

# Nanocrystals for the fabrication of new functional mesostructured materials

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# Outline

Introduction

Chemical synthesis of nanoparticles

Self-organization of nanoparticles at 2D and 3D

Towards new properties:

Conclusions

# *Introduction*

# Nanoparticles?

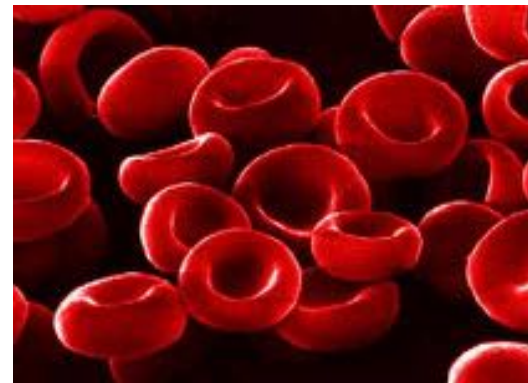
Nanoparticles are particles (typically crystals of inorganic elements) for which the largest characteristic dimension is around 1-100 nm (1nm=10<sup>-9</sup> m= 0,000000001 m)

**Nanocrystals** correspond to well crystallized Nanoparticles



Human hair

~ 100  $\mu\text{m}$  = 0,1 nm



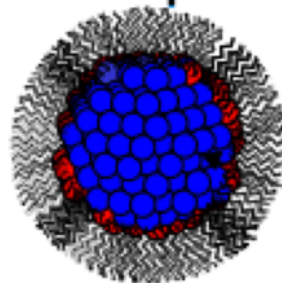
10  $\mu\text{m}$

Red blood cell

They are sticky little things that adhere to anything (including each other)

Remedy: coat them with ligands

## Nanoparticle



Ligand

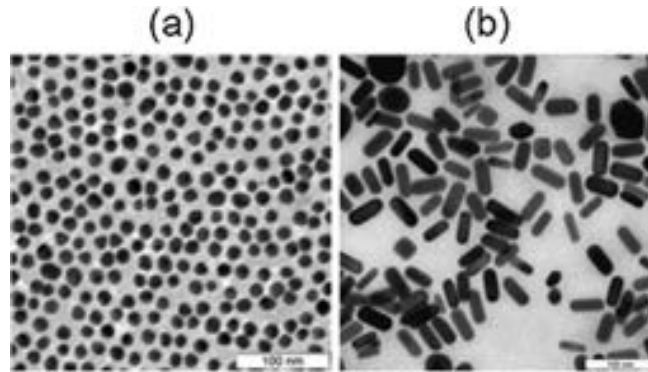
Atoms that form spherical nanocrystal core

## *Classification of nanoparticles?*

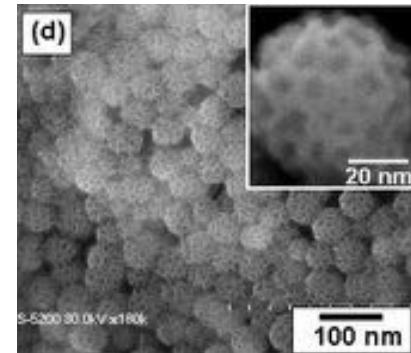
Nanoparticles can be classified into different classes based on their properties, shapes or sizes. The different groups include fullerenes, **metal NPs**, ceramic NPs, and polymeric NPs..



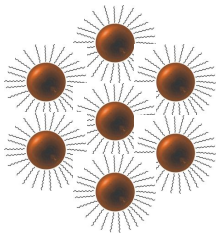
Fullerene= NPs



Au NPs



Mesoporous silica NPs



## *Self-organization of nanoparticles ?*

*NP organization correspond to a process where components of the system acquire non-random spatial distribution with respect to each other and the boundaries of the system (N.A. Kotov)*

*The NP organization can be due to direct specific interaction, collective effects, and/or occur indirectly through their environment*

**Due to the proliferation of nanoparticle synthesis techniques, the study and design of nanoparticle self-assembly has become widespread**

# *Chemical synthesis of Nanoparticles*

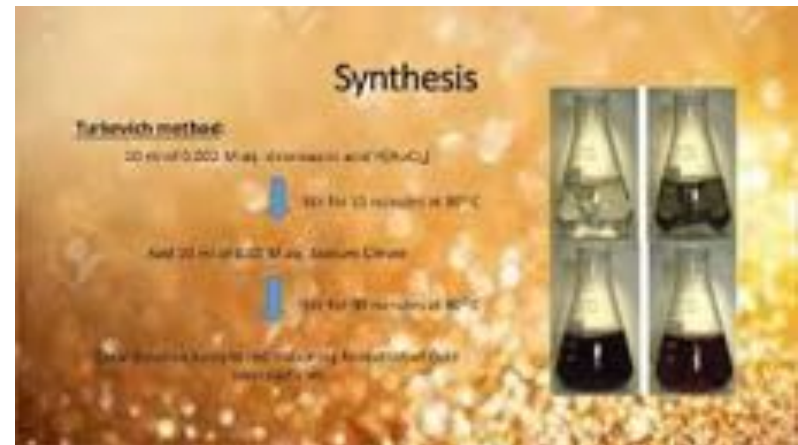
# Nanoparticles synthesis



***Faraday solutions  
exposed in his laboratory***

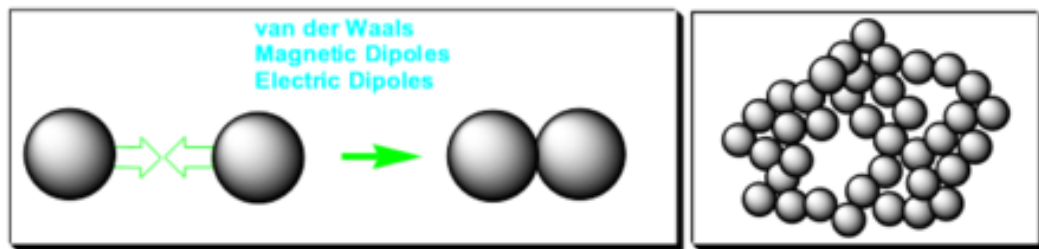
**1857 first controlled synthesis** of gold colloids from the reduction of  $\text{AuCl}_4^-$  by phosphorous solubilized in carbon disulfide ( $\text{CS}_2$ ) by **Faraday**  
The color of the colloidal solution is appeared to be related to the particle size.

**1951 Turkevitch** introduces the most popular synthesis of Au NPs by using citrate reduction of Au(III) from  $\text{HAuCl}_4$  salt in water.





# Nanoparticle stabilization



- ⊕ by placing them in an inert environment
  - an inorganic matrix or
  - polymer
- ⊕ by adding surface-protecting reagents
  - organic ligands – figure 9
  - inorganic capping materials – figure 8

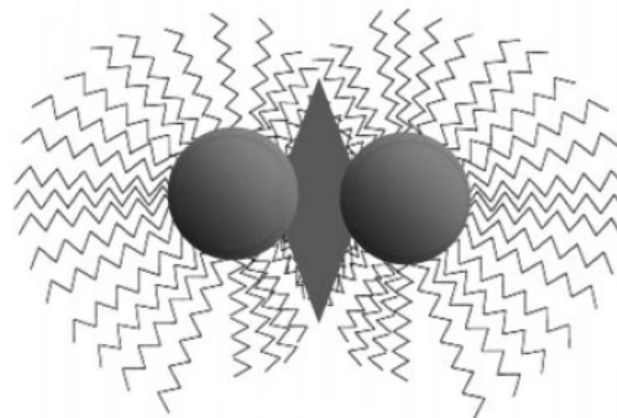
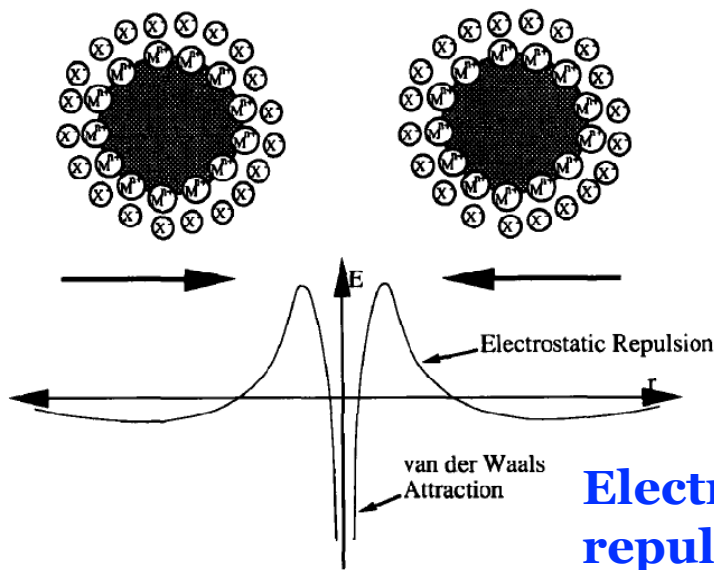


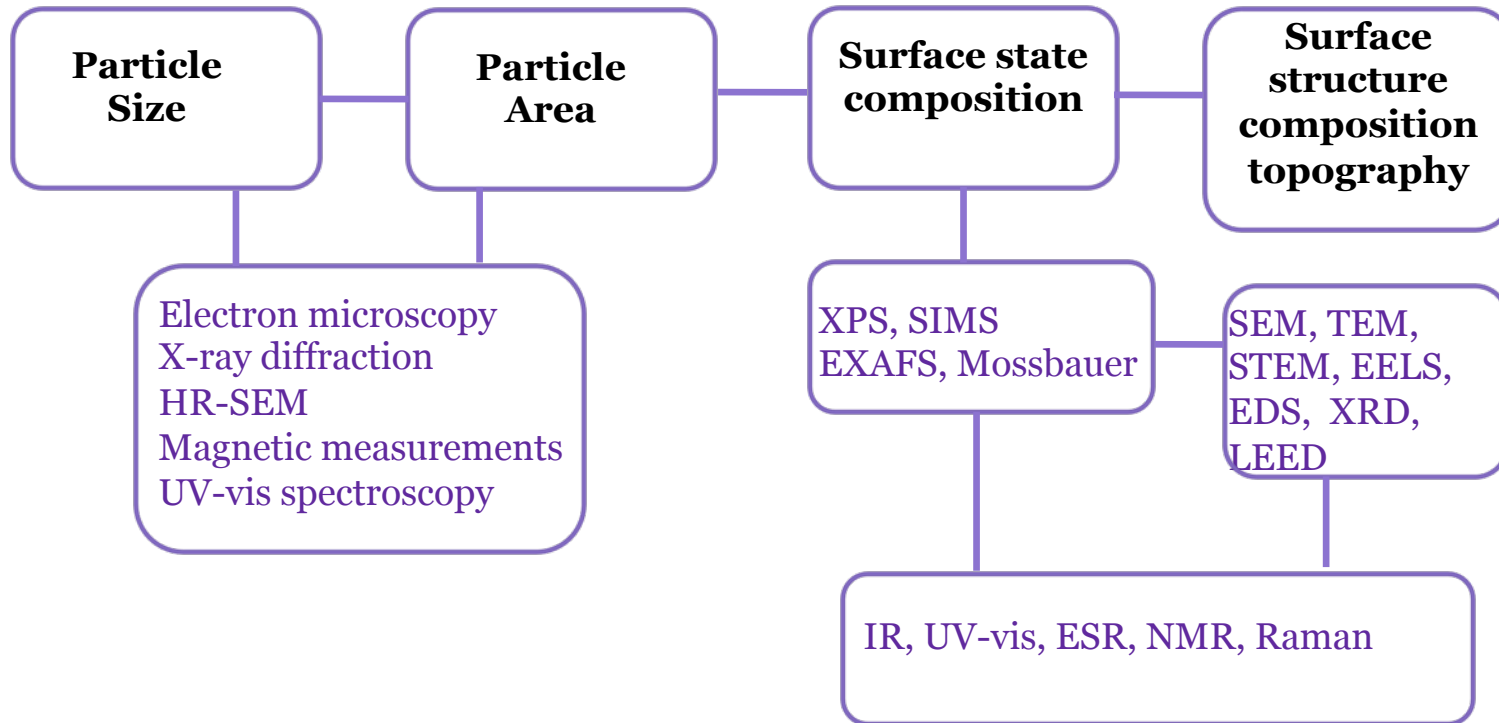
Figure 9 . Steric stabilization of nanostructured metal colloids [Helmut Boennemann – Eur.J.Inorg.Chem.2001]

Figure 8. Electrostatic stabilization of metal colloid particles. Attractive van der Waals forces are outweighed by repulsive electrostatic forces between adsorbed ions and associated counterions at moderate interparticle separation [Gunter Schmid - *Clusters and Colloids*, VCH, 1994]

**Steric repulsion**

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# *Nanoparticle Characterization*



