

Dynamical Shape Fluctuations of a Spherical Surfactant Shell via Neutron Spin Echo

The A-Team Collaboration

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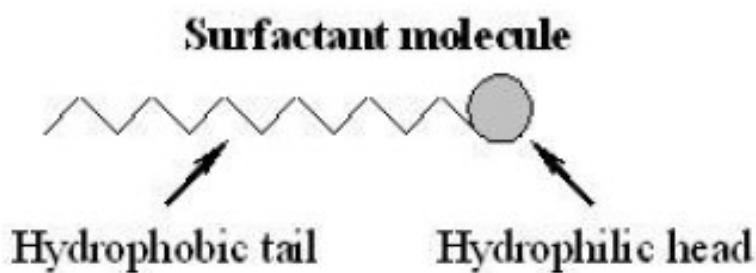
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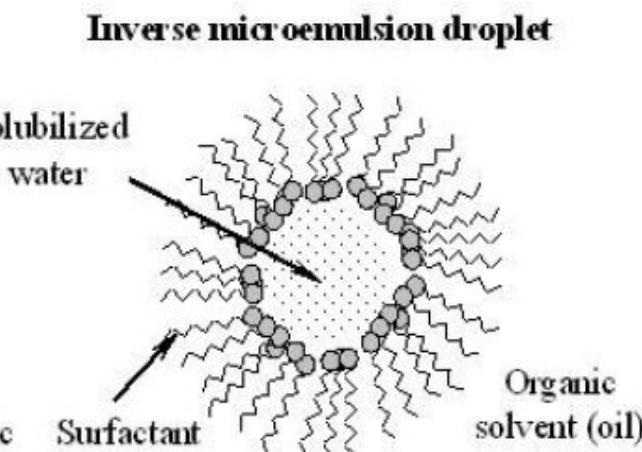
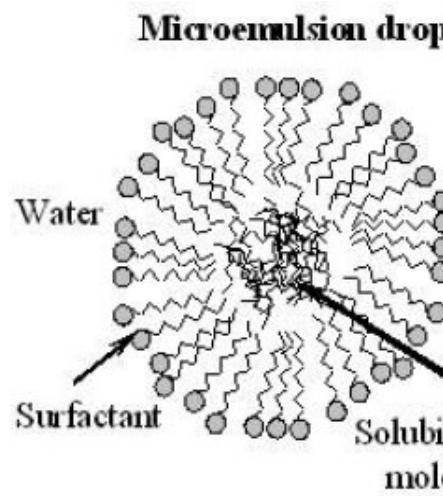
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Microemulsions

