

# NMR Spectroscopy Characterization of Silicone Polymers and Fluids Used in Electronic Components

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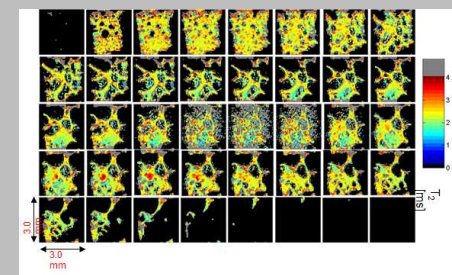
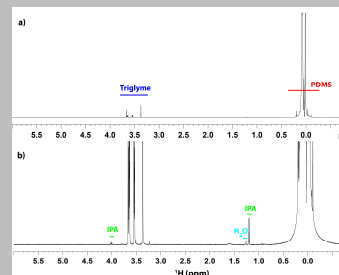
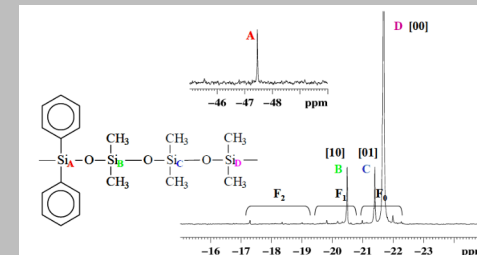
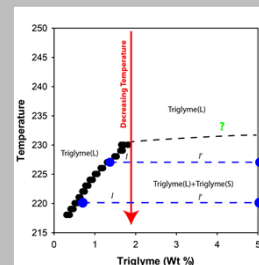
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# History of Sandia National Laboratory



- Sandia National Laboratories is one of DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) Labs.

- Originally the call "Z-Division" (1945): design, testing and assembly arm of Los Alamos National Lab.

- Moved to Sandia Base to be near air field and military.

- Livermore site developed in 1956.

- Take the physics package of LANL and LLNL and turn it into a deployable weapon.



# Sandia's Sites

*Albuquerque, New Mexico*



*Livermore, California*



*Kauai, Hawaii*



*Waste Isolation Pilot Plant,  
Carlsbad, New Mexico*



*Pantex Plant,  
Amarillo, Texas*



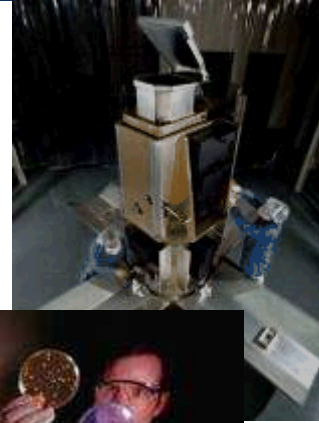
*Tonopah, Nevada*





# What Do We Do? - Four Mission Areas

- Nuclear Weapons
- Defense Systems and Assessments
- Energy, Climate and Infrastructure Security
- International, Homeland and Nuclear Security



# Nuclear Weapons

**Pulsed power and radiation effects sciences**



**Design agency for nonnuclear components**

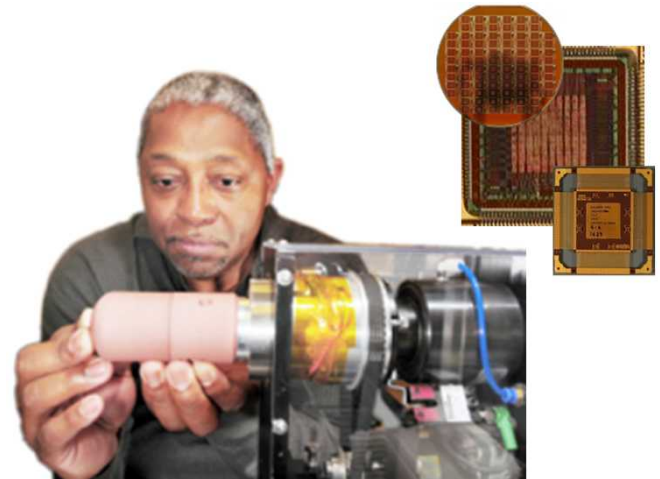
- Neutron generators
- Arming, fuzing and firing systems
- Safety systems
- Gas transfer systems



**Warhead systems engineering and integration**



**Production agency**



# NMR Analysis

## Research and Development

- Development of NMR techniques for component analysis.  
“<sup>17</sup>O labeling and Imaging”

## Production

- Contaminants, purity and mixtures.
- Matching quality from “qualification” from the 1980’s and 1990’s.  
“Stereochemistry in PDMS/PDPS Copolymers”

## Surveillance

- Aging and degradation properties (20 to 30+ years).
- Material Interactions.
- Prediction of aging/interactions for an additional 20 to 30 years.
- Reuse of components under different operating conditions.  
“Low Temperature PDMS Fluid Behavior”

# $^{17}\text{O}$ NMR of $\gamma$ -Irradiated PDMS

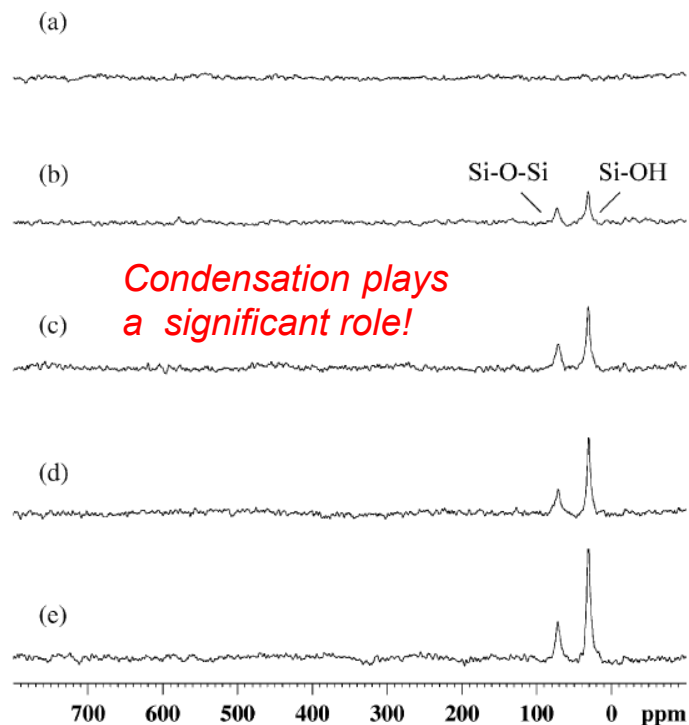
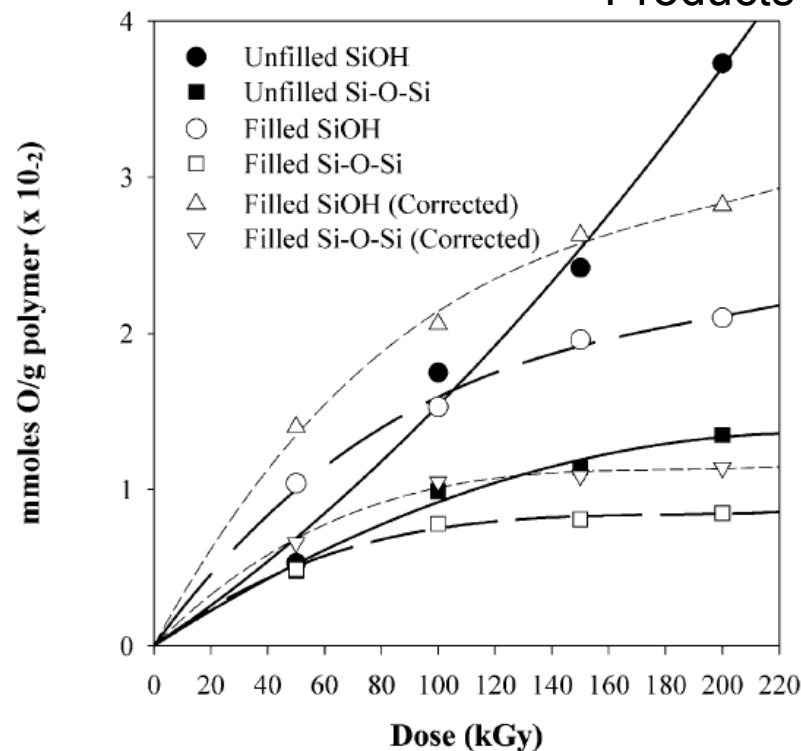
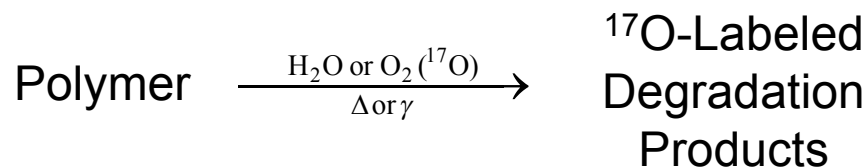


Fig. 1. High-resolution  $^{17}\text{O}$  NMR spectra of  $\gamma$ -irradiated hydrolyzed silica-filled PDMS/PDPS copolymer as a function of total irradiation dose at 300 K. Spectra are shown for: (a) 0 kGy, (b) 50.2 kGy, (c) 100.3 kGy, (d) 150.8 kGy, (e) 200.4 kGy.

