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Centre Tecnològic de Catalunya



Departament d'Enginyeria Química

UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA

# DEVELOPMENT OF NANOCOMPOSITE MATERIALS FOR THE RECOVERY OF CESIUM AND URANIUM

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The unit has experience in R&D in the fields of:

- Water technologies: treatment, reutilization, recovery of nutrients
- Waste: management technologies, recycling, recovery of raw materials
- Soil and groundwater remediation
- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energies
- Industrial ecology, optimization of processes and equipment

# New UPC-Barcelona Tech Campus in Diagonal Besòs



**Engineering School of Barcelona (EEBE)**

**Barcelona Research Center for Multiscale Science and Engineering**

- **New space for innovation and knowledge**
- **High quality academic center in the field of the engineering for the industry**



# OBJECTIVES

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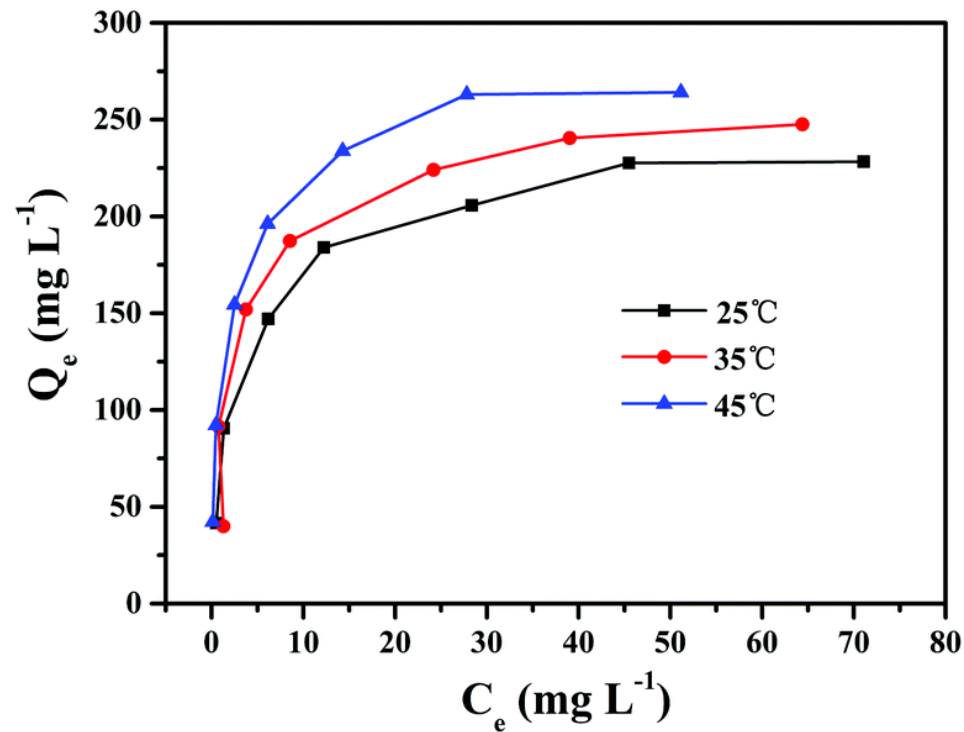
1) Development of two nanostructured hybrid nanocomposite:

- Cellulose TriAcetate (CTA) + Prussian Blue (PB)
- CTA + graphite

2) Characterization of these nanocomposites

3) Recovery capacity of Cesium and Uranium

# RECOVERY OF URANIUM BY GRAPHITE/ACTIVATED CARBON



# RECOVERY OF CESIUM BY PRUSSIAN BLUE

Prussian Blue (PB): Iron(III) hexacyanoferrate(II)

