

# Tracer dynamics in *E-coli* suspensions



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Soft Matter

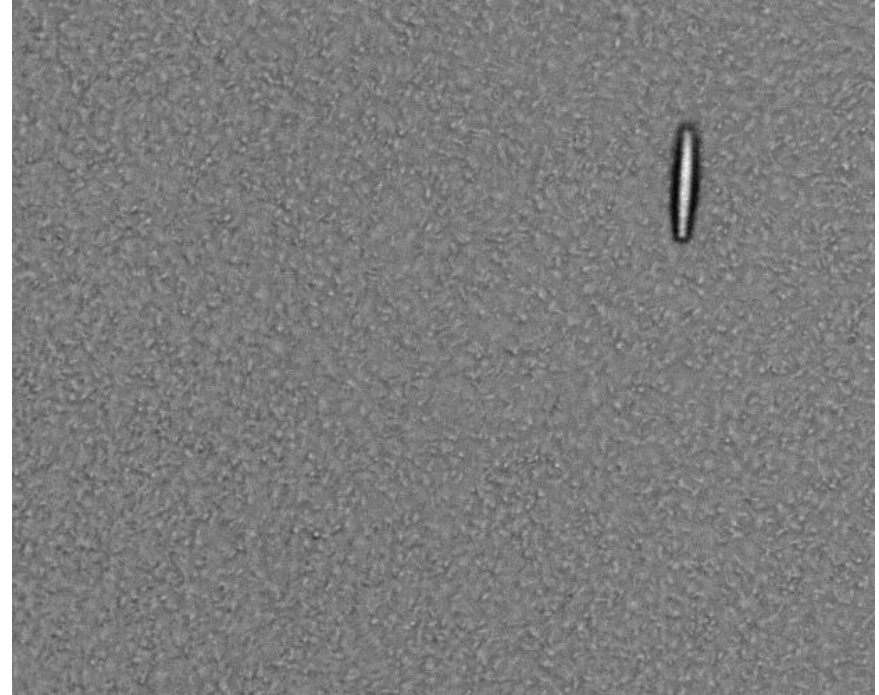
# Active Matter

Non-equilibrium system consisting of self propelling individuals: animals, cells, motor proteins (natural); smart colloids, robots (man made)



- 'flocking' dynamics
- Light-controlled viscosity

# A bit less 'free will'

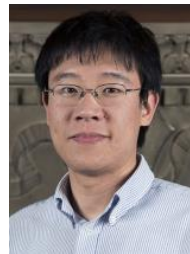


An ellipsoid in *E-coli* suspension

Free-standing films  
Area: 5mm\*5mm  
Thickness: 10~20um



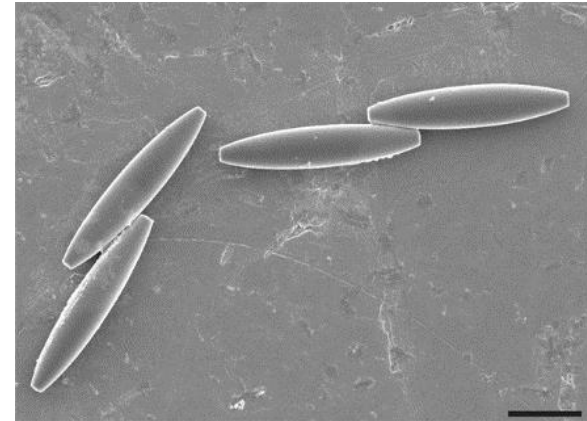
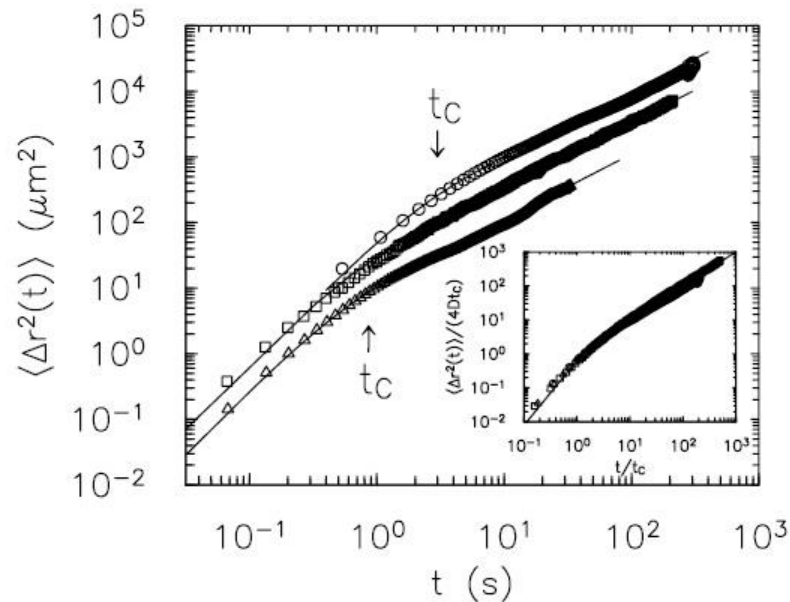
**Yi Peng**



**Xiang Cheng**  
UMN, ChemE

Ellipsoid  
2a~28um, 2b~5.6um

# Super diffusive to diffusive

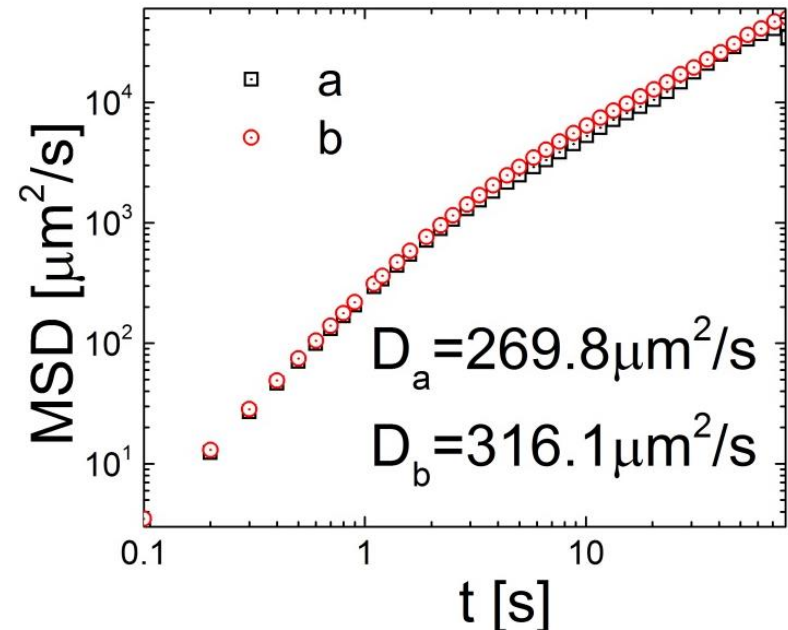


Over-damped Langevin dynamics

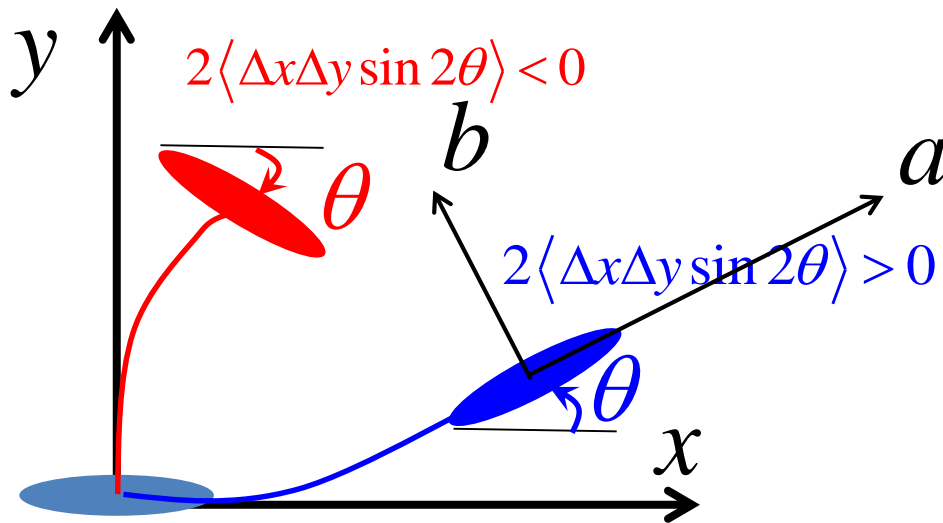
$$m \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = -\gamma\vec{v} + \vec{f}(t) \quad t_0 = m/\gamma \approx 10^{-5} \text{ s}$$

$$\langle \vec{f}(t) \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \vec{f}(0) \cdot \vec{f}(t) \rangle = \frac{4D\gamma^2}{t_c} \exp(-t/t_c)$$

