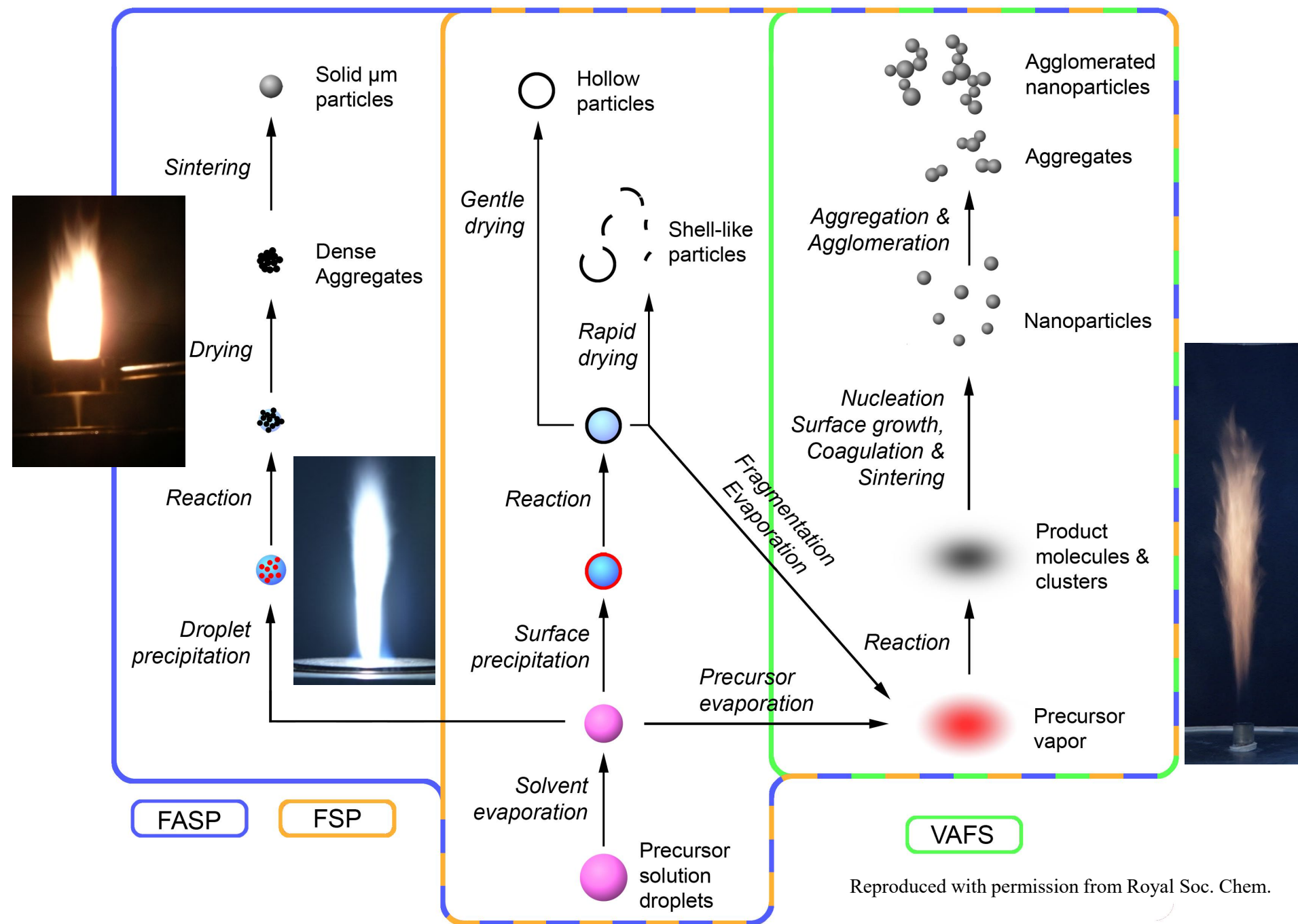


Combustion Synthesis of Materials

2. How to closely control aerosol particle characteristics

Sotiris E. Pratsinis

Particle Technology Laboratory,
Institute of Process Engineering,
Department of Mechanical Engineering,
ETH Zurich, Switzerland



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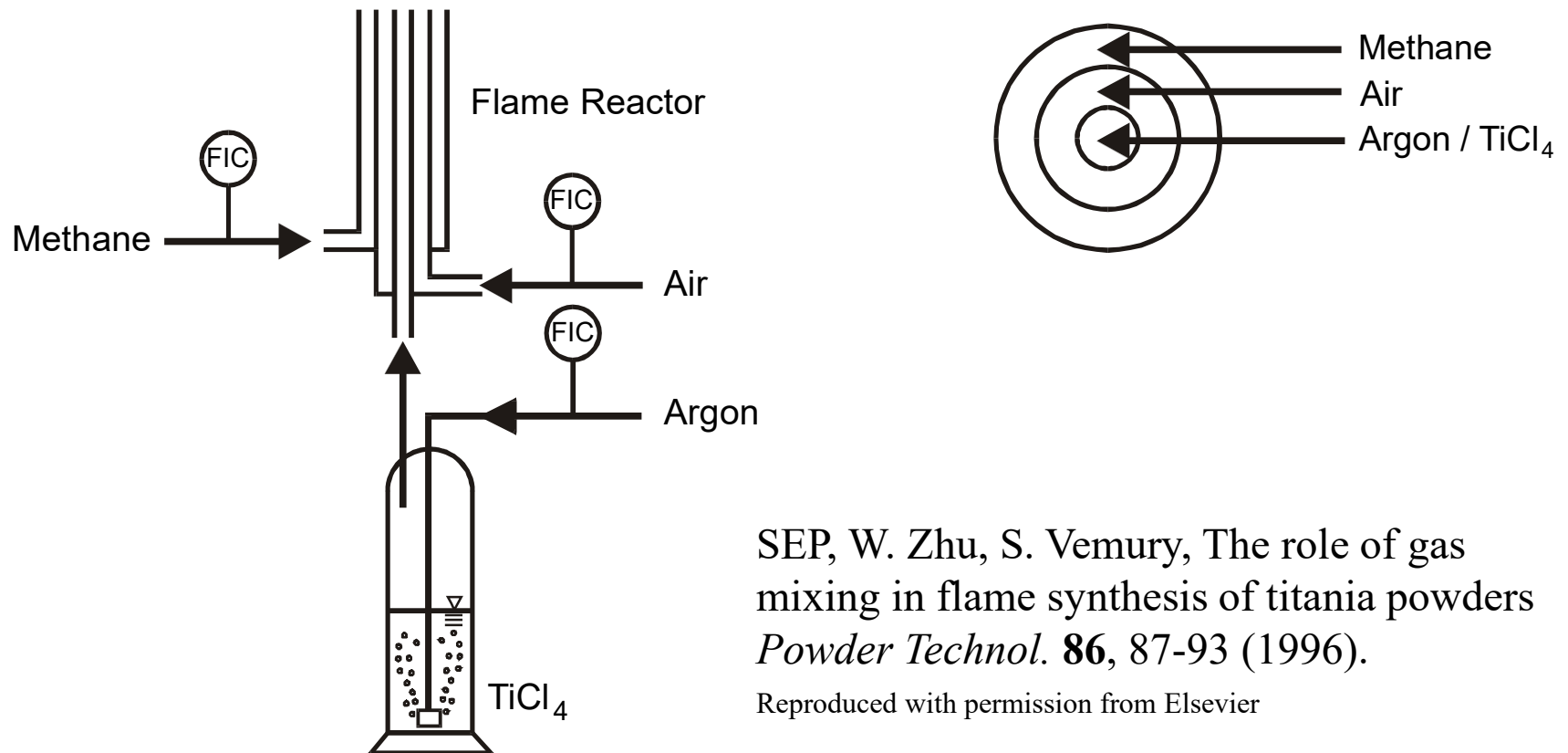
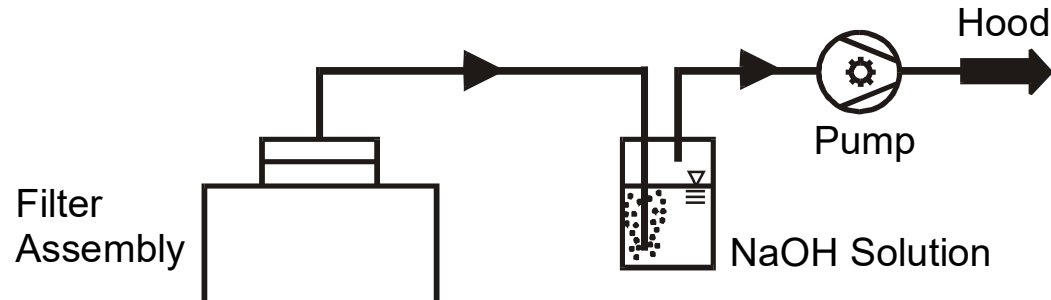
Catalyst Synthesis by Flame Spray Pyrolysis (FSP)

Strobel, Stark, Mädler, SEP, Baiker, *J. Catal.* **213**, 296-304 (2003)



Spray flame producing Pt/Al₂O₃

Diffusion Flame Reactor for SiO_2 or TiO_2 synthesis



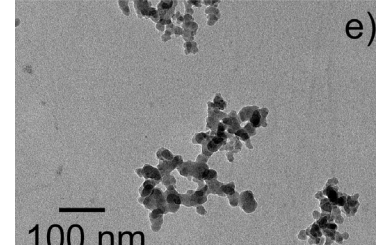
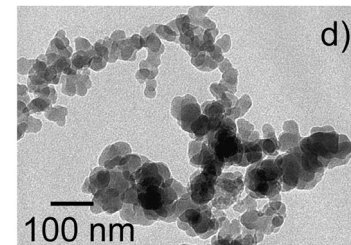
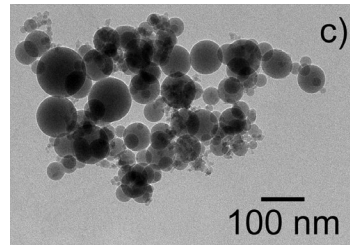
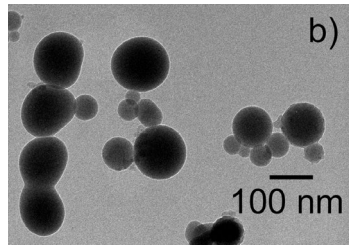
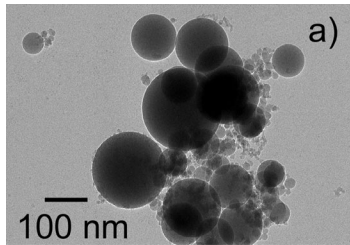
SEP, W. Zhu, S. Vemury, The role of gas mixing in flame synthesis of titania powders *Powder Technol.* **86**, 87-93 (1996).