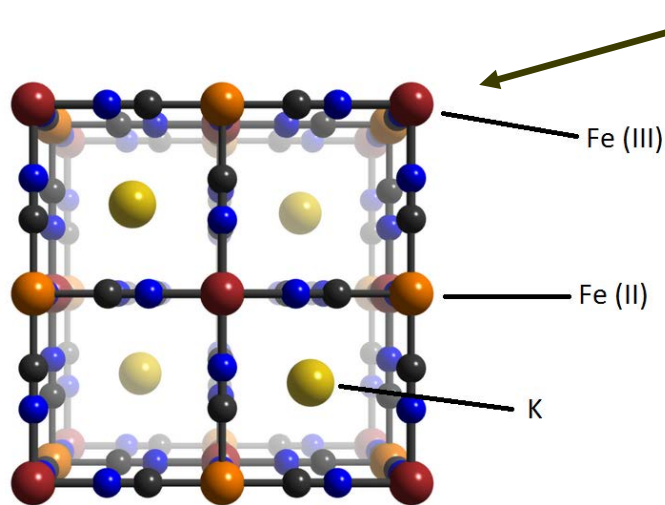
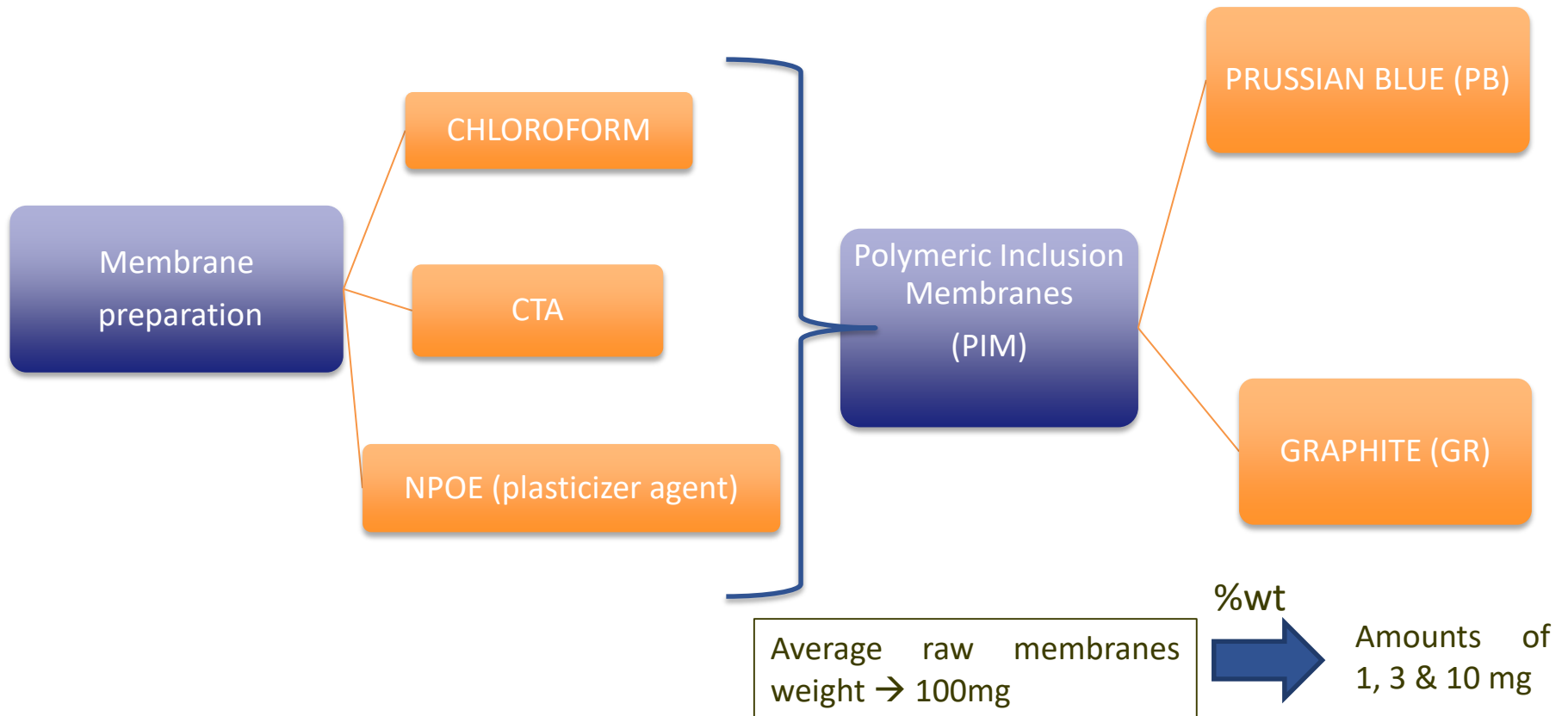


