analysis:
*Spectroscopy (UV)
ICP-MS
SP-ICP-MS
Imaging
???*

NanoRelease Weathering Project



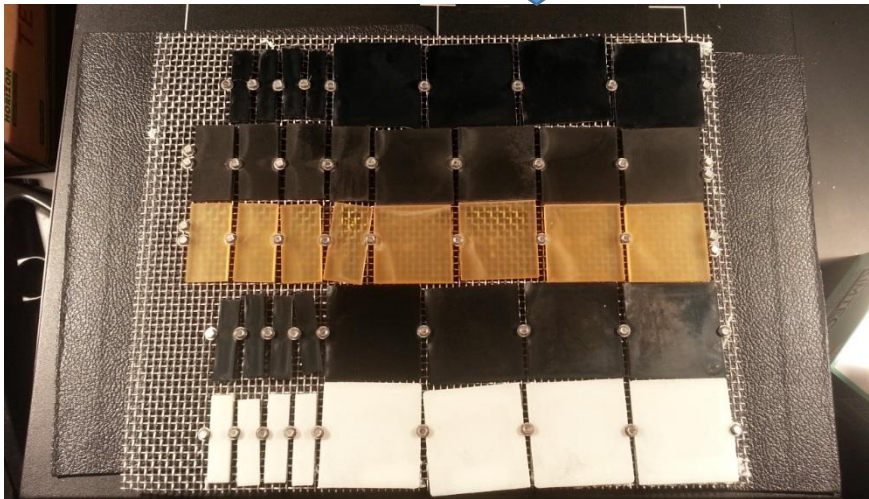
Polyimide with 2% CNT wafer

Epoxy with 4% CNT

Epoxy

Polyimide with 4% CNT wafer

Polyimide wafer



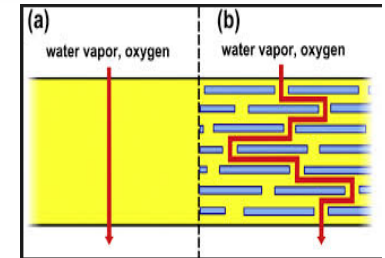
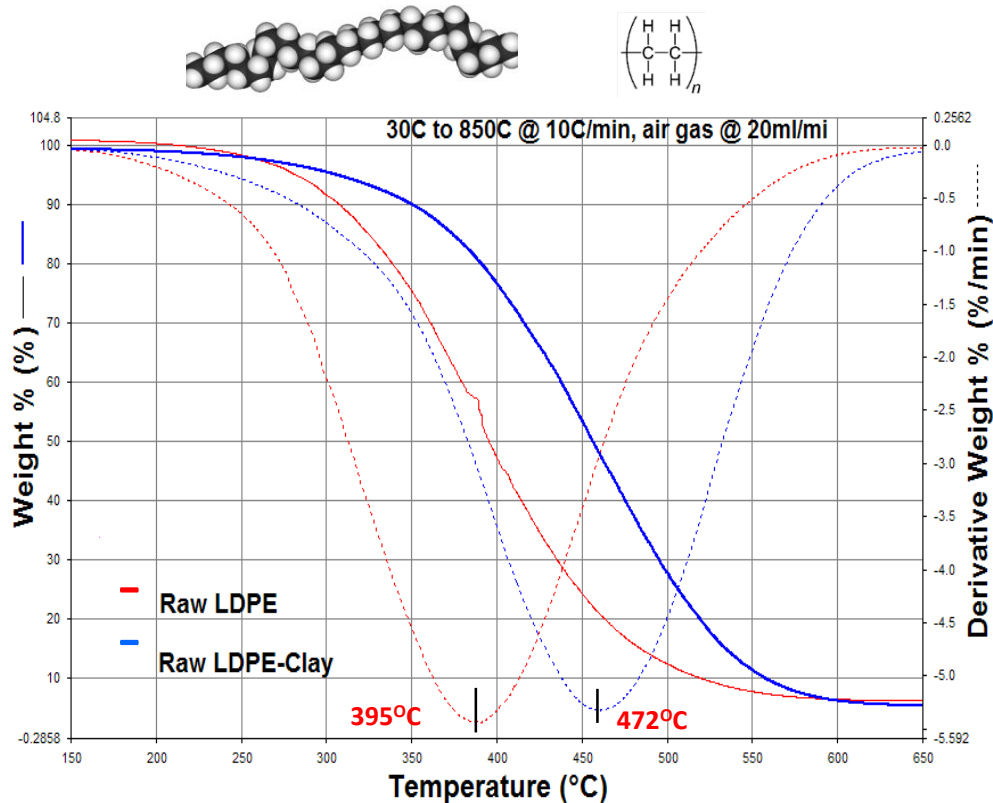
Aged wafers

Measuring Weathering of Nano-Composites

Thermal Analysis

- Thermogravimetric analysis(TGA)
- Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC)

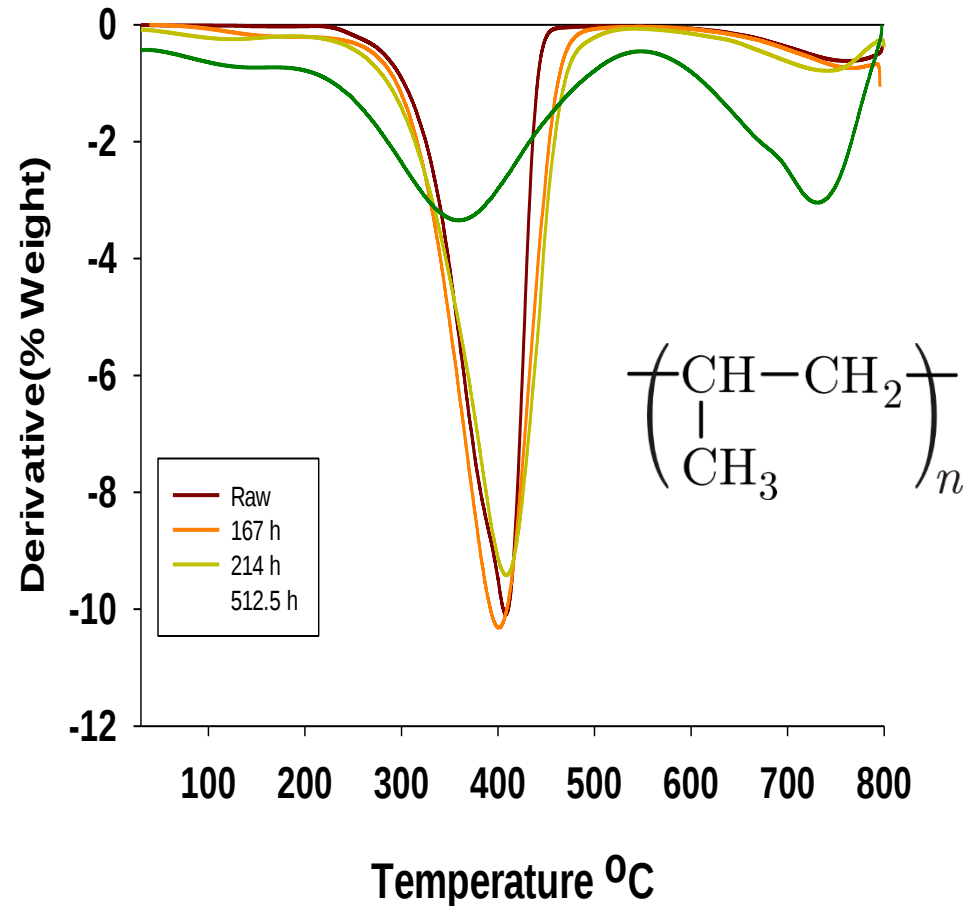
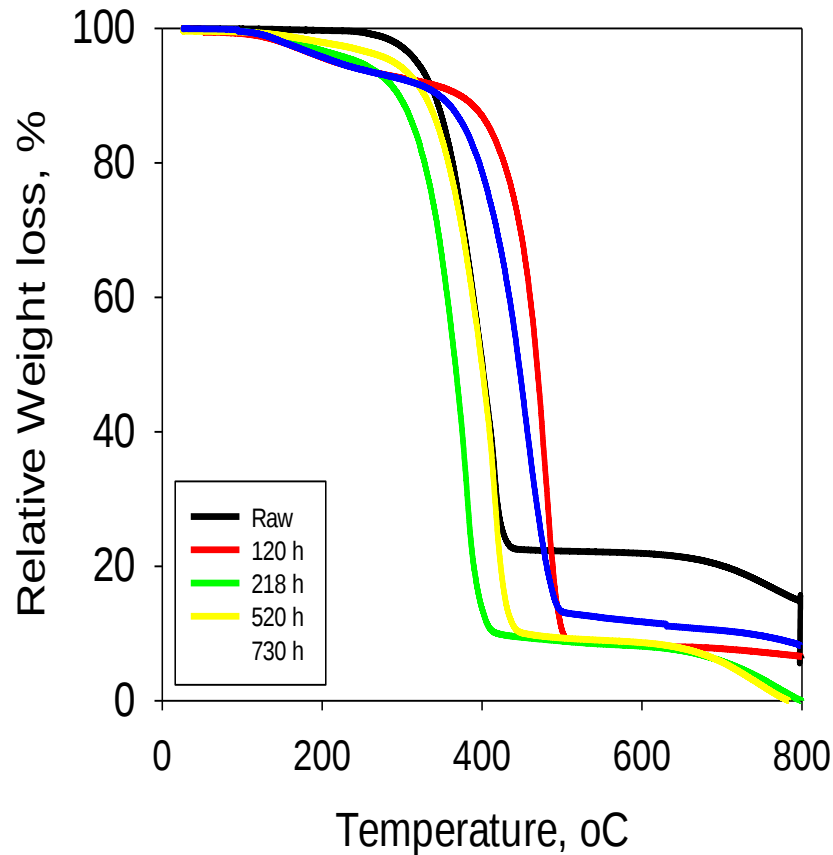
Nanoclay in polyethylene Improved Thermal stability



Barrier - Quality
Bio-Sensor – Safety
Gas sensor

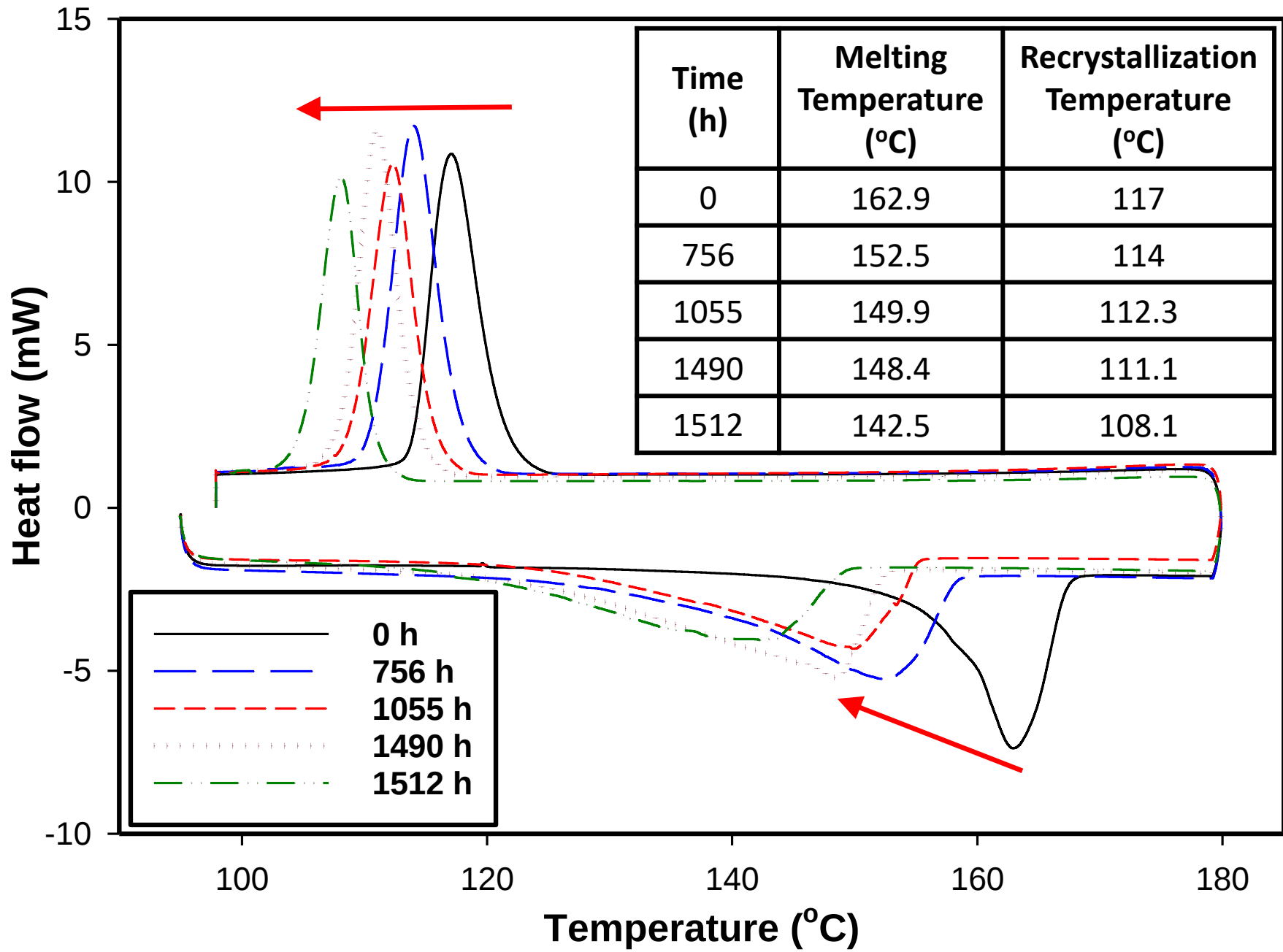
30°C hold for 1min, to 850°C @ 10°C/min, Air flow 20ml/min.

Thermal analysis to measure the Effect of Ozone on composite of Polypropylene with 8% CNF



Initially PP showed some increase in thermal stability initially, before it start to degrade.

DSC analysis for Solar aged P01 samples



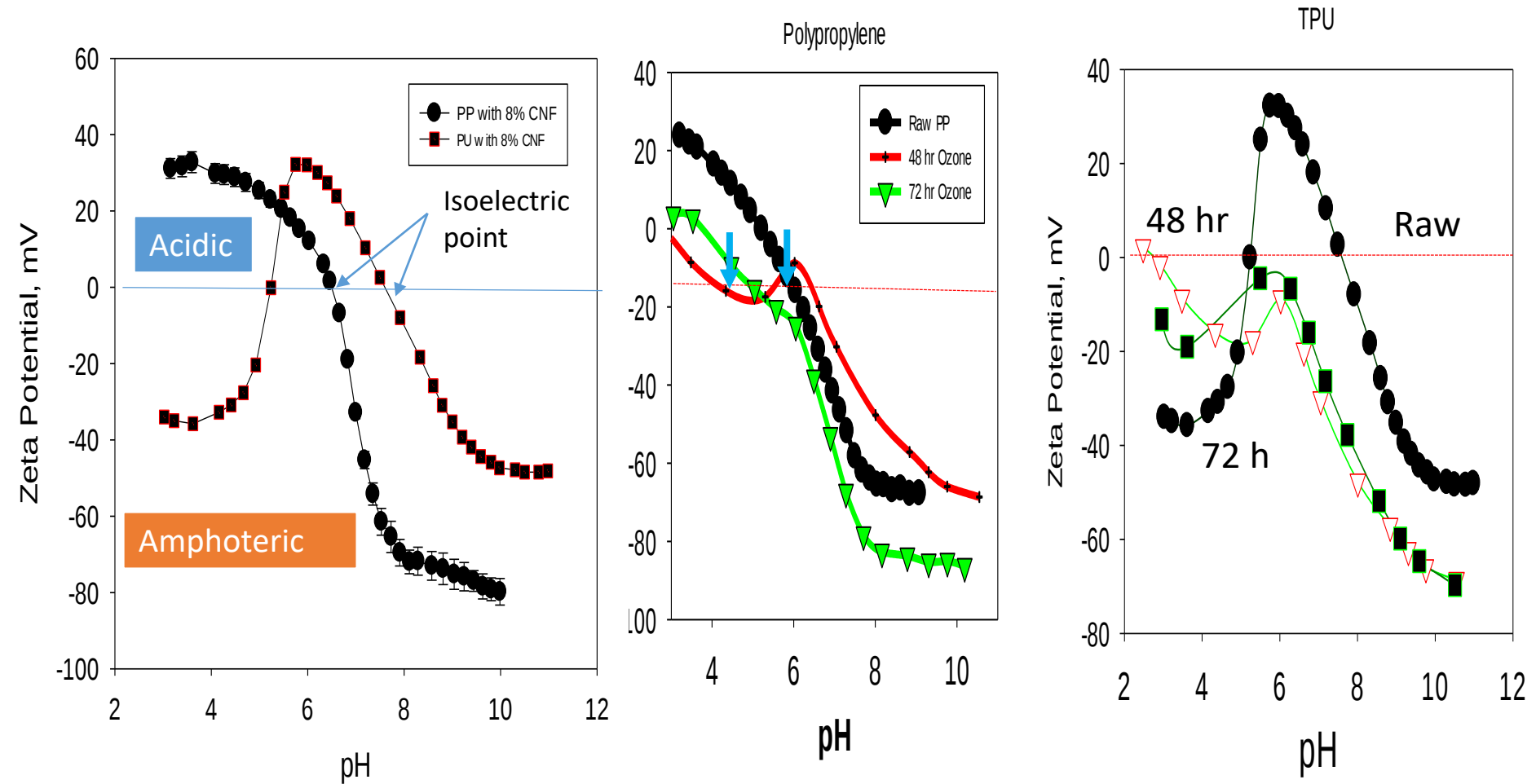
Measuring Weathering of Nano-Composites

Physical and Structural Properties

- **Surface Charge – Streaming potential**
 - **Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM)**
 - **X-ray Diffraction Analyzer**

Changes in surface charge during Ozone aging of Nanocomposite polypropylene and polyurethane

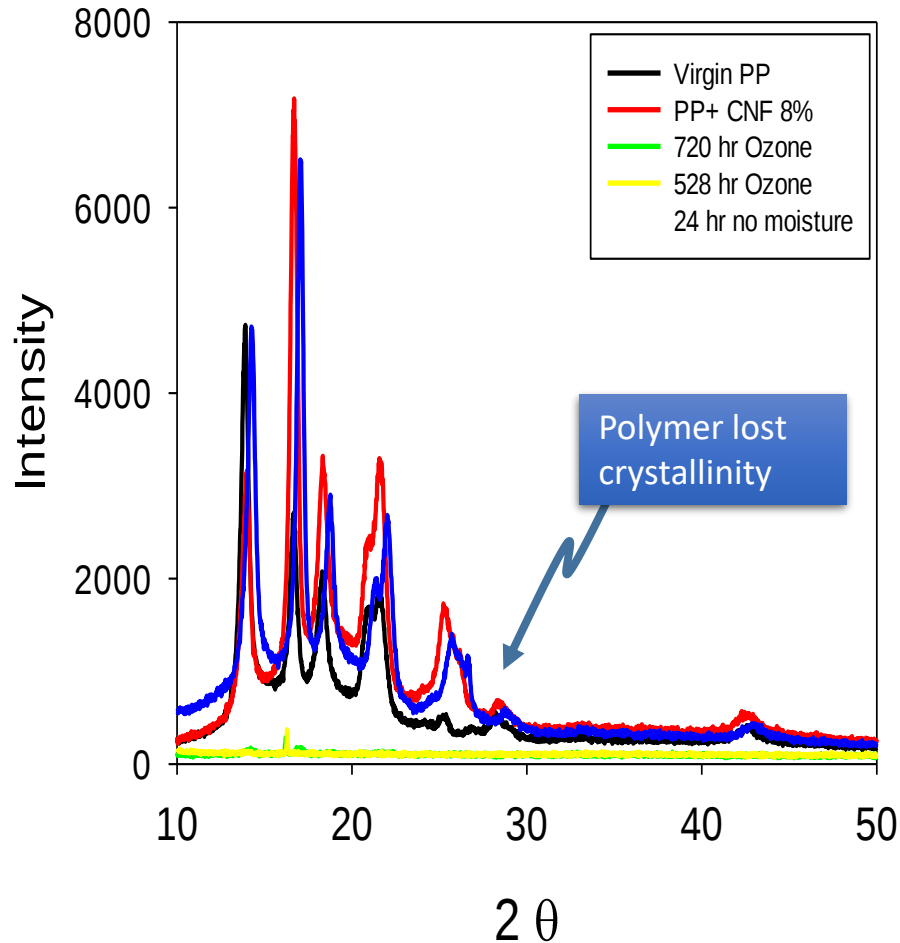
Streaming Potential Analysis of Polymer - CNF composites