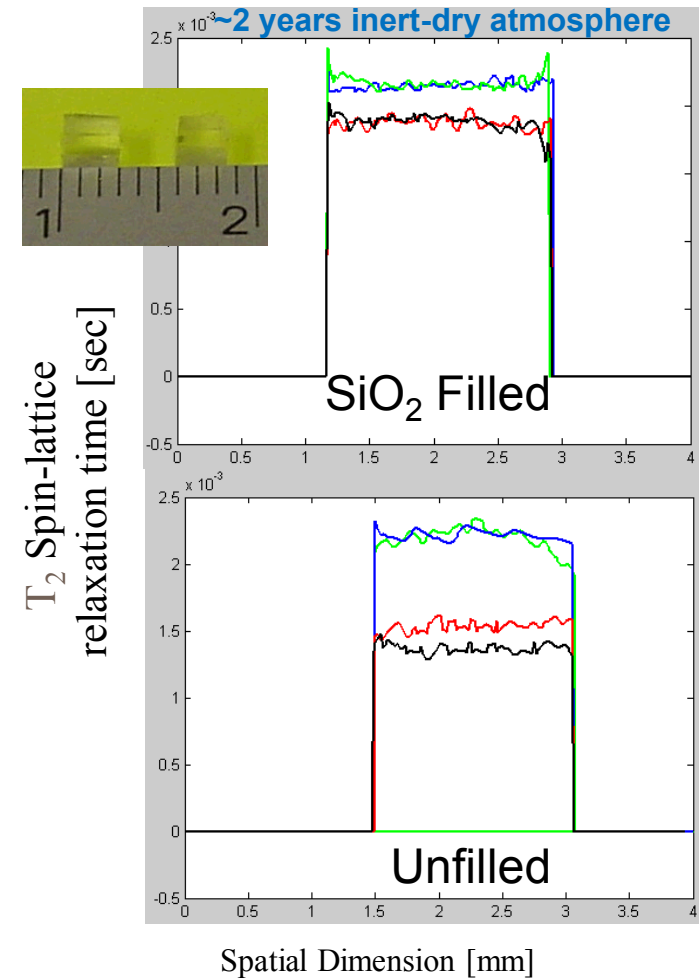


T. M. Alam " $^{17}\text{O}$  NMR Investigation of Radiolytic Hydrolysis in Polysiloxane Composites", *Radiation Physics and Chemistry*, **62**, 145-152 (2001).

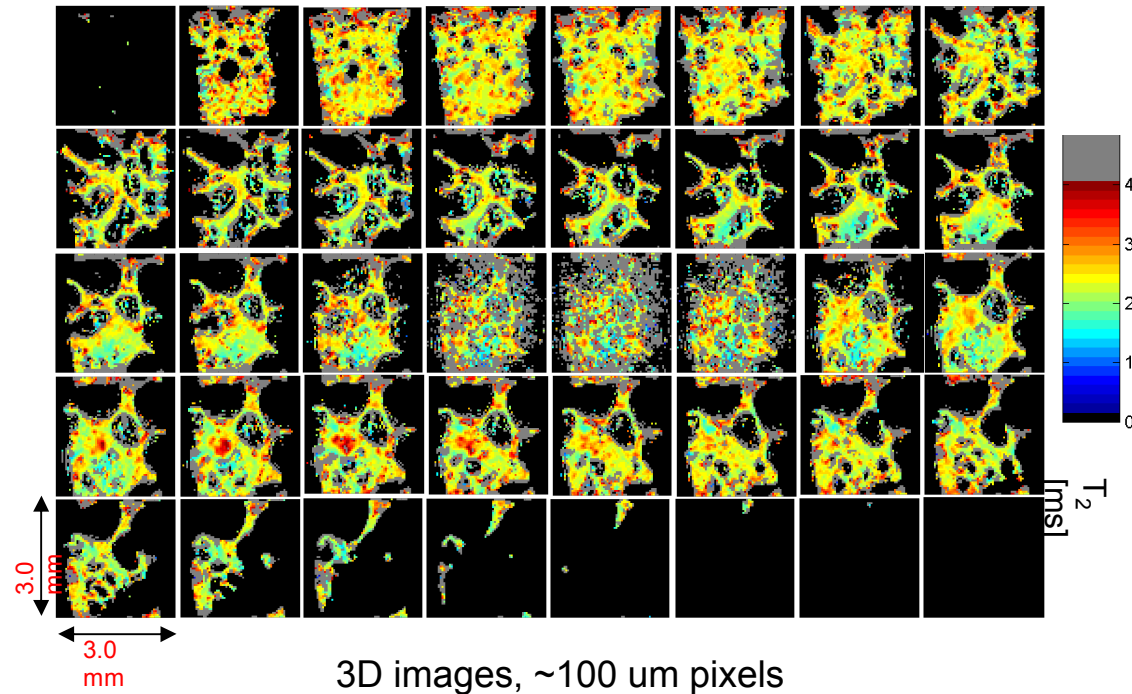
See also:

T. M. Alam, M. Celina, R. A. Assink, R. L. Clough, K. T. Gillen " $^{17}\text{O}$  NMR Investigation of Oxidative Degradation in Polymers Under  $\gamma$ -Irradiation" *Radiation Physics and Chemistry*, **60** 121-127 (2001). 50. ; T. M. Alam, M. Celina, R. A. Assink, R. L. Clough, K. T. Gillen, D. R. Wheeler "Investigation of Oxidative Degradation in Polymers Using  $^{17}\text{O}$  NMR Spectroscopy", *Macromolecules*, **33**, 1181-1190 (2000).

# NMR $T_2$ Imaging of Silicones



## Blown PDMS Foams



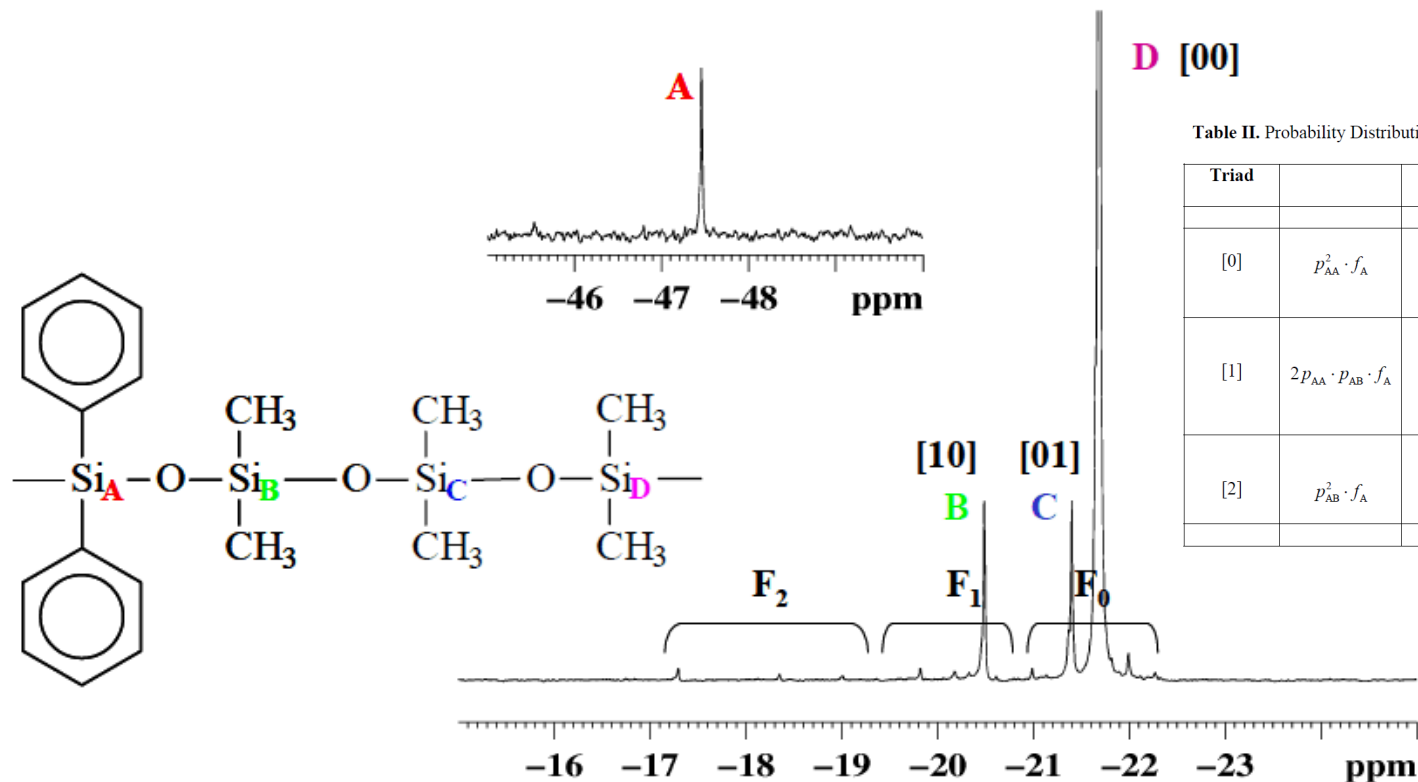
B.R. Cherry and T. M. Alam, "Relaxation NMR Imaging (R-NMRI) of PDMS/PDPS Siloxane Copolymer Desiccation", Polymer (2004) 5611-5618.

- PDMS-pads: Change in  $T_2$  during desiccation, homogeneous profile.
- PDMS-foams:  $T_2$  (stiffness) very heterogeneous in curing profile.



