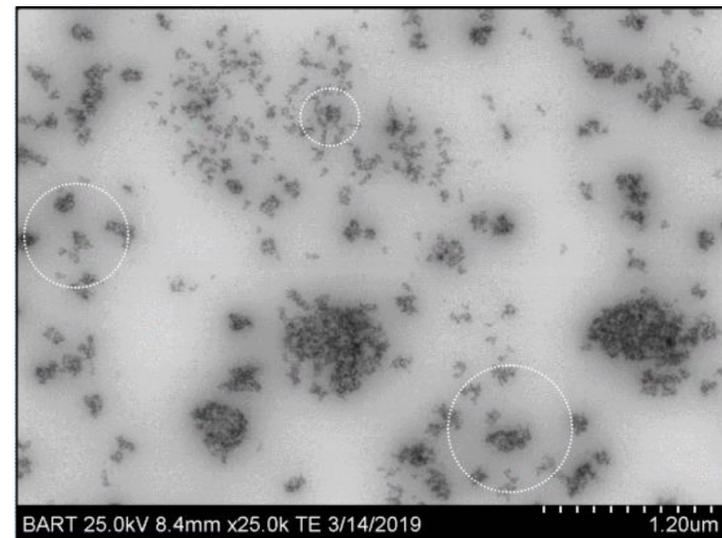
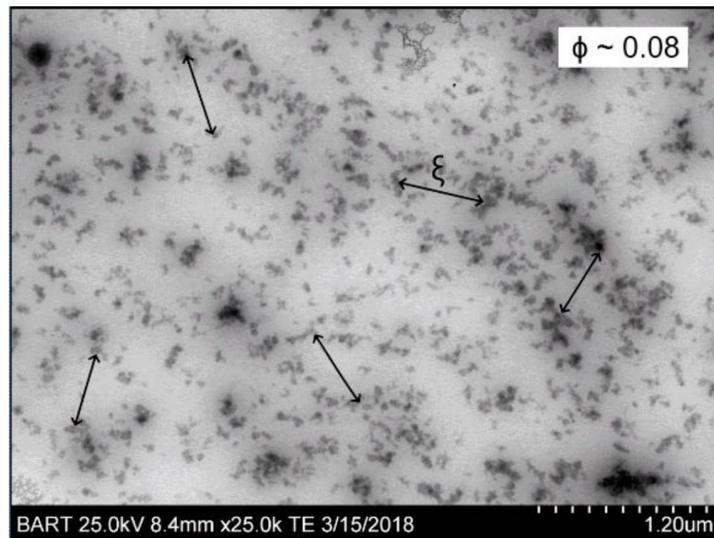


# X-ray Scattering for CB and CB Nanocomposites

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**Kabir Rishi**, PhD NIOSH/CDC Cincinnati Research Laboratory



# X-ray Scattering for CB and CB Nanocomposites

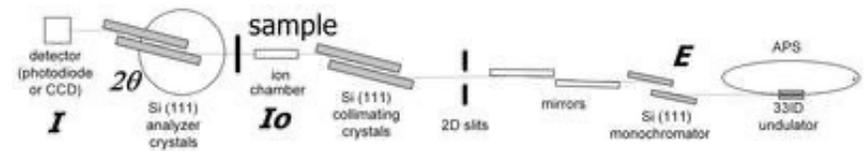
- Overview of X-ray Scattering

- Nanocomposite Dispersion and Distribution  
Carbon Black in Elastomers and other Polymers

## X-ray Scattering

2-D Narrow size range  
Pinhole XRD/SAXS/(USAXS)

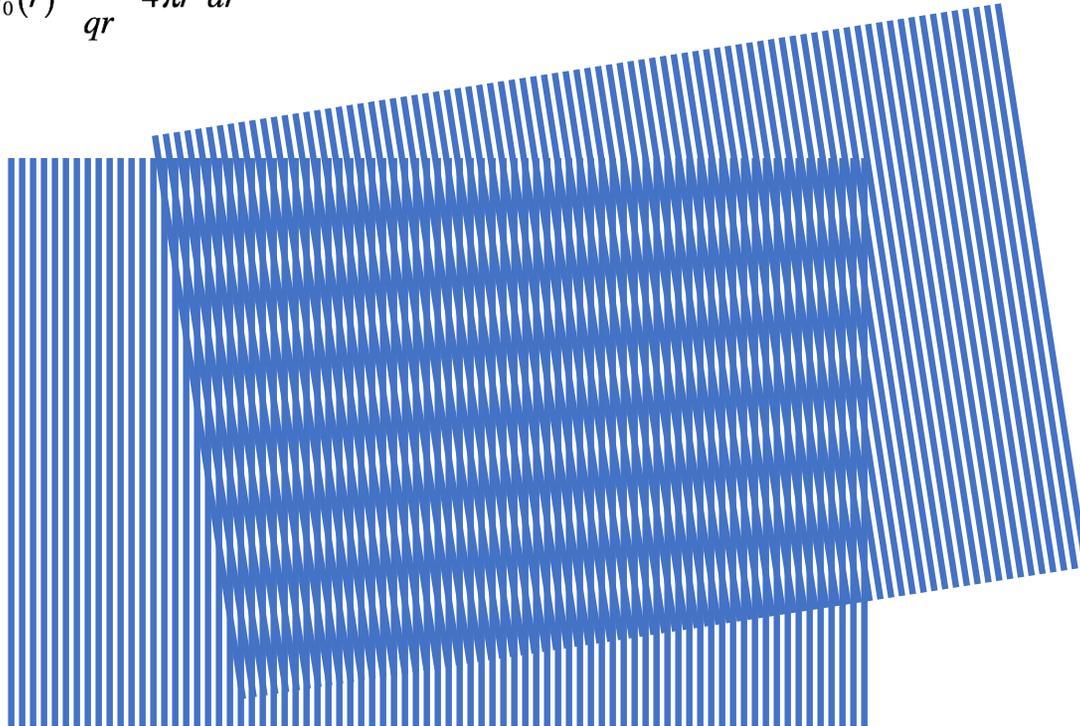
1-D 4+-orders of size  
Bonse-Hart Camera USAXS

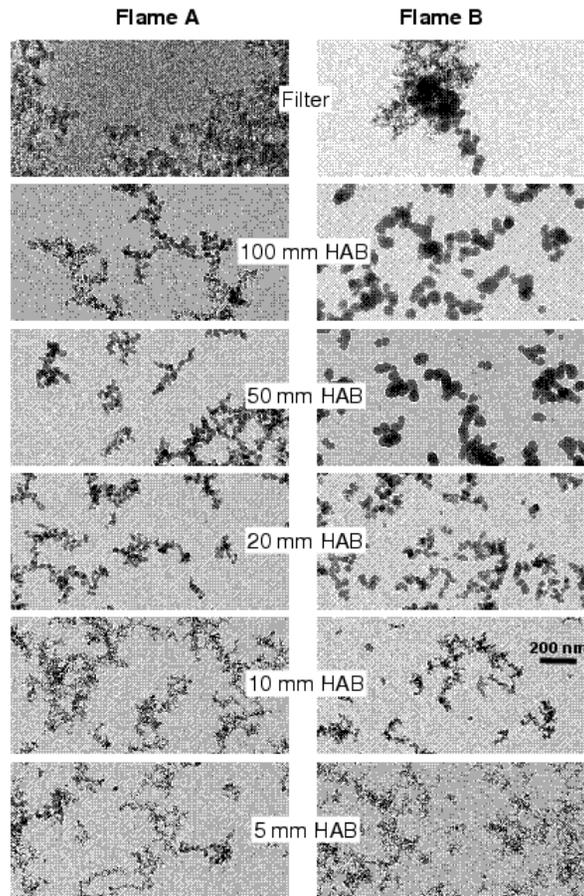


Consider the origin of the vector  $\mathbf{r} \sim 2\pi/\mathbf{q}$  (**Braggs Law**)

$$I(q) = \langle F^2(q) \rangle = V\rho_e^2 \int_0^\infty \gamma_0(r) \frac{\sin qr}{qr} 4\pi r^2 dr$$

$$\mathbf{q} = 4\pi/\lambda \sin(\theta/2)$$

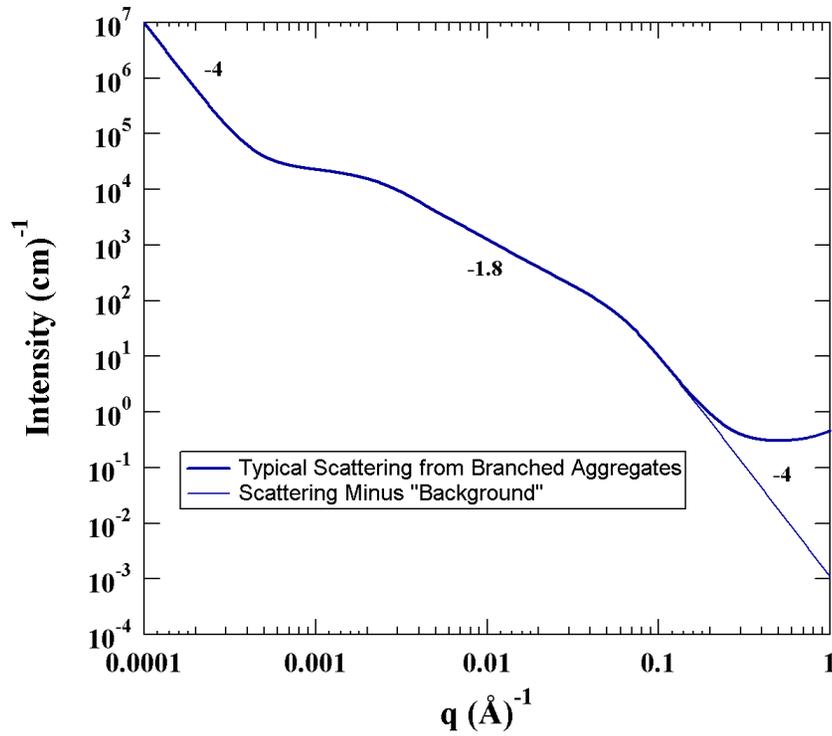
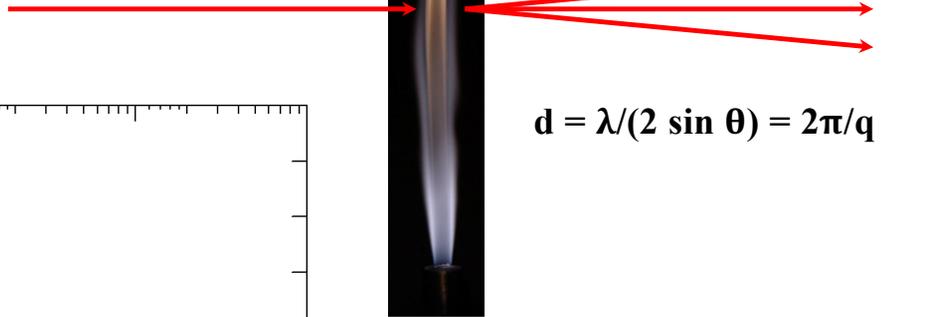




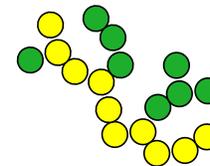
Kammler HK, Beaucage G, Kohls DJ, Agashe N, Ilavsky J  
*J Appl. Phys.* 97(2005) (Article 054309).

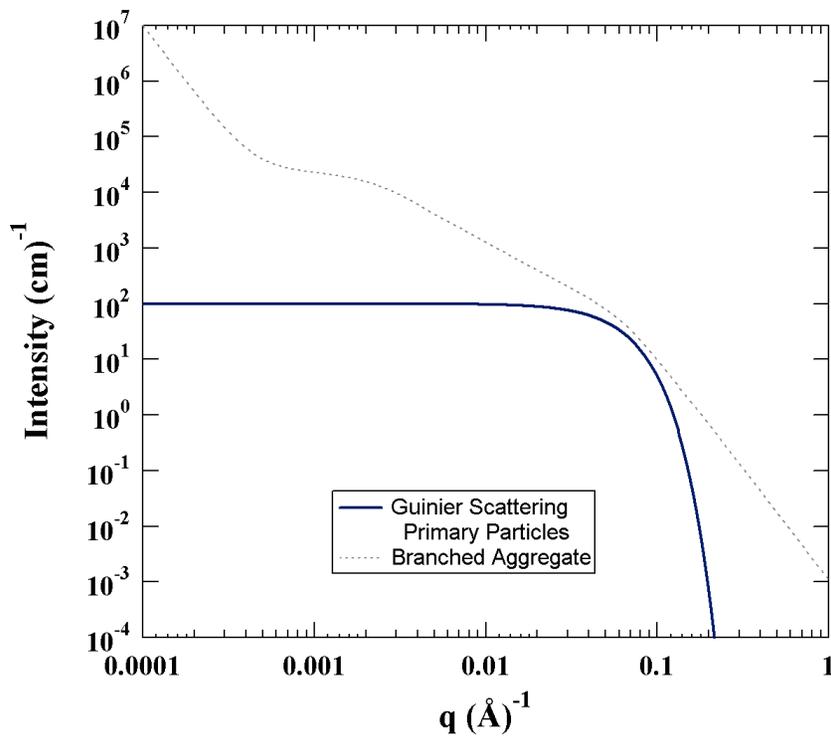


X-ray,  $\lambda$



Branched Aggregates



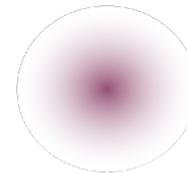


X-ray,  $\lambda$



$2\theta$

$$d = \lambda / (2 \sin \theta) = 2\pi / q$$

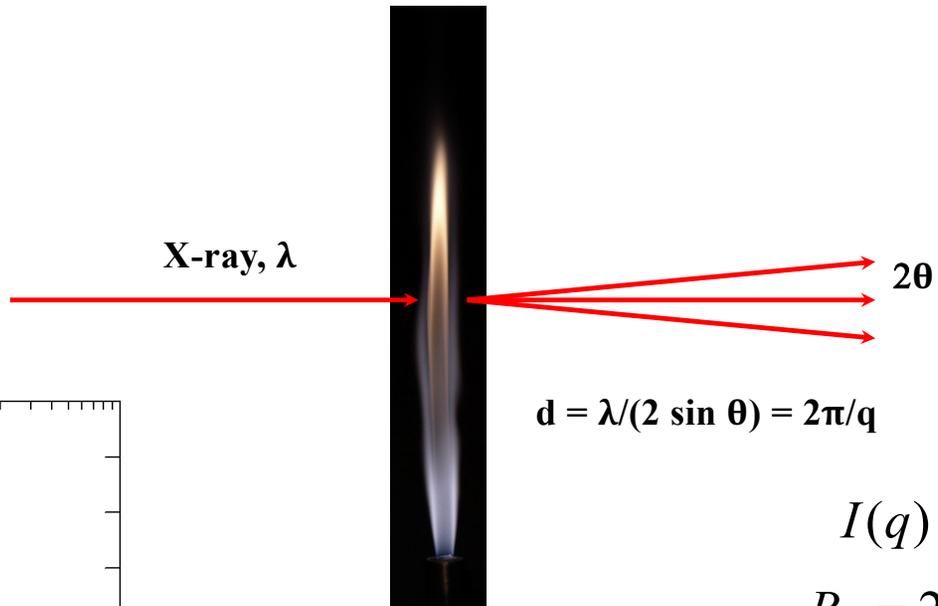
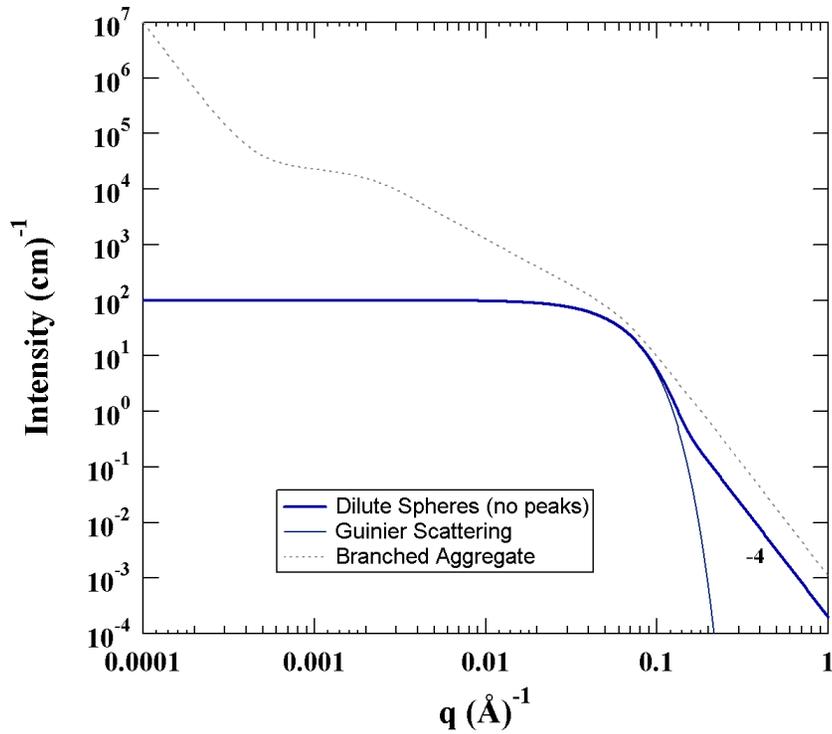


**Guinier's Law**

$$I(q) = G_1 \exp\left(\frac{-q^2 \langle R_{g,1}^2 \rangle}{3}\right)$$

$$G = N\rho_e^2 \langle V^2 \rangle \sim \langle R^6 \rangle$$

$$\langle R_g^2 \rangle \sim \frac{\langle R^8 \rangle}{\langle R^6 \rangle}$$



## Guinier and Porod Scattering

$$I(q) = B_p q^{-4}$$

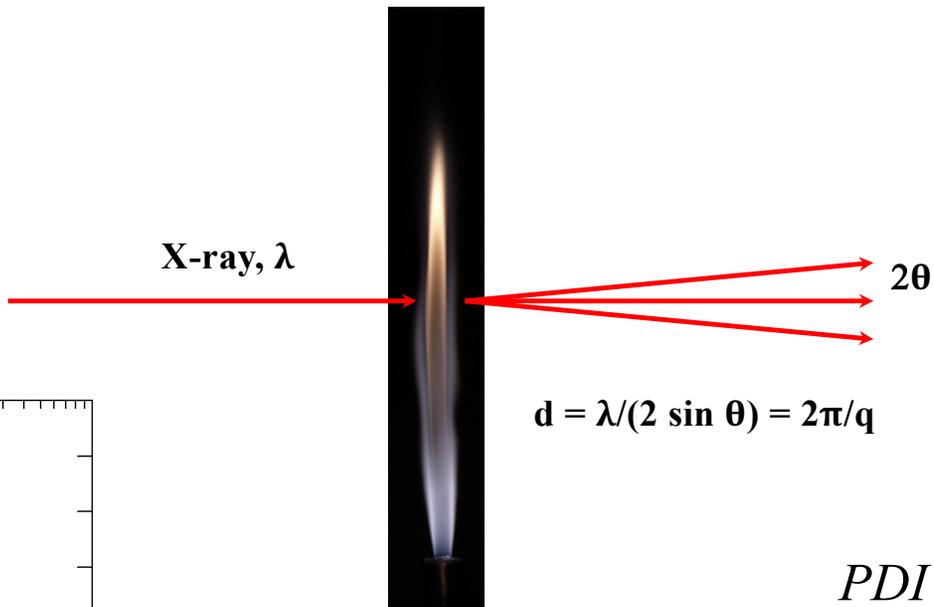
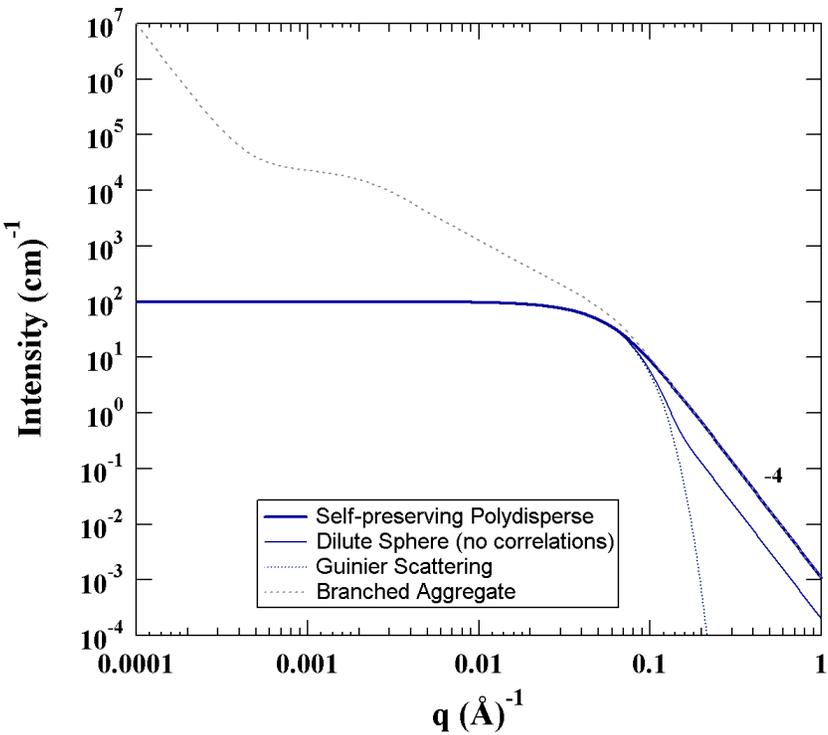
$$B_p = 2\pi N \rho_e^2 \langle S \rangle$$

$$\langle S \rangle \sim \langle R^2 \rangle$$

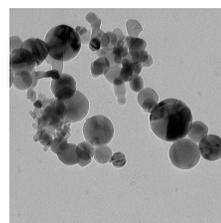
$$Q = \int q^2 I(q) dq = N \rho_e^2 \langle R^3 \rangle$$

$$d_p = \frac{Q}{2\pi B_p} = \frac{\langle R^3 \rangle}{\langle R^2 \rangle}$$

Structure of Flame Made Silica Nanoparticles  
By Ultra-Small-Angle X-ray Scattering  
Kammler/Beaucage Langmuir 2004 20 1915-1921



### Polydispersity

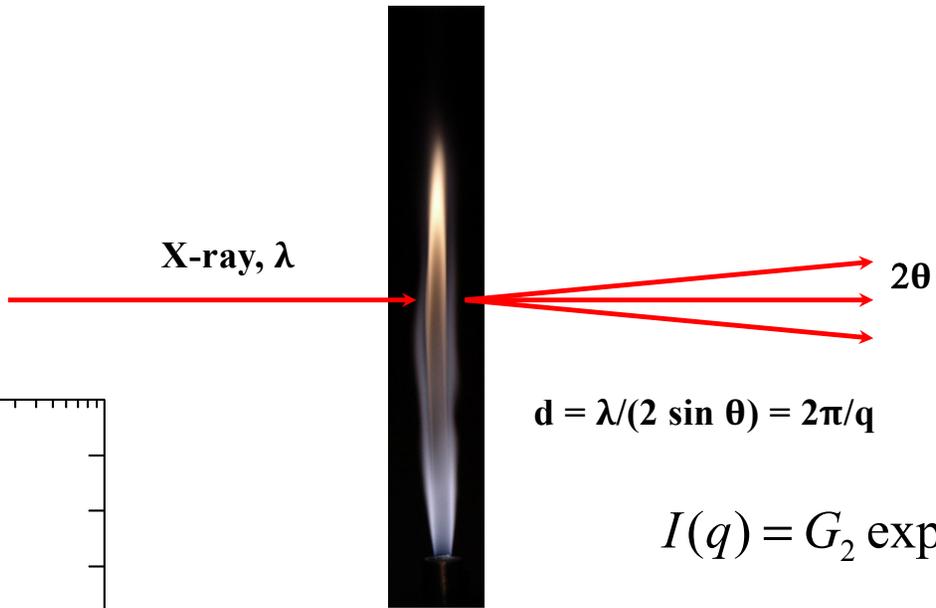
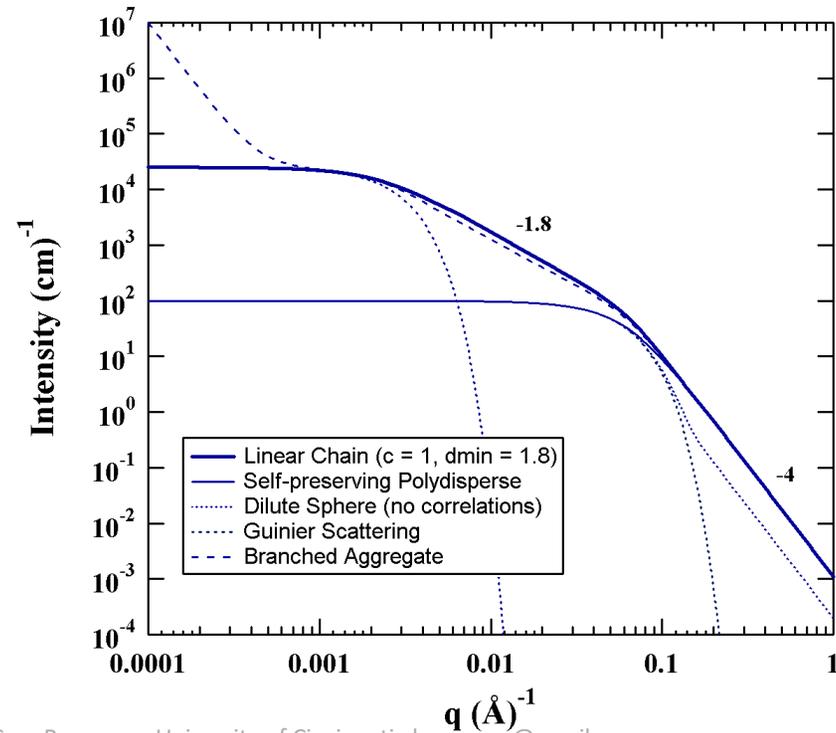


Particle size distributions from small-angle scattering using global scattering functions, *Beaucage, Kammler, Pratsinis J. Appl. Cryst.* 37 523-535 (2004).

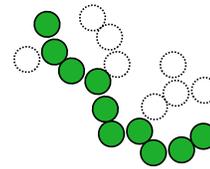
$$PDI = \frac{B_P R_g^4}{1.62G}$$

$$\sigma = \ln(\sigma_g) = \left[ \frac{\ln(PDI)}{12} \right]^{1/2}$$

$$m = \left[ \frac{5R_g^2}{3e^{14\sigma^2}} \right]^{1/2}$$



Linear Aggregates



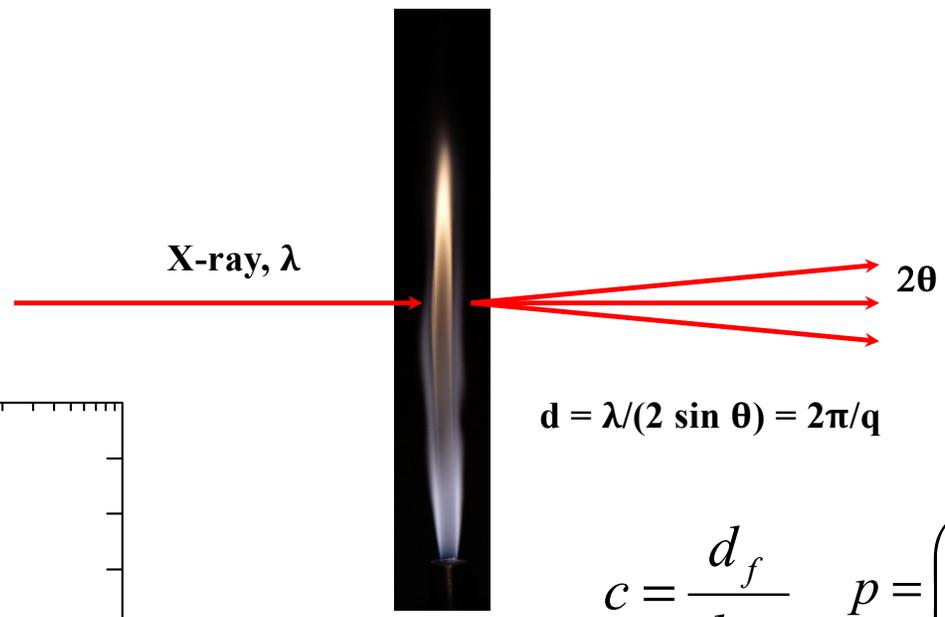
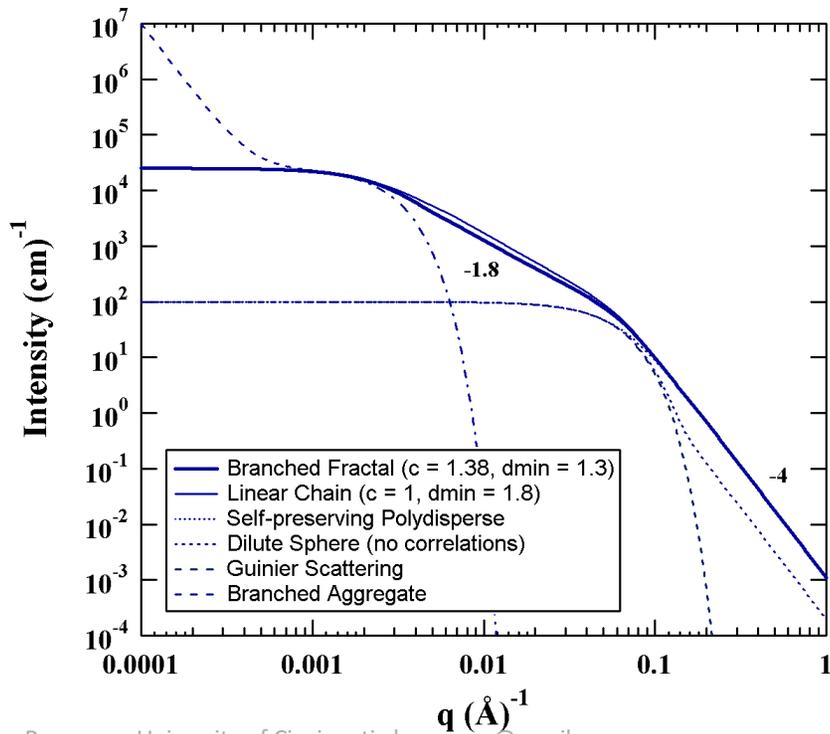
Beaucage G, *Small-angle Scattering from Polymeric Mass Fractals of Arbitrary Mass-Fractal Dimension*, *J. Appl. Cryst.* 29 134-146 (1996).

$$I(q) = G_2 \exp\left(\frac{-q^2 \langle R_{g,2}^2 \rangle}{3}\right)$$

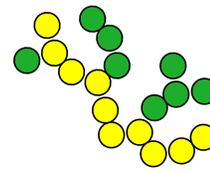
$$z = \frac{G_2}{G_1} = \left(\frac{R_2}{R_1}\right)^{d_f}$$

$$I(q) = B_f q^{-d_f}$$

$$B_f = \frac{G_2 d_f}{R_{g,2}^{d_f}} \Gamma(d_f / 2)$$



### Branched Aggregates



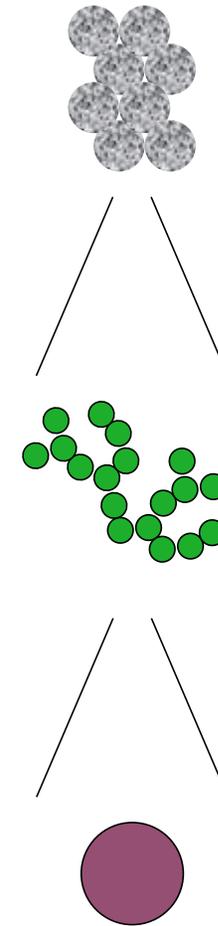
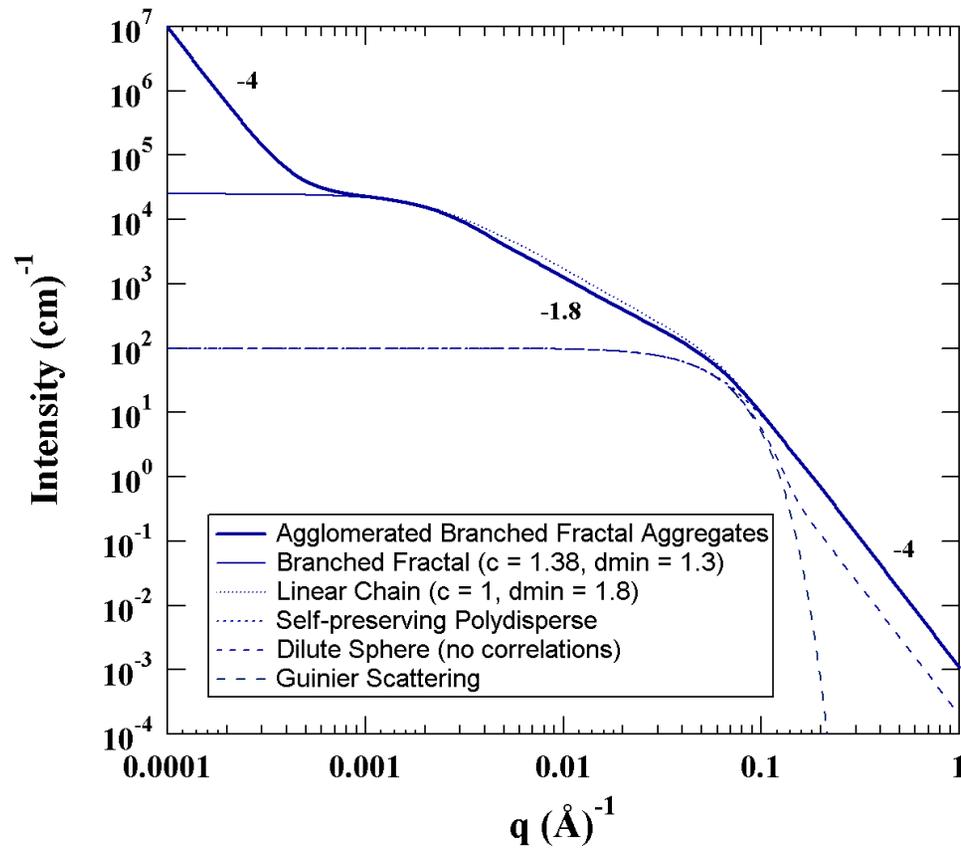
$$c = \frac{d_f}{d_{\min}} \quad p = \left( \frac{R_2}{R_1} \right)^{d_{\min}} = z^{1/c}$$

$$\phi_{Br} = 1 - \left( \frac{R_2}{R_1} \right)^{d_{\min} - d_f}$$

Beaucage G, Determination of branch fraction and minimum dimension of fractal aggregates *Phys. Rev. E* **70** 031401 (2004).

