

embryo

An aggregate of a small number of atoms, molecules or ions.

An embryo of such a size that the Gibbs energy at constant pressure and temperature is a maximum is called a critical embryo.

An embryo larger than a critical embryo is called a homogeneous nucleus.

Colloidal sols may be formed by condensation methods. When a condensation method is applied, molecules (or ions) are deposited on nuclei which may be of the same chemical species as the *colloid* (homogeneous nucleation) or different (heterogeneous nucleation).

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