

Keith Johnston Research Group

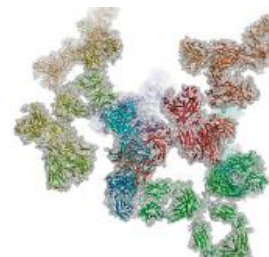
Nanomaterials Chemistry/Colloid and Interface Science/Polymer Science

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Protein stability and drug delivery

Morphology and protein-protein interactions

Rheology: subcutaneous injection



Adv. Fxn'l Nanomaterials (metals, metal oxides, polymers))

Electrocatalysis = f (morphology) electronic properties, mechanistic pathways

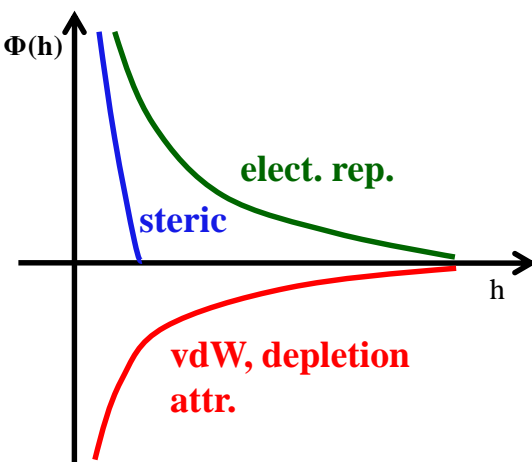
O₂ reduction and evolution reactions for water splitting and metal air batteries, supercapacitors

Biodegradable photonic Au nanoclusters for cancer imaging

Nanoparticle Interact. with Liq. and Solid Interfaces

Oil/water and gas/water interfaces (emulsions and foams)

Solid surfaces (adsorption and transport in porous media)



Collaborators

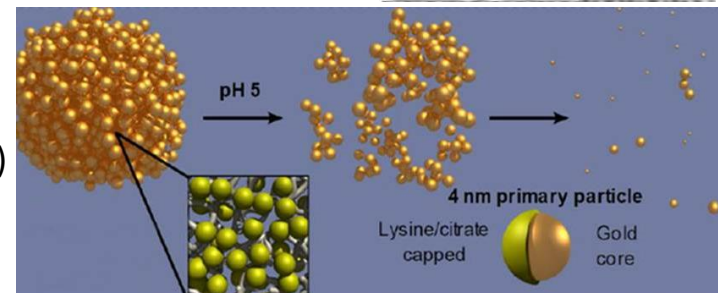
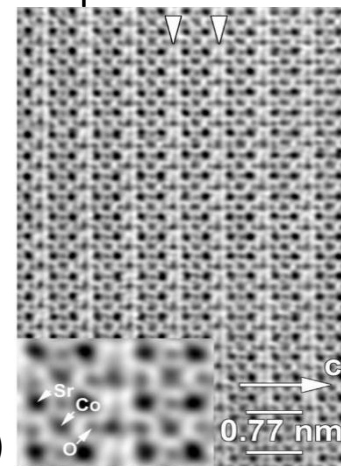
Tom Truskett, Nate Lynd, Kurt Pennell

Keith Stevenson (Skoltech), Sheng Dai (ORNL), Alexie Kolpak (MIT)

Kostia Sokolov, (M.D. Anderson)

Masha Prodanovic, David DiCarlo

George Hirasaki, Quoc Nguyen (Petr. Eng.)

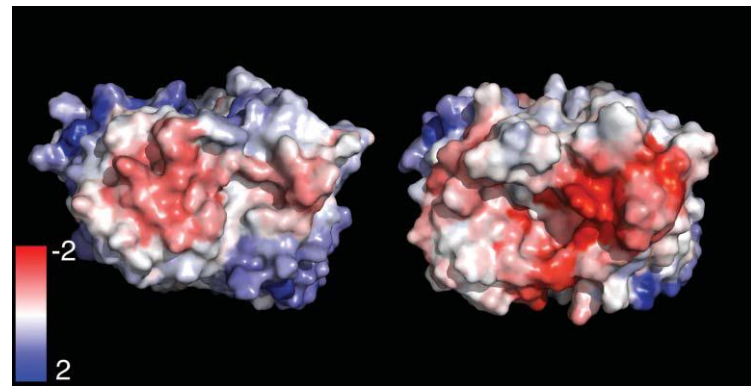
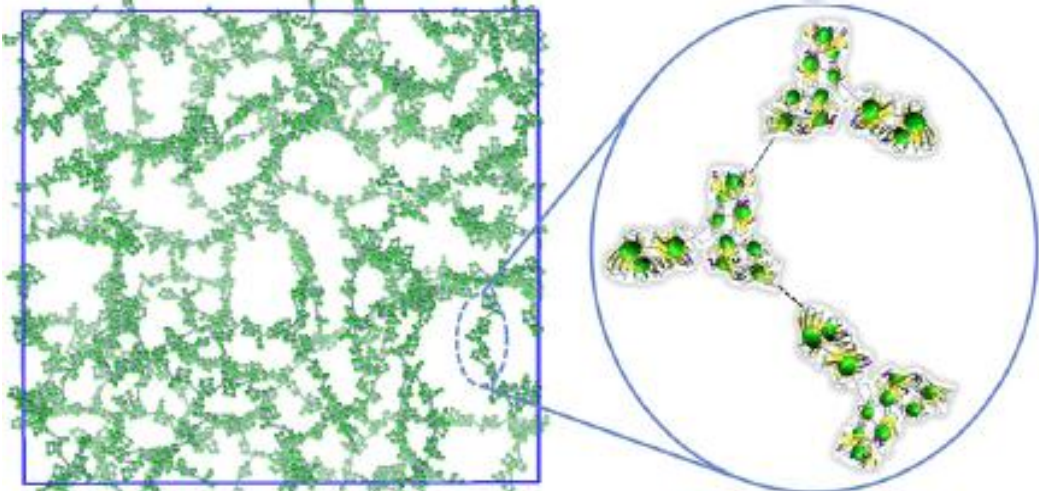
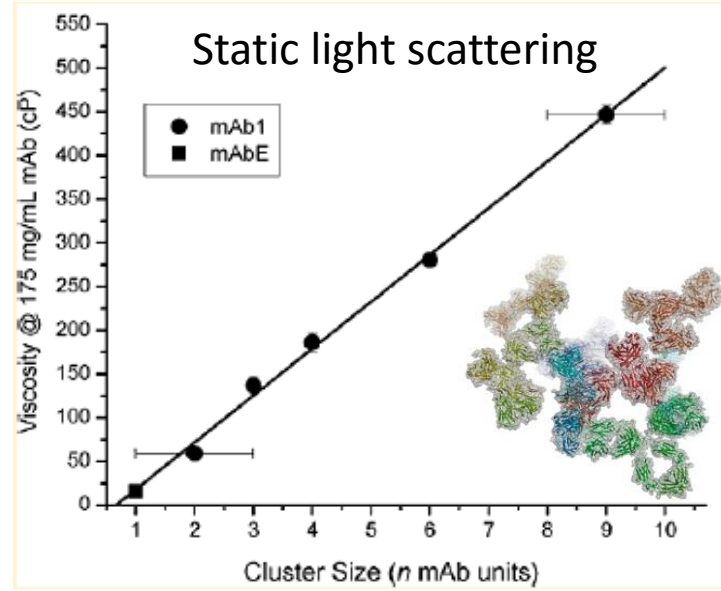


Subcutaneous injection (SC) of concentrated monoclonal antibodies at 300 mg/ml is a major drug delivery challenge

- >20% of all biopharmaceuticals in clinical trials are mAbs
- cancer, allergies, asthma, inflammatory diseases, cardiovascular diseases, infectious diseases, etc.

