

Nanoparticle Technology

focus on gas phase processing

J. Ruud van Ommen

Product & Process Engineering (cheme.nl/ppe)

Dept. of Chemical Engineering

Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands

j.r.vanommen@tudelft.nl

JMBC course Particle Technology 2015

With input from: A. Schmidt-Ott, N. de Jaeger, and several others



Delft University of Technology

Basic properties of nanoparticles

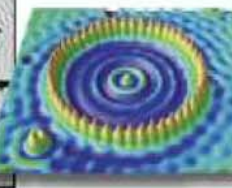
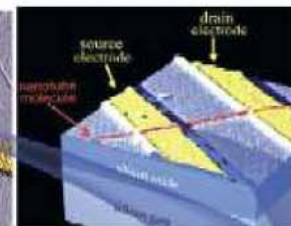
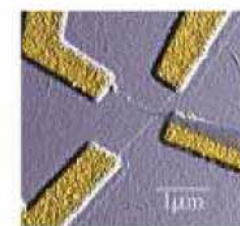
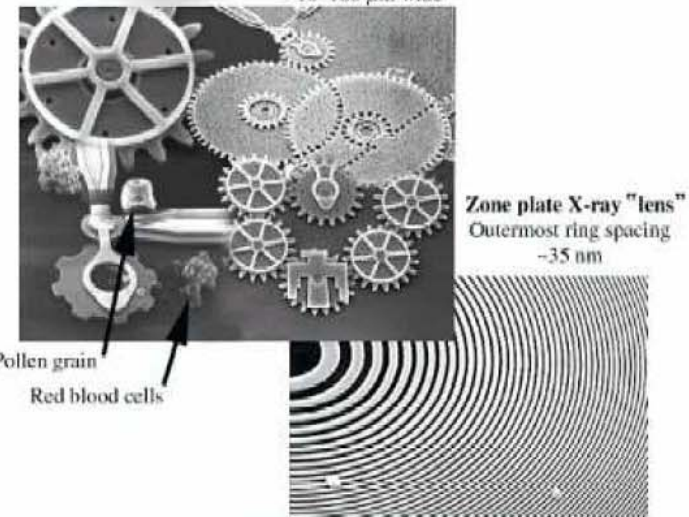
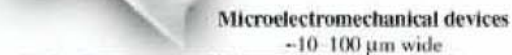
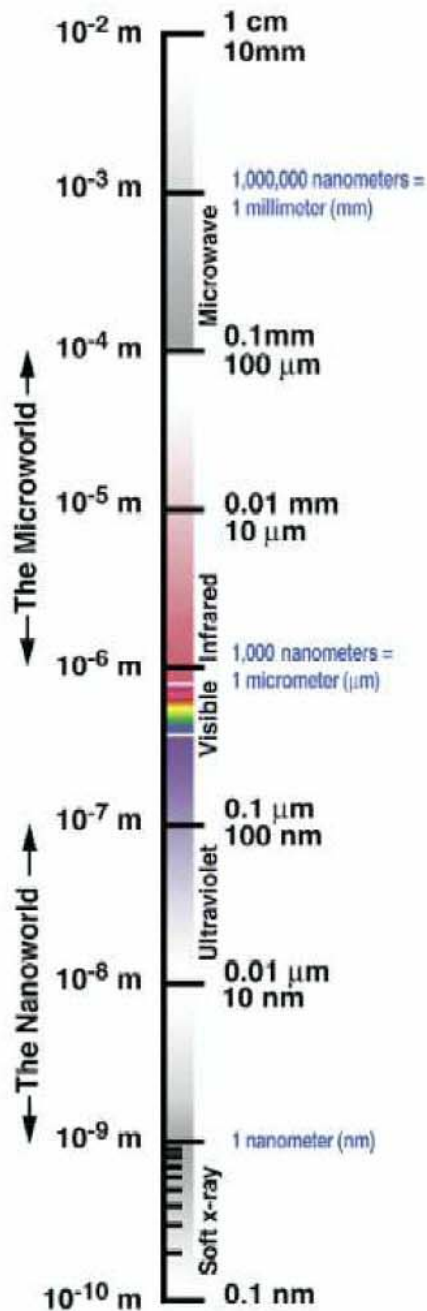
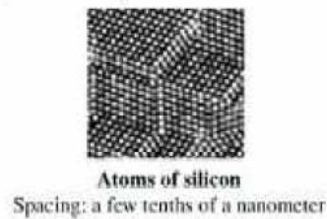
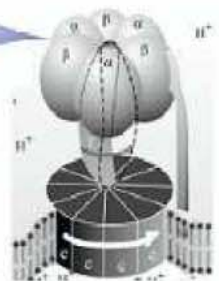
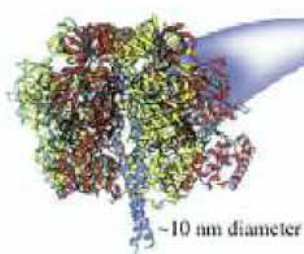
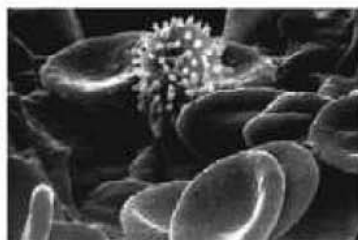
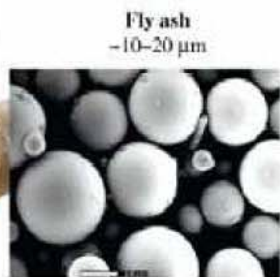
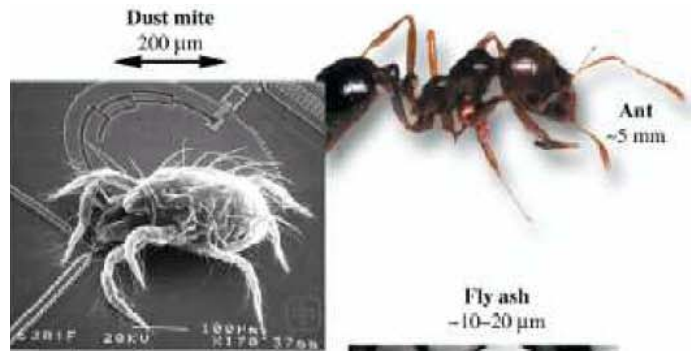
Gas phase production of nanoparticles

Forces on single particles

Particle-particle forces

Particle coating

Applications



Quantum corral of 48 iron atoms on copper surface
positioned one at a time with an STM tip
Corral diameter 14 nm

Present and future applications of nanoparticles

Medical diagnostics

Drugs targeted to specific cells

DNA analysis

Information storage

Refrigeration

Optical computers

Improved ceramics and insulators

Harder metals

Batteries

Hydrogen storage

Solar cells

Fuel cells

Catalysts

Chemical sensors

Paints

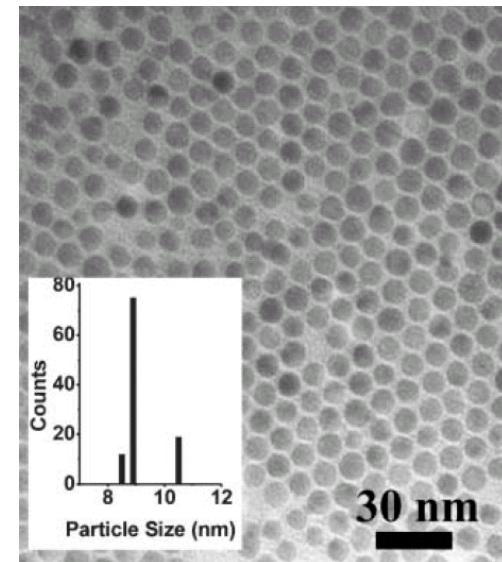
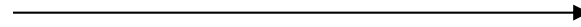
Sunscreen creams

What determines the
properties of solid matter?

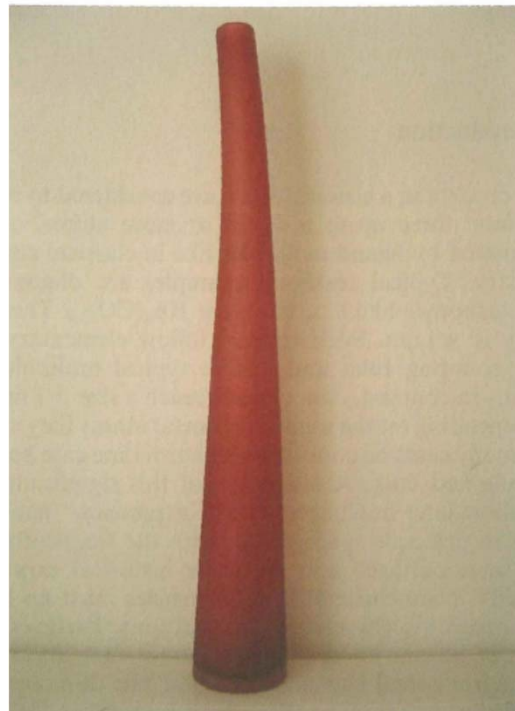
Size also determines properties!

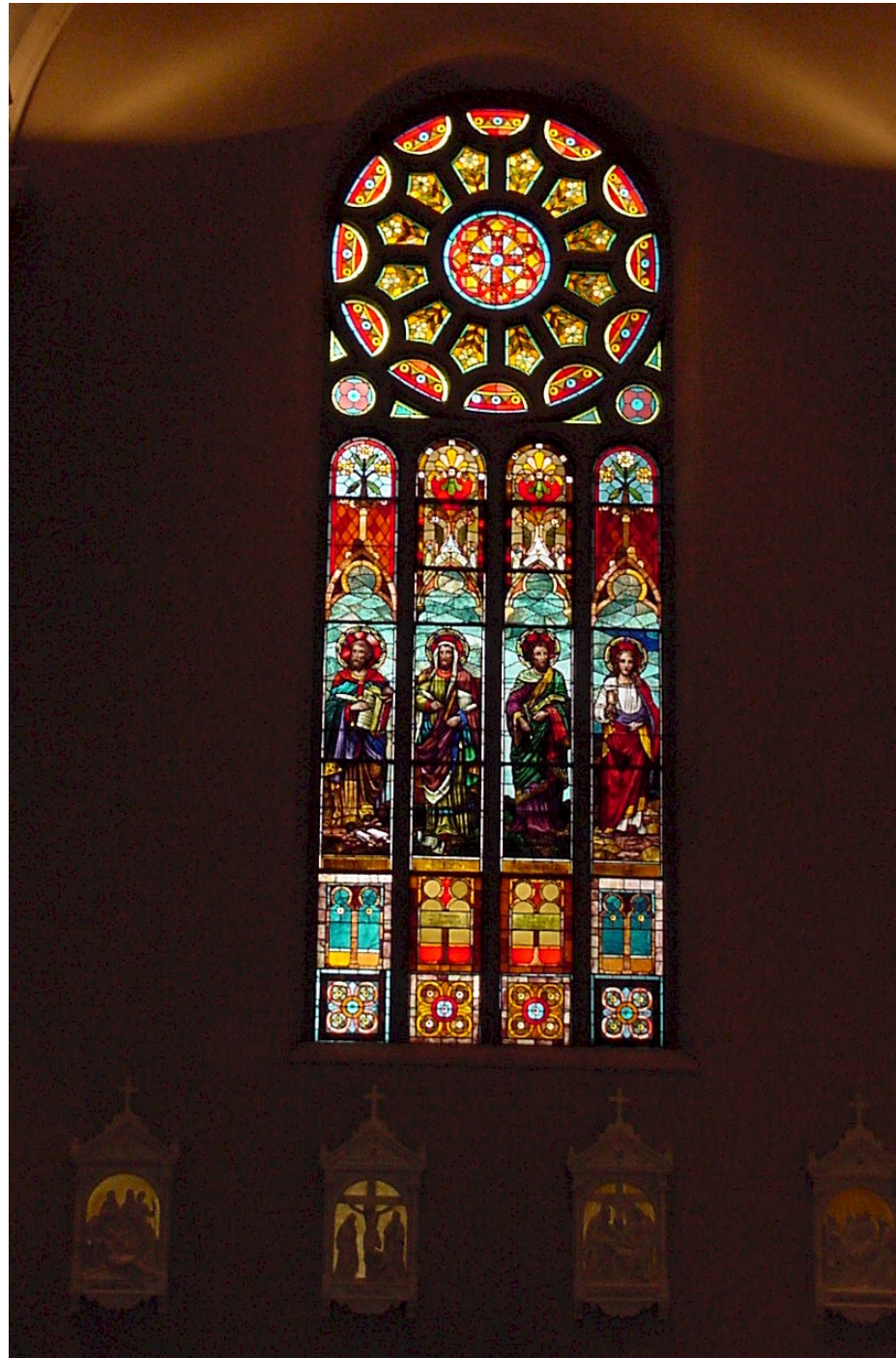


Convert to small particles



The color of gold depends on size!

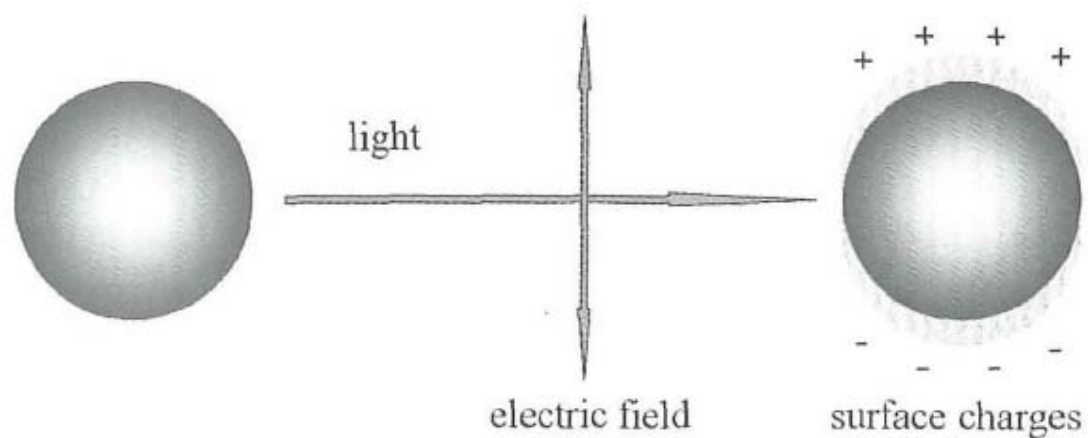




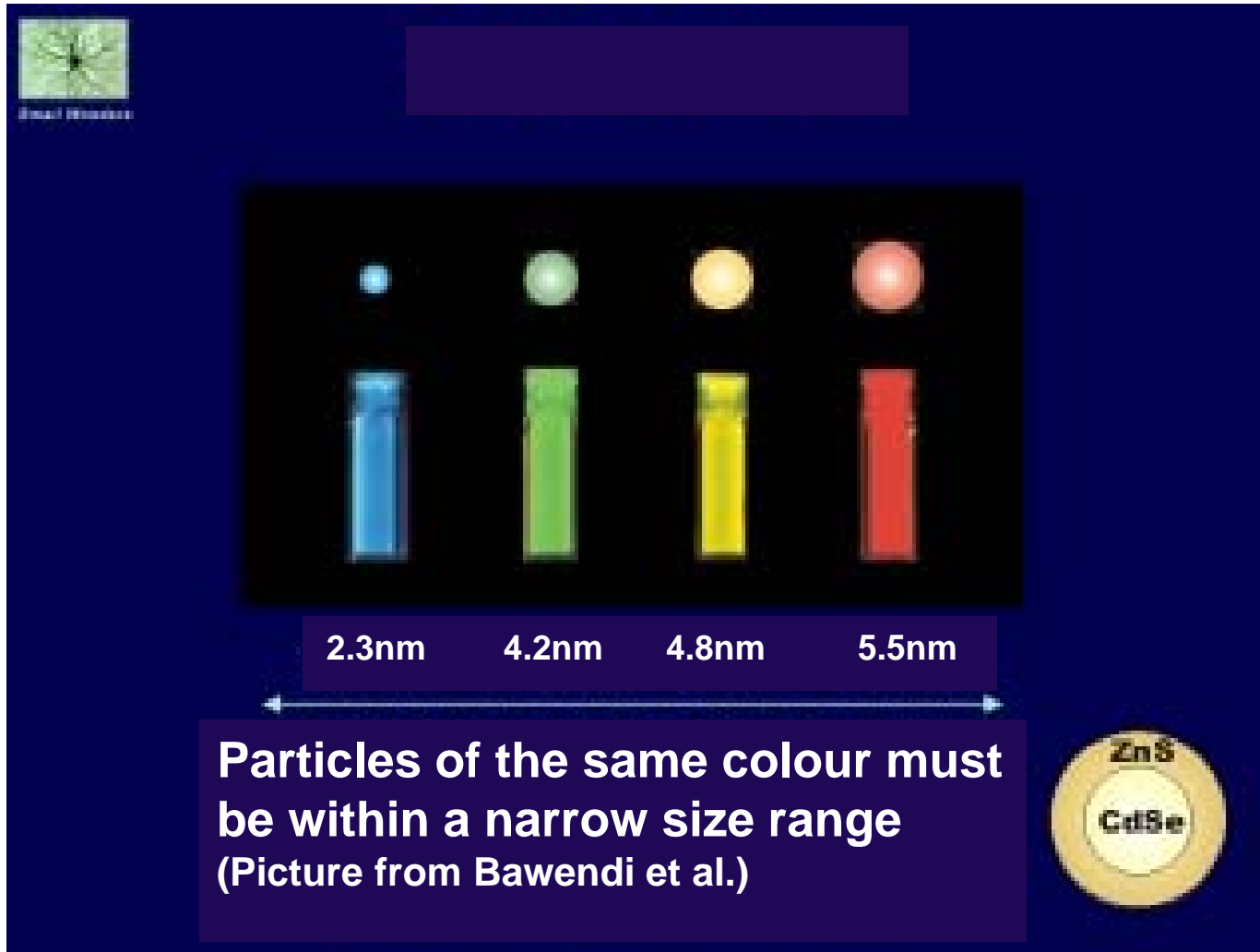
Reason for size dependence of light absorption in metal nanoparticles:

Surface plasmon resonance

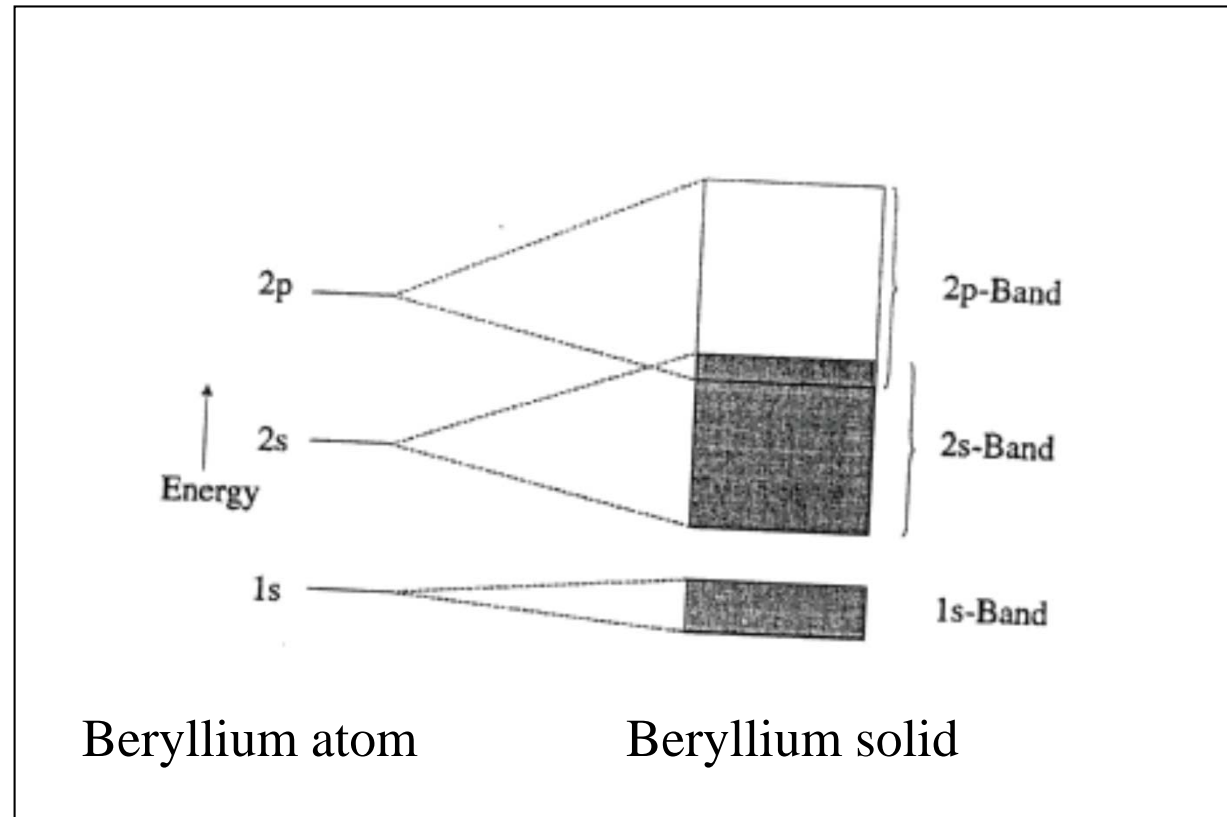
Frequency of photons matches the natural frequency of oscillating surface electrons



Quantum dots

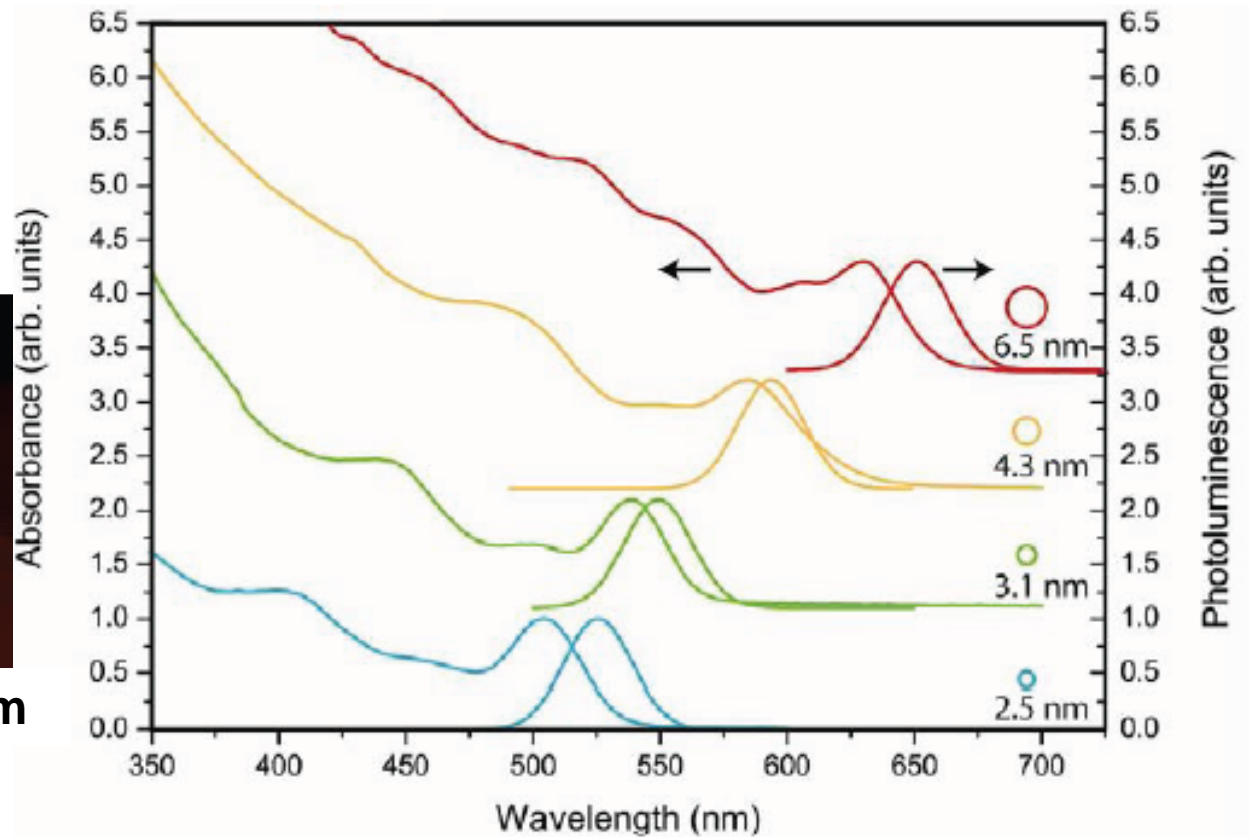
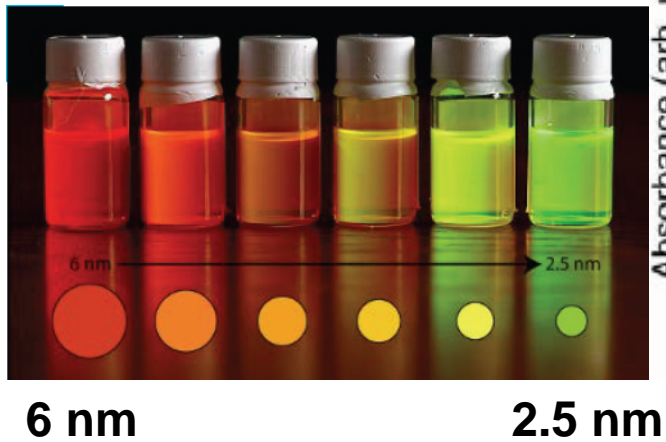


Semiconductors: the band gap mainly determines optical properties, and is particle size dependent:



→ Very small metal particles are semiconductors!

Quantum dots



3 reasons to “go nano”:

Curiosity!

Structuring in the nano regime leads to more possible properties of matter, and these are continuously tunable!

The smaller the faster!

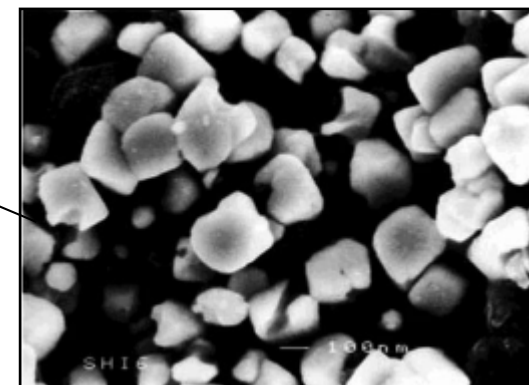
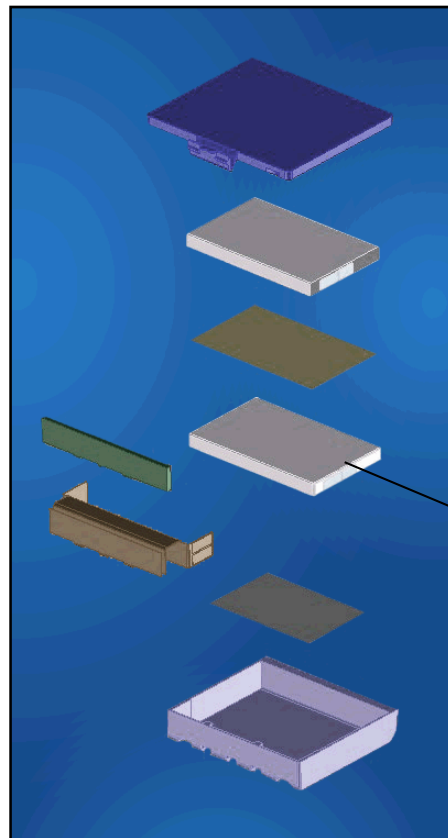
As the particle size becomes smaller: Diffusion becomes faster!

Mean square diffusion length over time $\overline{tx^2} = 4Dt$

Diffusion length particle radius \rightarrow $t \propto R^2$

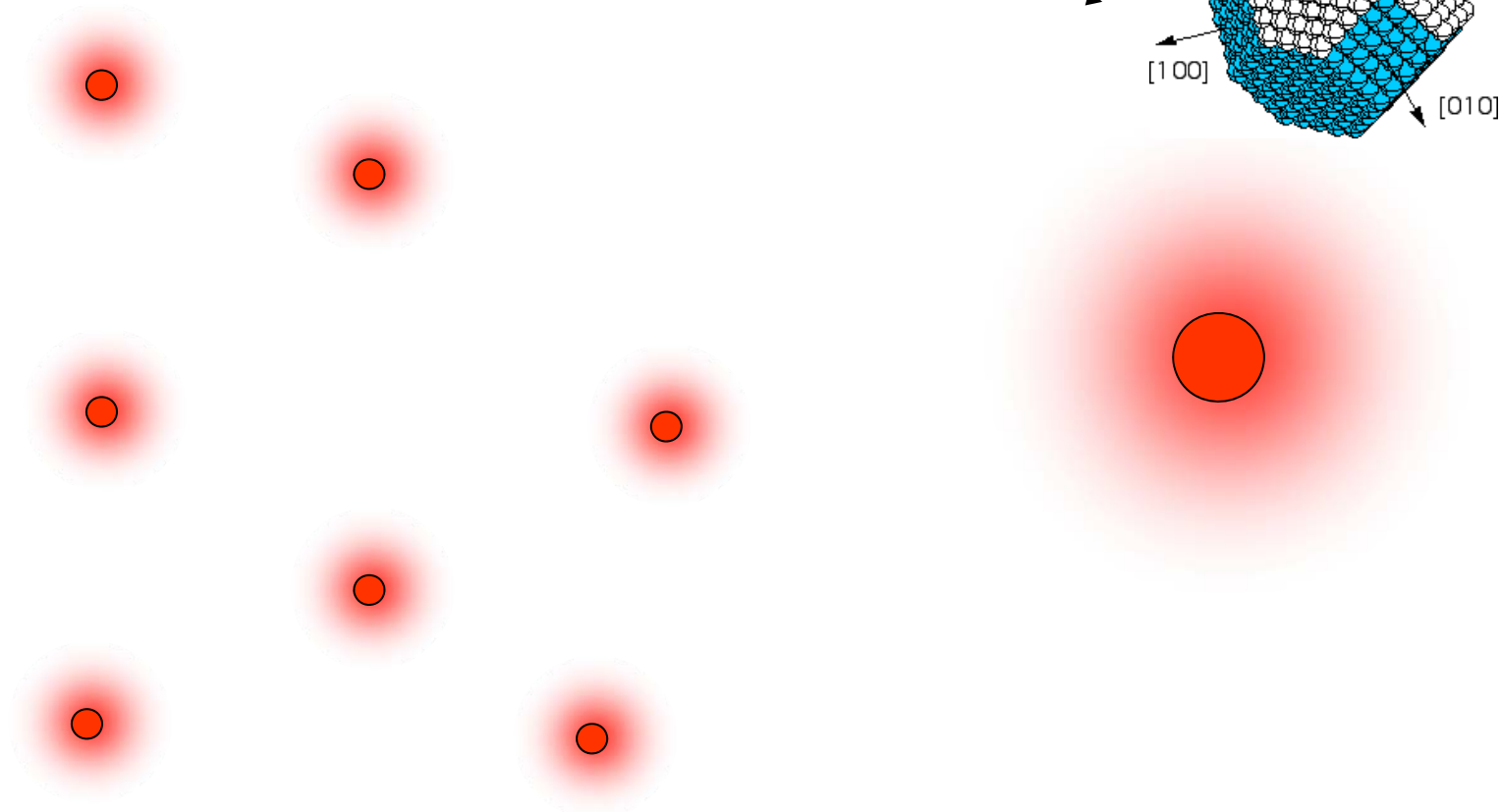
$$\frac{t(10nm)}{t(10\mu m)} = 10^6$$

Nanoparticulate Electrode of Lithium-Ion Battery: Charging in 1 Minute!

