

# RELAXATION AND AGING DYNAMICS IN GLASSY SOFT MATTER

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Till Böhmer<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Florian Pabst<sup>2</sup>, Rolf Zeißler<sup>2</sup>, Thomas Blochowicz<sup>2</sup>, Tina Hacksher<sup>3</sup>,  
Jeppe Dyre<sup>3</sup>, Ranko Richert<sup>4</sup>, Marceau Hénot<sup>5</sup>

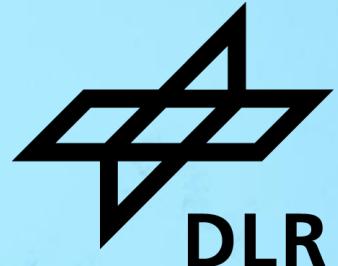
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<sup>3</sup> Glass and Time, IMFUFA, Department of Science and Environment, Roskilde University, 4000 Roskilde, Denmark

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# Structural Relaxation and Recovery: A Dielectric Approach

Ranko Richert,\* Jan P. Gabriel, and Erik Thoms

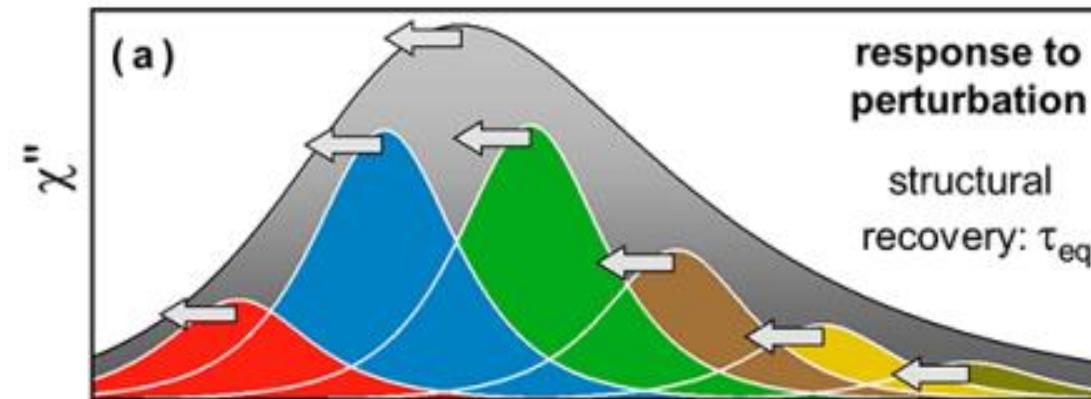


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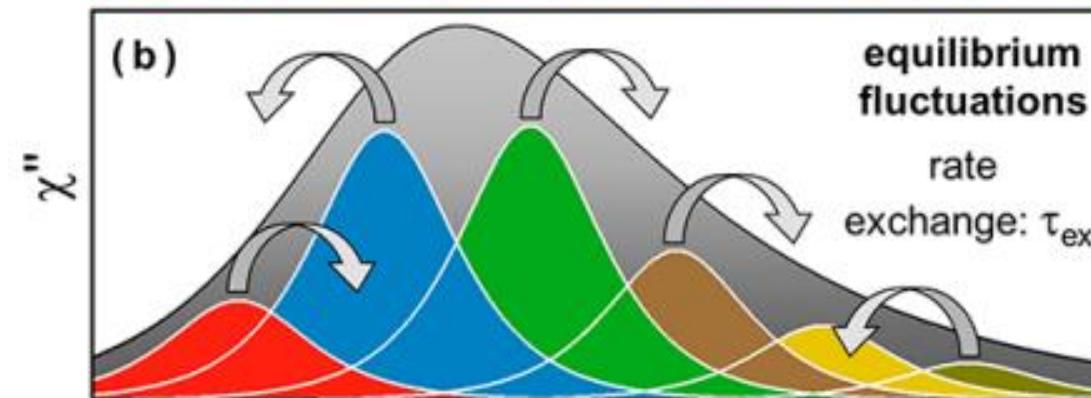


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physical aging



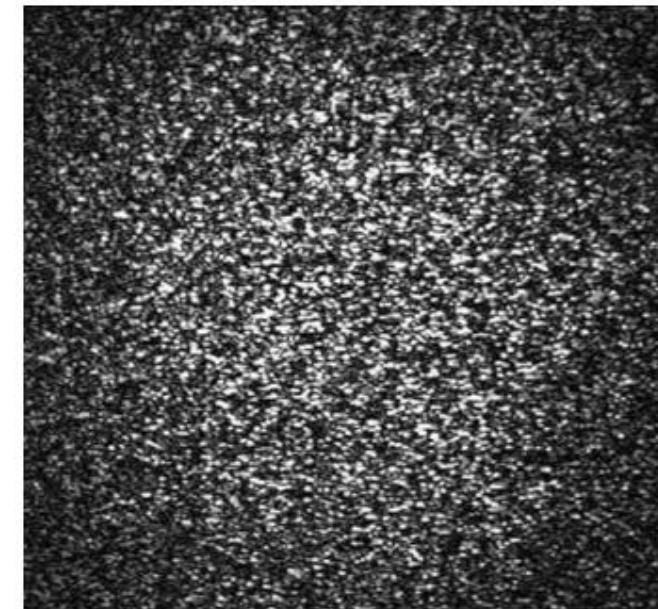
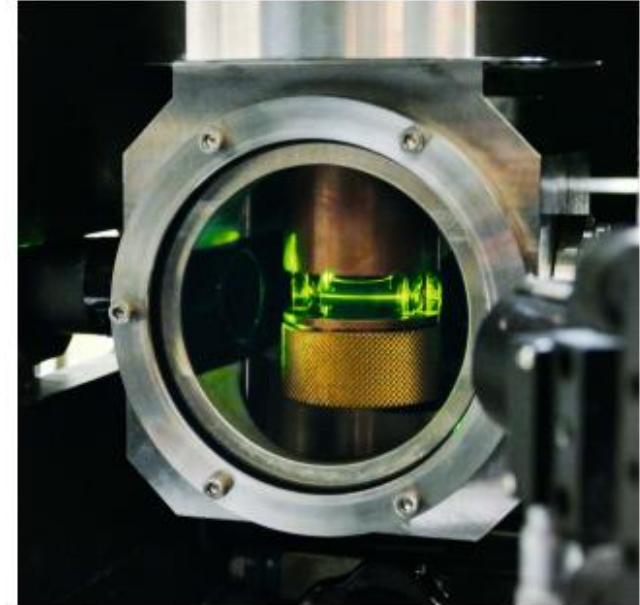
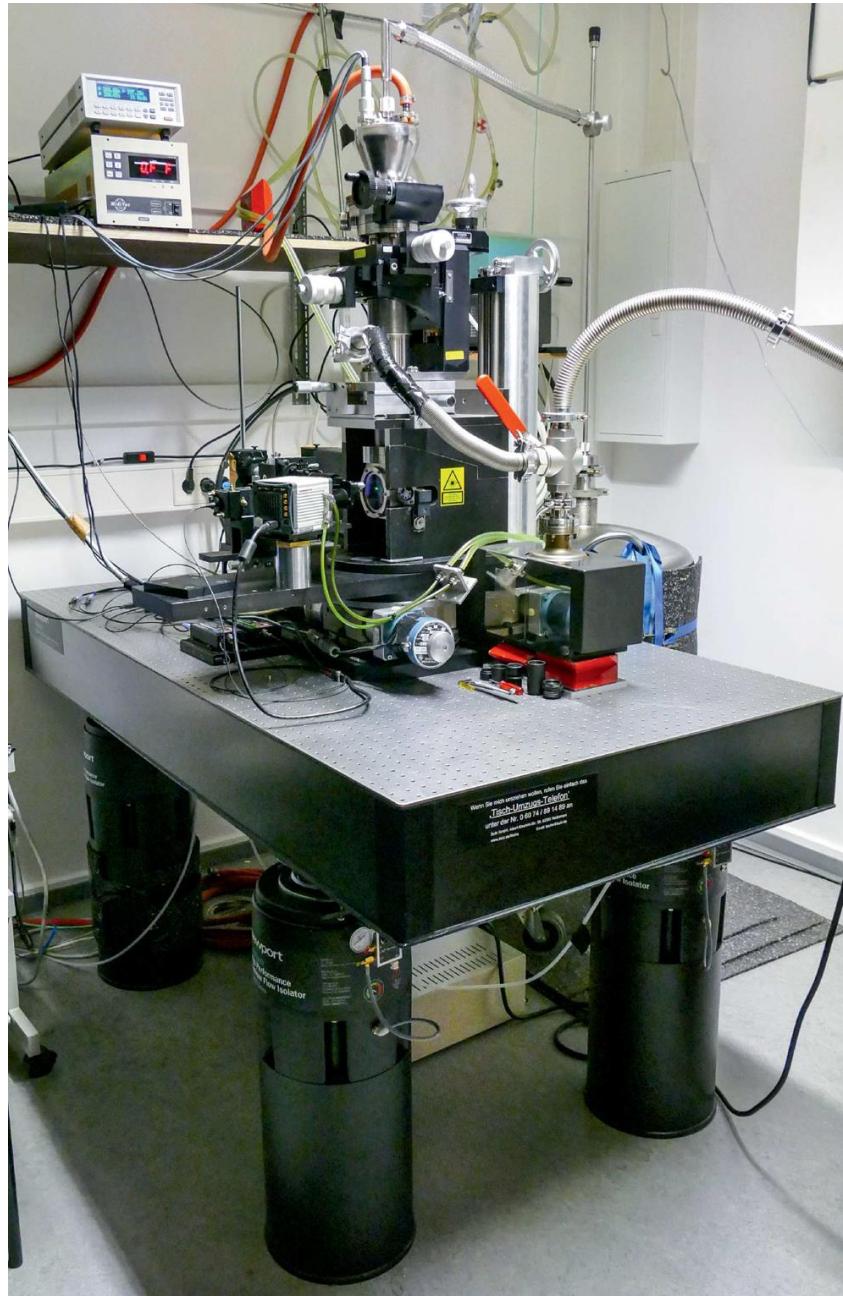
relaxation

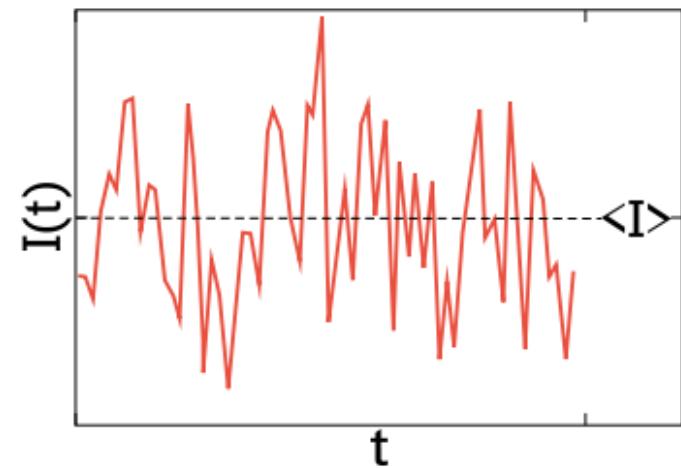


$\log \omega$

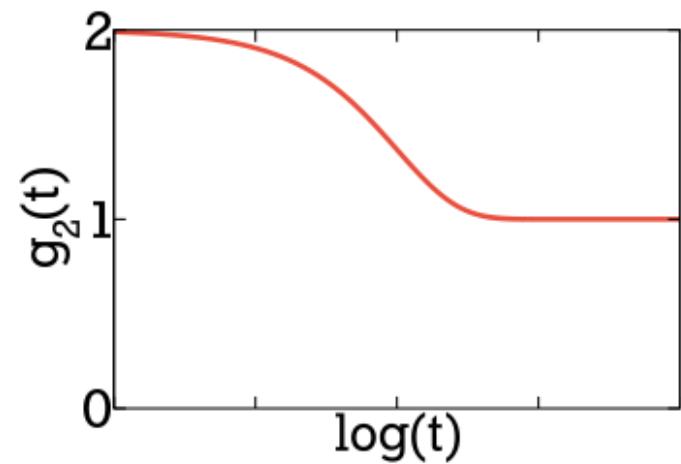
rotational dynamics

depolarised photon  
correlations  
spectroscopy (PCS)

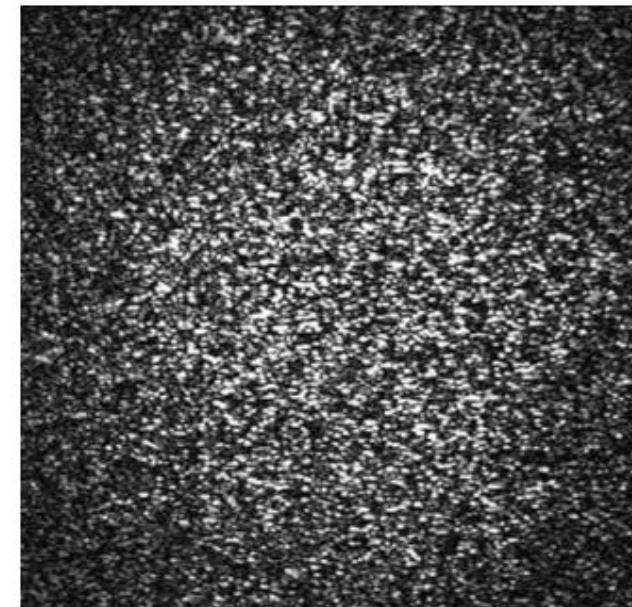
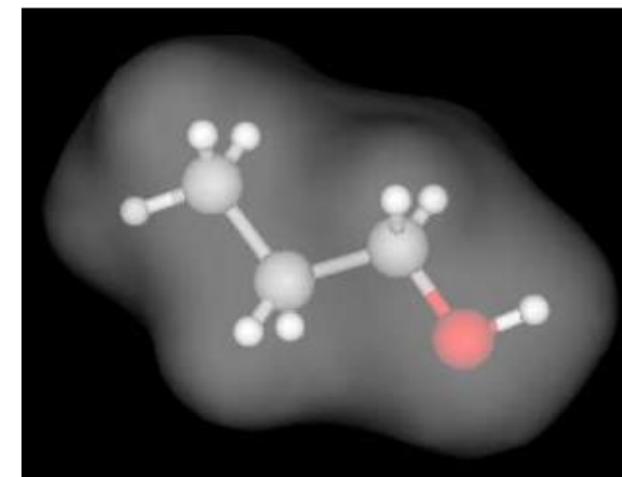


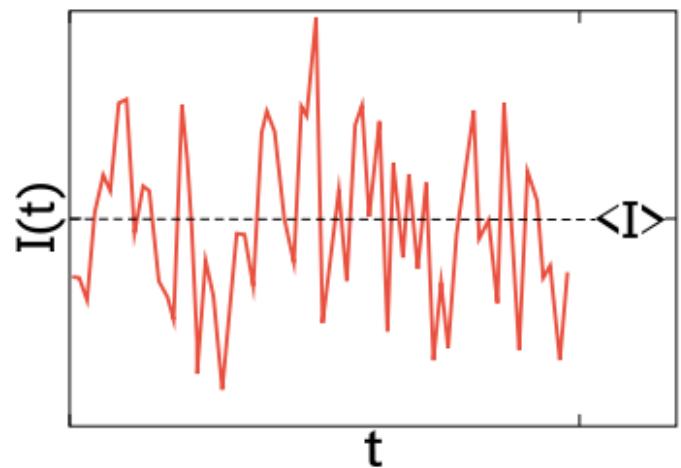


$$g_2(t) = \frac{\langle I(0)I(t) \rangle}{\langle I^2 \rangle}$$

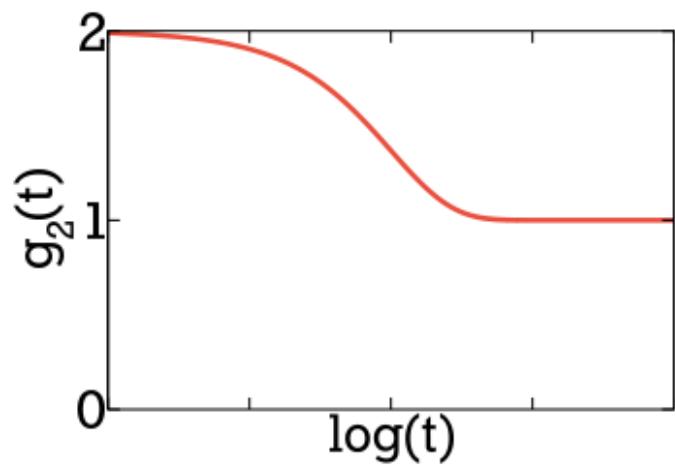


## optical anisotropy



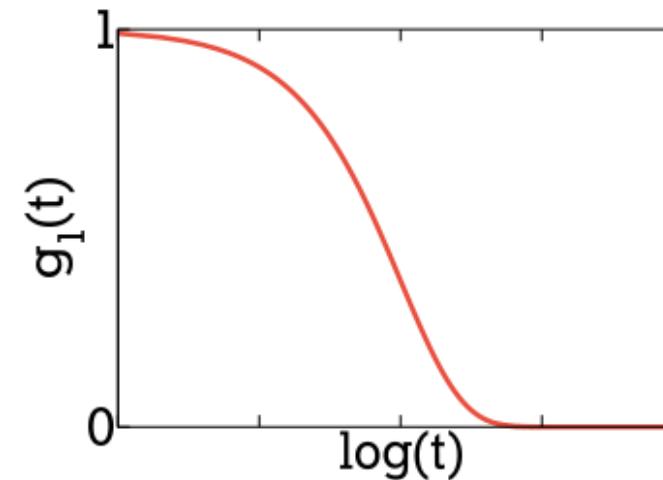


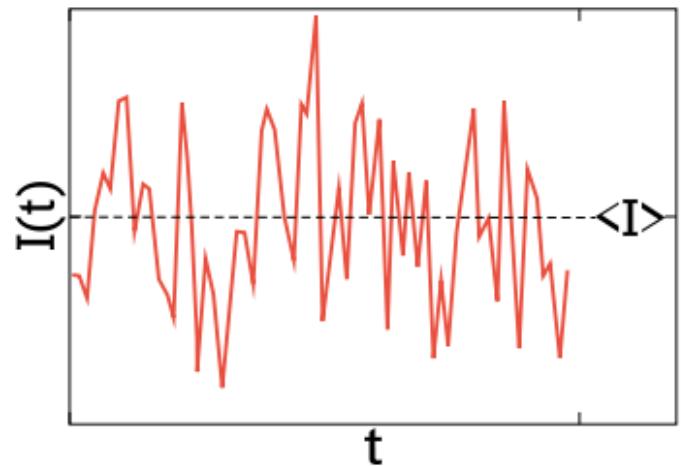
$$g_2(t) = \frac{\langle I(0)I(t) \rangle}{\langle I^2 \rangle}$$



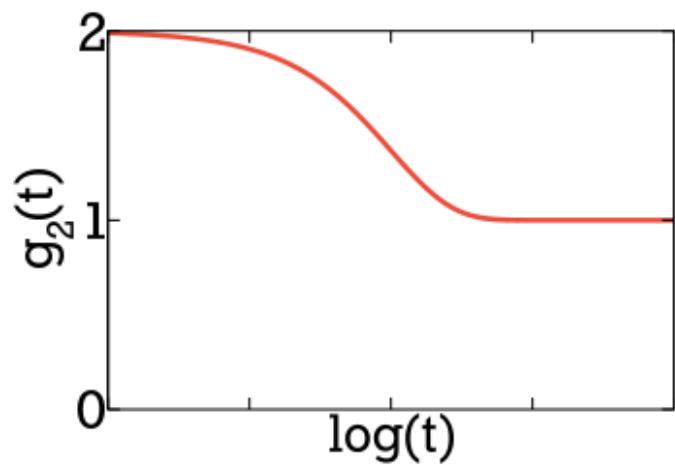
$$g_2(t) = 1 + |g_1(t)|^2$$

$$g_1(t) = \phi_2^{\text{PCS}} \propto \langle P_2(\cos(\theta)) \rangle$$



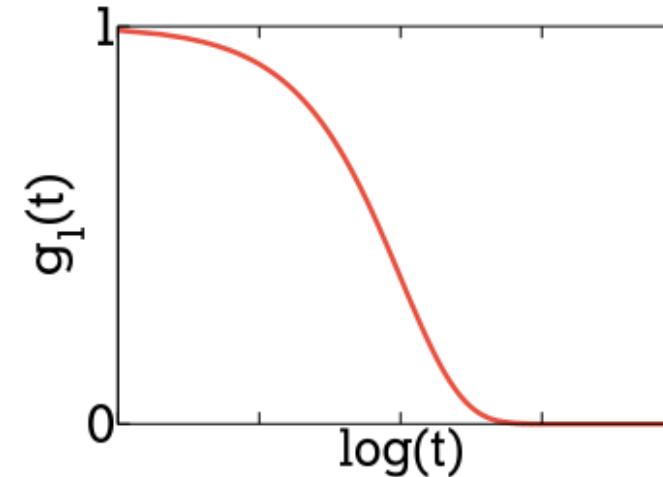


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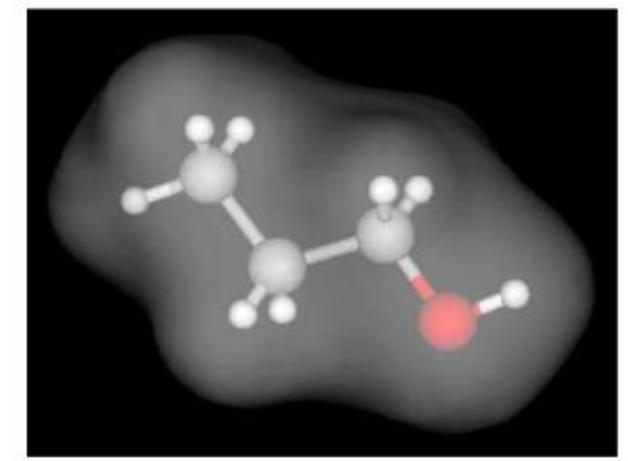
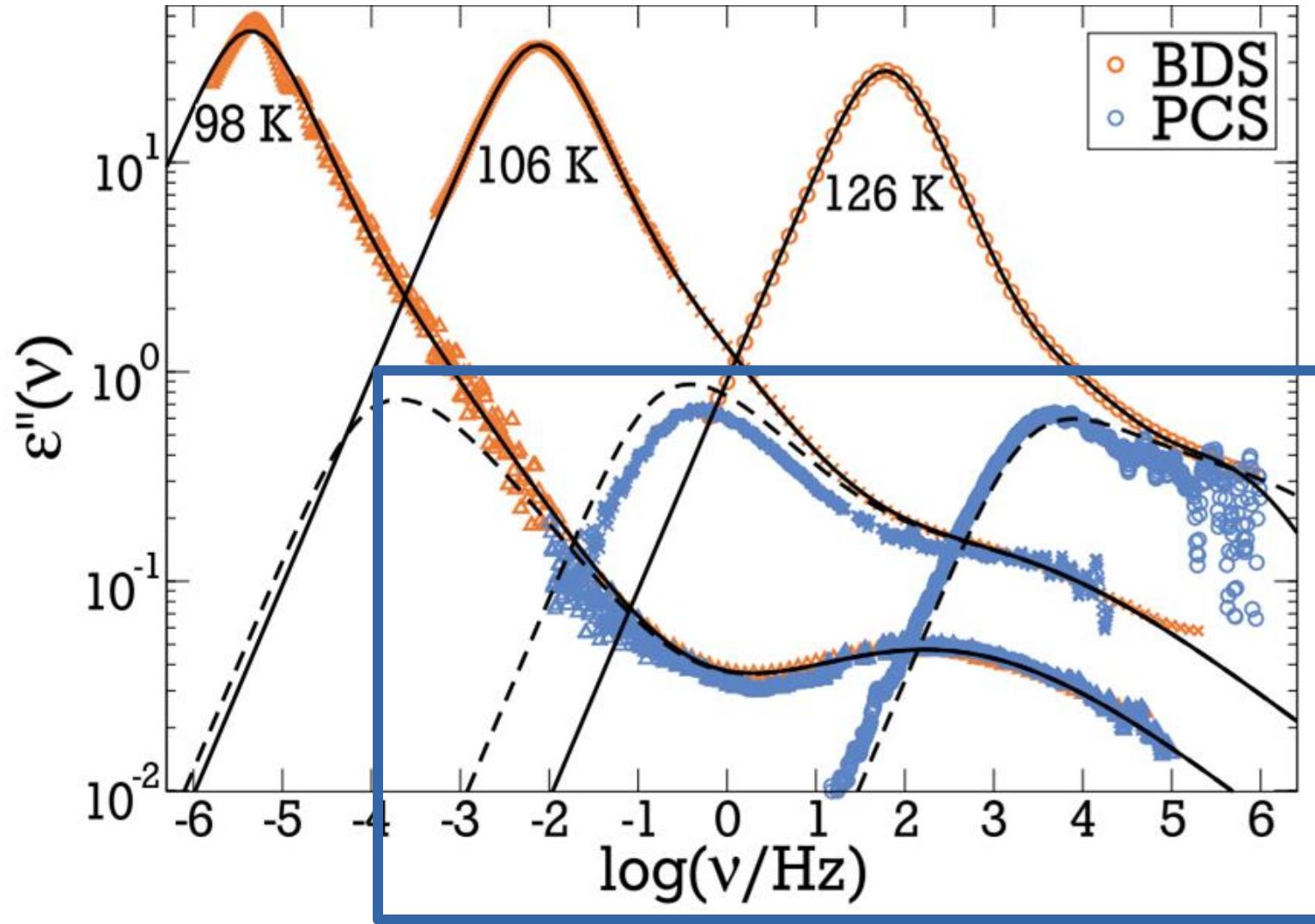


