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# Precise Control of Maghemite Nanoparticle Morphology, Size, and Surface Chemistry

## Insights from Precursor Selection and Synthesis Parameters

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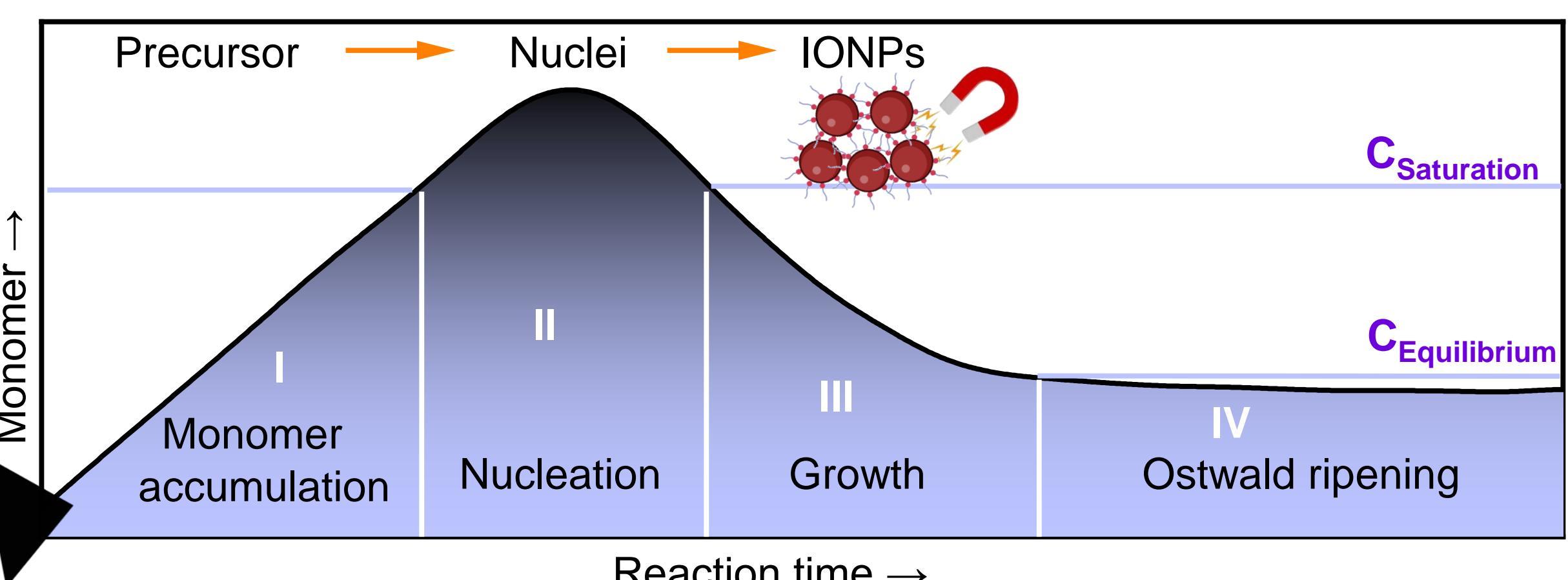
## Context

Iron oxide nanoparticles (IONPs) possess unique magnetic properties that make them valuable in biomedical imaging, drug delivery, and catalysis. Controlling their **size**, **surface chemistry**, and **morphology** is crucial for optimizing performance in these applications. Thermal decomposition is an effective method for synthesizing IONPs with precise control over these parameters. This study explores how varying synthesis conditions can tailor IONP properties for enhanced functionality in practical applications.

