



# Non-Aqueous Fluorolytic Sol-Gel Synthesis

Erhard Kemnitz  
**Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**

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# OUTLINE

1. The *fluorolytic* sol-gel-synthesis of metal fluorides
  - the principle of the *fluorolytic* Sol-Gel-synthesis
2. Mechanism/reaction path
  - chemical aspects –  $\text{AlF}_3$
  - synthesis parameter
3. Applications of nanoscaled metal fluorides
4. Summary

# Why metal fluorides?

- Electrochemical energy storage (Li batteries)
- Solid Lewis-acids (catalysis, adsorption)
- Melting point depressiva (welding, ceramics, ...)
- Transmission in UV and IR (optics, laser)
- Low refractive index (optics, photovoltaic, glasses)
- Hydrophobicity (coating, sealing,...)
- Anti-fungicidal properties (surface protection)
- Corrosion protection against fluorine-containing gases

# Synthesis of nano-metal fluorides – *state of the art so far*

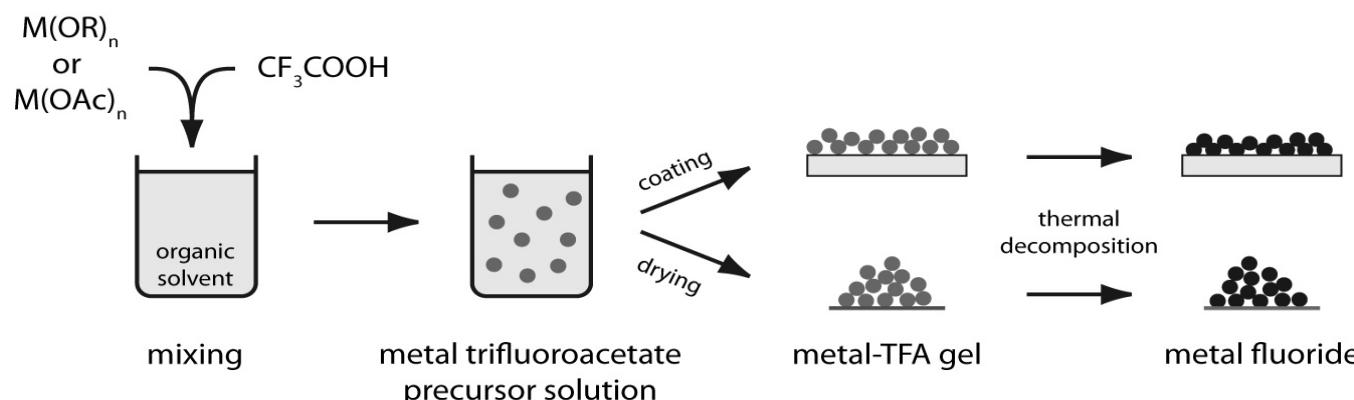
## 1. Synthesis of nano-metal oxides (via sol-gel)

→ followed by fluorination



## 2. Synthesis of metal trifluoroacetates (TFA sol gel route)

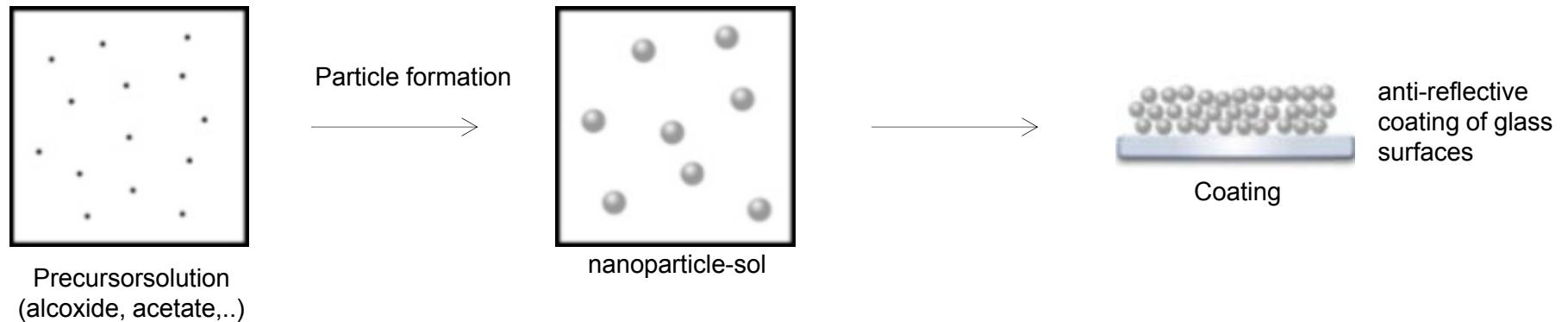
→ followed by thermal decomposition



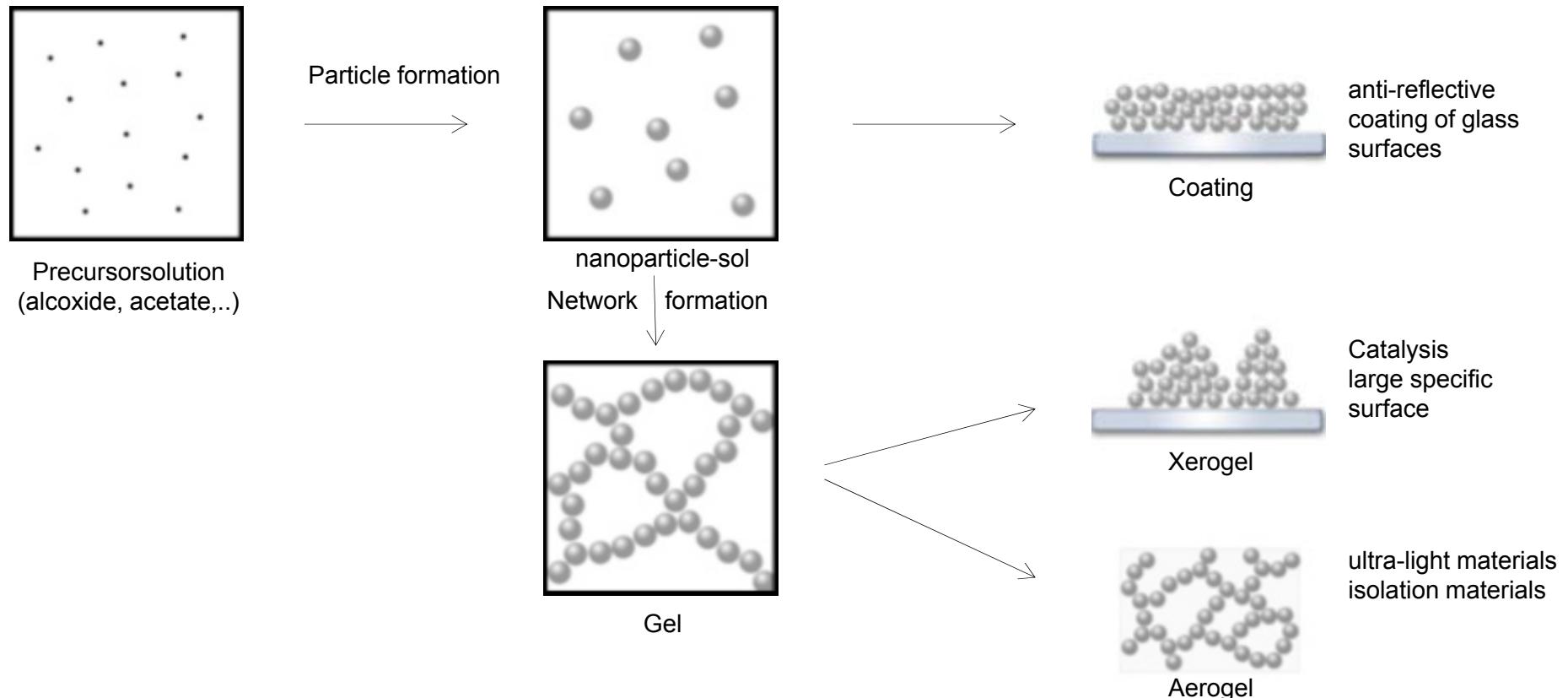


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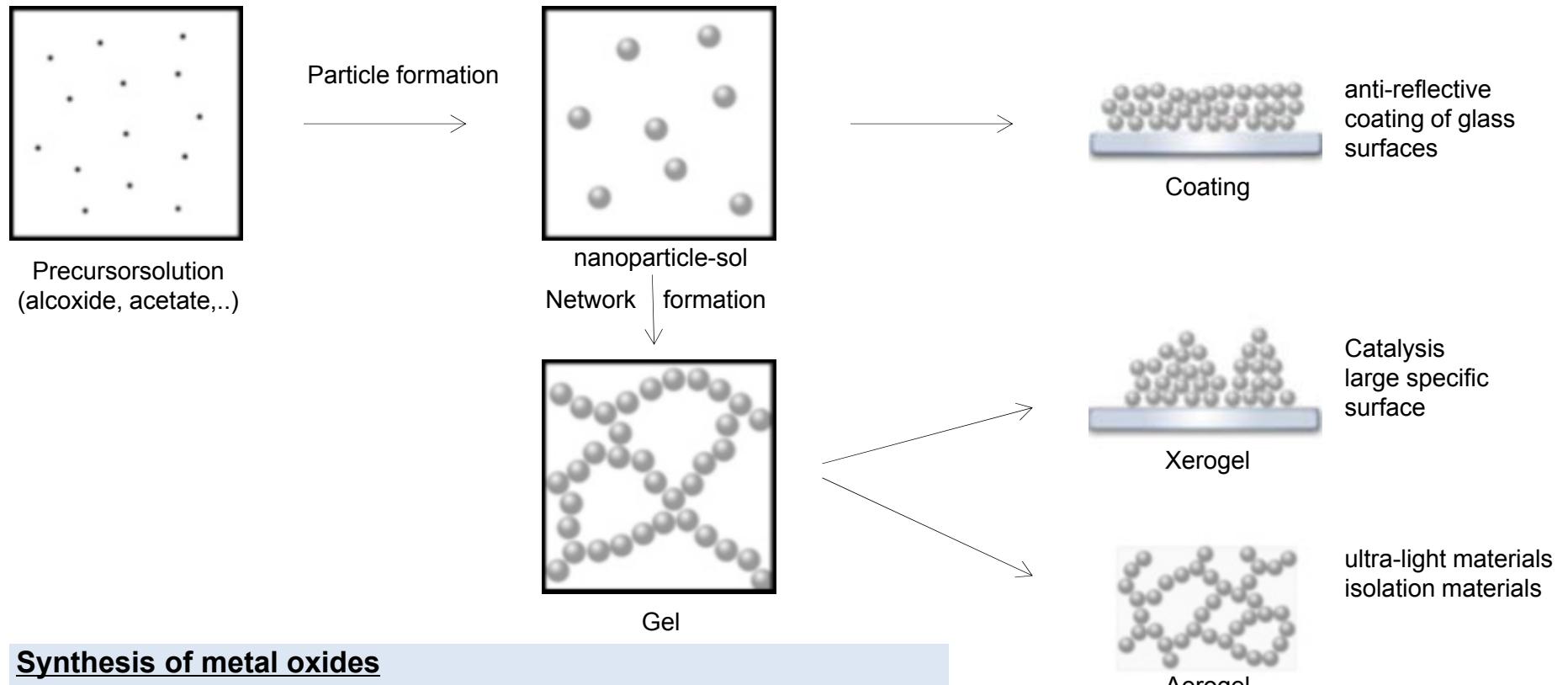
# Sol-Gel Synthesis



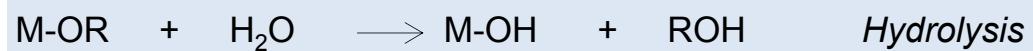
# Sol-Gel Synthesis



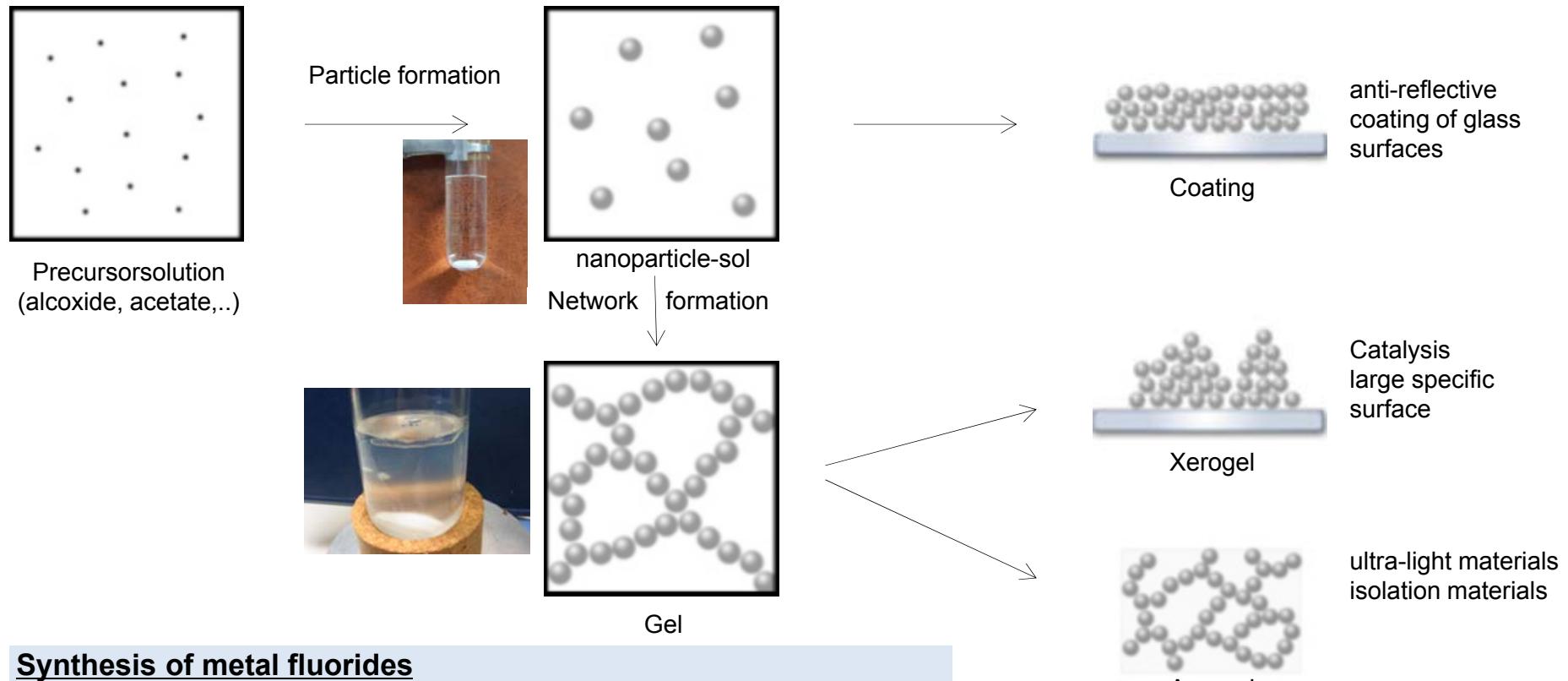
# Sol-Gel Synthesis



## Synthesis of metal oxides



# Fluorolytic Sol-Gel Synthesis



## Synthesis of metal fluorides



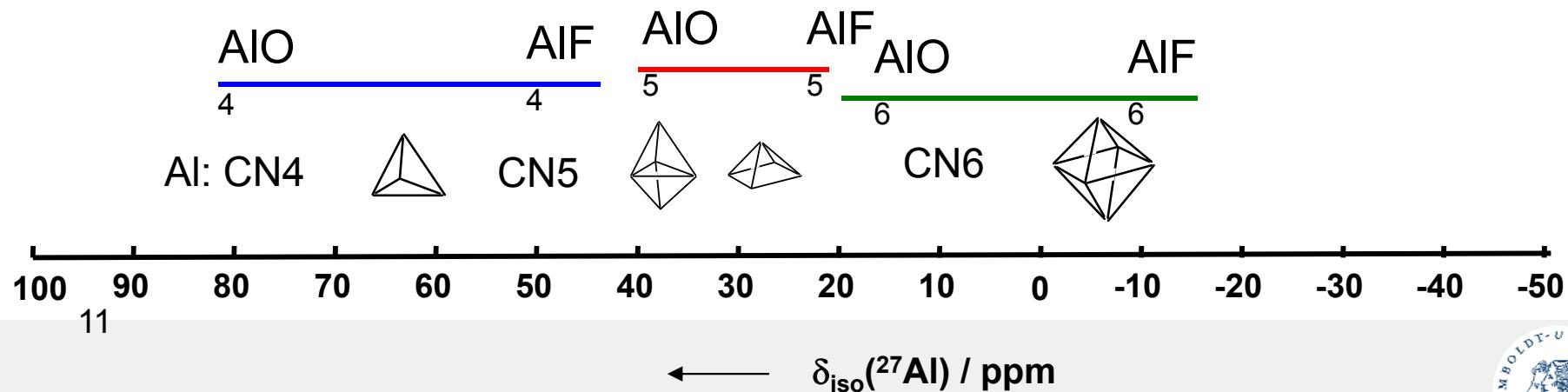
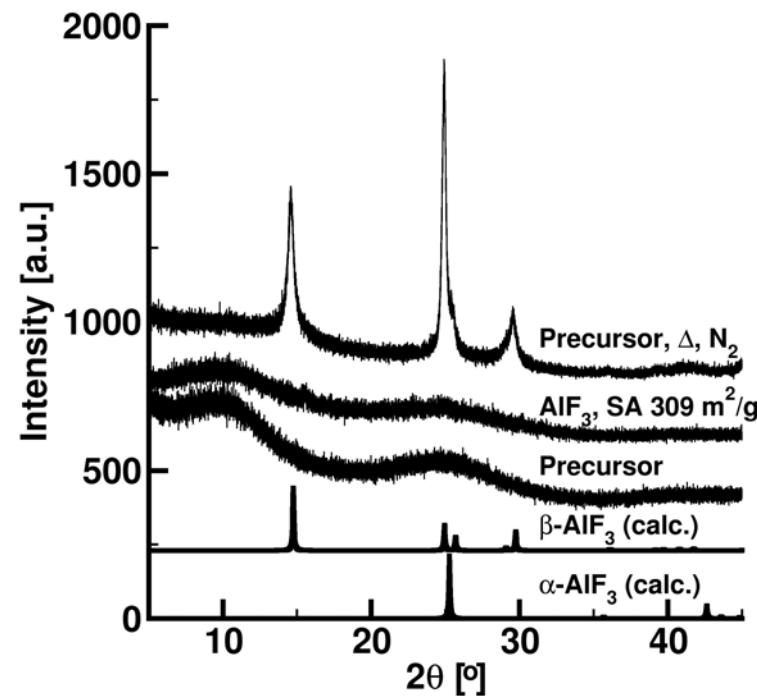
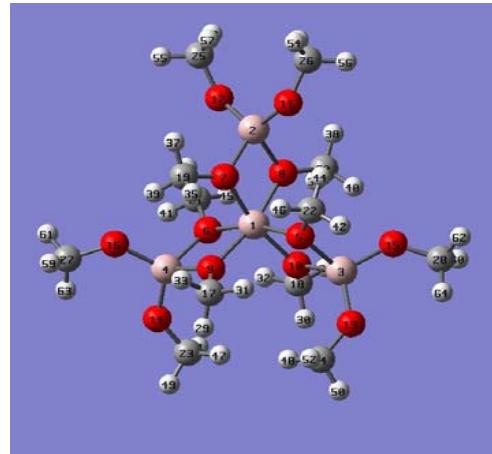
$\text{AlF}_3, \text{MgF}_2, \text{CaF}_2, \text{Na}_3\text{AlF}_6$

- high BET surface areas
- moderate to strong Lewis-acidity
- high transparency

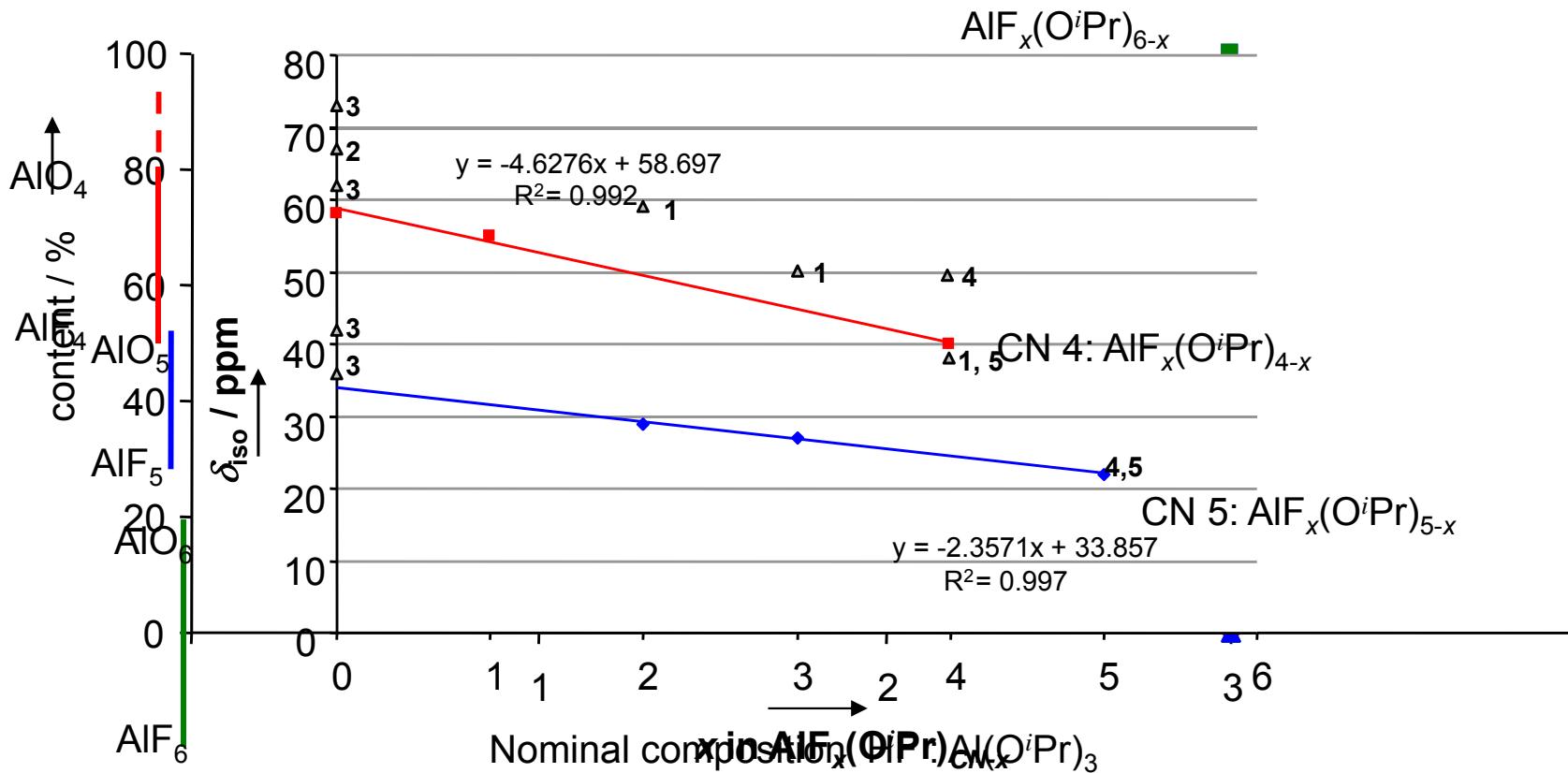


1. The *fluorolytic* sol-gel-synthesis of metal fluorides
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# MAS-NMR as a powerful tool to follow the reaction path of the fluorolytic sol-gel reaction

