

Kiran Vaddi

Brenden  
Pelkie

Huat Thart-  
Chiang

Karen Li

Maria  
Politi



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

# Integrating ML and AI with ‘Open’ Laboratory Automation



Prof. Lilo D. Pozzo  
Chemical Engineering  
University of Washington



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science



# Introduction

- Born in Argentina, grew up in Puerto Rico
- ChemE Degrees (UPR and CMU)
- Joined UW in 2007 (16 years at UW)
- **Research Areas:** Soft Matter (Polymers, Nanomaterials, Colloids), Neutron and X-ray Scattering, Self-Driving Laboratories
- **Teaching:** Intermolecular and Surface Forces, Colloids and Nanomaterials, Polymer Physics and Thermodynamics, Transport phenomena
- **Hobbies:** Cooking (eating), Gardening, Running

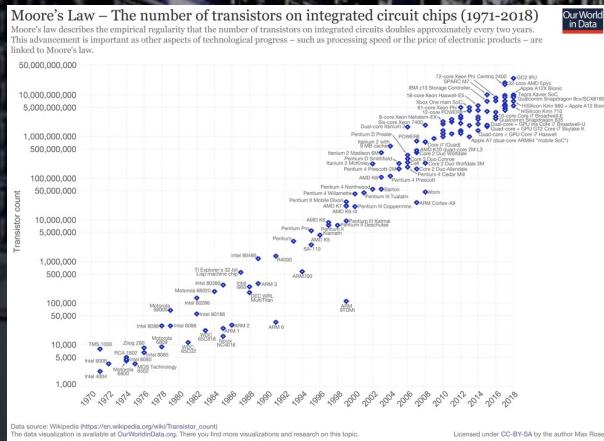


# Modern-Day Materials Challenges

- Clean energy
  - Energy conversion
  - Energy storage
- Clean water
- Disease management
- Sustainability
  - Food
  - Polymers
  - Infrastructure

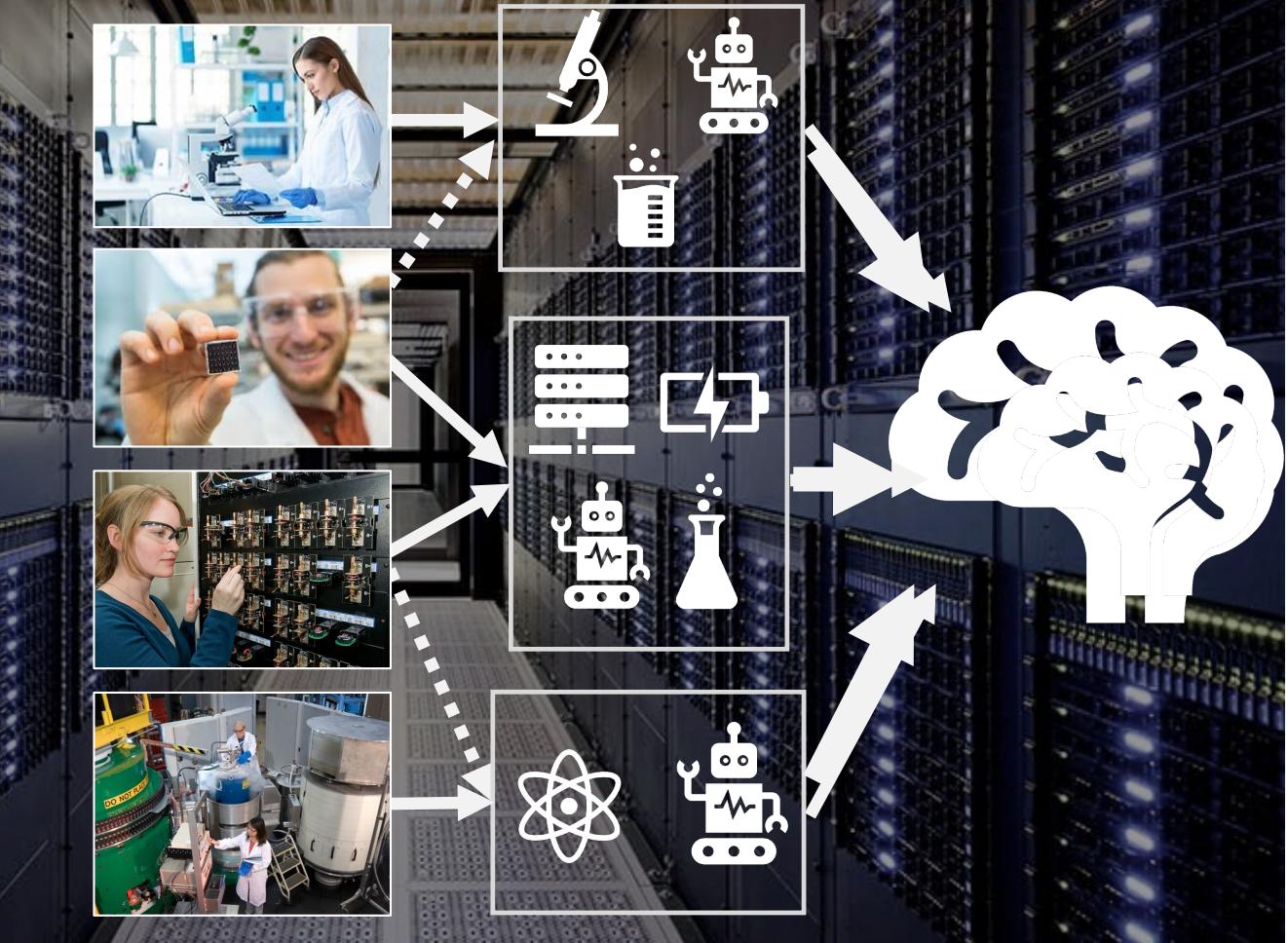


# Can we achieve Moore's law for Materials Design?

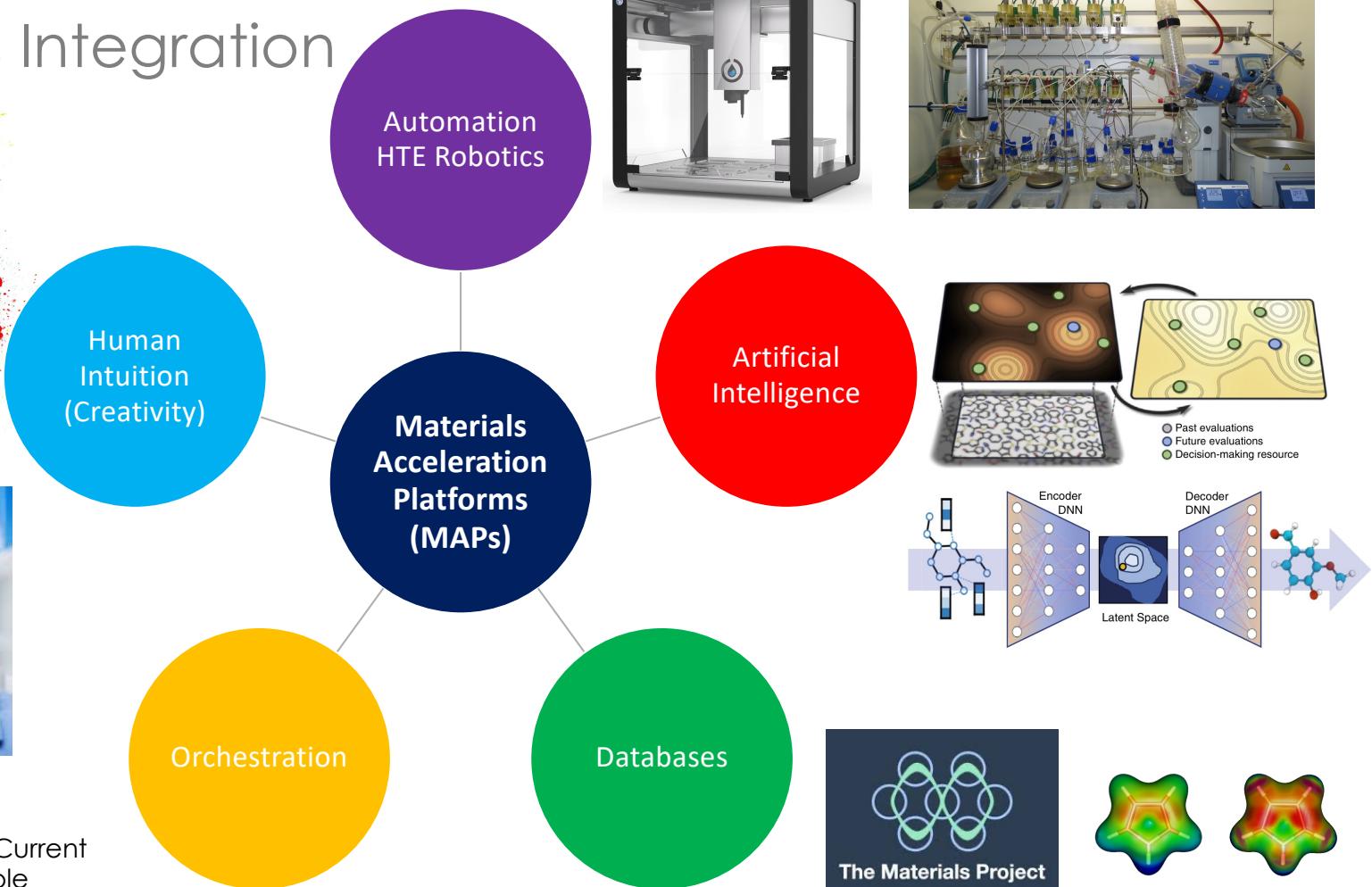
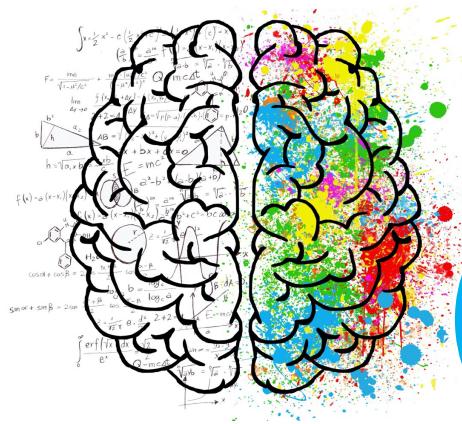


It takes 10-20 years to  
fully develop new  
materials

Way too slow...



# MAP: Systems Integration

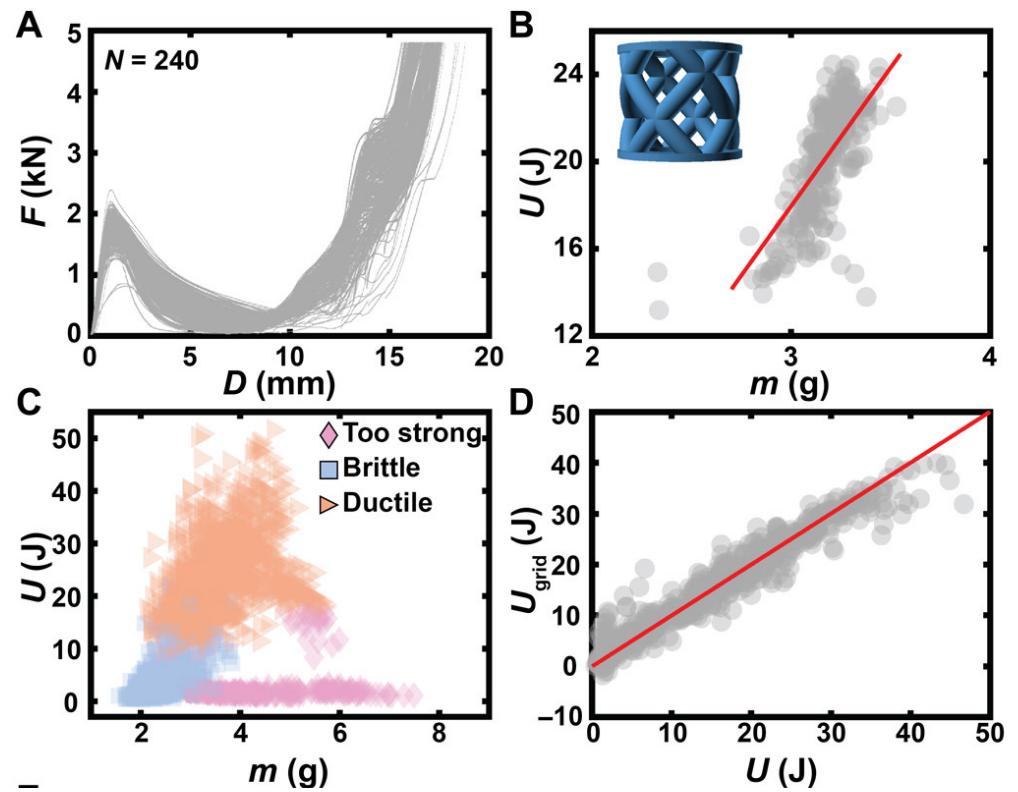


Martha M. Flores-Leonar, et.al. Current Opinion in Green and Sustainable Chemistry, 100370, (2020)

# Recent Examples and Implementations

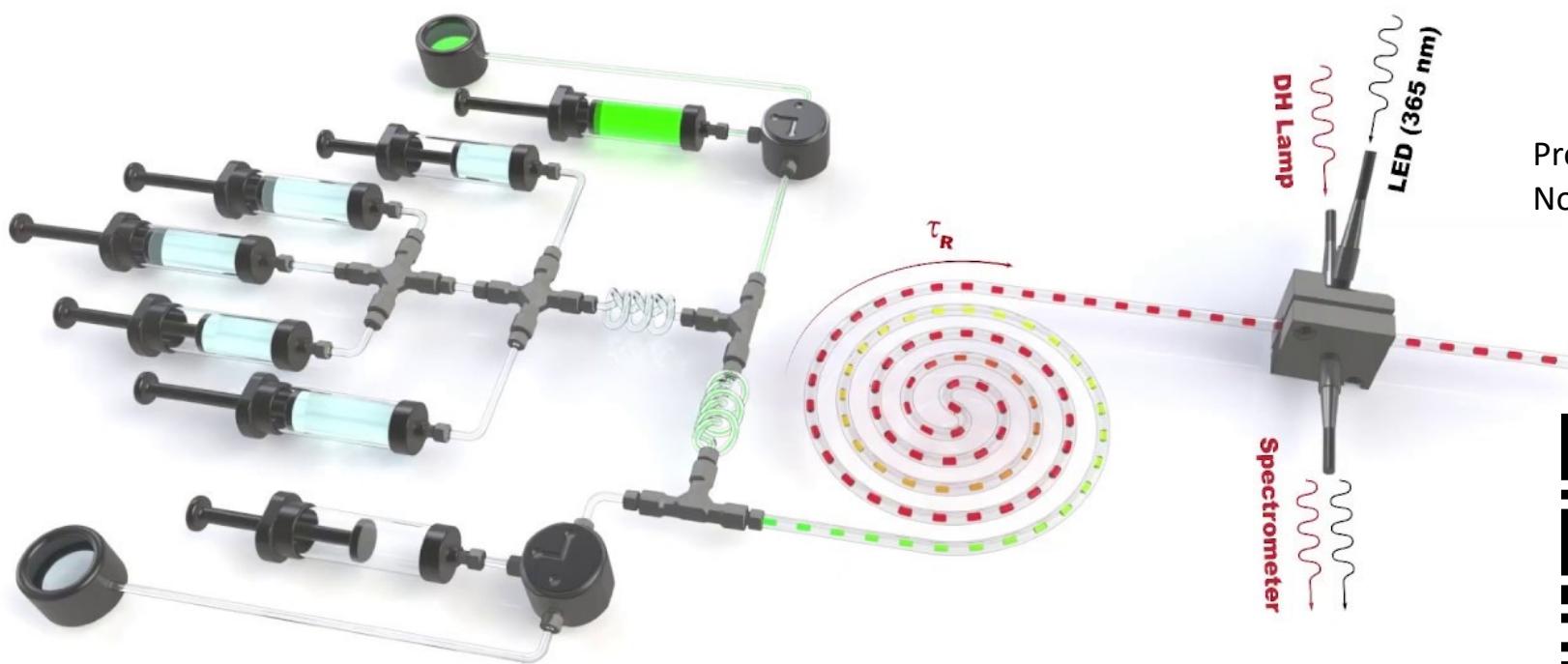


Prof. Keith Brown, Boston University



# Recent Examples and Implementations

## Experimental Setup

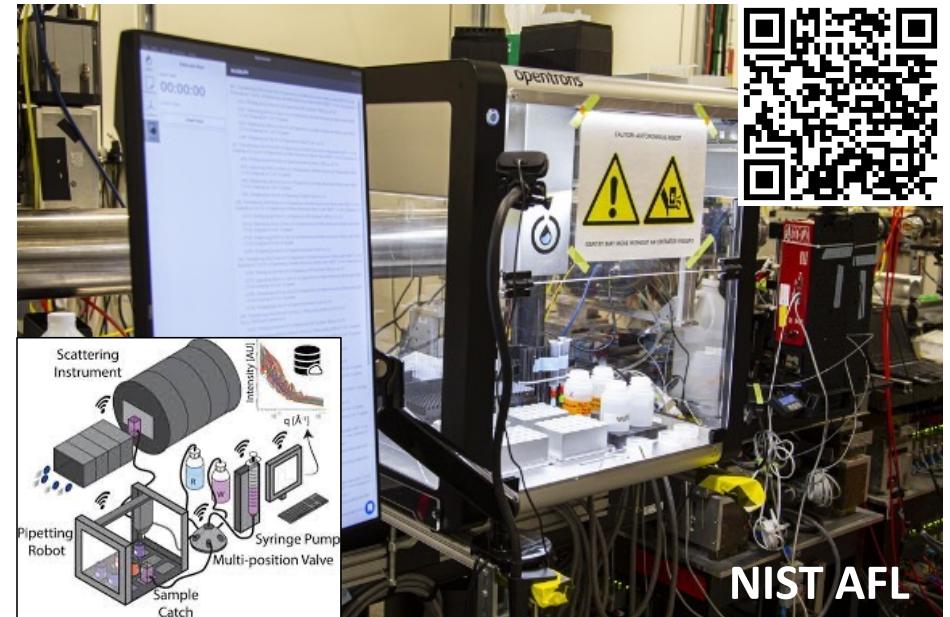
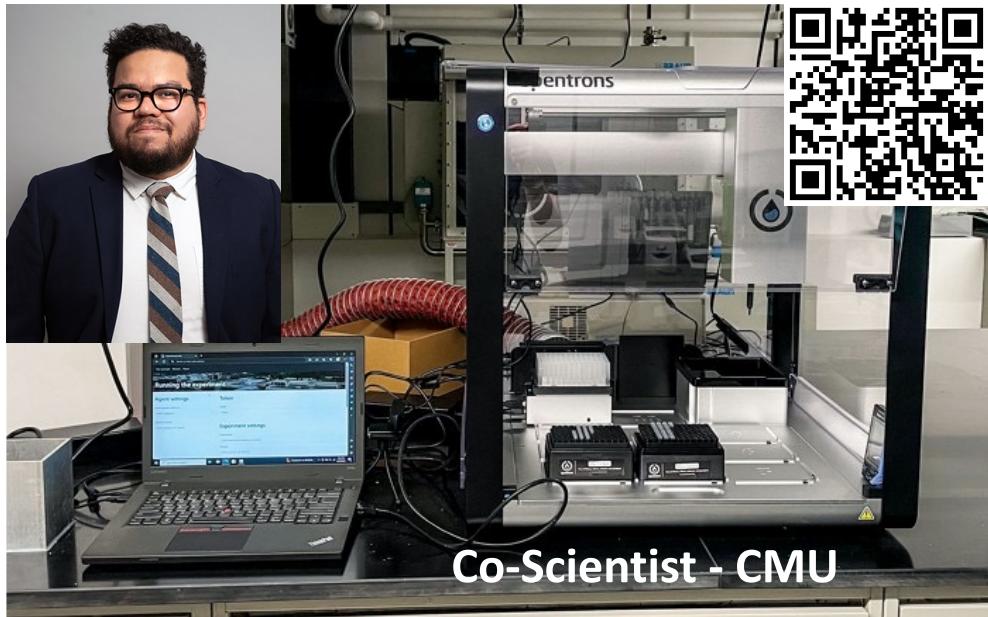


Prof. Milad Abolhasani  
North Carolina State U.

