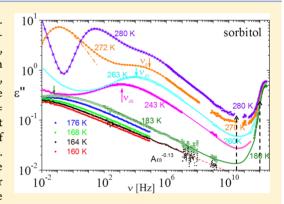


Coupling of Caged Molecule Dynamics to JG β -Relaxation: I

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: The paper (Sibik, J.; Elliott, S. R.; Zeitler, J. A. J. Phys. Chem. Lett. **2014**, 5, 1968–1972) used terahertz time-domain spectroscopy (THz-TDS) to study the dynamics of the polyalcohols, glycerol, threitol, xylitol, and sorbitol, at temperatures from below to above the glass transition temperature $T_{\rm g}$. On heating the glasses, they observed the dielectric losses, ε''(ν) at ν=1 THz, increase monotonically with temperature and change dependence at two temperatures, first deep in the glassy state at $T_{\rm THz}=0.65T_{\rm g}$ and second at $T_{\rm g}$. The effects at both temperatures are most prominent in sorbitol but become progressively weaker in the order of xylitol and threitol, and the sub- $T_{\rm g}$ change was not observed in glycerol. They suggested this feature originates from the high-frequency tail of the Johari–Goldstein (JG) β-relaxation, and the temperature region near $0.65T_{\rm g}$ is the universal region for the secondary glass transition due to the JG β-relaxation. In this paper, we first use isothermal dielectric relaxation



data at frequencies below 10^6 Hz to locate the "second glass transition" temperature T_{β} at which the JG β -relaxation time $\tau_{\rm JG}$ reaches 100 s. The value of T_{β} is close to $T_{\rm THz}=0.65T_{\rm g}$ for sorbitol $(0.63T_{\rm g})$ and xylitol $(0.65T_{\rm g})$, but T_{β} is $0.74T_{\rm g}$ for threitol and $0.83T_{\rm g}$ for glycerol. Notwithstanding, the larger values of T_{β} of glycerol are consistent with the THz-TDS data. Next, we identify the dynamic process probed by THz-TDS as the caged molecule dynamics, showing up in susceptibility spectra as nearly constant loss (NCL). The caged molecule dynamics regime is terminated by the onset of the primitive relaxation of the coupling model, which is the precursor of the JG β -relaxation. From this relation, established is the connection of the magnitude and temperature dependence of the NCL and those of $\tau_{\rm JG}$. This connection explains the monotonic increase of NCL with temperature and change to a stronger dependence after crossing T_{β} giving rise to the sub- $T_{\rm g}$ behavior of $\varepsilon''(\nu)$ observed in experiment. Beyond the polyalcohols, we present new dielectric relaxation measurements of flufenamic acid and recall dielectric, NMR, and calorimetric data of indomethacin. The data of these two pharmaceuticals enables us to determine the value of $T_{\beta}=0.67T_{\rm g}$ for flufenamic acid and $T_{\beta}=0.58T_{\rm g}$ or $T_{\beta}=0.62T_{\rm g}$ for indomethacin, which can be compared with experimental values of $T_{\rm THz}$ from THz-TDS measurements when they become available. We point out that the sub- $T_{\rm g}$ change of NCL at T_{β} found by THz-TDS can be observed by other high frequency spectroscopy including neutron scattering, light scattering, Brillouin scattering, and inelastic X-ray scattering. An example from neutron scattering is cited. All the findings demonstrate the connection of all processes in the evolution of dynamics ending at the structural α -relaxation.

1. INTRODUCTION

The high frequency measurements in the gigahertz to terahertz range have been a major area of activity in research on the dynamics in glass-forming systems to join in the effort to solve the glass transition problem. Techniques used included quasielastic neutron scattering, ¹⁻¹¹ Brillouin light scattering, ¹² dynamic light scattering, ¹³⁻¹⁷ inelastic X-ray scattering, ¹⁸⁻²⁰ extraordinary high frequency dielectric spectroscopy up to a few hundred gigahertz, ²¹⁻²³ and terahertz time-domain spectroscopy. ²⁴⁻²⁷ The counterparts of the high frequency measurements are the time domain optical heterodyne detected optical Kerr effect experiments from 1 ps to tens of ns, ²⁸ and molecular dynamics simulations. ²⁹⁻³³ There are some studies attempting to link dynamic quantities measured at higher frequencies/

short times to variables either determining the glass transition or quantifying some salient properties at the glass transition temperature $T_{\rm g}.$ One example is the mean-square-displacement (MSD), $\langle u^2(T)\rangle$, measured by elastic incoherent neutron scattering (EINS) at temperatures below and above $T_{\rm g}.$ Found generally in glass-formers of different kinds, smaller molecular, polymeric, and inorganic alike, is the change of the temperature dependence of $\langle u^2(T)\rangle$ at $T_{\rm g}.$ The remarkably weak T dependence of $\langle u^2(T)\rangle$ at temperatures below $T_{\rm g}$ changes to a stronger T dependence above $T_{\rm g}.^{2,3,6-11,34-36}$ Moreover, 34

