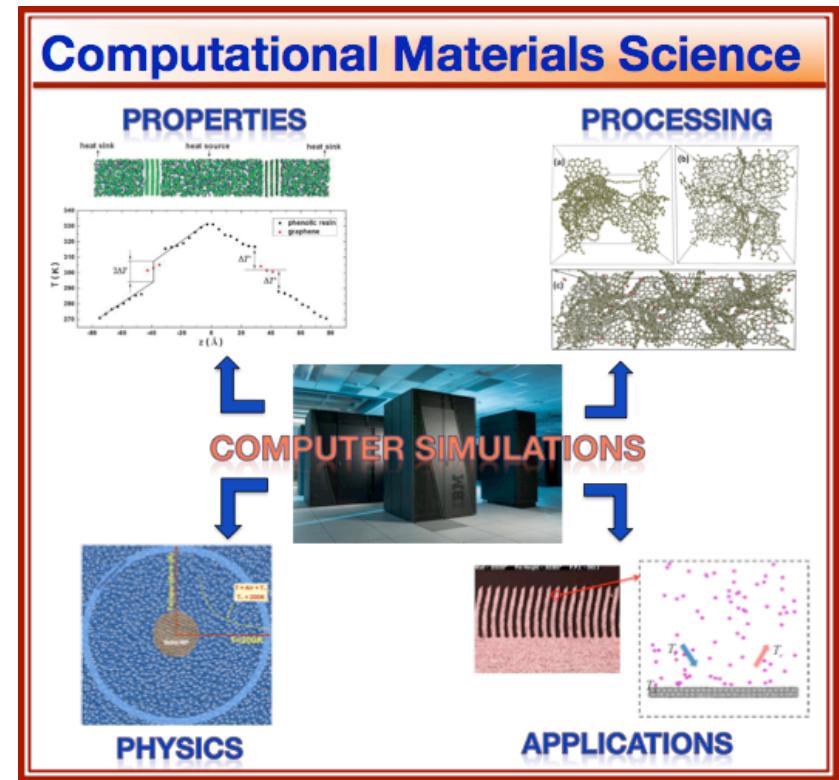


# Complementing ultrafast imaging experiments with insights from atomistic simulations

Kiran Sasikumar

Postdoctoral Appointee  
Center for Nanoscale Materials  
Nanoscience and Technology Division  
Argonne National Laboratory



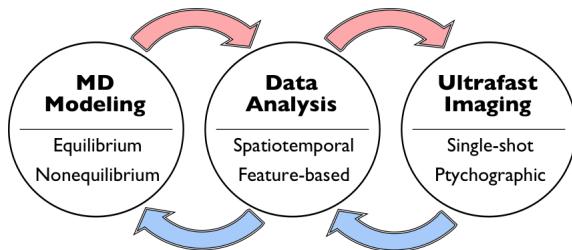
Courtesy: Raghavan Ranganathan, RPI

# MAUI

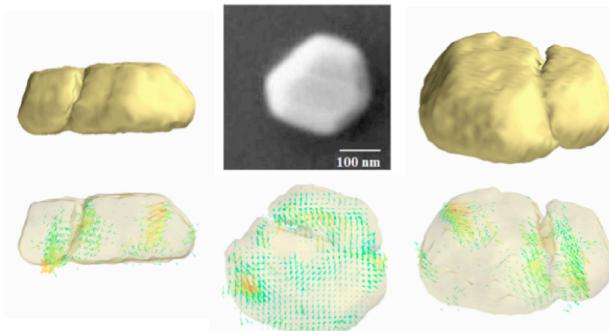
*"Modeling, Analysis, and Ultrafast Imaging"*



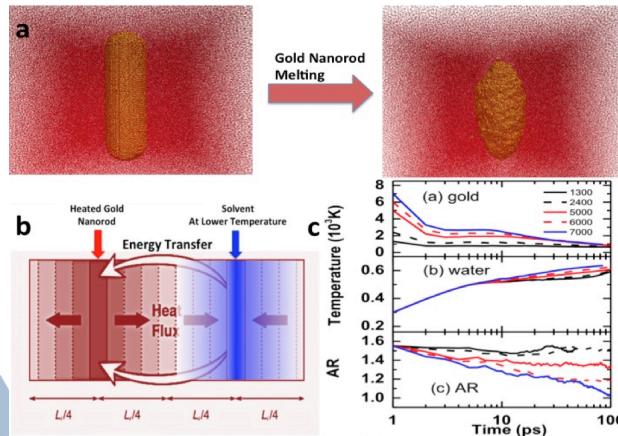
# MAUI: Modeling, Analysis, and Ultrafast Imaging



Above: Simulation and experiment are integrated through a common language of data analysis.



Above: An integrated approach to predict and validate material response to external stimuli shows density and distortion vectors that lead to identification of cracks along slip planes.



## Scientific Achievement

Integrated Imaging, Modeling, and Analysis of Ultrafast Energy Transport in Nanomaterials

## Significance and Impact

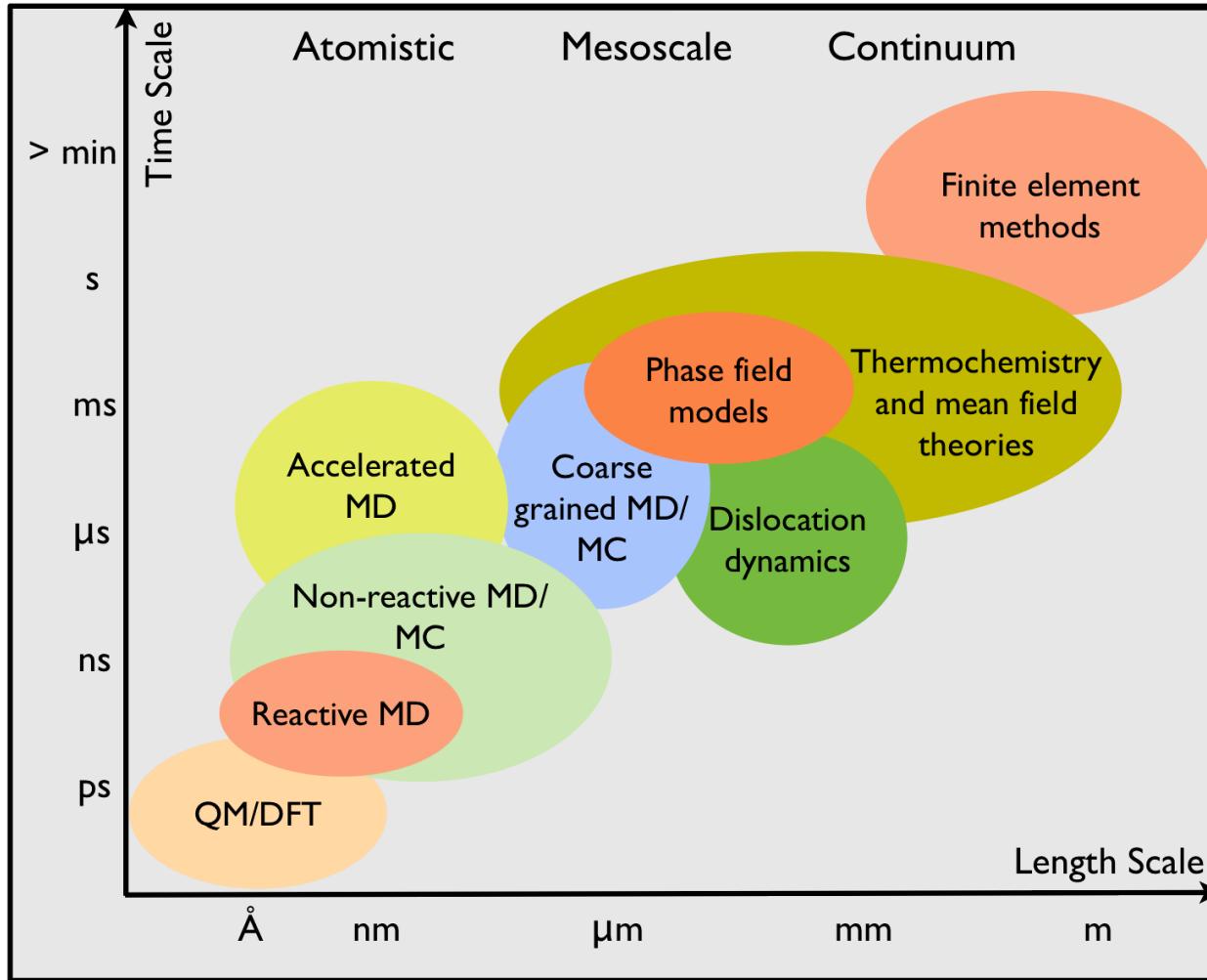
Understanding lattice vibrations in individual nanoparticles can enable energy applications such as photocatalysis, photonics, thermoelectrics, semiconductor design, groundwater photo remediation, and heat transfer in battery interfaces.

## High Level Research Details

- Modeling: MD will be used to model the phonon transport and lattice thermal conductivities for the proposed systems.
- Analysis: In order to combine the reverse (image reconstruction) with the forward (simulation) models, data transformations between model spaces will be investigated.
- Ultrafast imaging: We will conduct laser pump-probe imaging experiments to study the structure dynamics originating from electron-phonon interactions.

Left: (a) Million-atom MD simulation showing a laser-heated gold nanorod in water  
(b) Typical schematic of an NEMD simulation to compute heat transport (c)  
Temperature dissipation and aspect ratio in our preliminary MD calculations.

