

# Our innovative solutions for nanoparticle size measurements

VASCO™  $\gamma$  series



Batch

*Opaque & concentrated media*

VASCO™ FLEX

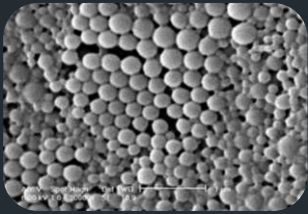


In-situ

*"bring the measurement to your sample"*

# Nano-Materials & Nanoparticles : a new era in science and industry

2



- Promise of major technologic, economic and societal impacts
- NPs and NMs already in the field : cosmetics, batteries, paints, inks, food, medicines, advanced coatings, aerospace, etc..... And it is just the beginning!



- Booming demand for advanced materials and application requires to scale up production installation (incoming material control, process control, quality control)

➤ **New monitoring tools required to migrate NPs from R&D labs to pilot plant and mass production!**

## Sometimes size matters... In particular for NPs!

- Related to the specific surface of the particles
- Ability to penetrate membranes or interact with surface
- Aggregation and stability of suspensions
- Functionalization and self assembly capabilities
- Optical, mechanical and electrical properties
- Etc.

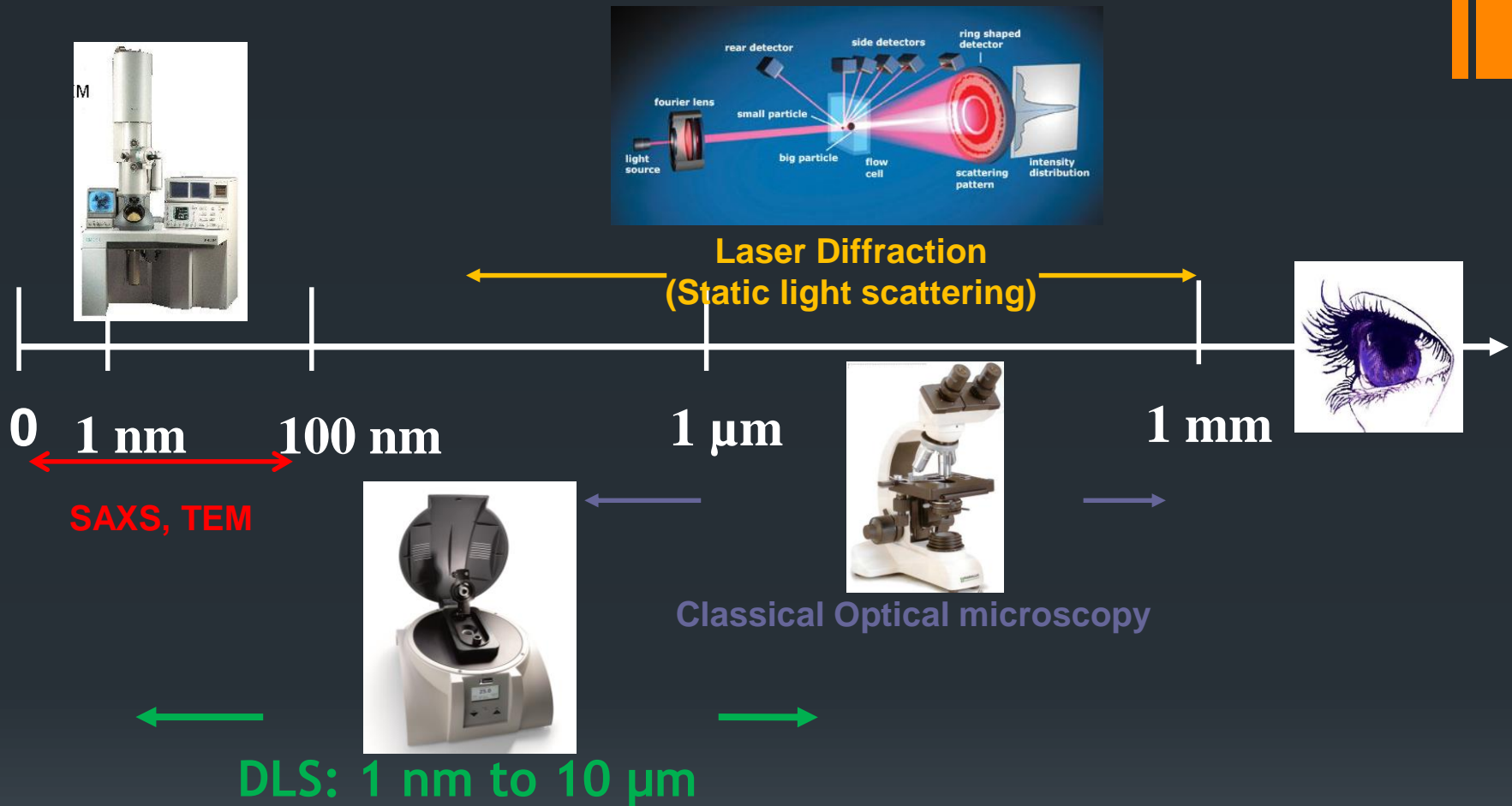


## Many mature characterization techniques for particle size:

- Electronic Microscopy: TEM,
- Electrozone Coulter counter
- Mass sensing: Differential Centrifugal Sedimentation, resonant mass detection
- Optical : Particle tracking, Laser Diffraction, **Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS)**

# DLS vs. other techniques

4

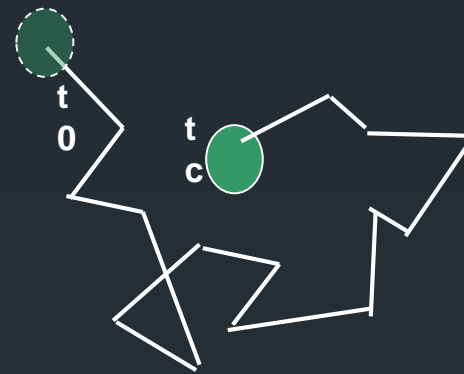
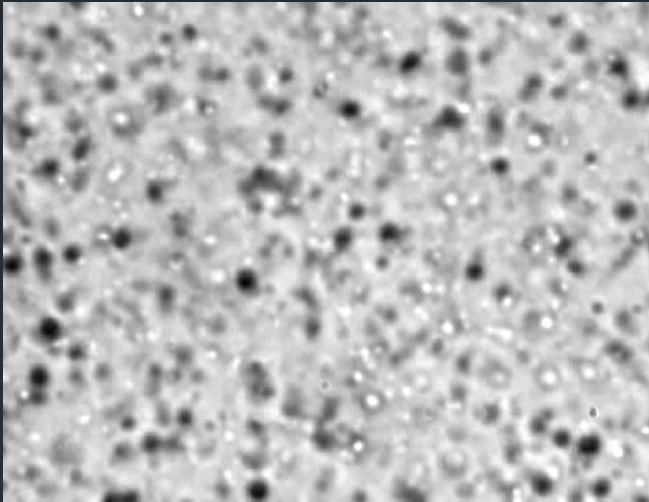


DLS : 4 decades of size range!!!

# DLS uses Brownian motion as a signature of particle size

Brownian motion= Random “walk”

5



Diffusion coefficient

time

$$\langle X^2(t) \rangle \sim 2 D t$$

*L. BACHELIER (1901)*

NPs:  
hard spheres without  
interactions

Viscosity

Boltzmann

Temperature

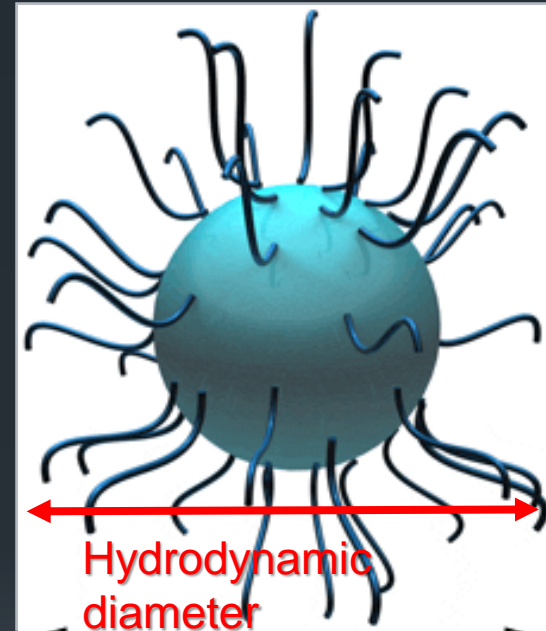
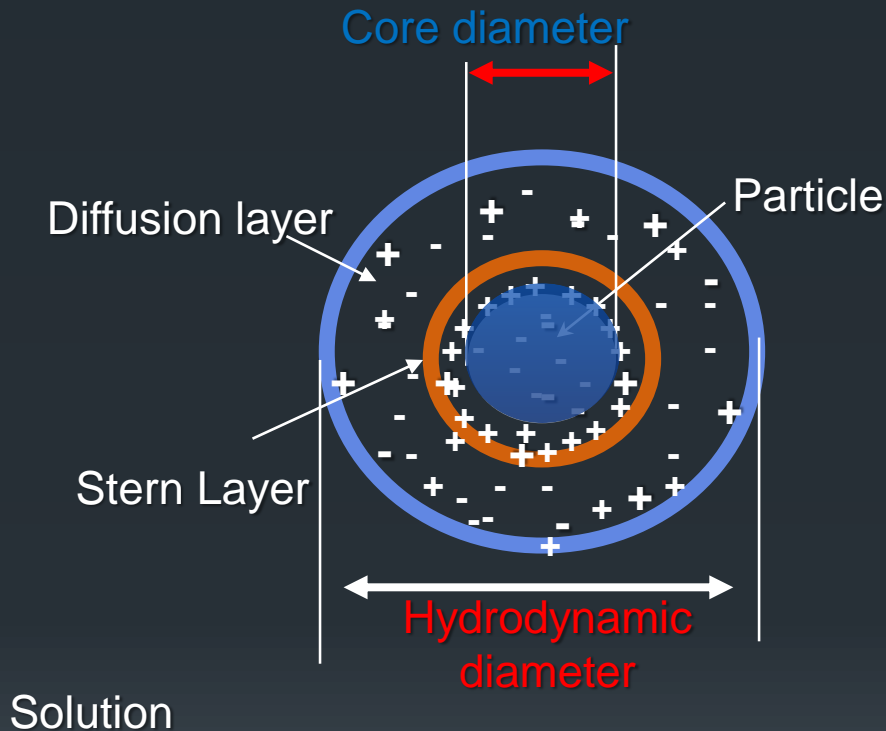
$$D = \frac{KT}{3\pi\eta \phi_H} \Rightarrow \phi_H = \frac{KT}{3\pi\eta D}$$

*EINSTEIN (1905)*

# Meaning of hydrodynamic diameter $\phi_H$

6

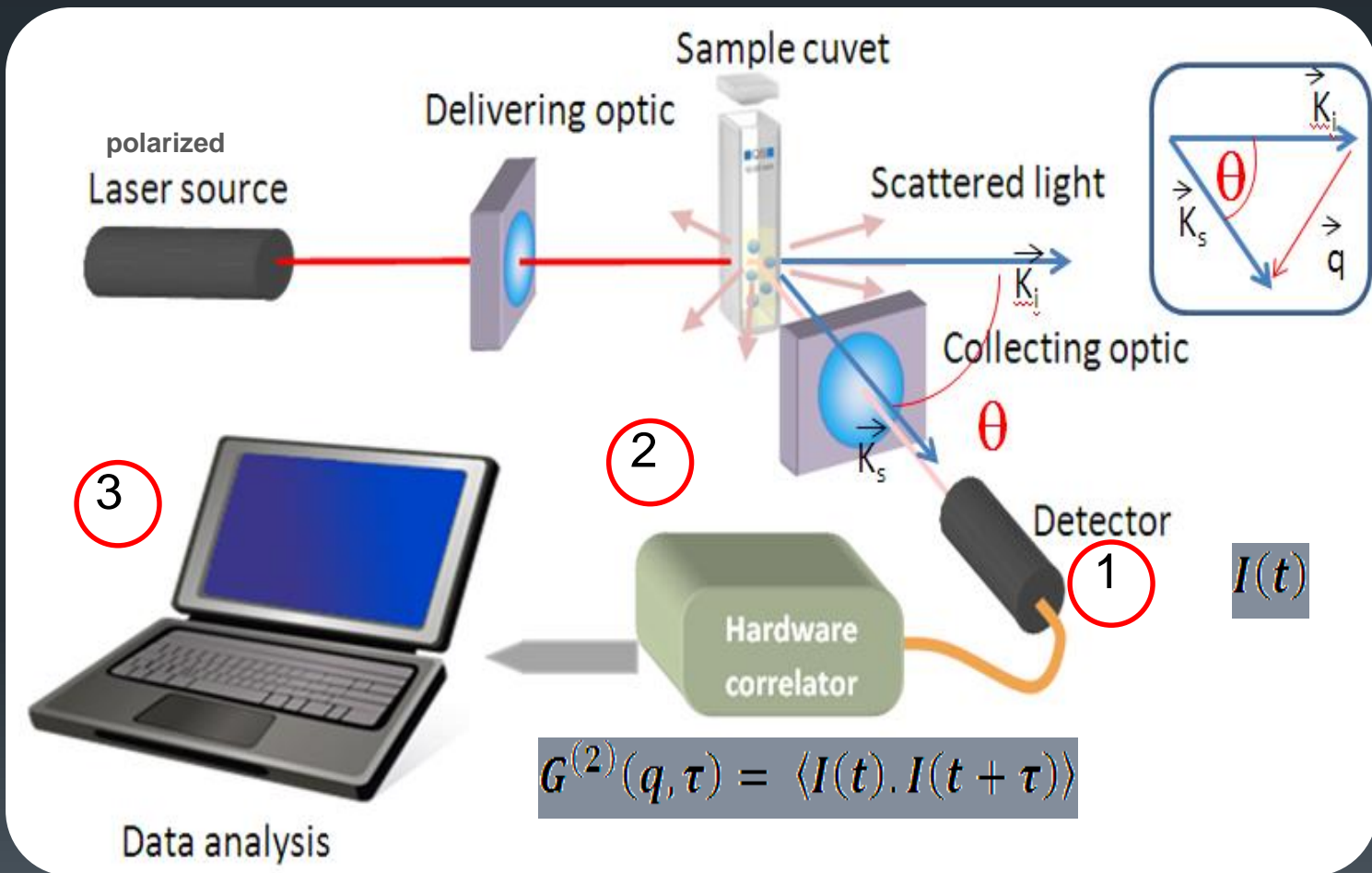
Hydrodynamic diameter = diameter of the particle + double layer thickness



