



*The Abdus Salam  
International Centre for Theoretical Physics*



**1866-11**

**School on Pulsed Neutrons: Characterization of Materials**

*15 - 26 October 2007*

**Materials and Life Sciences at Spallation Neutron Sources (2)**

Kurt Clausen  
*Paul Scherrer Institut, PSI  
CH-5232 Villigen  
Switzerland*



**Kurt N Clausen PSI Switzerland**

**IAEA School on Pulsed Neutrons:  
Characterization of Materials**

## Structural Biology

- The technique of choice / workhorse is Synchrotron X-rays
- How can neutrons play a role?

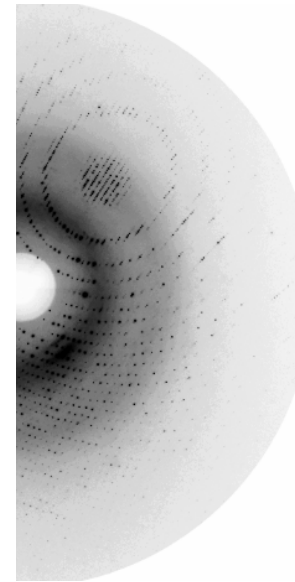
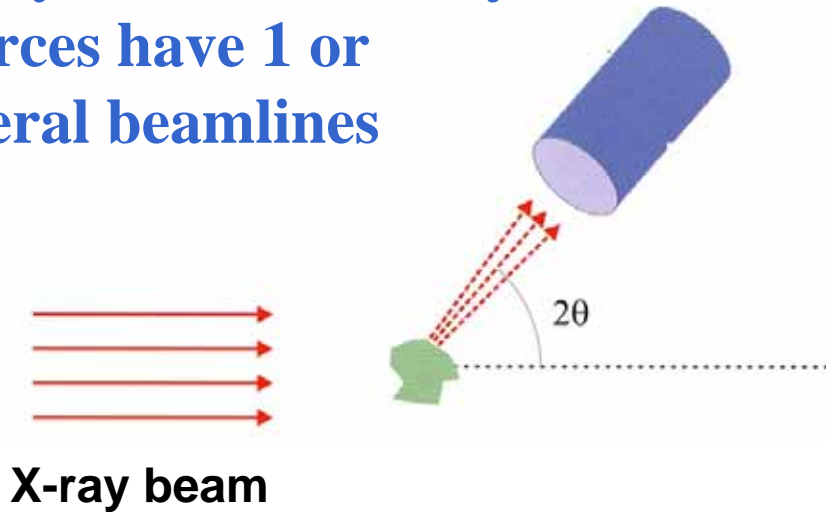
## Neutrons

- Contrast matching – Solution scattering
- Finding H by neutron diffraction
- Reflectometry - Membranes
- Protein un-folding
- Colloids under shear,

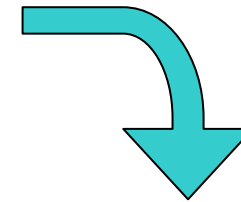
## Muon spectroscopy

- Avoided Level Crossing – Detergent which looks and smells nice

All Synchrotron X-ray sources have 1 or several beamlines



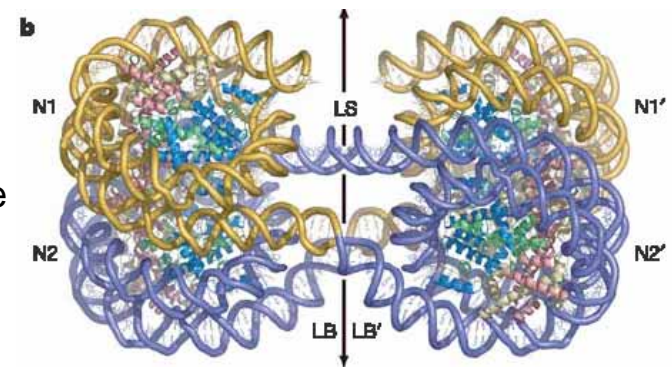
Diffraction pattern



The method of choice – X-rays but

ILL, LANSCE and JRR Japan has active groups

Structure of tetra-nucleosome  
T. Richmond, ETH-Zürich  
Marcel-Benoit Prize 2006



**Intensity**

**Intensity**

**and**

**Intensity – need for “huge” ~mm size single crystals**

**The first instrument suite at SNS – No protein crystallography,  
No dedicated Biology instruments! (SANS, Reflectometers and  
general spectrometers available)**

**JSNS is later and has protein crystallography in its first suite of  
instruments**

**Initiatives to change the situation at SNS is on the way.**

	Crystallography			NMR	Cryo-EM	Solution scattering		Reflectometry
	X-rays	Electrons	Neutrons			SAXS	SANS	
<b>Sample state</b>	Small crystals (10 <sup>-3</sup> mm <sup>3</sup> )	2D crystals (10 <sup>-6</sup> mm <sup>2</sup> )	Large crystals (1mm <sup>3</sup> )	Solution (0.5 ml, ~1mM)	Frozen in vitreous ice	Solution (0.02 ml, 0.1 mM)	Solution (0.2 ml, 0.1 mM)	Monolayer, few cm <sup>2</sup>
<b>Observed atoms</b>	Heavy atoms, C,N,O,S,P, metals	Potential function	All atoms, incl. H/D	protons	No atomic resolution	No atomic resolution	No atomic resolution	No atomic resolution
<b>Resolution</b>	0.5 – 3 Å, typically 2.2 Å	2 – 10 Å	1.5 – 10 Å	~1Å RMSD	>20 - 30Å	Shape and distances	Shape and distances	Shape and distances
<b>Structures in data bases*</b>	12,796	~5	9	2,394	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Size limit</b>	None	None	<30kDa	<30-40kD	None	None	None	None
<b>Strengths</b>	High resolution, large assemblies	Direct phase information, 2D-crystals, membrane proteins	H-bonding, hydration, hydrogens in metal sites	Dynamics, binding, hydrogens	Large assemblies	Shape, some orientation	Orientation, shape, multi- component analysis, contrast variation	Membrane systems, contrast variation

\*Protein Database, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2001

2006 first structure 50 kDa (ILL)

Extract from

Different Methods  
in the Comparison

**Report on Neutrons in Biology Workshop**  
**Australian Institute for Nuclear Science and Engineering**  
**School of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, University of Melbourne**  
**Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)**  
**10-11 July 2001**

Some notable cases (**resent** – **a few years old**) in which material was not a major problem and important contributions were made using neutron techniques, in almost all cases through exploitation of deuterium labelling either of the molecule or its aqueous solvent.

- **The localisation of glycolipids and the translocation pathway in purple membrane**
- **The binding of detergent to membrane proteins**
- **The first studies of pico-second dynamics in proteins.**
- **The quaternary structure of the nucleosome, where neutron scattering was the first technique to demonstrate that the DNA was wound on the outside of the histones**
- **The ribosome, where all 21 proteins of the 30S sub-unit were placed by neutron triangulation of labelled sub-units produced *by in vivo* deuteration. This work is now proving invaluable in the interpretation of the high-resolution X-ray maps .**
- **The identification of the active site proton in trypsin, which allowed the mechanism of action of this enzyme to be understood.**

## What are the biological systems amenable to study and which are the techniques most likely to be of use in the Life Sciences?

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NEUTRONS WILL NOT BE A KEY TOOL – DO NOT COPY THE SUCCESSES OF X-RAYS OR NMR –  
LOOK AT WHERE NEUTRONS ARE COMPLEMENTARY

The contribution of neutrons to Life Sciences will be on a wide front

- in macromolecular crystallography,
- small-angle scattering from large non-crystallisable systems,
- fibre diffraction,
- reflectometry and wide angle diffraction from natural and model membranes
- inelastic scattering for macromolecular dynamics.

### Neutron crystallography

- is the only neutron technique that is truly high resolution on a stand-alone basis.
  - It will be used increasingly to identify key protons in small proteins, nucleic acids and sugars.
- It has already been shown that information obtained at about 1.7Å resolution with neutrons is chemically equivalent to that obtained at 1Å with X-rays.
- Moreover there is no risk of radiation damage which has recently been shown to have a very serious effect on hydrogen atoms in high-resolution X-ray studies.



## Small angle scattering – Solution scattering

- will also be a powerful technique at the atomic level by its complementarity with X-ray crystallography.
- cell biology - functioning of very large molecular complexes such as the various molecular motors
  - sub-components of these systems will be isolated and solved to high resolution by X-ray crystallography.
  - to observe conformational changes induced by binding of ions, cofactors etc. Small angle scattering (solution scattering) will allow the docking of known sub-structures at high resolution and a close to in vivo situation and allow easy changes in the solution environment

## What are the biological systems amenable to study and which are the techniques most likely to be of use in the Life Sciences?

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**Neutron reflectometry** is an emerging technique which has up to now been used most profitably in the field of soft matter chemistry.

- It is however a technique which is perfectly adapted to biological membranes.
- A number of experiments have been carried out largely on reconstituted lipid bilayers or monolayers
  - effort must be put into developing methods of sample preparation for biological systems.
- The development of off-specular scattering to study the in-plane arrangements of membrane proteins is a particularly attractive new development that should be encouraged.

### Inelastic and quasi-elastic scattering

- have been used with great success to study the dynamics of soft matter.
- They have the great advantage over other spectroscopic techniques that simulated spectra can be exactly calculated and therefore experimental data can be interpreted by, for example, Monte Carlo simulations.
- The range of time scales accessible to neutron scattering is moreover exactly that of interest for the internal dynamics of protein molecules and both amplitude and frequency information are available simultaneously.
- To date the technique has been **limited by** understanding of the theory and the **computing power** necessary to carry out appropriate simulations as well as by the large **quantities of material** (100s of mg) required.
- Technical advances and the availability of materials from **modern expression systems** should go a long way to improving these problems in the coming years.

# Key points for the use of neutrons

The FLUX problem can to some extent be overcome by:

- More material (i.e. where neutrons can provide unique answers)
  - invest in modern techniques (expressions) with higher yield!
  - and with Deuteration capability
- Improved Instrumentation and sources

## Structural Biology

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## Neutrons

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- Finding H by neutron diffraction
- Reflectometry - Membranes
- Protein un-folding
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## Muon spectroscopy

- Avoided Level Crossing – Detergent which looks and smells nice

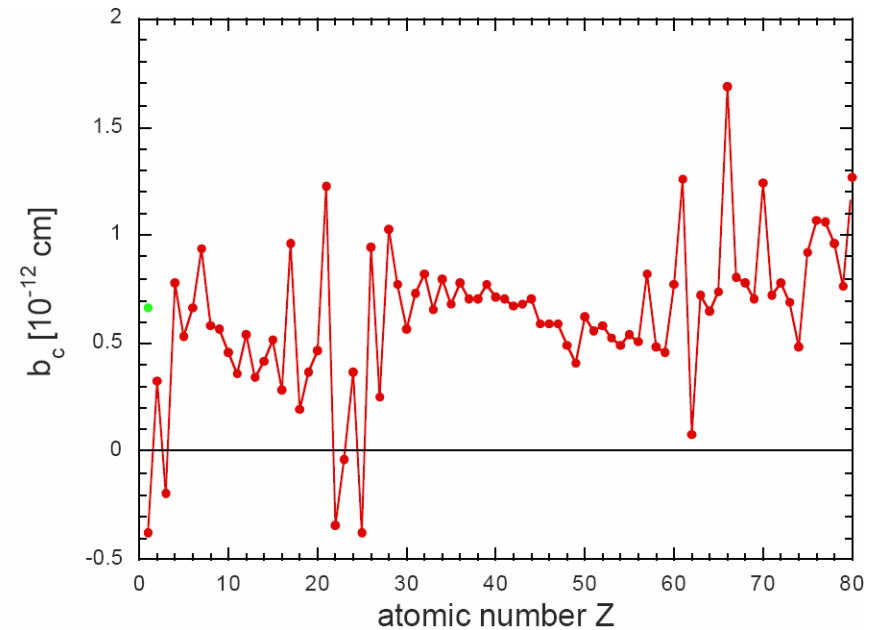
# Neutron Scattering Length [fm]

	p	d	C	N	O	P	S
average	 -3.74	 6.67	 6.65	 9.36	 5.81	 5.13	 2.85

spin up	 10.82	 9.4
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spin down	 -18.3	 3.8
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*Spin-dependent scattering lengths*



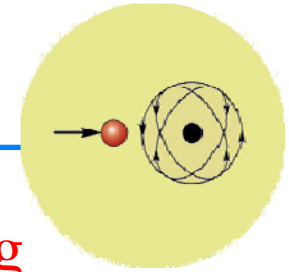
1 fm =  $0.1 \times 10^{-12}$  cm

# Contrast Variation

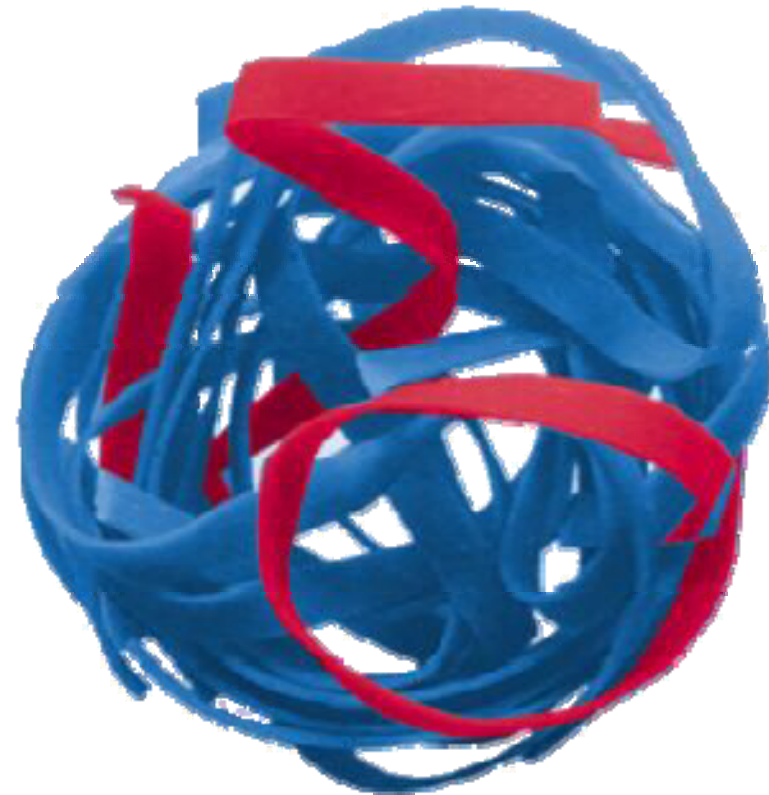
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**J Kohlbrecher PSI**



