

From shape-controlled nanoparticles to "colloidal molecules"

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Colloids: Towards higher complexity and functionality



Colloidal stability

Size

Size-polydispersity

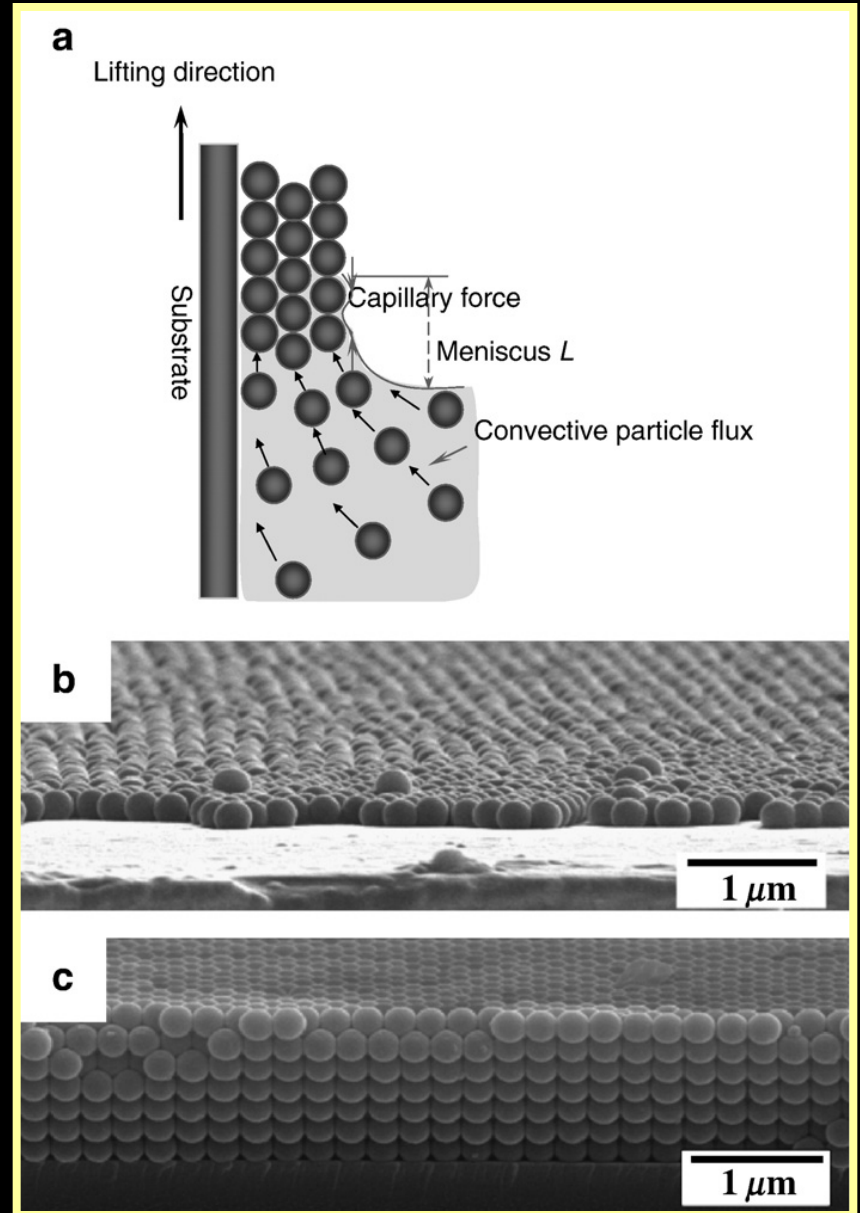
Chemical composition

Surface groups

Shape

Self-assembling ability

“spherical colloids can be treated as if they were atoms”



Colloids: Towards higher complexity and functionality



Colloidal stability

Size

Size-polydispersity

Chemical composition

Surface groups

Shape

Self-assembling ability

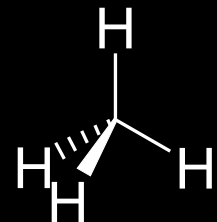
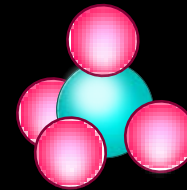
“spherical colloids can be treated as if they were atoms”

and

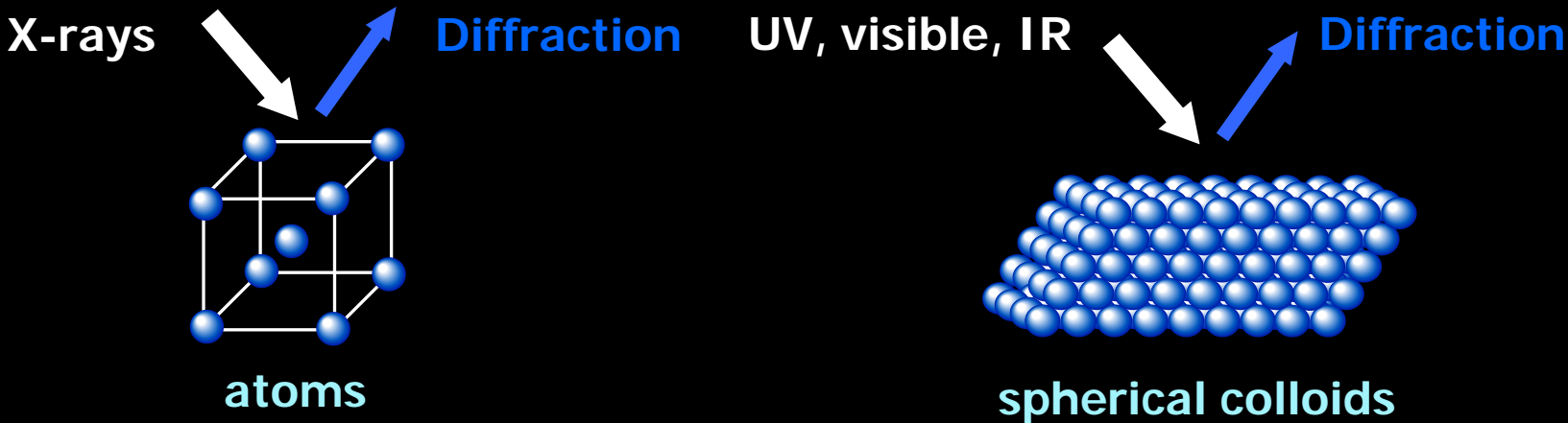
“molecules form more complex materials than do atoms”