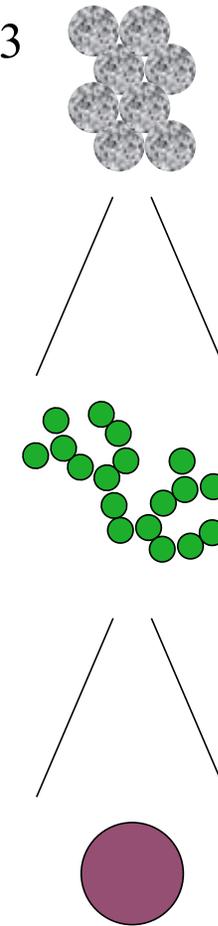
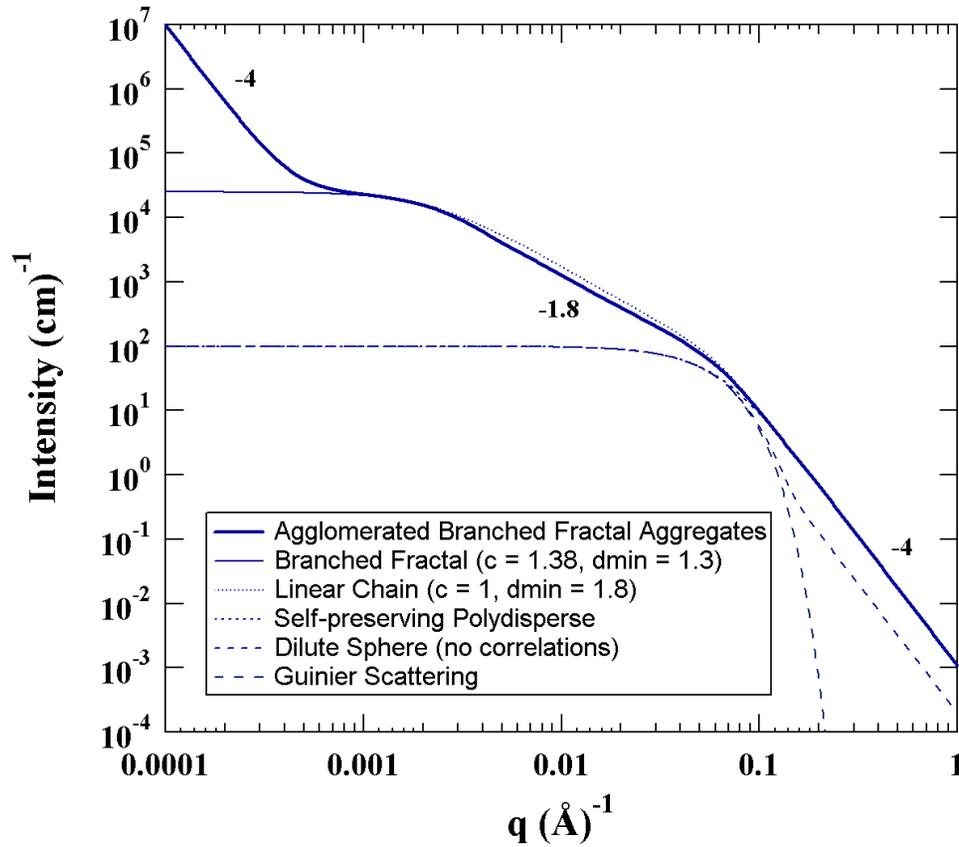
$$B_f = \frac{G_2 d_{\min}}{R_{g,2}^{d_f}} \Gamma_{11}(d_f/2)$$

## Large Scale (low-q) Agglomerates



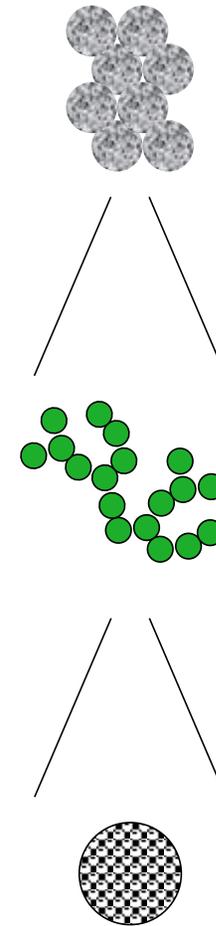
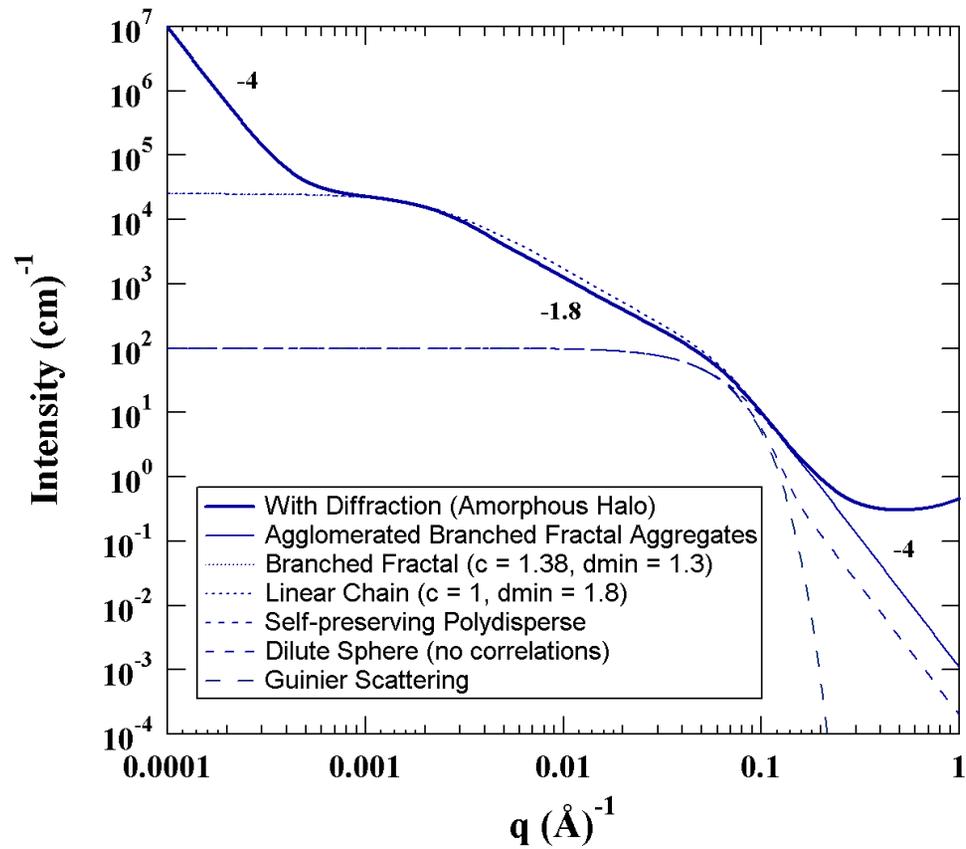
$$I(q) = B_P q^{-4}$$

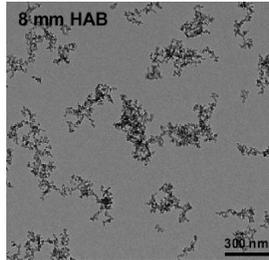
Large Scale (low- $q$ ) Or a **network** if  $|\text{slope}| < 3$



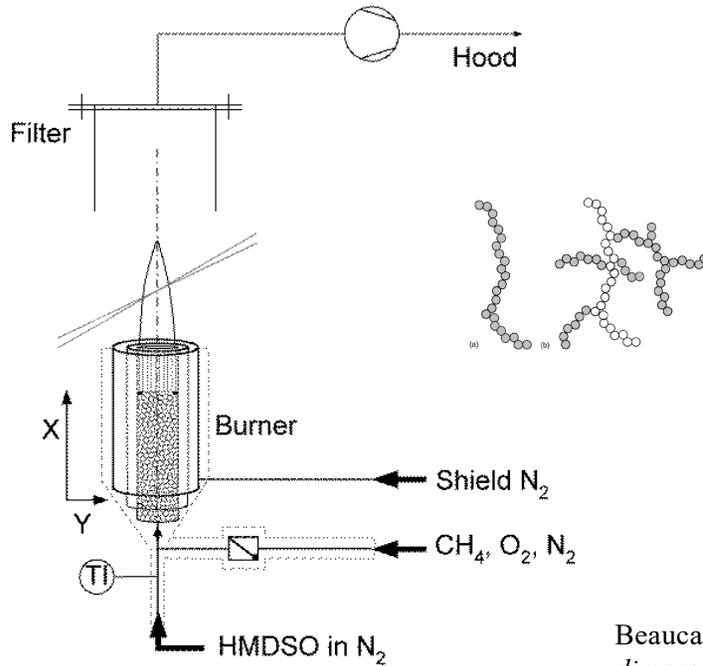
$$I(q) = B_P q^{-4}$$

## Small-scale Crystallographic Structure

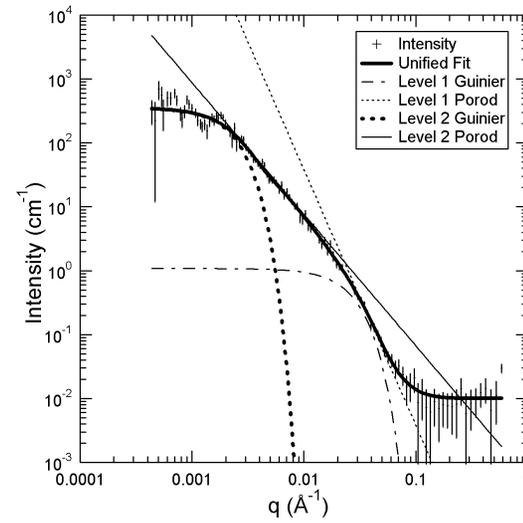




APS UNICAT  
Silica Premixed Flames  
*J. Appl. Phys* 97 054309  
Feb 2005



## Branched Aggregates



5mm LAT 16mm HAB  
Typical Branched Aggregate

$$d_p = 5.7 \text{ nm}$$

$$z = 350$$

$$c = 1.5, d_{\min} = 1.4, d_f = 2.1$$

$$\phi_{br} = 0.8$$

# Descriptors

Aggregate size,  $R$

Primary particle size,  $d_p$

Degree of aggregation,  $z$

Short-circuit path length,  $p$

Connective path length,  $s$

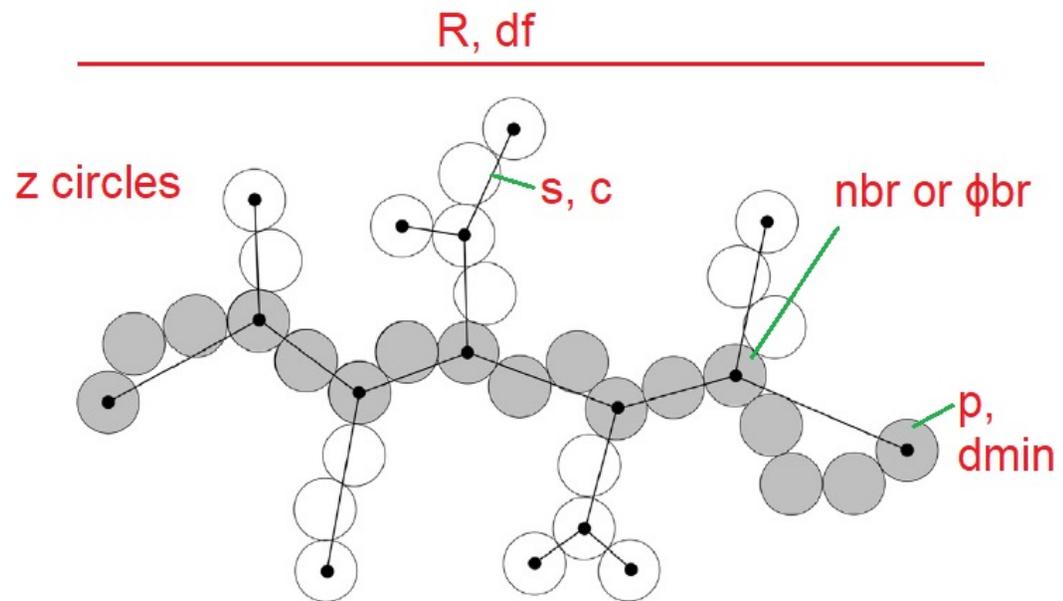
Fractal dimension,  $d_f$

Tortuosity,  $d_{\min}$

Connectivity,  $c$

Branch fraction,  $\phi_{br}$

Branch number,  $n_{br}$



Beaucage, G. Determination of branch fraction and minimum dimension of mass-fractal aggregates. *Physical Review E – Statistical, Nonlinear, and Soft Matter Physics* **2004**, 70, 031401-1–031401-10.

Rai, D., Beaucage, G., Jonah, E. O., Britton, D. T., Sukumaran, S., & Härting, M. Quantitative investigations of aggregate systems. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2012**, 137, 044311–1–044311-6.

Ramachandran, R., Beaucage, G., Kulkarni, A. S., McFaddin, D., Merrick-Mack, J., & Galiatsatos, V. Branch content of metallocene polyethylene. *Macromolecules* **2009**, 42, 4746–4750.

$$d_f = c d_{\min}$$

Density impacted by topology and convolution

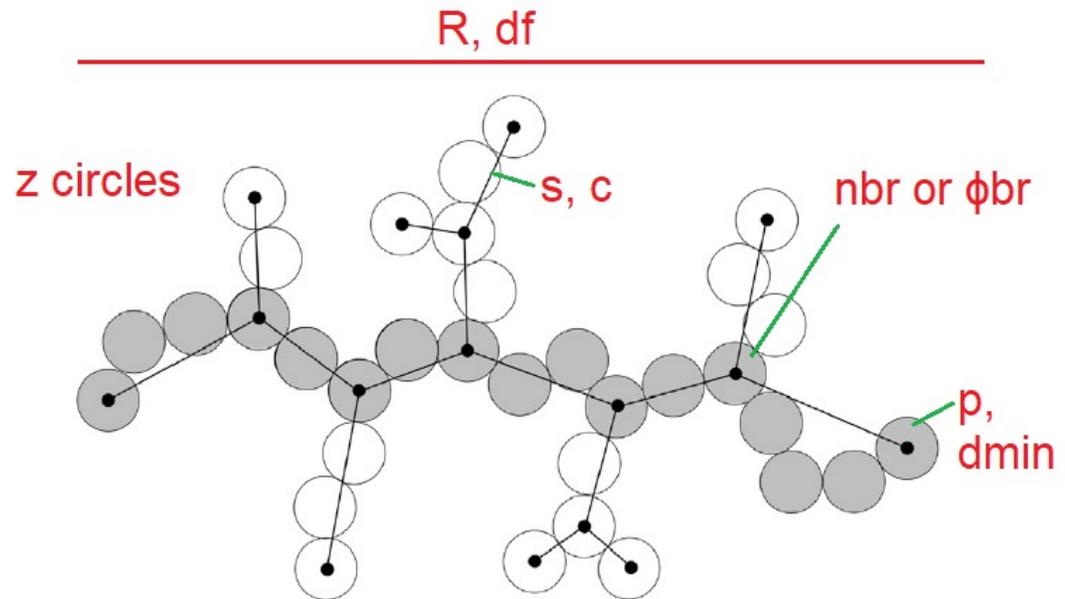
$$z \geq p \text{ and } s$$

Disk:  $c = 2, d_{\min} = 1$

Chain:  $c = 1, d_{\min} = 2$

Crumple paper:  $c$  fixed at 2;  $d_{\min}$  increases from 1 to  $\leq 1.5$

Rip arms off an aggregate:  $d_{\min}$  fixed;  $c$  decreases towards 1



## Algorithm:

Input  $z$  and a sticking probability

Randomly grow aggregates

Compute the scattering parameters,  $p$ ,  $R$ ,  $n_{Br}$  etc.

Iterate by varying sticking probability until computed matches experimental

A. Mulderig, G. Beaucage, K. Vogtt, H. Jiang and V. Kuppa, Quantification of branching in fumed silica, *J. Aerosol Sci.* **2017**, 109, 28–37.

## Experimental

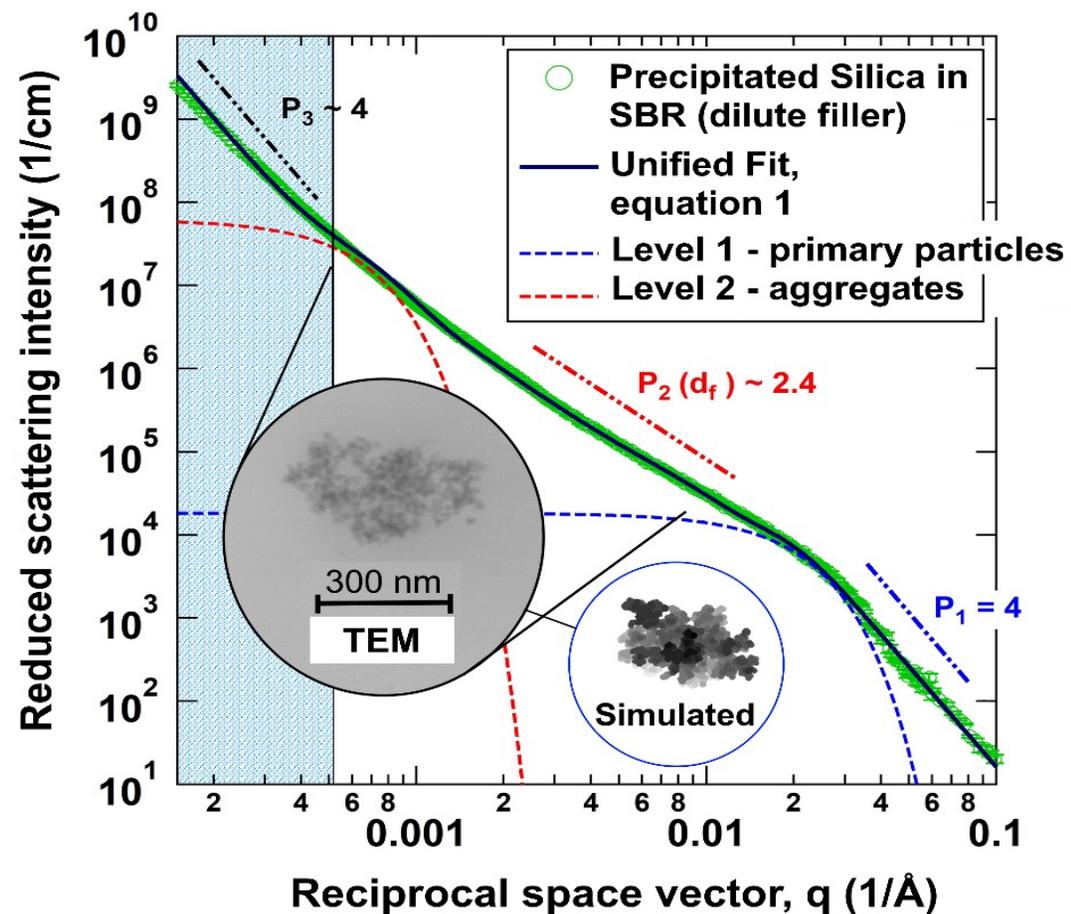
Sample	A	B	C	D	E	F
R	19	19	26	24	37	91
$d_p$ (nm)	36	21	17	14	12	10
$C_p$	1.54	1.53	1.51	1.50	1.52	1.51
z	157	177	483	567	819	6430
p	36	35	46	38	37	91
s	66	75	195	265	819	6430
$d_{min}$	1.21	1.20	1.17	1.14	1.00	1.00
c	1.41	1.46	1.62	1.75	1.86	1.95
$d_f$	1.70	1.75	1.90	1.98	1.86	1.95
$n_{br}$ (f = 3)	19	23	68	106	409	3215
$\phi_{br}$ , %	77	80	91	93	95	99

## Simulation

z	157	177	483	567	819	6430
Sticking probability	0.40	0.37	0.11	0.23	0.82	1.00
R	18	19	26	29	40	93
p	31	33	45	42	40	93
s	68	75	191	298	819	6430
$d_{min}$	1.2	1.2	1.17	1.11	1	1
c	1.47	1.48	1.62	1.7	1.82	1.93
$d_f$	1.76	1.75	1.9	1.89	1.82	1.93
$n_{br}$	21	26	68	121	409	3215
$\phi_{br}$ , %	80%	81%	91%	93%	95%	99%

A. Mulderig, G. Beaucage, K. Vogtt, H. Jiang and V. Kuppa, Quantification of branching in fumed silica, *J. Aerosol Sci.* **2017**, 109, 28–37.

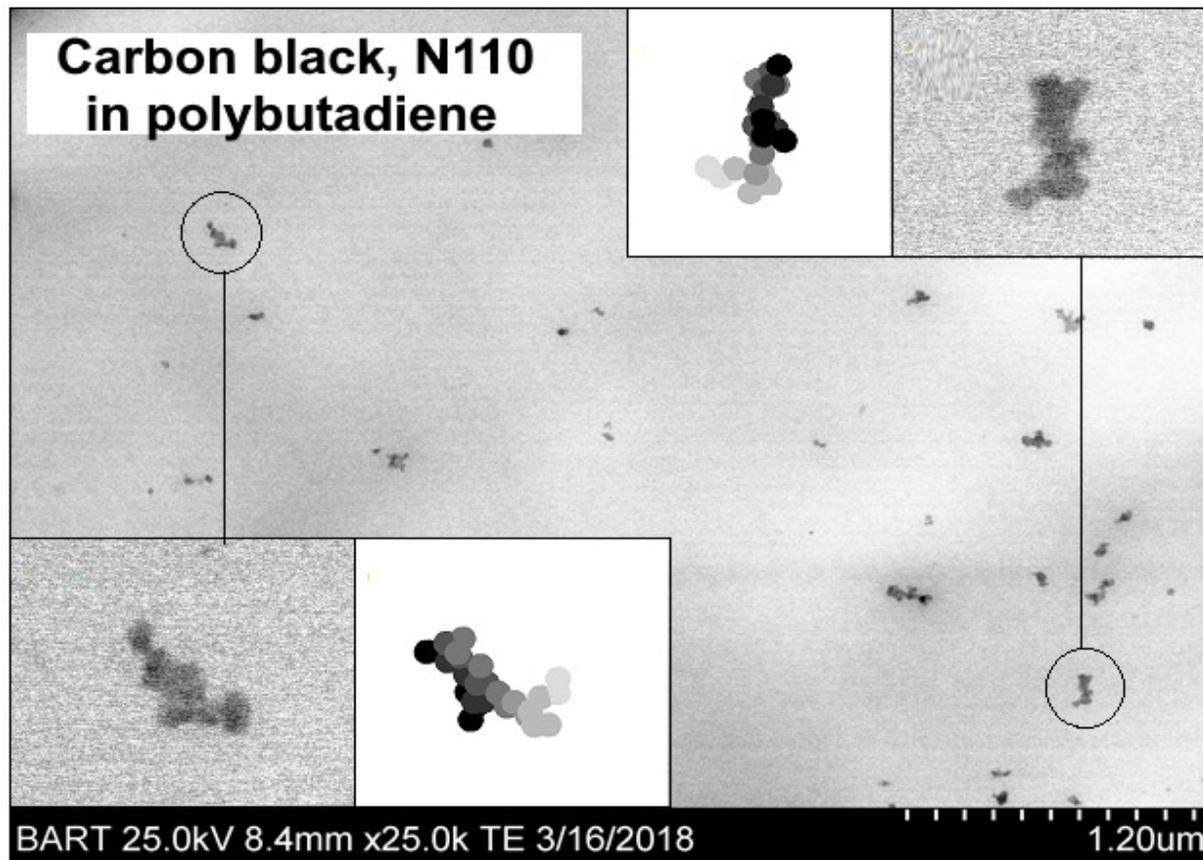
19



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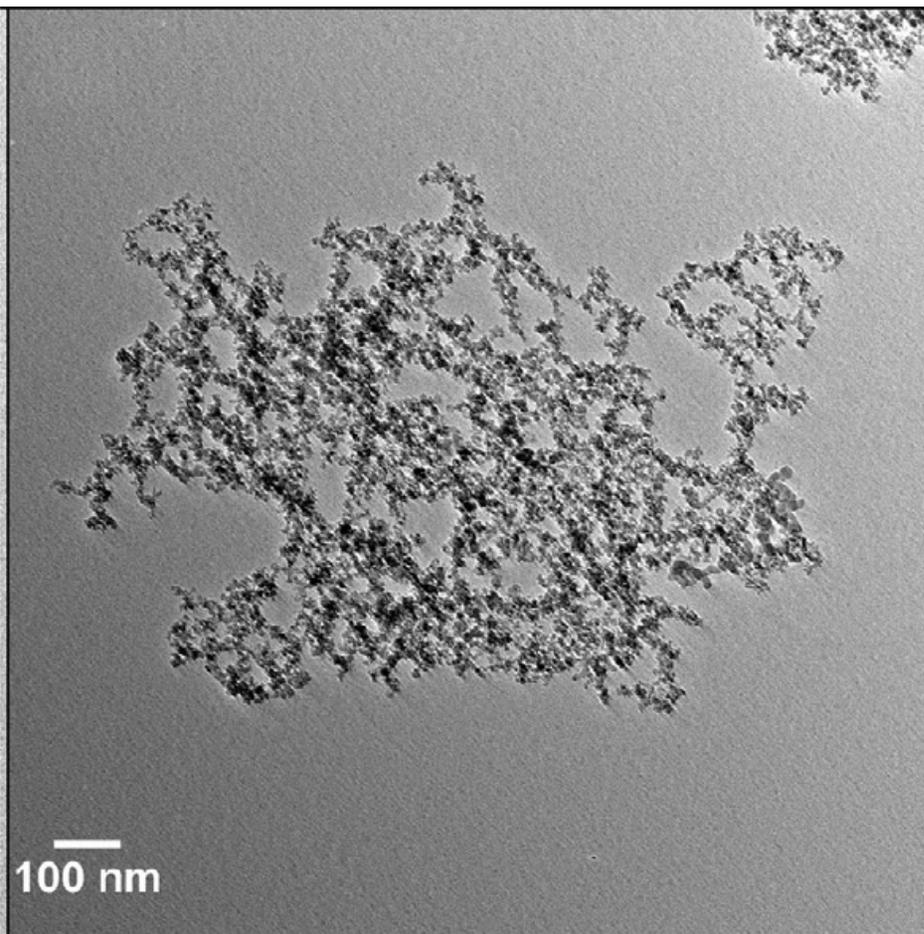
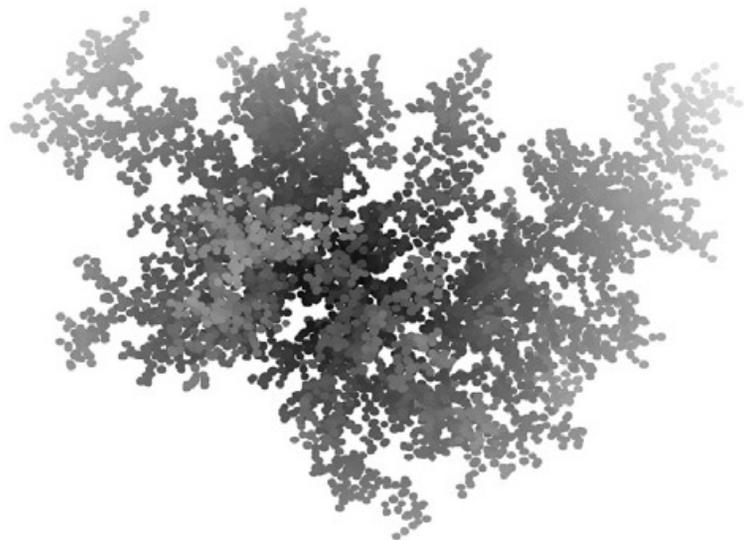
A. Mulderig, G. Beaucage, K. Vogtt, H. Jiang and V. Kuppala, Quantification of branching in fumed silica, *J. Aerosol Sci.* 2017, 109, 28–37.

Greg Beaucage, University of Cincinnati [gbeaucage@gmail.com](mailto:gbeaucage@gmail.com)



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## Pyrogenic silica



# At concentrations above $c^*$

When concentration is greater than Mass of CB aggregate  
By Volume of aggregate

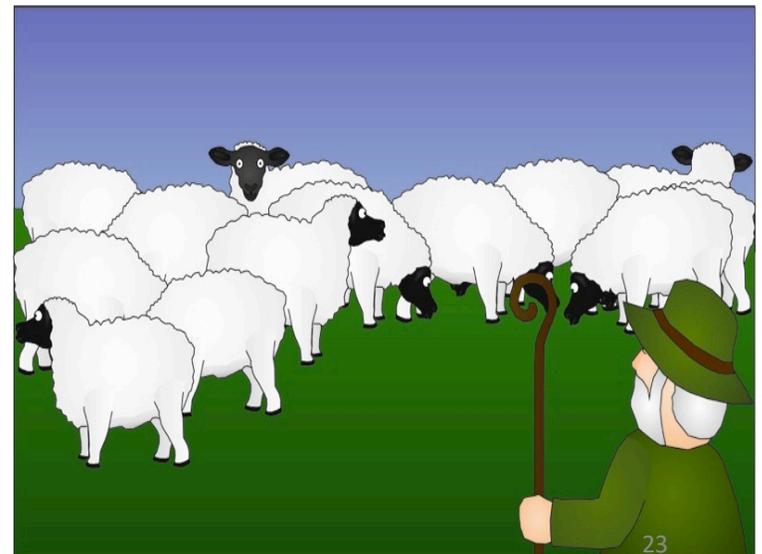
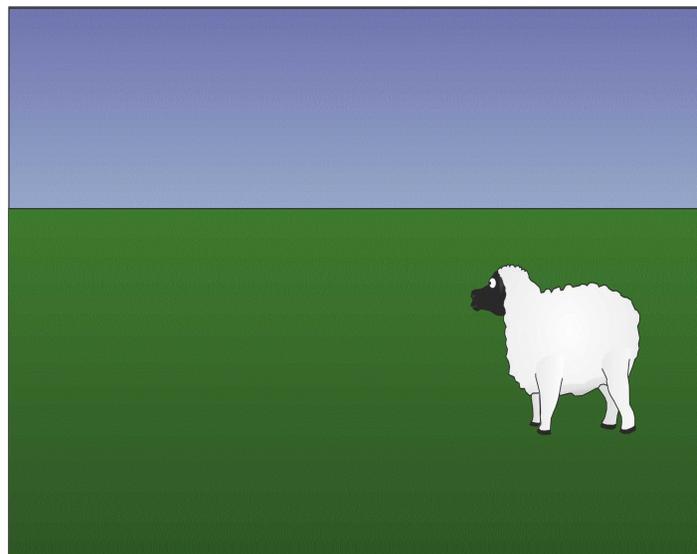
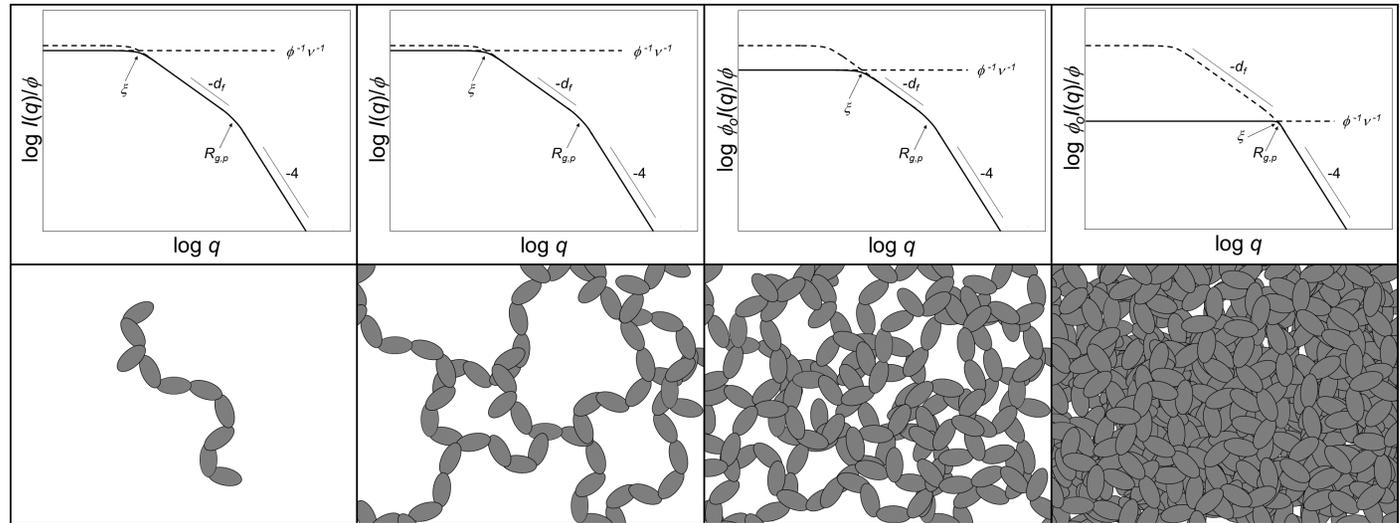
$$c^* = M/V \text{ of CB aggregate}$$

Then the aggregate can't be seen

It is screened above a screening length,  $\xi$

Below  $\xi$  we see the structure

Above  $\xi$  we see uniform contrast



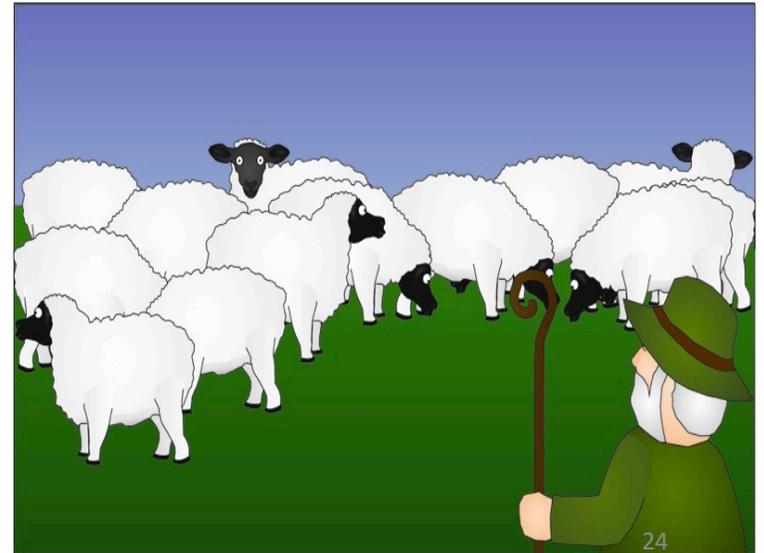
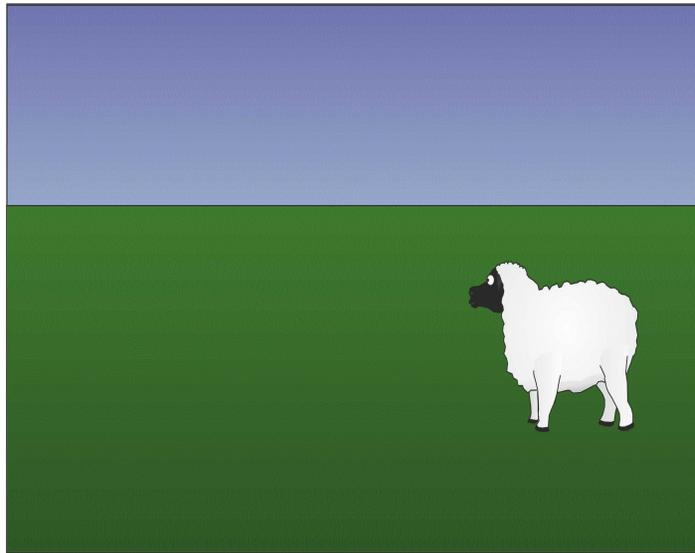
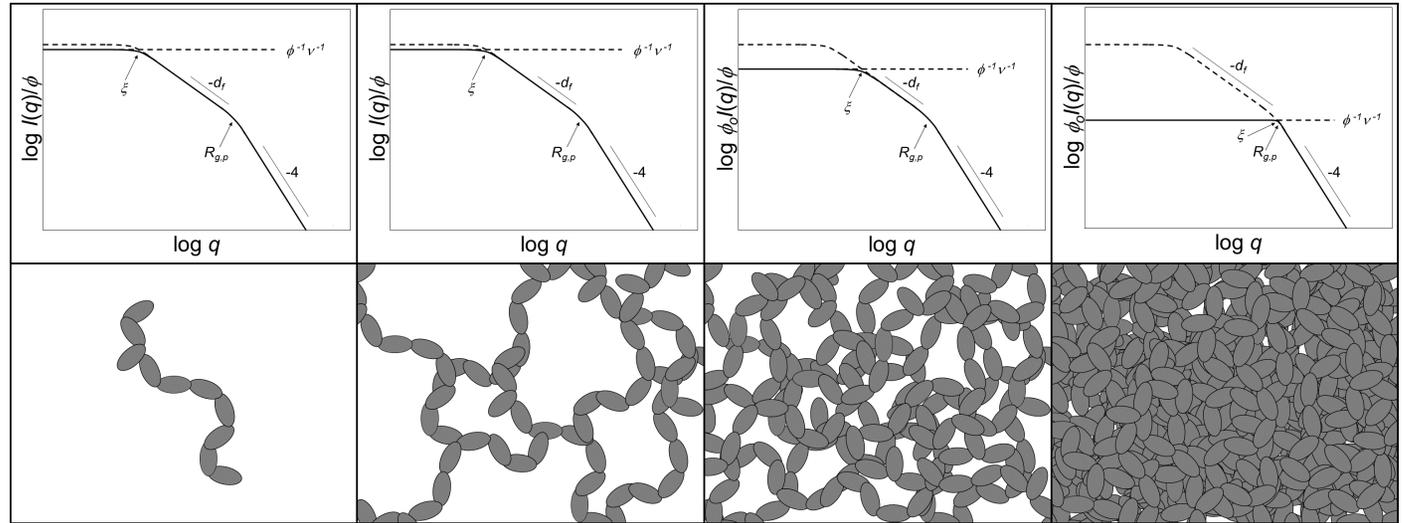
# The RPA Equation

$$\frac{\phi}{I(q, \phi)} = \frac{\phi_0}{I(q, \phi_0)} + \phi v$$

Reduced high-q intensity remains unchanged,  
 Reduced low-q intensity is diminished with  
 concentration increase

The  $q \Rightarrow 0$  intercept is a  
 measure of the strength of  
 binary interactions (the  
 Second Order Virial  
 Coefficient)

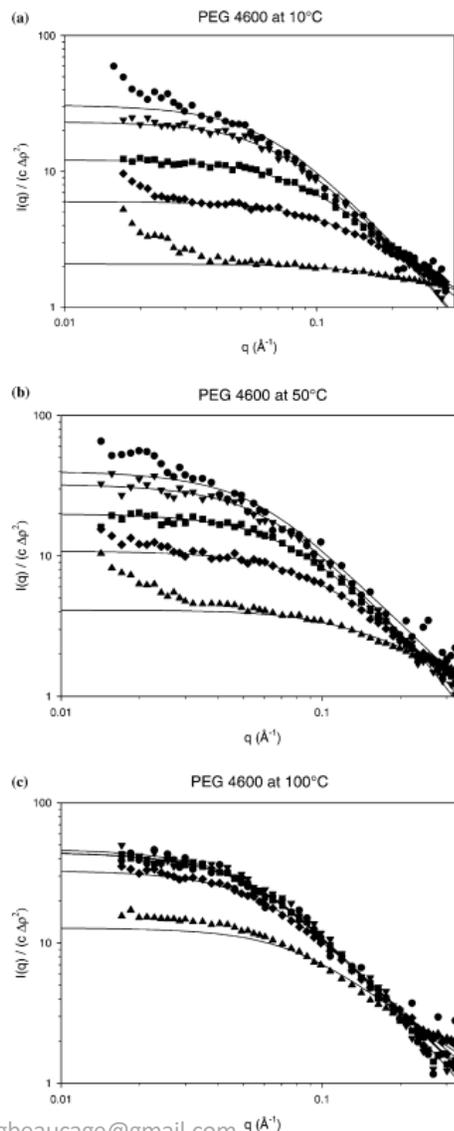
This assumes no specific  
 interactions. A mean field is  
 considered.



