



# Customised Nanostructured Inorganic Materials via Microphase Separation 3D Printing



The  
BOYER LAB

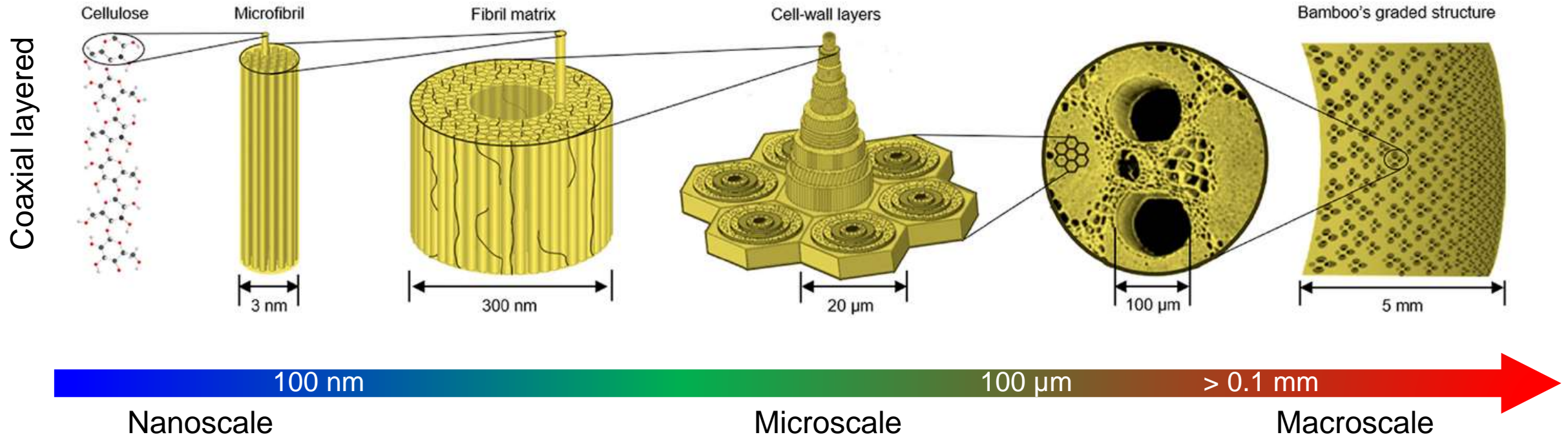
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# Insights derived from nature



1. Studart, A. R., Towards High-Performance Bioinspired Composites. *Adv. Mater.* **2012**, 24, 5024–5044.

2. Wegst, U. G. K. et al. Bioinspired structural materials. *Nat. Mater.* **2015**, 14, 23-36.

3. Wei, J. et al. Bioinspired Additive Manufacturing of Hierarchical Materials: From Biostructures to Functions. *Research.* **2023**; 6:0164.

# Can we mimic natural materials' structuration in synthetic materials using engineering and chemical approaches?

## Top-down

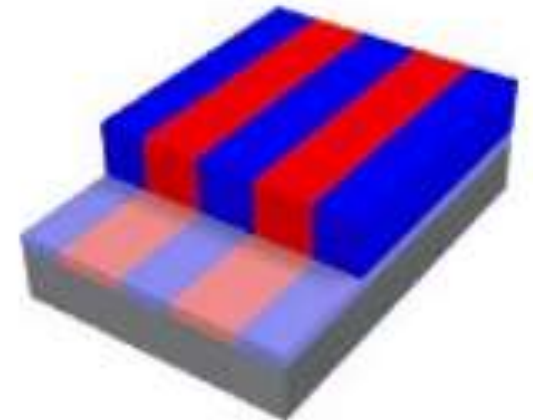
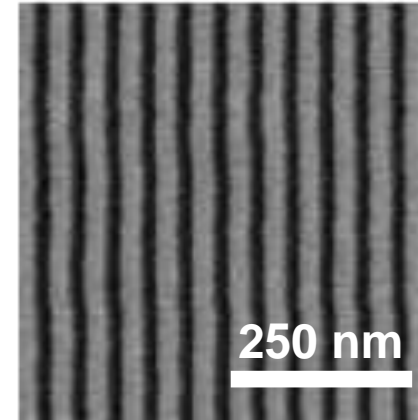
### Stereolithography 3D printing



