

# Dynamical heterogeneity at the jamming transition of a colloidal suspension

Luca Cipelletti<sup>1,2</sup>, Pierre Ballesta<sup>1,3</sup>, Agnès Duri<sup>1,4</sup>

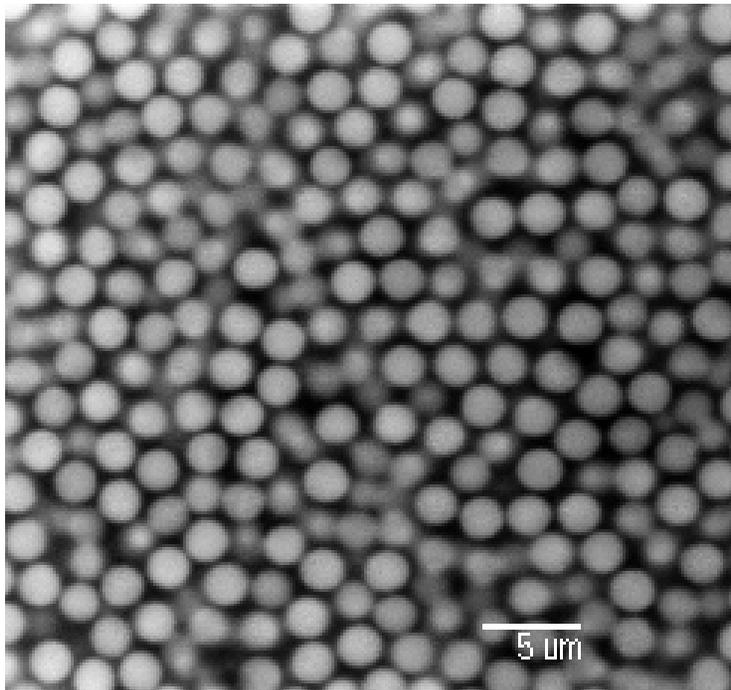
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<sup>2</sup>*Institut Universitaire de France*

<sup>3</sup>*SUPA, University of Edinburgh*

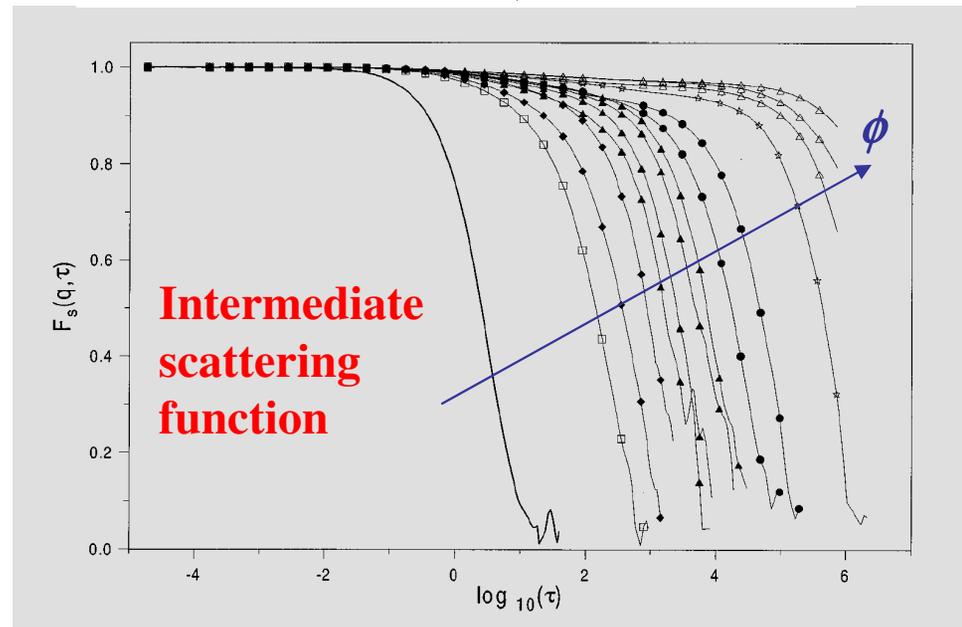
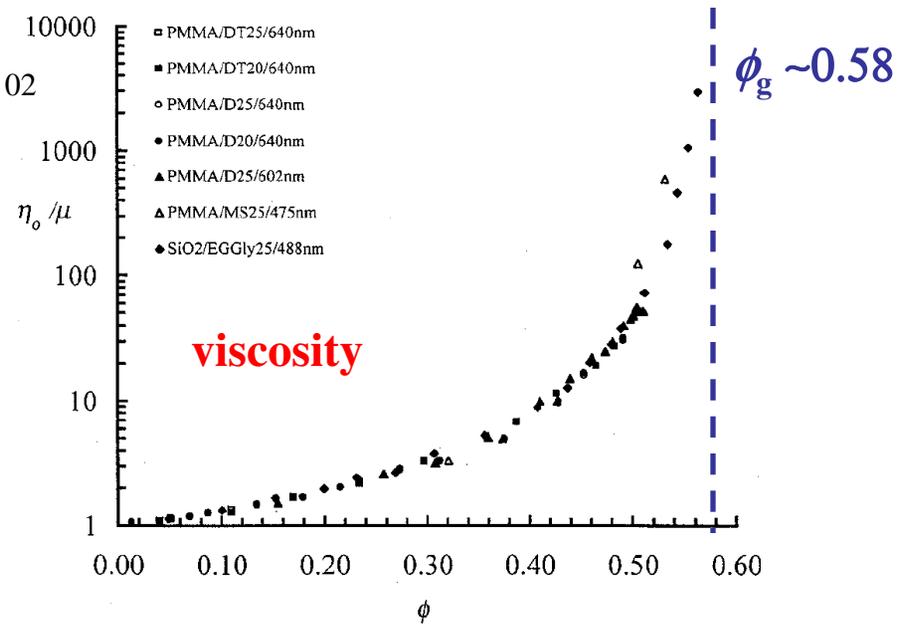
<sup>4</sup>*Desy, Hamburg*

# Soft glassy materials



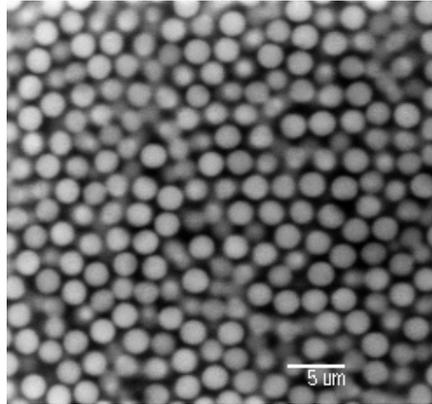
Confocal microscopy image by Eric Weeks

Cheng et al. PRE 02



Van Megen et al. PRE 98

# Soft glassy materials

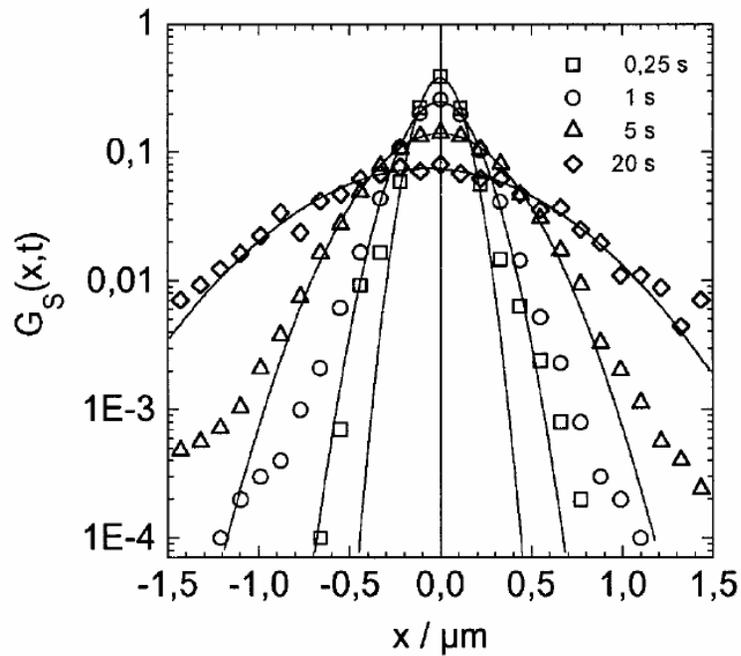


# Outline

- **What** are dynamical heterogeneities ?
- **Why** should we care about DH ?
- **How** can we measure DH ?
- **DH** (very) close to jamming