**Hydrodynamic diameter is usually > Core diameter (TEM/SAXS) Value by several nm!**

## DLS measurement principle:

- Measure light scattering fluctuation to probe the Brownian motion





# Intensity measurement and correlogram

8

Considering coherent electromagnetic waves scattered and measured at a specific angle (scattering vector  $\mathbf{q}=\mathbf{k}_i-\mathbf{k}_s$ ) :

## Detected field and Intensity :

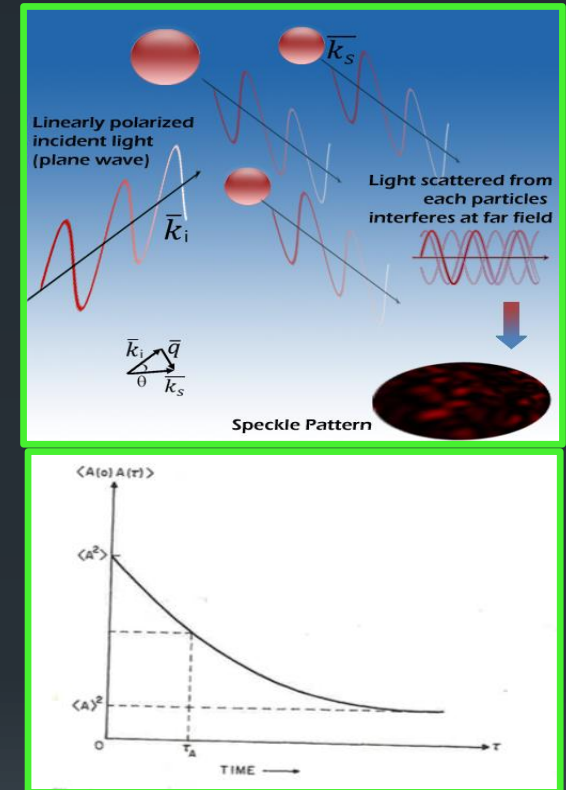
EM field:  $E_{\text{tot\_detect}}(\omega t) = \sum E_i \exp(i(\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t))$

Intensity:  $I(t) = E_{\text{tot}}(t) \times E_{\text{tot}}^*(t)$

## Autocorrelation :

Field :  $g^{(1)}(\tau) = \frac{\langle E^*(t)E(t+\tau) \rangle}{\langle E^2(t) \rangle}$

Intensity :  $G^{(2)}(\tau) = \frac{\langle I(t) \cdot I(t+\tau) \rangle}{\langle I^2(t) \rangle}$



This leads :  $G^{(2)}(\tau) = A + \beta \exp(-2q^2 \mathbf{D} \tau)$

with  $q = \frac{4\pi n_0}{\lambda} \sin(\theta/2)$

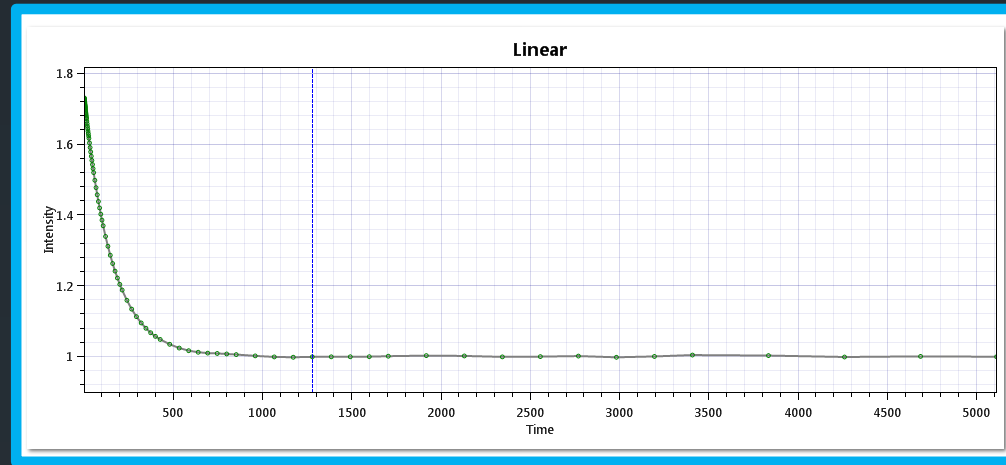


# Correlogram representation: Linear vs Logarithmic

Cordouan: linear correlator



Normalized Amplitude  
Linear

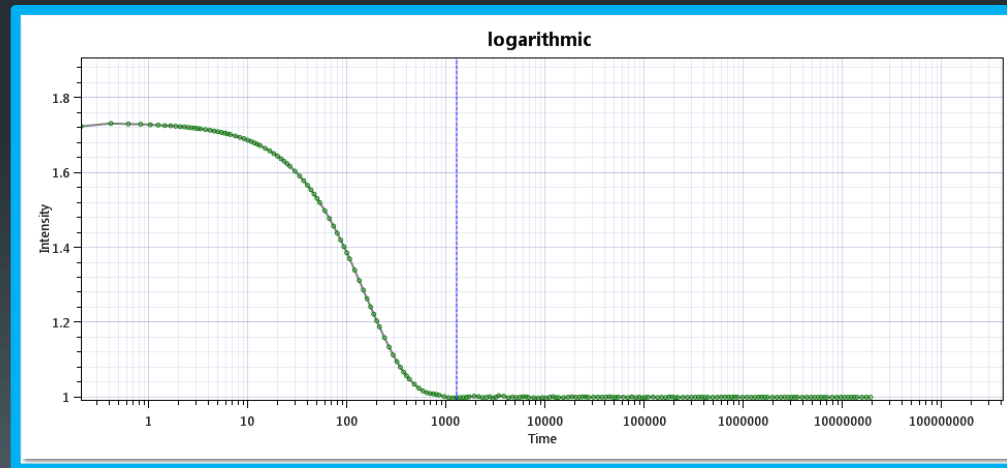


**Linear** time scale

Competitors: Multi-tau correlator

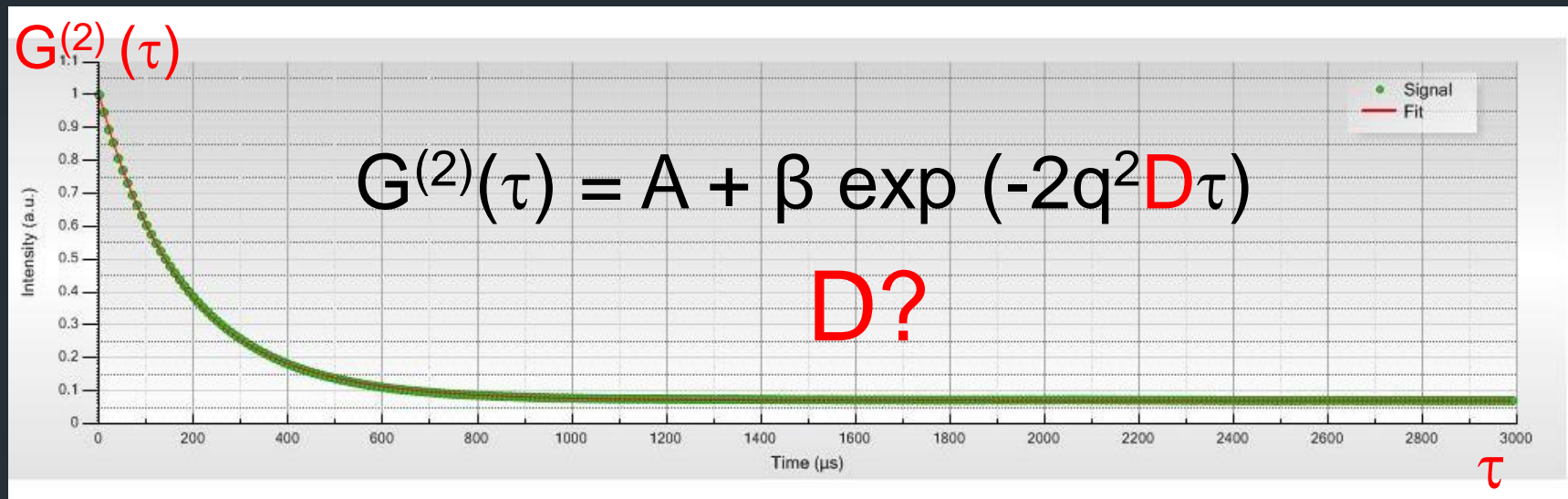


Normalized Amplitude  
Linear



**Logarithmic** time scale

Inversion problem : How to find the best exponential curve fitting the experimental curve?

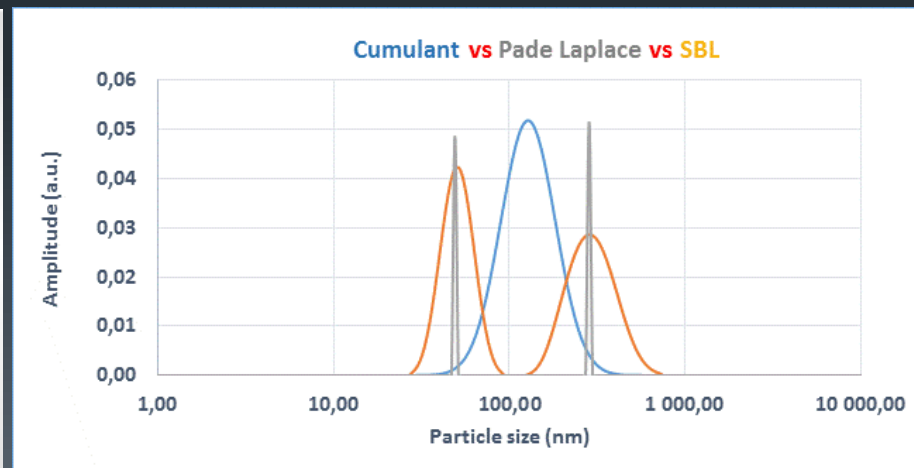
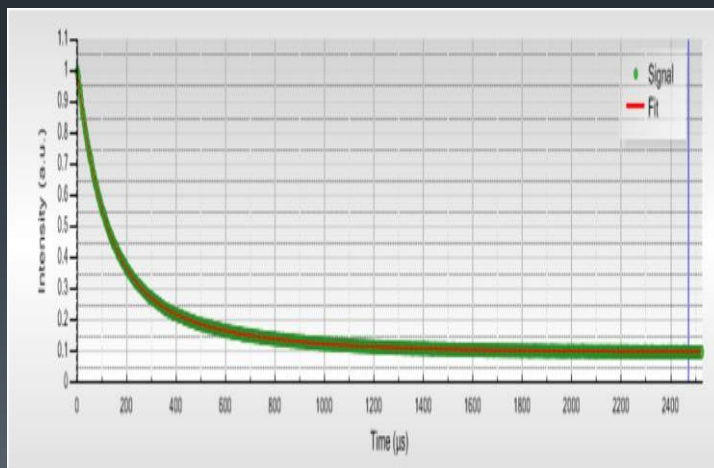


Fit leads to  $D$ , and  $D$  to the diameter of NPs  $\phi_H$ .

$$D \longrightarrow \phi_H = \frac{KT}{3\pi\eta D}$$

## 11

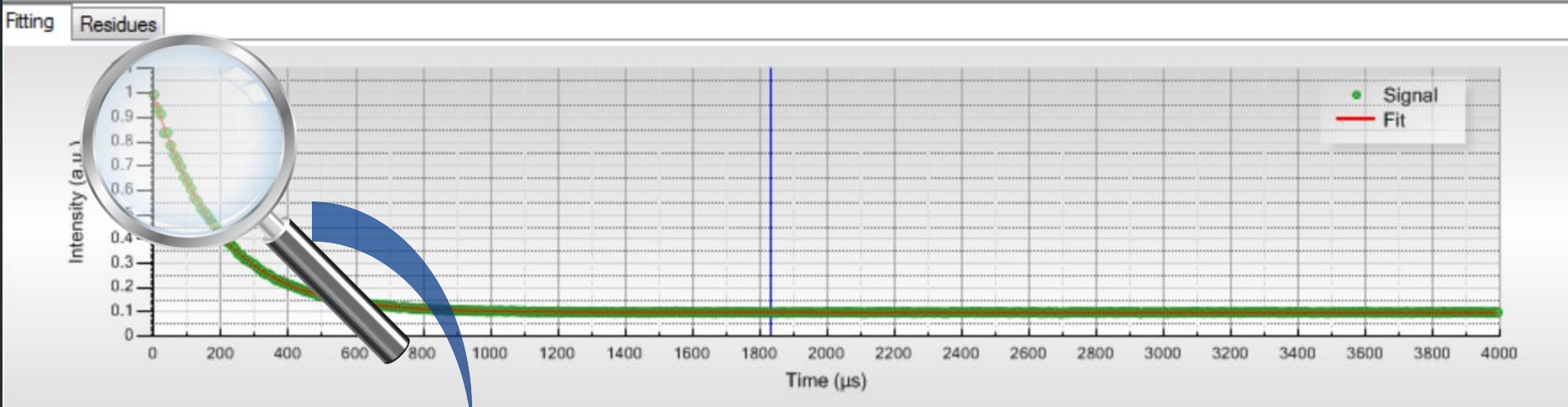
Algorithm	Number of populations	Distribution	Model
Cumulants	1 continuous	Yes	Assuming a Gaussian distribution around a specific size ( $Z_{average}$ )
Pade Laplace	Multi (up to 3) discrete	No	Using Laplace transform of the decay
SBL	Multi continuous	Yes	Using a computing method based of Probabilities



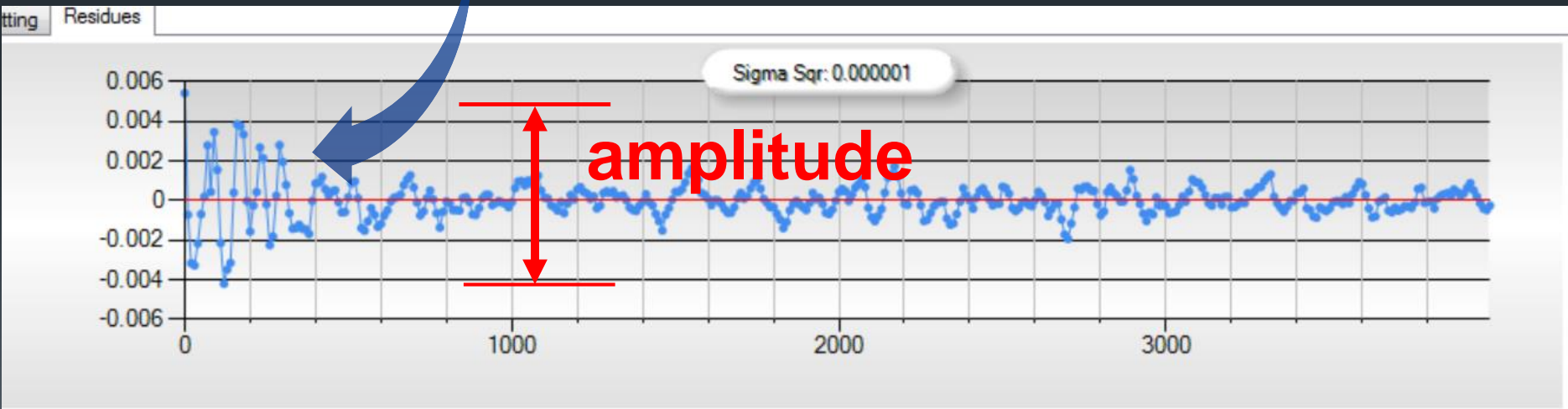
# The key point of the results : the FIT and the Residues