# Microstructure of Polysiloxanes Using $^{29}\text{Si}$ NMR

## Dimethyl – Diphenyl copolymers (vinyl precursors)



**D [00]**

Table II. Probability Distributions and Signal Intensities for Triad and Pentad Sequences.

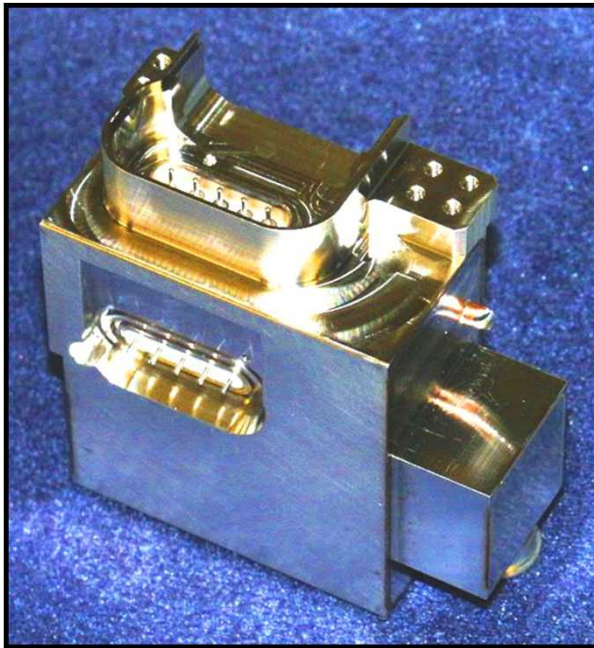
Triad		Triad Signal	Pentad		Pentad Signal
[0]	$p_{AA}^2 \cdot f_A$	$F_0$	[00]	$p_{AA}^4 \cdot f_A$	$F_{00}$
			[01]	$2p_{AA}^3 \cdot p_{AB} \cdot f_A$	$F_{01}$
			[02]	$p_{AA}^2 \cdot p_{AB}^2 \cdot f_A$	$F_{02}$
[1]	$2p_{AA} \cdot p_{AB} \cdot f_A$	$F_1$	[10]	$2p_{AA}^2 \cdot p_{AB} \cdot p_{BA} \cdot f_A$	$F_{10}$
			[11]	$2p_{AA}^2 \cdot p_{AB} \cdot p_{BB} \cdot f_A$	$F_{11}$
			[12]	$2p_{AA} \cdot p_{AB}^2 \cdot p_{BA} \cdot f_A$	$F_{12}$
[2]	$p_{AB}^2 \cdot f_A$	$F_2$	[20]	$p_{AB}^2 \cdot p_{BA}^2 \cdot f_A$	$F_{20}$
			[21]	$2p_{AB}^2 \cdot p_{BA} \cdot p_{BB} \cdot f_A$	$F_{21}$
			[22]	$p_{AB}^2 \cdot p_{BB}^2 \cdot f_A$	$F_{22}$

*Microstructure impacting  $T_g$  and  $T_m$  – Sudden appearance of Lot-Lot variability.*

T. M. Alam “Quantitative Analysis of Microstructure in Polysiloxanes Using High Resolution  $^{29}\text{Si}$  NMR Spectroscopy: Investigation of Lot Variability in the LVM97 and HVM97 PDMS/PDPS Copolymers”, SAND2002-3785.

# ESD Electrical Devices

- Environmental sensing devices (ESD).
- Contain PDMS fluids for viscosity/density.
  - Vibration/shock damping.
  - Insulative properties.



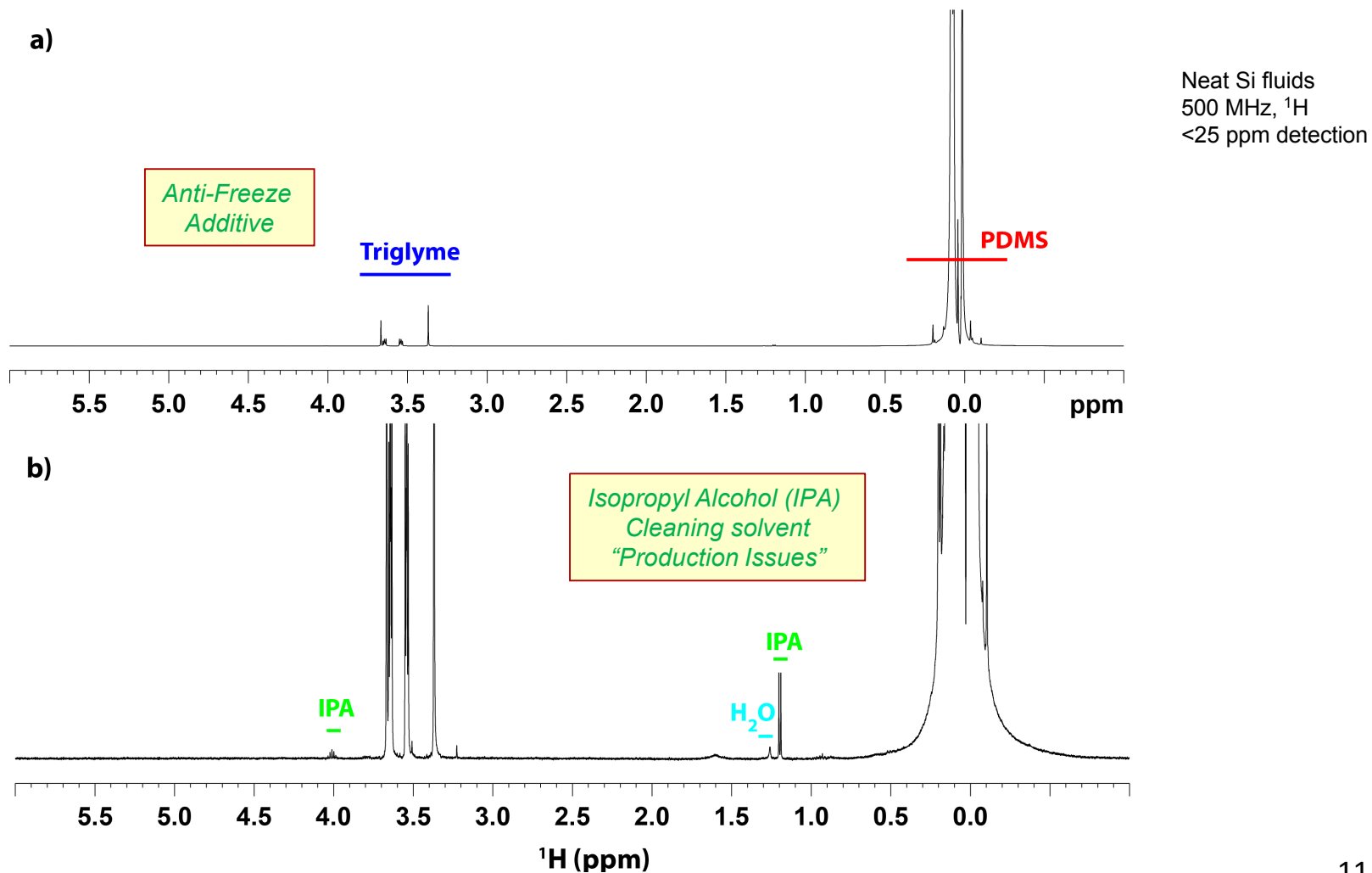
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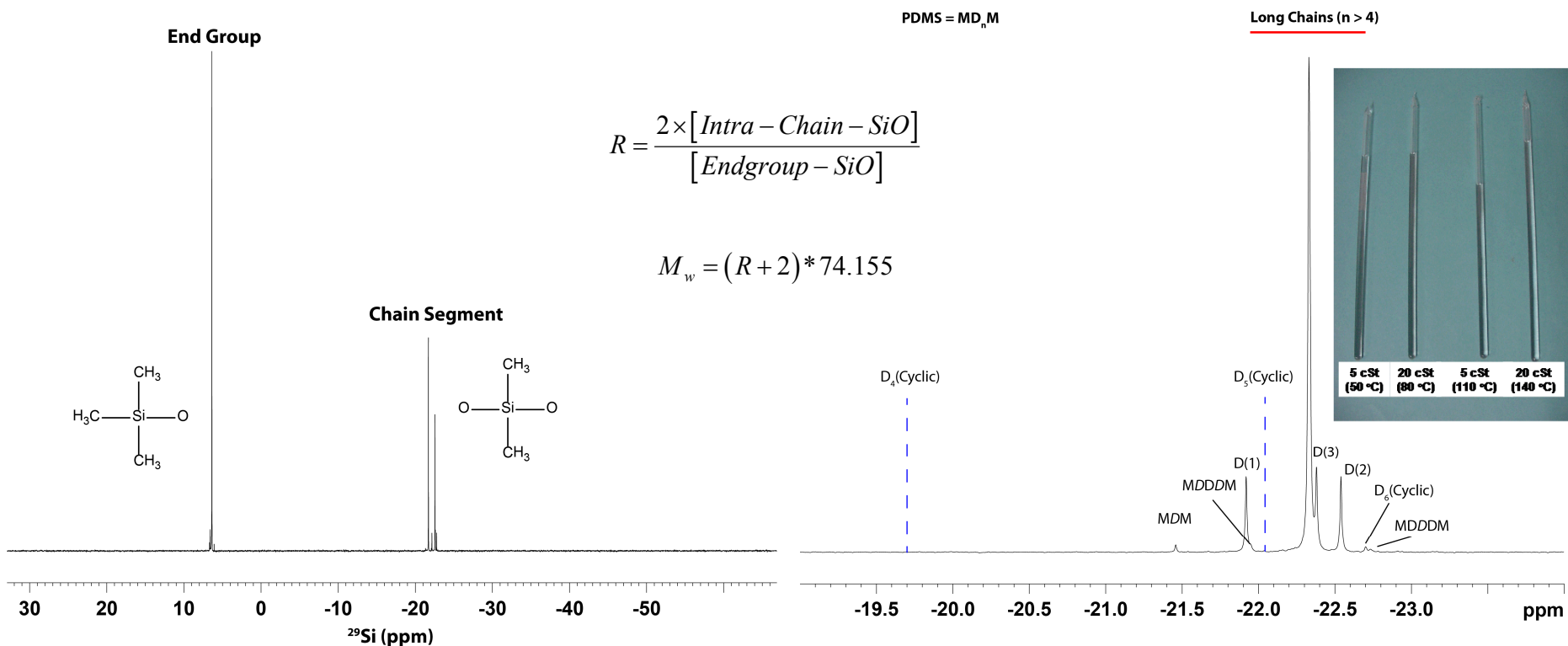
# Impurities and Triglyme Additives