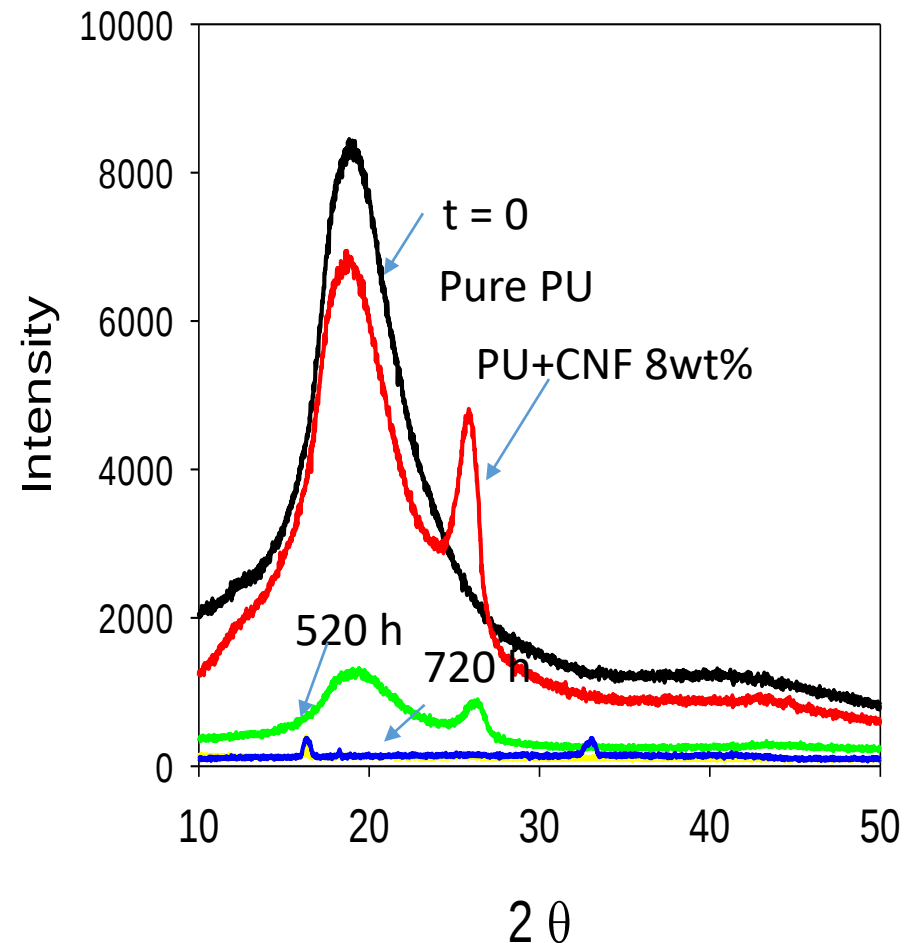
Changes in surface charge after 24 h & 48 h

X-ray diffraction analysis of weathered CNF composites

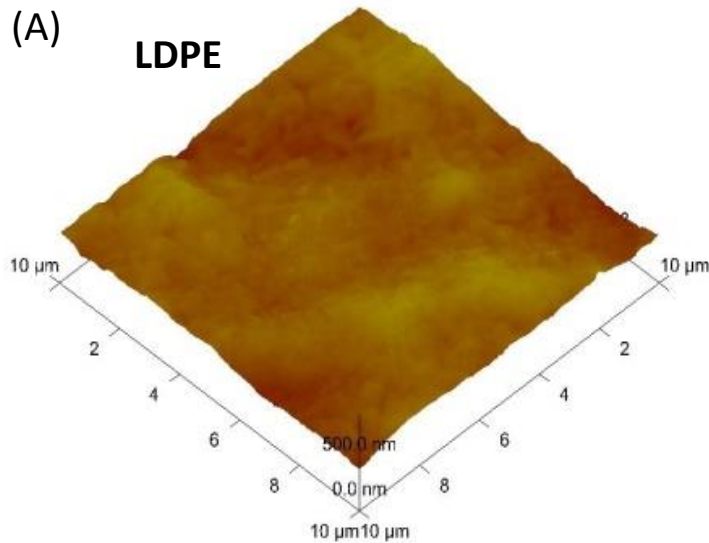
XRD measurement of Polypropylene during Weathering



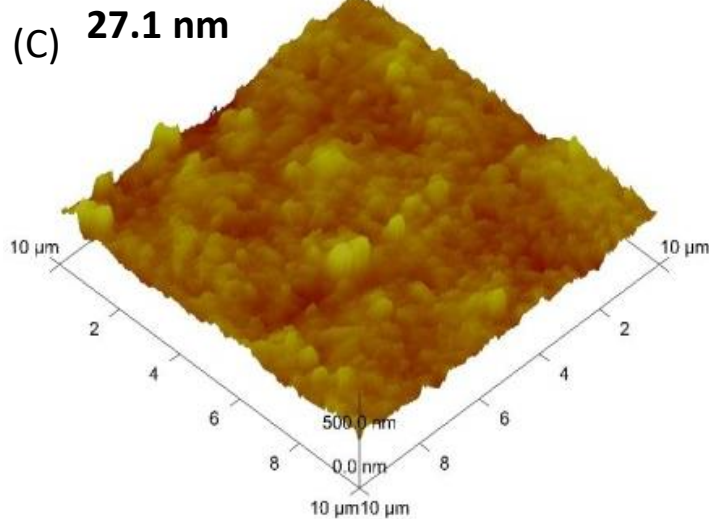
Loss of Polyurethane crystalline structure during Ozone weathering



Atomic Force Microscopy images of pristine and aged Polyethylene Nanoclay filled PE food packaging films

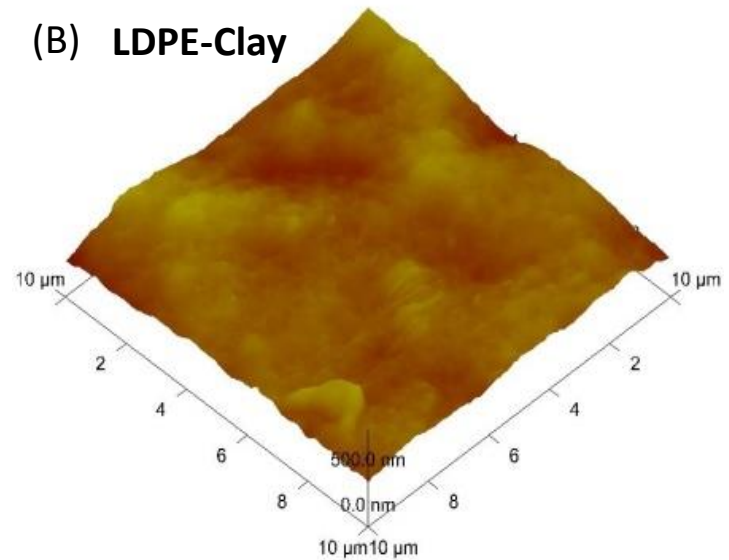


4h UV, Surface roughness:

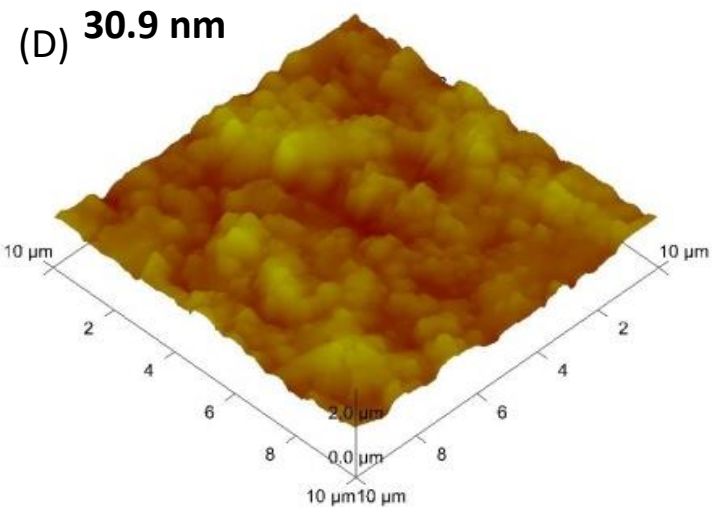


100h UV, Surface roughness:

38.7 nm



4h UV, Surface roughness:



100h UV, Surface roughness:

173.0 nm

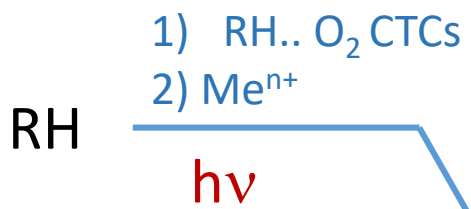
Measuring Weathering of Nano-Composites

Chemical Properties

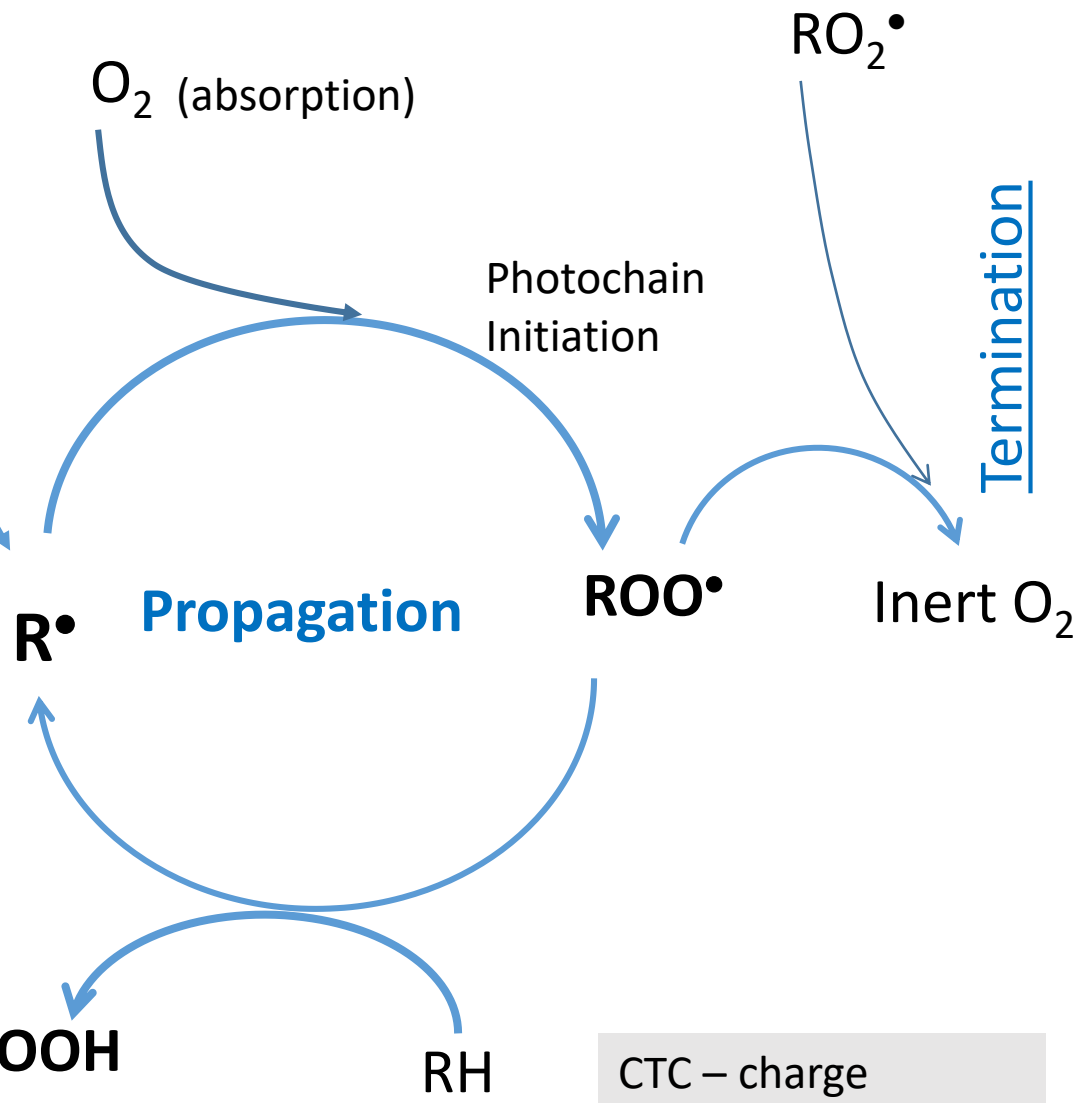
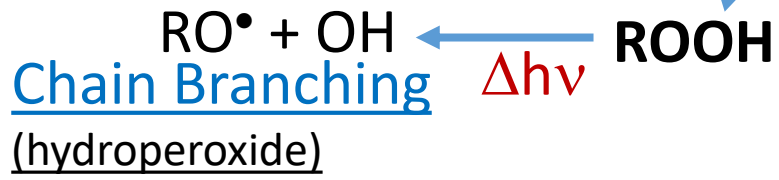
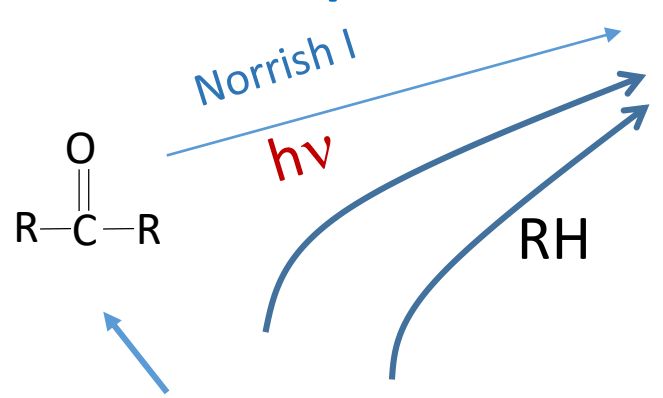
- **Chemiluminescence Analyzer (CL)**
 - **Infrared Spectroscopy(FTIR)**

Photooxidation of polymers: Chain and Photochain Mechanism

1. Direct Initiation

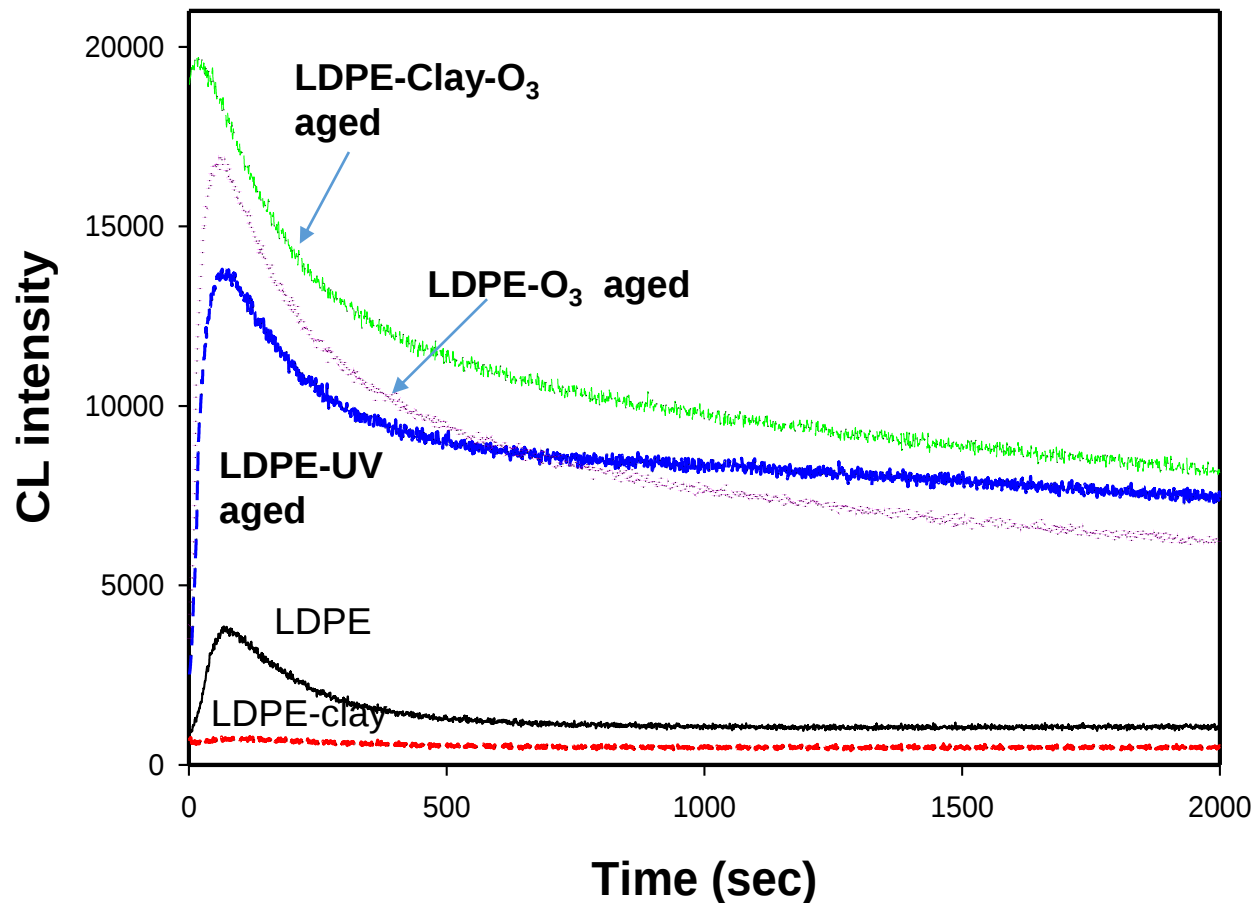


2. Oxidative Impurities



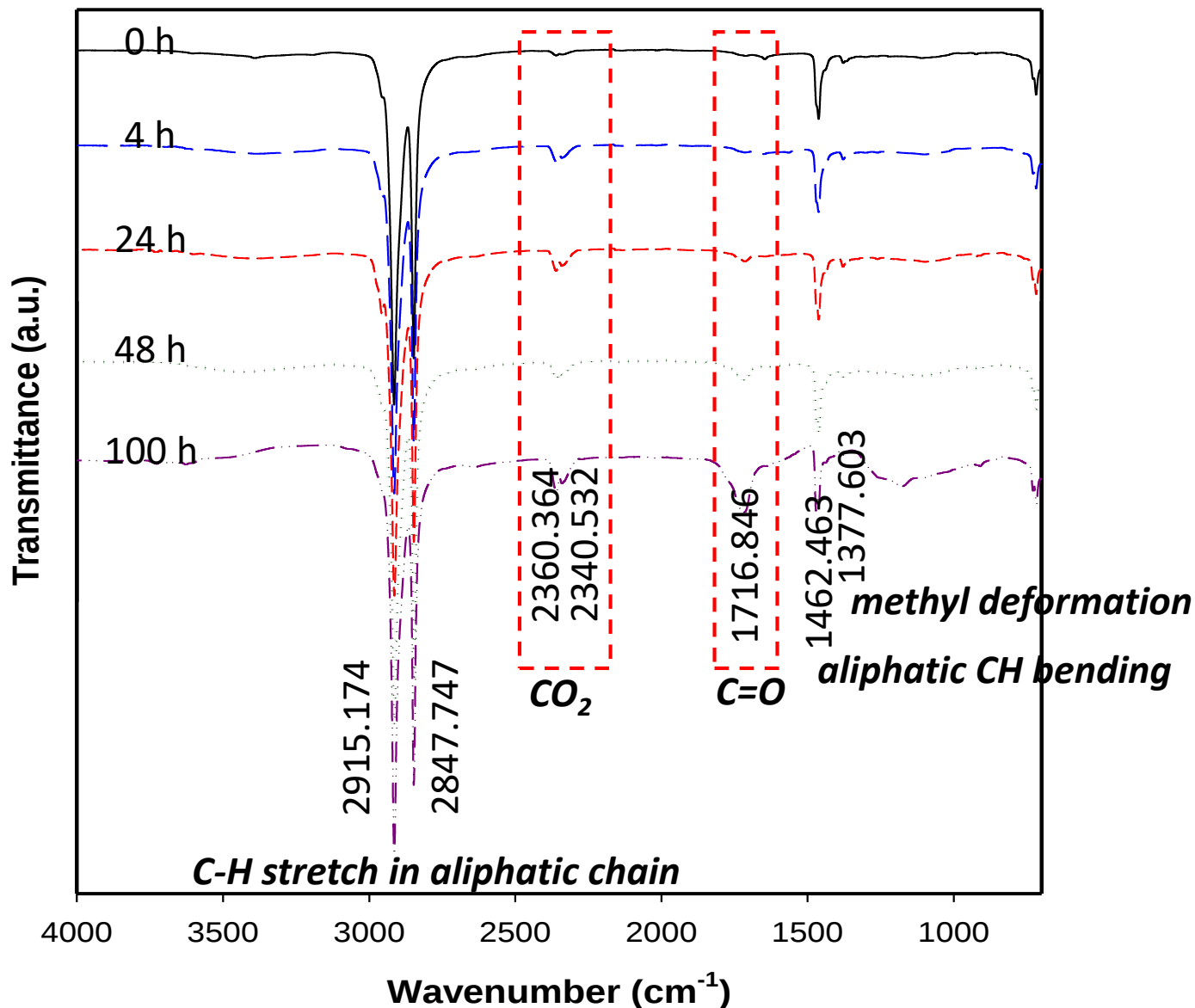
CTC – charge transfer complexes

Isothermal chemiluminescence results for pristine and clay composite LDPE before and after aging

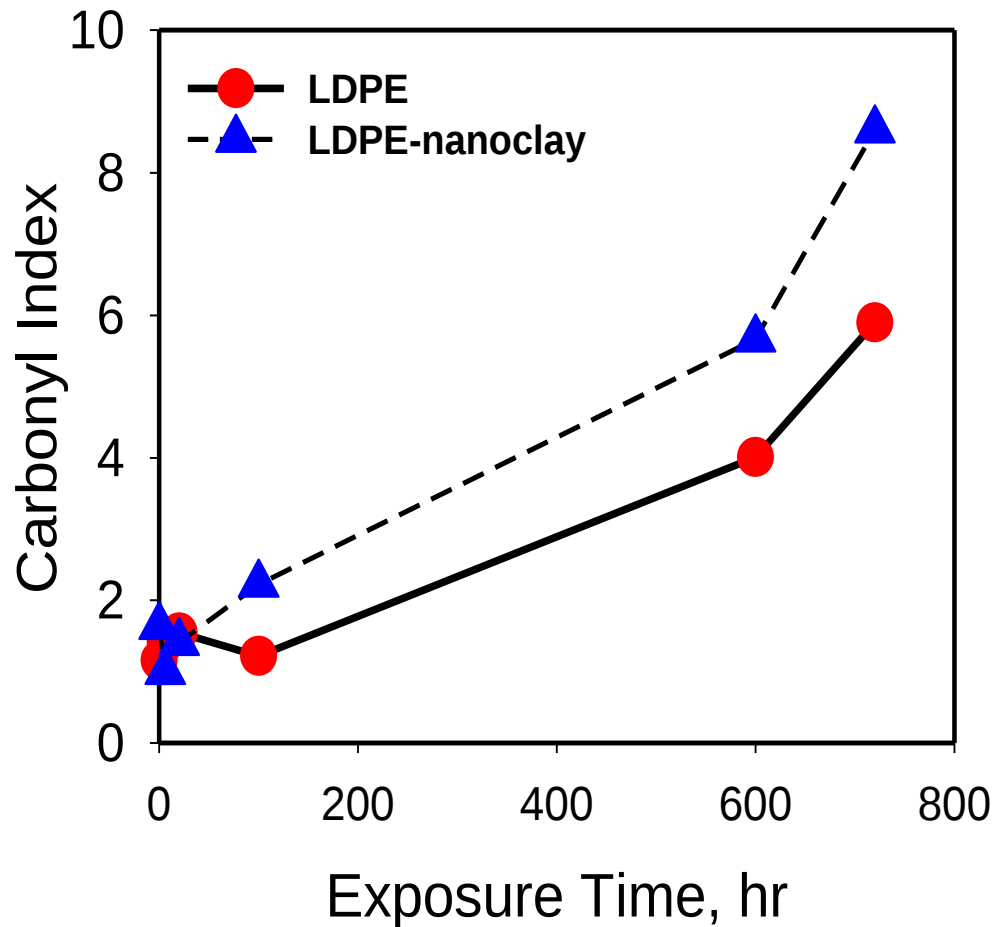


Clay composites showed higher chemiluminescence intensity due to the direct oxidation of the polymer additives giving. The rate of oxidative attack is then related to the intensity of the signal and the molar mass of radicals formed.

