

# Experimental Methods in Interfacial Chemistry

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# Outline

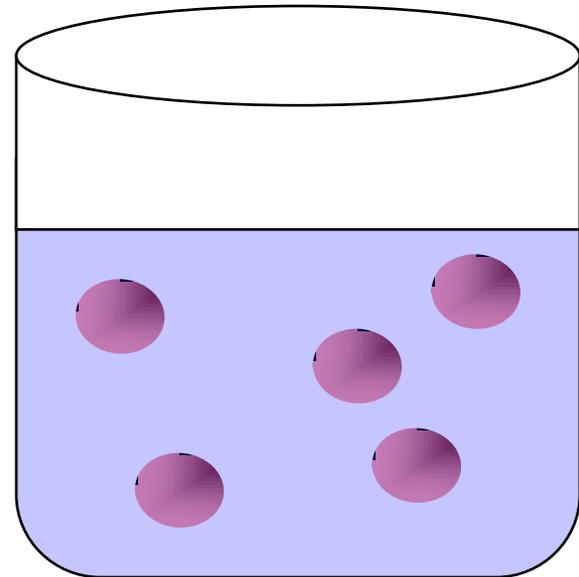
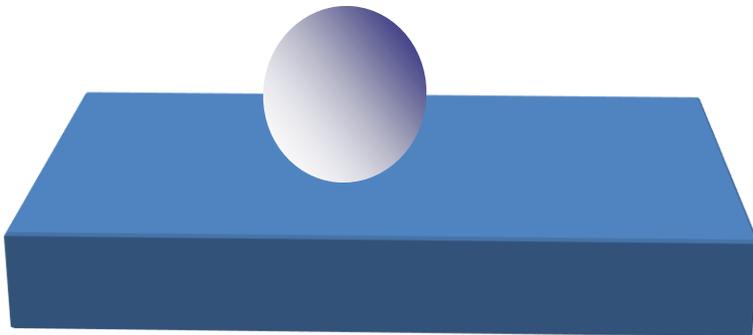
- 👉 Introduction to Interfaces
- 👉 Surface tension and CMC
- 👉 Self assembly - structure and dynamics
- 👉 Applications

## Surfactants as Interface modifiers

### Solid- liquid interface:

Cleaning of oil droplet on floor or clothes

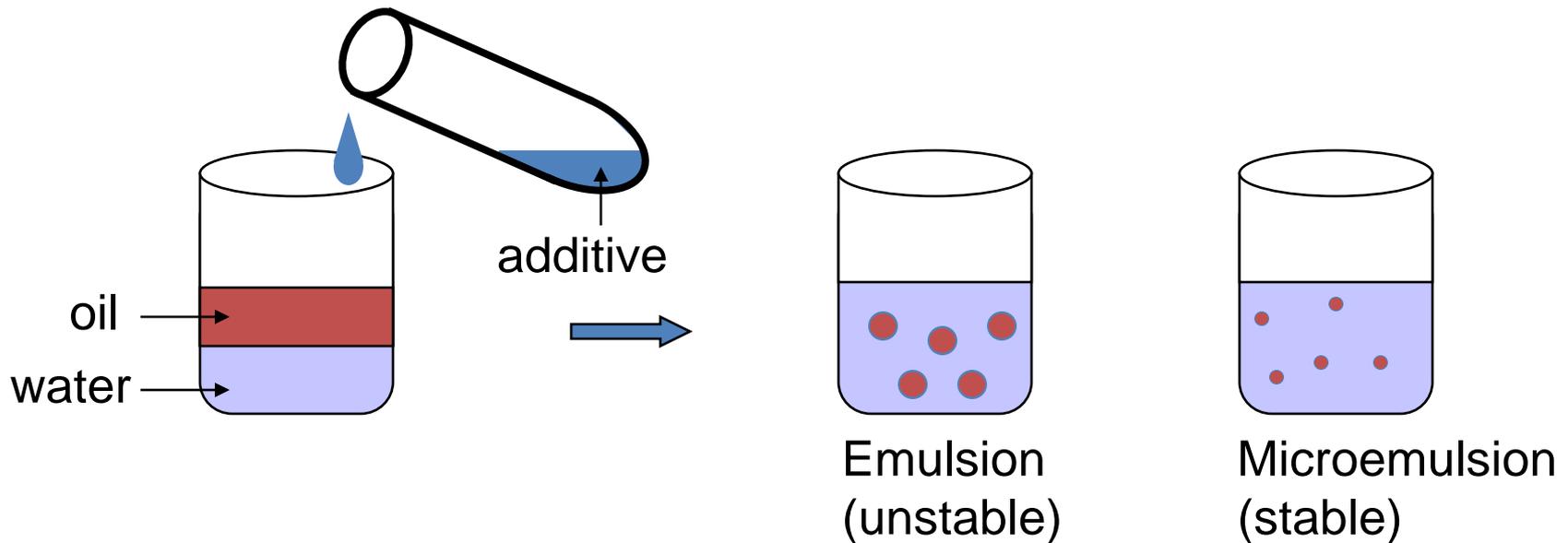
Dispersion of particles in Paints and pigments



# Interfaces

## Liquid-liquid interface

Dispersion of one liquid in other



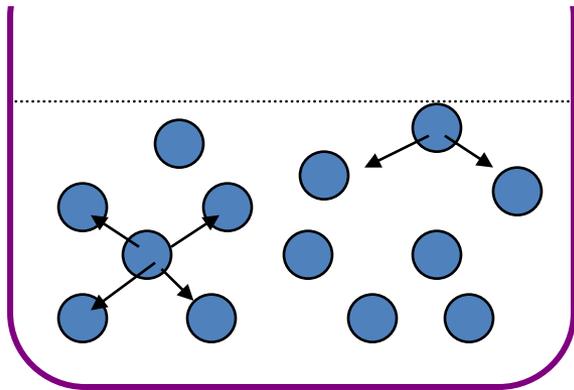
## Liquid-vapour interface

Bubbles and Foams,  
In Froth floatation, shaving creams, ice cream, fire fighting etc.

## Free energy of the interface

### Surface / interfacial tension – Free energy per unit area of the interface

Molecules at the surface behave differently from that at the bulk



$$n_b > n_s$$

Lesser number of nearest neighbours at the interface -  
Interaction energy is different.

$W_{11}$  – interaction energy of a pair

Energy per molecule is

For bulk,  $E_b = n_b W_{11}/2$

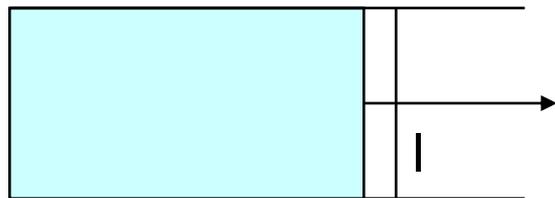
For surface,  $E_s = n_s W_{11}/2$

## Energy and Force

Extra energy required to create a new surface of unit area,

$$\gamma = \frac{W_{11}(n_s - n_b)}{2a_0} \quad \text{Energy/ area ; J/ m}^2$$

Molecules at the surface are under tension due to inward pull



An opposite force is required to expand the liquid film

A 2-D analog of P-V work

Force/ length.; N/m

## Surface tension and its consequences

Pressure across a curved surface is different

Surface tension tends to decrease the surface area and is counter balanced by a change in pressure

For sphere of radius  $r$ , changes in surface area and volume for a small change in radius ( $dr$ ) is given by

$$dA = 8\pi r dr \qquad dV = 4\pi r^2 dr$$

$$\text{Change in surface energy} = \gamma 8\pi r dr$$

$$\text{Pressure-volume work} = 4\pi r^2 dr \Delta P$$

$$\Delta P = \frac{2\gamma}{r}$$

Laplace equation

## Measuring surface tension – Capillary Rise

Changes in pressure across a curved surface leads to capillarity

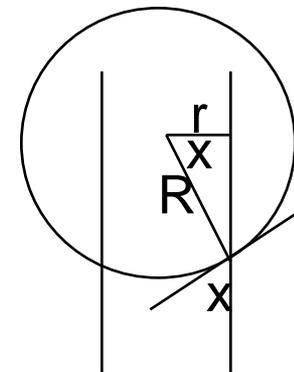
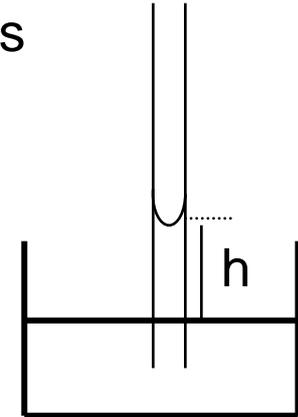
Height  $h$  , radius  $r$ , contact angle  $\theta$

Capillary pressure balanced by hydrostatic pressure

$$\frac{2\gamma \cos\theta}{r} = h\rho g$$

$$\gamma = \frac{hr\rho g}{2\cos\theta}$$

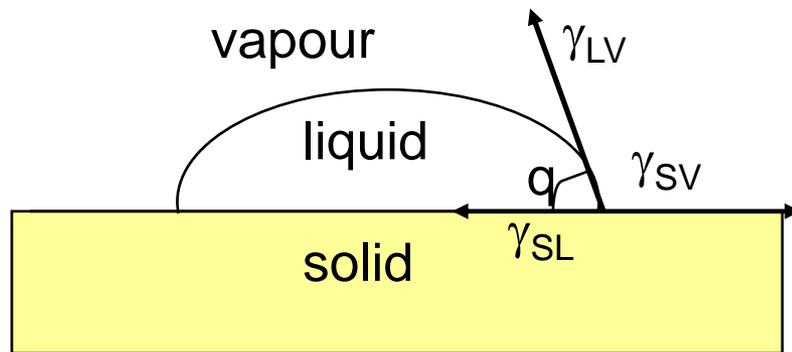
Flow of liquid in a capillary can be tuned by  $g$



$$R \cdot \cos x = r$$

# Solid-Liquid interface by Contact Angle

Shapes of liquid drop on solid



At equilibrium

$$\gamma_{SV} = \gamma_{SL} + \gamma_{LV} \cos \theta$$

Young equation

For spreading

$$\gamma_{SV} \geq \gamma_{SL} + \gamma_{LV}$$

Spreading coefficient,  $S = \gamma_{SV} - \gamma_{SL} + \gamma_{LV}$

$S \geq 0$	spreading
$S < 0$	droplets

Contact angle and wetting can be tuned by g

## Surface tension by Ring method

How to characterize the surface activity and aggregation?

1. By measuring surface tension

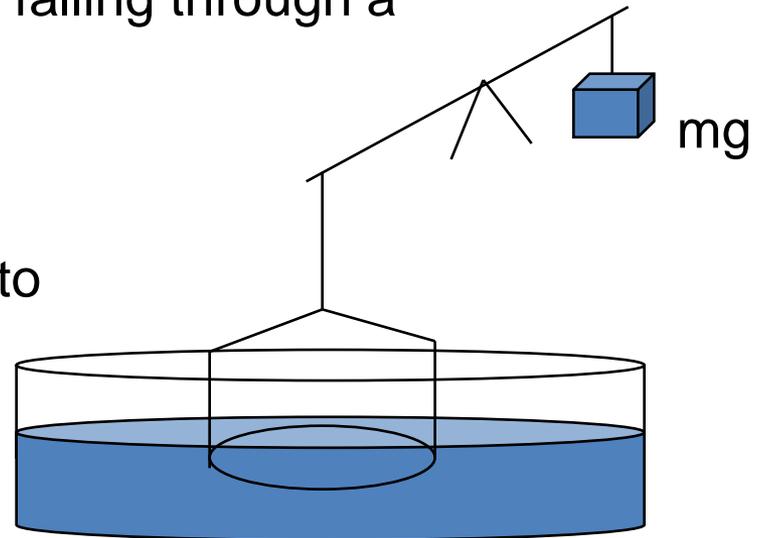
Drop weight (volume) method  $mg = 2\pi r\gamma$

Measure the weight of a drop of liquid falling through a capillary tube

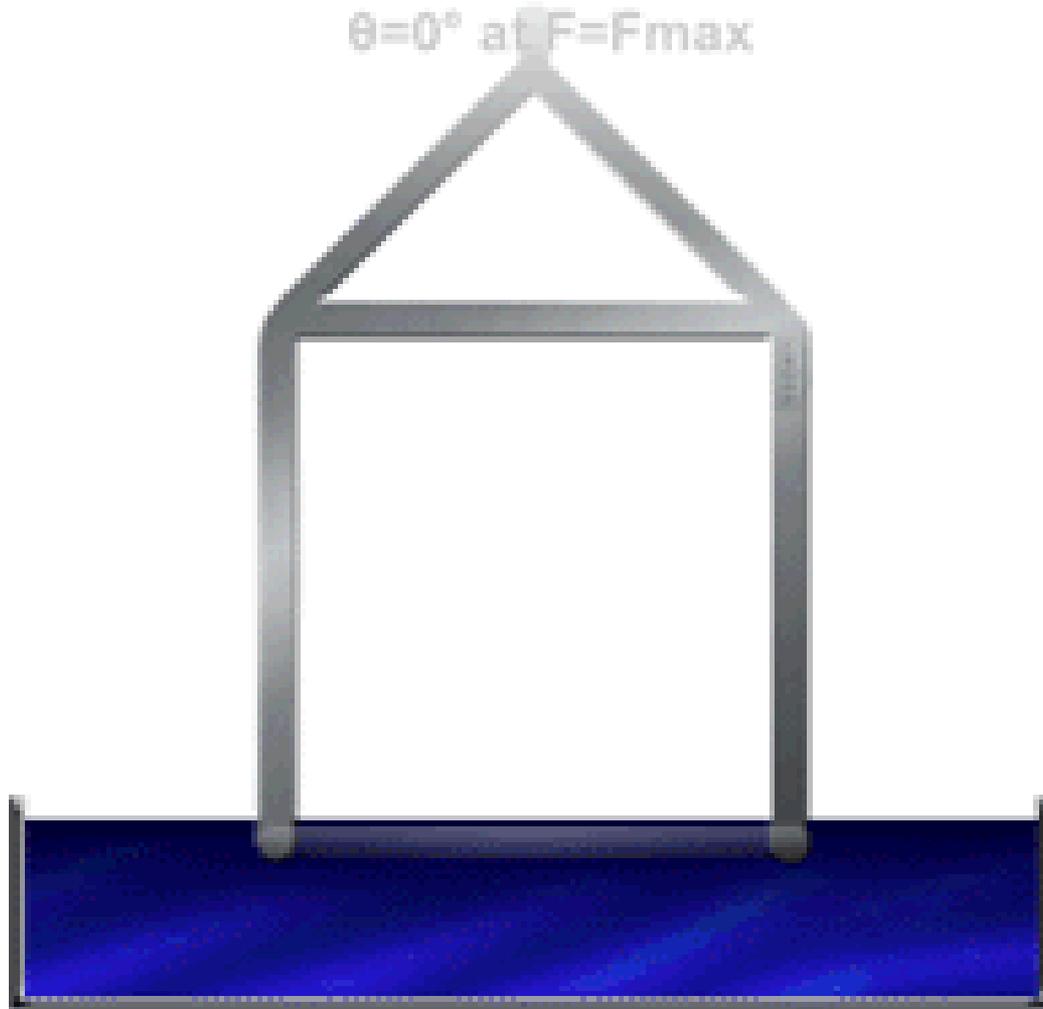
2. DuNuoy ring method

Measure the force or weight required to detach a ring from the surface

$$F = mg = 4\pi r\gamma \cos\theta$$



## Measuring surface tension



## Measuring surface tension

Wilhelmy plate method – can measure the contact angle if  $\gamma$  is known

Length  $l$ , thickness  $b$  and immersion height  $h$

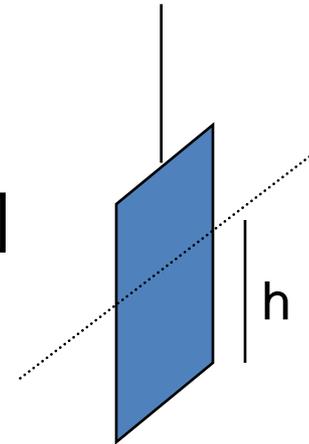
$$2(l+b)\gamma \cos\theta = F - \text{correction due to buoyancy}$$

$$= F - [lbh\rho_s g - lbh(\rho_s - \rho_l)g]$$



weight in air

weight in liquid



$$= F - lbh\rho_l g$$

Can measure contact angle  
(advancing and receding)

# Dynamic surface tension

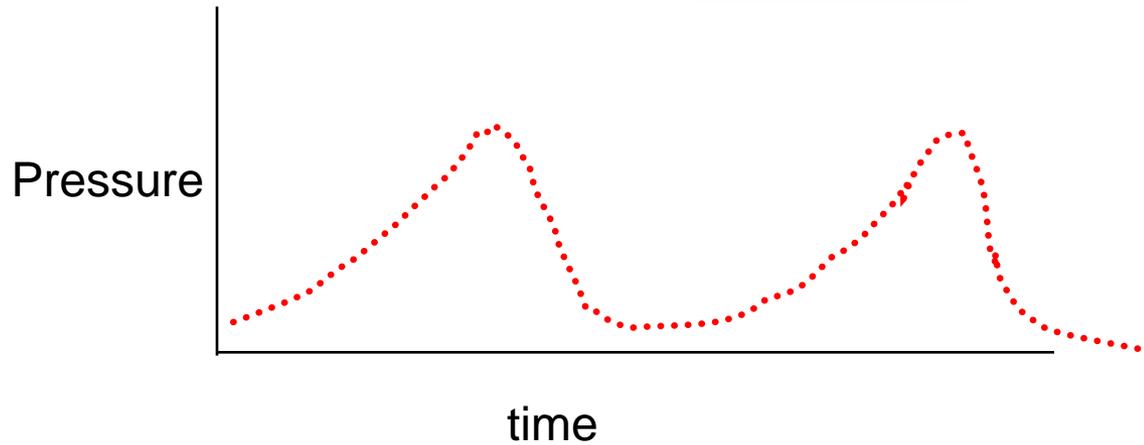
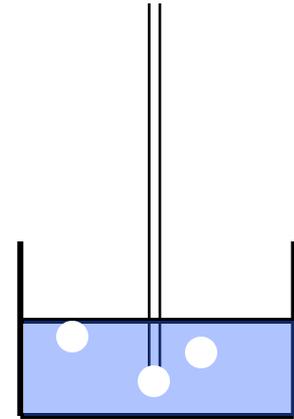
Bubble pressure method

Using Laplace equation

Change bubble frequency (period ~ ms to secs)

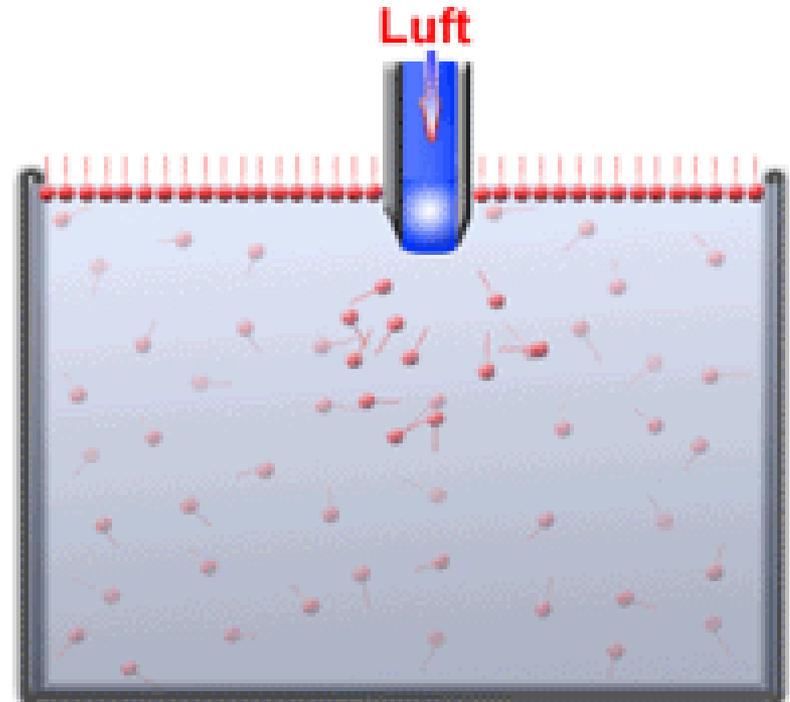
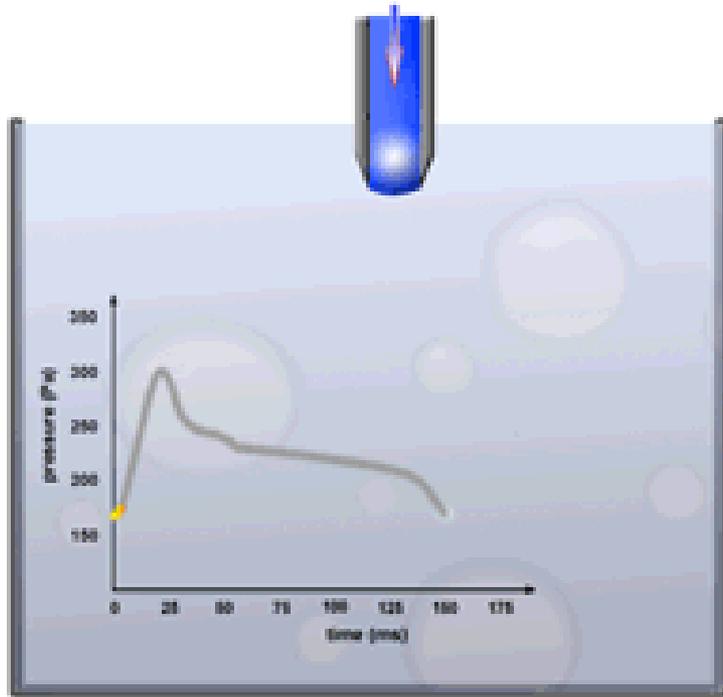
$$\gamma = \frac{(p_{\max} - p_0)r}{2}$$

$$p_0 = \Delta\rho hg$$



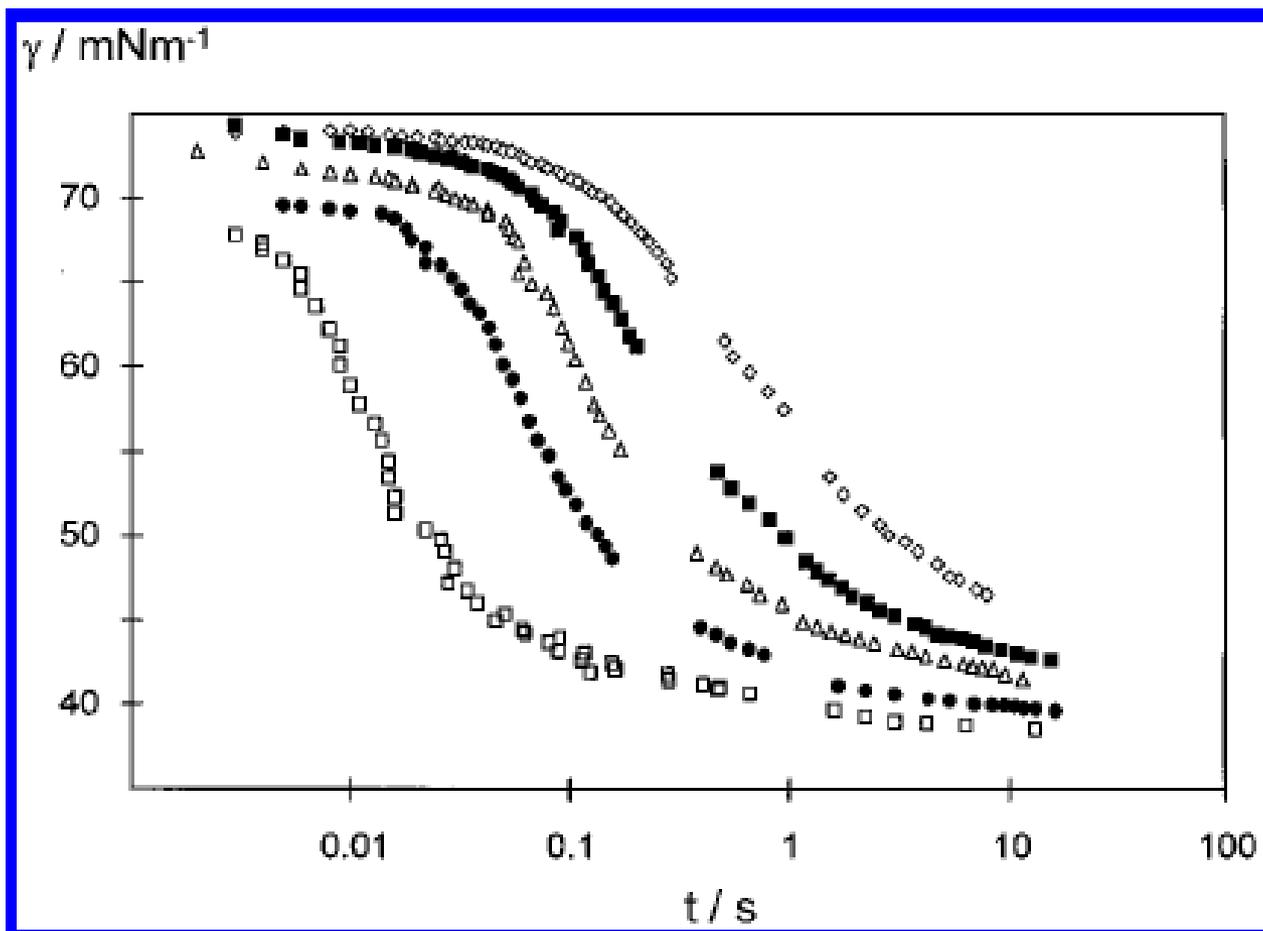
A measure of diffusion of surfactant molecules to the interface