Wu & Libchaber, PRL (2000)



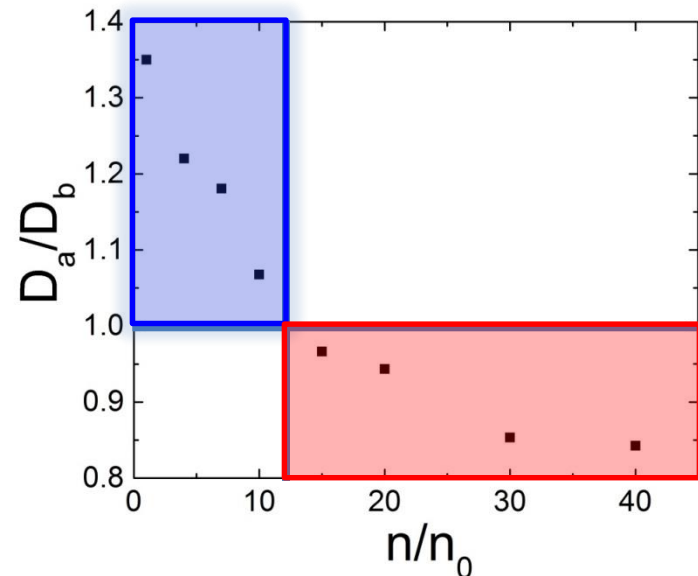
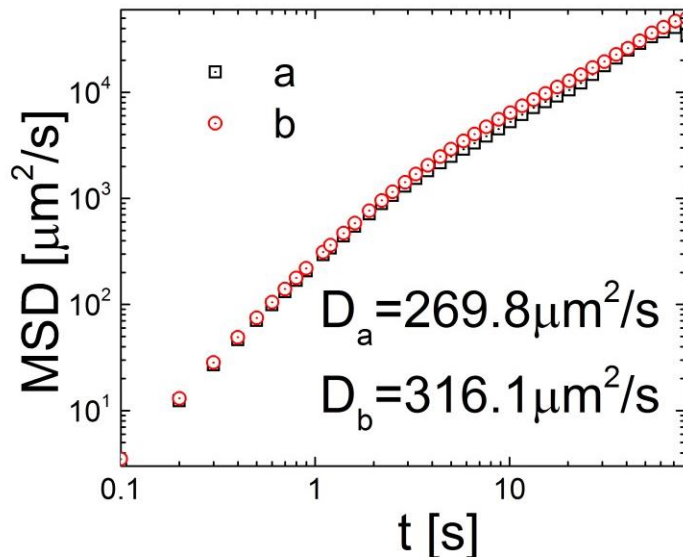
# Anisotropic diffusion



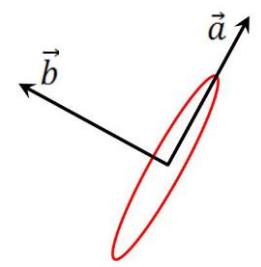
**x - y lab frame**  
**a - b body frame**

$$D_a = \langle \Delta a(t)^2 \rangle / 2t$$

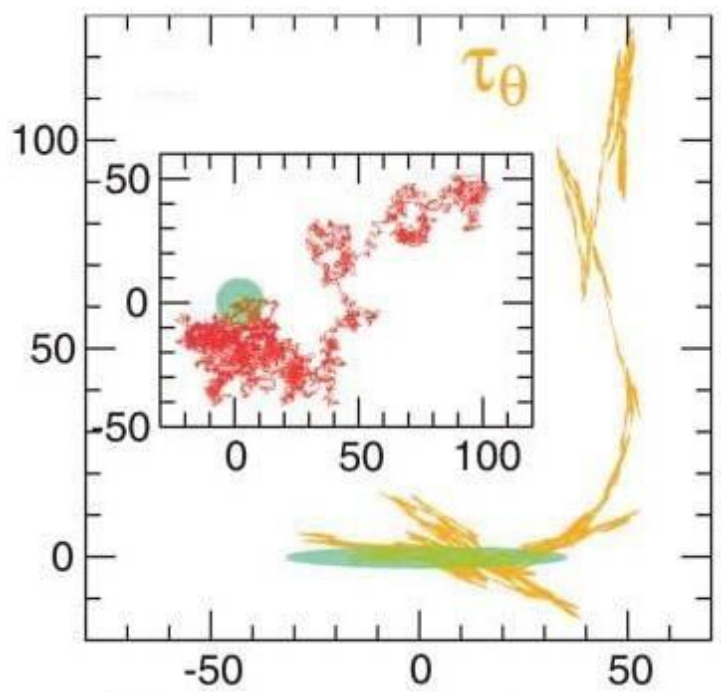
$$D_b = \langle \Delta b(t)^2 \rangle / 2t$$



# Previous understanding



Conventional fluids

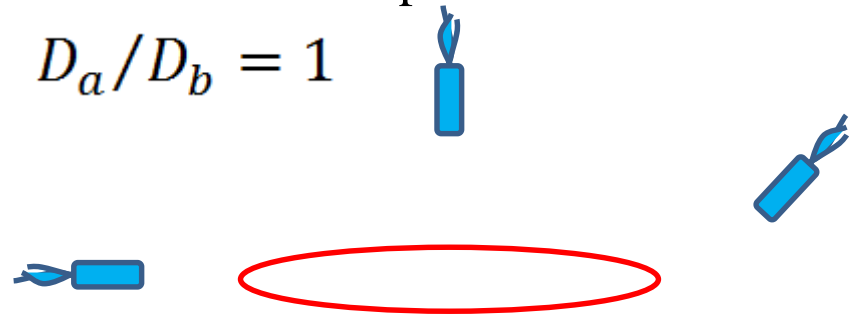


Han et al., Science (2006)

