

Single Particle Extinction and Scattering (**SPES**)  
enables the **characterization** and  
development of **micro and nano particles**  
in **complex fluids**

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Effective Optical Systems

# Micro and nanoparticles in commercial goods



**PHARMA**

**COSMETICS**

**FOOD**

**PIGMENTS**

➔ Particle sizing and characterization are fundamental for

**R&D**



# Micro and nanoparticles characterization

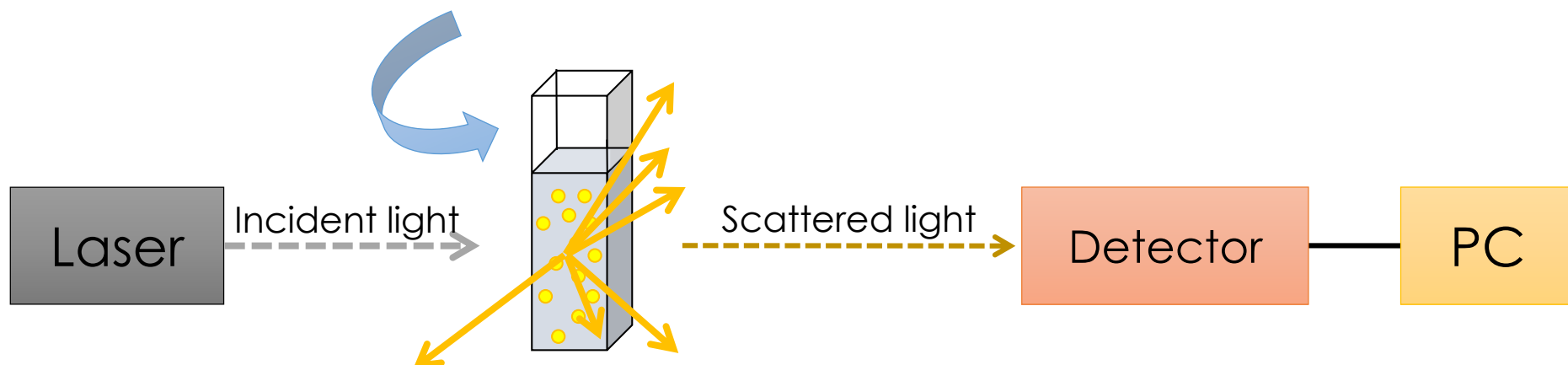
Traditional technologies for particle analysis are based on **light scattering**:

Static Light  
Scattering  
(SLS)

Dynamic Light  
Scattering  
(DLS)

Single Particle  
Scattering  
(SPS)

Nanoparticle  
Tracking Analysis  
(NTA)

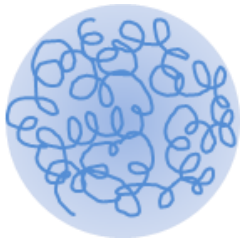
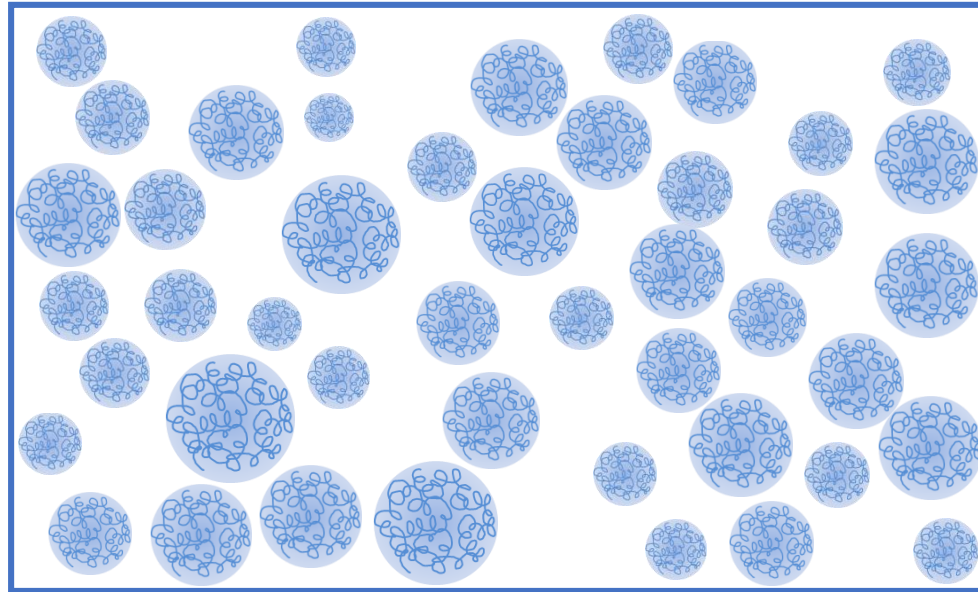