# Bubble Pressure method

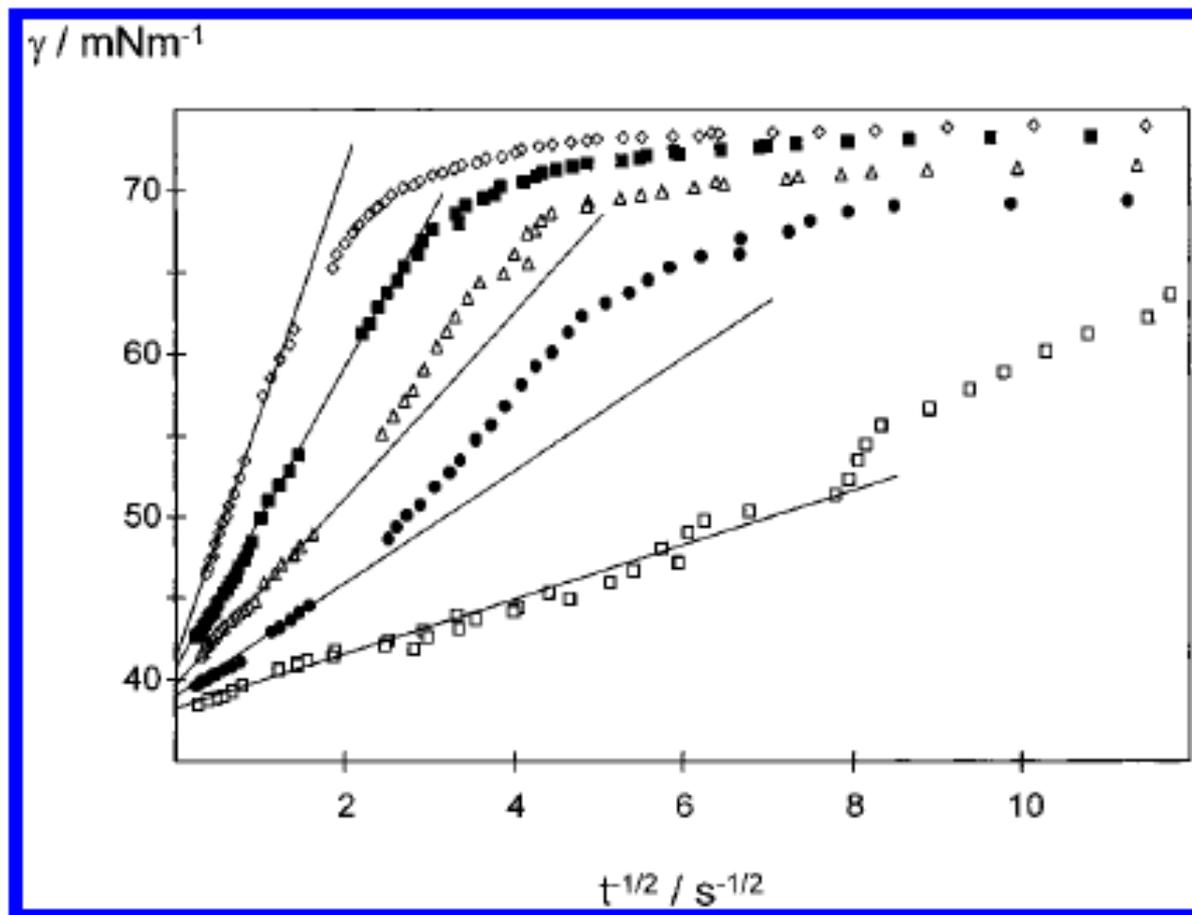


Courtesy: Kruss, GmbH

## Dynamic surface tension

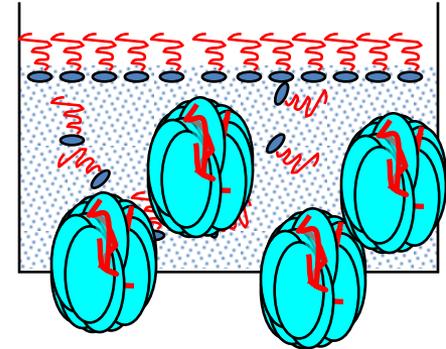
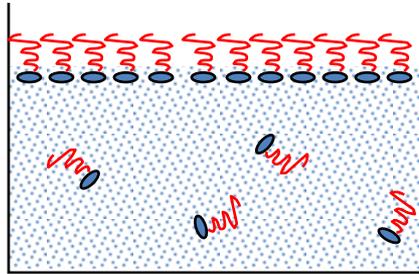
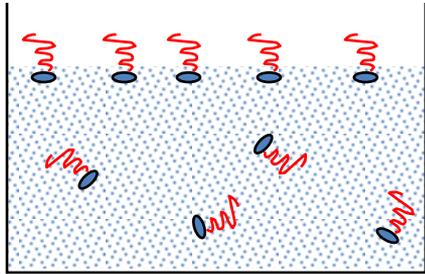


$$\gamma(t)_{t \rightarrow \infty} = \gamma_{\text{eq}} + \frac{RT\Gamma^2}{2c} \left( \frac{\pi}{Dt} \right)^{1/2}$$



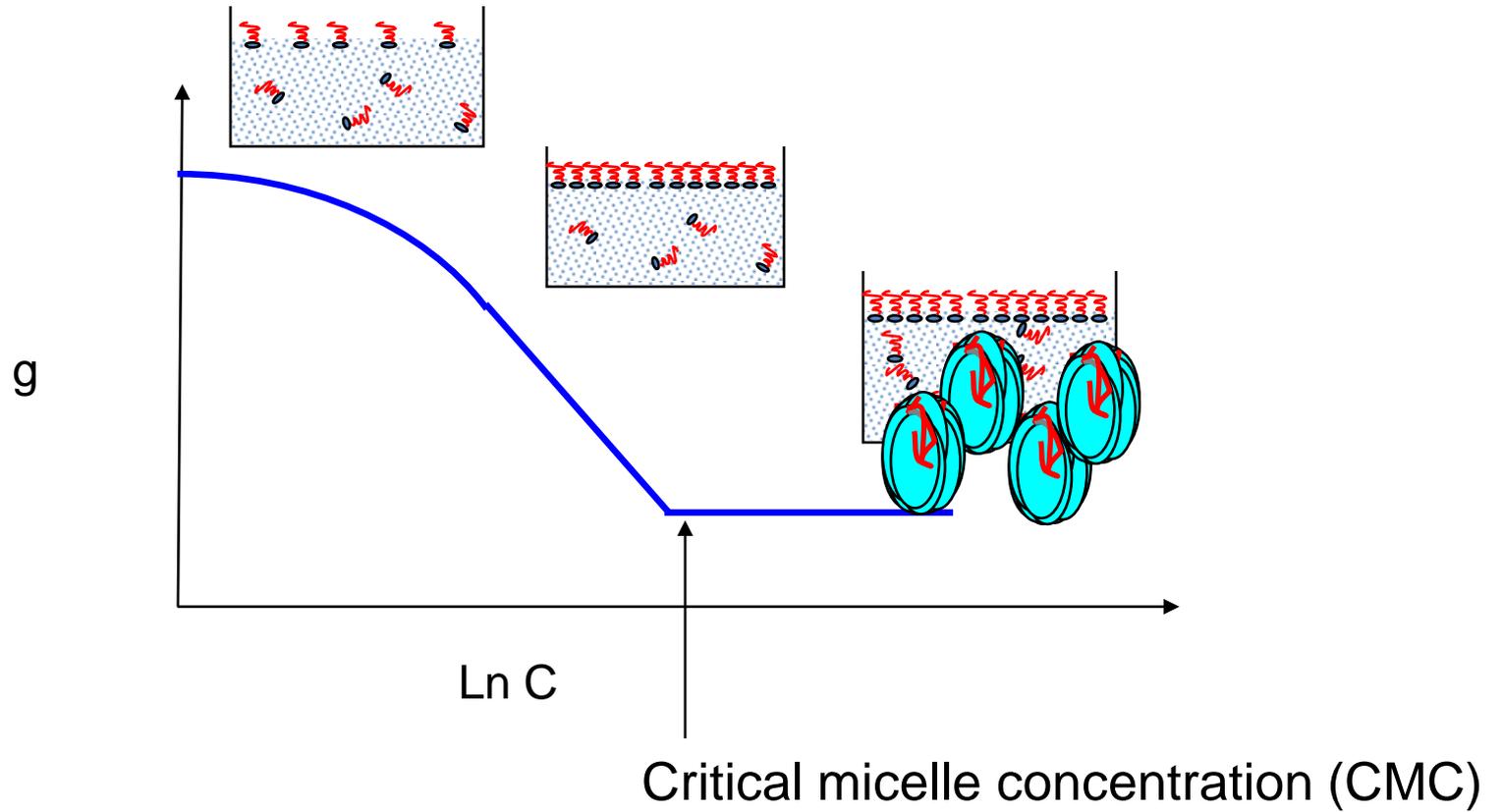
# Surface activity and aggregation

Increasing surfactant concentration



- Tries to orient in such a way to evade water from the hydrophobic part
- Hydrophobic effect – leads to surface adsorption and aggregation
- Since it sits on the surface/interface, it can change the surface tension!  
Useful to adjust capillarity and contact angle
- It can also change the charge on the surface – if ionic head group is used  
Useful to prevent aggregation as like charges repel each other

# Variation of surface tension with concentration



## Gibbs equation

Gibbs equation predicts the variation of  $\gamma$  with  $C$  using surface thermodynamics for adsorption

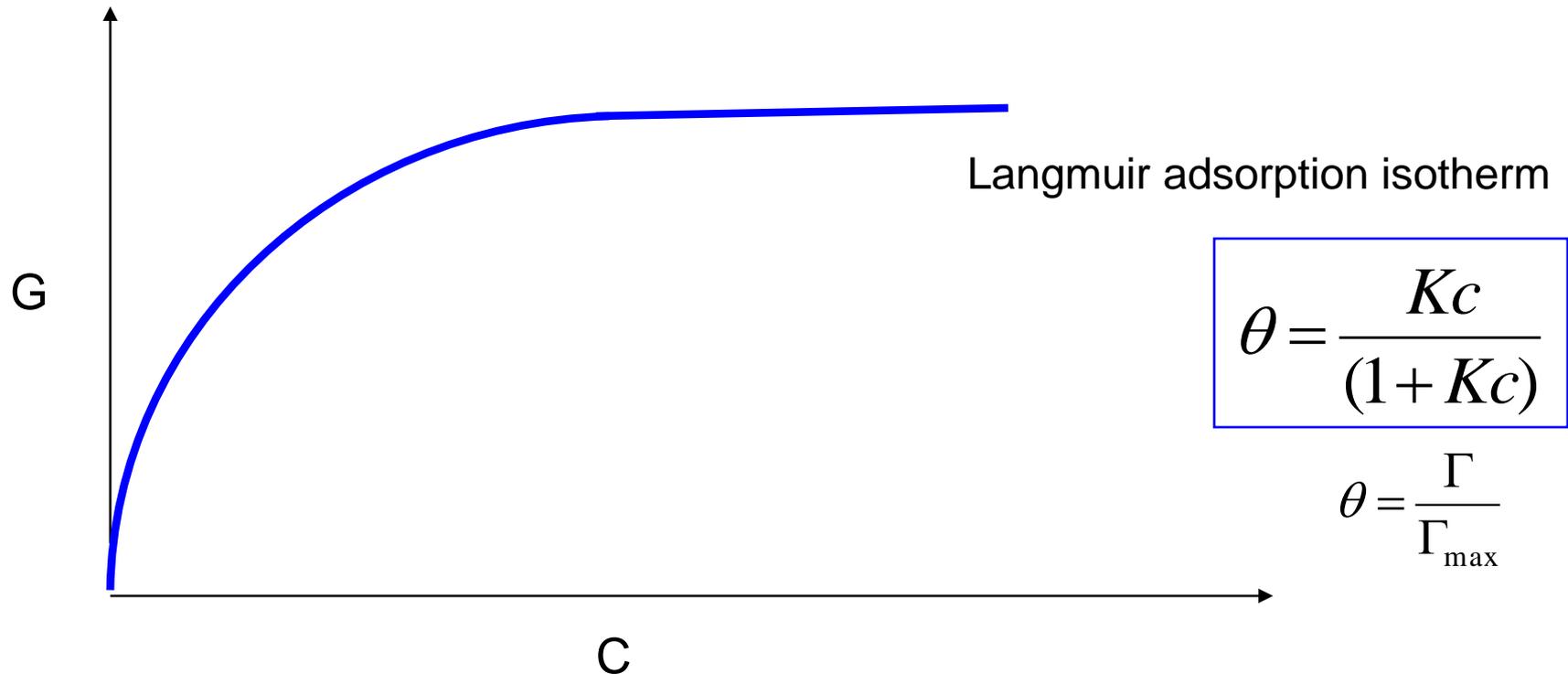
At equilibrium  $DG = 0$   $A d\gamma + \sum_i n_i d\mu_i = 0$

$$\Gamma_i = -\frac{1}{RT} \left( \frac{d\gamma}{d \ln c} \right)$$

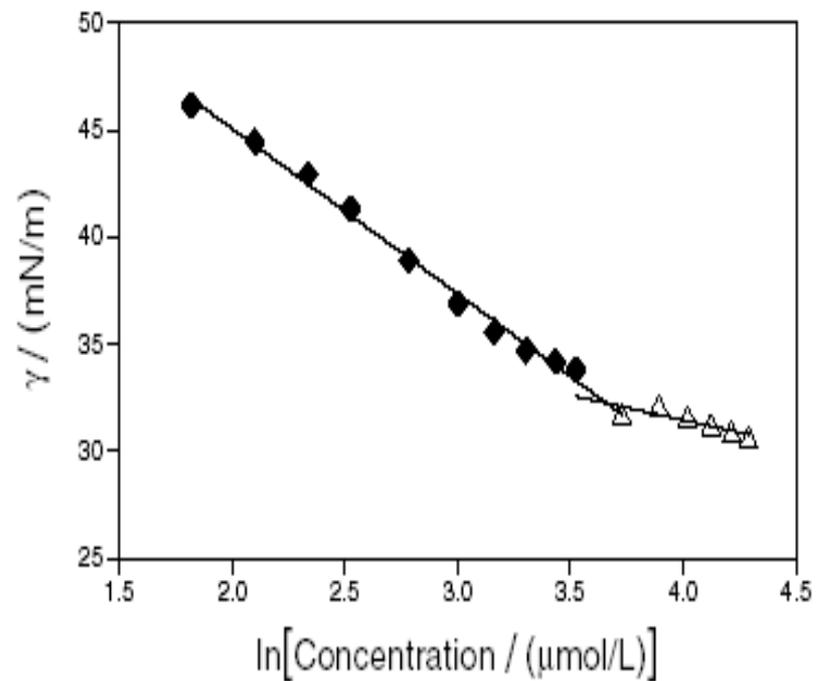
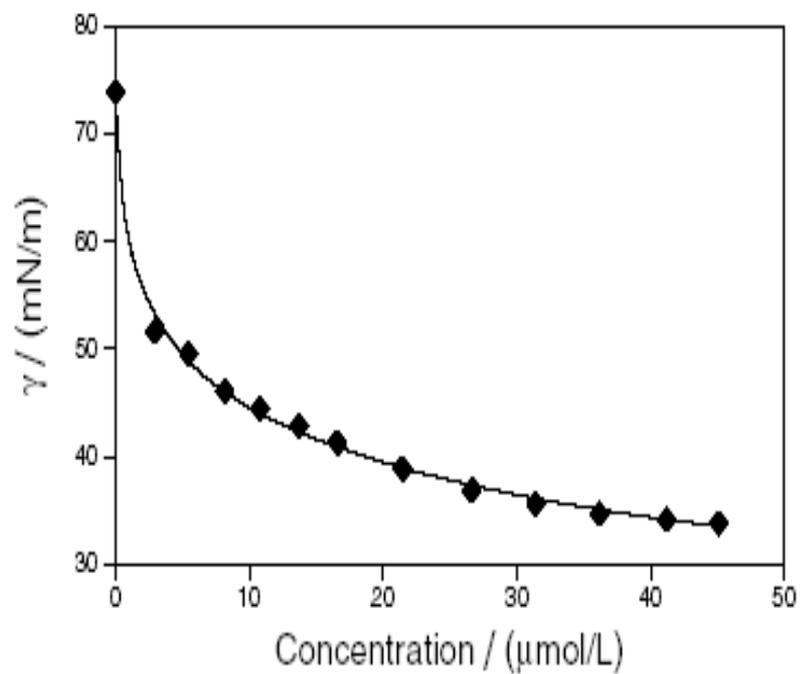
- Surface tension decreases with surfactant concentration
- Above CMC, the chemical potential of the surfactant scarcely change.
- Thus S.T. vs.  $\ln C$  plot shows a break at CMC
- Surface saturation occurs much below CMC (see Gibbs equation)
- Huge change in surface area required to bring about change in CMC.

## Surface excess concentration

Gibbs equation permits calculation of surface concentration from surface tension measurements



K and area per molecule can be calculated



## CMC of Mixed micelles

CMC – To measure interaction parameter

The interaction of two surfactant in a mixture can be expressed in terms of  $\beta$

$$\beta = \frac{(w_{11} + w_{22} - 2w_{12})}{kT}$$

$\beta$  –ve : attractive interaction(synergism)

$\beta$  +ve : repulsive interaction(antagonism)

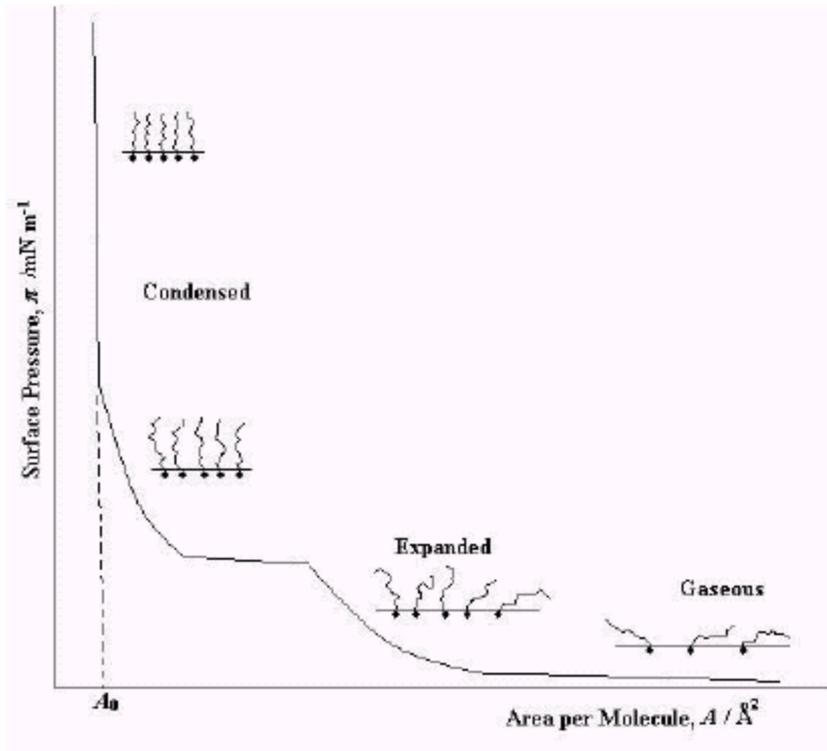
$$\frac{1}{CMC^*} = \sum_i \frac{\alpha_i}{CMC_i} \quad \text{Ideal mixing}$$

# Monolayers at interface

A 2-D analog of P-V isotherm

Pressure, P is related to no. of molecules/unit volume

Analogously surface pressure  $\pi$  is related to number/ unit area  $\pi = \gamma_0 - \gamma$

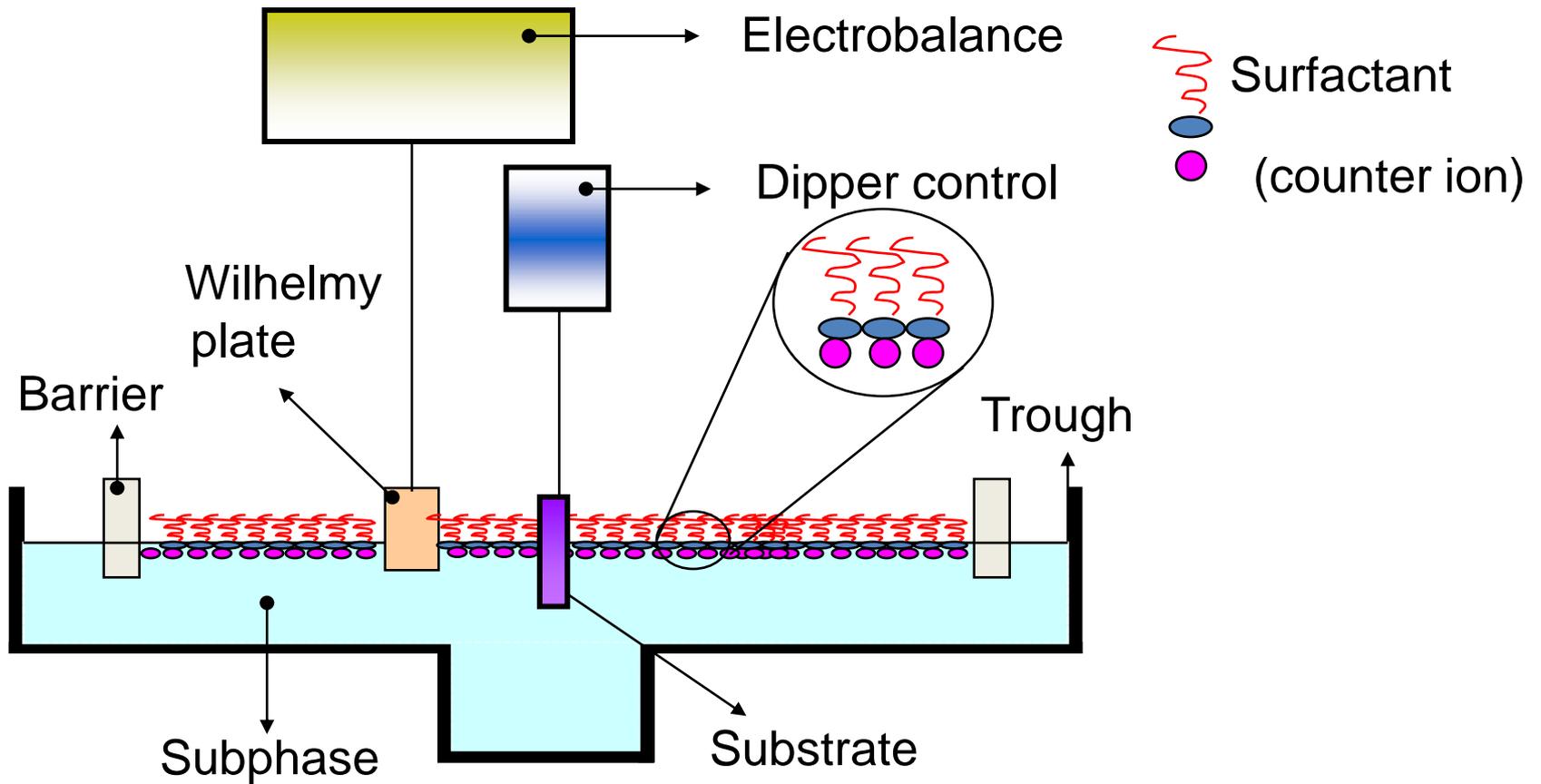


Discontinuity in the gradient indicates a phase transition

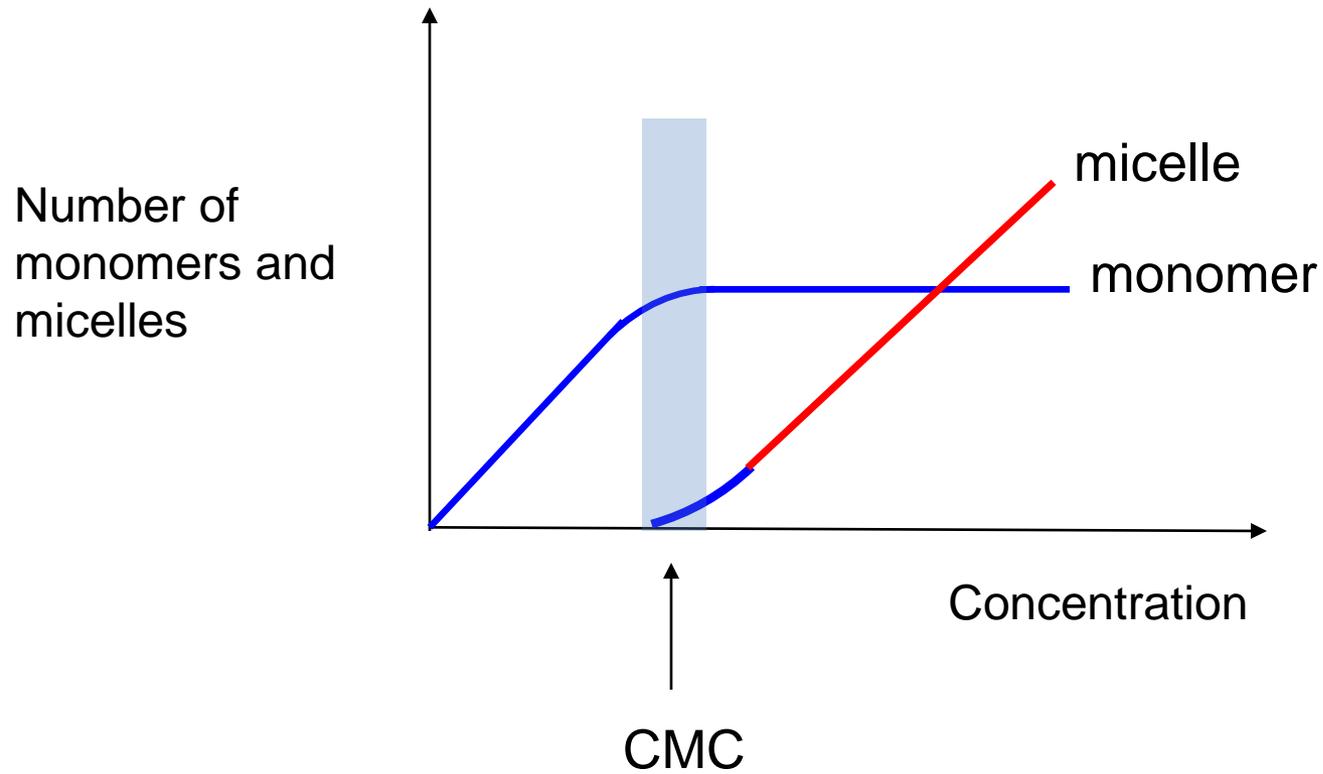
Langmuir-Blodgett apparatus for measuring p-A isotherm