Figura 1: Chemical structure of PB.  
<https://chemicalstructure.net>

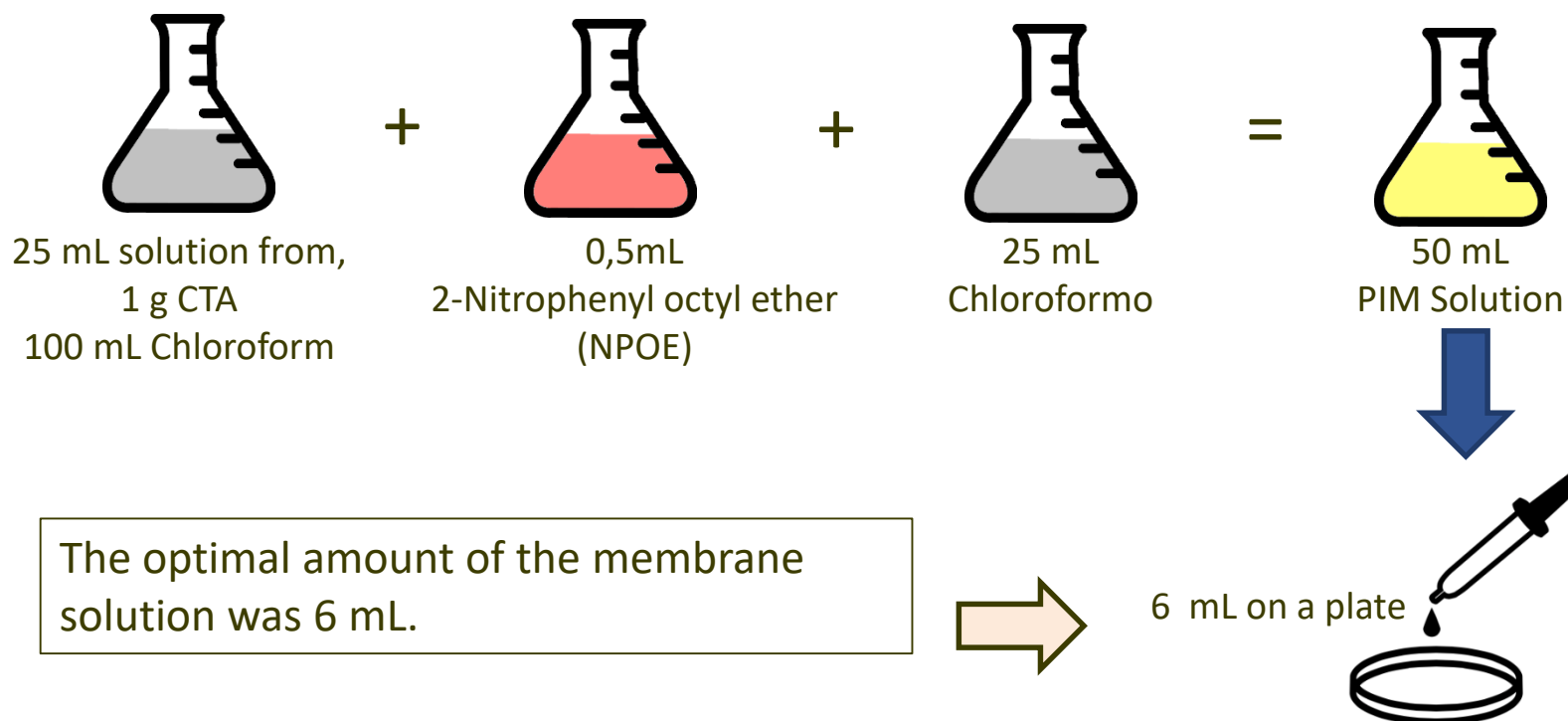


Figure 2: Starry night  
(Vincent Van Gogh)

# EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

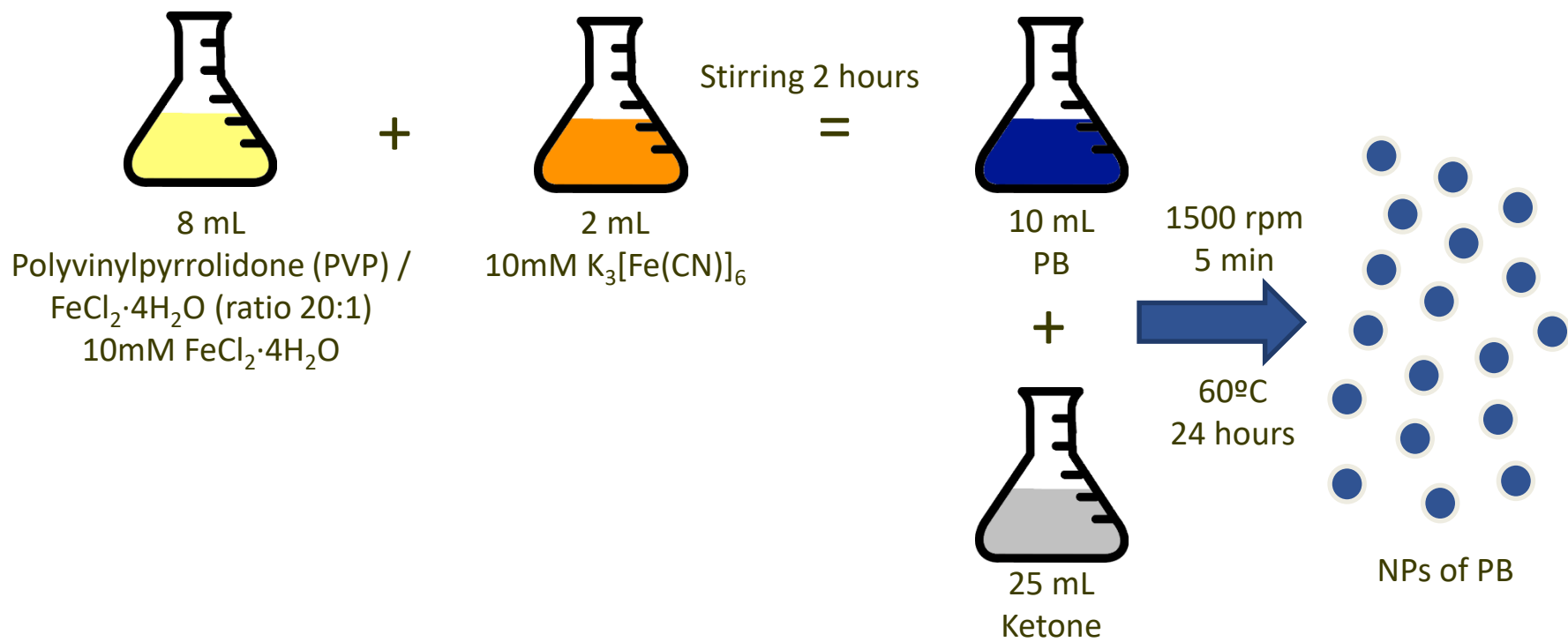


# PIM SYNTHESIS

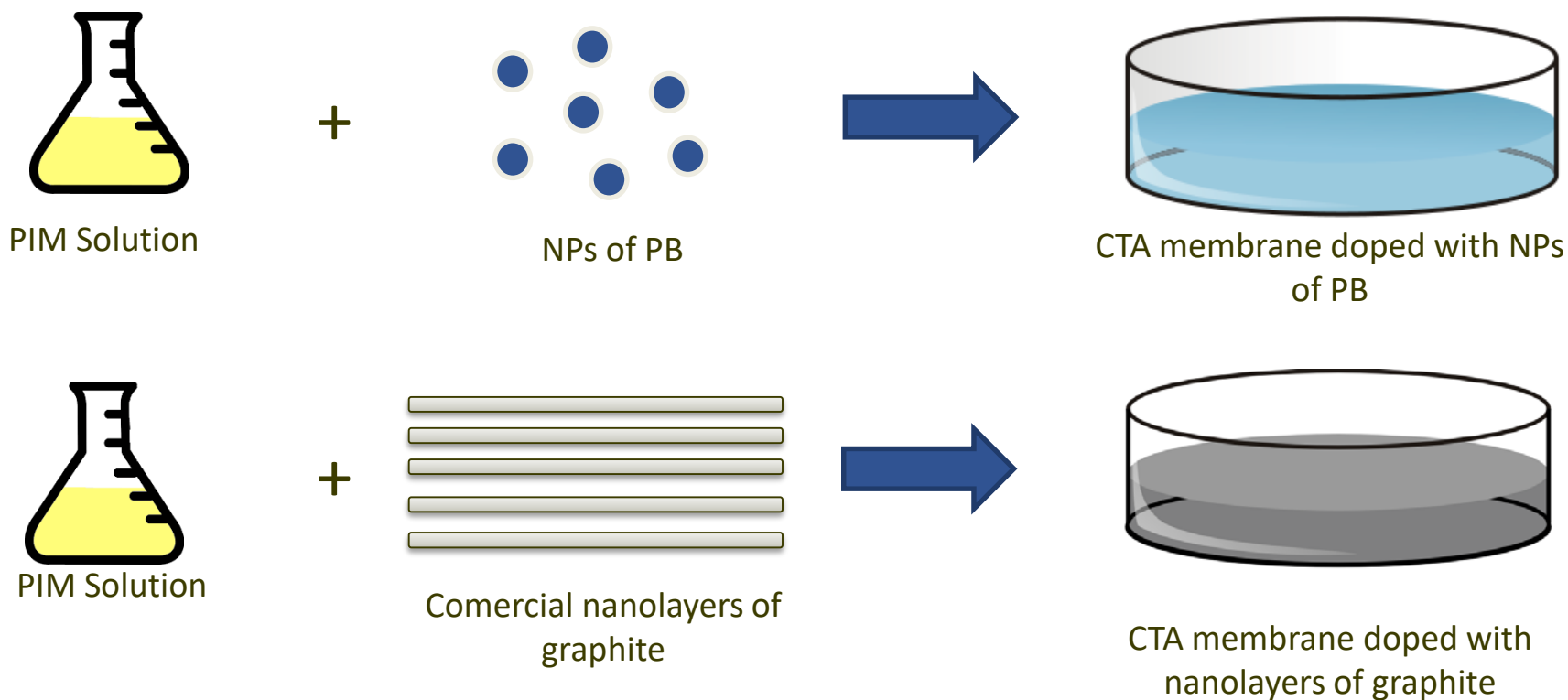




# PRUSSIAN BLUE SYNTHESIS



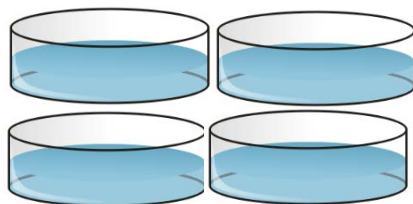
# MODIFIED MEMBRANE SYNTHESIS



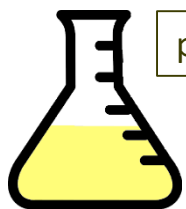
