Recent advances in synthetic methods and applications of silver nanostructures

Zhi Zhang¹, Wenfei Shen², Jing Xue², Yuanmeng Liu², Yanwei Liu², Peipei Yan², Jixian Liu²* and Jianguo Tang²

Abstract
As the advanced functional materials, silver nanoparticles are potentially useful in various fields such as photoelectric, bio-sensing, catalysis, antibacterial and other fields, which are mainly based on their various properties. However, the properties of silver nanoparticles are usually determined by their size, shape, and surrounding medium, which can be modulated by various synthesis methods. In this review, the fabrication methods for synthesizing silver nanoparticles of different shapes and specific size are illustrated in detail. Besides, the corresponding properties and applications of silver nanoparticles are also discussed in this paper.

Keywords: Silver Nanoparticles, Biosynthetic Methods, Photoelectric, Bio-Sensing, Catalysis, Antibacterial

Background
Metallic nanoparticles with the unique optical and electrical properties have been widely investigated during the past decades. Ag nanoparticles (AgNPs) are the most intensively studied metallic nanoparticles because of their unique properties and applications [1–5]. The properties of AgNPs greatly depend on the morphology of particles including the shapes, sizes, and surrounding medium. Large efforts have been devoted to the synthesis methods and the morphological regulation of silver nanoparticles.

Recently, researchers conducted an in-depth study on the excellent function of silver nanoparticles such as photo-electricity [6], catalysis [7], antibacterial [8, 9], biosensors [10], and surface-enhanced Raman scattering (SERS) [11]. So far, AgNPs were successfully prepared by chemical reduction [12–16], photo reduction [17, 18], and laser synthesis [19], etc. However, these methods are usually time and energy consuming. At the same time, they also have the disadvantages of strict preparation conditions and the AgNPs were inhomogeneous in size. Therefore, simple and economical methods, by which the size, shape, and size distribution of AgNPs can be finely controlled, are urgently needed to be developed. Utilizing protective agents is an efficient way to make the AgNPs with good stability and dispersibility. Meanwhile, the agglomeration between particles can be prevented by protective agent. So, protective agents are important to be used for AgNPs synthesis [20].

In this work, the preparation of silver nanoparticles with different shapes such as nanocubes, nanowires, and nanospheres were detailed reviewed. The representative work on preparing silver nanoparticles with different shapes and sizes of 1–10 nm AgNPs, 10–100 nm AgNPs have been reviewed before. As the excellent environmental protection characteristics and simple operation, the new biosynthetic methods to obtain silver nanoparticles which can serve as an alternate to the complex chemical synthetic procedures were singled out as an emphasis. Meanwhile, the properties and applications of AgNPs such as antibacterial, fluorescence, catalysis, and surface plasmon resonance were detailed reviewed as the following. The important application of silver nanoparticles which can be used in nanosensors was highlighted in this review.

This study provides a comprehensive approach which is significant to the investigation of AgNPs. However, it is worth noting that the innovative preparation methods and application breakthroughs still need to be explored.

Synthetic Methods
Silver nanoparticles were synthesized by various methods, such as seed growth method [21] and stepwise reduction method [22]. Each method has advantages and
limitations. So, developing an effective preparation method is still a challenge. Owing to the unique properties and wide applications, the synthesis method of silver nanoparticles is worthy to be optimized. We summarized six types of preparation methods including new biosynthetic methods in this work. We are in the expectation of providing a little help for the workers who are engaging in this field.

Preparation of Different Types of AgNPs
Recently, researchers were focused on the shape control of AgNPs due to their morphology-dependent properties [23, 24]. Meanwhile, in order to expand their current applications, the preparation of silver nanoparticles with different shapes (such as coral-like shape [25], cage [26], and triangle nanocrystals [27]) aroused a wide range of scientific researches. The formation mechanism and different preparation methods of silver nanoparticles were explored for a long time.

Synthesis of Ag Nanocubes
Xia et al. [28–30] massively prepared monodisperse samples of silver nanocubes by reducing silver nitrate with ethylene glycol in the presence of poly vinyl pyrrolidone (PVP). In the synthesis process, PVP was used as protective agents which can stabilize the dispersive silver nanoparticles and prevent the agglomeration. At the same time, the amount of PVP addition can also affect the morphology of AgNPs. Therefore, it is essential to use PVP during the synthesis. It is well known that heating can provide more reacting energy which is beneficial to increase the reducibility of ethylene glycol. In the presence of hydroxyl ions, Ag⁺ was reduced to form silver nanocubes. The advantage of this research is that it can be utilized to prepare homogeneous single-crystal nanocubes. On the nanometer scale, metals that most of them are face-centered cubic (fcc) tend to nucleate and grow into twinned and multiply twinned particles (MTPs) owing to their surfaces bounded by the lowest-energy facets on the nanometer scale [31]. Moreover, this structure is beneficial to be applied in the field of photonics, catalysis, and SERS-based sensing. The picture (Fig. 1) shows the SEM, TEM, and XRD images of silver nanocubes. These silver nanocubes had a mean edge length of 175 nm, with a standard deviation of 13 nm. Their surfaces were smooth, and all corners and edges of these particles were slightly truncated. This structure may be used for drug delivery systems by injecting drug into the truncated corners.

A novel silver nanoparticle was published by Yam et al. [32] that utilized Cetyltrimethyl Ammonium Bromide (CTAB) as surfactant in aqueous solution. The bromine ion can react with the silver ammonia complex ([Ag(NH₃)₂]⁺) to produce AgBr precipitation, and silver ions will be released slowly in the subsequent reaction. At the same time, the residual silver ions were reduced by glucose, and a size of ~ 55 nm nanosilver cube was formed with the coated surfactant. The surfactant CTAB can be adsorbed on the surface of AgNPs by physical adsorption. On this account, the agglomeration and scale growth of AgNPs can be effectively controlled by inhibition. Because of the existence of CTAB, it is possible to obtain AgNPs with uniform dispersion and suitable size.

Fig. 1  a Low- and b high-magnification SEM images of slightly truncated silver nanocubes.  c A TEM image of the same batch of silver nanocubes.  d An XRD pattern of the same batch of sample, confirming the formation of pure fcc silver [28]
It takes a long time to prepare nanosilver cubes reported by Xia and Yam synthetic’s method. But silver nanoparticles can be rapidly produced by the microwave method. Saraf et al. [33] prepared silver nanocubes by utilizing large quantity of gold seed in the presence of polyelectrolyte and microwave heating for 60–120 s. The experiment indicates that the polyelectrolyte guides the growth of the particle in a specified crystallographic direction resulting in the faceted particle, i.e., a nanocube. At present, the preparation of silver nanoparticles by polyol method is more mature.

**Synthesis of Ag Nanowires and Nanorods**

Murphy et al. [34] reported that nanorods and nanowires can be prepared successfully by using ascorbic acid to reduce AgNO₃ in the presence of Ag seed, the micellar template CTAB, and NaOH. The average diameter of Ag seeds is 4 nm. In this work, the concentration of seed and base relative concentration of Ag⁺ play a key role in making larger aspect-ratio nanomaterials. CTAB is also necessary for preparing a high yield of rods. The picture of TEM (Fig. 2) shows the shape of nanorods and nanowires. Silver nanorods were prepared by Lee et al. [35]. In seed-mediated growth method, small metal particles are prepared first and later used as seeds for the preparation of nanorods. The silver seeds were prepared by reduction of silver ions with sodium borohydride in the presence of sodium citrate dihydrate as stabilizer. These silver seeds were added into the solution containing more silver salt, an ascorbic acid (weak reducing agent), and a CTAB. In this study, the reaction temperature and pH controlled the aspect ratio and uniformity of the resulting rods. Increase of reaction temperature led to decreased aspect ratio of silver nanorods and increased size of the monodispersed particles. Also, increase of pH showed the similar results. When reaction temperature and pH were increased, the reduction-rate of silver was further increased. In experiment, silver nanorods with high aspect ratio and monodispersity were synthesized under the condition of 30 °C and pH 10.56. Silver nanorods were synthesized by electrochemical methods from an aqueous solution of AgNO₃ in the presence of polyethylene glycol (PEG) by Zhu et al. [36]. It was found that the concentration of AgNO₃ and PEG affected the formation of the nanorods.