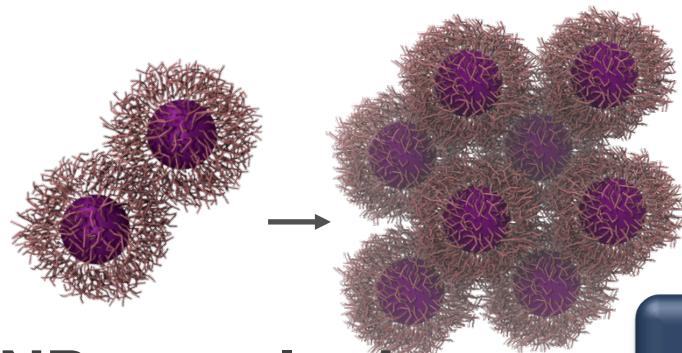
# Molecular dynamics: accessible length and time scales



- ❖ With dedicated HPC systems classical molecular dynamics (MD) for micron length and time scales possible.
- ❖ For several interfacial phenomena, nanoscale regime required for significant deviations from bulk behavior.
- ❖ Classical and reactive MD offer powerful tools to investigate underlying physics and reaction kinetics.
  - ❖ No assumptions like mesoscale or continuum models.
  - ❖ Faster than DFT.

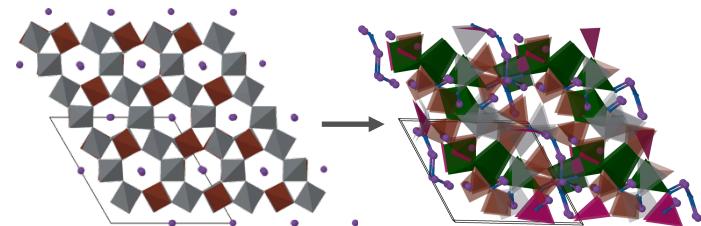
# Molecular dynamics is an ideal technique to gain atomistic insights into materials phenomena

Self assembly



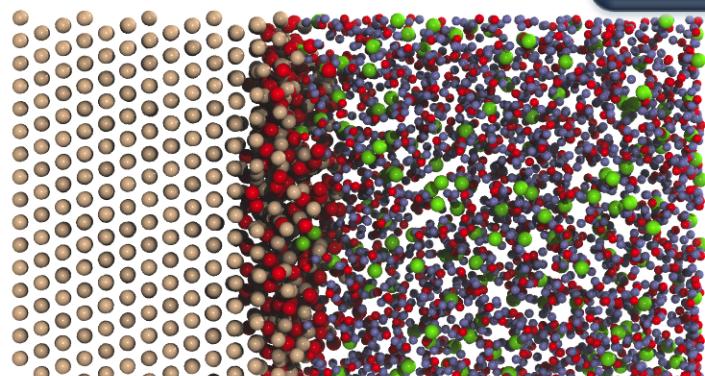
NP superlattices

Pressure induced  
structural transitions



Ceramics

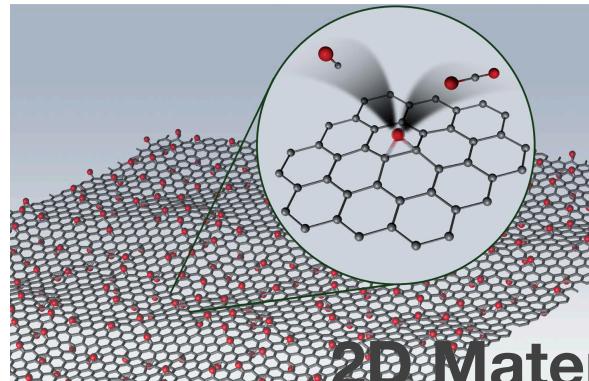
Corrosion



Metal/Oxide/Water

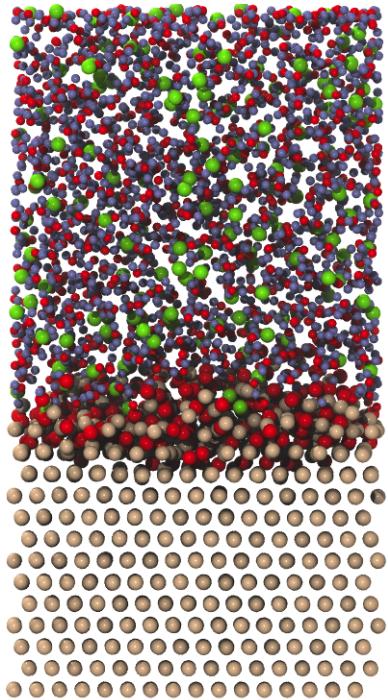
Molecular  
Dynamics

Reaction  
Mechanisms



2D Materials

# Force-field is the “heart” of molecular dynamics



$$-\frac{\partial V}{\partial r_i} = m_i \frac{\partial^2 r_i}{\partial t^2}$$

$$V = f(r_i)$$



Force-field  
Interatomic potential

Success of molecular dynamics hinges on the accuracy, robustness, and transferability of force field



# Force-field parameterization

- Simplistic forms: Lennard Jones  $V = 4\epsilon \left[ \left( \frac{\sigma}{r} \right)^{12} - \left( \frac{\sigma}{r} \right)^6 \right]$  2 parameters
- Complex (Realistic) forms: ReaxFF

$$E = \sum_{i,j} E_{b,ij} + \sum_i E_{ov,i} + \sum_i E_{un,i} + \sum_i E_{lp,i} + \sum_{i,j,k} E_{v,ijk} + \sum_{i,j} E_{vdW,ij} + \sum_{i,j} E_{C,ij}$$

upto 600 parameters

- Pairwise interactions
- Multi-body interactions
- Bond-order

- Bulk solids/liquids/surfaces
- Nano-clusters
- Dimers/trimers

**Selection of functional form**

**Training data from DFT/ Experiments**



# Integrated imaging and simulation to probe nanocatalytic activity of gold

K. Sasikumar,<sup>1</sup> A. Ulvestad,<sup>2</sup> J.W. Kim,<sup>2</sup> R. Harder,<sup>3</sup> E. Maxey,<sup>3</sup> J.N. Clark,<sup>4,5</sup>  
P. Mulvaney,<sup>6</sup> B. Narayanan,<sup>1</sup> S.A. Deshmukh,<sup>1</sup> S.K.R.S. Sankaranarayanan,  
<sup>1</sup> N. Ferrier,<sup>7</sup> T. Peterka,<sup>7</sup> and O.G. Shpyrko<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Department of Physics, University of California, San Diego, USA

<sup>3</sup>Advanced Photon Source, Argonne National Laboratory, USA

<sup>4</sup>Stanford PULSE Institute, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, USA

<sup>5</sup>Center for Free-Electron Laser Science (CFEL), Germany

<sup>6</sup>School of Chemistry & Bio21 Institute, University of Melbourne, Australia

<sup>7</sup>Mathematics and Computer Science Division, Argonne National Laboratory, USA



# Nanocatalytic activity on gold surfaces

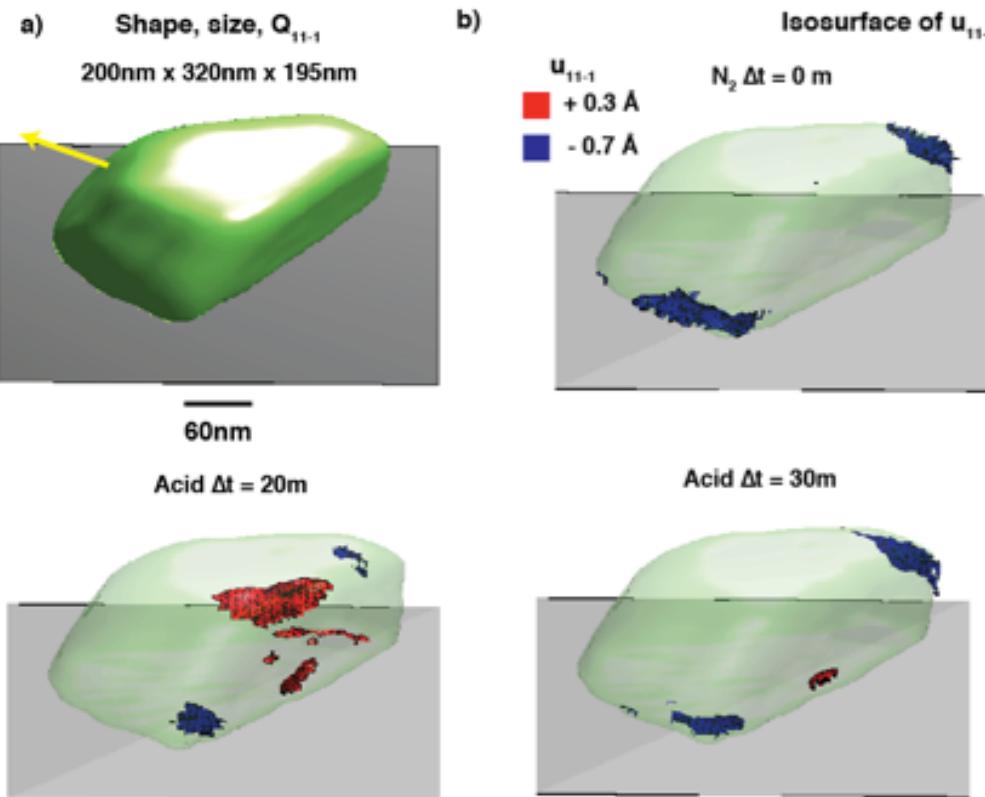
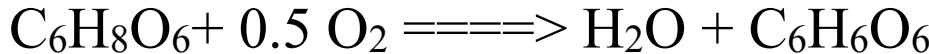
- ❖ Purpose: Investigate origin of lattice strain in gold nanoclusters facilitating ascorbic acid decomposition
- ❖ Methodology: Reactive MD simulations
- ❖ Key result: Identification of a mechanistic sequence of processes/reactions during ascorbic acid decomposition on gold



# Simulation background

## Ascorbic acid decomposition

Au<sub>NC</sub>



Reconstructed CDI images of gold + ascorbic acid system.

