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### Atomically precise noble metal nanoparticles

#### T. Pradeep Institute Professor, IIT Madras pradeep@iitm.ac.in

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Article

## Approaching Materials with Atomic Precision Using Supramolecular Cluster Assemblies

4 Papri Chakraborty, Abhijit Nag, Amrita Chakraborty, and Thalappil Pradeep\*

5 DST Unit of Nanoscience (DST UNS) and Thematic Unit of Excellence (TUE), Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of

6 Technology Madras, Chennai 600 036, India



## Contents

The subject area of clusters New science in synthesis, properties Reactions between clusters Borromean structures of clusters Supramolecular science of clusters Applications Future directions



Review

## Atomically Precise Clusters of Noble Metals: Emerging Link between Atoms and Nanoparticles

Indranath Chakraborty<sup>\*</sup><sup>©</sup> and Thalappil Pradeep<sup>\*</sup><sup>©</sup>

DST Unit of Nanoscience (DST UNS) and Thematic Unit of Excellence, Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai 600036, India

**Supporting Information** 

**ABSTRACT:** Atomically precise pieces of matter of nanometer dimensions composed of noble metals are new categories of materials with many unusual properties. Over 100 molecules of this kind with formulas such as  $Au_{25}(SR)_{18}$ ,  $Au_{38}(SR)_{24}$ , and  $Au_{102}(SR)_{44}$  as well as  $Ag_{25}(SR)_{180}$ ,  $Ag_{29}(S_2R)_{12}$ , and  $Ag_{44}(SR)_{30}$  (often with a few counterions to compensate charges) are known now. They can be made reproducibly with robust synthetic protocols, resulting in colored solutions, yielding powders or diffractable crystals. They are distinctly different from nanoparticles in their spectroscopic properties such as optical absorption and emission, showing well-defined features, just like molecules. They show isotopically resolved molecular ion peaks in mass spectra and provide diverse information when examined through multiple instrumental methods. Most important of these properties is luminescence, often in the visible–near-infrared window, useful in biological applications. Luminescence in the visible region, especially by clusters protected with proteins, with a large Stokes shift, has been used for various sensing applications,



down to a few tens of molecules/ions, in air and water. Catalytic properties of clusters, especially oxidation of organic substrates, have been examined. Materials science of these systems presents numerous possibilities and is fast evolving. Computational insights have given reasons for their stability and unusual properties. The molecular nature of these materials is unequivocally manifested in a few recent studies such as intercluster reactions forming precise clusters. These systems manifest properties of the core, of the ligand shell, as well as that of the integrated system. They are better described as protected molecules or *aspicules*, where *aspis* means shield and *cules* refers to molecules, implying that they are "shielded molecules". In order to understand their diverse properties, a nomenclature has been introduced with which it is possible to draw their structures with positional labels on paper, with some training. Research in this area is captured here, based on the publications available up to December 2016.

Also the pioneering work of R. W. Murray, Robert L. Whetten, Uzi Landman, Tatuya Tsukuda, Yuichi Negishi, Hannu Hakkinen, R. Jin, Nanfeng Zheng, Terry Bigioni, Osman Bakr, Kornberg, Jianping Xie, C. M. Aikens, Thomas Buergi, Quanming Wang, Amala Dass, .... A. W. Castleman Jr., H. Schmidbauer, ...

Geometric and electronic shells

V

z

Х











Atanu Ghosh, et. al., ACS Nano 2017

### Ag<sub>10</sub> Core in an Ag<sub>12</sub> Shell: A Four-Electron Superatom



Esma Khatun, et. al., ACS Nano, 2019



(A) Optical absorption spectrum of  $Ag_{22}$ . Inset: image of single crystals under a microscope. (B) HRESI MS of I which displays a peak at ~2876 m/z. Inset: Comparison of the theoretical and the experimental isotopic distributions of  $Ag_{22}$ .



The overall structure of  $Ag_{22}$ : A) Unit cell with a tetragonal arrangement; B) top view; C) side view. Labels: red, blue and pink = Ag, yellow = S, orange = P, green = Cl, gray = C and white = H.