*Nanoparticle synthesis:*

Top down approach

 Bulk material



 Powder



 Nanoparticles



 Clusters



 Atoms

Bottom-up approach

## *Nanoparticle synthesis:*

Bottom-up approach

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graph LR; A[Bottom-up approach] --> B[Physical methods]; A --> C[Chemical methods];
```

### Physical methods:

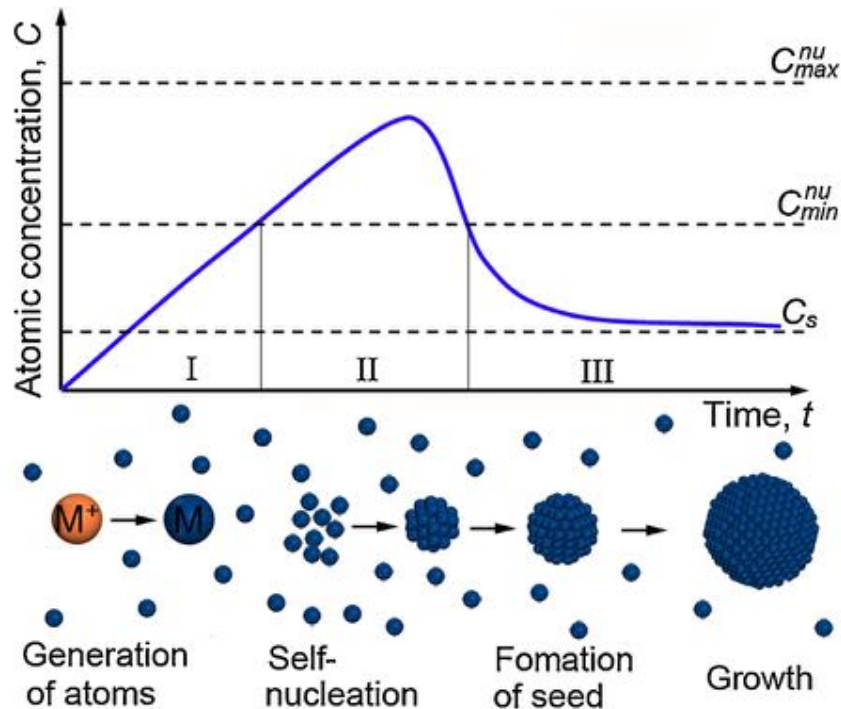
High production of nanoparticles  
drastic experimental conditions, ultra-high vacuum

Limited concerning the control of NP size and shape

**Chemical methods:** well control of the size, shape and composition of the nanoparticles

A large number of parameters can be adjusted (Temperature, Concentration and nature of reactants etc)

# Formation Mechanism of metallic nanoparticles in solution: Lamer Diagram



Preparing monodisperse NPs require a single temporally short nucleation event followed by slower growth on the existing nuclei

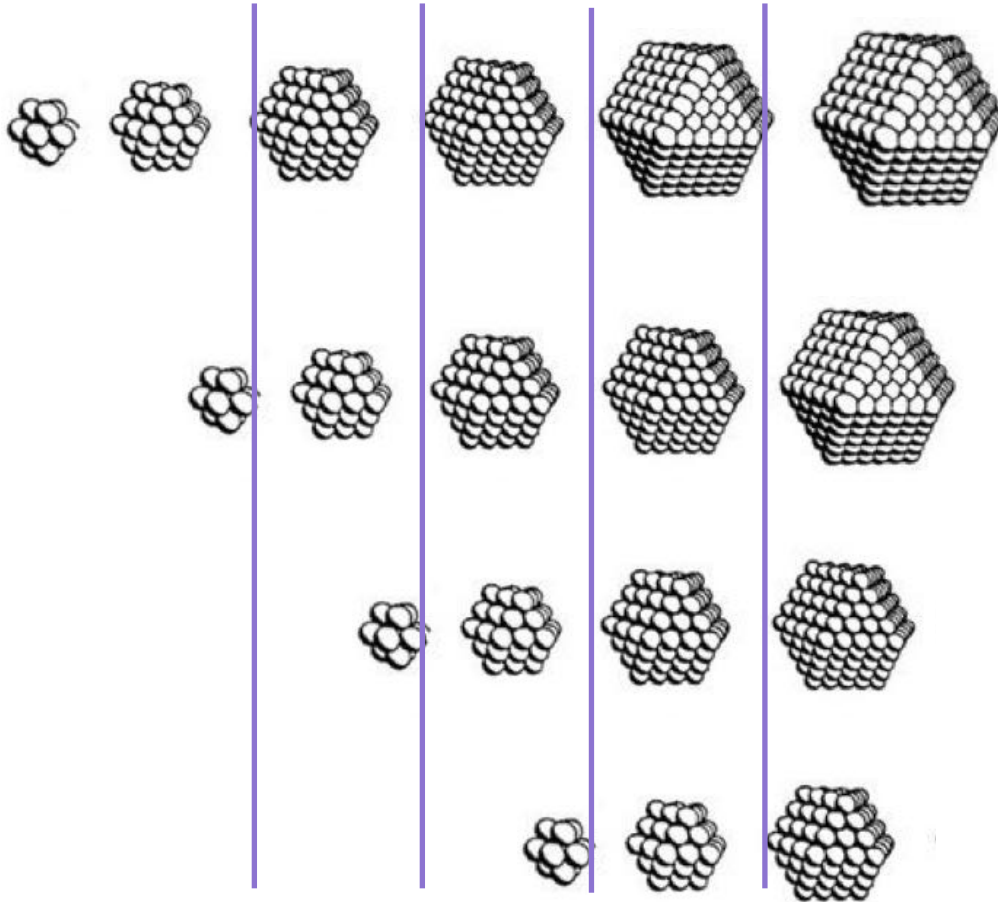
**Figure 1** LaMer curve describing three stages of metal nanocrystal formation in solution system. Stage I: atom producing, stage II: nucleation, and stage III: seed formation and growth.

**Schematic illustration of the nucleation and growth process of nanocrystals in solution**

# Chemical synthesis of nanoparticles

**Nucleation**

**Growth**



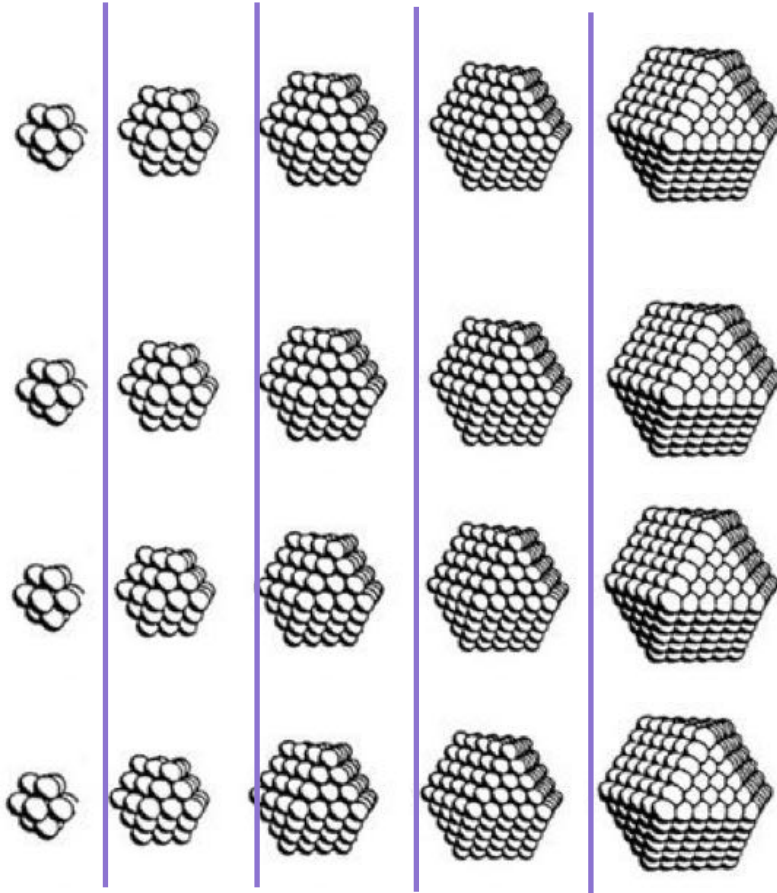
Nucleation and growth speeds similar:  $V_n \approx V_g$   
=> Large size distribution

Time

# Chemical synthesis of nanoparticles

**Nucleation**

**Growth**



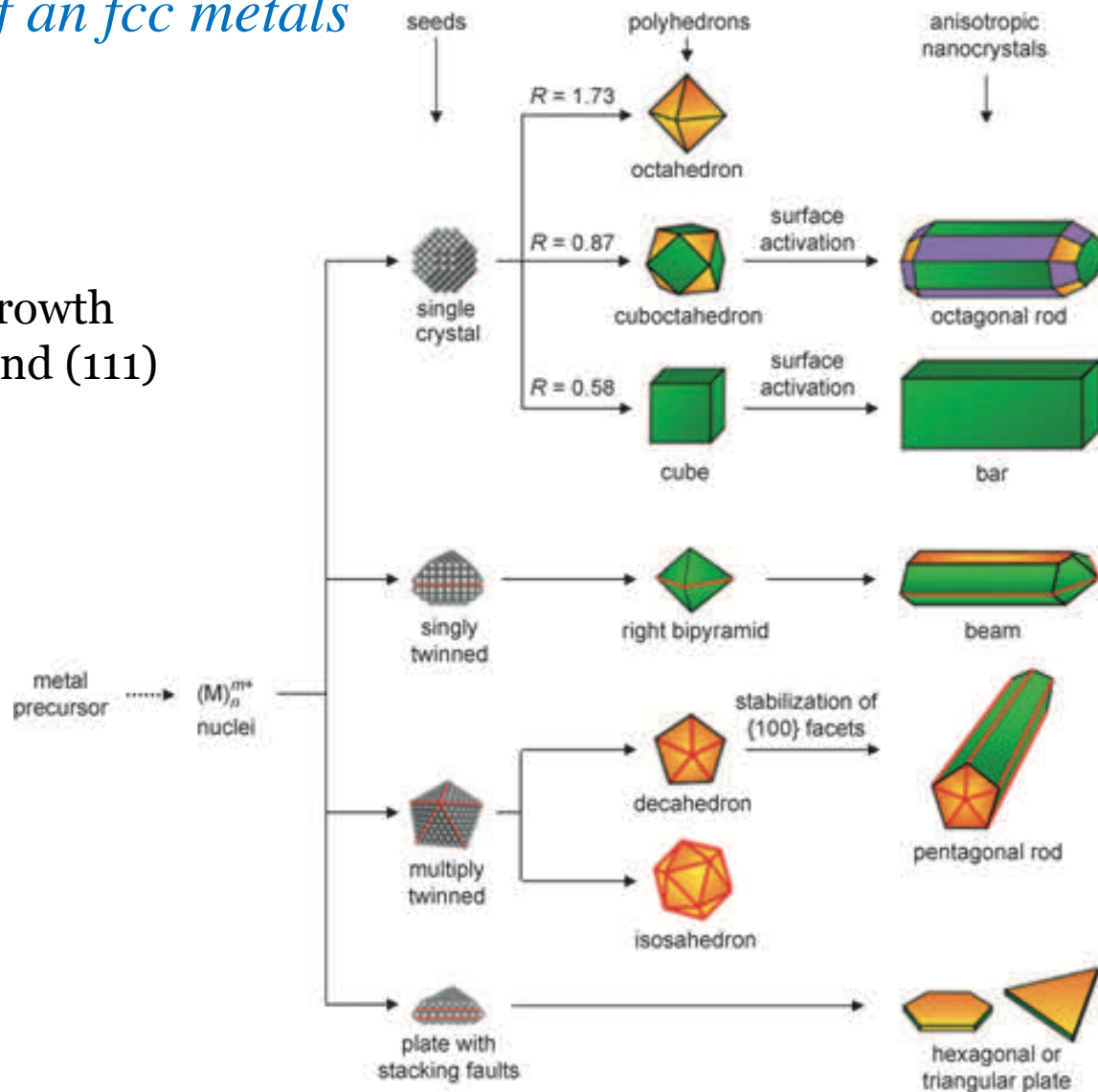
$$V_n \gg V_g$$

=> Narrow size  
distribution

Time

# Correlation between different types of seeds and the final nanocrystals shape of an fcc metals

$R$ =ratio between the growth rates along the (100) and (111) directions





# *Main Chemical Methods for NPs synthesis*

## Microemulsion technique

NPs: Au, Ag, Cu, Ni, Pt, Ag<sub>2</sub>S, CuS, CdS etc

## Liquid-liquid phase transfer

NPs: Au, Ag, Pt, Pd, CoPt...

## Metallic/ organometallic salt reduction

NPs: Au, Ag, Cu

## Sol-gel synthesis

NPs : ZnO, SnO<sub>2</sub>, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>, SiO<sub>2</sub>...

## Polyol synthesis

NPs: Cu, Ag, Pt, Pd, CoPt, ZnO, Cu<sub>2</sub>O...

## Chemical vapor synthesis

NPs: CoO, SiO<sub>2</sub>, ZnO, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>...

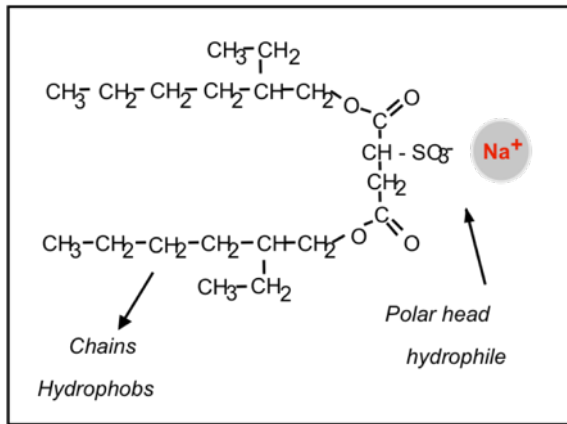
## Organometallic decomposition

NPs: Co, Pt, Ag...

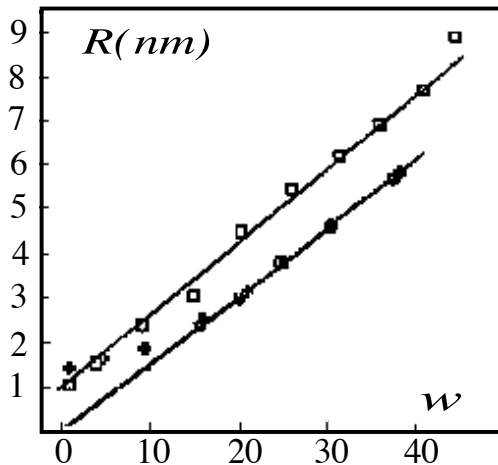
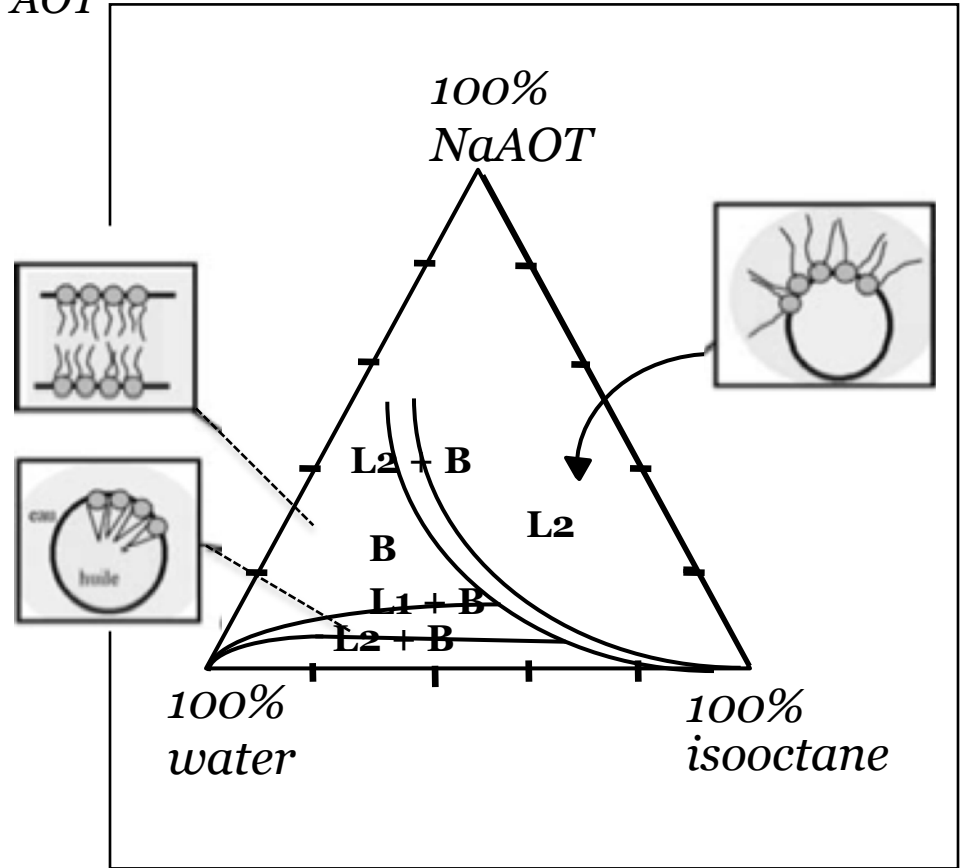
# Microemulsion technique

## Molecular structure of Na AOT

di (ethyl hexyl) sulfosuccinate of sodium, Na AOT



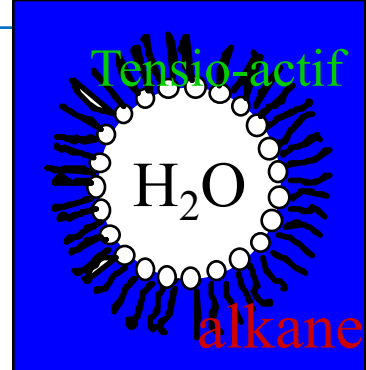
## Phase diagram of the system AOT/water/isooctane



Water content :  $W = [H_2O]/[AOT]$

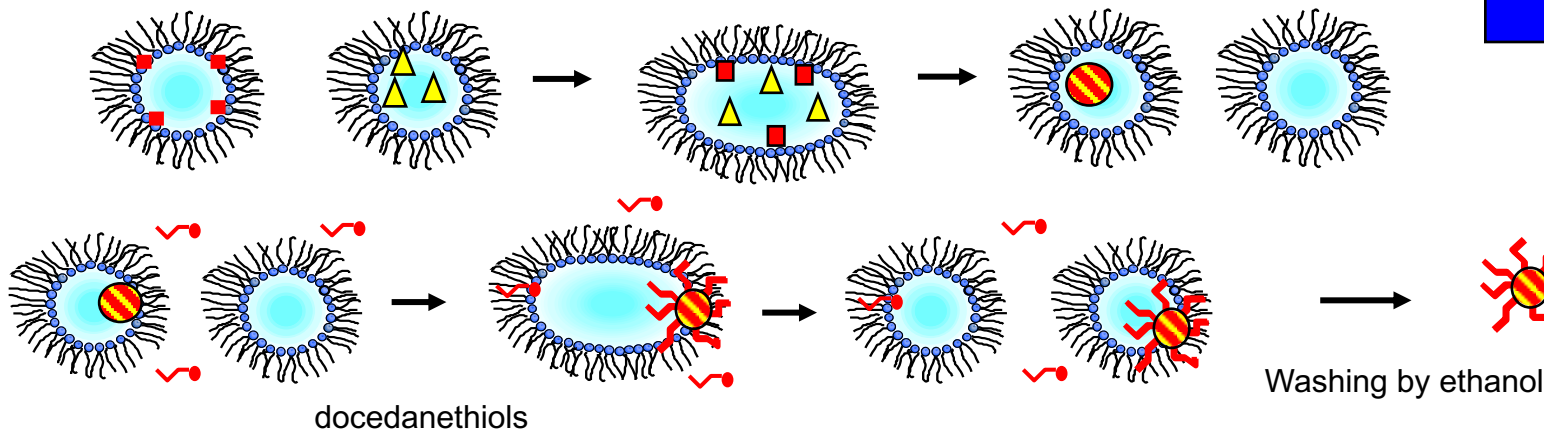
$R \text{ (nm)} = 0,15 W$