## Fourier transform

$$\hat{S}(\omega) = \int_0^\infty \Phi(t) e^{-i\omega t} dt$$

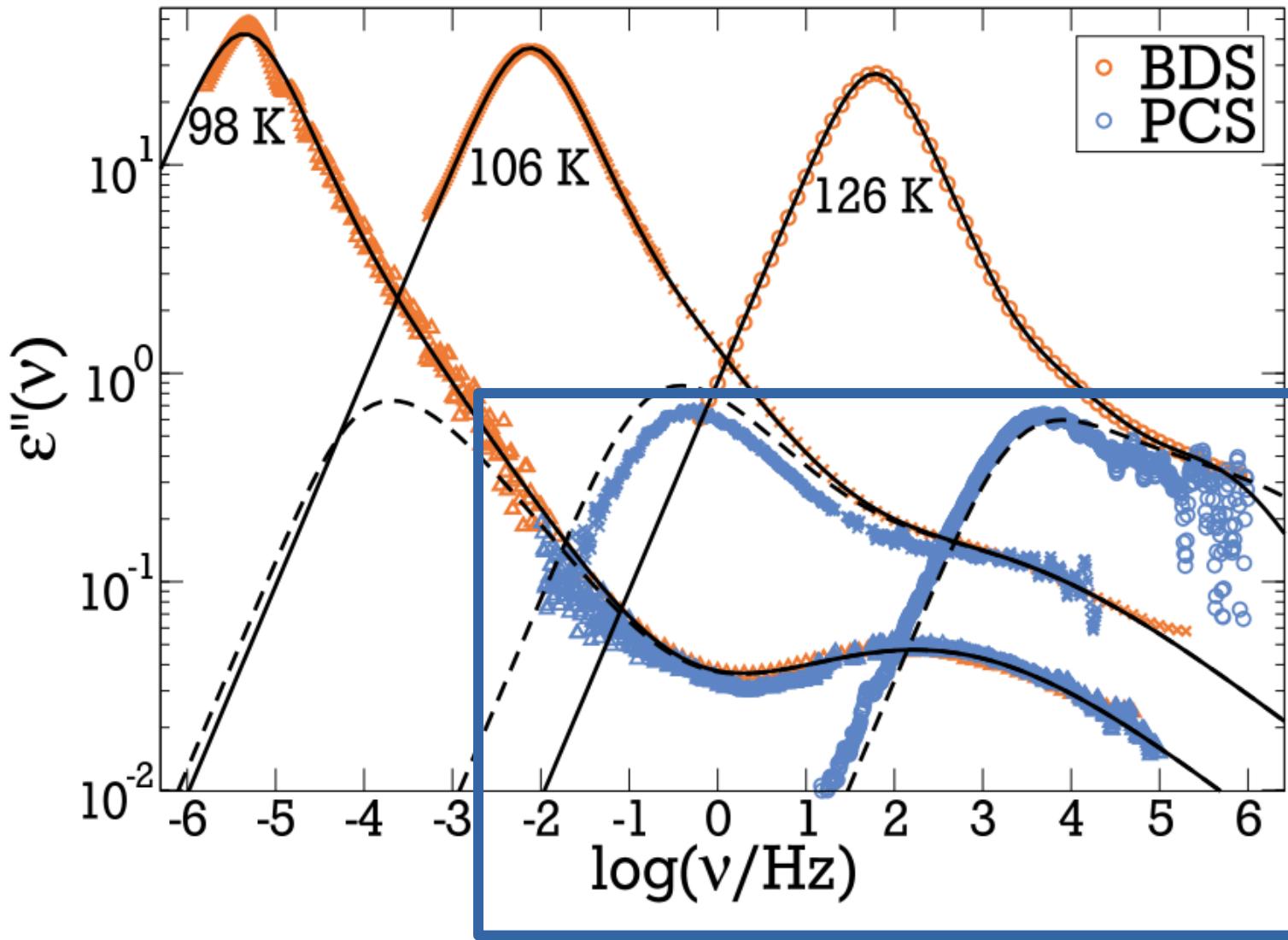
$$\Im(\omega \hat{S}(\omega)) \circ \underline{Im}(\omega) \propto \epsilon''(\omega)$$

# dipole moment vs. optical anisotropy tensor



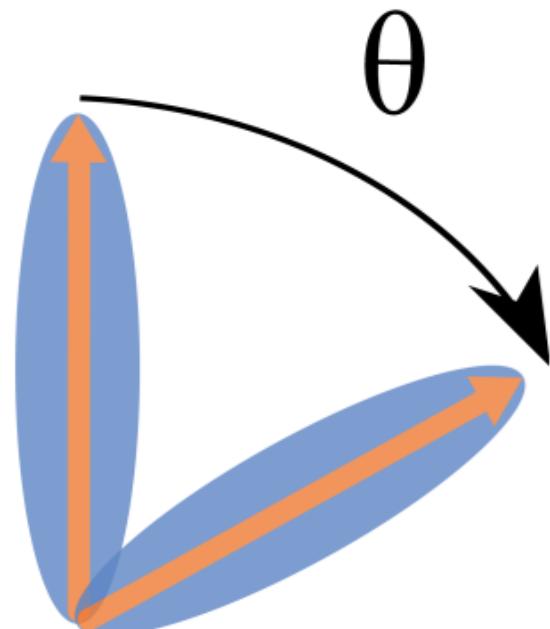
$$\phi_2^{\text{PCS}} \propto \langle P_2(\cos(\theta)) \rangle$$

# dipole moment vs. optical anisotropy tensor

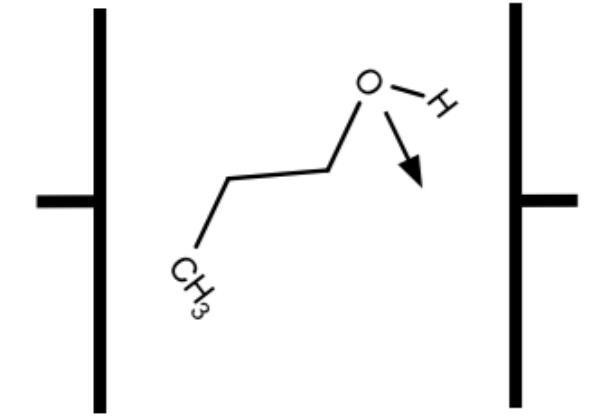
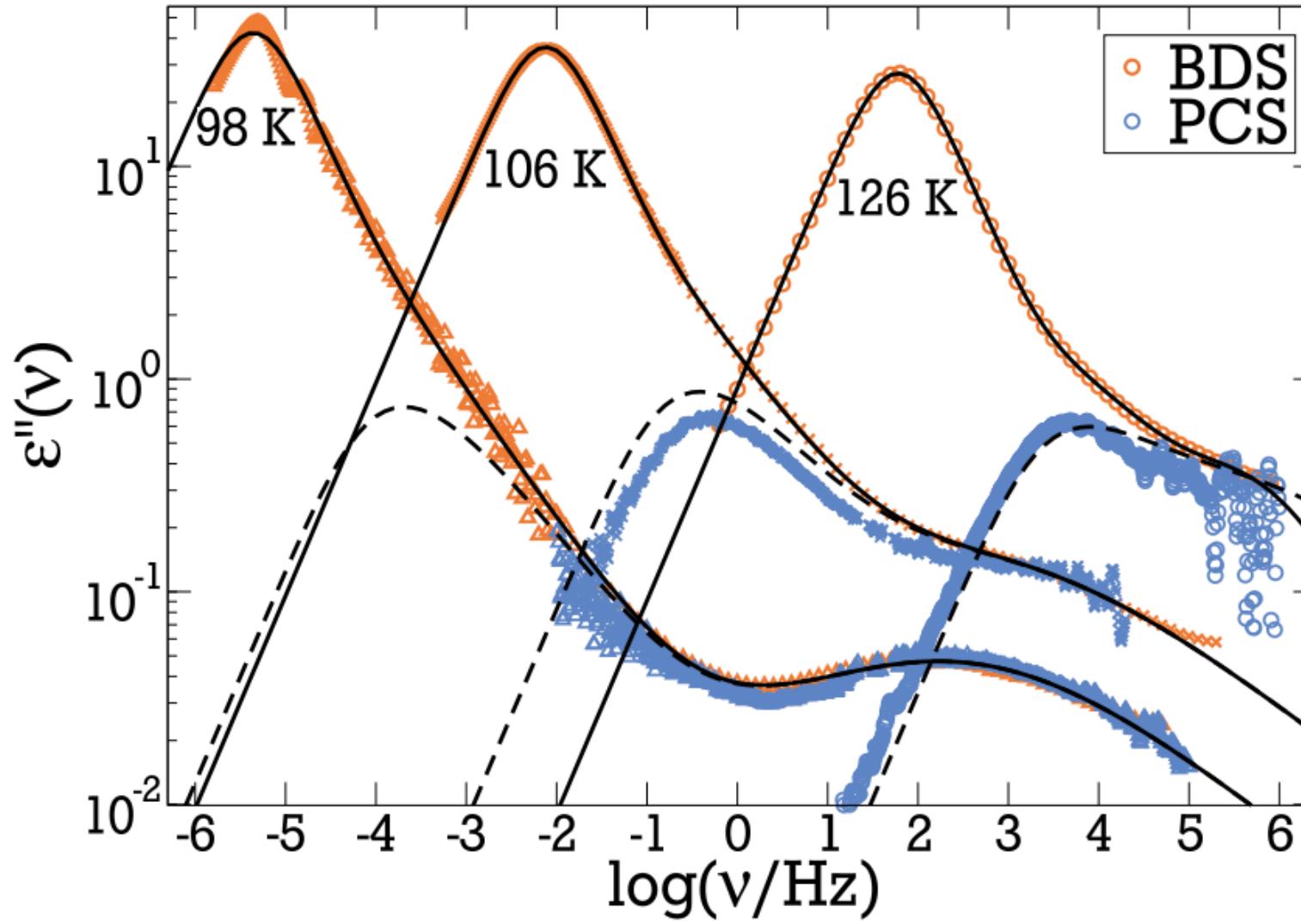


**large angle jump**

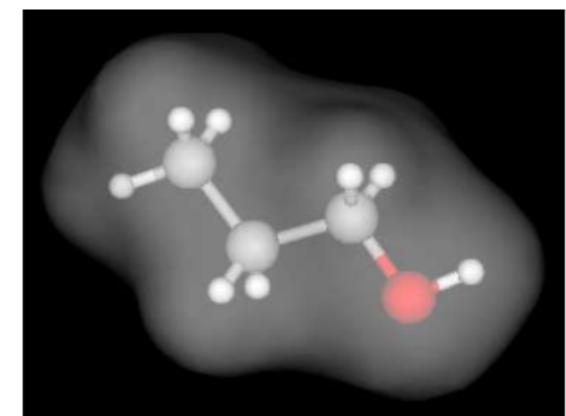
$$\phi_2^{\text{PCS}} = \phi_1^{\text{BDS}}$$



# dipole moment vs. optical anisotropy tensor broadband dielectric spectroscopy (BDS) and PCS

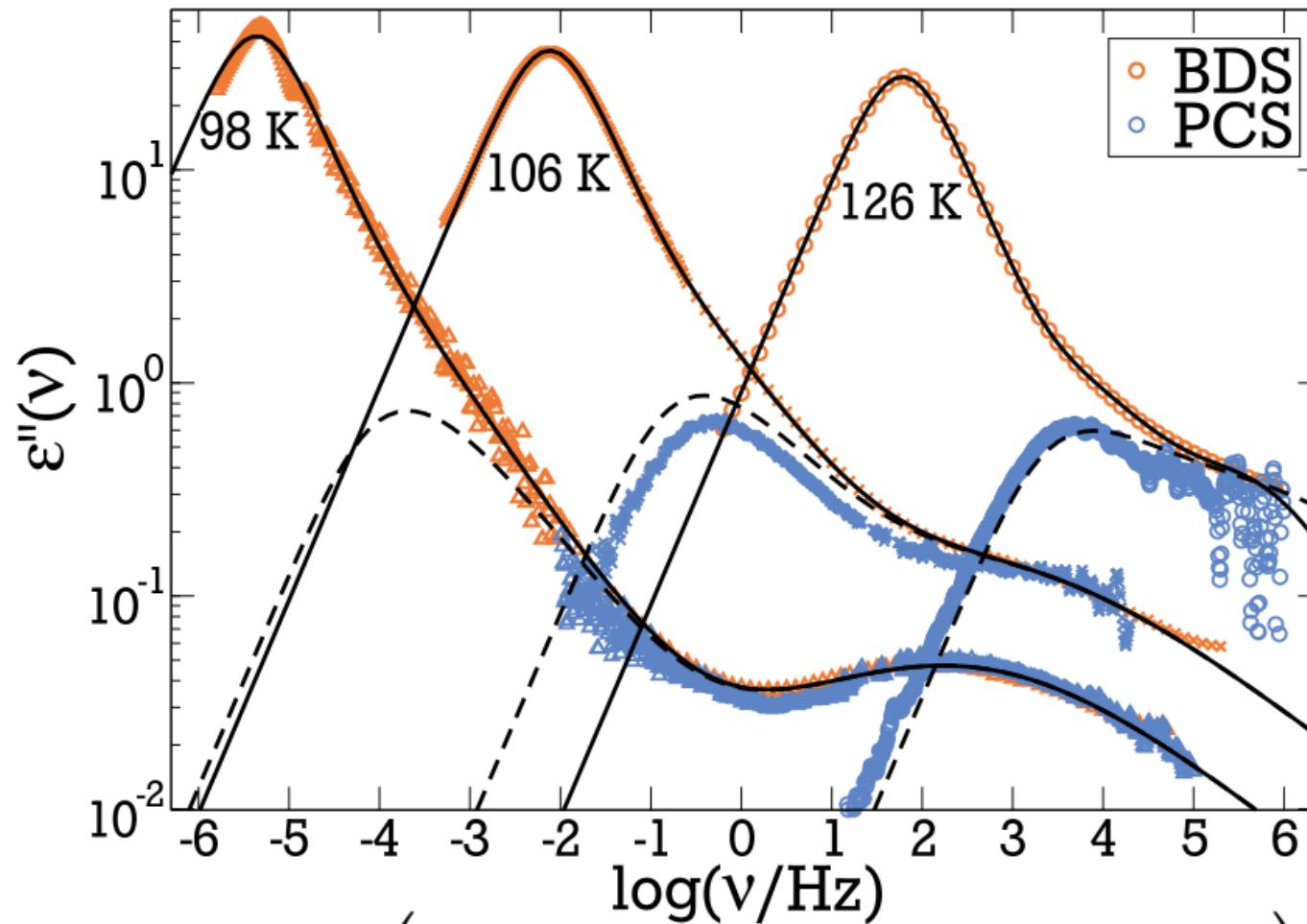


$$\phi_1^{\text{BDS}} \propto \langle P_1(\cos(\theta)) \rangle$$

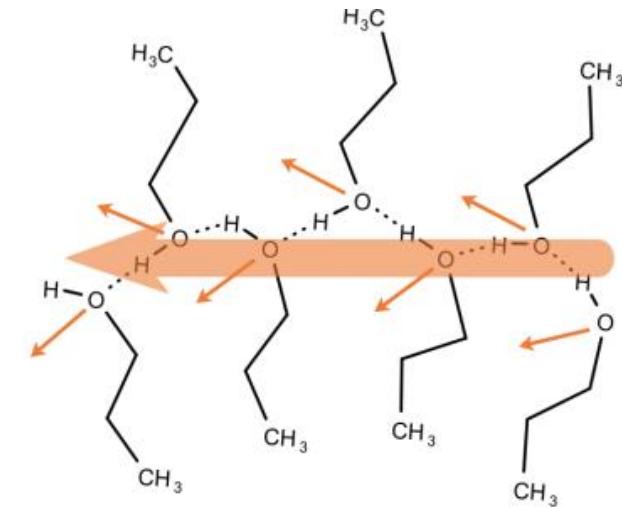


$$\phi_2^{\text{PCS}} \propto \langle P_2(\cos(\theta)) \rangle$$

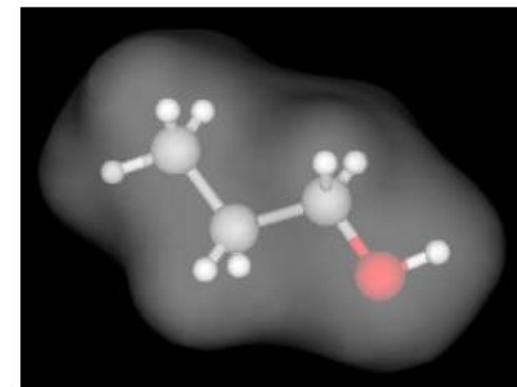
# cross-correlations between dipoles and anisotropy tensor



$$\Phi_{\text{mik}} = \frac{1}{g_K \mu^2} \left( \left\langle \vec{\mu}_i(0) \cdot \vec{\mu}_i(t) \right\rangle + \left\langle \vec{\mu}_i(0) \cdot \sum_{i \neq j} \vec{\mu}_j(t) \right\rangle \right)$$

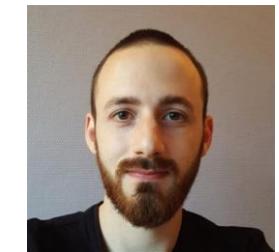
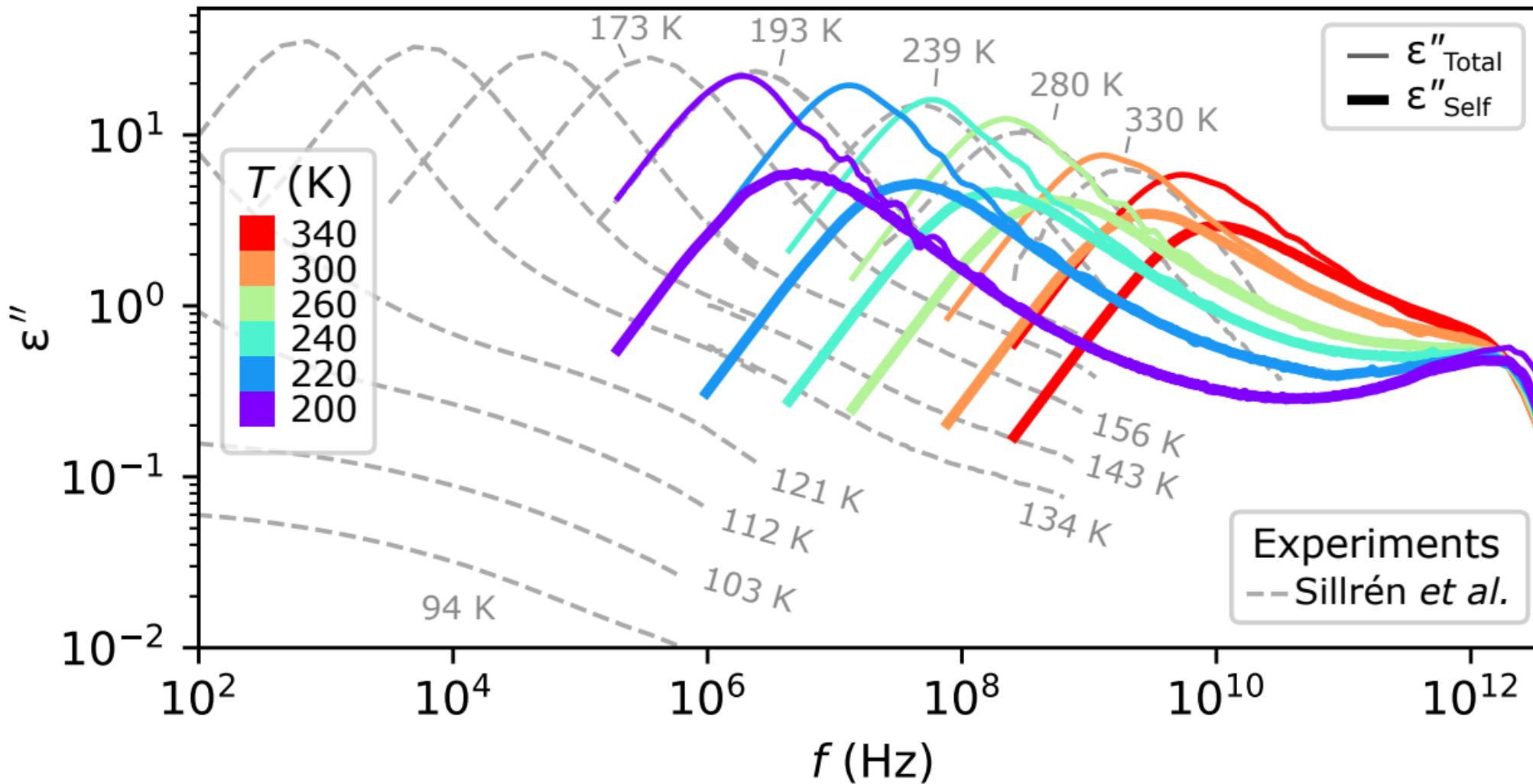


$$g_K^{\text{BDS}} = 1 + \langle P_1(\cos(\theta_{ij})) \rangle$$



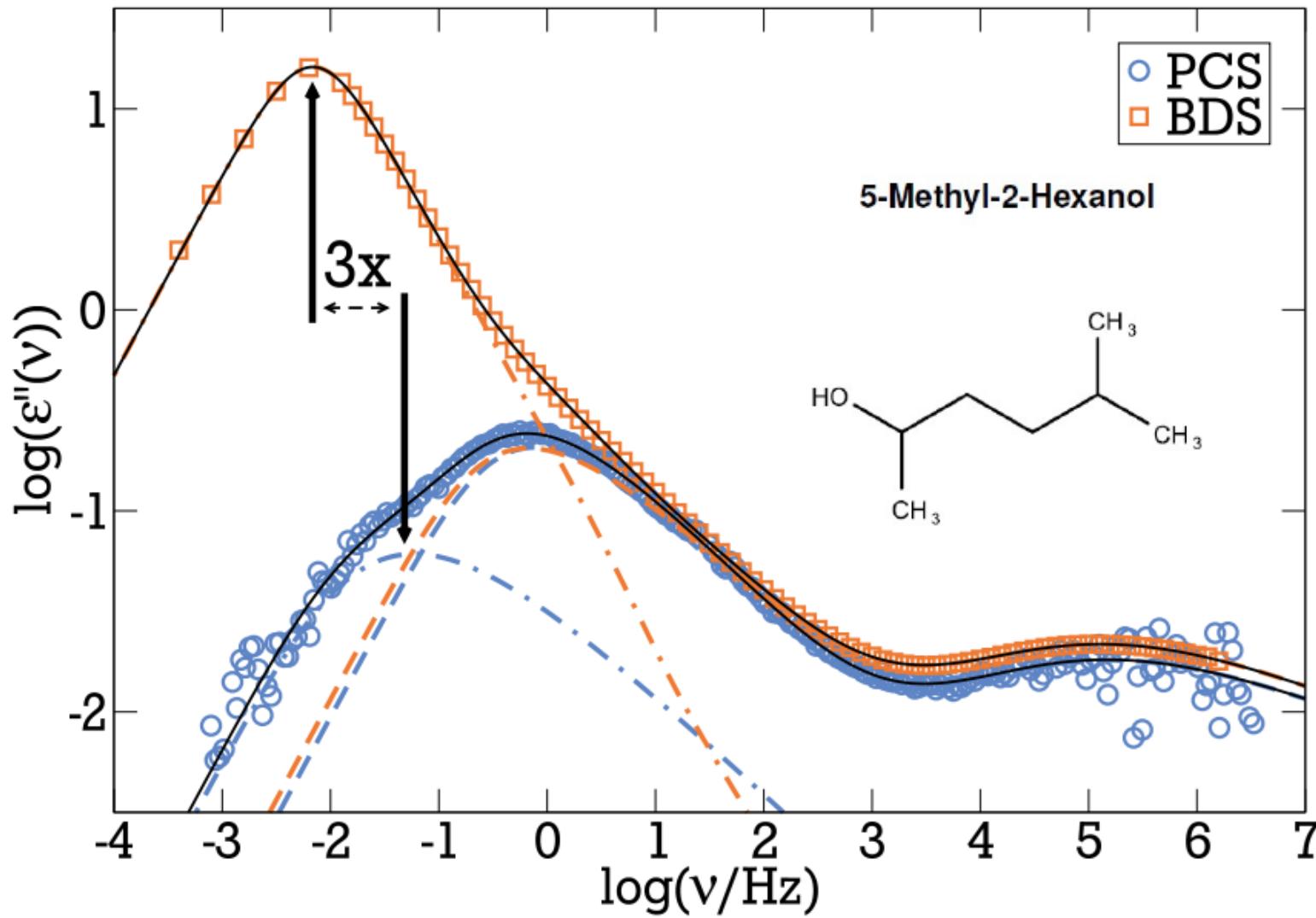
$$g_K^{\text{PCS}} \approx 1$$

# Propanol simulations by Marceau Hénot



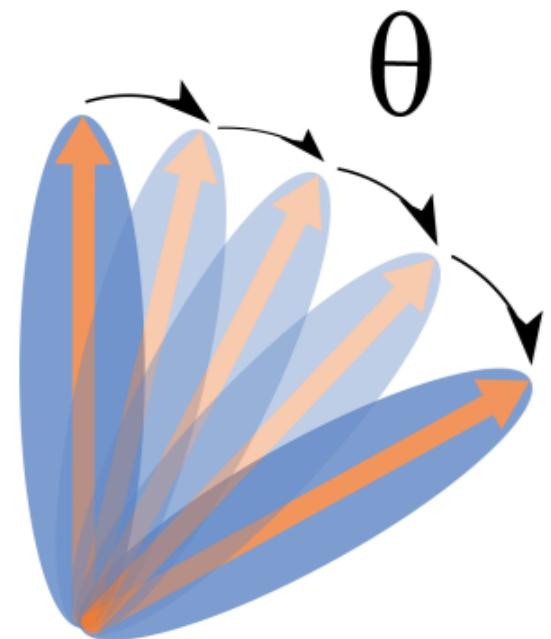
Marceau Hénot

# 5-methyl-2-hexanol anisotropic alpha relaxation

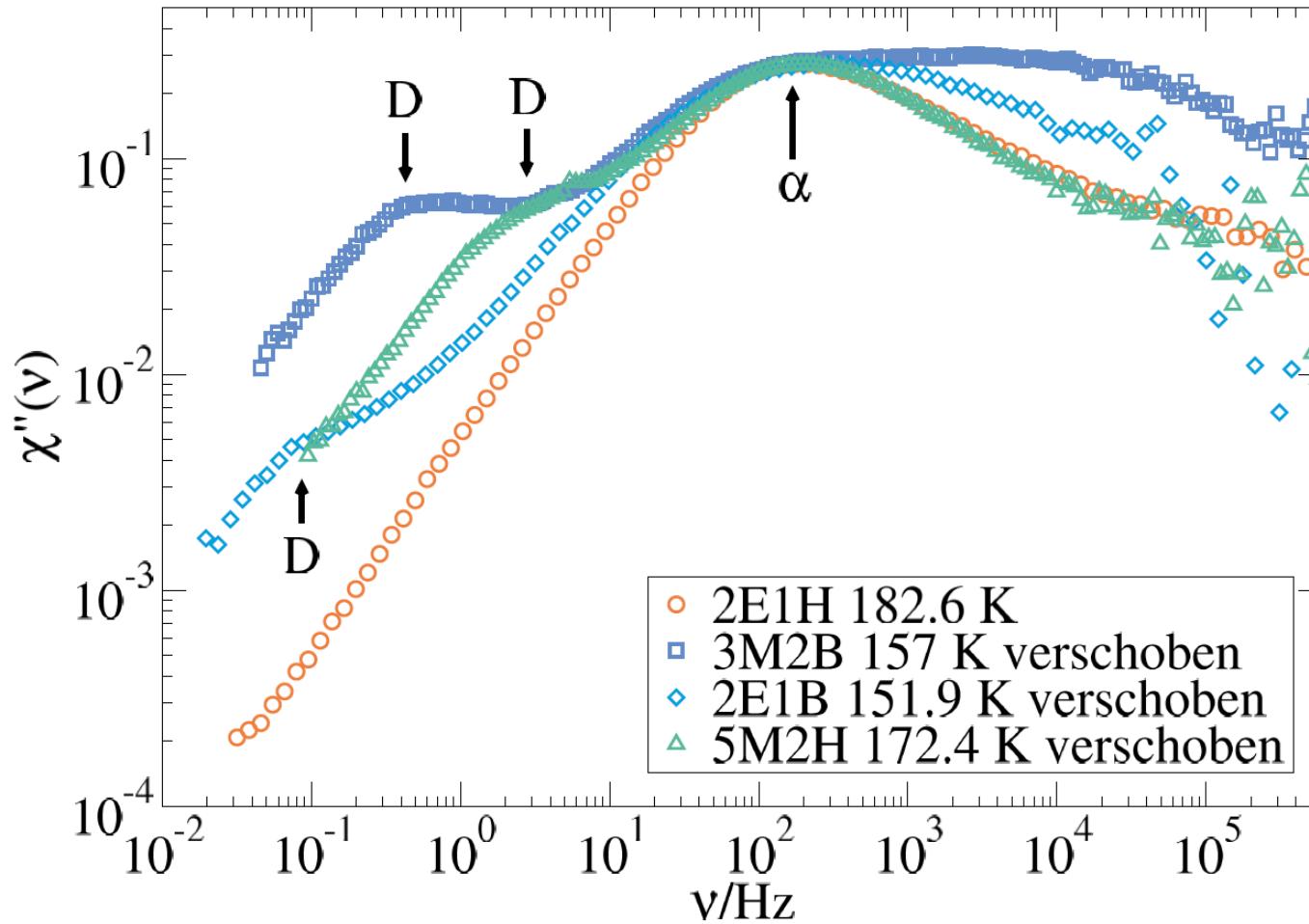
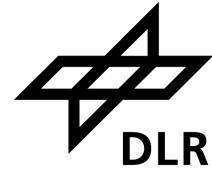
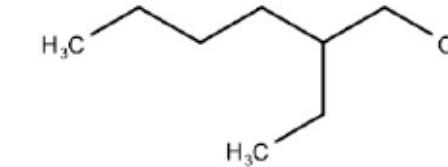
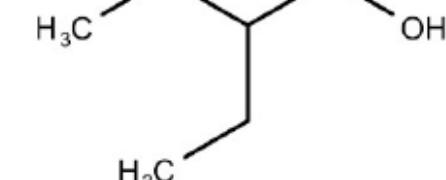
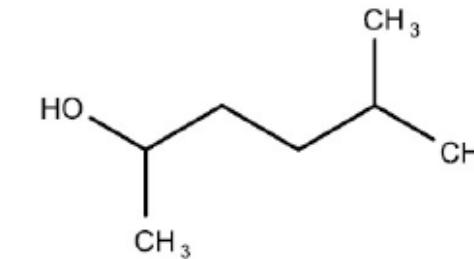
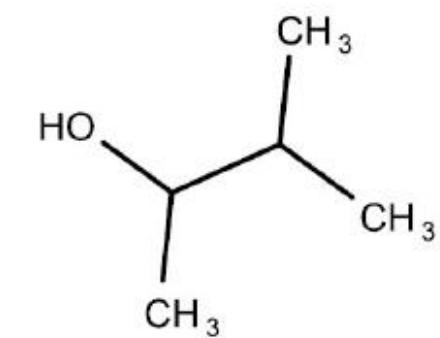