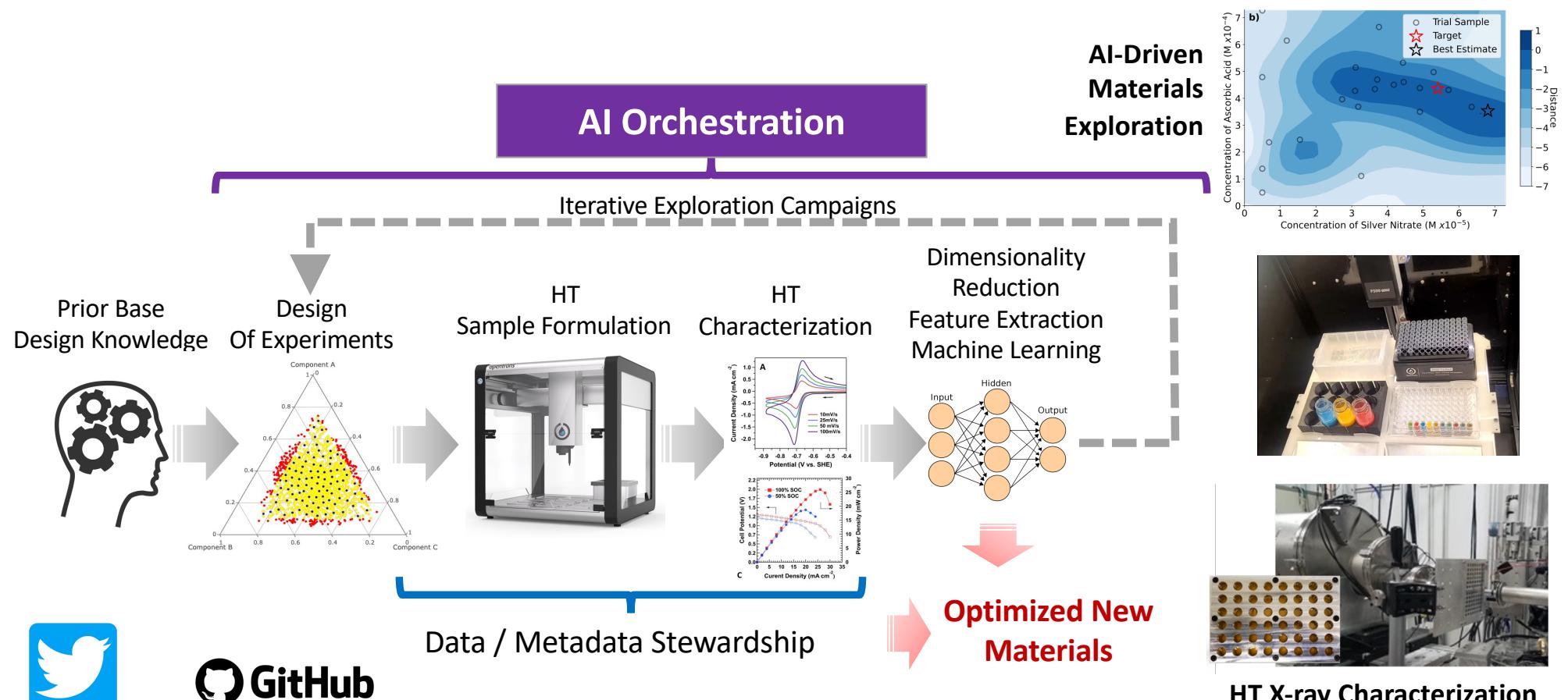


# OT2: A Success Story in Accessible SDL Platforms

- Low Cost Facilitates Adoption
- Open & Accessible (Python API)
- Adopted Standards (SLAS)
- Limited Capability (Move Liquids)
- Single Tool (Pipettes)
- Increasing Costs



# AI-Driven High-Throughput Materials Research

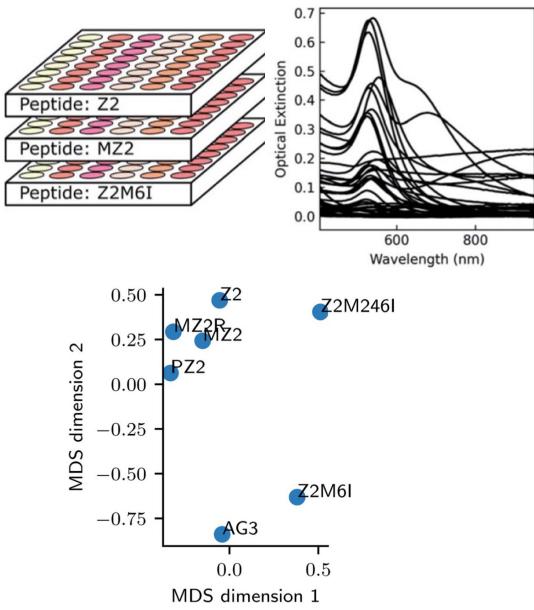


@lilopozzo

Pozzo-Research-Group

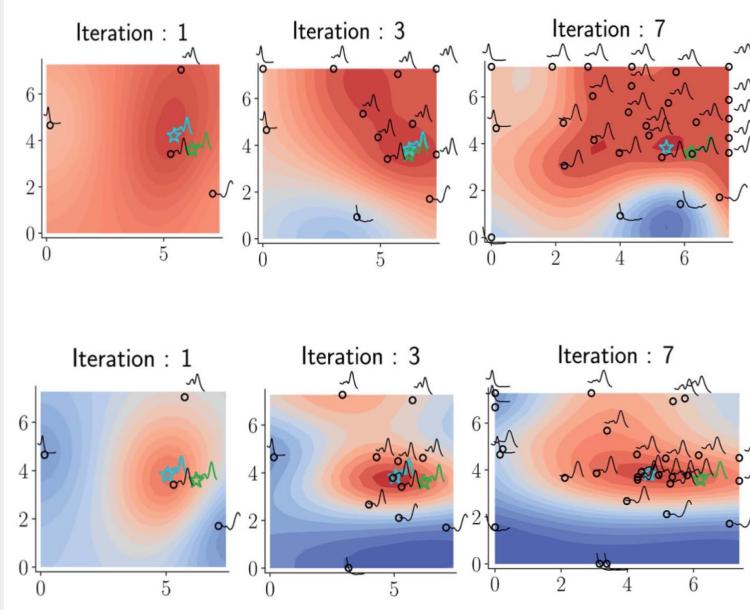
# Examples of Materials Research Objectives

## Multi-dimensional Correlations



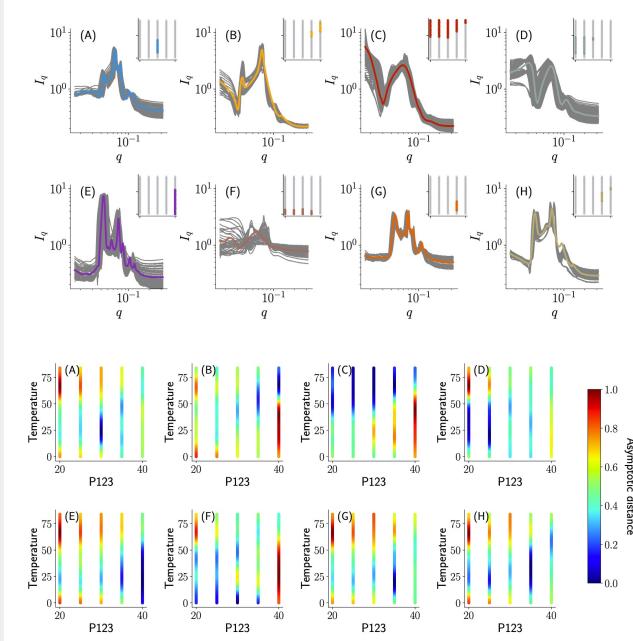
Lachowski, Kacper J., et al. "Multivariate analysis of peptide-driven nucleation and growth of Au nanoparticles." *Digital Discovery* (2022).

## Retrosynthesis



Vaddi, Kiran, Huat Thart Chiang, and Lilo D. Pozzo. "Autonomous retrosynthesis of gold nanoparticles via spectral shape matching." *Digital Discovery* (2022).

## Phase Mapping



K. Vaddi, K. Li, L. Pozzo, "Metric geometry tools for automatic structure phase map generation", *Digital Discovery*, 2, 1471-1483, (2023)

## Open Questions

- How to know if target is ‘synthesizable’?
- Is the design space large enough? Too large?
- How to integrate established physical knowledge in AI?
- Synergistically use experiments and simulations?
- Can we discover new physical concepts?

# Broadening Access

## Democratizing MAPs and SDLs

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# How will the lab of the future look like?

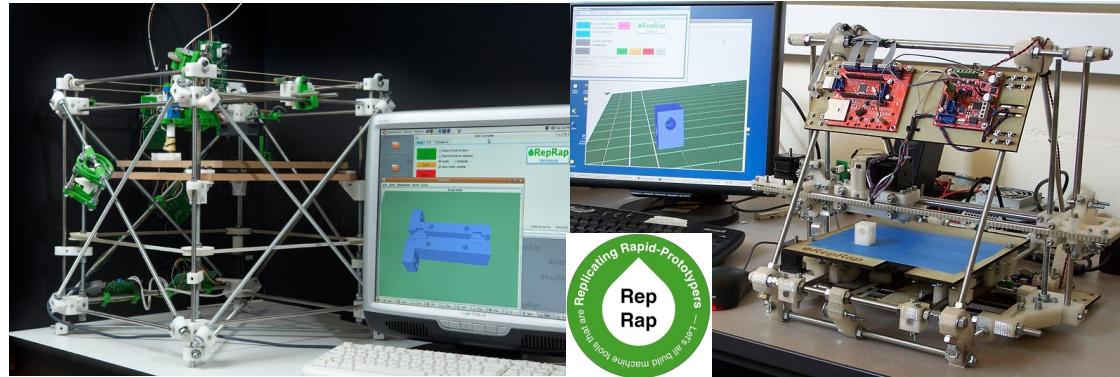
Prof. Andy Cooper



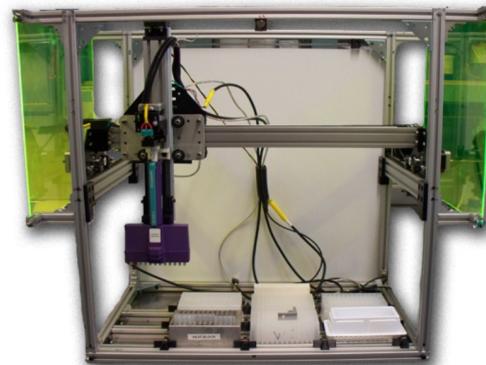
- 1. Who can access these tools?**
- 2. Who is trained to use them? ... Who develops them?**
- 3. Will they be broadly adopted?**
- 4. Will SDLs revolutionize every field?**
- 5. Who will they serve?**

# Accelerating Development and Access: Open Hardware

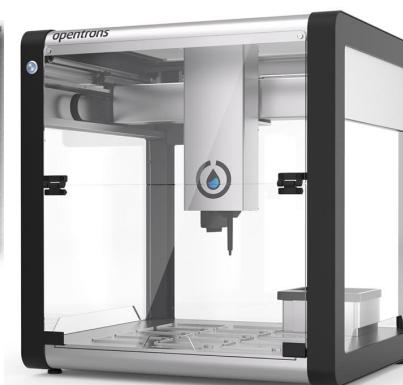
Open-Source RepRap Project (from 2005)



Commercial



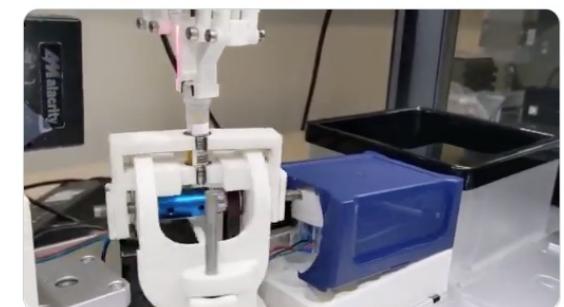
OT-One (~2014)



OT2 (~2018)



Theo Sanderson @theosanderson · Jul 24  
Tube checkout 2: open source tube handling / scanning / decapping for ~\$100. Coming soon to an OT2 near you!

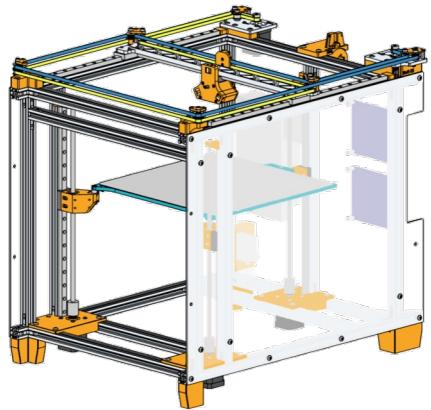


14

72

379

# Jubilee: an open-source, multi-tool motion platform



- Automatic tool change capabilities
- Stemming from the Maker Movement
- Open-hardware design- reconfigurable
- Affordable : ~\$2000 USD (motion platform)



Prof. Nadya Peek  
Machine Agency

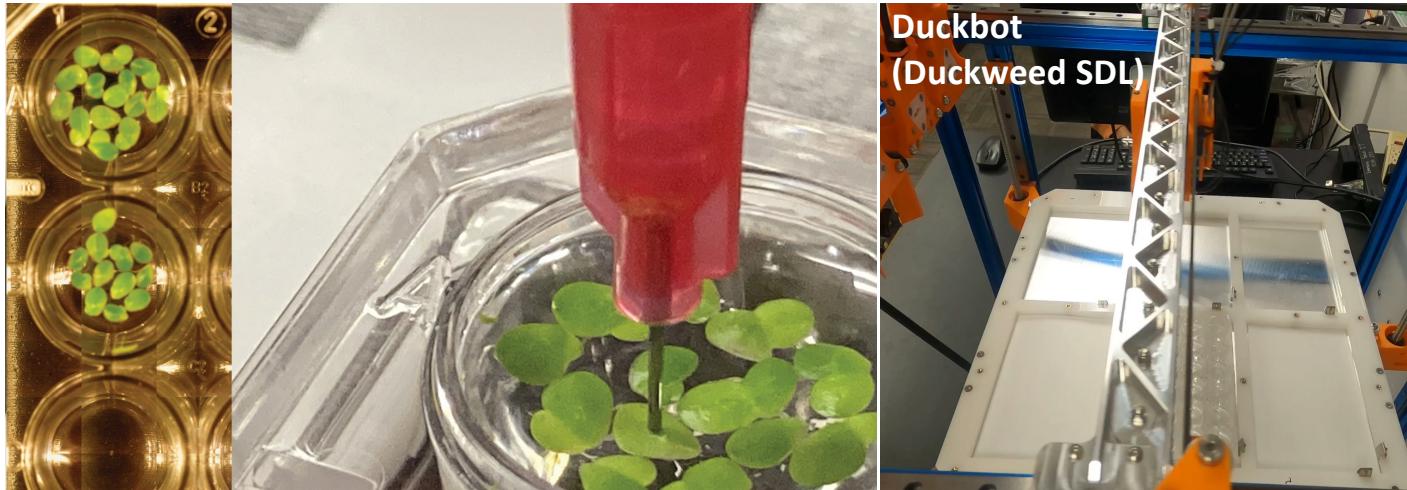


- Accessible
- Allows creation of automation ecosystems
- Enables broader tool development/libraries

# Opportunities for Open-Hardware in Lab Automation

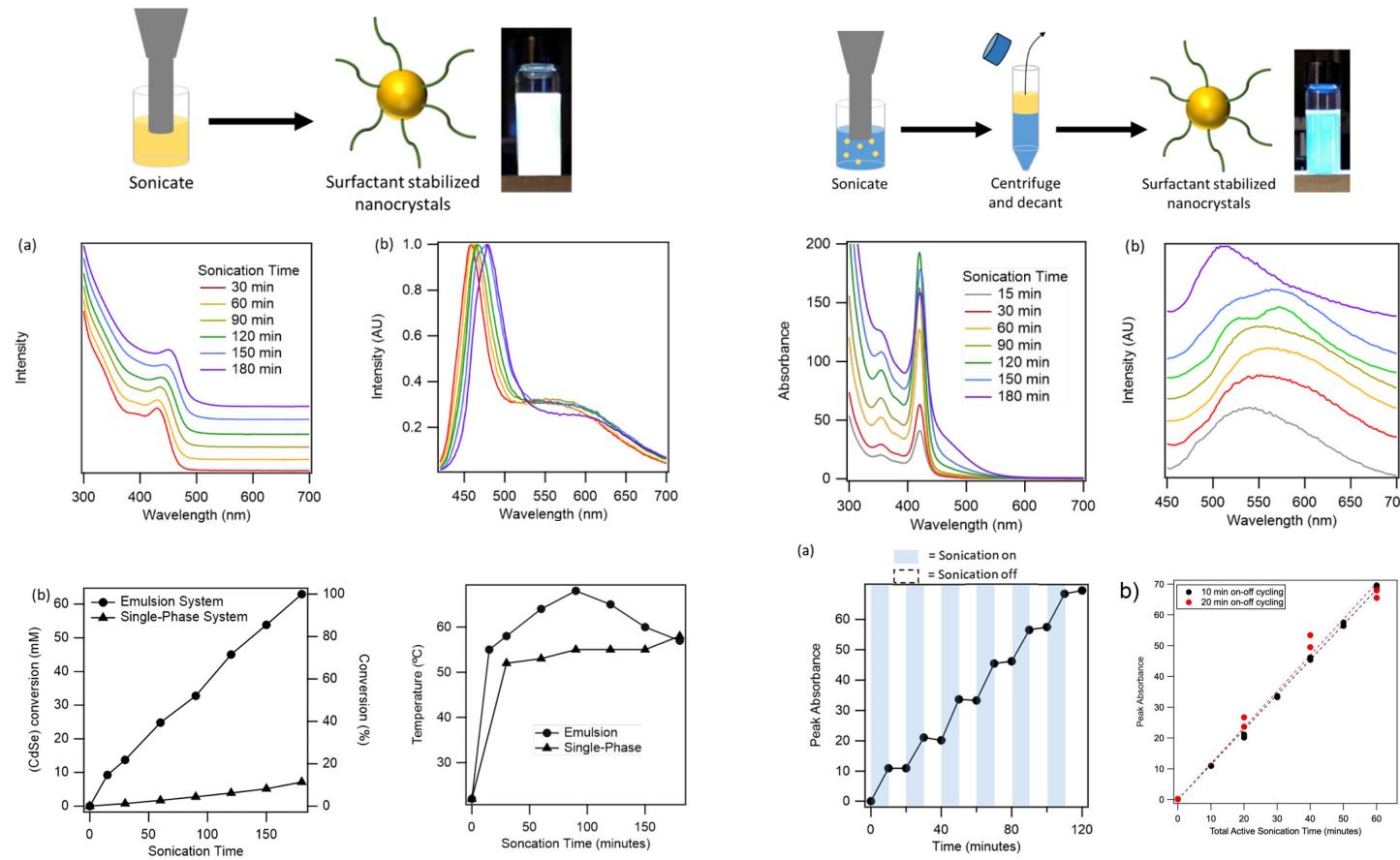


Jubilee for Science



The Duckbot: A system for automated imaging and manipulation of duckweed B Subbaraman, O de Lange, S Ferguson, N Peek. Plos one 19 (1), e0296717 (2024)