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measured by a spectrometer with the same resolution, $\langle u^2(T)\rangle$ is larger and the change at $T_{\rm g}$ is sharper if the structural α -relaxation of the glass-former has a broader frequency dispersion or a smaller value of the exponent, (1-n), of its Kohlrausch correlation function

$$\phi(t) = \exp[-(t/\tau_{\alpha})^{1-n}] \tag{1}$$

where τ_{α} is the α -relaxation time. Another notable example is the inelastic X-ray scattering (IXS) measurements of the dynamic structure factor and the determination of the nonergodicity factor f(Q,T) by Scopigno and co-workers. They found in glass-formers a correlation between the temperature dependence of f(Q,T) in the glassy state and fragility. The latter is the rate of increase of $\log_{10}\tau_{\alpha}$ as a function of $T_{\rm g}/T$ on cooling at $T_{\rm g}/T=1$. This correlation from experiment was confirmed by molecular dynamics simulations of the binary Lennard-Jones particle systems with different interaction potentials. The same structure of the systems with different interaction potentials.

These two examples, i.e., the T dependences of $\langle u^2(T) \rangle$ and f(Q, T), together with others not mentioned are empirical facts suggesting that the fast processes somehow are related to the slow dynamics. This connection was made explicit in the coupling model (CM)³⁷⁻³⁹ specifically in considering the dynamics evolving with time in the order of the caged molecules, the primitive relaxation which is a part of the Johari-Goldstein (JG) β -relaxation, and the structural α relaxation. ^{37–44} Initially, at short times, molecules are caged. In this caged dynamics regime, the susceptibility, $\chi''(T, \nu) =$ $B(T)(\nu)^{-\lambda}$, originates from the dissipation of movements confined by the anharmonic potential. Its weak temperature dependence B(T) is well described by $A \exp(T/T_0)$. Its power law frequency dependence with $\lambda \ll 1$ leads to the term of the nearly constant loss (NCL). The NCL is not a relaxation process with a characteristic time. It persists to lower frequencies/longer times until the atoms, or molecules, leave the cage. It is the first or primitive relaxation with relaxation time, τ_0 , that effectively terminates the caged dynamics regime, and the NCL dependence of the susceptibility no longer holds at frequencies of the order of $\nu_0 = 1/(2\pi\tau_0)^{.37,39,45,46}$ Of particular interest is ref 46 where the experimental results presented therein are for the polyalcohols. Ions in molten and glassy ionic conductors caged at short times exhibit the NCL, which is also terminated by the primitive ion hop frequency v_0 . The paper shows the remarkable similarities, and also a correlation of the magnitude of the NCL with the primitive relaxation time au_0 or approximately the JG eta-relaxation time $au_{
m IG}$ to be defined later.

This relation between the NCL and the primitive relaxation has the consequence of any change of the primitive relaxation is reflected by the corresponding change of the NCL, and vice versa. The sequential relation of the primitive relaxation or the JG β -relaxation with the α -relaxation is the core result of the CM, which has been confirmed in various ways and in many glass-forming systems, ^{52–57} and in the analogue ionic systems.

A recent paper by Sibik et al.⁶⁰ used terahertz time-domain spectroscopy (THz-TDS) in the frequency range 0.2–3 THz to study the dynamics of the family of polyalcohols, glycerol, threitol, xylitol, and sorbitol, at temperatures between 80 and 310 K. On heating the glasses, they observed the dielectric losses, $\varepsilon''(\nu)$ at $\nu=1$ THz, increase monotonically with temperature but the temperature dependence changes at two temperatures, first deep in the glassy state at a sub- T_{σ}

temperature of $0.65T_{\rm g}$ and second at $T_{\rm g}$. The effects at both temperatures are most prominent in sorbitol but become progressively weaker in the order of xylitol and threitol, and the sub- $T_{\rm g}$ change was not observed in glycerol. They suggested this feature originates from the high-frequency tail of the JG β -relaxation and the temperature region near $0.65T_{\rm g}$ is the universal region for the secondary glass transition due to the JG β -relaxation. Also, they proposed that the thermal changes in the losses near $0.65T_{\rm g}$ seem to be underpinned by a universal change in the hydrogen bonding structure of the samples. The study by THz-TDS has been extended to several pharmaceutical glass-formers including flufenamic acid and indomethacin. 61

In this paper, we critically reexamine the experimental data of the polyalcohols by Sibik et al. and relate the observed $\varepsilon''(\nu)$ at $\nu = 1$ THz to the proper dynamic process responsible for its changes of temperature dependences at sub- T_g temperature and at $T_{\rm g}$. By analyses of the dielectric relaxation spectra of the polyalcohols, we identify the proper dynamic process is the NCL of caged molecules. We provide dielectric measurements of flufenamic acid and indomethacin to characterize the α relaxation and the JG β -relaxation, and determine their relaxation time as well as that of primitive relaxation time. The results are used to obtain the value of T_{β} to predict the temperature of the sub- T_{σ} change of temperature dependence of $\varepsilon''(\nu)$ at $\nu = 1$ THz in the THz-TDS experiment. Previously published data of indomethacin are employed to make the same prediction for this pharmaceutical. In the final part of the paper, theoretical arguments supported by experimental facts are given to demonstrate the inseparable link of the NCL of caged molecules to the primitive relaxation and the JG β -relaxation. There is a change of the temperature dependence of the JG β relaxation at T_{β} below which it falls out of equilibrium. Due to the linkage, the change is transferred to the corresponding change of the temperature dependence of the NCL. Justification of this explanation by theory with support from other experimental facts is given.

2. EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

Sorbitol and flufenamic acid were purchased in anhydrous form at high purity grade from Sigma-Aldrich and used as received, with the precaution of storing and handling them under a dry atmosphere. A parallel plate capacitor separated by a quartz spacer and filled by the sample was placed in the nitrogen flow Quatro cryostat. Glassy and supercooled systems were obtained by heating a few degrees above the melting point under a nitrogen atmosphere and then cooling. A Novocontrol Alpha-Analyzer was used for dielectric measurements from 1 mHz to 10 MHz, whereas for higher frequencies (1 MHz to 6 GHz) measurements have been carried out by means of a reflectometric technique using the Agilent 8753ES Network Analyzer.

3. WHICH DYNAMIC PROCESS BELOW $T_{\rm G}$ IS RESPONDING TO TERAHERTZ TIME DOMAIN SPECTROSCOPY?

For a fundamental understanding of the THz-TDS data of the polyalcohols, it is vital to identify the dynamic process or processes probed at the terahertz level to exhibit the changes of $\varepsilon''(\nu)$ at $T_{\rm g}$ and below $T_{\rm g}$. The answer can be found by examining the dielectric spectra obtained at these temperatures. Usually the measurement frequencies are orders of magnitude lower than terahertz. Notwithstanding, by extrapolating the

observation to terahertz, the dynamic process probed at 1 THz and showing the change can be deduced. At these low temperatures as shown by dielectric loss data at frequencies below 10⁶ Hz in various molecular glassformers, ^{45–47} including the polyalcohols, the process probed is the NCL of caged dynamics. This can be verified from the figures presented later on in this paper as well as the data published by Nakanishi and Nozaki⁶³ from 40 Hz to 10 GHz by dielectric spectroscopy of these polyalcohols. There have been direct observations of the NCL in the time domain from the ps to ns range (note that τ = 1 ps corresponds to a characteristic frequency of 0.16 THz) by optically heterodyne detected optical Kerr effect (OHD-OKE) experiments of a variety of small molecular glass-formers including ortho-terphenyl, salol, benzophenone, and others at temperatures above $T_{\rm g'}^{64-67}$ and certainly will continue to be observed in the glassy state. The light scattering spectra of polyisobutylene, poly(methyl methacrylate), and glycerol measured in the gigahertz frequency range all show the NCL up to 3 GHz at temperatures below the glass transition. ¹⁷ All of these observations higher than 1 GHz indicate the presence of the NCL at higher frequencies up to 1 THz where it is superposed on top of the microscopic peak, which is almost independent of temperature.⁶⁸ Thus, the observed increase of the dielectric losses, $\varepsilon''(\nu)$ at $\nu=0.6$ and 1 THz, with temperature and the break at T_{β} below T_{g} is contributed by the

To proceed further, we consider the plots of the α - and JG β -relaxation times, τ_{α} and $\tau_{\rm JG}$, against $T_{\rm g}/T$ of the four polyalcohols adapted from the data of Do β et al. ^{69,70} and additional data obtained by us in this study in Figure 1. Defined as the temperature at which $\tau_{\alpha}(T_{\rm g})=100~{\rm s}$, $T_{\rm g}$ is equal to 185 K for glycerol, 224 K for threitol, 248 K for xylitol, and 268 K for sorbitol. The Arrhenius temperature dependences of $\tau_{\rm JG}$ have been extrapolated to lower scaled reciprocal temperatures to reach 100 s at $T_{\rm g}/T_{\beta}$. In the case of glycerol, only one point was identified for $\tau_{\rm JG}$ and the activation energy was obtained by

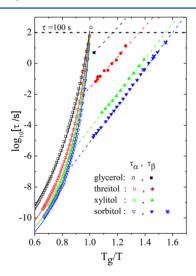


Figure 1. Relaxation map of thte logarithm of the *α*- (open symbols) and JG *β*-relaxation (filled symbols) times, τ_{α} and τ_{β} , against $T_{\rm g}/T$ of the four polyalcohols adapted from the data of Do β et al. ^{69,70} and additional data from this study (crossed symbols). Squares, circles, and up and down triangles are the symbols for glycerol, threitol, xylitol, and sorbitol, respectively. Continuous lines are from Vogel–Tammann–Fulcher fits to τ_{α} dashed lines for the Arrhenius fit to τ_{β} . The horizontal dotted–dashed line marks the glass transition as $\tau = 100$ s.