# continuous rotation

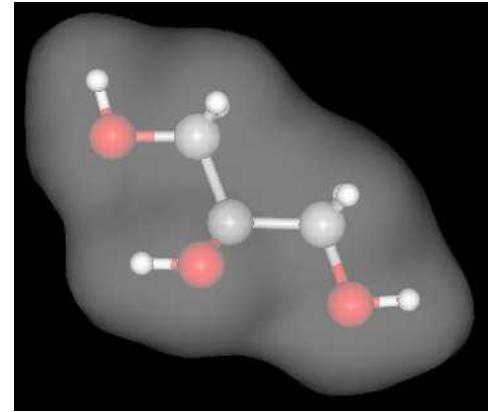
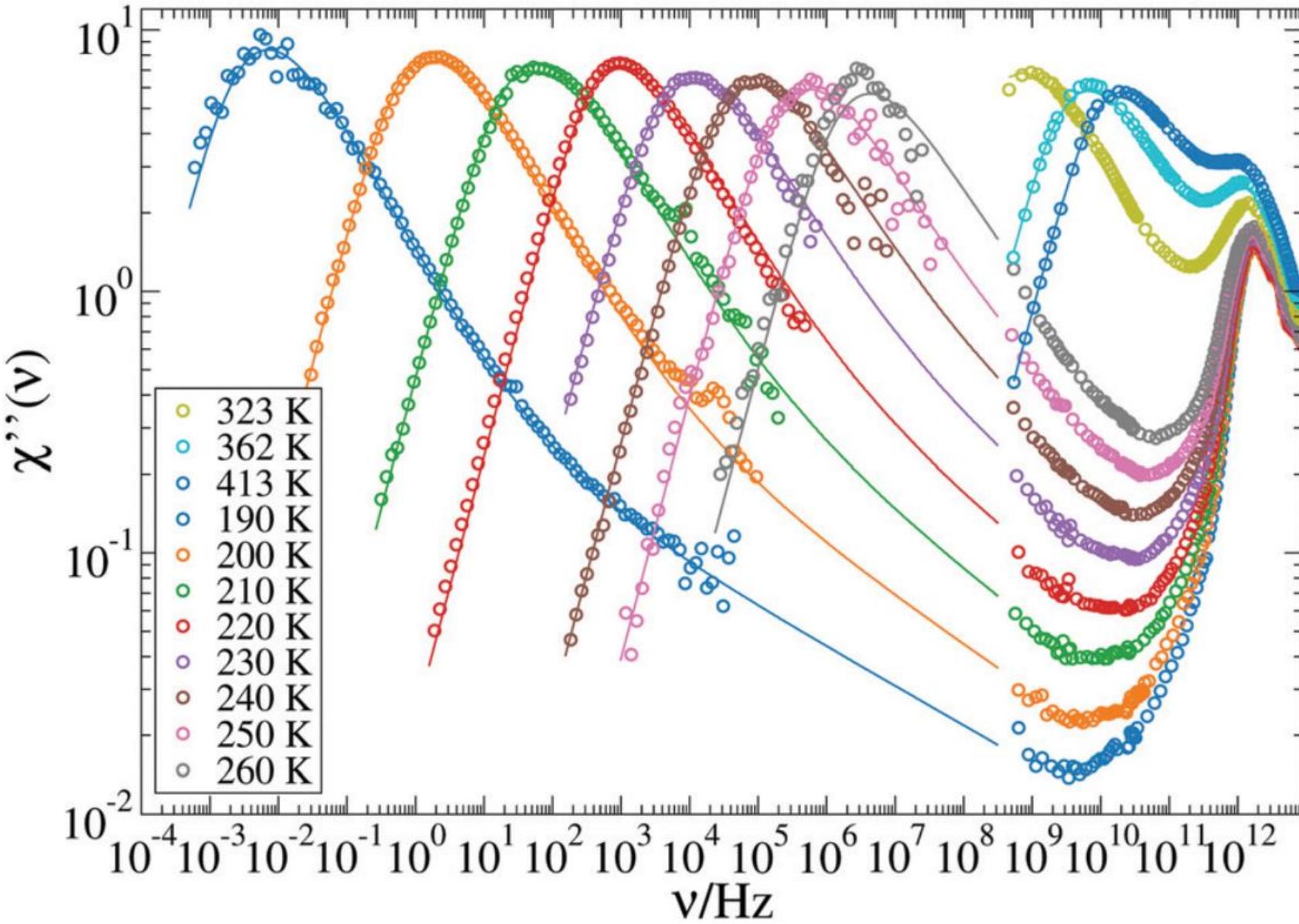
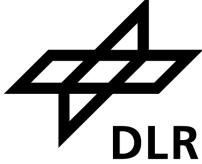
$$\phi_\ell \propto \langle P_\ell(\cos(\theta)) \rangle$$



## non unique anisotropic alpha relaxation

**2-Ethyl-1-Hexanol****2-Ethyl-1-Butanol****5-Methyl-2-Hexanol****3-Methyl-2-Butanol**

# Light scattering on polyalcohol glycerol

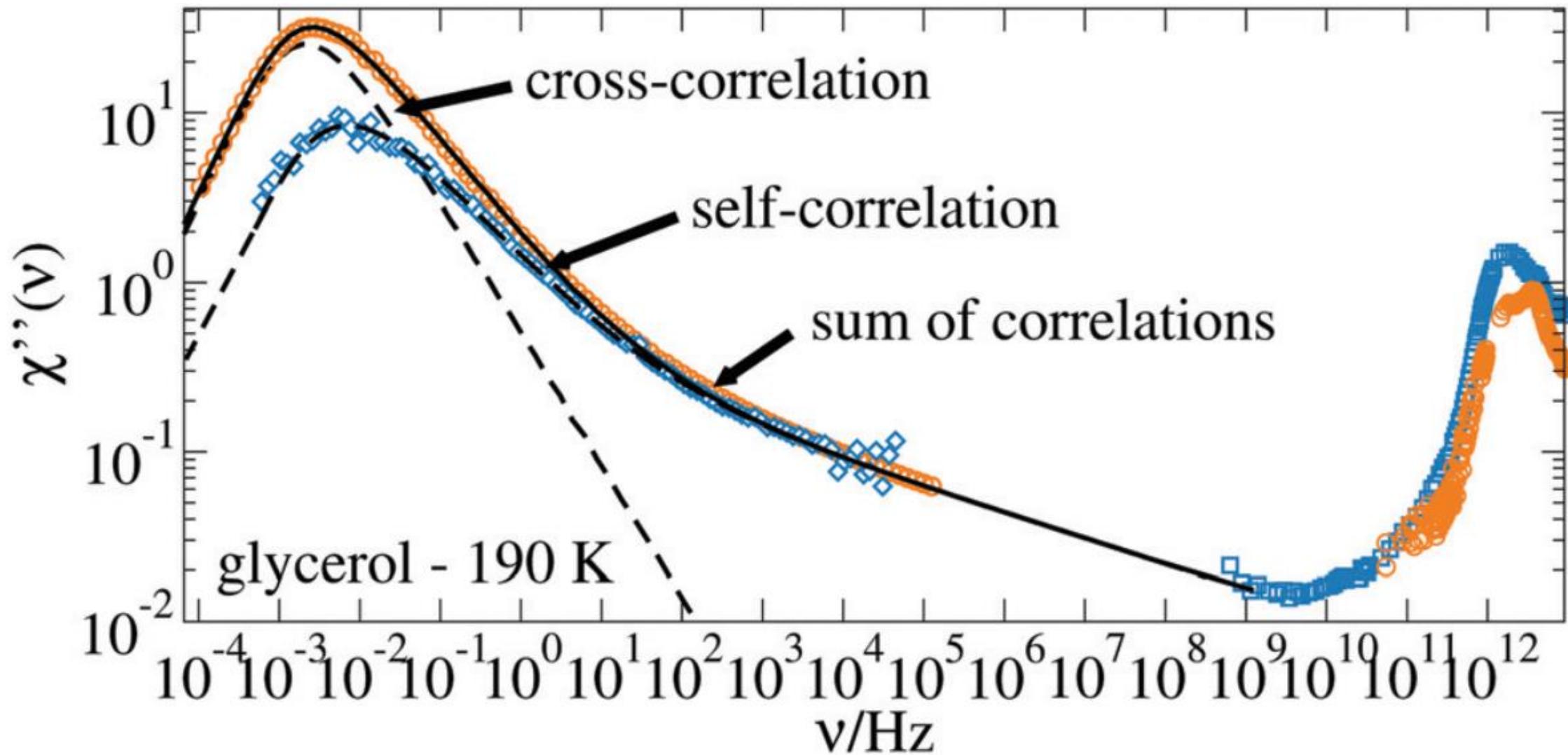


- weak scattering
- 17 decades in frequency
- 3 decades in magnitude
- absolut intensity by Curie law  $1/T$

# combining light scattering and dielectric spectroscopy

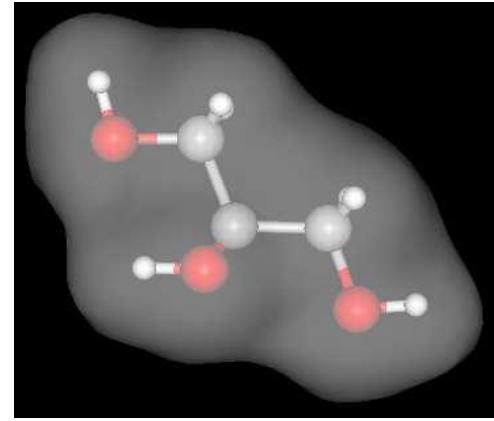
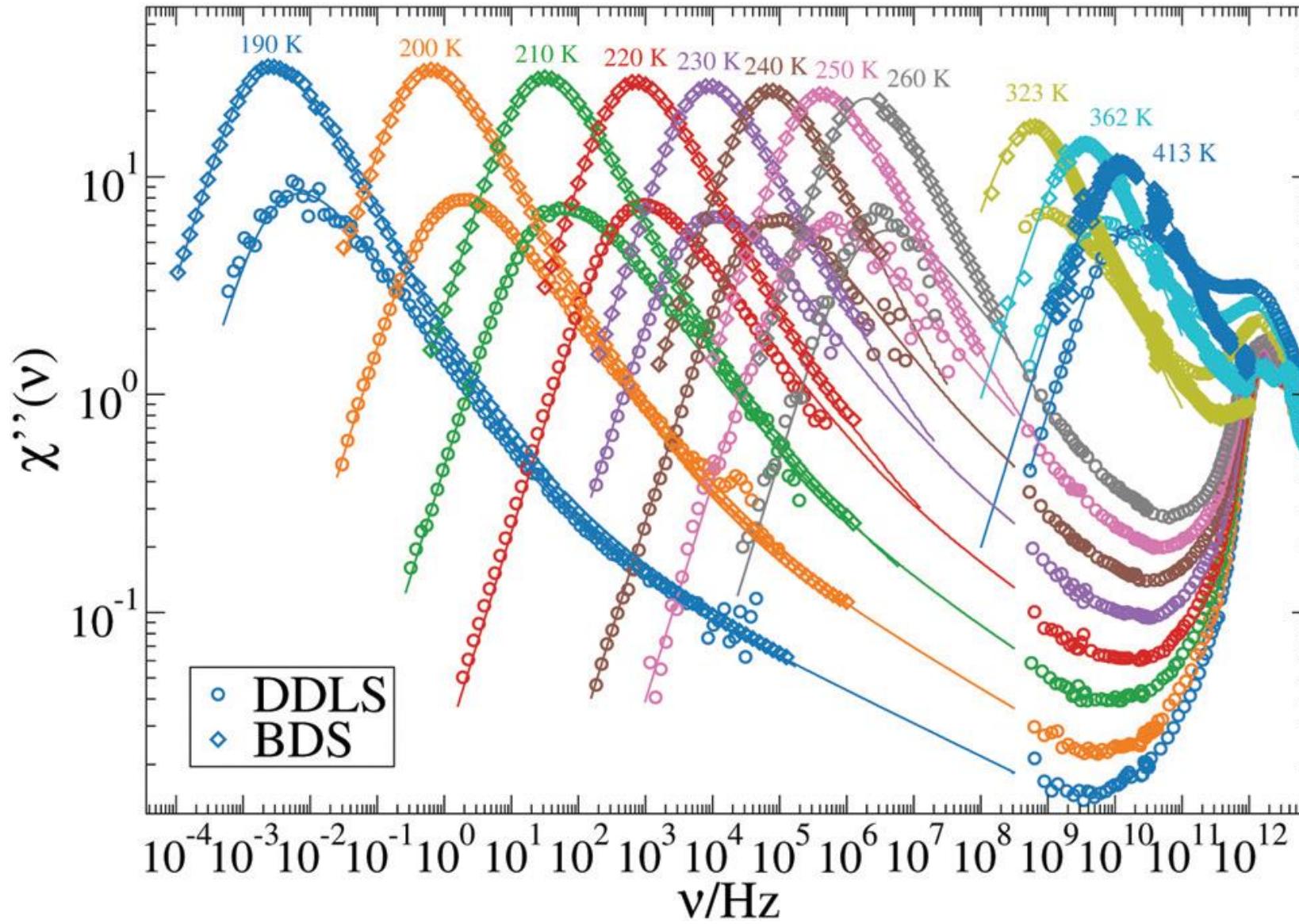


High frequency BDS: U. Schneider, P. Lunkenheimer,  
B. Brand and A. Loidl, J. Non-Cryst. Solids, 235-237, (1998)  
TFPI: A Brodin and E.A. Rössler, Eur. Phys. J. B, 44 (2005)  
PCS: J. P. Gabriel et al., Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys., 22 (2020)

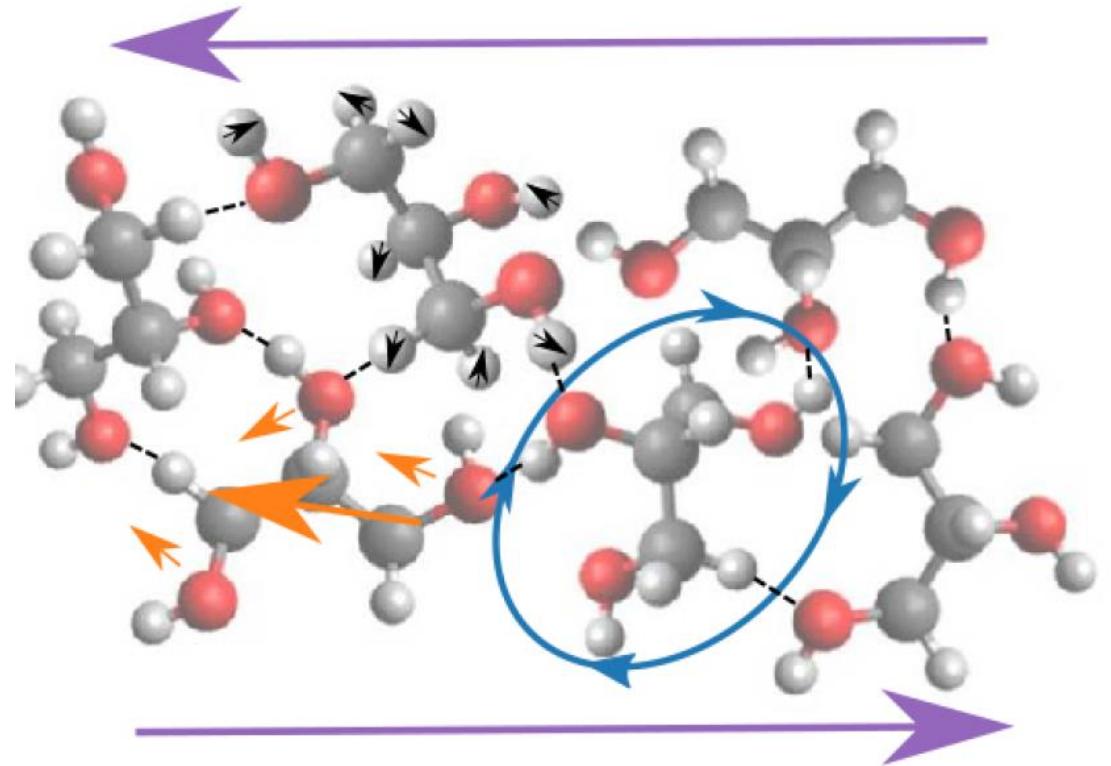
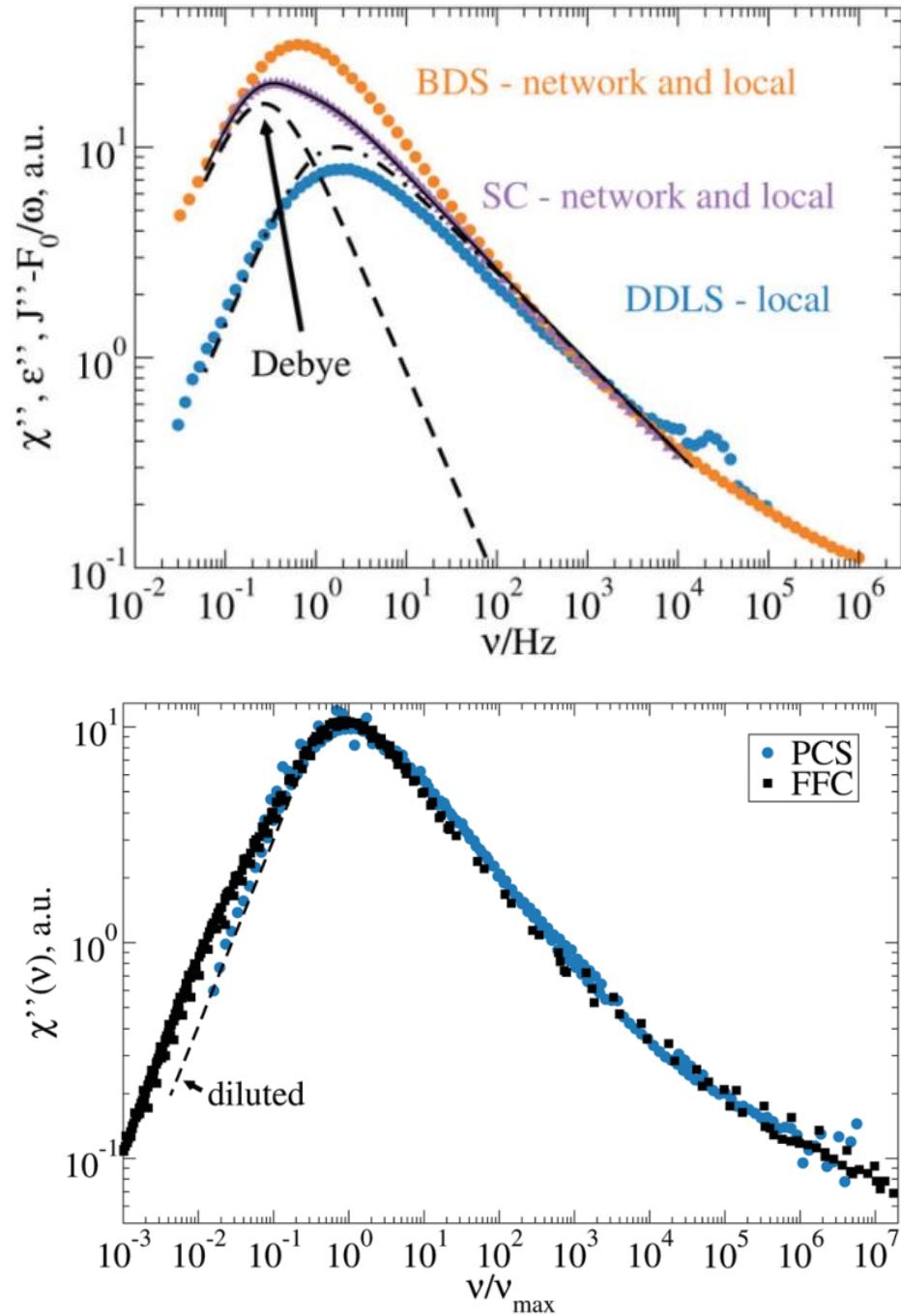


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PCS: J. P. Gabriel et al., Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys., 22 (2020)