# Synthesis of silver nanocrystals in reverse micelles

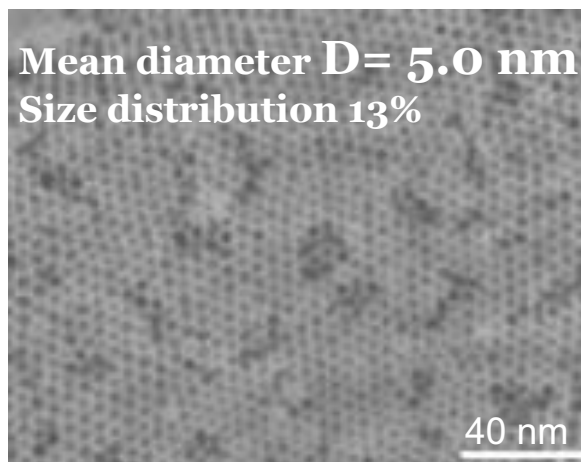


40% NaAOT  
60% AgAOT

Hydrazine  
100% NaAOT

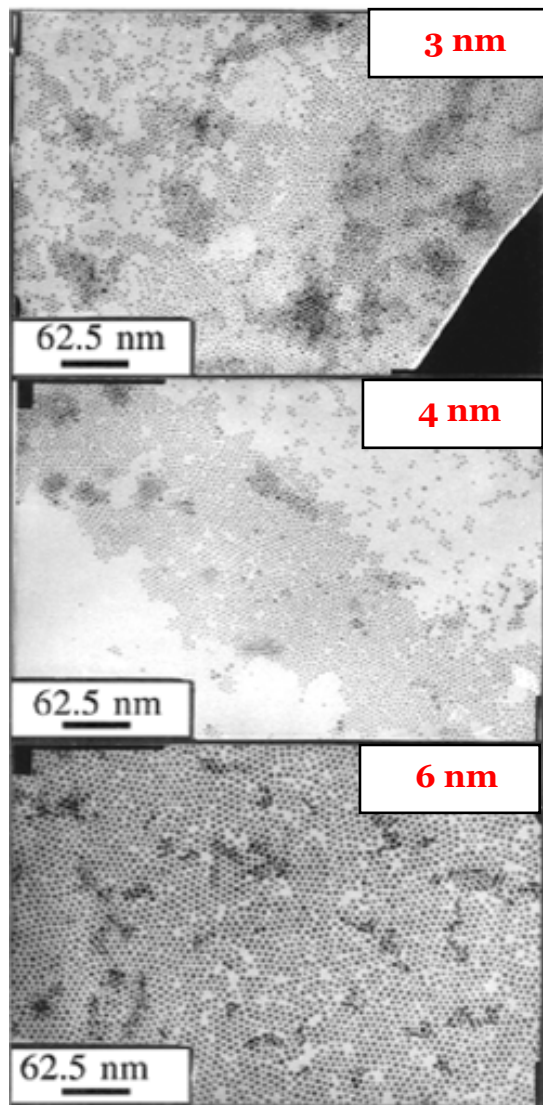


- ❁ After adsorption of the ligands the nanocrystals can be collected as powder or dispersed in organic solvent
- ❁ These hybrid organic/inorganic system are stables in time.

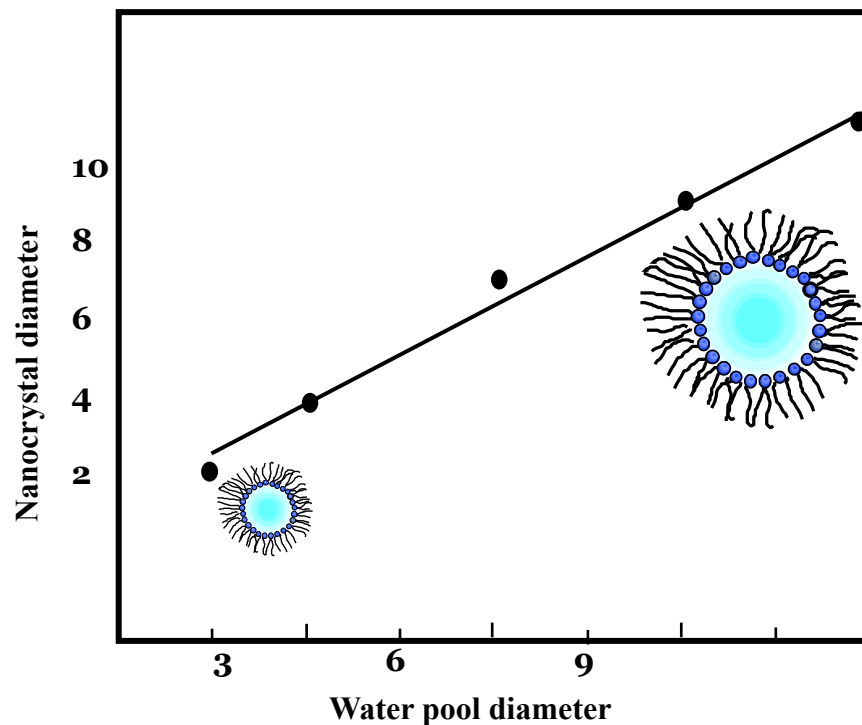


A. Taleb ; C. Petit; M.P. Pileni, *Chem Mater.* 9, 950-959; (1997) A. Courty, I. Lisiecki and M.P. Pileni, *J.Chem.Phys.* 116, 8074 (2002)

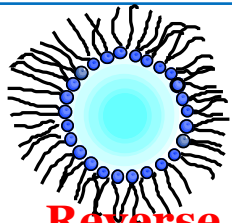
## Size control of nanoparticles via the micelle size



$\text{Ag}_2\text{S}$  NPs



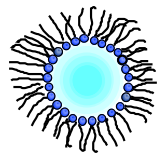
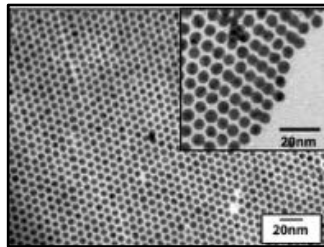
$$\text{Water content : } W = [\text{H}_2\text{O}]/[\text{AOT}]$$



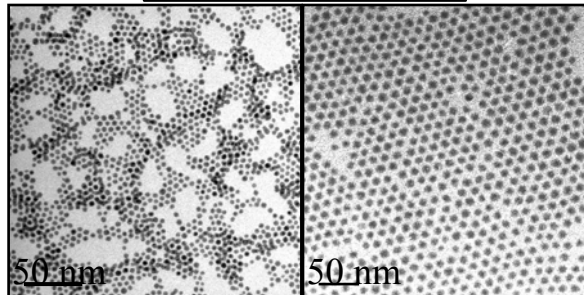
# Various nanocrystals made by microemulsion technique

## Reverse Micelles

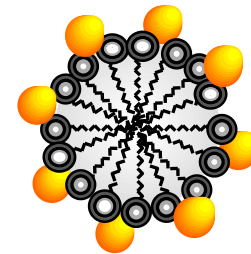
**Gold**  
4nm<D<6nm



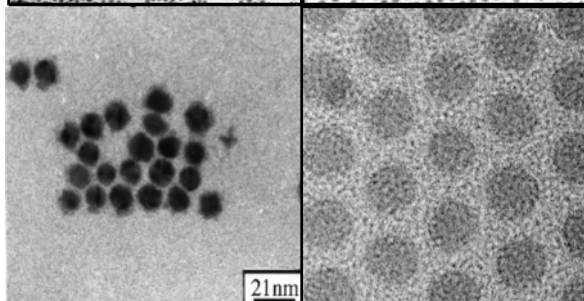
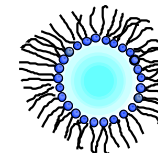
**Silver**  
3nm<D<7nm



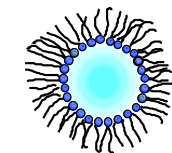
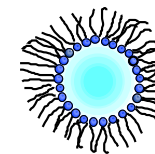
## Normal Micelles



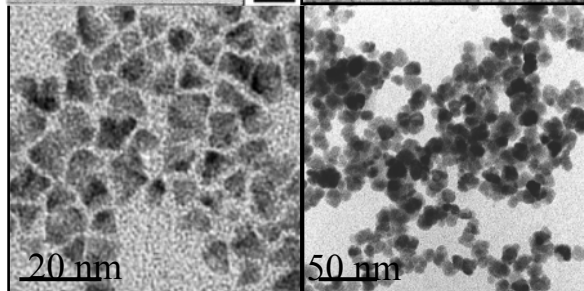
**Silver sulfide**  
2nm<D<10nm



**cobalt**  
4nm<D<10nm

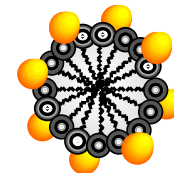


**Copper**  
2nm<D<10nm



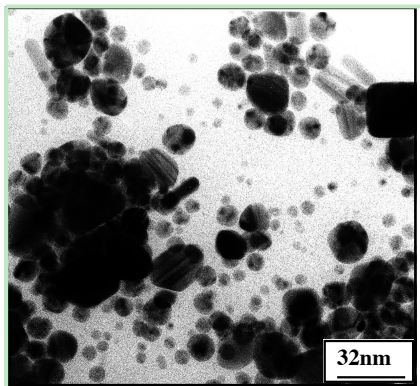
**Cadmium sulfide**  
2nm<D<4nm

**Various Ferrites**  
 $Fe_2O_3$ ,  $Fe_xCo_yO_4$ ,  $Fe_xCo_y$   
 $Zn_zO_4$ ,

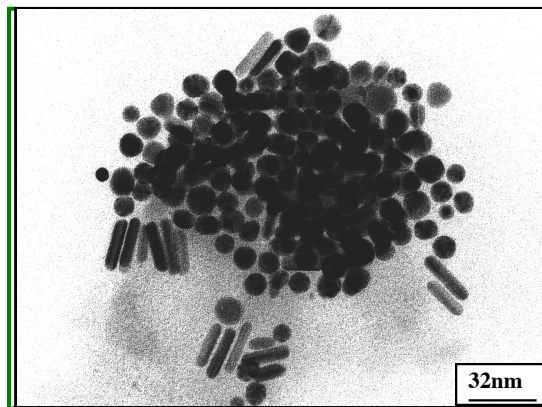


3nm<D<10nm

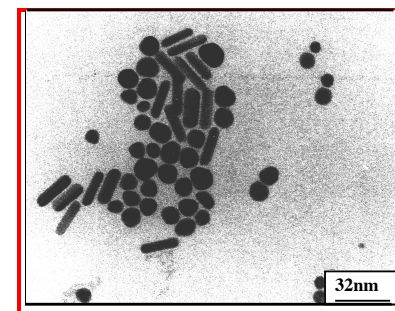
# shape control



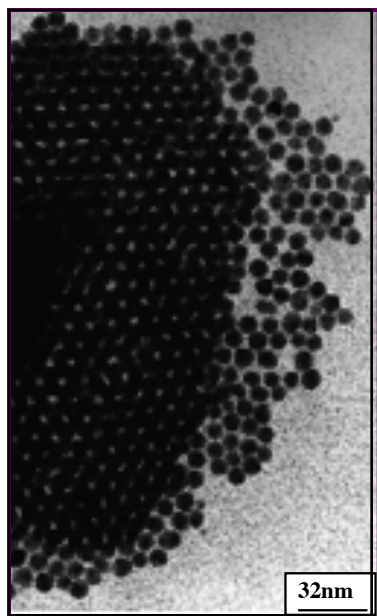
« Supra » Aggregates



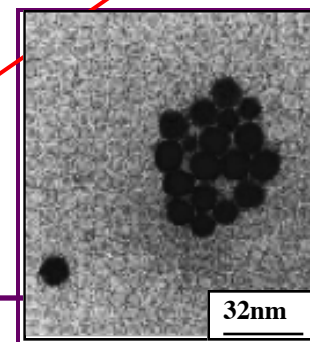
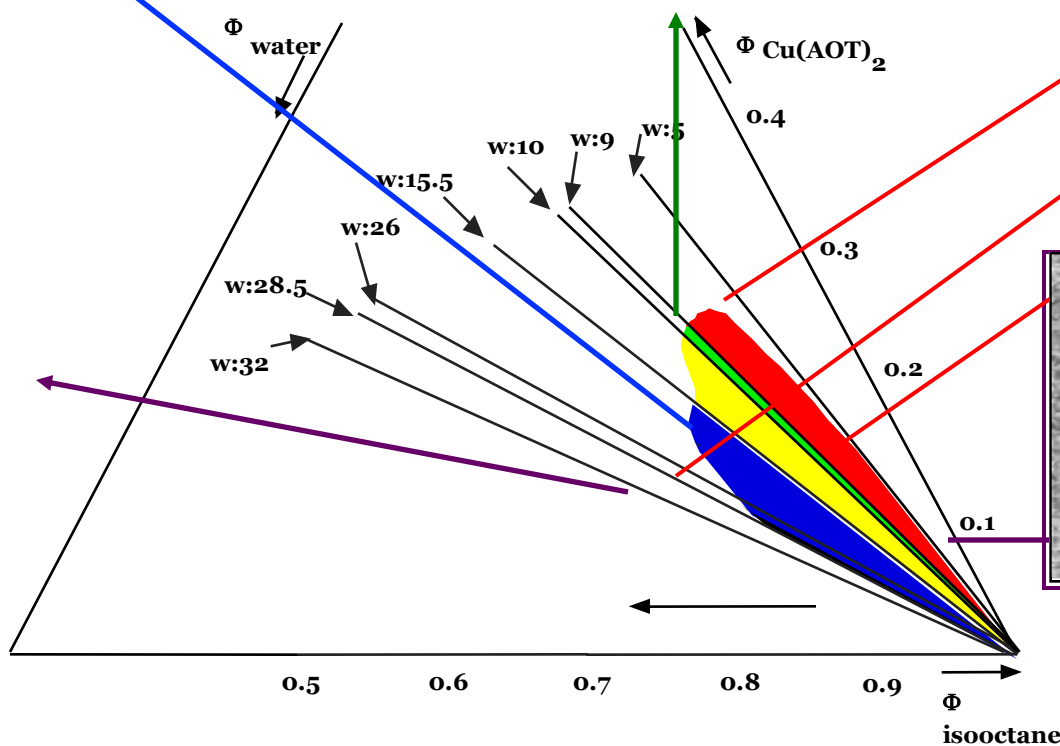
Lamellar phases-interconnected cylinders



Interconnected cylinders



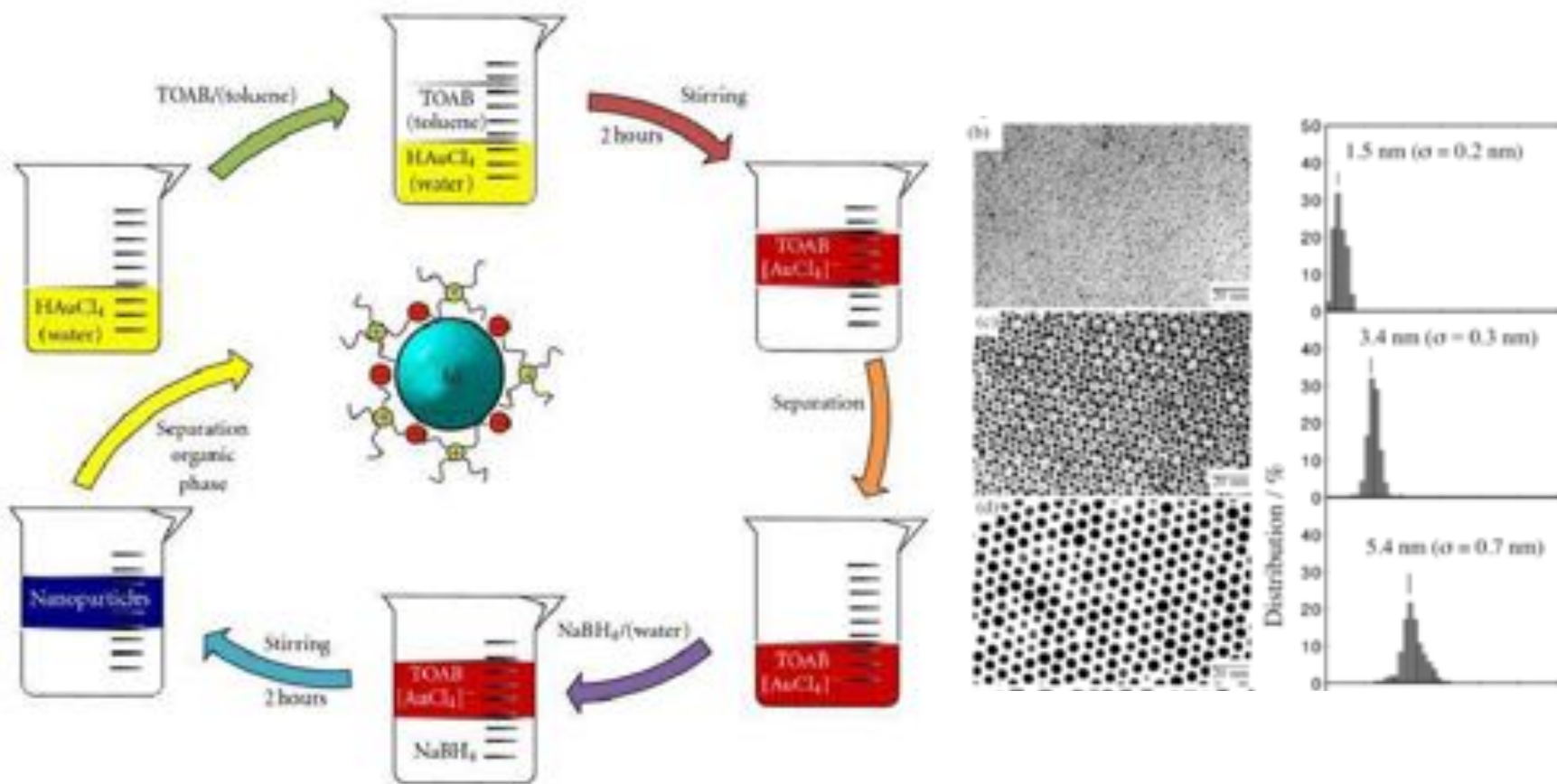
Interdigitated Reverse Micelles



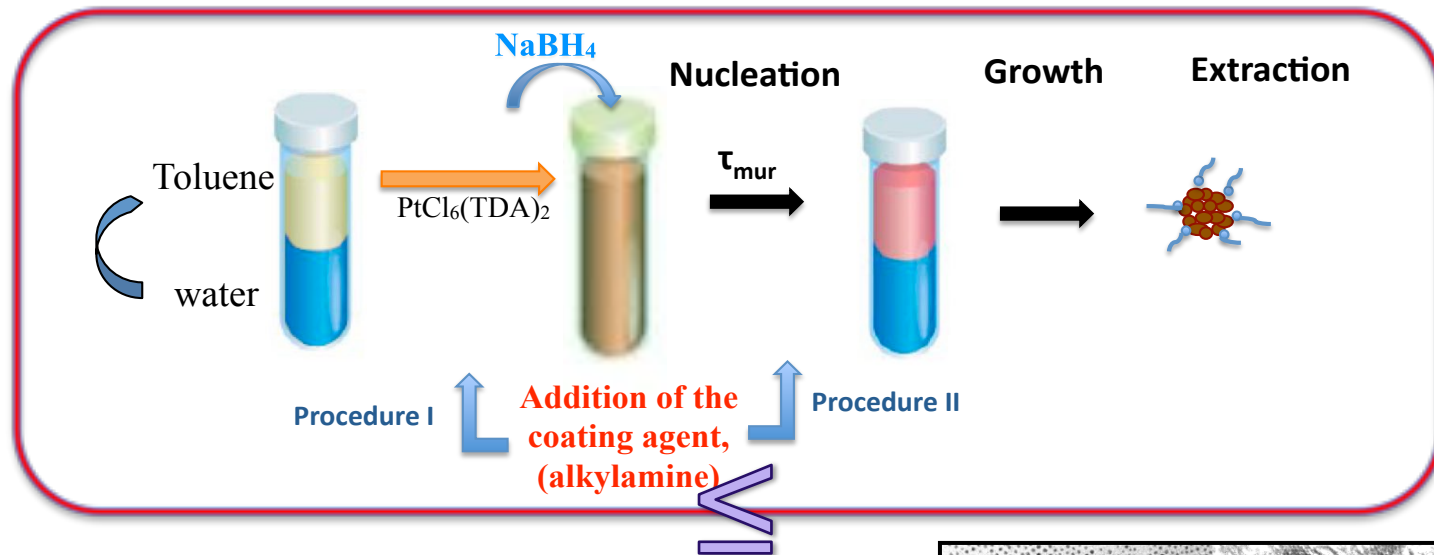
Reverse micelles

## Liquid-liquid phase transfer synthesis: Au NPs

**Brust method:** A method for synthesizing gold nanoparticles from  $\text{HAuCl}_4$  in non-aqueous solution (e.g. toluene), using tetraoctylammonium bromide as a phase-transfer catalyst and sodium borohydride to reduce  $\text{Au(III)}$  to  $\text{Au(0)}$ .

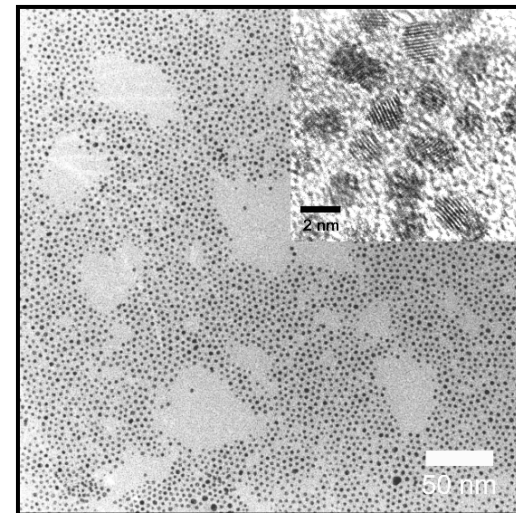


# Liquid-liquid phase transfer synthesis: Pt nanoparticles

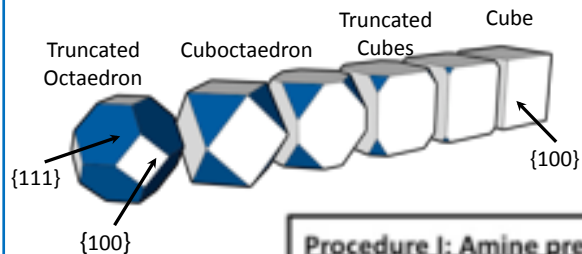


Transfer agent:  
Tetrakis (decyl) ammonium bromide (TDAB)

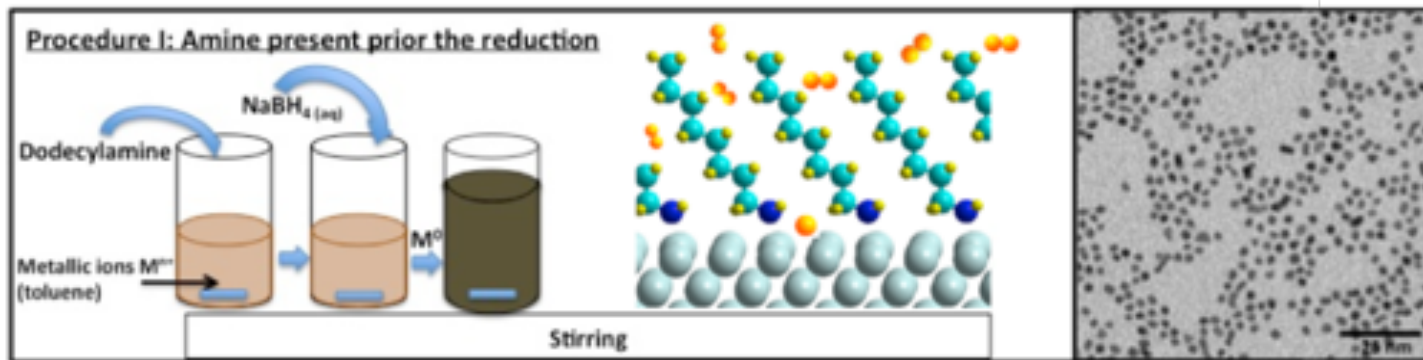
$D_{\text{np}}$  around 2nm



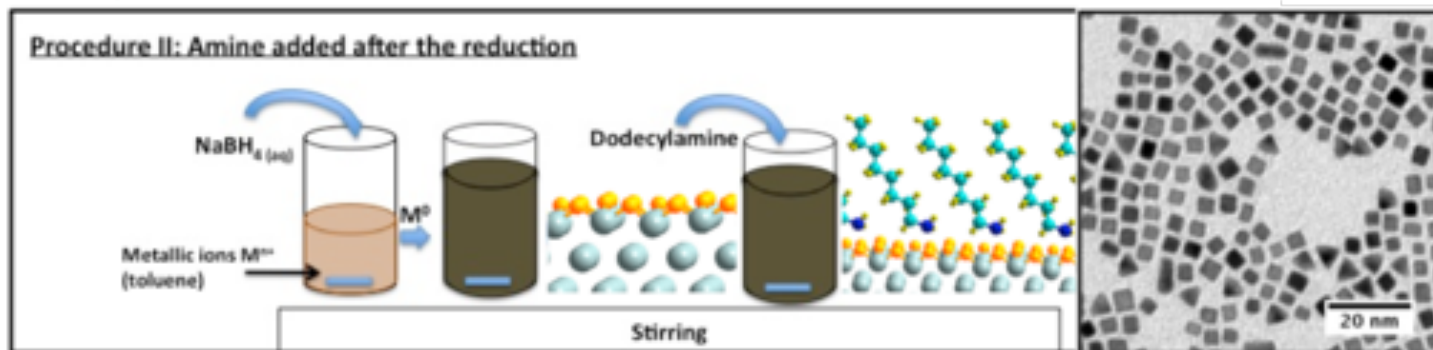




## Liquid-liquid Phase transfer method: shape controlled



**Spherical nanoparticles**



**Nanocubes**

The borohydride ion spontaneously hydrolyzes in aqueous solution to give hydrogen as follows:  $\text{BH}_4^- + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{BO}_2^- + 4\text{H}_2$