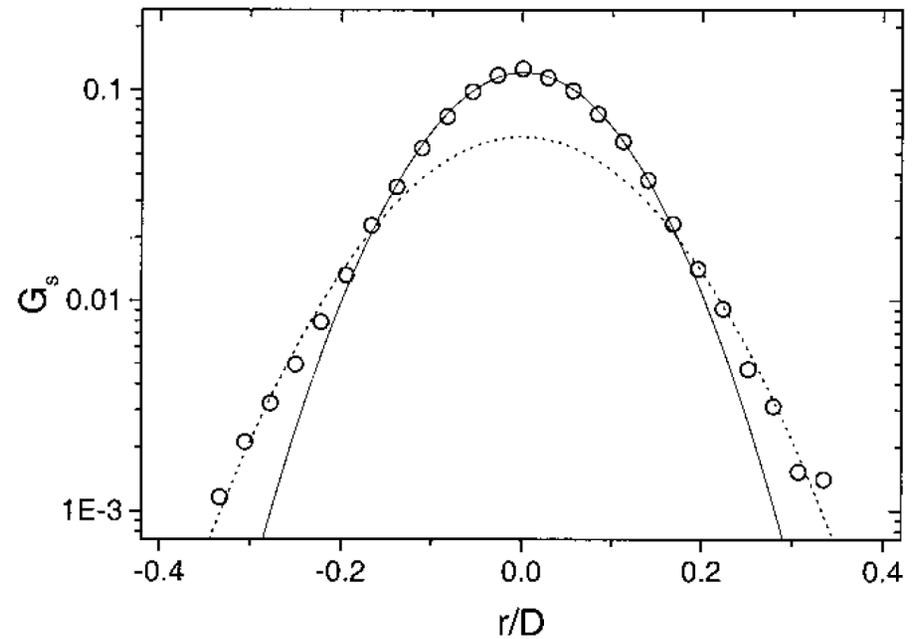
# Dynamical Heterogeneity

## PDF of particle displacements in a dense colloidal suspension



Optical microscopy

Kasper et al. Langmuir 98



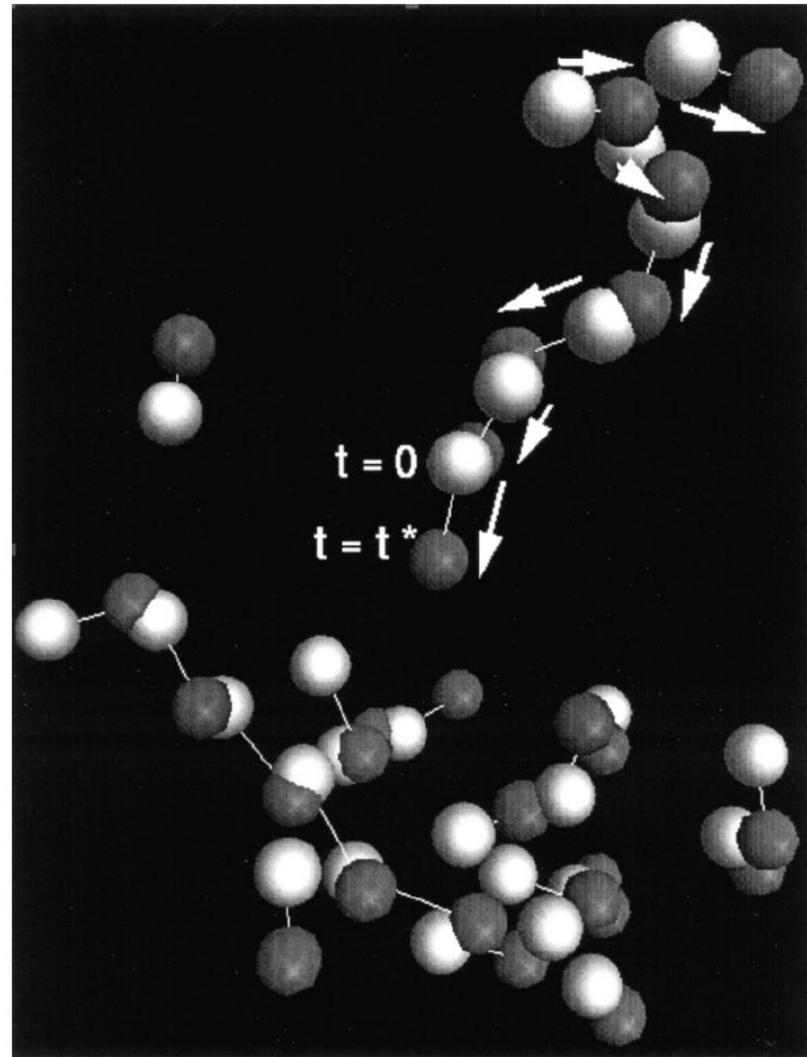
Confocal microscopy

Kegel et al. Science 00

# Dynamical Heterogeneity

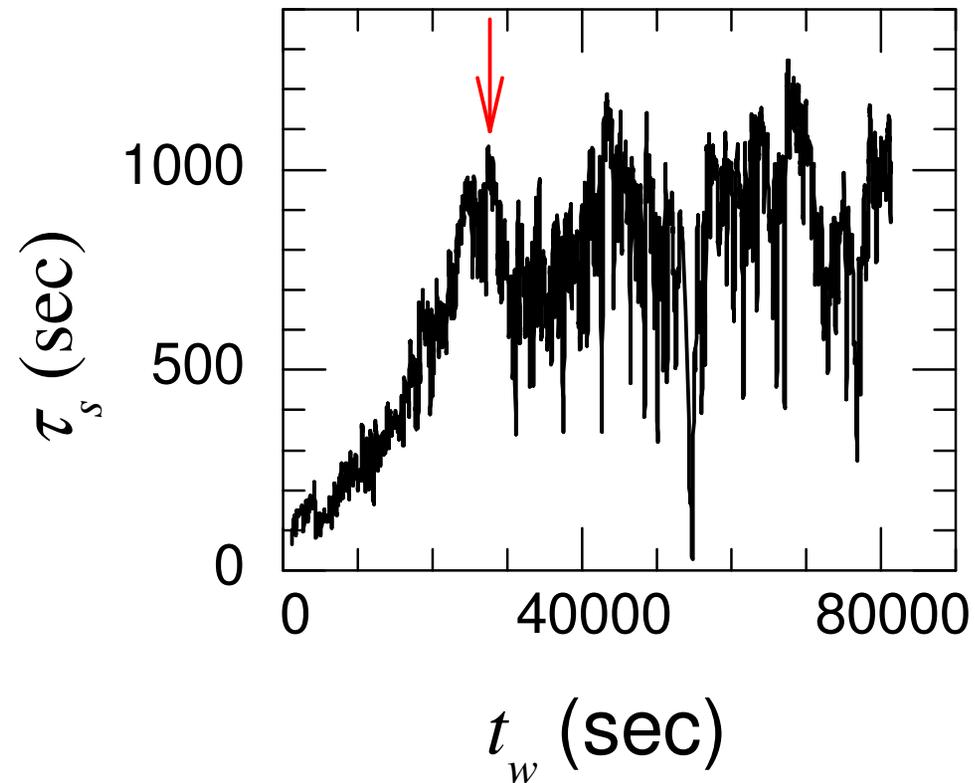
String-like motion in a LJ  
supercooled fluid

Donati et al. PRL 98



# Dynamical Heterogeneity

Relaxation time in a colloidal suspension near close packing

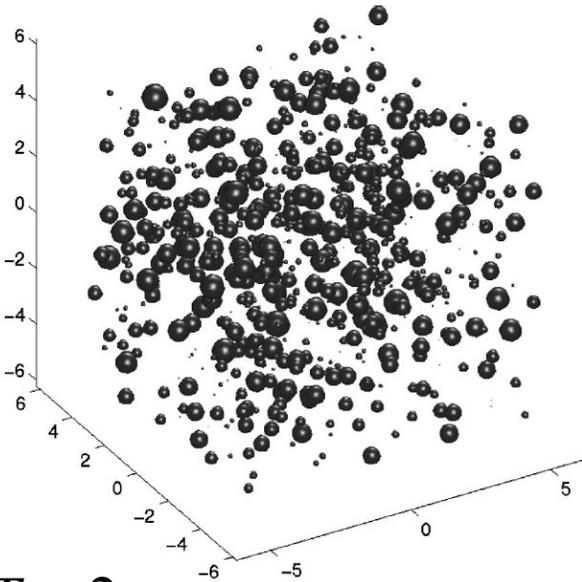


# Why are DHs important?

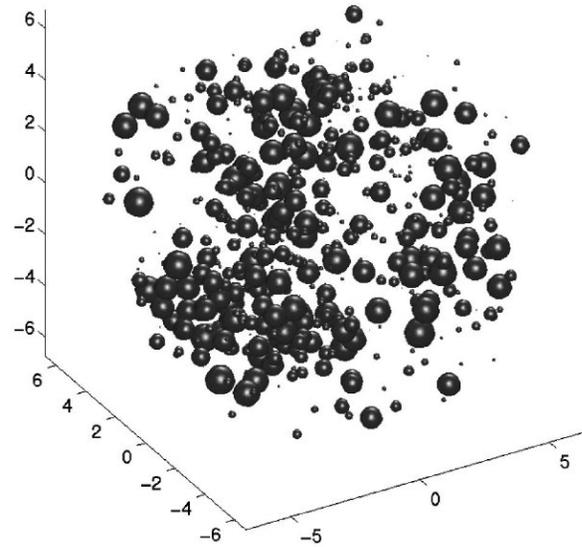
**Crucial role** in the slowing down of the dynamics close to the glass transition

- Adam-Gibbs: relaxation through **cooperatively rearranging regions**. Their size **increases** approaching the glass transition.
- Glass transition as a (dynamical) **critical phenomenon** ?
- DHs may allow one to **discriminate between competing theories**

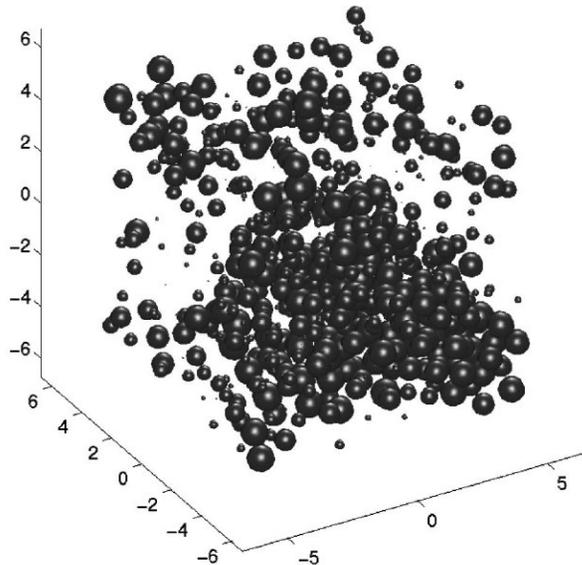
# Size of DH: simulations



$T = 2$



$T = 0.6$



**Less mobile particles in a LJ supercooled fluid ( $T_c \sim 0.435$ )**

$T = 0.45$

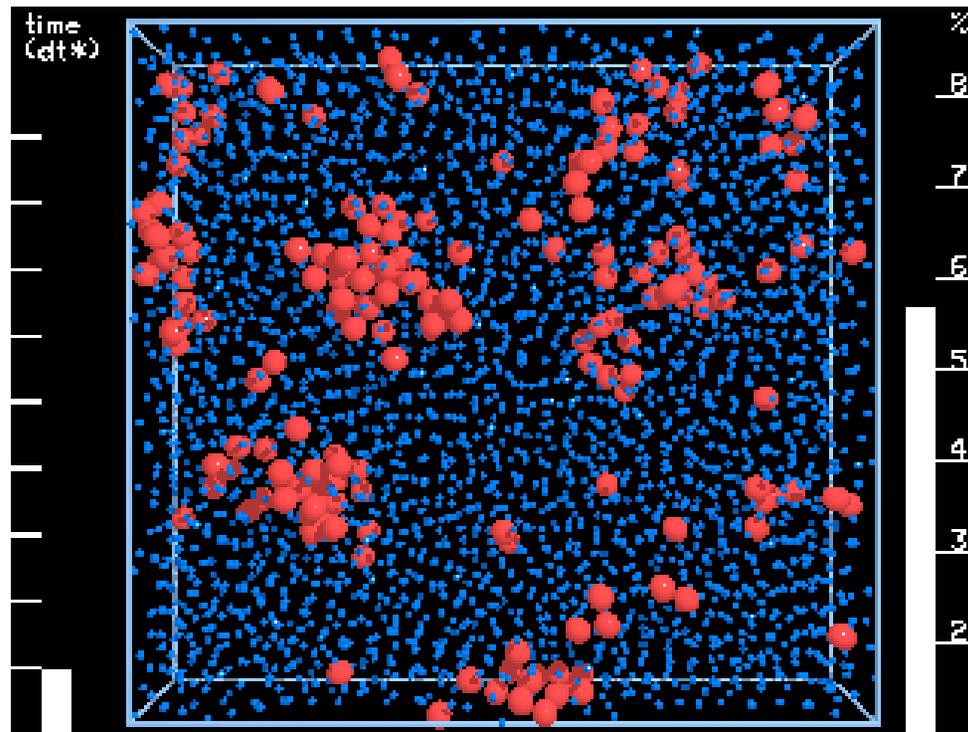
# What quantities should we measure?

**Space and time-resolved** correlation functions  $f(t, t+\tau, \mathbf{r})$  or particle displacement

- **Simulations** (far from  $T_g$ !)
- (Confocal) **microscopy** on colloidal systems
- **Granular** systems (2D, athermal, see Dauchot's talk)

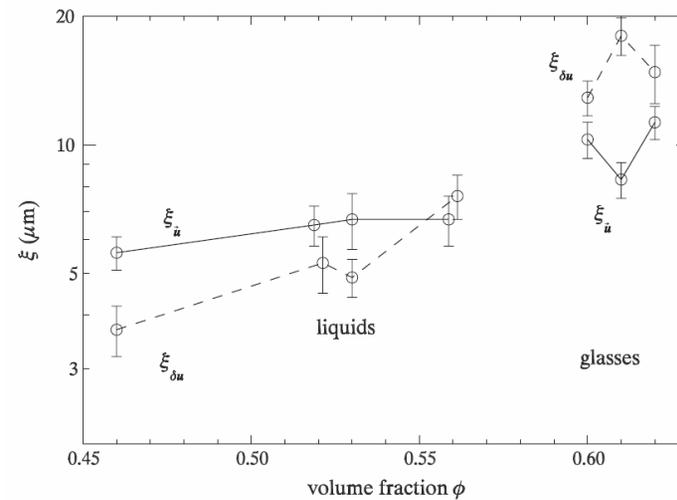
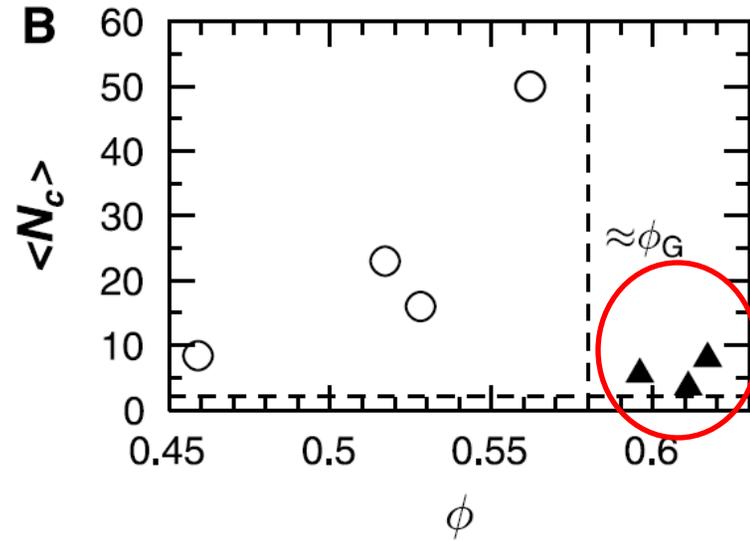
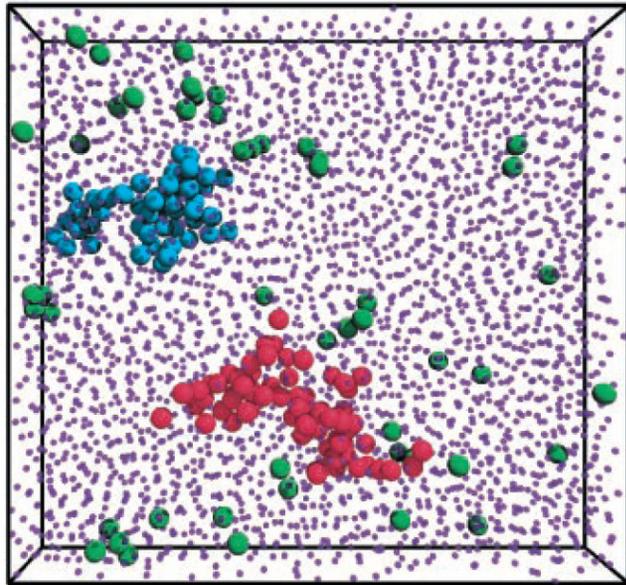
# Confocal microscopy on colloidal HS