Doβ et al. from extrapolation of the values of the series of polyalcohols. Nevertheless, these values are in good agreement with $\tau_{\rm JG}$ of glycerol, as estimated near $T_{\rm g}$ from an aging experiment. The value of $T_{\rm g}/T_{\beta}$ for sorbitol, xylitol, threitol, and glycerol are 1.60, 1.55, 1.36, and 1.17, respectively, with the corresponding values of 0.63, 0.65, 0.74, and 0.85 for $T_{\beta}/T_{\rm g}$ and 169, 160, 165, and 157 K for T_{β} . As shown before, there is approximate agreement between $\tau_{\rm JG}$ and the primitive relaxation time τ_0 calculated by the CM equation

$$\tau_0 = (\tau_\alpha)^{1-n} (t_c)^n \approx \tau_{\text{JG}} \tag{2}$$

with n from eq 1 and $t_c = 1-2$ ps for molecular glass-formers and for all four polyalcohols.

The values of $T_{\beta}/T_{\rm g}=0.63$ and 0.65 for sorbitol and xylitol, respectively, are effectively coincident with the value of 0.65 determined by Sibik et al. by fitting the sub- $T_{\rm g}$ change of T dependence of $\varepsilon''(\nu)$ at 1 THz by two lines. The sub- $T_{\rm g}$ change of threitol is much weaker. Although Sibik et al. suggested the same value of 0.65, the location of the change is also consistent with $T_{\beta}/T_{\rm g}=0.74$. In the case of glycerol, Sibik et al. apparently were looking for the change near $0.65T_{\rm g}$ because they considered the thermal changes in the losses originate from a universal change in the hydrogen bonding structure of the samples. Not found in glycerol was rationalized by it remaining unobservable in that case. However, the value of $T_{\beta}/T_{\rm g}=0.85$ for glycerol determined in Figure 1 seems to correspond to a change of ε'' approximately at this value, as shown by Figure 2

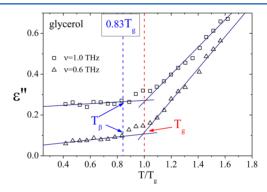


Figure 2. Dielectric losses of glycerol at 0.6 THz (open triangles) and at 1 THz (open squares) versus reduced temperature $T/T_{\rm g}$. Data are from ref 60. Straight lines are linear regressions to the low and high temperature data. Blue and red dashed vertical lines mark the occurrence of T_{β} and $T_{\rm g}$, as shown in Figure 1.

where the $\varepsilon''(\nu=1~{\rm THz})$ and $\varepsilon''(\nu=0.6~{\rm THz})$ data of glycerol are reproduced. The major result so far in this section is coincidence of the vitrification temperature T_{β} of the JG β -relaxation with the temperature at which the sub- $T_{\rm g}$ changes in $\varepsilon''(\nu)$ of all four polyalcohols were found.

The results given above indicate that the kinetic glass-like transition of the JG β -relaxation is reflected in the dynamic process responsible for the $\varepsilon''(\nu)$ observed in the THz region. However, definitely the dynamic process is not the JG β -relaxation itself because its frequency $\nu_{\rm JG}$ at T_{β} is nearly 15 decades lower than 1 THz. To identify the dynamic process involved, we can get some hint of it from the dielectric relaxation spectra of the polyalcohols at temperatures below and above their respective T_{β} . Figure 3 shows our own isothermal loss spectra of sorbitol at selected temperatures, 160, 164, 168, 176 K, and 183 K, in the neighborhood centered at T_{β}

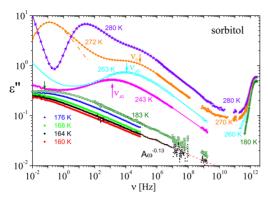
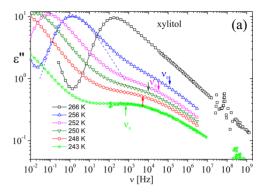


Figure 3. Dielectric loss spectra of sorbitol at selected temperatures ranging from below T_{β} to above $T_{\rm g}$. The dashed line is a power law fit of the high frequency flank of data at 164 K. The dash—dotted line is a fit with a Fourier-transformed derivative of the Kohlrausch correlation function (n=0.52). Vertical arrows mark the primitive relaxation frequency ν_0 or the JG relaxation frequency $\nu_{\rm JG}$. Data are collected from this study ($\nu=10$ mHz to 1 GHz, T=272 and 280 K and $\nu=10$ mHz to 100 kHz, T=160, 164, 168, 176, 183, 243, and 263 K) and from ref 63 ($\nu=100$ Hz to 3 GHz, T=164, 183, 243, and 263 K), ref 23 ($\nu=0.8$ GHz to 1 THz, T=270 and 280 K) and ref 60 ($\nu=0.2-4$ THz, T=180, 260, 270, and 280 K).