FIT= mathematical solution given by the algorithms (red curve)

12



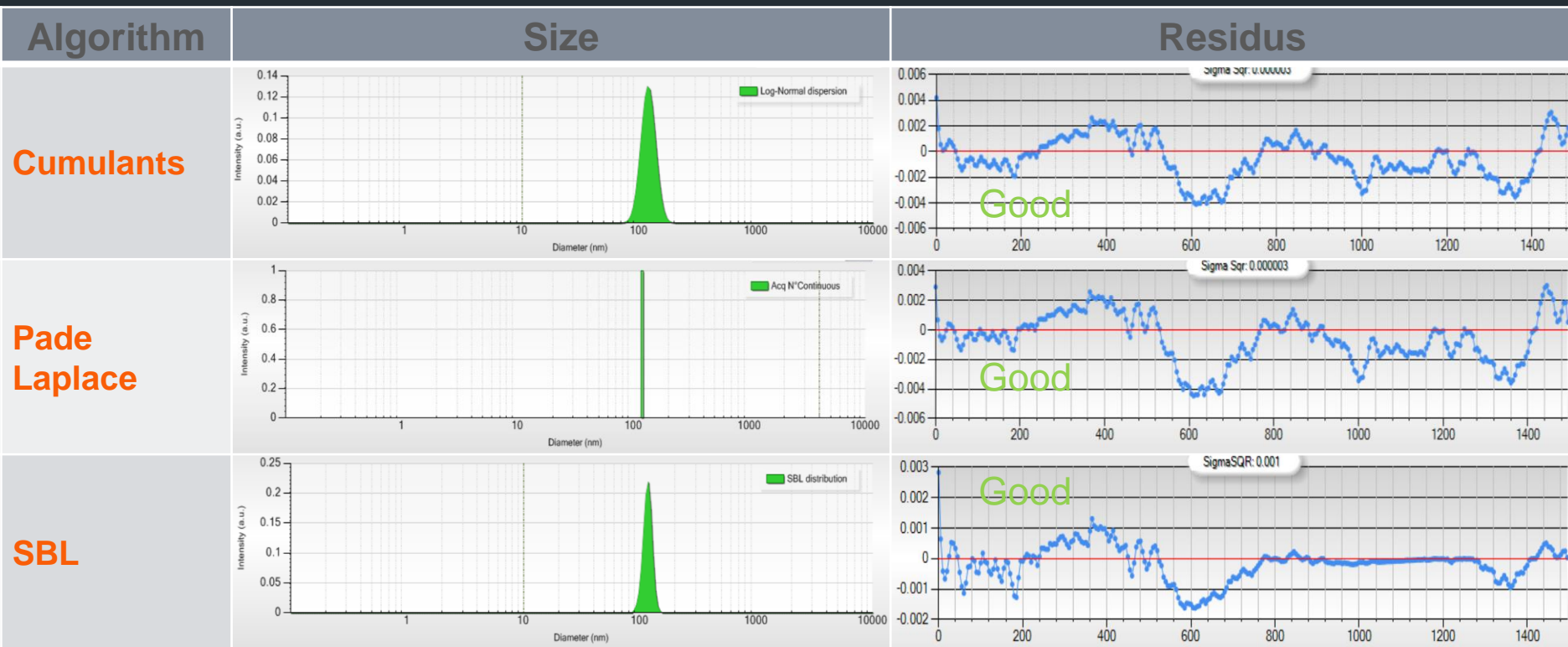
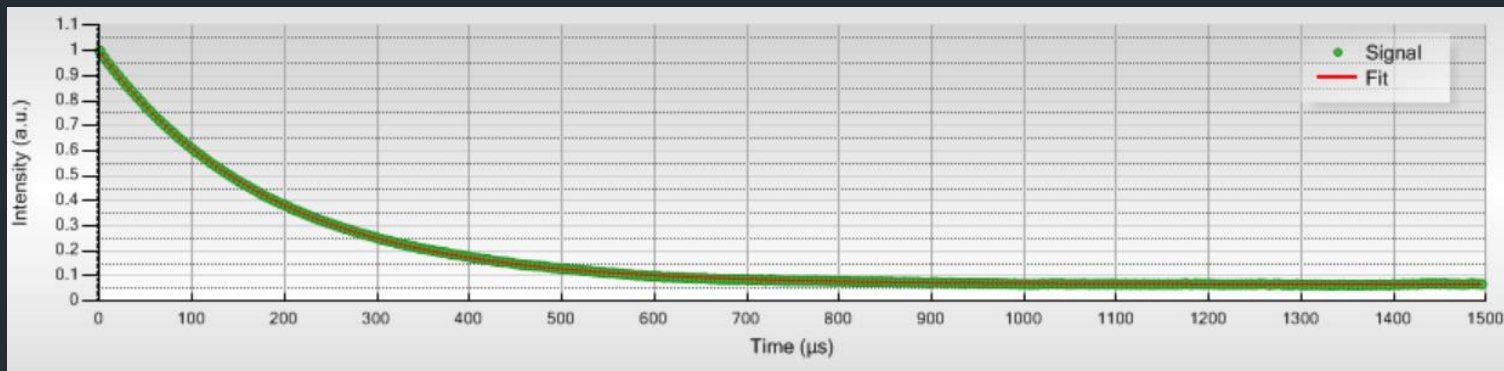
Residues = difference between Fit and measured correlogram



**A good fit = Low amplitude (<0,01) and statistically distributed residues**

# Monomodal sample (one population) 100 nm Latex NPs

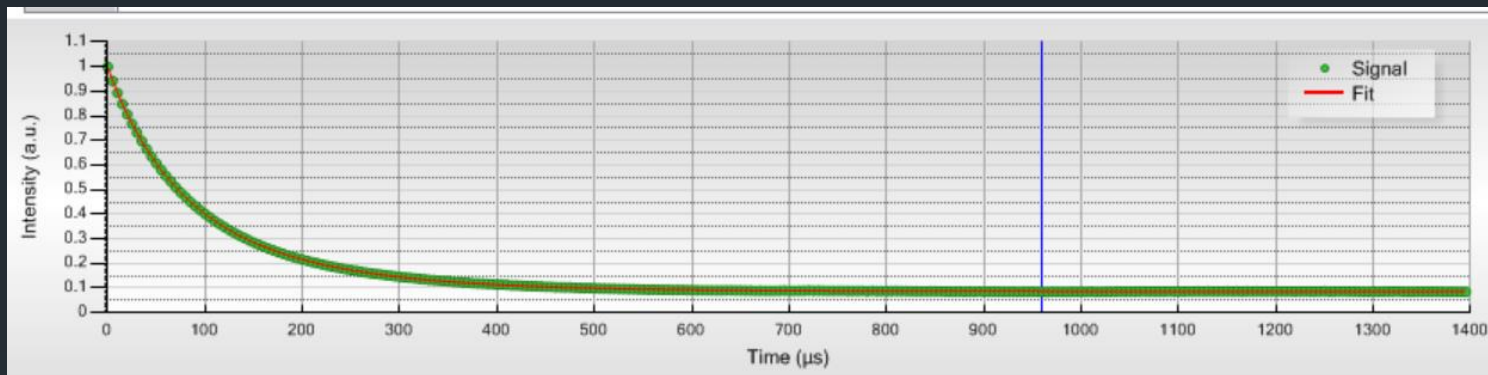
13





# Bi-modal sample (two populations) 30 nm +100 nm Latex NPs mixture

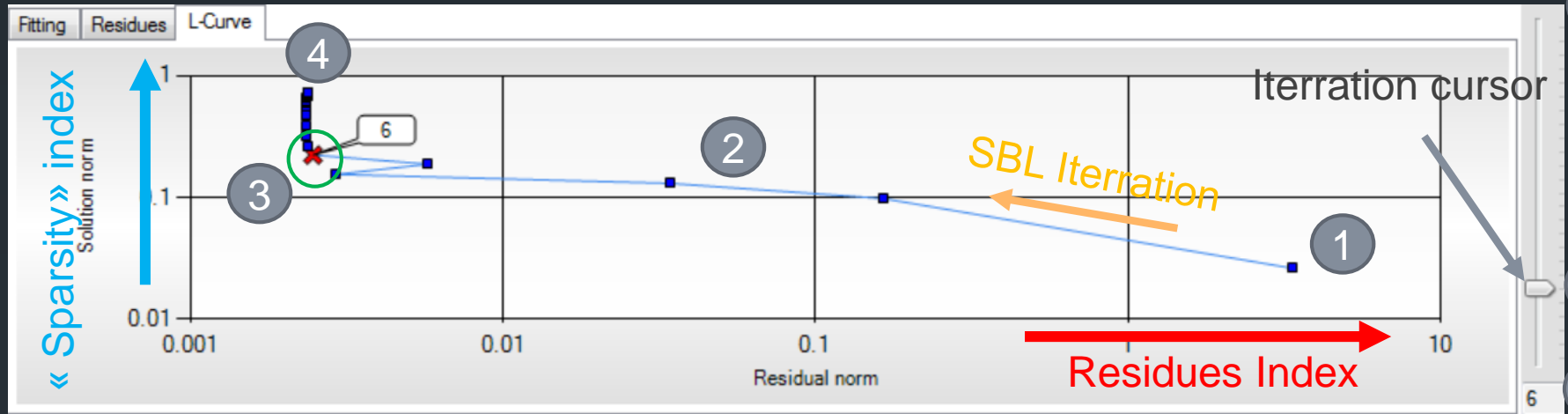
14



# SBL: What is the meaning of the L Curve?

SBL is based on an iterative algorithm for particle size distribution calculation

The L curve is a graphic representation of SBL successive iterations according to two figures of Merit: **Residues index (X axis)** and **Sparsity index (Y axis)**

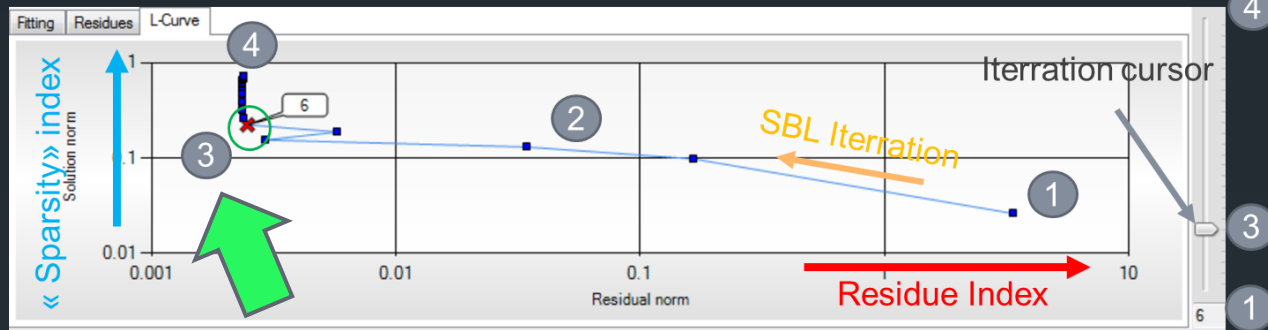


- 1 SBL Initial iteration state
- 2 Intermediate iteration state
- 3 Most probable solution
- 4 Final iteration state

The **most probable size distribution**= **lowest Sparsity and Residues indexes**

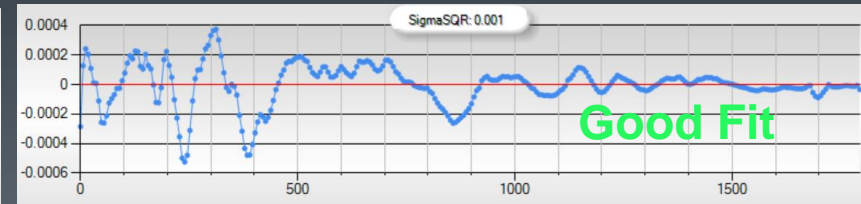
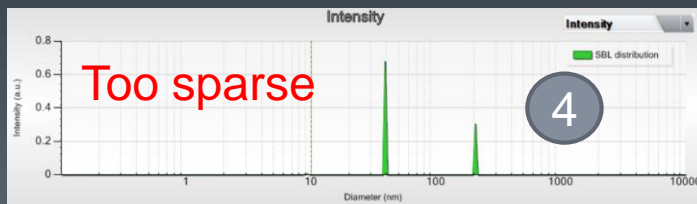
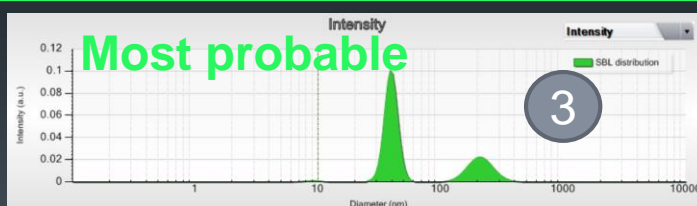
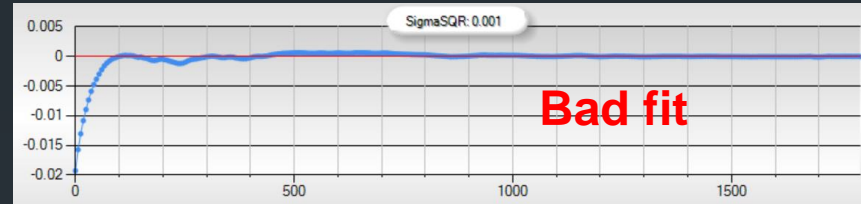
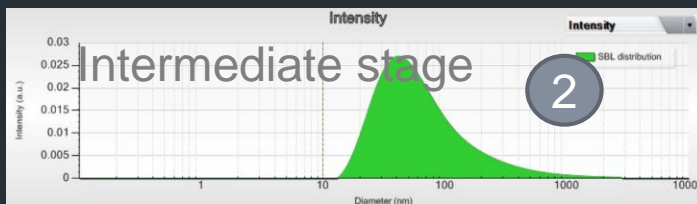