## Set Up



## Process

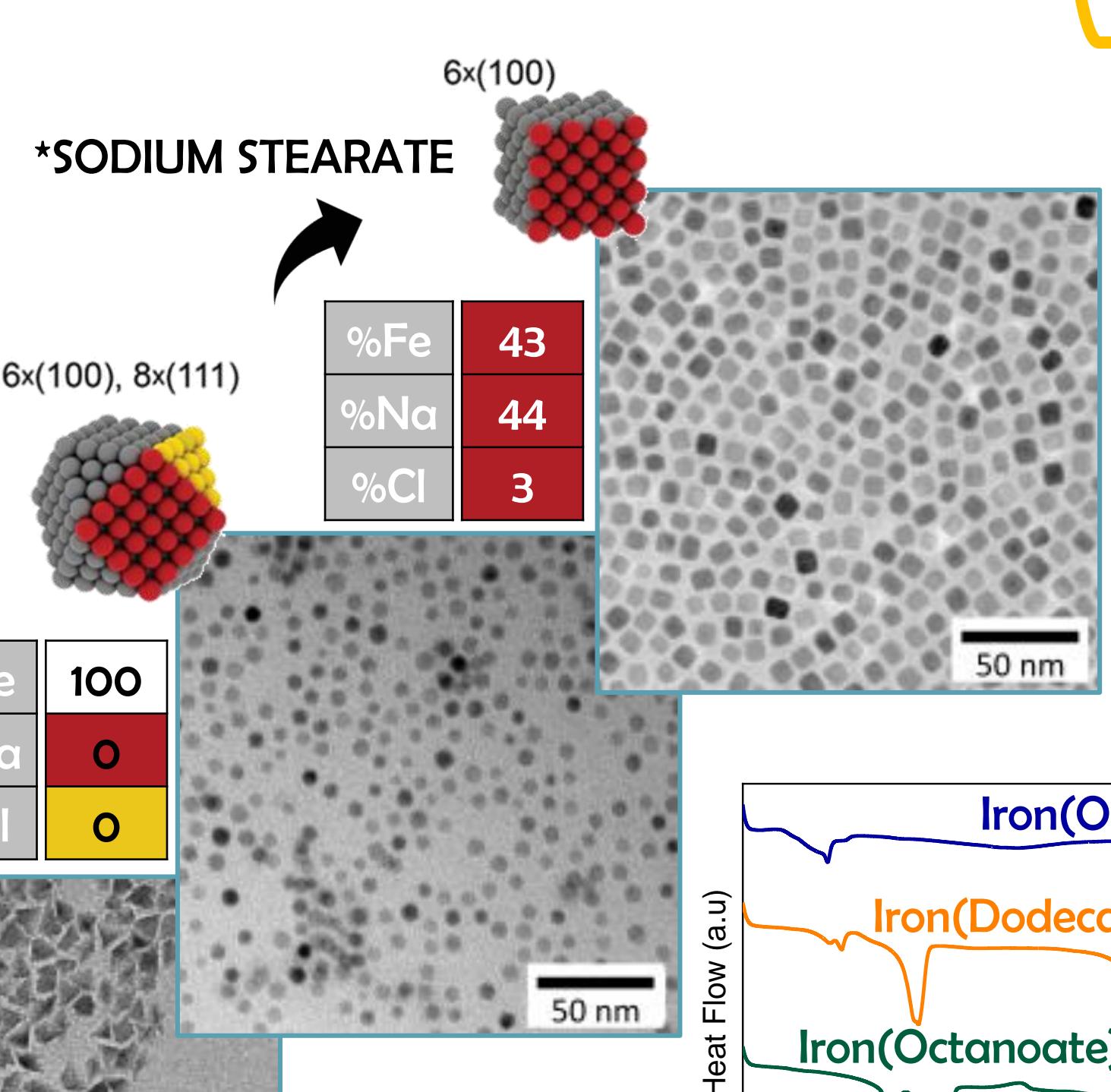


## Results

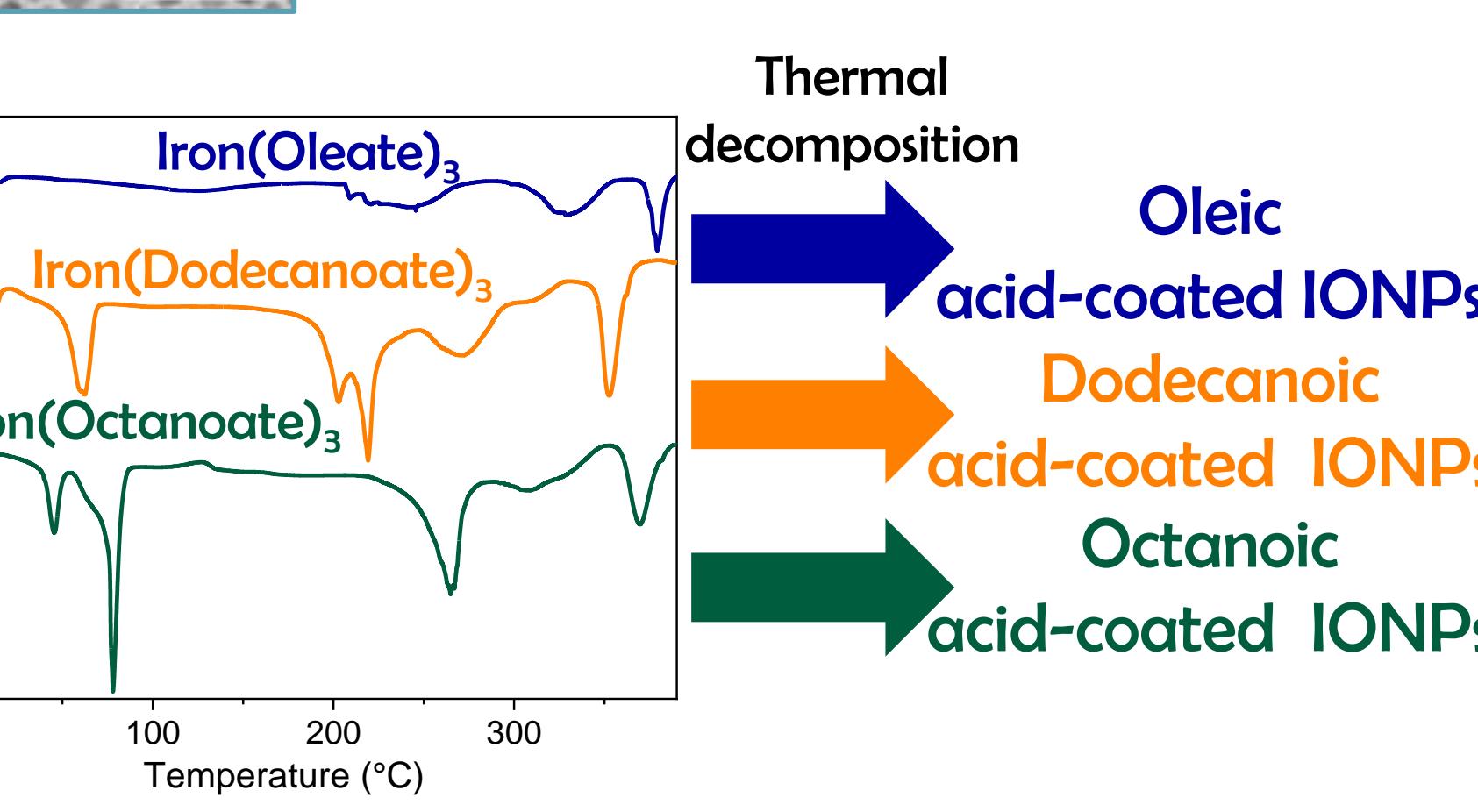
## MORPHOLOGY CONTROL

Purity of Iron(Stearate)<sub>3</sub> precursors

Poisoning the surface with different agents varies the growth rates on low index planes such as {111}, {110} and {100}.



