
NMR of phospholipids and membrane-bound systems

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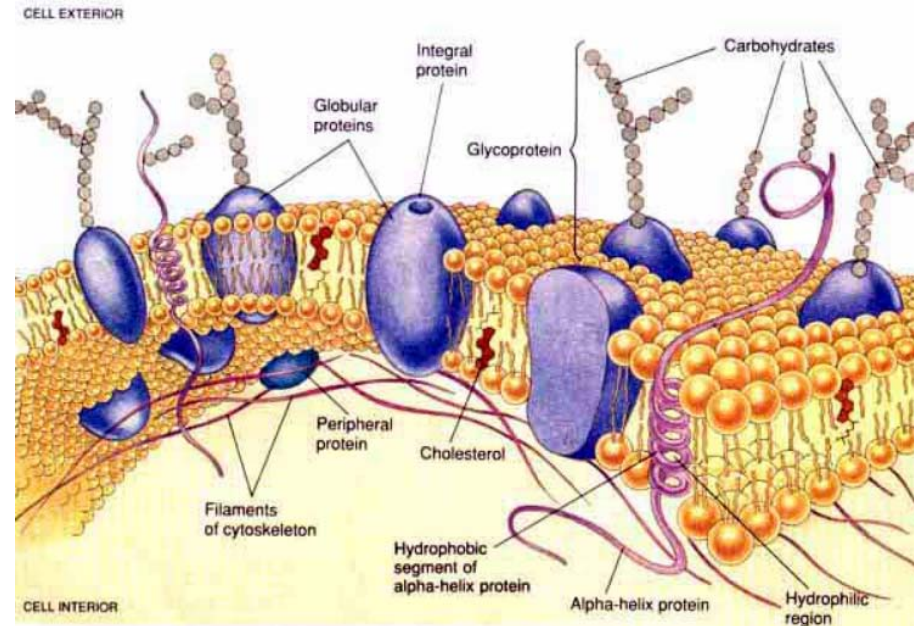
Université Laval

Québec, Canada



USA-Canada Winter School on
Biomolecular Solid State NMR
January 20-25, 2008

Plasma membrane

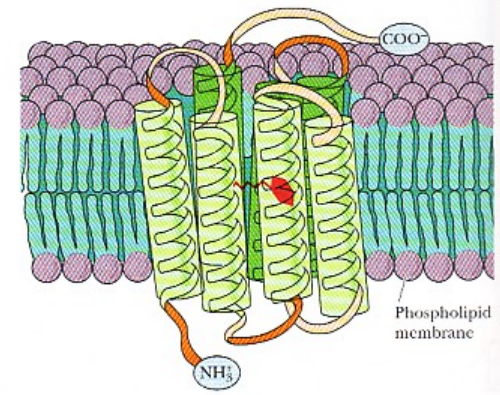


- ◆ Site of important biological processes
- ◆ Fluid mosaic model
- ◆ More recently: "dynamic, yet structured" cell membrane model

Singer and Nicolson (1972) *Science*, 175, 720.
Vereb et al. (2003) *PNAS*, 100, 8053.

Structure of membrane proteins

- ◆ 30% of all proteins are membrane proteins
- ◆ Important functions
 - Signal transduction
 - Stabilisation of membrane potential
 - Etc...
- ◆ Less than 0.2% of resolved protein structures are membrane proteins
- ◆ Important targets for drug development



Strategy

- ◆ Strategy for the determination of protein structure by solid-state NMR under MAS conditions

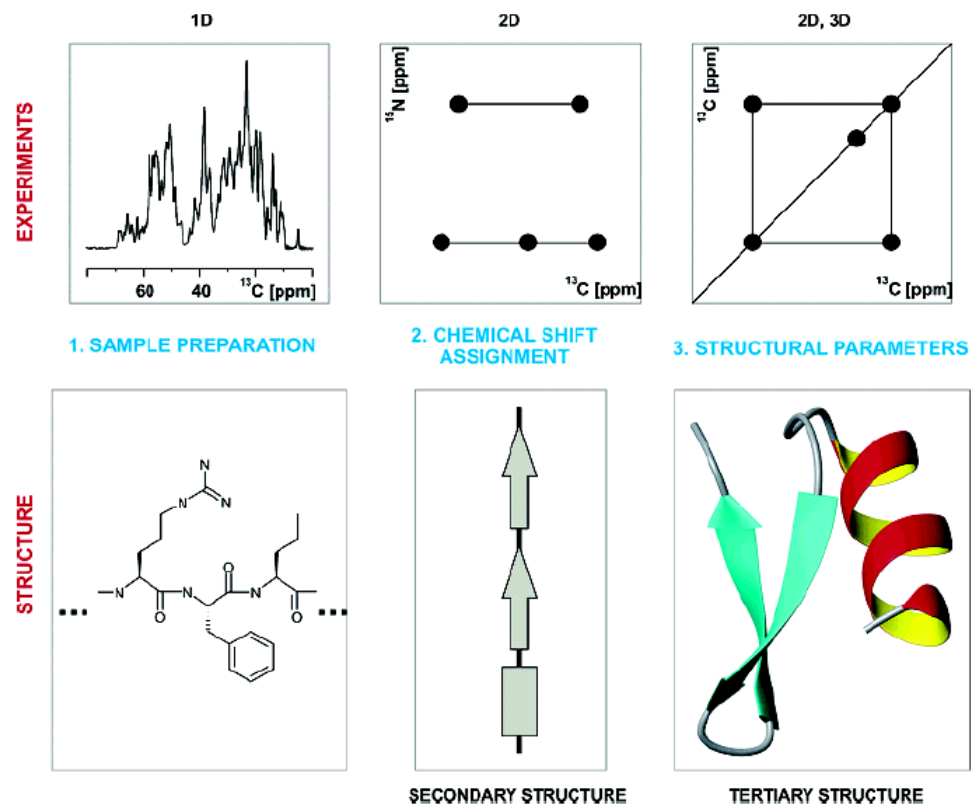
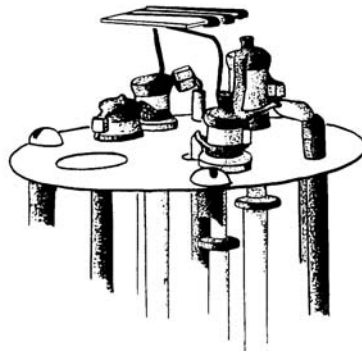


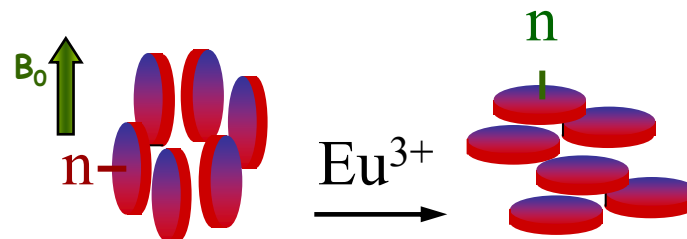
FIGURE 8. General approach for determining the structure of multiply labeled proteins in solid-state NMR under MAS conditions.

Oriented membranes

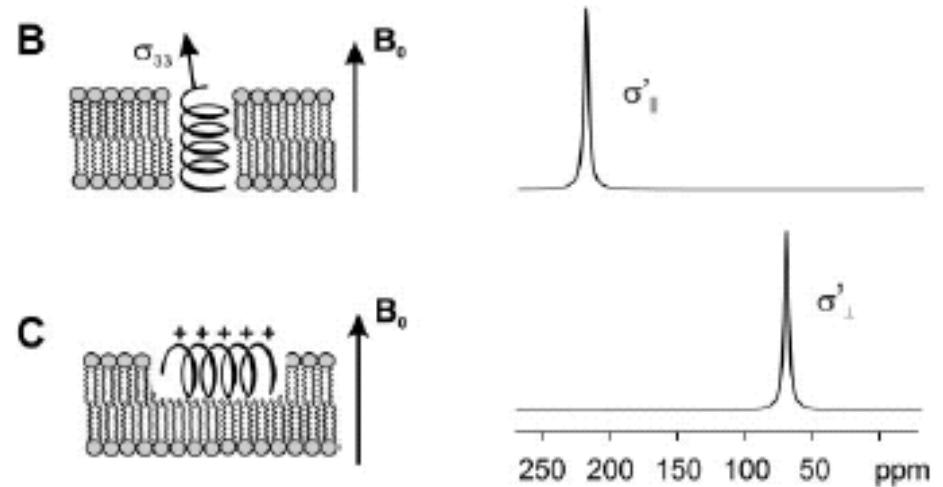
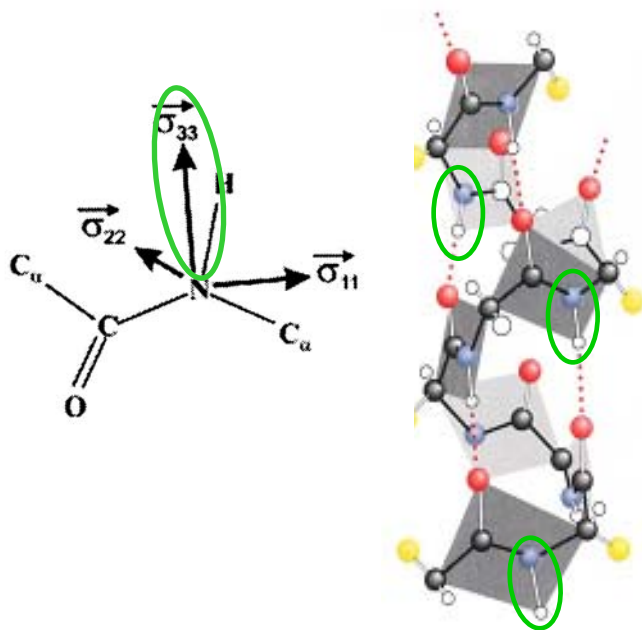
- ◆ Lipids mechanically oriented between glass plates



- ◆ Bicelle structures oriented in the magnetic field

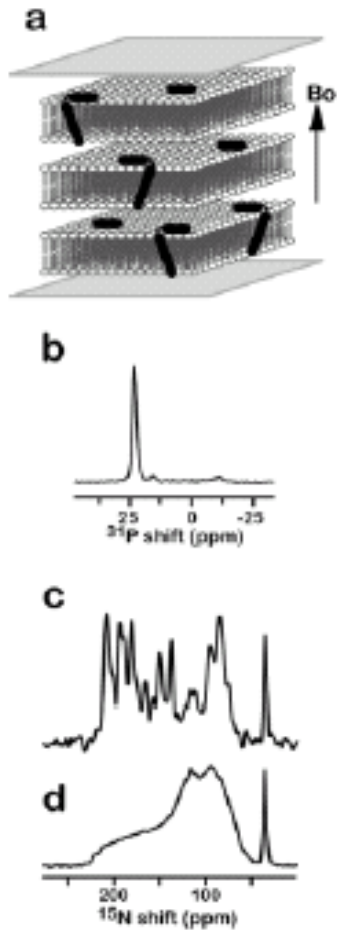


Helix orientation by ^{15}N NMR

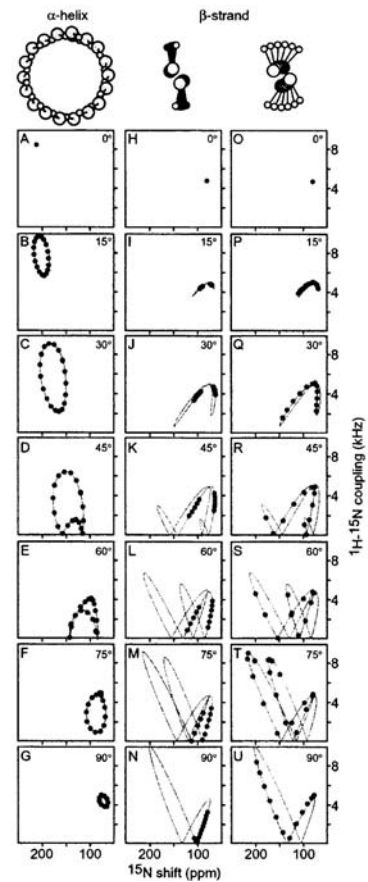


Correlation between δ_{ppm} and orientation

Uniformly labeled samples



PISEMA spectra



Outline

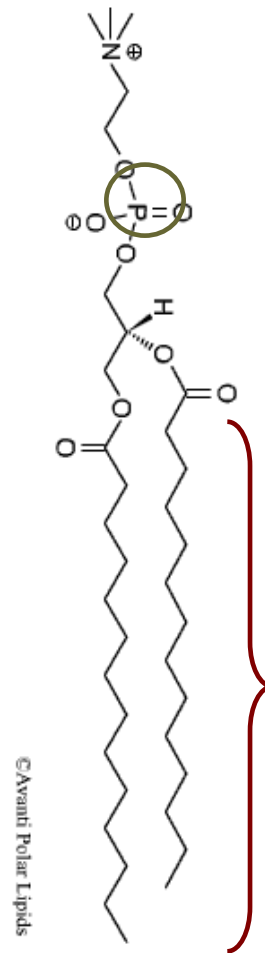
- **Introduction**
 - The plasma membrane
 - Overview of methods to determine the structure of membrane proteins and peptides
 - Overview, NMR of lipid molecules
 - Phospholipids and lipid phases
- **MAS spectra of lipid bilayers**
 - ^{31}P , ^1H and ^{13}C MAS spectra
- **Static ^2H and ^{31}P NMR**
 - ^2H NMR
 - The quadrupolar interaction
 - Effects of axially symmetric motions
 - Lipid phases
 - Molecular voltmeter
 - ^{31}P NMR
 - Effect of dynamics
 - Vesicle morphology
 - Order parameters
 - Lipid phases
 - Application to the study of peptide-lipid interactions
 - Lipid dynamics
 - Overview of motional time scales
 - Study of lipid domains by 2D exchange ^{31}P NMR

Outline

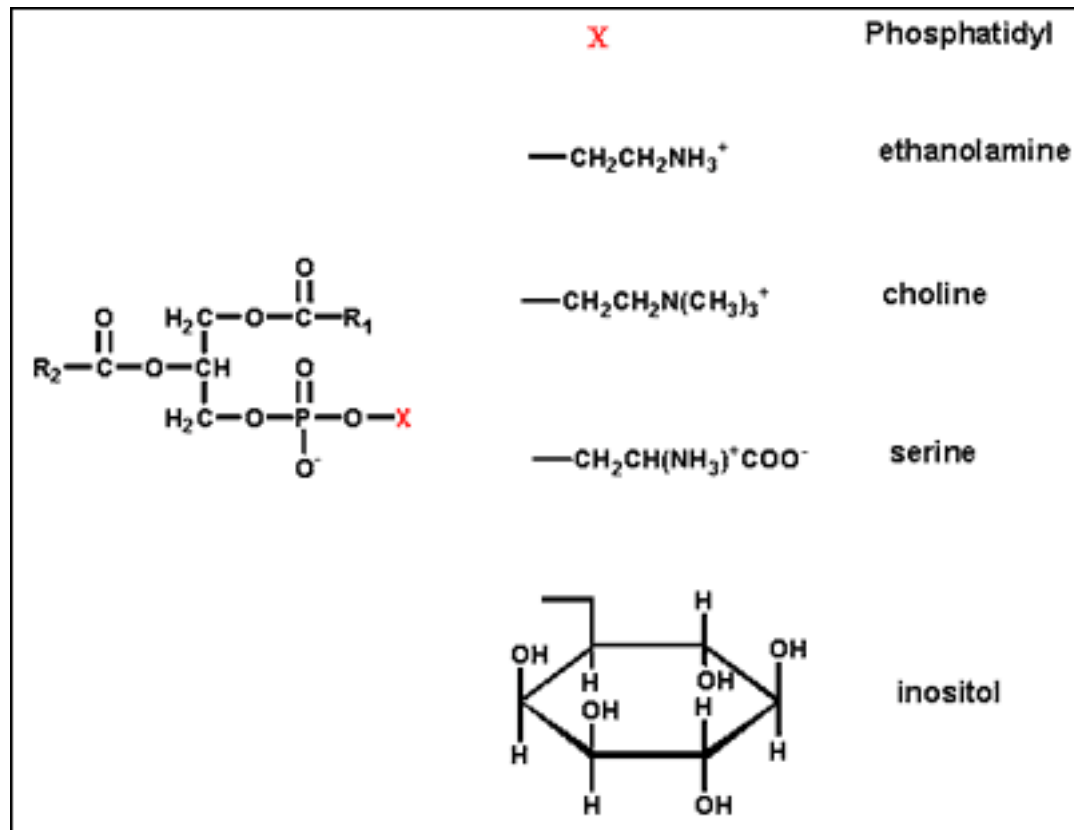
- **Oriented membranes**
 - Lipids oriented between glass plates
 - Typical ^{31}P NMR spectra
 - Effect of peptides on ^{31}P and ^2H spectra
 - Bicelles
 - Morphologies
 - Characteristic spectra
 - Order parameters
 - Effect of peptides on bicelle orientation
 - Fast-tumbling bicelles
- **Conclusions**

NMR of lipid molecules

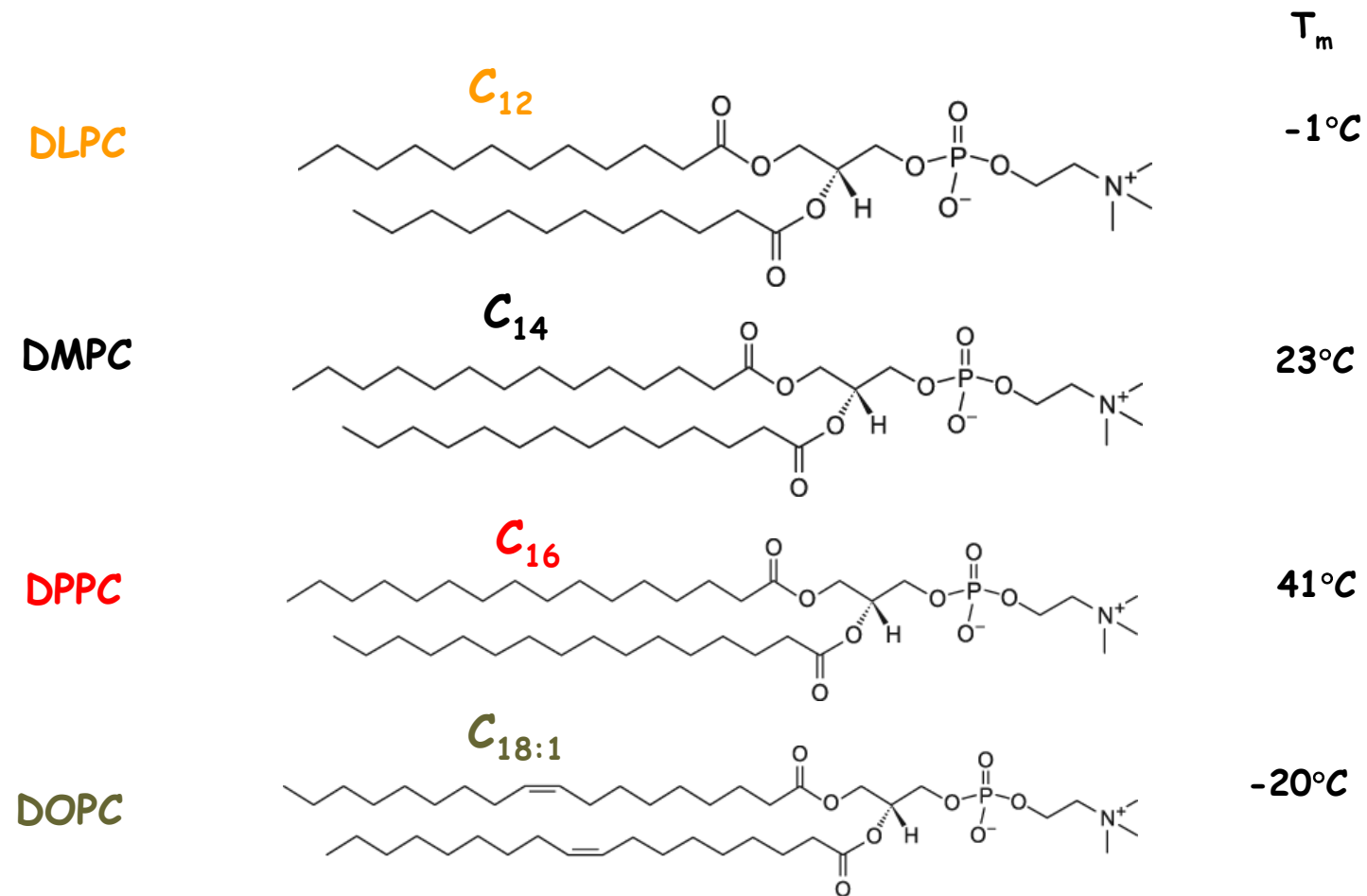
- ◆ MAS spectra
 - ^{31}P , ^1H , ^{13}C
- ◆ Static powder spectra
 - Polar head group: ^{31}P NMR
 - Acyl chains: ^2H NMR
 - Dynamics
- ◆ Oriented spectra
 - Lipids oriented between glass plates
 - Bicelles



Phospholipid head groups

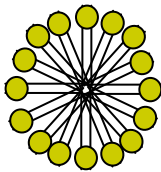


Phospholipid acyl chains

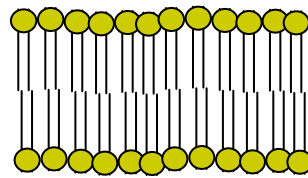


Lipid phases

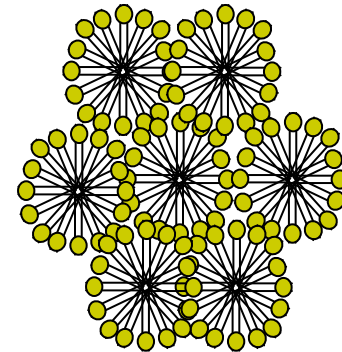
Micelles



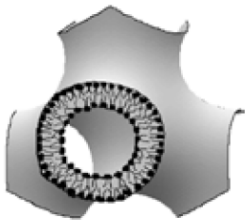
Bilayers



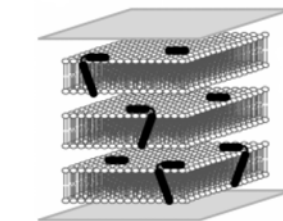
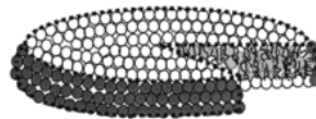
Normal or inverted hexagonal phases



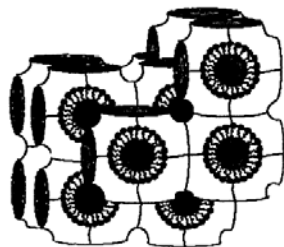
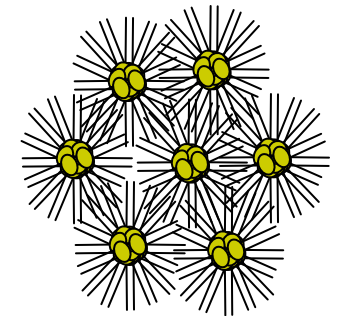
Cubic phase



Bicelle

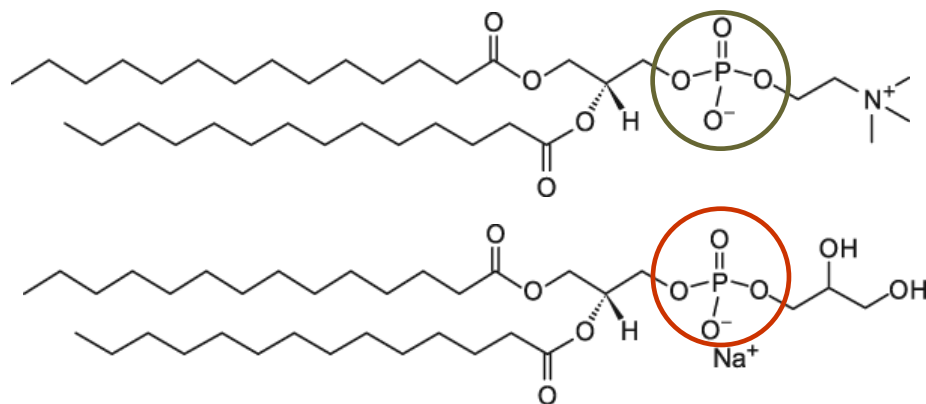
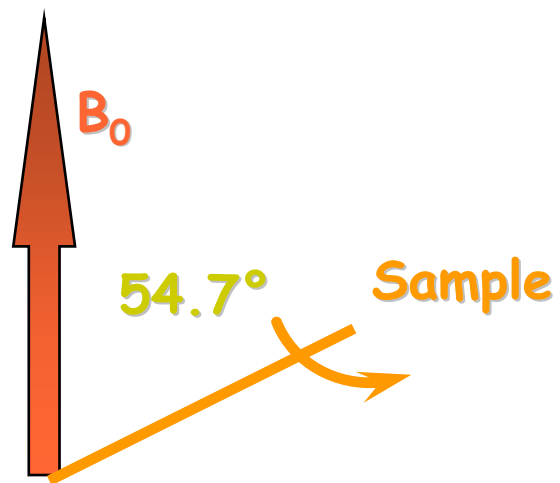