- ✓ High automation
- ✓ Accurate control over shape
- ✓ Geometrical Flexibility

## Bottom-up

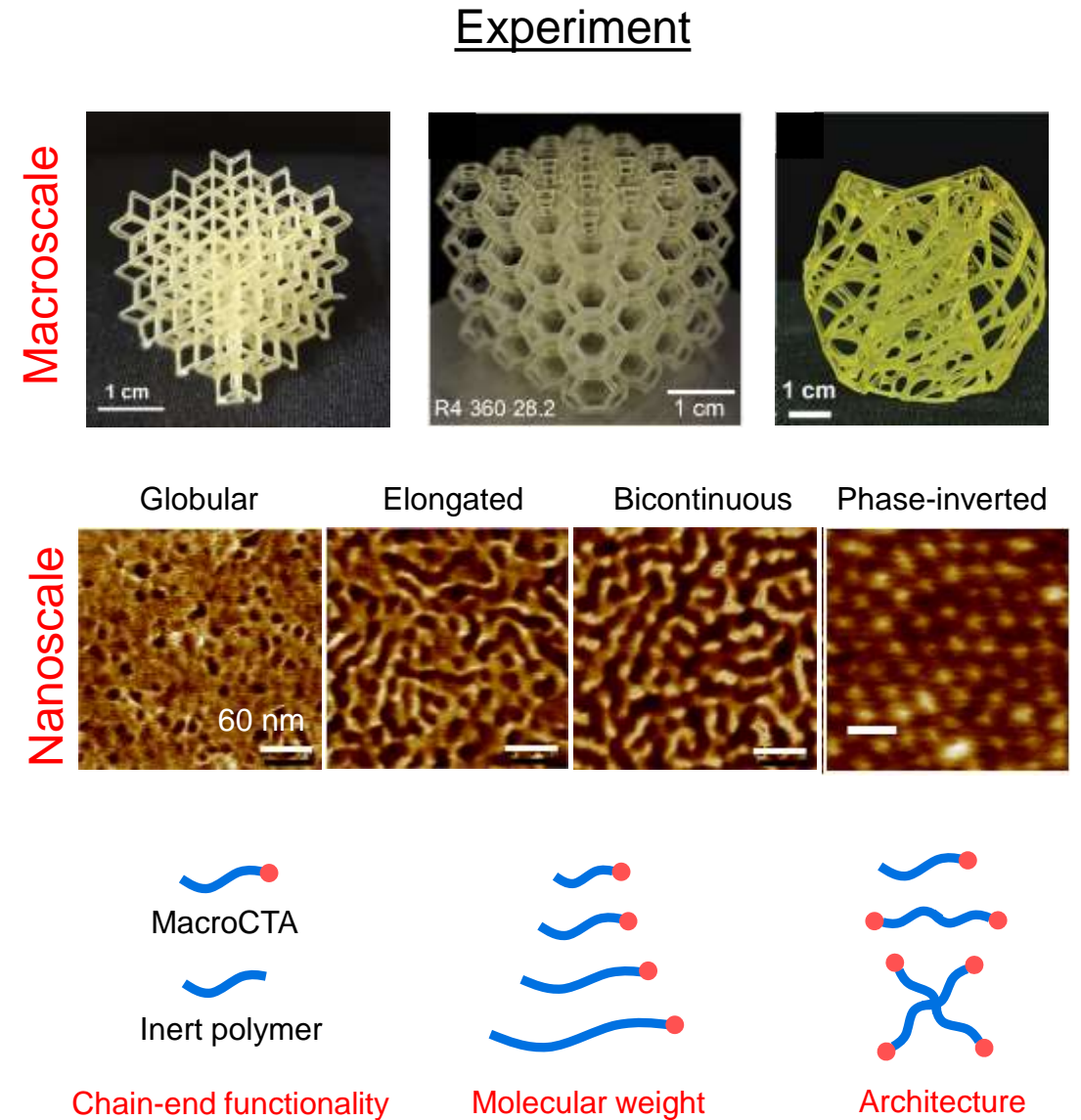
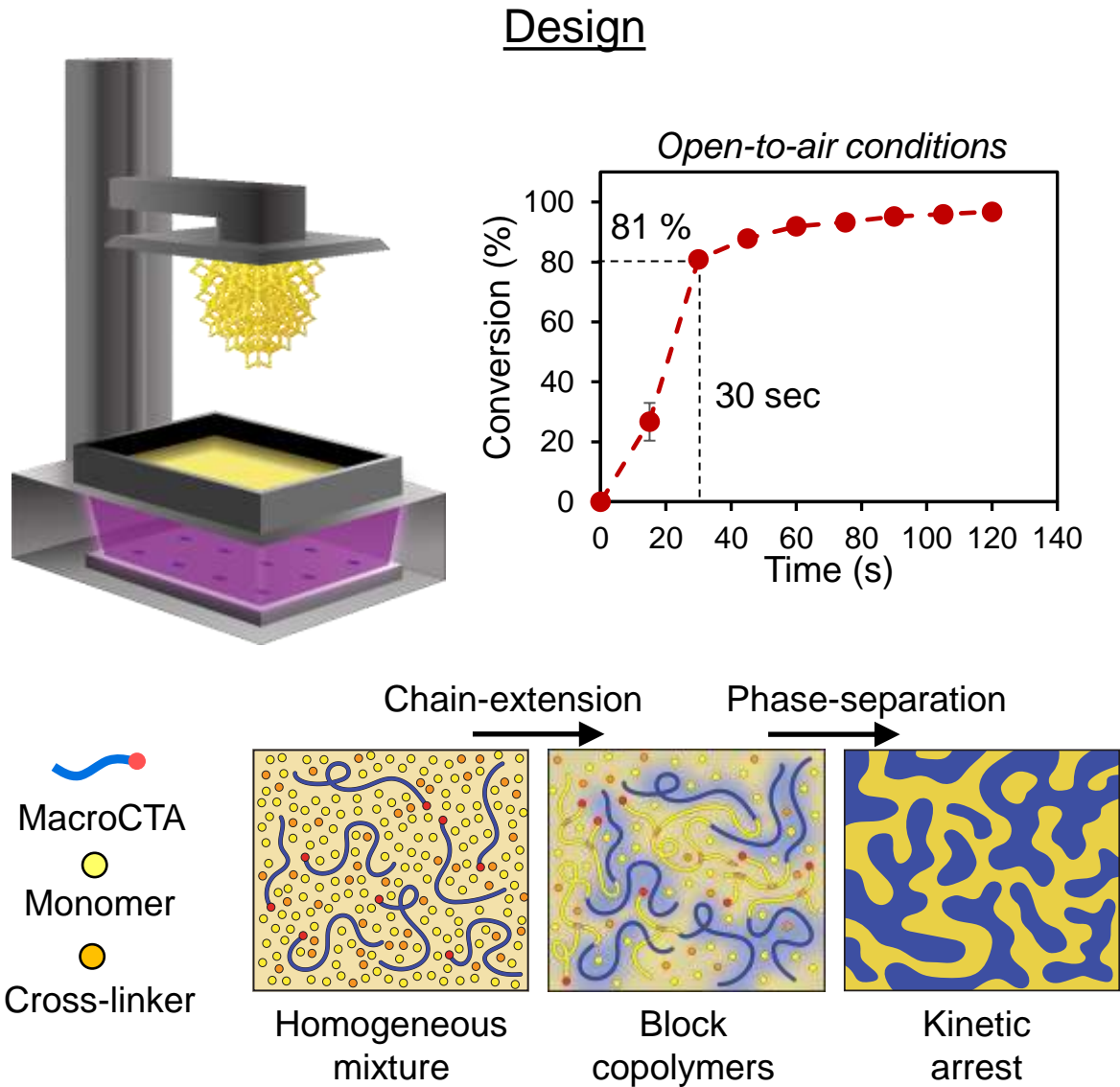
### Block copolymer self-assembly



- ✓ Access to ultra-small features
- ✓ Nanoscale precision
- ✓ Choice of functionality



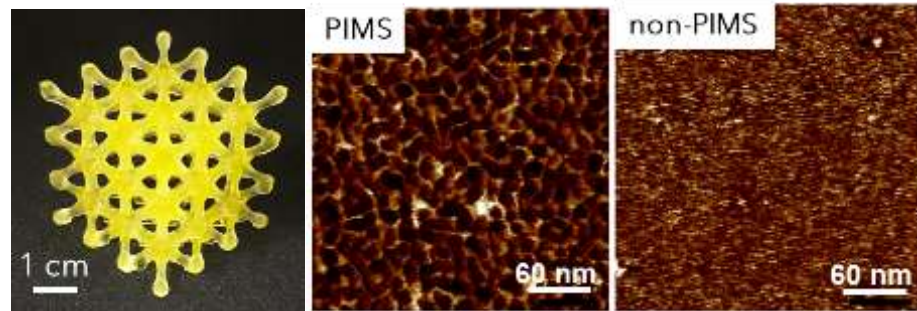
# Our platform technology: PIMS 3D Printing



# Impact of PIMS 3D Printing

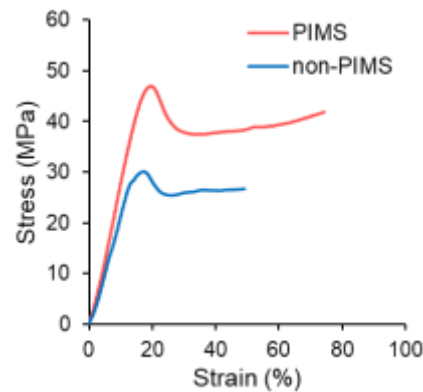
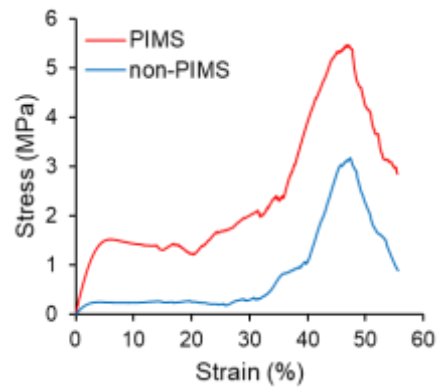
Our approach is materials-versatile, allowing us to prepare a rich variety of nanostructured 3D printed objects with various properties