Colloidal Molecules

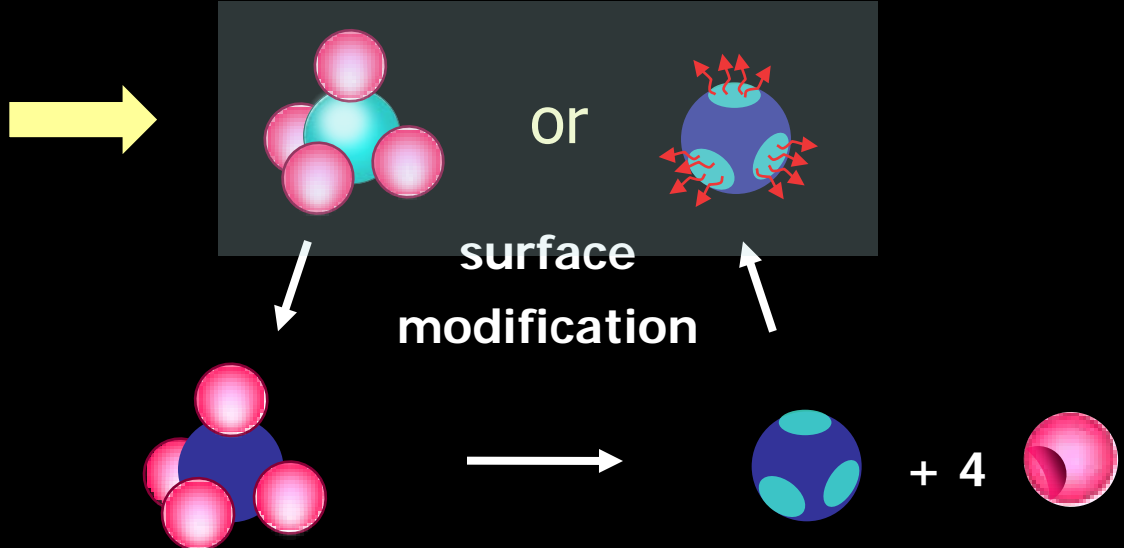


Photonic crystals with full bandgap

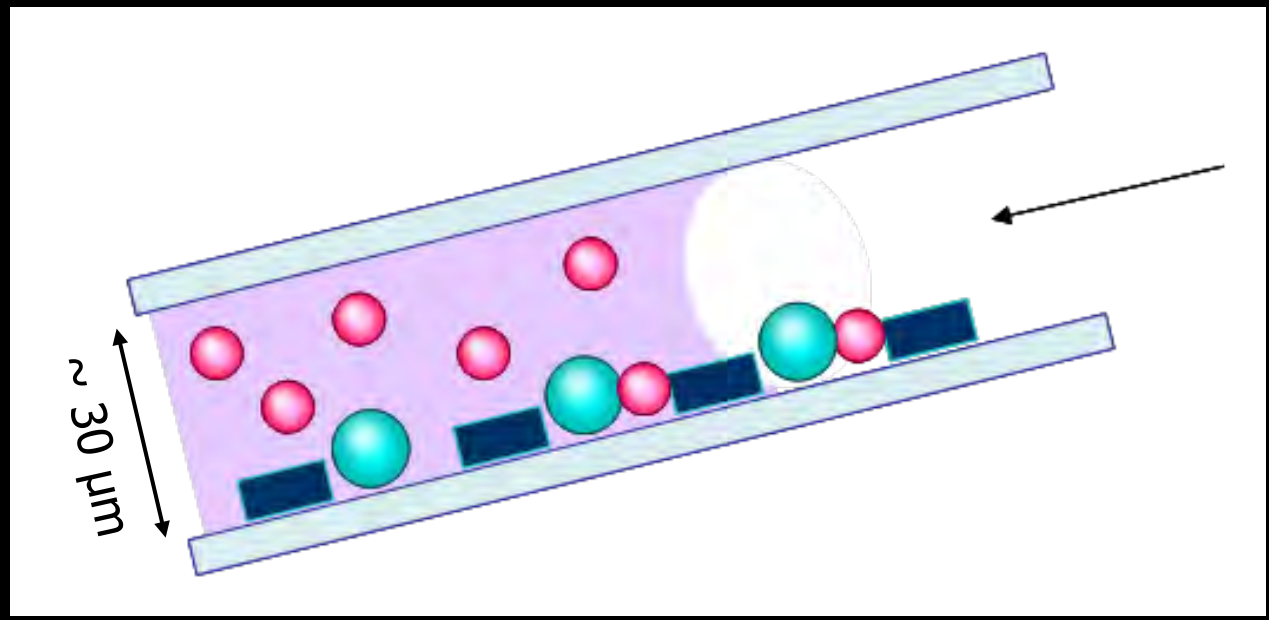


fcc or hcp structure → no full photonic bandgap

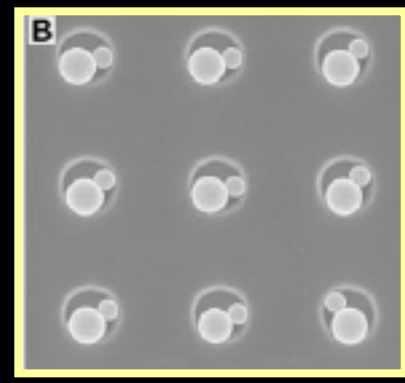
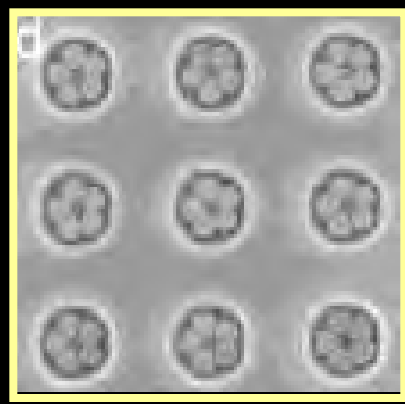
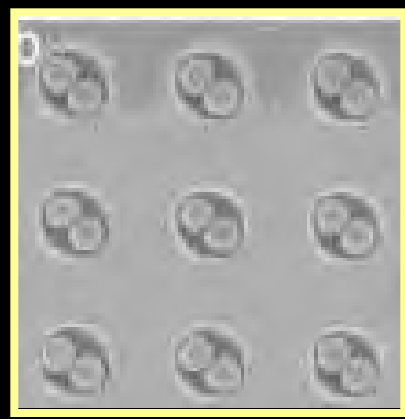
full photonic bandgap
→ diamond-like structure



Template-directed self-assembly route

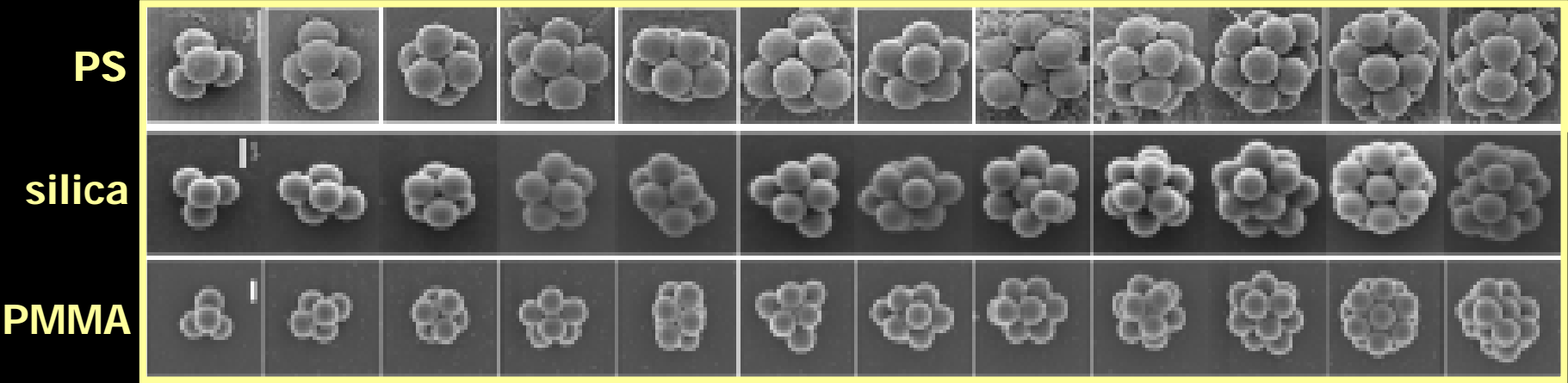
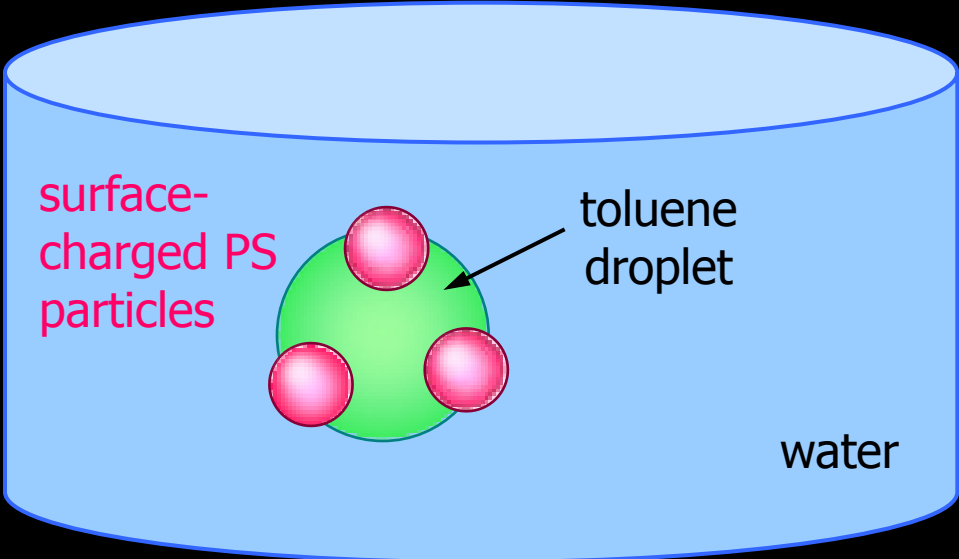


Combined effect of geometrical confinement and attractive capillary forces



Yin and Xia, *Adv. Mater.* 2001 13, 267
Yin, Lu and Xia, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2001 123, 771

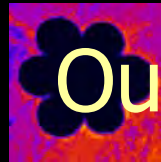
Emulsion-confined self-assembly route



scale bar : 1 μm

Manoharan, Elsesser and Pine, *Science* 2003 301, 483

Pine and coll., *Adv. Mater.* 2004 16, 1204



Our route based on
the controlled surface nucleation/growth
of PS latex particles onto silica seeds

