

Review of Synthesis and Functionalization of Gold Nanobipyramids

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1. Introduction

Nanoparticles, one of the nanotechnology implementations, have become increasingly popular in recent years. This is because nanoparticles have a significantly higher surface area than bulk materials due to their small size [1]. The increases in surface area lead to greater interaction with the surrounding environment, improving reactivity in sensing, catalysis and adsorption [2]. Also, nanoparticles' properties can be adjusted by controlling their size [3]. Materials at the nano size exhibit unique properties, such as quantum confinement, surface plasmon resonance and optical, electrical and magnetic properties [4]. Nanoparticles require lower quantities of materials than bulk materials, leading to efficient use of resources [5]. They can also support greener and more sustainable processes [6].

Metal nanoparticles become widely used compared to other forms of nanoparticles due to their plasmonic properties. Plasmons are collective oscillations of free electrons on metal surfaces, which enhance light-matter interactions. Metal nanoparticles can strongly absorb and scatter light at specific wavelengths, making metal nanoparticles highly suitable for applications in sensing, imaging, photothermal therapy and optical devices [7]. Metal nanoparticles are also generally stable and chemically inert, making them ideal for various environments [8]. Moreover, certain metals such as gold and silver are biocompatible, making them suitable for biomedical applications [9,10]. They are also readily available commercially, making them easily accessible to researchers and industries. Metal nanoparticle costs have become more affordable over time, further contributing to their widespread use [11].

Many researchers have successfully synthesized metal nanoparticles, both noble and metal oxide, with different structures for many applications such as biomedical and healthcare [12], catalysis [13], electronics and optics [14], energy conversion and storage [15], environmental remediation [16], also sensing and detection [17]. Gold nanobipyramids, as one of the noble metal nanoparticles, are rarely studied compared to spherical and rod shapes. As a result, the discussion and dissemination of research findings related to gold nanobipyramids are more limited. Whereas gold nanobipyramids have sharp and elongated tips, resulting in a strong electromagnetic field confinement and leading to enhanced light-matter interactions and increased sensitivity to the surrounding medium through the high value of Refractive Index Sensitivity (RIS) and Figure of Merit (FOM) [18]. Then, gold nanobipyramids have a relatively large surface area compared to other nanoparticle shapes, such as spheres or rods. The increased surface area provides more active sites for interactions with the surrounding medium. This allows for greater adsorption of target molecules or analytes onto the nanobipyramids surface, resulting in a stronger signal response [19]. Hence, this review discussed the synthesis method to produce gold nanobipyramids as sensing material focuses using several methods such as microwave-assisted, one-pot, galvanic replacement and seed-mediated growth. This work also reported about the functionalization process using polymers, biomolecules, amine and thiol on the gold nanobipyramids surface due to their specific targeted analyte binding.

2. Metal Nanoparticles

Metal nanoparticles are tiny particles of metal, typically with sizes ranging from a few to several hundred nanometres. They are composed of metal atoms arranged in a crystalline or amorphous structure. The unique properties of metal nanoparticles arise from their small size and high surfaceto-volume ratio, which result in distinctive physical, chemical and optical characteristics compared to their bulk counterparts [20]. Nanoparticles exhibit a quantum confinement phenomenon, the confinement of electrons and their energy levels within small dimensions [21].

In recent decades, metal nanoparticles have been excellent candidates for several fields. When illuminated with light, metal nanoparticles can absorb and scatter light at specific wavelengths, which is highly sensitive to changes in the local environment. This sensitivity makes them ideal for detecting analytes and monitoring molecular interactions [22]. Besides, metal nanoparticles have a high surface-to-volume ratio due to their small size. This increased surface area provides more sites for analyte interactions, enhancing nanoparticle sensitivity [14]. They also exhibit low toxicity and can be functionalized with biomolecules for specific applications.