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1. Oxidant flow rate

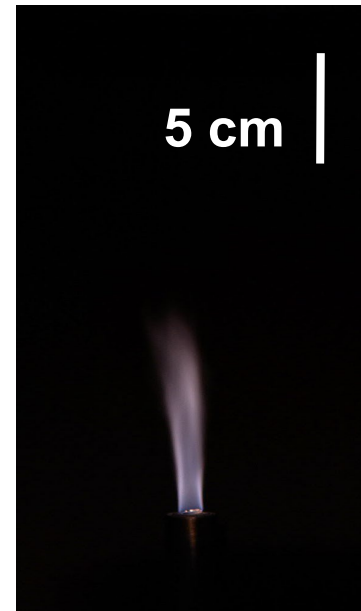
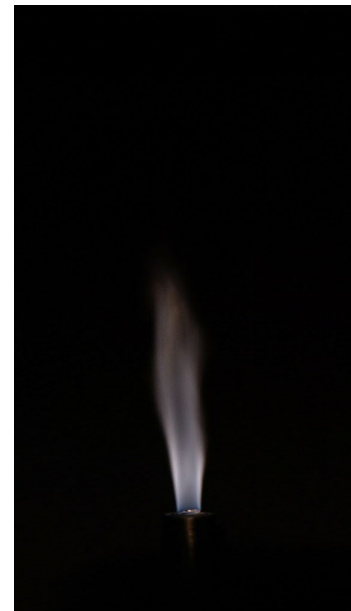
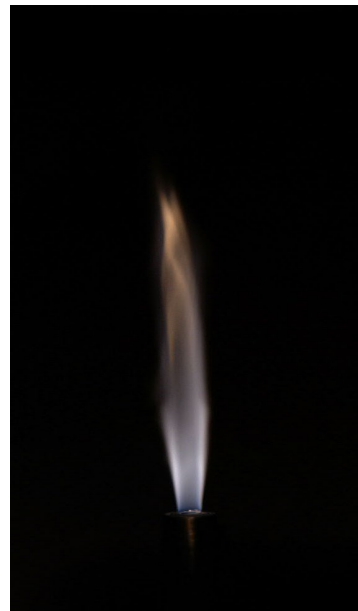
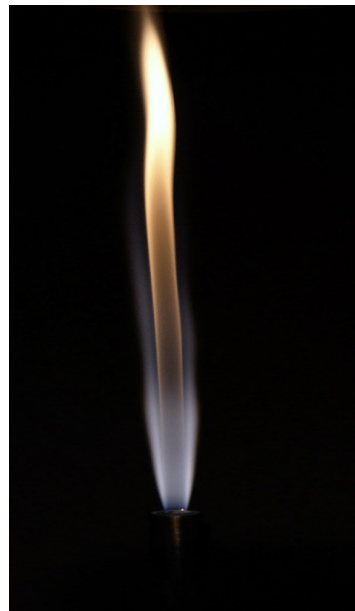
17 g/h SiO₂

← filter powder by SAXS: non-fractal →



$D_f=1.6$

$D_f=1.9$



2.5

4.7

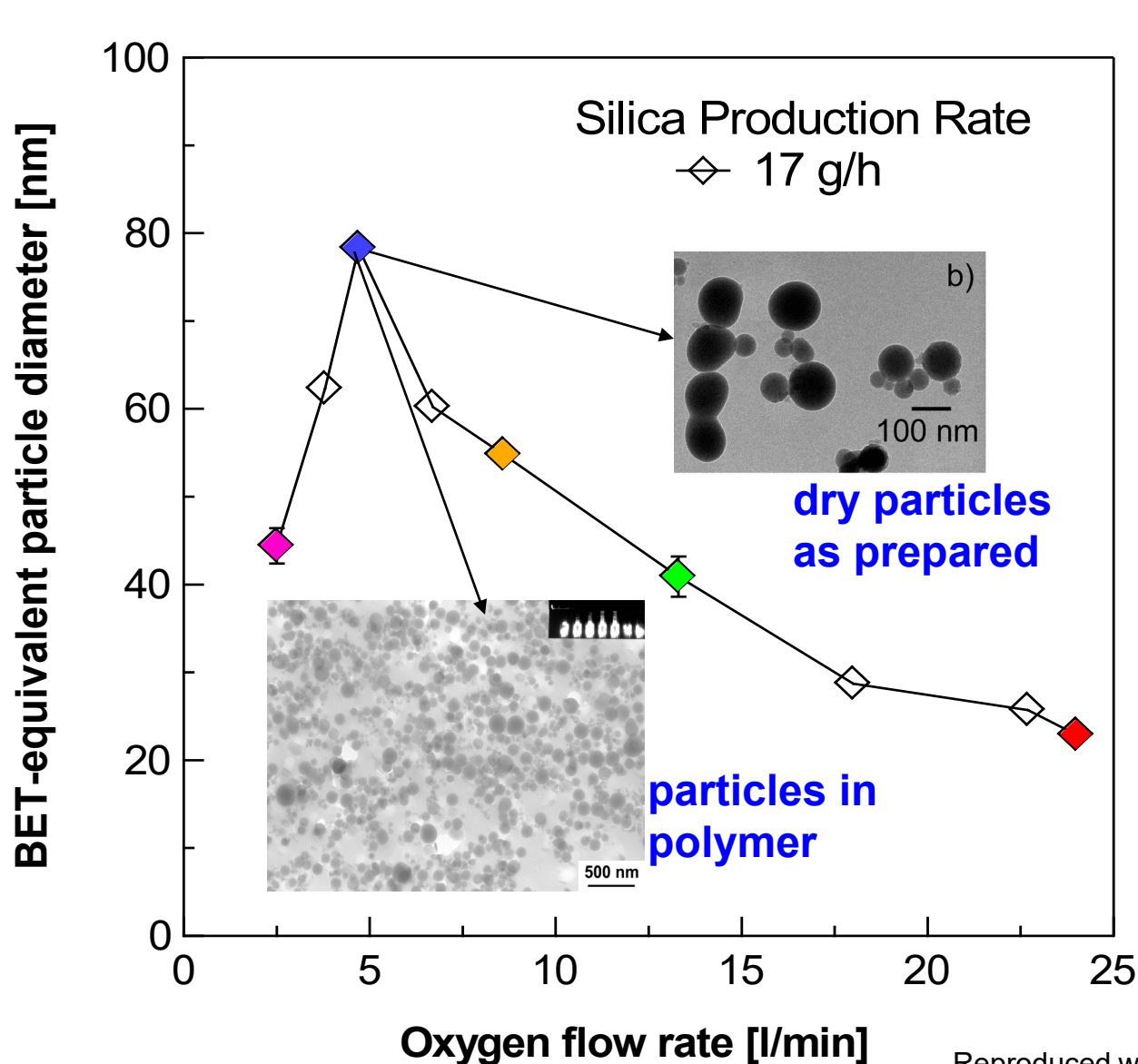
8.5

13.3

24

Oxygen flow rate, l/min

1. Oxidant flow rate



$$SSA = \frac{6}{(\rho * d_p)}$$

ρ = solid particle density

d_p = BET-equivalent particle diameter = primary particle diameter

Mueller, Kammler, SEP, Vital, Beaucage, Burtcher, *Powder Technol.*, **140**, 40-48 (2004)

1. Effect of quench (or oxidant) gas flow rate on the size (SSA) of plasma-made particles

SSA = GeO made in a RF plasma

$$6 / (\rho * d_p)$$

SSA = 11

19

23 m²/g

**ρ = solid
particle
density**

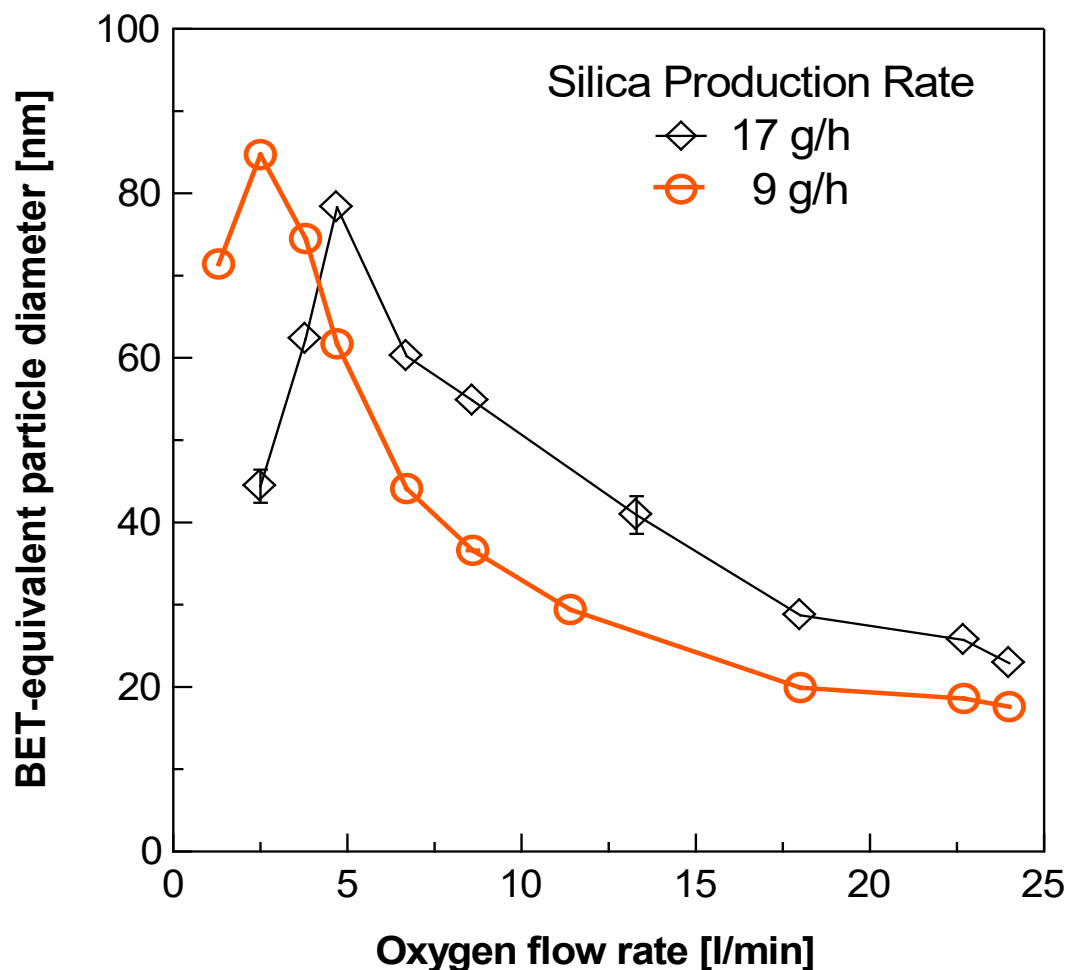
Scanning Electron Microscopy pictures of spherical particles with decreasing average size

**d_p = BET-
equivalent
(or primary)
particle
diameter**

Quench (or Oxidant) gas flow rate



2. Precursor concentration



$T_{\text{HMDSO}}: 5^{\circ} \text{ C}$

Production rate 17 g/h:

- $\text{N}_2 = 2.9 \text{ l/min}$
- $\text{CH}_4 = 1.4 \text{ l/min}$

Production rate 9 g/h:

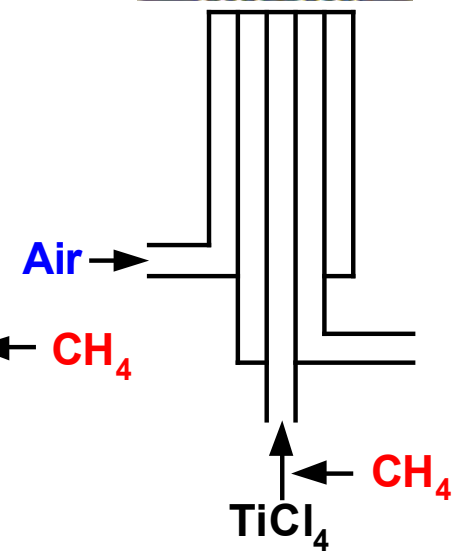
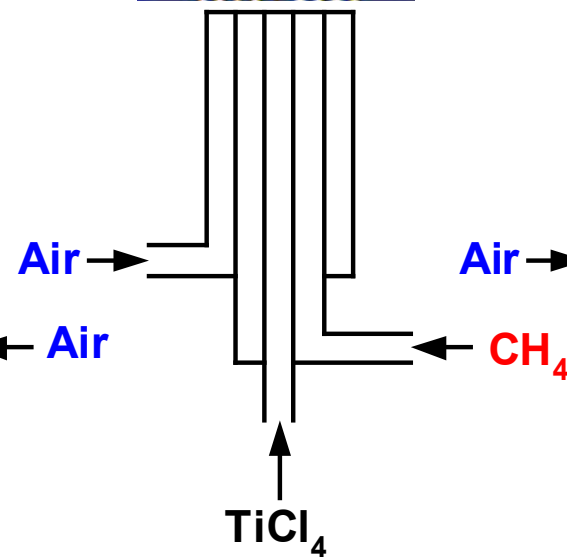
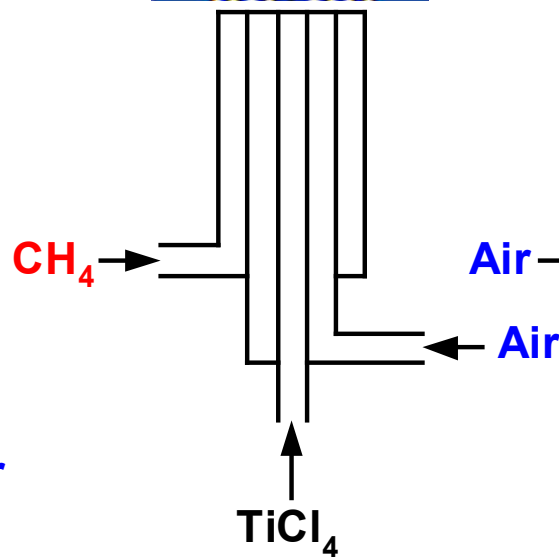
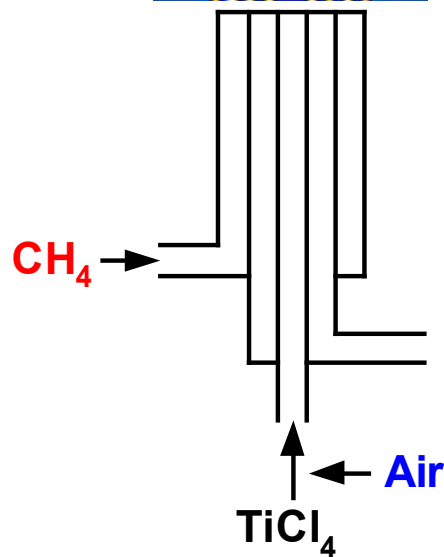
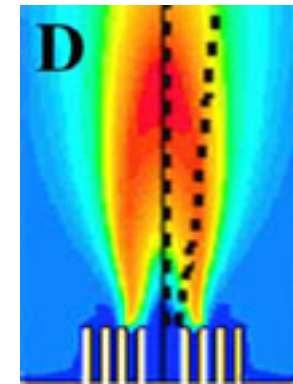
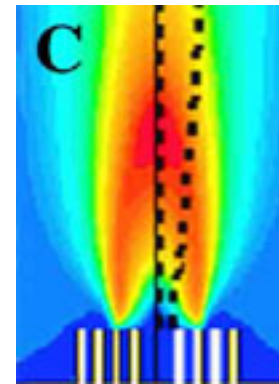
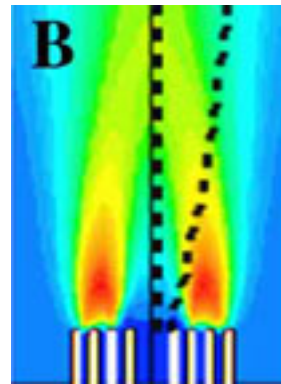
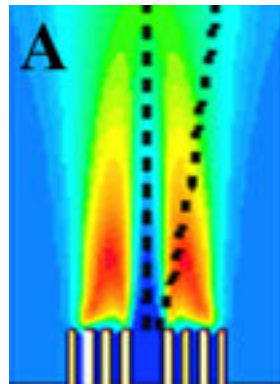
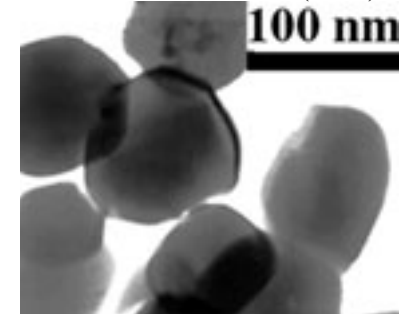
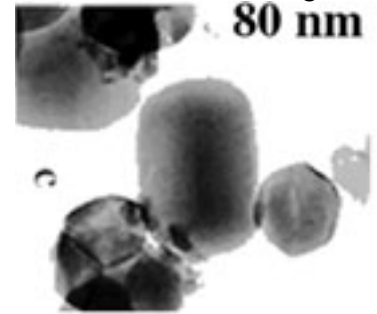
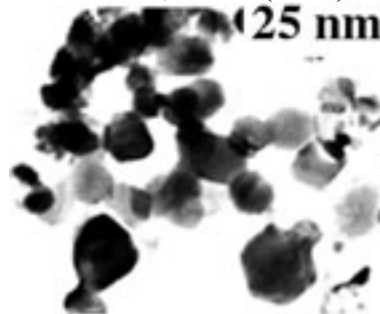
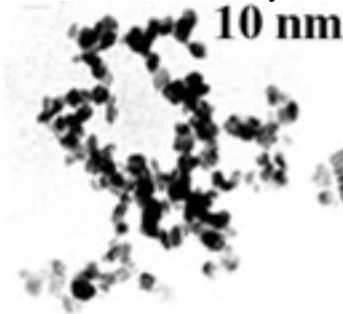
- $\text{N}_2 = 1.4 \text{ l/min}$
- $\text{CH}_4 = 0.7 \text{ l/min}$

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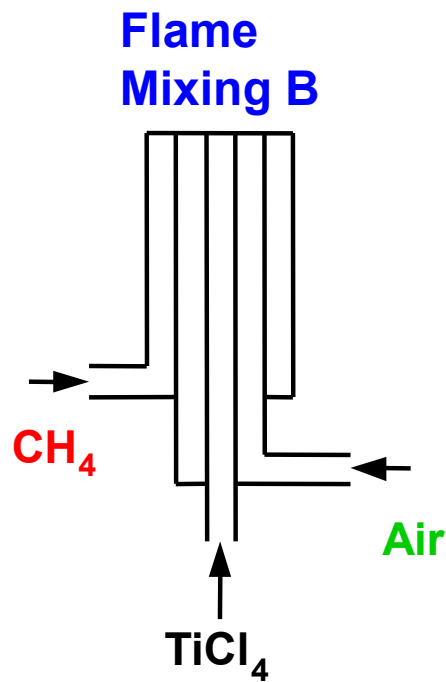
Mueller, Kammler, SEP, Vital, Beaucage, Burtscher, Non-agglomerated Dry Silica Nanoparticles *Powder Technol.*, **140**, 40-48 (2004)

3. Mixing of reactants

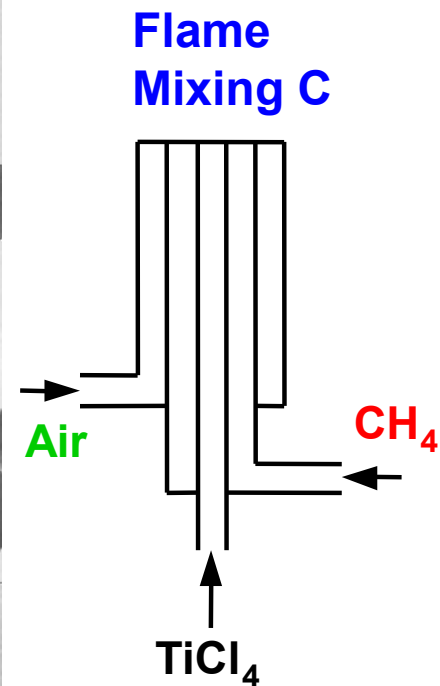
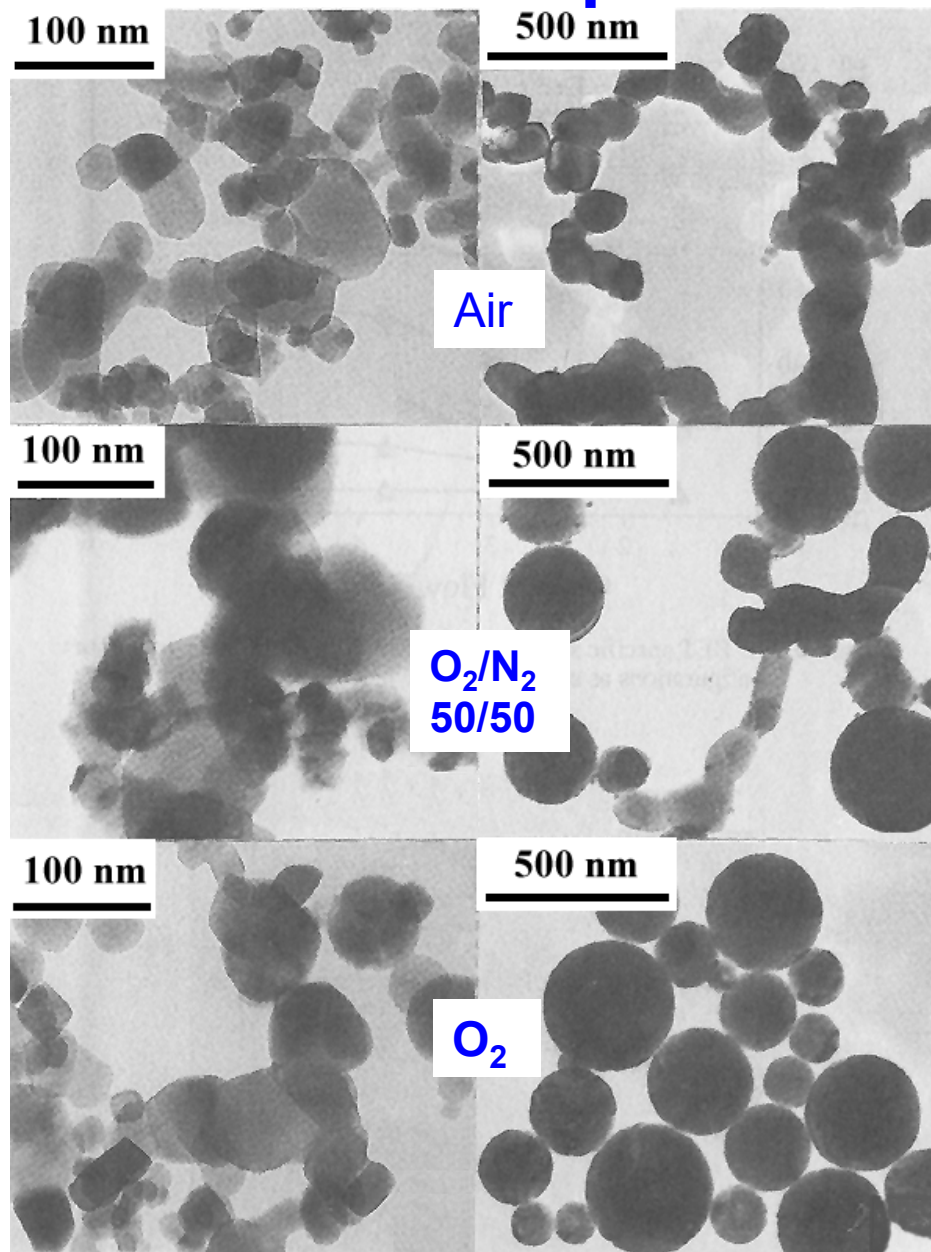
SEP, W. S. Zhu, Vemury, *Powder Technol.* **86**, 87-93 (1996); T. Johannessen, SEP, H. Livberg, *Powder Technol.*, **118**, 242-250 (2001).