# SBL: how to read and tune the L Curve?



Size distribution

Residues



# Light Scattering: some useful rules of thumb (1):

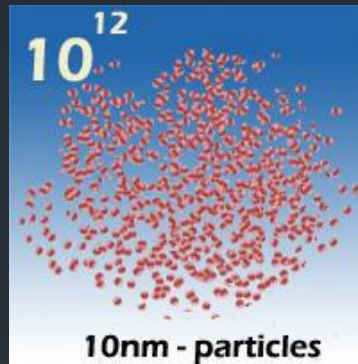
MIE/ Rayleigh Theory

$$I_{\text{Scatt}} \sim K \cdot I_0 \left( \frac{(n^2 - 1)}{(n^2 + 2)} \right)^2 \cdot \frac{\phi H^6}{\lambda^4}$$

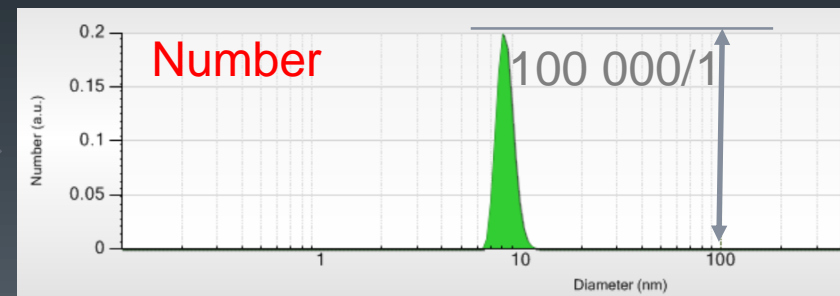
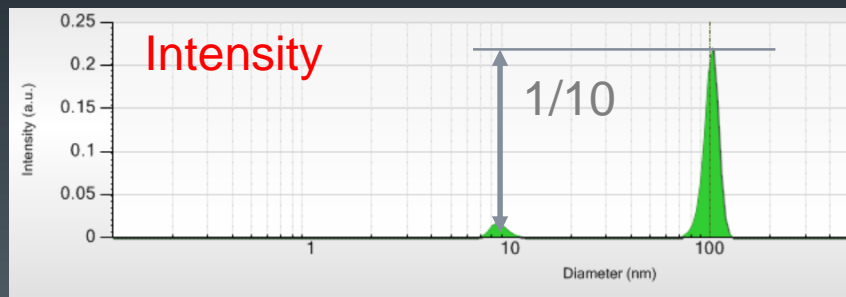
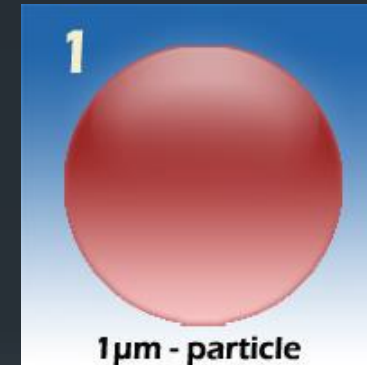
Particle refractive index

Laser Wavelength

**Rule of thumb #1:** light intensity scattered by 1nm spherical particles is  $10^6$  (one million!) times lower than for 10 nm particles, and  $10^{12}$  time lower than for 100 nm ones respectively



=



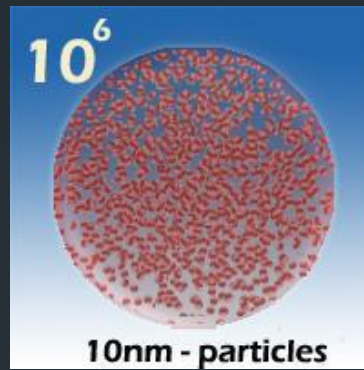
**Rule of thumb #2:** the scattering efficiency (cross section) of the particles is 2.3 times higher for a laser wavelength @532 nm than that of a laser @656 nm

## Light Scattering: some useful rules of thumb (2):

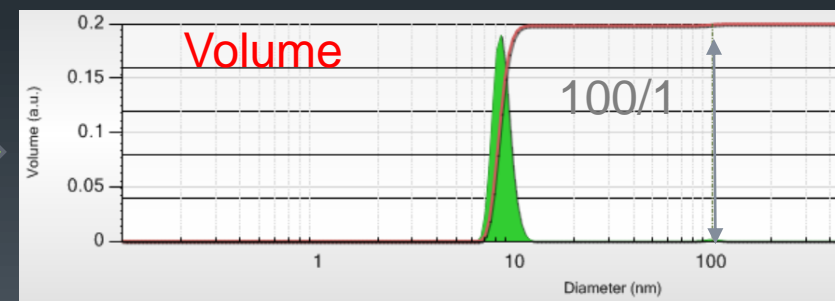
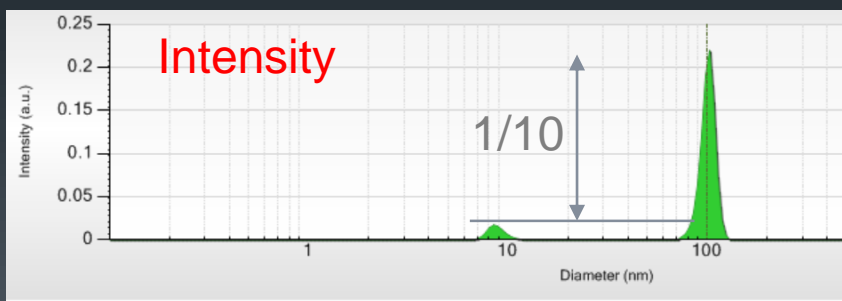
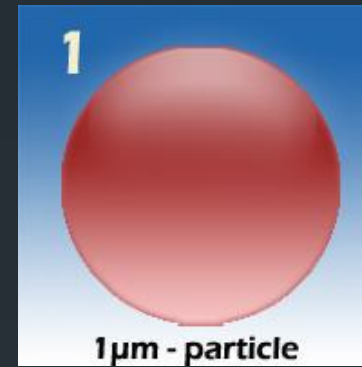
$$\text{Volume} = \frac{\pi}{6} \phi_H^3$$

18

**Rule of thumb #3:** the volume occupied by one 1 $\mu\text{m}$  – sphere is the same as one occupied by 10<sup>6</sup> spheres with a 10nm diameter



=



# Particle Size and size distribution: some definitions

## Cumulants analysis

19

$$Z_{avg} = \frac{k_B T q^2}{3\pi \bar{\Gamma}}:$$

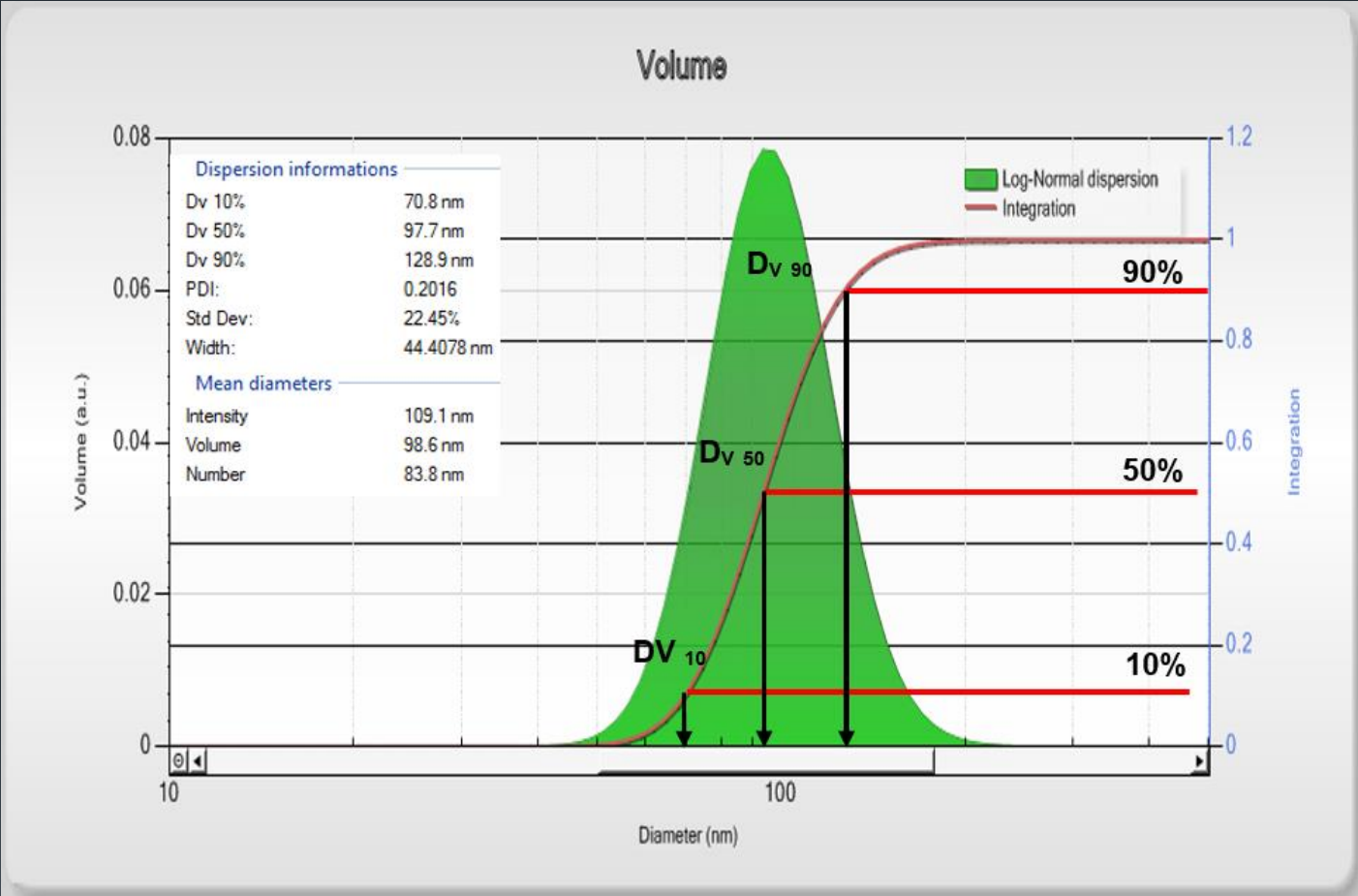
$\bar{\Gamma}$  is the average decay rate according to relations:

$$\bar{\Gamma} = \int_0^{\infty} G(\Gamma) \Gamma d\Gamma$$



Z-average can be expressed as the intensity weighted based harmonic mean size

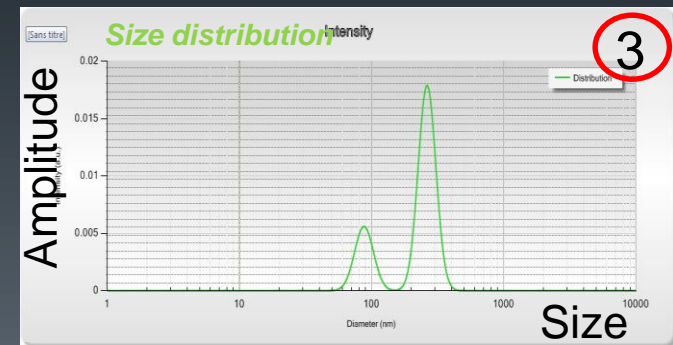
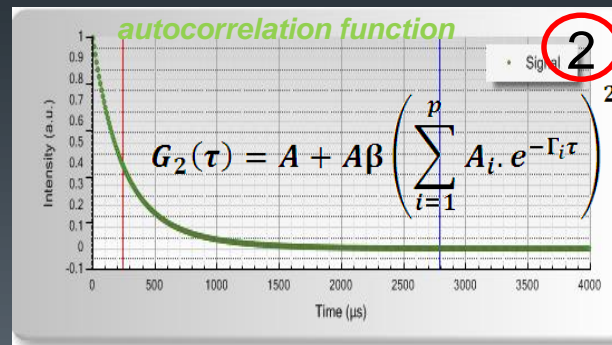
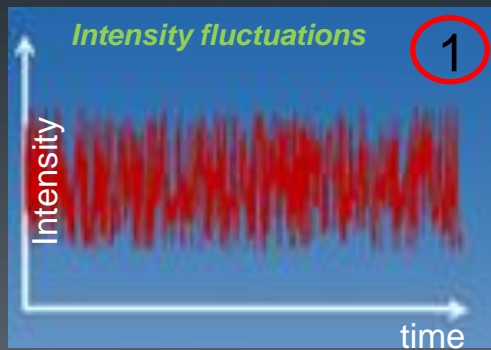
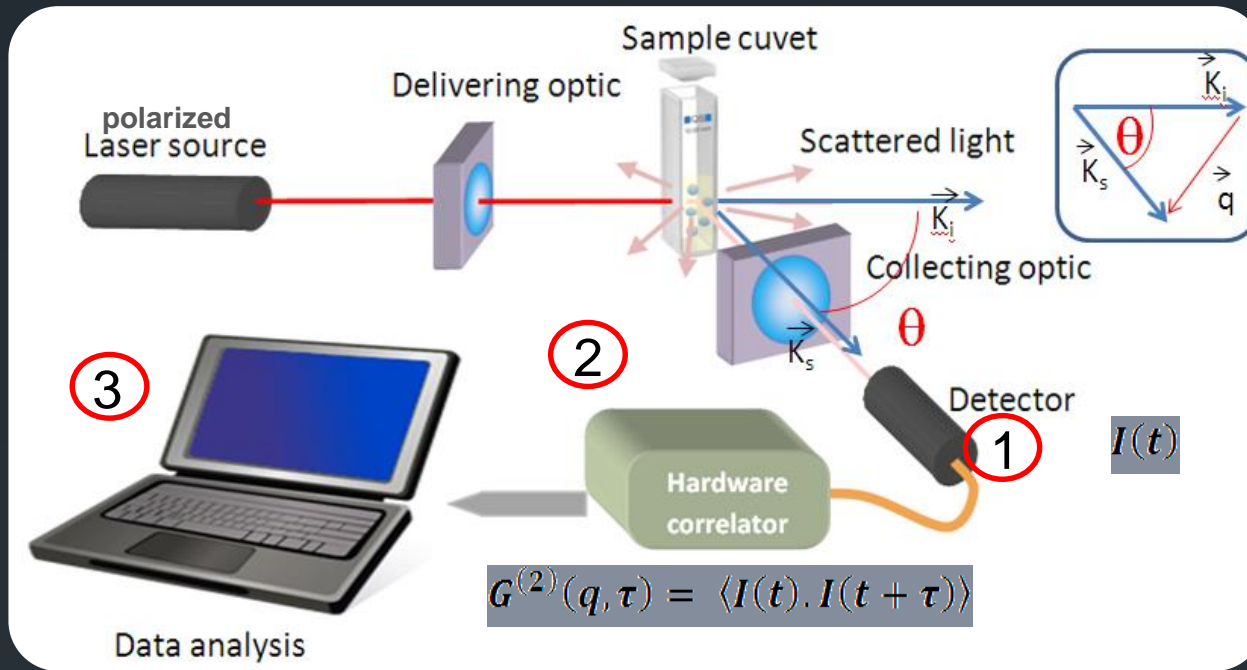
$$\text{Distribution width} = Z_{avg} * \sqrt{PDI}$$