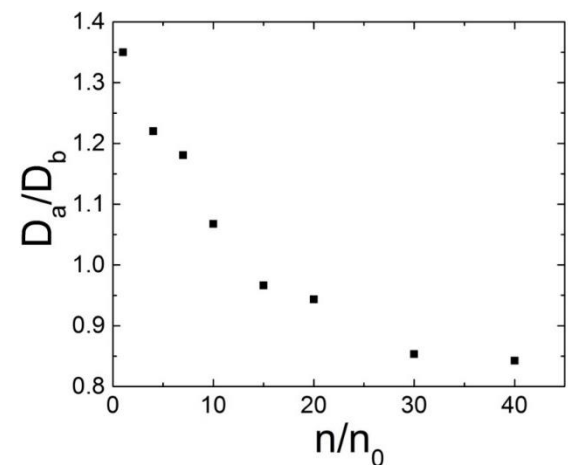
Active suspension

Traditional theory:  
Tracer treated as point like

$$D_a/D_b = 1$$



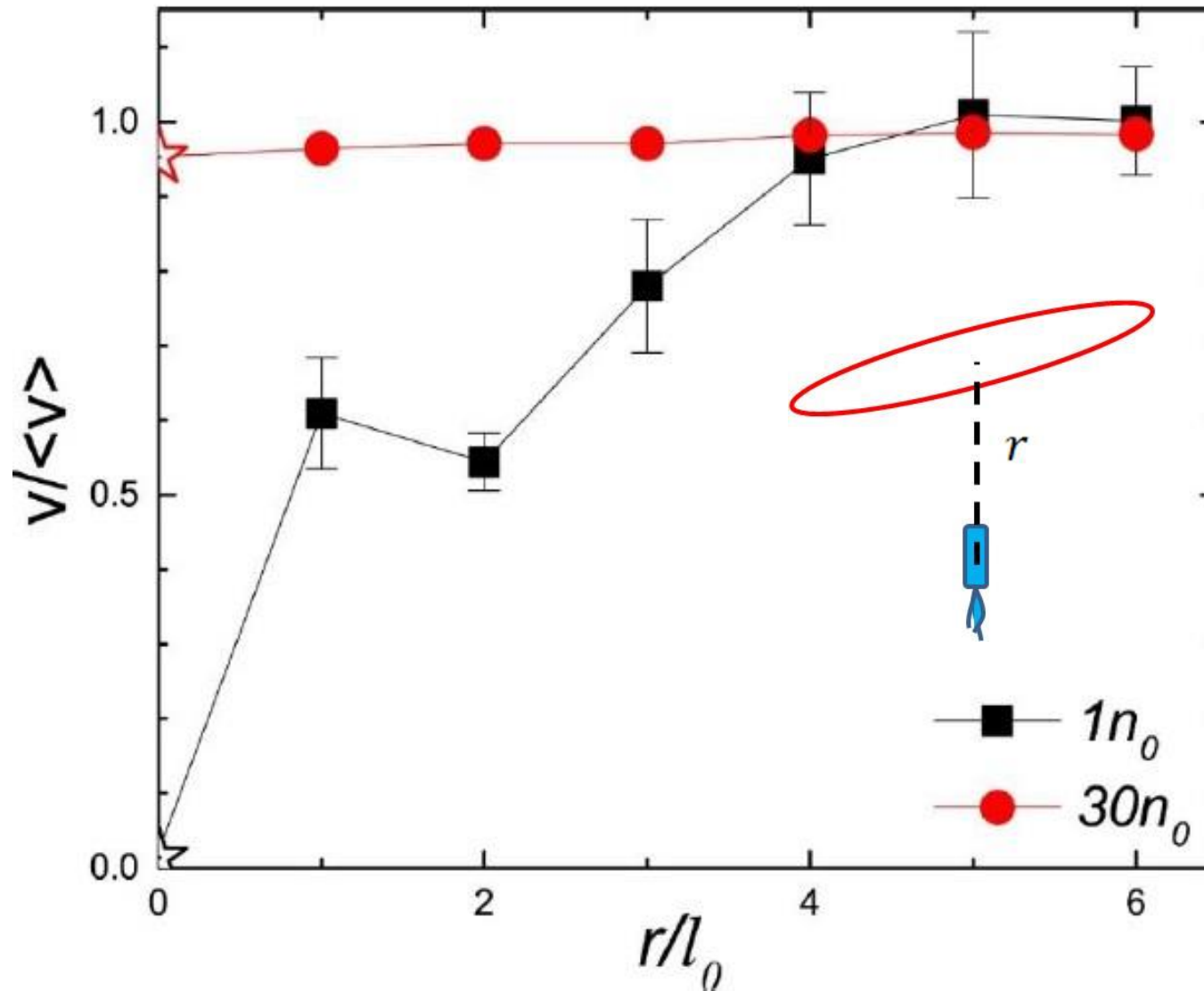
Lin et al. JFM (2011)  
Morozov, Soft Matter (2014)



Equal partition theorem

Einstein relation  $D_a/D_b > 1$

# Mechanism 1: max power





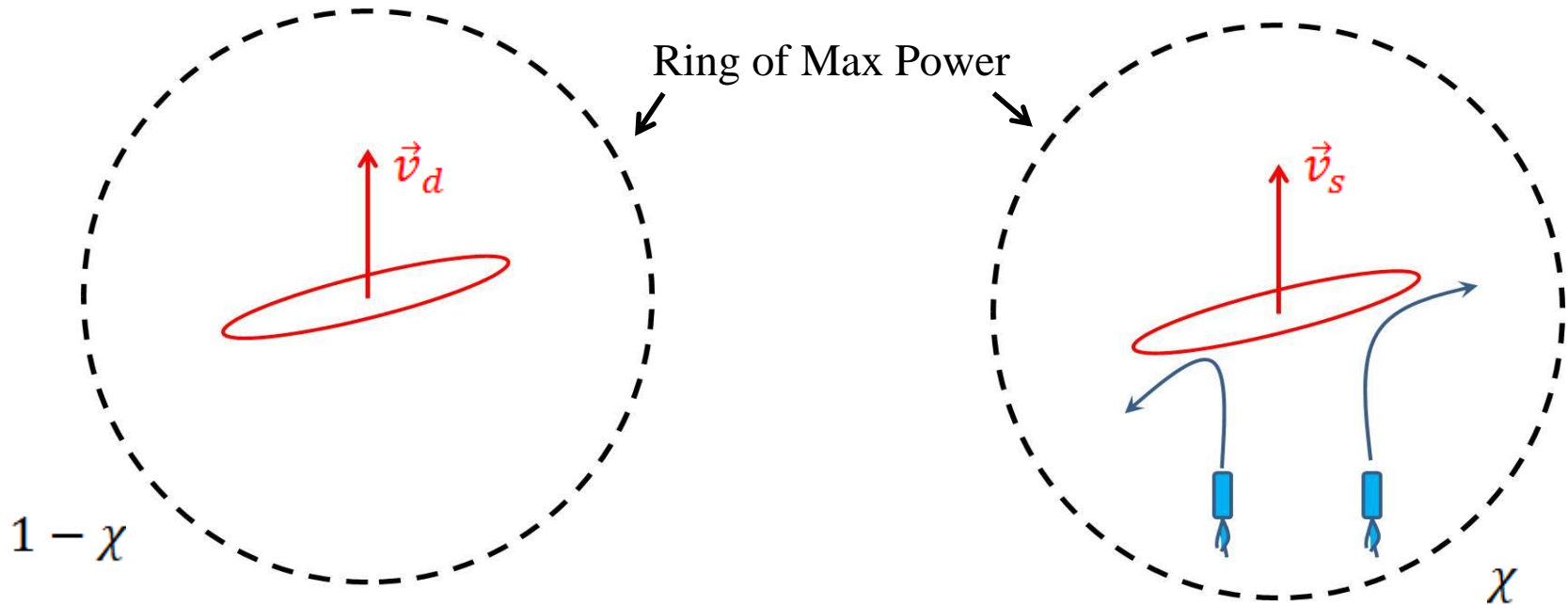
# Two types of interaction events

Dipolar flow events:

Isotropic velocity

Scattering events:

Isotropic energy



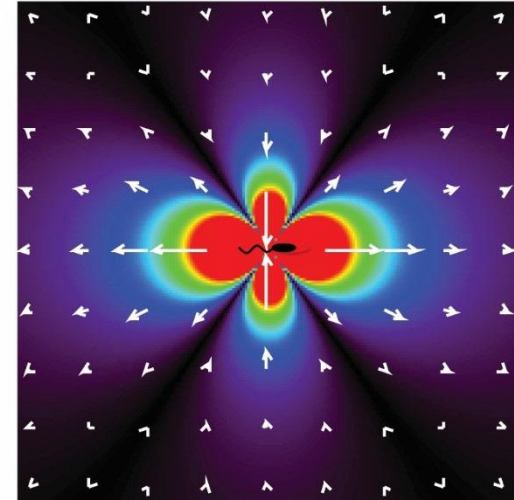
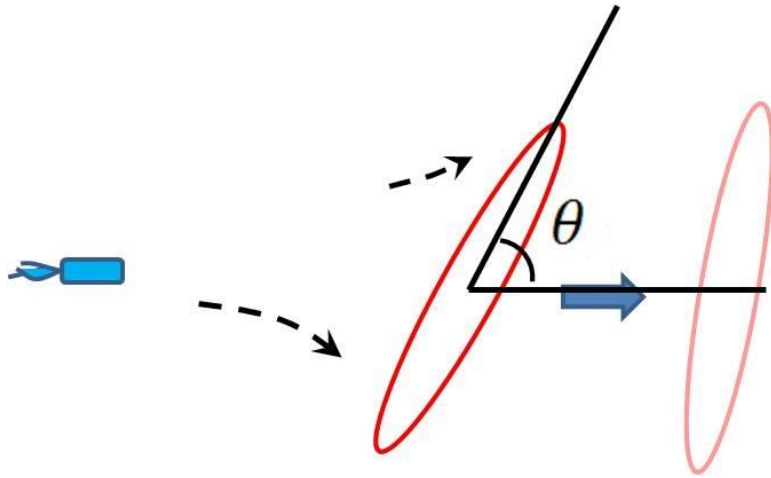
$$\vec{v} = \vec{v}_d + \vec{v}_s$$

