**APS Satellite Meeting at ICTS** 

### Sensing magnetic environments using combination probes in an optical tweezer

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### What is a combination probe?



Optically trapped 1µm silica bead

Ferrofluids: Aqueous, 100nm ø, Magnetite core, anion surface charge

## Why is it not possible to trap nanoparticles in a conventional OT

- Optical trapping of nanoparticles depends critically on the material of the particle that influences the stability of trapping through the polarizability
- Techniques to trap nanoparticles optically thereby involve measures like design of nanoparticles with enhanced polarizability, use of plasmonic tweezers / near field optical trapping or the use of ultra-short laser pulses
- One can conclude that there is a strong possibility that conditions for stable trapping of nanoparticles are never satisfied in a conventional OT. Thus one may not observe the formation of clusters within the trap volume

- M. A. Zaman, P. Padhy and L. Hesselink, "Near-field optical trapping in a non-conservative force field", Sci. Rep, 9(649), 1-11 (2019)
- M. L. Juan, M. Righini and R. Quidant, "Plasmon nano-optical tweezers", Nat. Photonics, 5, 349-356 (2011)
- P. M. Bendix, L. Jauffred, K. Norregaard, and L. B. Oddershede, "Optical Trapping of Nanoparticles and Quantum Dot", IEEE J. Sel. Top. Quant., 20(3), 2014

### Schematic of the optical tweezer setup used



#### What happens when a non-magnetic probe is optically trapped when in a nanoparticle suspension



1.0x10

#### Analysis of power spectral density





#### Estimation of threshold concentration



Power (mW)	Value of threshold FF concentration (µg/µl)
4	30.0
8	45.0
12	65.5

#### Autocorrelation function analysis



#### Commercial ZnO nanoparticles



Aqueous, 40nm ø, uncoated (Sigma Aldrich)

#### What we think is happening here



Shruthi Subhash Iyengar, Praveen Parthasarathi, Sharath Ananthamurthy, Sarbari Bhattacharya, "Trap stiffness modification of an optically trapped microsphere through directed motion of nanoparticles", Appl. Opt. 59(17), 5114-5123 (2020)

#### RESPONSE TO VARIOUS MAGNETIC ENVIRONMENTS

#### Single Magnet – left and right



#### Single Magnet – top and bottom



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#### **Double Magnets – Parallel configuration**



#### **Double Magnets – Anti-Parallel configuration**



# Magnetic beads in the presence of magnetic nanoparticles

#### Ferromagnetic Beads (FMBs)

CrO<sub>2</sub> layer of nanoparticles on polystyrene matrix



**Polystyrene-composite Magnetic Beads (PMBs)**  $Fe_3O_4$  layer of nanoparticles on polystyrene matrix, additional polystyrene coating,



# Fluctuation behaviour of a trapped probe with different ferrofluid concentrations in the presence of FMBs and PMBs



#### Variation in the initial structures of the FMBs with ferrofluids





#### Variation in the initial structures of the PMBs with ferrofluids





# How does the variation in the agglomerated structures affect the position fluctuations of the trapped microsphere

- Variations in the chain and cluster numbers have a net effect of manipulating the dynamics of the nanoparticles to collectively increase the corner frequency of the trapped non-magnetic bead
- Clusters located at the outer limit of the extent of influence of the OT act as attraction centres for the nanoparticles that are otherwise beyond the influence of the OT
- Within a certain distance from the trap centre, the effect of the electric field gradient is strong enough; ferrofluid particles overcome the magnetic interactions and move under the influence of the electric field gradient of the OT.
- One observes the formation of clusters of PMBs deviating from the original chain structures seen in the absence of FF which when broken into clusters can move much more easily towards the trap centre taking along with them any FF nanoparticles that have accumulated due to the magnetic interaction
- As the FF concentration is increased further, the FF particles themselves participate in the chain reformation with the PMBs.
- This reduces the availability of the FF particles that can move under the electric field gradient towards the trapped probe thus decreasing the corner frequency values..

#### What else has been done

- Studies with magnetic microbeads and agglomerated structures in the presence of external magnetic fields
- Has also be used to sense
- *a)* Change in temperature
- b) Change in viscosity
- c) Change in chemical environment
- Changing the trapped non-magnetic bead to a coreshell magnetic bead gives rise to more interesting dynamics and more possibilities in sensing

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THANK YOU