## Advantages

- cost effective
- easy to use
- quantitative information

# Traditional light scattering techniques limitations

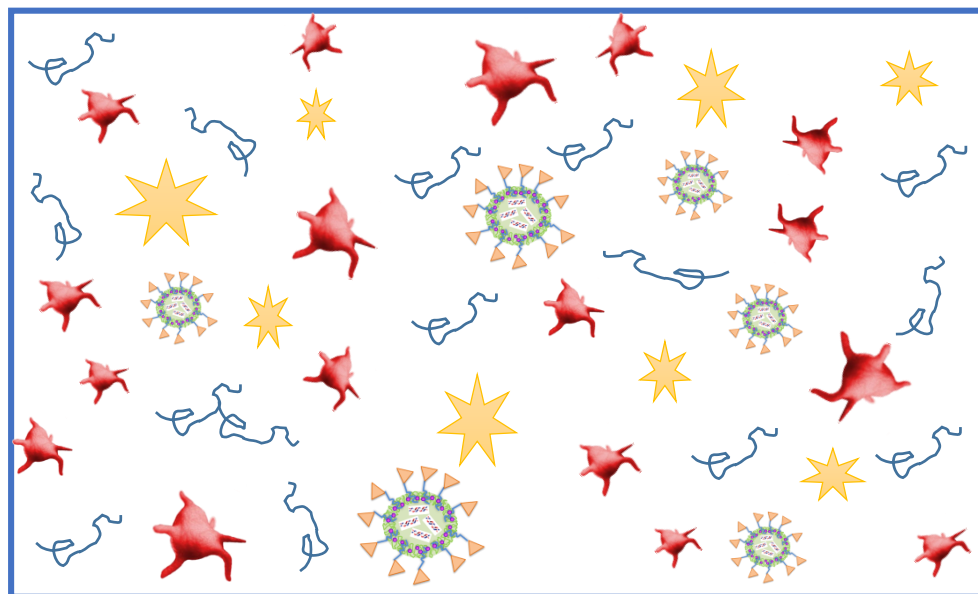
They consider ALL particles as perfect, uniform spheres of the same material



**Polymeric**

# Traditional light scattering techniques limitations

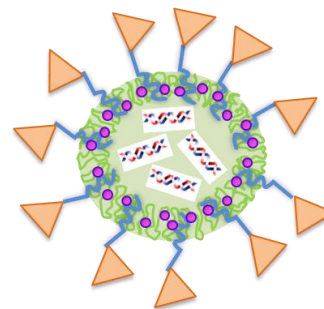
But particles are **NOT** homogeneous, perfect, uniform spheres



**Polymeric**



**Metallic**



**Engineered**



**Bio component**

# Traditional light scattering techniques limitations

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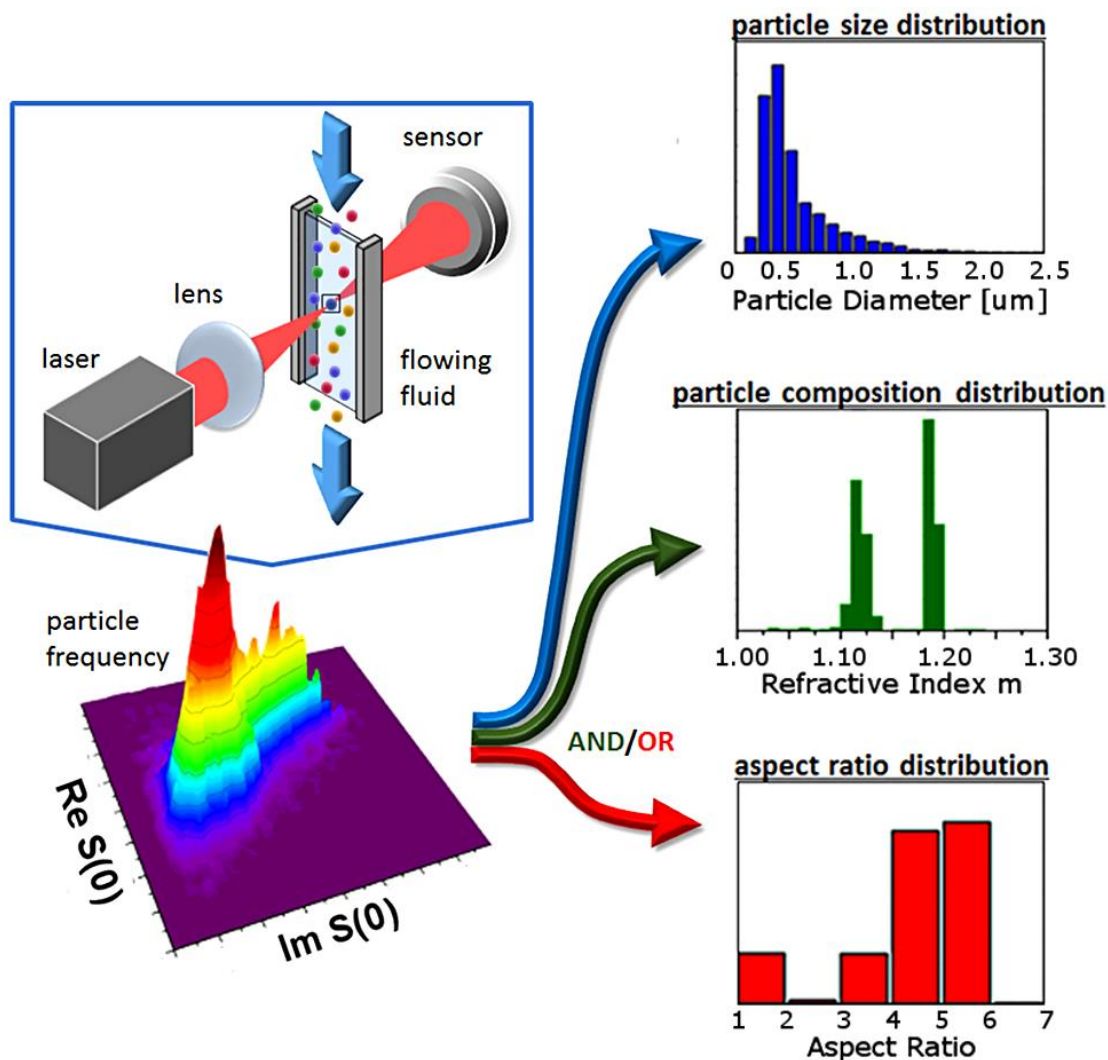
- Traditional light scattering technologies are unsuitable for analysis in complex mixtures and real media
- Other complementary expensive and time-consuming analysis are needed
- Adequate sample preparation is necessary but results can be eventually altered



To overcome these limits, we propose a new approach based on **Single Particle Extinction and Scattering (SPES) technology**