Murphy et al. provided a better method for preparing silver nanowires, but Sun’s [37, 38] synthetic way is more refined. They synthesized silver nanowires by reducing AgNO₃ with ethylene glycol in the presence of seeds and PVP. The reaction mechanism is as follows:

\[
2\text{HOCH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{OH} \rightarrow 2\text{CH}_3\text{CHO} + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \quad (1)
\]

\[
2\text{CH}_3\text{CHO} + 2\text{AgNO}_3 \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{CO}-\text{COCH}_3 + 2\text{Ag} + 2\text{HNO}_3 \quad (2)
\]

Next, AgNO₃ and PVP were guttattim added into the reaction system, allowing the nucleation and growth of silver and forming uniform shape and size of nanowires. Silver nanowires with diameters of 30–40 nm, and lengths up to ~50 μm were produced by this way. The effects of various reaction conditions (temperature, reacting time, and seeding conditions) on the morphology and size were discussed in this review. Figure 3 shows the shapes and sizes of the purified nanowires.

In the UV-vis spectrum (Fig. 3a), it can be seen that silver nanowires show an obvious blue shift in UV-vis absorption compared with original sample after purification. The UV-vis absorption peak appears at 380 nm. Figure 3c shows the width of these nanowires is 40 nm. The nanowires with the same width can be obtained,
which is the best advantage of this work. These nanowires may be used to prepare conductive films [39] and efficient organic solar cells [40], etc.

Through further studying how PVP reacted with silver nanowires, Xie et al. [41–43] concluded that the PVP monolayer reacts with Ag nanowires via Ag–O bonds. On this basis, Xie et al. [44, 45] observed the existence of multiple twins in experiments that proved Xia on multiple twinning is one of the key factors in the formation of Ag nanowires. Controlling the initial amount of silver nitrate or reducing the initial rate of reduction of silver nitrate is conducive to the formation of silver nanowires in the solution [46, 47]. The specific method that they utilized is to control the reaction of the metallic salt and silver nitrate by adding chlorine ions to the reaction solution or reducing the release rate of silver ions.

Tang et al. [48] synthesized size-controlled silver nanowires by adding stainless steel mesh to the system which has higher ion concentration. It is mainly that the stainless steel mesh can react with nitric acid which can be helpful to prevent the corrosion of the multiple crystal grains. In the presence of chloride ions, they prepared uniform silver nanowires by using hydrothermal method, microwave method, and other experimental methods [49, 50]. Silver sulfide nanoparticle is a new type semiconductor which is easily synthesized through the reaction of sulfur ions with silver ions. Silver sulfide nanoparticles can provide electrons and make silver ions adsorb on the surface of it and act as a core and reducing agent. At the same time, silver atoms can also be deposited on the surface of Ag2S to form Ag2S@Ag seeds and play a role of self-catalytic reduction, which is conducive to the formation of silver nanowires [51].

**Synthesis of Ag Nanospheres**

Quasi-spherical silver nanoparticles, which are commonly synthesized by chemical reduction method, are reported by lots of works because silver atoms easily tend to form spherical structure during synthesis process of silver nanoparticles. In the chemical reduction process, commonly employed reduction agents include sodium borohydride [52], sodium citrate [53], hydrazine hydrate [54], ascorbic acid [55], and hydrogen [56]. Of all the research teams, Xia’s team is the most detailed and comprehensive in studying. In order to obtain the high quality of single-crystal Ag nanospheres [57], they utilize a new method based on wet etching which is different from chemical reduction. By rapidly mixing the suspension of uniform Ag nanocubes with a small amount of ferric nitrate or ferricyanide-based etching
solution, they could either truncate the sharp corners and edges to form rounded nanocubes or obtain nanospheres without sharp features which have the same diameter as the original cubes. Because previous synthetic methods are unable to prepare uniform spheres larger than \( \sim 35 \) nm. Notably, this method could be used to produce uniform Ag nanospheres with a broad range of sizes and open up new possibilities for fundamental studies on SERS. In this work, the Ag spheres can be prepared with the smallest size of 25 nm and the largest size of 142 nm. Figure 4 shows that the silver nanocubes were etched into quasi-nanospheres.

AgNPs prepared with this method have the regular shape and uniform size. These silver nanospheres with regular shape and uniform size can be used to prepare uniform gold nanocage which can be utilized for biological targeted drug delivery [58].

Liang et al. [59] reported a novel technique for fabricating monodisperse silver nanoparticles. The PEG is utilized both as a solvent and reducing reagent and the PVP is utilized as capping agent for the synthesis of monodisperse silver nanoparticles. To obtain uniform nanospheres with an average diameter of 54 nm, Liang utilized the PVP/AgNO\(_3\) molar at a ratio of 8 at 260 °C. Figure 5 shows the TEM, HRTEM, and XRD images of silver nanospheres.

It can be seen that the size of Ag nanospheres is uniform from the TEM image. Moreover, the synthesis method is simple and it can be applied to mass production. Of course, there are many other papers on the study of spherical nanosilver which is also worth learning. But in this work, we will not repeat them. Next section, we will describe three types of preparation methods by which different sizes of silver nanoparticles are fabricated. We expect to provide a little help for the workers who are engaging in studying the effect of size and performance.

**Preparation of Different Sizes of AgNPs**

It is universally acknowledged that silver nanoparticles with different sizes have a significant influence on the performance of materials. Nevertheless, we find that few papers systematically describe the preparation methods of silver nanoparticles with different sizes. So, we introduced some synthetic methods in the following section with the hope that it can help someone who wants to get definite size.

**Fabrication of 1–10 nm AgNPs**

Small size silver nanoparticles were generally produced through the fast reducing process in which sodium borohydride was employed as reduction agents, and the size and shape of the produced particles were not uniform. Shekhar et al. [60] prepared 5–10 nm silver nanoparticles by mixing different proportions of sodium borohydride and sodium citrate which are used as reductant (using sodium borohydride to preferentially reduce fast nucleation and sodium citrate reduction again to keep steady growth). By this method, the uniform size and

---

**Fig. 4** TEM images (a–c) of 42 nm Ag cubes capped with PVP when etched with different volumes of 0.5 mM ferric nitrate. a 0 μL. b 10 μL. c 100 μL. d Size distributions calculated from 100 particles in parts a and c [57]
shape of AgNPs were obtained. The following Table 1 shows the designed conditions for the synthesis of different-sized silver nanoparticles.

Lin et al. [61] prepared 7–10 nm silver particles which are uniform in shape and size in 2003. A simple synthetic method was described that they prefer to directly prepare narrowly dispersed silver nanoparticles rather than use size-selection processes by thermal reduction of silver trifluoroacetate in isoamyl ether in the presence of oleic acid. This direct synthesis is synthetically easy to control and able to obtain AgNPs with diameters in the range of 7–10 nm and narrow size distribution. Instead of using the traditional approach which involves the precursor of silver salts and reducing agent in a solvent, a single-source precursor in an organic solvent was used in the experiment. For this reason, they chose silver trifluoroacetate as single-source precursor because it is readily available and can be thermally reduced to silver metal at various temperatures. Last, they transformed the diameter of AgNPs by adjusting the molar ratio of the oleic acid to silver trifluoroacetate. The following Fig. 6 shows the bright field TEM images and the corresponding particle size distribution analysis of AgNPs which were obtained at an oleic acid/silver trifluoroacetate molar ratio of 10:1 for durations of (A, B) 30, (C, D) 90, and (E, F) 150 min.

A simple way to synthesize monodisperse silver nanoparticles with diameter less than 10 nm at high concentration was found by Yang et al. [62]. They pioneered a method that aniline was used as a reducing agent and dodecyl benzene sulfonic acid (DBSA) as a stabilizer. Upon the addition of excess NaOH to the DBSA aniline AgNO₃ system, the formation of silver nanoparticles was almost complete in just 2 min at 90 °C (with 94% yield). Moreover, the average size of those resultant silver nanoparticles is 8.9 ± 1.1 nm, and the colloid can be stored for more than 1 year at ambient temperature. The Fig. 7 is the TEM, DLS, and XRD images of AgNPs.