Emulsion polymerization background





Styrene emulsion polymerization

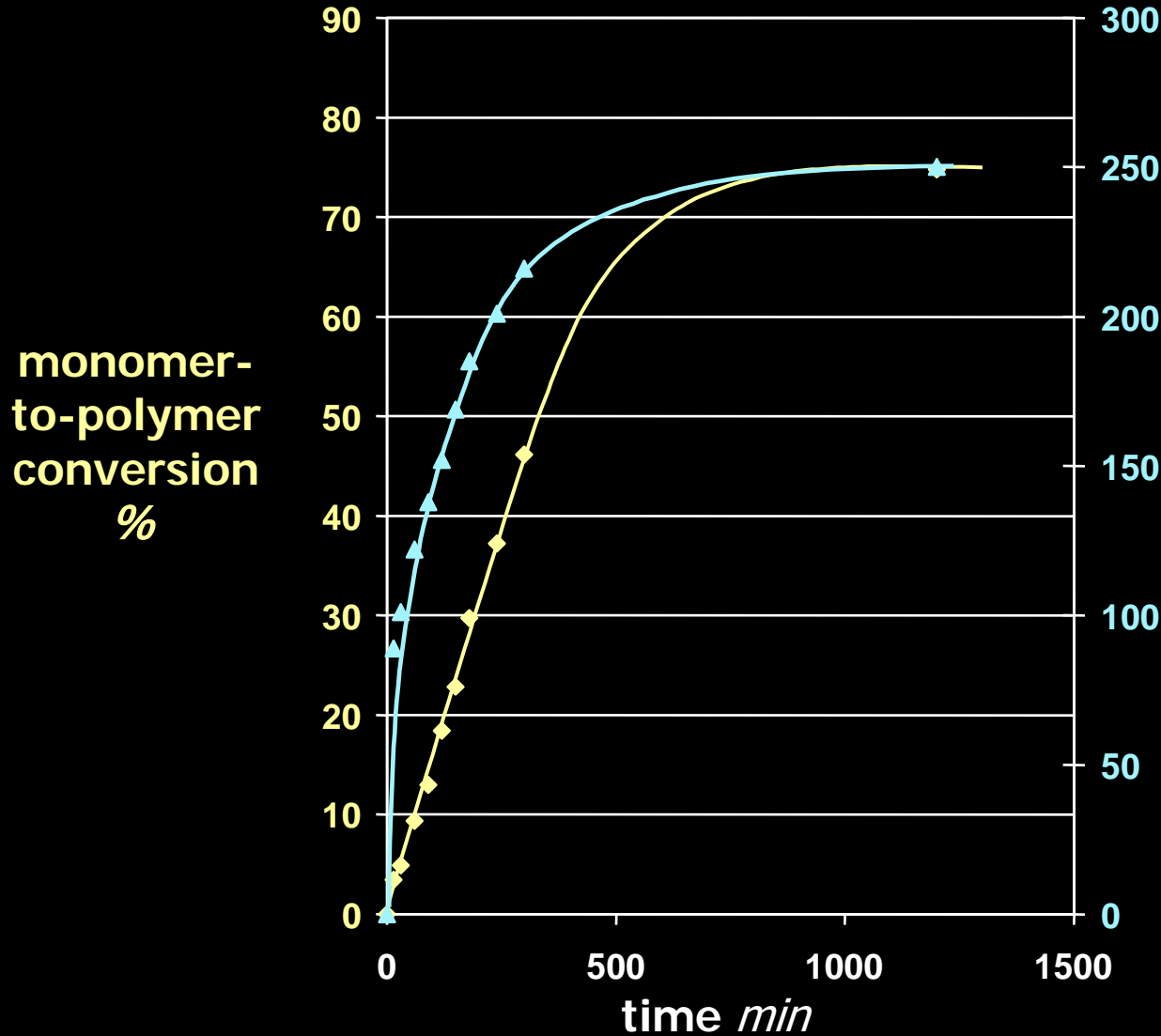
experimental

[styrene] = 100 g/L

[NP30] = 20*CMC

[Na₂S₂O₈] = 0.5 g/L

T = 70°C



(D_n)_{TEM}
number-
average
diameter
of latex
nm

$$\%_{\text{conv}} = \frac{[m - m_{\text{Si}}] * 100}{m_{\text{monomer}}}$$



Styrene emulsion polymerization

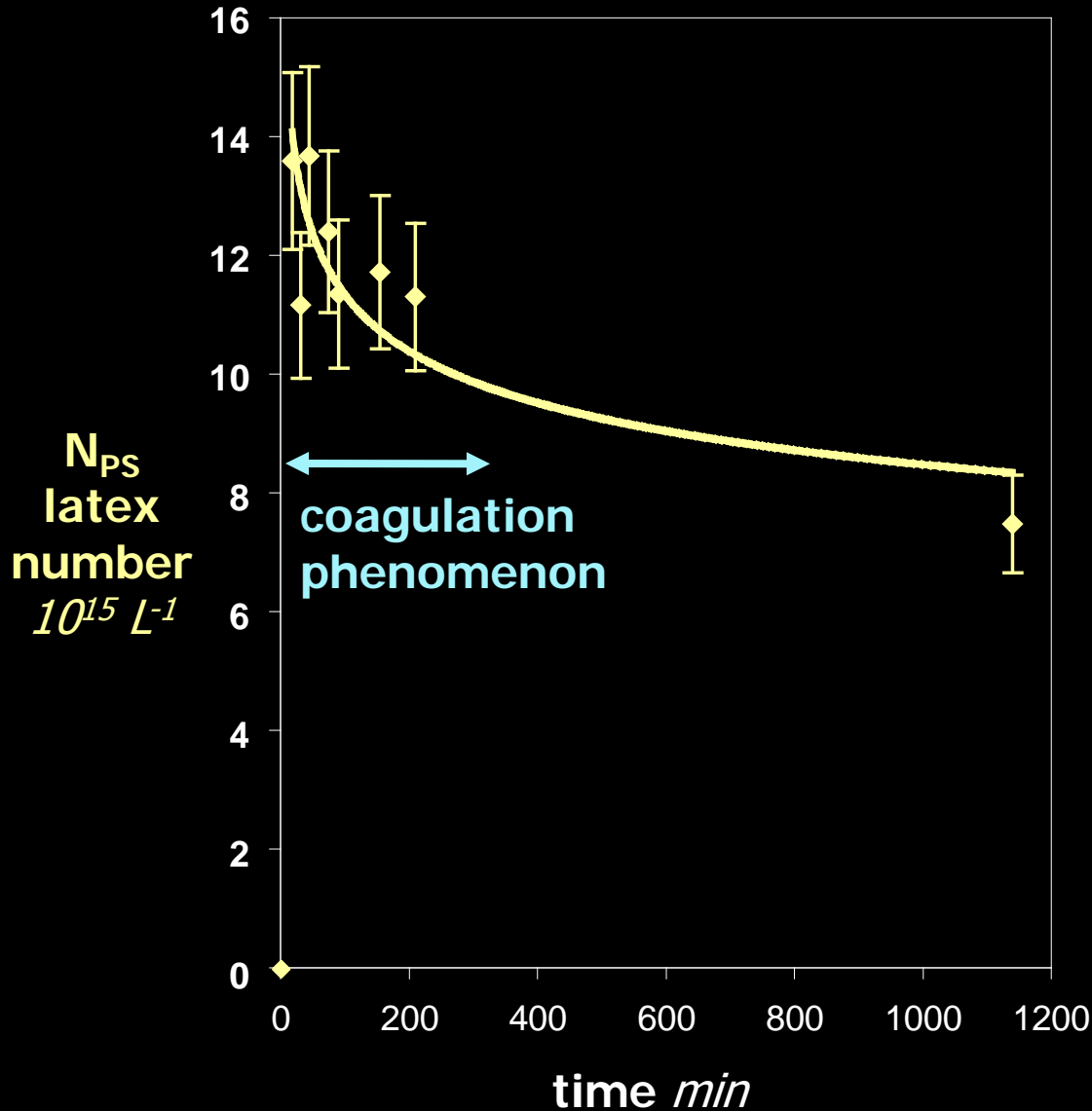
experimental

[styrene] = 100 g/L

[NP30] = 20*CMC

[Na₂S₂O₈] = 0.5 g/L

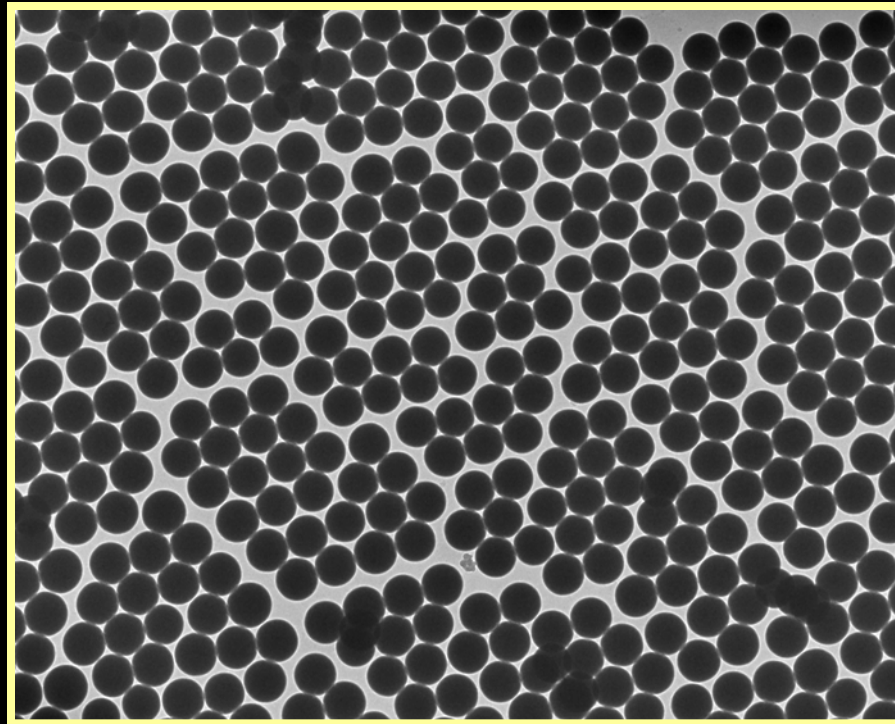
T = 70°C



$$N_{PS} = \frac{[m - m_{Si}] * 10^{21}}{(\pi/6)(D_n)_{TEM}^3 \rho}$$

Styrene emulsion polymerization

What happens in the presence of Stöber silica



Stöber and coll., *Colloid Interface Sci.* **1968**, 26, 62

Kang and coll., *Polymer* **2001** 42, 879



Styrene emulsion polymerization

experimental

[styrene] = 100 g/L

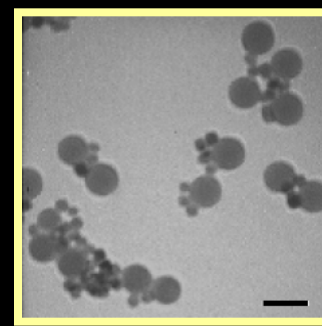
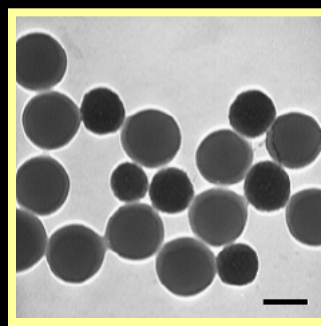
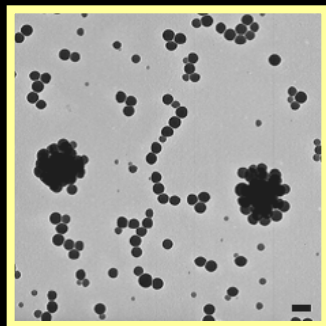
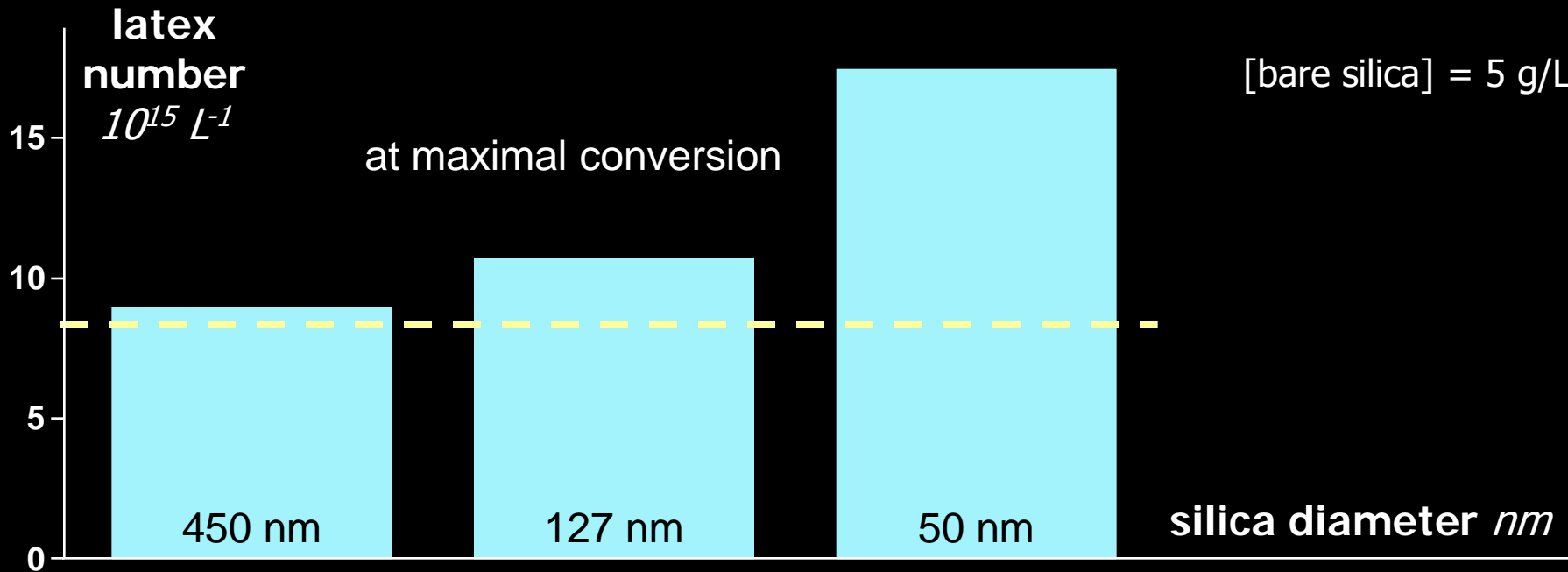
[NP30] = 20*CMC

[Na₂S₂O₈] = 0.5 g/L

T = 70°C

What happens in the presence of Stöber silica

[bare silica] = 5 g/L



time : 120 min
conversion ~20 %
scale bar : 200 nm



Styrene seeded-emulsion polymerization

experimental

[styrene] = 100 g/L

[NP30] = 20*CMC

[Na₂S₂O₈] = 0.5 g/L

T = 70°C

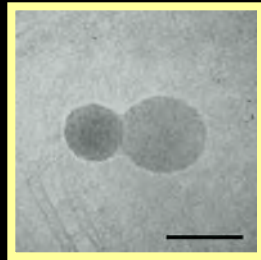
[macrom.] = 0.1 g/L

Influence of silica concentration: $N_{PS/Si} = N_{PS} / N_{Si}$?