Oriented bilayers

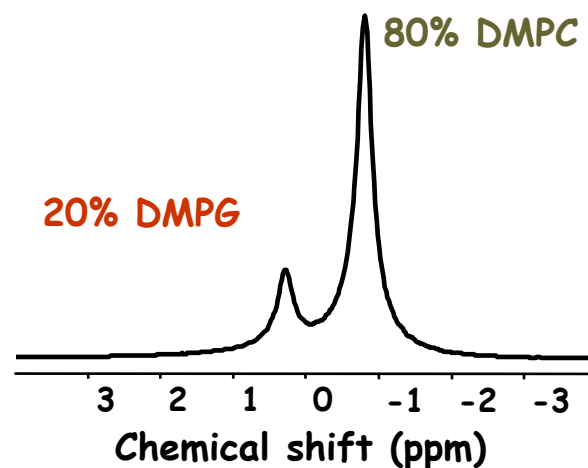


Multilamellar vesicle

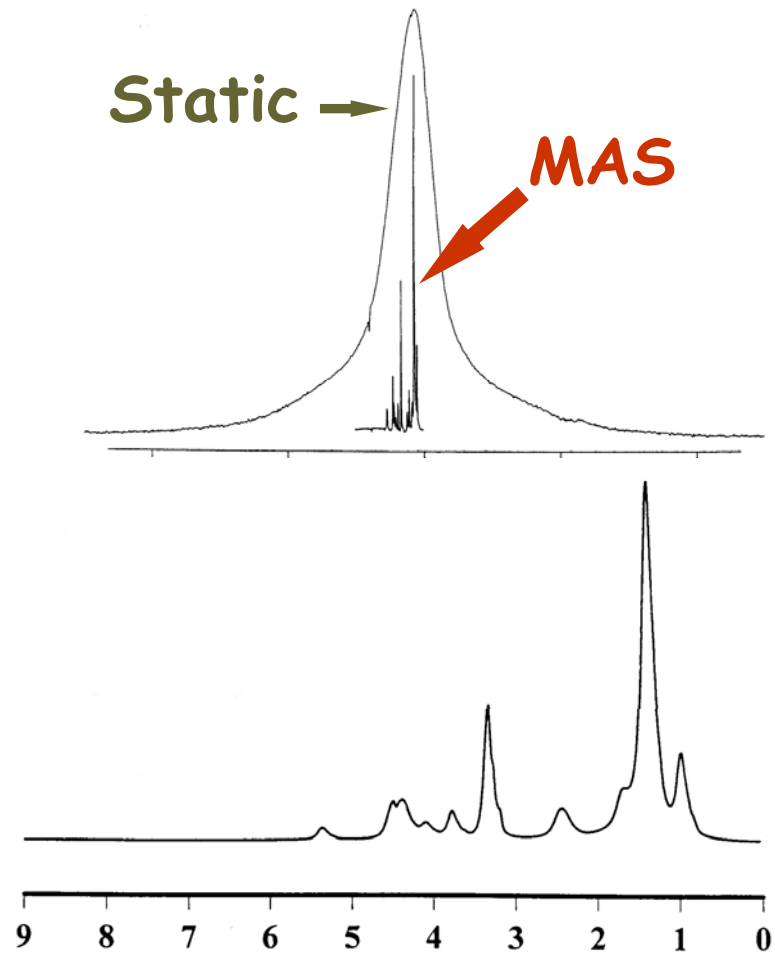
^{31}P MAS NMR



- ◆ Shielding, deshielding effects
- ◆ Dynamics, FWHM



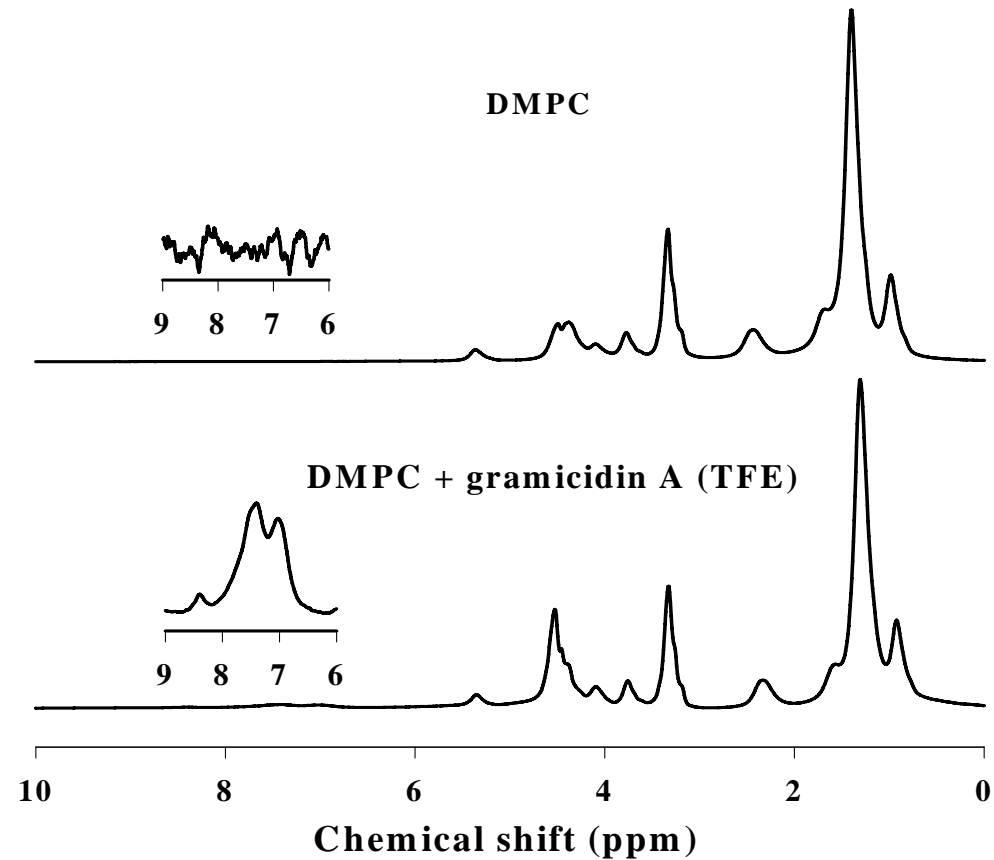
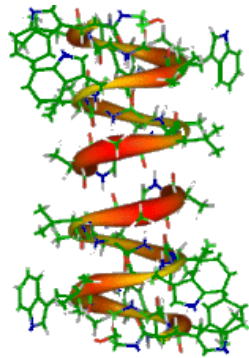
^1H MAS NMR spectra of lipid bilayers



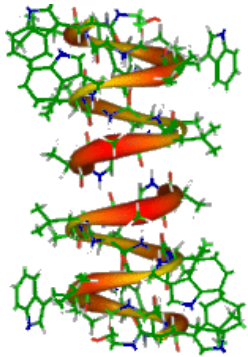
Effect of intermediate time scale motions

- Possible to obtain well-resolved ^1H spectra from multilamellar lipid dispersions at spinning speeds of 3 to 4 kHz
 - Rapid axial diffusion of the phospholipid about its long axis
- No identifiable peptide signals at spinning speeds of 3 to 4 kHz
 - Peptide reorientation fast enough?
 - Yes, $\tau_c = 7 \times 10^{-9}$ s for gramicidin A at 34°C
- Additional intermediate time scale motions
 - Wobble of the diffusion axis with respect to the local bilayer normal
 - $\tau_c = 6 \times 10^{-6}$ s for gramicidin A
 - Higher spinning speeds required

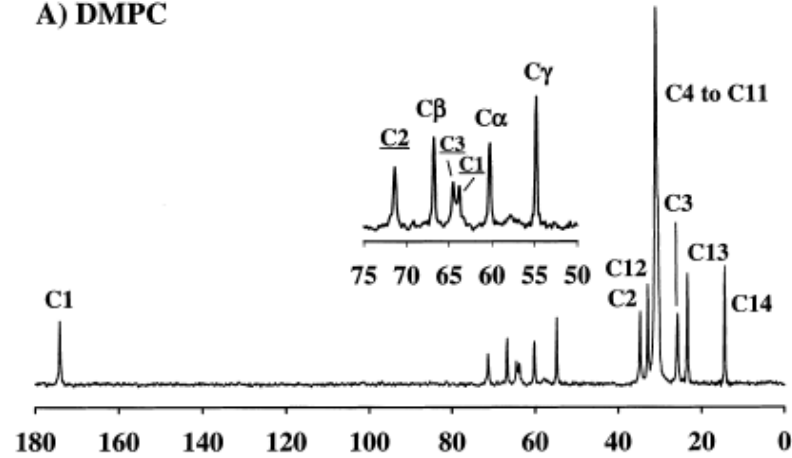
Solid-state ^1H NMR spectra



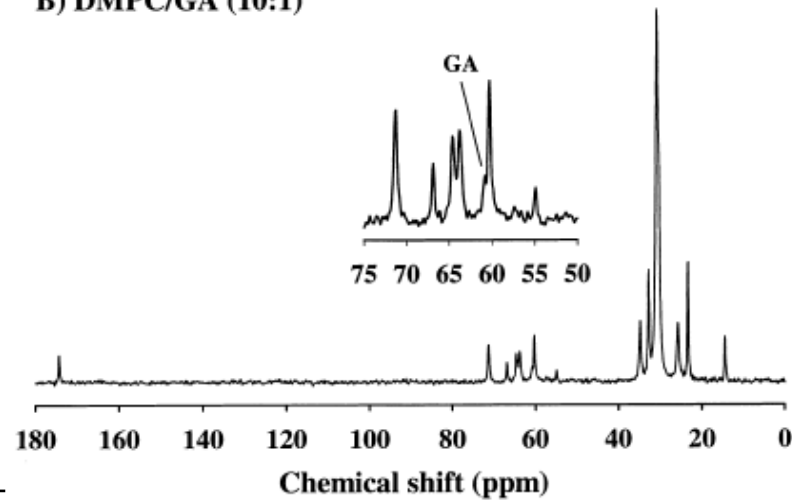
^{13}C MAS NMR



A) DMPC

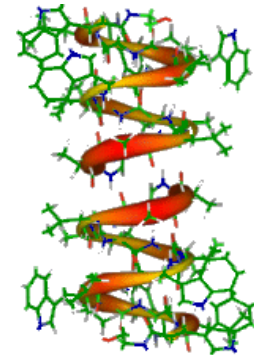
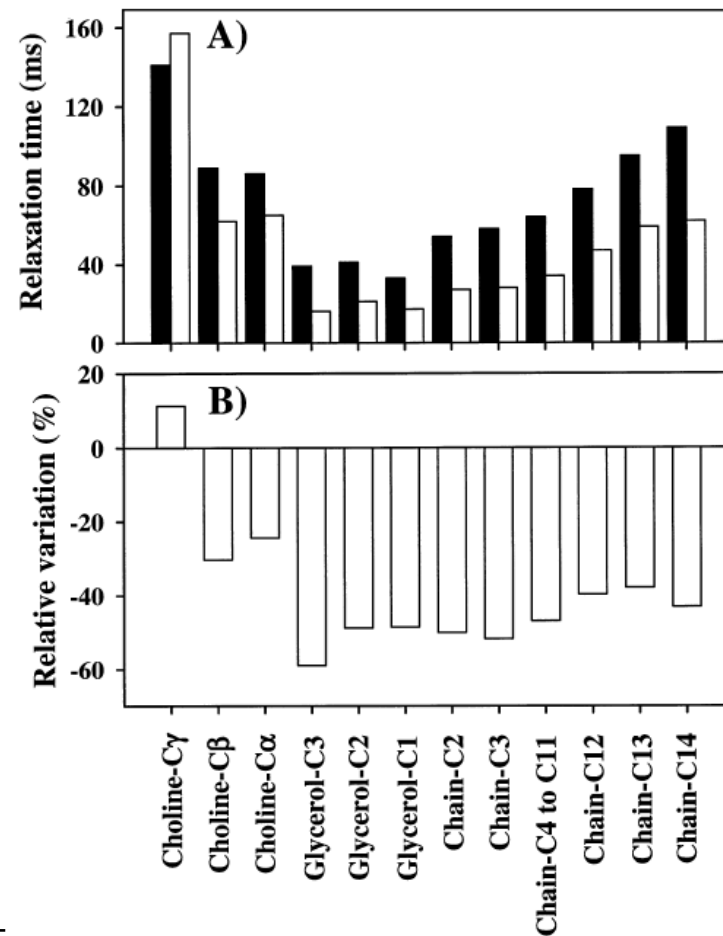


B) DMPC/GA (10:1)

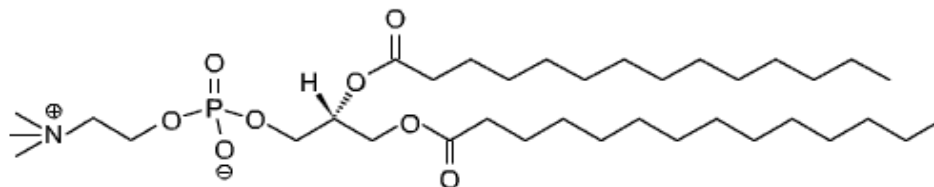


^{13}C MAS NMR

- ◆ Effect of gramicidin on DMPC dynamics, ^1H $T_{1\rho}$

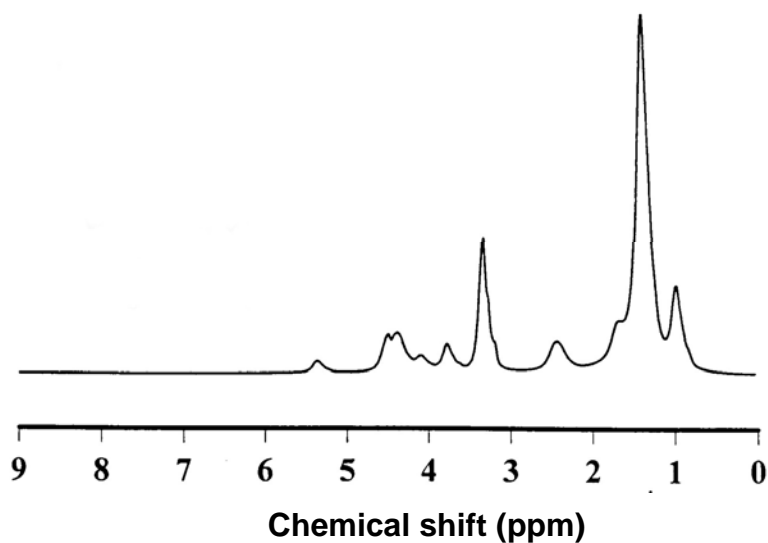


Why static deuterium NMR?

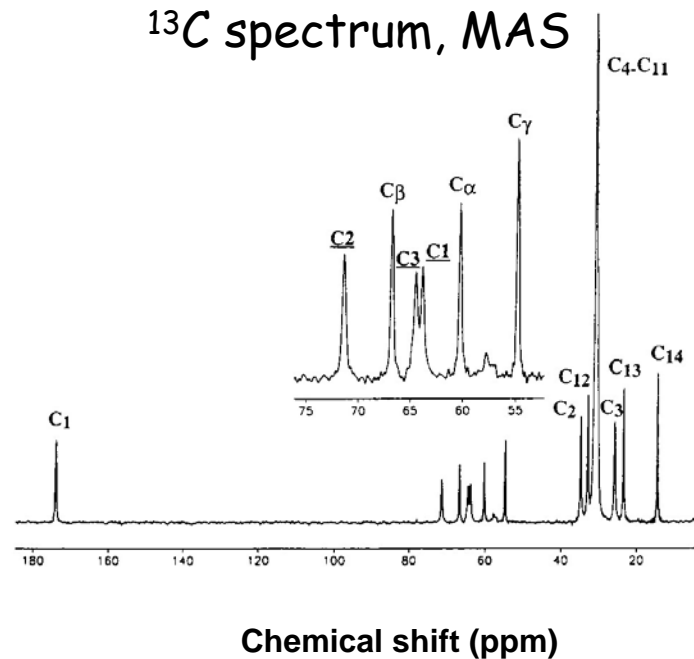


©Avanti Polar Lipids

^1H spectrum, MAS



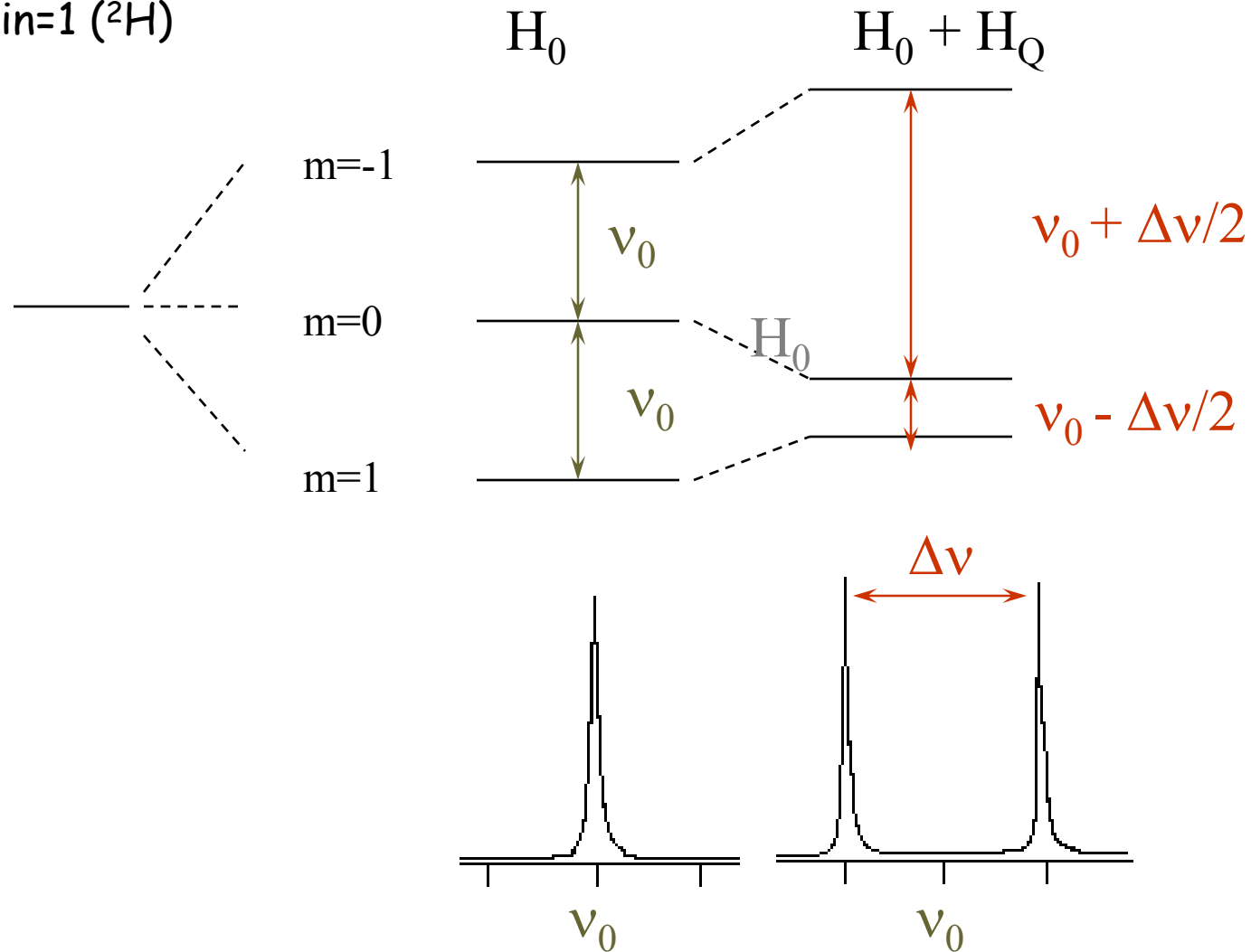
^{13}C spectrum, MAS



Little information on the order of CH_2 groups

Quadrupolar nuclei

Spin=1 (^2H)



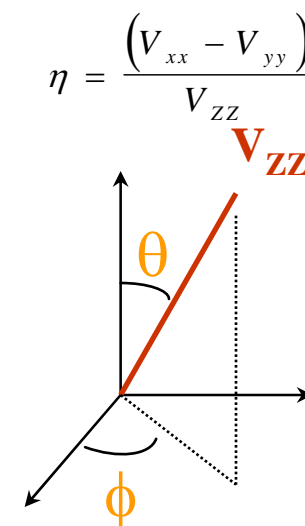
Quadrupolar coupling

- ◆ Nuclei with spins greater than 1/2
- ◆ Interaction between the quadrupolar moment (eQ) and the electric field gradient at the center of the nucleus

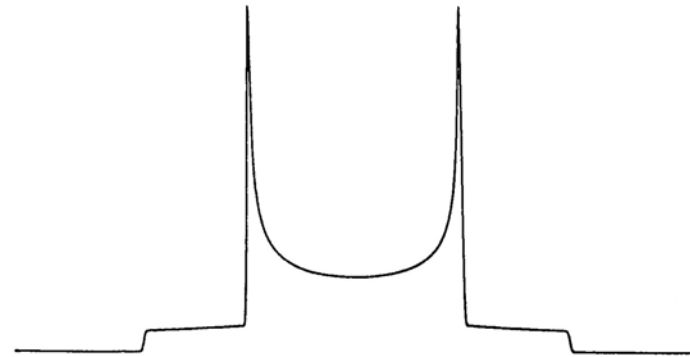
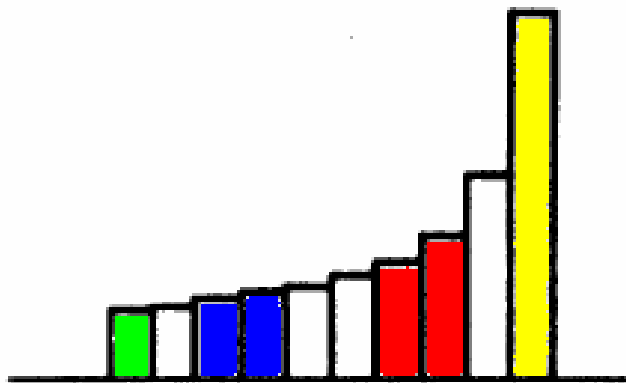
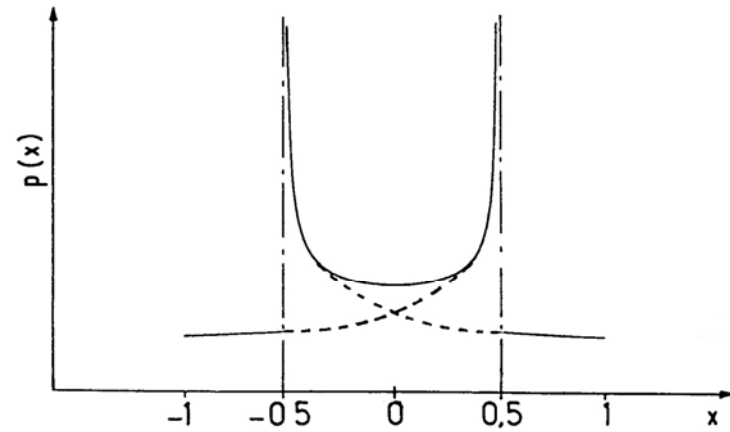
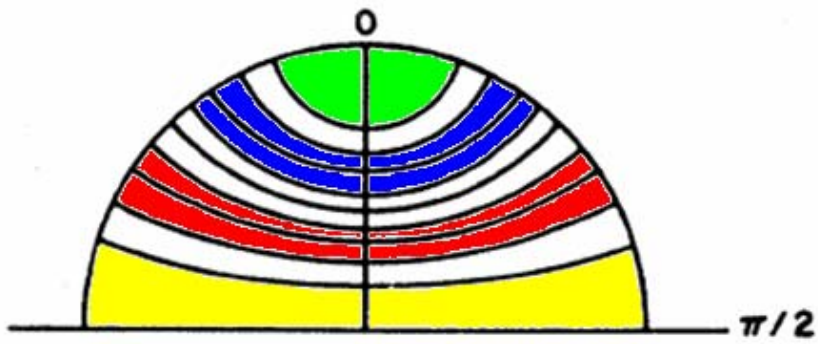
$$\nu_Q = \frac{3}{2} \frac{e^2 q Q}{h} \frac{1}{2} \left[(3 \cos^2 \theta - 1) + (\eta \sin^2 \theta \cos 2\phi) \right]$$

- ◆ $e^2 q Q / h$ = quadrupolar coupling constant = ~ 167 kHz (~ 3700 ppm at 7 T)
- ◆ V_{ZZ} , V_{YY} and V_{XX} = principal components of electric field gradient tensor
- ◆ If $V_{YY} = V_{XX}$

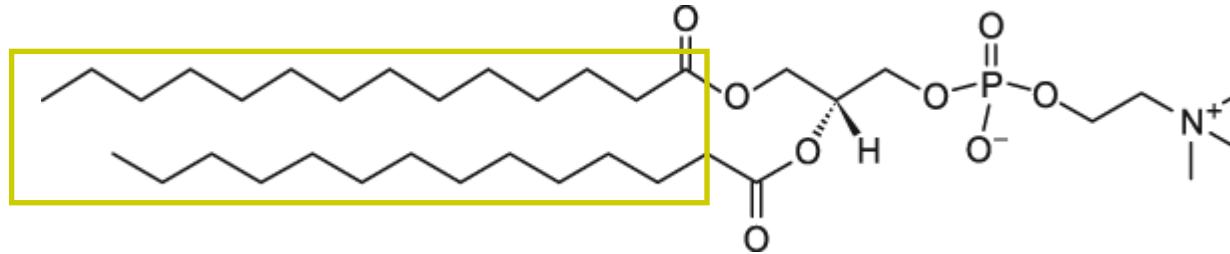
$$\nu_Q = \frac{3}{2} \frac{e^2 q Q}{h} \frac{1}{2} (3 \cos^2 \theta - 1)$$



