

Le proprietà fisico-chimiche delle Nanoparticelle metalliche e il loro utilizzo in biotecnologia



”nano” è un prefisso che significa “miliardesimo”

**Miliardi di
nanometri**



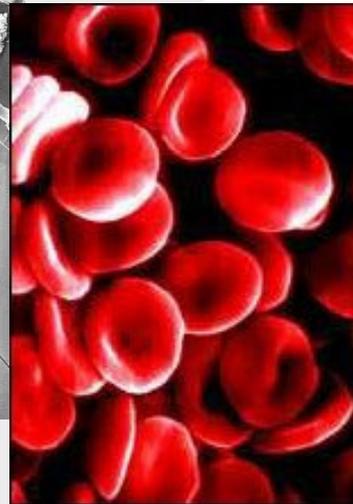
**Milioni di
nanometri**



**Migliaia di
nanometri**



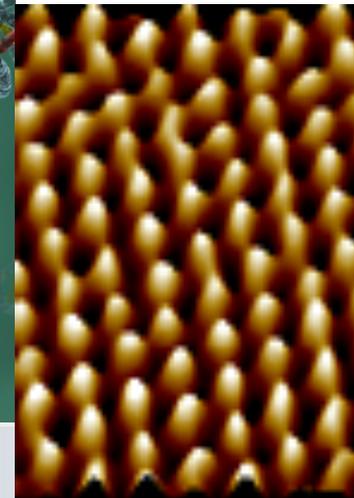
**Poche
Migliaia di
nanometri**



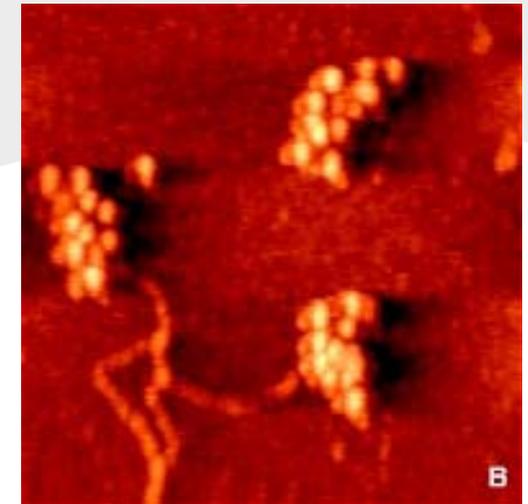
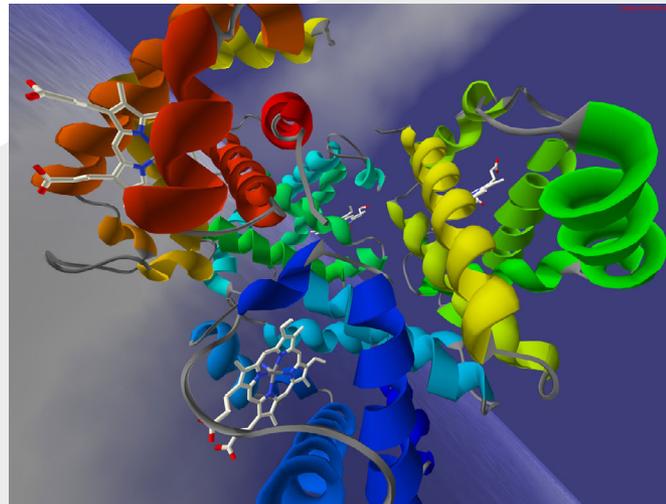
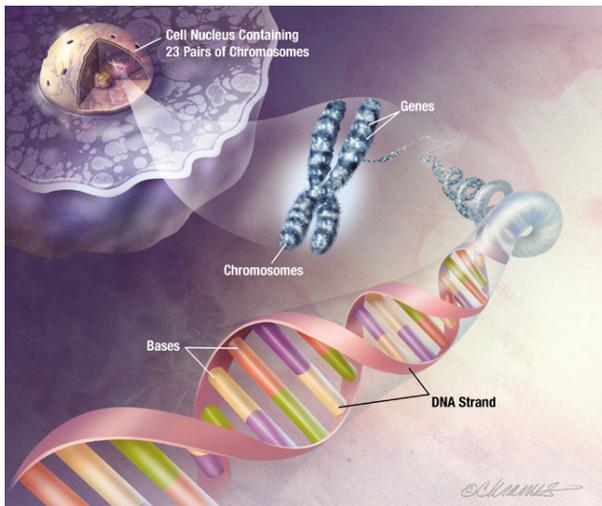
**2
nanometri**



**Frazioni di
nanometro**



I sistemi naturali sono altamente organizzati, efficienti e funzionali



Le nanotecnologie offrono i mezzi e le tecnologie per la **realizzazione** di sistemi nano-strutturati sintetici e per lo **studio** delle proprietà dei sistemi nanometrici

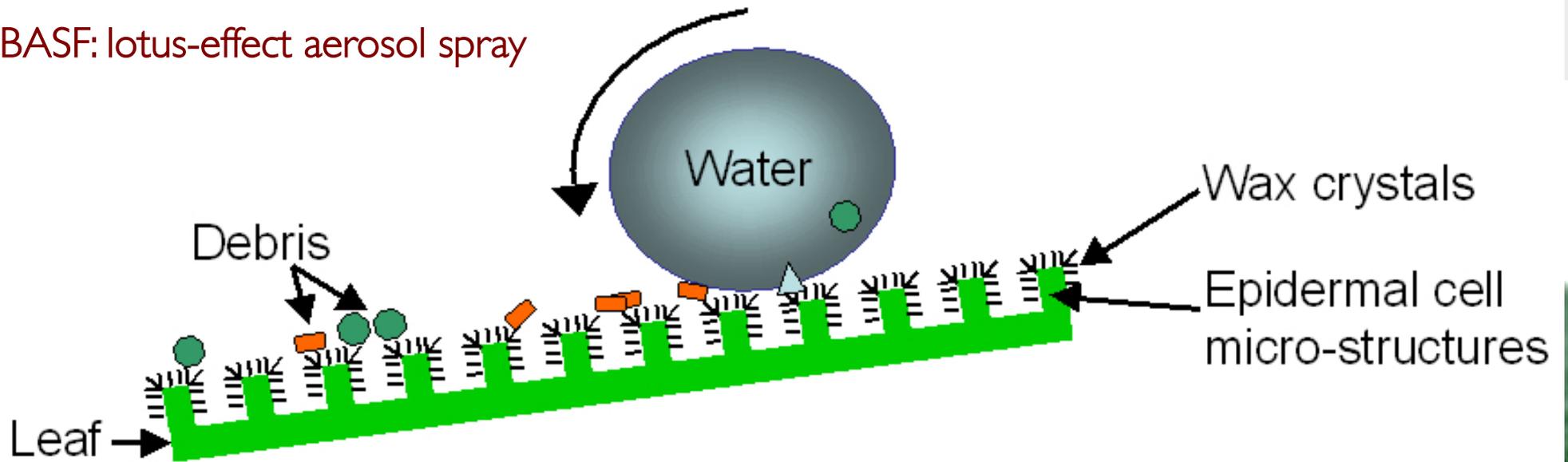


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Trieste



La natura insegna...le nanotecnologie imparano!

BASF: lotus-effect aerosol spray

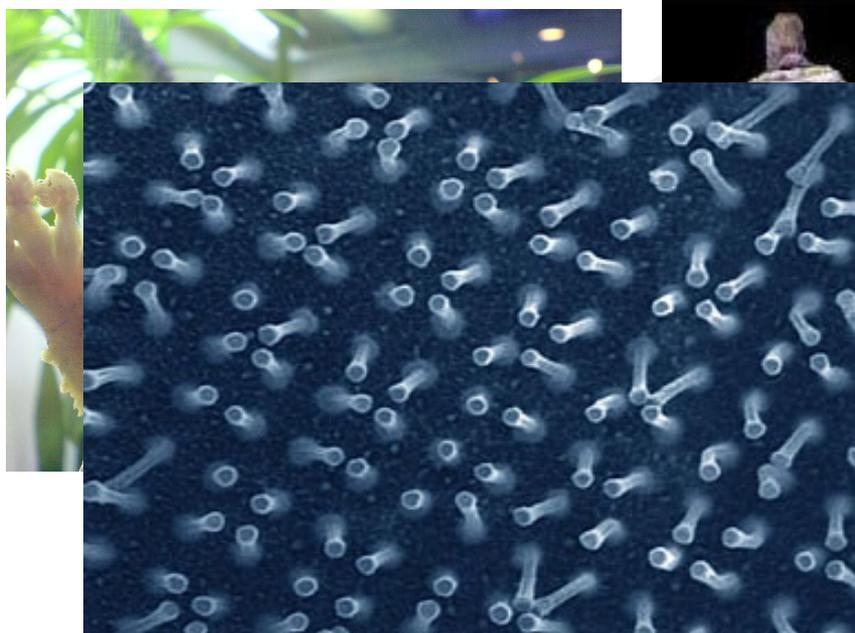


La Basf ha utilizzato nanoparticelle combinate con polimeri idrofobici (es. cere) per ottenere degli spray con effetto protettivo autopulente (impieghi tessili, edilizia...)



La natura insegna...le nanotecnologie imparano!

Capire la "presa" del gecko per int



Sono state realizzate artificiali di plastica attaccate ad un supporto flessibile con capacità di adesione 3000 volte superiore alle normali colle

There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom

Richard Feynman (1959)

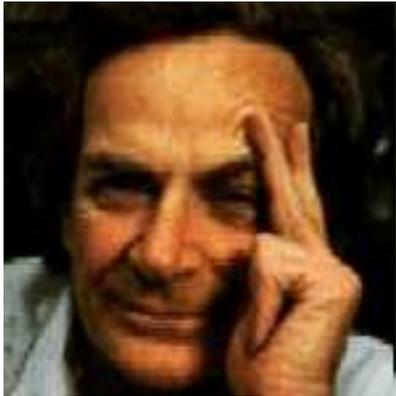


“I would like to describe a field, in which little has been done, but in which an enormous amount can be done in principle. This field is not quite the same as the others in that it will not tell us much of fundamental physics (in the sense of, “What are the strange particles?”) but it is more like solid-state physics in the sense that it might tell us much of great interest about the strange phenomena that occur in complex situations. Furthermore, a point that is most important is that it would have an enormous number of technical applications”

“What I want to talk about is the problem of manipulating and controlling things on a small scale”



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There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom

..... Quando nel 2000 la gente guardera' indietro, si chiederà perche' si sia arrivati al 1960 prima di muoversi seriamente in questa direzione. Ma non mi spaventa affrontare anche la questione finale, cioe' se - in un lontano futuro - potremo sistemare gli atomi nel modo in cui vogliamo; proprio i singoli atomi, al fondo della scala!

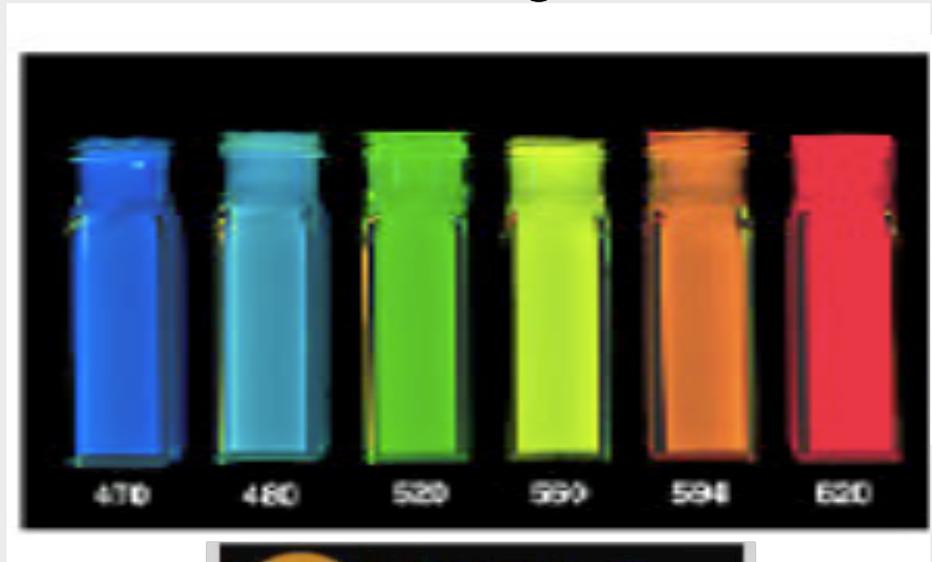
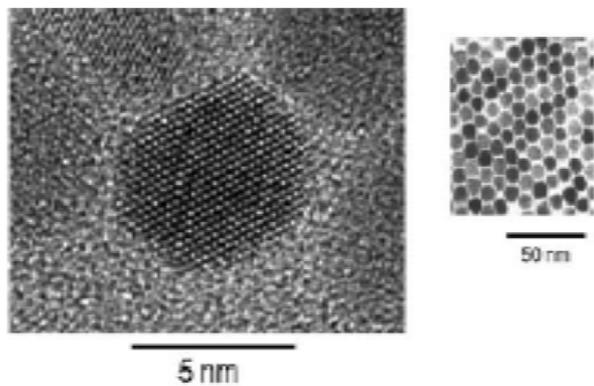
Ma perché i nanomateriali hanno proprietà così sorprendenti?

Perché quando le dimensioni scendono a livello di pochi atomi, dominano gli **effetti quantistici** (cambiano proprietà elettroniche, ottiche, magnetiche) In più, **la superficie diventa più estesa del volume**, aumenta la reattività e migliorano le proprietà meccaniche

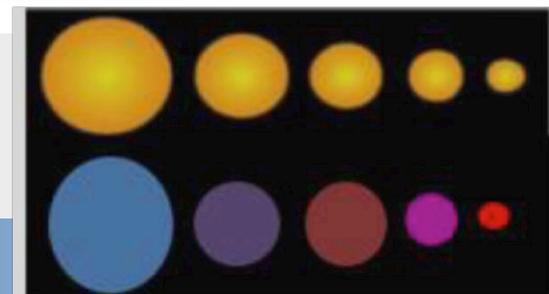
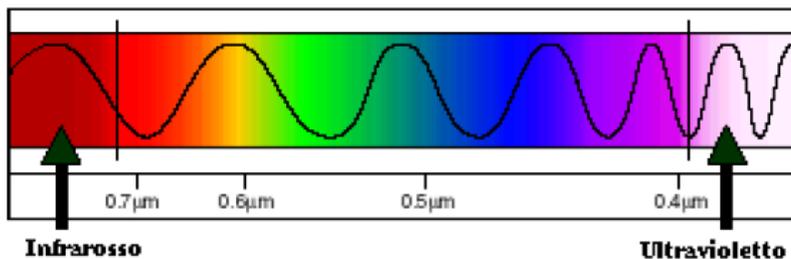
- Argento**, noto come materiale inerte, su scala nano diventa **bio-reattivo**, e viene impiegato come battericida
- Oro** alla scala nano acquisisce **proprietà catalitiche**, in particolare viene usato nella trasformazione di CO in CO₂

Ma perché i nanomateriali hanno proprietà così sorprendenti?

Le **nanoparticelle** di semiconduttori (es: ZnS, CdSe) o di metallo (es: Au, Ag) costituite da poche migliaia di atomi (2-10 nm dia, a 50 nm hanno già qualche milione di atomi!) assorbono ed emettono luce il cui colore dipende dalle dimensioni, cioè dal numero di atomi che contengono.



Regione della luce visibile
dello spettro elettromagnetico





La coppa di Licurgo (romana, IV sec dc)



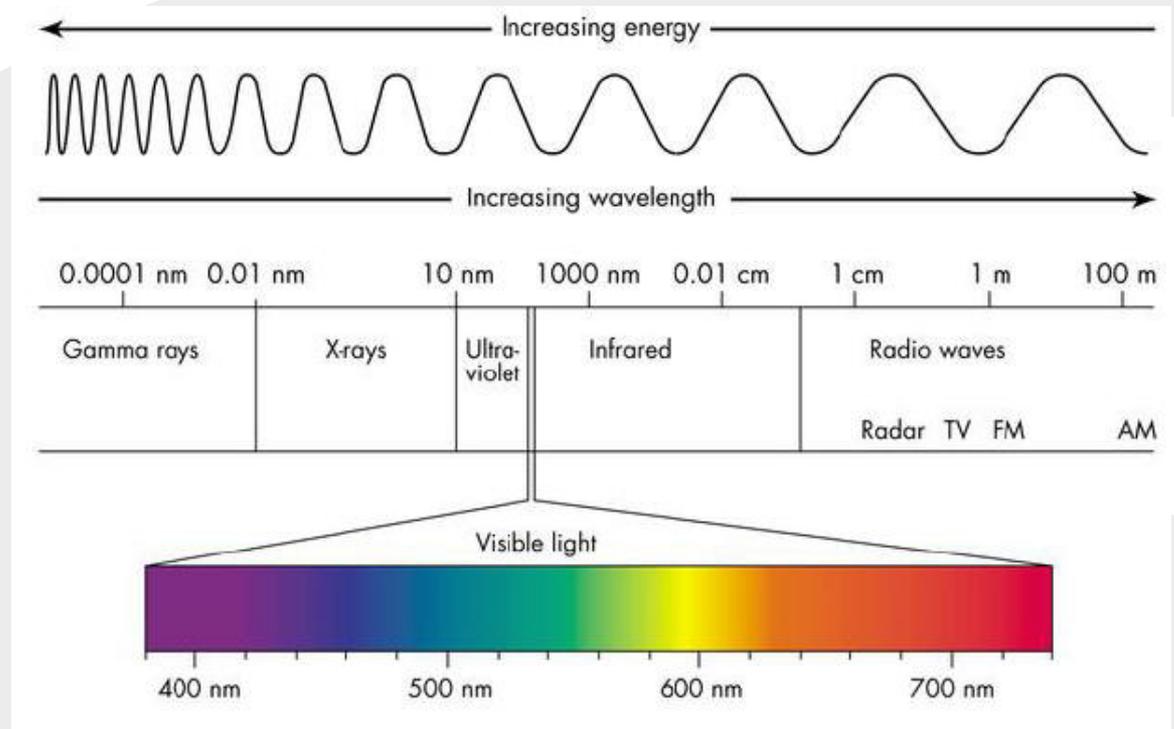
Perche' abbiamo dovuto aspettare fino agli anni '90 per poter fare cose del genere?