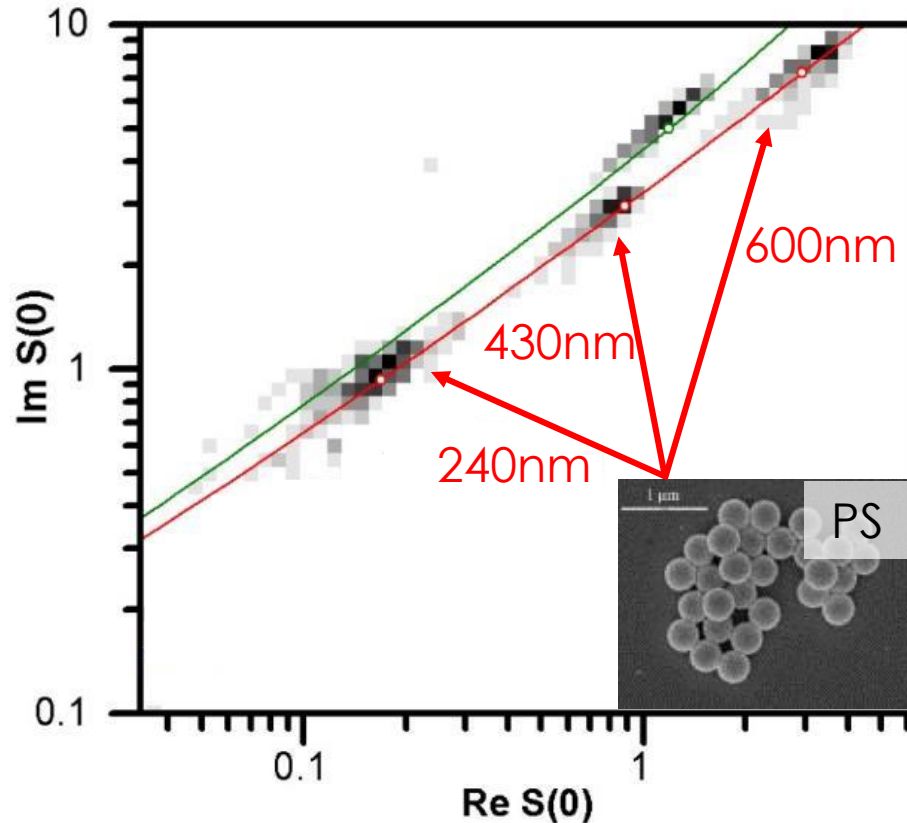
# SPES graphical scheme

SPES is able to detect two different properties of each analyzed particle

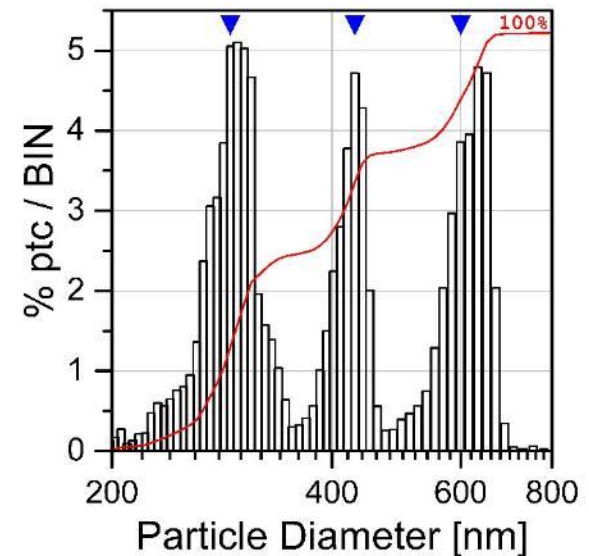


# SPES distinguishes between size

SPES is able to discriminate particles with different size of the same material



same material, different size



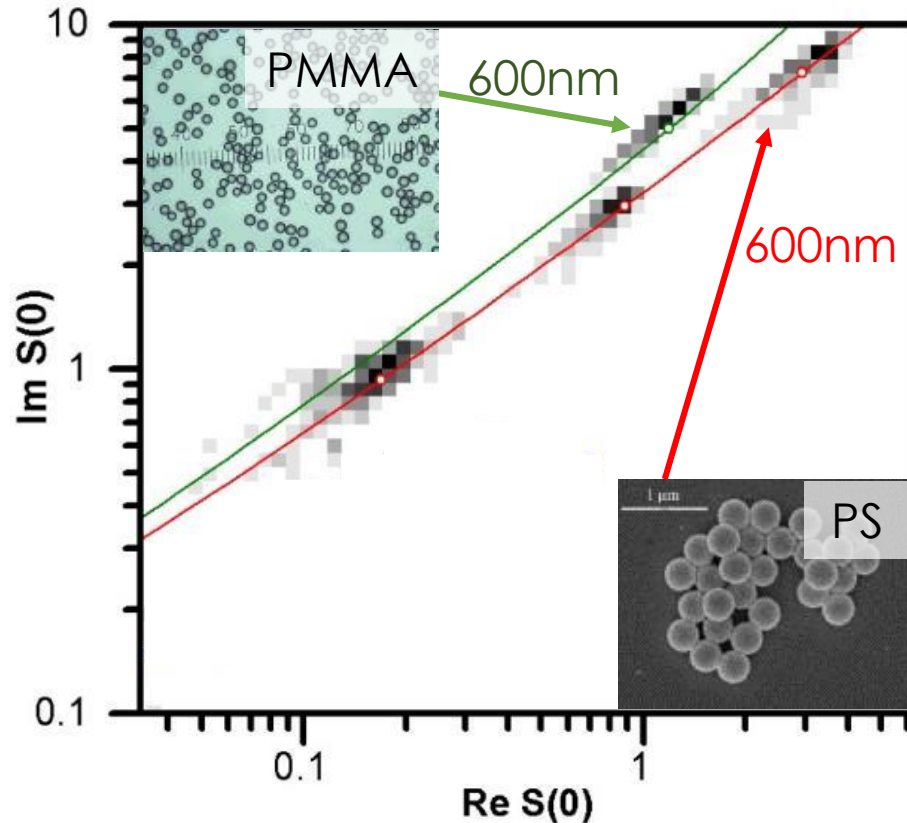
**Polystyrene (PS) particles  
size distribution**