= 169 K. In addition, data at higher frequencies and higher temperatures from this study and from the literature 23,60,63 are shown. Over many decades of frequencies up to 105 Hz and beyond, $\varepsilon''(\nu)$ has the power law frequency dependence of $\nu^{-0.13}$ and weak temperature dependence, which are the characteristics of the nearly constant loss (NCL) of the caged molecules found in many glass-formers. 37,39,45,46,62,63 The dynamics of caged molecules is neither relaxation nor diffusion, and has no characteristic time constant. The NCL with power law frequency dependence extends from the onset frequency of the order of the microscopic excitations frequency in the infrared region, ^{68,72} and persists indefinitely to lower frequencies until it is terminated at the cutoff frequency $\nu_{\rm NCL}(T)$ by onset of the primitive relaxation. Thus, the power law seen in Figure 3 will continue to hold when extended to higher frequencies, and at the THz regime, it is superposed on top of the microscopic peak, which is almost independent of temperature. 68 The NCL is thus the dynamic process responsible for the $\varepsilon''(\nu)$ at 1 THz and change of temperature dependence near T_{β} for sorbitol. The same discussion can be applied also to the data of the other polyalcohols. In particular, it can rationalize the results of Figure 2 for glycerol, where $\varepsilon''(\nu)$ = 0.6 THz) exhibits a stronger temperature change than $\varepsilon''(\nu =$ 1 THz).

The lower bound of the NCL regime, $\nu_{\rm NCL}(T)$, is higher than the primitive relaxation frequency, $\nu_0(T) \approx \nu_{\rm JG}(T)$, but normally the former is higher than the latter by one or two decades at temperatures above $T_{\rm g}$, as can be seen from examples shown in refs 37, 39, and 44–46 and also from some spectra in Figure 3. This relation between $\nu_{\rm NCL}(T)$ and $\nu_0(T) \approx \nu_{\rm JG}(T)$ holds in the spectra of xylitol (see Figure 4), threitol, and glycerol (see Figures S1 and S2 in the Supporting Information), justifying that the primitive/JG β -relaxation is the terminator of the caged dynamics regime. Again, the dielectric $\varepsilon''(\nu)$ data of these three polyalcohols exhibit the NCL starting at frequencies about 10 decades below 1 THz at temperatures above their respective T_{β} , and is expected to remain as NCL for all temperatures below. In Figure S3 (see the Supporting Information), the weak temperature dependence of the NCL



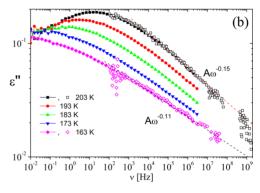


Figure 4. Dielectric loss spectra of xylitol at selected temperatures. Panel a, from right to left: 266, 256, 252, 250, 248, and 243 K. The dashed line is a fit to the α -relaxation peak by the one-sided Fourier transform of the Kohlrausch function with n=0.46. Each vertical arrow pointing toward certain data taken at some temperature indicates the location of the primitive relaxation frequency, ν_0 . Panel b, from right to left: 203, 193, 183, 173, and 163 K. The dashed lines are power law fits of the high frequency flank of data at 203 and 163 K. Data are collected from this study and from ref 63 ($\nu=100$ Hz to 3 GHz, T=163 and 203 K).

proportional to $\exp(T/T_0)$ in a range of temperatures around $T_\beta=157~{\rm K}$ of glycerol is shown. Therefore, by these figures, the NCL is identified as the dynamic process contributing to the $\varepsilon''(\nu)$ at 1 THz and giving rise to the change of temperature dependence near T_β for these other polyalcohols. Naturally, the question following this identification is why the NCL is sensitive to the vitrification of the JG β -relaxation. The answer to this question will be given later, and before that, presented in the next section are dielectric measurements of two pharmaceutical glass-formers, flufenamic acid and indomethacin, to determine the α - and JG β -relaxation times, T_β , and the ratio $T_\beta/T_{\rm g}$ for comparison with THz-TDS data when it becomes available in the open literature.

4. DIELECTRIC RELAXATION DATA OF FLUFENAMIC ACID AND INDOMETHACIN

The isothermal dielectric loss spectra of flufenamic acid are shown in Figure 5. The prominent α -loss peak is fitted by the Fourier transform of the Kohlrausch function with n=0.44 shown by example at one temperature. At higher frequencies is a well resolved secondary relaxation loss peak. There is approximate agreement between the secondary relaxation frequency $\nu_{\rm JG}(T)$ and the primitive relaxation frequency $\nu_{\rm O}(T)$ calculated by eq 2. This satisfies one criterion to indicate that the observed secondary relaxation is the JG β -relaxation. Against reciprocal temperature, the plots of the logarithm of $\tau_{\alpha}(T)$ and $\tau_{\rm IG}(T)$ in Figure 6 enable determination of the

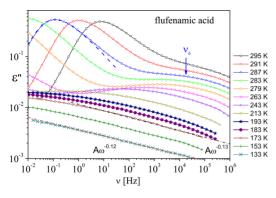


Figure 5. Dielectric loss spectra of flufenamic acid at selected temperatures. The dashed line is a fit to the α-relaxation peak at 287 K by the one-sided Fourier transform of the Kohlrausch function with n = 0.44. The vertical arrow marks the location of the primitive relaxation frequency, ν_0 . The dash—dotted lines are power law fits of the high frequency flank of data at 153 and 173 K. The two thick lines and bigger symbols are for 193 and 183 K bracketing the $T_{\beta} = 189$ K.