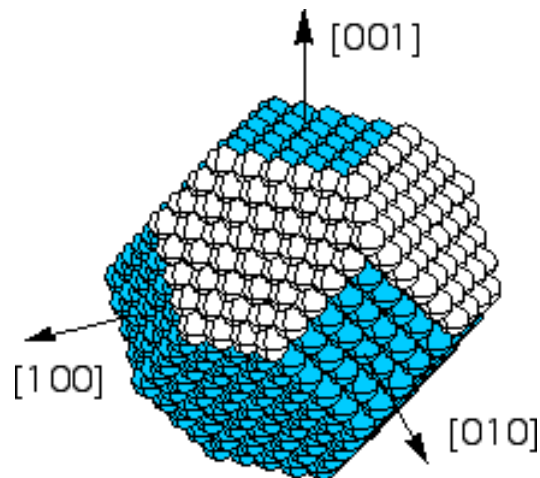
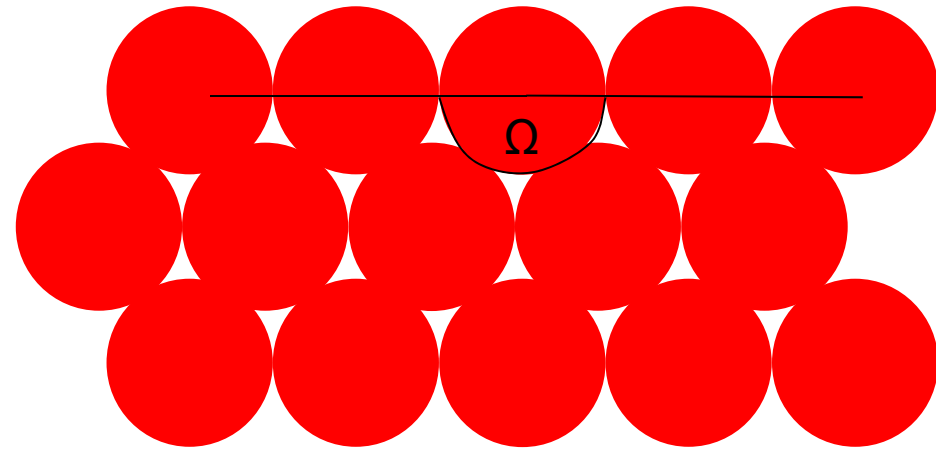
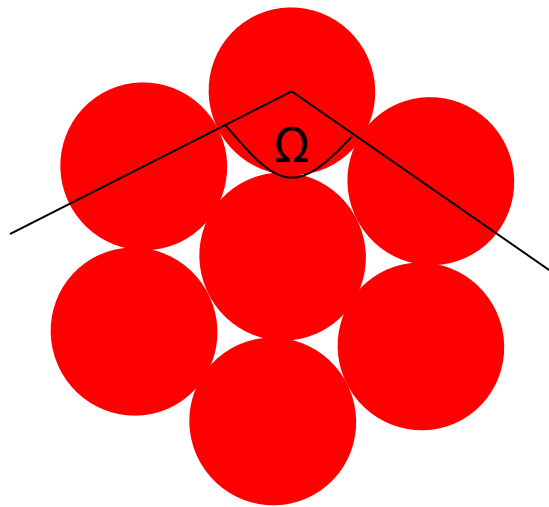


Many small particles dissolve faster than few large ones with same volume

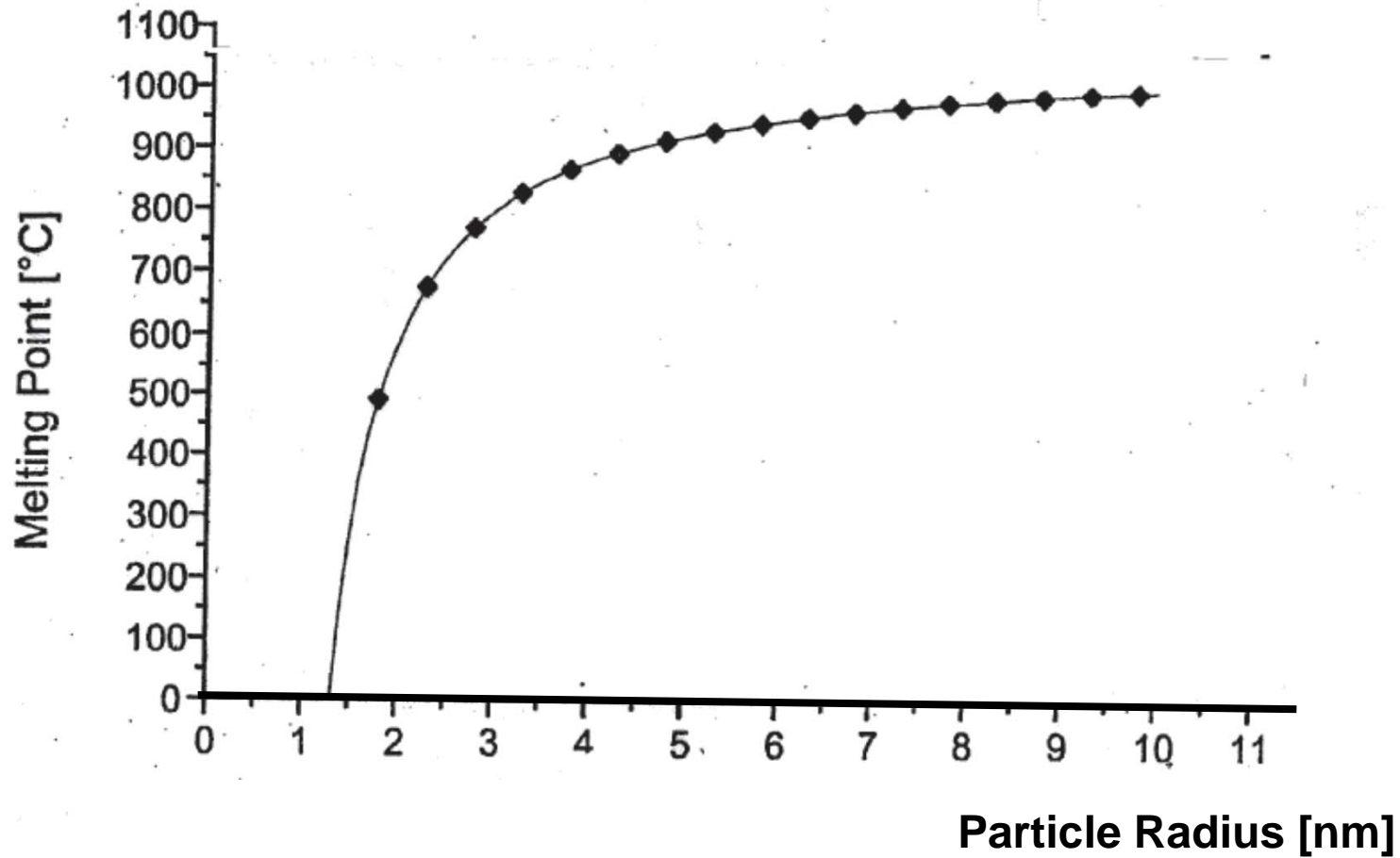
- a) because of larger overall surface area
- b) because of surface curvature effect

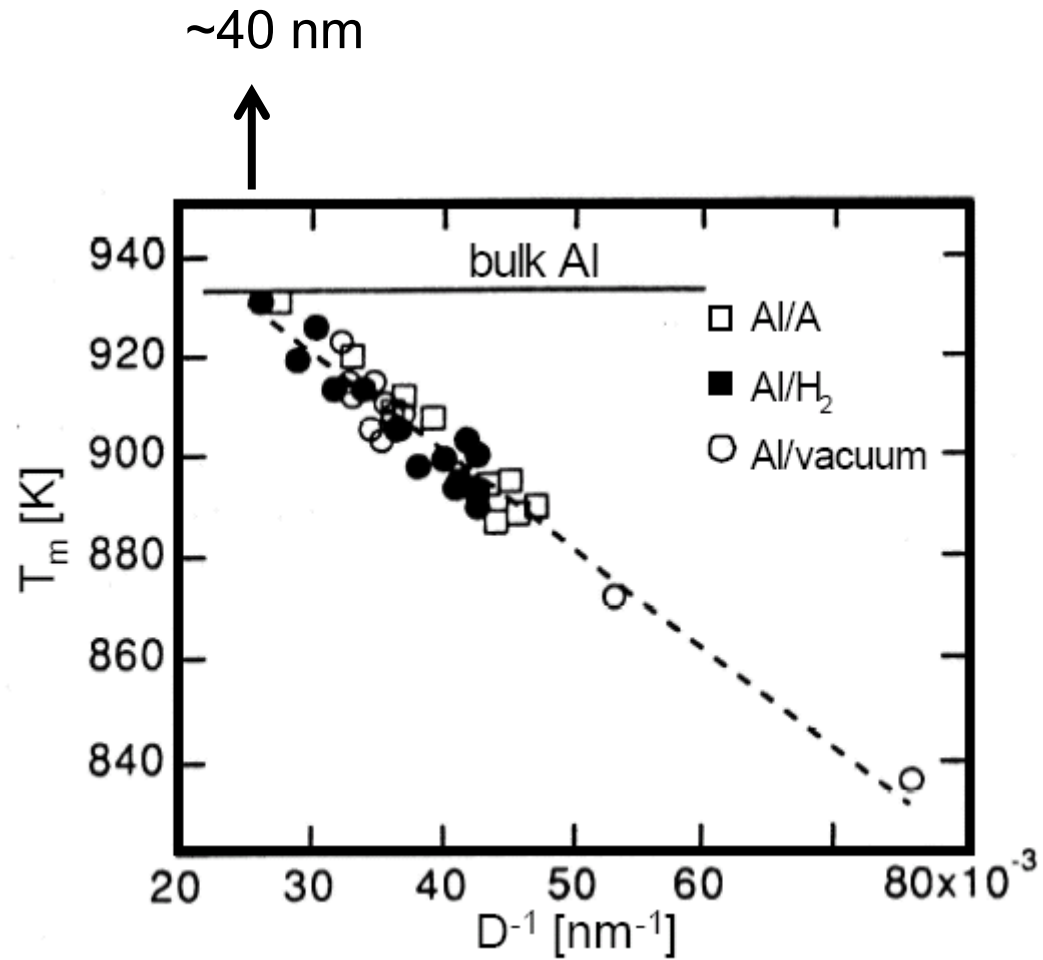


Particle smaller \rightarrow coordination number smaller \rightarrow binding energy smaller \rightarrow
vapor pressure larger
melting point smaller



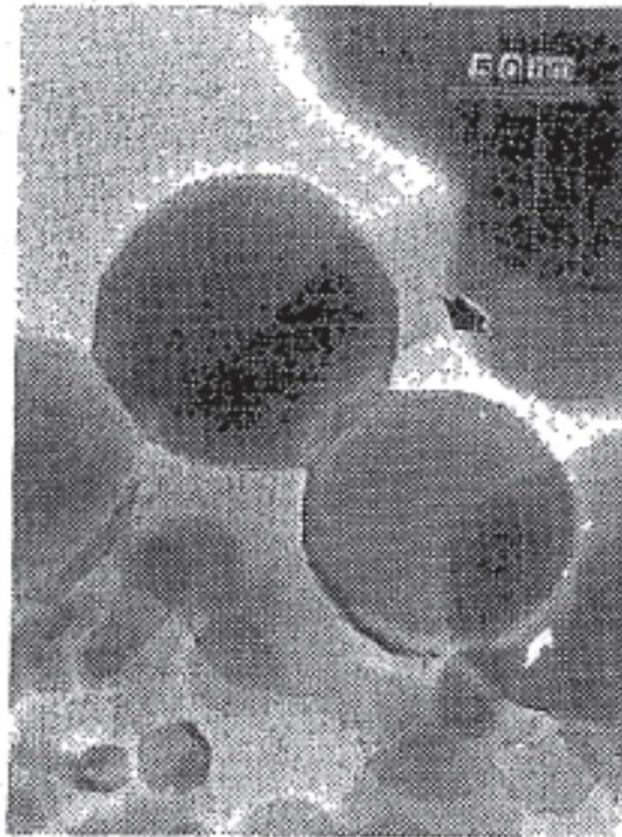
The relation between the melting point of Au particles and their size (Buffat et al.)





R. Eckert, Caltech, 1993

Melting point of Al vs. particle size



Two alumina nano particles heated at 1350 °C for 2 h coalesced partially to form a neck (Fusing point of $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 > 2000 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$)

Basic properties of nanoparticles

Gas phase production of nanoparticles

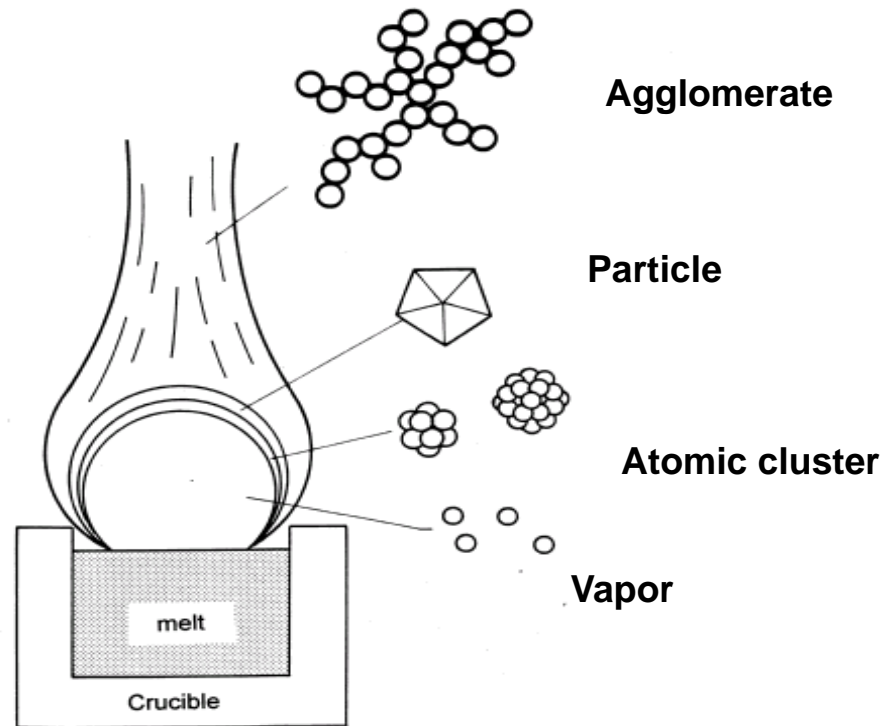
Forces on single particles

Particle-particle forces

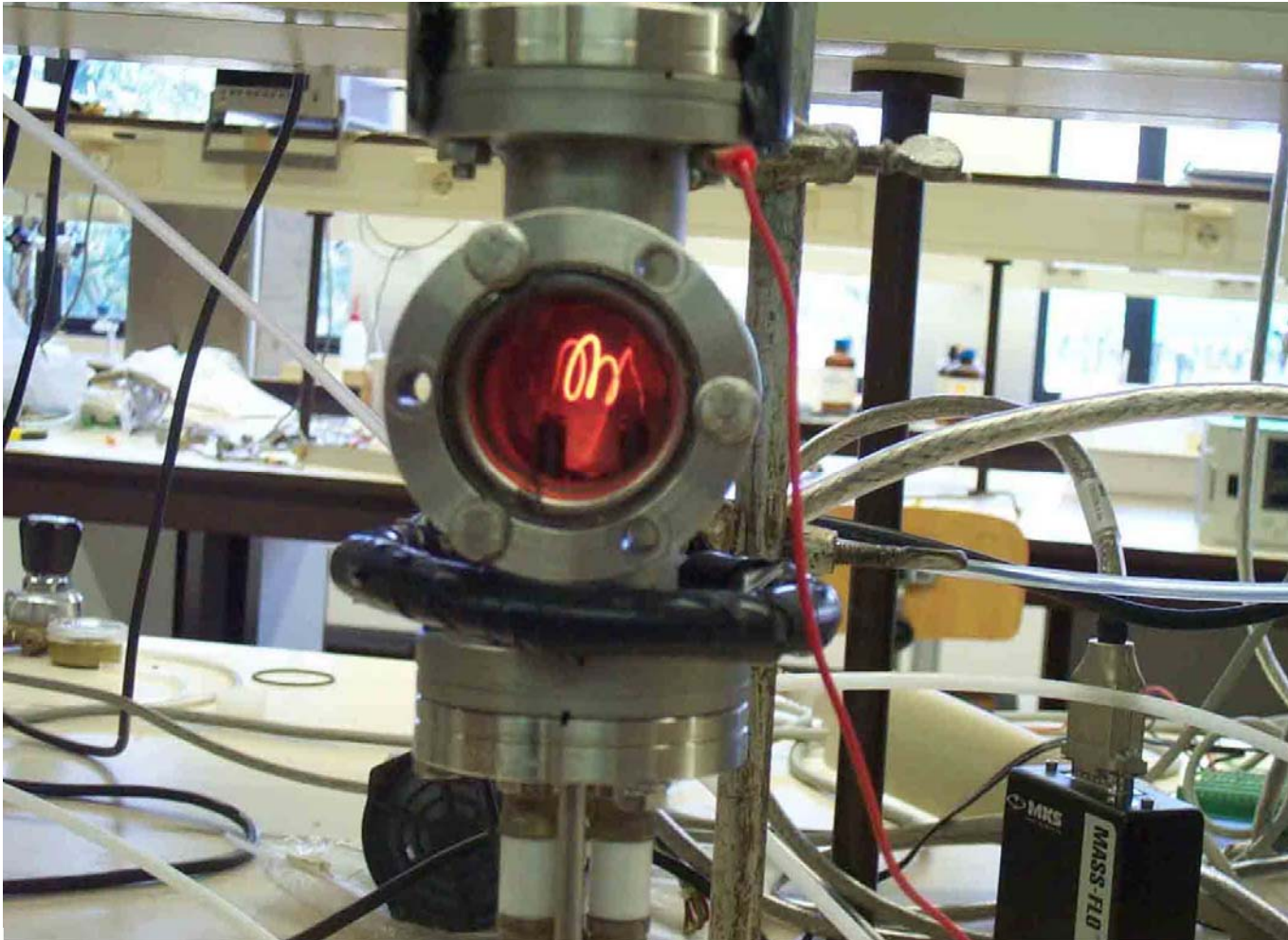
Particle coating

Applications

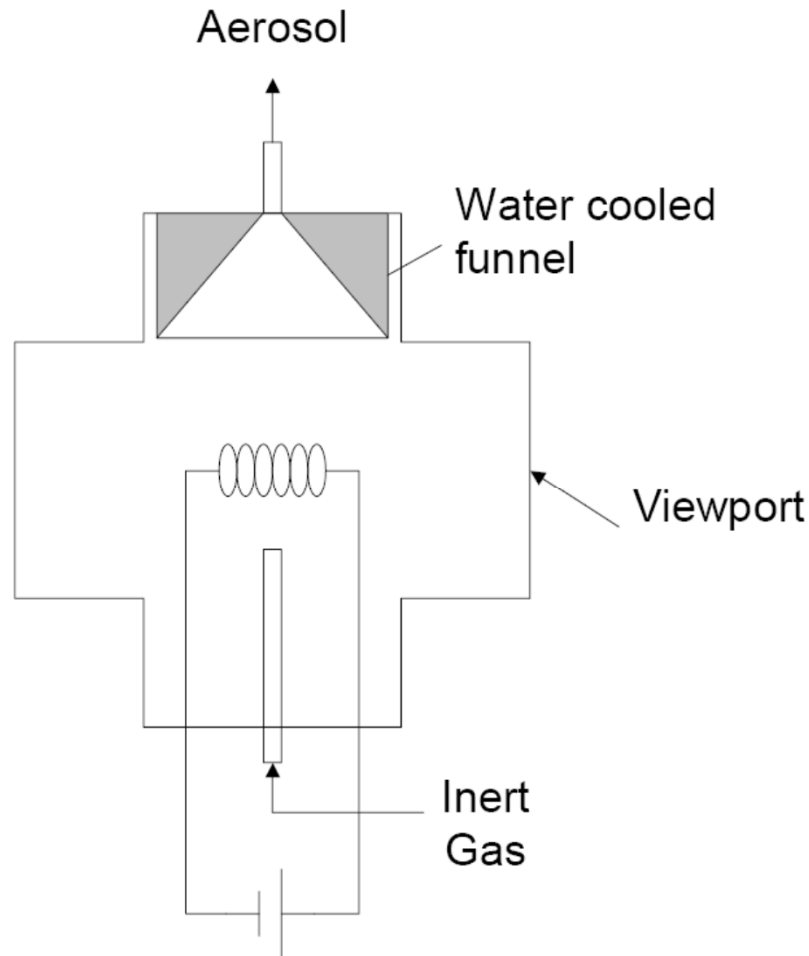
Particle Production by Homogeneous Nucleation of Vapor



Glowing Wire Generator

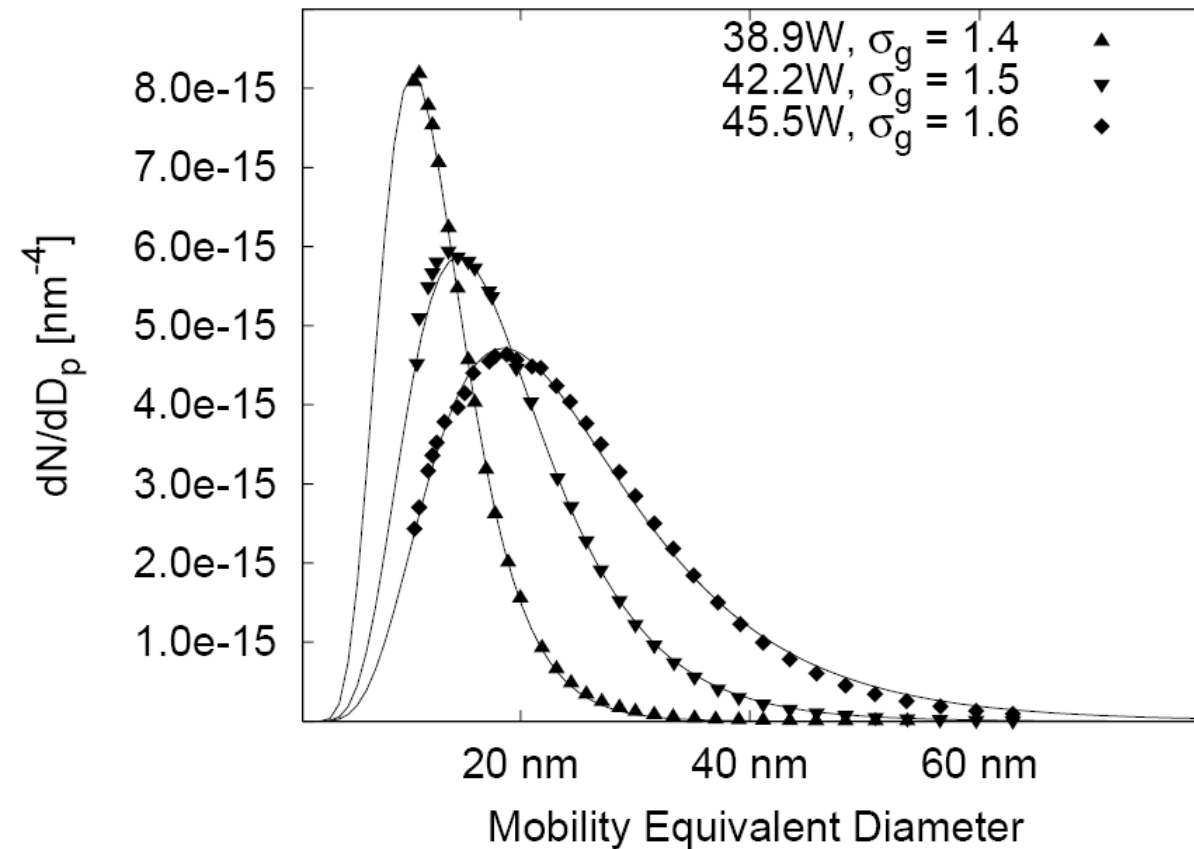


Hot Wire Particle Generator

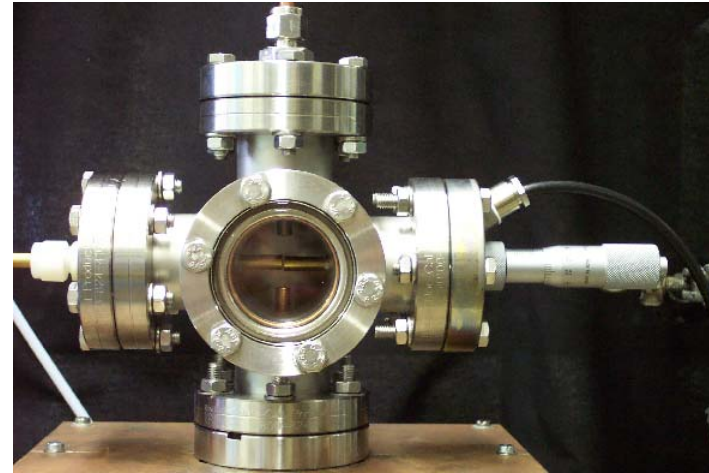
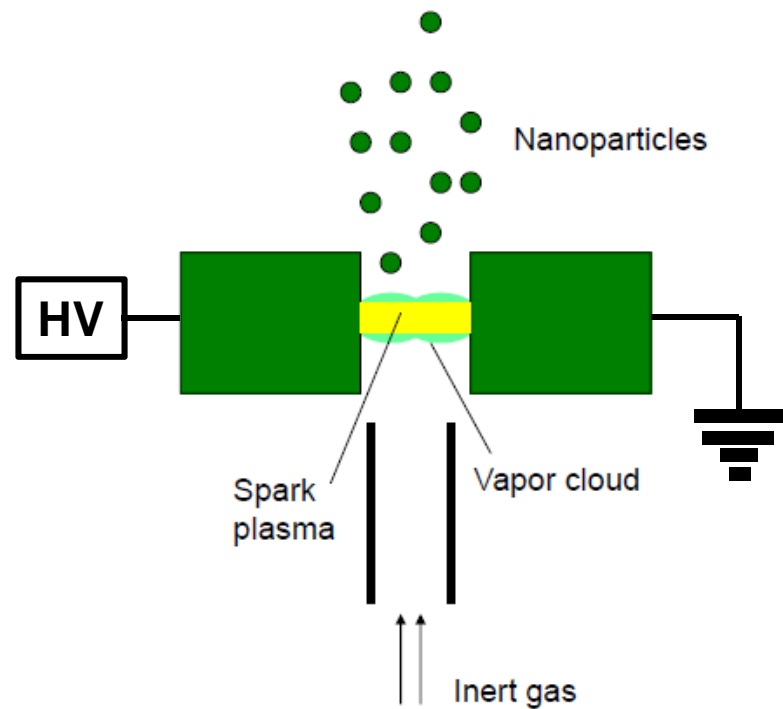


Material is evaporated from a resistively heated wire and subsequently quenched by a gas stream.

Size Distributions on Ag Nanoparticles from a Hot Wire: Variation of the Wire Temperature

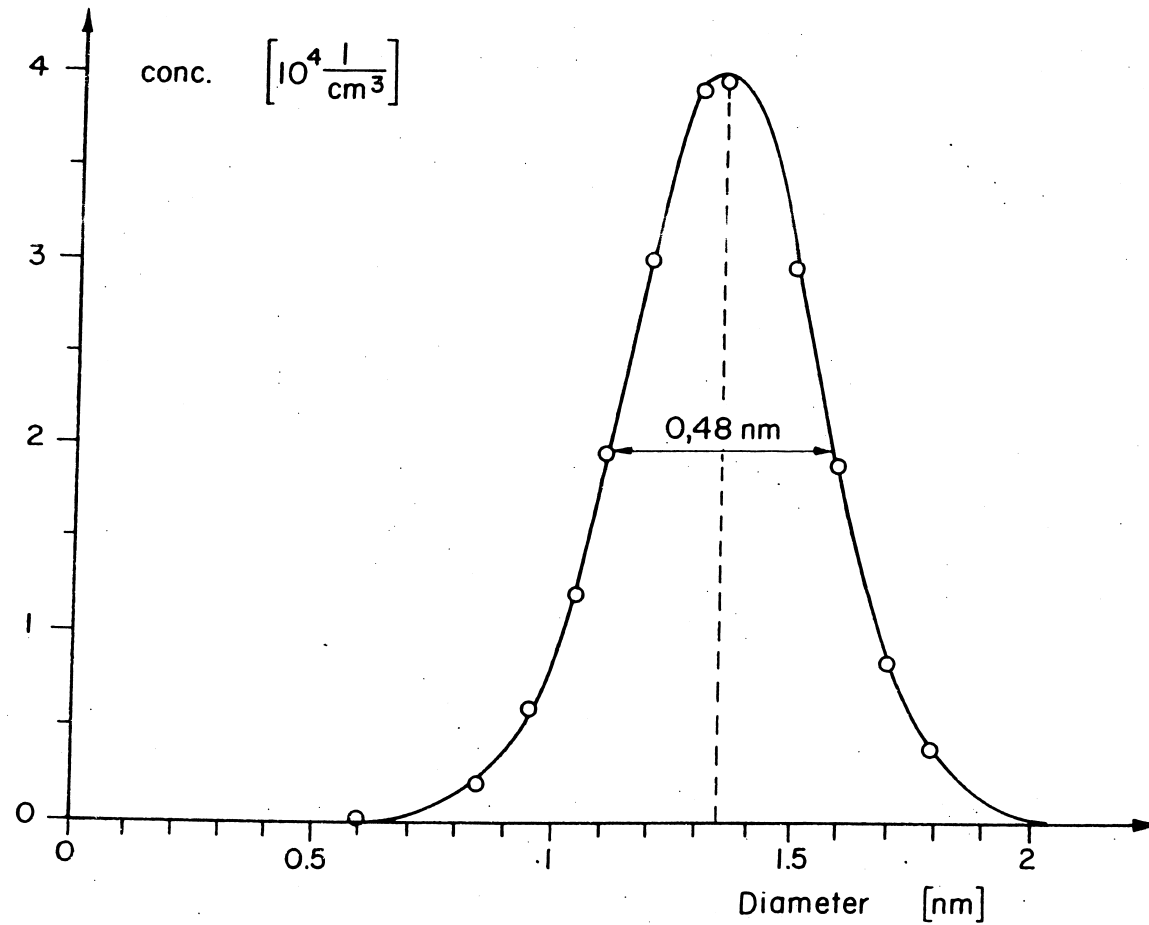


Particle Generation by Spark Discharge



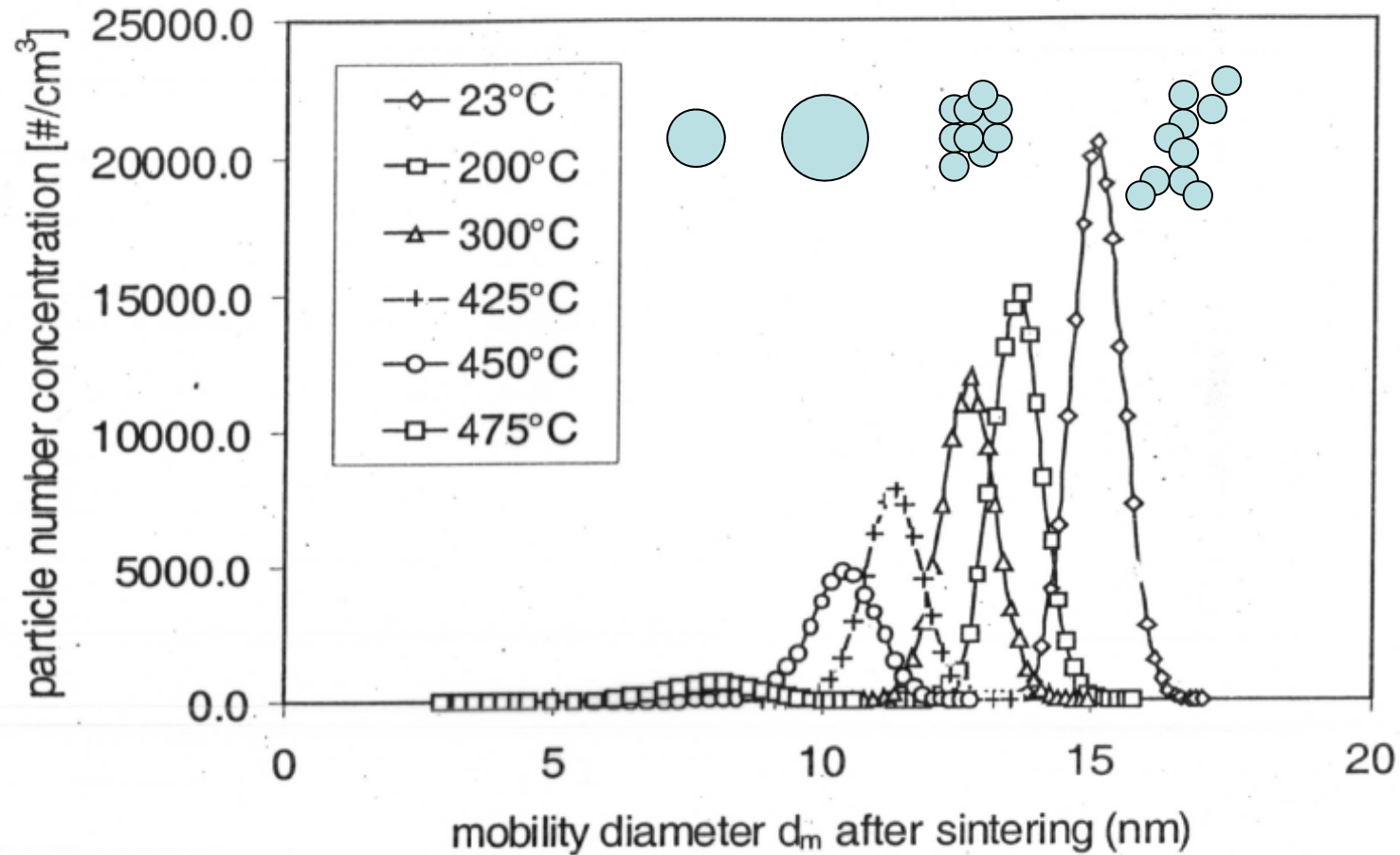
- Produces high-purity particles similar to laser ablation
- Works for any conducting and semiconducting material
- Production of mixed particles possible!
- A high fraction of the particles are charged

Size distribution of gold particles produced by spark discharge



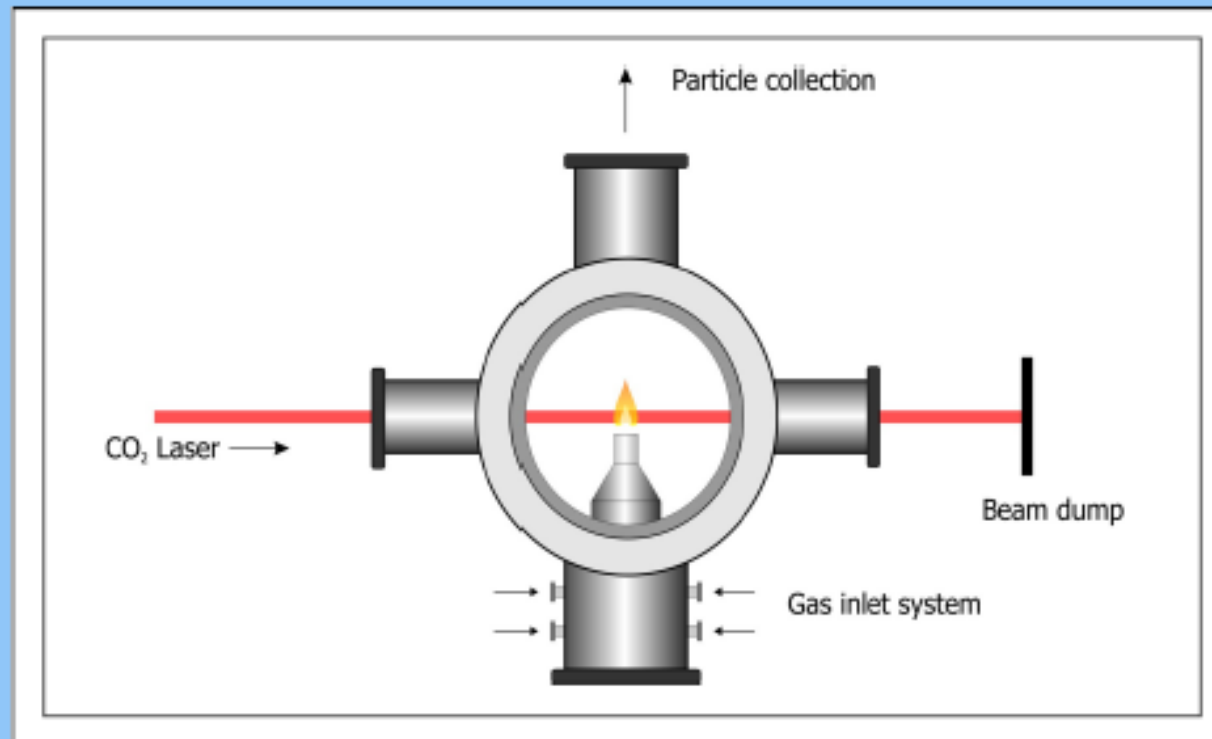
Producing monocrystalline particles by heating in gas suspension

(E. Kruis et al.)



