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AuAg合金纳米颗粒的表面等离激元特性调控 及其催化性能(特邀)

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摘 要:贵金属纳米颗粒由于具有独特的物理特性而被广泛应用于催化,光热治疗及表面增强光谱等 领域,然而银纳米颗粒的化学稳定性差,金纳米颗粒的催化性能依赖其大小,这严重限制了其进一步应 用。本文通过一种简单温和的湿化学方法合成了具有较好单分散性的球形金银合金纳米颗粒。根据 表征结果可知,合金颗粒的形貌尺寸均一,金和银两种金属元素分布均匀,属于一种多晶的晶体结构。 研究结果表明,通过改变金和银的摩尔比,能够很容易实现金银合金纳米颗粒表面等离激元共振峰的 调控。此外,由于金和银两种元素的协同效应,金银合金纳米颗粒同时具有较好的稳定性和较强的催 化性能,且要远好于单组分的金纳米颗粒和银纳米颗粒。该研究为构建多种较高性能的合金纳米材料 提供了新思路,为减少环境中芳香族硝基有机污染物提供了可能途径。

关键词:金银合金;纳米颗粒;表面等离激元;吸收光谱;催化性能 中图分类号:O43 **文献标识码**:A

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0 引言

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随着纳米技术的迅速发展,贵金属纳米材料由于具有独特的物理和化学特性而被广泛应用于基础研究 和技术应用领域中,如催化/光谱增强/传感以及光热治疗等^[1-5]。近年来,贵金属纳米颗粒的表面等离激元 特性吸引了众多科研工作者们的高度关注^[6]。在光场的驱动下,贵金属-电介质界面或贵金属纳米颗粒中的 自由电子将会发生集体震荡,使得贵金属表面形成束缚的电磁波,即表面等离激元共振(Surface Plasmon Resonance, SPR)^[7,8]。限域于贵金属纳米结构表面的 SPR 被称为局域表面等离激元共振(Local Surface Plasmon Resonance, LSPR)^[9]。贵金属纳米颗粒的表面等离激元性能与其种类,形貌,结构,尺寸以及电介 质函数有关^[10-14]。在过去的几十年中,已经有很多具有较好表面等离激元特性的贵金属纳米材料成功被合 成且被广泛应用^[15-17]。然而,目前实现贵金属纳米结构 SPR 峰位置的高效调控仍是研究者们高度关注的 焦点。

众所周知,银纳米颗粒由于合适的电子结构和介电函数,使其具有较高的表面等离激元特性,但因化学 稳定性差限制了其进一步应用^[18,19]。为解决该问题,研究者们开发了许多合成技术,制备了一系列具有较强 表面等离激元特性和较好稳定性的银纳米结构^[7,20,21]。例如:在银纳米颗粒上包覆一层无机或有机的壳层, 形成核壳纳米结构^[22]。然而,壳层的引入通常会降低银纳米颗粒的表面等离激元特性。与银纳米颗粒相比

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较,金纳米颗粒具有较好的稳定性,但其表面等离激元特性和催化活性依赖于不同尺寸的金纳米结构^[23,24]。即,具有较小尺寸的金纳米结构能够展现出较好的催化活性,但因为散射截面较小,导致其表面等离激元特性很弱。相反,拥有较大尺寸的金纳米结构却呈现出较强的表面等离激元特性,而其催化特性较弱。因此, 设计一个简单易行的合成方案对获得具有较好稳定性和较高催化活性的贵金属纳米颗粒非常关键,如:制 备同时含有金和银两种元素的合金纳米颗粒^[25,26]。然而,获得较好稳定性和催化特性且金和银两种元素能 够均匀分布的合金纳米颗粒仍然是一个挑战。

本文采用一种简单温和的湿化学合成策略制备了具有较好单分散性的金银合金纳米颗粒(AuAg Alloy Nanoparticles, AuAg ANPs)。AuAg ANPs的SPR峰位置通过改变金和银的摩尔比就能实现有效控调控, 而且金和银两种元素能够均匀分布于合金纳米颗粒上。根据不同金和银摩尔比例的AuAg ANPs催化对硝基苯酚的结果表明,由于金和银两种元素的协同效应,AuAg ANPs的催化活性要远好于单组分的金纳米颗粒(Au Nanoparticles, Au NPs)和银纳米颗粒(Ag Nanoparticles, Ag NPs)。该工作为构建具有较好稳定性和较高催化活性的合金纳米材料提供了新思路。