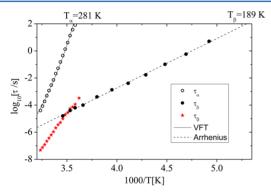


Figure 6. Relaxation map for flufenamic acid: α - (open circles) and JG β -relaxation (filled circles) times, τ_{α} and τ_{β} , plotted against reciprocal temperature. Red star symbols are for primitive relaxation times, calculated according to eq 2. The continuous line is a Vogel–Tammann–Fulcher fit to τ_{α} , and the dashed line is the Arrhenius fit to $\tau_{\beta} = 5 \times 10^{-18} \exp(8400/T)$ s.

dielectric $T_{\rm g}=261$ K when $\tau_{\alpha}(T)=100$ s and extrapolation of the Arrhenius dependence of $\tau_{\rm JG}(T)$ down to $T_{\beta}=189$ K at which $\tau_{\rm JG}(T)=100$ s. Thus, $T_{\beta}/T_{\rm g}=0.67$ in the case of flufenamic acid, and this value is predicted at or near which the $\varepsilon''(\nu)$ observed by THz-TDS at 1 THz will change temperature dependence. ⁶¹

On cooling the sample much further below $T_{\rm g}$ to move the α - and β -relaxation out of the instrument frequency window, the NCL appears at higher frequencies and lower temperatures in the loss spectra (Figure 5). The $\varepsilon''(\nu)$ data at $T_{\beta}=189$ K and below show a clear power law dependence $\nu^{-\lambda}$ with λ of the order of 0.1 and a weak temperature dependence typical of the NCL. The $\nu^{-\lambda}$ dependence seen by conventional dielectric measurements at frequencies lower than 10^5 Hz should persist up to the terahertz region, and the dynamics probed by THz-TDS is the NCL of caged molecules at temperatures below and above $T_{\beta}=189$ K.

In contrast to flufenamic acid, the JG β -relaxation of indomethacin has a very small dielectric strength and is not easily resolved in isothermal dielectric spectra. However, its presence has been detected by either applying elevated pressure or first compressing a sample in the liquid state followed by cooling the sample below $T_{\rm g}$ and releasing the

pressure.⁷⁴ An extrapolation of the suggested Arrhenius temperature dependence of $au_{
m IG}(T)$ down to 100 s determines 73 T_{β} = 184.5 K at which $\tau_{\rm IG}(T)$ = 100 s. This together with $T_{\rm g}$ = 316.25 K gives $T_{\beta}/T_{\rm g} = 0.58$. There is a large uncertainty in this value because of the long extrapolation from values of $\tau_{IG}(T)$ at two temperatures each with large uncertainty. Another way to determine T_{β} is to use the calculated value of $\tau_0(T_{\alpha}) = 2.42 \times 10^{-3}$ 10^{-4} s by eq 2 with n = 0.41 and $\tau_{\alpha}(T_{\rm g}) = 100$ s and $T_{\rm g} =$ 316.25 K, and the fact that $\tau_0(T_{\rm g}) \approx \tau_{\beta}(T_{\rm g})$. The same value of n=0.41 was obtained by both Carpentier et al. 73 and Wojnarowska et al.⁷⁴ By manipulating the differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) technique, Vyazovkin and Dranca⁷⁶ were able to detect the β -relaxation in the glassy state of indomethacin and found that its activation energy E_{β} is 56 kJ/mol. Combining this value of E_{β} with $\tau_0(T_{\rm g}) = 2.42 \times 10^{-4}$ s, the Arrhenius dependence of $\tau_{\rm IG}(T) \approx \tau_0(T)$ is given by 1.35 \times $10^{-13} \exp(6736/T)$ s. Hence, another estimate of T_{β} is equal to 196.5 K by the definition of $\tau_{\rm JG}(T_{\beta}) \approx \tau_0(T_{\beta}) = 100$ s, and $T_{\beta}/$ $T_{\rm g}$ = 0.62. The two predicted values of $T_{\beta}/T_{\rm g}$ can be compared with the THz data when published. It is worth pointing out that present in the glassy state of indomethacin is the well resolved and intense γ -relaxation. Faster than the JG β -relaxation with Arrhenius activation energy $E_{\nu} = 38$ kJ/mol, the γ -relaxation is pressure-insensitive and intramolecular in origin because it is pressure-insensitive. ⁷⁴ The NCL is eclipsed by the γ -relaxation and cannot be observed directly in the low frequency dielectric spectra.