## Multi-materials with enhanced mechanical properties

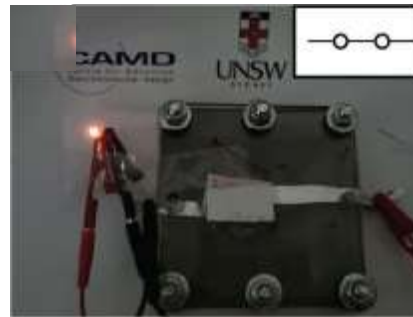
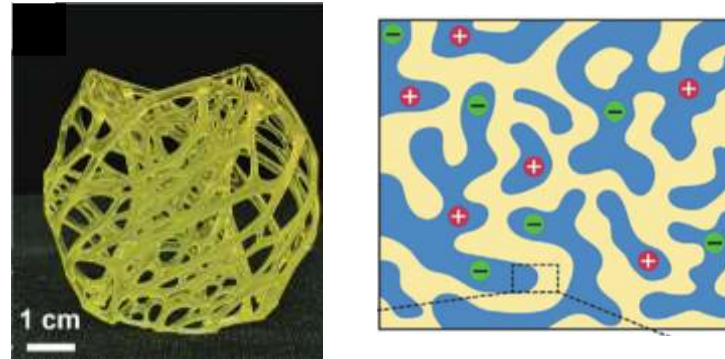


Compression

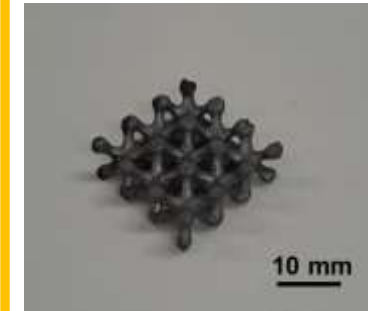
Tensile



## Mechanically robust solid polymer electrolyte



## Customised nanoporous inorganic materials



1. Bobrin, V. A., Lee, K., Zhang, J., Corrigan, N., Boyer, C. *Adv. Mater.* **2022**, 34 (4), 2107643. 2. Bobrin, V. A., Yao, Y., Shi, X., Xiu, Y., Zhang, J., Corrigan, N., Boyer, C. *Nat. Commun.* **2022**, 13 (1), 3577. 3. Lee, K., Shang, Y., Bobrin, V. A., Kuchel, R., Kundu, D., Corrigan, N., Boyer, C. *Adv. Mater.* **2022**, 34, 2204816. 4. Bobrin, V. A., Hackbarth, G., Yao, Y., Bedford, N. M., Zhang, J., Corrigan, N., Boyer, C. Customized Nanostructured Ceramics via Microphase Separation 3D Printing. *Adv. Sci.* **2023**, 2304734.



# Applications of polymer-derived inorganic materials

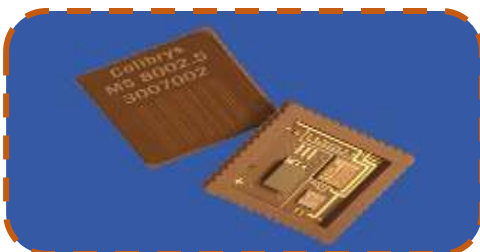
UHT coating  
Stealth tech  
Ballistic protection

## Advanced materials



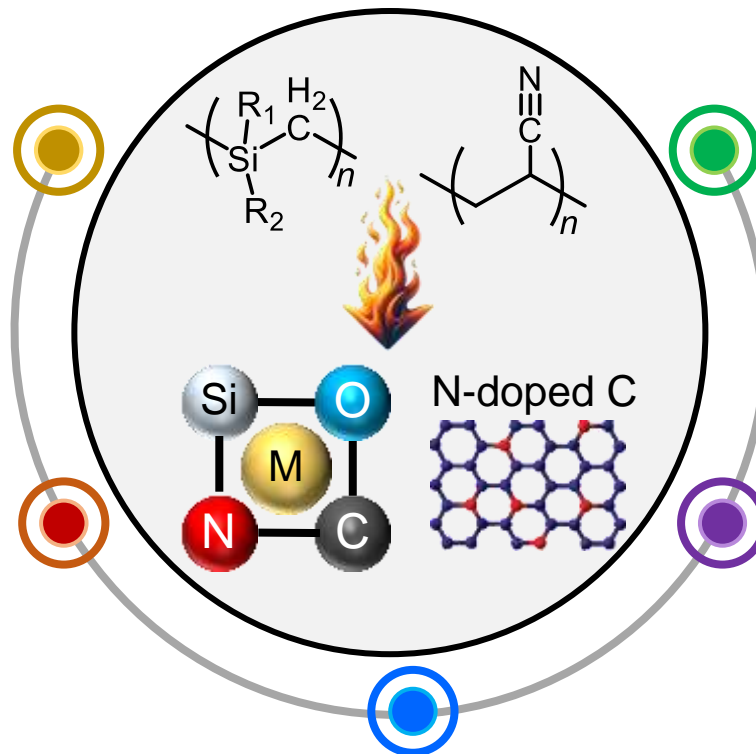
MEMS  
Microarray  
Piezoelectric

## Electronics

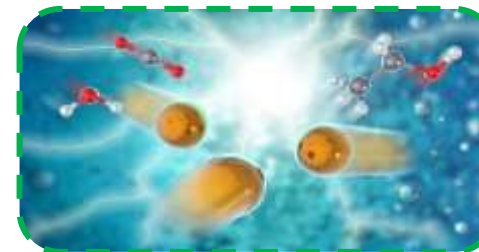


Membranes  
Oxidation of VOCs  
Adsorbents

## Pollution control



## Catalysis



Catalyst support  
Hydrogen production  
Biomass conversion

## Energy storage

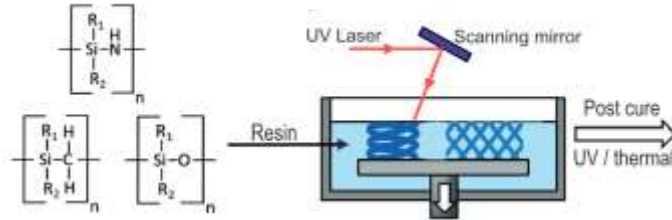


Supercapacitors  
Parts in batteries  
Electrode separator

1. Ackley, B. J. et al. *Chem. Rev.* **2023**, 123, 8, 4188.
2. Colombo, P. et al. *J. Am. Ceram. Soc.* **2010**, 93, 1805.
3. Wang, H. et al. *Chem. Rev.* **2020**, 120, 9363.

# Structuration of polymer-derived inorganic materials

## Macro-scale ordering

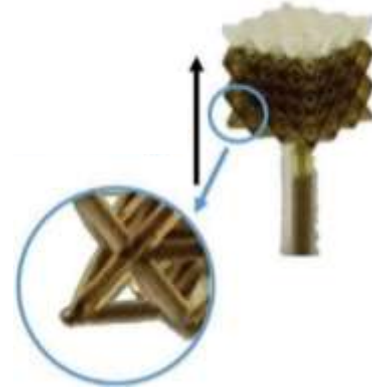
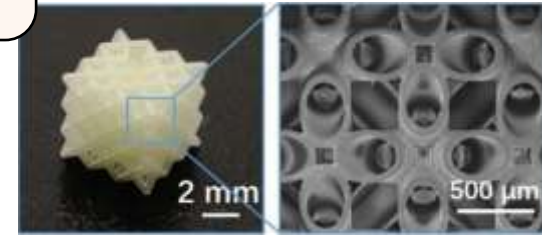