Potenza MAC, Sanvito T, Pullia A, "Measuring the complex field scattered by single submicron particles", AIP Advances 5 (2015)

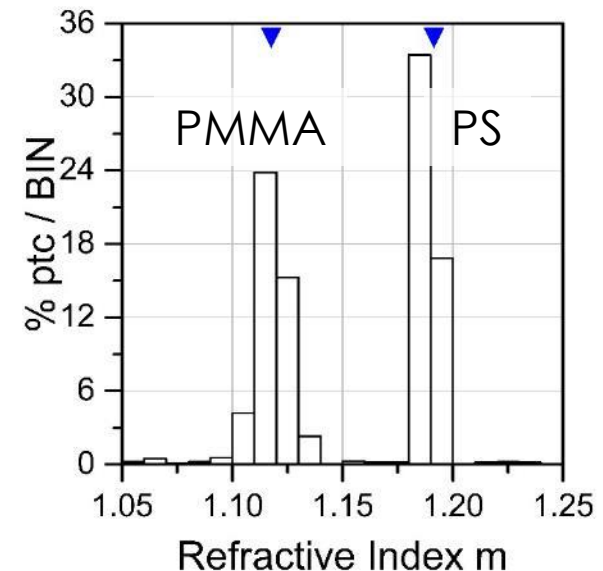


# SPES distinguishes between materials

SPES is able to discriminate particles with the same size of different material



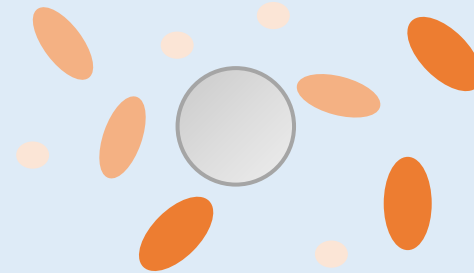
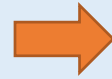
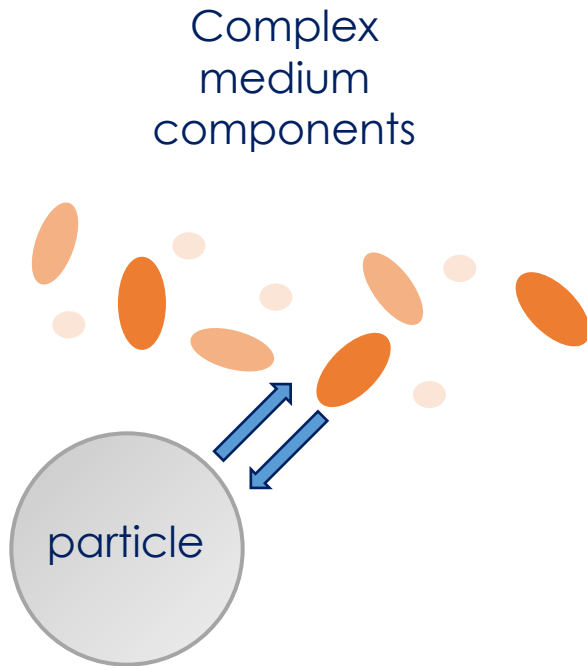
same size, different material



**Polystyrene (PS) and Poly(methyl methacrylate) (PMMA) particles refractive index distribution**

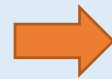
Potenza MAC, Sanvito T, Pullia A, "Measuring the complex field scattered by single submicron particles", AIP Advances 5 (2015)

# Challenges: particles and complex fluids



Understand particles fate and stability

**Discriminate particles from the medium components**

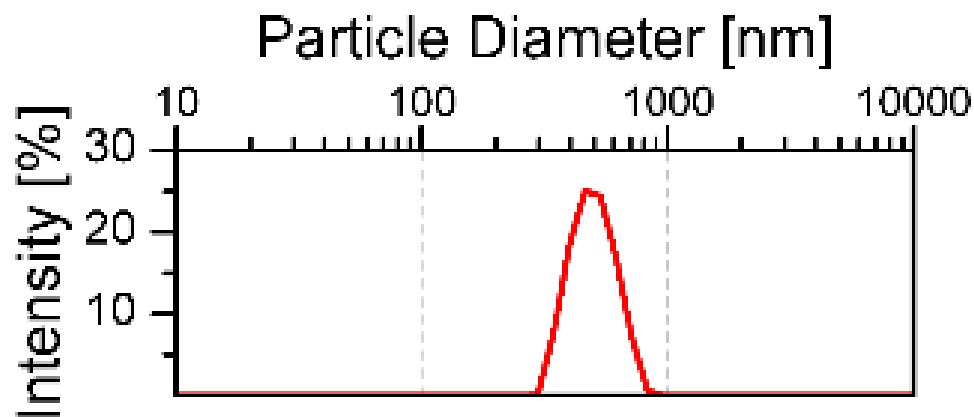


Study the particle shape influence

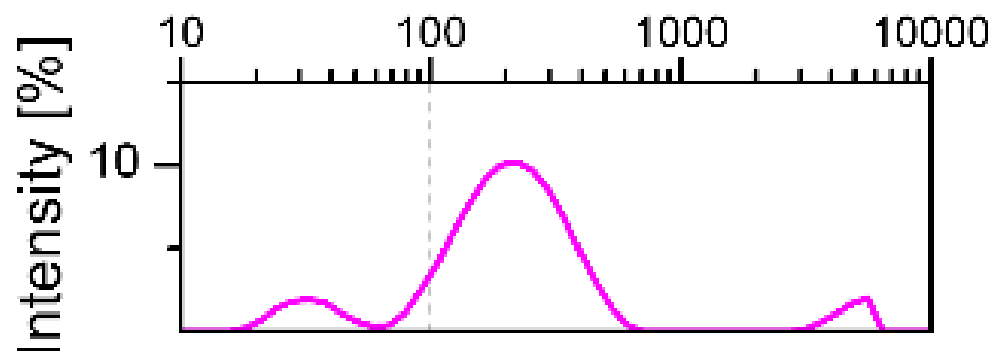
**Distinguish particles with different shapes**