## Experimental observation:

- ❖ Reversible lattice distortions in gold nanocrystals upon exposure to 0.1M and 1M ascorbic acid solutions.
- ❖ The lattice strain was seen to be at a maximum near the edges of the top and bottom {111} oriented facets.

## Reactive MD:

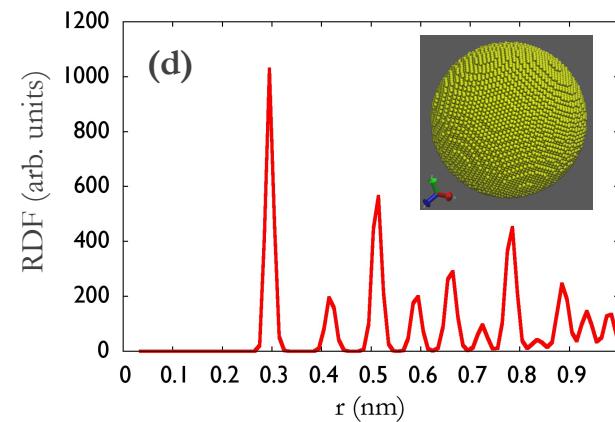
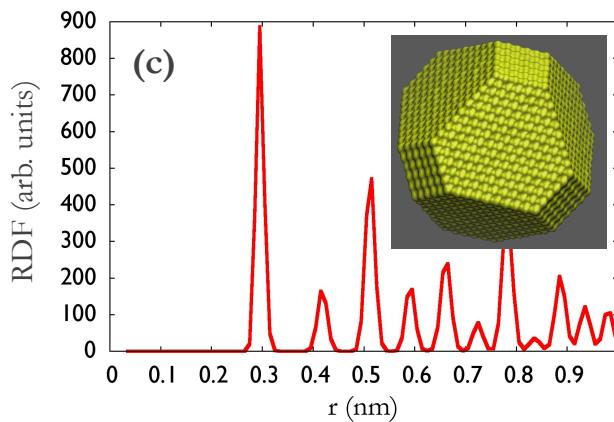
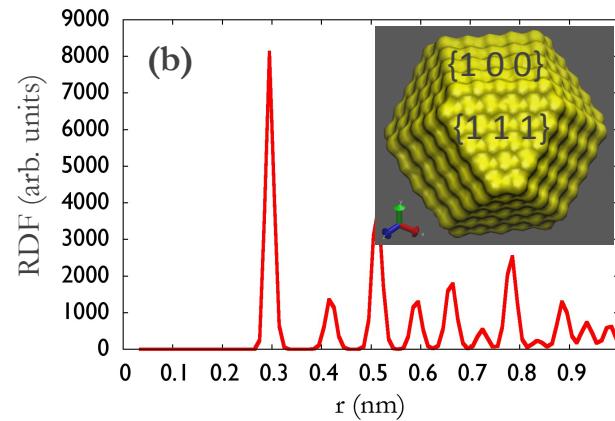
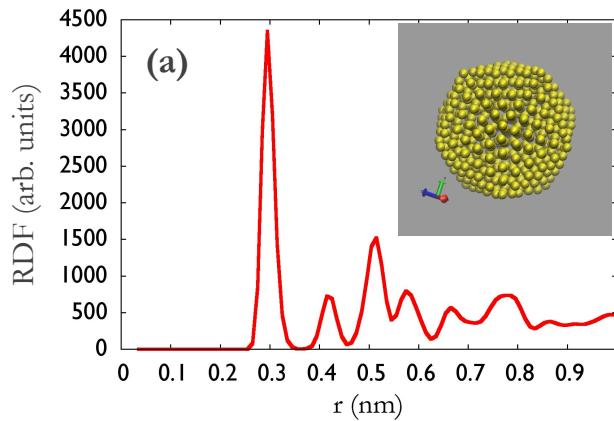
- ❖ Goal - Investigate the atomic scale processes underlying gold-catalyzed ascorbic acid decomposition.
- ❖ The reactive MD simulations are performed using the ReaxFF force field.

## Information collected:

- ❖ Bond orders of every pair of atoms.
- ❖ Atomic trajectory.
- ❖ Analysis yields temporal data about molecular species and reaction pathways in simulation.



# Equilibrated gold NP structures



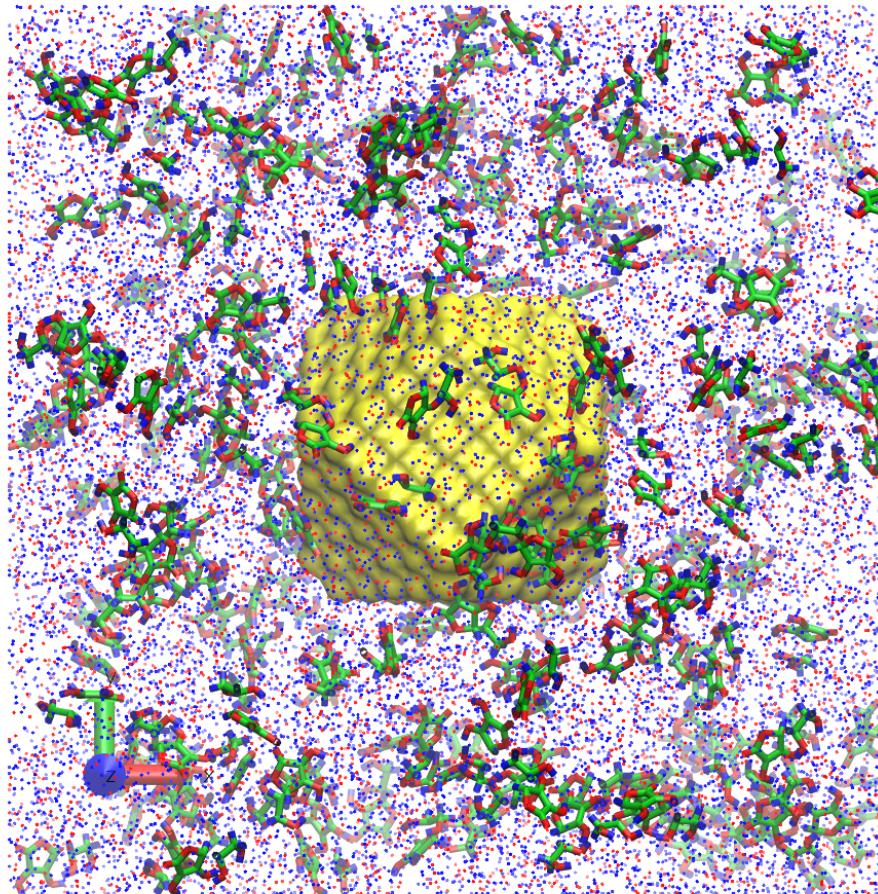
(a) Icosahedron  
561 atoms  
 $r_{\text{Au}} = 12.32 \text{ \AA}$

(b) Truncated octahedron  
490 atoms  
 $r_{\text{Au}} = 10.68 \text{ \AA}$

(c) Truncated octahedron  
5010 atoms  
 $r_{\text{Au}} = 29.55 \text{ \AA}$

(d) Sphere: 36132 atoms  
 $r_{\text{Au}} = 52.94 \text{ \AA}$

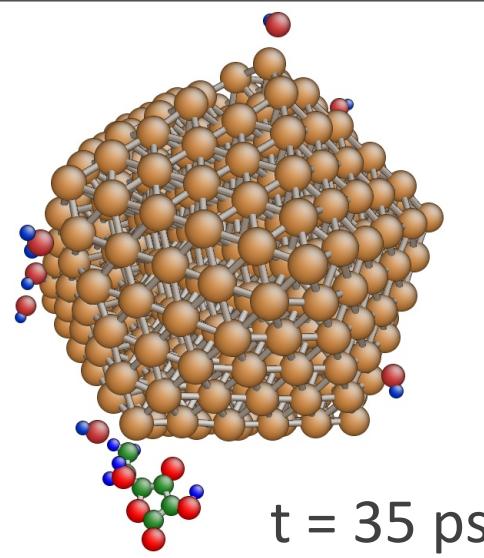
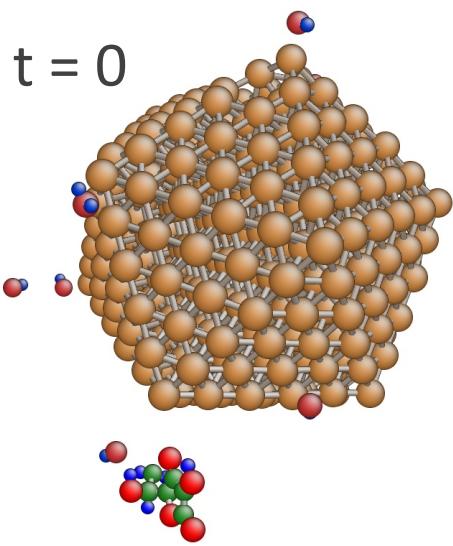
# Sample schematic of simulated system 1M acid + water + gold (truncated octahedron)