*Science* **2016**, 351, 58

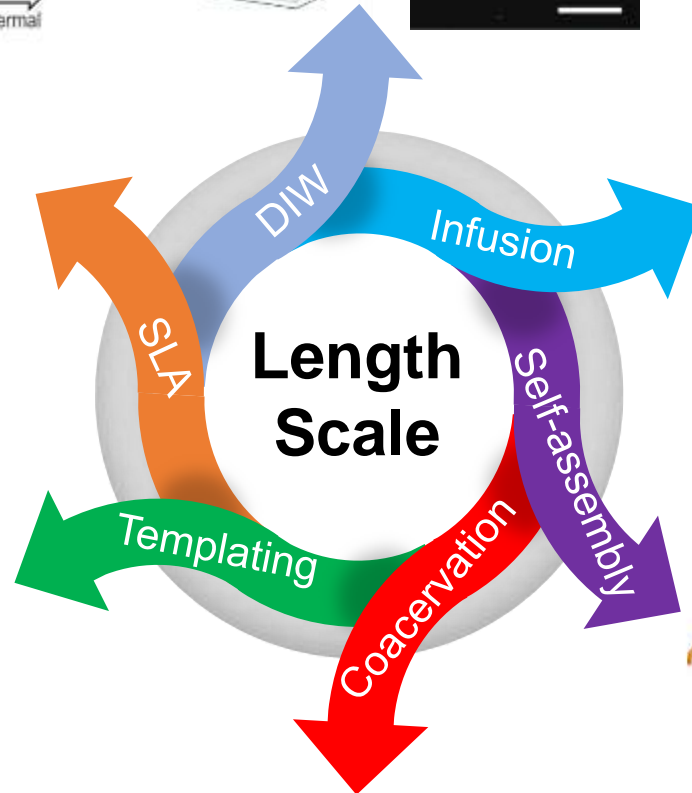


- ✗ Access to ultra-small features
- ✗ Control over nanostructuration
- ✓ Complex geometries

*J. Mater.* **2023**, 35, 2209270



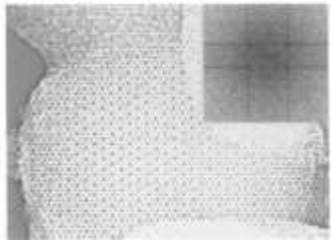
*Adv. Funct. Mater.* **2022**, 32, 2105879



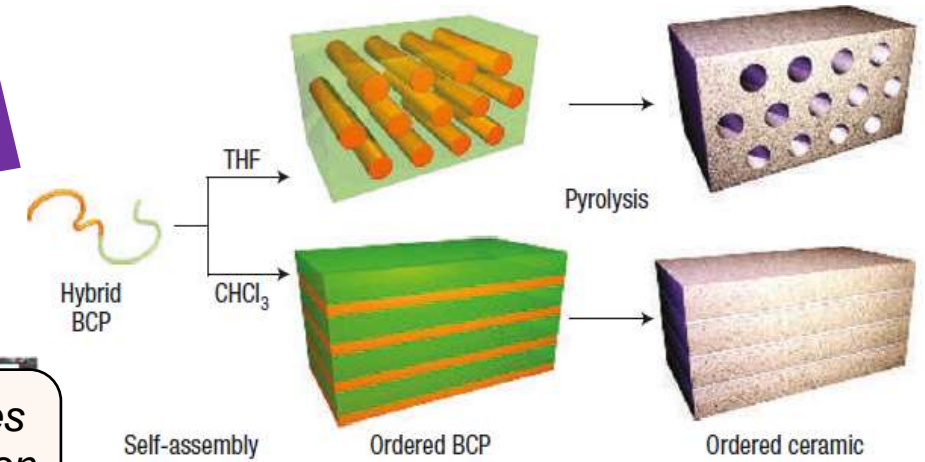
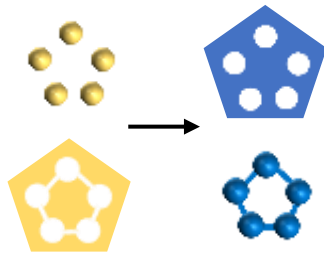
- ✓ Access to ultra-small features
- ✓ Control over nanostructuration
- ✗ Complex geometries