4. oxidant composition

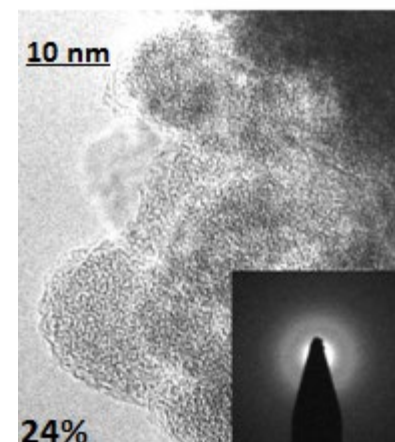
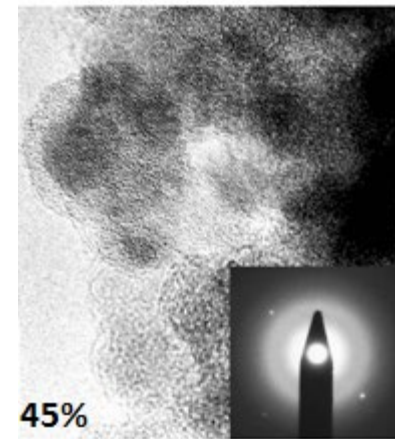
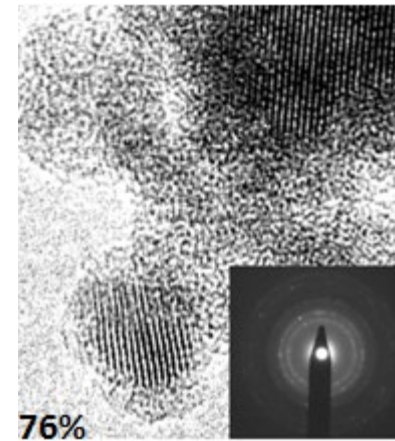
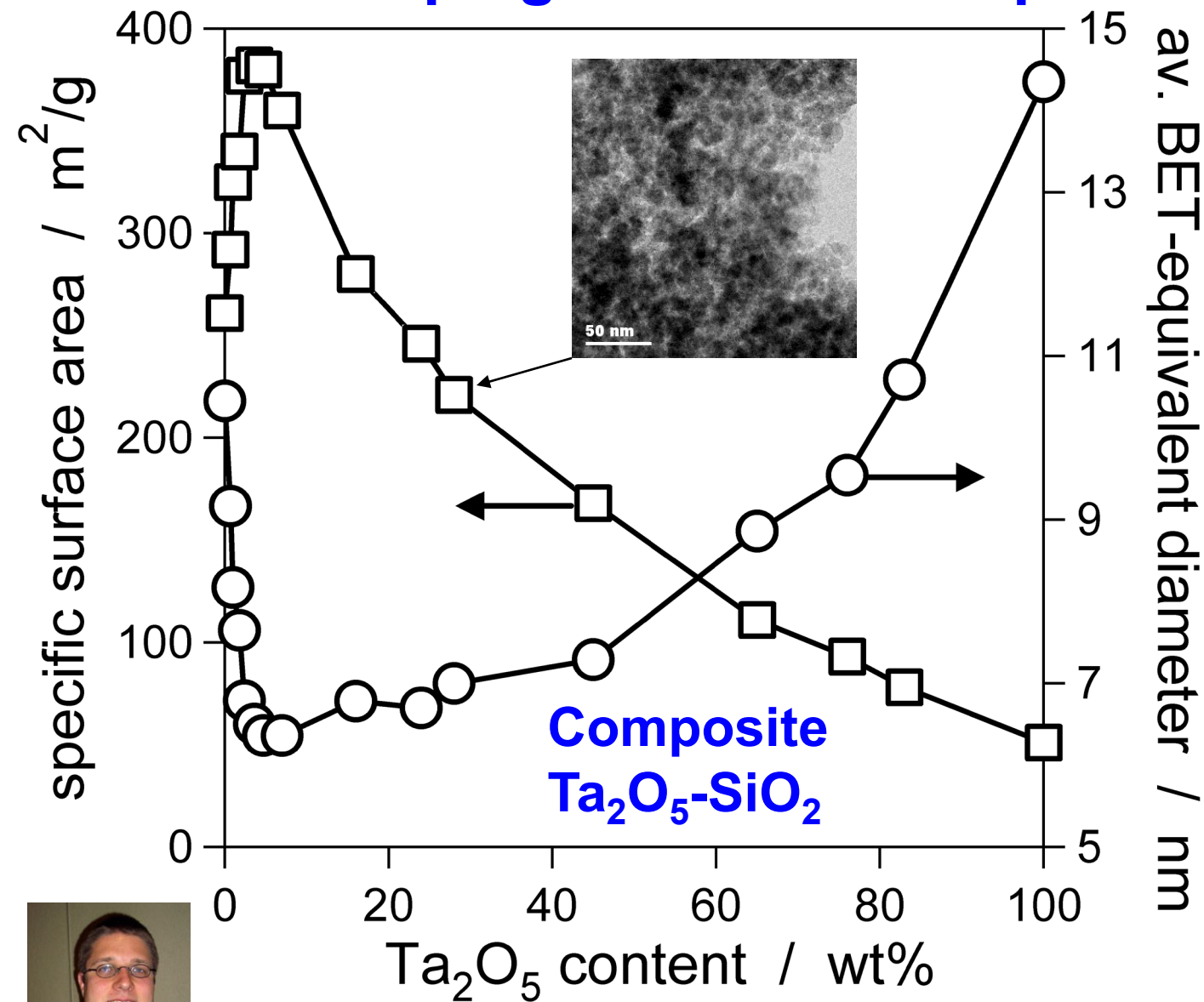


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W. Zhu, SEP, Flame Synthesis of Nanosize Particles: Effect of Flame Configuration and Oxidant Composition ACS Symp. Ser. **622**, 64-78 (1996).

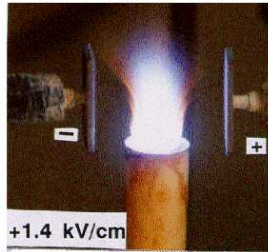
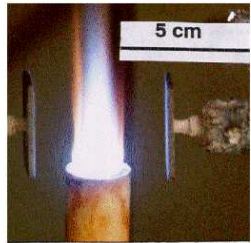
5. Effect of doping:Ta-content on primary particle size