The methods for synthesizing small size silver nanoparticles described above are all in the liquid phase system. However, Zheng et al. [63] synthesized silver nanoparticles with the diameter of 2–4 nm in the solid-phase system. They synthesized luminescent and Raman active silver nanoparticles by taking advantage of thermal reduction method. Figure 8 shows the size distribution, structure, and luminescence emission of 3 nm silver nanoparticles which are created by solid-phase thermolysis.

Table 1 Designed Conditions for the Synthesis of Different-Sized Silver Nanoparticles* [60]

| Particle size | Silver nitrate (mol dm⁻³) | Sodium borohydride (mol dm⁻³) | Trisodium citrate (mol dm⁻³) | Volume of reactants (ml) | pH  | Temp. (T₁-T₂) (°C) | Yield (%) | Particle conc. (particles per ml) |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 5             | 1.00 × 10⁻⁰³             | 2.00 × 10⁻⁰³                 | 4.28 × 10⁻⁰³                | x48y2                    | 10.5| 60–90              | 78.2      | 1.03 × 10⁻¹⁵                   |
| 7             | 1.00 × 10⁻⁰³             | 2.00 × 10⁻⁰³                 | 3.55 × 10⁻⁰³                | x48y2                    | 10.5| 60–90              | 67.4      | 3.31 × 10⁻¹⁴                   |
| 10            | 1.17 × 10⁻⁰³             | 2.00 × 10⁻⁰³                 | 2.00 × 10⁻⁰³                | x48y2                    | 10.5| 60–90              | 82.3      | 1.53 × 10⁻¹⁴                   |
| 15            | 1.00 × 10⁻⁰³             | 1.00 × 10⁻⁰³                 | 1.06 × 10⁻⁰³                | x48y2                    | 10.5| 60–90              | 77.9      | 3.49 × 10⁻¹³                   |
| 20            | 1.00 × 10⁻⁰³             | 1.00 × 10⁻⁰³                 | 3.55 × 10⁻⁰³                | x48y2                    | 10.5| 60–90              | ~ 84      | 1.57 × 10⁻¹³                   |
| 30            | 4.00 × 10⁻⁰³             | 1.00 × 10⁻⁰³                 | 3.55 × 10⁻⁰³                | x45y5                    | 10.5| 60–90              | 70.5      | 1.71 × 10⁻¹³                   |
| 50            | 1.22 × 10⁻⁰³             | 5.00 × 10⁻⁰³                 | 2.00 × 10⁻⁰³                | x45y5                    | 10.5| 60–90              | 58.4      | 9.01 × 10⁻¹³                   |
| 63            | 2.00 × 10⁻⁰³             | 5.00 × 10⁻⁰³                 | 3.54 × 10⁻⁰³                | x40y10                   | 10.5| 60–90              | ~ 61      | 7.25 × 10⁻¹³                   |
| 85            | 2.00 × 10⁻⁰³             | 5.00 × 10⁻⁰³                 | 1.77 × 10⁻⁰³                | x45y5                    | 10.5| 60–90              | 68.3      | 3.43 × 10⁻¹¹                   |
| 100           | 2.00 × 10⁻⁰³             | 5.00 × 10⁻⁰³                 | 1.77 × 10⁻⁰³                | x40y10                   | 10.5| 60–90              | 64.6      | 1.99 × 10⁻¹¹                   |

*Total volume of NaBH₄ and TSC, y-volume of AgNO₃ added drop wise to x, T₁-first stage temperature, T₂-second stage temperature(°C)
Fabrication of 10–100 nm AgNPs
By irradiation with 6 MeV electrons, AgNPs with the diameter of 10–60 nm were synthesized by Bogle et al. [64] in the mixture of silver nitrate and PVP. This method has many advantages such as preparation efficiency, high productivity, and few by-products. Abid et al. [65] prepared silver nanoparticles by using the laser irradiation similar to the above work. The difference is that they utilized sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) as capping agent to mix with silver nitrate and silver nanoparticles with size of 13–16 nm can be prepared. The particle size is controlled by laser intensity and the initial concentration of SDS surfactant. With the use of ascorbic acid reduction, spherical silver particles with size of 30–72 nm were synthesized by Qin et al. [66]. Meanwhile, the size of silver nanoparticles decreased as pH of the reaction system increased from 6.0 to 10.5. Ajitha et al. [67] utilized chemical reduction by adjusting PH to obtain 14–31 nm AgNPs. They used ethanol as a solvent, sodium borohydride as reducing agent, and poly-vinyl alcohol (PVA) as capping agent. Figure 9 shows the formation mechanism of these silver nanoparticles.

Similarly, Ag particles with the diameter of 15–21 nm were synthesized by Silvert, P. Y. et al. [68] who utilized an ethylene glycol–PVP solution to reduce silver nitrate under specific temperature conditions. The uniform quasi-nanospheres were synthesized by this method. In order to detect the solubility of silver nanoparticles with different sizes, 10–80 nm Ag particles were prepared by Rui Ma et al. [69]. They prepared dispersive colloidal silver by the polyol process which is a mature preparation method [70]. Their methods of preparation are based on Silvert, P. Y, by changing the type of protective agent. Recently, the green synthesis study is very fiery and researchers usually utilize amino acid or peel reduction Ag⁺ to synthesize silver nanoparticles. Because an environmentally friendly synthetic method can overcome the problem that is the production of toxic substances in physical and chemical preparation methods. Among them, Maddinedi et al. [71] utilized tyrosine as reducing agent.

Fig. 6 Bright field TEM images and the corresponding particle size distribution analyses of AgNPs obtained at an oleic acid/silver trifluoroacetate molar ratio of 10:1 for durations of (a, b) 30, (c, d) 90, and (e, f) 150 min [61]
Fig. 7  

a, b TEM images at two magnifications of silver nanoparticles collected from the reaction system after adding NaOH at 90°C for 1 h. 

c Corresponding histogram of the silver nanoparticles size distribution.  
d XRD pattern of silver nanoparticles [62]

Fig. 8  

Size distribution, structure, and luminescence emission of the 3 nm silver nanoparticles created using solid-phase thermolysis. 

a Low-resolution TEM image of these nanoparticles. 
b Size distribution of the nanoparticles determined from TEM.  
c High-resolution TEM image of such a small silver nanoparticles shows a highly multi-domain structure.  
d Luminescence image of these small silver nanoparticles taken under 488 nm laser excitation at ~ 10 W/cm² [63]
and capping agents to prepare 13–33 nm silver particles by adjusting pH from 12 to 10. Mandal et al. [72] obtained the same results. They used the leaf extract of Cinnamomum tsori as reducing and capping agents to prepare 11–31 nm silver particles by adjusting the intrant volume of leaf extract of Cinnamomum tsori. Figure 10 shows the TEM and SAED patterns of AgNPs.

Figure 11 shows the dynamic light scattering (DLS) of AgNPs that the volume of leaf extract was varied as 1, 3 and 4 ml.

Of course, there are many other methods to prepare 1–100 nm silver particles. The above papers are only typical. We do this work because we hope to help someone who wants to synthesize definite size. In conclusion, the preparation of silver nanoparticles should be guided towards friendly synthesis and controllable size.