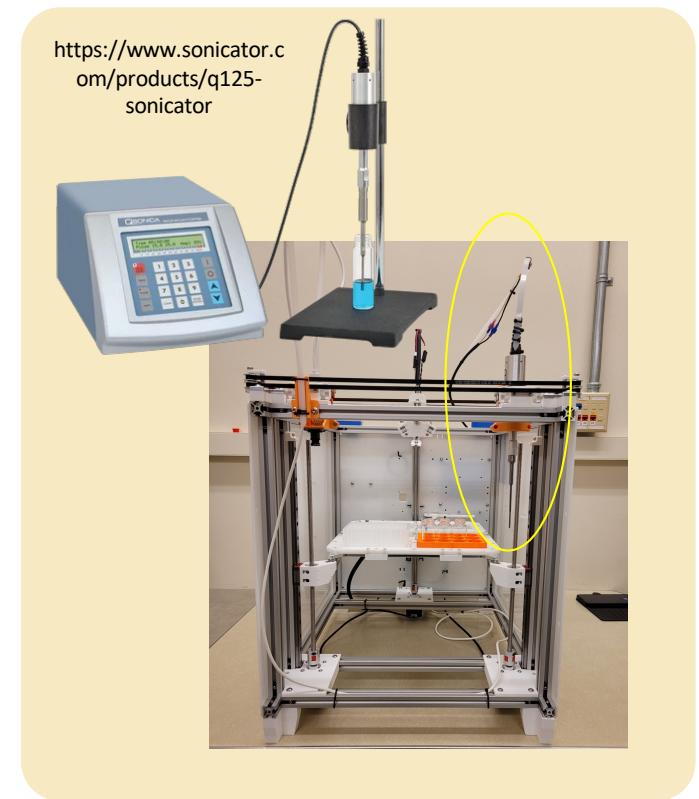
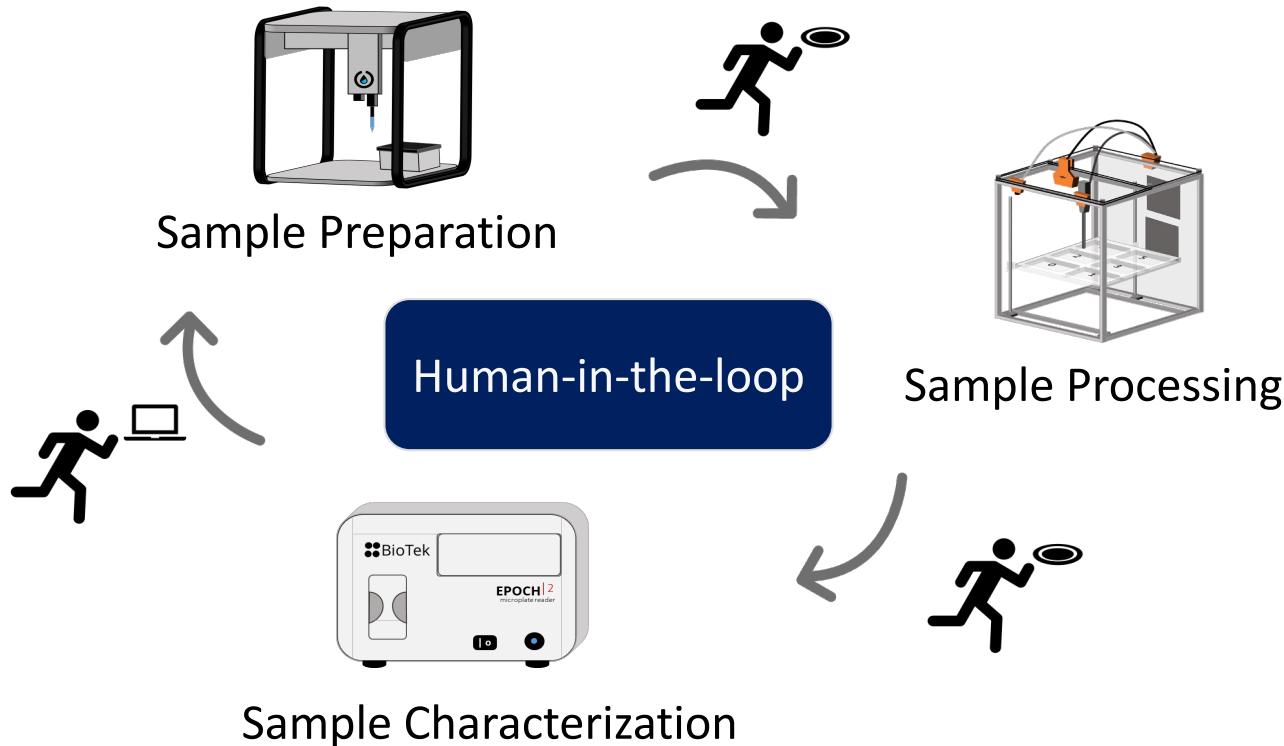
# Sonochemical Synthesis of CdSe Qdots and Magic-Sized Clusters



Kastilani, R.; Bishop, B. P.; Holmberg, V. C.; Pozzo, L. D., *Langmuir*, 2019, 35, 16583-16592.



# Jubilee for science – sonochemical CdSe QDs

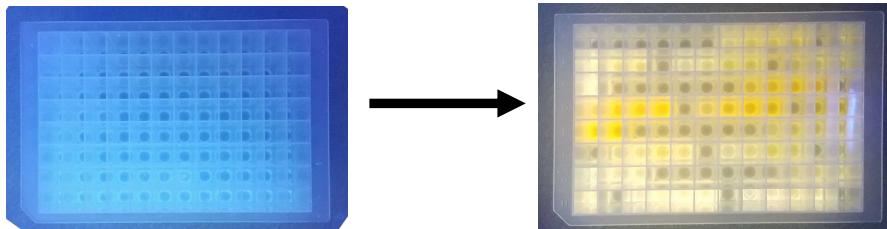


“A high-throughput workflow for the synthesis of CdSe nanocrystals using a sonochemical materials acceleration platform” M. Politi<sup>2</sup>, F. Baum, K. Vaddi, E. Antonio<sup>1</sup>, J. Vasquez, B. P Bishop, N. Peek, V. C Holmberg, LD Pozzo, Digital Discovery, 2, 1042-1057 (2023)

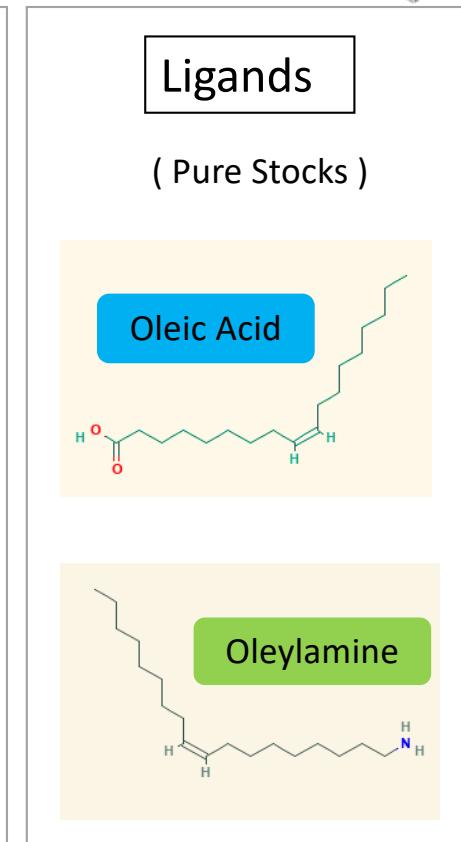
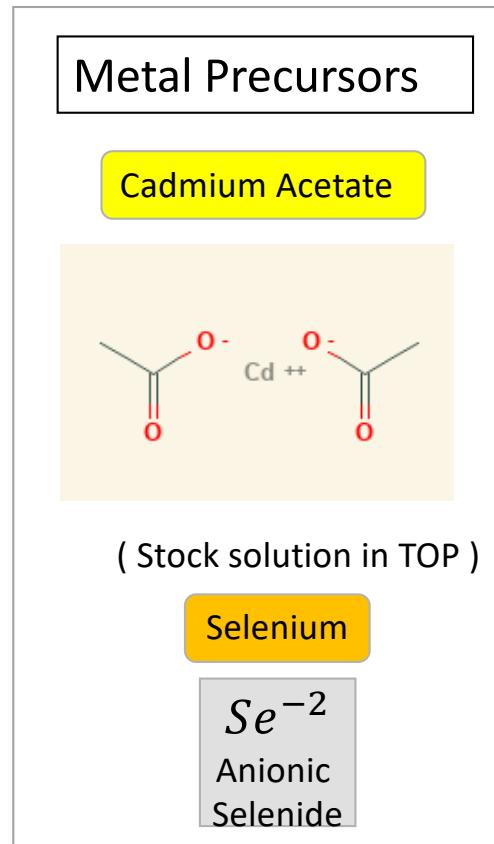
# Preliminary Campaign for Colloidal CdSe



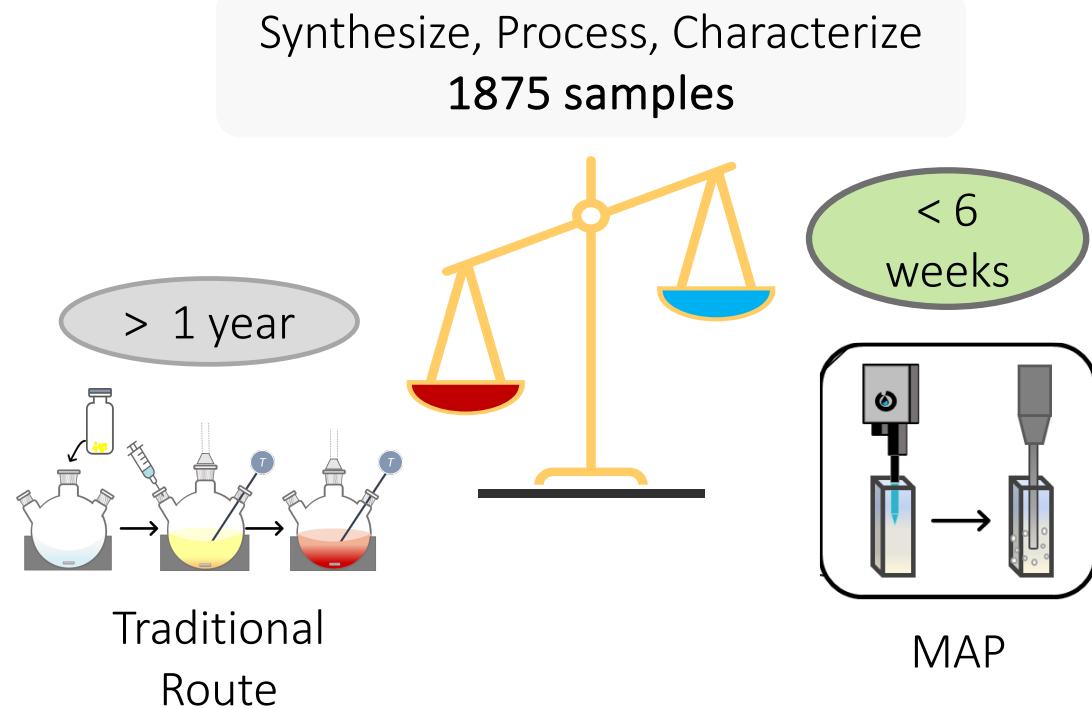
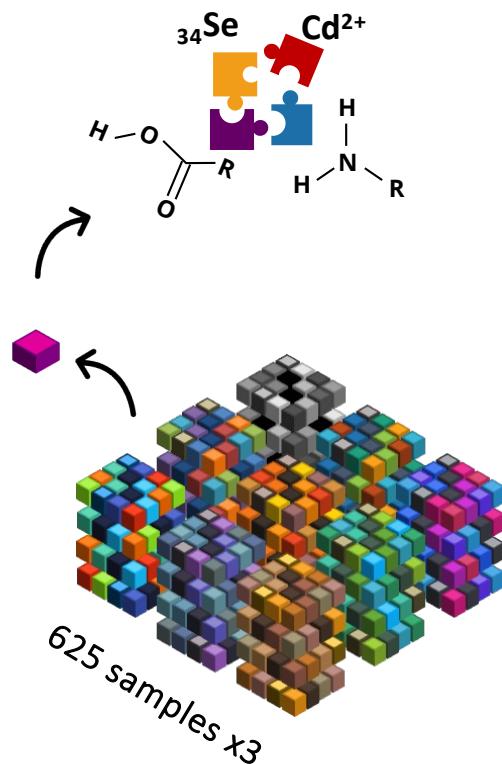
4 Different Components  
5 Concentrations  
**625 samples (triplicate)**  
0.5 mL total volume/sample  
5 minutes of (active) Sonication



In Octadecene



# Experimental space explored in less than 6 weeks

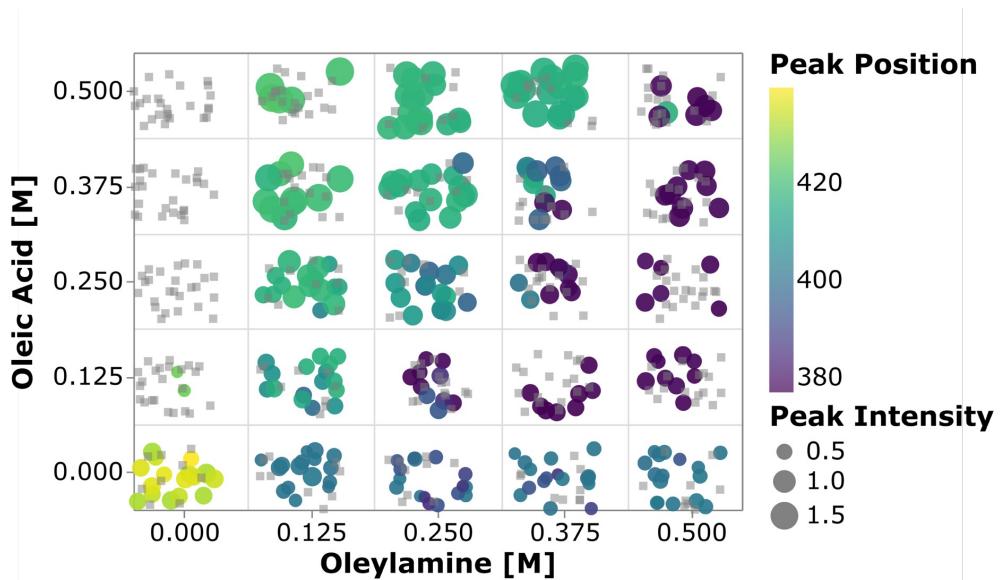
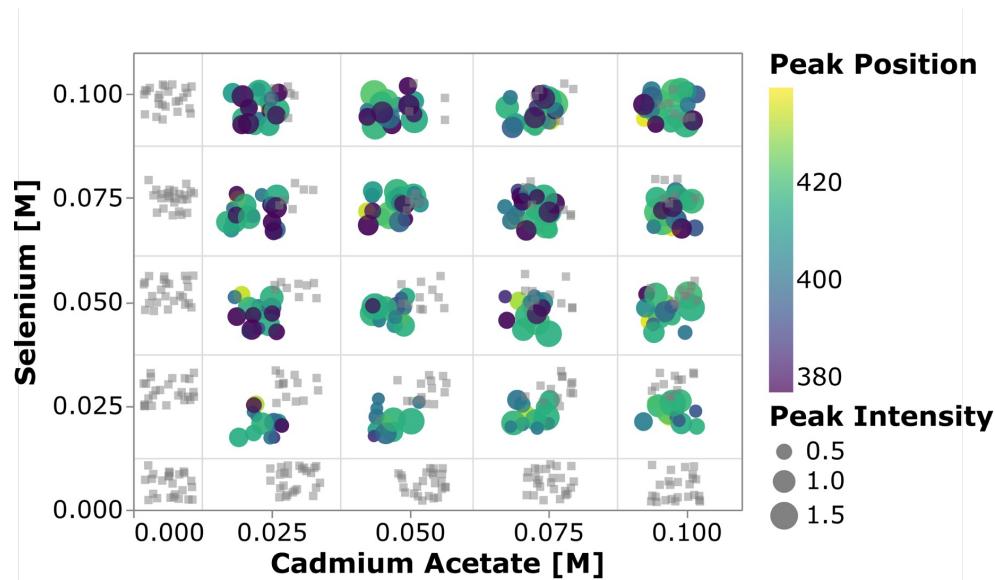


"A high-throughput workflow for the synthesis of CdSe nanocrystals using a sonochemical materials acceleration platform" M. Politi<sup>2</sup>, F. Baum, K. Vaddi, E. Antonio<sup>1</sup>, J. Vasquez, B. P Bishop, N. Peek, V. C Holmberg, LD Pozzo, Digital Discovery, 2, 1042-1057 (2023)

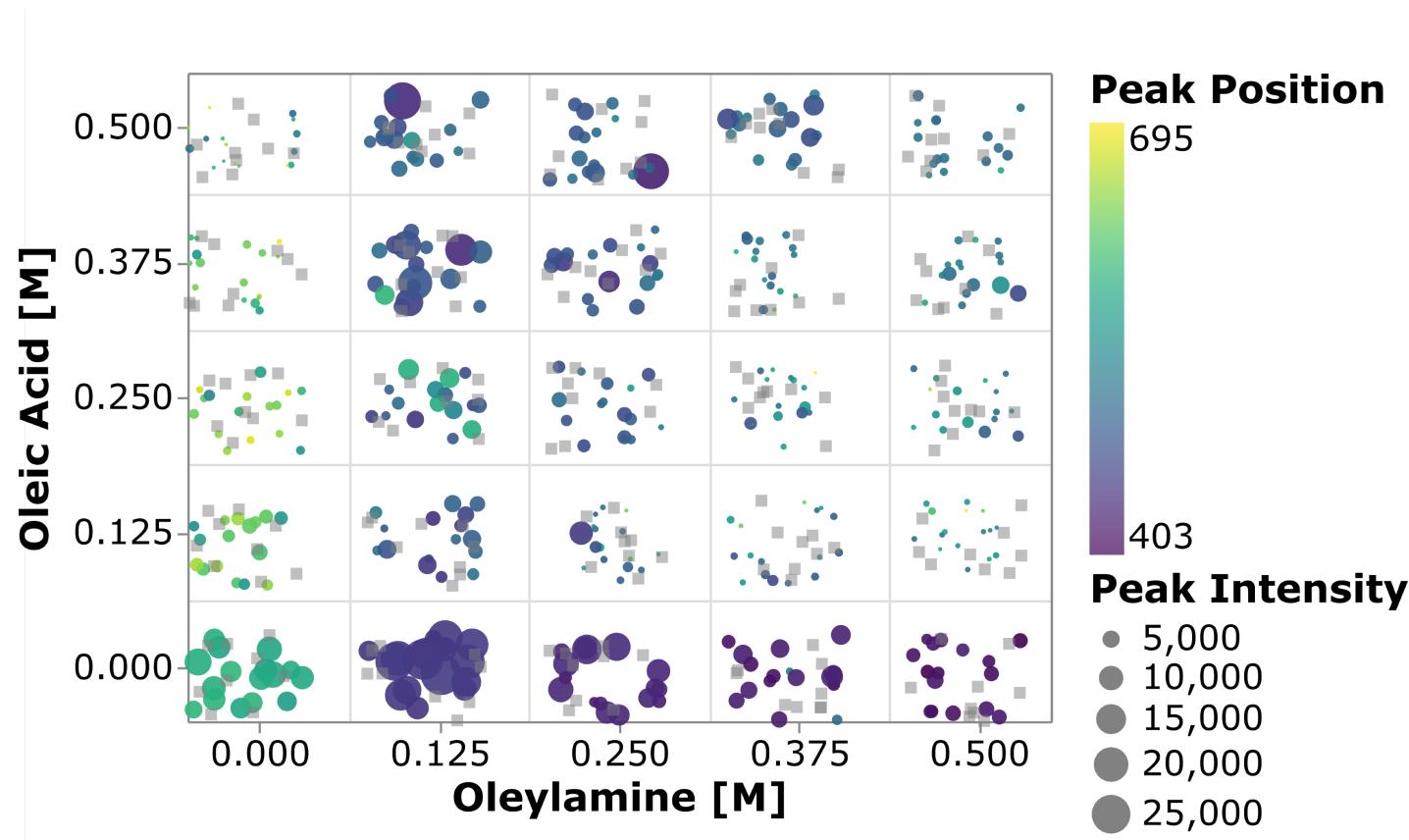
# UV-Vis Extinction: Large Data Representation