Shape of the spectra



Acyl chains labeled with ^2H



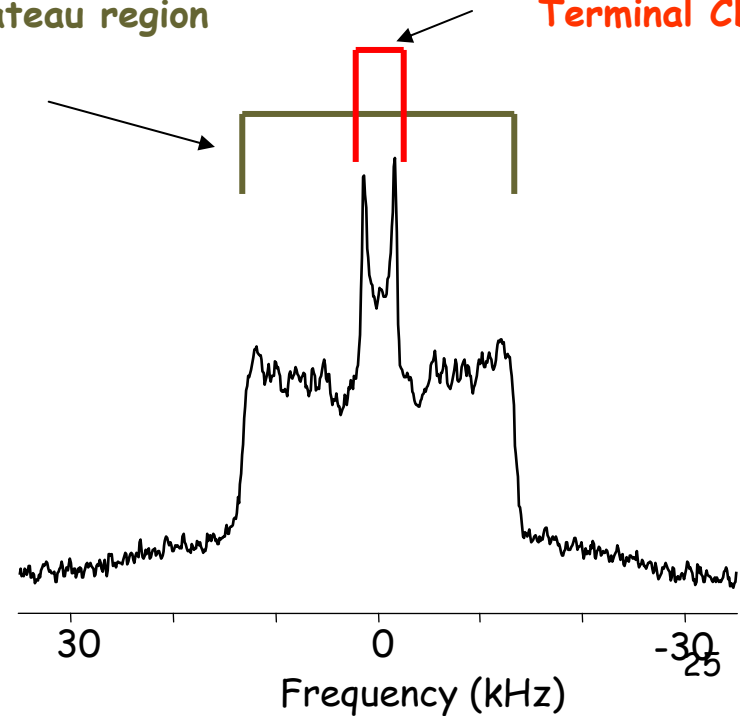
Quadrupolar splitting:

$$\Delta\nu_Q = \frac{3e^2qQ}{2h} \left(\frac{3\cos^2\theta - 1}{2} \right) \left(\frac{3\cos^2\beta - 1}{2} \right) \left(\frac{3\cos^2\alpha - 1}{2} \right)$$

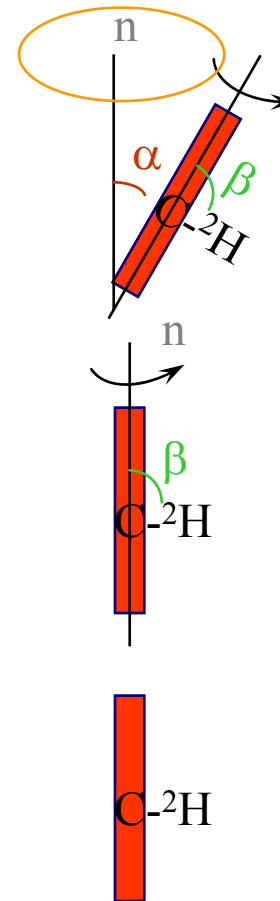
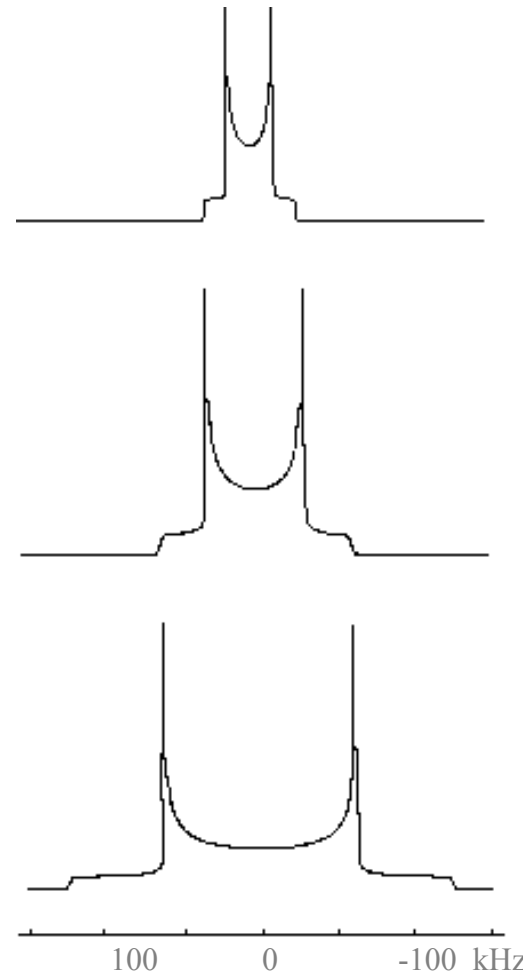
$\uparrow \Delta\nu_Q = \text{order}$
 $\downarrow \Delta\nu_Q = \text{disorder}$

CD₂ Plateau region

Terminal CD₃



Effect of axially symmetric motions



Rotation and oscillation

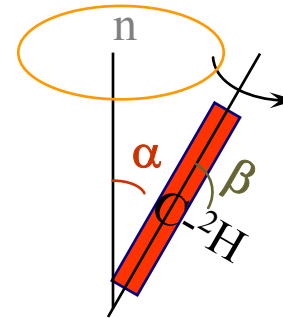
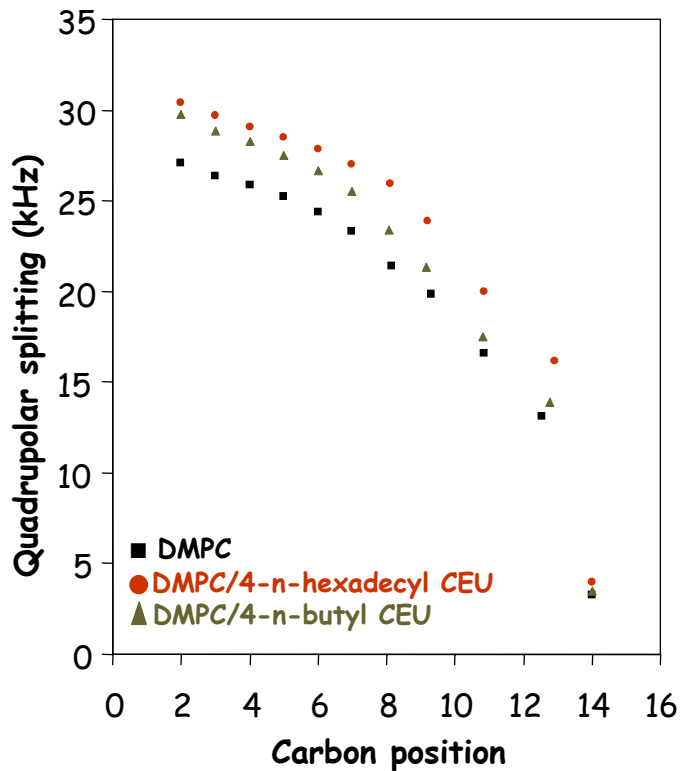
Fast axial rotation

No motion

$$\Delta\nu_Q = \frac{3e^2qQ}{2h} \left(\frac{3\cos^2\theta - 1}{2} \right) \left\langle \frac{3\cos^2\beta - 1}{2} \right\rangle \left\langle \frac{3\cos^2\alpha - 1}{2} \right\rangle$$

Angular brackets:
Time average

Typical order profile

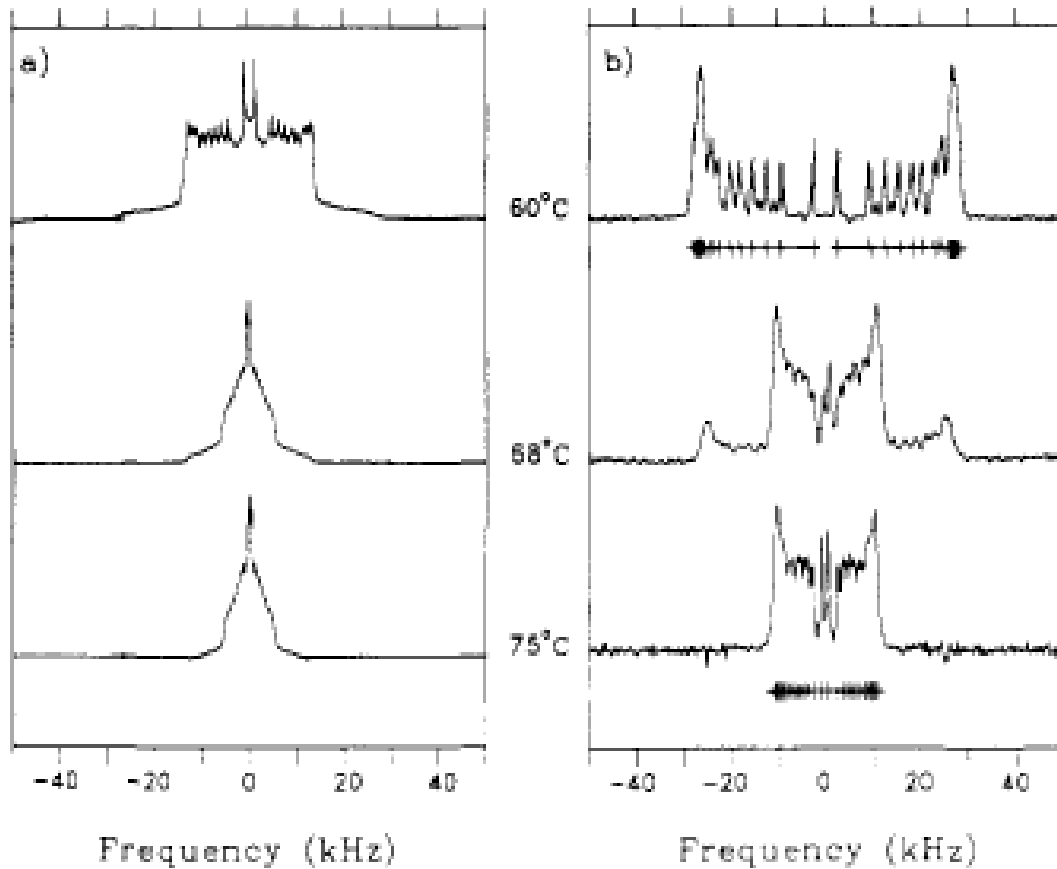


$$\Delta \nu_Q = \frac{3}{4} \left(\frac{e^2 q Q}{h} \right) \times S_{CD}$$

$$S_{CD} = \left\langle \frac{3 \cos^2 \beta - 1}{2} \right\rangle \left\langle \frac{3 \cos^2 \alpha - 1}{2} \right\rangle$$

conformational **orientational**

Hexagonal phase



$$\Delta\nu_Q = \frac{3e^2qQ}{2h} \left(\frac{3\cos^2\theta - 1}{2} \right) \left(\frac{3\cos^2\beta - 1}{2} \right) \left(\frac{3\cos^2\alpha - 1}{2} \right) \left(\frac{3\cos^2\delta - 1}{2} \right)$$

Lafleur et al. (1990) Biochemistry 29, 8325.

Hexagonal phase

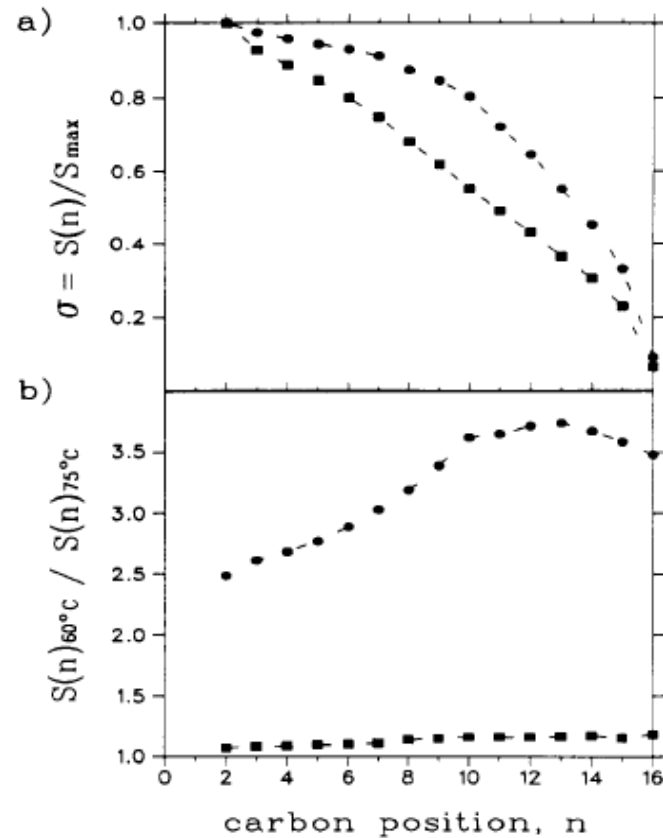
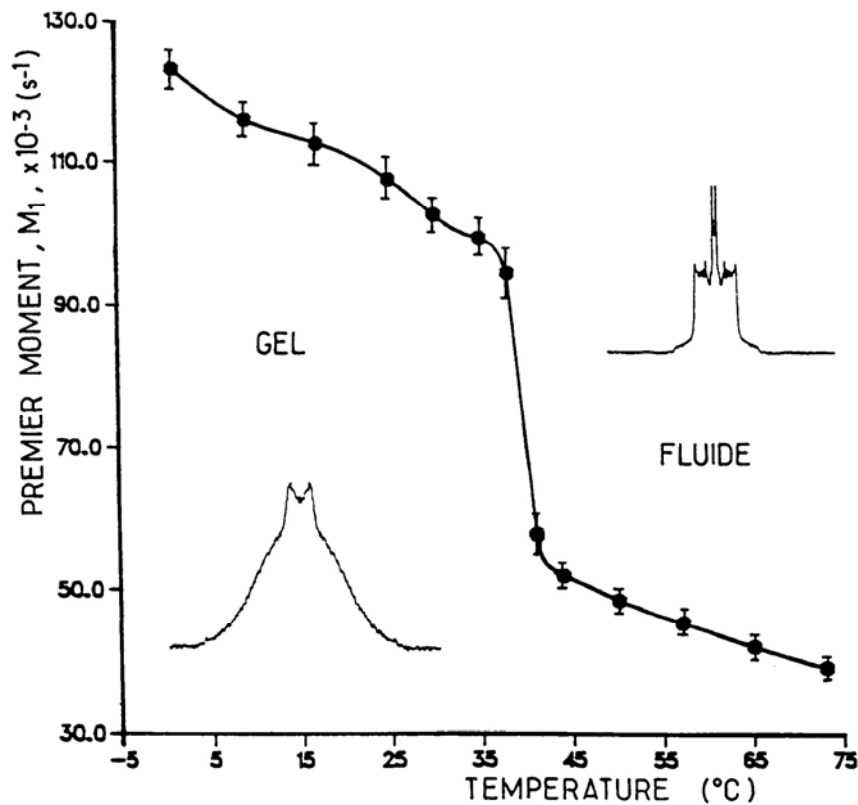


FIGURE 2: Influence of the lipid phase symmetry on the order profile. (a) Normalized orientational order profile of POPE- d_{31} in the L_{α} phase at 60 °C (●) and in the H_{II} phase at 75 °C (■). (b) Ratio of the order parameters $S(n)$ in the L_{α} phase (60 °C) to those in the H_{II} phase (75 °C) for POPE- d_{31} (●). The ratio for the same temperatures is plotted for POPC- d_{31} (■) which forms an L_{α} phase over the whole range of temperature.

Gel phase



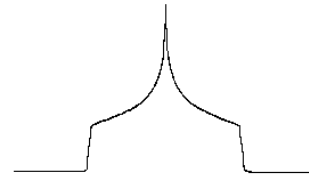
$$M_1 = \frac{\int_0^\infty \omega f(\omega) d\omega}{\int_0^\infty f(\omega) d\omega},$$

$$M_1 = -\frac{\pi}{\sqrt{3}} \frac{e^2 q Q}{h} \overline{S_{CD}},$$

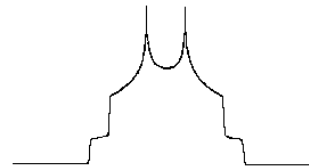
Asymmetry parameter

- ◆ Effect of the asymmetry parameter on the ^2H NMR spectral lineshape

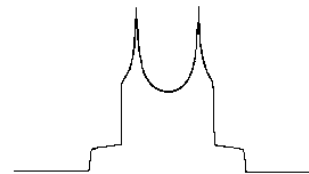
$$\eta = \frac{(V_{xx} - V_{yy})}{V_{zz}}$$



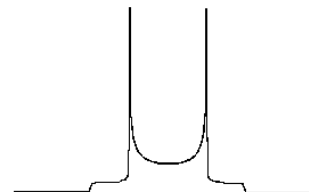
$\eta = 1.0$



$\eta = 0.5$



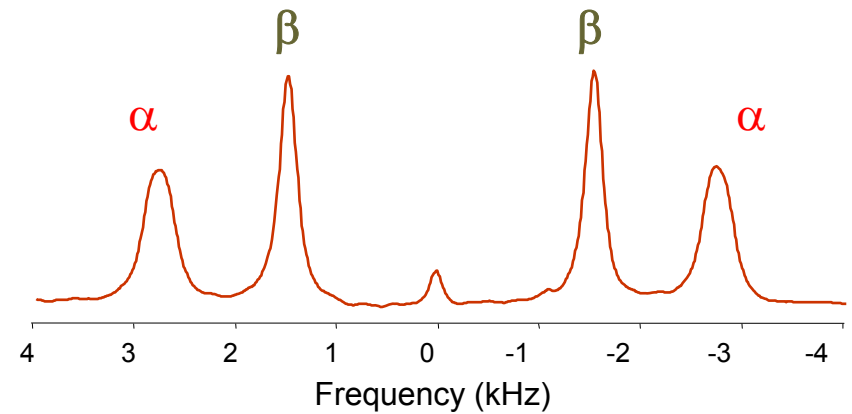
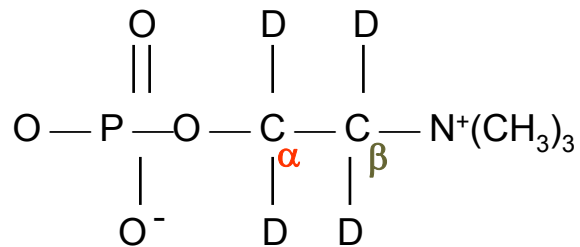
$\eta = 0.2$



$\eta = 0.0$

Molecular voltmeter

- ◆ Information on the conformational order of polar head groups
 - Bicellar system made with DMPC-d₄



- ◆ PC head group sensitive to the surface charge: **molecular voltmeter**

+ charge (+) ⇒ ↓ Δv_α
 ⇒ ↑ Δv_β

+ charge (-) ⇒ ↑ Δv_α
 ⇒ ↓ Δv_β

Molecular voltmeter

+ charge (+) $\Rightarrow \downarrow \Delta v_{\alpha}$
 $\Rightarrow \uparrow \Delta v_{\beta}$

+ charge (-) $\Rightarrow \uparrow \Delta v_{\alpha}$
 $\Rightarrow \downarrow \Delta v_{\beta}$

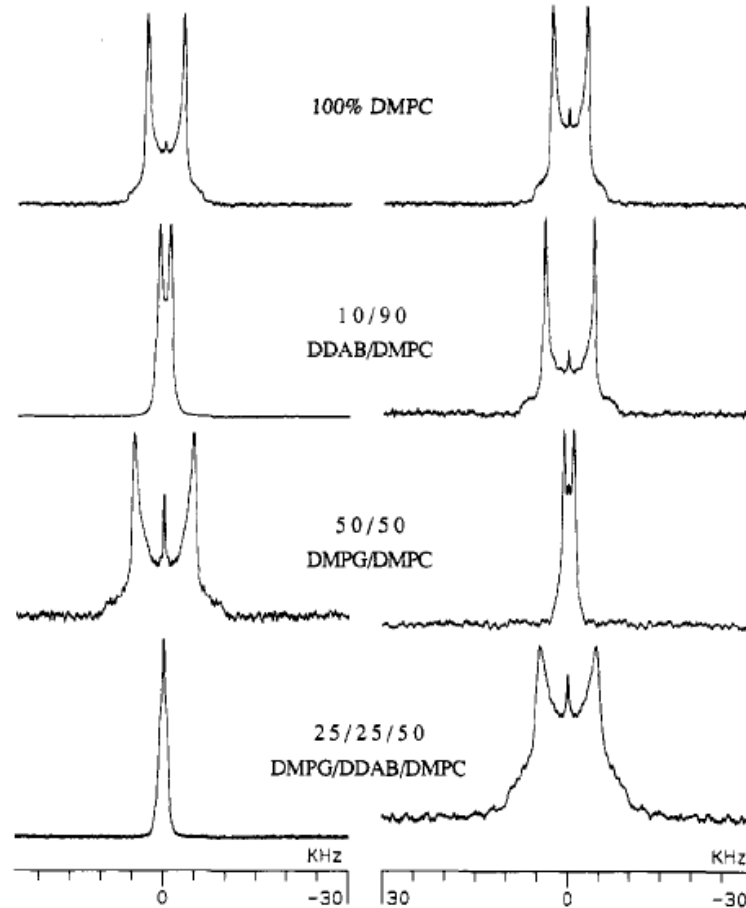


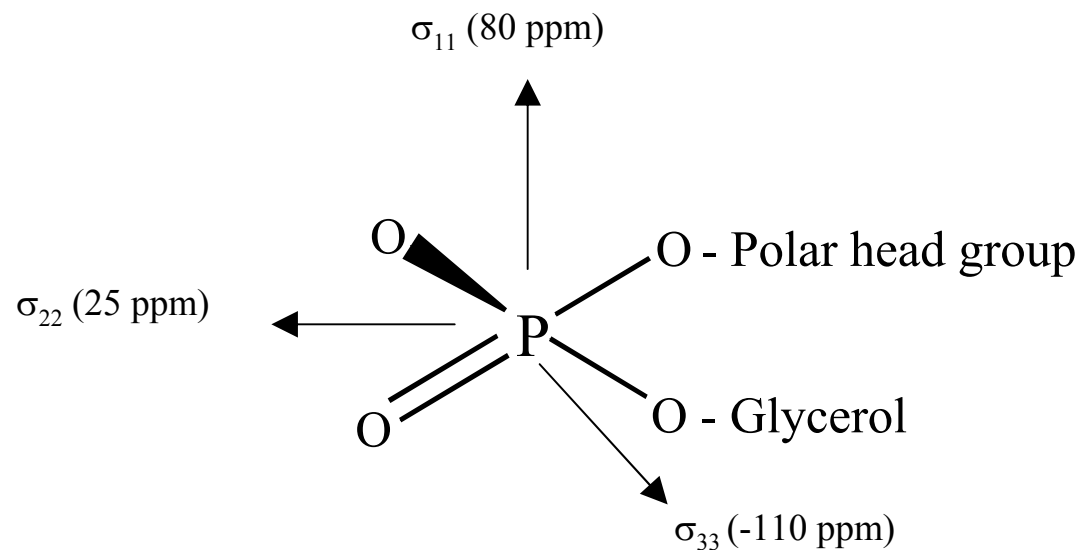
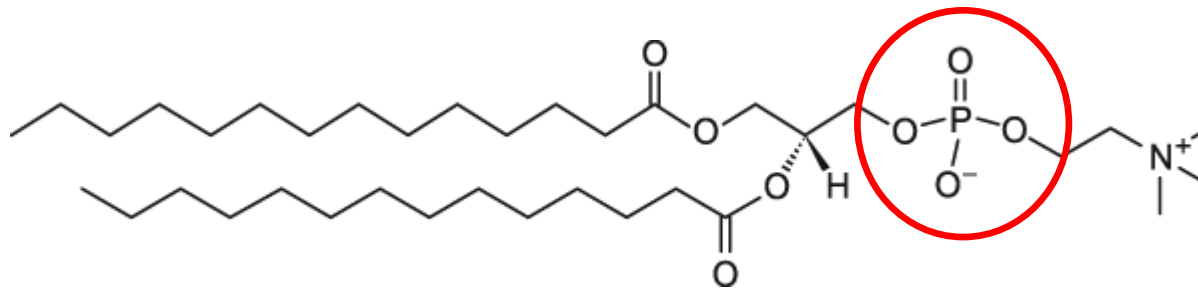
FIGURE 1: ²H NMR spectra at 35 °C from DMPC-α-d₂ (left) and DMPC-β-d₂ (right) in membranes containing lipid mixtures with the molar compositions, from top to bottom, of 100% DMPC, 10/90 DDAB/DMPC, 50/50 DMPG/DMPC, and 25/25/50 DDAB/DMPG/DMPC. All spectra have been symmetrized.