$$|\vec{v}_d|/|\vec{v}_s| = (1 - \chi):\chi$$

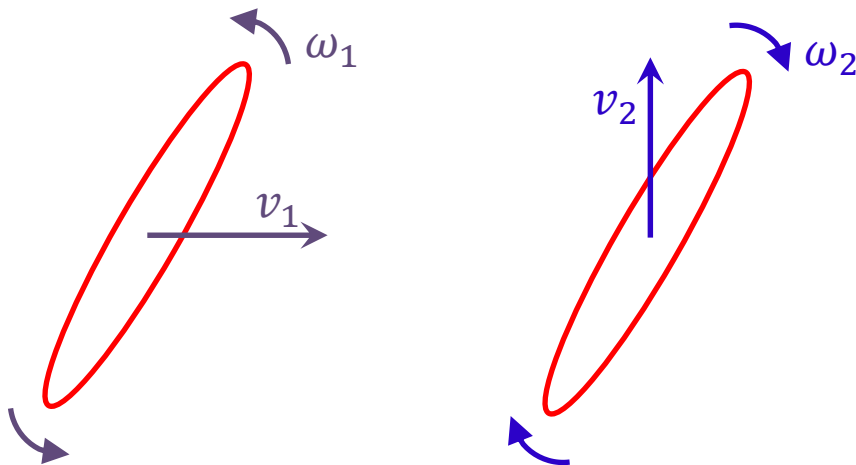
$$D_a/D_b \begin{cases} = 1 & (\text{if } \chi = 0) \\ > 1 & (\text{if } \chi = 1) \end{cases}$$



# Mechanism 2: straining field



Examples of negative  $S$ :



Dipolar flow:

$$\mathbf{v} = -\kappa(\mathbf{r}/r^3 - 3x^2\mathbf{r}/r^5)$$

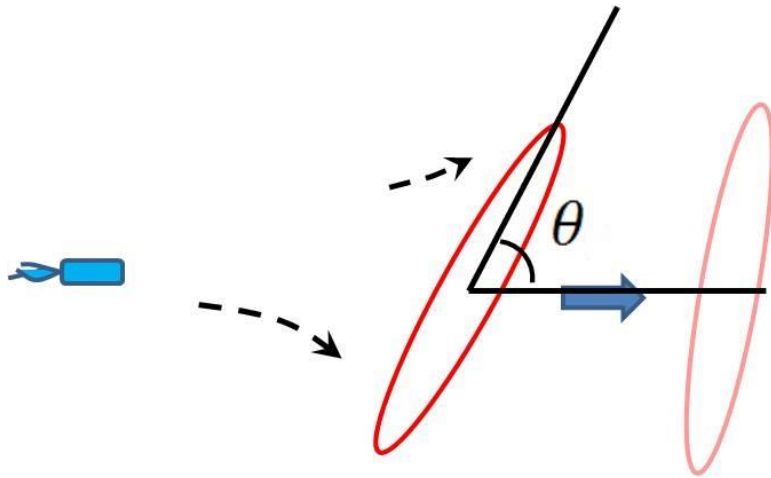
Ellipsoid rotation:

$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \frac{1}{2}\vec{\nabla} \times \mathbf{v} + \frac{p^2 - 1}{p^2 + 1}\hat{\mathbf{a}} \times (\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{a}})$$

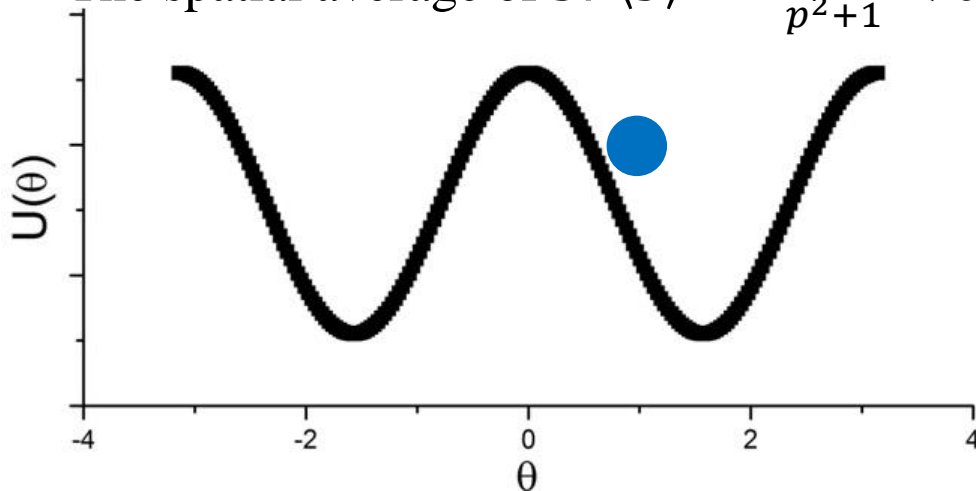
Intrinsic correlation:

$$S = \boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \left( \frac{\hat{\mathbf{a}} \times \mathbf{v}}{|\hat{\mathbf{a}} \times \mathbf{v}|} \right)$$

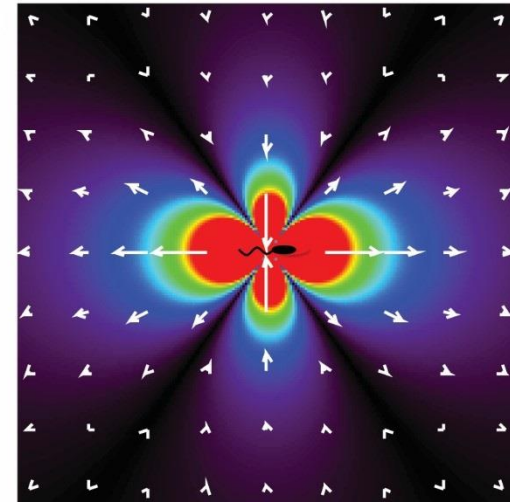
# Mechanism 2: straining field



The spatial average of  $S$ :  $\langle S \rangle \sim -\frac{p^2-1}{p^2+1} < 0$



Controlled by single parameter:  $U/k_B T_{eff}$



Dipolar flow:

$$\mathbf{u} = -\kappa(\mathbf{r}/r^3 - 3x^2\mathbf{r}/r^5)$$

Ellipsoid rotation:

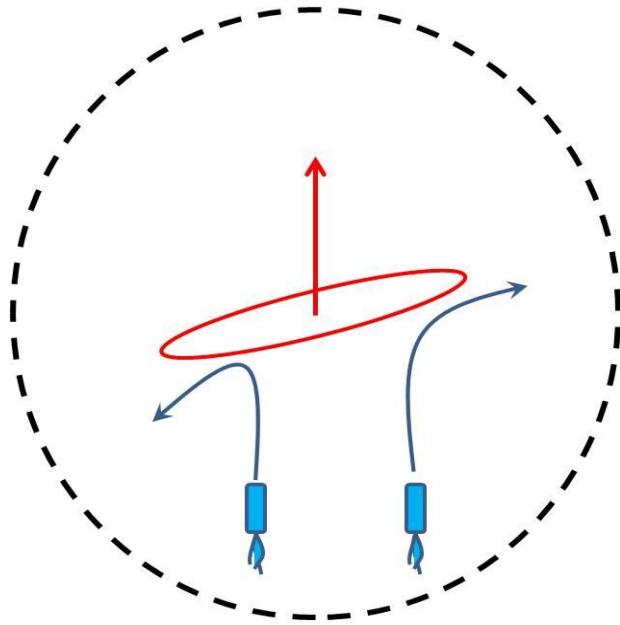
$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \frac{1}{2}\vec{\nabla} \times \mathbf{v} + \frac{p^2-1}{p^2+1}\hat{\mathbf{a}} \times (\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{a}})$$

