Supporting Information

Arresting the Time-Dependent H₂O₂ Mediated Synthesis of Gold Nanoparticles for Analytical Detection and Preparative Chemistry

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Materials and Methods

All chemicals were used as received. Hydrogen peroxide (30%) was purchased from Caledon, gold (III) chloride trihydrate (≥99.9%), reduced L-glutathione (≥98.0%), and 2-(N-morpholino)ethanesulfonic acid (MES) (biotechnology performance certified, ≥99.5%) were purchased from Sigma Aldrich. Centrifugal tubes with a 50 kDa membrane (Amicon® Ultra-4 centrifugal filter units) were purchased from Millipore.

Dilute solutions of hydrogen peroxide were always freshly prepared, while the solutions of MES and HAuCl₄·3H₂O were prepared weekly and stored at 4°C. UV-Vis spectra were recorded using a Tecan Infinite® M1000 PRO plate reader spectrometer in 96-well 300μL Immulon® 2 HB Flat Bottom MicroTiter® plates (Thermo Fisher Scientific).

HRTEM images were recorded using a FEI Tecnai G2 F20 microscope. TEM grids (Electron Microscopy Sciences, Formvar carbon film on 400 mesh copper grids) were prepared by putting directly on them a drop of dilute AuNS or AuNP solution. The drop was gently removed after ~15 minutes using a soft paper towel, and the TEM grids were left to dry for at least 4 hours before recording the images.

Plate Based Assays

In order to kinetically monitor the absorbance at 550 nm or to record the absorbance spectra of the samples, each reaction mixture was added to a single well of the plate. Final concentrations of H₂O₂ ranging from 0-140 μM were added to individual wells containing 1 mM MES buffer (pH 6.5). To initiate the reaction, a final concentration of 1 mM HAuCl₄·3H₂O was added to each well, and mixed manually. The absorbance at 550 nm was immediately recorded by the plate reader each minute following the addition of the gold (III) salt for 60 minutes, followed by every 15 minutes up to 360 minutes at room temperature. Alternatively, a spectra from 400-900 nm was recorded every 5 minutes. During both sets of measurements, each cycle was initiated by an orbital shake for 15 seconds, followed by a 15 second wait period. Photographs were taken at specified times in a parallel experiment.
So as to block the slow disaggregation of AuNS, 20 µM of L-glutathione was added 10 minutes after the addition of HAuCl₄·3H₂O (time-point determined quantitatively). Single measurements at 550 nm and absorbance spectra from 400-900 nm were recorded at room temperature as described above.

To mimic the conditions of the large-scale reactions, a final concentration of 1 mM of H₂O₂ was added to individual wells containing 10 mM MES buffer (pH 6.5). Each reaction was initiated by a final concentration of 10 mM prepared gold (III) chloride trihydrate, and mixed manually. An absorbance spectra was measured every 30 seconds for 5 minutes. Thereafter each cycle was initiated by an orbital shake for 15 seconds; followed by a 15 second wait period, every minute up to 60 minutes; followed by every 15 minutes until measurements were terminated at 360 minutes.

**Large-Scale Synthesis of AuNS and AuNP**

In a little vial were insert 394 µl of a 76 mM solution of MES buffer pH 6.5, 30 µl of H₂O₂ 100 mM and 2.566 ml of nanopure water. The solution stirred manually and 10 µl of HAuCl₄·3H₂O 300 mM were added. The reaction mixture was quenched adding 0.20 eq of L-glutathione with respect to the Au(III) at the different times to obtain large AuNS (minutes) and AuNP (hours). To purify the AuNS or the AuNP the solution was added to a centrifugal filter unit (MWCO 50 kDa) and centrifuged at 4000 rpm for 5 minutes until ~500 µl of solution remained. Approximately 2.5 mL of nanopure water was added, and then centrifuged again. This was repeated four times, where the final 500 µl was rediluted to 3 mL and stored at 4ºC.
Fig. S1 UV-Vis absorbance spectra demonstrating the slow disaggregation process of AuNSs. Readings were taken following the addition of HAuCl\textsubscript{4}•3H\textsubscript{2}O in the presence of increasing concentrations of H\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{2} after A) 5, B) 10, C) 15, D) 30, E) 60, and F) 300 minutes.
Fig. S2 Relative UV-Vis absorbance measurements showing the stabilization of the reaction mixtures attributed to the addition of glutathione. A reading was taken after the addition of HAuCl₄·3H₂O in the presence of increasing concentrations of H₂O₂ at A) 5 minutes. L-glutathione was then added and spectra were recorded at B) 15, C) 30, D) 60, and F) 300 minutes with respect to the addition of HAuCl₄·3H₂O.
Fig. S3 Relative UV-Vis absorbance measurements for the large-scale experiment. Reaction concentrations were increased 10-fold (see Materials and Methods), and spectra were recorded after the addition of HAuCl₃·3H₂O every 30 seconds for the first 5 minutes, followed by every minute up to 60 minutes, and every 15 minutes thereafter up to 360 minutes.
Fig. S4 Low magnification HRTEM images of the large-scale synthesis of AuNS and AuNP recorded after purification. Reactions were quenched with glutathione after A) 5 minutes, B) 1, C) 3 and D) 6 hours.
Fig. S5 High magnification HRTEM images of the large-scale synthesis of AuNS and AuNP recorded after purification. Reactions were quenched with glutathione after 5 minutes.
Fig. S6 High magnification HRTEM images of the large-scale synthesis of AuNS and AuNP recorded after purification. Reactions were quenched with glutathione after 1 hour.
Fig. S7 High magnification HRTEM images of the large-scale synthesis of AuNS and AuNP recorded after purification. Reactions were quenched with glutathione after 3 hours.
Fig. S8 High magnification HRTEM images of the large-scale synthesis of AuNS and AuNP recorded after purification. Reactions were quenched with glutathione after 6 hours.