## Van der Waals Model

$A_2 = b - a/T$   
 $b =$  excluded volume  
 $a =$  attractive interaction

$$\frac{\phi}{I(q, \phi)} = \frac{\phi_0}{I(q, \phi_0)} + k\phi A_2$$



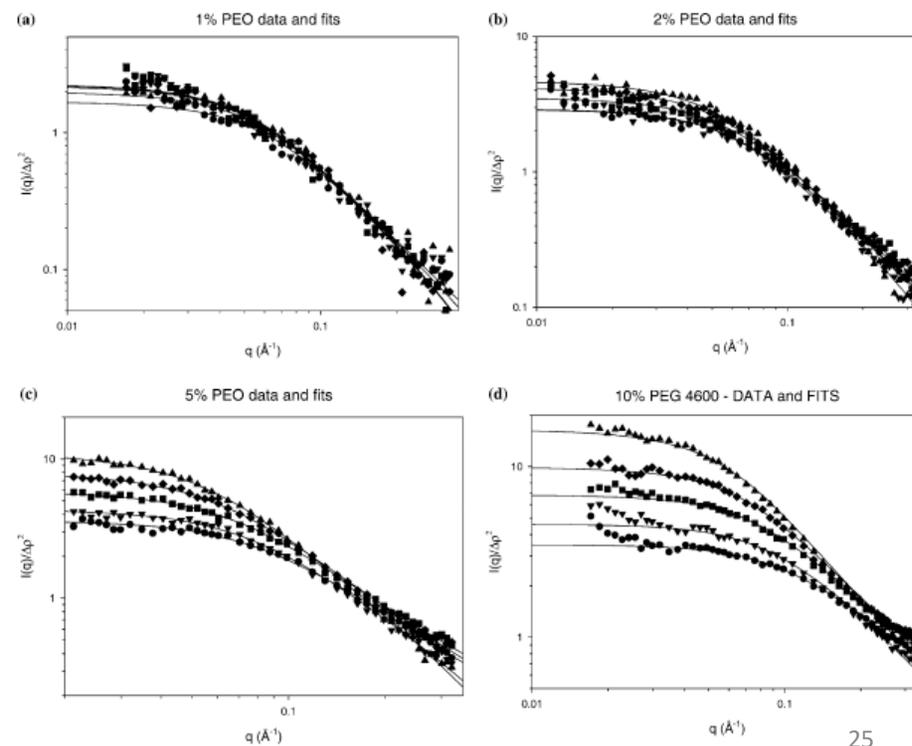
Progr Colloid Polym Sci (2005) 130: 70–78  
 DOI 10.1007/b107350  
 Published online: 3 June 2005  
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Jan Skov Pedersen  
 Cornelia Sommer

## Temperature dependence of the virial coefficients and the chi parameter in semi-dilute solutions of PEG

**Fig. 1** SAXS data with fits (curves) for PEG 4600 solutions at fixed temperature as a function of concentration. (a) 10°C (b) 50°C (c) 100°C. Signatures: 1 wt% circles, 2 wt% triangle down, 5 wt% square, 10 wt% diamond, 20 wt% triangle up. The data have been divided by the square of the excess electron density ( $\Delta\rho$  was in units of  $e/\text{\AA}^3$ ) of the PEG chains in order to eliminate the influence in the plot of the change in contrast with temperature

**Fig. 2** SAXS data with fits (curves) for PEG 4600 solutions at fixed concentration as a function of temperature. (a) 1 wt% (b) 2 wt% (c) 5 wt% (d) 10 wt%. Signatures: 20°C circles, 40°C triangles down, 60°C squares, 80°C diamonds and 100°C triangles. The data have been divided by the square of the excess electron density of the PEG chains in order to eliminate the influence in the plot of the change in contrast with temperature



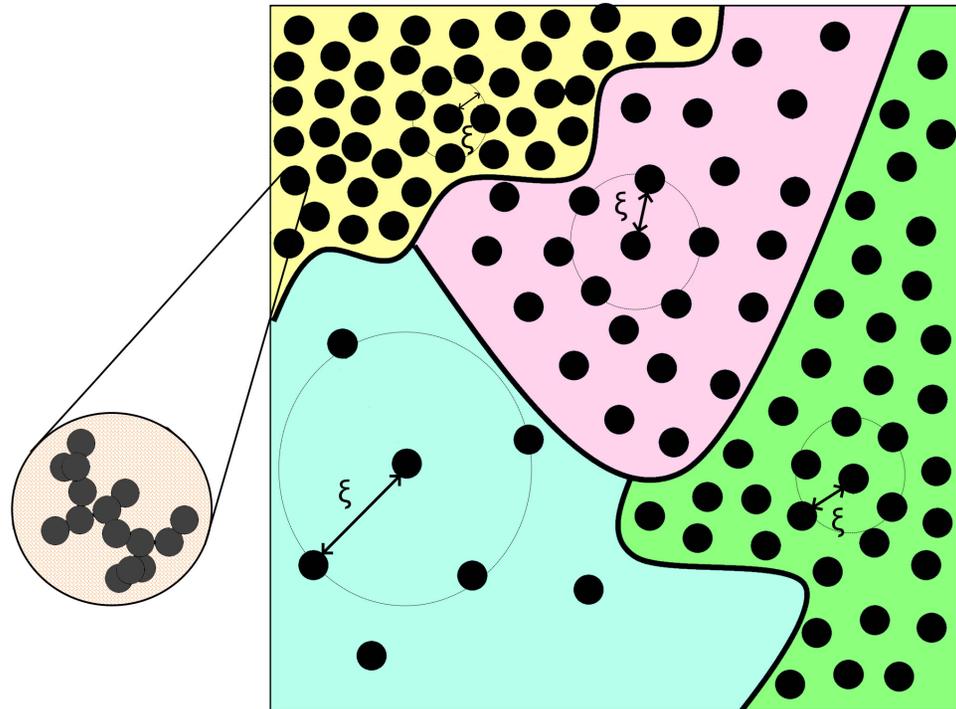
[Pedersen Sommer Paper 2005](#)

## Mean Field System



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## Specific Interaction System

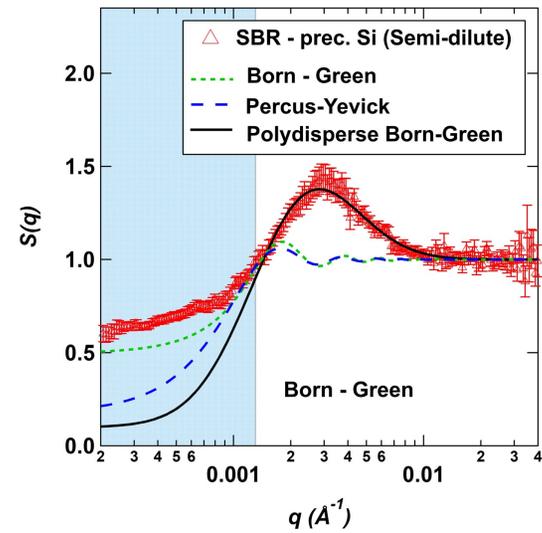
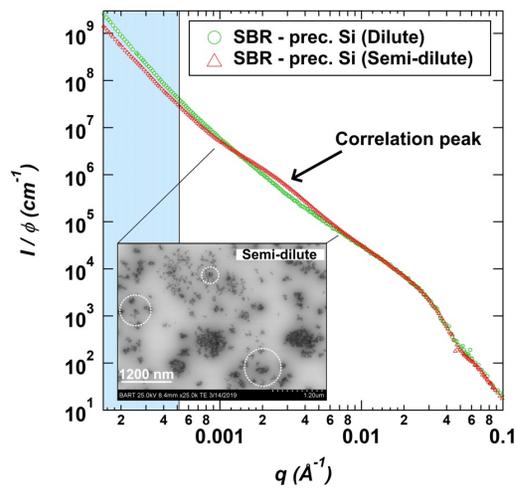


McGlasson, A.; Rishi, K.; Beaucage, G.; Chauby, M.; Kuppa, V.; Ilavsky, J.; Rackaitis, M. Quantification of Dispersion for Weakly and Strongly Correlated Nanofillers in Polymer Nanocomposites. *Macromolecules* 2020

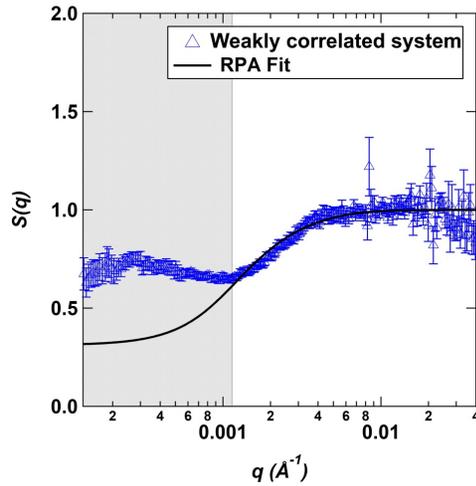
For specific interactions we consider the structure factor  $S(q)$

$$I(q) = F^2(q) S(q)$$

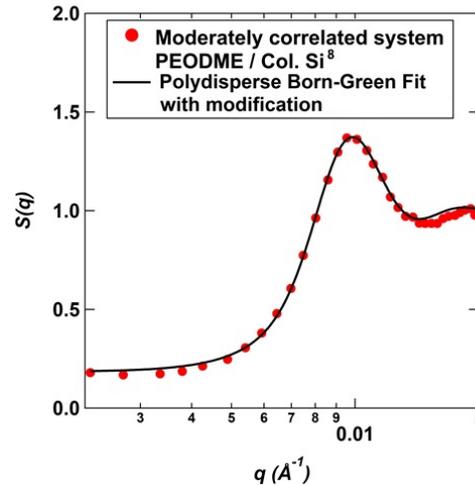
$$S(q) = I(q)/\phi (\phi_0/I_0(q))$$



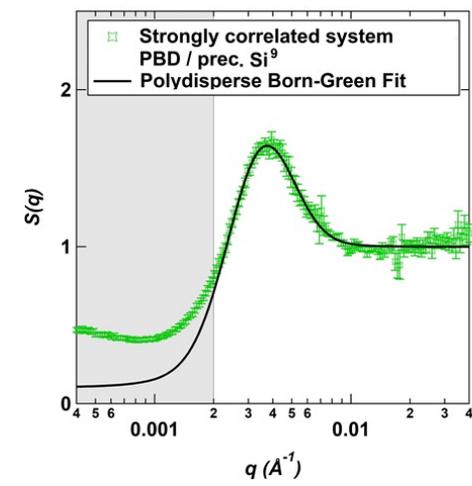
### Mean Field



### Specific Interaction



### Specific Interaction



McGlasson, A.; Rishi, K.; Beaucage, G.; Chauby, M.; Kuppa, V.; Ilavsky, J.; Rackaitis, M. Quantification of Dispersion for Weakly and Strongly Correlated Nanofillers in Polymer Nanocomposites. *Macromolecules* 2020

$$S_{\text{RPA}}(q) = \frac{1}{1 + \phi v(I_0(q, \phi_0)/\phi_0)}$$

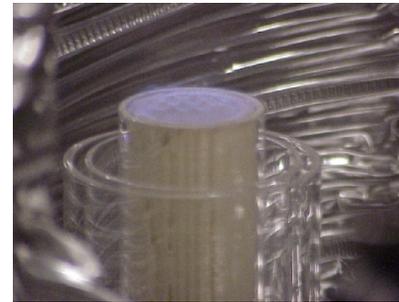
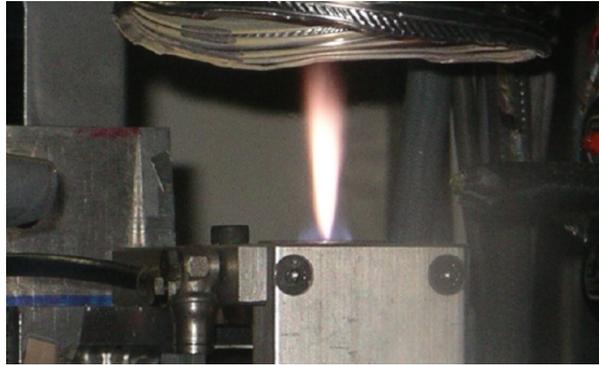
$$S_{\text{PBG}}(q, \xi) = \int_0^\infty P(\xi) \times \left[ \frac{1}{1 + p\theta(q, \xi)} \right] d\xi$$

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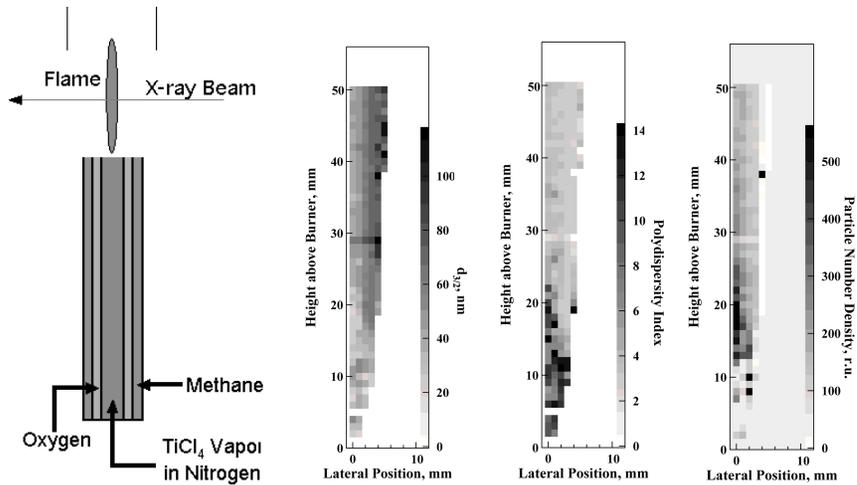
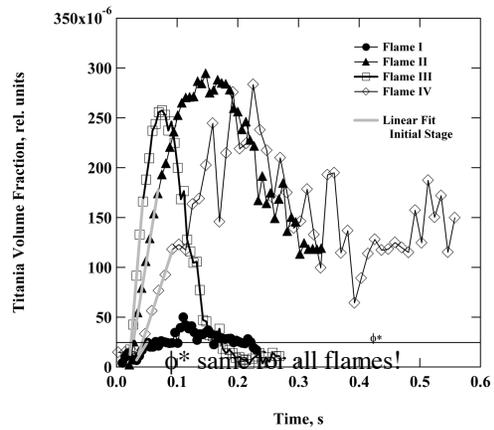
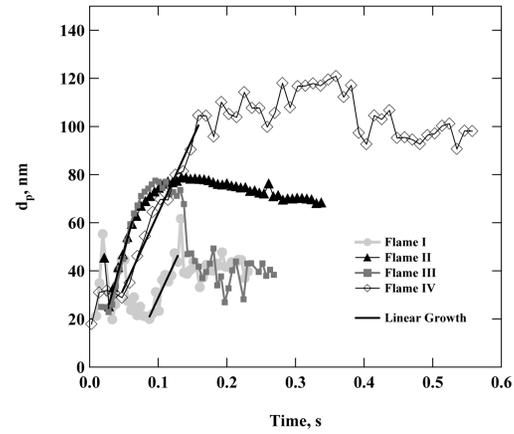
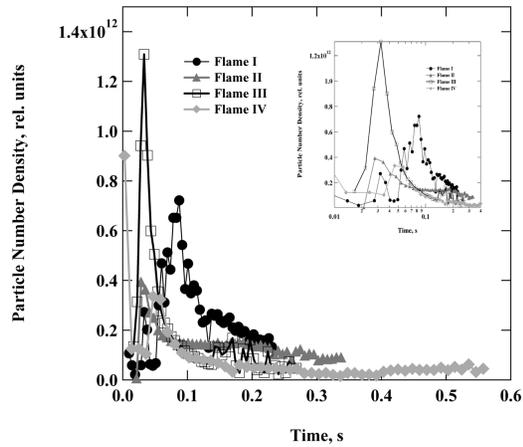
$$q_{\text{mod}} = q \times \exp \left\{ \delta \frac{(q - q_{\text{peak}})}{q} \right\}$$

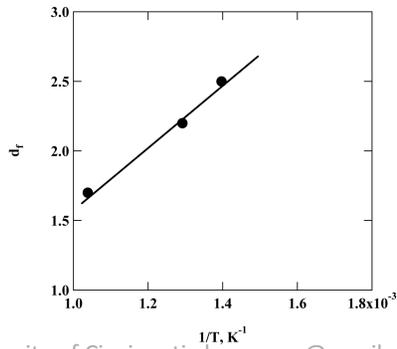
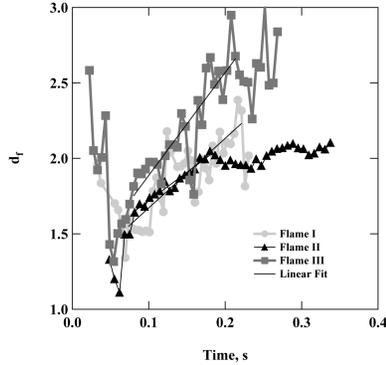
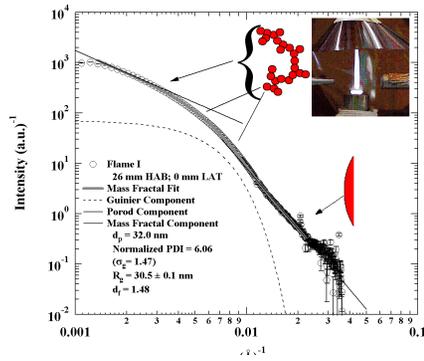
8 Data from Anderson, B. J. and Zukoski, C.F. Rheology and Microstructure of Polymer Nanocomposite Melts: Variation of Polymer Segment– Surface Interaction. *Langmuir* 2010, 26, 8709–8720.

9 Data from Jin, Y.; Beaucage, G.; Vogtt, K.; Jiang, H.; Kuppa, V.; Kim, J.; Ilavsky, J.; Rackaitis, M.; Mulderig, A.; Rishi, K.; et al. A Pseudo- Thermodynamic Description of Dispersion for Nanocomposites. *Polymer* 2017, 129, 32-43.



# TiCl<sub>4</sub> Diffusion Flame Nucleation and Growth

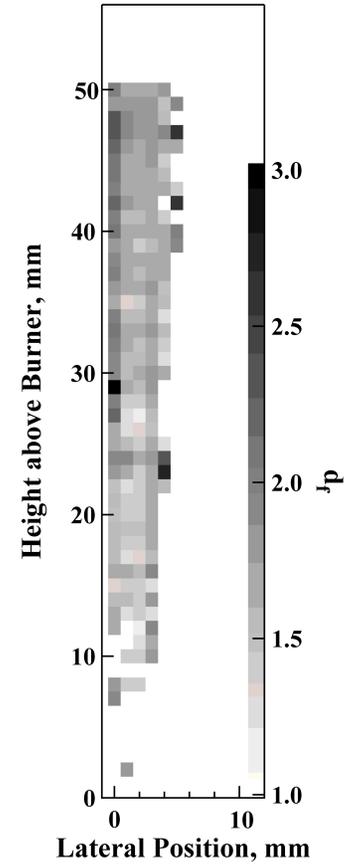
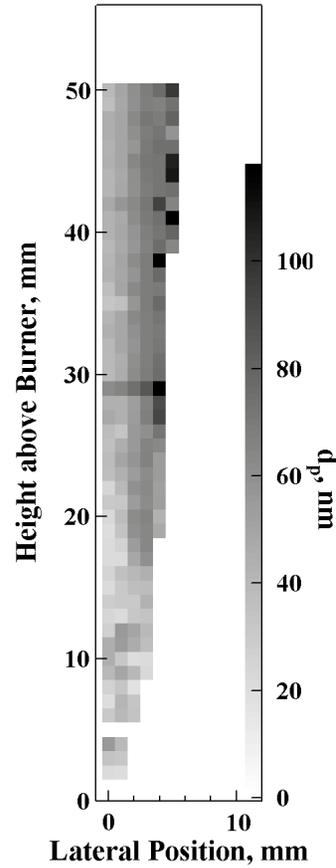




Activated growth  
for  $z$

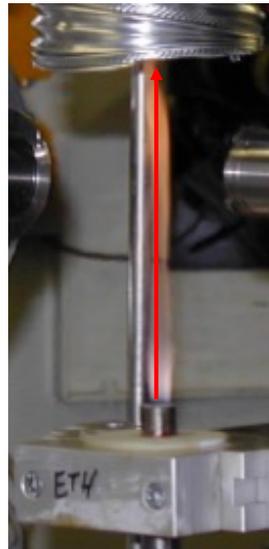
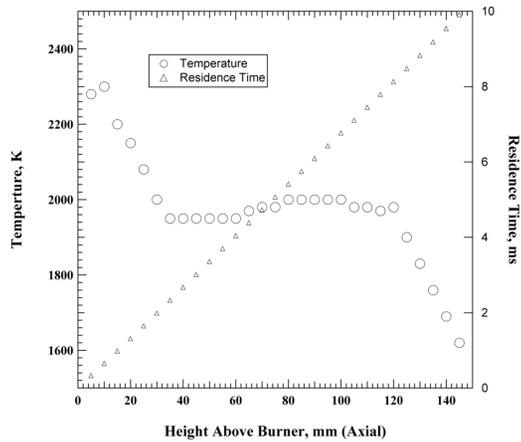
$$\ln(z) \sim d_f \ln\left(\frac{2R}{d_p}\right)$$

$$\sim \frac{-\Delta E}{kT}$$



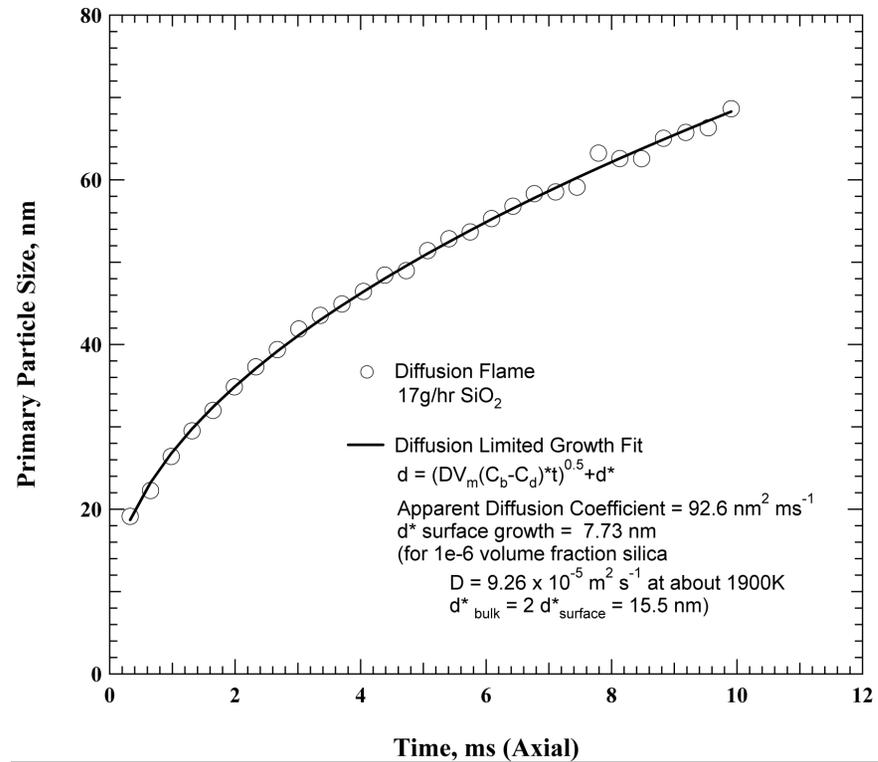
Titania Diffusion Flame from  $\text{TiCl}_4$

Beaucage G, Agashe N, Kohls D, Londono D, Diemer B



## Silica Diffusion Flame

### Axial Particle Growth follows Classic Diffusion Limited Surface Growth, $d \sim t^{1/2}$

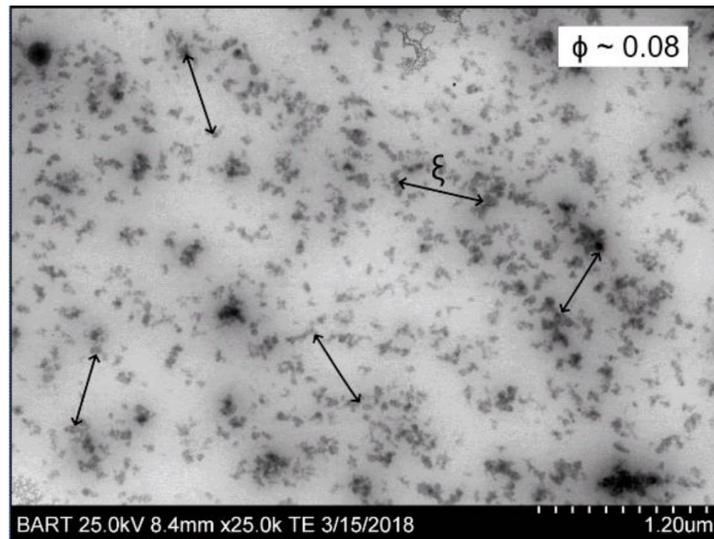




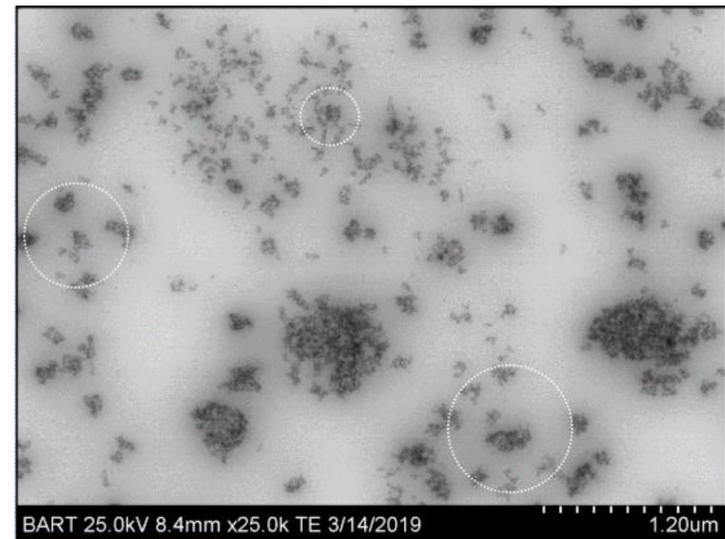
# Nanoparticle Dispersion and Distribution in Nanocomposites

## Kinetically mixed systems

### Mean field



### Specific interactions

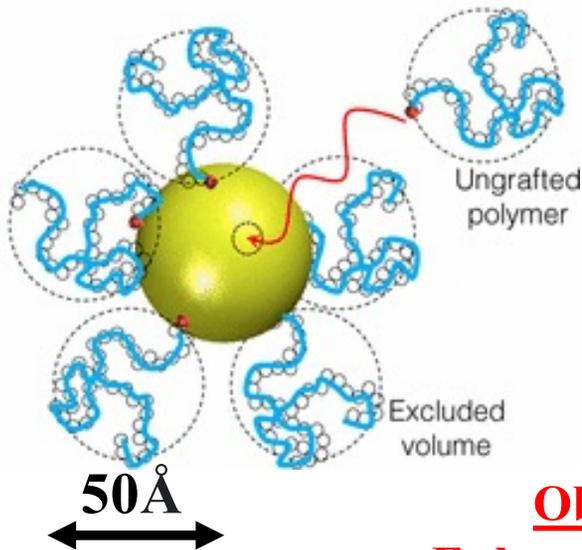


Clustering due to immiscibility

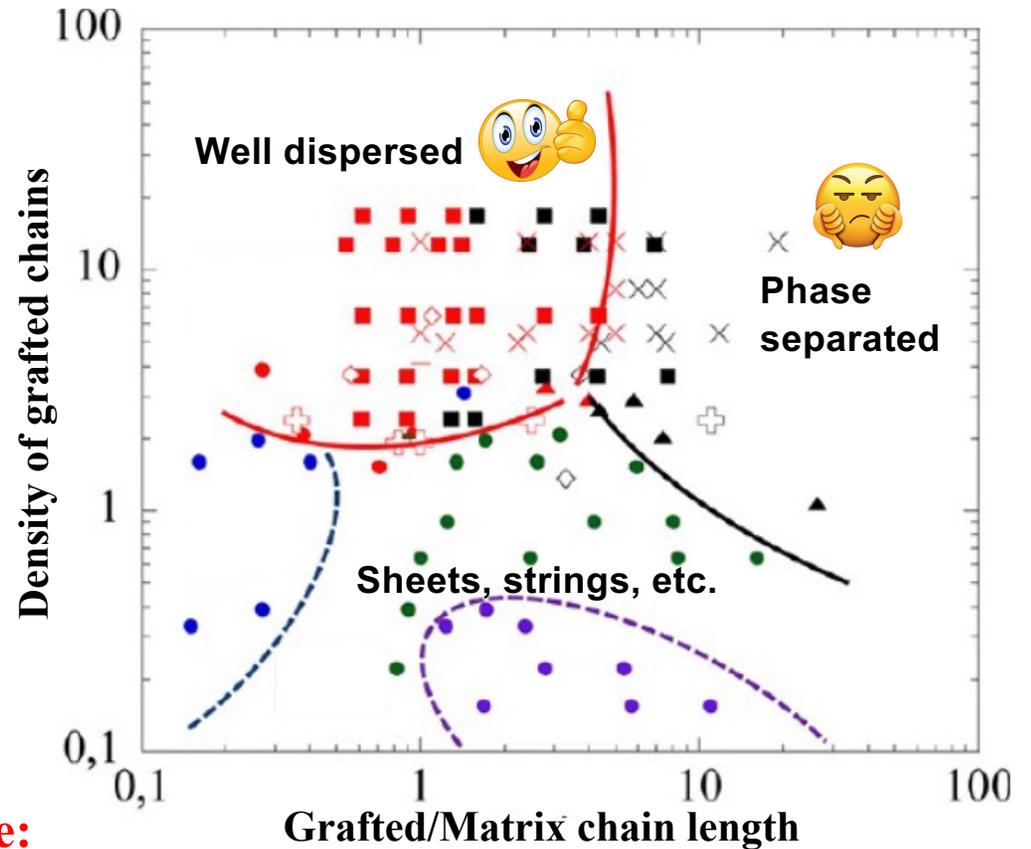
# Current state-of-the-art academic nanocomposite

Monodisperse colloidal particles  
Cast from a colloidal solution

Thermally  
Dispersed



**Objective:**  
**Enhance miscibility**



Kumar, S.K., Jouault, N., Benicewicz, B. and Neely, T., 2013. Nanocomposites with polymer grafted nanoparticles. *Macromolecules*, 46(9), pp.3199-3214.

Kumar, S.K., Benicewicz, B.C., Vaia, R.A. and Winey, K.I., 2017. 50th anniversary perspective: are polymer nanocomposites practical for applications?. *Macromolecules*, 50(3), pp.714-731.

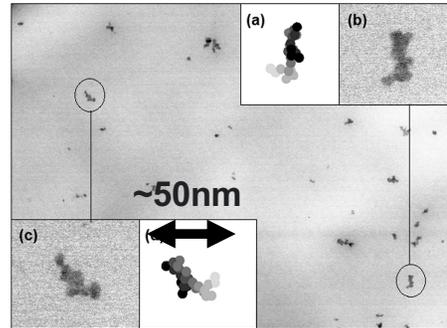
Asai, M., Zhao, D. and Kumar, S.K., 2017. Role of grafting mechanism on the polymer coverage and self-assembly of hairy nanoparticles. *ACS Nano*, 11(7), pp.7028-7035.