Name	Indication	Company	Conc.
ACTEMRA	RA, juvenile arthritis	Genetech	180mg/mL
Herceptin	Breast and gastric cancer	Roche	120 mg/mL

- At high conc. spacings are small – specific short-ranged attraction cause association and high viscosity
 - Hydrogen bonds, anisotropic elect. attraction
 - Hydrophobic interactions



Fv domains: light chain on left side
Red: exposed negative patches

Agrawal et al, mAbs (16)

Use co-solutes to mitigate attractive interactions to lower viscosity up to 10 x

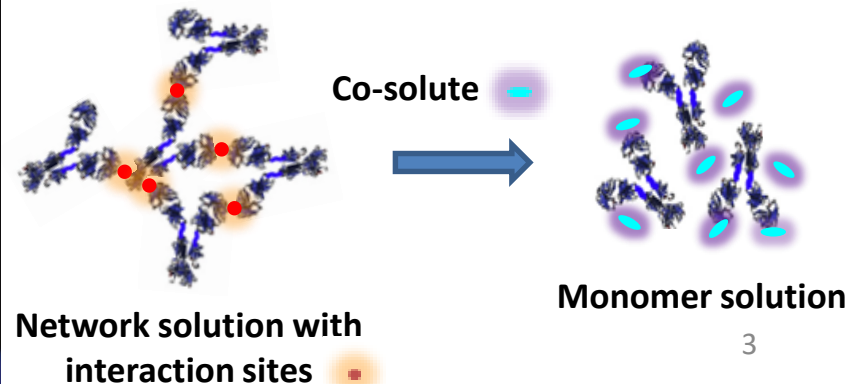
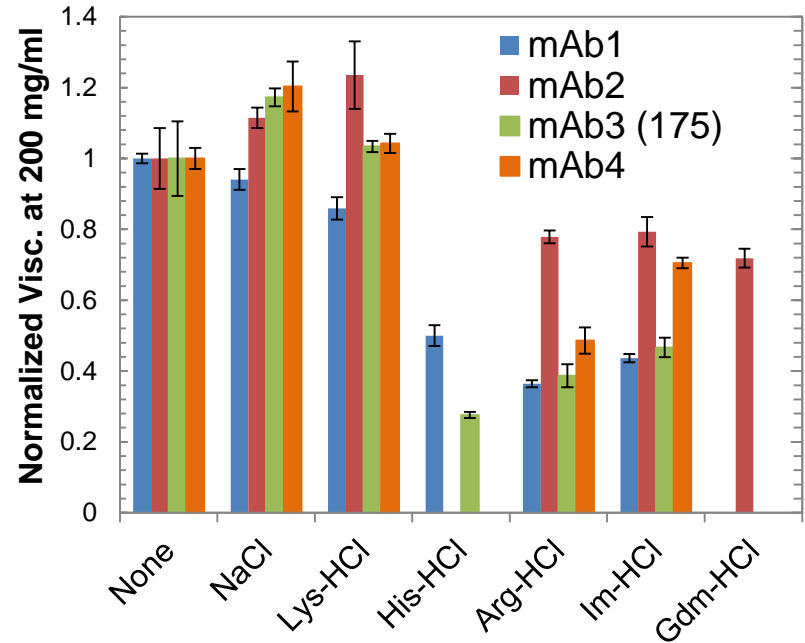
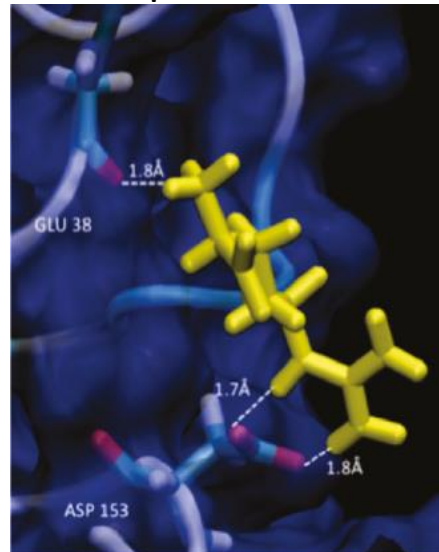
- Local anisotropic electrostatic attraction
- Hydrophobic interactions
- Depletion attraction



$$\frac{\eta}{\eta_0} = \exp\left(\frac{c[\eta]}{1-c[\eta](k/v)}\right) \text{ Ross-Minton}$$

- k/v is ratio of crowding and shape factors

- $\eta_{inh} \equiv \frac{\ln(\eta/\eta_0)}{c}$



Chari et al., *Pharm. Res.* (2009), Shukla et al., *JPCB* (2011), Hung et al., *J Membr. Sci.* (2016)