Fourier Transfer Infrared Spectroscopy of aged LDPE

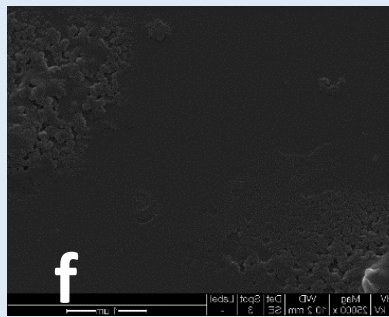
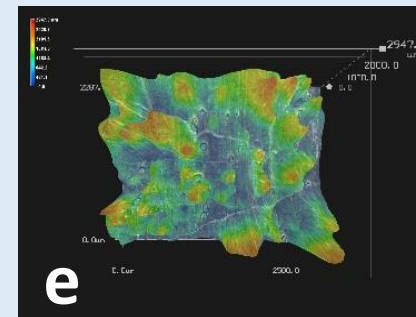
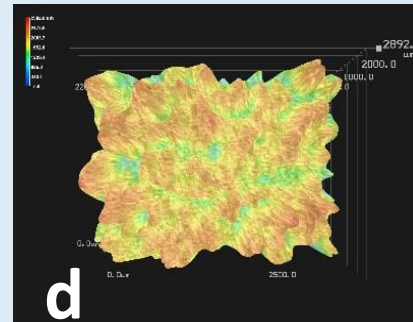
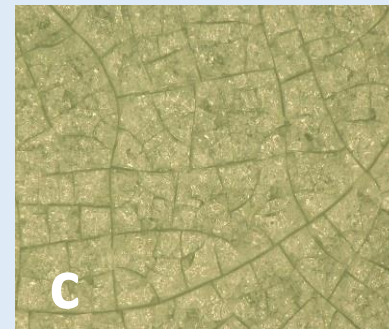
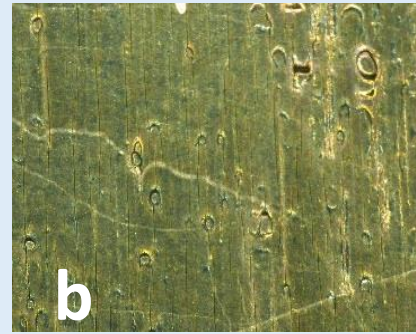
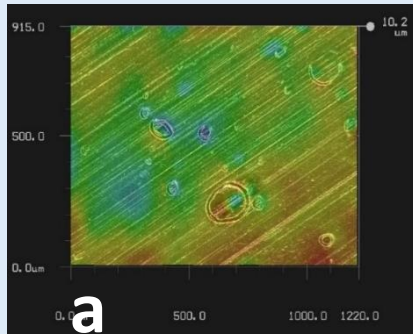


Comparing Carbonyl Index for Ozone exposed pure- and clay-enforced polyethylene

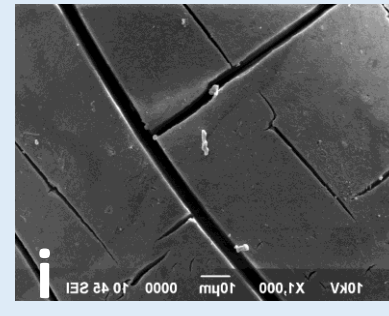
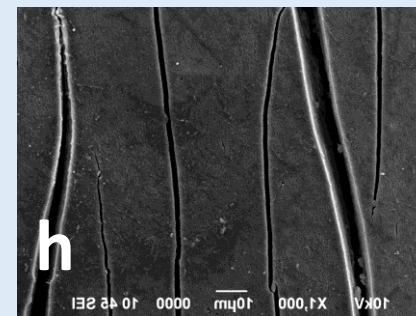
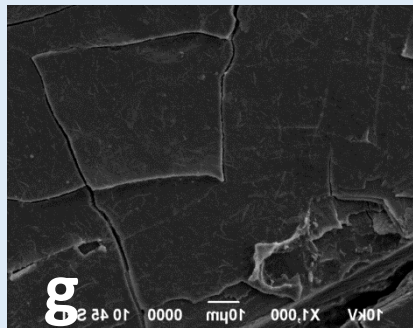


$$\text{Carbonyl Index (CI)} = \frac{\text{Absorption at } 1740 \text{ cm}^{-1}}{\text{Absorption at } 2020 \text{ cm}^{-1}}$$

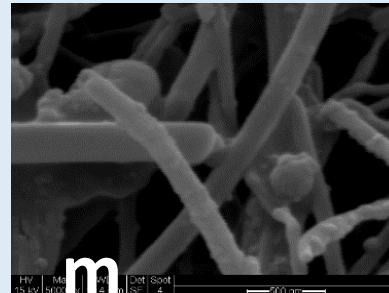
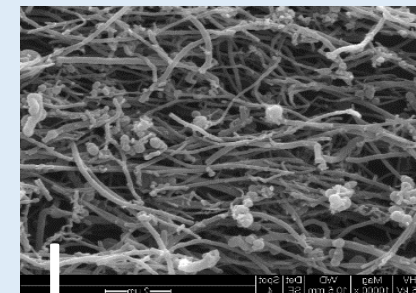
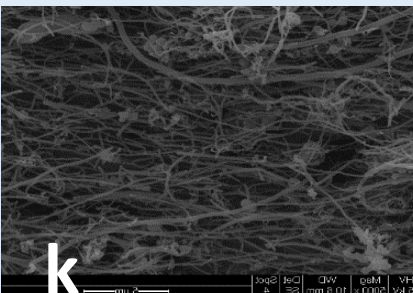
Optical image



3-D Optical
Surface
morphology

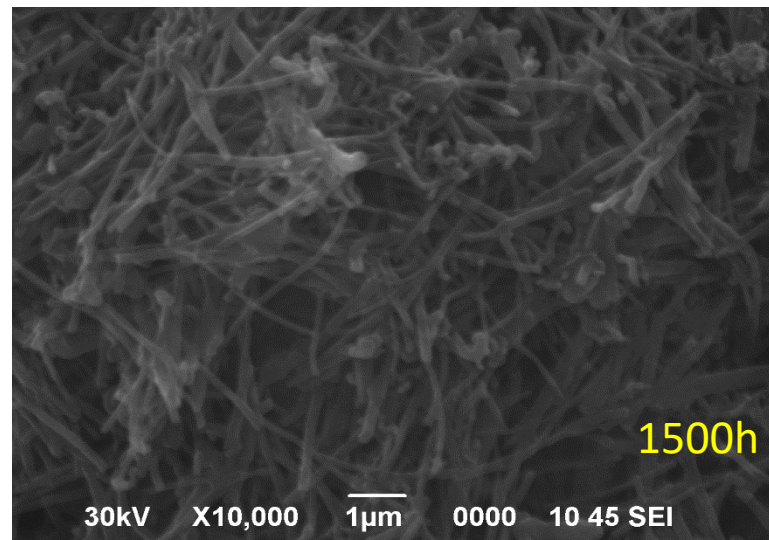
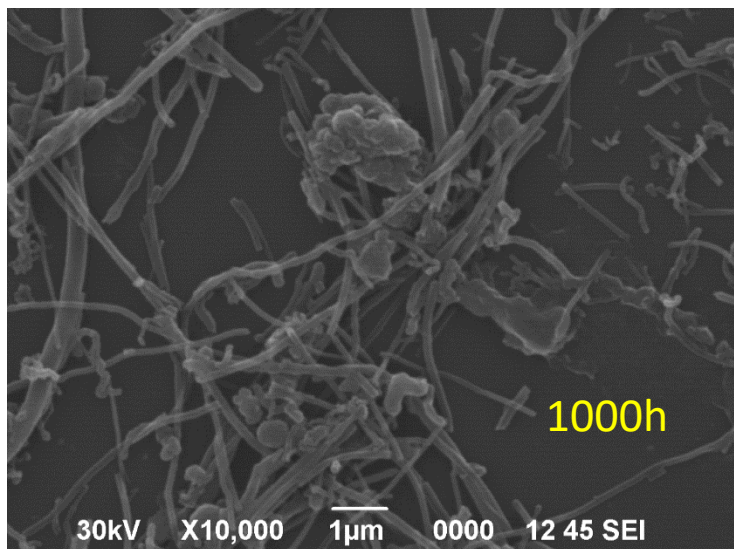
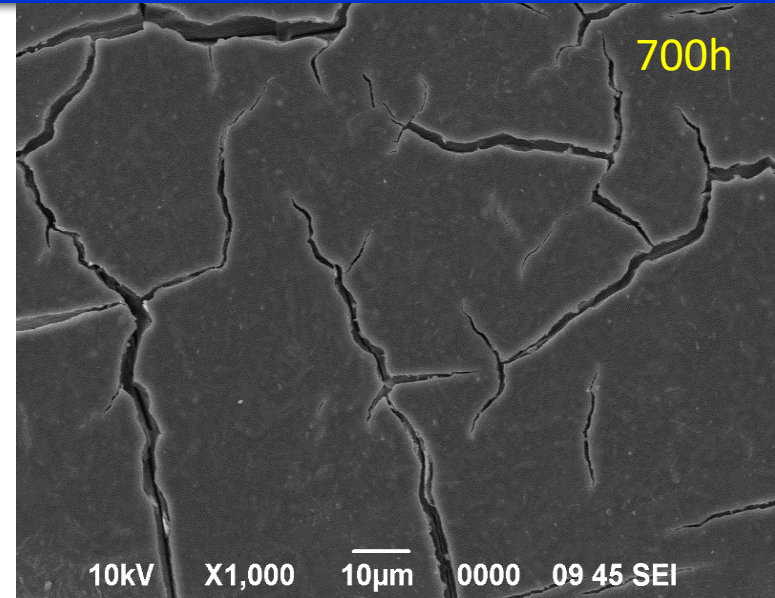
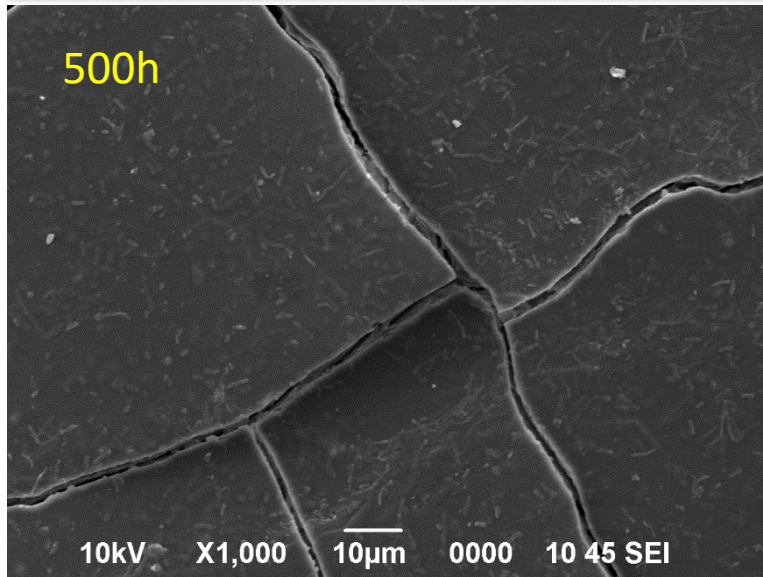


SEM Image
g- 120 h
h, i – 220 h



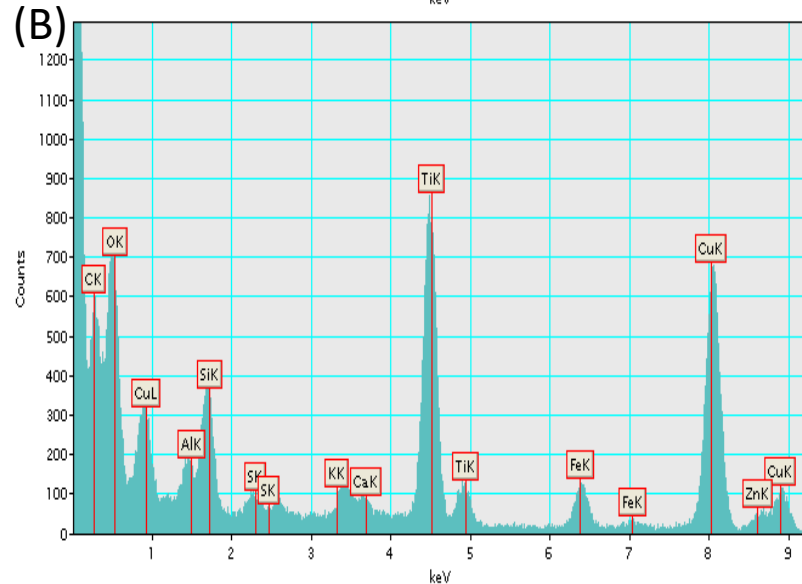
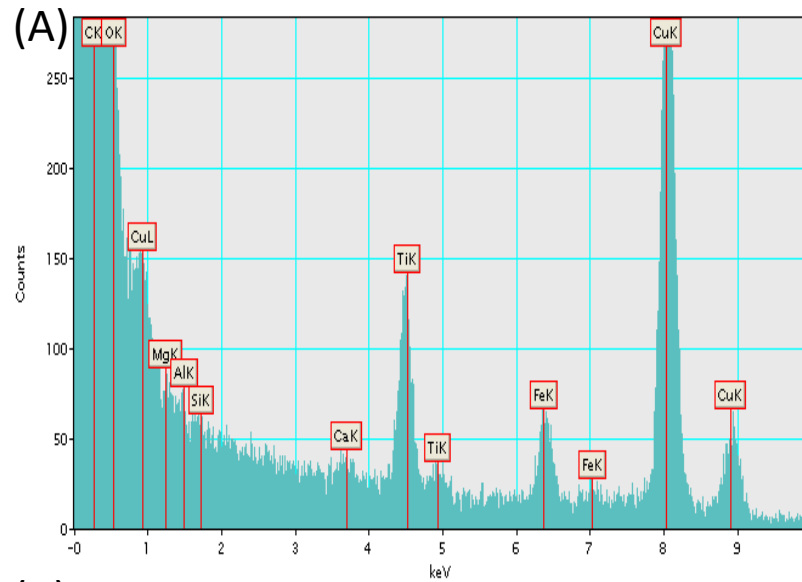
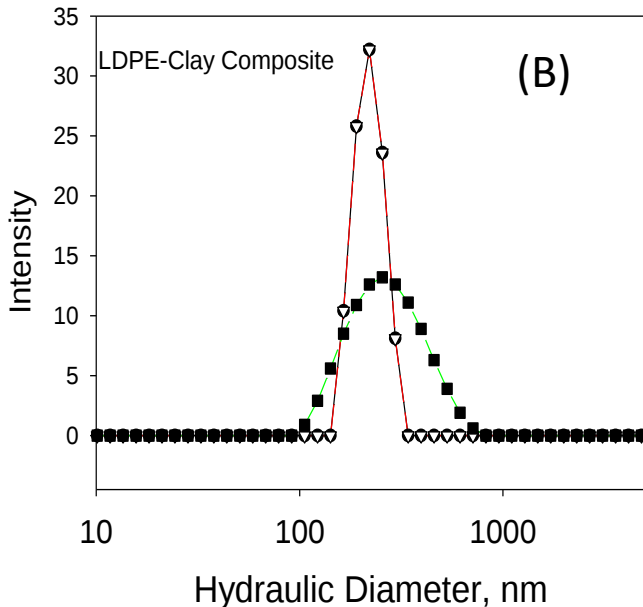
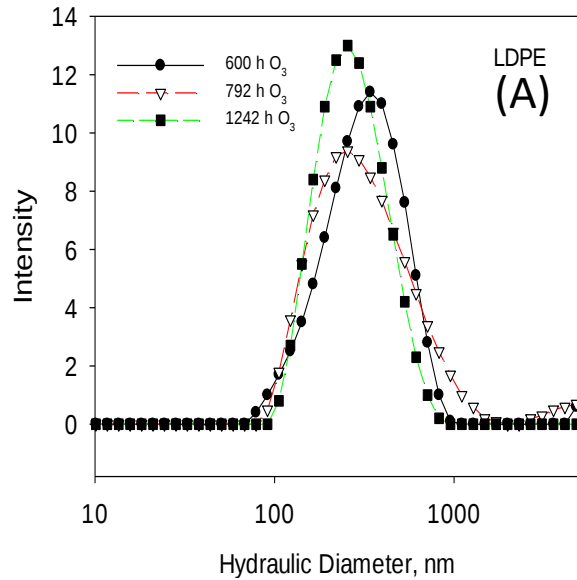
SEM Image
k - 300 h
l,m – 550, 720 h