*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2018**, 140, 10297-10304

## Nano-scale ordering

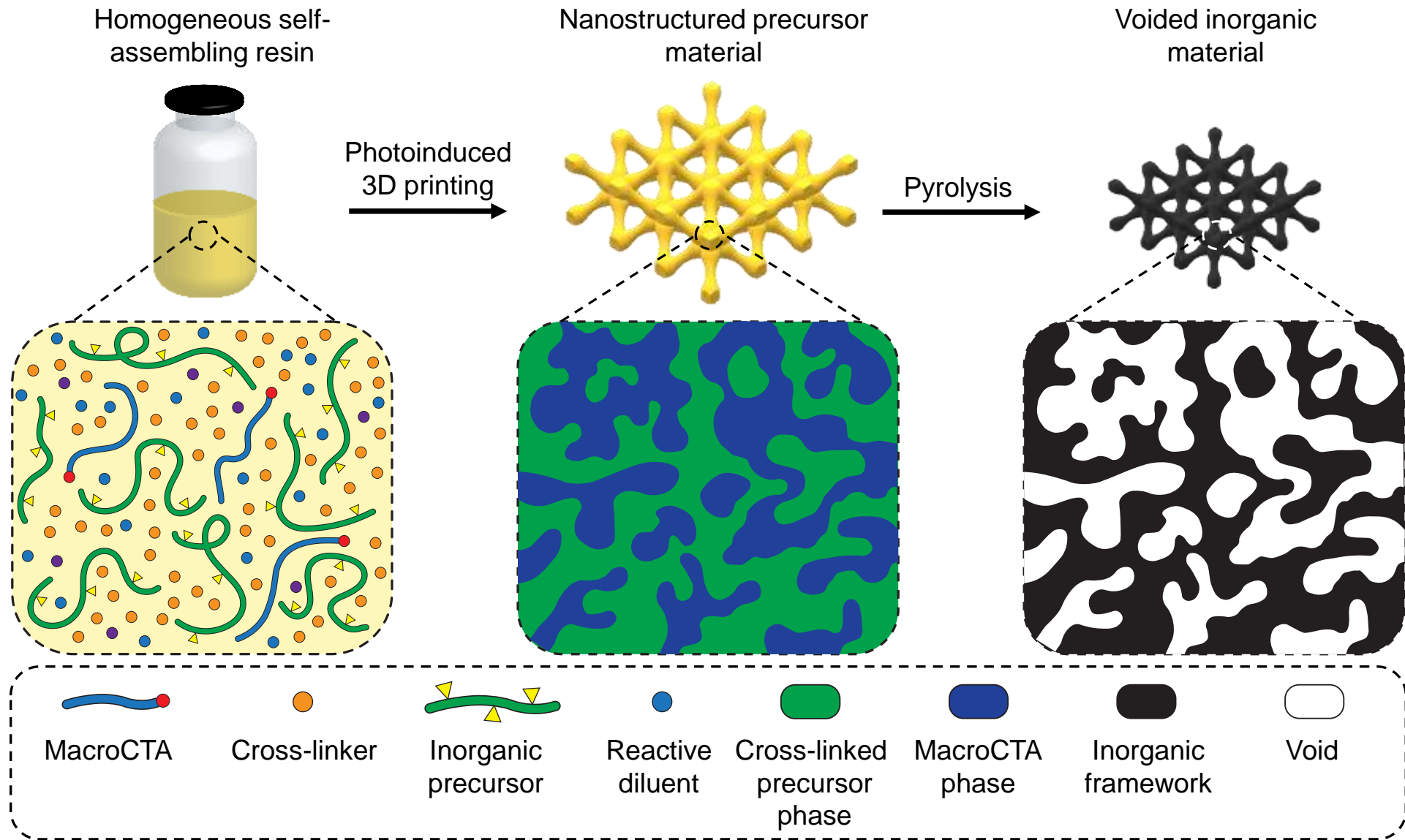


*Science* **1993**, 261, 1299



*Nat. Nanotechnol.* **2007**, 2 (1), 43

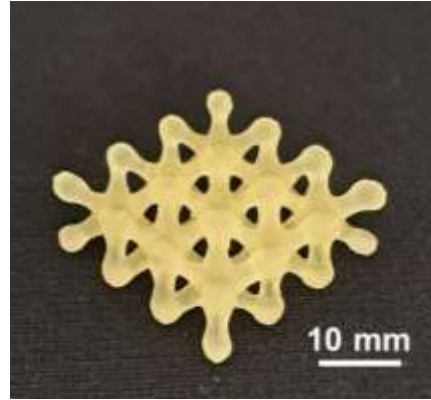
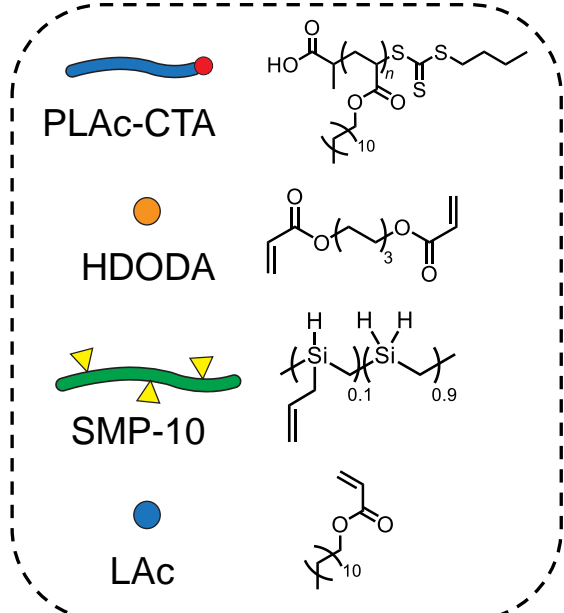
# General route to 3D printed nanostructured inorganic materials





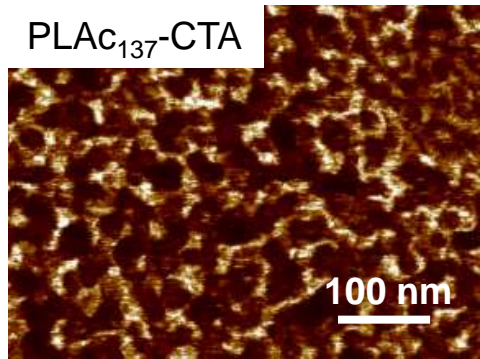
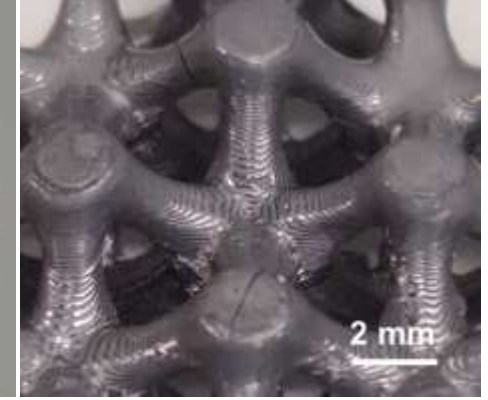
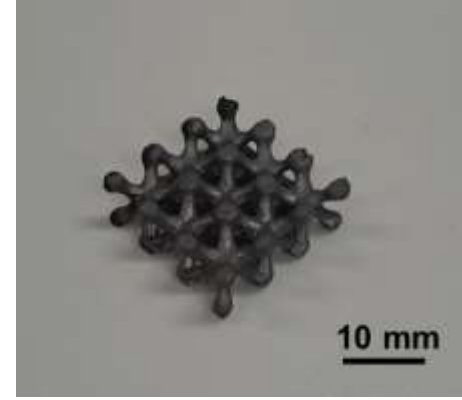
# Customised nanostructured ceramics

## Preceramic material

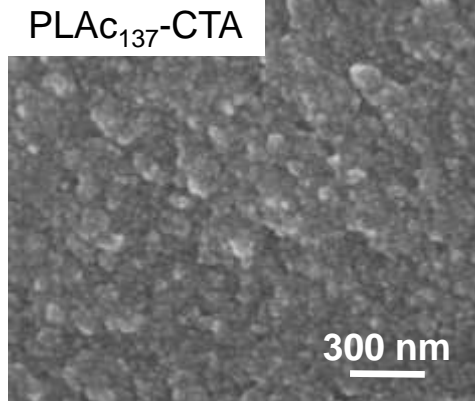
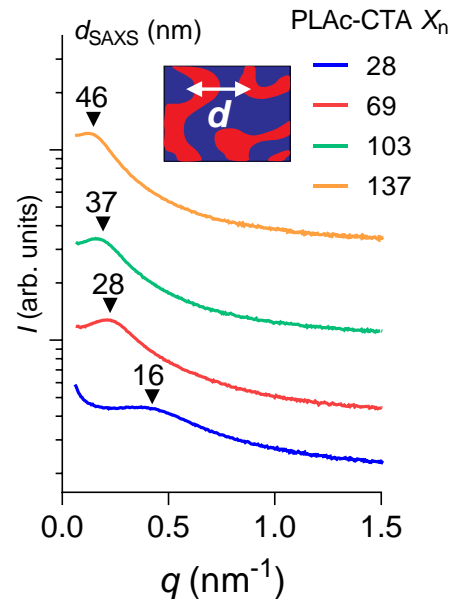