Research Goals

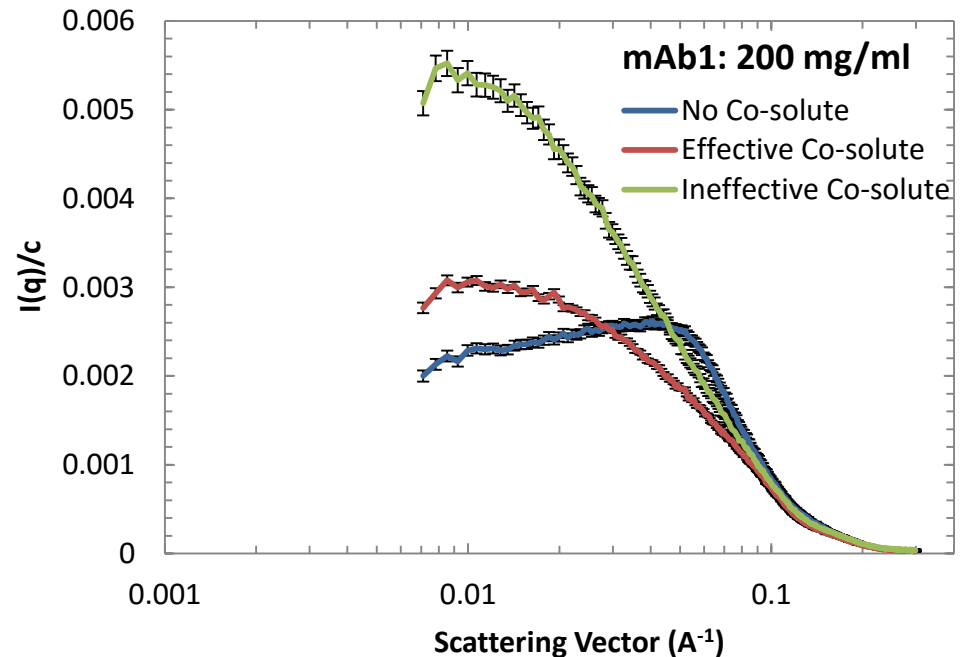
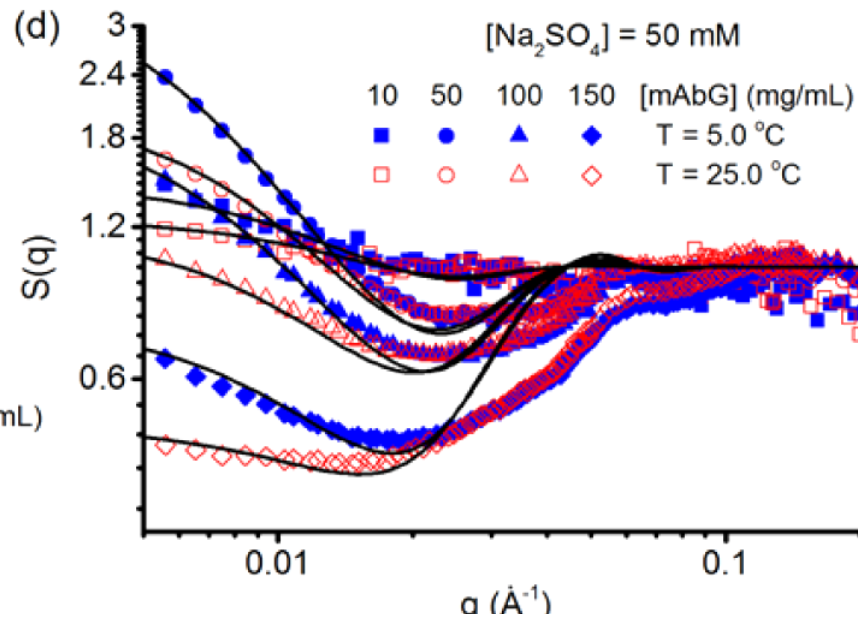
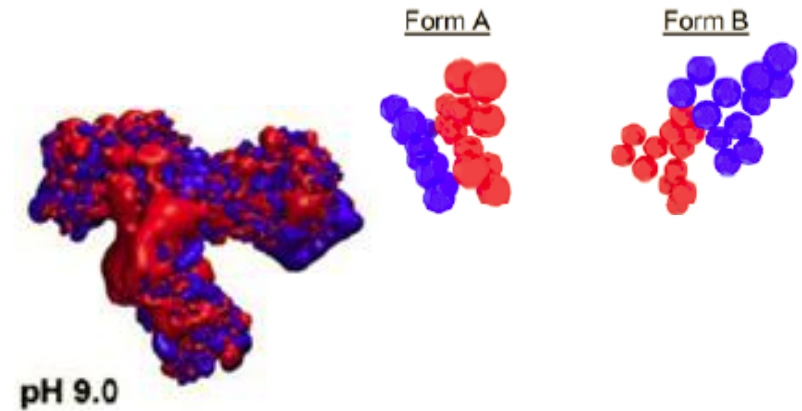
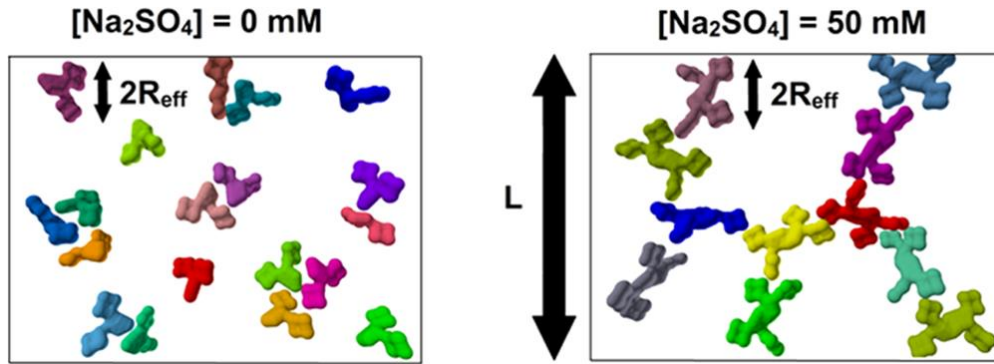
- **Understand co-solute effects on protein viscosity/stability as function of interactions with proteins- break networks**
- **Characterize protein morphology, protein-protein interactions and network structure for 200-250+ mg/mL mAb**
 - Static structure: SAXS, DLS, SLS,
 - Dynamic structure: DLS, shear rheology
 - Conformational stability: DSC/DSF, intrinsic fluorescence, CD
- **Relate viscosity/stability to protein morphology and interactions**
 - Effect of mAb structure, pH, and ionic strength
 - Develop design rules for cosolutes to achieve low viscosity (10 – 20 cP) and high stability
- **Sponsors: NSF Inspire, Abbvie, Pfizer, Merck**

Proposed: SAXS- Determine interactions from structure factor $S(q)$ using 12 bead model for form factor $P(q)$

- Viscosity incr. by network formation of dimers w/ added salt.