Intrinsic correlation:

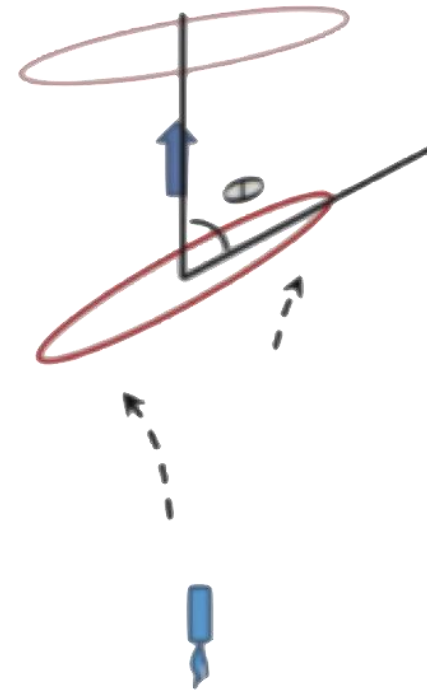
$$S = \boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \left( \frac{\hat{\mathbf{a}} \times \mathbf{v}}{|\hat{\mathbf{a}} \times \mathbf{v}|} \right)$$

# Coupled Langevin dynamics

Biological limit on power output



Straining contribution

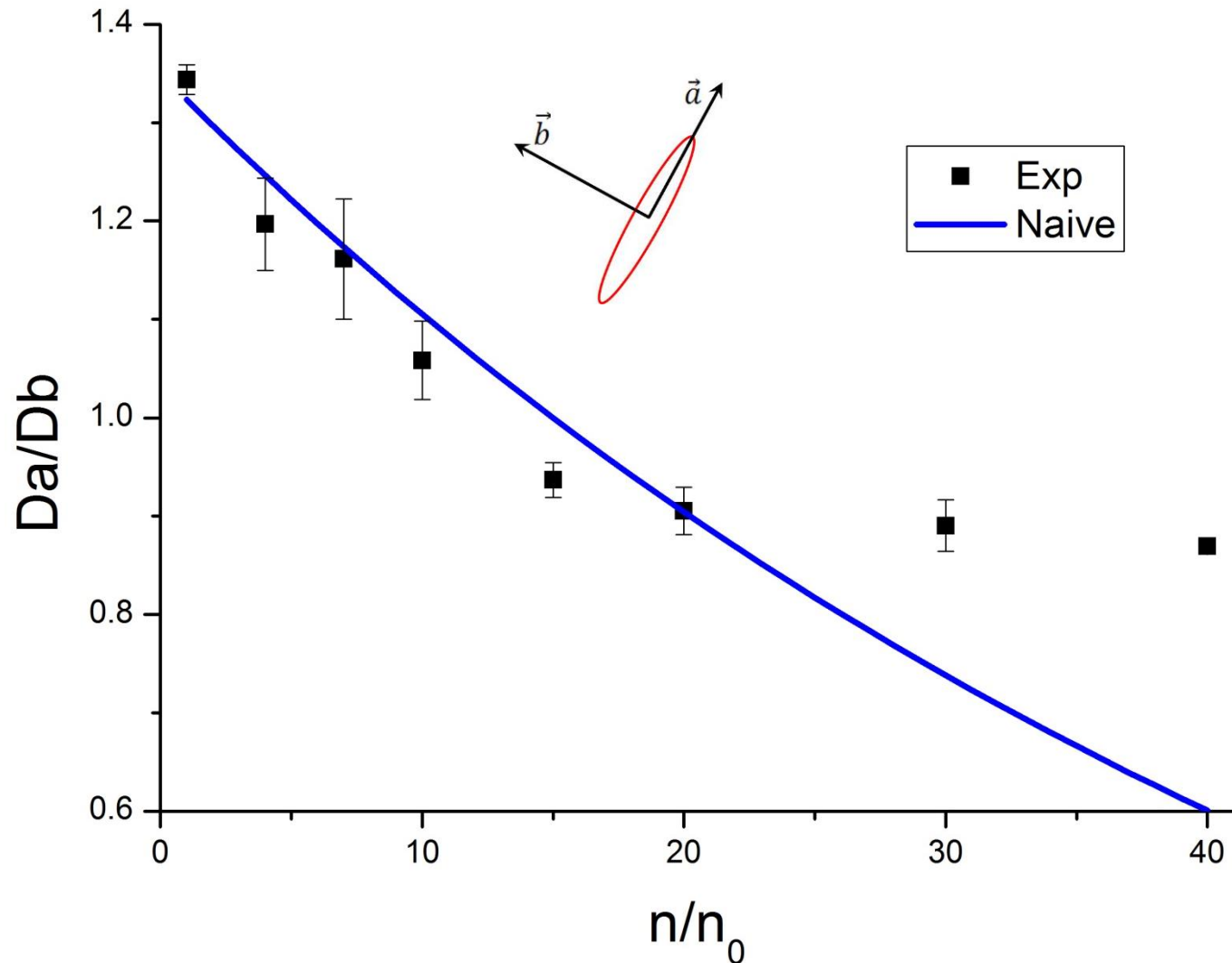


$$\gamma \frac{d\theta}{dt} = -\frac{dU(\theta)}{d\theta} + \xi(dt)$$

$$\vec{v} = \vec{v}_d + \vec{v}_s$$

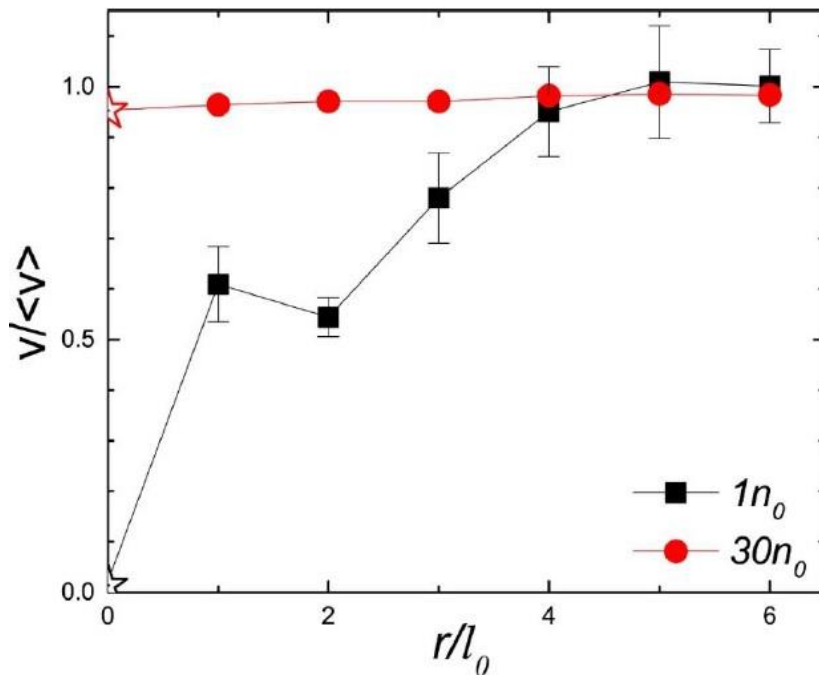
$$|\vec{v}_d|/|\vec{v}_s| = (1 - \chi):\chi$$