In the solid film the limiting area = cross section area of headgroup

# Schematic of LB technique

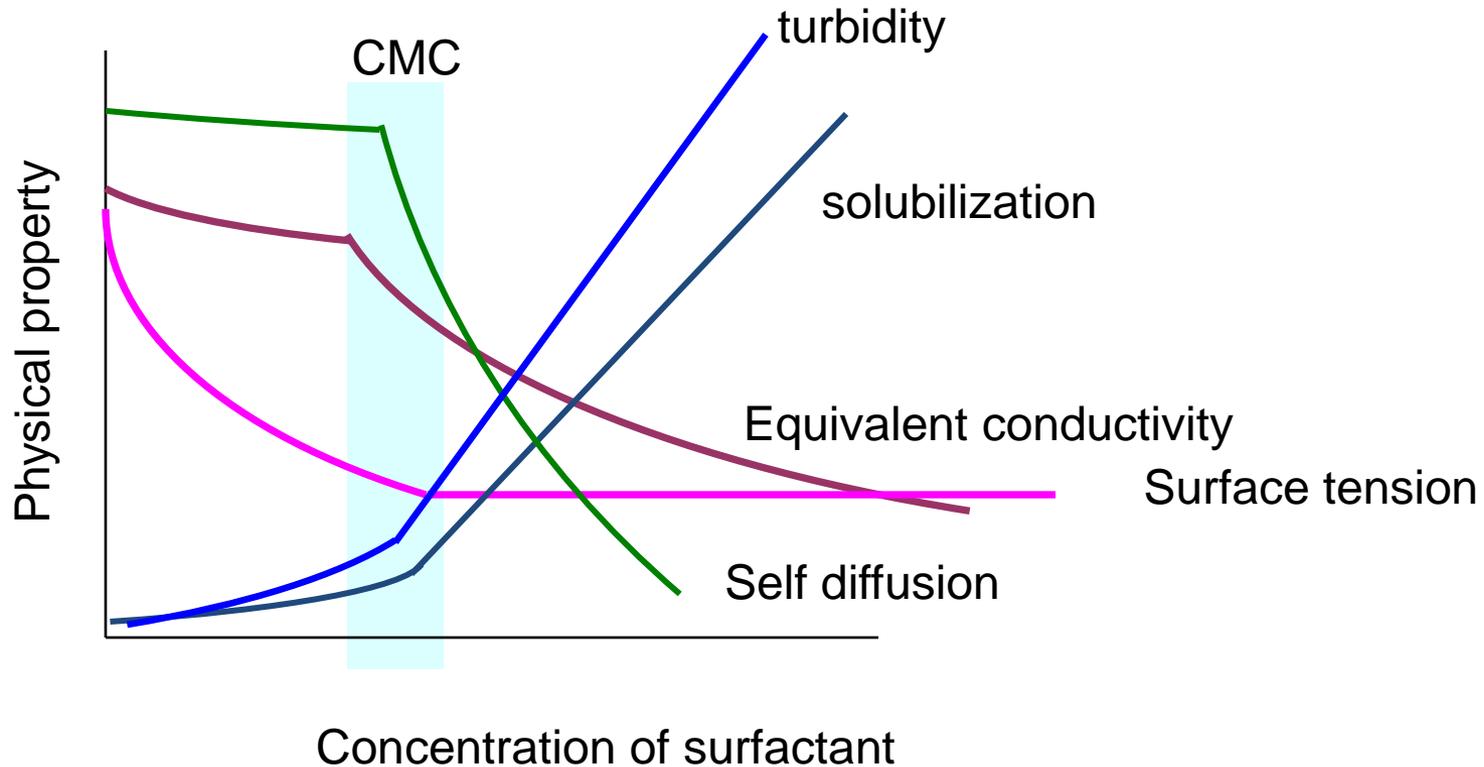


## Surfactants as monomers and micelles



# CMC

Above a critical concentration, (CMC or CAC) self assembly occurs  
Self assembly is associated with a change in physical properties



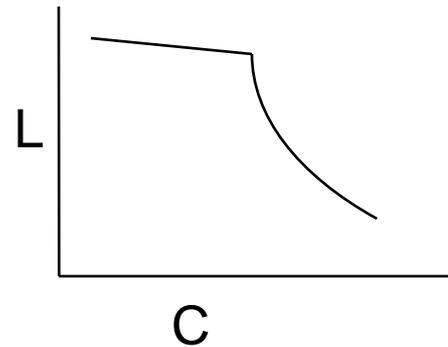
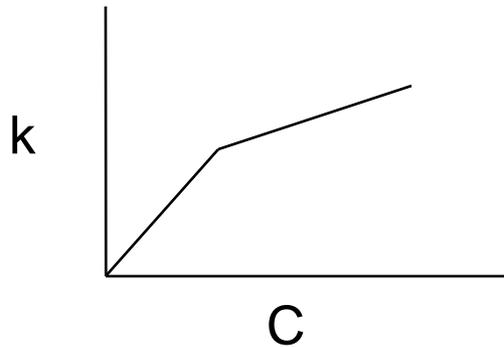
## Other methods of determining CMC

### 2. Conductivity of ionic micelles

Resistance  $R = (1/k) \cdot L/A$      $L = \text{length}, A = \text{area}$

$K = \text{sp. Conductance} ; \text{ohm}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$     Conductance of 1 cc of solution

Equivalent conductance is the conductance of one eq. wt. of the electrolyte.  $L = k \cdot 1000/C$



The degree of dissociation is low above CMC: hence slope changes  
Useful for ionic surfactants

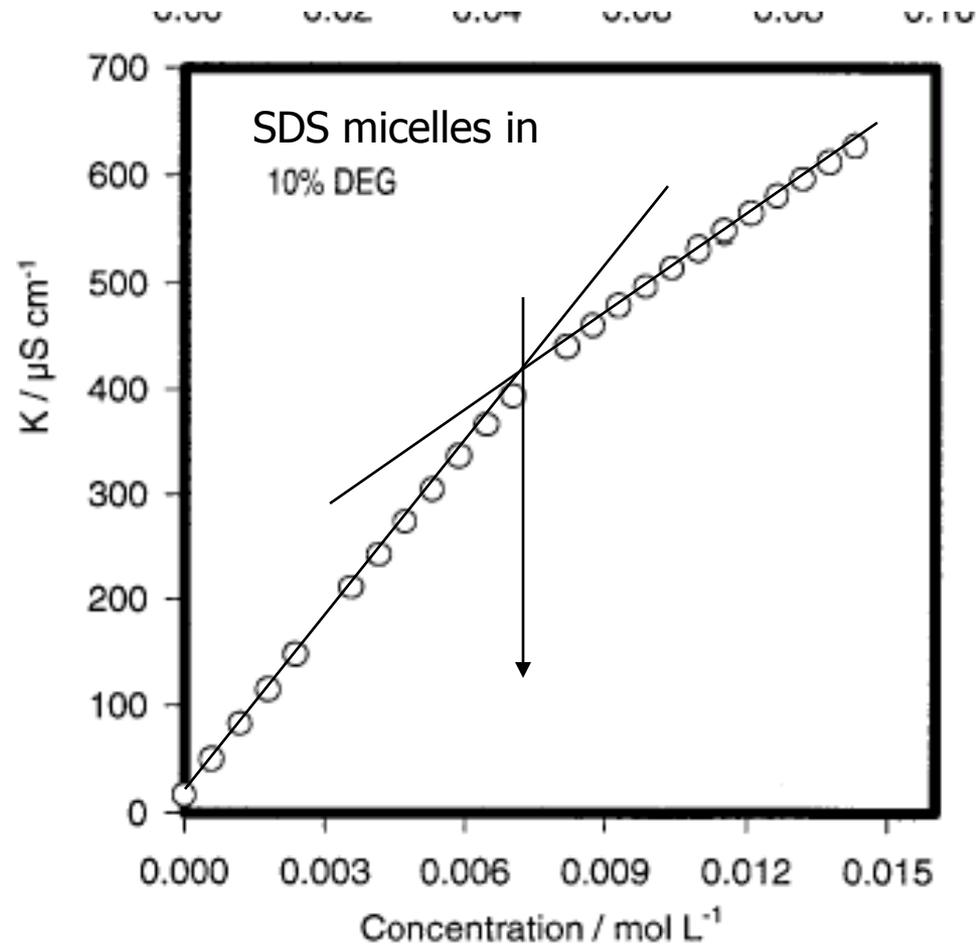


FIG. 1. Specific conductance ( $K$ ) vs concentration of SDS in aqueous mixtures of DEG at 298 K.

Counter ion binding can also be obtained

## CMC by spectral change method

$I_{\max}$  at different environments

Either the surfactant or an external indicator is used

Eg: pinacyanol; rhodamine- 6G

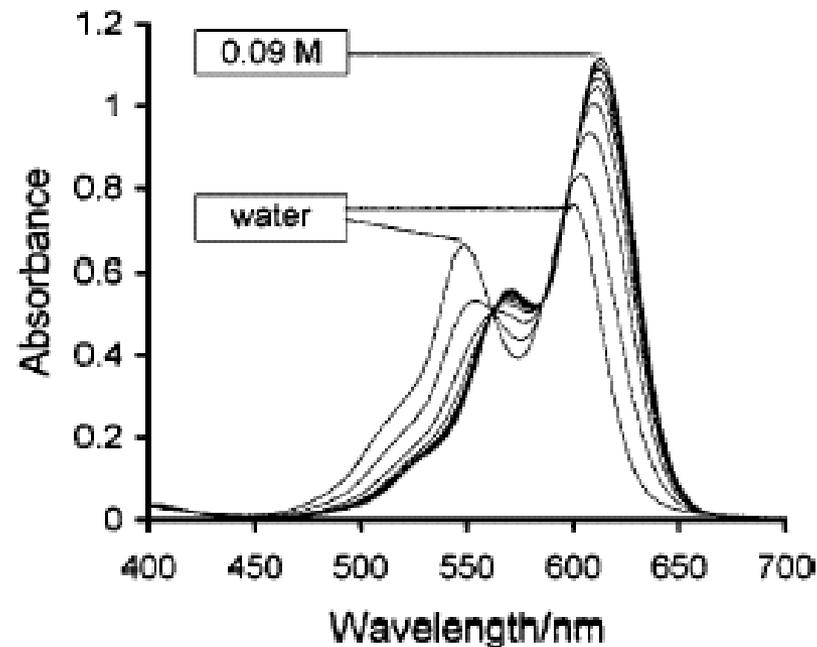


FIG. 3. Visible absorption spectrum of  $10^{-5}$  M PIN in several concentrations of TTAB (from  $10^{-2}$  to  $9.0 \times 10^{-2}$  M) at pH 5.5 and  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

$\lambda_{\max}$  – solvent dielectric constant dependant

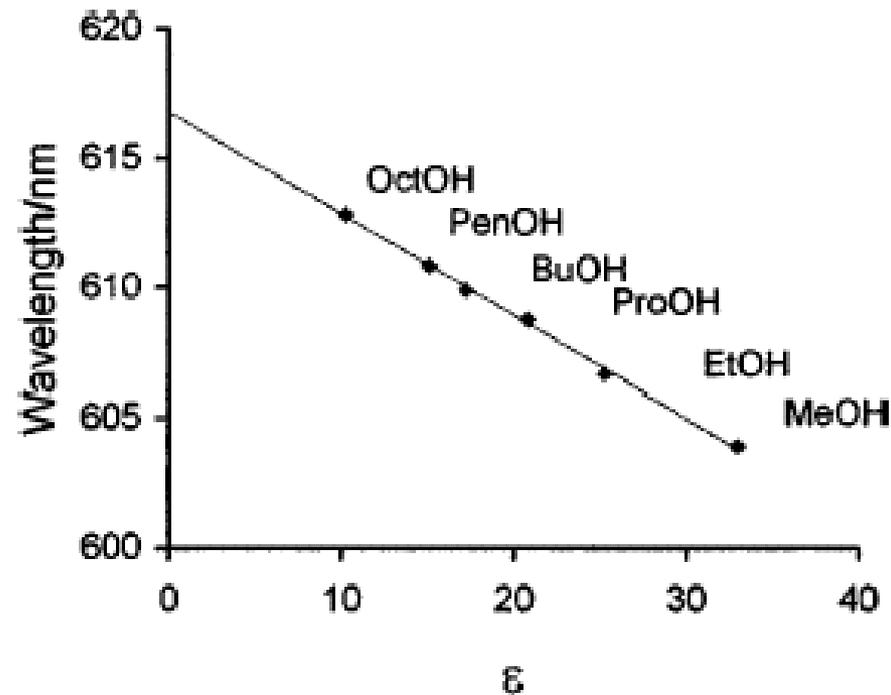
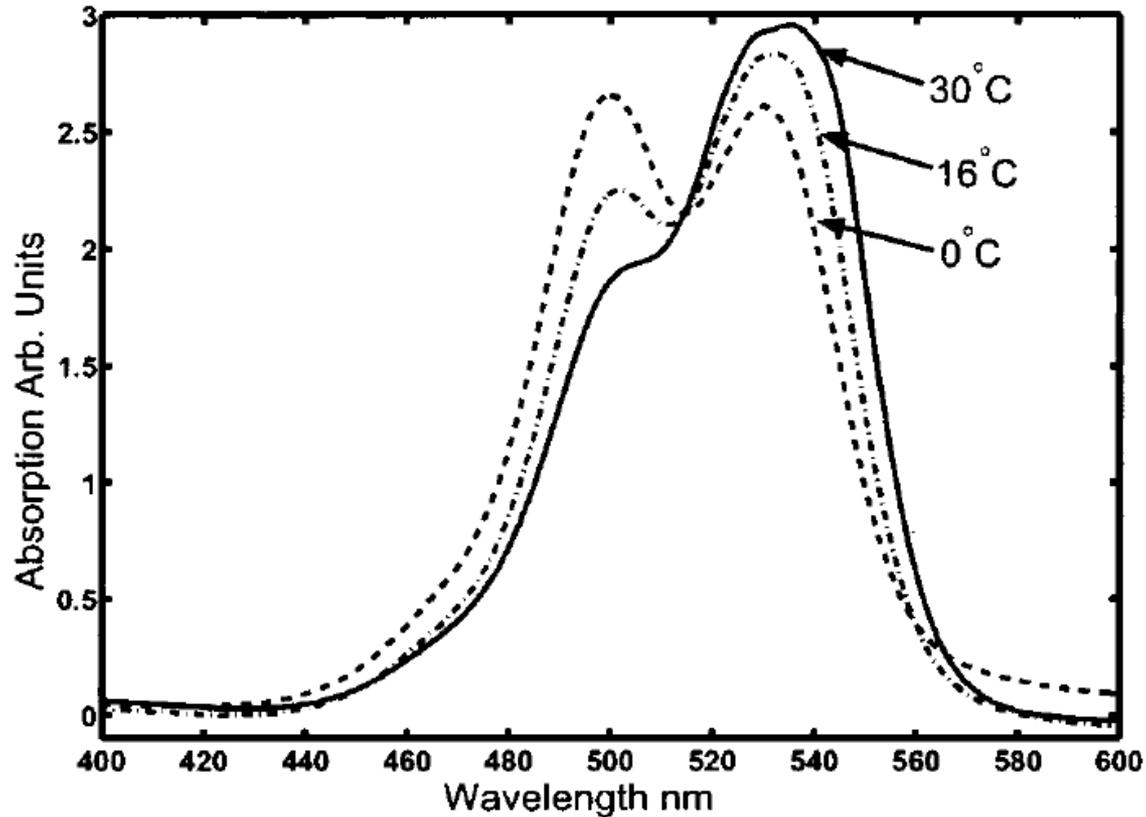


FIG. 4.  $\lambda_{\max}$  values for the monomeric band of PIN in a series of *n*-alcohols (methanol, ethanol, 1-propanol, 1-butanol, 1-pentanol, and 1-octanol) as a function of the dielectric constants of the media at 25°C as taken from (26).

## Dimer to monomer conversion



**Figure 1.** Absorption spectra at 0, 16 and 30 °C measured for a 5 wt % aqueous solution of P123 containing  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  mol/L R6G. The spectrum exhibits two peaks corresponding to the monomer and dimers of R6G in the solution.

## CMC by dye solubilization

A suitable insoluble dye is used. Conc. determined by absorption  
Eg: Orange- OT, azobenzene etc.

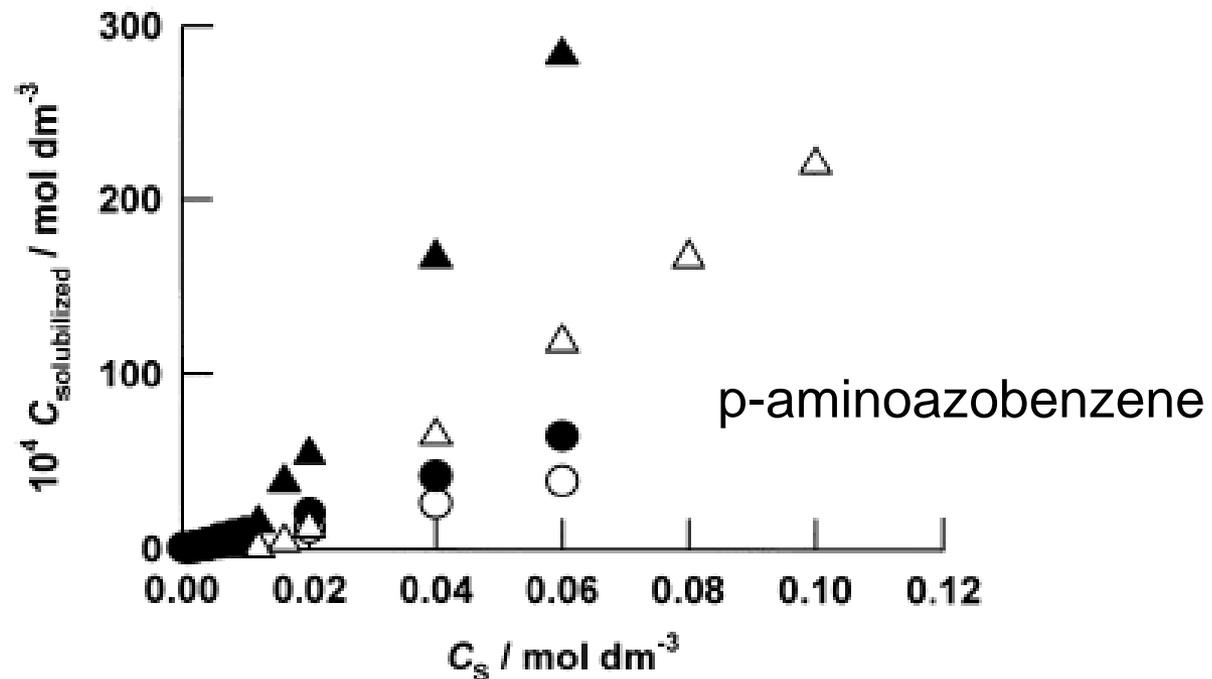
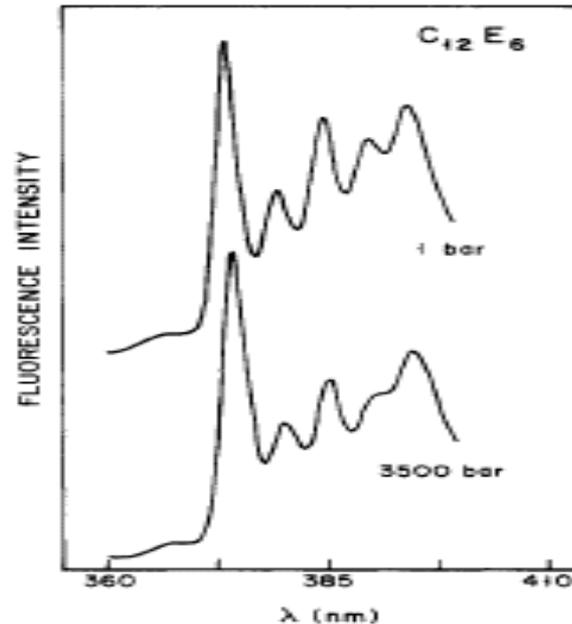


Fig. 5. Dependence of amounts of dye solubilized,  $C_{\text{solubilized}}$ , on the surfactant concentration,  $C_s$ , for 4-PAA at 298 K: ○, DC3-12; ●, DC6-12; △, C12C1NBr; ▲, C12C2NBr.

## CMC by Fluorescence

Pyrene is a suitable fluorescent probe for identifying the microenvironment. Excitation at 335 nm produces five vibronic peaks in fluorescence.

The ratio of  $I_1(372) / I_3(383)$  is a measure of local polarity.



In water,  $\sim 1.6$ , in micelle  $\sim 1.1$ ; Can show excimer emission due to increased local conc.

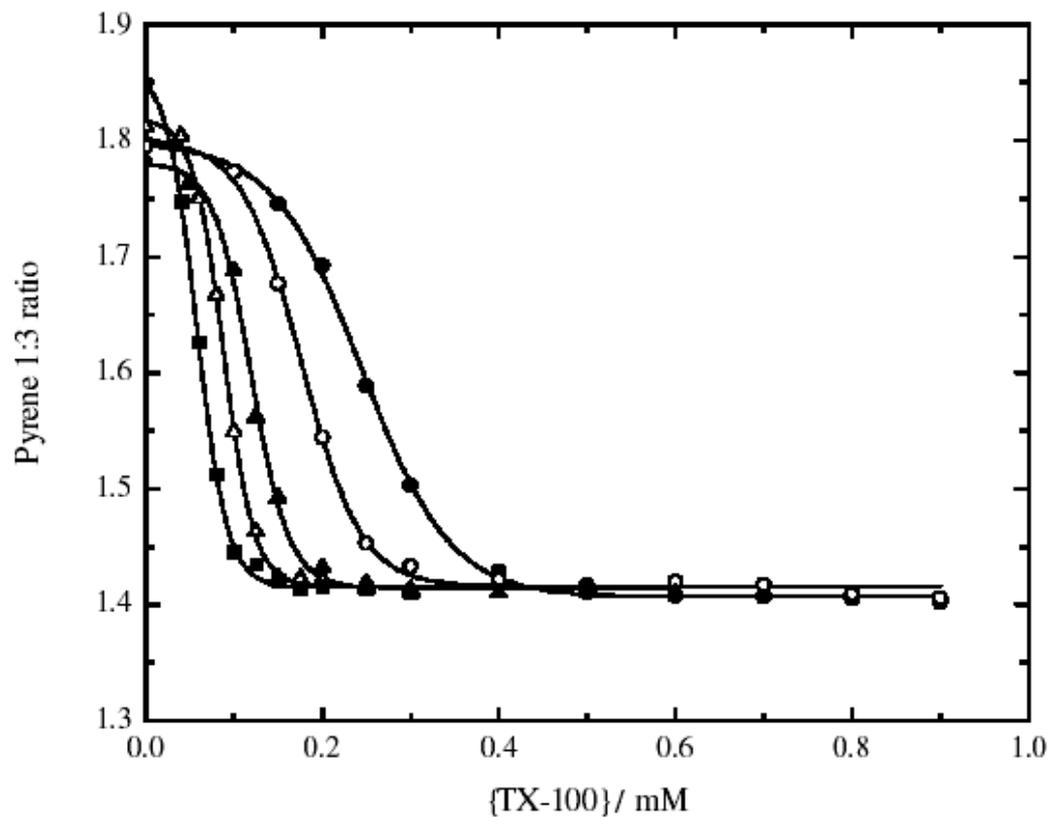


Fig. 1. Pyrene 1:3 ratio versus total concentration of surfactant in water (●) and in solutions with different KCl concentrations at 25.0 °C: ○, 0.5 M; ▲, 1.0 M; △, 1.5 M; and ■, 2.0 M.

