

Emergent structure and phenomena in semiconductor nanocrystal assemblies

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20230516



CornellEngineering

Credits:



F. Escobedo



L. Kourkoutis



P. Clancy



D. Smilgies

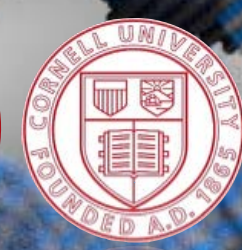


R. Robinson



F. Wise

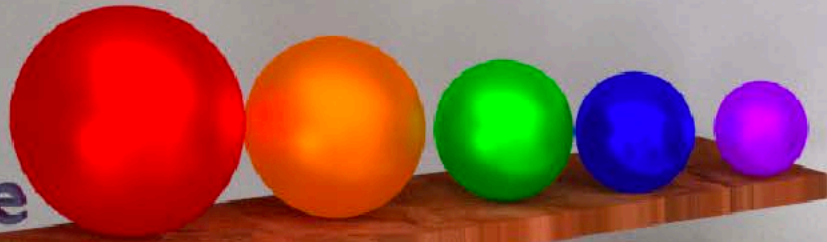
*Daniel Balazs
Jessica Cimada DaSilva
Tyler Dunbar
Alex Gonzalez
Jen-Yu Huang
Doug Nevers
Ben Savitsky
Michelle Smeaton
Kevin Whitham
Curtis Williamson
Yuanze Xu
Jun Yang*



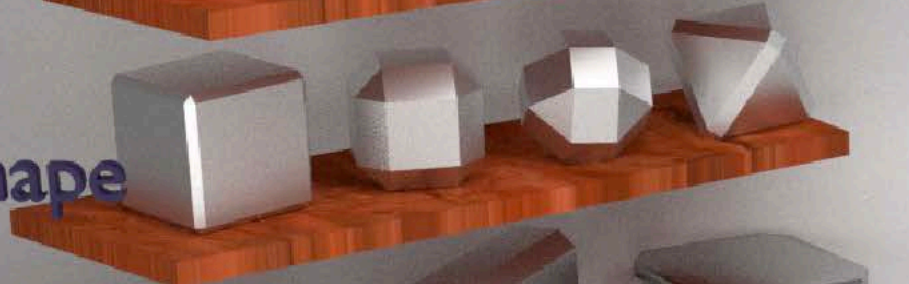
CornellEngineering

colloidal nanocrystals as building blocks for programmable materials

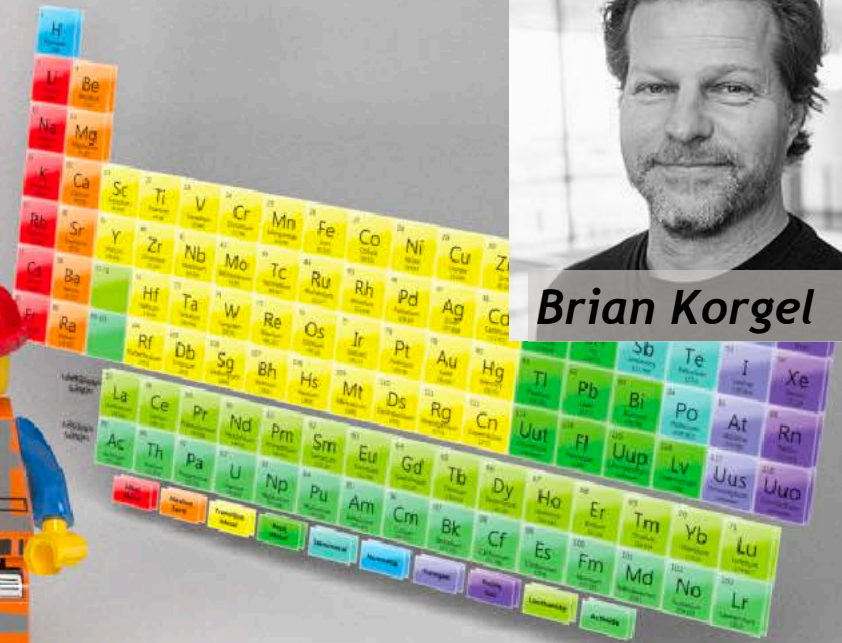
size



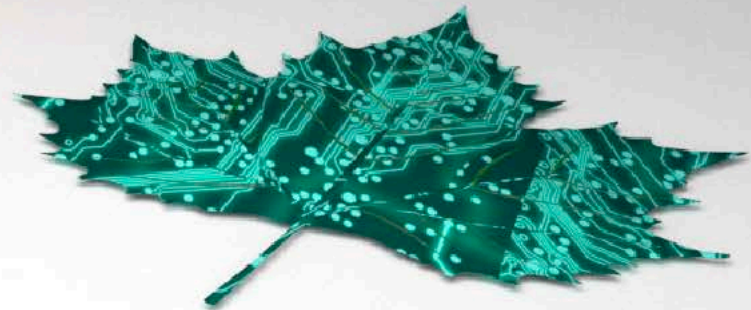
shape



dimension



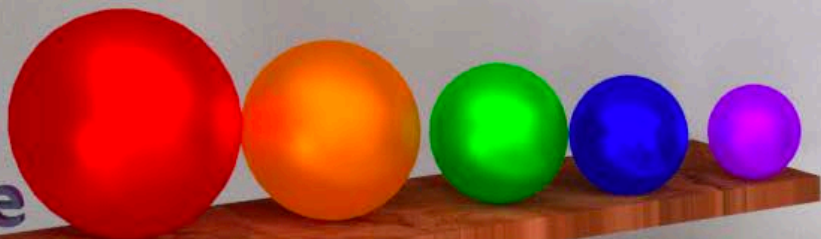
Brian Korgel



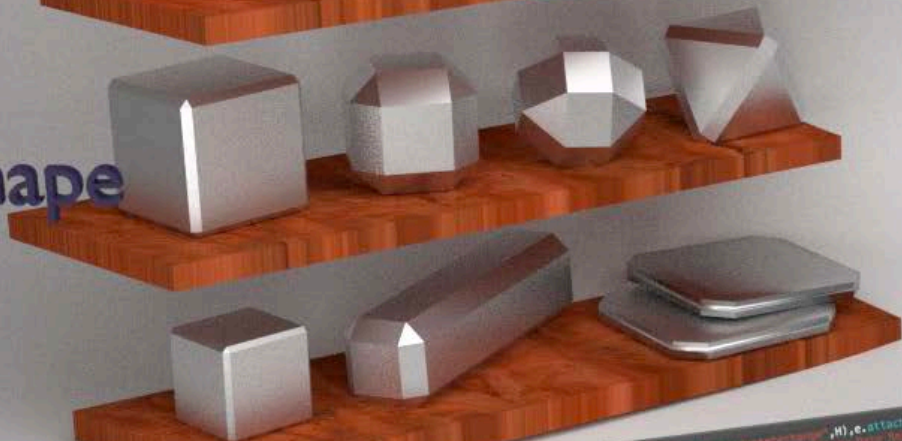


imagine the possibilities by 2040

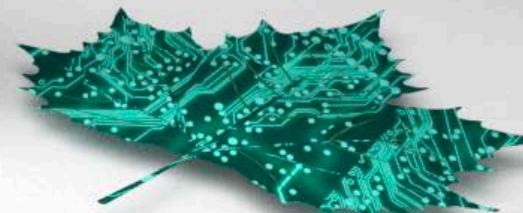
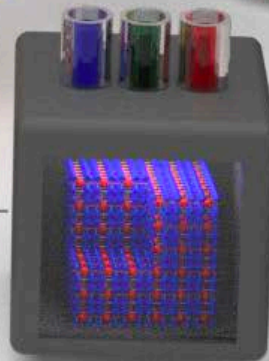
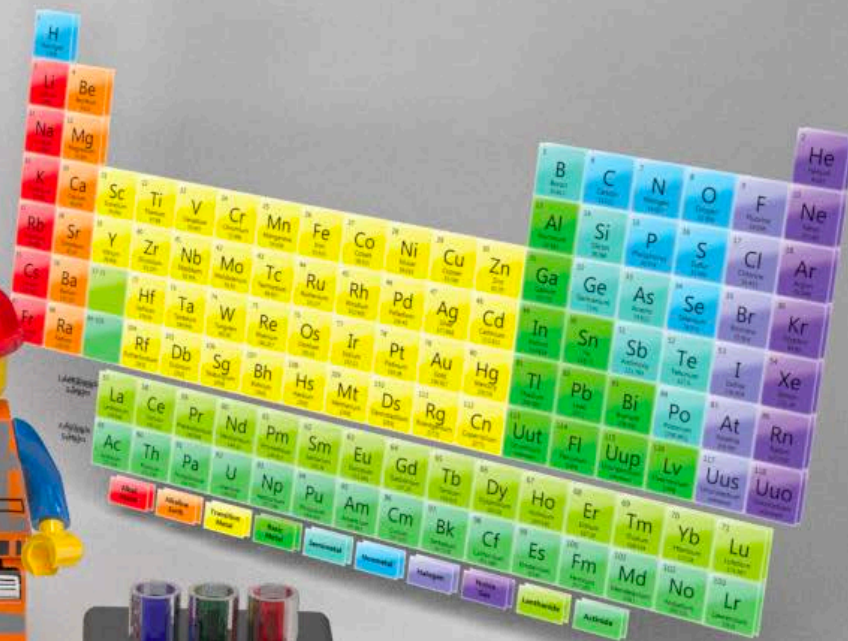
size



shape



dimension

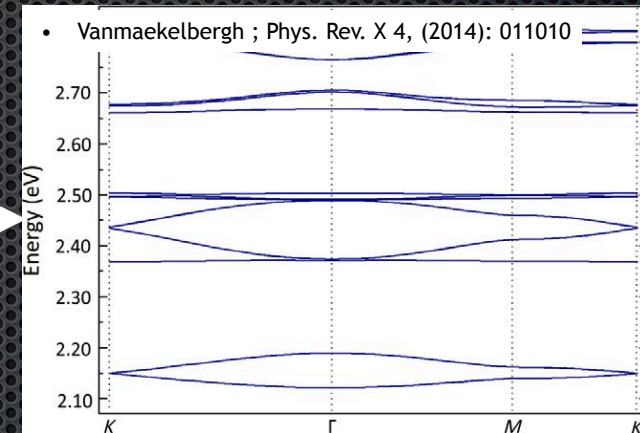
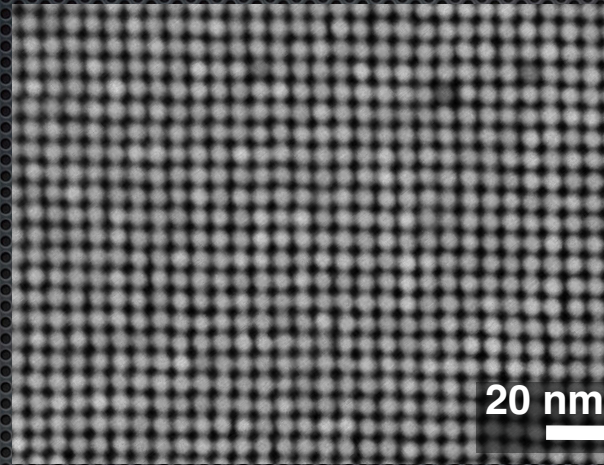
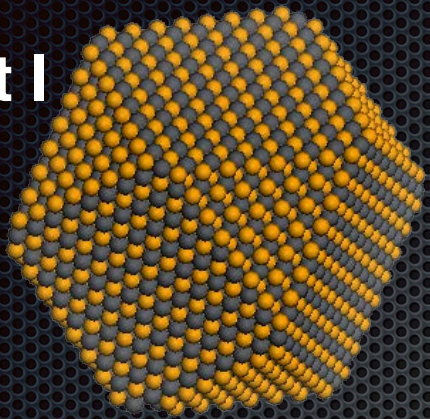


building blocks

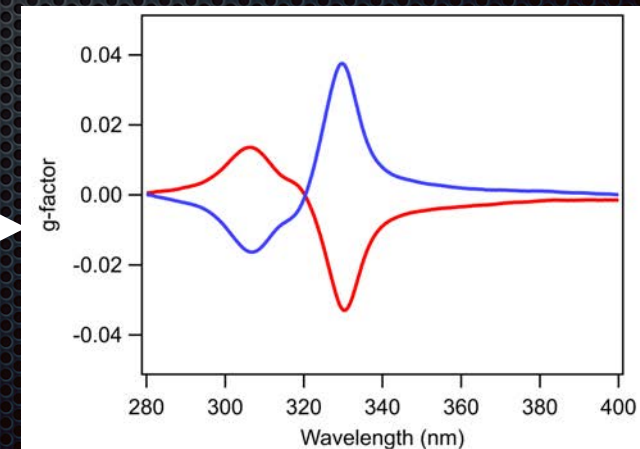
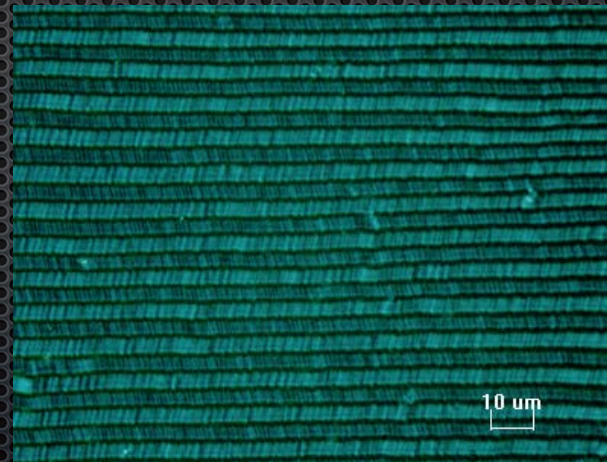
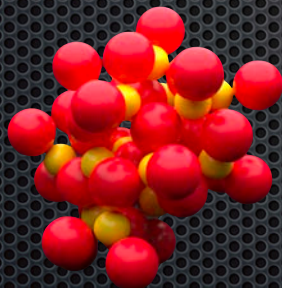
emergent structure

emergent properties

Part I

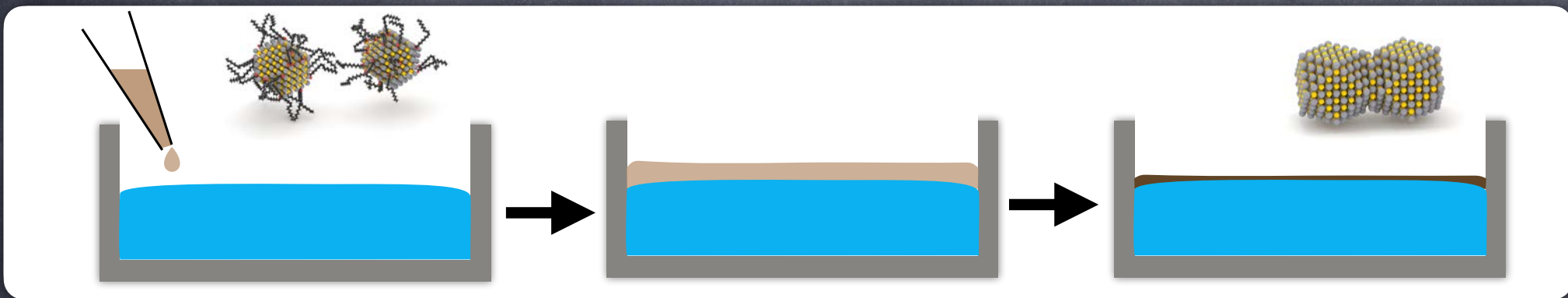


Part II





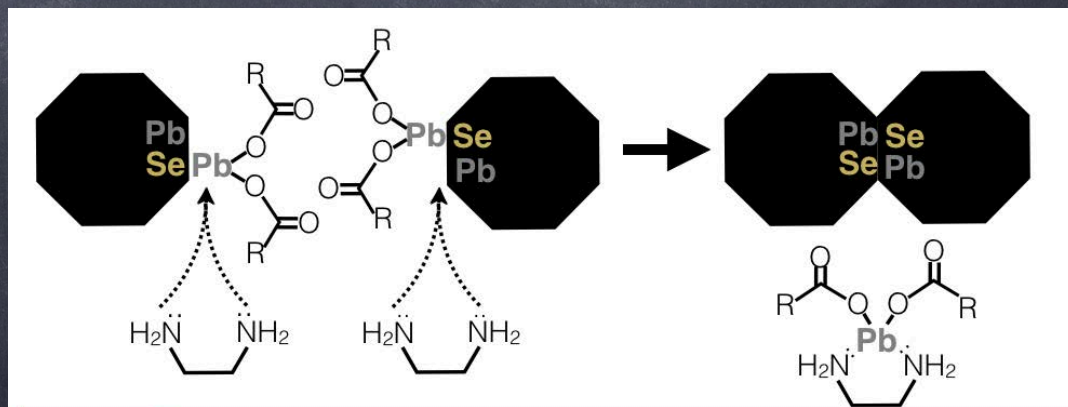
NC Assembly and Attachment at a Fluid Interface