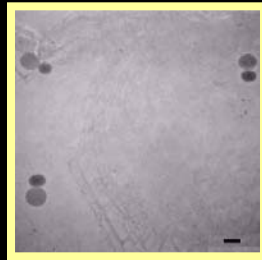
$N_{Si}/N_{PS} = 1$

silica 64 nm

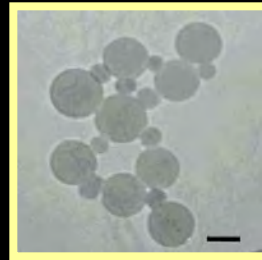
[silica] = 4.6 g/L



30 min



60 min



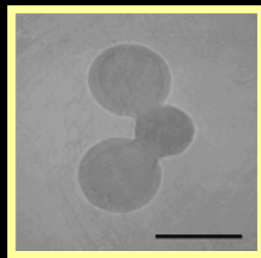
120 min

scale bar : 100 nm

$N_{Si}/N_{PS} = 1/2$

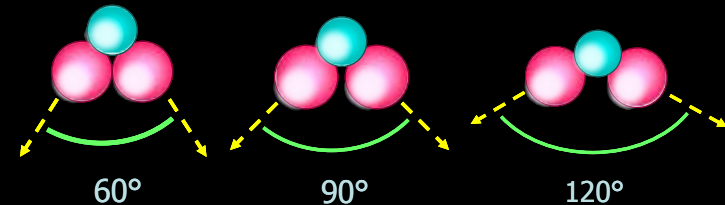
silica 93 nm

[silica] = 7.5 g/L



120 min

scale bar : 200 nm



60°

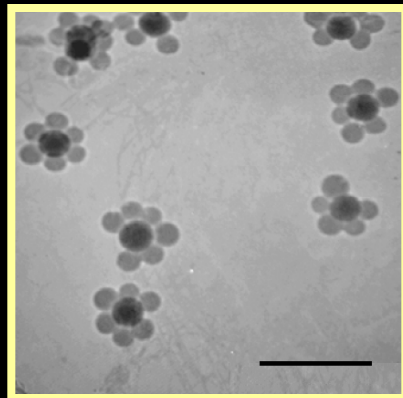
90°

120°

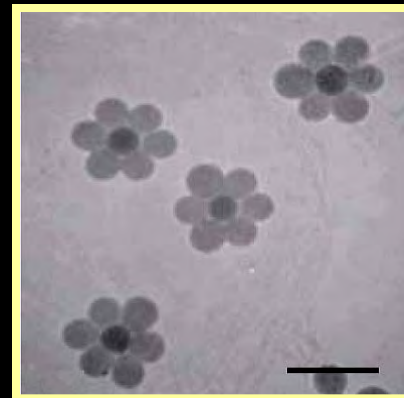
$N_{Si}/N_{PS} = 1/6$

silica 127 nm

[silica] = 4.8 g/L



30 min



60 min

scale bar : 500 nm

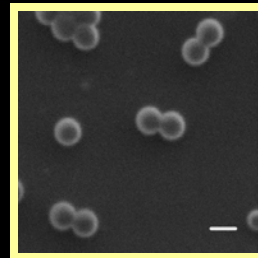
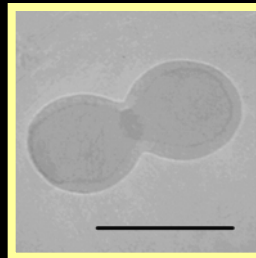
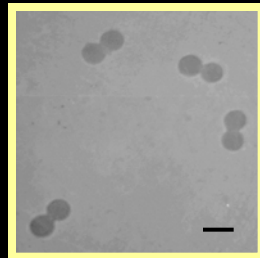


Styrene seeded-emulsion polymerization

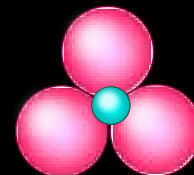
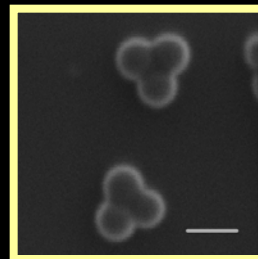
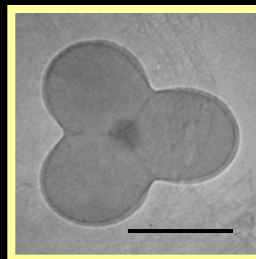
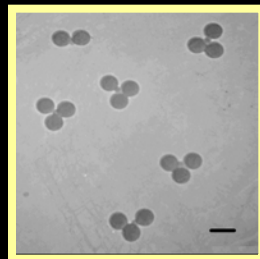
experimental
idem

Influence of silica size ($N_{Si} \ll N_{PS}$)

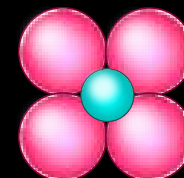
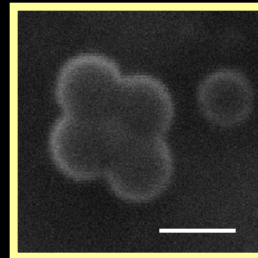
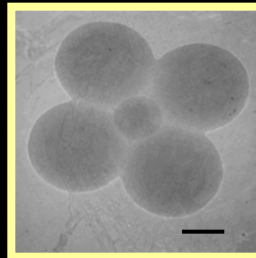
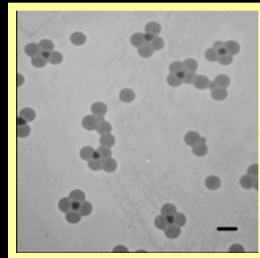
silica 42 nm
[silica] = 0.2 g/L
120 min



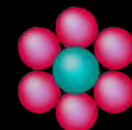
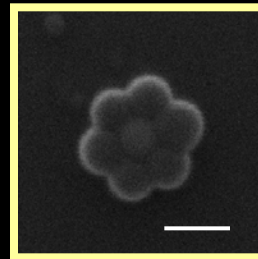
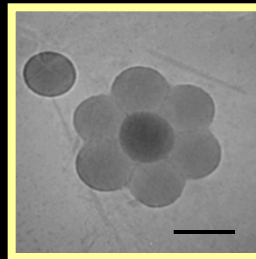
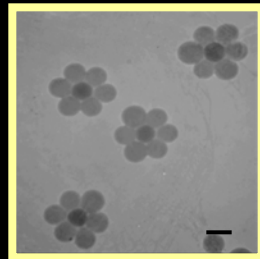
silica 64 nm
[silica] = 0.5 g/L
120 min



silica 85 nm
[silica] = 1.2 g/L
90 min



silica 127 nm
[silica] = 3.2 g/L
60 min



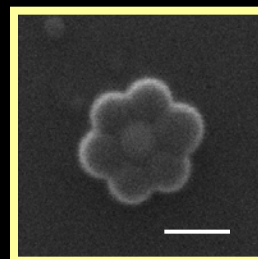
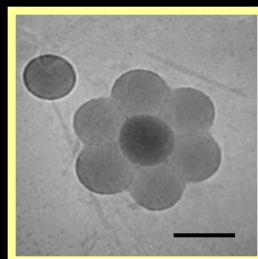
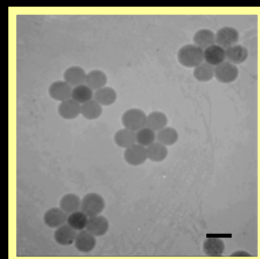


Styrene seeded-emulsion polymerization

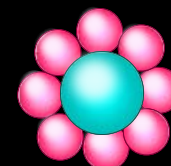
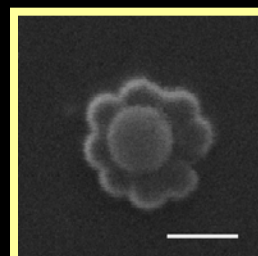
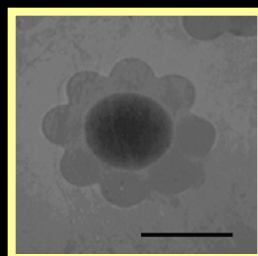
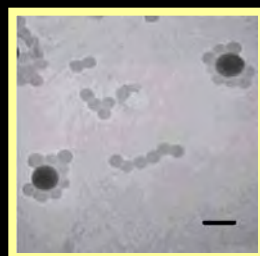
experimental
idem

Influence of silica size ($N_{Si} < N_{PS}$)