1 实验

1.1 实验原料

氯金酸(HAuCl₄·4H₂O,99%)购买于上海阿拉丁生化技术有限公司(中国)。硝酸银(AgNO₃,99.9%), 柠檬酸三钠无水物(99%),硼氢化钠(NaBH₄,98%)和对硝基苯酚(4-NP,98%)均由国药集团提供。以上化 学试剂均为分析纯。在整个实验中均使用去离子水。

1.2 AuAg ANPs 的制备

采用湿化学合成方法制备了 AuAg ANPs^[27],其具体操作如下:首先在 200.00 mL 的烧杯中加入 80.00 mL 去离子水放入沸腾的水浴锅中,并进行搅拌,用注射器将 1.00 mLHAuCl₄ (0.01 mol/L)溶液和 1.00 mL AgNO₃ (0.01 mol/L)溶液同时加入到上述水溶液中,充分搅拌 10 min。随后将 8.00 mL 柠檬酸钠 溶液(0.02 mol/L) 快速加入烧杯中,继续搅拌 15 min 后,将烧杯从水浴锅中取出静放,待其冷却到室温时, 用去离子水离心洗涤 3~5次,最后得到 AuAg ANPs。通过调控 HAuCl₄和 AgNO₃的摩尔比,采用相同的合成技术,分别制备得到了 Ag NPs,金和银摩尔比为 1:3、1:1和 3:1的 AuAg ANPs,即 Au₁Ag₃、Au₁Ag₁、 Au₃Ag₁ ANPs以及 Au NPs。

1.3 样品表征

样品的形貌,晶体结构及元素分析均采用FEI-Tecnai G2 F20型场发射电子显微镜(High-Resolution Transmission Electron Microscopy, HR-TEM))在加速电压为 200 kV 下进行表征。吸收光谱采用 UV-5900PC(上海元析仪器有限公司)紫外-可见-近红外吸收光谱仪进行测量,所有光谱测量均在室温下进行。此外,应用三维有限元方法软件(Finite Element Method, FEM)的 COMSOL Multiphysics 软件中的射频模块对其消光光谱进行理论模拟分析。

2 实验结果与讨论

图1显示了湿化学方法制备的Au₁Ag₁ANPs(Au/Ag=1:1)的TEM图,从图(a)可清楚地观察到,所制备的样品具有分散性好,形貌一致,尺寸均匀。图1(a)中插图为Au₁Ag₁ANPs的粒径分布图,通过测量,大多数ANPs直径约为35nm。基于高放大倍数的TEM照片图1(b),对Au₁Ag₁ANP进行了选区电子衍射(Selected Area Electron Diffraction, SAED)测试(如图1(c)所示),可以明显看到图中有多个衍射环,分别为:(111),(200)和(220),暗示了所得到的ANPs属于一种面心立方晶体结构。值得一提的是,在选区电子衍射图中发现衍射环中存在一些明亮的光斑,这主要是由于Au₁Ag₁ANPs的(111)和(200)面所致,进一步证实了该Au₁Ag₁ANPs是一种多晶的晶体结构^[28]。为了更好地了解Au₁Ag₁ANPs的元素分布情况,借助于HR-TEM对单个Au₃Ag₁ANP进行了能谱测试,其测试结果如图2所示,图2(a)是单个Au₃Ag₁ANP的STEM图,图2(b)是沿着单个Au₃Ag₁ANP中心轴方向的直线扫描分析结果,可见Au元素的含量明显高于Ag元素的含量且两种元素分布均匀。此外,能谱(Energy-Dispersive X-ray spectroscopy, EDX)元素分析结

果表明,尽管Au和Ag两种元素的含量不同,但Au和Ag两种元素依然能够均匀地分布于纳米颗粒上,如图2(c)所示。这些结果表明了该AuAgANPs能够将具有较好等离激元性能的银元素和较强催化活性的金元素很好地结合起来。