# SORPTION TESTS



+

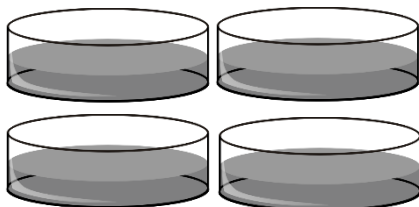
 $[C_s] = 10^{-5} \text{M}$ 

PB MEMBRANES

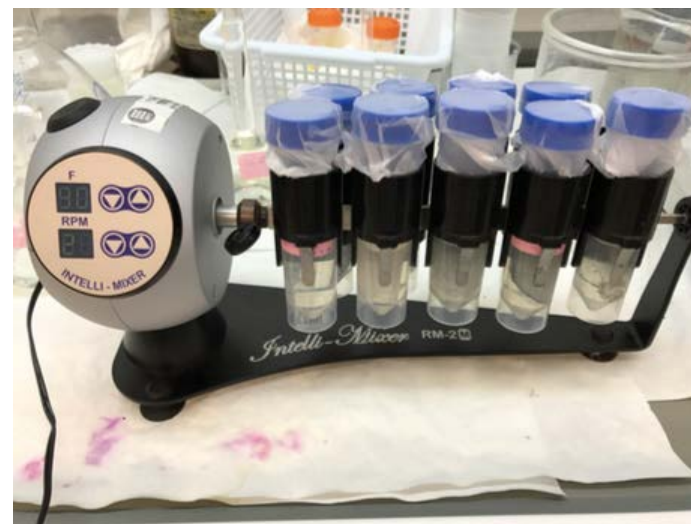


pH = 7

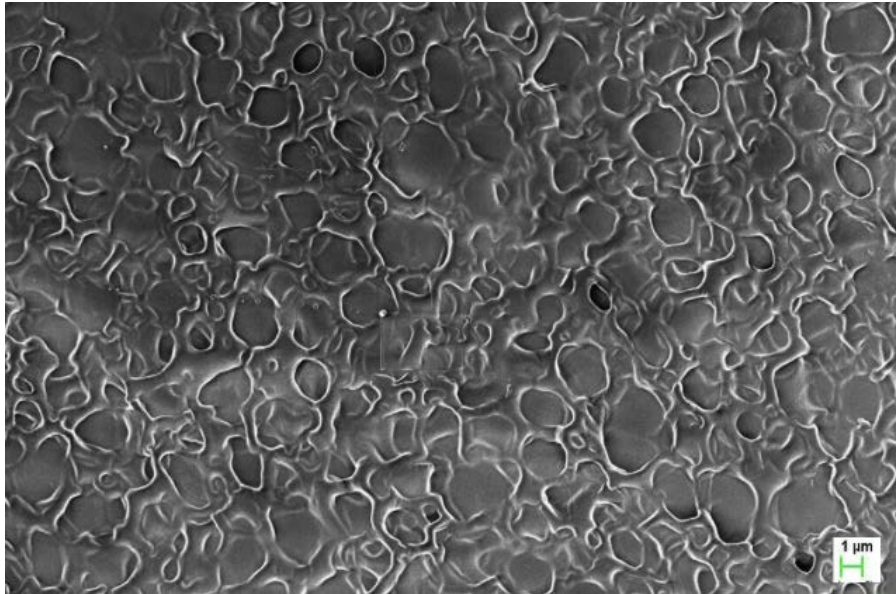
+

 $[U] = 10^{-6} \text{M}$ GRAPHITE  
MEMBRANES