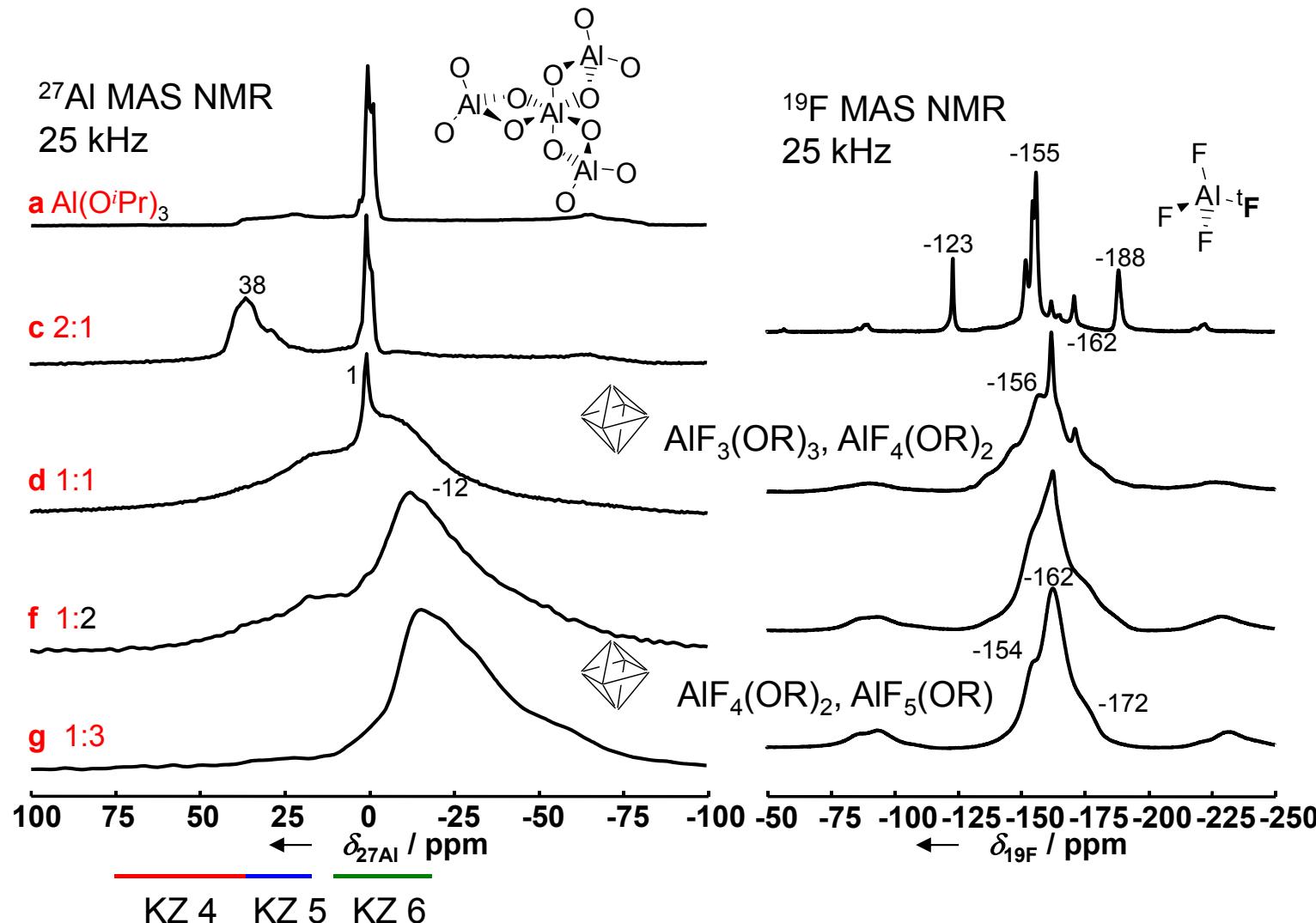


# Fluorolysis: $\text{AlF}_x(\text{OR})_{3-x} \cdot \text{ROH}$ $^{27}\text{Al}$ chemical shift



$\text{AlF}_x(\text{O}^i\text{Pr})_{CN-x}$	F-species		
	Al $\delta_{\text{iso}} / \text{ppm}$	bridging $\delta_{\text{iso}} / \text{ppm}$	terminal $\delta_{\text{iso}} / \text{ppm}$
CN: 4, $x = 4$	38	-156	-188
CN: 5, $x = 2-5$	29, 27, 22	-149, -130, -137	(-172), -182, -189
CN: 6, $x = 3-5$	-1 bis -12	-162, -156, -172	

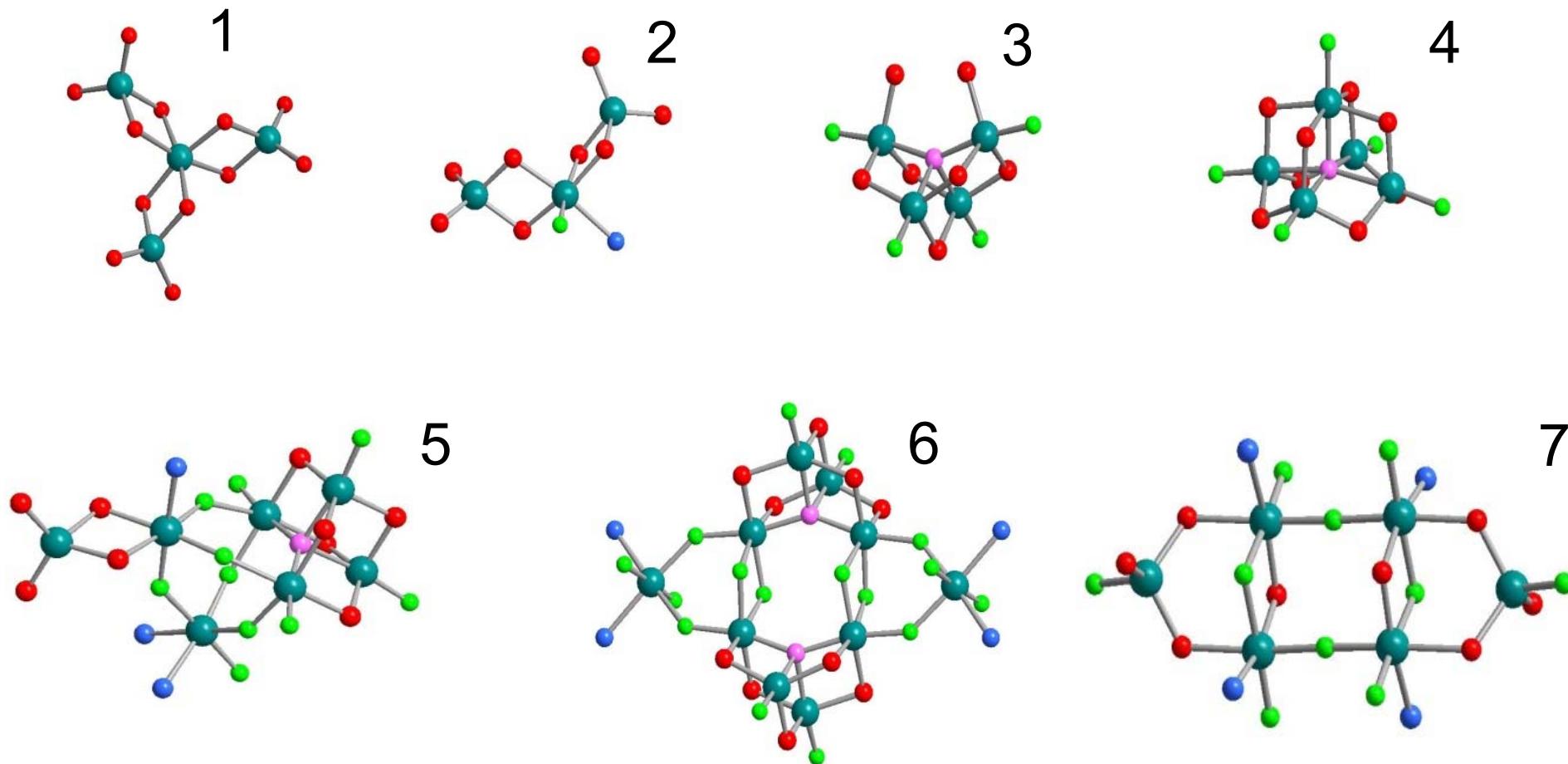
# Fluorolysis: $\text{AlF}_x(\text{OR})_{3-x} \cdot \text{ROH}$



*Chem. Mater.*, 2007, 19, 2229-2237. *J. Phys. Chem., C*, 2009, 113, 16674–16680.  
<sup>13</sup>*J. Phys. Chem., C*, 2009, 113, 155786-15585. *Dalton*, 2011, 40, 8701-8 710.



# Structures of aluminium alkoxide fluorides



Structures of aluminium alkoxide fluorides obtained from sols of varying aluminium isopropoxide to HF ratios sorted according to their Al to F ratio within the structure.

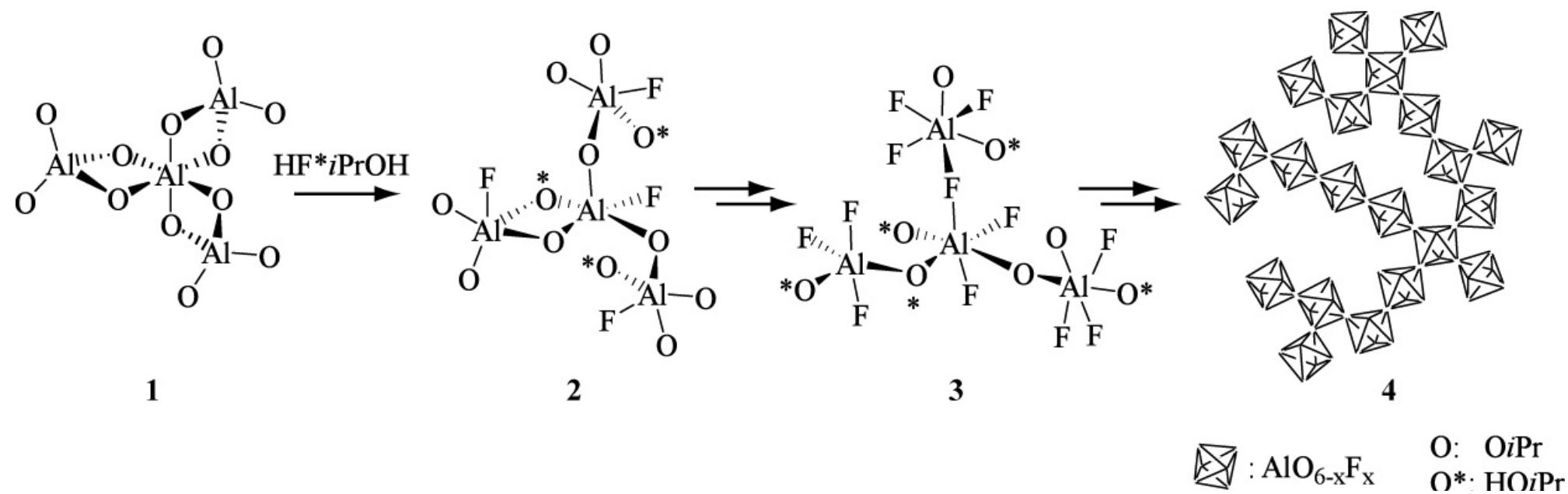
**1:**  $\text{Al}_4(\text{O}^{\prime}\text{Pr})_{12}$ ; **2:**  $\text{Al}_3\text{F}(\text{O}^{\prime}\text{Pr})_8 \cdot \text{D}$  ( $\text{D} = \text{Py, DMSO}$ ),  $\text{Al:F} = 3:1$ ;

**3:**  $\text{Al}_4\text{F}_4(\mu_4\text{O})(\text{O}^{\prime}\text{Pr})_5(\text{H}(\text{O}^{\prime}\text{Pr})_2)$ ,  $\text{Al:F} = 1:1$ ; **4:**  $\text{Al}_5\text{F}_5(\mu_5\text{O})(\text{O}^{\prime}\text{Pr})_8$ ,  $\text{Al:F} = 1:1$ ;

**5:**  $\text{Al}_7\text{F}_{10}(\mu_4\text{O})(\text{O}^{\prime}\text{Pr})_9 \cdot 3\text{Py}$ ,  $\text{Al:F} = 1:1.43$ , **6:**  $\text{Al}_{10}\text{F}_{16}(\mu_4\text{O})_2(\text{O}^{\prime}\text{Pr})_{10} \cdot 4\text{Py}$ ,  $\text{Al:F} = 1:1.6$ ,

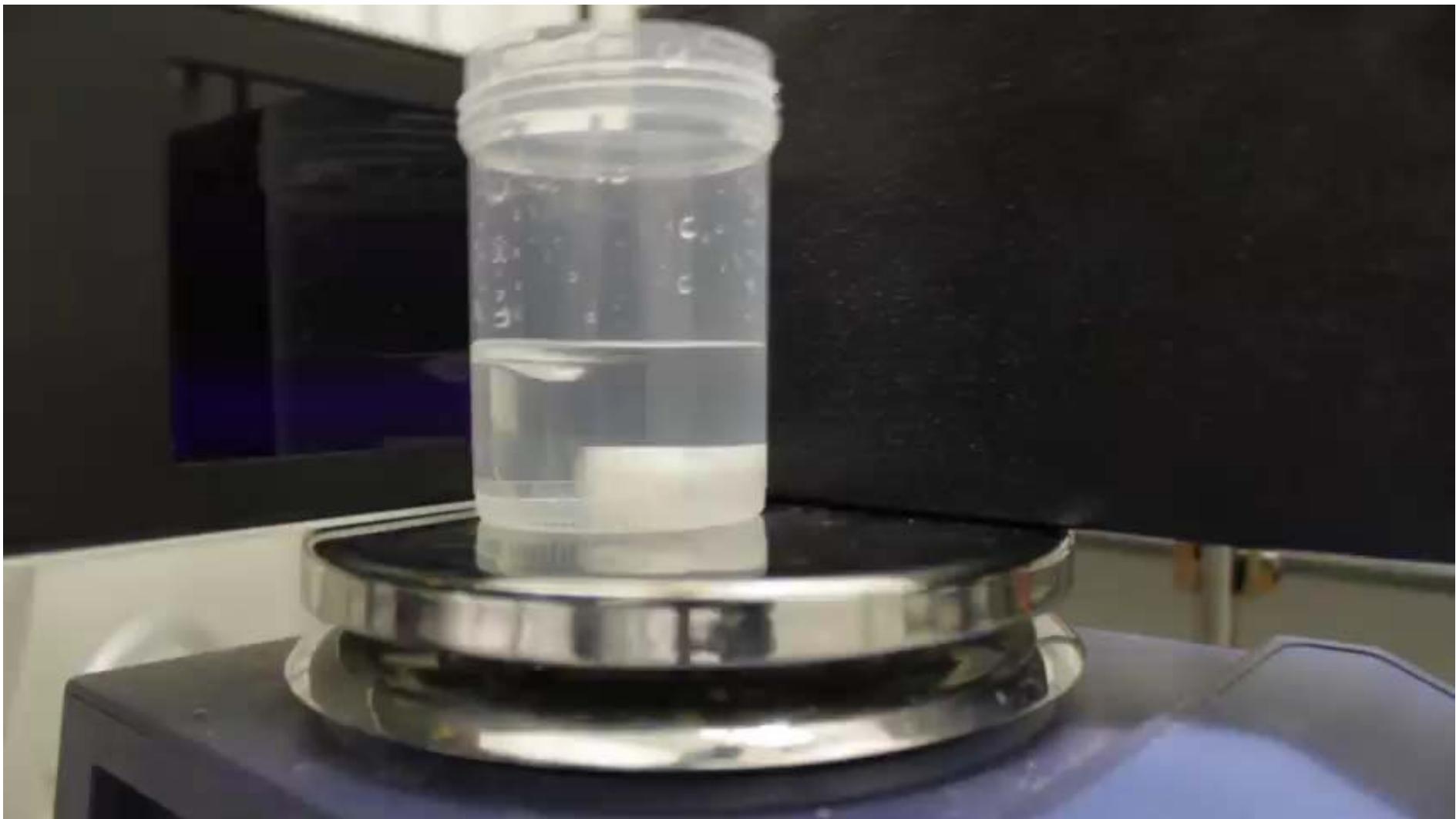
**7:**  $\text{Al}_6\text{F}_{10}(\text{O}^{\prime}\text{Pr})_8 \cdot 4\text{Py}$ ,  $\text{Al:F} = 1:1.67$

Schematic representation of the formation of highly distorted nanosopic aluminium fluoride by reacting aluminium isopropoxide with anhydrous hydrogen fluoride in isopropanol as solvent.



# Nanoparticle formation proceeds very fast

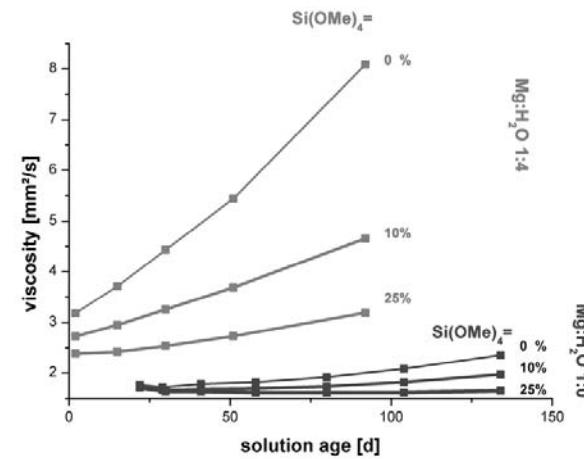
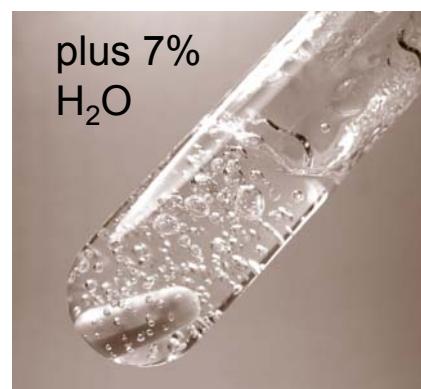
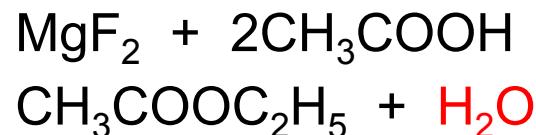
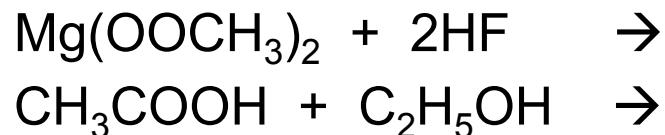
85% Sr(OLac)<sub>2</sub>, 5% Ce(OAc)<sub>3</sub> and 10% Tb(OAc)<sub>3</sub> (0.2 mol/l) with 2.15 eq. HF/MeOH within 30 sec under illumination at 254 nm.



# Impact of various synthesis parameters

General rule: only soluble precursors yield transparent sols

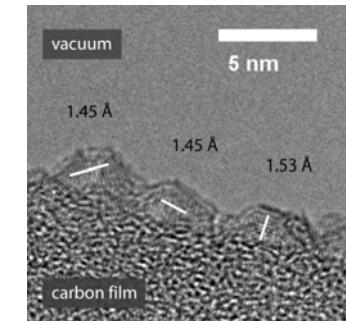
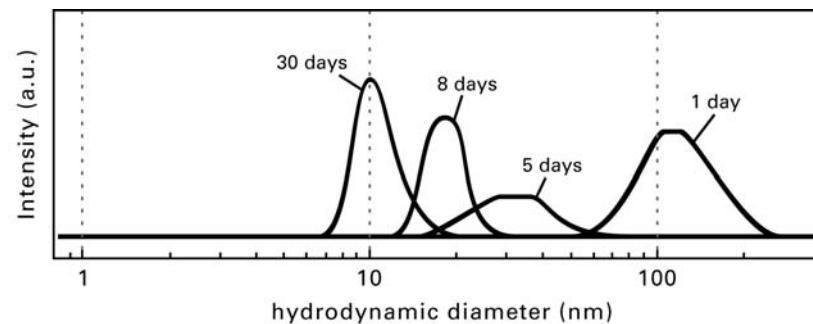
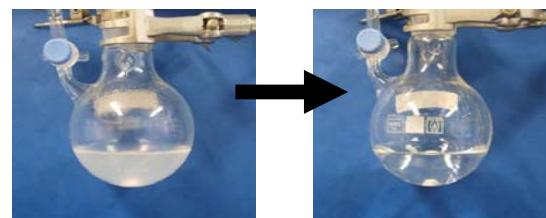
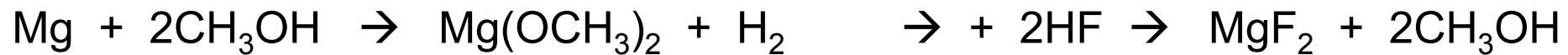
## Solvents and precursors



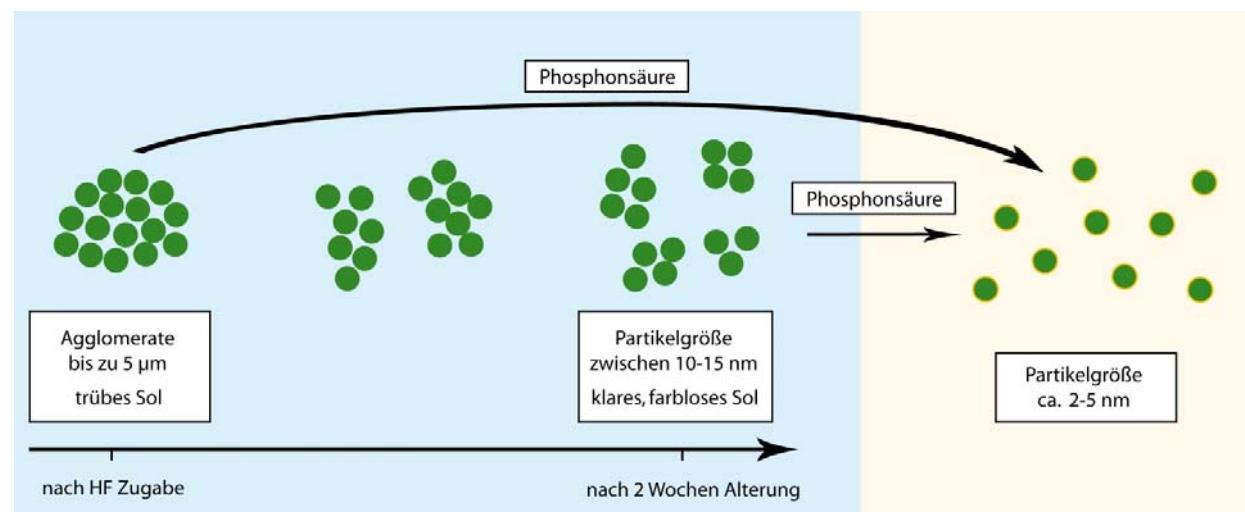
**Caution:** fast formation of insoluble alcohol-solvates

# Metal alkoxide precursors

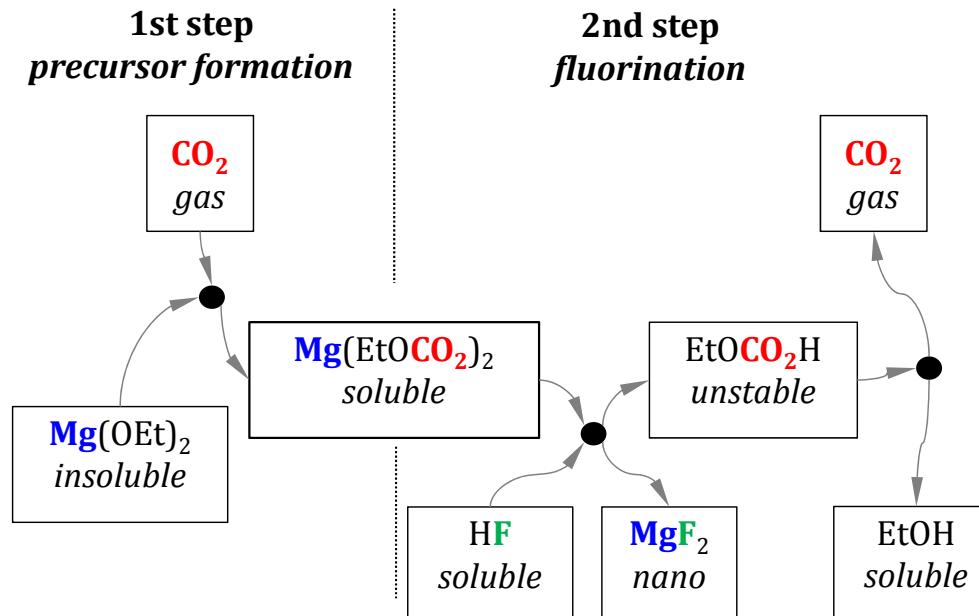
Availability and durability: **Mg methoxide as precursor**



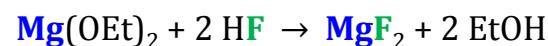
addition of complexing“  
agents (ca. 2mol%)



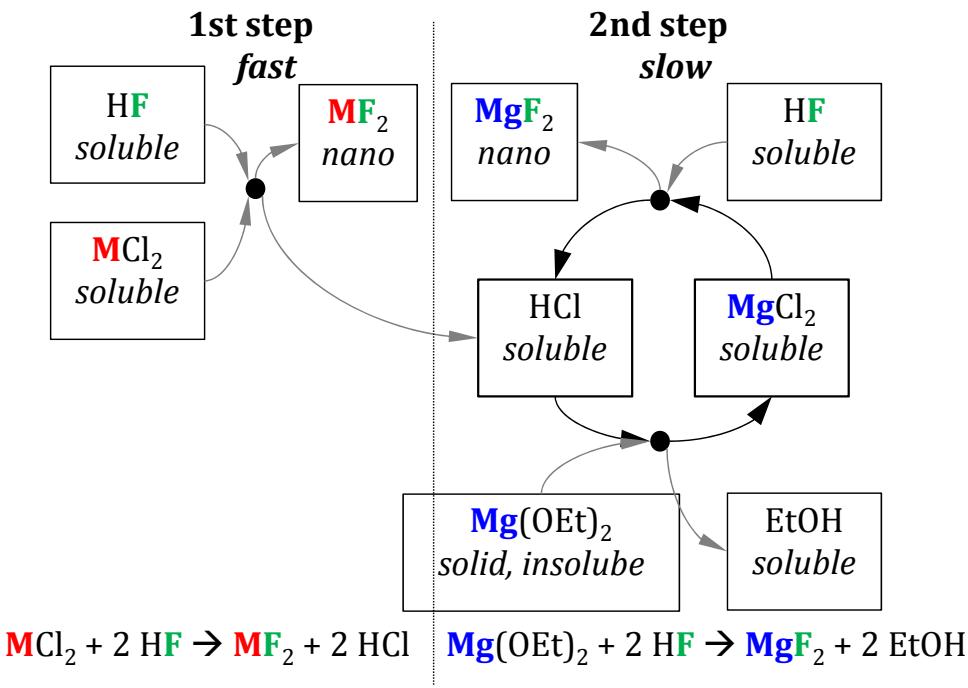
# Metal alkoxides: Mg-Ethoxide (it is insoluble!)



