

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

The A-Team Collaboration

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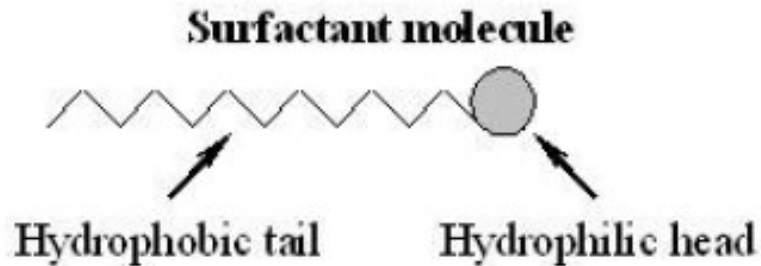
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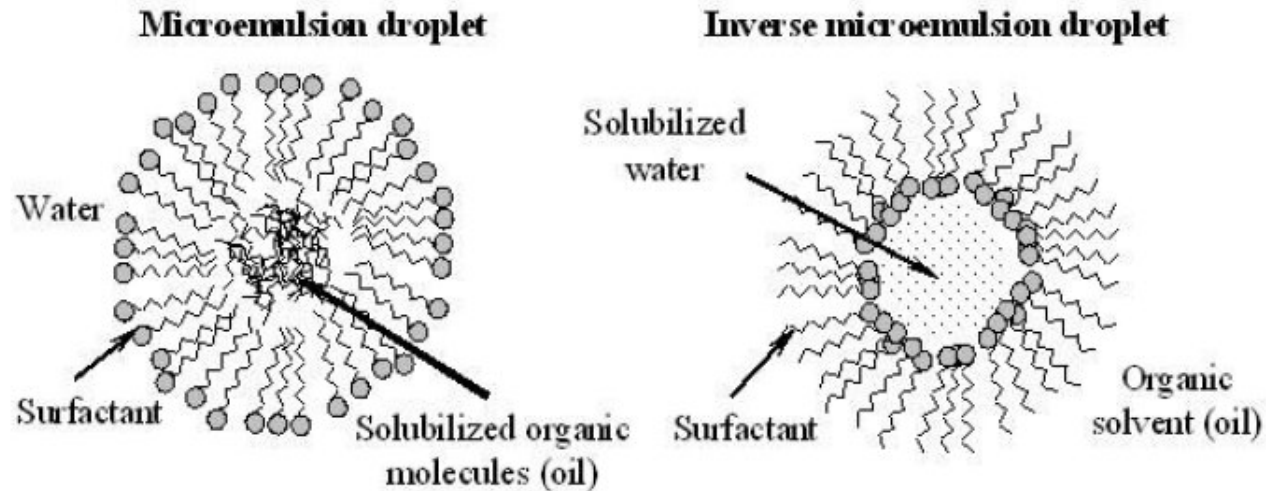
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Microemulsions