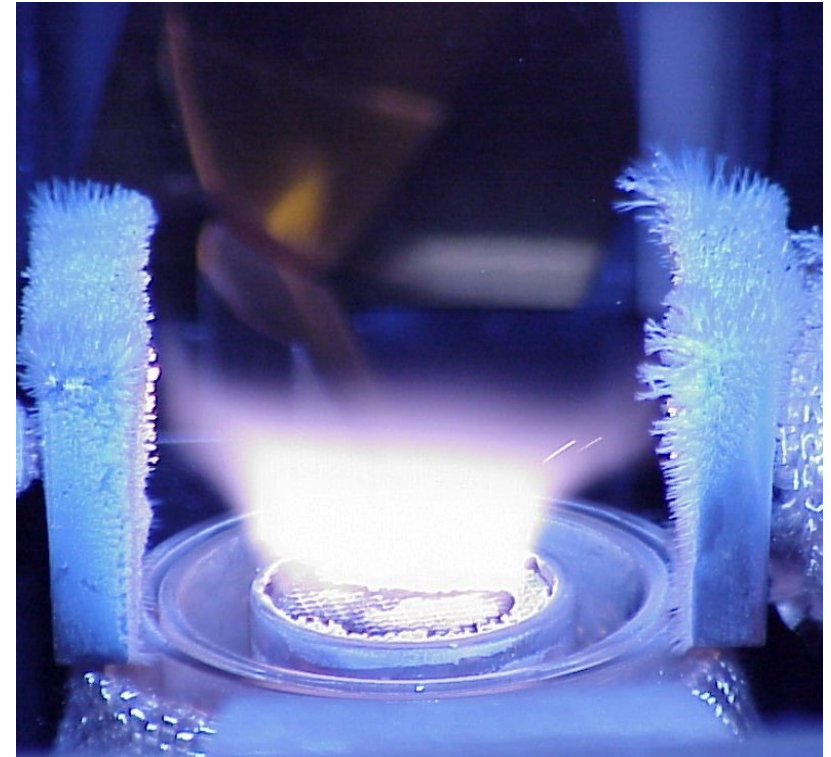
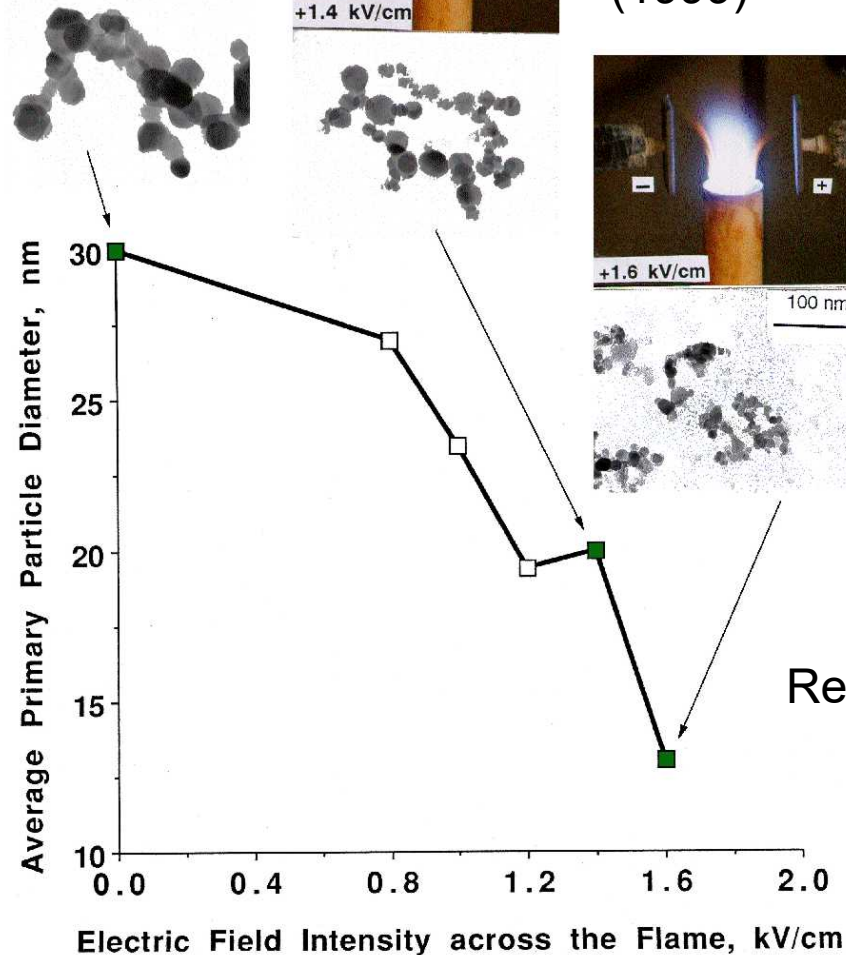
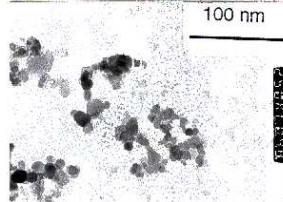
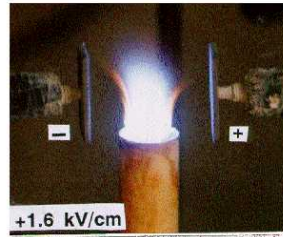
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Schulz, Madler, SEP, Burtscher, Mozner, Transparent nanocomposites of radiopaque, flame-made $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5/\text{SiO}_2$ particles in an acrylic matrix", *Adv. Functional Mater.*, **15**(5), 830-837 (2005).

6. Charging



U.S. Patent
5,861,132
(1999)



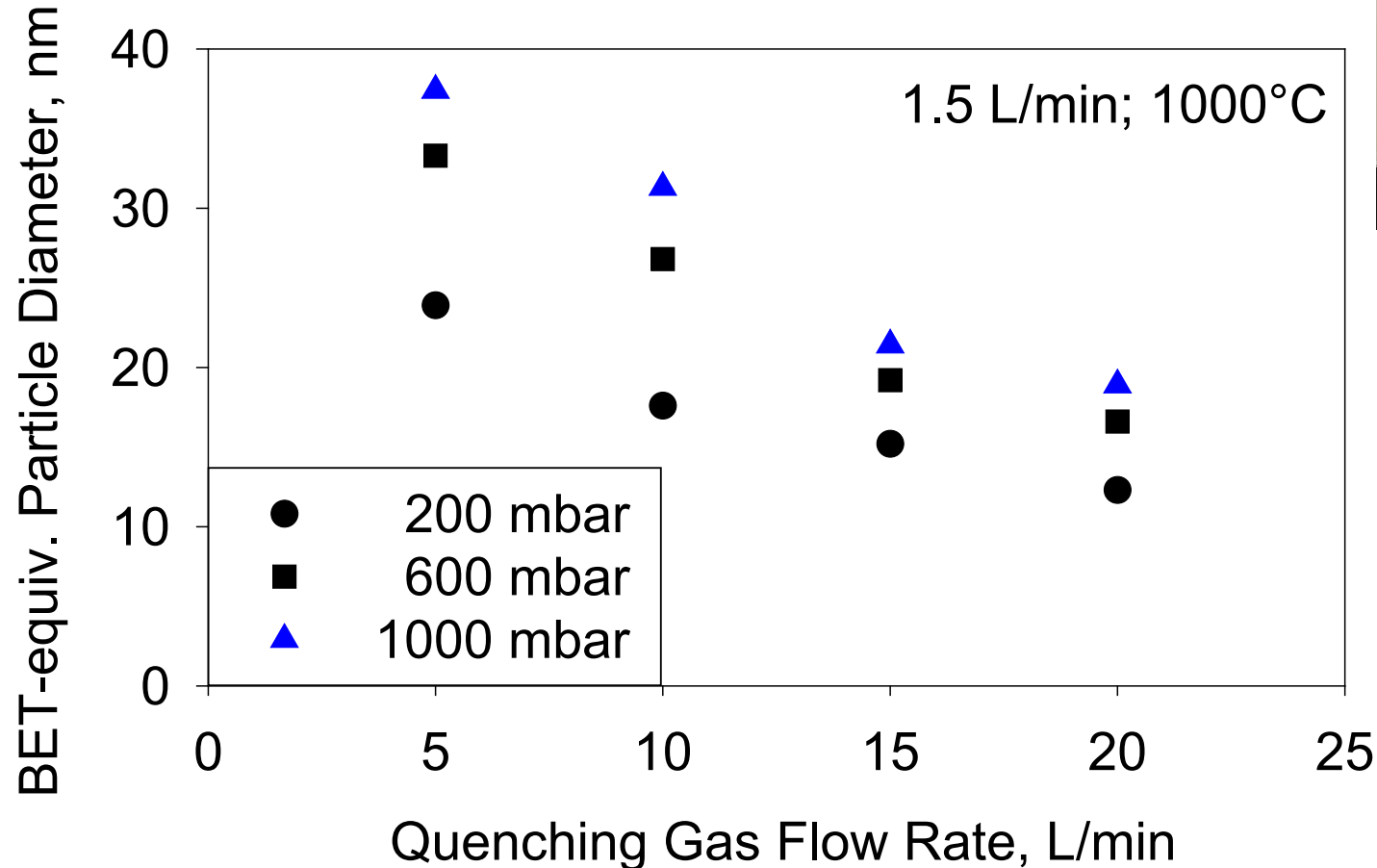
Kammler, *PhD thesis, ETH #14622* (2002)

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"Flame Aerosol Synthesis of Ceramic Powders" *Prog. Energy Combust. Sci.* **24**, 197-219 (1998).

S. Vemury, SEP, L. Kibbey, Electrically-Controlled Flame Synthesis of Nanophase TiO_2 , SiO_2 and SnO_2 Powders *Mater. Res.* **12**, 1031-1042 (1997).

7a. Effect of Pressure in Aerosol (Hot–Wall) Reactors



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K. Wegner, B. Walker, S. Tsantilis, SEP, "Design of Metal Nanoparticle synthesis by Vapor Flow Condensation", *Chem. Eng. Sci.* **57**, 1753-1762 (2002).

7b. Effect of Argon Pressure in Inert Gas Condensation (Cold-Wall Aerosol Unit)

