

Nanomaterials in the Aquatic Environment:

Persistence, Transformations, and Bioavailability

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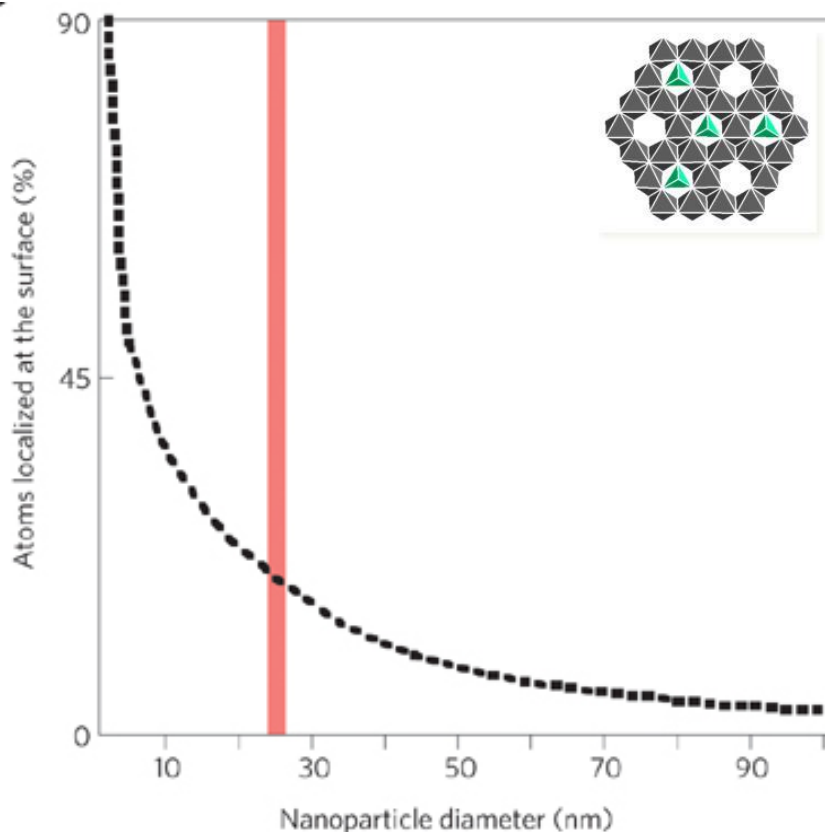
Duke University

Civil & Environmental Engineering

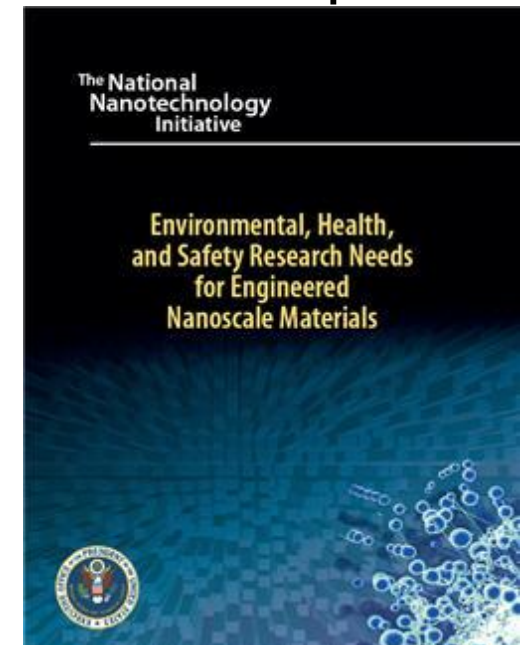


What are engineered nanomaterials?

- Materials manufactured to ~ 1 -100 nm in size
- Exhibit unique properties due to their small size (relative to larger materials)



Concerns for their safety and environmental impacts:



Breaking the Cycle of Unintended Consequences

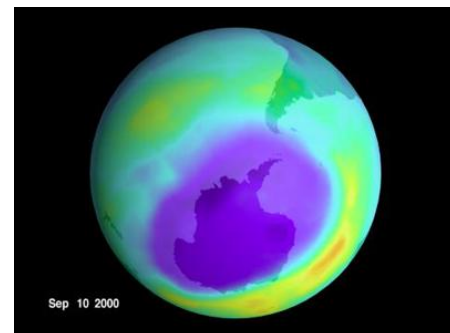
Mercury amalgamation for precious metals mining



Pesticides for control of disease

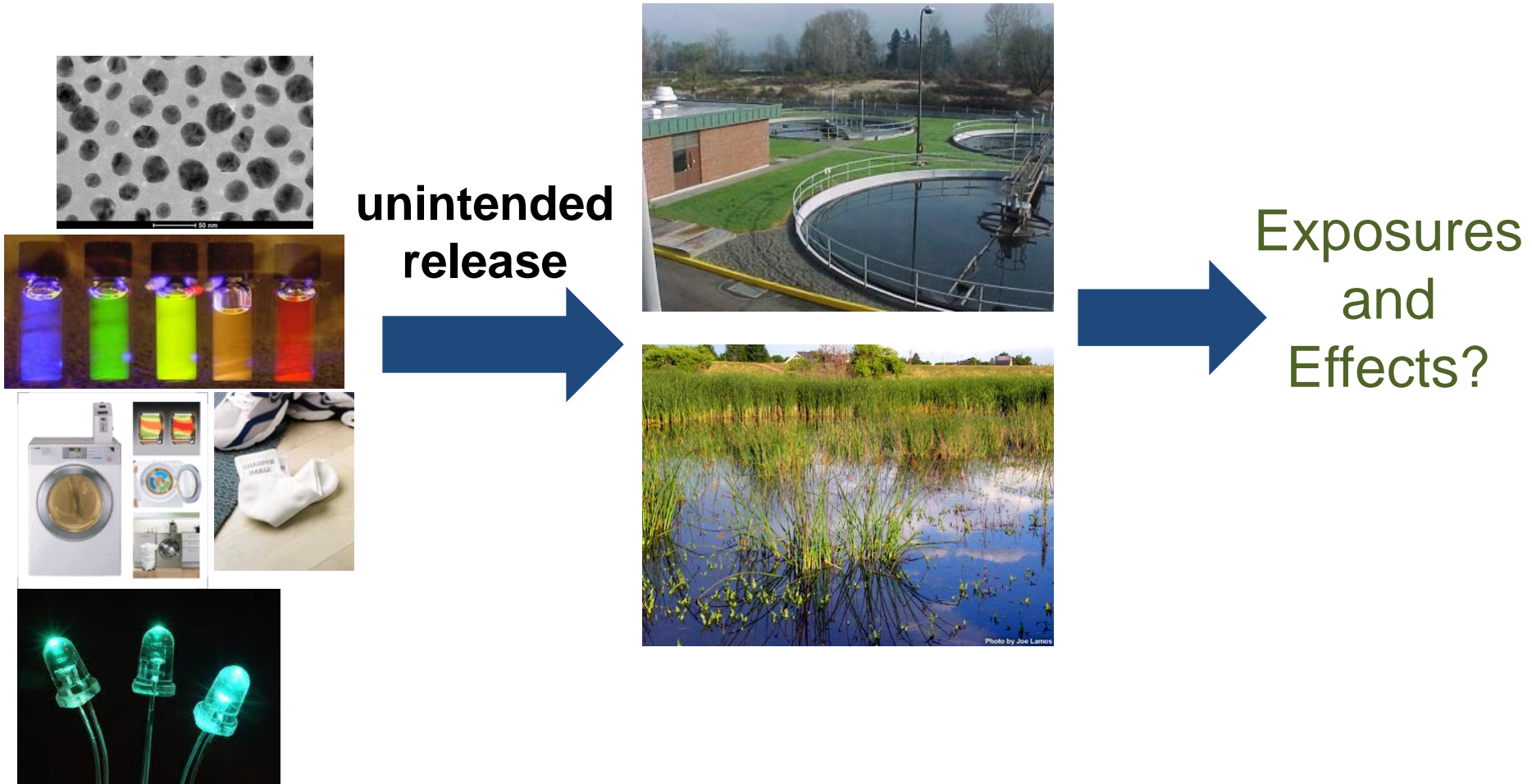


Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)



Environmental health and safety of nanomaterials

Life cycle of a material:
Raw materials, Fabrication
Products use, Disposal



Environmental exposure to nanomaterials:

Key Questions:

What are the main processes controlling exposures of nanomaterials to ecosystems?

How do other water constituents alter nanomaterial surfaces, speciation, and persistence?

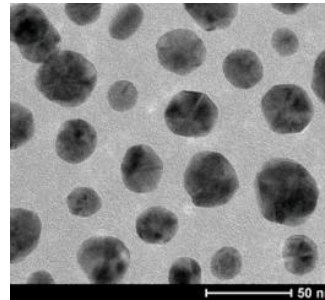
Do nanomaterials naturally occur in these settings?



Presentation Outline

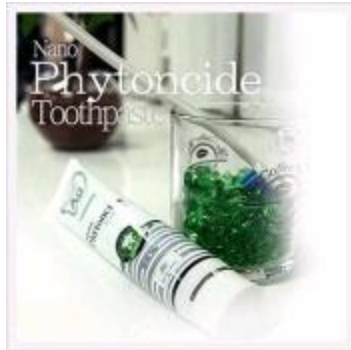
1. Exposure of metal-based nanomaterials in the aquatic environment
2. How other water constituents alter nanomaterial reactivity
3. Naturally-occurring nanomaterials

Example:
Silver nanomaterials
in public wastewater
treatment systems



Ag⁰ NPs in commercial products

Purpose: antimicrobial coating in household goods

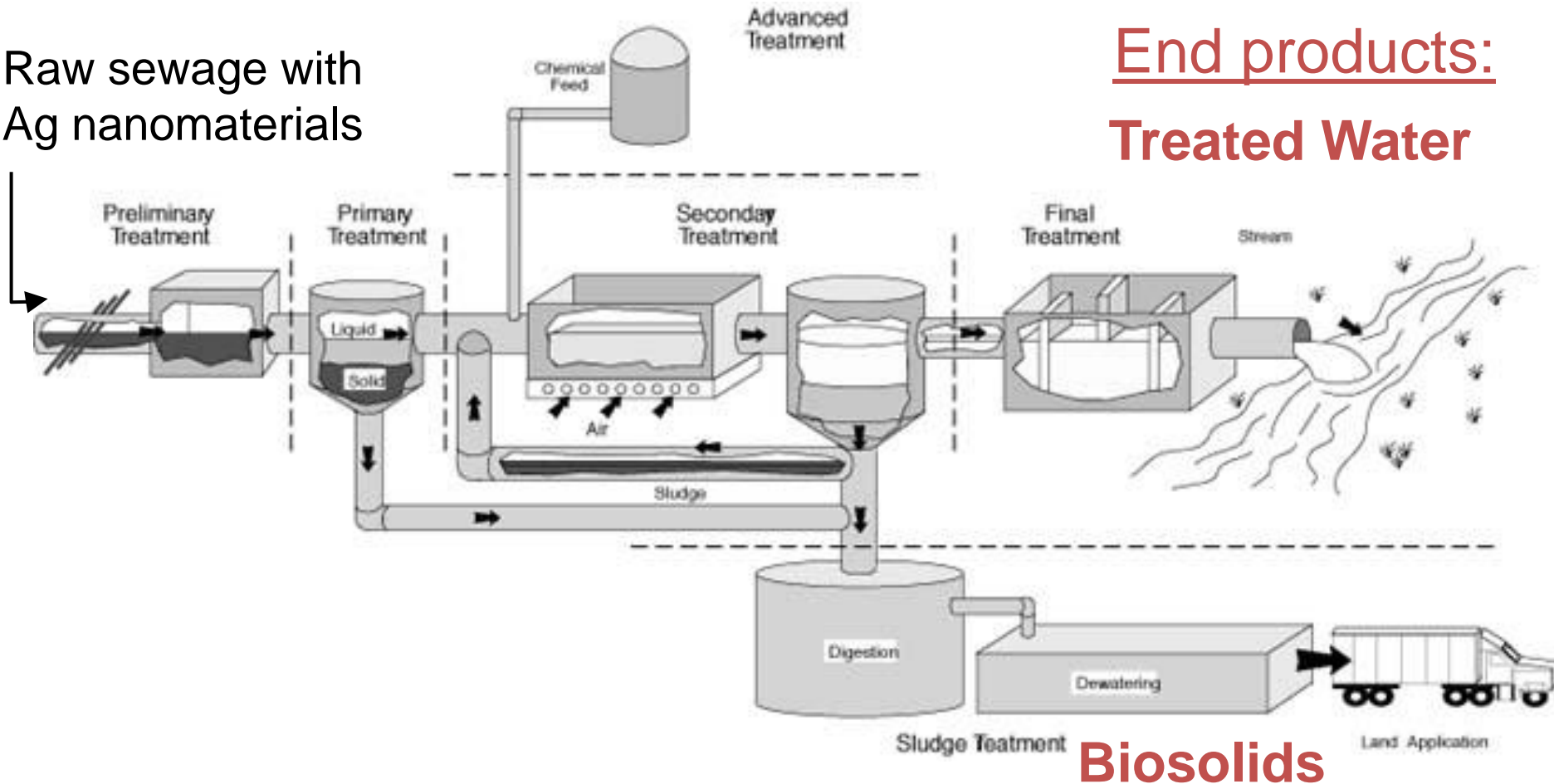


Ref: Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies

Release of silver nanomaterials into domestic wastewater

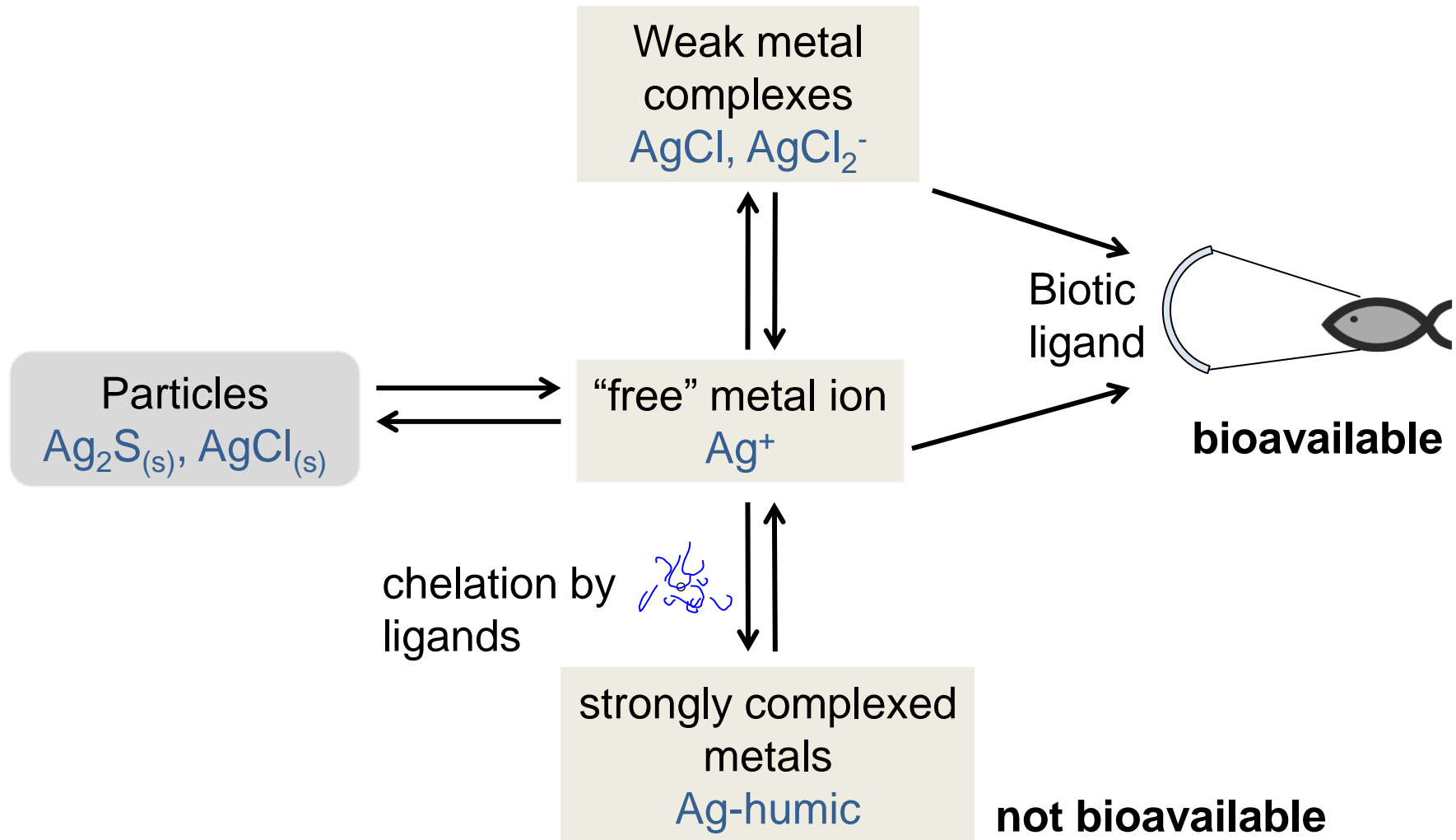
Raw sewage with
Ag nanomaterials

End products:
Treated Water

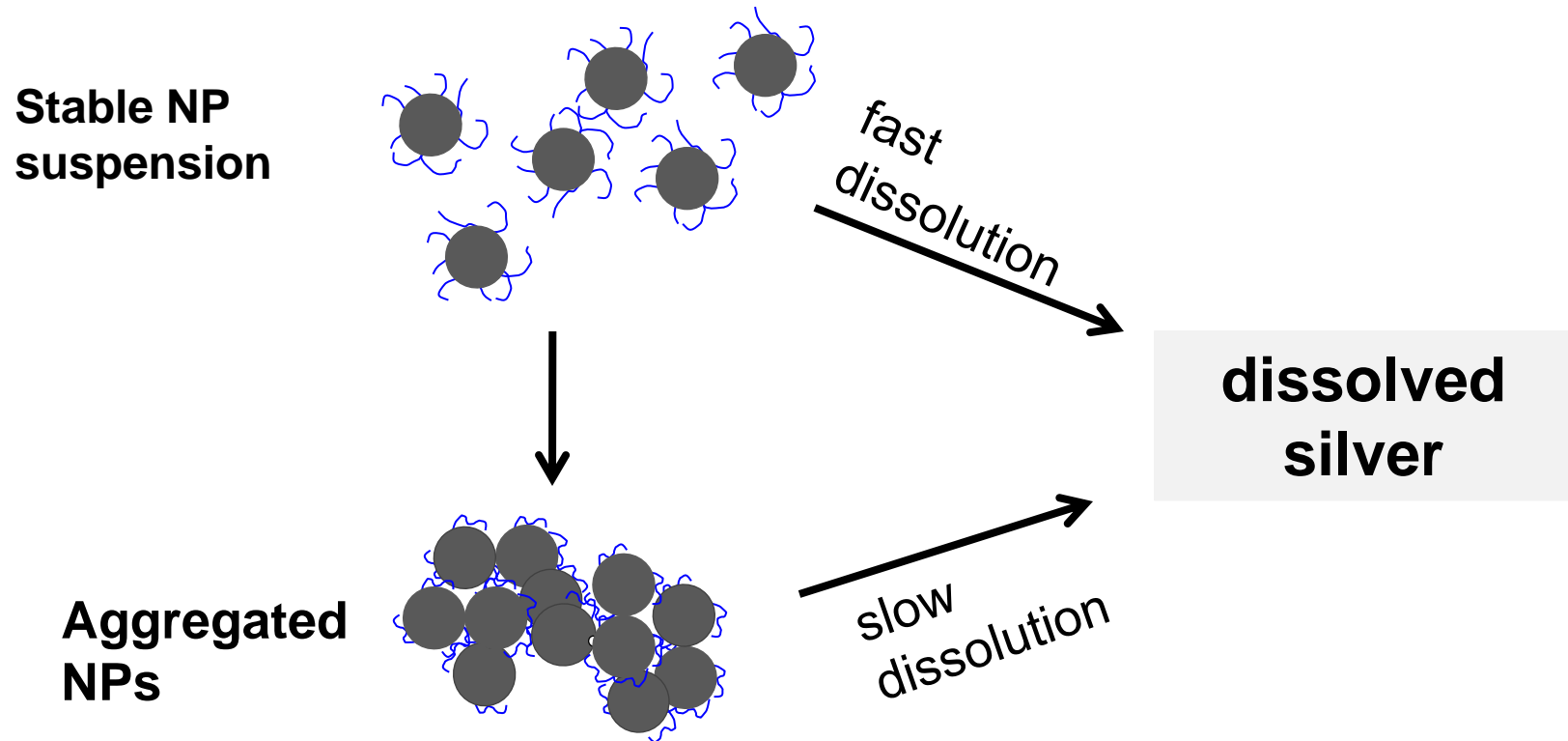


Geochemistry and Toxicity of Trace Metal Pollutants

The Conventional View: Biotic Ligand Model

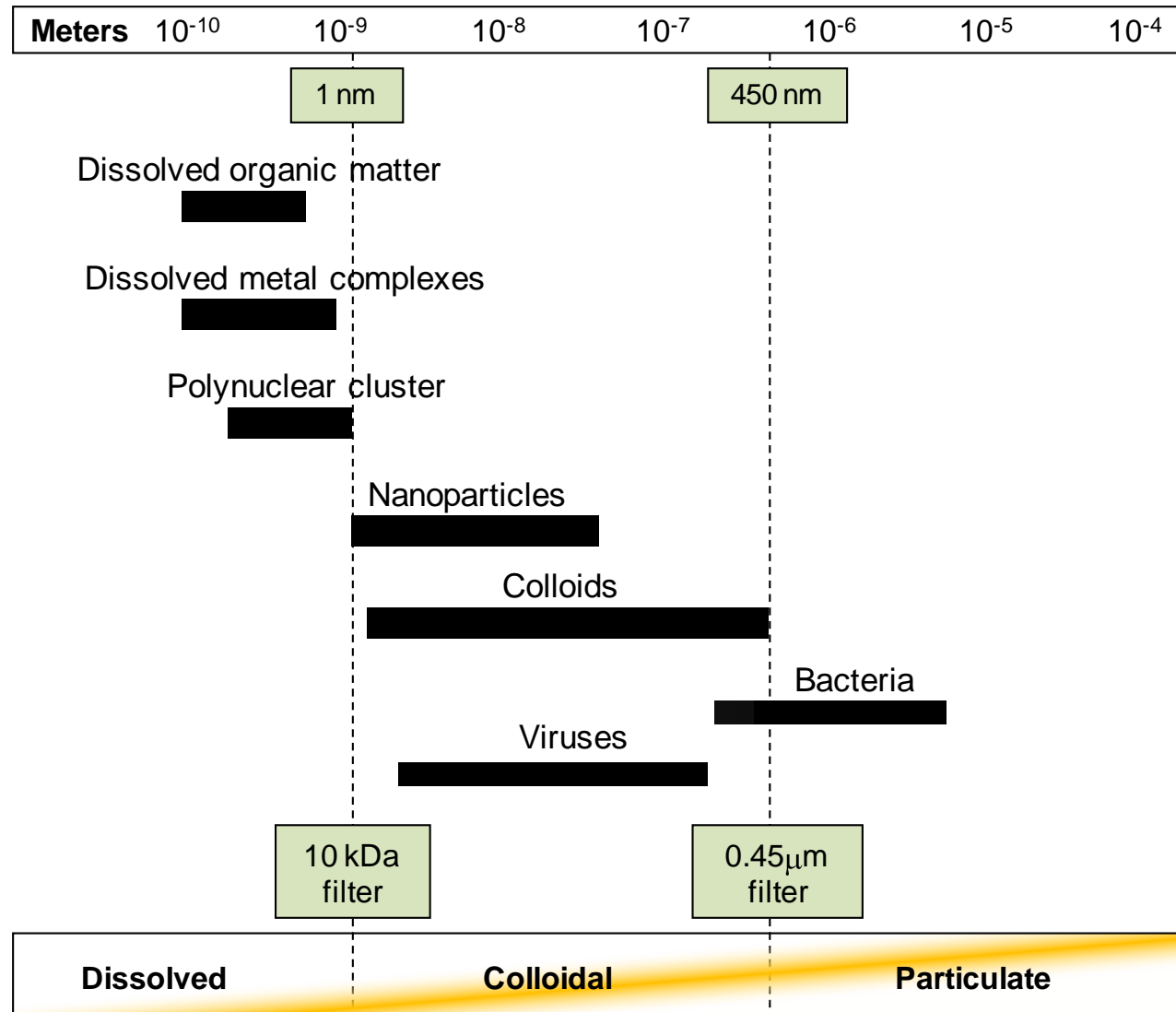


Ag^0 persistence and bioavailability



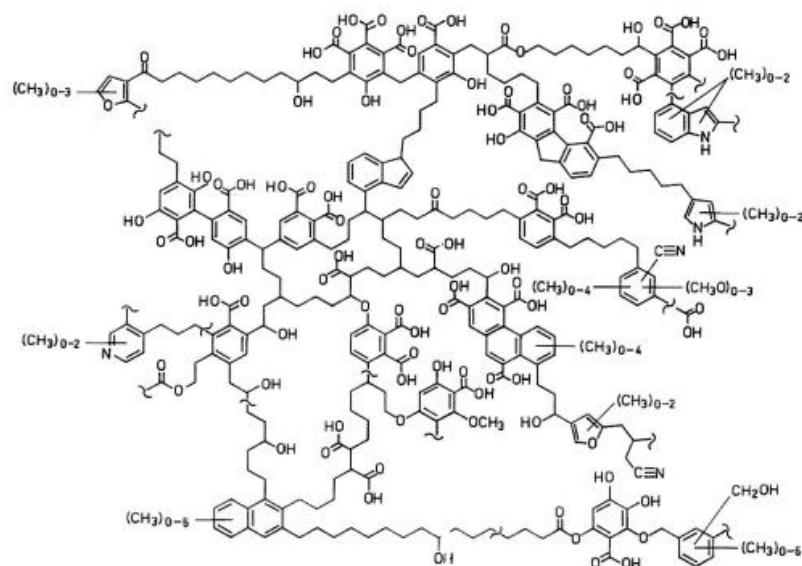
What is the influence of other water constituents for nanoparticle reactivity?

Other constituents in natural waters



Other constituents in environmental media

Dissolved Organic Matter



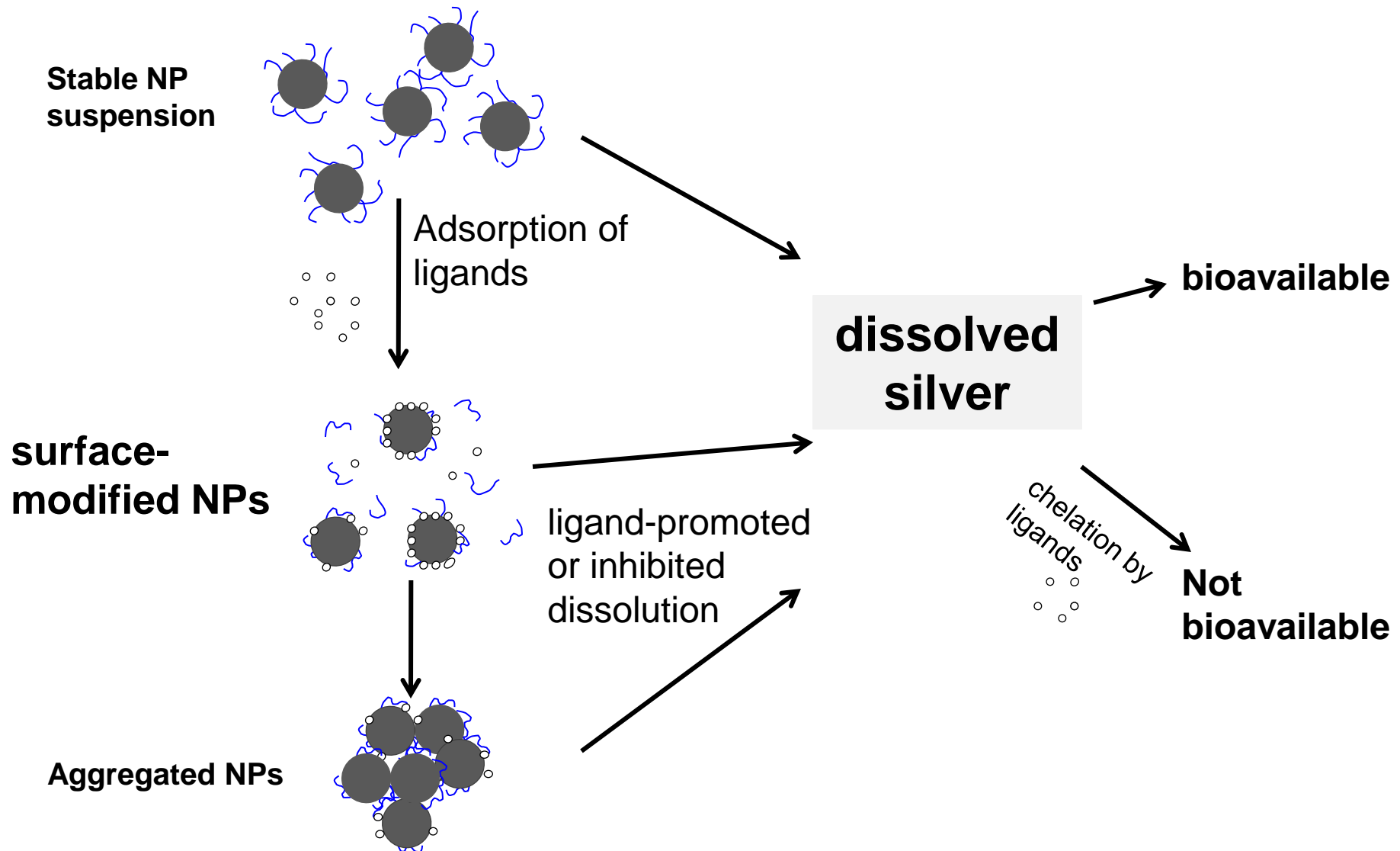
Interactions with nanoparticles:

Macromolecular surfactant

Hydrophilic and hydrophobic moieties

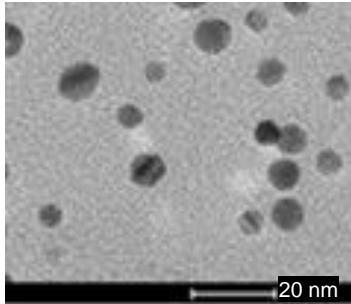
Potential to bind Ag^+ ions

Ag⁰ persistence and bioavailability

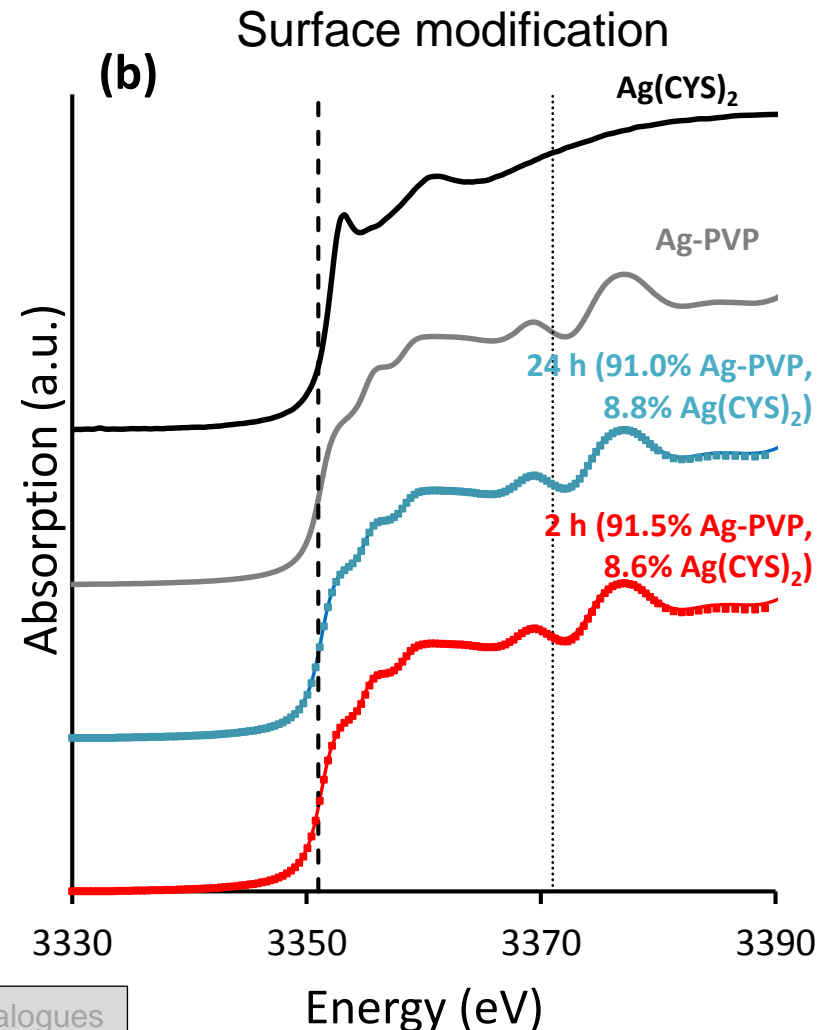
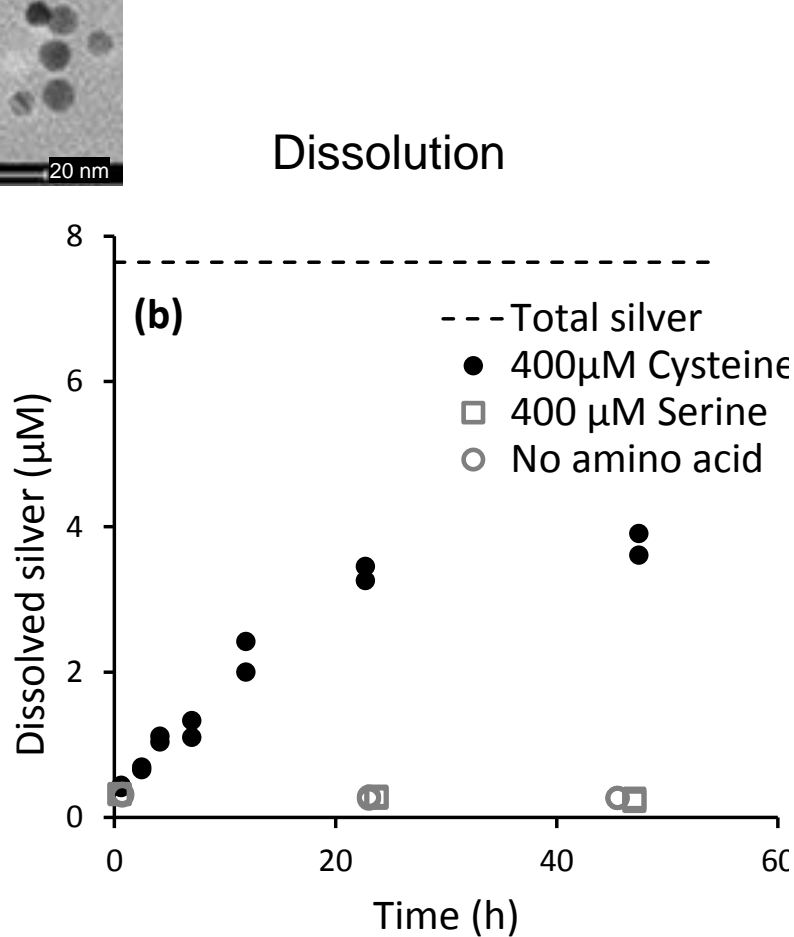


Nanomaterial reactivity in wastewater

PVP-coated Ag nanoparticles

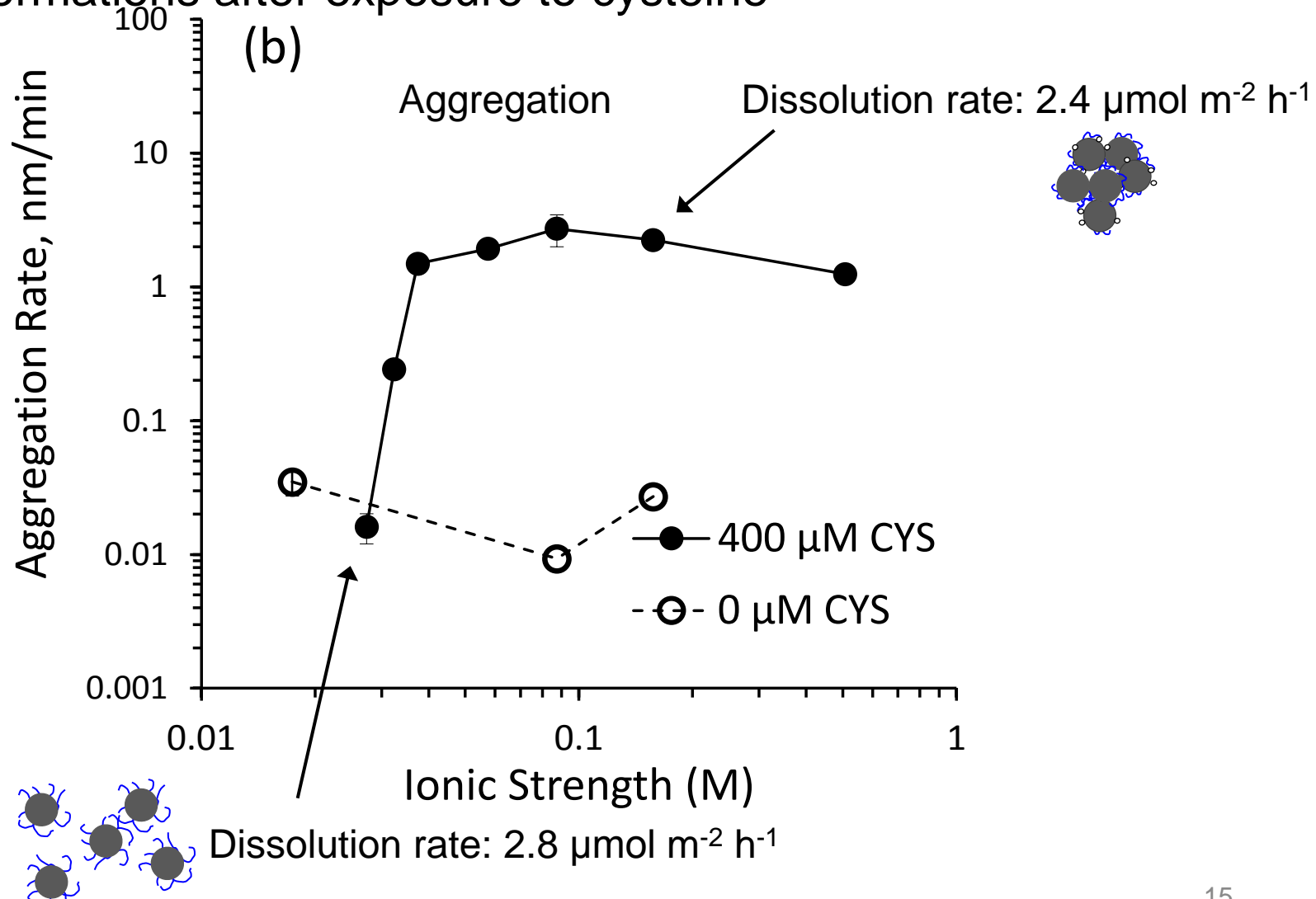


Transformations after exposure to cysteine



Nanomaterial reactivity in wastewater

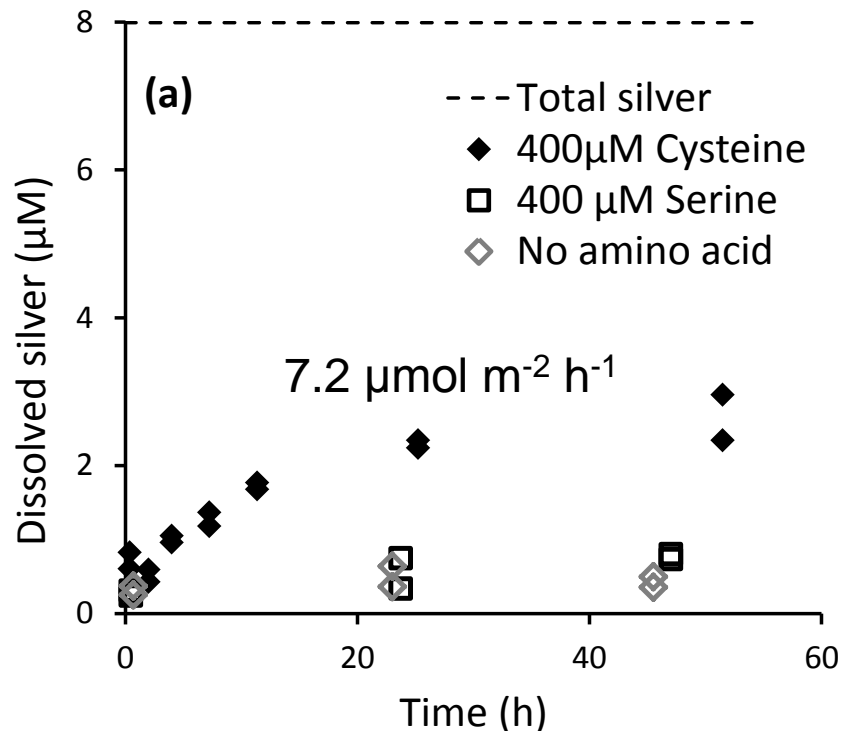
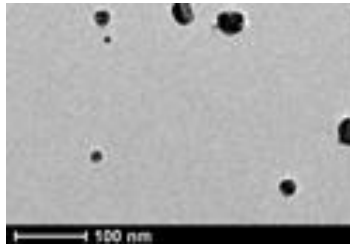
Transformations after exposure to cysteine



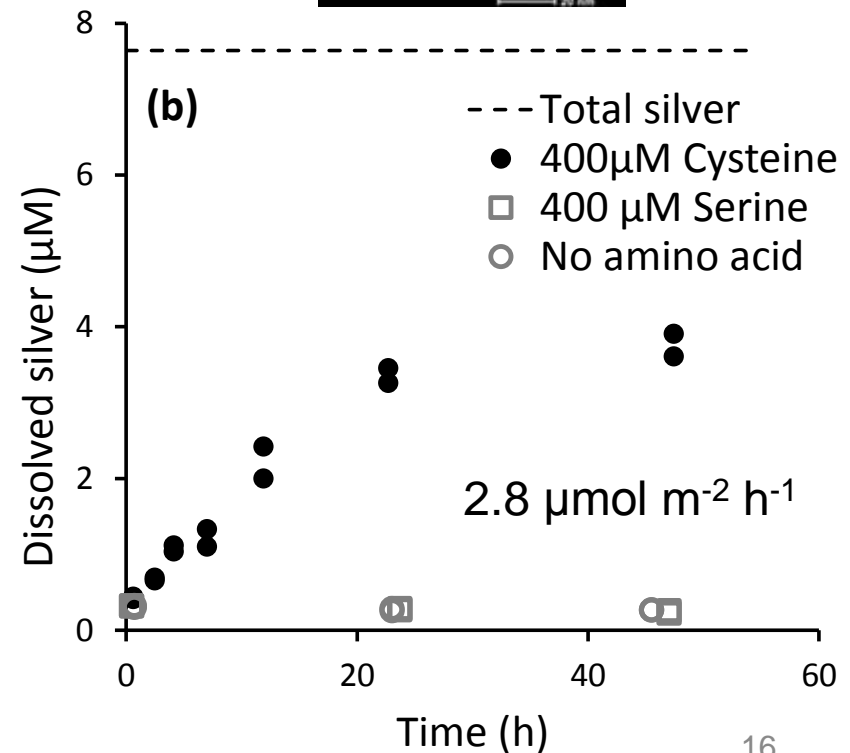
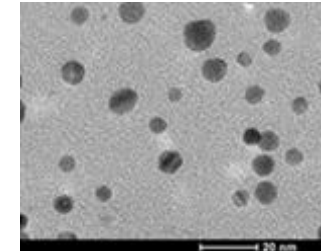
Nanomaterial reactivity in wastewater

Transformations induced by cysteine

Citrate-coated Ag NPs

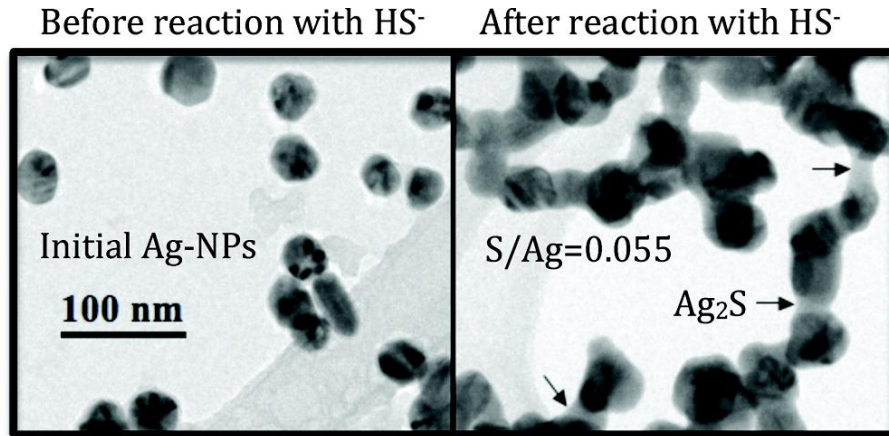


PVP-coated Ag NPs



Nanomaterial reactivity in wastewater

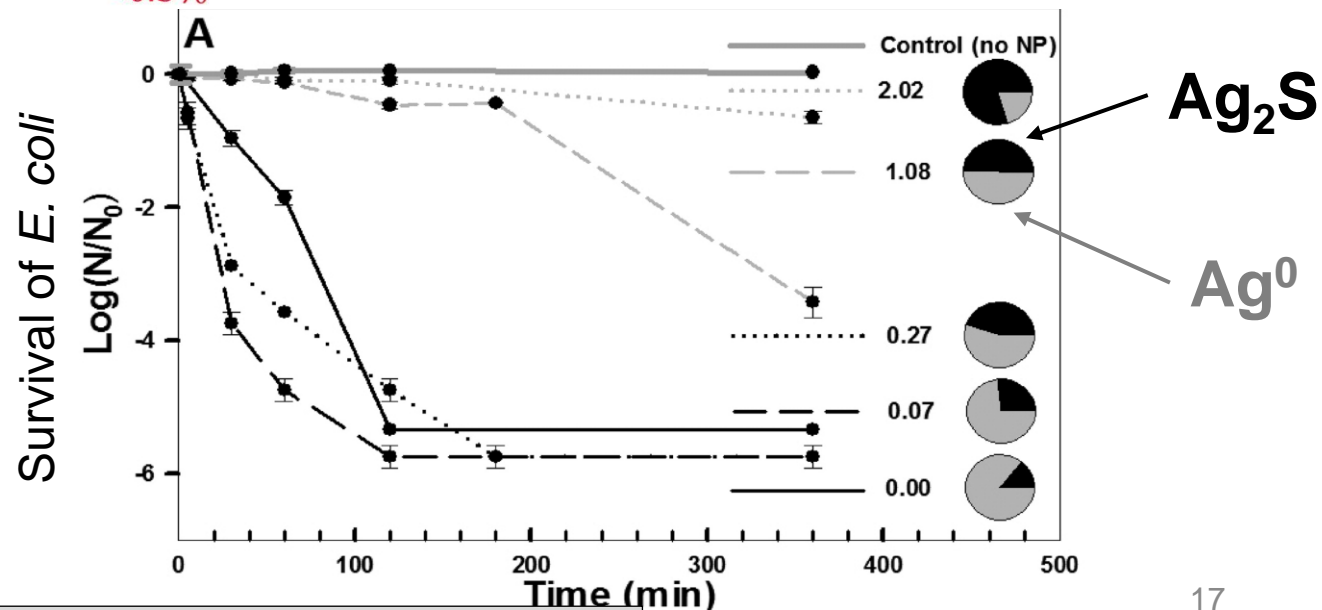
Reaction with sulfide



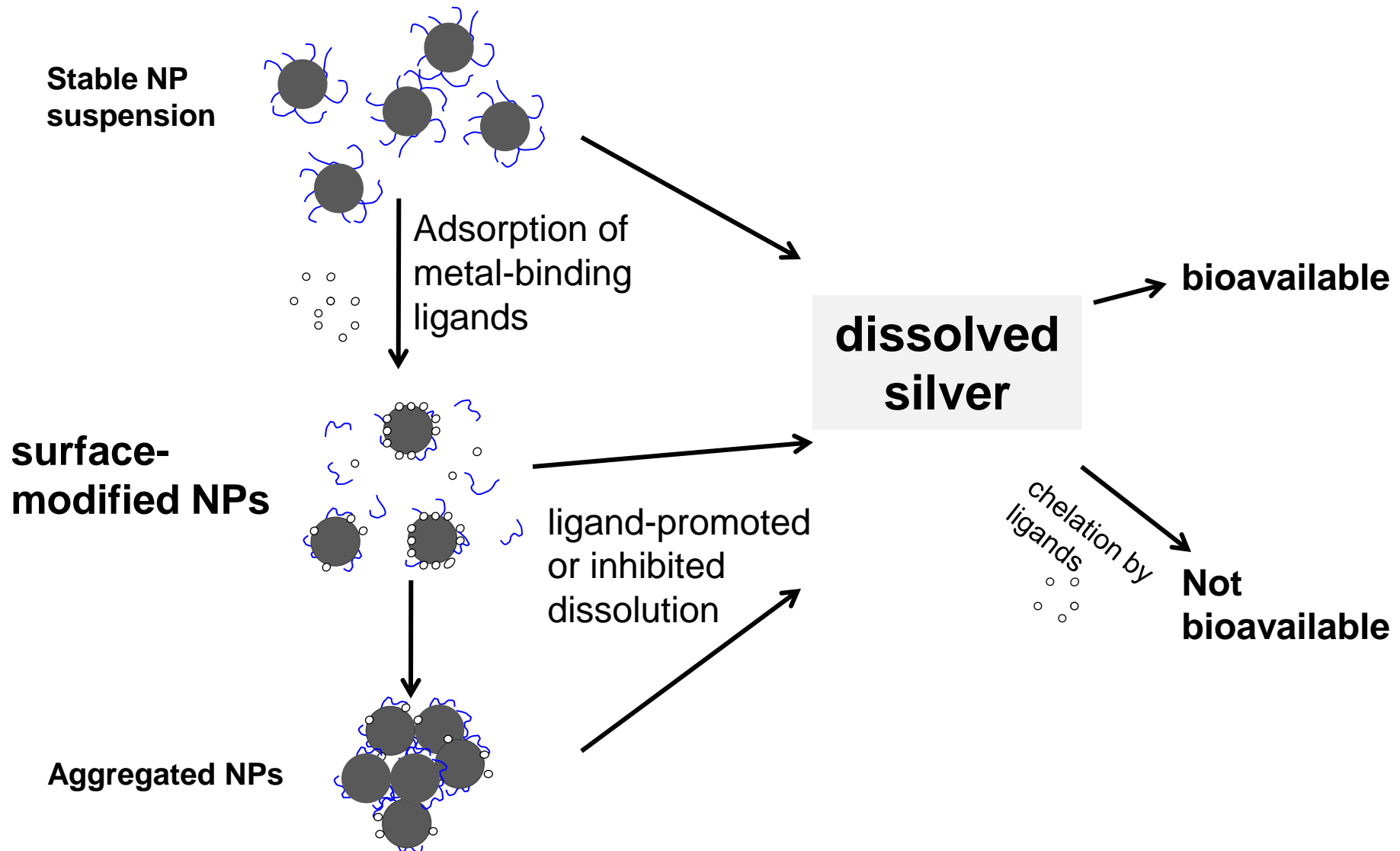
Levard *et al.* 2011
Reinsch *et al.* 2012

Ag⁺ released: ~ 2%

<0.3%

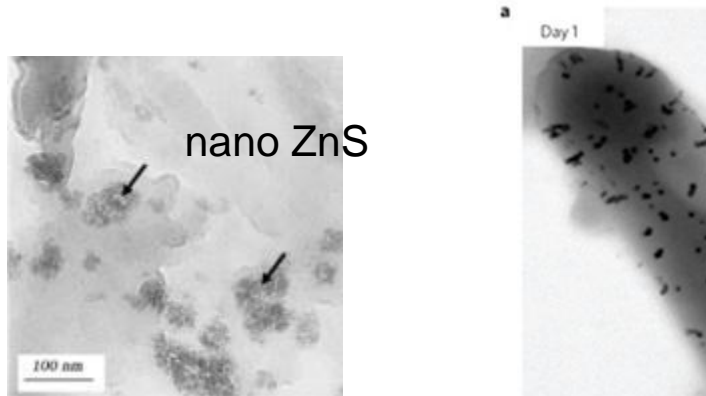


Ag⁰ persistence and bioavailability

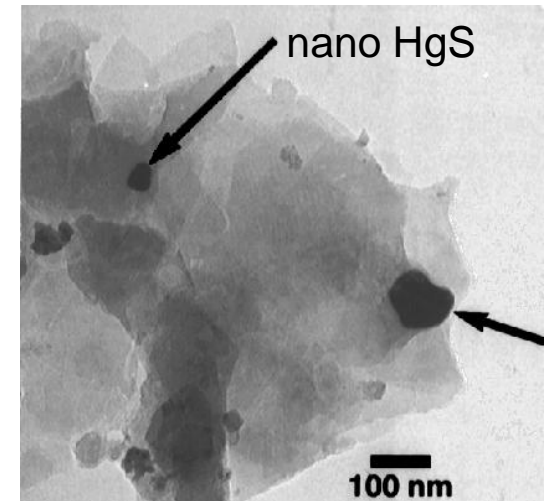


Naturally-Occurring Nanomaterials

Contaminated soil and sediments

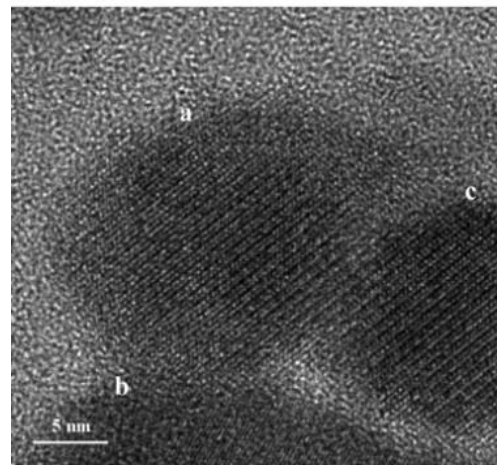


nano-FeS/CuS
on sediment
bacteria



Oak Ridge, TN

Treated Sewage Effluent and Biosolids



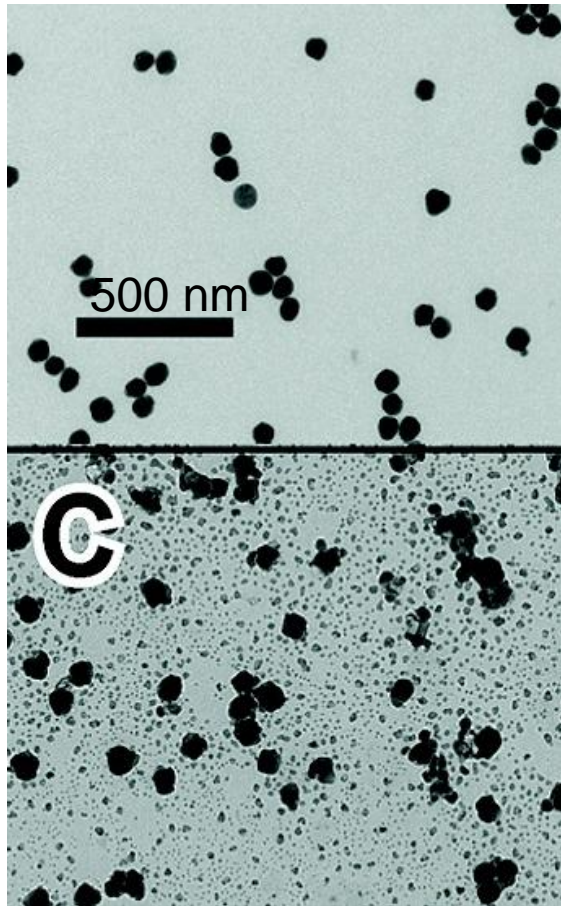
nano Ag_2S

Originally from silver
nanomaterials?

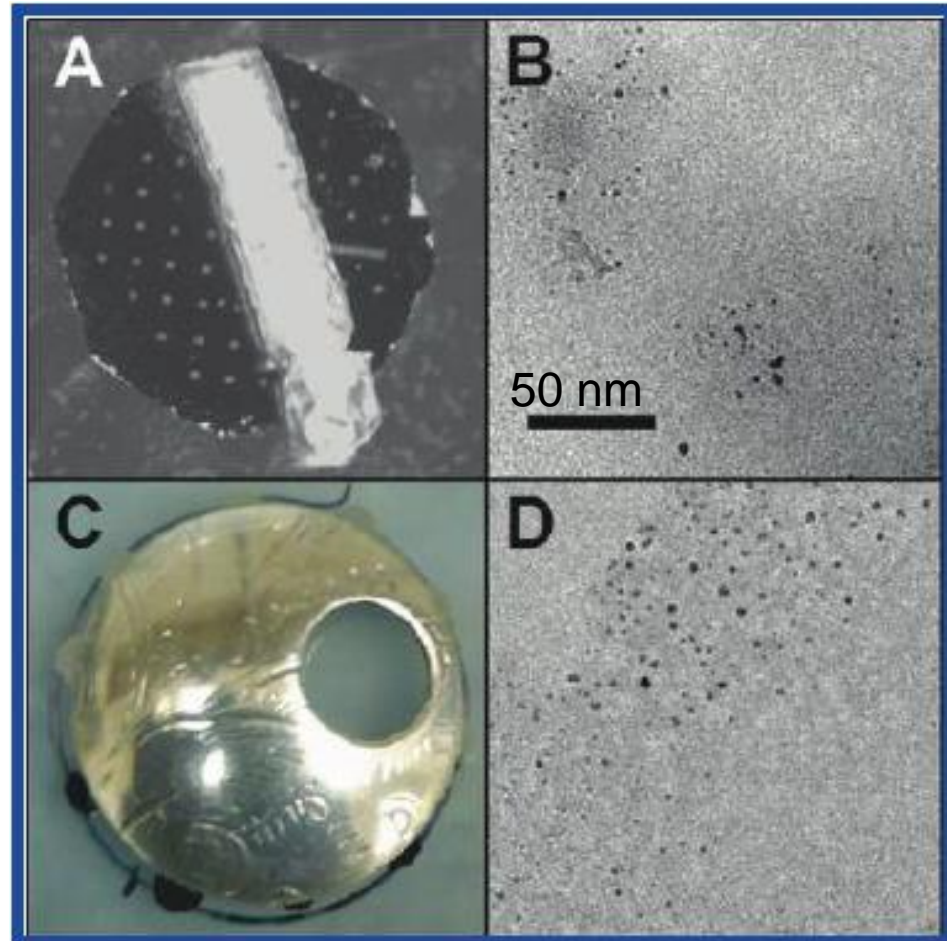
Naturally-Occurring Nanomaterials

New nanoparticles formed from silver objects

Silver nanoparticles



Silver wire



Glover *et al.* ACS Nano (2011)

Silver earring

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Manufactured vs. Naturally-Occurring Nanomaterials

Similarities

Shared core composition:

TiO₂

SiO₂

ZnO

Fullerenes (C₆₀)

Metallic Ag⁰, Au⁰, Cu⁰

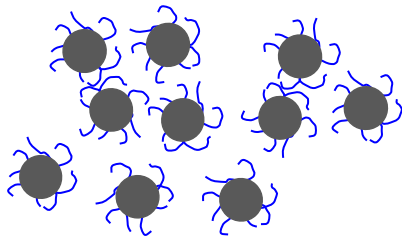
ZnS, CuS, CdS

CeO₂

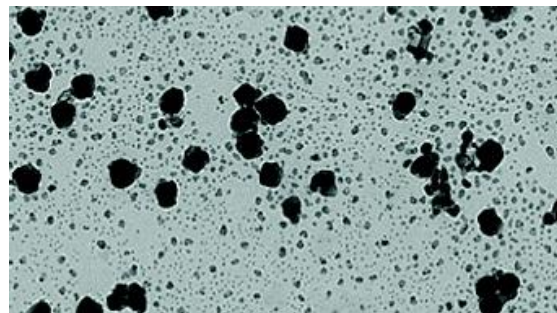
(?) carbon nanotubes

(?) quantum dots (e.g. CdSe, CdTe)

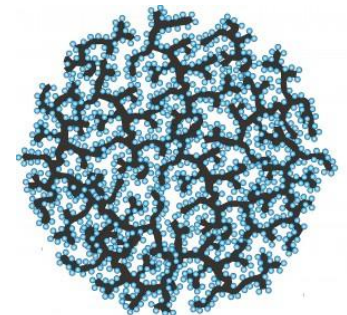
Differences



Surface coatings
(synthetic vs. natural)



Polydispersity & Crystallinity



Composites of
nanomaterials

Summary and Challenges

- Increasing use of nanomaterials → Increase of exposure
- Transformations in the environment
(example: natural organic matter)
Dissolution, Surface Chemistry, Aggregation
- Naturally-occurring nanomaterials:
Can they provide lessons for engineered nanomaterials?