Preparation of AgNPs by Biosynthetic Methods

The biosynthesis of metallic nanoparticles using biological systems has evolved to become an important area...
of nanobiotechnology. Biosynthetic methods are better candidates for preparing AsNPs due to environmental friendly techniques are adopted in their fabrication process and the products are suit for bioapplications. Herein, biosynthetic methods have a prospect for development and research. So, we have a detailed discussion for some synthetic cases. In 1999, Klaus et al. [73] firstly used *Pseudomonas stutzeri* to synthesize silver nanocrystals with the size of 200 nm. Subsequently, the use of other strains to prepare silver nanoparticles has been developed greatly, such as the aspergillus flavus and trichoderma. And Kazemi et al. [74] successfully synthesized Ag nanoparticles by utilizing *Geotricum* sp. *Geotricum* sp. was grown in Sabro Dextrose Agar (SDA) medium at 25 ± 1 °C for 96 h. The mycelia is used to convert silver nitrate solution into nanosilver. Silver nanoparticles were extracellularly synthesized using these fungi (*Geotricum* sp.). This efficient, eco-friendly and simple synthetic method can be used to synthesize Ag nanoparticles of 30–50 nm. Due to the use of the room temperature conditions and the absence of harmful reducing agents, we can regard this method as environment friendly and low cost. Recently, laryssa et al. [75] prepared silver nanoparticles by utilizing the cell-free filtrate of nematophagous fungus *Duddingtonia flagrans*. In this study, they reported a simple biological process for the synthesis of AgNPs using the nematophagous fungus *D. flagrans*. Compared with biosynthesis which is a cheap, environment friendly and high-yield process, extracellular synthesis which does not need the additional treatment to separate particles from living cells is a more simple process. Biosynthesized and functionalized AgNPs have good stability and high yield, and the excellent properties of antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral and anticancer make them have a promising future in the therapeutic applications, which potentiates new experimental designs on using the fungus *D. flagrans*.

It can be seen that the type of biological microorganism will be the latest research direction in nanosilver study.

### Properties and Applications of AgNPs

#### Properties and Applications of AgNPs on Antibacterial

In recent years, antibacterial properties of Ag nanomaterials gradually aroused people's concern and a lot of antibacterial applications were reported [76, 77]. The antibacterial AgNPs with different shapes were researched by Helmlinger et al. [78]. By studying the cytotoxicity and antibacterial effect of four types silver nanometals, it can be seen that silver nanoparticles with different shapes own equal cytotoxicity, but it has different antibacterial effect. Meanwhile, particles with a higher specific surface area are more toxic for bacteria than particles with smaller specific surface areas. The dissolution kinetics is correlated to the estimated specific surface area of the particles where particles with a higher specific surface area dissolve faster than particles with a smaller one. The difference in the dissolution rate may be exploited to synthesize silver nanoparticles with a relative higher antibacterial effect and a lower cytotoxic effect towards tissue. However, Helmlinger et al. did not give a further detail study on the antibacterial effect of different sizes of AgNPs.

The antibacterial properties of silver particles with different sizes were studied by Agnihotri et al. [60]. It can be seen that 5 nm nanoparticles have the best antibacterial properties. It was found that the smaller particles exhibited the better antibacterial properties. The Fig. 12 shows the antibacterial properties of the different-sized silver nanoparticles.

Silver extends its antibacterial properties by combining with other materials. Research about combining with other materials included SiO$_2$@Ag [79], PLLA microcapsules combined with silver nanoparticles [80], electrodeposited chrome/silver nanoparticles (Cr/AgNPs) [81], graphene quantum dot/silver nanoparticles [82], Ag-decorated polymeric micelles with curcumin [83] and so on.

All the above studies are about the antibacterial properties of AgNPs. Next, we introduced the silver nanoparticles for antimicrobial application. It was found that the silver nanoparticles can be directly utilized as antibacterial agents which have been also testified by Kujda et al.
It is shown that silver particles attach to the bacteria surface inducing disintegration, which enables their penetration inside the bacteria. In the future, the antibacterial properties of silver nanoparticles should be applied in industry by combining with other materials. For example, Meng et al. [85] made silver nanoparticles adhered to multilayered film-coated silk fibers with the aim to get antibacterial application. The as-prepared silk could effectively kill the existing bacteria and inhibit the bacterial growth, demonstrating the antimicrobial activity. Moreover, the release of Ag⁺ for the modified silk can last for 120 h, rendering the modified silk sustainable antimicrobial activity. This work may provide a novel method to prepare AgNPs-functionalized antimicrobial silk for potential applications in textile industry. Figure 13 shows the surface morphologies of pristine silk fiber and coated morphologies of silk. By the EDS analysis, we can make sure that nanosilver was coated with silk.

Other people like Zulfiqar Ali Raza et al. [86] investigated single-bath fabrication and impregnation of silver nanoparticles on enzymatic pretreated cotton fabric by using starch both as reducing as well as stabilizing agent under the autoclave conditions of 103.42 kPa, 121 °C for 15 min. The silver nanoparticles impregnated cotton fabrics showed good durable antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus* strains. Figure 14 shows the formation mechanism of impregnation of silver nanoparticles on cotton fabric.

---

**Fig. 12** Disk diffusion tests for different-sized silver nanoparticles against the *E. coli* MTCC 443 strain. The zone of inhibition is highlighted with a dashed circle indicating a noticeable antibacterial effect [60]

**Fig. 13** Surface morphologies of pristine silk fiber (a), (PAA/PDDA)₈ film-coated silk fiber (b), and AgNPs-(PAA/PDDA)₈ film-coated silk fiber (c). Inset: SEM image with higher magnification. (d) EDS spectrum of AgNPs-(PAA/PDDA)₈ film-coated silk. The arrow indicates the point randomly selected for the EDS analysis [85]
Recently, silver nanoparticles were coated with zirconia by Yamada et al. [87] for antibacterial prosthesis. In view of the pronounced antimicrobial properties and small toxicity of AgNPs, the biocompatible AgNPs-coated yttria-stabilized zirconia can be potentially utilized to control dental caries and periodontal disease. Maybe the inspiration about wound repair will be obtained by this study. The excellent antibacterial properties of silver nanoparticles can be revealed by the above studies. Moreover, this work will help someone who wants to do further research on antibacterial.

Properties and Applications of AgNPs on Fluorescence

Because nanomaterials with fluorescent property have a great application prospect. Many efforts have been devoted to study the fluorescent property [88, 89]. Research on fluorescent nanoparticles mainly concentrates on semiconductor particles, which are usually referred to as quantum dots. Among these, CdSe particles and ZnS particles have stronger fluorescent intensity. In spite of their broaden applications, quantum dots frequently still have some problems which are related to the intrinsic blinking of their luminescence and to toxicity issues that limit their applications in the health sciences [90]. Silver is expected to have lower toxicity and can be readily prepared reproducibly and with excellent solution stability. At the same time, Ag is readily detectable in the visible spectral region [91]. Because silver has the abovementioned advantages, the preparation of highly fluorescent silver nanoparticles is needed. Highly fluorescent silver nanoparticles were prepared by Maretti et al. [92] with a facile photochemical method, which can yield these materials with excellent long-term stability in just a few minutes. The method is used photogenerated ketyl radicals which can reduce Ag+ from silver trifluoroacetate in the presence of amines. The conclusion they obtained is that the luminescence arises from particle-supported small metal clusters (predominantly Ag2). Typically, silver nanoparticles show a distinct plasma band which has been between 390 and 420 nm in their past work. Due to the presence of small silver clusters, the study of the absorption band obtained was closer to 450 nm. Figure 15 shows the UV-vis absorption spectra of silver nanoparticles. Figure 16 shows the absorption (red), emission (green), and excitation (blue) spectra of Ag particles after 4 min of irradiation in tetrahydrofuran (THF) under the conditions of Fig. 15 and resuspension in toluene. From Fig. 16, we can draw the conclusion that the silver nanoparticles can emit green light. This property can be used for fluorescence diagnosis in biomedical field [93].

In order to distinguish these ultra-small particles, these nanoparticles which are smaller than 2 nm are usually called nanoclusters. In this size regime, metal nanoclusters become molecular species and size-dependent strong fluorescent emission can often be observed upon photoexcitation in the UV-visible range [94]. In particular, Ag nanoclusters, which show higher fluorescent intensity than Au nanoclusters in solutions, received considerable attention in the past few years owing to their great promise in a wide range of applications [95]. Fluorescent Ag nanoclusters were found to have wide applications in bio-imaging [96], chemical sensing [97, 98], fluorescence labeling [99], and single-molecule microscopy [100].