# DLS failed analysis in mouse serum

DLS is not able to distinguish between PS particles and serum components



**DLS analysis of PS particles  
(430nm) in water**

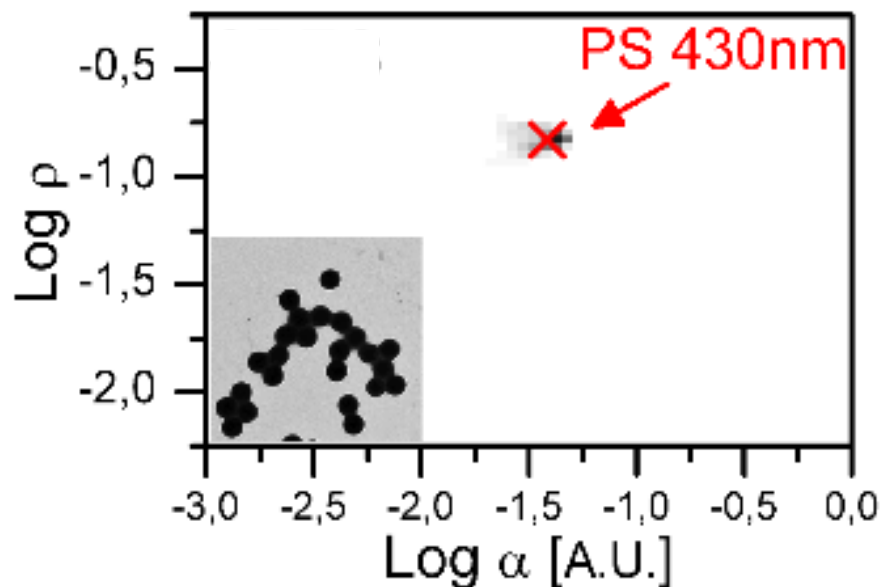


**DLS analysis of PS particles  
(430nm) in mouse serum**

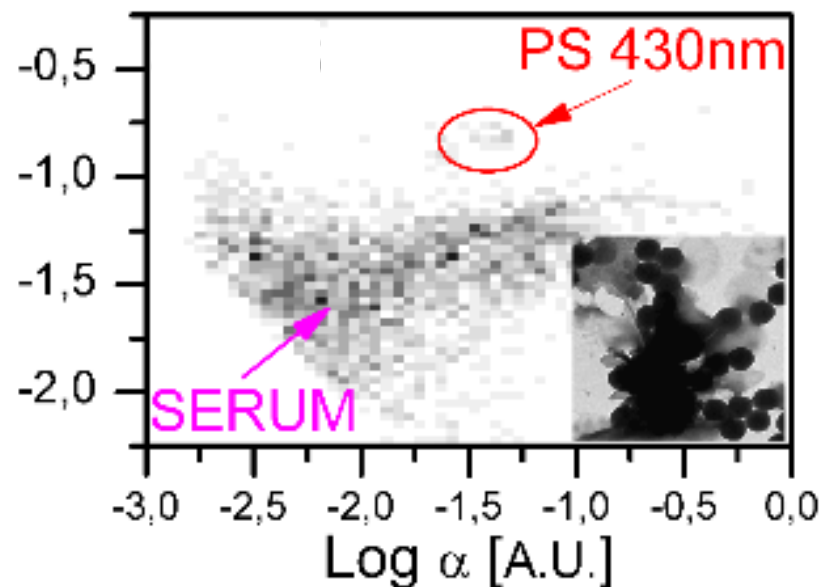
Sanvito T, Bigini P, Cavanna MV, Fiordaliso F, Violatto M, Talamini L, Salmona M, Milani P, Potenza MAC  
Nanoscale (under submission)