Phospholipids and ^{31}P NMR

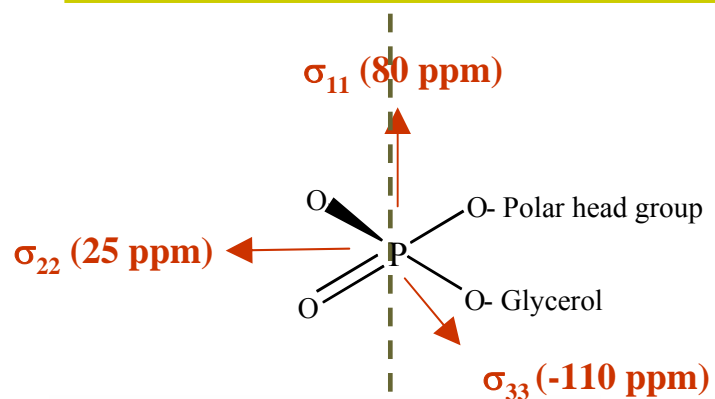
Natural abundance, ^{31}P : 100%

Spin: $\frac{1}{2}$

DMPC



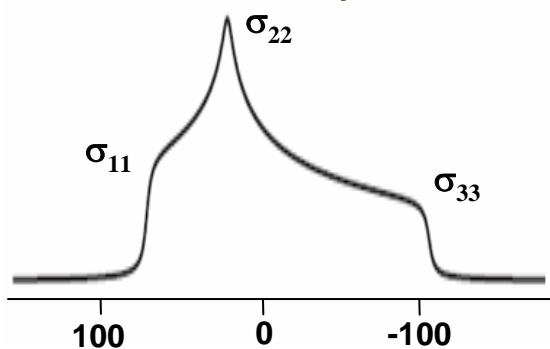
31P NMR



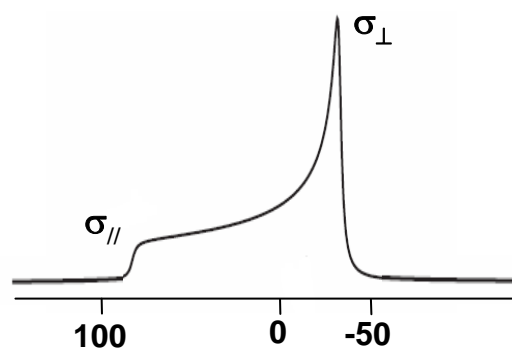
$$\sigma = \frac{1}{3}(\sigma_{11} + \sigma_{22} + \sigma_{33}) + \frac{1}{3} \sum_{j=1}^3 (3 \cos^2 \theta_j - 1) \sigma_{jj}$$

Isotropic

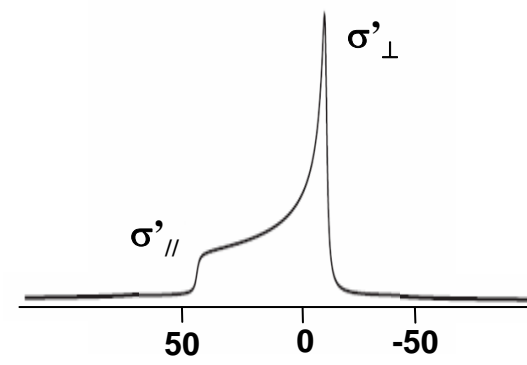
Anisotropic



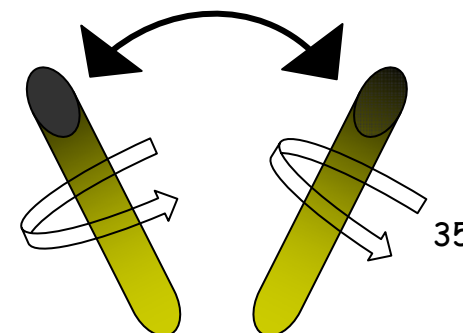
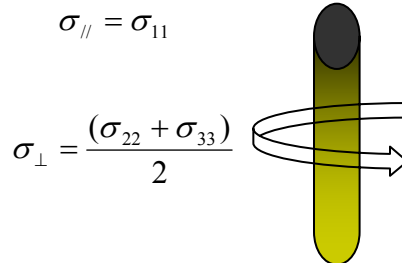
Static



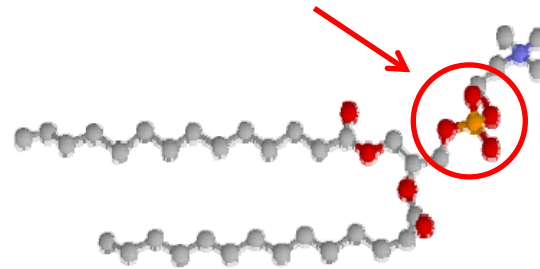
Axial rotation



Axial rotation / Oscillation



^{31}P NMR order parameters



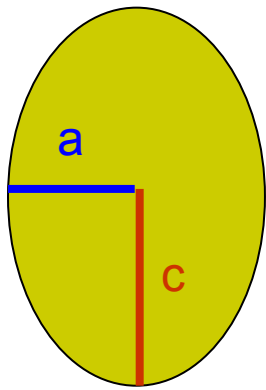
- ◆ Spectral width: **dynamics** / **orientation** of the polar head group

$$S_2 = \frac{\delta}{\delta_{ref}}$$

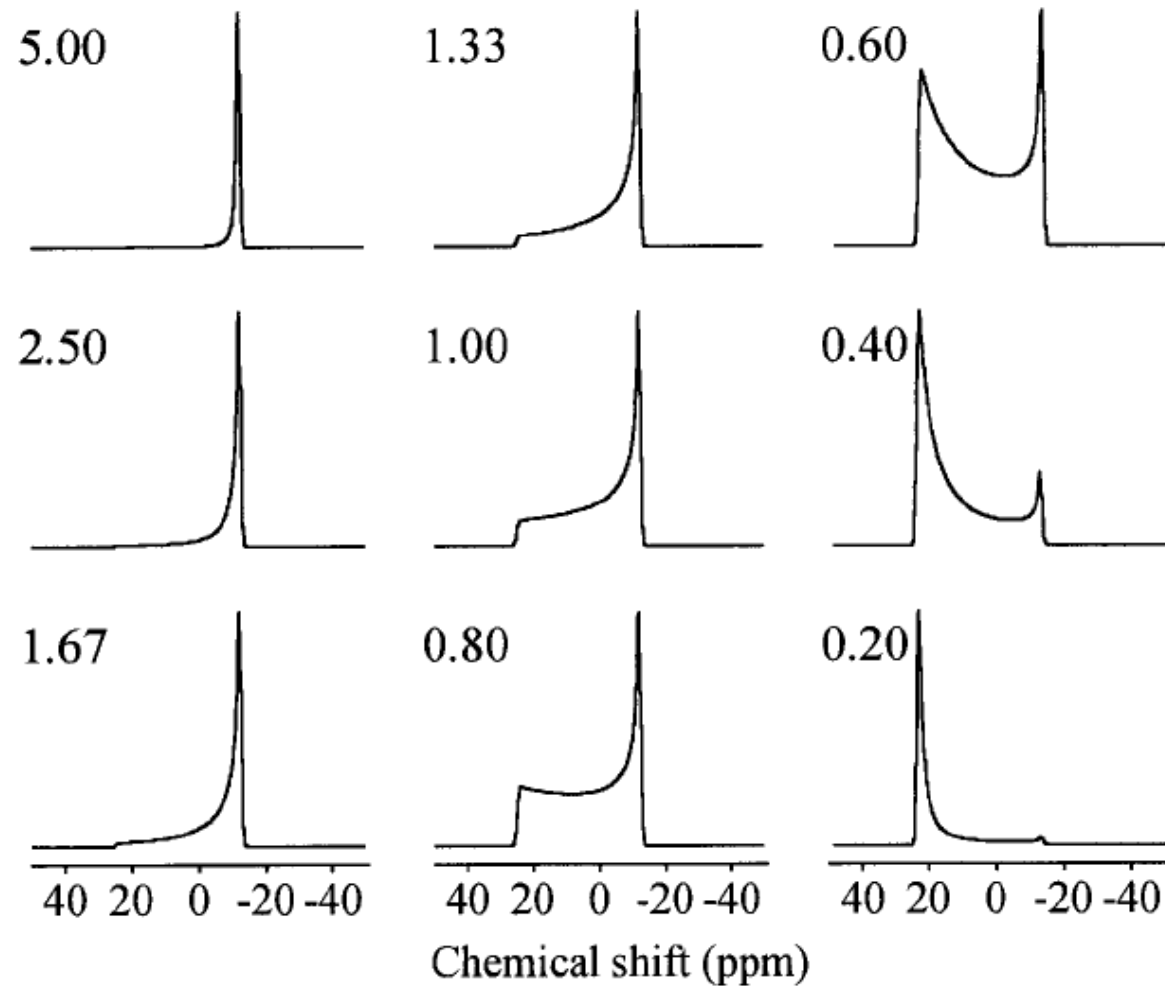
$S_2 = 1 \rightarrow$ No change

$S_2 = 0 \rightarrow$ Isotropic system

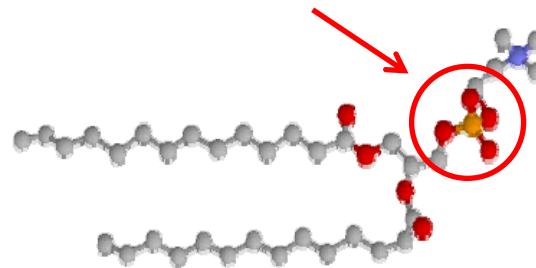
^{31}P NMR, vesicle morphology



$$r = \frac{c}{a}$$



^{31}P NMR order parameters

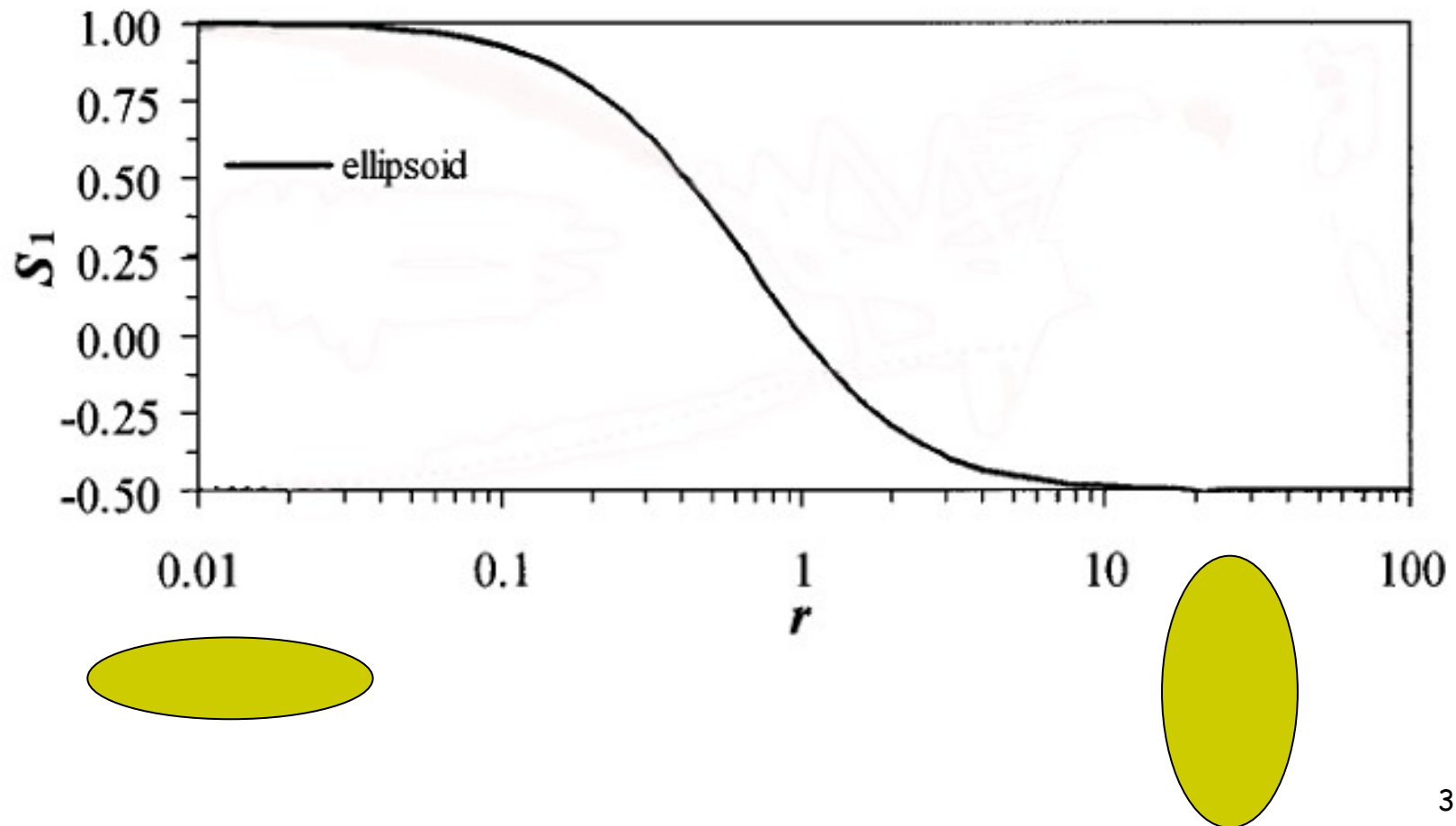


- ◆ Morphology: degree of **orientation** of the system

$$S_1 = \frac{M_1 - \delta_{iso}}{\delta}$$

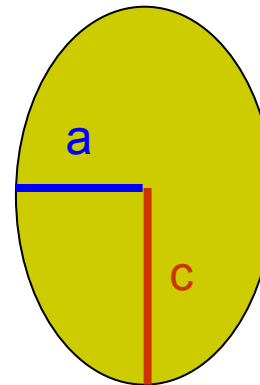
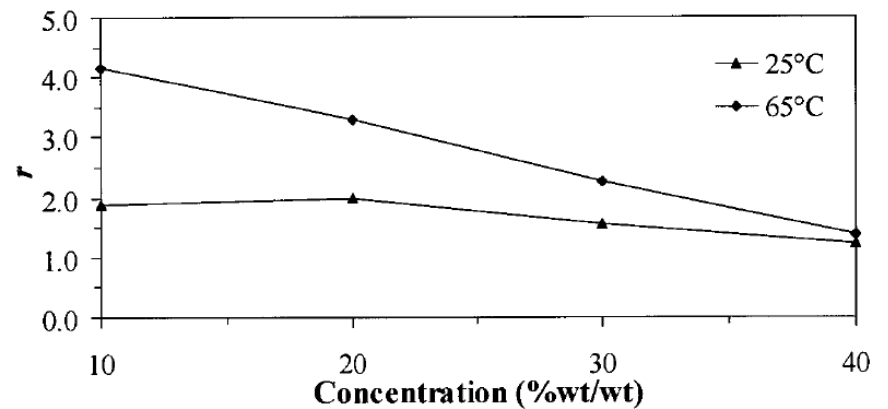
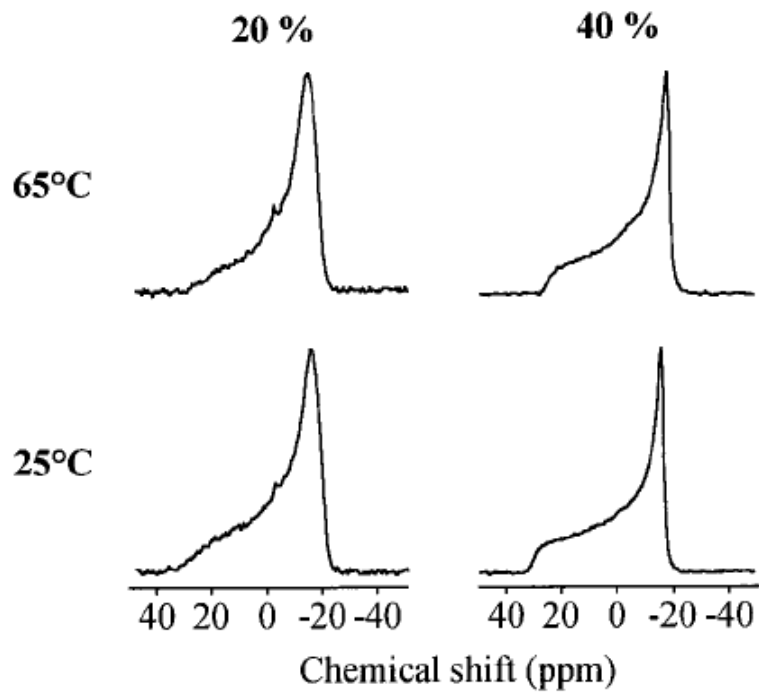
$$S_1 = 1 \rightarrow \text{Lipid main axis} // B_0$$
$$S_1 = -0.5 \rightarrow \text{Lipid main axis} \perp B_0$$

S_1 as a function of r



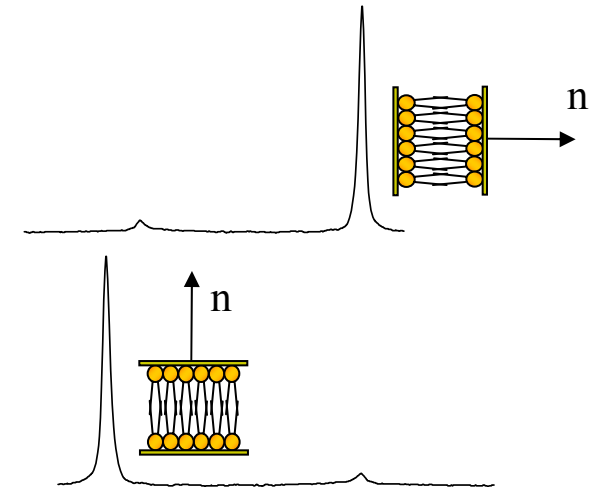
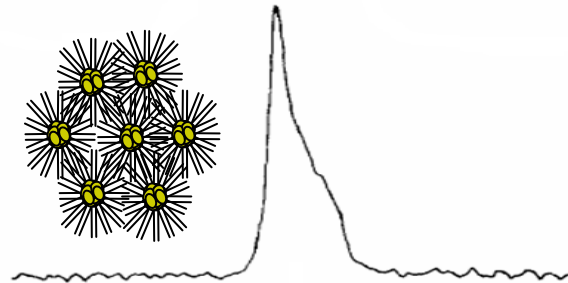
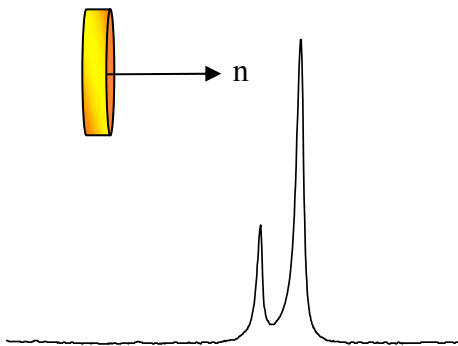
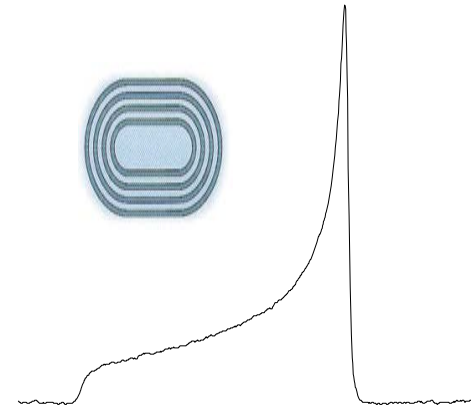
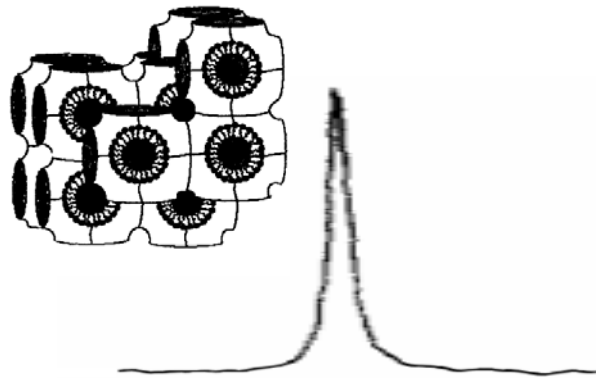
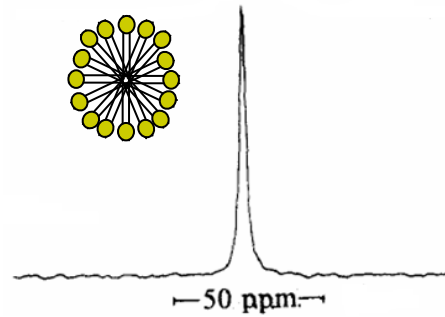
^{31}P NMR, vesicle morphology

◆ DMPC spectra

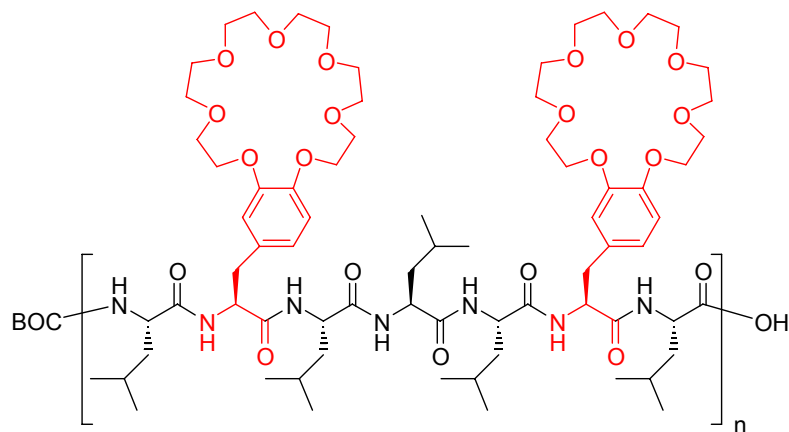


$$r = \frac{c}{a}$$

^{31}P NMR, lipid phases



Novel peptides



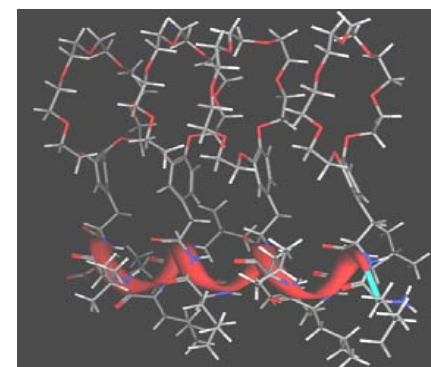
14-mer peptide

- ↑ vesicle permeability
- Monoprotected peptide (Boc, COOH) slightly more active
- Erythrocyte lysis
- Length: 21 Å

Biron et al. (2004) *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* 12, 1279.
 Vandenburg et al. (2002) *Chem. Comm.* 16, 1694.
 Meillon et al. (1997) *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* 36, 967.
 Biron et al. (2001) *Biopolymers* 55, 364.