Follow polymer dynamics with spin echo neutron scattering

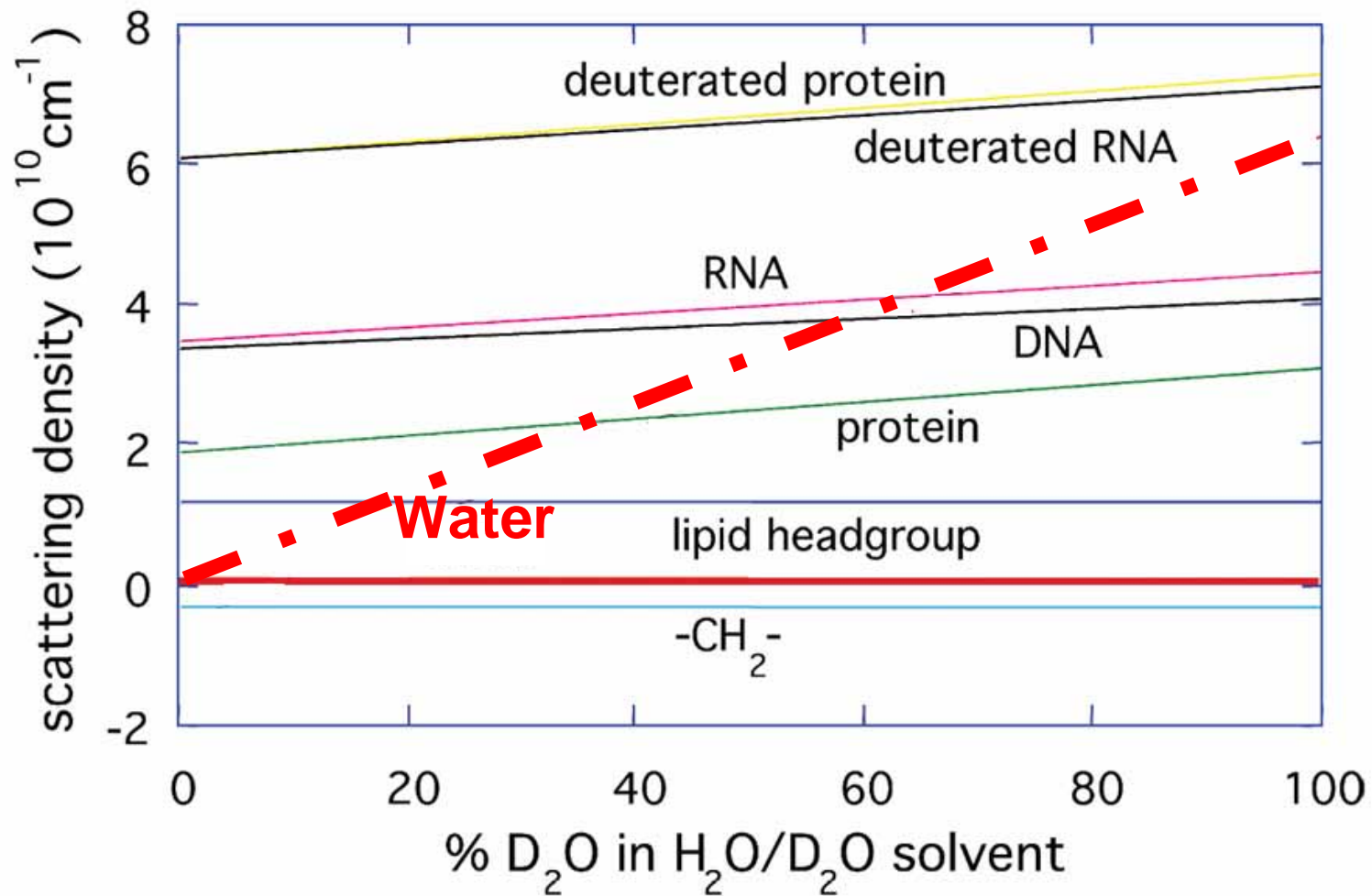


See presentation by M Monkenbush 24-25/11

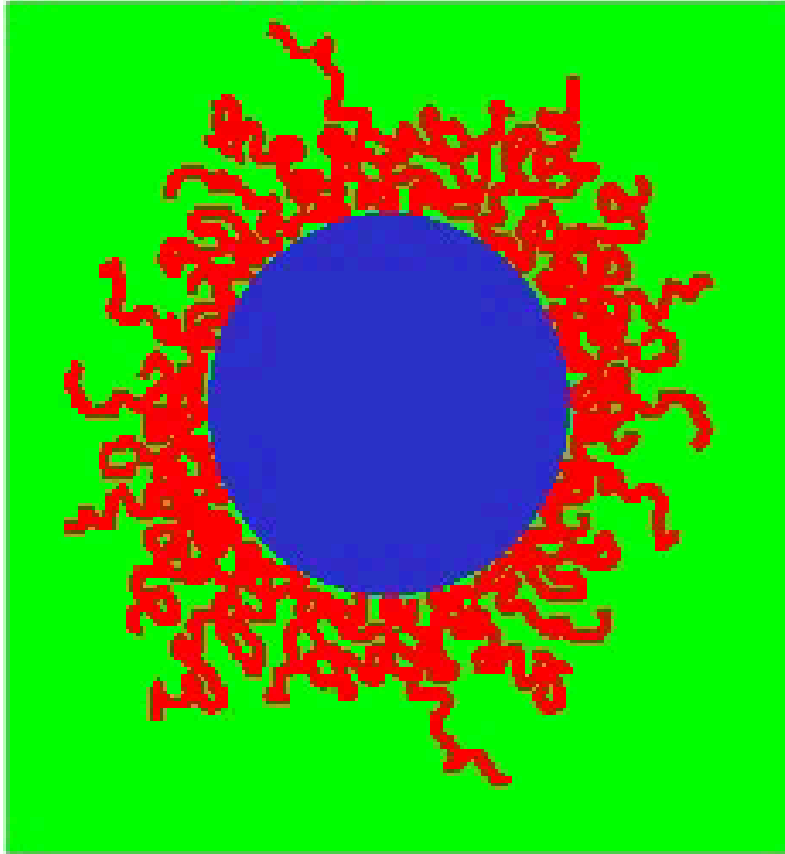


# Contrast Variation

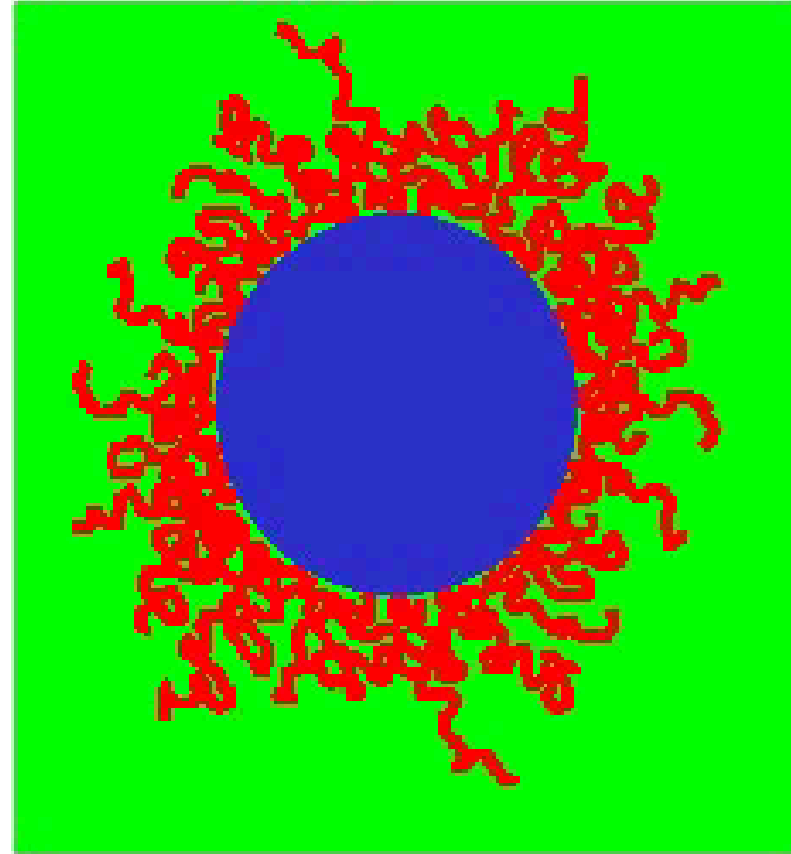
- A different fraction of hydrogen leads to a different scattering length density
- Solvent contrast variation: H<sub>2</sub>O/D<sub>2</sub>O mixtures match different material at different D<sub>2</sub>O percentage



# Contrast Variation

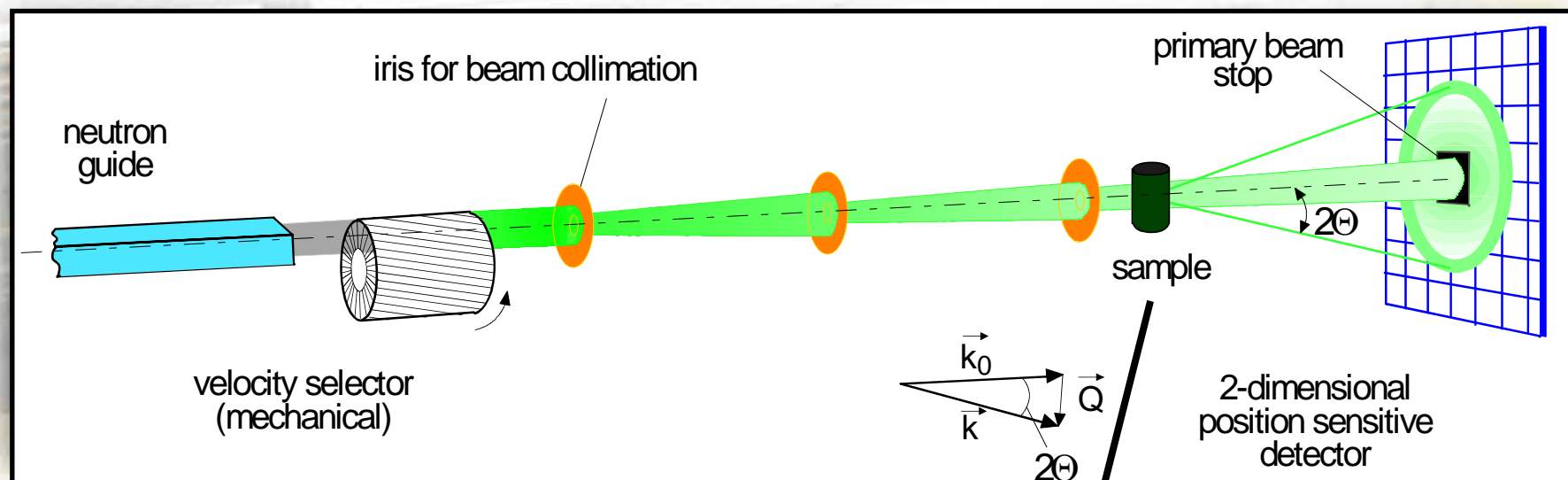


matching of core



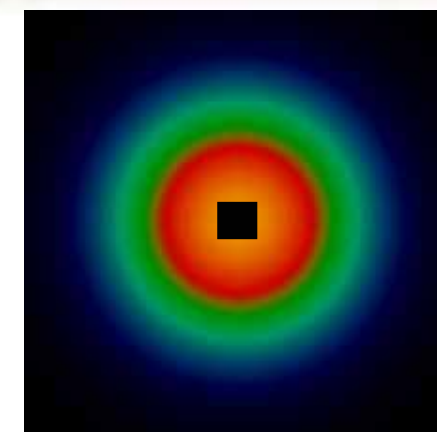
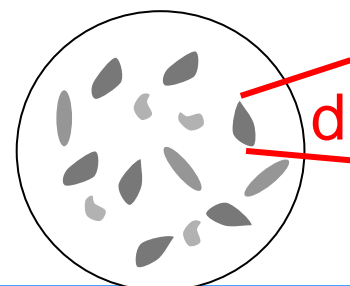
matching of shell

**J Kohlbrecher PSI**



$$\frac{2\pi}{d} = Q = \frac{4\pi}{\lambda} \sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \lambda \approx 0.5 \text{ nm} \\ d \approx 10 \text{ nm} \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \theta \approx 3 \text{ deg}$$



# Drug Targeting: Core-Shell Structure of Poly(D,L-lactide) Nanocapsules

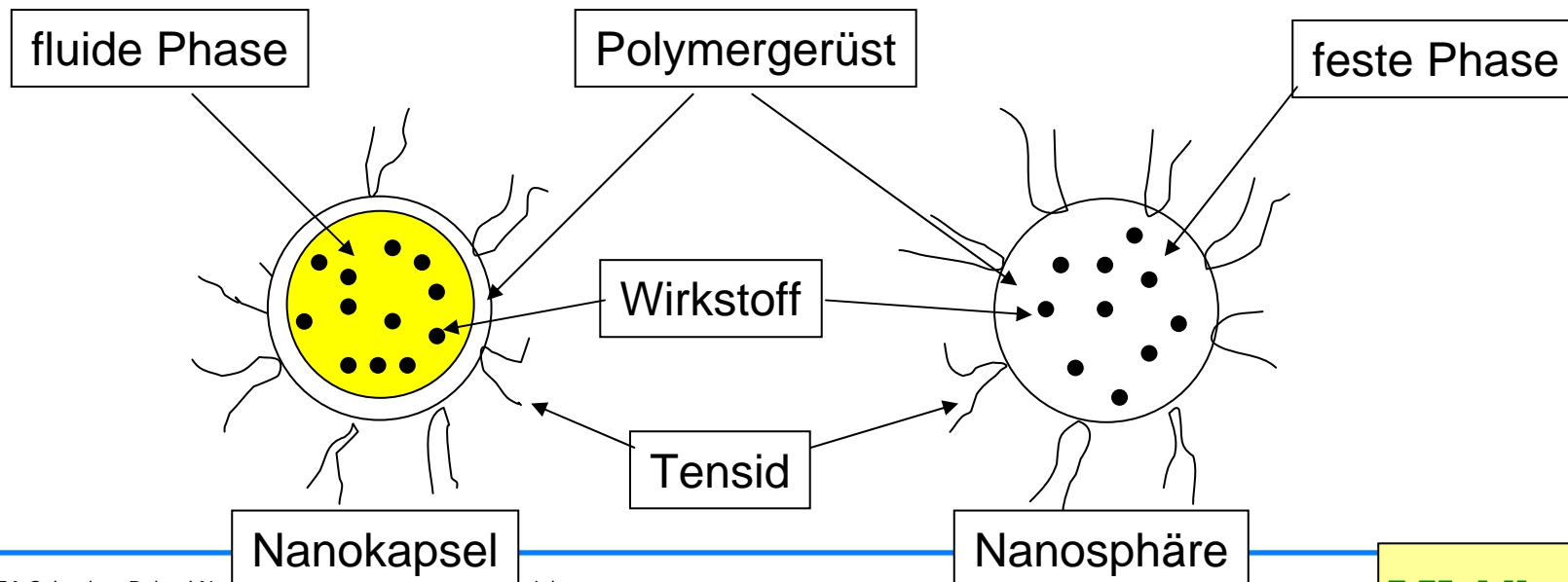
**Andrea Rübe<sup>1</sup>, Gerd Hause<sup>2</sup>, Karsten Mäder<sup>1</sup>, Joachim Kohlbrecher<sup>3\*</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Pharmaceutical Technology and Biopharmacy, Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg

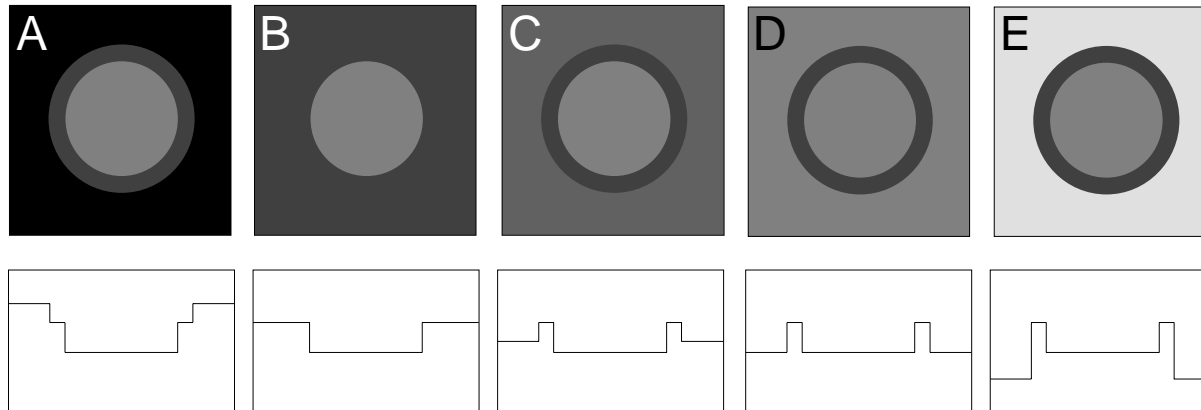
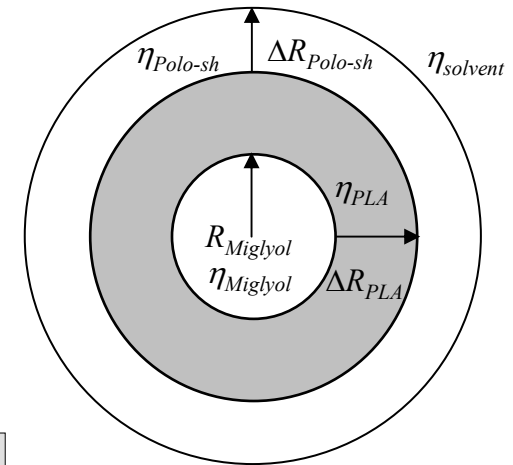
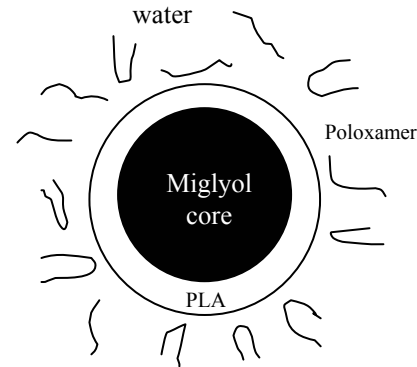
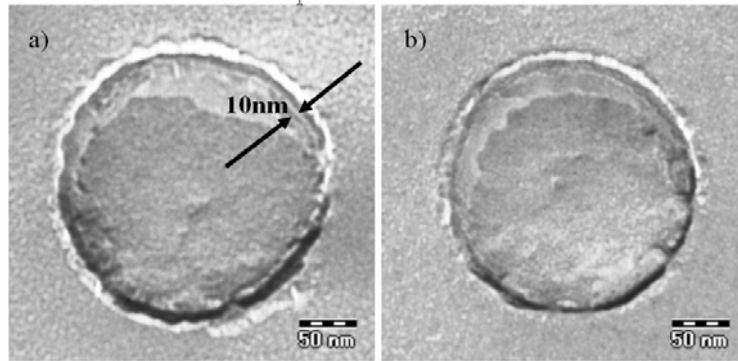
<sup>2</sup>Microscopy Unit, Biocenter of the University, Halle/Saale

<sup>3</sup>Laboratory for Neutron Scattering, Paul Scherrer Institute

- **Einschluss von lipophilen Wirkstoffen in die innere Ölphase möglich**
- **Tensidschicht umgibt Nanokapseln, um sie im Wasser zu stabilisieren**



# Drug Targeting: Core-Shell Structure of Poly(D,L-lactide) Nanocapsules



**A → D different H<sub>2</sub>O/D<sub>2</sub>O mixture in solvent**

**Andrea Rube<sup>1</sup>, Gerd Hause<sup>2</sup>, Karsten Mäder<sup>1</sup>, Joachim Kohlbrecher<sup>3\*</sup>**

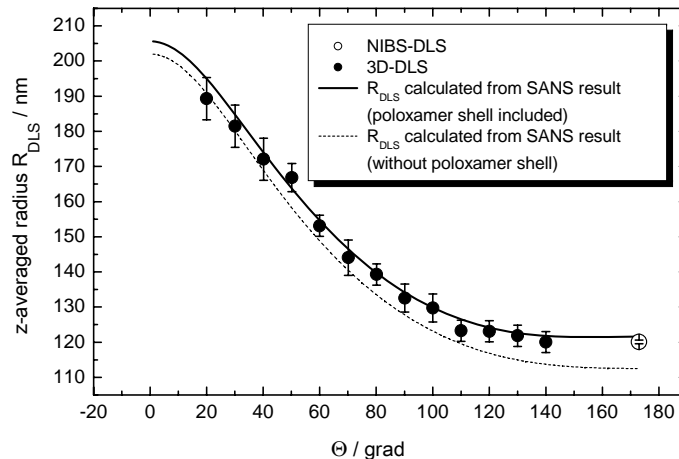
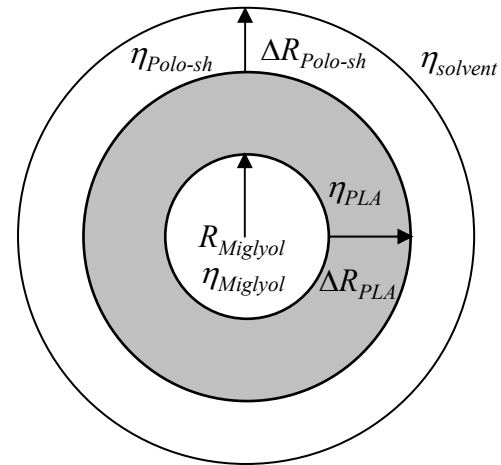
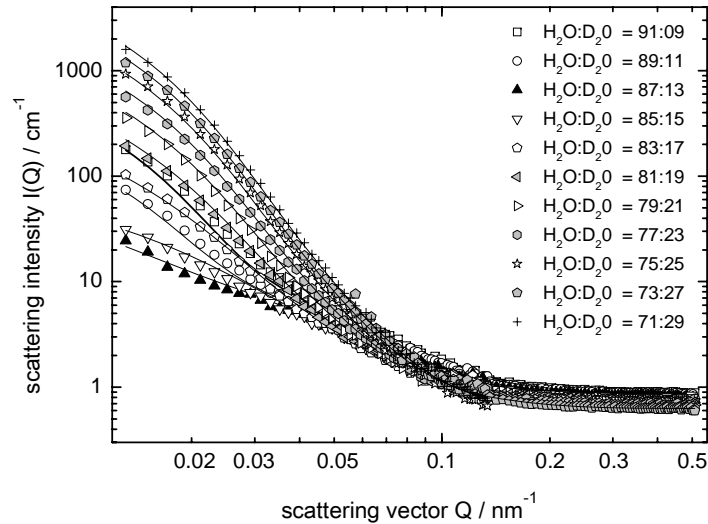
<sup>1</sup>Institute of Pharmaceutical Technology and Biopharmacy,

Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg

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# Drug Targeting: Core-Shell Structure of Poly(D,L-lactide) Nanocapsules

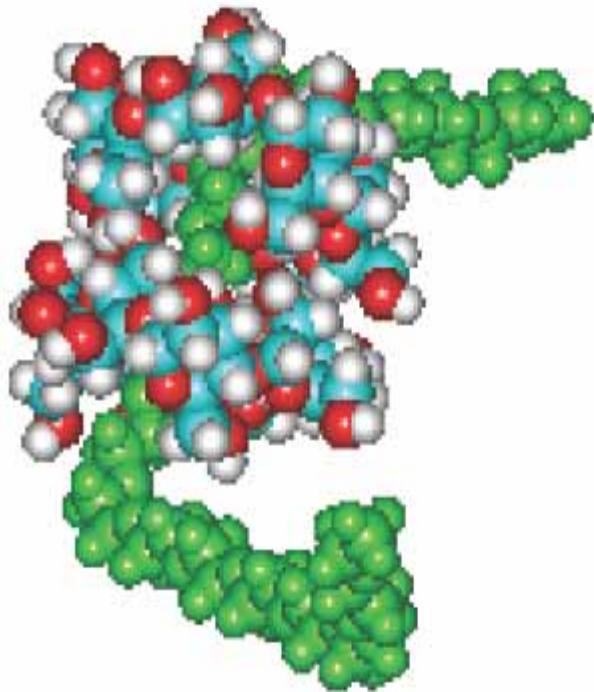


$\sigma = 0.394,$   
 $R_0 = 84 \text{ nm},$   
 $\Delta R_{\text{PLA}} = 9.8 \text{ nm}$   
 $\Delta R_{\text{Polox-sh}} = 17 \text{ nm}$   
 Poloxamer concentration  
 in outer shell of 7%.

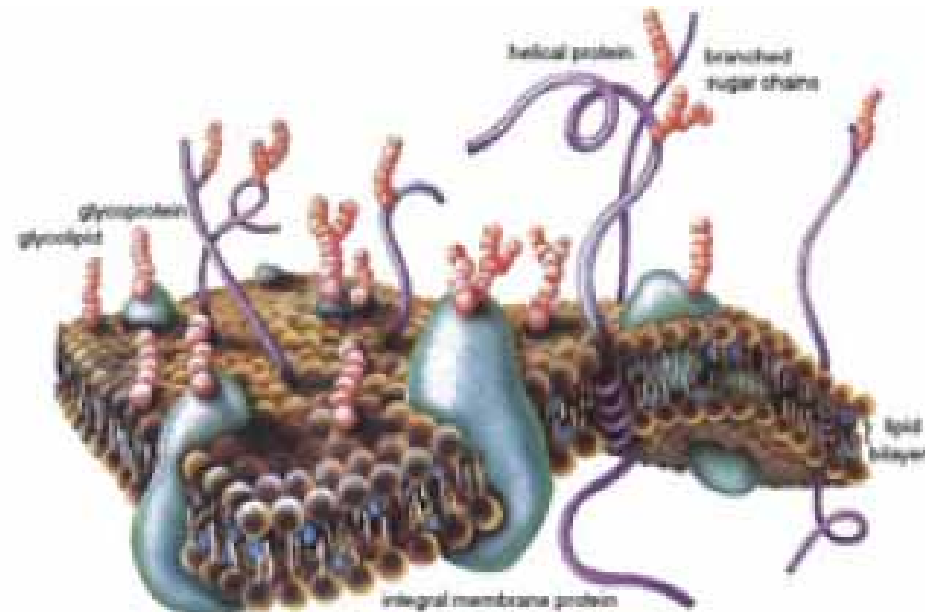
# From solutions → Membranes

Atomic resolution structures of the different constituent molecules in general from Synchrotron X-ray diffraction

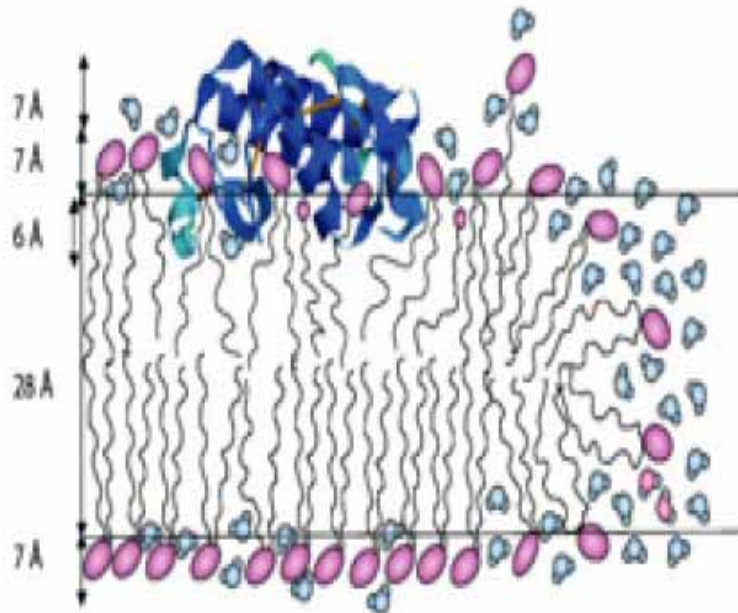
Relative orientation of components from solution scattering



