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# Size-control laser-based method for the production of gold nanoparticles

Franciele Renata Henrique, Vinicius Silva de Oliveira, Wido Herwig Schreiner  
*Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR) – PR - Brasil*

Arandi Ginane Bezerra Jr.  
*Universidade Tecnológica Federal do Paraná (UTFPR) – PR - Brasil*

# Nanoparticles

- Properties strongly dependent of size and shape.
- Surface plasmons: strong resonance absorption and scattering at a particular wavelength.
- Application: medicine (bio-imaging, therapeutics), biology, electronic devices.



AuNPs

# Nanoparticles – production methods



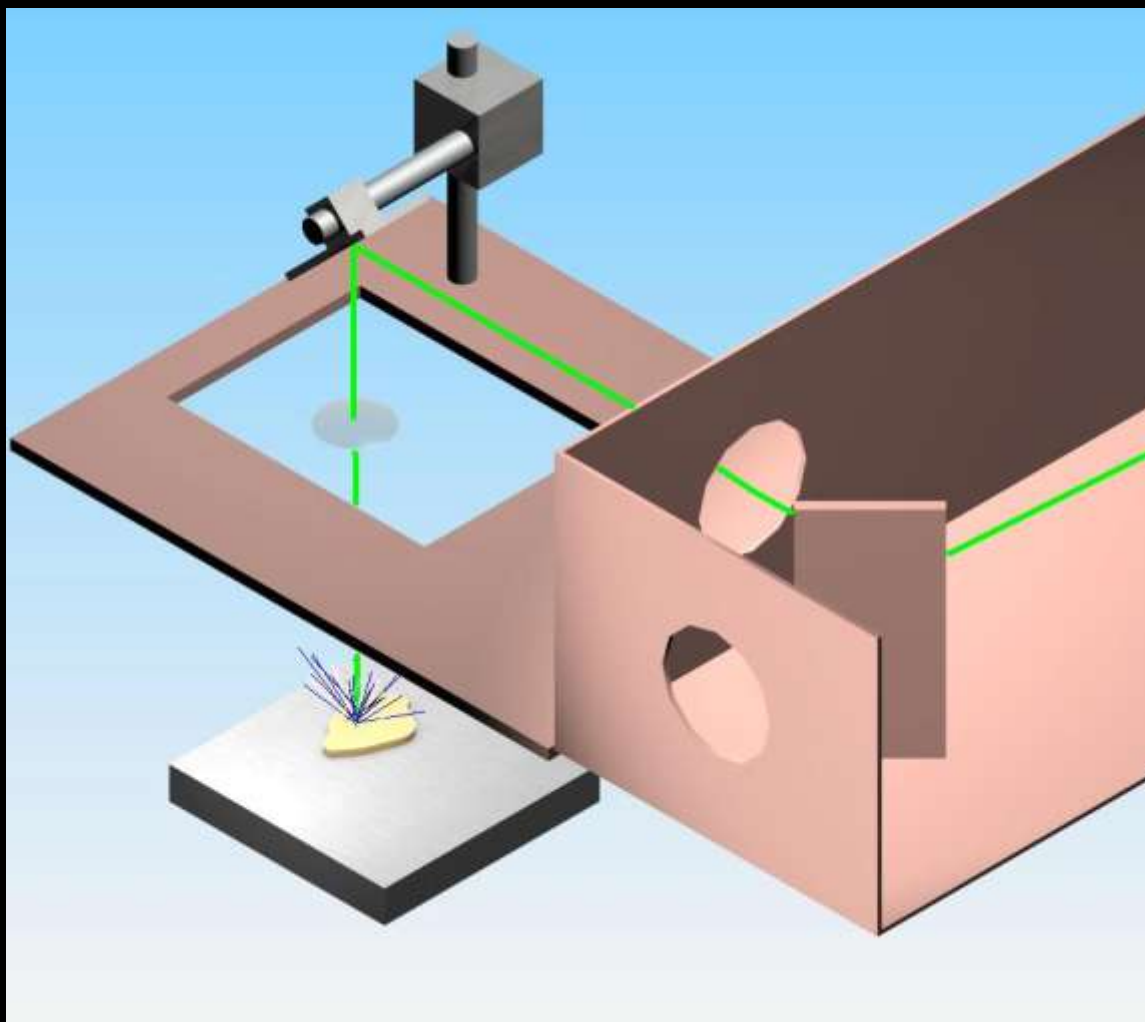
- Bottom up: atoms are assembled to generate nanostructures.
- Top down: material is removed from the bulk material.