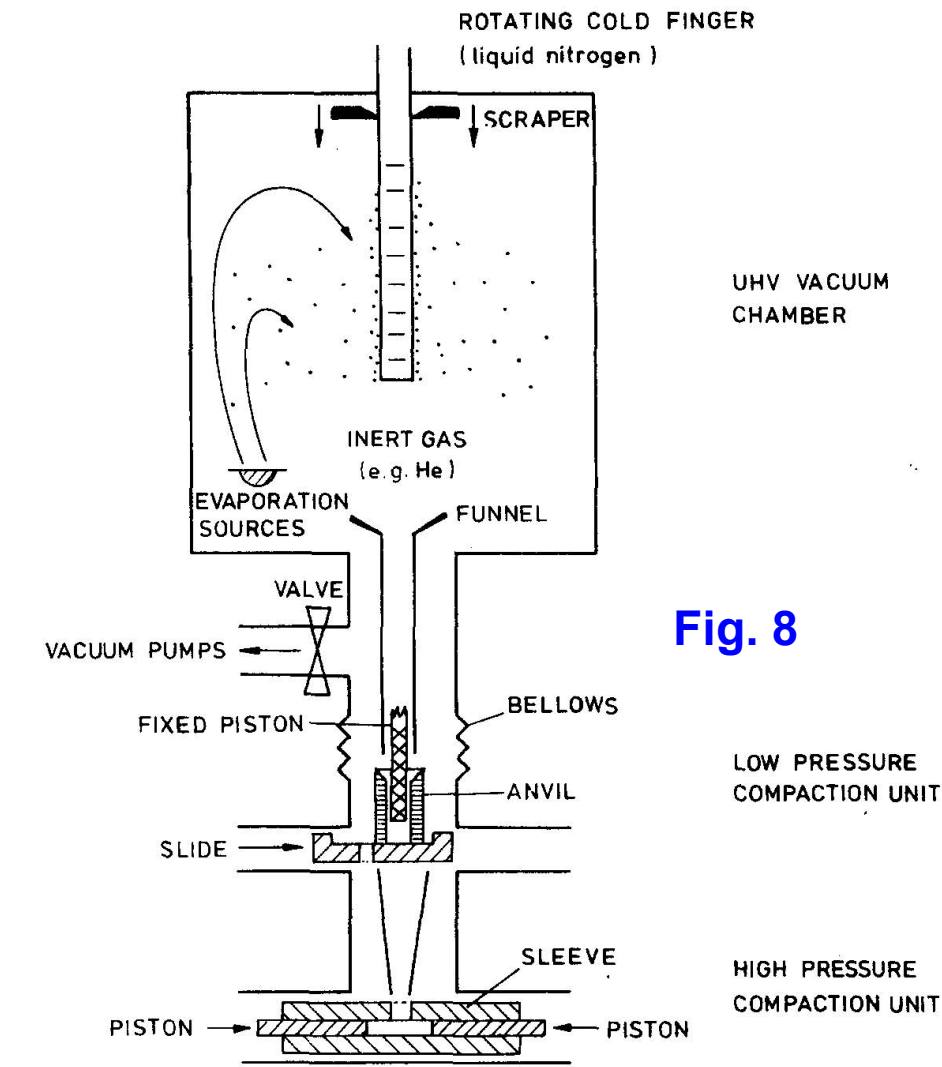


Fig. 8

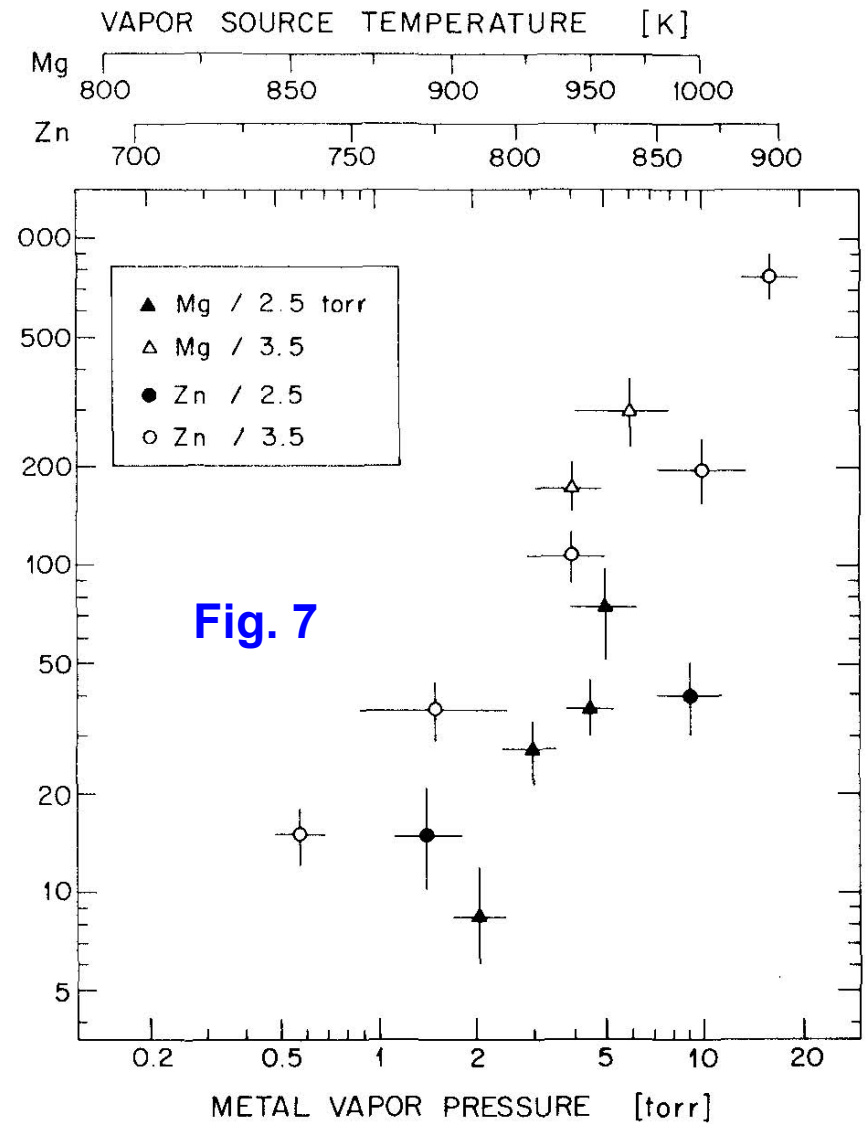
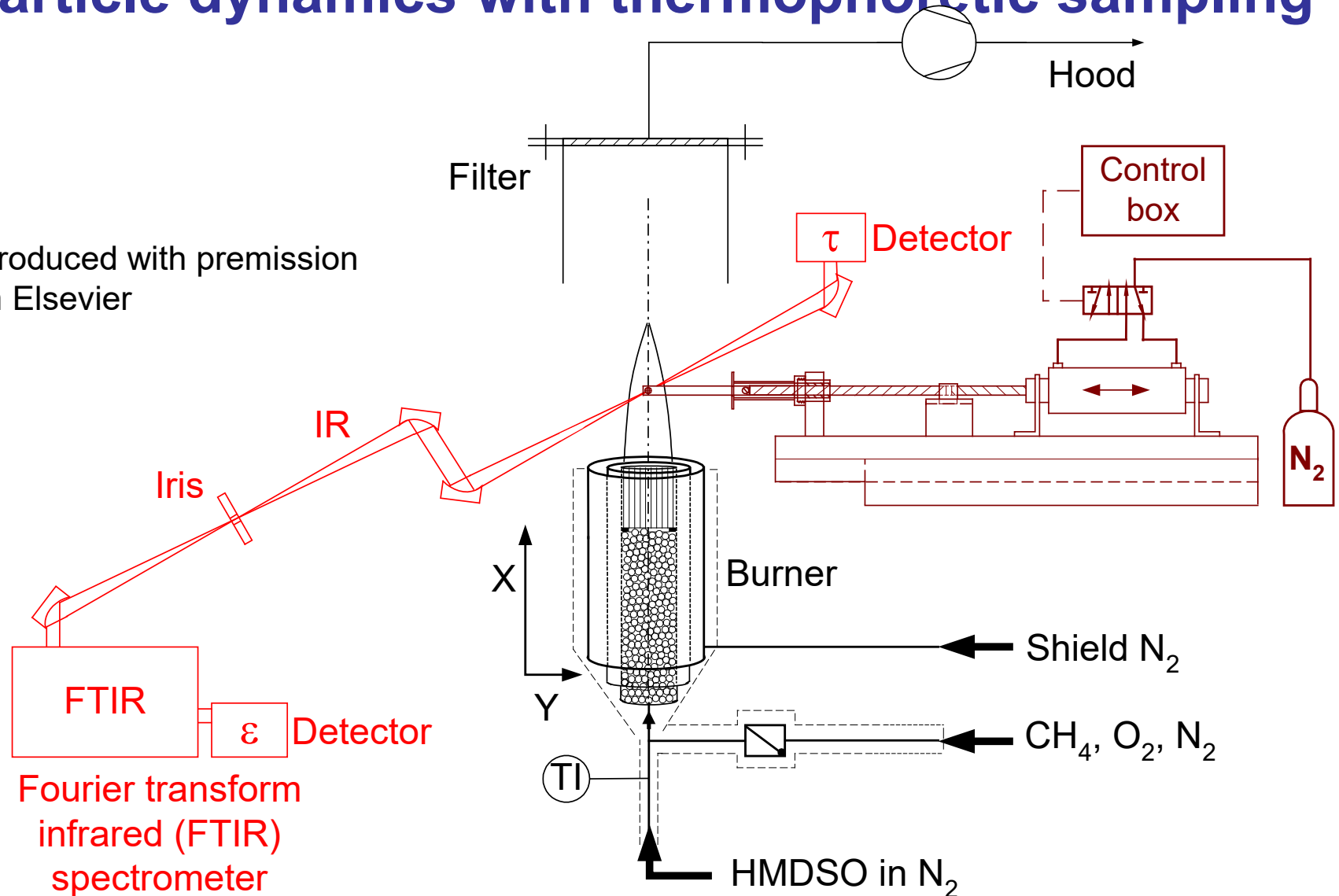


Fig. 7

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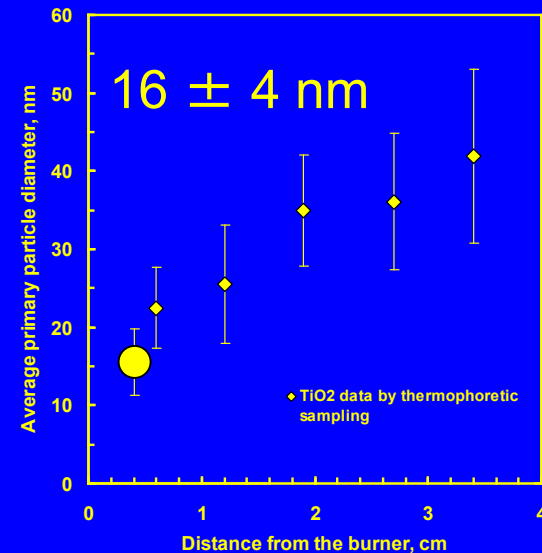
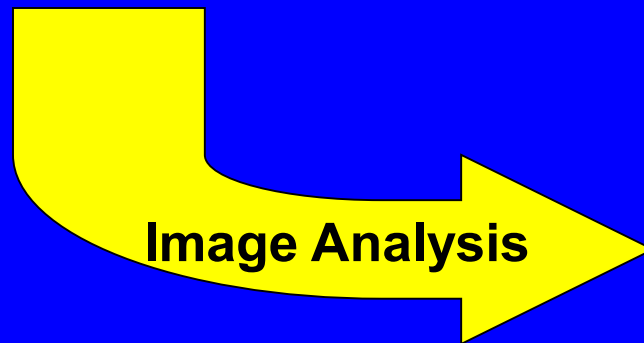
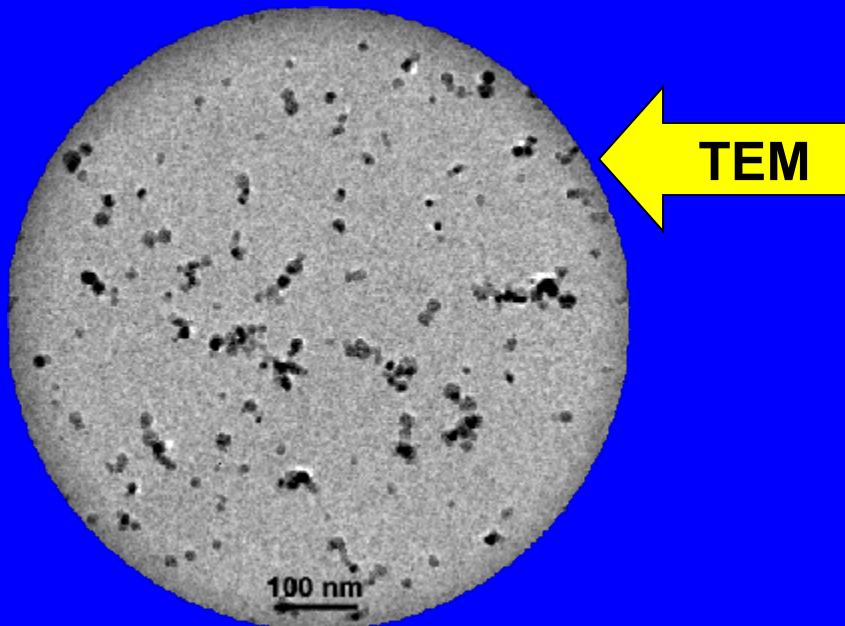
Open the “black box” of the flame by monitoring particle dynamics with thermophoretic sampling

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Kammler, R. Jossen, P.W. Morrison Jr., S.E. Pratsinis, G. Beaucage "The effect of external electric fields during flame synthesis of titania", *Powder Technol.*, **135**:310 (2003).