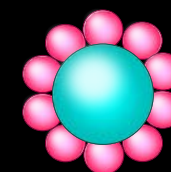
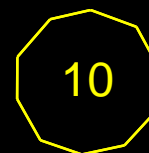
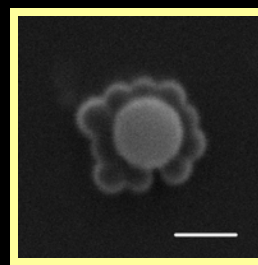
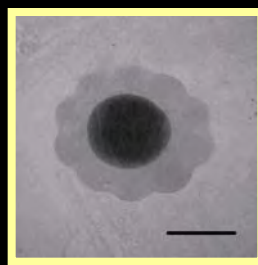
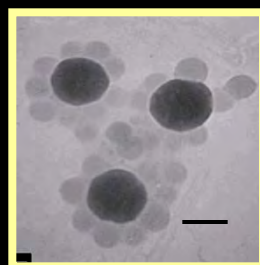
silica 127 nm
[silica] = 3.2 g/L
60 min



silica 170 nm
[silica] = 4.7 g/L
25 min



silica 212 nm
[silica] = 4.7 g/L
20 min



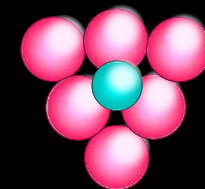
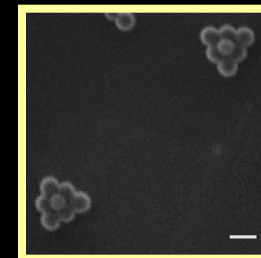
Styrene seeded-emulsion polymerization

experimental
idem

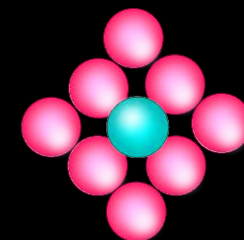
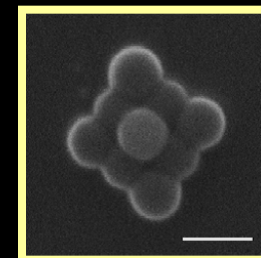
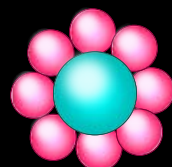
Influence of conversion ($N_{Si} < N_{PS}$)

120 min

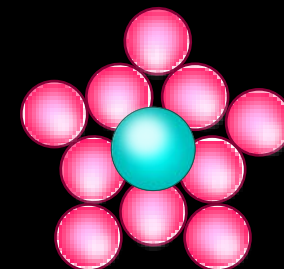
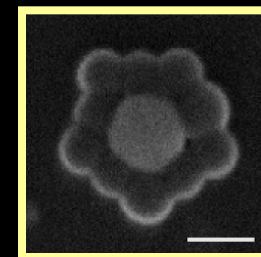
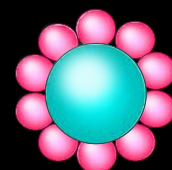
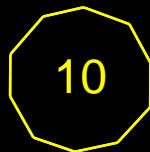
silica 127 nm
[silica] = 3.2 g/L
60 min



silica 170 nm
[silica] = 4.7 g/L
25 min



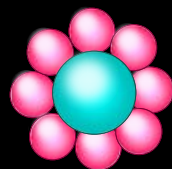
silica 212 nm
[silica] = 4.7 g/L
20 min



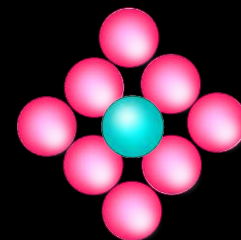
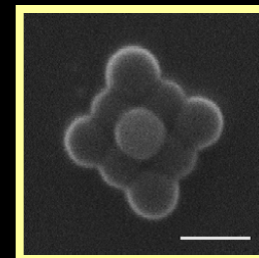
Are our colloids really planar ?

Styrene seeded-emulsion polymerization

silica 170 nm
[silica] = 4.7 g/L
25 min



120 min

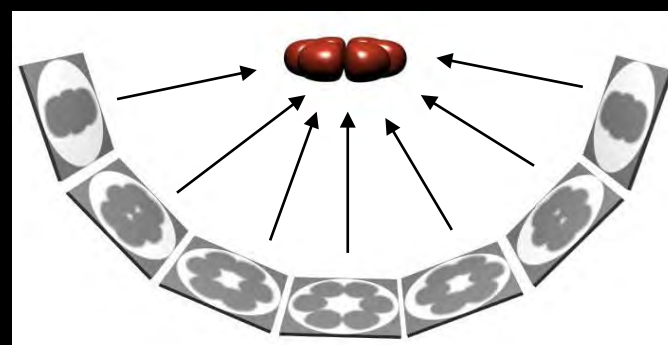
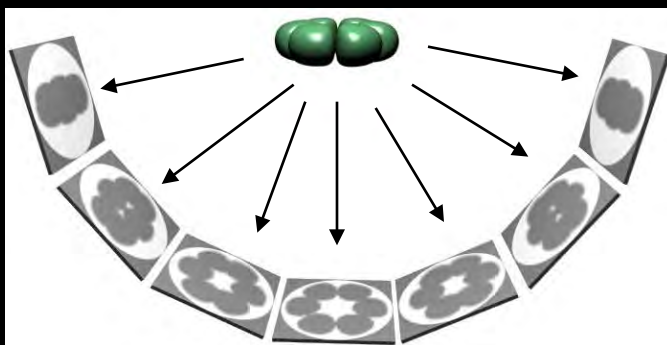


Electronic tomography

acquisition of tilt series
from -60° to $+60^\circ$ every 2°



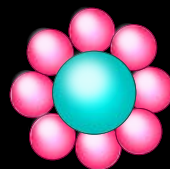
3D-reconstruction
from these projections



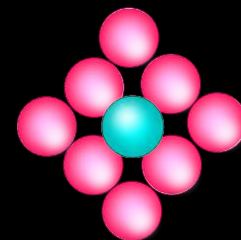
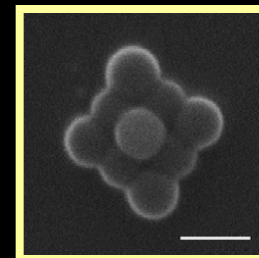


Styrene seeded-emulsion polymerization

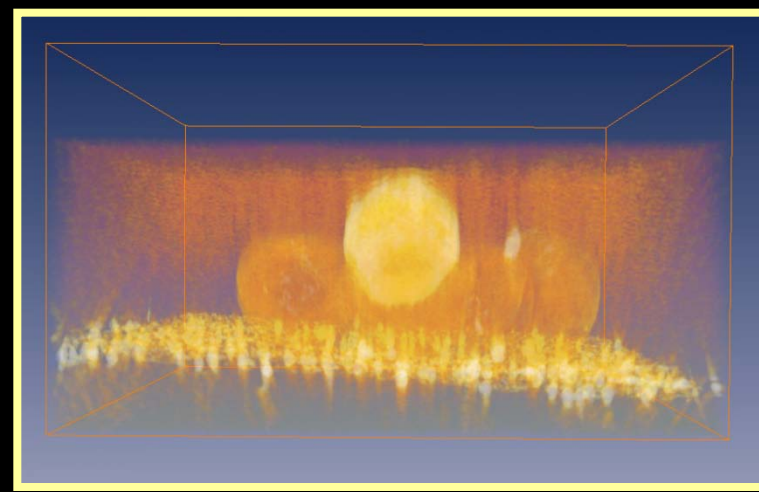
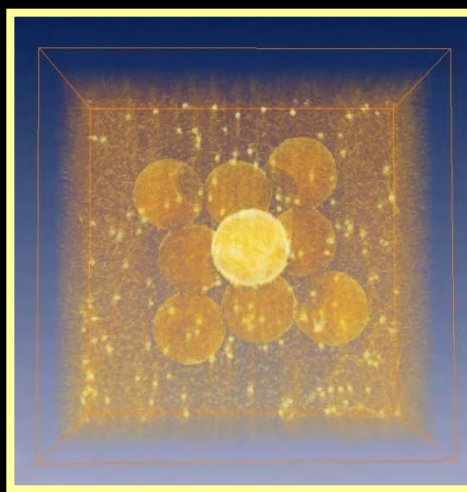
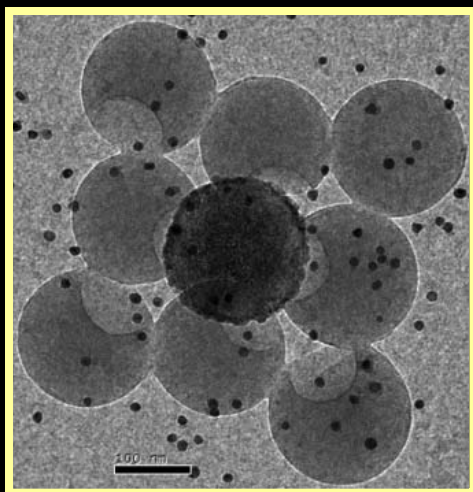
silica 170 nm
[silica] = 4.7 g/L
25 min



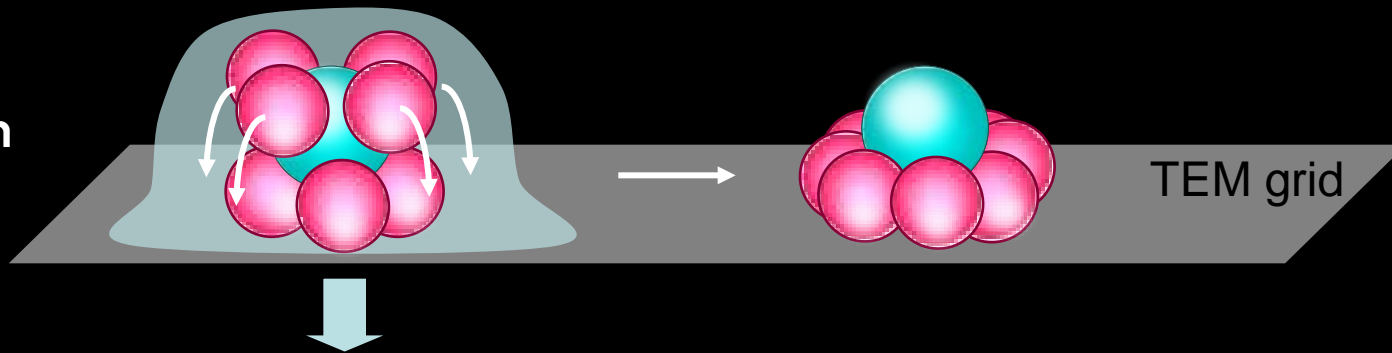
120 min



Electronic tomography

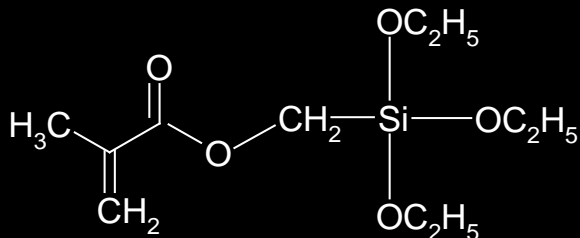


Falling-in mechanism



Styrene seeded-emulsion polymerization

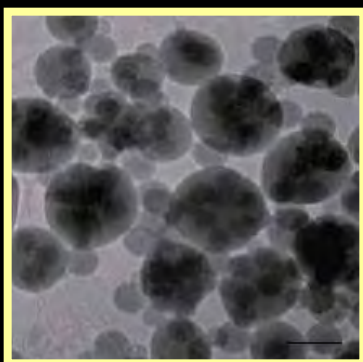
Silane surface treatment of "Stöber" silica



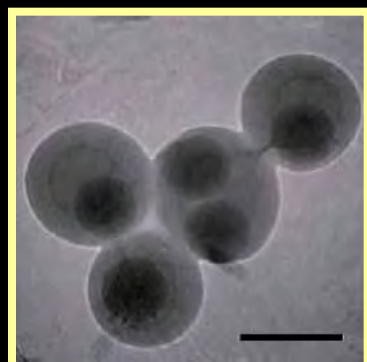
methacryloxymethyltriethoxysilane (MMS)

Silane-saturated surface

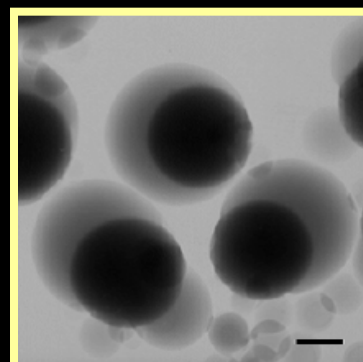
50 nm



127 nm



450 nm



scale bar : 200 nm

experimental

[styrene] = 100 g/L

[NP30] = 20*CMC

[Na₂S₂O₈] = 0.5 g/L

T = 70°C

[silica] = 10 g/L

[silane] = 16.6 μmol/m²

conversion ~20 %



Styrene seeded-emulsion polymerization

Silane unsaturated surface

experimental

[styrene] = 100 g/L

[NP30] = 20*CMC

[Na₂S₂O₈] = 0.5 g/L

T = 70°C

[silica] = 10 g/L

[silane] = 1.66 μmol/m²

conversion ~20 %

120 min

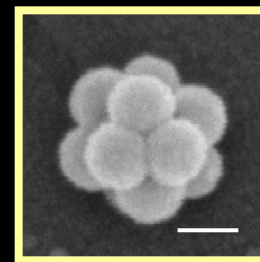
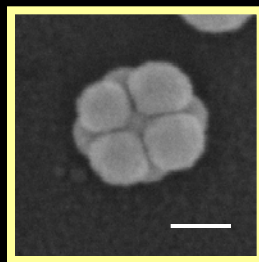
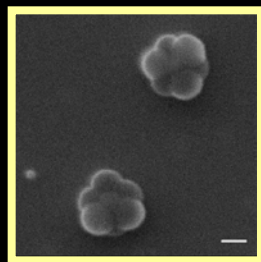
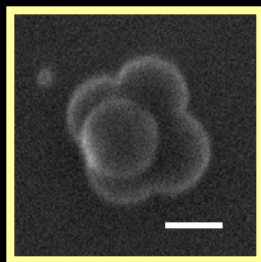
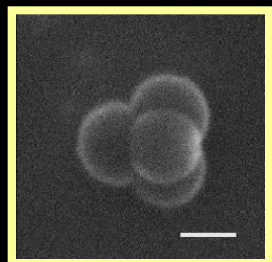
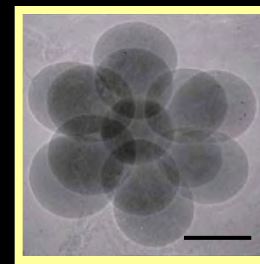
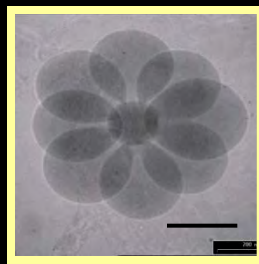
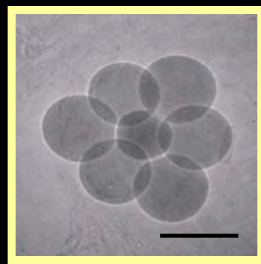
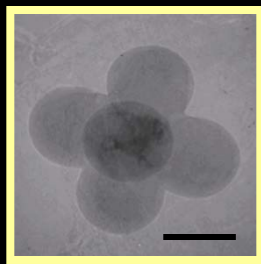
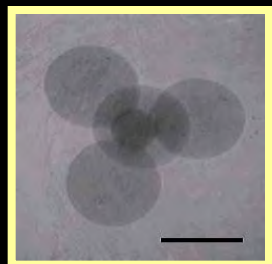
85 nm
1.2 g/L

106 nm
2.0 g/L

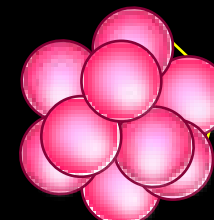
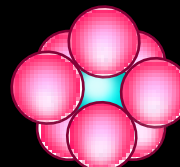
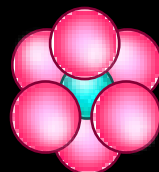
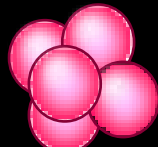
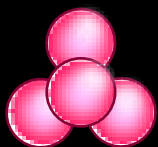
127 nm
3.2 g/L

170 nm
4.7 g/L

255 nm
4.7 g/L



scale bar :
200 nm





Styrene seeded-emulsion polymerization

About $(D_n)_{Si}$ and $N_{PS/Si}$ correlation

Minimization of the energy of n points whose positions are unconstrained on the surface of a sphere:

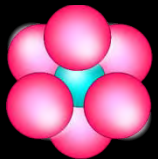
$$E_P = \sum_i^n \frac{1}{2} |x_i|^2 - \sum_i^n \sum_{j<i} x_{ij}$$

attraction towards
the centre of the sphere

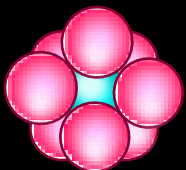
two-body
particle repulsions

Battye *et al.*, *J. Math. Phys.* 2003 44, 3532

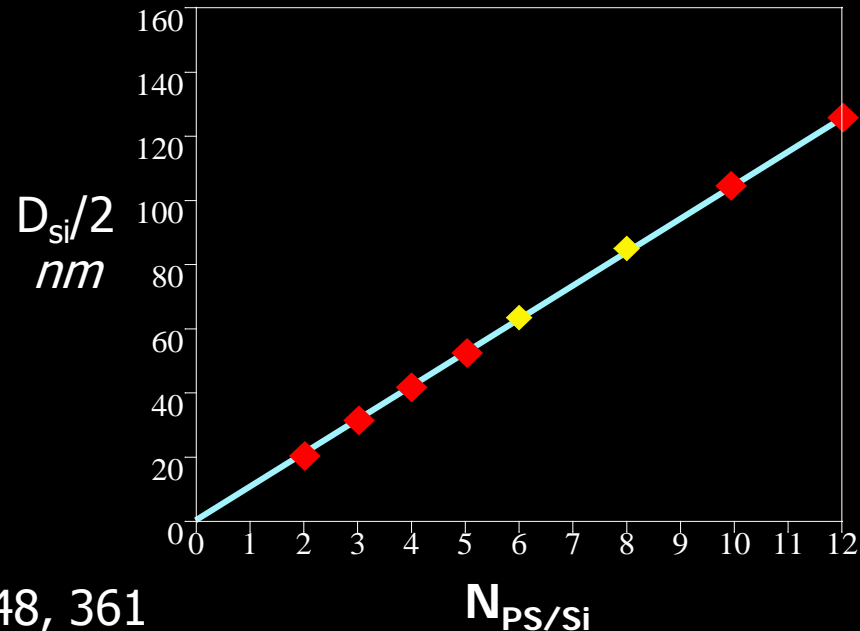
$$\frac{D_{Si}}{2} = K \left(\frac{2N_{PS/Si}}{3} - \frac{1}{2N_{PS/Si}} \right)$$



$D_{Si} = 127 \text{ nm} ; N_{PS/Si} = 6$



$D_{Si} = 170 \text{ nm} ; N_{PS/Si} = 8$



Duguet *and coll.*, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* 2009 48, 361



Styrene seeded-emulsion polymerization

About $(D_n)_{Si}$ and $N_{PS/Si}$ correlation

scale bar :
200 nm

42 nm
0.2 g/L

64 nm
0.5 g/L

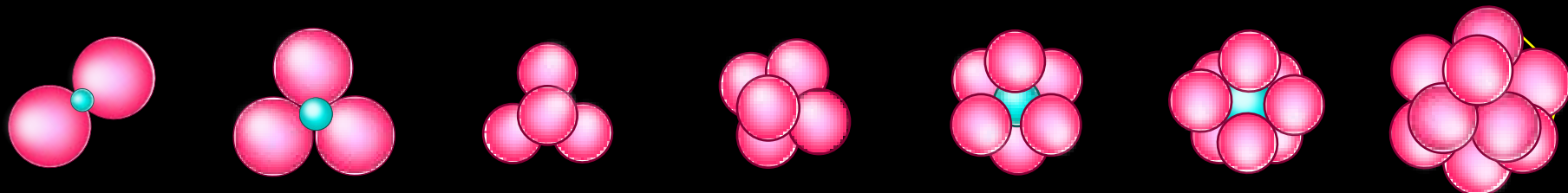
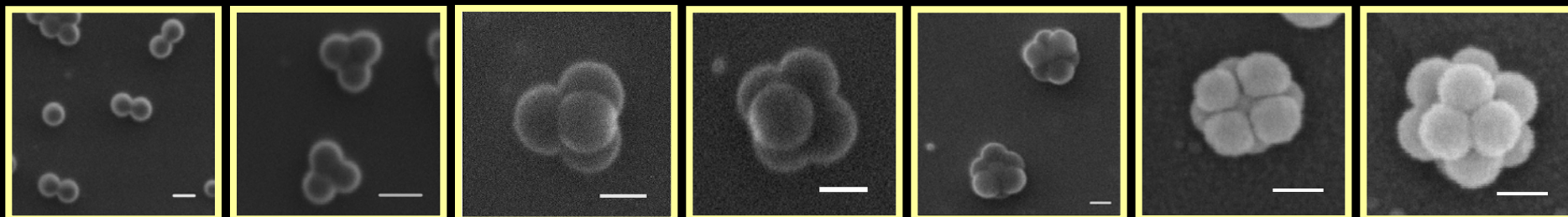
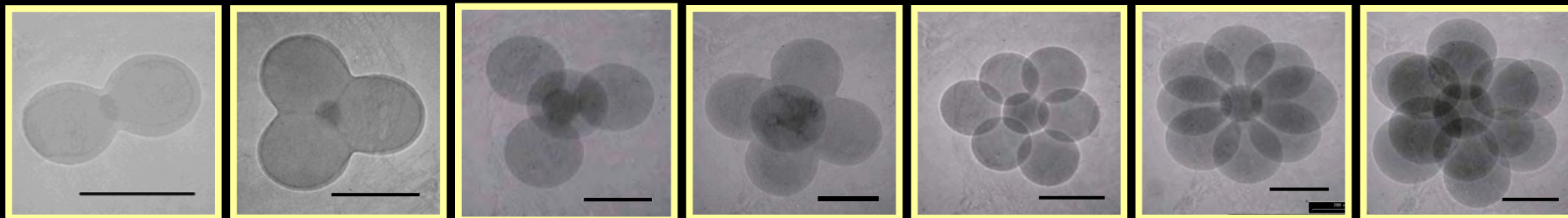
85 nm
1.2 g/L

106 nm
2.0 g/L

127 nm
3.2 g/L

170 nm
4.7 g/L

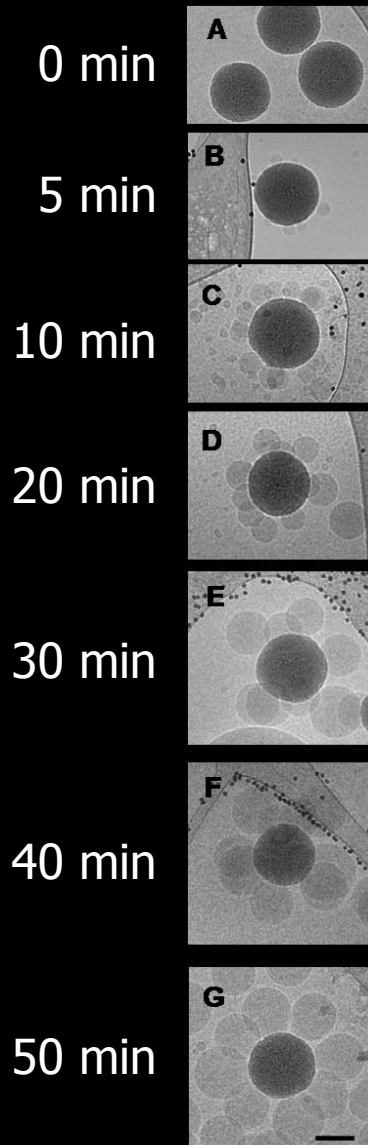
255 nm
4.7 g/L





Styrene seeded-emulsion polymerization

Cryo-TEM / tomography for nucleation/growth study

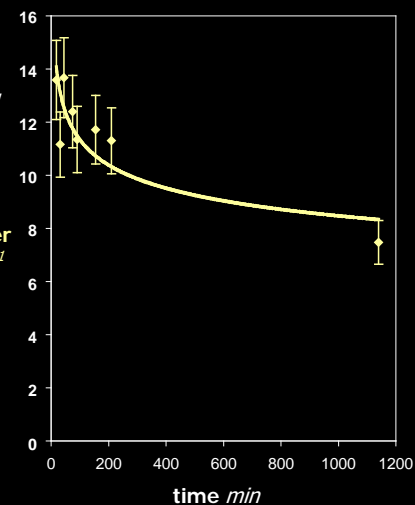
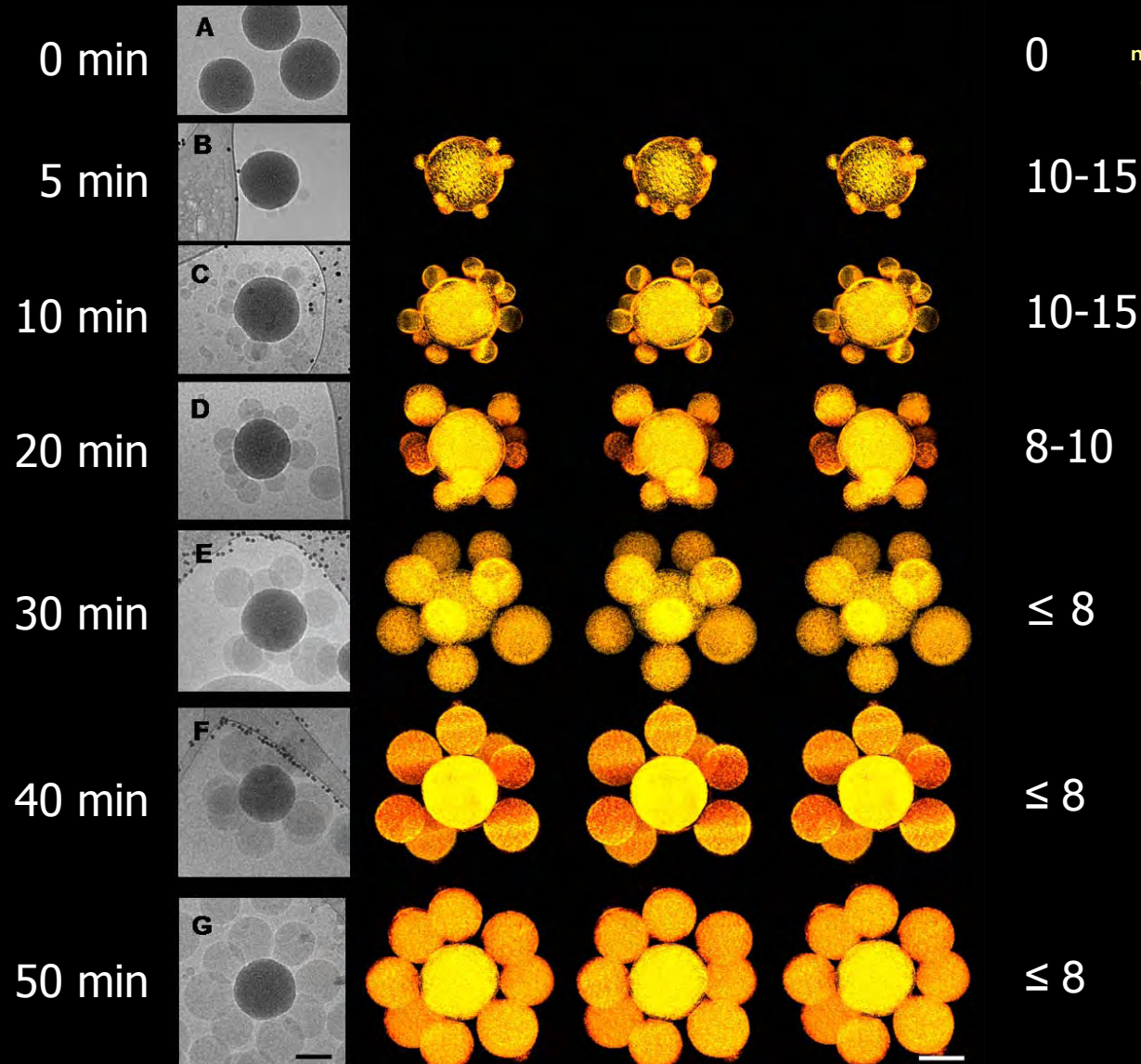


scale bar :
100 nm



Styrene seeded-emulsion polymerization

Cryo-TEM / tomography for nucleation/growth study



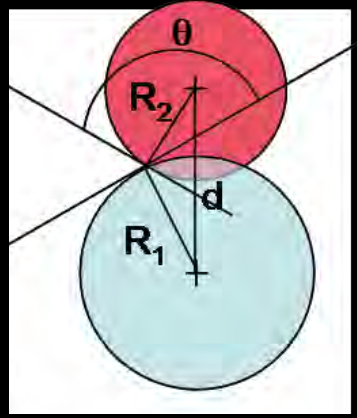
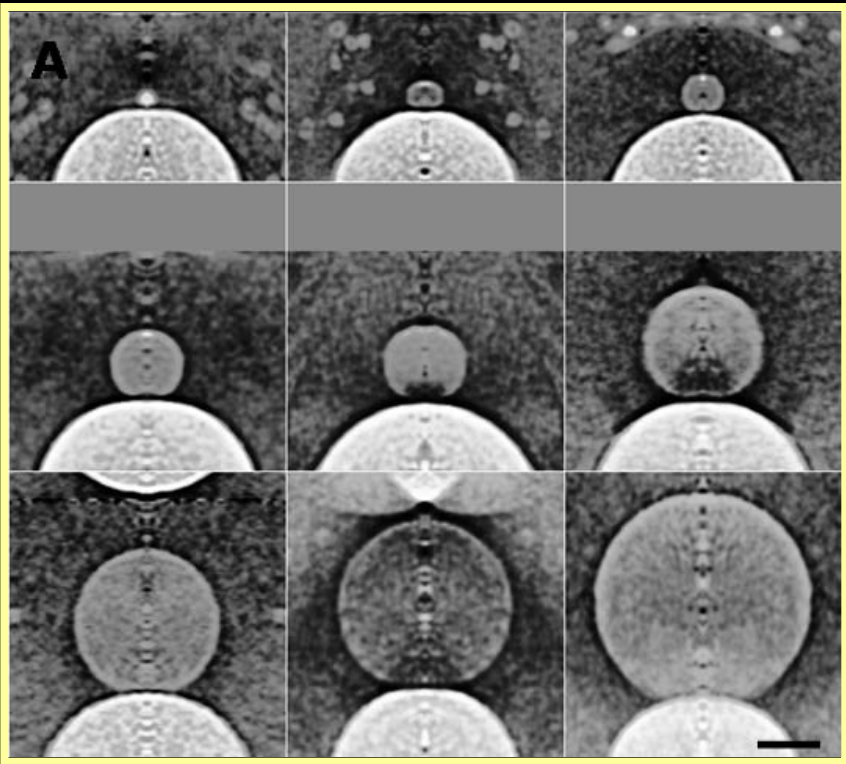
→ coagulation phenomenon occurs also on the surface

