



# Vibrational and Ultrasonic Broadband Spectroscopies: Research Tools in Pure and Applied Chemistry and Chemical Physics

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## **Current research activities**

## Structure and Dynamics of Condensed Matter

- High-temperature Vibrational (Raman & IR) Spectroscopy:
- *i. Correlations* between spectral intensity data and stoichiometry, equilibrium constants and thermodynamics of reaction equilibria in solutions and melts
- ii. Inorganic coordination *complexes* in glassy, supercooled and molten state. Structural studies of inorganic molten salts at high temperatures by Raman spectroscopy and UV/VIS spectrophotometry
- *iii.* Structure and dynamics of the fluids confined in nanopores, nanoconfined chalcogens
- iv. Studies for the fundamental understating of *structure and dynamics* of a diverse family of *glasses, supercooled liquids and melts* (halide, oxide, and chalcogenide glasses)
- Acoustic spectroscopies: Ultrasonic relaxation spectroscopy & Ultrasonically-induced birefringence
- *i.* Thermo–reversible aggregation phenomena
- *ii.* Proton-transfer reactions
- *iii.* Conformational changes
- *iv.* Complexation and kinetics (inclusion complexes, micellization)
- v. *Relaxation mechanisms* of polymeric chains in solutions



## **Simulations & Theoretical Calculations:**

• COMSOL Multiphysics® modeling (general-purpose simulation software for modeling of the acoustic processes)







(Quantum chemistry calculations for the calculation of: Vibrational spectra, thermodynamic properties & energetics, interaction sites, conformations, optimized structures, etc.)

• **PSpice**<sup>®</sup> simulation software (circuit simulations using circuit electronics)



• Homemade FEM software developed in MATLAB for calculations in the field of acoustics (FEM: finite element method)



## **Computational facilities**

• Server HP ProLiant DL580 Generation 5 (G5)

(four Quad-Core Intel® Xeon® Processors)



• (hexa core i5 -9500)





## **Experimental facilities**

- Glassware, Stirrers & hot plates
- Drying ovens
- Chemicals/Reagents/solvents/gases
- Water and oil baths
- Desiccators
- Balances
- Pumps
- Centrifuge



- Oscilloscopes
- Electric pulse & Function generators
- pW Power meters (CW)
- Fast Photodiodes
- Conductivity meter
- T-controlled Density meters (DMA)
- T-controlled Viscosimeters
- Digital Refractometer
- pH-meters
- Vacuum lines
- Glove-bags
- Optical microscope
- UV/Vis
- ×2 homemade high-temperature furnaces 1100°C(3-zones, inert atmosphere)









## **IR/NIR spectroscopy**





- FTIR (Bruker-Alpha) 400-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>
- ATR (Attenuated Total Reflectance, ZnSe)
- DRIFT (Diffuse Reflectance Infrared Fourier Transform)

(liquid cells, homemade high-T cells)



#### Vibrational spectroscopy - IR

- FTIR (Jasco 4700) 400-7800 cm<sup>-1</sup>
- ATR (Attenuated Total Reflectance, Diamond)
- Specac Pearl (Liquid FTIR transmittance accessory)









## In-situ High-temperature Raman spectroscopy

Vibrational spectroscopy – macro-Raman (In collaboration with Assist. Professor S. Kaziannis, Department of Physics, UoI)

- Scattering angle 90° or 180° (backscattering) utilizing optical fibers
- CCD detector
- High-Temperature optical furnace
- Polarization dependent measurements (VV, VH)
- Continuous-mode operation: continuous-wave lasers (He-Ne @ 632.8nm, diode-pumped solid-state laser @ 532 nm)
- Pulsed-mode gated-operation: pulsed lasers (Nd:YAG Laser, ns duration, @ 532 nm)



Thermal radiation of furnace and material in the recording range of the Raman spectrum

## Advantages of a time-resolved macro Raman setup

- 1) Reduces Blackbody radiation interference
- 2) Overcomes Fluorescence
- (Raman measurement faster than the slower fluorescence mechanism)







Fluorescence was a big problem for practical samples:



luorescein fluorescence (10<sup>-5</sup> <u>M)</u>

Even a very low concentration of a fluorescer can overwhelm Raman scattering, due to much greater cross section

488 nm laser, with 488 rejection filter preceding camera

## **Acoustic spectroscopy** – Ultrasonic relaxation spectroscopy

#### A Pulse-Echo setup :

Short-duration RF electric pulses trigger the ultrasonic waves that propagate through the sample

For a fixed pathlength one is able to estimate:

- the speed of sound  $u_s(u_s = \text{pathlength} / \text{time between neighboring echoes})$
- the sound attenuation *a* (exponential decay of the signal)

#### $u_s$ , a versus frequency

- ✓ Non-destructive technique
- ✓ Required sample volume < 2 ml
- Low-ultrasonic intensity (no sono-chemistry effects)
- Low-repetition rate of the ultrasonic pulses to avoid heating and streaming effects
- ✓ Frequency range: MHz region
- **✓** Temperature range:  $-15^{\circ}$  έως  $+60^{\circ}$ C







## Sound speed and attenuation estimation

#### **Time-domain – Velocity estimation**

- The precise transit time is estimated from the cross-correlation of two consecutive echoes in the backwall echo train
- ✓ Pathlength is fixed
- ✓ Speed of sound  $u_s$  = pathlength / transit time

#### **Time-domain – Attenuation estimation**

the attenuation coefficient *a* (*exponential decay of the signal*) is calculated from the amplitudes of the echoes observed *in the time-domain trace* as:

$$a_f = \frac{-20}{2(m-n)d} \log\left(\frac{I_m}{I_n}\right),$$

where  $I_m$  and  $I_n$  are the maximum amplitudes of the m<sup>th</sup> and n<sup>th</sup> pulse echoes in Volts, respectively.

#### **Frequency-domain – Attenuation estimation**

the attenuation coefficient *a* is calculated using **spectral ratio FFT technique** *in the frequency-domain* as:

(R<sub>top</sub>, R<sub>bottom</sub>: reflection coefficients)

$$\alpha(f) = \frac{1}{2d} \left[ \ln \left| \frac{S_1}{S_2} \right| - \ln \left| \frac{D(f, 2d)}{D(f, 4d)} \right| + \ln \left| R_{\text{top}} R_{\text{bottom}} \right| \right]$$



## **Typical ultrasonic relaxation spectra**



**Characteristic relaxation time:**  $\tau_r = 1/(2\pi f_r)$ 

<u>Time scales:</u>

Vibrational spectroscopies: 10<sup>-12</sup> - 10<sup>-14</sup> s (ps region) Acoustic spectroscopies: ns – ms

(Combination of Vibrational & Acoustic spectroscopies: wide frequency range from KHz - THz)

Sound absorption vs frequency

$$\frac{\alpha}{f^2} = \frac{A}{1 + \left(\frac{f}{f_r}\right)^2} + B$$

*Debye relaxation* 





## **Acoustic spectroscopy** – Ultrasonically-induced birefringence

Ultrasonic wave: forced orientation of molecules laser: measurement of the orientation/disorientation process

The laser intensity change is related to the induced optical retardation  $\delta(t)$  through the equation:

$$I = I_0 \sin^2\left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right)$$

The induced birefringence  $\Delta n$  is associated to the optical retardation through:





Field off (isotropic medium)





Field on **(anisotropic medium)**  $\Delta n = n_{\parallel} - n_{\perp} \neq 0$ 



Field on





## **Ultrasonically-induced birefringence**

During the acoustic **field-on** regime, The rise of the birefringence is given by a *stretched exponential* function:

forced orientation process: 
$$\Delta n(t) = \Delta n_{max} \left( 1 - e^{-(t/\tau)^{\beta}} \right)$$

while after sudden termination of the field, the birefringence decay is:

Spontaneous rotational diffusion (disorientation relaxation):  $\Delta n(t)$ 

$$\Delta n(t) = \Delta n_{max} e^{-(t/\tau)^{\beta}}$$



 $\Delta n_{max}$ : corresponds to the steady state birefringence (static birefringence) when the acoustic field is on  $\tau_{rise,}$   $\tau_{decay}$ : are the two different characteristic relaxation times for the rise and decay of the birefringence signal  $\beta$ : is assigned to the width of the relaxation time distribution

 $\beta$ =1: simple exponential function (Debye relaxation) The smaller the value of  $\beta$ , the larger is the distribution of the relaxation times.