# Laser Ablation Synthesis in Solutions



- A solid gold target is placed on the bottom of a glass vial filled with the desired solvent (deionized water or THF (*Tetrahydrofuran*)).
- Incidence of nanosecond laser irradiation.
- Explosion, vaporization and photoionization of the material.
- Plasma plume and formation of nanoparticles.

# Laser Ablation Synthesis in Solutions



# Laser Ablation Synthesis in Solutions

- Production in large scale.
- Green synthesis!





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# Experimental procedure

# Production: first step



- Fundamental harmonic (1064 nm) of a Nd:YAG laser operating in Q-switch and emitting 200 ns pulses with energy around 1mJ.
- Repetition rate of 1 KHz (power of 1000 mW).



# Production: second step

- Repetition rate of 100 Hz (100 mW).
- Irradiation times between 1 and 20 minutes.



# Production: self-focusing



# Production: self-focusing



- Only the fundamental harmonic is used.
- Large pulses (200 ns) lead to self-focusing of the beam.
- Multiphoton absorption.
- Coulomb explosion.

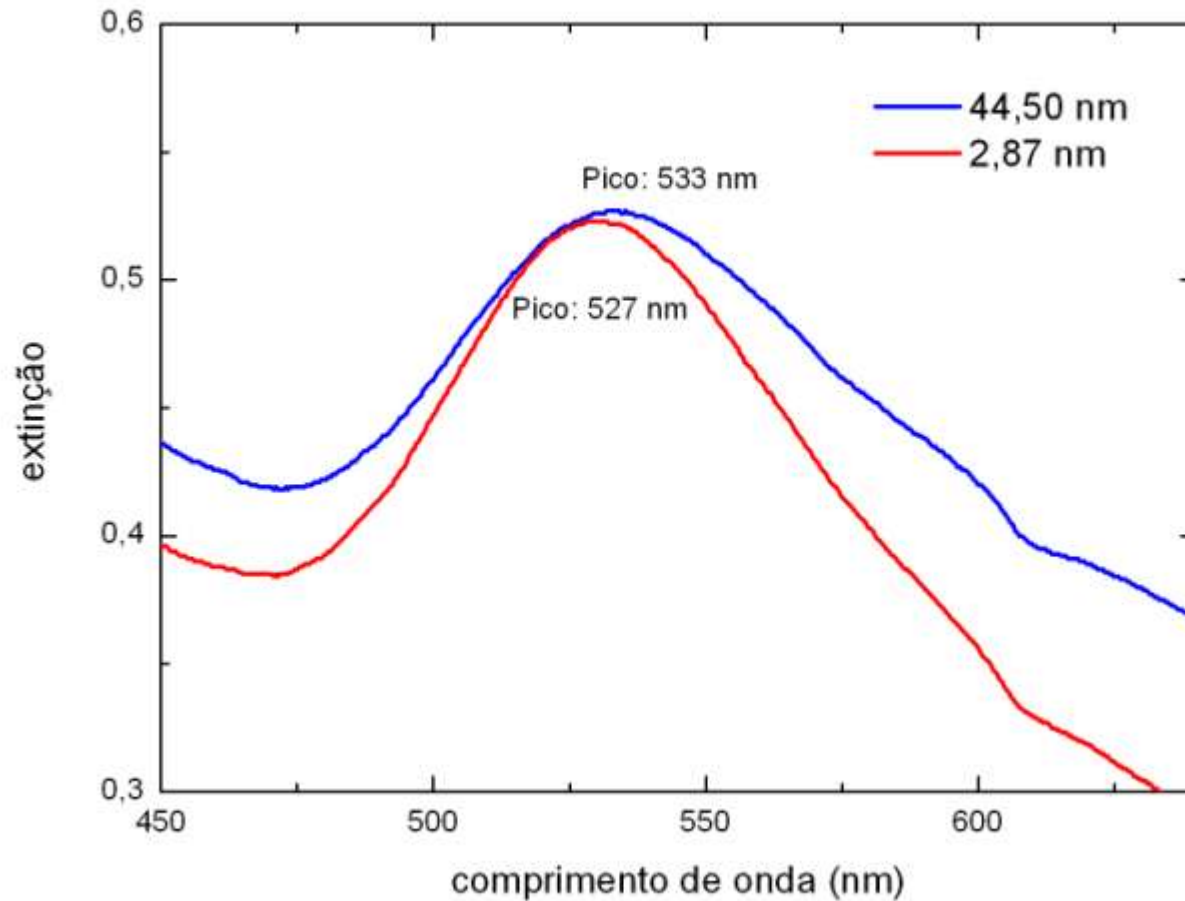


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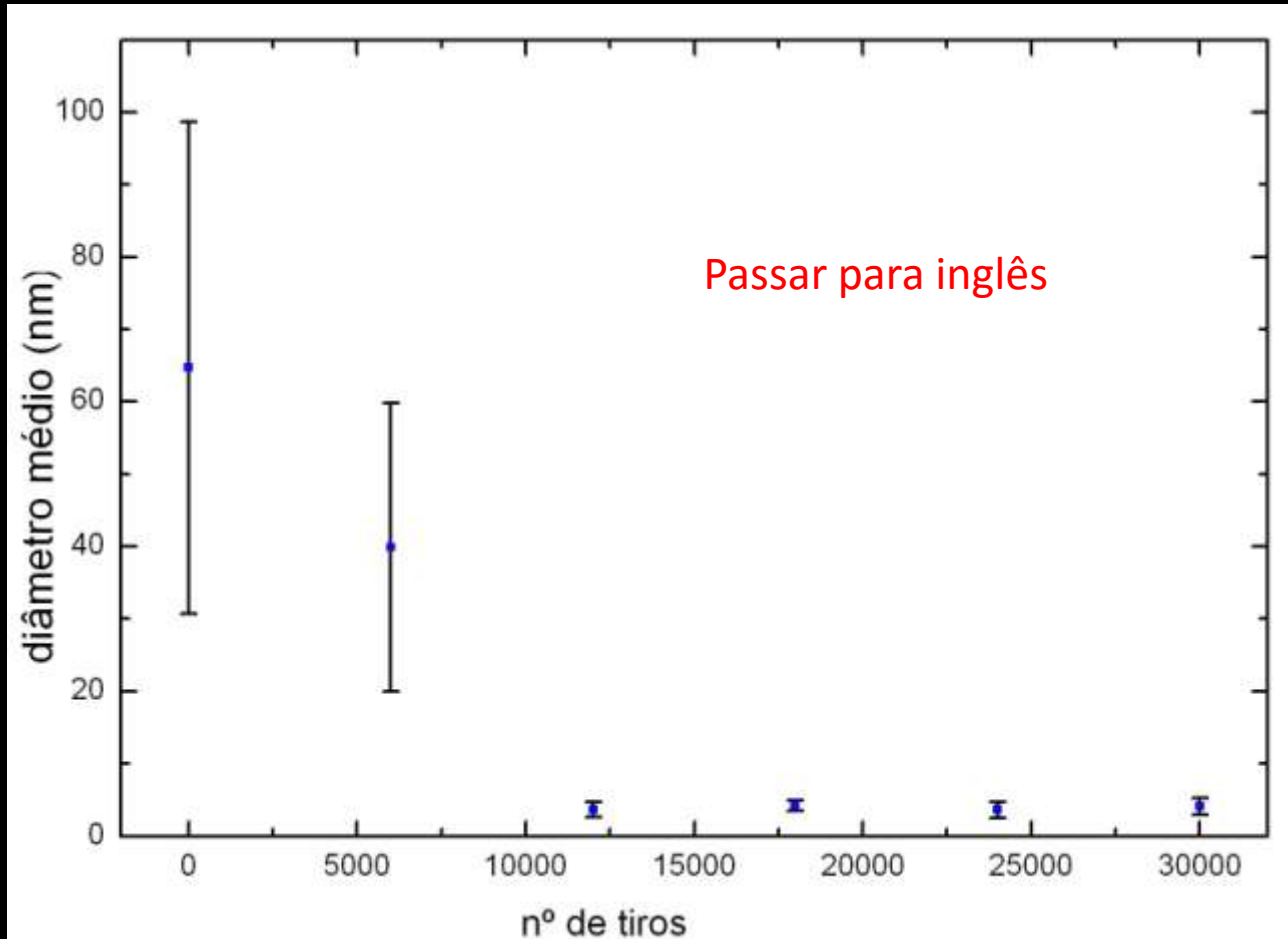
# Experimental results