The interface between two immiscible fluids as a 2D reactive workbench



B. Franklin 1773

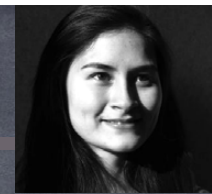


Whitham, Hanrath, *J. Phys. Chem. Letters* **2017**, 12, 2623

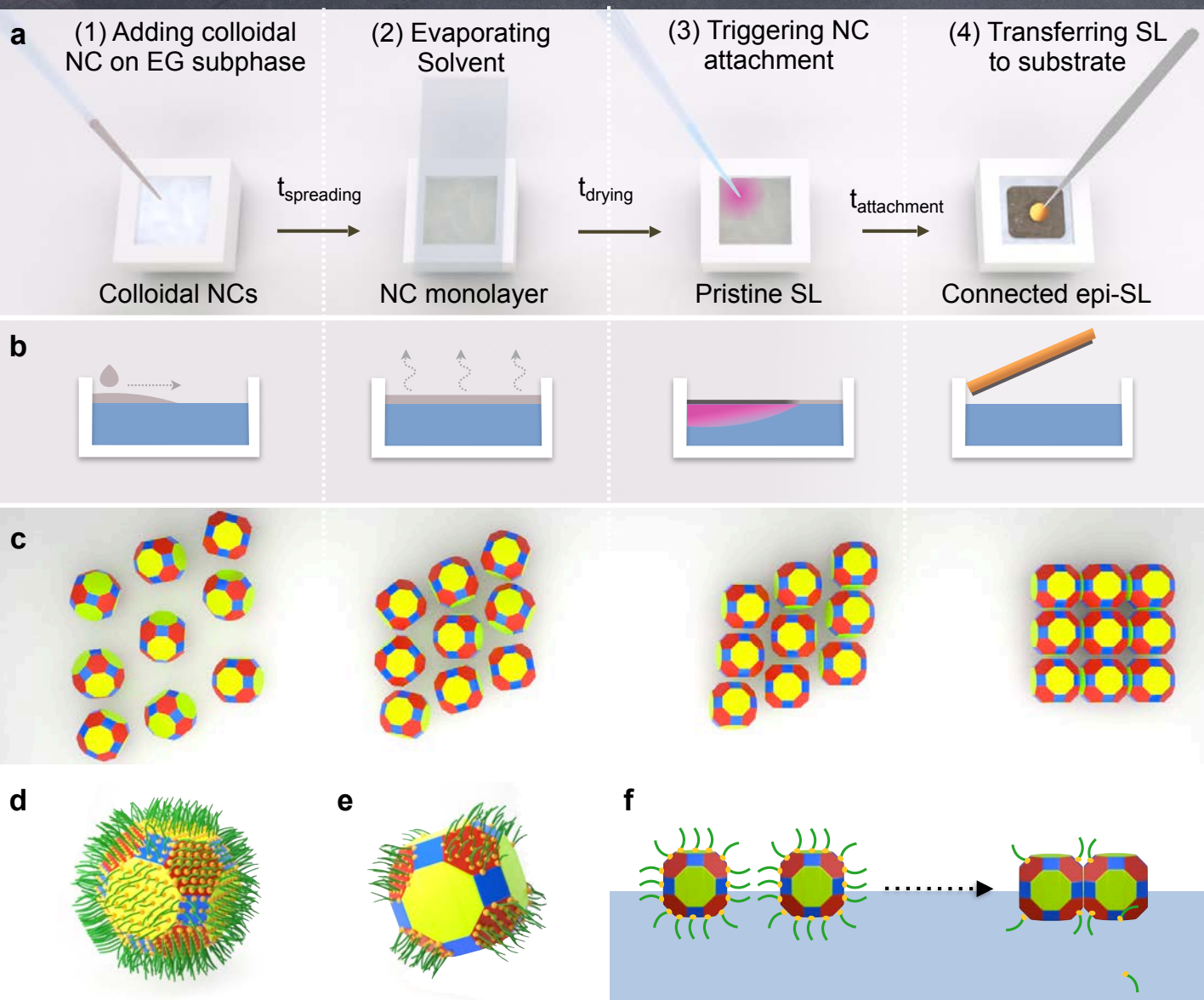
Cimada, Balazs, Dunbar, Hanrath *Chem. Mater.* **2021**, 33, 24, 9457



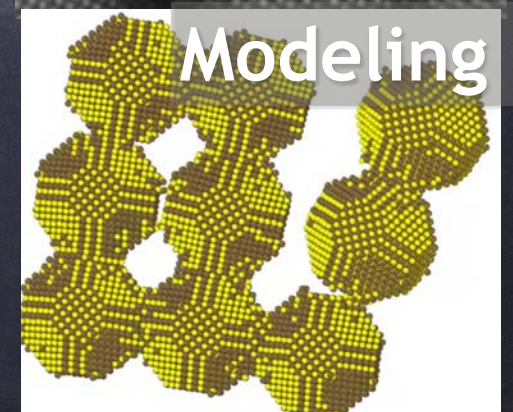
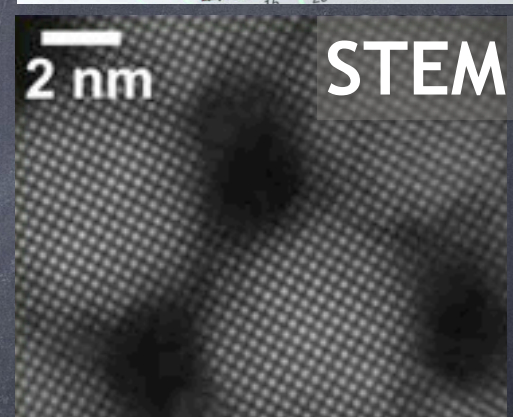
NC Assembly and Attachment at a Fluid Interface



J. Cimada



Analysis





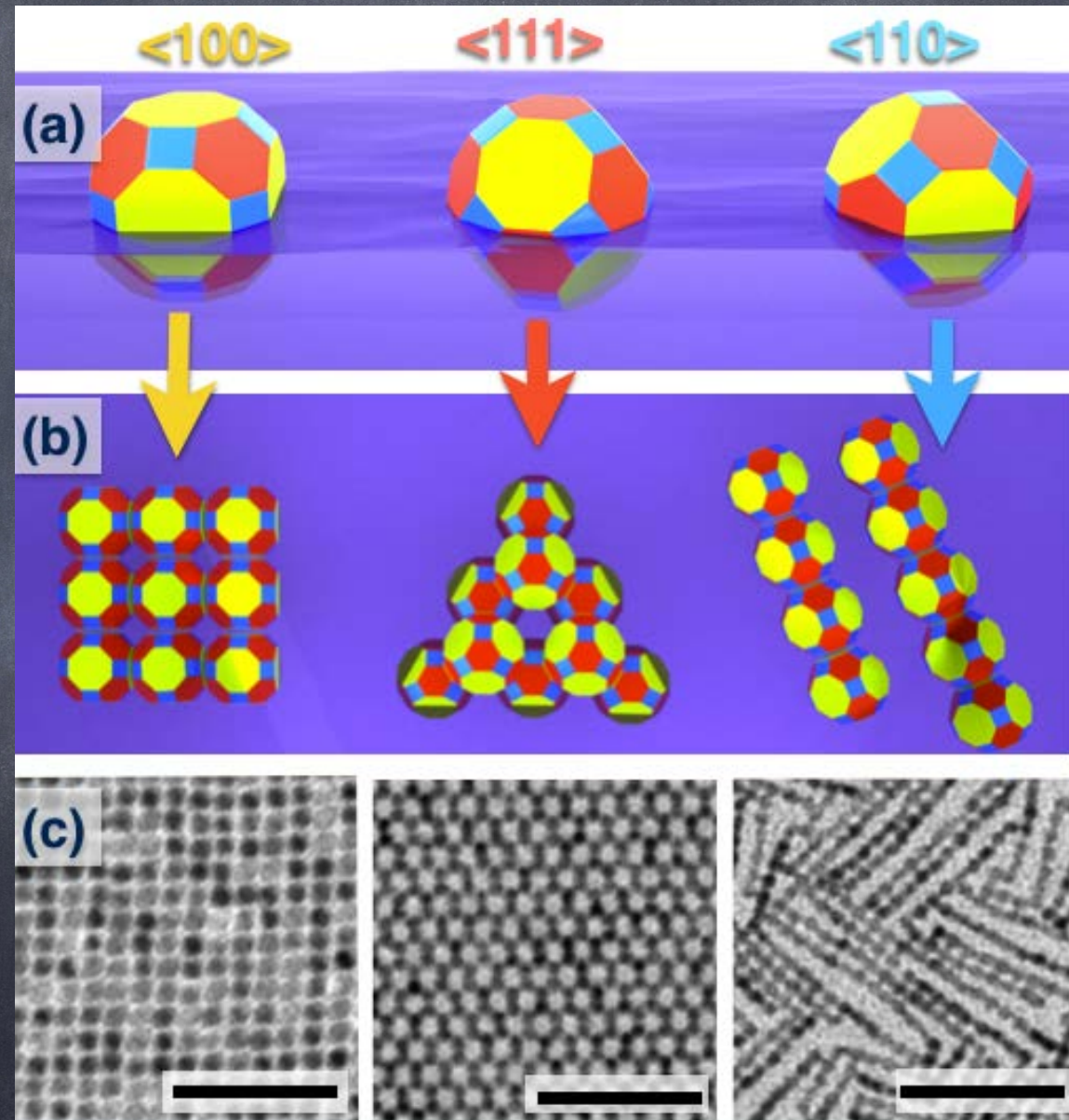
NC Superlattice Polytypes

Hypothesis:

Understanding and controlling the orientational alignment of particles at the interface is the key to direct the assembly of superlattices with specific symmetries.

Critical question:

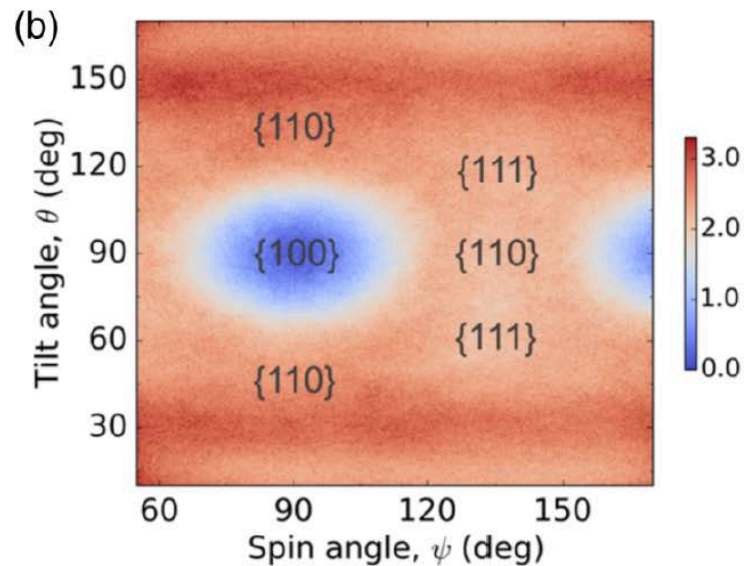
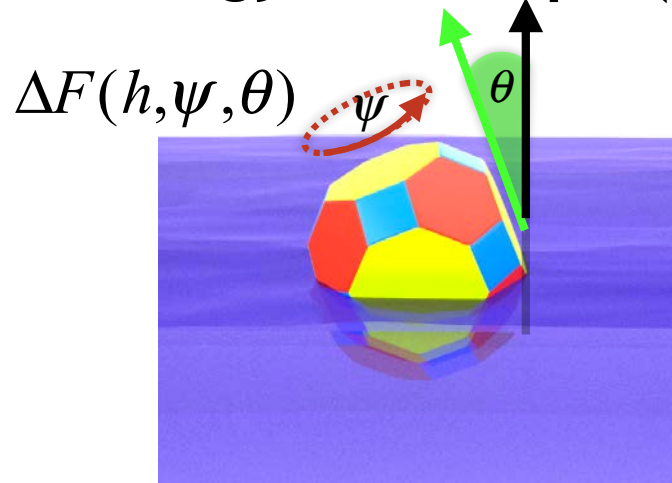
What thermodynamic and kinetic aspects of the assembly at the fluid interface determine the orientational alignment of the NC ?



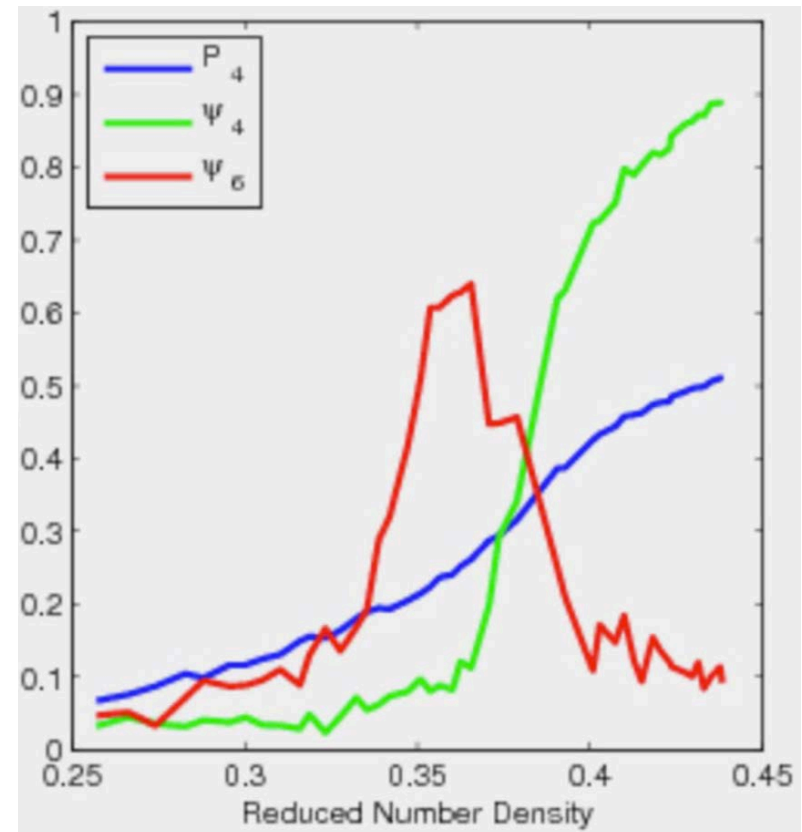
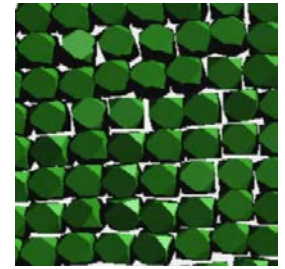
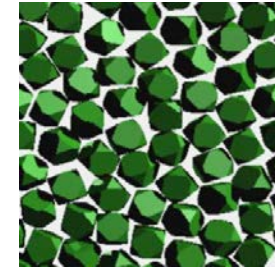
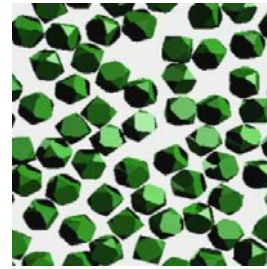


The role of thermodynamics and kinetics

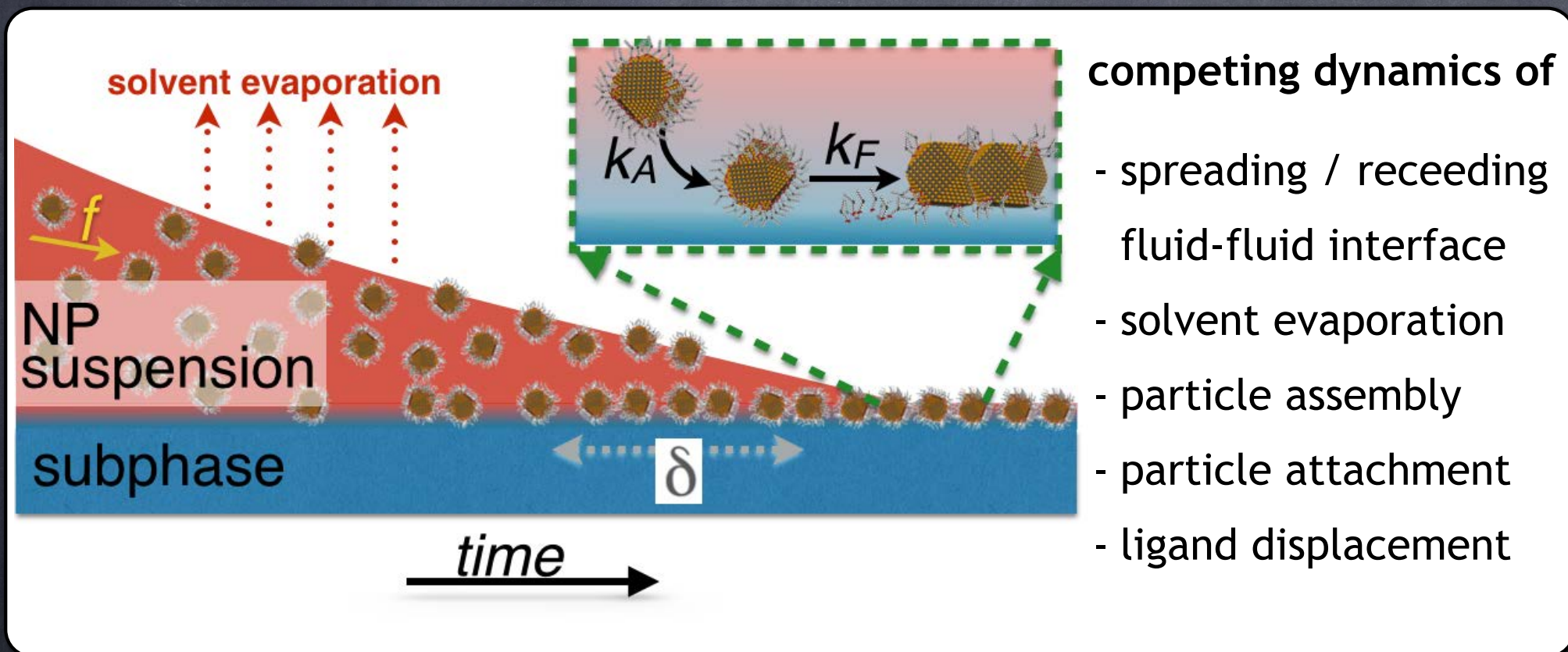
free energy landscape (MD)



assembly kinetics (kMC)