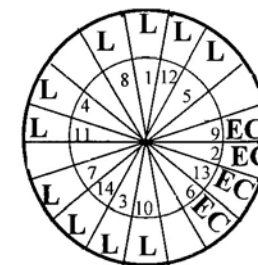


- Helicoidal structure
- Amphiphilic
- **Neutral**

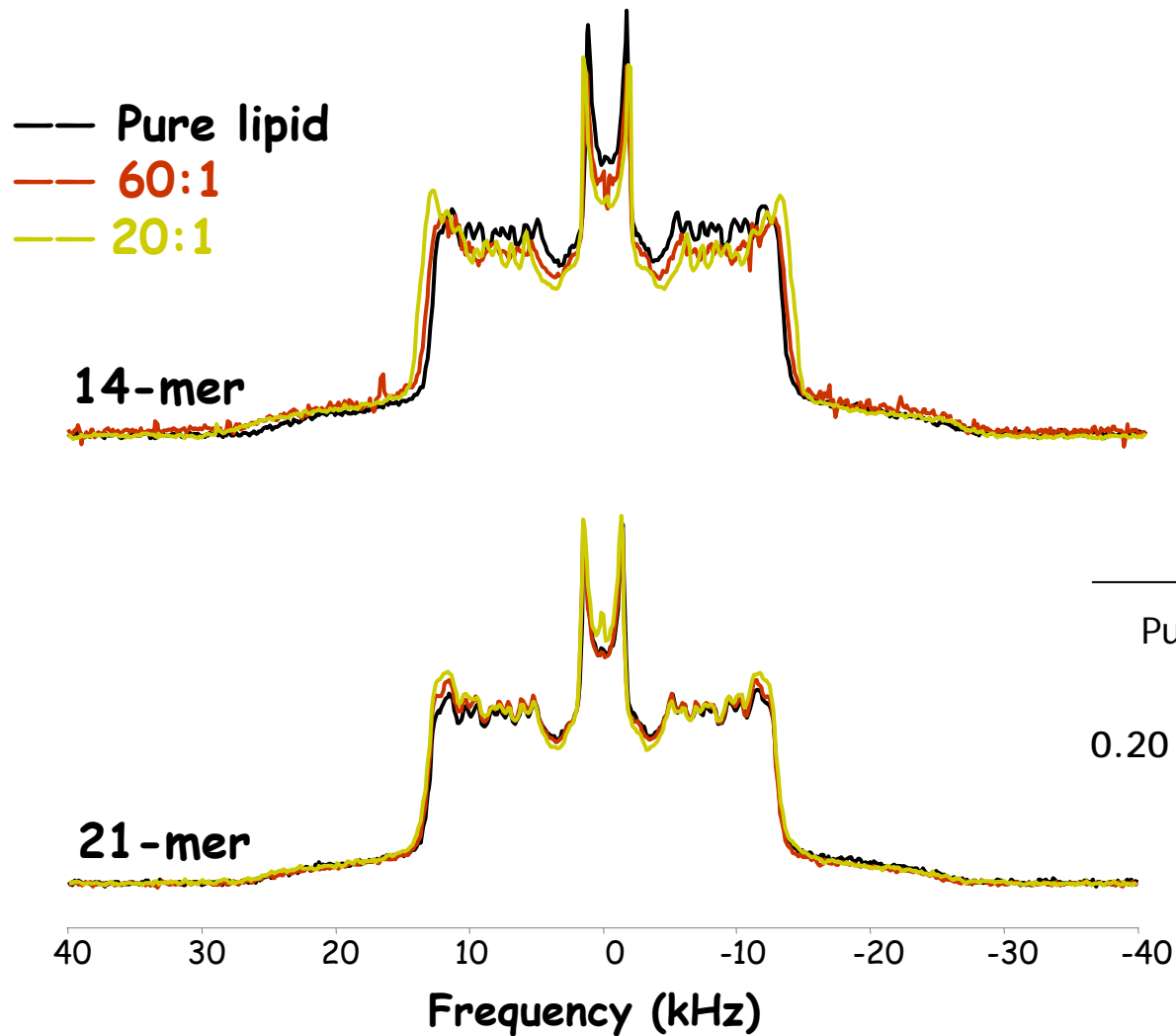


21-mer peptide

- Monomolecular ion channel
- No effect on vesicle permeability
- Length: 31.5 Å



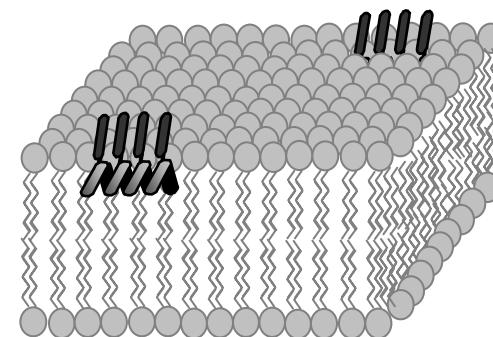
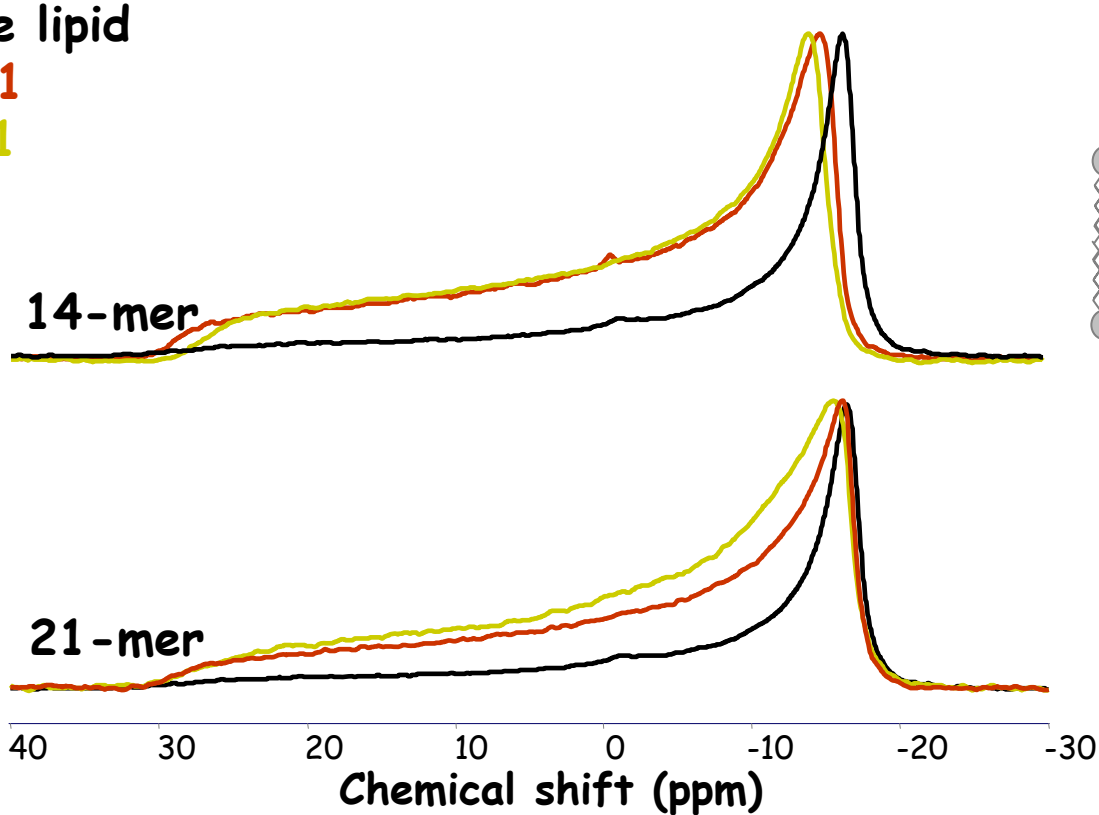
^2H NMR results



	$S_{CD(P)}$ ($S_{CD(M)}$)	
Pure	+14-mer +21-mer	+14-mer +21-mer
0.20 (0.03)	0.20 (0.03) 0.20 (0.03)	0.21 (0.03) 0.20 (0.03)

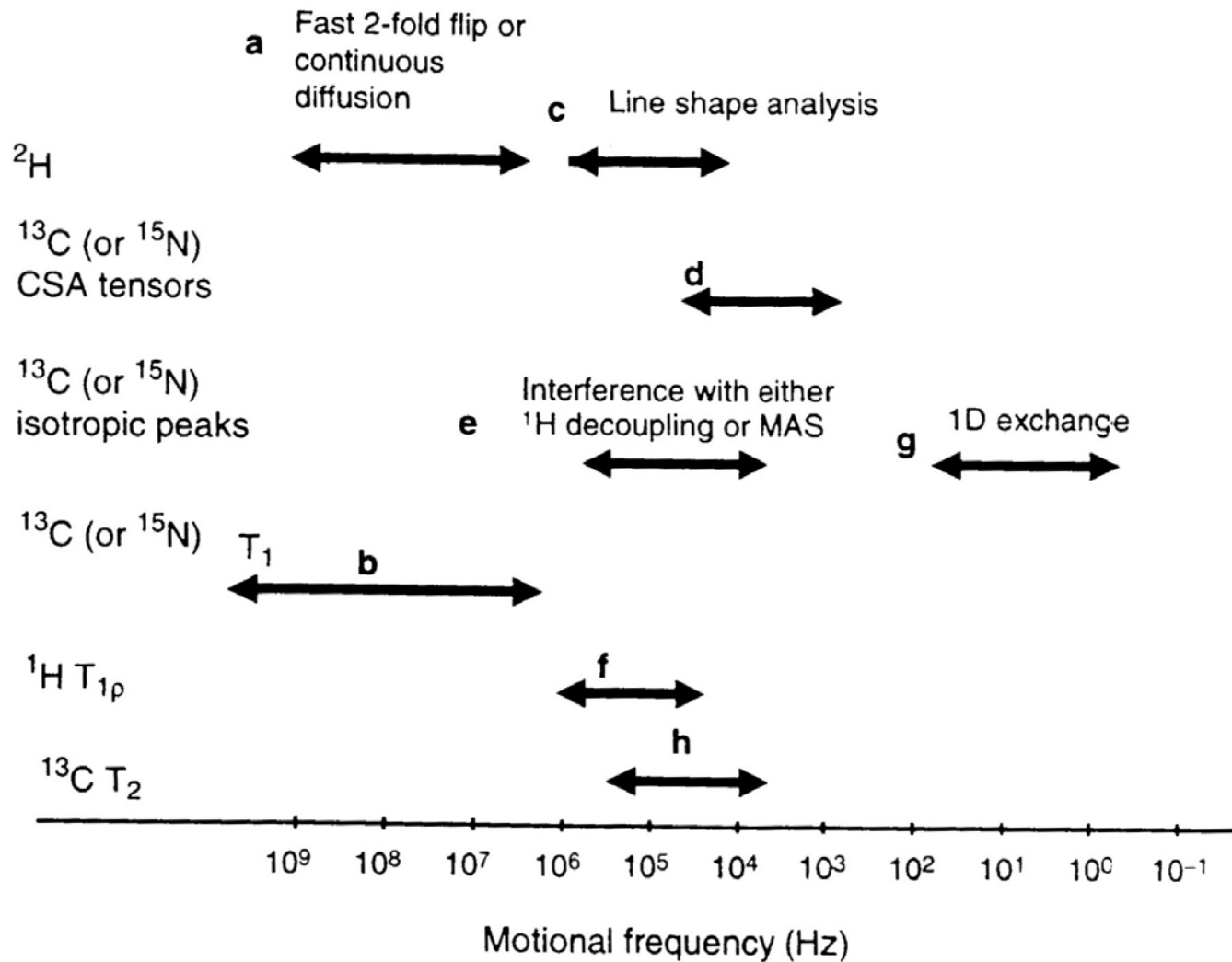
31P NMR results

— Pure lipid
 --- 60:1
 --- 20:1

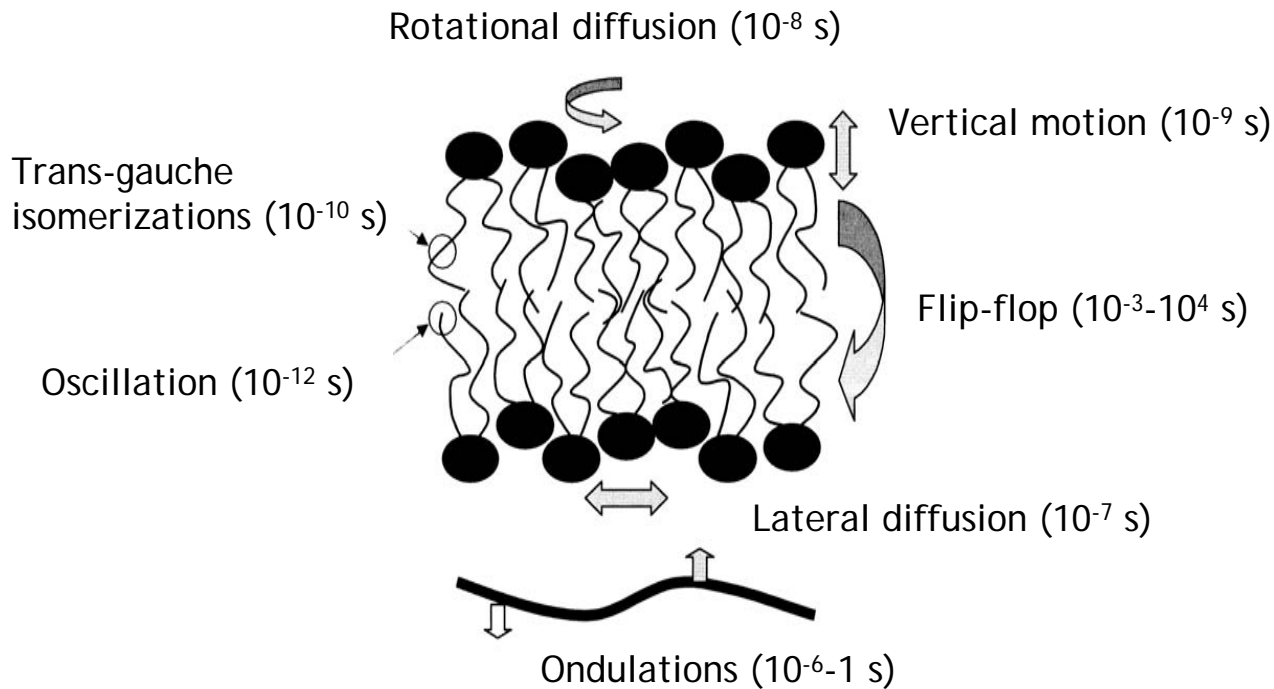


	S_1		S_2	
Pure	+14-mer	+21-mer	+14-mer	+21-mer
-0.17	-0.02	-0.01	0.91	0.86
	-0.06	-0.05	0.98	0.94

NMR and dynamics

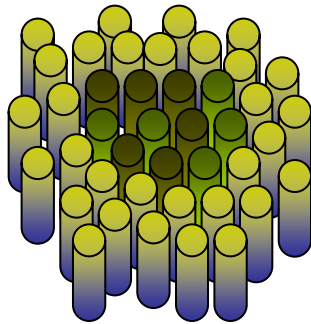


NMR and dynamics

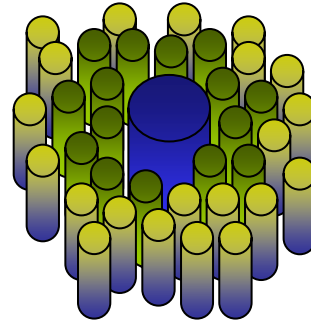


Lateral heterogeneities or domains

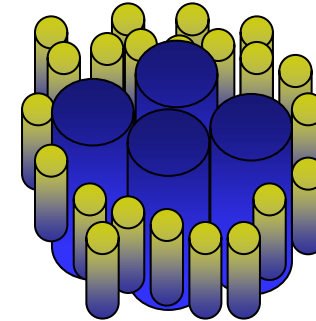
Lipid-lipid interactions



Lipid-protein interactions



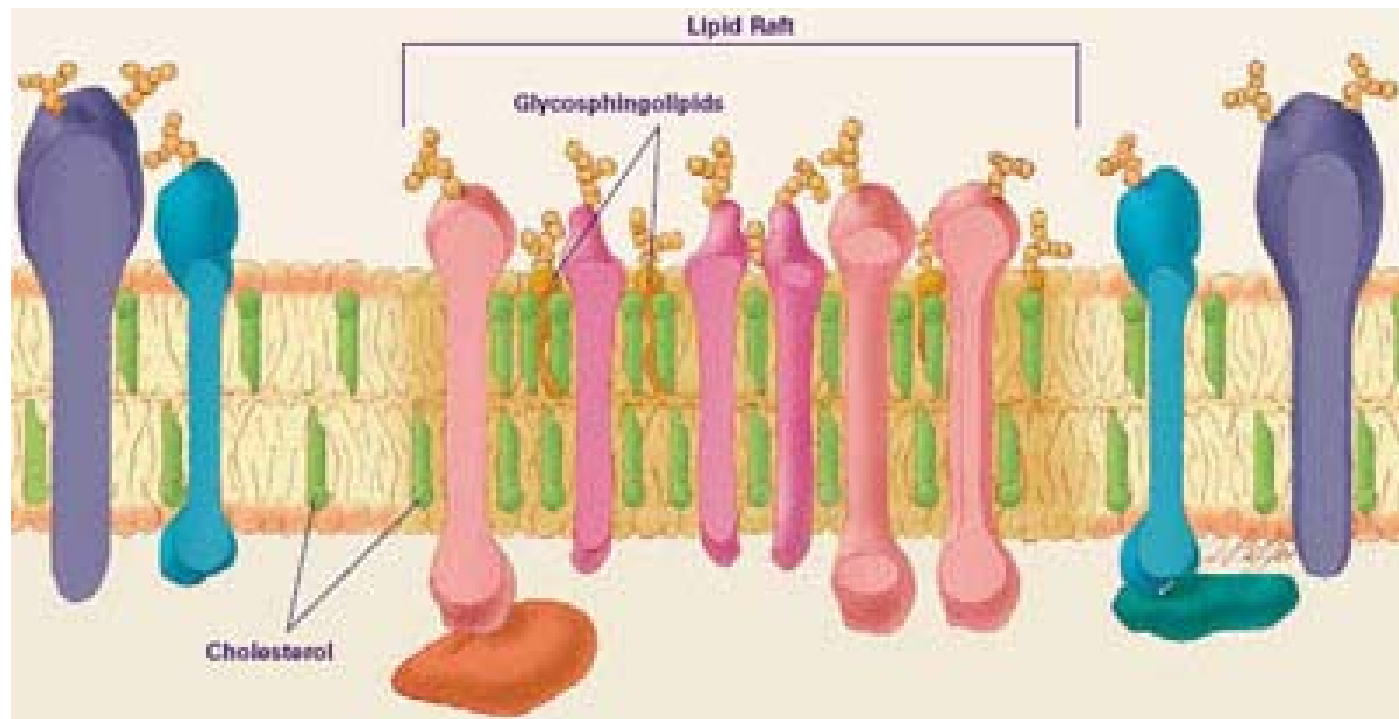
Protein-protein interactions



◆ Biological roles

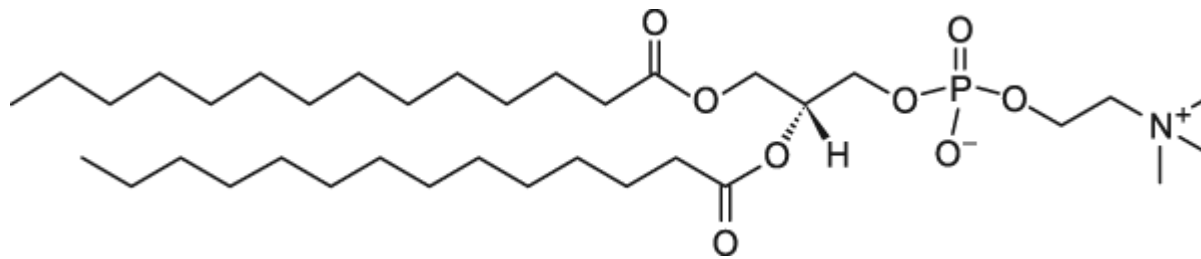
- Passive transport of small molecules across the membrane
- Modulation of the activity of certain membrane proteins
- Vesicle fusion

Lipid rafts

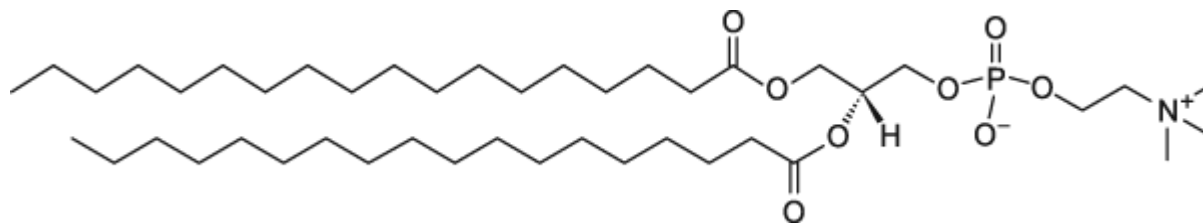


Lateral heterogeneities or domains

- ◆ Mixture of two phospholipids: DMPC/DSPC



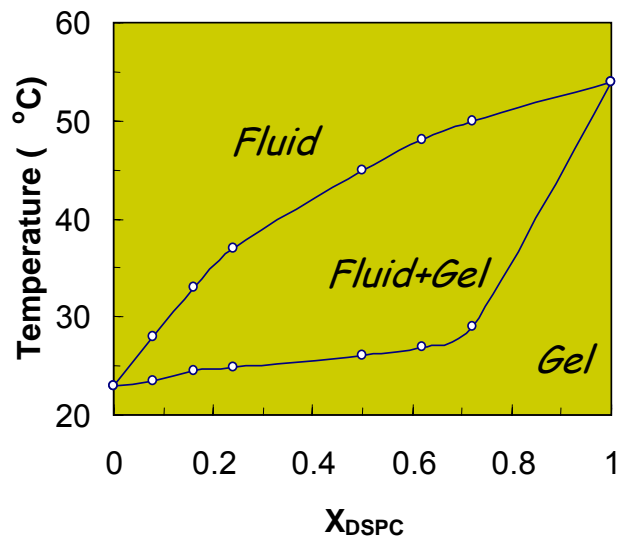
DMPC
n=14
 $T_m=23^{\circ}\text{C}$



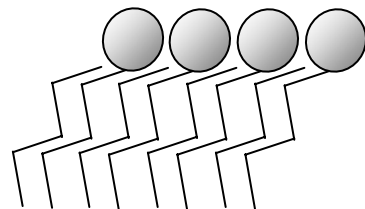
DSPC
n=18
 $T_m=55^{\circ}\text{C}$

Phase diagram

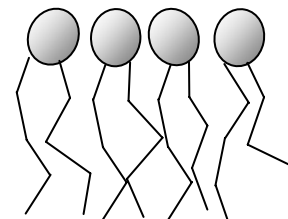
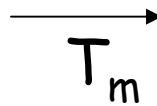
- ◆ Phase diagram of the DMPC/DSPC mixture



→ Partially miscible:
coexistence of gel and fluid
phases



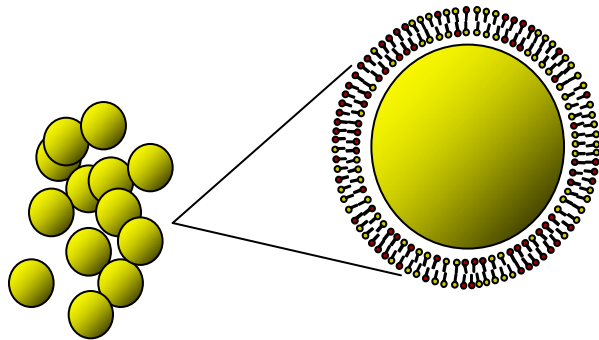
Slow lateral diffusion



Fast lateral diffusion

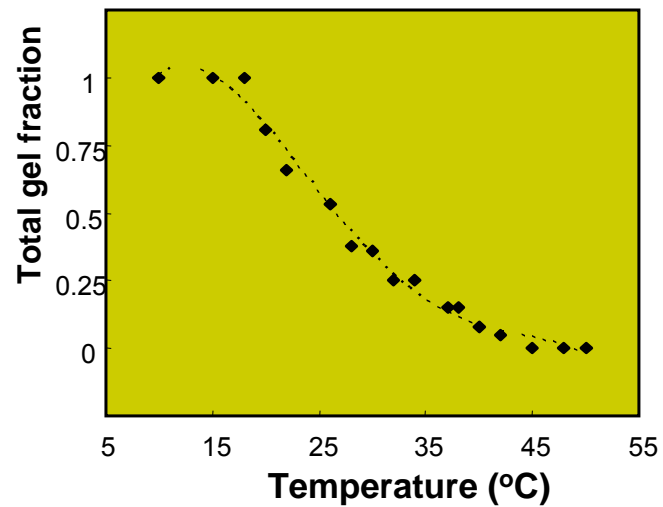
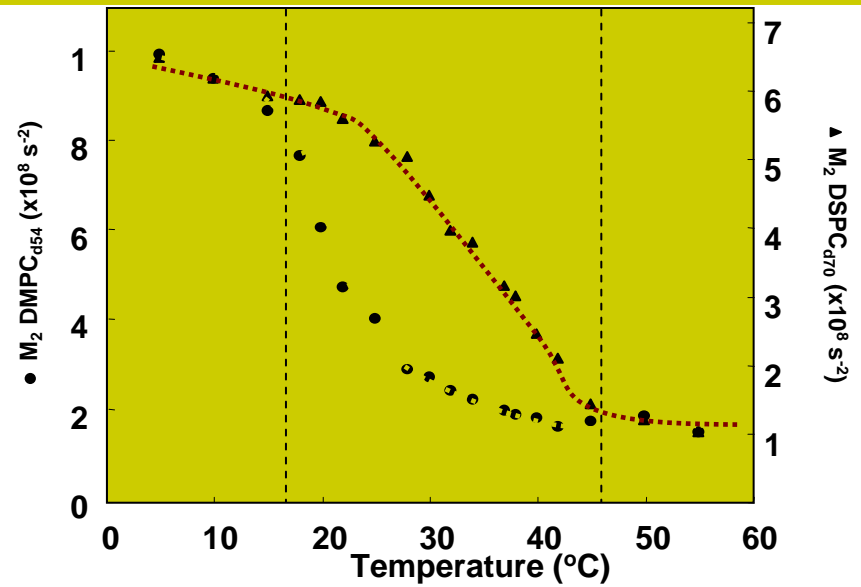
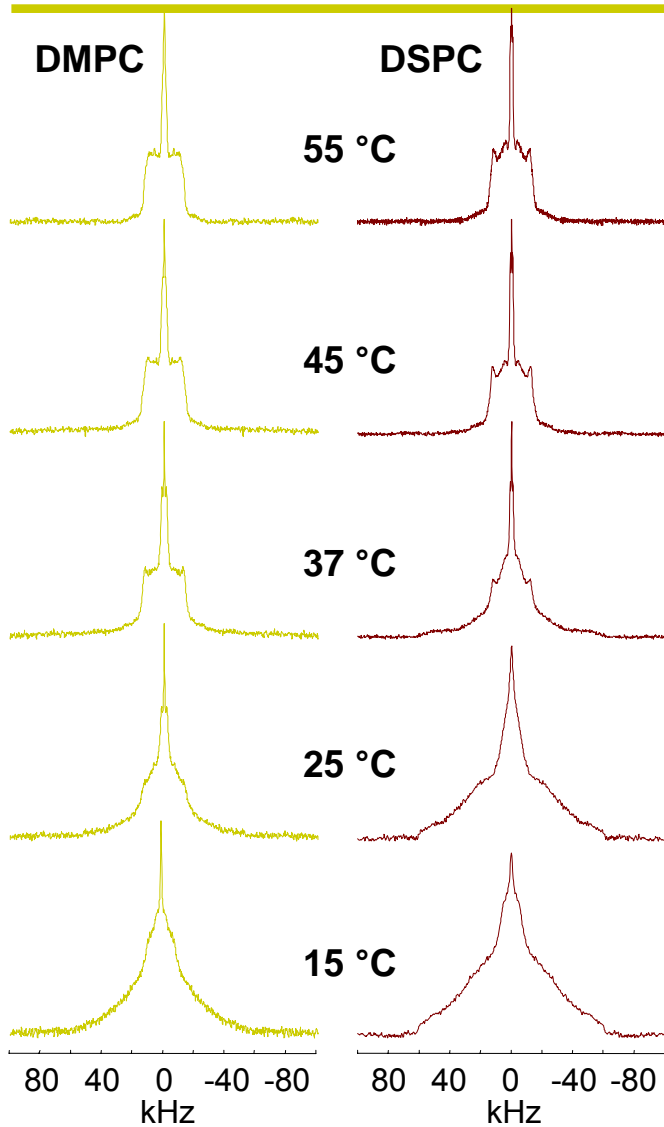
Adsorbed bilayer