- Perche' il **microscopio ottico** (quello con le lenti e la luce) e' quasi cieco sotto il millesimo di millimetro.

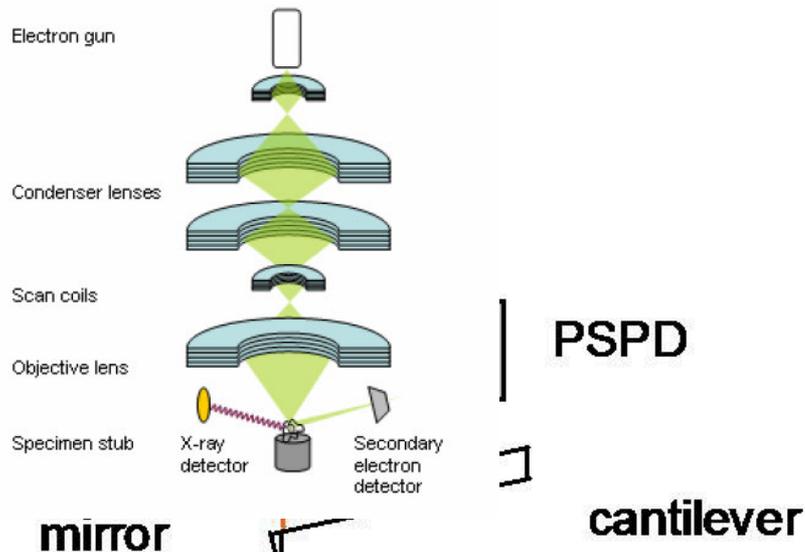
Questo perche' la luce visibile e' fatta di onde che hanno una dimensione non troppo piccola (circa appunto un millesimo di millimetro) e perche' se si guarda qualcosa usando una sonda che e' piu' grande di quel qualcosa e' chiaro che quel qualcosa non lo si puo' vedere.



Perche' abbiamo dovuto aspettare fino agli anni '90 per poter fare cose del genere?



E allora come si fa a vedere le cose quando sono nano?

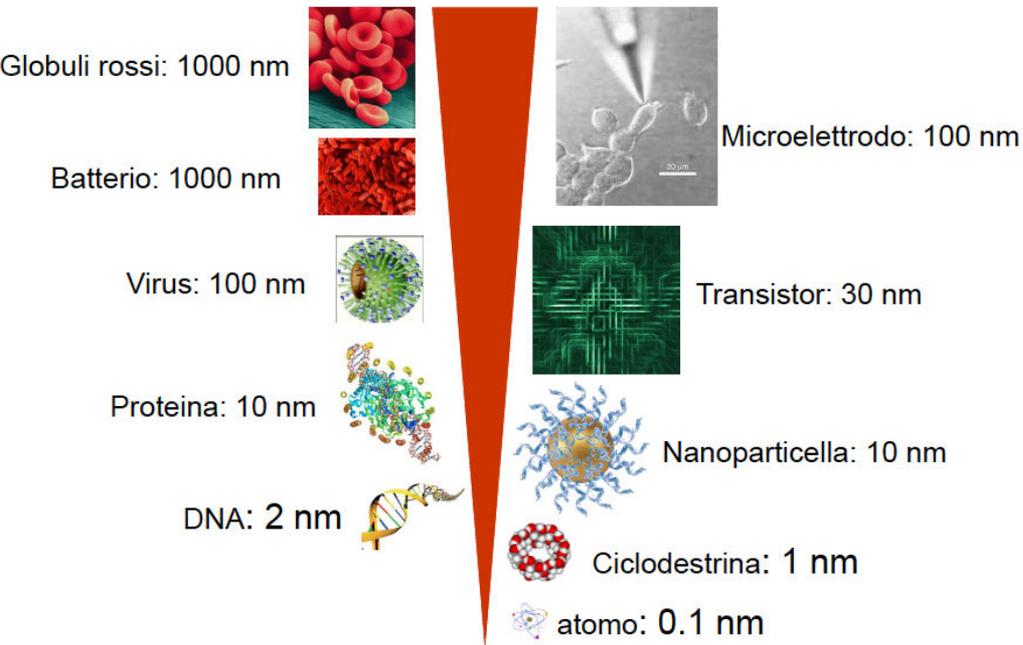


Si usano nuovi strumenti:

- Microscopio Elettronico
- Microscopio a Effetto Tunnel
- Microscopio a Forza Atomica
- Microscopi a Raggi X

uno degli strumenti inventati in Svizzera nel laboratorio della IBM a Zurigo nel 1984/87 come ad esempio il **microscopio a forza atomica** che vede “alla cieca”, cioè tastando gli oggetti come fa una persona quando si trova al buio.

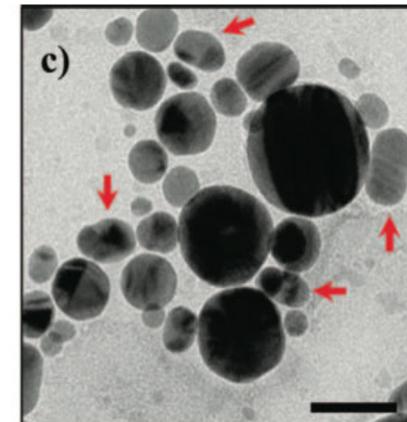
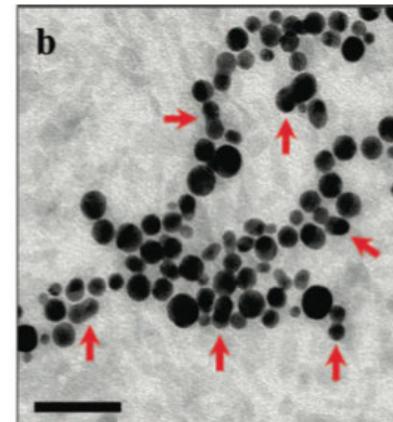
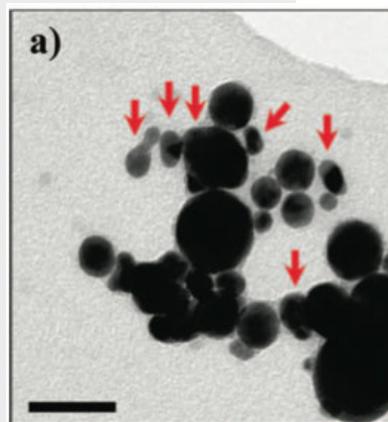
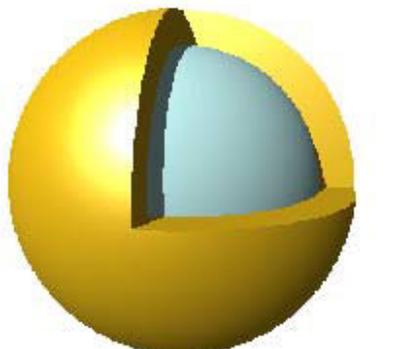
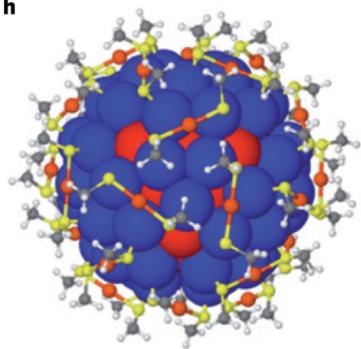


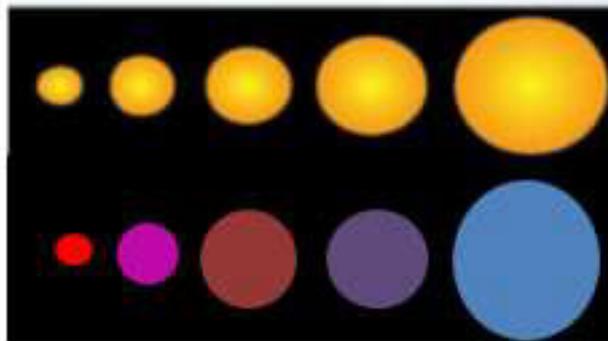


Le nanoparticelle (NP) hanno dimensioni tra 1 nm e qualche centinaio di nm.

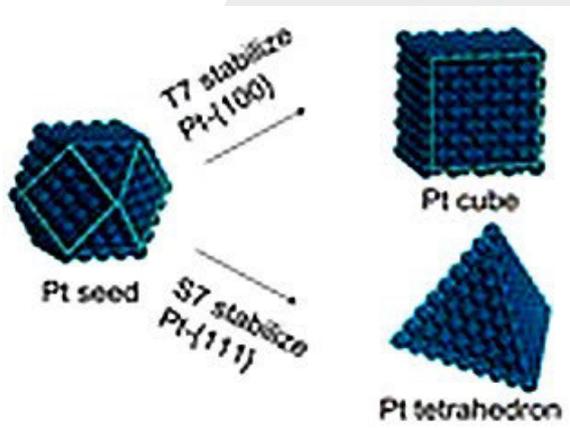
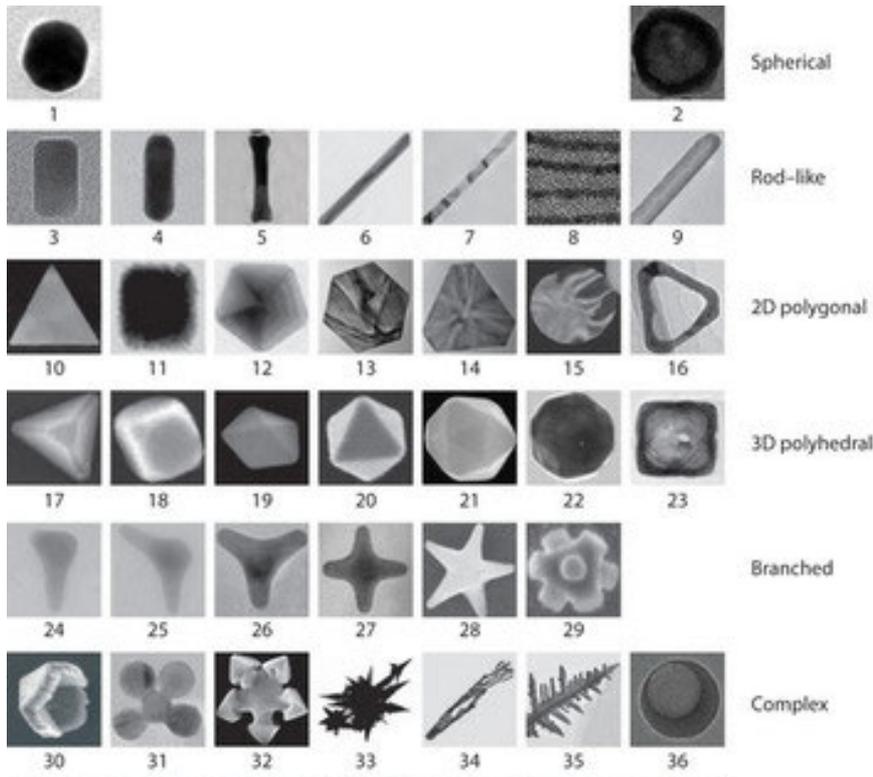
Possono essere metalliche (Au, Ag, Pt, Pd) semiconduttori (Si, SeCd, ZnS) oppure le cosiddette core-shell NP (ad esempio Ag\FeO\ZnO, Ag\FeO, Cs\CdSe).

h





Le NP sono solubili. A seconda delle loro dimensioni, assorbono luce di colore diverso. Le particelle più piccole (pochi nm) assorbono nel blu, le più grandi (100 nm) nel rosso. Grazie a questa proprietà (di natura quantistica, legata al piccolo numero di atomi in gioco), le NP possono essere usate per esempio come “sonde ottiche”: si vanno a legare chimicamente a molecole che possono interagire nel corpo con specifiche proteine/recettori, per localizzare queste zone.

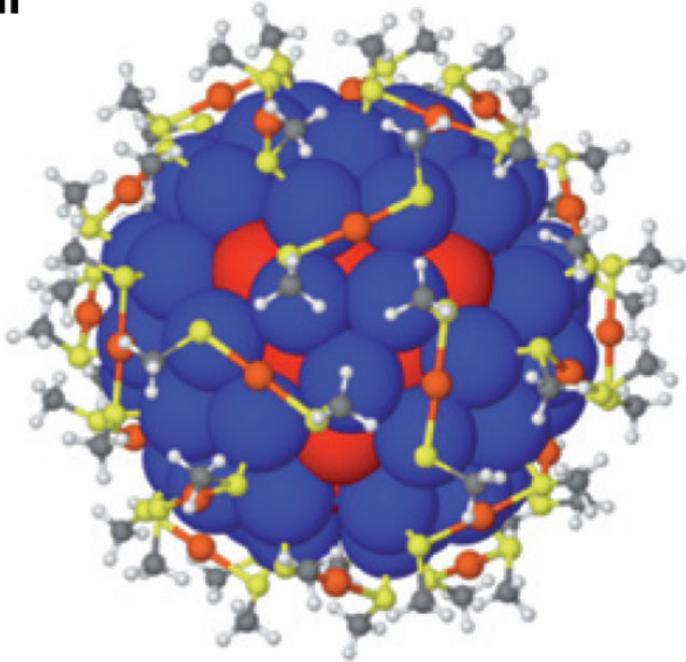


Le proprietà ottiche delle NP dipendono da:

- materiale
- dimensioni
- forma

È possibile sintetizzare particelle per esempio metalliche di dimensione e forma prestabilite, e controllare così le loro proprietà ottiche.

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Un'altra caratteristica dei nanomateriali è il grande rapporto superficie/volume.

Una NP di oro di **10 nm** di raggio, ad esempio, contiene circa 220000 atomi d'oro di cui circa **1/3** in superficie.

Una particella macroscopica di **100 micron**, invece, ha circa S/V **1/10⁴**.

A parità di unità di volume ci sono più atomi in superficie che partecipano alle possibili reazioni del nanomateriale, rendendo il processo più efficiente.

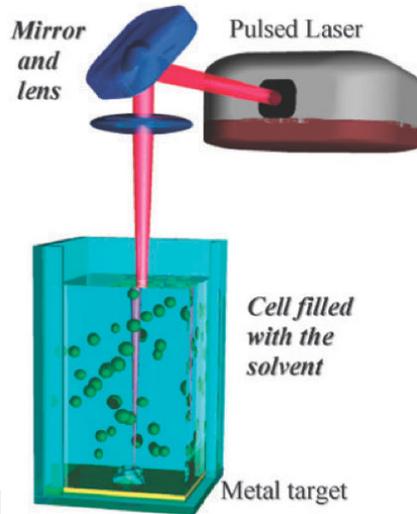
Elevato rapporto superficie/volume → Tensione superficiale

Tendenza all'aggregazione ←

raggio atomico Au, nm	volume atomo di Au, nm ³
0,144 ⁽⁵⁶⁾	0,0125



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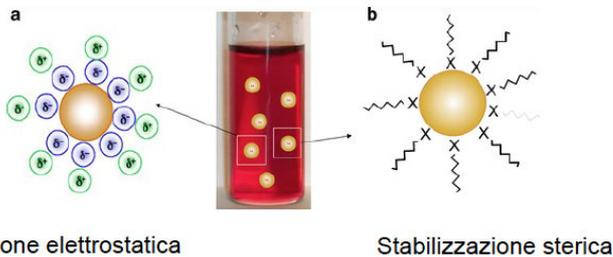
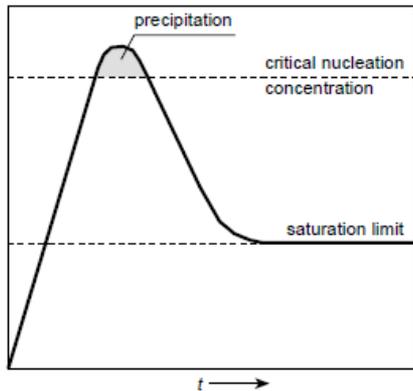
Come si producono le NP metalliche:

- Top-Down

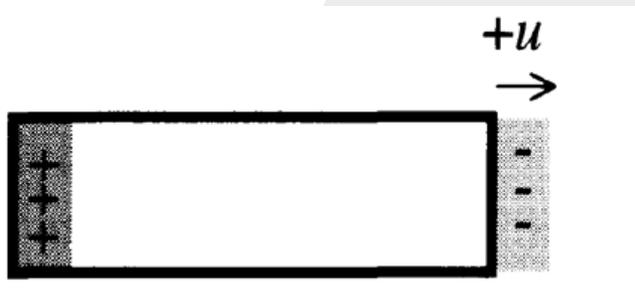
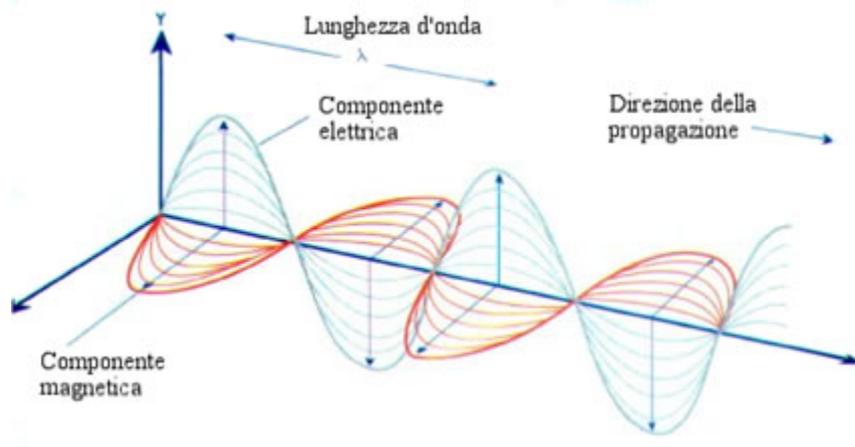
Laser Ablation

- Bottom-Up

Sintesi chimica: si tratta di fare nucleare particelle d'oro colloidali a partire da sali d'oro (es: HAuCl_4) e agenti riducenti come citrati. Le AuNP prodotte hanno grande tensione di superficie che le fa aggregare. Si riduce stabilizzandole con molecole come tioli, ammine, polimeri o per via elettrostatica



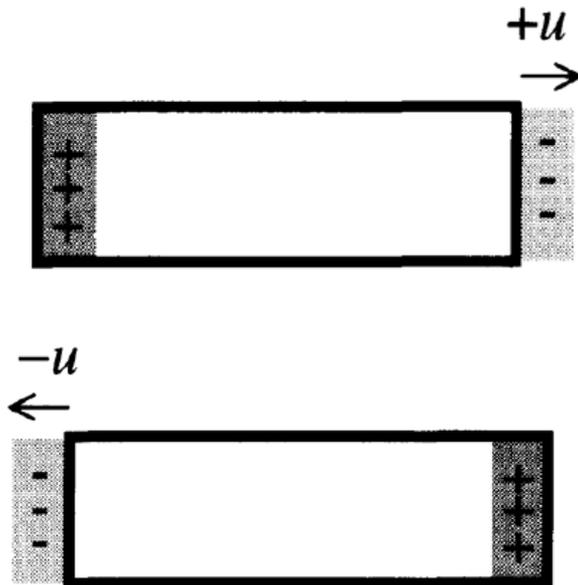
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOy0yuWpUzU>



Come mai le AuNP assorbono a determinate lunghezze d'onda della luce visibile?