# DLS measurement principle: 3 steps process

21

- Measure light scattering fluctuation to probe the Brownian motion



# Our Solutions for Nano-particles size characterization

## VASCO™ $\gamma$ series



### Batch

*Opaque & concentrated media*

- Based on Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS)
- Measurement in dark and/or concentrated suspension
- Size range : from 1nm up to 10 $\mu$ m
- Proprietary inversion algorithm for efficient size distribution analysis
- Technology transfer from French Petroleum Institute

## VASCO™ FLEX



### In-situ

*“bring the measurement to your sample”*





# VASCO™ γ 2 and 3 serie

23



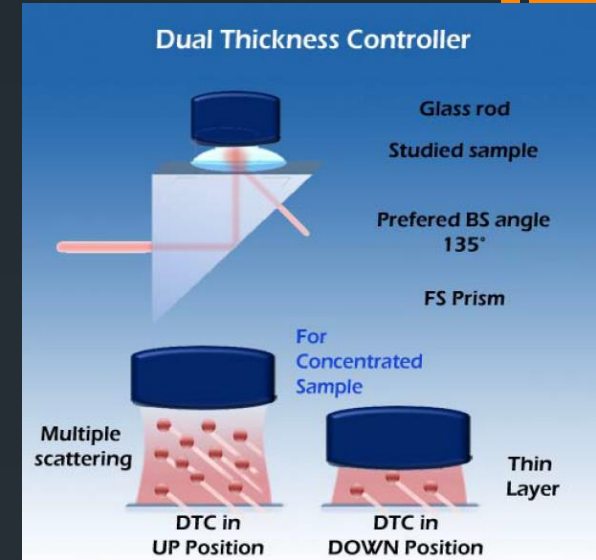
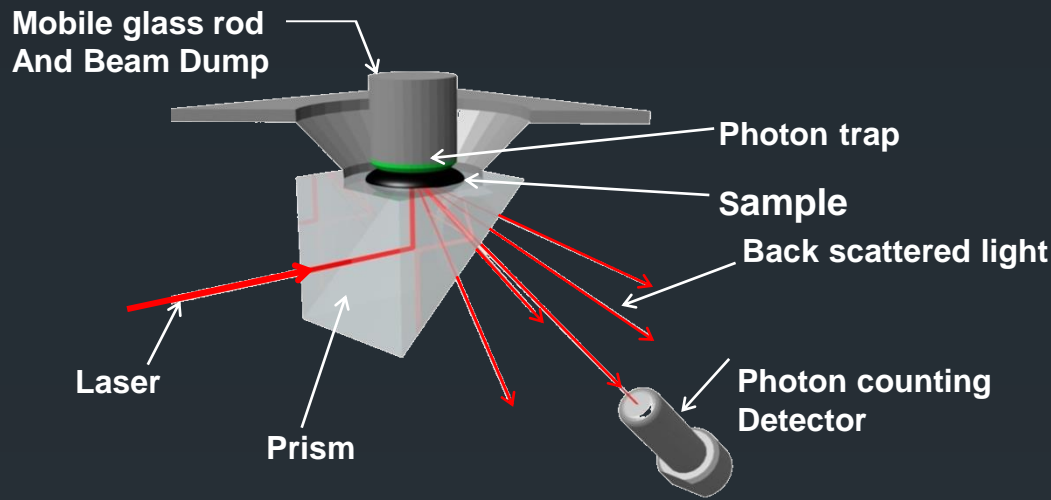
## Batch Measurements

*Opaque & concentrated media*

# Vasco particle size analyzer: a unique sample Cell design

## The thin layer analysis mode

24



- Innovation in the sample cell configuration: Dual Thickness Control (DTC- patented)
- Thin layer analysis: prevents the sample from local heating and multiple-scattering.
- Backscattering detection ( $135^\circ$ ): low multiple scattering, better contrast for small particles
- Higher detection efficiency in opaque media.
- Solvent-proof cell measurement without consumables
- Proprietary inversion algorithm allowing efficient size distribution analysis
- Technology transfer from the French Institute of Petroleum



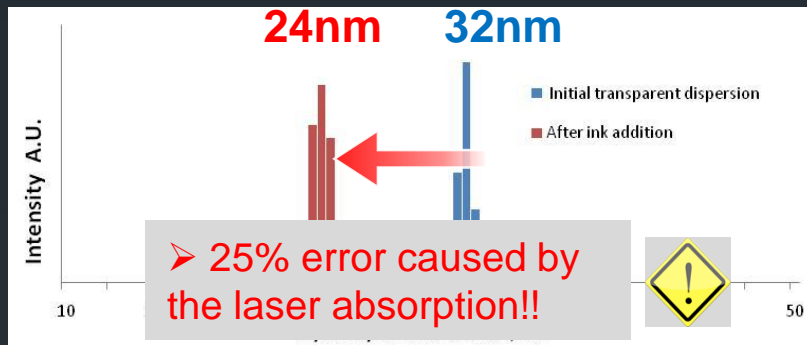
# Common DLS artefacts and DTC benefits:

## ➤ Measurement of dark /opaque media

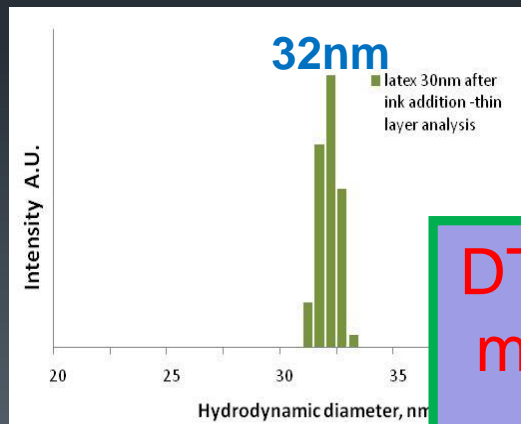


A standard polystyrene latex ( $\varnothing=30\text{nm}$  by TEM) is mixed with black soluble ink (10wt%).

### Without DTC



### With DTC



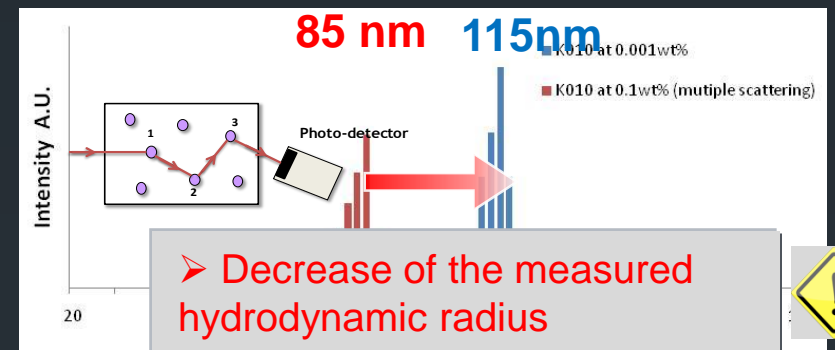
## ➤ Measurement of concentrated samples

25

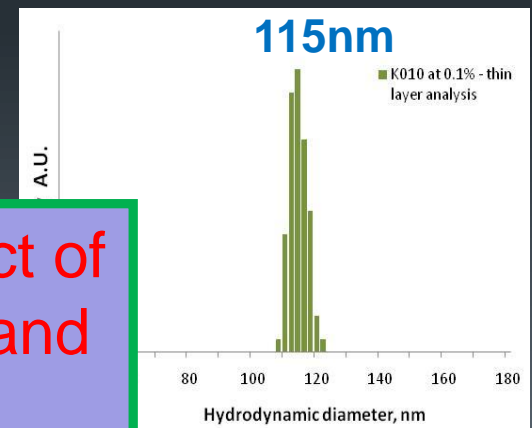


A standard polystyrene latex ( $\varnothing=100\text{nm}$  by TEM) measured at 0.1 wt%

### Without DTC



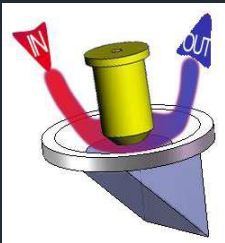
### With DTC



DTC reduces impact of multiple scattering and light absorption

# Unique Online measurement capabilities

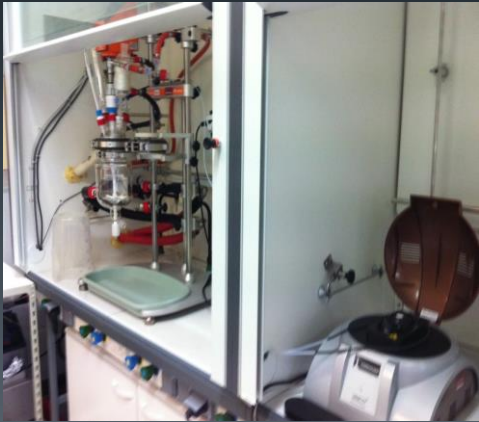
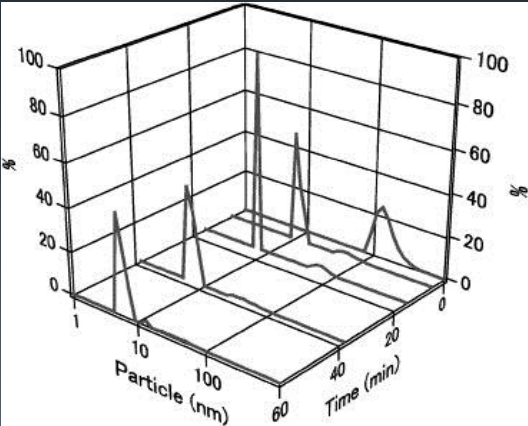
Dual Thickness Controller



VASCO coupled on line with a peristaltic pump



➤ ON line size kinetics measurement achieved without stop flow thanks to DTC

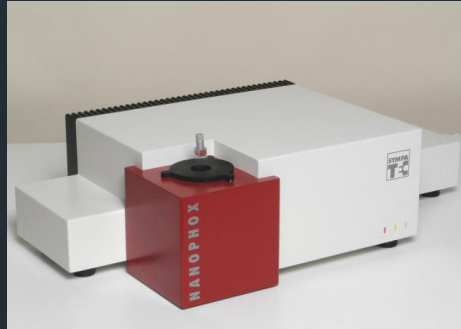


# DLS equipments until today

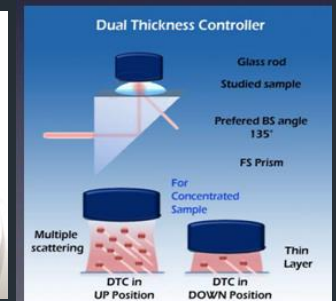
27



Disposable cell



Embedded cell



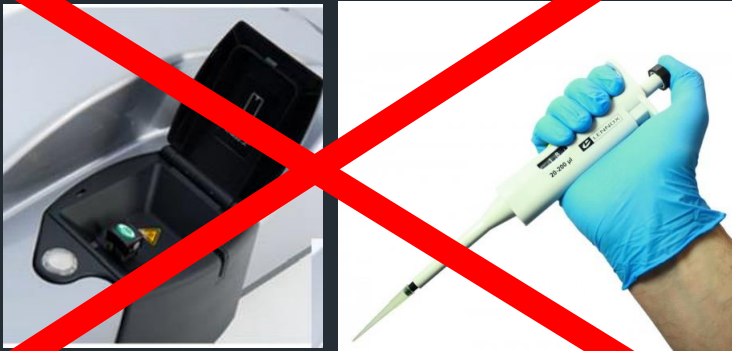
- Mature and standardized method (ISO 13321 (1996) & ISO 22412 (2008))
- Bench top configuration: solutions dedicated to laboratory analysis
- Requires batch sampling: bring the sample to the measurement!
- Need sample preparation: filtering, diluting,
- Time consuming
- Risk of contamination or sample degradation

⇒ **Need for a new approach for process monitoring!**



# A change of paradigm: “bring your measurement to your process!”

28



**Combination of the power of DLS, the flexibility of Optical fiber design**

## Features:

- Non invasive
- Small footprint
- Adjustable working distance /scattering angle
- Alignment laser for easy installation
- High accuracy remote temperature sensor
- Easy maintenance
- Ideal for measurements in glass capillaries, or in situ



# VASCO FLEX: The power of DLS, the flexibility of Optical fiber design

- **Unique concept:** “bring your measurement to your process!”
- **The idea:** fit the solution to each application specs

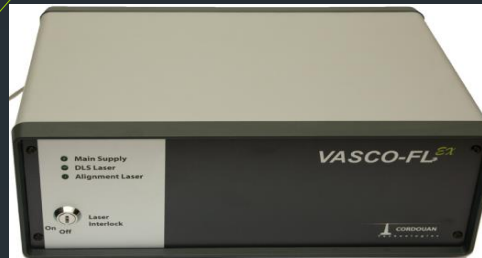
29



*In situ head*



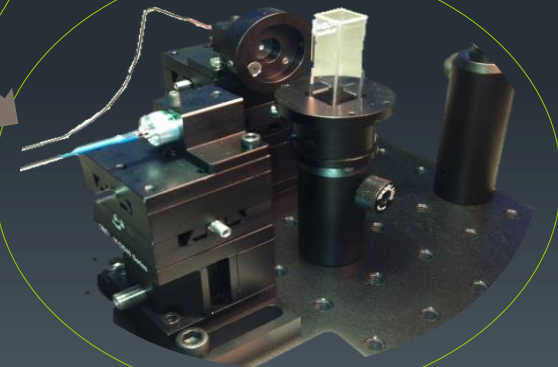
*DTC head*



*Central unit*



*Thermalized head*



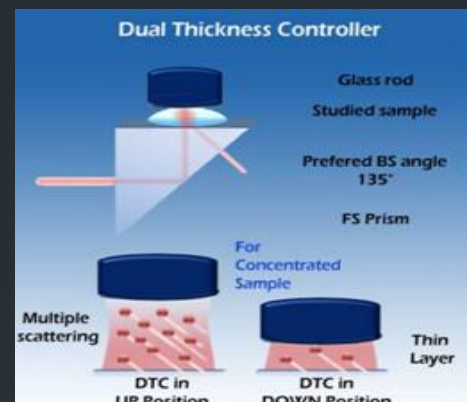
*Custom head*

**The idea:** fit the solution to each application specs



# Fiber Remote cell option

30



## Features:

- Easy to install, easy maintenance
- On-demand fiber length from 1 up to 10 m
- The capabilities of a VASCO with the versatility of a remote cell
- Compact :ability to work in confined environment (glove box)
- Flexibility and upgradability : can easily be detached and replaced by another option
- Dual thin film Thickness Control (patented) for concentrated and or opaque sample.
- No sample heating, no multiple-scattering