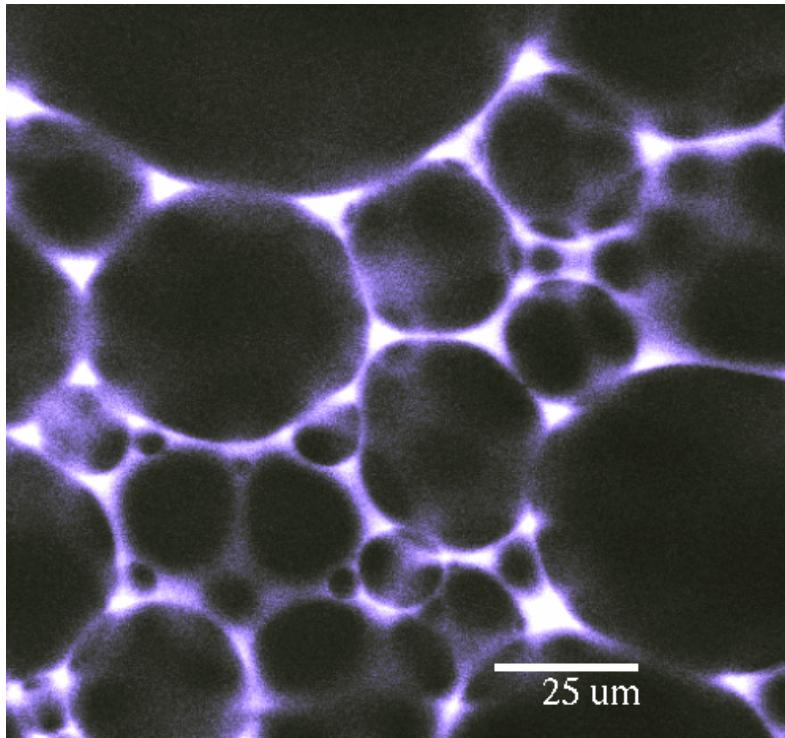


Surfactant:
AOT

Liquid phase:
Deuterated n-Hexane
Deuterated Water



Experiment

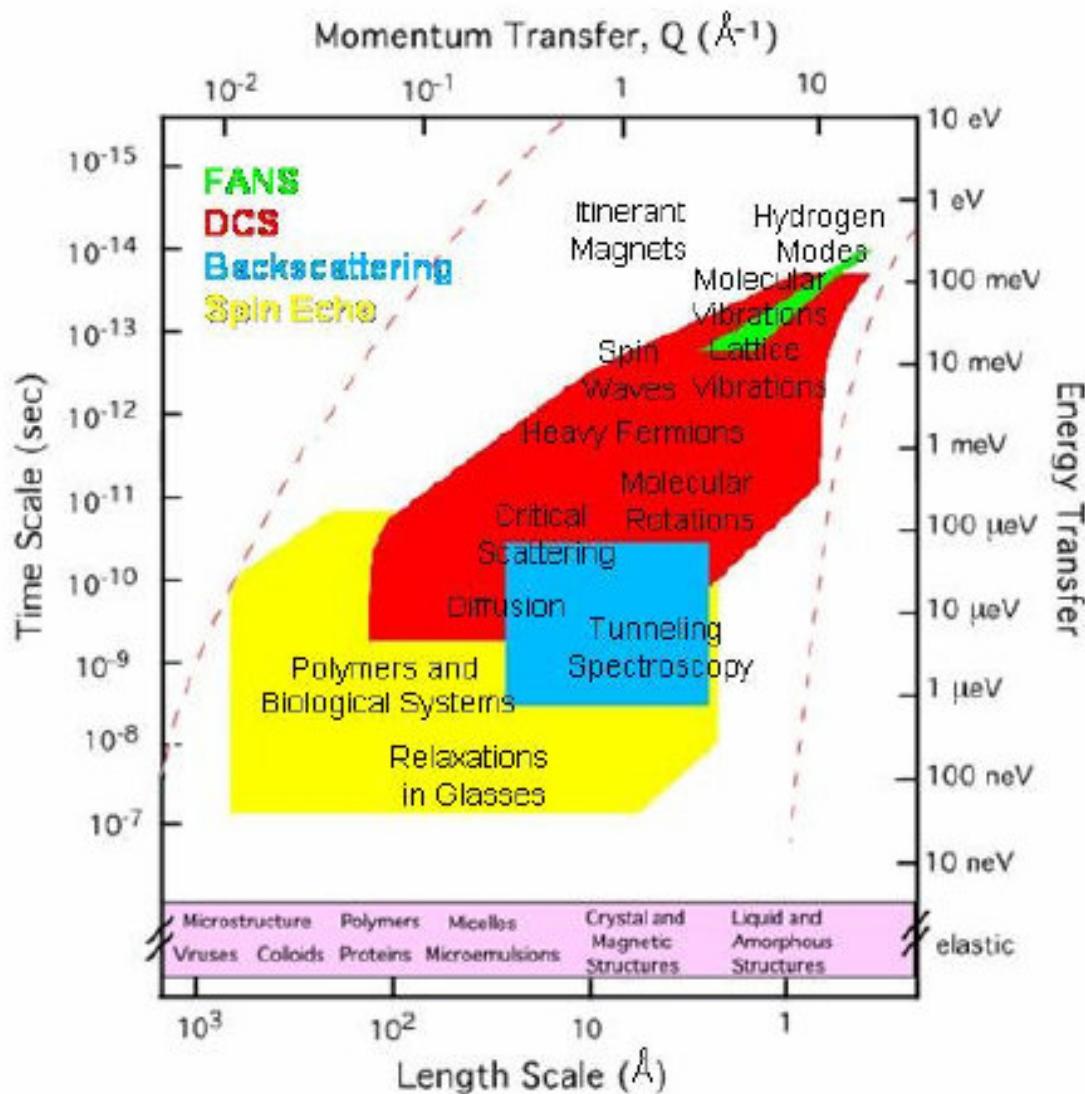


- Structure results from the minimization of the bending elastic energy.