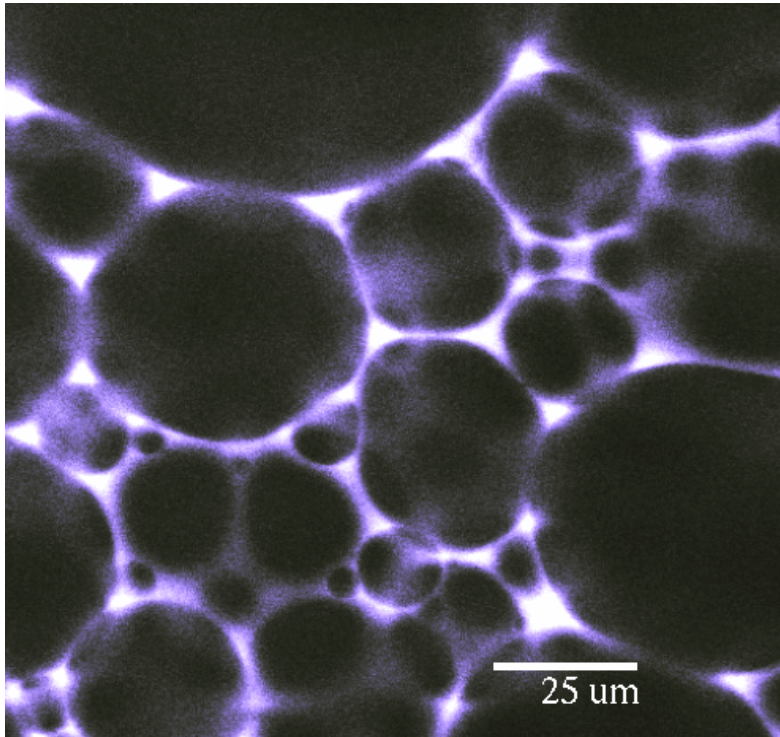


Surfactant:
AOT

Liquid phase:
Deuterated n-Hexane
Deuterated Water



Experiment

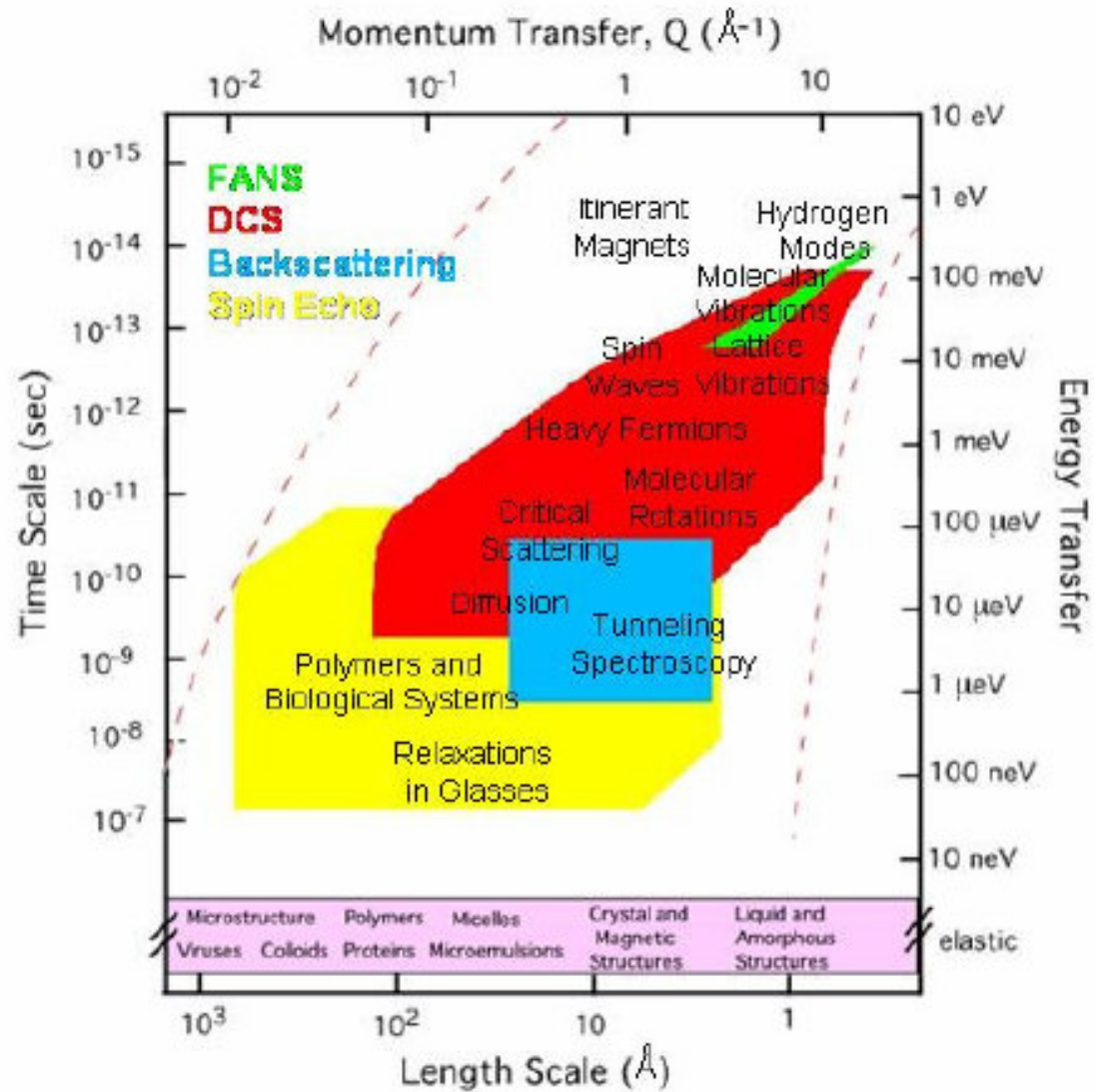