## **Ultrasonically-induced birefringence – Dipole moments**



- ✓ Stationary value (plateau) Static birefringence  $\Delta n_{max}$ : size, shape
- ✓ Relaxation process Dynamic birefringence △n(t): size, shape, charge distribution, permanent dipoles/induced dipoles

S<sub>1</sub>: area under the build-up curve
S<sub>2</sub>: below the relaxation curve
Dotted square: the applied acoustic pulse

 $R = \frac{1 - \frac{S_1}{S_2}}{2\frac{S_1}{S_2} - 8} \propto \frac{permanent\ dipole\ moments}{induced\ dipole\ moments}$ 

- *S*<sub>1</sub>=*S*<sub>2</sub> then *R*=0: Permanent dipole moments=0 (pure induced dipoles) or permanent dipole moments >> induced dipole moments
- $S_1=4S_2$  then  $R \rightarrow \infty$ : Permanent dipole dominates the orientation mechanism

## Ultrasonically-induced birefringence – Particle size and shape determination

For long cylinders:  $\gamma_r = 0.877 - 7 \left( \frac{1}{\ln (2L/d)} - 0.28 \right)^2$ 

For long cylinders with spherical ends:  $\gamma_r = 0.447 + 8.26[\ln(1 + (L/d))]^{-1} - \sum_{i=1}^6 a_i (L/d)^{-i/4}$ 

The relaxation time  $\tau_{decay}$  is directly related to the average rotational diffusion coefficient,  $D_r$ :

$$\Delta n(t) = \Delta n_{max} e^{-(t/\tau)^{\beta}} \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad D_r = \frac{\beta}{6\tau_{decay}} \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{\beta}\right)$$

✓ In general, the rotational diffusion constant of **right circular cylinders** is given by:

 $D_{\rm r} = \frac{3kT}{n_0\pi L^3} (\ln (L/d) - \gamma_{\rm r})$ 

 $\eta_0$ : solvent viscosity kT: thermal energy L: rod length d: rod diameter

 $\gamma_r$ : is a frictional factor

The rotational diffusion constant for a **worm-like coil** about its minor axis is:  $\checkmark$ 

The rotational diffusion constant of the weakly bending rod, assuming that  $\lambda L/2 \ll 1$  is:  $\checkmark$ 



$$D_{\rm r} = \frac{kT\lambda}{\eta_0 L^2} [0.506(2\lambda L)^{1/2} - 0.636 \ln (b\lambda) - 1.548 + 0.64(b/a)]$$

$$D_{\rm r} = \frac{kT}{\eta_0 \pi L^3} [3 \ln (L/b) - 7.0 + 4(b/a) + \lambda L (2.25 \ln(L/b) - 6.66 + 2(b/a))]$$

## **Ultrasonically-induced birefringence – Particle size and shape determination**

✓ For **prolate particles**:

$$D_{r} = \frac{\beta}{6\tau_{decay}} \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{\beta}\right)$$
  
$$\tau = \frac{\eta V^{*}}{kT} \quad \text{Debye-Einstein equation (dilute solution)}$$



Hydrodynamic volume:

$$=\frac{8\pi a^{3}}{9}\left(\frac{1-p^{4}}{(2-p^{2})G(p)-1}\right) \qquad G(p)$$

 $V^*$ 

 $\tau = -$ 

9kT

$$G(p) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-p^2}} \ln \left[ \frac{1+\sqrt{1-p^2}}{p} \right]$$

$$p = \frac{b}{a} = \frac{minor \ axis}{major \ axis}$$
: axial ratio

✓ For **infinitely thin disks**:

(under "stick" boundary conditions) a: mean particle radii



v

**Representative applications of Vibrational spectroscopy** 

## **Confinement & Thermo-aggregation phenomena in bulk and under confinement – The case of Sulfur**





## **Temperature-induced structural changes (High-melting point oxides)**



THE JOURNAL OF CHEMICAL PHYSICS 124, 014504 (2006)

# Temperature- induced structural changes in glassy, supercooled, and molten silica from 77 to 2150 K



THE JOURNAL OF CHEMICAL PHYSICS 142, 154503 (2015)



Glass-forming ability of TeO<sub>2</sub> and temperature induced changes on the structure of the glassy, supercooled, and molten states



## **2D Raman correlation spectroscopy**



Chem. Pap. (2017) 71:1529–1539 DOI 10.1007/s11696-017-0147-2

ORIGINAL PAPER





Synchronous and asynchronous spectral changes

Assignment of spectral changes to specific species



CrossMark

#### Vibrational dynamics & dephasing from "steady-state" experiments: Liquids under confinement



**Representative applications of Acoustic spectroscopies** 

## **Conformational changes of simple organic molecules**







Exploring conformational change profile of n-propyl ester of formic acid by combining ultrasonic relaxation spectroscopy and molecular orbital calculations





	Journal of Molecular Liquids 302 (2020) 112519		
	Contents lists available at ScienceDirect	a	
	Journal of Molecular Liquids		
EVIER	journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/molliq		

Conformational energy barriers in methyl acetate – Ethanol solutions: A temperature-dependent ultrasonic relaxation study and molecular orbital calculations