*$^1\text{H}$  NMR allows quick survey of PDMS fluids.*



# Average Molecular Weight - Structure

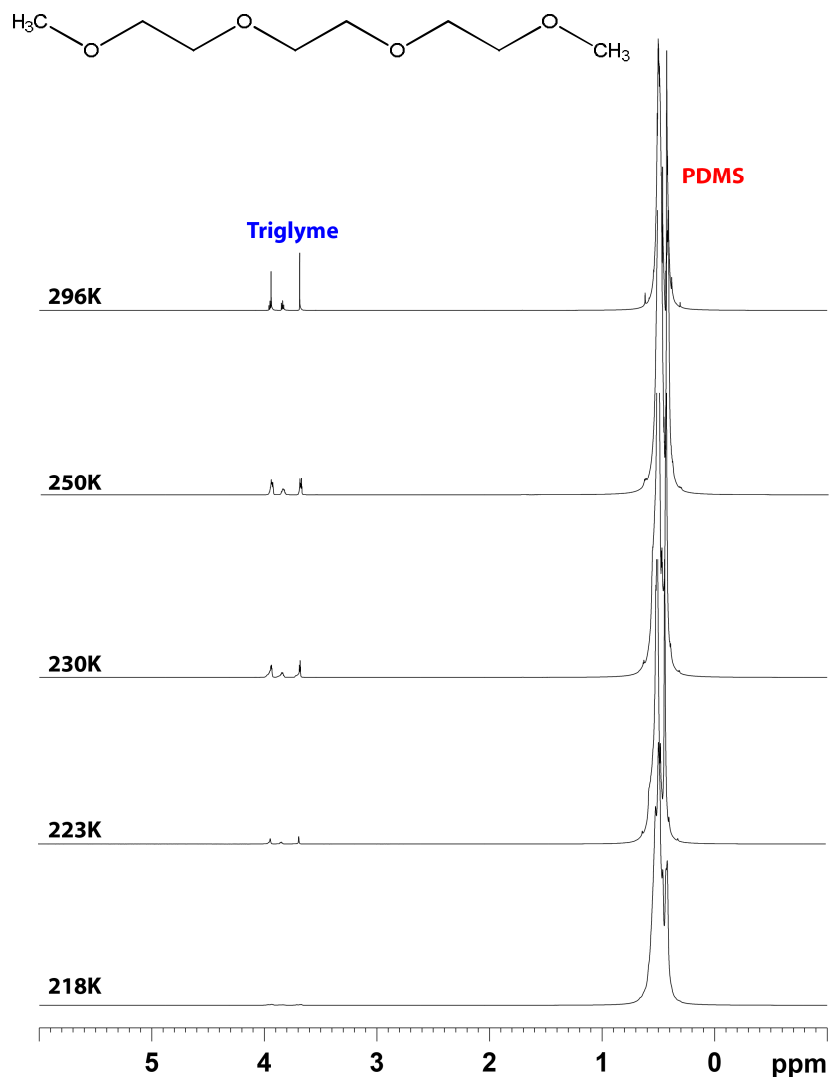
*<sup>29</sup>Si NMR allows quick survey of PDMS fluids (Supplements Viscosity).*



- Have been able to following M<sub>w</sub> changes with aging.
- Same small volume (ES&H), sealed samples over 2 -3 years).
- NMR versus “other techniques” for identification of “cyclic PDMS”.

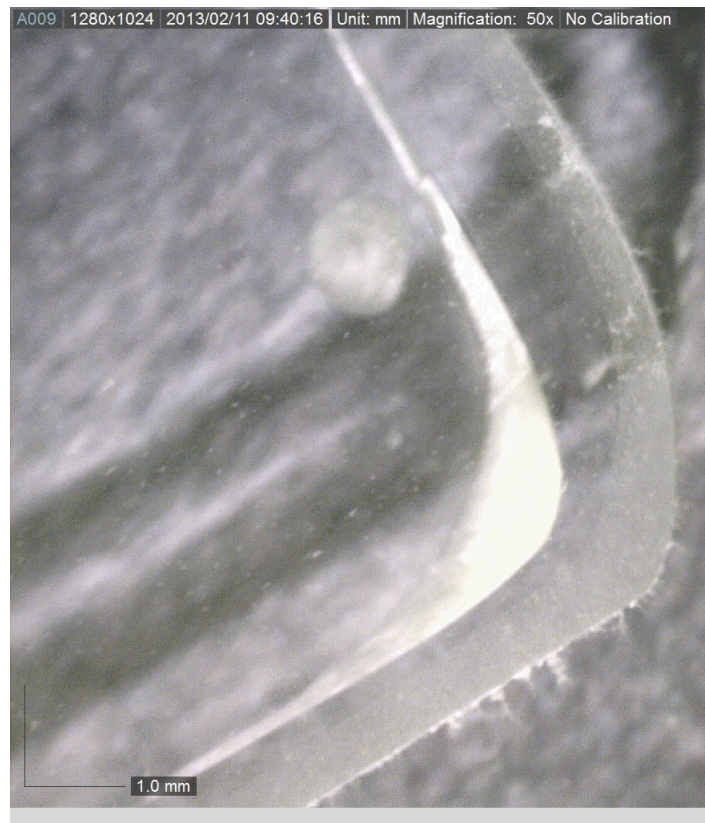
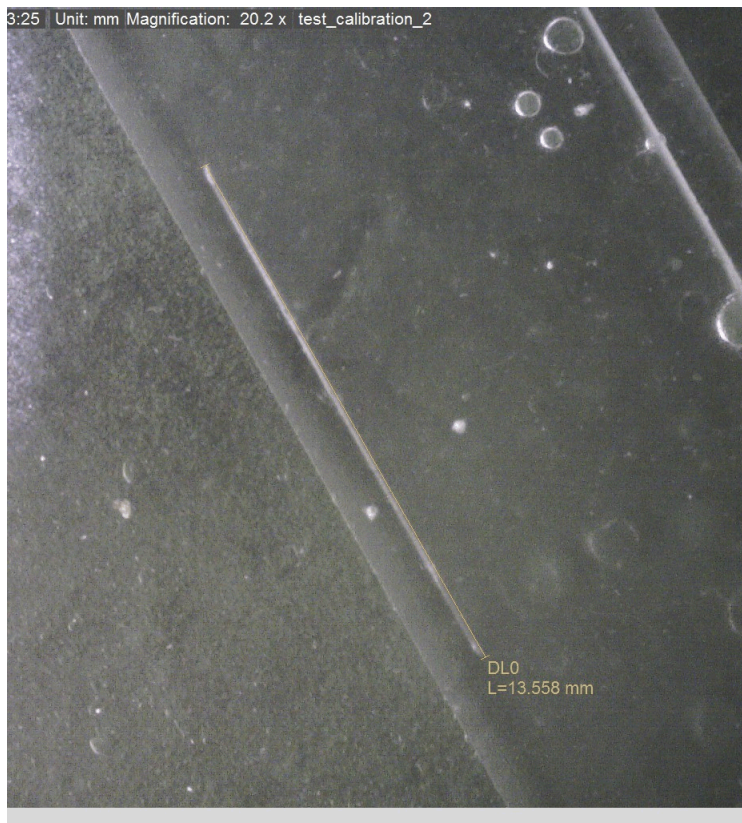


# Low Temperature Behavior of Additives



- Triglyme (Triethylene glycol dimethyl ether) added for “antifreeze” protection.
- Electrical contact issues at very low temperatures: originally argued to be trace water effects.
- No visual inspection possible with ESD devices. Required studies of silicone fluid itself.
- Low temperature  $^1\text{H}$  NMR revealed issues with the behavior of the triglyme itself.
- Disappearance of triglyme signal at low temperatures.
- NMR perfect for characterizing low temperature effects in these silicone fluids.

# Freezing at Joint Surfaces



- These “freezing effects” could only be visually observed in test cuvettes at joint surfaces.
- Could not be replicated inside the unit (no glass).
- Determined to be an “artifact”, and not responsible for change in triglyme behavior.
- Crystal formation observed at low temperatures in NMR tubes.