## Thermodynamics of micellization from CMC

The standard Gibbs free energy change of formation of micelles

$$\Delta G_{mic} = -RT \ln K \qquad N [S] \rightleftharpoons S_N$$

Per surfactant

$$\Delta G_{mic} = -\frac{RT}{N} \ln X_N + RT \ln X_1$$

Since N is high the first term is negligible

At CMC ,  $X_1 = X_{cmc}$

$$\Delta G_{mic} = RT \ln X_{cmc}$$

The enthalpy change can be obtained using Gibbs-Helmholtz equation

$$\left( \frac{\partial \Delta G / T}{\partial T} \right)_p = -\frac{\Delta H}{T^2} \qquad \Delta H_m = -RT^2 \left( \frac{\partial \ln CMC}{\partial T} \right)_p$$

Isothermal titration calorimetry can also be used

## Factors influencing CMC

- Nature of surfactant and length of chain

CMC decreases with increase in chain length;  $\text{Log}(\text{cmc}) = a - b \cdot c_n$

Branching and unsaturation increases CMC

Fluorocarbons lower CMC

Counterions, electrolytes, alcohols etc. decreases the CMC

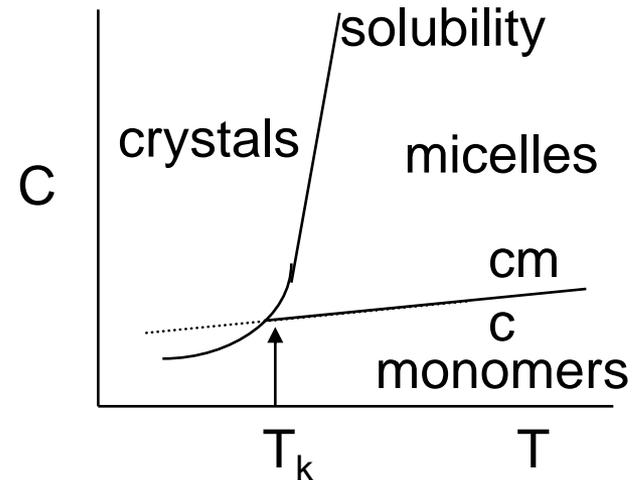
## Factors influencing aggregation

Temperature – Kraft point and Cloud point

Ionic surfactants precipitates out as hydrated crystals below Kraft point.

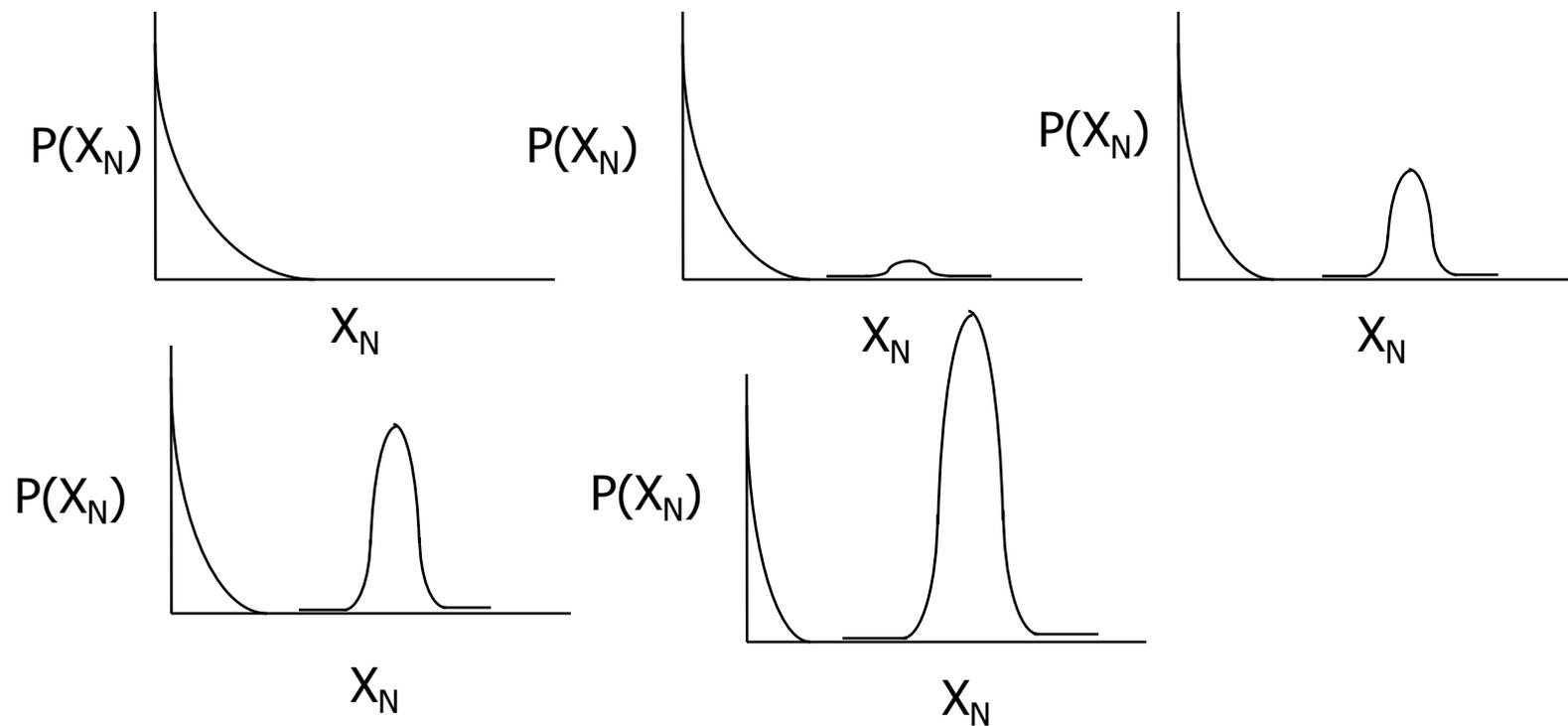
At Kraft point solubility= cmc

For nonionics, increasing the temperature causes clouding due to changes in the conformation and hydration of the oxyethylene groups as well as intermicellar interactions  
Clouding is followed by phase separation  
(critical phenomena)



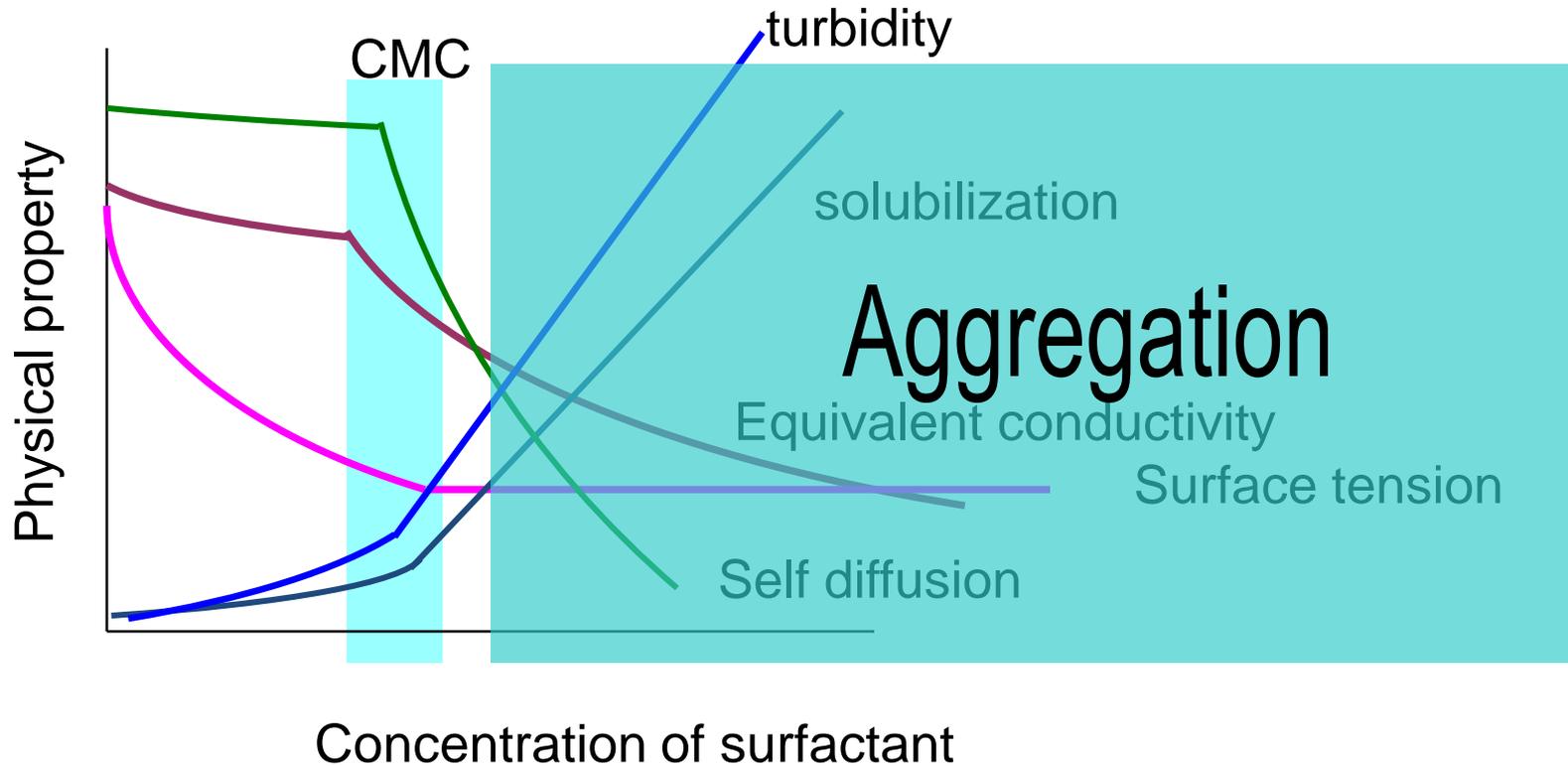
# Micelle formation

Size distribution of aggregates with increasing surfactant concentration  $\longrightarrow$

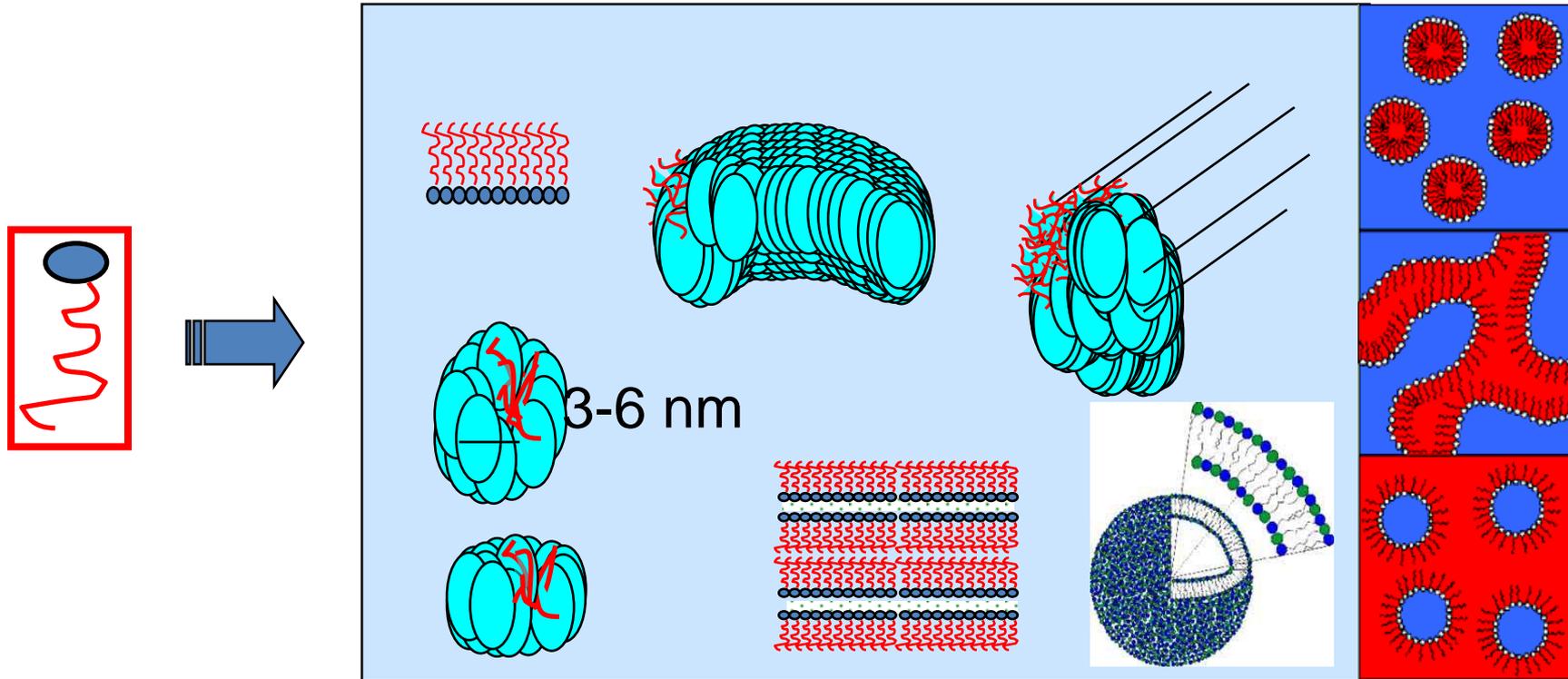


## Self assembly beyond CMC

Above a critical concentration, (CMC or CAC) self assembly occurs  
Self assembly is associated with a change in physical properties



# Structure of aggregates



1 nm = 1 nano meter – 1/ 10,00,000 of a mm

## Microstructure of aggregates

How to characterize the structure in the sub-micron range?  
(size, shape, polydispersity etc)

1. Cryo - Electron microscopy (SEM/TEM)
2. Indirect imaging possible with AFM, STM etc
3. Scattering of radiation (light, X-rays, Neutrons)  
(Similar to Crystal structure from X-ray diffraction)
4. Fluorescence quenching, Electrochemical methods, NMR

## Fluorescence quenching method

A fluorophore (probe) and a quencher soluble in micelles is used  
Eg:  $\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3^{2+}$  and 9-methyl anthracene

Intensity of fluorescence decreases with quencher concentration.

$$I = I_0 e^{-[Q]/[M]} \quad [M] = (c - \text{CMC})/N \quad \text{Plot } \ln(I/I_0) \text{ vs } [Q]$$

Assumptions:

Probe and quencher are totally soluble in micelles

Residence time of the probe is higher than the life time of fluorescence

Quenching rate is faster than the lifetime

Only one probe per micelle.

The distribution is decided by Poisson statistics

$$P(x) = \frac{e^{-\mu} \mu^x}{x!}$$

$$[M] \gg [Q]$$

## Aggregation number

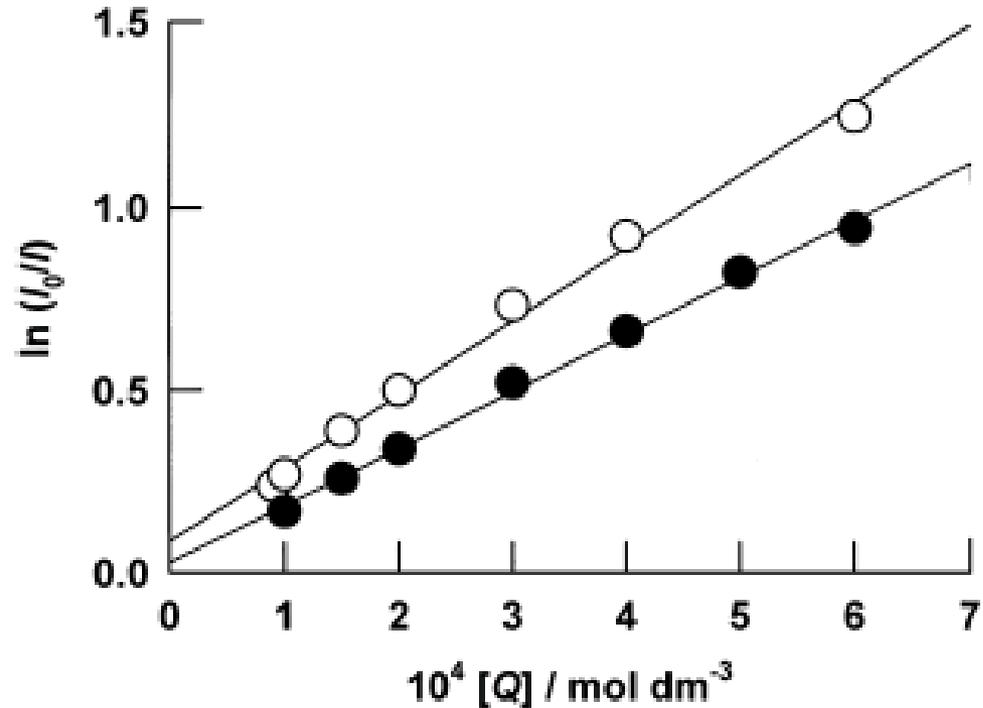


Fig. 6. Plots of  $\ln(I_0/I)$  against  $[Q]$  for the gemini surfactant micelles at 298 K:  $\circ$ , DC3-12;  $\bullet$ , DC6-12.

$$\ln(I_0/I) = [Q]N/([C] - \text{CMC})$$

## Time resolved fluorescence

Steady state fluorescence does not work for large aggregation numbers.

In the absence of quencher,  $I(t) = I(0)e^{-t/\tau_0}$

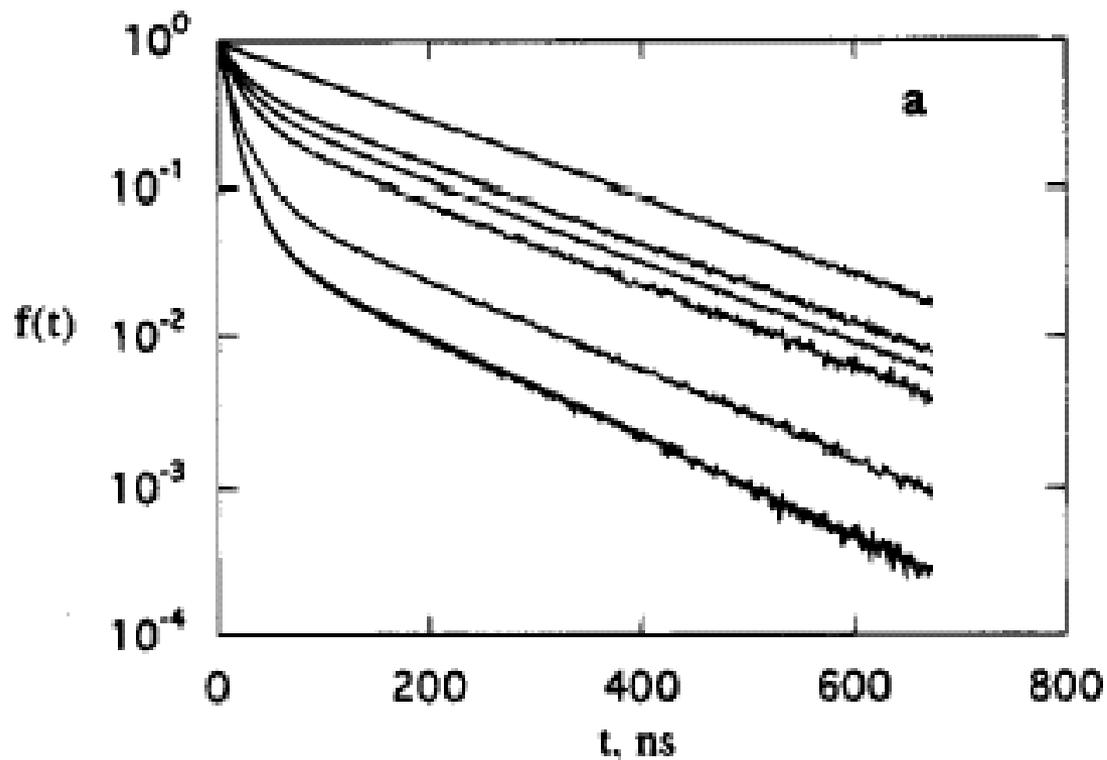
In the presence of quencher  $\ln \frac{I(t)}{I(0)} = \frac{-t}{\tau_0} + \bar{Q}[e^{-k_q t} - 1]$

A rough estimate can be obtained from the long time behavior

$$\ln \frac{I(t)}{I(0)} = \frac{-t}{\tau_0} - \bar{Q}$$

# Time resolved fluorescence

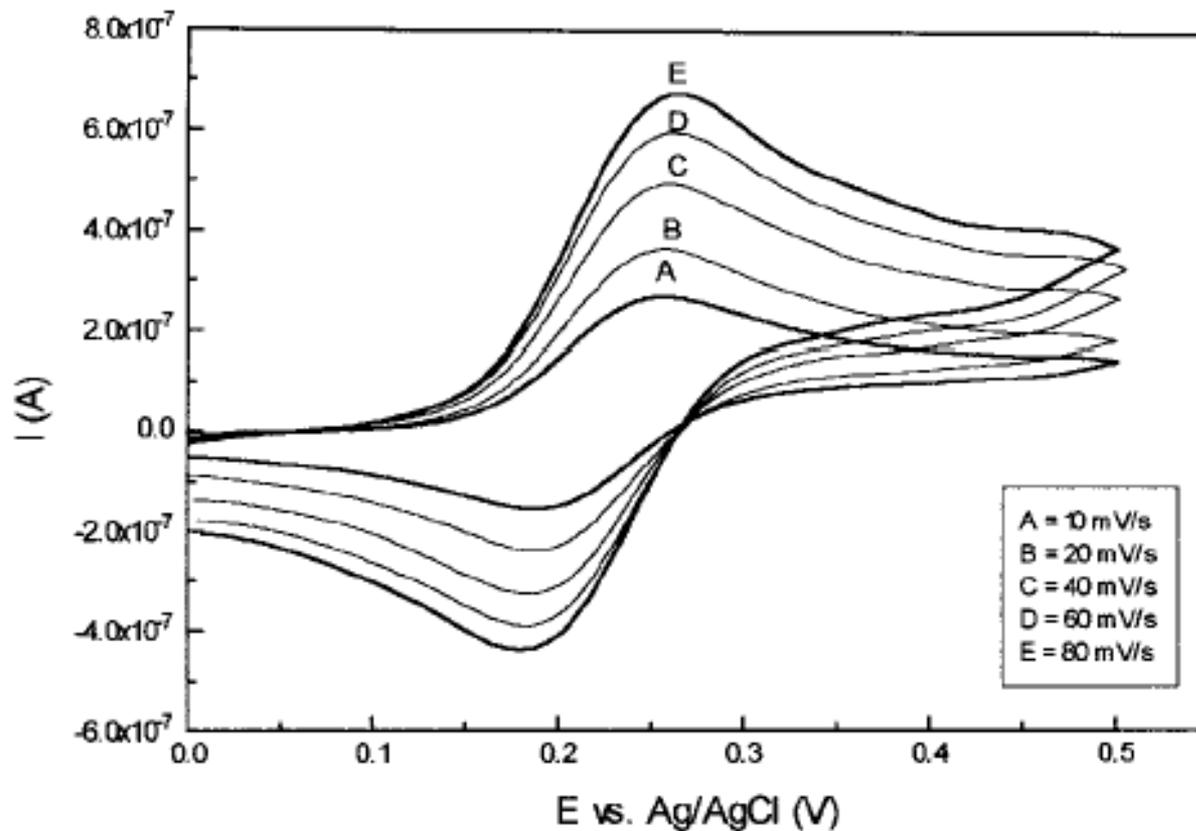
DATE AND TIME



## Electrochemical methods

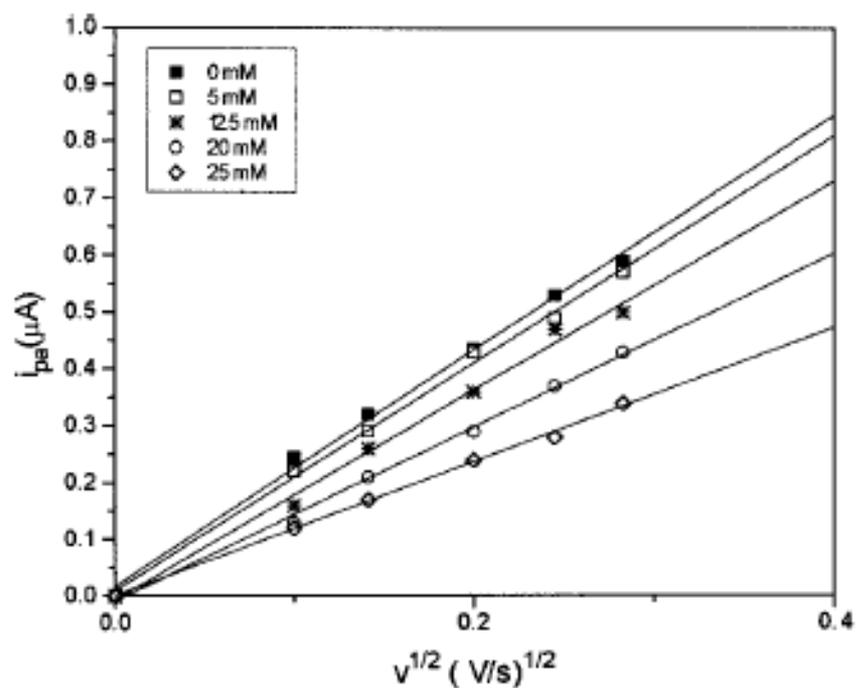
### Solubilization of electroactive molecules (probes)

Ferrocene



## Electrochemical methods

$$i_{pa} = 0.4463FAC(F/RT)^{1/2}v^{1/2}D^{1/2}$$



**Figure 3.** Plot of  $i_{pa}$  vs  $v^{1/2}$  for ferrocene in aqueous CTAB solution in the absence and presence of various concentrations of SS. Scan rates vary from 10 to 80 mV/s.

