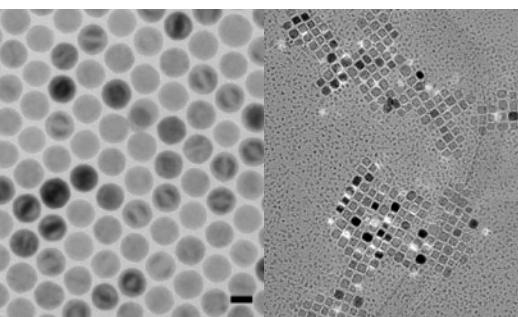
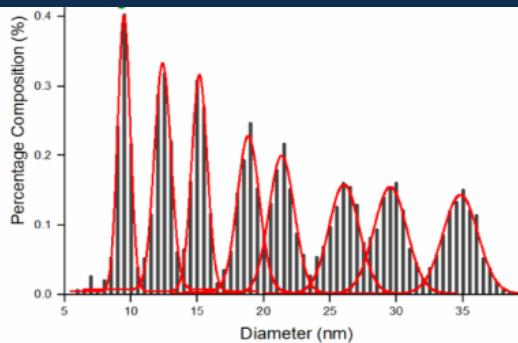


# Magnetic Nanocomposite for Inductor Applications



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interest



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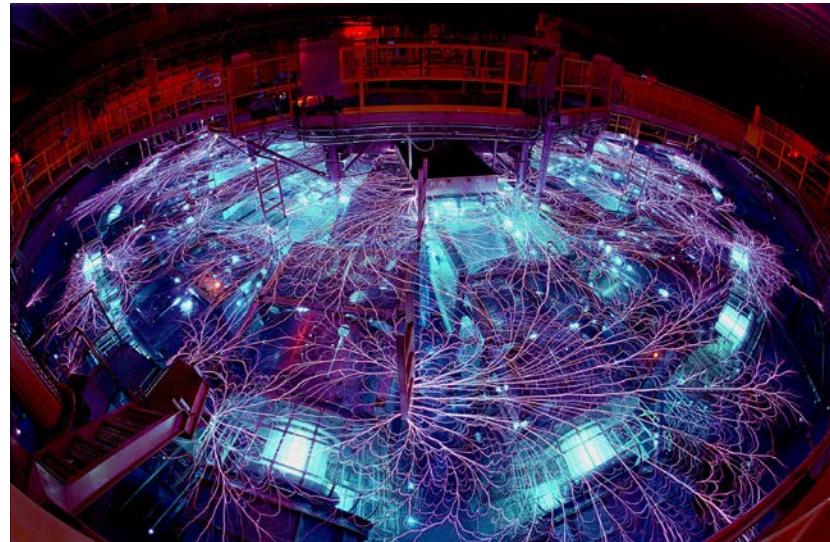
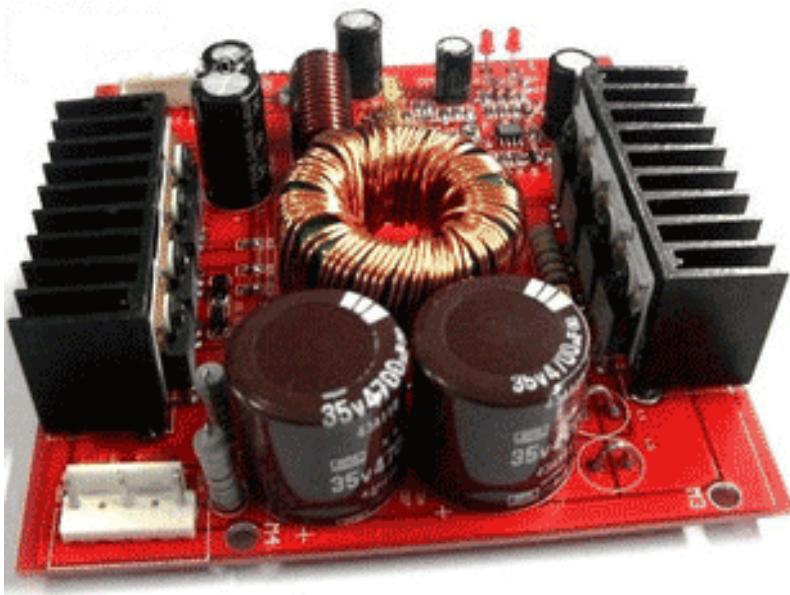
**Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies**