Dimer Conformations

$$I(q) = c * (\Delta\rho)^2 * P(q) * S(q)$$

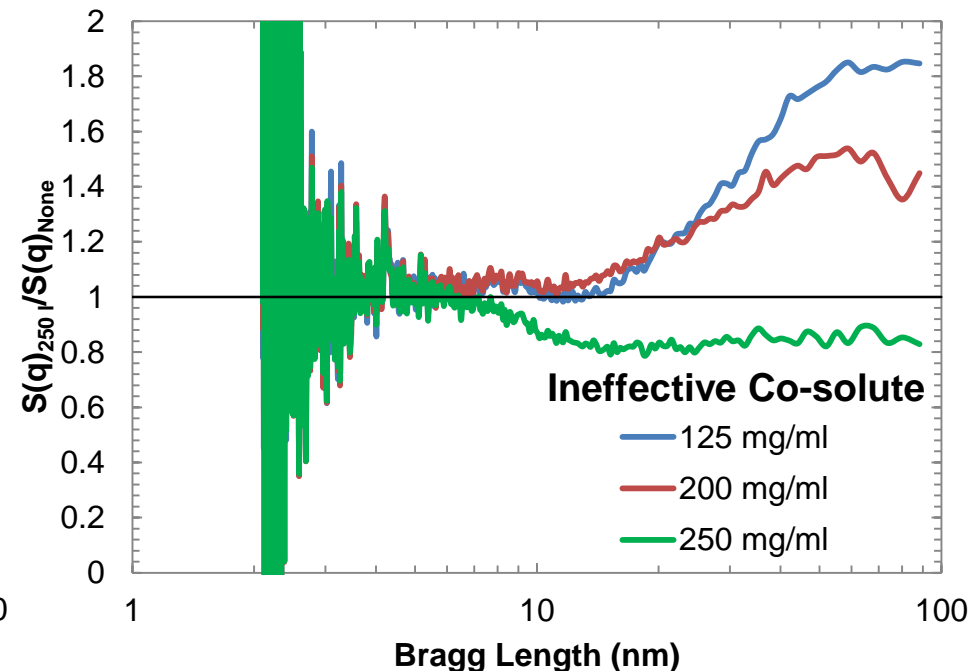
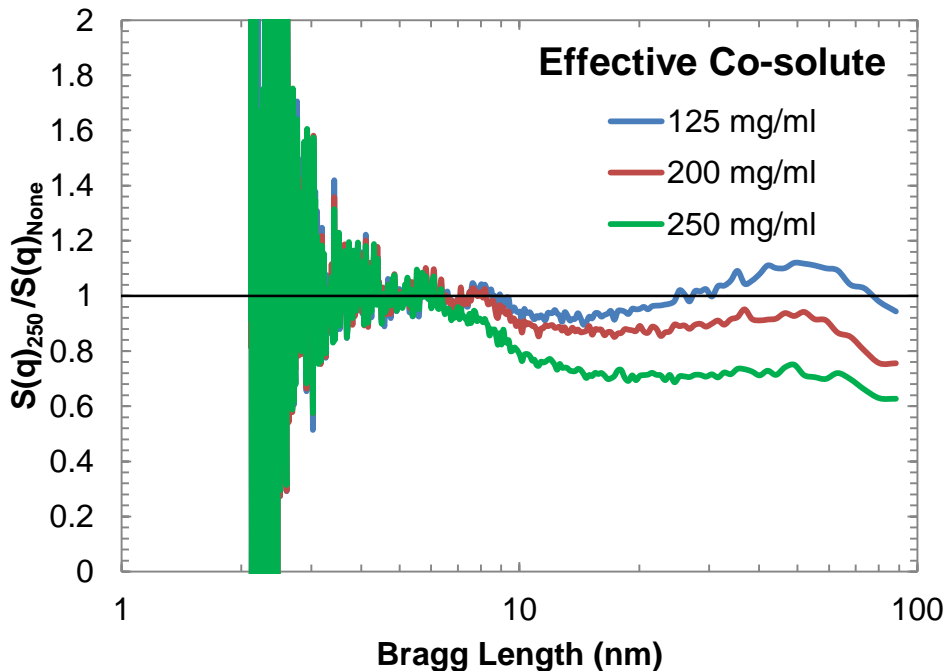


SAXS: Co-solutes cause lower $S(q)_{\text{eff}}$ at higher conc

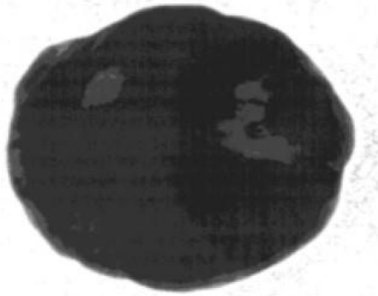
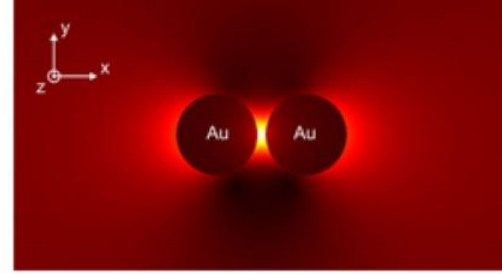
- Dividing $S(q)_{\text{co-solute}}$ over $S(q)_{\text{none}}$ shows the relative attraction/repulsion between samples with co-solute compared to those without co-solute for each q value
- Each q can be converted into a length scale

$$l_{\text{Bragg}} = \frac{2\pi}{q}$$

- As protein conc \uparrow and protein average spacing \downarrow the net effect of co-solutes is to increase net repulsion/decrease net attraction
- Eff causes more repulsion than Ineff for all concentrations

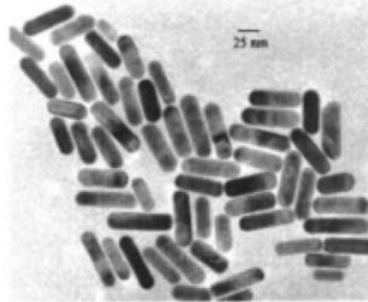


NIR Photoacoustic Imaging /Therapy: Cancer Theranostics



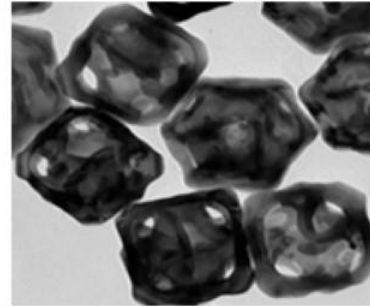
Nanoshells
 $d = 130 \text{ nm}$

Hirsch et al. (2003) *PNAS*



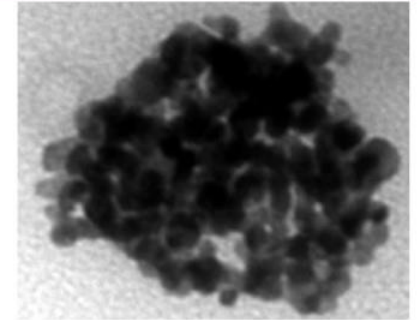
Nanorods
 $15 \text{ nm} \times 50 \text{ nm}$

Link et al. (1999) *J Phys Chem B*



Nanocages
 $x = 50 \text{ nm}$

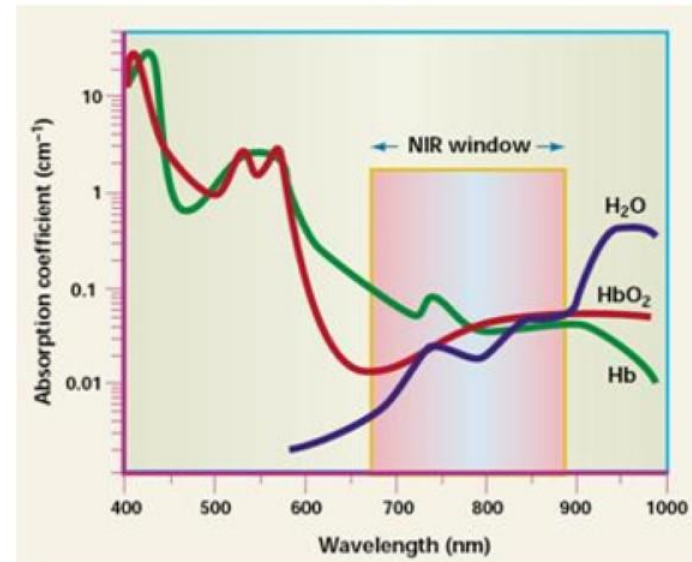
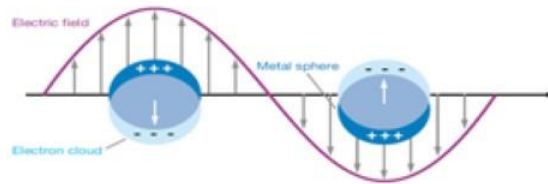
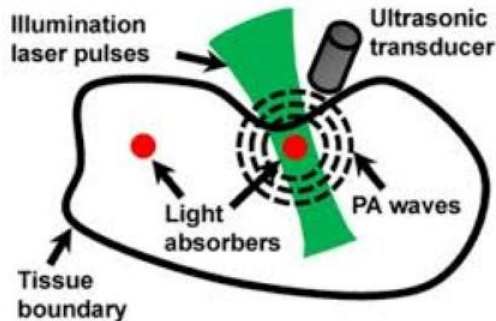
Skrabalak et al. (2007) *Adv. Mater.*



