

# Neutrons in soft matter

Lecture 1 - Structure

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# Outline

## Lecture 1 – Structure & kinetics – SANS

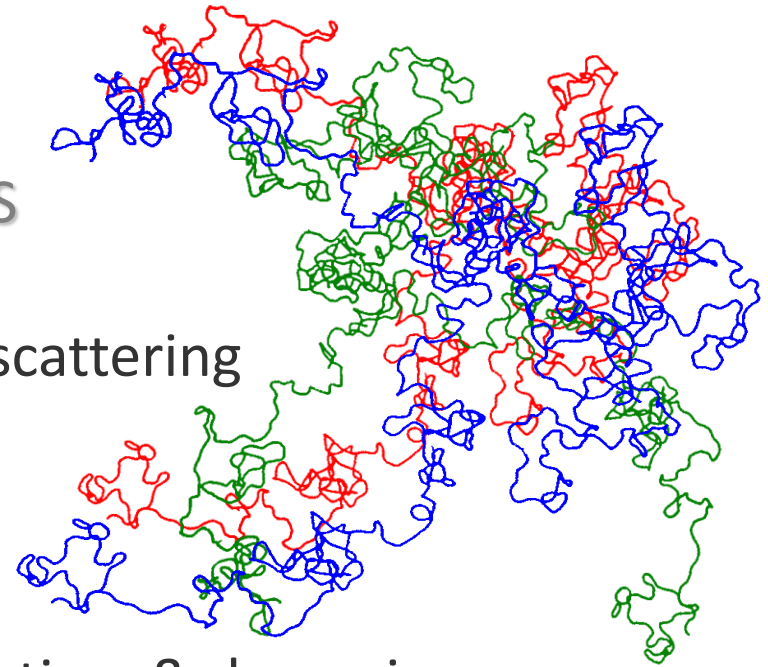
### Introduction

soft matter & relevance of neutron scattering

Single objects: spheres, coils, rods...

Single chain polymer conformation  
(solution and blends)

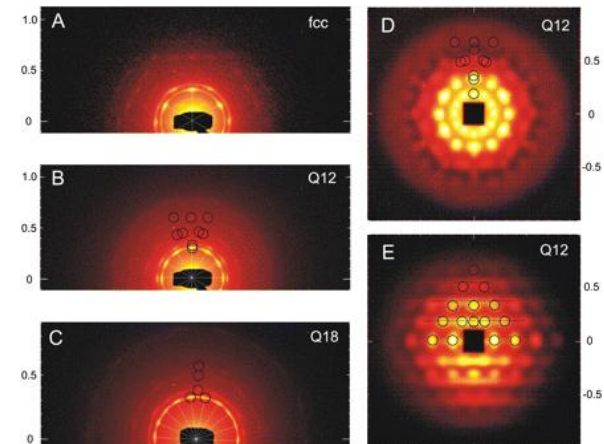
Polymer blends: interactions, conformation & dynamics  
(equilibrium and phase separation)



## Lecture 2 – Interfaces and dynamics

Reflectivity and diffusion

Dynamics in soft matter, QENS, BS, Spin-echo



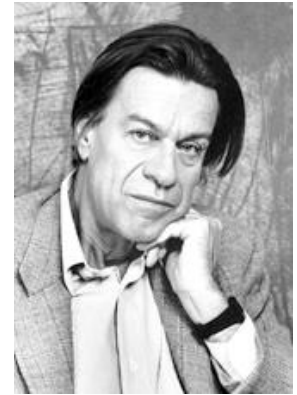
Forster et al (2011)

# Soft Matter

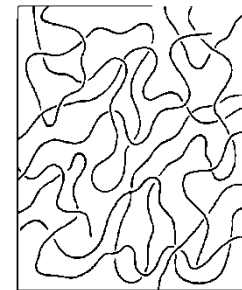
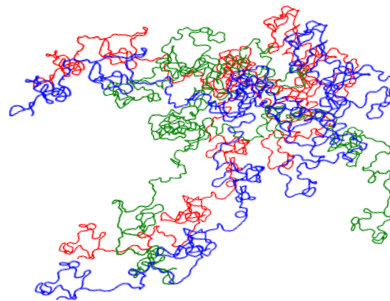
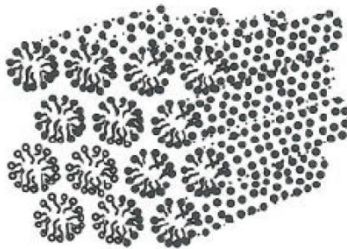
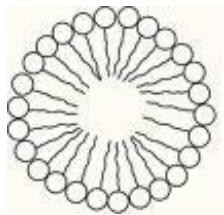
“molecular systems giving a strong response to very weak command signal”

Condensed matter: states are easily deformed by small external fields, including thermal stresses and thermal fluctuations.