# Naïve model: $\chi$ independent of $n$

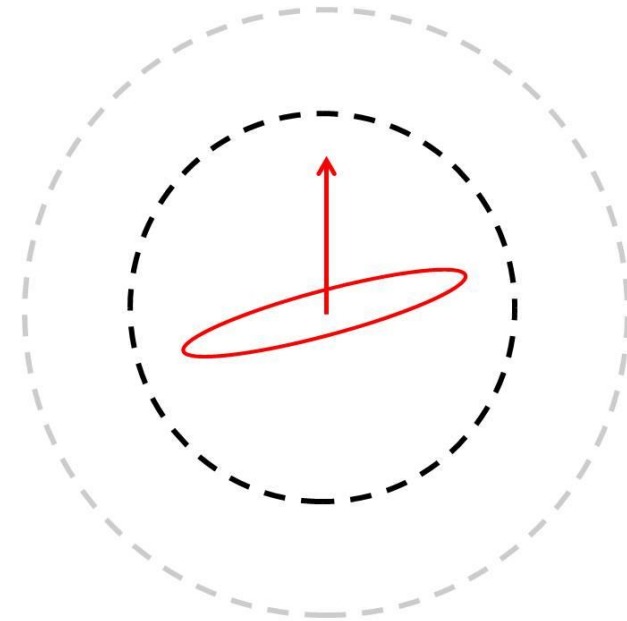


# Realistic model

## Experimental observation



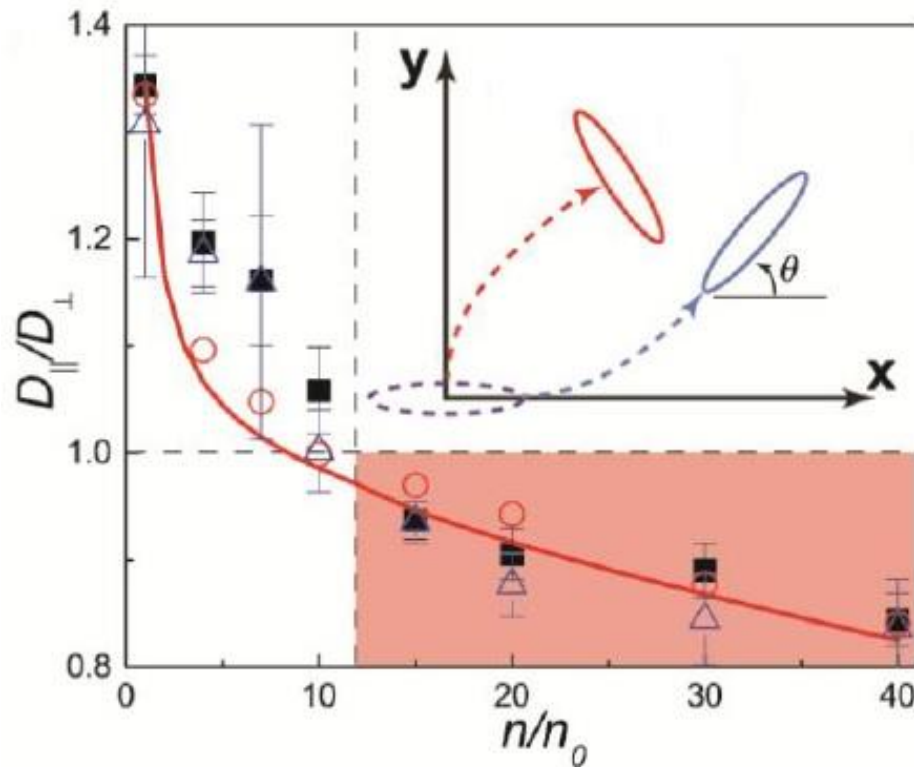
## Number fluctuation



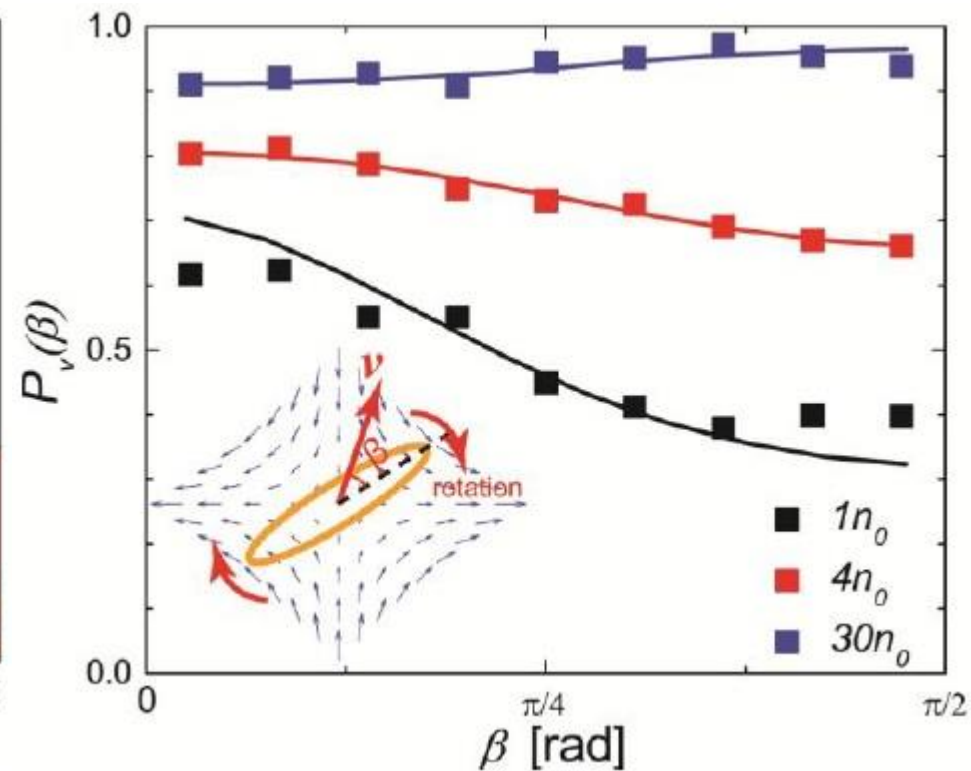
$$\chi(n) * D(n) = \chi(n_0) * D(n_0)$$

# Theory vs. Experiment

## Anisotropic diffusion



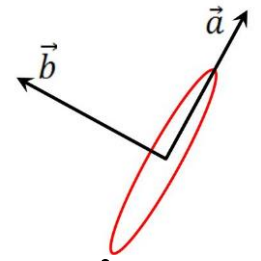
## Angular distribution



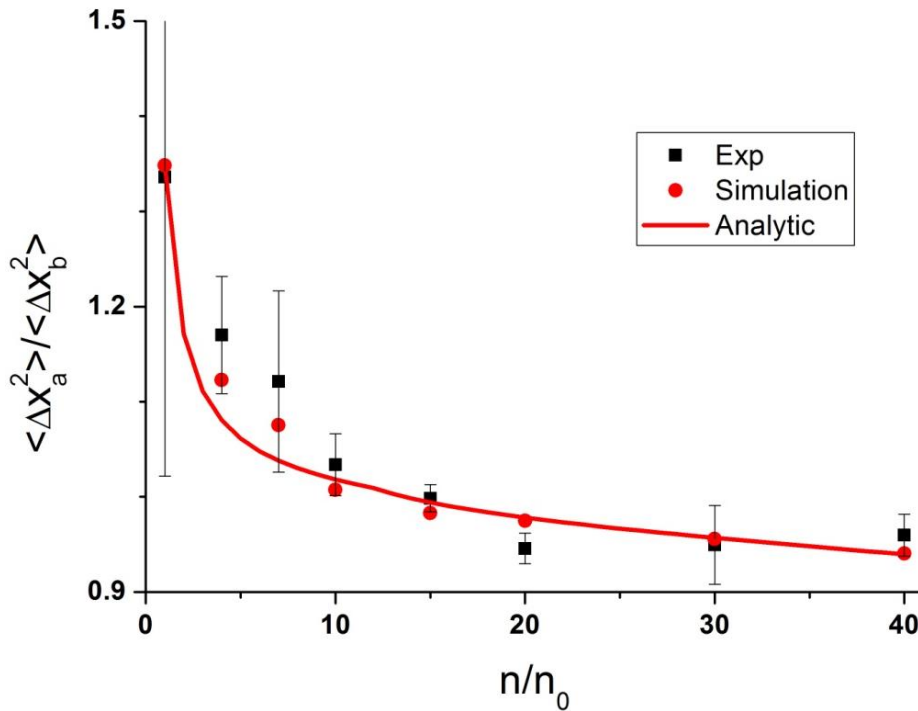
$$D_a = \int \langle v_a(0)v_a(t) \rangle dt \approx \langle v_a^2 \rangle \int \langle n_a(0)n_a(t) \rangle dt = \frac{\langle \Delta x_a^2 \rangle}{\Delta t^2} * \tau_a$$