# combining light scattering and dielectric spectroscopy



→extra cross-correlation contribution  
→coinciding secondary relaxation



# On the spectral shape of the structural relaxation in supercooled liquids

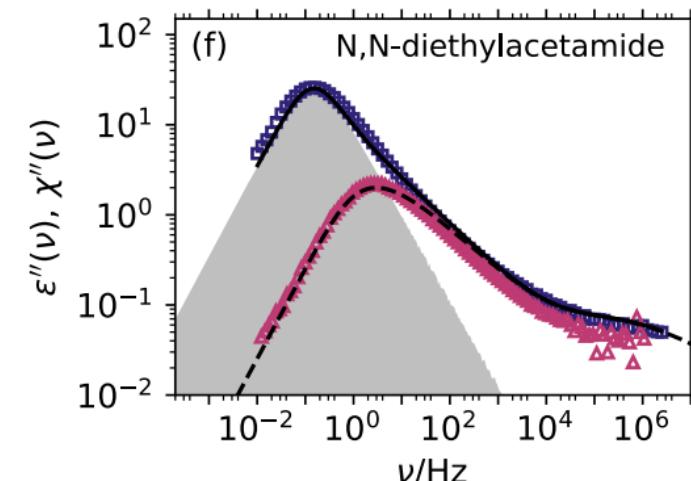
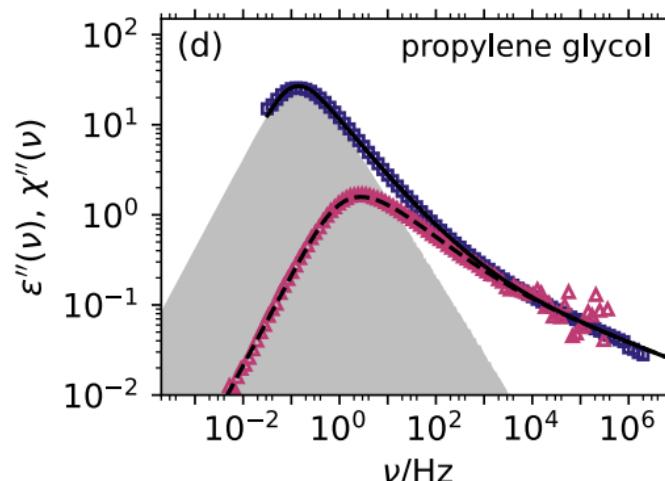
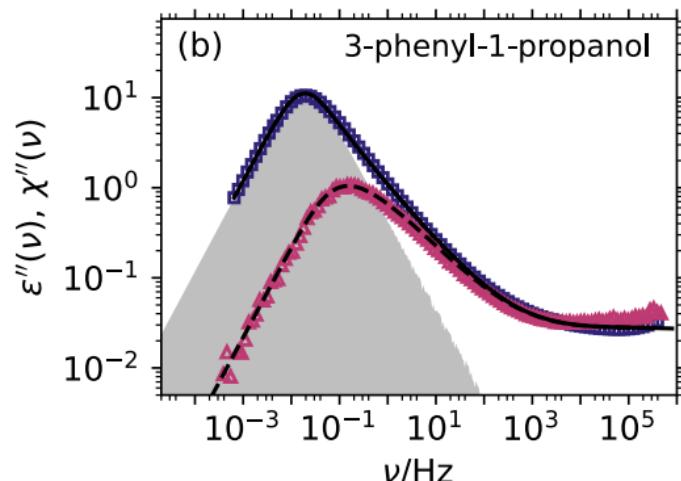
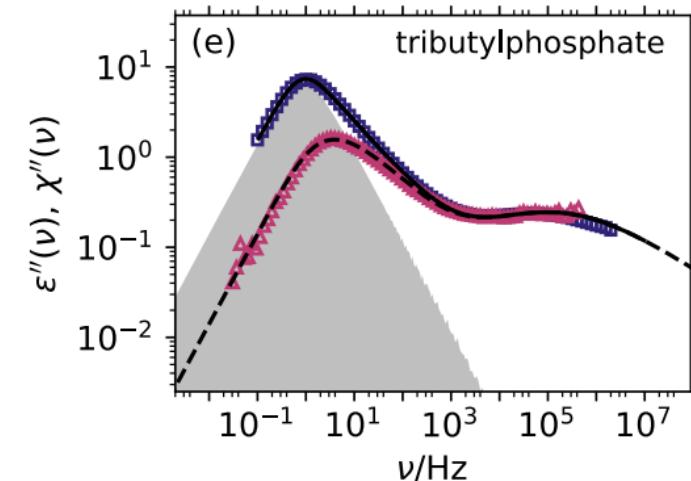
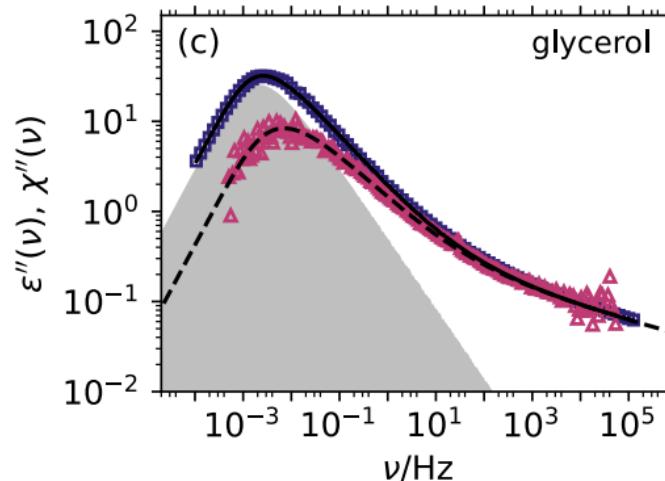
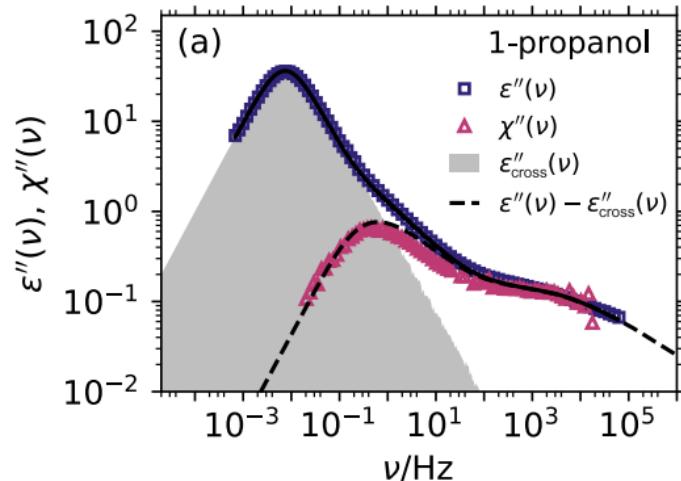
Cite as: J. Chem. Phys. 162, 120902 (2025); doi: 10.1063/5.0254534

Submitted: 23 December 2024 • Accepted: 17 February 2025 •

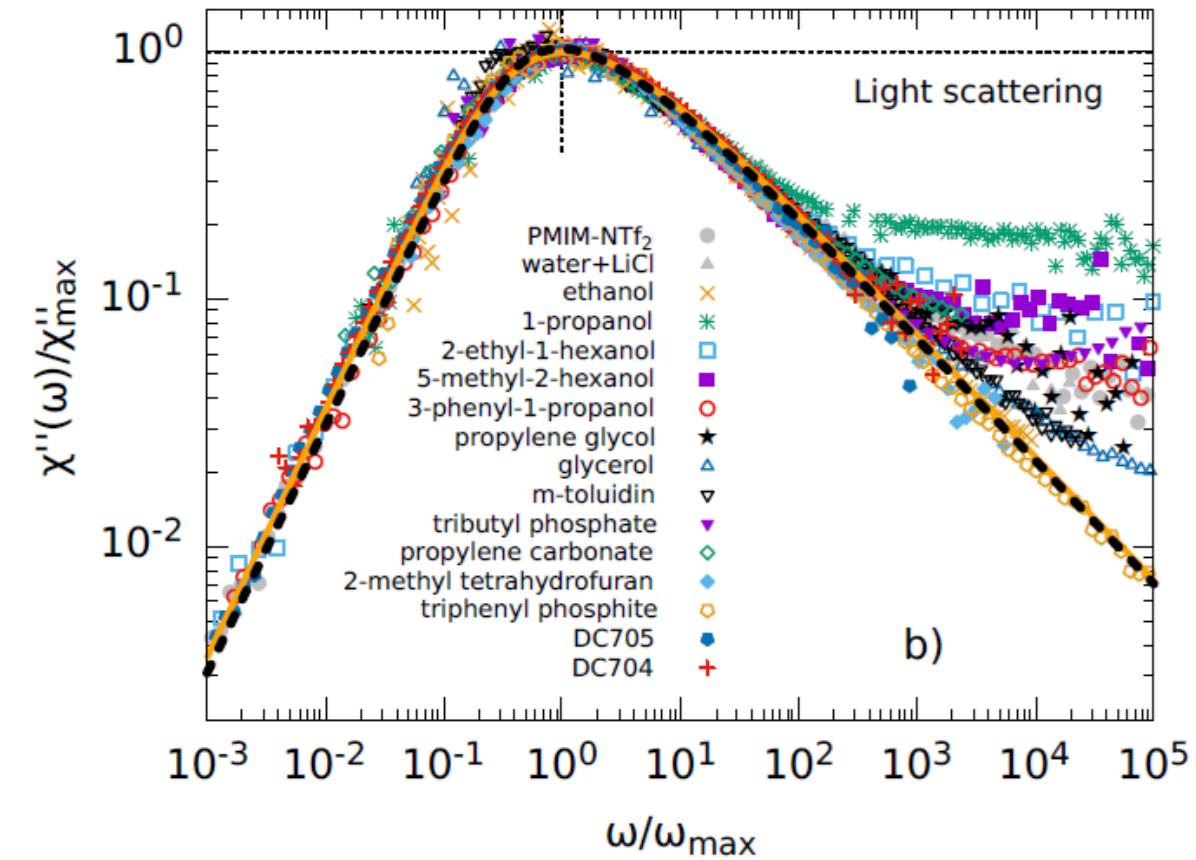
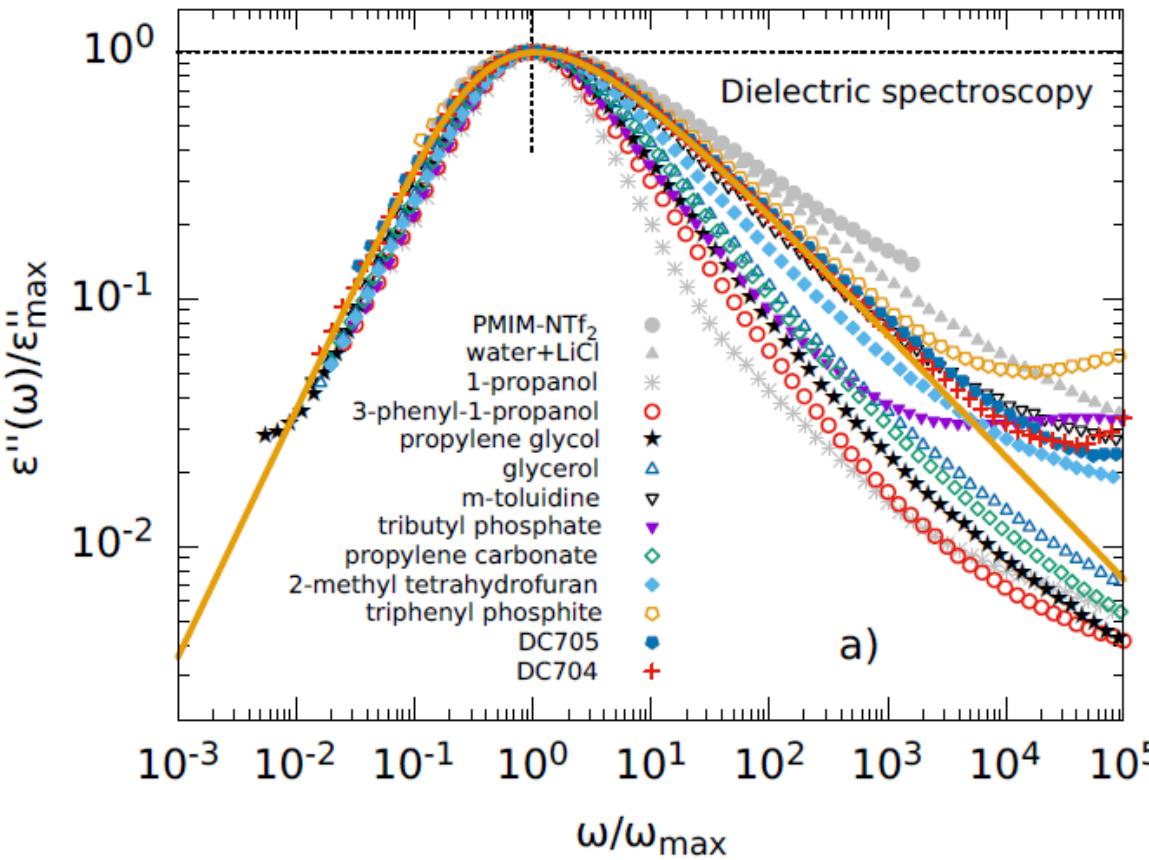
Published Online: 26 March 2025



Till Böhmer,<sup>1,a)</sup> Florian Pabst,<sup>2,b)</sup> Jan Philipp Gabriel,<sup>3</sup> Rolf Zeißler,<sup>4</sup> and Thomas Blochowicz<sup>4,c)</sup>

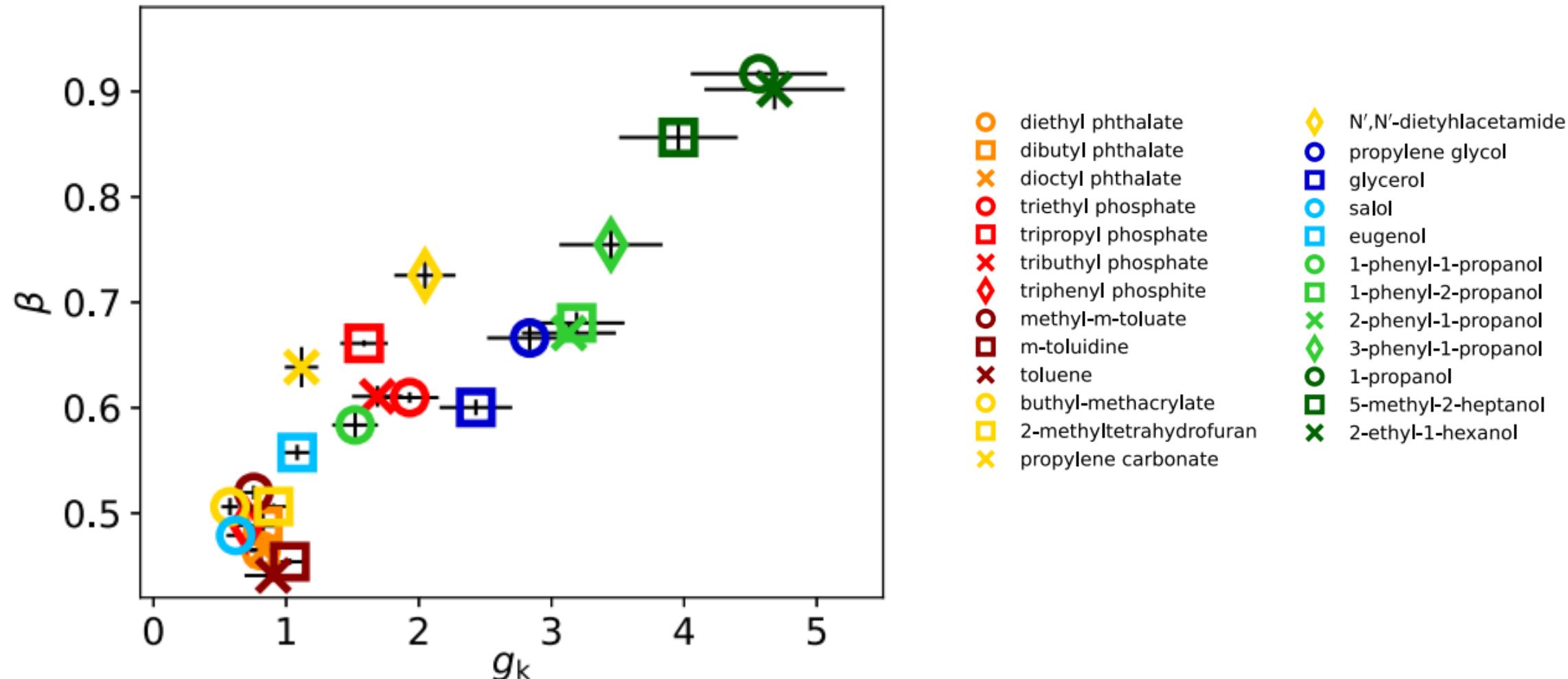


# strong cross-correlations in dielectric spectroscopy



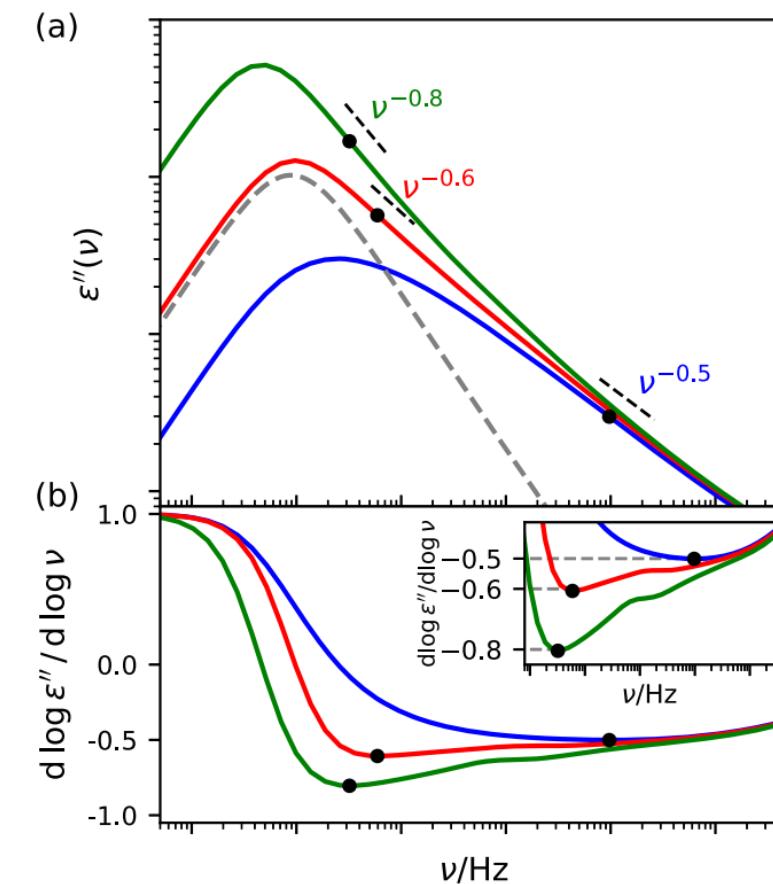
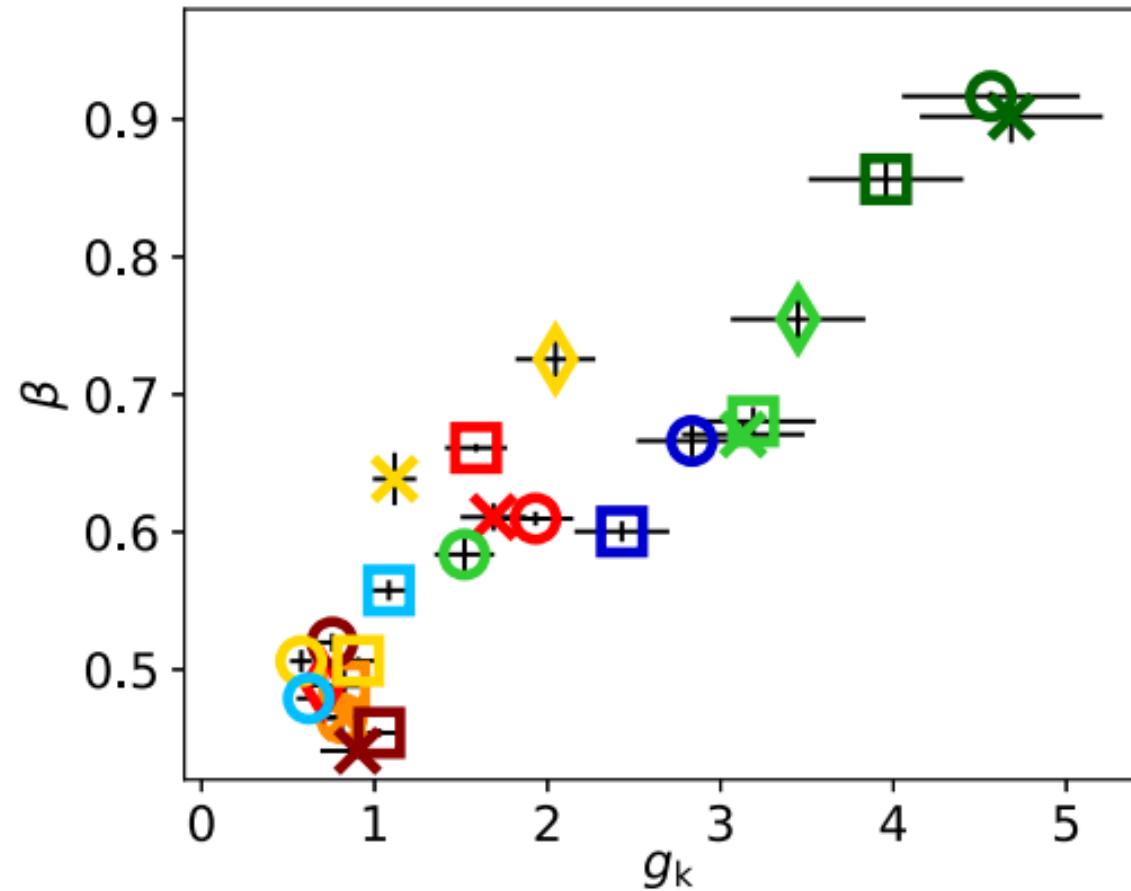
## Dipolar Order Controls Dielectric Response of Glass-Forming Liquids

Till Böhmer<sup>1</sup>, Florian Pabst<sup>1,2</sup>, Jan P. Gabriel<sup>3,4</sup>, and Thomas Blochowicz<sup>1</sup>



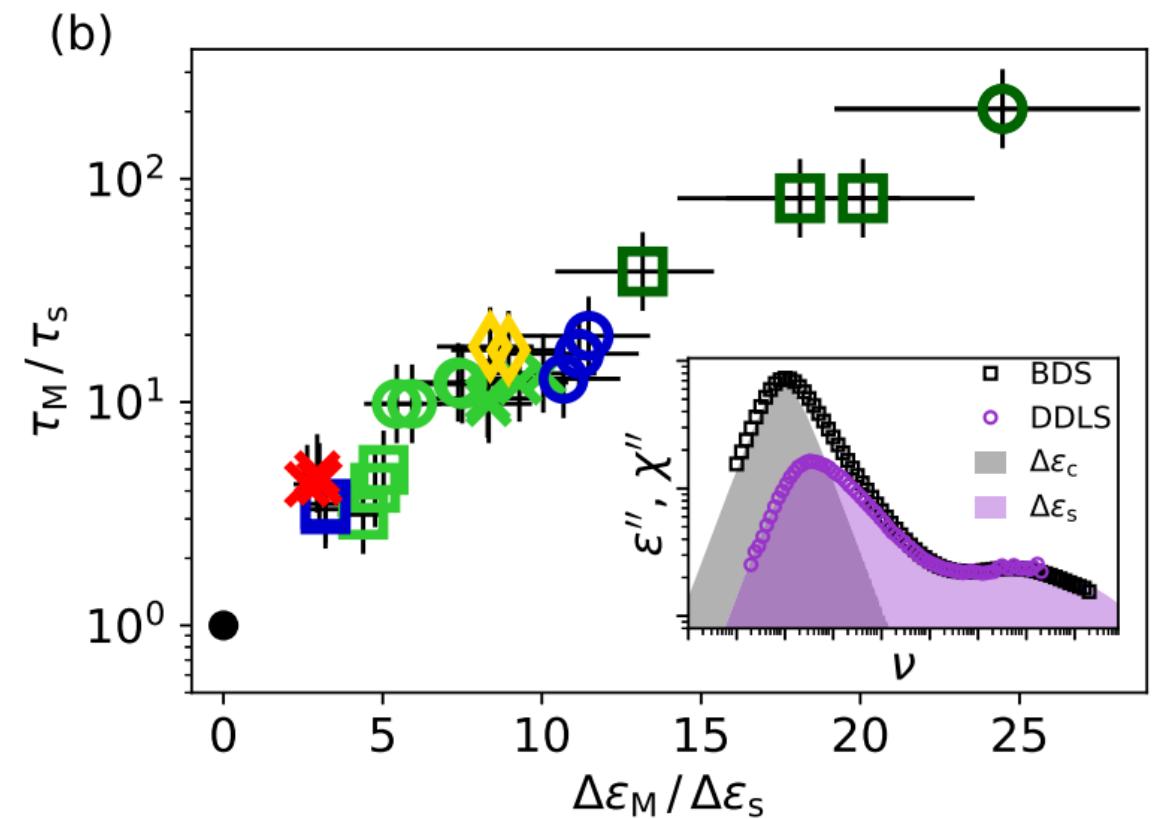
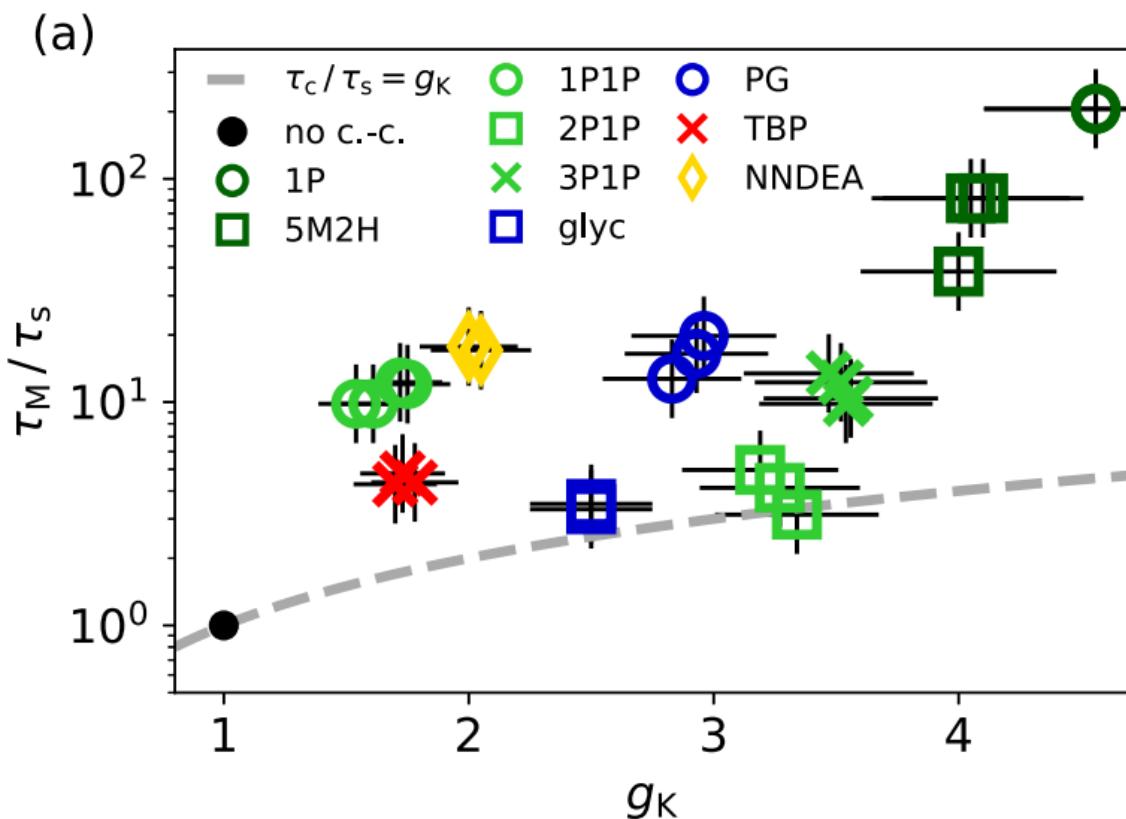
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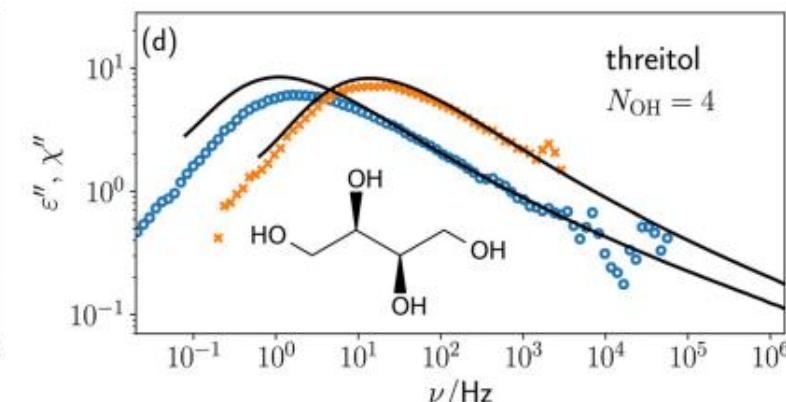
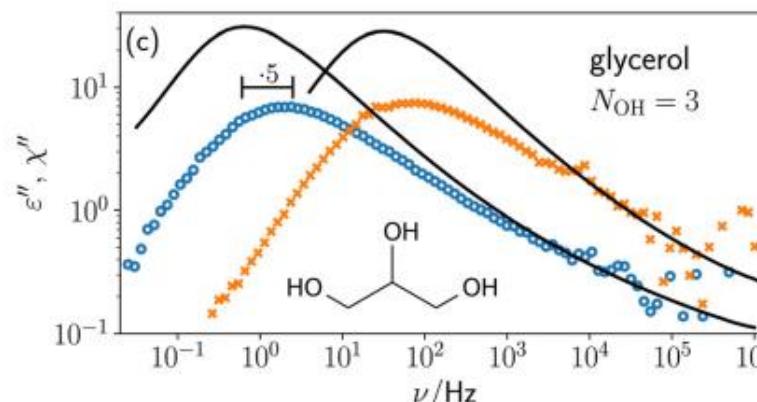
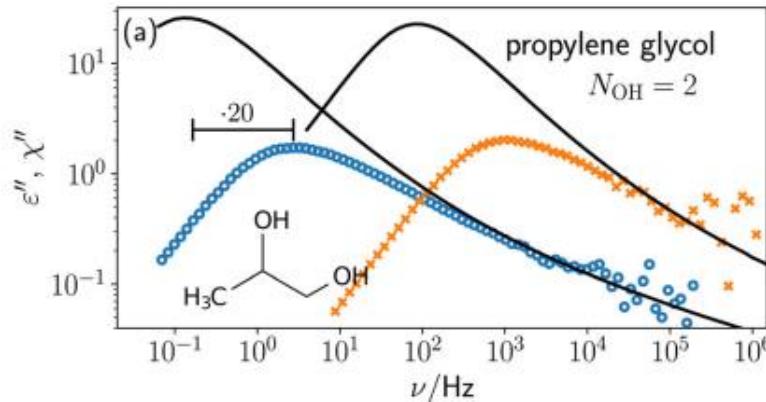