Stirring 24  
hours

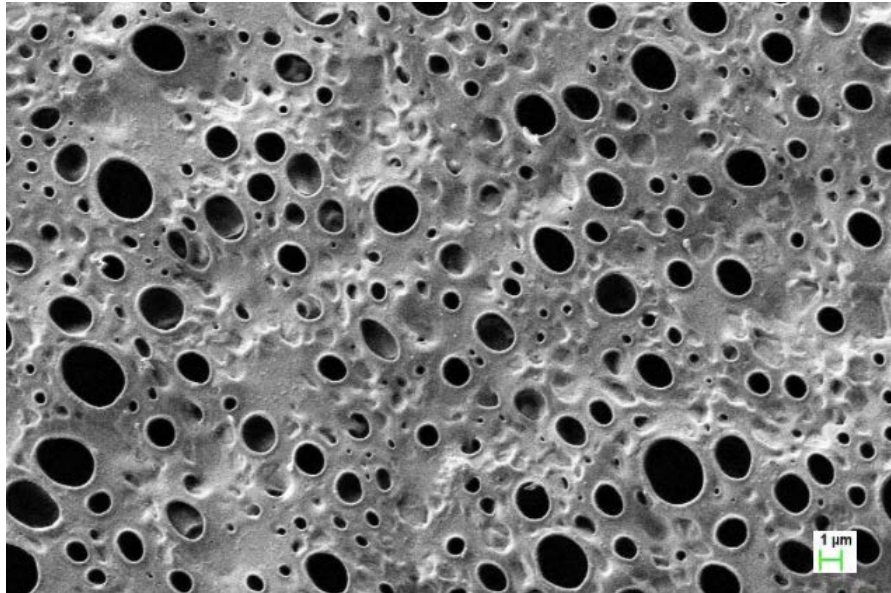


# SEM RAW MEMBRANE CONTROL



Well defined porous

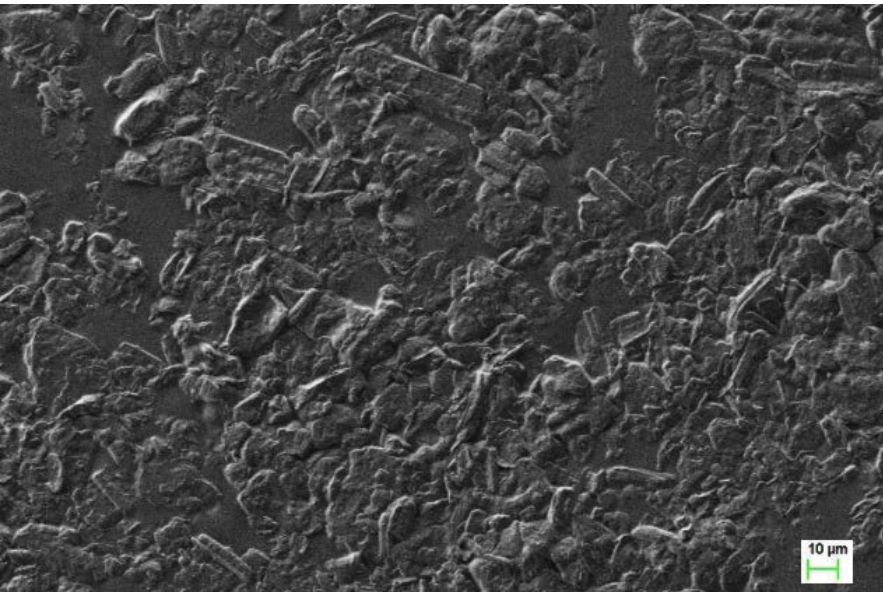
# SEM PB MEMBRANE



- Doped membranes clearly show porous on the surface.
- This is due to use of ketone during the synthesis