# Triglyme Crystal Formation



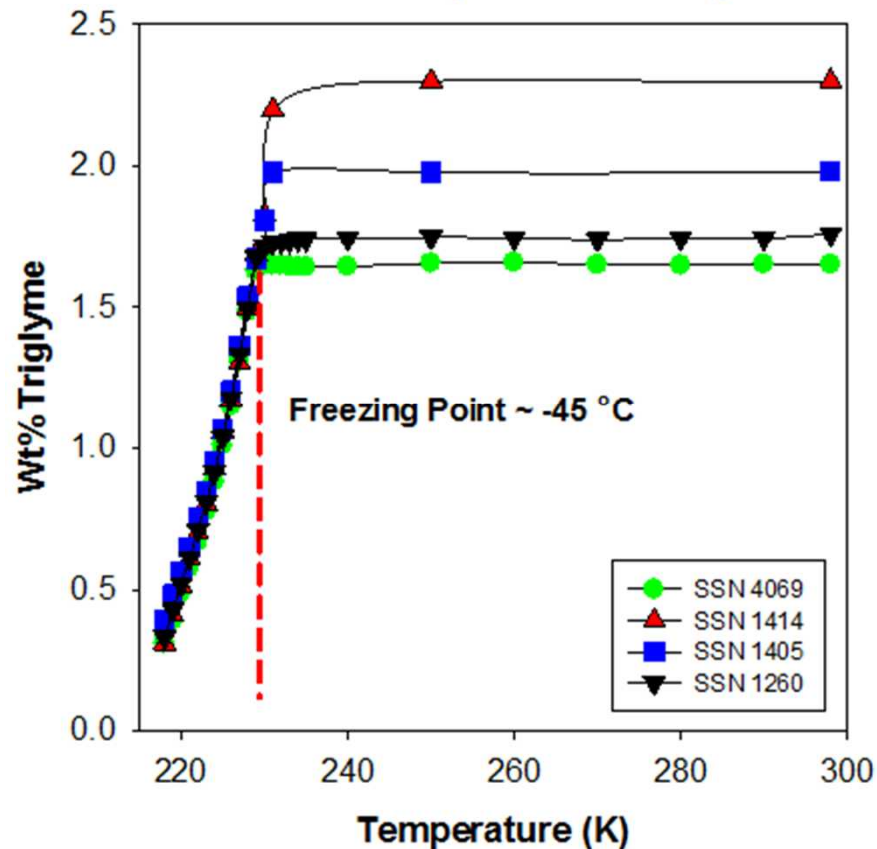
Triglyme Crystals - Pure Triglyme

- Crystals visually observed at low temperatures.
- Effects depends on both the concentration/ temperature.

*What is going on?*

# Variable Temperature NMR - Triglyme Studies

Variable Temperature Analysis

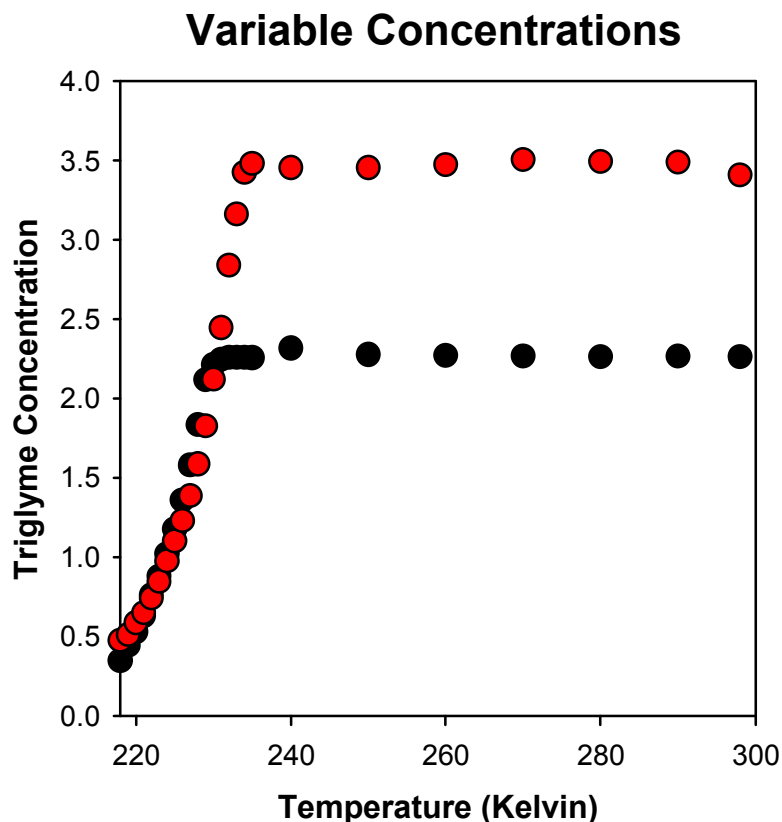


- $^1\text{H}$  NMR provides a direct measure of the triglyme concentration in solution (within detection coil).
- The variation in triglyme concentration is in contrast to earlier visual estimation (Alam, 2009) of triglyme solubility!
- Triglyme freezes at  $-46\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .
- The reduction on solubility at a given temperature is rapid ( $\sim$  minutes).
- Extended low temperature at 218K ( $\sim$  4 hours) did not further reduce triglyme concentration. This argues against simply freezing effects.
- No clouding was observed as indication of solubility issues, but crystal flocculation can be seen at very low temperatures.

*Is this “freezing” or solubility issues - Combination?*

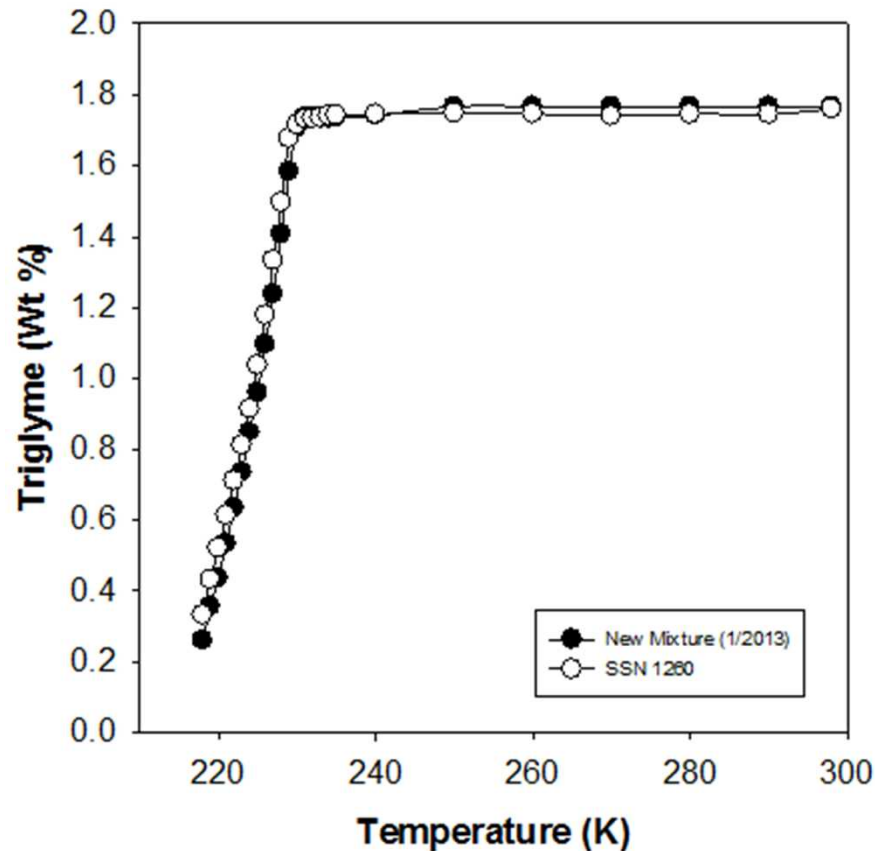


# Variable Temperature NMR - Triglyme Studies



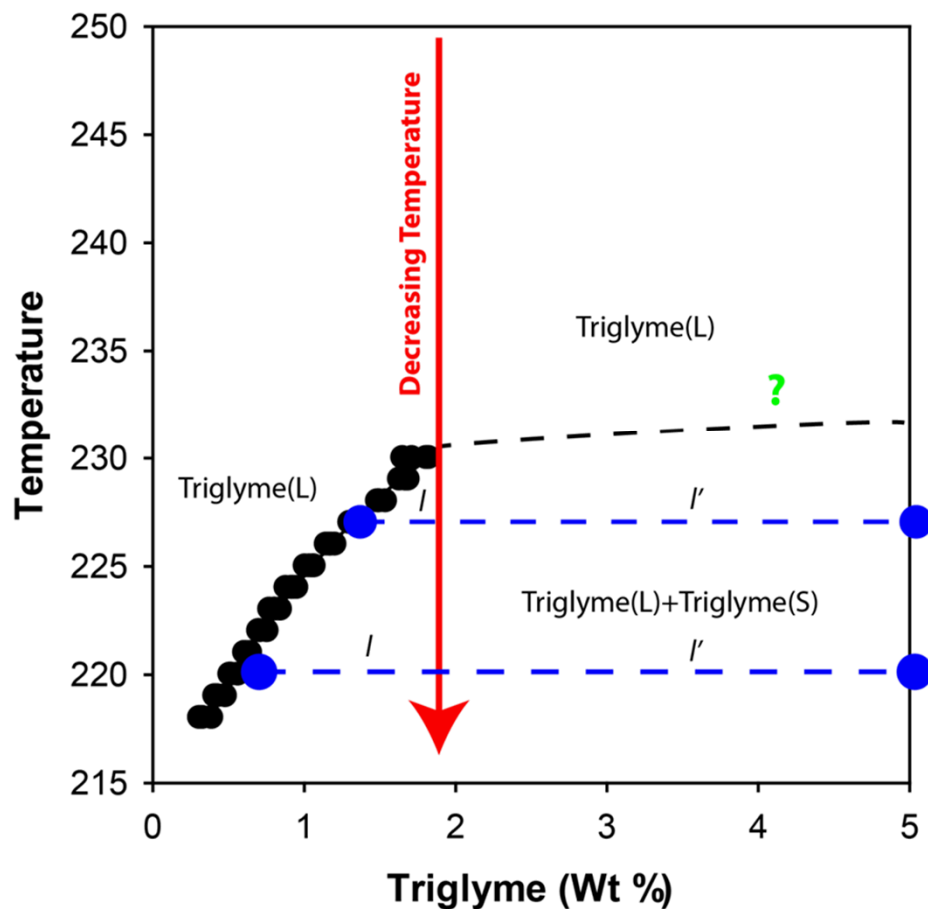
- Note change in the critical temperature with increasing Triglyme concentration.
- This critical concentration is at a higher temperature than the crystallization temperature of Triglyme.
- NMR provided a great tool to map out this solubility issue.