- ◆ DMPC/DSPC (1:1) bilayer adsorbed on silica beads of well defined radius (320 nm)



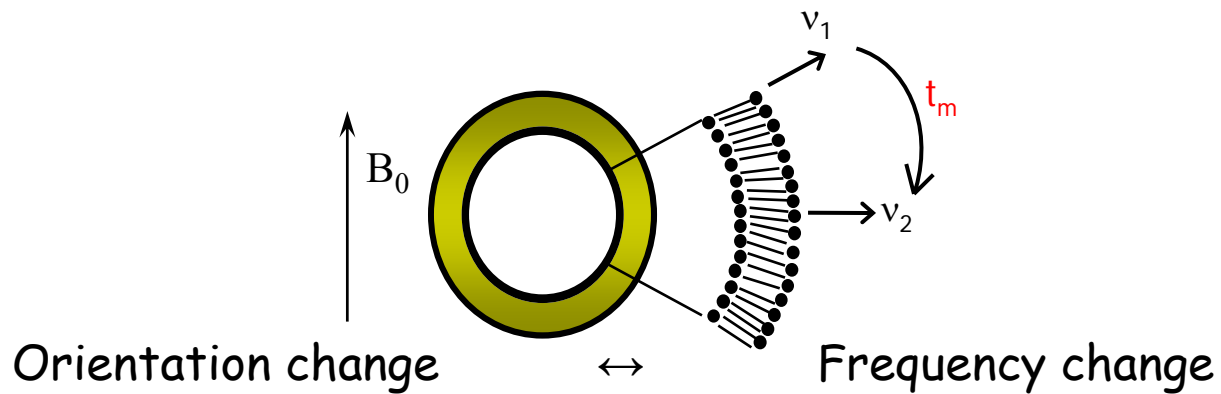
- Well defined radius
- Reduced membrane deformations
- No tumbling

^2H NMR spectra

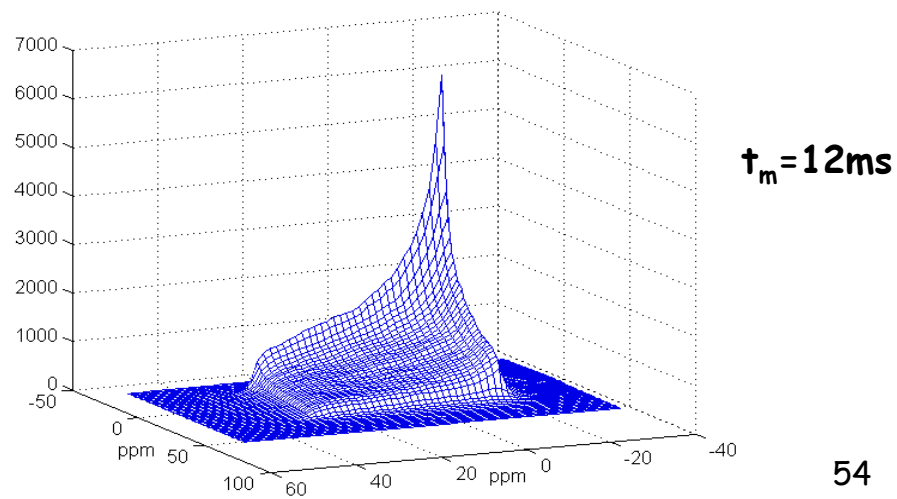
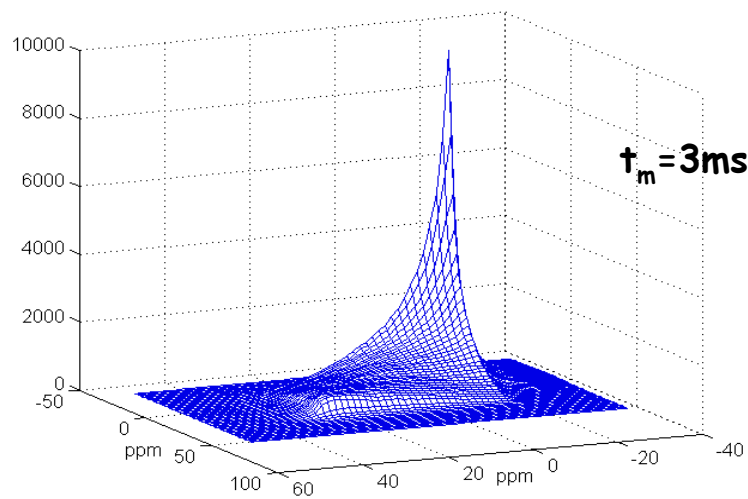
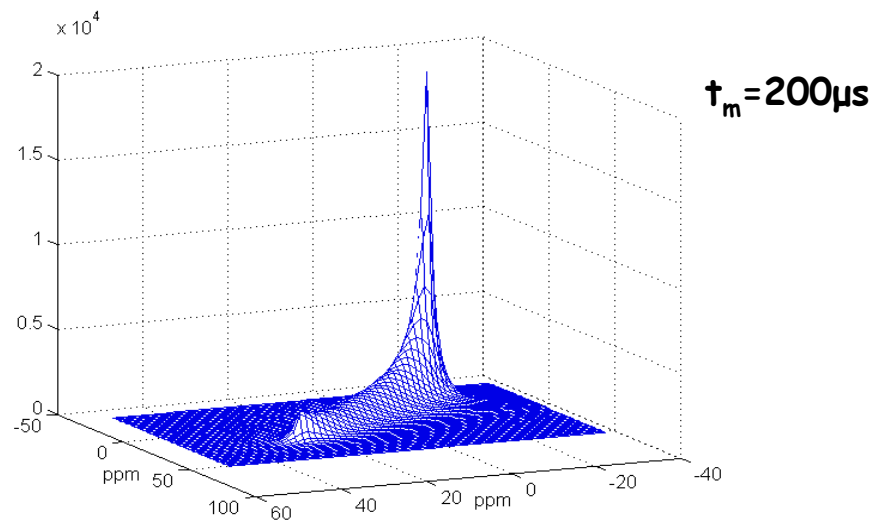
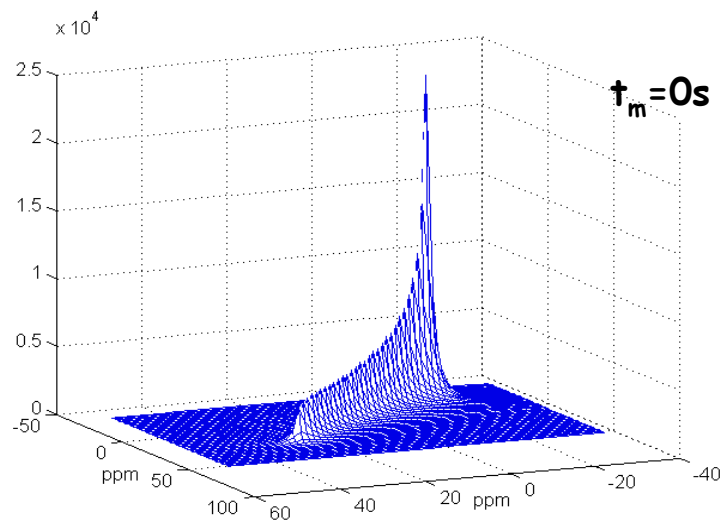


Exchange experiments

- ◆ 2D experiments to correlate the resonance frequency of one lipid at the beginning and at the end of a delay



Exchange experiments



Autocorrelation function

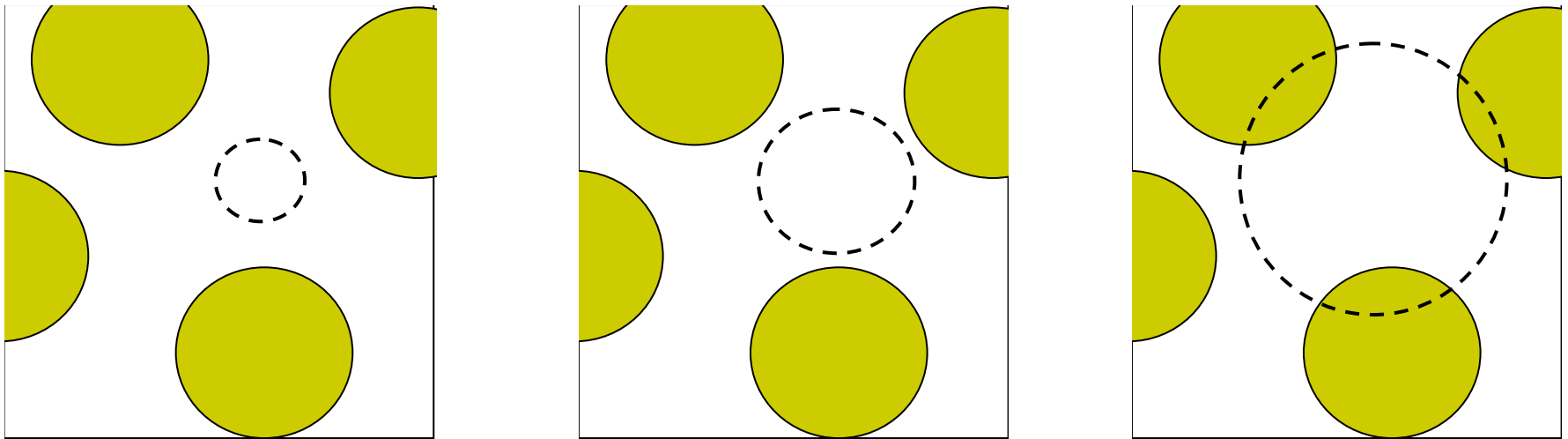
- ◆ "Memory function" of the system

$$C_2(t_m) = \frac{5}{\delta^2} \frac{\iint \nu_1 \nu_2 S(\nu_1, \nu_2; t_m) d\nu_1 d\nu_2}{\iint S(\nu_1, \nu_2; t_m) d\nu_1 d\nu_2}$$

- ◆ Evolution in the presence of diffusion

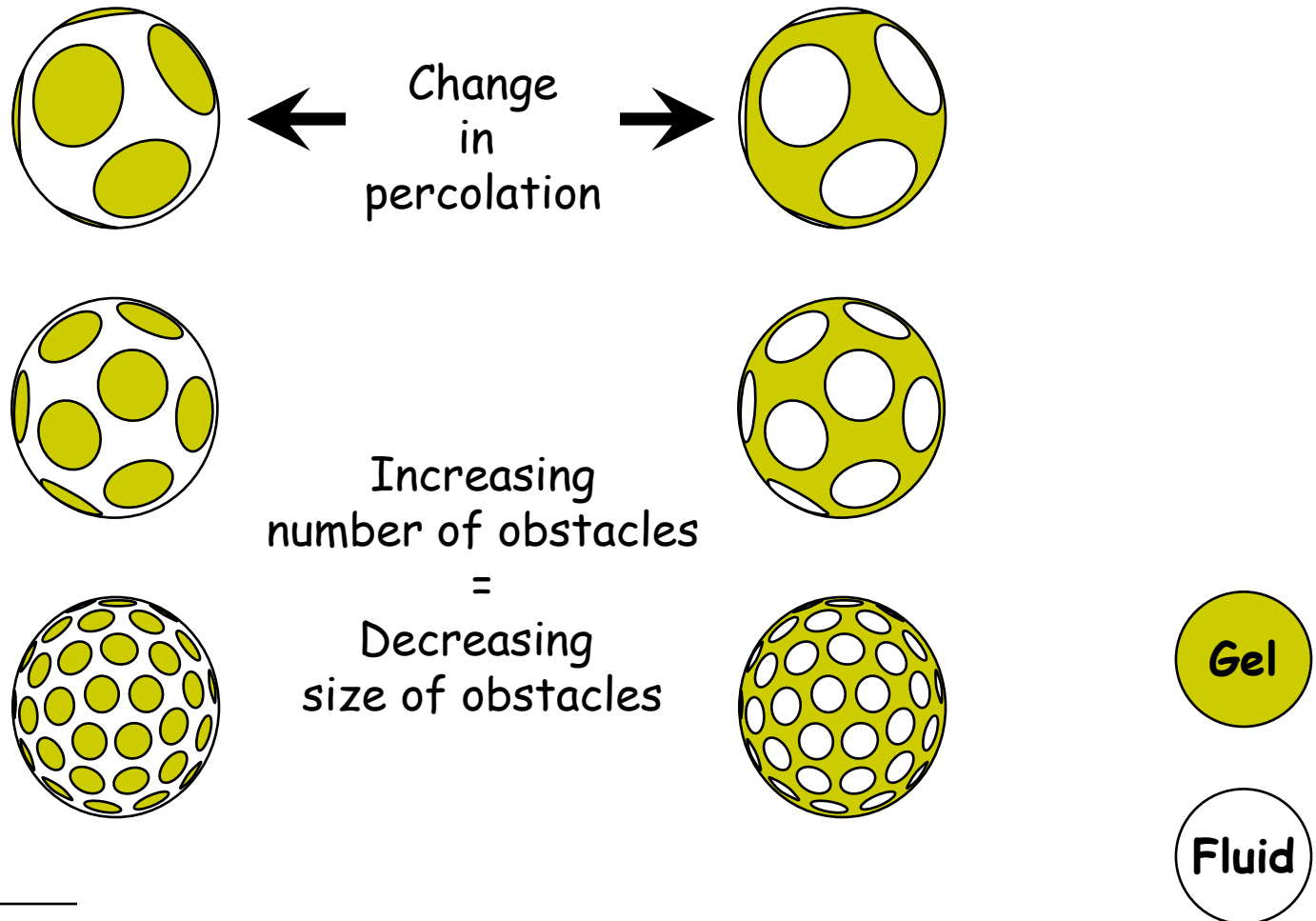
$$C_2(t_m) = \exp\left(-\frac{t_m}{t_d}\right) \quad t_d = \frac{R^2}{6D}$$

Lateral diffusion in the presence of obstacles



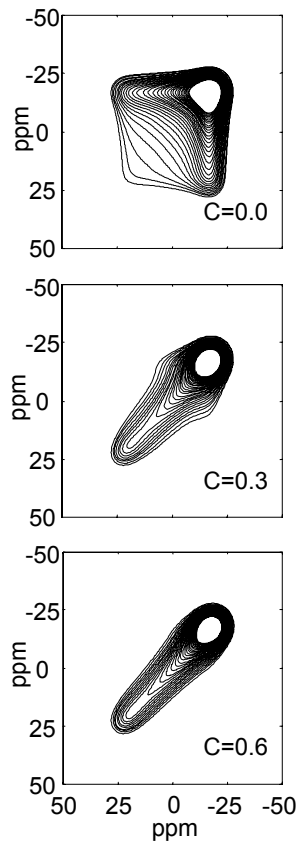
- When t_m increases, the number of obstacles increases and the apparent diffusion coefficient decreases
- **Numerical simulations to quantify this effect**

Random walk on a sphere in the presence of obstacles

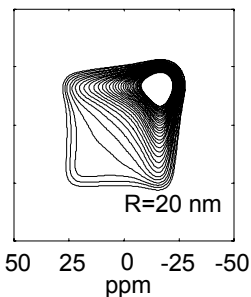
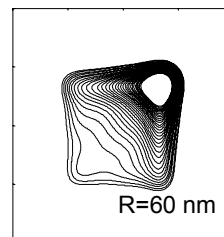
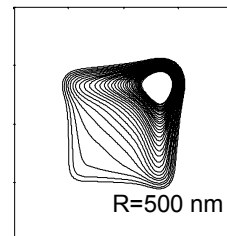
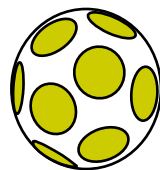


Spectral simulations

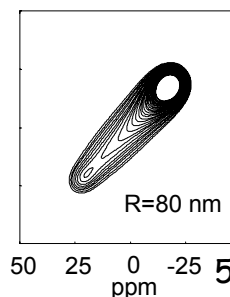
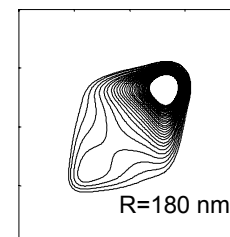
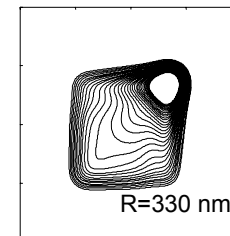
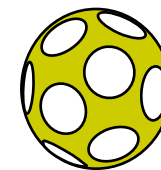
Concentration of point obstacles



Number (size) of discoidal **immobile** domains



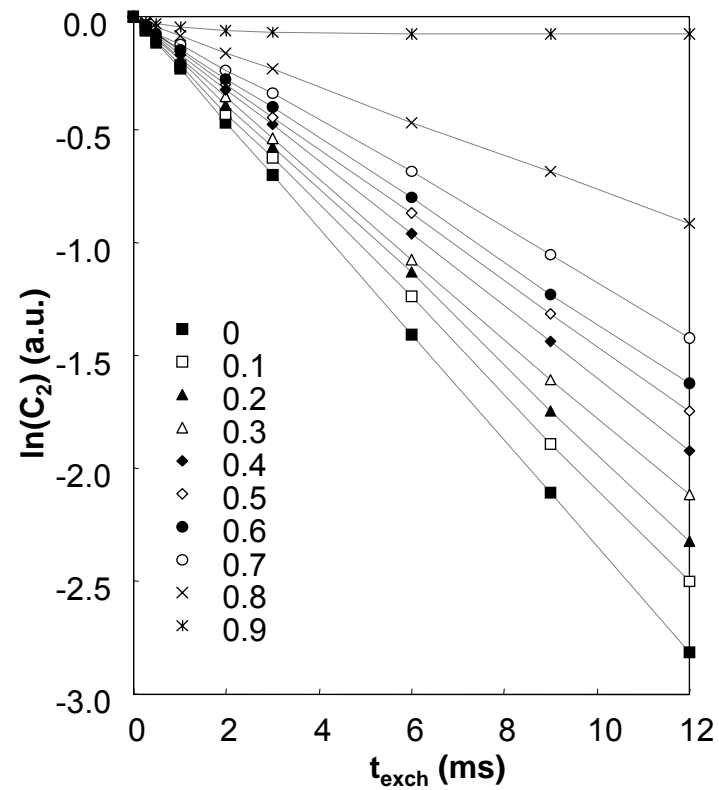
Number (size) of **fluid** discoidal domains



Constant obstacle area fraction of 0.5

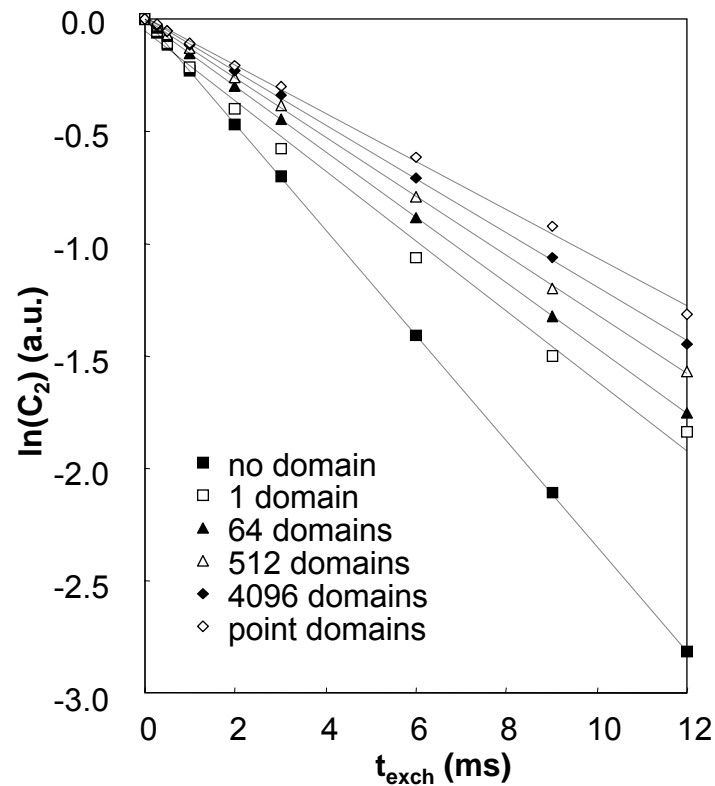
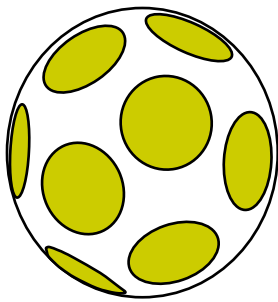
Simulations

- ◆ 32 discoidal domains
- ◆ Different total obstacle areas



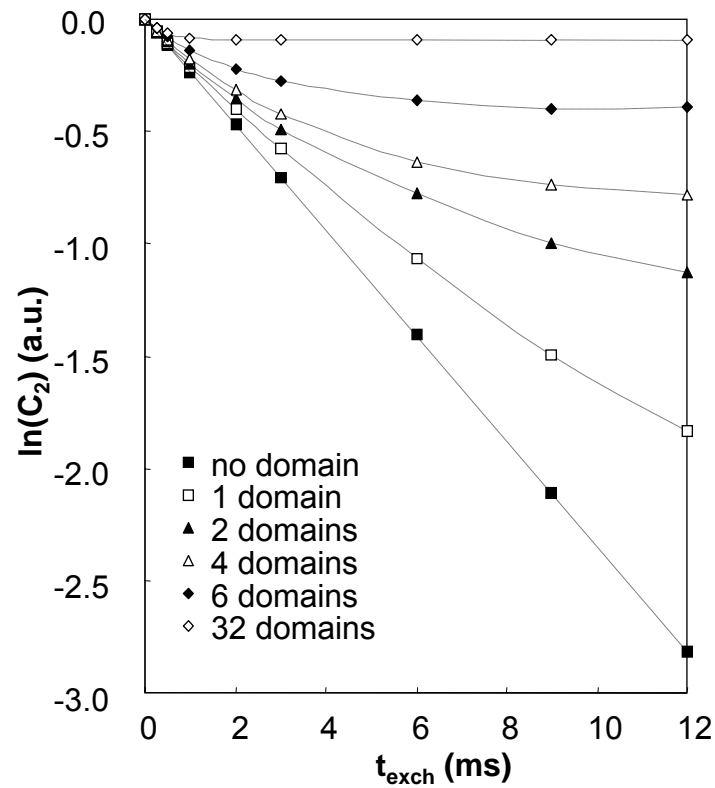
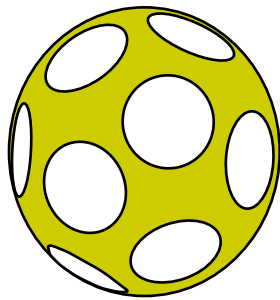
Simulations

- ◆ Different numbers of discoidal **immobile** domains
- ◆ Constant obstacle fraction (0.5)



Simulations

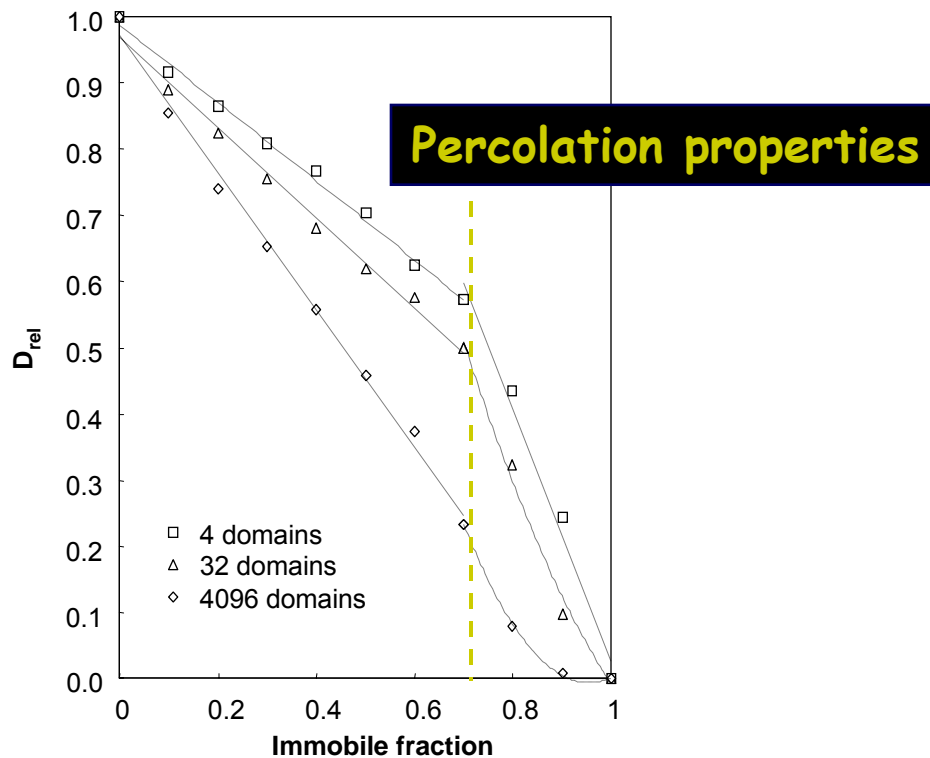
- ◆ Different numbers of **fluid** discoidal domains
- ◆ Constant obstacle fraction (0.5)