# Glassy dynamics in polyalcohols: intermolecular simplicity vs. intramolecular complexity†



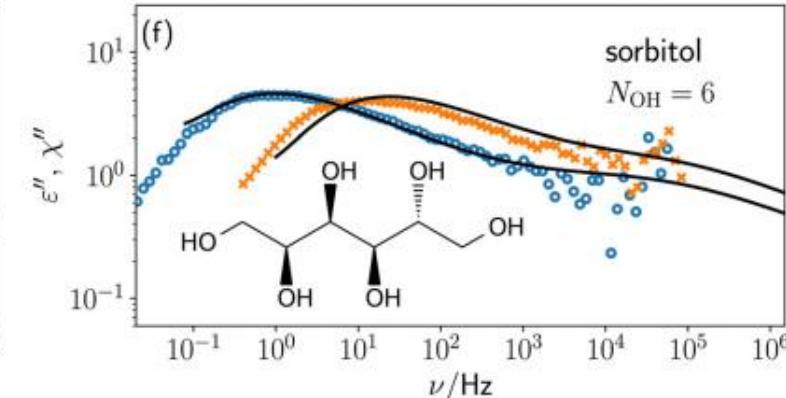
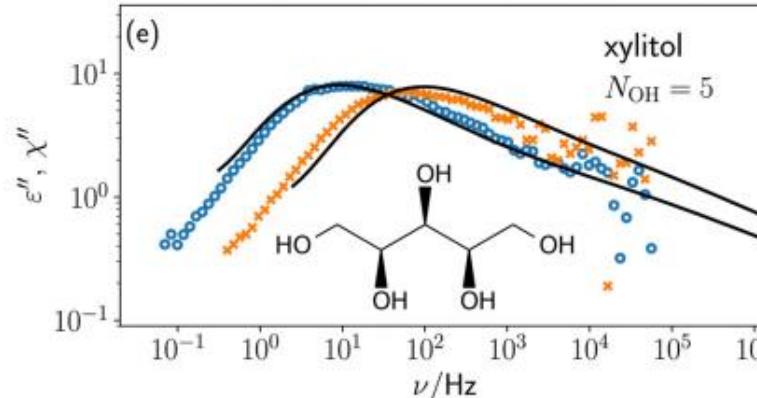
Cite this: *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*,  
2022, 24, 18272

Till Böhmer, <sup>a</sup> Jan Philipp Gabriel, <sup>b</sup> Rolf Zeißler, <sup>a</sup> Timo Richter<sup>a</sup> and Thomas Blochowicz <sup>\*a</sup>



(b)

$N_{\text{OH}}$	T
2	175 K, 190 K
3	200 K, 210 K
4	235 K, 240 K
5	255 K, 260 K
6	275 K, 280 K



# On the spectral shape of the structural relaxation in supercooled liquids

F



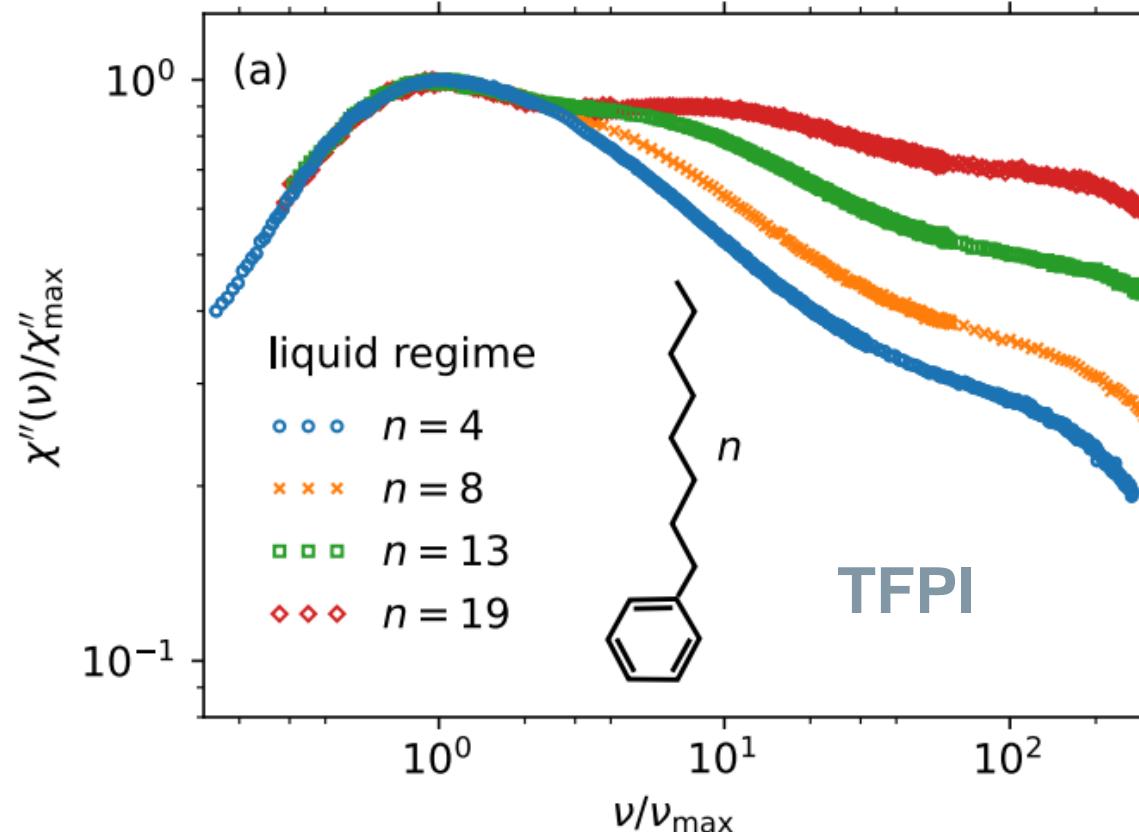
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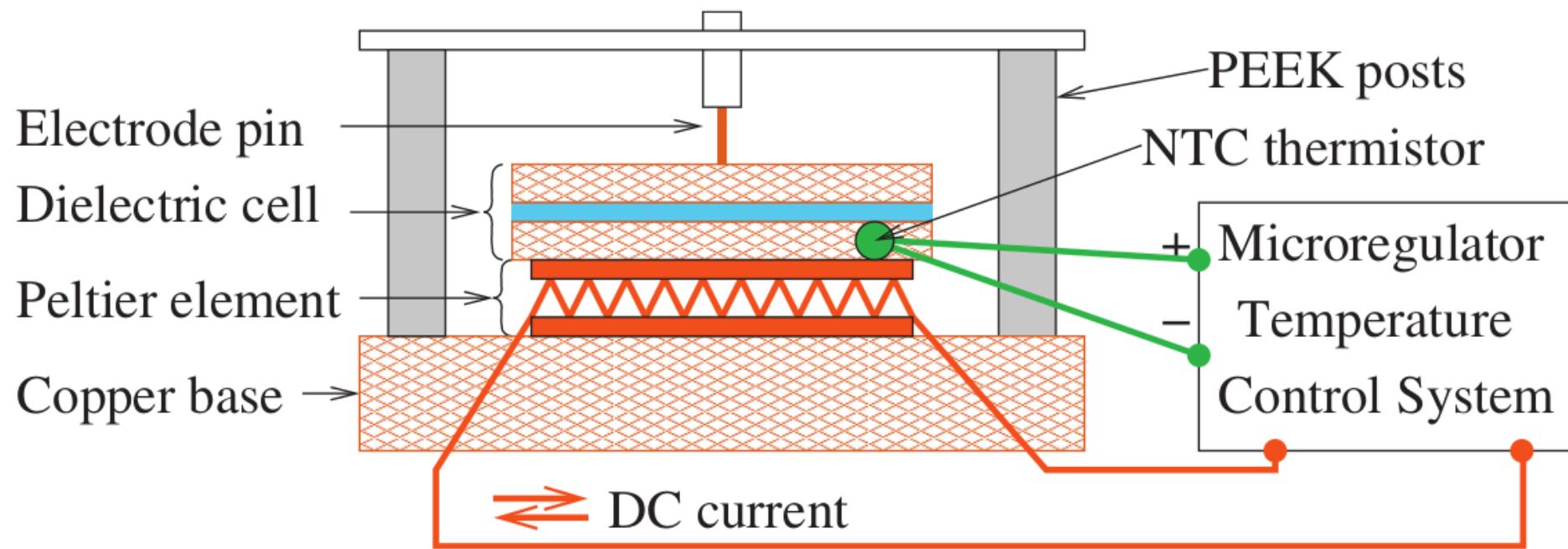
Till Böhmer,<sup>1,a)</sup> Florian Pabst,<sup>2,b)</sup> Jan Philipp Gabriel,<sup>3</sup> Rolf Zeißler,<sup>4</sup> and Thomas Blochowicz<sup>4,c)</sup>



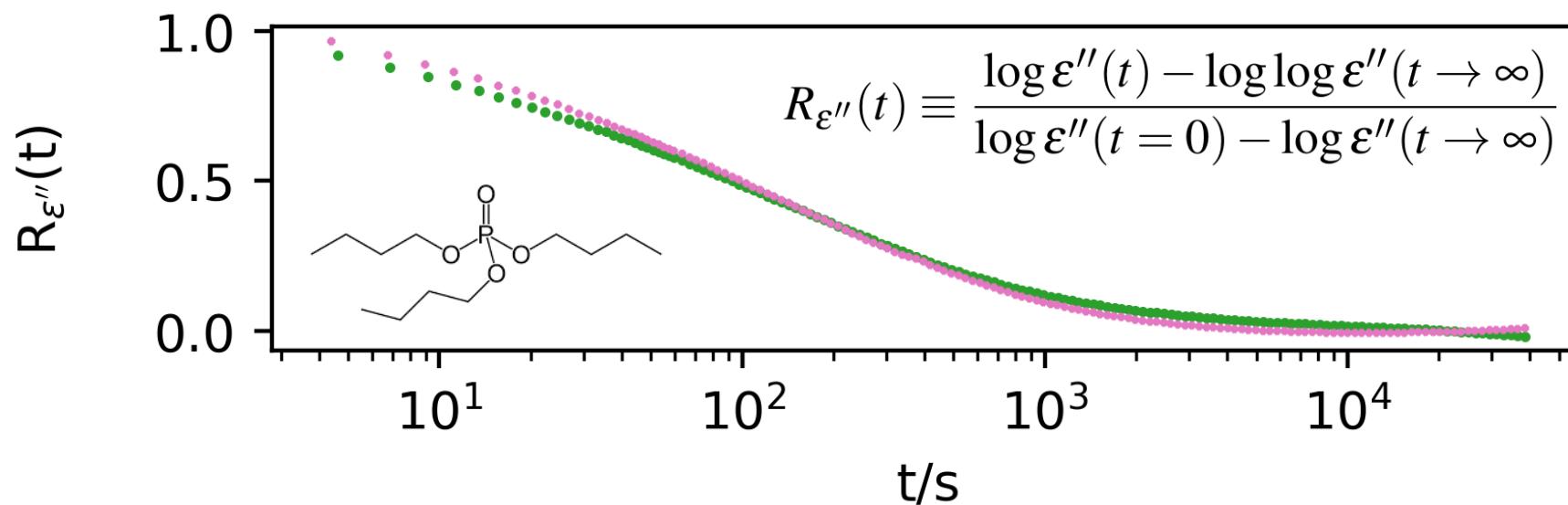
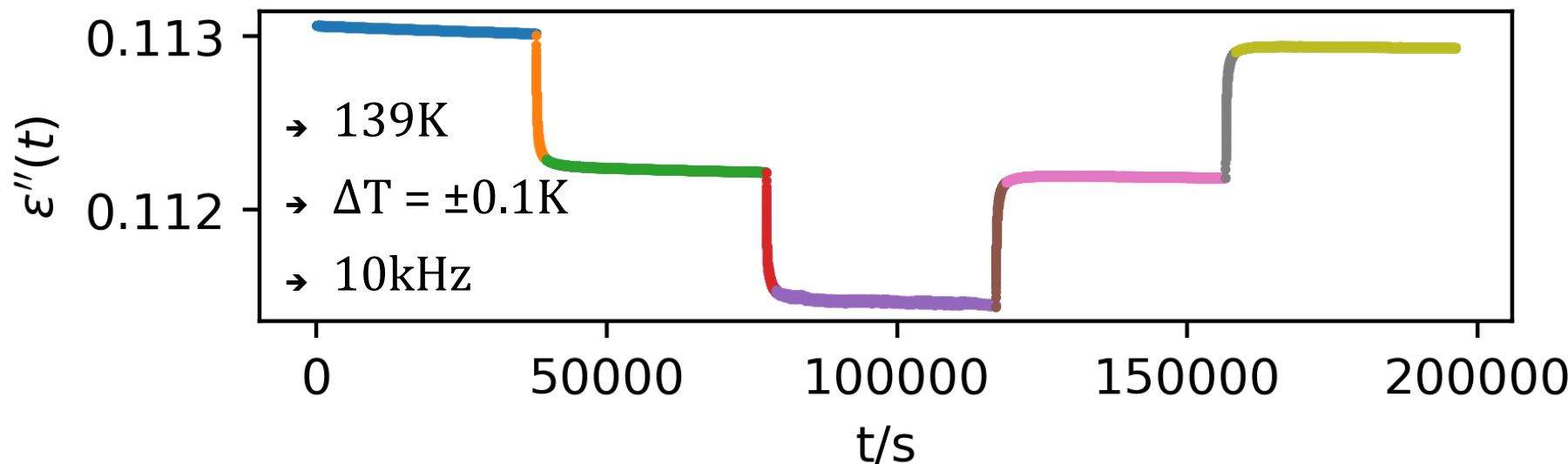
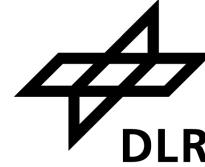
# physical aging

(from non equilibrium to equilibrium response)

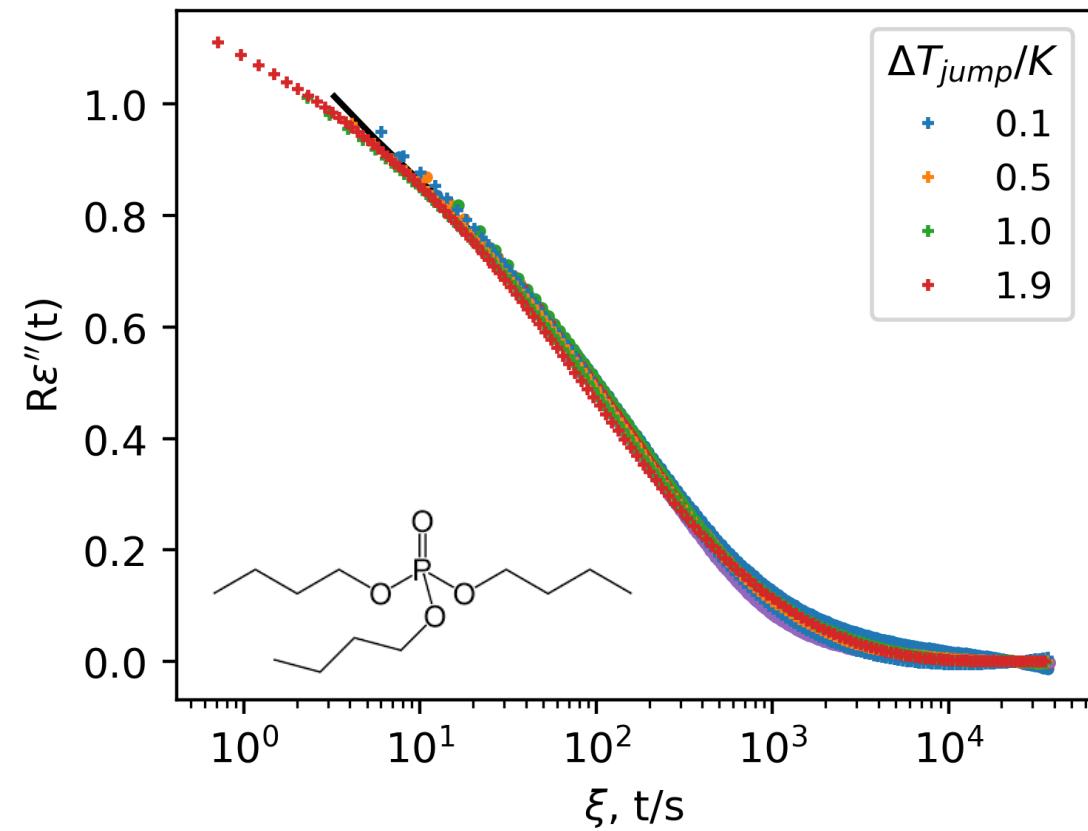
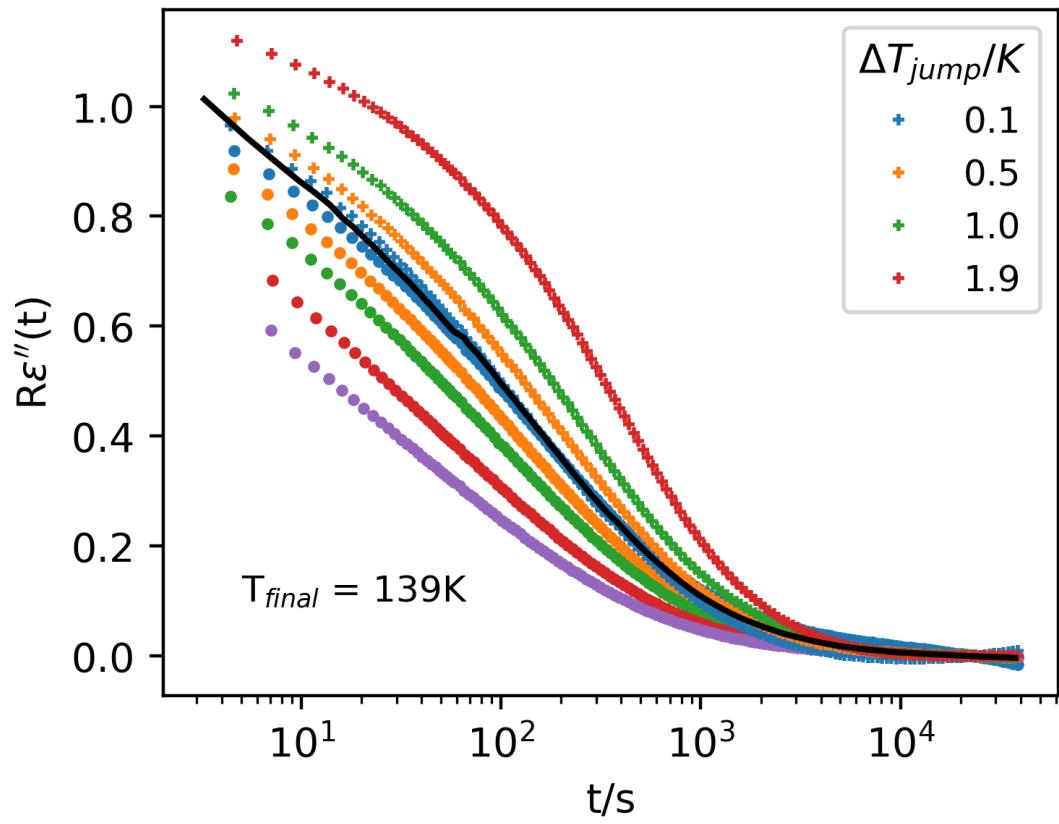
# linear structural recovery - dielectric spectroscopy with a microregulator



# dielectric structural recovery

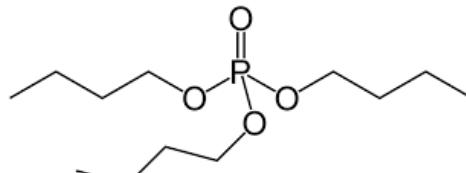
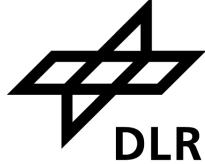


# material time – single parameter

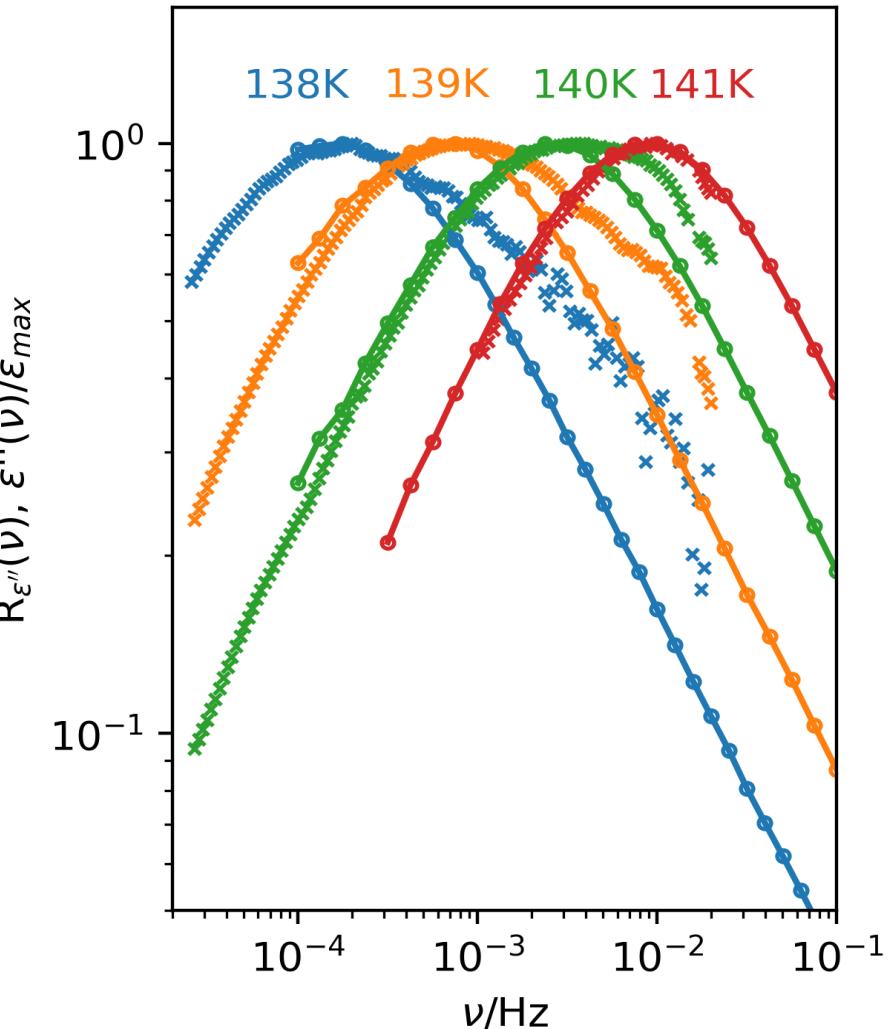
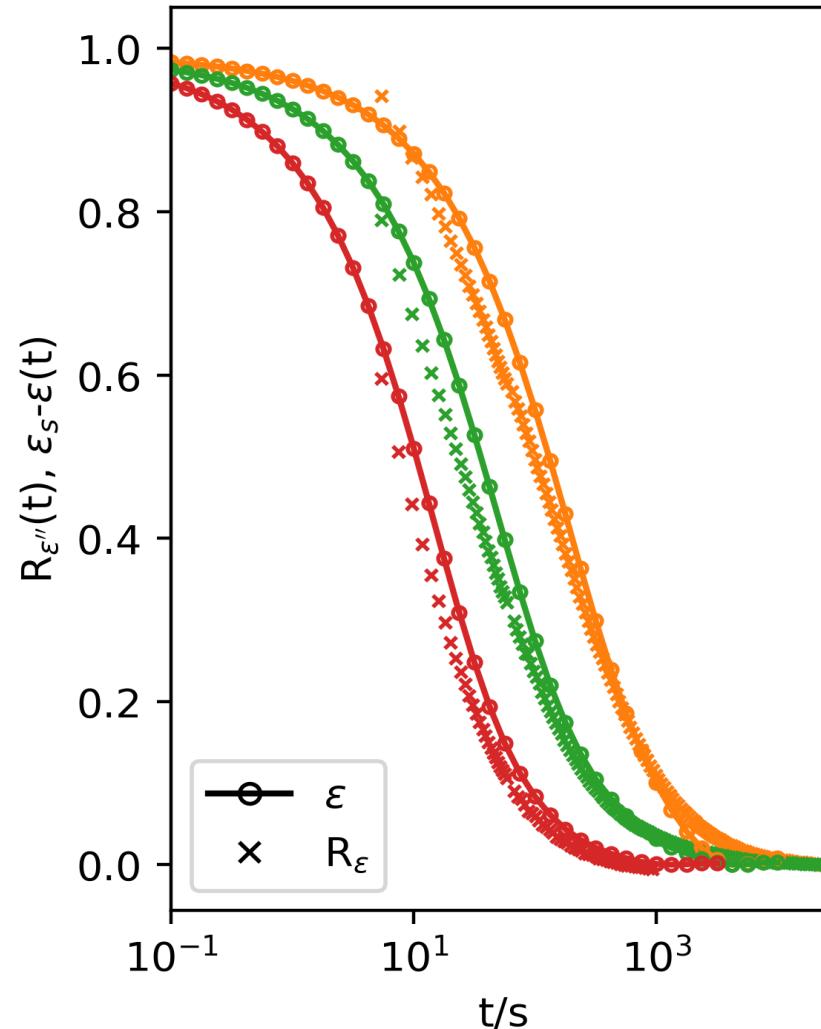


$$d\xi = \gamma(t) dt , \Lambda_{12} = a \cdot \Delta T , \quad t_2(R) = \int_0^{t_1(R)} \exp(\Lambda_{12} R(t_1)) dt_1$$