# NMR Line width

Measuring rotational diffusion of micelles

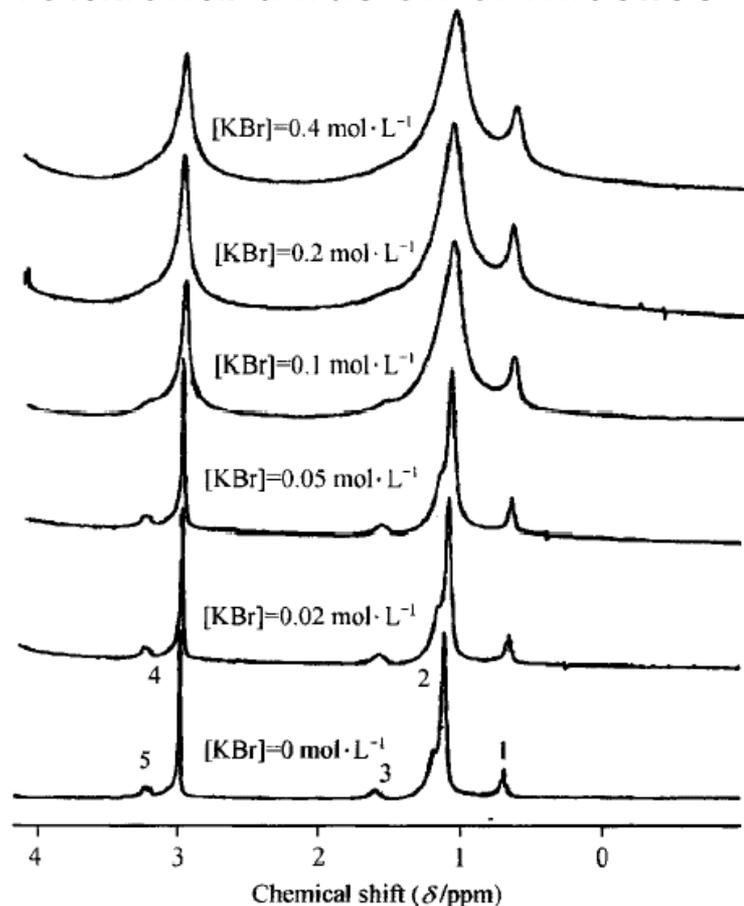
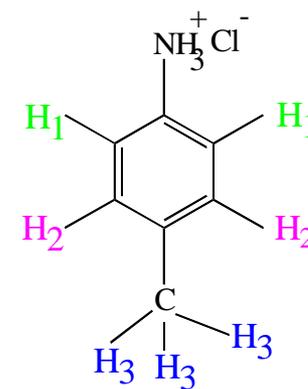
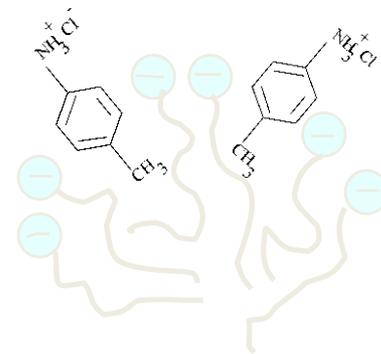
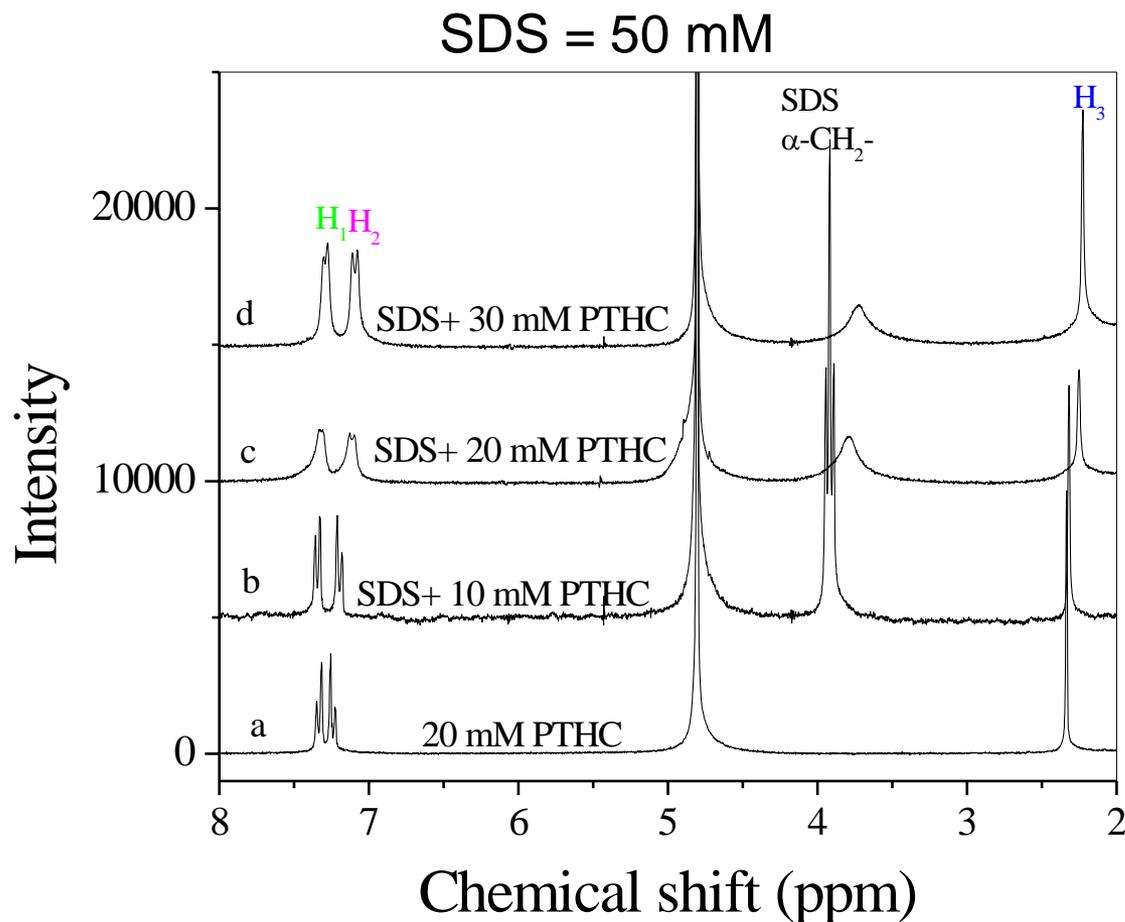


Fig. 1. Effect of KBr salt concentration on the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of CTAB molecules in the  $0.01 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$  micellar system. 1,  $\omega\text{-CH}_3$ ; 2,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_{13}$ ; 3,  $\beta\text{-CH}_2$ ; 4,  $\text{N}-(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ; 5,  $\alpha\text{-CH}_2$ .

# Counterion Adsorption: $^1\text{H}$ NMR

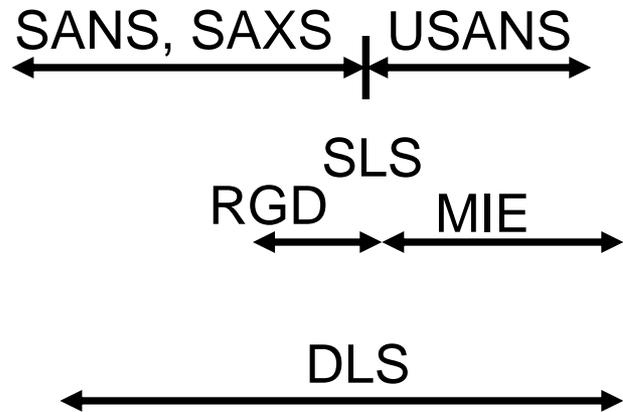
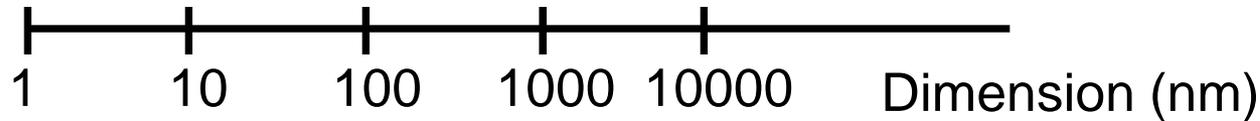


- Upfield shift of m- and p- protons while o- is unshifted
- Line broadening  $\Rightarrow$  Formation of rod like micelles

# Scattering - Explore the nano world

## Light, neutron and X-ray scattering

Size range of different scattering methods



Comparison (Static scattering)

- Different length scales
- scattering power
  - light (refractive index)
  - x-rays (electron density)
  - neutrons (scattering length density)

Works in a range where optical microscopy fails !

# Scattering from particles

In general, the angular dependence of scattering follows:

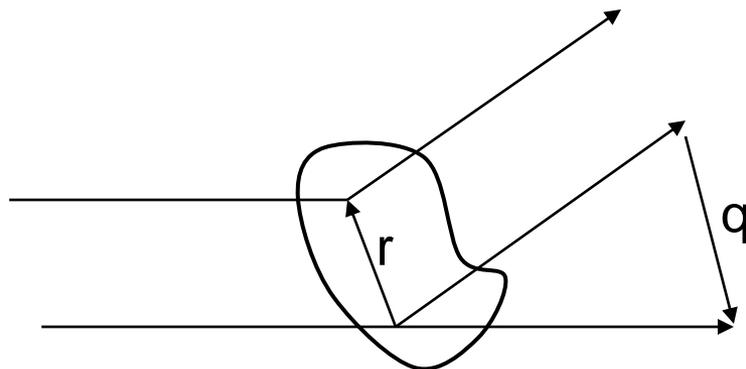
$$I(q) \sim P(q) S(q) \quad q = 4\pi n \sin(\theta/2)/\lambda$$

Intraparticle Interference  
(Form factor)  
size, shape, polydispersity  
Dilute system

Interparticle Interference  
(Structure factor)  
Interactions-charge  
Concentrated system



Integrated intensity from all the regions of the scatterer

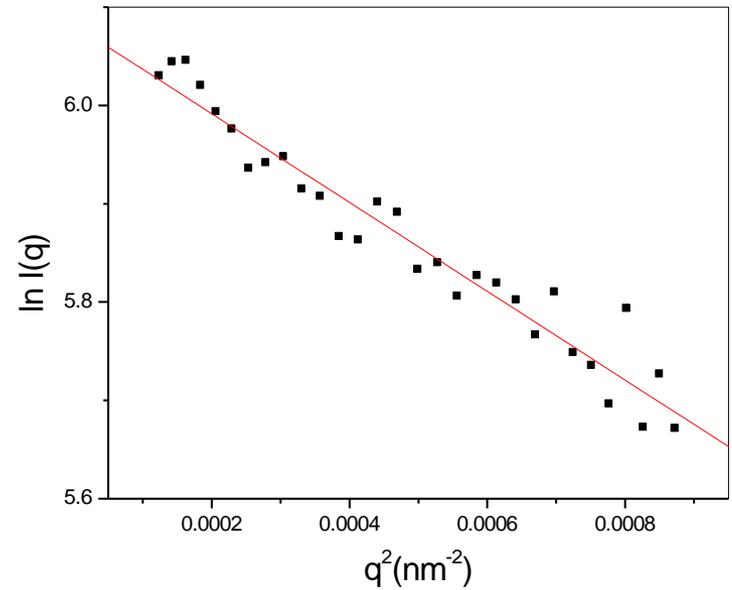
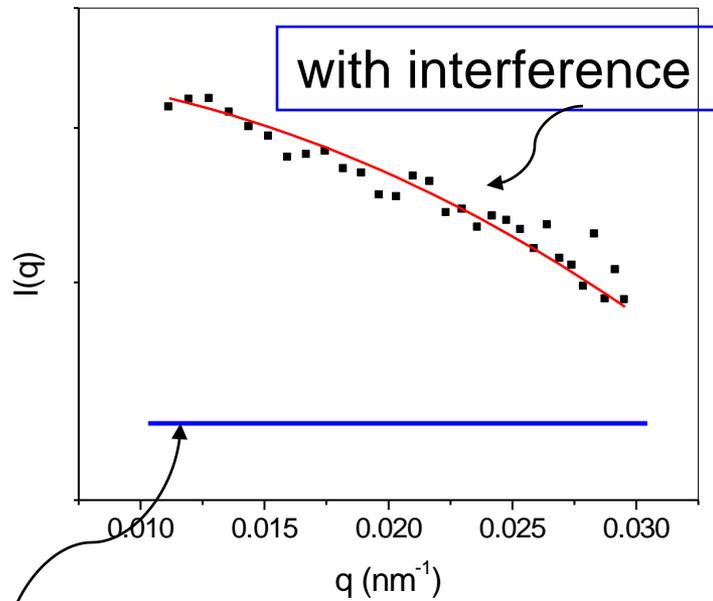


The phase difference of the waves  
scattered by points separated by  
vector  $r = q \cdot r$

# Guinier regime

Dilute sphere with radius 50nm

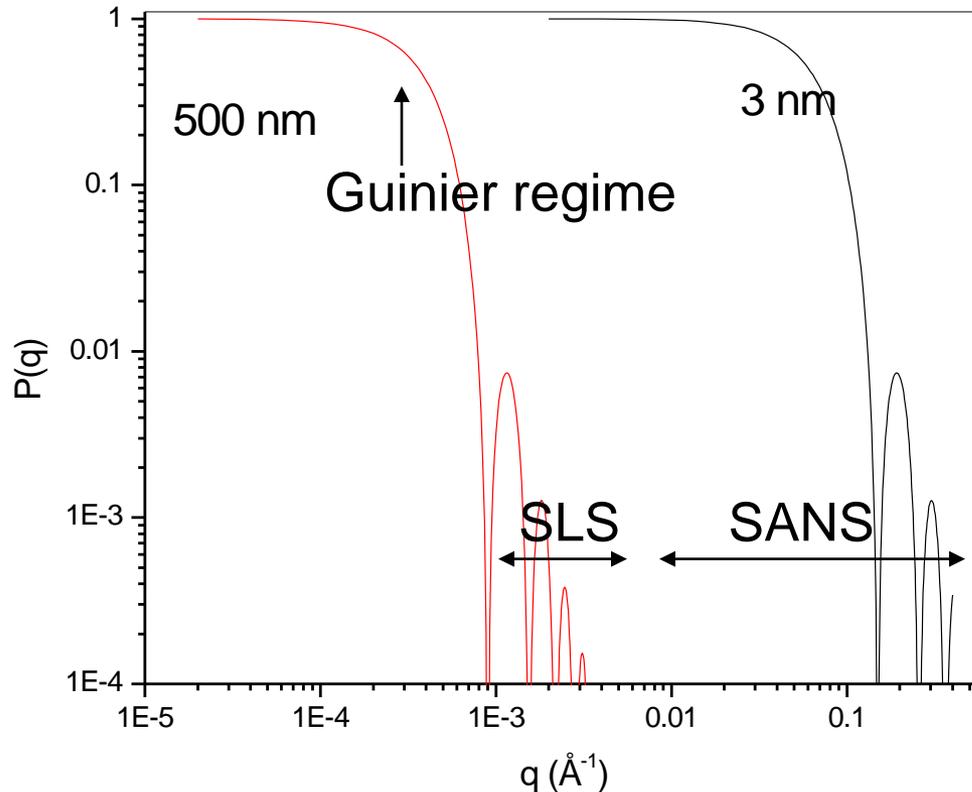
Guinier plot



No interference

$R_g = 36.8 \pm 0.8 \text{ nm}$   
Expected  $R_g = 38.7 \text{ nm}$

# P(q) at different length scale



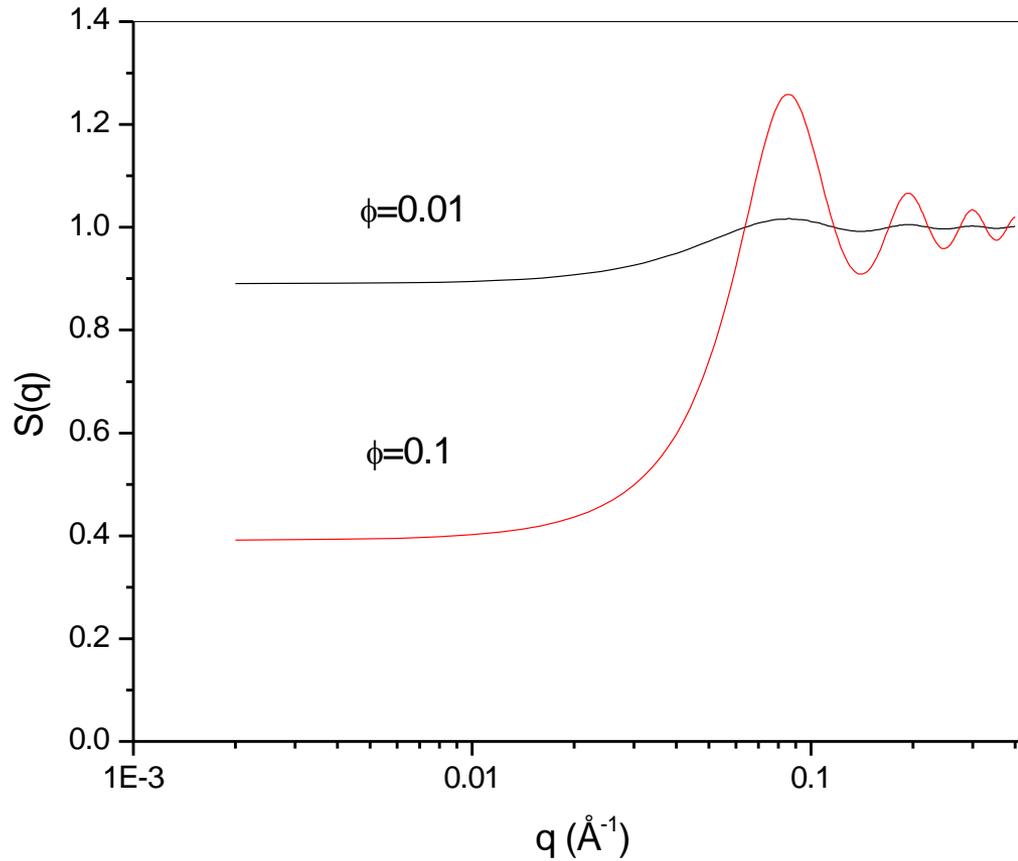
Size  
Shape  
polydispersity

SANS is ideal for  
the length scale of  
micelles

SLS can be used  
to obtain  $R_g$  or  $R$   
depending on size  
For SLS,  $P(q) \sim$   
Guinier law  
 $S(q) \sim S(0)$

Minima occurs at  $qR = \tan(qR)$ , for sphere  
 $qR = 4.49, 7.72$  etc

## $S(q)$ , Interparticle interference

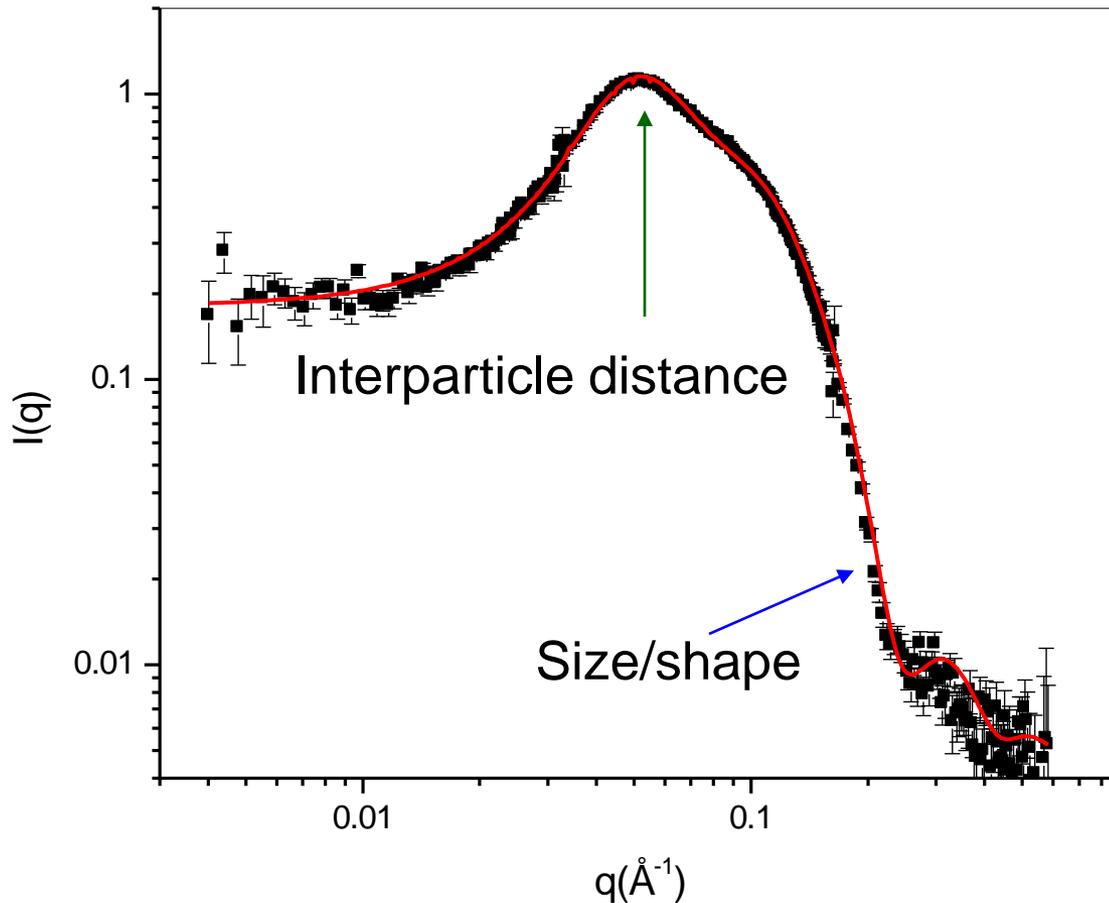


Vol. Fraction  
Charge  
Ionic strength

As concentration increases, peak develops at  $\sim 2\pi/d$   
 $d$  is the average interparticle distance

# SANS data for interacting micelles

## SANS study of SDS micelles



50 mM SDS

Agg. No. = 79;  $a = 0.42$

$P(q)$  - ellipsoid

$S(q)$  - RMSA

Hassan et al.

