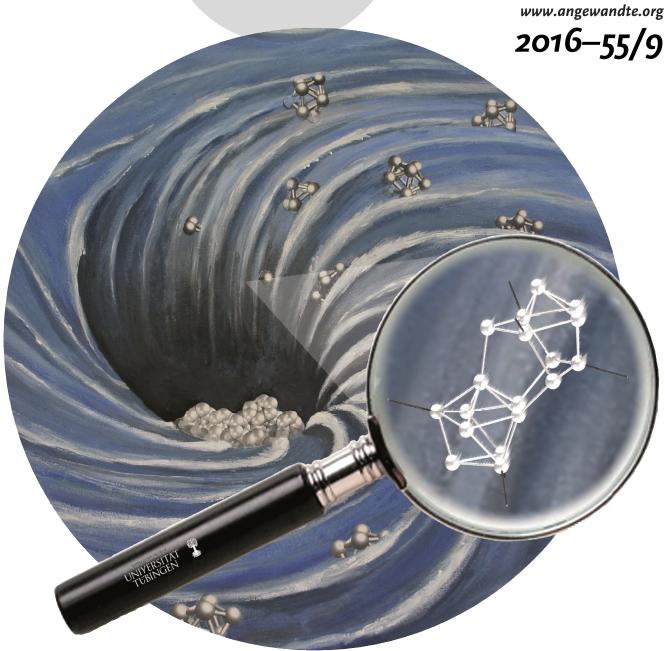
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The seemingly simple process ...

... of the formation or dissolution of a metal is highly dynamic and mostly unknown on the atomic scale. In their Communication on page 3216 ff., A. Schnepf et al. show that the oxidation of $[Ge_9(Hyp)_3]^ (Hyp=Si(SiMe_3)_3)$ with an iron(II) salt leads to $Ge_{18}(Hyp)_6$, the largest metalloid Group 14 cluster that has been structurally characterized to date. This cluster can be regarded as a first trapped intermediate of the formation of Ge(cF136) from Ge_9 units.

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