# TBP - tributylphosphate



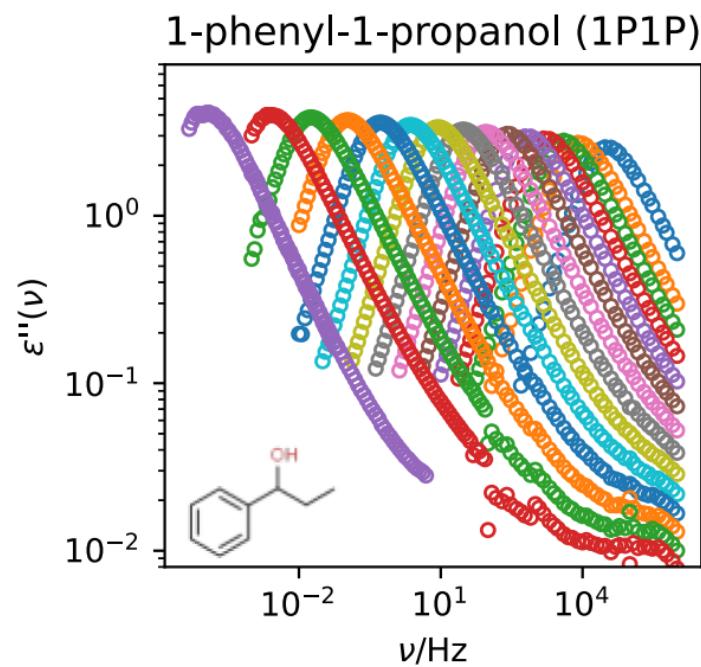
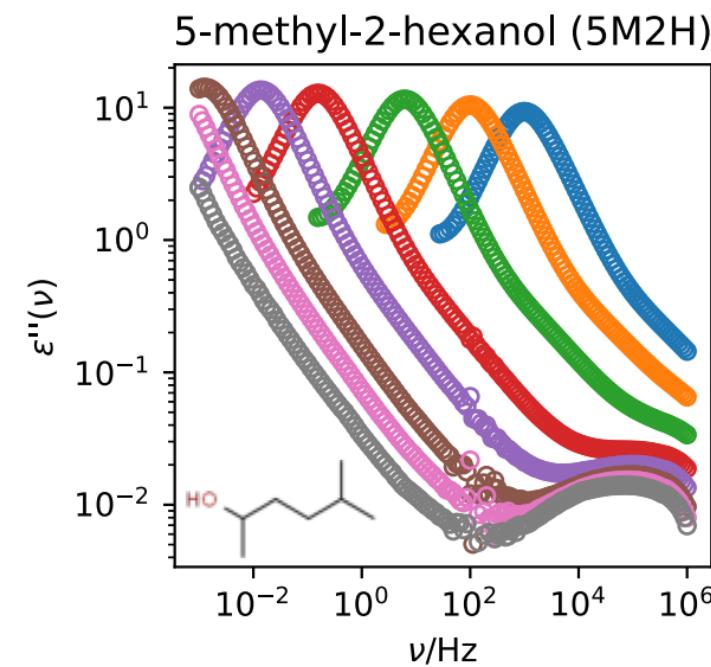
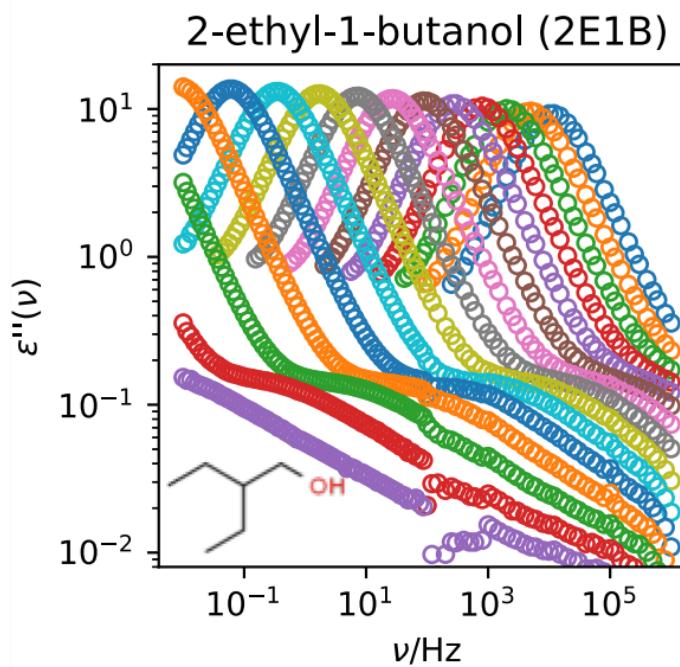
- same terminal mode
- cross-correlations aging relevant
- recovery broader spectral shape



# Linear-Limit Aging Times of Three Monoalcohols

Published as part of *The Journal of Physical Chemistry B* special issue "Mark Ediger Festschrift".

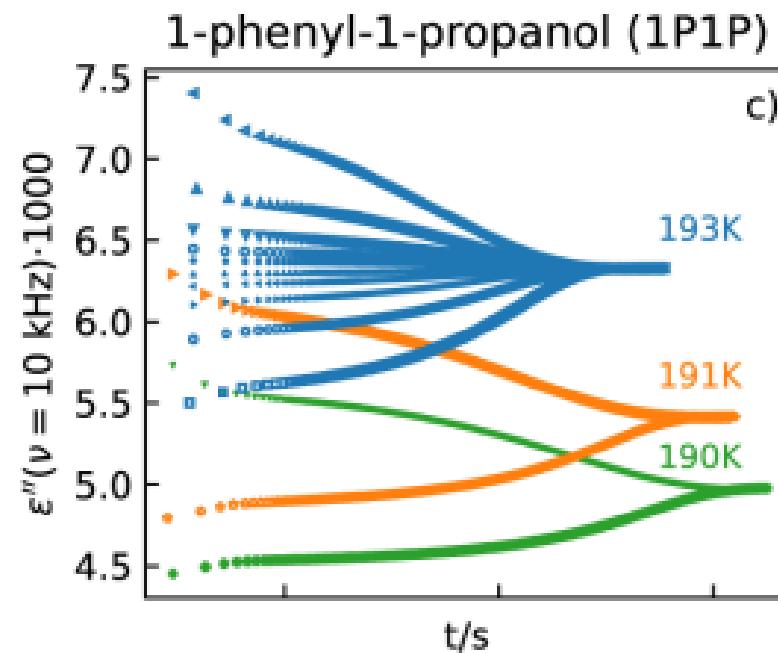
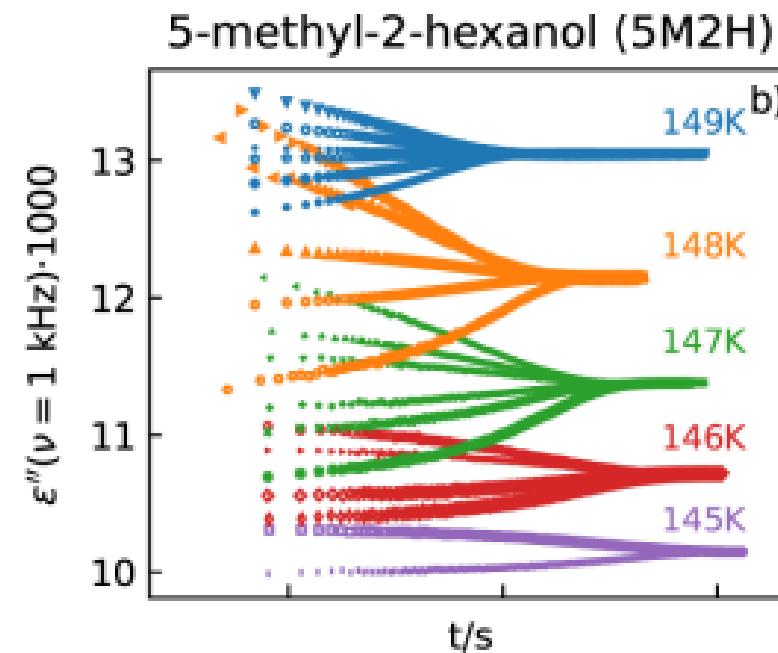
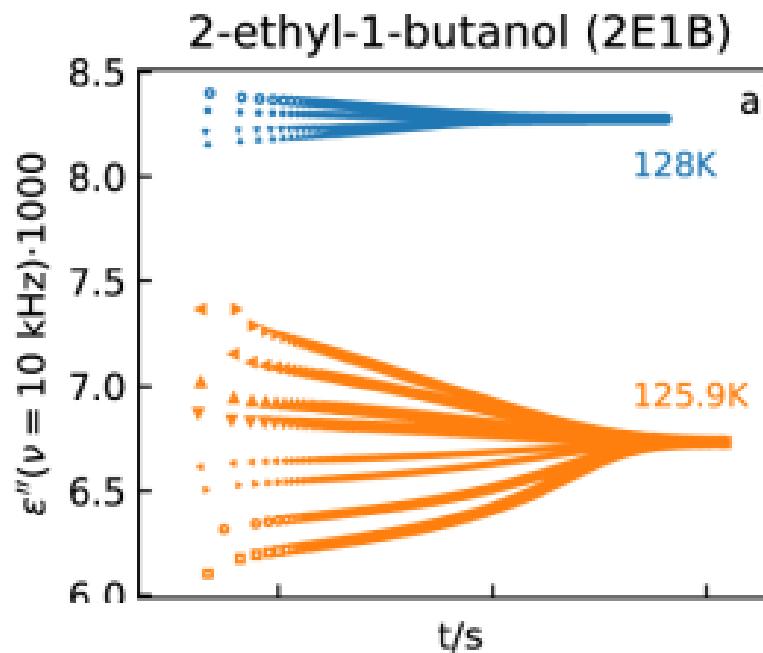
Jan Philipp Gabriel,\* Jeppe C. Dyre,\* and Tina Hecksher\*

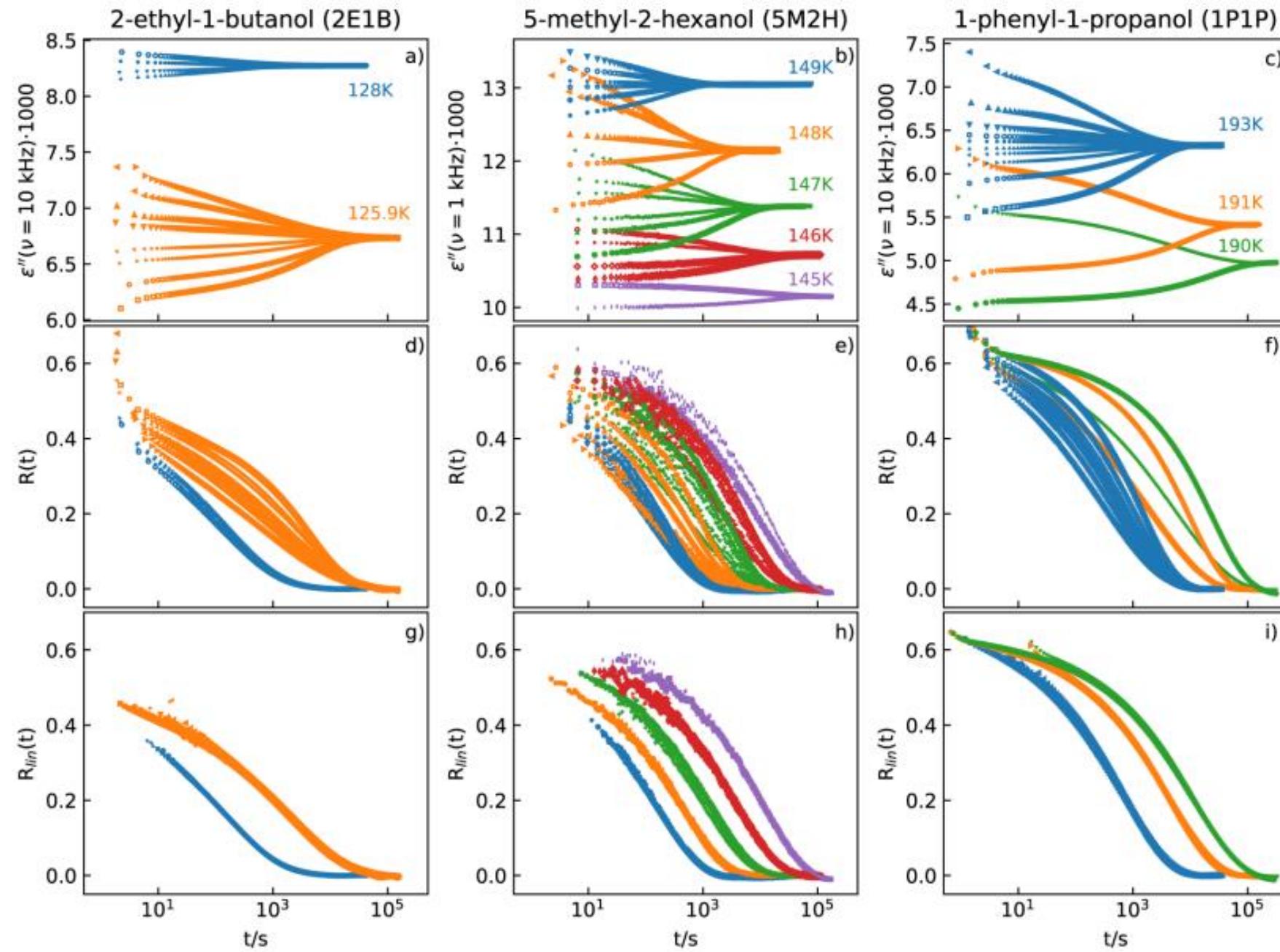


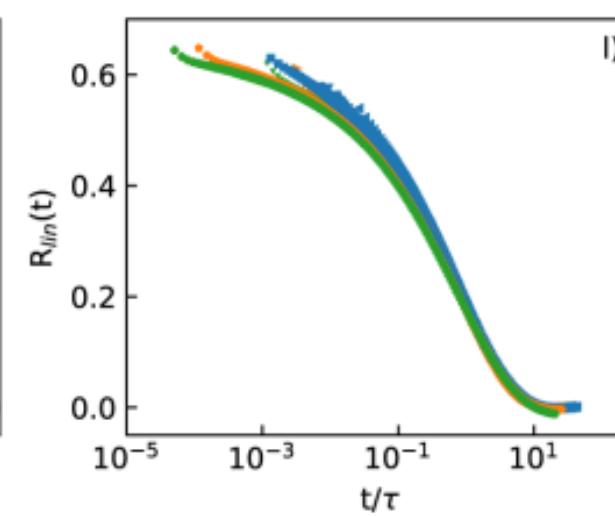
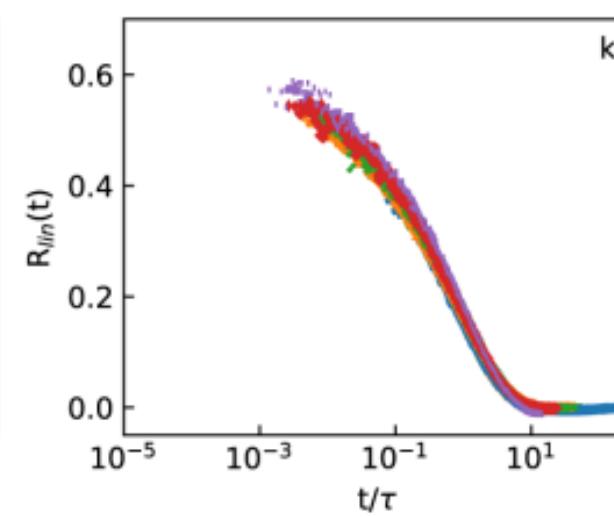
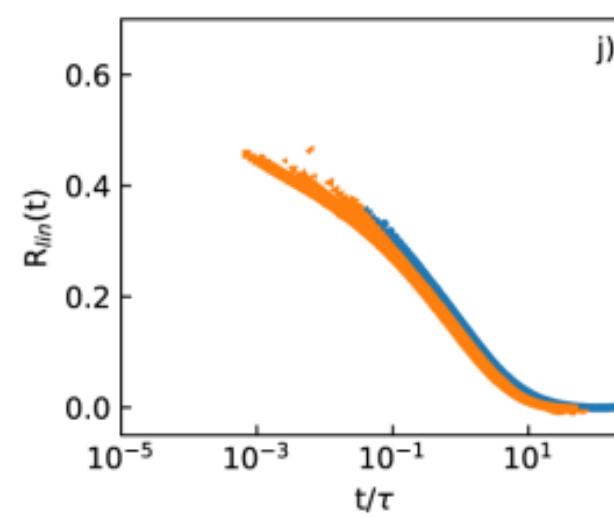
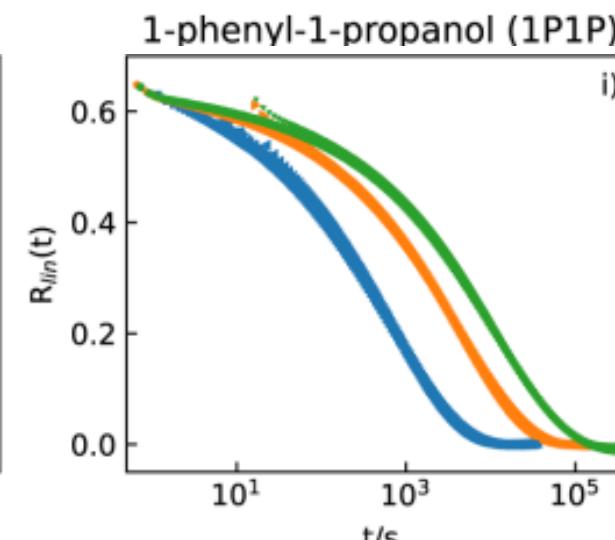
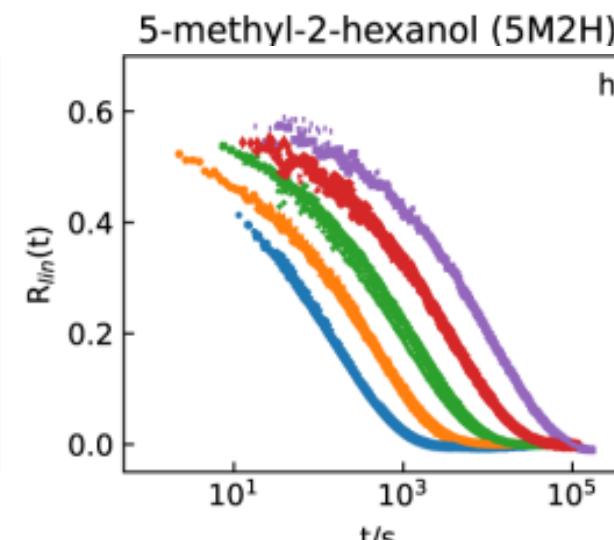
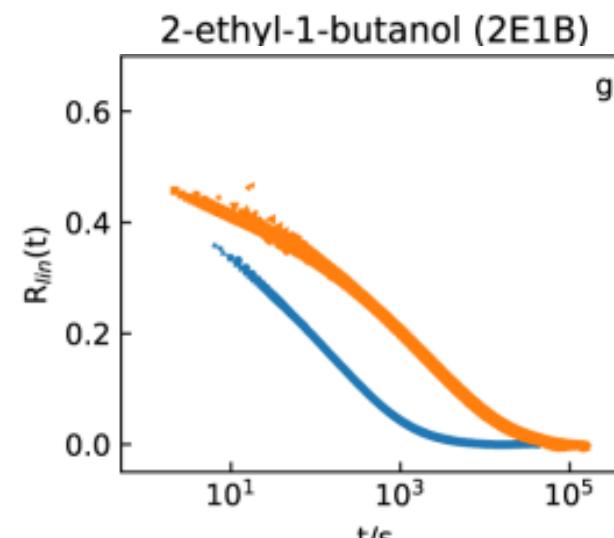
# Linear-Limit Aging Times of Three Monoalcohols

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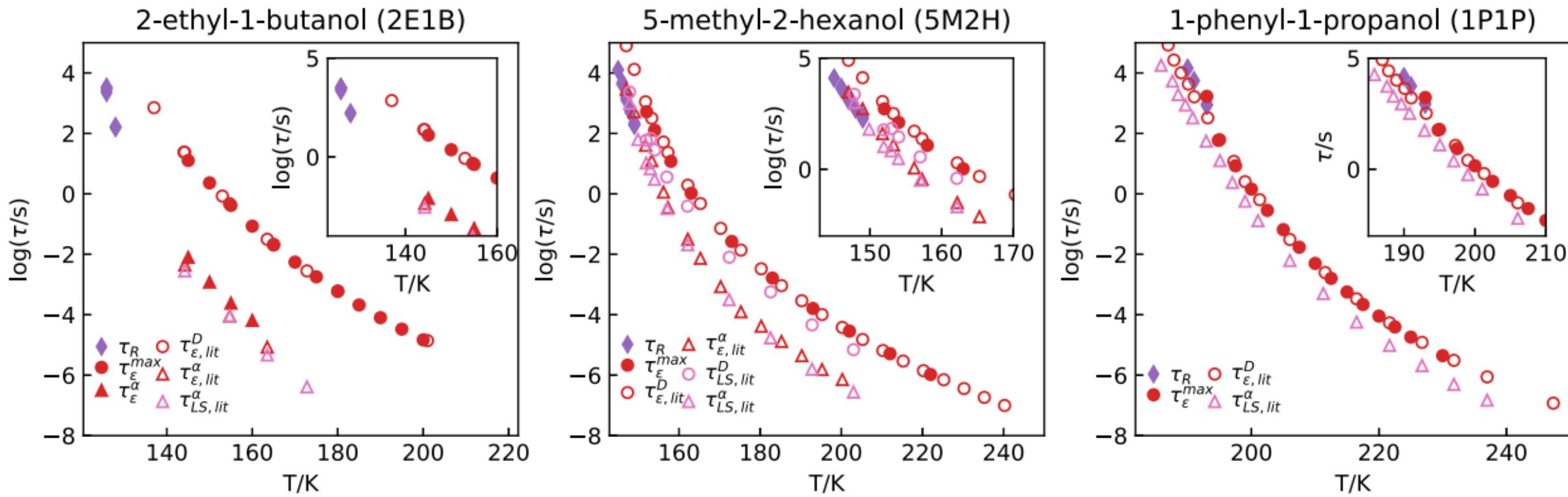




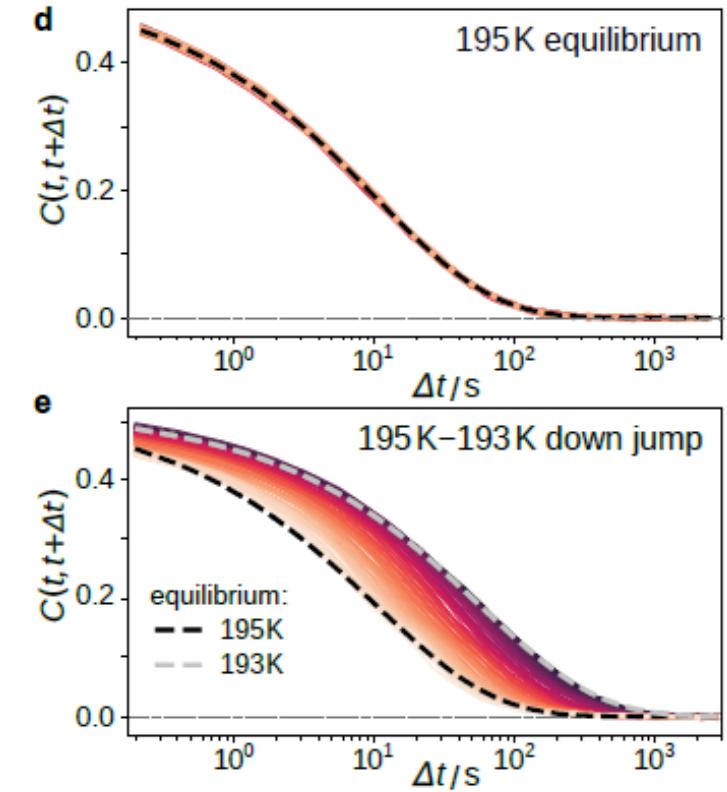
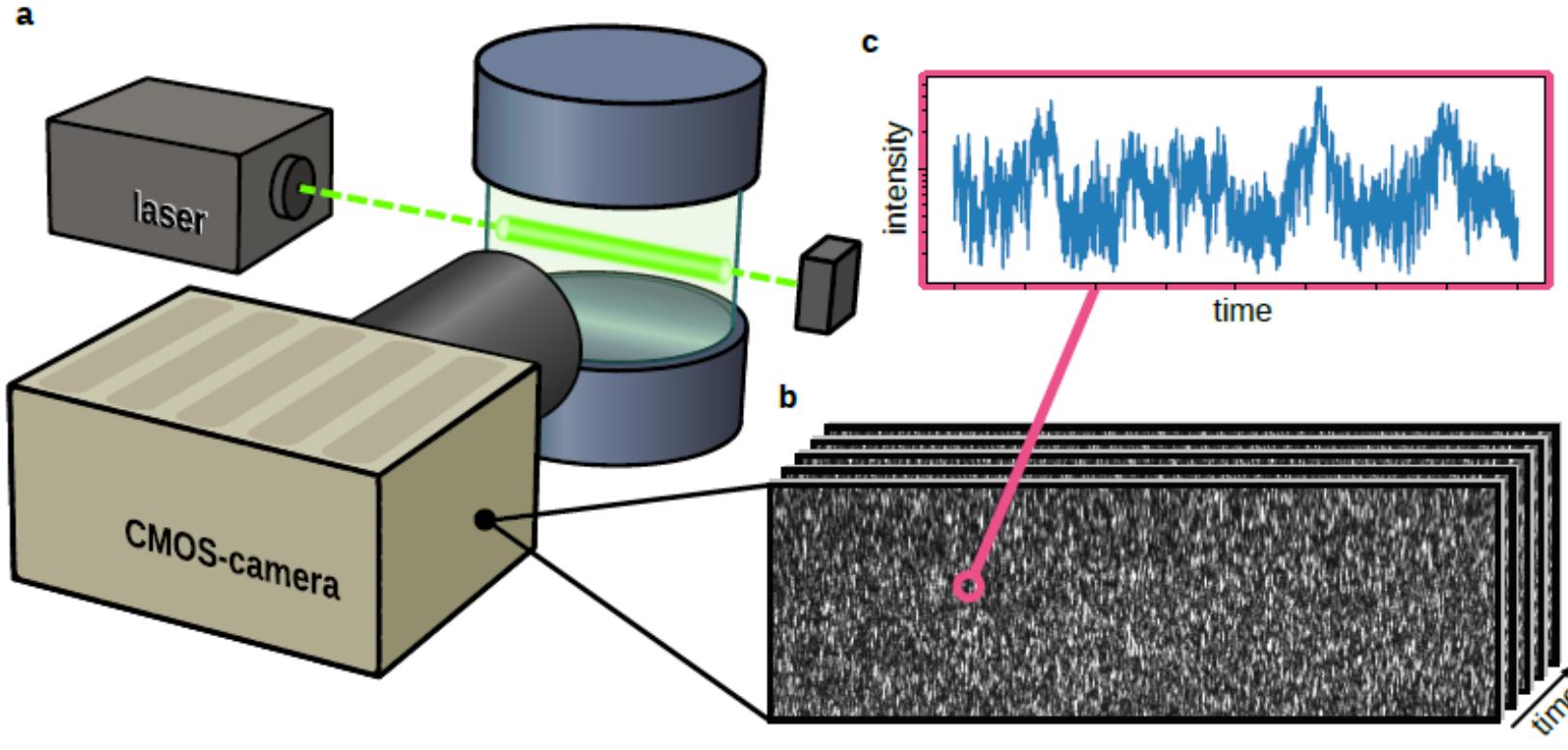
# Linear-Limit Aging Times of Three Monoalcohols