- Structure results from the minimization of the bending elastic energy.
- Surfactant film undergo deformations do to thermal fluctuations.

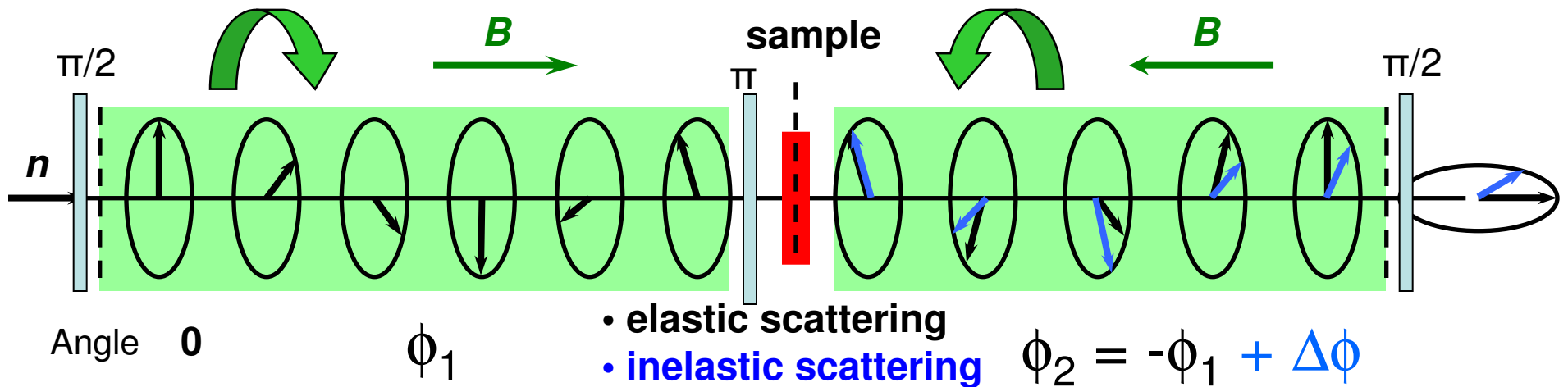
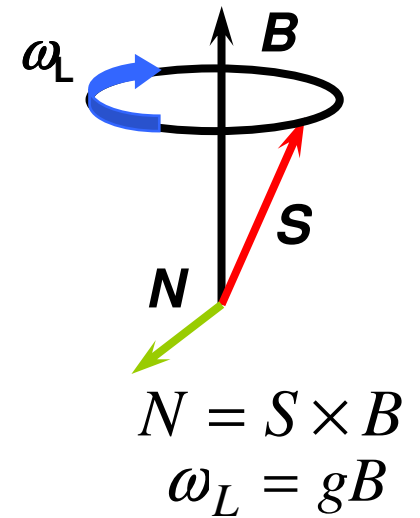
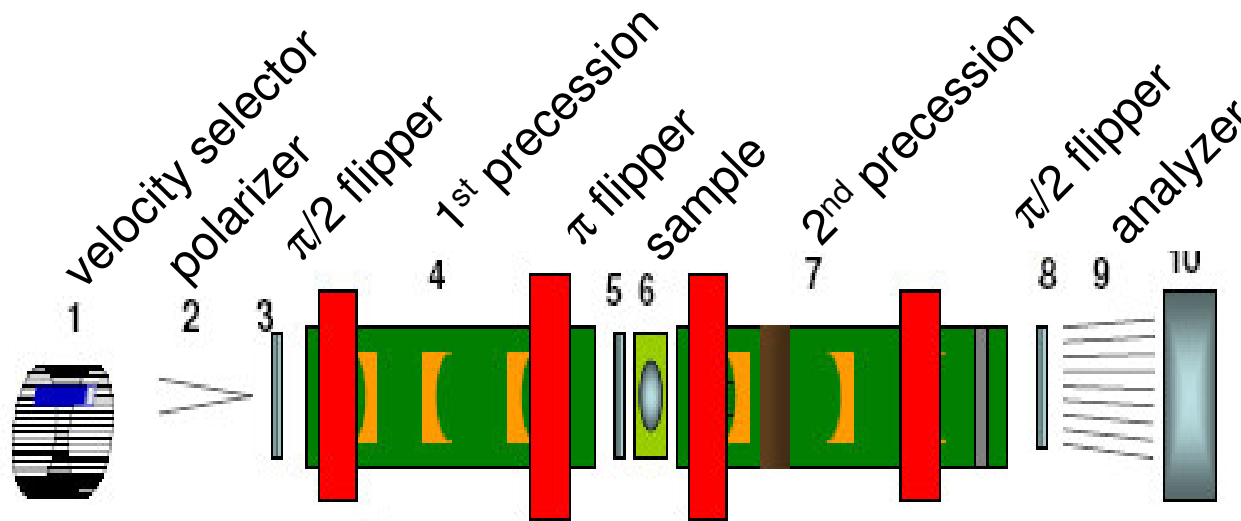
Length Scale of Fluctuations: nanometer scale