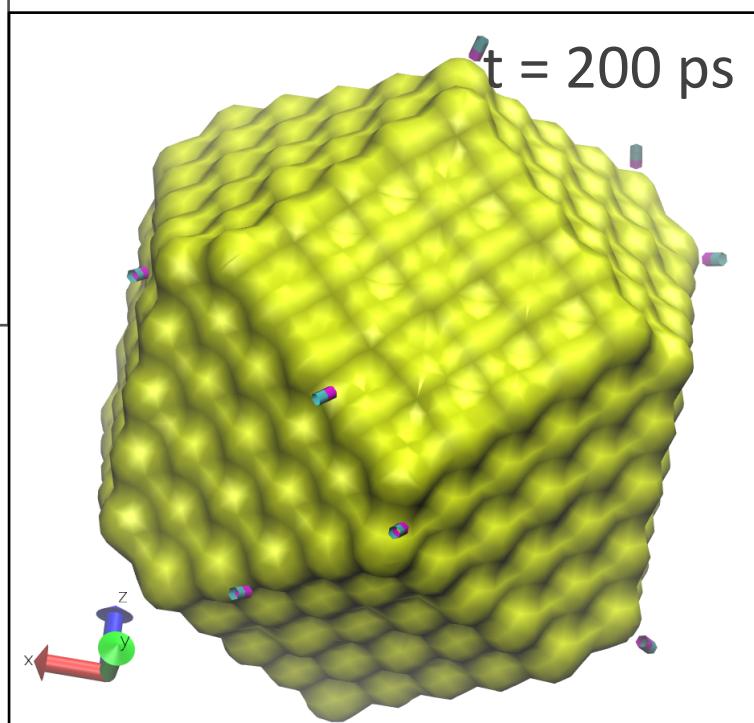
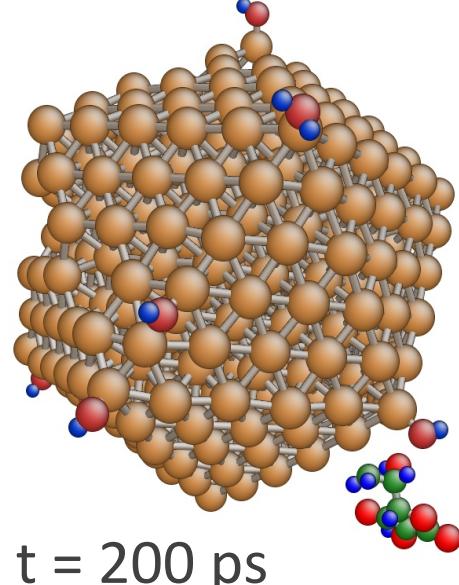
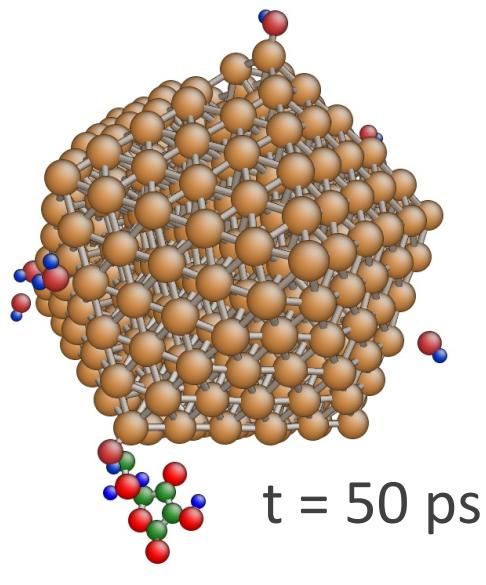
Yellow - Gold  
Green - Carbon

Red - Oxygen  
Blue - Hydrogen

# OH ion chemisorbs on gold, acid physisorbs



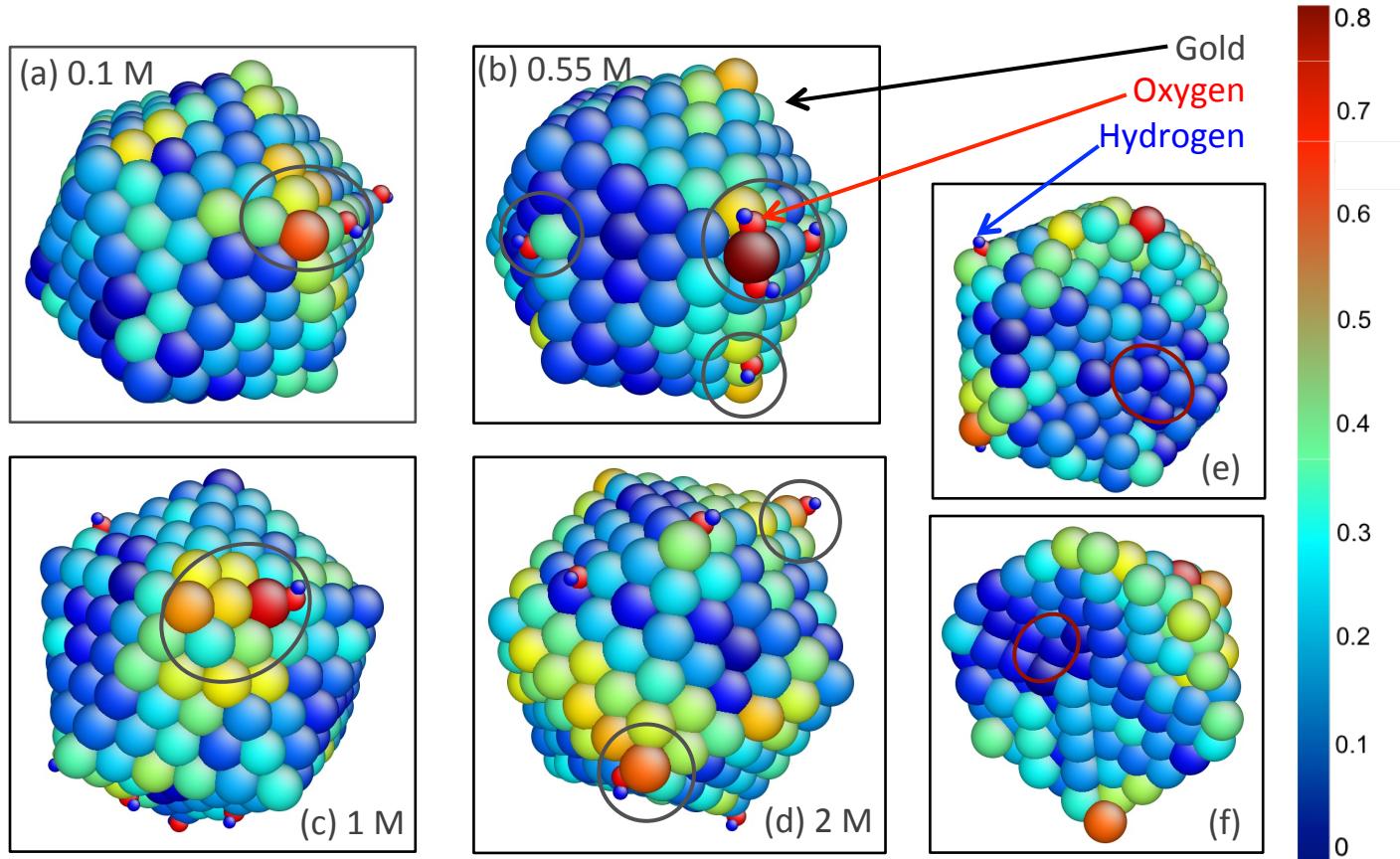
561-atom  
icosahedron in a 2  
M acid solution



