

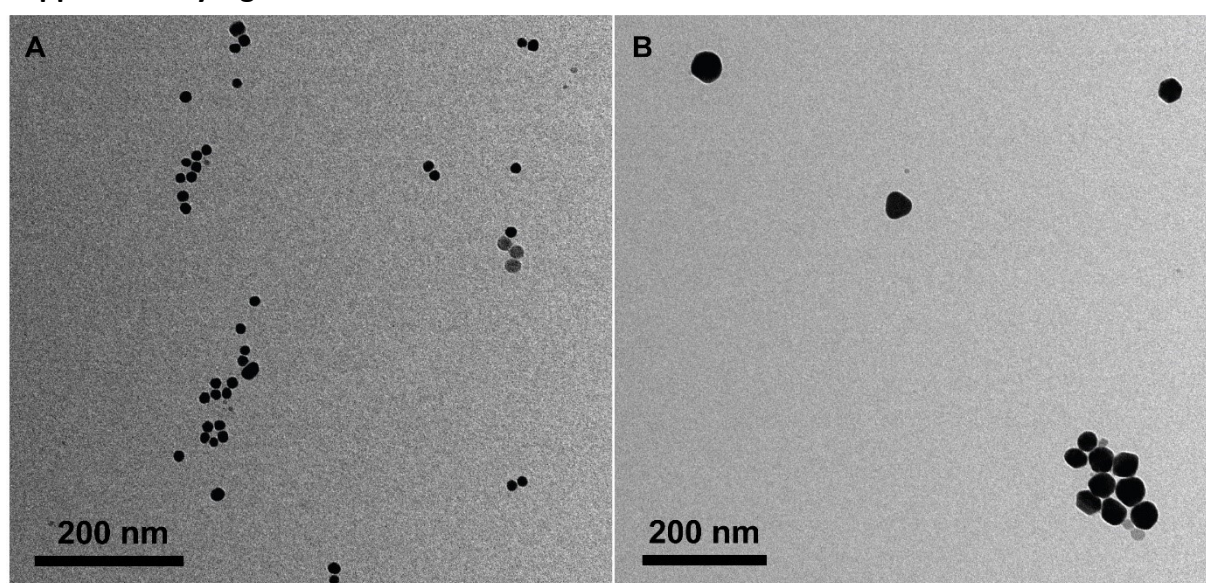
## Supplementary Information

### Quantification of nanoparticles' concentration inside polymer films using Lock-in Thermography

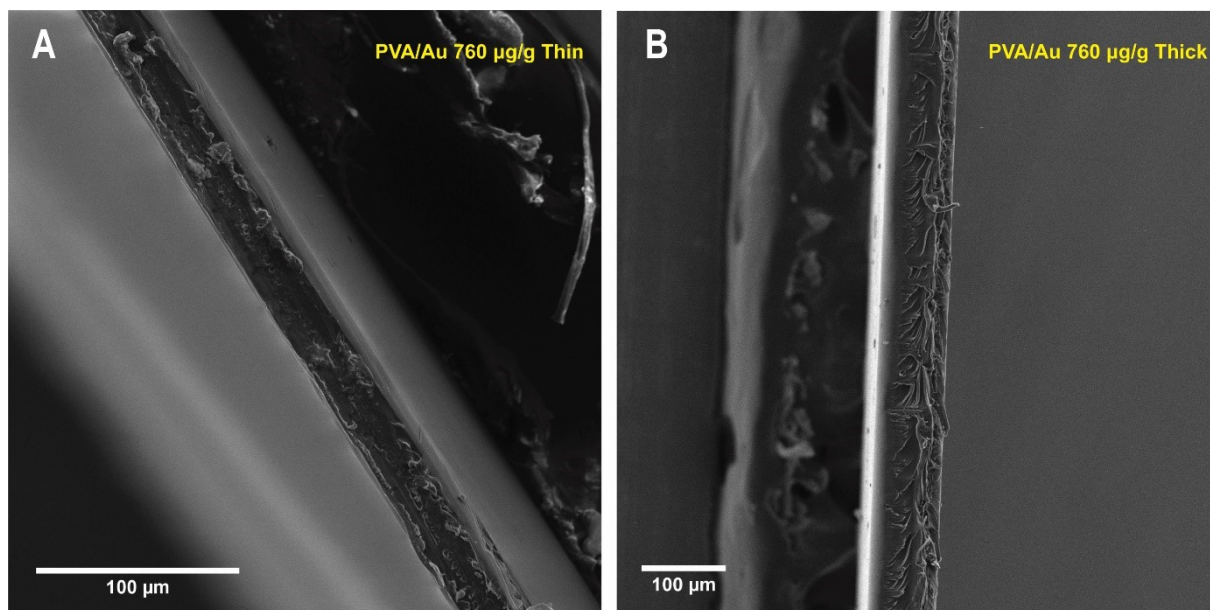
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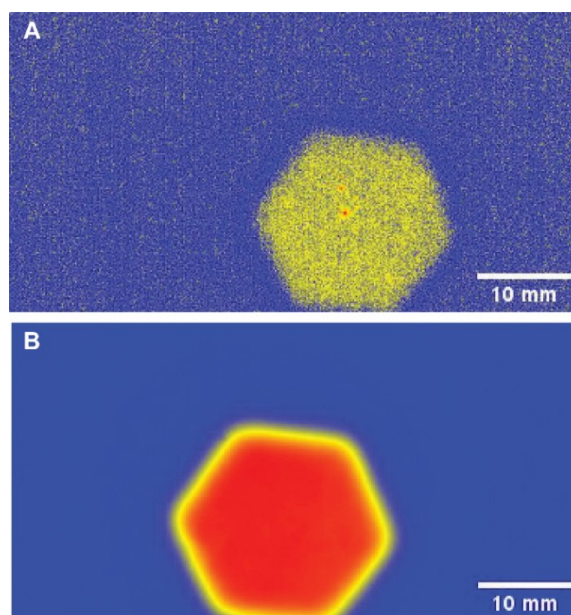
#### Supplementary Figures



**Fig. S1.** TEM images of Au16 (left) and Au41 (right) nanoparticles, showing the quite narrow size distribution of the gold nanoparticles, and their regular shape, assumed to be spherical.



**Fig. S2.** SEM images of PVA/Au films. A) Representative SEM image of PVA/Au thin film containing 760 µg of Au41 NPs per gram of polymer. B) Representative SEM image of PVA/Au thick film containing 760 µg of Au16 NPs per gram of polymer.



**Fig. S3.** Representative 2-D image of the temperature amplitude map of PVA/Au films acquired by lock-in thermography (LIT) at the modulation frequency of 1 Hz. A) LIT image of PVA/Au film containing 10 µg of Au16 NPs per gram of polymer. B) LIT image of PVA/Au thick film containing 760 µg of Au16 NPs per gram of polymer. The difference in temperature amplitude signal between A) and B) is due to the difference in AuNPs concentration.