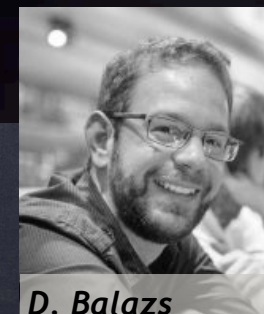
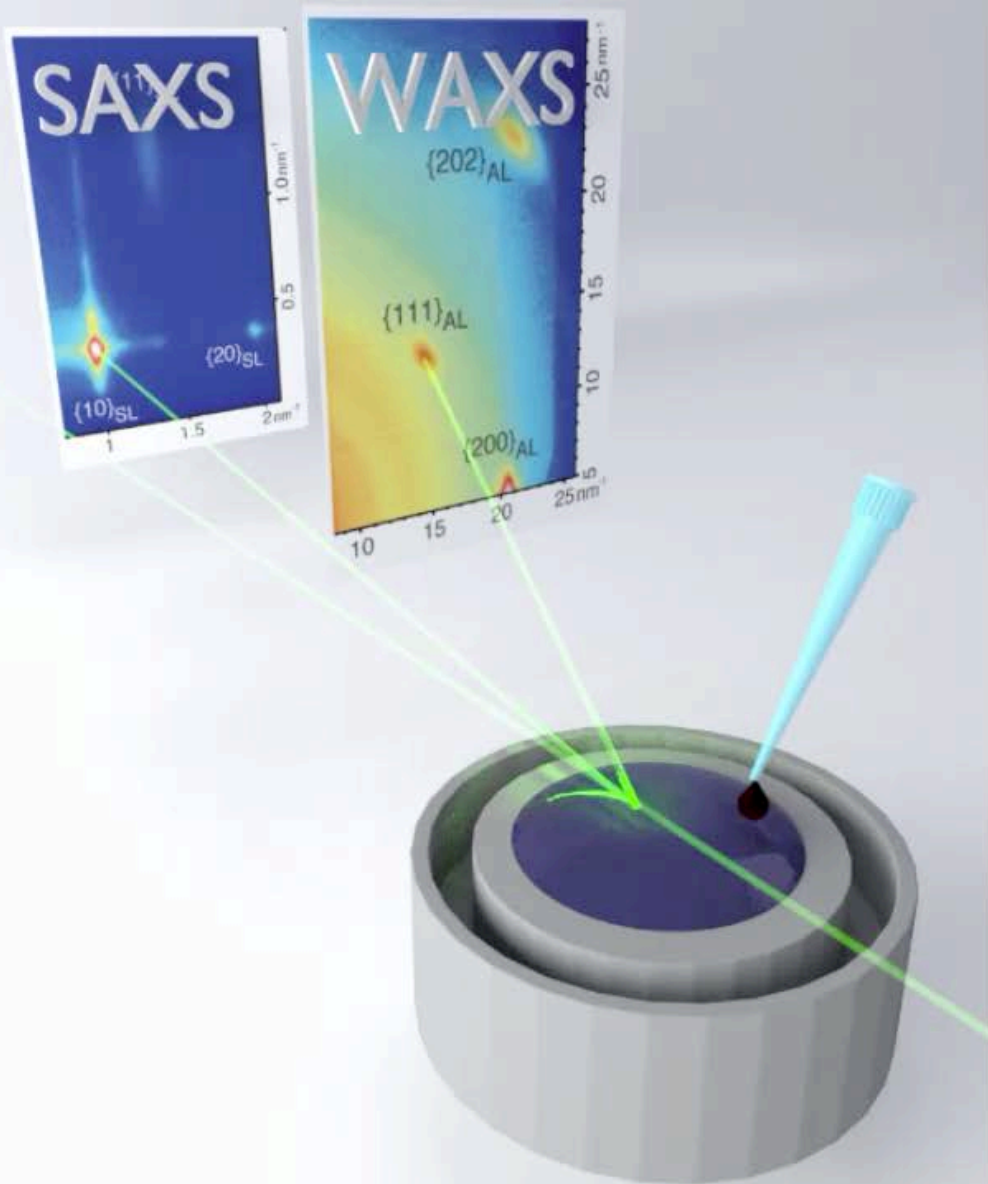


Physicochemical aspects of colloidal QD assembly at a fluid-fluid interface



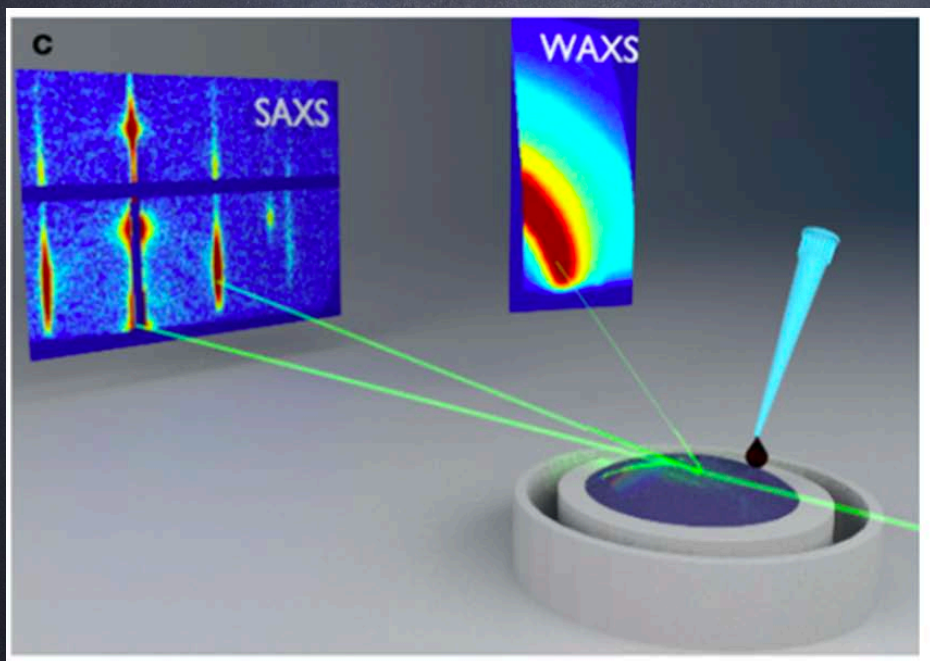
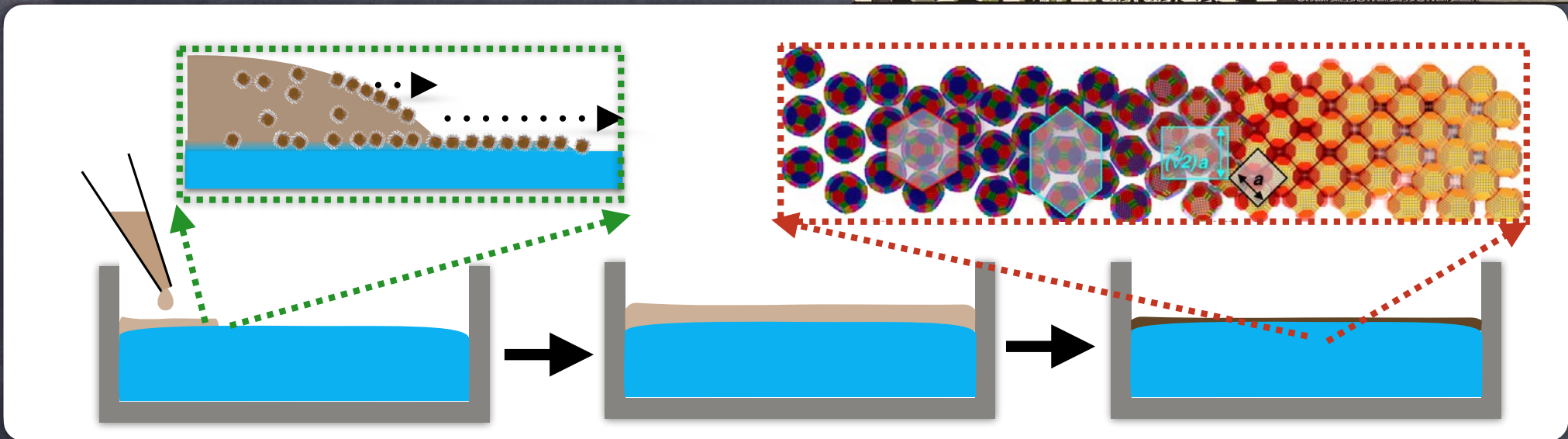
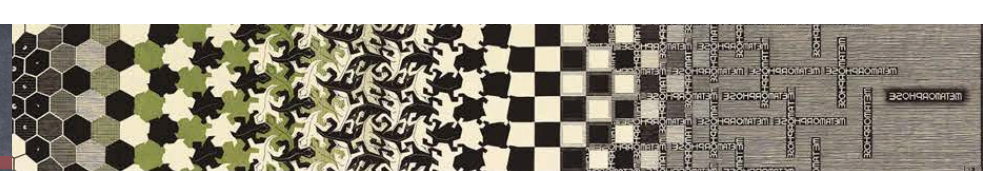


in-situ WAXS/SAXS analysis of interfacial assembly





in-situ WAXS/SAXS

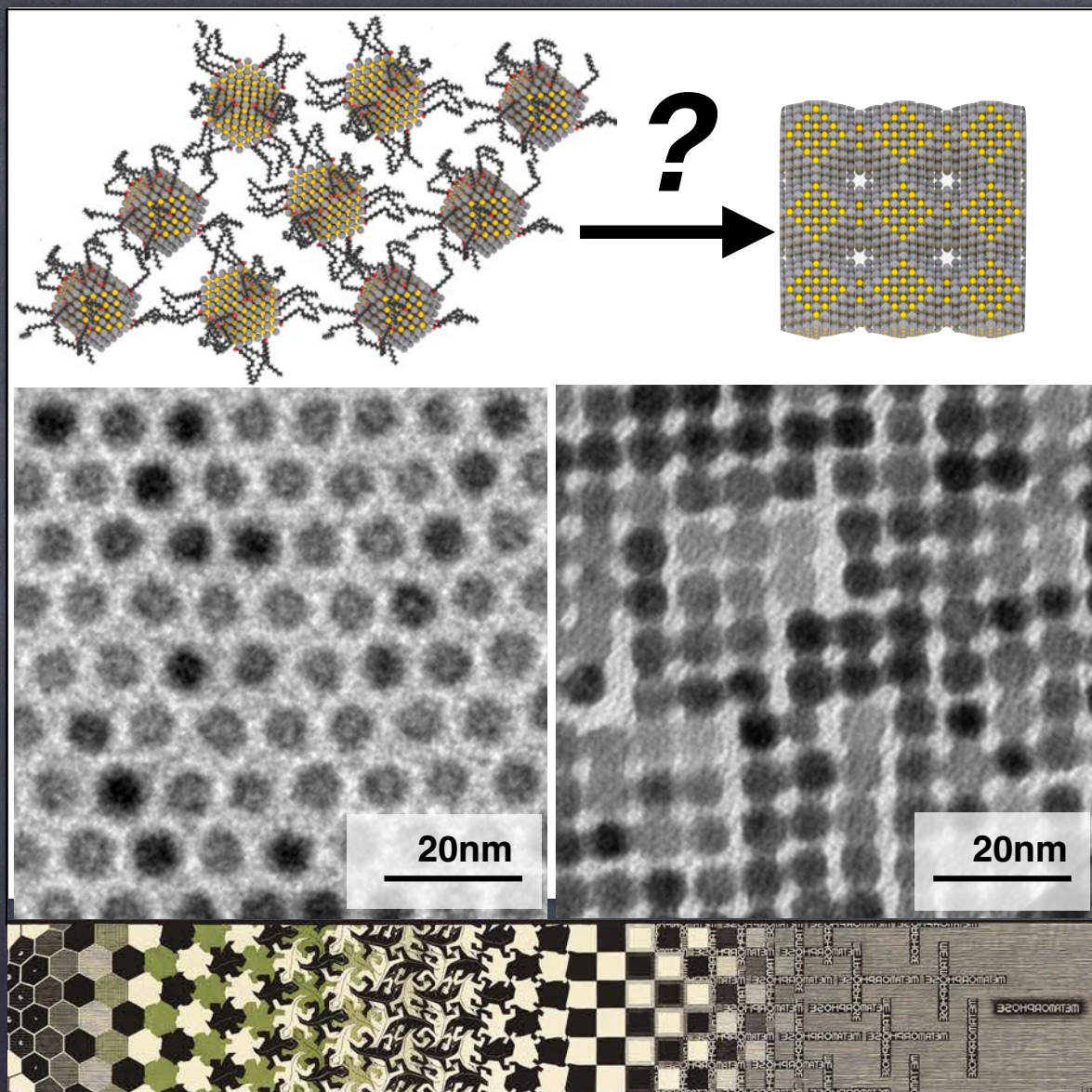


in-situ SAXS / WAXS with fast time resolution (200 ms) provided insights into the complex dynamic interplay between spreading and assembly subprocesses, including:

- (i) the existence of a rapidly spreading monolayer colloidal QD film that precedes the spreading of the bulk QD suspension,
- (ii) transient signatures of QD superlattice nucleation at the liquid-liquid and liquid-gas interface, and
- (iii) the correlation between solvent characteristics (QD solubility), the spreading behavior and the resulting film morphology.



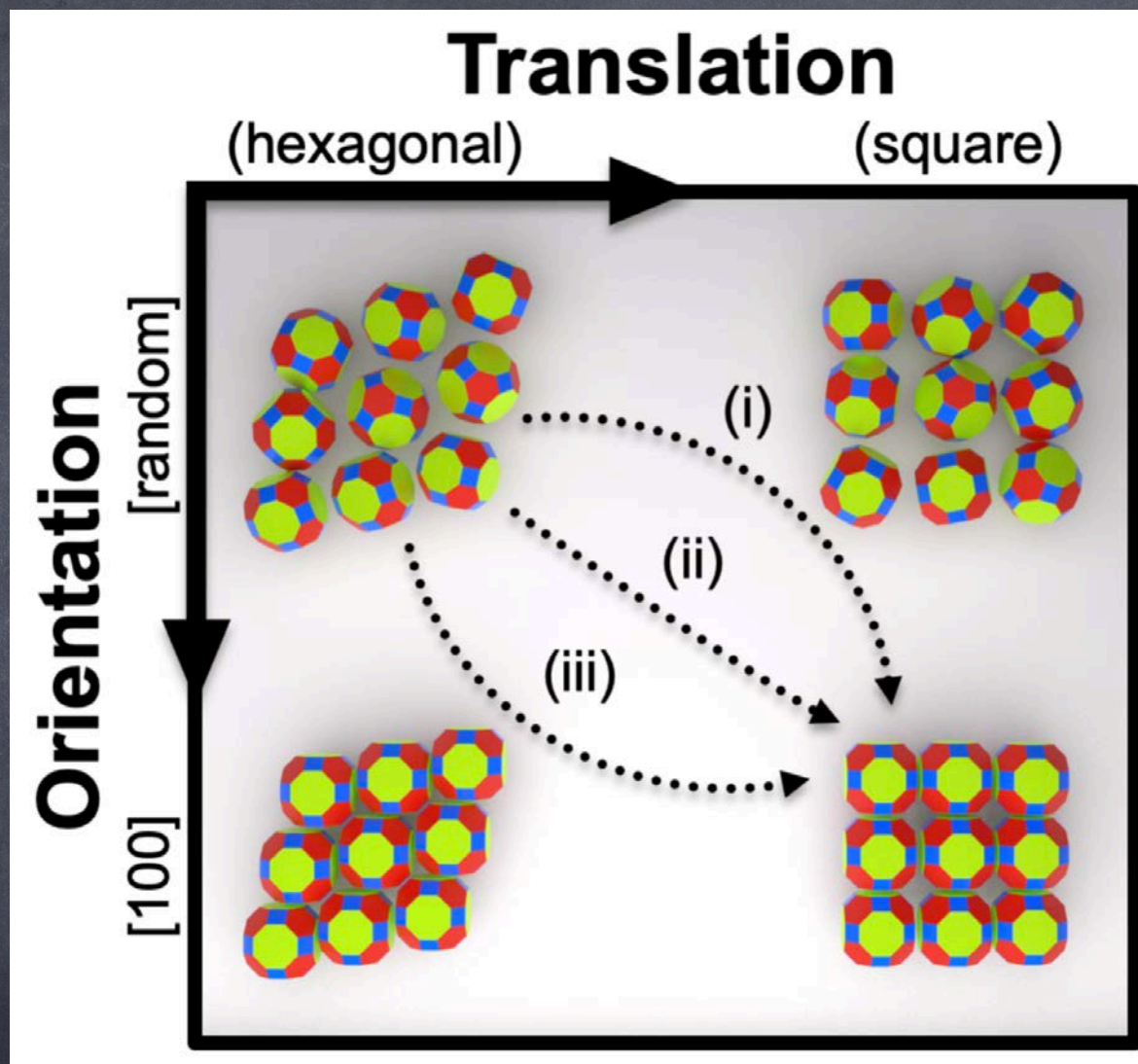
Superlattice Transformation Pathway



Note that this process involves $O(10^4)$ 'irreversible' attachments



Superlattice Transformation Pathway



Superlattice structure transformation involves complex choreography of transformation and orientation



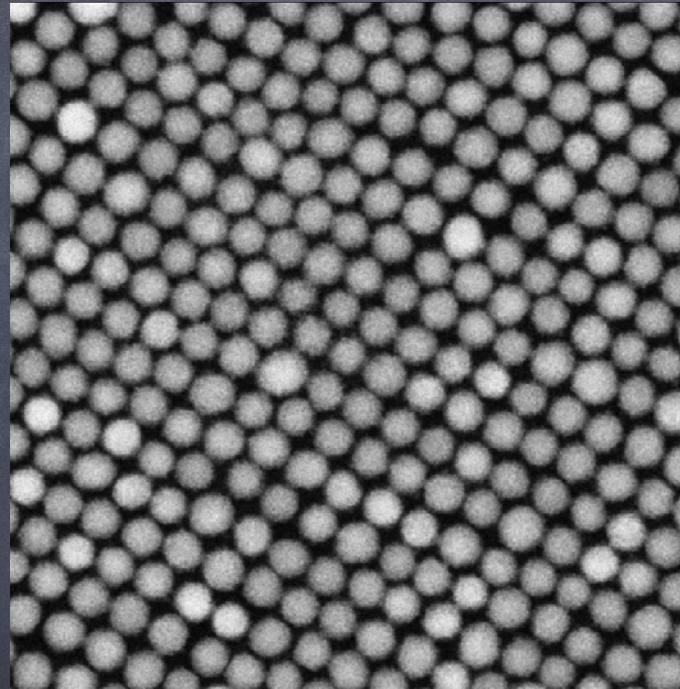
Structure Analysis with the Pixel Array Detector