Controlled by single parameter:  $U(n)/k_B T_{eff} \sim n$

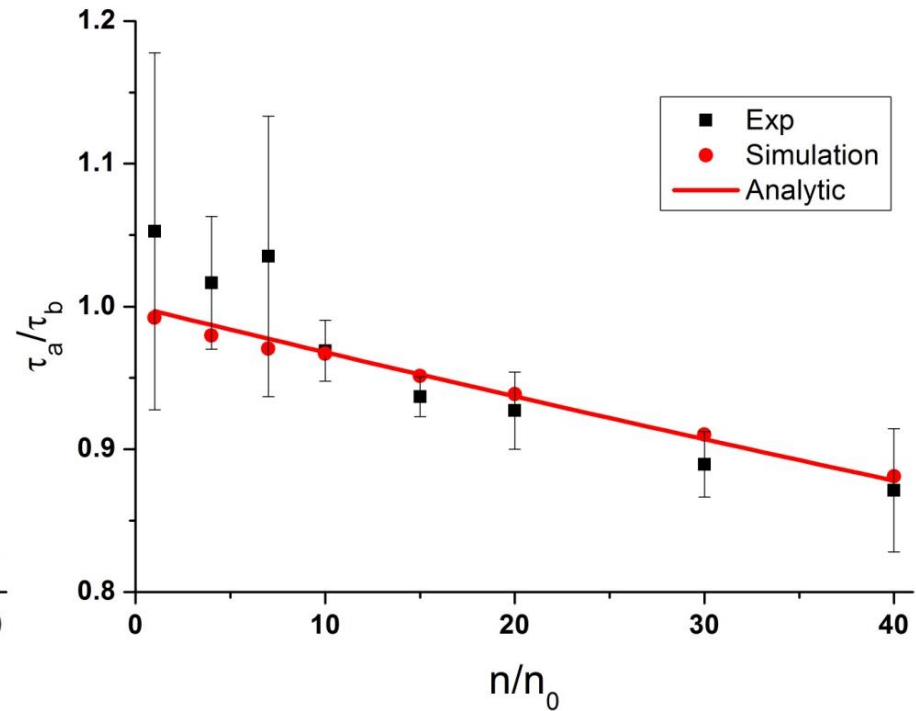
# Contributions to anisotropic diffusion

$$D_a = \int \langle v_a(0)v_a(t) \rangle dt \approx \langle v_a^2 \rangle \int \langle n_a(0)n_a(t) \rangle dt = \frac{\langle \Delta x_a^2 \rangle}{\Delta t^2} * \tau_a$$