Scanning Electron micrograph of UV aged Nylon with 2% CNT

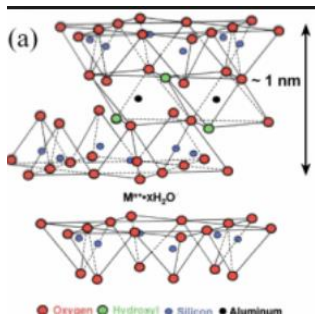


Measuring Release nanoparticles from of Nano-Composites

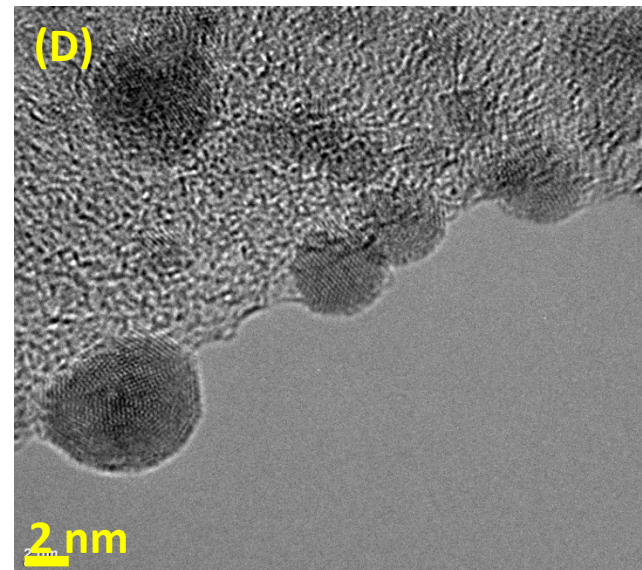
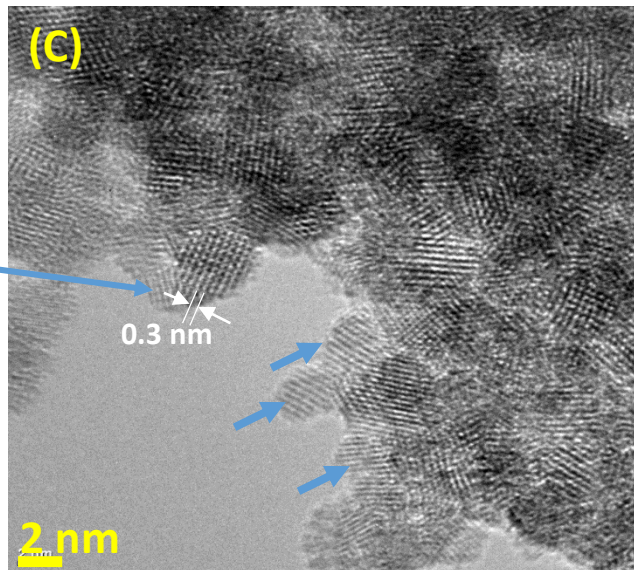
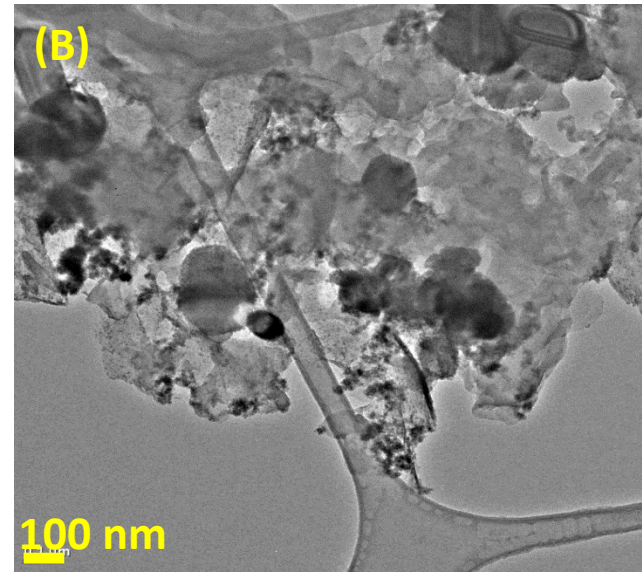
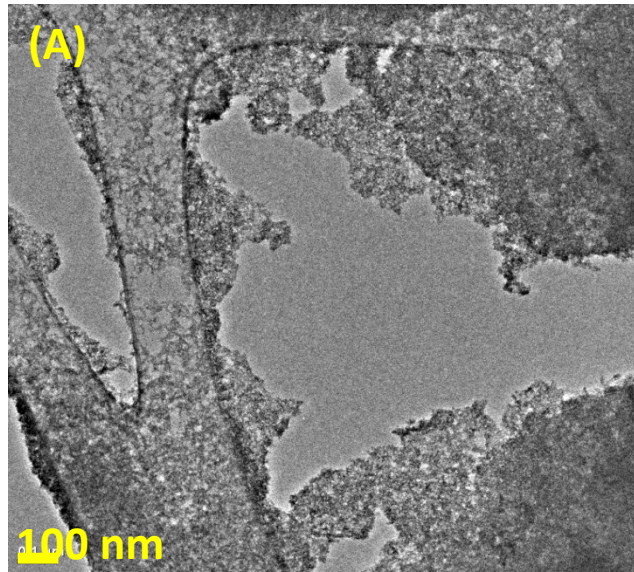
Composite and Size distribution of Nanoclay released from Polymer Matrix



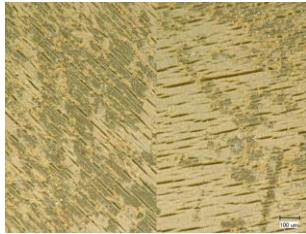
Transmission Electron Microscopy of nanoclay particles released from washed aged polyethylene composite



Layered
clay



Composition of Clay NP released from food packaging



Aged LDPE
sample

Measured area
sample

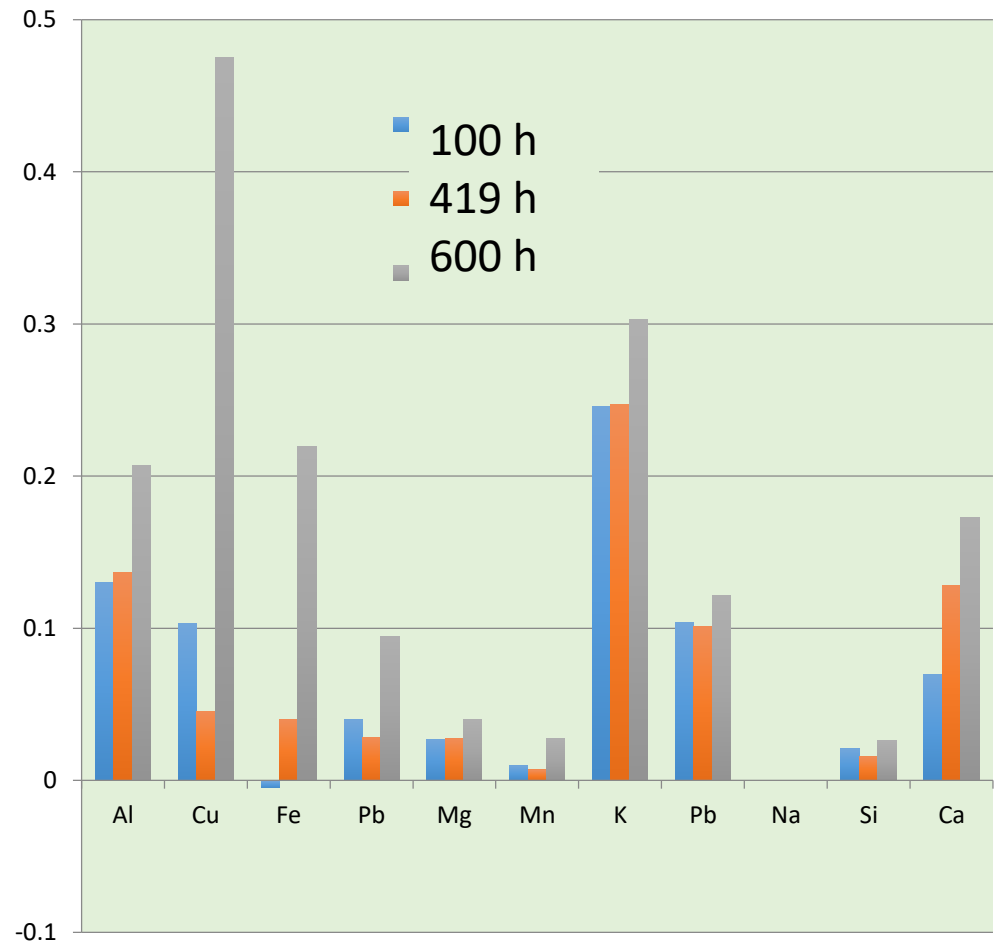
Sonicate in ID
Water

Dry

MW Acid digest
remaining solid
EPA method 3015-8

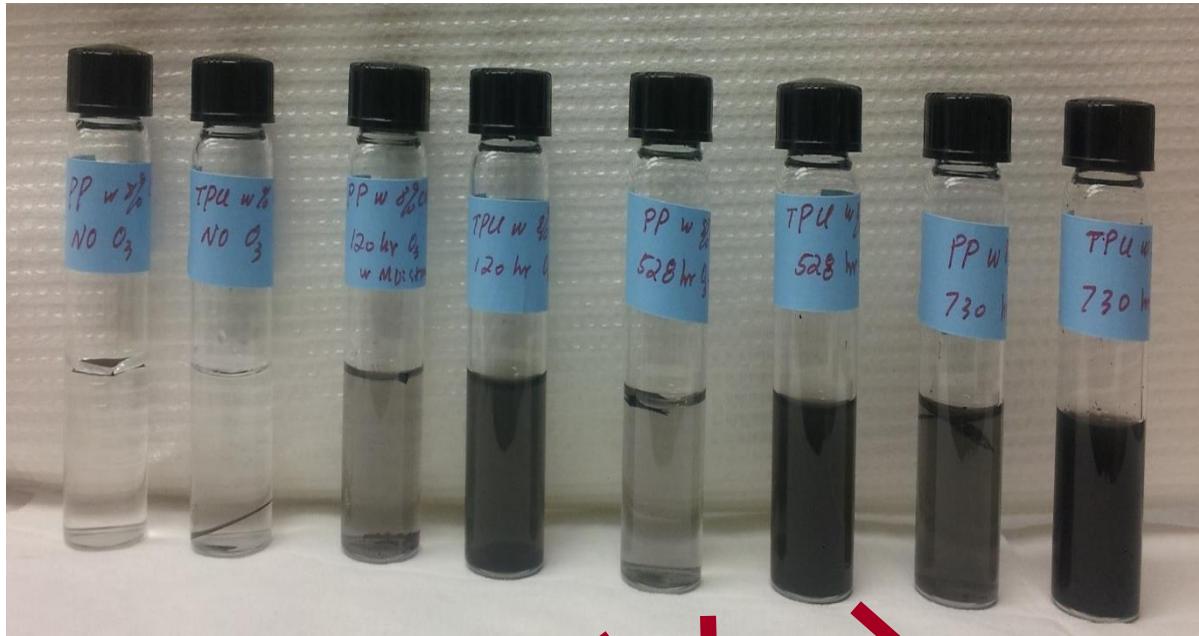


Composition of released NP ICP-MS

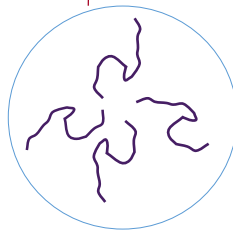


Washed/sonicated samples of Weathered Polyurethane and Polypropylene

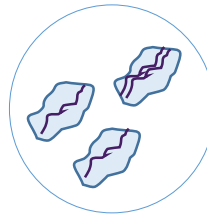
Sample from Increased Aging oxidation



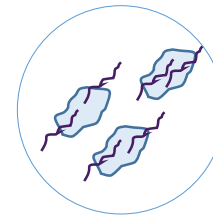
Does the wash liquid release CNF/CNT?



A

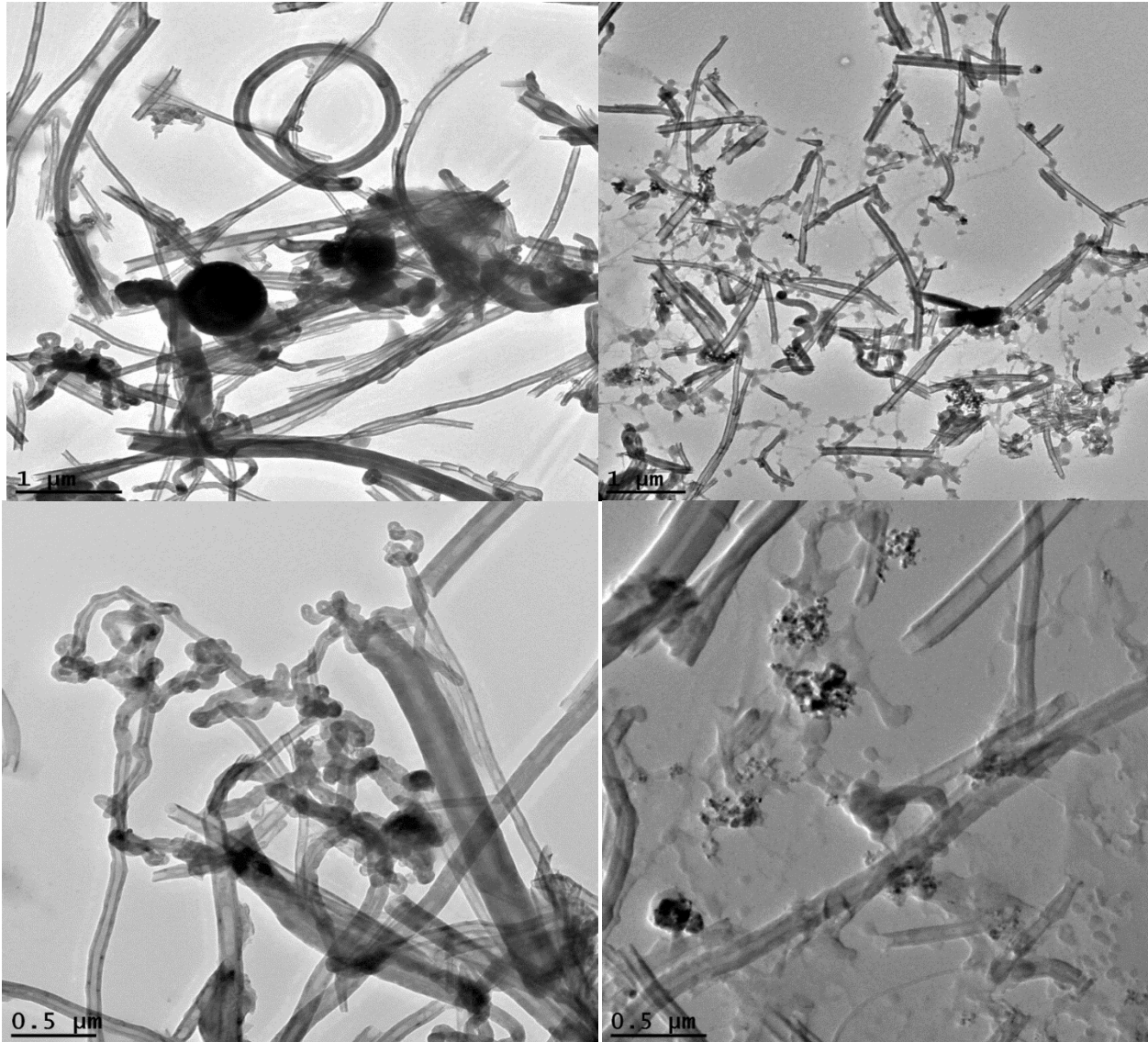


B

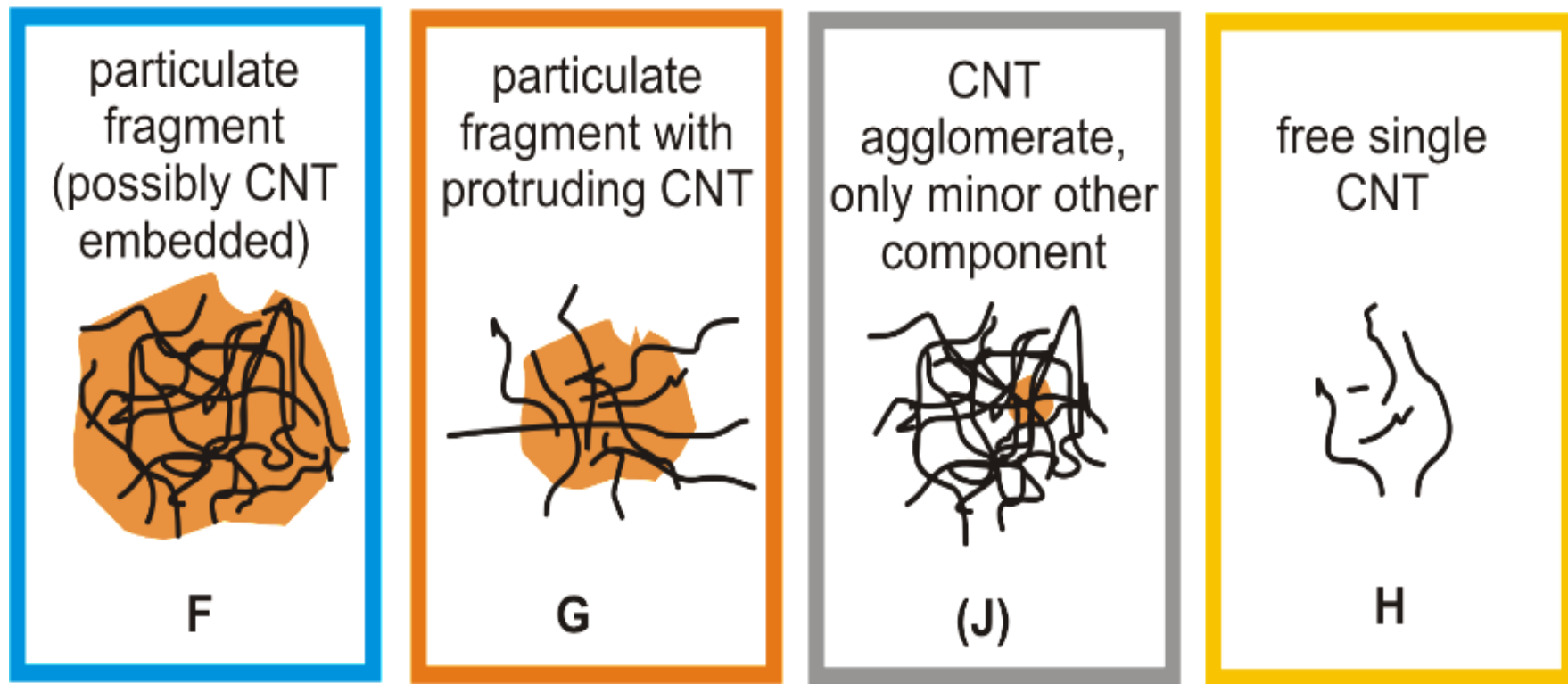


C

Carbon nanofiber released into the wash water of aged polypropylene

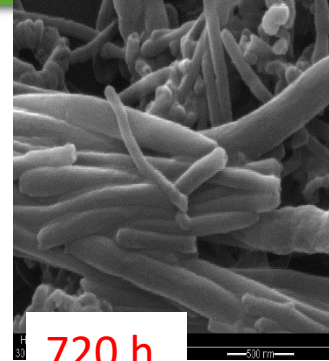
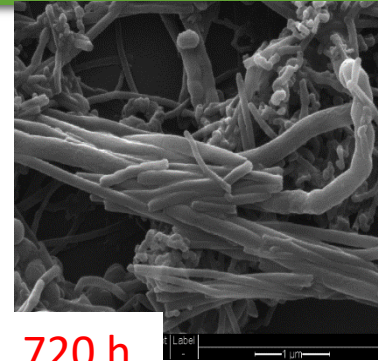
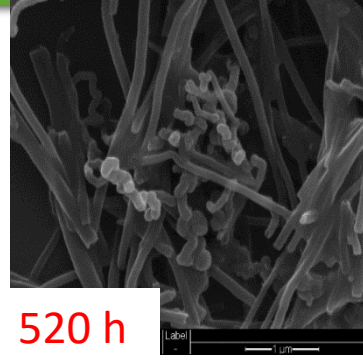
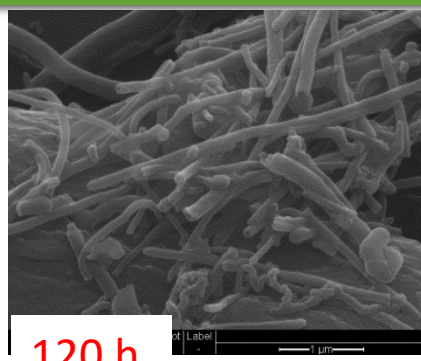
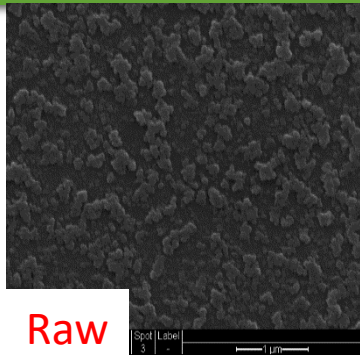