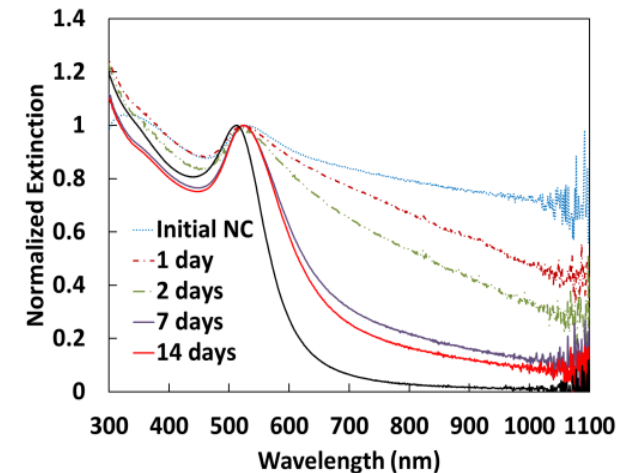
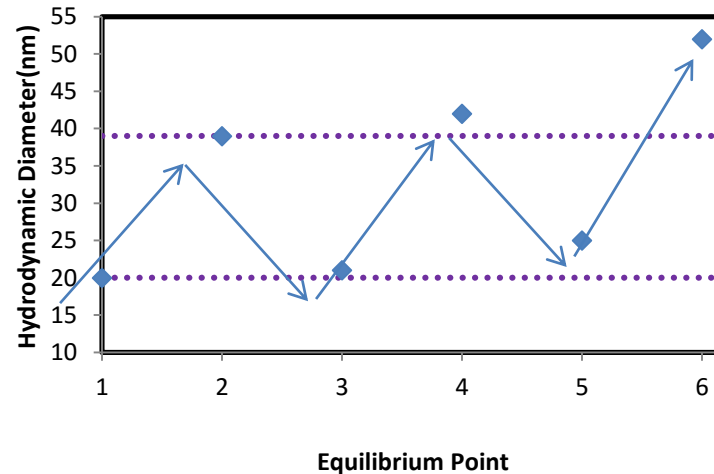
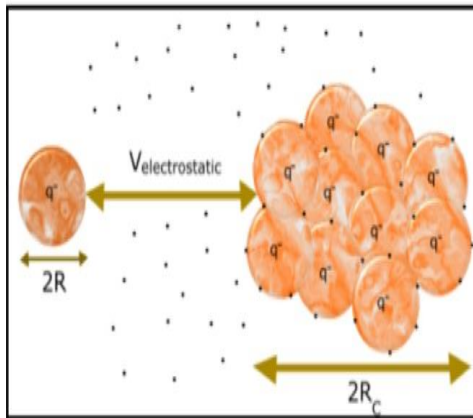
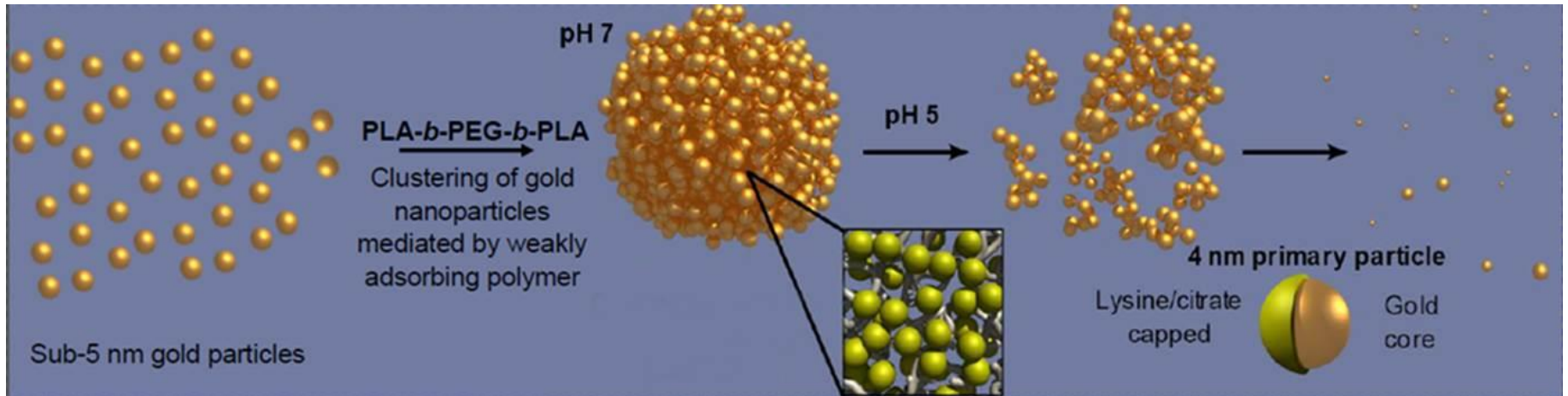
Nanoclusters
 $d = 30\text{-}80 \text{ nm}$

Tam, *KPJ ACS Nano*(13), *Langmuir* (10)

- Asymmetry shifts SPR from 532 nm to NIR- dipoles/multipoles
- Challenging to achieve NIR for particles < 5nm
- Clearance possible for biodegradable nanoclusters

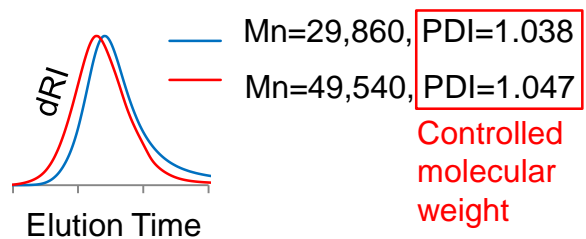
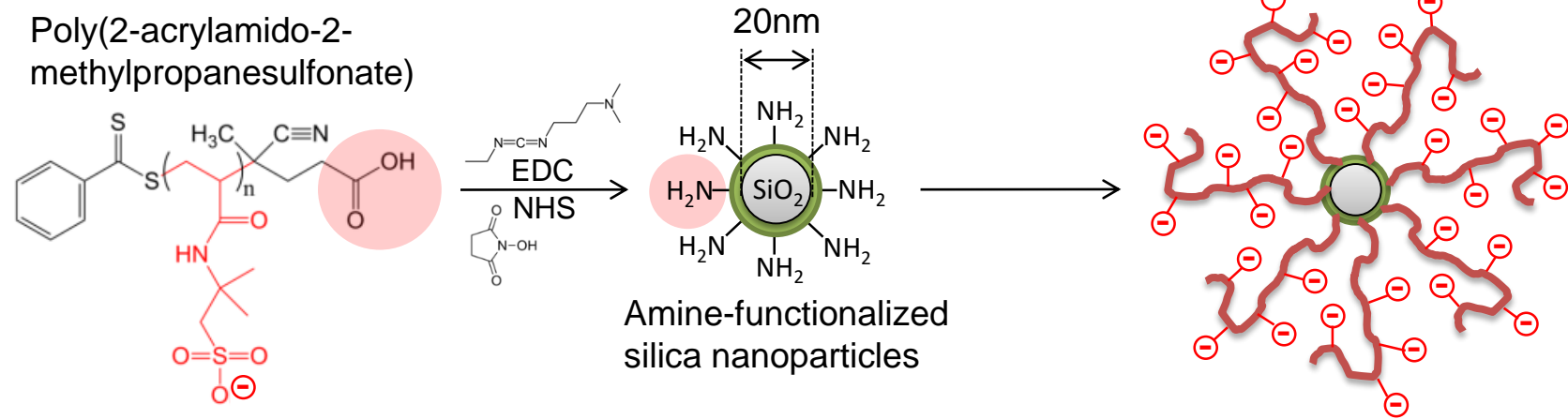