# The original nanocomposite

Polydisperse aggregates

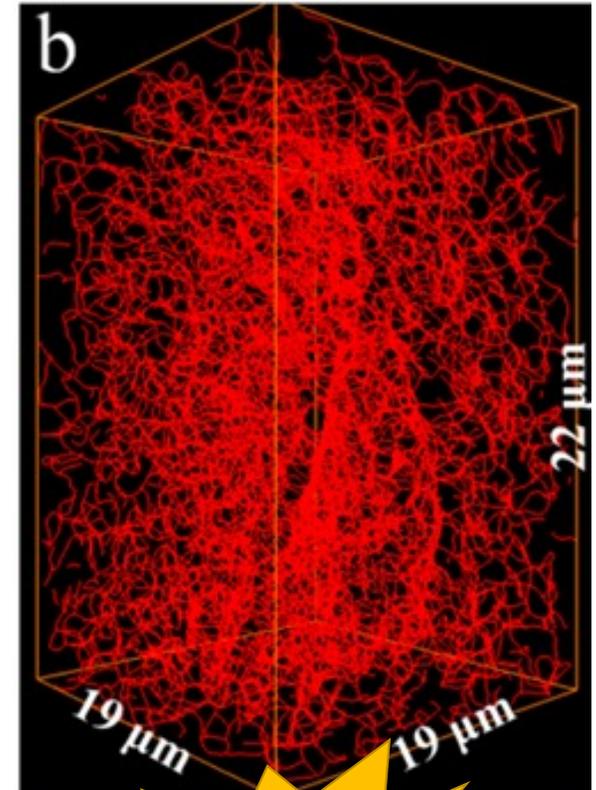
Melt state processed

Kinetically mixed **immiscible**



**Objective:**  
**Complex hierarchical structure**  
**Tear resistance**  
**Static charge dissipation**

**Why/how do added nanoparticles impact structures 100-1,000 times larger?**

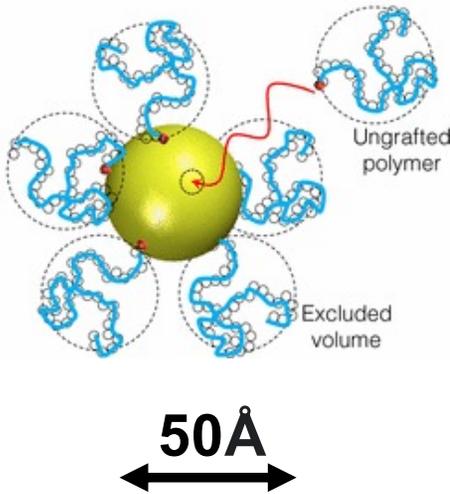


**1,000 x larger**

Song, L; Wang, Z; Tang, X.; Chen, L.; Chen, P.; Yuan, Q.; Li, L. Visualizing the Toughening Mechanism of Nanofiller with 3D X-ray Nano-CT: Stress-Induced Phase Separation of Silica Nanofiller and Silicone Polymer Double Networks Macromolecules 50 7249-7257 (2017).

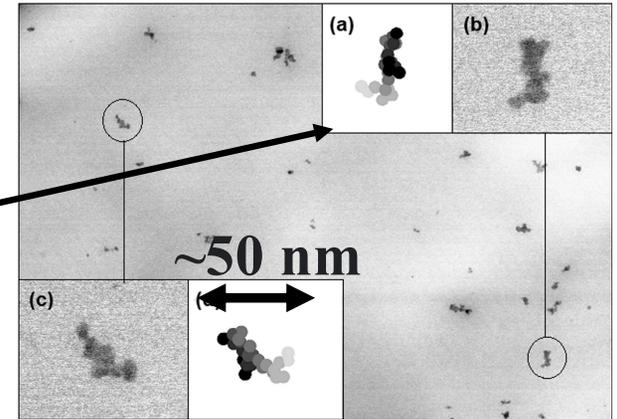
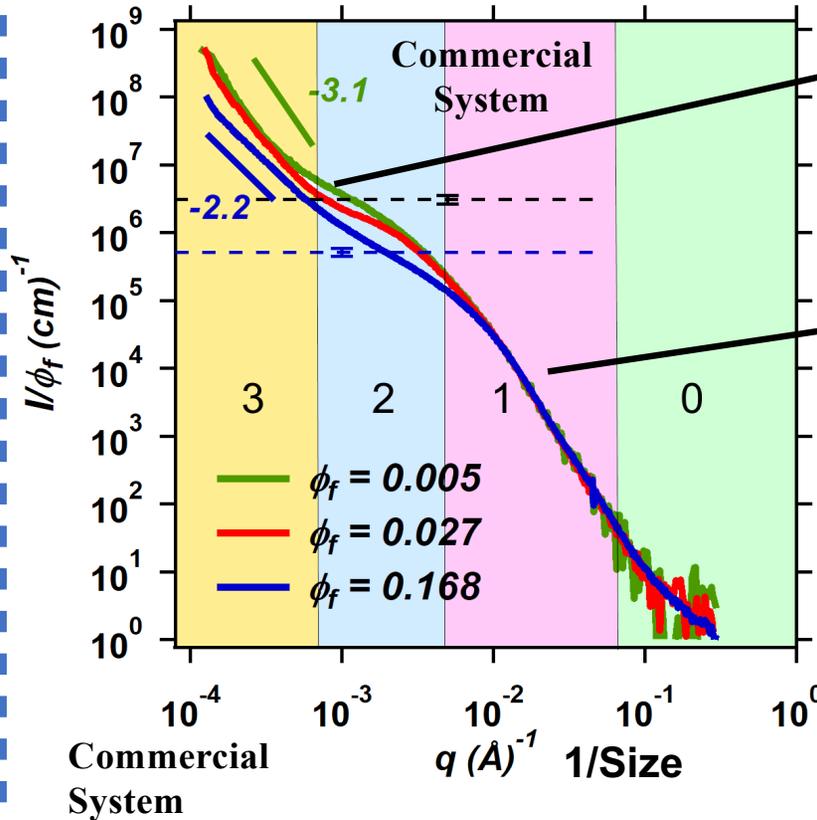
Greg Beaucage, University of Cincinnati gbeaucage@gmail.com

# Simple Structure



Academic State of the Art Model System

# Multiscale Hierarchical Structures



Aggregates of primary particles  
Agglomerate due to immiscibility  
Form macroscopic network  
Controlled by mixing kinetics  
And immiscibility

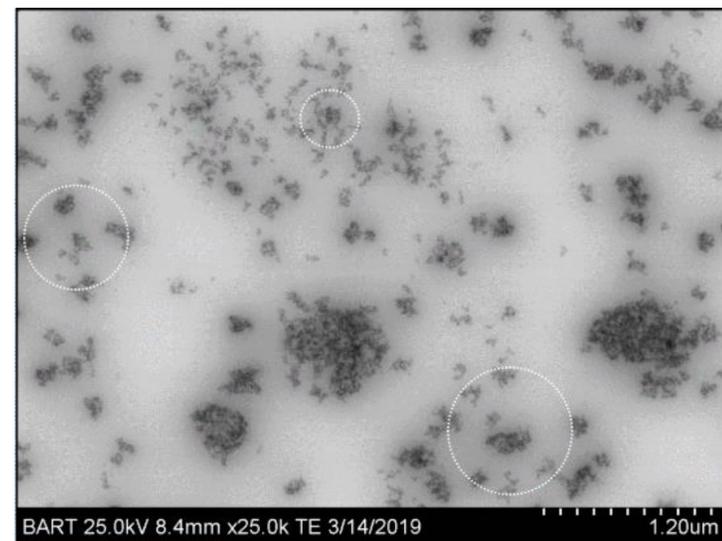
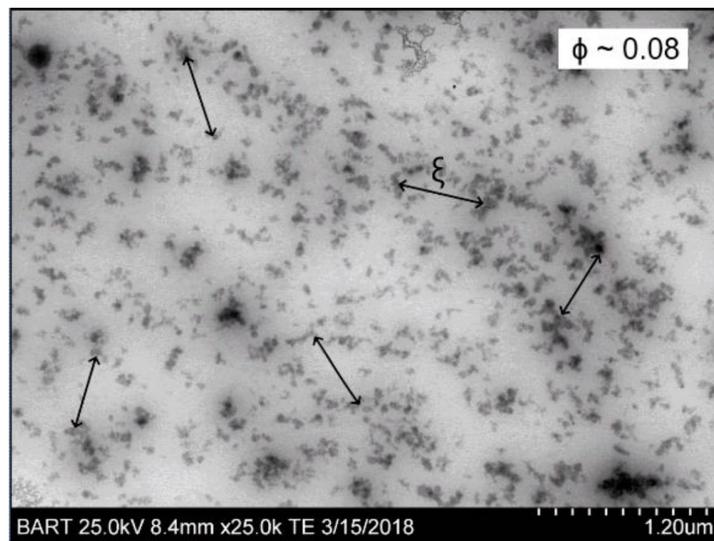
**One size scale vs. multiple hierarchical size scales**

Rishi, K., Beaucage, G., Kuppa, V., Mulderig, A., Narayanan, V., McGlasson, A., Rackaitis, M. and Ilavsky, J., 2018. Impact of an emergent hierarchical filler network on nanocomposite dynamics. *Macromolecules*, 51(20), pp.7893-7904.

Mulderig, A., Beaucage, G., Vogtt, K., Jiang, H. and Kuppa, V., 2017. Quantification of branching in fumed silica. *Journal of Aerosol Science*, 109, pp.28-37.

# Dispersion/Distribution can have a size-scale dependence

Macroscopically disperse systems  
might be clustered on the nanoscale

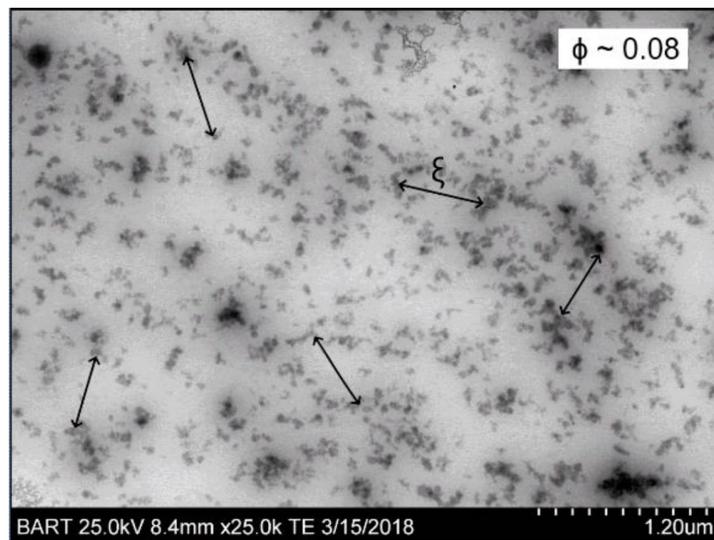


Clustering due to immiscibility

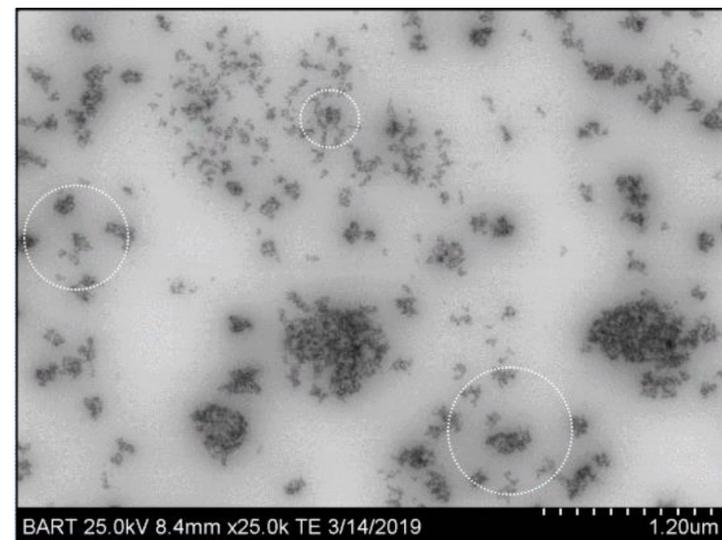
# How can dispersion/distribution be quantified on the nano-scale?

## Kinetically mixed systems

### Mean field



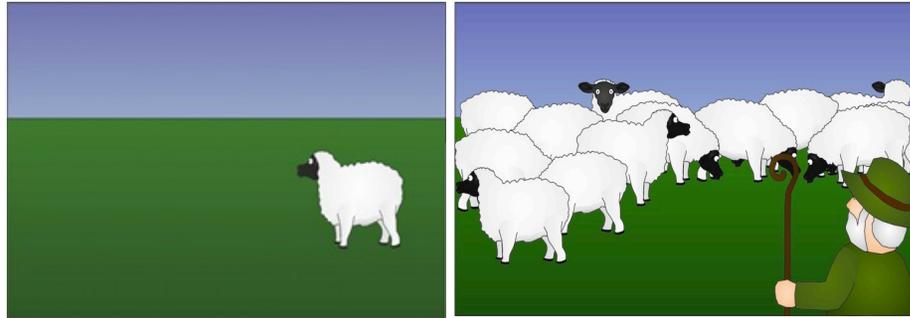
### Specific interactions



## Clustering due to immiscibility

# B<sub>2</sub> (or A<sub>2</sub>) from scattering

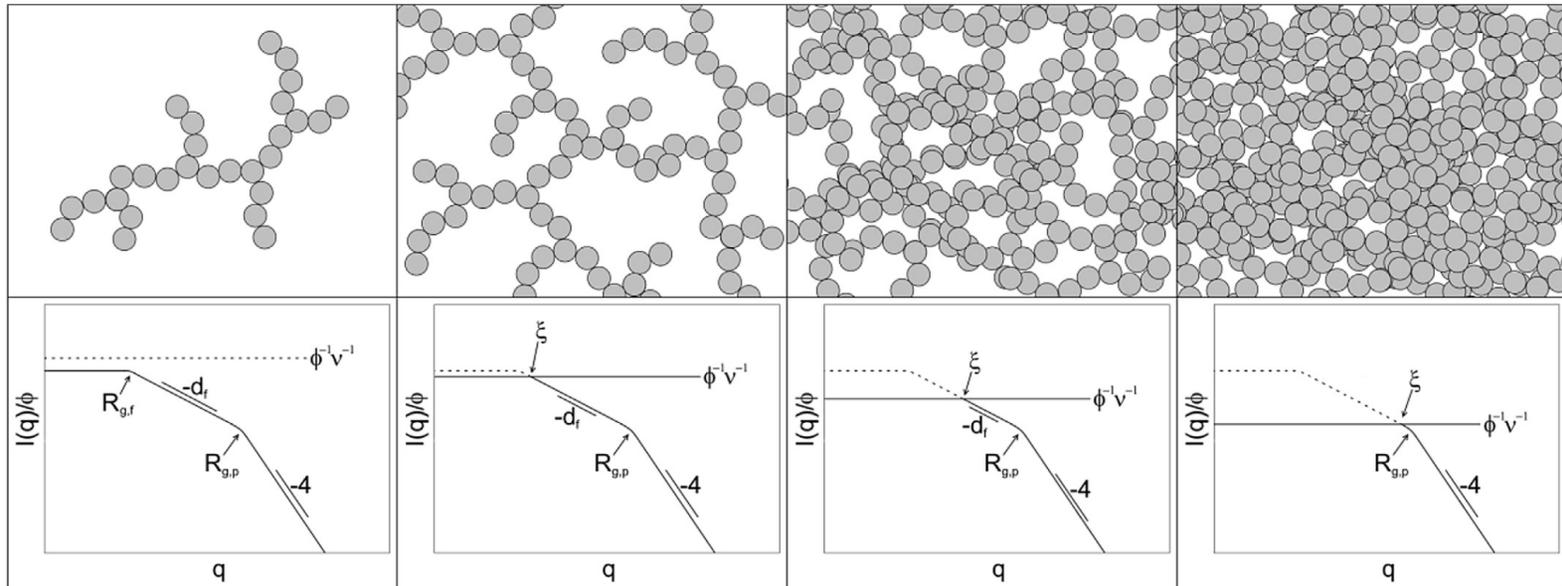
B<sub>2</sub> “excluded volume”  
per aggregate



# Quantitative measure of nano-dispersion

$$A_2 = \frac{v\langle\Delta\rho\rangle^2}{2N_A(\rho_f)^2}$$

$$B_2 = M^2 A_2 / N_a$$



Correlation length,  $\xi$

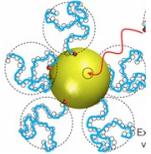
Pedersen, J. S.; Sommer, C. Temperature Dependence of the Virial Coefficients and the Chi Parameter in Semi-Dilute Solutions of PEG. In *Scattering Methods and the Properties of Polymer Materials*; Springer Berlin Heidelberg: Berlin, Heidelberg, 2005; pp 70–78.

Vogtt, K.; Beaucage, G.; Weaver, M.; Jiang, H. Thermodynamic Stability of Worm-like Micelle Solutions. *Soft Matter* 2017, 13 (36), 6068–6078.

Jin, Y.; Beaucage, G.; Vogtt, K.; Jiang, H.; Kuppa, V.; Kim, J.; Ilavsky, J.; Rackaitis, M.; Mulderig, A.; Rishi, K.; Narayanan, V. A Pseudo-Thermodynamic Description of Dispersion for Nanocomposites. *Polymer (Guildf)*. 2017, 129, 32–43.

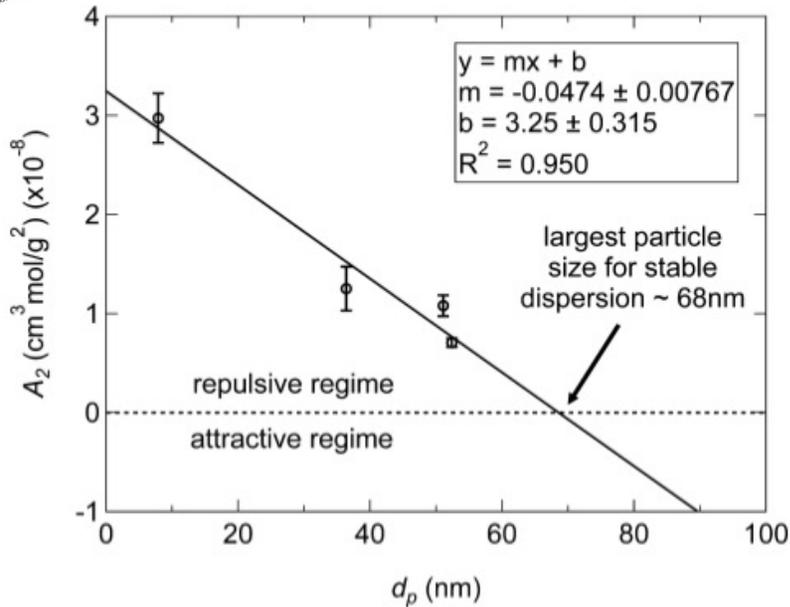
Greg Beaucage, University of Cincinnati [gbeaucage@gmail.com](mailto:gbeaucage@gmail.com)

# Thermal Distribution versus Kinetic Distribution



## Miscible:

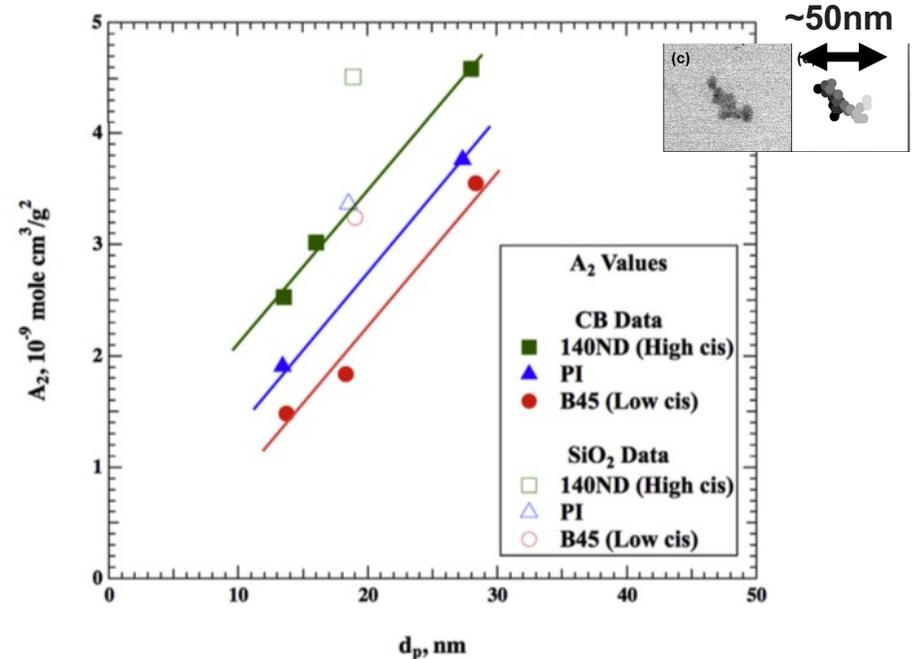
### Organic Pigment with Triton X100



## Thermally driven nano-dispersion (Stokes drag coefficient)

## Immiscible:

### Carbon Black and Silica in Elastomer



## Mechanically driven nano-dispersion (Lever arm)

Mulderig, A.; Beaucage, G.; Vogtt, K.; Jiang, H.; Jin, Y.; Clapp, L.; Henderson, D. C. Structural Emergence in Particle Dispersions. *Langmuir* **2017**, *33* (49), 14029–14037.

Jin, Y.; Beaucage, G.; Vogtt, K.; Jiang, H.; Kuppa, V.; Kim, J.; Ilavsky, J.; Rackaitis, M.; Mulderig, A.; Rishi, K.; Narayanan, V. A Pseudo-Thermodynamic Description of Dispersion for Nanocomposites. *Polymer (Guildf)*. **2017**, *129*, 32–43.

# van der Waals Analogy

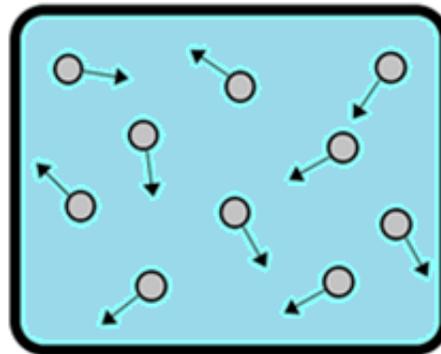
$a$  reflects the attractive energy of interaction between aggregates.

$$\Pi = \frac{kT}{(V + b)} - \frac{a}{V^2}$$

$b$  is the excluded volume  
 $a$  is the attractive enthalpic interaction leading to phase separation

$$\Pi = kT \left( \frac{1}{V} + \frac{B_2}{V^2} + \dots \right)$$

**Thermally driven colloidal dispersion**



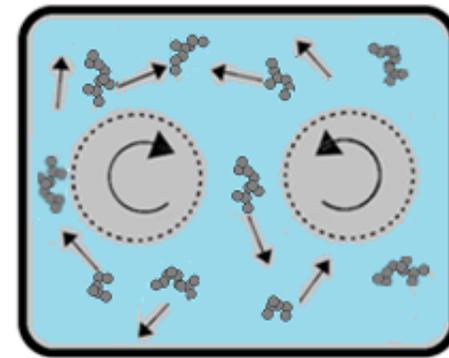
Heat Source

**Energy  $\propto$  Temperature**

$$B_2(T) = b - \frac{a}{kT}$$

$$B_2(t) = \frac{A_2(t)M^2}{N_A} = b^* - \frac{a^*}{t}$$

**Mechanically dispersed nano-fillers**



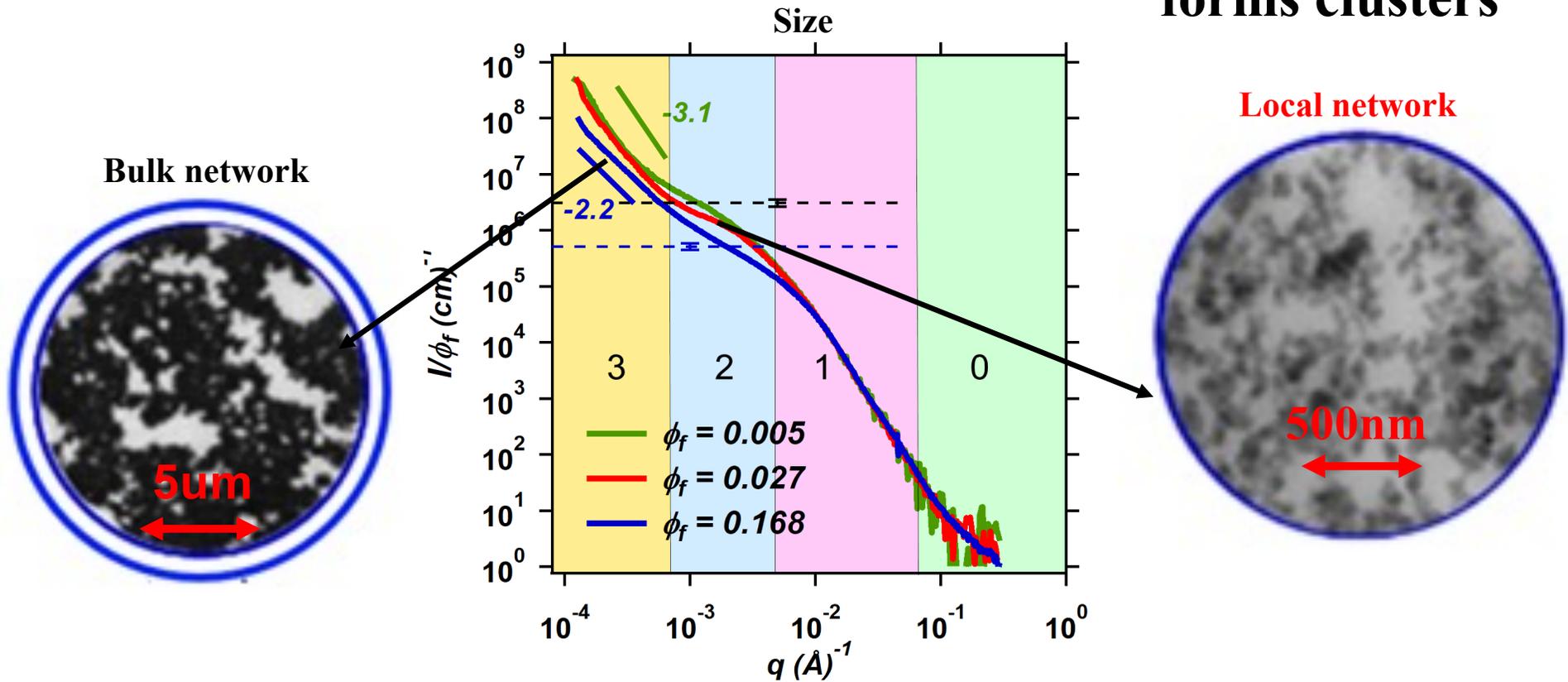
**Energy  $\propto$  Mixing Time**

$$B_2(t) = b^* - \frac{a^*}{\gamma}$$

$A_2$  arrives from using mass concentration rather than molar or number concentration

# Multiscale Hierarchical Structures

Immiscibility forms clusters

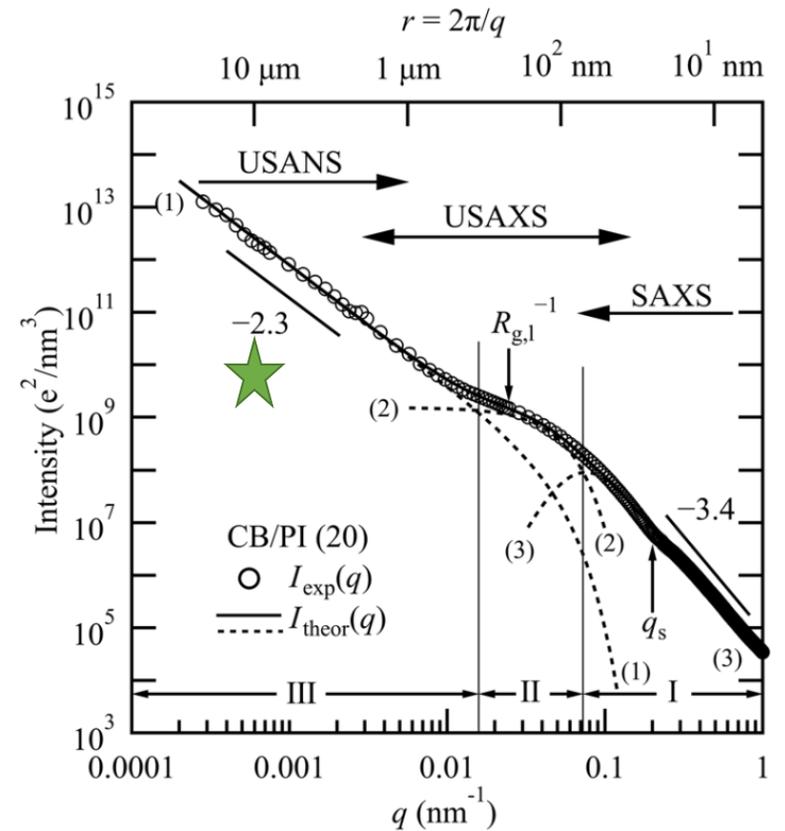
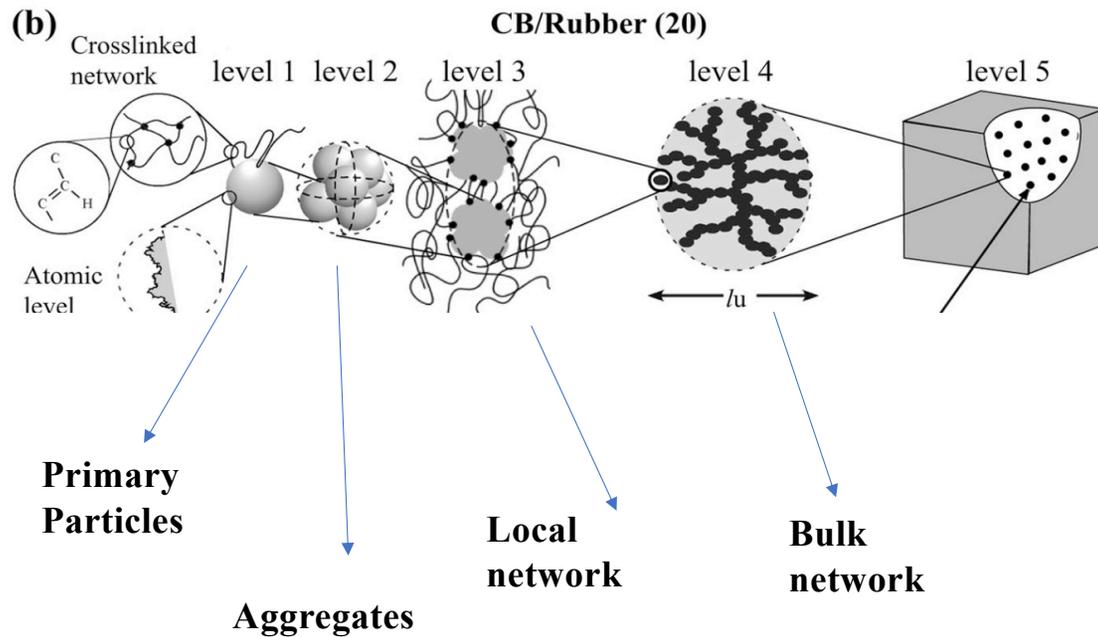


Rishi, K., Beaucage, G., Kuppa, V., Mulderig, A., Narayanan, V., McGlasson, A., Rackaitis, M. and Ilavsky, J., 2018. Impact of an emergent hierarchical filler network on nanocomposite dynamics. *Macromolecules*, 51(20), pp.7893-7904.

Trappe, V. and Weitz, D.A., 2000. Scaling of the viscoelasticity of weakly attractive particles. *Physical review letters*, 85(2), p.449.

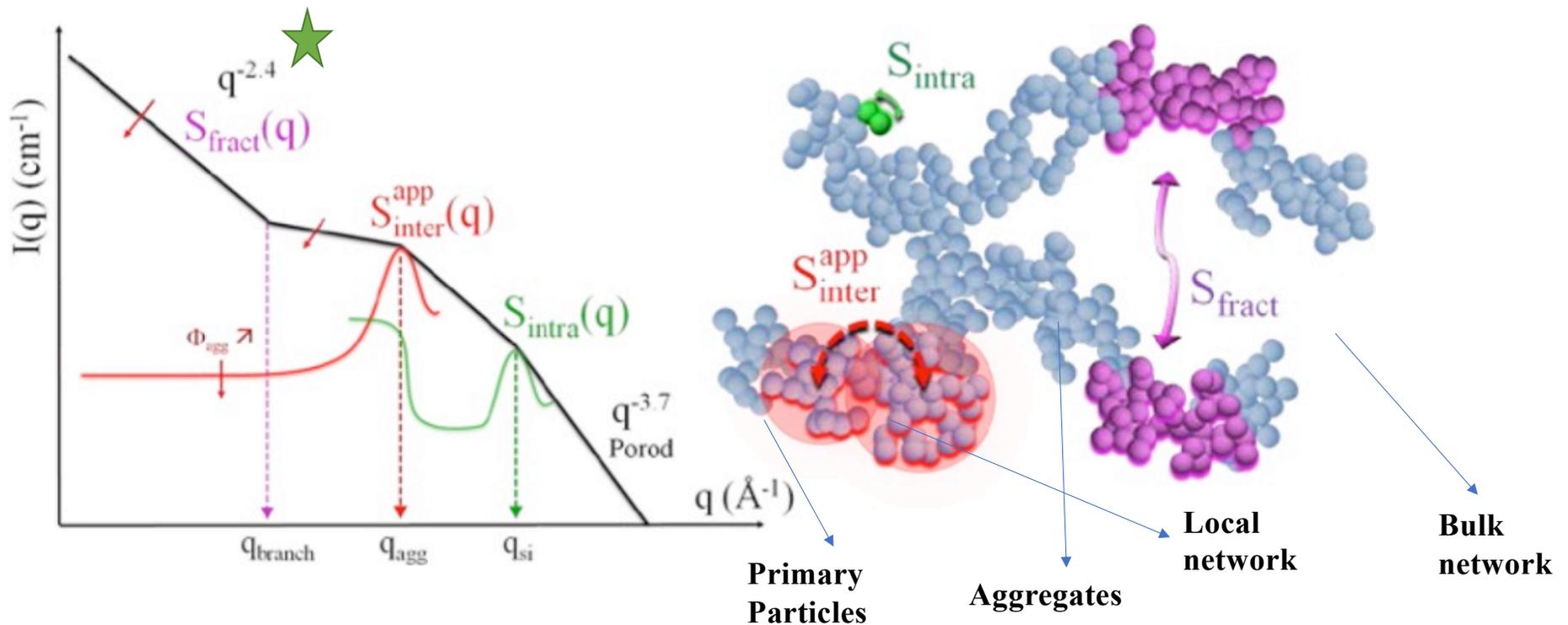
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# Multiscale Hierarchical Structures



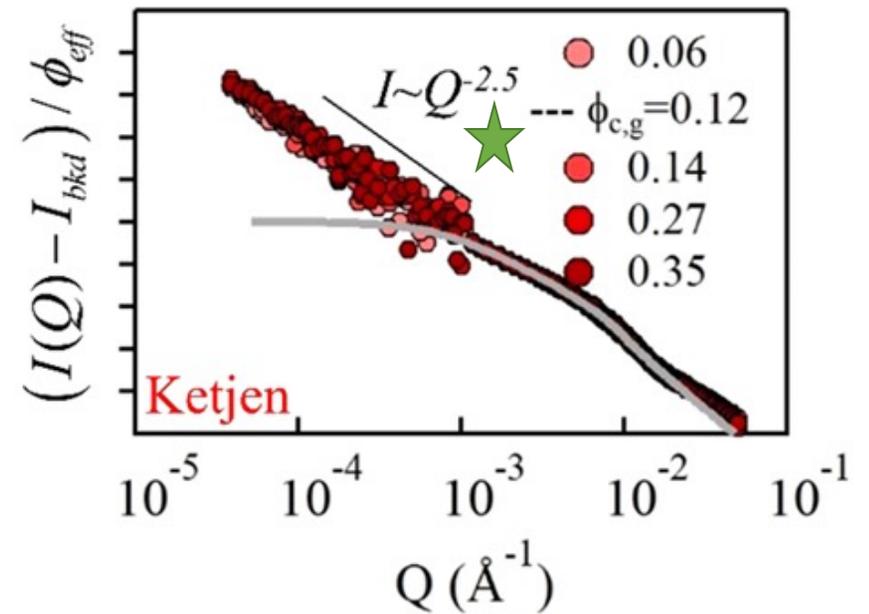
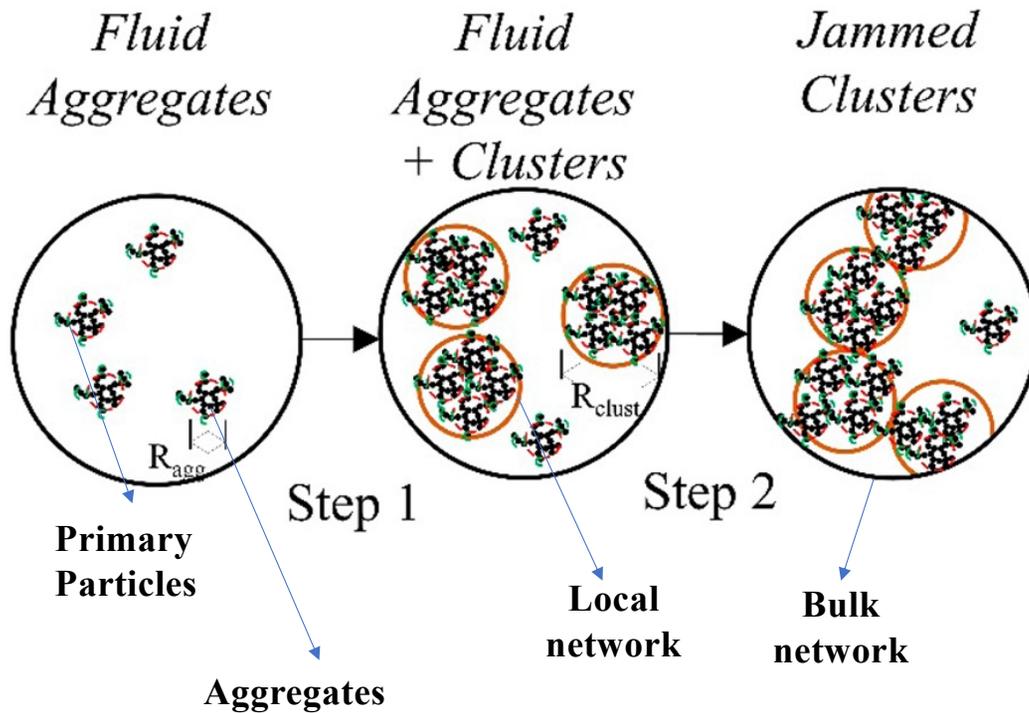
Hashimoto, T., Amino, N., Nishitsuji, S. and Takenaka, M., 2019. Hierarchically self-organized filler particles in polymers: cascade evolution of dissipative structures to ordered structures. *Polymer Journal*, 51(2), pp.109-130.