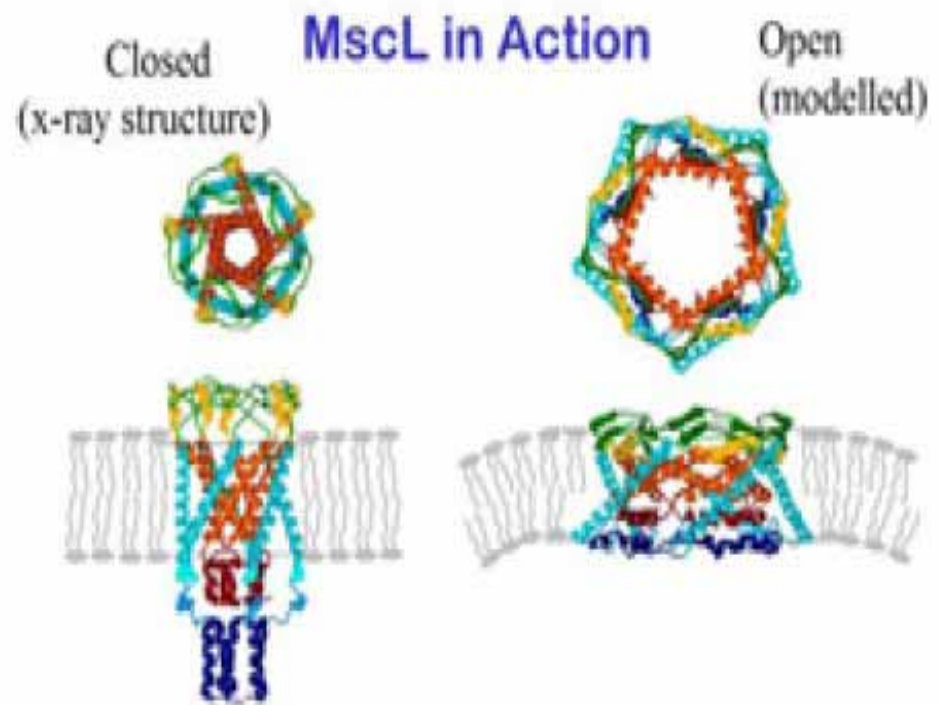
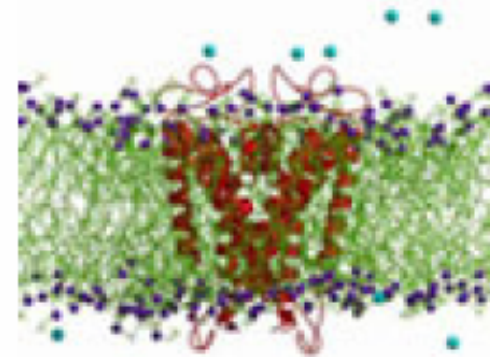
Self assembled polyrotaxanes  
(polymer complexes)



The cell membrane, showing the location of proteins and other cellular material within the phospholipid bilayer



Schematic representation of Phospholipase A2 interacting with a phospholipid bilayer, derived from neutron reflectometry.

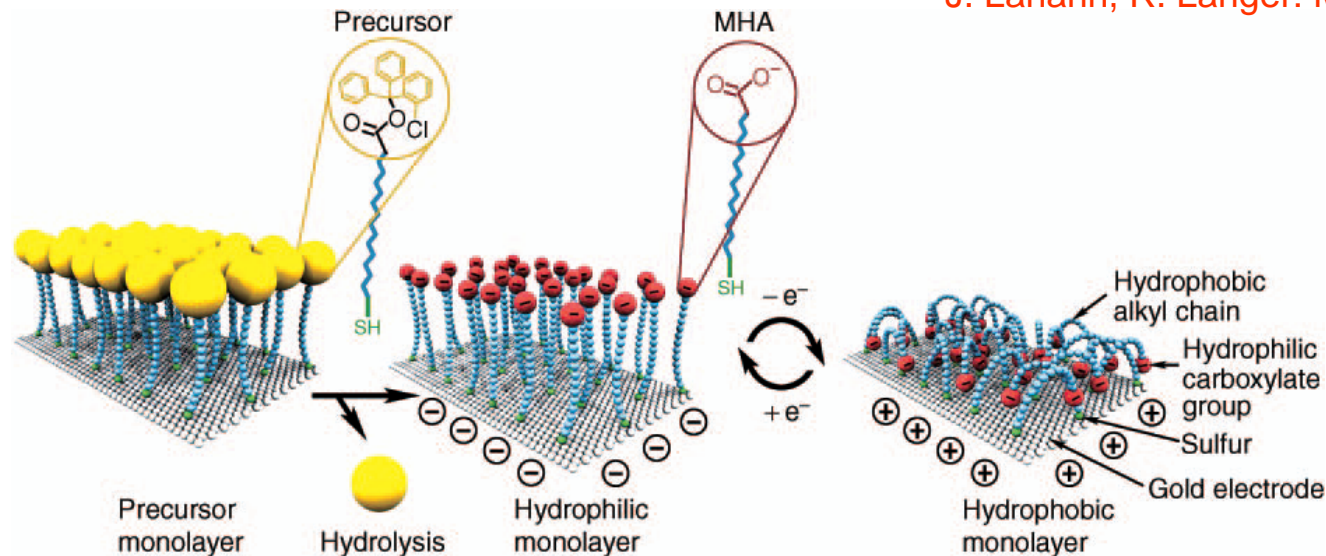


Schematic representation of the proposed mechanism of the MscL channel.



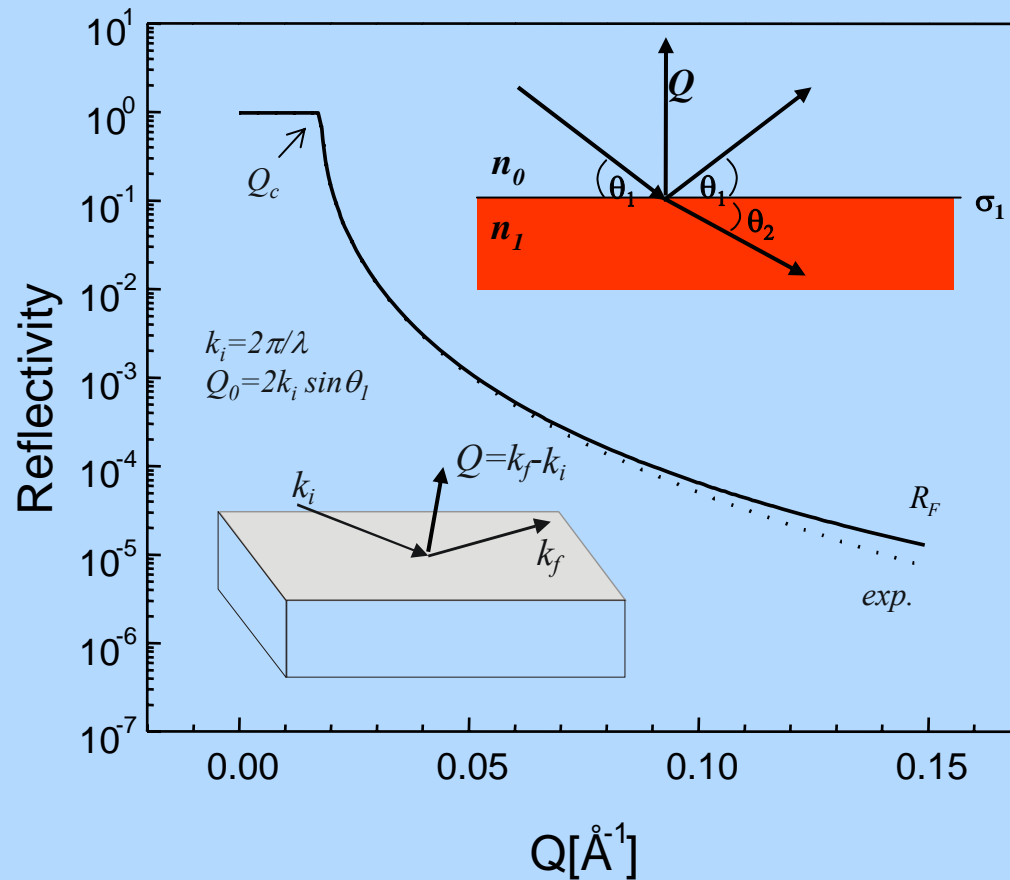
## Dynamically Controlled Surface Properties (T, pH, Light, V, etc.)

J. Lahann, R. Langer: MRS Bulletin



## Applications:

- Biosensors
- Microfluidic devices (valves, reservoirs)
- Structural templates for tissue engineering
- Drug delivery
- Study of cell/cell and cell/protein interactions



## Reflectivity of a single interface (Fresnel reflectivity)

$$R = r r^*$$

$$r = A'_1/A_1 =$$

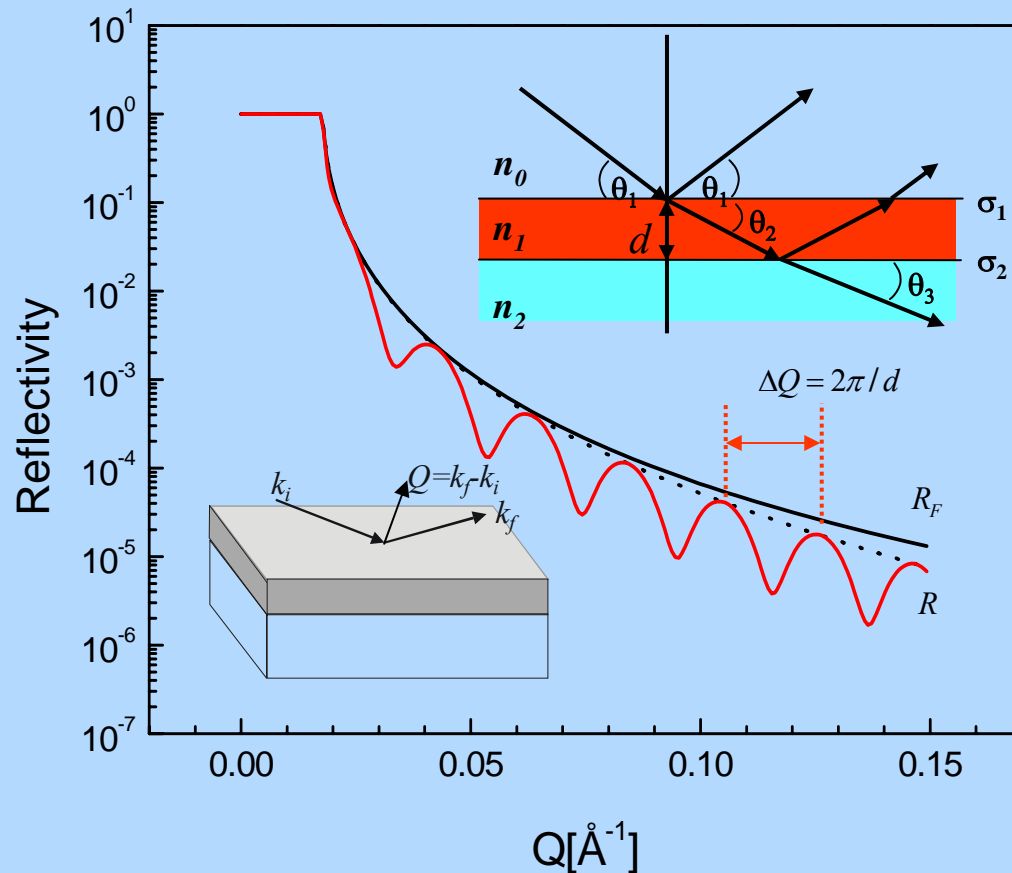
$$(Q_0 - Q_1)/(Q_0 + Q_1) \quad \text{reflection coefficient}$$

with  $Q_i = (Q_0^2 - Q_c^2)^{1/2}$

$$R_F(Q) = \left| \frac{1 - [1 - (Q_c/Q_0)^2]^{1/2}}{1 + [1 - (Q_c/Q_0)^2]^{1/2}} \right|^2$$

for  $Q_0 > Q_c$

$$R_F(Q) \approx (Q_c/Q_0)^4$$



## Reflectivity of two interfaces

$$R(Q) = \frac{r_1^2 + r_2^2 + 2r_1r_2 \cos(2Q_1d)}{1 + r_1^2r_2^2 + 2r_1r_2 \cos(2Q_1d)}$$

with thickness  $d = 2\pi/\Delta Q$

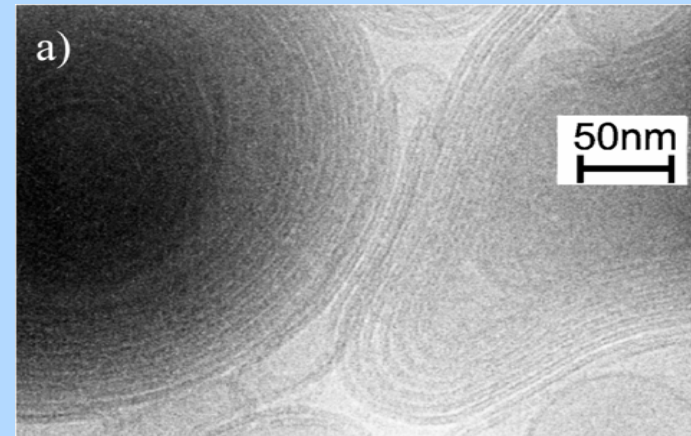
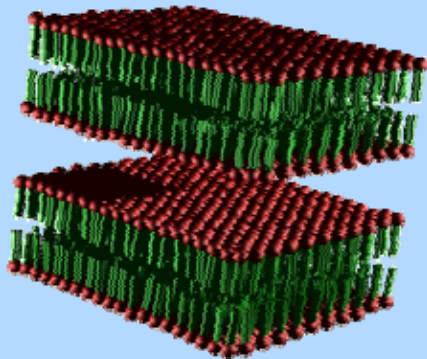
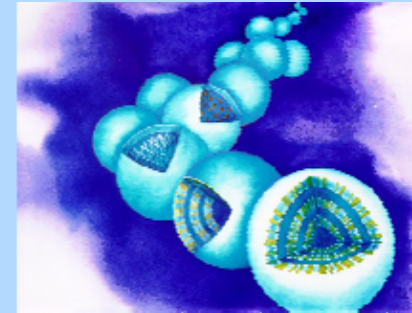
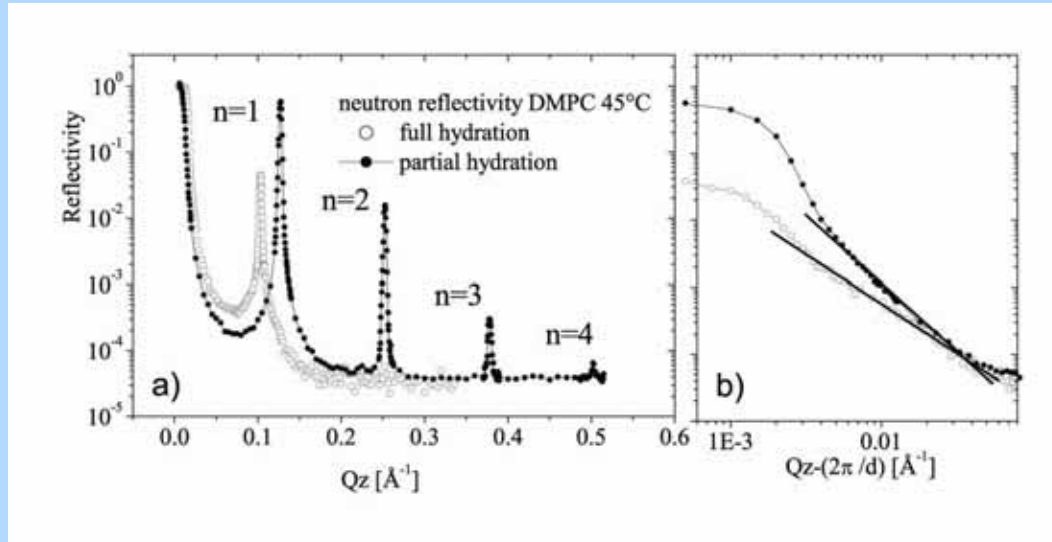
## in kinematic theory

$$r = \frac{(k_c^2)^2}{Q_0^4} \left| \int \frac{d\rho}{dz} \cdot \exp(iQ_0z) dz \right|^2$$