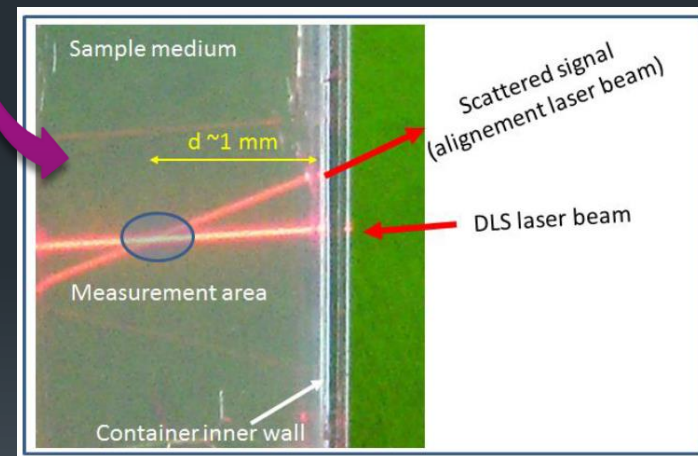
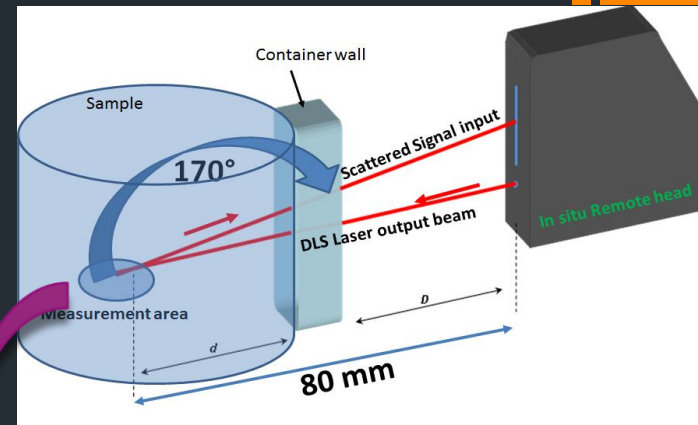
# In Situ fibre remote head option

31



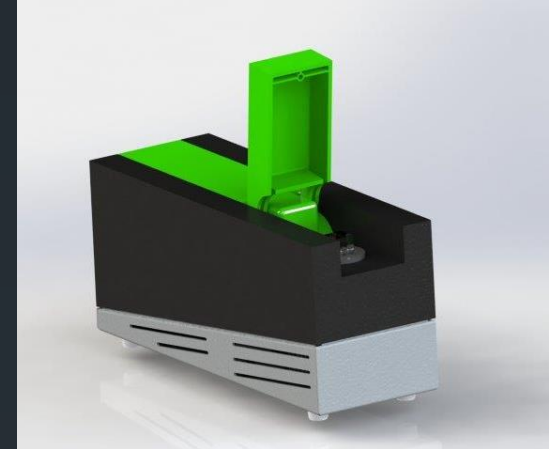
## Features:

- Non invasive
- Small footprint
- Adjustable working distance /scattering angle
- Alignment laser for easy installation
- High accuracy remote temperature sensor
- Flexibility and upgradability : easy switch between options
- Easy maintenance
- Ideal for measurements in glass capillaries, or in situ



# Thermalized head option

32



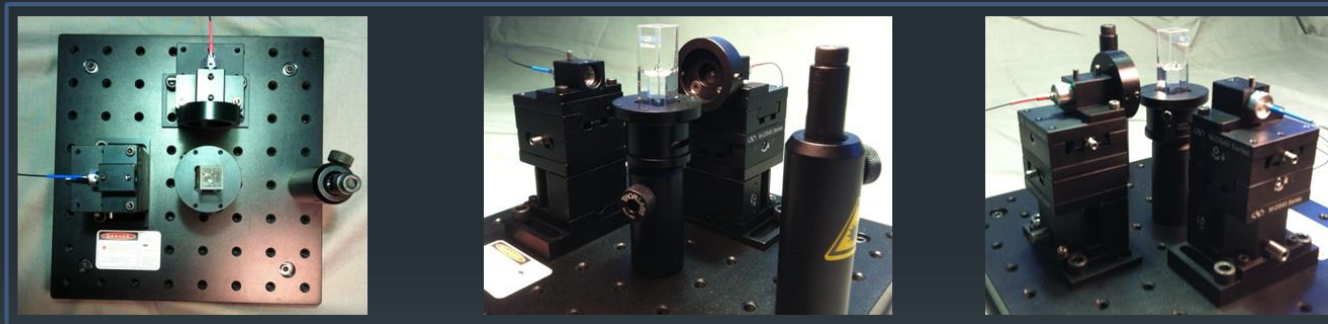
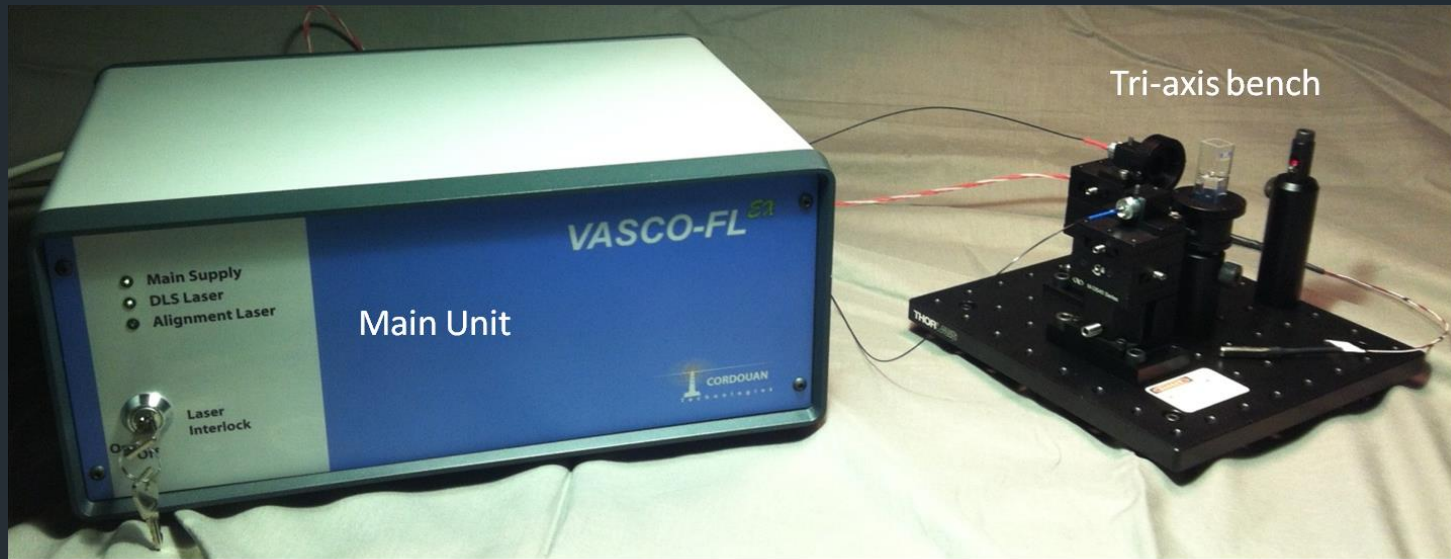
## Features:

- Broad temperature range : 5° to 80°C ; +/- 0.005° ;
- Compact : ability to work in confined environment (glove box) ;
- Compatible with standard 10x10 mm<sup>2</sup> cuvette (disposable or QS)
- No cross contamination, easy sampling ;
- Fluorescence filter option ;
- Cuvettes options : disposable cell, glass cell, micro-cell, flow cell ...



# Custom setup head option

33



## Features:

- Lab set up for dedicated application
- Compatible with standard 10x10 mm<sup>2</sup> cuvette (disposable or QS)
- No cross contamination, easy sampling,
- Fluorescence filter option

# Examples of use of In situ remote head and applications

# Example 1

## Combined Remote DLS & High flux SAXS for NPs synthesis monitoring

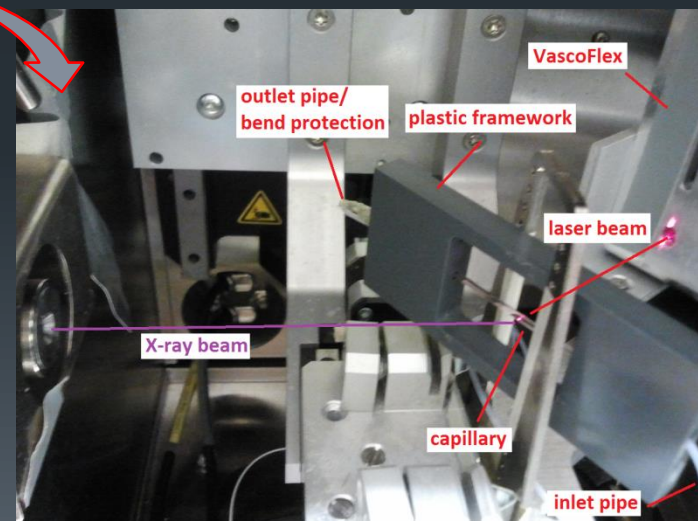
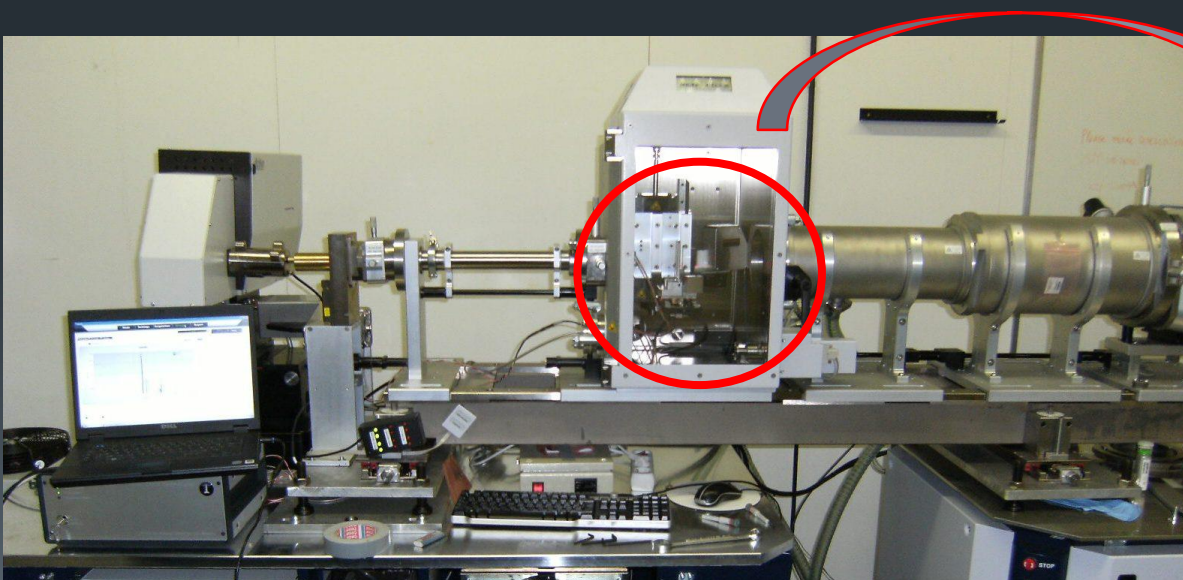
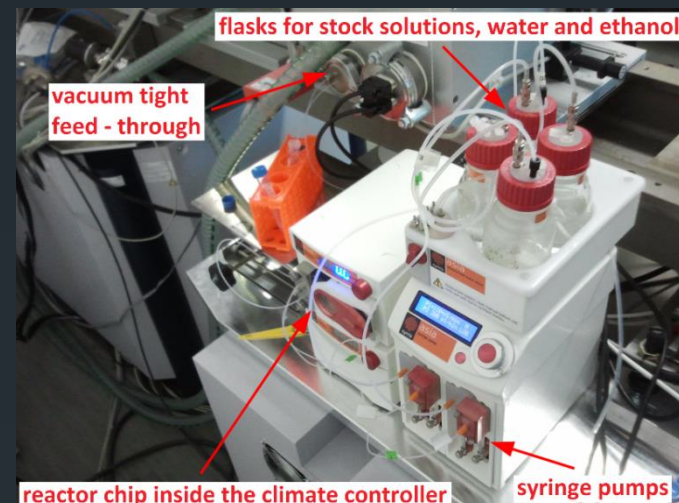
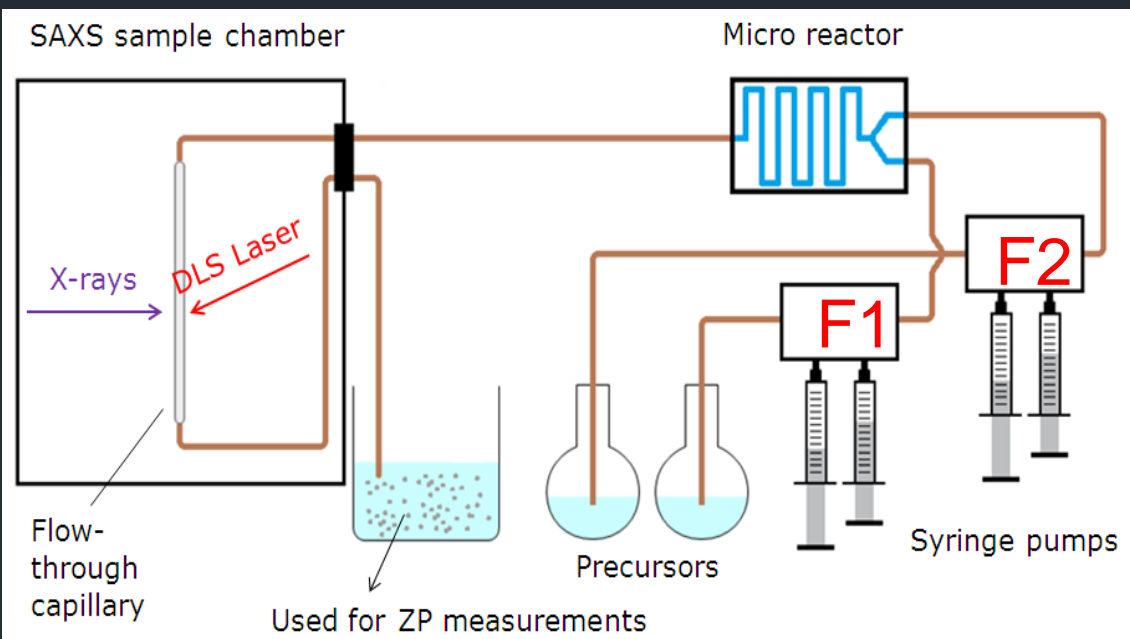
SNOW CONTROL FP7 Project