M. Smeaton

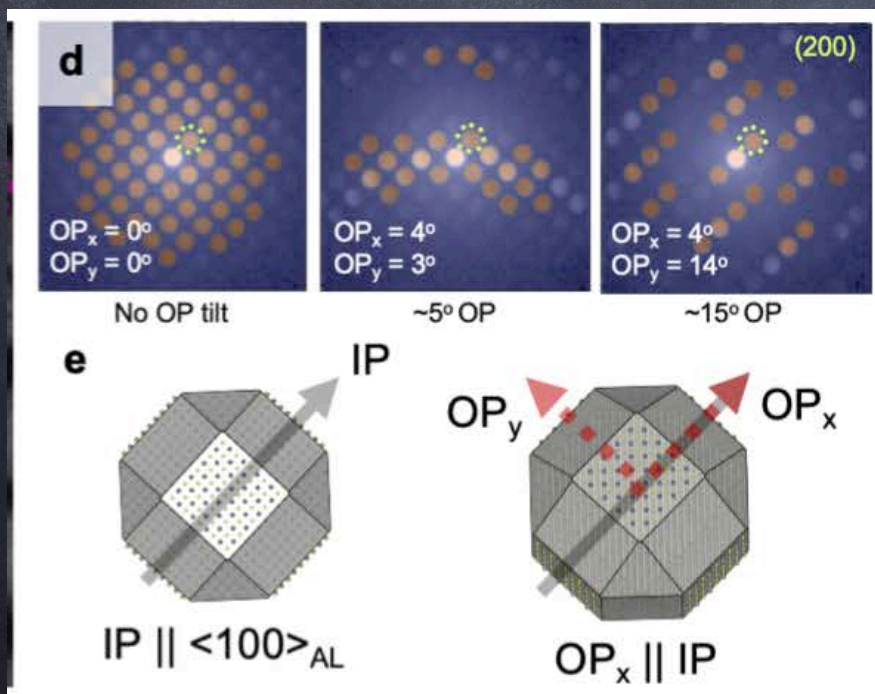
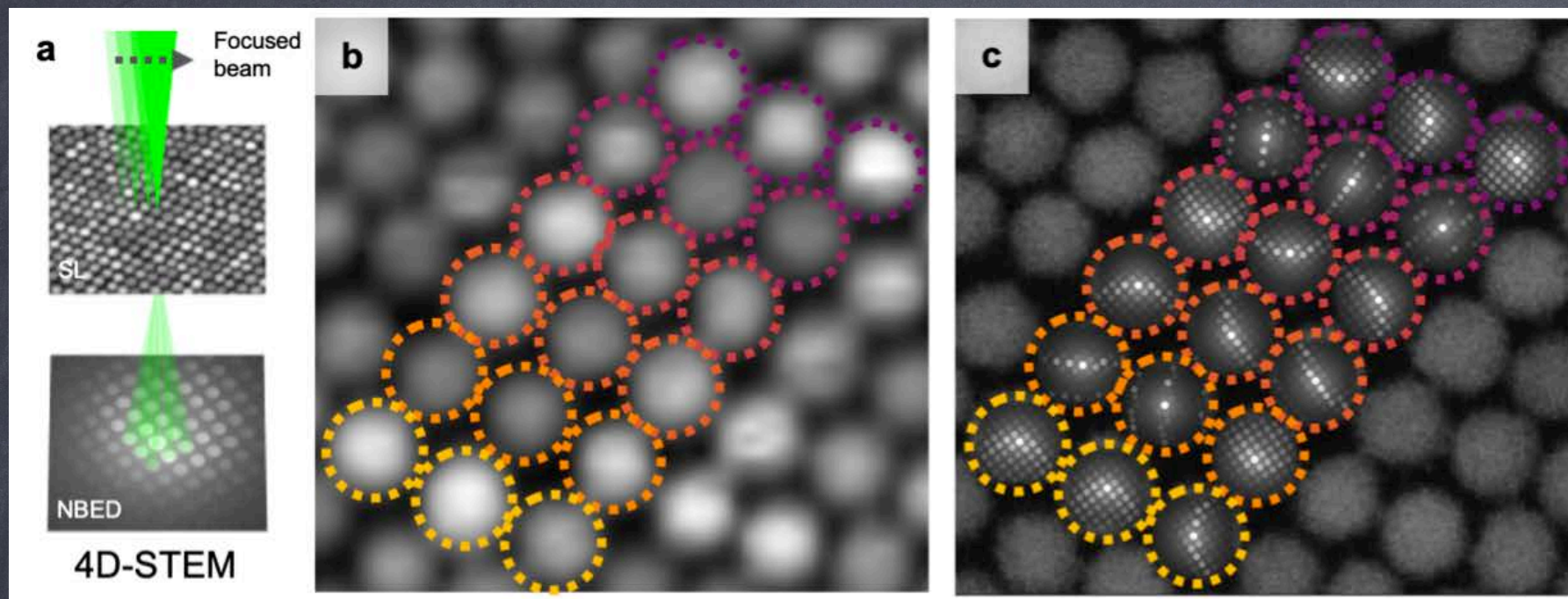


J. Cimada





Structure Analysis with the Pixel Array Detector

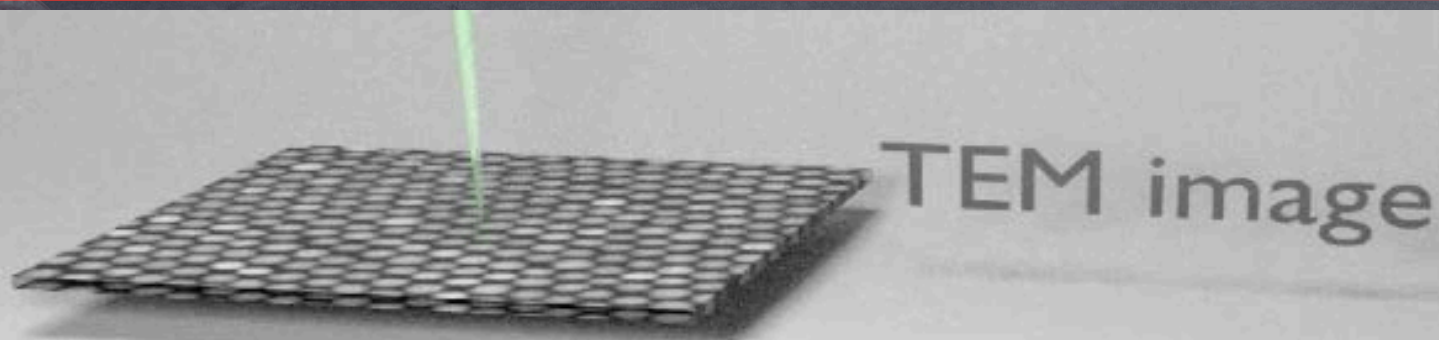


ED for every pixel

precise determination of position and orientation of each NC in the assembly



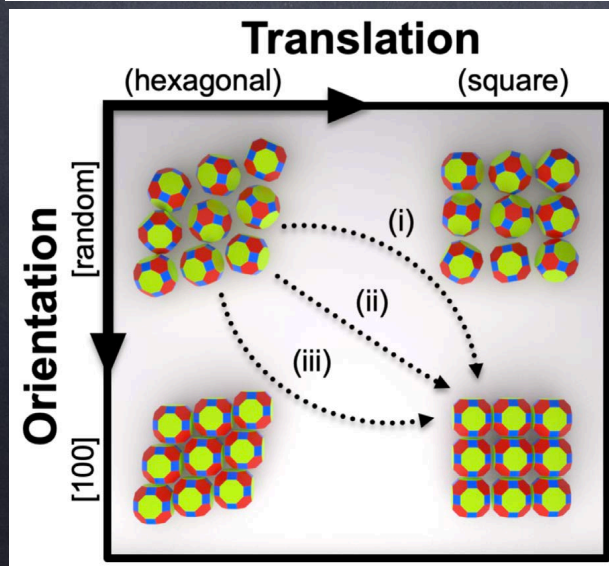
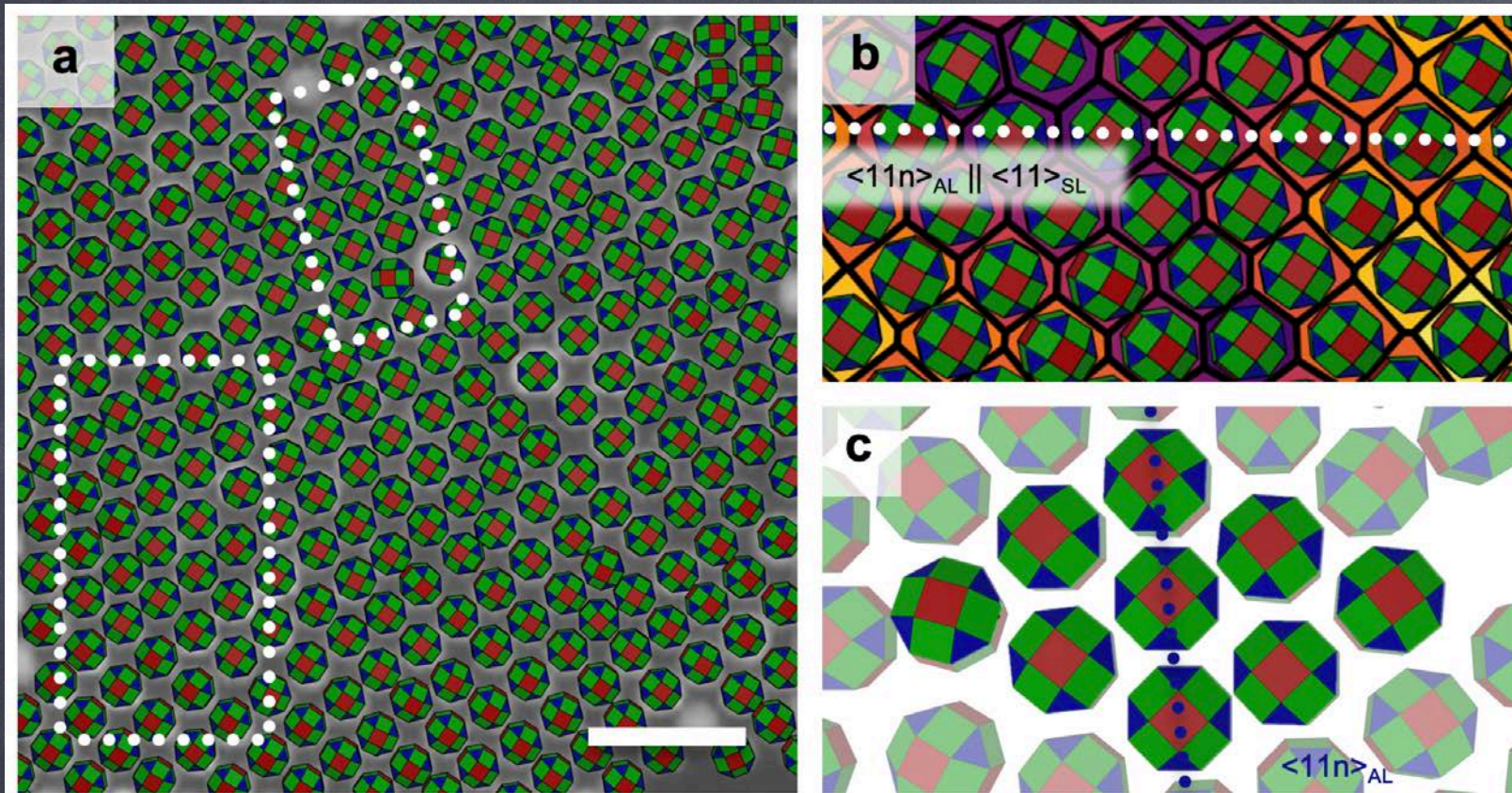
Structure Analysis with the Pixel Array Detector



rich insights into superlattice structure and the interplay order of superlattice and constituent QDs.



Structure Analysis with the Pixel Array Detector



- *superlattice structure transformation pathway (iii)*
- *alignment along $\langle 11n \rangle$; residual ligands as directing agents*

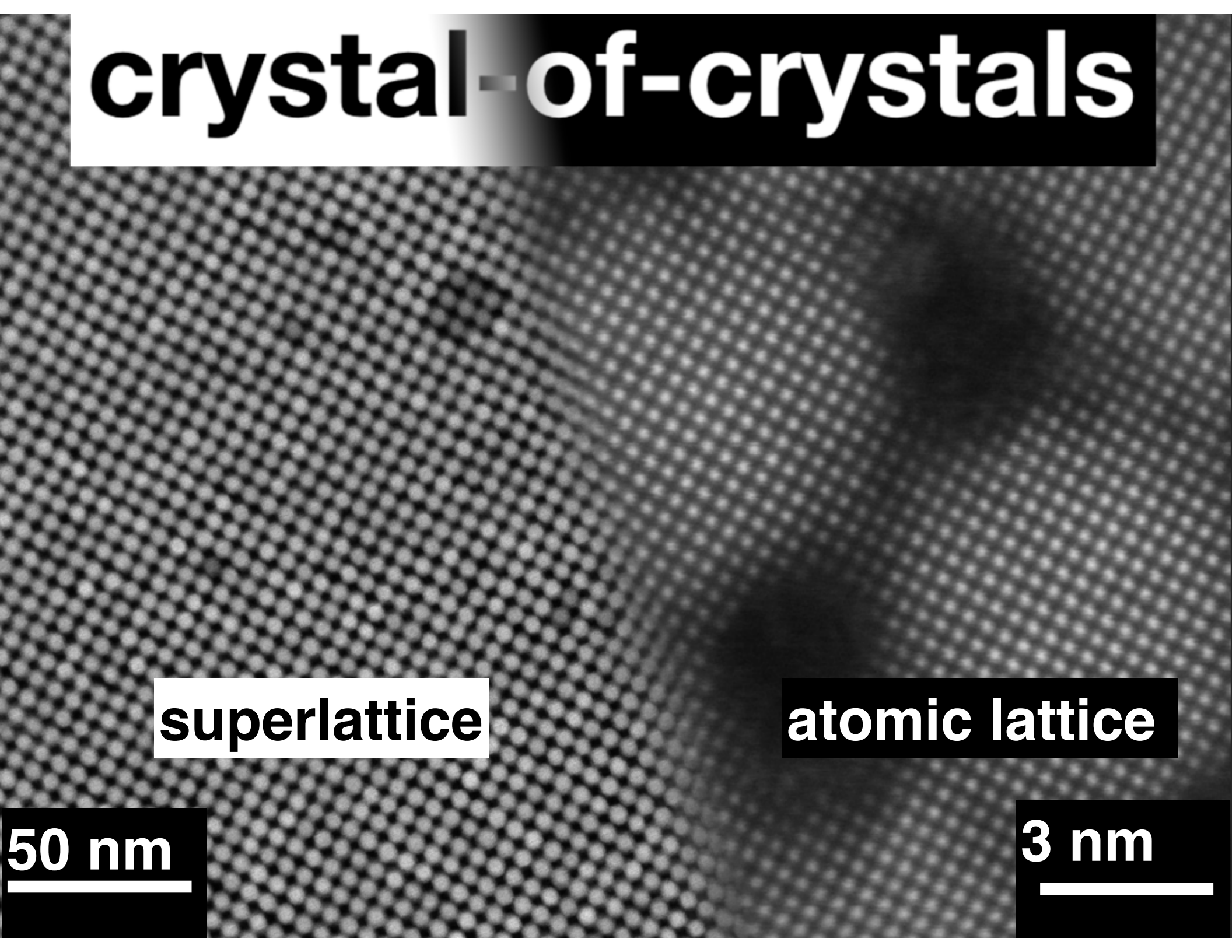
crystal-of-crystals

superlattice

atomic lattice

50 nm

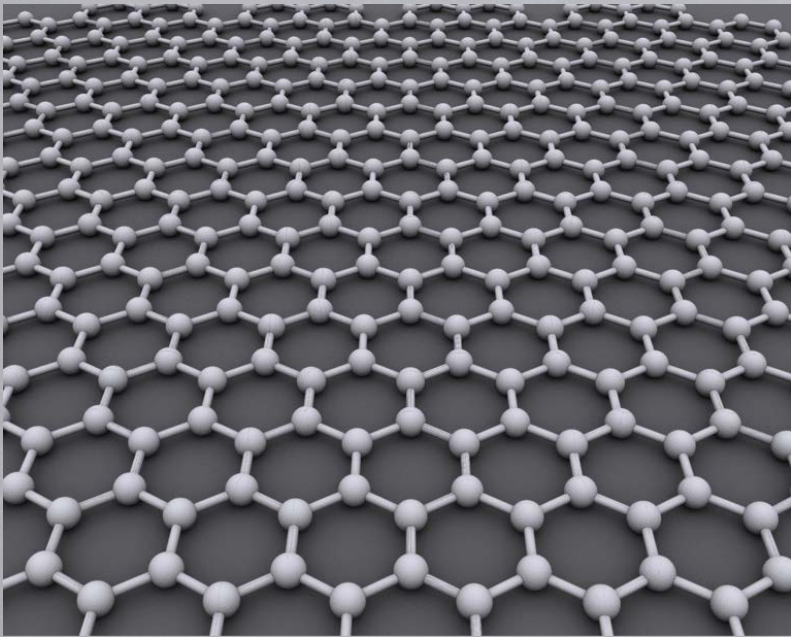
3 nm



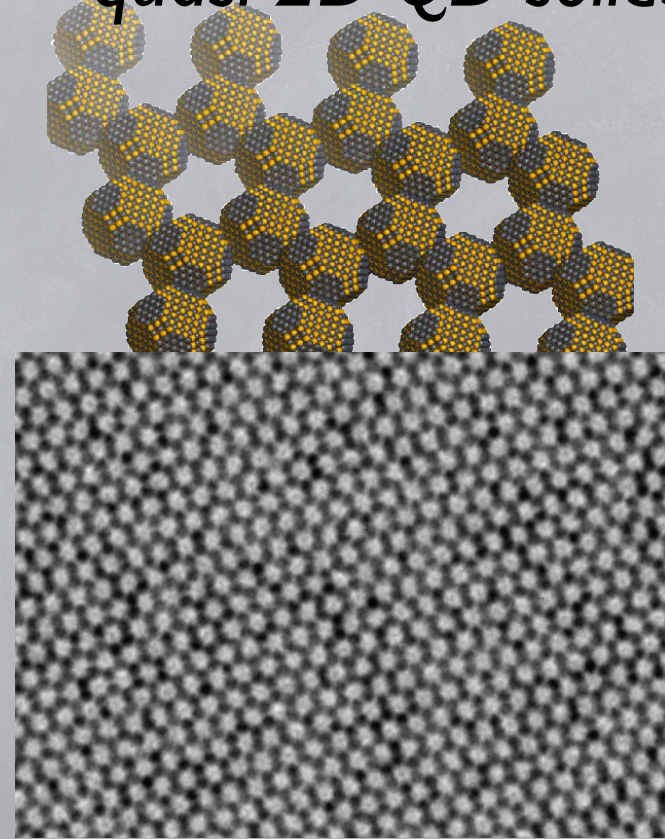


Analogous 2D systems emergent properties

graphene

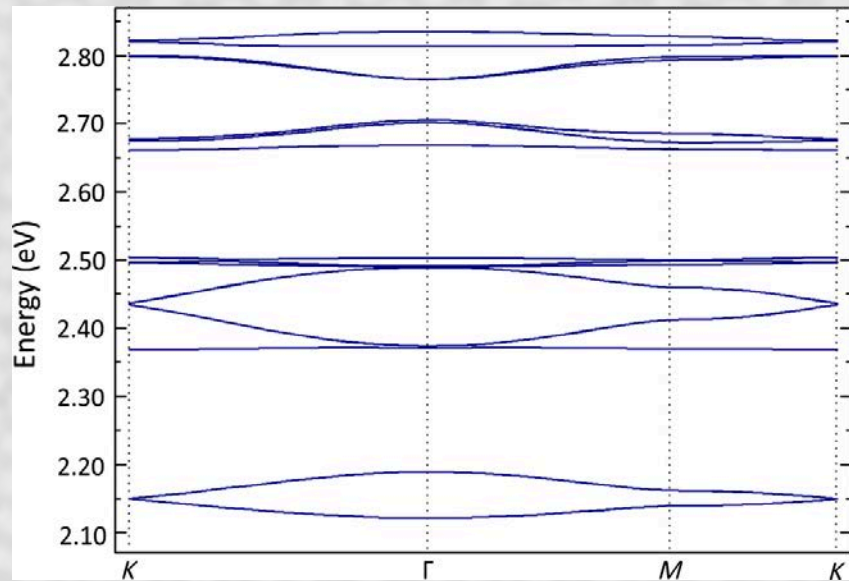


quasi-2D QD solids



similar, yet different...

intriguing theoretical predictions about the electronic phases in quantum dot solids with dimensionality less than 2



vanMaekelbergh *et al.*

- 2D Materials 2, (2015): 034008
- Nature Communications 6, (2015): 6316
- Physical Review X 4, (2014): 011010
- Physical Review B 88, (2013): 115431.