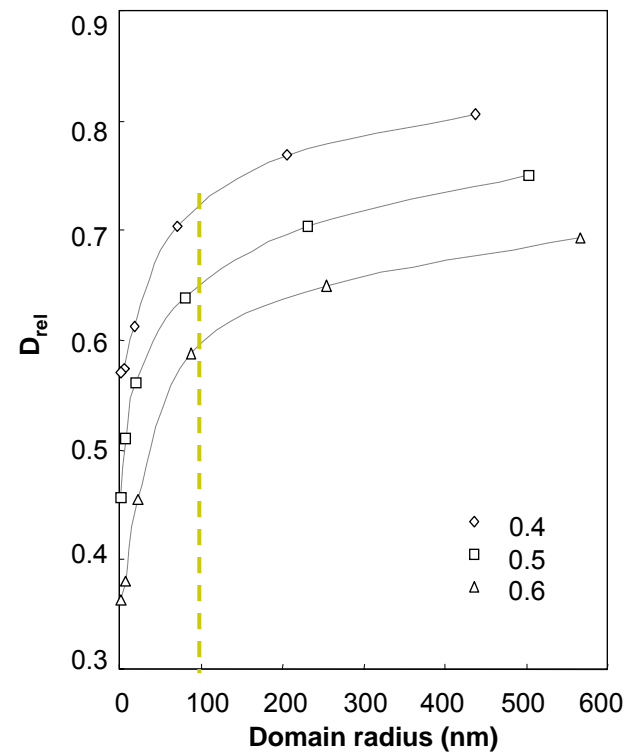
Simulations

- ◆ Evolution of D_{rel} as a function of:

Total immobile fraction
Different numbers of domains

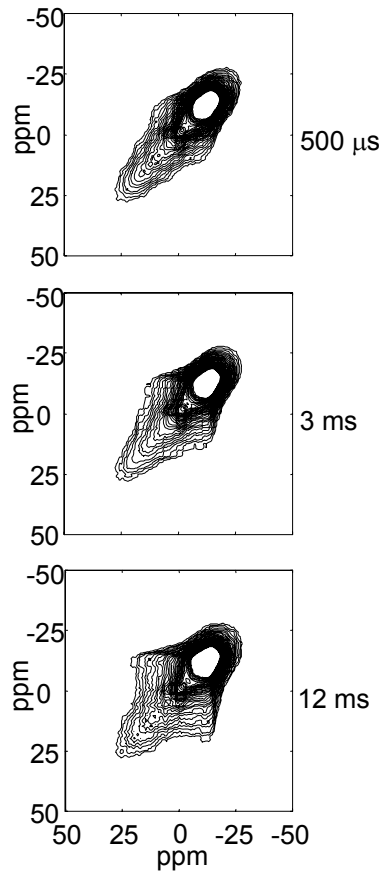


Domain radius
Different immobile fractions

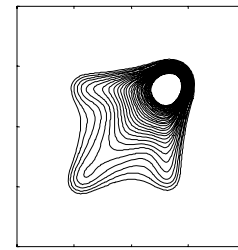
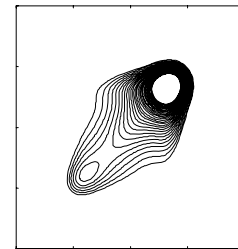
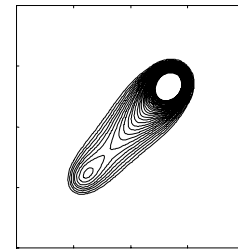
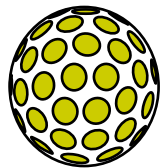


Fit of the experimental spectra (30°C)

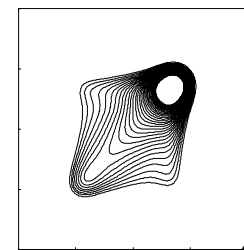
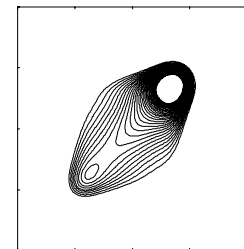
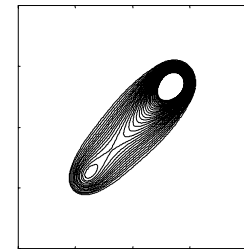
Experimental spectra



32 discoidal obstacles
Diameter: 140 nm



2 confined fluid areas
Diameter: 760 nm

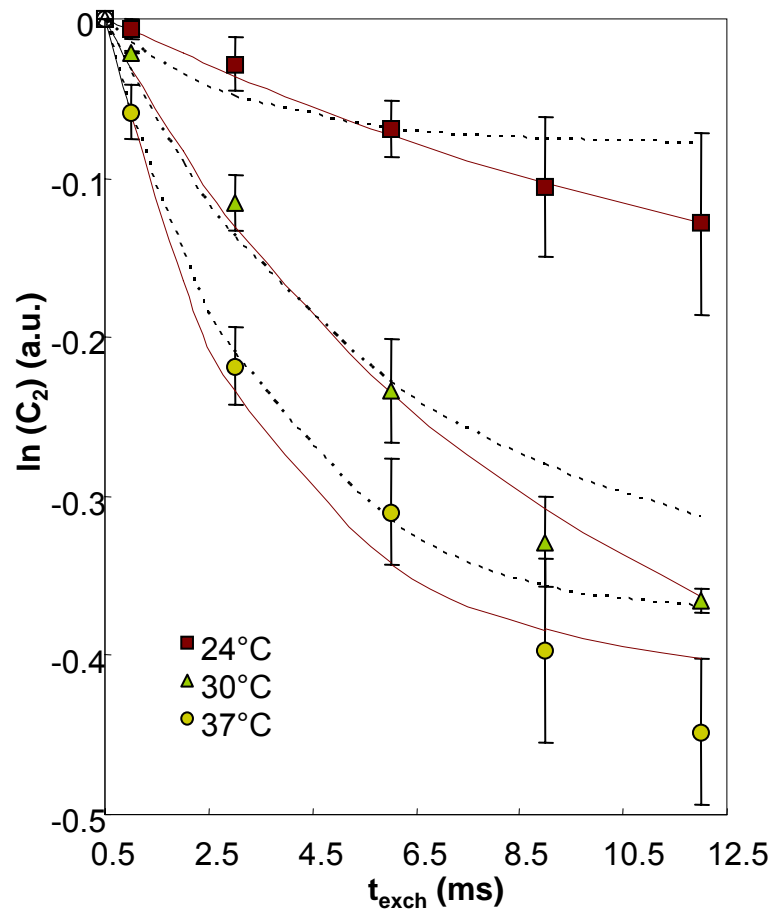


Comparison with other techniques

Technique	Domain phase	Diameter
EPR ¹	fluid	20 nm
NMR (² H) ²	gel	>200 nm
Neutron ³	gel	10 nm
Monte Carlo ⁴	Gel	>200 nm
FRAP ⁵	Fluid	80 nm
NMR (³¹P)	Gel	140 nm

-
1. Sankaram et al. (1992) Biophys. J., 63, 340.
 2. Dolainsky et al. (1997) Phys. Rev. E, 55, 4512.
 3. Gliss et al. (1998) Biophys. J., 74, 2443.
 4. Jorgensen et al. (1995) Biophys. J., 95, 942.
 5. Almeida et al. (1992) Biochemistry, 31, 7198.

Fit of the autocorrelation functions

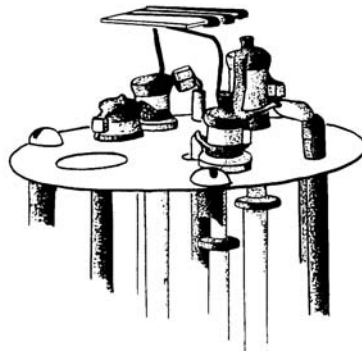


— Disk obstacles
- - - Disconnected fluid domains

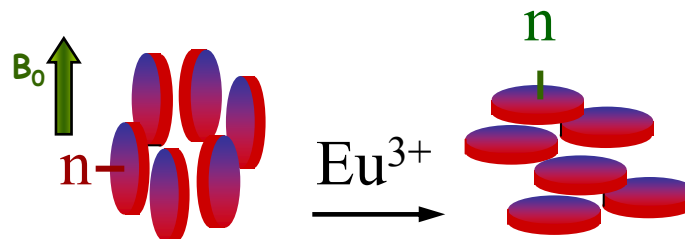
Each curve fitted with a fast and a slow diffusing components

Oriented membranes

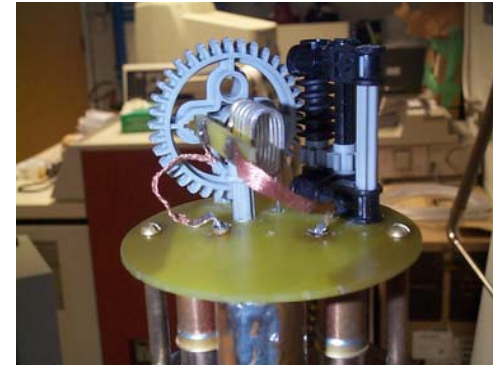
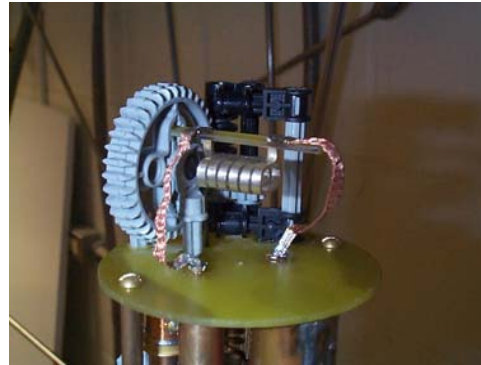
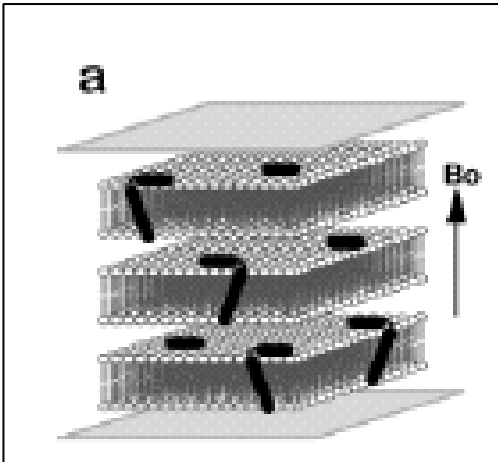
- ◆ Lipids mechanically oriented between glass plates



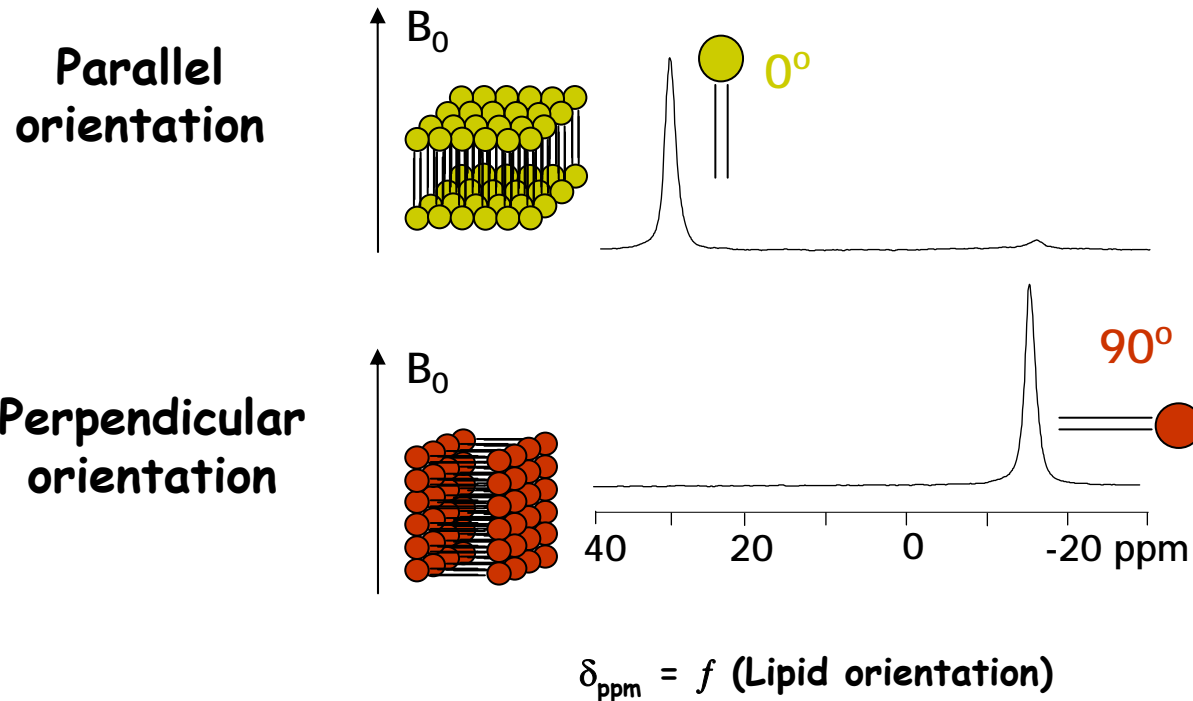
- ◆ Bicelle structures oriented in the magnetic field



Bilayers oriented between glass plates



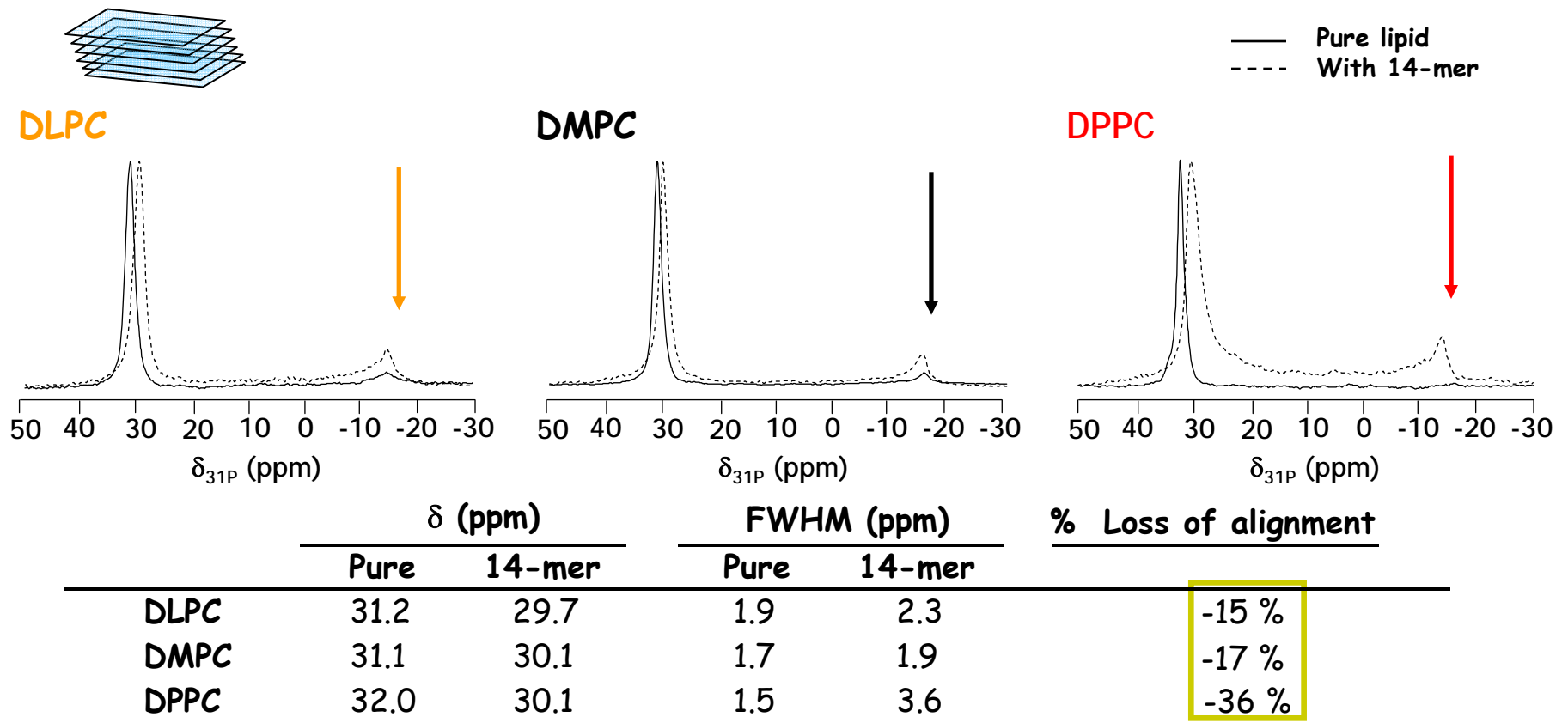
Bilayers oriented between glass plates



- ◆ Chemical shift (δ_{ppm})
- ◆ Full width half maximum (FWHM_{ppm})
- ◆ Powder spectra

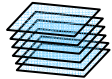
1° Head group conformation
2° Bilayer alignment

Effect on membrane alignment

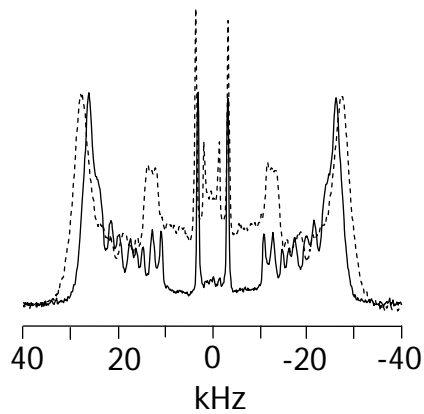


⇒ Orientation distribution → Effect more pronounced for DPPC

^2H NMR spectra

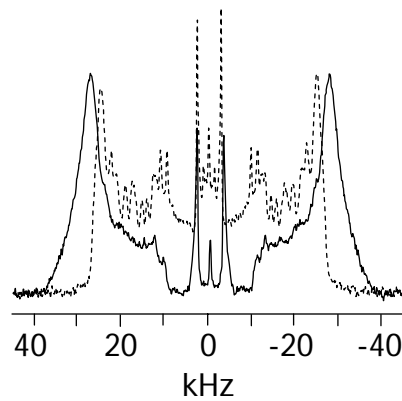
 0° orientation

DMPC



$\uparrow \Delta\nu_Q$: Order

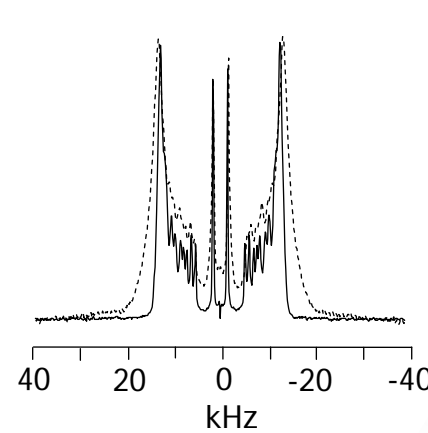
DPPC



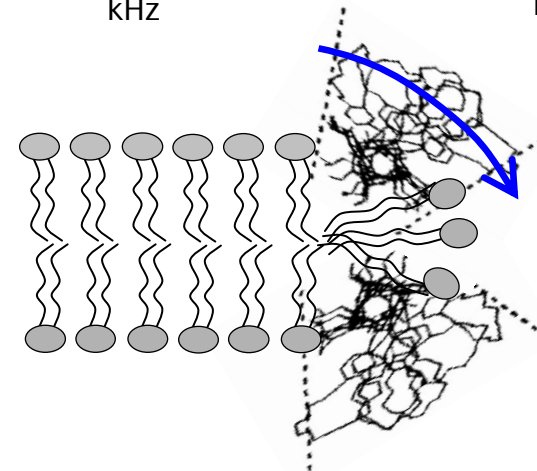
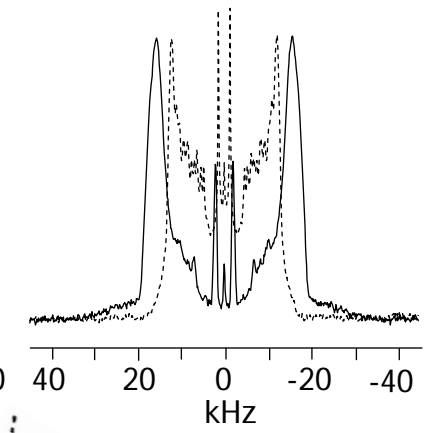
$\downarrow \Delta\nu_Q$: Disorder

 90° orientation

DMPC



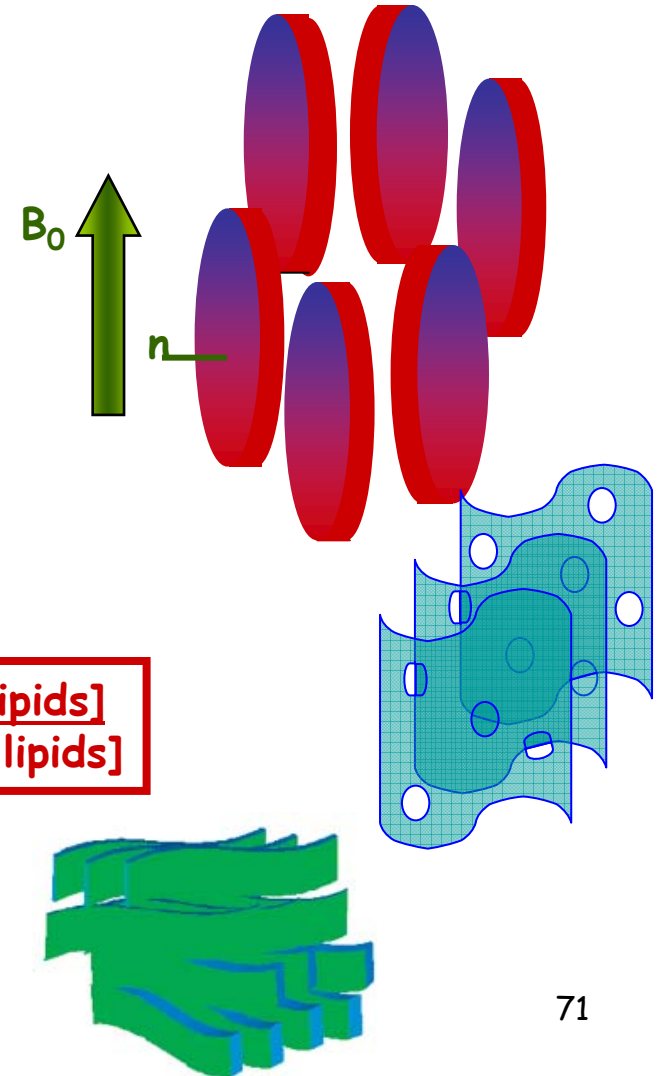
DPPC



Bicelles

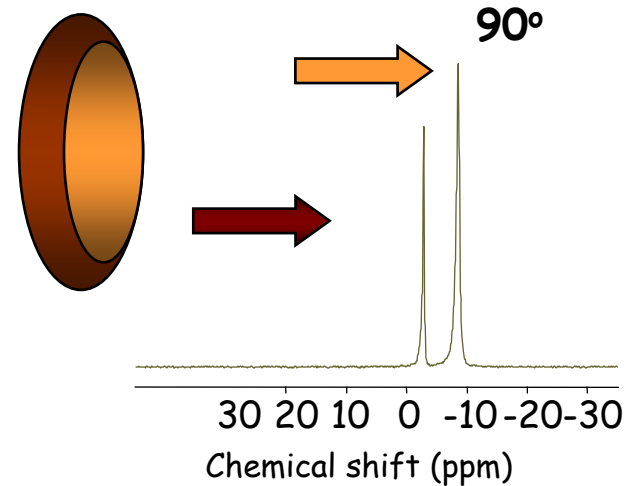
- ◆ Mixture of long chain (DMPC) and short chain (DHPC) lipids:
 - Discoidal vesicles
 - Perforated lamellae
 - Ribbons
- ◆ Spontaneous orientation between 30 and 45°C
 - Study of proteins at physiological temperatures
- ◆ Planar section mimics the surface of the cells
 - Vs curved surface of micelles
 - Preservation of enzymatic activity
- ◆ Variable size
 - Change in the molar ratio q

$$q = \frac{[\text{long chain lipids}]}{[\text{short chain lipids}]}$$



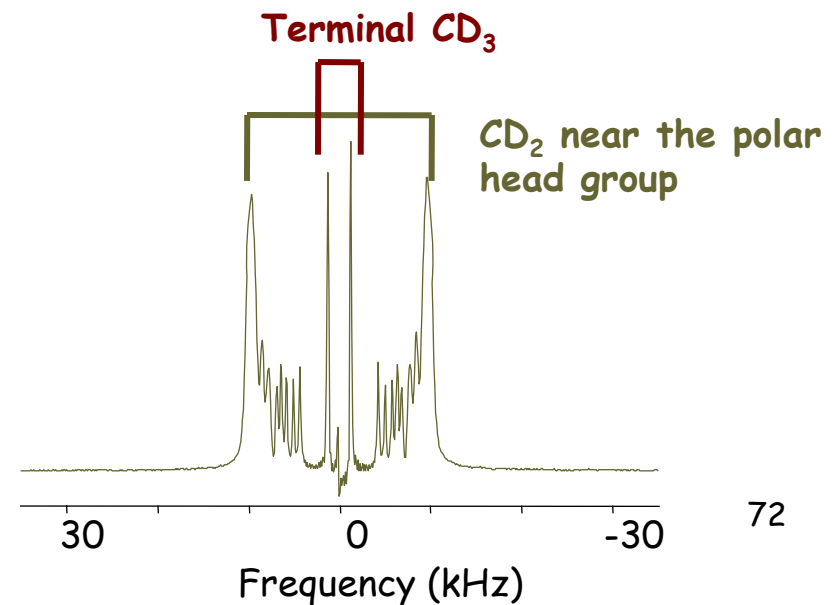
Characteristic spectra, oriented bicelles