E. Kruis et al., Size distribution of size-selected PbS nanoparticles ($d_m = 15$ nm) as a function of sintering temperature.

Laser pyrolysis of a volatile precursor



Precursors: e.g. SiH₄ , Ferrocene, ...

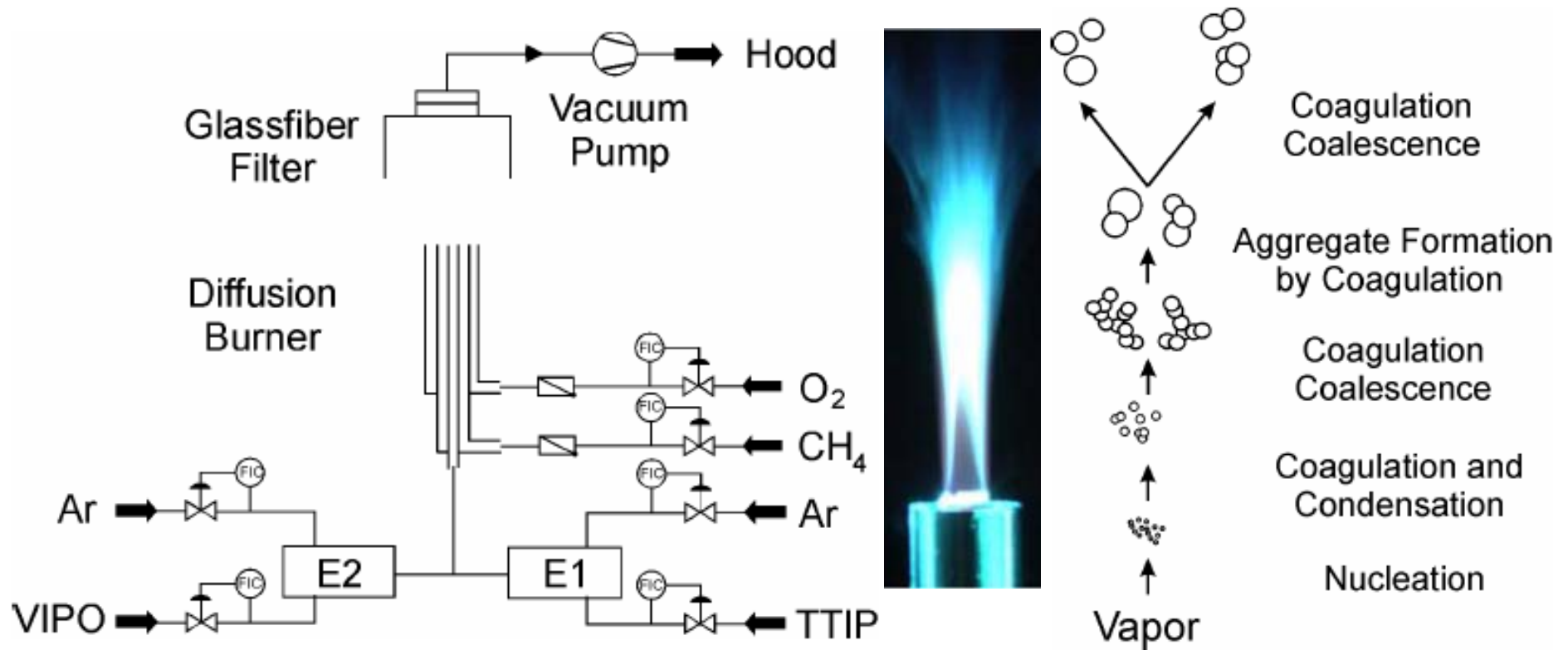
Advantage: Large particle production rate (kilograms/day) possible

Disadvantage: For each particle material a (mixture of) precursor(s) has to be found.

Flame synthesis

Good scale-up potential compared to earlier techniques

Vanadia / Titania nanoparticles



Basic properties of nanoparticles

Gas phase production of nanoparticles

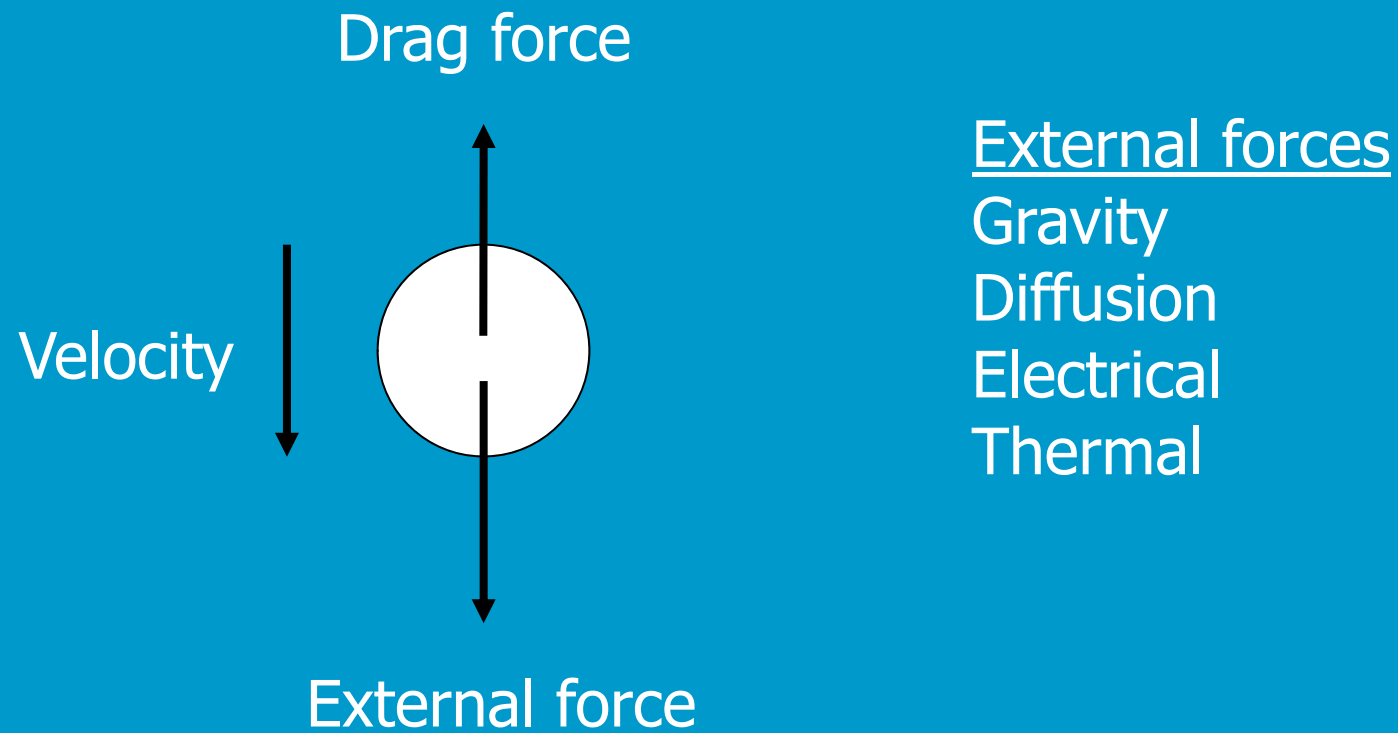
Forces on single particles

Particle-particle forces

Particle coating

Applications

Particle forces



Aerosol

A suspension of *liquid* or *solid* particles in a gaseous medium with some degree of stability.

Anthropogenic

Tobacco smoke

Fly ashes

Soot

Medicine

Pesticides

Natural

Clouds, fog

Mineral particles

Resuspended soil

Salt particles from the sea

Viruses and bacteria

Particle size ranges

Typical aerosol particle sizes are in the range of:

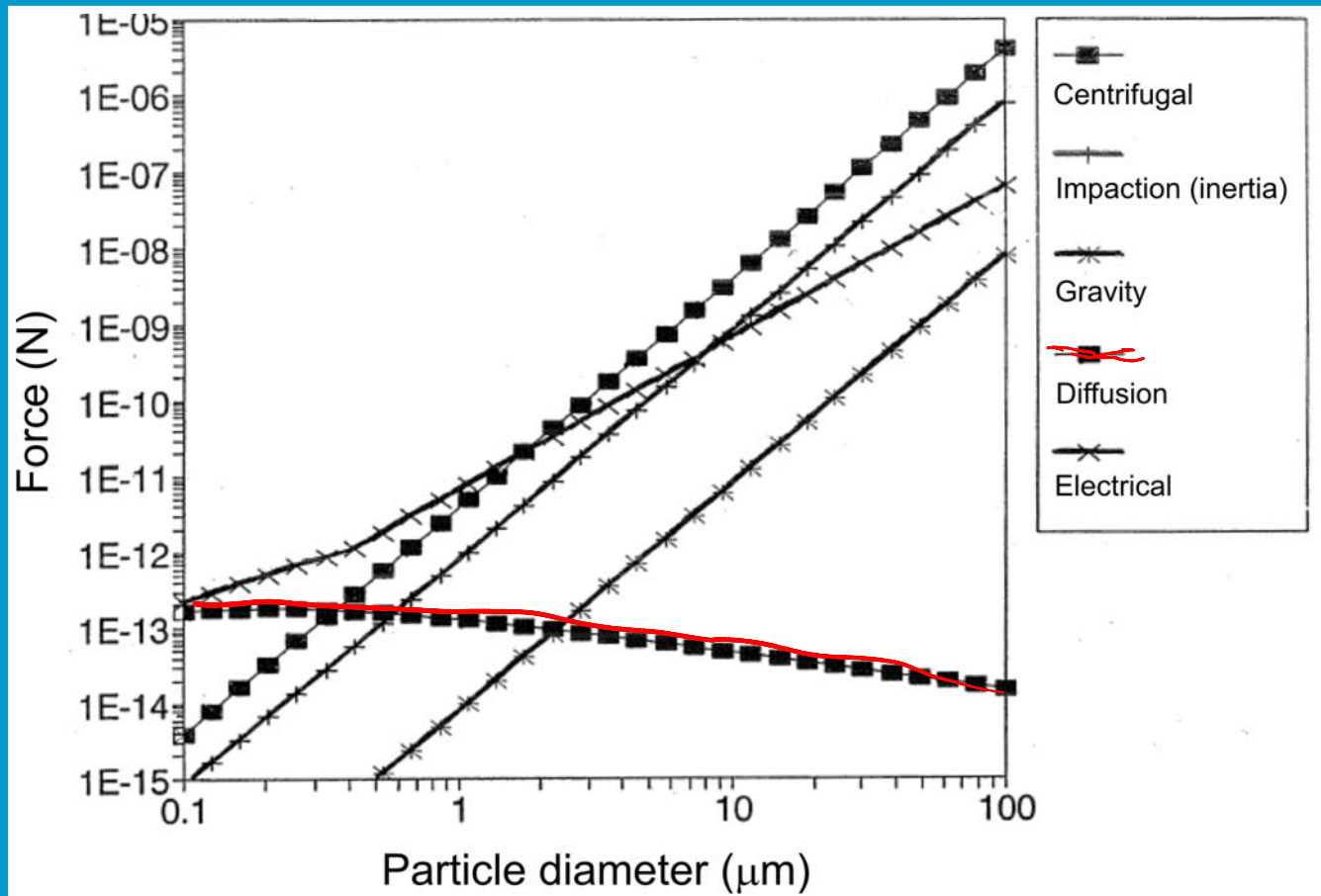
$$1 \text{ nm} < d_p < 100 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$$

$$10^{-9} \text{ m} < d_p < 10^{-4} \text{ m}$$

Size range: 5 orders of magnitude!

Most aerosol sizing instruments effectively measure a size range no larger than 1.5 – 2 orders of magnitude

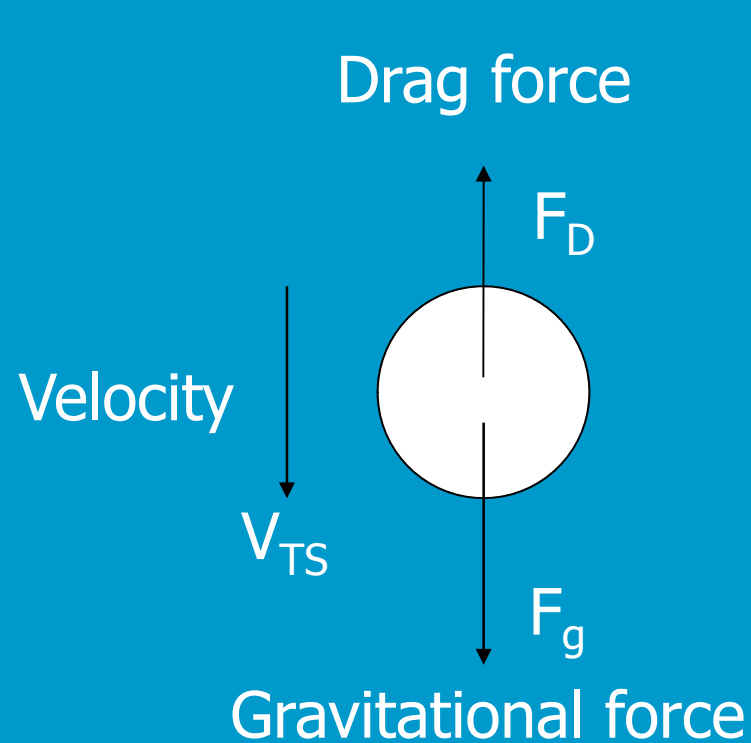
Equivalent Forces



Measurement principles

Mechanism	Measurement apparatus (example)	Est. size range
Gravitation	Elutriator	5 - 100 μ m
Inertia	Inertial impactors, cascade impactors	0.2 – 50 μ m
Diffusion	Diffusion batteries	0.001 – 0.3 μ m
Electrical force	Electrostatic precipitator, Differential Mobility Analyzer	0.001 – 1 μ m
Light extinction	Optical counters	0.01 – 100 μ m
Condensation + Light extinction	Condensation Nucleus Counter	0.002 - 100 μ m

Gravity

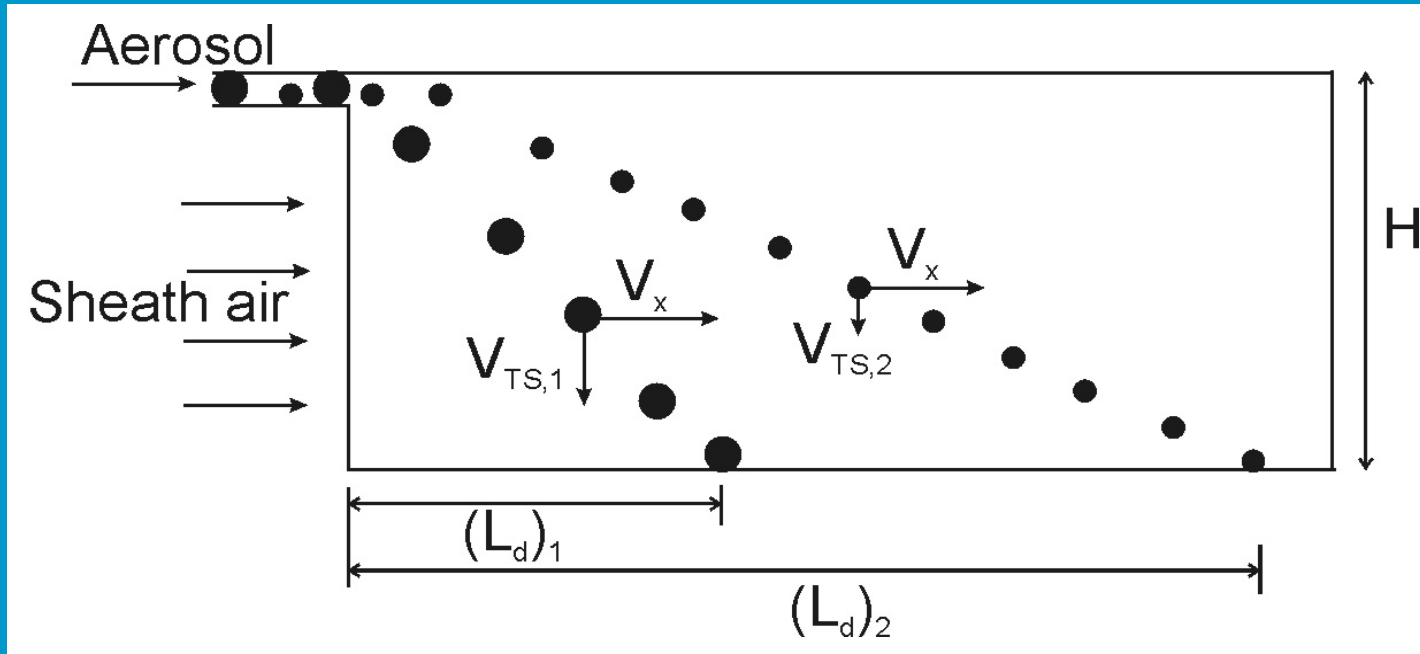


$$V_{TS} = \frac{\rho_0 d_a^2 g C_c}{18\eta}$$

d_a (μm)	V_{TS} (mm/s)	C_c
0.01	$7 \cdot 10^{-5}$	23.0
0.1	$9 \cdot 10^{-4}$	2.93
1	$4 \cdot 10^{-2}$	1.16
10	$3 \cdot 10^0$	1.02
100	$3 \cdot 10^2$	1.00

Underprediction of terminal settling velocity for small particles; Cunningham slip correction factor C_c corrects this.

Horizontal elutriator (Gravitation)

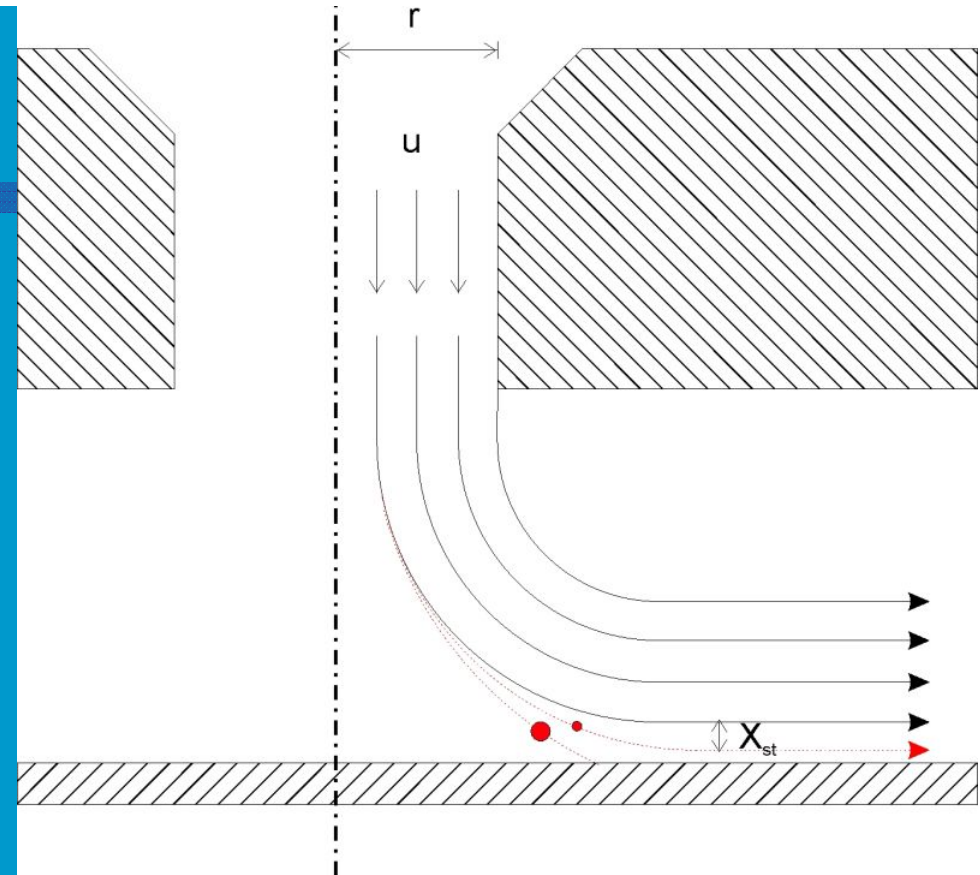


Measure \rightarrow $L_d = \frac{H \cdot V_x}{V_{TS}} \rightarrow V_{TS} = \frac{\rho_a d_a^2 g C_c}{18\eta}$

Impactor (Inertia)

Relaxation time: $\tau = \frac{\rho_0 d_a^2 C_c}{18\eta}$

Stopping distance: $X_{st} = \tau \cdot U$

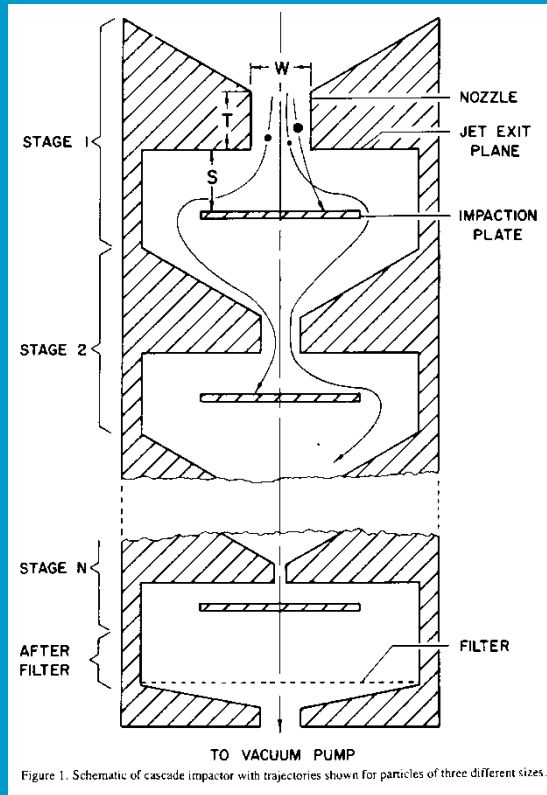


$$Stk = \frac{x_{st}}{r} = \frac{\text{stopping distance}}{\text{characteristic dimension of nozzle}} = \frac{\rho_0 d_a^2 C_c u}{18\eta r}$$

$Stk > Stk_{crit}$: Impaction will occur

$Stk < Stk_{crit}$: No impaction

Cascade impactor



Adapted from www.knj-eng.com

$$Stk = \frac{\rho_0 d_a^2 C_c u}{18\eta r}$$

Diffusion

Brownian motion

“Irregular motion of an aerosol particle in still air caused by random variations in the relentless bombardment of gas molecules against the particles”

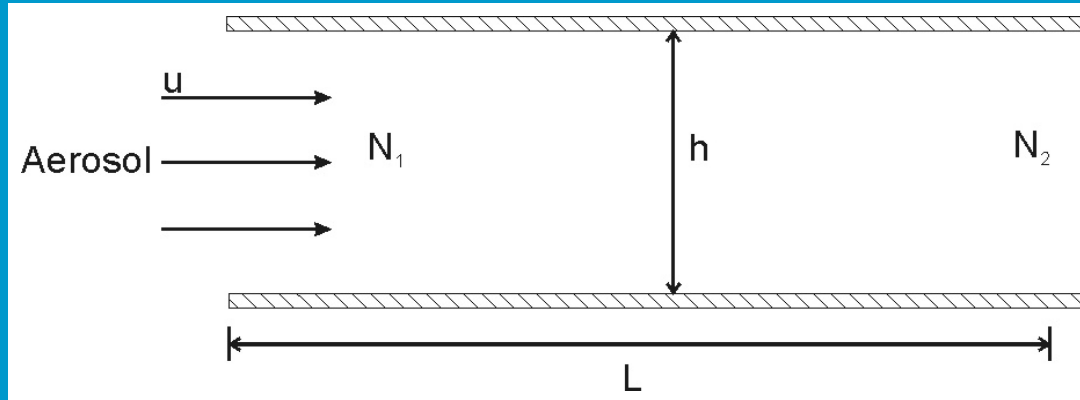
Fick's first law of diffusion:

$$J = -D \cdot \frac{dn}{dx}$$

Stokes Einstein equation:

$$D = \frac{k \cdot T \cdot C_C}{3\pi \cdot \eta \cdot d_p} \quad (\text{m}^2/\text{s})$$

Diffusion in channels



$$1 < d_p < 100 \text{ nm}$$

Loss in tube of 1 m
at $Q=1 \text{ L/min}$

d_a (nm)	Loss (%)
1	97.8
10	10.8
100	0.6
1000	0.08

Measure N_1 and N_2 with CNC

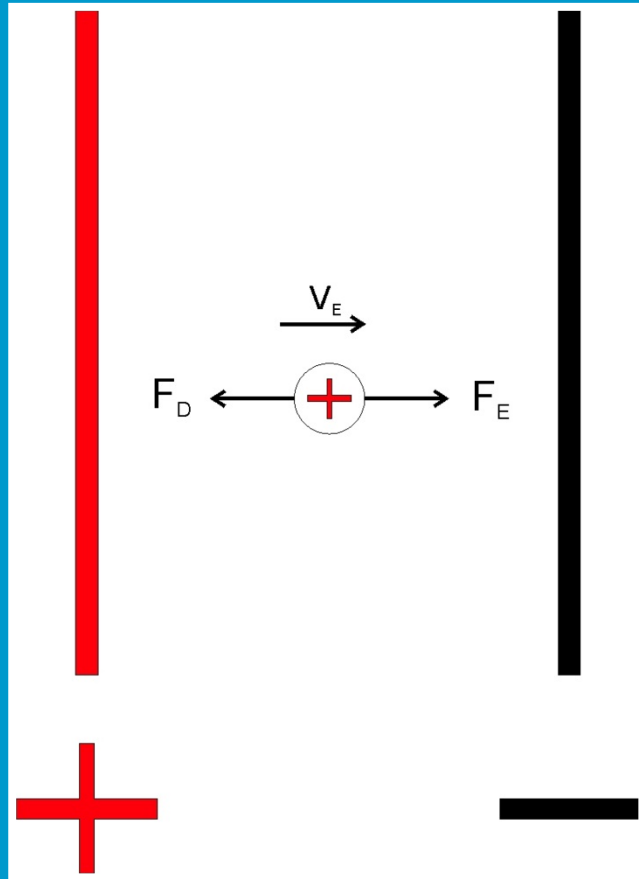
$$\frac{N_2}{N_1} = f(\xi)$$

$$\xi = \frac{D \cdot L}{Q}$$

Graph

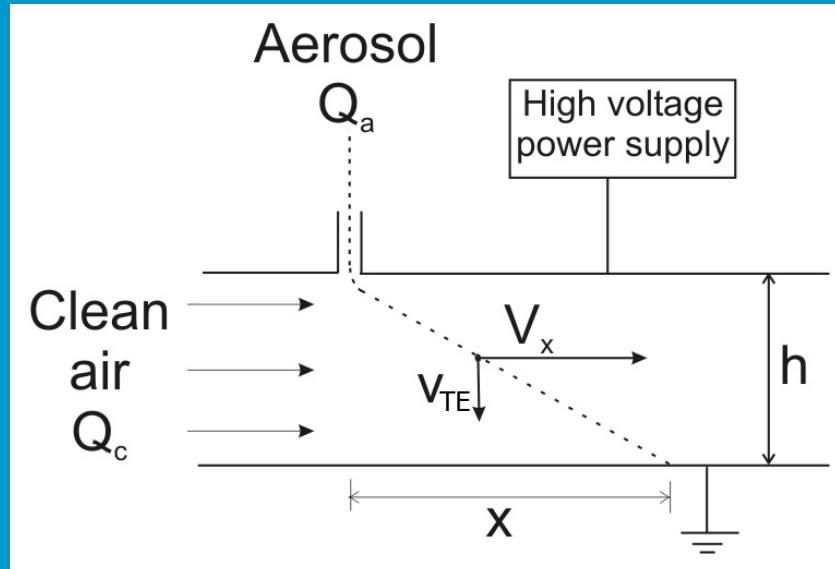
$$D = \frac{k \cdot T \cdot C_c}{3\pi \cdot \eta \cdot d_a}$$

Electrical force



$$V_{TE} = \frac{q \cdot E \cdot C_c}{3 \cdot \pi \cdot \eta \cdot d_p}$$

Electrostatic precipitator



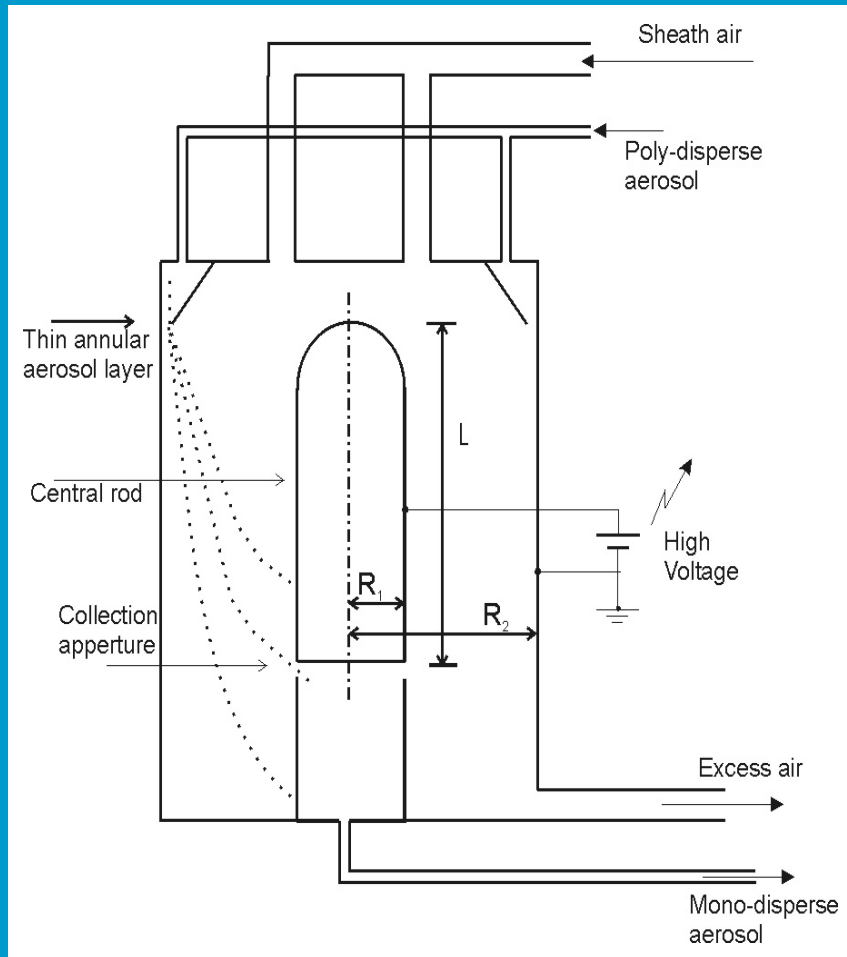
Adjustable

$$x = \frac{v_x \cdot h}{v_{TE}}$$

$$v_{TE} = \frac{q \cdot E \cdot C_c}{3 \cdot \pi \cdot \eta \cdot d_p}$$

Only variable

Differential Mobility Analyzer (DMA)



Adjustable

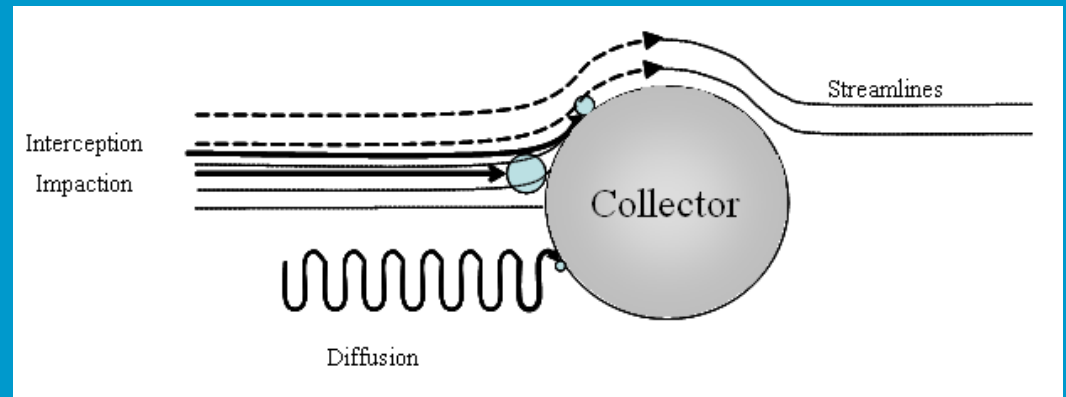
$$v_E = \frac{q \cdot E \cdot C_C}{3 \cdot \pi \cdot \eta \cdot d_p}$$