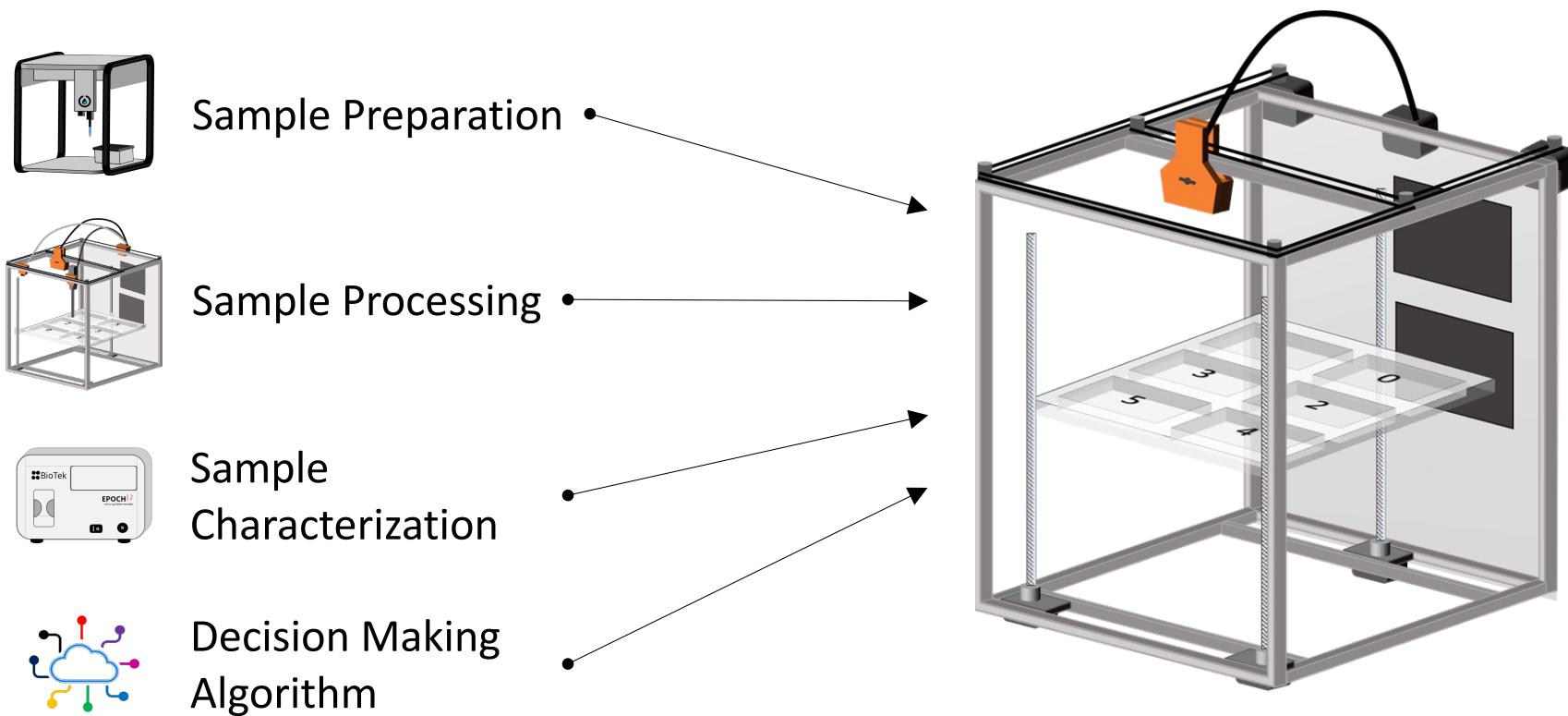
Each box: experimental condition for the ligands  
Circles are randomly shifted to avoid overlapping



# PL Spectroscopy Large Data Representation



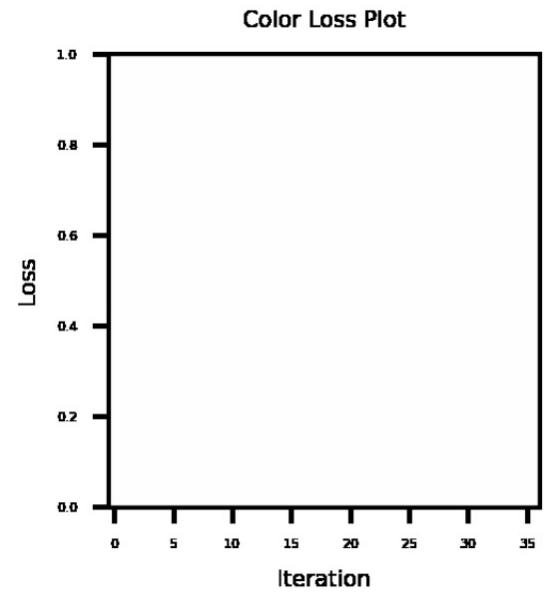
# Jubilee as a fully integrated self-driving lab



# SDL demonstration: color-matching campaign



Target Color:  Train Data : 6 , Iterations: 30



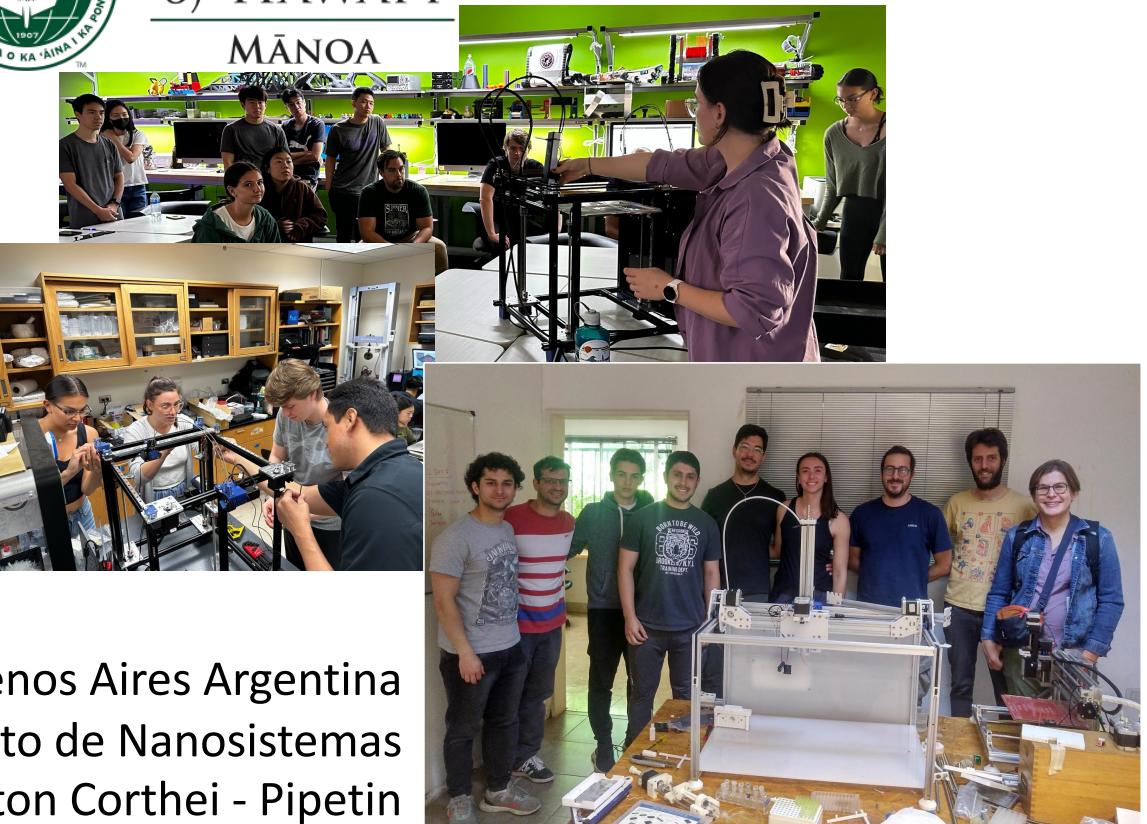
# Increasing Access and Education on SDLs Across the World



Clubes de Ciencia,  
Guadalajara,  
Mexico

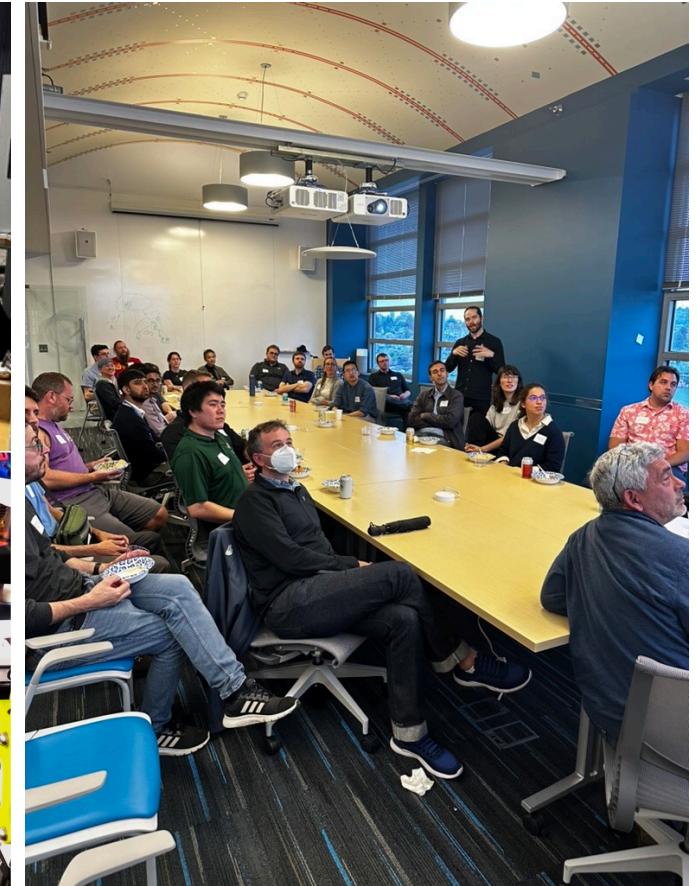
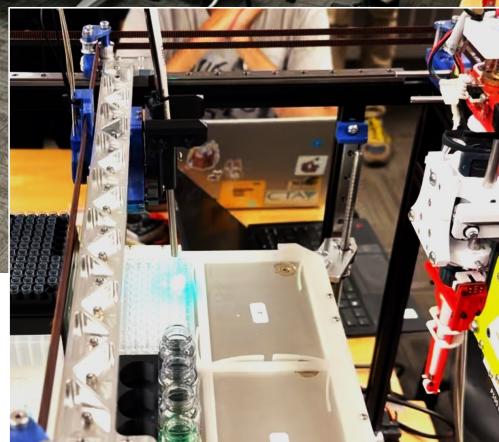
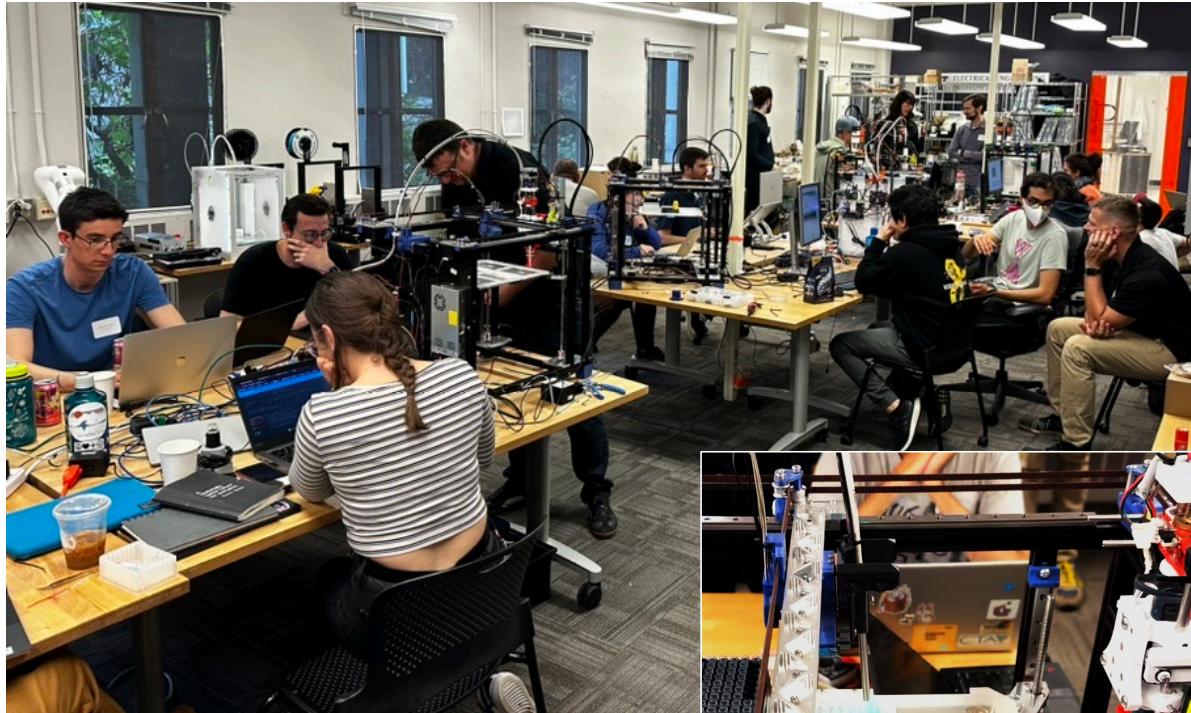


UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
MĀNOA



UNSAM Buenos Aires Argentina  
Instituto de Nanosistemas  
Gaston Corthei - Pipetin

# Building Community Across the World

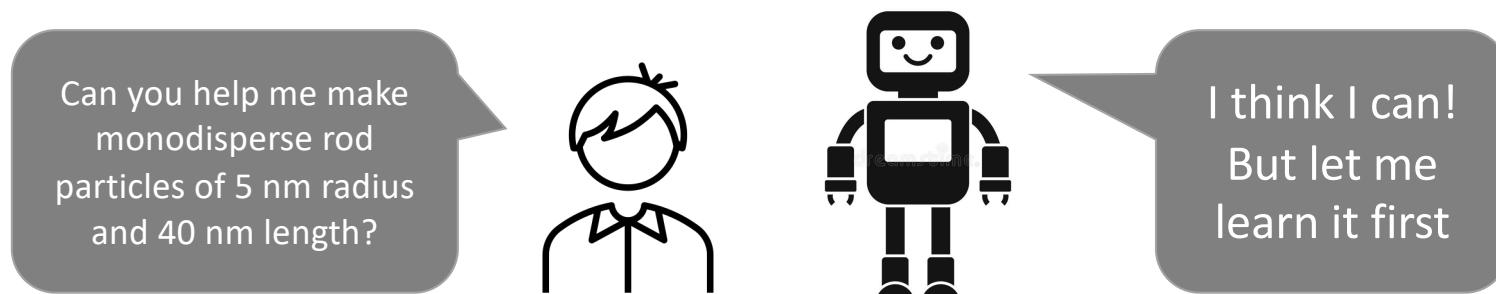


POSE Workshop  
Seattle WA, April 2024

# AI-Driven Retrosynthesis

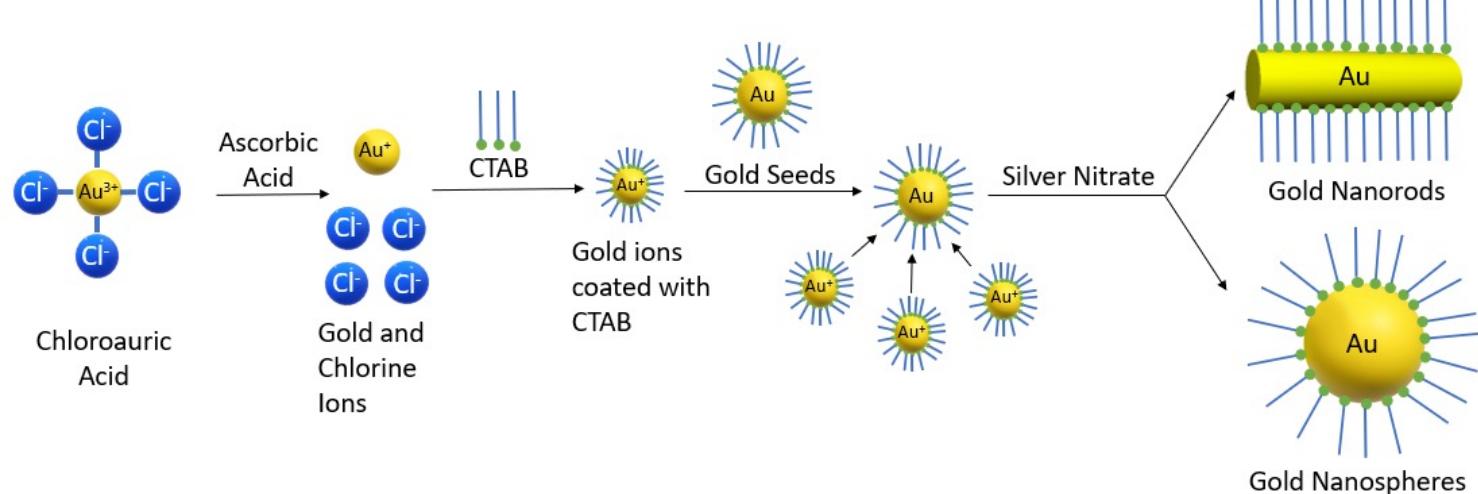
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# Retrosynthesis: Solve Inverse Design Problems by Iterative Learning



## 'Fruit Fly' Problems: Synthesis of Metal Nanostructures

- Metal salt(s)
- Reducing Agent
- Surfactant (CTAB)
- Seeds
- Order of addition
- T, P



# Automated Retrosynthesis

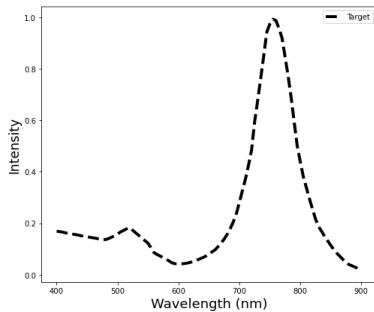
## 1. Pick Target

Gold Nanorod of 55nm in Length and 10nm in diameter



Spectra Scattering...  
Forward Model

## 2. Simulate Target Data

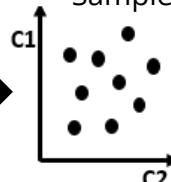


## 3. Perform Optimization

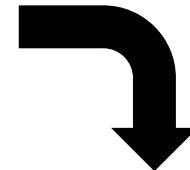
Bayesian Optimization



Composition of Samples



Robotic Synthesis



Sample A

Sample B

Sample C

Score

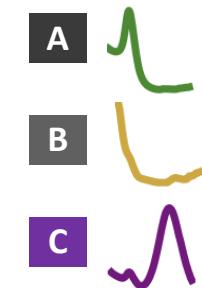
Comp. A	2
Comp. B	3
Comp. C	1

## Stopping criteria

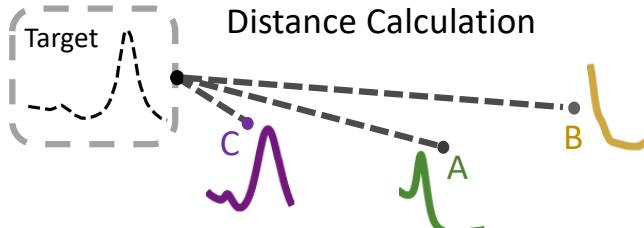
Stop After X Iterations  
Converges within a Resolution



Characterization



Distance Calculation



# Cold, warm, warmer, hot... search game

## Distance Metrics

**LIKELIHOOD**  
The probability of "B" being True, given "A" is True

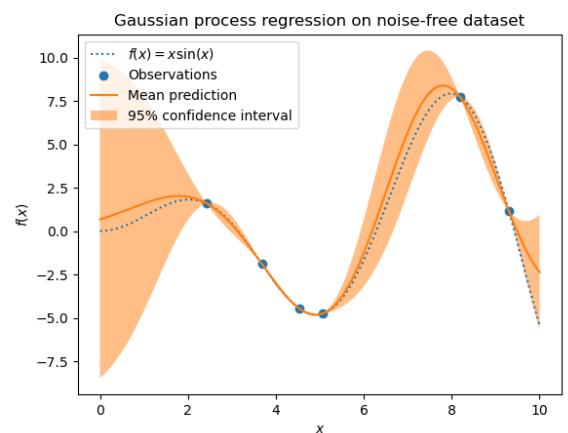
**PRIOR**  
The probability "A" being True. This is the knowledge.