# Characterization: UV/VIS Spectroscopy

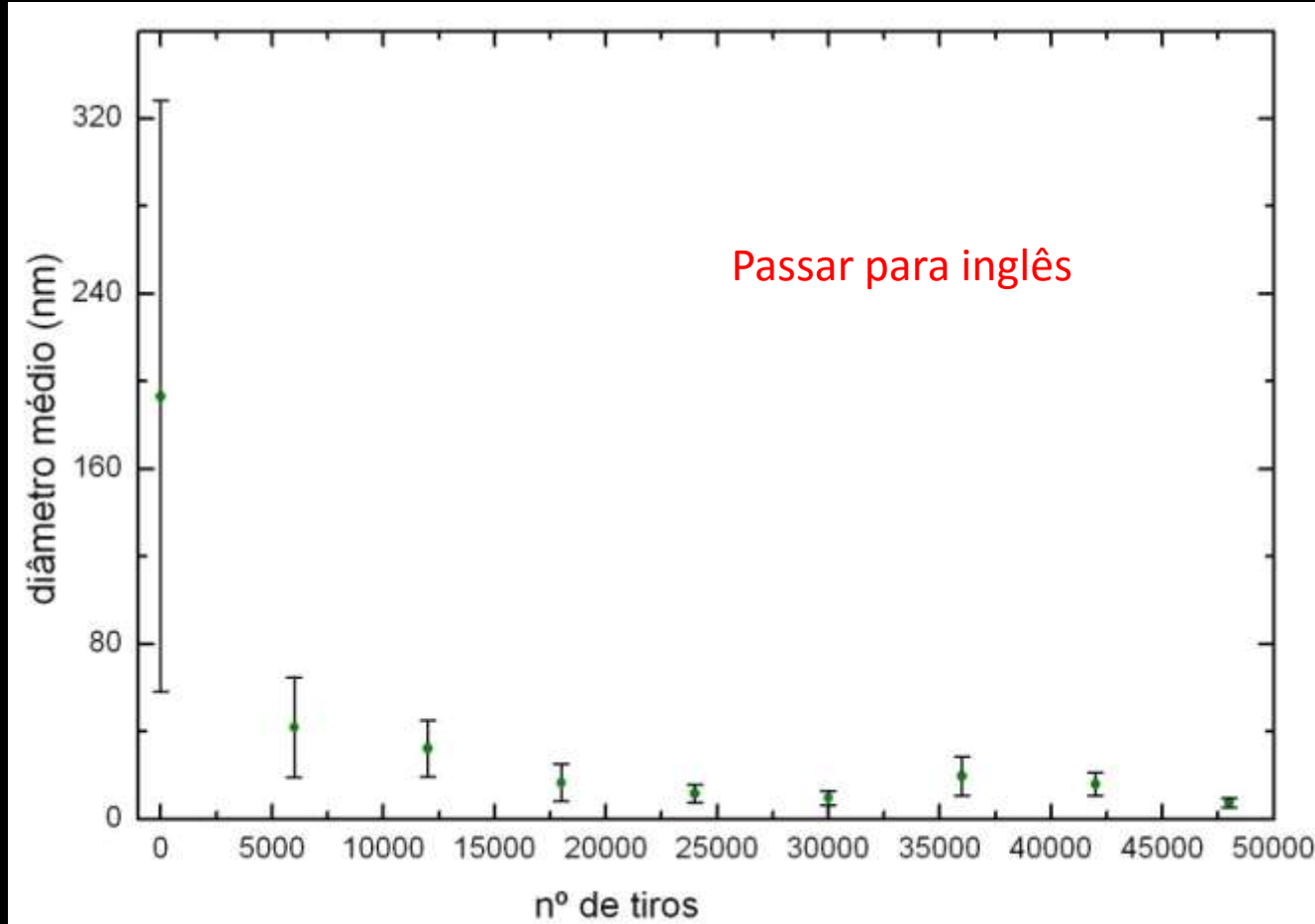
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# Characterization: DLS