**Sandia National Laboratories**

**[Dale.Huber@sandia.gov](mailto:Dale.Huber@sandia.gov)**



# Inductor Needs Vary by Application



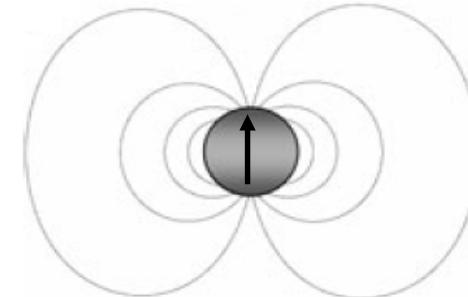
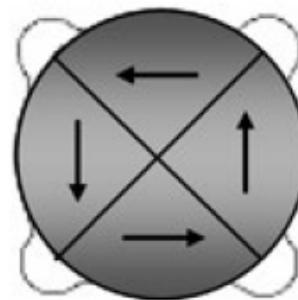
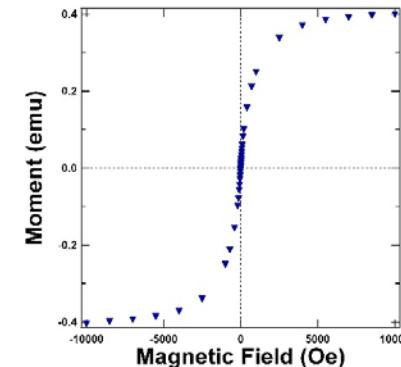
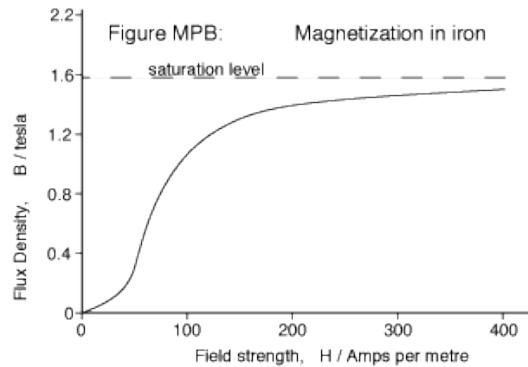
Z-machine, 20MA pulse

- Our interests include power electronics and pulsed power
- Frequencies of interest span from kHz to  $\sim$ 100MHz
- Can one material span this range?

# Superparamagnetism

**Superparamagnetic** particles are single domain magnetic particles whose electron spins are aligned into a single giant moment.

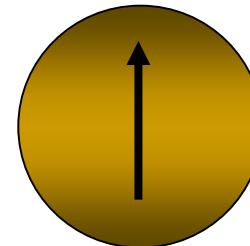
Below a certain size (~40 nm diameter) the energy required to create a domain wall becomes larger than the decrease in energy the particle would experience through minimizing flux leakage.



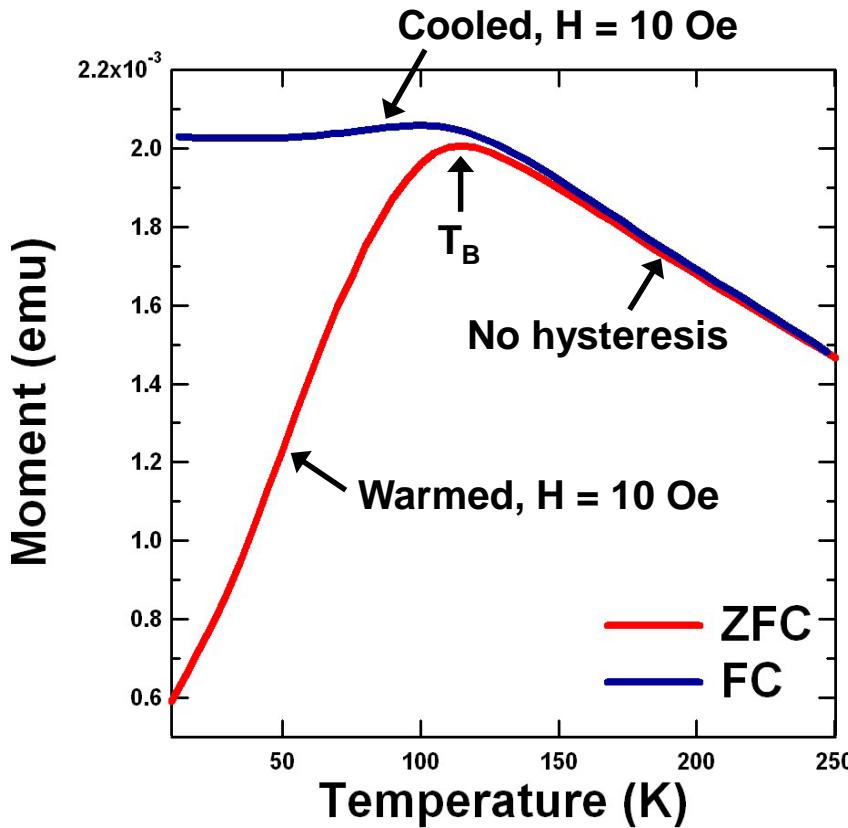
# Blocking Temperature

Blocking Temperature ( $T_B$ ): Point where a particle's dipole can reorient in the timescale of an experiment (100 s).

