BIG IDEA

GEMLIKE NANOPARTICLES SHINE AS CATALYSTS

Northwestern researchers, including Professors Chad A. Mirkin, Chris Wolverton, and Vinayak Dravid, developed a new method for making highly desirable catalysts from metal nano-particles, potentially leading to better fuel cells. The researchers also discovered that the method can take spent catalysts and recycle them into active catalysts.

These coveted catalysts are gem-shaped, and each particle has 24 different faces presenting atoms at the surface in ways that make them more catalytically active than those available commercially.

Image by Liliang Huang