Characteristics of Released Particles

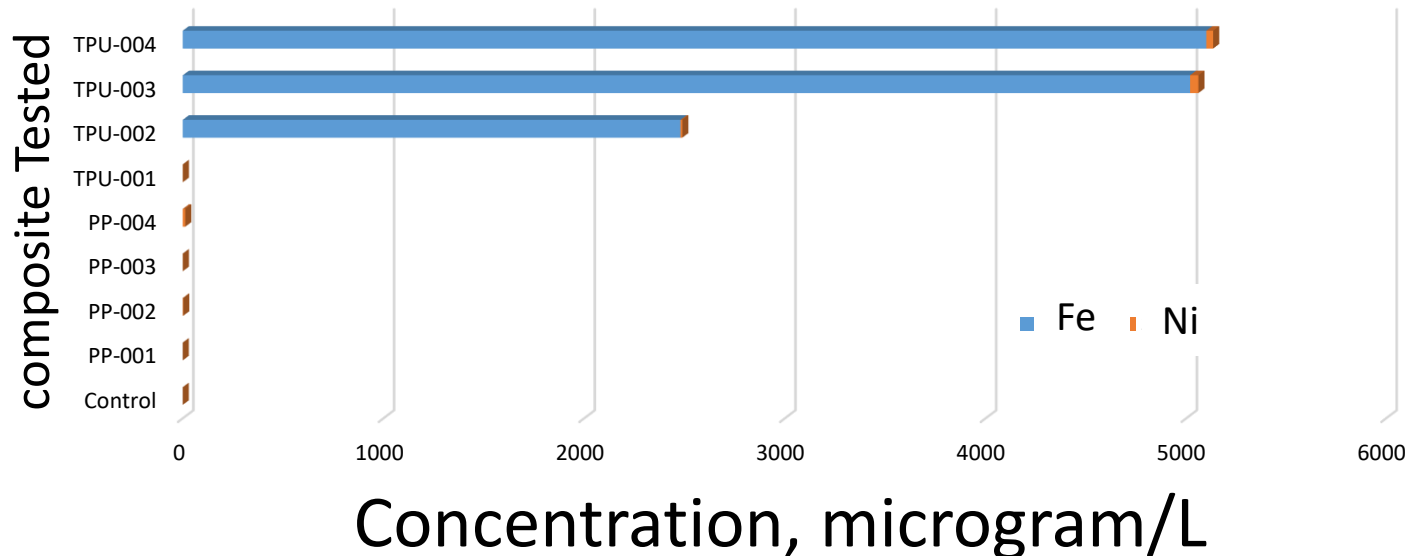


F - H as in the release systematics by Harper et al. 2015

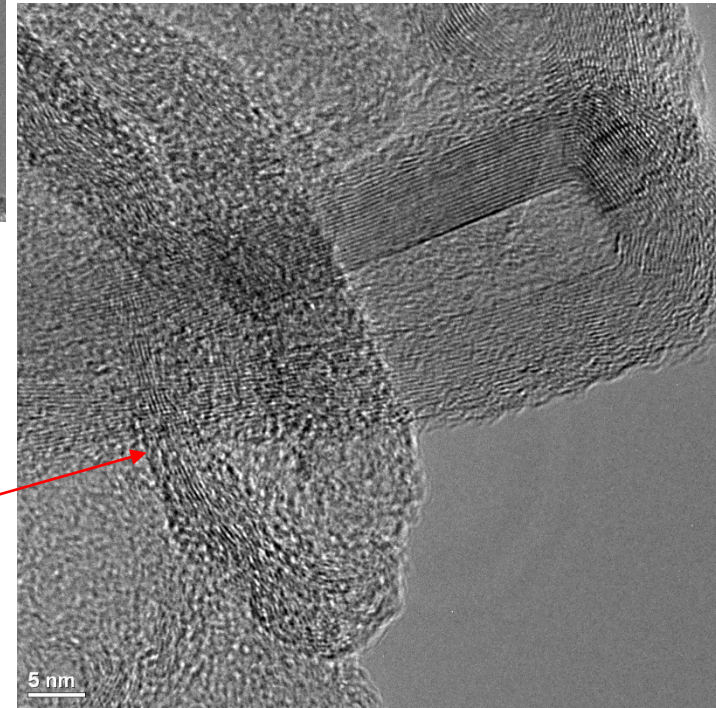
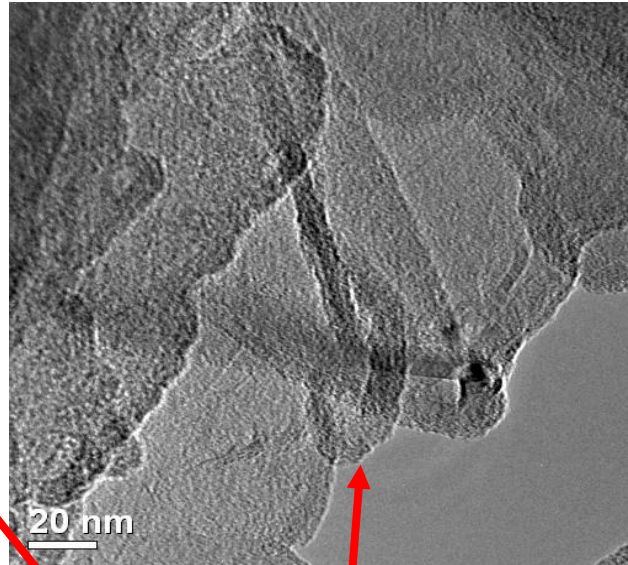
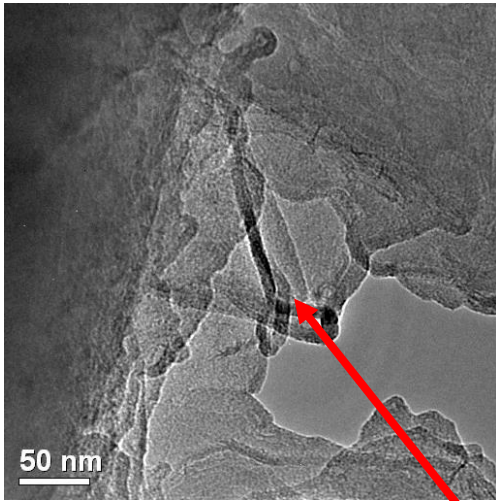
CNF in Water Samples from aged TPU/8%CNF



Single particle - ICP-MS Analysis of Washed Water of Aged CNF-Composite

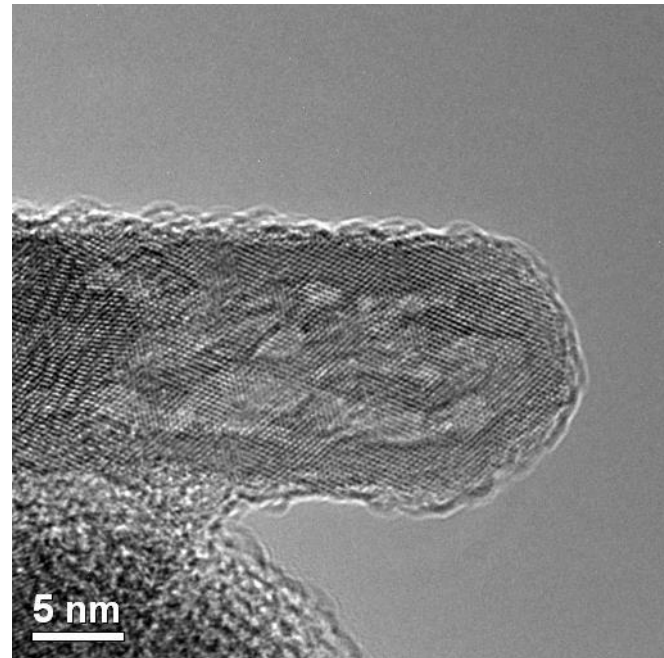
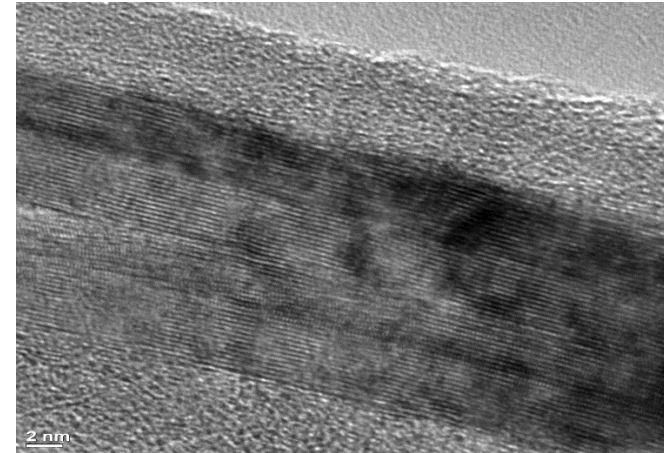
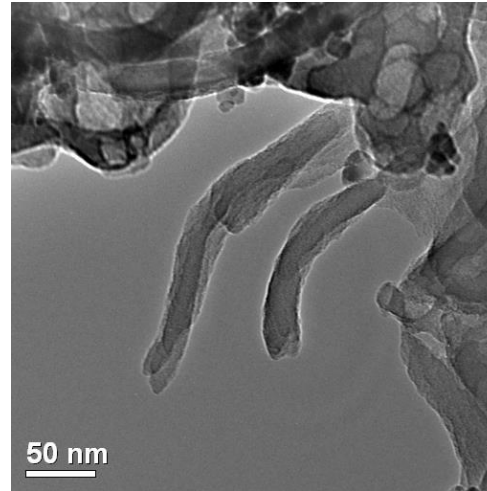
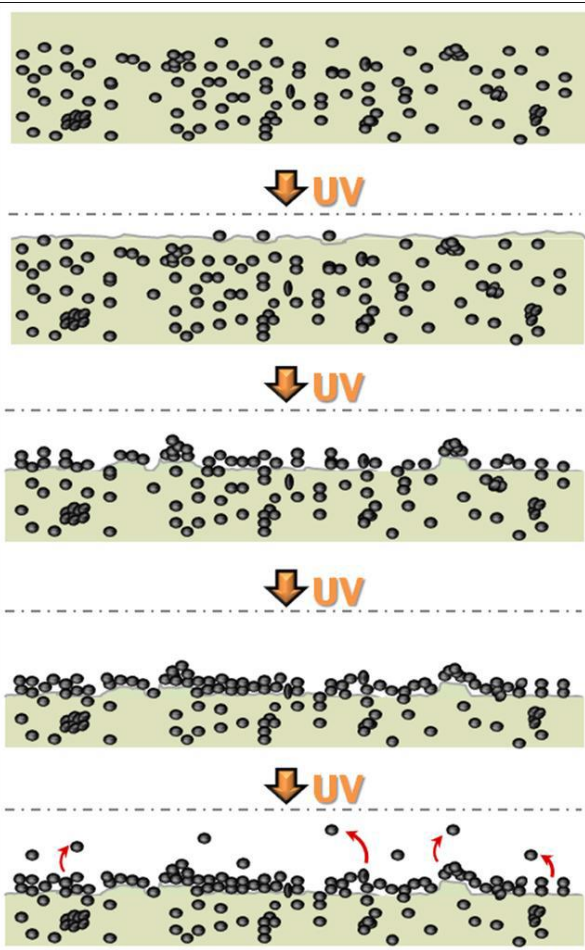


TEM image of Wash Sample of polyamide composite micro-plastic

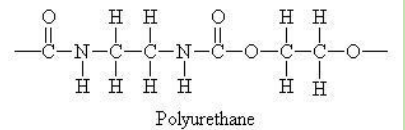
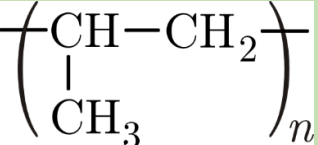
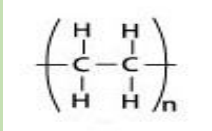
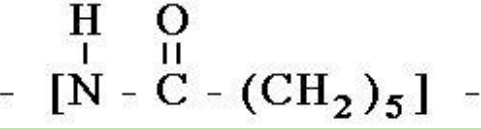
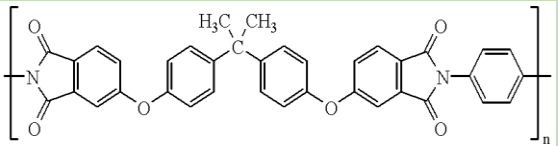


Embedded CNT
In wash liquid debris

TEM image of Wash Sample of polyamide composite micro-plastic

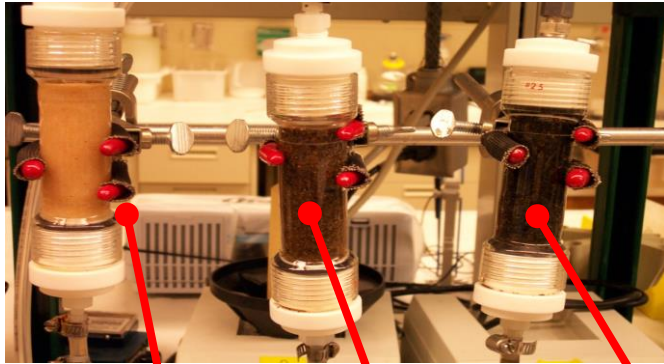


Summary of Weathering Tests

Polymer		Additive	Aging	Nanorelease
 Polyurethane	Polyurethane	CNT/CNF		Yes
	Polypropylene	CNF / CNT	High	Yes
	Polyethylene	Nano-clay (2-6%)	medium	May be
	Nylon 6 (Polyamide)	CNT	Low	Not detected
	Ultem® 1000 Polyetherimide	CNT	Little	Not detected

Polymer composites of different chemical structure vary remarkably in their resistance of degradation. Polyolefin and polyurethane composites not suitable for outdoor use.

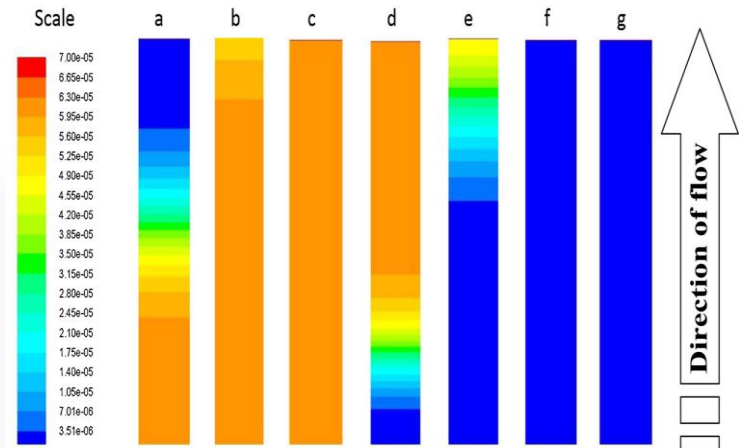
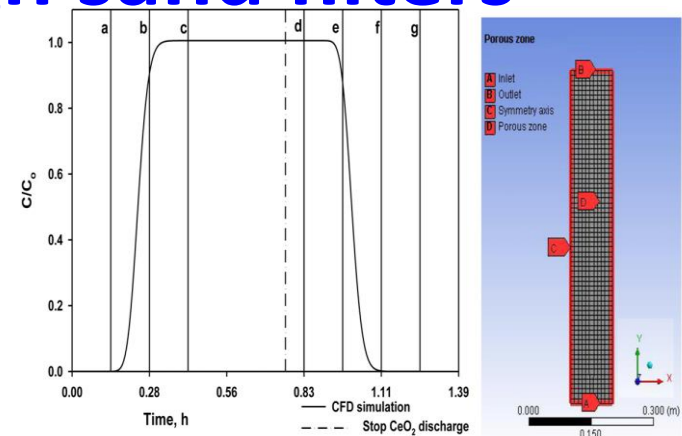
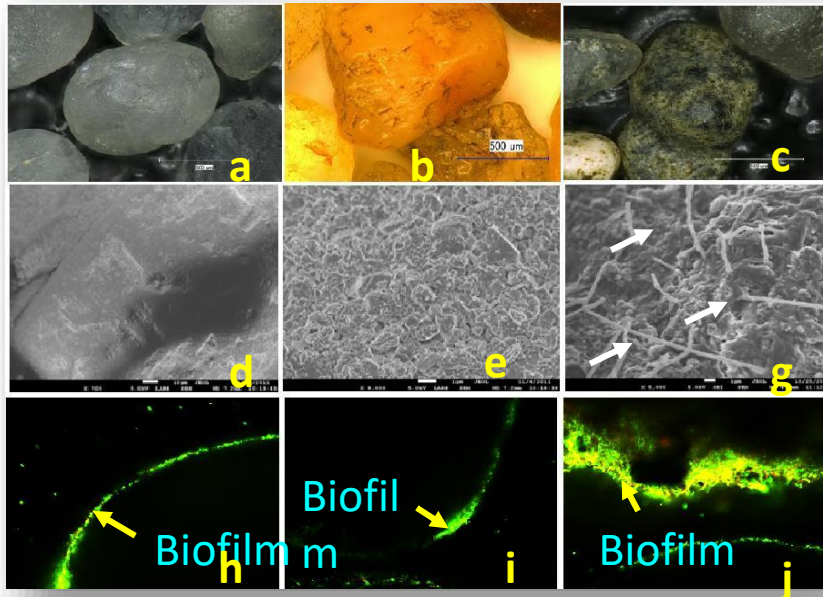
Nanoparticles flow through sand filters



Clean Sand

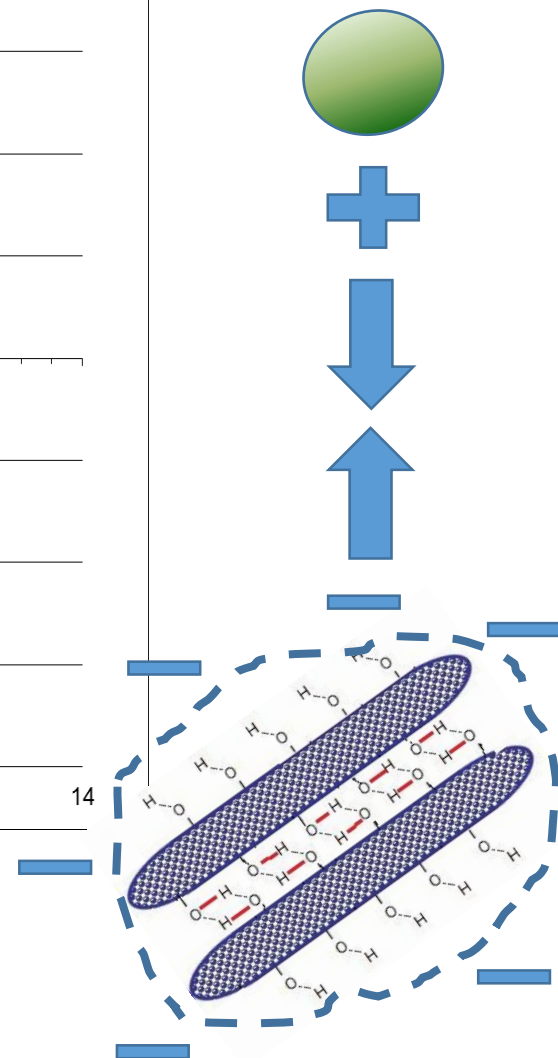
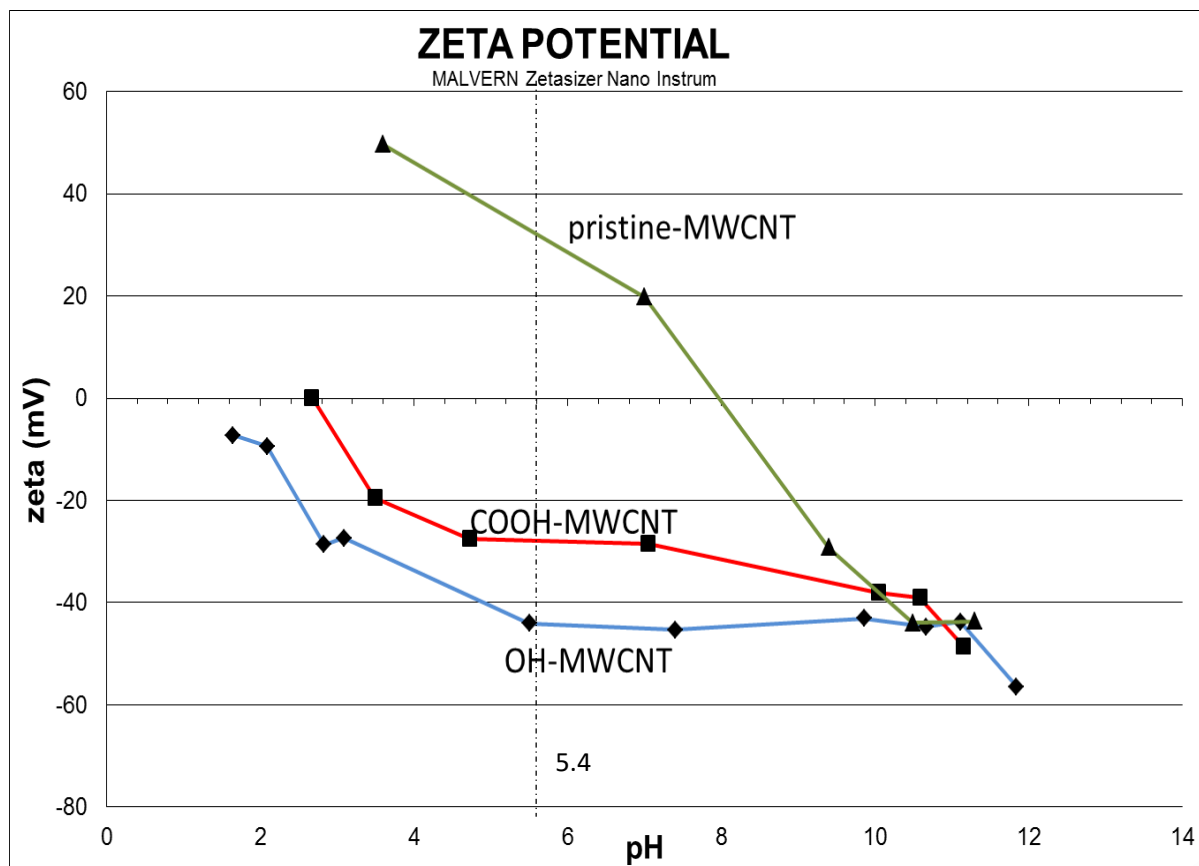
Fresh sand