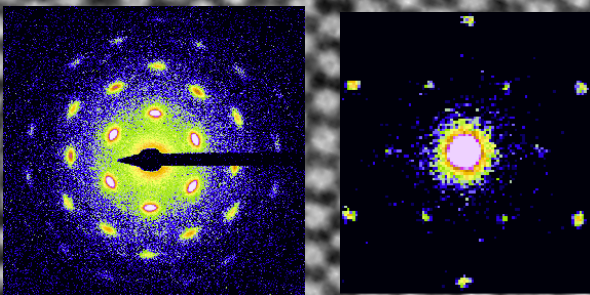
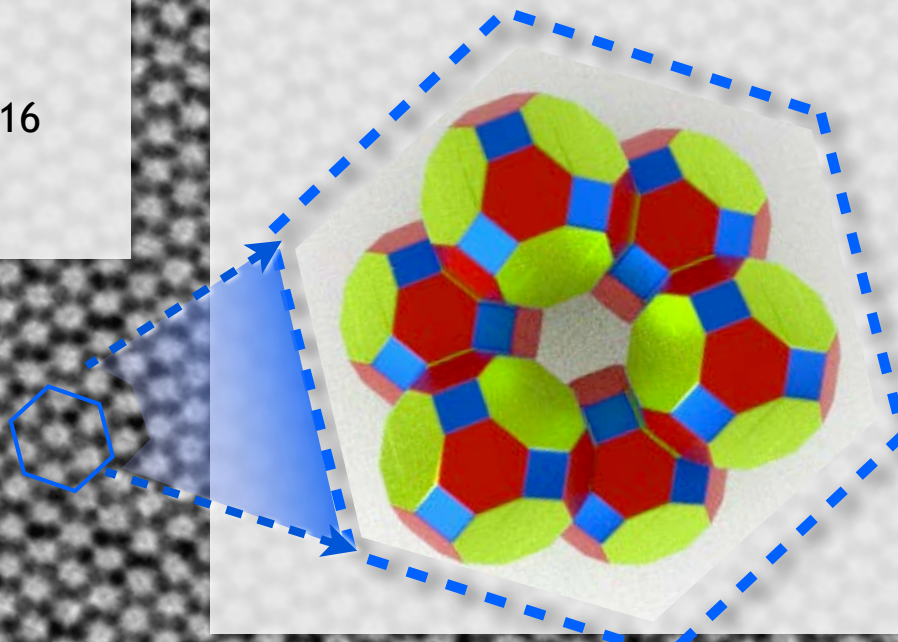
Combined control over

- the structure of the NQD building block,
- the geometry of the superlattice
- the nature of the interdot bond

opens an exciting opportunity space for quantum dot solids as programmable optoelectronic materials

theoretical predictions:

- minibands; coherent transport
- Dirac cones
- topological edge states

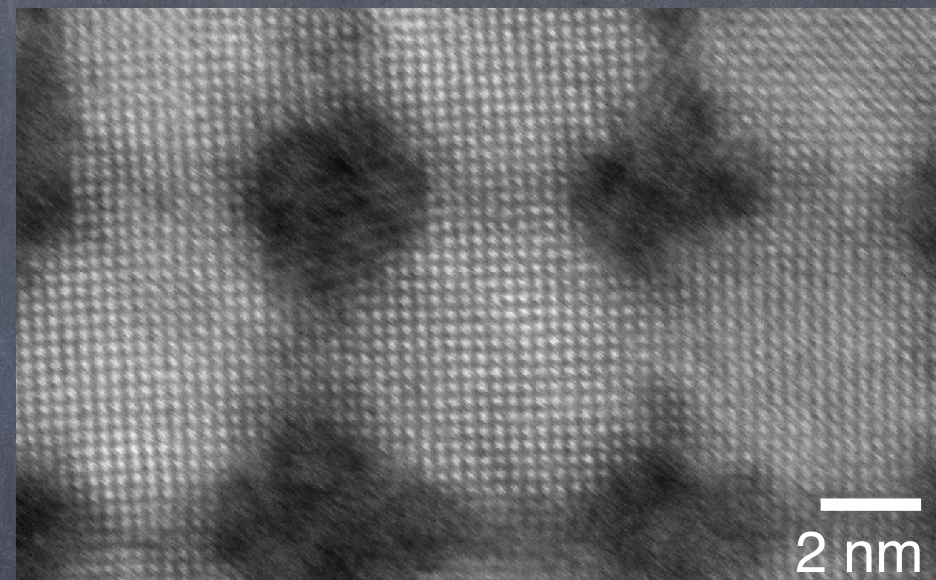
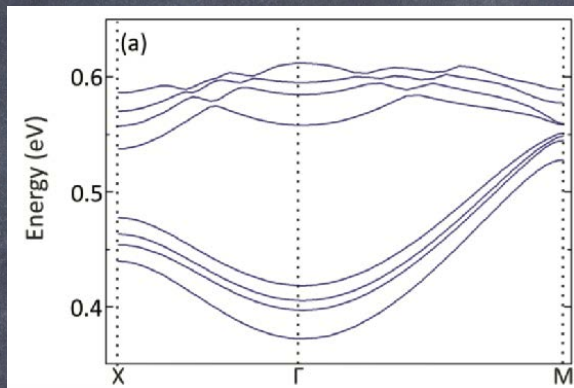
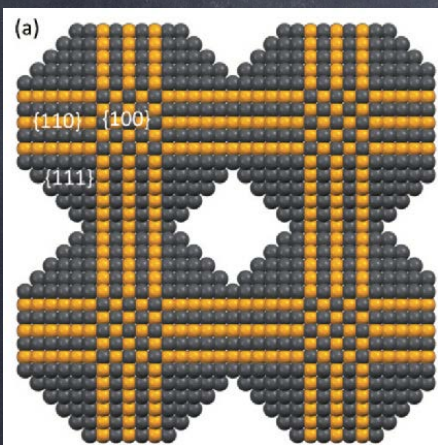




The Impact of Disorder on Quantum Confinement and Quantum Coupling



K. Whitham

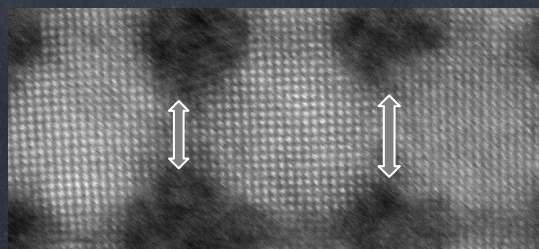


Kalesaki, E., Evers, W. H., Allan, G., Vanmaekelbergh, D., and Delerue, C., Phys. Rev. B, 88(11), 2013.

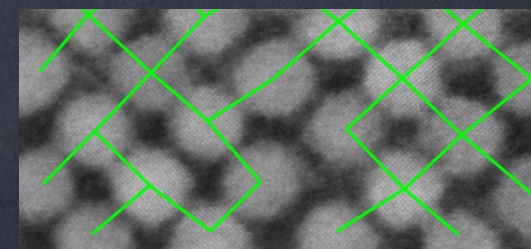
On-site Energy



Coupling



Connectivity



Whitham, et. al. Nature Materials, 15,557, 2016.



Charge transport in quantum dot solids

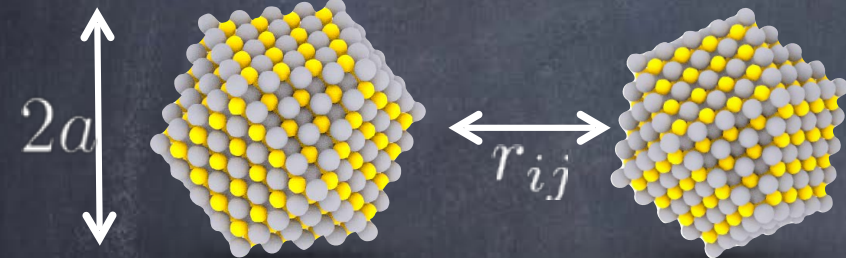


K. Whitham

Charge transfer rate

$$\gamma \propto e^{-\left(\frac{2r_{ij}}{a} + \frac{\epsilon_{ij}}{kT}\right)}$$

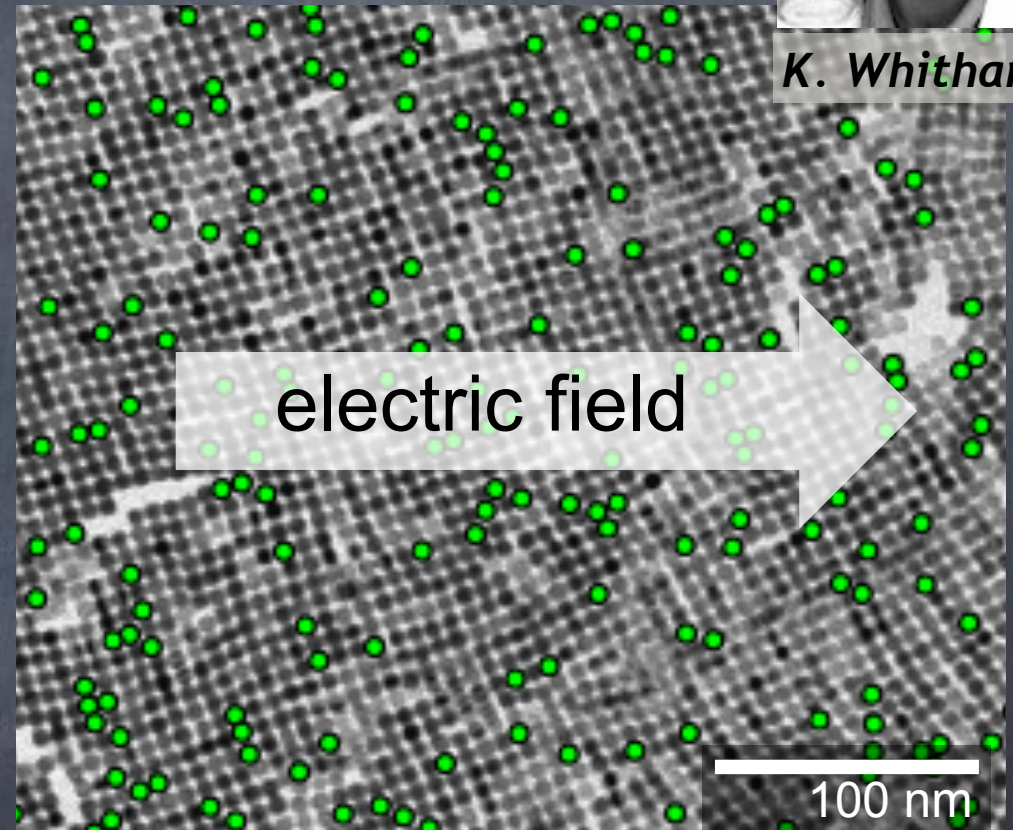
Distance



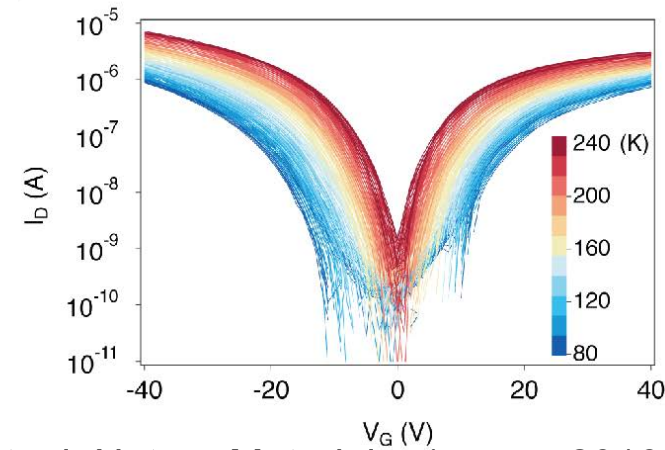
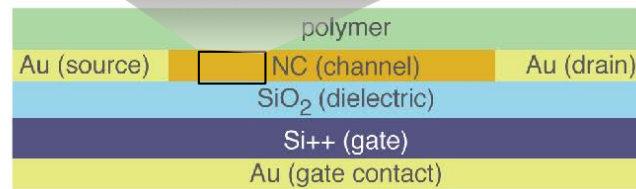
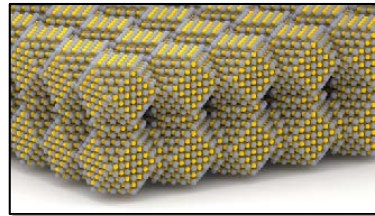
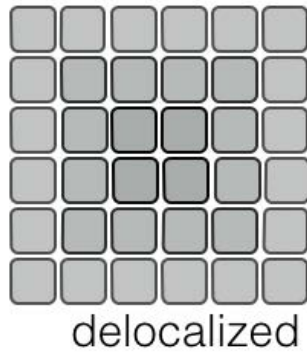
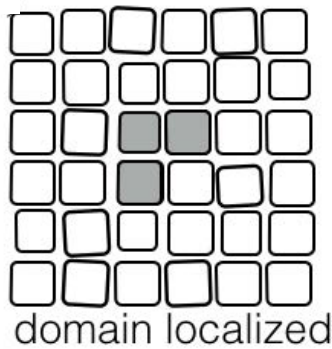
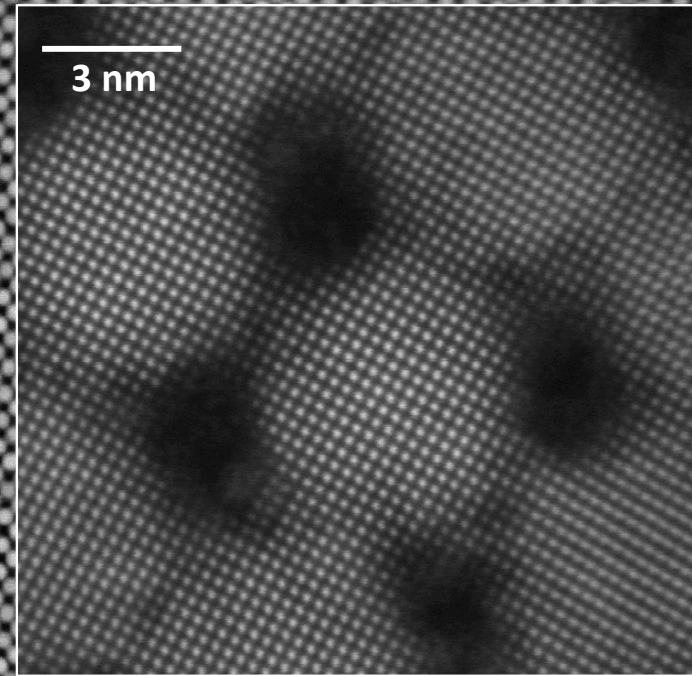
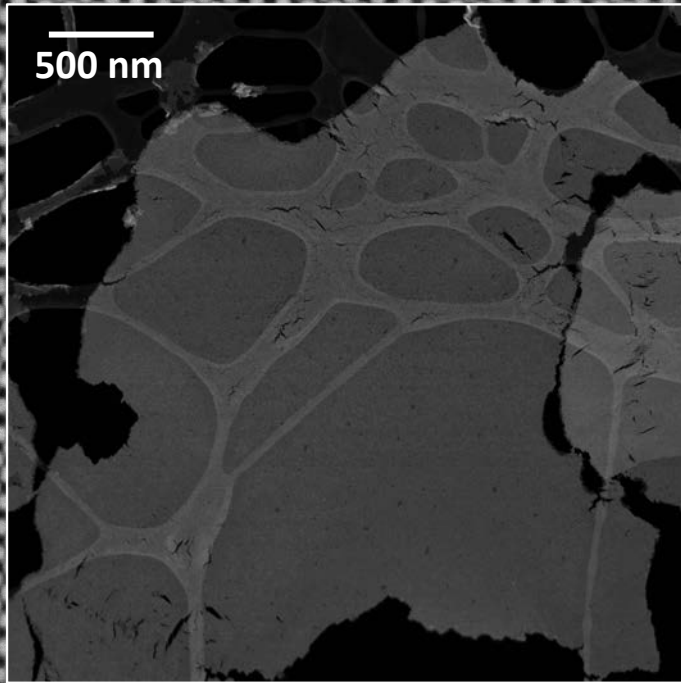
Energy

$$\psi \propto e^{(-r/a)}$$

Diagram illustrating the energy levels of the two dots, labeled i and j . The energy difference between the levels is labeled ϵ_{ij} .



Disorder in ϵ_{ij}, r_{ij} causes incoherent transport



Whitham, et. al. Nature Materials, 15,557, 2016.