- ◆ ^{31}P NMR
 - Phospholipid head group

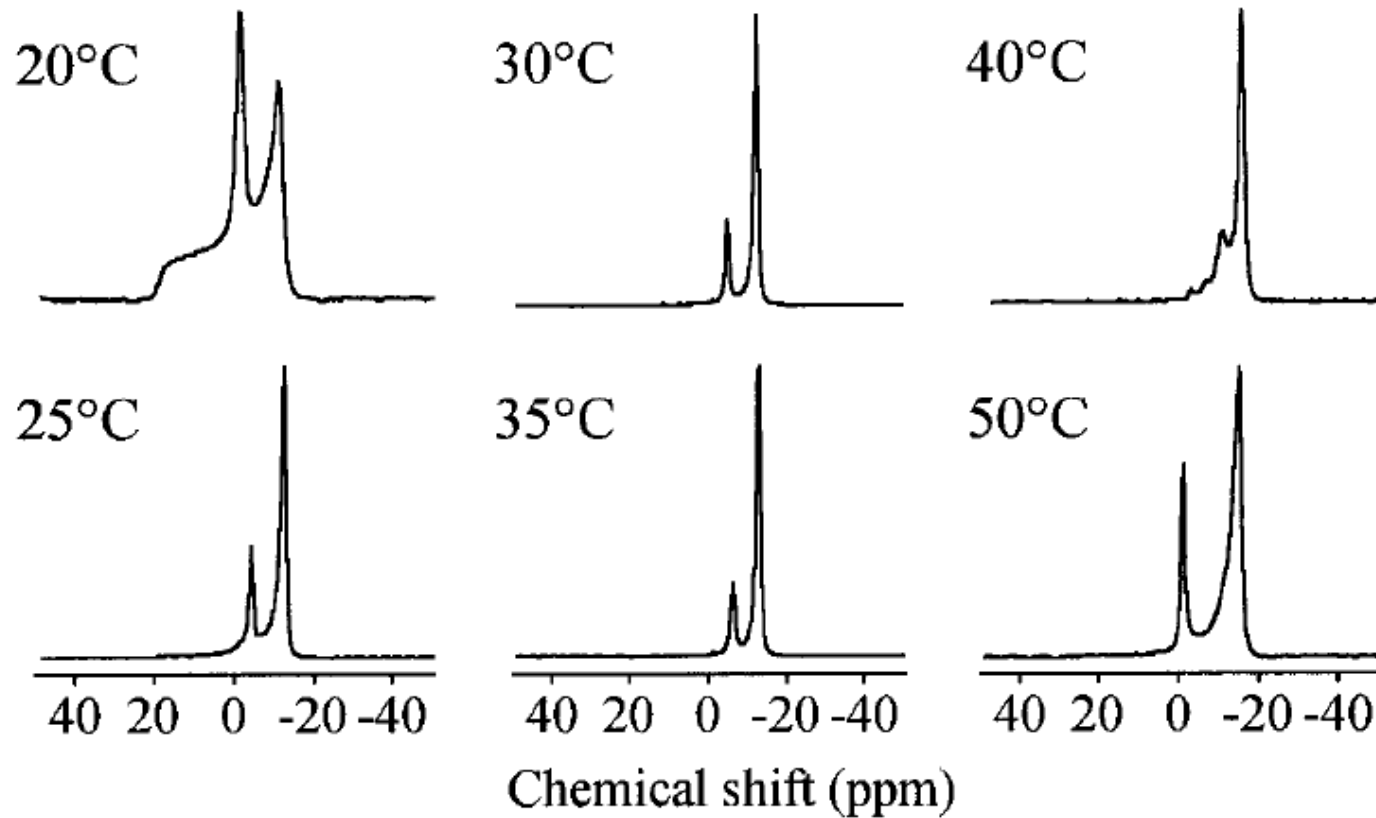


- ◆ ^2H NMR
 - Deuterated acyl chains

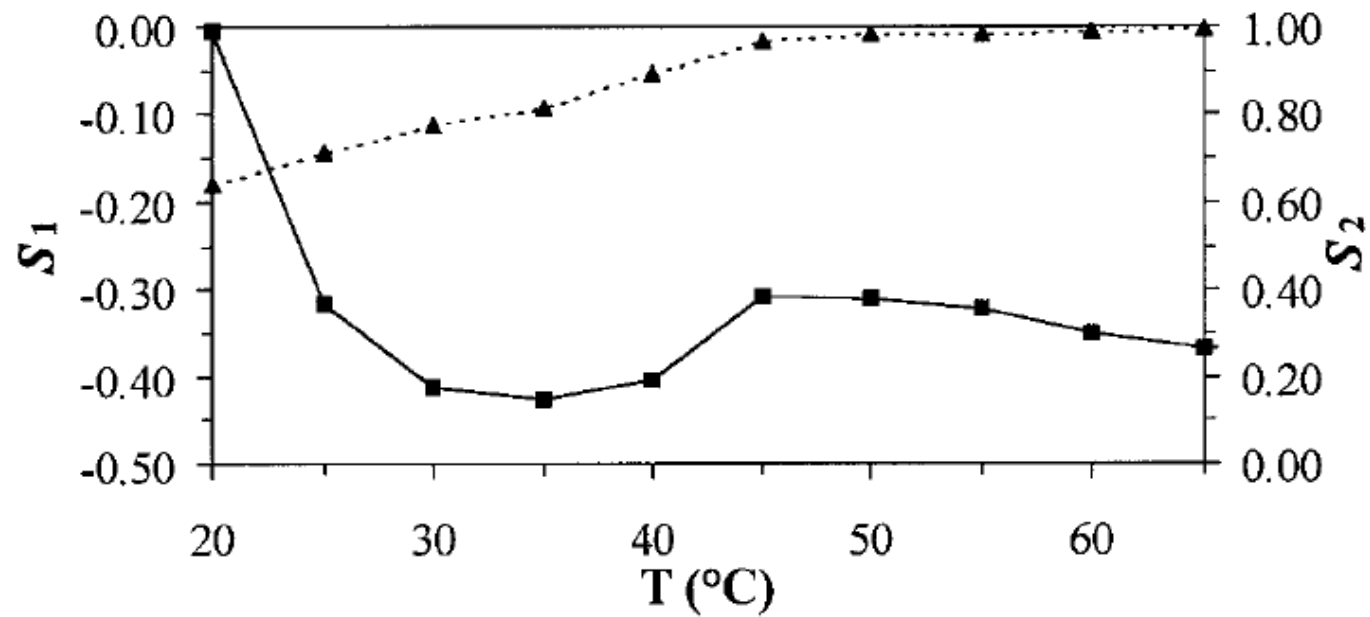
↓ $\Delta\nu_Q$ = disorder
↑ $\Delta\nu_Q$ = order



Bicelle spectra as a function of temperature



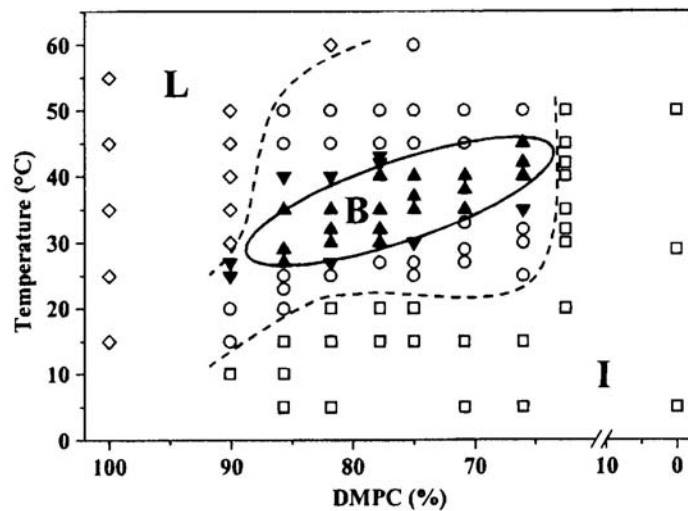
Order parameters



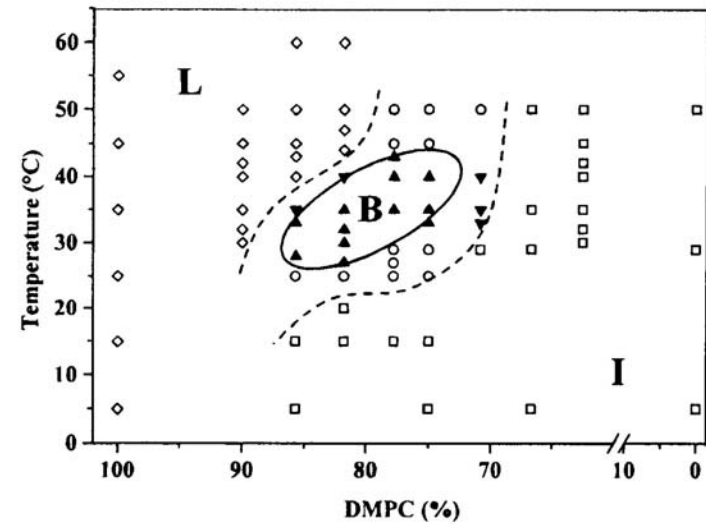
Bicelle phase diagrams

- ◆ Temperature-composition diagrams of DMPC/DHPC

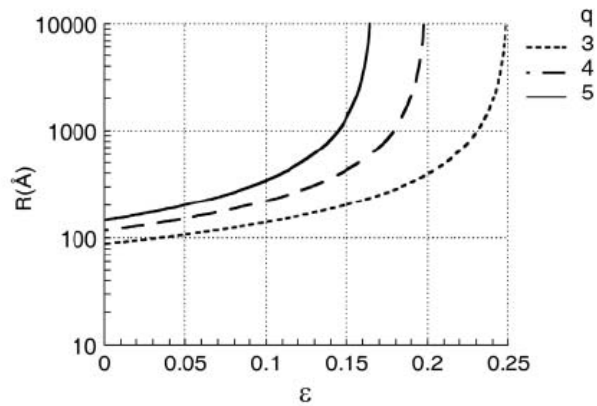
80% (w/w) D₂O 100 mM KCl



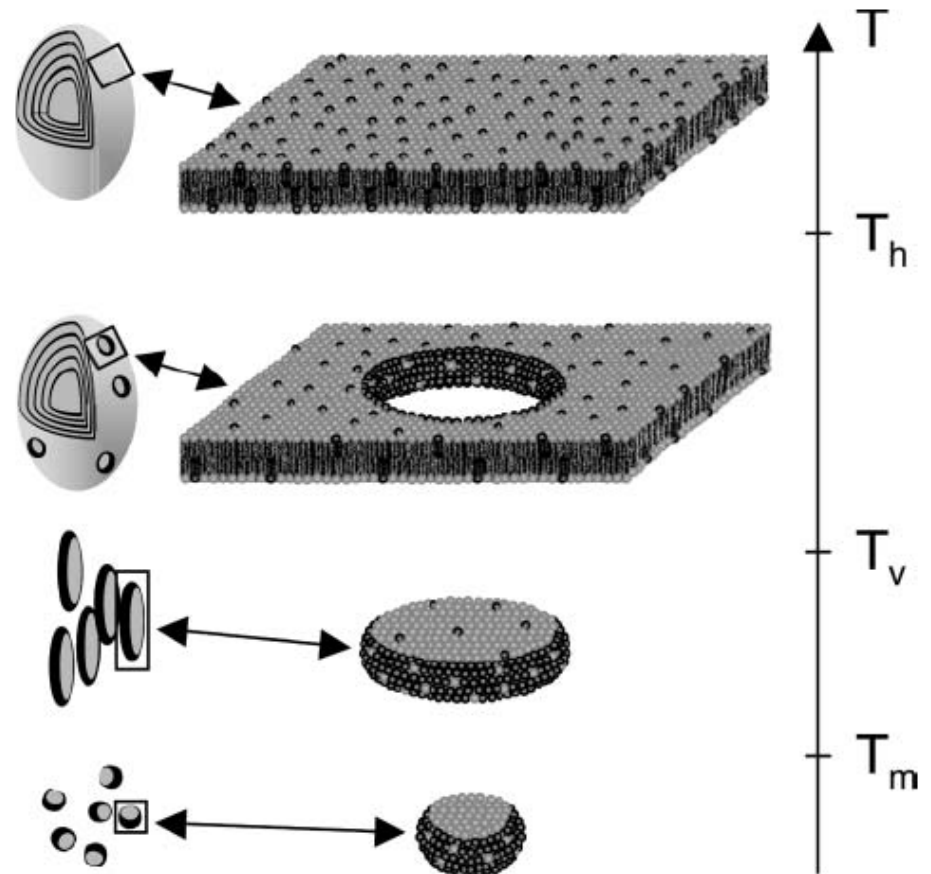
80% (w/w) D₂O



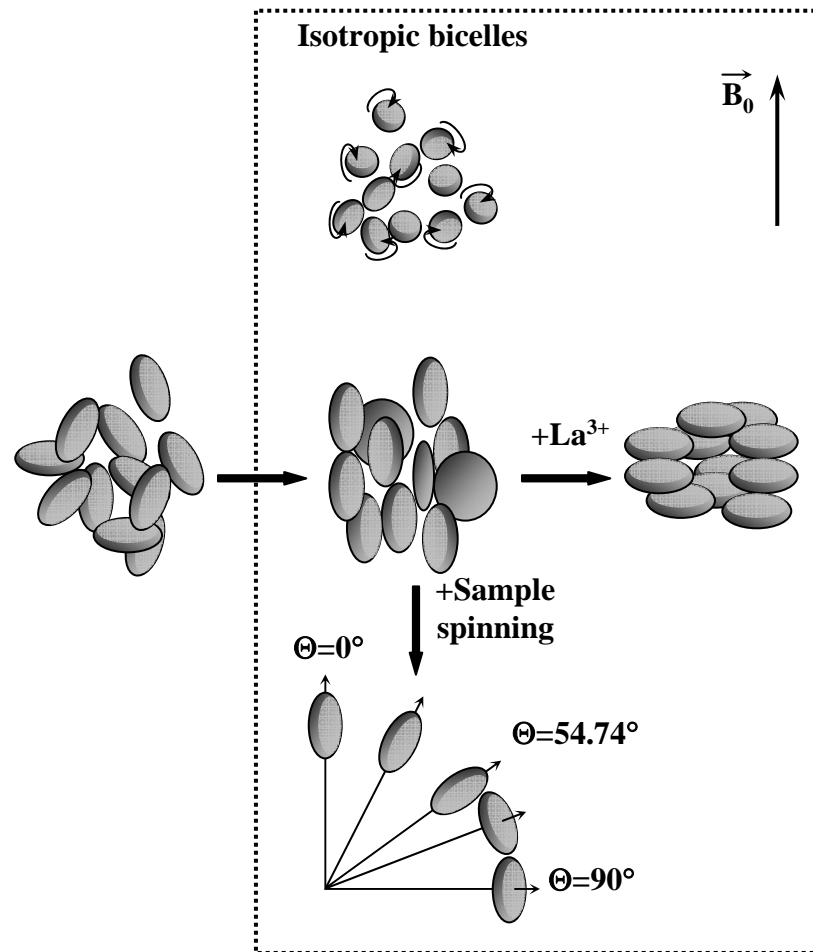
Mixed bicelles



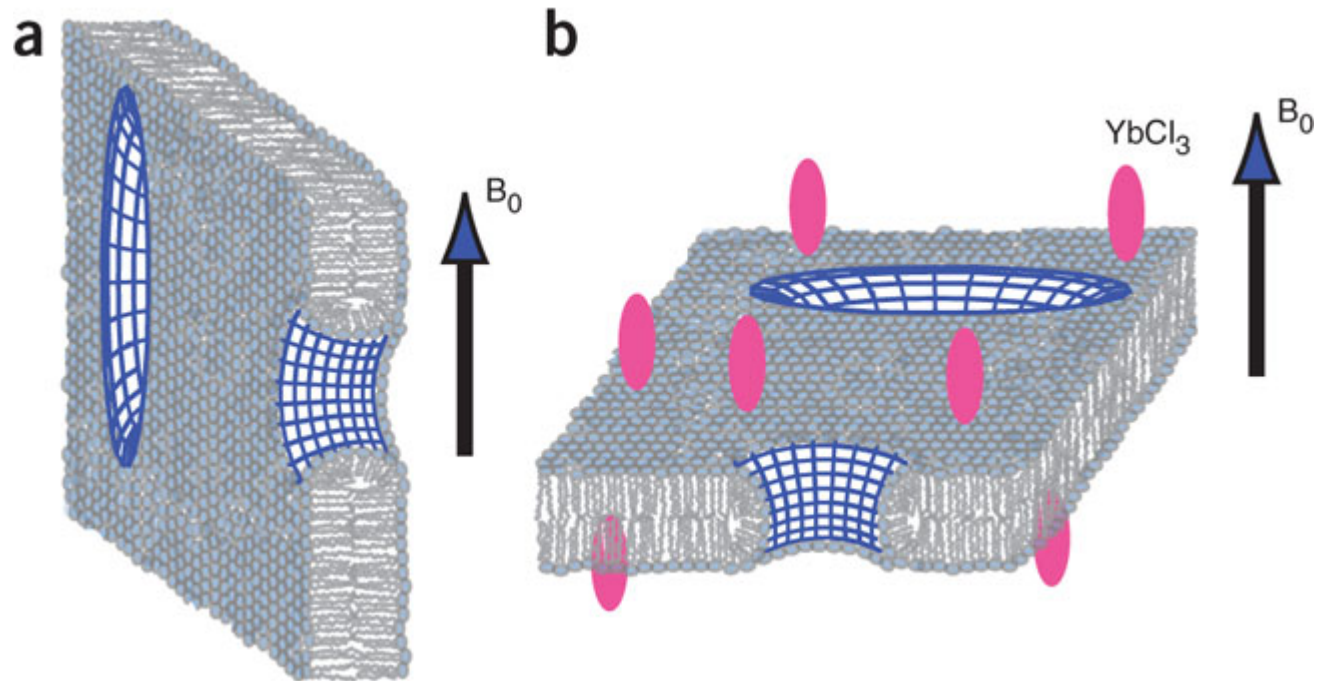
ϵ = mole fraction of DHPC in the bilayer section



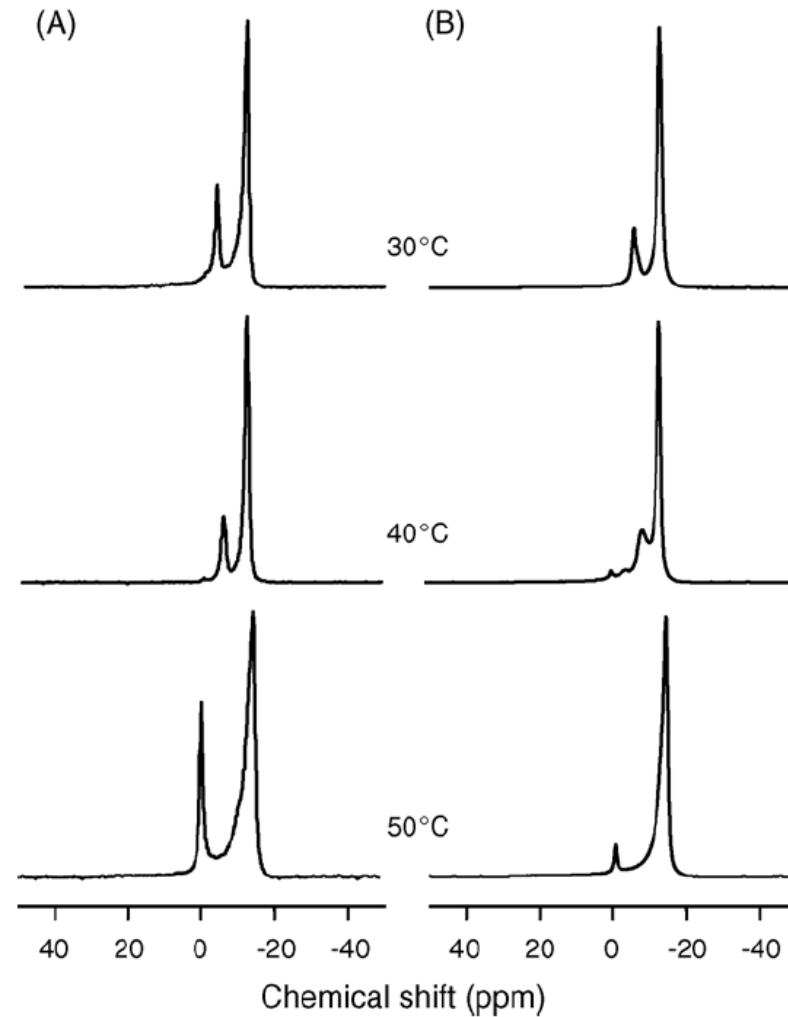
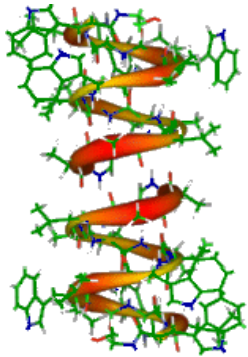
Bicelle morphologies



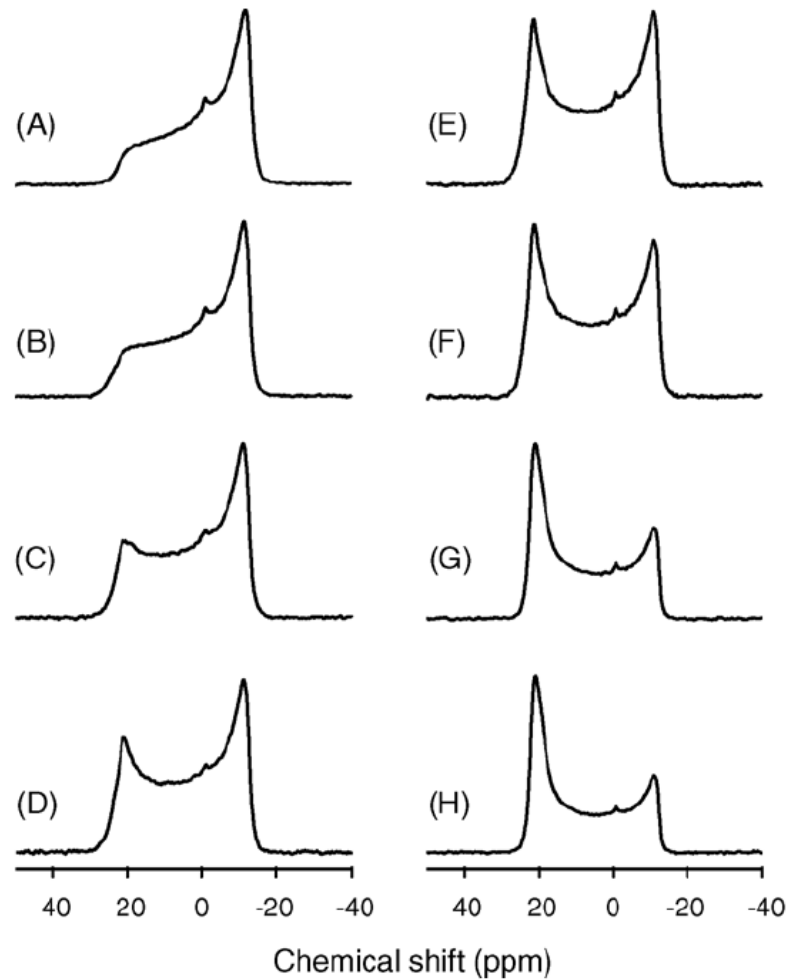
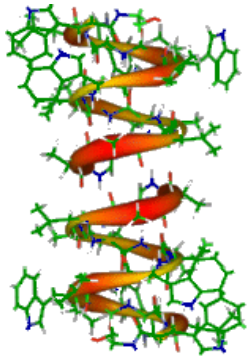
Bicelles flipped with lanthanides



Effect of gramicidin on bicelle alignment (lipid:peptide 25:1)

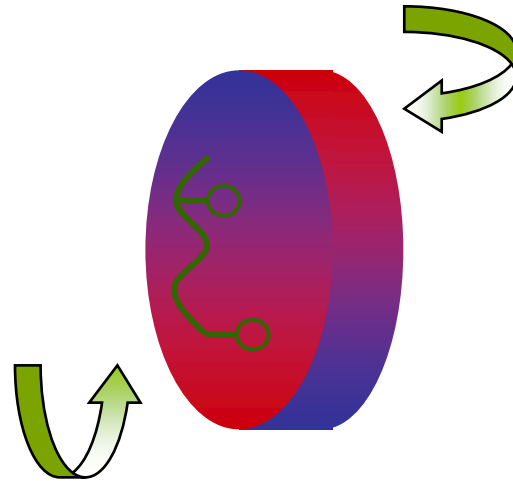


Effect of gramicidin on bicelle alignment (lipid:peptide 10:1)



Fast tumbling bicelles

- ◆ Fast tumbling bicelles
 - Small ($\sim 100 \text{ \AA}$)
 - Discoidal morphology
 - Fast rotation motion in solution
 - Isotropic peaks in NMR



Conclusions

- ◆ Solid-state NMR is well suited to investigate the effects of membrane peptides and proteins on lipid bilayers
- ◆ Several techniques available
 - MAS
 - Static spectra
 - Oriented samples
- ◆ Understanding the effects of membrane peptides and proteins on lipid bilayers can provide useful and complementary information of the biological process investigated

In Canada...





Thank you for your attention!