# Multiscale Hierarchical Structures



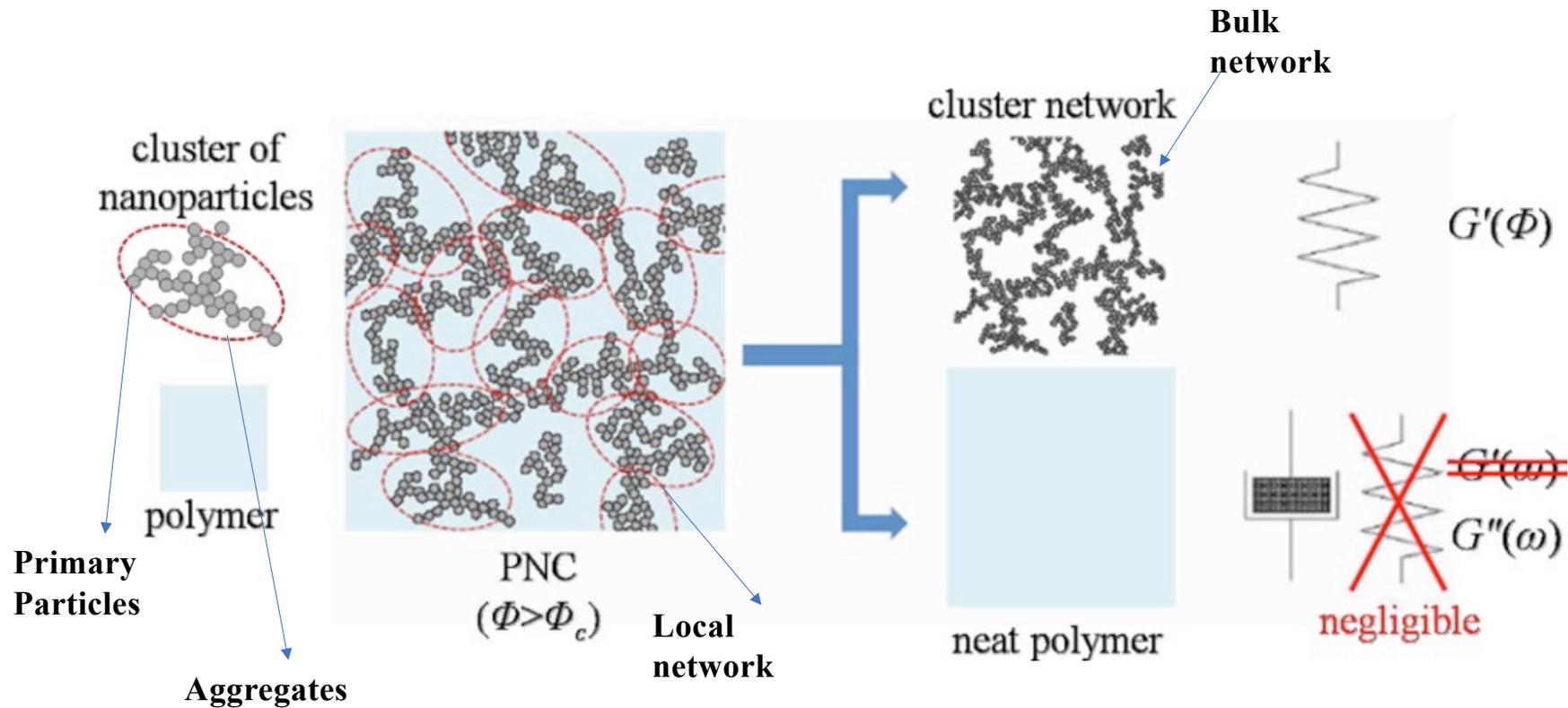
Baeza, G.P., Genix, A.C., Degrandcourt, C., Petitjean, L., Gummel, J., Couty, M. and Oberdisse, J., 2013. Multiscale filler structure in simplified industrial nanocomposite silica/SBR systems studied by SAXS and TEM. *Macromolecules*, 46(1), pp.317-329.

# Multiscale Hierarchical Structures



Richards, J.J., Hipp, J.B., Riley, J.K., Wagner, N.J. and Butler, P.D., 2017. Clustering and percolation in suspensions of carbon black. *Langmuir*, 33(43), pp.12260-12266.

# Multiscale Hierarchical Structures



Filippone, G., Romeo, G. and Acierno, D., **2010**. Viscoelasticity and structure of polystyrene/fumed silica nanocomposites: filler network and hydrodynamic contributions. *Langmuir*, 26(4), pp.2714-2720.

Filippone, G. and Salzano de Luna, M., **2012**. A unifying approach for the linear viscoelasticity of polymer nanocomposites. *Macromolecules*, 45(21), pp.8853-8860.

# van der Waals model for incompatible polymer nanocomposites

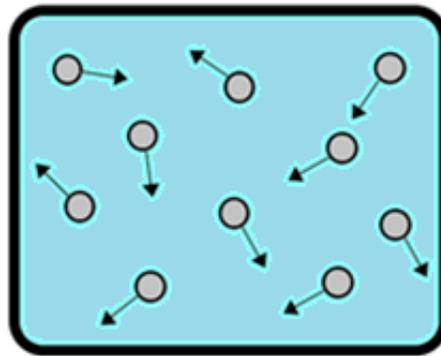
$a$  reflects the attractive energy of interaction between aggregates.

$$\Pi = \frac{kT}{(V + b)} - \frac{a}{V^2}$$

$b$  is the excluded volume  
 $a$  is the attractive enthalpic interaction leading to phase separation

$$\Pi = kT \left( \frac{1}{V} + \frac{B_2}{V^2} + \dots \right)$$

**Thermally driven colloidal dispersion**



**Heat Source**

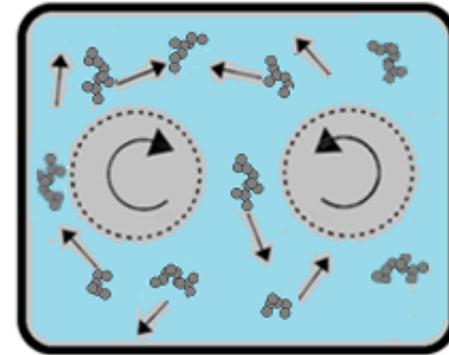
**Energy  $\propto$  Temperature**

$$B_2(T) = b - \frac{a}{kT}$$



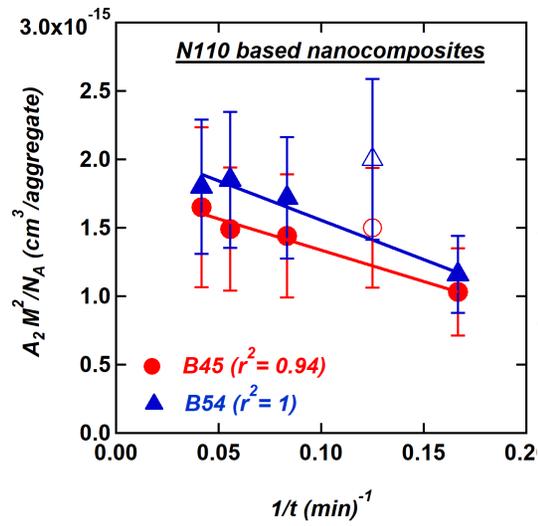
$$T \sim \langle \dot{\gamma} \rangle = Nt\psi$$

**Mechanically dispersed nano-fillers**

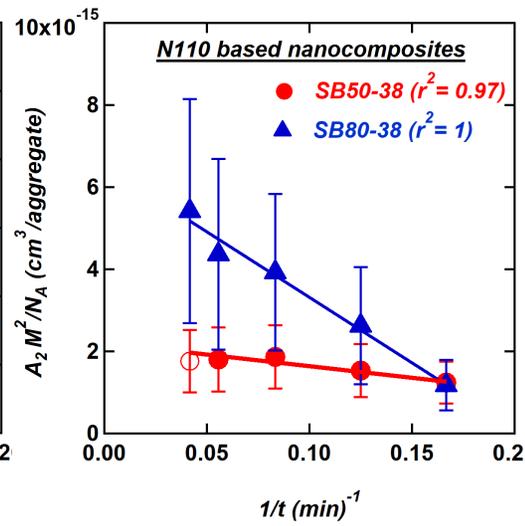


**Energy  $\propto$  Mixing Time**

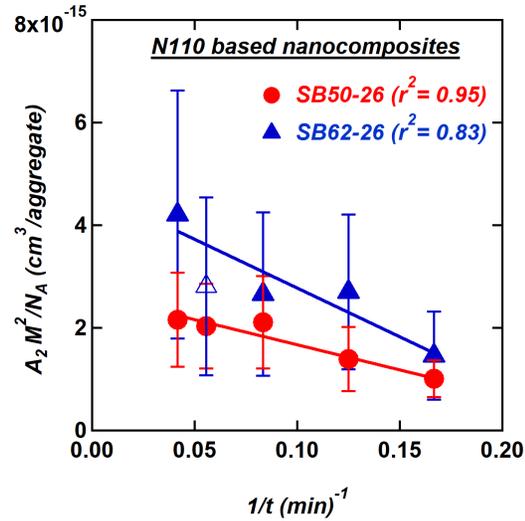
$$B_2(t) = b^* - \frac{a^*}{t}$$



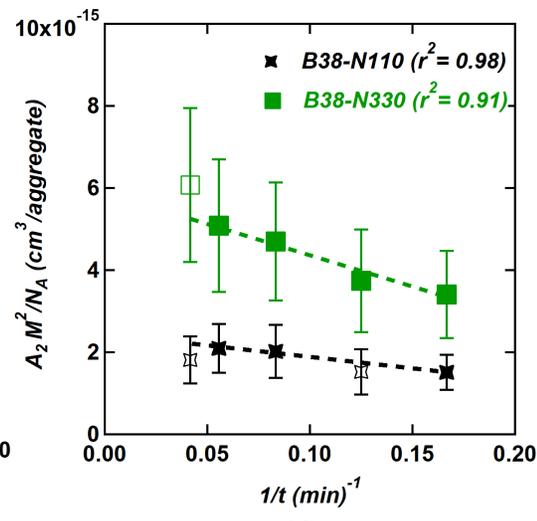
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

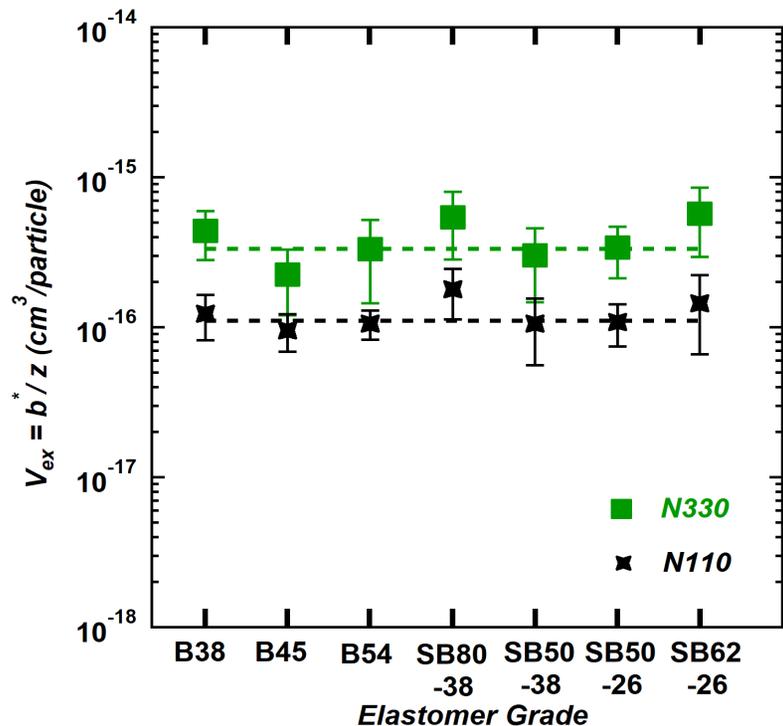
Van der Waals approach seems viable

$$B_2(t) = \frac{A_2(t)M^2}{N_A} = b^* - \frac{a^*}{t}$$

Rishi, K.; Narayanan, V.; Beaucage, G.; McGlasson, A.; Kuppa, V.; Ilavsky, J.; Rackaitis, M. A Thermal Model to Describe Kinetic Dispersion in Rubber Nanocomposites: The Effect of Mixing Time on Dispersion. *Polymer (Guildf)*. 2019, 175, 272–282.

Excluded volume is associated with the occupied volume of an aggregate.

$$(d_{p,N330}/d_{p,N110})^3 = 4.2$$

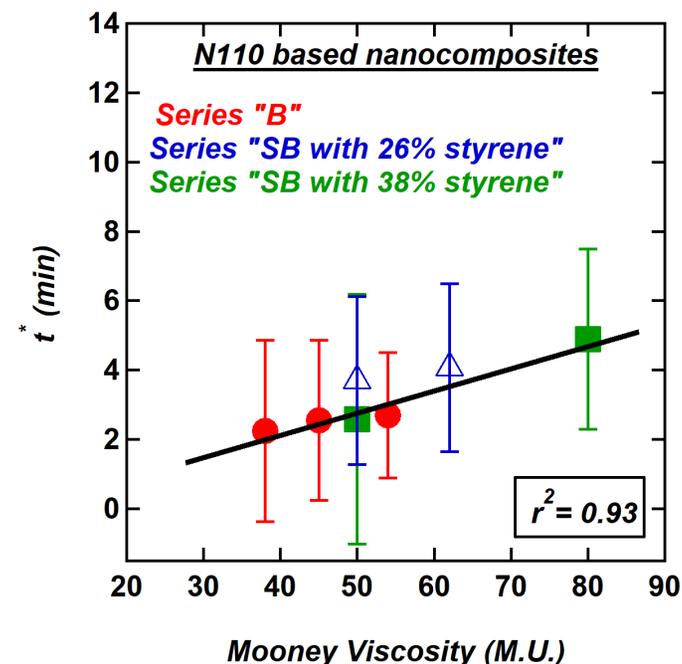


$$B_2(t) = b^* - \frac{a^*}{t}$$

Wetting time depends on viscosity and primary particle size

x-intercept reflects “wetting time”

$$B_2 = 0, \quad t^* = a^*/b^*$$

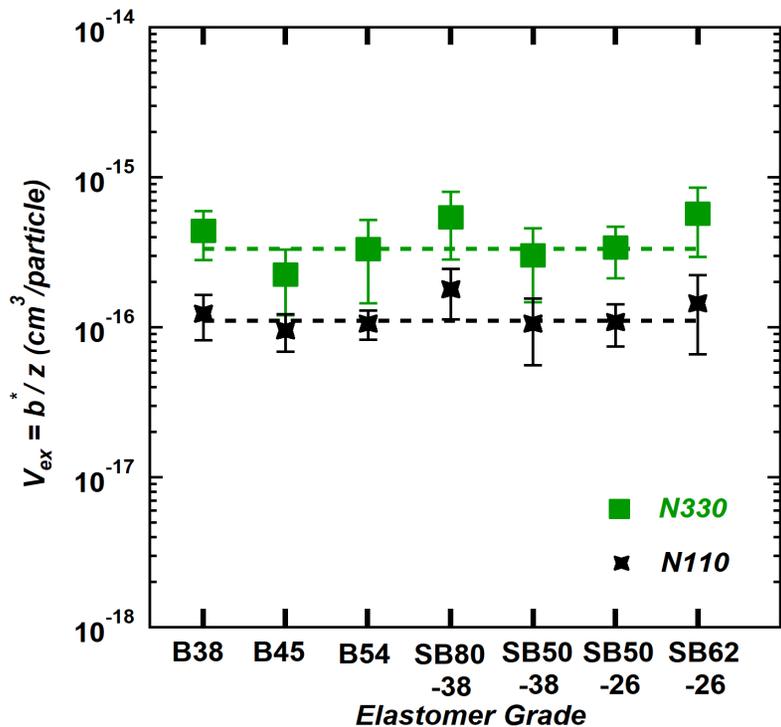


N110	Vulcan 8 (Cabot)	123 m <sup>2</sup> /g	25.7 nm
N330	Vulcan 3 (Cabot)	76 m <sup>2</sup> /g	41.6 nm

Rishi, K.; Narayanan, V.; Beaucage, G.; McGlasson, A.; Kuppa, V.; Ilavsky, J.; Rackaitis, M. A Thermal Model to Describe Kinetic Dispersion in Rubber Nanocomposites: The Effect of Mixing Time on Dispersion. *Polymer (Guildf)*. 2019, 175, 272–282. 4

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$$(d_{p,N330}/d_{p,N110})^3 = 4.2$$



N110	Vulcan 8 (Cabot)	123 m <sup>2</sup> /g	25.7 nm
N330	Vulcan 3 (Cabot)	76 m <sup>2</sup> /g	41.6 nm

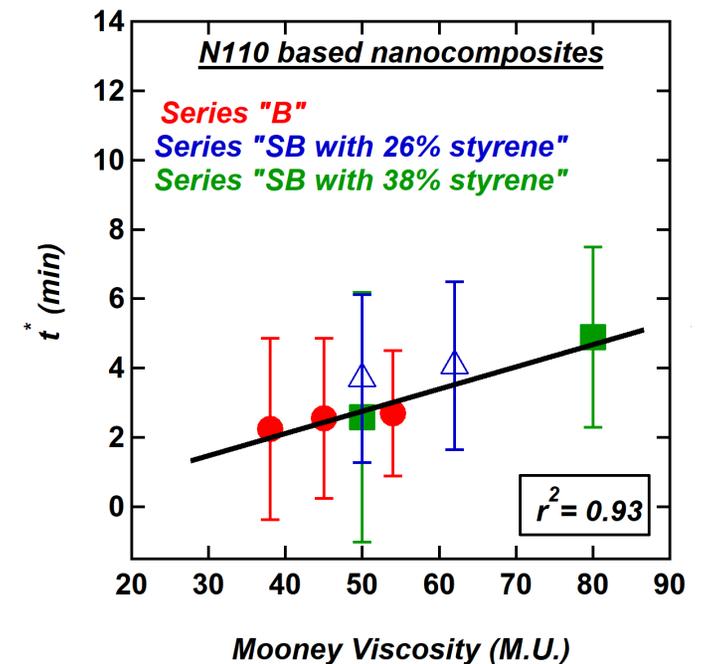
$$B_2(t) = b^* - \frac{a^*}{t}$$

Note: if  $a^*/b^*$  increases,  $B_2$  decreases with viscosity

Wetting time depends on viscosity and primary particle size

x-intercept reflects “wetting time”

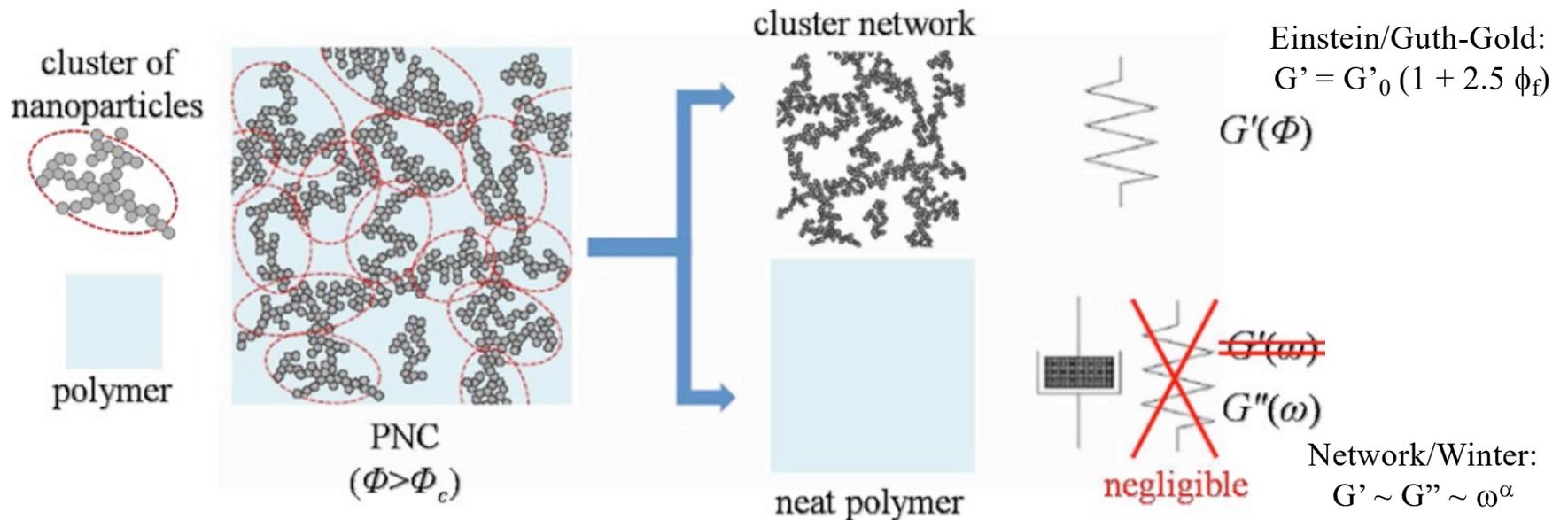
$$B_2 = 0, \quad t^* = a^*/b^*$$



Rishi, K.; Narayanan, V.; Beaucage, G.; McGlasson, A.; Kuppa, V.; Ilavsky, J.; Rackaitis, M. A Thermal Model to Describe Kinetic Dispersion in Rubber Nanocomposites: The Effect of Mixing Time on Dispersion. *Polymer (Guildf)*. 2019, 175, 272–282. 4

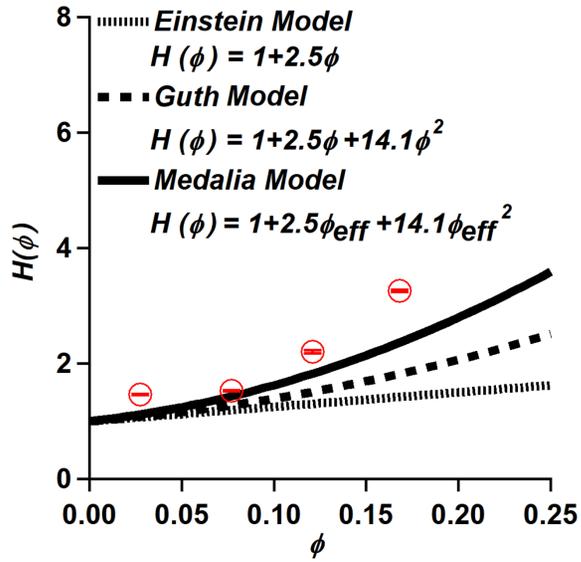
# Morphology from rheology

- How does this multi-hierarchical model relate to oscillatory rheometry?



Filippone, G., Romeo, G. and Acierio, D., 2010. Viscoelasticity and structure of polystyrene/fumed silica nanocomposites: filler network and hydrodynamic contributions. *Langmuir*, 26(4), pp.2714-2720.

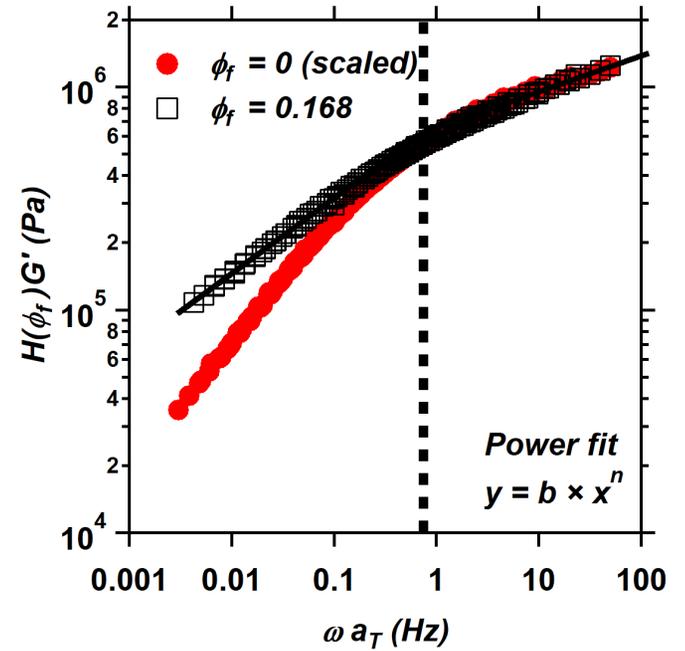
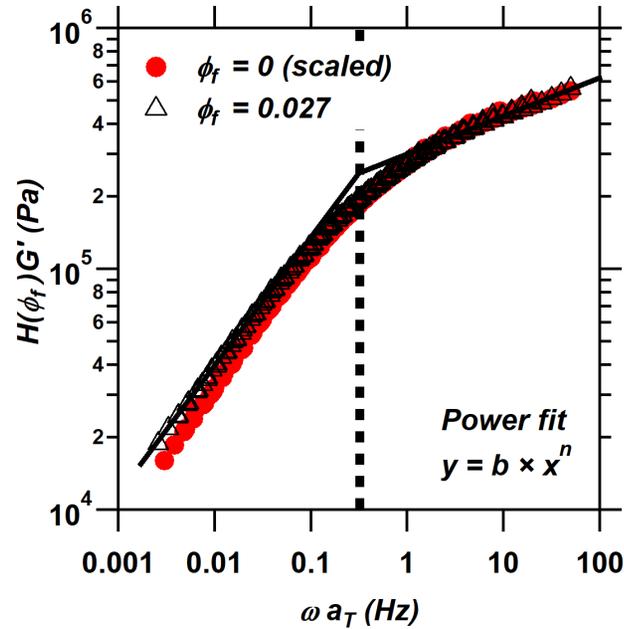
Filippone, G. and Salzano de Luna, M., 2012. A unifying approach for the linear viscoelasticity of polymer nanocomposites. *Macromolecules*, 45(21), pp.8853-8860.



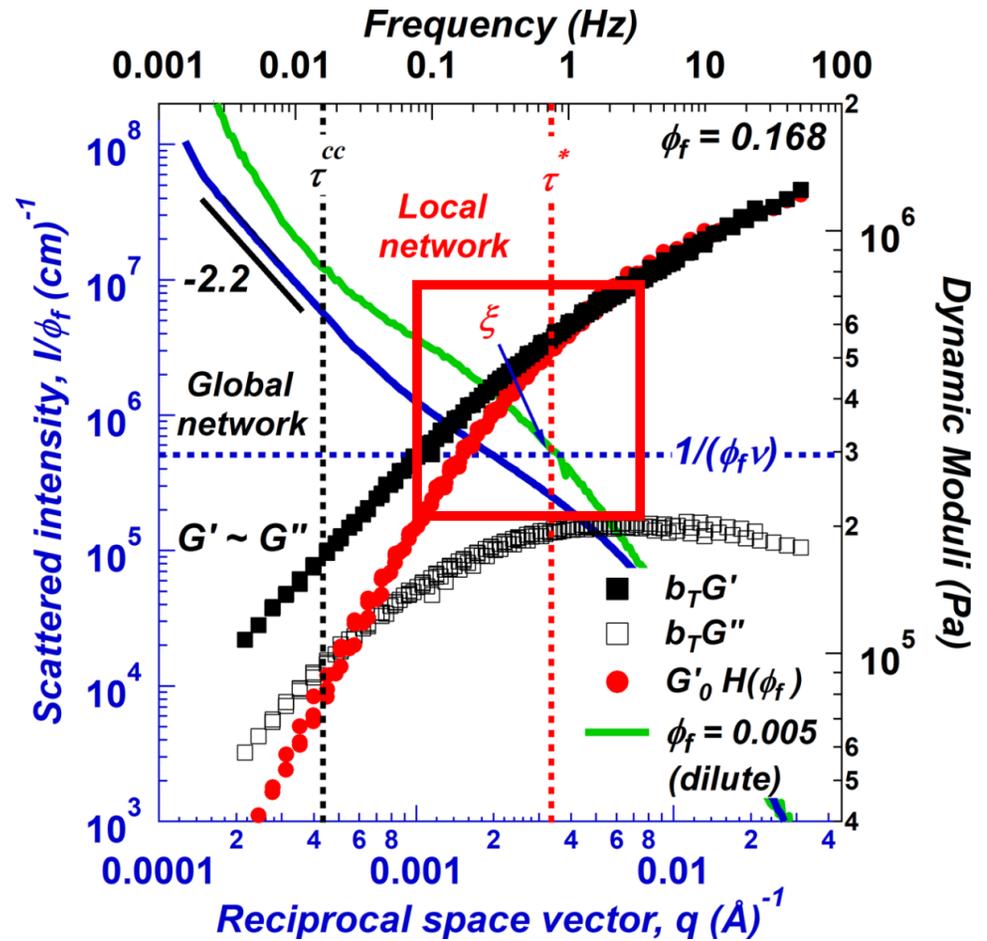
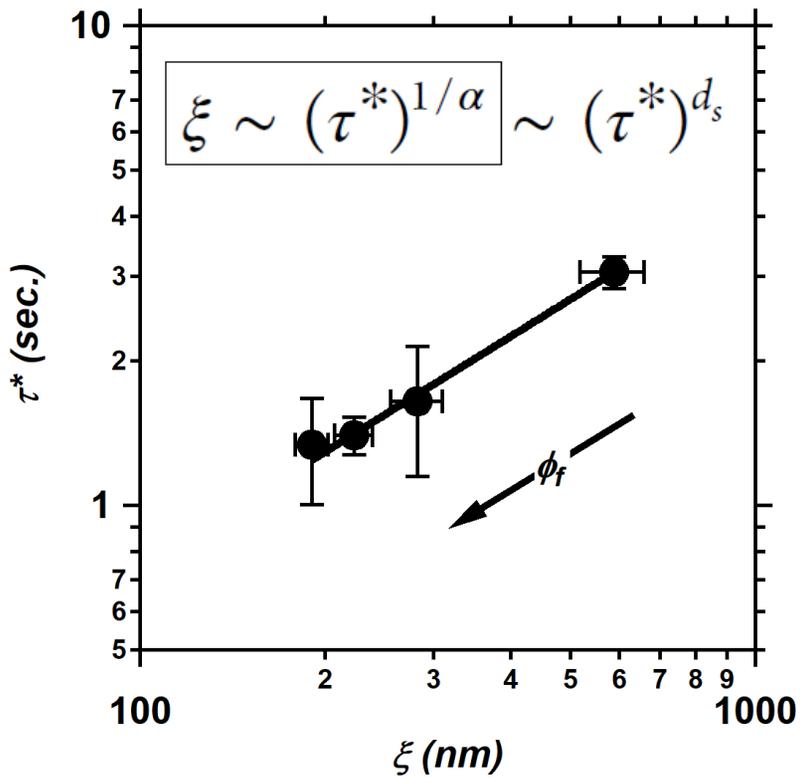
$$G = G_0(1 + K\phi)$$

$$G = G_0(1 + K\phi + K'\phi^2)$$

$$\phi_{\text{eff}}/\phi = \beta = (1 + e)/(1 + \varepsilon) = (1 + \rho\text{DBPA})/(1 + \varepsilon)$$

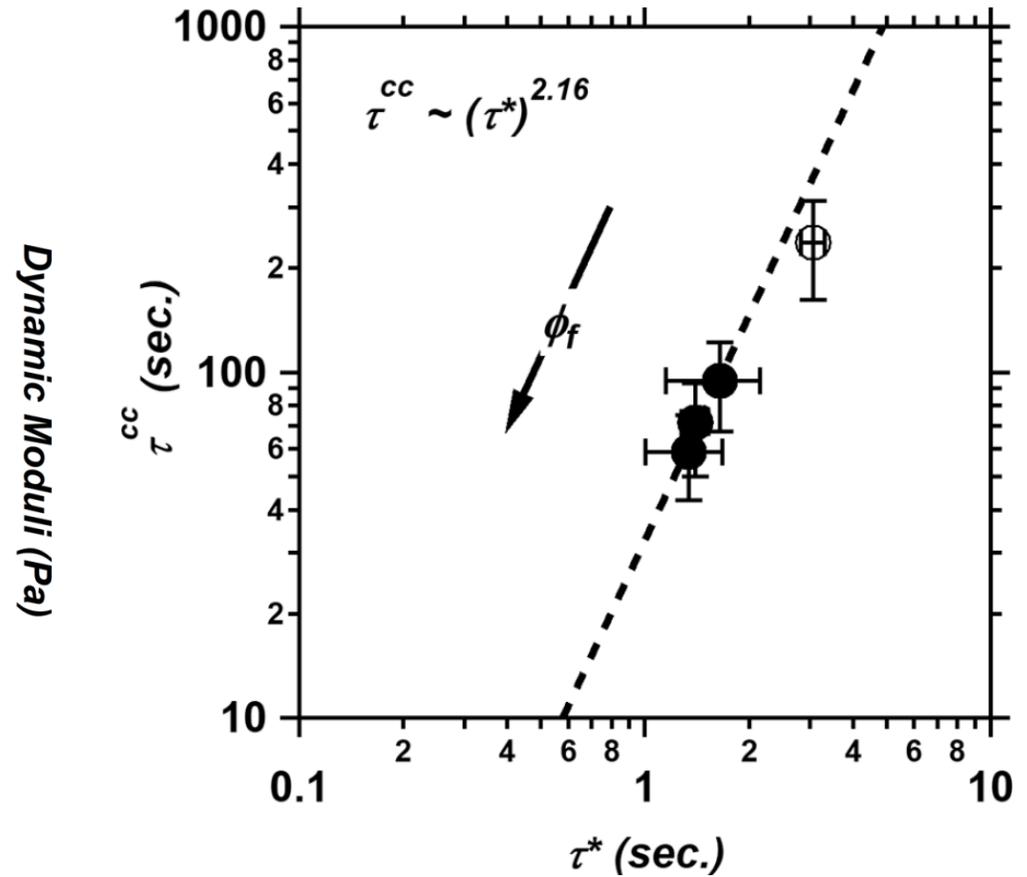
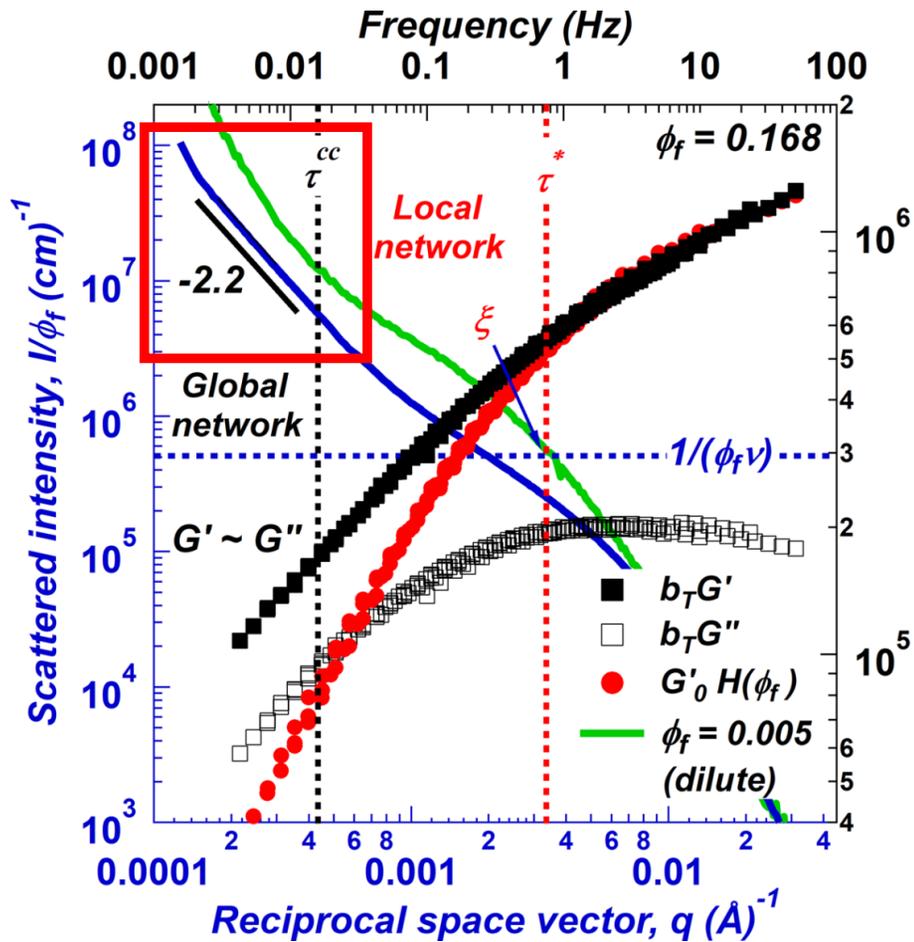


Einstein, 1909 (add Einstein reference here)  
 H. M. Smallwood, *J. Appl. Phys.* **1944**, 15, 758.  
 E. Guth, *J. Appl. Phys.* **1945**, 16, 20.  
 S. Wolff, M.-J. Wang, *Rubber Chem. Technol.* **1992**, 65, 329.  
 G. Huber, T. A. Vilgis, *Kgk Kautschuk Gummi Kunststoffe* **1999**, 52, 102.  
 G. Huber, T. A. Vilgis, *Macromolecules* **2002**, 35, 9204.