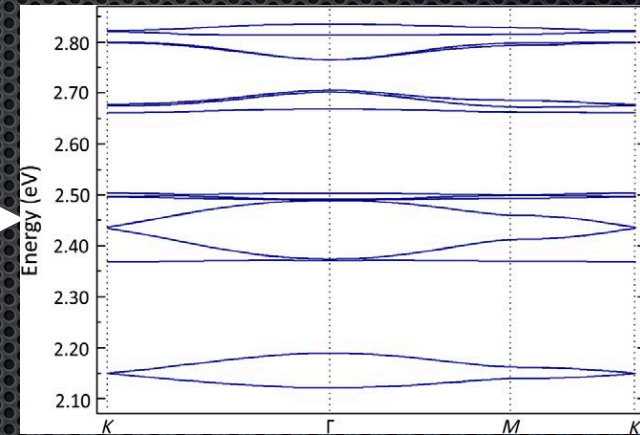
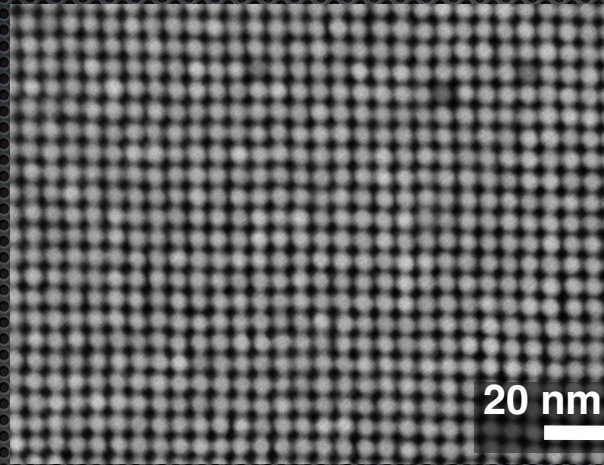
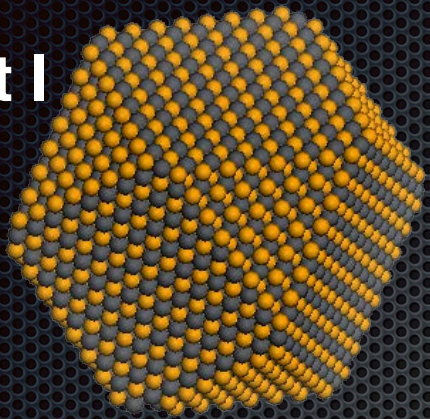
Despite strong dot-to-dot coupling and high-fidelity ordering, the charge delocalization is limited to ~4-5 dots.

building blocks

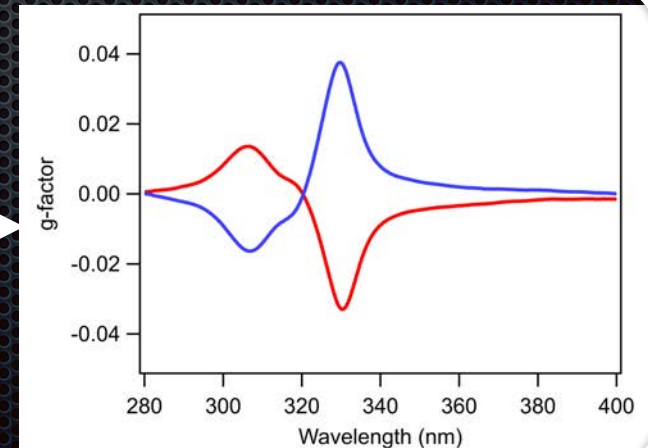
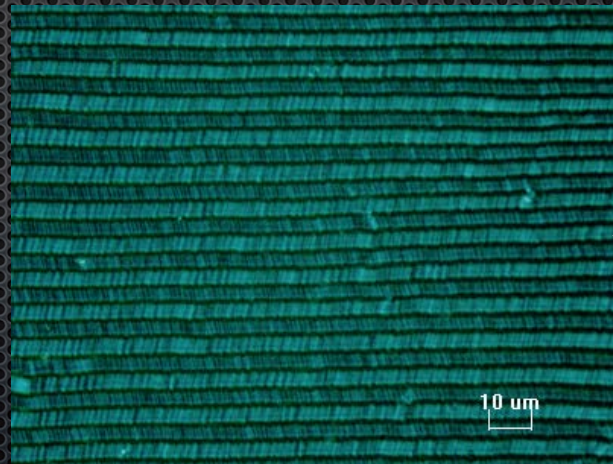
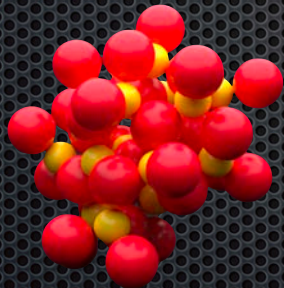
emergent structure

emergent properties

Part I



Part II

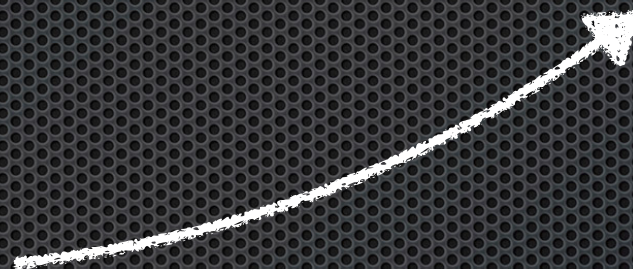


Bonus: emergent anisotropy

Scale-up of colloidal NC synthesis

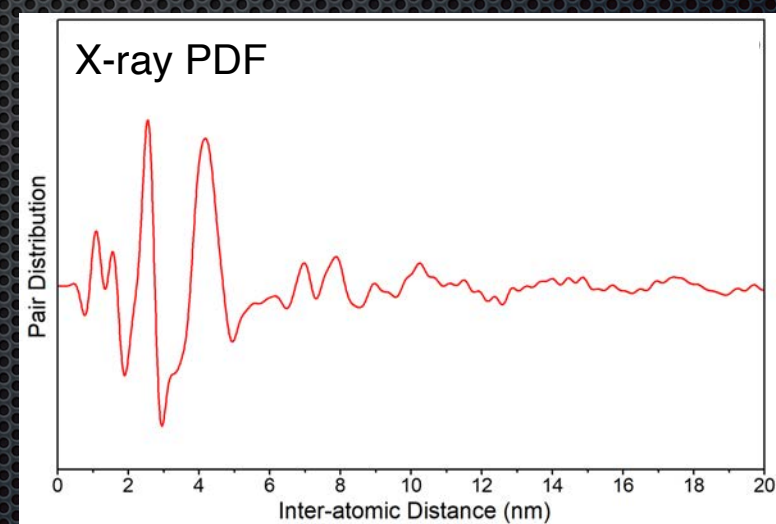
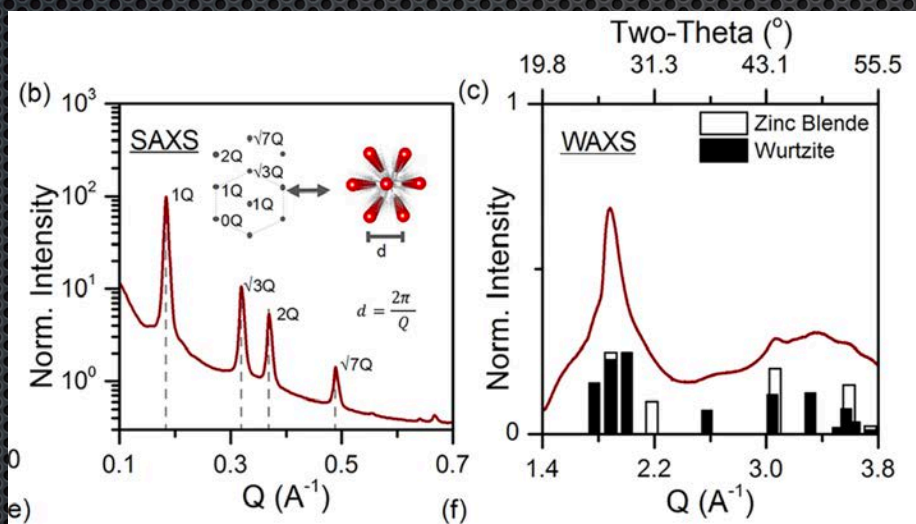
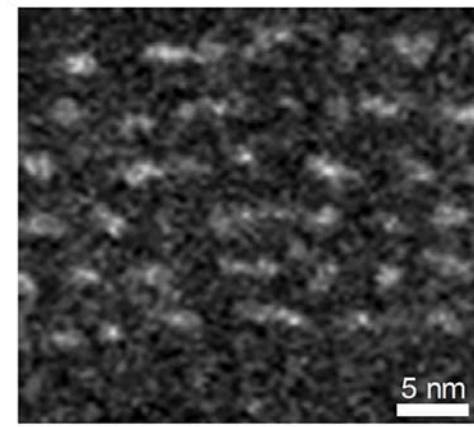
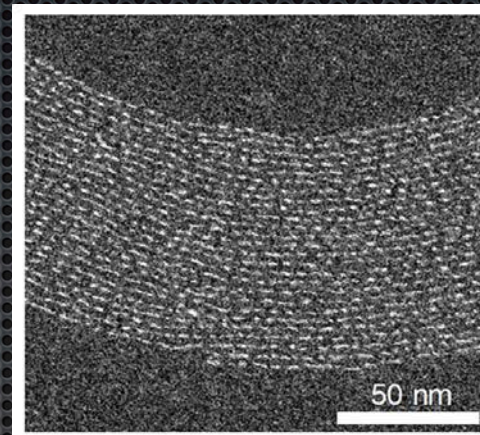
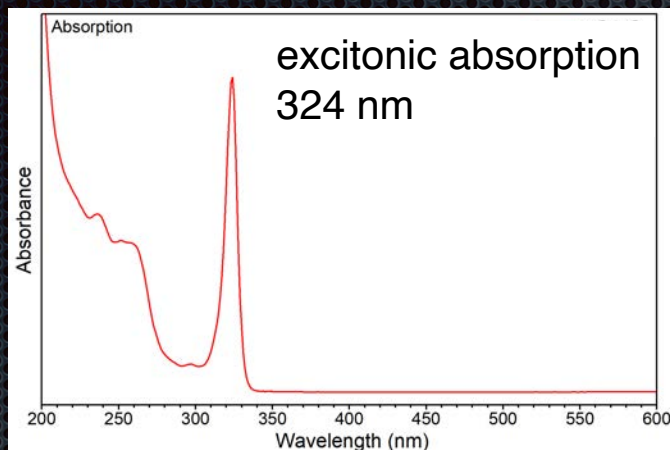


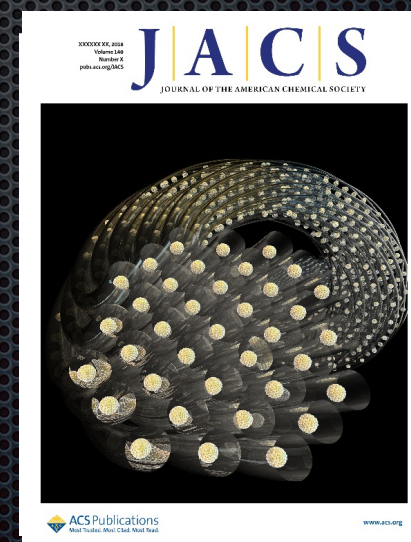
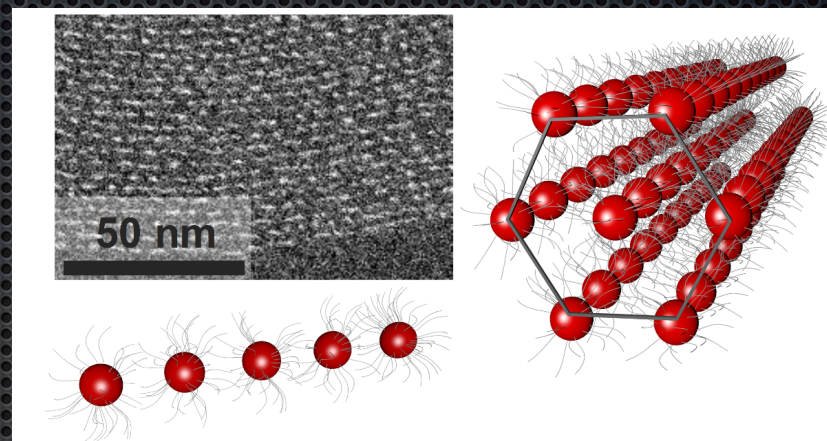
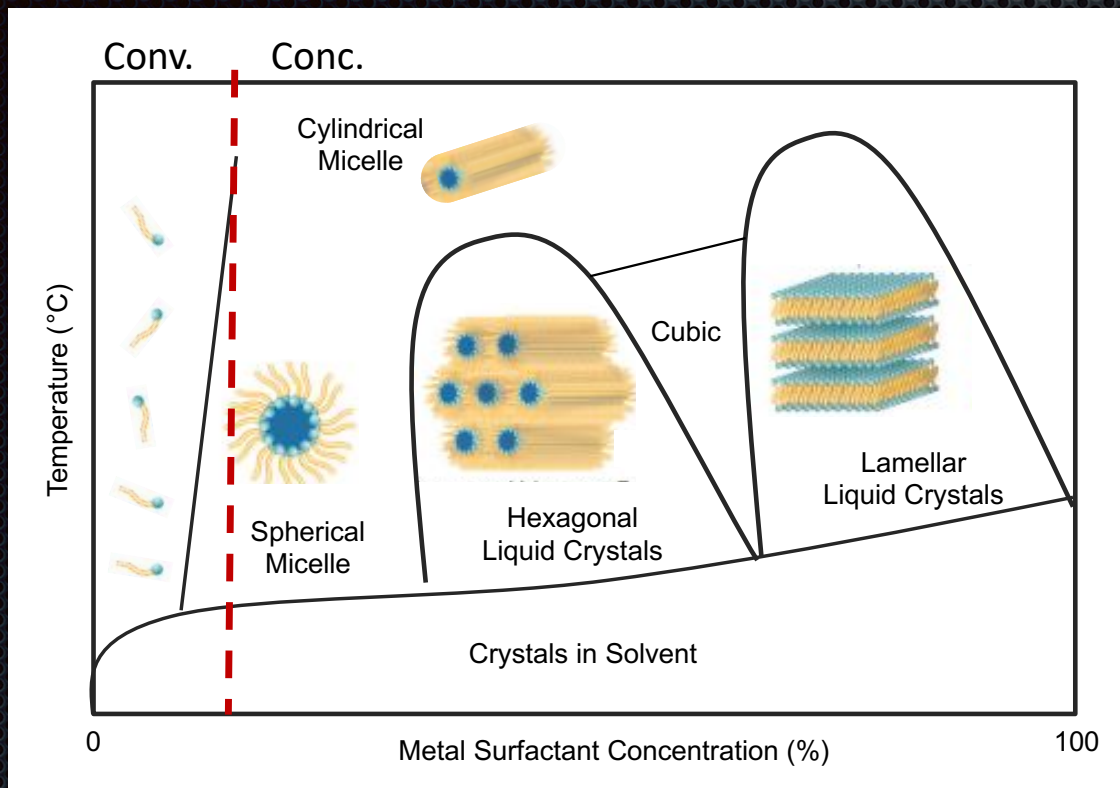
50 mL