From E. Weeks web page



# Confocal microscopy on colloidal HS

Weeks et al. Science 00



Weeks et al.,  
J. Phys. Cond.  
Mat 07

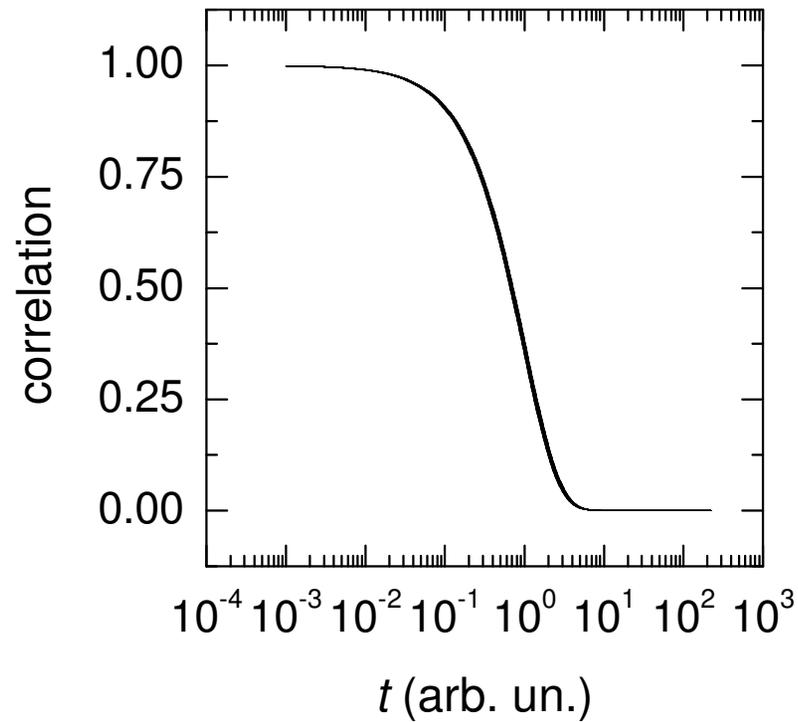
# What quantities should we measure?

**Space- and time-resolved** correlation functions  $f(t, t + \tau, \mathbf{r})$  or particle displacement

- **Simulations** (far from  $T_g$ !)
- (Confocal) **microscopy** on colloidal systems (limited statistics, stringent requirements on particles (size, optical mismatch...))
- **Granular** systems (2D, athermal, see Dauchot's talk)

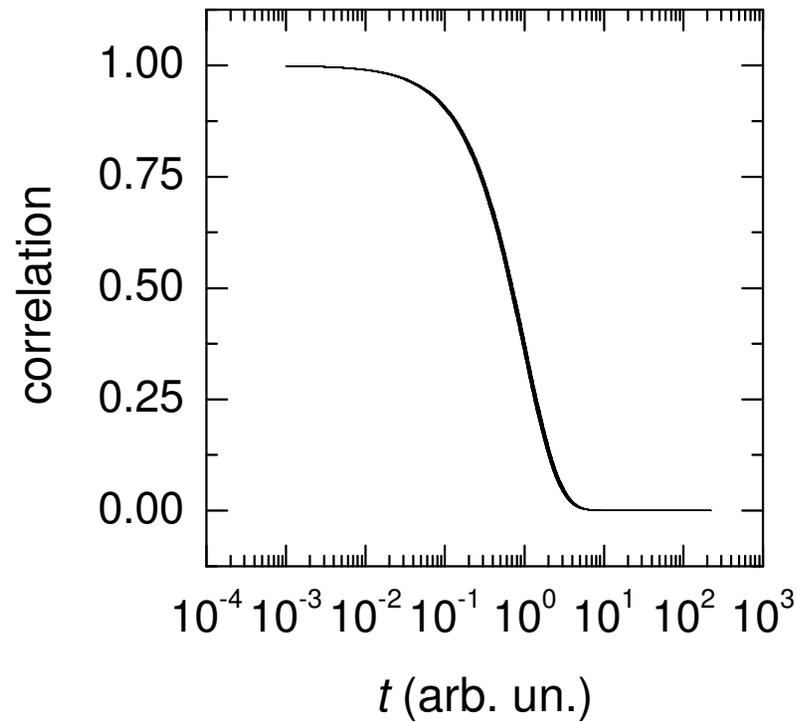
**Time-resolved** correlation functions  $f(t, t + \tau)$  (no space resolution)

# Temporally heterogeneous dynamics

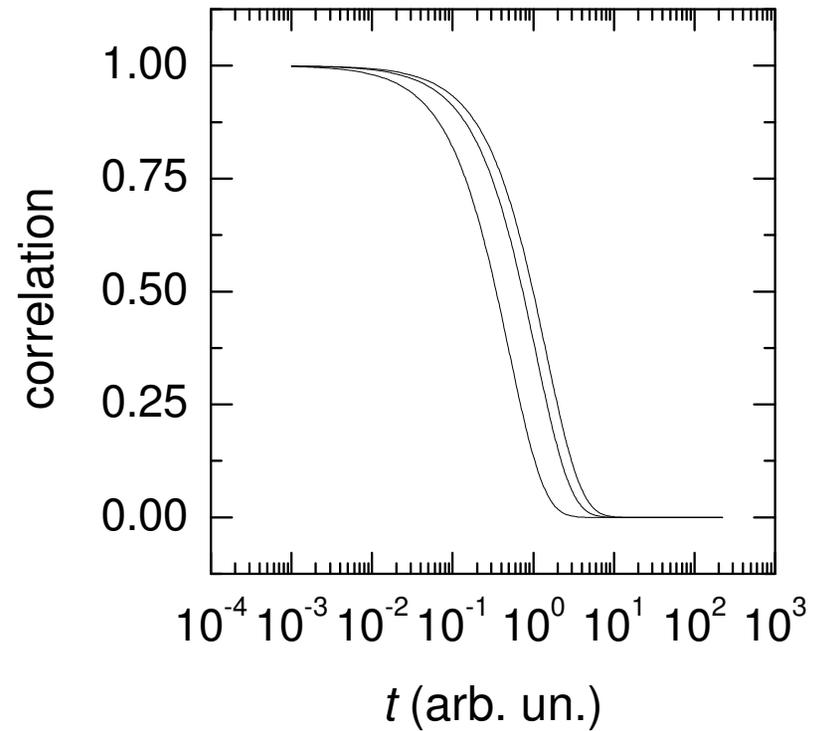


**homogeneous**

# Temporally heterogeneous dynamics

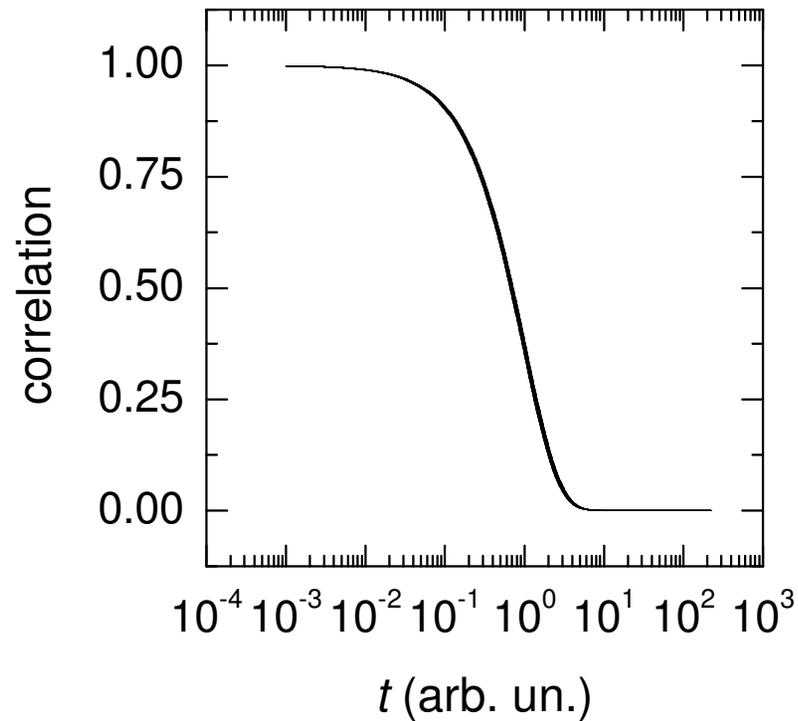


**homogeneous**

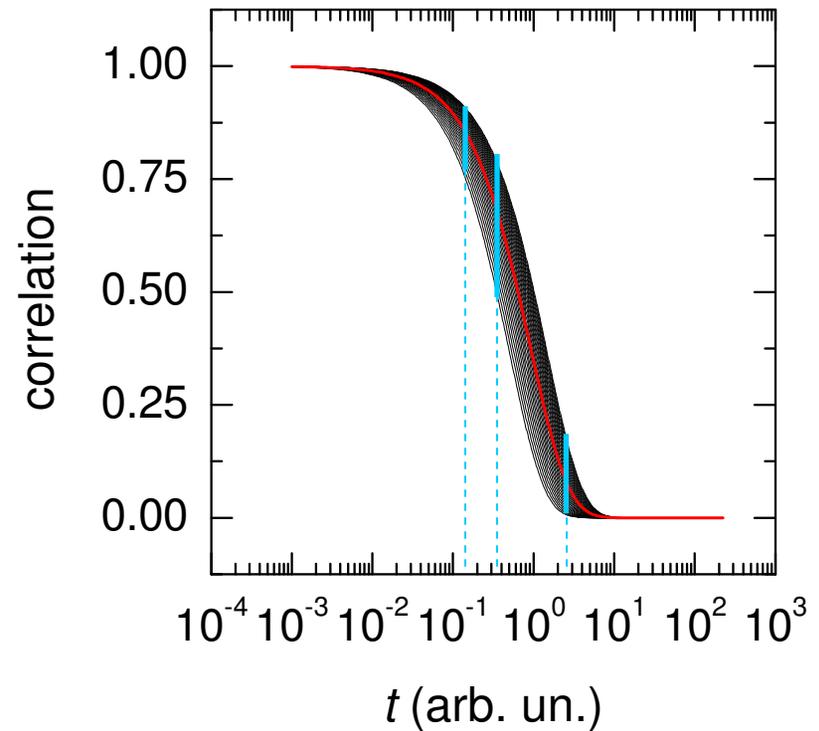


**heterogeneous**

# Temporally heterogeneous dynamics



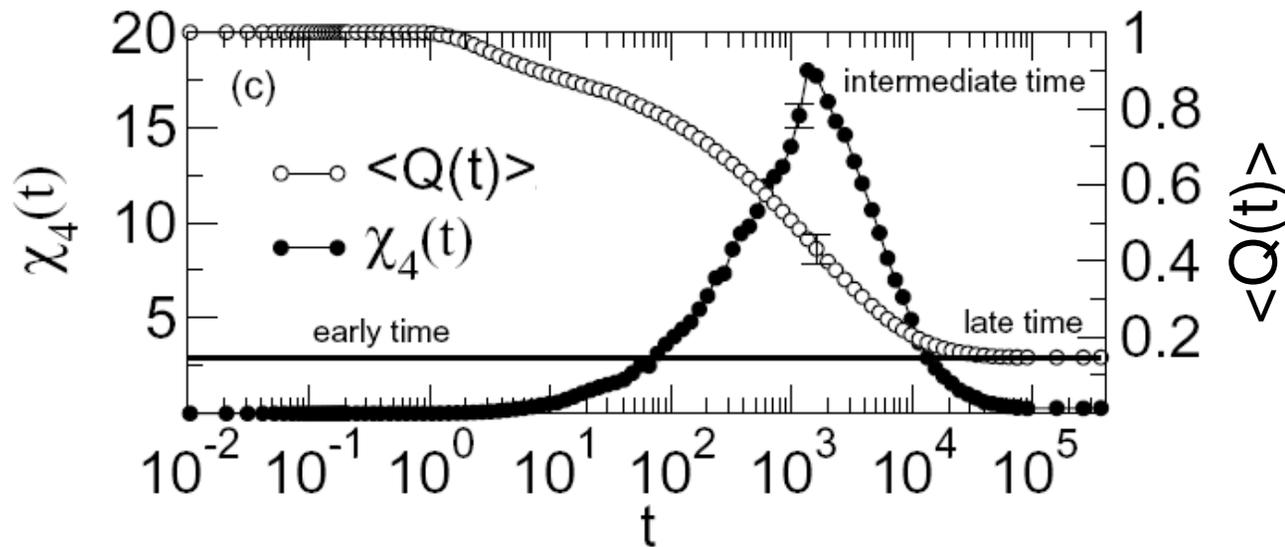
**homogeneous**



**heterogeneous**

# Dynamical susceptibility in glassy systems

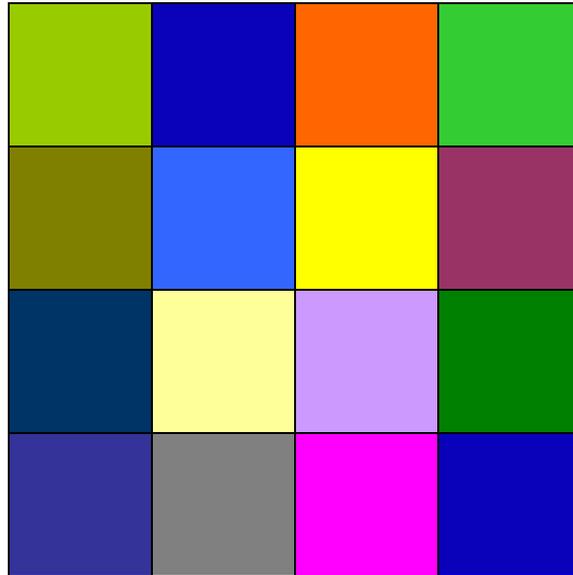
## Supercooled liquid (Lennard-Jones)