Only variable

Transport losses

Six deposition mechanisms in a duct

1. Interception
2. Inertial impaction
3. Diffusion
4. Gravitational settling
5. Electrostatic attraction
6. Thermophoresis (hot gases through cold pipe)



Basic properties of nanoparticles

Gas phase production of nanoparticles

Forces on single particles

Particle-particle forces

Particle coating

Applications

Interparticle forces

Particles in the gas phase

van der Waals Force

(London – van der Waals Force)

Van der Waals force between flat surfaces:

$$F_{\text{vdw},f} = \frac{H_v}{6\pi h^3} A$$

Van der Waals force between spheres:

$$F_{\text{vdw},s} = \frac{H_v d_p}{12h^2}$$

A	Contact area between flat plates	m ²
d _p	Particle diameter	m
h	Separation distance between surfaces / particles	m
H	Hamaker constant	J

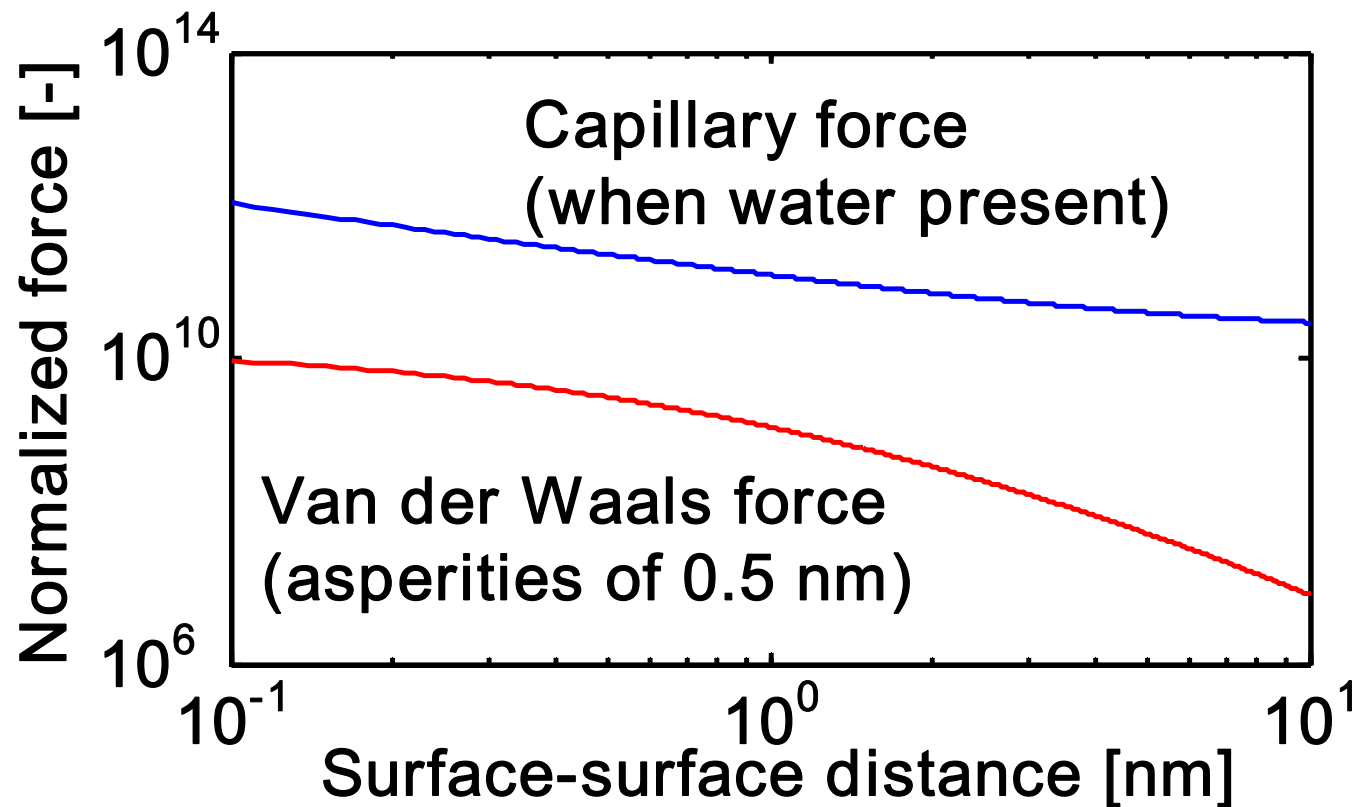
Typical range 10⁻²¹ – 10⁻¹⁹ J, depends on surface chemistry and separating medium

Question:

Compare vdW force and gravity for two 10 nm particles with 1 nm distance

Interparticle forces

The main forces between two silica particles of 10 nm as a function of the interparticle distance, normalized by gravity.



Hamaker constants

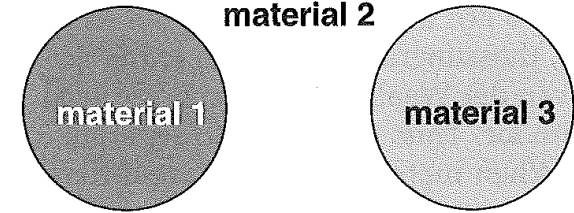
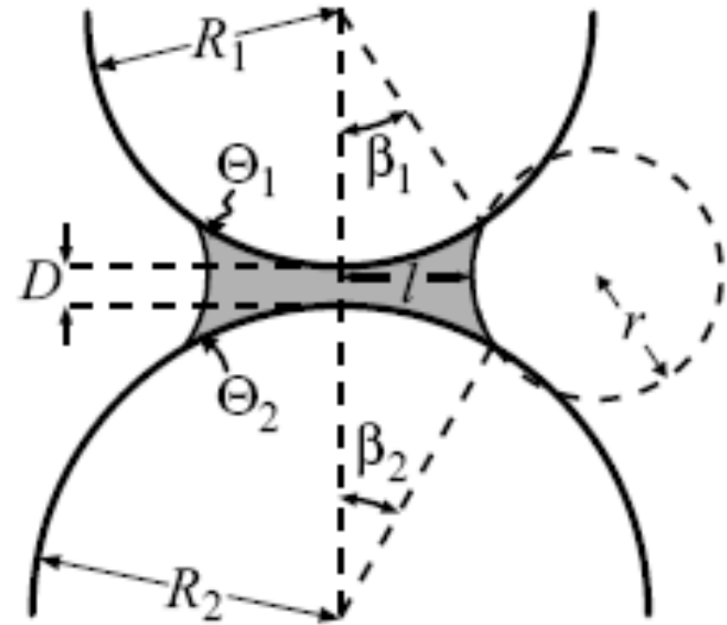


Table 5.1 Hamaker constants of some common material combinations

Material 1	Material 2	Material 3	Hamaker constant (approximate) (J)	Example
Alumina	Air	Alumina	15×10^{-20}	Oxide minerals in air are strongly attractive and cohesive
Silica	Air	Silica	6.5×10^{-20}	
Zirconia	Air	Zirconia	20×10^{-20}	
Titania	Air	Titania	15×10^{-20}	
Alumina	Water	Alumina	5.0×10^{-20}	Oxide minerals in water are attractive but less so than in air
Silica	Water	Silica	0.7×10^{-20}	
Zirconia	Water	Zirconia	8.0×10^{-20}	
Titania	Water	Titania	5.5×10^{-20}	
Metals	Water	Metals	40×10^{-20}	Conductivity of metals makes them strongly attractive
Air	Water	Air	3.7×10^{-20}	
Octane	Water	Octane	0.4×10^{-20}	Oil in water emulsions
Water	Octane	Water	0.4×10^{-20}	Water in oil emulsions
Silica	Water	Air	-0.9×10^{-20}	Particle bubble attachment in mineral flotation, weak repulsion



Capillary force



$$F = 2\pi\gamma_L R^* \left(\cos \Theta_1 + \cos \Theta_2 - \frac{D}{r} \right)$$

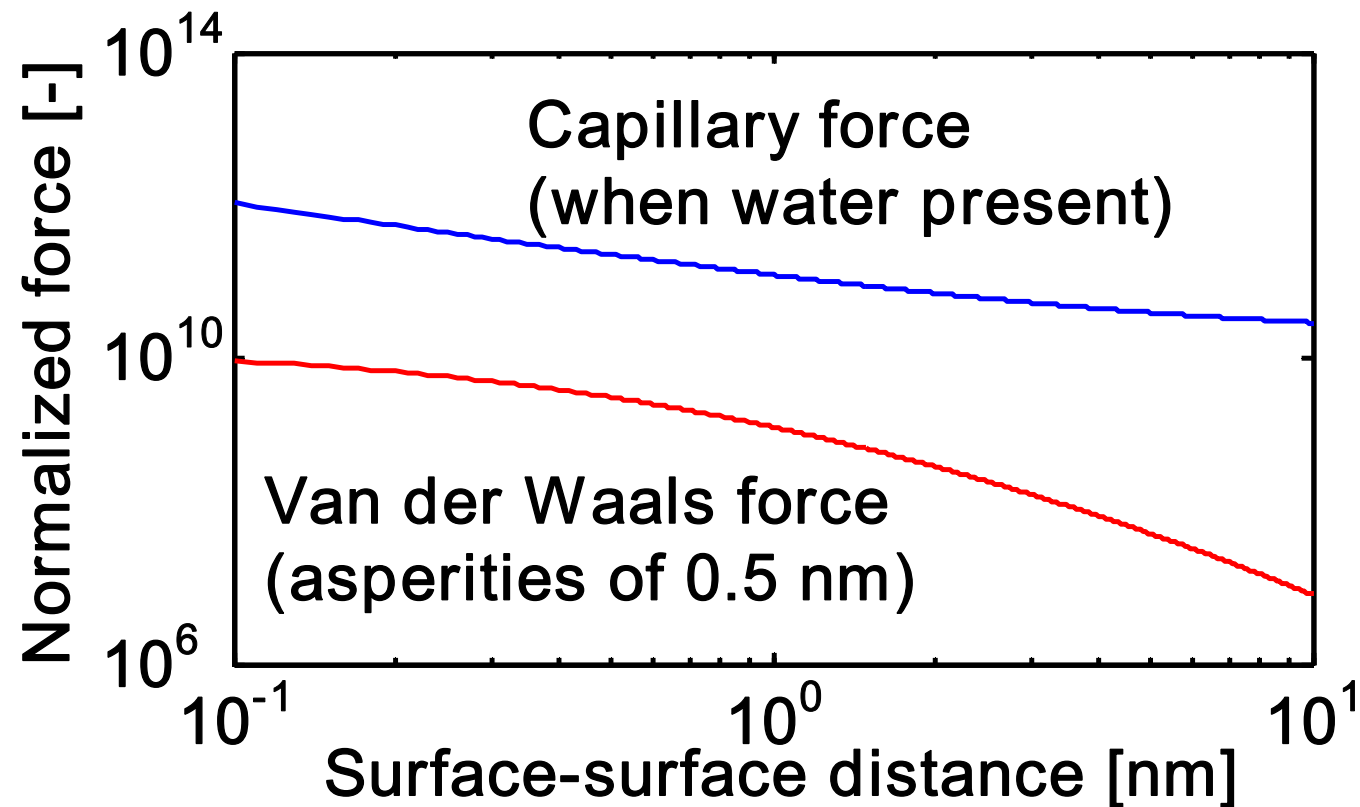
$$R^* = \frac{R_1 R_2}{R_1 + R_2}$$

γ_l = surface tension (N/m)

Butt, H.J., Kappl, M., 2010. Wiley VCH, Weinheim.

Interparticle forces

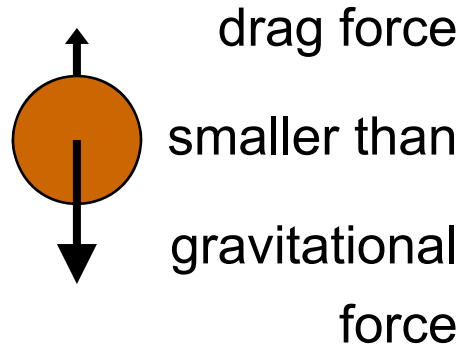
The main forces between two silica particles of 10 nm as a function of the interparticle distance, normalized by gravity.



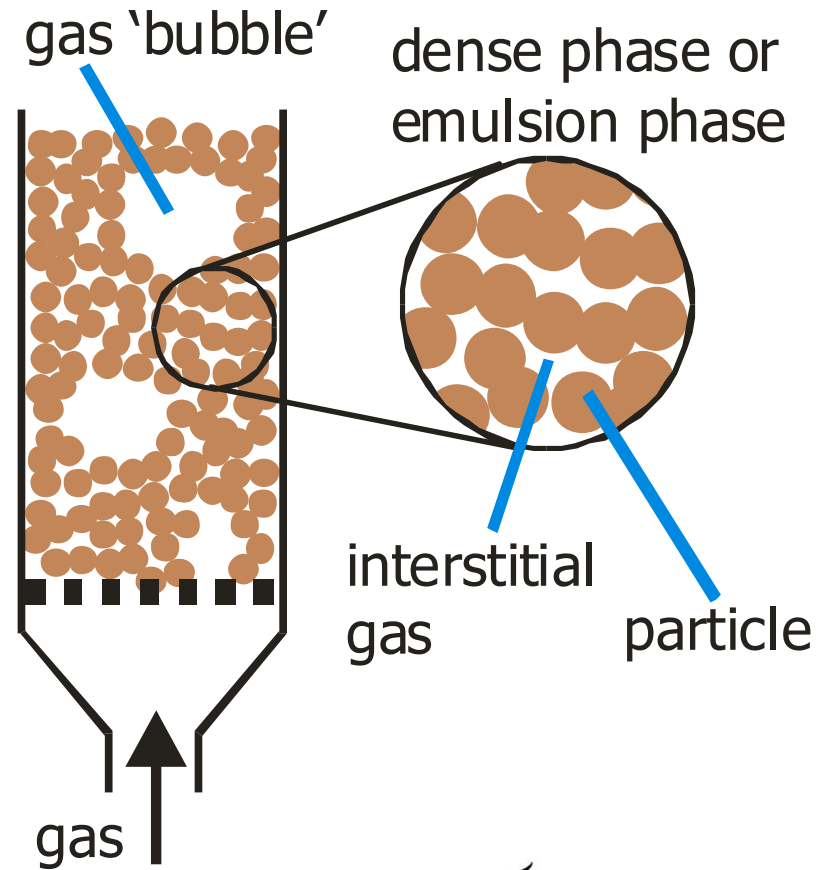
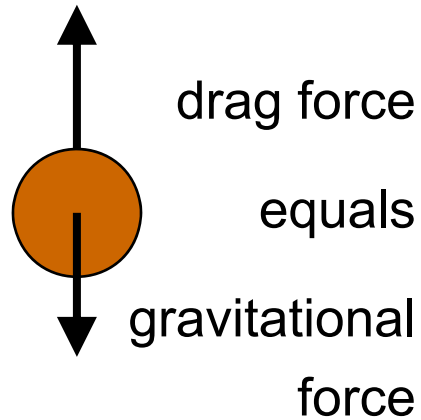
Agglomeration of particles: consequences for fluidization

Conventional Gas-solids fluidized bed

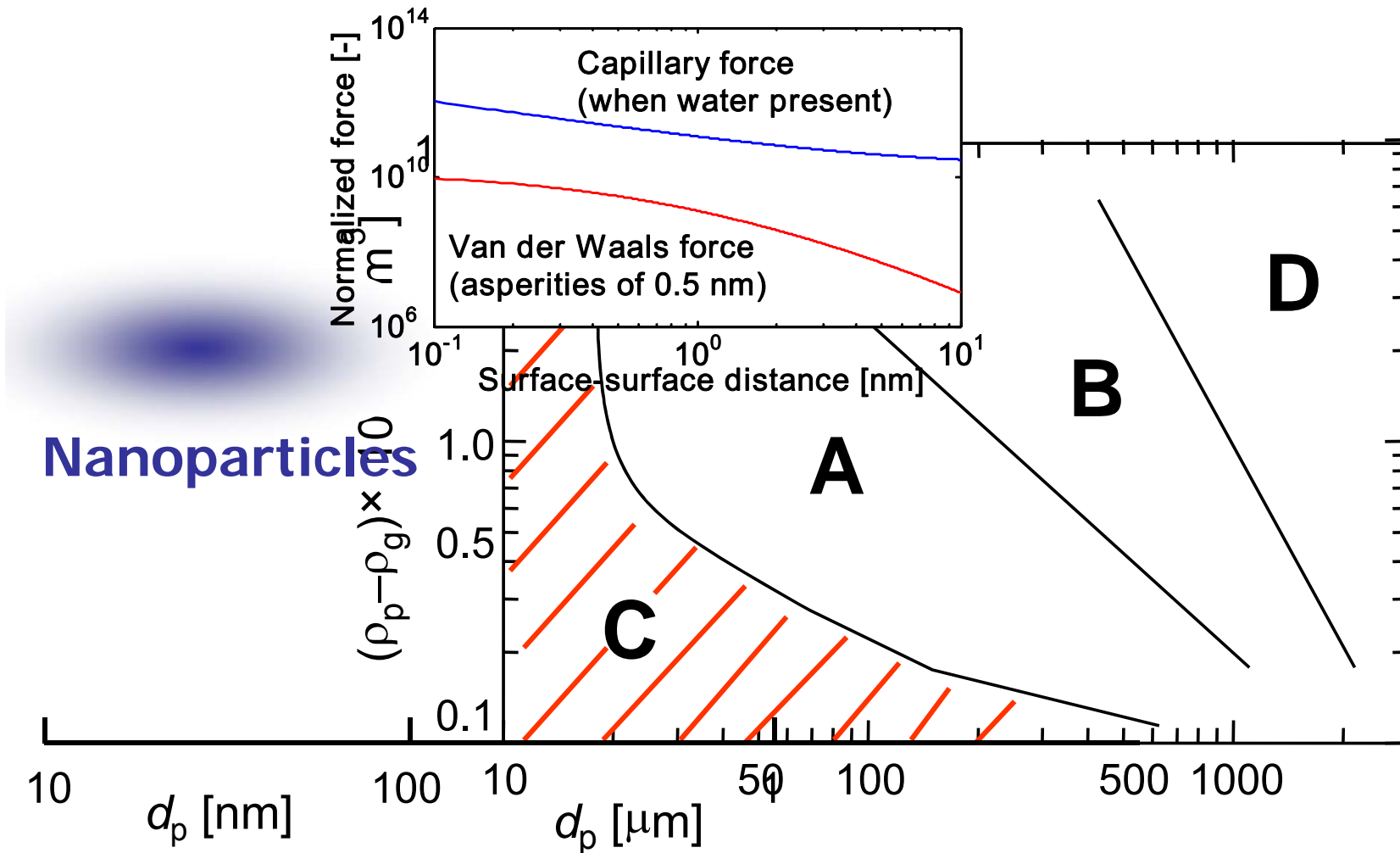
Packed bed:
particles are
stagnant



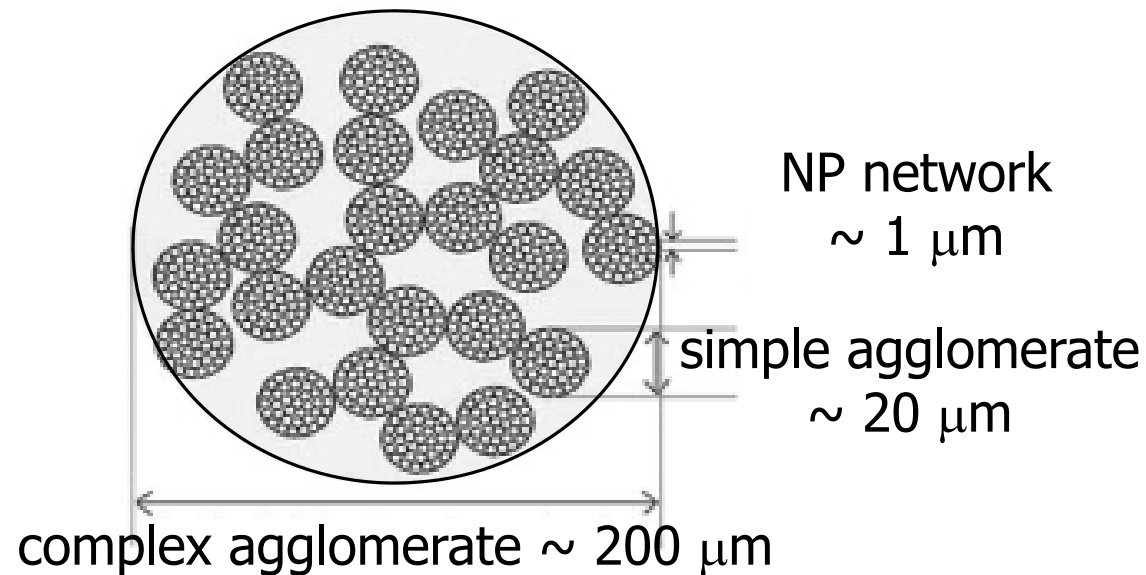
Fluidized bed:
particles
suspended in
an upward
gas stream;
they move



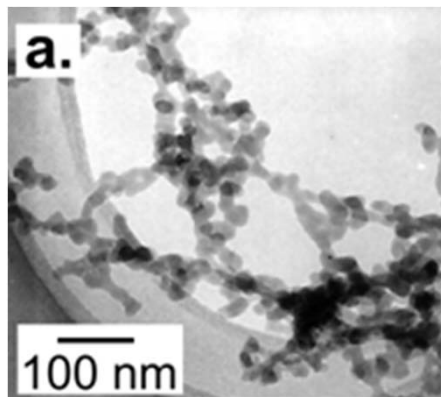
Geldart's Fluidization Map still valid?



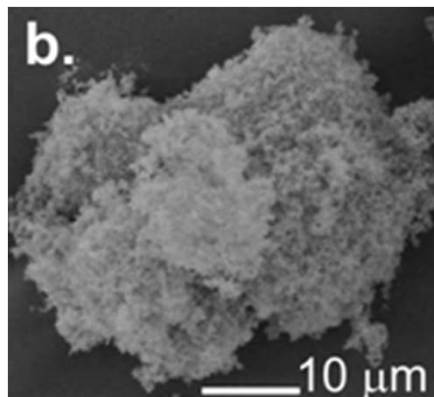
Nanoparticles are fluidized as agglomerates!



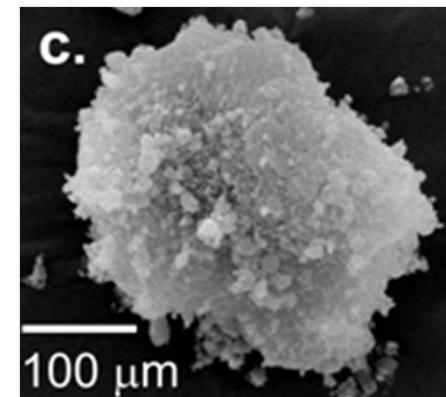
Wang et al., Powder Technol. 124 (2002) 152:



TEM NP network



SEM simple agglomerate

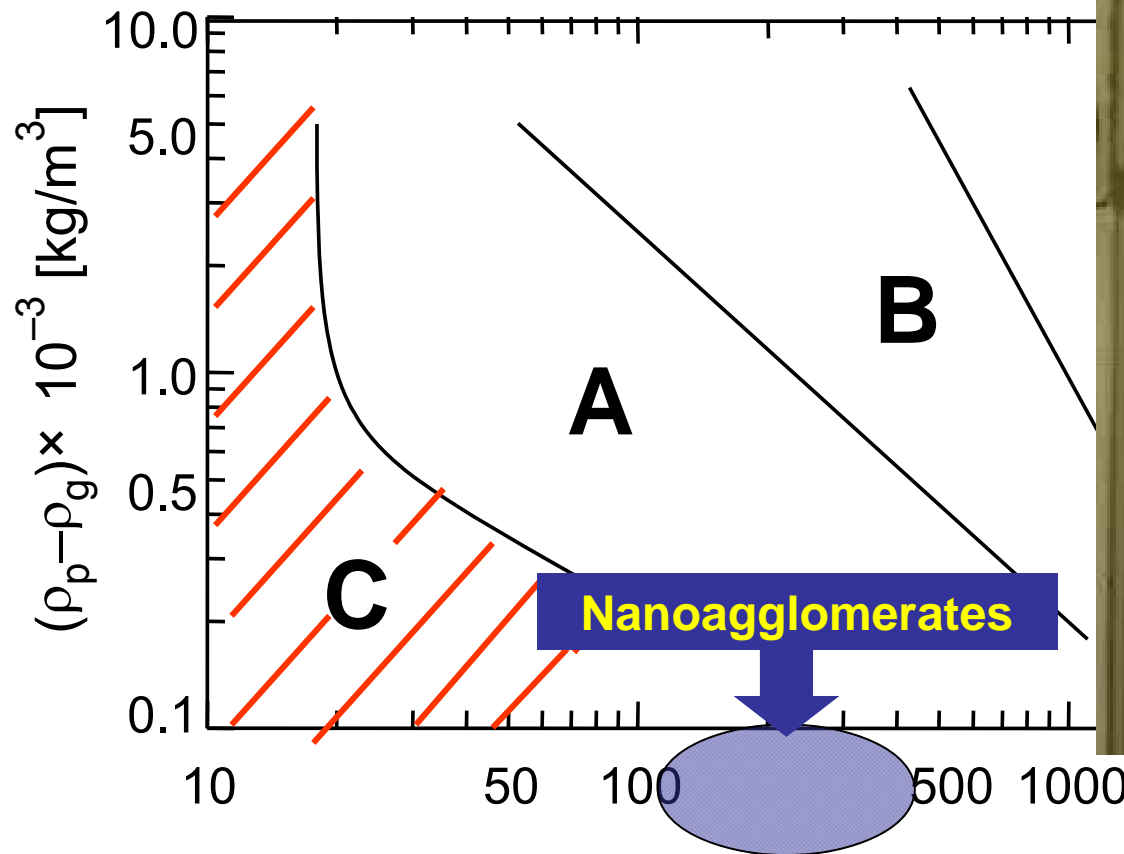


SEM complex agglomerate

Geldart's Fluidization Map still valid?

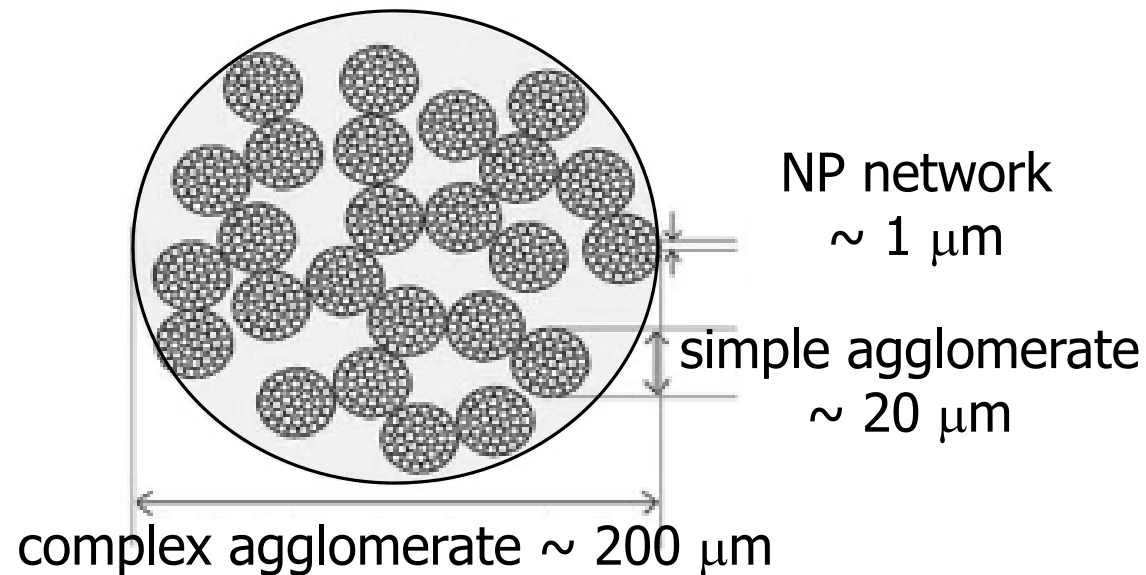
- Primary particle size – 10-100 nm
- Agglomerate size – 100-400 μm
- Agglomerate density – 20-120 kg/m^3

25 nm TiO_2 particles

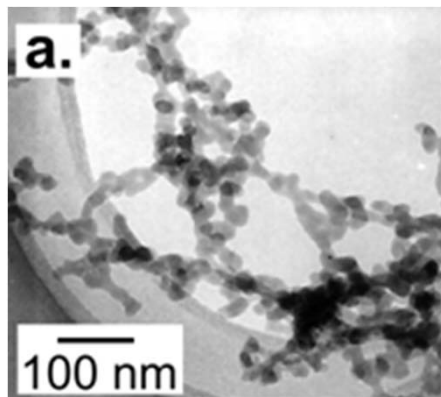


Exp. work: Sam Johnson

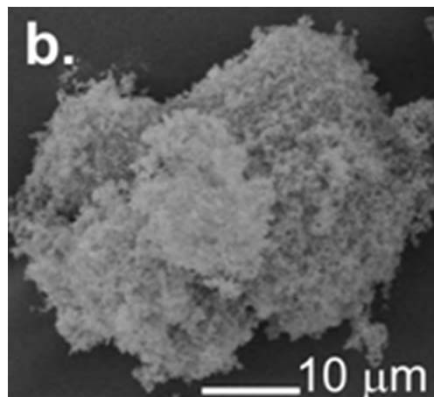
Nanoparticles are fluidized as agglomerates!



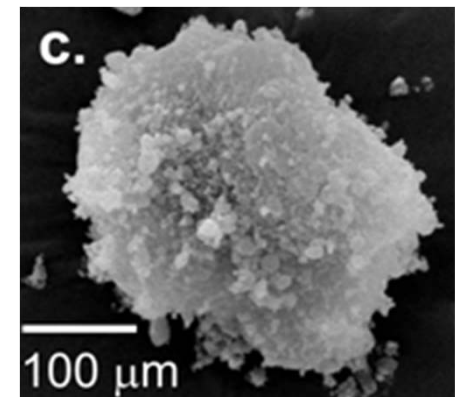
Wang et al., Powder Technol. 124 (2002) 152:



TEM NP network



SEM simple agglomerate

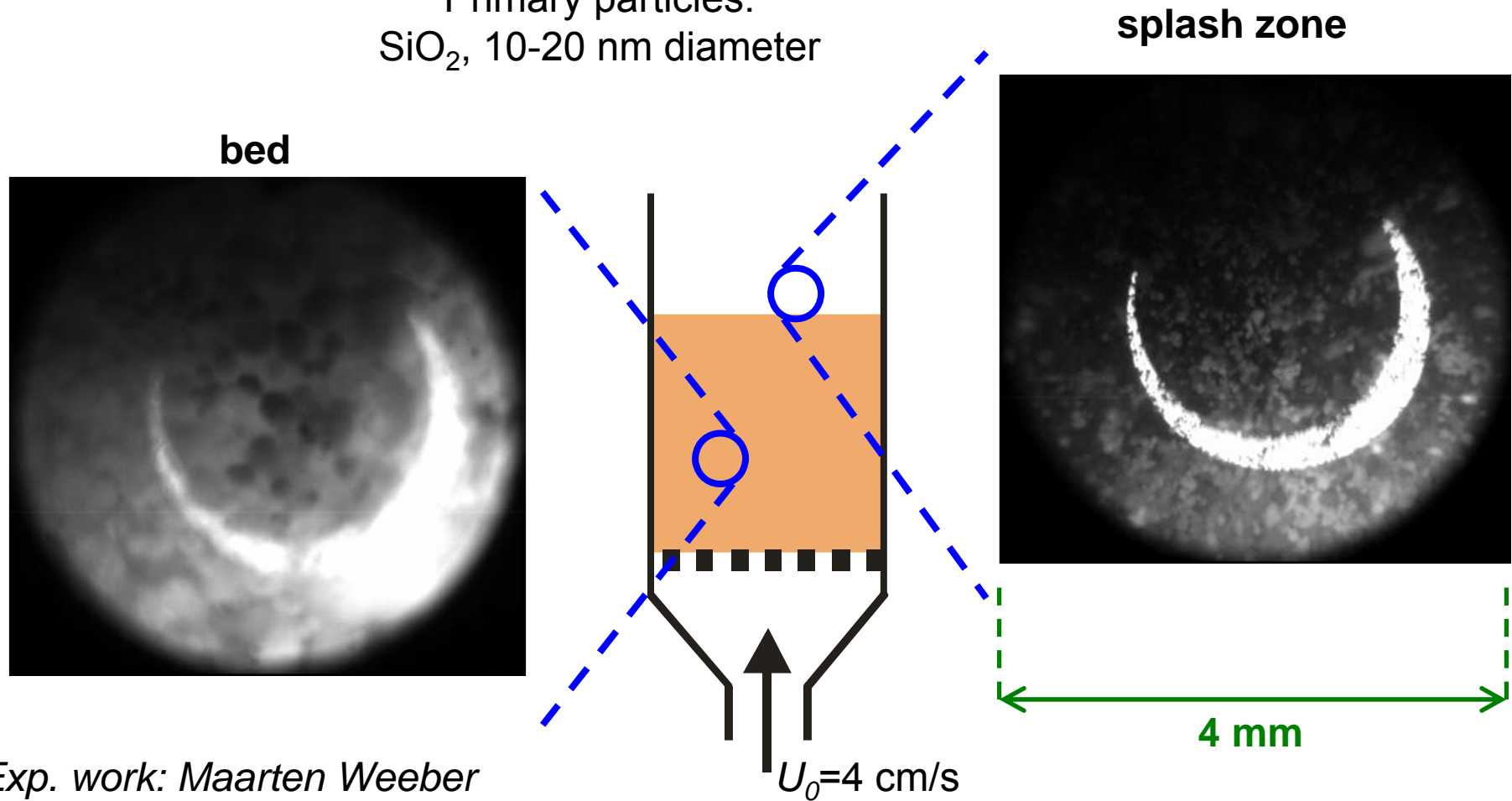


SEM complex agglomerate

In-situ movies of nanoparticle agglomerates

High-speed camera with boroscope, slowed down 70x

Primary particles:
 SiO_2 , 10-20 nm diameter



Exp. work: Maarten Weeber

Particles in the liquid phase

For a dispersion of powder in liquid, the interparticle forces are more complicated

Colloid: heterogeneous system consisting of a mixture of particles between 1 nm and 1000 nm dispersed in a continuous medium (typically a liquid).