Time Scale of Fluctuations: nanosecond scale

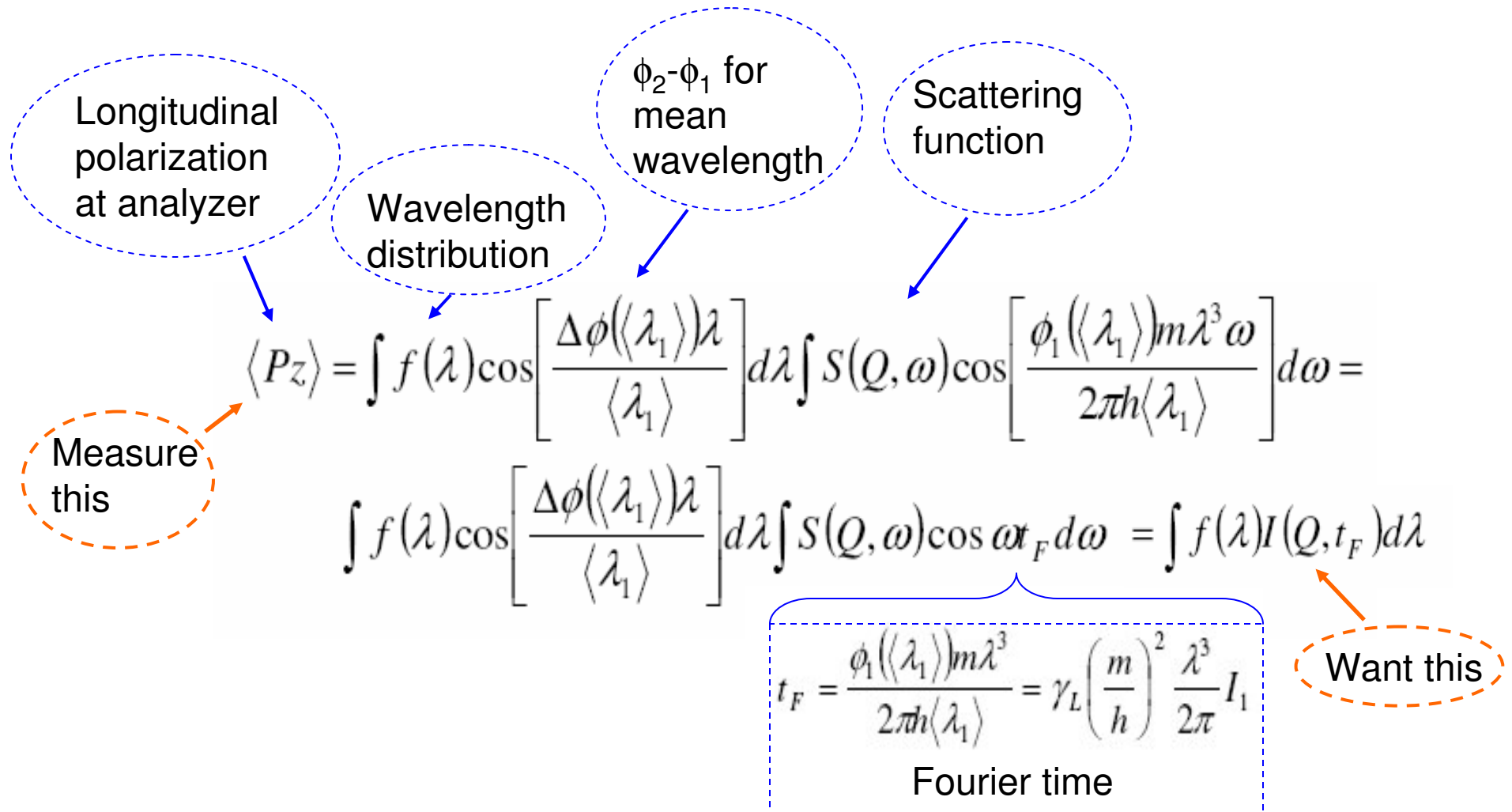
Method



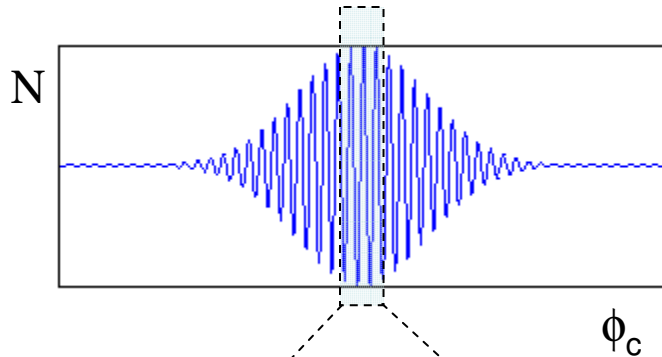
Neutron Spin-Echo Spectroscopy



Neutron Spin Echo: Polarization \leftrightarrow Velocity



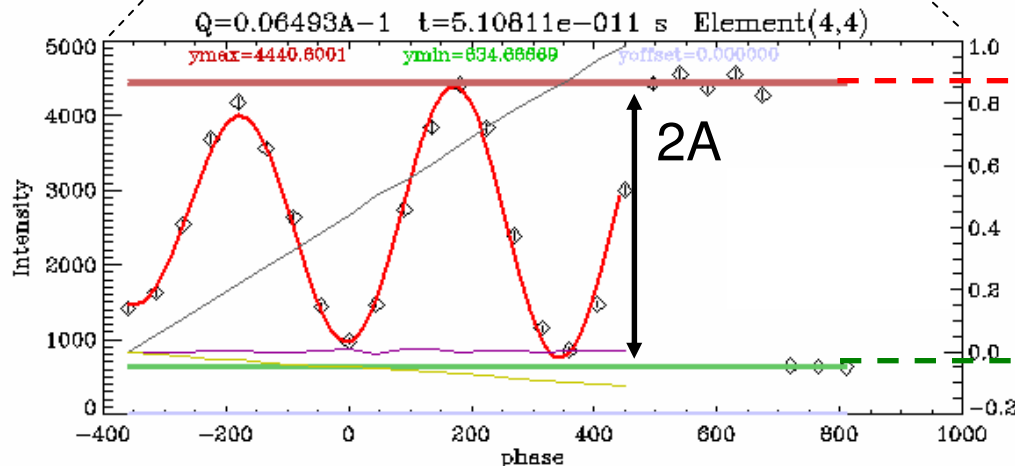
Data Reduction: Fitting the Spin Echo



$$N = N_0 + A \exp\left[\frac{(\phi_c - \phi_0)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right] \cos\left[\frac{360}{T}(\phi_c - \phi_0)\right]$$

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{4\pi^2 \sigma_\lambda^2}$$

$$T \propto \langle \lambda \rangle$$

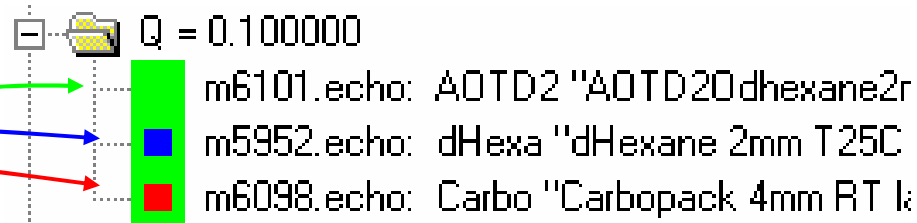


N_{up} - $\pi/2$ flippers off (no precession)
 π flipper off

$$\langle P_z \rangle = \frac{2A}{N_{up} - N_{down}}$$

N_{up} - $\pi/2$ flippers off (no precession)
 π flipper on

Data Reduction: Background, etc.