Lacevic et al., PRE 2002

$$\chi_4 = N \text{var}[Q(t)]$$

# Dynamical susceptibility in glassy systems



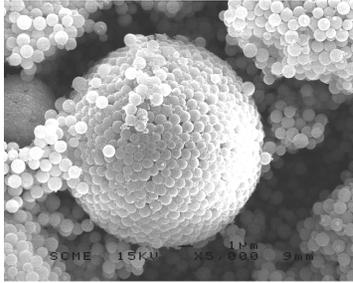
$N_{\text{blob}}$  regions

$$\chi_4 = N \text{var}[Q(t)] \sim N (1/N_{\text{blob}}) = N/N_{\text{blob}}$$

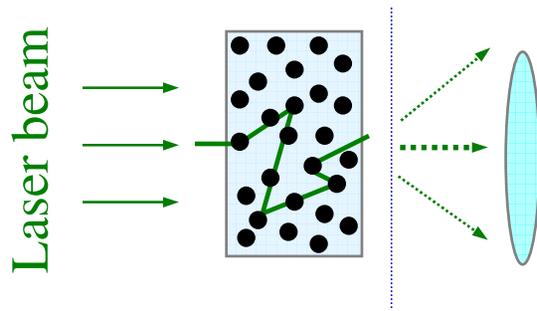
$$\chi_4(\tau) \sim \left\langle \int d^3\mathbf{r} f(0, t', t'+t) f(\mathbf{r}, t', t'+t) \right\rangle_{t'}$$

# How can we measure $\chi_4$ ?

**Time-resolved light scattering** experiments (TRC)



# Experimental setup

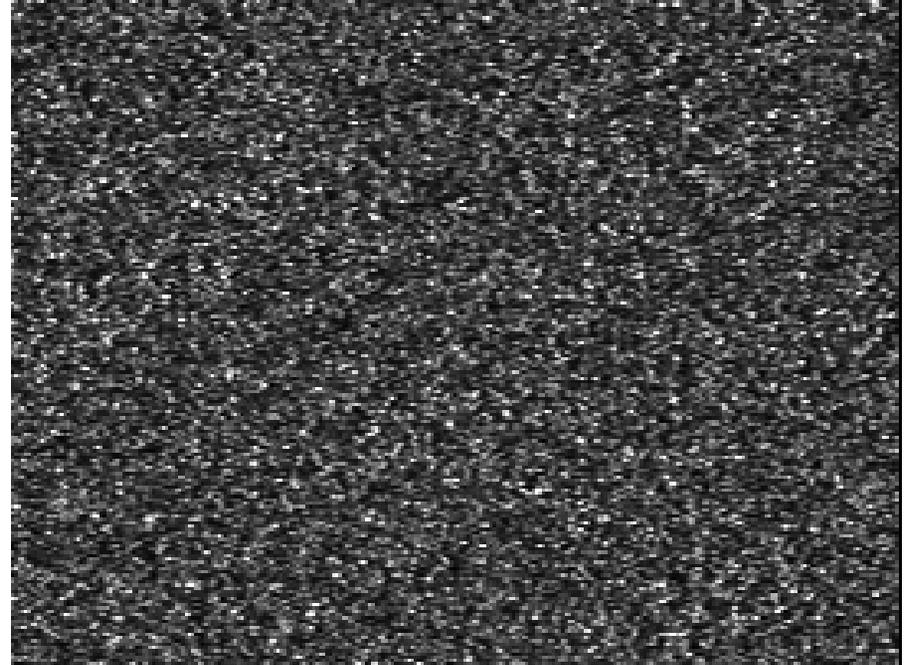


Random walk w/ step  $l^*$

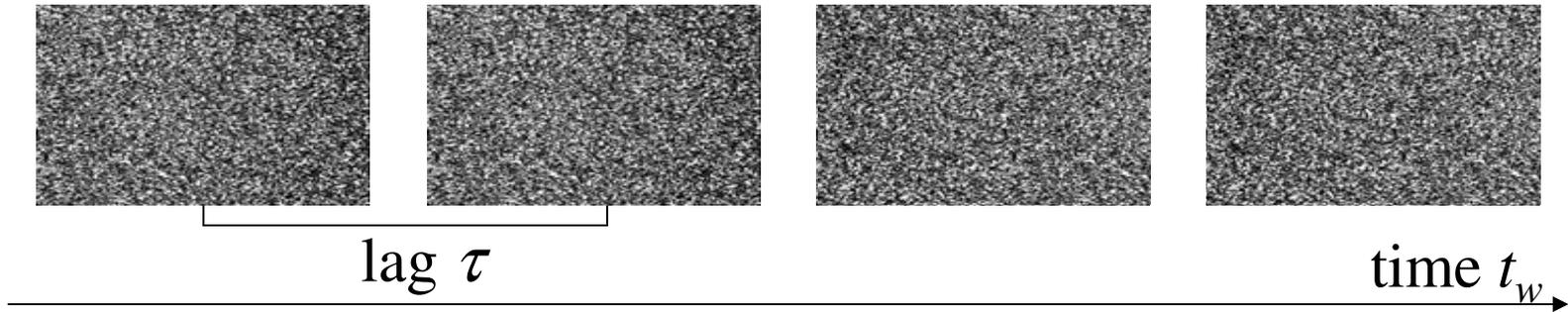
CCD  
Camera

CCD-based (multispeckle)  
**Diffusing Wave Spectroscopy**

Change in speckle field mirrors  
change in sample configuration



# Time Resolved Correlation

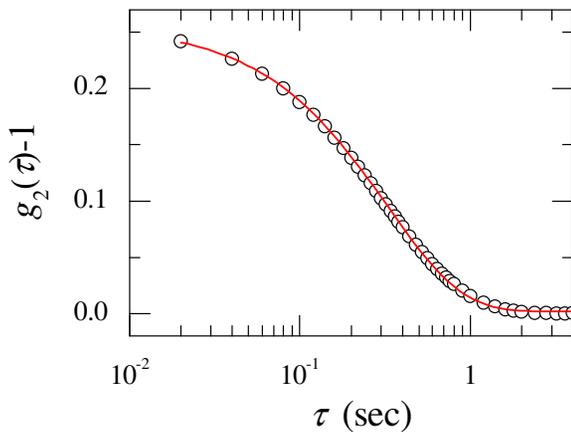


**degree of correlation**  $c_I(t_w, \tau) = \frac{\langle I_p(t_w) I_p(t_w + \tau) \rangle_p}{\langle I_p(t_w) \rangle_p \langle I_p(t_w + \tau) \rangle_p} - 1$

$$\text{degree of correlation } c_I(t_w, \tau) = \frac{\langle I_p(t_w) I_p(t_w + \tau) \rangle_p}{\langle I_p(t_w) \rangle_p \langle I_p(t_w + \tau) \rangle_p} - 1$$

Average over  $t_w$  ↓

intensity correlation  
function  $g_2(\tau) - 1$



$g_2(\tau) - 1$  → Average dynamics

$$\text{degree of correlation } c_I(t_w, \tau) = \frac{\langle I_p(t_w) I_p(t_w + \tau) \rangle_p}{\langle I_p(t_w) \rangle_p \langle I_p(t_w + \tau) \rangle_p} - 1$$

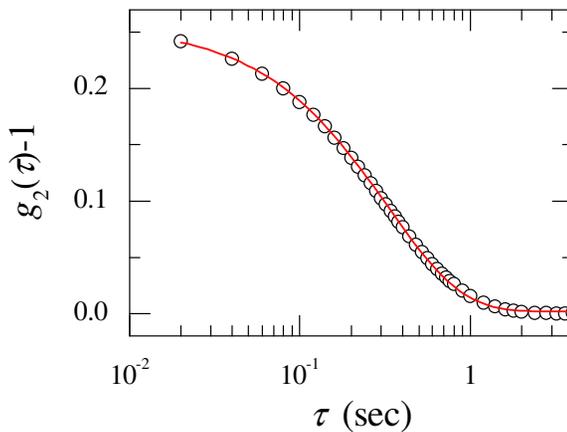
Average over  $t_w$  ↓

intensity correlation  
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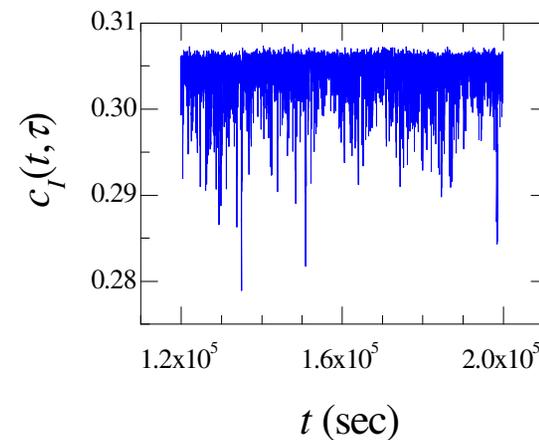