The Basics of Colloid Science

- London-Van der Waals attraction
- Electrostatic repulsion
- Steric repulsion
- Electrosteric repulsion
- Ostwald ripening

Electrostatic Stability

DLVO

Two approaching particles undergo two forces:

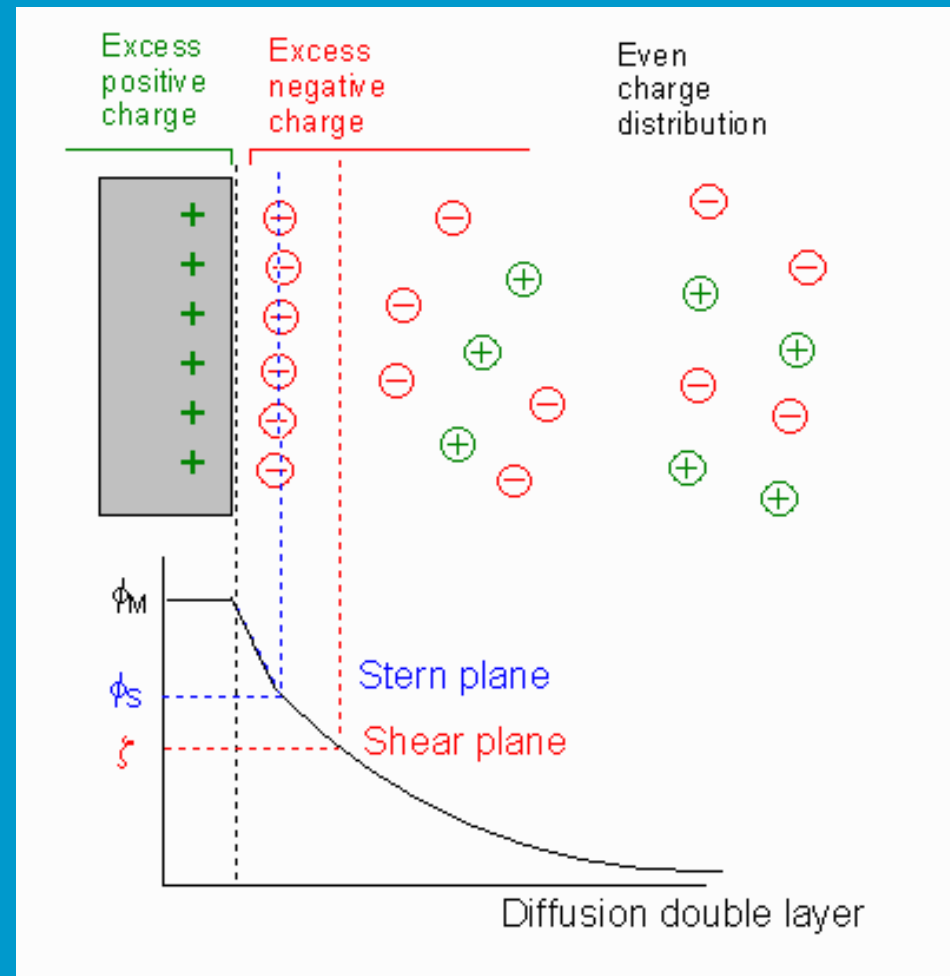
1. London-Van der Waals attraction
2. Electrostatic repulsion

$$V_{\text{tot}} = V_{\text{vdw}} + V_{\text{er}}$$

The *total interaction energy* is the algebraic sum of these forces as a function of distance of approach of the particles

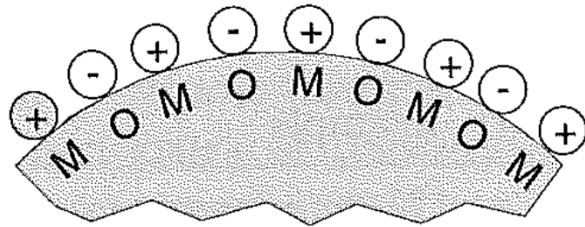
The DLVO theory is named after Derjaguin and Landau, Verwey and Overbeek.

Electric Double Layer

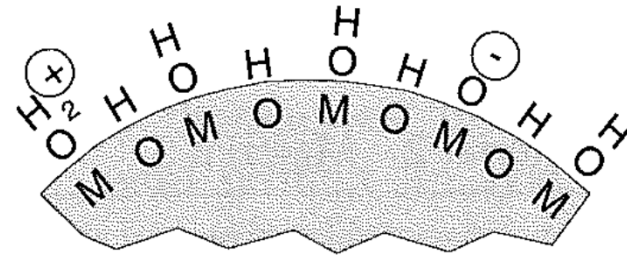


Surface charge depends on medium

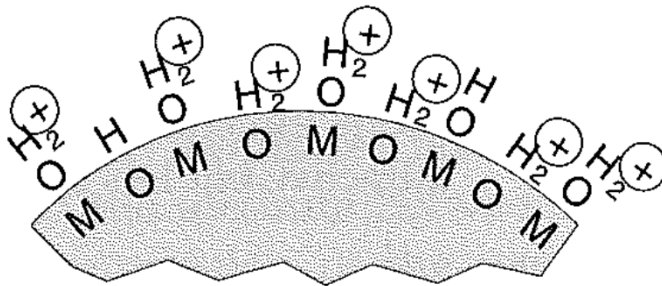
(a) vacuum



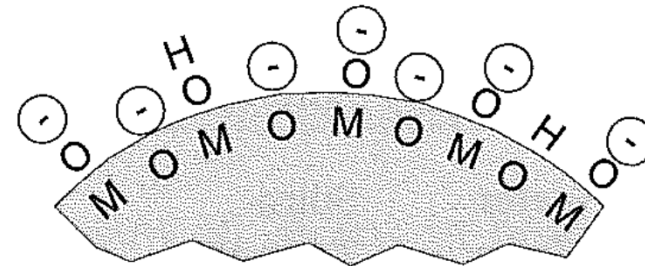
(b) water (at IEP)



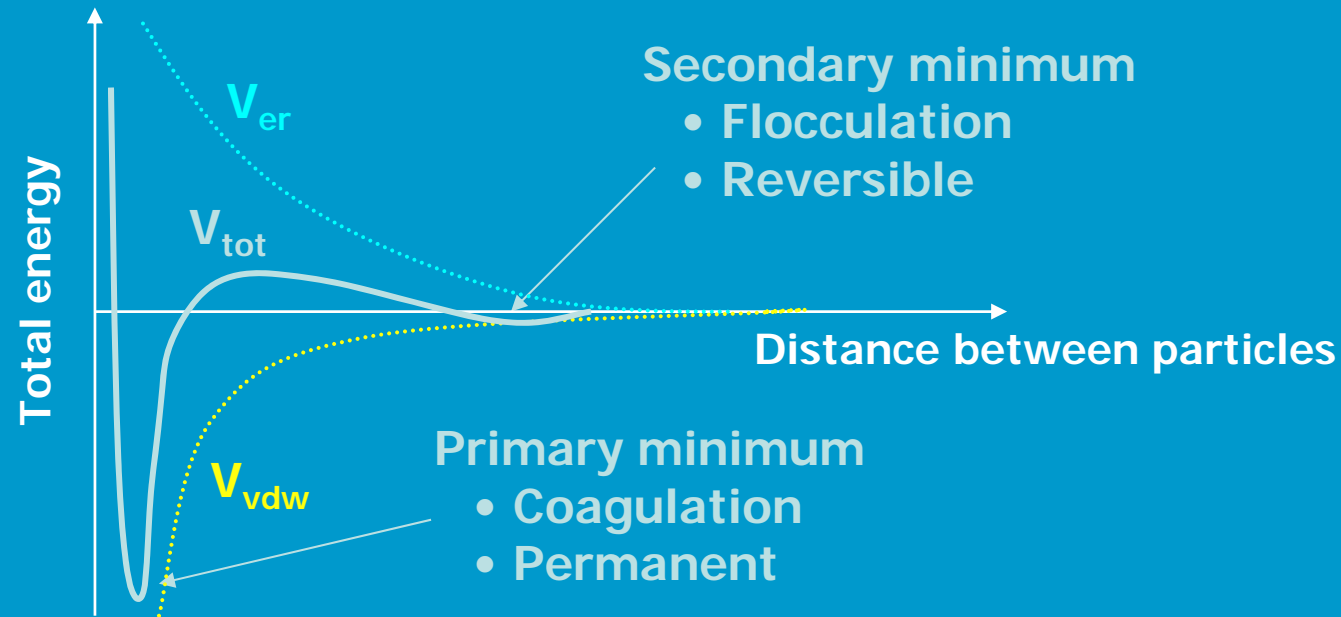
(c) low pH



(d) high pH



The Total Interaction Energy Curve



Important parameters:

- $1/K$ Debye Length, double layer thickness: depends on conc.
- a particle size
- ζ surface charge
- A Hamaker constant, nature of particle & fluid

Steric Stability

Two approaching particles undergo London-Van der Waals forces and forces arising from the adsorption of polymeric or oligomeric molecules osmotic repulsion

$$V_{\text{tot}} = V_{\text{vdw}} + V_{\text{ster}}$$

Again the algebraic sum of these forces as a function of distance of approach of the particles gives the total interaction energy

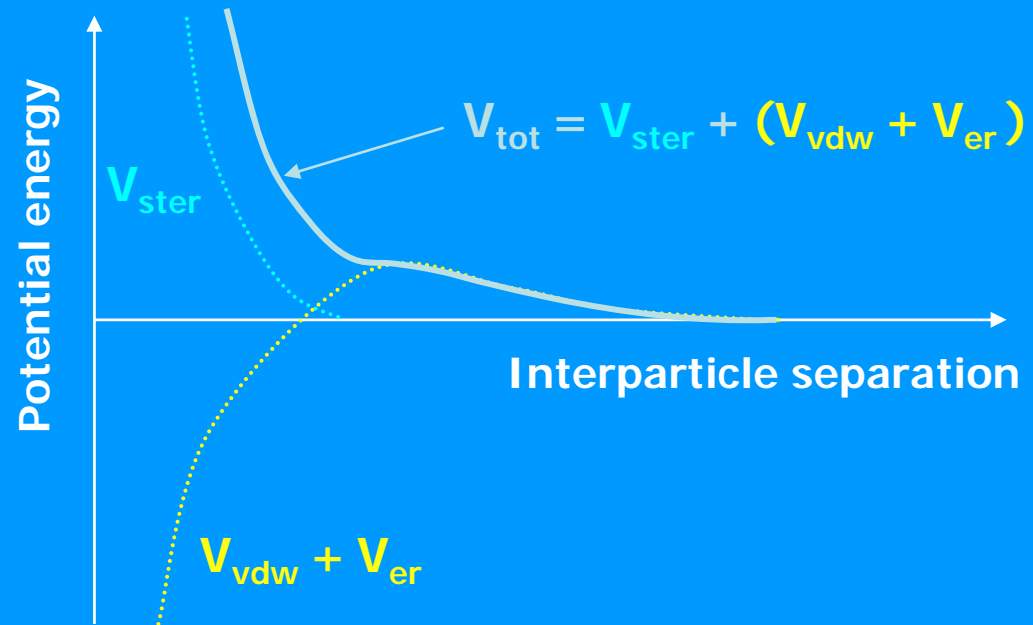
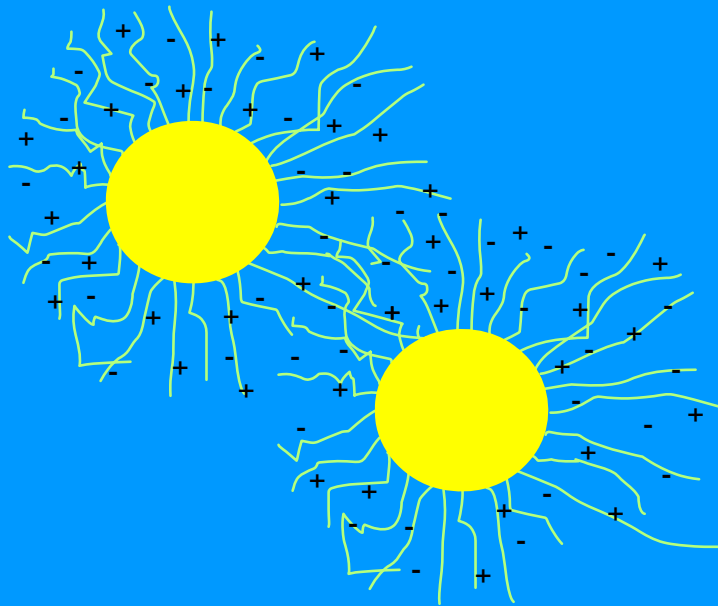
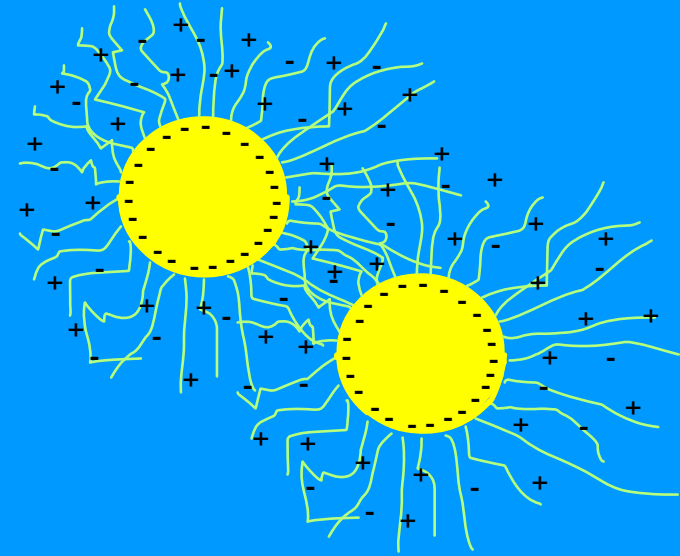
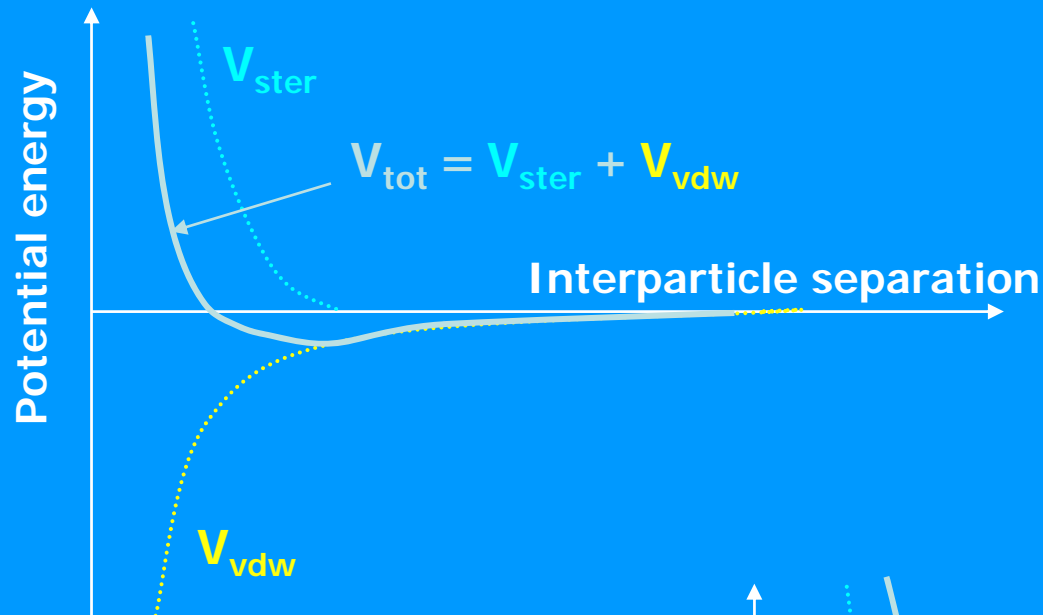
Electrosteric Stability

The combination of electrostatic and steric stability

Two situations can occur:

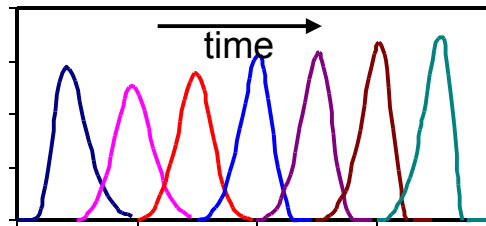
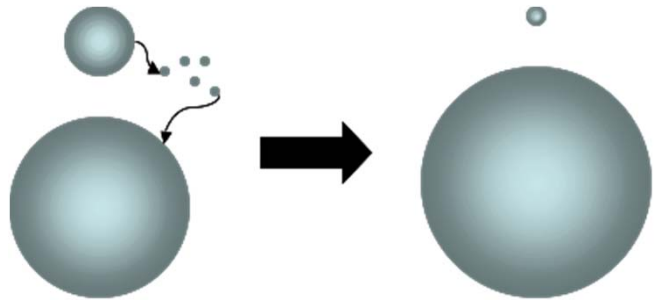
- Depending on the length of stabilising functional group or molecular weight of a nonionic polymer, the steric barrier hides completely the electrostatic one
- If the polymer is a polyelectrolyte, carrying charges itself, then the electrostatic barrier is visible in the curve

Electrosteric Stability



Ostwald Ripening

Ostwald ripening occurs as a consequence of the Kelvin equation, relating solubility of low soluble materials with particle size. The originally installed PSD drifts away as a function of time.



$$\frac{RT}{M} \ln \frac{S_2}{S_1} = \frac{2\sigma}{\rho} \left(\frac{1}{r_1} - \frac{1}{r_2} \right)$$

S_1 and S_2

solubilities of particles with radius r_1 and r_2

σ

specific surface energy

ρ

density

M

molecular weight

R

gas constant

T

temperature

For an animation, see: <http://www.roentzsch.org/OR/>

Basic properties of nanoparticles

Gas phase production of nanoparticles

Forces on single particles

Particle-particle forces

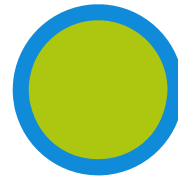
Particle coating

Applications

Two types of coating

- **Continuous coating:** A closed layer around a nanoparticle

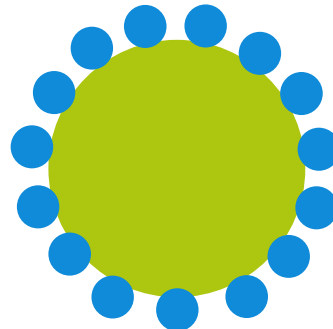
particle 10nm–10 μ m



coating 1 nm or larger

- **Discrete coating:** Deposition of nanoparticles on larger particles

host particle 1-100 μ m



guest particles 10nm–1 μ m

Discrete coating: applications

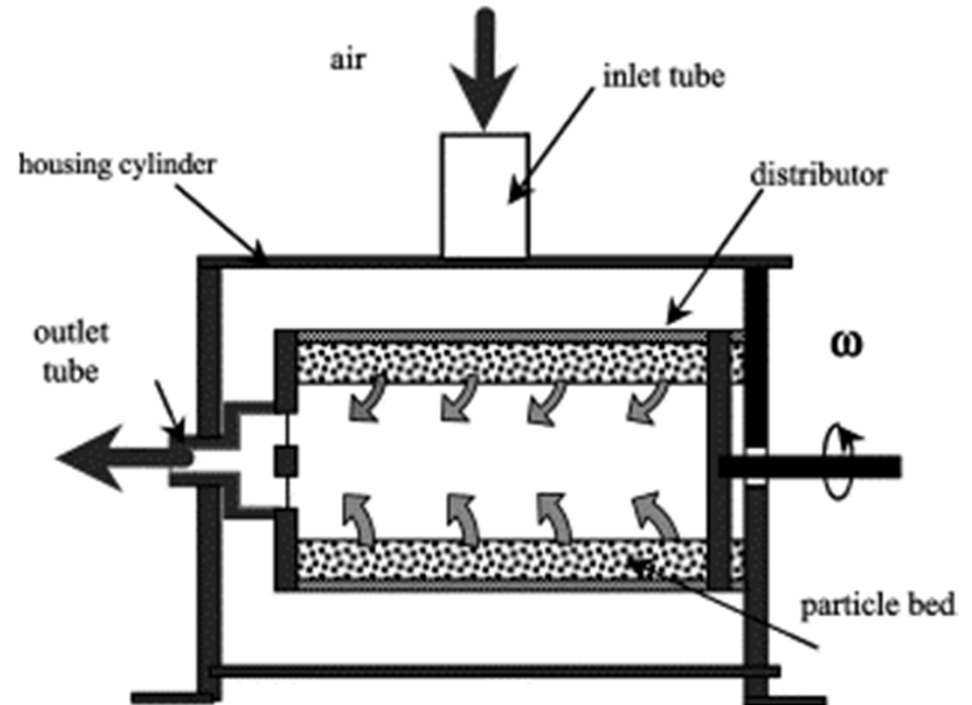
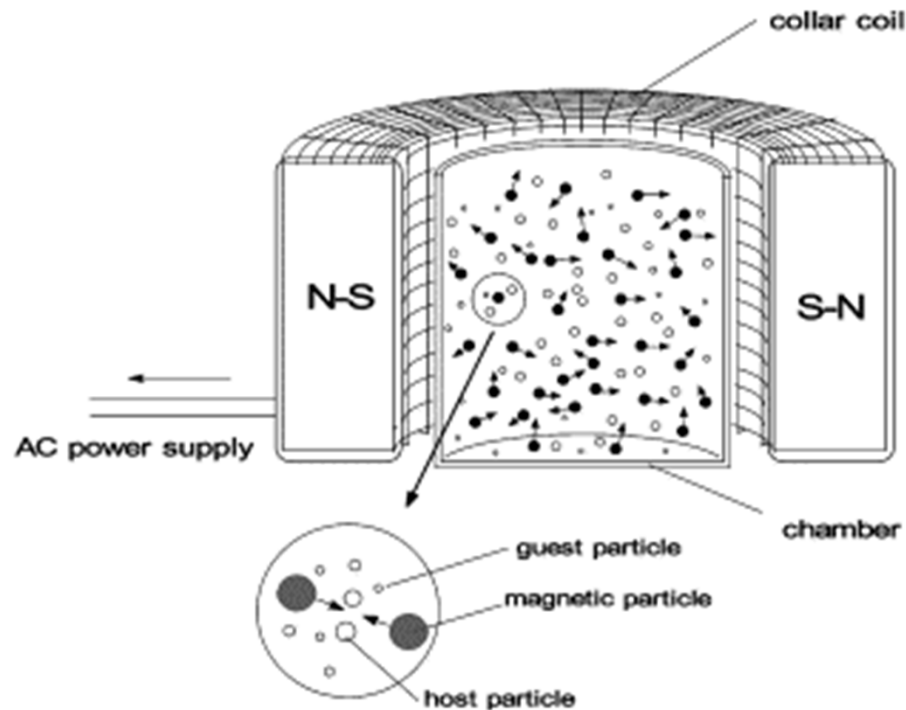


- Pharmaceuticals with controlled-release properties
- Use for dry powder inhalers: carrier particles coated with active particles
- Coloring and UV protection in cosmetics
- Toner particles with different colors
- Improving liquid chromatography (HPLC) by using uniform polyethylene microspheres coated with silica
- Copper coated molybdenum particles: improved properties such as low porosity, high hardness, and a lower coefficient of thermal expansion

Discrete coating

Often carried out as dry powder coating.

Several devices are used to mix host particles and guest particles, for example:

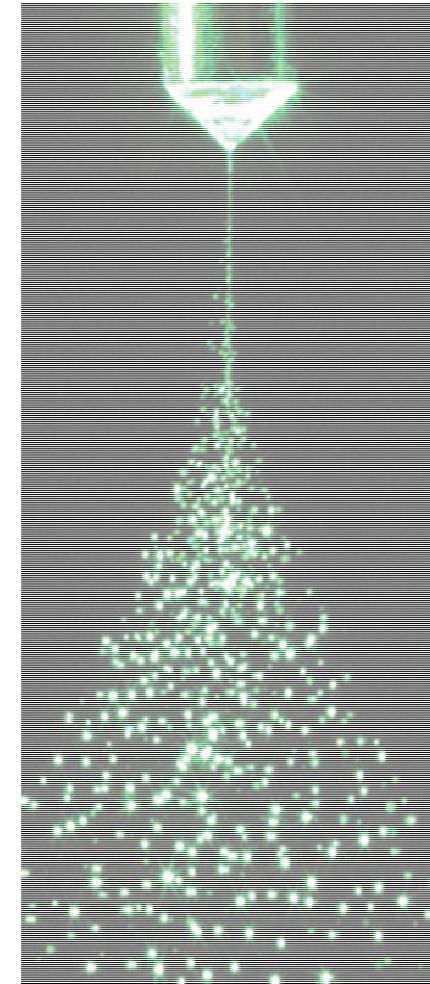
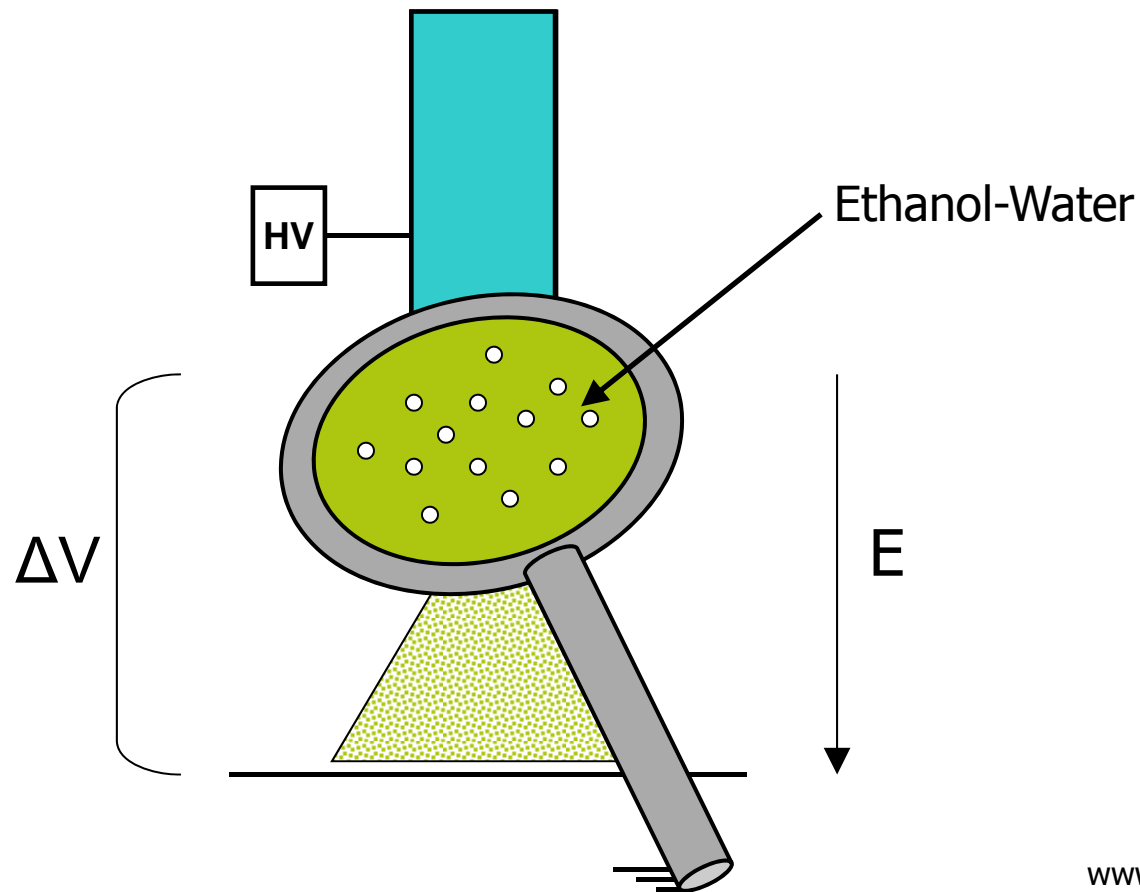


magnetically assisted impaction coater

rotating fluidized bed coater

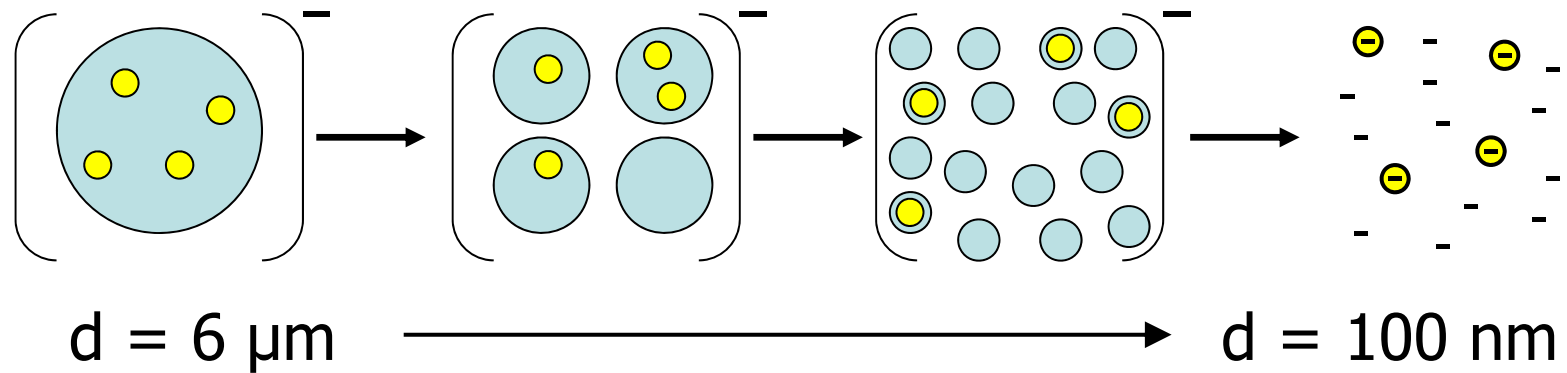
Electrospraying

Alternative for discrete coating using mixing.



www.eng.yale.edu/eng150/timeline/1990.html

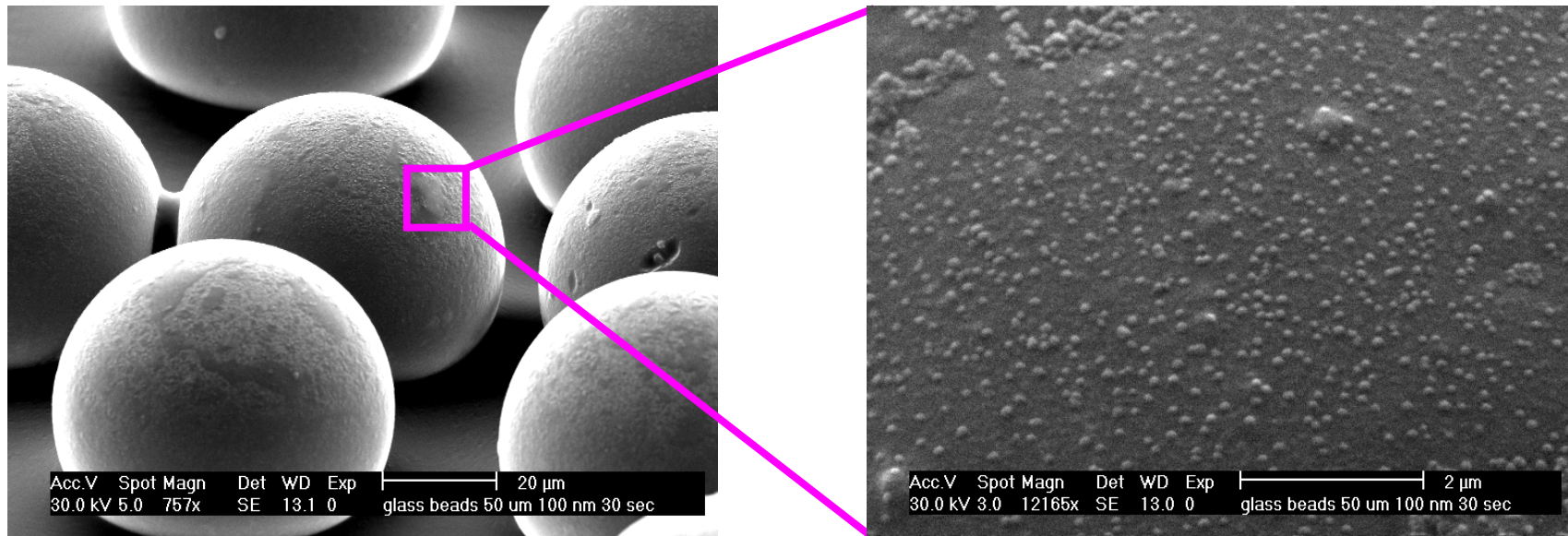
Electrospraying



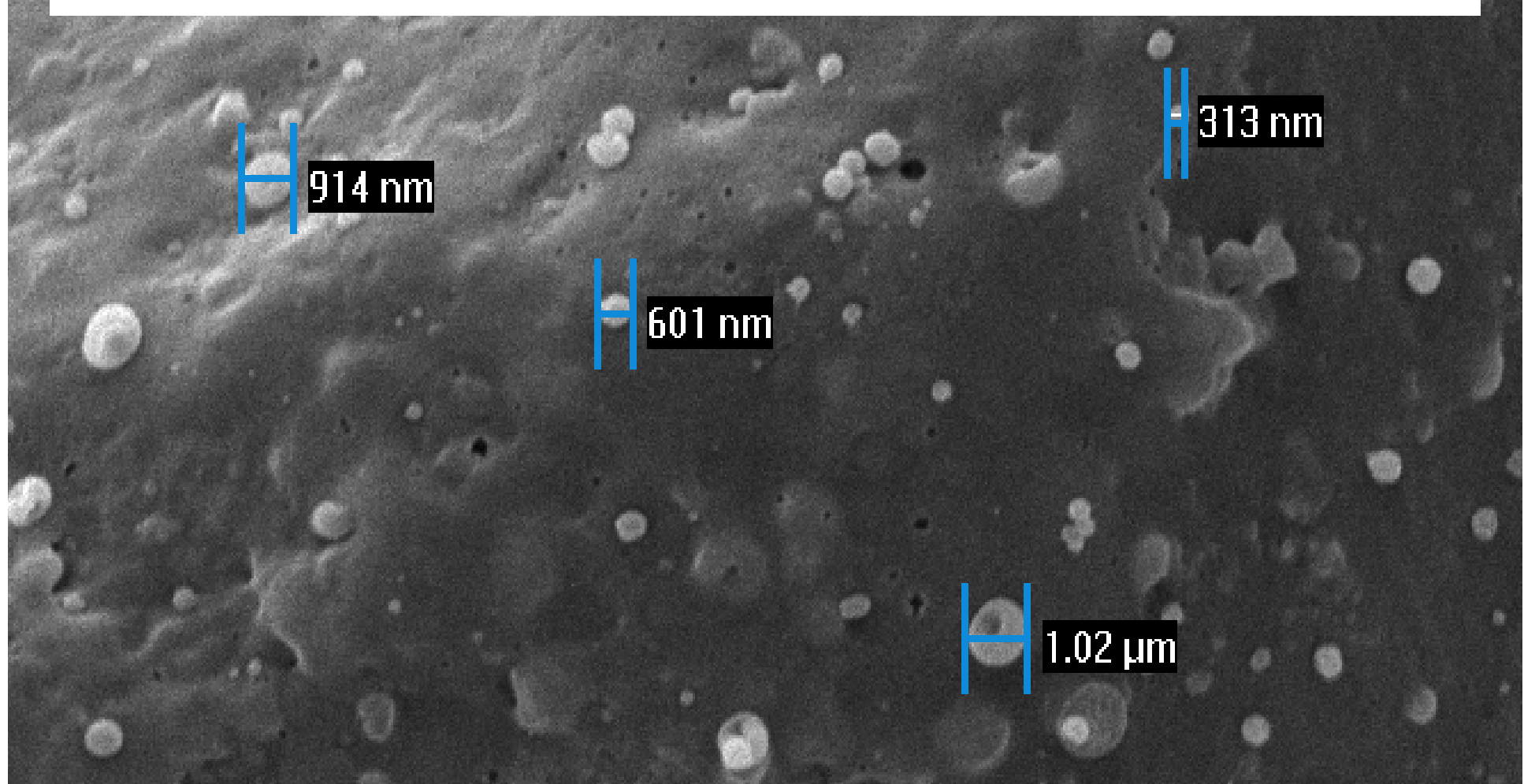
- Volatile liquid evaporates
- Droplet breaks up at Rayleigh limit
- Negative voltage provides negative charge

Results: SEM images

100 nm polystyrene particles on 50 μm glass beads (stationary)



Electrospraying Bovine Serum Albumin



Lactose coated with Bovine Serum Albumin
by electrospraying a solution of the protein in ethanol and acetic acid

Tavares Cardoso et al., *Int. J. Pharmac.* 414 (2011)

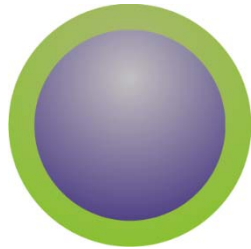
Nanoparticles with continuous coating

coating, overcoating, film deposition, ...