5. RELATION OF THE NCL WITH THE PRIMITIVE/JG β -RELAXATION

In the CM, the dynamics evolve and change with time. 37,39,41-44 Starting at short times is the motion of molecules confined within cages via the intermolecular potential, and the loss is determined by anharmonicity of the potential. The caged dynamics is not a normal relaxation process. It has no characteristic time, and hence, the loss is a power law, $\chi''(\nu) = B(T)\nu^{-\lambda}$, with $\lambda \ll 1$, or appropriately referred to as the nearly constant loss (NCL) in the susceptibility spectrum. Neither cooperativity nor heterogeneity applies to the NCL of caged dynamics because molecules remain caged throughout the regime, and the loss originates from the anharmonicity of the potential. Although caged dynamics form the core issue of the idealized mode coupling theory, ^{66,67,78} the NCL is not a prediction of it. ^{16,17,28} This NCL regime persists until the cages are dissolved by the onset of the primitive relaxation of the CM, 37,39,41-44 the motion of which involves the entire molecule (i.e., a generalization and analogue of the totally rigid molecules studied by Johari and Goldstein). Thus, the primitive relaxation time, $\tau_0(T, P)$, is an order-of-magnitude upper bound of the NCL time regime, a prediction verified by experimental data and molecular dynamics simulations in many molecular glass-formers,^{37–46} and ionic conductors.^{47–51,57–59} Application of high electric fields in dielectric spectroscopy has the effect of increased loss from all genuine relaxation processes including the JG β relaxation starting from the primitive relaxation in glycerol and sorbitol. 80-82 The cause of the increased loss originates from the heterogeneous dynamics of the relaxation processes. However, no effect of the high field was found in the NCL in these high field experiments, as pointed out in a more recent paper.44 The analyses of these experimental findings also provide additional evidence that ν_0 is a lower bound of the NCL frequency regime.

The NCL is terminated when it reaches the critical value, ε_{\max}'' at the cutoff frequency $\nu_{\rm c}(T)$ equal to ν_0 in order of magnitude, by the onset of the primitive relaxation. The magnitude of ε_{\max}'' is independent of the value of $\nu_{\rm c}(T)$ or $\nu_0(T)$ because the same criterion for the termination of the NCL applies. Since from its onset frequency, $\nu_{\rm on}$, to $\nu_{\rm c}(T)$, the $\varepsilon''(\nu)$ of the NCL increases by the same amount, it follows from the power law dependence of $\varepsilon''(\nu) = B(T)\nu^{-\lambda}$ that at any intermediate frequency ν we have the proportionality relation for the magnitude of the NCL

$$NCL(v) \propto \varepsilon_{max}''/[\log v_{on} - \log v_{c}(T)]$$
 (3)

On heating, the value of $\nu_c(T)$ increases following $\nu_0(T) \approx$ $\nu_{\rm IG}(T)$, and the denominator in relation 3 decreases and hence $NCL(\nu)$ increases. This monotonic increase of $NCL(\nu)$ with temperature is commonly observed in dielectric^{23,37,39,45,46} and light scattering^{16,17} studies, and also in THz-TDS.^{60,61} Moreover, as a consequence of the vitrification of the β -relaxation (i.e., the secondary glass transition⁸³) on crossing T_{β} , the change of $\nu_0(T) \approx \nu_{IG}(T)$ with temperature above T_{β} is stronger than that below T_{β} . This change of T dependence of $\nu_0(T) \approx \nu_{\rm IG}(T)$ and also the cutoff frequency $\nu_{\rm c}(T)$ at T_{β} give rise to a corresponding change of T dependence, as can be inferred from relation 3. The weak temperature dependence of the intensity factor, $A(T) \propto \exp(T/T_0)$, where $T < T_0$, is also derivable from the primitive relaxation frequency, $\nu_0(T, P) \equiv 1/2$ $(2\pi\tau_0(T, P))$, acting as the lower bound of the NCL frequency regime. 49 Although the derivation in ref 49 is for caged ions of ionically conducting systems, it is applicable also to cage molecules in glass-formers.

Even better known from experiments $^{43,52-54}$ and theoretically from eq 2 is the change of the temperature dependence of $\nu_0(T)\approx\nu_{\rm JG}(T)$ at $T_{\rm g}$ from the Arrhenius dependence below to a stronger dependence above. The same relation 3 explains the corresponding change in the temperature dependence of NCL(ν) on crossing $T_{\rm g}$, which was observed in neutron scattering, $^{2-11,34}$ and by dynamic light scattering. In closing this section, we mention other studies by simulations of the fast dynamics in model glass-formers and from experiment for offering different interpretations than ours. Mainly focused on the relation between cooperative motions, elasticity, and free volume, the authors of these studies did not take into account the contribution of the JG relaxation, and thus, no prediction or explanation was provided for the change of fast dynamics at T_{θ} .

6. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The isothermal and isochronal dielectric relaxation data of the polyalcohols we presented have identified the nearly constant losses in susceptibility spectra of caged molecules are the process probed by THz-TDS in the study by Sibik et al. 60,61 Therefore, the NCL is the process responsible for the observed change in the temperature dependence of $\varepsilon''(\nu)$ at 1 THz in the experiment. From the relaxation spectra of the polyalcohols, we determine the structural α -relaxation time τ_{α} and the JG β -relaxation time $\tau_{\rm JG}$. The nominal glass transition temperature $T_{\rm g}$ and the "secondary glass transition" temperature T_{β} are determined as the temperatures at which τ_{α} and $\tau_{\rm JG}$ reach 100 s, respectively.