The typical metal nanoparticle widely used as a sensing material in the sensor system is a metal oxide and noble metal. Metal oxide nanoparticles are metal atoms combined with oxygen atoms to form an oxide compound [23]. Metal oxides can be derived from a wide range of metals, such as titanium (Ti), zinc (Zn), iron (Fe) and copper (Cu). Metal oxides are widely used, mostly as sensing materials. For example, a study by Pereira-Silva *et al.,* [24] reported the investigations through a Localized Surface Plasmon Resonance sensor using $TiO₂$ -Au to detect biotin conjugated with horseradish peroxidase (HRP). They also used streptavidin as a receptor and coated it in the sensor system. Another research is reported by Wang *et al.,* [25] that conducted the detection of water pollutant p-cresol using ZnO and immobilized. He *et al.*, [26] also used Fe₂O₃ as a metal oxide sensing material for glucose detection. They modify $Fe₂O₃$ by adding the Ni(OH)₂ layer to improve the performance because Ni(OH)2 has high electrocatalytic activity. Then, Proença *et al.,* [27] used CuO as a sensing material for carbon monoxide detection at room temperature. They modify with the implantation of Au to improve the system sensitivity.

Meanwhile, noble metal nanoparticles refer to nanoparticles composed of noble metals, which include gold (Au), silver (Ag), platinum (Pt) and palladium (Pd). These metals are classified as noble due to their resistance to oxidation and corrosion and relatively low reactivity [12]. Several observations are reported due to the usage of the noble metal, especially as a sensing material, such as research by Huang *et al.,* [28] that observed the detection of mercury(III) using gold with a spherical shape. The detection method they used was colorimetric determination. Chen *et al.,* [29] also used noble nanoparticles as sensing material through silver nanoparticles to detect phosmet residues in Oolong tea by surface-enhanced Raman scattering. Another application of noble metal is platinum nanoparticles supported by graphite/gelatine hydrogel to detect H₂O₂ by electrochemical detection method. This research is reported by Thirumalraj *et al.,* [30]. Yi *et al.,* [31] also reported their study through chloramphenicol detection by an electrochemical method using palladium nanoparticles as the sensing material. They decorated the palladium with graphene oxide to increase the electrochemical characteristics.

3. Gold Nanoparticles

Even though other noble metals such as silver, platinum and palladium also possess unique properties, gold nanoparticles are commonly used as sensing material. This condition is based on their advantageous properties, such as exhibiting a strong and tuneable absorption peak in the visible to the near-infrared region and allowing for easy detection and quantification of target analytes through changes in the nanoparticle's optical response [32]. Then, gold nanoparticles are highly stable and do not quickly oxidize or corrode. This stability ensures the longevity and reliability of the sensing platform. In addition, due to their high extinction coefficient and efficient energy transfer properties, gold nanoparticles can enhance the detection signals, resulting in increased sensitivity and lower detection limits [33]. Generally, the method used to synthesize gold nanoparticles is bottom-up and top-down.

Bottom-up approaches, which include chemical reduction, electrochemical deposition, sol-gel synthesis and seed-mediated growth, are ways to create nanoparticles by assembling them from smaller parts or atoms [34]. In the chemical reduction process, gold ions in a solution are reduced by a reducing agent, such as sodium citrate or sodium borohydride. The reduction process produces gold nanoparticles with certain diameters [35]. A gold electrode is submerged in a solution containing gold ions during the electrochemical deposition process and an electric current is then supplied to cause the reduction of the gold ions and the deposition of gold nanoparticles on the electrode surface [36]. The sol-gel process then entails the creation of a gold ion-containing sol-gel precursor solution, followed by gelation and drying. The dried gel is then calcined to obtain gold nanoparticles embedded in a solid matrix [37]. Moreover, the seed-mediated growth method involves synthesizing smaller gold nanoparticles (seeds) using a reducing agent. These seed nanoparticles then serve as nucleation sites for the further growth of gold atoms, resulting in larger nanoparticles with controlled shapes and sizes [38].