Properties and Applications of AgNPs on Catalysis

Since the addition of silver nanoparticles into reaction, the catalytic performance of the reaction has been significantly improved. Thus, nanocatalysis of silver nanoparticles has been a rapid growing research area which involves the use of nanoparticles as catalysts. As we all know, metals such as Ag, Au, Pt, and other metal ions can catalyze the decomposition of H2O2 to oxygen...
Guo et al. found that when the AgNP colloid was added into the solution of luminol–H₂O₂, the chemiluminescence (CL) emission from the luminol–H₂O₂ system could be greatly enhanced. AgNPs exhibited a better catalytic performance of CL than gold and platinum nanoparticles. The AgNPs-enhanced CL was ascribed to that AgNPs could catalyze the decomposition of H₂O₂ to produce some reactive intermediates such as hydroxyl radical and superoxide anion.

Silver is the most popular catalyst when it has interaction with oxygen, water, carbon dioxide, ethylene, and methanol. From the study that the catalytic properties of silver nanoparticles have accordingly changed can be realized. Jiang et al. enhanced the catalytic properties of Ag by combining silver nanoparticles with silica spheres, and they also applied it to the detection of dye reduction. The technique to support silver particles on silica spheres effectively avoids flocculation of nano-sized colloidal metal particles during a catalytic process in the solution, which allows one to carry out the successful catalytic reduction of dyes.

In addition, the catalytic properties of silver also have important applications in other areas, for example, wet-spin fibers.

Properties and Applications of AgNPs on Surface Plasmon Resonance

In 1902, Wood found the SPR phenomenon for the first time in an optical experiment and made a brief record about that, but until in 1941, a scientist named Fano explained the phenomenon of SPR. Over the next 30 years, the theory about SPR has not been further explored nor has it been put into practical application. In 1971, Kretschmann put forward prism coupling structure that settled the foundation for the structure of SPR sensor, and SPR theory started to be widely achieved for experiments. On this basis, the surface plasma resonance effect of silver nanoparticles was explored deeply. The most successful part of the applications of plasmonic structures was in the detection of molecules. This technique has been commercialized for propagating surface plasmons (PSPs) on continuous metal films. The films are chemically functionalized to selective bind target molecules like DNA strands or proteins. Upon binding the target molecule, the dielectric environment is altered around the surface of the metal film. Consequently, binding can be monitored by measuring the change in coupling geometry (i.e., the angle) between the metal film and the excitation source needed to generate PSPs.

Recently, the combination of silver nanoparticles with other materials to improve their surface plasmon resonance performance is another way of development. The nanosilver particles were bonded with starch by Vasileva et al., and the materials were applied as a surface plasmon resonance-based sensor of hydrogen peroxide.

SPR has a wide range of applications in other fields such as life science, medical testing, drug screening, food testing, environmental monitoring, and forensic identification.
The SPR technology becomes an indispensable part in the field of biological chemistry, food, and drug monitoring. The applications of SPR biosensors will be more diversified. And especially its emerging application in small molecule detection and lipid field will make it play an increasingly important role in the film and biology. In recent years, its development is particularly rapid. With the continuous improvement of SPR instruments and the continuous enhancement of biological membrane construction capability, SPR biosensor has a bright future.

Applications of AgNPs on Nanosensors
Due to the great research prospect of silver nanoparticles in nanosensors, many researchers have devoted to study it [110, 111]. So, we pick three representative examples to write in detail. Among them Zhu et al. [110] fabricated rhombic silver nanoparticles for biosensing. The rhombic silver nanoparticles were prepared by follow method. The mixed solution (polystyrene nanospheres and glass nanospheres with fluorocarbon surfactant) was coated onto the glass substrate to form a deposition mask, and then followed by hydrofluoric acid etching to remove...
the glass nanospheres. After that, the Ag metal thin film was deposited through the nanosphere masks using thermal evaporation or electron beam evaporation. After removal of the polystyrene nanospheres by sonication in absolute ethanol for 3 min, well-ordered rhombic AgNPs array was finally obtained on the substrates. The rhombic AgNPs array was single particle dimension of 140 nm in-plane width and 47 nm out-of-plane height. To prepare the biosensing, the Ag nanorhombuses are firstly functionalized using the self-assembly monolayer technique. Then assisting with 1-ethyl-3-[3-dimethylaminopropyl] carbodiimide hydrochloride, we covalently attached biotin to the carboxylic groups. The advantage of this biosensor is that the rhombic AgNPs array-based sensor with more hot spots has higher sensitivity than that of the traditional Ag triangular nanoparticles-based sensor. A detection of high sensitivity of the bio-molecule in lower concentration has been realized by means of the LSPR-based nanobiosensor. This type of biosensor will have potential applications in many fields such as medical science and biological technology. Meanwhile, M. Ghiaci et al. [111] utilized silver nanoparticles compounds as new electrochemical sensors for glucose detection. These electrochemical sensors were prepared based on synthesizing of two amine compounds bounded to silica support. The size of used AgNPs is 10 nm. The electrochemical sensor prepared by this method has a lower limit of glucose detection than other electrochemical sensors. This type of nanosensors will be more conducive to diabetes detection and treatment. Silver nanoscale sensors can also be used for environmental detection such as Li et al. [112] synthesized aza-crown ether (ACE)-modified silver nanoparticles as colorimetric sensors for Ba$^{2+}$. What is more, colorimetric sensors merely need minimal instrumentation, achieve high sensitivity, and thus can make on-site detection even easier. The colorimetric sensors were synthesized by silver nanoparticles efficiently conjugated with CS$_2$–ACE. ACE-modified AgNPs have good recognition of Ba$^{2+}$, with the detection limit of $10^{-8}$ mol/L.

In addition to the abovementioned, silver nanosensors also have other different applications that are worth us to explore.

Other Applications
Ag nanomaterials also have many other applications in various fields, such as nanoscale detection [113] and solar cells.

Silver nanoparticle and its complex can be used for solar cells to enhance photoelectric conversion efficiency and photovoltaic performances [114–116].

Shen et al. [114] enhanced photovoltaic performances of polymer solar cells by incorporating Ag–SiO$_2$ core–shell nanoparticles in the active layer. They creatively incorporated Ag–SiO$_2$ core–shell nanoparticles (Ag–SiO$_2$-NPs) into photo-/electro-active layers consisting of poly(3-hexylthiophene) (P3HT) and phenyl-C$_{61}$-butyric acid methyl ester (PCBM) in polymer solar cells (PSCs). By this way, the photovoltaic performance of PSCs have largely been enhanced. The results demonstrate a 13.50% enhancement of short-circuit photocurrent density and a 15.11% enhancement of power conversion efficiency as the weight percent of doped Ag–SiO$_2$-NPs is 1.5 wt% in the active layer of corresponding PSCs. In the later research, bare silver nanoplate (Ag-nPl) were spin-coated on indium tin oxide and silica capsulated Ag-NPs were incorporated to a PBDTTT-C-T:PC71BM active layer by Shen et al. [115]. As a result, the devices incorporated with Ag-nPl and Ag@SiO$_2$-NPs showed great enhancements. With the dual effects of Ag-nPl and Ag@SiO$_2$-NPs in devices, all wavelength sensitization in the visible range was realized; therefore, the power conversion efficiency of PSCs showed a great enhancement of 14.0 to 8.46%, with an increased short-circuit current density of 17.23 mA cm$^{-2}$. Importantly, the methodology of multiple shape combination of metallic nanoadditives improves the photovoltaic performance of PSCs very effectively compared to the single-shape method.

Thus, Ag is a promising material for the conversion of solar energy into electricity and good detection. In addition to the abovementioned, Ag also has many other applications, but it still needs people to further explore it.