490-atom truncated  
octahedron in a 1 M  
acid solution

# Effect of acid molarity

Displacement of Au atoms after 200 ps

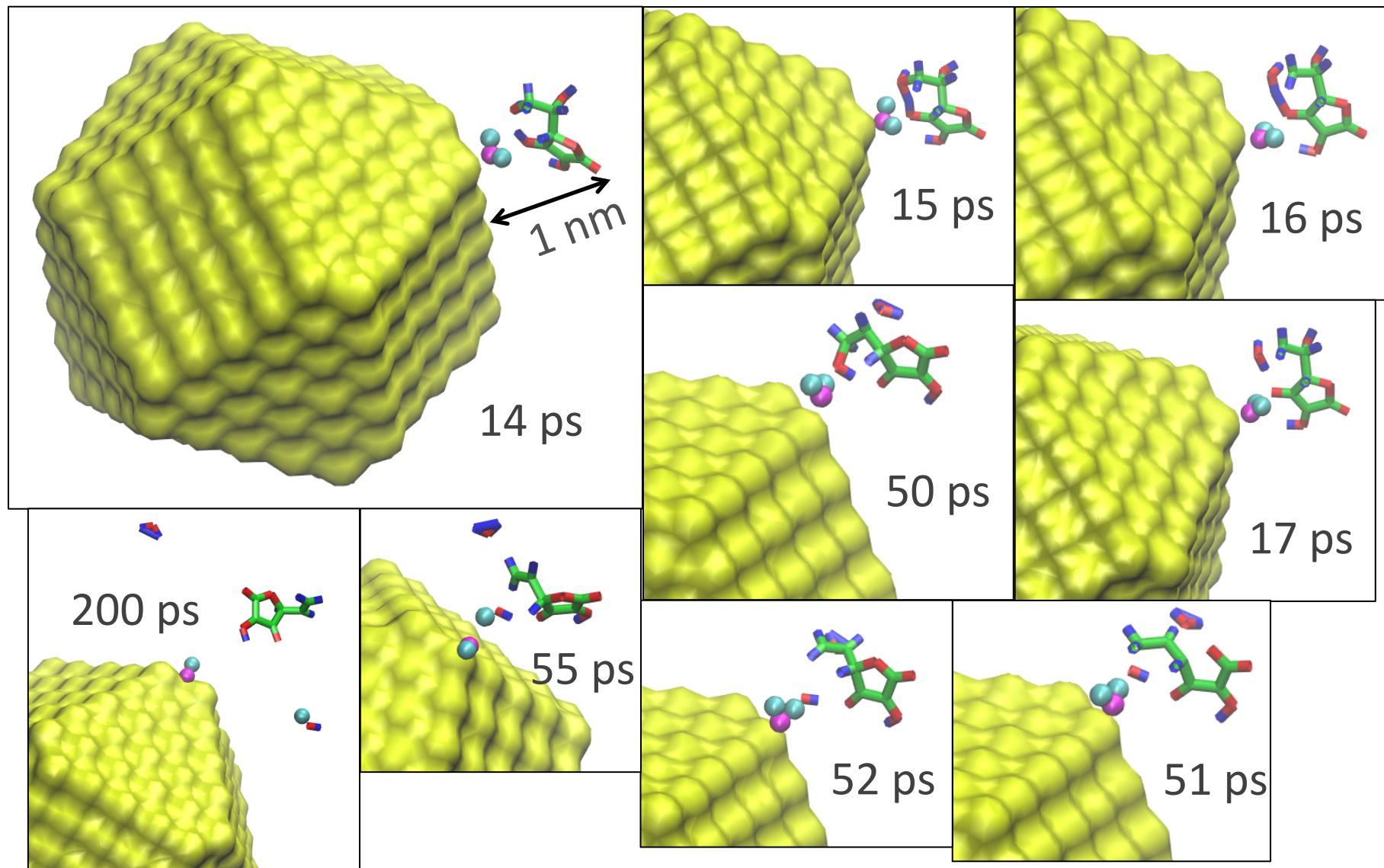


# Effect of acid molarity

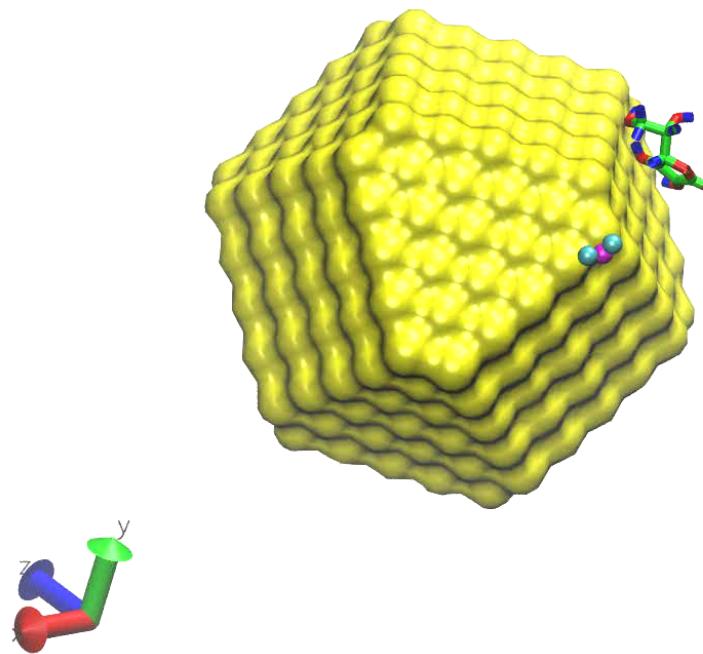
- ❖ Maximum strain on Au at corner and edge sites.
- ❖ Displacement magnitude is independent of molarity (between 0.64 and 0.80 Å).
  - ❖ Observed values are comparable with experiments.
- ❖ Strain depends on chemical adsorption and strength of O-Au bond (no Au-C bonds are seen).
- ❖ For comparison there are no adsorbed OH's in the absence of ascorbic acid.
- ❖ Presence of acid affects dissociation of water near the gold surface.



# Adsorption pathway



# Adsorption pathway movie



# Summary

- ❖ Purpose: Investigate origin of lattice strain in gold nanoclusters facilitating ascorbic acid decomposition
- ❖ Methodology: Reactive MD simulations
- ❖ Key results:
  - ❖ Identification of a mechanistic sequence of processes/reactions during ascorbic acid decomposition on gold.
  - ❖ Strain values and location are comparable with experiments.

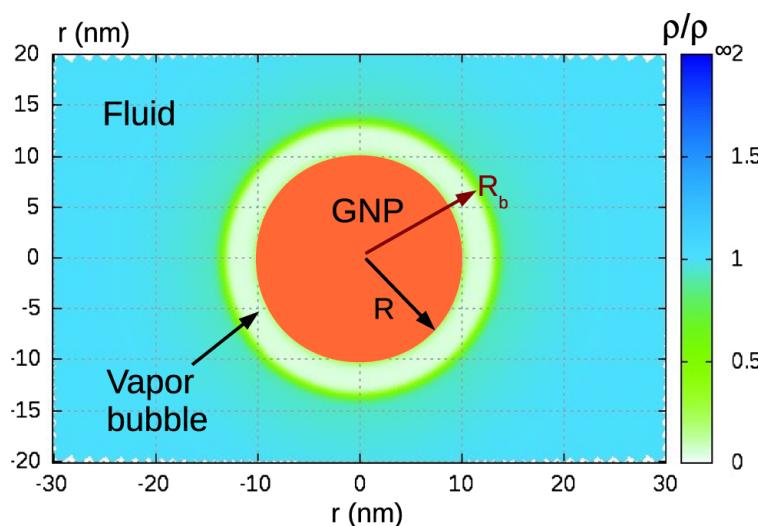


# Ultrafast vapor nanobubble cavitation around intensely heated nanoparticles

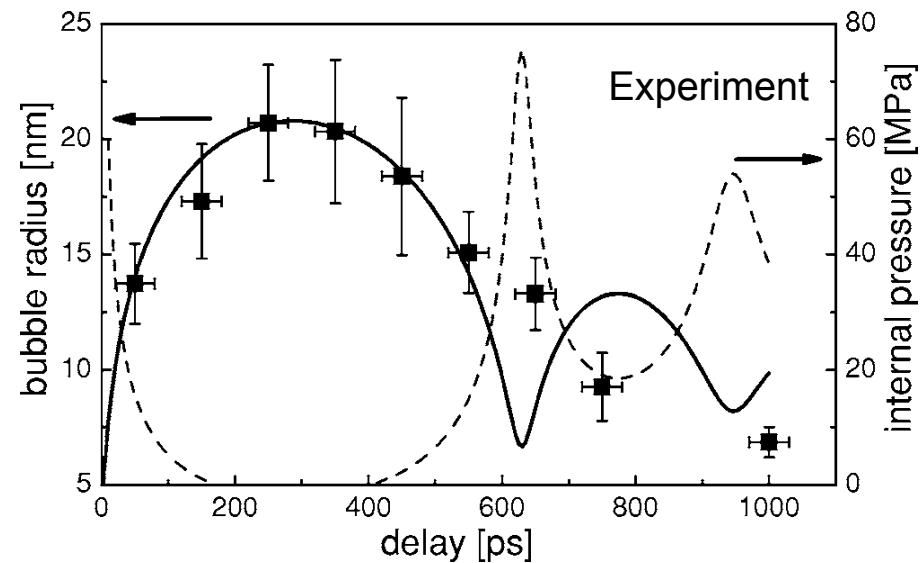
K. Sasikumar,<sup>1,2</sup> P. Kebinski<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Center for Nanoscale Materials, Argonne National Laboratory, USA

<sup>2</sup>Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, USA



Lombard et al., Phys Rev. Lett. 112(10)  
(2014) 105701.



Kotaidis et al., Appl. Phys. Lett. 87(21) (2005) 213102.

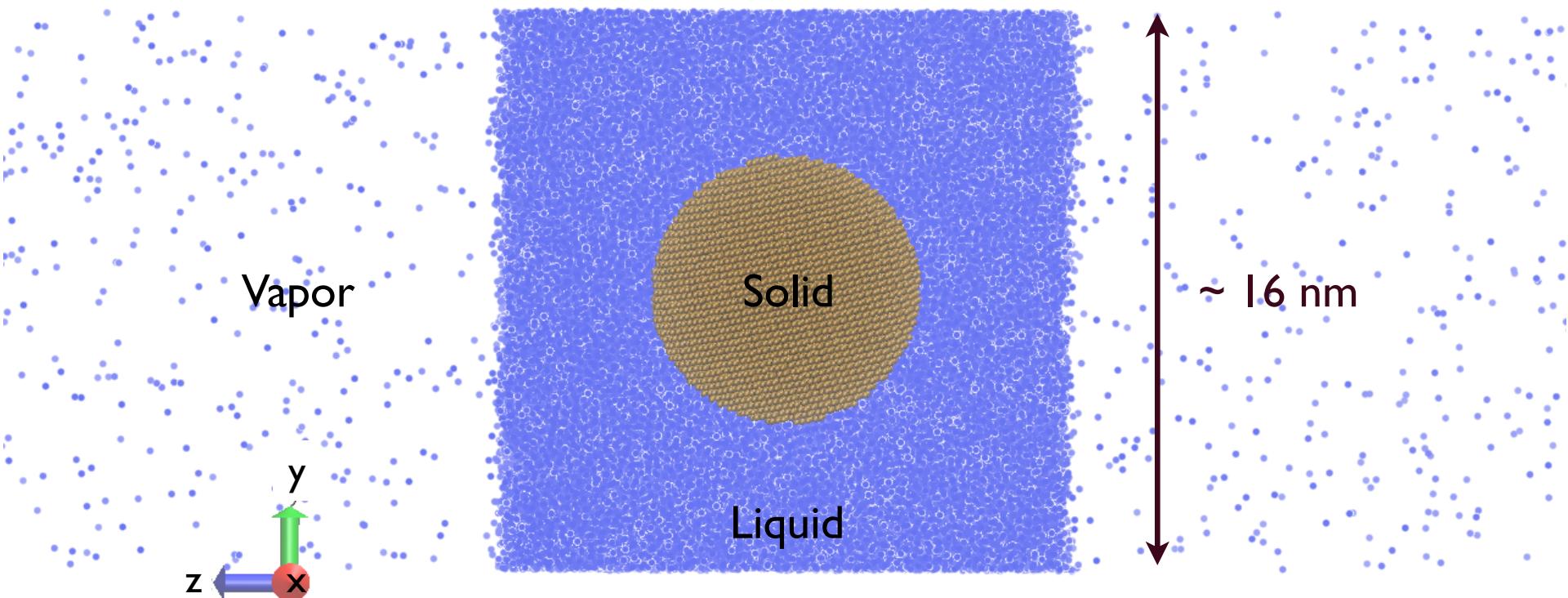
# Model system

- ❖ Finitely extensible spring (FENE) to model nanoparticle (NP) - solid may be heated to any temperature without melting.
- ❖ Lennard-Jones (LJ) potential modeling the fluid.

