

Snapshot: In the Eye of the Beholder

The shape of gold nanostructures changes depending on how they are imaged.

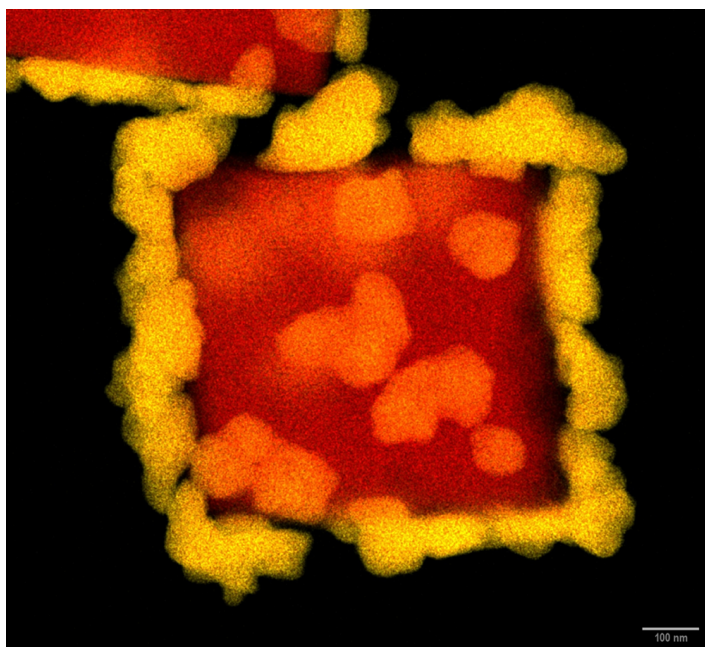
This electron-microscope image shows a nanosized cube wrapped in a gold layer. The tiny package is the result of reactions between gold-containing acid and copper oxide nanocubes. But the picture changes when viewed in a different light. Researchers imaged the same reaction with an x-ray microscope and found that the resulting objects were hollow gold boxes. The explanation for the discrepancy is that the x rays and electrons affect the acid environment differently, impacting how much of the copper oxide dissolves away [1].

Snapshot articles highlight eye-catching images from across physics.

—M.R.S.

REFERENCES

1. B. Alavi *et al.*, “Electrons make shells, photons make boxes: Unmasking radiation chemistry in liquid-phase imaging,” *Small* **e75209** (2026).



Credit: IFJ PAN