Broken symmetries in cubic assemblies

M. N. O'Brien, M. Girard, H.-X. Lin, J. A. Millan, M. Olvera de la Cruz, B. Lee, C. Mirkin "Exploring the zone of anisotropy and broken symmetries in DNA-mediated nanoparticle crystallization", PNAS, 113 (2016)

 Our simulations predict the break of symmetry in assemblies of DNA-coated nanocubes when DNA length is comparable to cube size. The predicted tetragonal phase matches with experiments, but simulations also predicts a wide range of other symmtries obtainable by changing DNA grafting densities. Predictive simulations can be used for to search for specific symmetries which may be tailored for precise optical properties.