$$V(r) = -0.5kR_0^2 \ln[1 - (r/R_0)^2]$$

$$V_{LJ}(r) = 4\epsilon \left[ \left(\frac{\sigma}{r}\right)^{12} - \left(\frac{\sigma}{r}\right)^6 \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned}\epsilon &= 0.5758 \text{ kcal/mol} \\ \sigma &= 0.3 \text{ nm}\end{aligned}$$

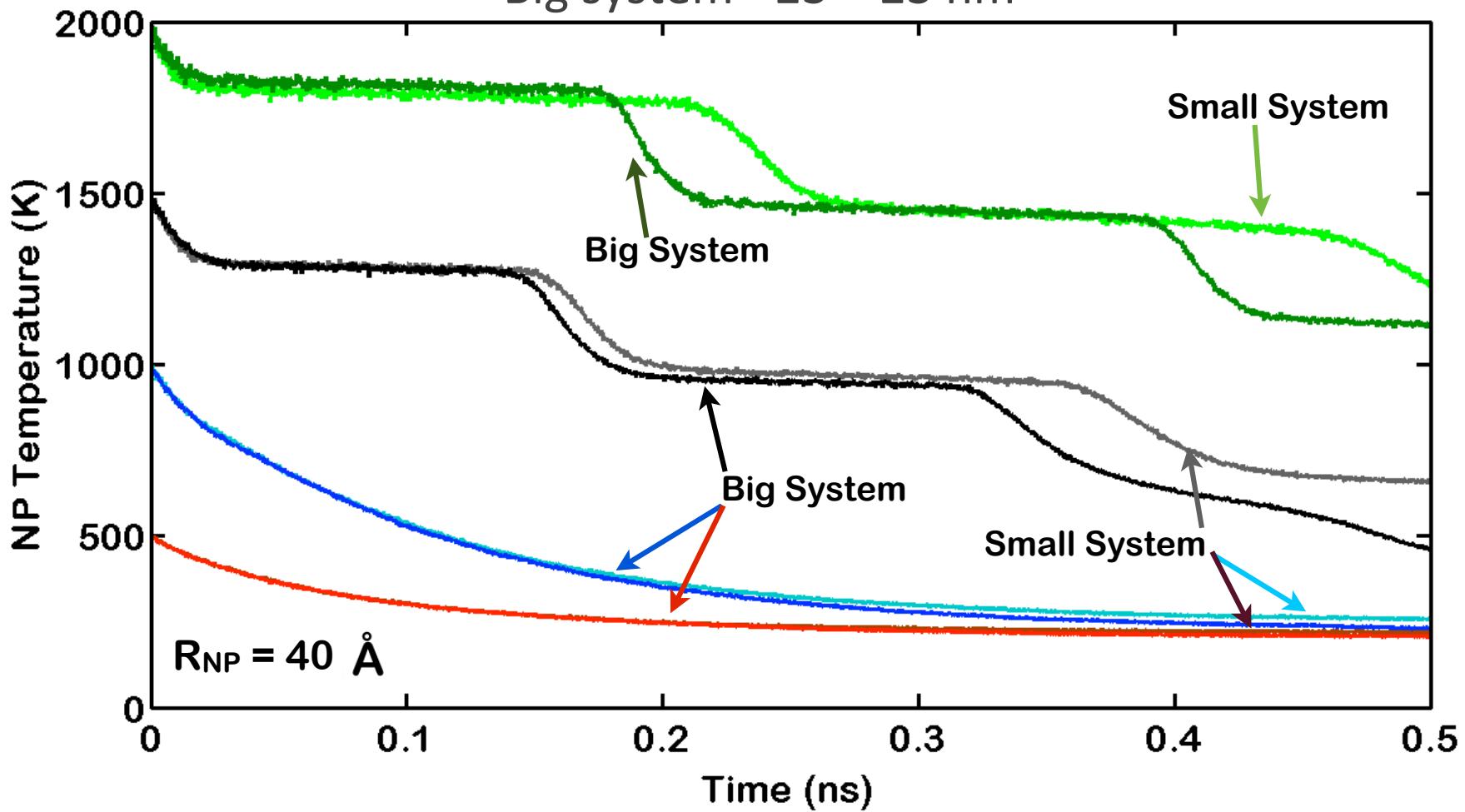


# Nanoparticle cooling curves

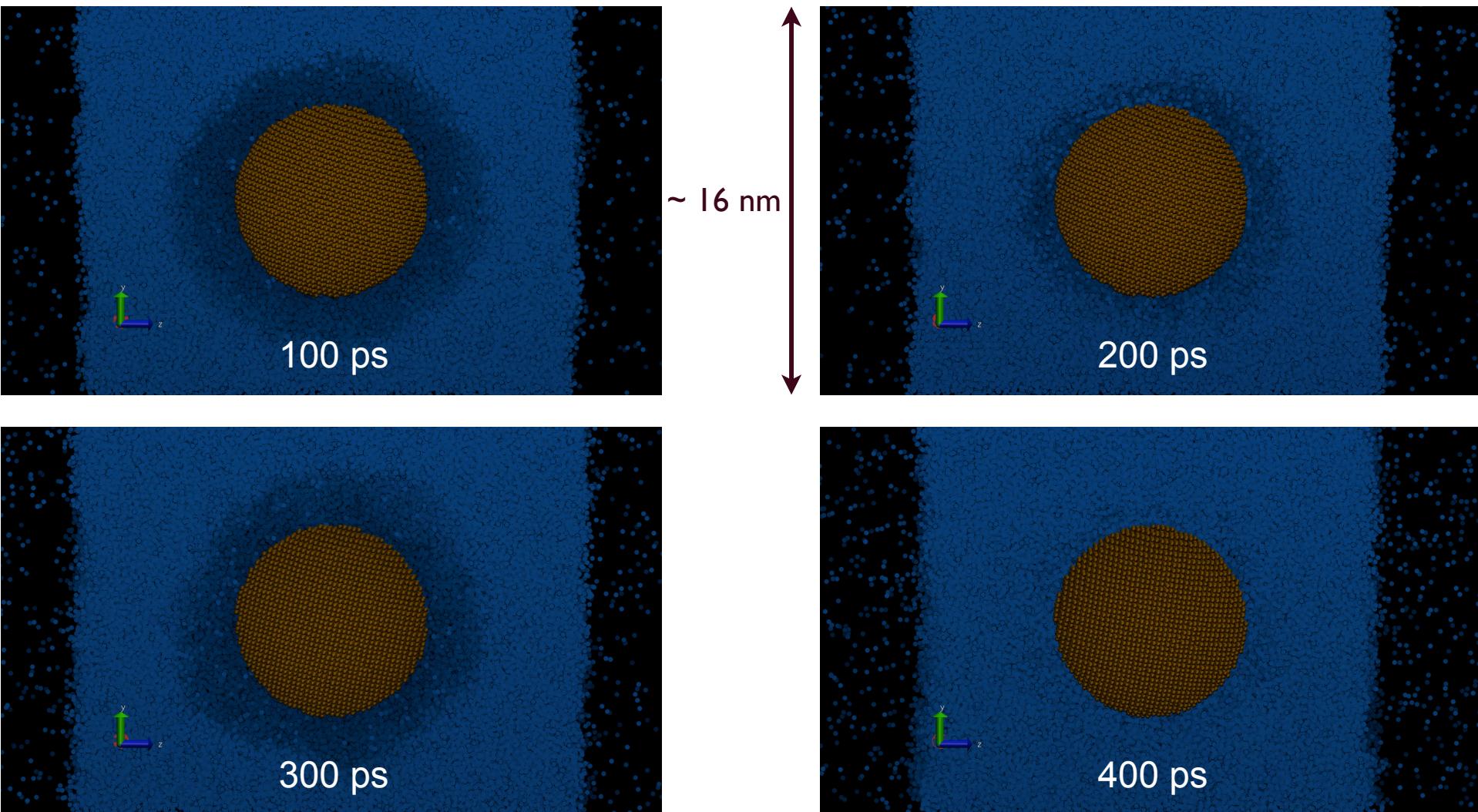