Besides that, top-down methods physically manipulate and reduce bulk gold materials to obtain nanoparticles, such as mechanical milling, laser ablation, lithography, template-assisted synthesis, high-energy ball milling and plasma-based techniques [34]. In mechanical milling, bulk gold materials are subjected to mechanical forces, such as milling, grinding or attrition, to break them down into smaller particles and obtain gold nanoparticles [39]. In the laser ablation method, a high-energy laser is focused on a target material containing gold, leading to vaporization and subsequent condensation. The condensed particles form gold nanoparticles [40]. Then, the lithography method is used to pattern or mask bulk gold films or surfaces. Subsequent etching or deposition processes selectively remove or deposit gold, forming gold nanoparticles with desired shapes and sizes [32]. Next, template-assisted synthesis involves using templates or moulds, such as porous materials, selfassembled monolayers or polymer matrices, to shape the synthesis of gold nanoparticles. The template guides the growth or deposition of gold, resulting in the desired nanoparticle structure [41]. In high-energy ball milling, high-energy collisions between balls and bulk gold materials cause mechanical deformation, fracturing and size reduction to produce gold nanoparticles. Furthermore, plasma-based techniques, such as plasma etching or sputtering, can selectively remove or deposit gold on surfaces, forming gold nanoparticles [42].

The shape and symmetry of gold nanoparticles can be broadly categorized into two types, i.e., isotropic and anisotropic. Isotropic nanoparticles refer to those with a symmetrical shape, where all dimensions are roughly the same. They exhibit a spherical or near-spherical shape. Bottom-up techniques, such as chemical reduction, are frequently used to create isotropic gold nanoparticles, where the reaction conditions are carefully managed to produce consistent particle sizes. Gold nanoparticles with a spherical shape have a high degree of symmetry and are frequently employed [43]. On the other hand, anisotropic nanoparticles are asymmetric or non-spherical in form and have differing dimensions along various axes. The structures of anisotropic gold nanoparticles might include rods, wires, plates, prisms or bipyramids. These structures are created using various synthesis techniques, including chemical etching, template-assisted synthesis and seed-mediated growth. The anisotropic form has distinct optical, electrical and catalytic capabilities compared to spherical nanoparticles. Anisotropic gold nanoparticles are widely sought-after for numerous applications, particularly sensing platforms, due to their distinctive features [44].

4. Gold Nanobipyramids

Anisotropic gold nanoparticles with bipyramidal structures are known as gold nanobipyramids (GNBPs). They are elongated nanoparticles with a bipyramid-like centre body and two pointed

extremities. Typically, the triangle faces are broader and bigger, while the pointed ends are tapered and thinner. They have ten (111) triangular faces and 5-fold symmetry, with five triangle faces on top and down [45]. The illustration of GNBPs is shown in Figure 1, with length denoted as L and width designated as W. In addition, another parameter, i.e., aspect ratio, is the ratio between length and width [46].

Fig. 1. The illustration of GNBPs

GNBP has a sharper Longitudinal Surface Plasmon Resonance (l-SPR) peak in the Localized Surface Plasmon Resonance (LSPR) spectrum, resulting in greater electric field enhancement than other forms. Figure 2 shows the LSPR spectrum of GNBPs.

Fig. 2. LSPR phenomenon by GNBPs with (a) the direction of the oscillation (b) the LSPR spectrum

Figure 3 shows the electric field enhancement of GNBPs compared to rod shape. It can be seen that GNBPs have higher electric field enhancement due to their sharp tips. The increasing electric field enhancement can lead to an increasing LSPR phenomenon, resulting in a higher sensitivity to surrounding medium change through FOM and RIS value. According to the study by Nafisah *et al.*, [19] GNBPs have a sensitivity factor of 4.76 and 5.17 times larger than rod and bone rod shapes when applied for glyphosate detection.

of (a) bipyramid (b) rod shapes

4.1 Synthesis

Several methods can synthesize GNBPs, including microwave-assisted, one-pot, galvanic replacement and seed-mediated growth. In the microwave-assisted process, microwave radiation is used to heat the reaction mixture, accelerating the development of GNBPs. The advantage of this method is that the GNBPs results are uniform [47]. Several studies conducted this synthesis method, such as Huynh *et al.,* [48] using microwave irradiation and applying GNBPs in immunosensors for chloramphenicol residual detection. They embedded the GNBPs in a quartz crystal microbalance system. Another research by Mendoza *et al.,* [49] used this method to synthesize GNBPs with coreshell structure, then used to generate singlet oxygen. On the other hand, this method is also used to produce Au supported by ZnO in a hexagonal pyramid shape and is utilized in solar energy conversion [50].