Reversible Gold Nanoclusters for Imaging/Therapy

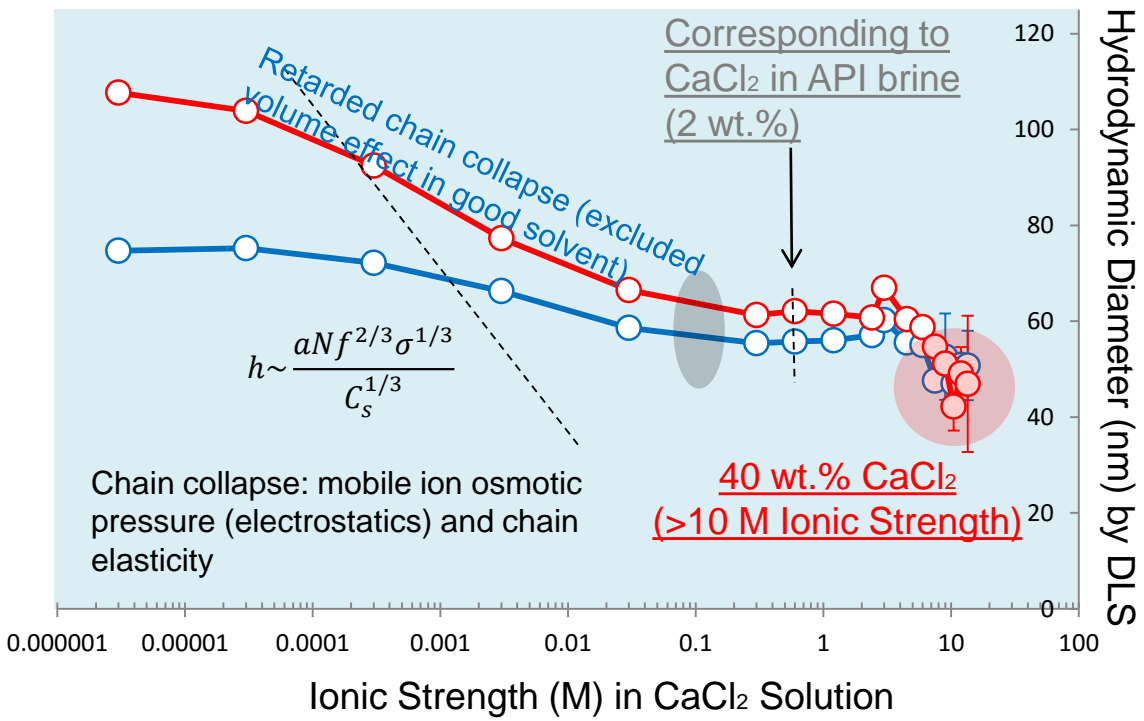


- Reversible equilibrium control of cluster size: self-limited growth
- NIR active nanoclusters with small particle spacing
- Design reversibility and lack of protein adsorption for clearance

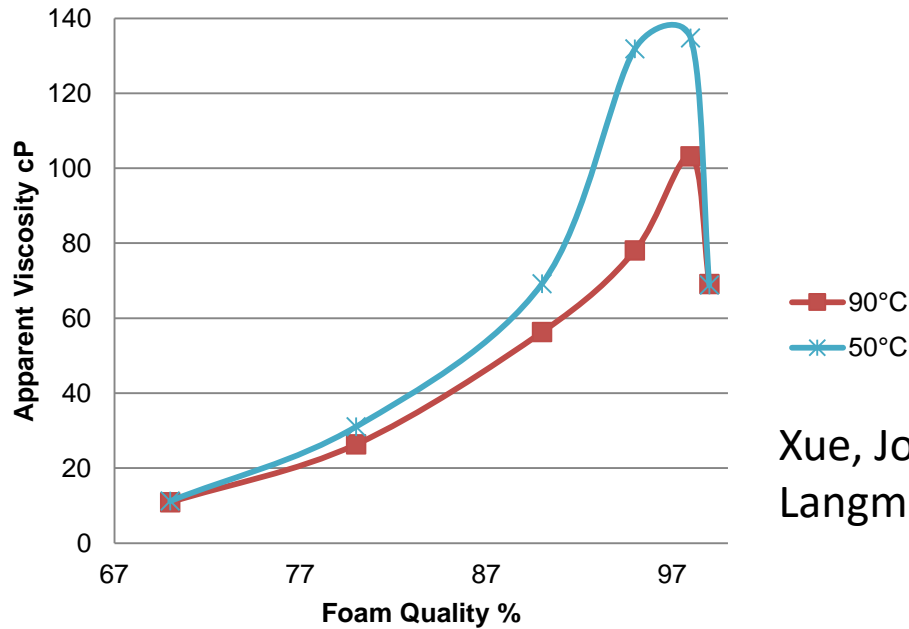
Chain Extension of Polyelectrolyte Brushes Grafted to Colloidal Silica Nanoparticles in High Salinity Brines



- Lack of aggregation even at 40 wt.% CaCl₂ (>10 M Ionic str.)
- Greater solvation than polystyrene sulfonate
- Little change in hyd. diam. to 90 C
- Iqbal and Johnston, KP (17), Bagaria and Johnston, KP (13)