# Combined Remote DLS & High flux SAXS for NPs synthesis monitoring

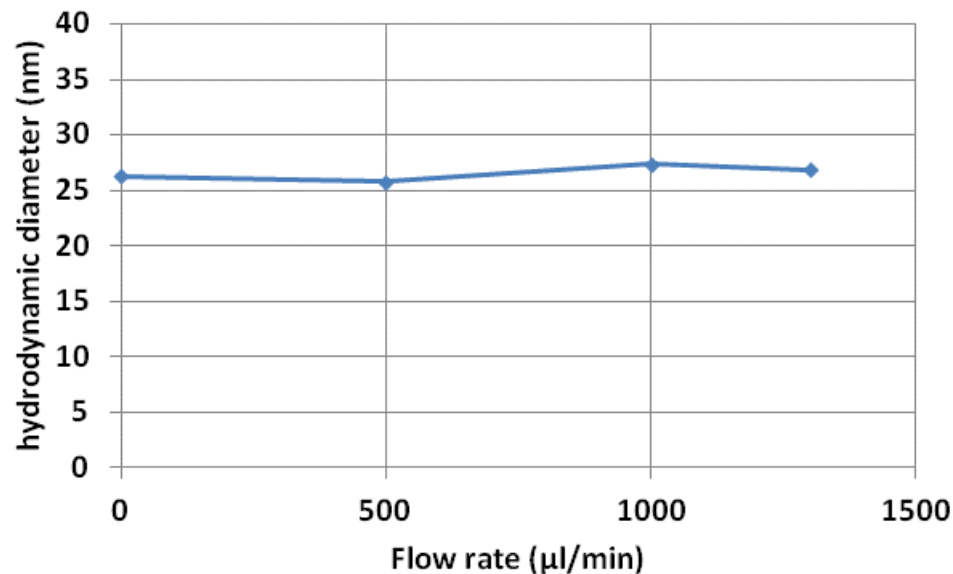
36



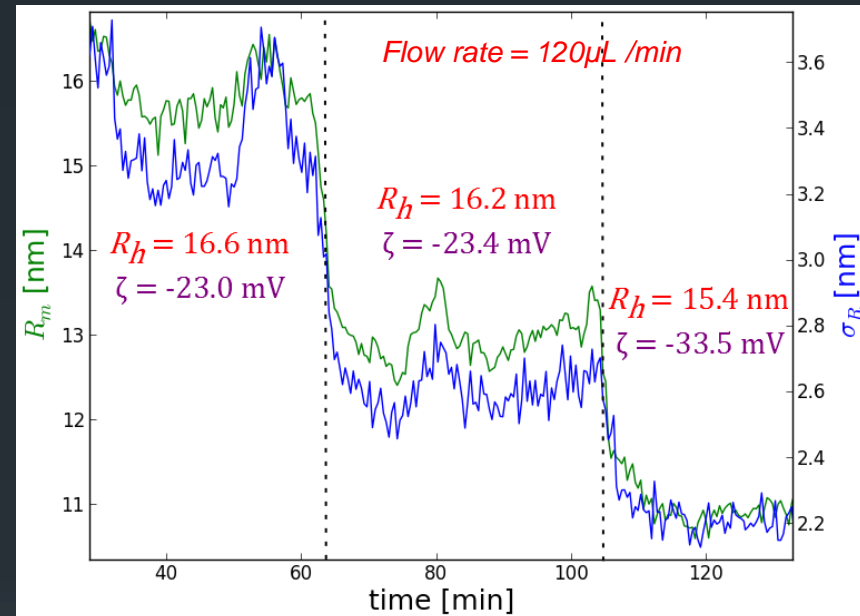


Hydrolysis –condensation method : TEOS in Ethanol (F1) + NH<sub>3</sub> in H<sub>2</sub>O (F2)

Impact of flow rate (F1+F2)



Impact on precursors mixing ratio (F1/F2)

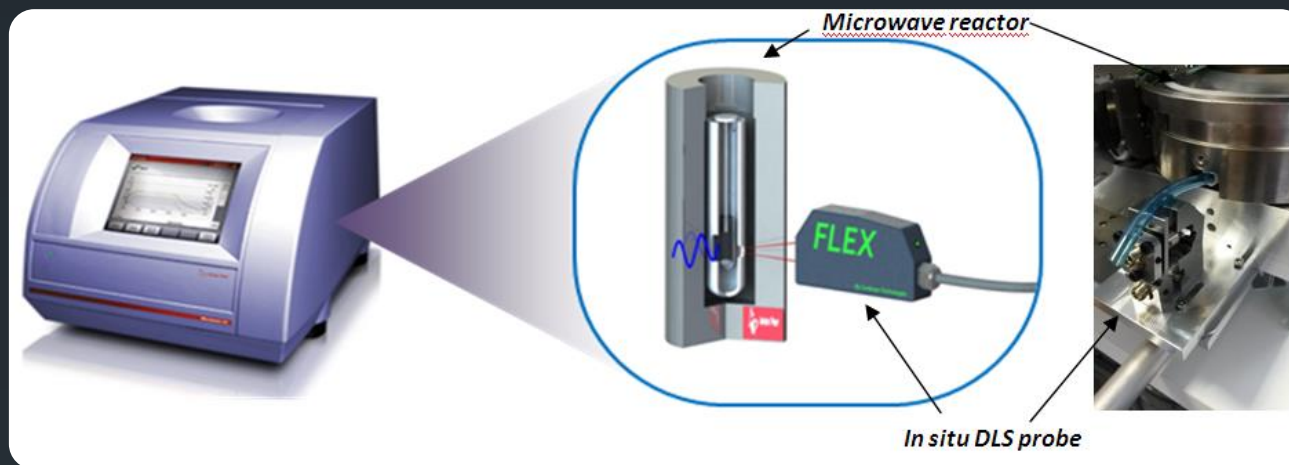


- Consistent results between SAXS and DLS measurements
- Allow to track and tune synthesis process in an accurate way

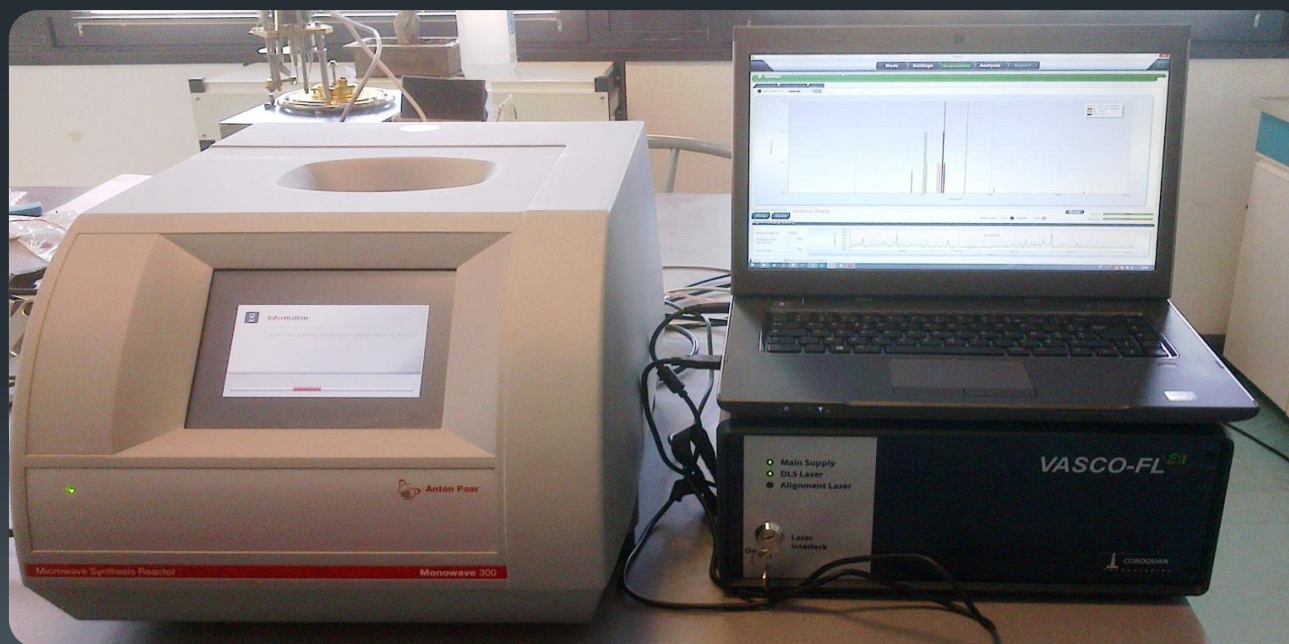
# Example 2

**In situ kinetics monitoring  
of Microwave assisted NPs synthesis**

# In situ kinetics monitoring of Microwave assisted NPs synthesis

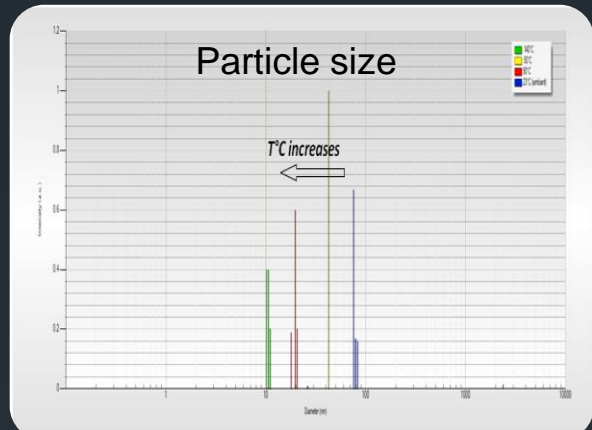
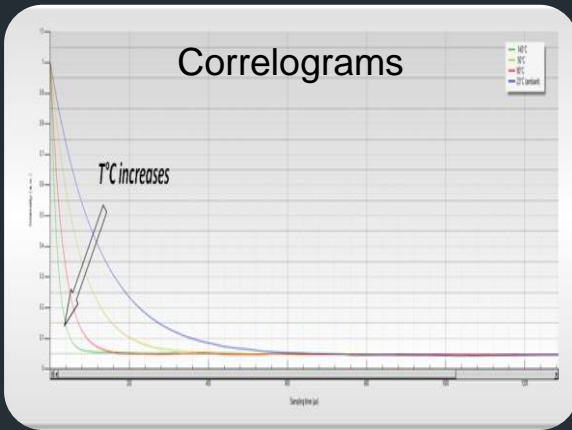
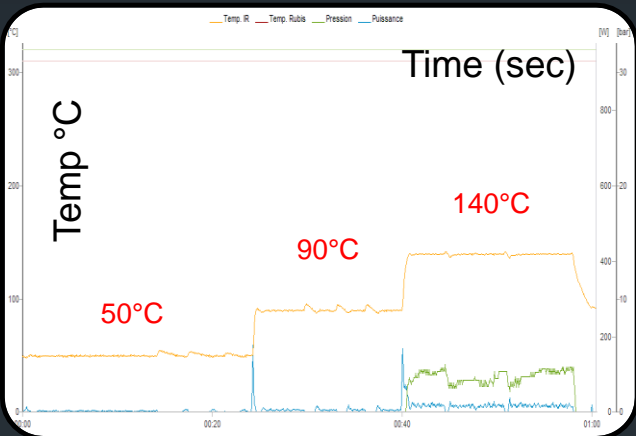


39



- In situ DLS successfully integrated into a commercial microwave reactor
- Under test and qualification at the College de France-Paris

## Validation tests done on SiO2 slurries



True temperature	Corresponding Viscosity (cP)	Corrected Averaged size (nm)
50°C	0.55	76
90°C	0.3	72
140°C	0.196*	68

- Very consistent and reproducible results
- 1st demonstration ever done opening up new possibility on NP synthesis monitoring

# Example 3

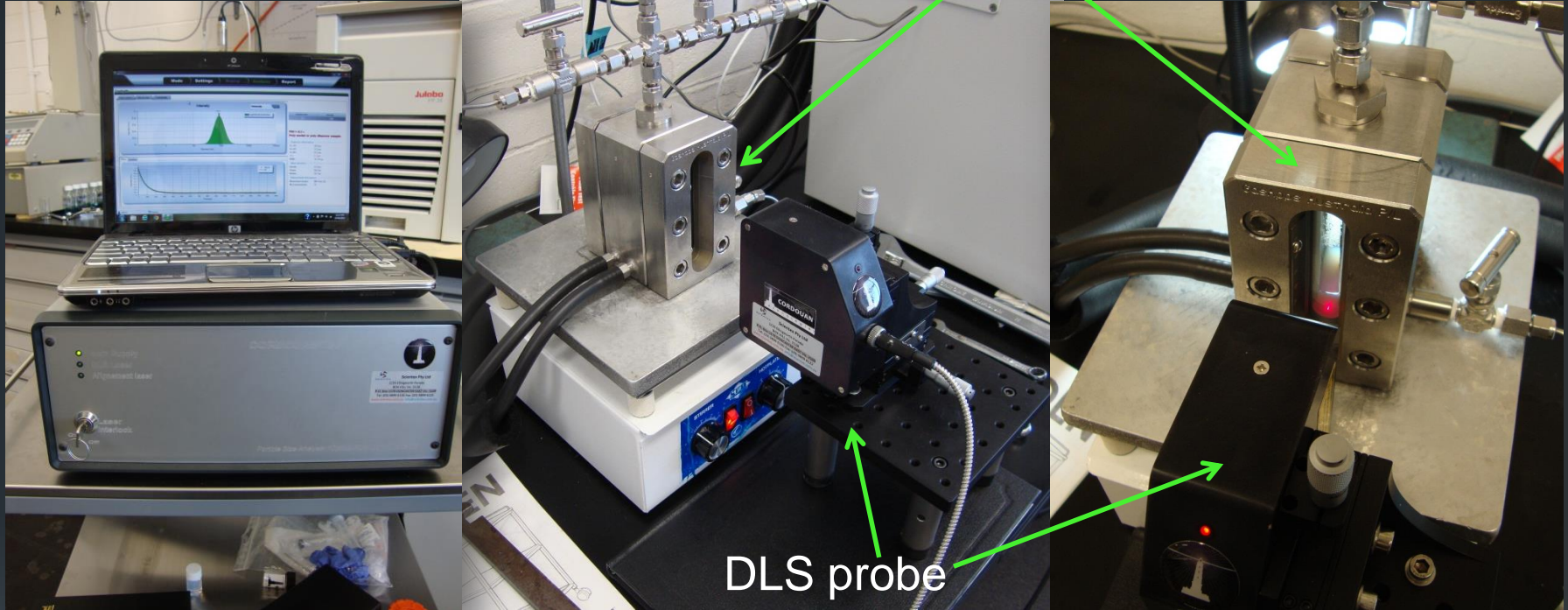
Particle Size Measurement inside supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> synthesis reactor