2000 mL

High Concentration Synthesis of colloidal 'magic-sized' CdS nanocrystals

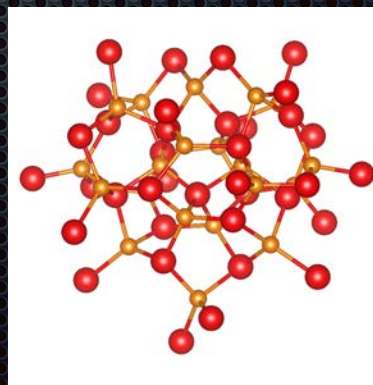
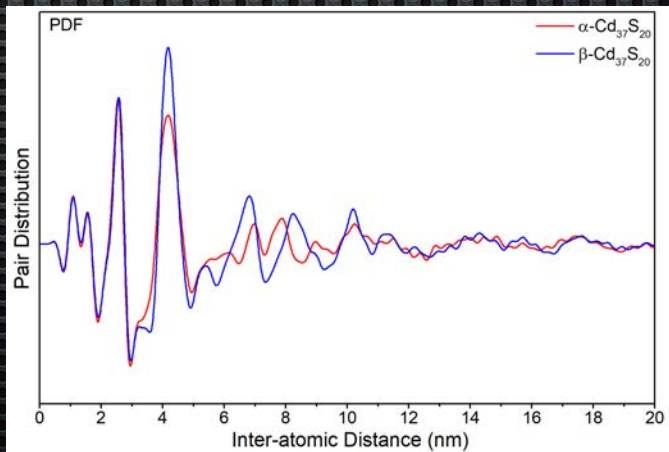
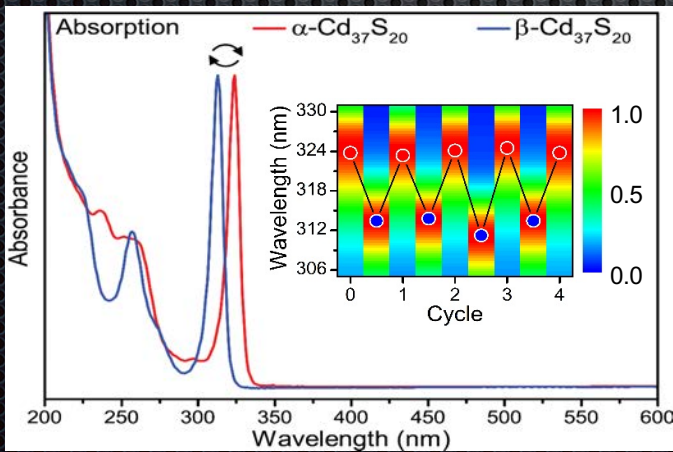
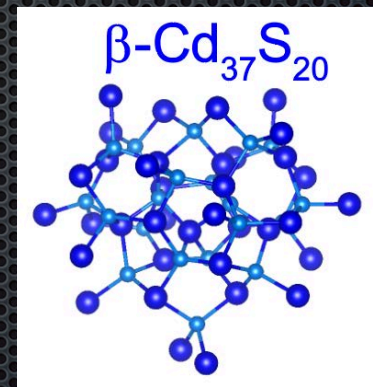
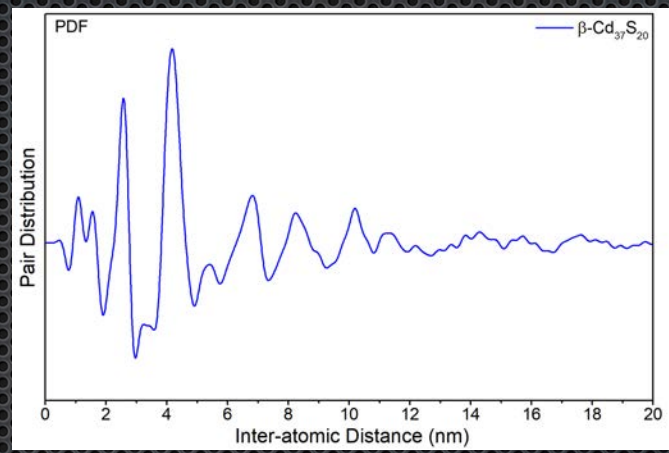
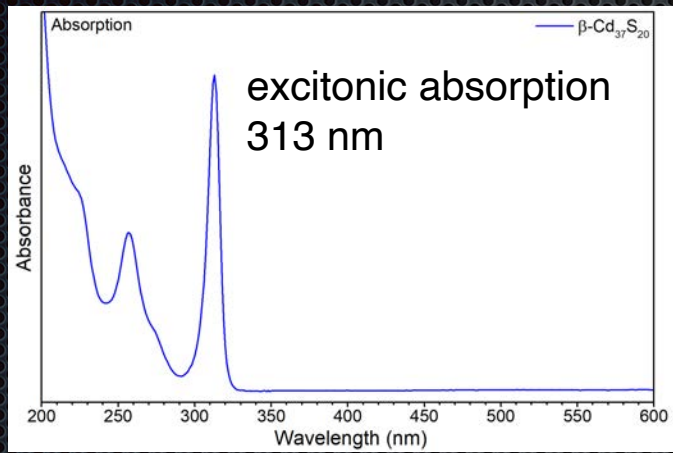
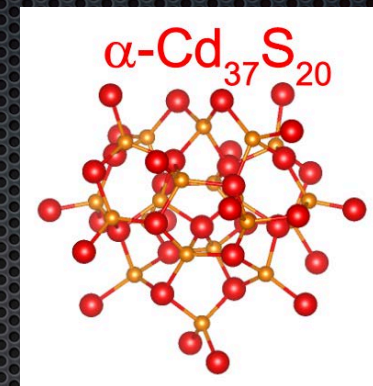
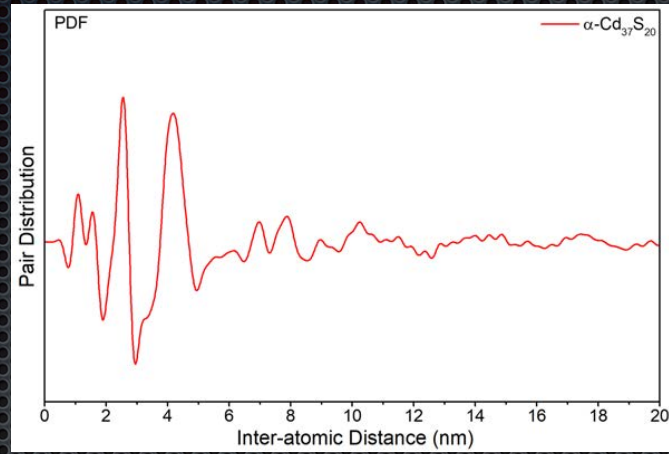
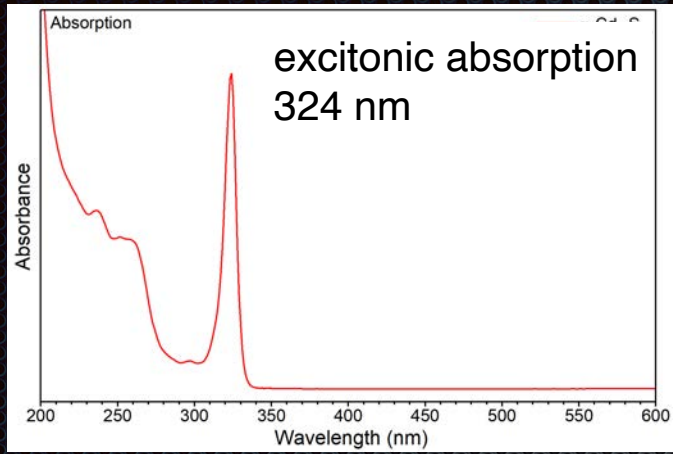




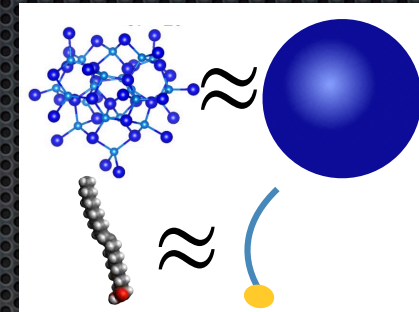
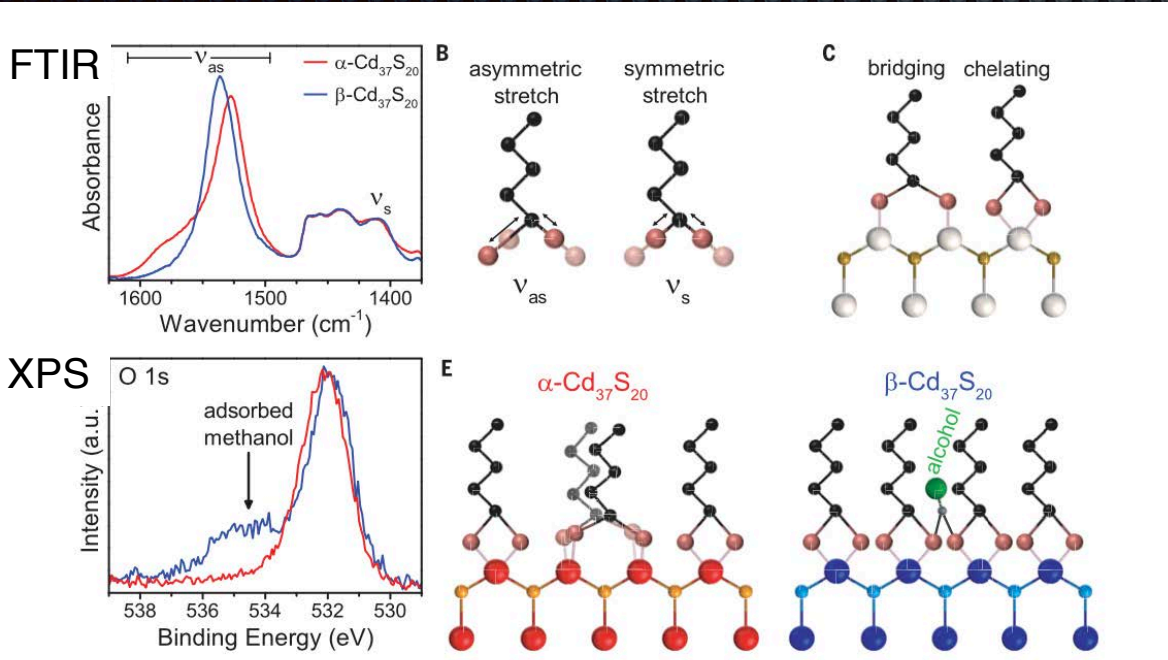
lyotropic phase behavior stabilizes magic size clusters

analogies to liquid crystals enable other emergent properties...

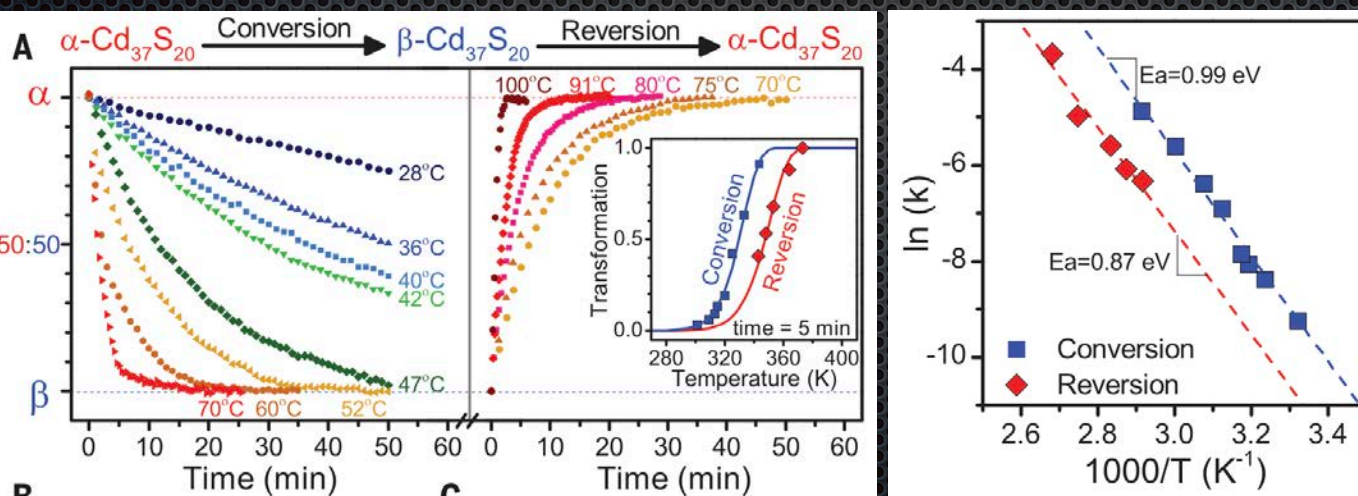
Isomerization of CdS magic-sized clusters



Isomerization of CdS magic-sized clusters

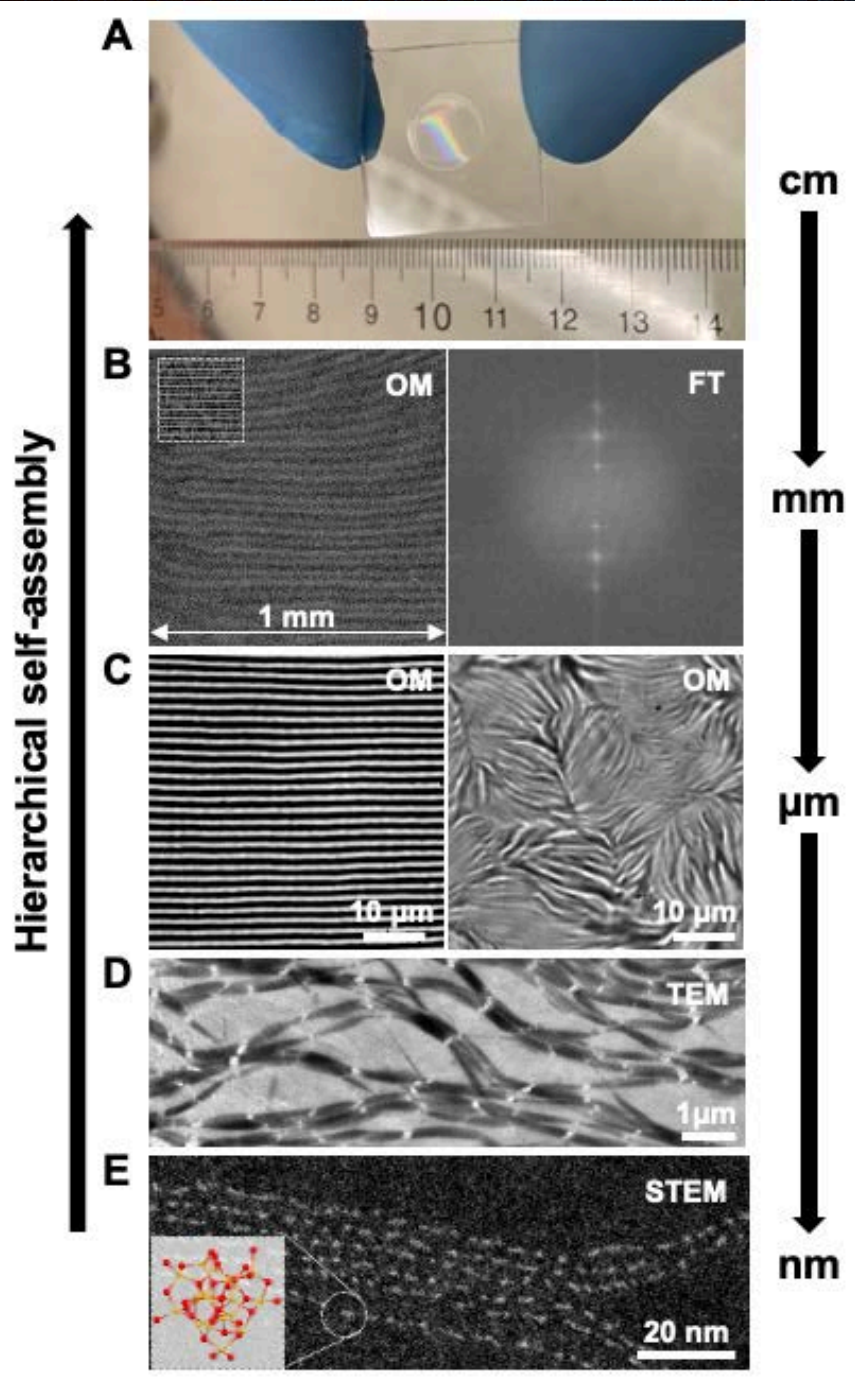


- distortion of the ligand-binding motifs & hydroxyl species changes the surface energy via physisorption.

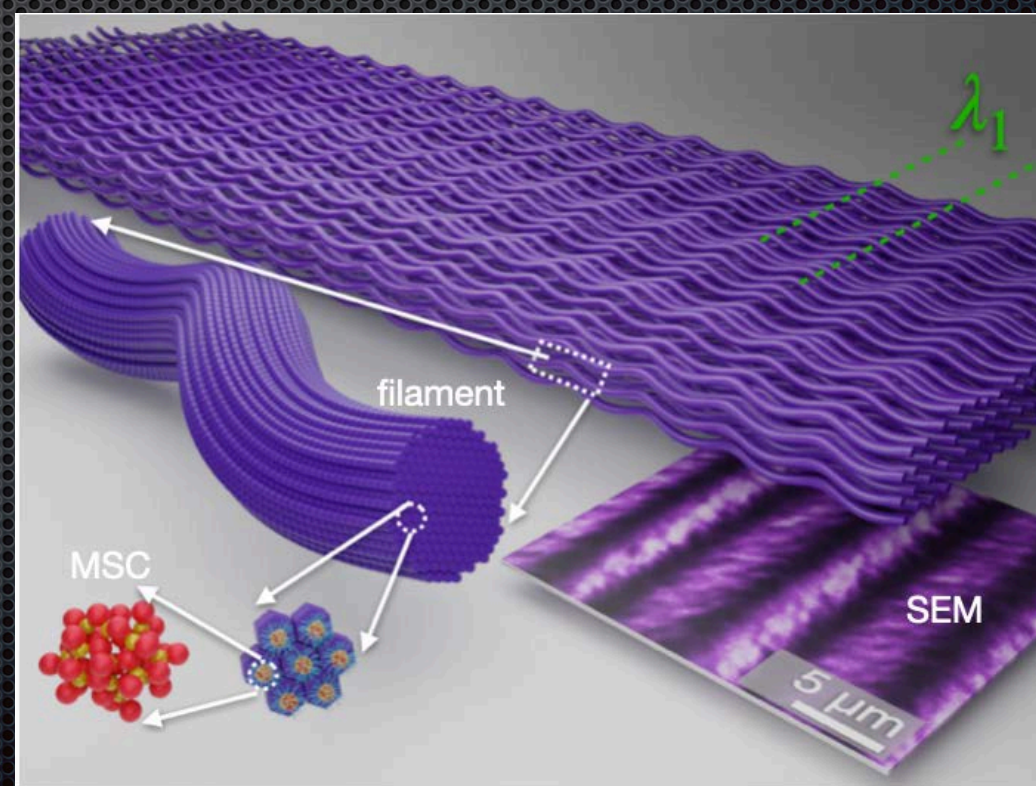
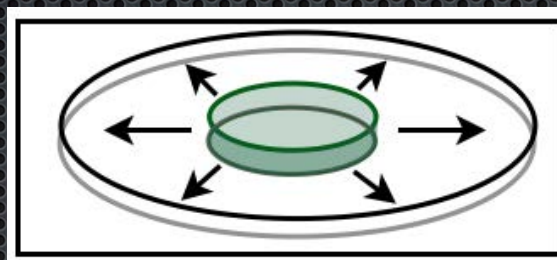


isomerization kinetics and thermodynamics

Hierarchical Assemblies of CdS magic-sized clusters

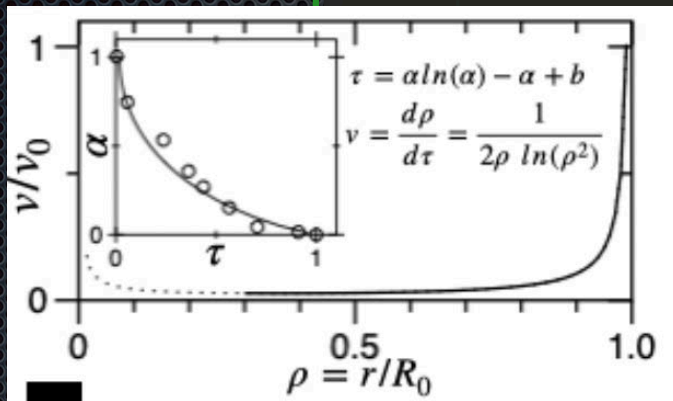
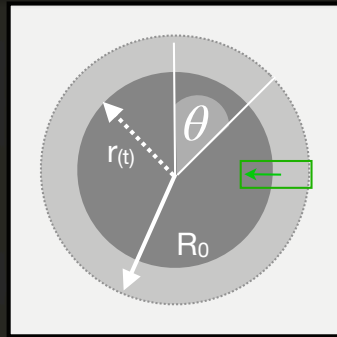
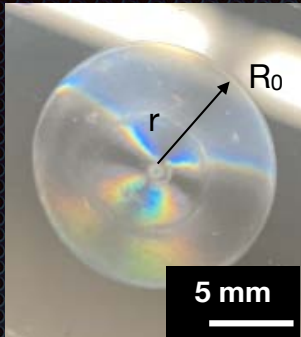