(a) Typical low-magnification TEM image of Au₁Ag₁ ANPs

(c) SAED image of Au₁Ag₁ ANP

图 1 Au_1Ag_1 ANPs 的表征图 Fig. 1 Typical TEM and SAED images of Au_1Ag_1 ANPs



(c) STEM-EDX elemental mapping image of Au and Ag for the single ANP



为了研究金银合金纳米颗粒的表面等离激元性能,采用紫外-可见-近红外吸收光谱仪对Ag NPs、 Au₁Ag₃ ANPs、Au₁Ag₁ ANPs、Au₃Ag₁ ANPs以及Au NPs的吸收光谱进行了测试。如图3所示,将五种贵金 属纳米颗粒的吸收光谱进行了归一化处理。根据光谱图可知,贵金属纳米颗粒的吸收峰位置随着金含量的 增加逐渐从421 nm 红移至522 nm。同时,图3中插图所呈现的这五种贵金属纳米颗粒液态下的样品照片也 进一步证实,随着金元素含量的增加,样品的颜色从淡黄色慢慢变为酒红色。这些结果不仅暗示了具有不同Au和Ag比例的AuAgANPs被成功制备,而且通过改变HAuCl₄溶液和AgNO₃溶液的摩尔比,能够实现贵金属纳米颗粒的表面等离激元共振(Surface Plasmon Resonance, SPR)特征峰位置的有效调控。



- 图 3 Ag NPs、Au₁Ag₃ ANPs、Au₁Ag₁ ANPs、Au₃Ag₁ ANPs及Au NPs的吸收光谱图,插图从左向右依次对应为五种贵金属纳 米颗粒液态下的样品照片
- Fig. 3 Absorption spectra of Ag NPs, Au₁Ag₃ ANPs, Au₁Ag₁ ANPs, Au₃Ag₁ ANPs, and Au NPs, insets are the synthesized samples photographs of five noble metal nanomaterials from left to right

为了更好地理解Ag NPs,三种不同金银比例的AuAg ANPs (Au:Ag=1:3,1:1和3:1)以及Au NPs的表面等离激元性能,应用三维有限元方法软件(COMSOL Multiphysics)中的射频模块计算模拟了五种纳米颗粒的消光光谱^[20]。模拟计算时所需要的纳米颗粒形貌及粒径全部源自于实验测量结果,即理论计算模型为35 nm球形。图4给出了模拟计算的五种单个贵金属纳米颗粒在自然光激发条件下的消光光谱结果。从消光光谱图中可以清晰地看出,Ag NPs、Au₁Ag₃ ANPs、Au₄Ag₁ ANPs、Au₃Ag₁ ANPs以及Au NPs的SPR特征峰的变化趋势与实验观测结果相同,贵金属纳米颗粒的SPR峰位置都是随着Au含量增多逐渐红移,其光谱强度却由于Ag含量减少而降低。但值得注意的是,理论模拟计算得到的消光光谱与实验测量得到的结果相比较发现,这五种纳米颗粒的SPR峰均出现了蓝移现象,且其光谱形状上也存在一定的不同,如:银纳米颗粒的消光光谱呈现出非常窄的谱宽。这种现象主要由于实验上消光光谱测量中是以液相众多纳米颗粒的集体平均效应为主,也就是在实际测量的过程中,贵金属纳米颗粒胶体溶液中会存在少量纳米颗粒的团聚体。因此,单从光谱测量结果上是不能直接准确反映单个纳米颗粒的表面等离激元特性。相反,在模拟计算中却以单个孤立的贵金属纳米颗粒为分析对象,这也是导致理论模拟计算中SPR特征峰出现蓝移现象的原因。



图 4 Ag NPs、Au₁Ag₃ ANPs、Au₁Ag₁ ANP、Au₃Ag₁ ANPs及 Au NPs 的 消光光谱

Fig. 4 Extinction spectra of Ag NPs, Au₁Ag₃ ANPs, Au₁Ag₁ ANPs, Au₃Ag₁ ANPs, and Au NPs, which correspond to black, green, red, blue and yellow curves

为了研究金银合金纳米颗粒(Ag NPs、Au₁Ag₃ ANPs、Au₁Ag₁ ANPs、Au₃Ag₁ ANPs和Au NPs)的催化性能,选择 NaBH₄还原 4-NP的反应作为模型^[30]。其具体过程如下:将贵金属纳米颗粒分别与0.7 mL 4-NP

(10⁻³ mol/L)分子均匀混合后,再加入2mL硼氢化钠(10⁻¹ mol/L)溶液。应用紫外-可见-近红外吸收光谱仪, 实时监测4-NP分子在400 nm位置的吸收峰变化过程,其催化反应过程如图5。然而,4-NP分子在没有催化 剂情况下不能发生反应还原呈4-氨基苯酚。根据4-NP分子吸收峰强度与反应时间的关系及相应的催化反应 速率方程得到这五种贵金属纳米颗粒的催化性能。