# Variable Temperature Triglyme Studies

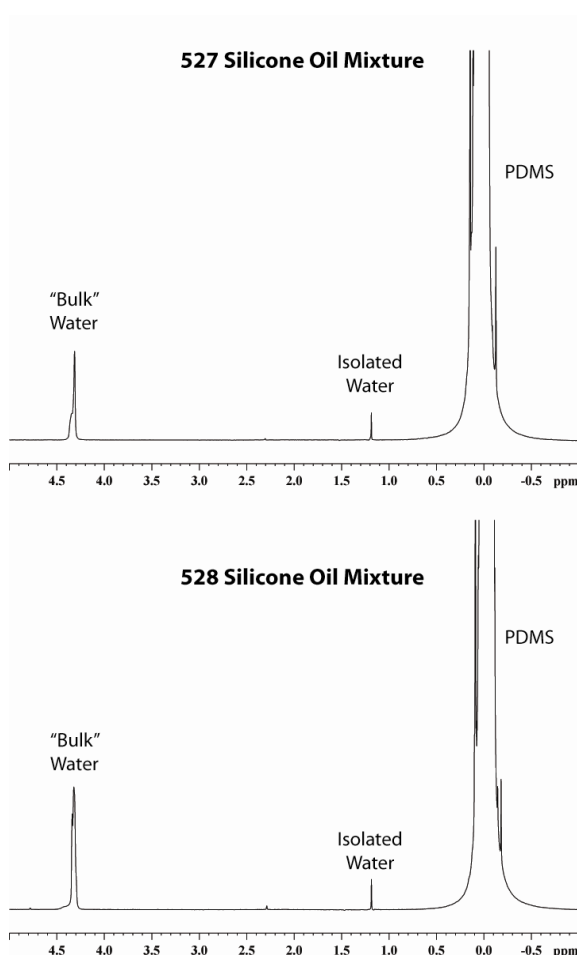


- Oxidative degradation is known to impact solubility in silicone fluids!
- Oxidation is not expected in sealed units as the  $O_2$  saturation limit is  $\sim 100$  ppm. This would argue that oxidation is  $O_2$  limited – are there are other sources?
- Freezing behavior of triglyme identical for return units (+20 years) and freshly prepared silicone fluid/triglyme mixtures (1/2013).
- Aging does not play a role in this low temperature behavior.

# Variable Temperature NMR - Triglyme Phase Diagram



# Freezing Behavior of Water in PDMS Fluids

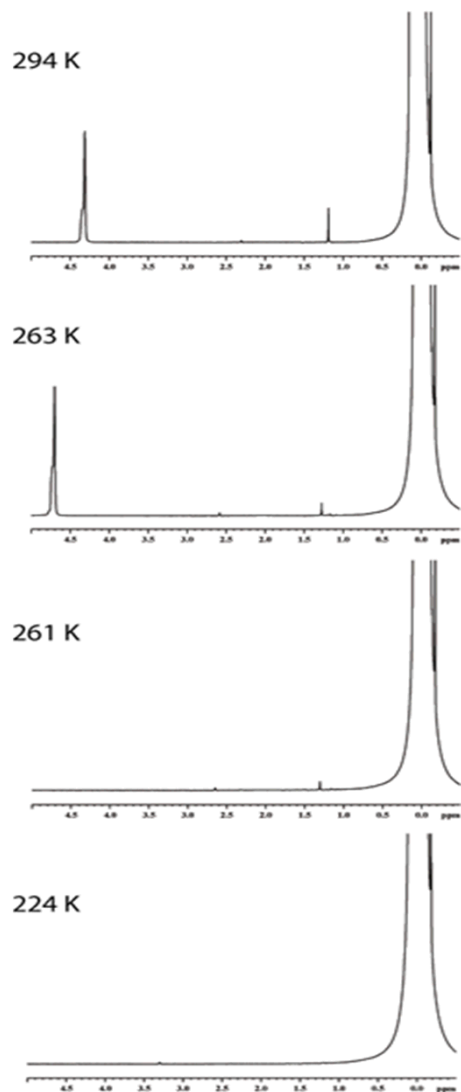


**Figure 1:** The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of silicone fluid mixtures at 294 K.

- Different water environments in PDMS fluid can be discerned using  $^1\text{H}$  NMR.
- Assignments based on “spiking” experiments.
- Observe an isolate water species; no water-water hydrogen bonding.
- Isolated water seen in other organic solvents.
- Concentration consistent with saturation limit (~ 200 ppm), and is supported by Karl Fisher titration.
- “Bulk water” represent phase separated species and the chemical shift suggest hydrogen bonding.



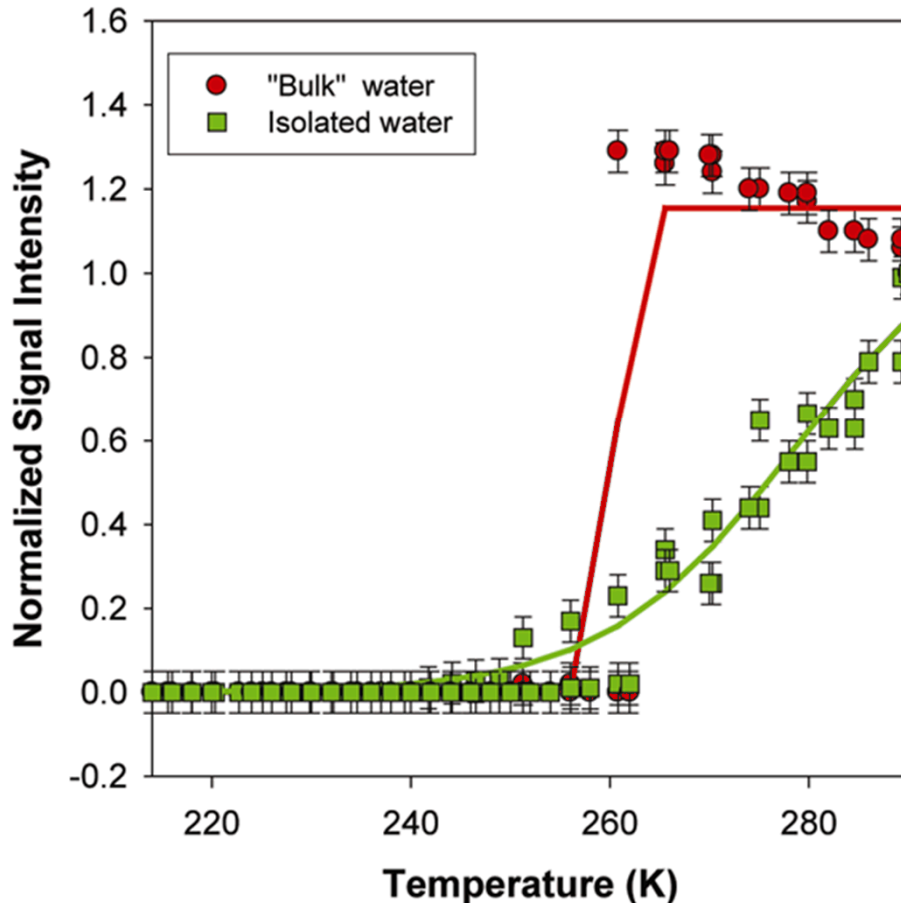
# Freezing Behavior of Water in PDMS



- The high resolution  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra for the silicone fluid mixture as a function of sample temperature allow the low temperature behavior of these different water species to be directly followed.
- Not amendable to Karl Fisher titrations.
- Note the disappearance of both the isolated water species and the “bulk”-like water environment at low temperatures.
- Ice crystals formation within the PDMS fluids are the issue or concern. Need to determine what impact the triglyme/diglyme have on the water freezing properties.
- NMR allows this analysis, cycling and temperature hold experiments.