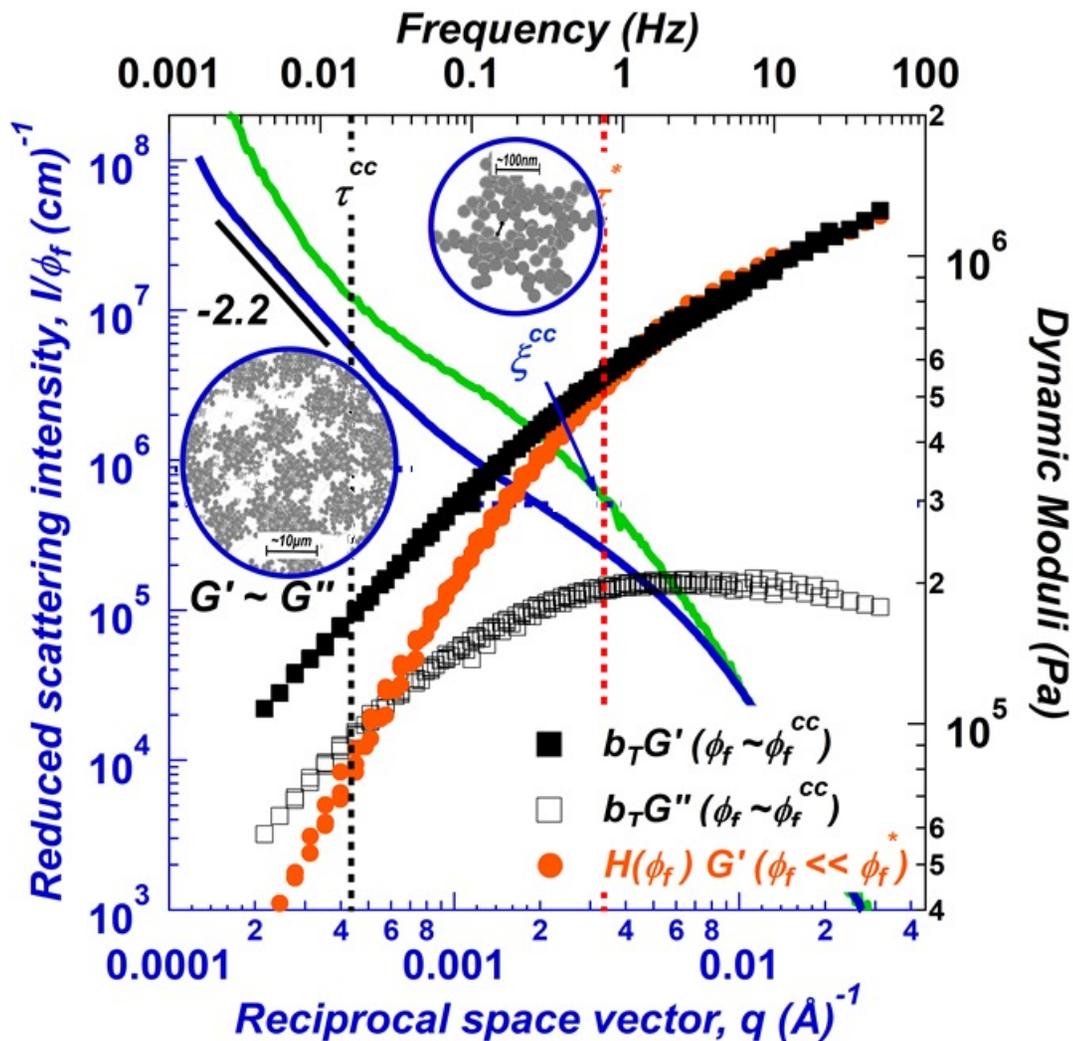
Rishi, K., Beaucage, G., Kuppa, V., Mulderig, A., Narayanan, V., McGlasson, A., Rackaitis, M. and Ilavsky, J., 2018. Impact of an emergent hierarchical filler network on nanocomposite dynamics. *Macromolecules*, 51(20), pp.7893-7904.

Vilgis, T.A. and Winter, H.H., 1988. Mechanical self similarity of polymers during chemical gelation. *Colloid and Polymer Science*, 266(6), pp.494-500.



Rishi, K., Beaucage, G., Kuppa, V., Mulderig, A., Narayanan, V., McGlasson, A., Rackaitis, M. and Ilavsky, J., 2018. Impact of an emergent hierarchical filler network on nanocomposite dynamics. *Macromolecules*, 51(20), pp.7893-7904.

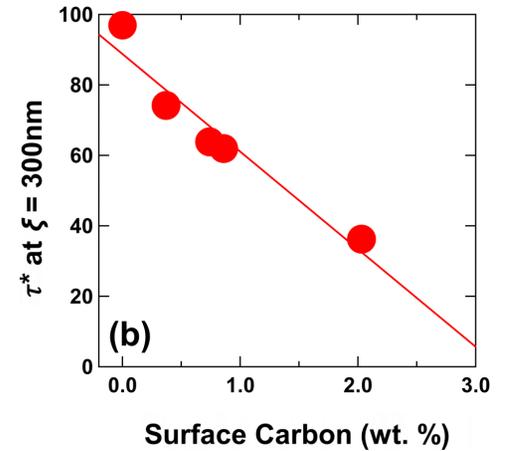
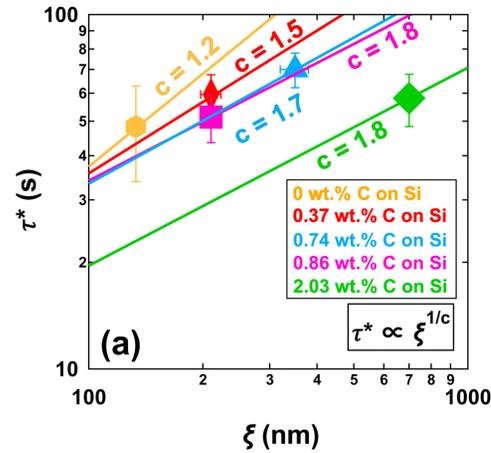
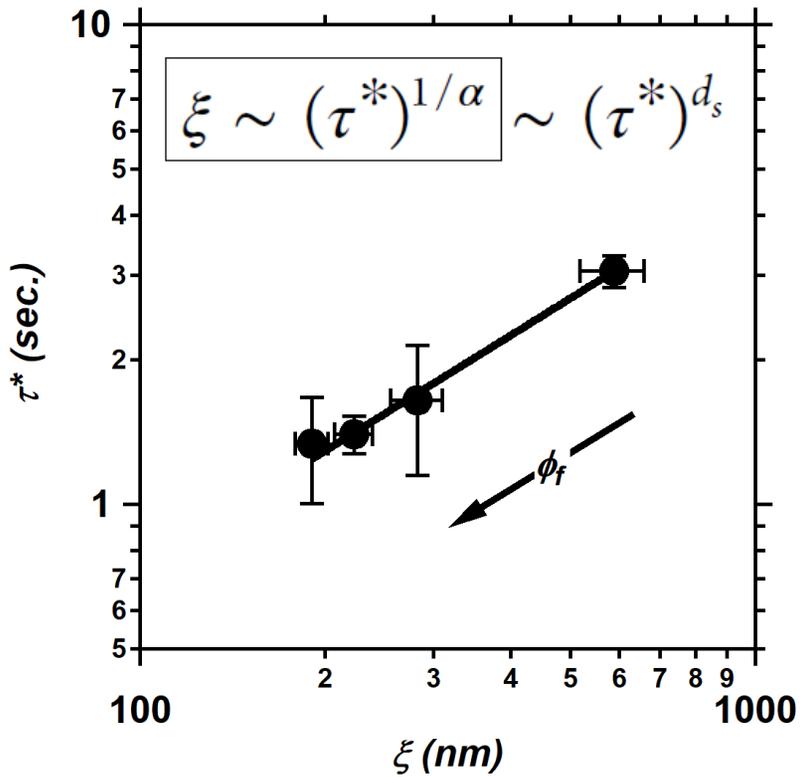
Macroscopic network dynamics is related to nanoscale clusters through the network  $d_f$



Einstein/Guth-Gold:  $G' = G'_0 (1 + 2.5 \phi_f)$

- ❖ At intermediate frequencies, deviation of semi-dilute rheology from dilute under same shear conditions ascertained by scaling dilute sample by Einstein-Smallwood factor
- ❖ At low oscillation frequencies,  $G' \sim G''$  indicates gel-like behavior\*

Network/Winter  
 $G' \sim G'' \sim \omega^\alpha$



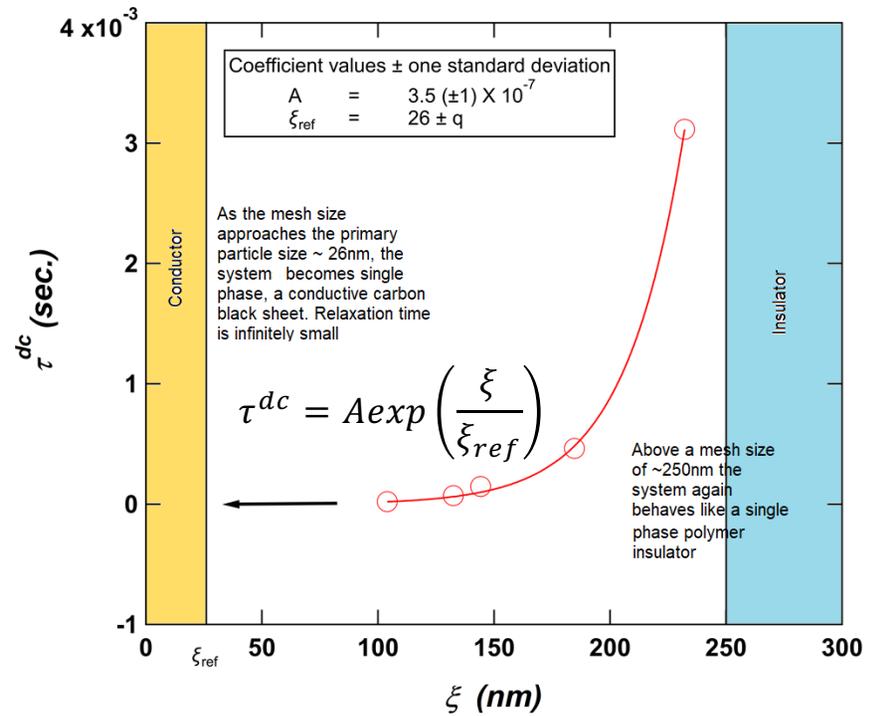
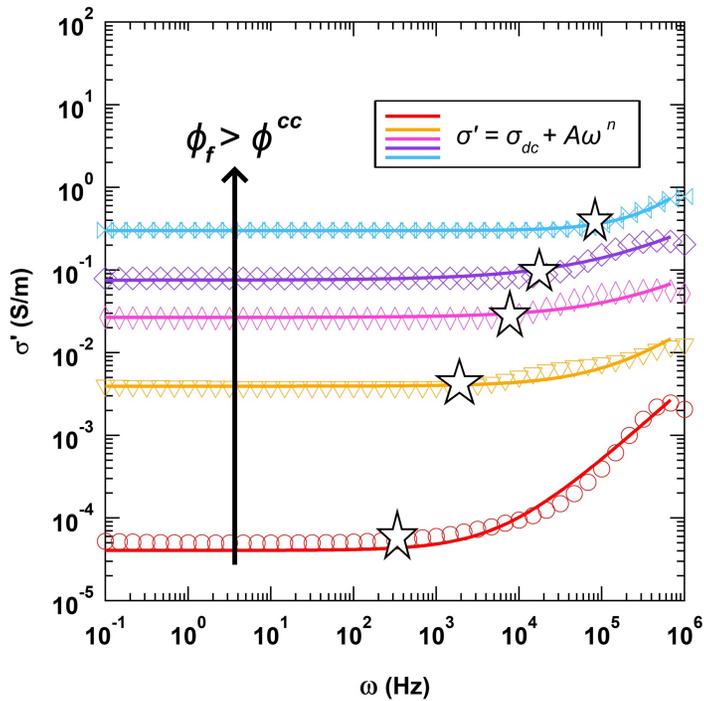
Okoli, U.; Rishi, K.; Beaucage, G.; Kammler, H. K.; McGlasson, A.; Michael, C.; Narayanan, V.; Grammens, J. *Dispersion and Dynamic Response for Flame-Synthesized and Chemically Modified Pyrogenic Silica in Rubber Nanocomposites*; in press 2022. *Polymer*.

## Nanoscale control over hierarchical response

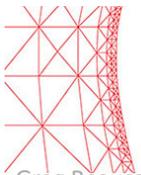
Rishi, K., Beaucage, G., Kuppa, V., Mulderig, A., Narayanan, V., McGlasson, A., Rackaitis, M. and Ilavsky, J., 2018. Impact of an emergent hierarchical filler network on nanocomposite dynamics. *Macromolecules*, 51(20), pp.7893-7904.

Greg Beaucage, University of Cincinnati gbeaucage@gmail.com

# The impact of the local filler network on conductivity



Rishi, K., Gogia, A., Cui, X., Beaucage, G., Tang, A., Kumar, J., Kuppa, V. Structure-conductivity relationships in carbon black rubber nanocomposites. In preparation



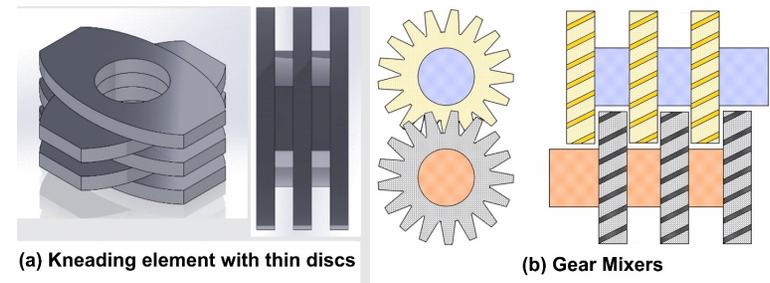
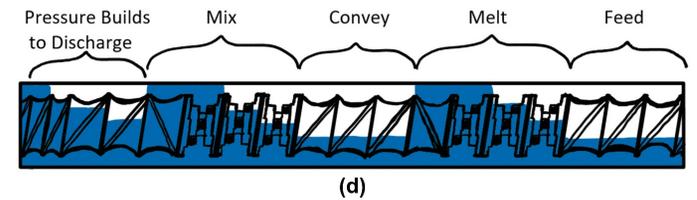
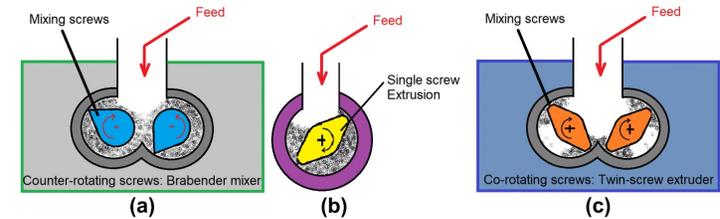
University of Dayton  
Research Institute

Greg Beaucage, University of Cincinnati gbeaucage@gmail.com

# Mixing Geometry: Dispersive (Breakup) versus Distributive (Arrangement) Mixing

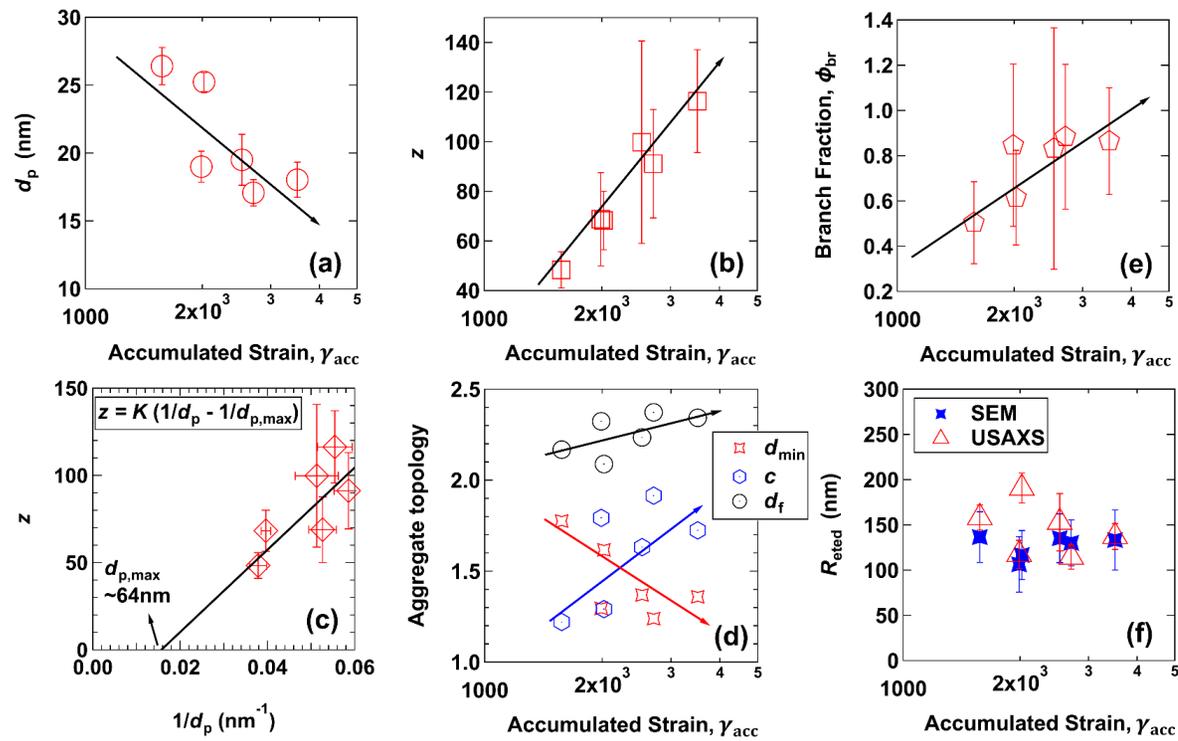
## N110 Carbon Black in Polystyrene

Sample Name	Processing equipment	Screw Speed, $\dot{N}$ (rpm)	Accumulated Strain, $\gamma_{acc}$
GM-300	Twin Screw Extruder utilizing Gear Mixers (TSE - GM)	300	2,000
GM-400	Twin Screw Extruder utilizing Gear Mixers (TSE - GM)	400	2,500
KB-300	Twin Screw Extruder utilizing Kneading Blocks (TSE - KB)	300	2,700
KB-400	Twin Screw Extruder utilizing Kneading Blocks (TSE - KB)	400	3,510
SSE	Single Screw Extruder	30	2,020
Mixer	Brabender Mixer with Banbury blades	60	1,575



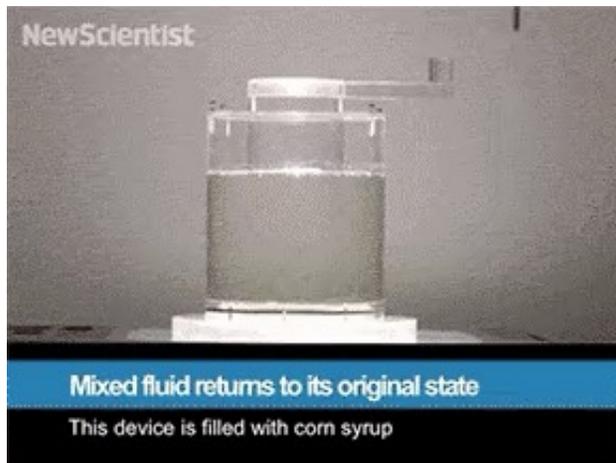
Veigel D, Rishi K, Beaucage G, Galloway J, Campanelli H, Ilavsky J, Kuzmenko I, Fickenscher M, Okoli U *Nanocomposite dispersion and distribution in melt mixers* Submitted *Polymer* (2022).

## Distributive Mixing $\equiv$ Structural breakup and changes

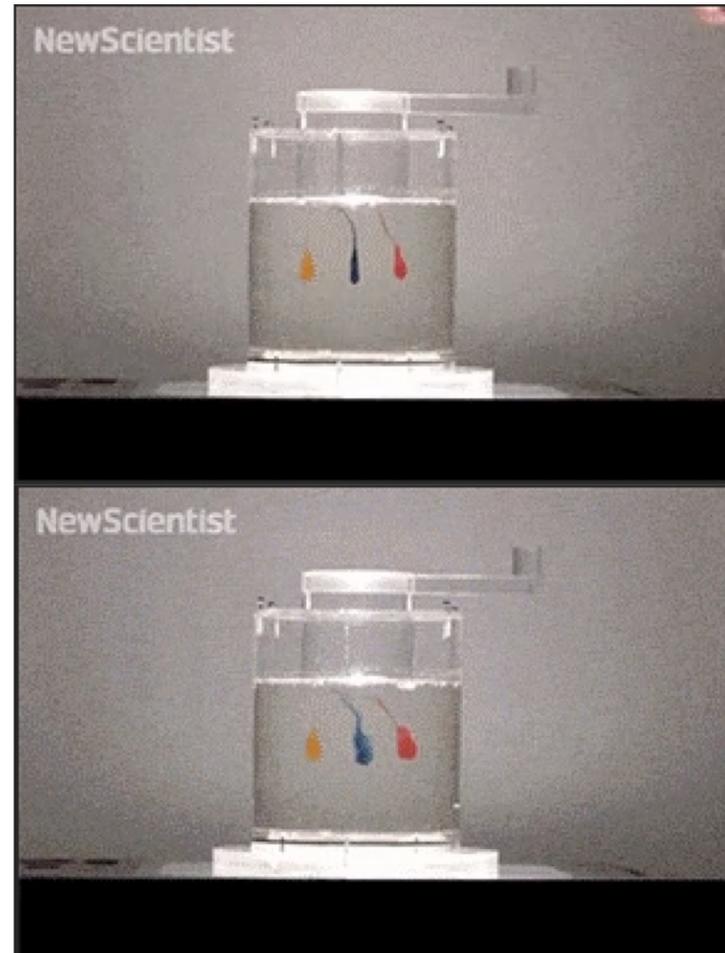


Veigel D, Rishi K, Beaucage G, Galloway J, Campanelli H, Ilavsky J, Kuzmenko I, Fickenscher M, Okoli U *Nanocomposite dispersion and distribution in melt mixers* Submitted *Polymer* (2022).

**Distributive Mixing doesn't occur in laminar flow ( $Re \ll 2000$  even at high strain rate)  
(Dispersive breakup can still occur if the particles are large enough)**



$$Re = \frac{\rho v G}{\eta}$$



Veigel D, Rishi K, Beaucage G, Galloway J, Campanelli H, Ilavsky J, Kuzmenko I, Fickenscher M, Okoli U *Nanocomposite dispersion and distribution in melt mixers*  
Submitted *Polymer* (2022).

## Mixing Geometry and Shear Rate => Hierarchical Emergence

$$B_2(t) = b^* - \frac{a^*}{\gamma_{acc}}$$

$$\gamma_{acc} = \frac{vt}{G}$$

Smaller gap (G) :: Larger  $\gamma_{acc}$   
Better mixing (Larger  $B_2$ )

$$Re = \frac{\rho v G}{\eta}$$

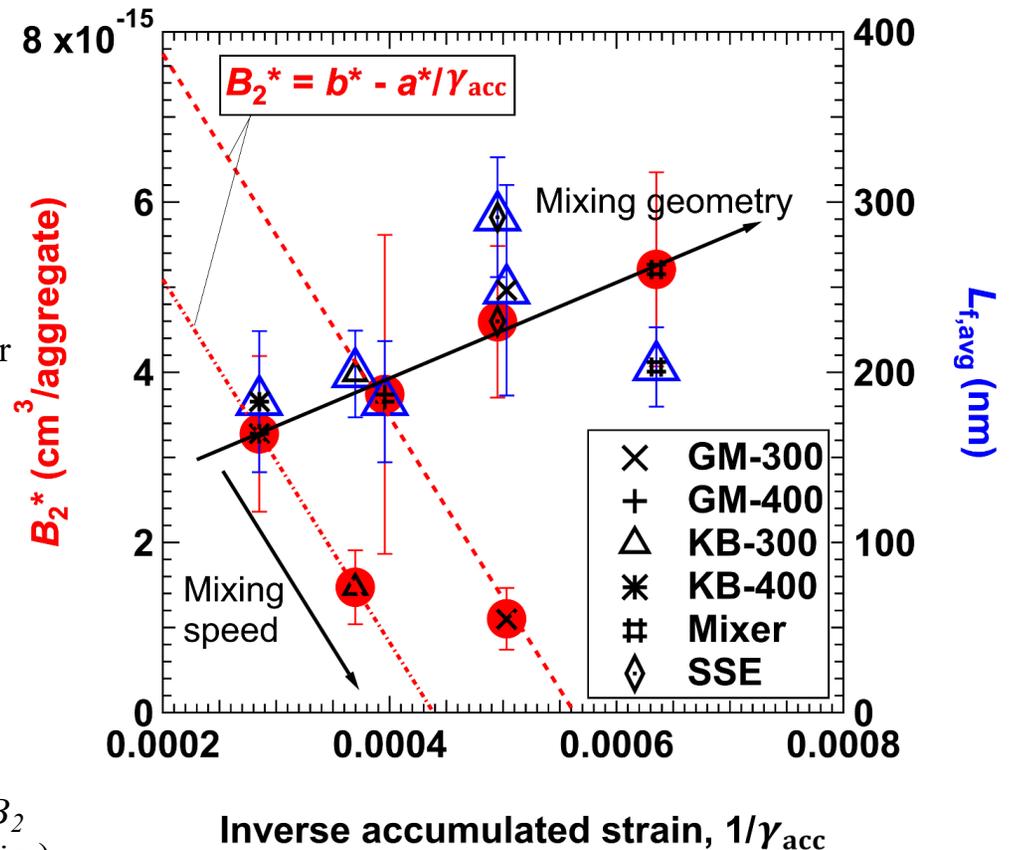
Re small (< 2000) => Laminar Flow  
(no distributive mixing but particle breakup or dispersive mixing)

Re large (> 2000) => Turbulent Flow  
(distributive and dispersive mixing)

Smaller gap (G) :: Smaller  $Re$   
Worse mixing (Smaller  $B_2$ )

$$B_2(t) = b^* - \frac{a^*}{t Re} = b^* - \frac{a^* \eta}{\rho G^2 \gamma_{acc}}$$

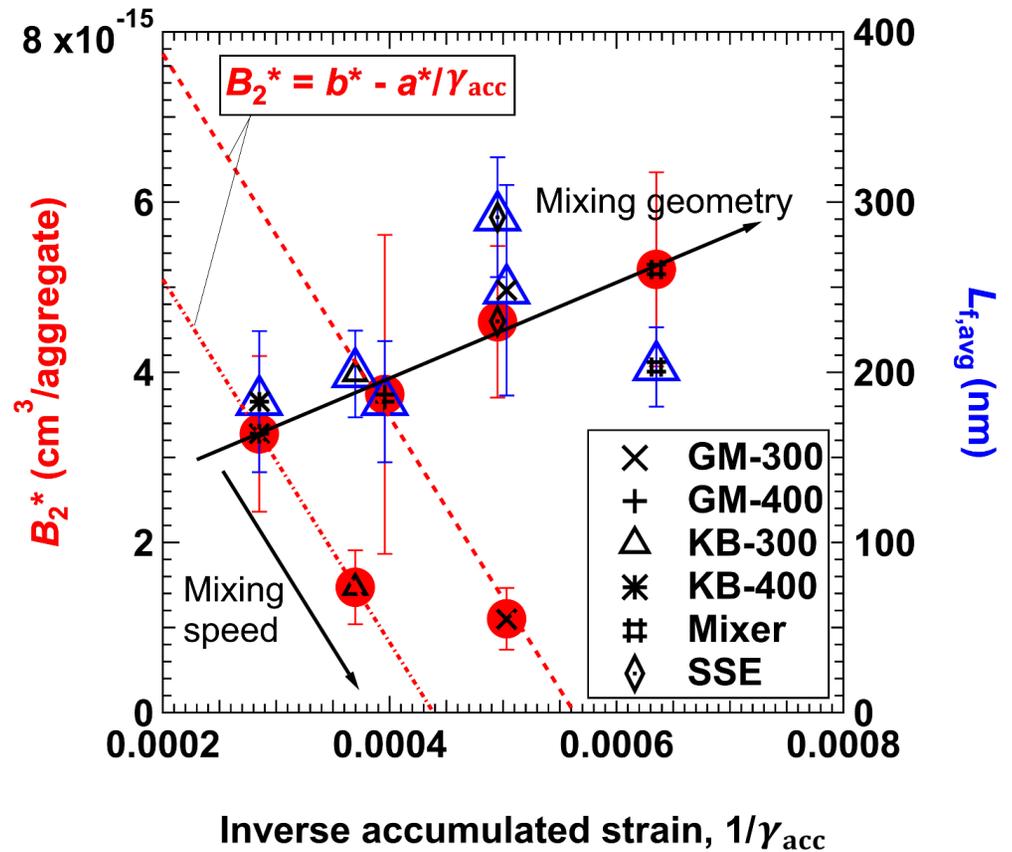
(Viscosity dependence of  $B_2$  was shown earlier)



## Mixing Geometry and Shear Rate => Hierarchical Emergence

$B_2$  measures the effective volume per aggregate which increases with breakup (dispersion) and better distribution

$L_{f,avg}$  seems to be most sensitive to distributive mixing and not sensitive to breakup/dispersion of nanoparticles

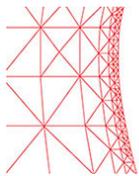


# Nanoparticle Dispersion in Nanocomposites

**Greg Beaucage**, Professor of Chemical and Materials Engineering, Cincinnati  
**Kabir Rishi**, PhD NIOSH/CDC Cincinnati Research Laboratory

- There are multiple levels and not 1 that assemble from small to large sizes
- Dispersion has a size-scale dependence
- Large-scale network morphology relies on immiscible nanoscale clustering governed by a balance of thermodynamics and kinetics.
- This constitutes a multiscale physics approach
- The point of compatibilization is to control immiscibility that leads to hierarchical structures not to produce miscibility on the nano-scale
- Hierarchical dynamics can be directly linked to hierarchical structure
- We hope to couple structural measures of thermodynamics and MD modeling to predict structural emergence in complex hierarchical materials

# Acknowledgements



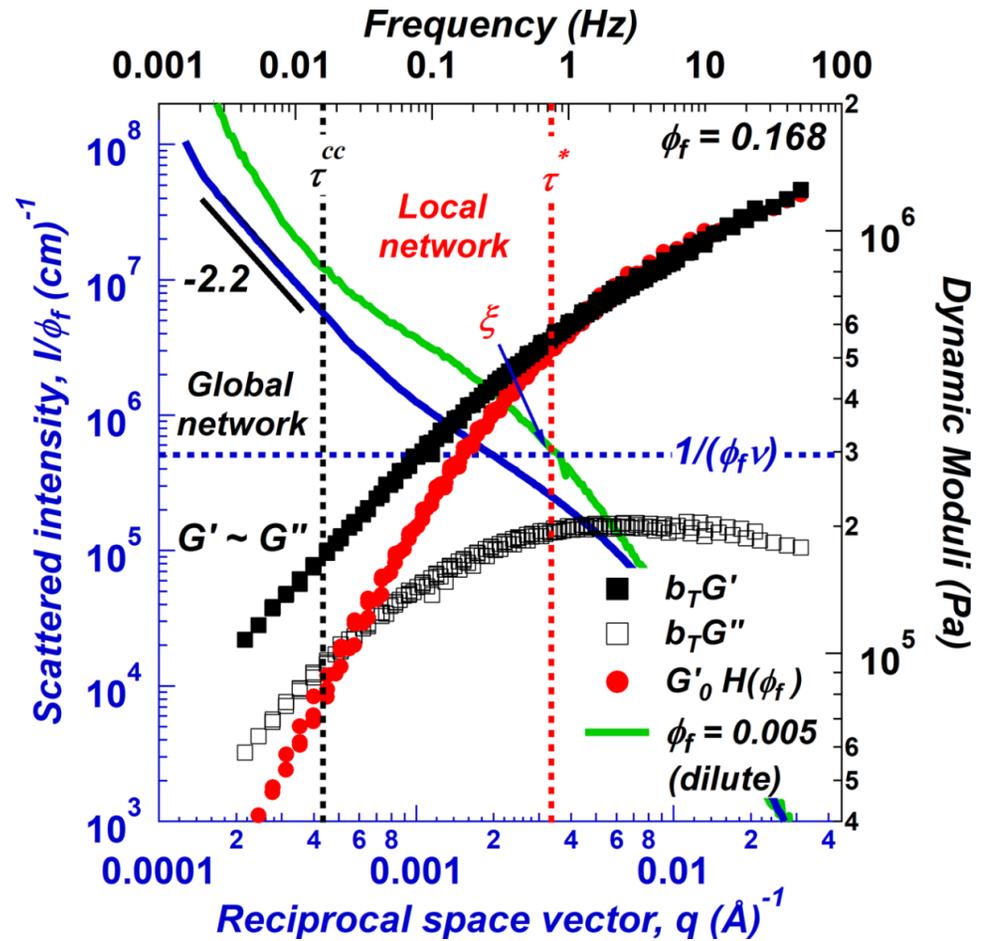
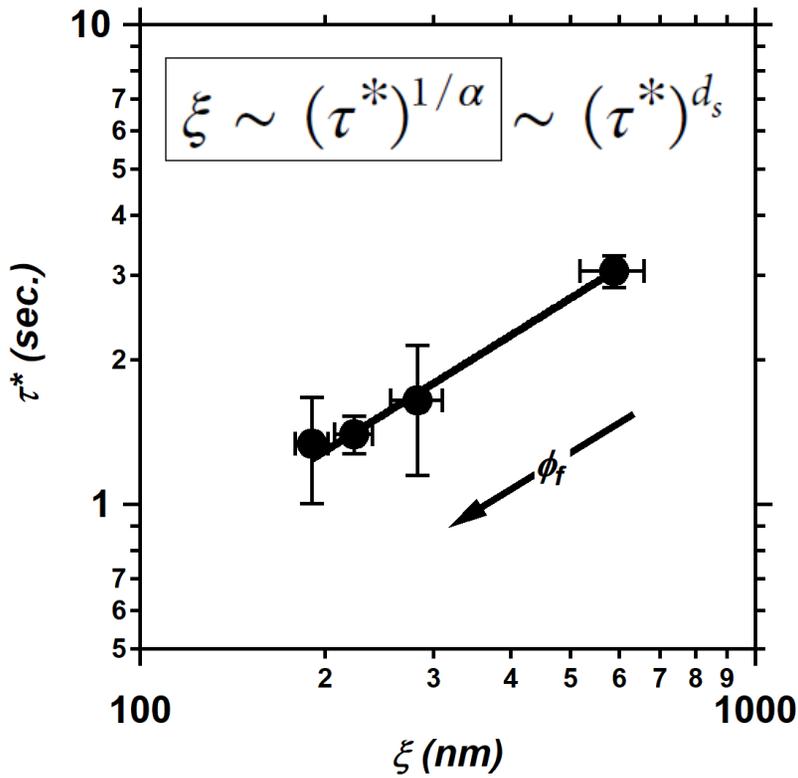
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Research Institute



*KraussMaffei*





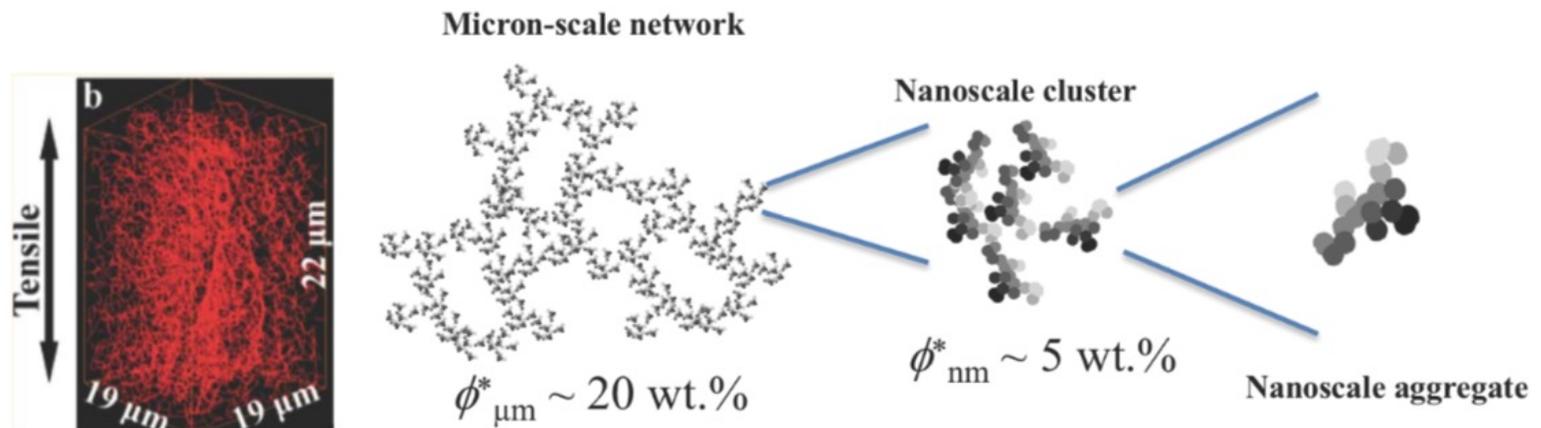


Rishi, K., Beaucage, G., Kuppa, V., Mulderig, A., Narayanan, V., McGlasson, A., Rackaitis, M. and Ilavsky, J., 2018. Impact of an emergent hierarchical filler network on nanocomposite dynamics. *Macromolecules*, 51(20), pp.7893-7904.