## reflectivity of two interfaces

$$R(Q) = \frac{(k_c^2)^2}{Q^4} \left[ \Delta\rho_1 \cdot \exp(-Q^2\sigma_1^2) + \Delta\rho_2 \cdot \exp(-Q^2\sigma_2^2) \right. \\ \left. + \Delta\rho_3 \cdot \exp(-Q^2(\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2)/2) \cdot \cos(Qd) \right]$$

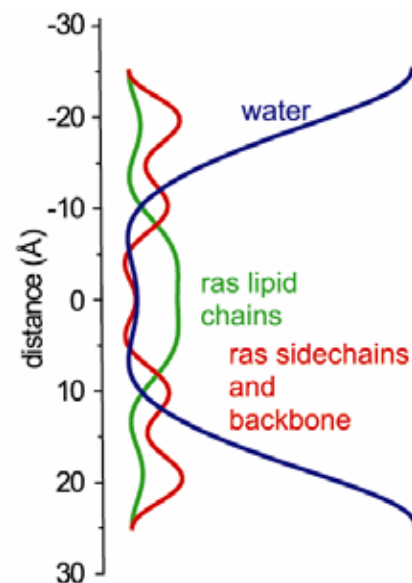
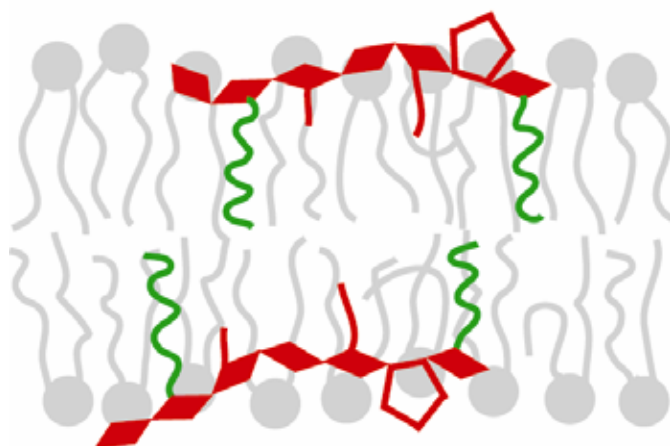
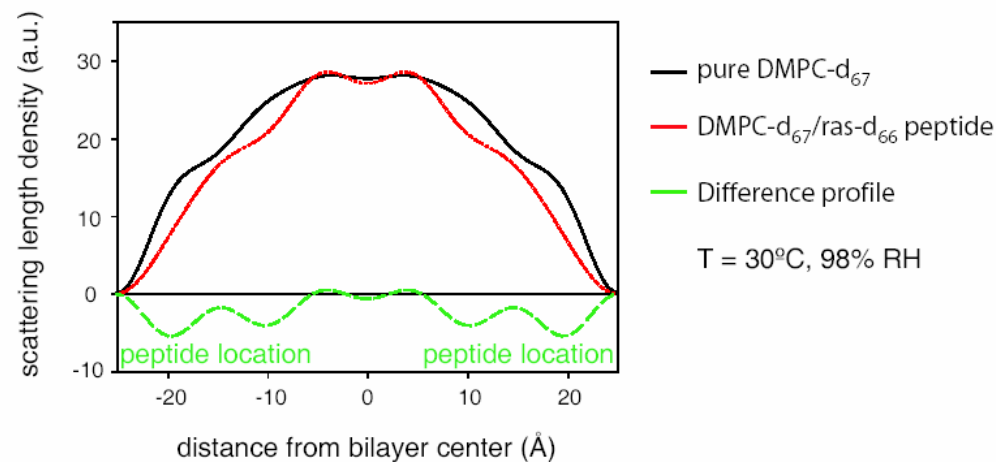
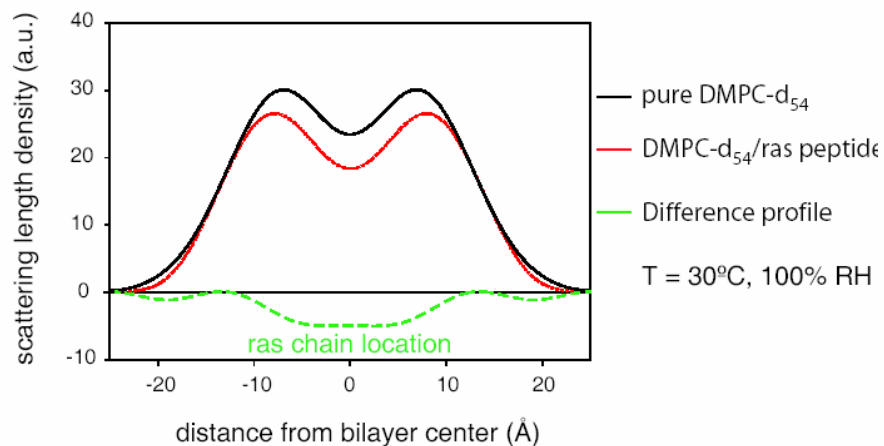
with parameters  $d, \sigma, \Delta\rho$



multilamellar vesicles

(from B. Klösgen in Lipid Bilayers - Structure and Interactions)

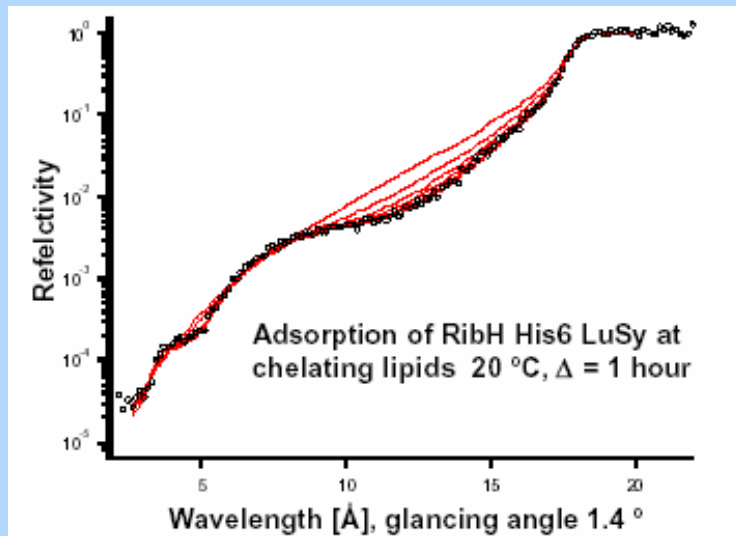
# Membrane Binding of Lipidated N-ras Peptide



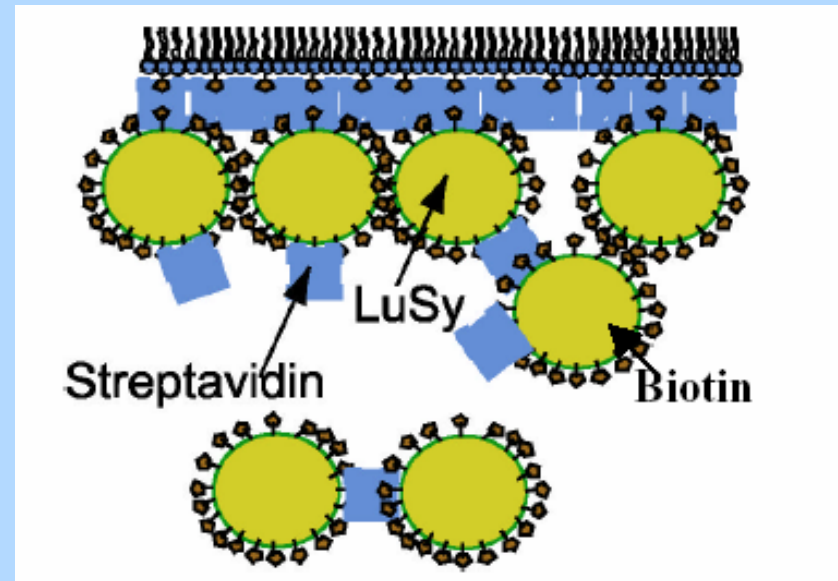
**T Gutberlet PSI**

(D. Huster et al., JACS, 125, 2003, 4070)

## Anchoring of Recombinant Proteins to Functionalized Phospholipid Monolayers



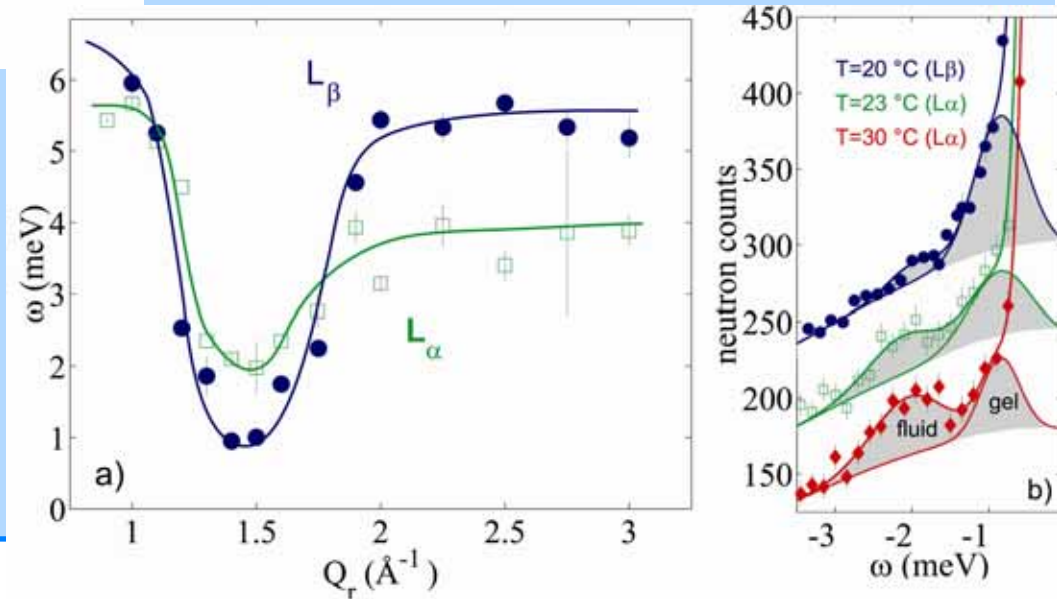
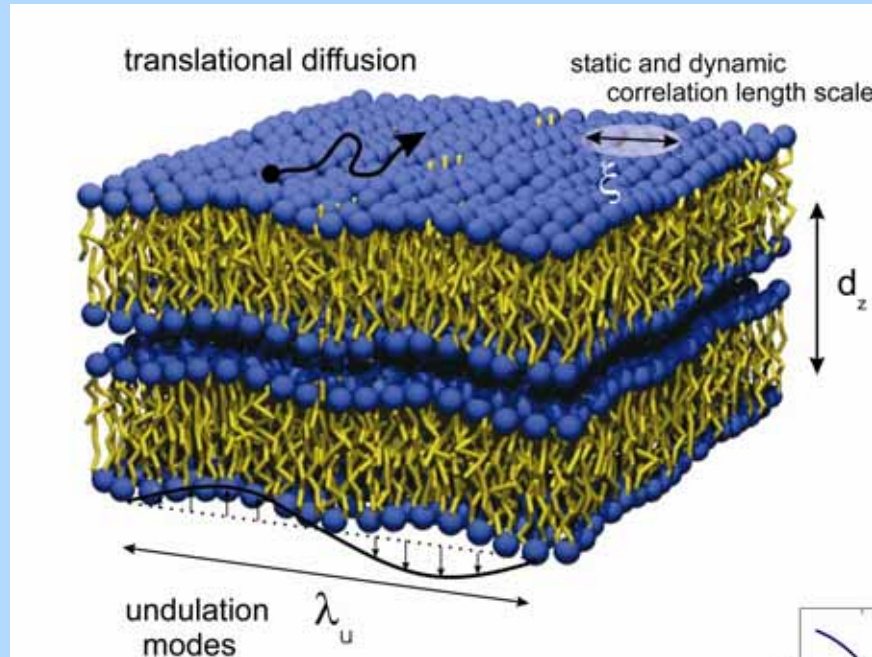
**Figure 1.** Reflectivity data obtained during the adsorption of LuSy to a Ni Chelator covered surface. The lines correspond to the best fits of the neutron reflectivity data sets, plotted over wavelength. The time distance between two sets of data is one hour.