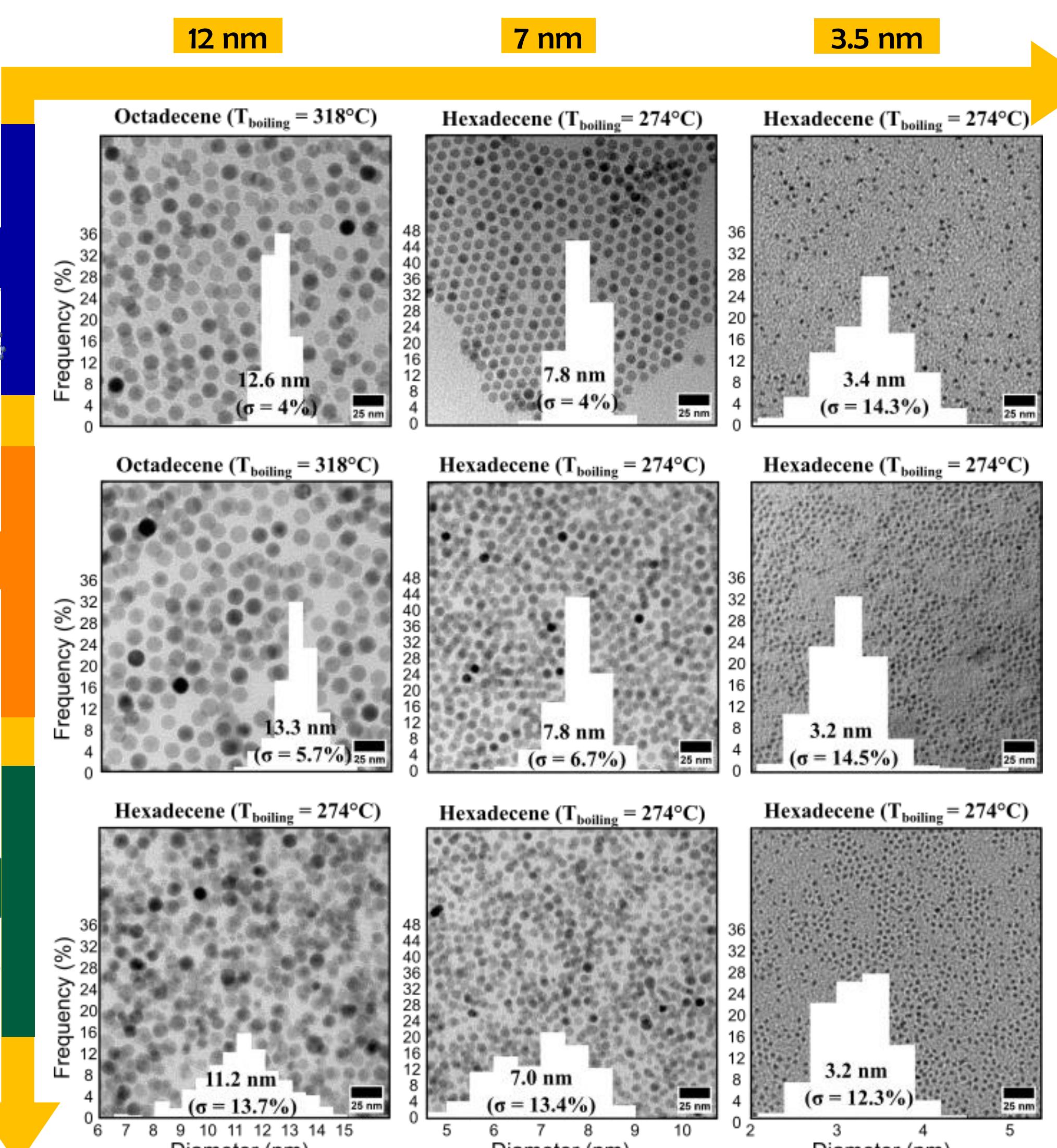
## SURFACE CHEMISTRY CONTROL

Length of Iron(carboxylate)<sub>3</sub> precursors

## Results

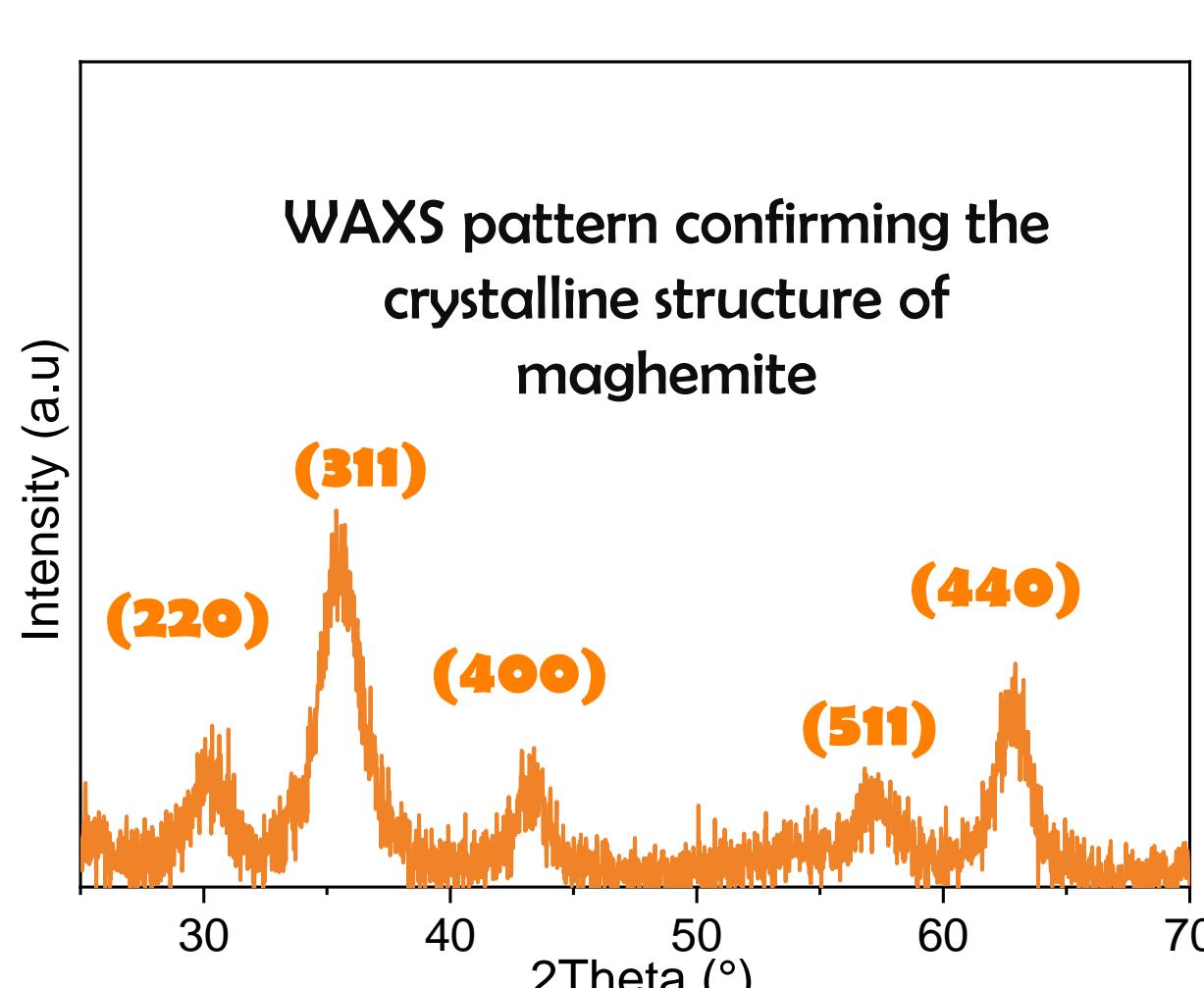