The one-pot method is a simplified approach that involves the simultaneous formation of the GNBPs in a single reaction mixture. This method eliminates the need for separate seed synthesis and growth steps, making the process more convenient and efficient [51]. However, researchers rarely use this method due to several drawbacks, such as hardness to control size and shape through fast time reaction, lack of reproducibility, unsuitable for large-scale production and limited tunability because it is not easily controllable [52]. This method was successfully implemented in gold nanorod production, i.e., a study by Okitsu *et al.,* [53] with a length of < 50 nm, a study by Lai *et al.,* [54] with a length of 88 nm and a study by Abidi *et al.,* [55] with a diameter of 10 – 15 nm. Another structure

produced by this method is nanoworms that show good performances as photothermal bactericidal in *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus* by Liao *et al.,* [56].

The galvanic replacement method uses a sacrificial template with the desired shape, such as silver nanoprisms or gold nanorods. The template is immersed in a gold precursor solution and a suitable reducing agent is added. As a result, the gold ions from the precursor deposit onto the template surface, replacing the original material and forming GNBPs [57]. In the study reported by Xu *et al.,* [58] the galvanic replacement method is used in purification and etching processes. GNBPs are produced embedded with Ag-Pt hollow nanostructure. In the study by Yip *et al.,* [59] they make GNBPs coated with Ag and then use this method to replace Ag with Pd to exhibit larger responses for hydrogen detection. Zhuo *et al.,* [60] also use this method to replace the GNBPs-coated Ag nanorod with a hollow nanostructure.

Moreover, in the seed-mediated growth method, gold nanomaterial of a specific size and shape, called seeds, are first synthesized using a particular process, such as the citrate reduction process [61]. Then, the GNBPs are grown from these seeds by adding a reducing agent, such as ascorbic acid, gold precursor solution, chloroauric acid, the presence of a surfactant and cetyltrimethylammonium bromide [46]. So, the size and shape of the nanobipyramids are controlled in the growth process.

Seed-mediated growth method is often used to synthesize GNBPs because it offers a high degree of control over the nanoparticles' size, shape and optical properties. Additionally, the seed-mediated growth method can produce GNBPs with high yield and reproducibility, making them reliable for large-scale production. The method also allows for fine-tuning the plasmonic properties of the nanobipyramids, such as their absorption and scattering spectra, by controlling the aspect ratio and other structural parameters [62]. Several studies have reported, such as Ye *et al.*, [63] parameter research in silver nitrate, ascorbic acid and gold seed. Nafisah *et al.,* [46] also reported the synthesis of GNBPs using a seed-mediated growth method; the parameter is replacing hydrochloric acid with other acids. This method expands to the etching process in producing a monodisperse of GNBPs, reported by Li *et al.*, [64] with silver used in the etching process. An additional review of the synthesis process to produce GNBPs is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

4.2 Functionalization

The functionalization process can occur on the GNBPs surface for several reasons. Functionalization, for instance, can improve GNBPs' stability and dispersibility in wide solvents or biological conditions. It makes it possible to better manage and manipulate the nanoparticles by preventing agglomeration or precipitation. Functionalization can then offer target molecules particular binding sites. This circumstance enables the targeted detection of certain analytes or target biomolecules, such as proteins, DNA or tiny molecules [72]. Functionalization can also be utilized to modify GNBPs' optical characteristics. Adding certain compounds to the nanoparticle surface may alter light absorption and scattering, which modifies the plasmonic resonance characteristics [73]. A ligand on the surface of the GNBPs is the result of the functionalization procedure, as seen in Figure 4. The functionalization agent might replace the CTA⁺ layer with cetyltrimethylammonium bromide in the synthesis process, reducing toxicity [74]. Several substances can be used as functionalization agents for GNBPs, such as polymers, biomolecules, amine and thiol.