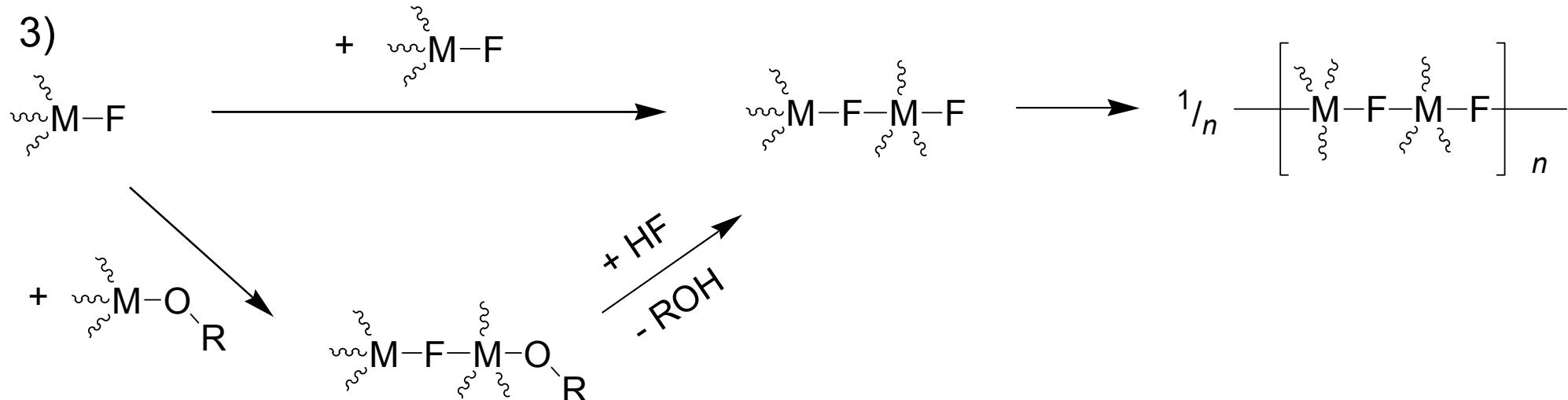
*Brutto reaction*



# The HCl-mediated route



# Rationalisation of the reaction mechanism



# **Which horse to ride? It depends on the way you go...**

Horse or maule horse: fluorine or oxygen, fluorides or oxides?



# Many fluorides are accessible via sol-gel

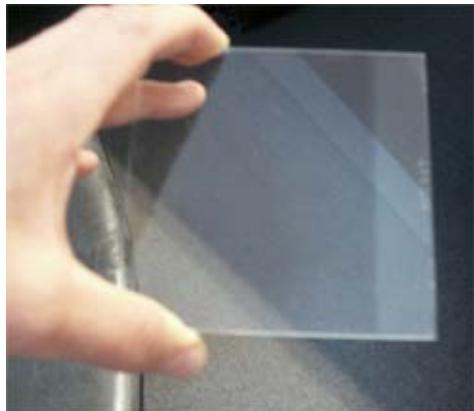
- ⑩  $MF$ :  $M = Li, Na, K, Ag, \dots$
- ⑩  $MF_2$ :  $M = Be, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Zn, Fe, Cu, \dots$
- ⑩  $MF_3$ :  $M = Al, In, Ga, Cr, Fe, V$
- ⑩  $MF_2/M'F_x$ :  $M = Mg, Zn; M' = Cr, Fe, V, Ti, Zr, Sb, Ta, Nb, \dots$
  
- ⑩  $A_2^I B^I M^{III} F_6$        $A = K, Rb, Cs; B = Li, Na, K, Rb M = Al (G, In, Fe)$
- ⑩  $A_3^I M^{III} F_6$        $A = Na, Rb, Cs; M = Al (G, In, Fe \dots)$
- ⑩  $A^I B^I C^I M^{III} F_6$        $A = Li; B = K; C = Na, Rb, Cs; M = Al \dots$
- ⑩  $AMF_4$        $A = K, Rb; M = Al \dots$
- ⑩  $AMF_3$        $A = Li, Na M = Zn \dots$



# Novel applications due to homodispersed nanoscaled metal fluorides

## Up- & down-conversion

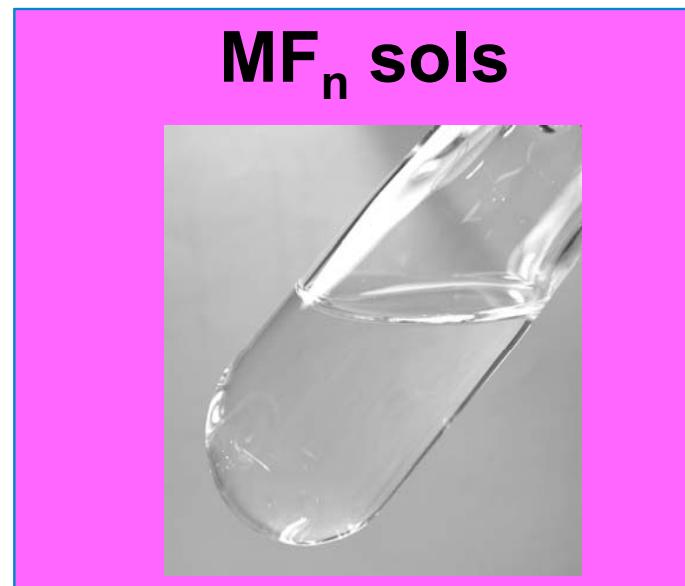
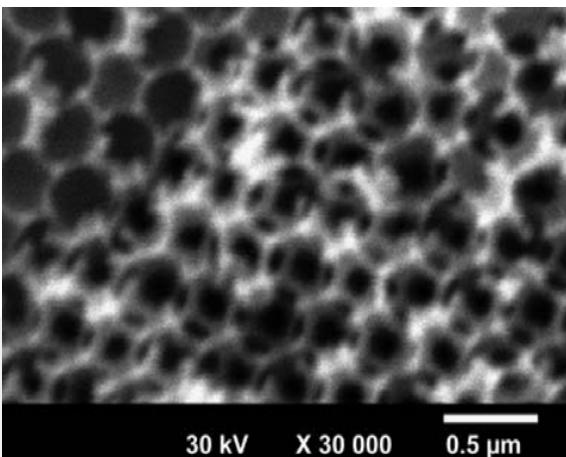
Antireflective coating



New ceramics



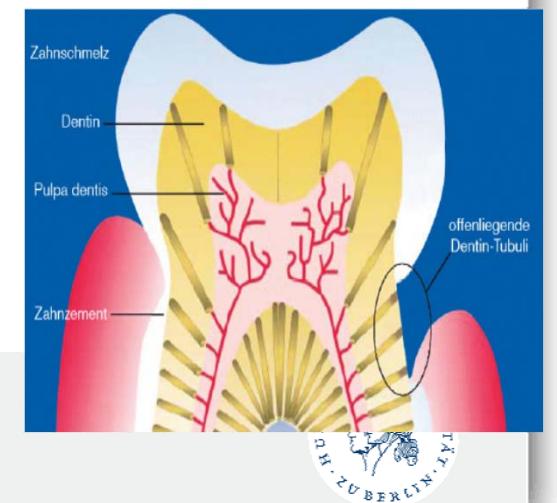
Meso structured materials  
Heterogeneous catalysis



MF<sub>n</sub> based composites



Dentistry

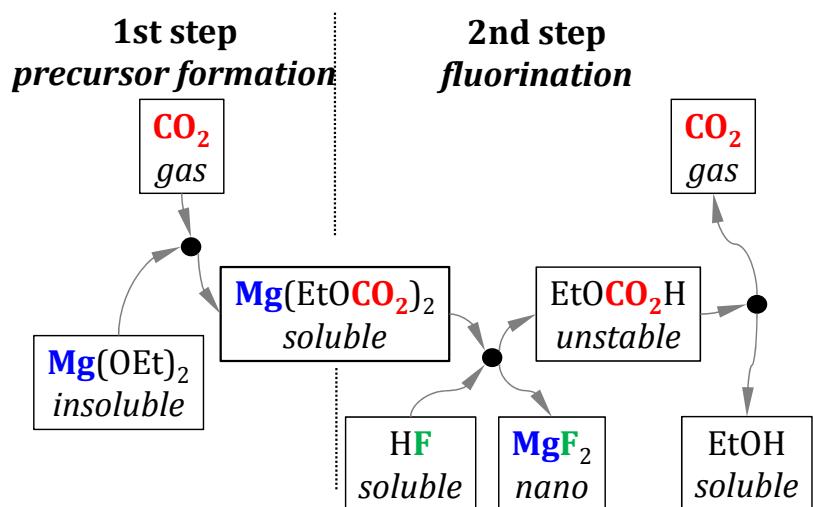
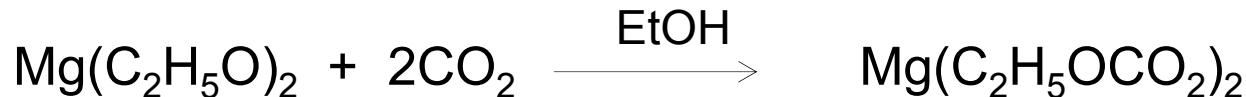




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2. Mechanism/reaction path
  - chemical aspects – AlF<sub>3</sub>
  - topological aspects – MgF<sub>2</sub>
3. Applications: **up- and down conversion**
4. Summary

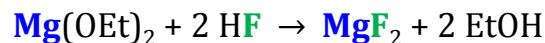
# Magnesium ethoxide precursor

...is insoluble in methanol, ethanol, isopropanol,.....

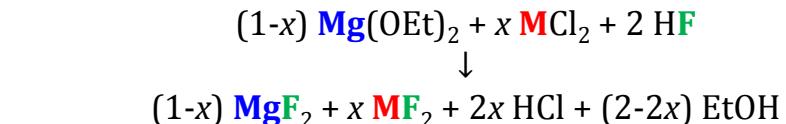


- 1st:  $\text{Mg(OEt)}_2 + 2 \text{CO}_2 \rightarrow \text{Mg}(\text{EtO}\text{CO}_2)_2$   
 2nd:  $\text{Mg}(\text{EtO}\text{CO}_2)_2 + 2 \text{HF} \rightarrow \text{MgF}_2 + 2 \text{EtOH} + 2 \text{CO}_2$

### Brutto reaction



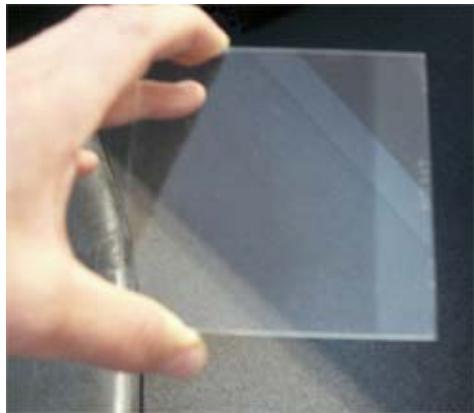
### Brutto reaction



# Novel applications due to homodispersed nanoscaled metal fluorides

## Up- & down-conversion

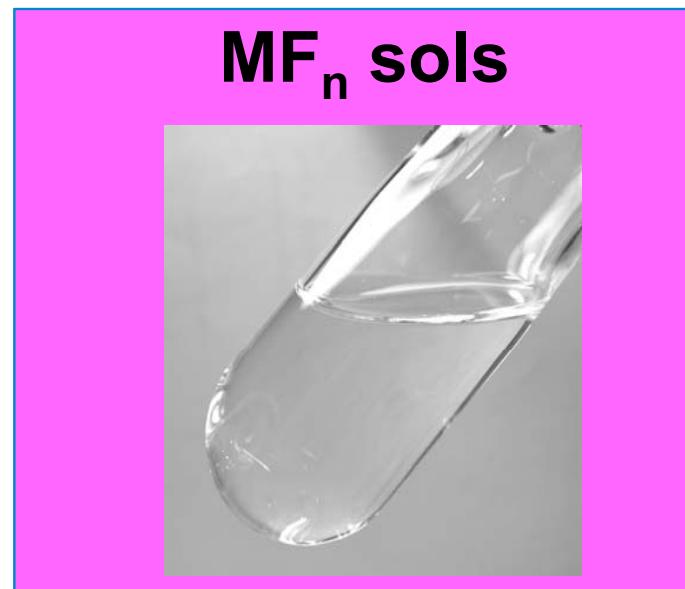
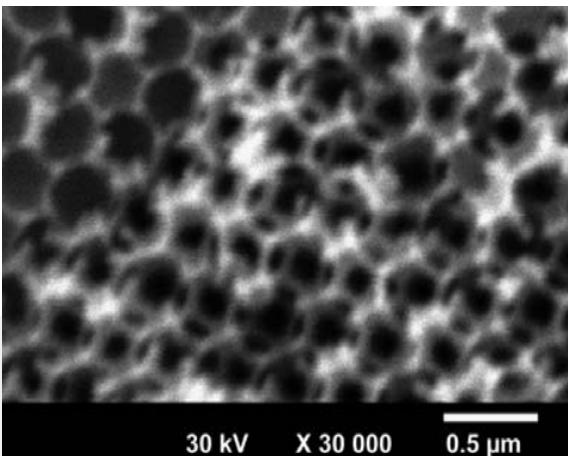
Antireflective coating



New ceramics



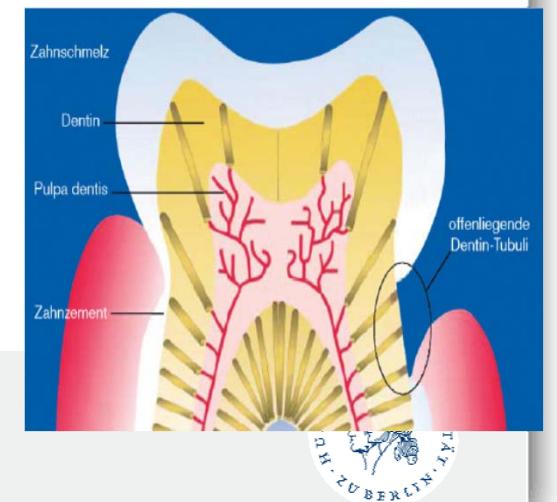
Meso structured materials  
Heterogeneous catalysis



MF<sub>n</sub> based composites



Dentistry



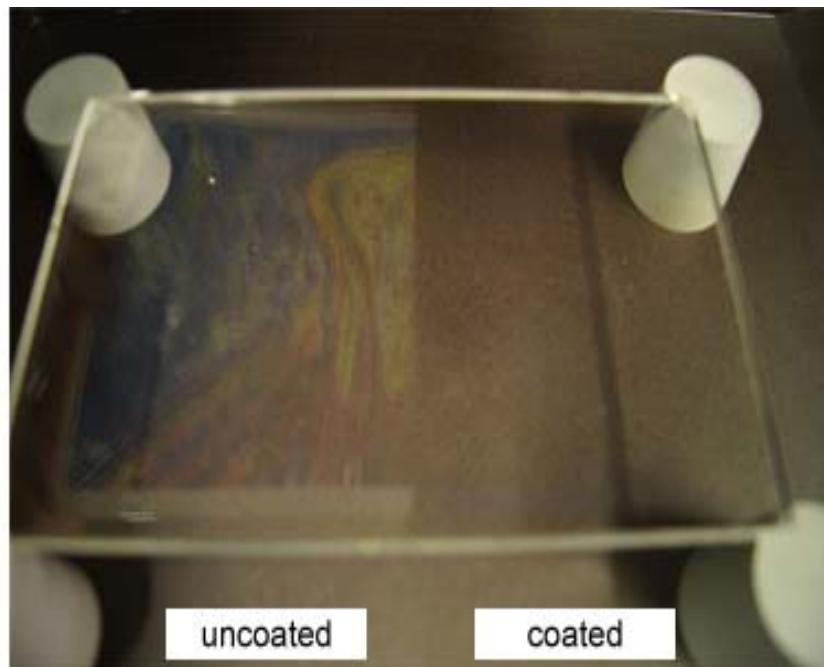
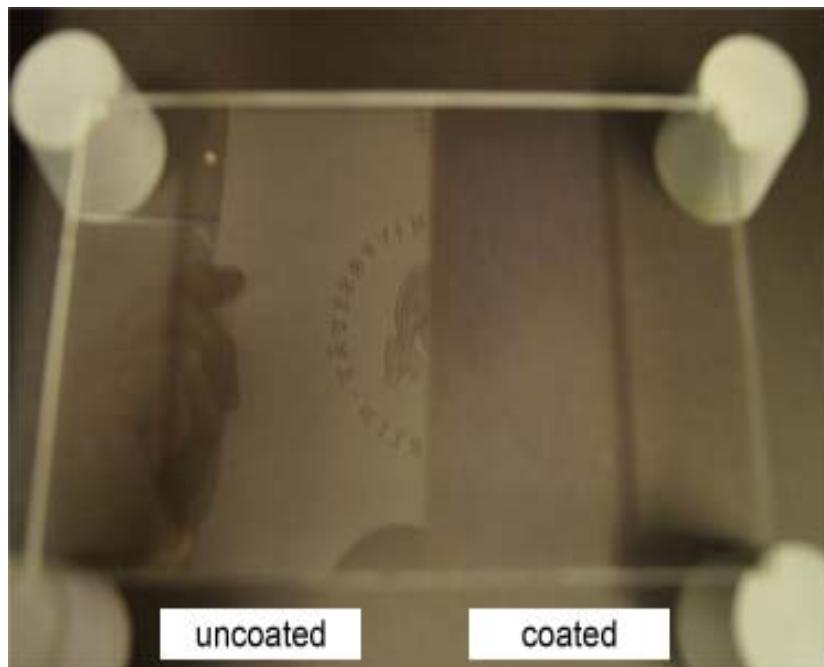


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  - the principle of the *fluorolytic* Sol-Gel-synthesis
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  - Synthesis parameter
3. Applications: **antireflective coatings**
4. Summary

# Selected physical data of different materials

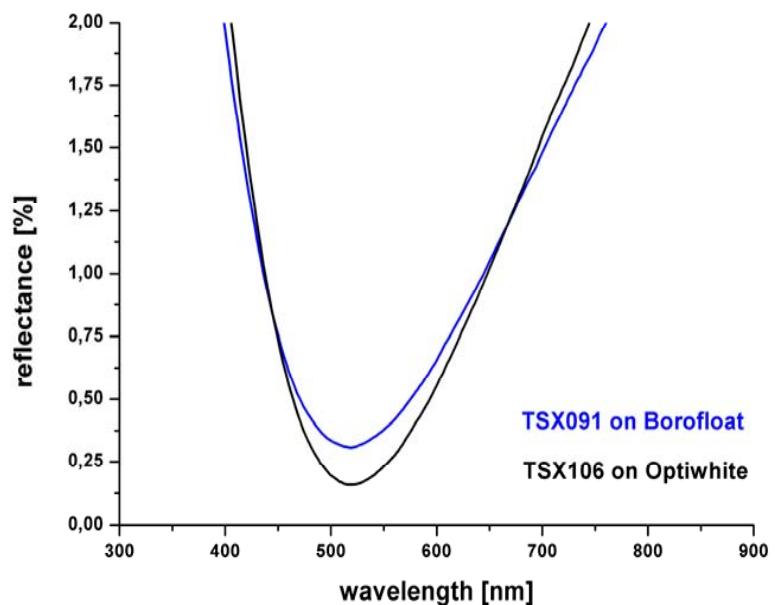
Formula	Structure	$F_p$	opt. range	n	solubility
$\text{BeF}_2$		555° C			good in $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ EtOH
$\text{MgF}_2$	rutil	1256° C	120nm - 8μm	1,38	0,13 g/L
$\text{CaF}_2$	cubic	1423° C	130nm - 8μm	1,40	0,016 g/L
$\text{SrF}_2$	cubic	1477° C	130nm - 11μm	1,44	0,11 g/L
$\text{BaF}_2$	cubic	1368° C	150nm - 12μm	1,48	1,60 g/L
$\text{SiO}_2$	diamond	1713° C	150nm - 4μm 50μm - 1000μm	1,54 (thin film)	0,01 g/L quarz 0,12 g/L am. $\text{SiO}_2$

# AR – Layers based on $\text{MgF}_2$



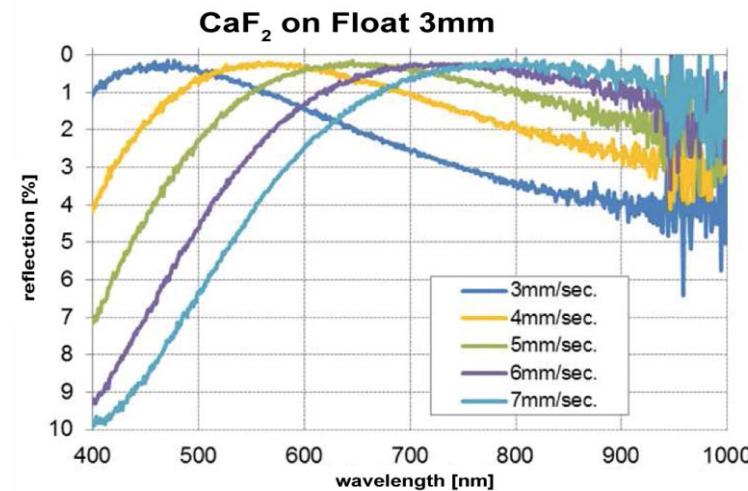
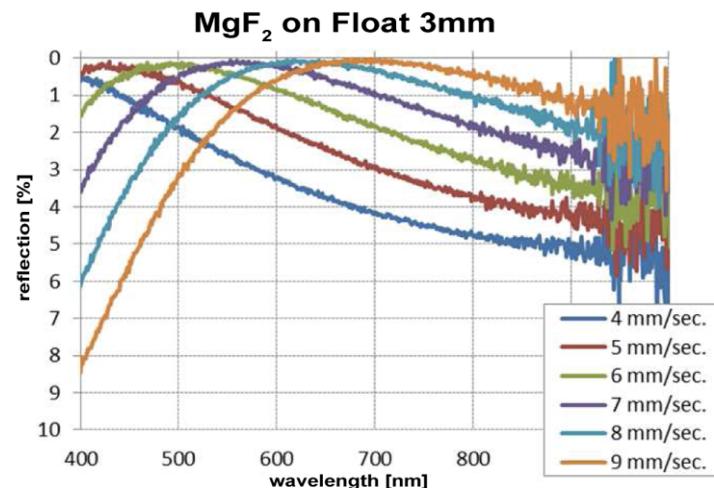
Layer	$n_{\text{sub}}$	$n_{\text{film}}$	$d_{\text{film}}$
Borofloat	1,47	1,261	103 nm
Optiwhite	1,52	1,268	103 nm