## SIZE CONTROL

## Reaction temperature | Precursor to Ligand ratio | Ligand chain | Precursor concentration

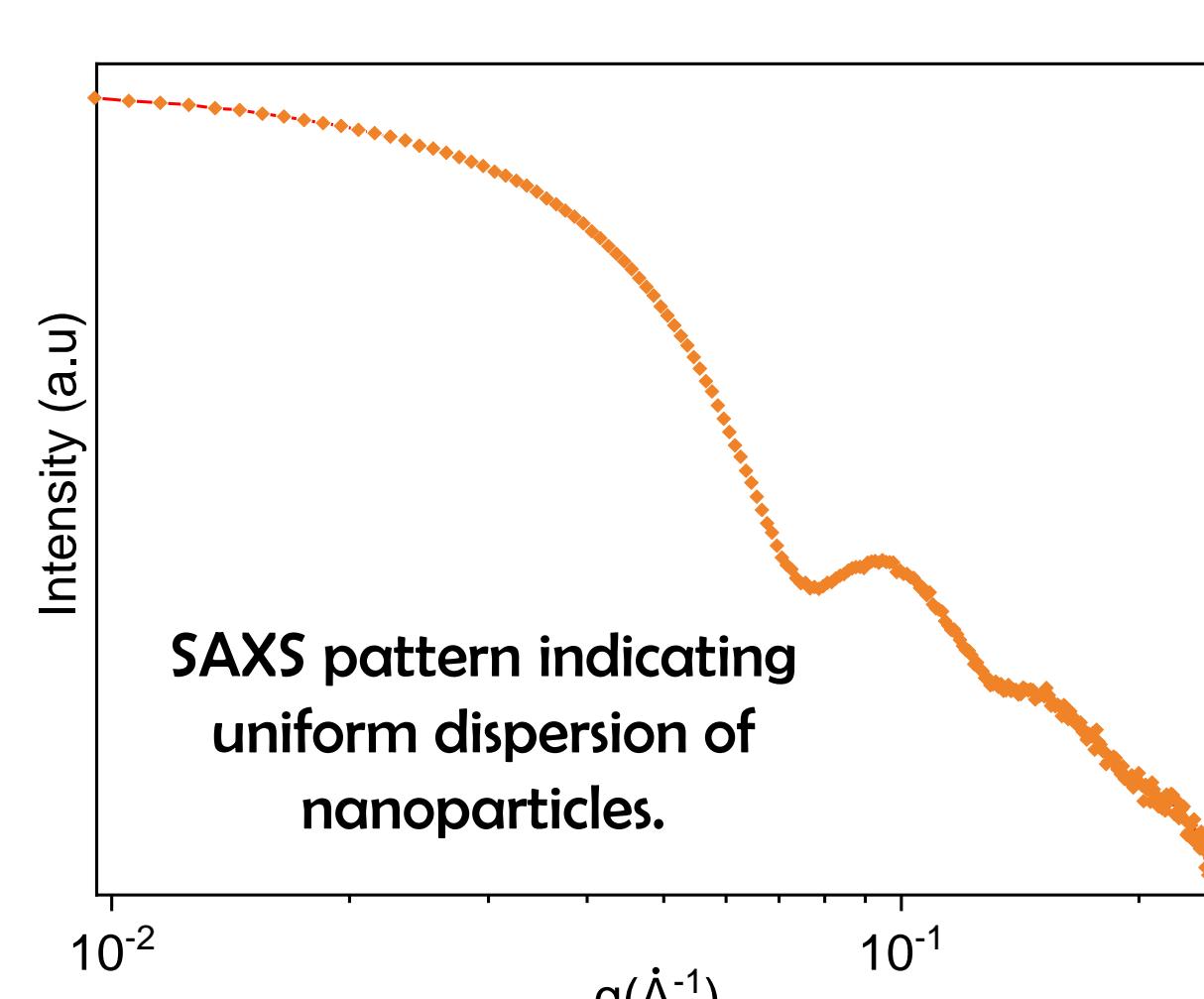
Meftah, S., et al. "Effect of iron stearate purity on maghemite nanoparticle shape and size." *Colloids Surf. A* 680 (2024): 132689.

Meftah, S., et al. "Synthesis and magnetic properties of spherical maghemite nanoparticles with tunable size and surface chemistry" under review.