fixed  $\tau$ , vs.  $t_w$

**fluctuations** of the dynamics

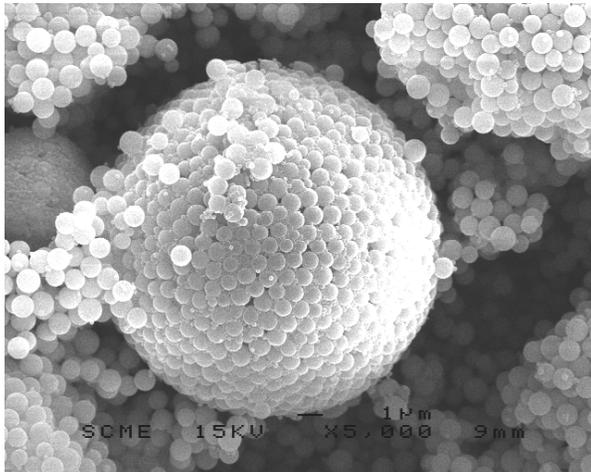


$g_2(\tau) - 1$  → Average dynamics



$\text{var}(c_I)(\tau)$  → 'dynamical susceptibility'  $\chi_4(\tau)$

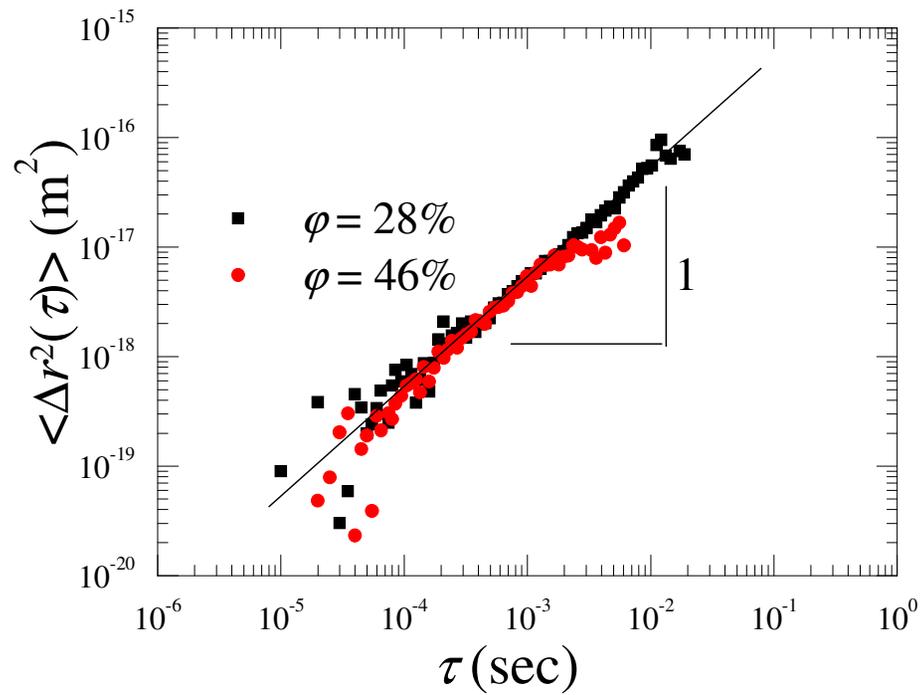
# Experimental system



## PVC xenospheres in DOP

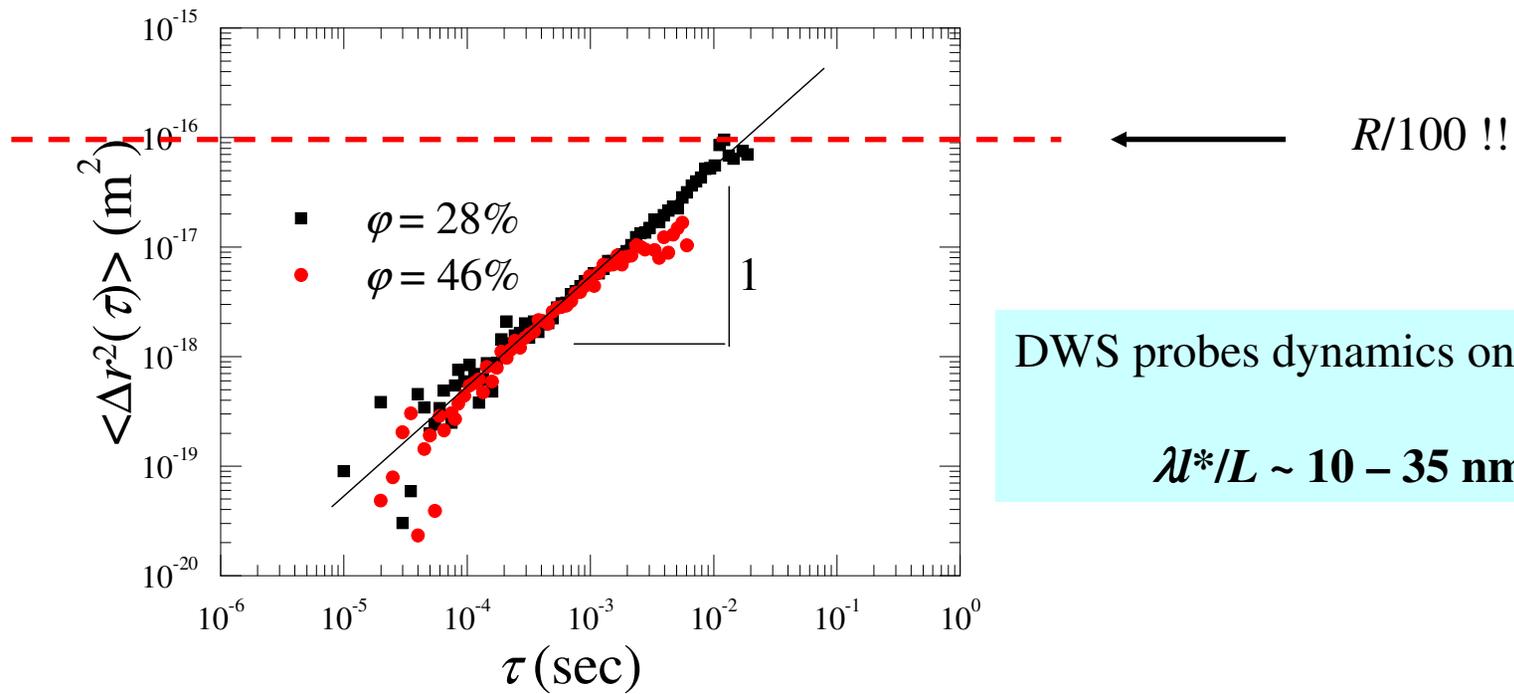
- radius  $R \sim 10 \mu\text{m}$
- Polydisperse
- Brownian
- Excluded volume interactions
- $\phi = 64\% - 75\%$  ( Note:  $\phi_g \sim 58\%$ )

# « Diluted » samples



**Brownian behavior**

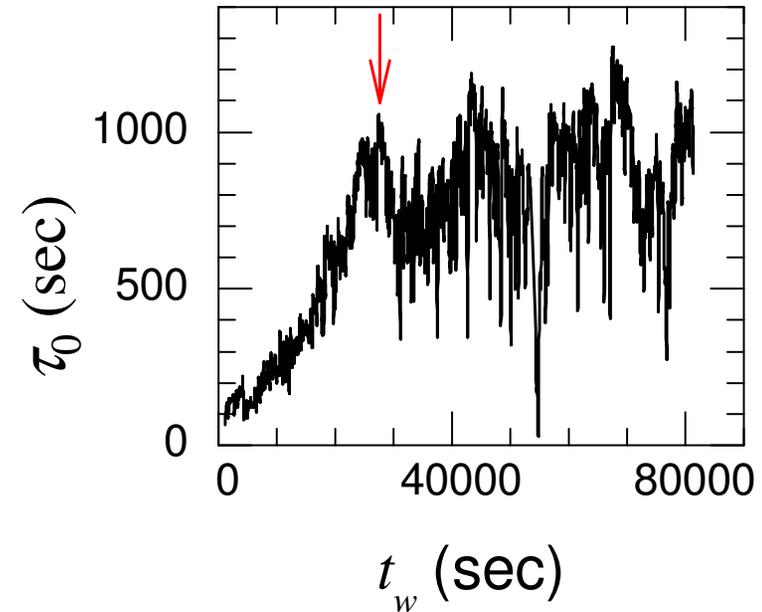
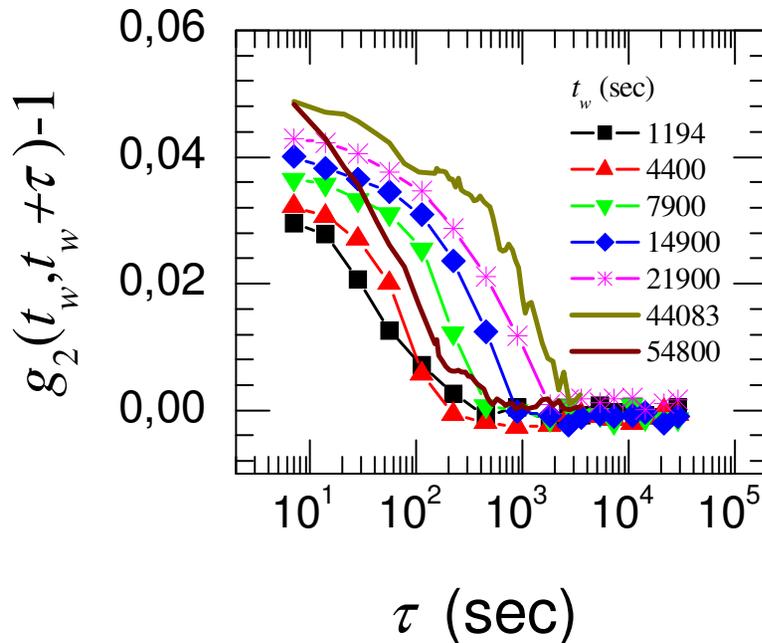
# « Diluted » samples



DWS probes dynamics on a length scale  
 $\lambda^*/L \sim 10 - 35 \text{ nm} \ll R$

# 2-time intensity correlation function

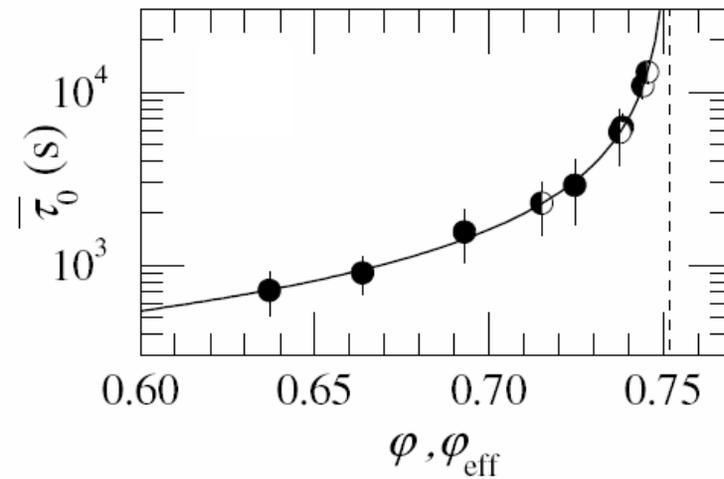
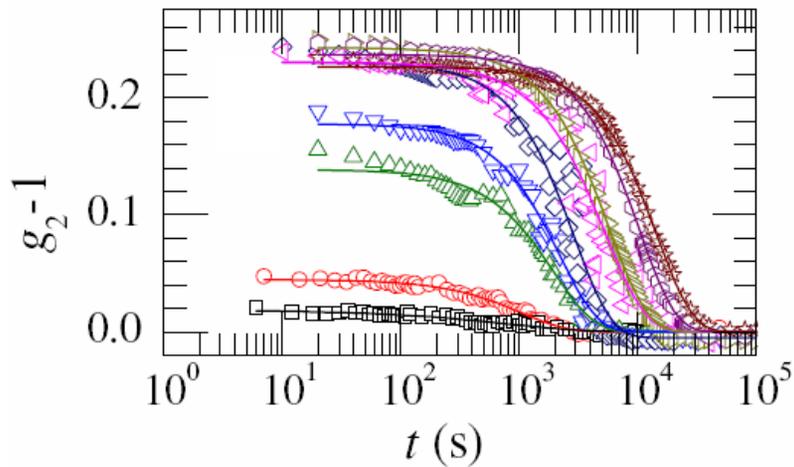
$\phi = 66.4\%$



$$\text{Fit: } g_2(t_w, t_w + \tau) - 1 = a \exp[-(\tau/\tau_0)^\beta]$$

- Initial regime: « simple aging » ( $\tau_s \sim t_w^{1.1 \pm 0.1}$ )
- Crossover to stationary dynamics, **large fluctuations of  $\tau_s$**

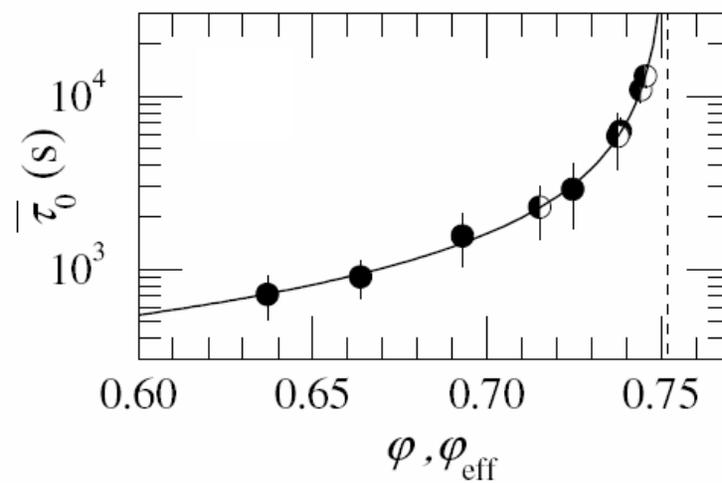
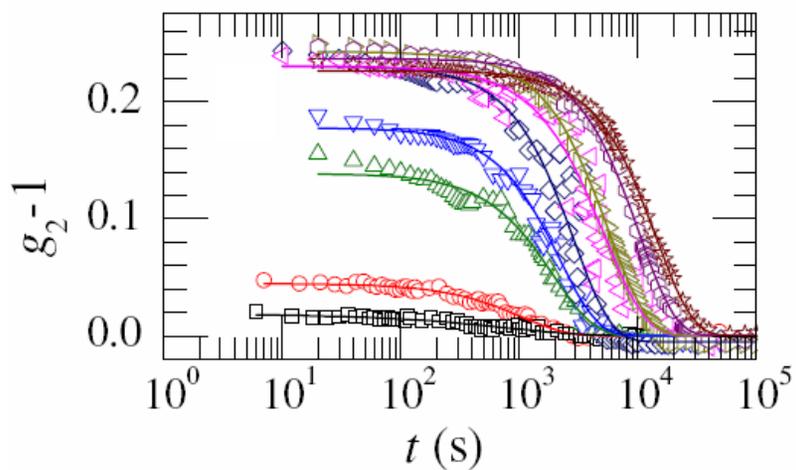
# Average dynamics