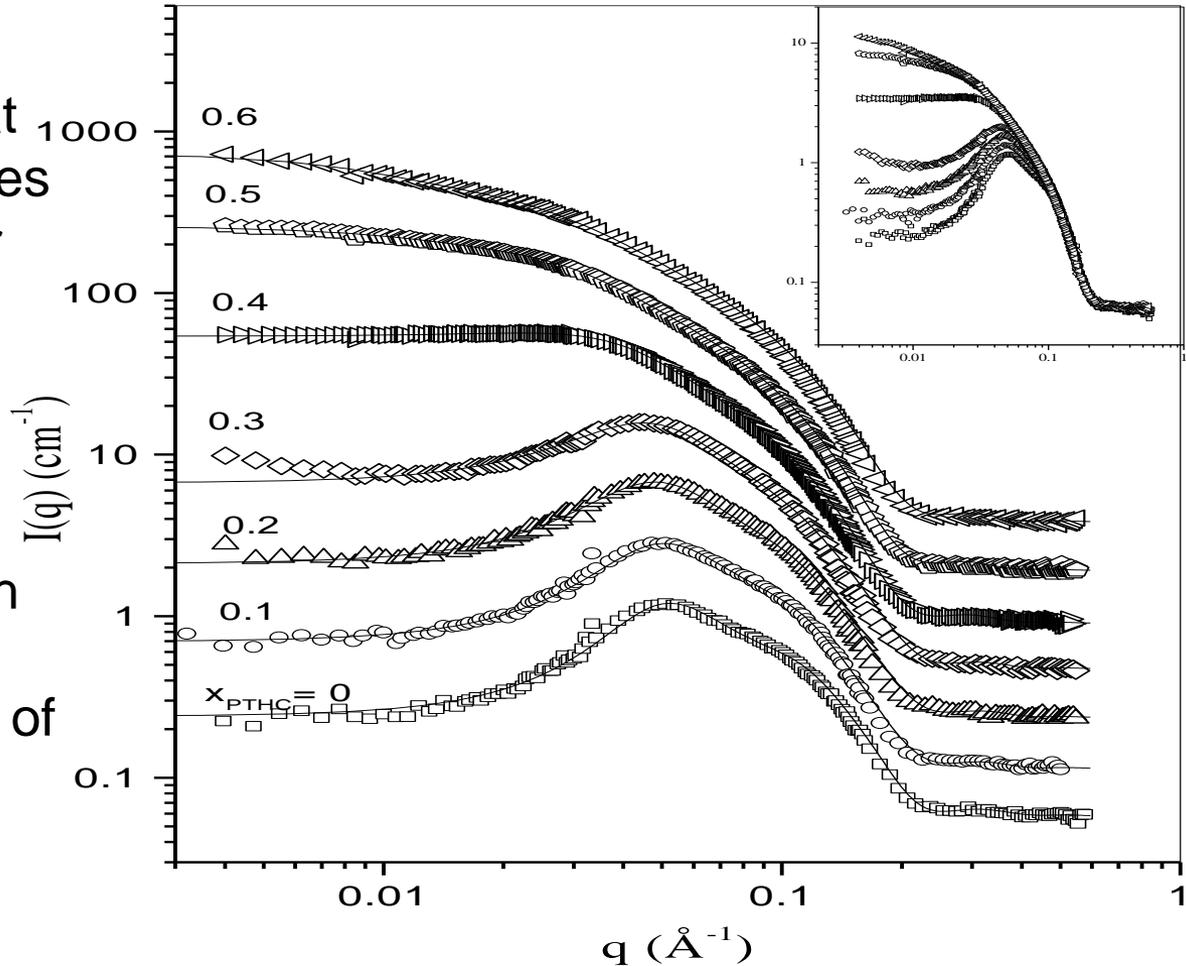
J. Coll. Interface Sci.

(2003) 257, 154.

# SANS of micelles

Correlation peak at  $x_{\text{PTHC}} < 0.4$  indicates strong intermicellar repulsion

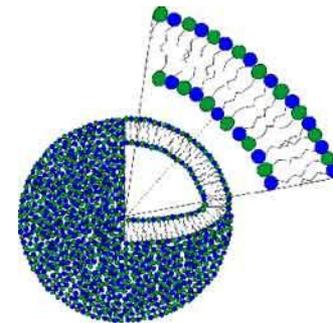
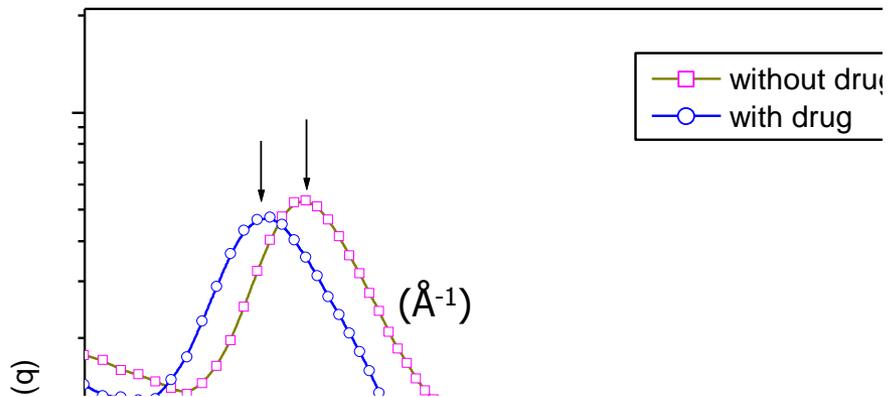
Increase of  $I(0)$  with increase in  $x_{\text{PTHC}}$  indicates decrease of interaction and growth

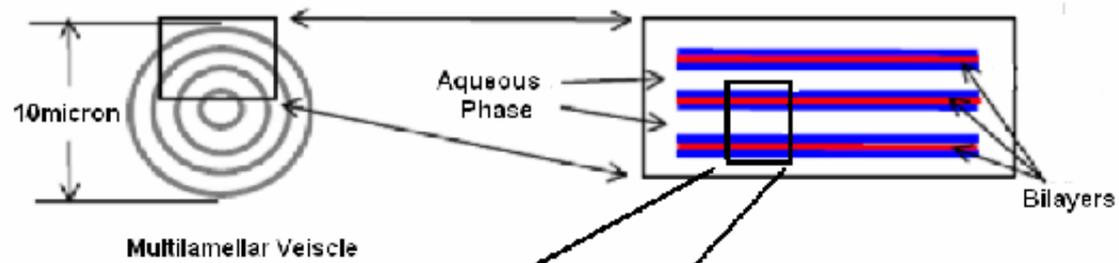


# SANS of drug loaded vesicles

with drug    without drug

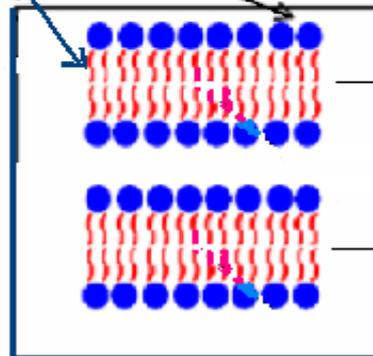
Drug solubilization increases the bilayer spacing from 72 Å to 79 Å



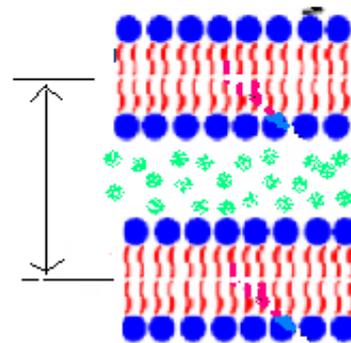


Non polar tails

Polar head group



79A

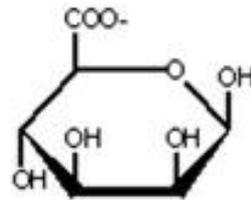


# Trapping micelles in biopolymer gels

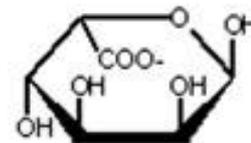
System investigated : Alginate + triton X100

A natural polysaccharide

**A**

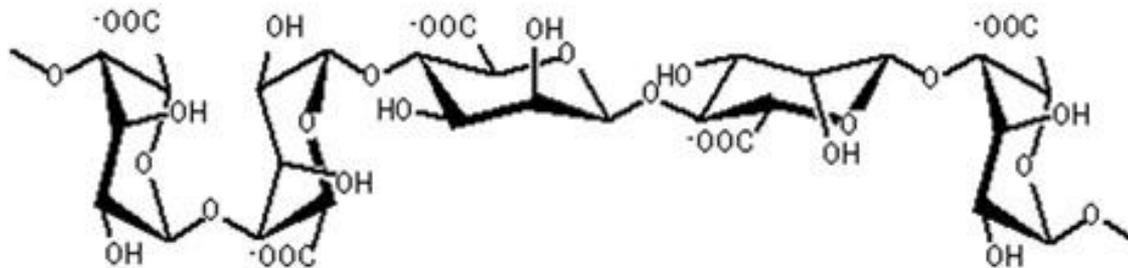


**$\beta$ -D-mannuronate (M)**



**$\alpha$ -L-guluronate (G)**

**B**



**G**

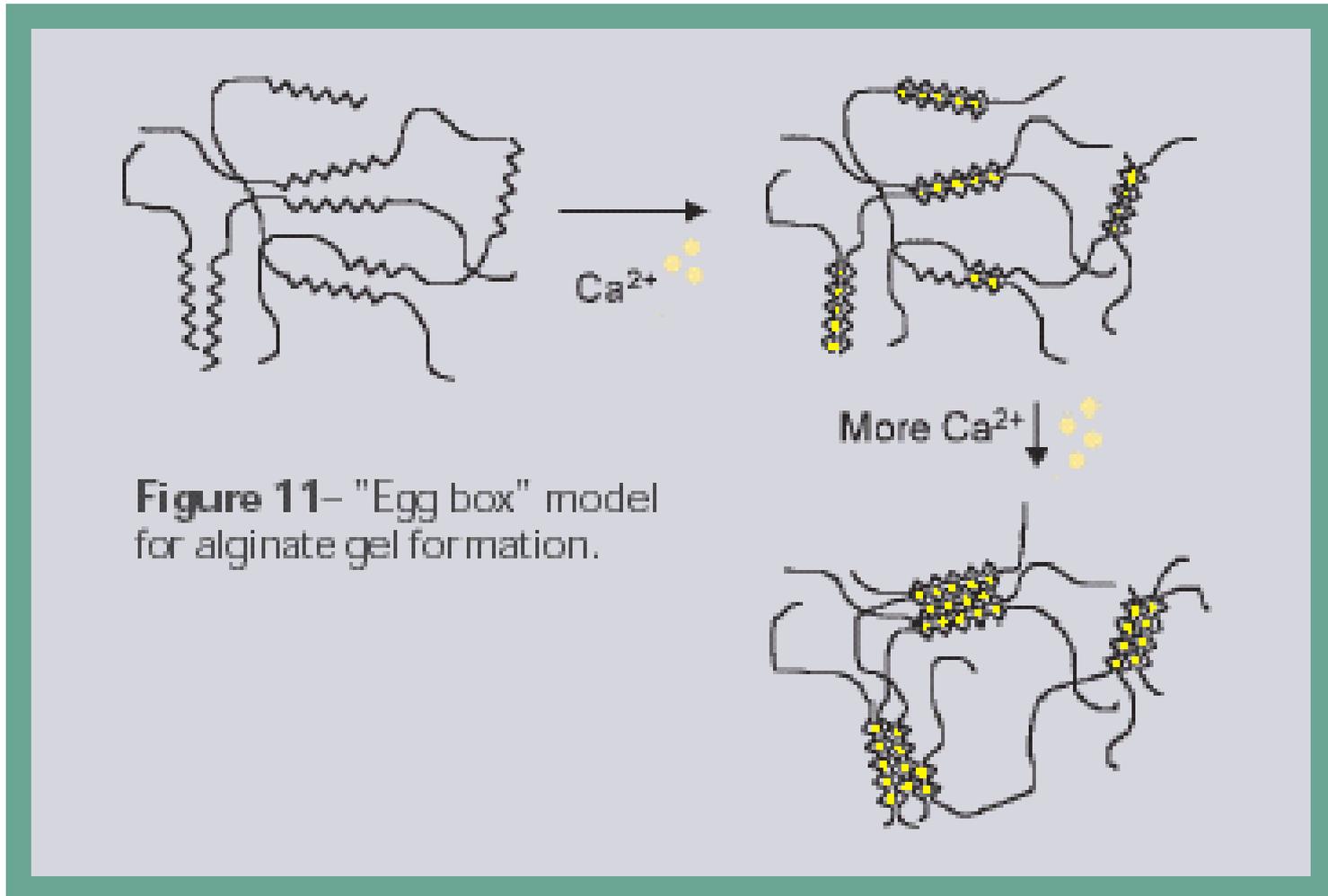
**G**

**M**

**M**

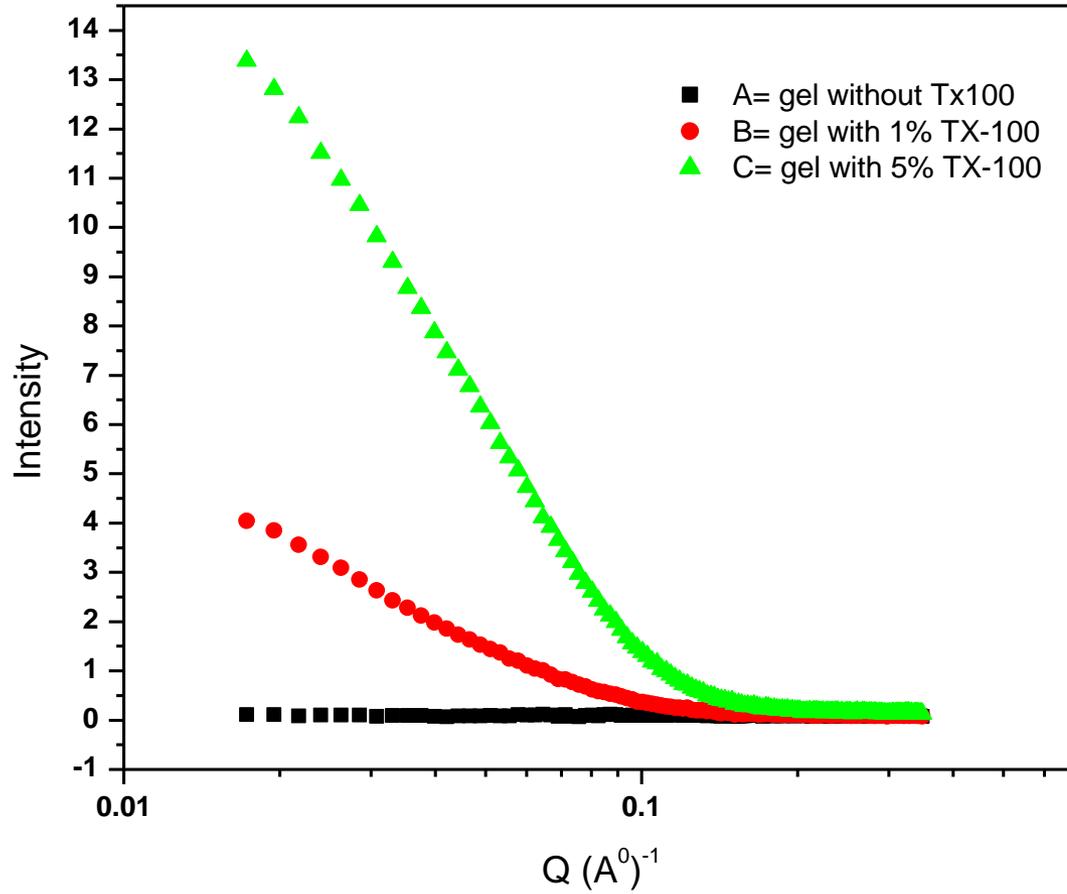
**G**

## Ca<sup>2+</sup> induced gelation

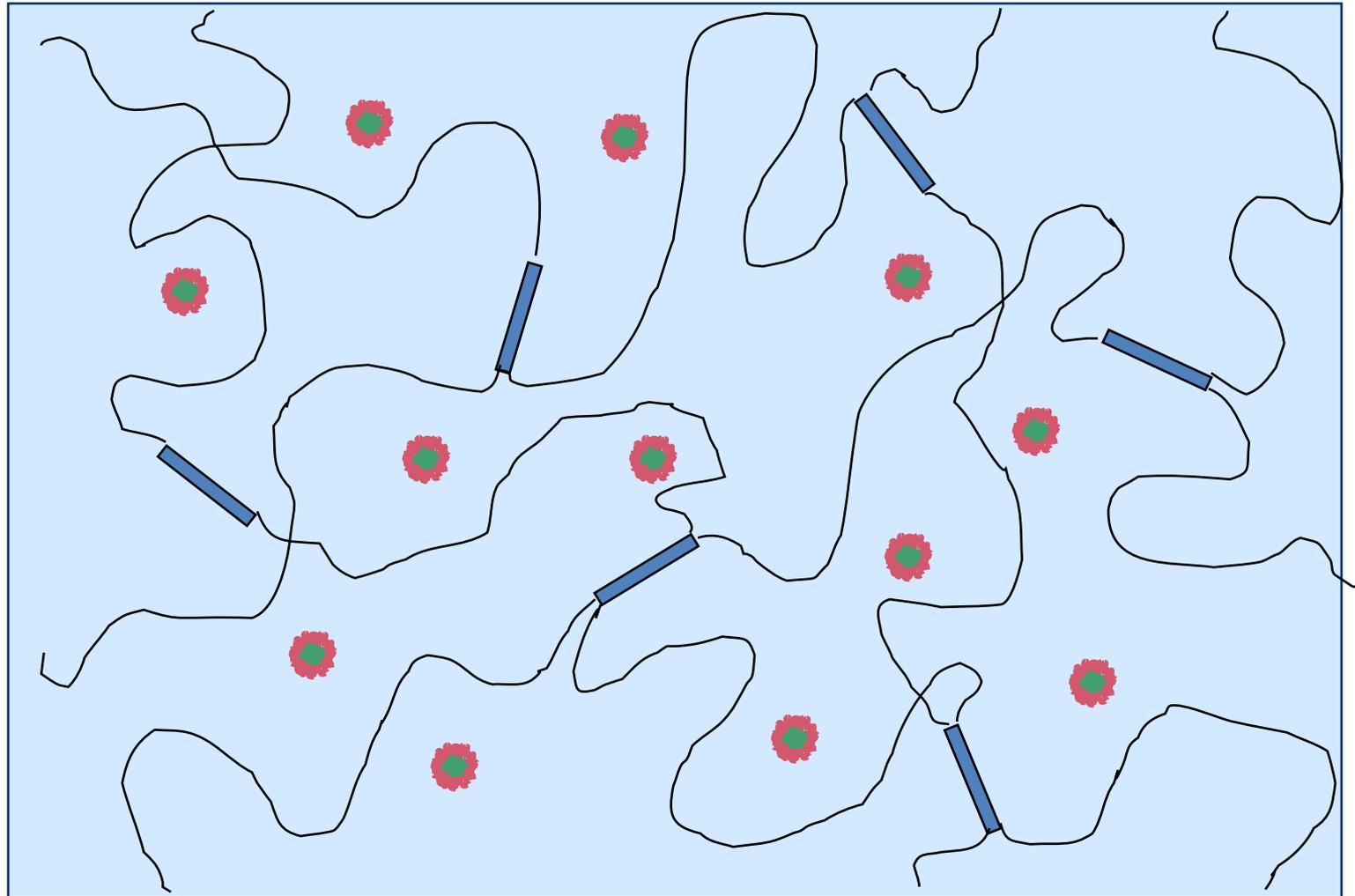


# SANS

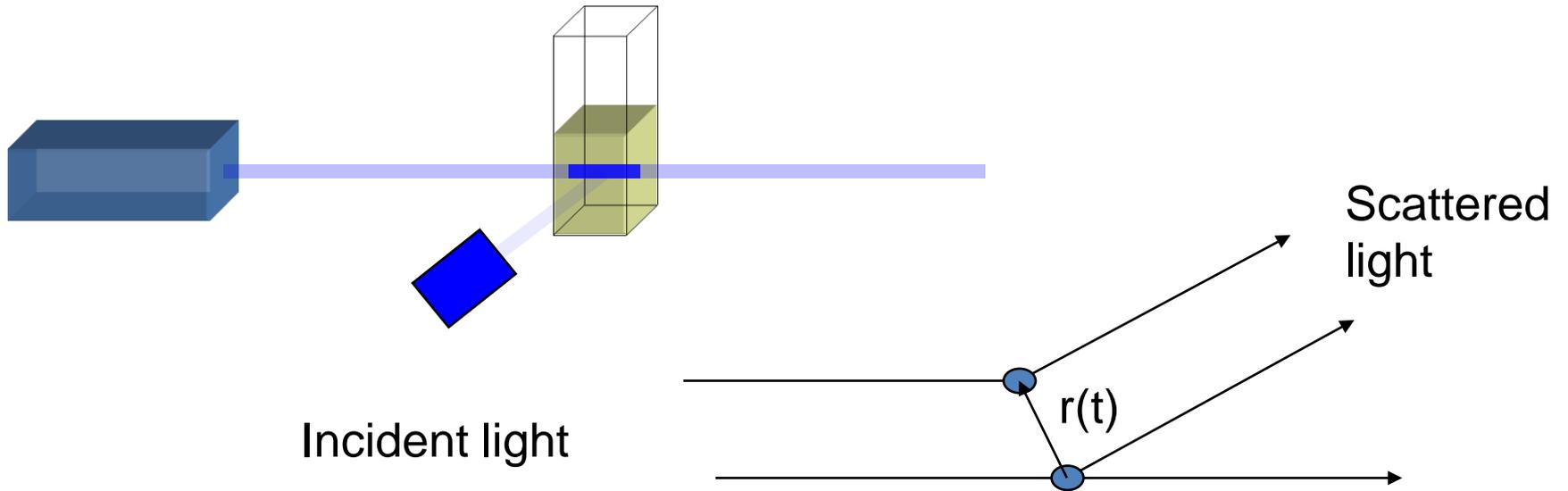
Concentration of Alginate = 0.5 %



# Micelle in a hydrogel



# Light scattering under motion



Distance between particles changes with time due to motion  
The interference of scattered light changes with time. Net intensity of light fluctuates with time

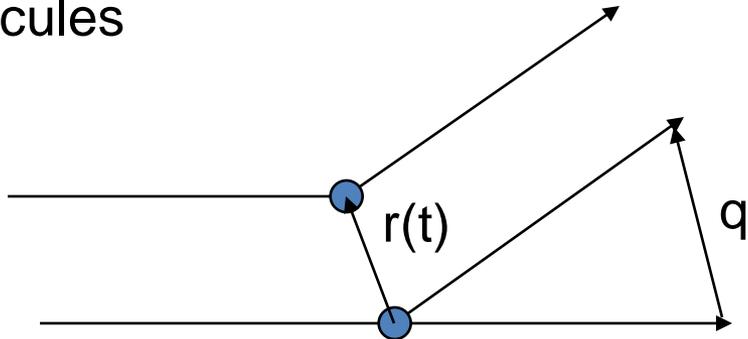
# Dynamic Light Scattering

Static light scattering – unable to probe micelles

Option – Look for the motion of scatterers (dynamic)

Time dependence of scattered intensity is measured

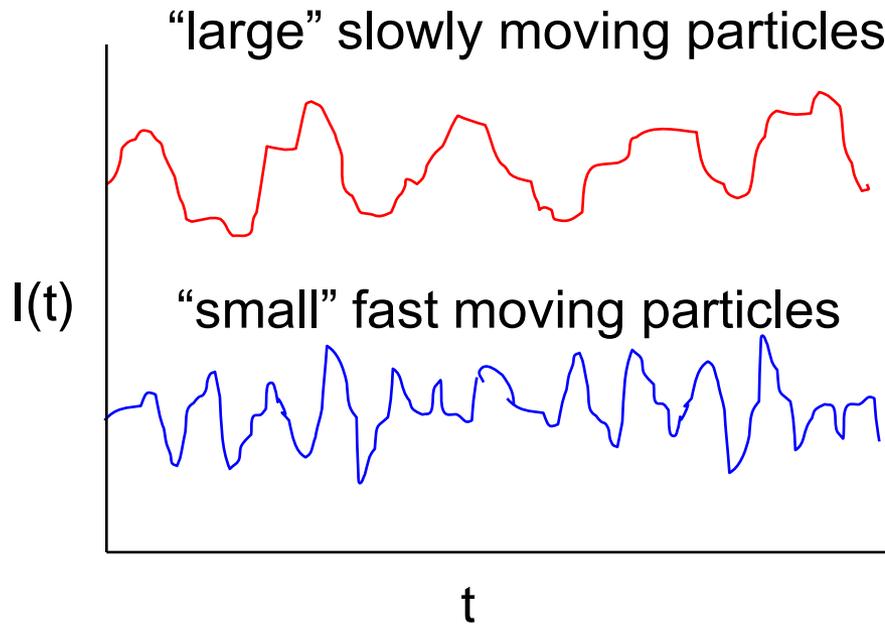
Brownian motion of colloidal particles due to collision with solvent molecules