Used sand/Biofilm



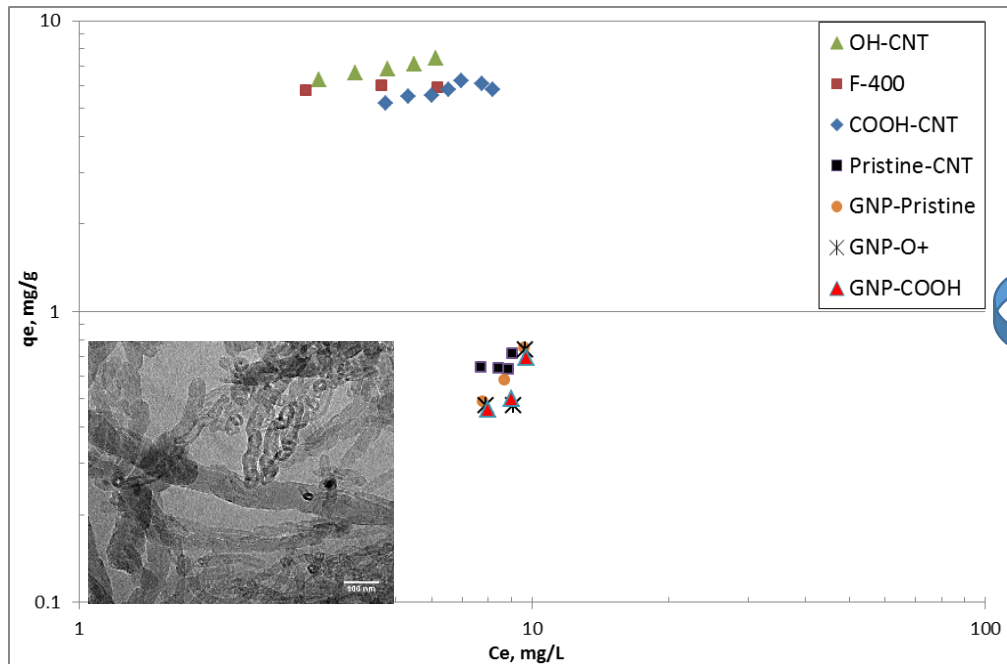
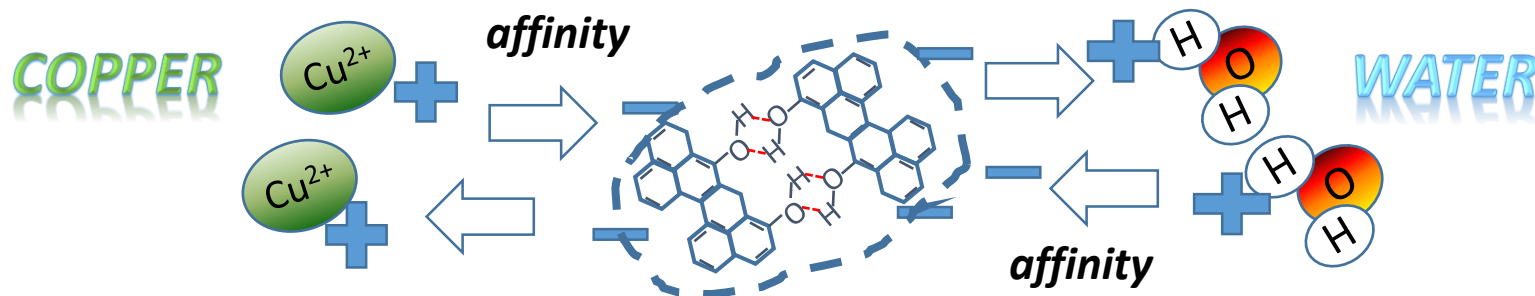
Computational Fluid Dynamics modeling of transport of nanoparticles through a porous media

Surface charge of MWCNT



Isotherm curves for Carbonaceous Adsorbents

COPPER INITIAL CONCENTRATION 10 mg/L _{5.1} 2 DAYS EXPERIMENT DI WATER pH 5.1

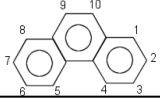
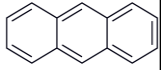
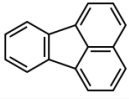
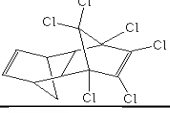
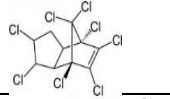
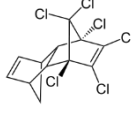


Carbonaceous Adsorbent	Freundlich parameters		
	K_F	$1/n$	R^2
<i>F-400</i>	5.557	0.037	0.548
<i>OH-CNT</i>	4.628	0.251	0.997
<i>COOH-CNT</i>	3.245	0.306	0.972
<i>Pristine-CNT</i>	0.175	0.636	0.997
<i>GNP-pristine</i>	0.006	2.107	0.978
<i>GNP-O+</i>	0.005	2.206	0.567
<i>GNP-COOH</i>	0.004	2.226	0.834

higher uptake of copper by OH-CNT in a shorter time than for activated carbon

Rozenzweig, Sahle Demessie Water Air Soil Pollution (2014) 225:1913,
 J. Hazardous Materials, 2014, [Volume 279](#), 30 August 2014, Pages 410–417.
 Chemosphere, Volume 90, Issue 2, January 2013, Pages 395-402.

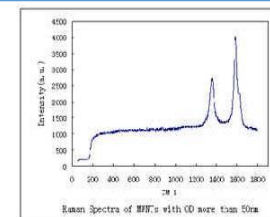
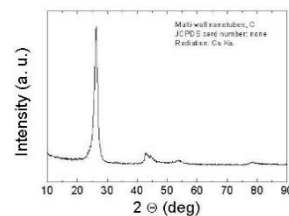
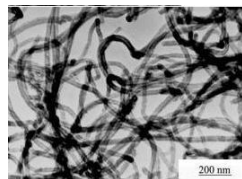
Properties of selected pollutants

Compound	Mole weight g mole ⁻¹	Boiling point °C	Water solubility mg l ⁻¹	Log K _{ow}	Toxicity	LC ₅₀ ¹⁾
Naphthalene 	128	218	31.7	3.5	Human toxic	3.8
Phenanthrene 	178	339	1.29	4.45	PBT	0.6
Anthracene 	178	340	0.075	4.46	Ecotoxic	4.46
Flouranthene 	202	375	0.26	4.90	carcinogen	0.5
Heptachlor 	178	340	0.075	4.46	Ecotoxic	4.46
Chlordane 				6.32		
Aldrin 	364		0.003%	6.5		

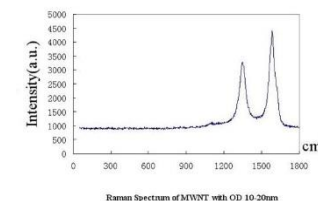
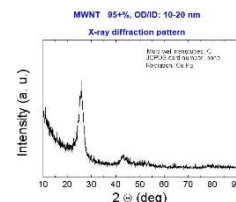
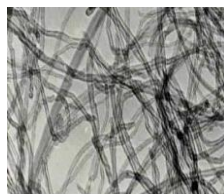
¹⁾ *Neanthes arenaceodentata* expressed as LC_{50 96h} I mg l⁻¹ (Cerniglia, 1992; Rossi and Neff, 1978)

NPs Tested for Adsorption study

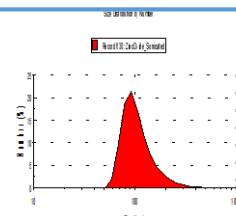
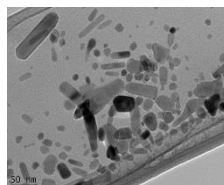
MWCNT
ID = 5-15 nm, $\rho = 0.18$ g/ml
OD > 50 nm, L = 30 nm



MWCNT-COOH
ID = 5-15 nm, $\rho = 0.22$ g/ml
OD = 20-30 nm, L = 30

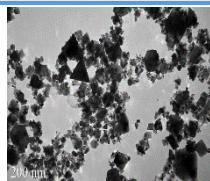


ZnO, Mean = 50 nm,
Mode = 91 nm

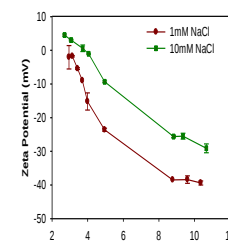
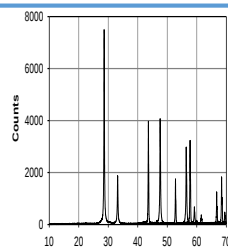
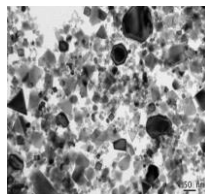


– Dynamic Light Scattering

TiO₂



CeO₂



Simulated NP-Dissolved partition of hydrophobic pollutants



Partition Coefficient of pollutant between NP and dissolved phase

$$K_{NP} = \frac{[Pollu]_{NP}}{[Pollut]_{Free} [NP]}, \quad (\text{ml/g}) \dots \dots (2)$$

Mass balance of pollutant:

$$[Pollu]_{tot} = [Pollu]_{Free} + [Pollu]_{NP}$$

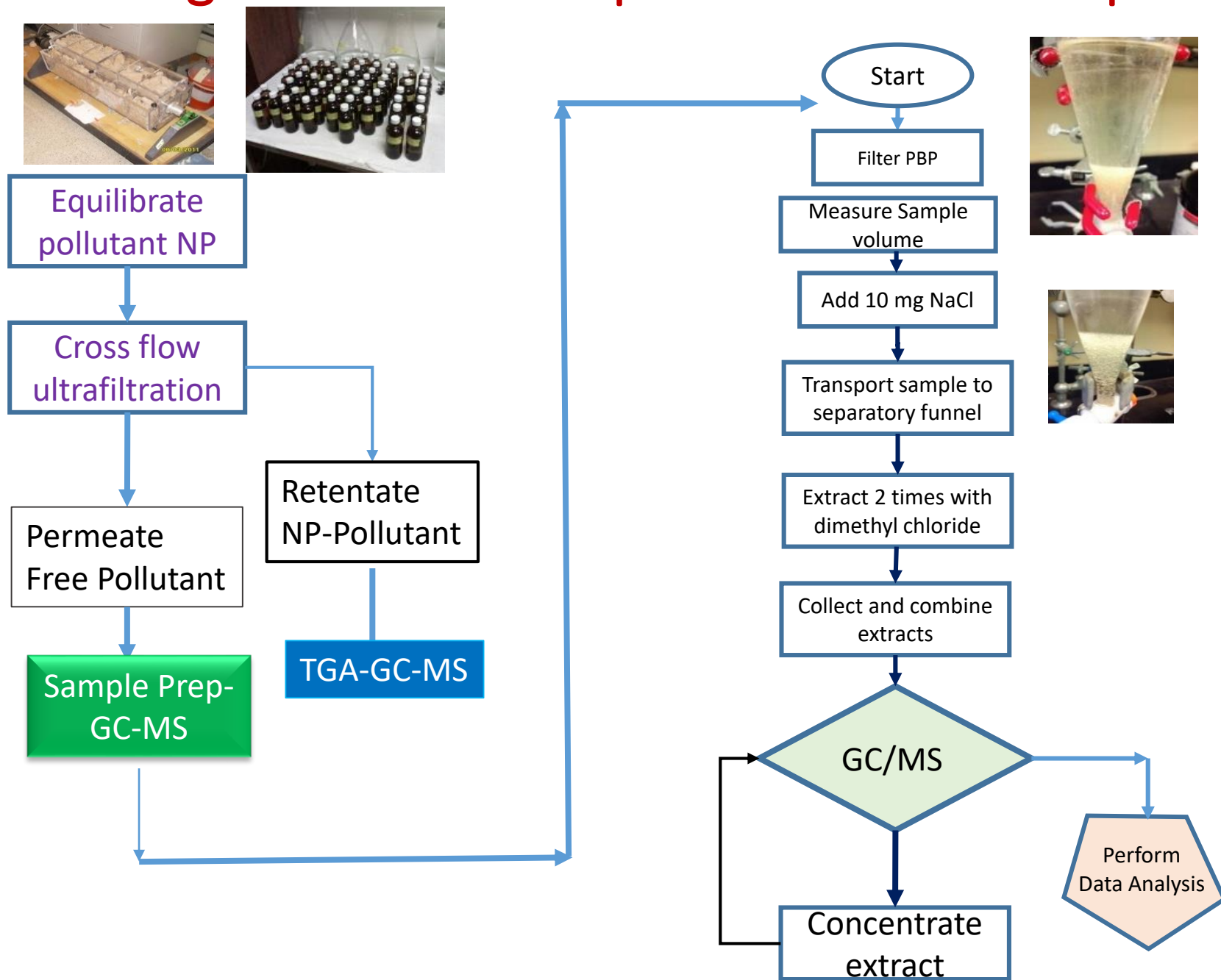
$$[pollu]_{total} / [Pollu]_{Free} = 1 + K_{Np} [NP] \dots \dots (3)$$

$[Pollu]_{total}$ = Retentate concentration

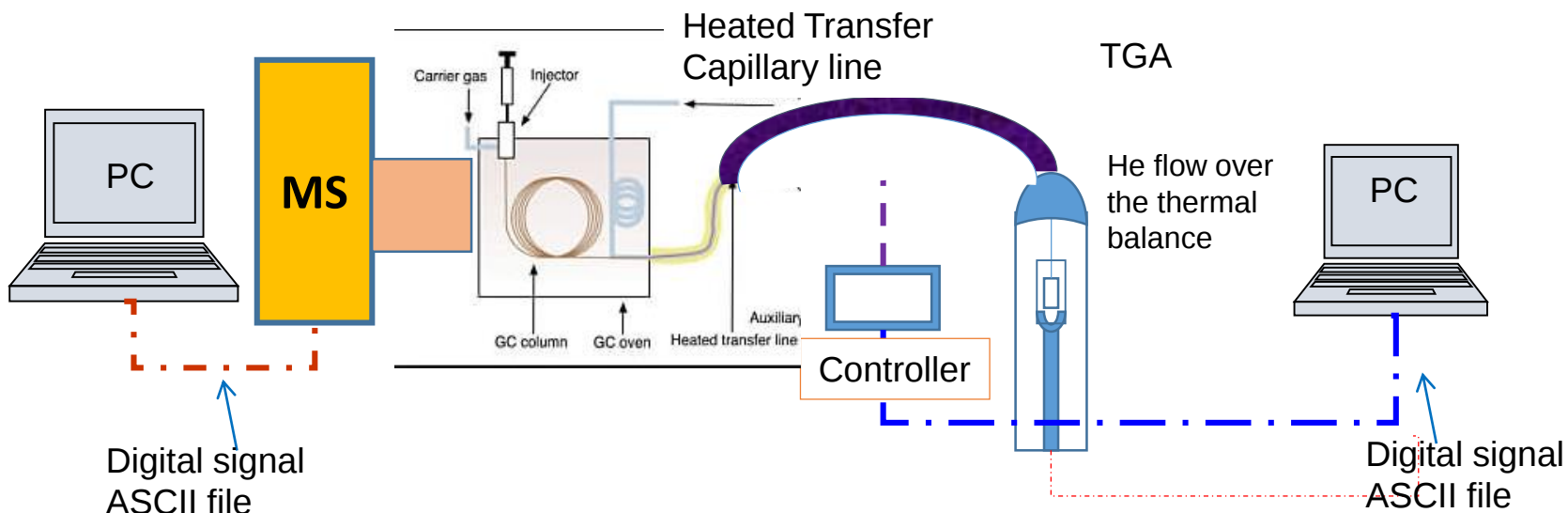
$[Pollu]_{Free}$ = permeate concentration

Equation (3) similar to Stern–Volmer relationship

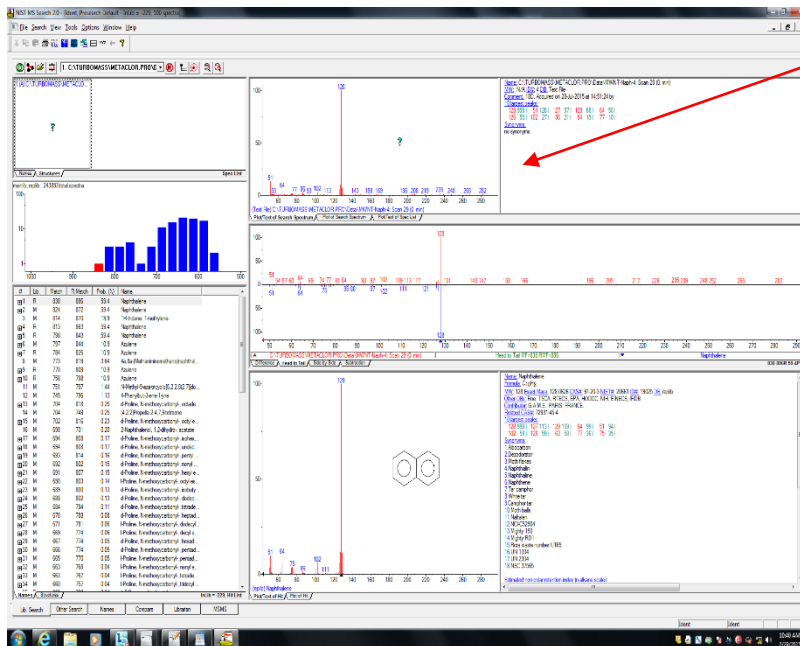
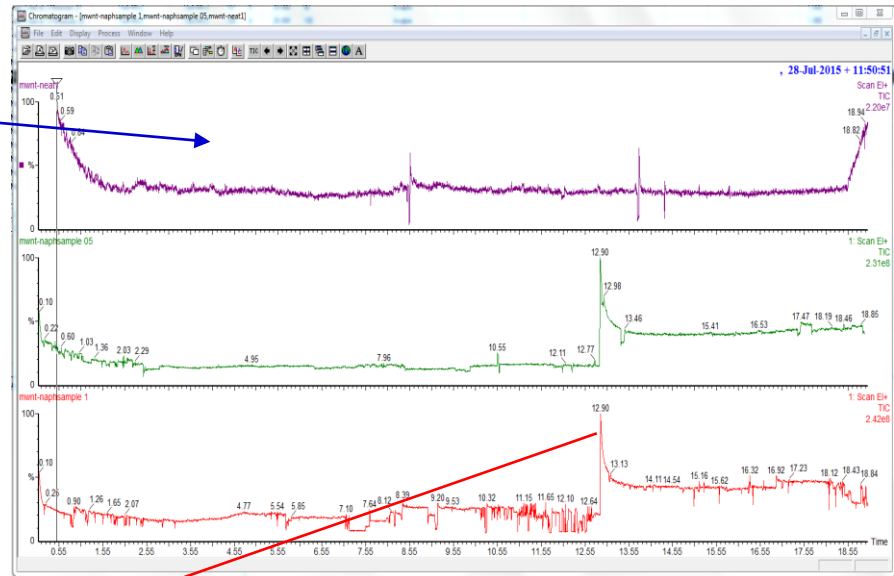
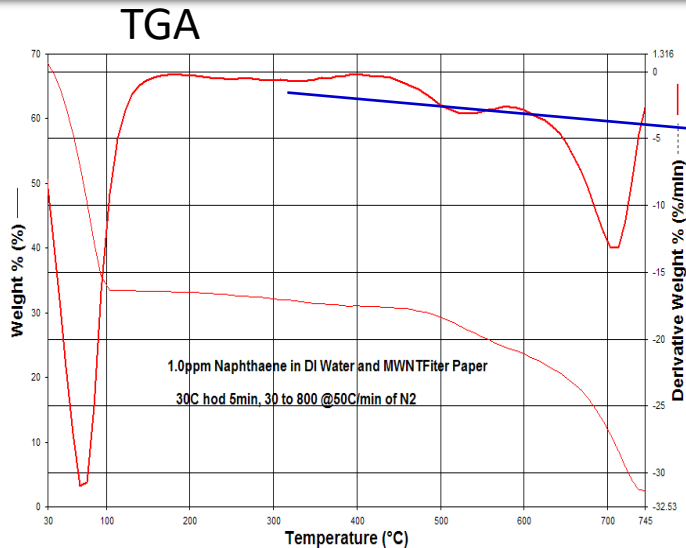
NP-Organic Pollutant Equilibration and Sample Prep