Thin Solid Films 2008, 516, 4175  
Phys. Stat. Sol. 2008, 205, 821



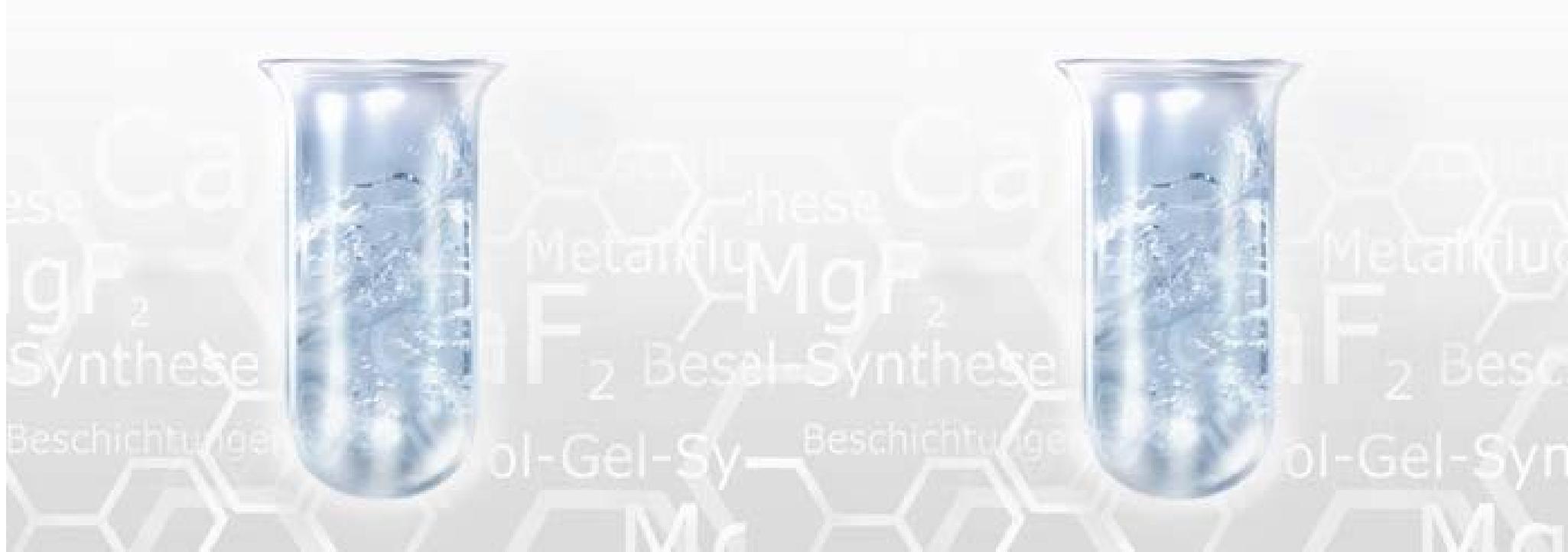
# Antireflective (AR) and interference layers optical data

B. Lintner: Prinz Optics



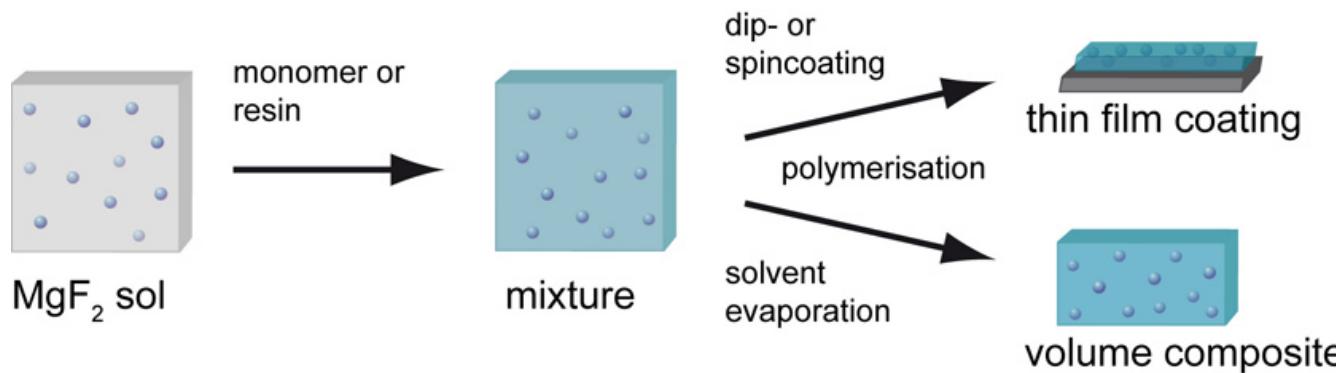
- **Optical data** for MgF<sub>2</sub> (left) and CaF<sub>2</sub> (right) layers of different thickness.
- In both cases, the optical transmission is nearly 100% over a wide range of wave lengths

**Benefits:** (i) No light loss, (ii) gain of efficiency compared to „state of the art“-SiO<sub>2</sub>-coatings of at least 4 to 5% resulting in higher energy yield



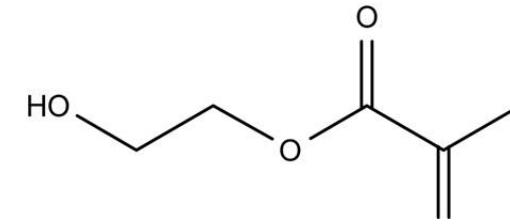
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# Manufacturing of nano composites



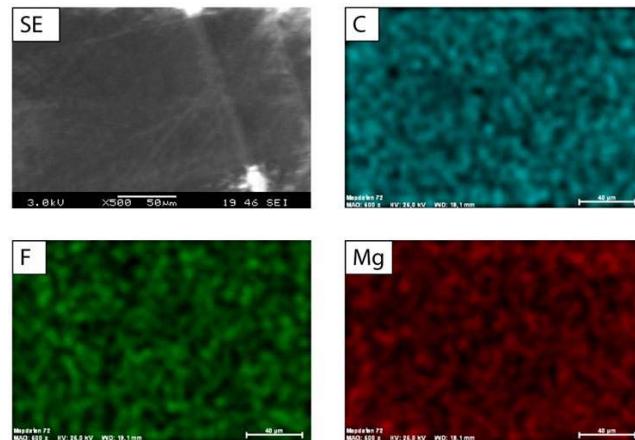
## Composite of 10% PA-stabilized MgF<sub>2</sub> in PolyHEMA

*Radical induced polymerisation with benzoylperoxide at 60-90°C*



2-Hydroxyethylmethacrylat

# Characterization of nano composites



**Optical transparency:**  
No agglomeration or phase separation

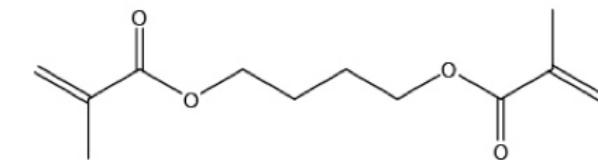
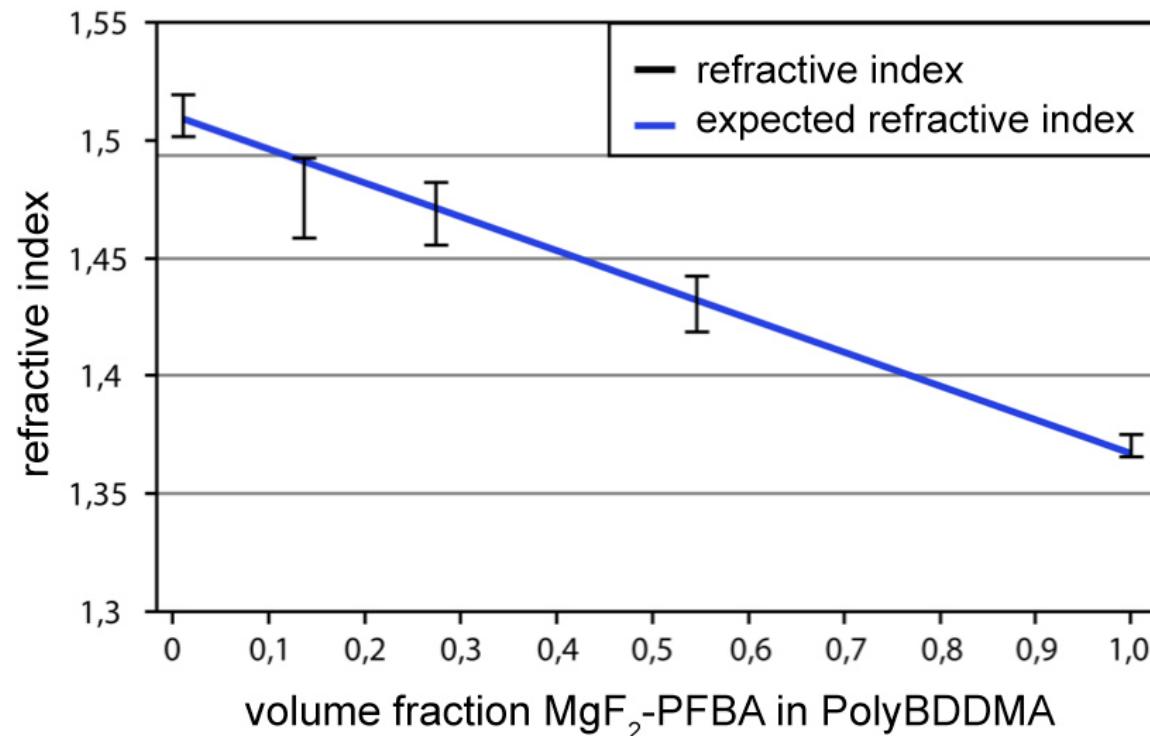
**EDX:**  
Homogeneous distribution of magnesium  
and fluorine in the polymer

Nanoscale 2011, 3, 4774-4779



# Characterization of nano composites

## Ellipsometric determination of the refractive index of the composites

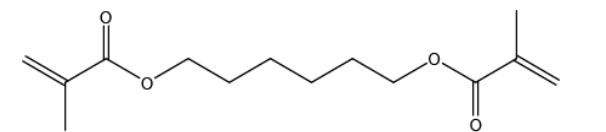
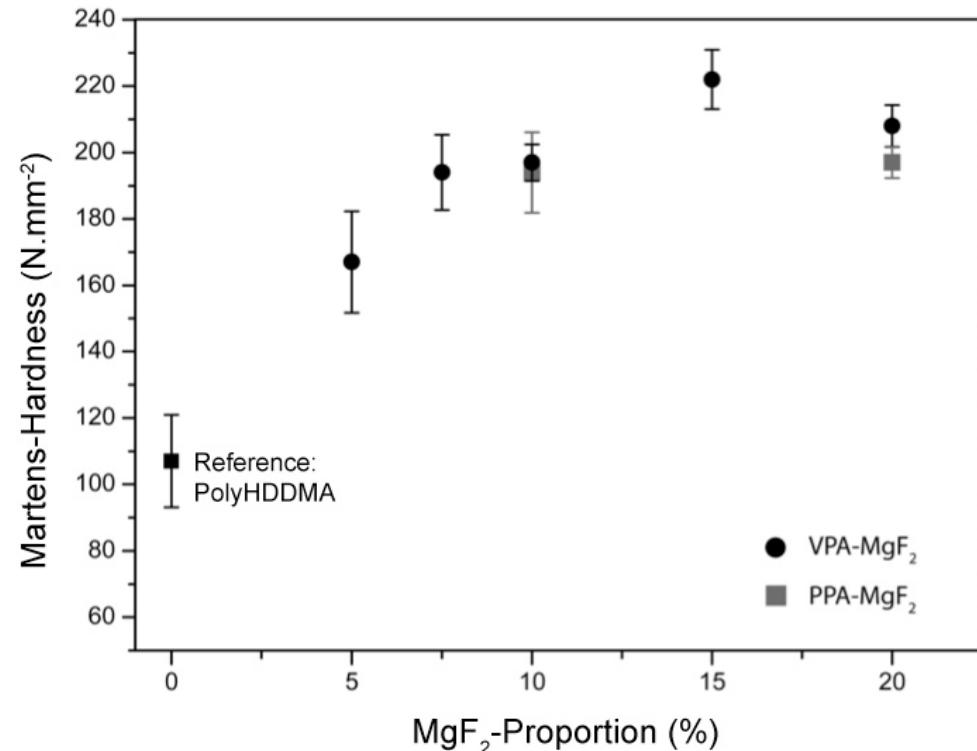


$$n_{Komposit} = \sum_i n_i \cdot \phi_i$$

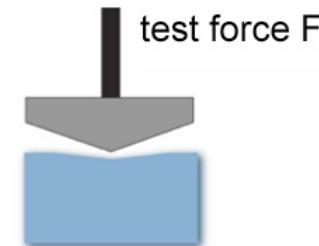
- Decrease of refractive index of polymer materials is possible
- fine tuning by addition of nano-MgF<sub>2</sub> successful

# Mechanical properties of composites

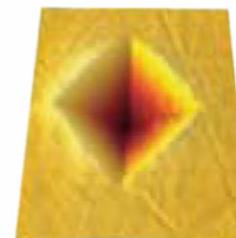
## Indentation investigations at composites with PA-stabilised $\text{MgF}_2$



1,6-Hexandioldimethacrylat



$$H = \frac{F}{A_c}$$



- adding nano- $\text{MgF}_2$  causes drastic increase of the Martens-hardness of the composite
- scratch resistance raises

# Polymerisation of bulk-composites

## Stabilised MgF<sub>2</sub>-Sol in HEMA:

- Radical induced polymerisation with benzoylperoxid @ 60-90°C



## Glass transition temperature by DMA:

sample	0%	2,5%	5,0%	10%	20%
T <sub>g</sub> in °C	102	108	118	118	126

- High Transparency
- Increasing T<sub>g</sub> with increasing MgF<sub>2</sub> content
- Decreasing refractive index with increasing MgF<sub>2</sub>-content
- Increasing Hardness with increasing MgF<sub>2</sub> content





## 1. The *fluorolytic* sol-gel-synthesis of metal fluorides

- the principle of the *fluorolytic* Sol-Gel-synthesis

## 2. Mechanism/reaction path

- chemical aspects –  $\text{AlF}_3$
- synthesis parameter

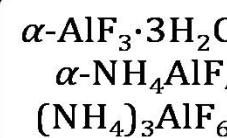
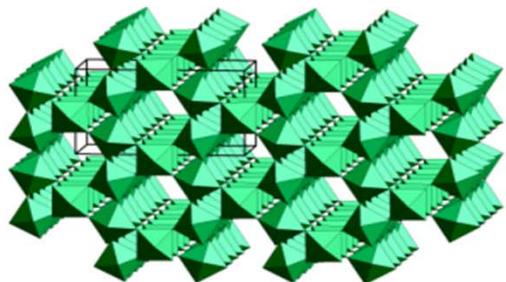
## 3. Applications: **Catalysis**

## 4. Summary

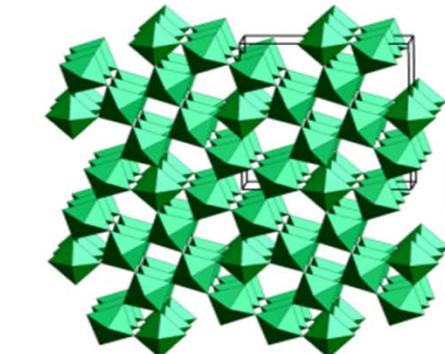
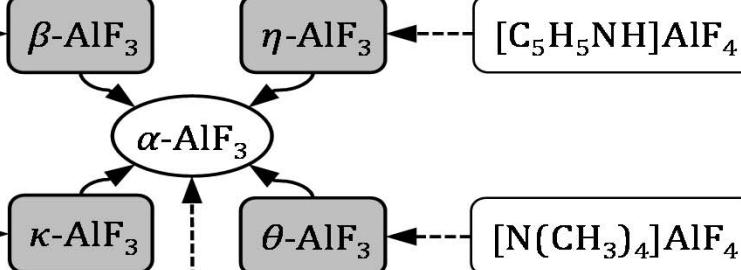
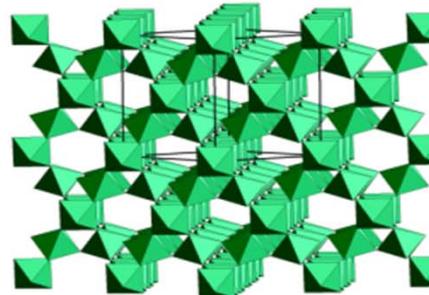
# **AlF<sub>3</sub> an exciting solid Lewis acid**

# Aluminium fluoride phases – structures and synthesis

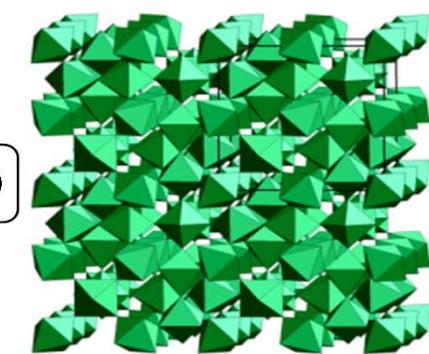
*Cmcm* (orthorhombic), **HTB**



*Fd\bar{3}m* (cubic), **pyrochlore**



*P4/mbm* (tetragonal), **TTB**



*P4/nmm* (tetragonal),  
**chiolite related**

# Fluoride Ion Affinity (FIA) – the pF Scale



Molecule	FIA <sup>a</sup> meas	pF <sup>b</sup> meas	FIA <sup>a</sup> calc	pF <sup>b</sup> calc
BF <sub>3(g)</sub>			351	8.38
BCl <sub>3(g)</sub>			405	9.67
AlF <sub>3(g)</sub>	488	11.66	484	11.56
AlClF <sub>2(g)</sub>	491	11.73	494	11.80
AlCl <sub>2</sub> F <sub>(g)</sub>	499	11.92	501	11.97
AlCl <sub>3(g)</sub>	506	12.09	506	12.09
AlBr <sub>3(g)</sub>			512	12.23
Al(O <sup>t</sup> C <sub>4</sub> F <sub>9</sub> ) <sub>3(g)</sub>			537	12.83
GaF <sub>3(g)</sub>	461	11.01	453	10.82
GaCl <sub>3(g)</sub>			445	10.63
AsF <sub>5(g)</sub>			426	10.17
SbF <sub>5(g)</sub> <sup>c</sup>			489	11.68

<sup>a</sup> in kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>

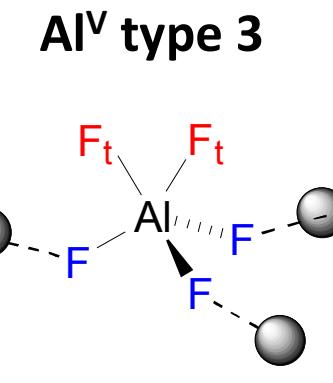
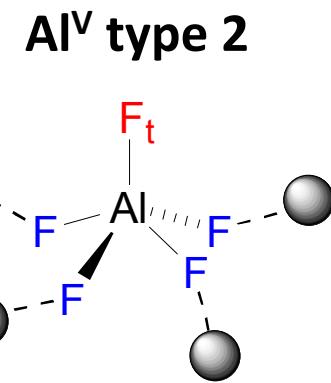
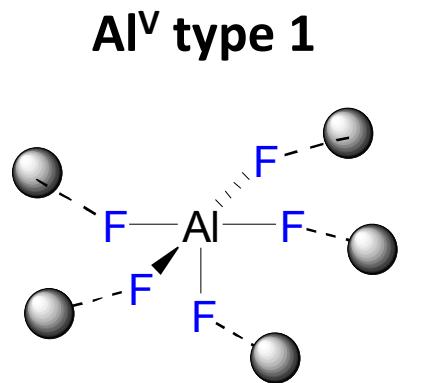
<sup>b</sup> pF = FIA/(41.868 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>)

<sup>c</sup> 490 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> is a good average value for liquid SbF<sub>5</sub> containing oligomers  
Sb<sub>n</sub>F<sub>5n</sub> (n = 1, 2, 3, 4)

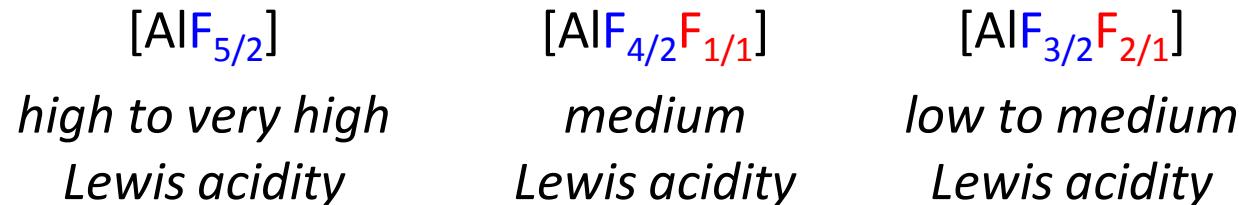
Measured values from <sup>59, 60</sup>; Calculated values from <sup>52, 53, 57</sup>

Fluoride ion  
affinities (FIA) and  
pF values of  
selected molecules  
(meas ~ measured,  
calc ~ calculated).

# Modelling the Lewis Acidity of AlF<sub>3</sub> Surfaces



T6 (Al<sup>V</sup> type 2),  
T1 (Al<sup>V</sup> type 1).

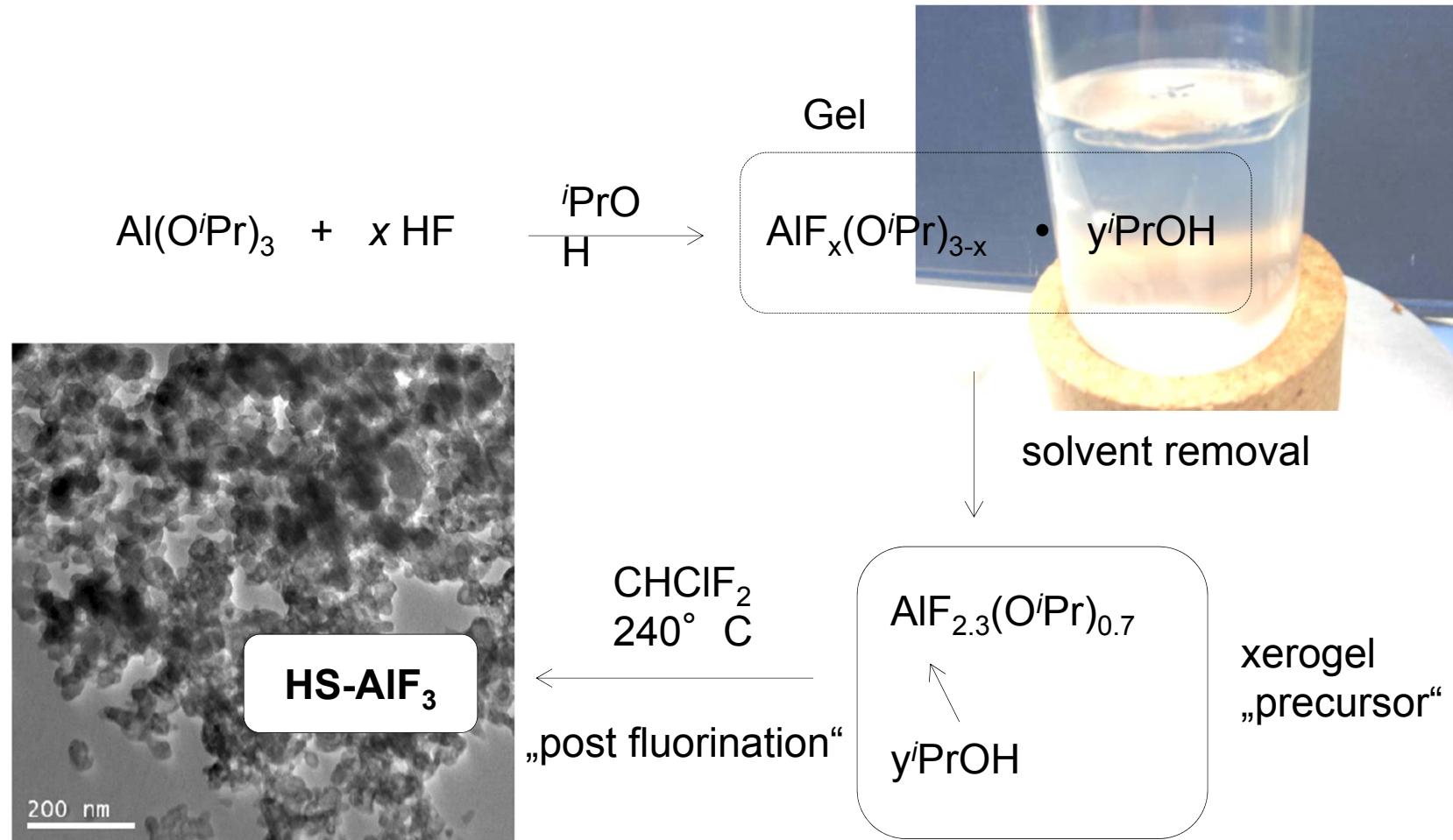


Schematic pictures five-fold coordinated aluminium on the surface of AlF<sub>3</sub>.  
Spheres ~ AlF<sub>3</sub> bulk network.