# SPES analyzes particles in mouse serum

SPES easily discriminates between PS particles and serum components



**SPES analysis of PS particles  
(430nm) in water**

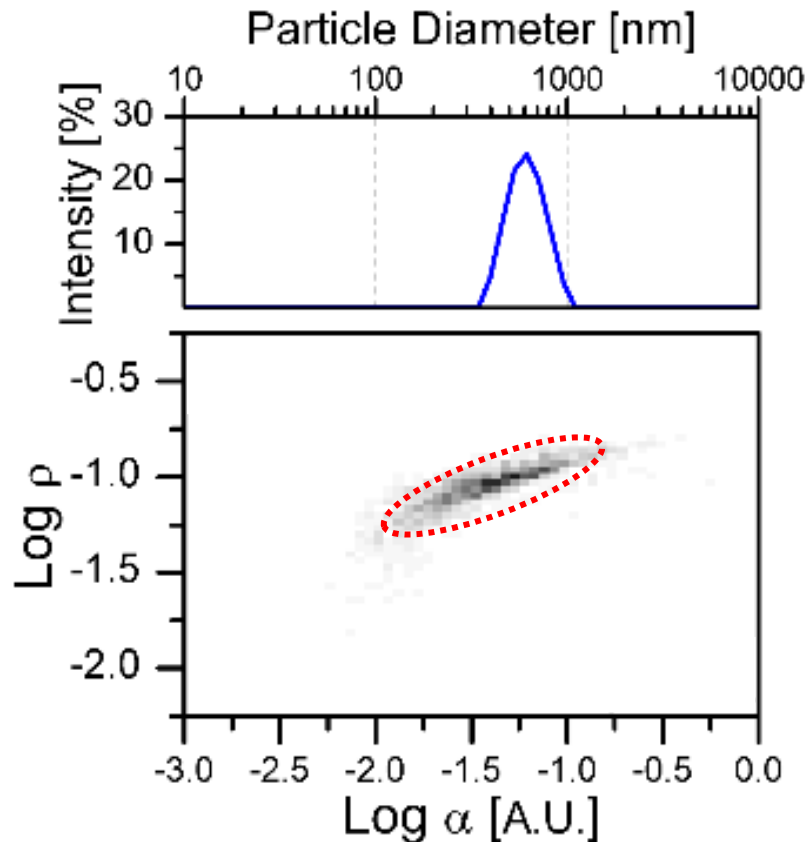


**SPES analysis of PS particles  
(430nm) in mouse serum**

Sanvito T, Bigini P, Cavanna MV, Fiordaliso F, Violatto M, Talamini L, Salmona M, Milani P, Potenza MAC  
Nanoscale (under submission)

# SPES recognizes PLGA particles

SPES discriminates between polydisperse poly(lactic-co-glycolic)acid PLGA particles and serum components



**DLS analysis**

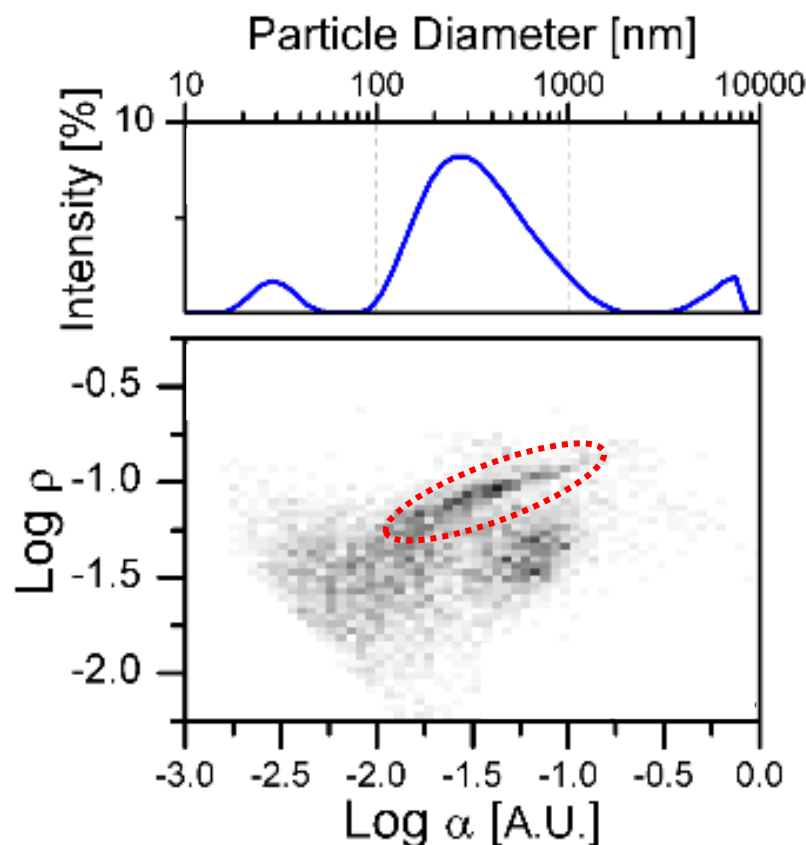
**SPES analysis**

- **Mouse serum**
- **PLGA 4.1E6 ptc/mL**

Sanvito T, Bigini P, Cavanna MV, Fiordaliso F, Violatto M, Talamini L, Salmona M, Milani P, Potenza MAC  
Nanoscale (under submission)

# SPES works at low concentration

SPES discriminate PLGA particles and serum components, even at very low concentration, where DLS fails