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

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

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

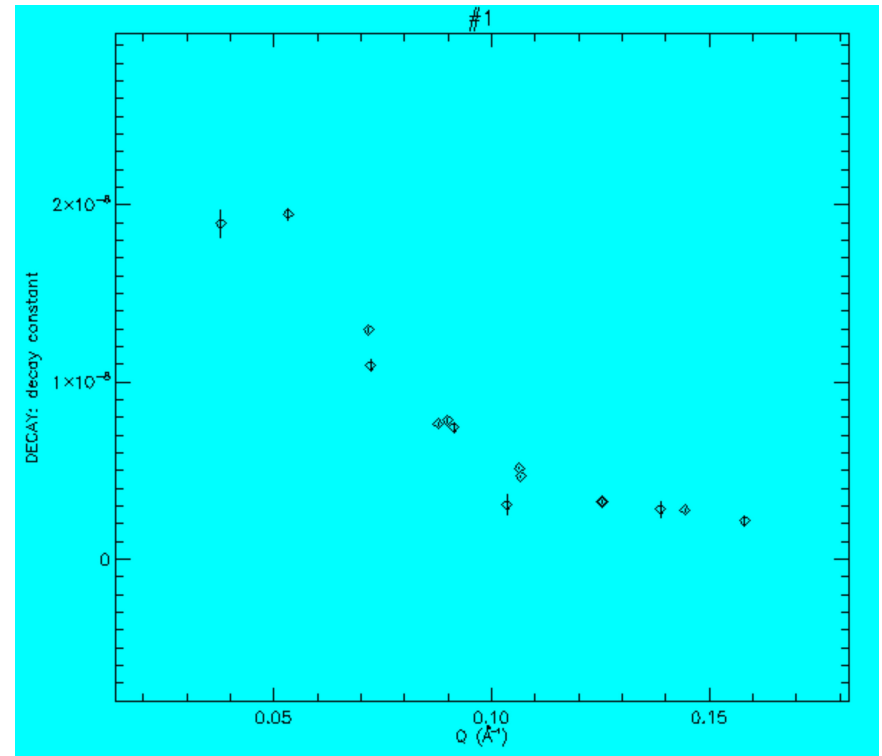
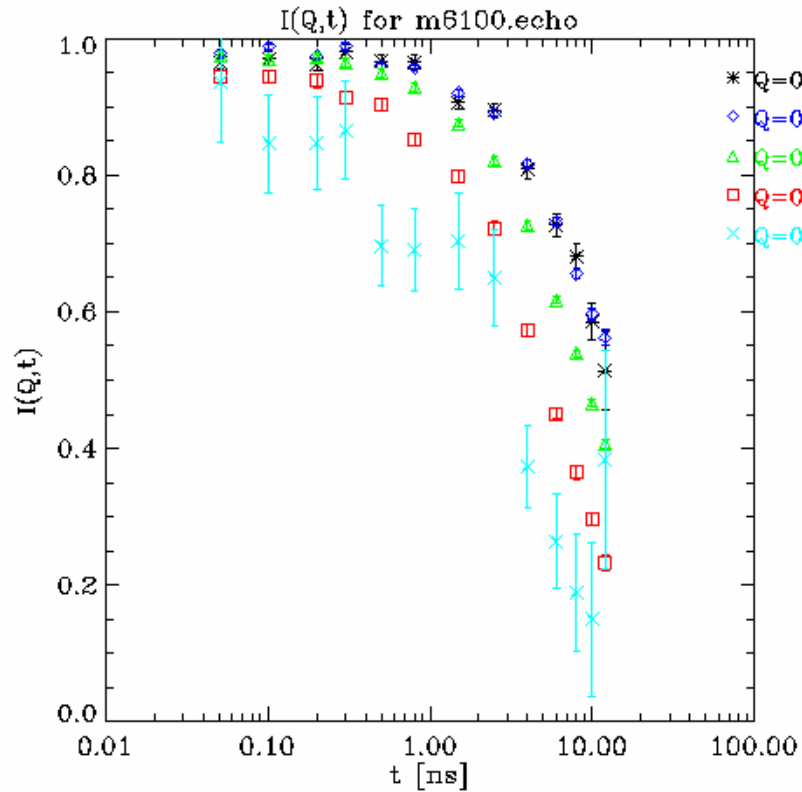
→