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A).P(A)}{P(B)}$$

**POSTERIOR**  
The probability of "A" being True, given "B" is True

**MARGINALIZATION**  
The probability "B" being True.

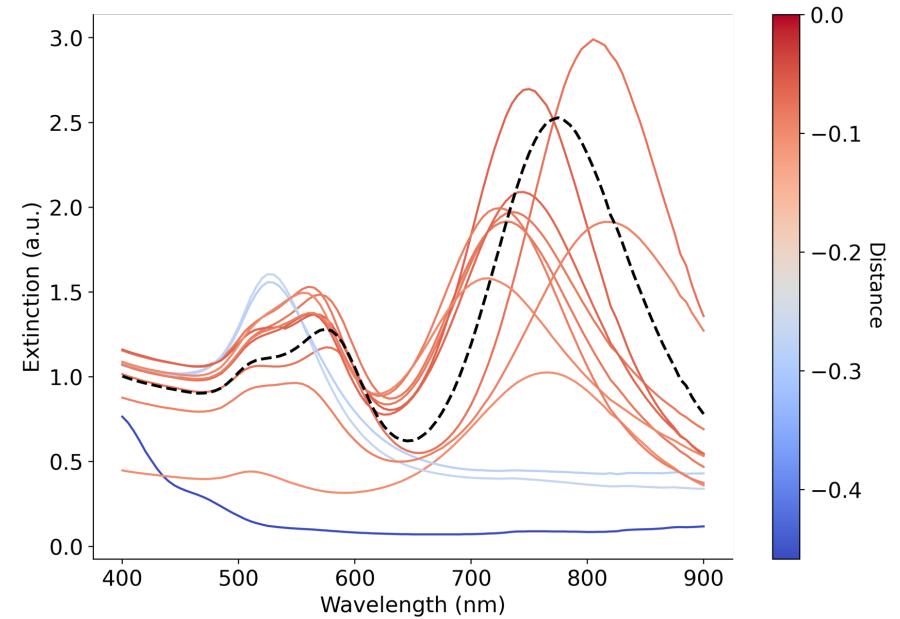
## Bayesian Optimization



## GP Regression

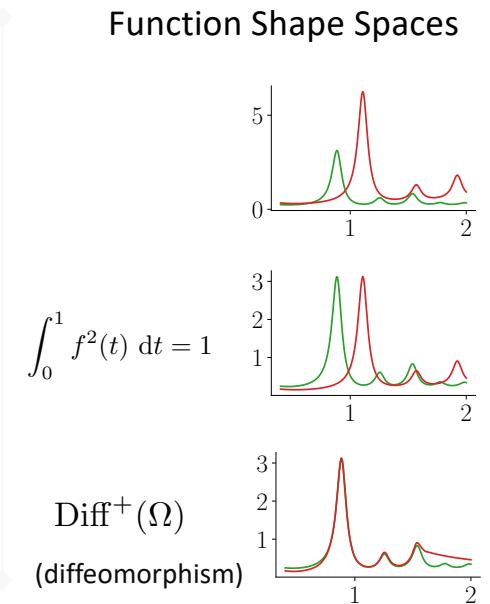
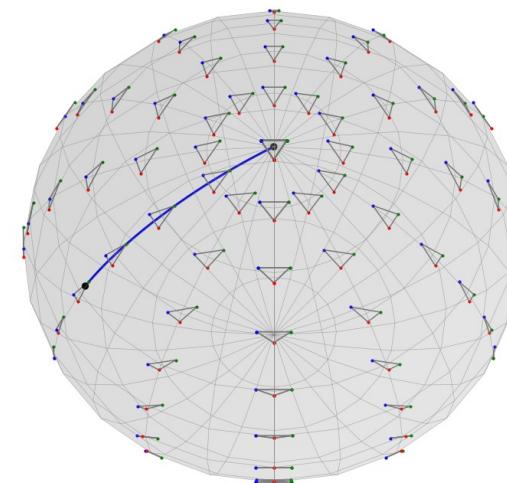
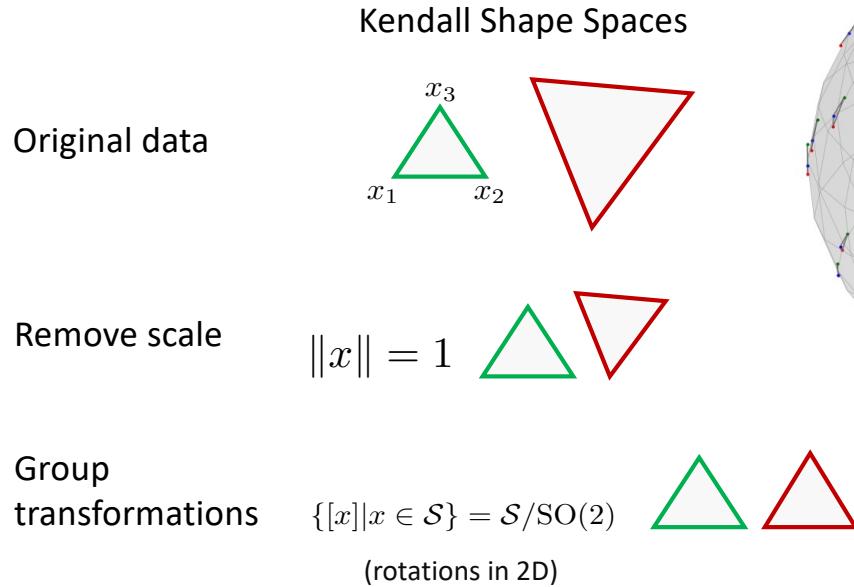
# How to Meaningfully Compare Trials to Target?

- **Match in ‘Expert’ Parameters**
  - Peak Wavelength Intensity and Position (scalar values)
- **Euclidean Distance**
  - Mean squared difference of two spectra
- **Square Root Slope Function (SRSF)**
  - Compares the shape of spectra by taking derivatives
- **Amplitude-Phase Distance**
  - Accounts for variation along x-axis and y-axis after ‘alignment’ in function space



“Autonomous retrosynthesis of gold nanoparticles via spectral shape matching”  
K. Vaddi, H. Chiang, L. Pozzo, Digital Discovery, 2022

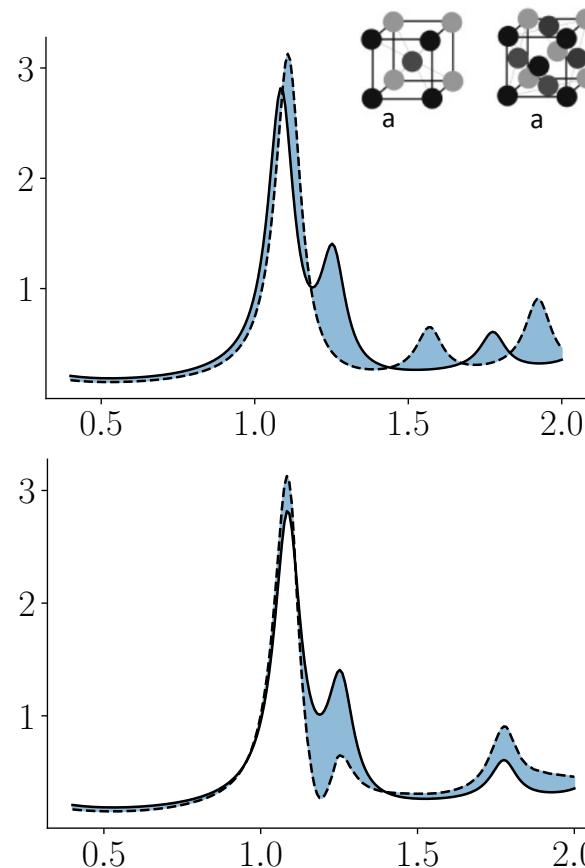
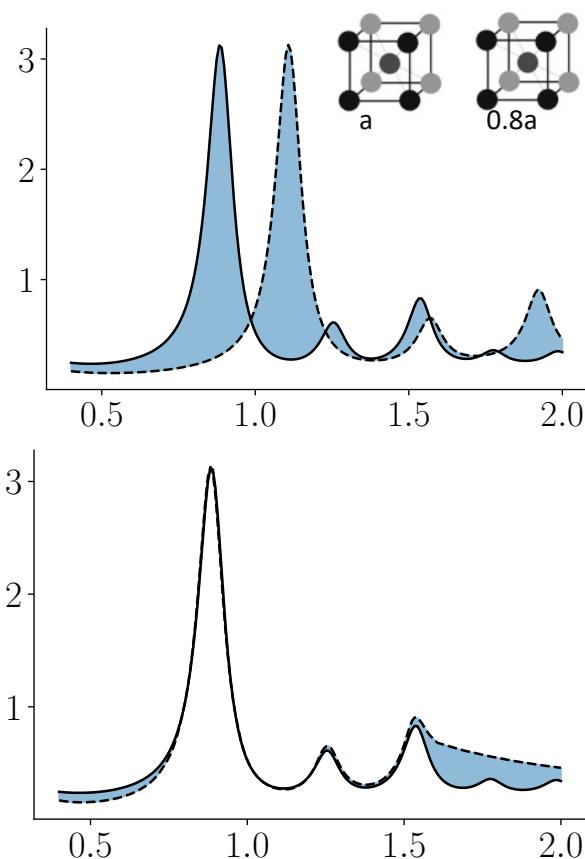
# 'Distance' in Function Shape Spaces



KENDALL, David G. et KENDALL, Wilfrid S. Alignments in two-dimensional random sets of points. Advances in Applied probability, 1980, p. 380-424.

<https://geomstats.github.io>

# Shape-Based Similarity in Phase Identification



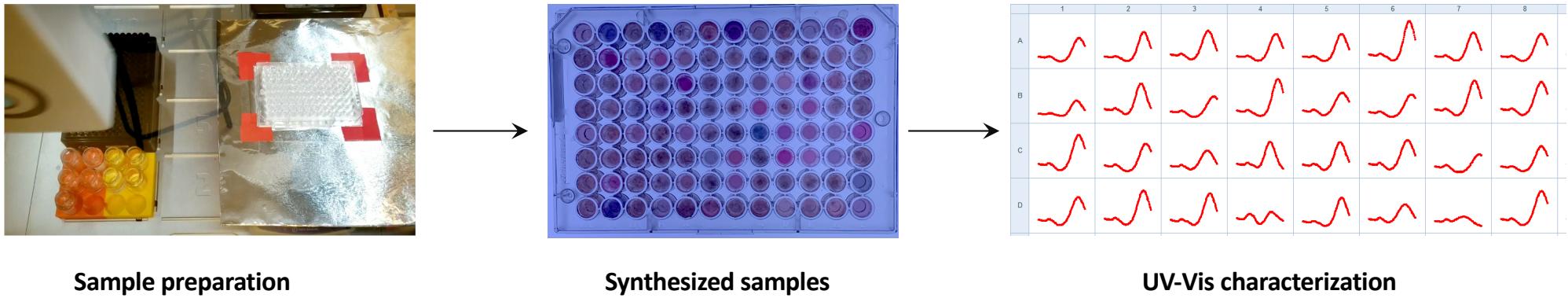
Conventional metrics select FCC and BCC to be similar

Shape metrics select BCC with different lattice values to be similar

# Seed-mediated growth of gold nanorods

Reagent	Stock (M)	Target (M)	Range (M)
CTAB	$2.0 \times 10^{-1}$	$6.40 \times 10^{-2}$	$6.40 \times 10^{-2}$
Gold (III) Chloride Trihydrate	$1.0 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.96 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.96 \times 10^{-4}$
Silver Nitrate	$6.4 \times 10^{-4}$	$6.20 \times 10^{-5}$	$0 - 7.38 \times 10^{-5}$
Ascorbic Acid	$6.3 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.60 \times 10^{-4}$	$0 - 7.27 \times 10^{-4}$
Gold Seeds	$1.8 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.44 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.44 \times 10^{-6}$

Two-dimensional  
design space



Sample preparation

Synthesized samples

UV-Vis characterization

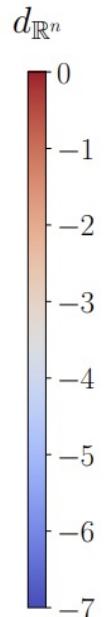
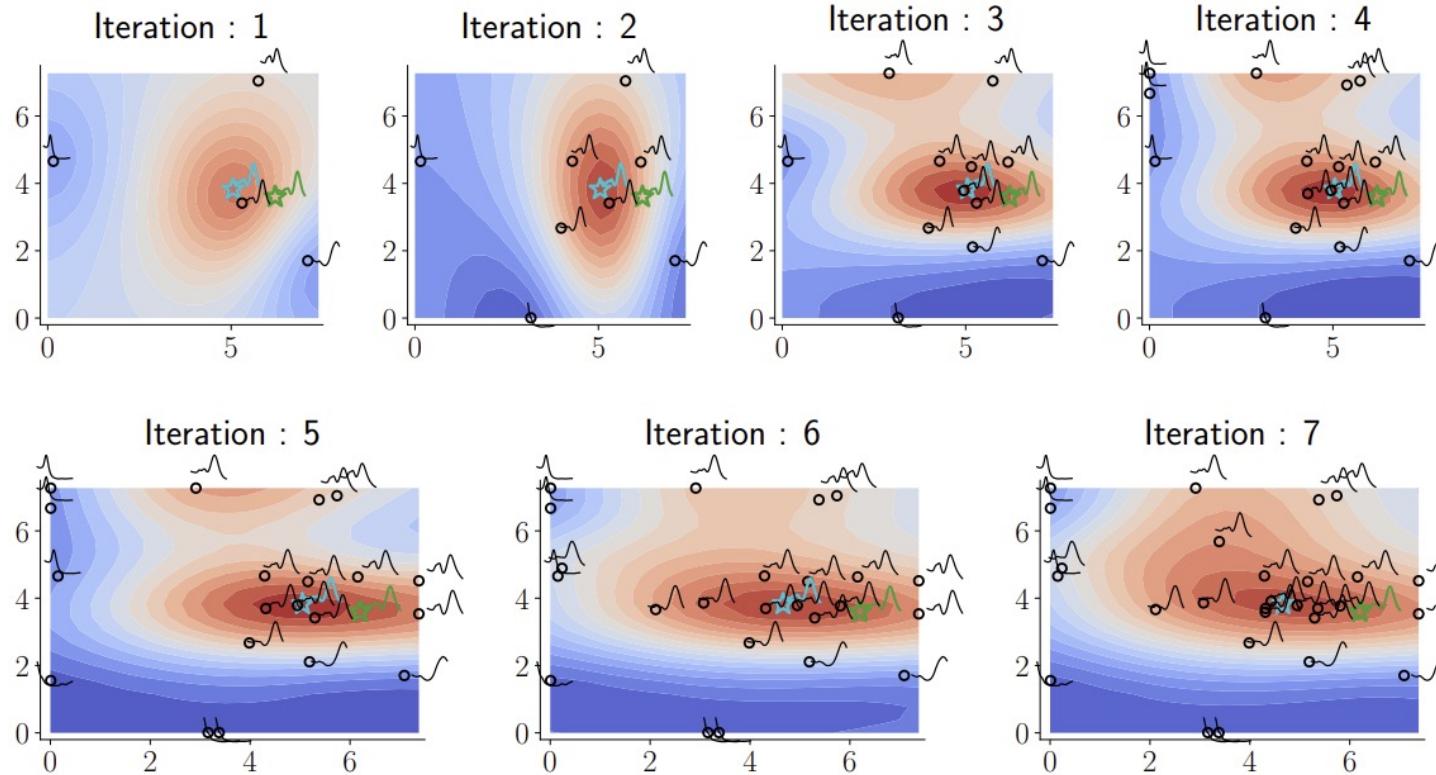
"Autonomous retrosynthesis of gold nanoparticles via spectral shape matching"  
K. Vaddi, H. Chiang, L. Pozzo, Digital Discovery, 2022

# Amplitude Phase Metric Helps Agent Learn the Phase Diagram

**Euclidean Metric**

★ Target    ★ Best Estimate    ○ Collected

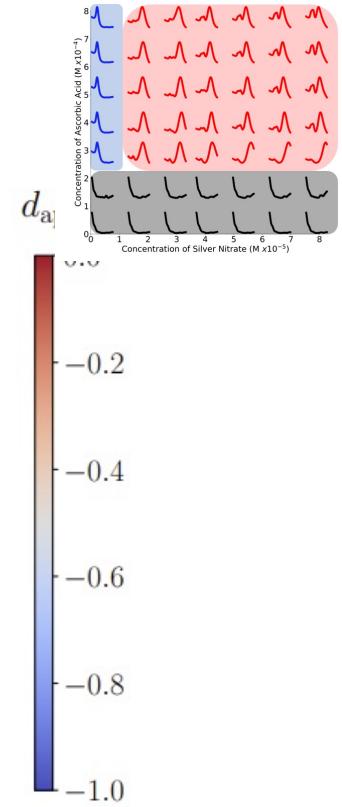
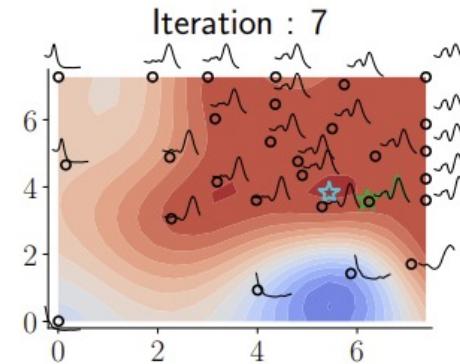
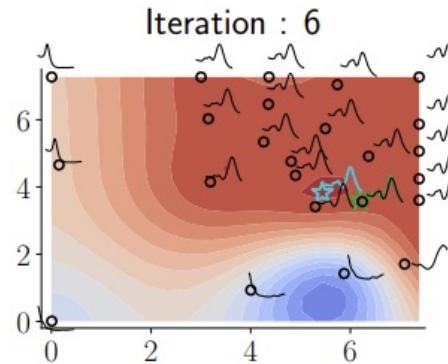
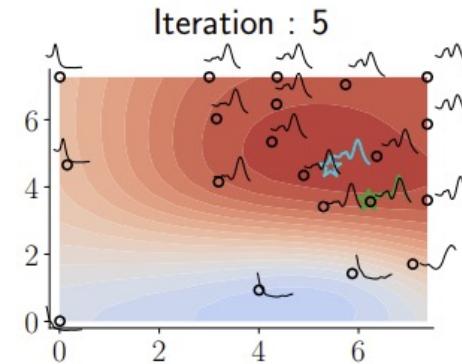
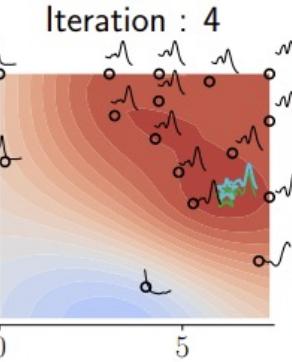
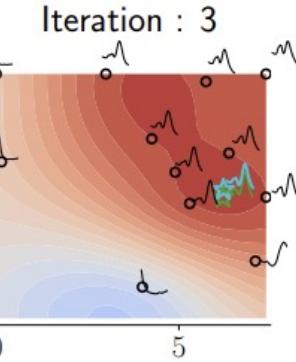
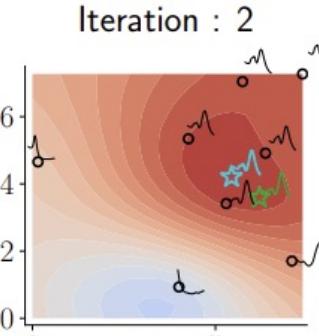
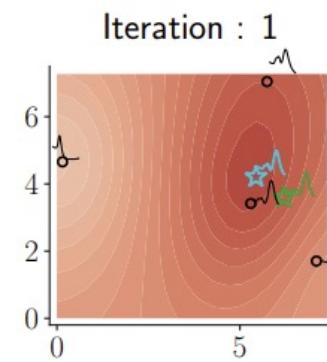
Bayesian Optimization  
with GP Regressor



# Amplitude Phase Metric Helps Agent Learn the Phase Diagram

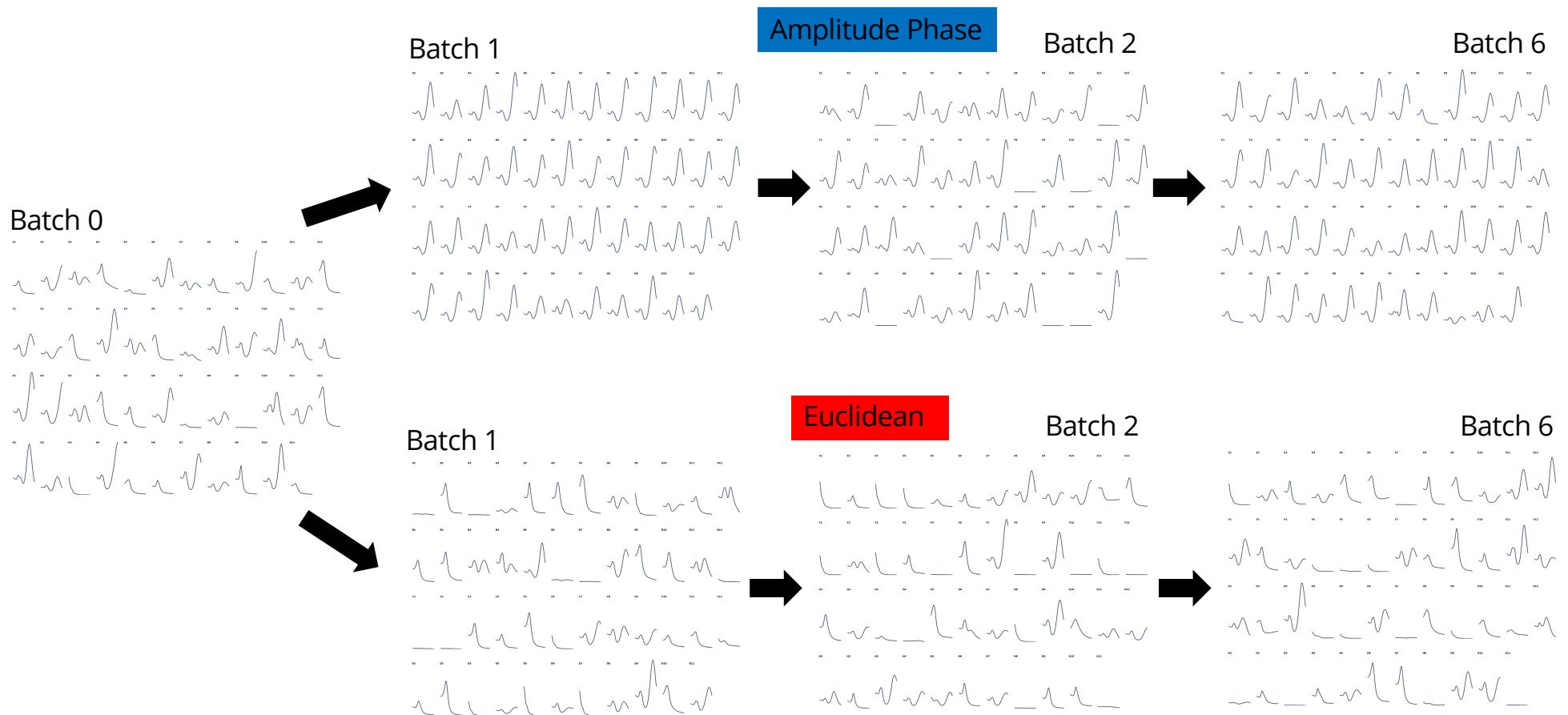
## Amplitude Phase (Shape-Based)