- Surfactant film undergo deformations due to thermal fluctuations.

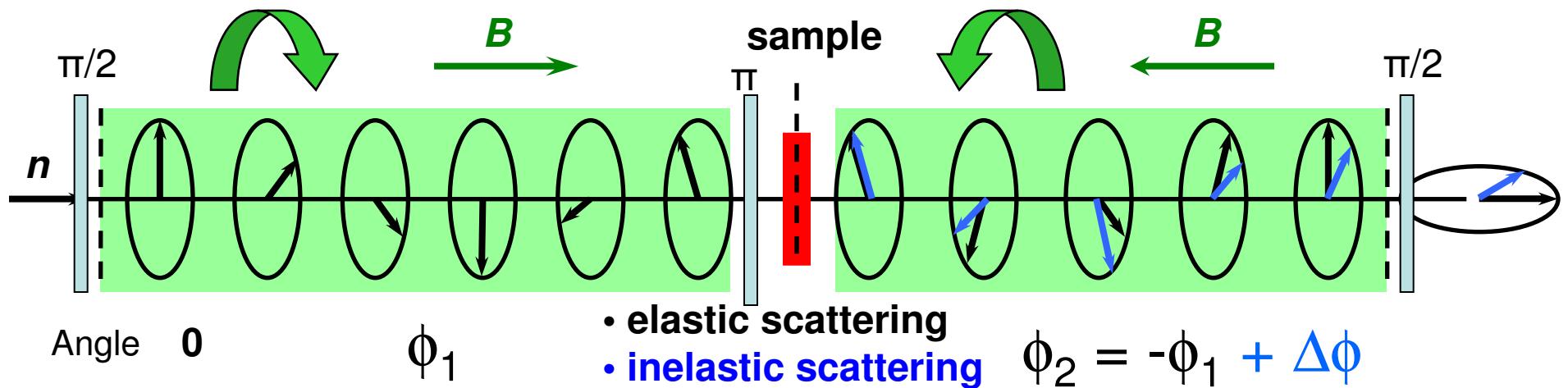
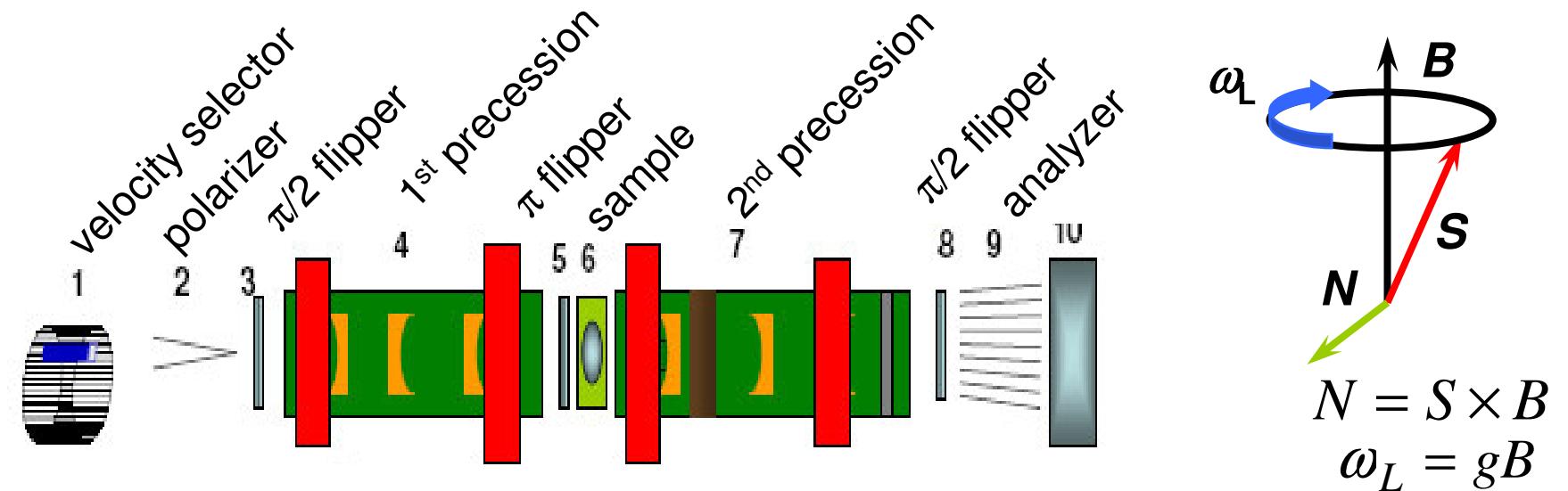
Length Scale of Fluctuations: nanometer scale