Conclusions
This work reviewed the development progress of Ag nanomaterials on synthesis methods and applications. Different shapes of Ag nanostructures had been synthesized such as cubic, rod-shaped, and sphere-shaped, Ag nanostructure obtained by chemical synthesis and microwave methods were successfully prepared. In addition, different size of AgNPs have been synthesized such as 1–10 nm, 10–100 nm, AgNPs obtained by chemical synthesis, laser ablation, and green synthesis. Meanwhile, it has been successfully applied to many fields, such as antibacterial, fluorescence, catalysis, SPR, and nanosensors, and it is expected to use in other fields. In fact, there are still limitations for their practical applications in photoelectric and medical fields because it often requires complex preparation process, and the yield is very low. In most cases, AgNPs are easy to agglomerate, which will greatly reduce its optical properties. Therefore, it is necessary to utilize surface active agent to achieve a good effect. Although, there are so many challenges, the advances in nanoscience and nanotechnology of silver still promise a better future for many kinds of industries. In conclusion, the future research of silver nanoparticles should be directed towards biosynthetic, size controllable, and uniform shape preparation. And the future application of AgNPs-based will
be utilized in new energy battery or wearable intelligent equipment by its excellent localized surface plasmon resonance effect and antibacterial activity. In addition, AgNPs-based materials can be further utilized for applications in nanodevices by self-assembly and molecular molding technology.

**Abbreviations**

ACE: Aza-crown ether; Ag-nP: Silver nanoplate; AgNPs: Ag nanoparticles; CL: Chemiluminescence; CTAB: Cetyltrimethyl ammonium bromide; DBSA: Dodecyl benzene sulfonic acid; DLS: Dynamic light scattering; EDS: Energy dispersive spectroscopy; fcc: Face-centered cubic; HRTEM: High-resolution transmission electron microscopy; LSPR: Localized surface plasmon resonance; MTCC: The name of bacteria; MTPS: Multiply twinned particles; P3HT: Poly(3-hexylthiophene); PAA: Poly(acrylic) acid; PBDTTT-C-T: Poly(4,4-bis(2-ethylhexyl)-thiophen-5-y1-benzol)[2,2-b,5,2’-dithicophene-2,6-diy]-alt-[2-(2-ethylhexanoyl)-thieno[3,4-b-thiophene-4,6-diy)]; PC71BM: Fullerene derivatives acceptor material C71-butyric acid methyl ester; PCBM: Phenyl-C 61-butyric acid ethylhexyl)thiophen-5-y1-benzol)[2,2-b,5,2’-dithicophene-2,6-diy]-alt-[2-(2-ethylhexanoyl)-thieno[3,4-b-thiophene-4,6-diy]]; PCL: Polyactic acid; PVP: Polyvinyl pyrrolidone; SDA: Safflower dextrose agar; SDS: Sodium dodecyl sulfate; SEM: Scanning electron microscope; SERS: Surface-enhanced Raman scattering; SPR: Surface plasmon resonance; TEM: Transmission electron microscope; THF: Tetrahydrofuran; UV-vis: Ultraviolet-visible.

**Funding**

This work was supported by (1) the Natural Scientific Foundation of China (Grant Nos. 51273096 and 51473082); (2) the Program for Introducing Talents of Discipline to Universities (‘111’ plan); (3) The National One-Thousand Foreign Expert Program (Grant No. WQ201213700111); (4) State Key Project of International Cooperation Research (2016YFE0110800); (5) The first level discipline program of Shandong Province of China.

**Availability of Data and Materials**

The authors declare that materials, data, and associated protocols are promptly available to readers without undue qualifications in material transfer agreements. All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this article.

**Authors’ Contributions**

ZZ researched the existing literatures and wrote the manuscript. LJX developed the concept and designed the manuscript. TJG developed the concept. All the authors read and approved the final manuscript.

**Competing Interests**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

**Publisher’s Note**

Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

**Author details**

1Institute of Hybrid Materials, National Center of International Research for Hybrid Materials Technology, National Base of International Science and Technology Cooperation, College of Materials Science and Engineering, Qingdao University, Qingdao 266071, People's Republic of China. 2College of Materials Science and Engineering, Qingdao University, Qingdao 266071, People's Republic of China.