★ Target    ★ Best Estimate    ○ Collected

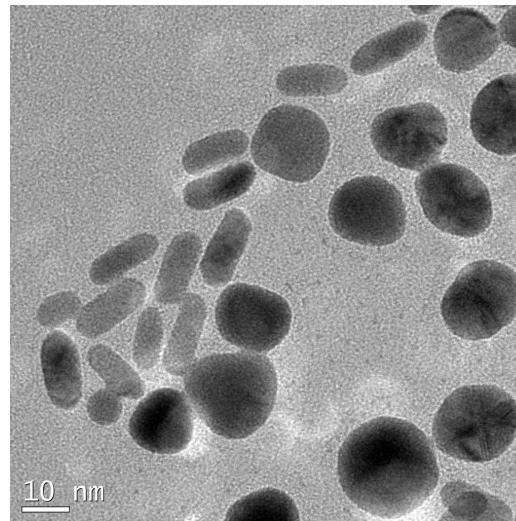
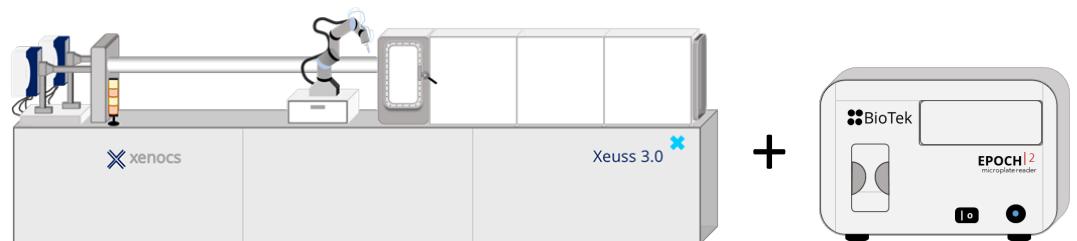
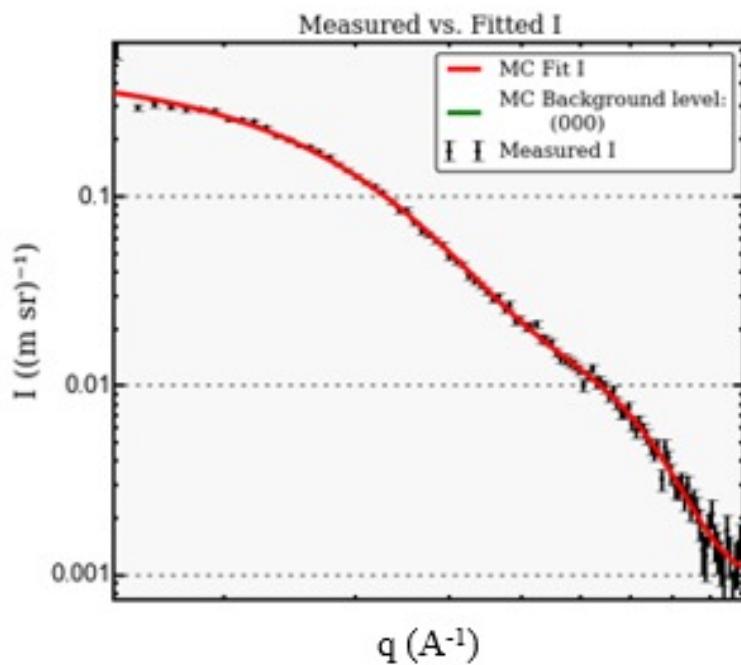


"Autonomous retrosynthesis of gold nanoparticles via spectral shape matching" K. Vaddi, H. Chiang, L. Pozzo, Digital Discovery, 2022

# Amplitude Phase Metric Helps AI Identify Nano-Rod Space



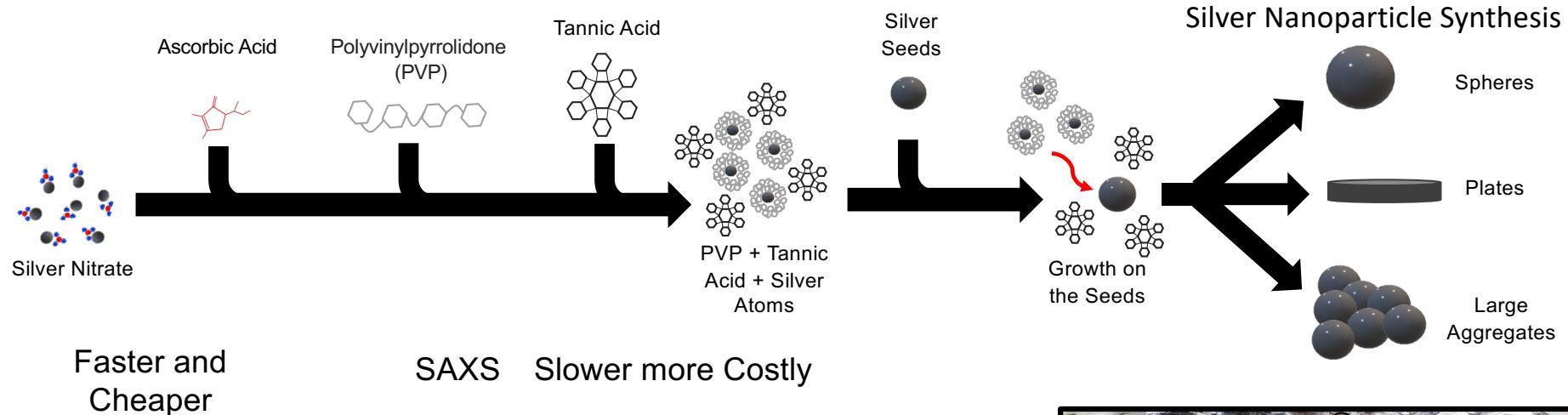
# Did it work out?... Not as Expected



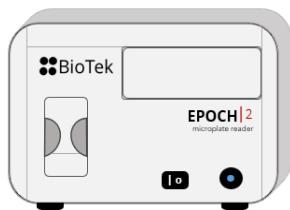
SAXS: nanorods of 8 nm in diameter and 15 nm in length and nanospheres of 16 nm in diameter

Need Multi-Fidelity Models!!

# Hierarchical Multifidelity Analysis of Silver Nanoplates

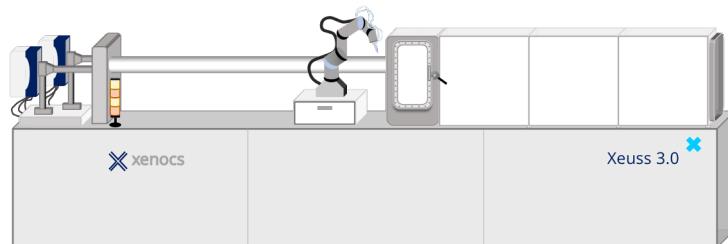


Faster and Cheaper



UV-Vis Spectroscopy

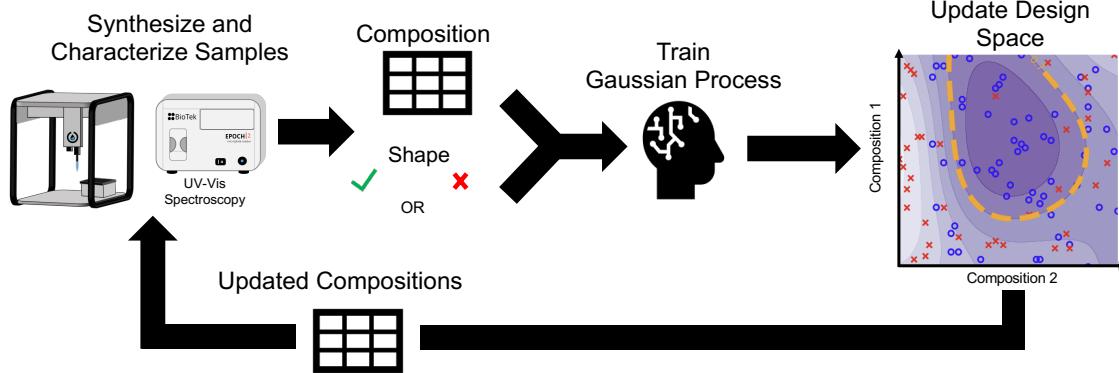
SAXS Slower more Costly



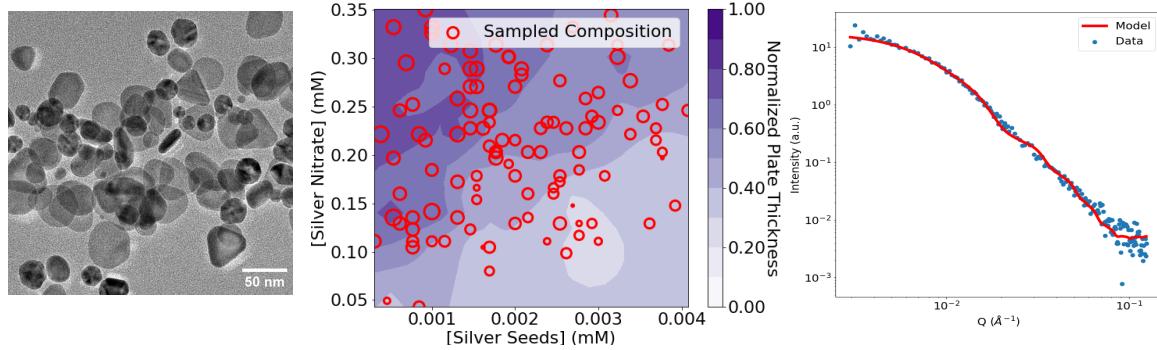
TEM Slowest and Costliest



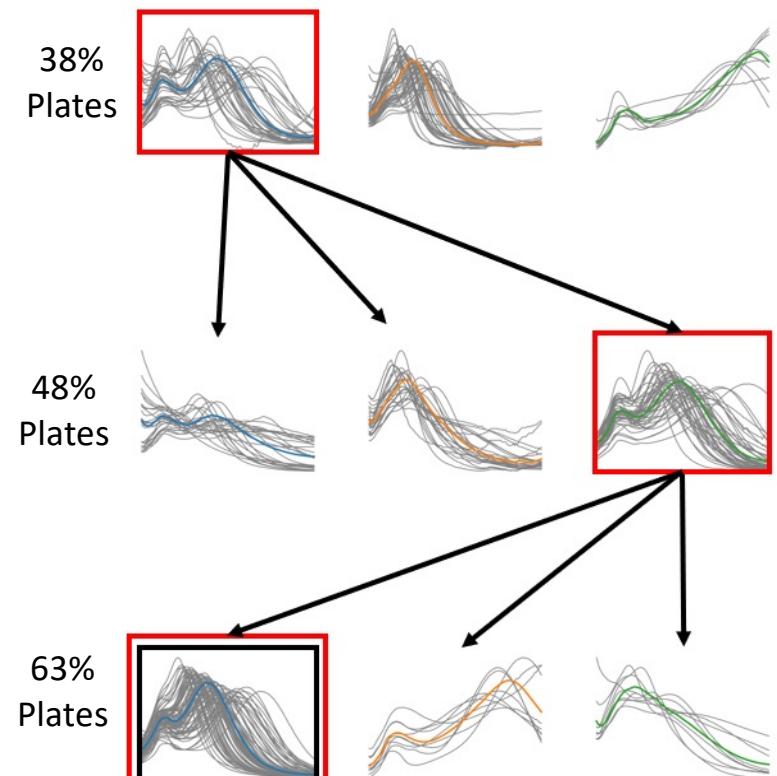
# Hierarchical and Multi-Modal Analysis



Optimized sampling to observe plate formation



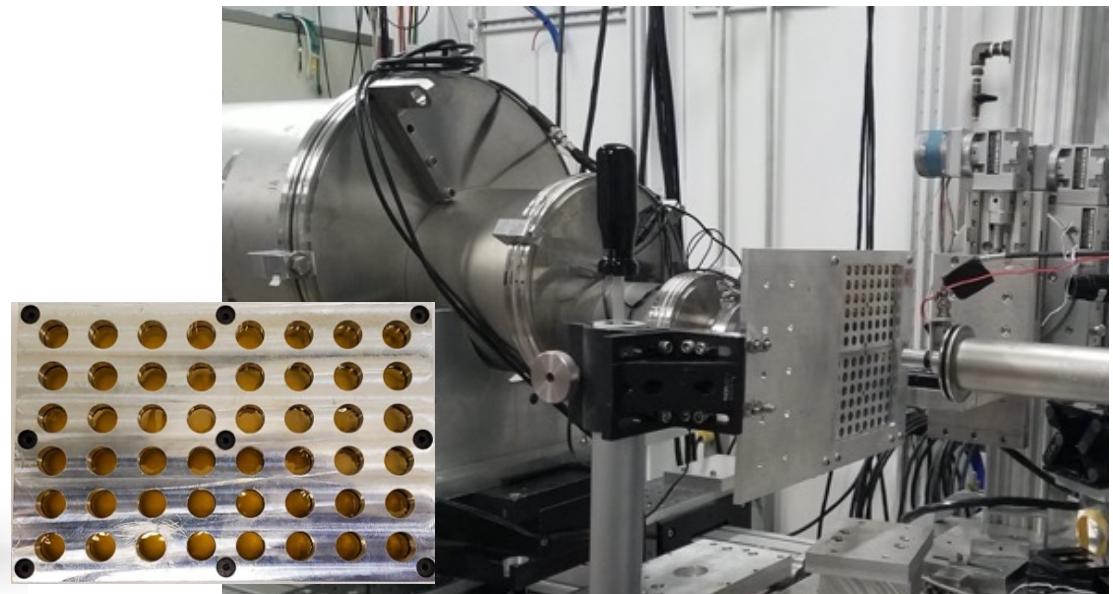
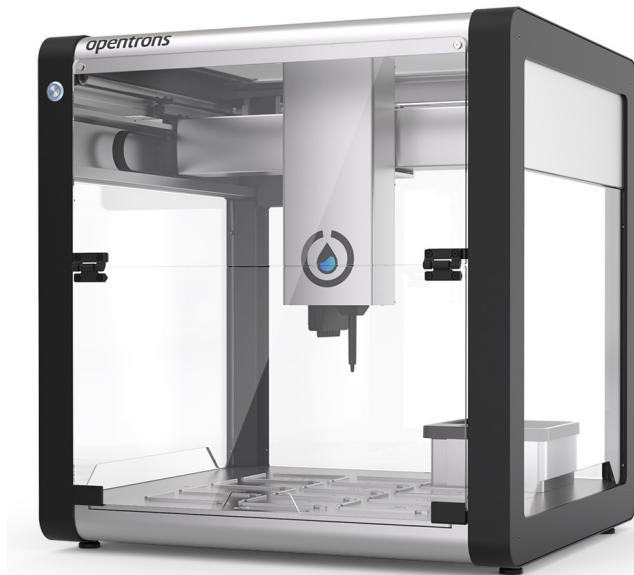
Autonomous Classification of Spectroscopic Curves Based on Shape



# Autonomous Phase Mapping

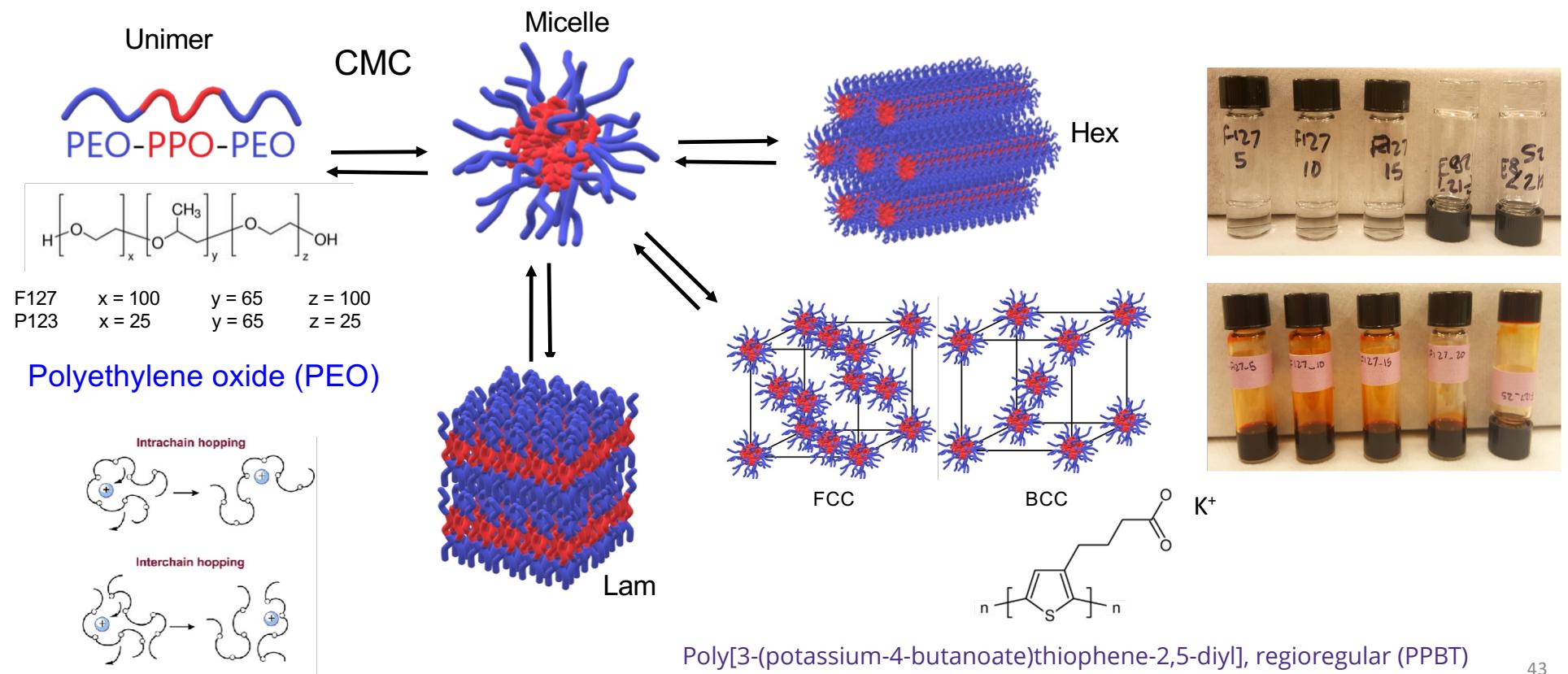
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# Integration of automation and high-throughput analysis for SANS and SAXS