**DLS analysis**

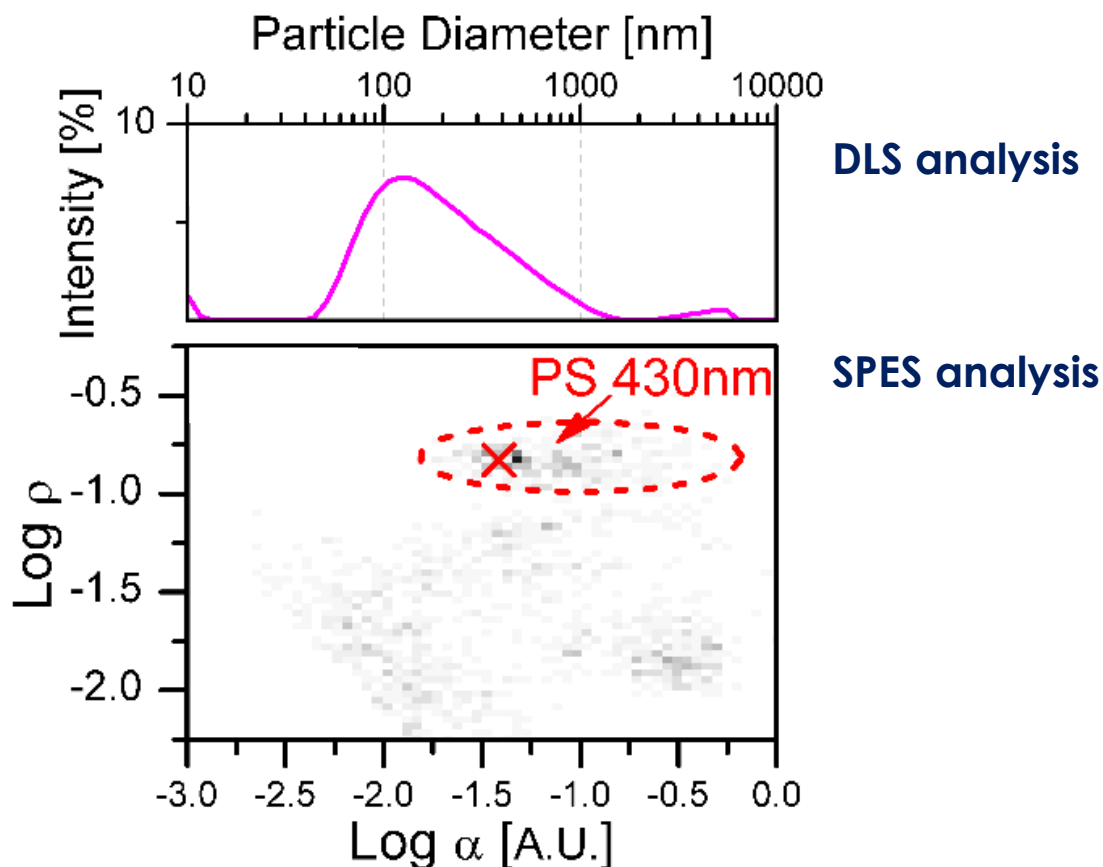
**SPES analysis**

- **Mouse serum**
- **PLGA 1.1E5 ptc/mL**

Sanvito T, Bigini P, Cavanna MV, Fiordaliso F, Violatto M, Talamini L, Salmona M, Milani P, Potenza MAC  
Nanoscale (under submission)

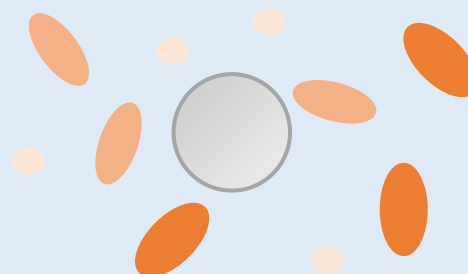
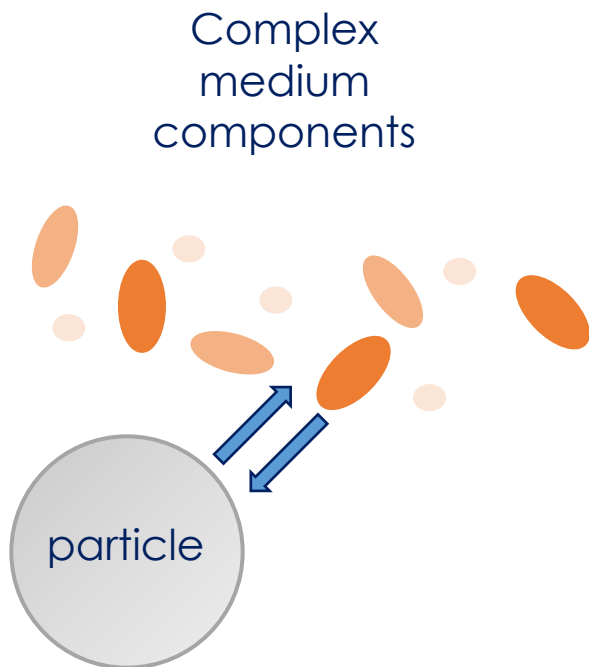
# SPES analyzes particles in whole blood

SPES ability to detect PS particles in medium as complex as whole blood opens opportunity for understanding interaction between particles and biocomponent



Sanvito T, Bigini P, Cavanna MV, Fiordaliso F, Violatto M, Talamini L, Salmona M, Milani P, Potenza MAC  
Nanoscale (under submission)

# Challenges: particles and complex fluids



Understand particles fate and stability

**Discriminate particles from the medium components**



branched



sphere



rod

Study the particle shape influence

**Distinguish particles with different shapes**



# DLS is not able to distinguish particle shape

DLS gives information on the particles size and size distribution of gold particles but is unable to distinguish between particles shape

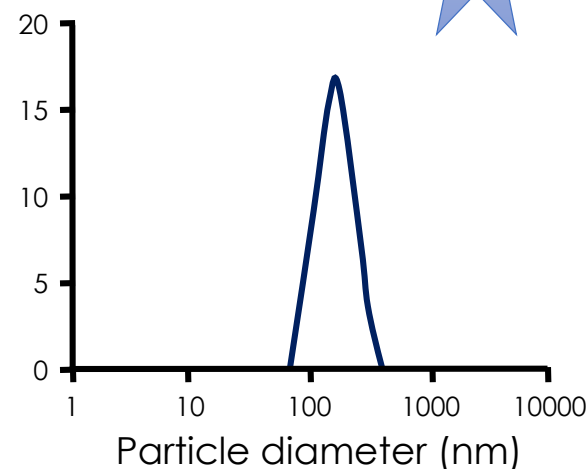
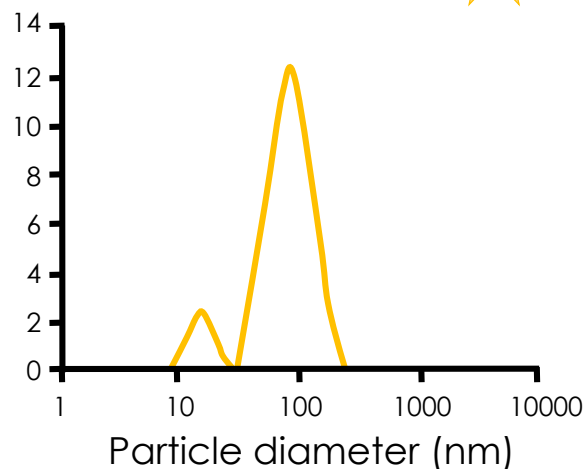
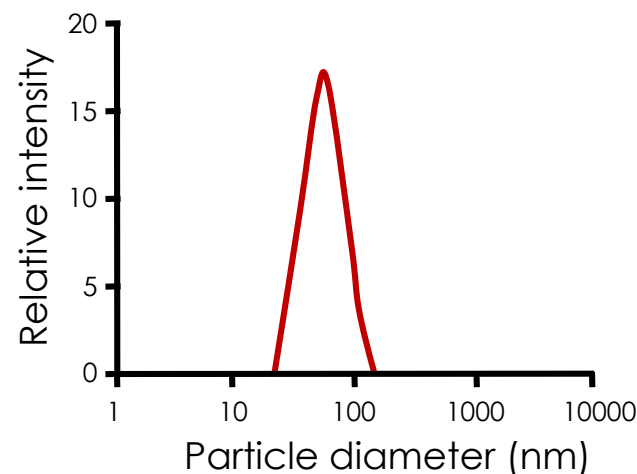
Nanospheres  
Ø 80 nm