- $T_B$  is directly dependent upon the product of the magnetocrystalline anisotropy and particle volume.
- Above the  $T_B$  particles are superparamagnetic (no hysteresis).
- Below  $T_B$  they are ferromagnetic (hysteresis, coercivity).
- Particle susceptibility ( $\chi$ ) has a maximum at  $T_B$
- $\chi$  values much larger than multiple-domain particles ( $\chi \leq 3$  for multiple-domain particles)



# SQUID Magnetometry – Thermal Response



- ZFC: Zero field cooled
  - Cooled to low T while  $H = 0$
  - Small field ( $H = 10$  Oe) applied
  - Data collected as sample warms
- FC: Field cooled
  - Data collected while cooled to starting point
- Particles dispersed in frozen solvent, measuring Néel relaxation only (internal rotation of moment)
- $T_B$  is maximum in ZFC data
- Double diameter, increase  $T_B$  by 8

# Superparamagnetic Relaxation Time Variation with Size

Arrhenius

$$\tau = \tau_0 e^{\frac{E_B}{kT}}$$

In a cubic lattice

$$E_B = (K_1/4) \cdot V$$

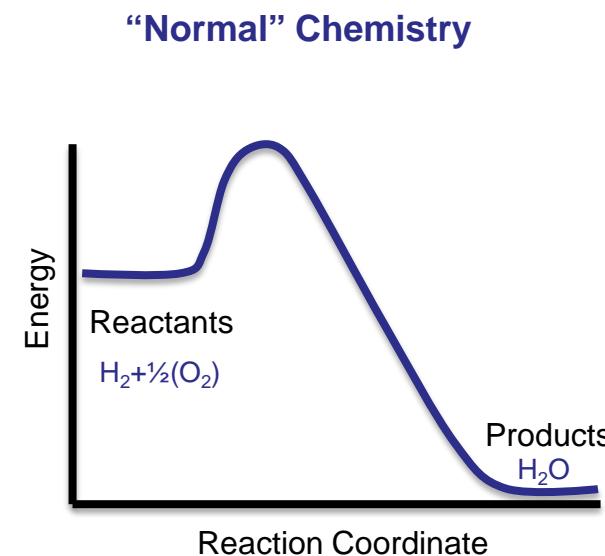
1 sec  
>18 min  
>1000 years

> The age  
of the  
universe

> Microsoft Excel 2010  
can handle  
(1.79769313486231E+308)

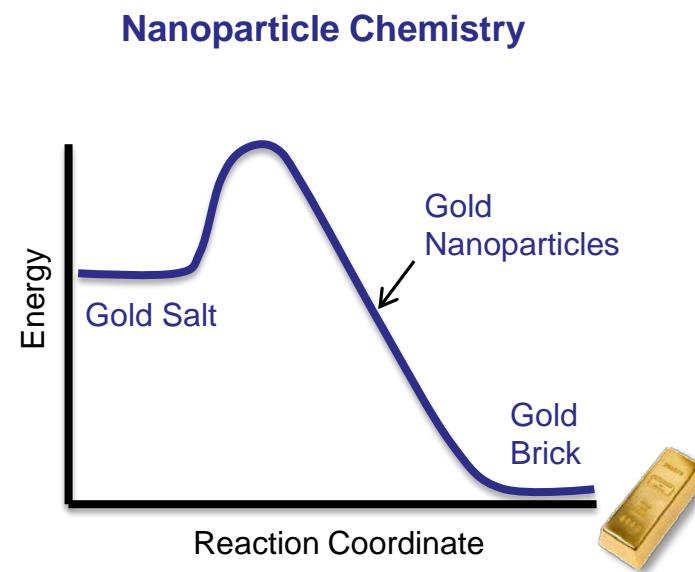
# Nanoparticle Synthesis is Different

- In molecular chemistry, reactants form products in a thermodynamically stable/metastable state.
- In nanoparticle synthesis, the thermodynamically stable state is a bulk material.
- Kinetics govern nanoparticle synthesis.
- Since the reactions are kinetically controlled, concentrations, solvents, temperatures, etc. are critical.



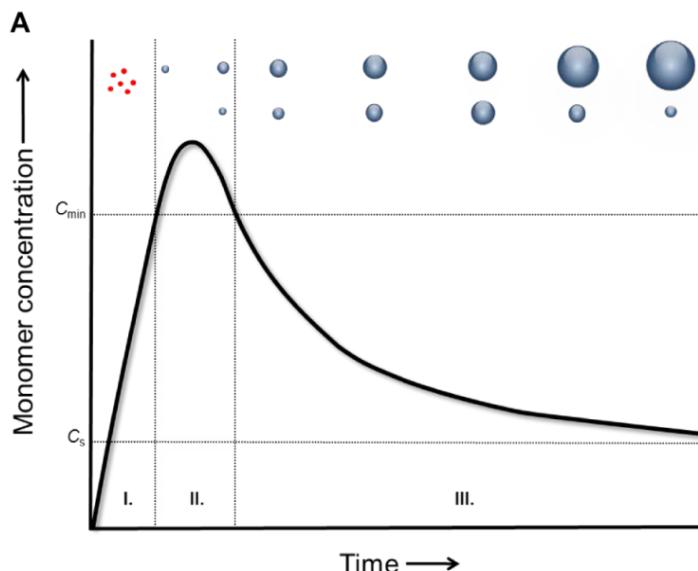
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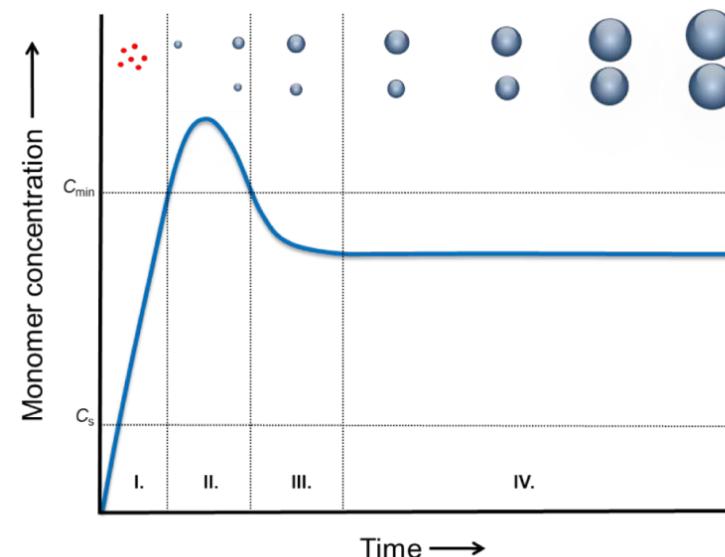