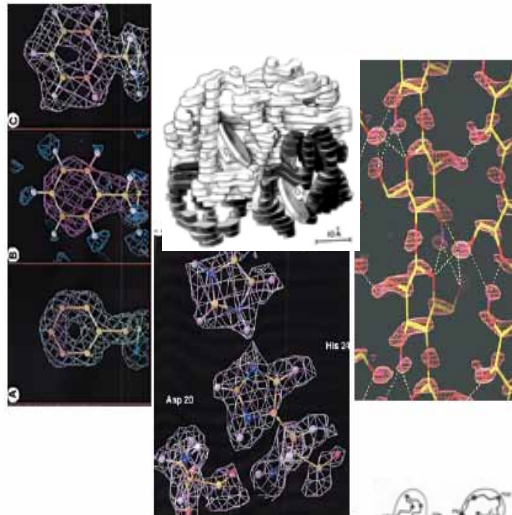
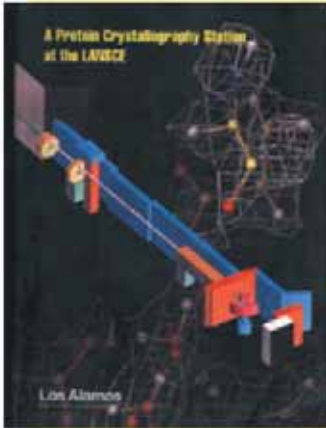


**Figure 4.** Model of multilayers to fit the data of biotin LuSy adsorbed to a streptavidin interface

# Biomembranes - dynamics

T Gutberlet PSI





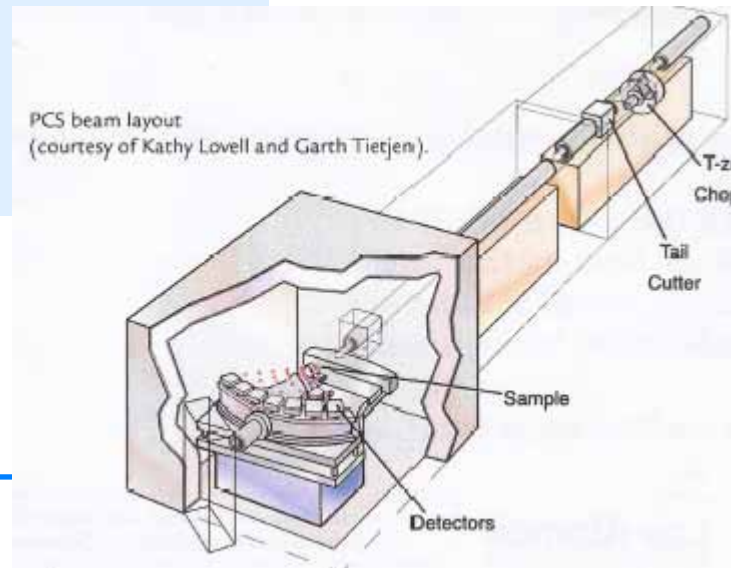
Example above:

Myoglobin, 17kD, 35 Å,  
 hydrogen shell

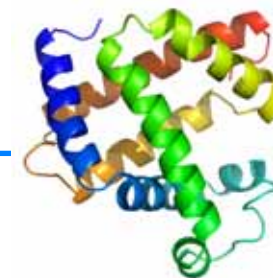
**PCS Specifications**

- Unit cell size 150 Å
- d-spacing 1 Å - 250 Å
- Wavelength shaping T0 and T1 choppers and tail-cutter
- Wavelength range 1-5 Å
- Sample-to-detector distance 700 mm
- Beam size 5 mm on detector
- Detector resolution 1.2 mm
- Detector area 120°, R=70cm, H=20cm
- Counting rate > 1,000,000 c/s
- 7 10<sup>6</sup> ncm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup> at 100 μA (1-5Å)
- 1-10 days/protein

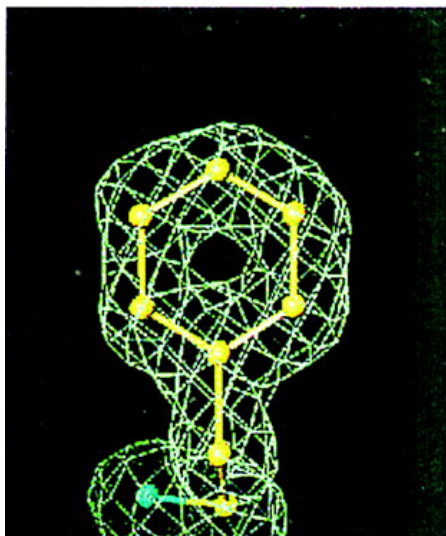
**Protein crystallography  
 – an existing facility!**





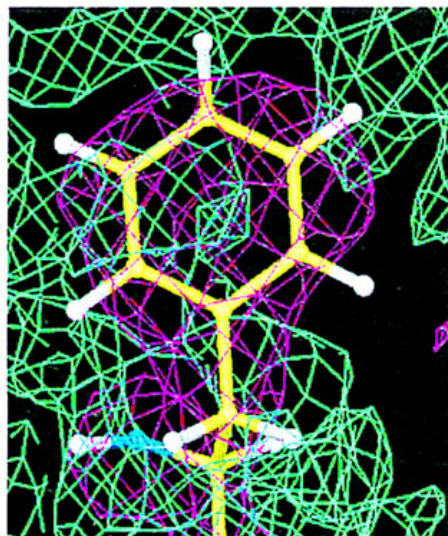


A.



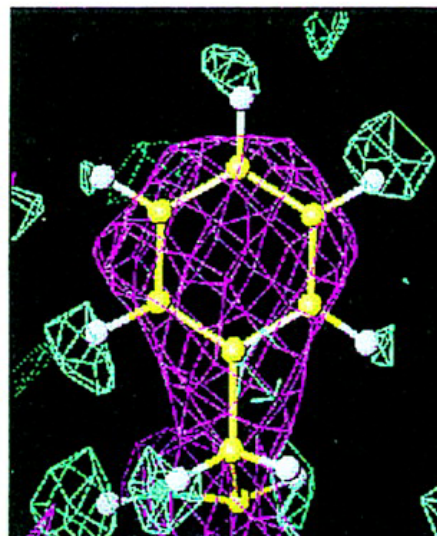
X-Ray

B.



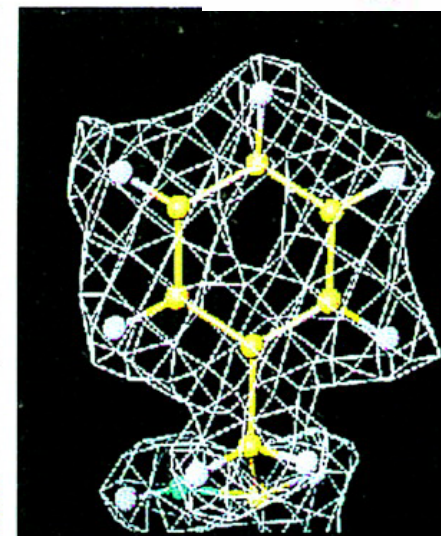
neutrons  
unlabelled

C.



Calculated  
from (B)

D.

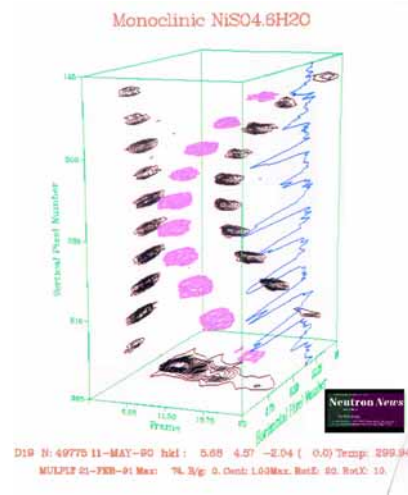


neutrons  
Fully deuterated

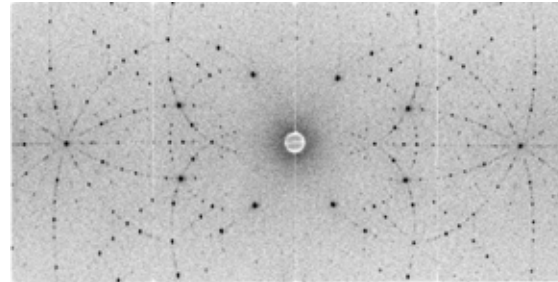
Neutrons:

Location of hydrogen from from low resolution data ( $\sim 2\text{\AA}$ ) possible,  
Even if paramagnetic metal ions are in the vicinity (kills NMR)

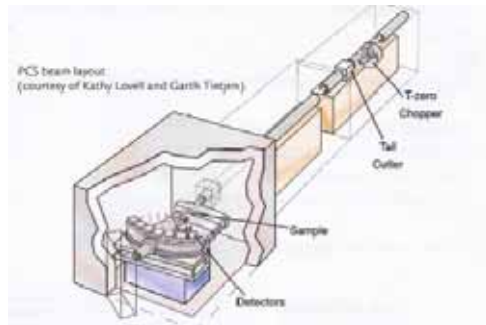
Shu et al, Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, **97**(8), 3872-3877 (2000)



D19/ILL



LADI/ILL  
 ( $V < 300'000 \text{ \AA}^3$ )

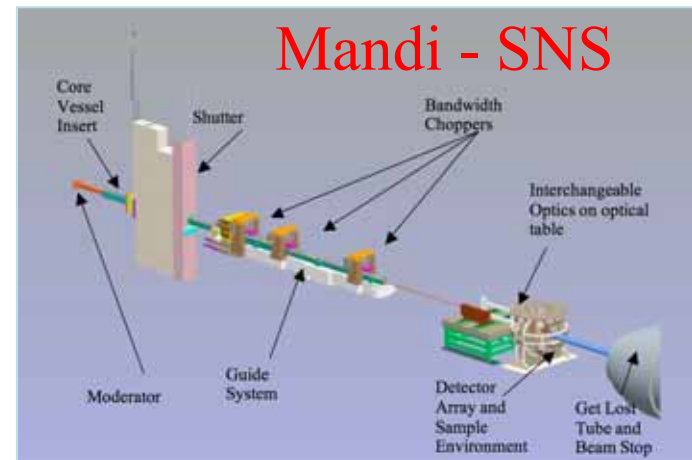


PCS/LANSCE

J-Parc  
 Japan



Bio-Molecule Diff. (Ibaraki Pref.)