Calculated reaction enthalpy of ammonia with different aluminium halides. The highest binding energy at  $\beta\text{-AlF}_3$  is bold marked. T1 and T6 are two different accessible sites at the (100) surface of  $\beta\text{-AlF}_3$ . Molecular compounds are given for comparison.

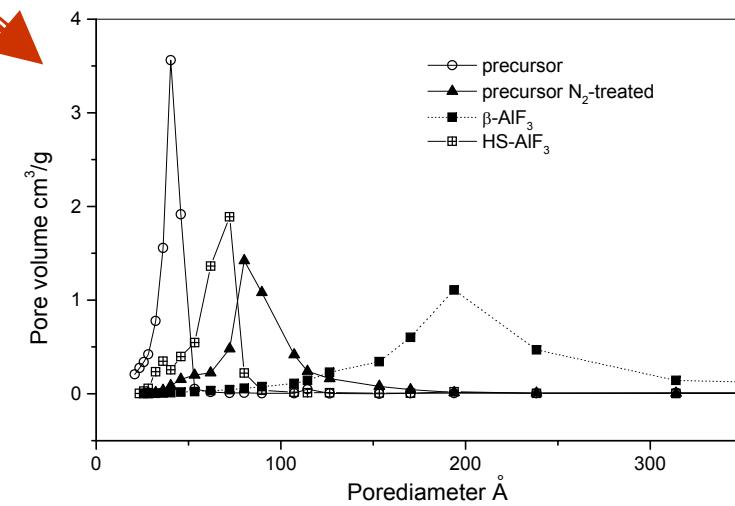
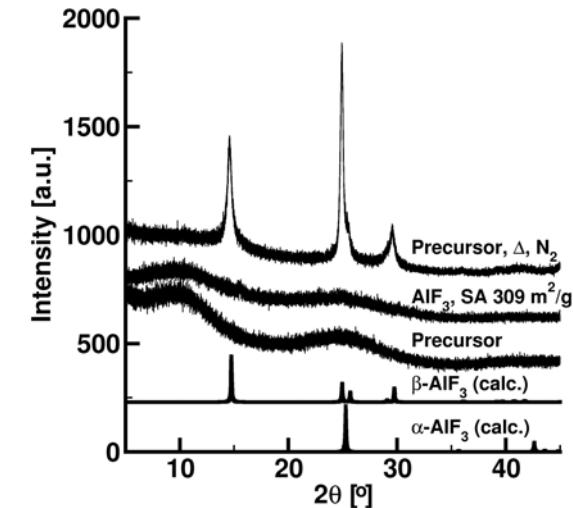
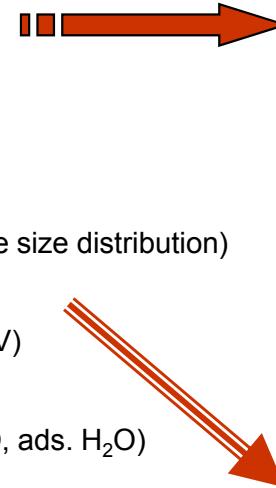
Species	Centre Type <sup>a</sup>	$\Delta H(\text{NH}_3)$ kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>		Comment <sup>b</sup>					
$\alpha\text{-AlF}_{3(s)}$	Al <sup>V</sup> type 2	129		, largest surface, stable termination					
	Al <sup>V</sup> type 2	133		, small surfaces at edges of crystallites					
	Al <sup>V</sup> type 3	141		, small surfaces at corners of crystallites					
	Al <sup>V</sup> type 1	173		, possible metastable termination					
$\beta\text{-AlF}_{3(s)}$	Al <sup>V</sup> type 1	179...189		surface <sup>c</sup> minor sites T1		$\text{NH}_3$ coverage			
		169...179							
		151...166							
	Al <sup>V</sup> type 2	149...154		surface <sup>c</sup> major sites T6		$\text{NH}_3$ coverage			
		128...135							
		117...119							
$\text{AlF}_{3(g)}$	Al <sup>V</sup> type 2	$\approx$ 132		(010) surface	low	$\text{NH}_3$ coverage			
	Molecular	168.0	169.9	484	For comparison: FIA in kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>				
$\text{AlCl}_{3(g)}$ <sup>d</sup>	Molecular	160.3		506					
$\text{AlBr}_{3(g)}$ <sup>e</sup>	Molecular	158.9	158.3	512					
$\text{Al(O}^t\text{C}_4\text{F}_9\text{)}_{3(g)}$	Molecular	158.7		537					
$\text{SbF}_{5(g)}$	Molecular	160.8	166.5	489					

# Nanoscopic high surface (HS) aluminium fluoride



# HS-AlF<sub>3</sub>: Some physical properties

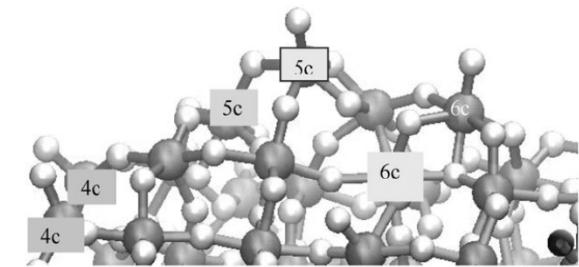
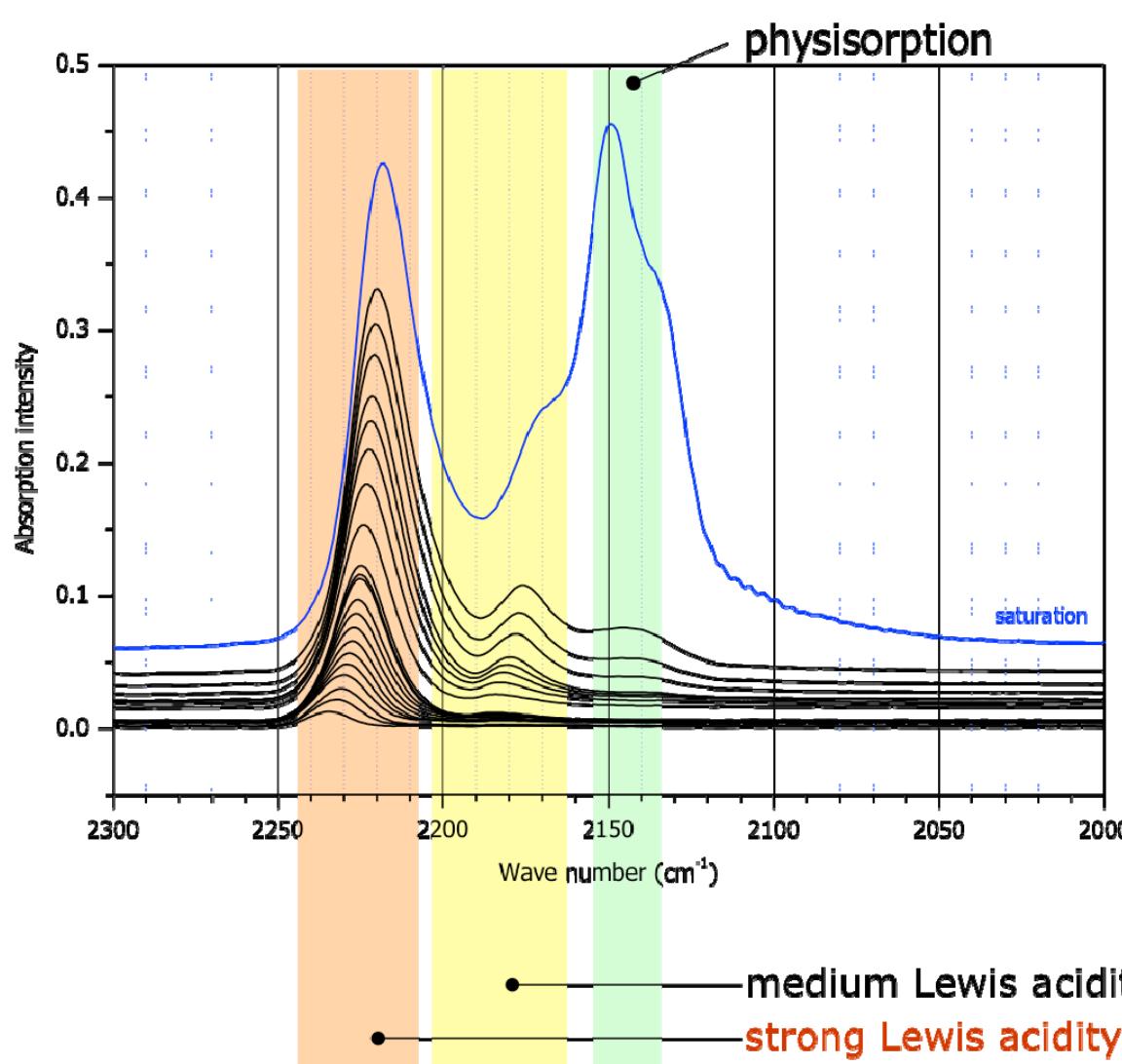
- X-ray → amorphous
- TEM → nano crystalline
- BET-S<sub>g</sub> → 200-450 m<sup>2</sup>/g  
(meso-porous, narrow pore size distribution)
- XPS → pure AlF<sub>3</sub> (BE~77,5 eV)
- EDX → phase pure (traces O, ads. H<sub>2</sub>O)
- IR and NMR → high degree of disorder
- Al K-edge XAS → disordered structure of dried fluoride alkoxide precursor is preserved during fluorination
- Al-surface sites CN < 6 Lewis acidity



# Acidity

# HS-AlF<sub>3</sub>

# CO-adsorption



medium strong sites

$\nu_{\text{CO(g)}}$  2175 cm<sup>-1</sup>

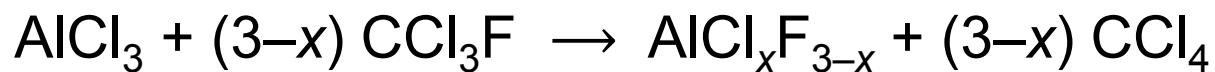
strong sites

$\nu_{\text{CO(g)}}$  2240-2220 cm<sup>-1</sup>

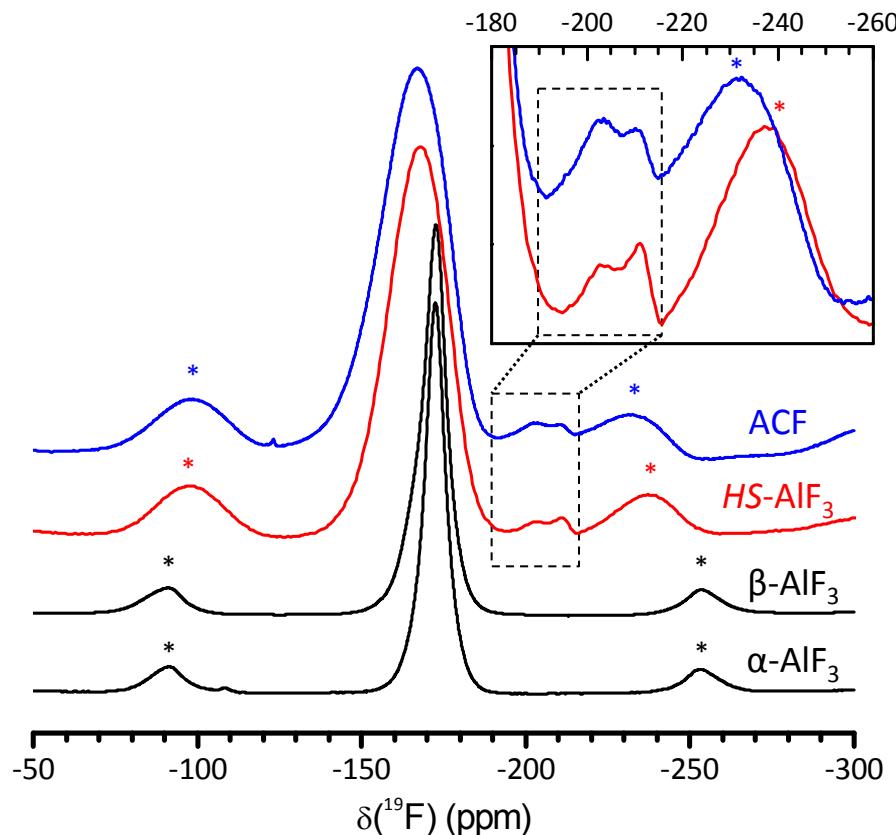
wave number depends  
on the coverage rate

medium Lewis acidity  
strong Lewis acidity

# Aluminium chlorofluoride (ACF)



$$x \approx 0.05 \dots 0.3$$

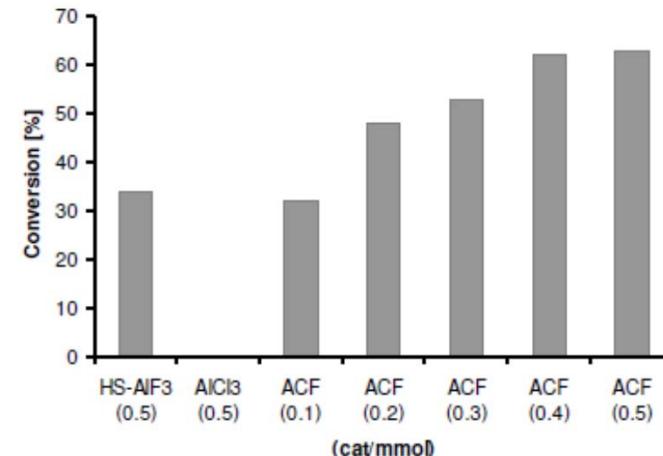
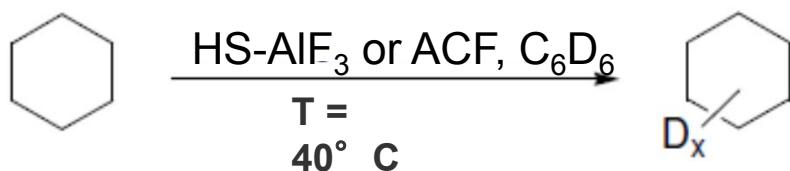


$^{19}\text{F}$  MAS NMR spectra (376 MHz) of  $\alpha\text{-AlF}_3$  and  $\beta\text{-AlF}_3$  ( $\nu_{rot} = 30$  kHz) compared to HS- $\text{AlF}_3$  and ACF ( $\nu_{rot} = 25$  kHz). Inset: Magnification of terminal fluoride signals at  $-190 \dots -215$  ppm. (\*) Spinning side bands.

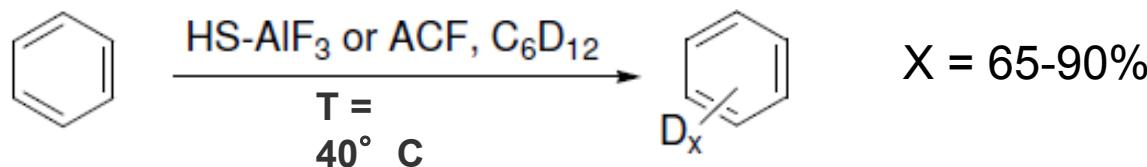
## **Some examples proofing the catalytic potential of AlF<sub>3</sub>**

# Heterogeneous C-H-activation at room temperature without precious metals

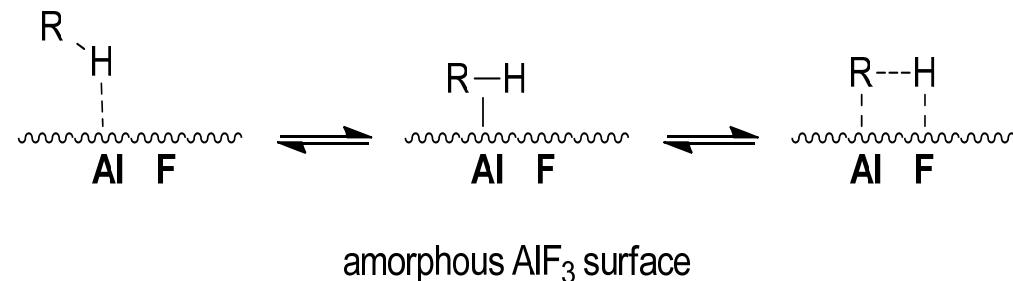
## H/D-exchange between $C_6D_6$ and $C_6H_{12}$



## H/D-exchange between $C_6D_{12}$ and $C_6H_6$

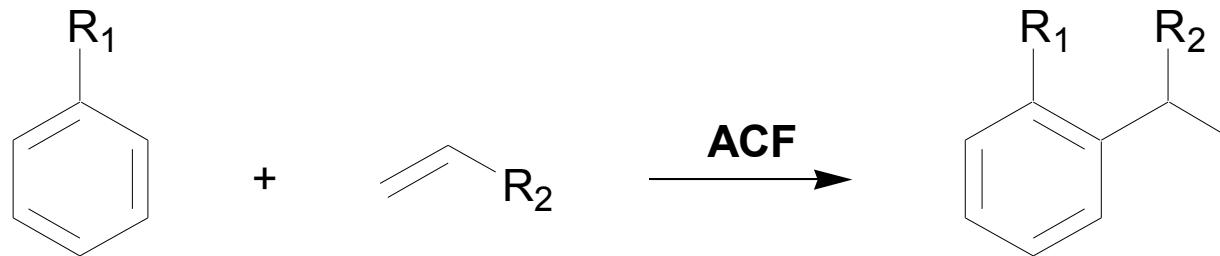


C–H activation of bifunctional Lewis acidic HS-AlF<sub>3</sub> or ACF surface sites.  
R = alkyl, aryl.



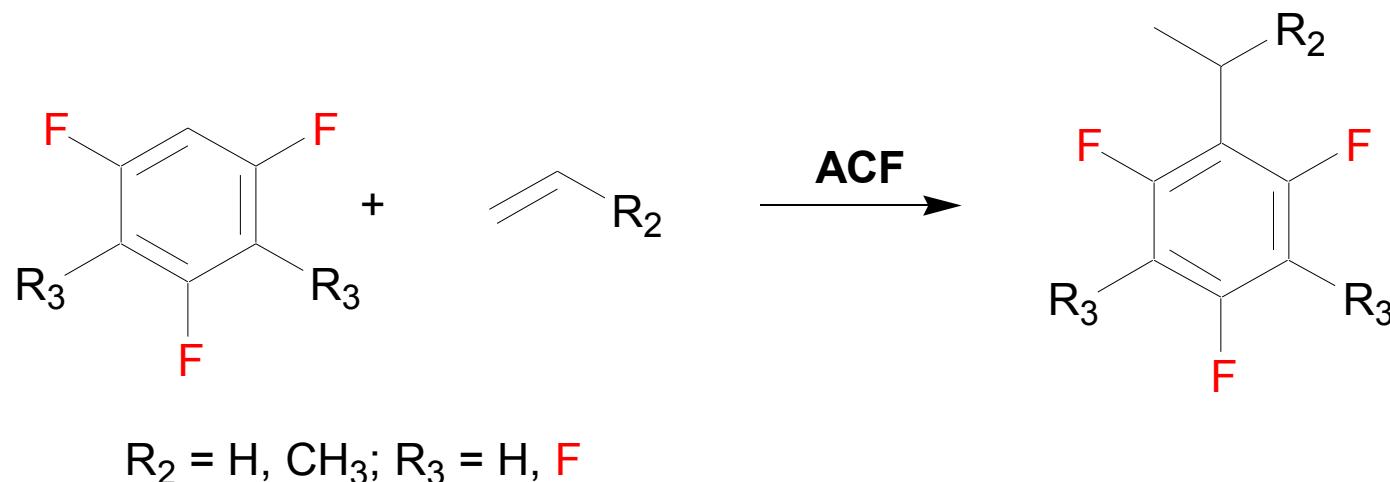
# Heterogeneously catalysed hydroarylation of olefins

(rt & 70° C and at low pressure < 2 bar)



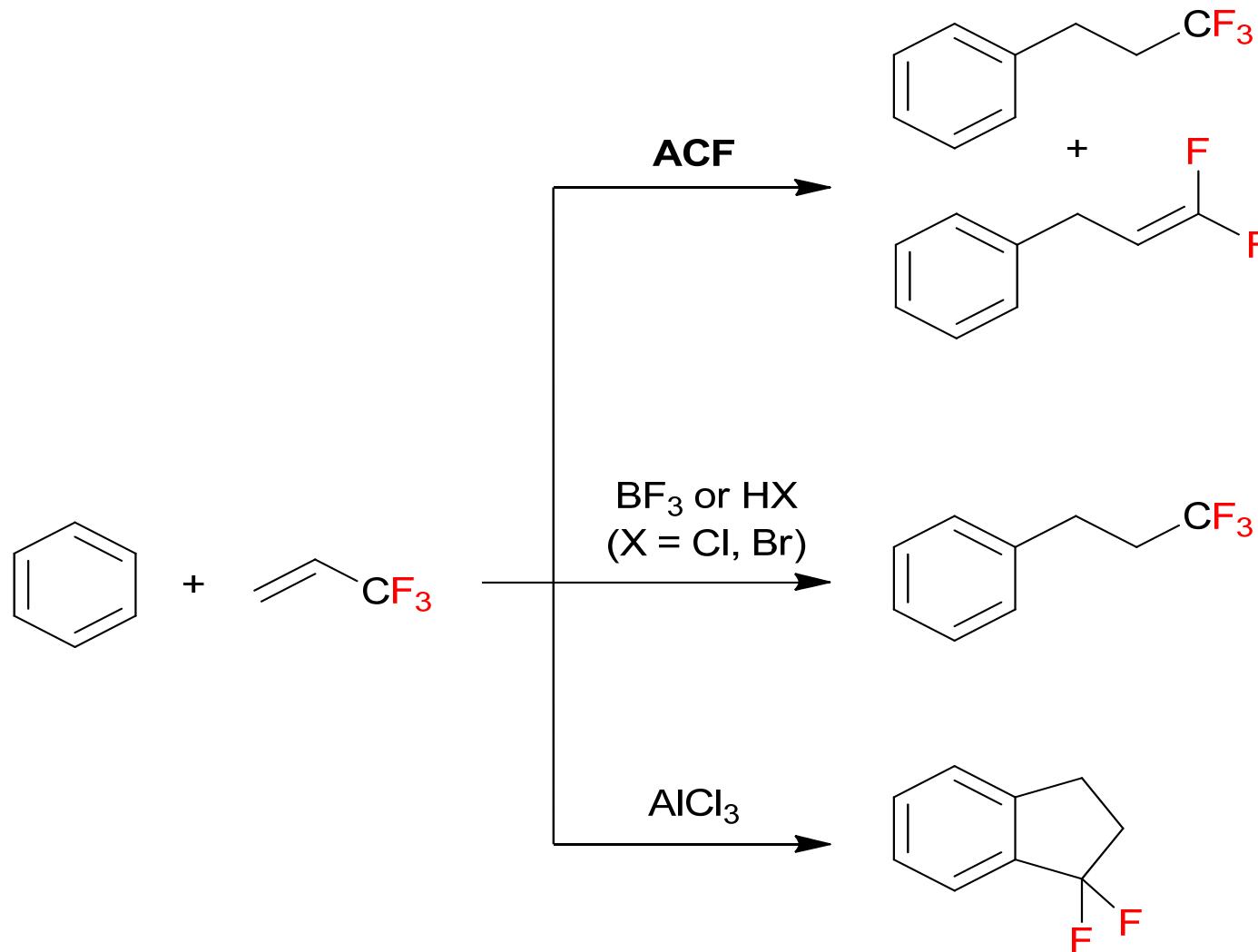
$R_1 = \text{H, CH}_3$ ;  $R_2 = \text{H, CH}_3$

$R_1 = \text{H}$ ;  $R_2 = n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9$