## Extended LaMer

Classic LaMer



Extended LaMer

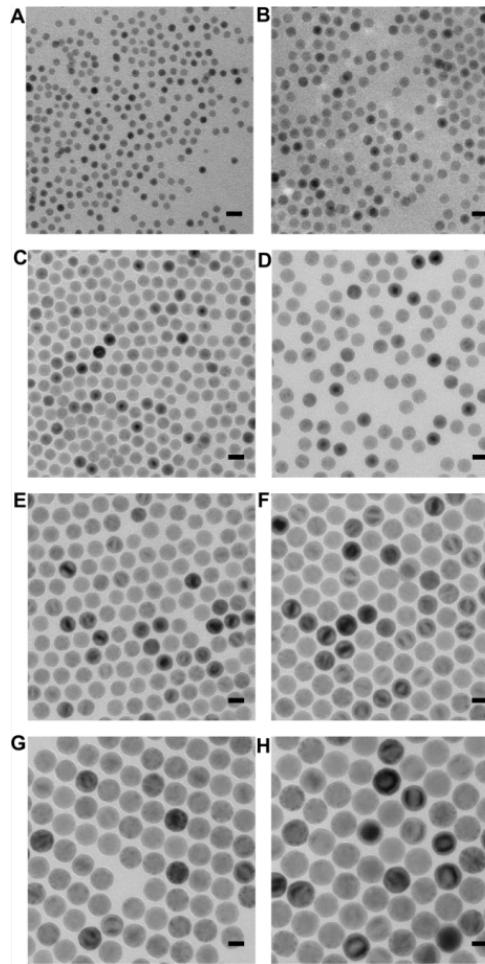


- Closed system
  - Eventual size at reaction completion is determined exclusively by the number of nuclei formed.
  - Nucleation is chaotic, non-linear and very hard to systematically control.

Lamer, V. K.; Dinegar, R. H., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*  
**1950, 72 (11), 4847-4854.**

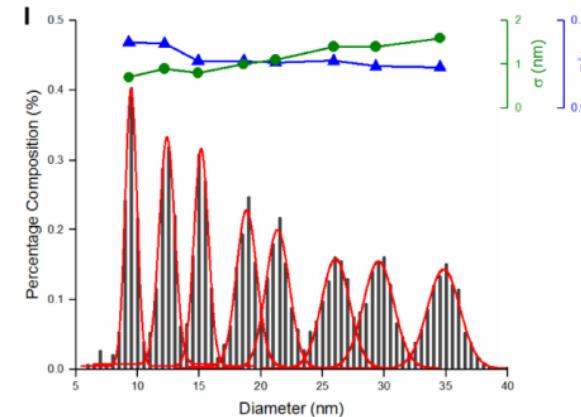
- Continuous Addition
  - Accept that nucleation can't be conveniently controlled.
  - Nucleate, then grow to appropriate size through precursor addition.