Methyl acetate dissolved in EthOH





energy barrier value was found equal to:  $\Delta E_{experimental} = \Delta H^* + \Delta H^0$ 

## Fingerprints of segmental and normal mode motion of a polymer chain in ultrasonic absorption measurements





The data were best fitted using the real part of the Cole–Cole distribution function instead of Debye

$$\frac{a}{f^2} = \frac{A\left\{1 + \left(\frac{f}{f_r}\right)^\beta \cos\left(\frac{\pi\beta}{2}\right)\right\}}{1 + 2\left(\frac{f}{f_r}\right)^\beta \cos\left(\frac{\pi\beta}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{f}{f_r}\right)^2} + B$$





## Proton-transfer reaction in amine solution: The case of 1,1,3,3, tetramethyl guanidine





 $TMG + H_2O \rightleftharpoons TMGH^+ \cdots OH^- \rightleftharpoons TMGH^+ + OH^-$ 

The activation enthalpy  $\Delta H^*$  of proton-transfer is obtained from the slope of this graph and found equal to  $\Delta H^* = 5.56 \pm 0.34$  kcal/mol

Spectrochimica Acta Part A: Molecular and Biomolecular Spectroscopy 229 (2020) 117958

Probing the equilibrium between mono- and di-nuclear nickel(II)-diamidate {[NiII(DQPD)]x, x = 1,2} complexes in chloroform solutions by combining acoustic and vibrational spectroscopies and molecular orbital calculations



(In collaboration with Professor T. Kabanos)



## Molecular aggregation in Dexamethasone



## Elastic properties of a Fluorophosphate glass network: an ionic to covalent transition











Ionic to covalent glass network transition: Effects on elastic and vibrational properties according to ultrasonic echography and Raman spectroscopy



Transverse phonons and intermediate-range order in Sr-Mg fluorophosphate glasses





# **Probing morphological alterations of simple and complex micelles** by means of ultrasonically-induced transient birefringence experiments: *Tetracycline water soluble formulations with enhanced antimicrobial activity*

#### 1.0 CTAB@Tetracycline experimental data 1.8 fitting calculated CTAB@Tetr. 0.8 $\eta V_h$ $\boxtimes$ SDS@Tetracycline Relative micelle volume change 1.7 $\Delta n/\Delta n_0$ calculated SDS@Tetr. τ SDS@Tetracycline 0.6 (0.000470 g/ml) 1.6 0.4 1.5 0.2 Fitting with a stretched exponential function 1.4 0.0 0.0 2.0x10<sup>-4</sup> 4.0x10<sup>-4</sup> 6.0x10<sup>-4</sup> 8.0x10<sup>-4</sup> 1.0x10<sup>-3</sup> 1.3 time [s] 1.2 CTAB 1.10

1.0

10-4

0

10-3

C[g/ml]

#### (In collaboration with Professor S.K. Hadjikakou)

The *size distribution* is assumed to follow a log-normal behavior:

$$P(d) = \frac{1}{d\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} exp\left\{-\frac{[ln(d/d_m)]^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\}$$

 $d_m$ : the median  $\sigma$ : the breadth of the size distribution

Both parameters can be estimated as the solution of the following system of equations:

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{\Delta n(t)}{\Delta n_0} dt = \frac{exp(9\sigma^2)}{D_{WJ}} \quad \text{the area under the birefringence trace}$$



#### **Polydispersity**

PI = the square of the standard deviation divided by the mean particle diameter



## Representative simulation results in 3D, in 2D and using electrical circuits



**3D** 



**FEM** 

**2D** 







# Group members

**Faculty members** 

• Assoc. Prof. Angelos G. Kalampounias

**Post-doctoral fellows** 

• Dr. P. Mpourazanis, Physicist, MSc, PhD

#### PhD students

- S. Tsigoias, Chemist, MSc
- C. Kouderis, , Chemist, MSc

#### Master's students

- G. Stogiannidis, Physicist
- P. Siafarika, Chemist
- M. Risva, Physicist
- Th. Rodiftsi, Physicist
- V. Karkadelos, Physicist,
- A. Petrakis, Chemist

**Close collaborators (UoI)** 

- Assist. Prof. S. Kaziannis (Physics, UoI))
- Prof. Sotiris K. Hadjikakou (Chemistry, UoI)
- Prof. Themistoklis Kabanos (Chemistry, UoI)

#### **Close collaborators (non UoI)**

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- *Dr. S. N. Yannopoulos* Research Director, ICE-HT/FORTH
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