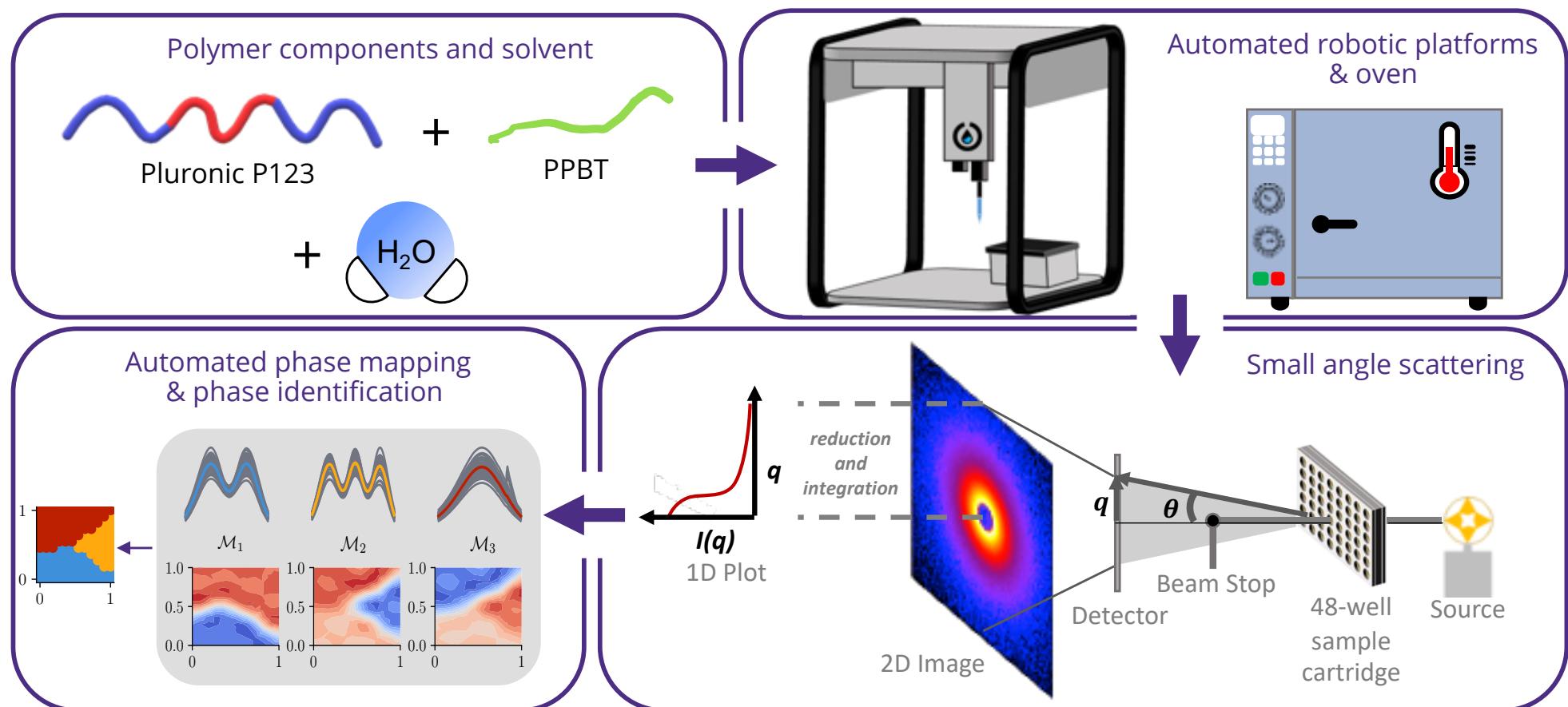


<https://github.com/pozzo-research-group/Automation-Hardware>

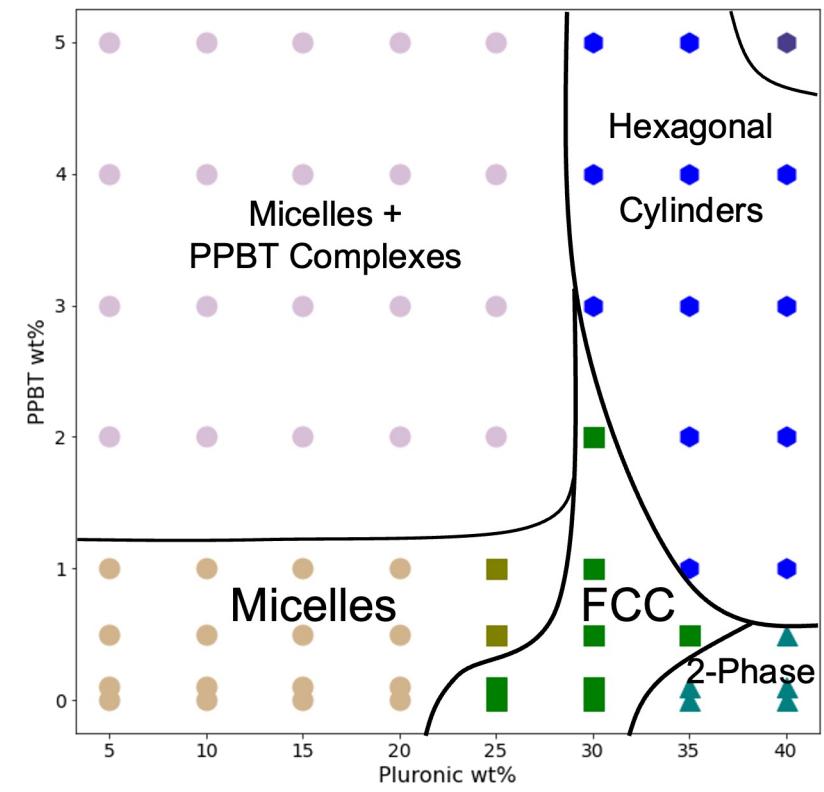
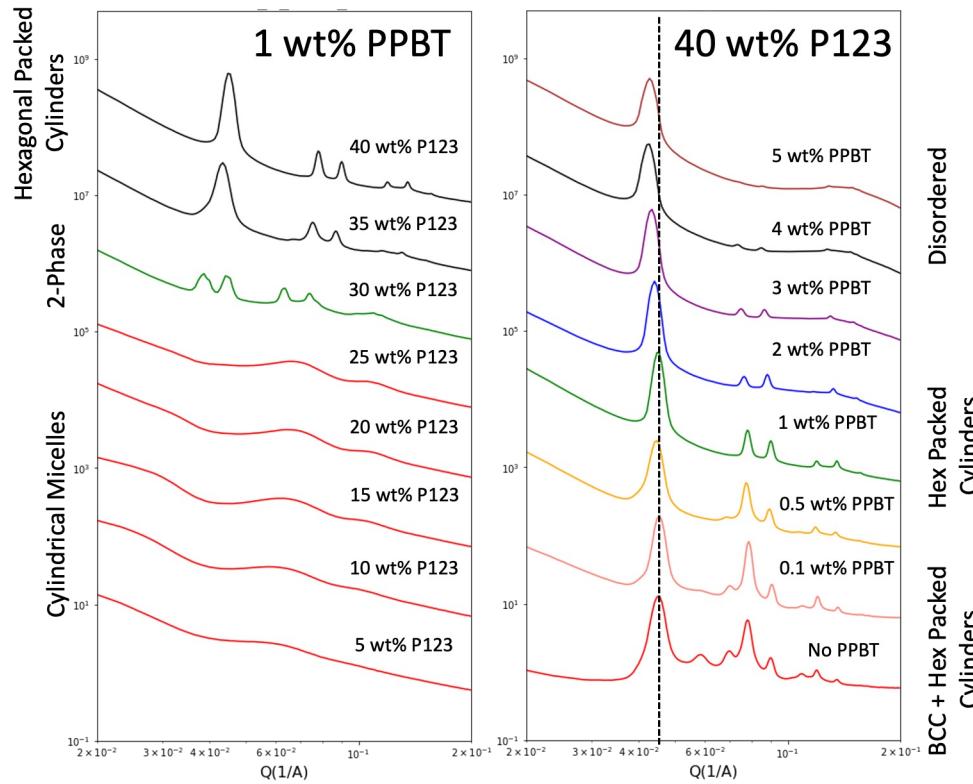
# Phase-Mapping: Conjugated Polymer + Copolymer



# Automated High-Throughput OMIEC Formulation and Analysis



# HT SAXS Mapping of Structured Blend Phase-Diagram

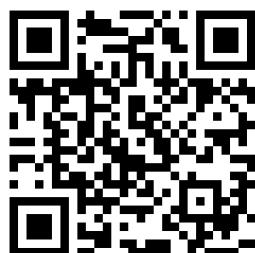
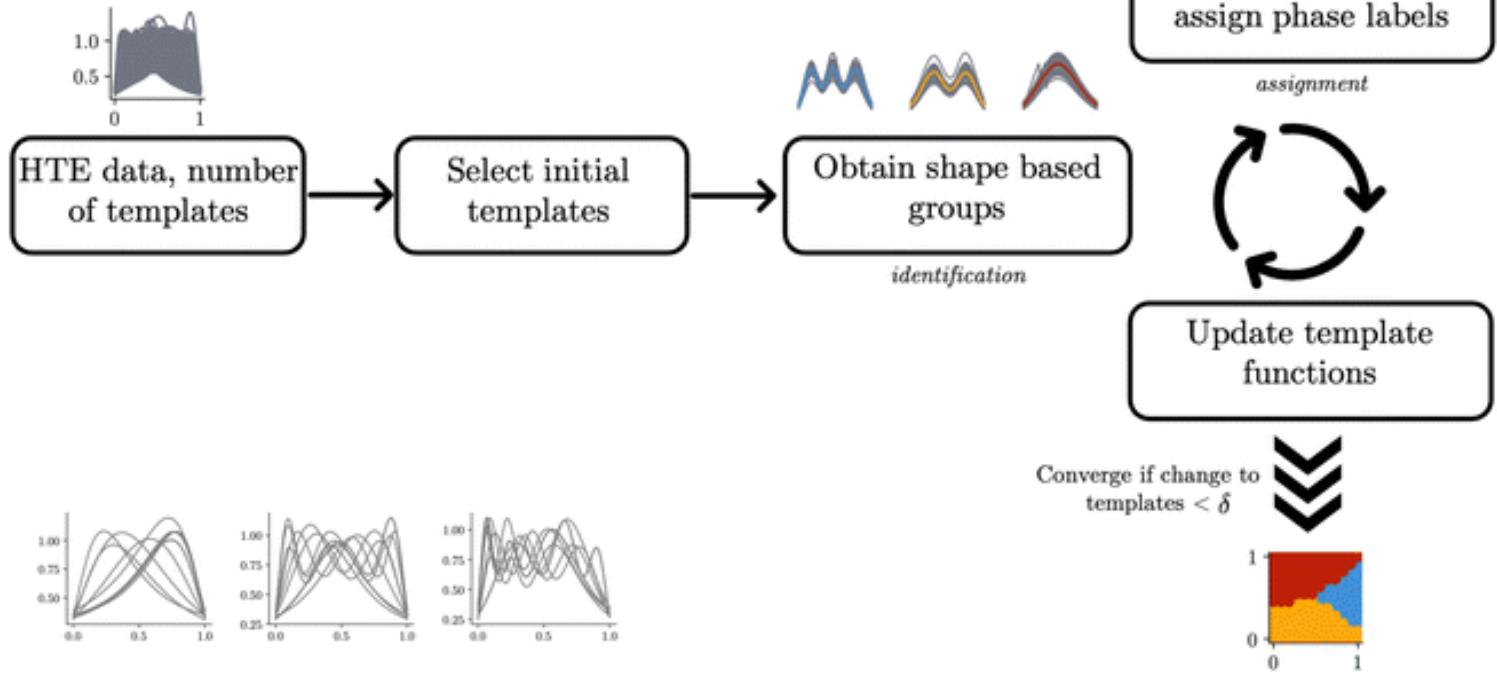
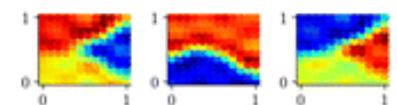


# Autonomous Phase-Mapping with Shape-Similarity Distance Metrics

Kiran Vaddi, Karen Li, and Lilo D. Pozzo.

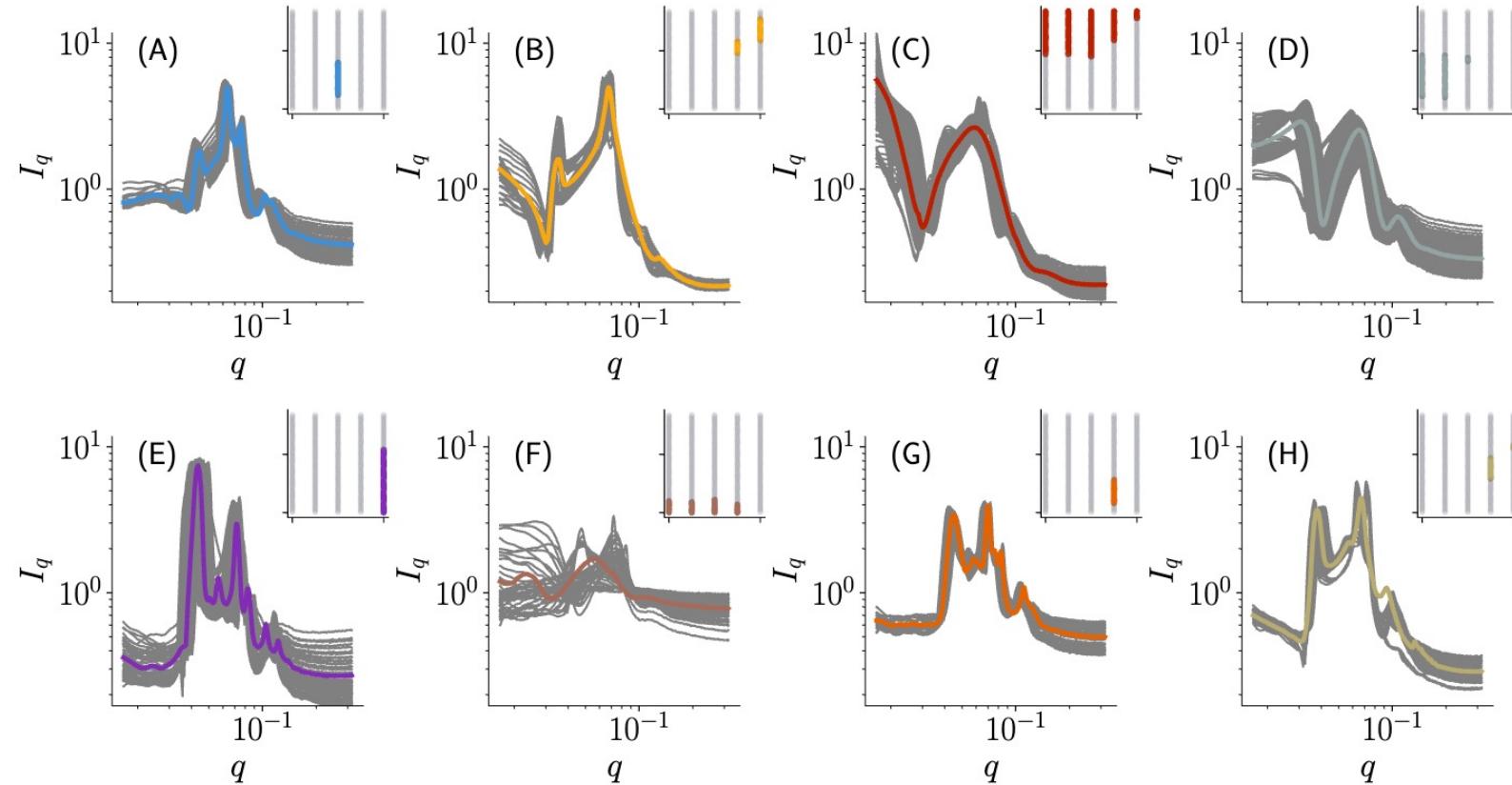
**Metric geometry tools for automatic structure phase map generation**

Digital Discovery, 2023, 2, 1471-1483.



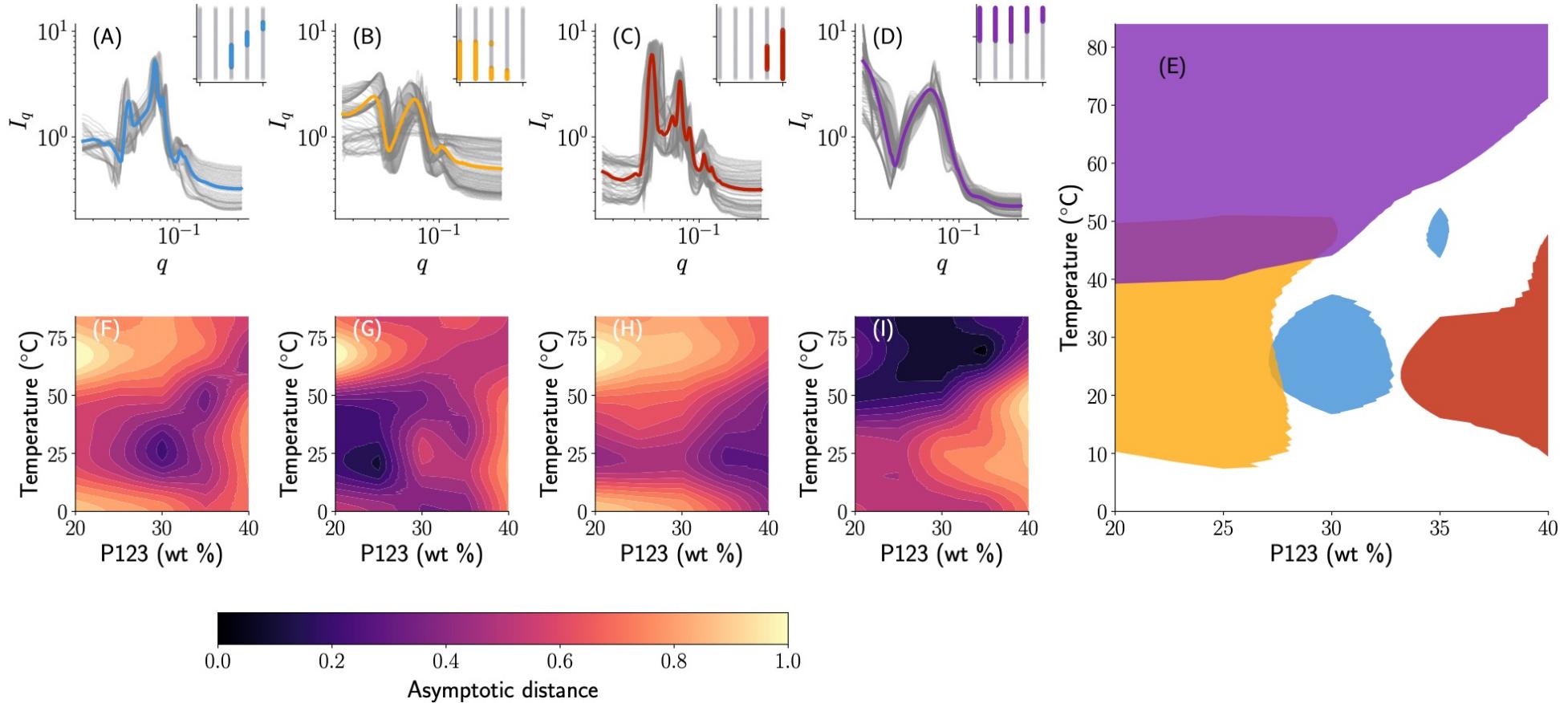
Code GitHub Repo

# Distance Metrics in Autonomous Phase Mapping

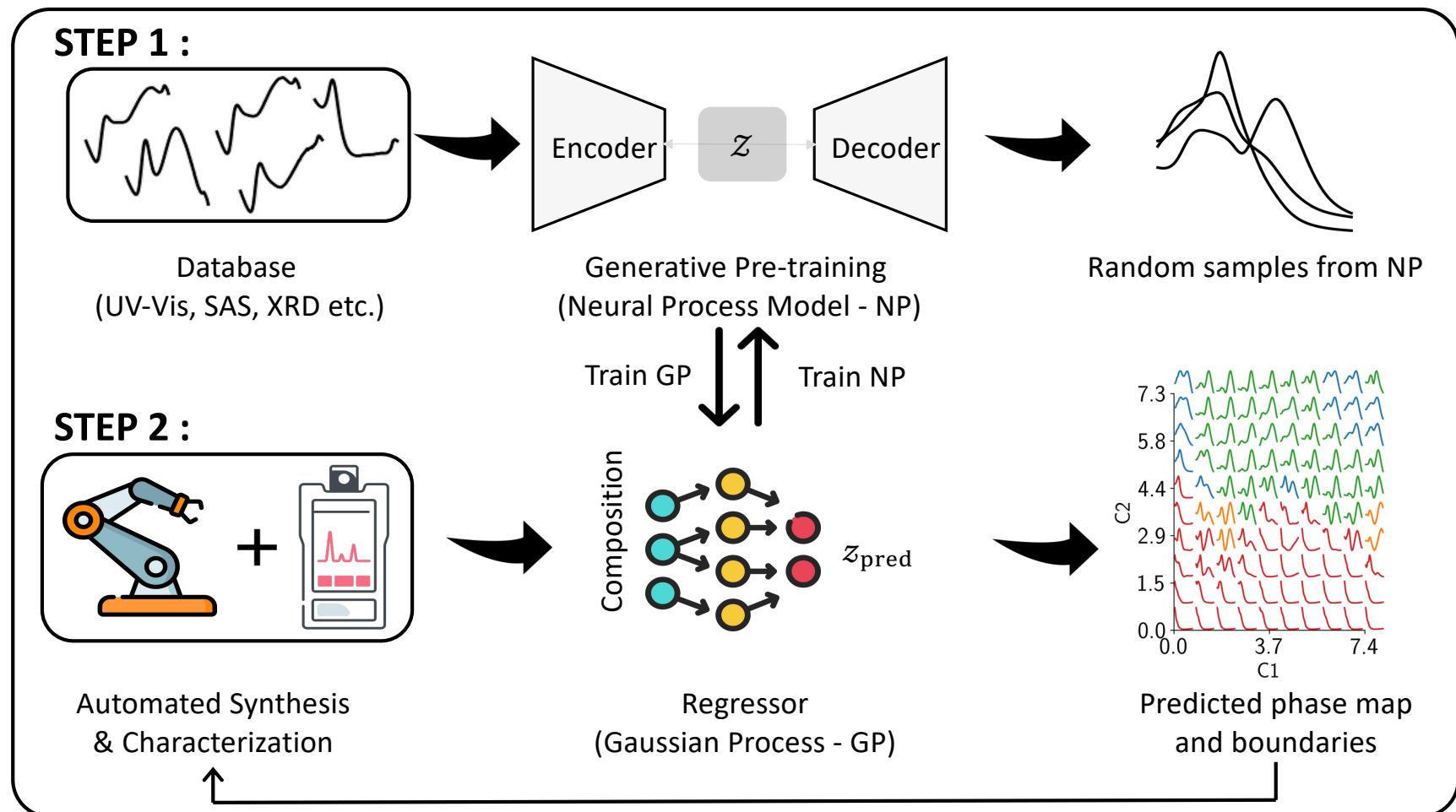


“Metric geometry tools for automatic structure phase map generation”, K. Vaddi<sup>2</sup>, K. Li<sup>2</sup>, L. Pozzo,  
Digital Discovery, 2, 1471-1483, (2023)