Time Scale of Fluctuations: nanosecond scale

Method



Neutron Spin-Echo Spectroscopy



Neutron Spin Echo: Polarization \leftrightarrow Velocity

$$\langle P_Z \rangle = \int f(\lambda) \cos \left[\frac{\Delta\phi(\langle \lambda_1 \rangle) \lambda}{\langle \lambda_1 \rangle} \right] d\lambda \int S(Q, \omega) \cos \left[\frac{\phi_1(\langle \lambda_1 \rangle) m \lambda^3 \omega}{2\pi h \langle \lambda_1 \rangle} \right] d\omega =$$

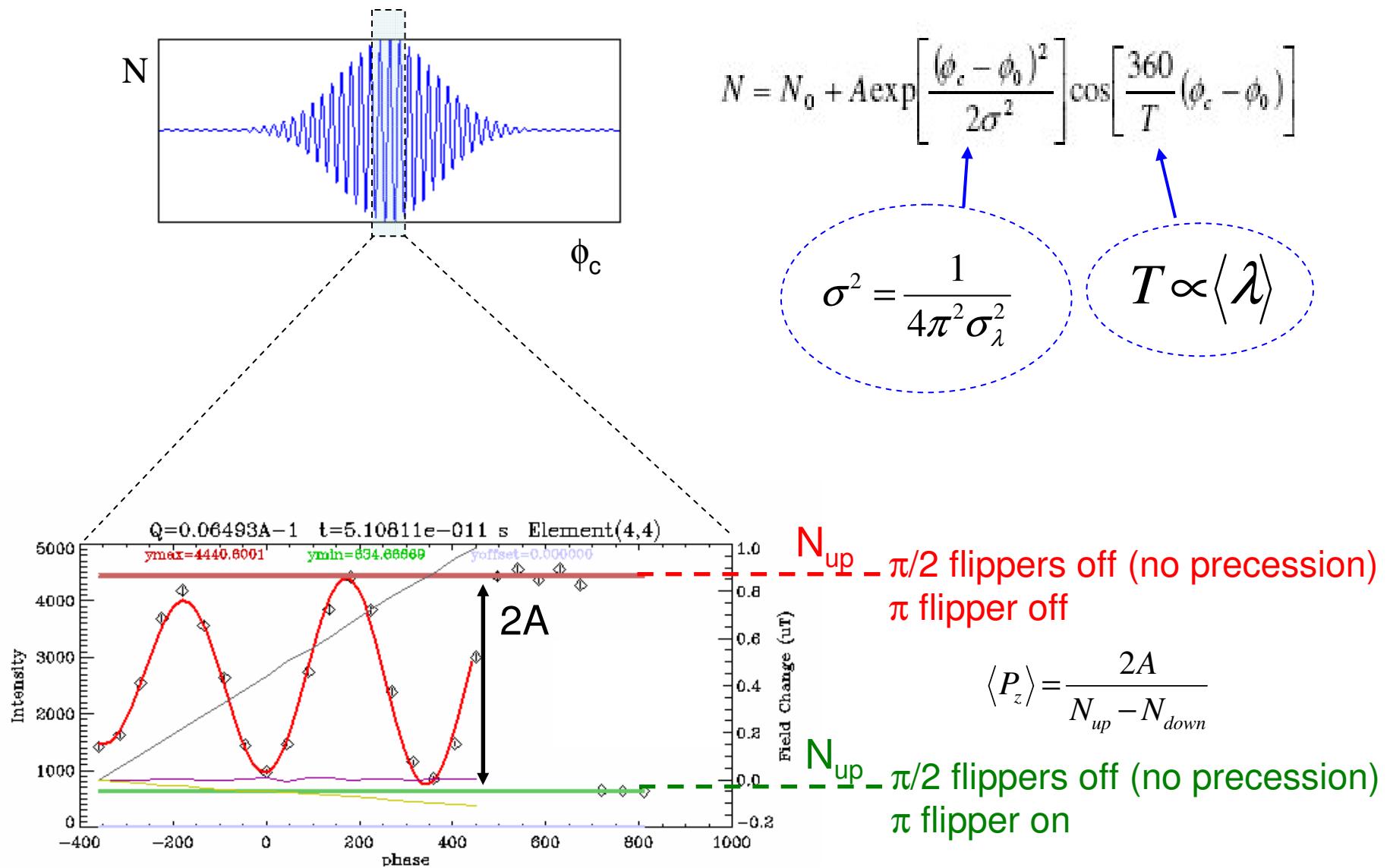
$$\int f(\lambda) \cos \left[\frac{\Delta\phi(\langle \lambda_1 \rangle) \lambda}{\langle \lambda_1 \rangle} \right] d\lambda \int S(Q, \omega) \cos \omega t_F d\omega = \int f(\lambda) I(Q, t_F) d\lambda$$