Step size ratio



Persistent time ratio

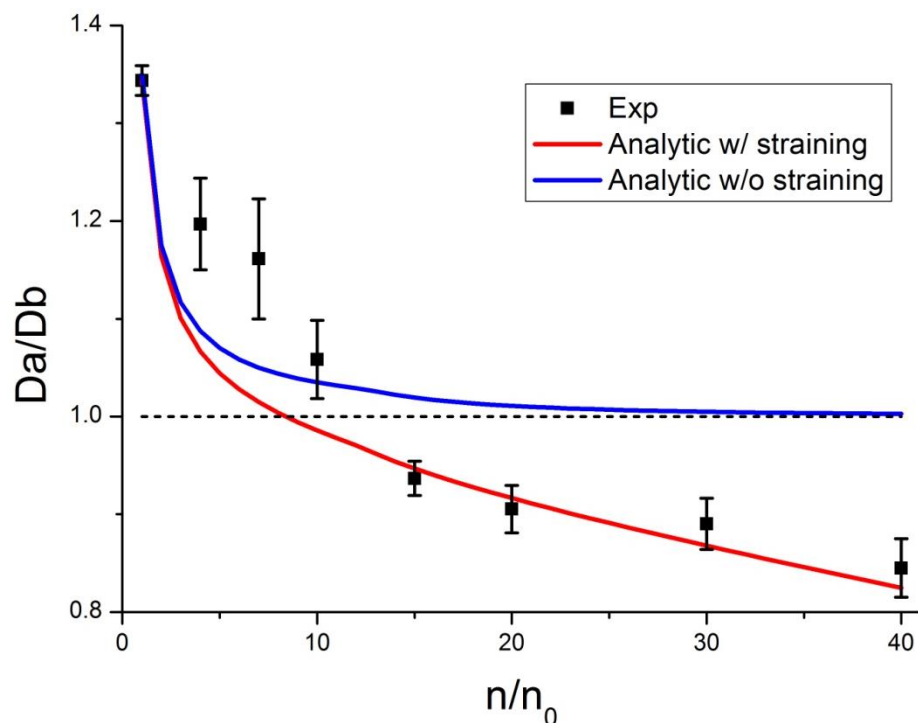


Controlled by single parameter:  $U(n)/k_B T_{eff} \sim n$

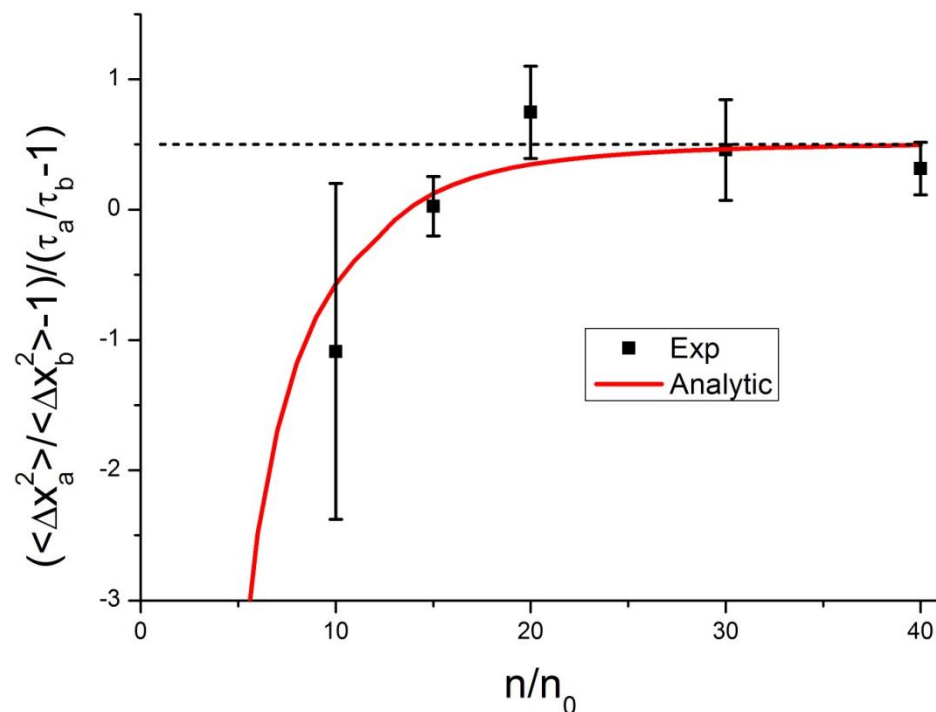


# More comparisons

## Without straining mechanism



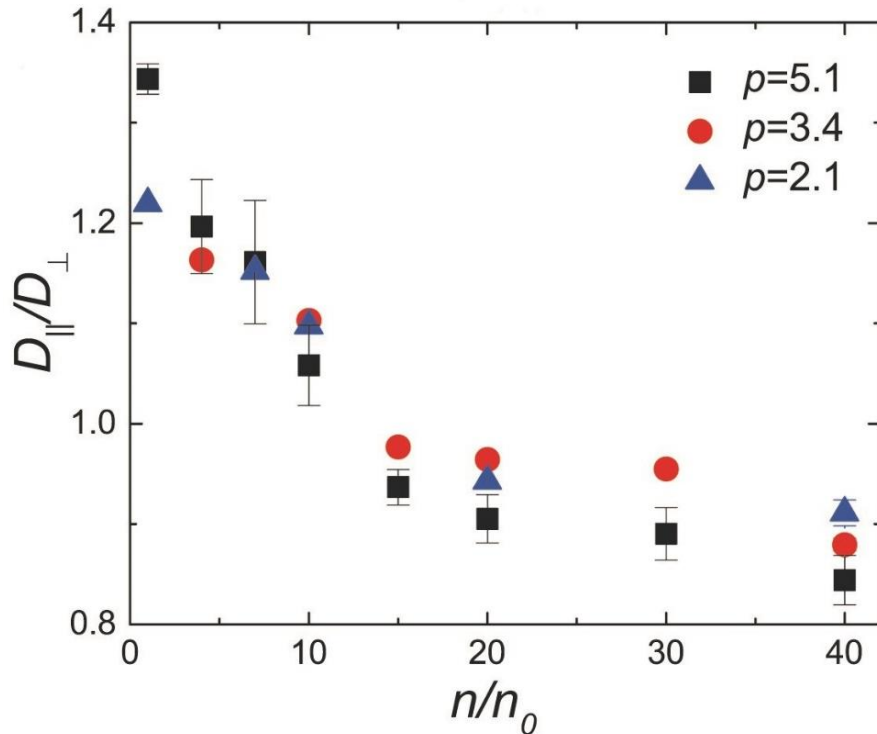
## Parameter free results



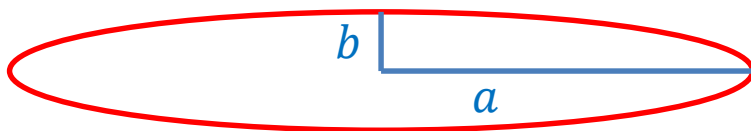
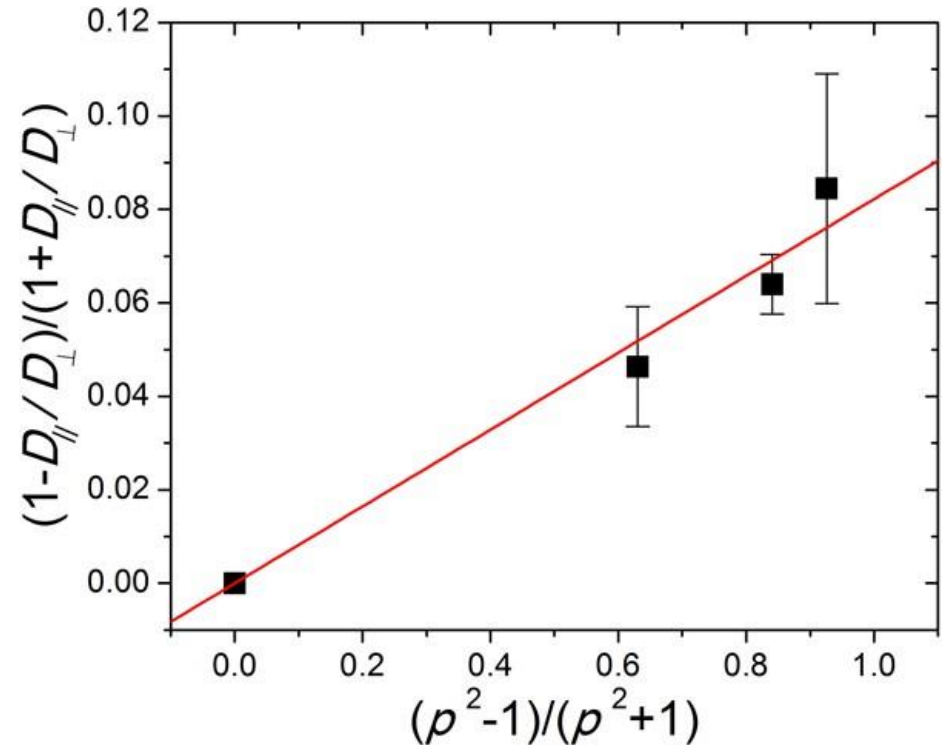
Controlled by single parameter:  $U(n)/k_B T_{eff} \sim n$

# Aspect ratio dependence

Anisotropic diffusion



p dependence

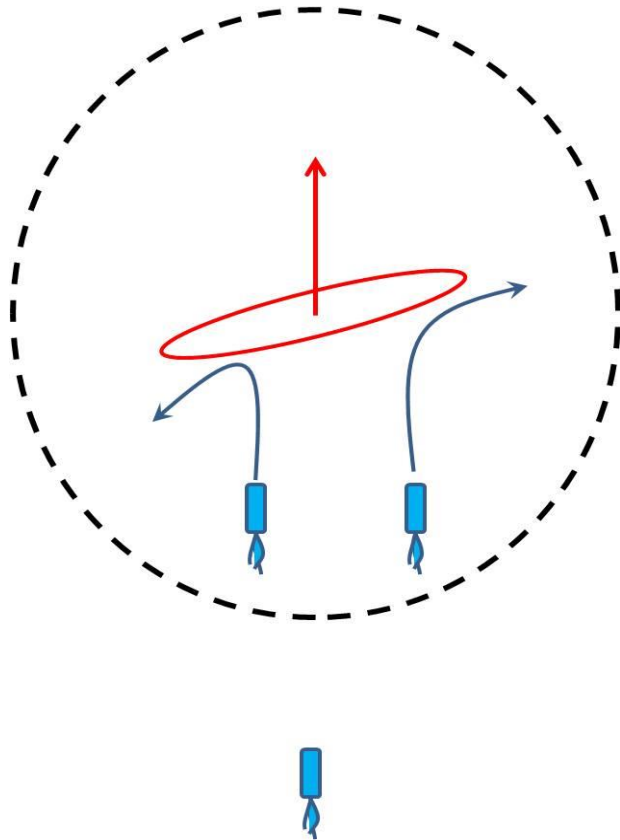


Aspect ratio  $p = a/b$

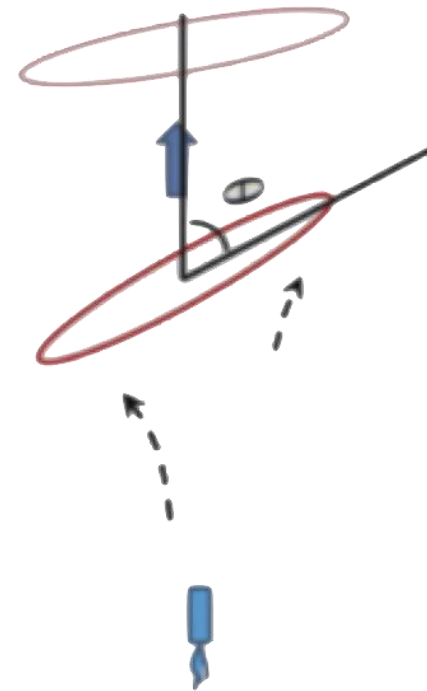
Model prediction  $\frac{1 - D_{\parallel}/D_{\perp}}{1 + D_{\parallel}/D_{\perp}} \sim \frac{p^2 - 1}{p^2 + 1}$   
 = 0 for spheres

# Summary

Biological limit on power output



Straining contribution



Thanks for your attention  
for more info, please see  
[www.csrc.ac.cn/~xlxu](http://www.csrc.ac.cn/~xlxu)