# High temperature synthesis: polyol process

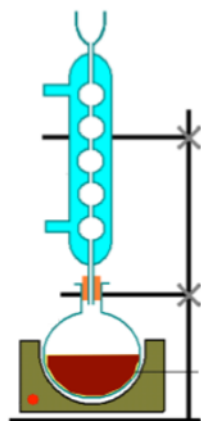
Reduction of  $\text{Pt}(\text{acac})_2$  and  $\text{Co}(\text{oleate})_2$   
by 1,2 hexadecanediol

$\text{Pt}(\text{acac})_2$   
Oleylamine  
Oleic acid  
(ligands)  
Solvent  
1-octadecene



$\text{Co}(\text{oleate})_2$   
 $\text{N}_2$   
 $\Delta$   
Reflux

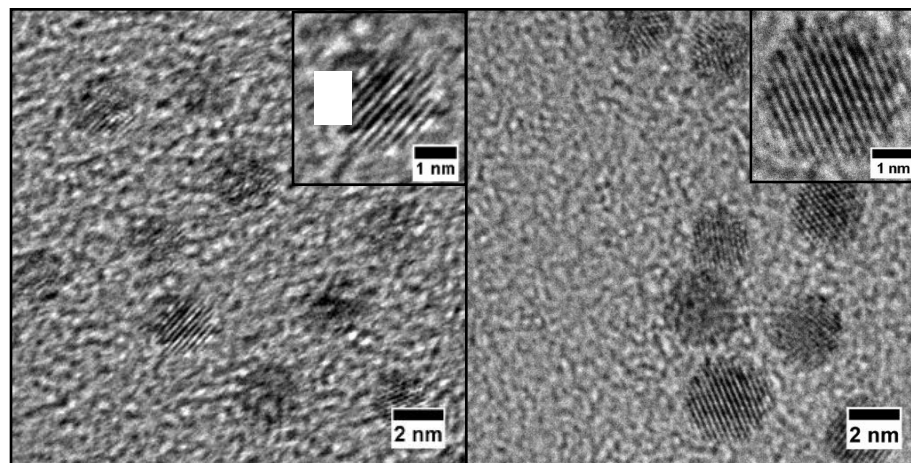
$\text{Co}_x\text{Pt}_{100-x}$



The mixture is refluxed during  
30 min and then cooled to  
room temperature

$T=317^\circ\text{C}$

*Synthesis of CoPt  
nanoalloys*



2.5 nm

$\text{Co}_{52}\text{Pt}_{48}$

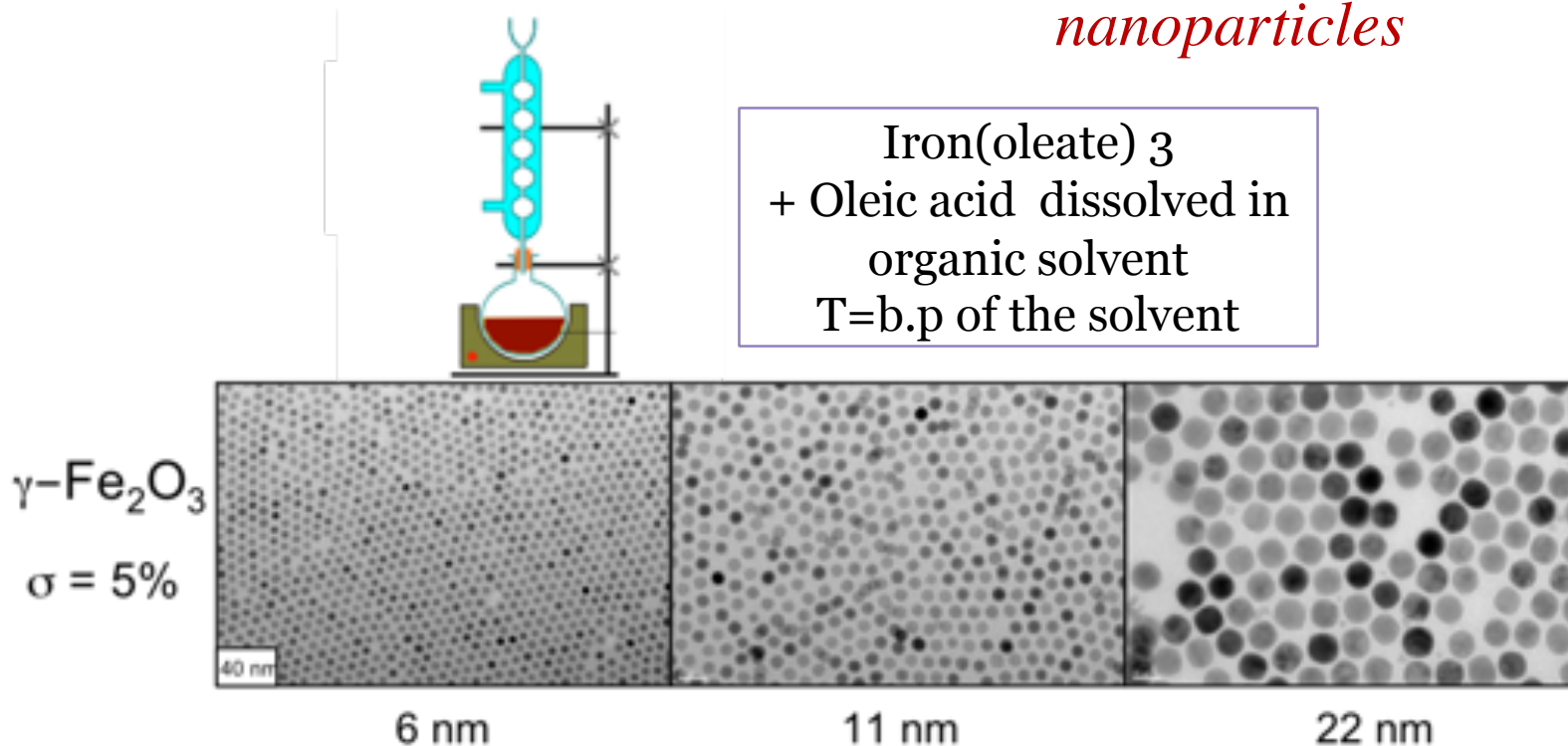
Polyol

$\text{Co}_{32}\text{Pt}_{68}$

2.9 nm

## Thermal decomposition

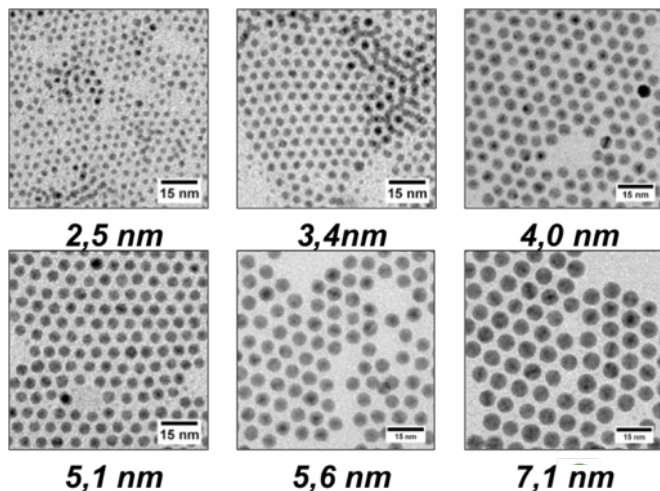
### Synthesis of iron oxide nanoparticles



The particle size of the iron oxide nanocrystals (between 6 and 22 nm in diameter) is controlled by using various solvents with different boiling points

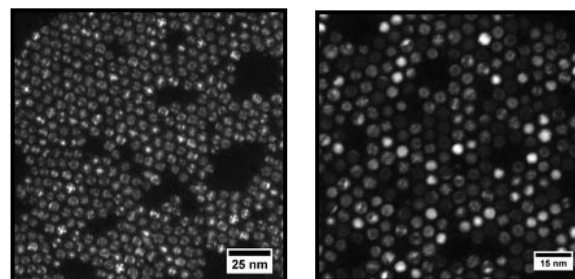
# Reduction of organometallic salt

## Ag NPs



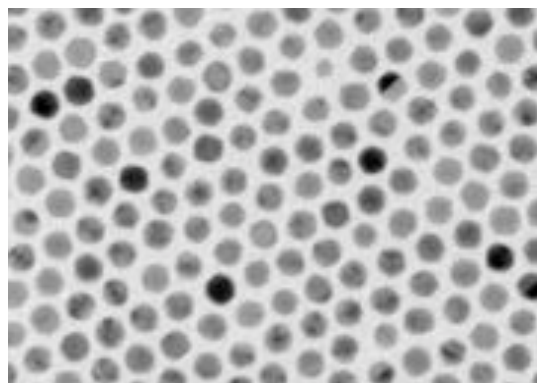
T=100°C

T=50°C



## Cu NPs

## Au NPs

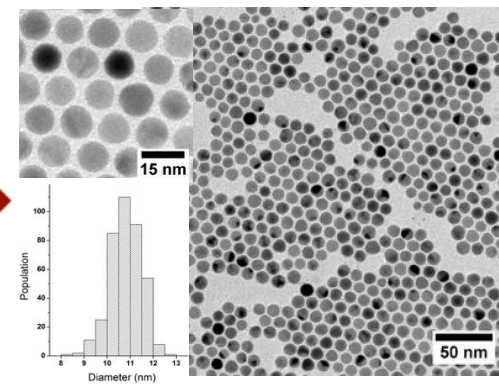


T=100°C D= 5 ± 0.3 nm



NH<sub>2</sub>BH<sub>3</sub>  
Tert-butylamine borane  
complex  
o-Dichlorobenzene  
T=100°C or 50°C

+ ligands  
(alkylamine/alka  
nethiols)

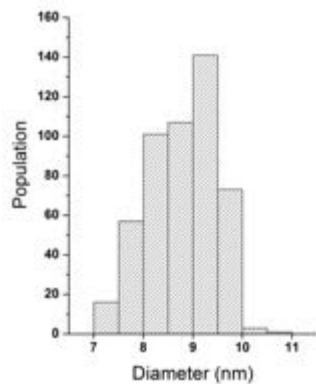
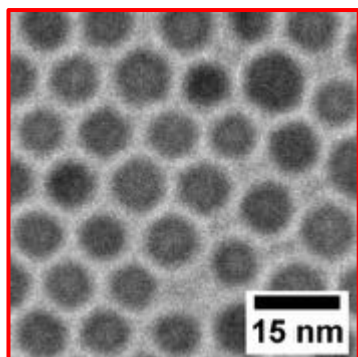


T=100°C D= 10.7 ± 0.7 nm

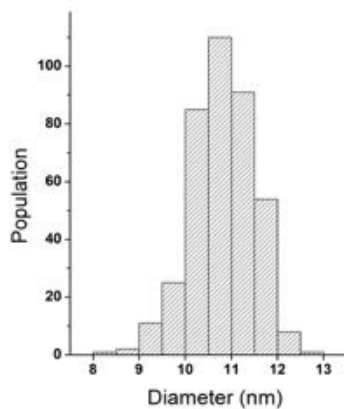
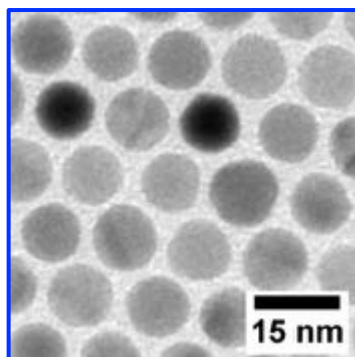
A. Courty *et col*, *Nanoscale*, 2015, 7, 3189-3195; N. Goubet *et al*.  
*J.P.C.lett.* 5, 2011, 417

# Reduction of organometallic salt: size control

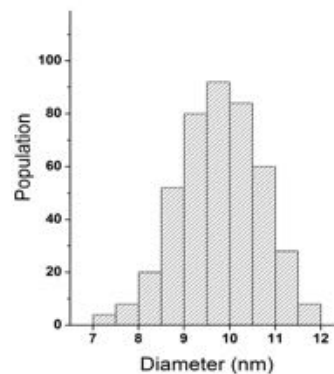
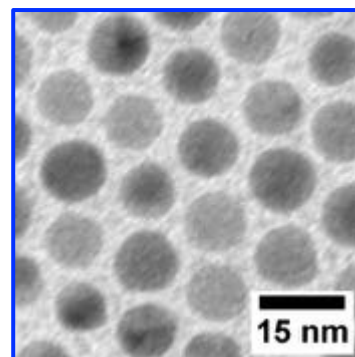
## Copper nanoparticles coated with dodecylamine



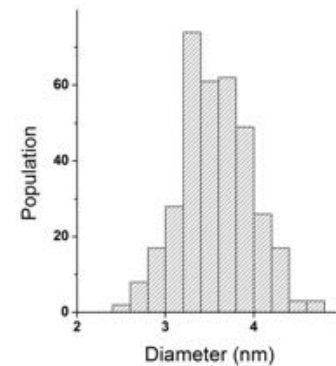
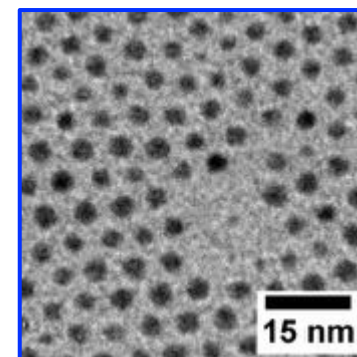
8.7 nm (8%)



10.7 nm (7%)



9.7 nm (8%)



3.5 nm (11%)

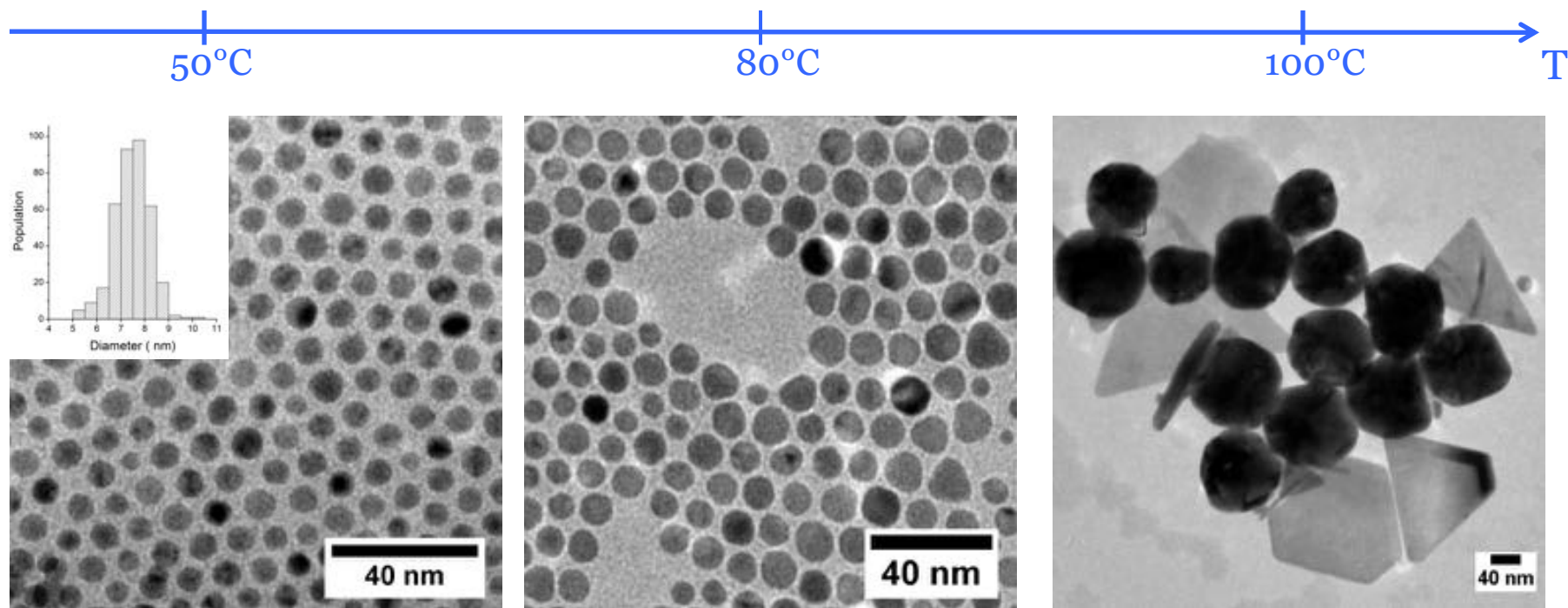
16:1

Molar ratio of DDA to copper

8:1

# Reduction of organometallic salt: size and shape control

## Copper nanoparticles coated with oleylamine

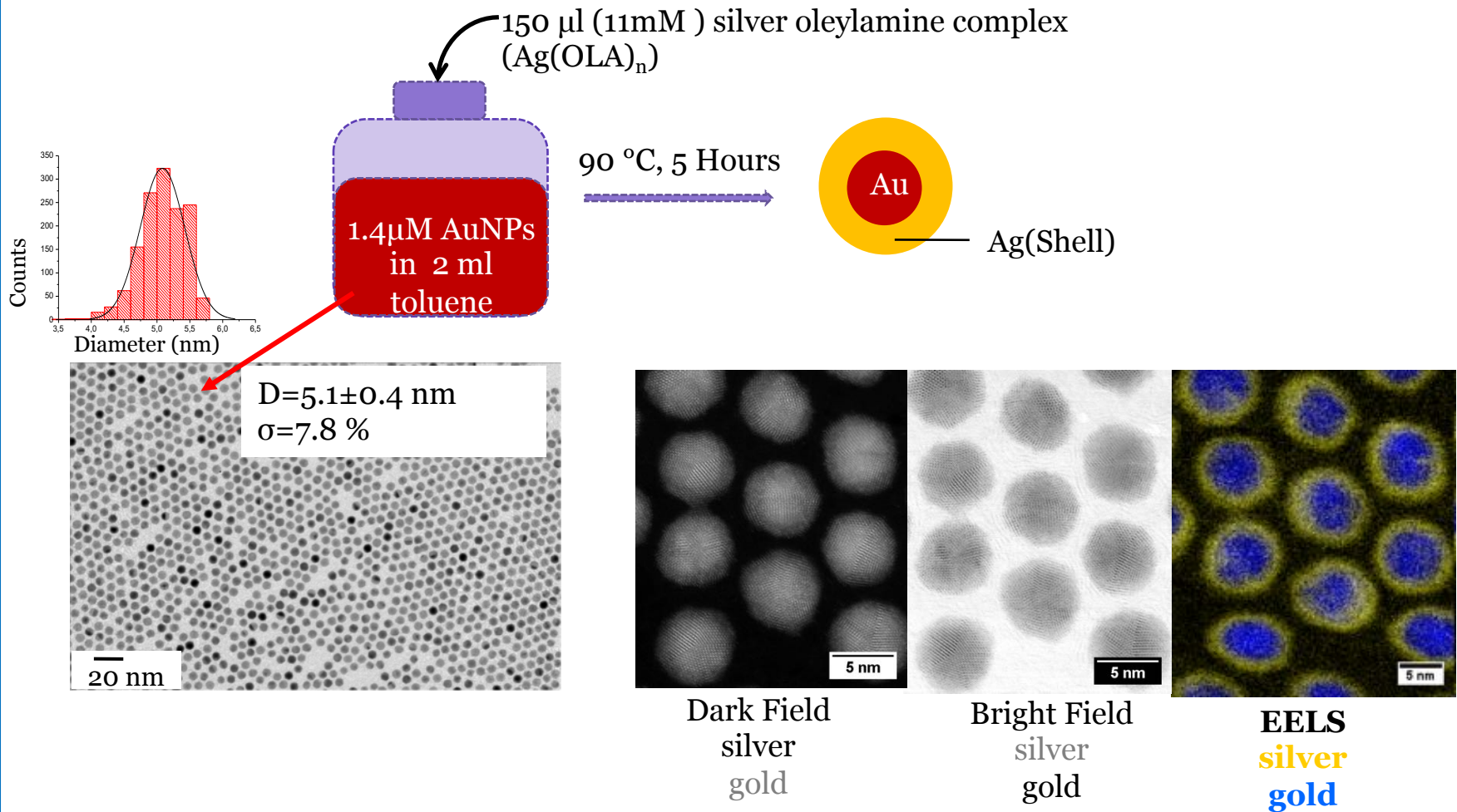


7.4 nm (9%)

The nature of the amine ligand influences the final size and shape of the CuNPs

# Seed mediated growth : towards core –shell nanoparticles

## Seed-mediated growth of Au@Ag NPs

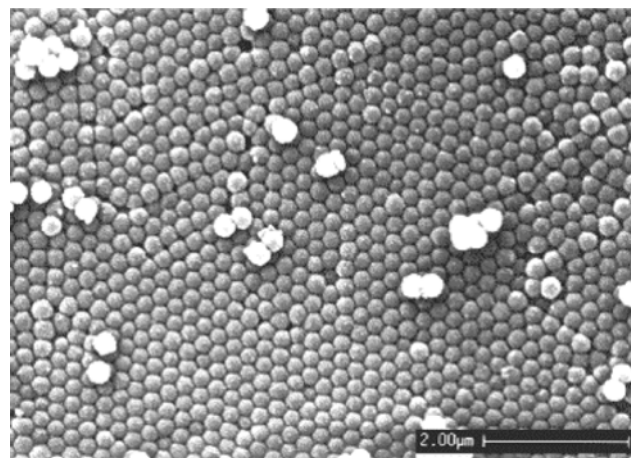


*Self-organizations or  
Nanoparticles at 2D and 3D*



*Where does this idea of self-organization?*

From the nature!!



SEM image of silica NPs neatly arranged in natural opal

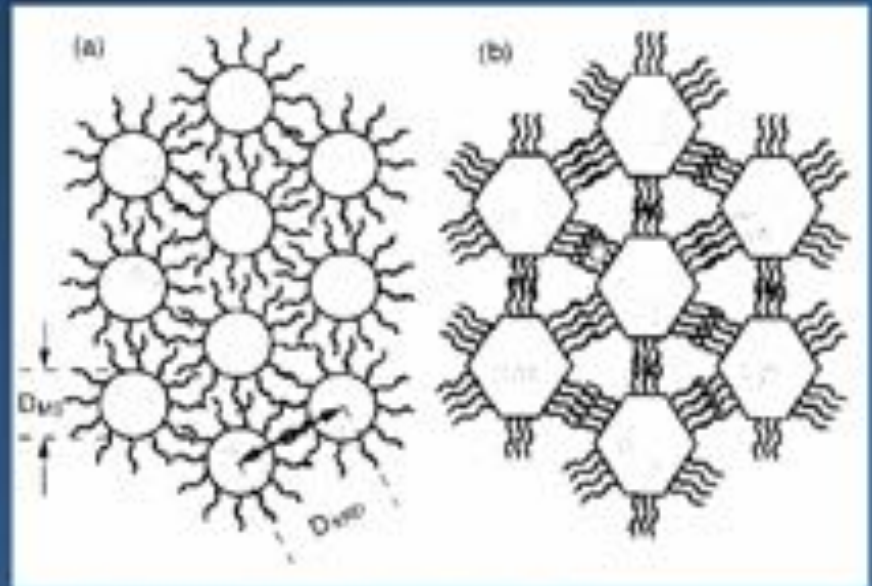
The color of the opal comes from the Bragg diffraction of the light by a regular network of silica particles with 100-500 nm in diameter .

# *How to assemble Nanoparticles?*

## *Self-assembly of nanoparticles to superlattices*

Nanocrystals are able to assemble into close-packed ordered superlattices under the following conditions:

- narrow size distribution
- surfactant that is strong enough to separate the individual nanocrystals
- slow drying rate so that the nanocrystals can move to suitable positions



Schematic illustration of self-assembled, passivated nanocrystal superlattices of spherical (a) and faceted (b) particles.

Wang, *Adv. Mater.* **1998**, *10*, 13-30

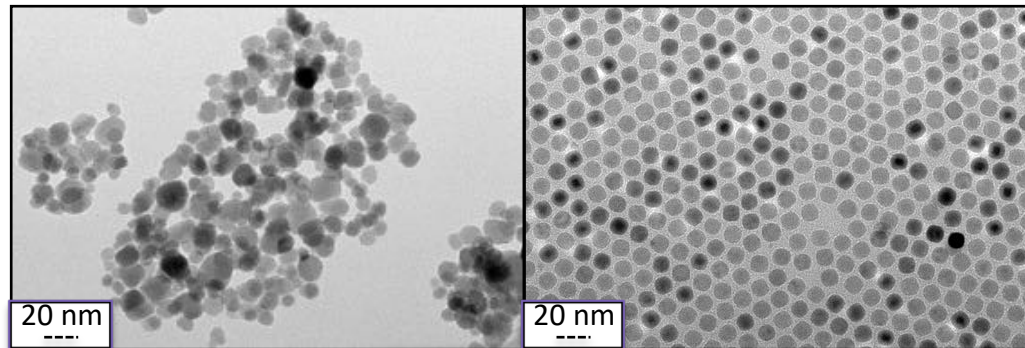
# Self-organization: influence of the size polydispersity



Co-precipitation

Thermal décomposition

11 nm  
 $\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$



$\sigma = 25\%$

$\sigma = 6\%$

Dr Anh-tu Nhgo (2013)

# Self-organization of nanoparticles: interparticle interaction

Different type of interactions govern the organization:

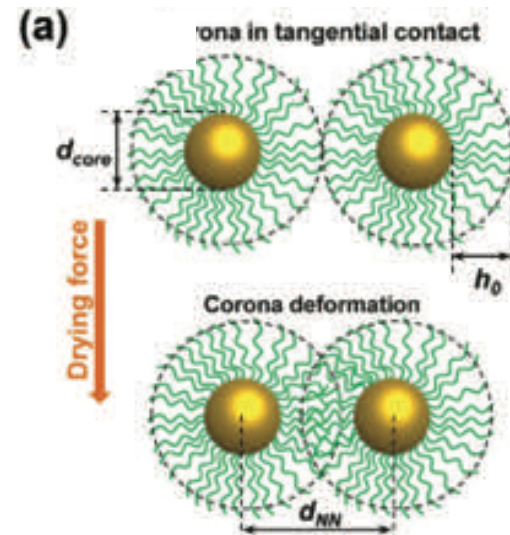
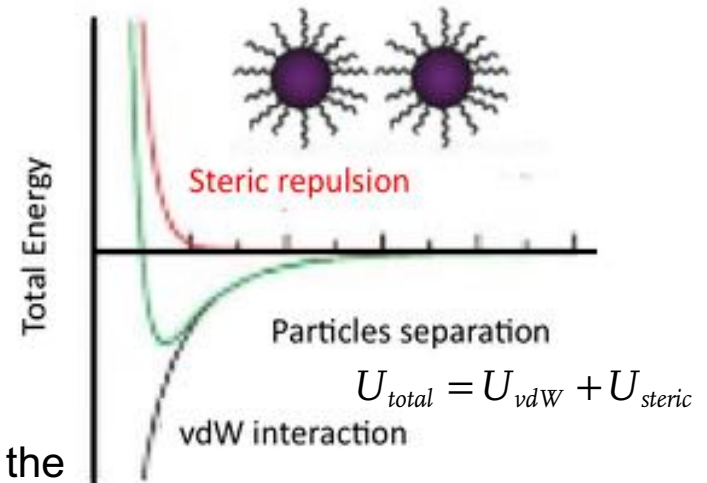
## 1) Van der Waals interaction (attractive)

$$U_{vdW} = -\frac{A}{12} \left[ \frac{d_{core}^2}{d_{NN}^2 - d_{core}^2} + \frac{d_{core}^2}{d_{NN}^2} + 2 \ln \left( \frac{d_{NN}^2 - d_{core}^2}{d_{NN}^2} \right) \right]$$

where  $A$  is the Hamaker constant that depends on the polarizability of nanoparticle and surrounding medium.

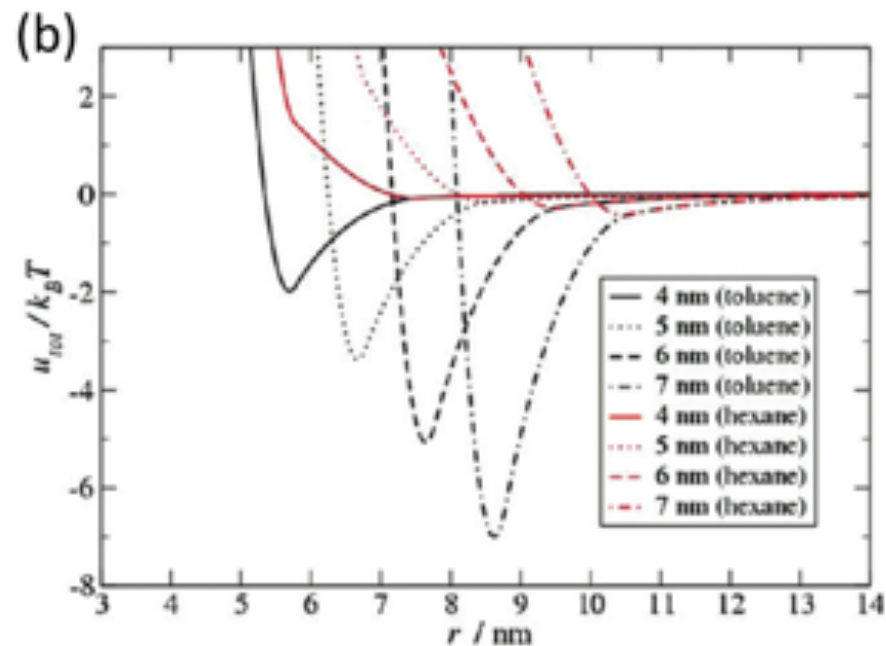
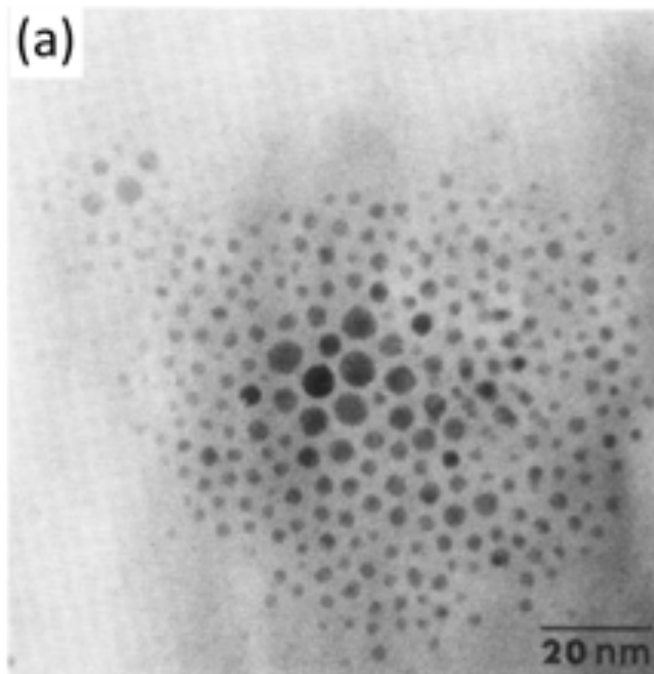
## 2) Steric interaction (repulsive)

$$U_{steric} = \frac{100Rh_0^2}{(d_{NN} - d_{core})\pi\sigma^3} k_B T \exp[-\pi(d_{NN} - d_{core})/h_0]$$



# *Self-organization of nanoparticles: interparticle interactions and solvent effects*

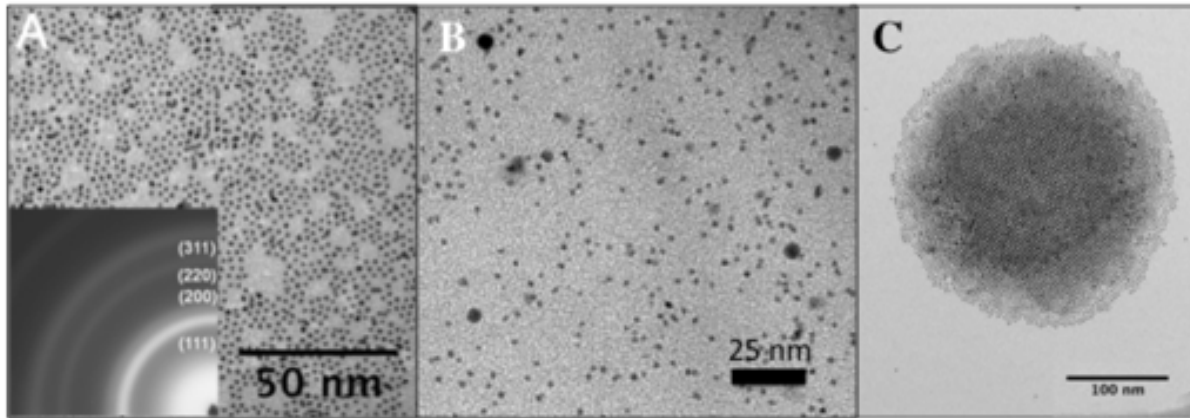
The van der Waals interactions, which are attractive, are highly dependent on the size of the interacting nanoparticles.



N. Goubet, J. Richardi, P.A. Albouy, and M.P. Pileni. *Adv. Funct. Mater.*, 21(14) :2693–2704, 2011.

P. C. Ohara, D. V. Leff, J. R. Heath, and W. M. Gelbart. *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 75(19) :3466–3469, 1995.

## Self-organization of nanoparticles: solvent effects



**2nm CoPt nanoalloys** deposited on amorphous carbon TEM grid, coated by dodecylamine and dispersed in :

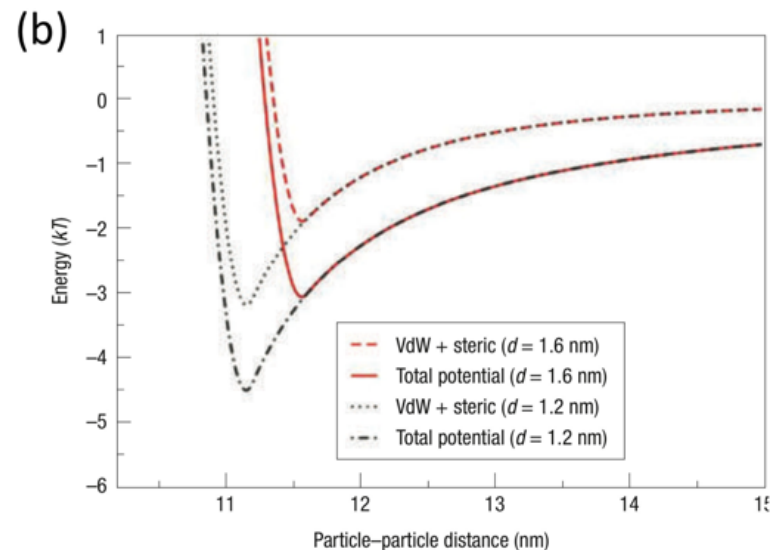
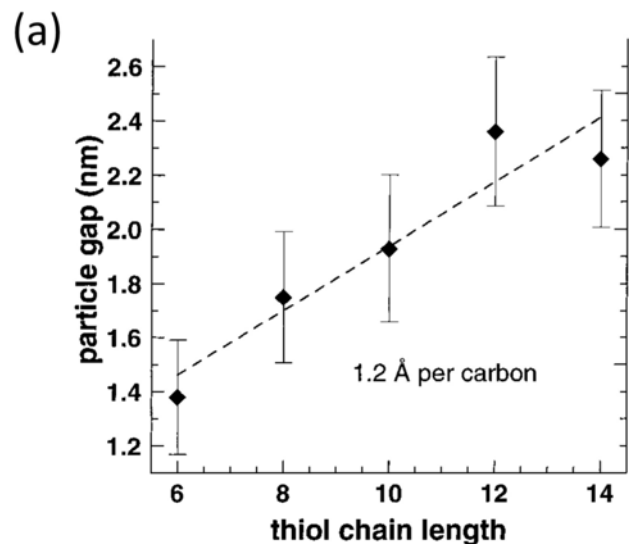
**(A) Hexane** ( $T_{\text{boiling}} = 68^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; viscosity = 0.3 mPa.s )

**(B) 1-Phenyl-octane** ( $T_{\text{boiling}} = 261^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; viscosity = 1.5 mPa.s )

**(C) Toluene** ( $T_{\text{boiling}} = 111^{\circ}\text{C}$ , viscosity = 0.6 mPa.s )

- The high viscosity of phenyl-octane hinders the diffusion of the NC at the surface in addition to the interdigitation between the ligands chains
- With toluene (a bad solvent of the capping chains) the inter-particles interactions are more attractive than in hexane yielding some aggregation in solution

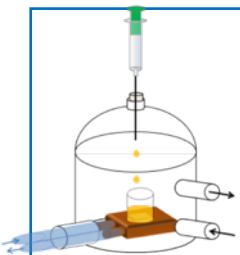
