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Dumbbell-like Composite Nanoparticles: Chemical Synthesis and Catalytic Applications CHAO WANG, SHOUHENG SUN, Brown University, NANOMATERIALS LAB TEAM — Dumbbell-like NM-Fe₃O₄ (NM=Au, Ag, Pt and Pd) nanoparticles are synthesized by epitaxial growth of Fe₃O₄ on noble metal nanoparticle seeds in organic solution. The size of the noble metal and Fe₃O₄ particles in these dumbbell structures can be well controlled (from 2 nm to 20 nm). These dumbbell nanoparticles are superparamagnetic at room temperature, and also show plasmonic absorption (from Au or Ag). Compared to the single-component noble metal nanoparticles, the dumbbell particles show enhanced catalytic properties, like Pt-Fe₃O₄ for oxygen reduction and methanol oxidation in the fuel cell, as well as Au-Fe₃O₄ for the growth of silicon nanowires.

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