# Particle Size Measurement inside supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> synthesis reactor

42

Reactor (100 bars, 40°C)

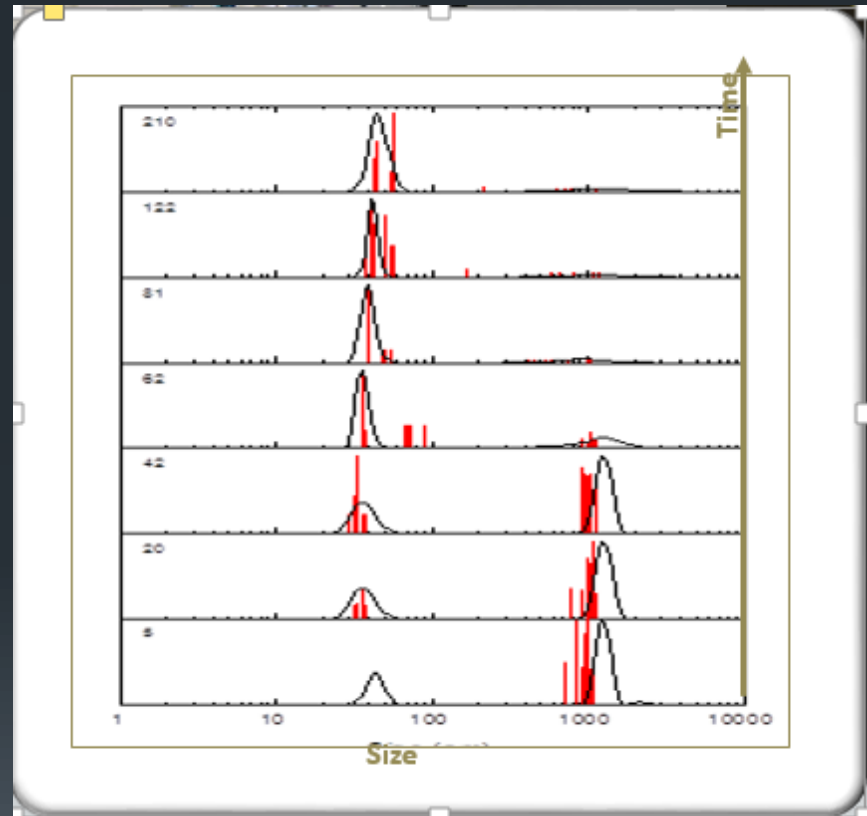
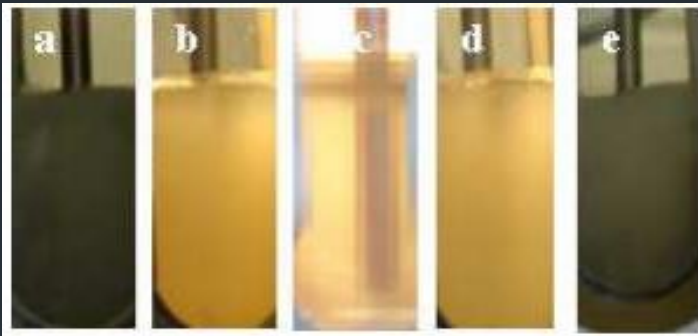




# Particle Size Measurement in supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> synthesis reactor

43

- 10 wt% styrene rel. to system, 10 wt% Dowfax 8390 (surfactant) rel. to monomer, 8 wt% Hexa Decane rel. to styrene
- Sonicated for 10 min, 65% input intensity
- CO<sub>2</sub> is used to control the size of nano-emulsion droplets



- Use DLS measurements to correlate turbidity variation with particle size
- Implement accurate control of the size of monomer droplets/NP

# Example 4

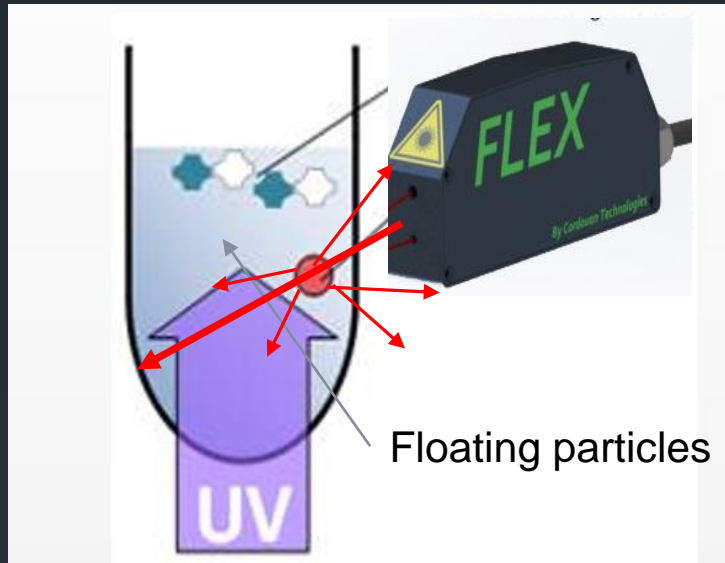
Environmental application: Nano Plastic detection in Ocean water



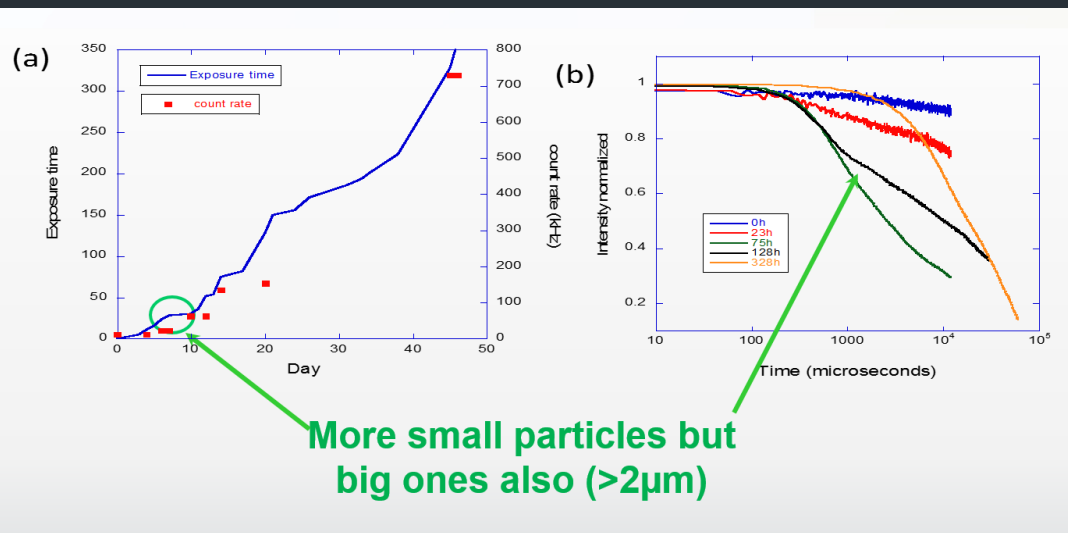
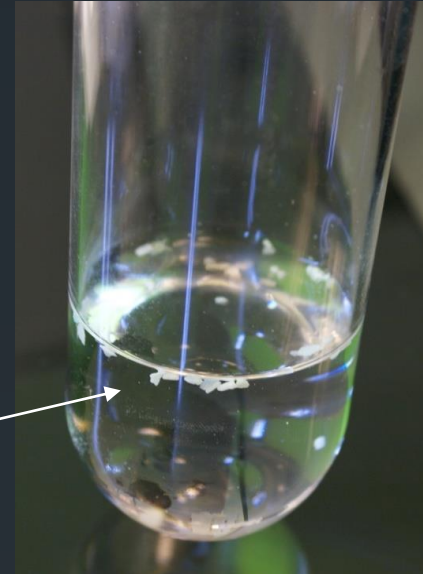
**EXPÉDITION  
7<sup>e</sup> CONTINENT**

# Environmental study : Evidence of Plastic Nps in Ocean

Lab study of Plastic NPs formation under oceanic like UV insolation conditions



Floating particles



# Other examples...

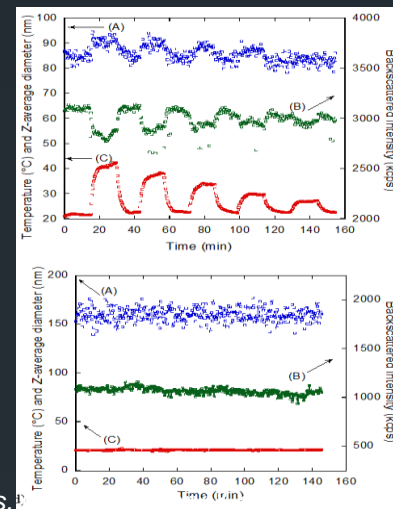
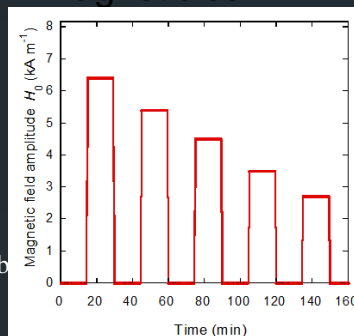
# Magnetic Hyperthermia experiment on NPs for Bio-med applications

47



Polymer-grafted iron oxide nanoparticles as thermosensitive MRI contrast agents and magnetic nano-heaters,  
*Journal of Physics D: Applied Physics*

## Magnetic coil



## Other examples of coupling



# Bibliography

## Generality and theory about DLS and light scattering :

- *Dynamic Light Scattering*, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. New York by Berne, B.J. and Pecora, R. (1975)
- *Laser Light Scattering: Basic Principles and Practice*. Second Edition (Dover Books on Physics) by Benjamin Chu (2007-05-11)
- *Particle Characterization: Light Scattering Methods*, Kluwer Academic Publisher; ISBN: 978-0-7923-6300-2, by Xu, Renliang ,

## Some publications with VASCO Flex system:

- Polymer-grafted iron oxide nanoparticles as thermosensitive MRI contrast agents and magnetic nano-heaters, Gauvin Hemery & al, , Journal of Physics D: Applied Physics
- Combining SAXS and DLS for simultaneous measurements and time-resolved monitoring of nanoparticle synthesis; A. Schwamberger & al, Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research B 343 (2015) 116–122
- Structure and Dynamic Properties of Colloidal Asphaltene Aggregates; Joëlle Eyssautier & al; *Langmuir*, 2012, 28 (33), pp 11997–12004 - American Chemical Society
- Investigation on Physical Properties and Morphologies of Microemulsions formed with Sodium Dodecyl Benzenesulfonate, Isobutanol, Brine, and Decane, Using Several Experimental Techniques, Ayako Fukumoto & al, Energy Fuels 2016 to be published- American Chemical Society
- **Marine plastic litters: the unanalyzed nano-fraction**, Julien Gigault & al; The Royal Society of Chemistry, *Env. Sci. Nano*, 2016, **00**, 1-3



# VASCO FLEX specifications

49



	DTC head	« In situ » head	Thermalized Head	Custom head
Measurement principle	Optical Fiber Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS)			
OPTICAL HEADS' SPECIFICATIONS				
Temperature Monitoring	Yes	Yes + Customer sensor interfacing	Yes	Yes + Customer sensor interfacing
Temperature Range (°C)	15°C - 70°C (option 90°C)	Customer range	5°C - 80°C	Customer range
Min. Sample Volume (µL)	<50µL (cell dependant)			
Sample Cells	Built-in (patented)	In situ	Standard cell*	Custom
Solvent compatibility	Aqueous & Organic solvents	All solvents		
Scattering Angle (°)	135°	170°	170°	Custom
Particle size range	0.5 nm – 10 µm (sample dependant)			
Sample concentration range	10 <sup>-4</sup> % to 40% volume	10 <sup>-5</sup> % to 5~10% volume (sample dependant)		
Head's weight	3.5 kg	< 0.5 kg	0.5 kg	Custom
Head's dimensions	110 x 185 x 250 mm (HWD)	50 x 25 x 120 mm (HWD)	100 x 90 x 235 mm (HWD)	Custom
Options & accessories	Online measurement	Thermalized cell (10-70°C)	-	-



## PARTICLE SIZE ANALYZER by DLS

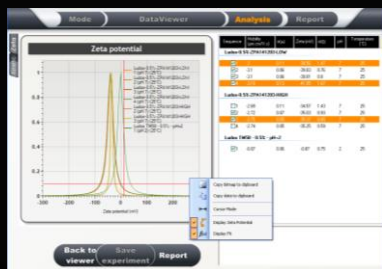
- Patented DTC technology for concentrated / absorbent samples
- Unique algorithms (Pade Laplace & SBL) for a better distribution analysis
  - Flex: In-situ measurement / easy coupling to reactors
  - Patent pending on new applications
  - Synthesis kinetics monitoring



## ZETA POTENTIAL ANALYZER



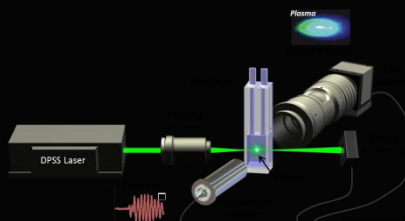
- The best resolution thanks to modern data acquisition & computing
- Unique carbon electrodes



## NP TRACES (size & cc.)



- Unique LIBD technology
- Size range: 15 to 1000nm
- Cc ranges :
  - $10^3 - 10^{11}$  part/ml (det. only)
  - $10^6 - 10^{11}$  part/ml (det. + size)



## ELECTRON MICROSCOPY



- Unique TEM/SEM/STEM benchtop microscope



- Glow discharge for EM grids functionalization

# Thank you for your attention

51



For more information:

[www.cordouan-tech.com](http://www.cordouan-tech.com)

[sales@cordouan-tech.com](mailto:sales@cordouan-tech.com)

Tel : +33 (0)5 56 15 75 39

[Follow Cordouan Technologies on Twitter!](#)