controlled evaporation-driven assembly in a 'Hele-Shaw' type cell



Hierarchical Assemblies of CdS magic-sized clusters

in-situ microscopy



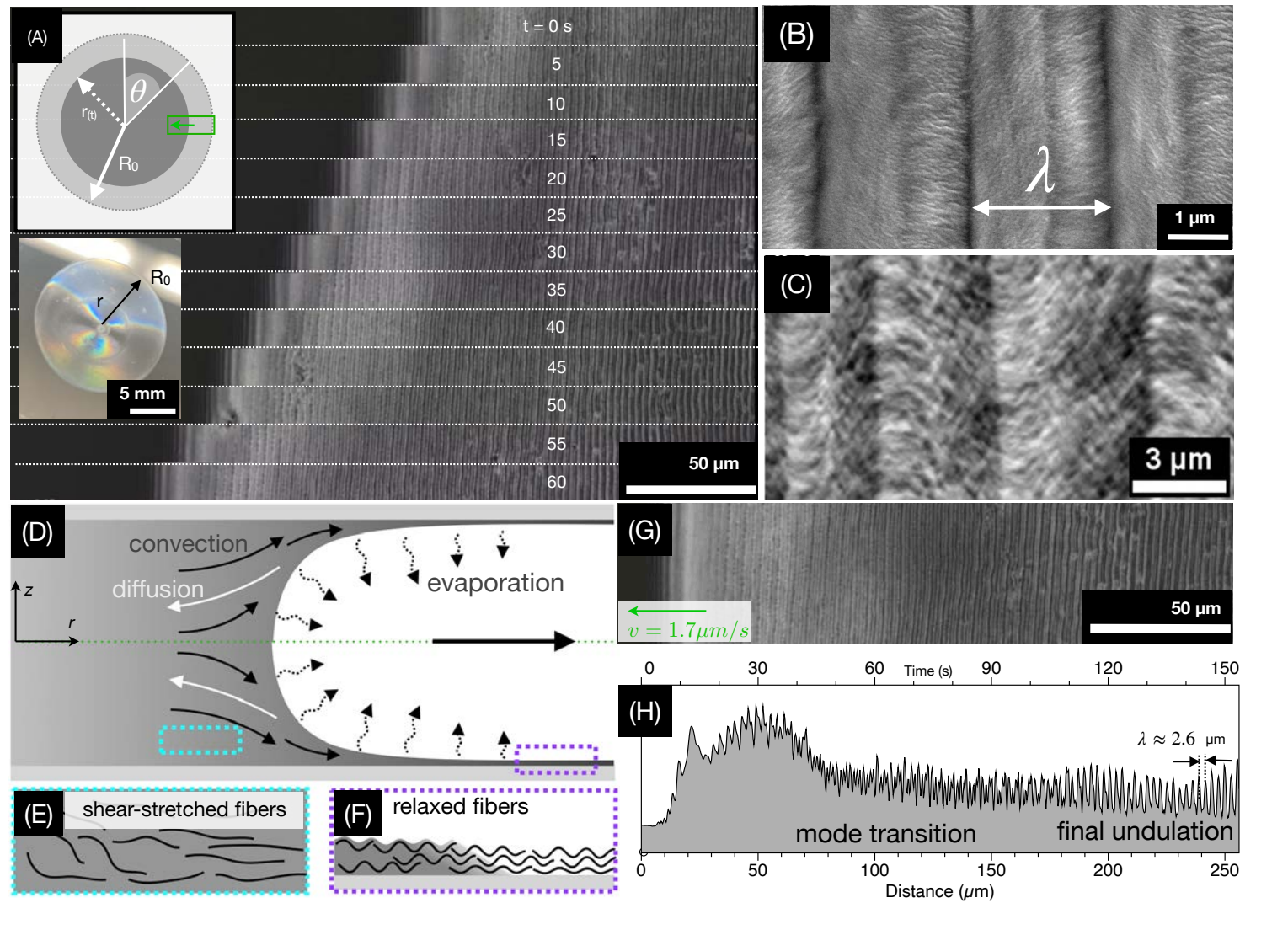
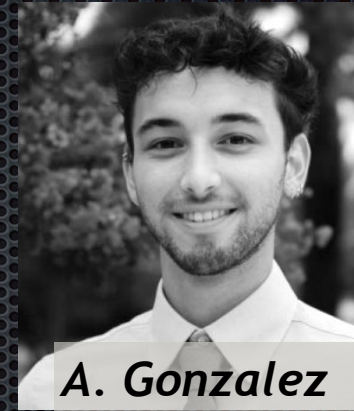
$$Pe = \frac{R_0^2}{D_0 \tau_d}$$

0.02 μm



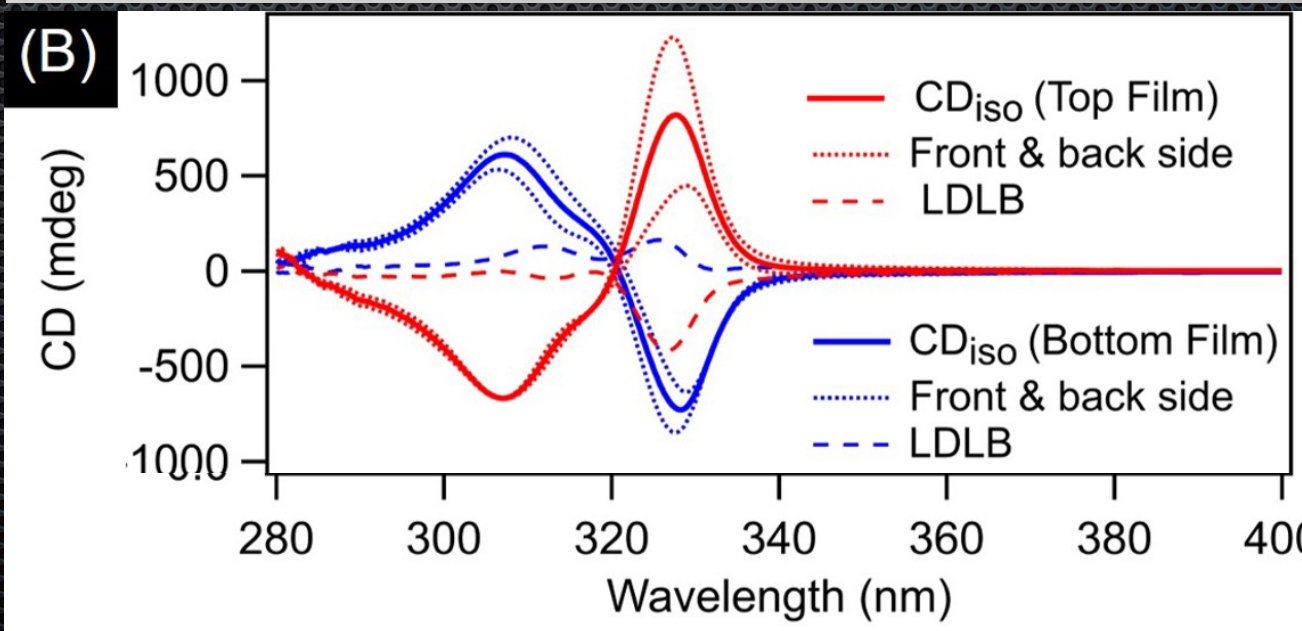
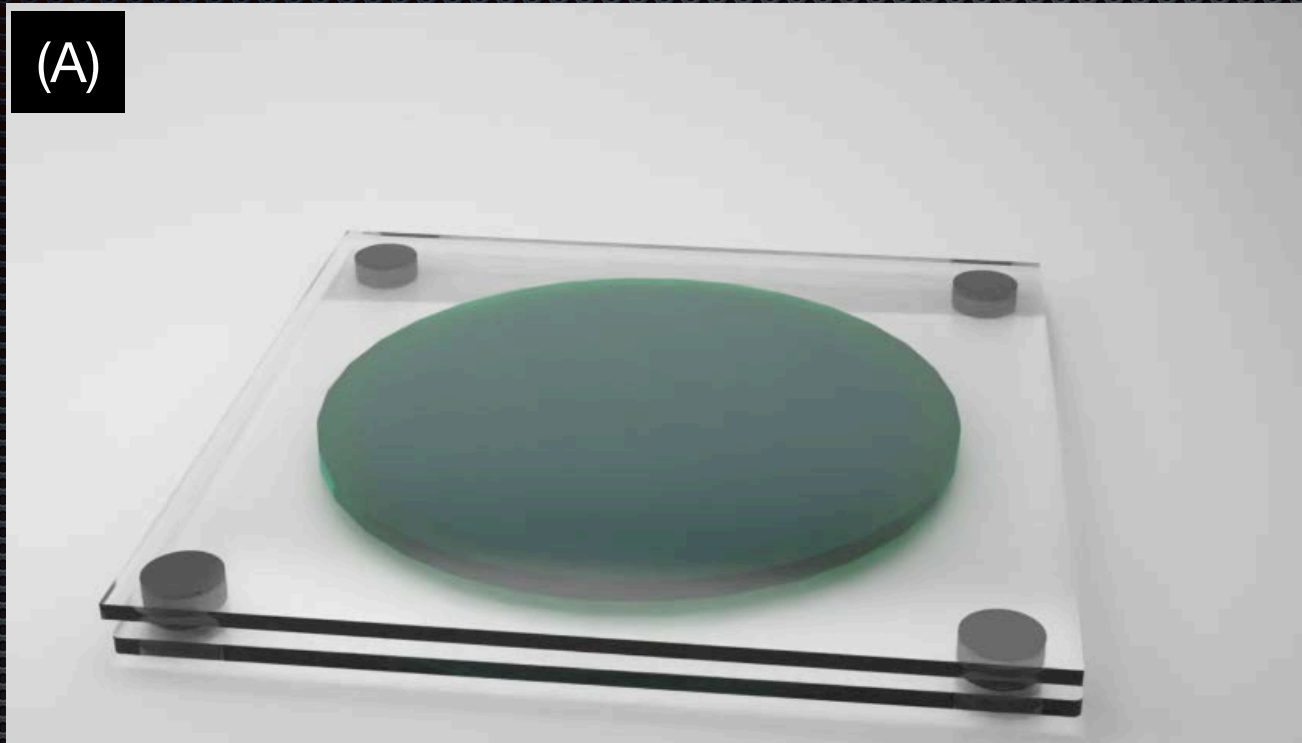
Hierarchical Assemblies of CdS magic-sized clusters

evolution of film structure analogies to liquid crystals

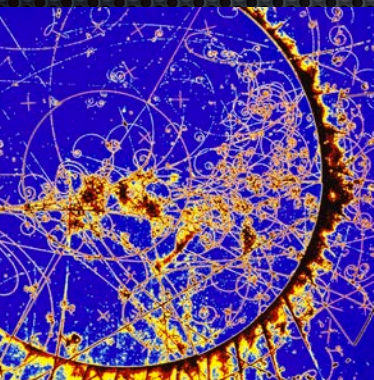


nanofiber alignment in hydrodynamic shear
 mechanical relaxation of stress

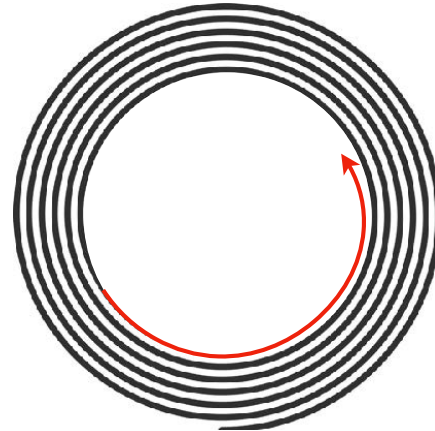
Emergence and Inversion of Chirality



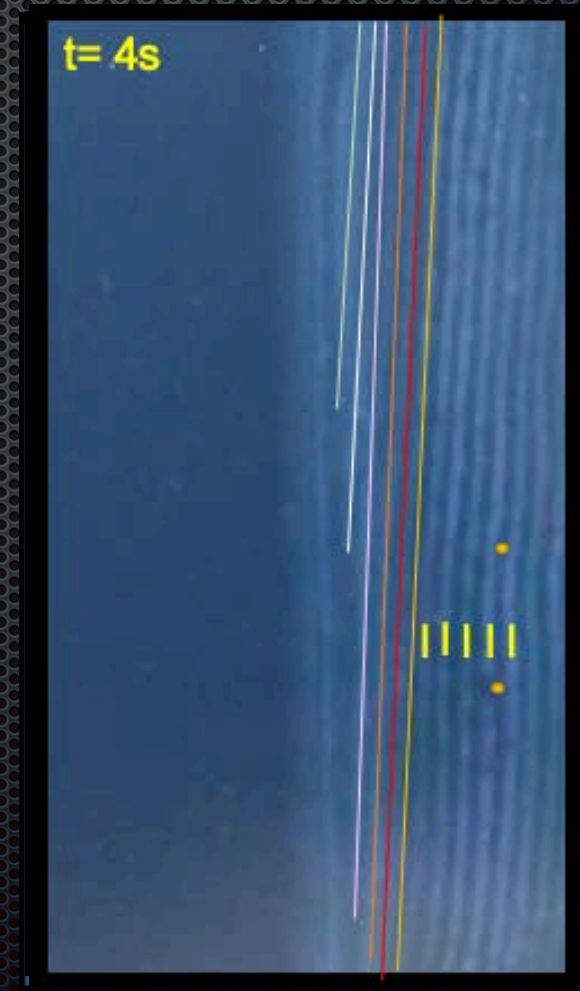
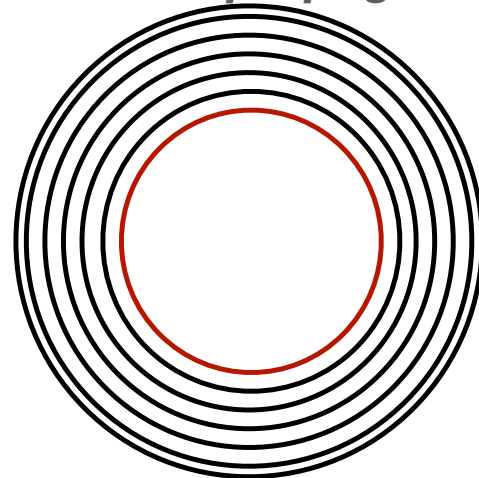
Symmetry Breaking and Spiral Propagation



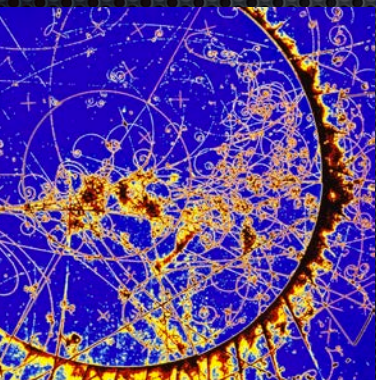
(a) spiral propagation



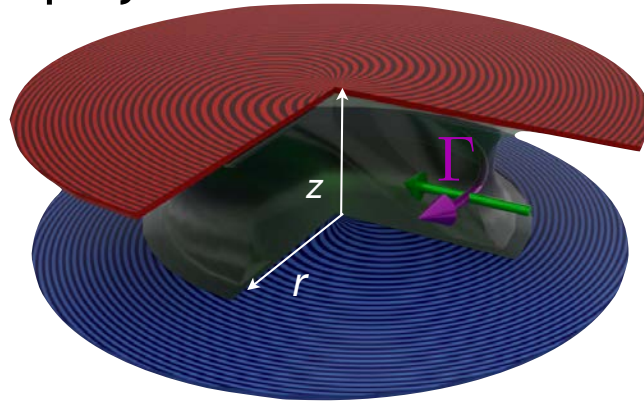
(b) cocentric propagation



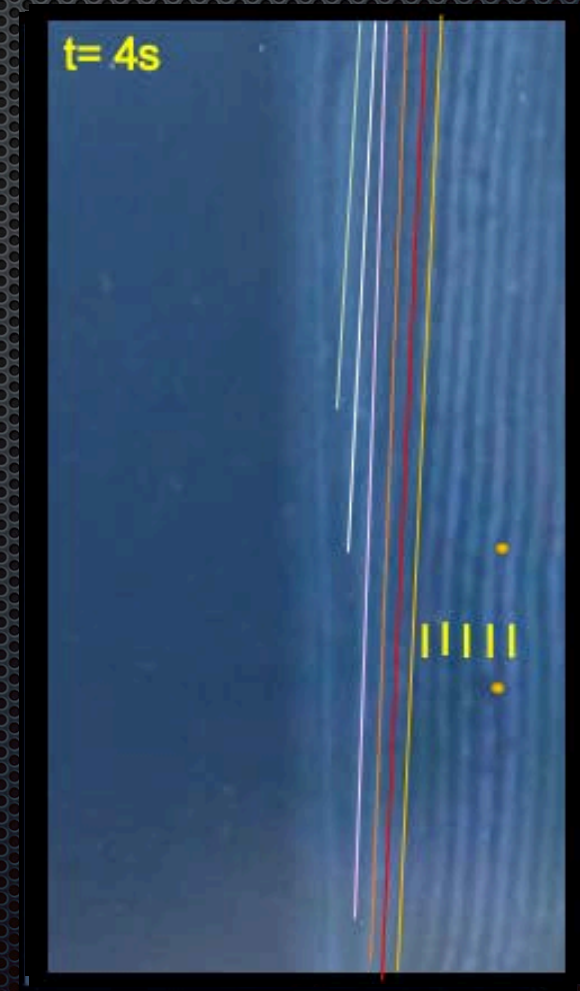
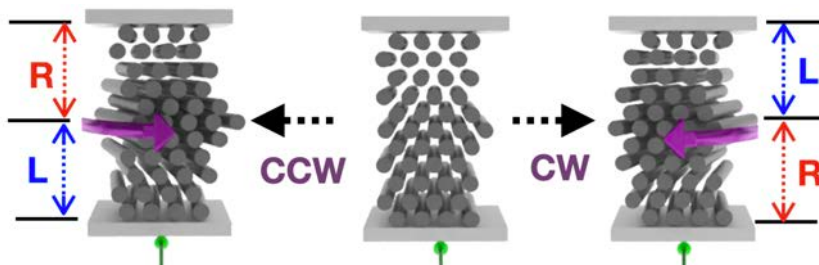
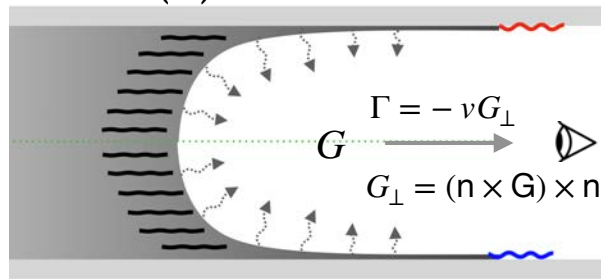
Symmetry Breaking and Spiral Propagation



interplay of **shear** and **torsion**



Chemical Lehmann effect: coupling between chemical potential gradient (G) and director (n)



Thank You!