图 5 在 NaBH₄的存在条件下,贵金属合金纳米颗粒催化 4-NP 分子的实验机理示意图 Fig. 5 A tentative mechanism of the chemical reduction of 4-NTP by NaBH₄ catalyzed by the noble metal NPs

经过多次测量得到室温条件下Ag NPs、Au₁Ag₃ ANPs、Au₁Ag₁ ANPs、Au₃Ag₁ ANPs及 Au NPs对4-NP和 NaBH₄催化反应的吸收光谱。根据这五组吸收光谱数据,通过采用一阶动力学模型,计算了五种贵金属纳米颗粒的催化速率常数,其目的就是为了更清晰直观地比较分析 Ag NPs、Au₁Ag₃ ANPs、Au₁Ag₁ ANPs、Au₃Ag₁ ANPs以及 Au NPs的催化性能。图 6(a)展示了4-NP分子溶液浓度比 C₁/C₀与催化反应时间 t 的关系曲线,其中 C₀和 C₁分别表示4-NP 的初始浓度和 t 时刻浓度,C₁/C₀是根据4-NP 在 400 nm 处的相对吸光谱强度获得。从图 6(a)可以明显看出,在五种贵金属纳米颗粒的催化反应中,单组分 Ag NPs和 Au NPs的 C₁/C₀比值最大,表明这两种纳米颗粒几乎没有催化活性,其主要原因是:Ag NPs化学稳定性差所致其团聚,而Au NPs催化性能依赖其尺寸。然而,相比之下,金银合金纳米颗粒随着金含量的增加,C₁/C₀比值随反应时间的增加逐渐减小,表明其催化性能逐渐增强,其中 Au₃Ag₁ ANPs催化性能最好。根据图 6(b)所示的紫外-可见吸收光谱可以清晰地看出其催化过程。最开始没有发生反应前,4-NP分子的最大吸收峰位于400 nm。当NaBH₄溶液加入到 Au₃Ag₁ ANPs 与4-NP分子的混合溶液之后,随着反应时间的延长,4-NP分子在400 nm 处的吸收峰强度逐渐降低,大约需要 14 min 就几乎全部消失,表明 4-NP分子已经完全被还原成 4-氨基苯酚。这些结果表明 AuAg ANPs能够将芳香族硝基有机污染物还原为对环境有益的苯胺衍生物。



图 6 贵金属纳米颗粒对 4-NP 分子的催化性能 Fig. 6 The variation of 4-NP concentration in the noble NPs with different reduction times

基于上述研究结果可知, AuAg ANPs突破了以往的 Au NPs和 Ag NPs尺寸和结构的限制, 均具有较好的催化性能。然而, AuAg ANPs中金和银的摩尔比不同, 其在催化性能方面的协同效应也不同, 所以Au₁Ag₃ ANPs、Au₁Ag₁ ANPs和 Au₃Ag₁ ANPs在催化4-NP分子方面展现出不同的催化性能。即, Au₃Ag₁ ANPs中金和银摩尔比为3:1时, 两种金属元素的协同效应最佳, 所以使其表现出较好的催化活性。另一方面可能是由于金的费米能级(-5.0 eV)和银的费米能级(-4.6 eV)不同, 使得金和银之间会发生电子转移现象, 增加了AuAg ANPs表面的电子密度, 从而有效提高了其催化性能。Au₁Ag₃ ANPs的催化机制是:供体 BH₄ 离子和受体 4-NP分子同时吸附在Au₃Ag₁ ANPs表面上, 供体 BH₄ 离子提供电子给Au₃Ag₁ ANPs, 而受体 4-NP分子快速捕获这些电子, 从而发生了催化反应^[31]。事实上, Au₃Ag₁ ANPs就相当于一个电子继电器, 电子通过Au₃Ag₁ ANPs从 BH₄ 离子转移给 4-NP分子。因此, Au₃Ag₁ ANPs的催化机制其实就是一个电子转移过程。该工作不仅提高了贵金属的催化活性和稳定性, 同时也为研究人员构建具有较好催化性能的贵金属纳米材料提供了一种新的思路。