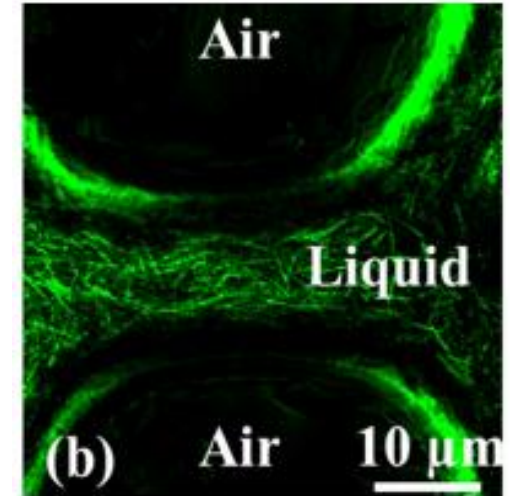


Wormlike Micelles Impart Viscoelasticity for Ultra Dry Foams



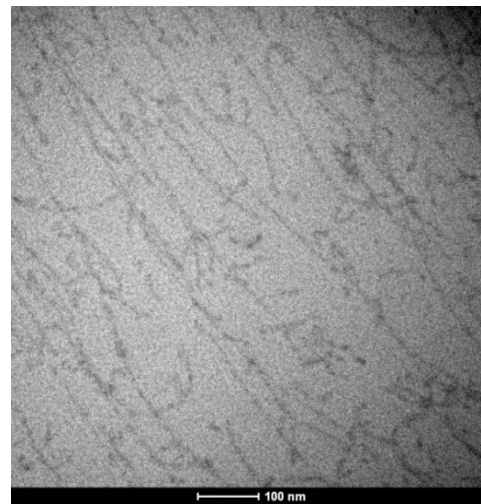
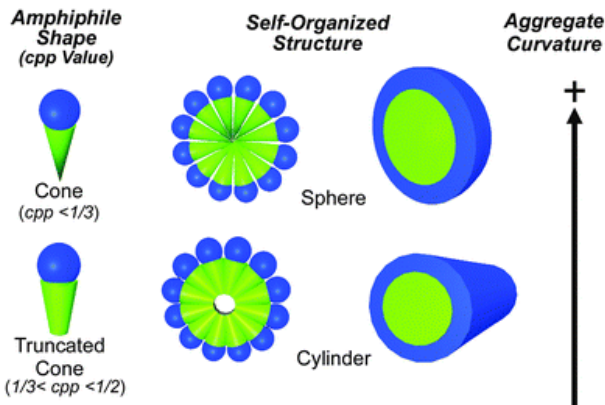
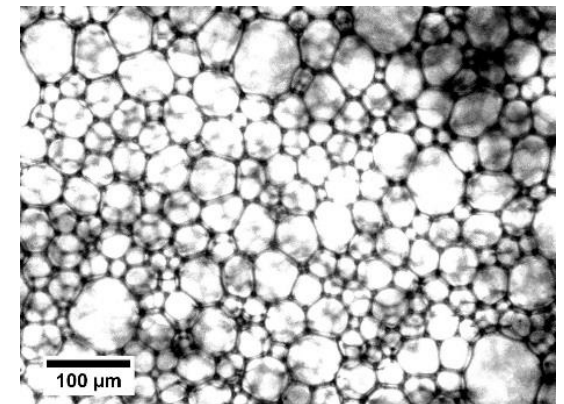
Xue, Johnston, KP, Langmuir (16)

- 208 trillion m³ of CH₄ in shale (world)
- 2~5 million gallons of water/well for disposal



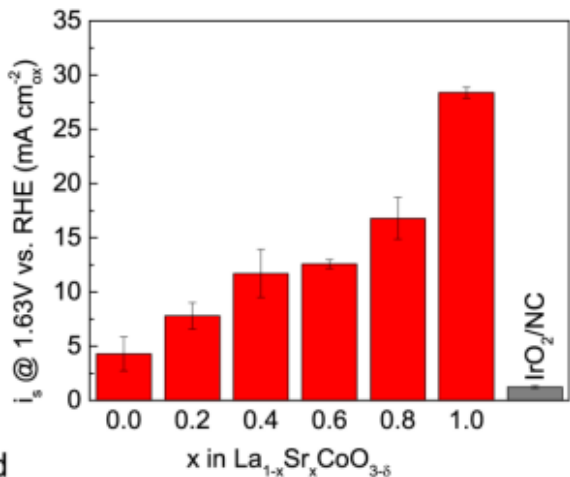
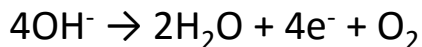
Catanionic micelles:
Jamming: slow drainage maintains thick lamellae
Fameau et al., Ang. Chem. (11)

Stable foams at only 2% water:
low drainage of viscoelastic lamellae
thicker lamellae resist Ostwald ripening and coalescence

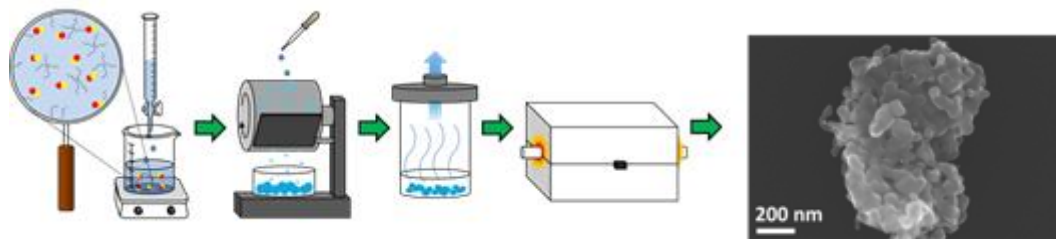


Nanostructured Perovskite Oxides for Electrocatalysis: batteries, supercapacitors, water splitting

Oxygen Evolution Reaction (OER)

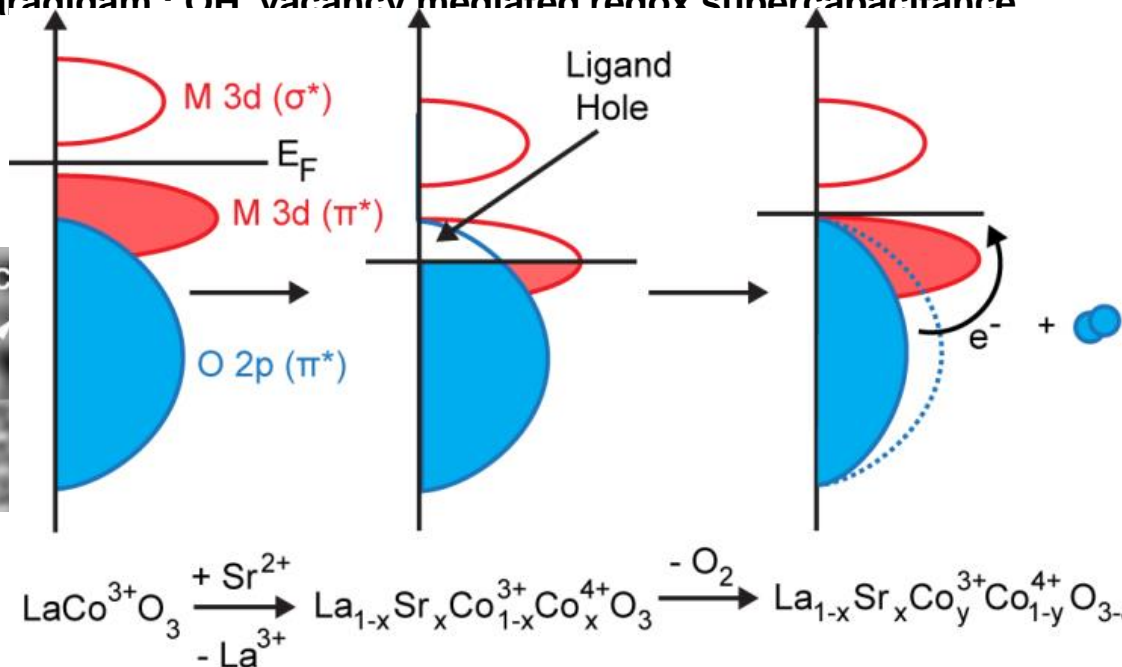
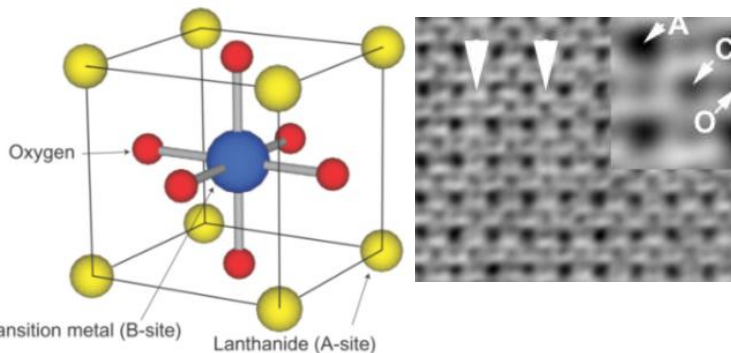


High Surface Area to raise activity



Subst. of Sr²⁺ for La³⁺ creates O vacancies: high covalency of Co-O bond
 OER rate correlated to O vacancy conc.