Pyrolysis  
 800 – 1200 °C  
 Argon  
 Isotropic  
 shrinkage ~ 30%

## Nanoporous silicon oxycarbide (SiOC) ceramics



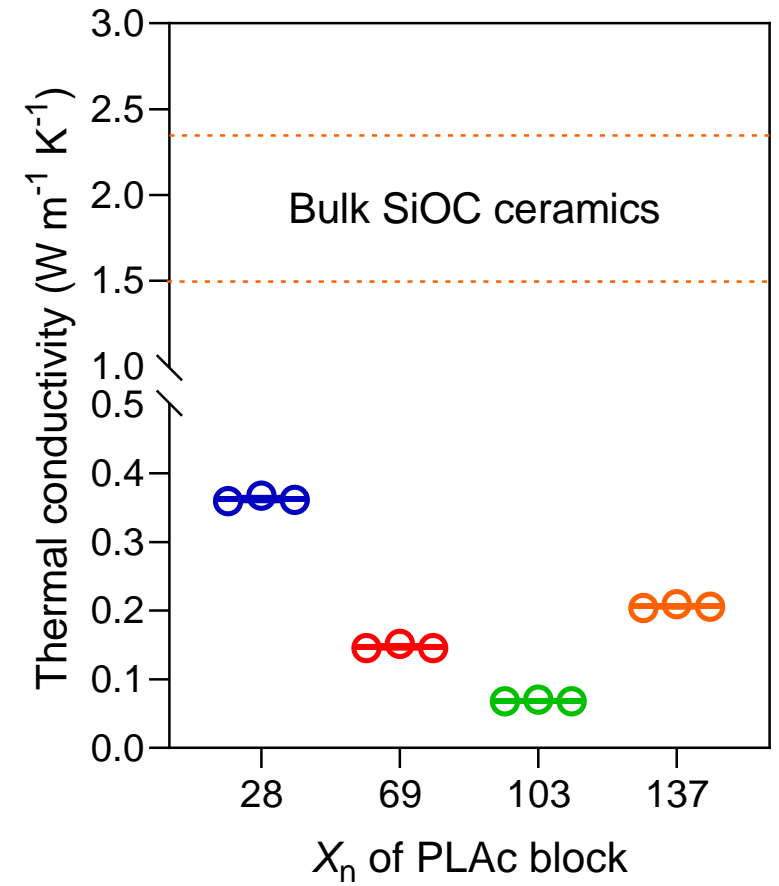
0 MPa 650



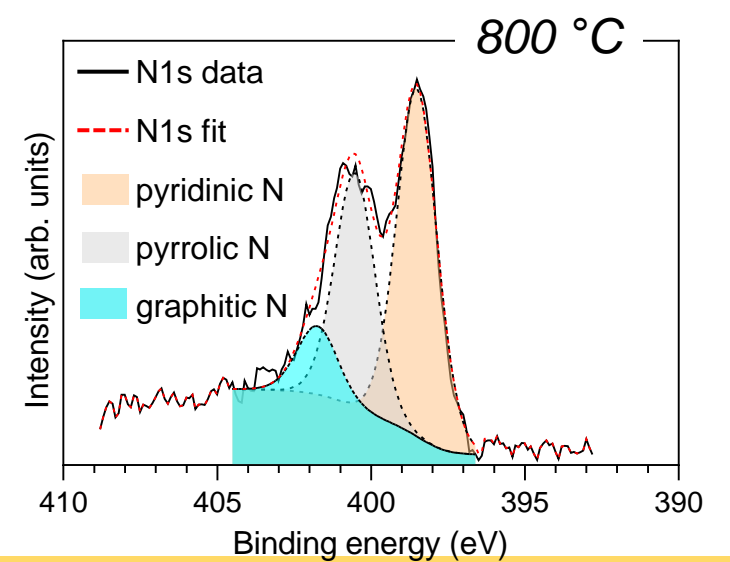
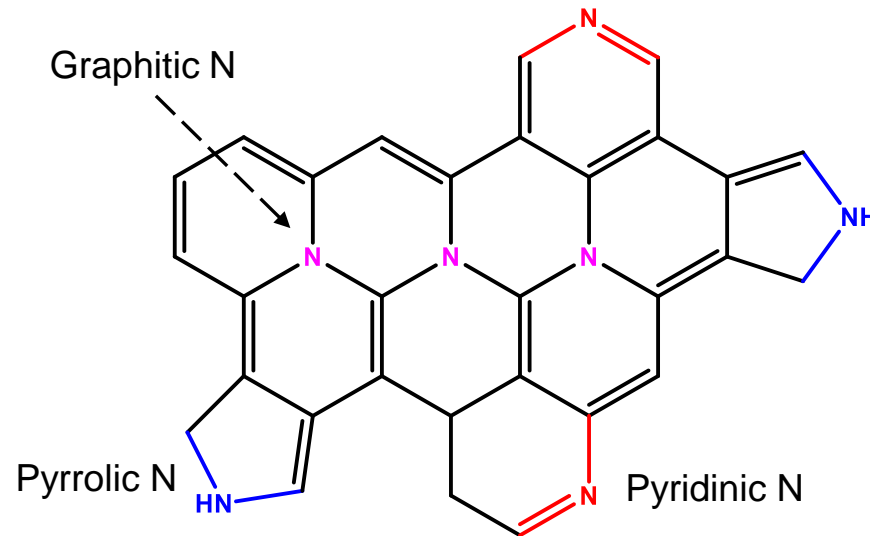
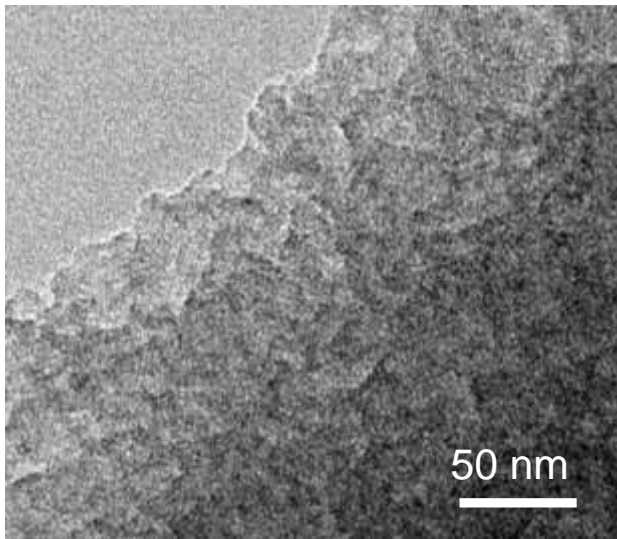
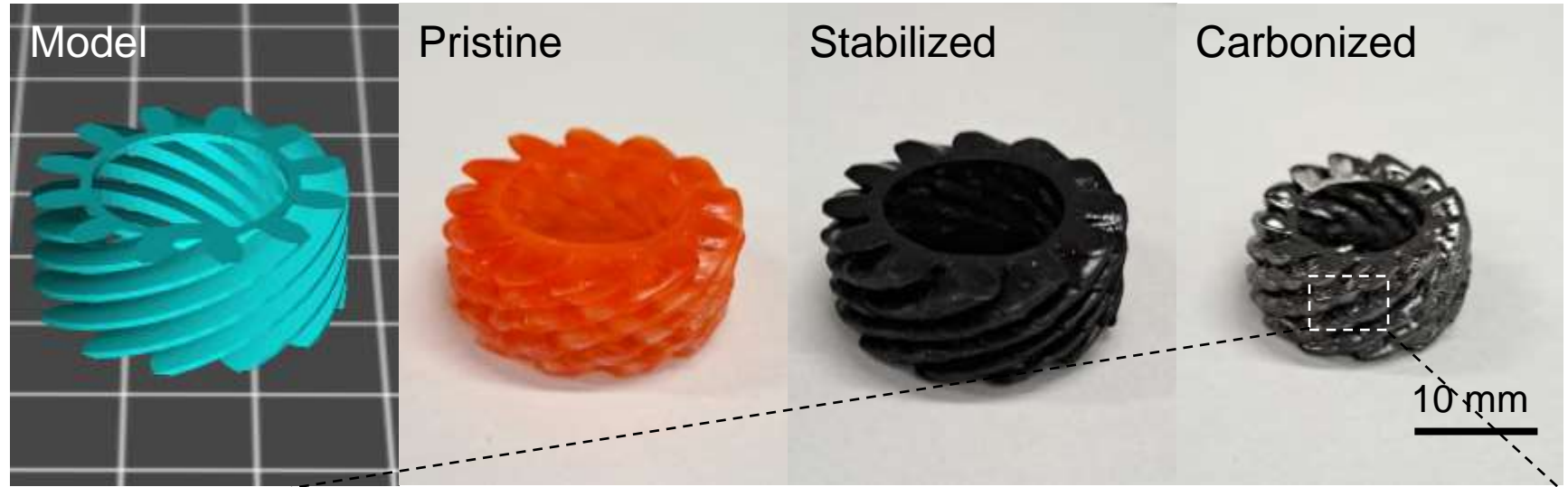
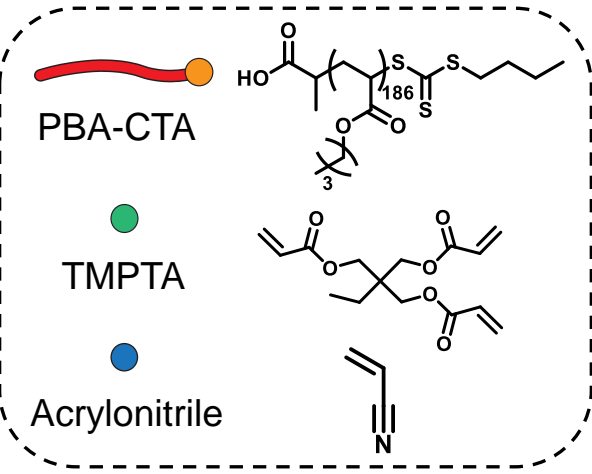
$X_n$ of PLAc block	Surface area, $\text{m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$	Pore connectivity ( $\eta$ ), %
28	164	25
69	278	43
103	589	93
137	260	45