**Received:** 26 September 2017 **Accepted:** 20 January 2018 **Published online:** 18 February 2018

**References**

1. Zhang Y, Mandeng LN, Bondre N, Dragan A, Geddes CD (2010) Metal-enhanced fluorescence from silver-SiO2-silver nanoburger structures. Langmuir 26:12371–12376
2. Wiley B, Sun Y, Chen J, Hu C, Li ZY, Li X, Xia Y (2005) Shape-controlled synthesis of silver and gold nanostructures. MRS Bull 30:356–361
3. Barani H, Boroumand MN, Raffie S (2017) Application of silver nanoparticles as an antibacterial mordant in wool natural dyeing: synthesis, antibacterial activity, and color characteristics. Fibers & Polymers 18:658–665
4. Sun Y, Xia Y (2003) Shape-controlled synthesis of gold and silver nanoparticles. Science 298:2176–2179
5. Xia Y, Li W, Cho EC, Li Z, Yu T, Zeng J, Xie Z, Xia Y (2010) AuAg Core–Shell Nanocubes with finely tuned and well-controlled sizes, shell thicknesses, and optical properties. ACS Nano 4:6725–6734
6. Evanno DD, Chumanov G (2004) Size-controlled synthesis of nanoparticles. 1. ‘Silver-only’ aqueous suspensions via hydrogen reduction. J Phys Chem B 108:13948–13956
7. Mallick K, Witcomb M, Scurrell M (2006) Silver nanoparticle catalysed redox reaction: an electron relay effect. Mater Chem Phys 97:283–287
8. Ahmed S, Ahmad M, Swami BL, Iram S (2016) A review on plants extract mediated synthesis of silver nanoparticles for antimicrobial applications: a green expertise. J Adv Res 7:17–28
9. Sondi I, Salopek-Sondi B (2004) Silver nanoparticles as antimicrobial agent: a case study on E. coli as a model for Gram-negative bacteria. J Colloid Interface Sci 275:177–182
10. Ren X, Meng X, Chen D, Tang F, Jiao J (2005) Using silver nanoparticle to enhance current response of biosensor. Biosens Bioelectron 21:433
11. Leopold N, Lendi B (2003) A new method for fast preparation of highly surface-enhanced Raman scattering (SERS) active silver colloids at room temperature by reduction of silver nitrate with hydroxylamine hydrochloride. J Phys Chem B 24:5723–5727
12. Zhang Z, Zhao B, Hu L (1996) PVP protective mechanism of ultrafine silver powder synthesized by chemical reduction processes. J Solid State Chem 121:105–110
13. Chou KS, Ren CY (2000) Synthesis of nanosized silver particles by chemical reduction method. Mater Chem 64:241–246
14. Song KC, Lee SM, Park TS, Lee BS (2009) Preparation of colloidal silver nanoparticles by chemical reduction method. Korean J Chem Eng 26:153–155
15. Khanna PK, Singh N, Charan S, Subbarao WWS, Gokhale R, Mukk UP (2005) Synthesis and characterization of Ag/PVA nanocomposite by chemical reduction method. Mater Chem Phys 93:117–121
16. Wang H, Qiao X, Chen J, Ding S (2005) Preparation of silver nanoparticles by chemical reduction method. Colloids Surf A Physicochem Eng Asp 256:111–115
17. Council LC, Gomes L (2007) A simple method to synthesize silver nanoparticles by photo-reduction. Colloids Surf A Physicochem Eng Asp 305:54–57
18. Ja H, Zeng J, Song W, An J, Zhao B (2006) Preparation of silver nanoparticles by photo-reduction for surface-enhanced Raman scattering. Thin Solid Films 496:281–287
19. Maftune F, Jay K, Takeda Y, Kondov T, Sawabe H (2000) Formation and size control of silver nanoparticles by laser ablation in aqueous solution. J Phys Chem B 104:9051–9056
20. Wang H, Qiao X, Chen J, Wang X, Ding S (2005) Mechanisms of PVP in the preparation of silver nanoparticles. Mater Chem Phys 94:449–453
21. Jana NR, Gearheart L, Murphy CJ (2001) Seeding growth for size control of 5–40 nm diameter gold nanoparticles. Langmuir 17:782–786
22. Dong XY, Ji XH, Wu HL, Zhao LL, Li J, Yang WS (2005) Shape control of silver nanoparticles by stepwise citrate reduction. J Phys Chem B 109:111–117
23. Geng I, Bi Y, Lu G (2009) Morphology-dependent activity of silver nanostructures towards the electro-oxidation of formaldehyde. Electrochem Commun 11:1255–1258
24. Mock JJ, Baric M, Smith DR, Schultz DA, Schultz S (2002) Shape effects in plasmon resonance of individual colloidal silver nanoparticles. J Chem Phys 116:6755–6759
25. Song P, Feng JU, Guo FY, Wang AJ (2015) Simple polyol synthesis of porous coral-like palladium–silver alloy nanostructures with enhanced electrocatalytic activity for glyceral oxidation reaction. J Mater Chem A 3:15920–15926
26. X X, Y Y (2014) Gold nanocages as multifunctional materials for nanomedicine. Front Phys 9:378–384
27. And SC, Carroll DL (2002) Synthesis and characterization of truncated triangular silver nanoparticles. Nano Lett 2:1003–1007
28. Sun Y, Xia Y (2002) Shape-controlled synthesis of gold and silver nanoparticles. Science 298:2176–2179
29. Xia Z, Zeng J, Zhang Q, Moran CH, Xia Y (2012) Recent developments in shape-controlled synthesis of silver Nanocrystals. J Phys Chem C Nanomater Interfaces 116:21647–21656
30. Skrabalak SE, Au L, Li X, Xia Y (2007) Facile synthesis of Ag nanocubes and Au nanocages. Nat Protoc 2:2182–2190
31. Allpress JG, Sanders JV (1967) The structure and orientation of crystals in deposits of metals on mica. Surf Sci 7:1–25
32. Yu D, Yam VW (2004) Controlled synthesis of monodisperse silver nanocubes in water. J Am Chem Soc 126:13200
33. Kundu S, Maheshwari V, Niu S, Saraf RF (2008) Polyelectrolyte mediated scalable synthesis of highly stable silver nanocubes in less than a minute using microwave irradiation. Nanotechnology 19:056504
34. Jana NR, Gearheart L, Murphy CJ (2001) Wet chemical synthesis of silver nanorods and nanowires: controllable aspect ratio. Chem Commun 2001:617–618
35. Lee GJ, Shin SI, Kim YC, Oh SG (2004) Preparation of silver nanorods through the control of temperature and pH of reaction medium. Mater Chem Phys 84:197–204
36. Zhu JJ, Liao XH, Zhao XN, Chen HY (2001) Preparation of silver nanorods by electrochemical methods. Mater Lett 49:991–95
37. Sun Y, Yin Y, Mayers BT, Herricks T, Xia Y (2002) Uniform silver nanowires synthesis by reducing AgNO3 with ethylene glycol in the presence of seeds and poly(vinyl pyrrolidone). Chem Mater 14:3766–3775
38. Sun Y, Xia Y (2002) ChemInform abstract: large-scale synthesis of highly stable silver nanocubes in less than a minute using microwave irradiation. Nanotechnology 19:065604
39. Zhang WC, Wu XL, Chen HT, Gao YJ, Zhu J, Huang GS, Chu PK (2008) Self-assembled nanostructures: control of product morphology with Fe(II) or Fe(III) species. Adv Mater 20:12887–12891
40. Peng JD, Dr SYL, Dr SSX, Gao Y, Song L (2004) Machinable long PVP–polyvinylpyrrolidone-assisted polyol reduction. J Phys Chem B 108:7777–7780
41. Leem DS, Edwards A, Faist M, Nelson J, Bradley DDC, Mello JCD (2011) Efficient organic solar cells with solution-processed silver nanowire electrodes. Adv Mater 23:4371–4375
42. Gao Y, Jiang P, Liu DF, Yuan HL, Xie Q, Zhou ZP, Wang JX, Song L, Liu LF, Zhou WY (2003) Synthesis, characterization and self-assembly of silver nanocubes. Chem Phys Lett 380:146–149
43. Gao Y, Jiang P, Liu DF, Yuan HL, Xie Q, Zhou ZP, Wang JX, Song L, Liu LF, Zhou WY (2004) Evidence for the monolayer assembly of poly(vinylpyrrolidone) on the surfaces of silver nanocubes. J Phys Chem B 108:12877–12881
44. Korte KE, Skrabalak SE, Xia Y (2007) Rapid synthesis of silver nanowires through a CuCl–CuCl2-mediated polyol process. J Mater Chem 18:437–441
45. Zhang W, Chen P, Gao Q, Zhang Y, Tang Y (2008) High-concentration preparation of silver nanowires: restraining in situ nitric acid etching by steel-assisted Polyol method. Chem Mater 20:1699–1704
46. Zhang WC, Wu XL, Chen HT, Gao YJ, Zhu J, Huang GS, Chu PK (2008) Self-organized formation of silver nanowires, nanocubes and bipyramids via a solvothermal method. Acta Mater 56:2508–2513
47. Gou L, Mircea Chipara A, Zaleski JM (2007) Convenient, rapid synthesis of Ag nanowires. Chem Mater 19:569–576
48. Chen C, Wang L, Hu W, Jiang Z, Zhou J, Tian Q, Deng L (2007) Morphology-controlled synthesis of silver nanostuctures: control of product morphology with Fe(II) or Fe(III) species. Langmuir 23:8077–8080
49. Shirkhoda N, Nickel U, Schneider S (1999) Reproducible preparation of silver sois with small particle size using borohydride reduction: for use as nuclei for preparation of larger particles. J Colloid Interface Sci 211:122–129
50. Lee PC, Meisel D (1982) Adsorption and surface-enhanced Raman of dyes on silver and gold sois. J Phys Chem 86:3991–3995
51. Nickel U, Castell AZ, Karin Poppa A, Schneider S (2000) A silver colloid produced by reduction with hydrazine as support for highly sensitive surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopy. Langmuir 16:9087–9091