# Freezing Behavior of Water in PDMS

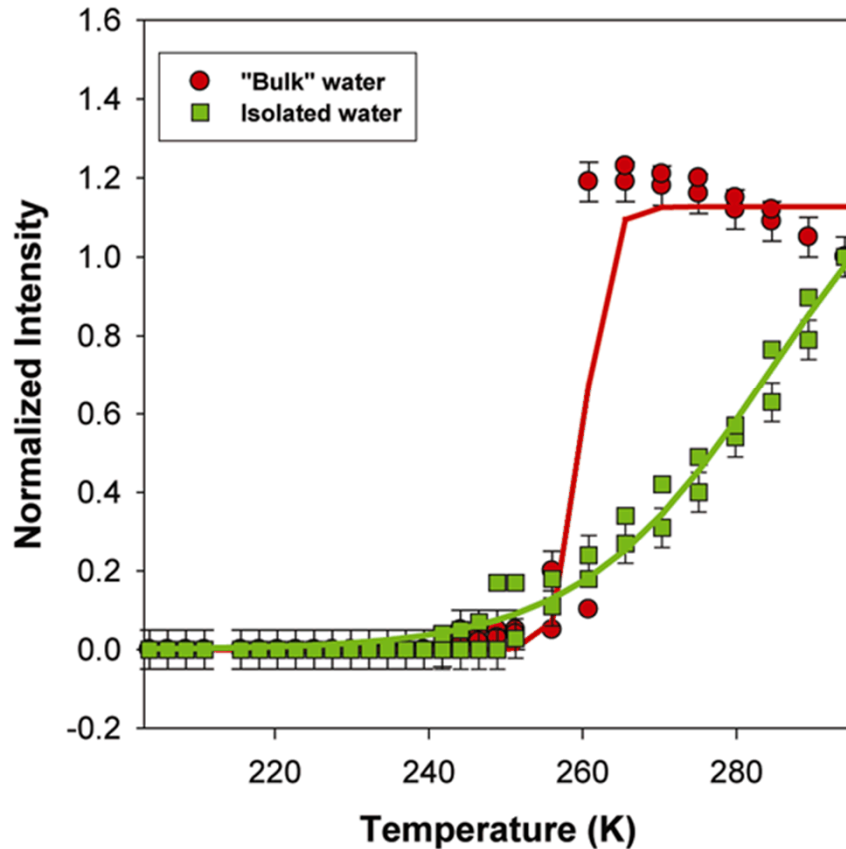
## Water in 527 Silicone Oil



- Both water environments show a “freezing” transition.
- Temperature depressed in PDMS fluids compared to pure water.
- Isolated water species shows a gradual temperature response.
- May reflect solubility changes at lower temperatures.

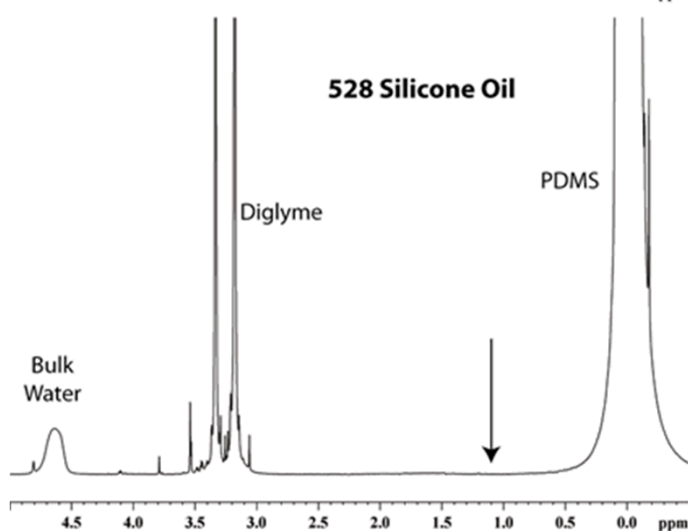
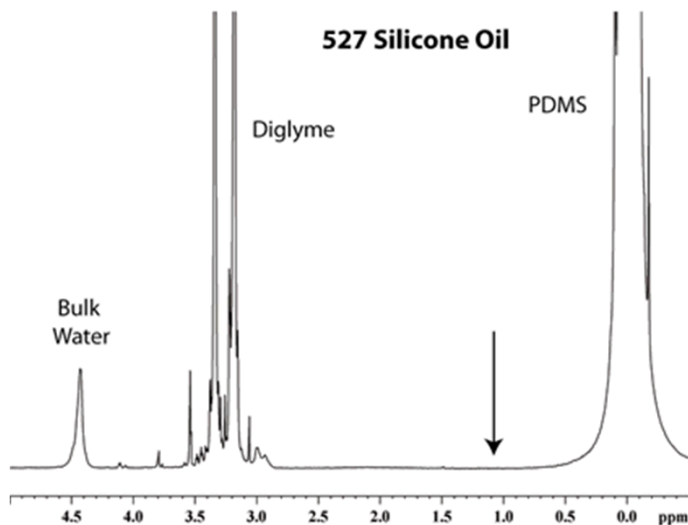
# Freezing Behavior of Water in PDMS

Water in 528 Silicone Oil



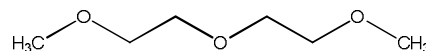
- Similar behavior for different PDMS fluid mixture (different viscosity).
- Note increase in “bulk” environment as the expense of isolated water environment.

# The Impact of Glyme Additives

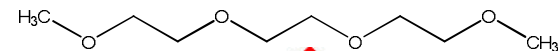


- The high resolution  $^1\text{H}$  NMR for different silicone fluid mixtures with 2% **diglyme** additive.
- Note the disappearance (arrow) of the isolated water species in these mixtures.
- Either prevent or increases exchange rate.

**Diglyme**  
Diethylene glycol dimethyl ether



**Triglyme**  
Triethylene glycol dimethyl ether



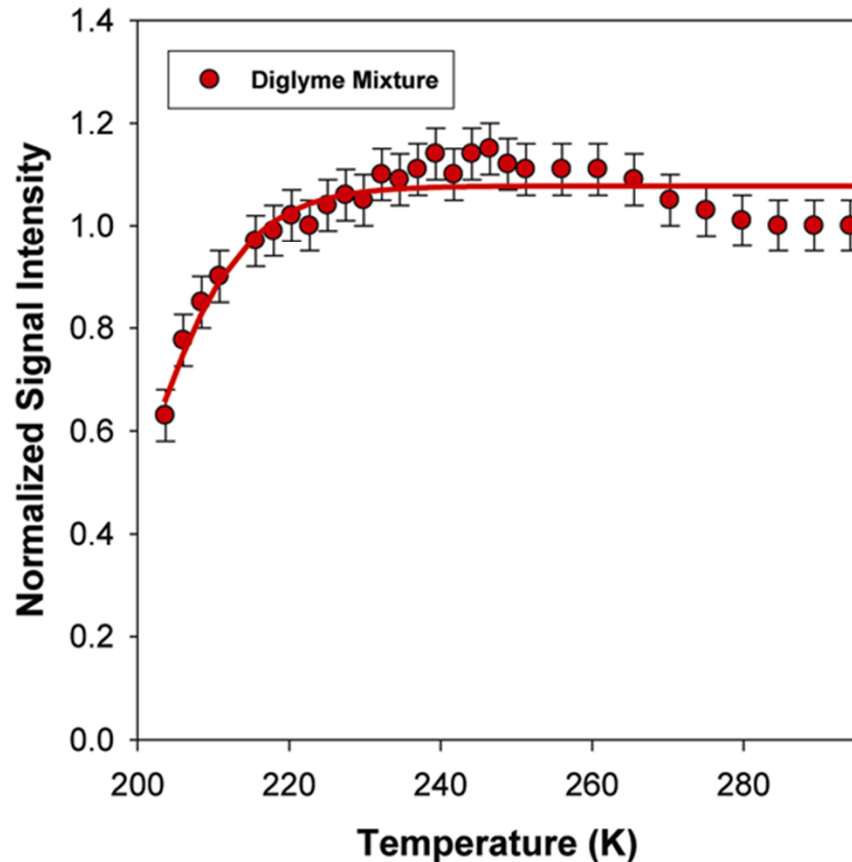
**Tetrogenetic  
Reproductive toxin**

The reproductive toxicity of diglyme is attributed to its minor metabolite 2-methoxyacetic acid, which is generated from 2-methoxyethanol. 2-methoxyacetic acid has shown evidence of accumulation in animals and humans. In humans its half-life was calculated as 77.1h (ECETOC, 1995, WHO, 2002). 2-methoxyacetic acid is also considered to be responsible for the reproductive toxicity of triglyme. A formation of a smaller amount of 2-methoxyacetic acid is however expected to occur in the case of triglyme (in comparison with diglyme).