Vreeland, et al. *Chem. Mat.* **2015, 27 (17), 6059-6066.**

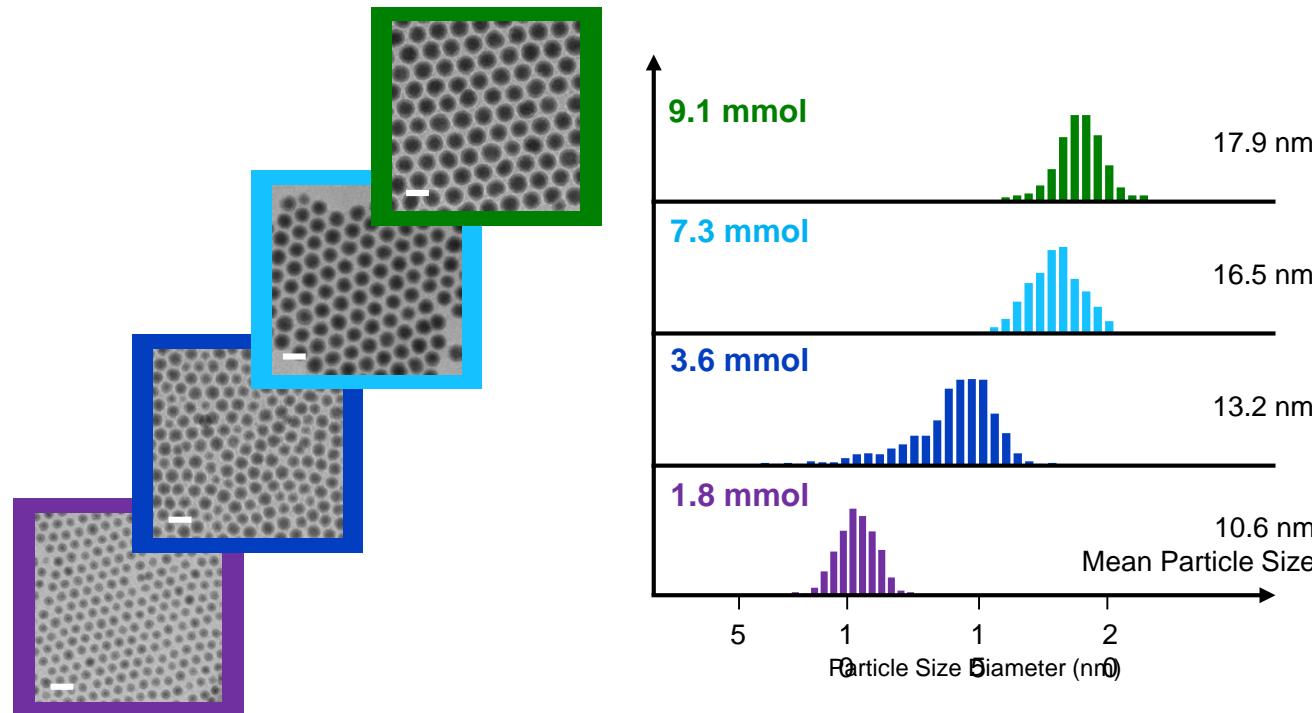


# Reaction Results (Magnetite)

- Scale bars are 20 nm
- Aliquots are from a single reaction
- Particles are round and single crystal (HRTEM)
- Size focusing occurs early in the reaction