# Self-organization of nanoparticles: steric interaction effect



Control of the interparticle distance between gold nanoparticles by tuning the alkyl chain length

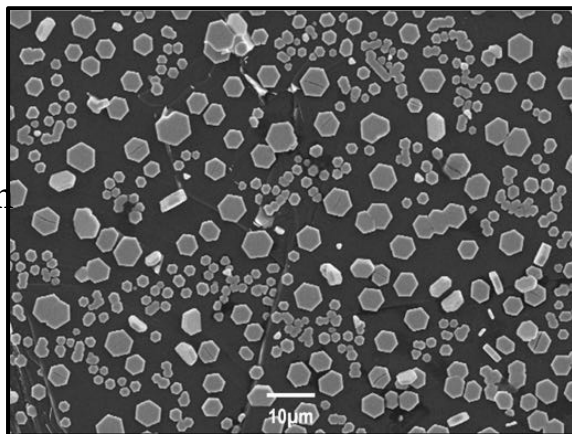
Modulation of interaction potential by varying the alkyl chain length of coating agent of 10 nm maghemite NPs

# Self-organization of nanoparticles: interparticle interaction and solvent effects



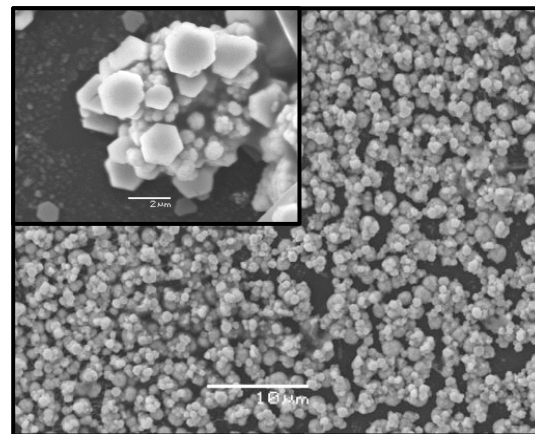
$T = 50^{\circ} \text{C}$

Hexane



2 to 10 μm

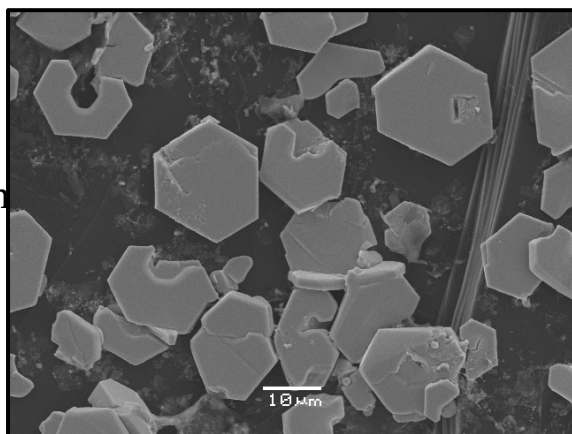
Hexane



~ 2 μm

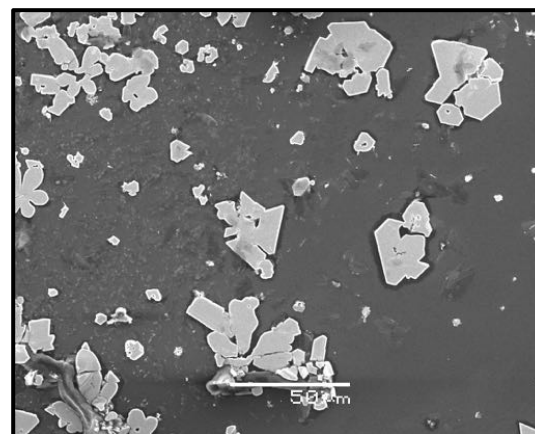
**AgC<sub>10</sub>**  
**5nm**

Toluene



20  
to 100 μm

Toluene

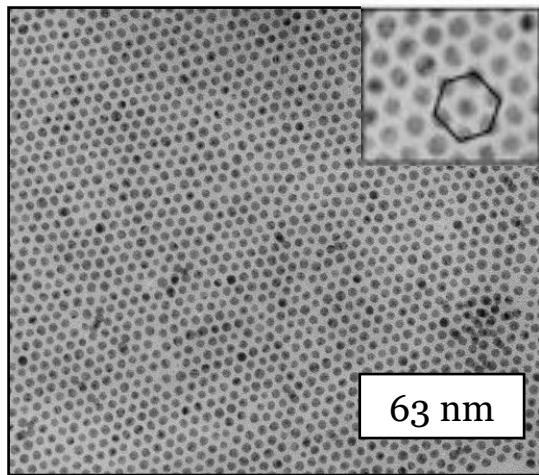


5  
to 50 μm

**AgC<sub>12</sub>**  
**5nm**

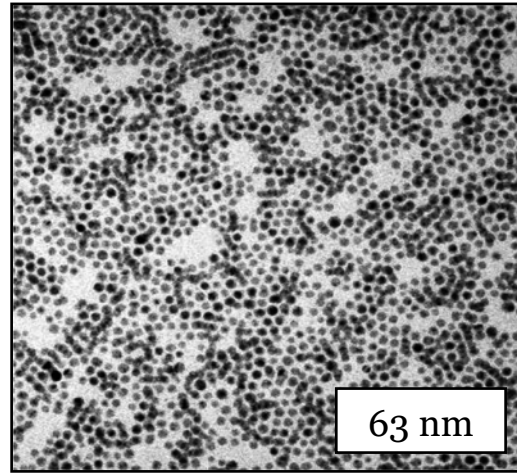


## Self-organization of nanoparticles: substrate effects



HOPG

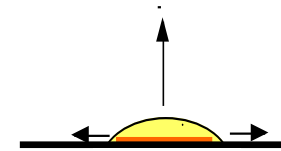
2D hexagonal network



Amorphous carbon

*5nm AgC<sub>12</sub> NCs*

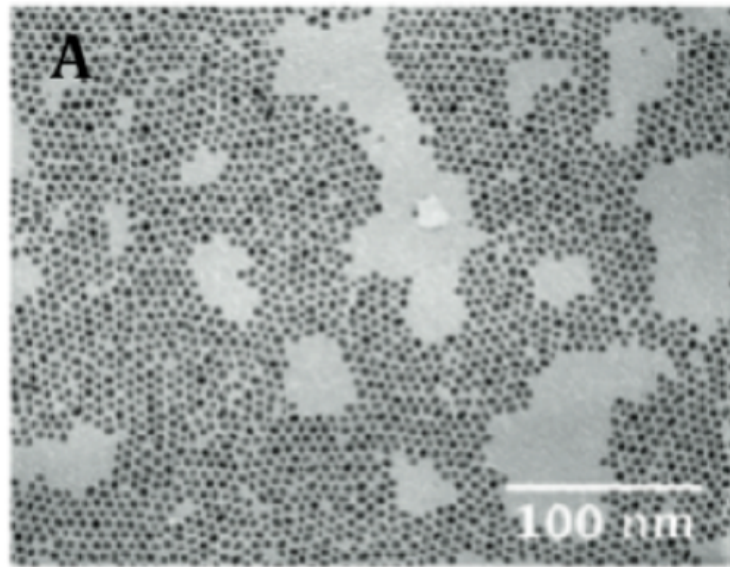
*Solvent hexane*



- Change in the compactness of the film due to a change of the wettability of the substrate.
- The hydrophobicity of the substrates increases with its roughness.

## *Self-organization of nanoparticles: interparticle interaction effects*

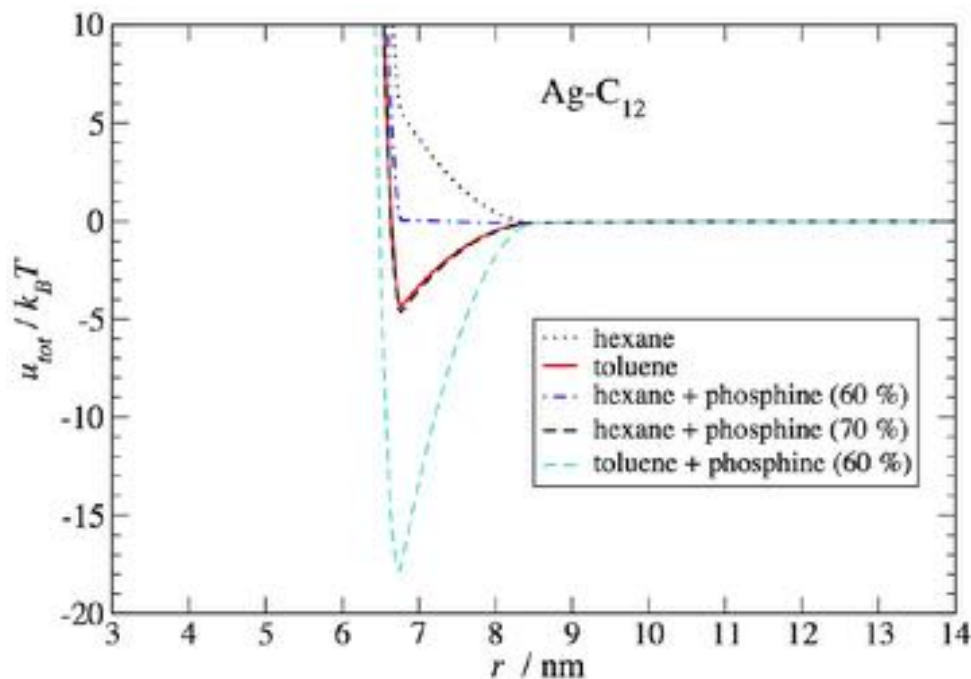
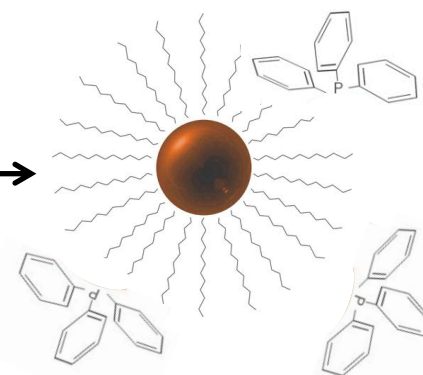
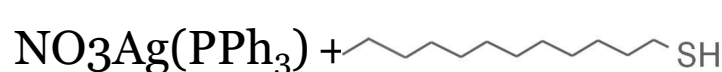
HOPG



*2nm CoPt nanoalloys*

- This decrease in the ordering compared to assemblies of AgNCs is due to a decrease in the interaction energy with the size of the NCs

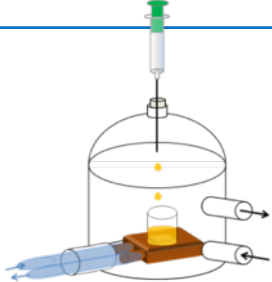
# Self organization of nanoparticles: role of the solvent and by products



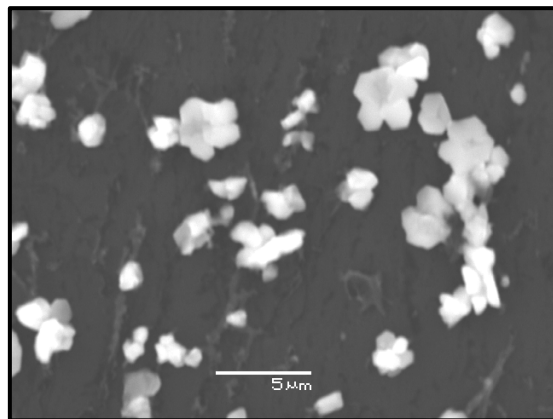
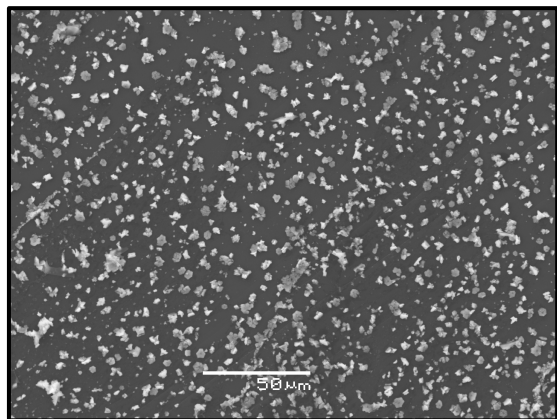
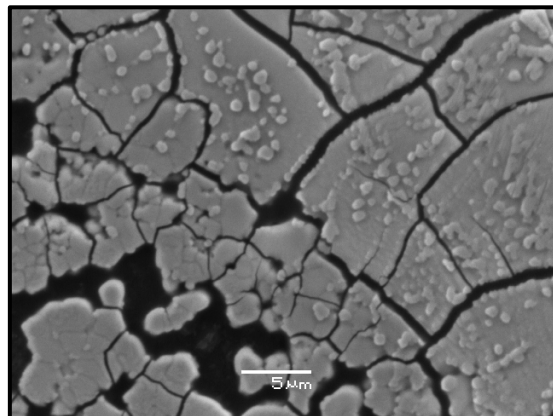
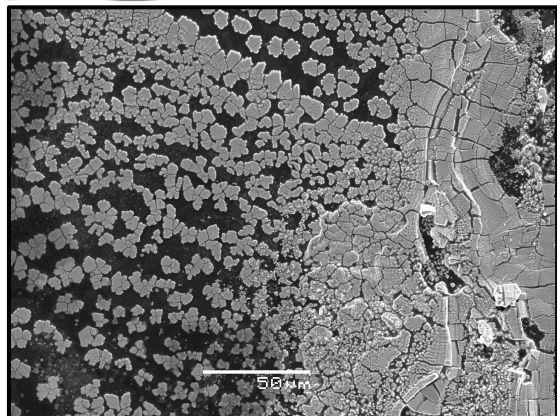
- The presence of  $\text{PPh}_3$  in hexane leads to an attraction between the nanocrystals which is favorable for SL growth in solution. In toluene the interaction potential becomes even more attractive

Calculation from a Flory-type model of the interaction potential between silver NCs

# Self organization of nanoparticles: role of the solvent and by products



$\text{Ag}_{5\text{nm}}\text{C}_{12}$



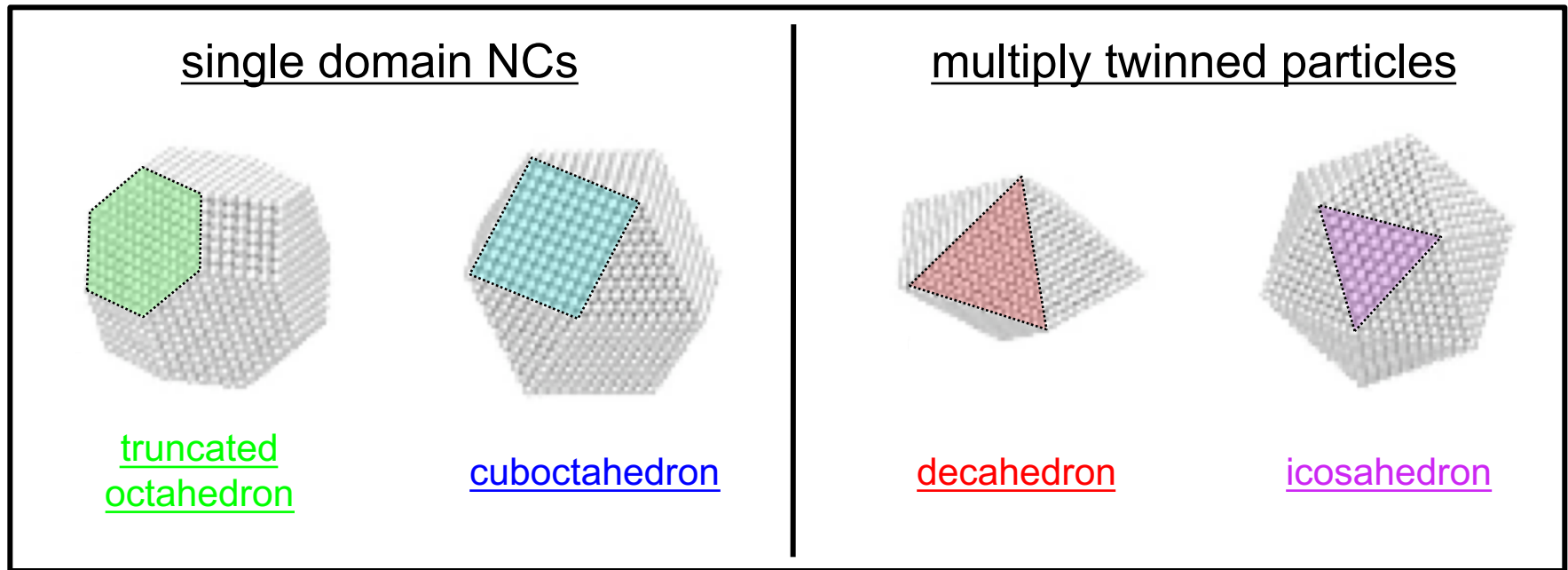
$\text{AgC}_{12}$  NPs washed by acetone and dispersed in pure hexane solution (No more  $\text{PPh}_3$ )



addition of saturated  $\text{PPh}_3$  hexane solution

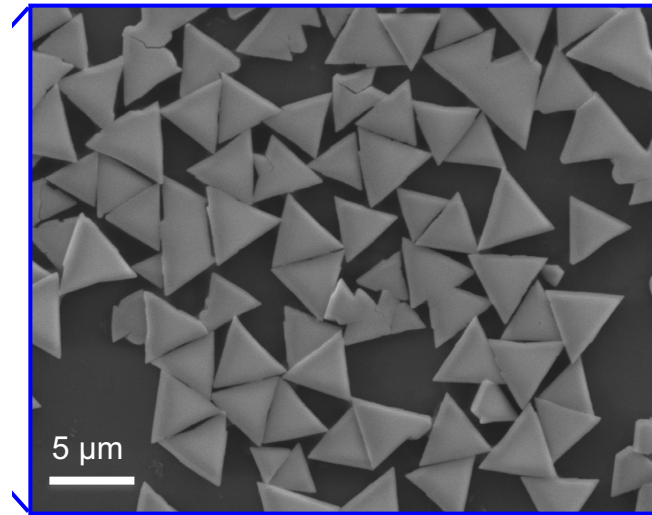
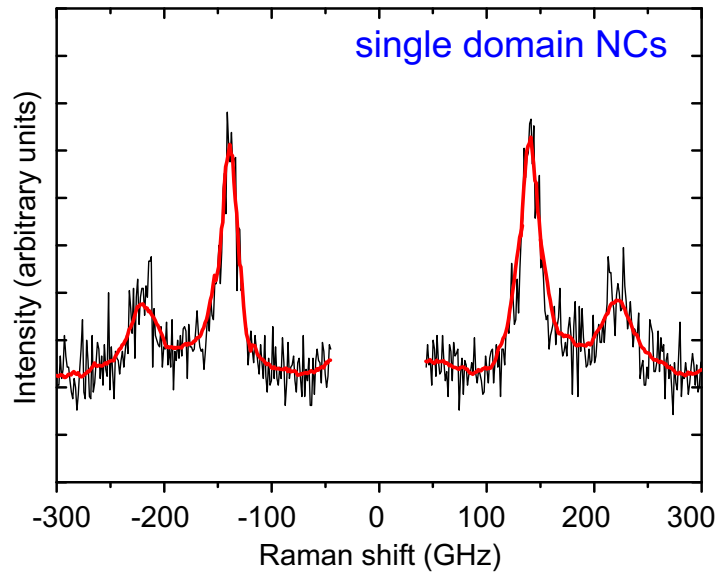
# Self-Organization : Influence of the NP morphology & crystallinity

The NP morphology, which depends on crystallinity, can influence the ability of NPs to interact with neighboring NPs and to self-assemble in close-packed superlattices

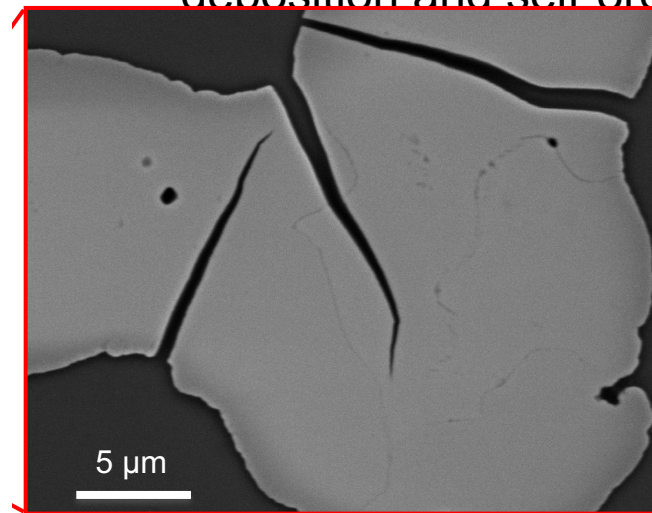
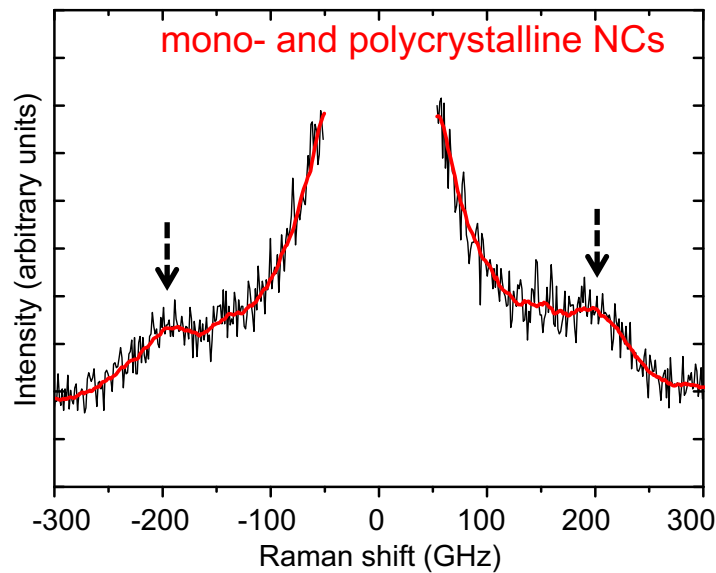