# Modeling of Multi-Hierarchical Emergence

# A model for equilibrium clustering and its application to multi-hierarchical growth.

Greg Beaucage, Kabir Rishi, Andrew J Mulderig, Karsten Vogtt  
University of Cincinnati

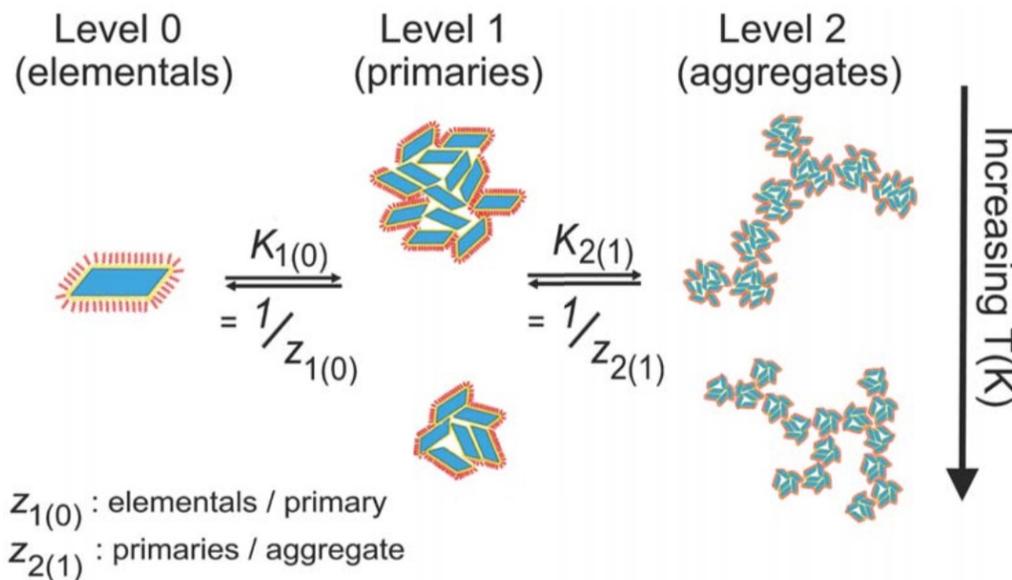


**Figure 1.** a) X-ray tomograph of carbon network in reinforced elastomer by Song et al. [3] b) Illustration of four structural levels in a carbon black/elastomer nanocomposite: micron-scale network; nano- to colloidal-scale cluster; nanoscale aggregate; primary particles. Percolation of the aggregates occurs at about 5 weight percent and leads to enhanced dynamic mechanical properties, while percolation of the clusters into a micron-scale network occurs at about 20 weight percent and leads to bulk conductivity and tear resistance.

3. Song, L.; Wang, Z.; Tang, X.; Chen, L.; Chen, P.; Yuan, Q.; Li, L. *Visualizing the Toughening Mechanism of Nanofiller with 3D Xray Nano-CT: Stress-Induced Phase Separation of Silica Nanofiller and Silicone Polymer Double Networks* *Macromolecules* **50** 7249-7257 (2017).

# A model for equilibrium clustering and its application to multi-hierarchical growth.

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University of Cincinnati



**Figure 2.** Pigment nano-crystals (blue parallelogram) can exist as elemental particles or as clusters. Clusters of nano-crystals form primary particles depending on the solubility of the non-ionic surfactant (red hydrophilic/yellow oleophilic surfactant segments). The primary particles can exist as independent clusters at low temperatures near  $T_{CA}$ , or as ramified aggregates, above  $T_{CA}$  but below  $T_{LCST}$  for the surfactant. Aggregation is controlled by the nan-crystal cluster size, temperature, and bond enthalpy. [1]

1. Rishi K; Mulderig A; Beaucage G; Vogtt K; Jiang H *Thermodynamics of Hierarchical Aggregation in Pigment Dispersions* Langmuir **35** 13100-13109 (2019).
2. Vogtt K; Beaucage G; Rishi K; Jiang H; Mulderig A *Hierarchical approach to aggregate equilibria* Phys. Rev. Res. **1** 033081 (2019).

# A model for equilibrium clustering and its application to multi-hierarchical growth.

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University of Cincinnati

$$\Delta G_{2(1)} = RT \ln \left( \frac{N_1^T}{N_2^T} \right) = -RT \ln \left( 1/z_{2(1)} \right) = -RT \ln(K_{2(1)}) \quad \text{Vogtt Equation (1,2)}$$

The number distribution of primary clusters,  $N_1(n_0)$ , consisting of  $n_0$  elemental crystals and the number distribution of aggregates of these primary clusters,  $N_2(n_1)$ , comprising  $n_1$  primary particles

$N_1^T$  is the total number of primary particles and

$N_2^T = \int_0^\infty N_2(n_1) dn_1$  is the total number of aggregates at a given temperature

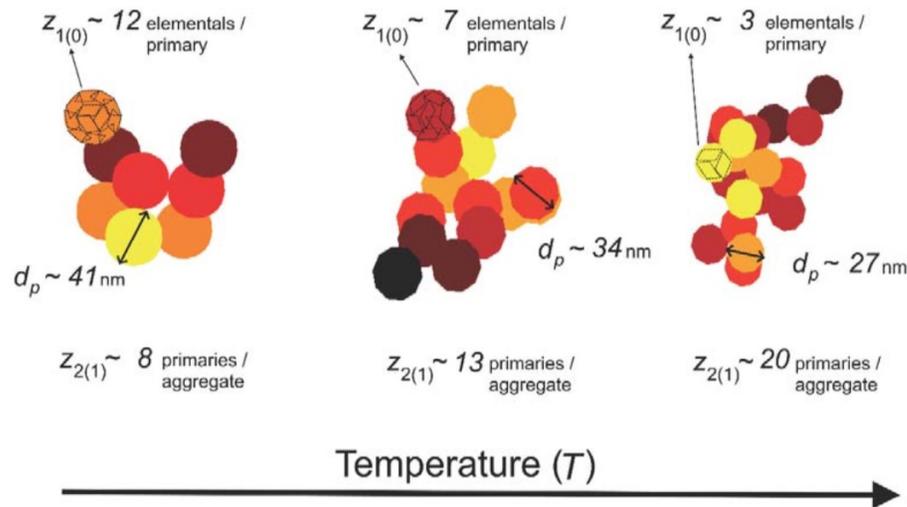
$N_1^T/N_2^T =$  number average degree of aggregation

$K_{2(1)}$  is the dissociation constant

1. Rishi K; Mulderig A; Beaucage G; Vogtt K; Jiang H *Thermodynamics of Hierarchical Aggregation in Pigment Dispersions* Langmuir **35** 13100-13109 (2019).
2. Vogtt K; Beaucage G; Rishi K; Jiang H; Mulderig A *Hierarchical approach to aggregate equilibria* Phys. Rev. Res. **1** 033081 (2019).

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**Figure 5.** Rearrangement of simulated<sup>26</sup> nanoparticle pigment PY14 aggregates with increasing temperature. (Simulated structures are based on USAXS data. [17]) At higher temperatures, the overall change in free energy to remove an elemental crystallite from a primary particle is decreased. Simultaneously, the overall change in free energy to remove a primary particle from an aggregate is increased across the temperature series. The total aggregate mass (proportional to the number of elemental particles in an aggregate) is observed to reduce with temperature as the aggregates rearrange to form new equilibrium fractal structures. [2]

2. Vogtt K; Beaucage G; Rishi K; Jiang H; Mulderig A *Hierarchical approach to aggregate equilibria* Phys. Rev. Res. **1** 033081 (2019).  
17. Mulderig, A; Beaucage, G; Vogtt, K; Jiang H; Kuppa V *Quantification of branching in fumed silica* J. Aerosol Sci. **109** 28-37 (2017).

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a



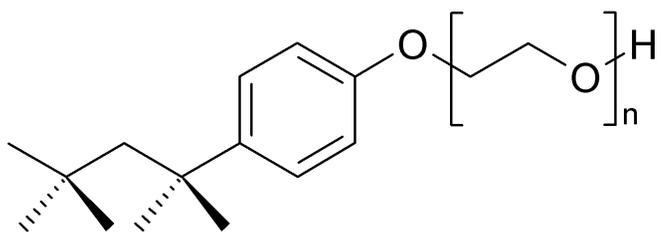
b



c

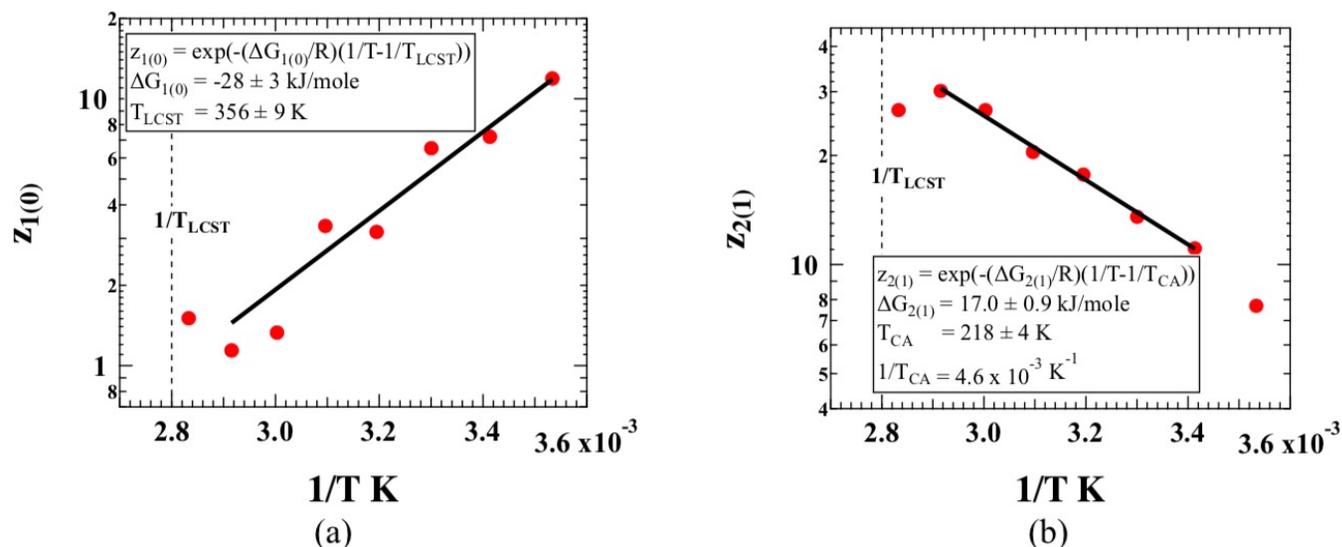
Figure 4. Pigment blue 15:3 (beta copper phthalocyanine).

Triton X-100 surfactant (PEO, hydroxyl and aromatic/alkane end groups.)



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University of Cincinnati



**Figure 3.** Thermal behavior for aqueous pigment yellow 14/Triton™ X-100 showing Boltzmann dependence predicted by the Vogtt model [1,2] for reversible equilibria in multi-hierarchical structures. a) Primary nano-crystal cluster degree of aggregation,  $z_{1(0)}$ , as a function of inverse temperature. The critical temperature is close to the LCST temperature for Triton™ X-100. b) Aggregate degree of aggregation,  $z_{2(1)}$ , as a function of inverse temperature. The critical aggregation temperature,  $T_{CA}$ , is related to the reduction in surface to volume ratio for large primary particles. ( $T_{CA}$  is below the freezing point of water.)

1. Rishi K; Mulderig A; Beaucage G; Vogtt K; Jiang H *Thermodynamics of Hierarchical Aggregation in Pigment Dispersions* Langmuir **35** 13100-13109 (2019).
2. Vogtt K; Beaucage G; Rishi K; Jiang H; Mulderig A *Hierarchical approach to aggregate equilibria* Phys. Rev. Res. **1** 033081 (2019).

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## Work in Progress

We can measure  $z_{3(2)}$ ,  $z_{2(1)}$ , and  $z_{1(0)}$  in USAXS which yields dissociation free energies  $\Delta G_{3(2)}$ ,  $\Delta G_{2(1)}$ ,  $\Delta G_{1(0)}$   
These can be used in a simulation of aggregate growth.

But this doesn't yield the topology, only the mass of the different structural levels.

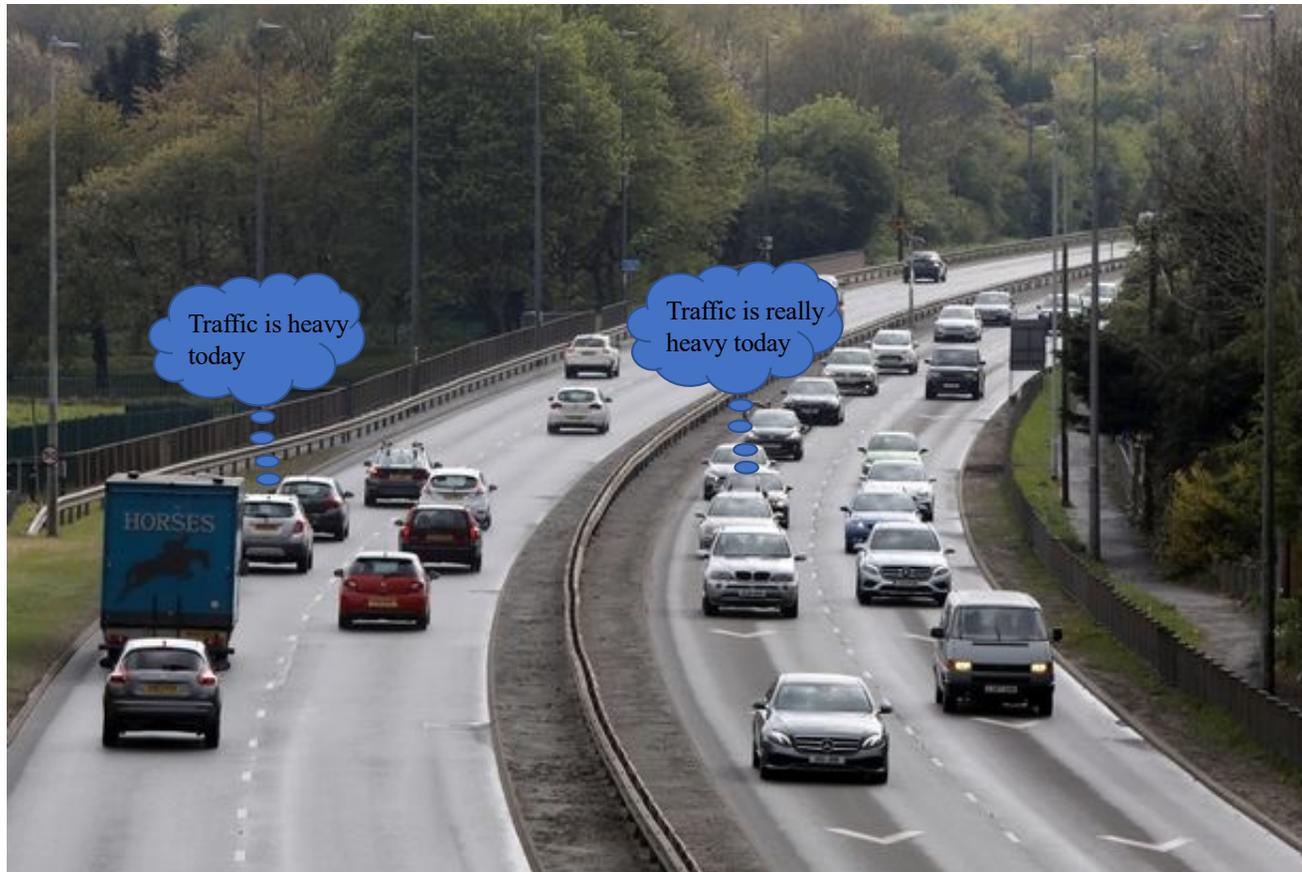
Topology comes from the transport kinetics (reaction limited growth/diffusion limited growth).

- 1) Specify the particle concentration and size.
- 2) Distribute the particles allowing for excluded volume.
- 3) Use LAMMPS MD environment with experimental free energies of aggregation and structural sizes and Langevin dynamics

Thermodynamics:  $z_{\text{agglomerate}}$ ;  $z_{\text{aggregate}}$  (degree of aggregation),  $d_p$ , Sauter mean diameter of primary particles  
Kinetics: topology,  $d_f$ ,  $d_{\text{min}}$ ,  $c$ , number of branches, branch length



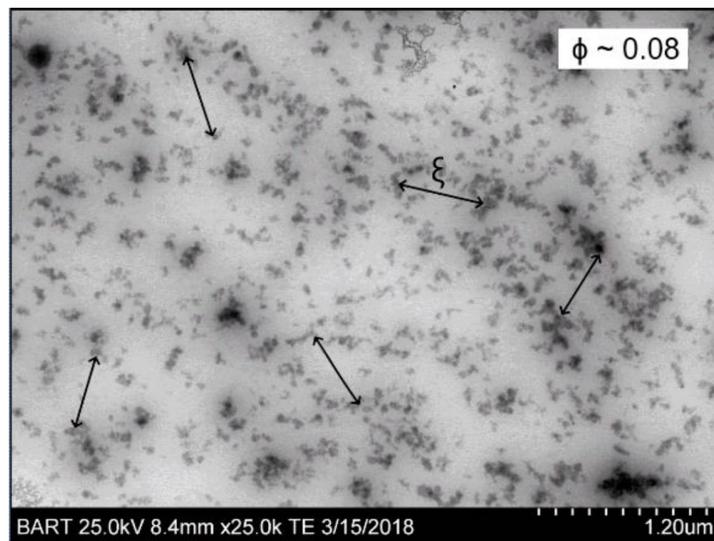
## Clustering can lead to locally higher concentrations



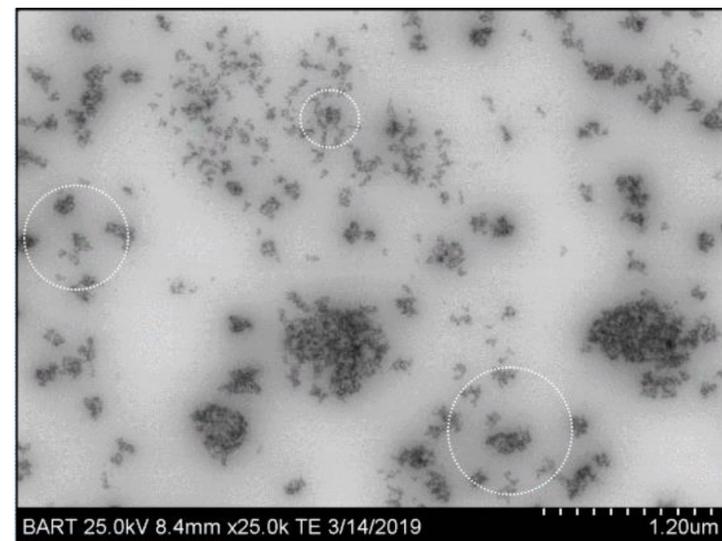
# Clustering due to immiscibility

Kinetically dispersed systems

Mean field



Specific interactions



# Descriptors

Aggregate size,  $R$

Primary particle size,  $d_p$

Degree of aggregation,  $z$

Short-circuit path length,  $p$

Connective path length,  $s$

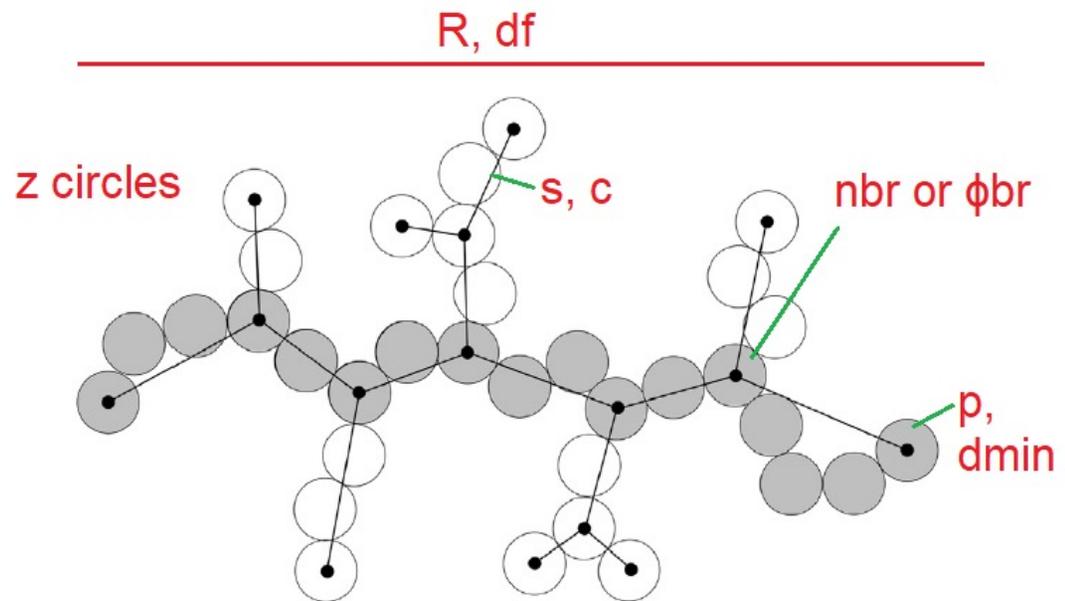
Fractal dimension,  $d_f$

Tortuosity,  $d_{\min}$

Connectivity,  $c$

Branch fraction,  $\phi_{br}$

Branch number,  $n_{br}$



Beaucage, G. Determination of branch fraction and minimum dimension of mass-fractal aggregates. *Physical Review E – Statistical, Nonlinear, and Soft Matter Physics* **2004**, 70, 031401-1–031401-10.

Rai, D., Beaucage, G., Jonah, E. O., Britton, D. T., Sukumaran, S., & Härting, M. Quantitative investigations of aggregate systems. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2012**, 137, 044311–1–044311-6.

Ramachandran, R., Beaucage, G., Kulkarni, A. S., McFaddin, D., Merrick-Mack, J., & Galiatsatos, V. Branch content of metallocene polyethylene. *Macromolecules* **2009**, 42, 4746–4750.

# Scattering

$$\text{Unified Fit : } I(q) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left\{ G_i e^{-\frac{q^2 R_{g,i}^2}{3}} + e^{-\frac{q^2 R_{g,i+1}^2}{3}} B_i q^{*-P_i} \right\}; \quad q^* = \frac{q}{\text{erf}\left(\frac{1.06qR_{g,i}}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^3} \quad q = \frac{4\pi}{\lambda} \sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)$$

Parameters from Unified Fit used to determine topological parameters:

$$d_f = P_2; \quad z = \frac{G_1}{G_2} + 1; \quad d_{\min} = \frac{B_2 R_{g,2}^{d_f}}{C_p \Gamma(d_f/2) G_2}; \quad C_p = \text{polydispersity factor}$$

$$R = \frac{R_g}{d_p} = z^{1/d_f} = p^{1/d_{\min}} = s^{1/c} \quad \Phi_{br} = \frac{z-p}{p} \quad n_{br} = \frac{z \left[ \left( \frac{9}{4d_f} - \frac{5}{4c} \right) + \left( 1 - \frac{1}{c} \right) \right] - 1}{2}$$

Beaucage, G. Approximations Leading to a Unified Exponential/Power-Law Approach to Small-Angle Scattering *J. Appl. Cryst.* **1995**, 28 (6), 717–728.

Herrmann, H. J., & Stanley, H. E. The fractal dimension of the minimum path in two- and three-dimensional percolation. *Journal of Physics A: Mathematical and General* **1988**, 21, L829–L833.

Meakin, P., Majid, I., Havlin, S., & Stanley, H. E. Topological properties of diffusion limited aggregation and cluster-cluster aggregation. *Journal of Physics A: Mathematical and General* **1984**, 17, L975–L981.

Witten, T. A., & Sander, L. M. Diffusion-limited aggregation. *Physical Review B* **1983**, 27, 5686–5697.

Sorensen, C. M. Light scattering by fractal aggregates: A review. *Aerosol Sci. Tech.* **2001**, 35, 648–687.

Algorithm:

Input  $z$  and a sticking probability

Randomly grow aggregates

Compute the scattering parameters,  $p$ ,  $R$ ,  $n_{Br}$  etc.

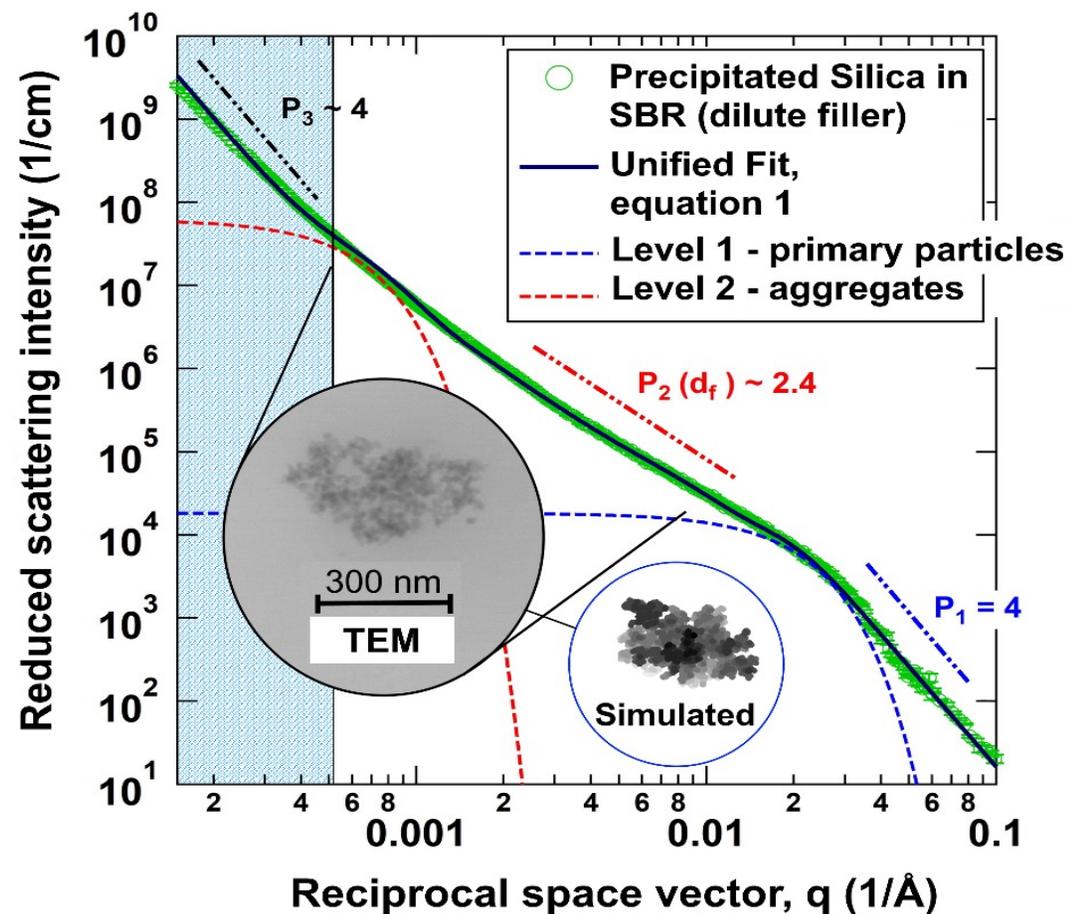
Iterate by varying sticking probability until computed matches experimental

## Experimental

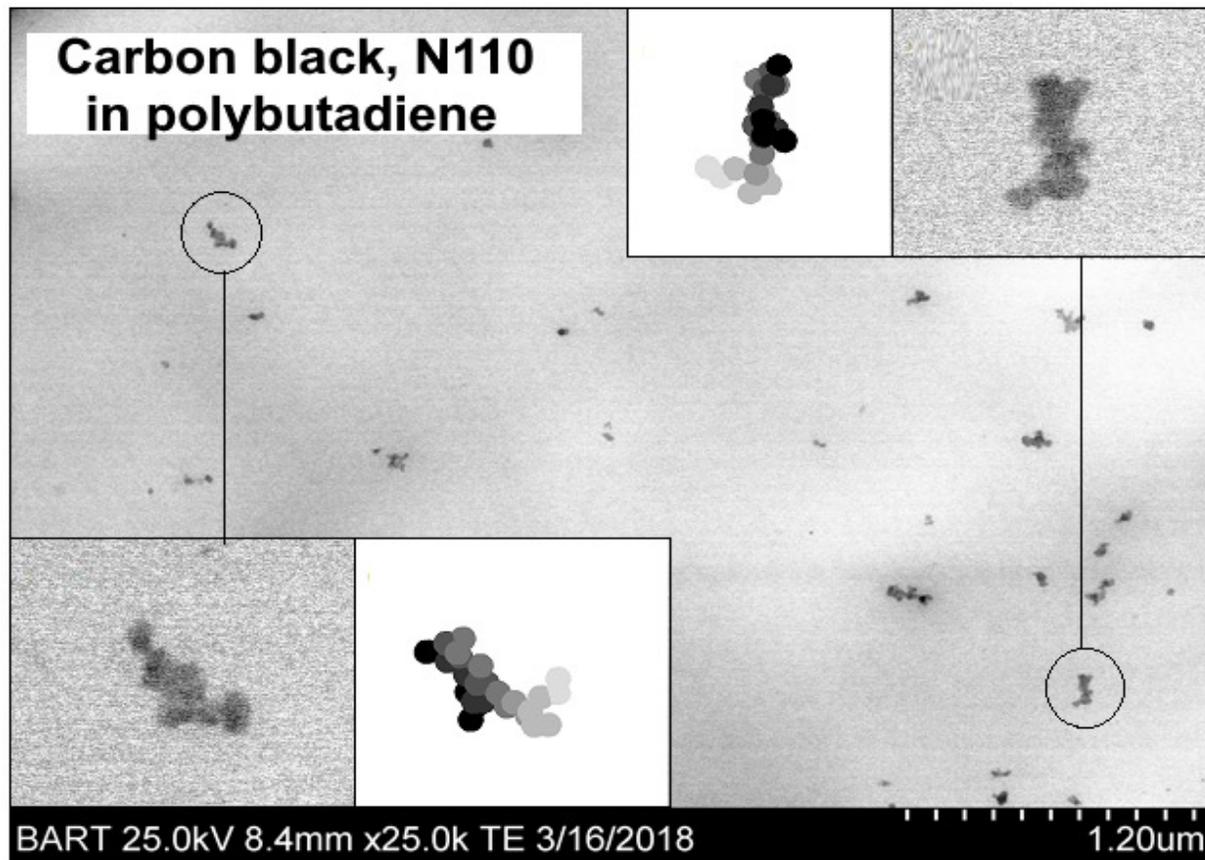
Sample	A	B	C	D	E	F
R	19	19	26	24	37	91
$d_p$ (nm)	36	21	17	14	12	10
$C_p$	1.54	1.53	1.51	1.50	1.52	1.51
$z$	157	177	483	567	819	6430
$p$	36	35	46	38	37	91
$s$	66	75	195	265	819	6430
$d_{min}$	1.21	1.20	1.17	1.14	1.00	1.00
$c$	1.41	1.46	1.62	1.75	1.86	1.95
$d_f$	1.70	1.75	1.90	1.98	1.86	1.95
$n_{br}$ ( $f = 3$ )	19	23	68	106	409	3215
$\phi_{br}$ , %	77	80	91	93	95	99