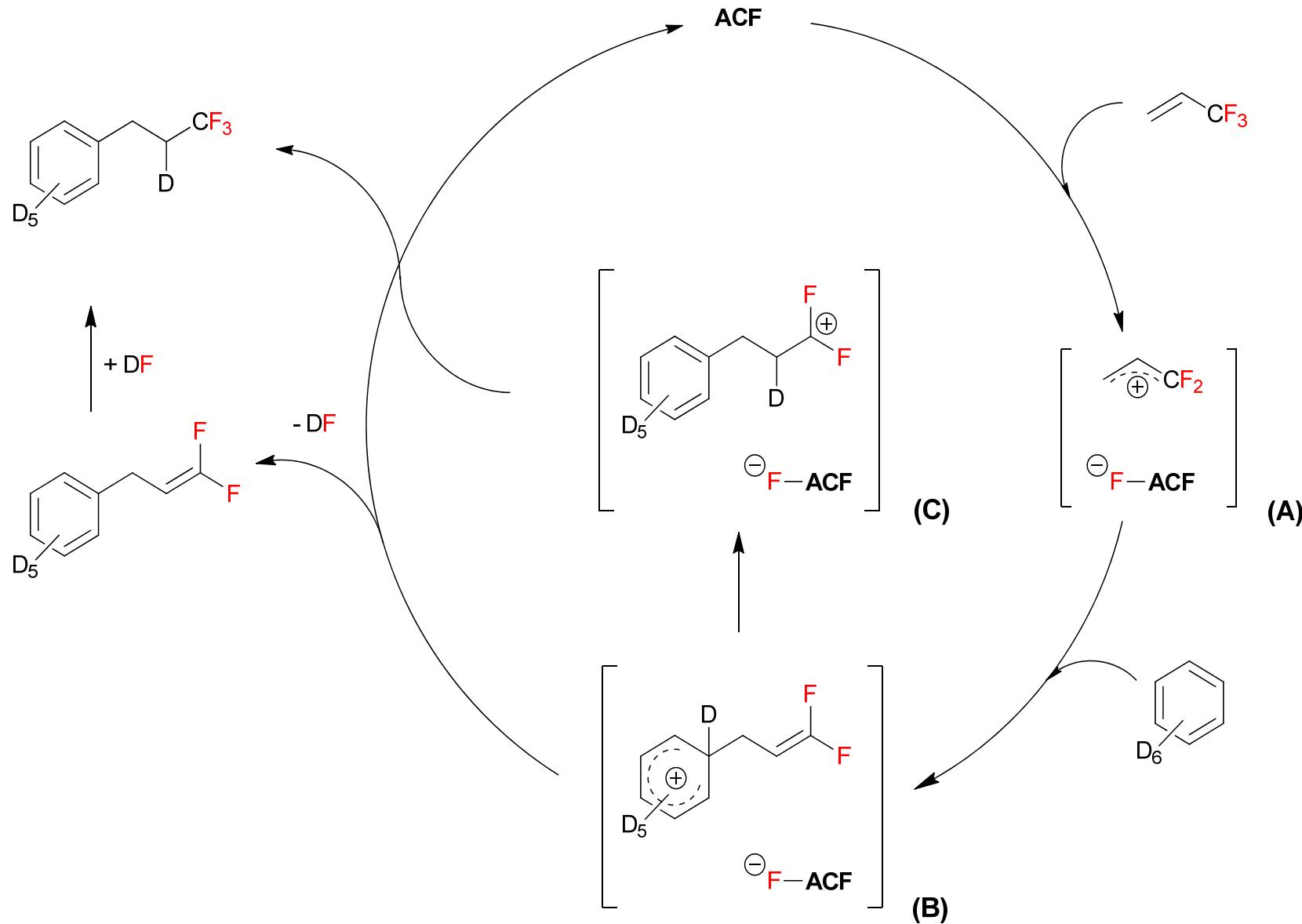
$R_2 = \text{H, CH}_3$ ;  $R_3 = \text{H, F}$

# Reactivity of 3,3,3-trifluoropropene towards different Lewis acids

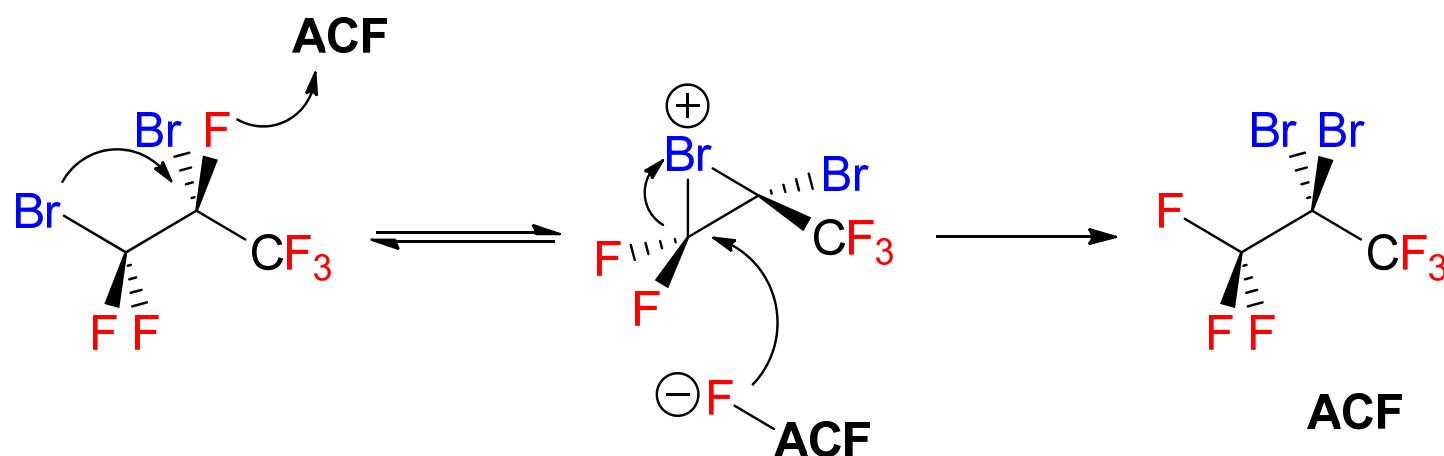


Note the change in chemoselectivity in case of ACF

# Proposed mechanism for the formation of $C_6D_5-CH_2-CH=CF_2$ and $C_6D_5-CH_2-CHD-CF_3$ by C–F and C–H bond activation reactions.



# C–F activation reactions



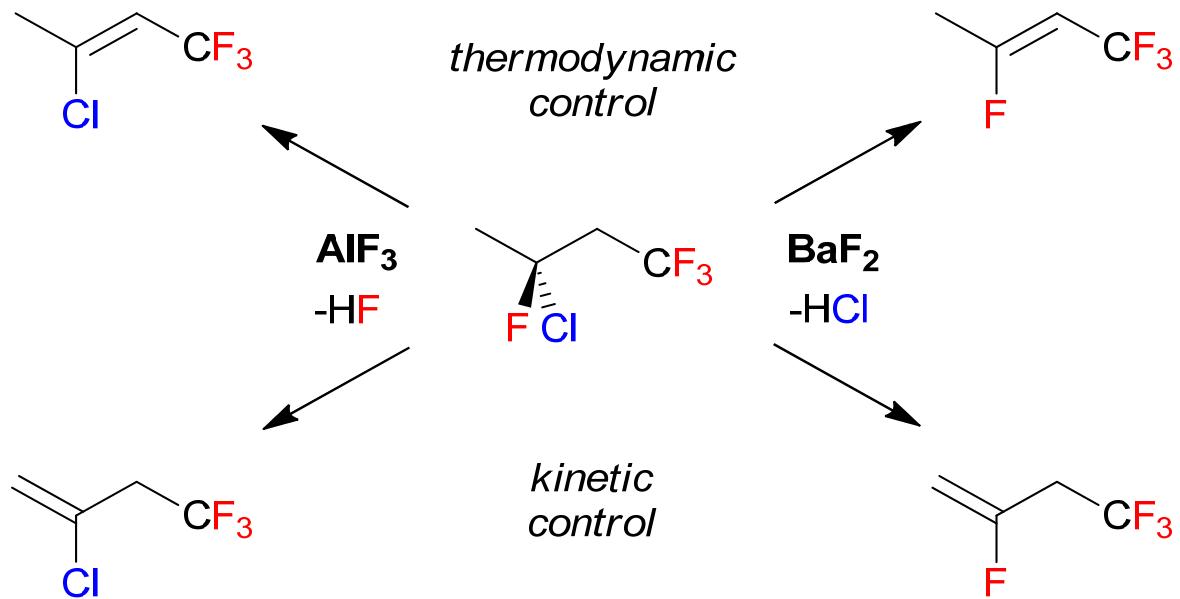
Catalyst	X[%]
AlCl <sub>3</sub>	< 0.1
ACF	> 90
HS-AlF <sub>3</sub>	> 90
β-AlF <sub>3</sub>	0

ACF – aluminium chloride fluoride  
(AlCl<sub>x</sub>F<sub>3-x</sub> – 0.3 <x> 0.1)

Liquid phase:  
room temperature, 10 µl/mg.cat

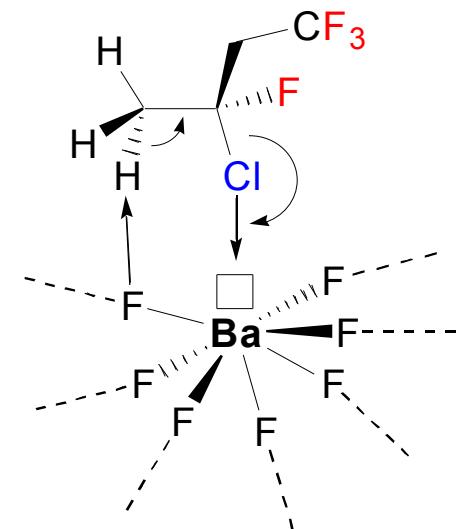
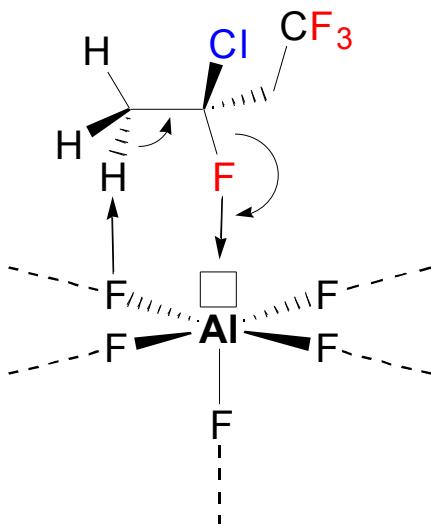
SbF<sub>5</sub>: X>90% at ca. 80° C!

# C–F activation reactions

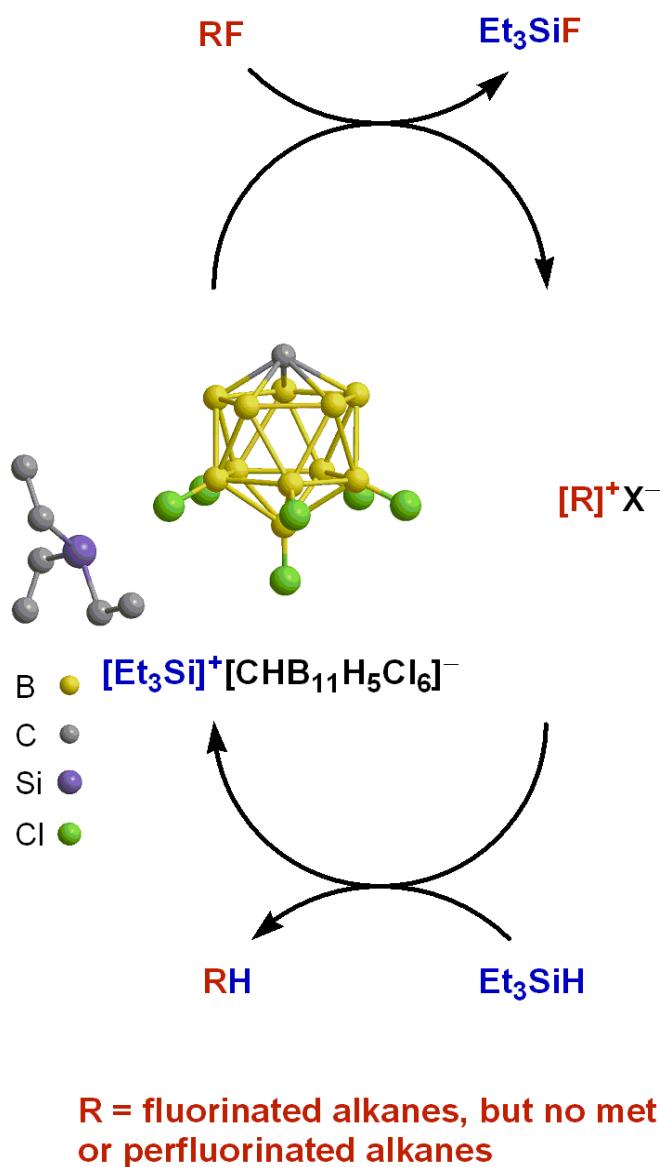


Catalytic dehydrohalogenation of 3-chloro-1,1,1,3-tetrafluorobutane.  
Thermodynamic or kinetic control is achieved by different contact times.

Proposed mechanism for the dehydrohalogenation of 3-chloro-1,1,1,3-tetrafluorobutane. The square indicates a free coordination site at the metal ion



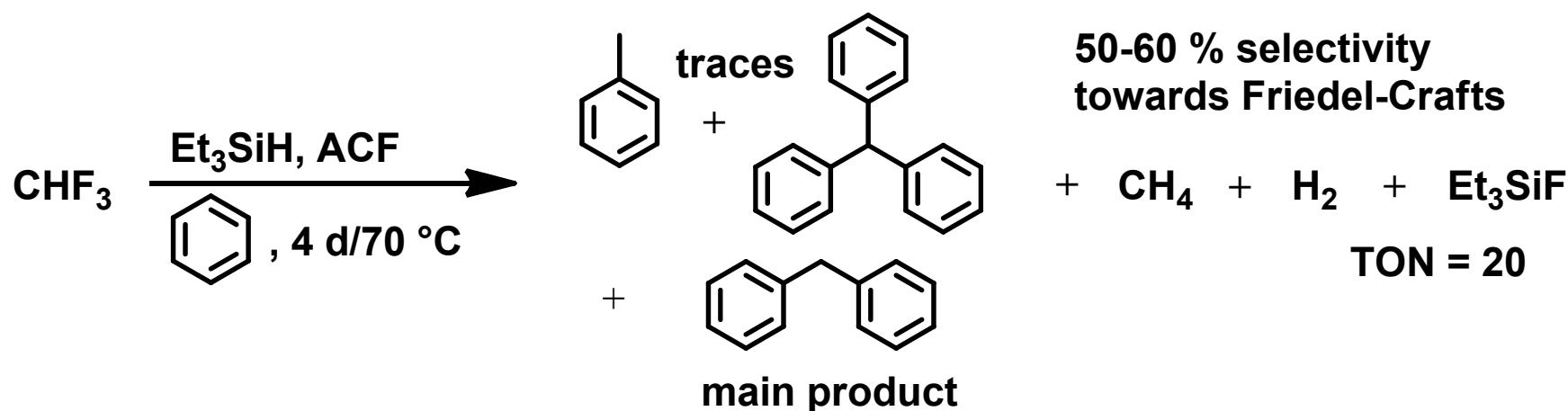
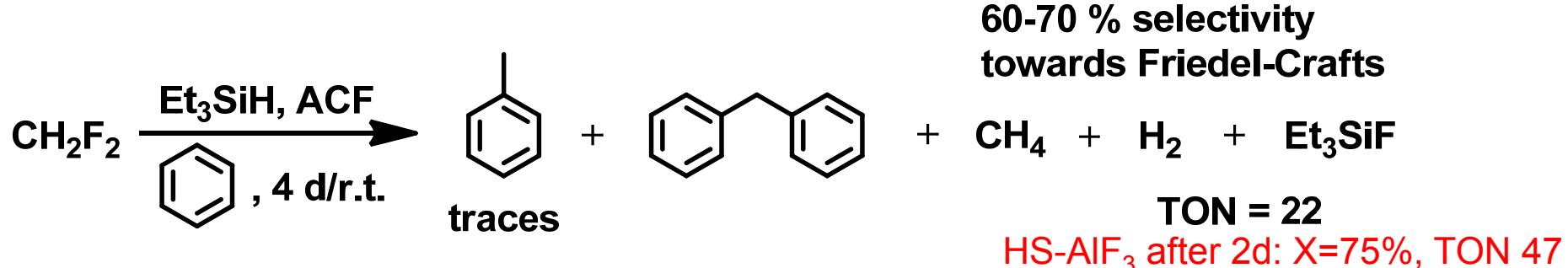
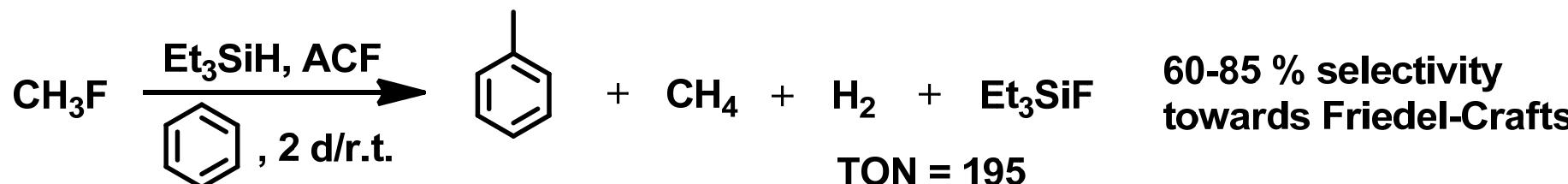
# Can ACF or HS-AlF<sub>3</sub> interact with Et<sub>3</sub>SiH → silylium ion formation?



- new heterogeneous approach for the cleavage of C-X bonds
- based on silylium-ion chemistry from homogeneous catalysis
- in the presence of Benzene -> Friedel-Crafts-products
- heterogeneous concept:
  - strong Lewis-acids like AlCl<sub>x</sub>F<sub>3-x</sub> (x=0.05-0.3) (ACF) and HS-AlF<sub>3</sub>
  - surface-bond silylium-like species
  - substrate (RF): fluorinated and chlorinated compounds

C. Douvris, O.V. Ozerov, *Science* 2008, 321, 1188.

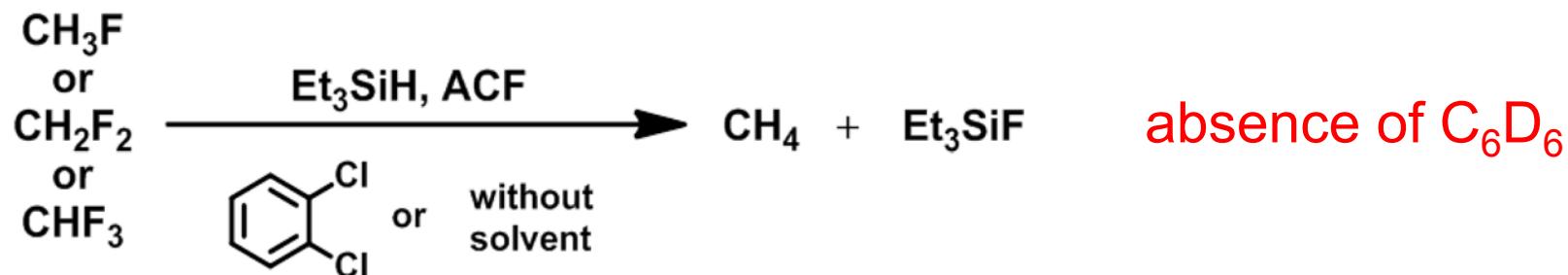
Yes it does!



No partly fluorinated products can be detected

# Fluoromethanes

# Avoiding Friedel-Crafts reactions:



TONs under different conditions

		benzene	$\text{o-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{Cl}_2$	neat
2 d / r.t.	$\text{CH}_3\text{F}$	195	190	400
4 d / r.t.	$\text{CH}_2\text{F}_2$	22	80	120
4 d / 70 ° C	$\text{CHF}_3$	20	5	5

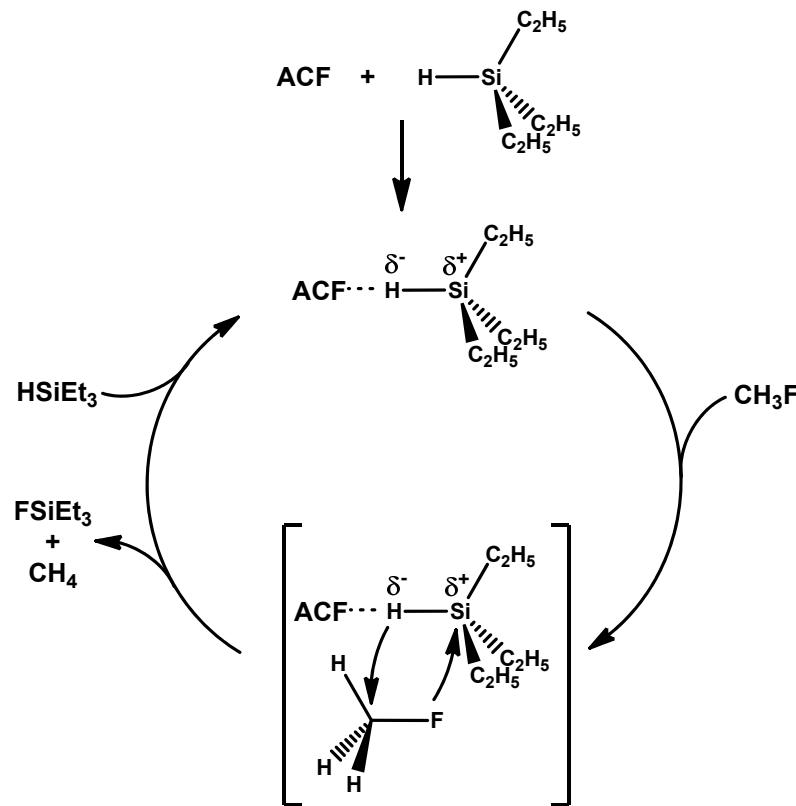
- still traces of Friedel-Crafts products in  $\text{o-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{Cl}_2$
- $\text{CHF}_3$ : first Friedel-Crafts reaction could be important

# C-F-activation

How does it work?