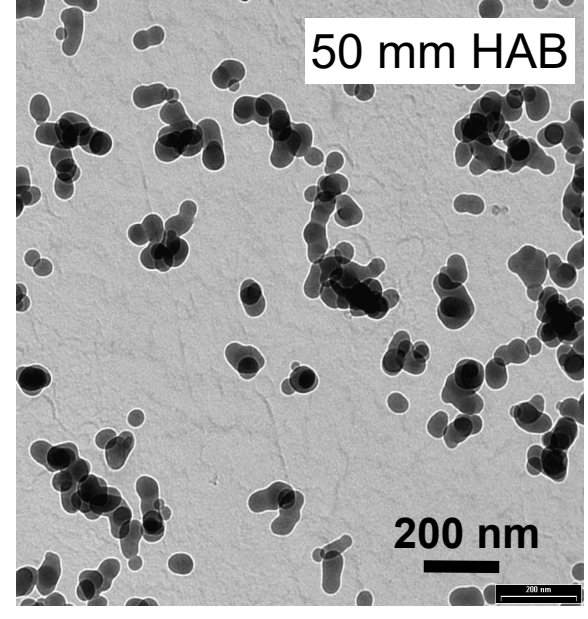
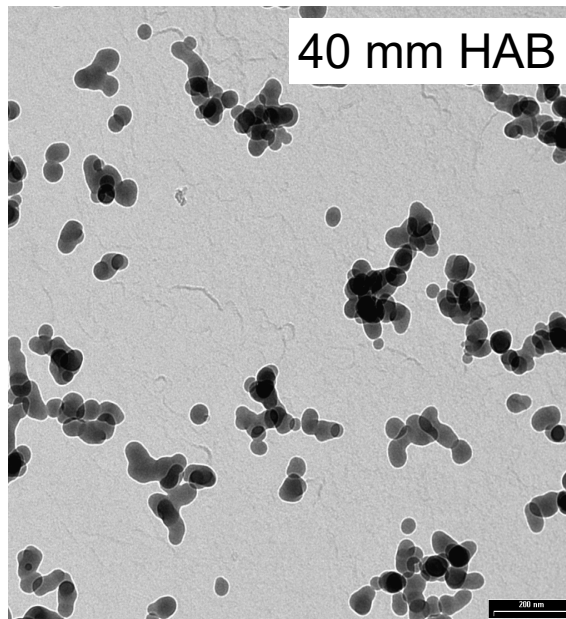
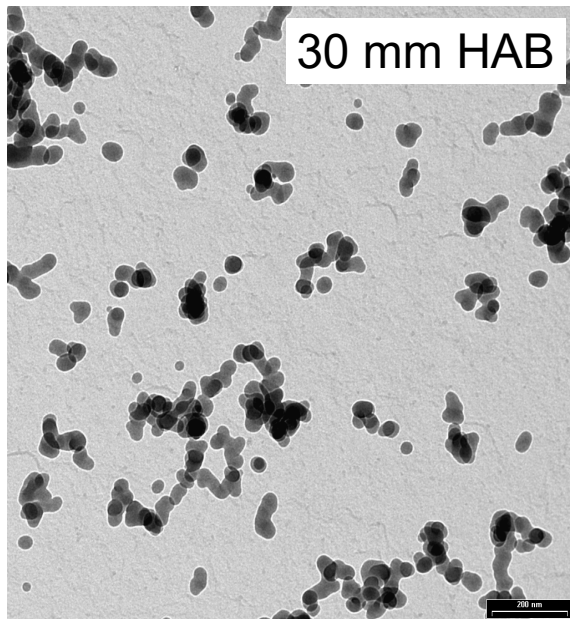
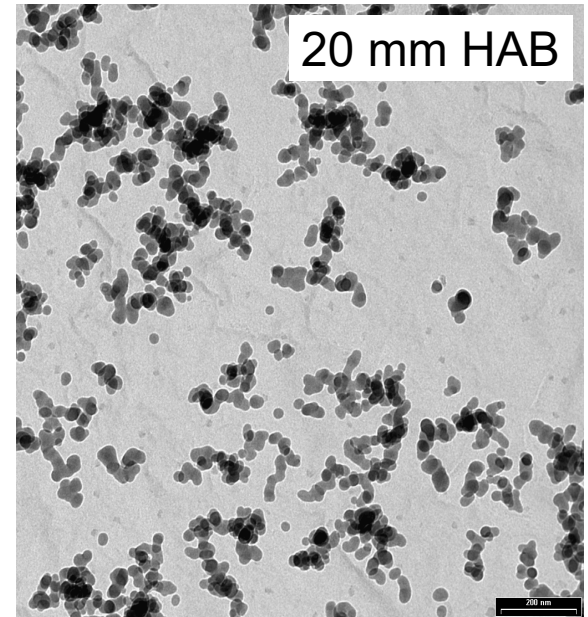
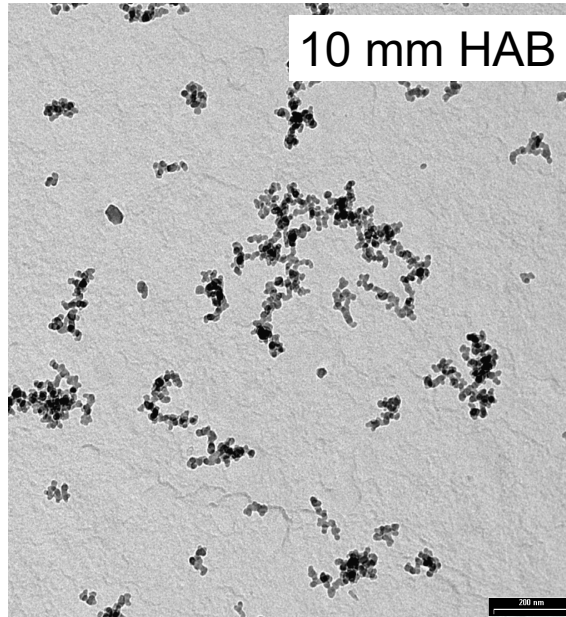
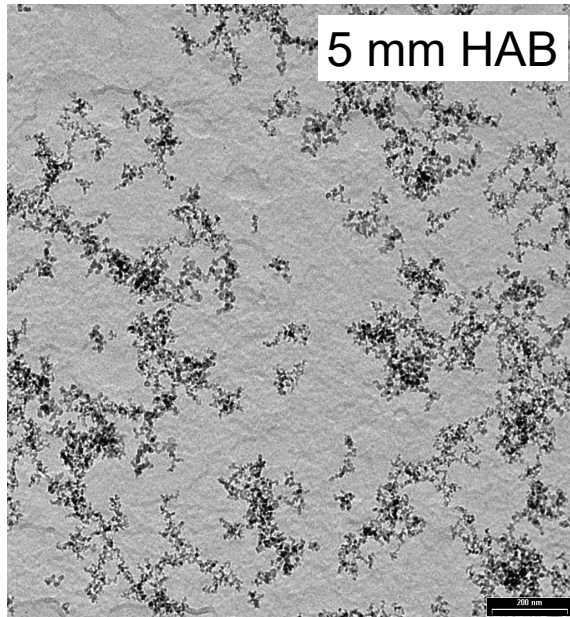
Thermophoretic Sampling (Dobbins & Megaridis, Langmuir 3, 254, 1987)



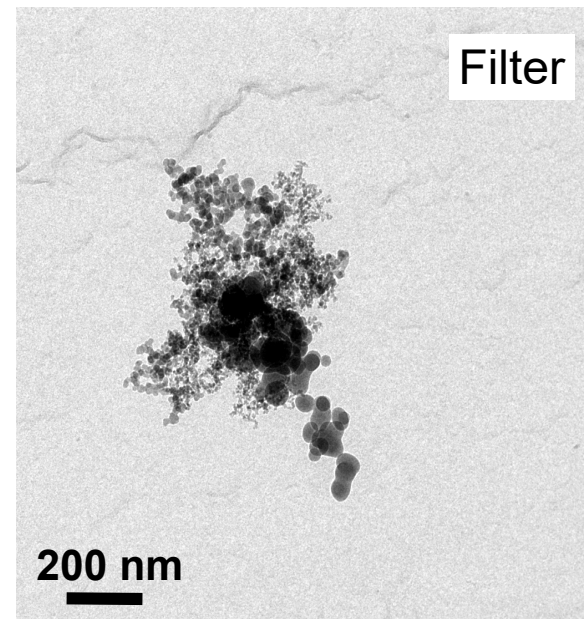
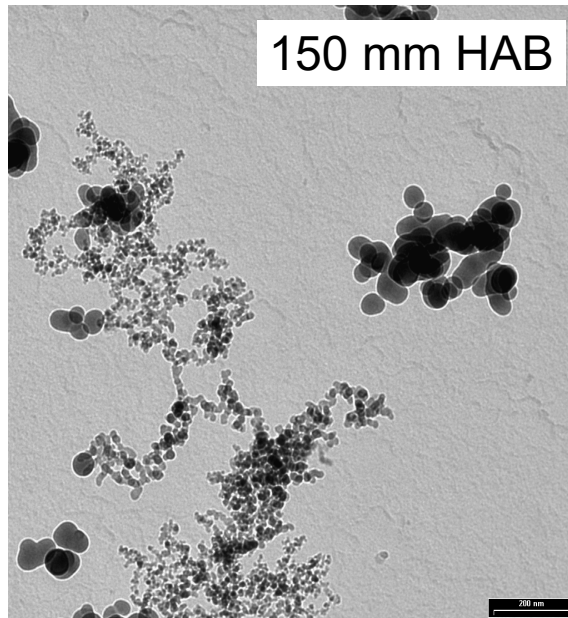
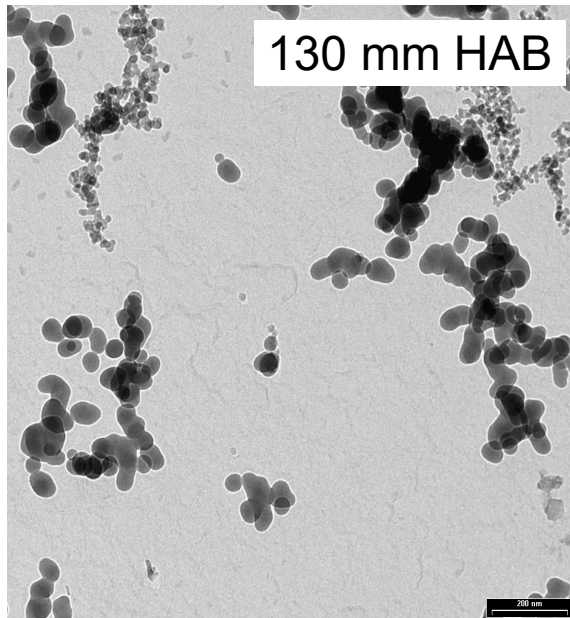
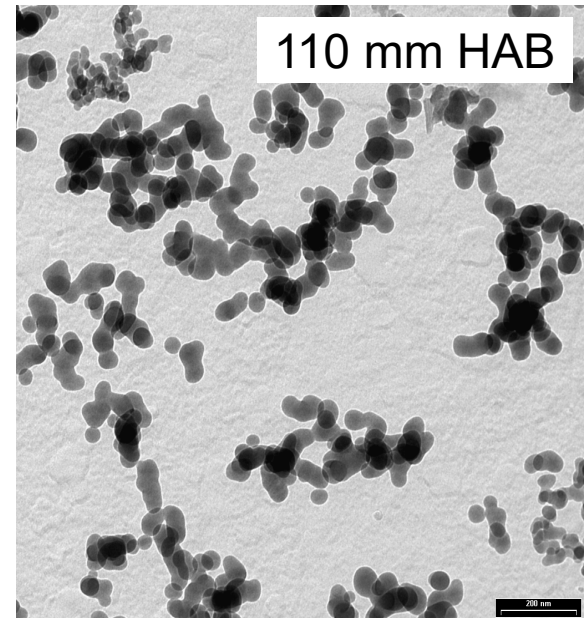
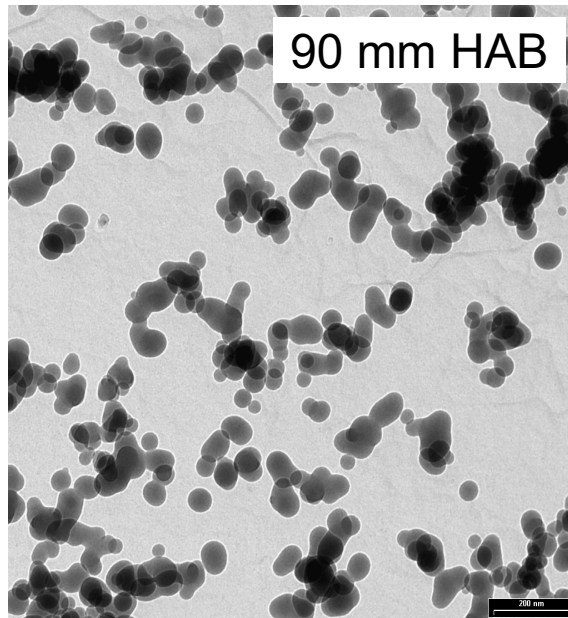
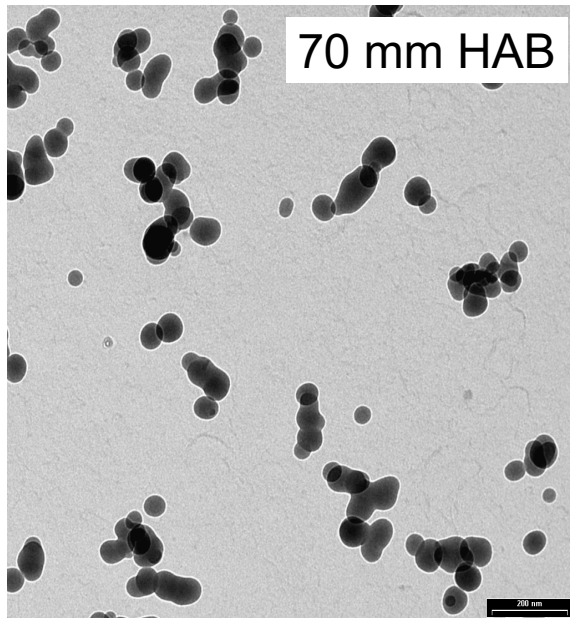
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S. Tsantilis, H.K. Kammler and Pratsinis, S.E. "Population Balance Modeling of Flame Synthesis of Nanoparticles", *Chem. Eng. Sci.*, **57**, 2139-56 (2002).