# Thermal properties of PIMS ceramics

(speed up x4)

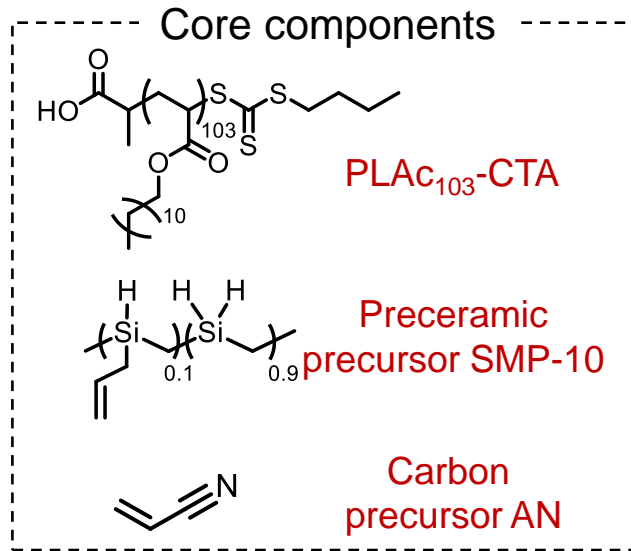


# 3D Printed nanostructured N-doped carbon

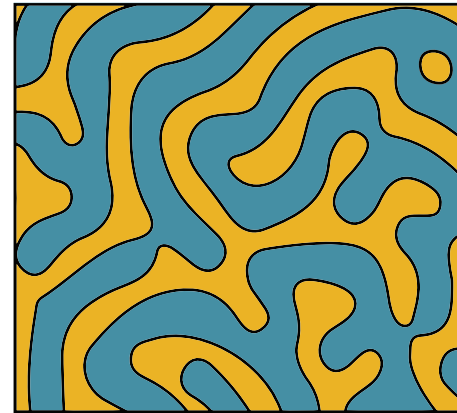




# 3D Printing of carbon-ceramic composites

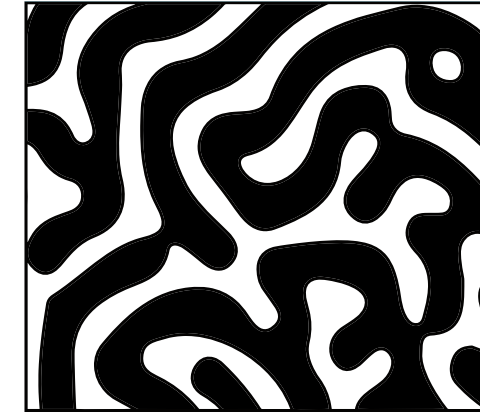


3D Printing

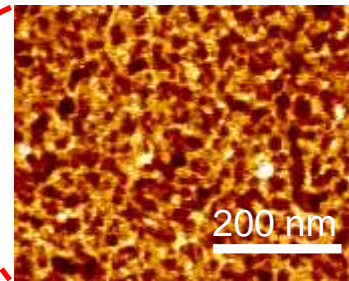


Yellow: *net*-P(SMP-10-co-AN)  
Blue: Sacrificial PLAc

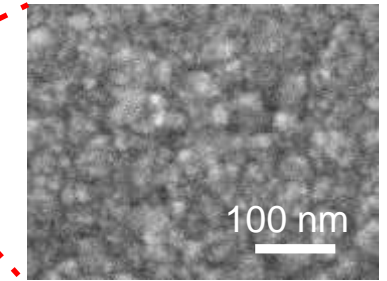
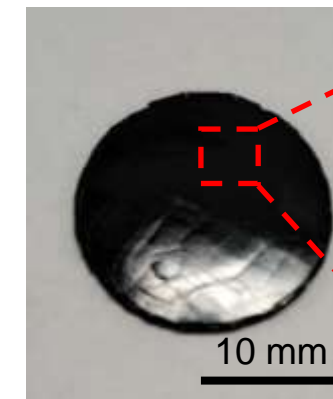
Pyrolysis



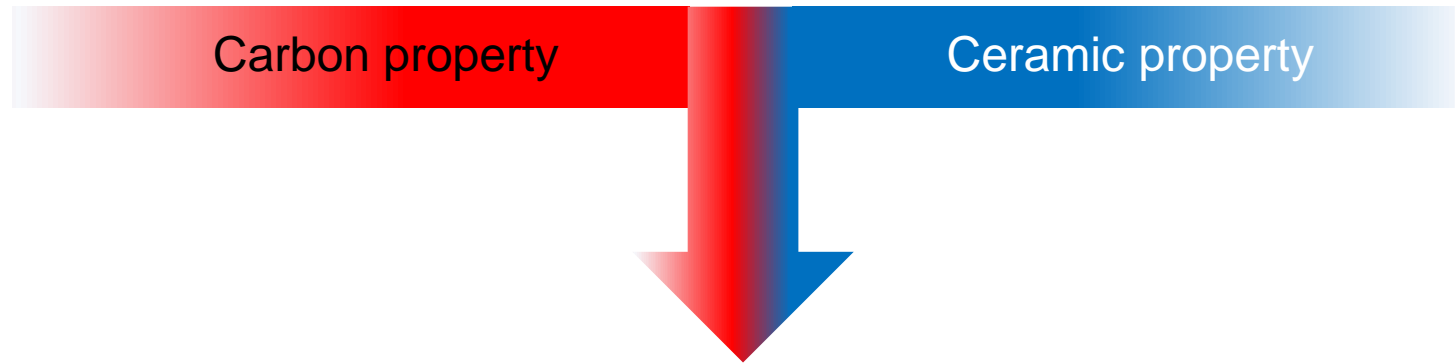
Black: Carbon-ceramic matrix  
White: Nanoscale voids