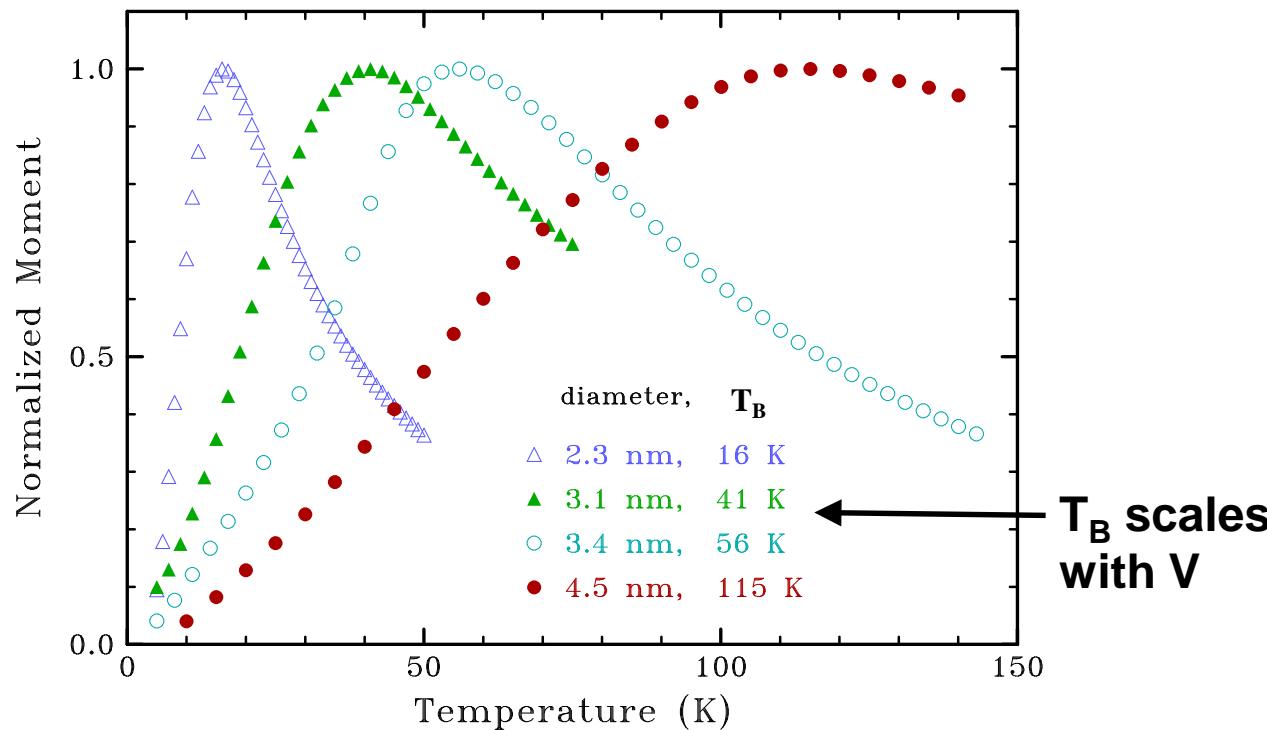


# Extended LaMer Approach is General



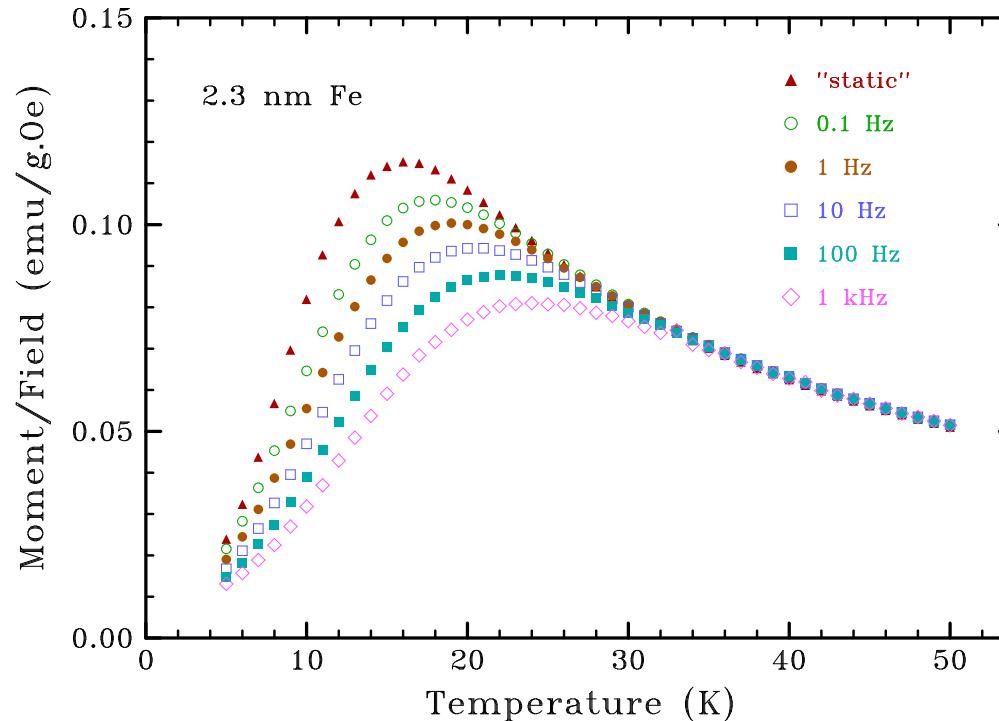
- Fe (0) nanoparticles can be produced using the same continuous addition approach

## T<sub>B</sub> vs. Fe Nanoparticle Diameter



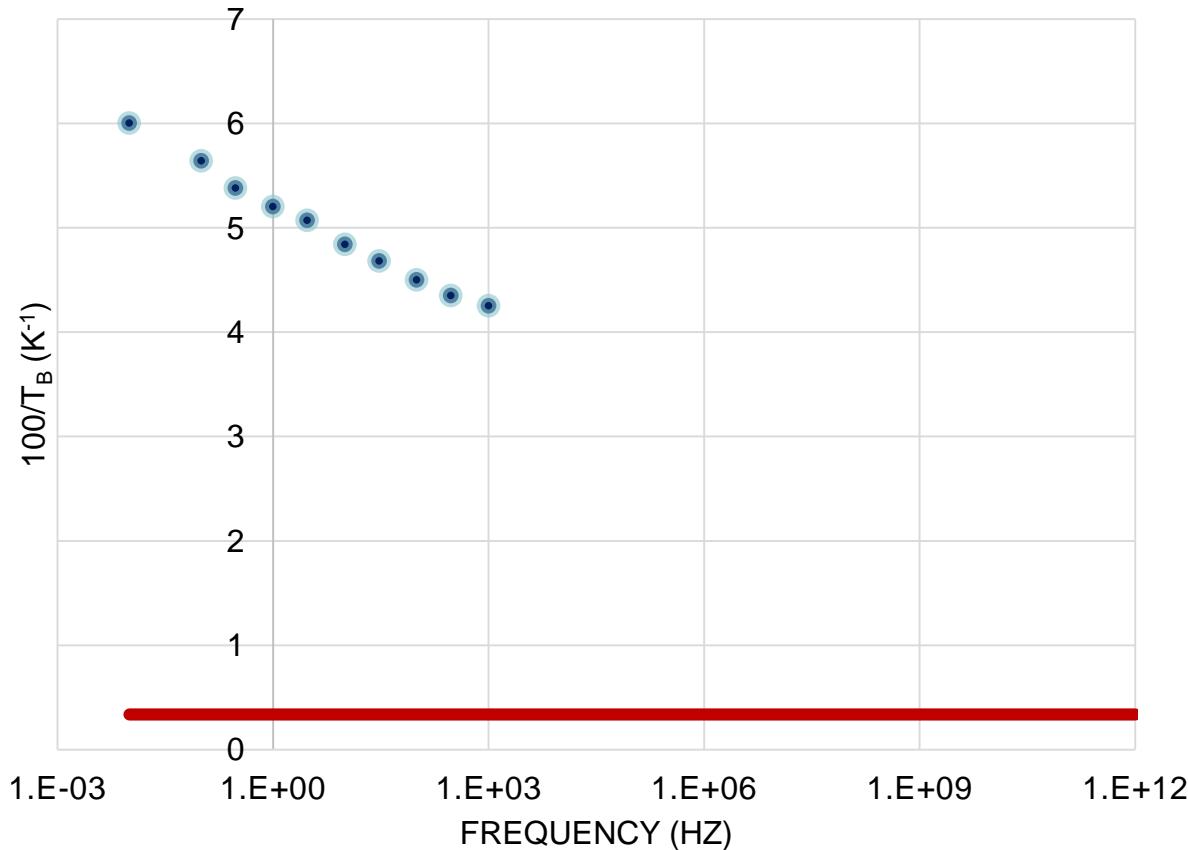
- All curves ZFC
- Broad peaks for larger particles expected
- Plotting  $\sigma$  vs.  $T/T_B$  peaks would superimpose