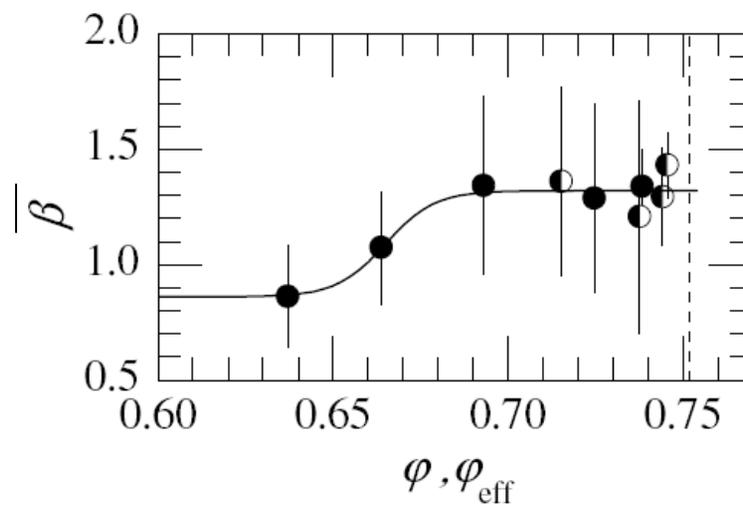
**Relaxation time**  $\bar{\tau}_0 \sim \frac{1}{|\varphi - \varphi_c|^{1.01 \pm 0.04}}$

$\varphi_c = 0.752$

# Average dynamics

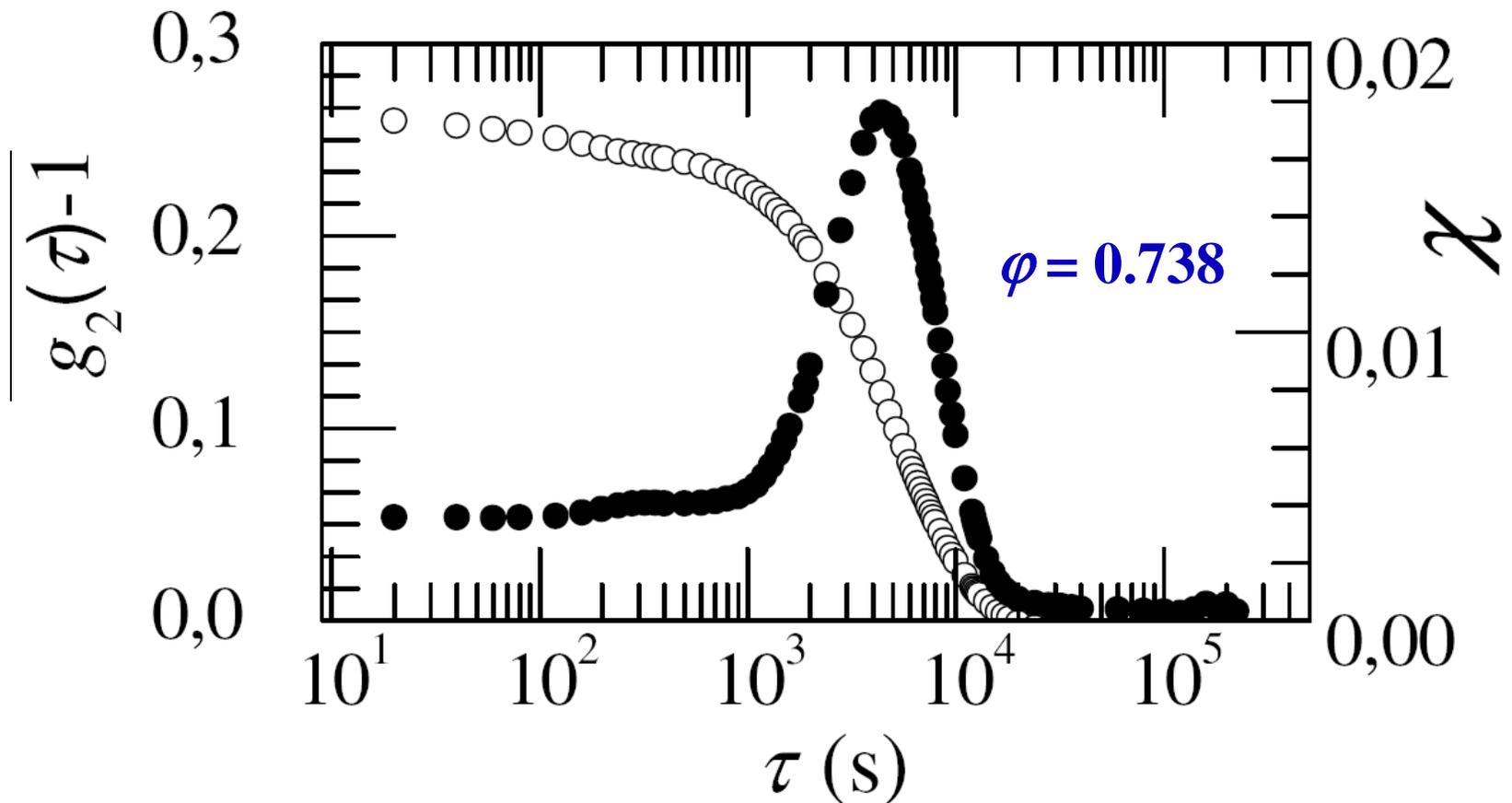


Stretching exponent  $\overline{\beta}$

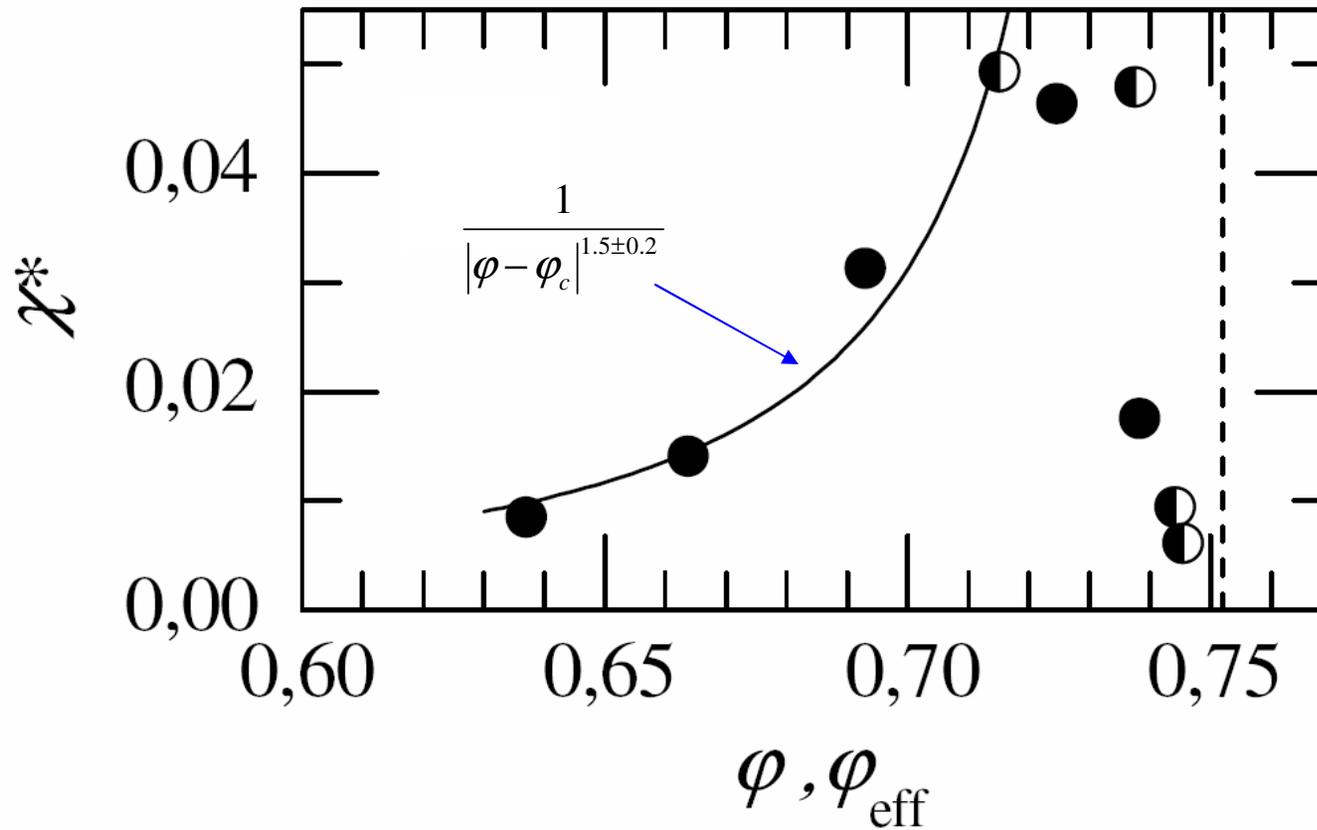
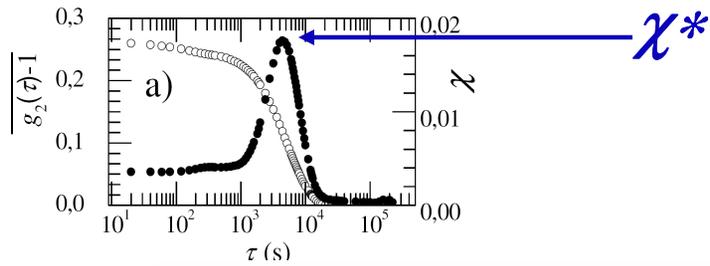


# Fluctuations of the dynamics: $\chi$

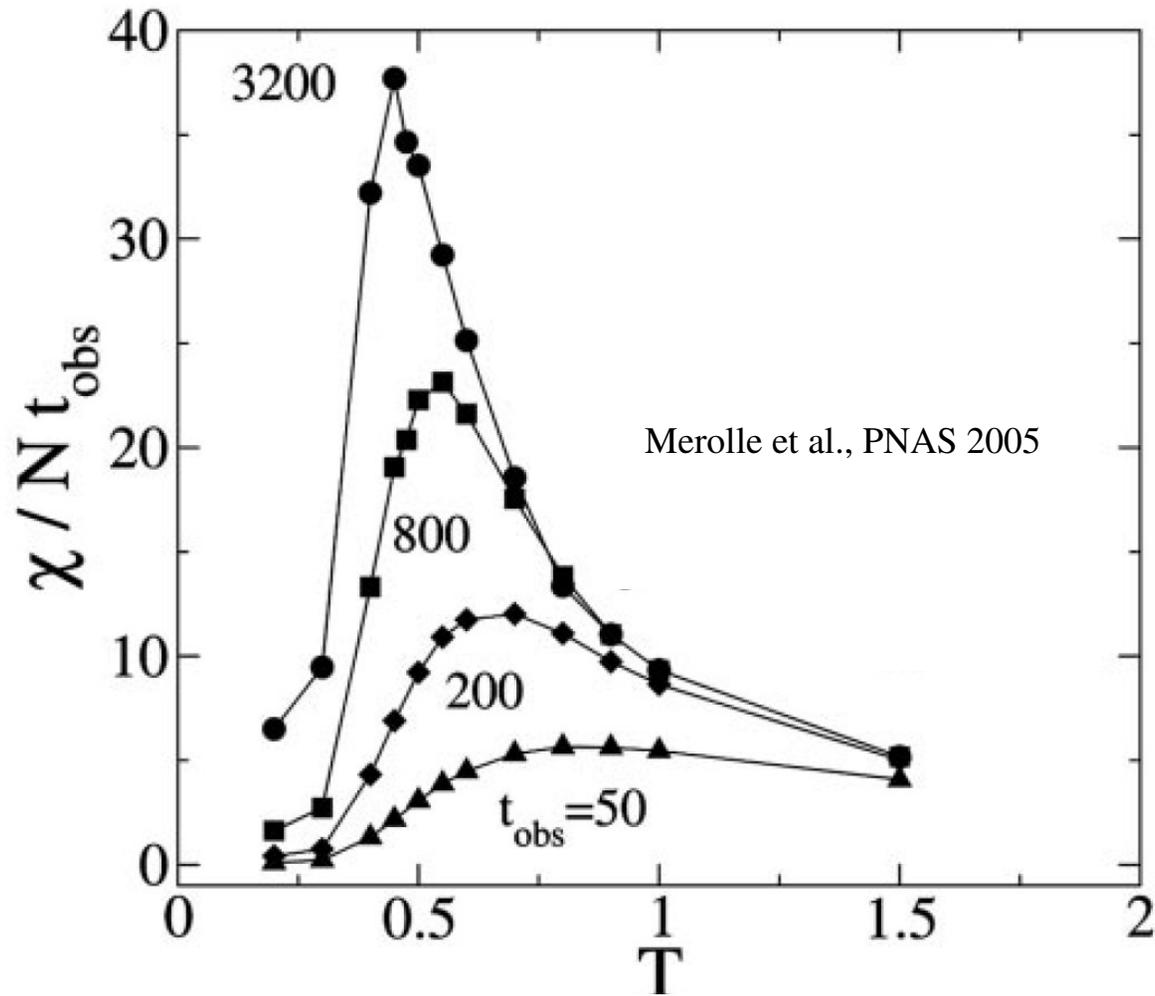
$$\chi(\tau) \equiv \chi(\tau, \varphi) = \overline{\left( c_I(t, \tau) - \overline{c_I(t, \tau)} \right)^2} / \bar{a}^2$$



