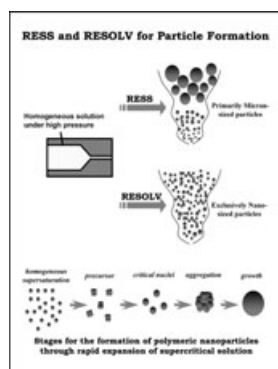


The pair of statues...

... of the Nio (Agyo and Ungyo), or Heavenly Kings, were made in 1203 AD and stand at the entrance gate of Todaiji temple (a world culture heritage) in Nara, Japan; Agyo (left) represents the beginning of the universe with its mouth open, while Ungyo (right) represents the end of the universe with its mouth tightly closed. Conceived as a pair they complement each other in protecting the temple from demons and keeping it in the good spirits. In a similar manner, the two Ru atoms in the thiolate-bridged diruthenium complex



work cooperatively to catalyse the propargylic substitution reactions of propargylic alcohols with heteroatom-centred nucleophiles such as alcohols, amines, amides, and phosphine oxide. Y. Nishibayashi, M. Hidai, S. Uemura, and their co-workers describe the scope and limitations of the reactions on page 1433 ff.

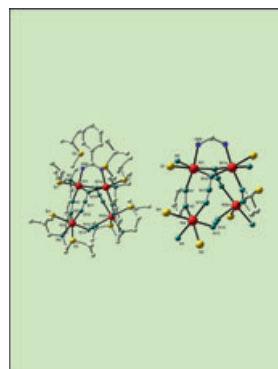
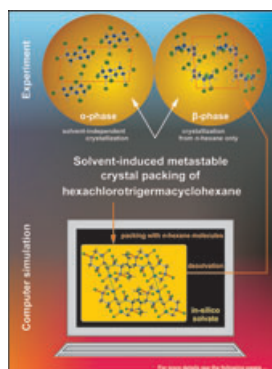


Polymeric Nanoparticles

The concept paper by Sun et al. on page 1366 ff highlights the applications of supercritical fluid technology in particle formation and production, especially some recent advances in the rapid expansion of supercritical solutions (RESS) processing technique. The simple but significant modification to the traditional RESS by using a liquid solvent or solution at the receiving end of the supercritical solution expansion, or the rapid expansion of a supercritical solution into a liquid solvent (RESOLV), and applications of the technique to the preparation of nanoparticles are also discussed.

Conformational Dimorphism

Two crystalline modifications of 1,1,3,3,5,5-hexachloro-1,3,5-trigermacyclohexane have been experimentally obtained as phase pure products and studied by single-crystal X-ray diffraction. Possible reasons for the selective formation of the α - or β -phase in specific solvents have been considered by M. Jansen et al. on page 1375 ff.



Unusual Azido Bridges

In their Full Paper on p. 1518 ff, F. Meyer and co-workers describe the structures and magnetic properties of a series of tetranuclear nickel(II) complexes with unique topology, in which two of the azido ligands present adopt an unusual μ_3 -1,1,3 bridging mode.

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