## Fe Particle AC Magnetic Response



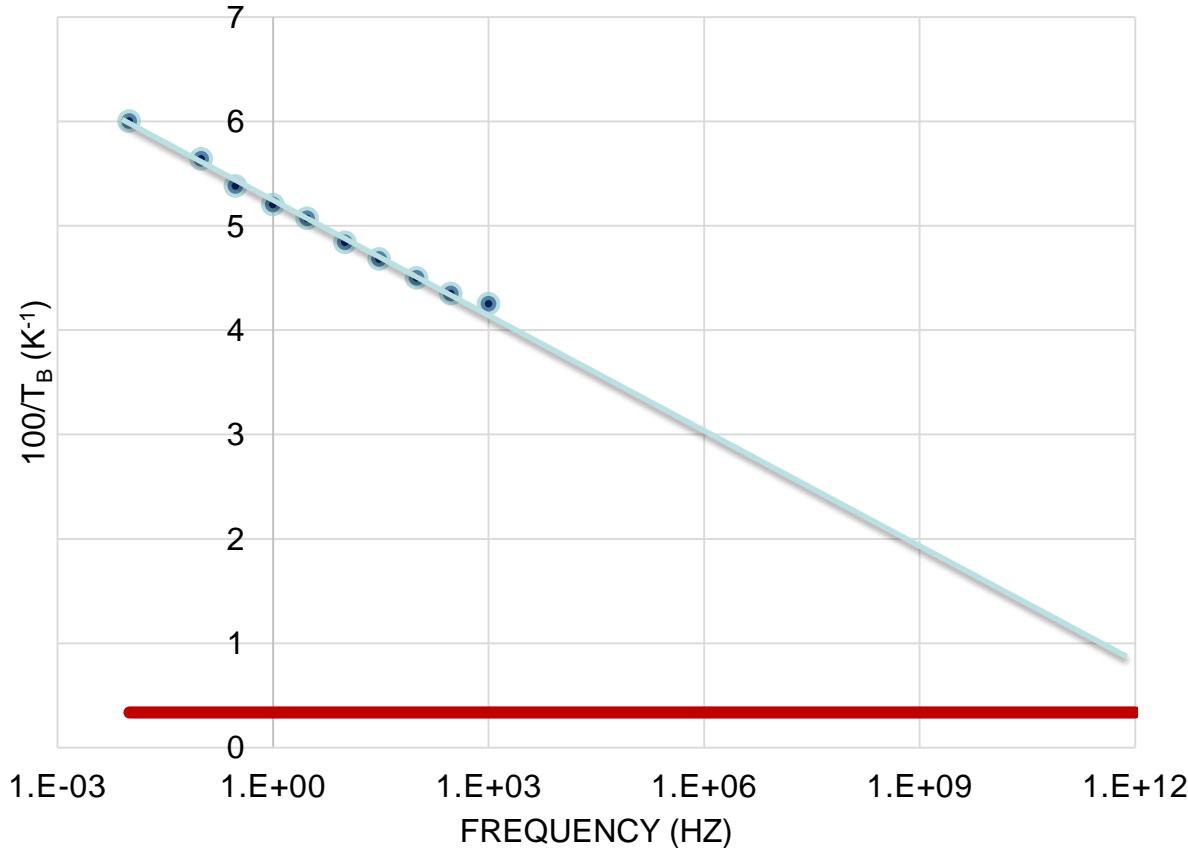
- Spin reorientation time is thermally activated
- AC measurements determine  $T_B$  vs. frequency
- "static" measurement time  $\sim 100$  s (0.01 Hz)