Fig. 4. The illustration of the functionalization agent on the GNBPs surface

Polymers can operate as a functionalization agent by providing receptive sites for attaching biomolecules like antibodies, proteins, DNA or enzymes. This enables specific targeting, bioconjugation and the creation of bioactive interfaces for various biomedical applications. Besides that, by modifying the surface properties of GNBPs with polymers, they can be readily dispersed in aqueous solutions or other organic solvents. Several studies have been successfully done through the usage of polymers. For example, a study by Liu *et al.,* [75] used polyethylene glycol (PEG) to functionalize the GNBPs surface and observed its effect on cancer cell ablation. Then another observation is also reported by Amirjani *et al.,* [76]*.* They use polyvinyl alcohol to functionalize GNBPs and then apply them in the photodynamic therapy of cancer. Stoia *et al.,* [77] also use the kind of polymer, i.e., polyethyleneimine, to functionalize GNBPs and control drug delivery in the human body.

Besides polymers, biomolecules can also be used as functionalization agents for GNBPs. Examples of biomolecules are proteins, peptides and nucleic acids. The study conducted by this functionalization agent is Wang *et al.,* [78]*.* They use DNAzyme to functionalize GNBPs and apply them to the *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* detection. Basically, biomolecule ligands are used in simple shapes, for example, spherical. Shi *et al.*, [79] research uses spherical DNA for miRNA detection in the exosome location. Li *et al.,* [80] also used biomolecules such as non-thiolated nucleic acid to detect kanamycin antibiotics. Lee *et al.,* [81] conducted the pRNA to functionalize gold with a spherical structure for microRNA detection. Mehranfar *et al.,* [82] reported their research on implementing peptides as a ligand and applying them for SARS-CoV-2 detection.

The usage of a functionalization agent depends on the analyte targeted. But amine and thiol groups become popular functionalization agents several researchers use because both can form strong covalent bonds with gold surfaces by forming gold-amine or gold-thiol complexes. These bonds are generally stable and resistant to degradation, ensuring the long-term stability of the functionalized GNBPs [83,84]. Furthermore, both amine and thiol can be easily modified with various molecules, such as biomolecules, polymers or dyes, introducing specific properties or functionalities to the GNBPs [85]. Then, amine and thiol are commonly found in biological systems, making them compatible with natural environments. The functionalization of GNBPs with amine or thiol groups

can enhance their biocompatibility and minimize potential cytotoxicity [86]. According to their advantage as functionalization agents, amine and thiol are most widely used to detect glucose.

Amine groups (-NH2) are primary functional groups that can form covalent bonds with glucose molecules through an imine formation or Schiff base reaction. This reaction involves the reaction between an aldehyde or ketone group on the glucose molecule with an amine group on the ligand. The resulting imine bond is stable and can detect glucose through changes in the plasmonic properties of the GNBPs [87]. On the other hand, thiol groups (-SH) can form disulfide bonds with glucose molecules, allowing for specific and selective detection of glucose through changes in the plasmonic properties of the GNBPs [88]. In addition, the overview of functionalization using amine and thiol in various nanomaterials for glucose detection is shown in Table 2 and Table 3.

Table 2

Overview of nanoparticle functionalization using amine to detect glucose									
Year	Author	Nanoparticle	Functionalization	Method of	Remarks				
	[ref]		Agent	Detection					
2010	Li et al., $[89]$	Organosilica nanosphere	3-(trimethoxysilyl) propyl methacrylate	Electroche mical	Nanocomposite immobilized using glucose oxidase. Then, the sensitivity reaches 122.6 μ AmM ⁻¹ cm ^{-2 and} the detection limit is 2μ M. This study uses a linear range of glucose in 0.006 - 1.3 mM.				
2011	Tasviri et al., [90]	TiO ₂ -CNTs	3-aminopropyl- triethoxysilane	Catalysis	The time response is obtained at 3 s. Also, the sensor's sensitivity is 0.007 µAM-1 with a detection range of up to 266 μ M.				
2012	Gu et al., $[91]$	Graphene- nanoplates	Amine-terminated ionic liquid	Electroche mical	The linear range of glucose is $10 - 500 \mu M$ with a detection limit of 3.33 μ M. The time detection needed is 30 minutes. The basal level obtained is 0.376 ± 0.028 mM.				
2013	Zhang et al., [92]	Graphene composite	Amine-terminated ionic liquid	Electrocatal ysis	The minimum value of glucose that can be detected is 0.05 mmolL ⁻¹ . The linear response towards glucose is up to 8 $mmolL^{-1}$.				
2014	Khodada dei et al., $[93]$	Multiwalled CNTs	3-aminopropyl- triethoxysilane	Electroche mical	Glucose oxidase is immobilized in a glassy carbon electrode. The range used for glucose is $17 - 646$ µM and the sensitivity reaches 12.3 µA/mMcm ² . The detection limit is 9 µM, with the Michaelis-Menten constant being 480 µM.				
2015	Vasu et al., [94]	Graphene oxide	$N-(3-$ dimethylaminopro pyl)-N- ethylcarbodiimde hydrochloride	FET devices	The variation of glucose concentration is 100 pM $-$ 100 mM, with a limit of detection in 2 nM. Electrical conductance changes to 0.1 mM when it detects other analytes, i.e., lactose.				
2016	Dabbawal a et al., $[95]$	Nanoporous polymer	Non-coordinating tertiary amine moieties	Catalytic hydrogenat ion	Ru supports the nanomaterial and the system's selectivity reaches 98 %.				
2017	Wang et al., [96]	AgInS ₂ quantum dots	Polyethyleneimine	Photolumin escence	The nanomaterial is synthesized using an electric pressure cooker. The limit of detection is 0.9 µM, with a linear concentration between photoluminescence and glucose of $1 - 10$ μ M and 10 - 1,000 μ M.				

Based on Table 2 and Table 3, amine and thiol are commonly used as ligands for glucose detection, but no functionalized GNBPs exist. Hence, functionalization on the GNBPs is a promising sensing material that refers to the advantages of GNBPs compared to other structures.

Table 3

Overview of nanoparticle functionalization using thiol to detect glucose

Year	Author	Nanoparticle	Functionalization	Method of	Remarks
			Agent	Detection	
2007	Pandey et	GNPs	$11 -$	Electrocata	Glucose oxidase is used to immobilize
	al., [103]		mercaptoundecanoic	<i>lysis</i>	the nanocomposite and the result
			acid		affected is the increase of the
					Michaelis-Menten constant (from 3.74
					mM to 5.85 mM). Also, the shelf life of
					this functionalized nanomaterial is 6
					months due to controlling pH and
					temperature.
2011	Radhaku	GNPs	16-	Visible	Glucose oxidase is used in
	mary et		mercaptohexadecanoic	colour	functionalized GNPs. Then, the
	al., [104]		acid	change	solution's colour is changed from red
					to blue if glucose is detected in 100
					μ g/mL.
2012	Chen et	Gold	5,5-dithiobis (2-	Electroche	The role of thiol is to immobilize
	al., [105]	nanoporous	nitrobenzoic acid)	mical	glucose oxidase enzymes on
					nanoporous surfaces. The limit of
					detection is 10 µM and the linear
					response is obtained in $3 - 8$ mM.

5. Summary and Future Prospective

GNBPs have higher sensitivity compared to other shapes. This condition gives GNBPs an excellent potential to be applied in many fields. GNBPs can be synthesized using microwave-assisted, one-pot, galvanic replacement and seed-mediated growth. Seed-mediated growth become a popular method that researchers widely use due to the advantages of a high degree of control over the nanoparticles' size, shape and optical properties. Also, using the seed-mediated growth method, GNBPs can be synthesized in large-scale production. Then, GNBPs can be functionalized using polymers, biomolecules, amine and thiol. The functionalization agent chosen depends on the specific bind to the targeted analyte. However, the researcher commonly uses amine and thiol because of their ability to produce solid covalent bonds on the GNBPs surfaces and they are primarily used to detect glucose analytes. Hence, GNBPs functionalized with amine and thiol become promising materials for sensing applications, especially in glucose detection. Further modification and development on the fabrication of GNBPs are needed to improve the sensing performances.

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