3 结论

本文采用温和的湿化学合成技术成功制备出了单分散性较好,尺寸均匀的AuAg ANPs,该AuAg ANPs不仅具有较好的稳定性,而且还具有较强的催化活性。根据 TEM、SAED 和 EDX 的表征结果可知,该合金纳米颗粒属于一种多晶的晶体结构且其金和银元素均匀分布于颗粒中。通过调节AuAg ANPs中金和银的摩尔比,可有效调控其表面 SPR峰位置。通过应用紫外-可见吸收光谱技术实时监测了4-NP分子溶液吸收峰的变化过程,研究了AuAg ANPs的催化性能。结果表明:金和银摩尔比为3:1的Au₃Ag₁ ANPs催化性能最好,且要远好于单组分的Au NPs和Ag NPs,这主要是由于金和银两种元素的协同效应所致。这项研究为构建多种较高性能的合金材料提供了新途径,为将芳香族硝基有机污染物还原为有益于环境的苯胺衍生物提供了新思路。

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Surface Plasmon Regulation and Catalytic Properties of AuAg Alloy Nanoparticles (Invited)

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Abstract: With the rapid development of nanotechnology, various noble metal nanomaterials with multiple functions have been designed and developed, which have attracted broad research attention due to their

unique physical properties and wide applications in catalysis, sensing, photothermal therapy, and surfaceenhanced spectroscopy. As is well known, Localized Surface Plasmon Resonance (LSPR) response of noble metal nanomaterials including gold (Au), silver (Ag), and copper (Cu) are dependent on their type, morphology, structure, size, and dielectric function. Many attempts have been devoted to synthesizing and adjusting the morphology and dimension of noble metal nanostructures. Ag nanomaterials have good surface plasmonic properties due to their proper electronic structure and dielectric function. Unfortunately, Ag nanostructures have poor chemical stability, which seriously hinders their further applications. In contrast, Au nanoparticles (NPs) have better stability, but their catalytic activity is related to the size of NPs. Therefore, simultaneously obtaining higher-quality plasmonic and catalytic properties in single nanostructure with good chemical stability remains a hotspot issue. We report a facile wet chemical technique for fabricating AuAg alloy nanoparticles (ANPs) with high dispersibility, which integrate high stability, controllable plasmonic property, and excellent catalytic activity. A series of characterizations confirm the structure and compositional homogeneity of AuAg ANPs. Firstly, Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) image reveals the monodisperse nature of the as-synthesized AuAg ANPs with an average diameter of ≈ 35 nm, which indicates the purity and uniformity of the NPs. Then, Selected Area Electron Diffraction (SAED) image exhibits three clear diffraction rings that are corresponding to (111), (200), and (220), respectively, providing evidence that AuAg ANPs have multi-crystal nature. It is worth mentioning that some bright spots in the diffraction rings are found in the SAED picture, which mainly results from the (111) and (200) faces of the AuAg ANPs. This result further confirms that the AuAg ANPs belong to a polycrystalline crystal structure. Energy-dispersive X-ray (EDX) elemental mappings prove that the elements existed in the sample are uniformly distributed in the entire ANPs, and the compositions of the typical AuAg ANPs are consisted of Au and Ag. In addition, UV-visible-NIR absorption spectra of Ag NPs, Au₁Ag₃ ANPs, Au₁Ag₁ ANPs, Au₃Ag₁ ANPs, and Au NPs are detected to investigate their plasmonic properties. It is found that the surface plasmon resonance peaks of AuAg ANPs could be effectively regulated by changing the molar ratio of Au and Ag. When the content of Ag is decreased in AuAg ANPs, the surface plasmon resonance peaks of AuAg ANPs will be red-shift, in which experimental results are consistent with the theoretical ones. Finally, the catalytic performance of AuAg ANPs is also studied by choosing a model of chemical reduction of p-nitrophenol (4-NP) by using NaBH₄. It is well known that NaBH₄ individual cannot reduce 4-NP in the absence of any catalyst, which indicates the need of a catalyst for the chemical reduction of 4-NP. The reduction process is monitored by UV-Vis spectroscopy. The reaction kinetics follows pseudo first order reaction and the variations of 4-NP concentration (C_{l}/C_{0}) in the noble metal NPs with different reduction times are calculated. The corresponding results reveal that the catalytic activities of AuAg ANPs are much better than that of Au NPs and Ag NPs due to the synergistic effect between Au and Ag species at room temperature. What's more, the catalytic property of Au₃Ag₁ ANPs is the best among three kinds of ANPs. The objective of the current strategy may provide a new idea for constructing the higher-performance alloy nanostructures and developing a potential application in the treatment of aromatic nitro organic pollutants, sensing, and solar cells.

Key words: AuAg alloy; Nanoparticles; Surface plasmon; Absorption spectrum; Catalytic activity **OCIS Codes**: 160.4760; 220.4241; 240.6670; 250.5403

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