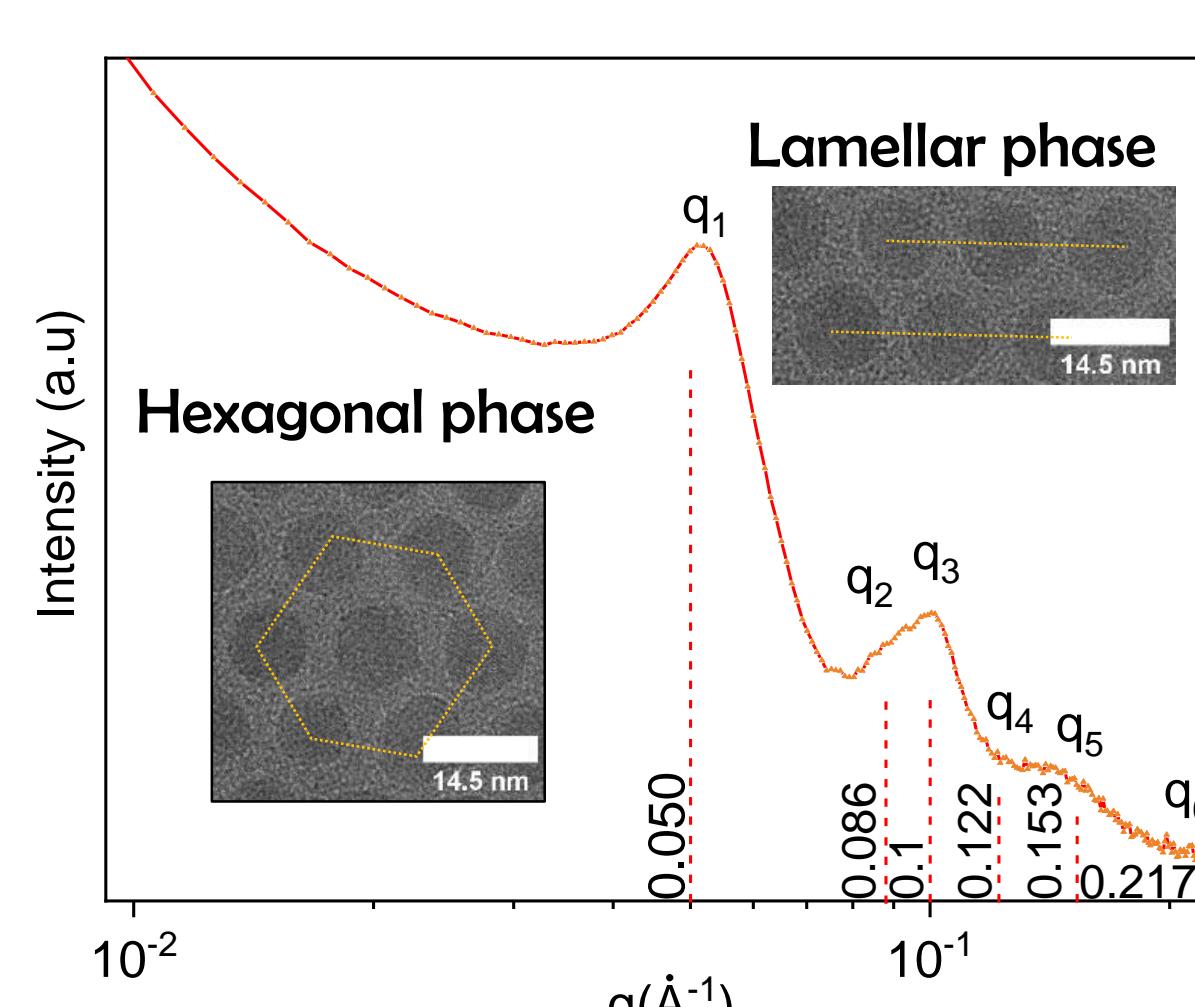
## Composition



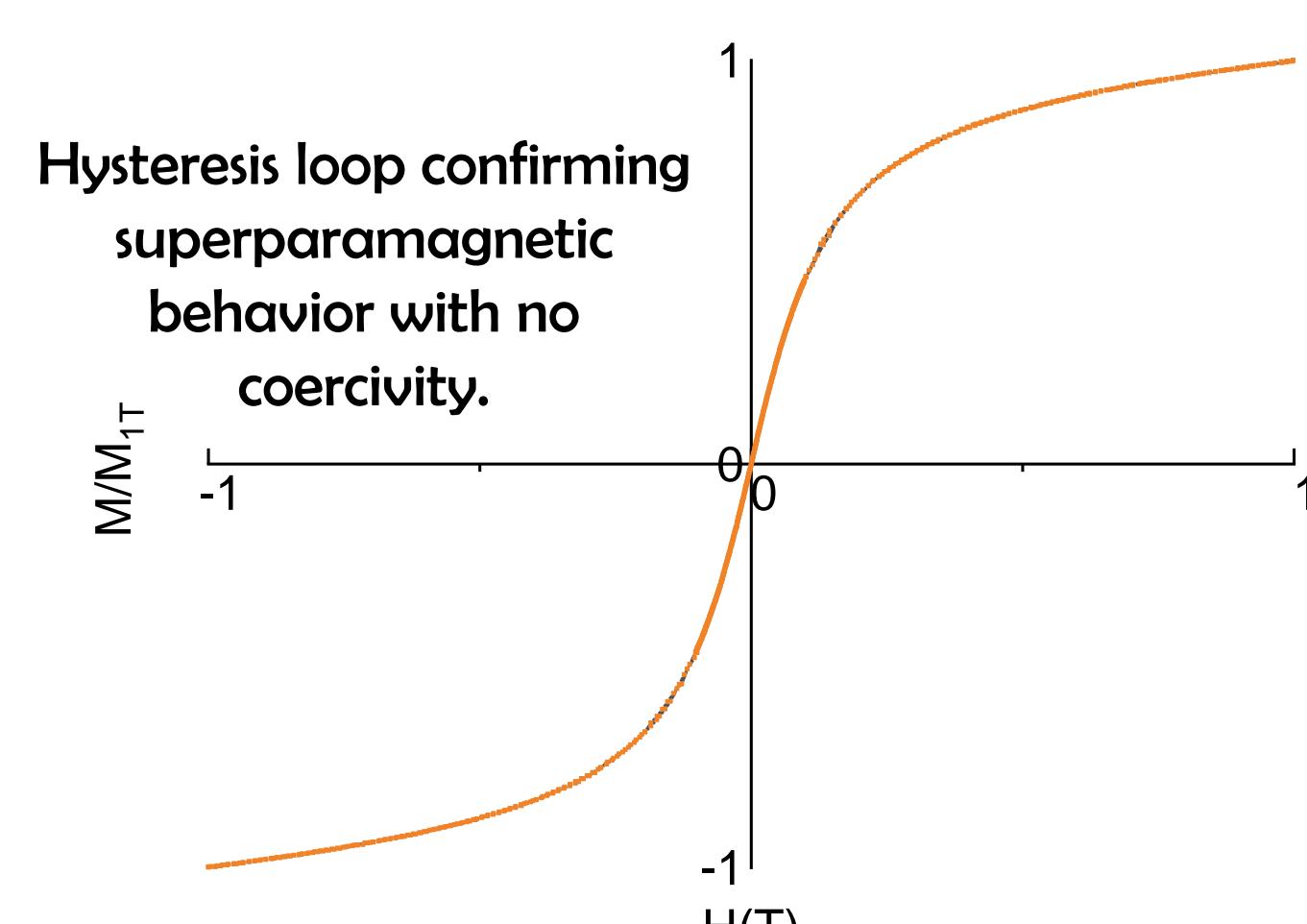
## Dispersion in a solution



## Dispersion in a solid



## Superparamagnetism



## Conclusions

Our study revealed critical insights into iron oxide nanoparticle synthesis:

- Impurity quantification in iron stearate precursors enabled precise control over nanoparticle morphology, including uniform cubic and triangular shapes.
- Size control was achieved, producing iron oxide nanoparticles centered at **12 nm, 7 nm, and 3.5 nm**.
- Surface chemistry tailoring resulted in distinct carbon chain lengths of **8, 12, and 18 for each size**.

This unprecedented level of control over morphology, size, and surface chemistry opens new avenues for optimizing iron oxide nanoparticles for diverse applications in fields such as biomedicine, catalysis, and environmental remediation.

The findings open exciting avenues for research into how nanoparticle size (**12 nm, 7 nm, 3.5 nm**) influences the **mechanical and thermal properties** of polymer nanocomposites.

Additionally, the impact of surface chemistry, particularly the effects of different carbon chain lengths (**8, 12, 18**) on polymer-nanoparticle interactions and overall composite performance, warrants exploration. The influence of nanoparticle morphology (**cubic and triangular**) on anisotropic behaviors and processing-structure relationships also presents significant opportunities. These studies will enhance the understanding of iron oxide nanoparticle-polymer systems, enabling the design of advanced nanocomposites for diverse applications.