Wide variety of applications:

- Li ion batteries
 - Catalysts
 - Biomarkers
 - Pharma: controlled release
 - Absorber in sunscreen
 - Dental materials
- and many more

Core-shell nanoparticles (NPs)



Diameter (incl. coating) 20 nm

Coating thickness 1 nm

Question:

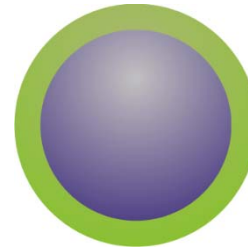
What is the volume fraction of the coating?

Answer:

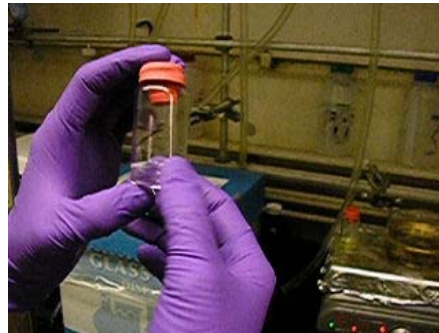
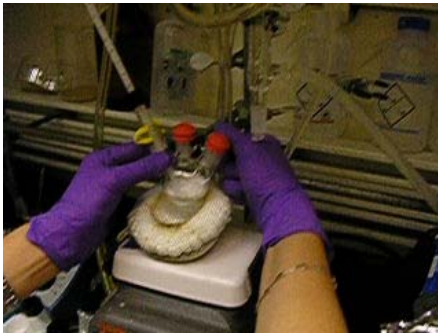
$$f = \frac{\delta \cdot 4\pi r^2}{\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3} = \frac{3\delta}{r} = 0.3$$

Synthesis of core-shell nanoparticles (NPs)

Diam. 5 -100 nm
coating 1-10 nm



Standard batch synthesis in liquid phase



chemgroups.northwestern.edu/odom/

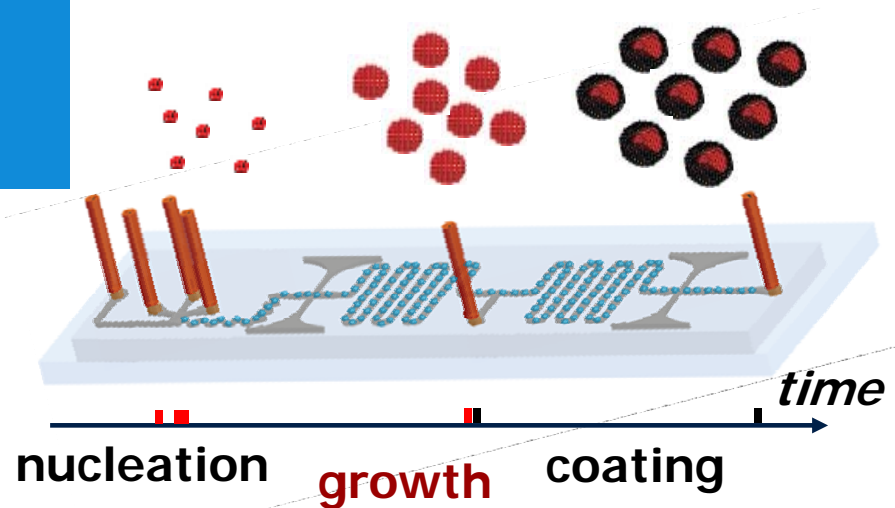
Disadvantages:

- Poor control over process conditions
- Unsuitable to scale up

TU Delft - Product & Process Engineering
is investigating two alternative approaches

Synthesis of core-shell nanoparticles (NPs)

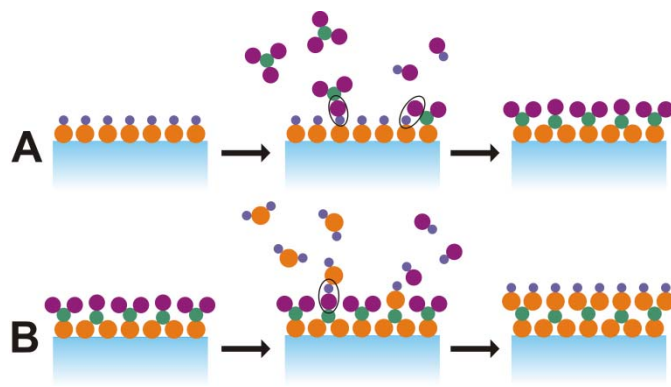
Alternative 1



Microfluidic synthesis:

- Excellent control over process conditions
- Well suited to investigate mechanisms

Alternative 2



Fluid bed atomic layer deposition:

- Major reduction of waste
- Well suited to scale up

Gas phase coating

- PVD: physical vapour deposition
deposit thin film by condensation of a vaporized form of the material onto surface; normally not used for particles
- CVD: chemical vapour deposition
reactions are taking place simultaneously
- ALD: atomic layer deposition
CVD split in half reactions

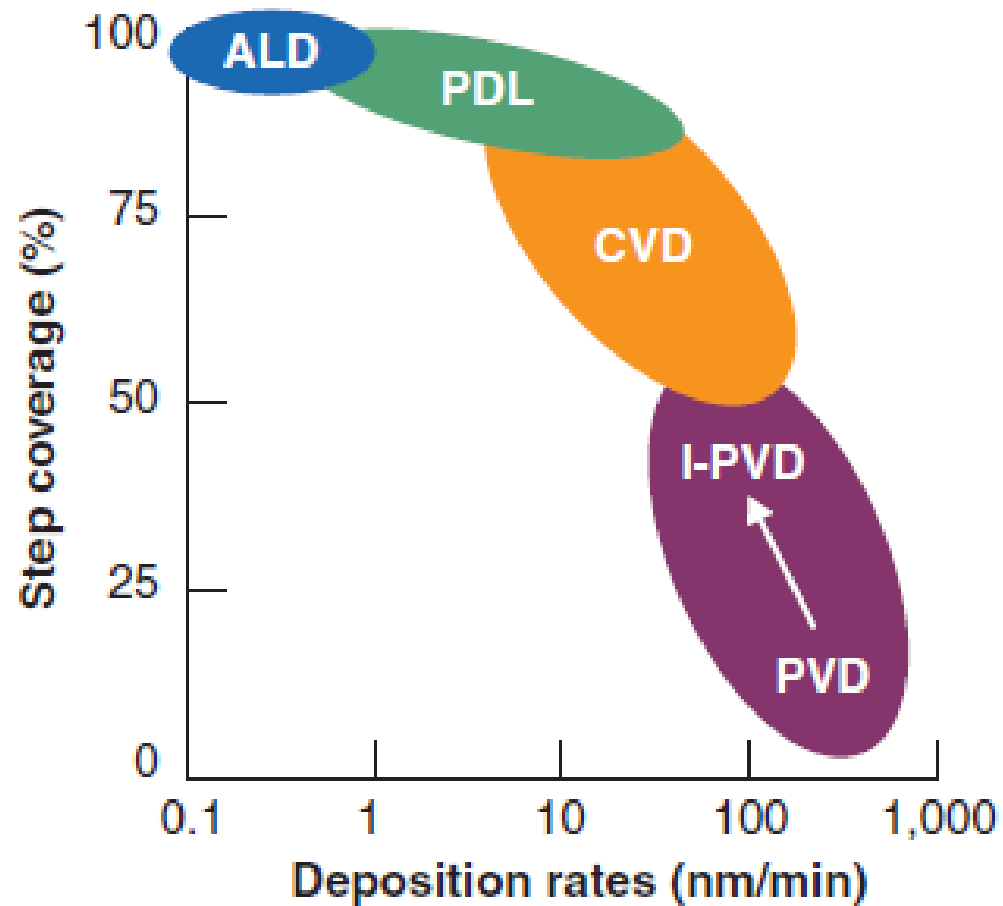
Gas phase coating

Method	ALD	MBE	CVD	Sputter	Evapor	PLD
Thickness Uniformity	good	fair	good	good	fair	fair
Film Density	good	good	good	good	poor	good
Step Coverage	good	poor	varies	poor	poor	poor
Interface Quality	good	good	varies	poor	good	varies
Number of Materials	fair	good	poor	good	fair	poor
Low Temp. Deposition	good	good	varies	good	good	good
Deposition Rate	fair	poor	good	good	good	good
Industrial Applicability	good	fair	good	good	good	poor

ALD = atomic layer deposition, MBE = molecular beam epitaxy.
CVD = chemical vapor deposition, PLD = pulsed laser deposition.

MBE and sputter: line of sight methods, not suited for particles

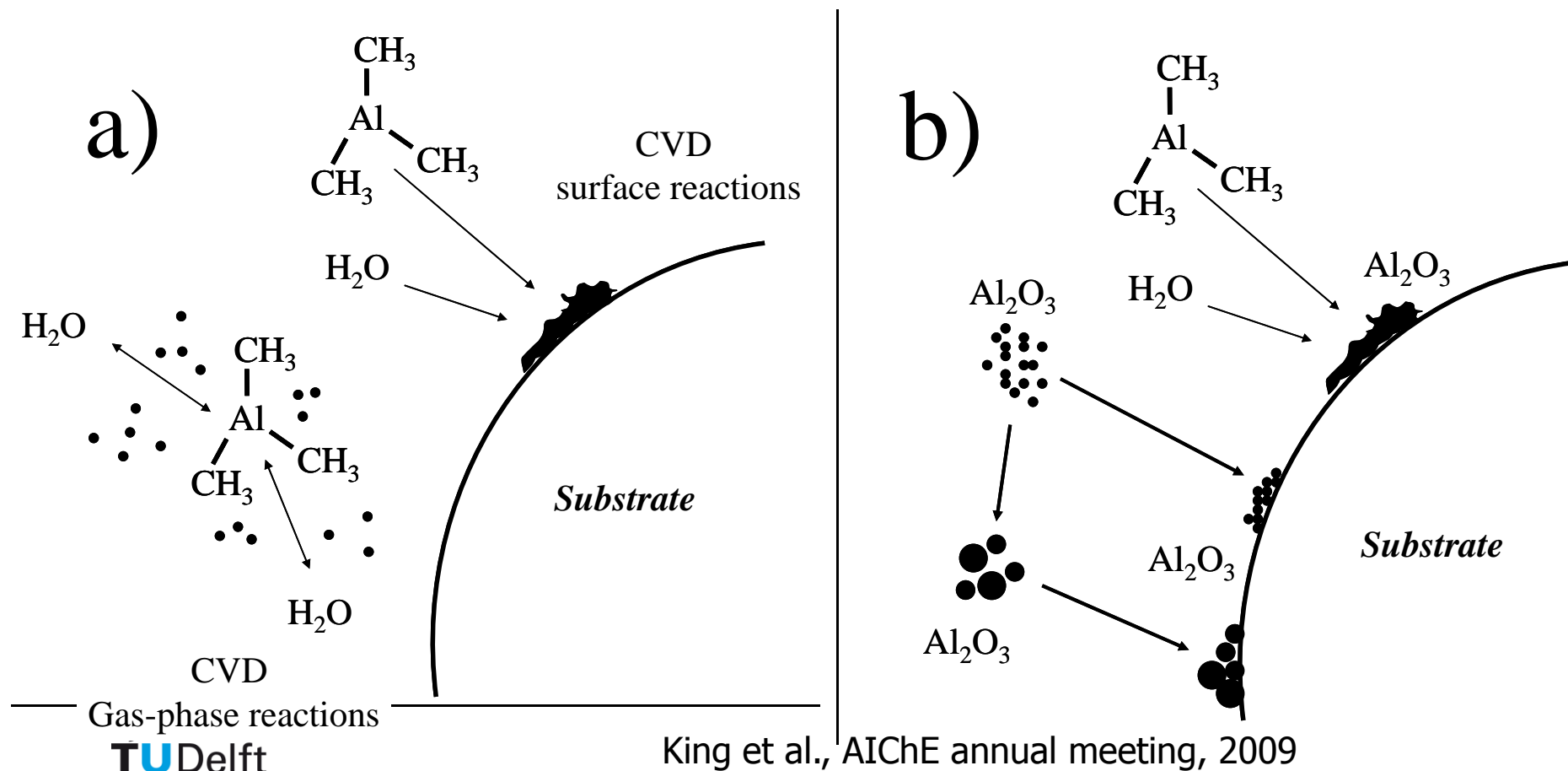
Gas phase coating



Source: ICKnowledge 2004

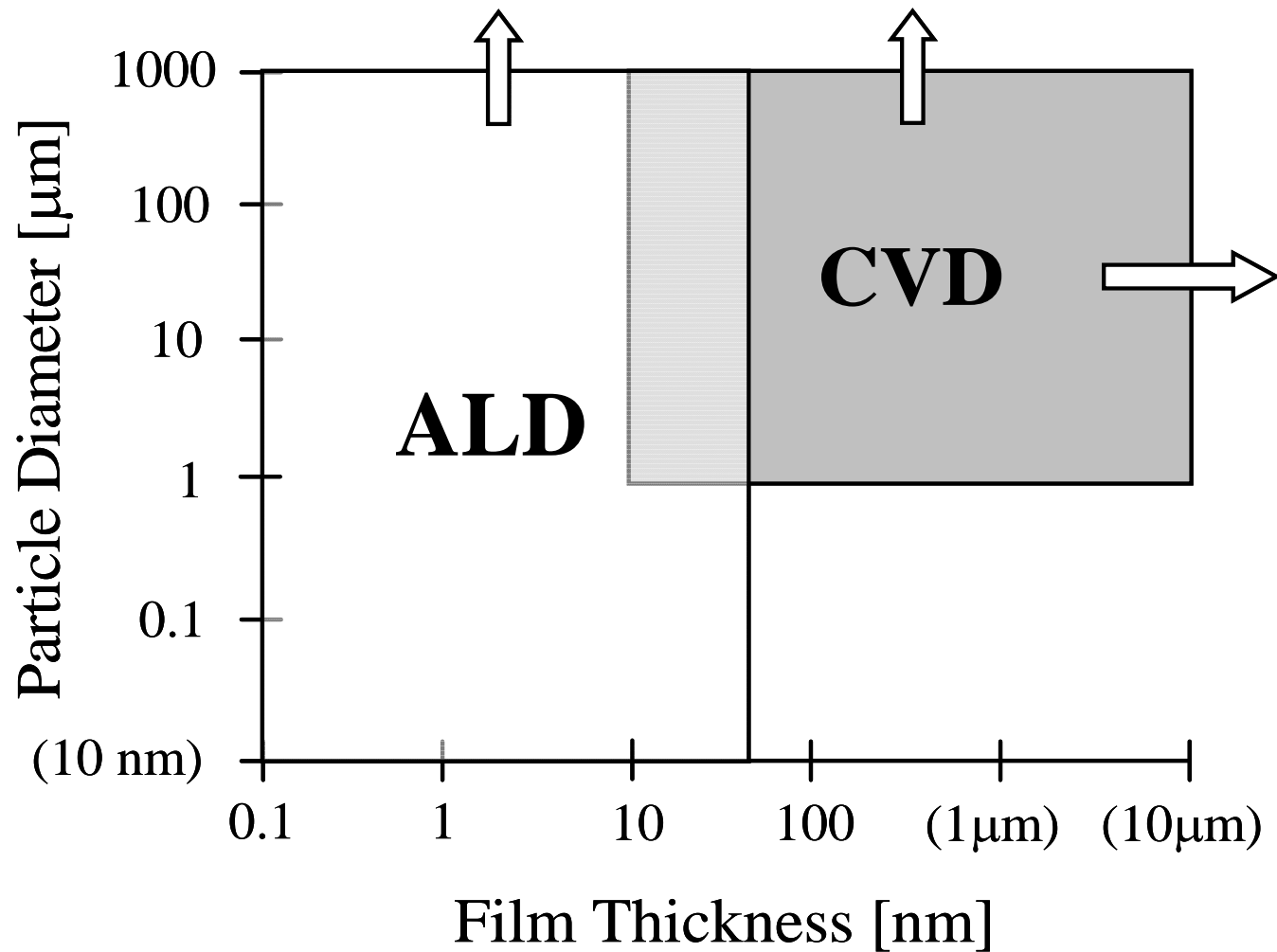
Chemical Vapor Deposition process mechanism

Al_2O_3 CVD: trimethylaluminum + H_2O



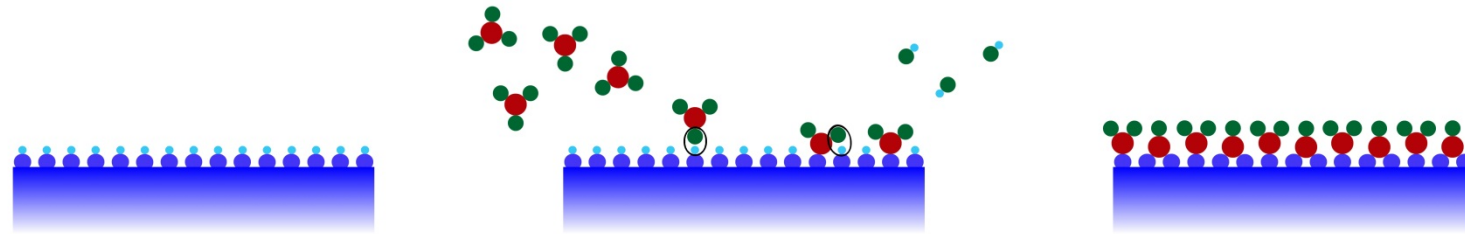
Adapted from: Powell et al., *J. Mater. Res.*12 (1997) 552

Process window for ALD vs. CVD

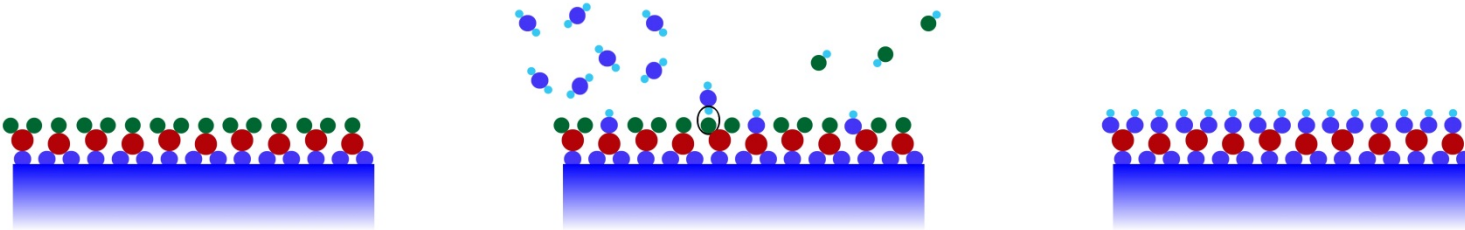


Atomic Layer Deposition (ALD)

A

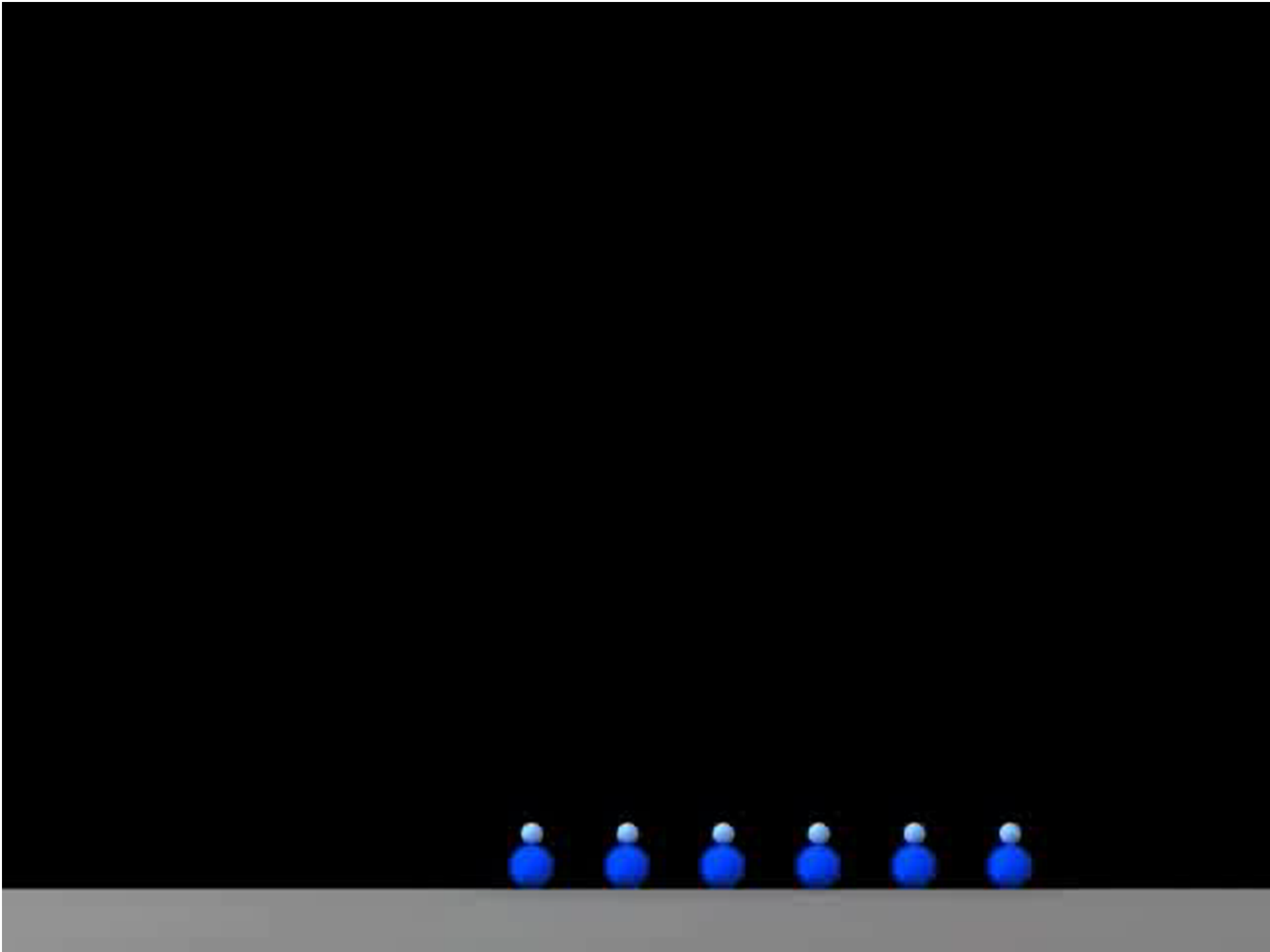


B



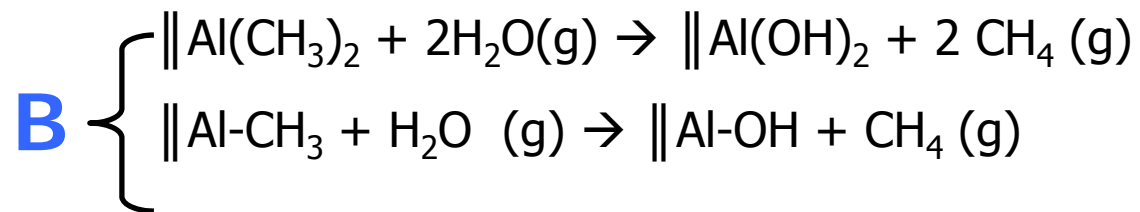
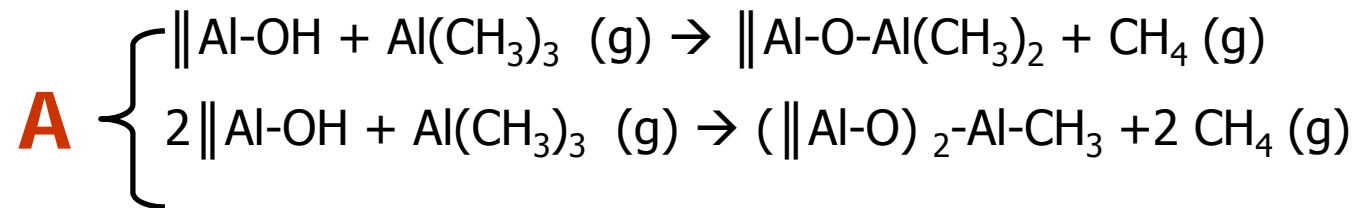
A – B – A – B – A – B – A – B – ... etc.

Number of cycles determines layer thickness



Atomic Layer Deposition (ALD)

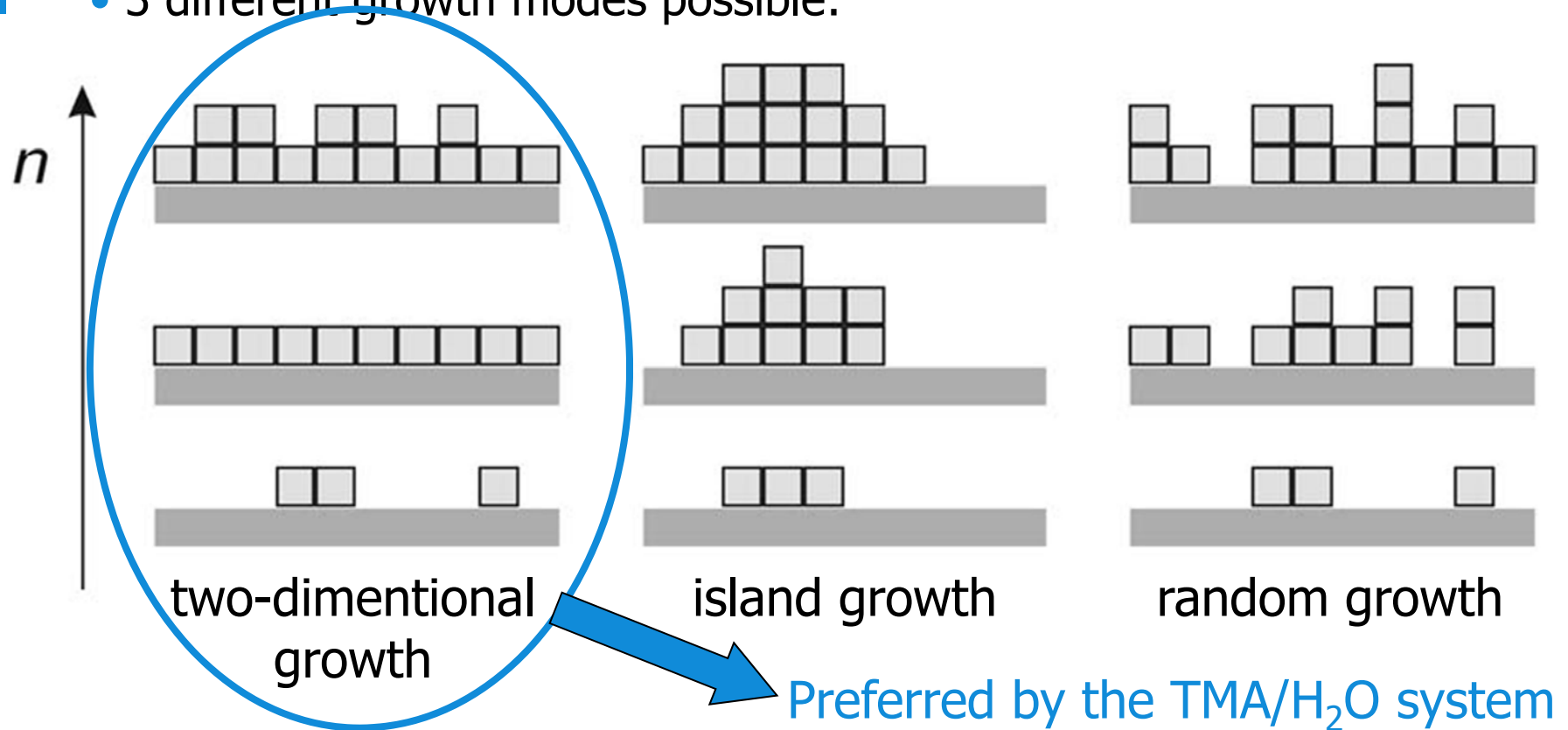
Deposition of alumina layer using tri-methyl aluminum (TMA) and water:



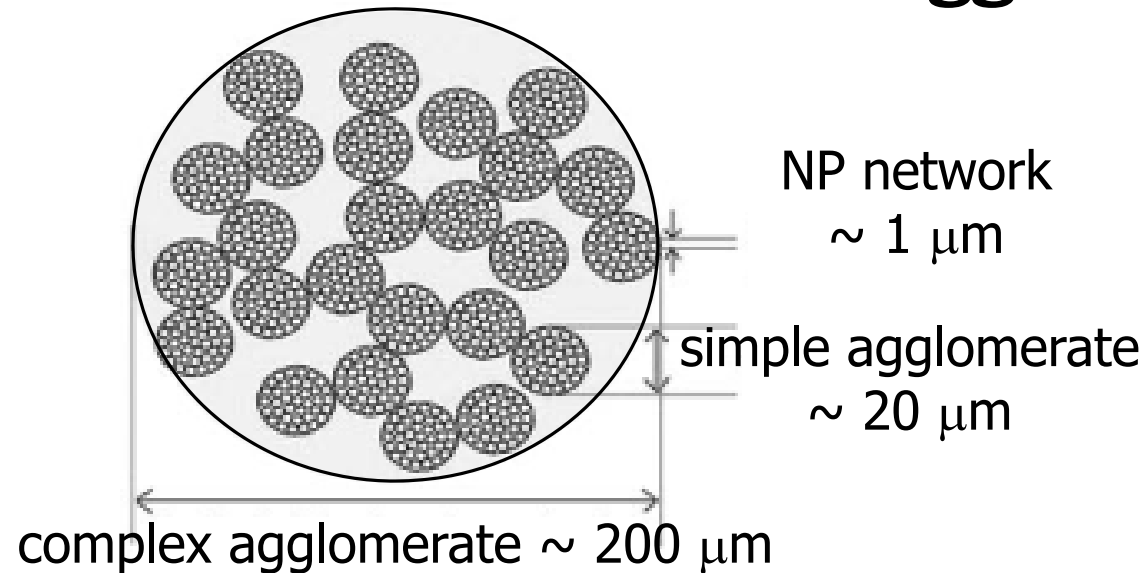
A – B – A – B – A – B – A – B – ... etc.