scale bar : 100 nm



Styrene seeded-emulsion polymerization

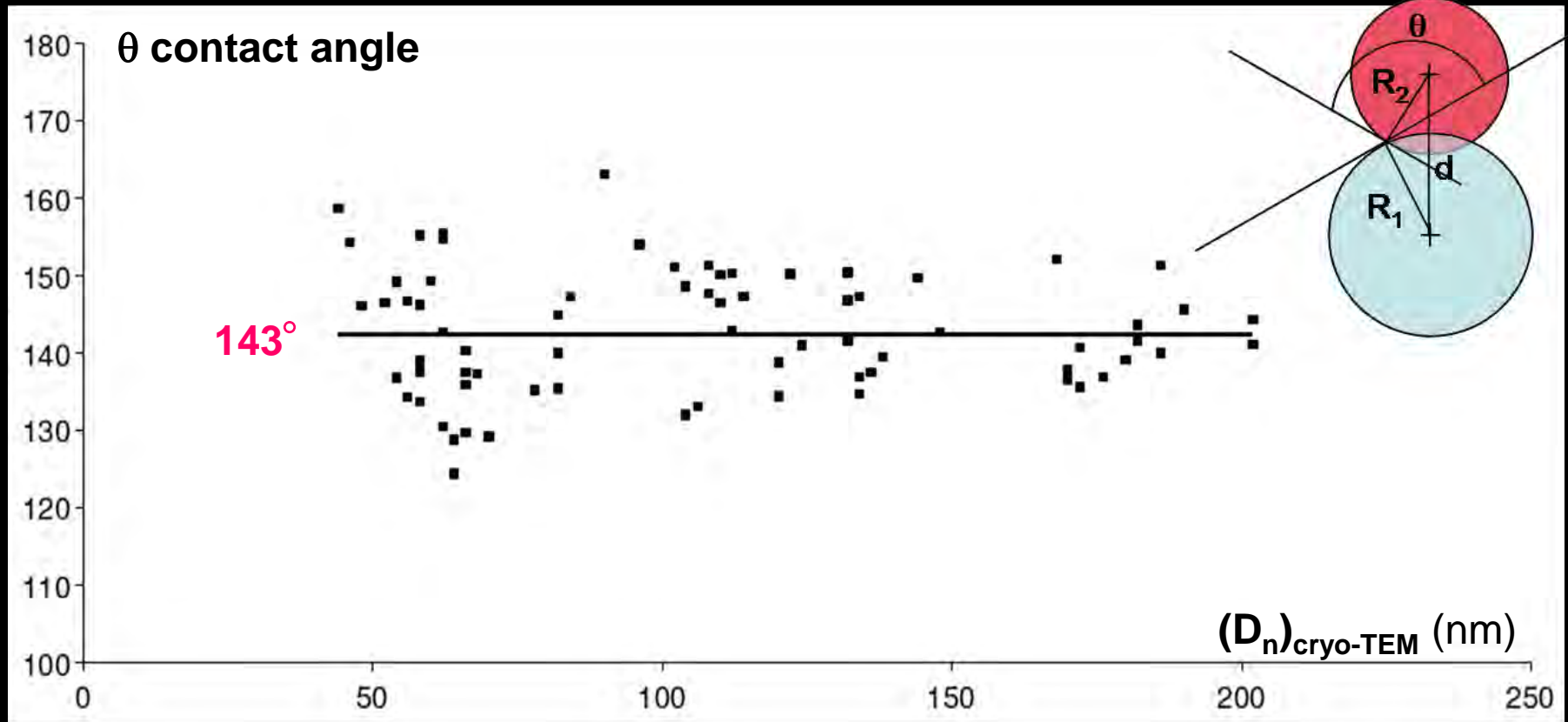
Cryo-TEM / tomography for nucleation/growth study





Styrene seeded-emulsion polymerization

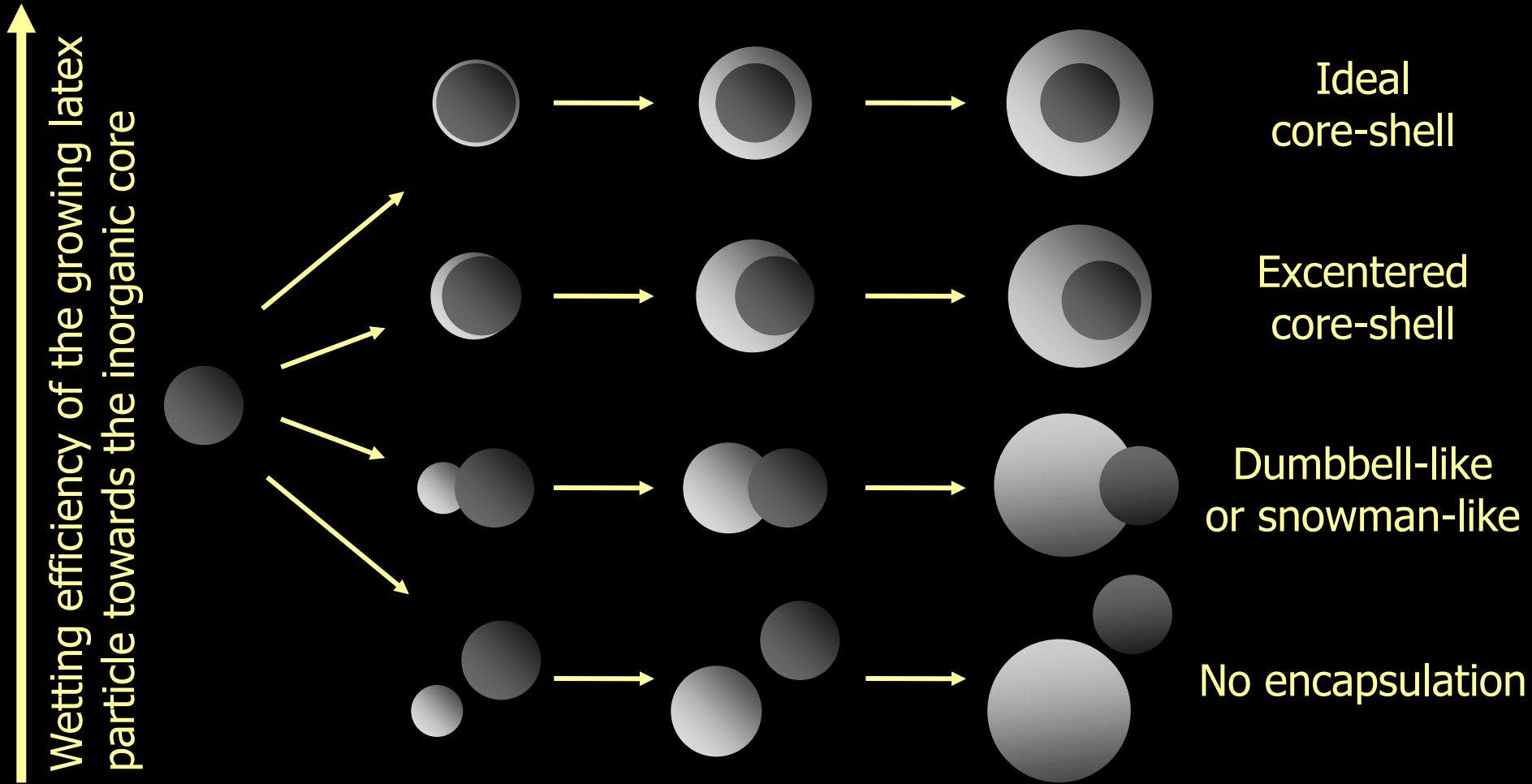
Cryo-TEM / tomography for nucleation/growth study





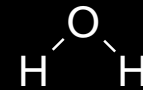
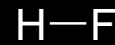
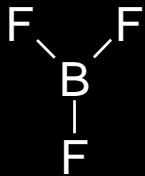
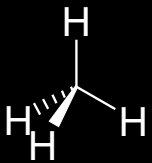
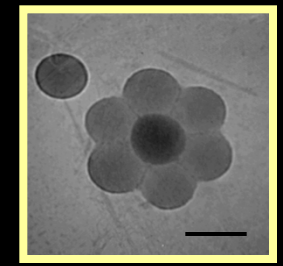
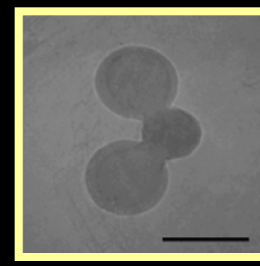
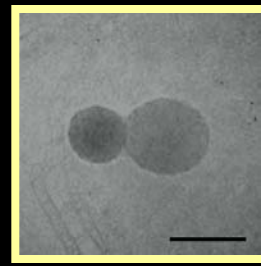
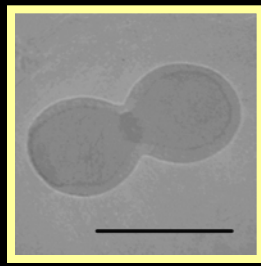
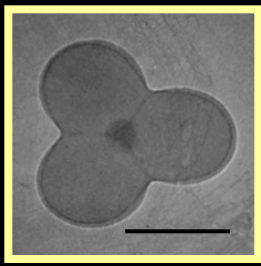
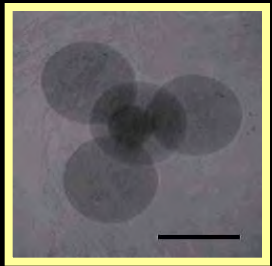
Styrene seeded-emulsion polymerization

Cryo-TEM / tomography for nucleation/growth study



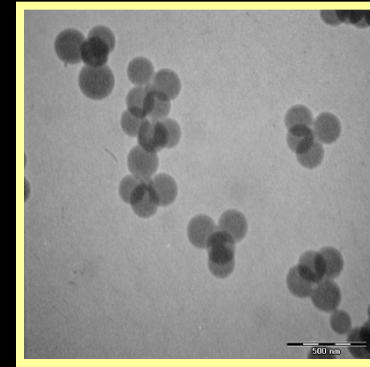
Summary

- Hybrid structured nanoparticles with original 3-D morphologies
- Planar morphologies may result from 3-D particles instability
- Cryo-TEM / tomography is a powerful characterization tool



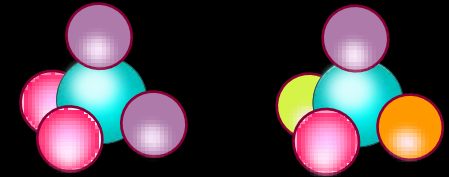
Efforts in progress

 High yields of regular morphologies



> 90 %

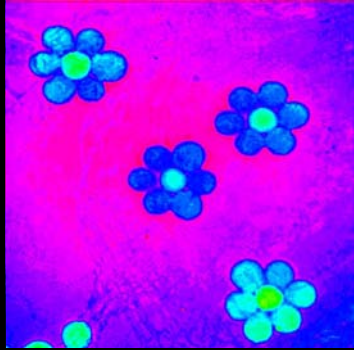
 Complete bestiary of colloidal molecules made of a single central atom



 Study of colloid interactions

 Colloid packing into photonic crystals

Acknowledgements



Adeline Perro, Stéphane Reculosa,
David Nguyen and Anthony Désert
Serge Ravaine (*CRPP/Bordeaux*)

Elodie Bourgeat-Lami (*LCPP/Villeurbanne*)

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