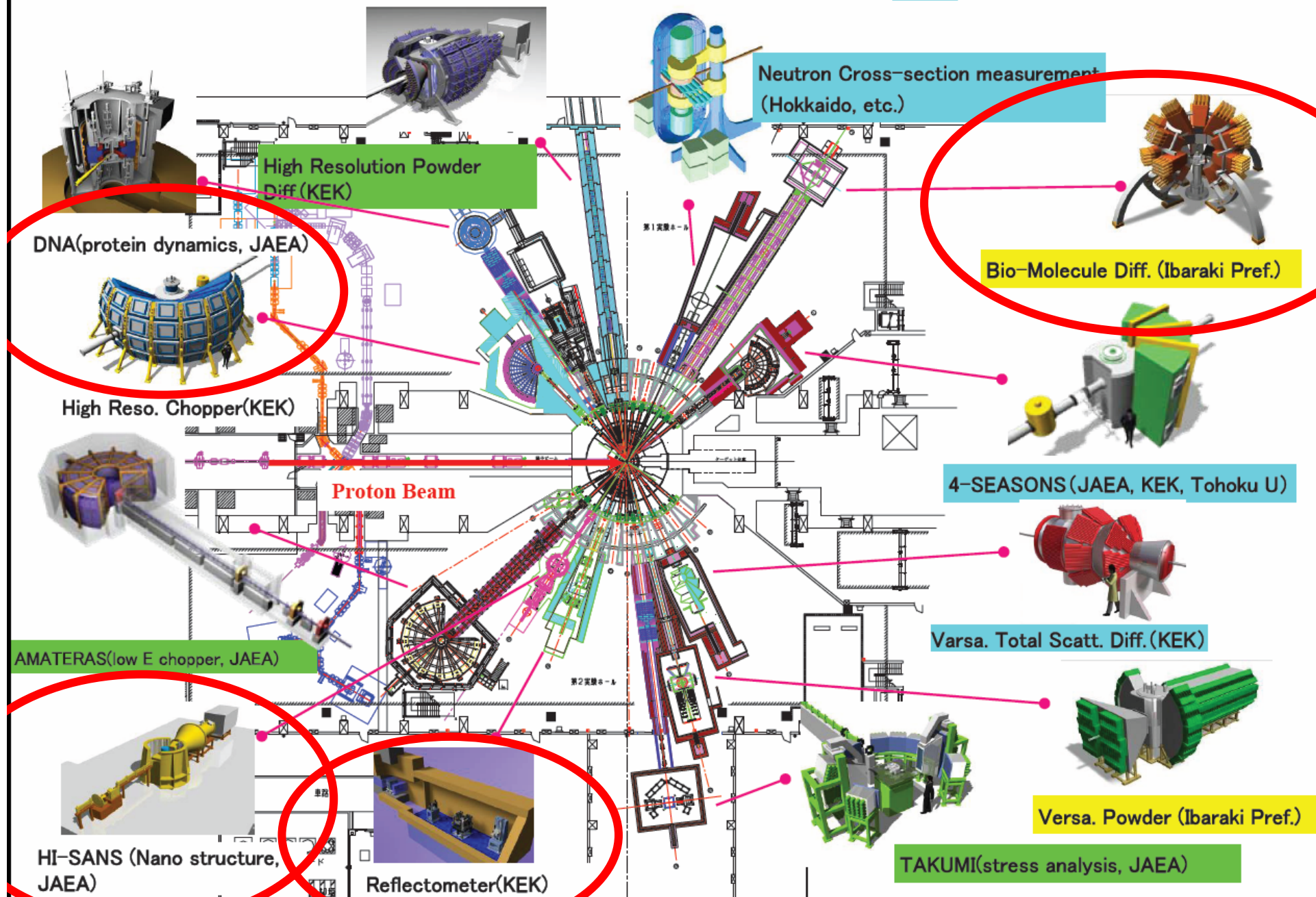


# Neutron Instruments under construction (color labeled) and planned

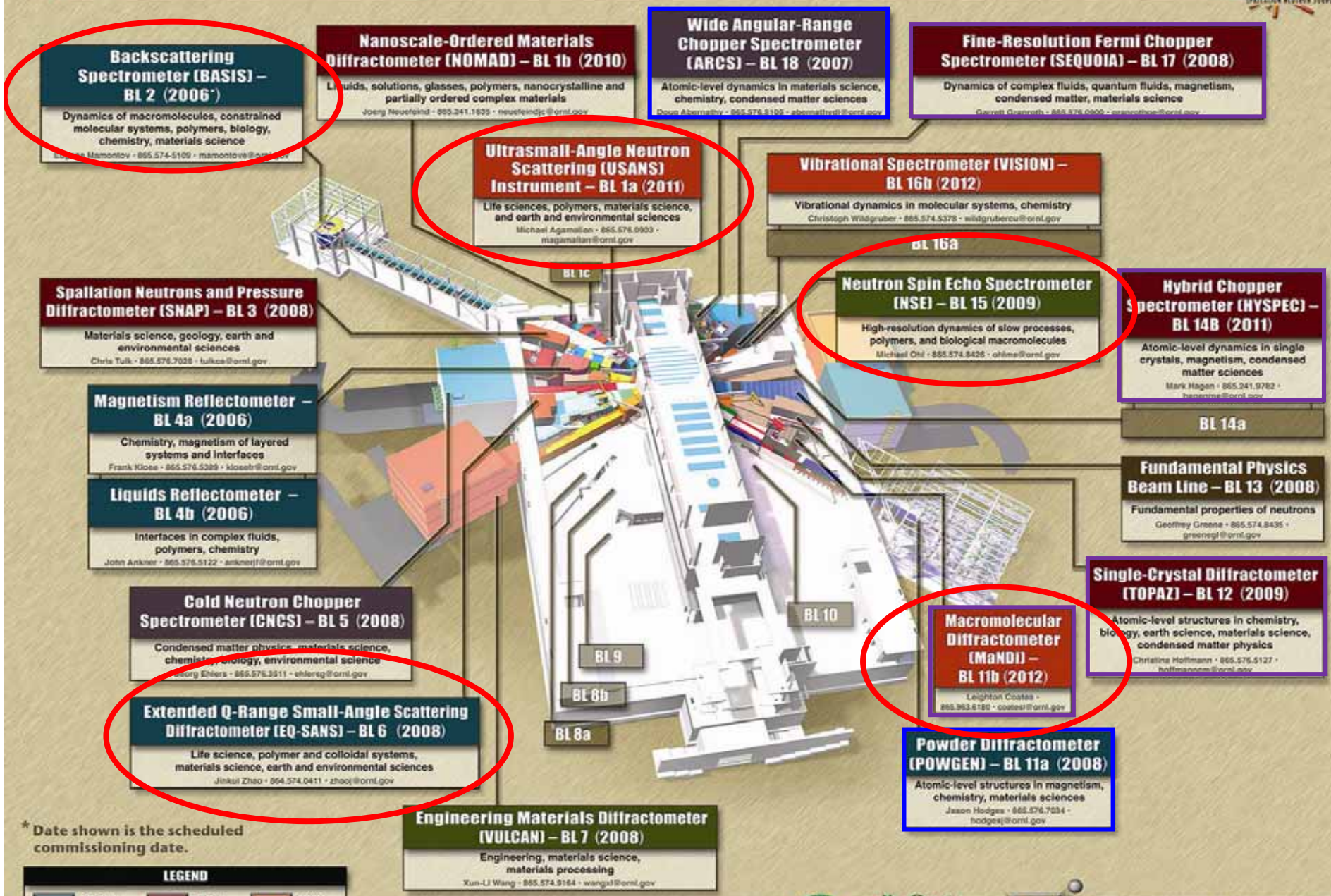
JAEA or KEK,

Ibaraki Pref.

Grant

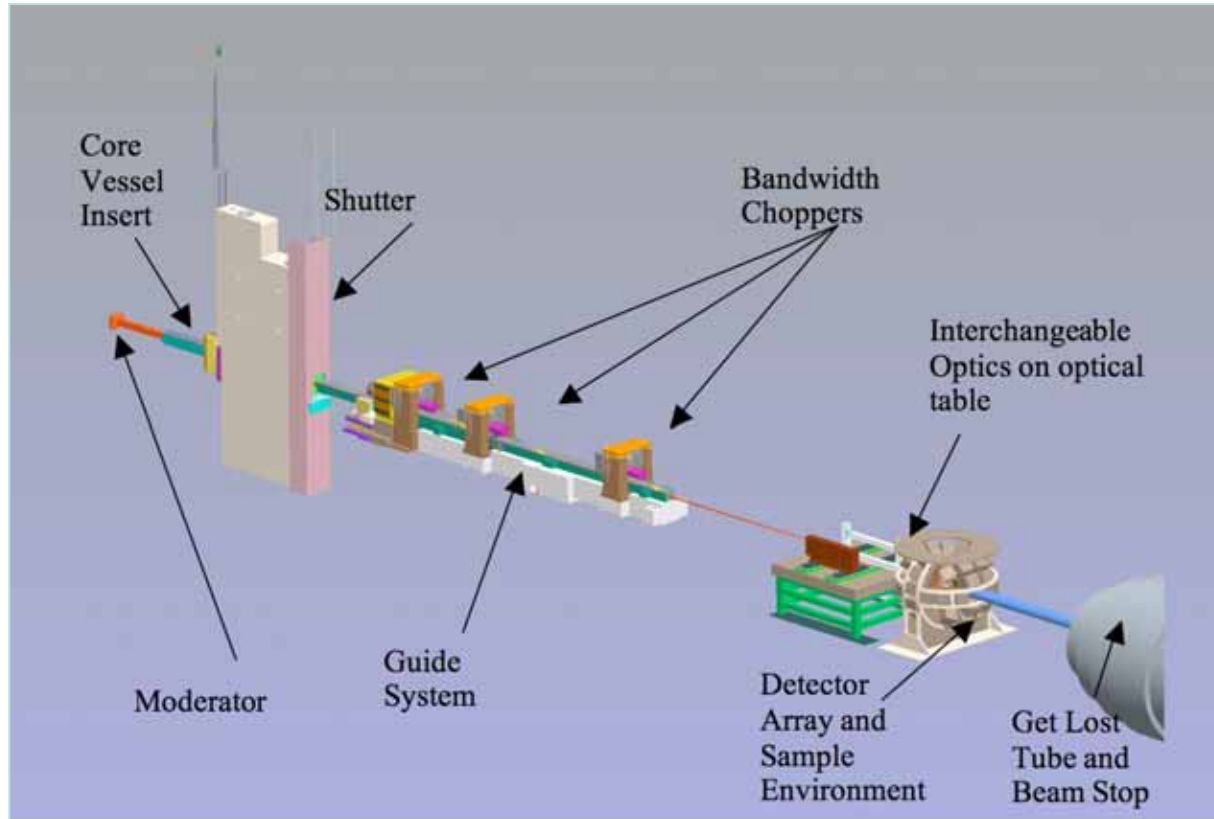


# Spallation Neutron Source



\* Date shown is the scheduled commissioning date.

LEGEND		
SNS TPC	SING 1	SING 2
DOE Grant	DOE NP	Non U.S.



- Large solid angle detector coverage
- Crystal sizes:  $\sim 0.1 \text{ mm}^3$  and below
- Reduced data collection time (1 day to 1 Week)
- Resolution 1.5-2.0 Å ( $D_{\text{min}}$ )
- Large unit cell repeats 150-300 Å

## Nanomaterials, Structural Biology and Enzymology

## PSI-BARC Collaboration

J. Kohlbrecher, R. Vavrin (LNS-PSI, Switzerland)

V.K. Aswal (BARC, Mumbai, India)

## **mixture of protein and surfactant complexes:**

used in a variety **pharmaceutical, cosmetic** and **food** products

both share the property of charged groups and hydrophobic portions

Do surfactant molecules undergo electrostatic binding to the protein?

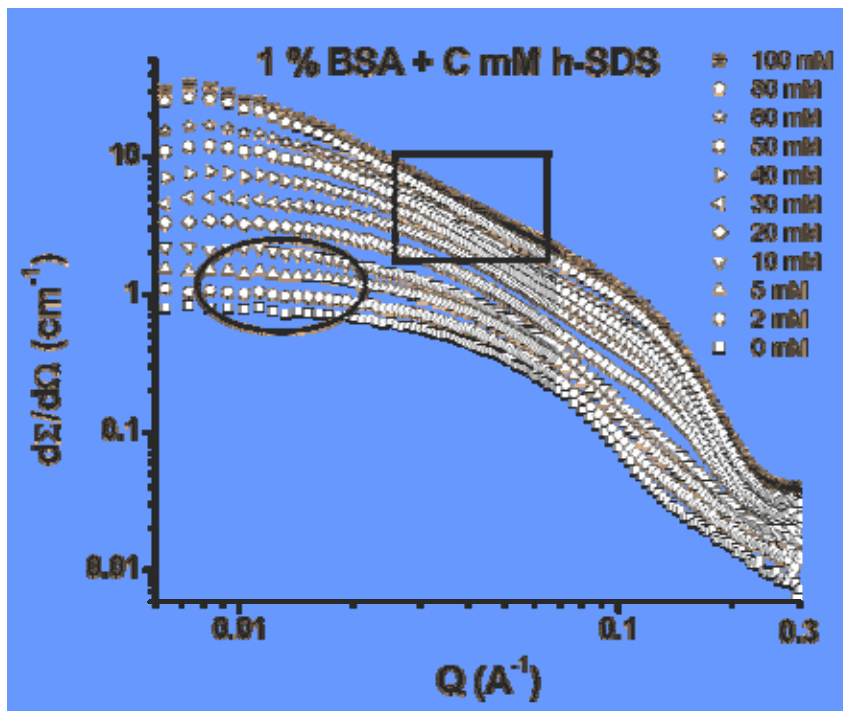
Can surfactant molecules denature proteins?

## PSI-BARC Collaboration

J. Kohlbrecher, R. Vavrin (LNS-PSI, Switzerland)

V.K. Aswal (BARC, Mumbai, India)

## SANS data:

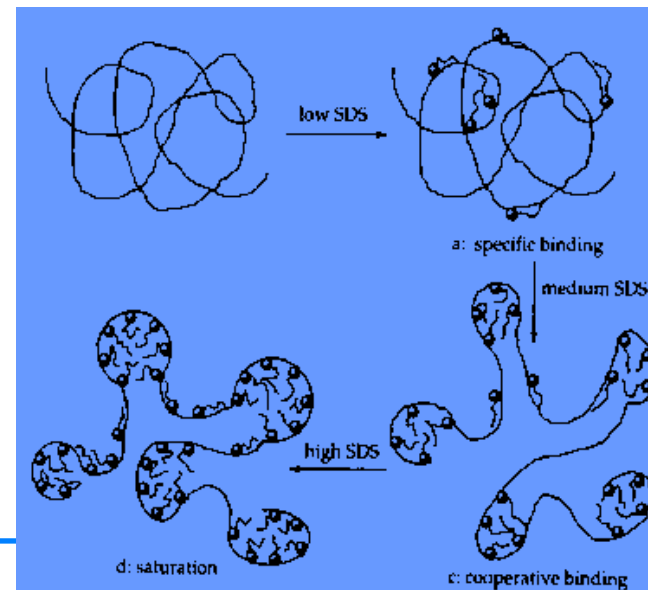


### low surfactant concentration:

individual surfactant attach to deform the protein.  
(deformation of protein)

### high surfactant concentration:

micelle-like clusters of surfactants are formed along the unfolded polypeptide chain.  
(fractal structure)



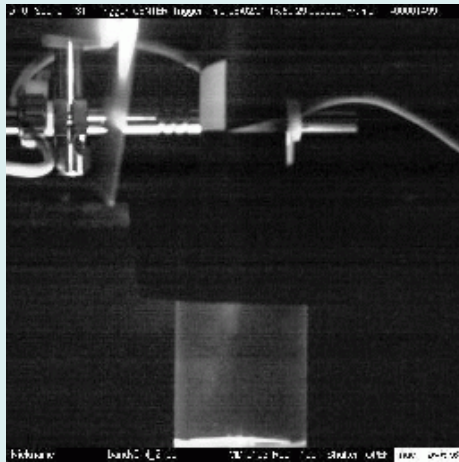
## mechanism:

## Alternating vorticity bands in a solution of wormlike micelles

V. Herle<sup>1</sup>, B. Pfister<sup>1</sup>, P. Fischer<sup>1</sup>, E.J. Windhab<sup>1</sup>, and J. Kohlbrecher<sup>2</sup>

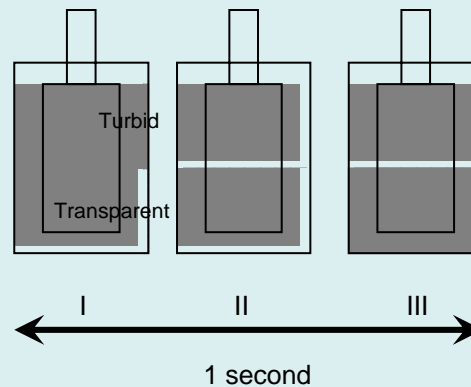
<sup>1</sup>Institute of Food Science, ETH Zurich

<sup>2</sup>Laboratory for Neutron Scattering, ETH Zurich & PSI



wormlike micelles are long, flexible, thread-like aggregates of surfactant molecules

- formation vorticity bands
- bands alternate in position
- shear rate and  $\eta$  show time dependent oscillations



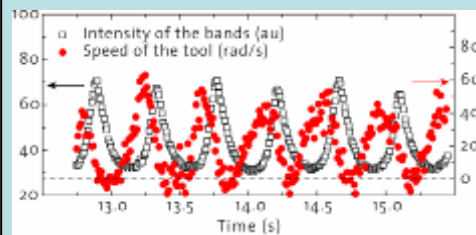
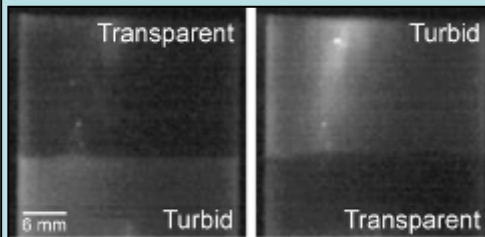
### Problems and Questions

- How to capture the dynamics of the process
- Does the oscillation in the tool really corresponds to the bands?
- If yes, then, when does the tool slow down and when does it accelerate? (measuring the phase shift between structural change and shear rate oscillations)
- Which structures are formed in these bands?