52. Sondi I, Goia DV, Matijevic E (2003) Preparation of highly concentrated stable dispersions of uniform silver nanospheres. J Colloid Interface Sci 260:75–81
53. Gethaum Megra, Robert Wilton, Geoffrey Lynn, Meisel D (2007) Redox catalysis on “naked” silver nanoparticles. J Phys Chem C 111:12220–12226
54. Cobley CM, Ryenga M, Zhou F, Li ZY, Xia Y (2009) Controlled etching as a route to high quality silver nanospheres for optical studies. J Phys Chem C 113:16975–16982
55. Wang Y, Liu Y, Luehrmann H, Xia X, Brown P, Jarreau C, Welch M, Xia Y (2012) Evaluating the pharmacokinetics and in vivo cancer targeting capability of nanocubes by postion emission tomography imaging. ACS Nano 6:5880–5888
56. Liang H, Wang W, Huang Y, Zhang S, Wei H, Xu H (2012) Controlled synthesis of uniform silver nanospheres. J Phys Chem C 117:4277–4281
57. Agnihotri S, Mukherji S, Mukherji S (2014) Size-controlled silver nanoparticles synthesized over the range 5–100 nm using the same protocol and their antibacterial efficacy. RSC Adv 4:3974–3983
58. Lin XZ, Teng XW, Yang H (2003) Direct synthesis of narrowly dispersed silver Nanoparticles using a single-source precursor. Langmuir 19:10081–10085
59. Yang J, Yin H, Ja J, Wei Y (2011) Facile synthesis of high-concentration, stable aqueous dispersions of uniform silver nanoparticles using aniline as a reductant. Langmuir 27:5047
60. Li B, Ye S, Stewart IE, Alvarez S, Wiley BJ (2015) Synthesis and purification of silver nanorods for making conducting films with a transmittance of 99%. Nano Lett 15:6722
61. Abid JP, Wark AW, Brevet PF, Girault HH (2002) Preparation of silver nanoparticles in solution from a silver salt by laser irradiation. Chem Commun 7:792–793
62. Qin Y, X J, Jing J, Liu H, Wu H, Yang W (2010) Size control over spherical silver nanoparticles by ascorbic acid reduction. Colloids Surf A Physicochem Eng Asp 372:172–176
63. Ajbha B, Reddy YAK, Reddy PS (2015) Enhanced antimicrobial activity of silver nanoparticles with controlled particle size by pH variation. Powder Technol 269:110–117
64. Silvert PF, Hemeráutína R, TekaiaElhissén K (1997) Preparation of colloidal silver dispersions by the polyol process.2. Mechanism of particle formation. J Mater Chem 7:293–299
65. Ma R, Levard C, Marinakos SM, Cheng Y, Liu J, Michel FM, Brown GE, Lowry GV (2012) Size-controlled dissolution of organic-coated silver nanoparticles. Environ Sci Technol 46:752–759
66. Silvert PF, Hemeráutína R, Duvauchelle N, Vijayakrishnan V, Elhissén KT (1996) Preparation of colloidal silver dispersions by the polyol process.1. Synthesis and characterization. J Mater Chem 6:55–77
67. Maddniini BD, Mandal BK, Anna KK (2017) Tyrosine assisted size controlled synthesis of silver nanoparticles and their catalytic, in-vitro cytotoxicity evaluation. Environ Toxicol Pharmacol 51:23–29
68. Maddiniini BD, Mandal BK, Maddi SK (2017) Biofabrication of size controllable silver nanoparticles—a green approach. J Photochem Photobiol B 167:236–241
69. Klaus T, Joergen R, Olsson E, Granqvist CG (1999) Silver-based crystalline materials, microbially fabricated. Proc Natl Acad Sci U A 96:13611–13614
70. Jebali A, Ramezani F, Kazemi B (2011) Biosynthesis of silver nanoparticles by Geotrichum sp. J Cell Sci 222:235–232
71. Silva LPC, Oliveira JP, Keikow WJ, Silva ARD, Aguilar AR, Guimarães MCC, Ferraz CM, Araújo JV, Tobias FL, Braga FR (2017) Extracellular biosynthesis of silver nanoparticles using the cell-free filtrate of nematophagous fungus Duddingtonia flagrans. Int J Nanomedicine 12:8373
72. Pal S, Tak YK, Song JM (2007) Does the antibacterial activity of silver nanoparticles depend on the shape of the nanoparticle? A study of the Gram-negative bacterium Escherichia coli. Appl Environ Microbiol 73:1712
73. Xu ZM, Zhang QB, Puppala HL, Colvin VL, Alvarez PJ (2012) Negligible particle-specific antibacterial activity of silver nanoparticles. Nano Lett 12:4271–4275
74. Helmlinger J, Stengscock G, Cross-Hettif C, Mayer C, Schuhdaffer TA, Köller M, Epple M (2016) Silver nanoparticles with different size and shape: equal cytotoxicity, but different antibacterial effect. RSC Adv 6:18490–18501
75. Qin R, Li Q, Pan L, Han Q, Sun Y, He Q (2017) Preparation of SO2Ag composite nanoparticles and their antimicrobial activity. J Nanosci Nanotechnol 17:2305–2311
76. Zhou Y, Hu K, Guo Z, Fang K, Wang X, Yang F, Gu N (2017) PILLA microcapsules combined with silver nanoparticles and chlorhexidine acetate showing improved antibacterial effect. Mater Sci Eng C 78:349–353
77. Méndez-Albores A, González-Arellano SG, Reyes-Vidal Y, Torres J, Tálu S, Cerdado B, Trejo G (2017) Electrodeposited chrome/silver nanoparticle (Cr/Ag)
AgNPs) composite coatings: characterization and antibacterial activity. J Alloys Compd 710:302–311
82. Chen S, Qian Y, Yu Y-L, Wang J-H (2017) Graphene quantum dot/silver nanoparticle hybrids with oxidative enzymes for antibacterial application. ACS Biomater Sci Eng 3:133–321
83. Huang F, Gao Y, Zhang Y, Cheng T, Ou H, Yang L-J, Liu J, Shi L, Liu J (2017) Silver-decorated polymeric micelles combined with curcumin for enhanced antibacterial activity. ACS Appl Mater Interfaces 9:16880–16889
84. Kujda M, Ociepka M, Adamczyk Z, Bochenśka O, Bral G, Kozik A, Bielarska E, Barbasz J (2015) Charge stabilized silver nanoparticles applied as antibacterial agents. J Nanosci Nanotechnol 15:3574
85. Meng M, He H, Xiao J, Zhao P, Xie J, Lu Z (2016) Controllable in situ synthesis of silver nanoparticles on multilayered film-coated silk fibers for antibacterial application. J Colloid Interface Sci 461:369
86. Raza ZA, Rehman A, Mohsin M, Bajwa SZ, Anwar F, Naem A, Ahmad N (2015) Development of antibacterial cellulotic fabric via clean impregnation of silver nanoparticles. J Clean Prod 101:377–386
87. Yamada R, Nozaki K, Horuchi N, Yamashita K, Nemoto R, Miura H, Nagai A (2017) Ag nanoparticle-coated zirconia for antibacterial prosthes. Mater Sci Eng C 78:1054–1060
88. Corrigan TD, Guo S, Phaneuf RJ, Szmacinski H (2005) Enhanced fluorescence from periodic arrays of silver nanoparticles. J Fluoresc 15:777–784
89. Zhang J, Malicka J, Gryczynski I, Lakowicz JR (2005) Surface-enhanced fluorescence of fluorescein-labeled Oligonucleotides capped on silver nanoparticles. J Phys Chem B 109:7643–7648
90. Zhang H, Yee D, Wang C (2008) Quantum dots for cancer diagnosis and therapy: biological and clinical perspectives. Nanomedicine 3:83–91
91. Burda C, Chen X, Narayanan R, El-Sayed MA (2005) Chemistry and properties of nanocrystals of different shapes. Chem Rev 105:1025–1102
92. Maretti L, Billone PS, Liu Y, Scaino JC (2009) Facile photochemical synthesis and characterization of highly fluorescent silver nanoparticles. J Am Chem Soc 131:13972–13980
93. Frickmann H, Zautner AE, Moter A, Kikhney J, Hagen RM, Stender H, Poppert J, Wieja M, Adamczyk Z, Bocheńska O, Brals G, Kozik A, Bielarska E, Barbasz J (2015) Charge stabilized silver nanoparticles and their application as a surface plasmon resonance-based sensor of hydrogen peroxide. Colloids Surf A Physicochem Eng Asp 382:203–210
94. Zhu S, Du CL, Fu Y (2009) Fabrication and characterization of rhombic silver nanoparticles for biosensing. Opt Mater 31:769–774
95. Ghiaci M, Tghizadeh M, Ensafi AA, Zandi-Atashbar N, Rezaei B (2016) Silver nanoparticles decorated anchored type ligands as new electrochemical sensors for glucose detection. J Taiwan Inst Chem Eng 63:39–45
96. Li H, Zhang L, Yao Y, Han C, Jin S (2010) Synthesis of aza-crown ether-modified silver nanoparticles as colorimetric sensors for Ba2+. Supramol Chem 22:544–547
97. Kim JH, Kim KB, Jin SP (2017) Single cytosine-based electrochemical biosensor for low-cost detection of silver ions. Sensors Actuators B Chem 245:741–746
98. Shen W, Tang J, Yang R, Cong H, Bao X, Wang Y, Wang X, Huang Z, Liu J, Huang L (2013) Enhanced efficiency of polymer solar cells by incorporated Ag-SQ2 core-shell nanoparticles in the active layer. RSC Adv 4:4379–4386
99. Shen W, Tang J, Wang Y, Liu J, Huang L, Chen W, Yang L, Wang W, Yang Y, Rang R (2017) Strong enhancement of photoelectric conversion efficiency of co-hybridized polymer solar cell by silver nanoparticles and core-shell nanoparticles. ACS Appl Mater Interfaces 9:5358–5365
100. Shen W, Tang J, Wang D, Yang R, Chen W, Bao X, Wang Y, Jiao J, Wang Y, Huang Z (2016) Enhanced efficiency of polymer solar cells by structure-differentiated silver nano-dopants in solution-processed tungsten oxide layer. Mater Sci Eng, B 206:61–68