Novel paradigm: OH⁻ vacancy mediated redox supercapacitance



Hardin, **Johnston**, K.P. et al. ; Highly Active LaNiO₃, *J. Phys. Chem. Let.* **2013**, Mefford, Hardin, **Johnston**, K.P. et al. ; LaMnO₃ Pseudocapacitor, *Nature Mater.* **2014**

Hardin, Mefford, **Johnston**, K.P. et al. ; Perovskite Active Site Variation, *Chem. Mater.* **2014**, *Nature Comm.* **2016**

Destination of PhD Students

- Gupta Auburn
- Balbuena Texas A + M
- Meredith Ga. Tech.
- Yates U. Rochester
- Da Rocha Virginia Tech.
- Lee U. S. California
- Ziegler U. Florida
- Lu Nat. Univ. Singapore
- Elhag Petroleum Inst. (Abu Dhabi)
- Shah Pfizer
- Pham Sematech
- Chen Abbott
- Dickson Exxon-Mobil
- Smith Exxon-Mobil
- Overhoff Schering-Plough
- Engstrom Bristol-Meyers-Squibb
- Matteucci Dow
- Gupta Exxon-Mobil
- Tam Bristol-Meyers-Squibb
- Patel Lam Research
- Ma Dupont
- Miller Medimmune
- Slanac Dupont
- Murthy Roche
- Chen Dow
- Xue Ecolab
- Borwankar Bristol-Meyers-Squibb
- Worthen Exponent



Protein therapeutics

Jessica Hung

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Gold imaging nanoclusters

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Subsurface nanotechnology

Carson Da

Chola Dandamudi

Shehab Alzobaidi

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Energy storage

(electrochemistry)

Will Hardin

Caleb Alexander

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NSF Inspire Program
DOE CFSES, DOE NETL
Advanced Energy
Consortium, AbbVie,
Pfizer, Merck

Welch Foundation
Abu Dhabi Nat. Oil. Co.
GOMRI, NSF CBET,
NIH

Growth of 16 nm Magnetic Nanoparticles with High Crystallinity to Yield Magnetic Susceptibility of 4!

Precise control over particle nucleation/growth to control particle size and crystallinity

$\text{Fe}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_2$ dissociates rapidly at 210 C: high supersat.

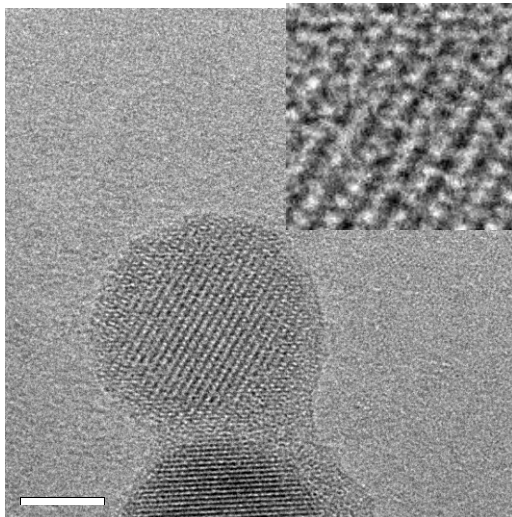
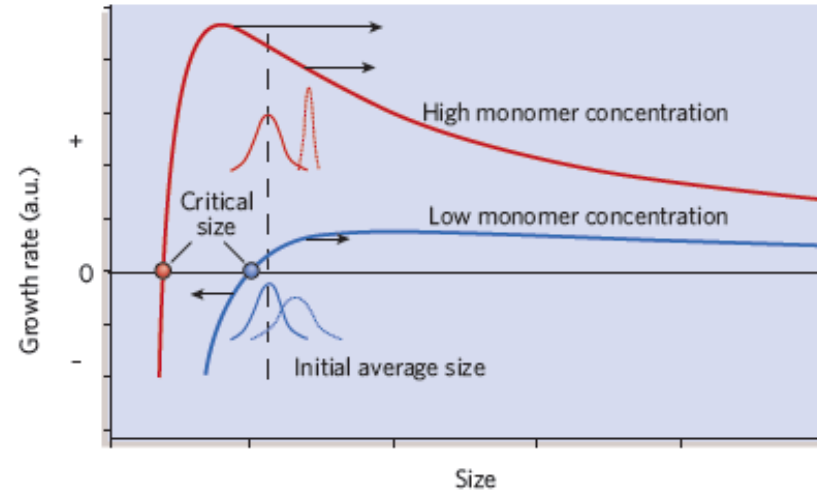
for focused size distribution

crit. size is small for high monomer conc.

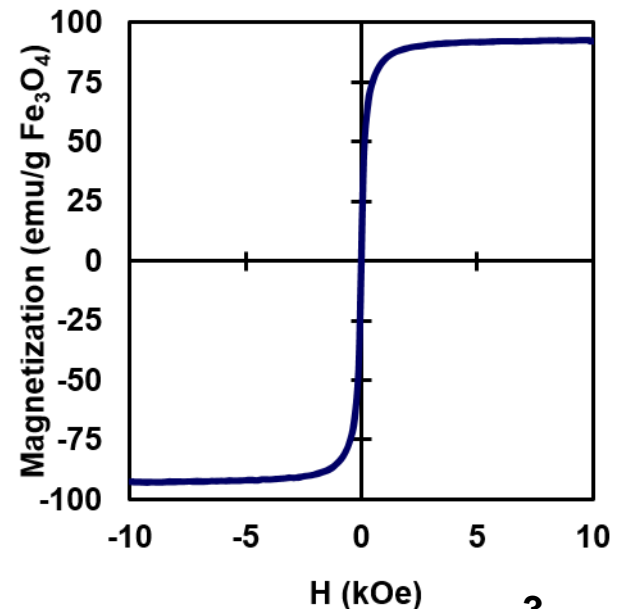
small particles grow faster than large ones

arrest growth in focusing region

Applications: imaging- subsurface and biomedical, magnetic separations, sensors



$$\chi_i = \frac{M}{H} = \frac{\epsilon\mu_0\pi M_d^2 D_p^3}{18k_B T}$$



Characterization: XRD (cryst. Structure), TEM: part. size, Mossbauer spectroscopy (Fe valence)