Thickness control of coating

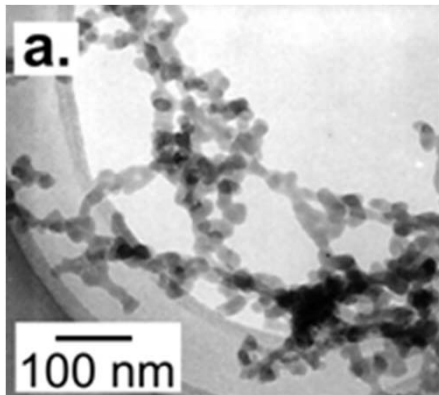
- 3 different growth modes possible:



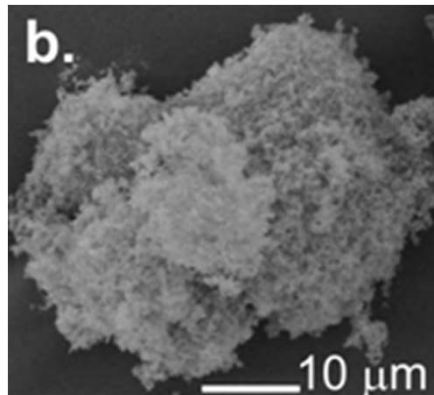
Nanoparticles are fluidized as agglomerates!



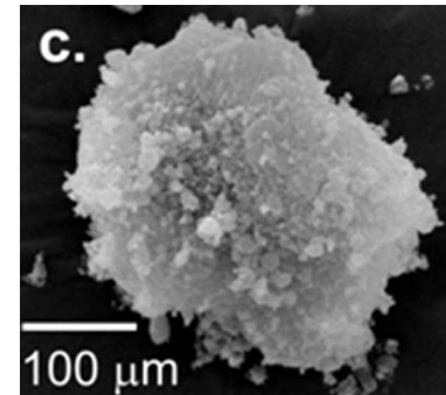
Wang et al., Powder Technol. 124 (2002) 152:



TEM NP network

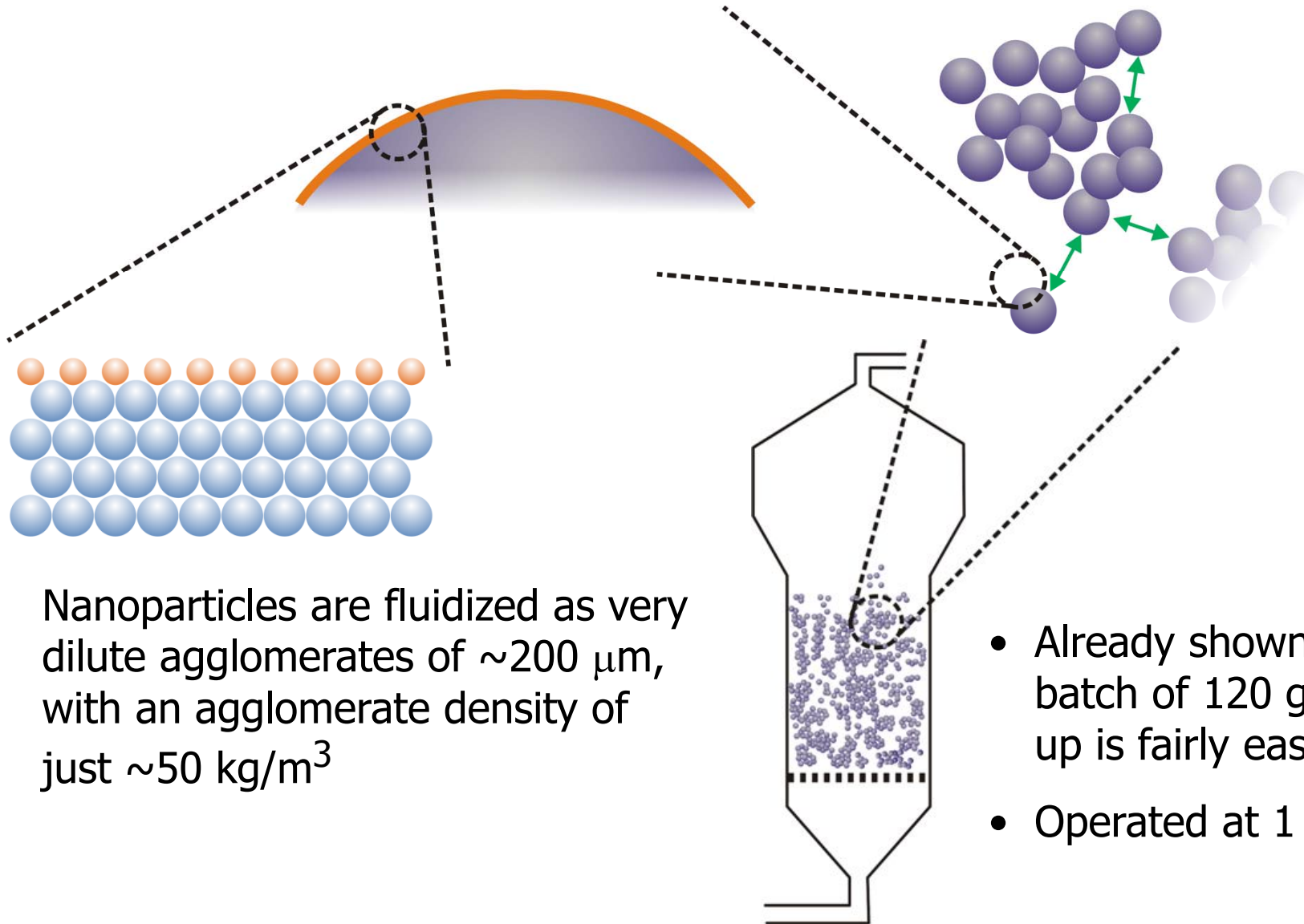


SEM simple agglomerate



SEM complex agglomerate

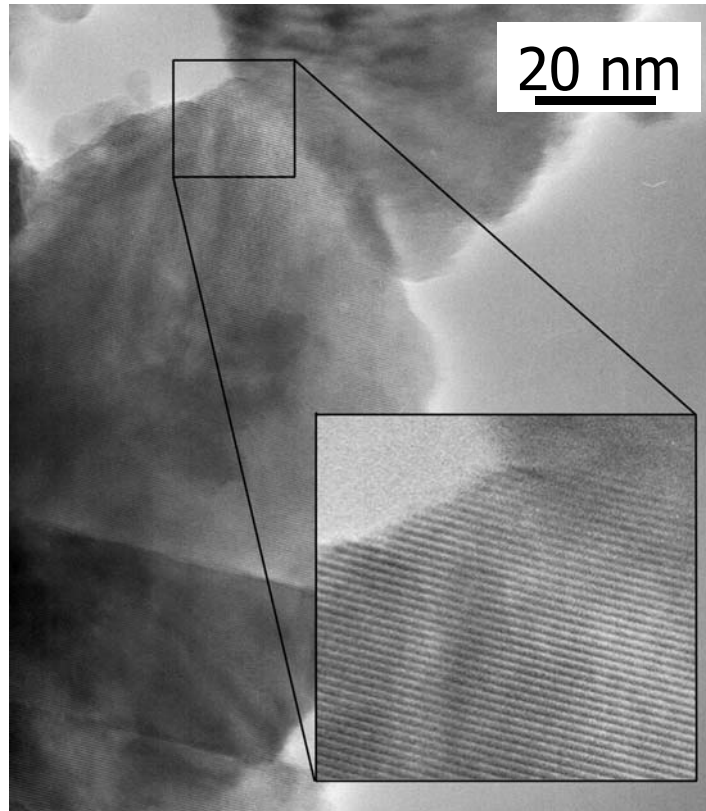
ALD fluidized bed reactor



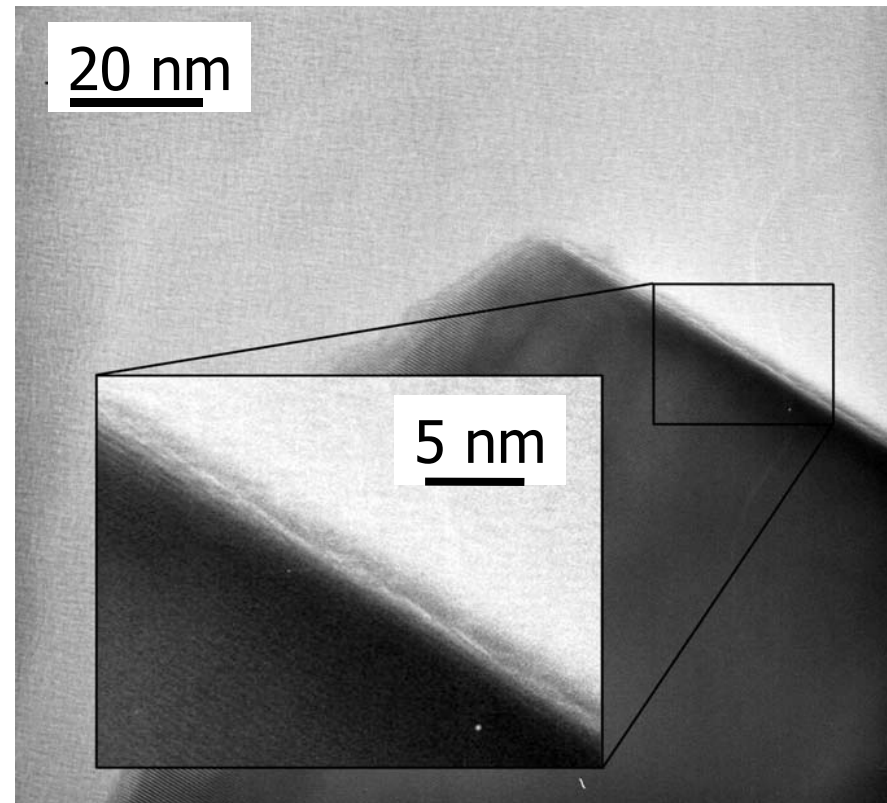
Nanoparticles are fluidized as very dilute agglomerates of $\sim 200 \mu\text{m}$, with an agglomerate density of just $\sim 50 \text{ kg/m}^3$

- Already shown for batch of 120 g, scale-up is fairly easy
- Operated at 1 bar!

TEM pictures of results



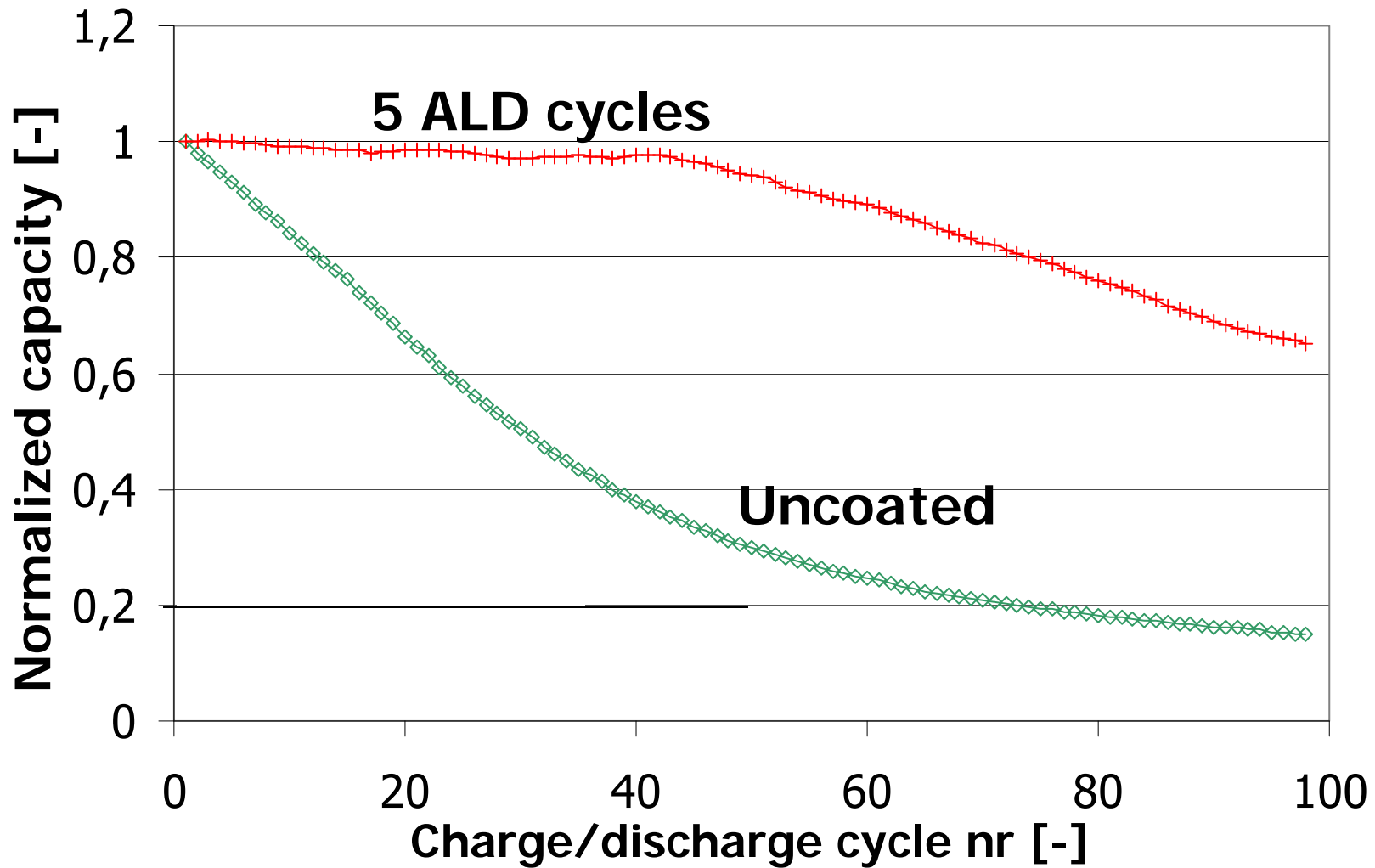
Uncoated



Coated (5 ALD cycles)

Obtained at atmospheric pressure!

Results: battery tests at 60°C



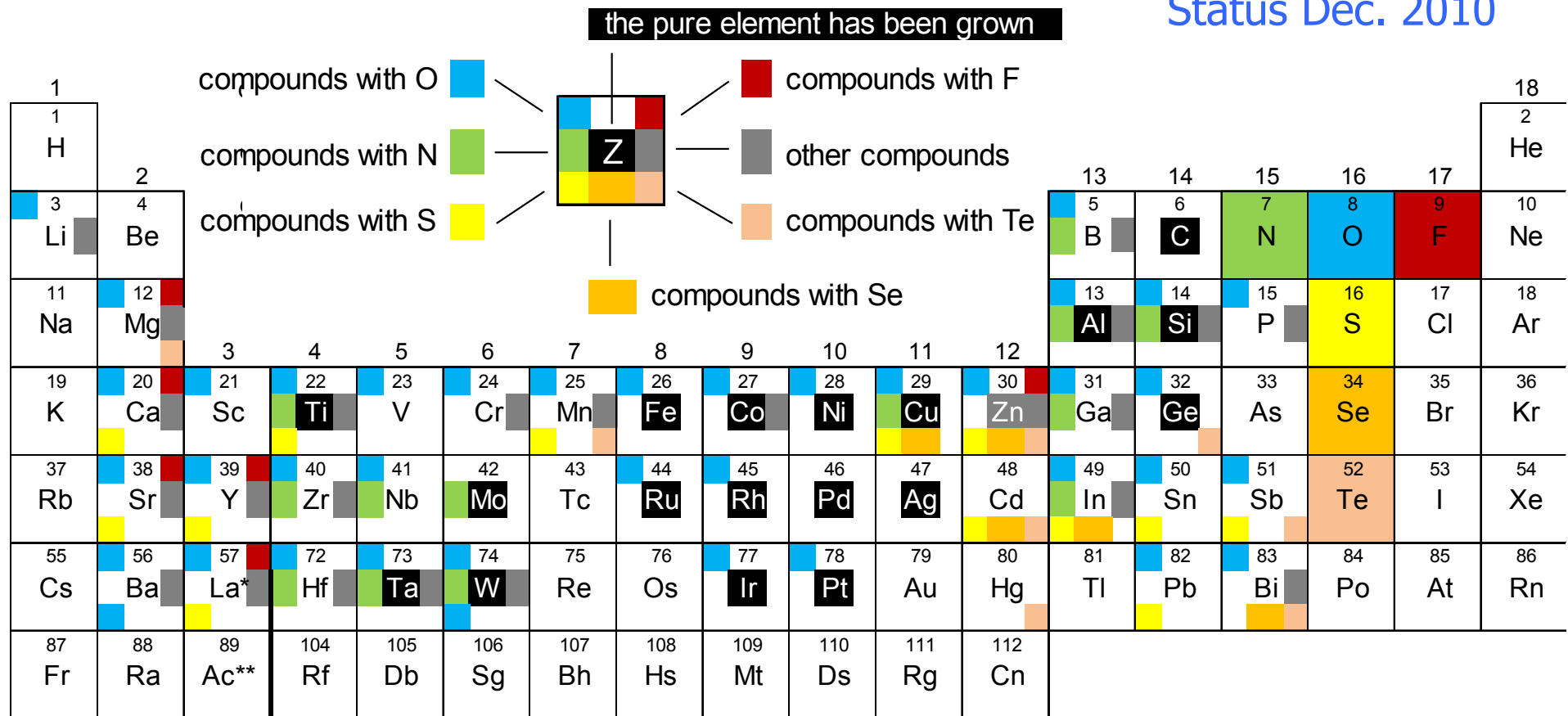
in cooperation with Erik Kelder

Wide range of coatings possible

'Periodic table of ALD'

Miikkulainen et al., J. Appl. Phys. 113 (2013) 021301

Status Dec. 2010

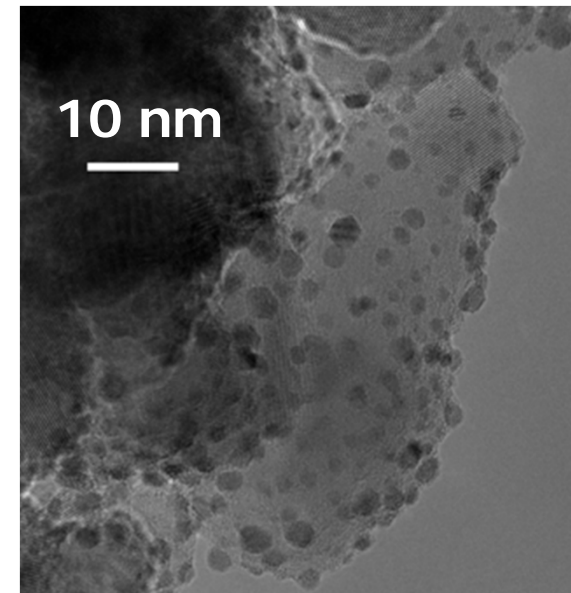
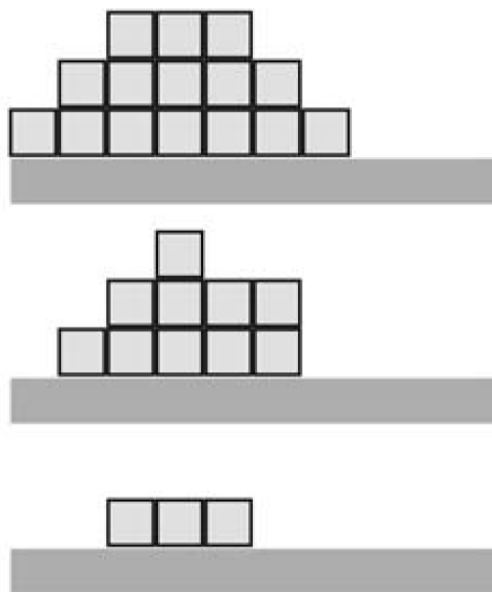


Mostly applied to flat substrates (semiconductor industry)

Pt deposition

TiO₂ particles "coated" with Pt (5 ALD cycles) at atmospheric pressure

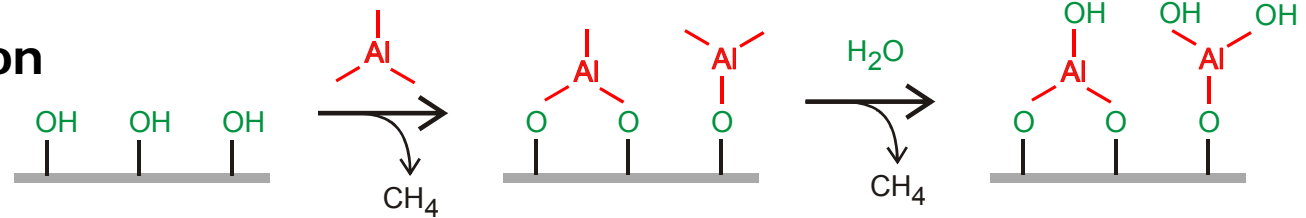
Island growth!



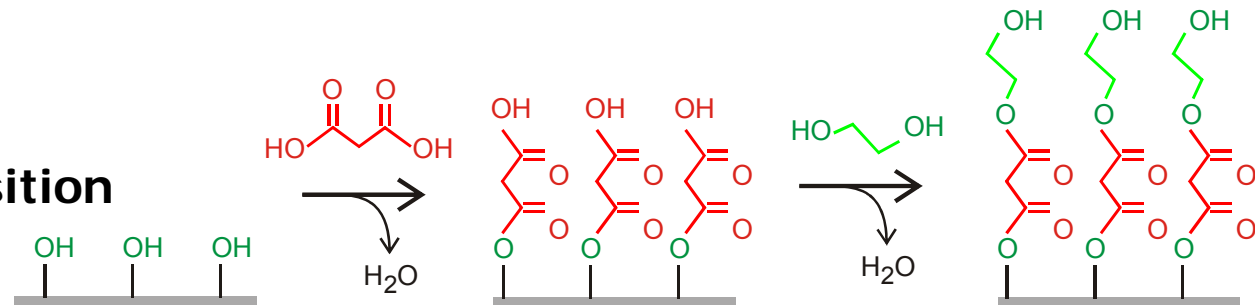
Pt on TiO₂

Vapour-phase coating

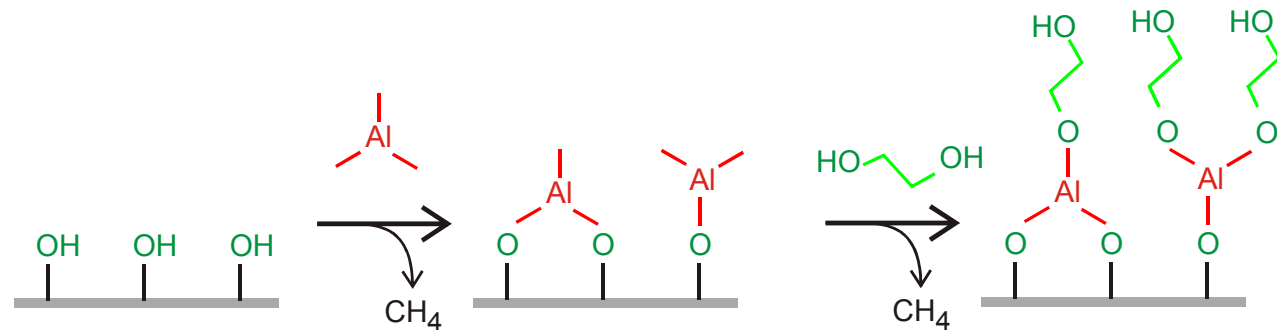
atomic layer deposition
(ALD; inorganic)



molecular layer deposition
(MLD; organic)



hybrid ALD/MLD
(mixed)



Basic properties of nanoparticles

Gas phase production of nanoparticles

Forces on single particles

Particle-particle forces

Particle coating

Applications

Applications of Nanoparticles

- **Pigment**
 - Carbon black, TiO₂
- **Medicine**
 - diagnostics, drug delivery
- **Chemistry**
 - catalysis
- **Energy**
 - batteries, hydrogen storage, photovoltaic cells, LEDs
- **Construction**
 - nanostructured materials
- **Food**
 - ingredients, packaging
- **Personal care**
 - sunscreens
- ...

This list is not complete!

Carbon Black

- Produced by the incomplete combustion of heavy petroleum products such as FCC tar, coal tar, ethylene cracking tar,
- Large surface area: typically nanoparticles of 20 – 200 nm
- 70% used in tyres (20% in other rubber application):
 - pigment
 - reinforcement
 - increase of heat transfer
- Top 50 industrial chemicals manufactured worldwide, based on annual tonnage. Worldwide production is about 8.1 million metric tons (2006).

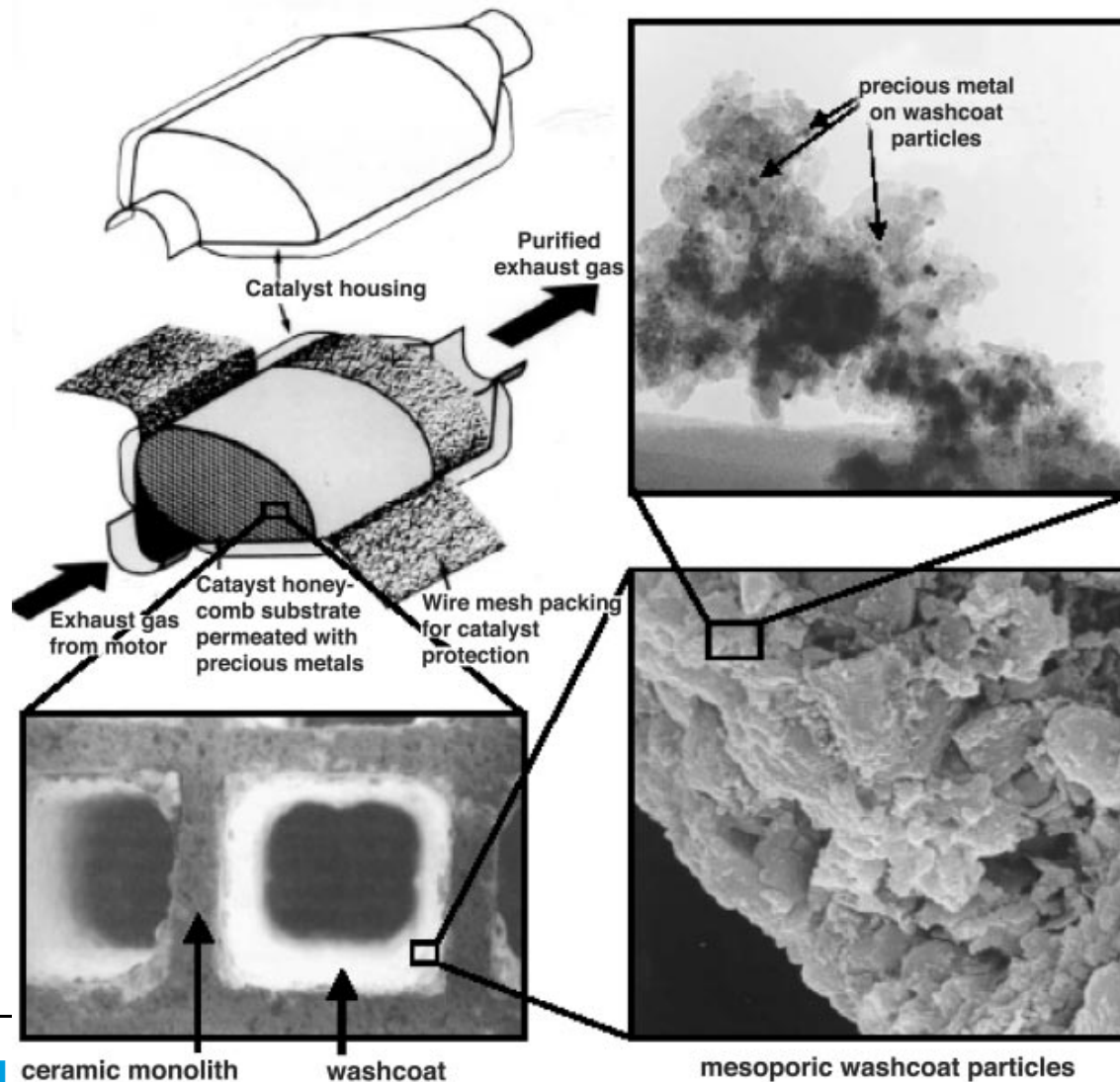
Titanium dioxide (=Titania)

- Titanium dioxide occurs in nature as the minerals rutile, anatase and brookite; there are some other crystal forms as well.
- Main application: pigment; also: photocatalyst, UV-blocker
- Most particles produced in the range 200-300 nm, but also in finer grades
- Production: Crude ore (containing at least 70% TiO_2) is reduced with carbon, and oxidized with chlorine to give TiCl_4 . This is distilled, and re-oxidized with oxygen to give pure TiO_2 while regenerating chlorine.
- Worldwide production is about 4.4 million metric tons (2004).



Applications in catalysis

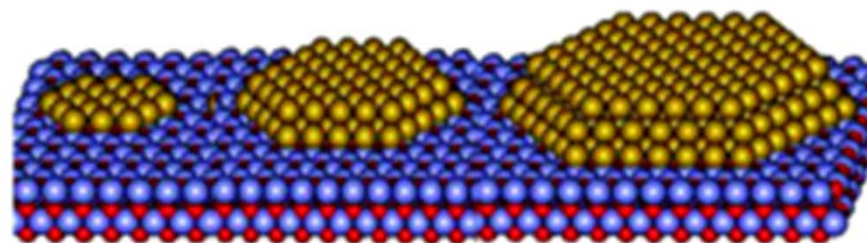
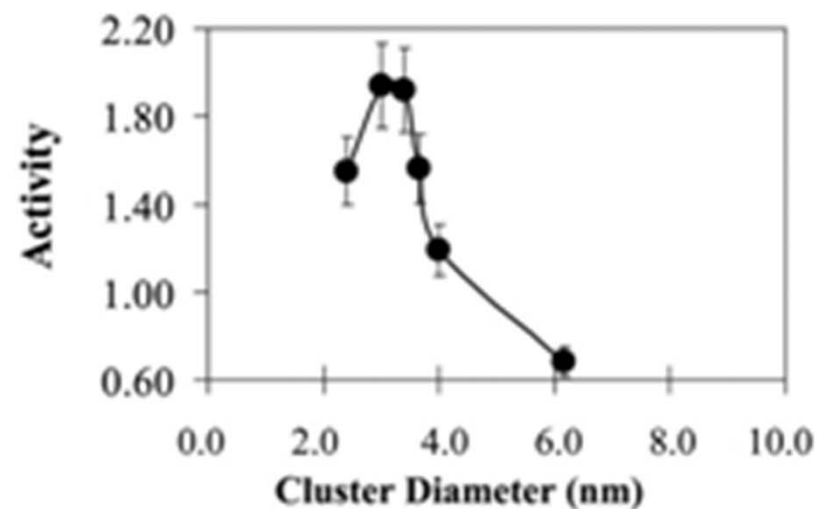
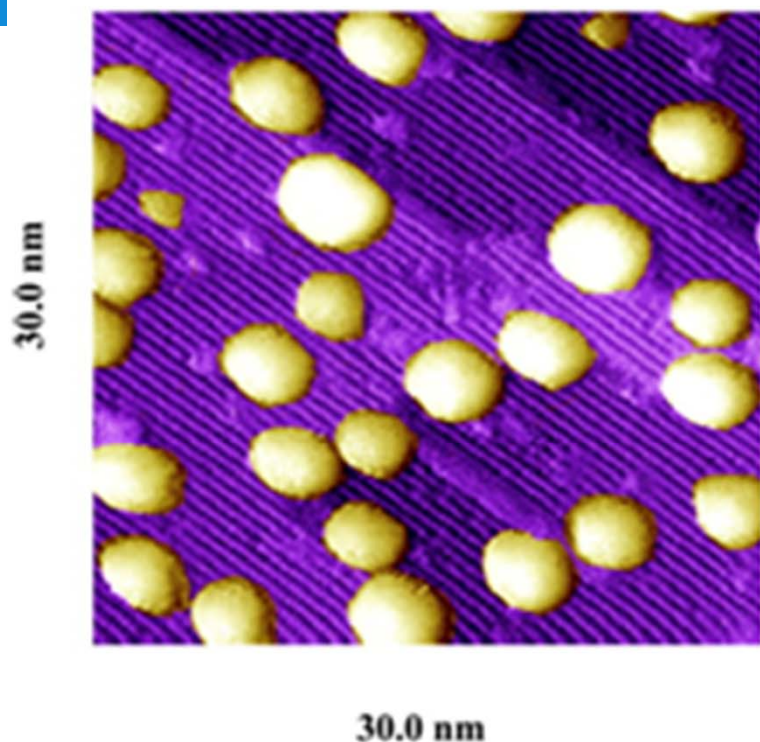
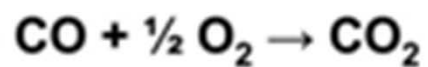
Example: three-way catalytic converter



The alumina washcoat is impregnated with nanoparticles of Pt, Rh, Ce, zirconia, lanthana, ...

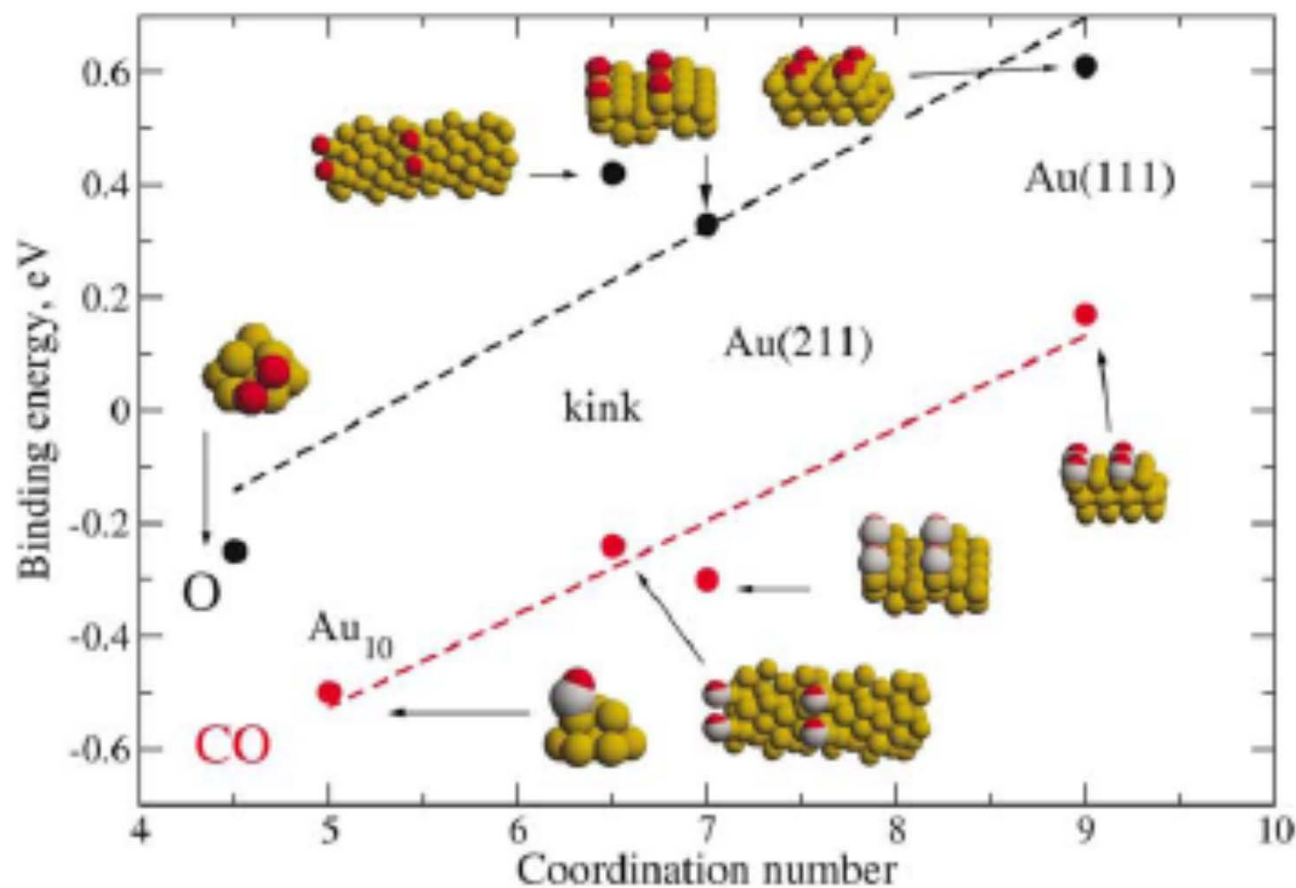
Bell, Science 299
(2003) 1688

Influence of particle diameter



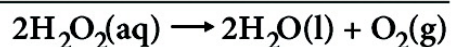
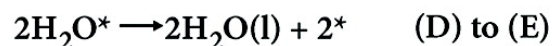
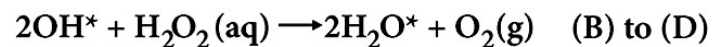
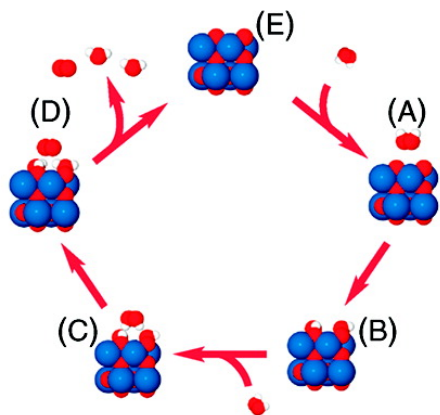
Effect ascribed to oxidation of Au atoms in contact with the support

Influence of coordination number

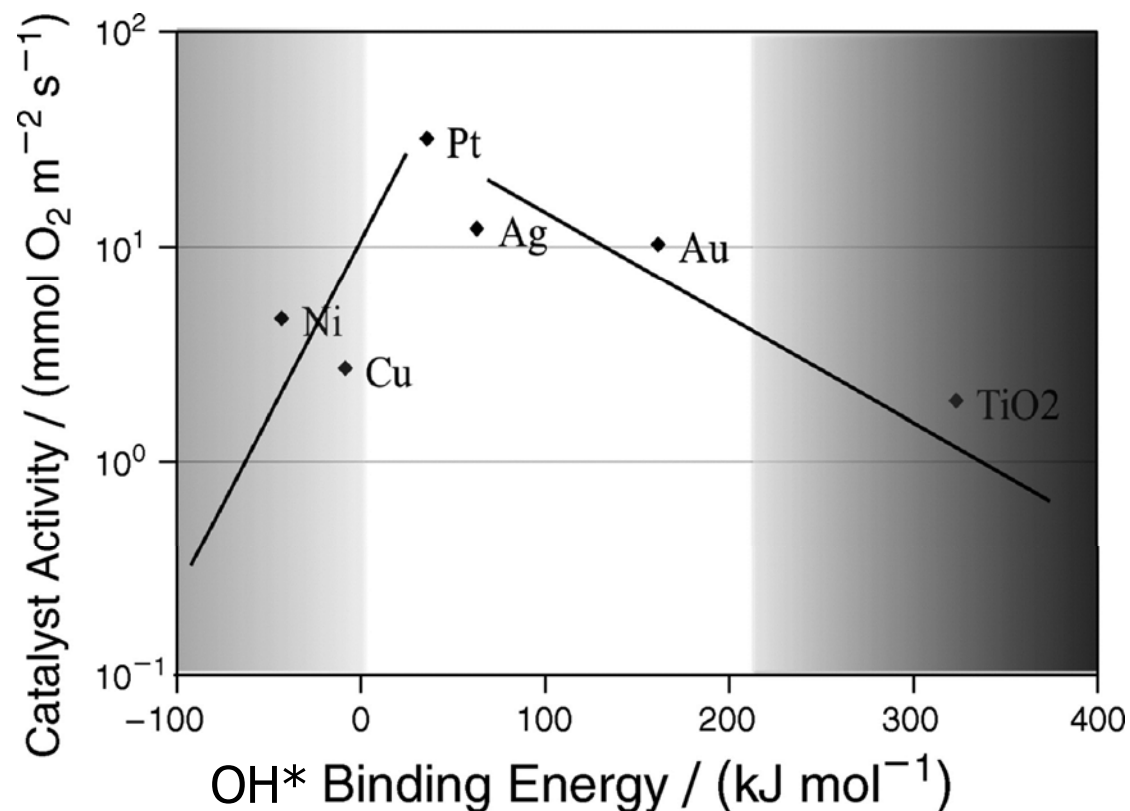


Sabatier principle

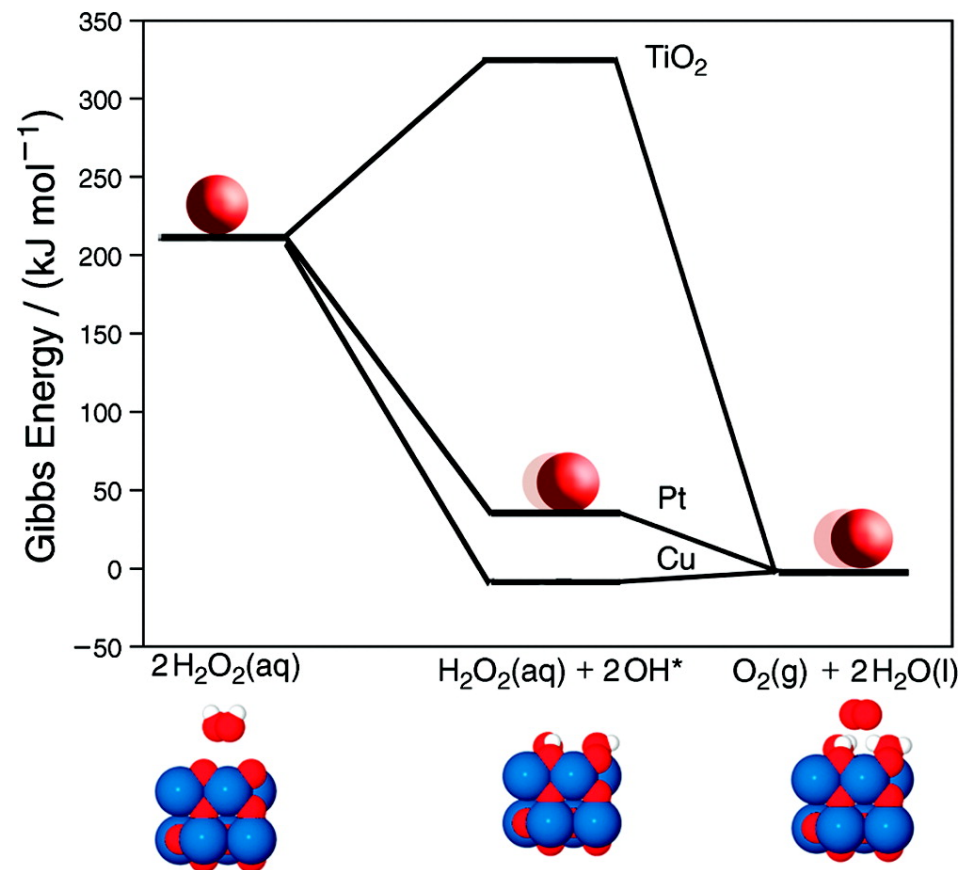
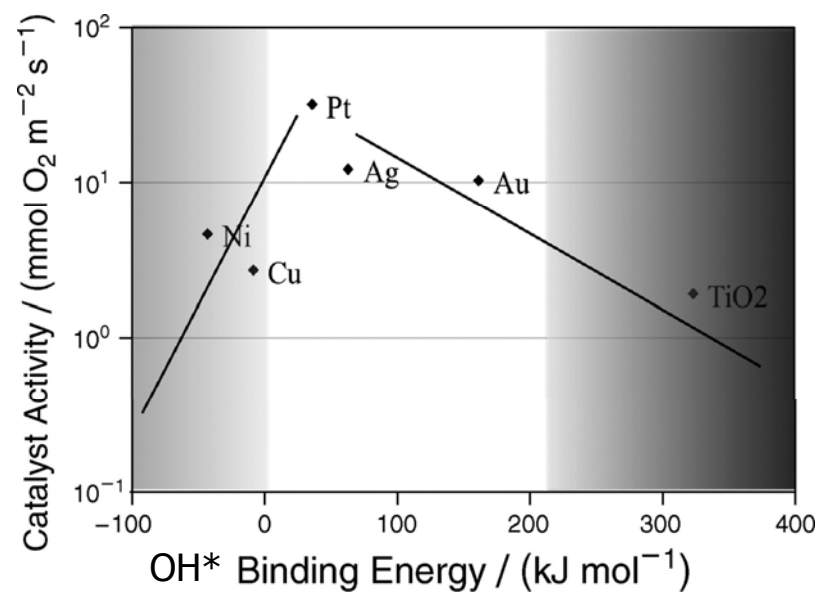
Example reaction:



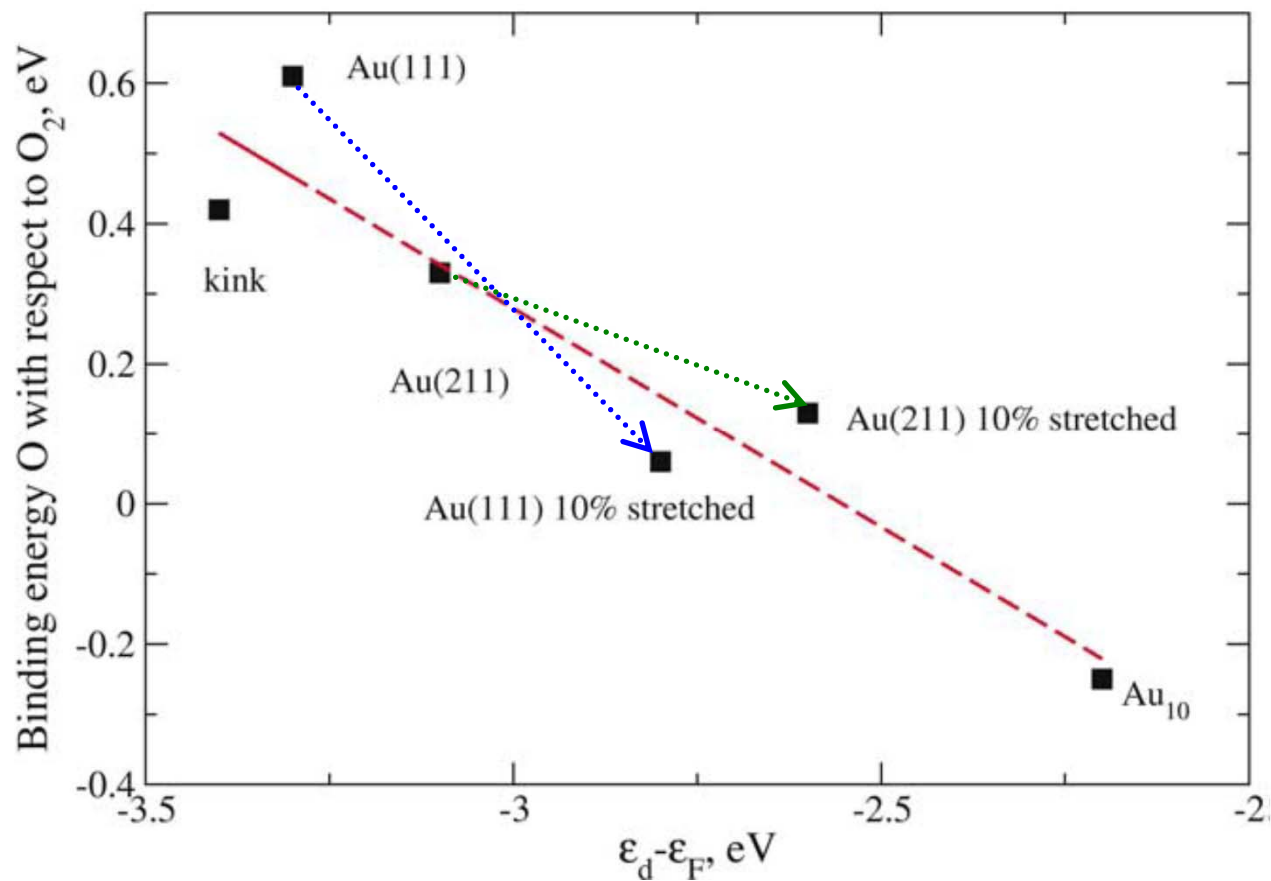
Volcano plot:



Sabatier principle



Influence of stretching

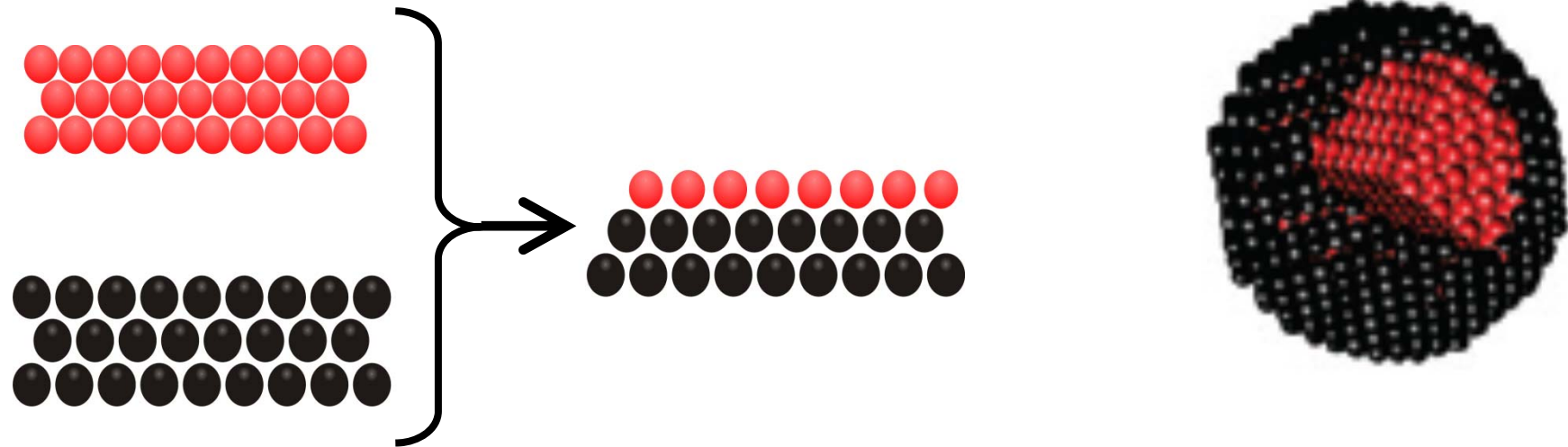




How to stretch the atoms
in a catalyst particle?

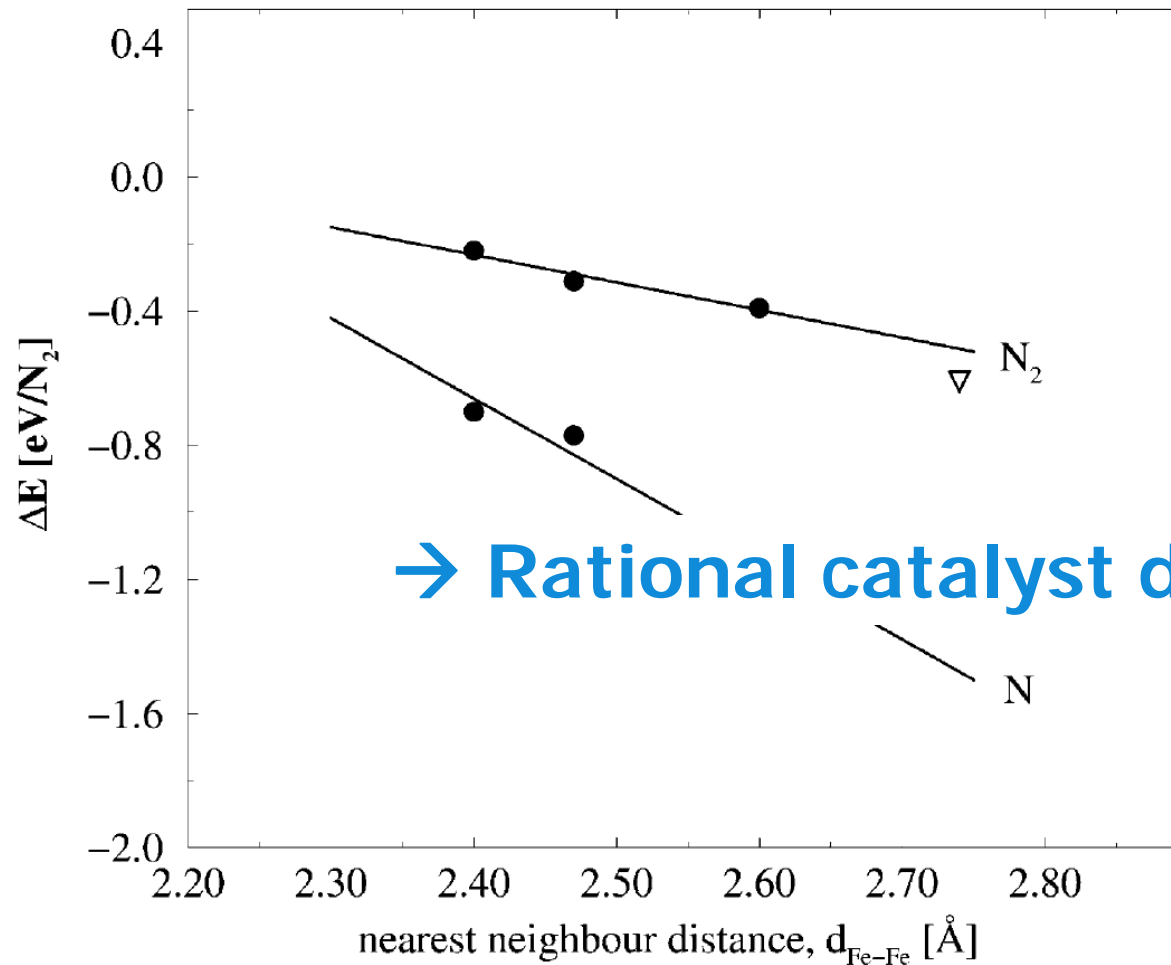
Stretching atoms in a catalyst particle

Place a coating of only 1 (or max 2-3) atom-layers thick on a different metal



Ru core with Pt shell

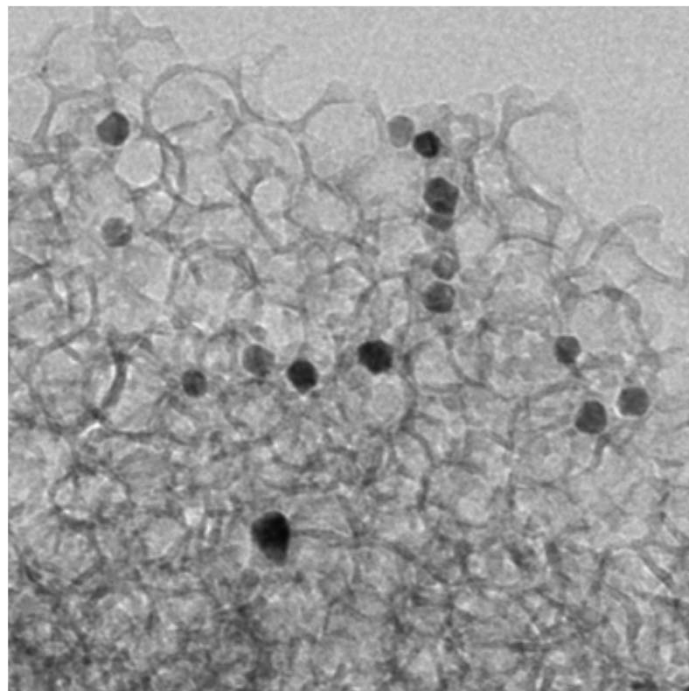
Alayoglu et al., Nature Mater. (2008)



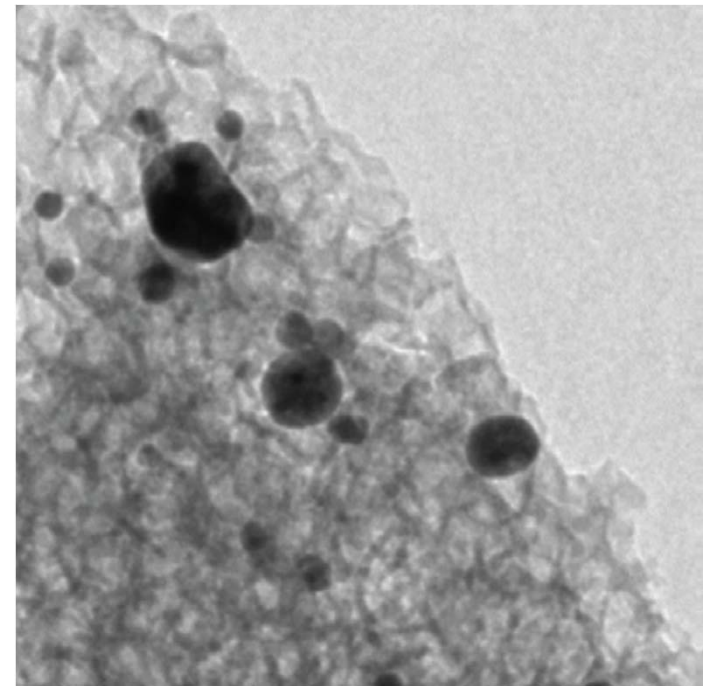
→ Rational catalyst design!

The adsorption energy of N and N₂ on an fcc-Fe(1 1 1) surface as a function of the nearest neighbour distance, $d_{\text{Fe-Fe}}$. The binding energies are compared to N₂ (g) and a clean metal surface. The triangles give the energies in the case of a monolayer of Fe on Ru (0 0 0 1).

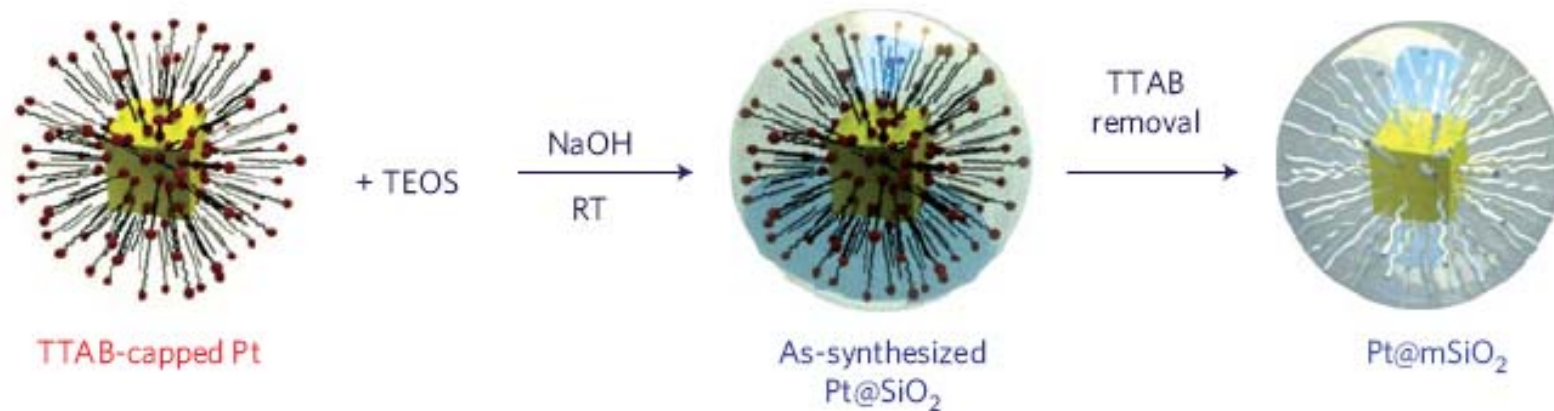
Core-shell NPs for thermal stability



CO oxidation
at 300°C



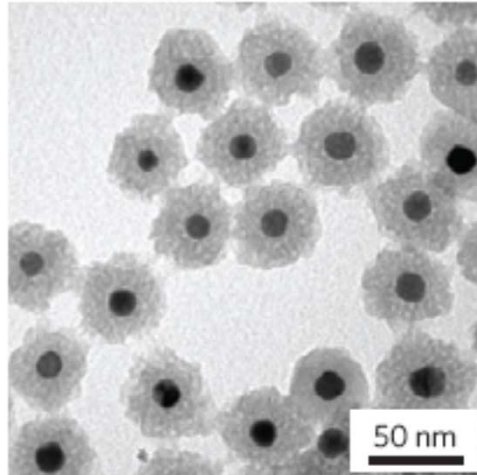
Core-shell NPs for thermal stability



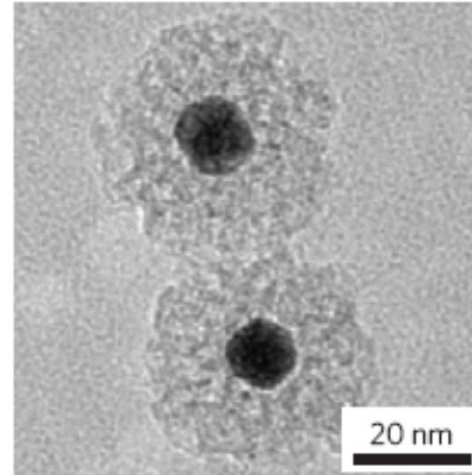
Schematic representation of the synthesis of Pt@mSiO₂ nanoparticles
(Pt NPs coated with mesoporous silica)

Core-shell NPs for thermal stability

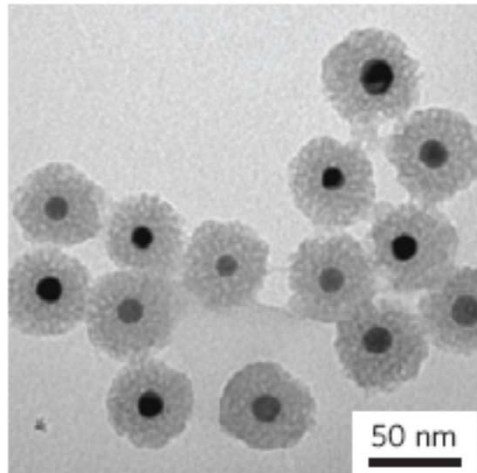
T=350°C



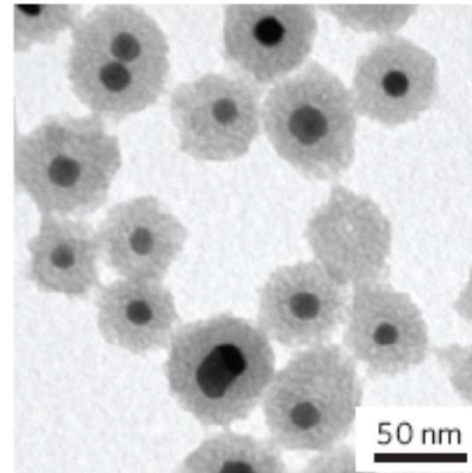
T=350°C



T=550°C



T=750°C





Is sintering always a problem in catalysis?

At low temperatures it is not a problem. Example: photocatalysis!

However, agglomeration / aggregation can still play a role.

Sustainable energy solutions

Photovoltaic cell



Fuel cell



Solar H₂ production

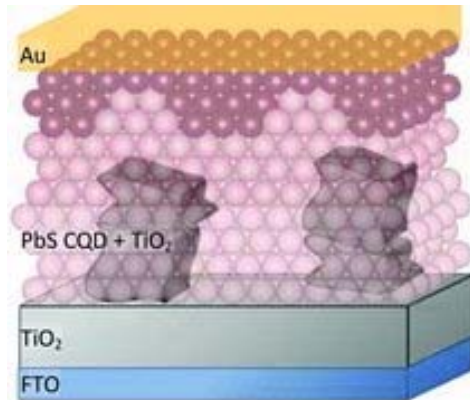


Li ion battery



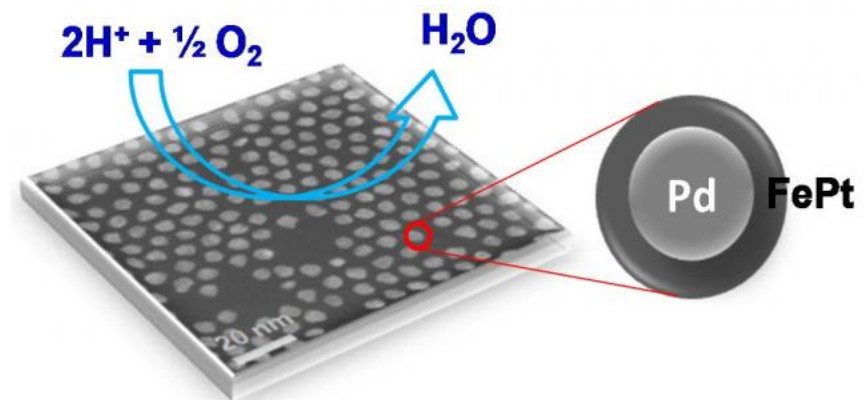
Nanotechnology for sustainable energy

Photovoltaic cell



Barkhouse et al., Adv Mat 23 (2011) 3134

Fuel cell



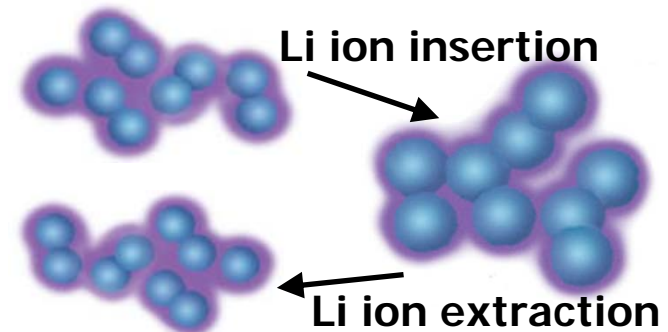
Mazumder & Sun, Brown University

Solar H₂ production



Maeda et al., Chem Eur J 16 (2010) 7750

Li ion battery



Lawrence Berkeley National Lab.

Many novel solutions rely on core-shell nanoparticles