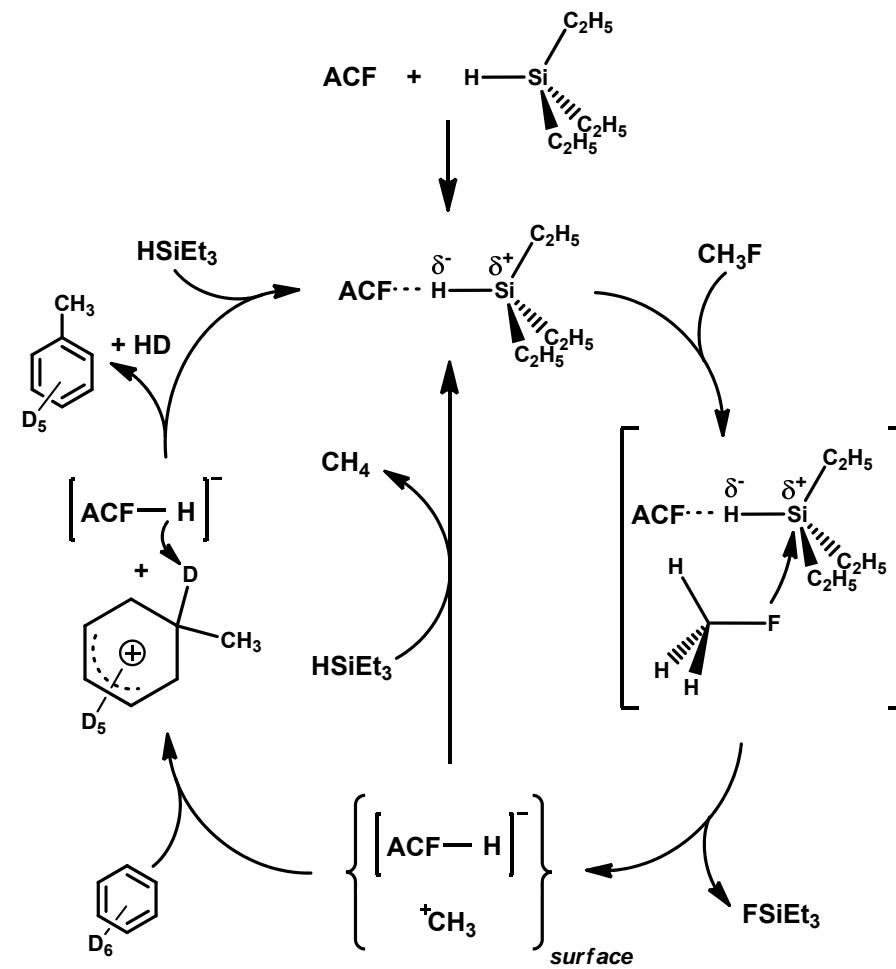
cycle A (*HDF*)

"Si–H/C–F metathesis" concerted

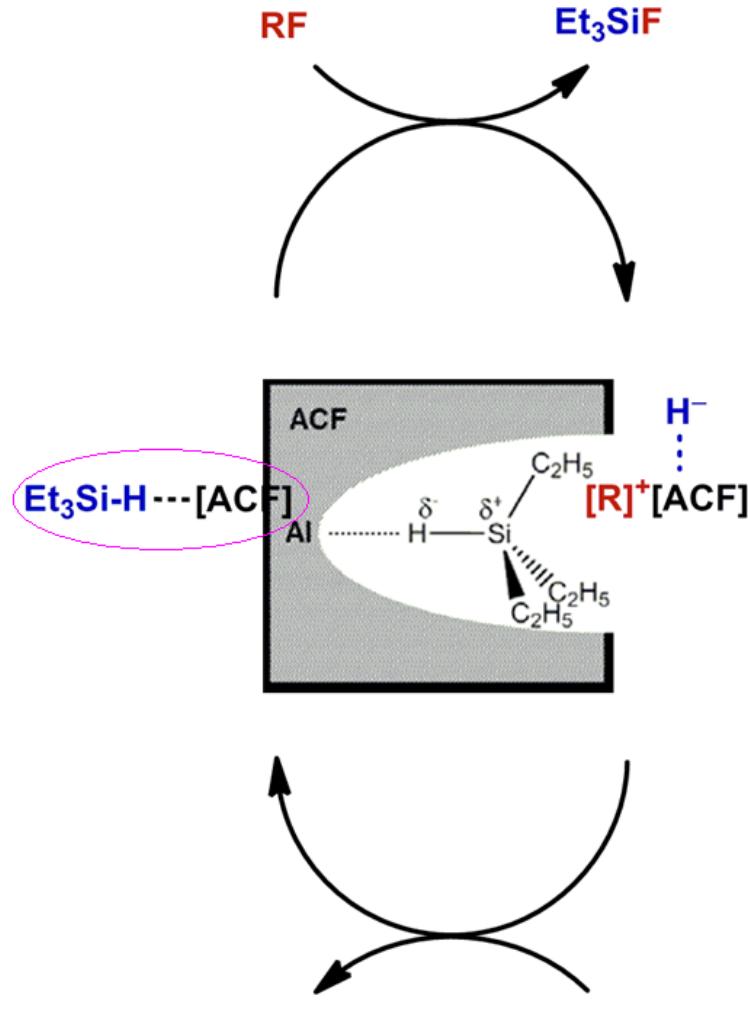


ACF generates silylium ions and acts as a WCA

cycle B (*Friedel-Crafts*)  
A non-concerted carbocation



# Conclusion and Outlook

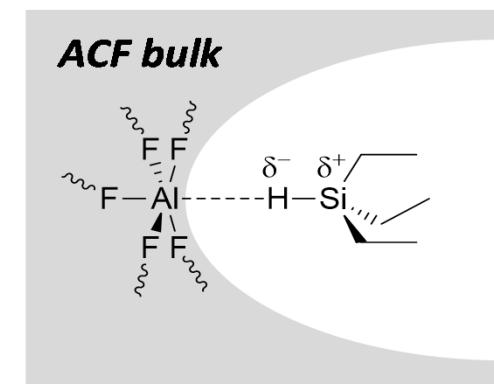
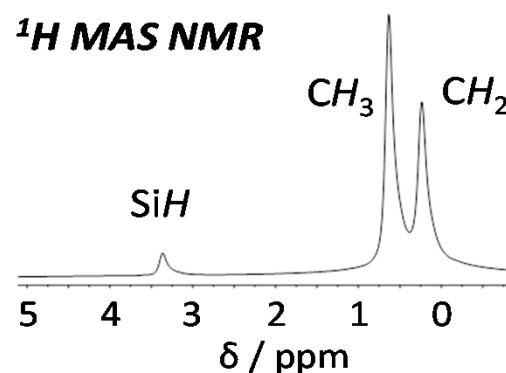


$\text{R} = \text{CF}_2\text{H}, \text{CFH}_2, \text{CH}_3$

$\text{R} = \text{fluorinated alkanes, but no methanes}$   
or perfluorinated alkanes

- heterogeneous concept:

- strong Lewis-acids like  $\text{AlCl}_x\text{F}_{3-x}$  ( $x=0.05-0.3$ ) (ACF) and  $\text{HS-AlF}_3$
- surface-bond silylum-like species
- substrate (RF): fluorinated and chlorinated compounds



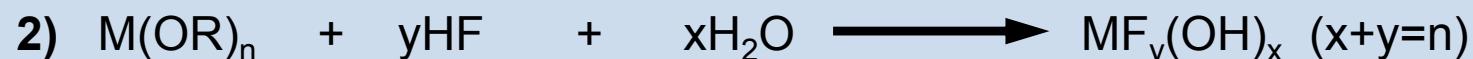
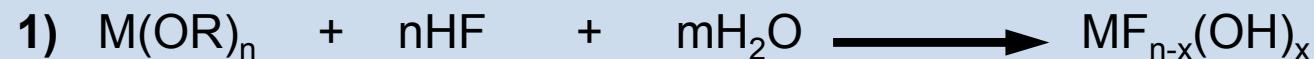
$^1\text{H MAS NMR}$  of surface bound  $\text{Et}_3\text{SiH}$  with the  $\text{Si-H}$  resonance at  $\delta = 3.45$  ppm ( $\nu_{rot} = 10$  MHz).  $\text{Et}_3\text{SiH}$  in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$  solution: at  $\delta = 3.85$  ppm.

# Bifunctional, Lewis and Brønsted-acids?

Can we make use of the competitive hydrolysis reaction?



Two possible scenario



Review: *J Fluorine Chem* 2007, 128 (4), E. Kemnitz in *Functionalized Inorganic Fluorides*, Ed. Alain Tressaud, Publishers Wiley 2010, Chapter I: p.1-35; Review *Dalton Trans.*, 9 (2008) 1117 – 1127 , Review: *Catalysis Science & Technology* 2015, 5, 786-806;

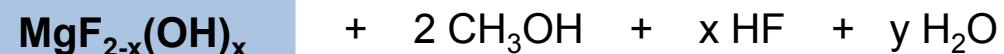
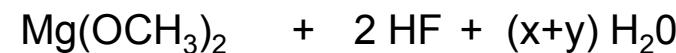
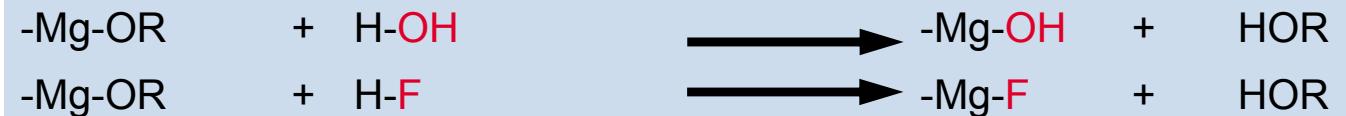


# Sol-gel-synthesis of hydroxylated magnesium fluorides



**HF-concentration:**

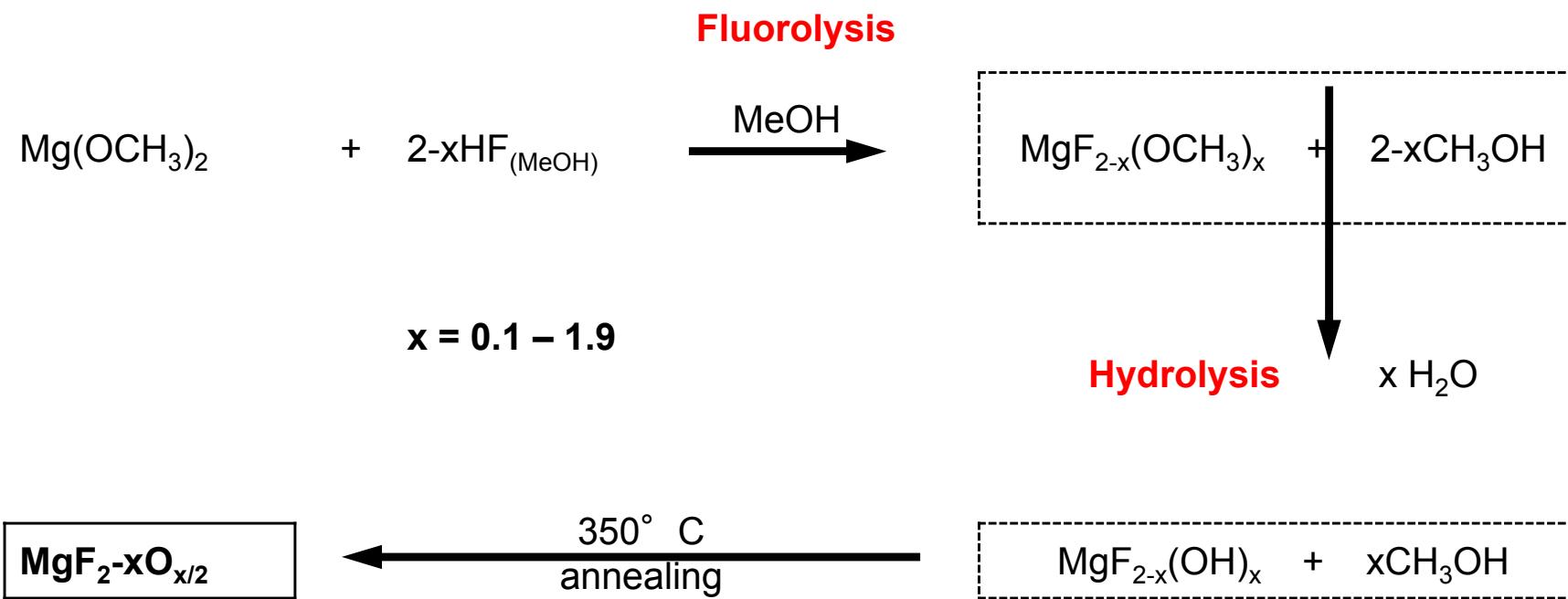
100% HF (solved in MeOH),  
87% HF, 71% HF, 57% HF  
and 40% HF



Review: *J Fluorine Chem* 2007, 128 (4), E. Kemnitz in *Functionalized Inorganic Fluorides*,  
Ed. Alain Tressaud, Publishers Wiley 2010, Chapter I: p.1-35; Review *Dalton Trans.*, 9 (2008)  
1117 – 1127 , Review: *Catalysis Science & Technology* 2015, 5, 786-806;



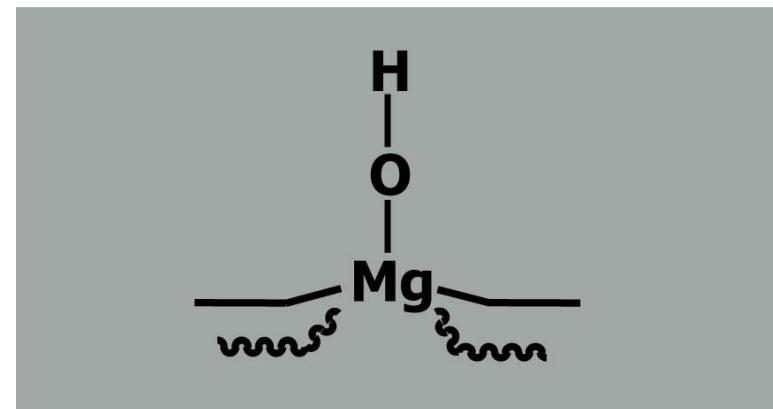
# Sol-gel-synthesis of magnesium (hydr)oxo fluorides



Review: *J Fluorine Chem* 2007, 128 (4), E. Kemnitz in *Functionalized Inorganic Fluorides*, Ed. Alain Tressaud, Publishers Wiley 2010, Chapter I: p.1-35; Review *Dalton Trans.*, 9 (2008) 1117 – 1127 , Review: *Catalysis Science & Technology* 2015, 5, 786-806;

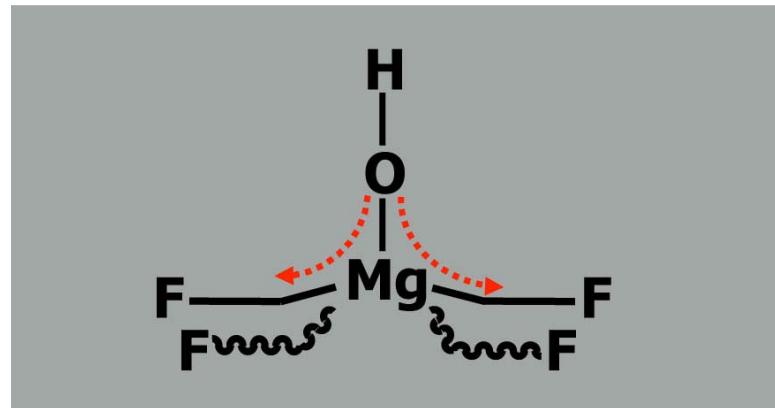


# Brønsted-acidic Mg-OH-units



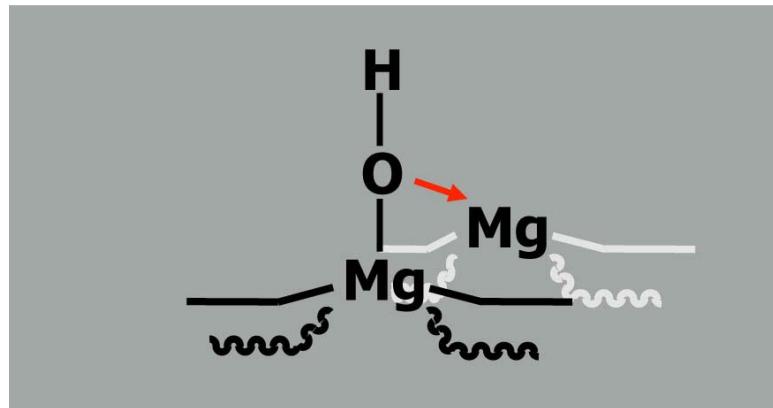
Can we rationalize Brønsted acidity of a Mg-OH group?

# Brønsted-acidic Mg-OH-units



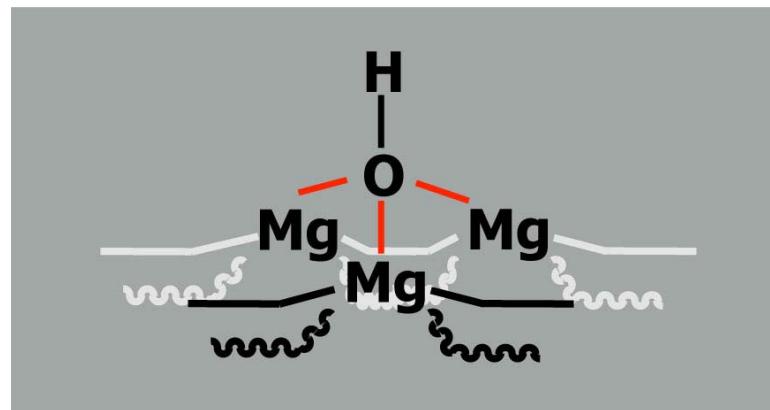
- ⑩ elektronegative fluoro ligands → stronger Lewis-acidic Mg-sites

# Brønsted-acidic Mg-OH-units

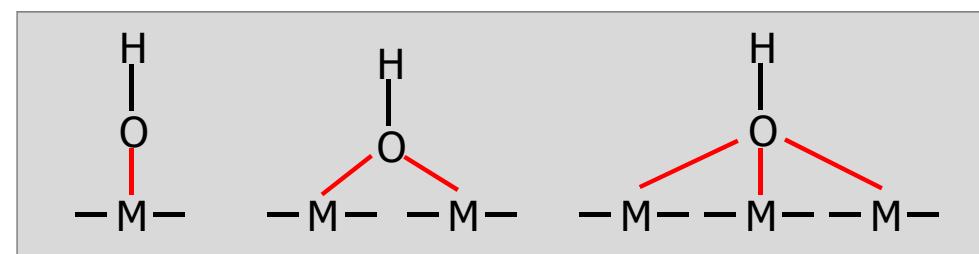


- ⑩ elektronegative fluoro ligands → stronger Lewis-acidic Mg-sites
- ⑩ flexible „dangling“ OH-groups

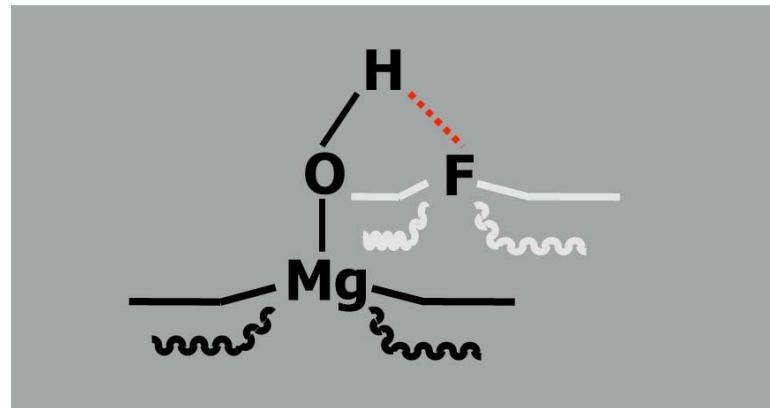
# Brønsted-acidic Mg-OH-units



- ⑩ elektronegative fluoro ligands → stronger Lewis-acidic Mg-sites
- ⑩ flexible „dangling“ OH-groups
- ⑩ bridging OH-groups

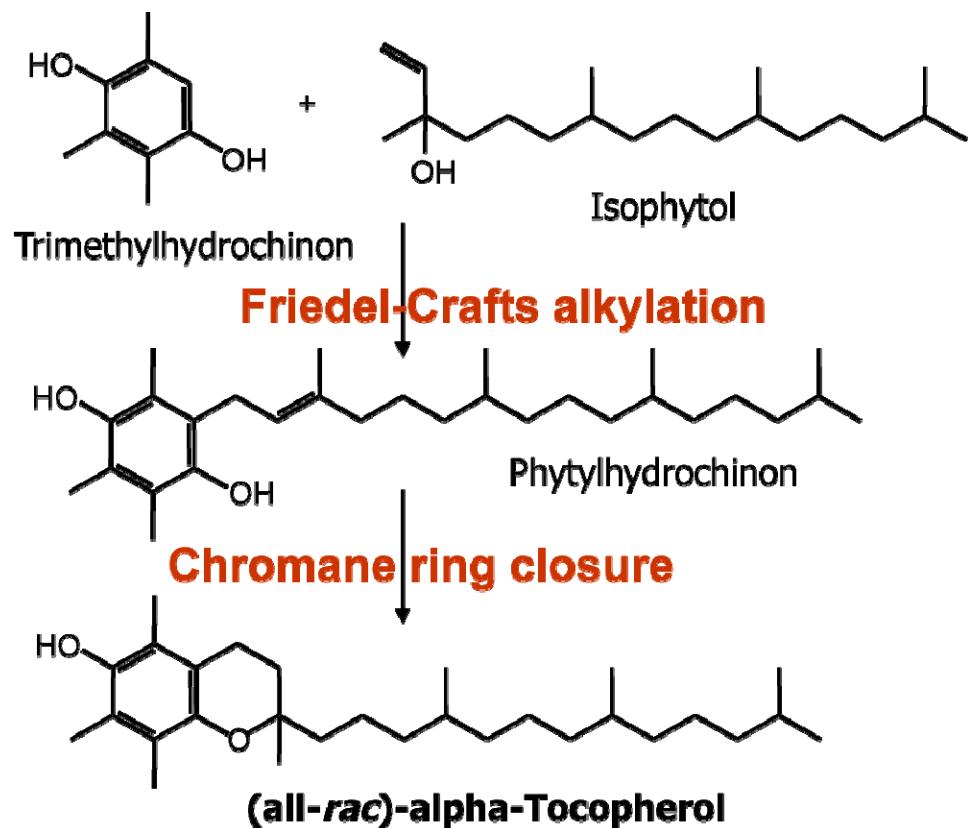


# Brønsted-acidic Mg-OH-units

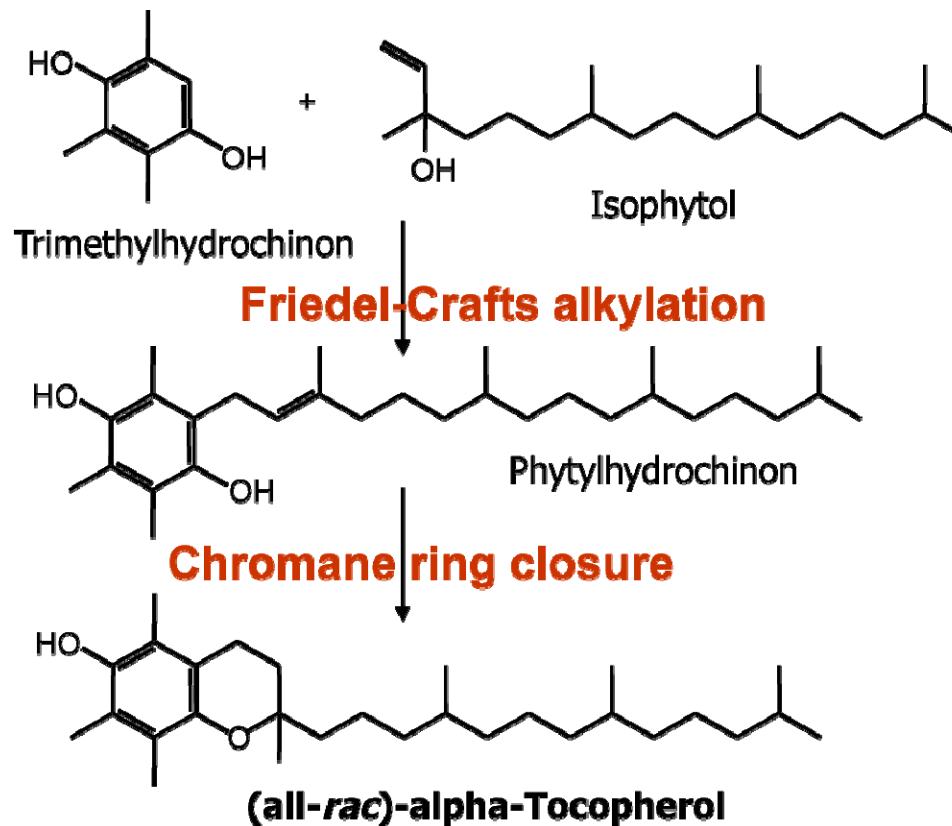


- ⑩ elektronegative fluoro ligands → stronger Lewis-acidic Mg-sites
- ⑩ flexible „dangling“ OH-groups
- ⑩ bridging OH-groups
- ⑩ formation of hydrogen bonds???

# Vitamin E synthesis



# Vitamin E synthesis



catalyst	IP/cat. molar rat.*	time min	selectivity to Tocopherol
MgF <sub>2</sub> -40	119	300	76,3
MgF <sub>2</sub> -57	76	300	82,6
MgF <sub>2</sub> -71	123	300	87,0
MgF <sub>2</sub> -71	123	180	> 99,9

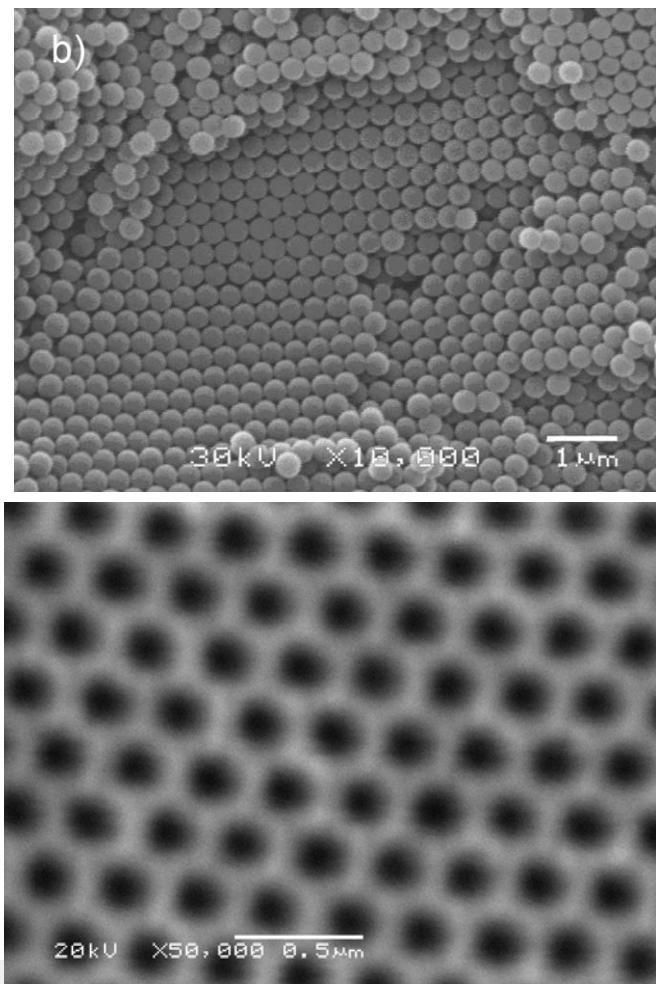
MgF <sub>2</sub> -87	60	360	0
MgF <sub>2</sub> -100	37	360	0
MgF <sub>2</sub> -K	n.b.	1200	0

Conversion of IP (X = 100 %).