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

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

(1- ϕ_V) = solvent volume fraction

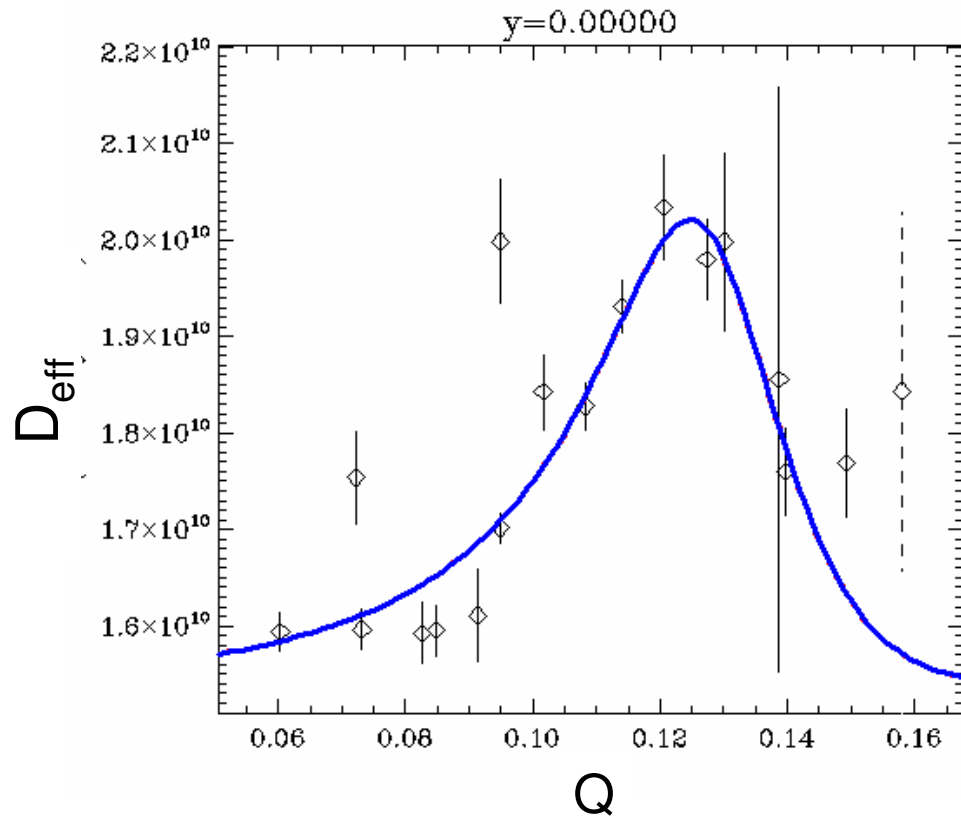
Results



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

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

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

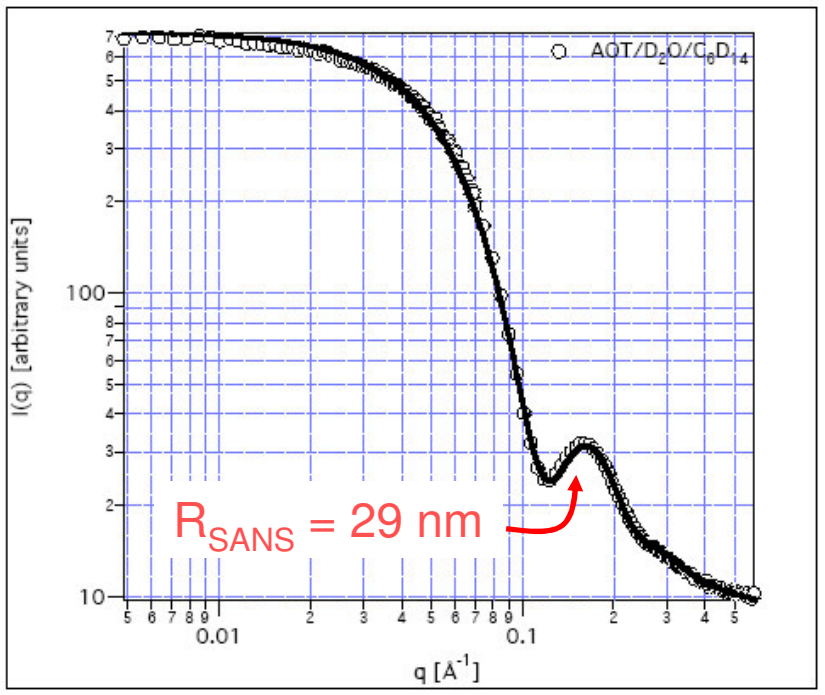
$$\text{Radius} = 24\text{nm}$$

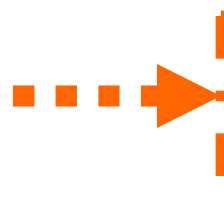
$$D_{\text{def}}(Q) = \frac{5\lambda_2 f_2(QR_0) \langle |a_2|^2 \rangle}{Q^2 \left\{ 4\pi [j_0(QR_0)]^2 + 5f_2(QR_0) \langle |a_2|^2 \rangle \right\}}$$

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' (D2O)	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)