# Time-Temperature Superposition



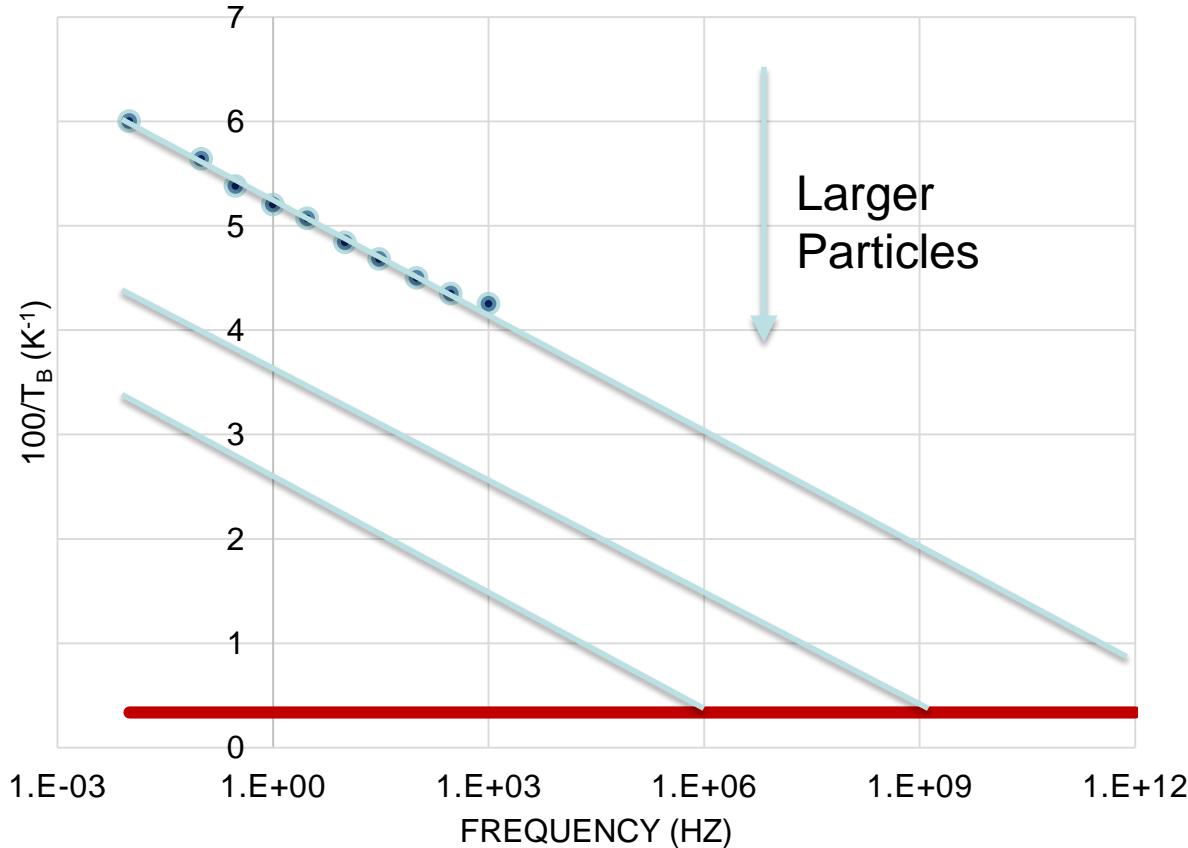
- Terminology borrowed from polymer science.
- For Arrhenius kinetics, higher temperature is equivalent to longer times.
- Can build a master curve from different instruments, using different temperatures and different frequencies.
- On or below the line, particles are unblocked and superparamagnetic.
- 2.3 nm Fe particles would be unblocked at room temperature at 1THz.

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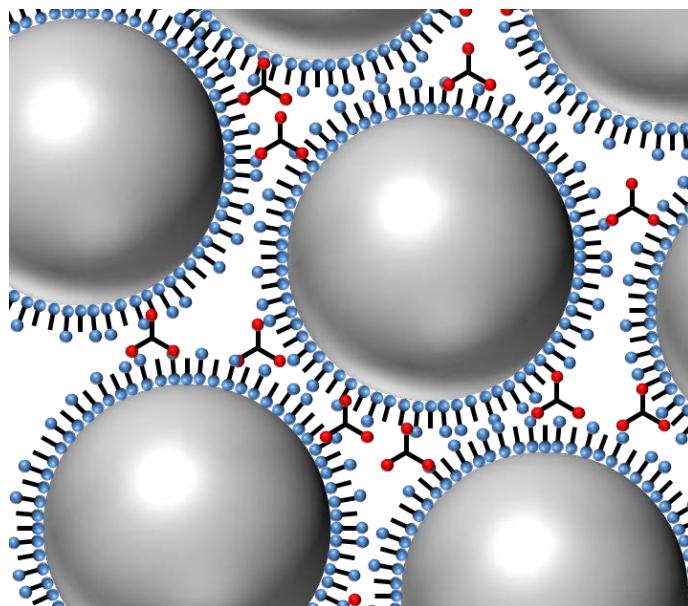
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# Constructing an Ideal Nanocomposite Inductor



- Need to assemble particles into a real material
- Account for interparticle interactions
  - can be treated as an effective anisotropy

# Acknowledgements



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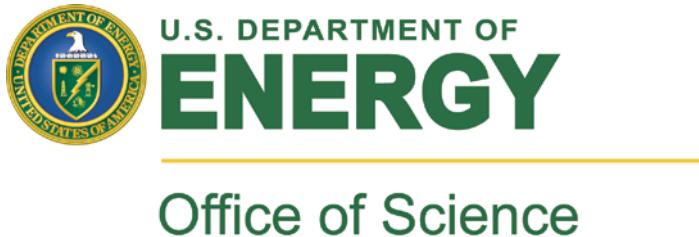


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Ana Bohorquez



Erika Vreeland

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