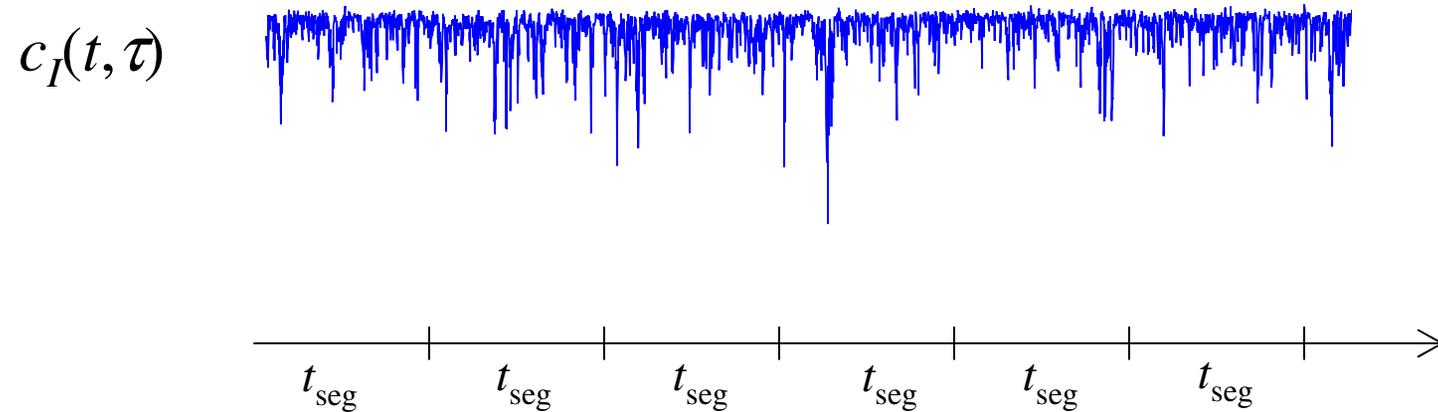
# Fluctuations of the dynamics: $\chi^*$ vs $\varphi$



# Measurement time issue?

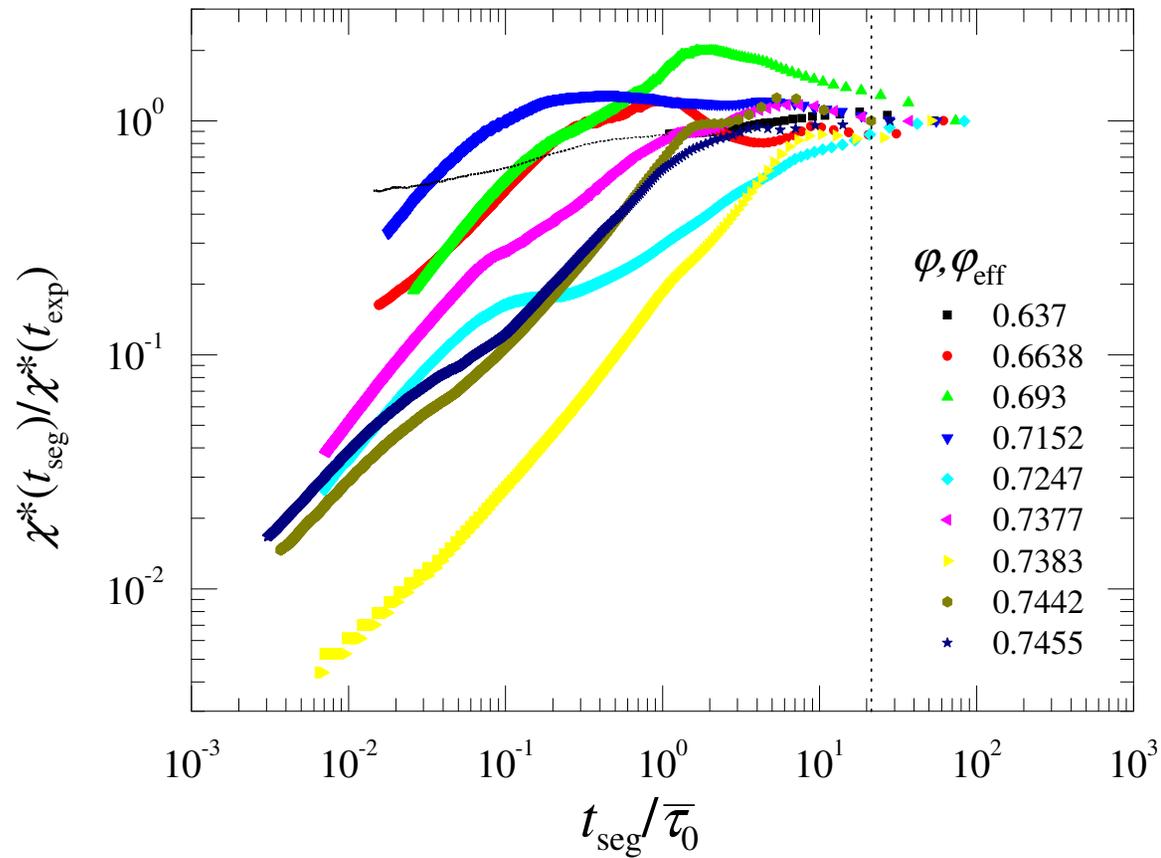


# Measurement time issue?



Does  $\chi^*(t_{\text{seg}}, \varphi)$  depend on  $t_{\text{seg}}$  ?

# Not a measurement time issue !



# Proposed physical mechanism

Competition between :

**Growth of  $\xi$**  on approaching  $\varphi_g$    $N_{\text{blob}} \searrow$   $\chi^* \nearrow$

**Smaller displacement** associated  
with each rearrangement event  
(tighter packing)

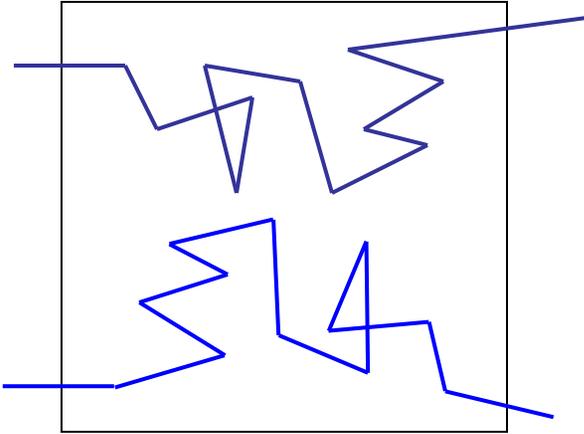


More events  
required to  
relax system

$\chi^* \searrow$

# DWS and intermittent dynamics

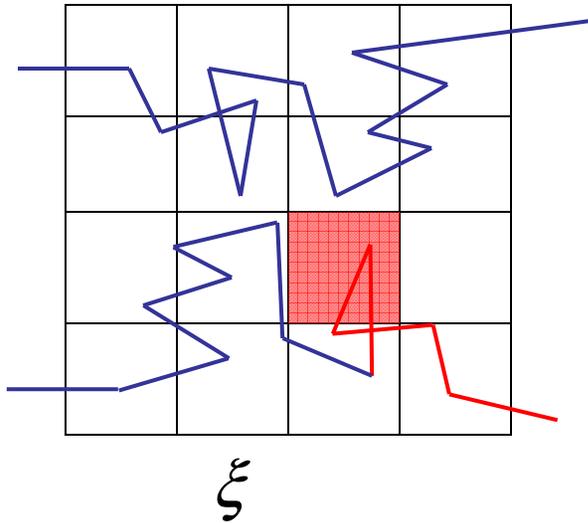
Inspired by Durian, Weitz & Pine (Science, 1991)



$$g_2(\tau) - 1 = g_1^2(\tau) = \left[ \sum_s g_1^{(s)}(\tau) \right]^2$$

# DWS and intermittent dynamics

Inspired by Durian, Weitz & Pine (Science, 1991)



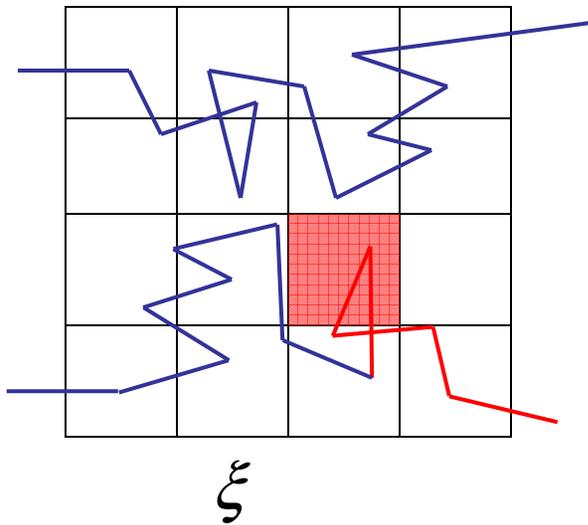
*Light is decorrelated*

$$g_2(\tau) - 1 = g_1^2(\tau) = \left[ \sum_s g_1^{(s)}(\tau) \right]^2$$

$$g_1^{(s)}(t, \tau) = \exp[-n_s(t, \tau)^p \sigma_\phi^2]$$

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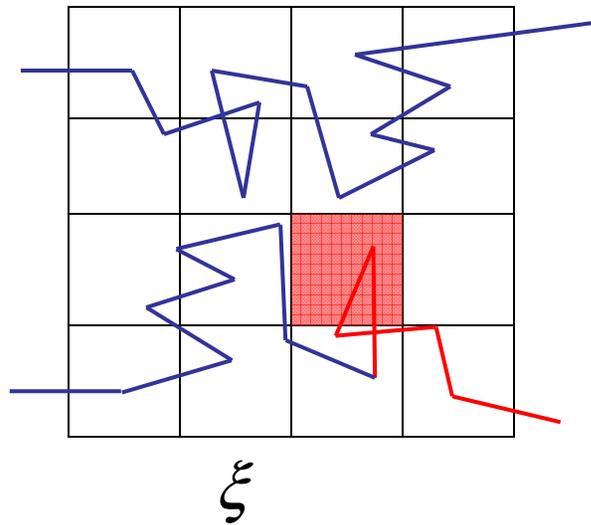
$$g_1^{(s)}(t, \tau) = \exp[-n_s(t, \tau)^p \sigma_\phi^2]$$

Number of events between  
 $t$  and  $t + \tau$

Mean squared change of phase for  
1 event  $\sim \Delta r^2$

# DWS and intermittent dynamics

Inspired by Durian, Weitz & Pine (Science, 1991)



*Light is decorrelated*

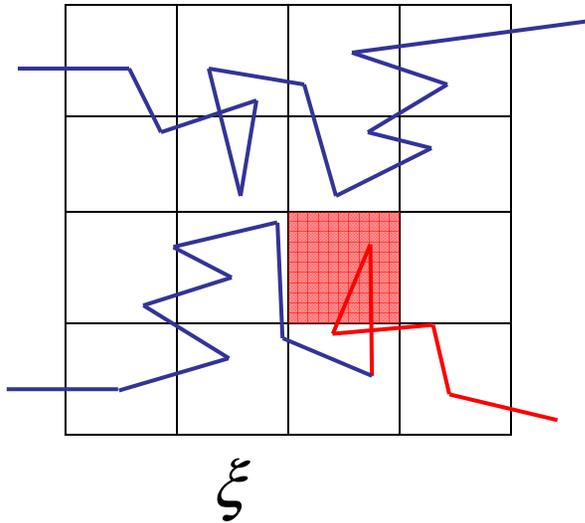
$$g_2(\tau) - 1 = g_1^2(\tau) = \left[ \sum_s g_1^{(s)}(\tau) \right]^2$$

$$g_1^{(s)}(t, \tau) = \exp[-n_s(t, \tau)^p \sigma_\phi^2]$$

$p = 1$     « **brownian** » rearrangements

$p = 2$     « **ballistic** » rearrangements

# Simulations



- Photon paths as random walks on a 3D cubic lattice
- Lattice parameter =  $l^*$ , match cell dimensions
- Random rearrangement events of size  $\xi^3$