X-Y cross-section area

Small system -  $16 \times 16 \text{ nm}^2$

Big system -  $23 \times 23 \text{ nm}^2$



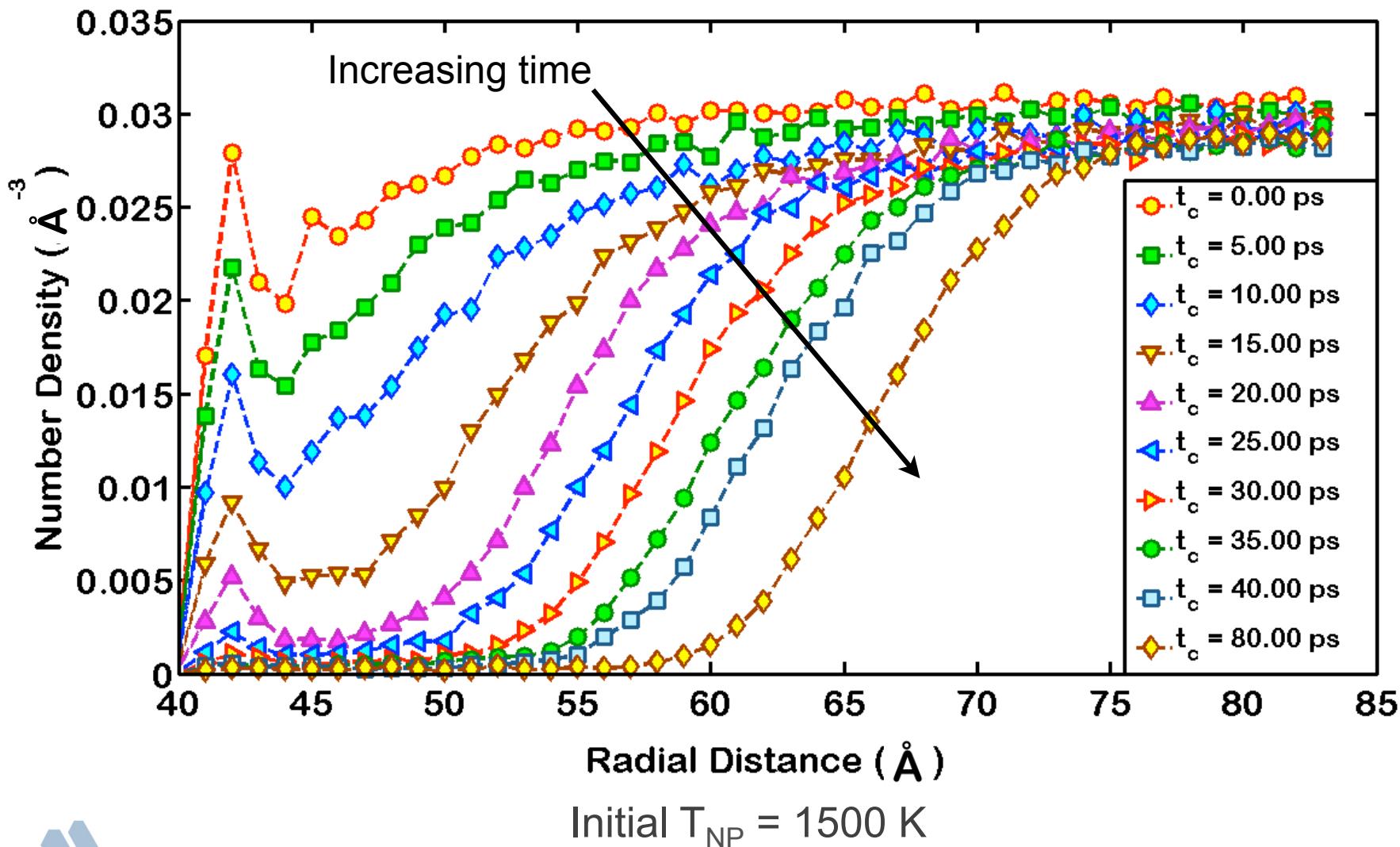
# Nanoscale vapor cavitation demonstrated via MD for the first time



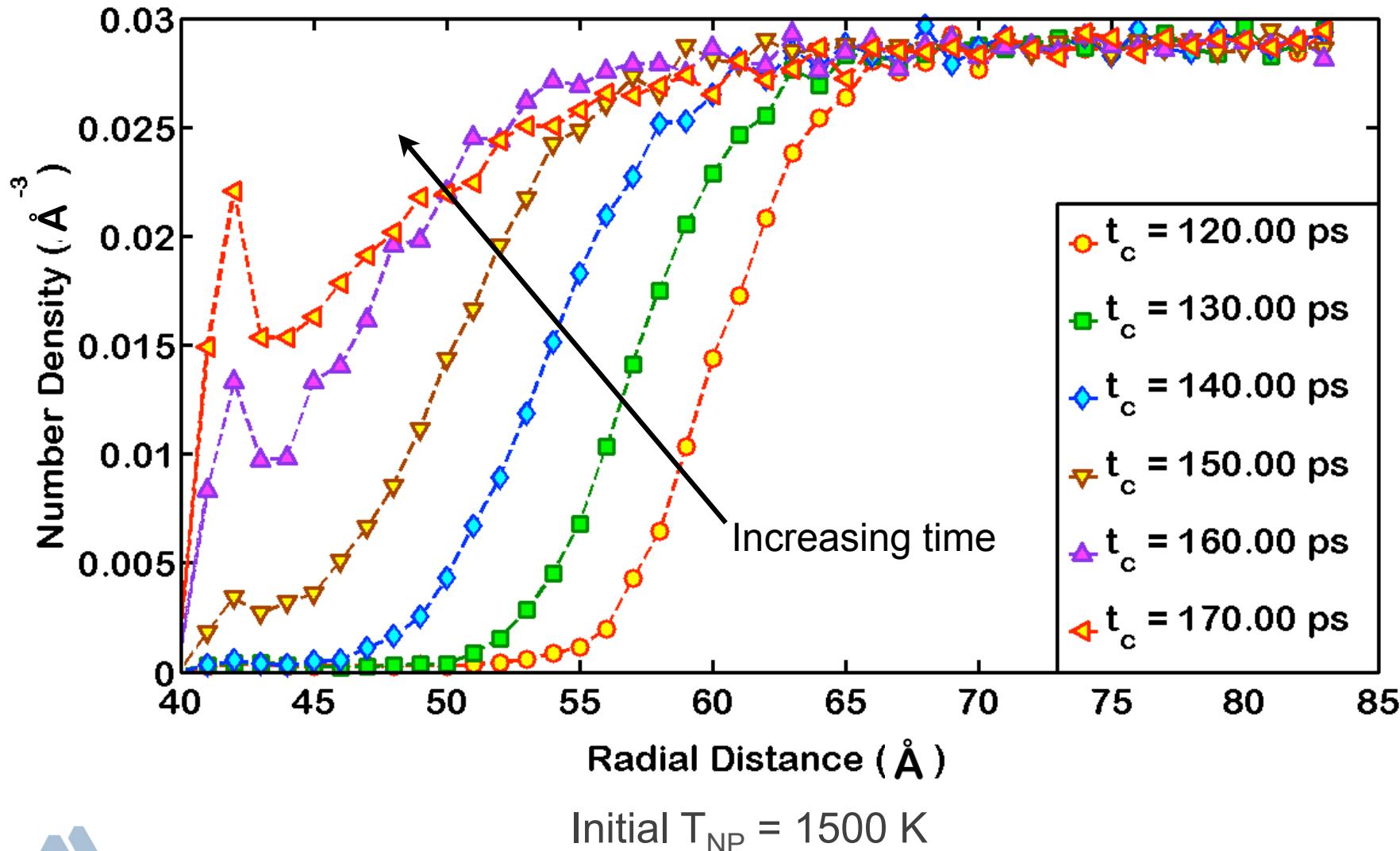
Initial  $T_{\text{NP}} = 1500 \text{ K}$



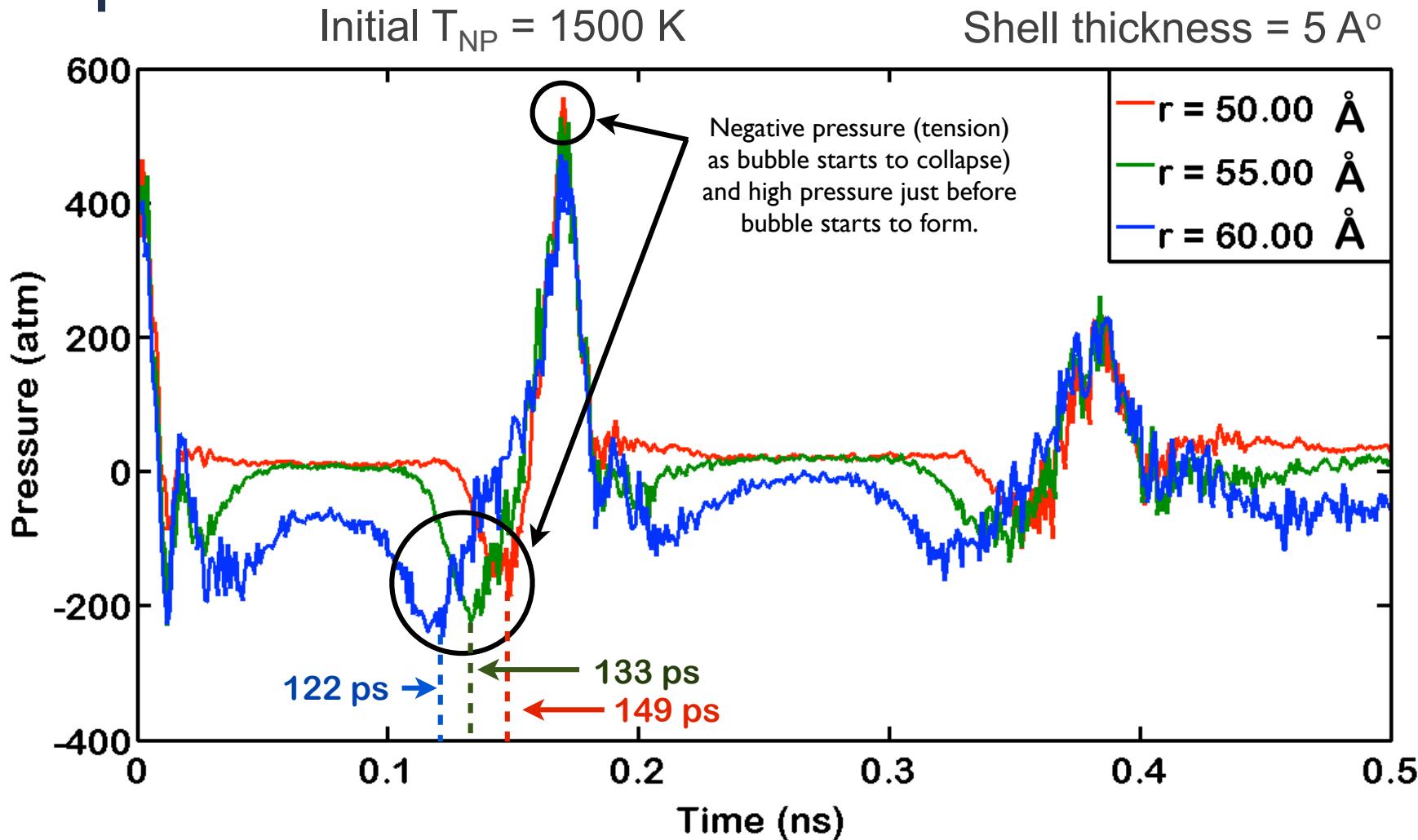
# Formation of vapor upon cooling of NP - density profiles