## Simulation

$z$	157	177	483	567	819	6430
Sticking probability	0.40	0.37	0.11	0.23	0.82	1.00
R	18	19	26	29	40	93
$p$	31	33	45	42	40	93
$s$	68	75	191	298	819	6430
$d_{min}$	1.2	1.2	1.17	1.11	1	1
$c$	1.47	1.48	1.62	1.7	1.82	1.93
$d_f$	1.76	1.75	1.9	1.89	1.82	1.93
$n_{br}$	21	26	68	121	409	3215
$\phi_{br}$ , %	80%	81%	91%	93%	95%	99%

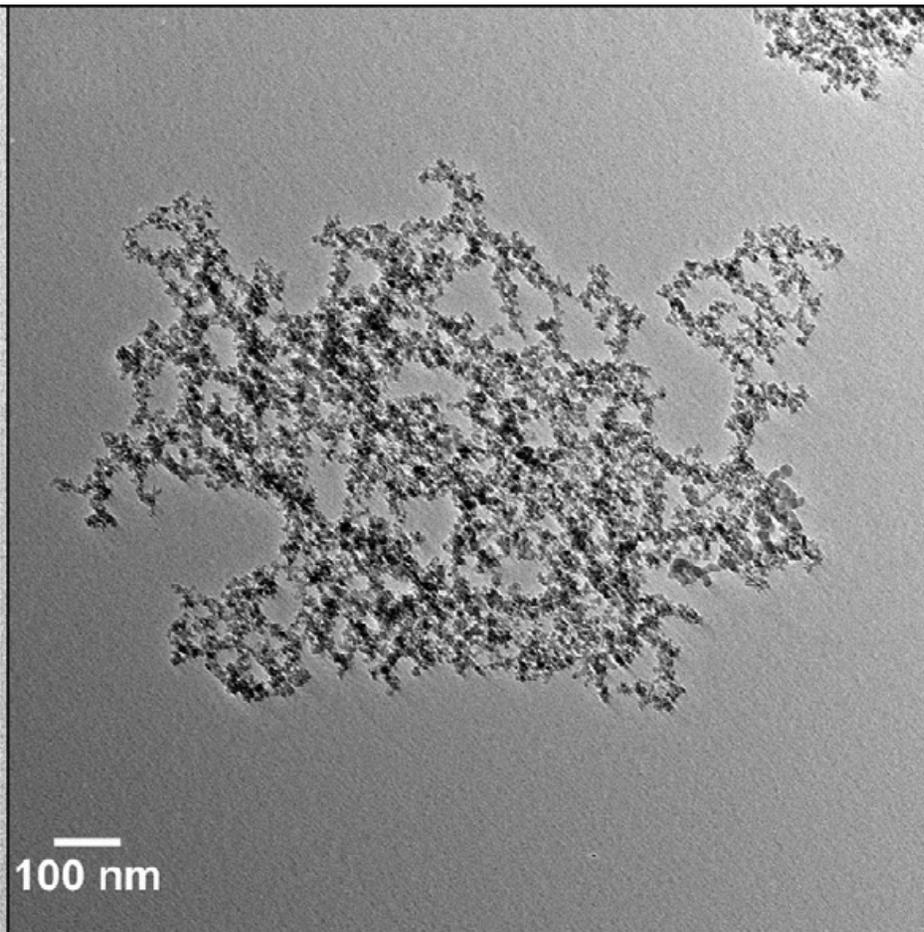
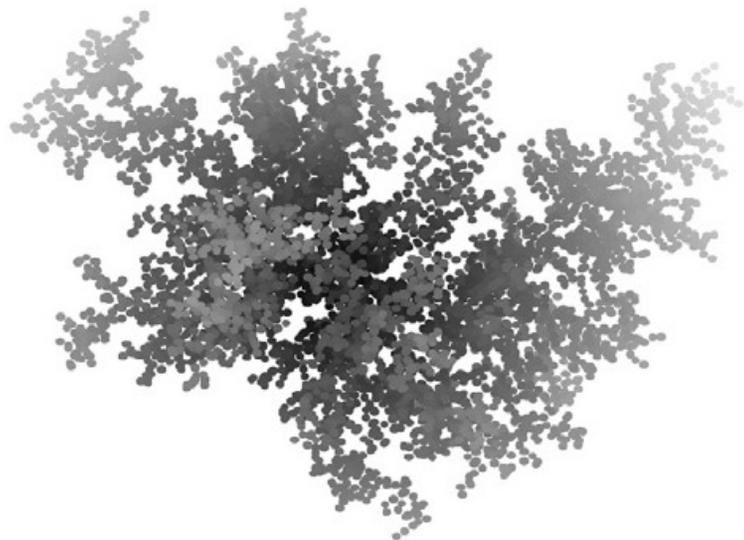


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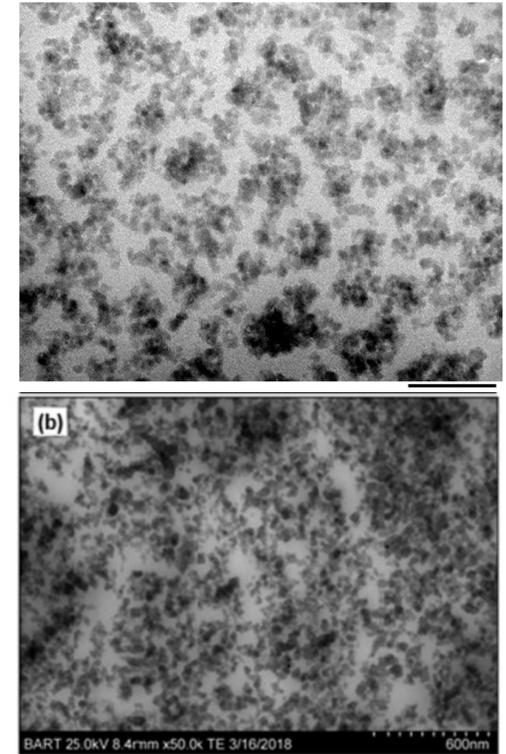
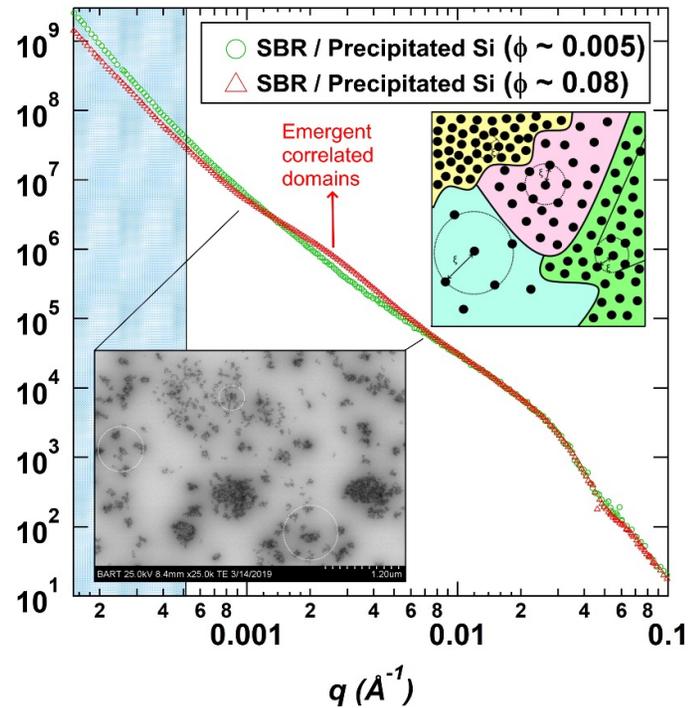
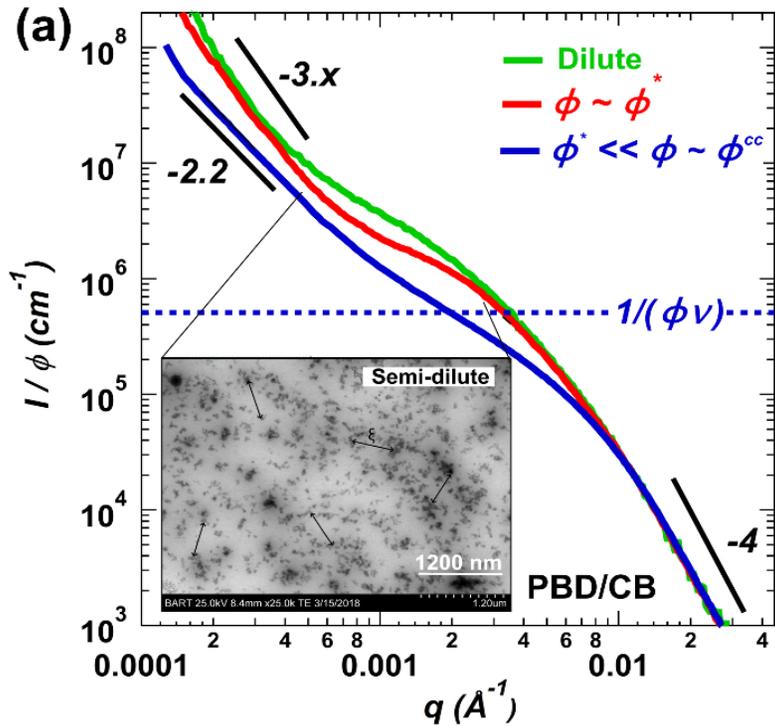


Reprinted (adapted) with permission from Rishi, K.; Beaucage, G.; Kuppa, V.; Mulderig, A.; Narayanan, V.; McGlasson, A.; Rackaitis, M.; Ilavsky, J. Impact of an Emergent Hierarchical Filler Network on Nanocomposite Dynamics. *Macromolecules* 2018, 51, 7893–7904. Copyright 2018 American Chemical Society

## Pyrogenic silica



# Mean field (CB) and specific interactions (Silica)



McGlasson, A., Rishi, K., Beaucage, G., Chauby, M., Kuppa, V., Ilavsky, J. and Rackaitis, M., 2020. Quantification of dispersion for weakly and strongly correlated nanofillers in polymer nanocomposites. *Macromolecules*, 53(6), pp.2235-2248.

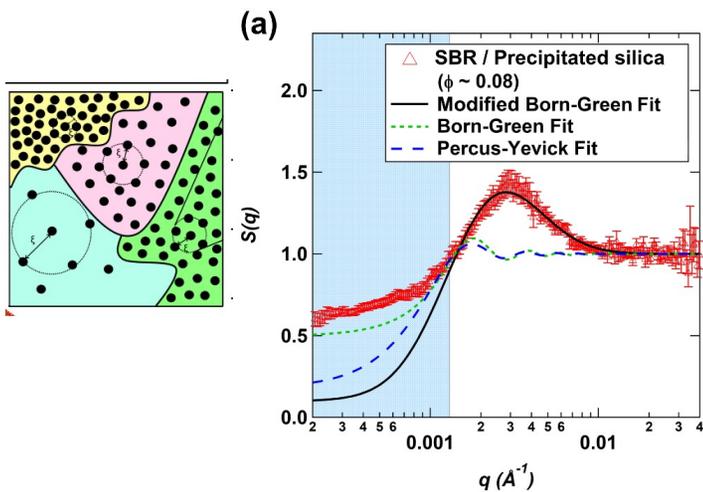
Rishi, K., Beaucage, G., Kuppa, V., Mulderig, A., Narayanan, V., McGlasson, A., Rackaitis, M. and Ilavsky, J., 2018. Impact of an emergent hierarchical filler network on nanocomposite dynamics. *Macromolecules*, 51(20), pp.7893-7904.

Rishi, K.; Pallerla, L.; Beaucage, G.; Tang, A. Dispersion of Surface-Modified, Aggregated, Fumed Silica in Polymer Nanocomposites. *J. Appl. Phys.* 2020, 127 (17), 174702.

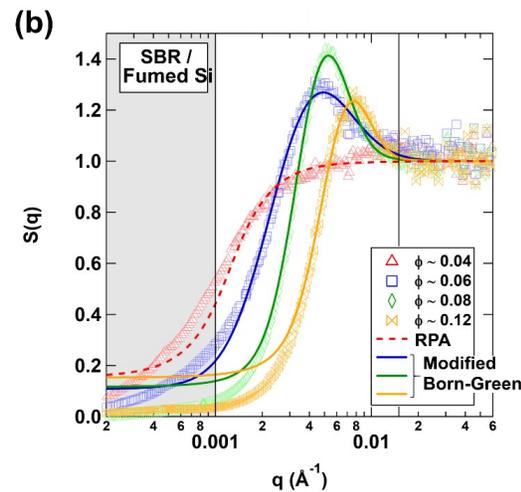
86

# Specific interactions (Silica)

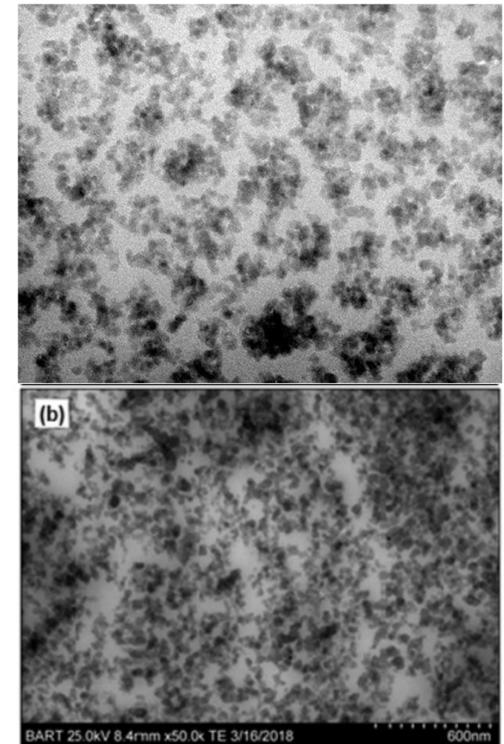
Positive  $a^*$  can lead to correlated silica aggregates, New scattering function to fit these curves (solves an impossible task)



Adapted from McGlasson, A., Rishi, K., Beaucage, G., Chauby, M., Kuppa, V., Ilavsky, J. & Rackaitis, M. Quantification of Dispersion for Weakly and Strongly Correlated Nanofillers in Polymer Nanocomposites. *Macromolecules* 53, 2235–2248 (2020).



Adapted from Rishi, K.; Pallerla, L.; Beaucage, G.; Tang, A. Dispersion of Surface-Modified, Aggregated, Fumed Silica in Polymer Nanocomposites. *J. Appl. Phys.* 2020, 127 (17), 174702.

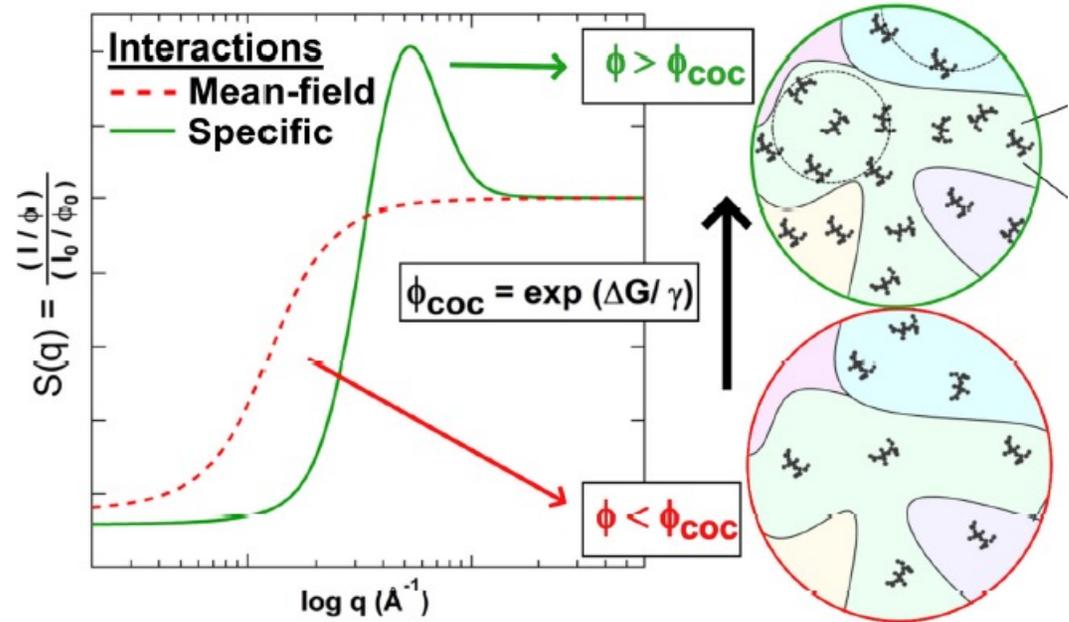
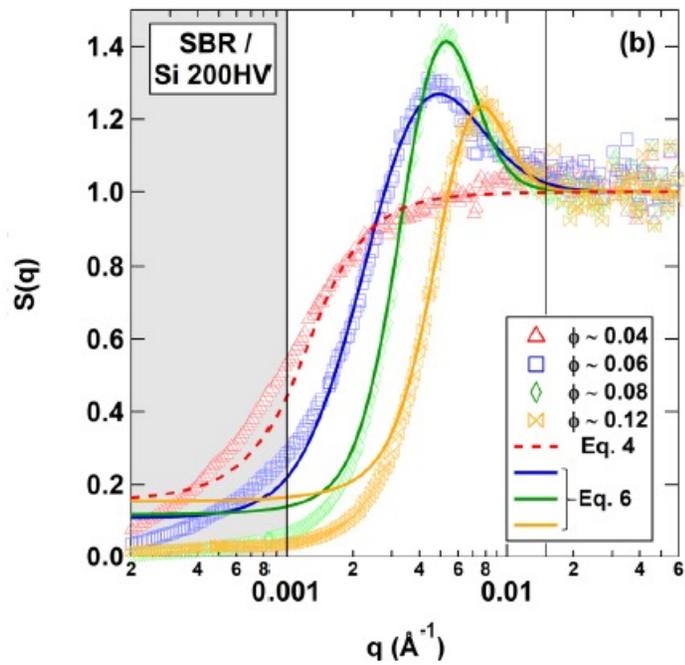


McGlasson, A., Rishi, K., Beaucage, G., Chauby, M., Kuppa, V., Ilavsky, J. and Rackaitis, M., 2020. Quantification of dispersion for weakly and strongly correlated nanofillers in polymer nanocomposites. *Macromolecules*, 53(6), pp.2235-2248.

Rishi, K.; Pallerla, L.; Beaucage, G.; Tang, A. Dispersion of Surface-Modified, Aggregated, Fumed Silica in Polymer Nanocomposites. *J. Appl. Phys.* 2020, 127 (17), 174702.

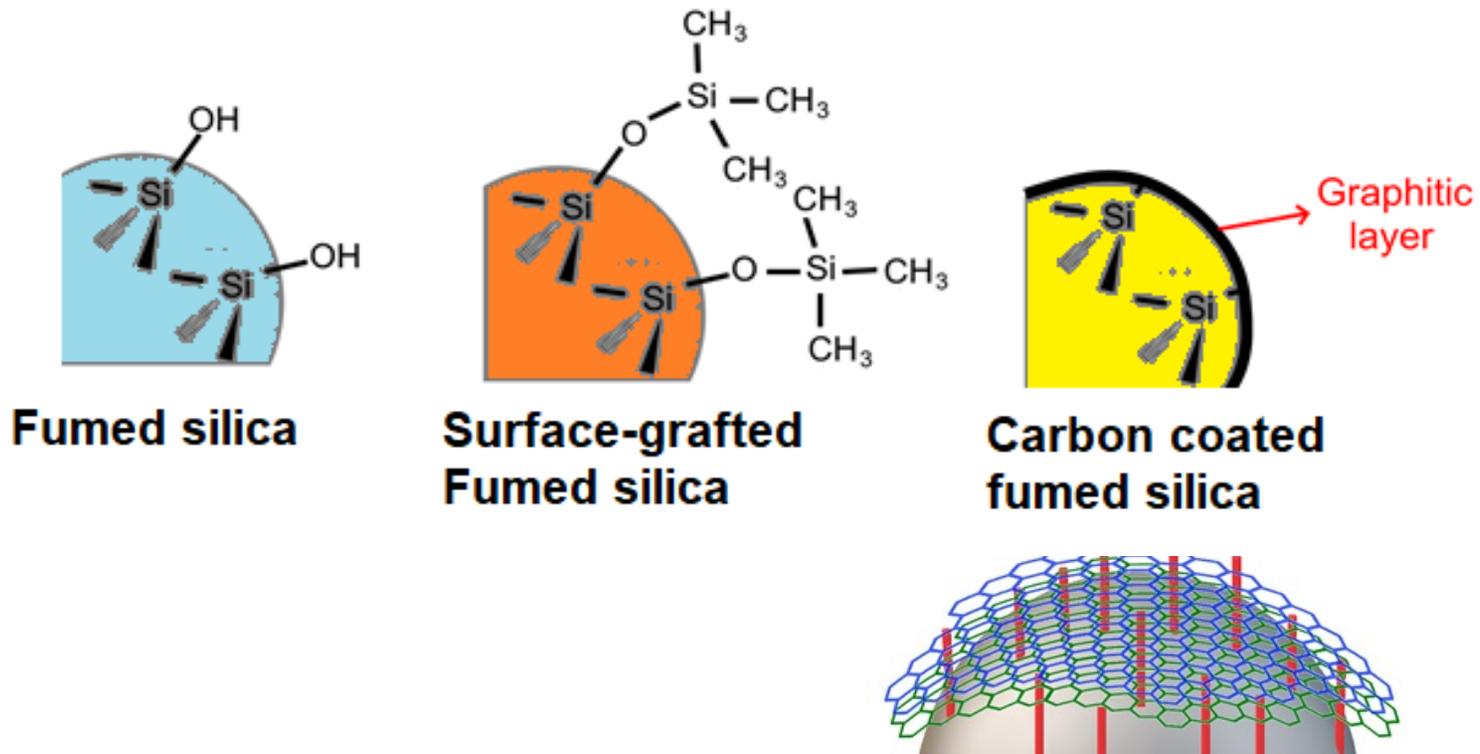
# Critical ordering concentration

Structural ordering is related to the Debye screening length and the dielectric constant of the polymer



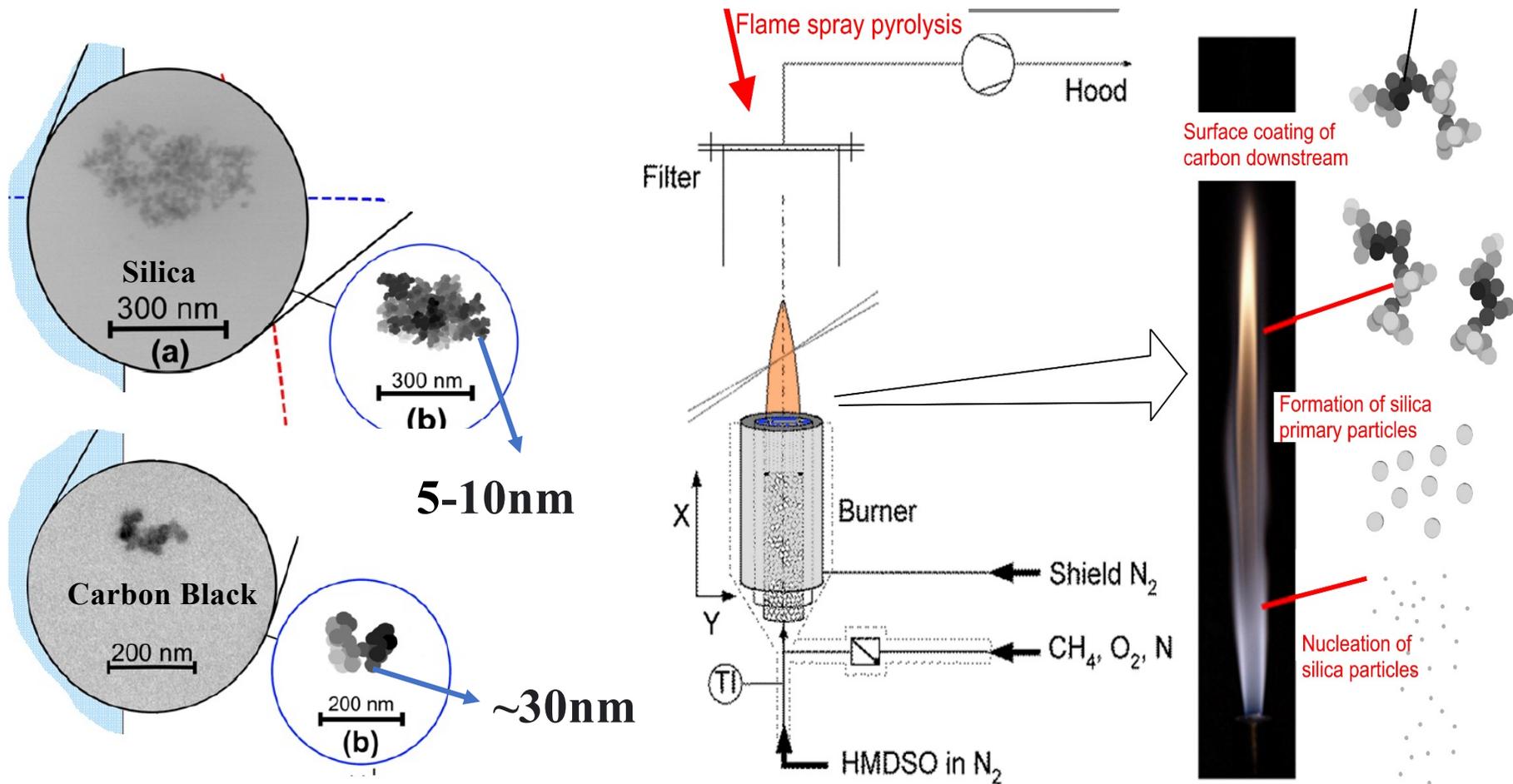
# Aggregates to Clusters

Control immiscibility through surface modification



Okoli, U.; Rishi, K.; Beaucage, G.; Kammler, H. K.; McGlasson, A.; Michael, C.; Narayanan, V.; Grammens, J. *Dispersion and Dynamic Response for Flame-Synthesized and Chemically Modified Pyrogenic Silica in Rubber Nanocomposites*; 2022. Submitted to *Composites Sci. & Tech.*.

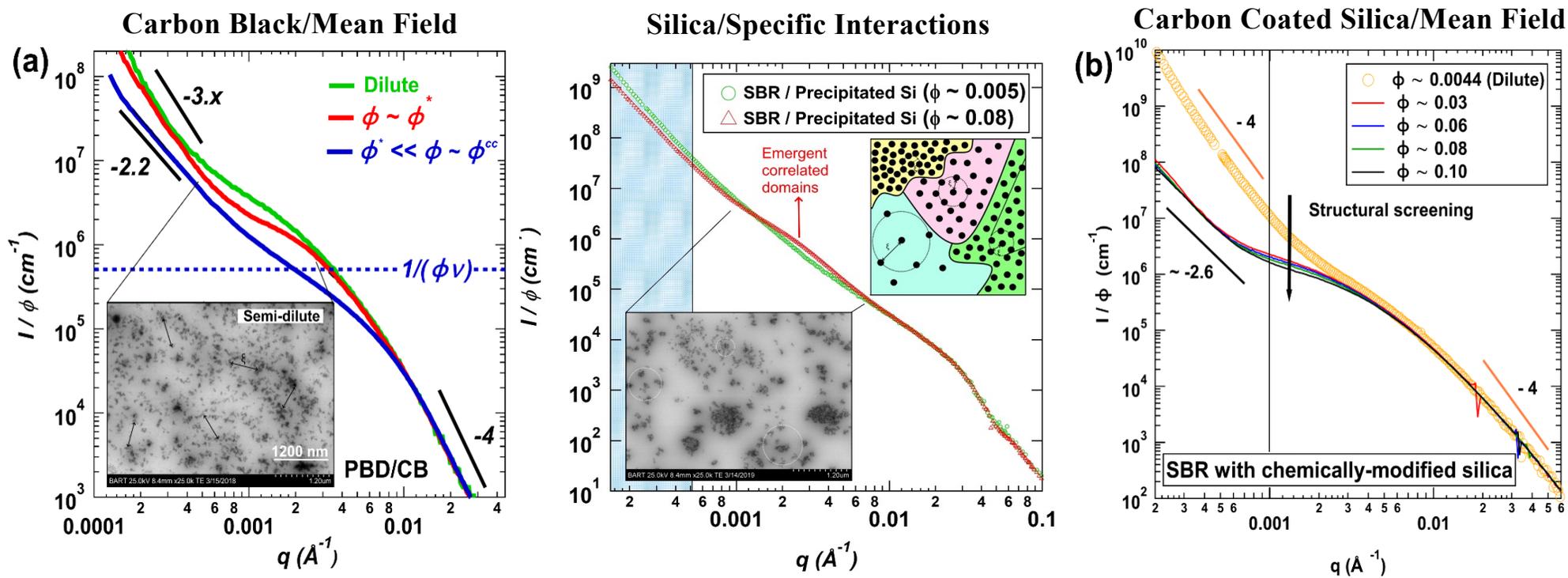
Greg Beaucage, University of Cincinnati gbeaucage@gmail.com



McGlasson, A., Rishi, K., Beaucage, G., Chauby, M., Kuppa, V., Ilavsky, J. and Rackaitis, M., 2020. Quantification of dispersion for weakly and strongly correlated nanofillers in polymer nanocomposites. *Macromolecules*, 53(6), pp.2235-2248.

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# Clustered aggregates to bulk network



McGlasson, A., Rishi, K., Beaucage, G., Chauby, M., Kuppa, V., Ilavsky, J. and Rackaitis, M., 2020. Quantification of dispersion for weakly and strongly correlated nanofillers in polymer nanocomposites. *Macromolecules*, 53(6), pp.2235-2248.

Rishi, K., Beaucage, G., Kuppa, V., Mulderig, A., Narayanan, V., McGlasson, A., Rackaitis, M. and Ilavsky, J., 2018. Impact of an emergent hierarchical filler network on nanocomposite dynamics. *Macromolecules*, 51(20), pp.7893-7904.

Rishi, K.; Pallerla, L.; Beaucage, G.; Tang, A. Dispersion of Surface-Modified, Aggregated, Fumed Silica in Polymer Nanocomposites. *J. Appl. Phys.* 2020, 127 (17), 174702.

## Method –

Si190 Precipitated silica, 3 grades of Aerosil® fumed silica, 6 grades of surface modified fumed silica, 4 grades of carbon coated silica

SBR, PDMS and Polystyrene

Mixing in a Brabender Plasticorder, Single screw extruder and vortex mixing

Matrix / Processing Technique	Processing specs.	Equipment specifications	Geometry Constant, $\Psi$	Total Accumulated strain, $\gamma = Nt\Psi$
SB80-38 / Brabender Mixing	$N = 60$ rpm $t = 12$ min	$d_{\text{wall}} = 40$ mm $d_{\text{rotor}} = 35$ mm $\xi = \frac{d_{\text{wall}}}{d_{\text{rotor}}} = 1.14$ $n = 1$ <sup>a</sup>	$\frac{4\pi(\xi)^{2/n}}{n\{(\xi)^{2/n}-1\}} = 53.6$ <sup>b</sup>	38600
PS / Single screw Extrusion	$N = 5$ rpm $t = 12$ min	$d_{\text{screw}} = 11.7$ mm $L = 343$ mm $H(343) = 1$ mm	$\frac{\pi\{d_{\text{screw}}-2H(L)\}}{H(L)} = 33.6$ <sup>c</sup>	2020
PDMS / Vortex Mixing	$N = 3200$ rpm $t = 0.5$ min	$R \gg r$	$\frac{2\pi(2R^2)}{(R^2-r^2)} = 12.6$ <sup>d</sup>	20100

<sup>a</sup> power law index for styrene butadiene rubber

<sup>b</sup> Couette flow equation from Bousmina et al.

<sup>c</sup> equation from Hassinger et al.

<sup>d</sup> equation from Mezger

Rishi K, Pallerla L, Beaucage G, Tang A *Dispersion of surface-modified, aggregated, fumed silica in polymer nanocomposites* J. Appl. Phys. **127** 174702 (2020).

# Surface Modification for Controlled Immiscibility

$$A_2(t) = \frac{N_A}{M^2} \left( b^* - \frac{a^*}{\gamma} \right)$$

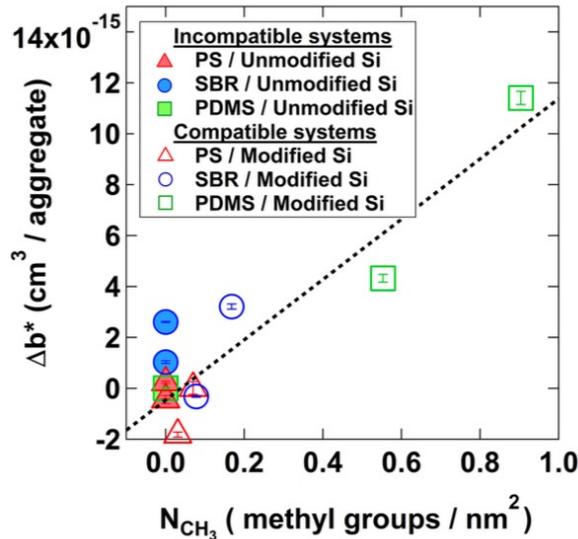


FIG. 11. A plot showing the bound polymer content ( $\Delta b^*$ ) determined from the excluded volumes of the filler aggregates before and after dispersion as a function of surface methyl content ( $N_{CH_3}$ ). The dashed line indicates that  $\Delta b^*$  is proportional to  $N_{CH_3}$  determined from FTIR.

$b^*$  can be calculated as the excluded volume for an aggregate,  $zV_0$ , without bound rubber

$b^*$  increases with bound rubber.

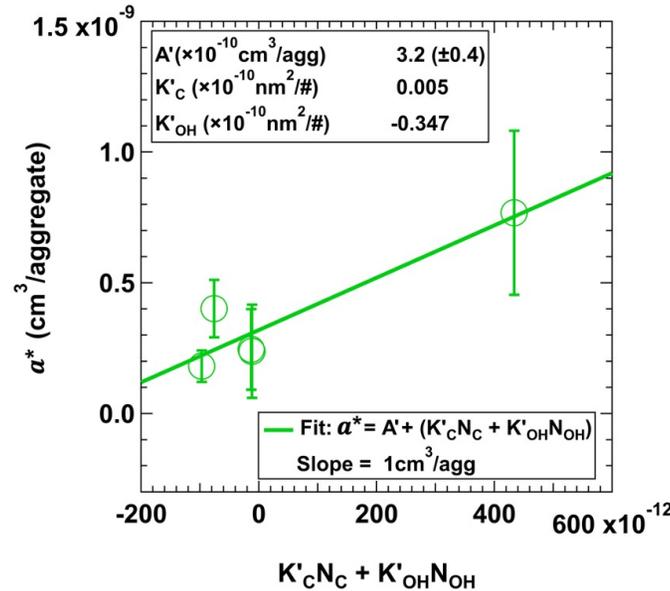


Figure 9. Plot of the particle interaction parameter,  $a^*$ , expressed in  $\text{cm}^3/\text{aggregate}$  as a function of the linear sum of the surface carbon content ( $N_C$ ) and surface hydroxyl content ( $N_{OH}$ ) weighted differently.  $a^*$  is an attractive potential so negative values indicate relative repulsion between aggregates that increases with surface carbon content. That is, surface carbon enhances aggregate/polymer attraction relative to aggregate/aggregate attraction. The fit parameters,  $A'$ ,  $K'_C$ , and  $K'_{OH}$  were obtained through least squares minimization.

$a^*$  reflects the attractive energy of interaction between aggregates.  $\Pi = \frac{RT}{(V+b)} - \frac{a}{V^2}$ , attractive potential

Rishi, K.; Pallerla, L.; Beaucage, G.; Tang, A. Dispersion of Surface-Modified, Aggregated, Fumed Silica in Polymer Nanocomposites. *J. Appl. Phys.* 2020, 127 (17), 174702.