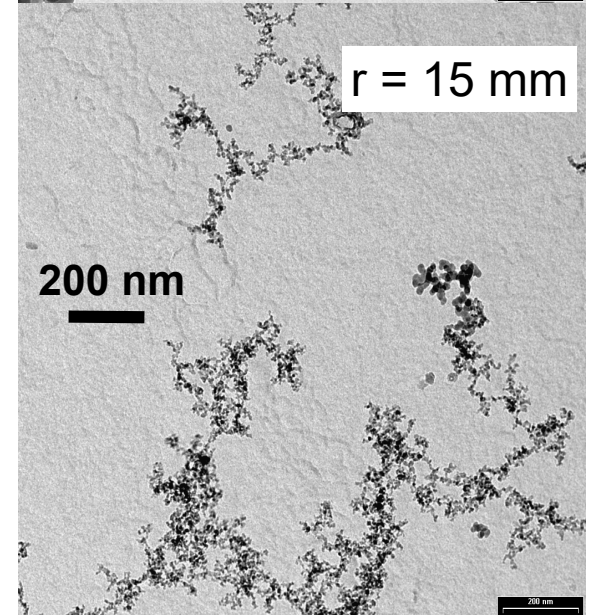
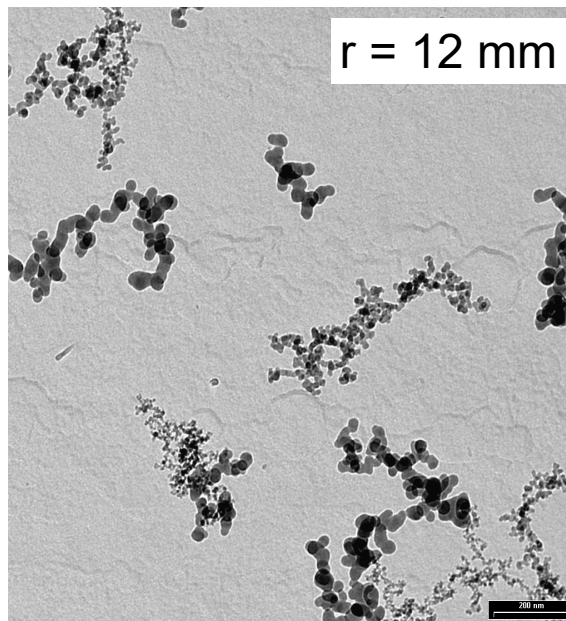
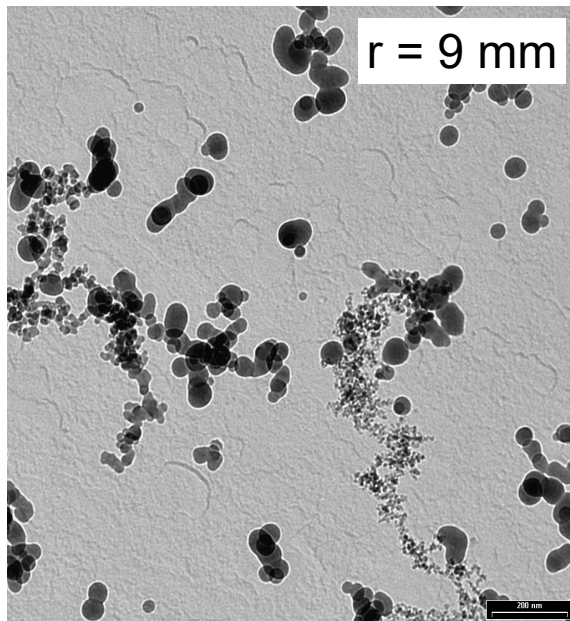
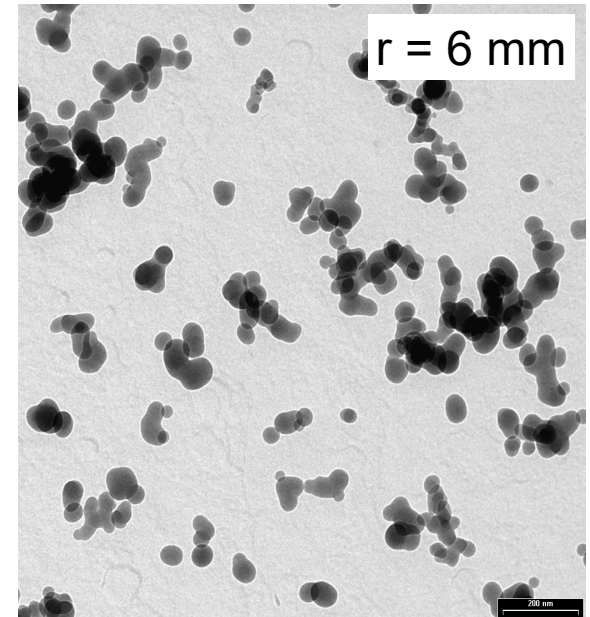
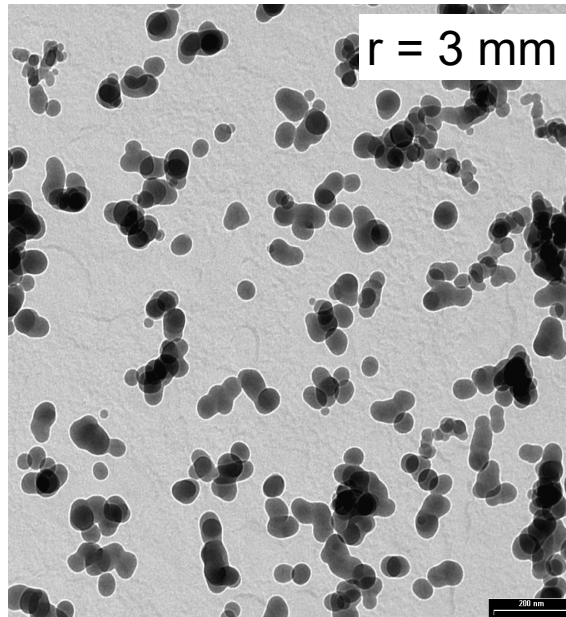
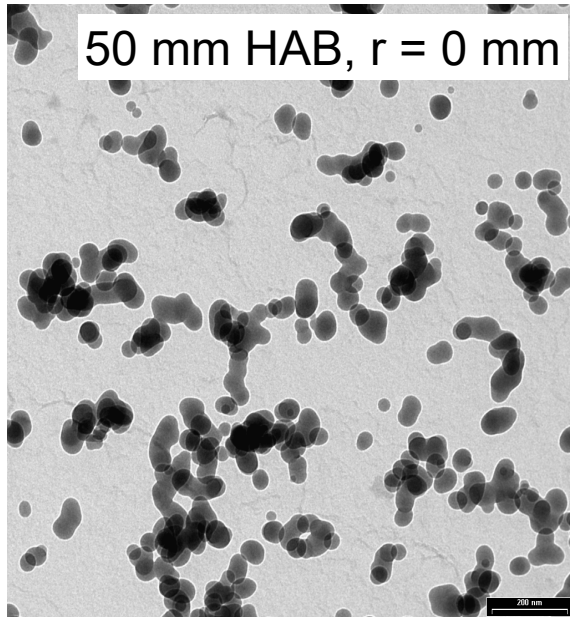
Axial distribution of flame-made SiO_2 nanoparticles: Part 1



Axial distribution of flame-made SiO_2 nanoparticles: Part 2



Radial distribution of flame-made SiO_2 nanoparticles



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Conclusions

The size, crystallinity and morphology of simple oxide nanoparticles made in flames can be controlled through a number of process variables, including but not limited to:

1. Oxidant flow (temperature, aerosol dilution)
2. Precursor/fuel composition and concentration
3. Oxidant composition (temperature history)
4. Mixing of oxidant and precursor (temperature history)
5. Doping (material properties → coalescence)
6. External (e.g. electrical) fields (charging & temperature)
7. Pressure (particle collision frequency & coagulation)

Thermophoretic sampling offers a glimpse on particle dynamics