Measures dynamic structure factor

Brownian motion depends on size, viscosity and temperature

# Timescale of intensity fluctuation

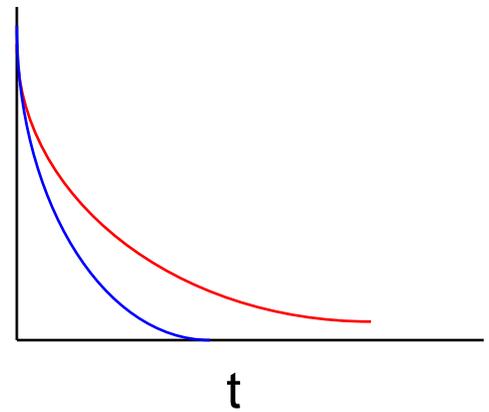


Autocorrelation

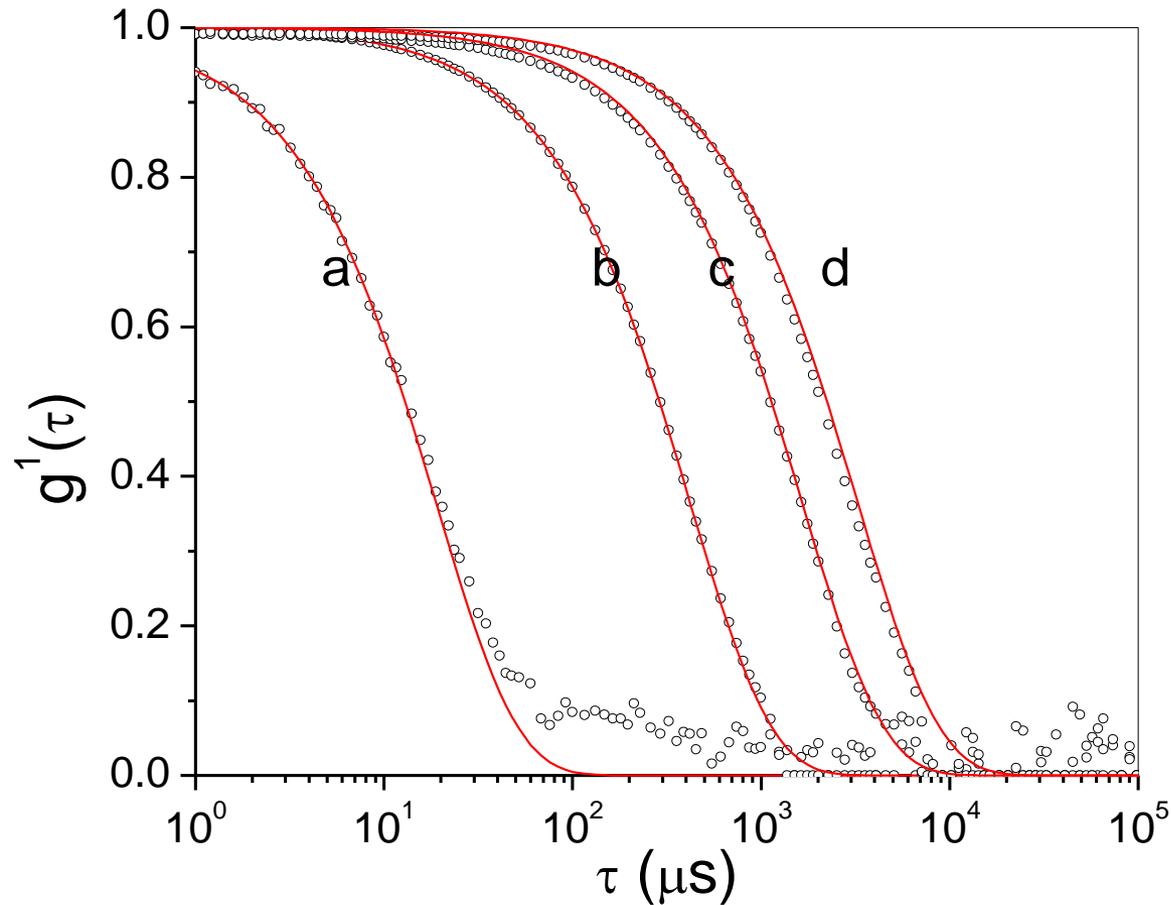


$$g^{(2)}(\tau) = \frac{\langle I(o)I(\tau) \rangle}{\langle I \rangle^2}$$

Correlation function



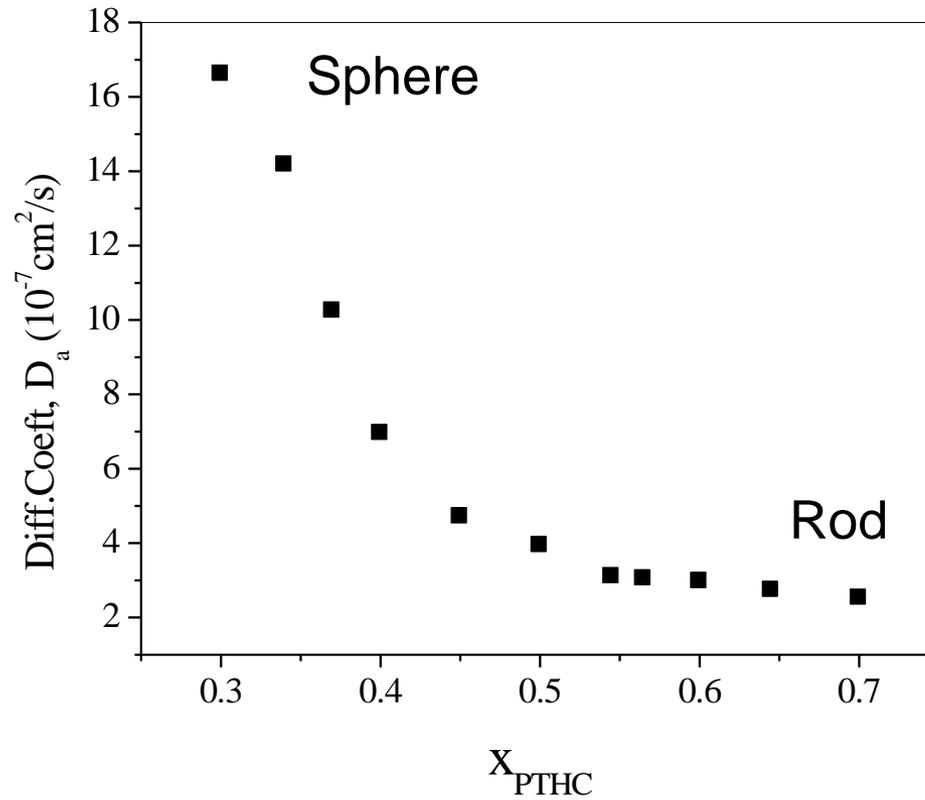
## Particle size by Dynamic scattering



Spheres  
with radius  
a) 2.5 nm  
b) 54 nm  
c) 214 nm  
d) 422 nm

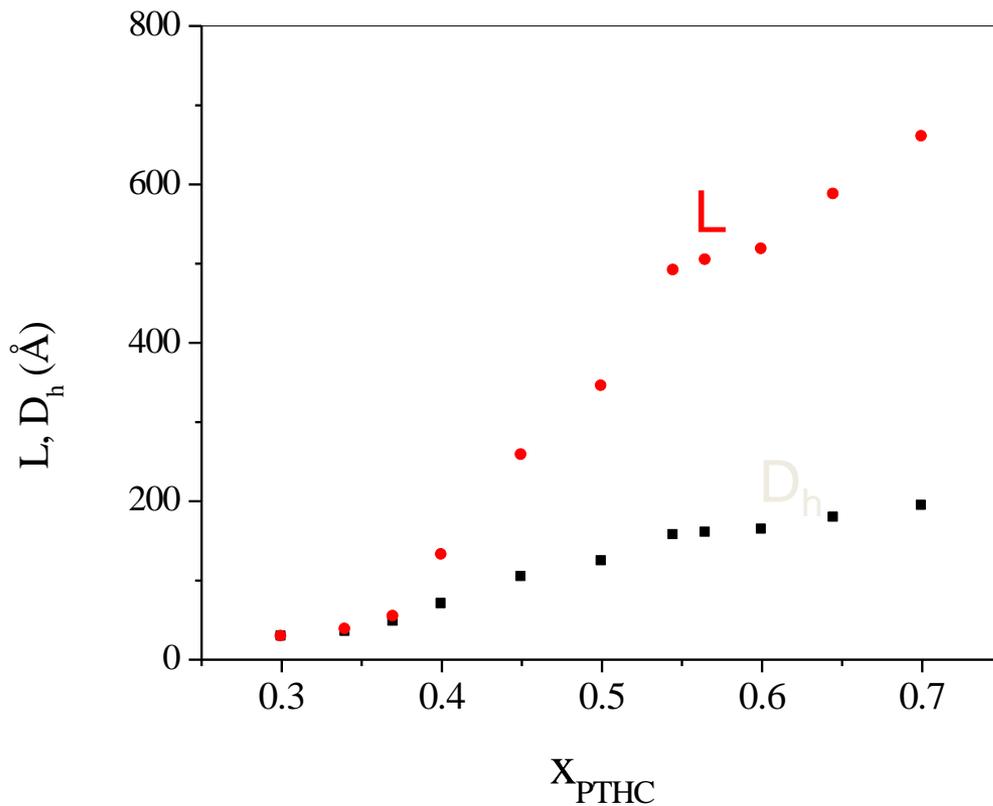
As size increases, motion become slower and the decay time increases

## Micellar growth probed by DLS



Decreases the apparent diffusion coefficient of the micelles

## Micelle length from DLS

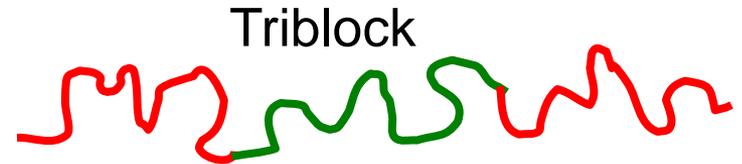
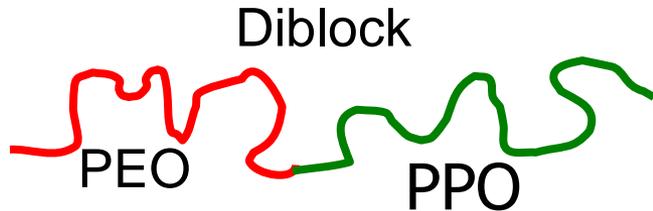


$L$  = length assuming  
a rod

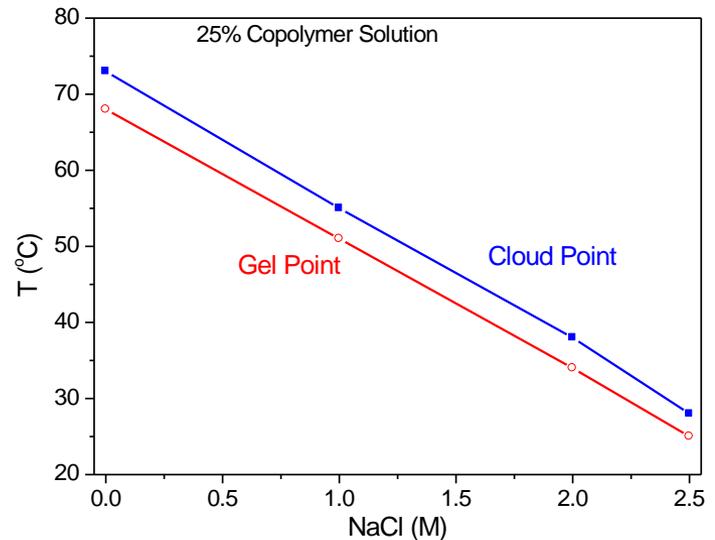
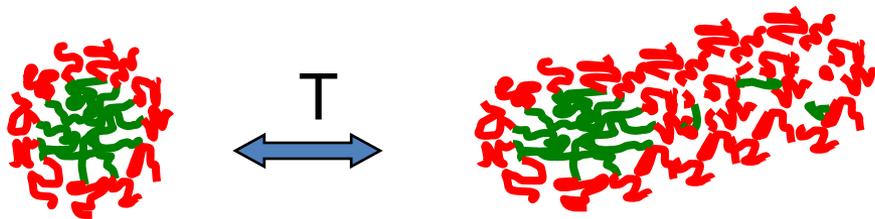
$D_h$  = diameter  
assuming a sphere

# Block copolymers

Surfactants for “macro” micelles



Sphere to rod transition induced by temperature

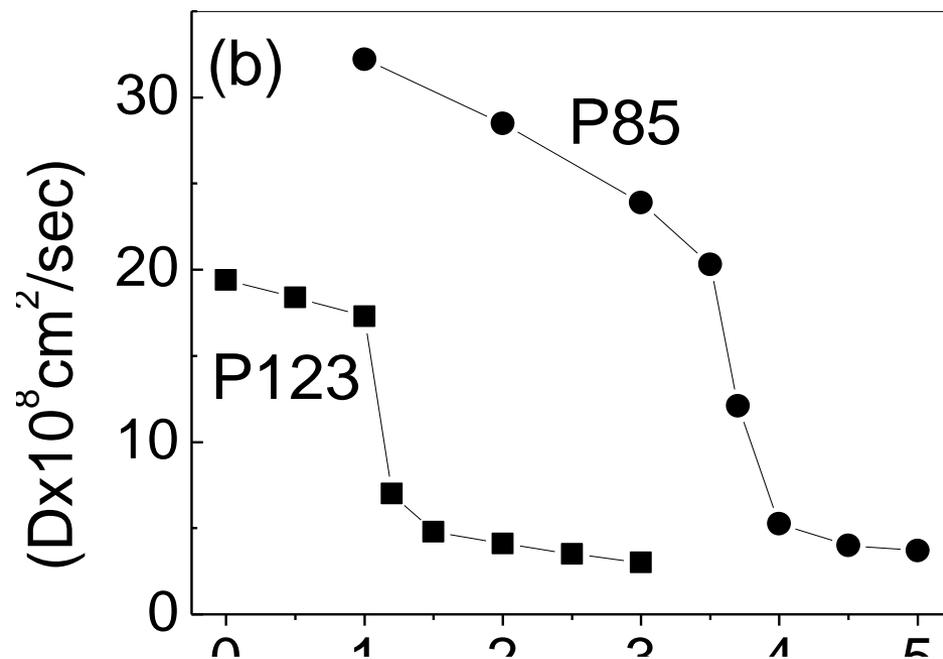


Thermoreversible gels in block copolymer micelles

J. Phys. Chem. B, **2005**, 109, 5653

J. Phys. Chem. B **2006**, 110, 9843

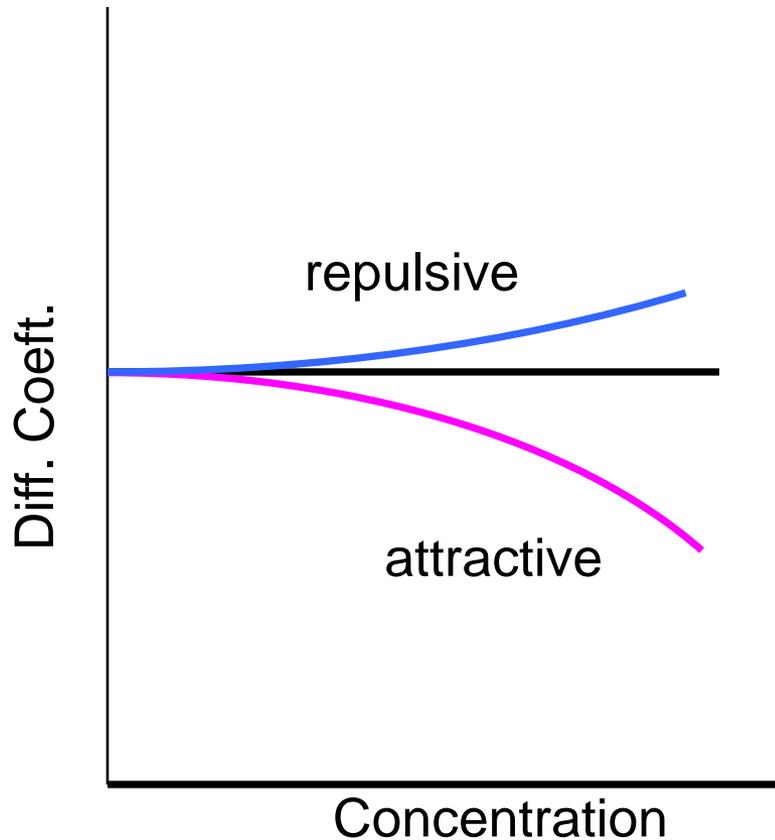
## Effect of PPO block length



# Particle Interactions

$$D = D_0 (1 + k_d C)$$

Thermodynamic + hydrodynamic



Small  $q$  limit

No hydrodynamics,

$$D = D_0/S(0)$$

For repulsive  $S(0) < 1$ ,  
D increases

With hydrodynamics,

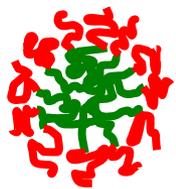
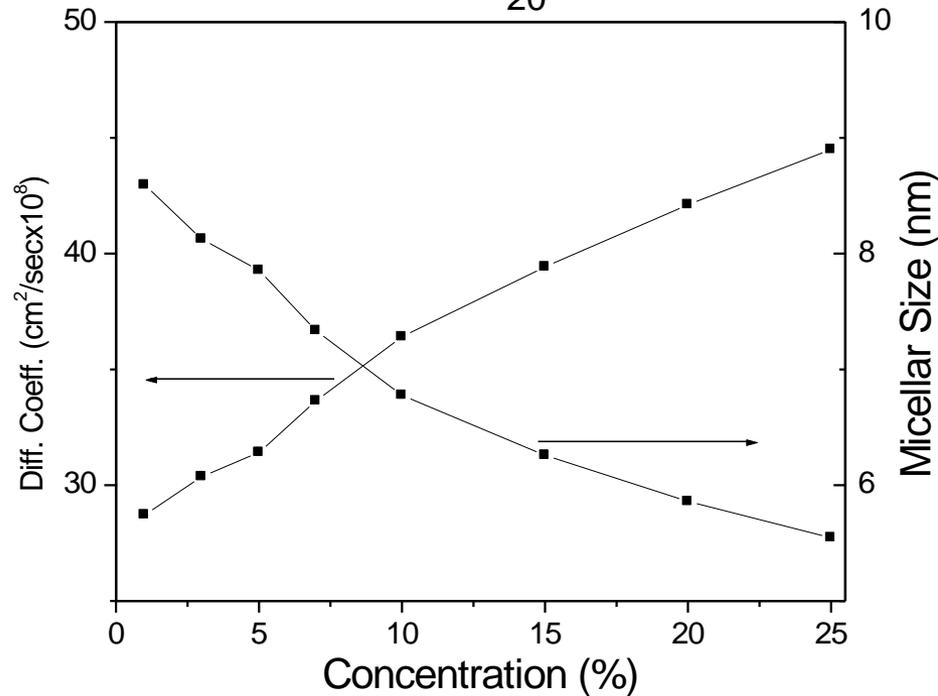
$$D = D_0 H(0)/S(0)$$

# Measuring interparticle interaction

For hard spheres, in the absence of hydrodynamic interaction

$$D = D_0 (1 + k_D f)$$

Eg: Block copolymer micelles  
(PEO)<sub>20</sub>(PPO)<sub>70</sub>(PEO)<sub>20</sub> micelles

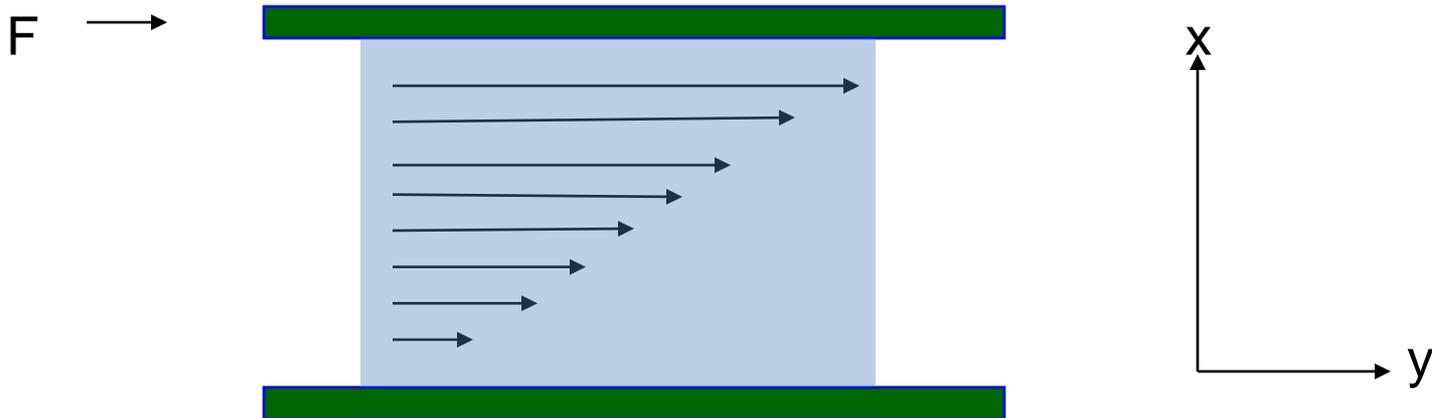


$$k_D = 2.5$$

# Rheology

Rheology - Study of flow and deformation of matter  
Microstructure can alter the flow behavior- soft materials

Shear modulus ( $G$ ) – a measure of softness



## Solids vs liquids

Shear stress, **s** (force/area) = F/A

Shear strain, **g** (deformation) = dy/dx

Solids are elastic

$$\sigma = G\gamma \quad \text{Hooke's law}$$

Liquids are viscous

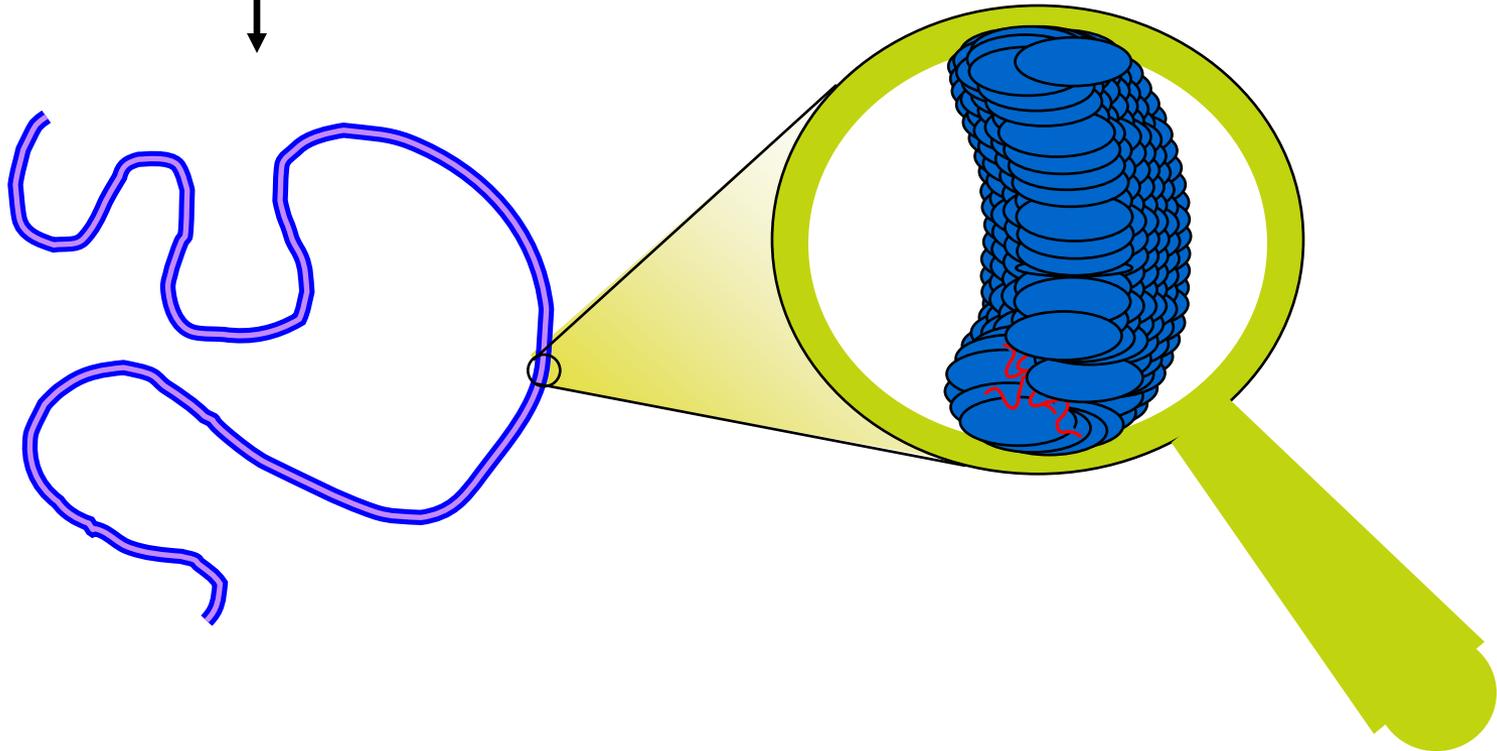
$$\sigma = \eta \dot{\gamma} \quad \text{Newton's law}$$

Soft materials are viscoelastic

## Self assembled polymers



- Monomers joined together through weak forces
- Break and recombine with change in temperature
- Equilibrium polymers (living polymers)
- Thickness of chain  $\sim 20 - 50 \text{ \AA}$

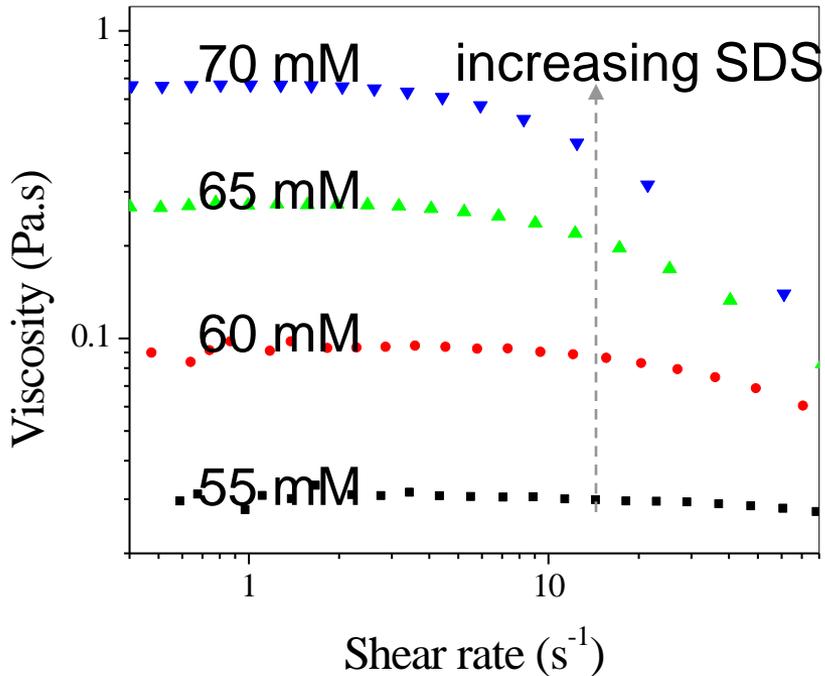


## Practical Examples

Foods, Pharmaceuticals, Personal care products, Life science etc.