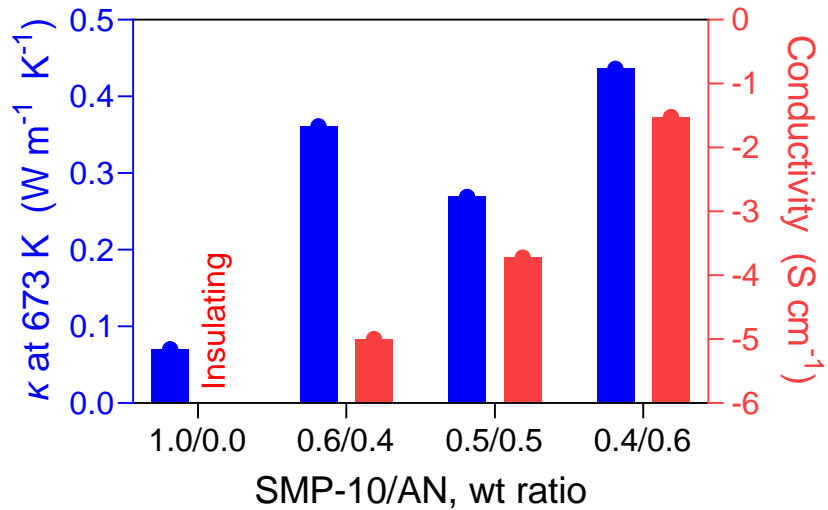
0 MPa 333



# Properties of 3D printed of carbon-ceramic composites



## Thermal & electrical conductivity

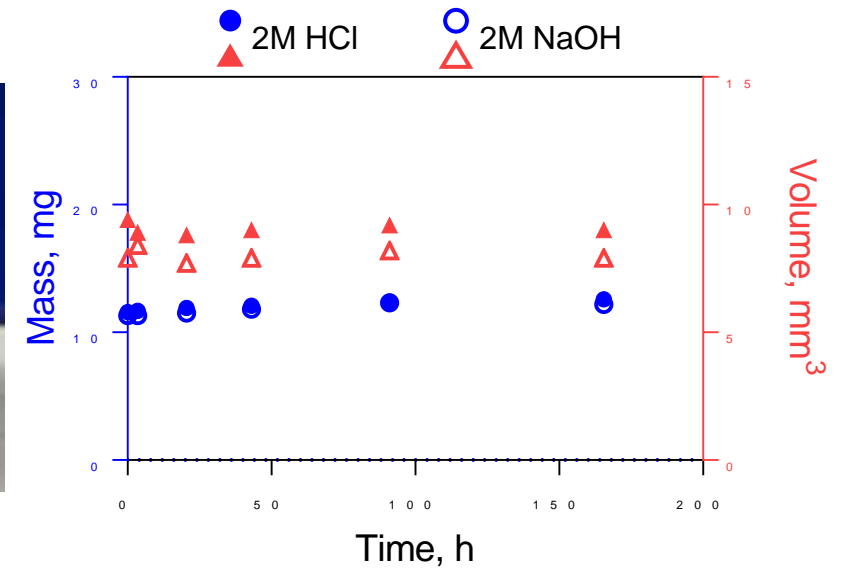
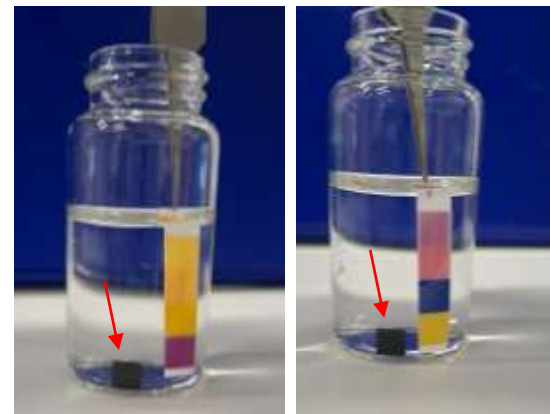


## Chemical stability

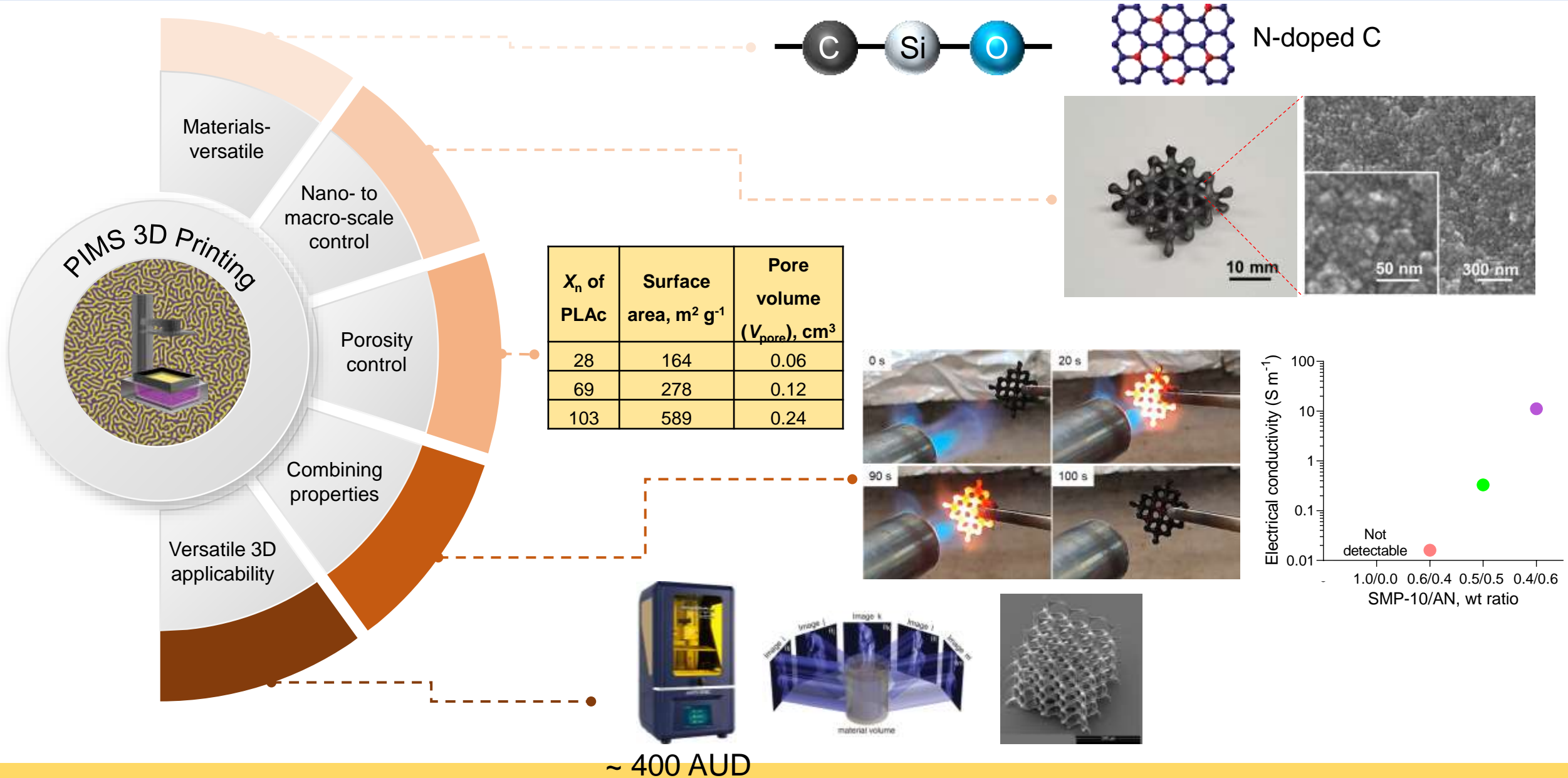
After 1 week

pH 1

pH 13



# Summary – features of our approach





# Acknowledgements

## Boyer's Lab:

Prof Cyrille Boyer

Dr Nathaniel Corrigan

Dr Xiaobing Shi

Mr Kenny Lee

Mr Yuan Xiu

Boyer Group Members

CAMD Members

Eh Hau Pan

## Collaborators:

Dr Jin Zhang (UNSW)

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Dr Paul Fitzgerald (USYD)

Dr Lars Thomsen (ANSTO)

Dr James Ponder (ANL)

Dr Andrey Yakovenko (ANL)



UNSW  
SYDNEY

Mark Wainwright  
Analytical Centre



Questions?

**Customised Nanostructured Inorganic Materials via Microphase Separation 3D Printing**

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