$$t_F = \frac{\phi_1(\langle \lambda_1 \rangle) m \lambda^3}{2\pi h \langle \lambda_1 \rangle} = \gamma_L \left(\frac{m}{h} \right)^2 \frac{\lambda^3}{2\pi} I_1$$

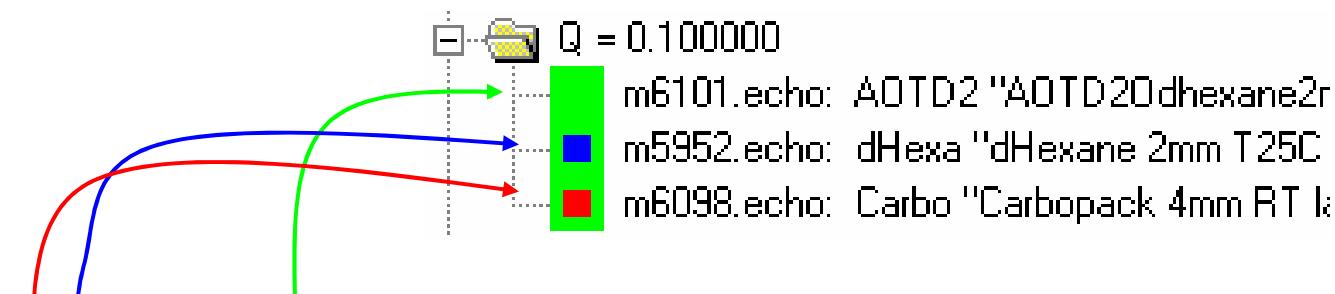
Fourier time

The diagram illustrates the derivation of the Fourier time t_F . It starts with the expression for the average polarization $\langle P_Z \rangle$, which is the product of the wavelength distribution $f(\lambda)$ and the scattering function $S(Q, \omega)$. The scattering function is further broken down into its components: longitudinal polarization at the analyzer, wavelength distribution, phase difference $\phi_2 - \phi_1$ for mean wavelength, and the scattering function itself. The first two components are grouped under a dashed orange oval labeled "Measure this". The last two components are grouped under a dashed blue oval labeled "Want this". The final result is the Fourier time t_F , which is the ratio of the phase difference component to the scattering function component.