Secondo il modello di Drude, gli elettroni di valenza di un metallo si muovono nel metallo come un gas di elettroni liberi. "Urtano" contro gli ioni e raggiungono l'equilibrio termico con una velocità media che dipende dalla temperatura.

Applicando un campo elettrico costante si impartisce una velocità extra di $\mathbf{vd} = - (\mathbf{eE}/m)\tau$ con τ tempo medio tra due urti.



$$\omega_p = (N_e e^2 / \epsilon_0 m_e)^{1/2}$$

Come mai le AuNP assorbono a determinate lunghezze d'onda della luce visibile?

Tutti gli elettroni di valenza del metallo si muovono in fase, in risposta al campo elettrico, facendo un'oscillazione "collettiva" con una frequenza detta "frequenza di plasma", che dipende dalla densità degli elettroni di valenza del materiale, N_e .

Si può vedere come il moto di una massa che risente di una forza elastica di richiamo, dovuta agli ioni. Come tale, ha una frequenza di risonanza, la frequenza plasmonica per l'appunto.

Come mai le AuNP assorbono a determinate lunghezze d'onda della luce visibile?

Il campo elettromagnetico si propaga quindi nel metallo alla frequenza di plasma. Nel caso dell'oro, questa cade nel viola. Assorbendo nel viola, ci appare giallo.

Regione della luce visibile
dello spettro elettromagnetico

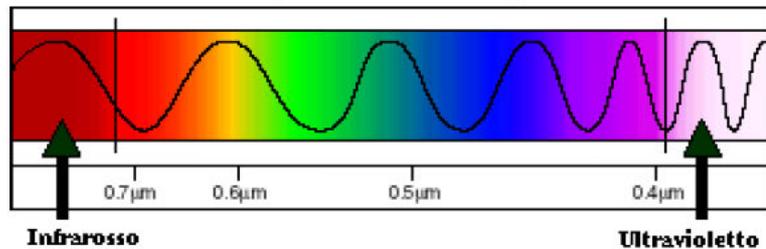
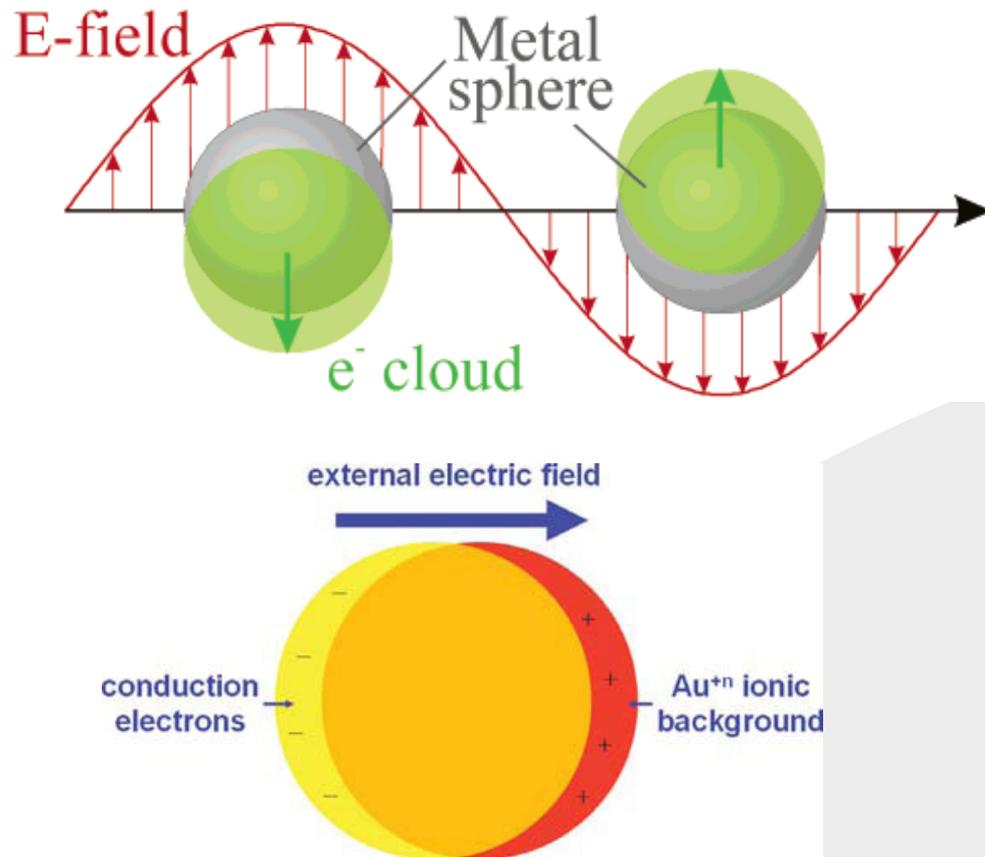


Fig. 5 La ruota dei colori complementari: in base al colore assorbito è possibile prevedere quello riflesso e viceversa

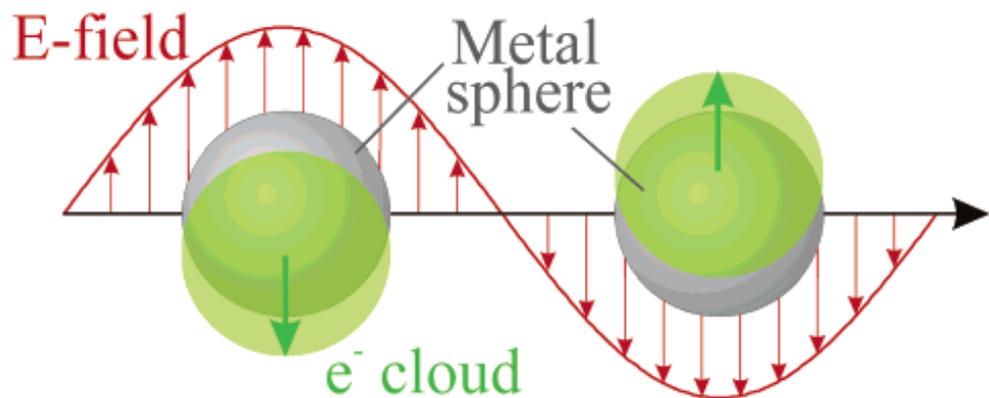


Come mai le AuNP assorbono a determinate lunghezze d'onda della luce visibile?

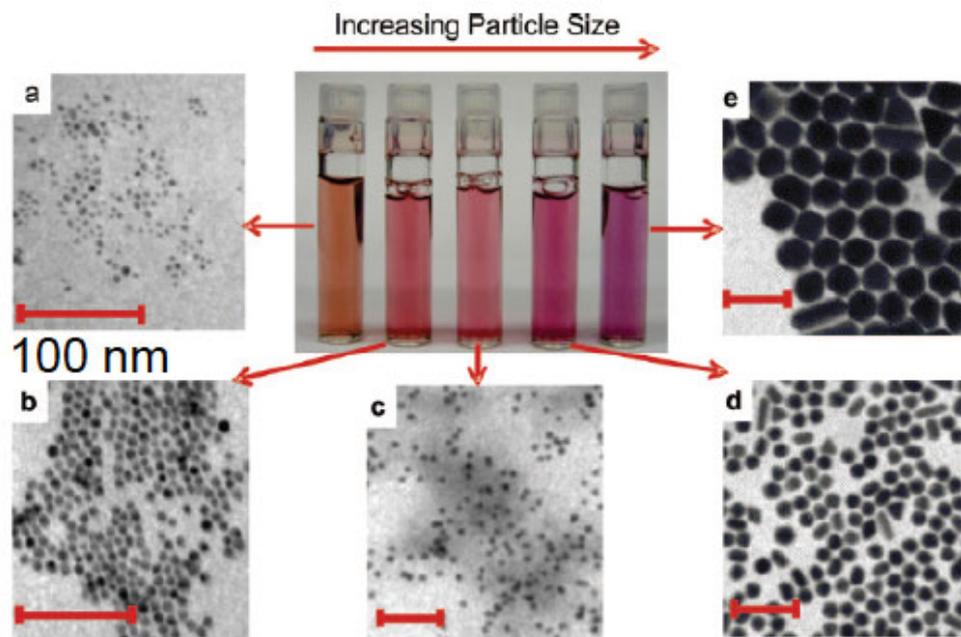
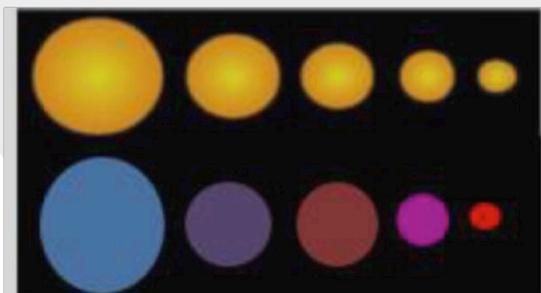
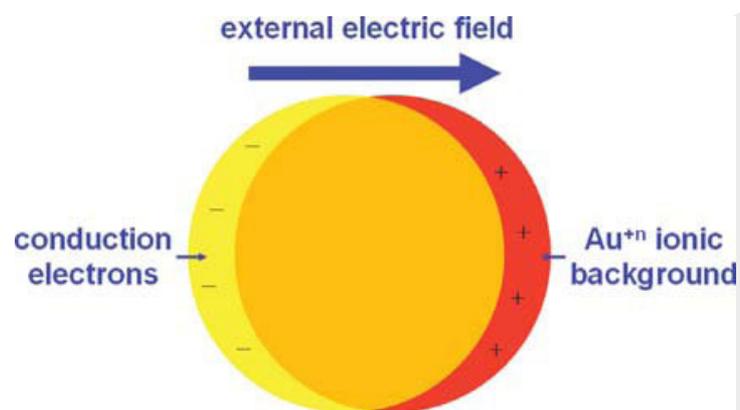
Alla nanoscala le oscillazioni collettive, plasmoniche, dipendono dal materiale ma anche dalla dimensione e dall'ambiente in cui le nanoparticelle sono immerse.

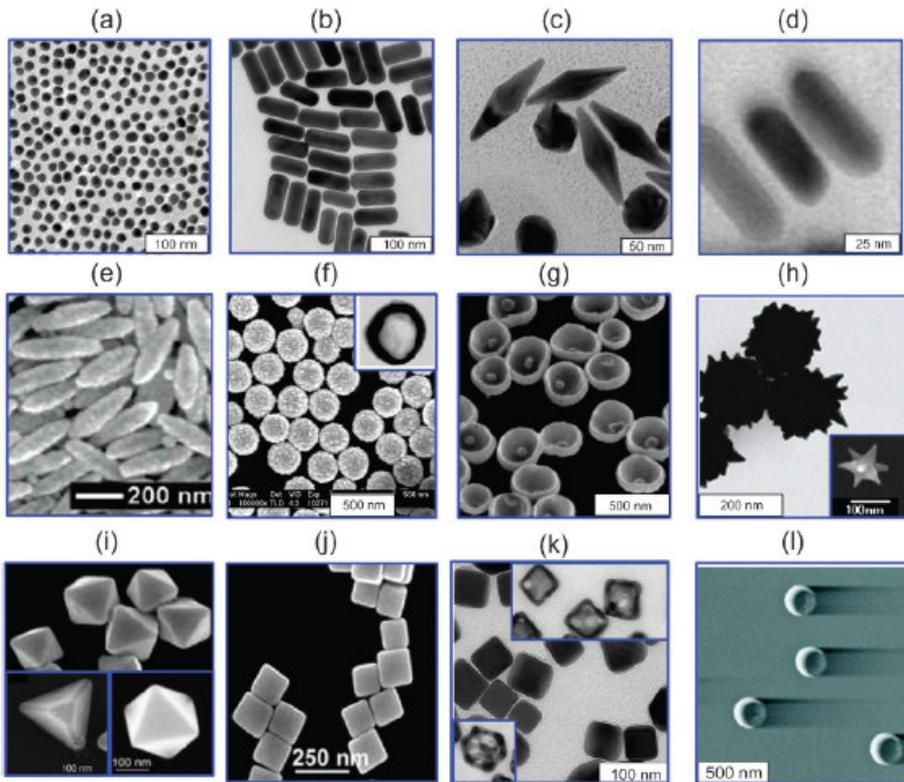
Per questo le NP si possono usare come **sensori molecolari**.

Il dipolo elettrico istantaneo produce uno sbilanciamento di carica che dà un effetto massa-molla che dipende dalla densità di carica di superficie, quindi da **dimensione e forma** della NP.



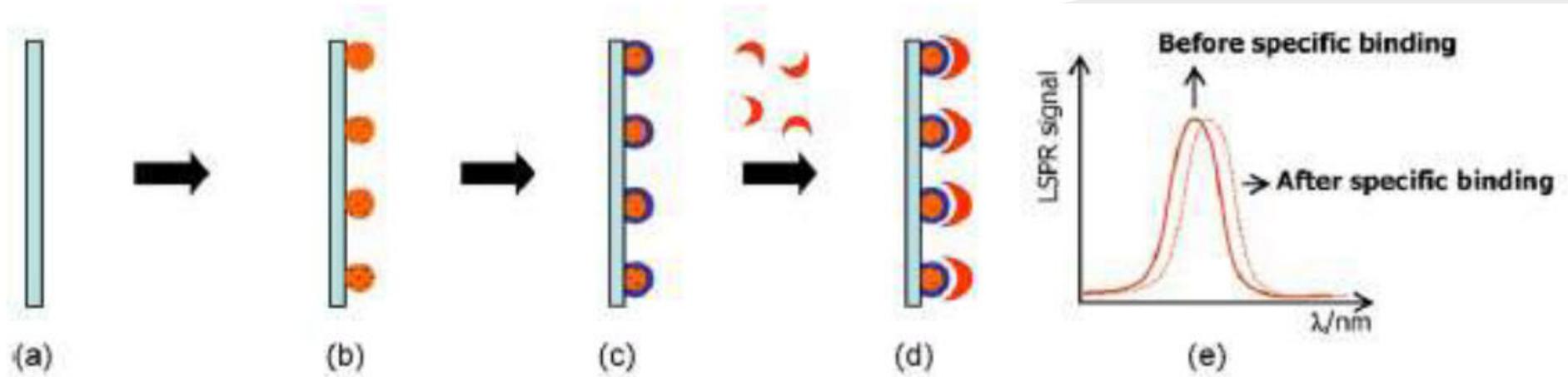
Come mai le AuNP assorbono a determinate lunghezze d'onda della luce visibile?





Come mai le AuNP assorbono a determinate lunghezze d'onda della luce visibile?

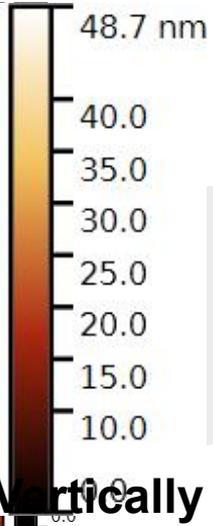
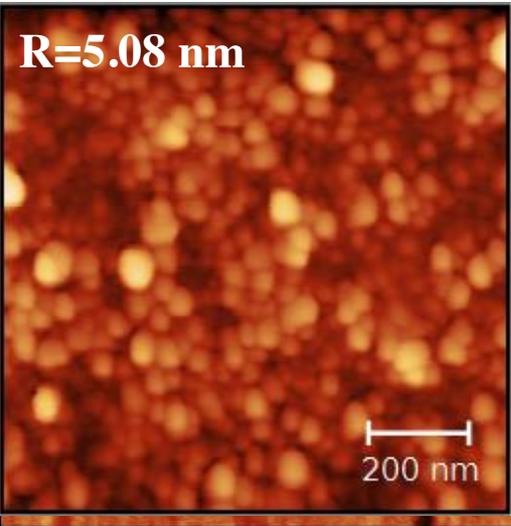
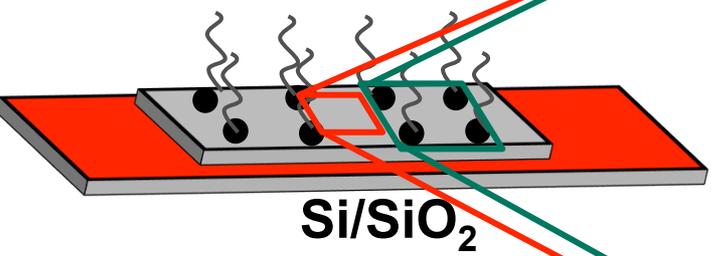
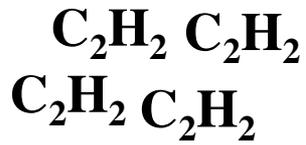
NP cave hanno frequenze di assorbimento più basse di quelle piene. NP a rod hanno due diversi modi di oscillazione, uno longitudinale a freq. bassa e uno trasversale a freq. più alta.



NPs depositate su una superficie e “funzionalizzate” con una molecola capace di riconoscere per esempio una molecola che sia biomarcatore di una malattia.

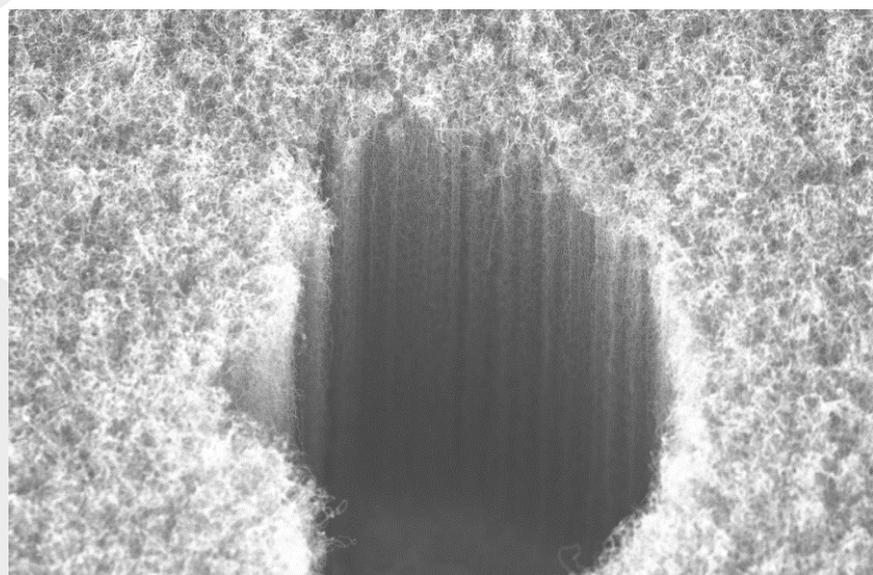
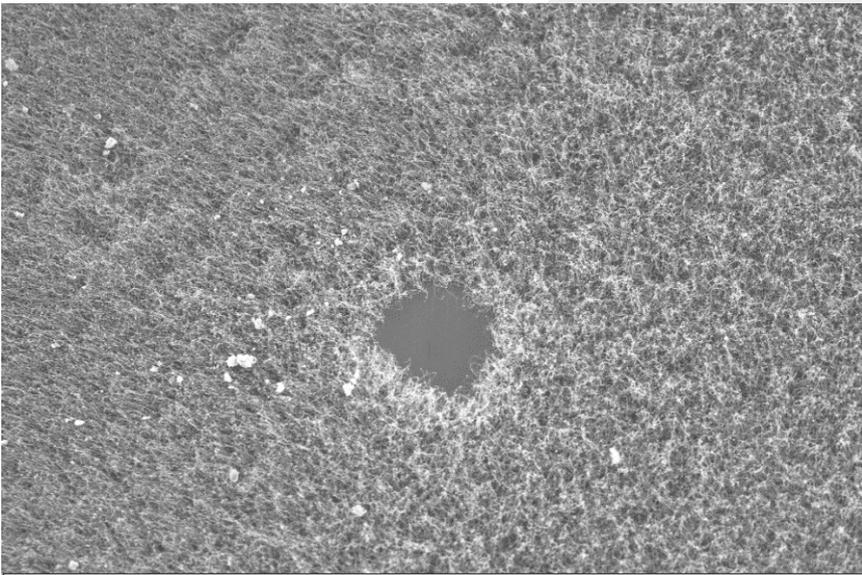


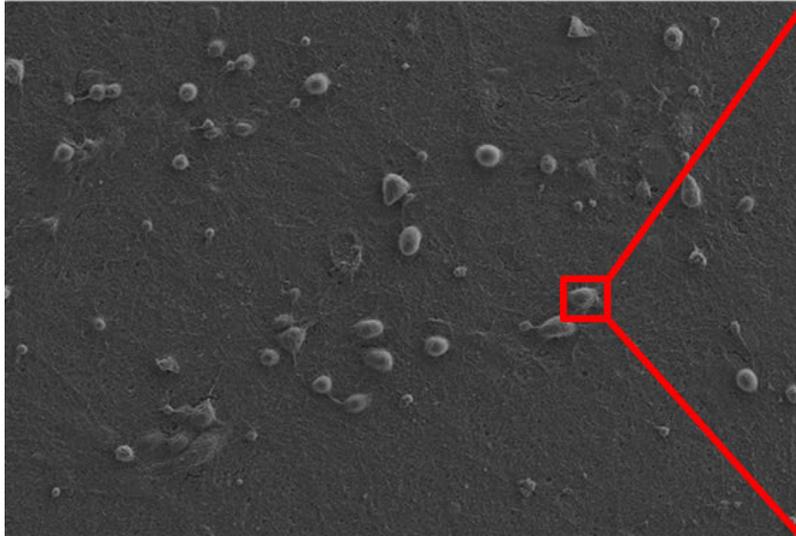
Fe Aligned at 700 °C



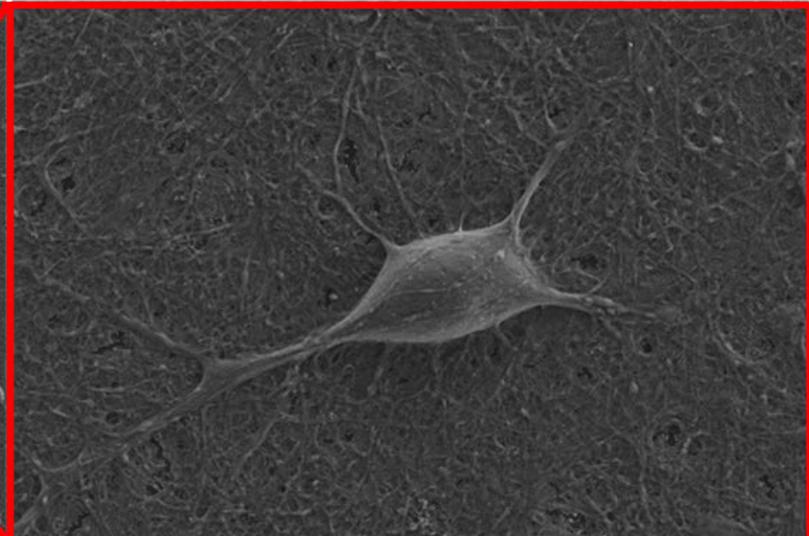
Randomly oriented CNTs
(RO-CNTs)

Vertically aligned CNTs
(VA-CNTs)

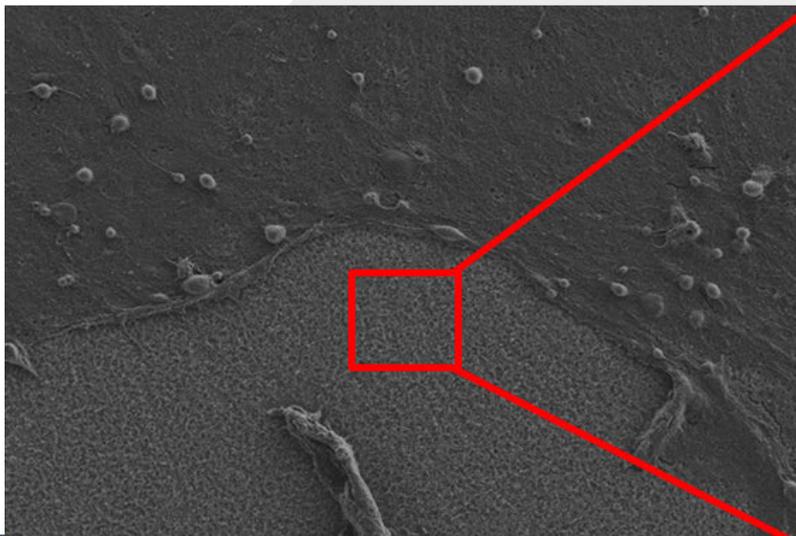




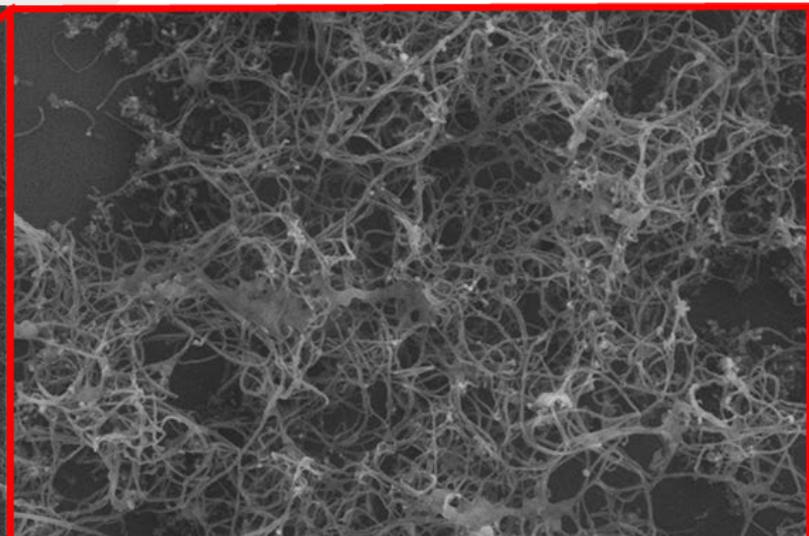
20 μm EHT = 5.00 kV Signal A = SE2 Tilt Angle = 0.0 ° Date :11 May 2015
WD = 2.9 mm Mag = 1.00 K X Stage at Z = 49.000 mm



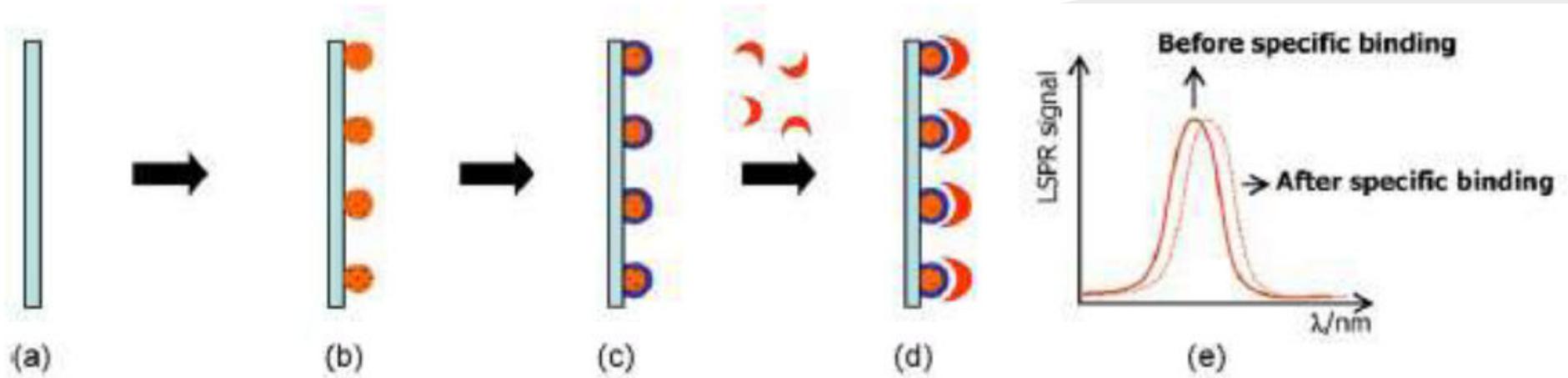
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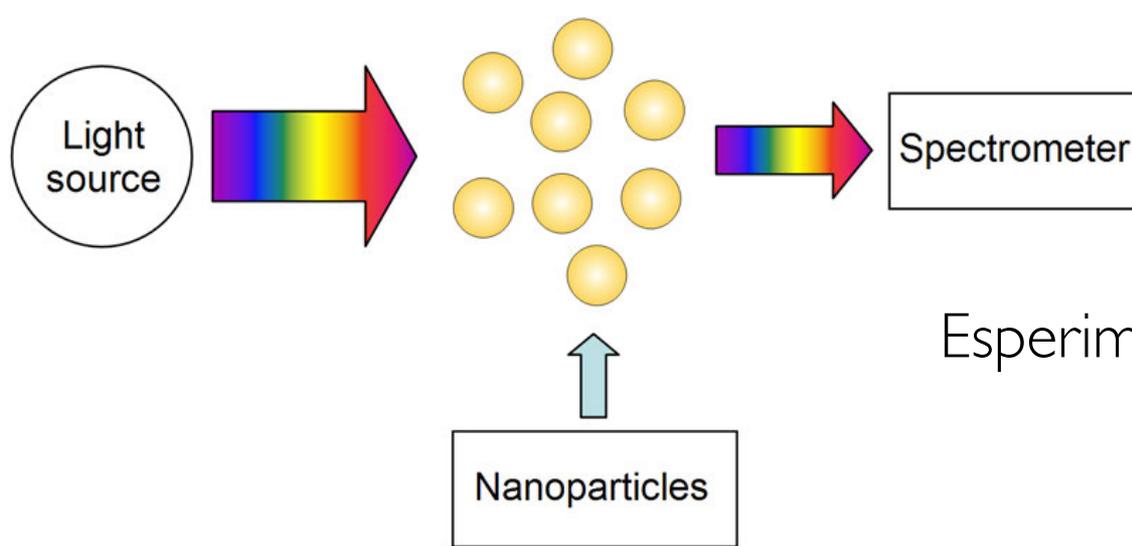
20 μm EHT = 5.00 kV Signal A = SE2 Tilt Angle = 0.0 ° Date :11 May 2015
WD = 2.9 mm Mag = 1.00 K X Stage at Z = 49.000 mm



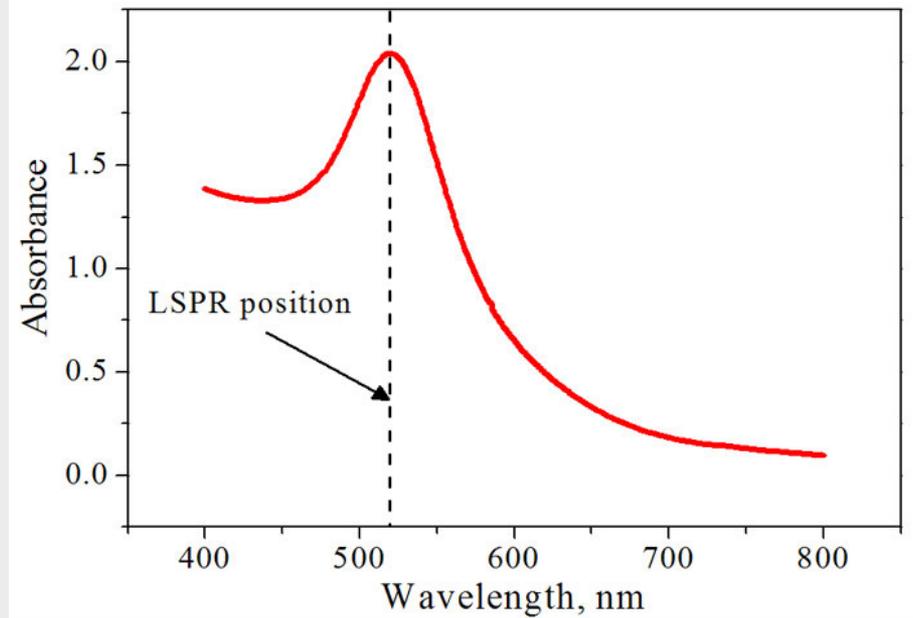
1 μm EHT = 5.00 kV Signal A = SE2 Tilt Angle = 0.0 ° Date :11 May 2015
WD = 2.9 mm Mag = 50.00 K X Stage at Z = 49.000 mm



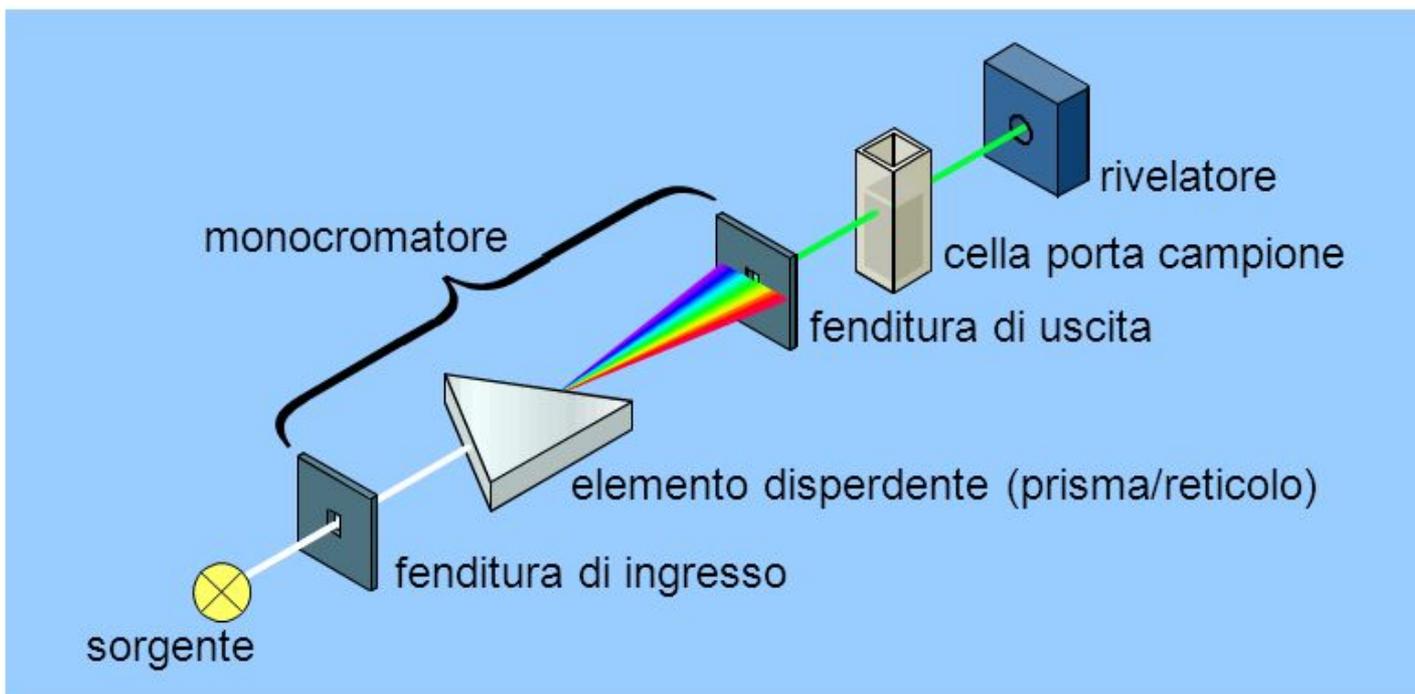
NPs depositate su una superficie e “funzionalizzate” con una molecola capace di riconoscere per esempio una molecola che sia biomarcatore di una malattia.

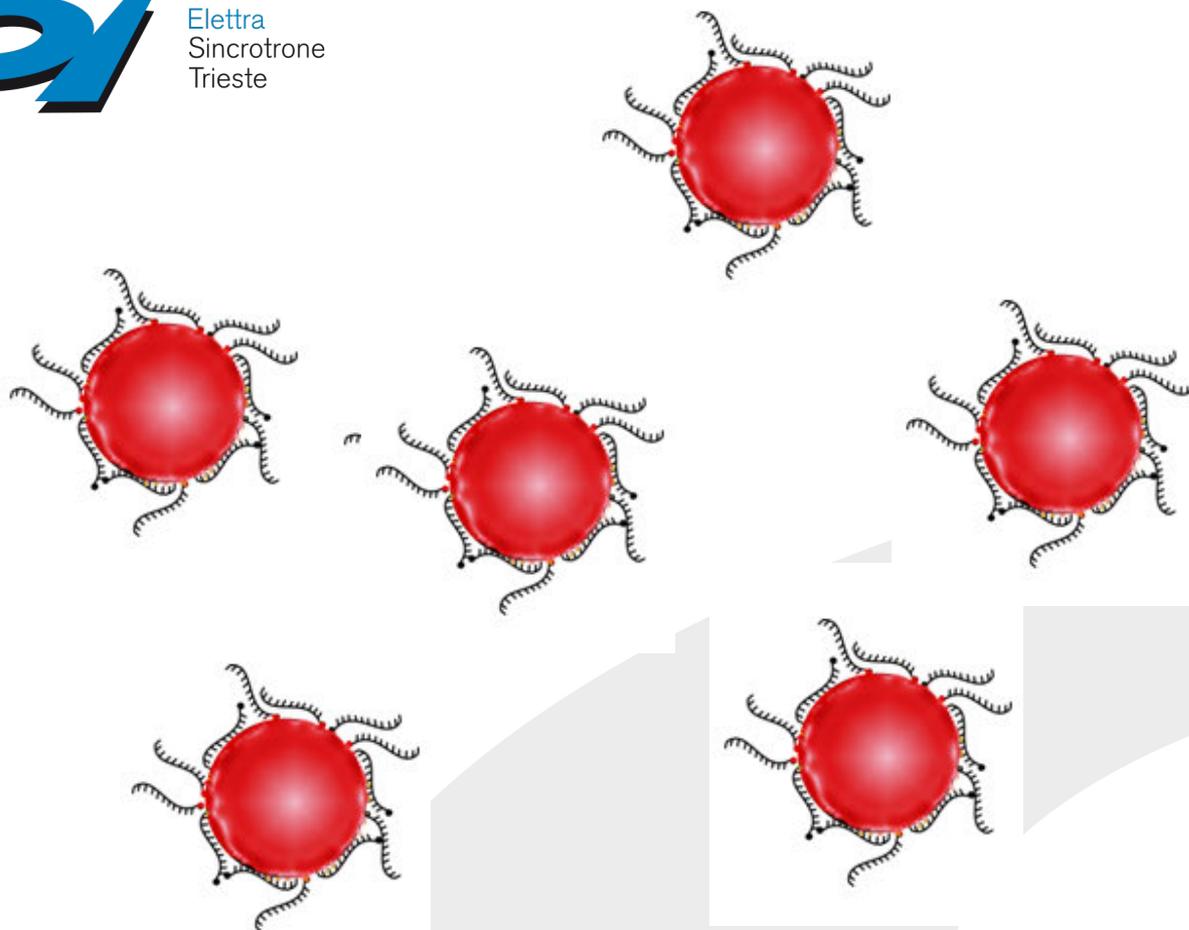


Esperimenti di assorbimento

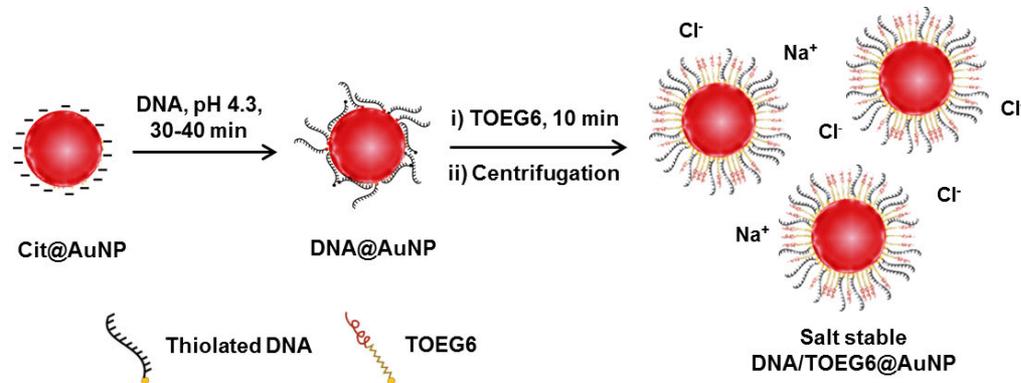


Spettrofotometro

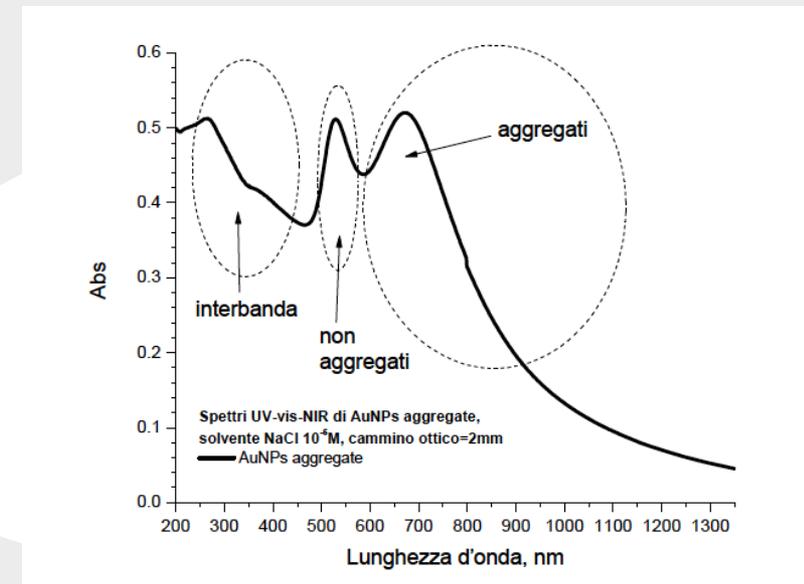
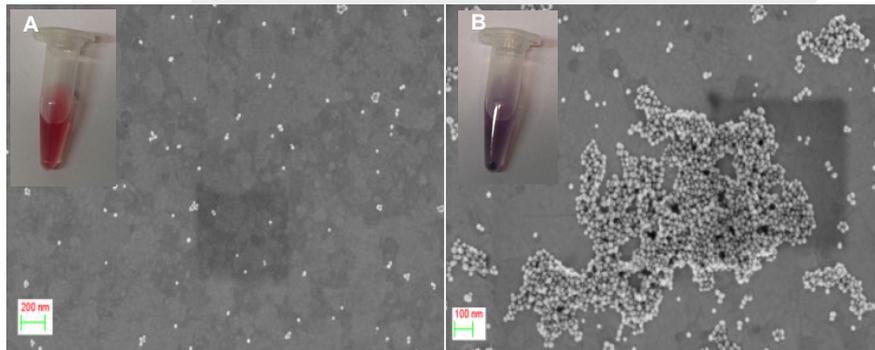


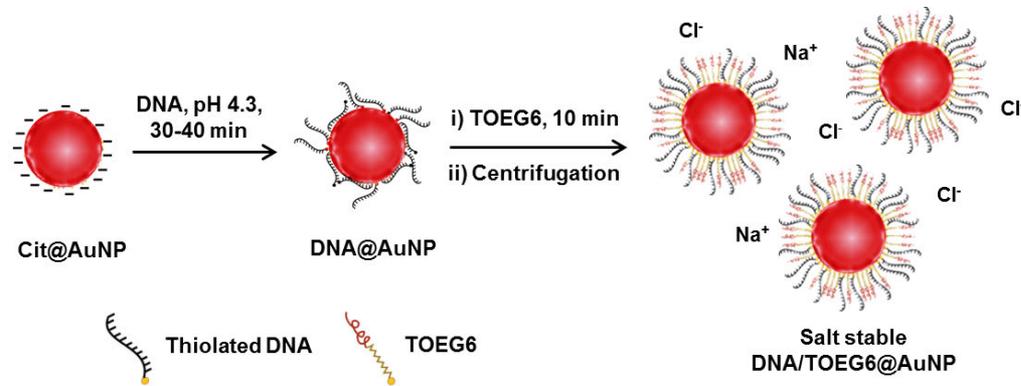


Parte 2: Nanoparticelle metalliche funzionalizzate e il loro utilizzo in biotecnologia

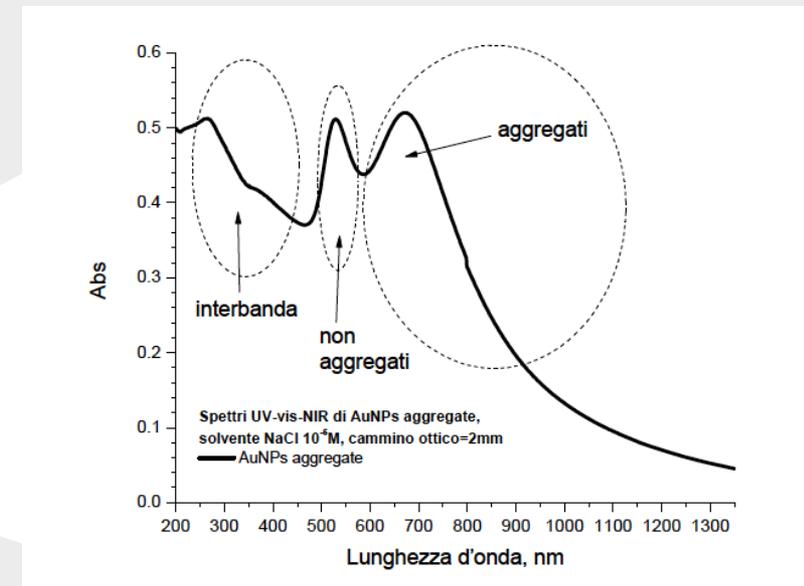
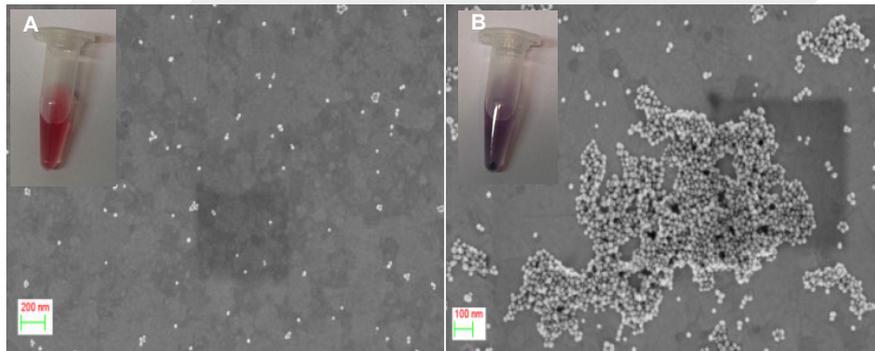


In generale, aggregati di NP si comportano come una NP più grossa.



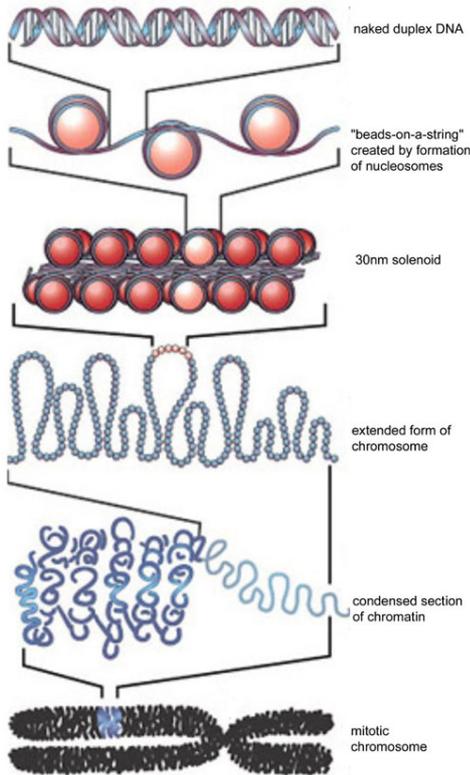


Ma come si fanno aggregare le NP in modo controllato?
Per esempio con il DNA

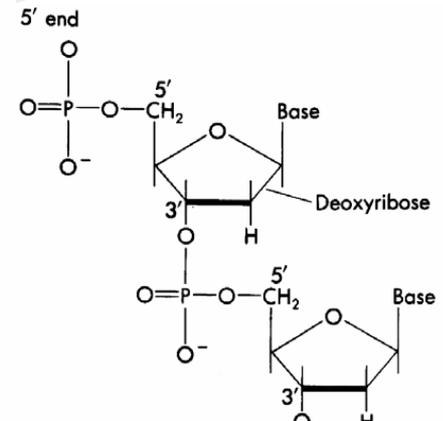
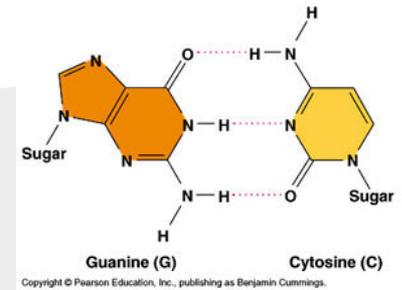
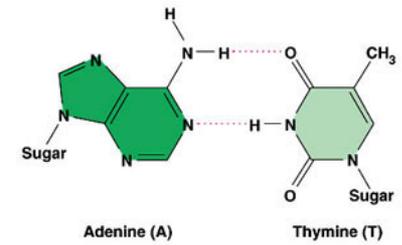
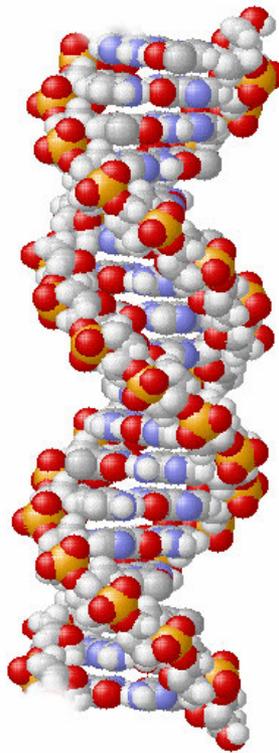




Base pairing



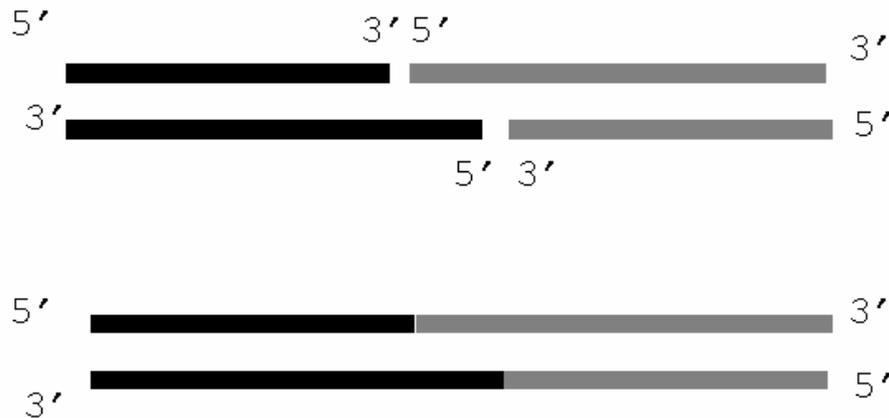
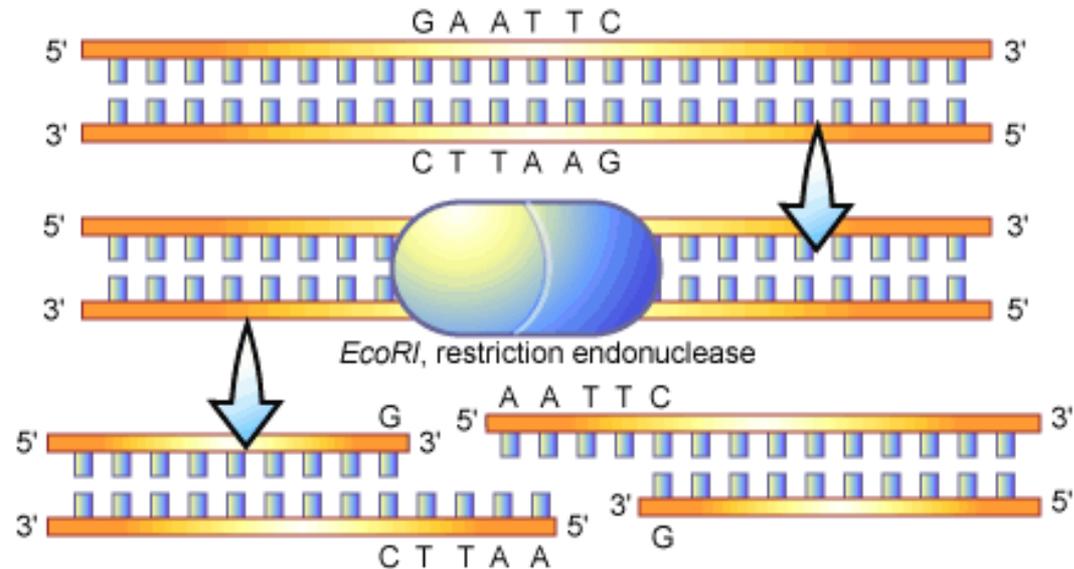
5' TAGACTACGCATACGCCT 3'
3' ATCTGATGCGTATGCGGA 5'





DNA Biotechnology

- **restriction enzymes:**
cut DNA at specific sequences
- **ligases:**
link two DNA pieces covalently
- **helicase:**
unwinds DNA
- **topoisomerases:**
Change topology (linking, winding number)
- **DNA/RNA polymerases:**
make copies
- **DNA binding proteins:**
help in recombination, function as transcriptional modulators, etc.



Courtesy of Friedrich C. Simmel, LMU, Munich **Ligation of sticky ends**

It is the combination of in vitro hybridization and synthetic branched DNA that leads to the ability to use DNA as a construction material

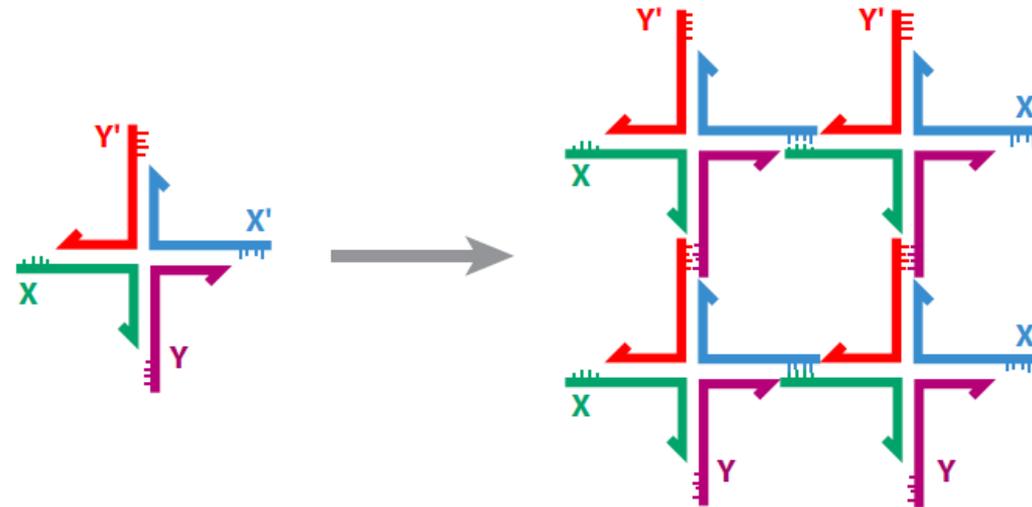
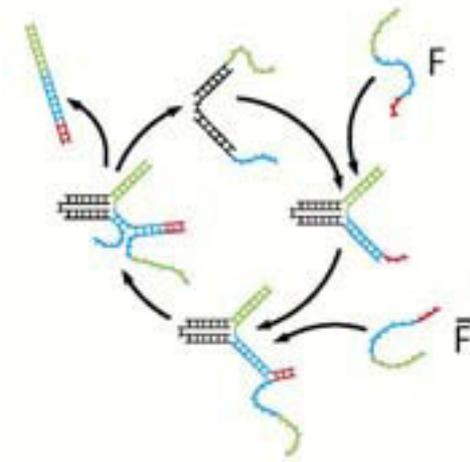
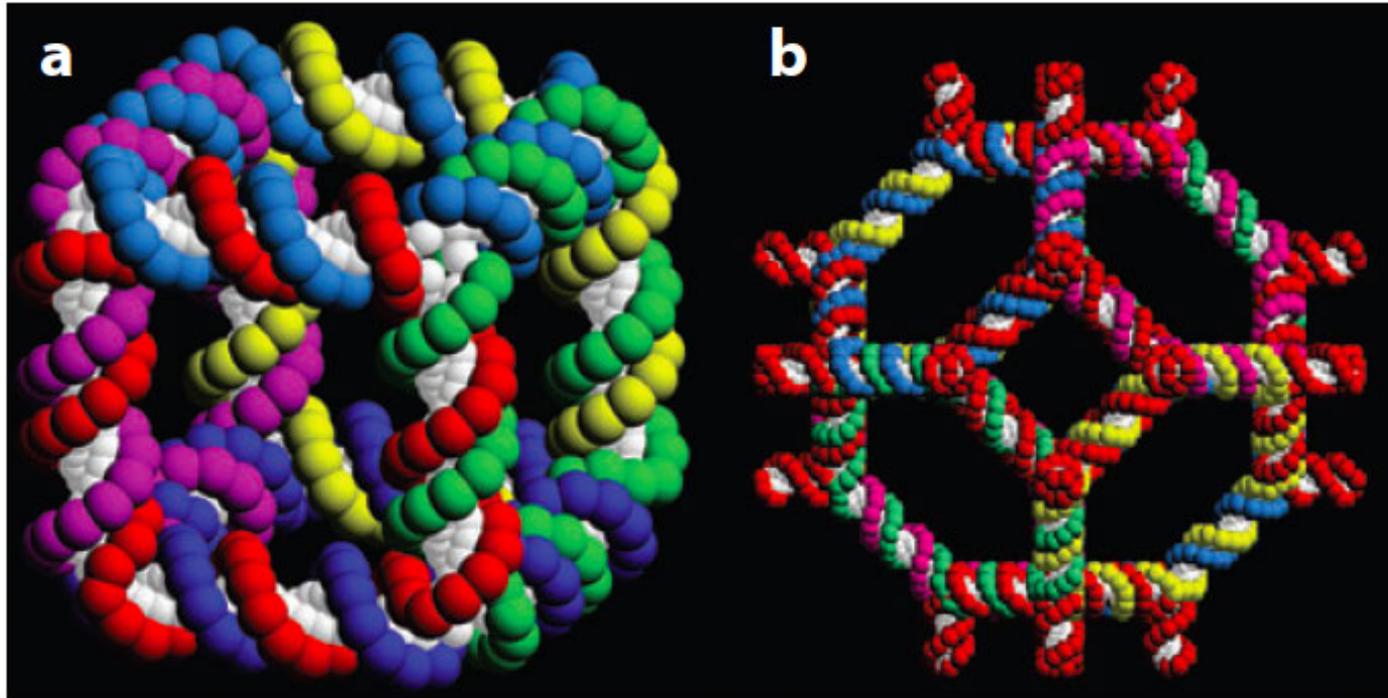


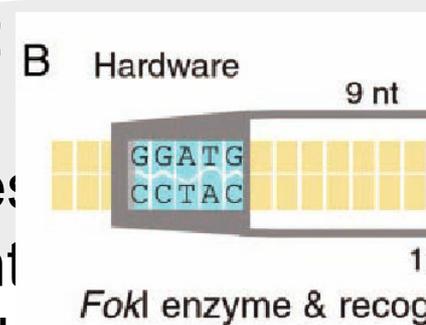
Figure 2

Self-assembly of branched DNA molecules to form larger arrangements. The image on the left shows a four-arm branched junction made from four differently colored strands. Its double helical domains are tailed in 5' sticky ends labeled (clockwise from the left) X, Y', X', and Y; the sticky ends are indicated by small extensions from the main strand (our convention is to represent 3' ends by arrowheads or, as here, by half arrowheads). The primed sticky ends complement the unprimed ones. The image on the right shows how four of these junctions can self-assemble through this complementarity to yield a quadrilateral. The sticky ends have come together in a complementary fashion. Note, this assembly does not use up all the available sticky ends, so that those that are left over could be used to generate a lattice in two dimensions (2D) and, indeed, in 3D.

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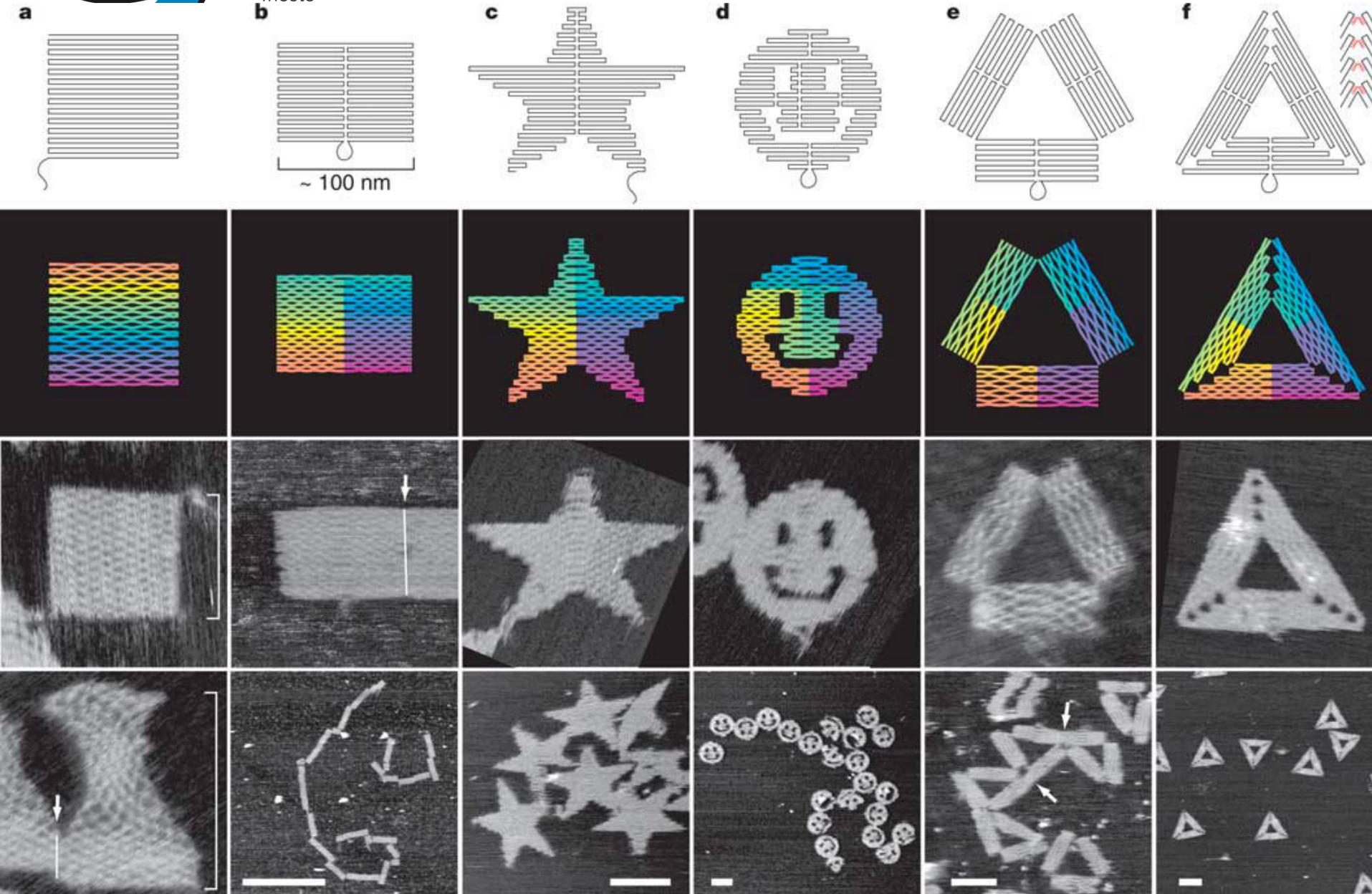


DNA molecule with the connectivity of a cube. The six backbone strands are represented by the colored balls and the bases are all drawn in white. Note that the molecule is a hexacatenane, with the six strands linked to each other. Each single strand corresponds to a face of the molecule



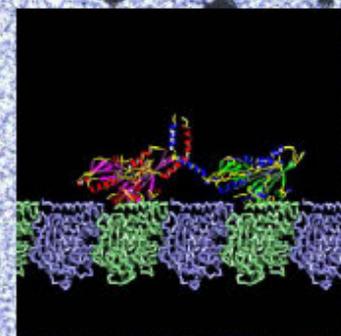
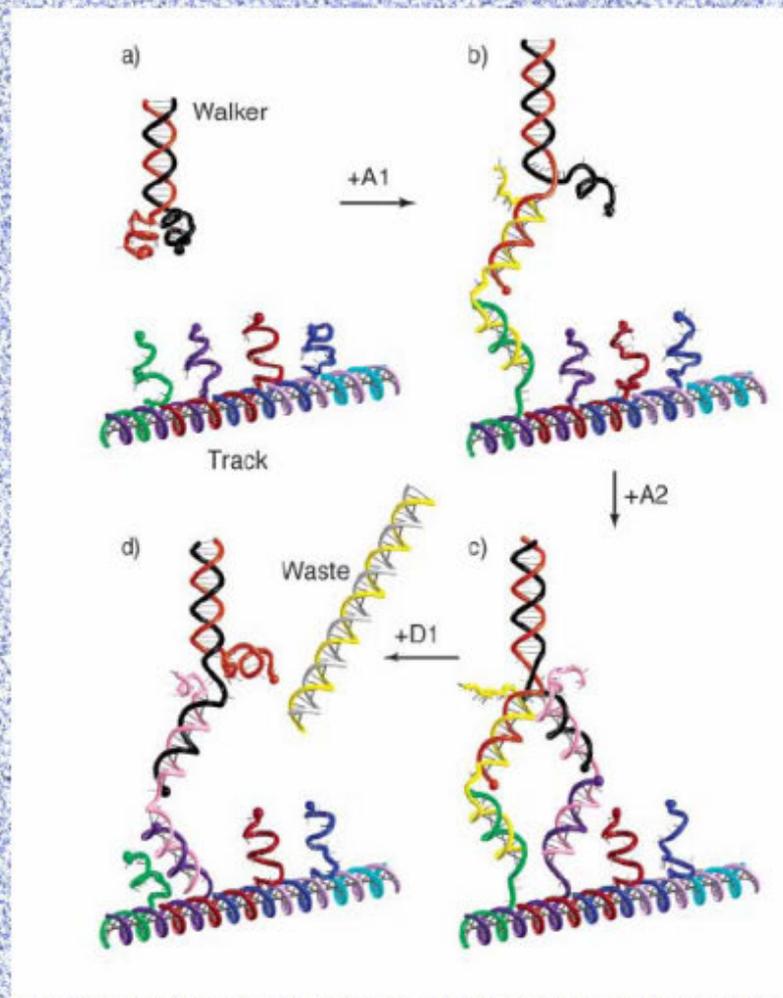
Elettra
Sincrotrone
Trieste

DNA origami



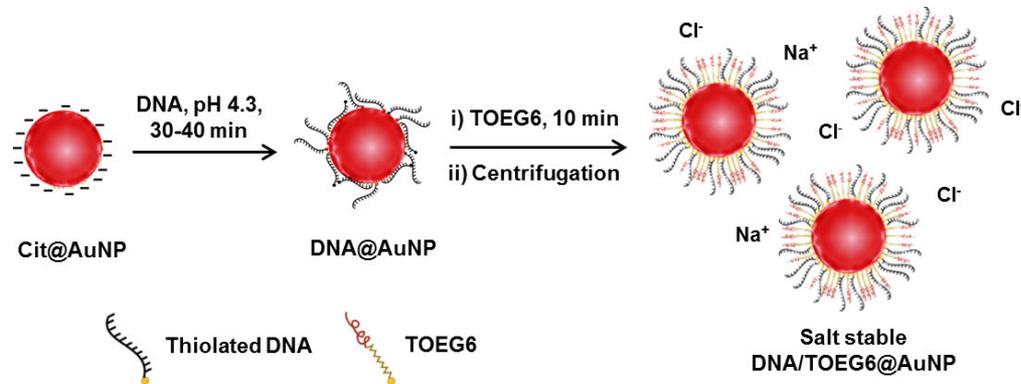
Locomotion

A simple DNA walker walks along a track

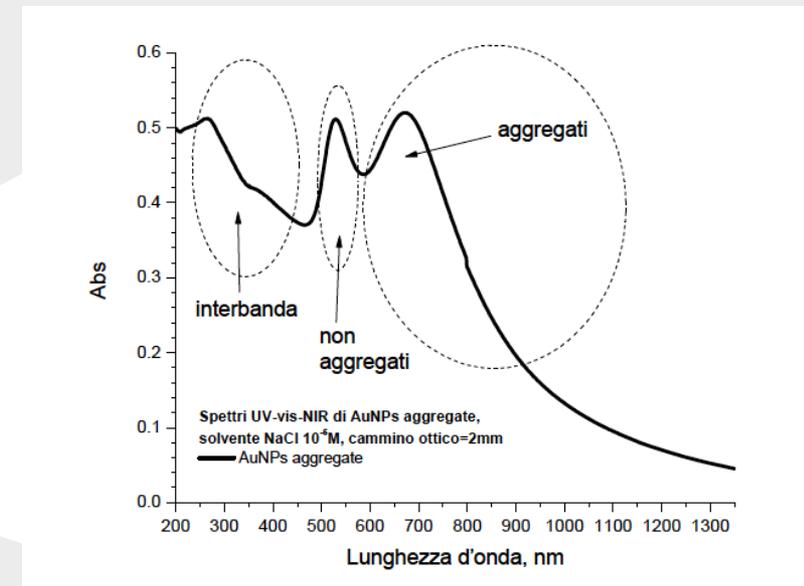
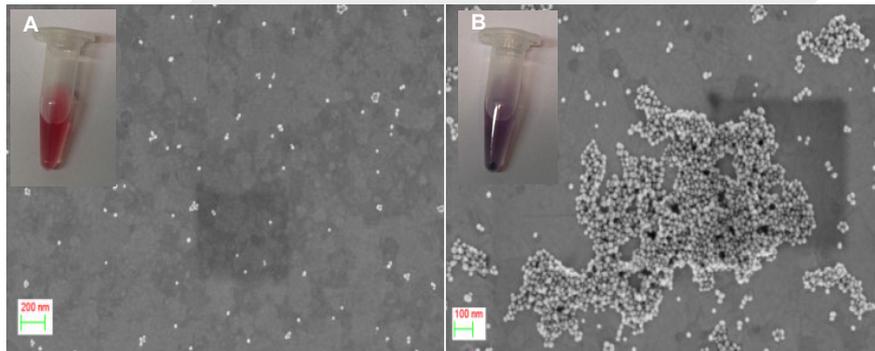


Kinesin on Microtubule,
Mandelkow lab

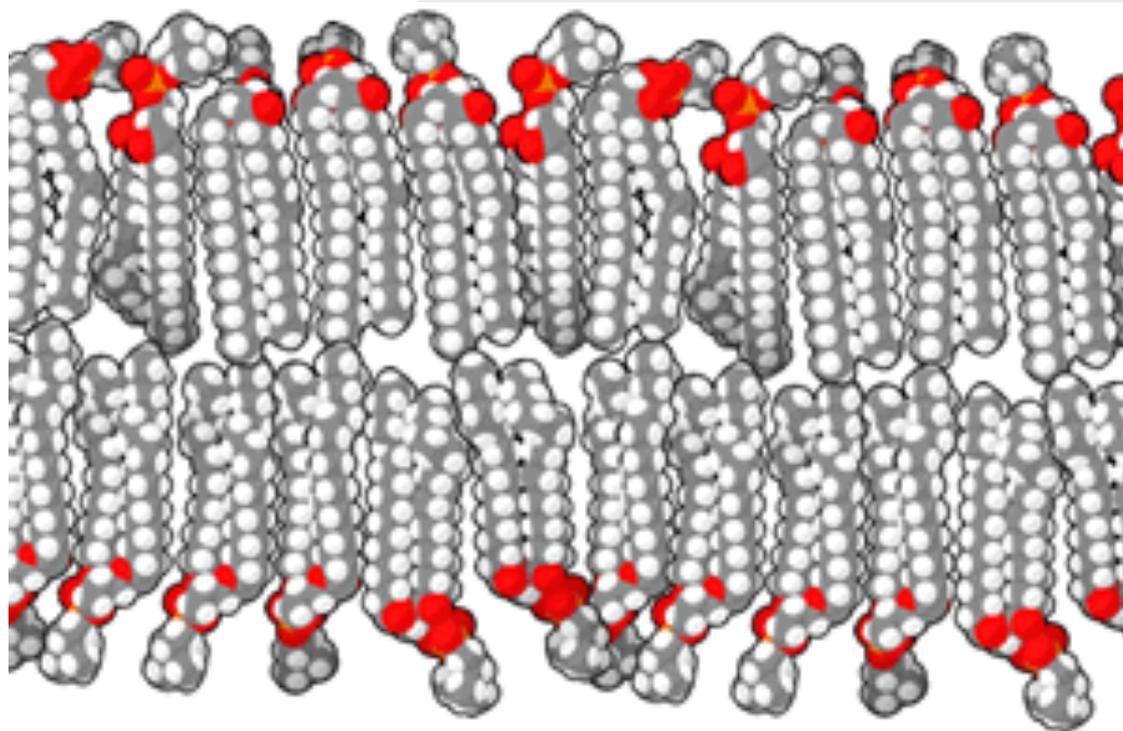
Shin & Pierce,
JACS 126, 10834 (2004)



Ma come si fanno aggregare le NP in modo controllato?
Per esempio con il DNA



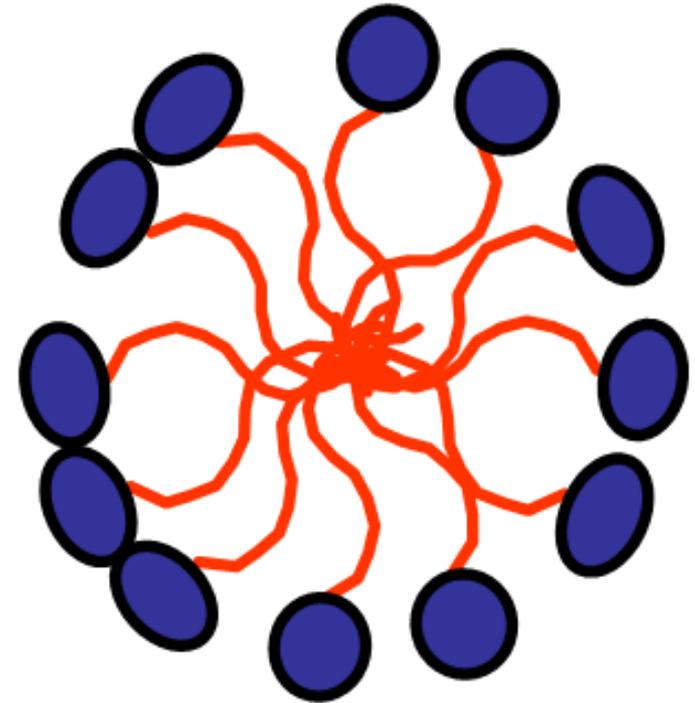
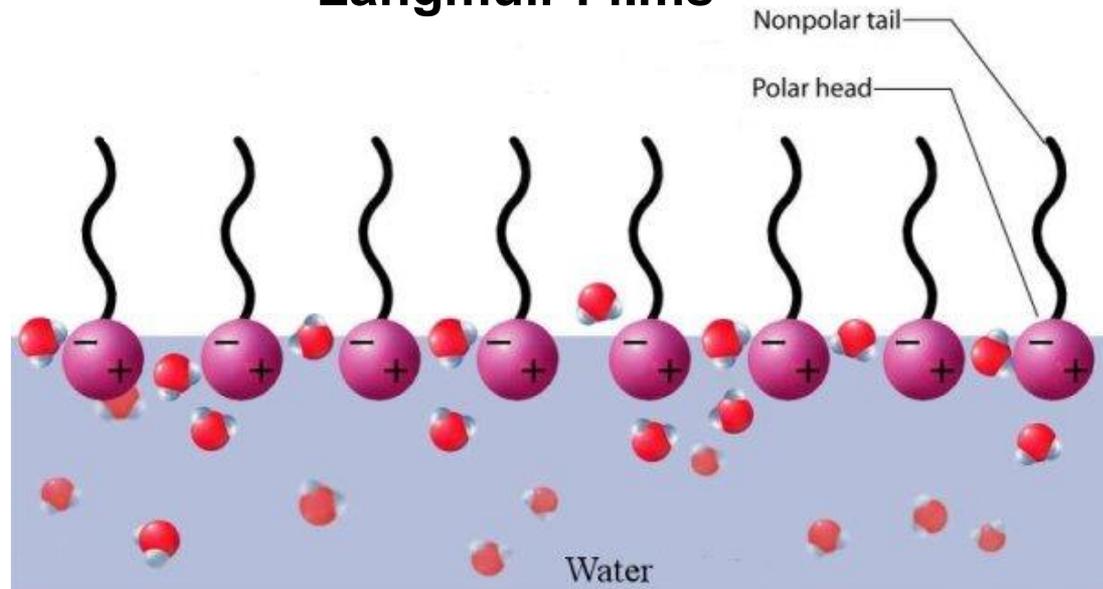
**Membranes are made of strongly anisotropic molecules
Strongly anisotropic molecules like to self-organizing**



1-Self-organized monolayers (on liquid surfaces)

International
Institute
Trieste

Langmuir Films

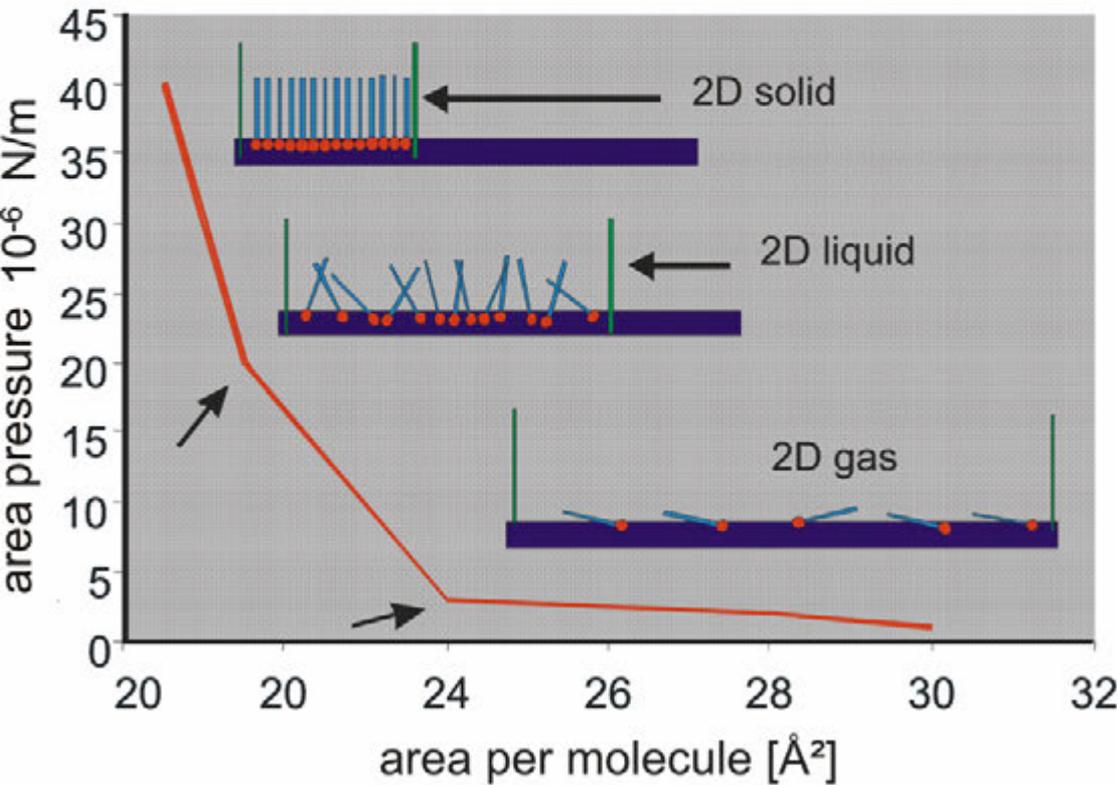
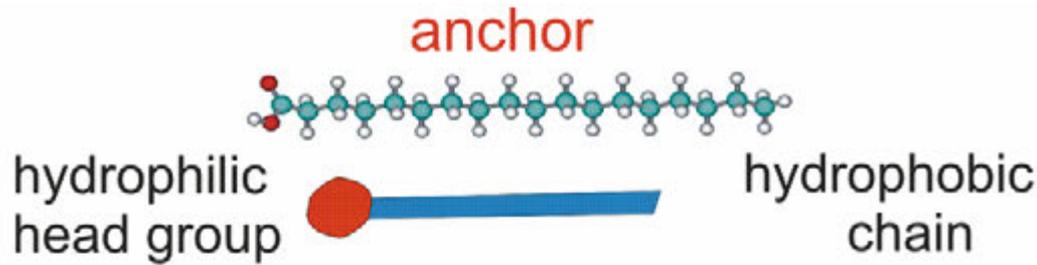


The term “molecular self-assembly” refers to spontaneous formation of an ordered molecular overlayer on the surface, often proceeding through several consecutive stages where 1D and 2D ordered structures can also exist.

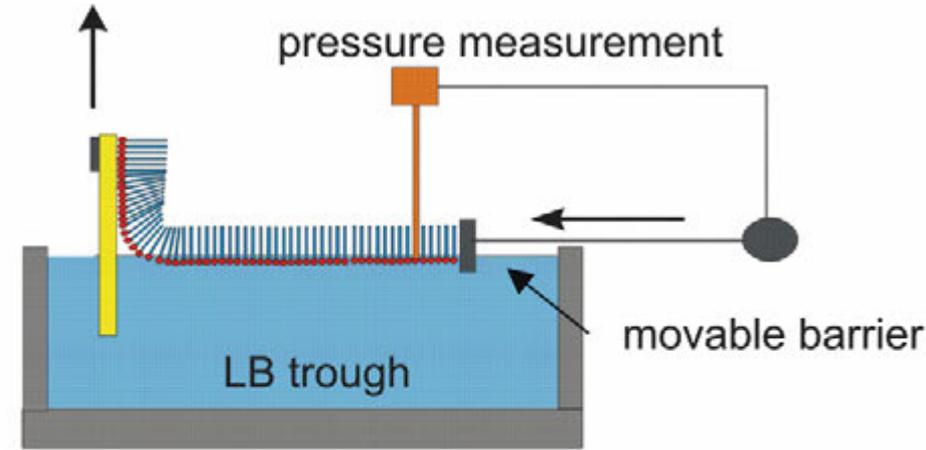
Thermodynamically, molecular self-assembly proceeds toward the state of lower entropy, and must therefore be compensated by a sufficient decrease of enthalpy due to intermolecular and molecule-surface

2-Self-organized monolayers (on solid surfaces)

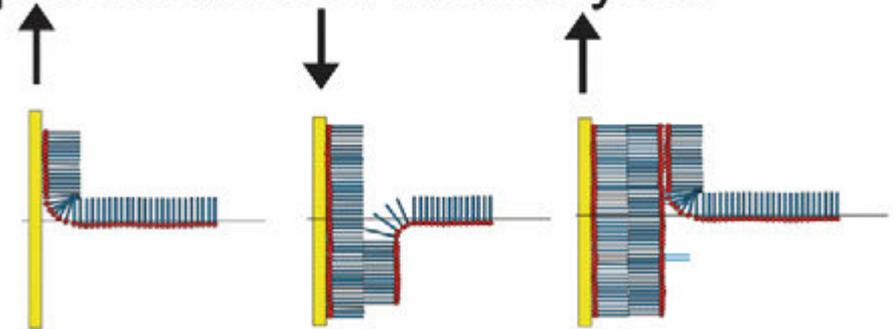
Enrico
Sintori
Trieste



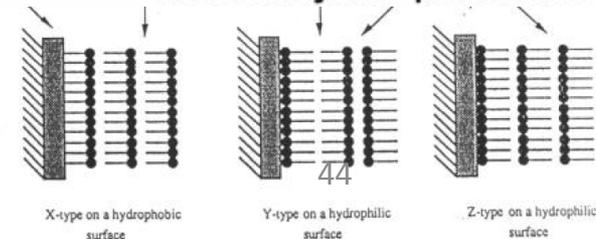
transfer of LB films on substrates



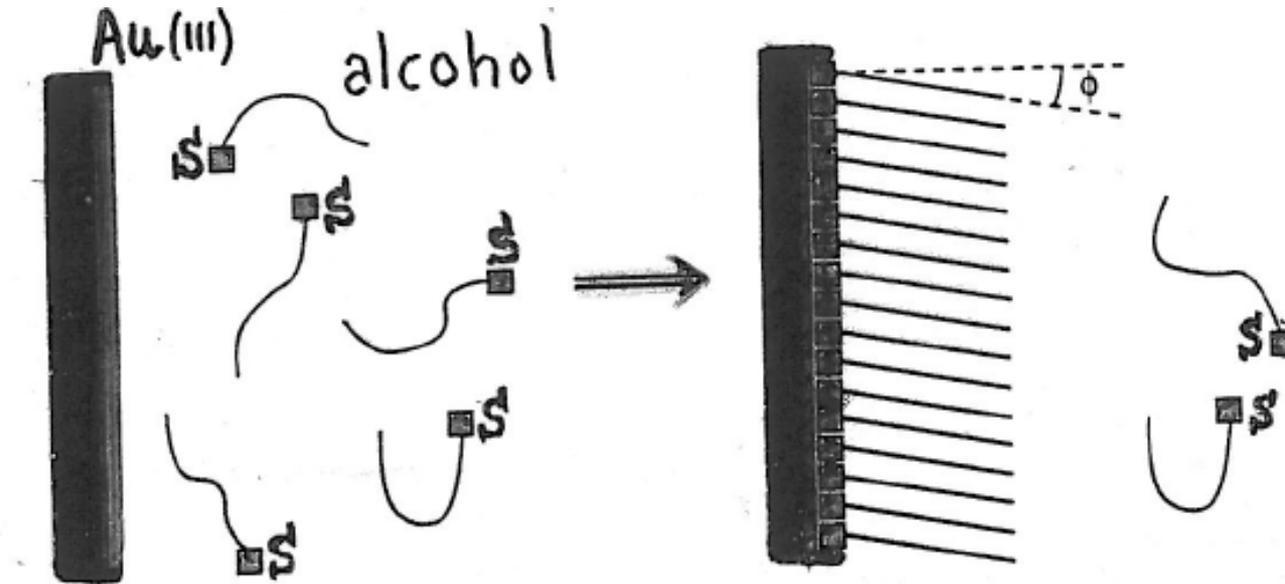
production of multilayers



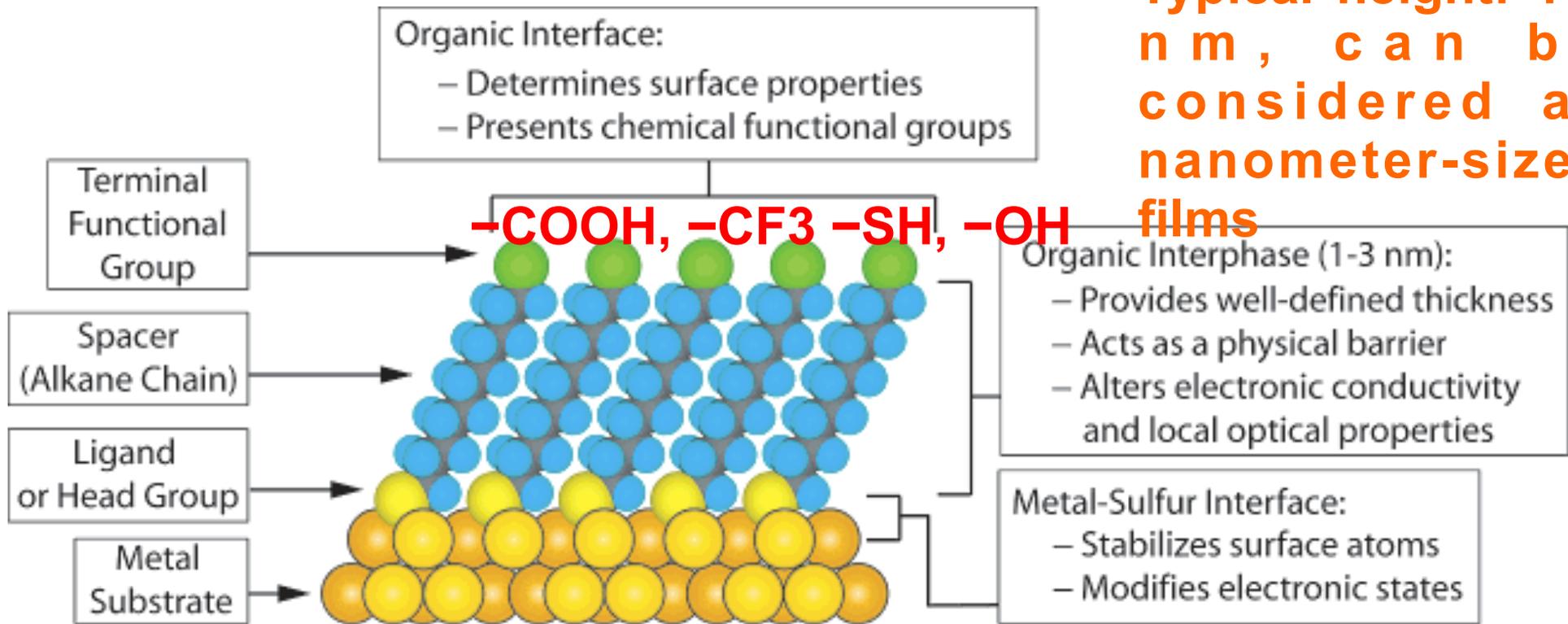
>1000 layers possible



3 Self-assembled monolayers (on solid surfaces)



example of self-assembly: **self-assembled monolayers (SAMs)**: SAMs are distinguished by the fact that one end of the molecules is designed to have a favorable and specific interaction with the surface of interest. This results in the formation of a stable monolayer

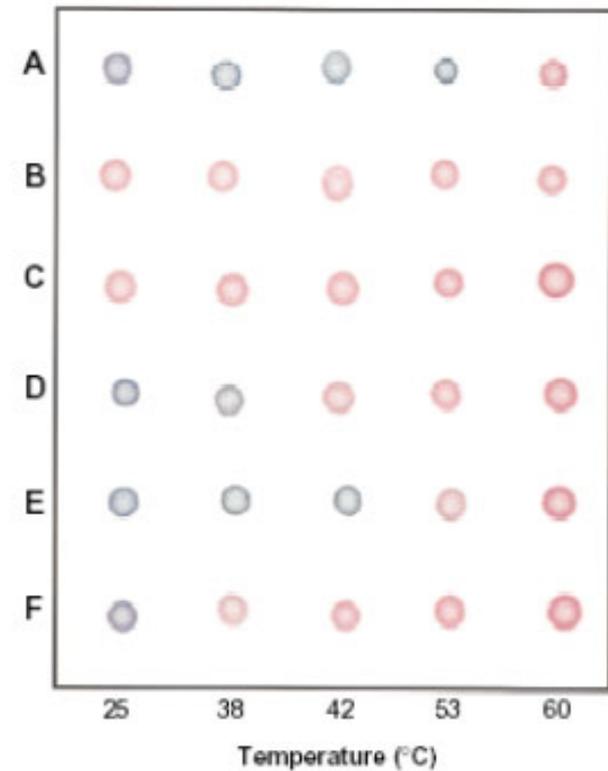
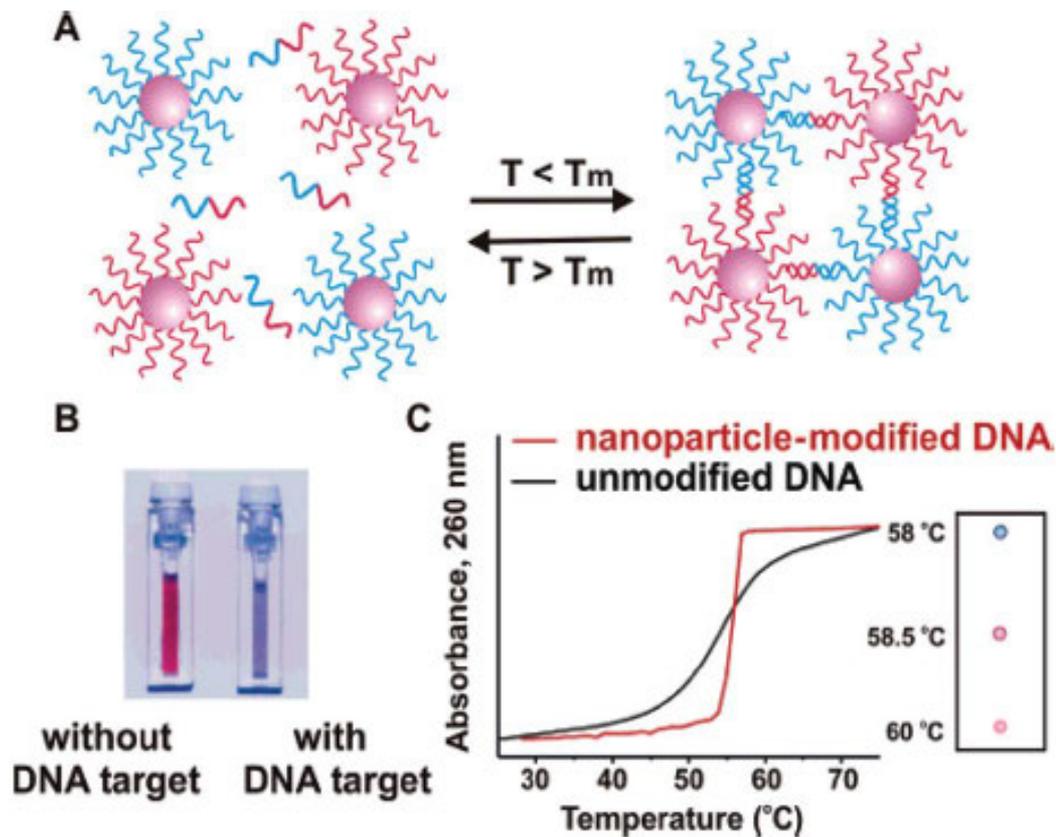


Typical height: 1-3 nm, can be considered as nanometer-sized films

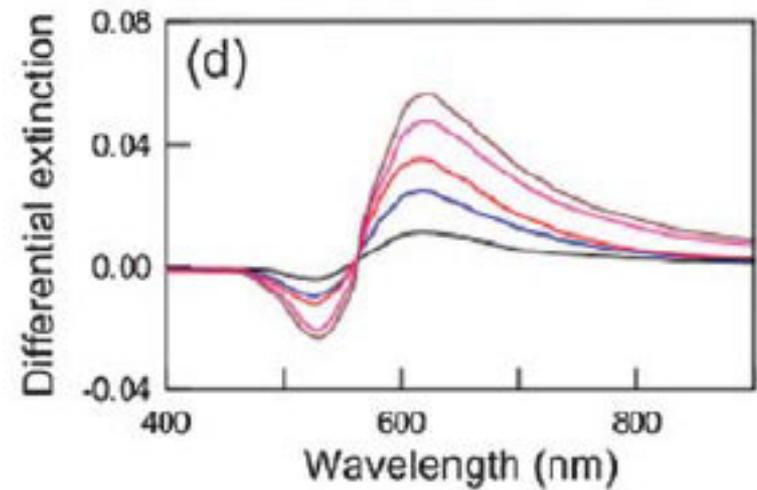
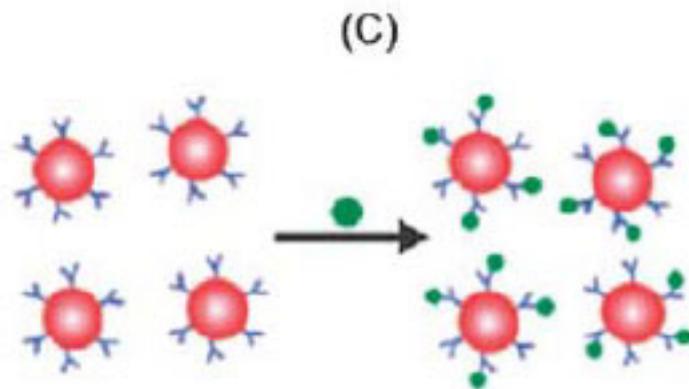
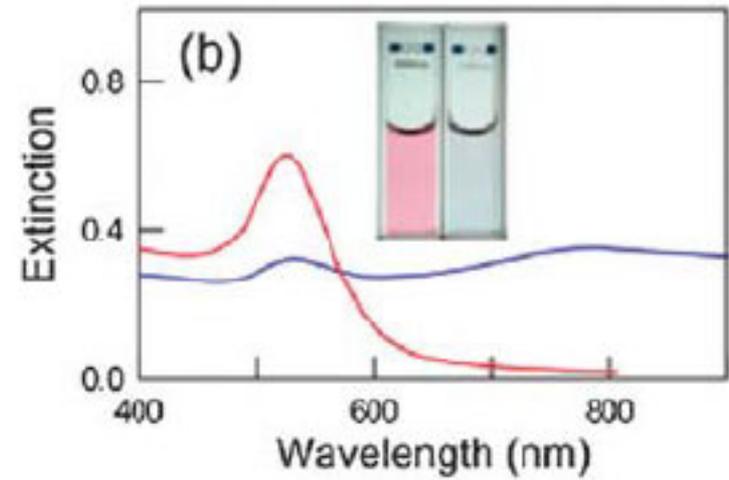
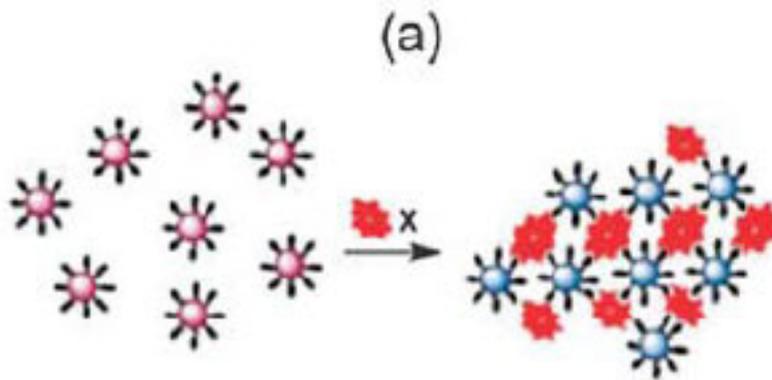
The high affinity of thiols for noble and coinage metal surfaces makes it possible to generate surfaces with useful and tunable properties.

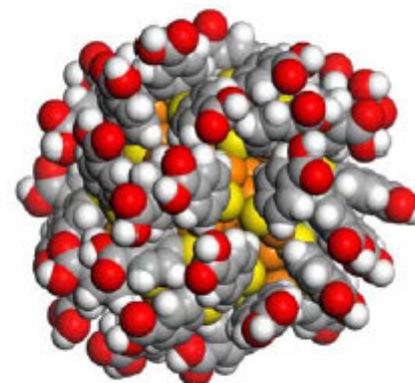
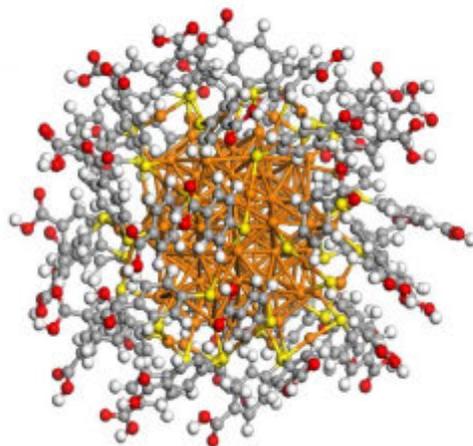
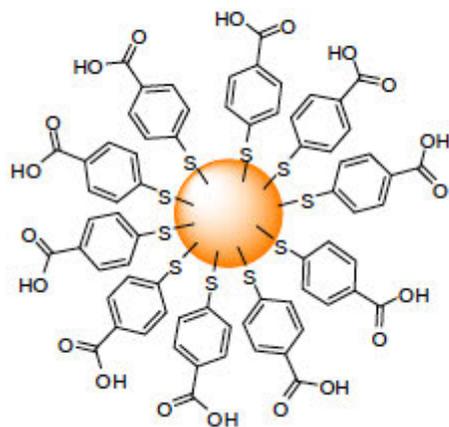
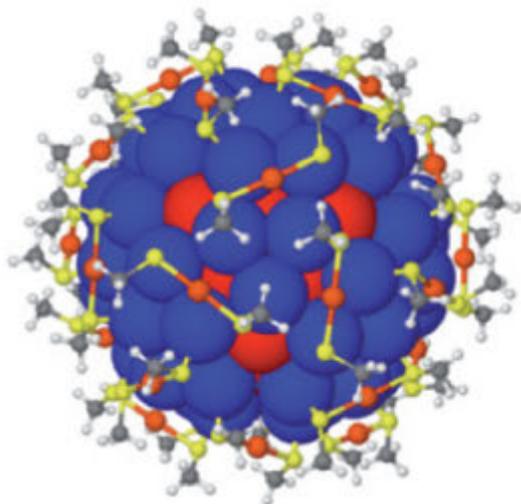
When molecules are adsorbed on the surface, the formation of ordered and closely packed arrangement starts. It depends upon the intermolecular interactions, such as van der Waals, dipole or

Gold nanoparticles: detection



Selective polynucleotide detection for the target probes : (A) complementary target; (B) no target; (C) complementary to one probe; (D) a 6-bp deletion; (E) a 1-bp mismatch; and (F) a 2-bp mismatch. Nanoparticle aggregates were prepared in a 600- μ l thin-walled Eppendorf tube by addition of 1 μ l of a 6.6 μ M oligonucleotide target to a mixture containing 50 μ l of each probe (0.06 μ M final target concentration). The mixture was frozen (5 min) in a bath of dry ice and isopropyl alcohol and allowed to warm to room temperature. Samples were then transferred to a temperature controlled water bath, and 3- μ l aliquots were removed at the indicated temperatures and spotted on a C₁₈ reverse phase plate.







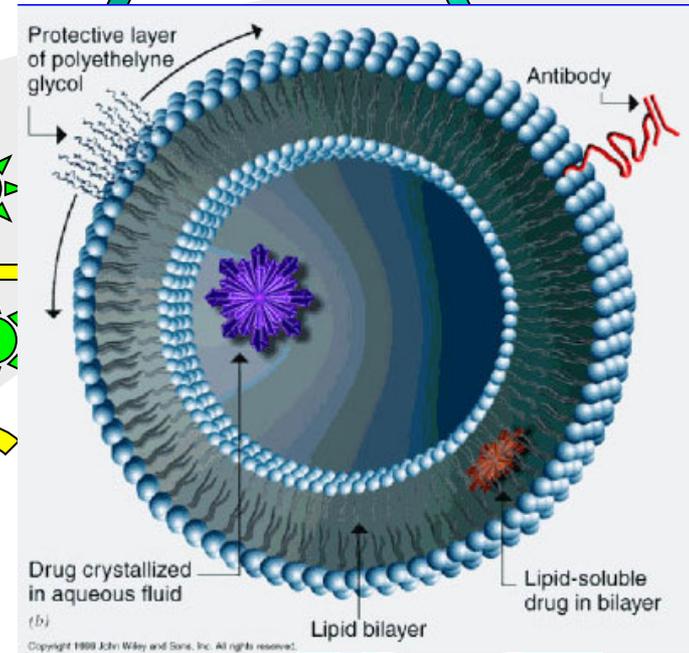
Unità di riconoscimento



Riconoscimento

Disretto
malato

Rilascio





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