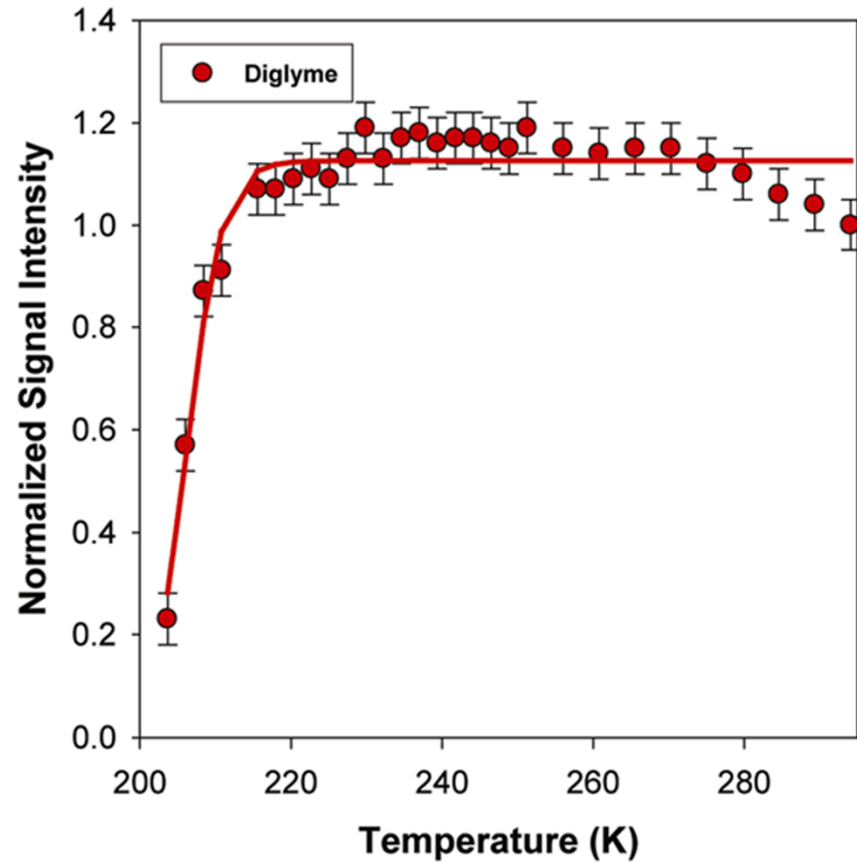


# Freezing Behavior of Water in PDMS-Diglyme

## Water in 527/Diglyme Mixture

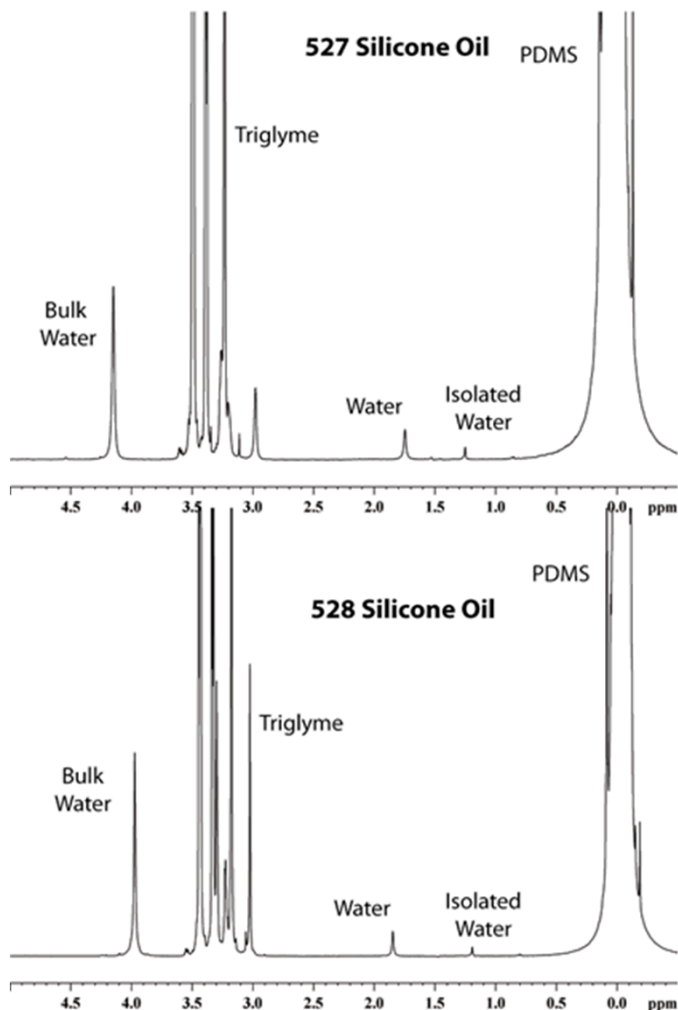


## Water in 528/Diglyme Mixture



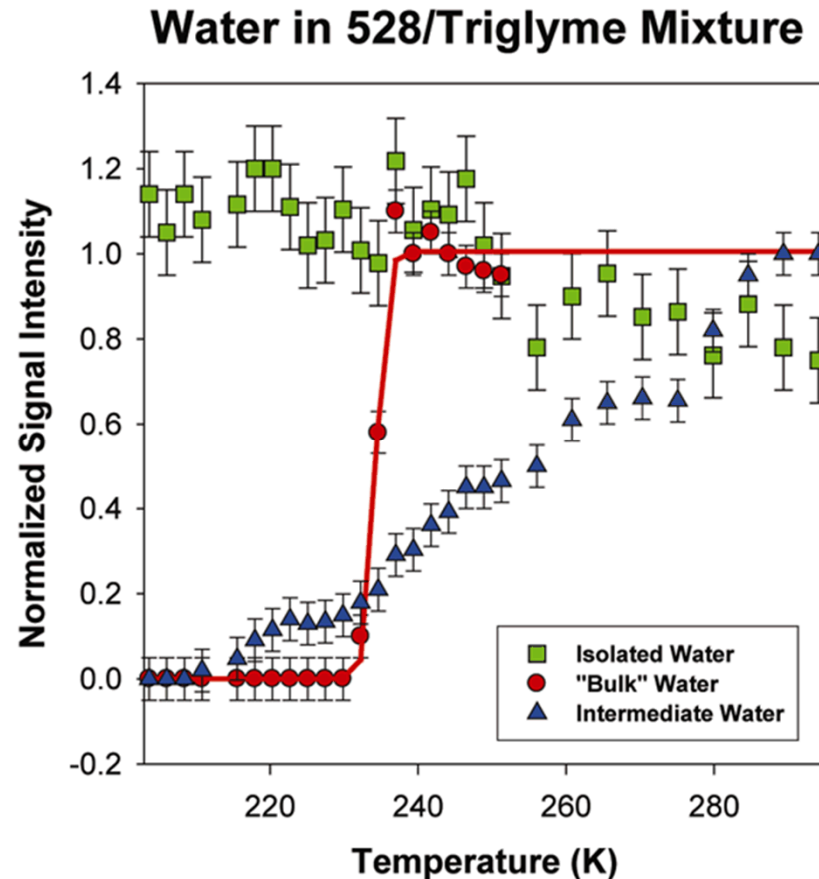
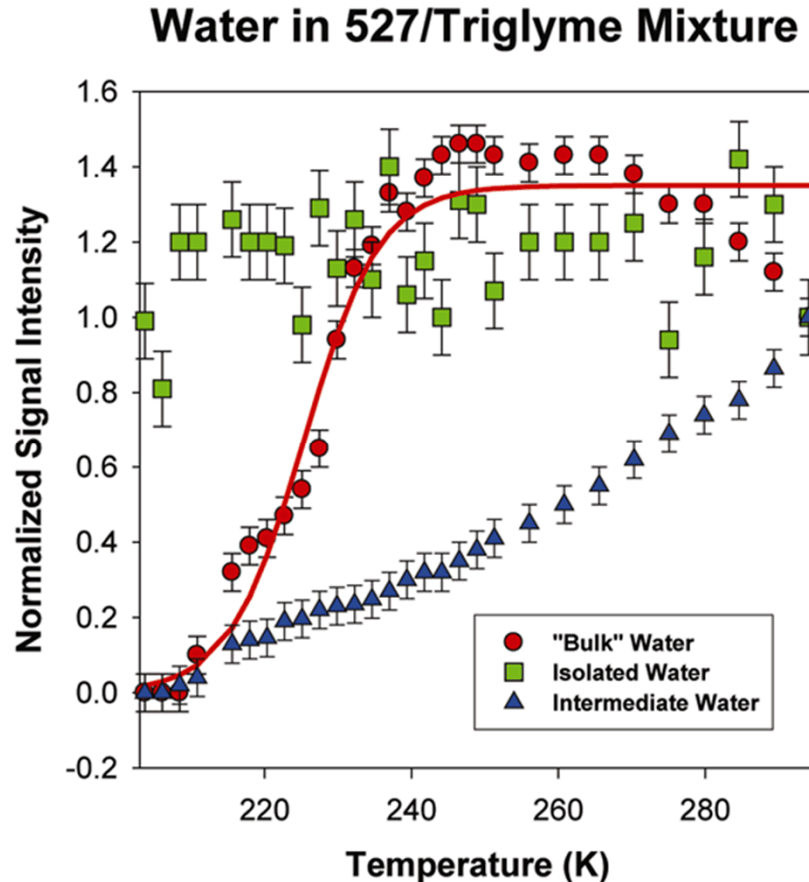
*Additive suppresses freezing of “bulk water” in silicone fluids.*

# Impact of Triglyme in PDMS



- High resolution  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of the silicone fluid mixtures containing the triglyme additive.
- Several different water environments are experimentally observed.
- These different environment change with temperature.
- NMR reveals complex differences.

# Freezing Behavior of Water in PDMS



- Isolated water remains in the silicone fluid  $> -50^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Design system to maintain low water concentrations: only isolated waters are present.

# Conclusions

- NMR provides a powerful tool to characterize the low temperature behavior of water impurities and additives in silicone fluids.
- Simple 1D NMR experiments in most cases!
- Can follow degradation and Mw for extended accelerated aging periods.
- Able to map out solubility phase diagram for triglyme additive in silicone fluid, and the impact of temperature has on this result.
- Not easily approached with other analytical methods. Especially at variable temperature situations.

*Thank the organizers!*

*Thank you for your attention!*