Data Reduction: Fitting the Spin Echo



Data Reduction: Background, etc.



Sample in solution – signal, instrument inhomogeneities, attenuation -- (A, N)

Solvent (background) – instrument inhomogeneities, attenuation -- (A^{bgr} , N^{bgr})

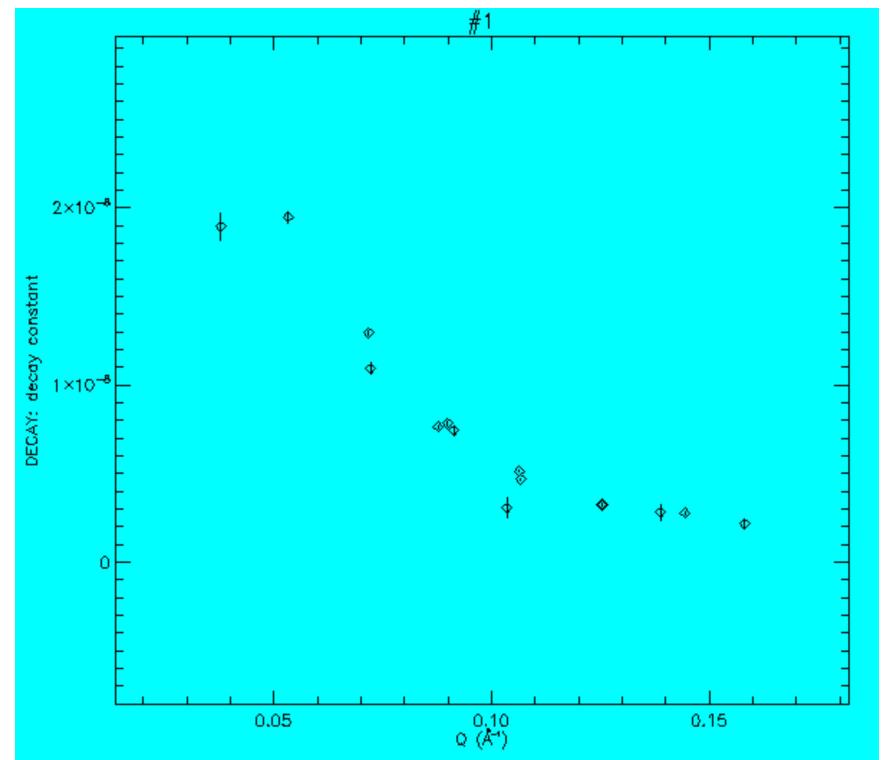
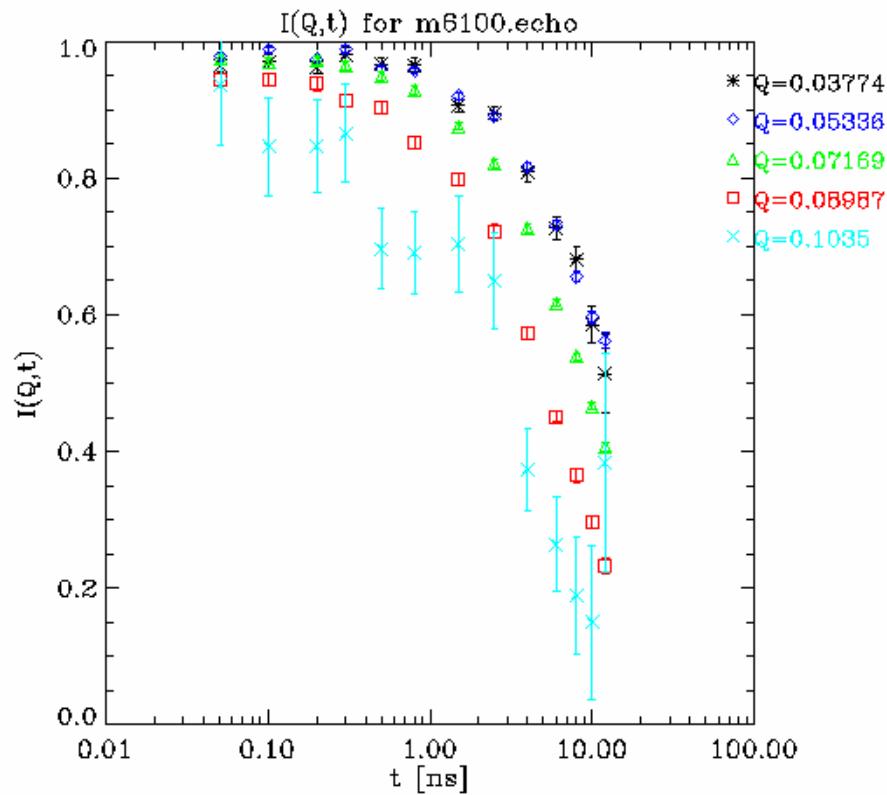
Elastic (dynamics-free) dummy sample -- graphite “carbopack” -- (A^E , N^E)