\*ratio calculated based on NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD-results.

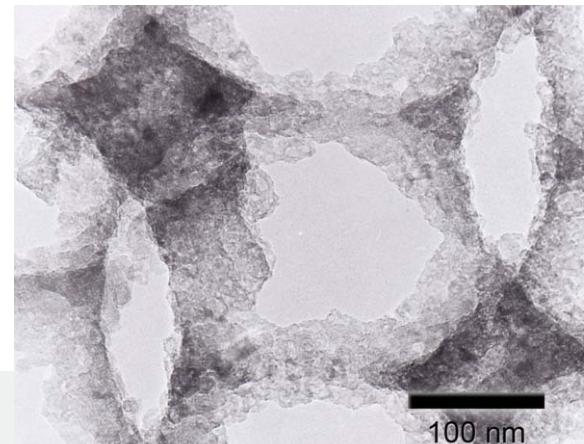
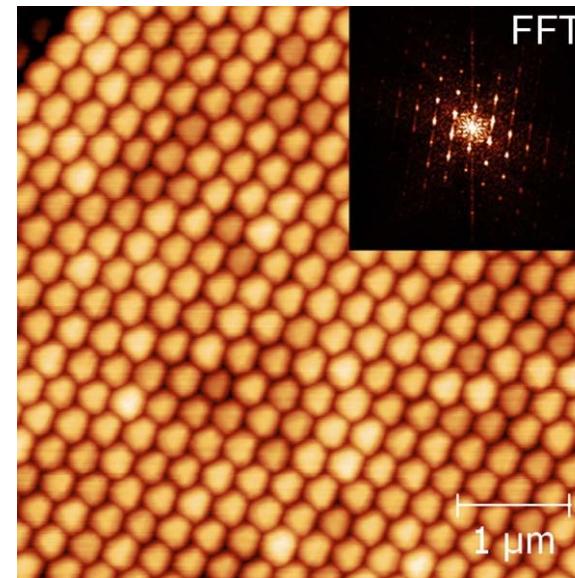
# Inverse Opale für Photonic/ Katalyse

PMMA kolloidaler Kristall  
Partikeldurchmesser ca.400 nm



SEM image of an  $\text{MgF}_2$  inverse opal film at  $50.000 \times$  magnification

AFM-Bild eines kolloidalen Kristallfilms von PMMA-Kugeln auf Glass (Partikeldurch-messer 308 nm) und 2D FFT-Bild



TEM image of an  $\text{MgF}_2$  inverse opal





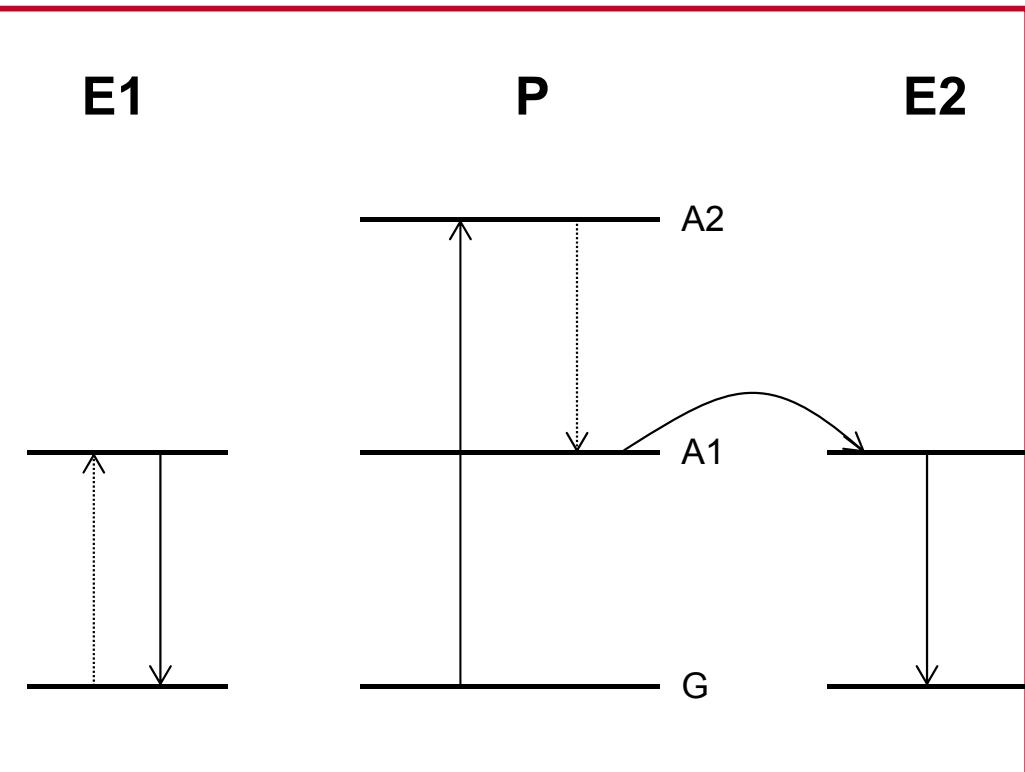
1. The *fluorolytic* sol-gel-synthesis of metal fluorides
  - the principle of the *fluorolytic* Sol-Gel-synthesis
2. Mechanism/reaction path
  - chemical aspects – AlF<sub>3</sub>
  - synthesis parameter
3. Applications: up- and down-conversion
4. Summary

# Up- and down conversion

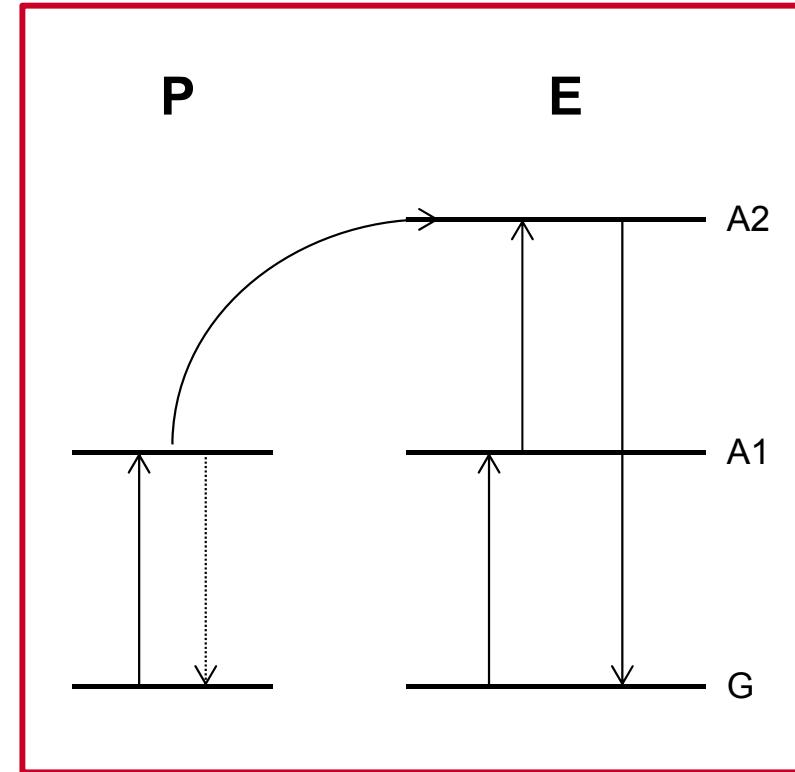
## Mechanism of Luminescence for rare earth metals

- ① Non-linear optical processes

### Down-conversion



### Up-conversion



# Up- and down conversion

## Why $MF_2$ ( $M=Ca, Sr, Ba$ ) as matrix for REM-doping?

⑩ Low phonon energy [1]

1.  $CaF_2$  456 cm<sup>-1</sup>
2.  $SrF_2$  366 cm<sup>-1</sup>
3.  $BaF_2$  319 cm<sup>-1</sup>

⑩ Long life times of exited states

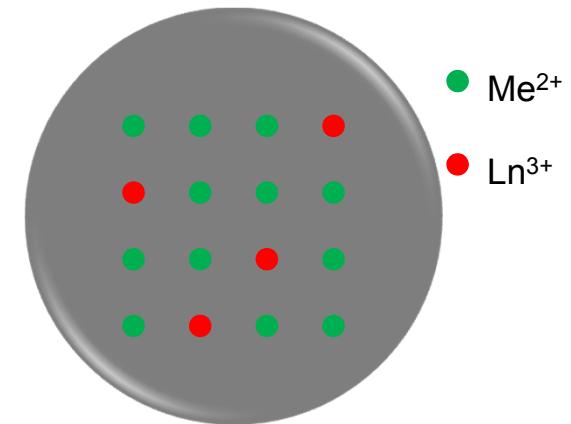
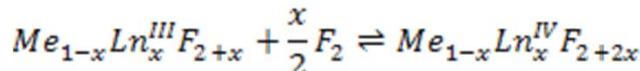
⑩ Doped  $CaF_2$ -phases exhibit high hardnes [2]

⑩ Ionen conductivity increases with ionic radia

1.  $Ca^{2+} < Sr^{2+} < Ba^{2+}$  und  $Lu^{3+} < \dots < La^{3+}$

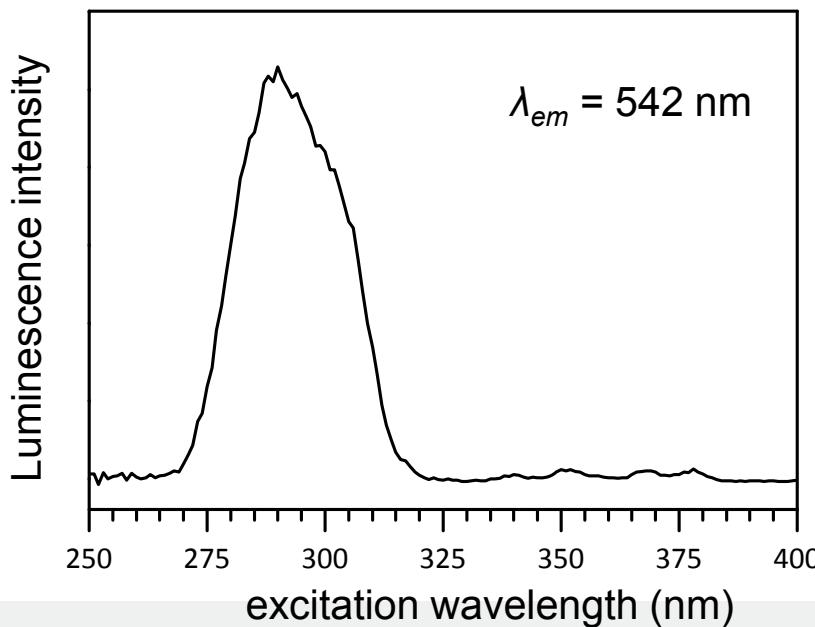
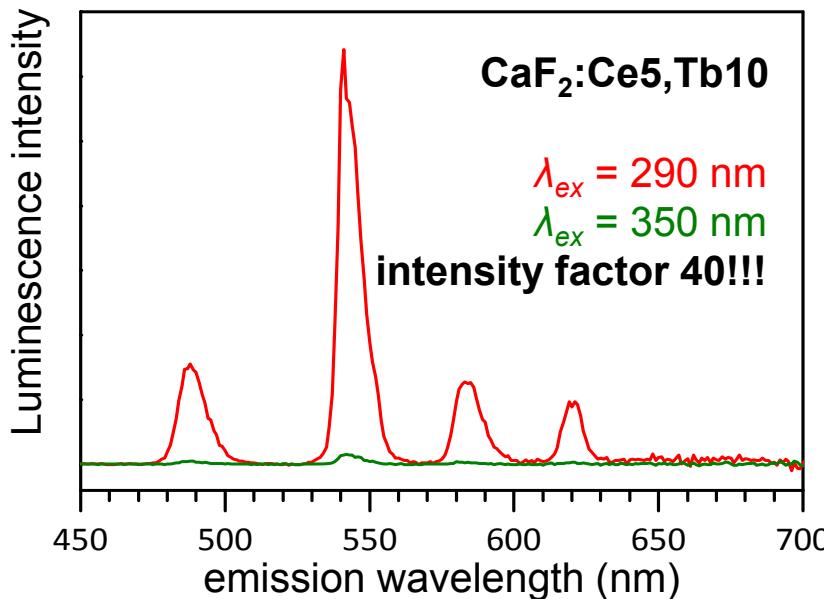
2. Application in fluoride-ion-batteries [3]

3. Application in fluor storage

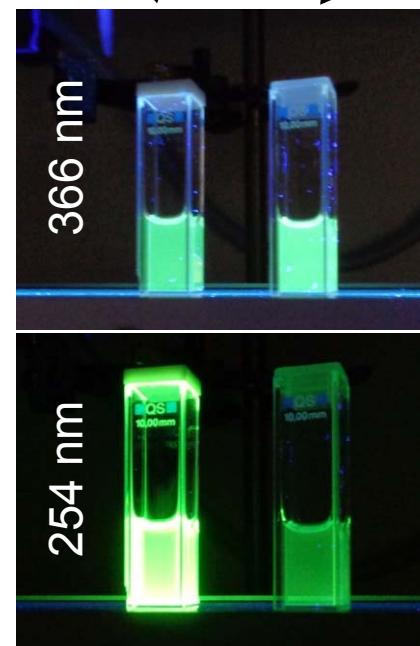


[1] M. Haase, H. Schäfer, *Angew Chem Int Edit* 2011, 50, 5808-5829.; [2] M. Y. Gryaznov et al. *Crystallogr Rep* 2012, 57, 144-150; [3] C. Rongeau et al. *J. Phys.Chem. C* 2013, 117, 4943-4950.

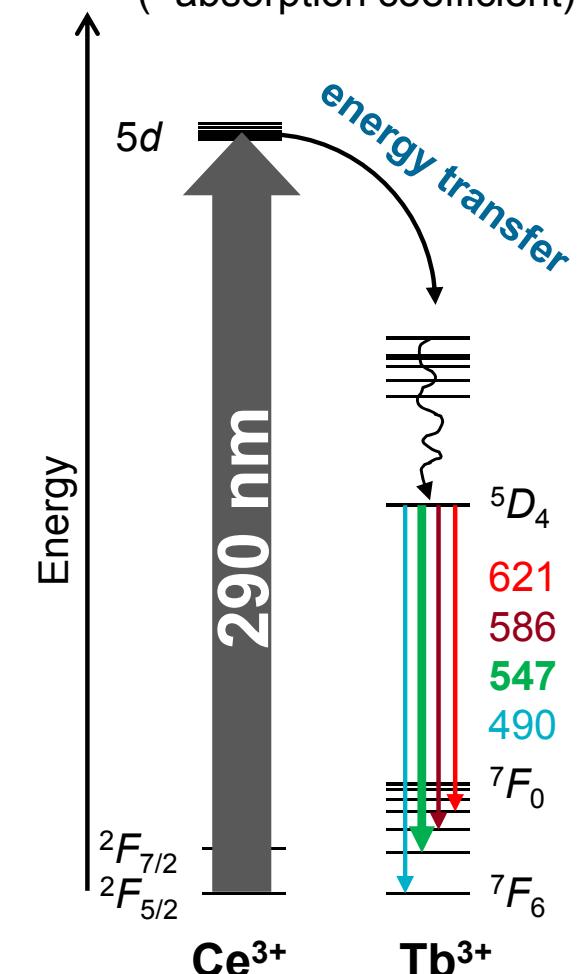
# Energy transfer – a simple example $\text{Ce}^{3+} \rightarrow \text{Tb}^{3+}$



$\text{CaF}_2:\text{Ce5,Tb10}$   $\text{CaF}_2:\text{Tb10}$   
 $d-f$  transition is allowed



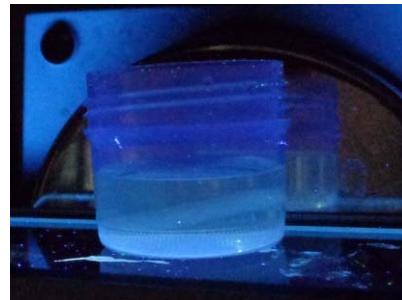
high oscillator strength  
(=absorption coefficient)



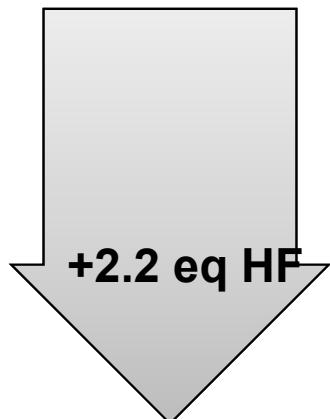
# Energy transfer – influence of the matrix

$\lambda_{ex} = 254 \text{ nm}$

0.16 M  
**Ca(OLac)<sub>2</sub>**  
0.02 M **Ce(OAc)<sub>3</sub>**  
0.02 M **Tb(OAc)<sub>3</sub>**  
*solution*



$d(\text{Ce}^{3+}-\text{Tb}^{3+}) \approx 20 \text{ \AA} \rightarrow \text{no energy transfer}$

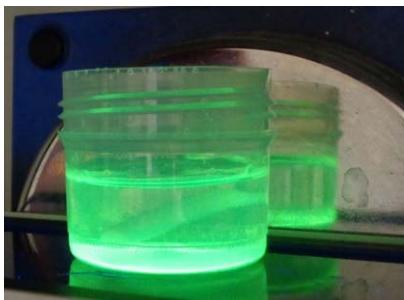


## Energy transfer between lanthanides

- ions must be in close proximity
- works only in a host matrix
- very effective in a fluoride matrix
- in liquid state only with nanoparticles

$\lambda_{ex} = 254 \text{ nm}$

0.2 M  
**Ca<sub>0.8</sub>Ce<sub>0.1</sub>Tb<sub>0.1</sub>F<sub>2</sub>**  
.2  
*nano*  
*partic**les*



$d(\text{Ce}^{3+}-\text{Tb}^{3+}) \approx 4 \text{ \AA} \rightarrow \text{effective energy transfer}$



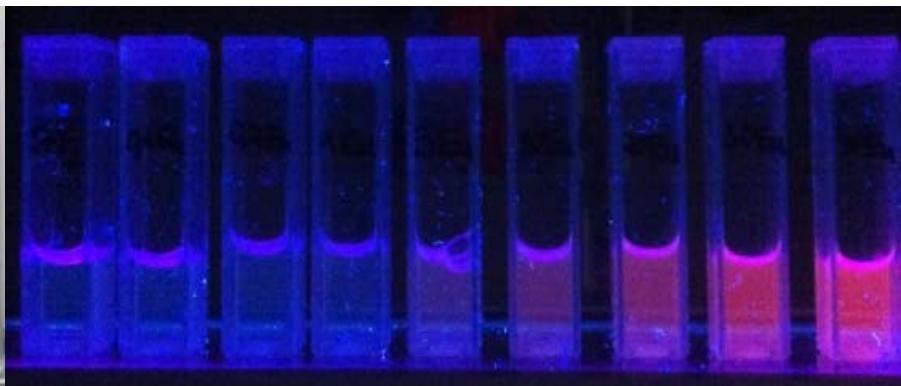
# Effect of doping rate

Doping series from  $\text{SrF}_2$  till  $\text{SrF}_2:\text{Eu}40$

Ex.: visible light

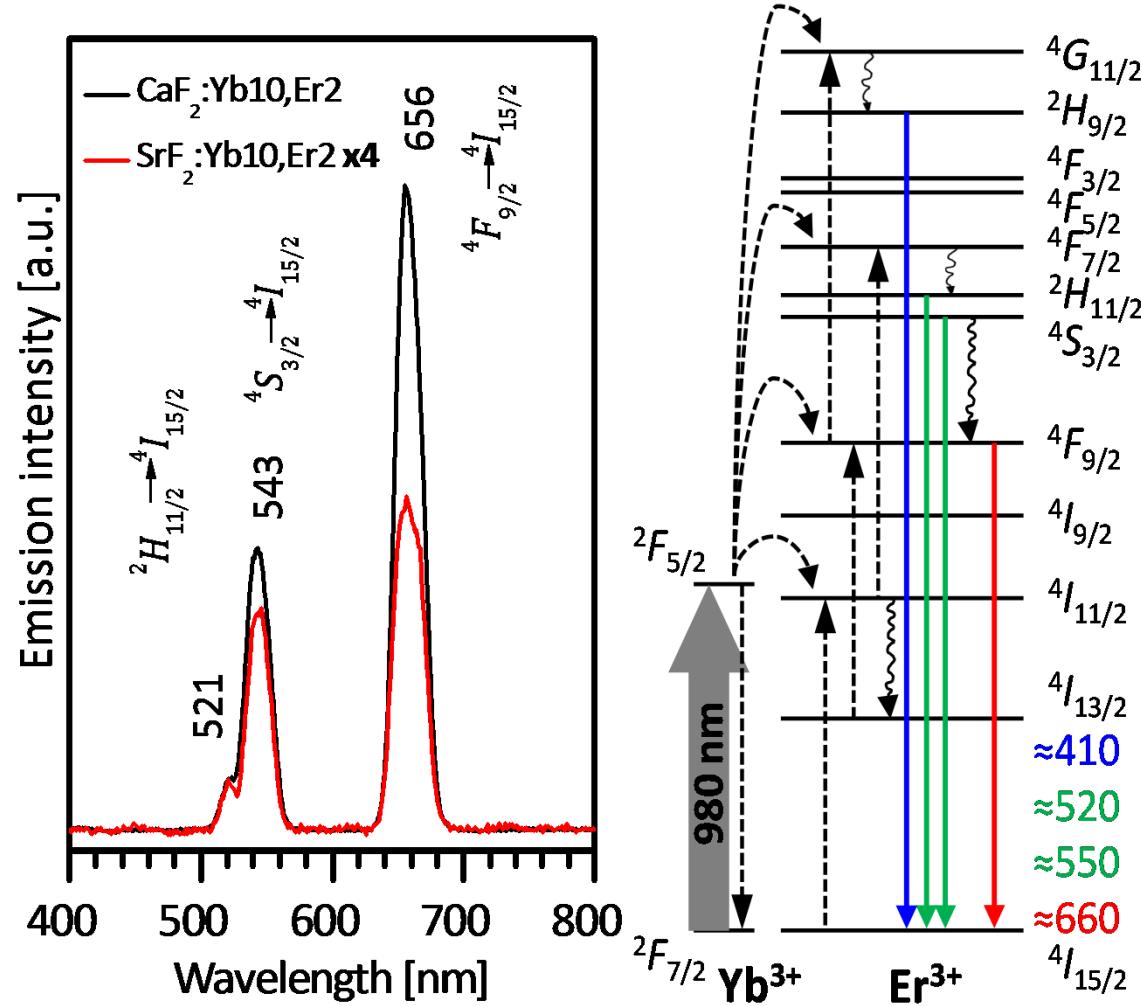


Ex.: 393 nm



- Transparent colloidal solutions till 40 mol% of  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  doping
- Linear increase of intensity till 10 mol%  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$
- No quenching of luminescence increase till 40 mol%  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$

# Photon up-conversion $\text{Yb}^{3+}$ - $\text{Er}^{3+}$



Excitation with continuous 980 nm laser (1 W). Right: schematic representation of the energy transfer between  $\text{Yb}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Er}^{3+}$ .



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  - synthesis parameter
3. Applications of nanoscopic metal fluorides
4. Summary