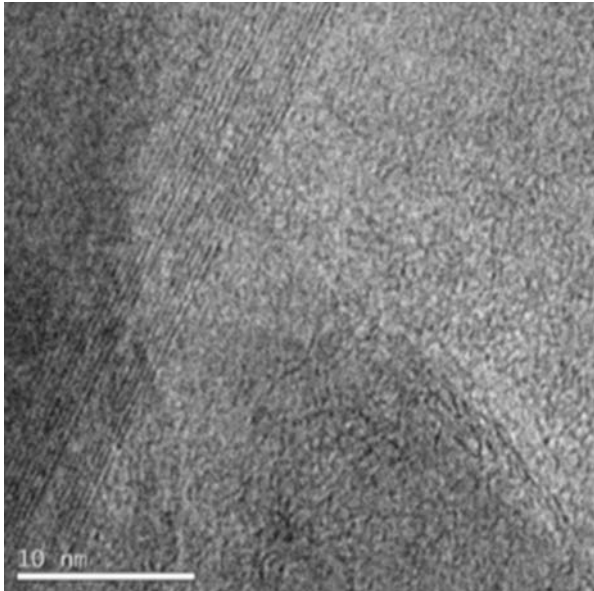


# SEM GRAPHITE MEMBRANE



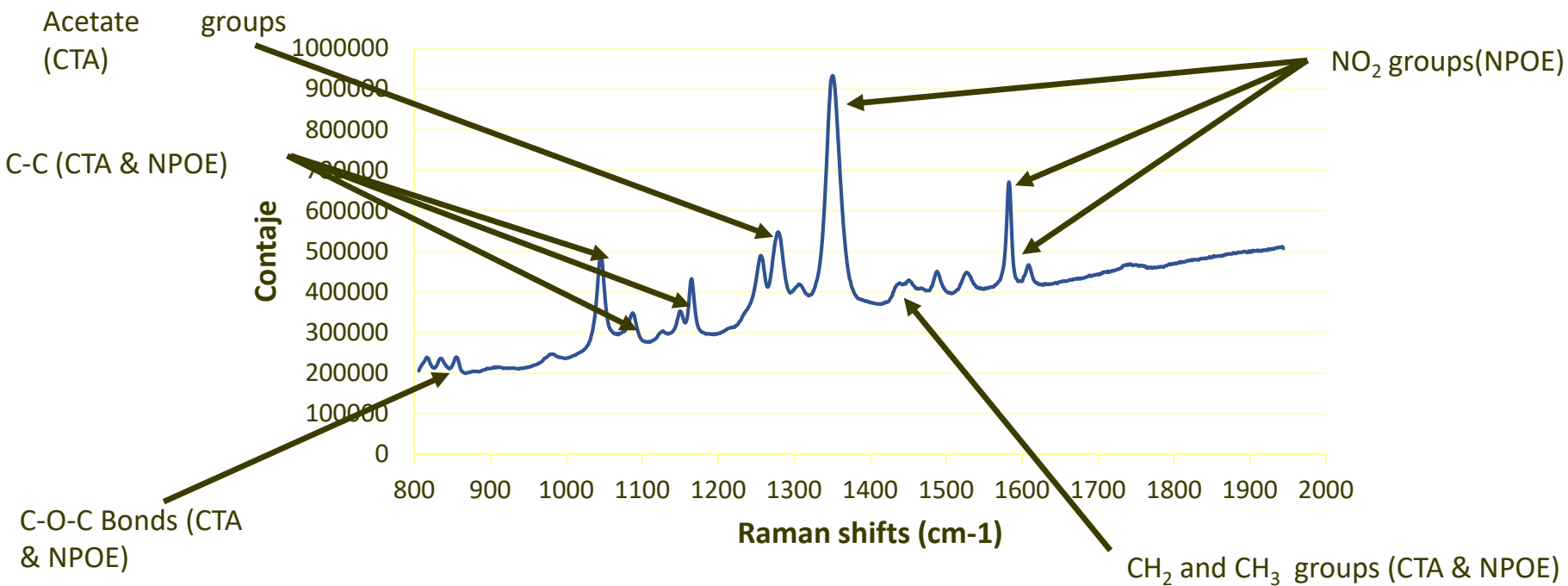
- Doped membranes are well covered by nanolayers of graphite.

# TEM GRAPHITE MEMBRANE



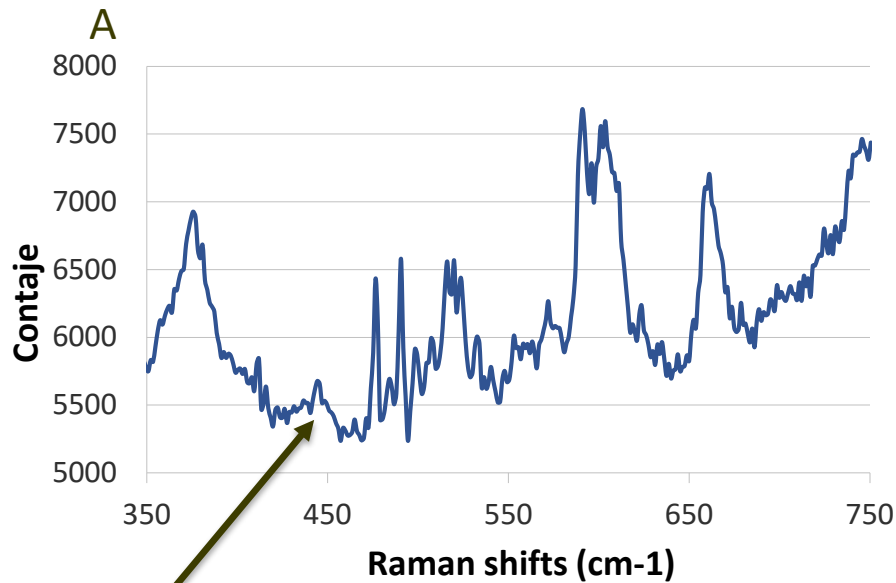
- It is possible to see the profile of the atomic planes forming the skeleton of the atoms.
- Interatomic space is **0.3335 nm**