## Chemistry of clusters



Reactions of clusters Reactions <u>between</u> clusters

## Inter-cluster reactions



Article

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#### Intercluster Reactions between Au<sub>25</sub>(SR)<sub>18</sub> and Ag<sub>44</sub>(SR)<sub>30</sub>

K. R. Krishnadas, Atanu Ghosh, Ananya Baksi, Indranath Chakraborty,<sup>†</sup> Ganapati Natarajan, and Thalappil Pradeep<sup>\*</sup>

DST Unit of Nanoscience (DST UNS) and Thematic Unit of Excellence, Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, 600 036, India

S Supporting Information

#### $A + B \square C + D$







Energies for the substitution reaction of (A) Au in  $Ag_{44}(SR)_{30}$ , (B) Ag in  $Au_{25}(SR)_{18}$  and (C) the overall reaction energies (in eV) as a function of their positions in product clusters,  $Au_xAg_{44-x}(SR)_{30}$  and  $Au_{25-x}Ag_x(SR)_{18}$  for x=1

(A) $\begin{array}{c} \text{Location of Au in} \\ \text{Au}_{X}\text{Ag}_{44x}(\text{SR})_{30} \end{array}$	∆E/eV				
Icosahedron (I)	-0.72	(B) $Au_{25-x}Ag_{x}(SR)_{16}$		ΔE/eV	
Dodecahedron: cube vertex	-0.14	Central atom	n (C)	+0.71	-
Dodecahedron: cube face (D <sub>cf</sub> )	-0.32	Icosahedron	ı (I)	10.25	
Staples (S)	-0.48	Staples (S	)	+0.44	
(C)	Locations of Au in Au <sub>x</sub> Ag <sub>44-x</sub> (SR) <sub>30</sub>				
Location of Ag in Au <sub>25 x</sub> Ag <sub>x</sub> (SR) <sub>B</sub>	I	D <sub>cv</sub>	D <sub>đ</sub>	S	
Location of Ag in Au <sub>25 x</sub> Ag <sub>x</sub> (SR) <sub>B</sub> C	I -0.0Ъ	D <sub>cv</sub> +0.564	D <sub>cf</sub> +0.388	<b>S</b> +0.226	
Location of Ag in Au <sub>25 x</sub> Ag <sub>x</sub> (SR) <sub>B</sub> C	I -0.0Ъ -0.486	D <sub>cv</sub> +0.564 +0.093	D <sub>cf</sub> +0.388 -0.083	<b>S</b> +0.226 -0.245	

#### Shell closure in intercluster reactions



Krishnadas et al., ACS Nano 2017



Nanfeng Zheng et al. Nature Communications, 2013

## Ag<sub>25</sub>-Au<sub>25</sub> experiments

K. R. Krishnadas et al. Nature Commun. 2016

## Reaction between Au<sub>25</sub>(PET)<sub>18</sub> and Ag<sub>25</sub>(DMBT)<sub>18</sub>





#### Evolution of alloy clusters from the dianionic adduct, [Ag<sub>25</sub>Au<sub>25</sub>(DMBT)<sub>18</sub>(PET)<sub>18</sub>]<sup>2-</sup>



DFT-optimized structure of [Ag<sub>25</sub>Au<sub>25</sub>(DMBT)<sub>18</sub>(PET)<sub>18</sub>]<sup>2-1</sup>





### How do we comprehend this?

# Ball and stick structure



A view of gold methly thiolate [25]aspicule  $(Au_{25}(SMe)_{18})$ . Gold atoms colored gold, sulfur atoms by yellow, carbon dark gray, hydrogen atoms as white and (b) with the gold and sulfur atoms alone.



# Shell Structure





 $(C)S_{12}@S_{6}$ 

# Terminologies







## Aspicules

(D1-3,D2-3)-di(2-phenylethylthiolato), 16(methylthiolato)-auro-25 aspicule(1-) $(D1-3,D2-3)-(PET)_2, (SMe)_{16}-auro-25 aspicule(1-)$




 $R-(SMe)_{44}$ -auro-102 aspicule(0) and L-(SMe)<sub>44</sub>-auro-102 aspicule(0)

### **Cluster dimers**



Ananya Baksi et al. Chem. Commun. 2016



Shridevi Bhat et. al. J. Phys. Chem. Lett. (2017)



#### ESI MS of the reaction mixture



\* peaks for the dimers (at higher time, the monomeric peaks due to Au-Ag exchange also arise ). Au<sub>25</sub> was kept in excess.



Molar ratio of two clusters= 1:1

#### Kinetics of the exchange (monitored on the Ag<sub>25</sub> side)



# **Cluster dynamics**



#### They are indeed molecules!

K. R. Krishnadas, et al. Acc. Chem. Res. 2017



Article

pubs.acs.org/accounts

#### Interparticle Reactions: An Emerging Direction in Nanomaterials Chemistry

K. R. Krishnadas, Ananya Baksi,<sup>†</sup> Atanu Ghosh, Ganapati Natarajan, Anirban Som, and Thalappil Pradeep<sup>\*®</sup>

Department of Chemistry, DST Unit of Nanoscience (DST UNS) and Thematic Unit of Excellence (TUE) Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai 600 036, India



**CONSPECTUS:** Nanoparticles exhibit a rich variety in terms of structure, composition, and properties. However, reactions between them remain largely unexplored. In this *Account*, we discuss an emerging aspect of nanomaterials chemistry, namely, interparticle reactions in solution phase, similar to reactions between molecules, involving atomically precise noble metal clusters.

#### SCIENCE ADVANCES | RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### CONDENSED MATTER PHYSICS

#### Rapid isotopic exchange in nanoparticles

### Papri Chakraborty<sup>1</sup>, Abhijit Nag<sup>1</sup>, Ganapati Natarajan<sup>1</sup>, Nayanika Bandyopadhyay<sup>1</sup>, Ganesan Paramasivam<sup>1</sup>, Manoj Kumar Panwar<sup>1</sup>, Jaydeb Chakrabarti<sup>2</sup>, Thalappil Pradeep<sup>1</sup>\*

Rapid solution-state exchange dynamics in nanoscale pieces of matter is revealed, taking isotopically pure atomically precise clusters as examples. As two isotopically pure silver clusters made of <sup>107</sup>Ag and <sup>109</sup>Ag are mixed, an isotopically mixed cluster of the same entity results, similar to the formation of HDO, from H<sub>2</sub>O and D<sub>2</sub>O. This spontaneous process is driven by the entropy of mixing and involves events at multiple time scales.

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ESI MS of **A**)  ${}^{107}\text{Ag}_{25}(\text{DMBT})_{18}$  and **B**)  ${}^{109}\text{Ag}_{25}(\text{DMBT})_{18}$ . Insets shows the respective isotope patterns.





Papri Chakraborty, et. al. Science Advances 2018



### Supramolecular chemistry

Papri Chakraborty, et,. al. ACS Nano 2018



**Figure 1. A) (a)** Full range ESI MS, (b) experimental and calculated isotope patterns and (c) DFT optimized structure of  $[Ag_{29}(BDT)_{12}]^{3-}$  cluster. **B) (a)** ESI MS of  $[Ag_{29}(BDT)_{12}(C_{60})_n]^{3-}$  (n=1-4) complexes, (b) experimental and calculated isotope patterns of  $[Ag_{29}(BDT)_{12}(C_{60})_4]^{3-}$  and (c) schematic of the possible structure of  $[Ag_{29}(BDT)_{12}(C_{60})_4]^{3-}$ .



**Figure 3.** NMR of (a)  $C_{60}$  showing peak at 143.59 ppm, (b) the adducts at a cluster:fullerene molar ratio of 1:4 showing peak at 143.03 ppm for the  $C_{60}$  molecules in bound state and (c) the adducts at an excess concentration of  $C_{60}$  (cluster:fullerene molar ratio of 1:15) showing a predominant peak for free  $C_{60}$  (143.59 ppm) and a less intense peak for bound  $C_{60}$  (143.03 ppm).

# Isomerism in supramolcular adducts

Abhijit Nag, et al. JACS 2018



### Energy Resolved Fragmentation of Ag<sub>29</sub>BDT<sub>12</sub>∩(X-CD)<sup>3-</sup>







# **Assemblies and superstructures**



#### Papri Chakraborti, et. al., submitted





Amrita Chakraborty, et. al. Angew. Chem. 2018





# $Ag_{40}$ and $Ag_{46}$ with the same shell





M. Bodiuzzaman, et. al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2018

Sensors Catalysis Energy harvesting - Solar cells

# Summary

- Atomically precise clusters is a new area of materials science
- Chemistry of these systems show new excitements
- Borromean ring diagram of clusters can be used to understand such reactions
- Their extremely fast solution state dynamics is a puzzle
- They show promising properties useful for applications
- Clusters are indeed molecules
- New materials are coming !

# Clean water through advanced materials










## Department of Science and Technology

Thank you

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