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# time resolved correlation functions

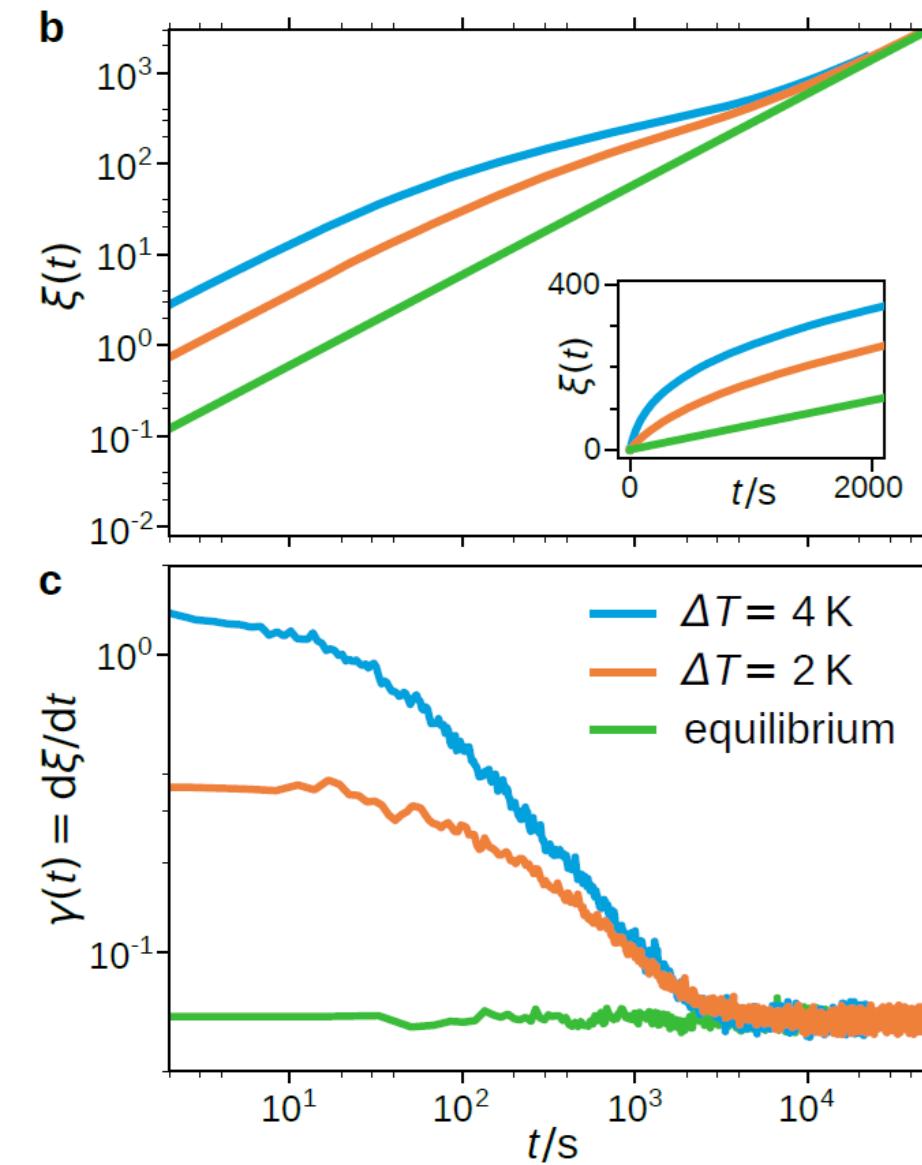
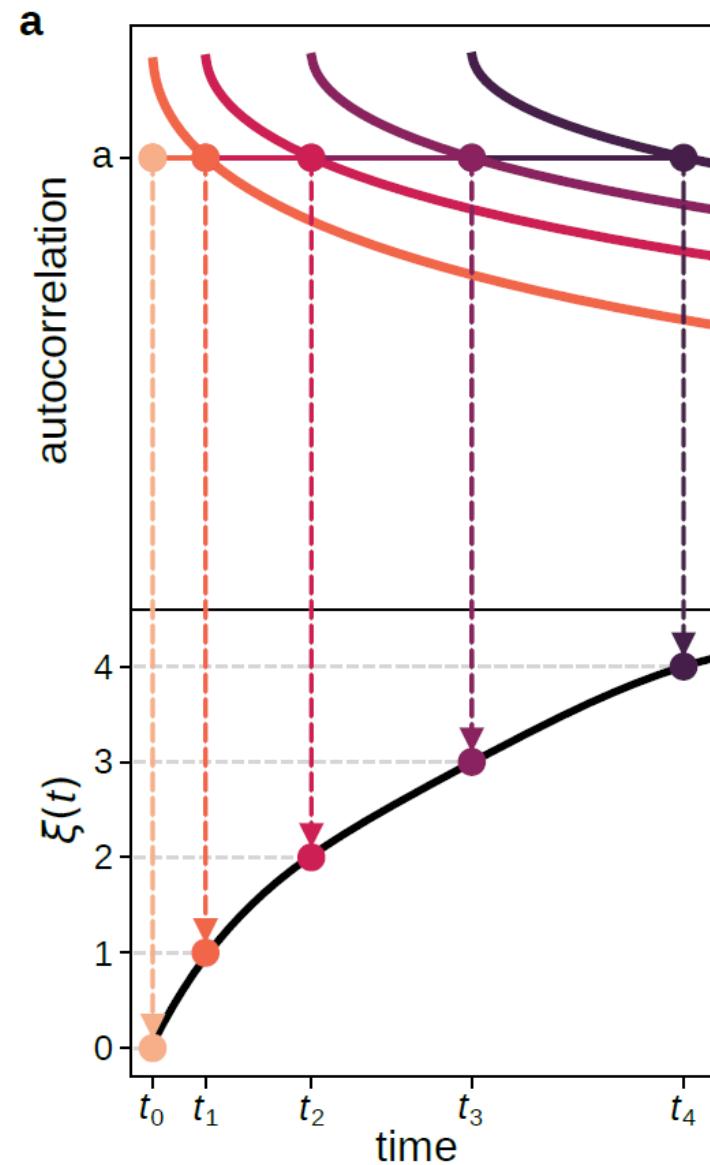


$$C(t, t + \Delta t) = \frac{N}{M} \sum_{j=1}^M \left[ \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N I_{ij}(t) I_{ij}(t + \Delta t)}{\left( \sum_{i=1}^N I_{ij}(t) \right) \left( \sum_{i=1}^N I_{ij}(t + \Delta t) \right)} \right] - 1$$

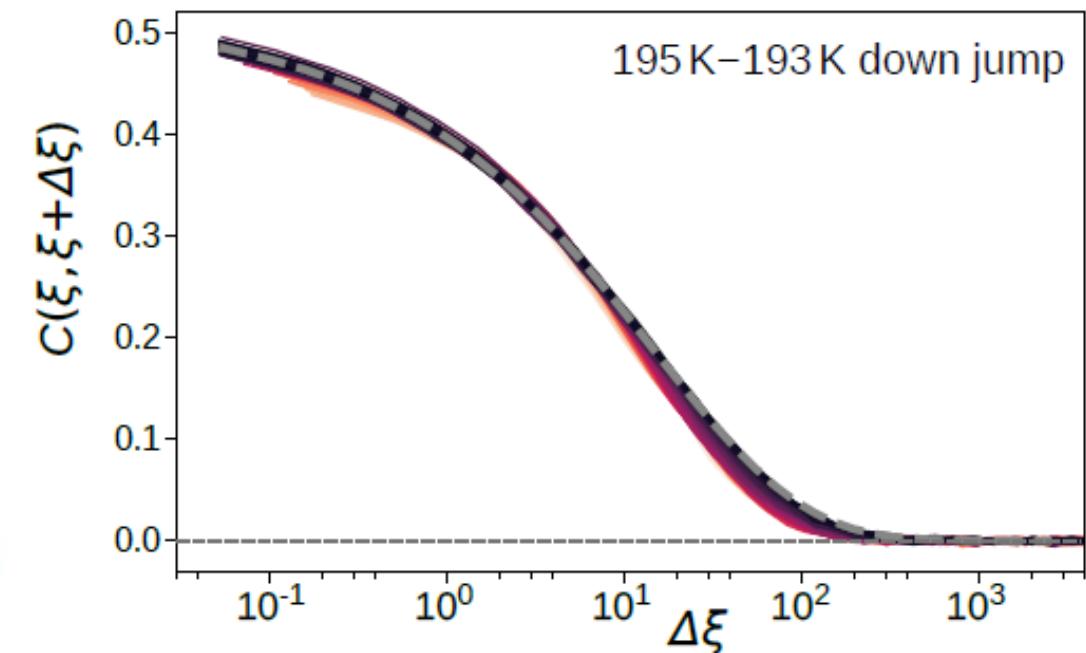
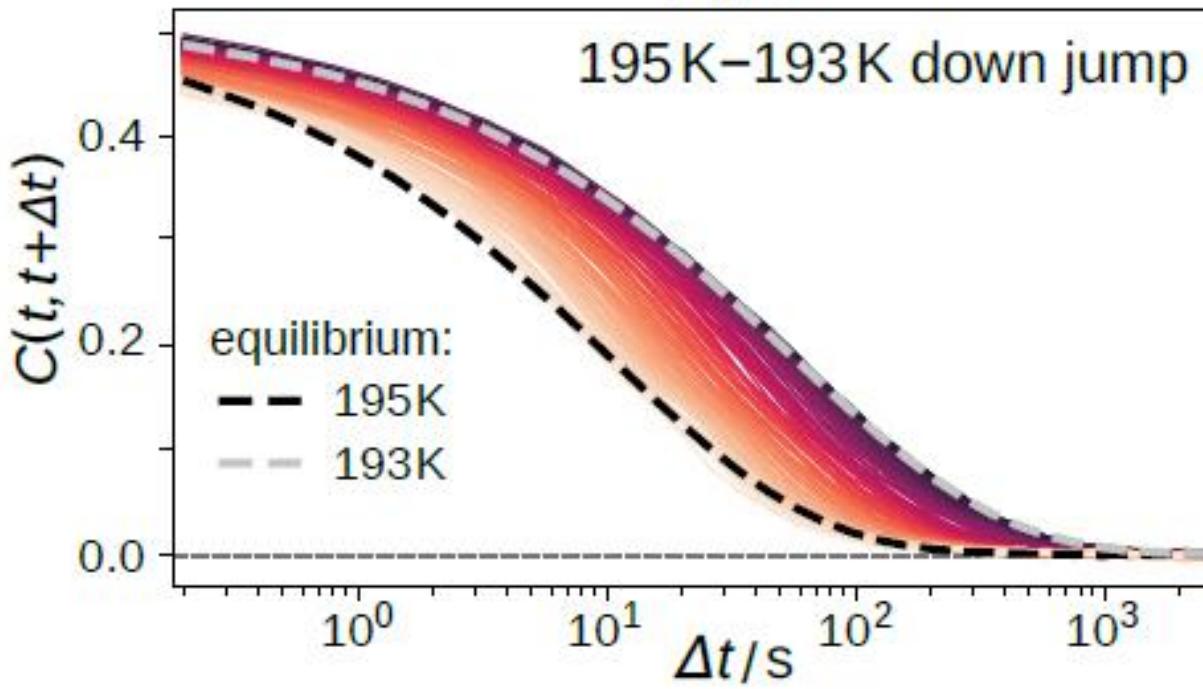


# material time linearises dynamics

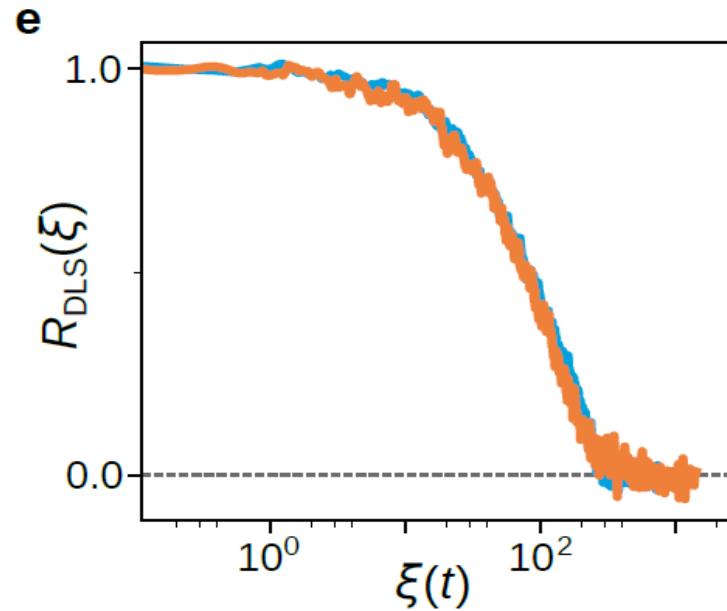
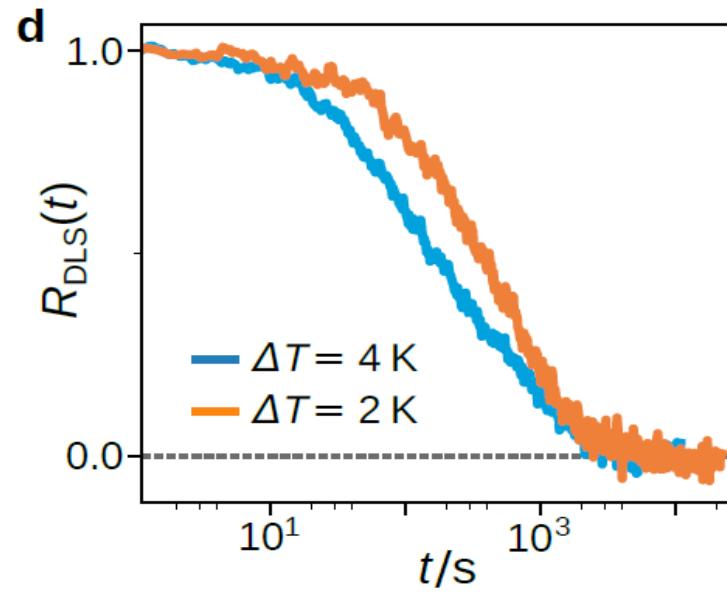
$$\gamma \equiv \frac{d\xi}{dt}$$



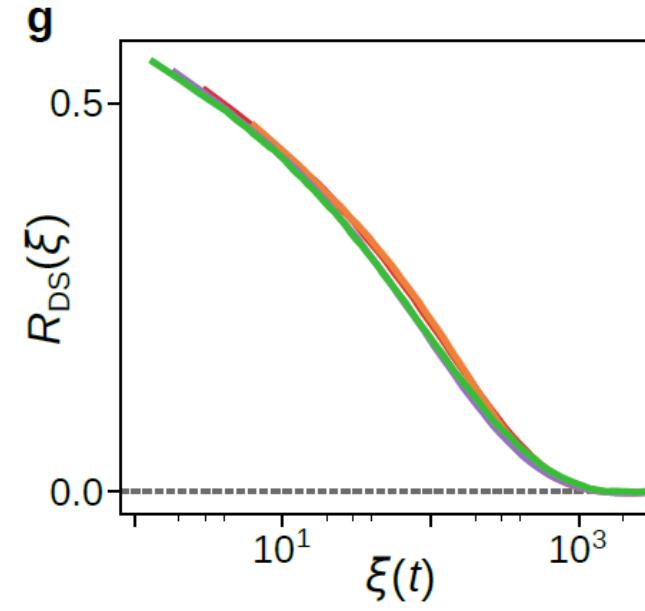
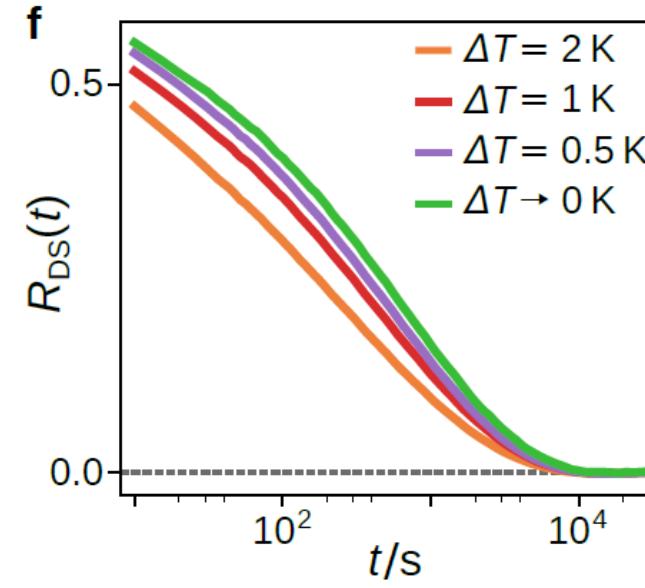
## material time application 1P1P



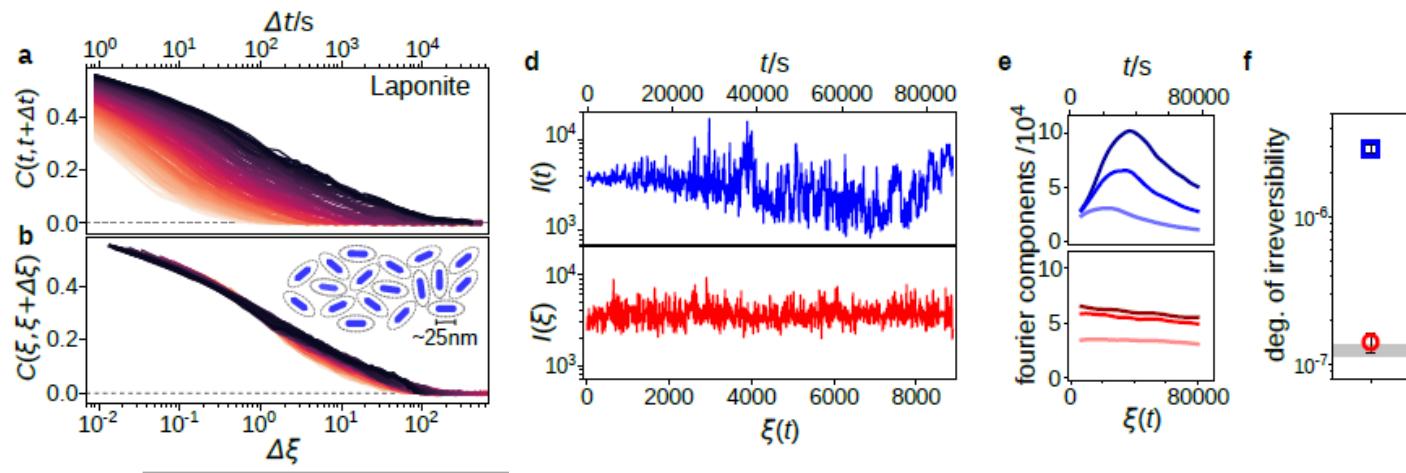
$$R(t) \equiv \frac{g_1(t) - g_1(t \rightarrow \infty)}{g_1(t = 0) - g_1(t \rightarrow \infty)}$$



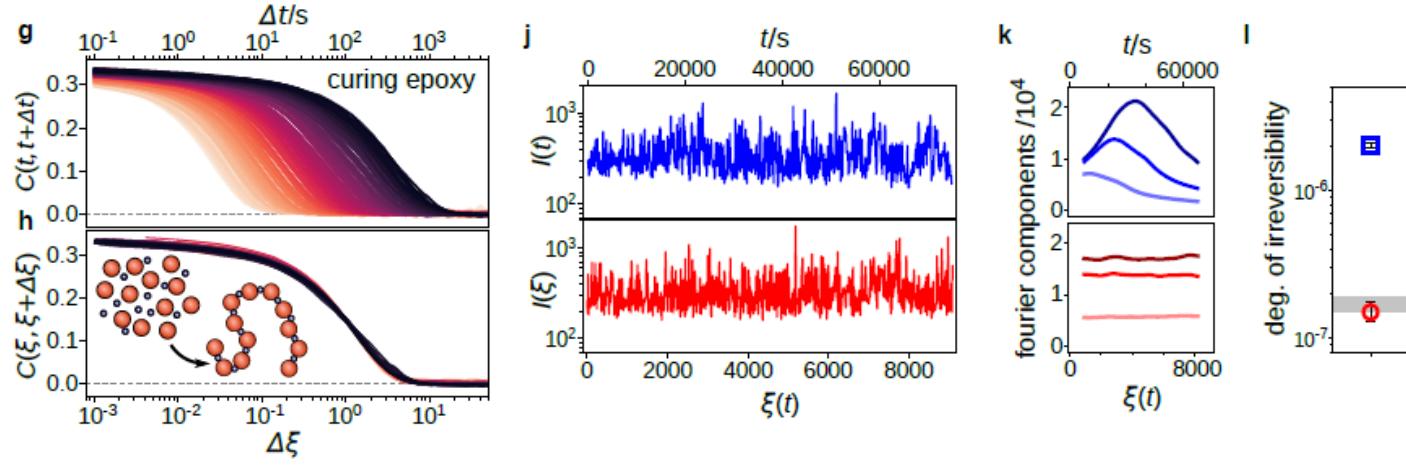
$$R_{\varepsilon''}^X(t) = \frac{\varepsilon''(\nu_0, t) - \varepsilon''(\nu_0, t \rightarrow \infty)}{\varepsilon''(\nu_0, t \rightarrow 0^-) - \varepsilon''(\nu_0, t \rightarrow \infty)}$$



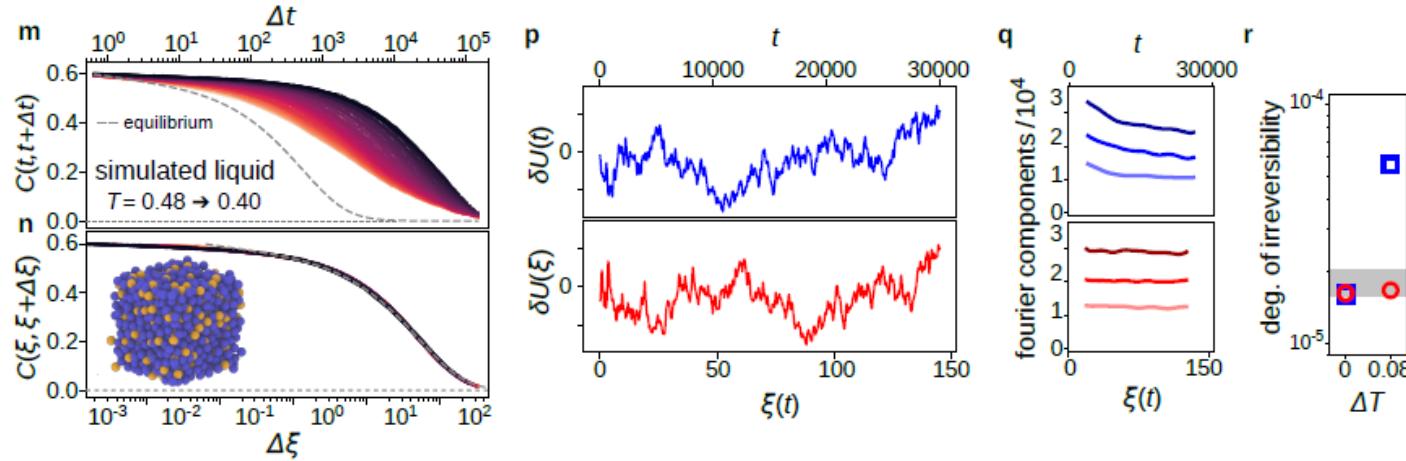
# Colloid



# Polymerizing liquid



# Simulated liquid



# athermal

(glass and jamming)