- Larger facets in single domain NCs compared to those in MTPs
- Larger facets → stronger NP-NP interactions

# Self-Organization : Influence of the NP crystallinity



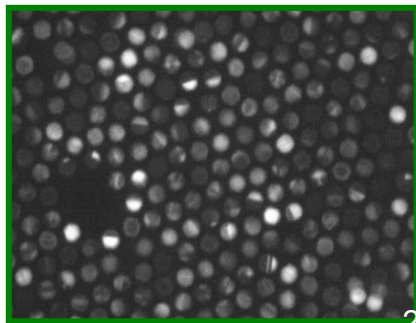
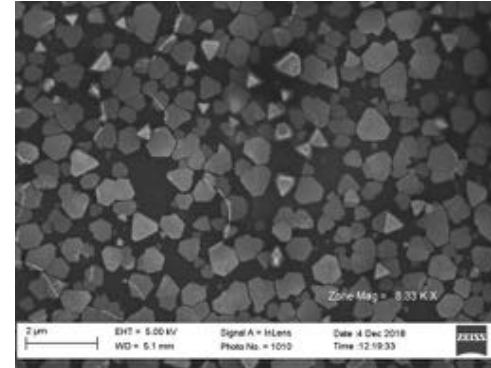
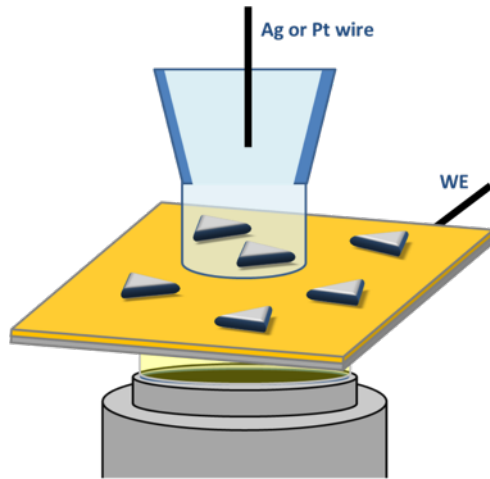
of truncated NCs  
maker  
truncated-tetrahedral colloidal crystals



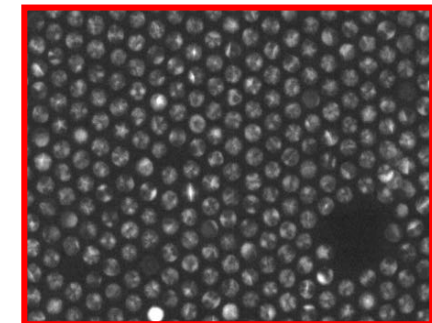
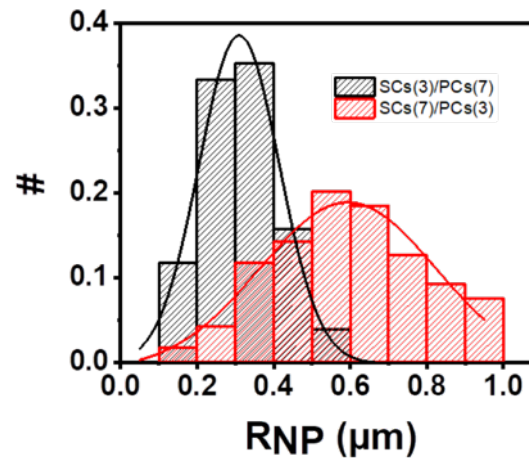
Si wafer  
nanocrystal film with irregular outlines

# Self-Organization : Influence of the NP crystallinity

High resolution optical microscopies for studying **the formation of Ag superlattices**



single crystals (SC)

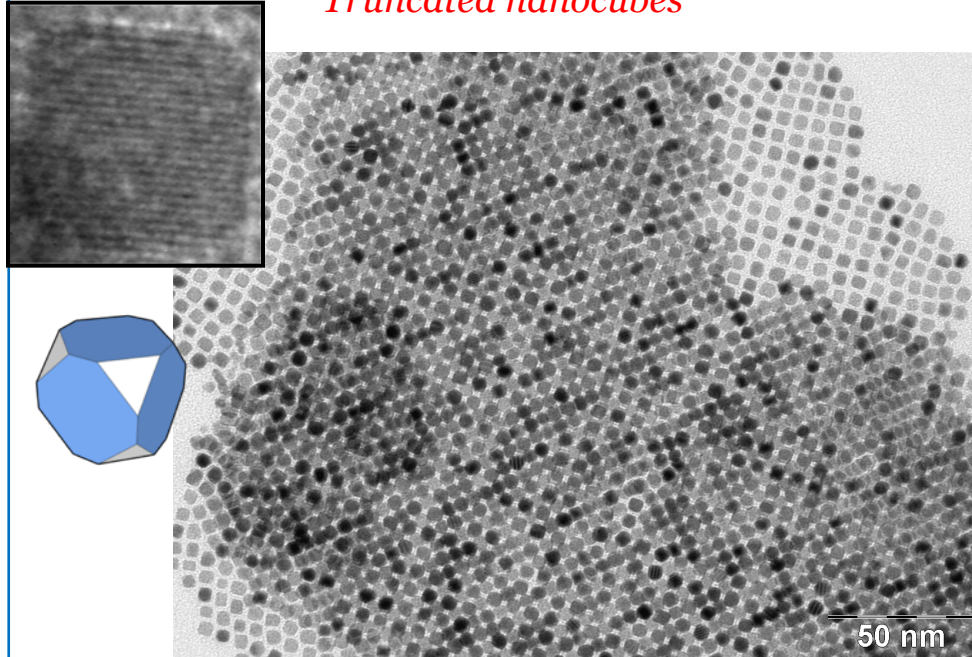


Polycrystals (PC)

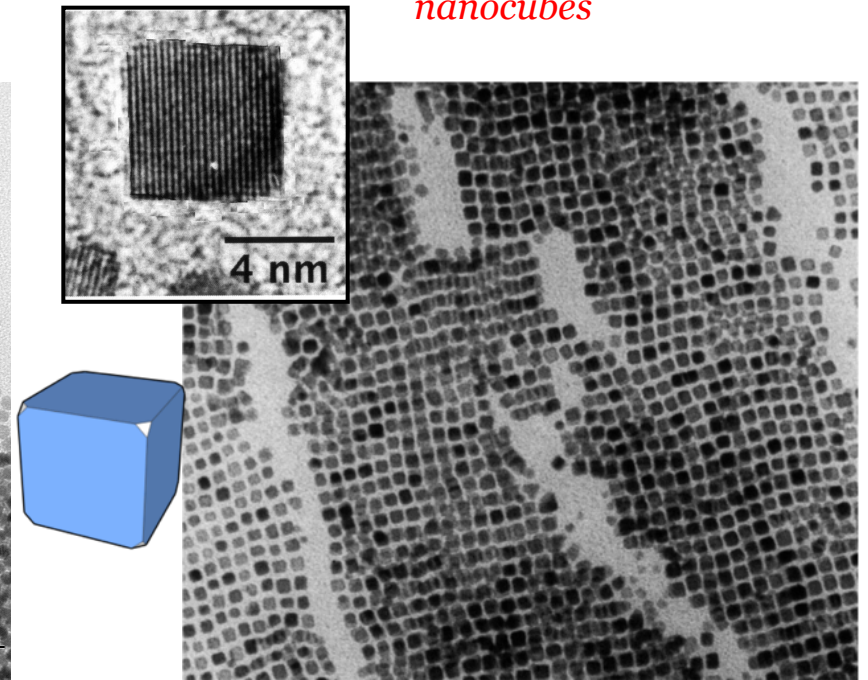
# Self-Organization : Influence of the NP shape

## Assemblies of Pt nanoparticles

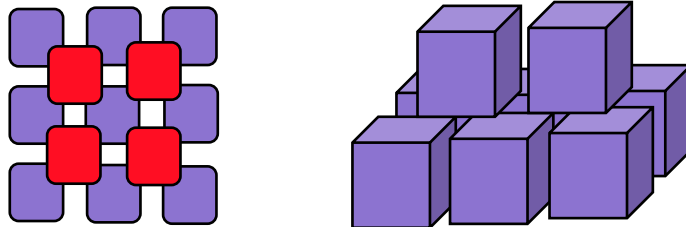
Truncated nanocubes



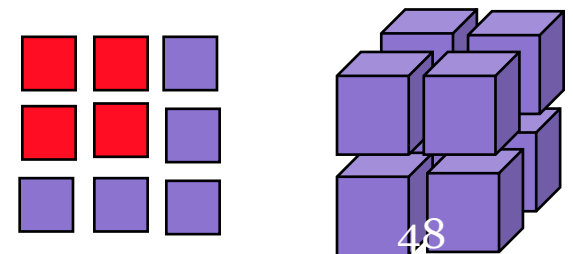
nanocubes



Face centered cubic 3D arrangement



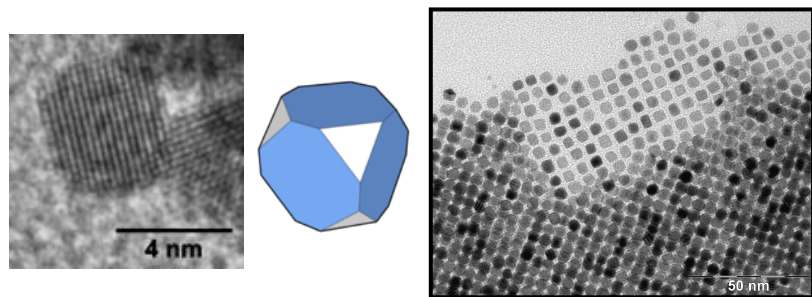
Simple cubic 3D arrangement



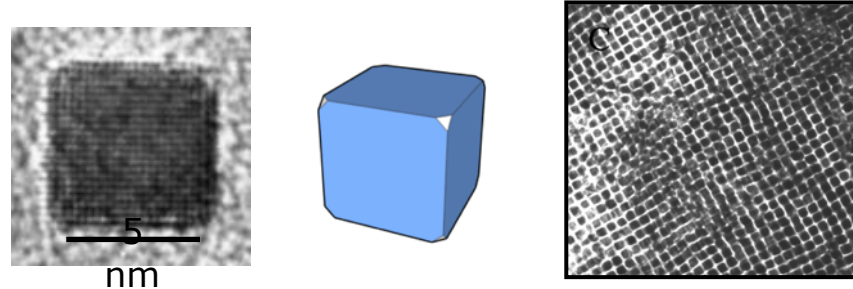


# Self-Organization : Influence of the NP shape

Truncated nanocubes

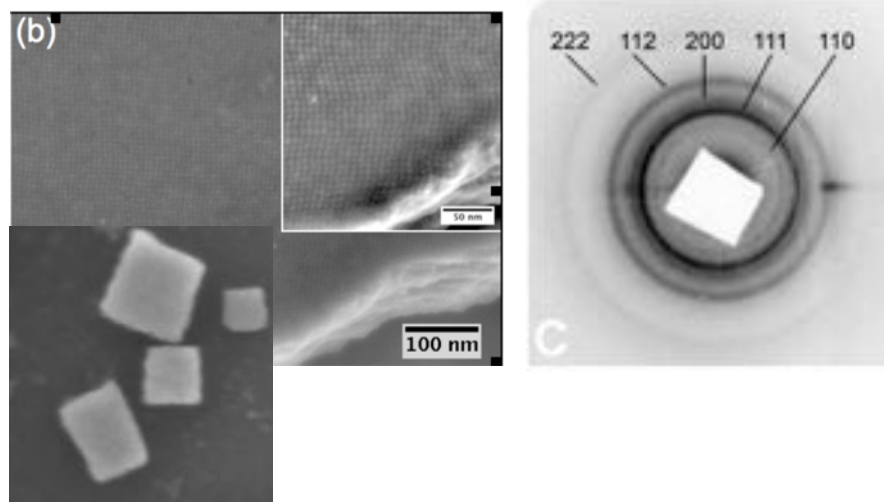
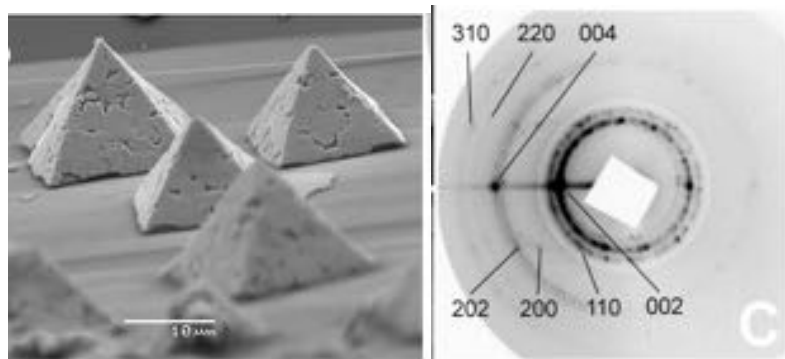


nanocubes

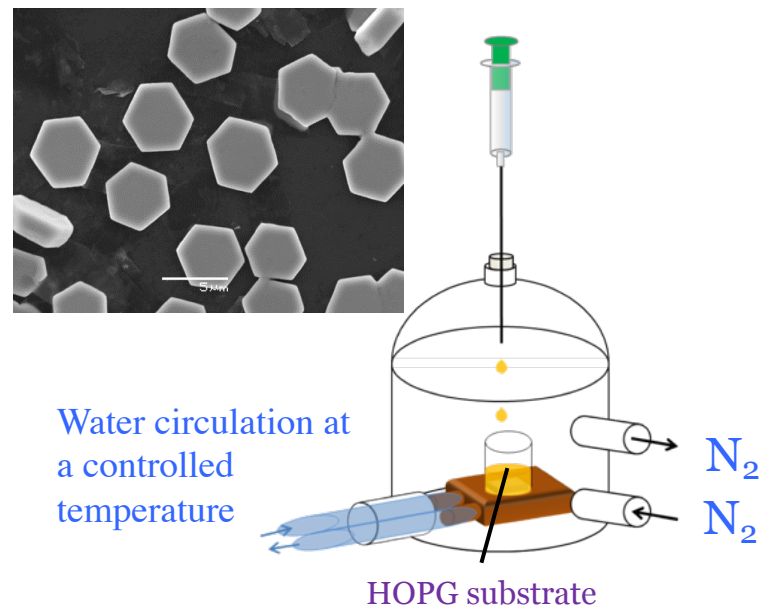
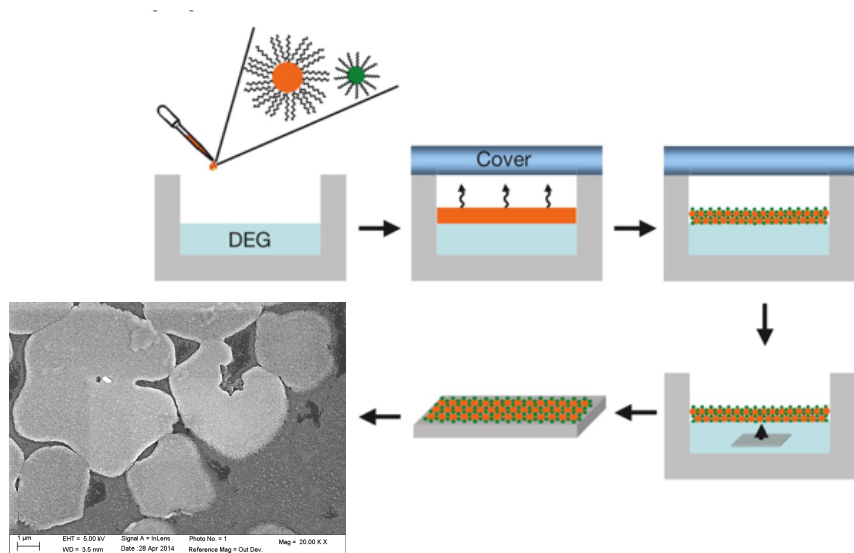
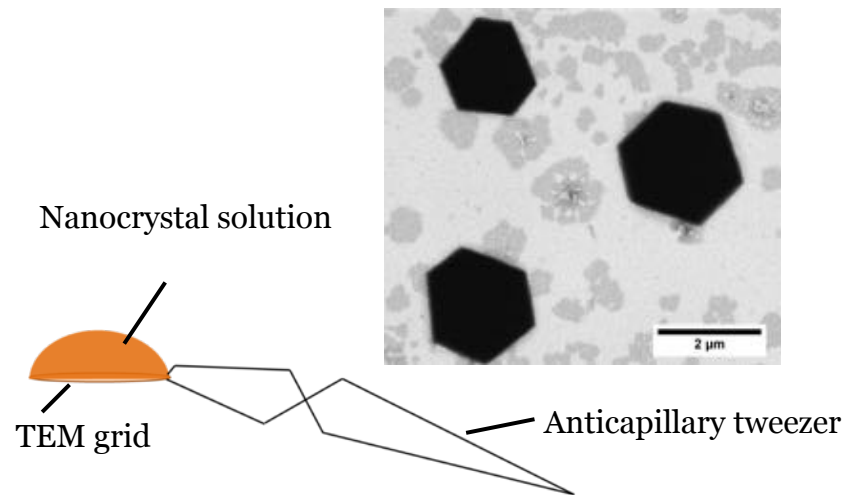
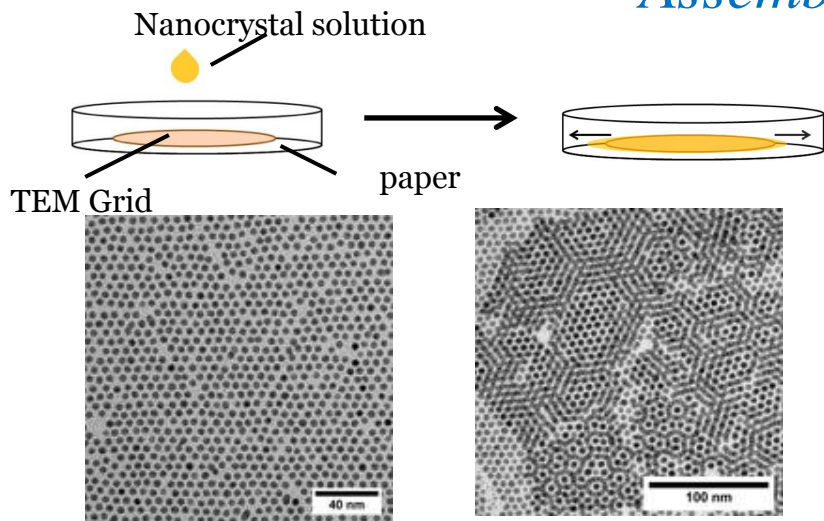


Face centered cubic 3D superlattices

Simple cubic 3D superlattices

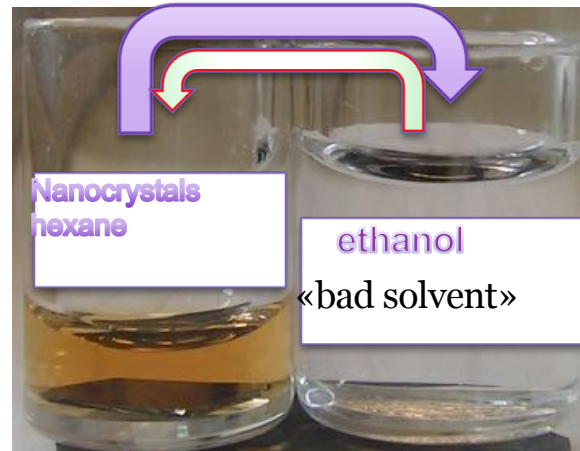


# Assembly methods

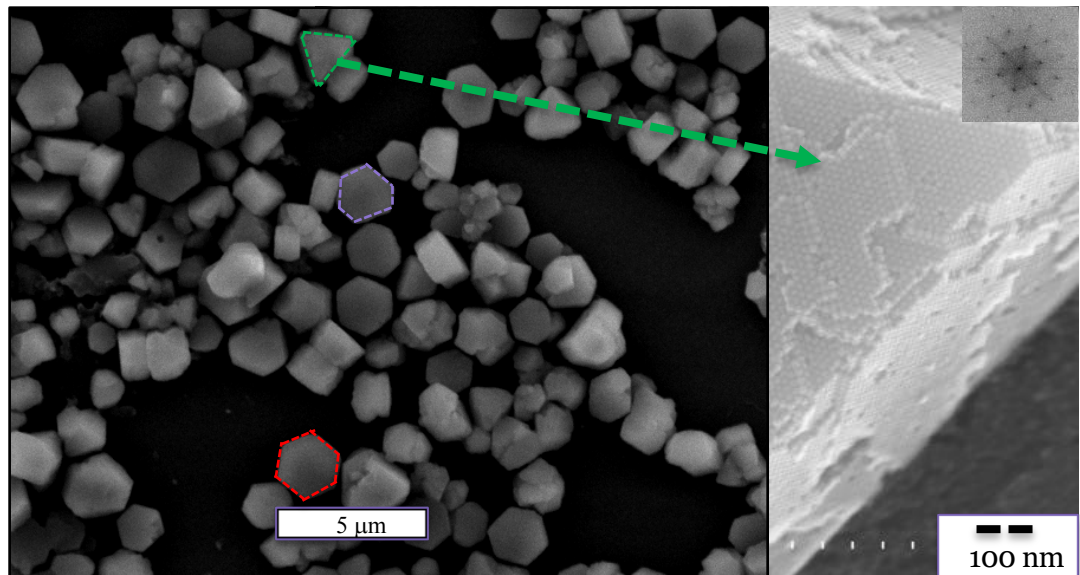


## Assembly methods

Fabrication of colloidal crystals  
Made of ferrite NPs 12.7 nm in diameter  
by a co-evaporation method



- Well-faceted fcc colloidal crystals of size reaching 2.4  $\mu\text{m}$ , with various morphologies including triangles and hexagons



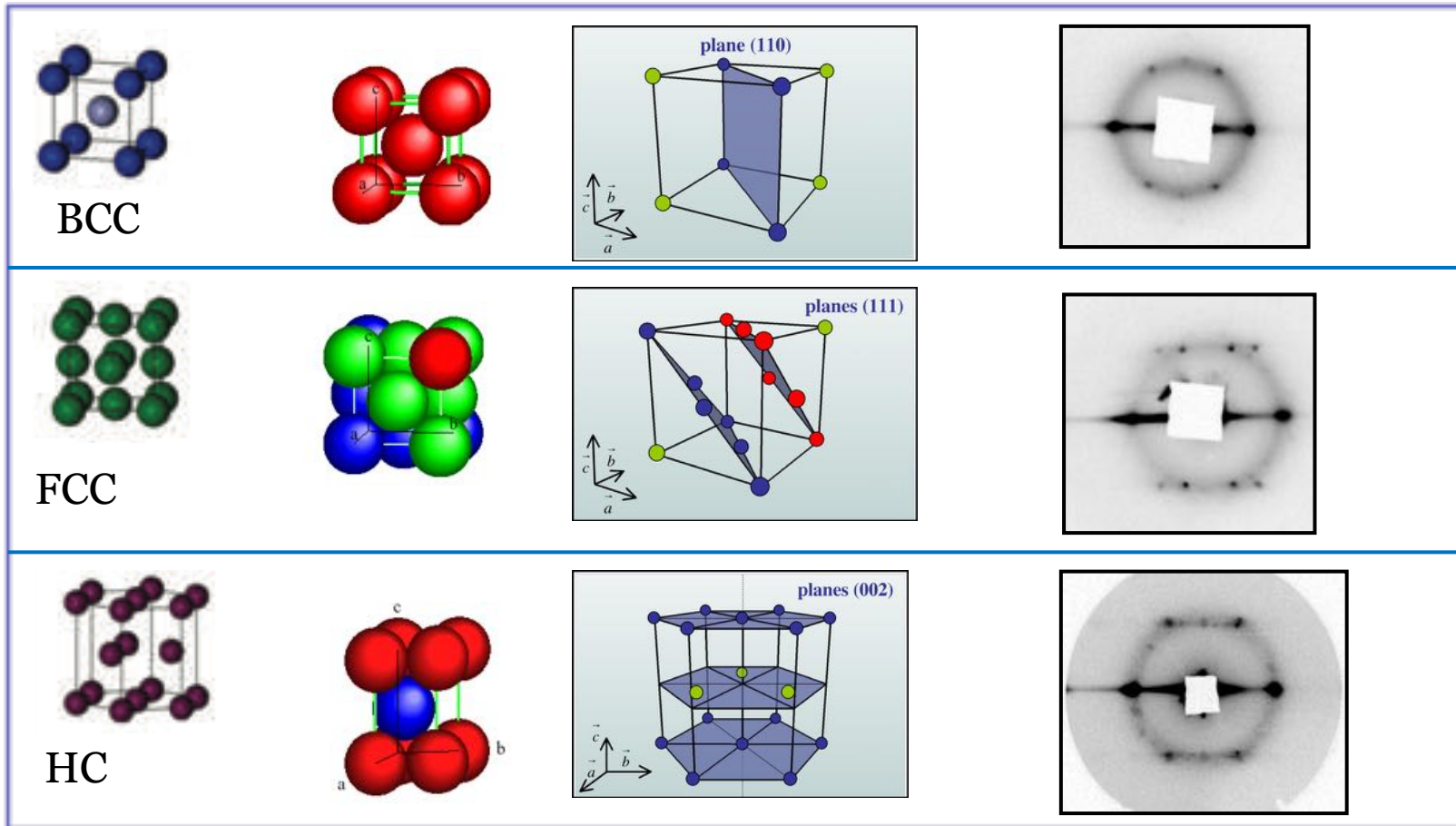
# Crystalline structure of nanocrystal 3D organizations

Self-assembled colloidal NPs can reprint the same structure as colloidal atoms

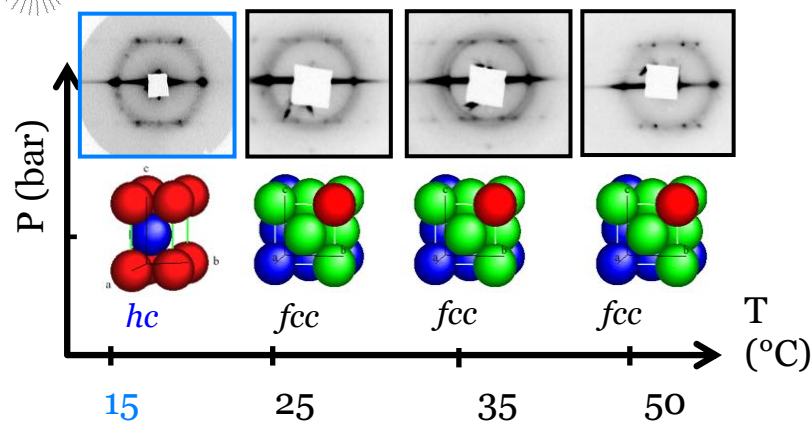
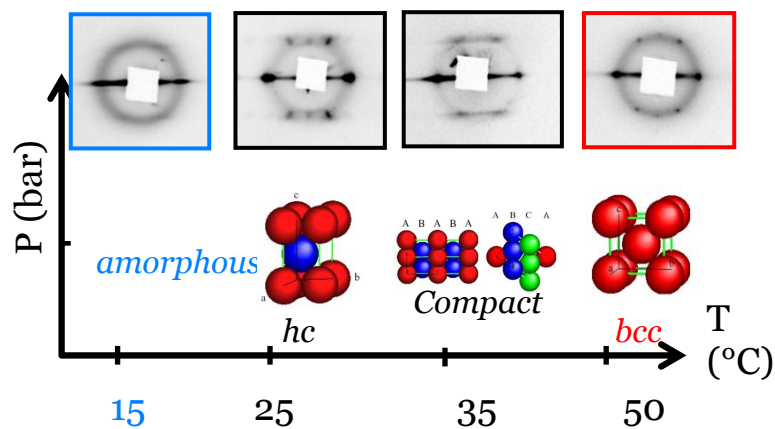
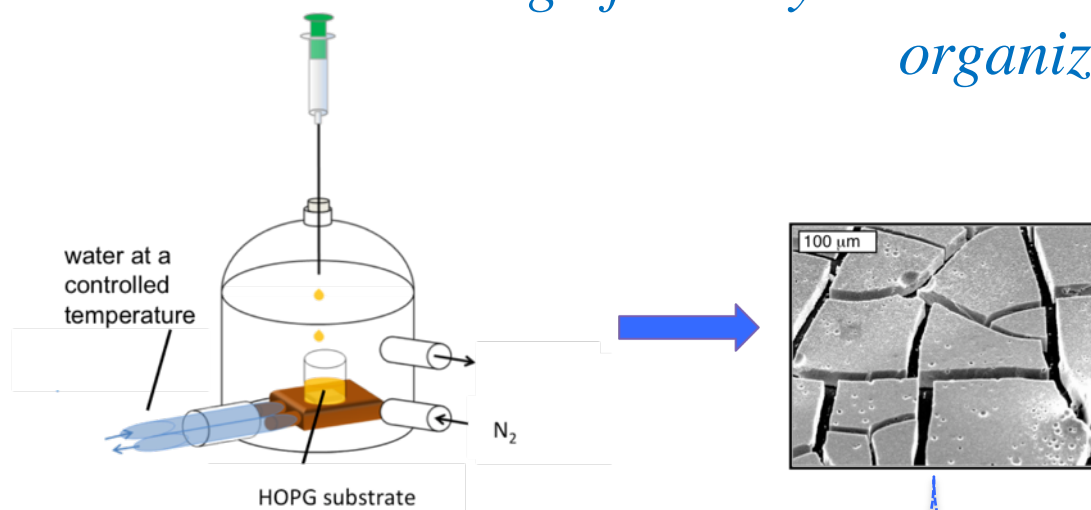
Typical sphere packing

In blue the planes of highest density in lattices

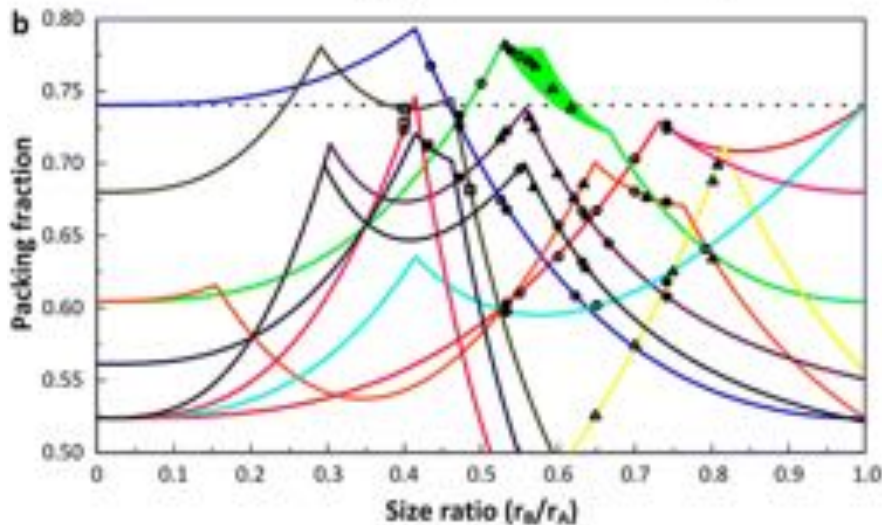
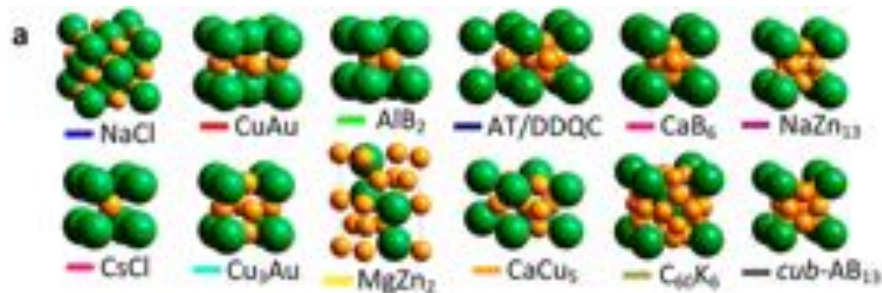
Typical SAXRD patterns  
Obtained in the case of Ag NP  
superlattices



# Tuning of the crystalline structure of Nanoparticle 3D organizations



# Self-Organization : periodical arrangement of nanocrystals of different nature and/or size (*Binary nanocrystals superlattices, BNSLs*)



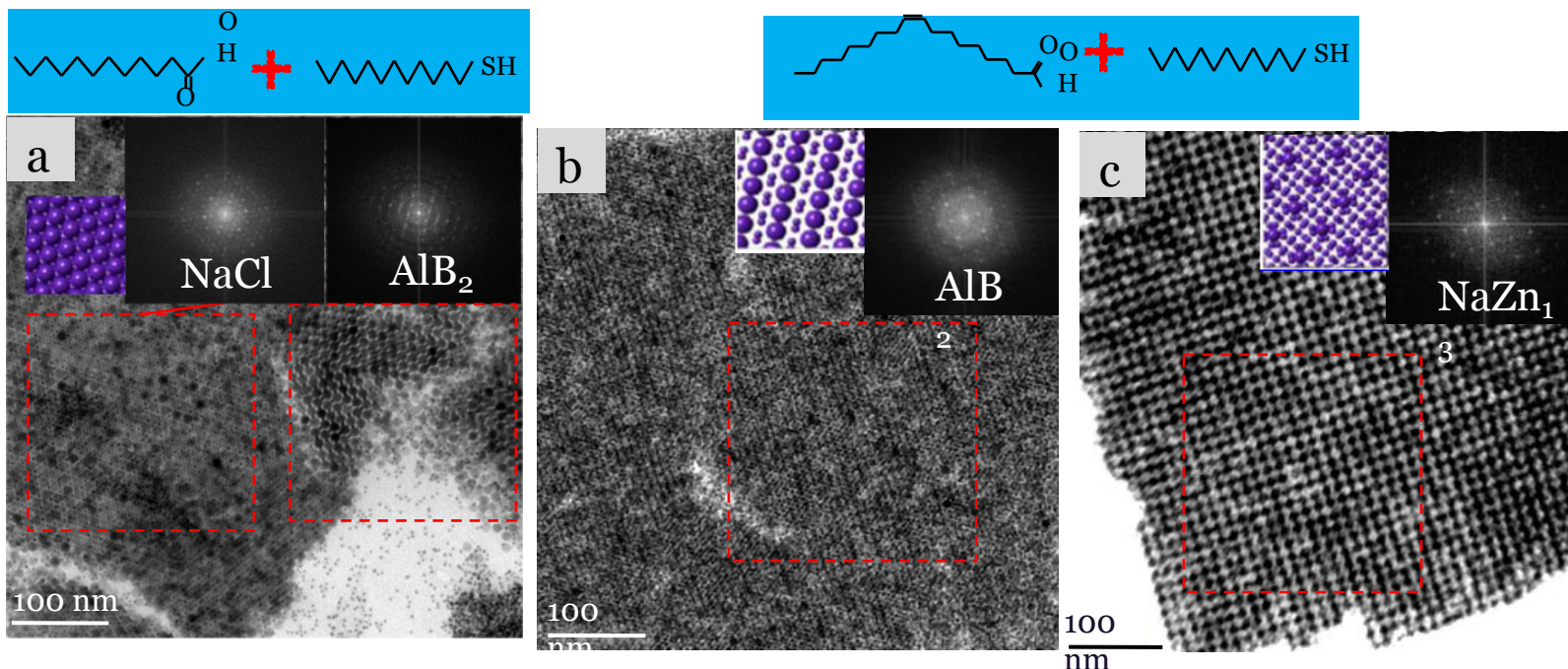
Two important parameters can determine the possibility of formation of BNSLs with A and B components differing by their size:

- The size ratio  $\gamma = R_B/R_A$  with  $R_A > R_B$
- The stoichiometry  $x = n_B/(n_A+n_B)$ .