TGA-GC-MS for detecting Hydrophobic pollutants adsorbed to Nanoparticle

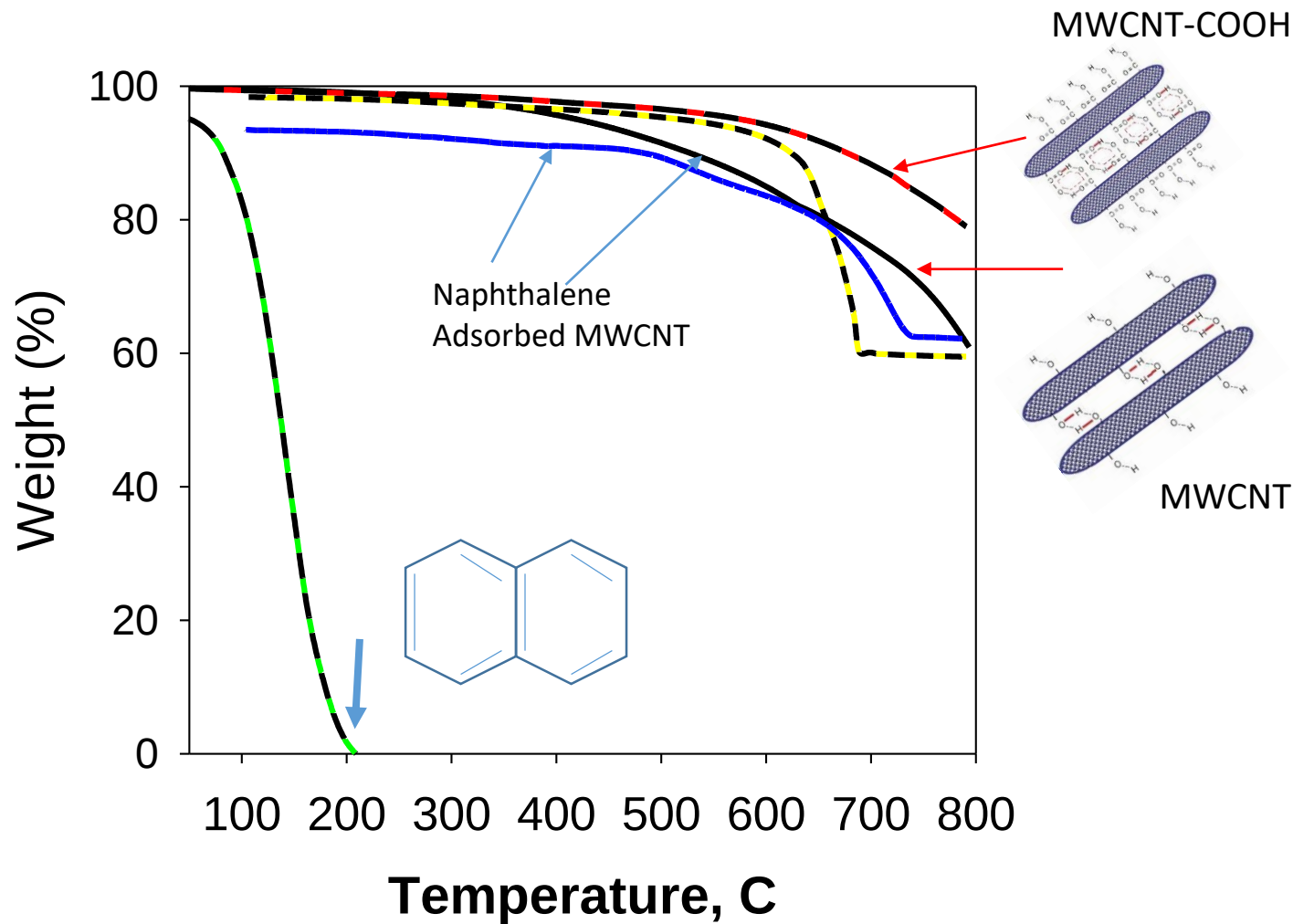


adsorbed on CNT



Collaboration with Bill Han, PerkinElmer

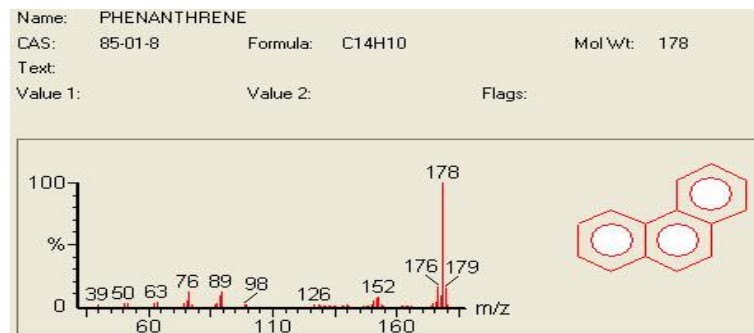
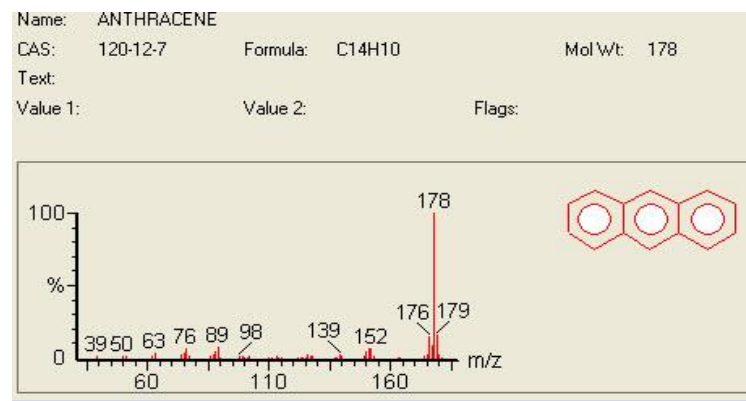
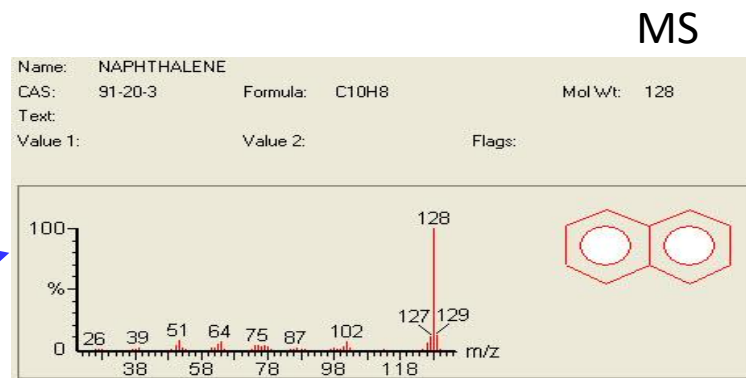
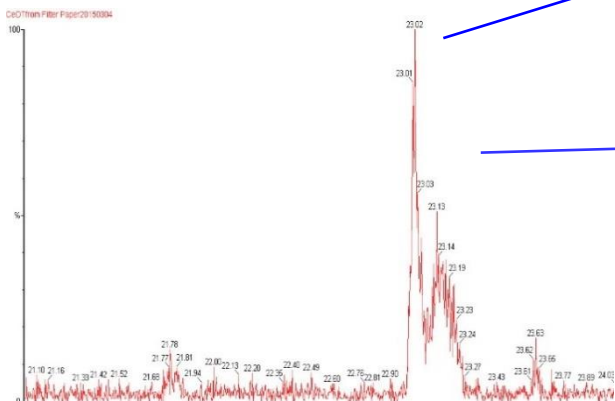
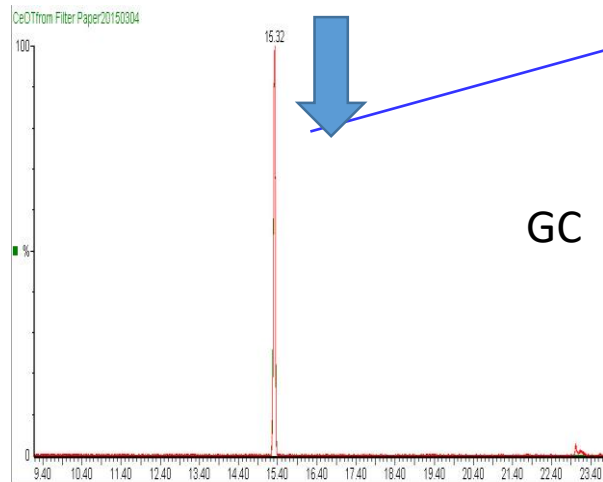
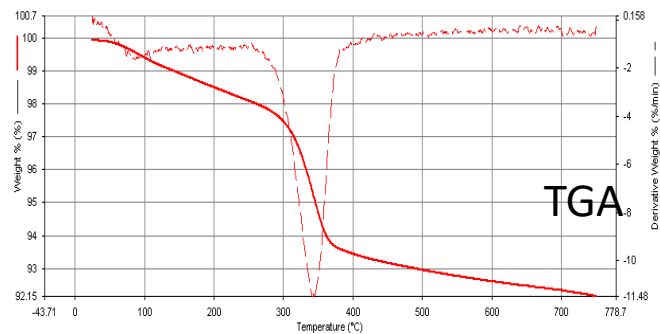
TGA for Naphthalene Adsorbed on MWCNT



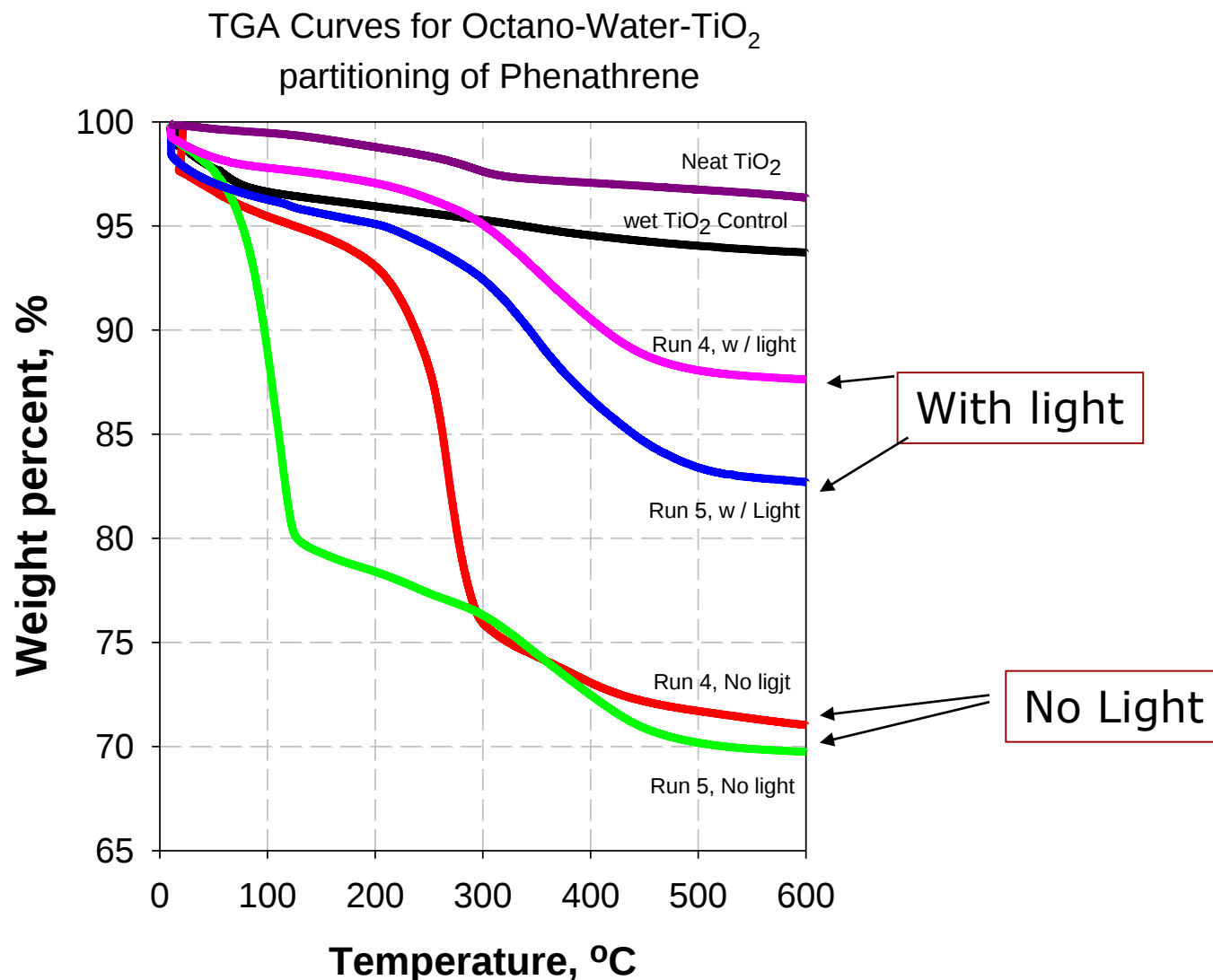
BP of Naphthalene = 137 °C, Released from MWCNT at 380 °C

Delayed release of naphthalene shows strong adsorption to CNT

TGA –MS for analysis of Polyaromatic hydrocarbons adsorbed on nano-TiO₂



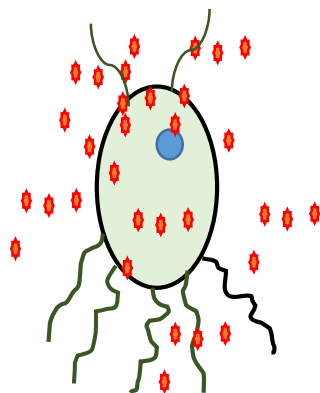
Increased partitioning of phenanthrene adsorbed on nano-TiO₂ – effect of light illumination



Aquatic organisms and the Interaction of Pollutants and NPs

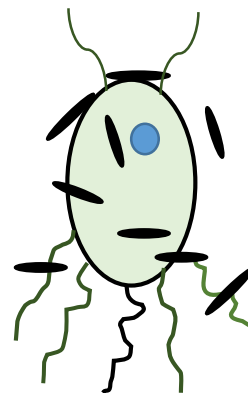
Do they amplify or alleviate toxicity?

(A)



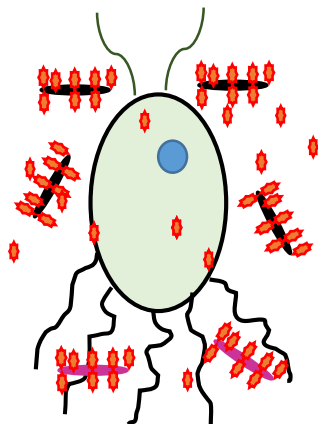
Absorption – uptake of pollutants

(B)



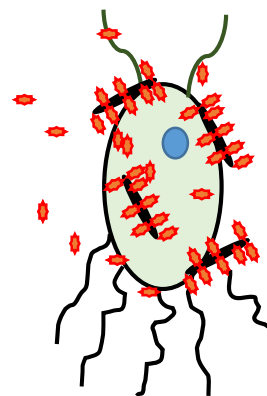
Absorption – uptake of NPs

(C)



NP reduce pollutants uptake

(D)



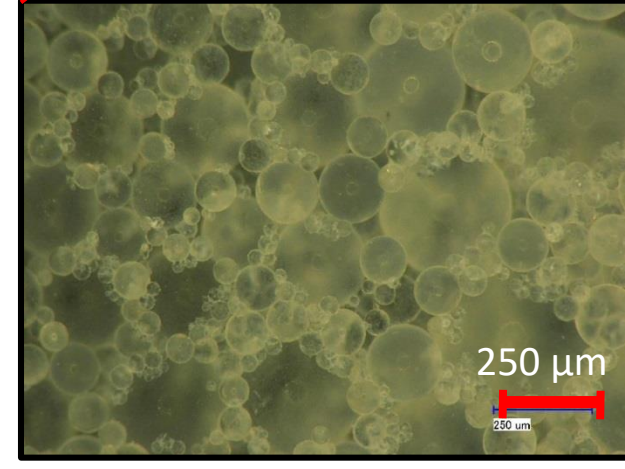
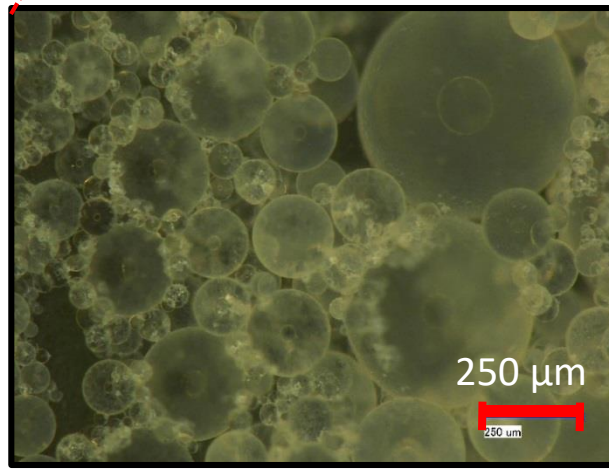
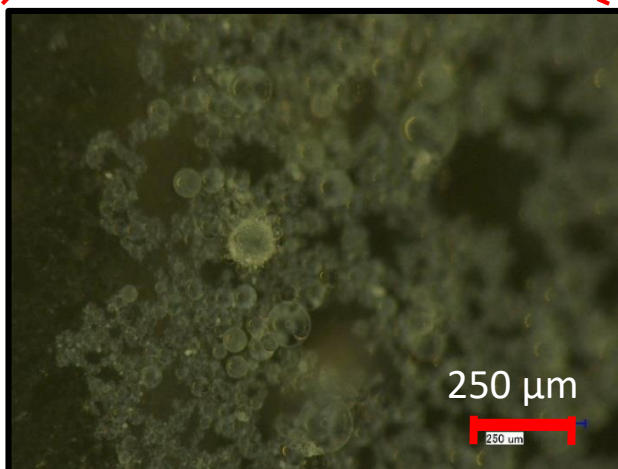
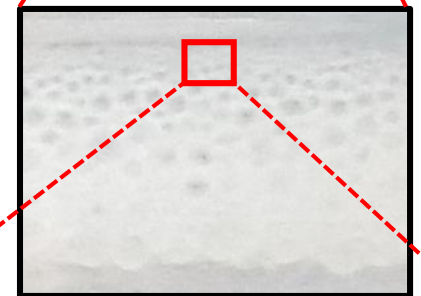
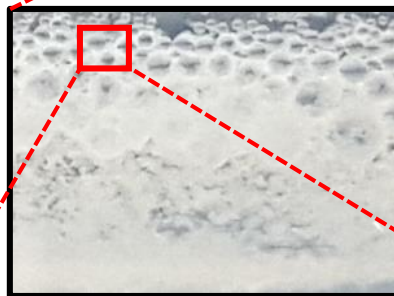
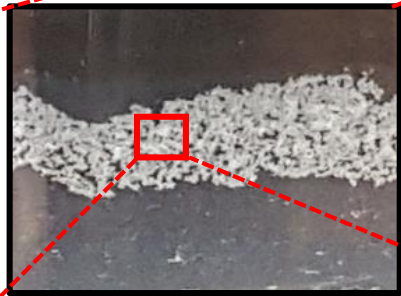
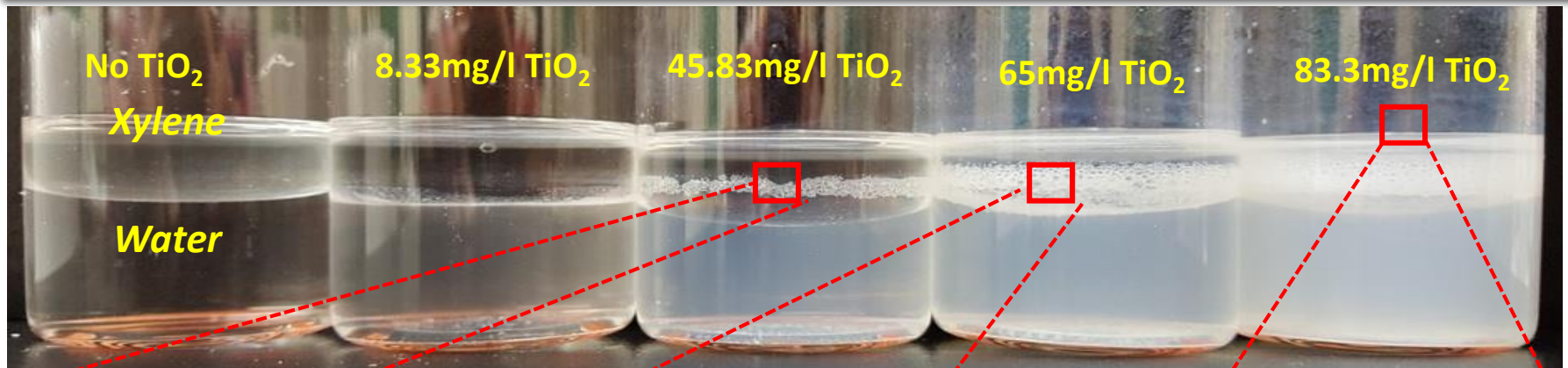
NP amplify pollutants uptake

(eg. nano-TiO₂ increased accumulation of As(V) carp)

★ = pollutant

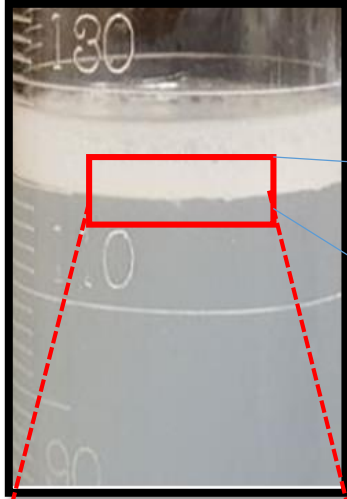
▬ = NPs

Effect TiO_2 concentration on Xylene-Water- TiO_2 dispersion in the presence of light