Branched particles  
Ø 100 nm



Branched particles  
Ø 160 nm

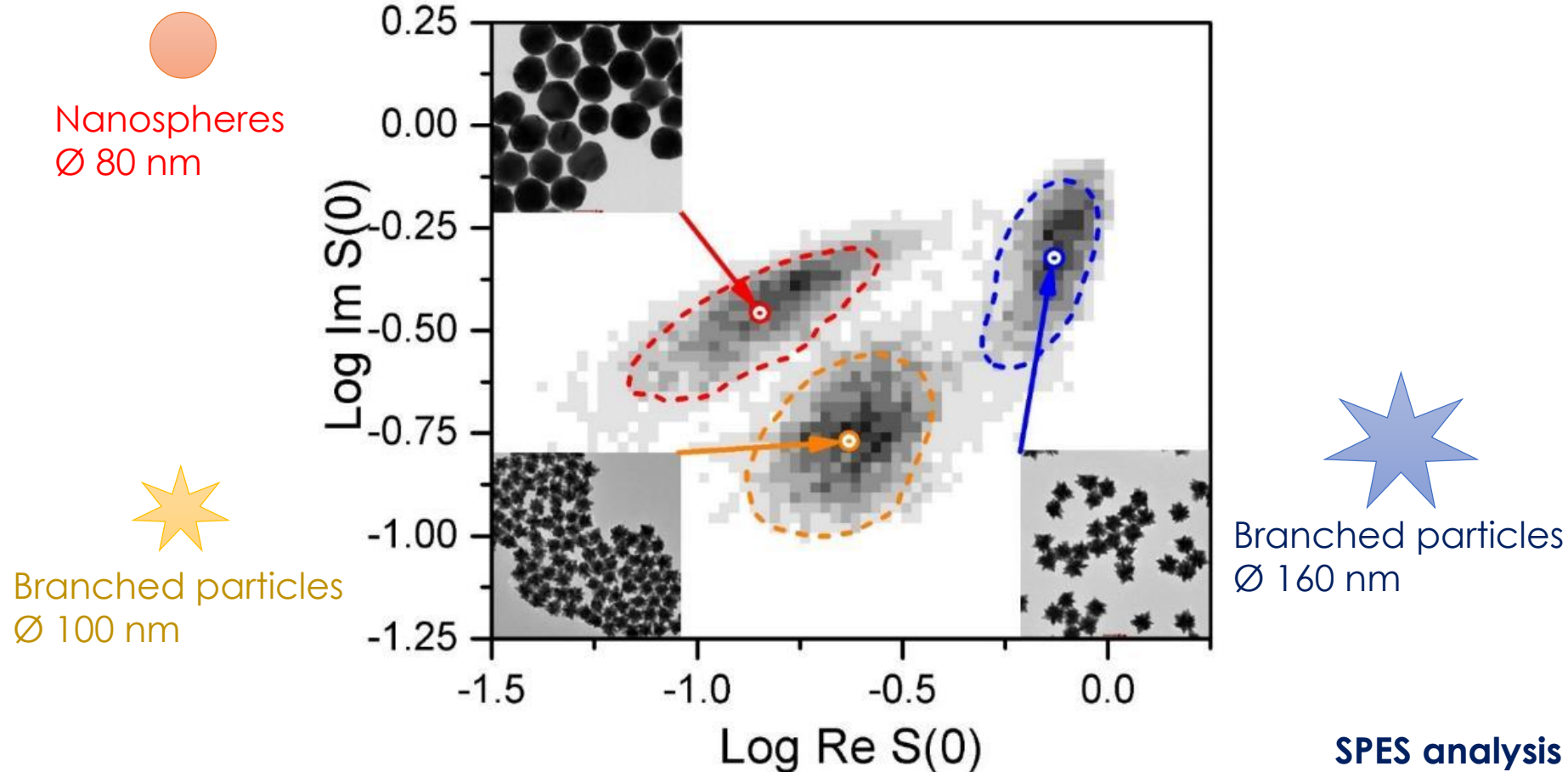


**DLS analysis**

Potenza MAC, Krpetic Z, Sanvito T, Cai Q, Monopoli M, de Araújo J, Cella C, Boselli L, Castagnola V, Milani P, Dawson K  
Nanoscale (submitted)

# SPES discriminates particles with different shape

Differences of the surface plasmon resonance are detected by SPES that is able to distinguish different shape of gold particles



**SPES analysis**

Potenza MAC, Krpetic Z, Sanvito T, Cai Q, Monopoli M, de Araújo J, Cella C, Boselli L, Castagnola V, Milani P, Dawson K  
Nanoscale (submitted)

# Conclusions

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- SPES is able to discriminate polymeric particles from the components of complex medium, even at very low particles concentration

➡ Understand particles fate and stability in real systems

- SPES is able to distinguish gold particles with different size and shapes

➡ Study the particle shape influence



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**Thank you all for your attention**