# RAMAN RAW MEMBRANE CONTROL

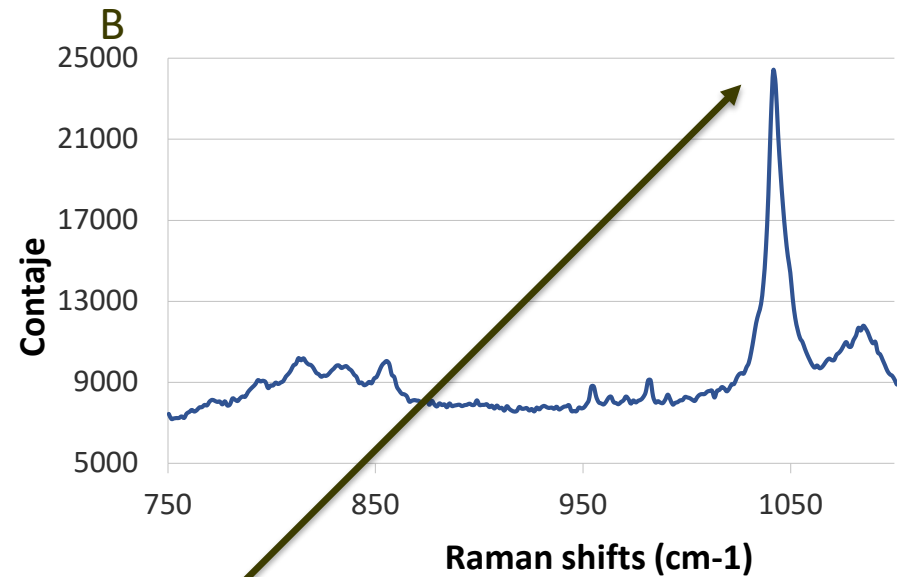




# RAMAN GRAPHITE MEMBRANE AFTER URANIUM SORPTION



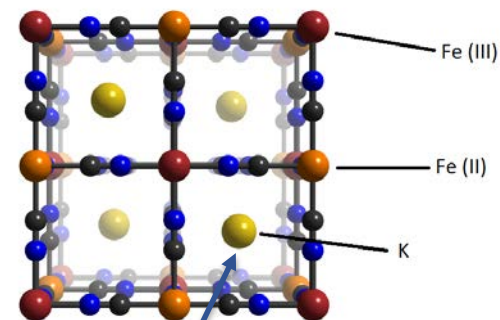
Symmetry of the U-O double bond



Vibrations of the crystal lattice

# Cs SORPTION ON PB MEMBRANES

EXPERIMENTS	[Cs] ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )	RECOVERY (%)
Initial Cesium	1072	-
Raw Membrane control	1046	2
Membrane PB1	810	24
Membrane PB3	188	82
Membrane PB10	120	89



IONIC EXCHANGE MECHANISM OF Cs



# U SORPTION ON GRAPHITE MEMBRANES

Experiments	[U] ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )	Recovery (%)
Initial uranyl	120	-
Raw Membrane control	65	46
Membrane GR1	43	64
Membrane GR3	32	73
Membrane GR10	27	78

Physical sorption  
+  
Redox Reaction

# CONCLUSIONS

*Two nanostructured hybrid nanocomposite materials were prepared using cellulose triacetate membranes as support matrix. Polymeric Inclusion Membranes (PIM) were prepared mixing cellulose triacetate (CTA), chloroform and 2-Nitrophenyl octyl ether (NPOE).*

*Some Membranes were modified with Prussian blue (PB) nanoparticles (NPs) protected by polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) and Other Membranes were modified with Graphite.*

*The nanocomposites were characterised by Scanning Electronic Microscopy (SEM), Transmission Electronic Microscopy (TEM) and Raman spectroscopy to obtain detailed information about the morphology, chemical functional groups and composition of the Samples*

*For the system graphite-U, the raw membrane showed a recovery of 46%, the maximum was found to be 78% of recovery when a 10% w/w of graphite was used*

*For the PB-Cs, the raw membrane did not present a significant! capacity to adsorb Cs, in contrast to the 89% sorption of Cs for nanocomposite with 10% w/w of PB.*

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION