# **Division of Synthetic Chemistry** - Advanced Inorganic Synthesis -

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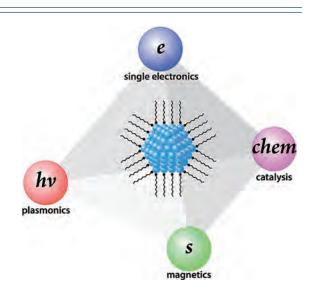
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# **Scope of Research**

We are focusing on the precise synthesis of inorganic nanoparticles by controlling the primary (size, shape, composition, etc.) and secondary (spatial arrangement) structures to tune properties such as electron confinement, carrier oscillation, spin, and catalysis. These high-quality inorganic nanoparticles are applied to both high-performance nanodevices (e.g., single electron transistor, plasmon waveguide, and nanocomposite magnet) and photo-energy conversion materials (e.g., overall water splitting and solar cell).

#### **KEYWORDS**

Inorganic Nanoparticles Nanocomposite Magnet Single Electronics Plasmonics Photocatalysts



## **Recent Selected Publications**

Saruyama M.; Sato R.; Teranishi T., Transformations of Ionic Nanocrystals via Full and Partial Ion Exchange Reactions, Acc. Chem. Res., 54, 765-775 (2021).

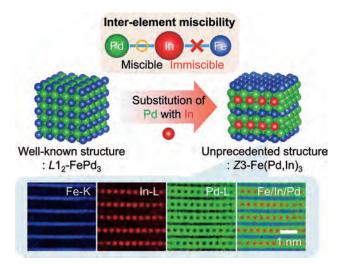
Li Z.; Saruyama M.; Asaka T.; Tatetsu Y.; Teranishi T., Determinants of Crystal Structure Transformation of Ionic Nanocrystals in Cation Exchange Reactions, Science, 373, 332-337 (2021).

#### Inter-Element Miscibility Driven Stabilization of Ordered Pseudo-Binary Alloy

The crystal structure is a crucial factor for determining the physical and chemical properties, which indicates that an exploration of new-type crystal structures can give us a chance for the development of well-known properties or the discovery of new functions. An infinite number of crystal structures in a multicomponent alloy with a specific atomic ratio can be geometrically possible, although only thermodynamically-stable phases can be formed. For instance, in the case of the FePd<sub>3</sub> alloy system, only  $L1_2$ (Cu<sub>3</sub>Au-type) phase and A1 (fcc-type solid-solution) phase have been experimentally obtained. Therefore, a synthetic strategy of stabilizing new-type crystal structures is deserved. Here, we experimentally showed the first example of a layer-structured pseudo-binary alloy, theoretically called Z3-FePd<sub>3</sub>. This Z3 structure is achieved by adding a small amount of In, which is immiscible with Fe but miscible with Pd and consists of an alternate  $L1_0$  (CuAu-type)-PdFePd trilayer and Pd-In ordered alloy monolayer along the c axis (Figure 1). First-principles calculations strongly support that the specific inter-element miscibility of In atoms stabilizes the thermodynamically-unstable Z3-FePd<sub>3</sub> phase without significantly changing the original density of states of the Z3-FePd<sub>3</sub> phase. Our results demonstrate that the specific inter-element miscibility can switch stable structures and manipulate the material nature with a slight composition change.

# **Revealing the Determinants of Crystal Structure Transformation of Ionic Nanocrystals in Cation Exchange Reactions**

Ionic NCs have been widely utilized as photo-functional materials, whose properties are determined by the constituent elements and crystal structures. Cation exchange reaction can easily modulate the composition of ionic NCs to prepare a variety of functional nanomaterials. However, it has been believed that cation exchange hardly changes the crystal structure of parent ionic NCs. We applied the cation exchange reaction to hexagonal-prism-shaped  $Cu_{1.8}S$  NCs with 16 kinds of height and width using  $Co^{2+}$ . It was discovered that crystal system of resultant  $CoS_x$ NCs depends on the height of parent Cu<sub>1.8</sub>S NCs, in which the original hexagonal-close-packed (hcp) crystal system of Cu<sub>1.8</sub>S NCs with thicker or thinner than about 10 nm yielded cubic-close-packed (ccp) Co<sub>9</sub>S<sub>8</sub> or hcp CoS NCs, respectively (Figure 2). The ab-initio calculation revealed the surface energy of side surface is larger than that of basal plane in hcp CoS, suggesting unfavored large side surface area of thick hcp CoS NCs induced the phase transformation into more stable ccp Co<sub>9</sub>S<sub>8</sub>. Other incoming cations  $(Mn^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, and Ni^{2+})$  modulated the phase transformation trend in cation exchange reactions by various means, such as volume, thermodynamic stability, and coordination environment. This discovery could lead to the phase control of ionic NCs under mild condition, which enables the synthesis of unexplored functional ionic nanomaterials.



**Figure 1.** (a) Model of the phase change from well-known  $(L1_2)$  to unprecedented (Z3) structures driven by the specific inter-element miscibility of In atoms and atomic-resolution energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX) elemental maps of Z3-type Fe(Pd,In)<sub>3</sub>.

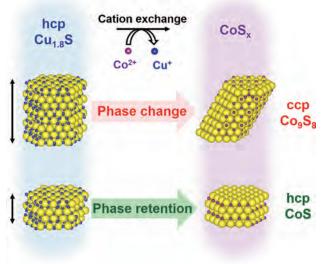


Figure 2. Height of hexagonal-prism  $Cu_{1.8}S$  NCs determines the crystal structure of products after  $Co^{2+}$  cation exchange.