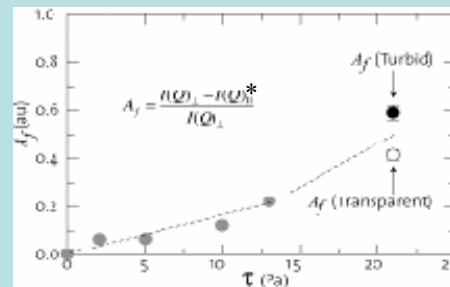
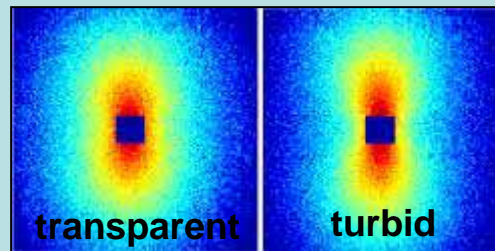
### Rheology & Flow visualization

1. Stress controlled
2. Parallel plate or Couette
3. Steady and Transient



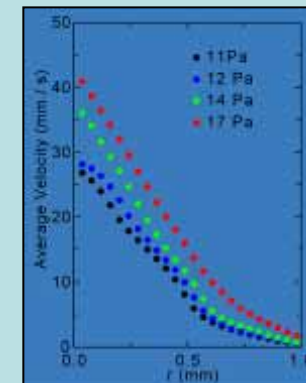
### Rheo-Small Angle Neutron Scattering (Rheo-SANS)

1. Stress controlled
2. Couette geometry
3. Triggered SANS



### Ultrasound Velocity Profiling (UVP) and Rheo-NMR

1. Stress controlled
2. Couette geometry
3. Solution with tracer particles



Newtonian and shear thinning flow behavior with minor flow alignment of the micelles is observed. Above a critical stress of  $\tau_c \sim 13$  Pa shear thickening is observed with the formation of alternating transparent and turbid bands in the vorticity direction. Triggered SANS experiments show different anisotropic patterns in both bands indicating strongly aligned structures under flow. By video imaging experiments, we show that the pronounced shear-induced alignment of WMs in flow, does not correspond to a phase of lower viscosity.

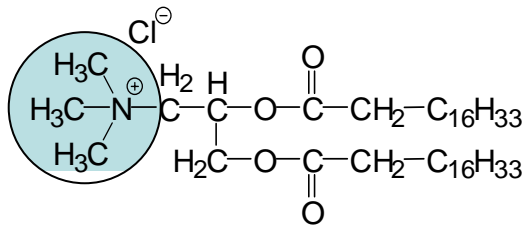
# Application of Avoided Level Crossing Muon Spin Resonance to Problems in Soft Matter Physics:

## The Partitioning of Small Amphiphiles at the Bilayer/Water Interface in Lamellar Phase Dispersions

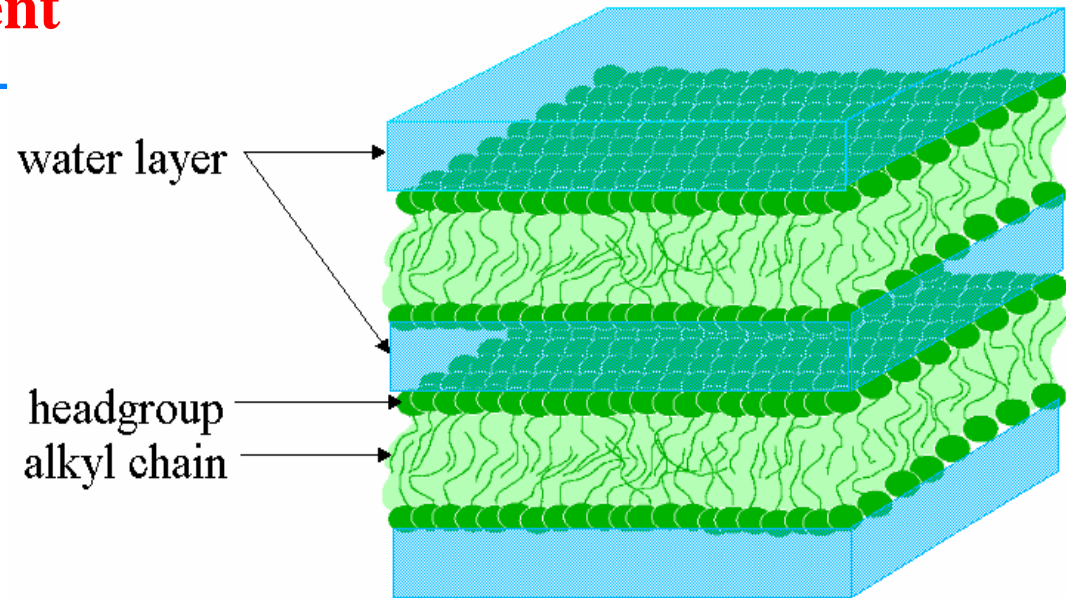
Collaboration PSI – Univ. Stuttgart – Unilever Research Port Sunlight

R. Scheuermann *et al.*, Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys. **4**, 1510 (2002)

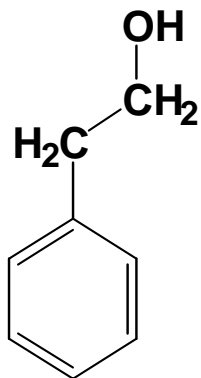
R. Scheuermann *et al.*, accepted for publication in Langmuir (2004)

lamellar phase:

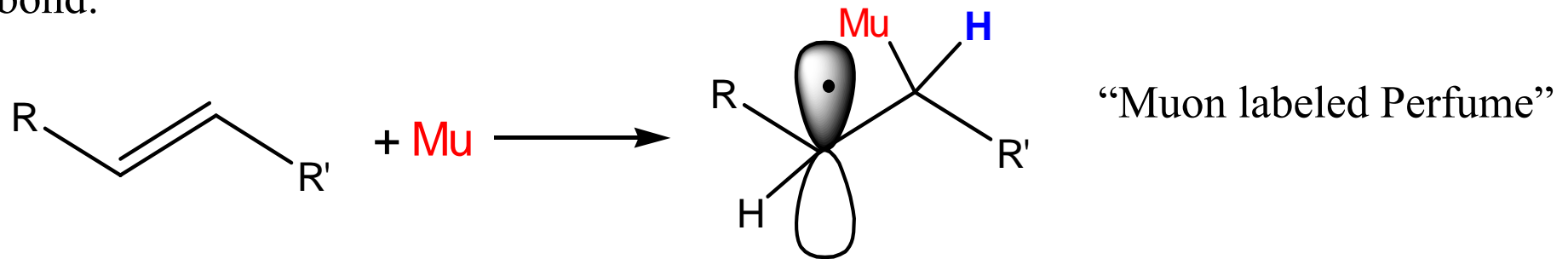
DHTAC: cationic dichain surfactant



surfactant bilayers separated by water

cosurfactant: 2-phenylethanol  
(‘perfume’: essence of roses)phase transition  $T_{\alpha\beta} \approx 50 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  (DSC) $T > T_{\alpha\beta}$ :  $L_\alpha$  - alkyl chains ,fluid‘ $T < T_{\alpha\beta}$ :  $L_\beta$  - more ordered packing of hydrocarbon chains**partitioning (local environment) of  
cosurfactants in lamellar phases**

formation of  $\approx 100\%$  polarised spin label by Mu addition to an unsaturated chemical bond:



3 spin- $\frac{1}{2}$  system:  $\mu$ , p, e

Fermi contact interaction (electron spin density at **muon/proton**)

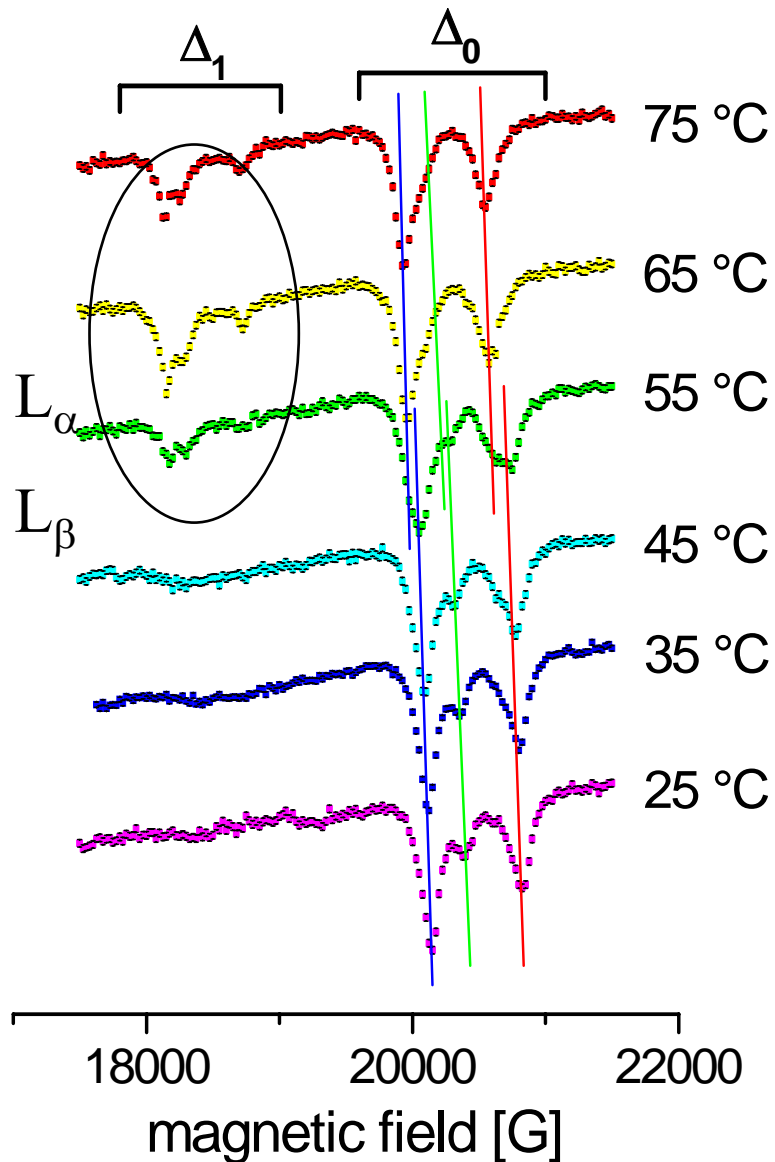
+ magnetic dipole interaction **muon/proton** – electron

avoided crossings of magnetic energy levels at high magnetic fields ( $\approx 2$  T)

$\Rightarrow$  dips in the field-dependence of the  $\mu$  spin polarisation:

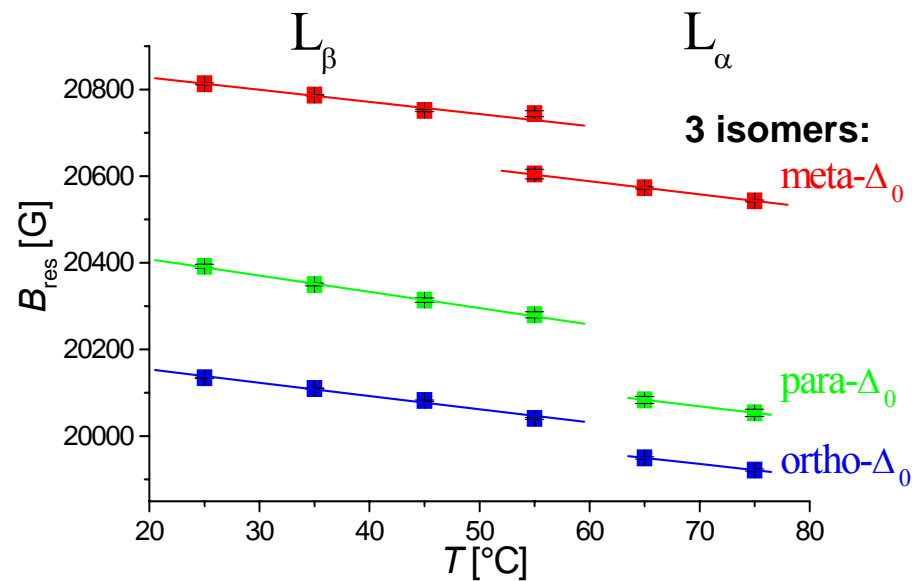
$\div$  longitudinal field relaxometry: spin-spin cross relaxation

## 40 mM 2-phenylethanol in 15% DHTAC dispersion



$\Delta_1$  resonances only above  $T_{\alpha\beta}$ : **residual anisotropy!**  
 PEA-Mu axially aligned within bilayer  
**lineshape:** dynamical averaging

$\Delta_0$ : discontinuity in  $B_{res}(T)$  at  $T_{\alpha\beta}$ : **change of local environment!**



tracer **in water**

**in bilayer**  
 (but not static!)

Concentrated lamellar phase dispersion of surfactant (detergent)

Low concentration of cosurfactant (perfume), typ. 40 mM (100  $\mu$ l/20 ml)

ALC- $\mu$ SR:

spin-labelled perfume by Mu attachment

detection limit  $\approx 1-10 \mu$ l/20 ml ( $10^{-4}$ )

Lineshapes contains detailed information on dynamics .... But extraction of these details not straightforward.

## NEUTRON SCATTERING & THE LIFE SCIENCES

*Extracted from: "Neutron Scattering and the Life Sciences. A Strategy for the ILL" by P. A. Timmins*

### **NEUTRONS IN BIOLOGY** WORKSHOP

#### **The Scientific and Technical Requirements for Biology at Australia's Replacement Research Reactor**

The impact of neutrons on biological systems Olwyn Byron, University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK

#### **Neutron diffraction studies of Escherichia coli dihydrofolate reductase complexed with methotrexate**

**Brad Bennett\***, Paul Langan†, Leighton Coates†, Marat Mustyakimov†, Benno Schoenborn†, Elizabeth E. Howell\*,  
and Chris Dealwis\*‡

\*Department of Biochemistry, Cellular and Molecular Biology, M407 Walters Life Sciences, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996; and

†Los Alamos National Laboratory, Biosciences Division, Mail Stop MS M888, Los Alamos, NM 87545

#### **Enhanced visibility of hydrogen atoms by neutron crystallography on fully deuterated myoglobin**

**Fong Shu\*†**, Venki Ramakrishnan\*‡§, and Benno P. Schoenborn§¶

\*Biology Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY 11973; and §Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM 87545

Scientists from LNS – Diffraction, Reflectometry and SANS

# Neutron and Muon portal – a key web-site



For information on and links to neutron and muon sources World-wide:

<http://www.neutron-eu.net/>

This site also contains information on how to get access to the European Facilities