# properties are time and energy dependent...



Gas



Fluid



Soft/Solid



# compaction of grains ...

Cereal



Roman Street



Swiss road



Moon



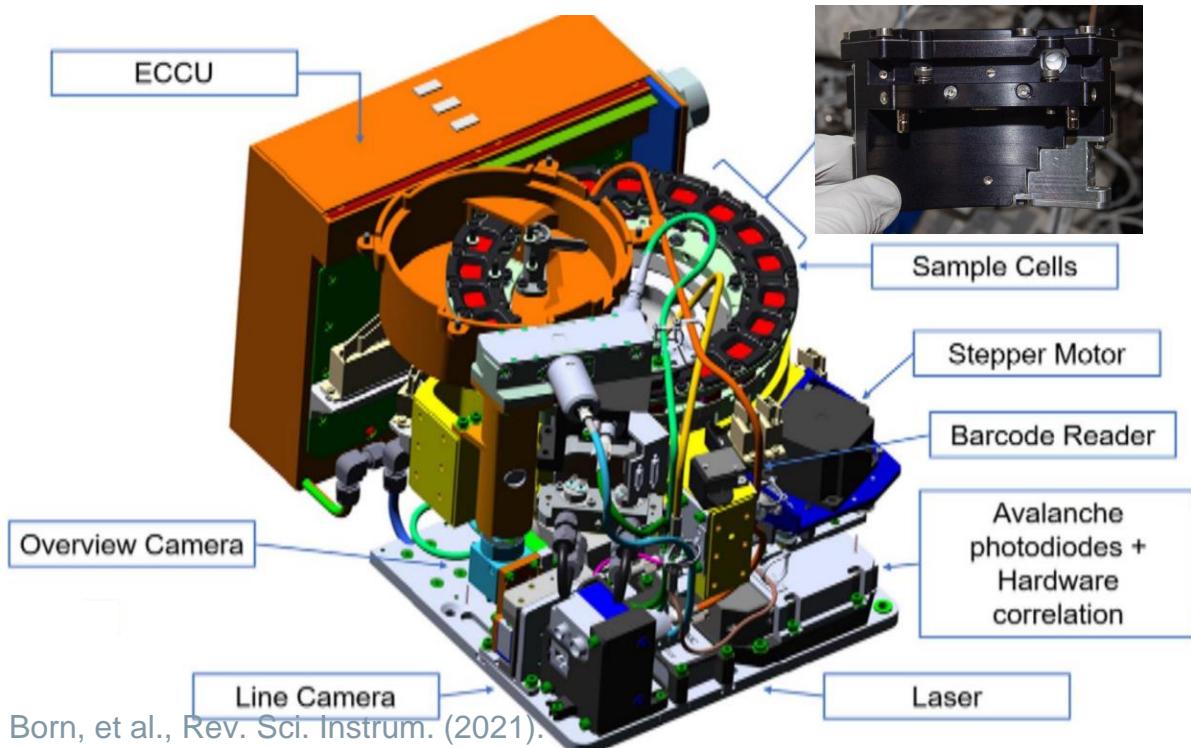
Old Roman road between  
Cologne and Neus

Switzerland road deformation

# how do particles compact without gravity?



## Soft Matter Dynamics Module (SMD) on the ISS Foams - Emulsions - Grains



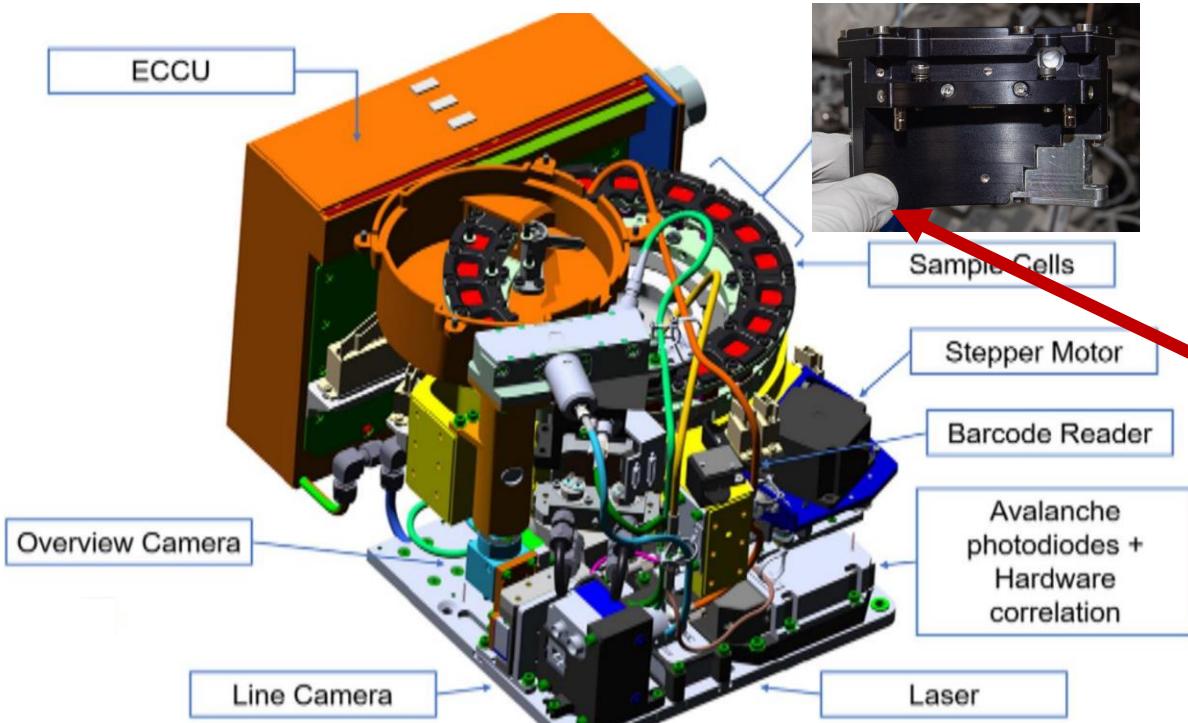
Alexander Gerst installing the SMD

ISS and SMD provide long-term low gravity for the investigation of slow processes

# how do particles compact without gravity?



## Soft Matter Dynamics Module (SMD) on the ISS Foams - Emulsions - Grains



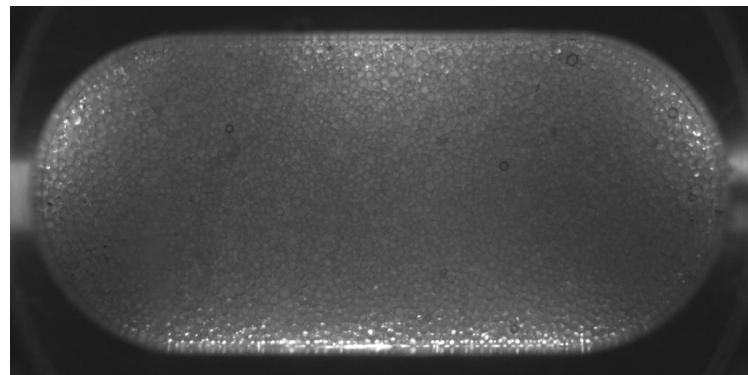
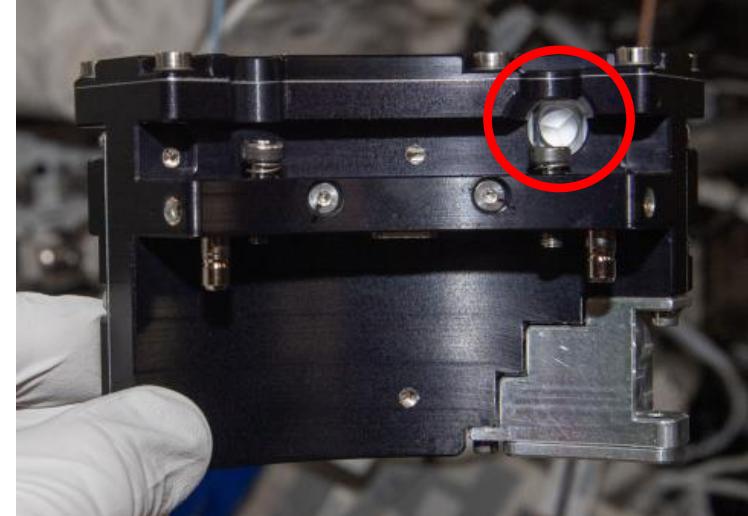
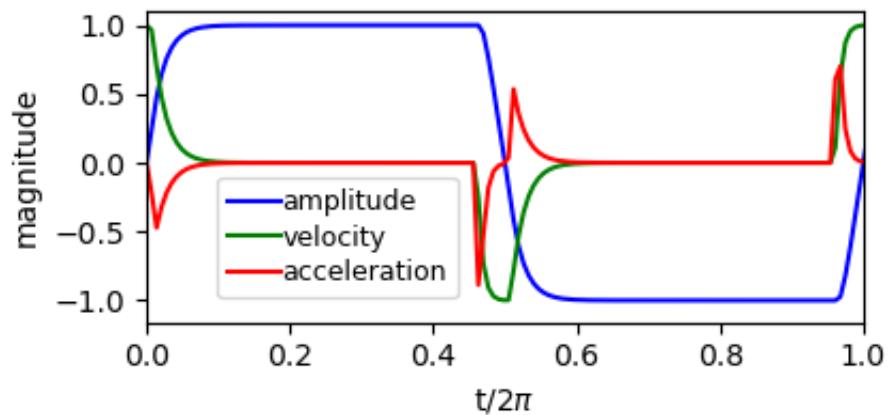
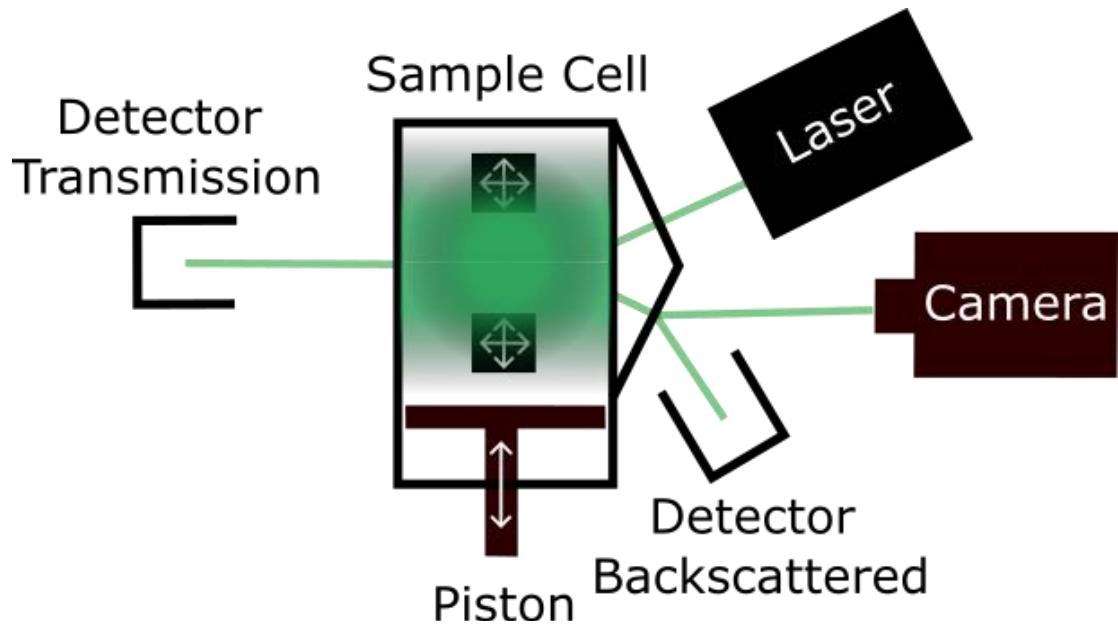
Born, et al., Rev. Sci. Instrum. (2021).



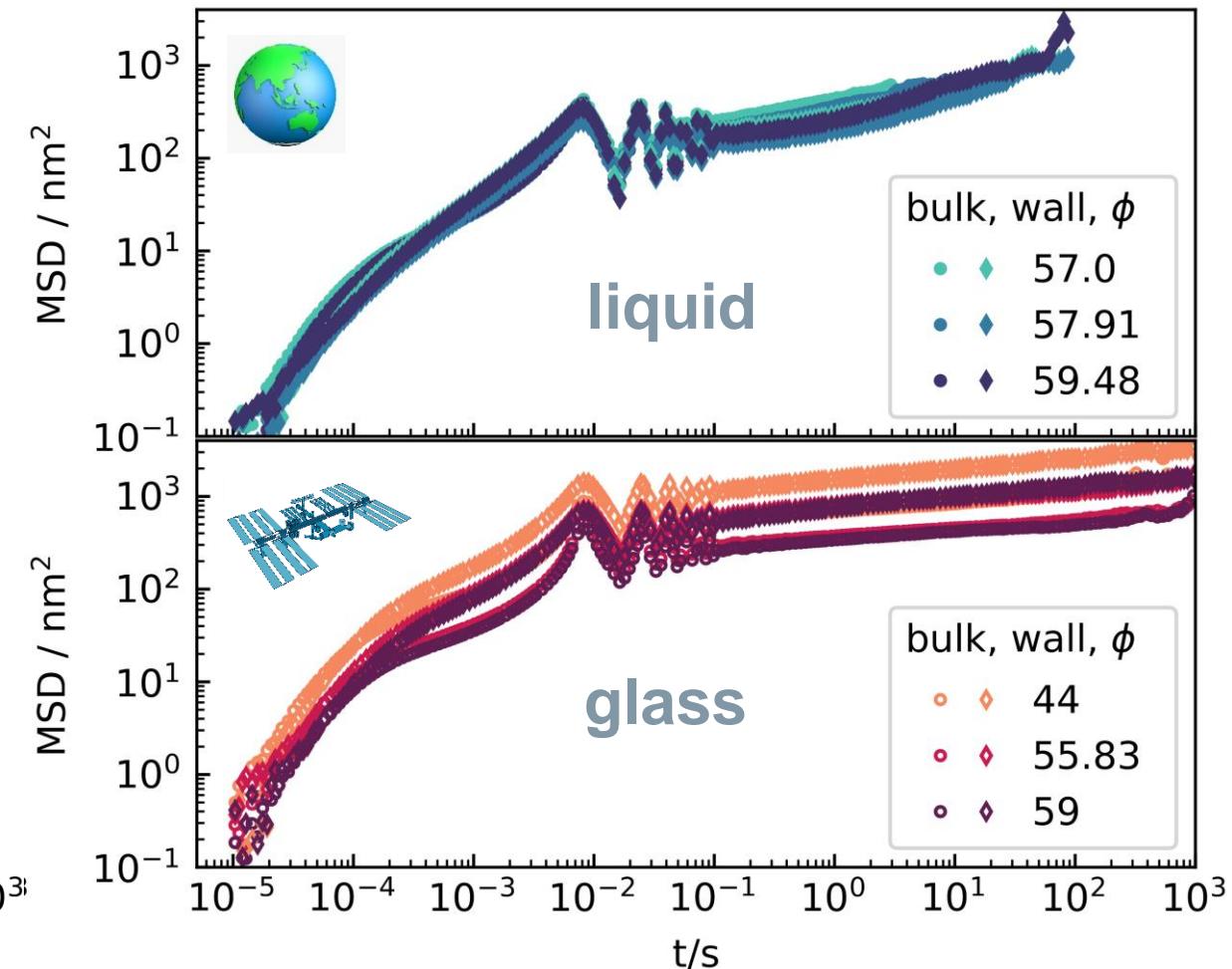
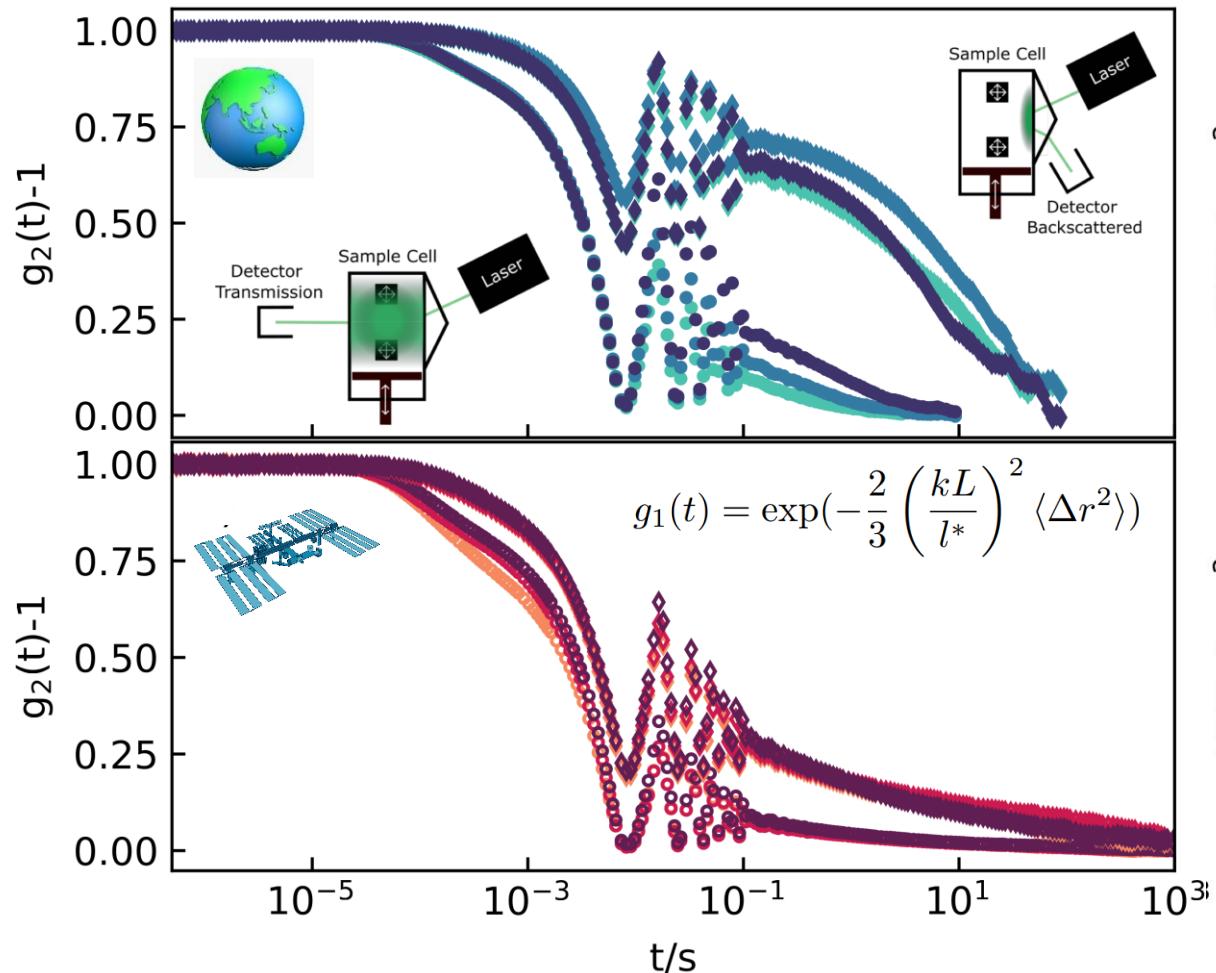
Andreas Mogensen

ISS and SMD provide long-term low gravity for the investigation of slow processes

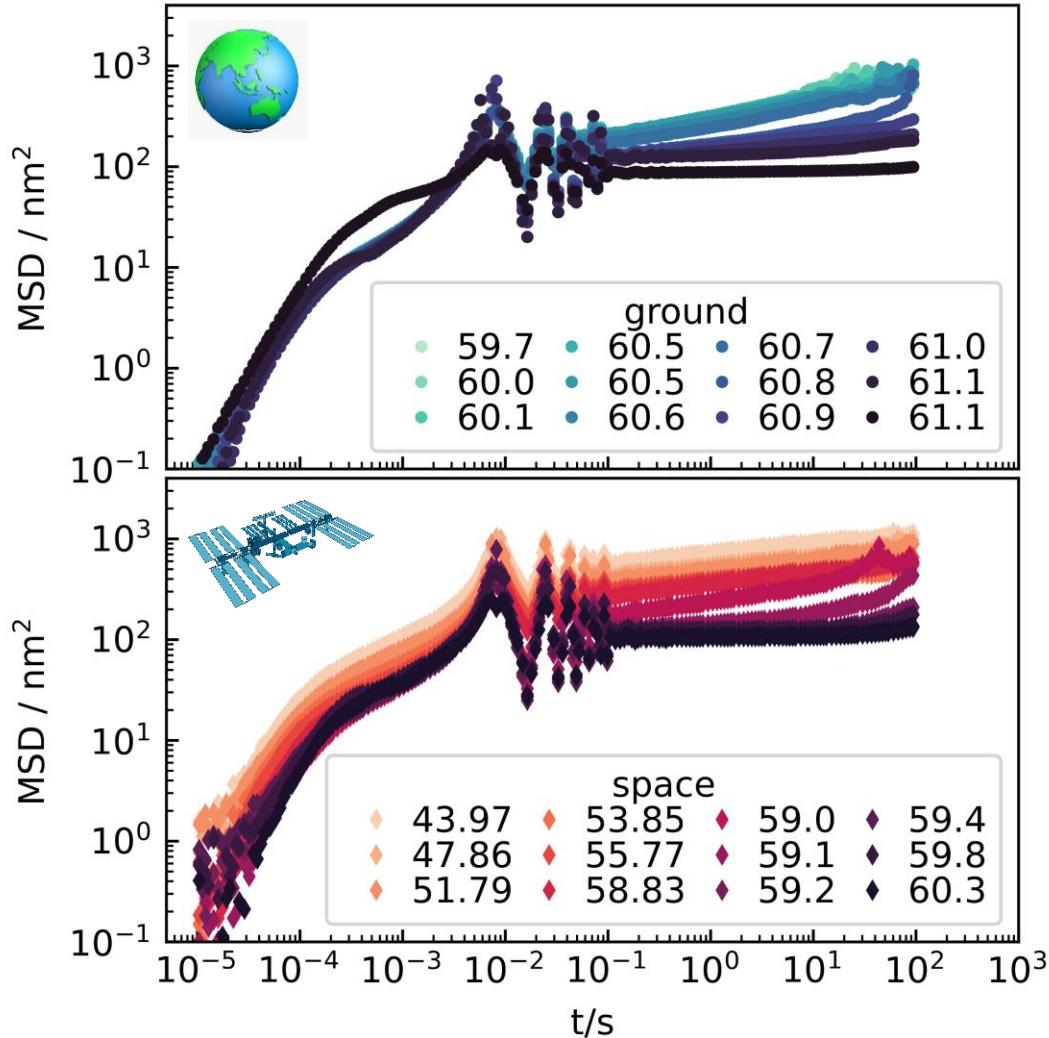
four piezo crystals generate a pulsed excitation of approx. 1g



# Granule mobility on Earth and on the ISS



# the glass transition takes place earlier without gravity

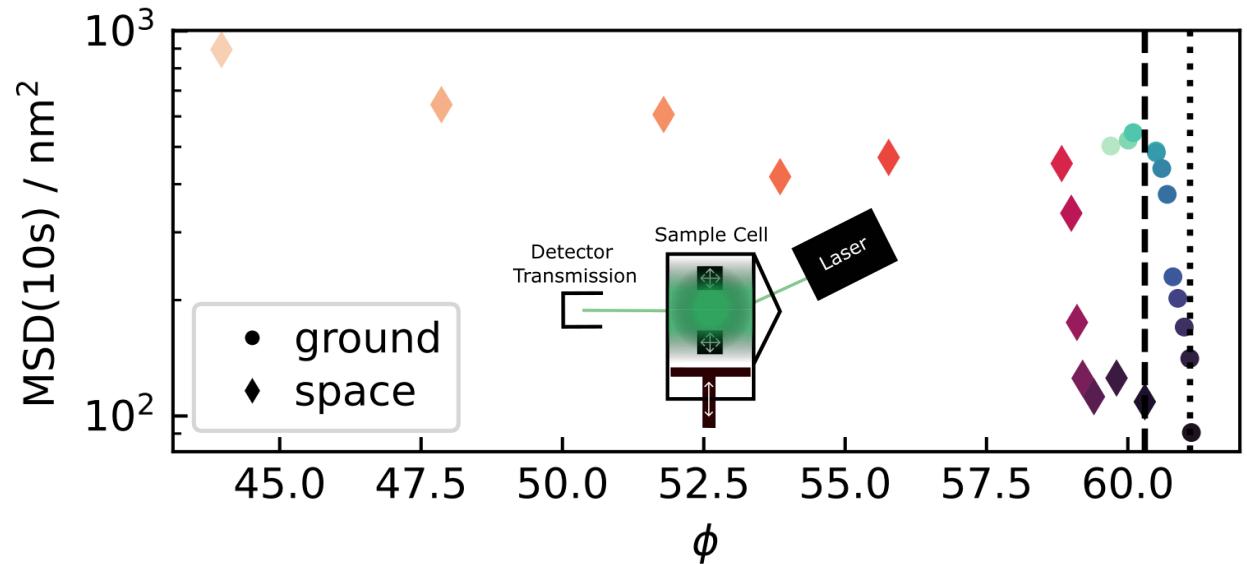


Earth:

Glassy 60.6%  
Jamming 61.1%

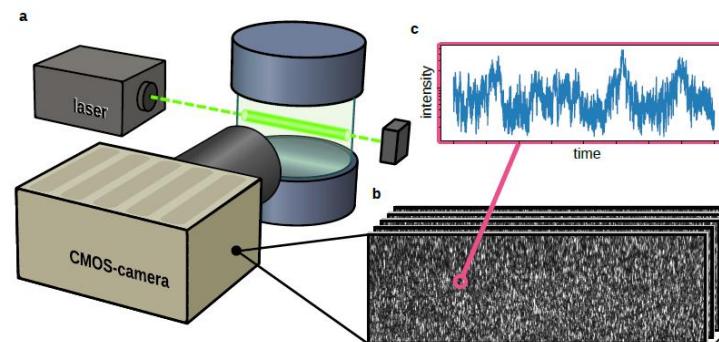
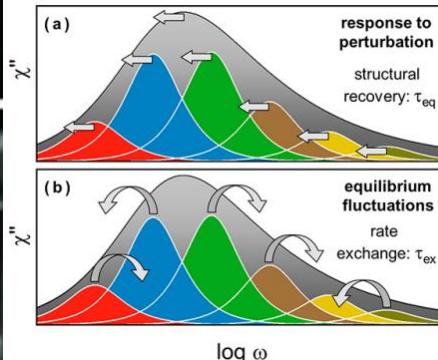
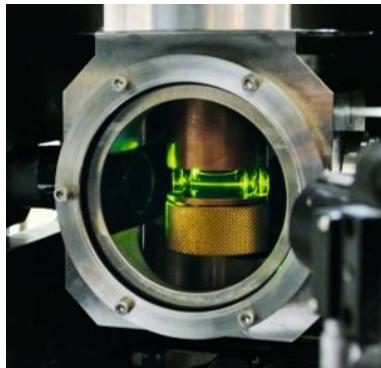
ISS:

Glassy 59.0%  
Jamming 60.3%.



# Summary

- The spectral shape is related to the Kirkwood factor and dipole density.
- The spectral shape and cross-correlations depend on the molecular specifics.  
(polymer-like, asymmetries in shape, H-bound positions).
- Material time works in many systems and method independent.
- Densification in space is less efficient, and the spectra are similar to those of liquids.
- Consistent with: Simulations, solvation dynamics, mechanical spectroscopy, NMR, etc.



# Acknowledgment



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## Technical University Darmstadt

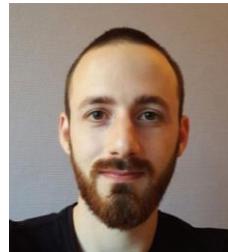


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Ranko Richert



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UNIVERSITÄT  
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**DFG**  
Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft  
BL 923/1



**Glass  
& time**

**VILLUM FONDEN**  
  
Center for Viscous Liquid Dynamics



**ASU**  
School of  
Molecular Sciences