For capped nanoparticle with length  $L$  of the hydrocarbon chain:

$$\gamma_L = (R_B + L_B) / (R_A + L_A).$$

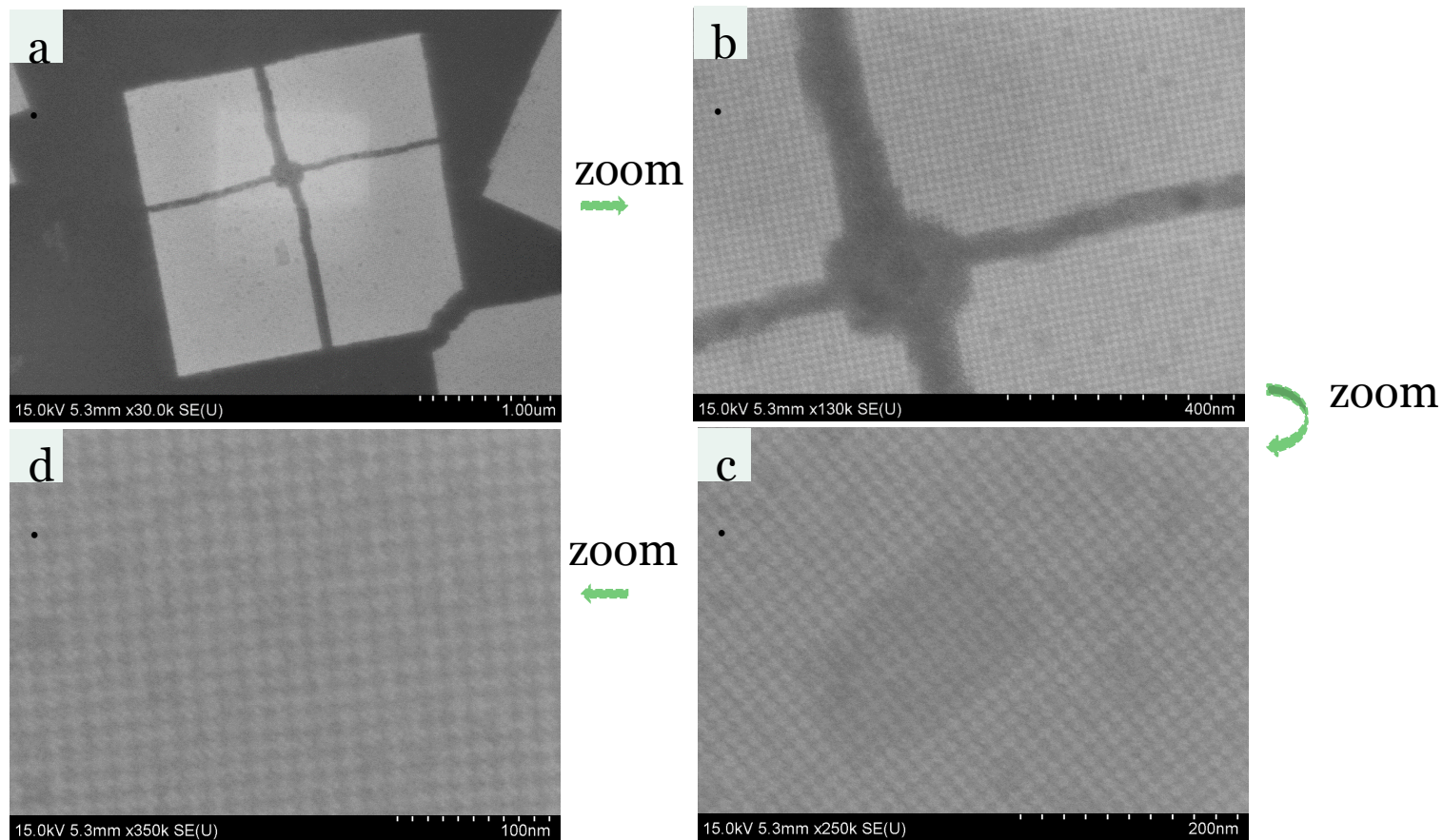
# Self-organization: Control of crystalline structure with different effective size ratio ( $Fe_2O_3$ -Au)



$NP_1$	$NP_2$	Concentration ( $5 \times 10^{-7} M$ )	Effective size ratio ( $NP_2/NP_1$ )	Structure
$Fe_2O_3$ (12.4nm, $C_{12}$ )			0.46	NaCl+AlB <sub>2</sub>
$Fe_2O_3$ (11.4nm, $C_{18}$ )	Au(4.6nm, $C_{12}$ )	1:4	0.49	AlB <sub>2</sub>
$Fe_2O_3$ (7.9nm, $C_{18}$ )			0.66	NaZn <sub>13</sub>

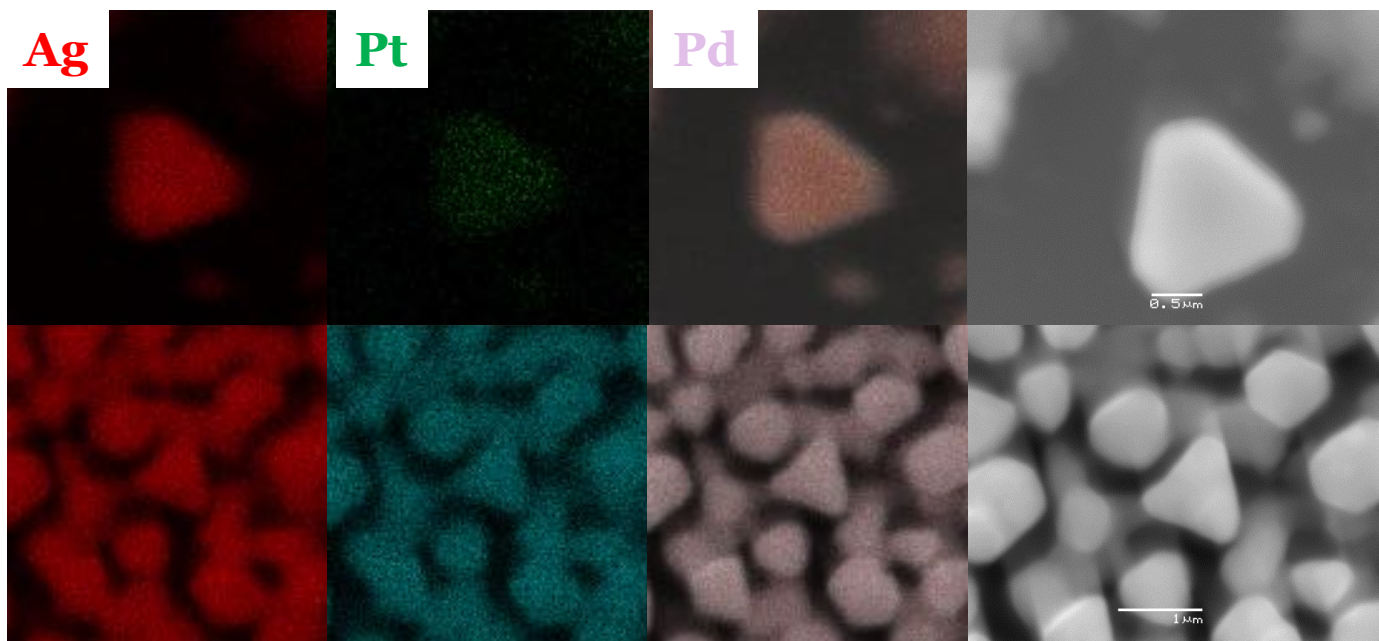
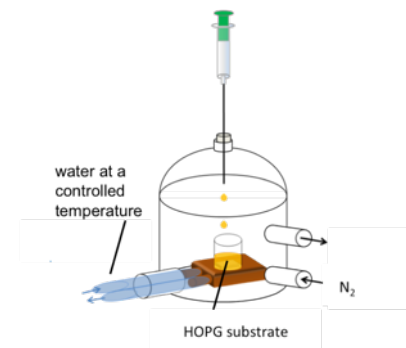
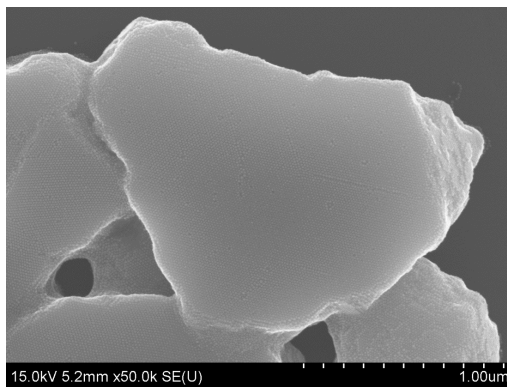
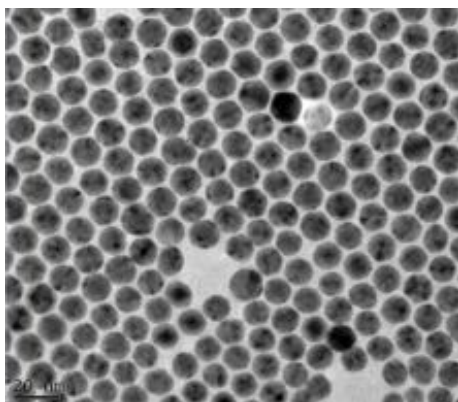
# Self-organization: 3D BNSLs of NaZn<sub>13</sub> structure (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-Au)

Long range organisation confirmed by HR-SEM





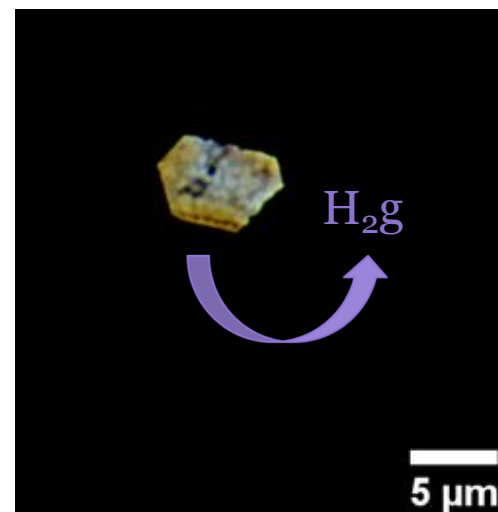
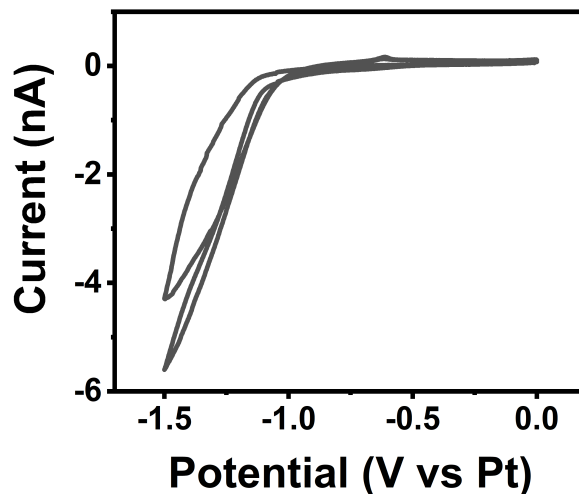
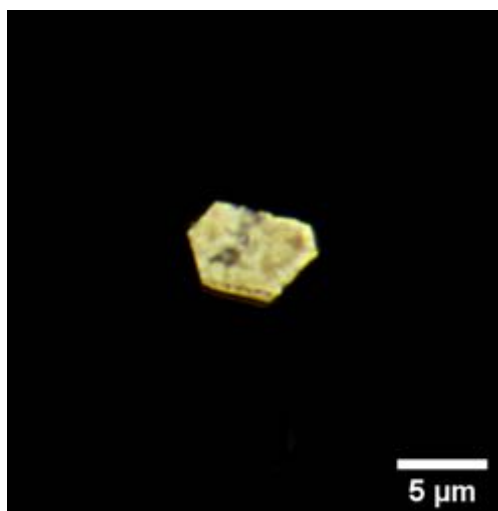
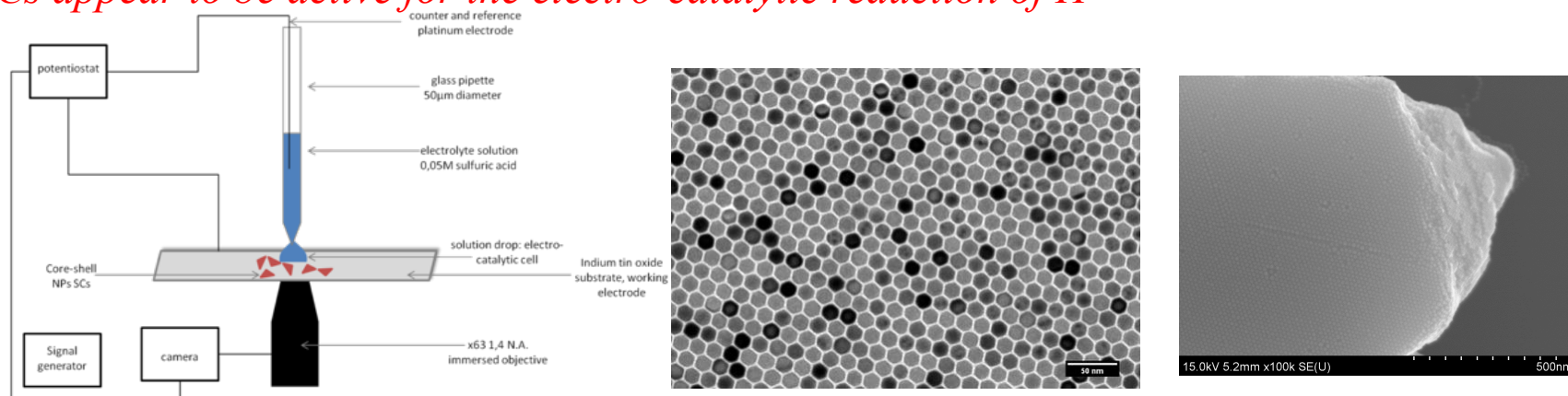
# Self-organization of core-shell Ag@Pt and Ag@Pd NPs



# Properties

# Electro-catalytic activity of core-shell Ag@Pt NP 3D organizations

*SCs appear to be active for the electro-catalytic reduction of  $H^+$*

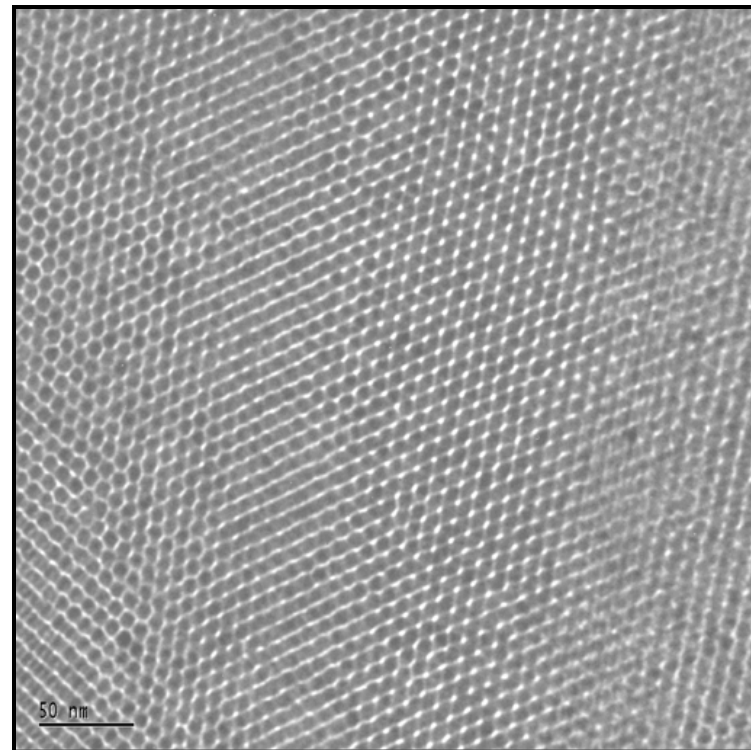
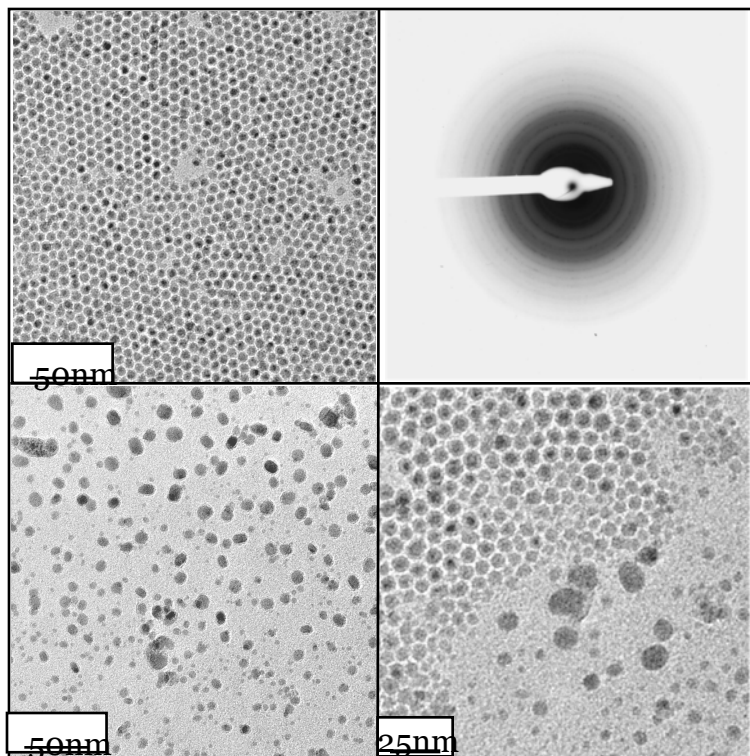


**voltammetry (50mV/s) of proton reduction on Ag@Pt<sub>2</sub> SCs.**

# Air annealing of cobalt nanocrystals

## Effect of the organization

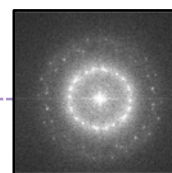
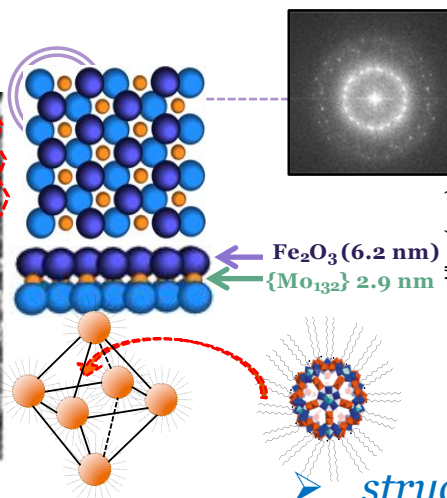
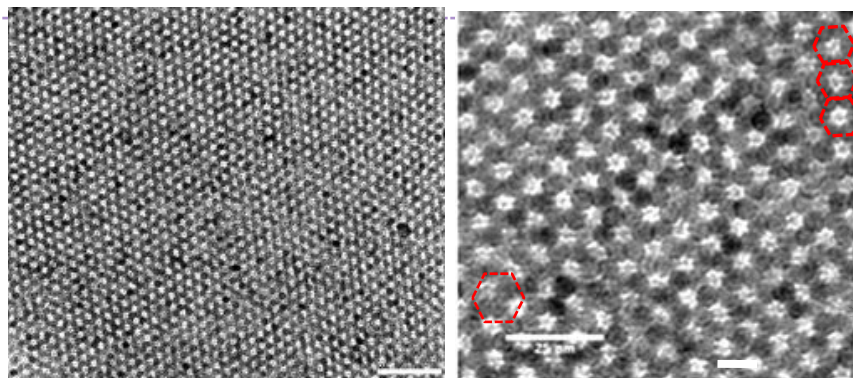
$T_a: 300^\circ\text{C}$



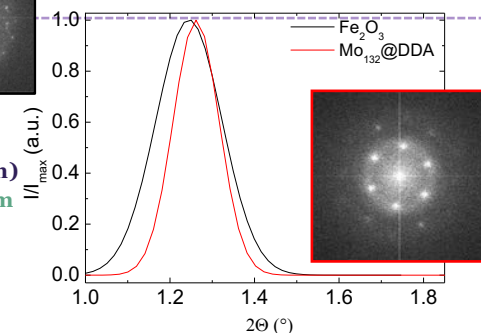
**Self-organized nanocrystals are stable during annealing while they coalesce when isolated**

# Formation of AB type binary superlattices of $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ NPs/ POMs

$\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3@OA / \text{Mo}_{132}@DDA$



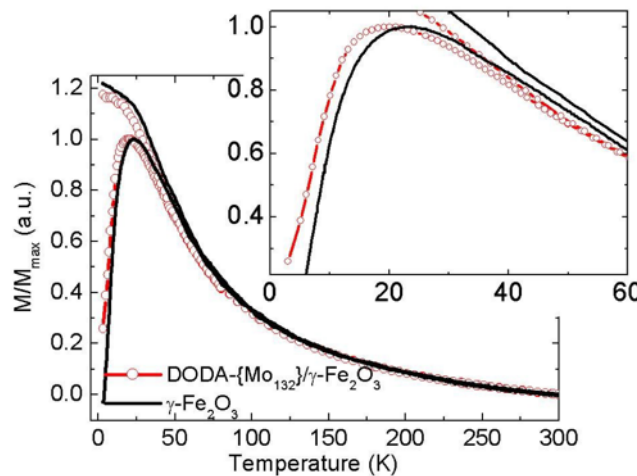
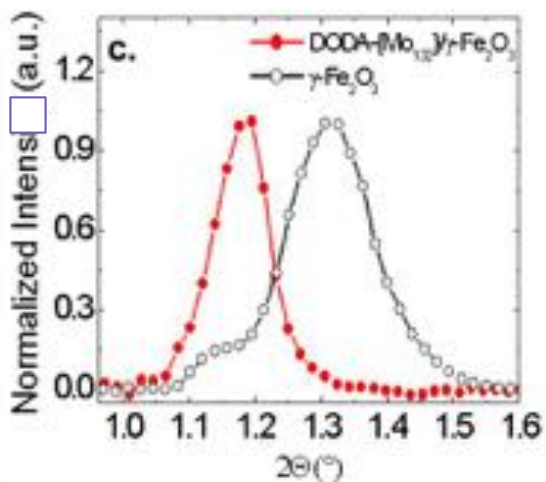
SAXS



➤ structuring effect of the POMs.

$\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3@OA / \text{Mo}_{132}@DODA$

SAXS

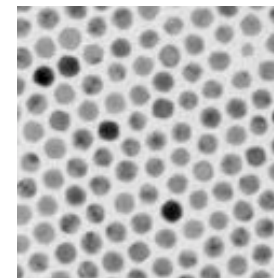


➤ decrease of the blocking temperature of 10%. (decrease of dipolar interaction)

*Modulation of the magnetic interaction by the control of magnetic dipolar interaction in the mesostructure of the BNSL*

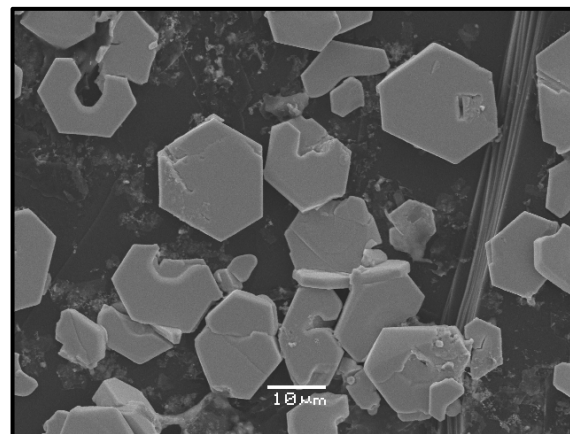
## Conclusions

Colloidal chemistry is a powerful and versatile tool for synthesizing inorganic nanocrystals of controlled size, composition and shape.



Nanocrystals are elementary bricks allowing the construction of more elaborate materials by 2D and 3D self-assembly

These colloidal supercrystals have intrinsic properties that allow new physical properties to be considered



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