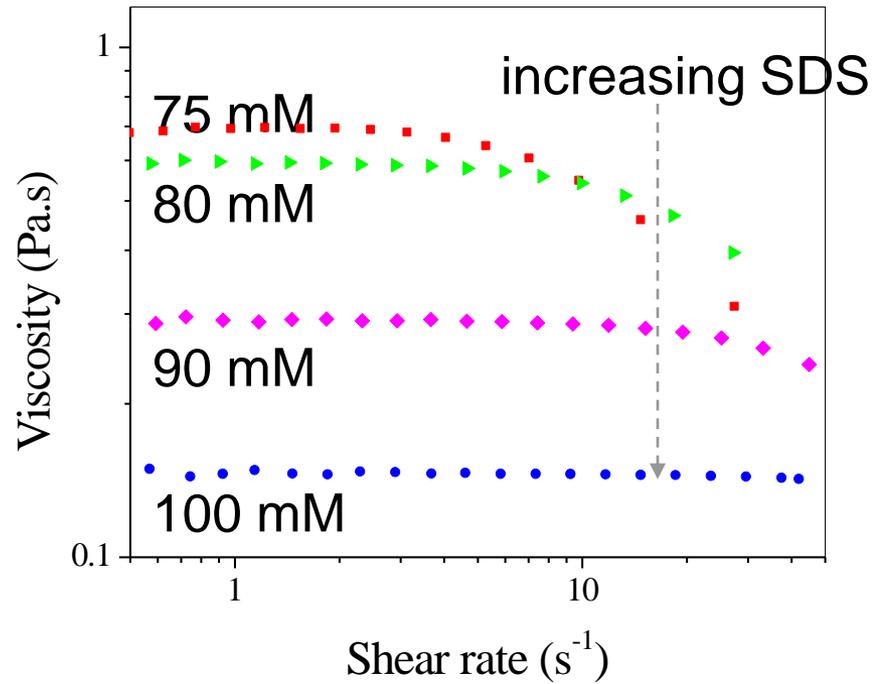


# Polymer-like micelles as rheology modifier



Low SDS:  
increasing  $h_0$ ,  $t$

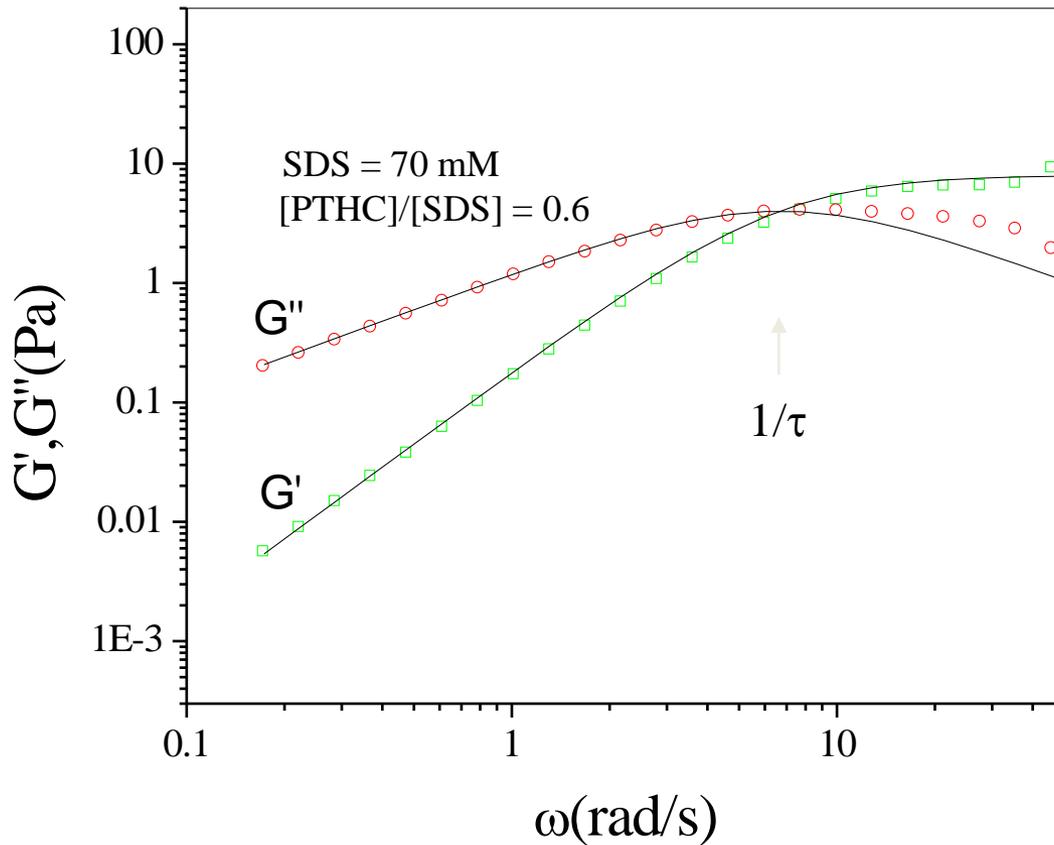
Viscosity increase and shear thinning



High SDS:  
decreasing  $h_0$ ,  $t$

[PTHCH]/[SDS] = 0.6

# Viscoelastic behavior

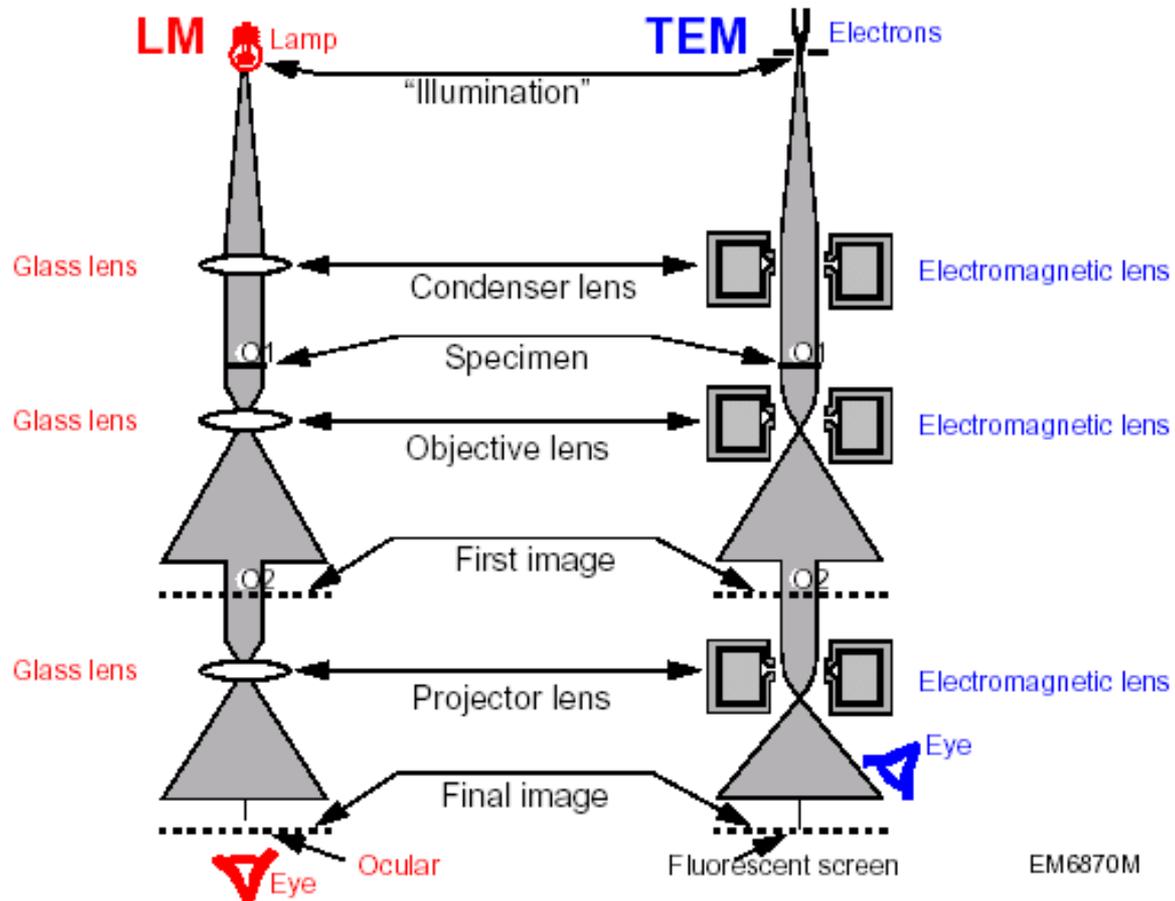


Maxwell Fluid:

$$G'(\omega) = \frac{G_0 \omega^2 \tau^2}{1 + \omega^2 \tau^2}$$

$$G''(\omega) = \frac{G_0 \omega \tau}{1 + \omega^2 \tau^2}$$

# Microscopy



EM6870M

## Why electrons?

### Resolving power

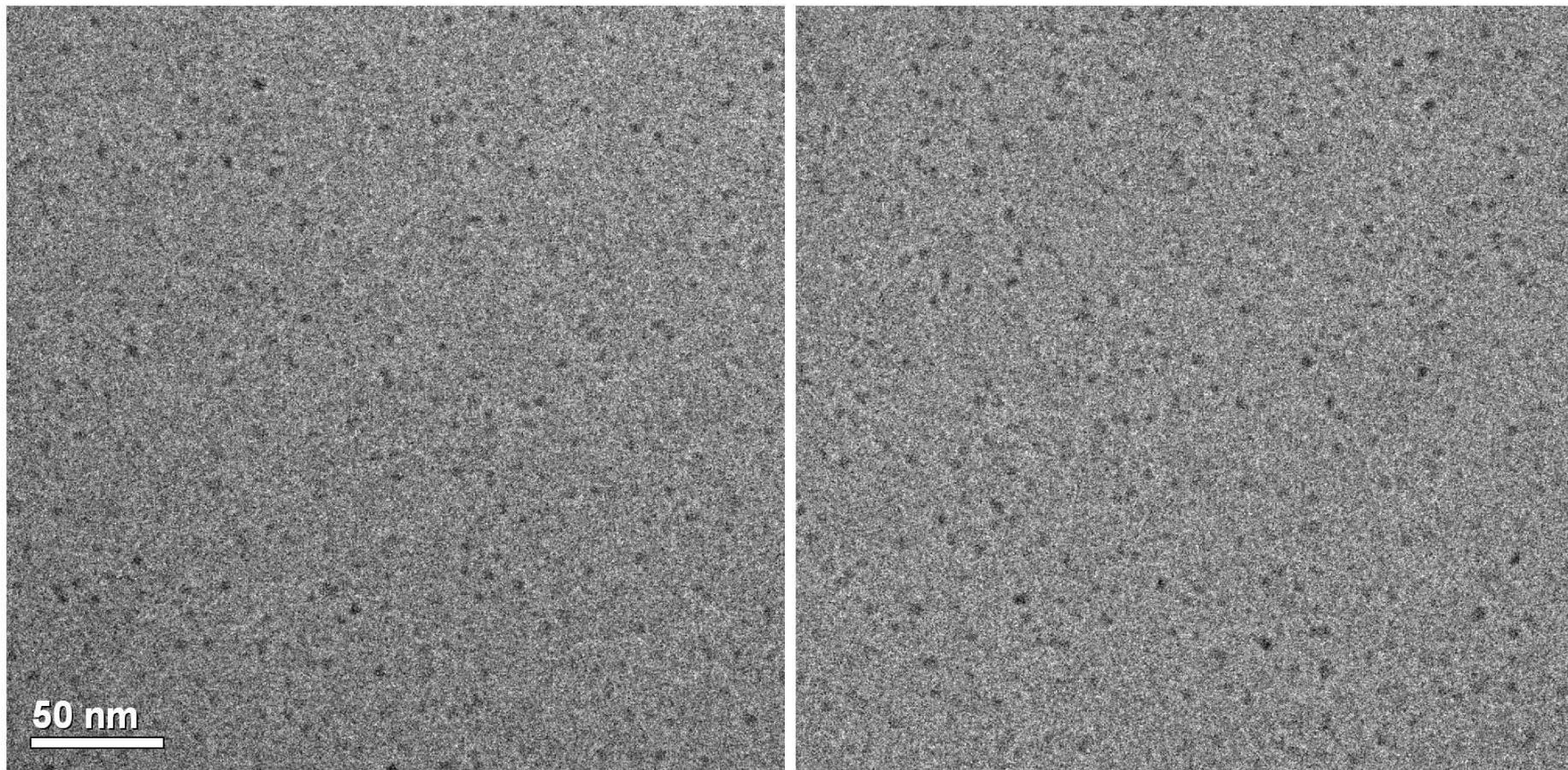
$$db = \frac{1.22 \times \lambda}{2n \times \sin \alpha} \quad \text{or} \quad db = \frac{1.22 \times \lambda}{2 \times \text{N.A}}$$

Charged particle – focused by electric or magnetic fields  
Small mass- accelerated and thus energy can be changed,  
de Broglie wavelength  $\sim \text{\AA}$   
Visible on a fluorescent screen – detection  
Availability of sources

**Drawback - Needs vacuum – cryo fixation of samples!**

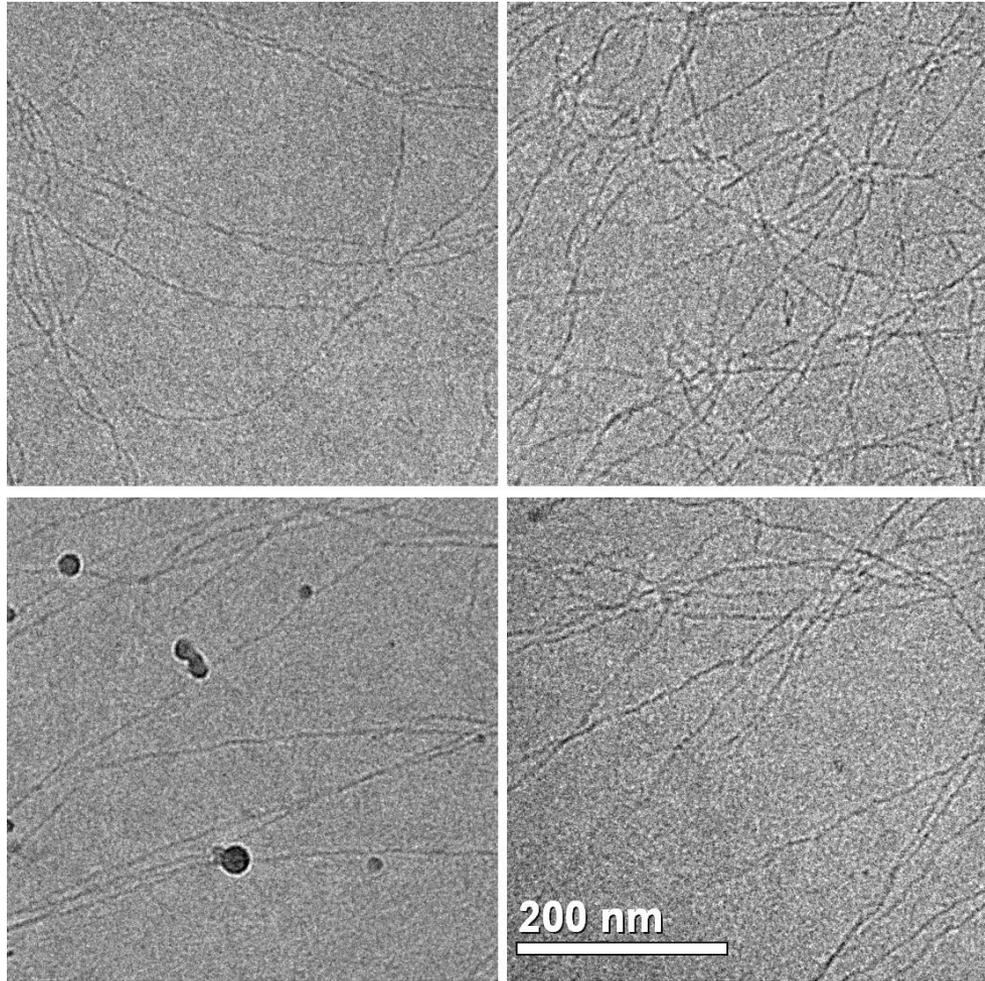
## Cryo-TEM Spherical micelles

CTAB 0.01M and NaNO<sub>3</sub> 0.01M, 30°C



3 - 4 nm spheres – (viscosity similar to that of water)

## Polymer-like micelles



Length ~ microns

Viscoelastic  
fluid

1000 times  
more viscous  
than water

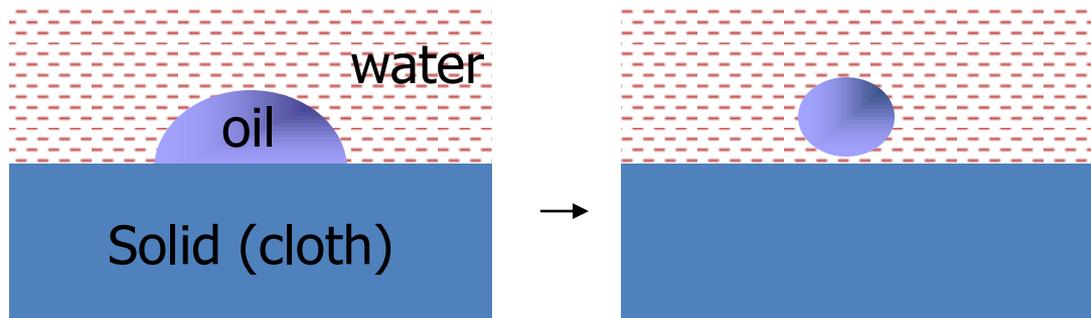
**CTAB 0.01M and NaNO<sub>3</sub> 0.5M, 30°C**

# Applications in Industry

# Soaps and Detergents

All household and industrial cleaners contain surfactant.

Cleaning – a three phase system



To detach a drop of oil from cloth fiber, capillary action, wetting and contact angle are important. Surfactant formulations are made to do that job



# Textiles finish

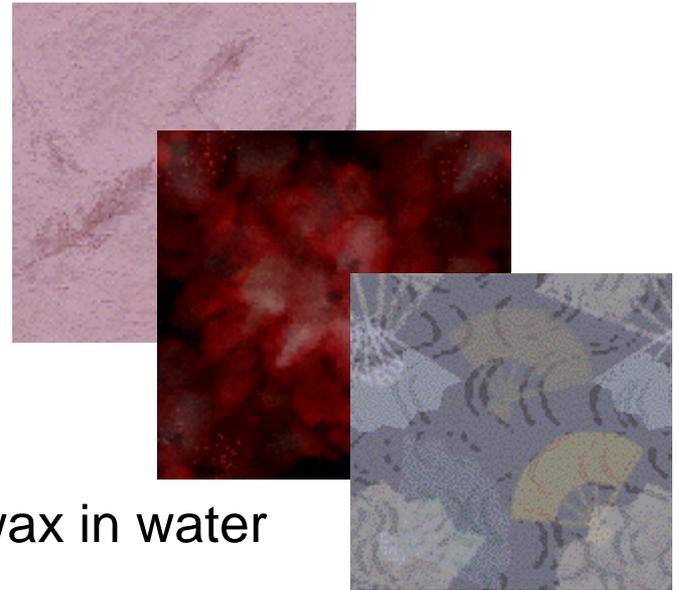
Synthetic fiber yarns need “spin finish” liquids to modify the surface

Abrasion protection during weaving  
Lubrication- enhances the speed of weaving

Typically an emulsion of polymers and wax in water are used as spin finish liquid

Surfactant is used as an emulsifier and as a coating material

A contact angle 20- 40° with water is preferred for fibers



## Surfactant as a wetting agent

Dyeing of fabrics:

Printing of polymers (polyolefin – packaging material)

Highly hydrophobic - difficult to wet with water based inks

Surfactants help to improve wetting

Other applications include:

Flux cleaning in electronic circuit boards

Lubricants in watch industry

Cell adhesion enhancement of culture cells in pathology

Removal of bubbles in electroplating industry

Tertiary oil recovery in oil fields

## Pesticide formulations

Pesticides are organic compounds – insoluble in water

Emulsifiable concentrates

A mixture of surfactant and active ingredient in hydrocarbon  
- forms emulsion when mixed with water

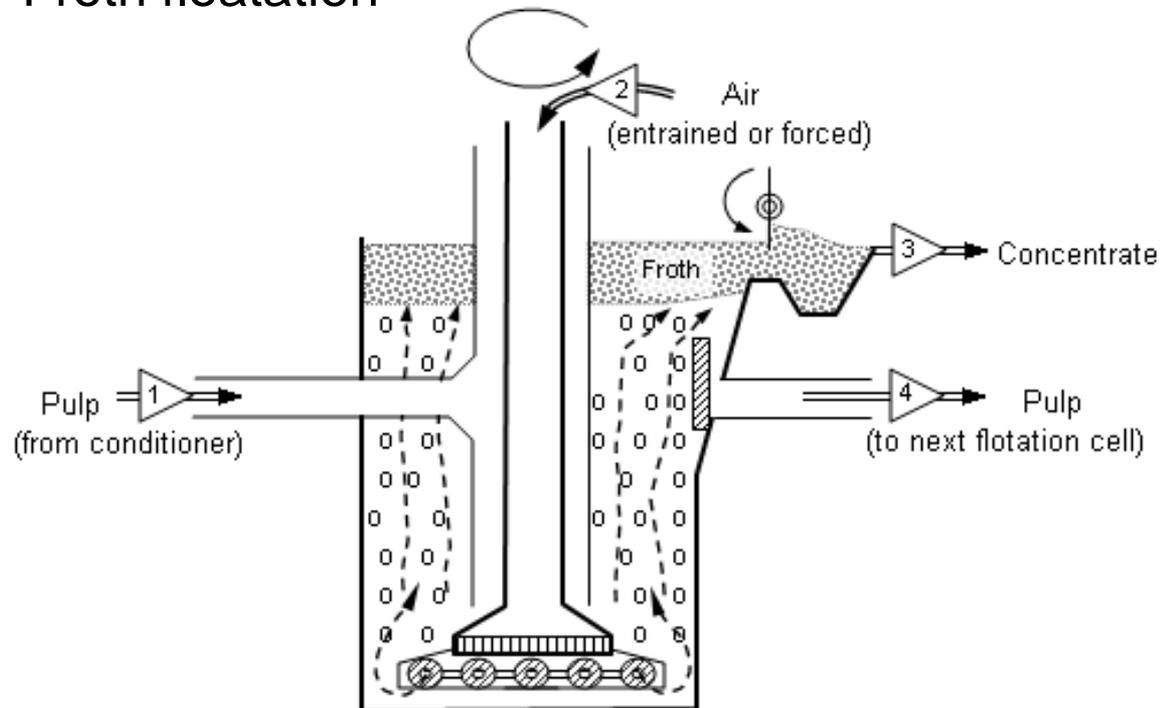
Droplets should not fly off from leaves – good wetting

Wettable or water dispersible powders – contain surfactant as dispersing agent and stabilizer



# Mineral processing

## Froth floatation



Surfactants are used as collector ( to make the ore hydrophobic) and foamer ( stabilize the foam)

# Pharmaceutical formulations

Many drugs are hydrophobic in nature

They can be solubilized and administered using surfactants

## Typical formulations include:

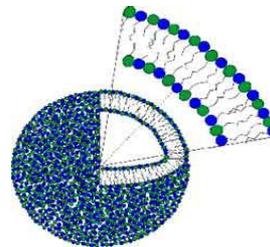
Emulsions

Microemulsions

Micelles

Vesicles (liposomes) – uni and multi lamellar

Vesicles can incorporate both hydrophilic and hydrophobic drugs



## Miscellaneous applications

Personal Care products - Looking good and feeling good

Shampoos – quarternary amine surfactants

Skin creams – emulsion and gels

Thickeners (viscosity modifier) Enhanced  
absorption through skin Stability of particles

Foam

Fire fighting – fluorocarbon and polymeric surfactants are used.

Mainly used for oil fire – foam act as a mask for O<sub>2</sub>

Foam stability – depends on interfacial tension, viscosity (bulk and surface), film drainage, surface charge etc.