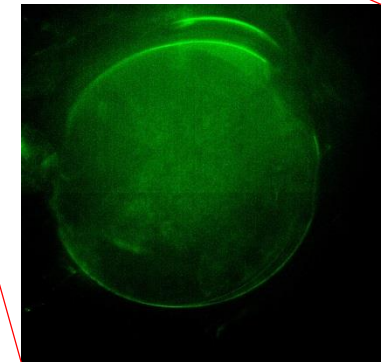
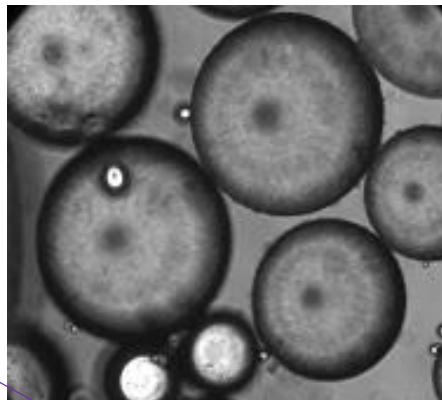
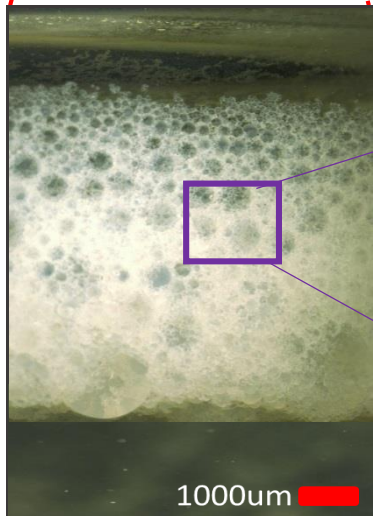
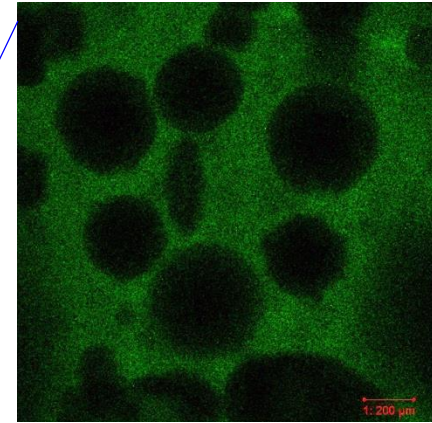
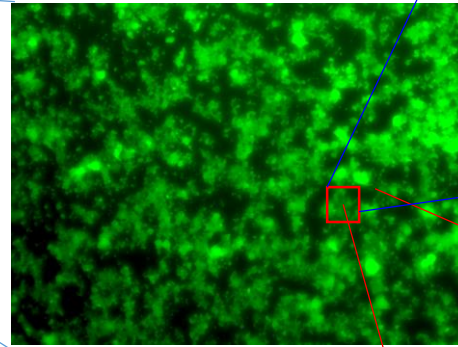


Organics-NP-Aggregated Dispersion

pH = 7



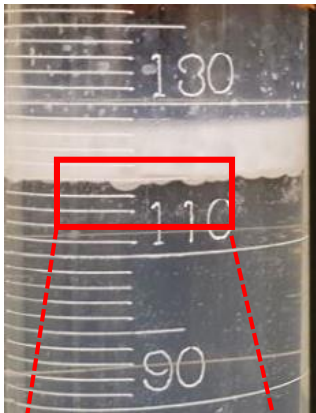
Fluorescent Image of
 TiO_2 particles



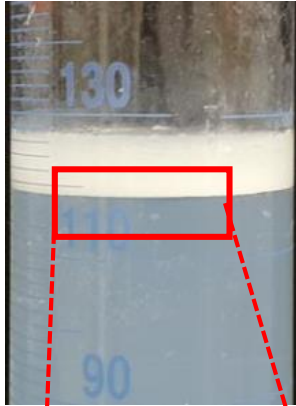
Fluorescent Image
of Xylene Bubbles

Effect pH on Xylene-Water-TiO₂ dispersion in the presence of light

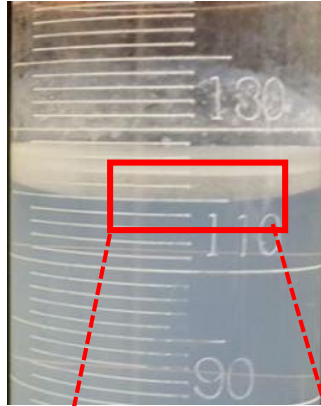
pH = 3



pH = 7



pH = 10



Tomadol

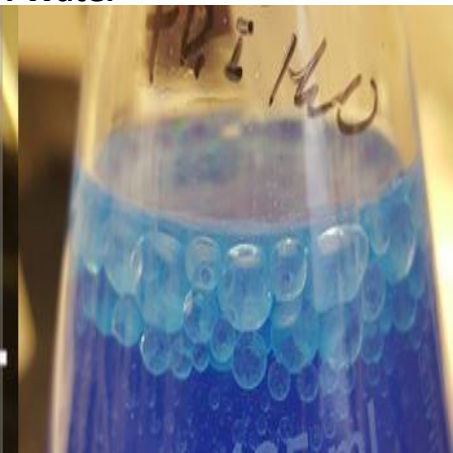
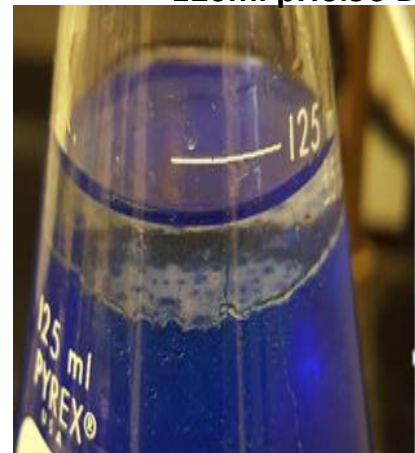
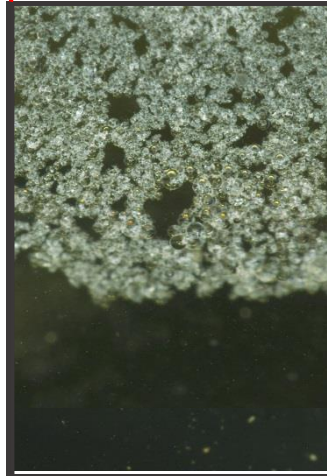
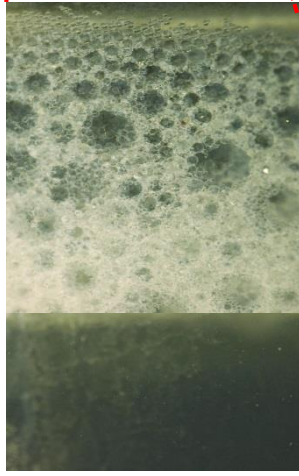
at CMC



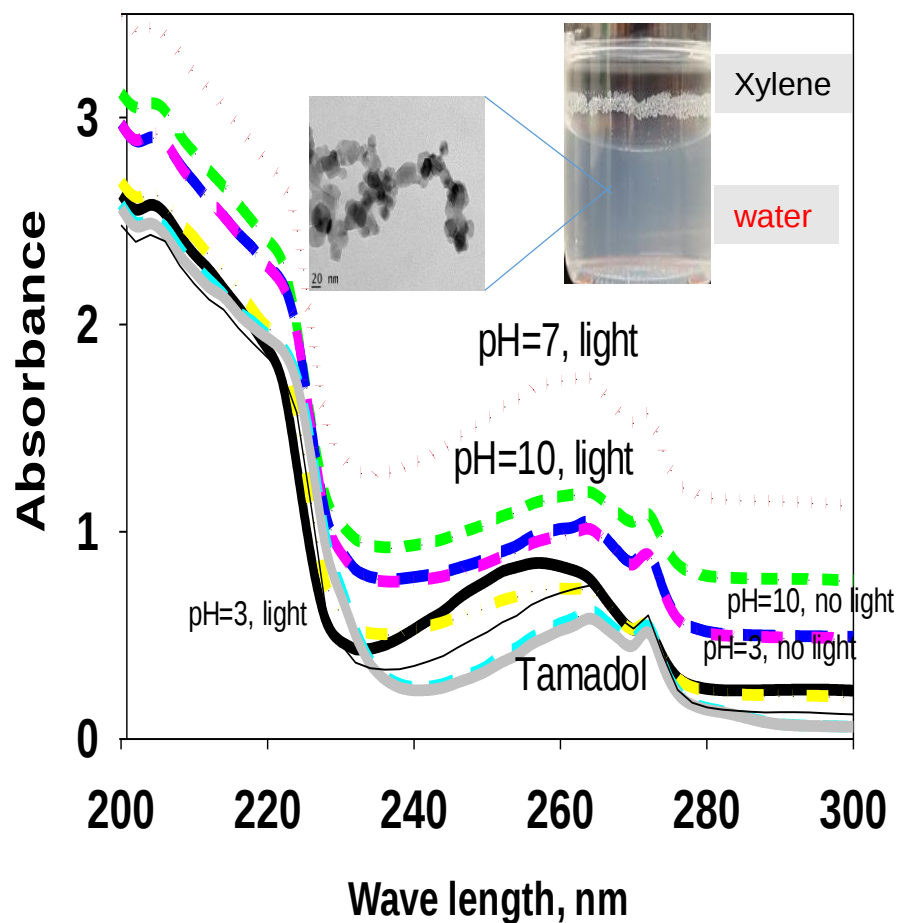
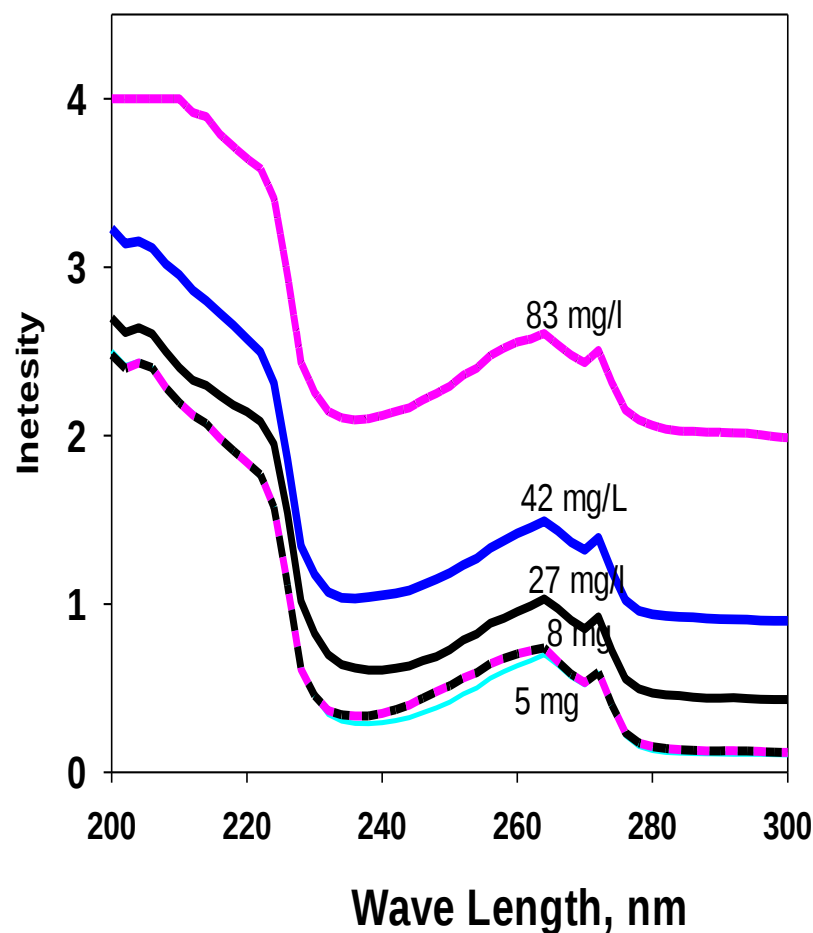
5*CMC



0.0033g Methylene Blue
5ml m-xylene, 0.0077g TiO₂
120ml pH6.96 DI Water

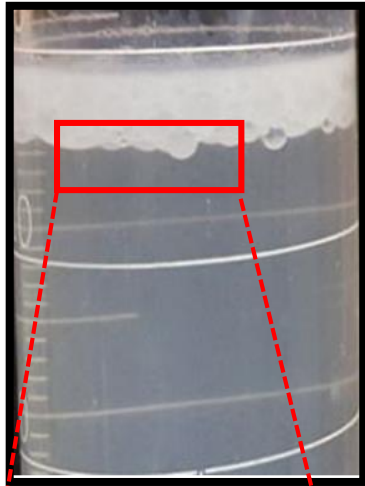


UV-Vis spectroscopic measure of the Effect of TiO_2 in dispersing Xylene in Water the absence of light

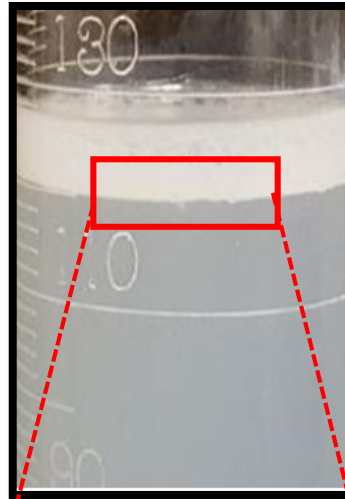


Effect of TiO_2 in dispersing Xylene in Water the absence of light

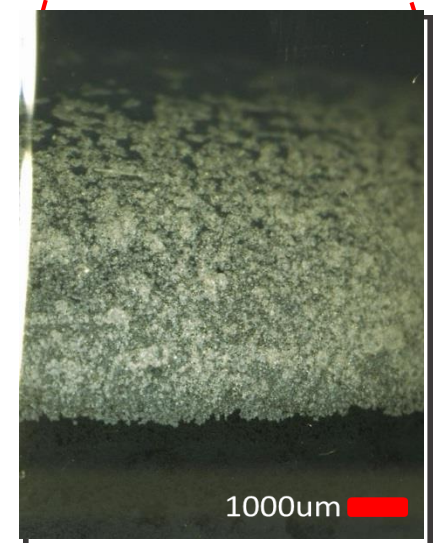
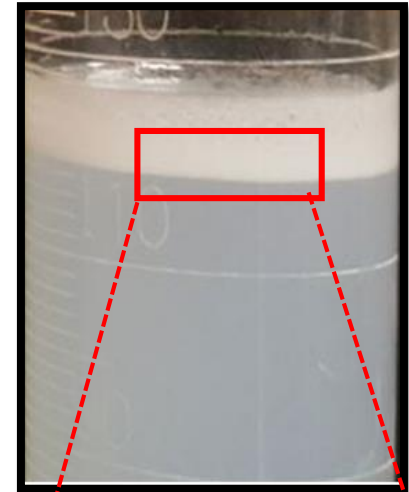
pH = 3



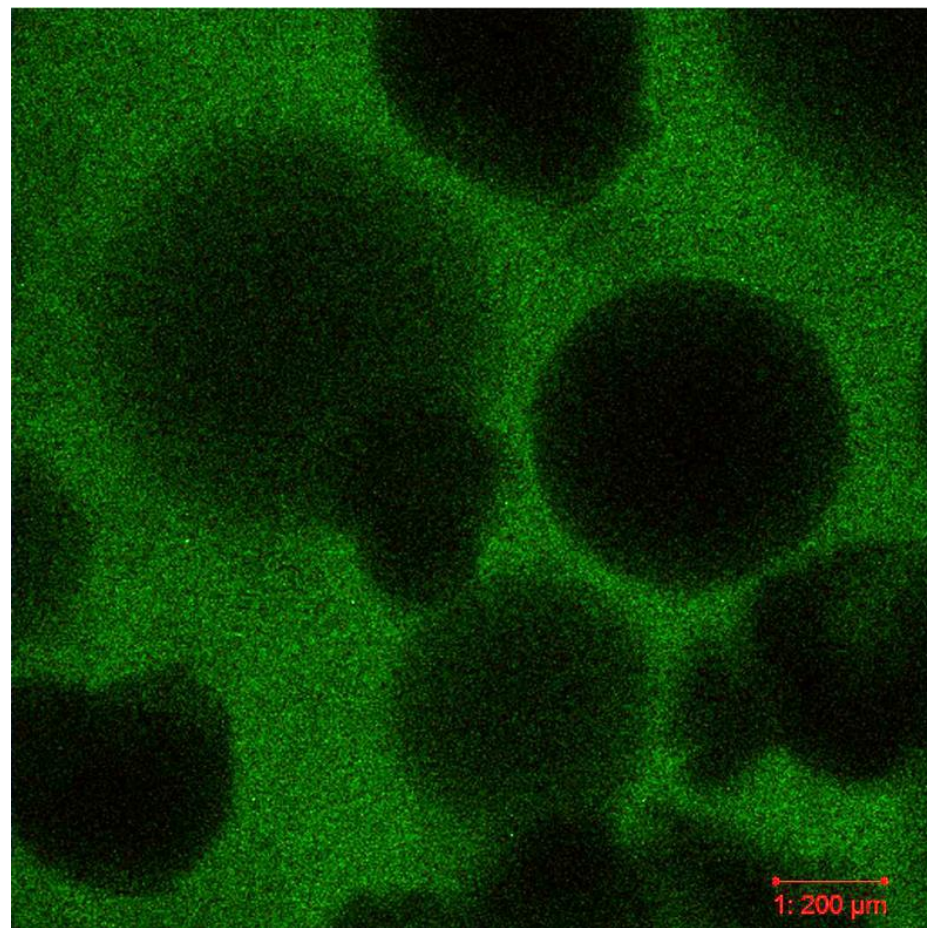
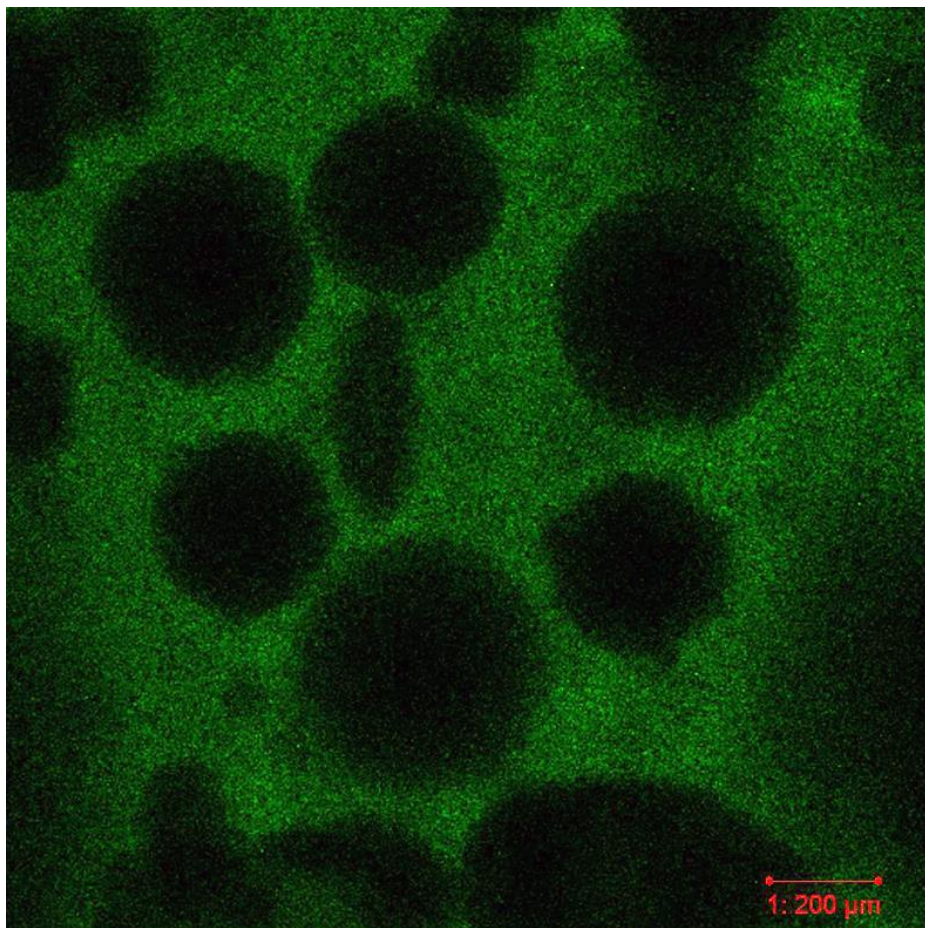
pH = 7



pH = 10



Confocal microscope images of TiO_2 particles and Xylene bubbles



Procedure for dyeing TiO₂ nanoparticles with a fluorescent green dye

- 1) Disperse 50 mg TiO₂ (P25, Degussa) particles in 3 mL methanol (MeOH)
- 2) Add 20 mg Fluorescein O-methacrylate (Sigma-Aldrich) in the prepared TiO₂ solution
- 3) Place the solution under vigorous stirring for 30 min
- 4) Centrifuge to collect dyed TiO₂ particles
- 5) Wash TiO₂ particles with methanol and centrifuge it.
- 6) Repeat the washing process three times to remove unabsorbed dyes on TiO₂ particles
- 7) Dry TiO₂ particles at 60 °C for 3 hr in a conventional lab oven to remove MeOH
- 8) Record images of TiO₂ particles with a Nikon Eclipse TE2000-S microscope

Summary

- UV light and ozone exposure **degrade nanocomposites** and nanoparticles could be **released to the environment**,.
- Degradation of nanocomposite modulated by polymer matrix, environmental conditions, type of nano-reinforcement,
- Fate and transport of nanoparticles influenced by their characteristics and environmental chemistry.
- Nano-particles can influence adsorption and dispersion of hydrophobic/low water soluble contaminants by an order of magnitude.
- Many analytical techniques are available to analyze the fate, transport and transformation of nanoparticles in the environment
- Analytical tools/approaches are needed to better understand the degradation of nanocomposites, release of NPs, and **detection in the environmental matrices**.

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