The crux of the paper is a CM description of the evolution of dynamics with time. The dynamics start from the caged molecules regime, which is terminated by the primitive relaxation involving rotation and/or translation of individual molecules. In turn, the primitive relaxation is the start or

precursor of the evolution of the relaxation dynamics with time that involves the participation of an increasing number of molecules. These spatially and dynamically heterogeneous relaxation processes, collectively considered as the JG β relaxation, are spatially and dynamically heterogeneous as well as to some extent cooperative. These properties of the JG β relaxation explain why it shows up at some temperature T_{β} below $T_{\rm g}$ in heat capacity measurements by various techniques of calorimetry, $^{77,88-91}$ and positronium annihilation spectroscopy, 83,92 and justify calling it the secondary glass transition consistent with the $T\rho^{-\gamma}$ dependence of $\tau_{\rm IG}$. Furthermore, the freezing of the motions related to JG β -relaxation has been recently shown⁹³ to contribute to glass entropy and enthalpy. These findings imply that glasses have a nonequilibrium structure characterized by two fictive temperatures: 93 the highest $T_{\rm f}$ (close to $T_{\rm g}$) that corresponds to the kinetic freezing of α -cooperative motions and the lower $T_{\rm fJG}$ (close to T_{β}) that corresponds to kinetic freezing of local fluctuations. On the basis of these experimental facts and theoretical considerations, the occurrence of secondary glass transition of the JG β relaxation at T_{eta} is natural. The temperature dependence of $au_{
m IG}$ changes from the stronger Arrhenius dependence above T_{β} to a weaker one below T_{β} . The final stage of the evolution of dynamics is the heterogeneous and cooperative α -relaxation having a time correlation function given by the Kohlrausch function in eq 1, and its relaxation time τ_{α} is connected to $\tau_0 \approx$ $\tau_{\rm IG}$ by eq 2 which also has been amply verified in many glassformers and mixtures by experiments.

The termination of the caged molecule dynamics regime by the onset of the primitive relaxation acting as the precursor of the JG β -relaxation is the origin of the connection of the caged molecule dynamics with relaxation processes. The cage molecule dynamics manifested in susceptibility as the nearly constant loss (NCL) is thus related in its magnitude to the relaxation frequencies $\nu_0(T) \approx \nu_{\rm IG}(T)$. The well understood changes of the temperature dependence of $\nu_0(T) \approx \nu_{IG}(T)$ at $T_{\rm g}$ and T_{β} are transferred to the corresponding changes of the NCL. Density changes on crossing $T_{\rm g}$ and T_{β} also can independently rationalize the changes of the T dependence of NCL. Through the steps summarized in the above, we have a microscopic explanation of the sub- $T_{
m g}$ change of $\varepsilon''(
u)$ data at $T_{\rm THz}$ observed in the polyalcohols by THz-TDS. In this explanation, the sub- $T_{
m g}$ change of $\varepsilon''(
u)$ data should occur at T_{eta} obtained from the analysis of conventional dielectric spectroscopy. The good agreements of T_{β} with T_{THz} in the polyalcohols are strong support of the explanation. Analysis of the dielectric spectra of flufenamic acid and indomethacin gives the values of T_{β} for these two pharmaceutical glass-formers. The prediction that T_{eta} should be approximately equal to T_{THz} can be checked against THz-TDS data of these glass-formers⁶¹ when published in the future.

Although we focus our attention on THz-TDS data, other high frequency/short time techniques such as dynamic light scattering and neutron scattering will serve the same purpose of showing the presence of the sub- $T_{\rm g}$ change originating from the NCL of caged dynamics. As an example, we cite the neutron scattering data of a cis/trans mixture of decalin by Plazanet and Schober. The mean square displacements from elastic intensity measurements show a change of temperature dependence at $T_{\rm n} \approx 90$ K and at $T_{\rm g} = 137$ K. The ratio is $T_{\rm n}/T_{\rm g} = 0.66$. If the low frequency susceptibility spectra of decalin are available to deduce the vitrification temperature of the primitive or JG β -relaxation, T_{β} , it can be compared with $T_{\rm n}$. In the case of

decalin, the dielectric strength is too weak, and the β -relaxation has not been detected. ⁹⁴ Notwithstanding, there are other glassformers for which the sub- $T_{\rm g}$ change was observed at $T_{\rm n}$ by other high frequency techniques other than THz-TDS, and to be compared with T_{β} which also can be determined by low frequency dielectric spectroscopy and calorimetry. These will be the subject of a follow-up paper.

As a final remark, this paper should not be considered as just an explanation of the data from THz-TDS. Rather, it serves as another demonstration of the link between the caged molecule dynamics and the primitive relaxation, the precursor of the JG β -relaxation, showing up before in many other experimental investigations.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

S Supporting Information

More details on the dielectric loss spectra of polyalcohols. The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.jpcb.Sb04408.

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Notes

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