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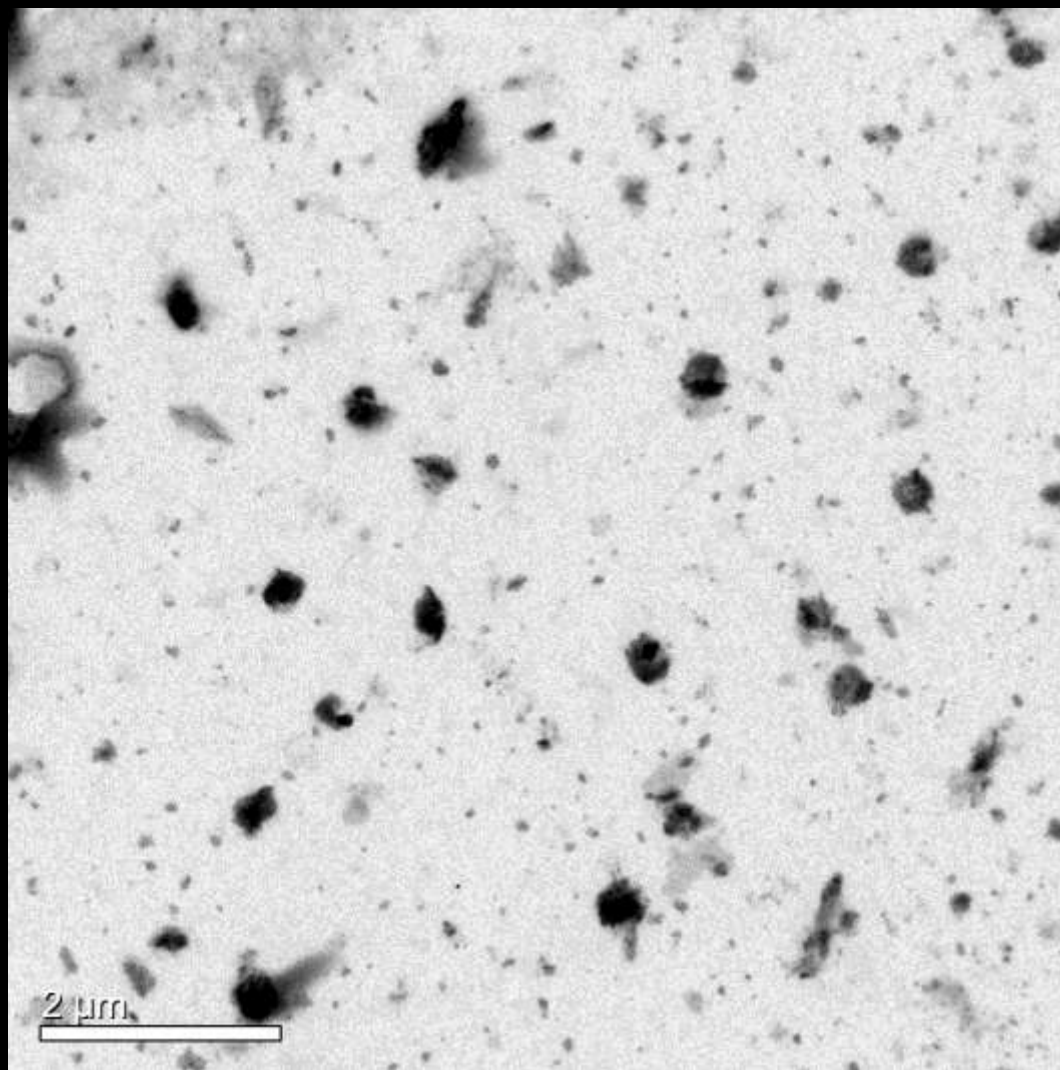