# Distance Metrics in Autonomous Phase Mapping

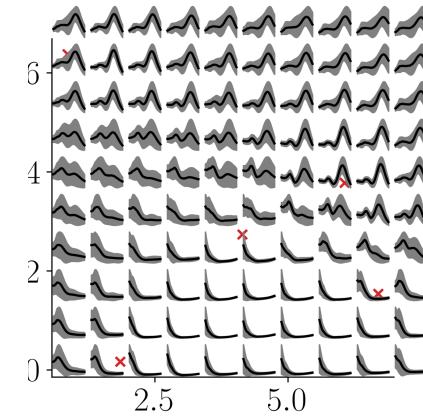
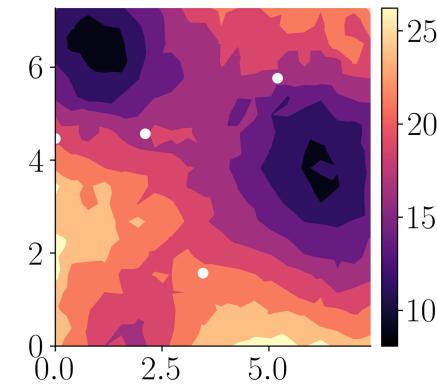
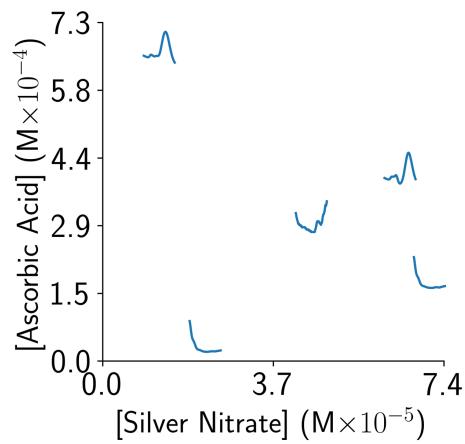


# Two-step workflow for “differentiable” phase mapping

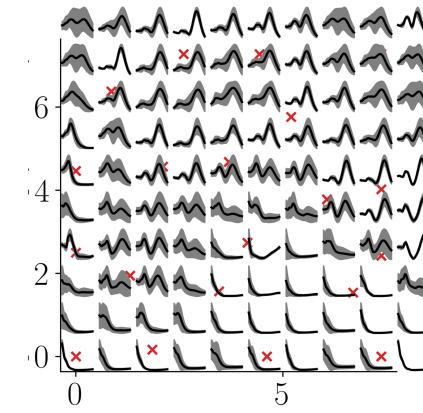
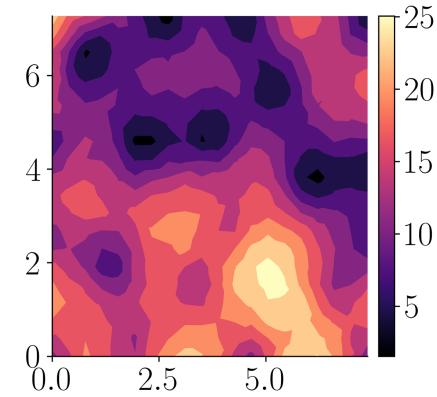
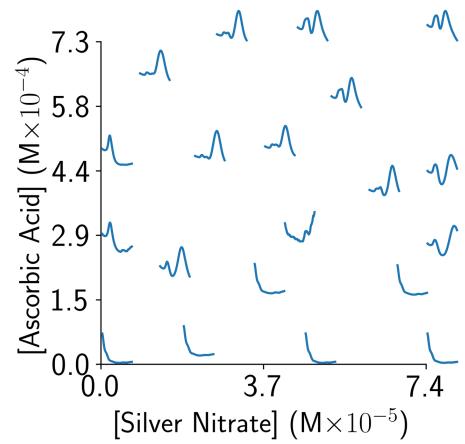


# Learning to predict spectra from experiments

Iteration 1



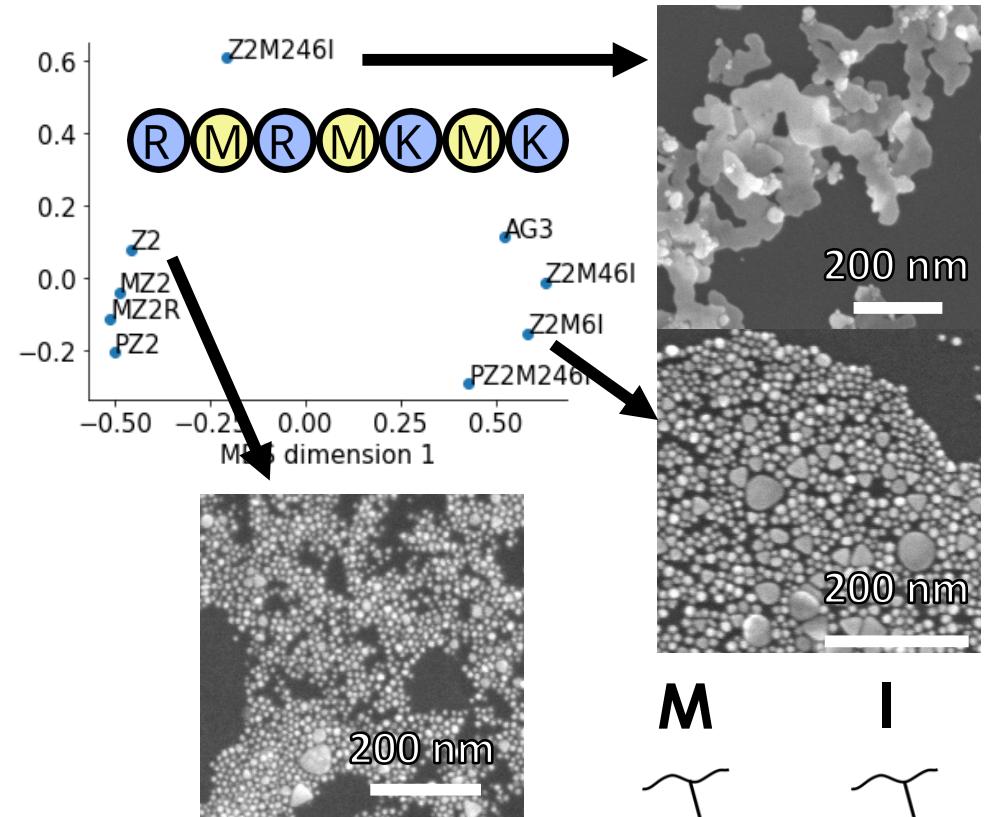
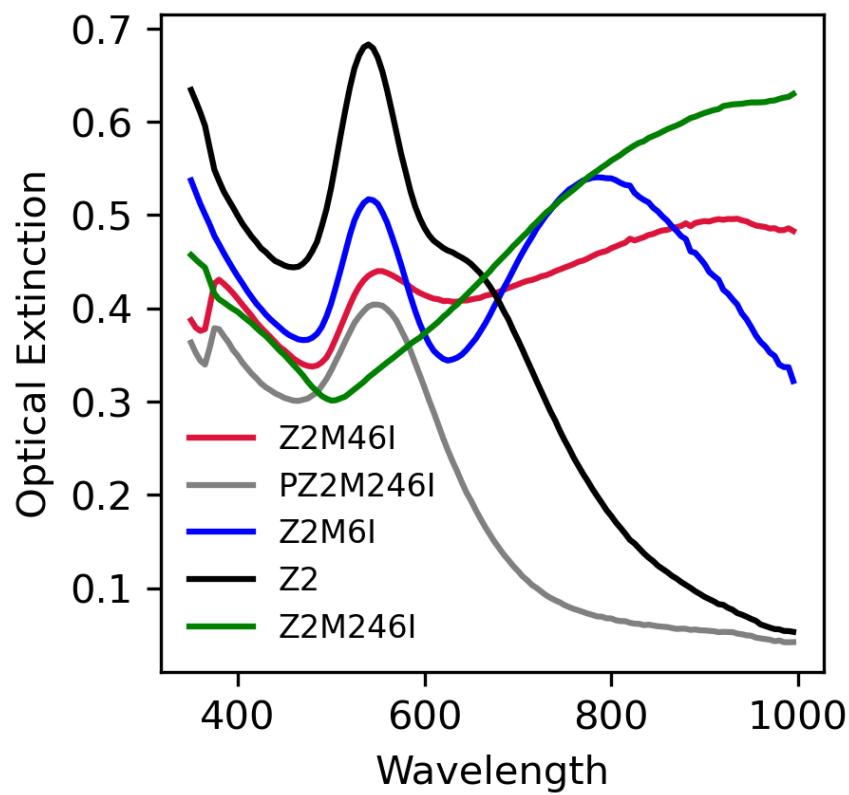
Iteration 5



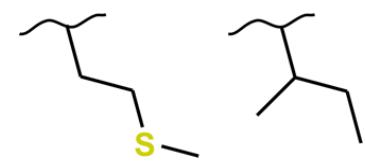
# Timed Intervention States Out-of-Equilibrium

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# Dynamic Intervention: Peptide-Mediated Growth



"Multivariate Analysis of Peptide-Driven Nucleation and Growth of Au Nanoparticles", KJ Lachowski, K Vaddi, NY Naser, F Baneyx, LD Pozzo. Digital Discovery, 1, 427-439 (2022)



# Dynamic Intervention: Accessing Out of Equilibrium States

Delay  
(mins):

0

2

4

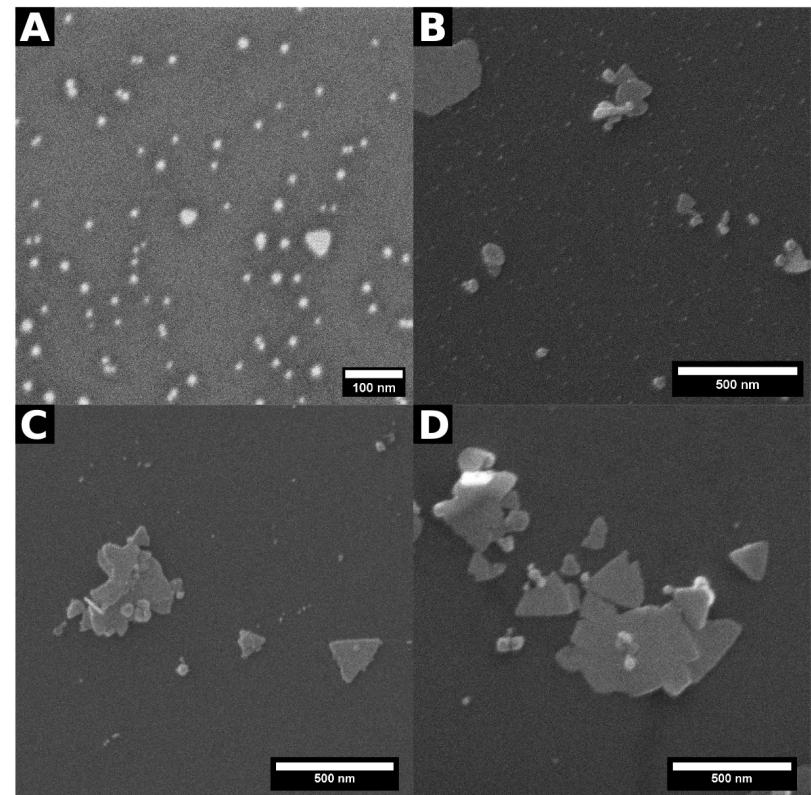
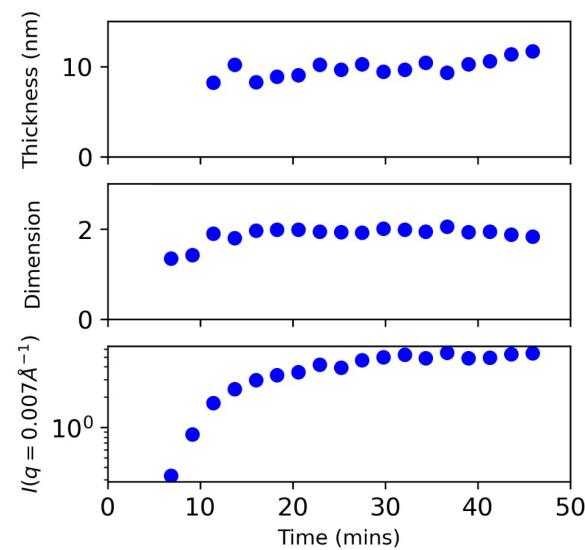
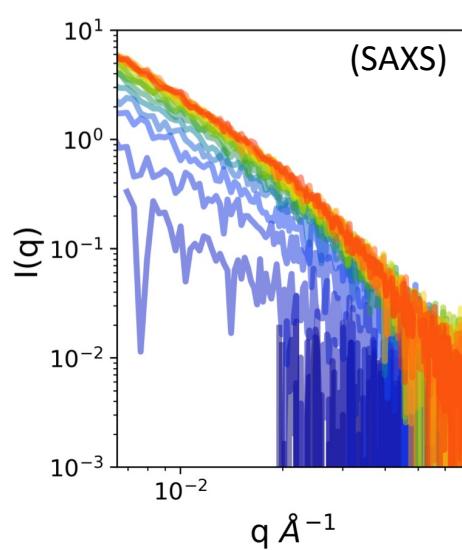
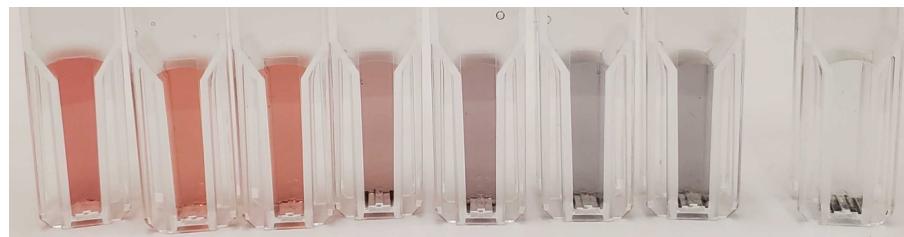
6

8

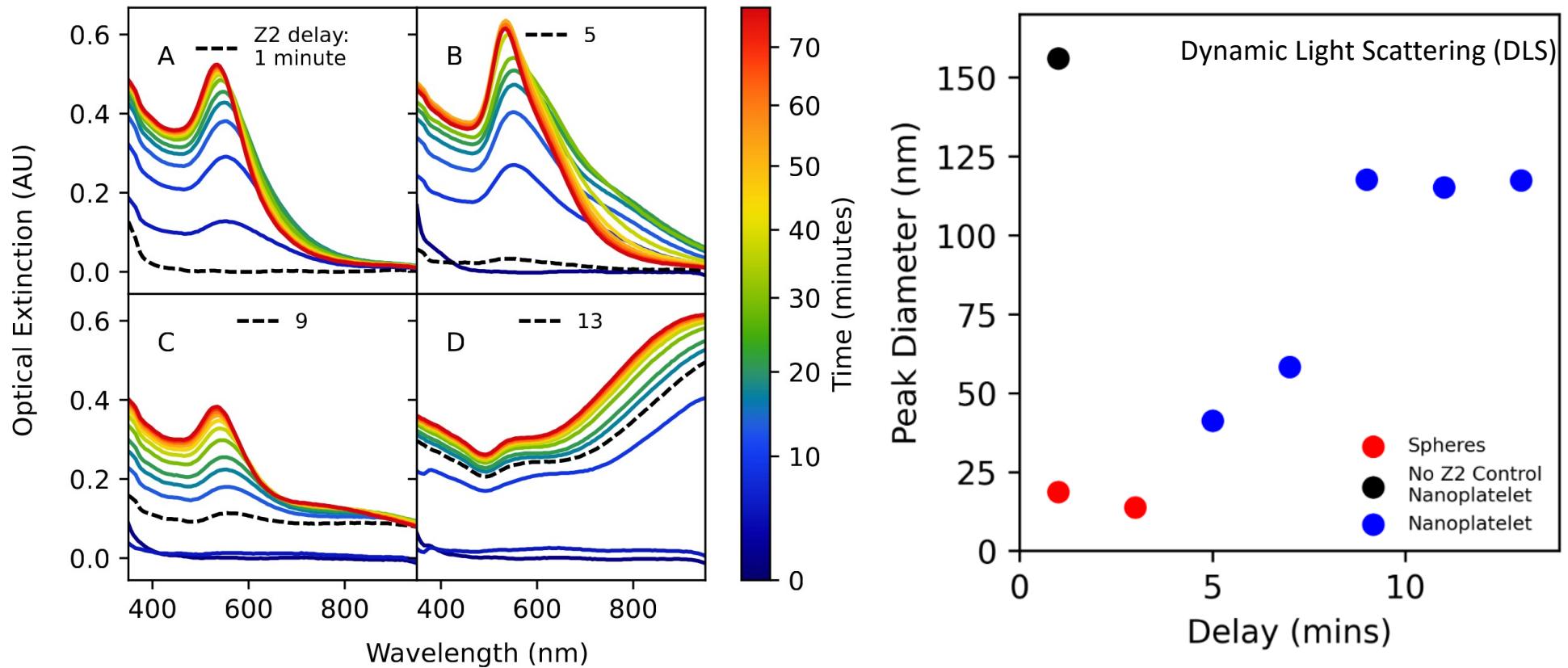
10

12

No Z2  
Control



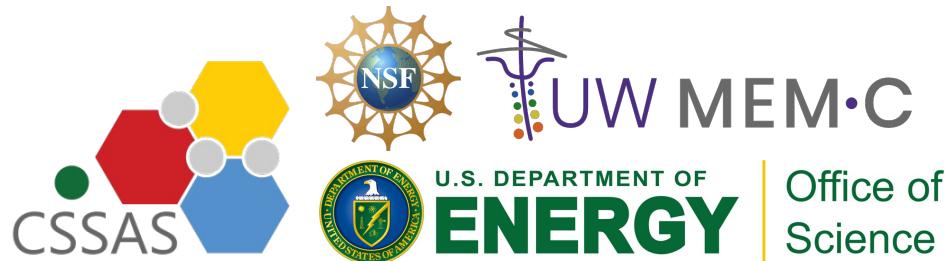
# Dynamic Intervention with Z2 Stabilizes Small Plates



“Anisotropic Gold Nanomaterial Synthesis Using Peptide Facet Specificity and Timed Intervention” K. J. Lachowski, H. T. Chiang, K. Torkelson, W. Zhou, S. Zhang, J. Pfaendtner, L. D. Pozzo, Langmuir 39 (45), 15878-15888, (2023)

# Conclusions

- Presented Tools for Broad Adoption of SDLs
- Distance metrics play an important role for AI agents working on functional data
- 'Shape Matching' distance (Amplitude-Phase) outperforms standard Euclidean and expert defined metrics
- Next Steps:
  - Multi-fidelity optimization with automated SAXS data
  - Pathway manipulation in non-equilibrium systems



ROYAL SOCIETY  
OF CHEMISTRY

PAPER  
Andy S. Anker, Keith T. Butler et al.  
Using generative adversarial networks to match experimental and simulated inelastic neutron scattering data



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Pozzo Group