$$\frac{I(Q,t)}{I(Q,0)} = \left[\frac{2(A - TA^{bgr})}{(N_{up} - N_{down}) - T(1 - \phi_V)(N_{up}^{bgr} - N_{down}^{bgr})} \right] / \frac{2A^E}{N_{up}^E - N_{down}^E}$$

T = (sample transmission)/(background transmission) – measures relative contribution to coherent scattering

$(1 - \phi_V)$ = solvent volume fraction

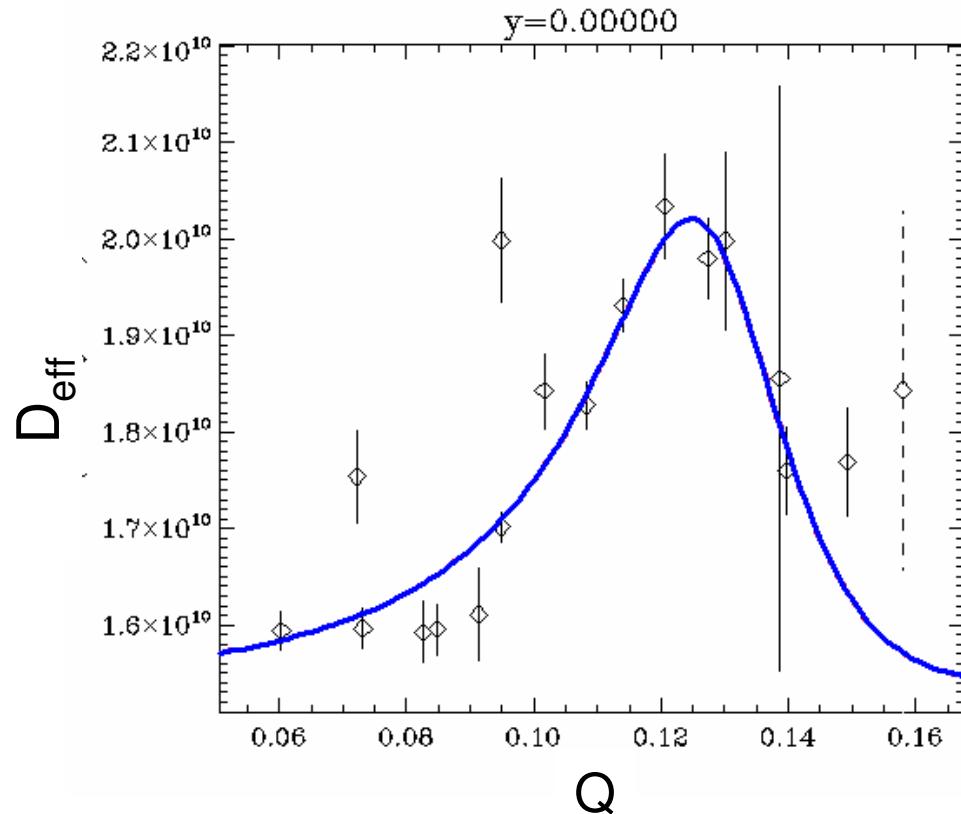
Results



$$\frac{I(Q,t)}{I(Q,0)} = \exp[-D_{eff}(Q)Q^2 t]$$

Decay Constant = $D_{eff}(Q)Q^2$

Results



D_{eff} can be decomposed into two types of motion

$$D_{\text{eff}}(Q) = D_{\text{tr}}(Q) + D_{\text{def}}(Q)$$

If there were only translational motion, then D_{eff} will be invariant

$$\lambda = 7.75 \times 10^7 \text{ 1/s}$$

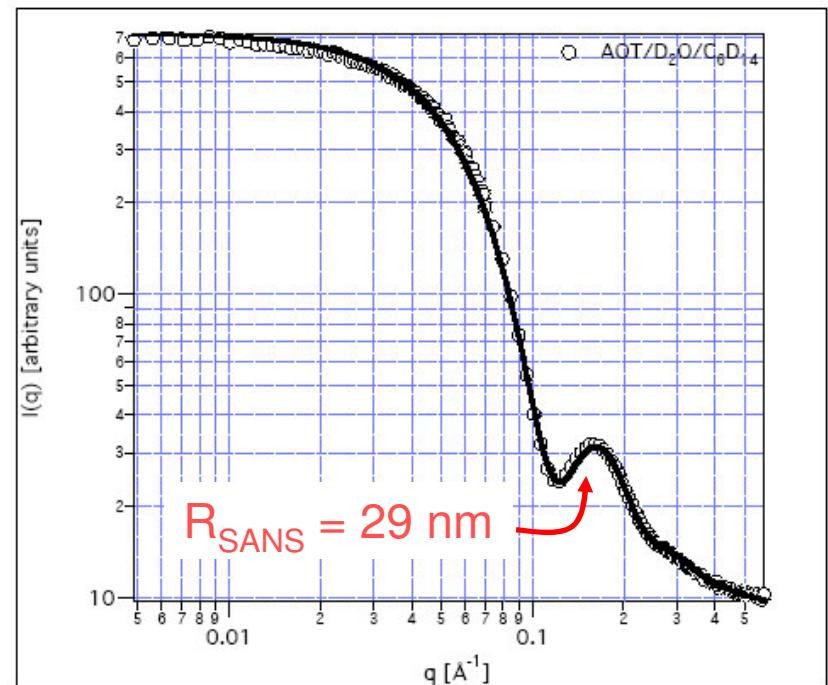
Radius = 24nm

$$D_{\text{def}}(Q) = \frac{5\lambda_2 f_2(QR_0) \langle |a_2|^2 \rangle}{Q^2 \{ 4\pi [j_0(QR_0)]^2 + 5f_2(QR_0) \langle |a_2|^2 \rangle \}}$$

Comparison with SANS Data

$$k = \frac{1}{48} \left[\frac{k_B T}{\pi p^2} + \lambda_2 \eta R_0^3 \frac{23\eta' + 32\eta}{3\eta} \right]$$

η (d-hexane)	0.31 cp	0.0031 Pa·s
η' (D ₂ O)	1.096 cp	0.001096 Pa·s
Polydispersity		0.188
λ	77470000	1/s
R_0		$2.46 \cdot 10^{-9}$ m
k_B		$1.38 \cdot 10^{-23}$ J/K
T		293 K



→ $k = 0.4 k_B T_{\text{room}}$

Conclusion/Acknowledgements

- NSE – unique tool for measuring coherent, high-resolution dynamics
- Nanometer & nanosecond dynamics in soft matter
- Thanks to
 - NCNR
 - NSF
 - DAVE Collaboration
(www.ncnr.nist.gov/dave/download.html)