# Collapse of vapor upon cooling of NP - density profiles



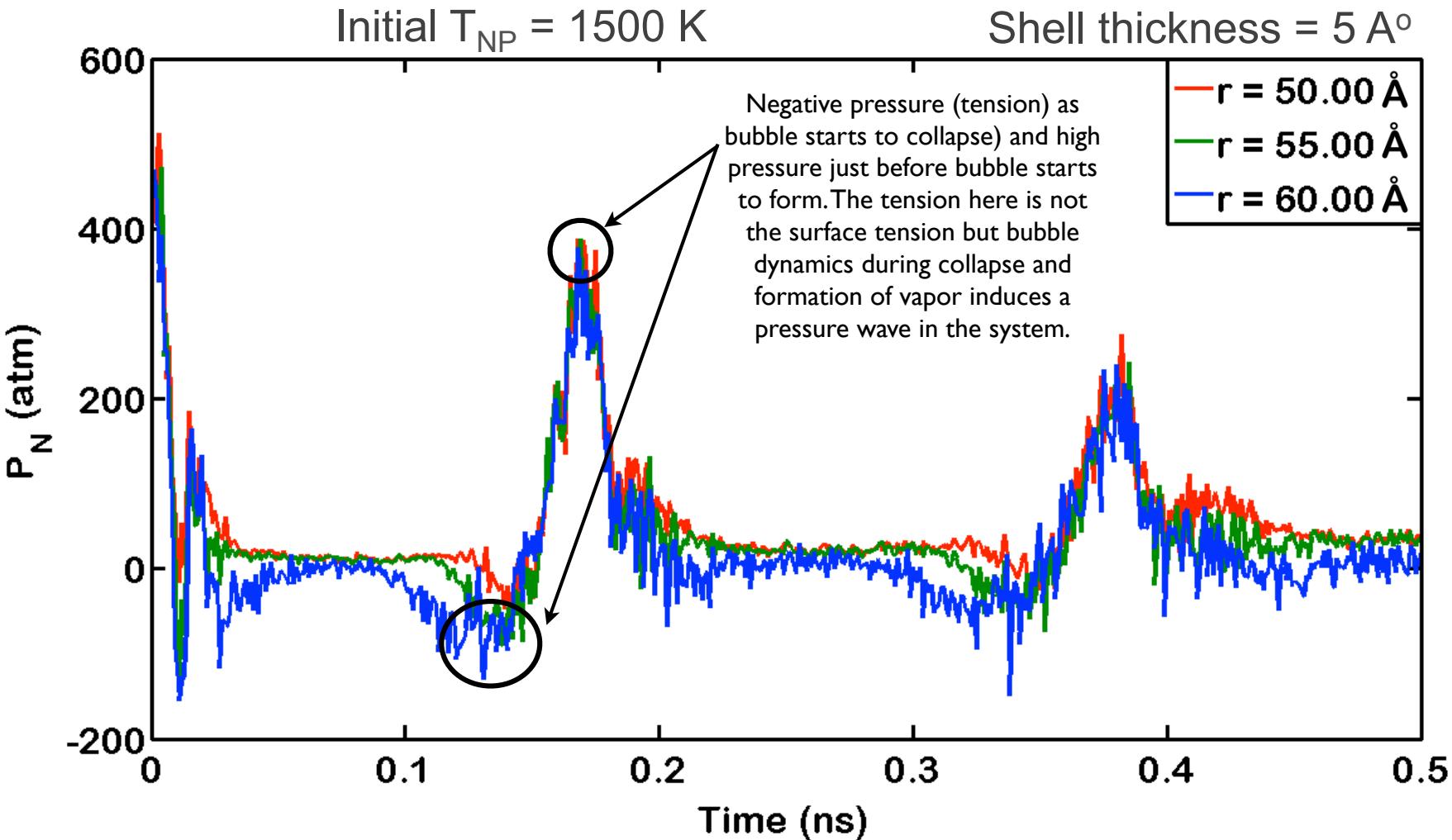
# Hydrostatic pressure in spherical shells of the liquid



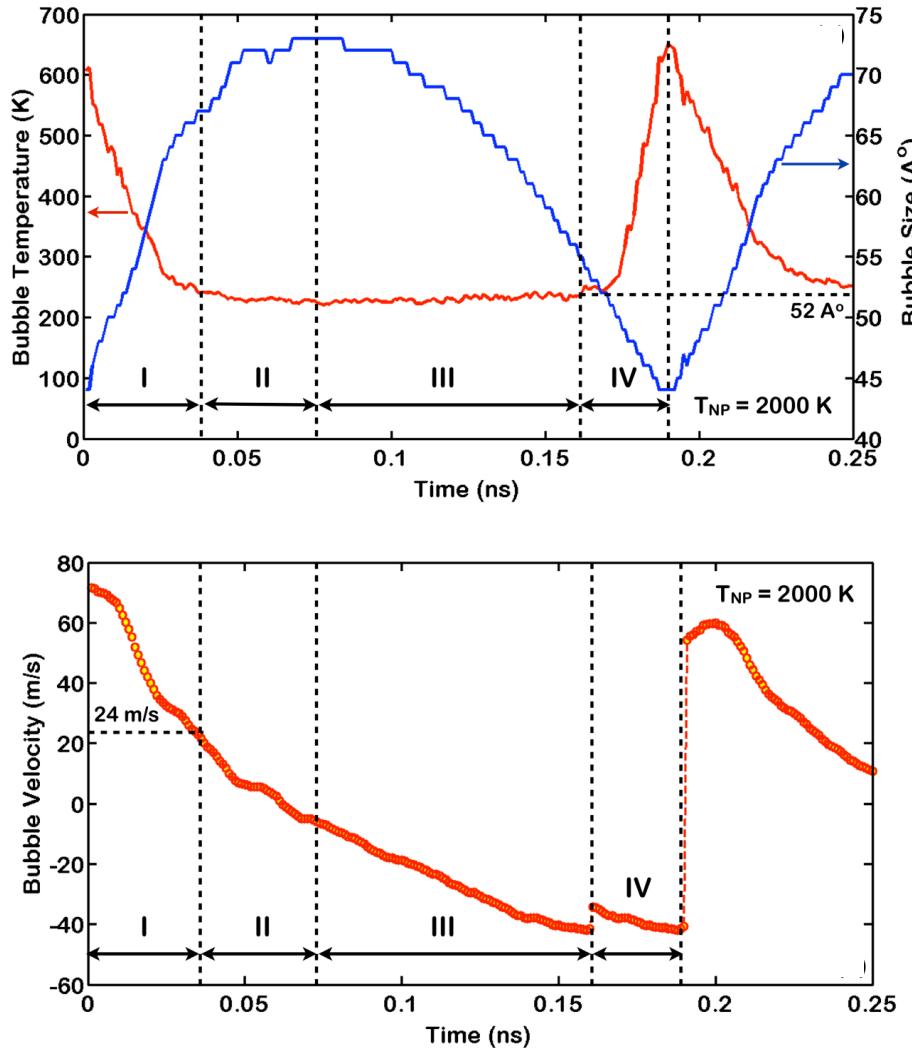
Speed of bubble collapse =  $\sim 37$  m/s

Consistent with bubble velocity calculations from bubble size evolution

# Hydrostatic pressure in spherical shells of the liquid



# Cavitation dynamics - 4 regimes



I - adiabatic/rapid expansion

II - isothermal expansion

III - isothermal collapse

IV - rapid heating due to liquid reestablishing the contact with hot nanoparticle.

# Summary

- ❖ Bubble dynamics during collapse and formation of vapor induces a **pressure wave** in the system.
- ❖ The evolution of the bubble can be represented in 4 stages:
  - ❖ (I) adiabatic expansion;
  - ❖ (II) isothermal expansion;
  - ❖ (III) isothermal collapse and
  - ❖ (IV) rapid heating due to interaction with hot nanoparticle.

## Final note

- ❖ MD simulations can complement imaging experiments in a wide variety of scenarios.
  - ❖ Investigate reactions on nanoscale surfaces.
  - ❖ Investigate lattice dynamics.
  - ❖ Investigate phase change.

# Acknowledgement

- Theory & Modeling Group: S. K. R. S. Sankaranarayanan, M. Chan, S. Gray, B. Narayanan, A. Kinaci, F. G. Sen
- Carbon computing cluster at Center for Nanoscale Materials at Argonne National Laboratory
- Use of the Center for Nanoscale Materials was supported by the U. S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, under Contract No. DE-AC02-06CH11357
- Pawel Keblinski Research Group, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rensselaer Nanotechnology Center

