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Nanoparticles are Molecules

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Review

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

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S 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 $Ag_{25}(SR)_{18}$, $Ag_{29}(S_2R)_{12}$, 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, Amala Dass, A. W. Castleman Jr., H. Schmidbauer, ...











Chemistry of clusters

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

Inter-cluster reactions

Article

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Intercluster Reactions between Au₂₅(SR)₁₈ and Ag₄₄(SR)₃₀

K. R. Krishnadas, Atanu Ghosh, Ananya Baksi, Indranath Chakraborty,[†] Ganapati Natarajan, and Thalappil Pradeep^{*}

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Supporting Information

$A + B \rightarrow C + D$

 $Au_{25}(PET)_{18} + Ag_{44}(FTP)_{30}$

M_{PET}: 137 M_{FTP}: 127

M_{Au}: 197

M_{Ag}: 108

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) Location of Au in Au _x Ag _{44-x} (SR) ₃₀ | $\Delta E/eV$ | Location of A | λσ in | |
|---|-----------------------|---|--|--|
| Icosahedron (I) | -0.72 | (B) $Au_{25-x}Ag_x(SI)$ | R) ₁₈ | ΔE/eV |
| Dodecahedron: cube vertex | -0.14 | Central atom | ı (C) | +0.71 |
| (D _{cv}) | | | | +0.23 |
| Dodecahedron: cube face (D _{cf}) | -0.32 | Icosahedron | (I) | |
| | | Staples (S |) | +0.44 |
| Staples (S) | -0.48 | | | |
| Staples (S) -0.48 | | | | |
| (C) | | Locations of Au ir | n Au _x Ag _{44-x} (SR) | 30 |
| (C) Location of Ag in Au _{25-x} Ag _x (SR) ₁₈ | Ι | Locations of Au ir D _{cv} | n Au _x Ag ₄₄ -x(SR) D _{cf} | 30 S |
| (C) Location of Ag in Au _{25-x} Ag _x (SR) ₁₈ C | I -0.015 | Locations of Au ir D _{cv} +0.564 | n Au _x Ag _{44-x} (SR) D _{cf} +0.388 | 30 S +0.226 |
| (C) Location of Ag in Au _{25-x} Ag _x (SR) ₁₈ C I | I -0.015 -0.486 | Locations of Au in D _{cv} +0.564 +0.093 | n Au _x Ag _{44-x} (SR) D _{cf} +0.388 -0.083 | S S S S S S S S S S |

Shell closure in intercluster reactions

Krishnadas et al., ACS Nano 2017

Nanfeng Zheng et al. Nature Communications, 2013

Ag₂₅-Au₂₅ experiments

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

Reaction between Au₂₅(PET)₁₈ and Ag₂₅(DMBT)₁₈

Evolution of alloy clusters from the dianionic adduct, [Ag₂₅Au₂₅(DMBT)₁₈(PET)₁₈]²⁻

DFT-optimized structure of [Ag₂₅Au₂₅(DMBT)₁₈(PET)₁₈]²⁻

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)₄₄-auro-102 aspicule(0)

Cluster dimers

Ananya Baksi et al. Chem. Commun. 2016

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

ACCOUNTS

pubs.acs.org/accounts

Interparticle Reactions: An Emerging Direction in Nanomaterials Chemistry

K. R. Krishnadas, Ananya Baksi,[†] Atanu Ghosh, Ganapati Natarajan, Anirban Som, and Thalappil Pradeep^{*®}

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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.

Cluster dynamics

They are indeed molecules!

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

SCIENCE ADVANCES | RESEARCH ARTICLE

CONDENSED MATTER PHYSICS

Rapid isotopic exchange in nanoparticles

Papri Chakraborty¹, Abhijit Nag¹, Ganapati Natarajan¹, Nayanika Bandyopadhyay¹, Ganesan Paramasivam¹, Manoj Kumar Panwar¹, Jaydeb Chakrabarti², Thalappil Pradeep¹*

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 ¹⁰⁷Ag and ¹⁰⁹Ag are mixed, an isotopically mixed cluster of the same entity results, similar to the formation of HDO, from H₂O and D₂O. 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**) ${}^{107}Ag_{25}(DMBT)_{18}$ and **B**) ${}^{109}Ag_{25}(DMBT)_{18}$. Insets shows the respective isotope patterns.

Papri Chakraborty, et. al. Science Advances 2018

Ag₂₅(2,4-DMBT)₁₈

Ag24Au(2,4-DMBT)18

Ag25 reacts with 22 Carat Au foil after 24 hours (200 rpm)

Unpublished

ESI MS of the reaction mixture

* peaks for the dimers (at higher time, the monomeric peaks due to Au-Ag exchange also arise). Au₂₅ was kept in excess.

Molar ratio of two clusters= 1:1

Kinetics of the exchange (monitored on the Ag₂₅ side)

With Manfred Kappes and Horst Hahn

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
- Clusters are indeed molecules
- New materials are coming!

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Article

Approaching Materials with Atomic Precision Using Supramolecular Cluster Assemblies

⁴ Papri Chakraborty, Abhijit Nag, Amrita Chakraborty, and Thalappil Pradeep*[®]

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