# Characterization: AFM

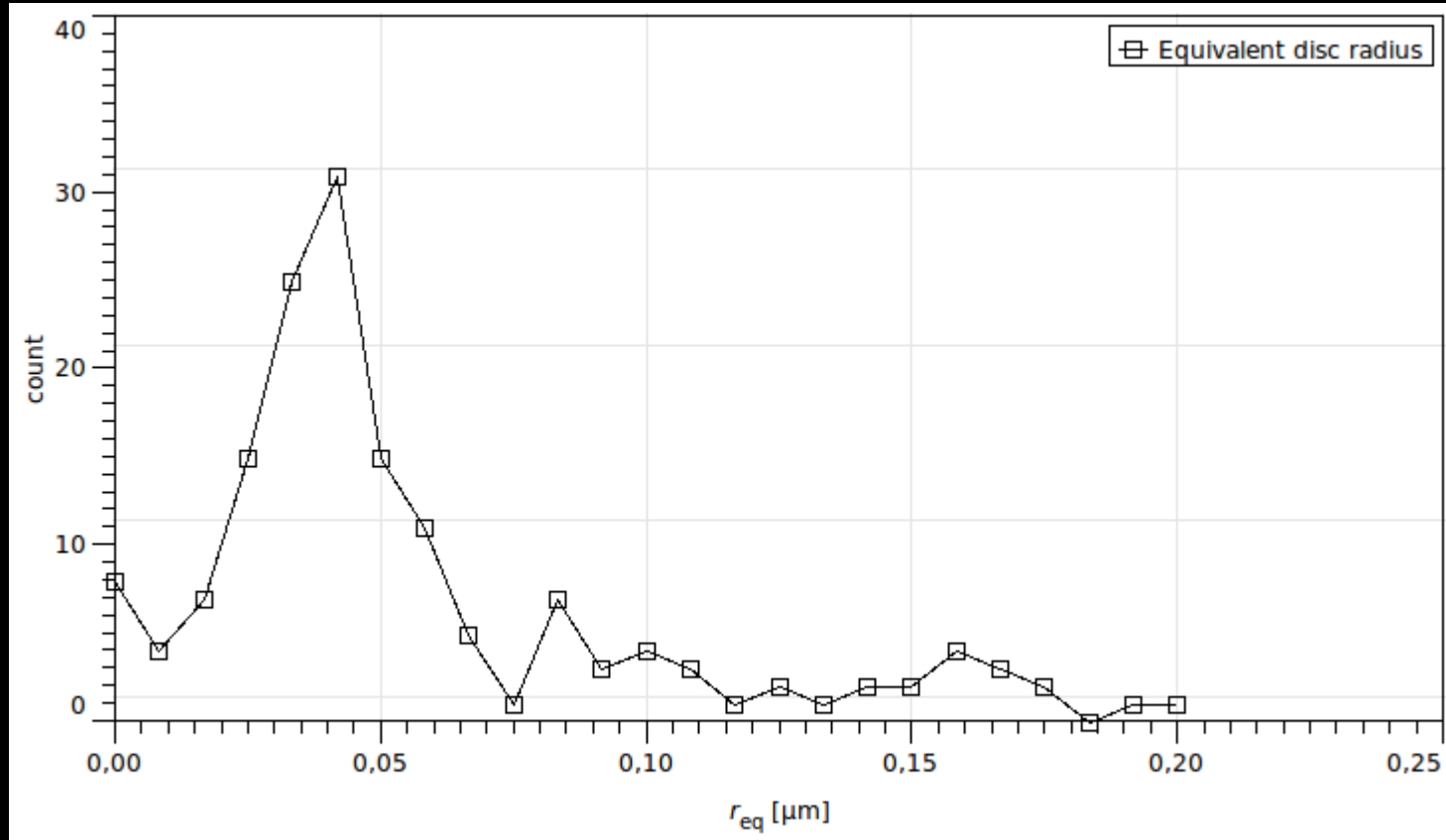




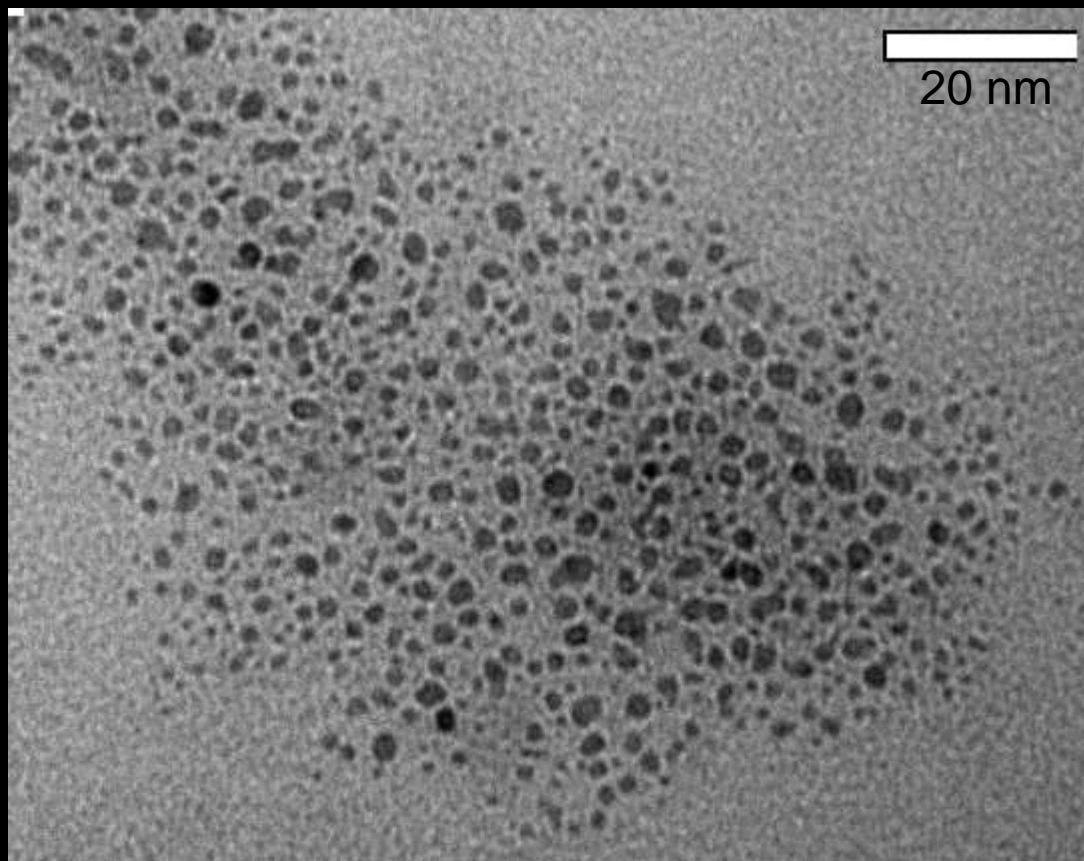
# Characterization: TEM



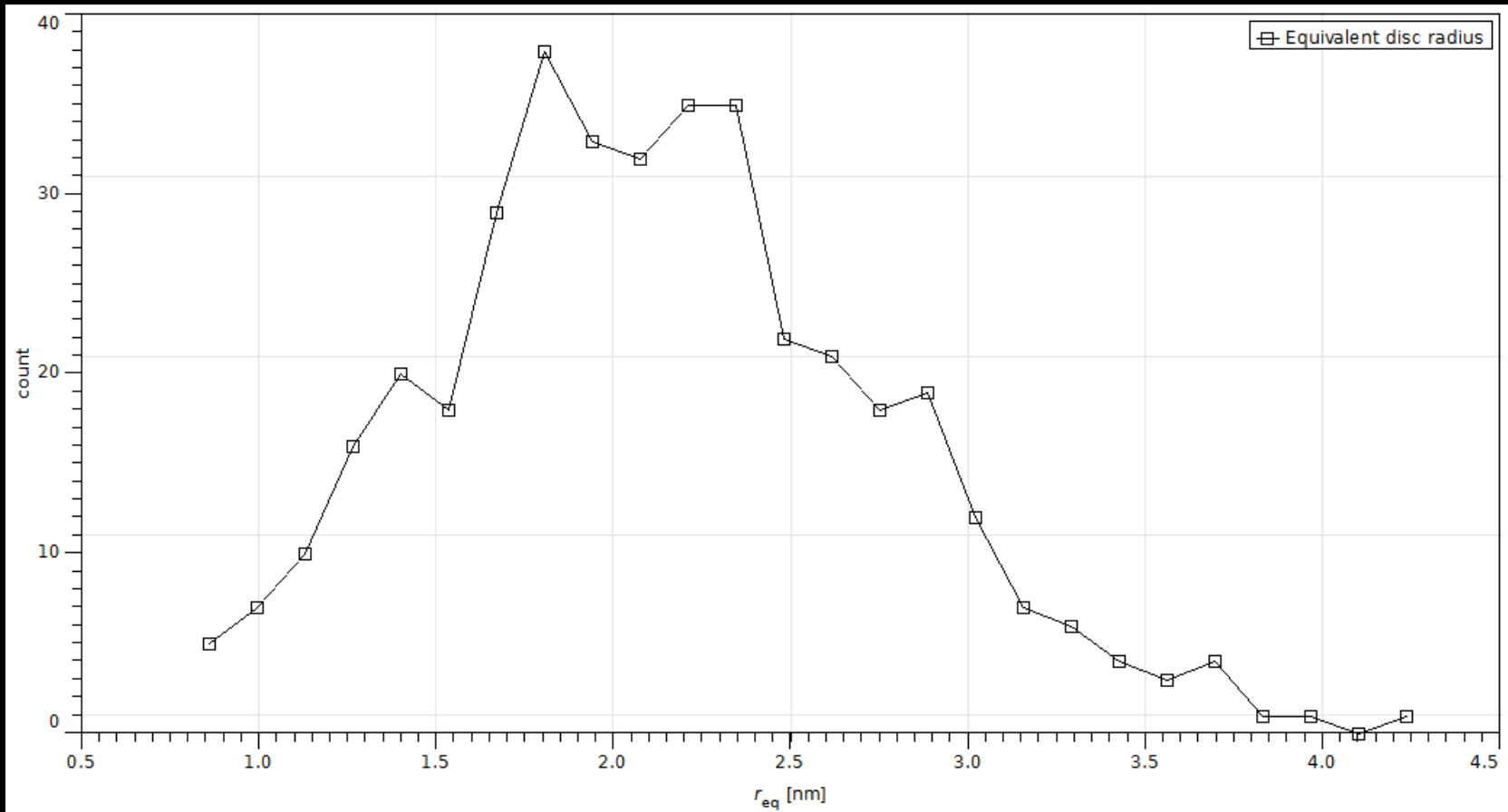
# Characterization: TEM (Histogram)



# Characterization: TEM



# Characterization: TEM (Histogram)



# Conclusion



- Our approach is useful for the production of small nanoparticles with low dispersion.
- TEM images confirm DLS data: nanoparticles' diameters below 10 nm.

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- What makes it unique?

The use of the fundamental harmonic of a Nd:YAG laser, resulting in the self-focusing phenomenon.

# References



- [1] V. Amendola and M. Meneghetti, *Phys. Chem. And Chem. Phys.*, 2009, 11, 3805-3821.
- [2] Bala Krishna Juluri; Jun Huang; Lasse Jensen (2010), "Extinction, Scattering and Absorption efficiencies of multilayer nanoparticles," DOI: 10254/nanohub-r8228.2. (DOI: 10254/nanohub-r8228.2).
- [3] Yuen-Yan Fong, Jason R. Gascooke, Bradley R. Visser, Gregory F. Metha, and Mark A. Buntine, *J. Phys. Chem. C* 2010, 114, 15931–15940.