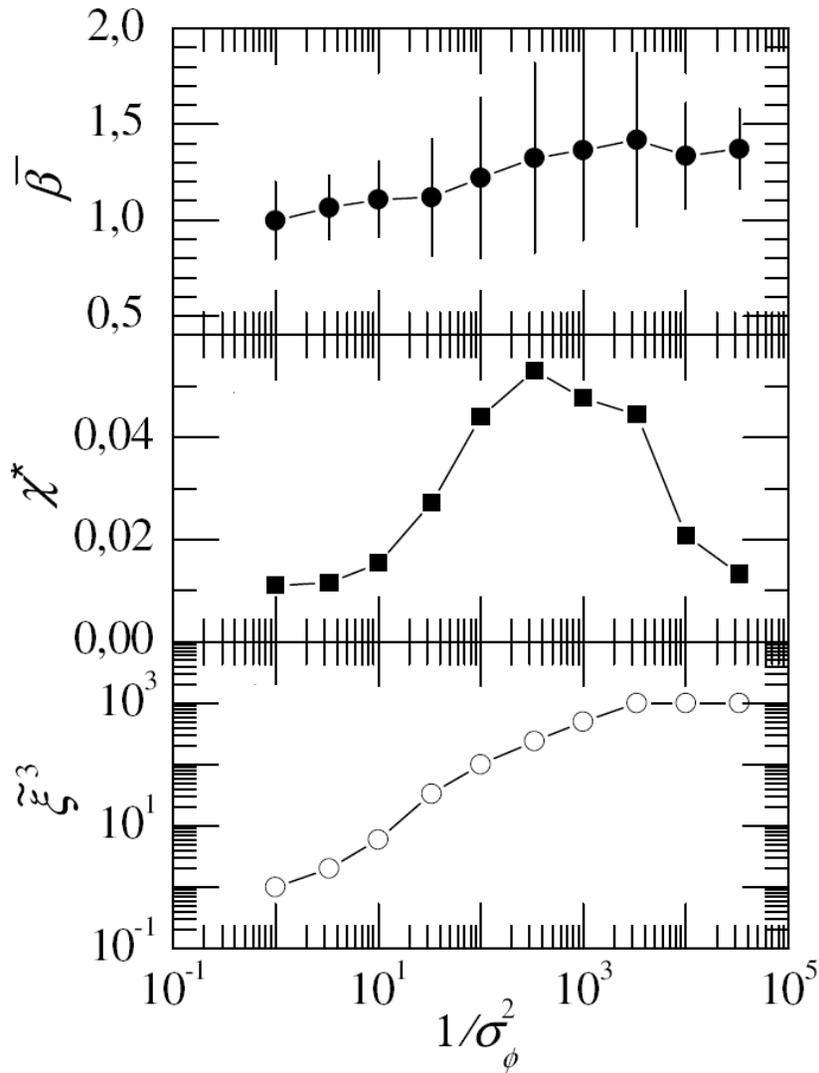
- Calculate  $c_I(t, \tau) = \left[ \sum_s g_1^{(s)}(t, \tau) \right]^2$  with

$$g_1^{(s)}(t, \tau) = \exp[-n_s(t, \tau)^p \sigma_\phi^2]$$

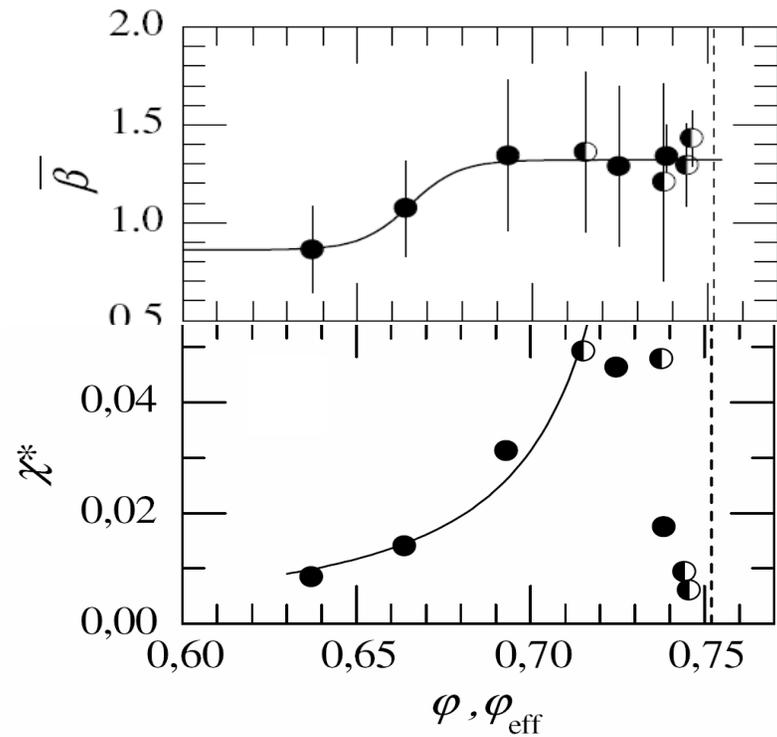
## Parameters :

- $p$  (use one single  $p$  for all  $\varphi$ )
- $\xi^3$
- $\sigma_\phi^2$  (we expect  $\sigma_\phi^2 \searrow$  as  $\varphi \rightarrow \varphi_c$ )

# Simulations vs. experiments

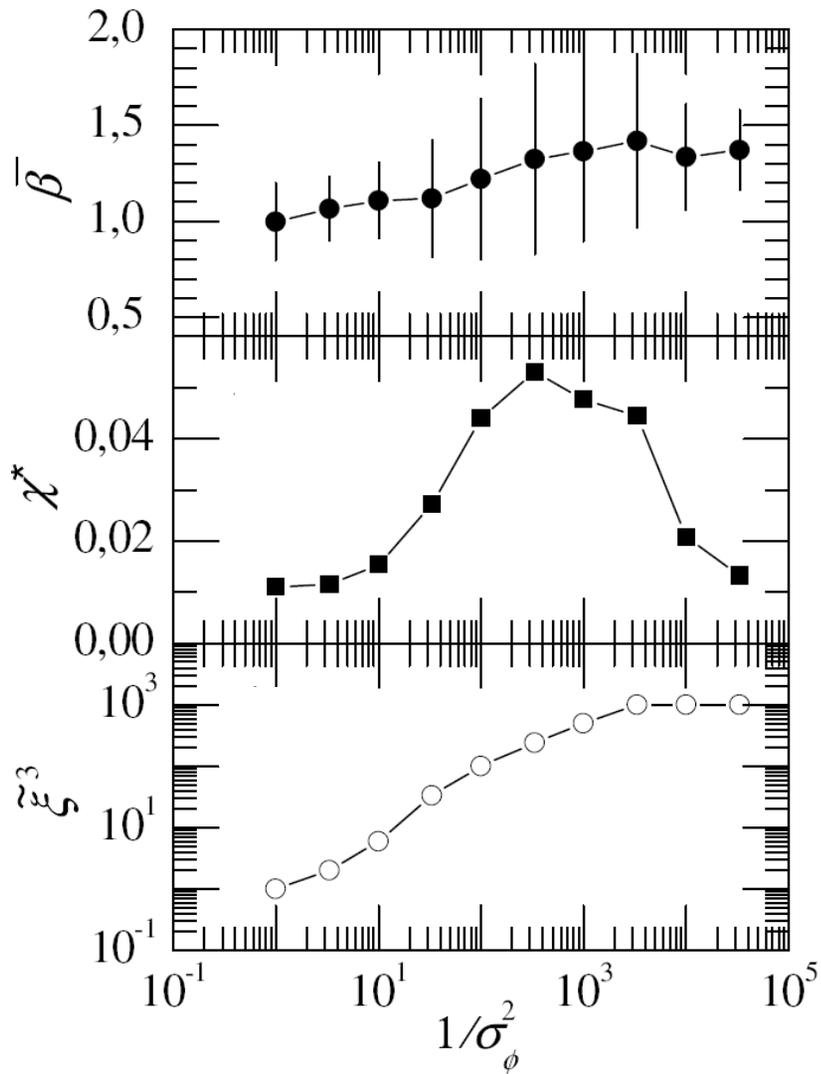


simulations



experiments

# Simulation parameters



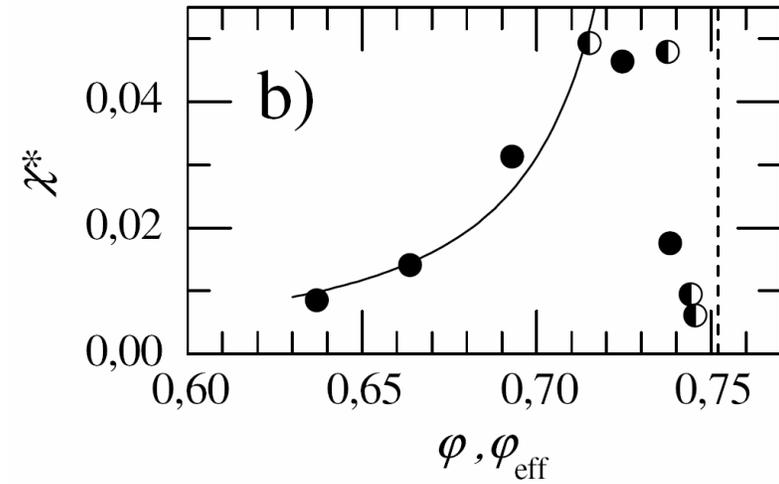
$p = 1.65$  supradiffusive motion

$\xi_\phi^3$  - grows continuously with  $\phi$   
- very large!!

# Conclusions

Dynamics **heterogeneous**

**Non-monotonic** behavior of  $\chi^*$

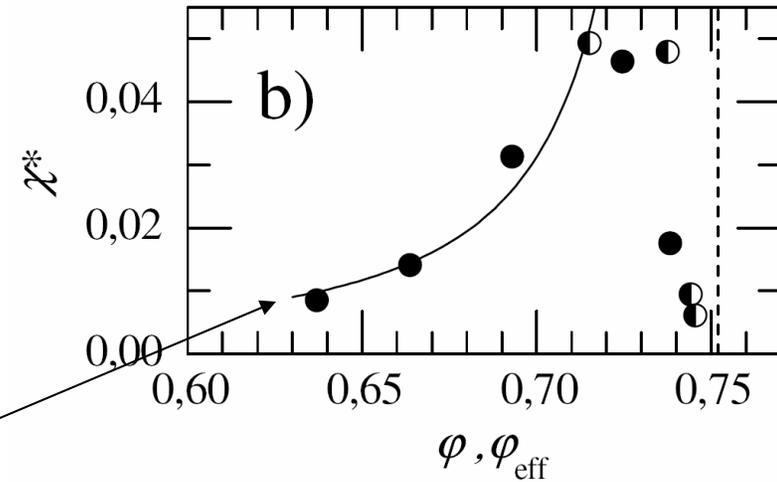


# Conclusions

Dynamics **heterogeneous**

**Non-monotonic** behavior of  $\chi^*$

**Competition** between  
- **increasing size** of dynamically  
correlated regions



# Conclusions

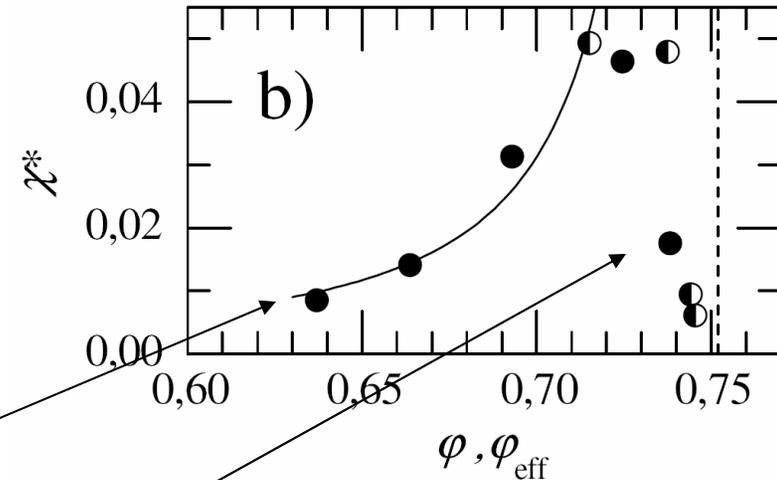
Dynamics **heterogeneous**

**Non-monotonic** behavior of  $\chi^*$

**Competition** between

- **increasing size** of dynamically correlated regions

- **decreasing effectiveness** of rearrangements



Dynamical heterogeneity dictated by the **number of rearrangements** needed to relax the system

# Thanks to...

V. Trappe

D. Weitz

L. Berthier

G. Biroli

M. Cloître

CNES

Softcomp

ACI

IUF