Relevant energy scale comparable with room temperature thermal energy.



**deGennes (1991)**



**Sir Sam Edwards (-2015)**

Complex fluids: including colloids, polymers, surfactants, foams, gels, liquid crystals, granular and biological materials.

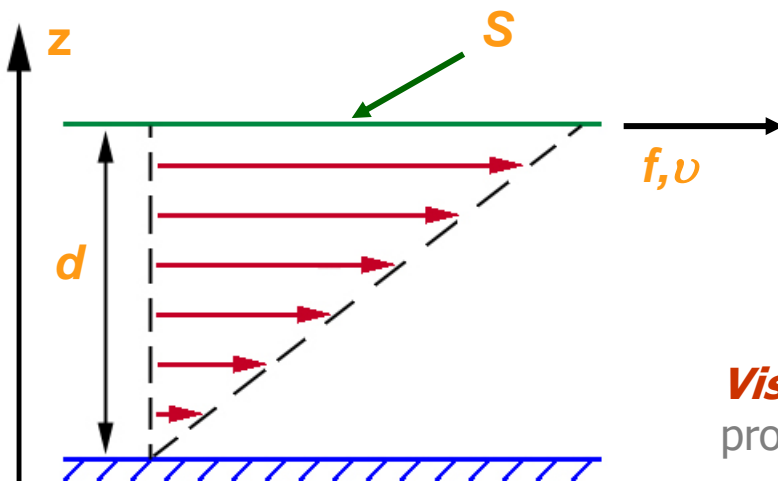


**shear**

Movie: complex fluids are generally non-Newtonian... and structured

# Viscosity

Simplest setup to measure viscosity

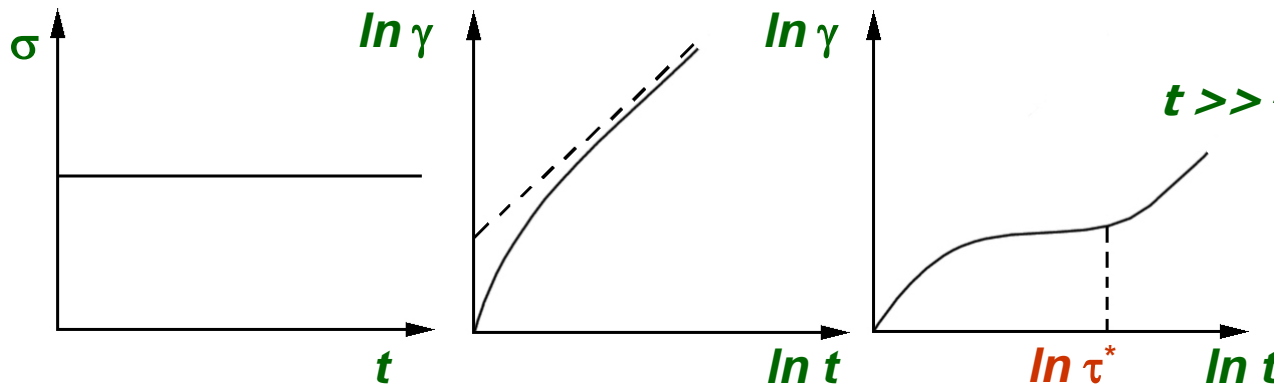


$$f = \eta \frac{Sv}{d}$$

$$\sigma = \frac{f}{S} = \eta \frac{dv}{dz}$$

**Viscosity:**  
proportionality coefficient  $\eta$

# Viscoelasticity?



$t \ll \tau^*$  : **elastic** response

$$\gamma \approx \sigma / E$$

$t \gg \tau^*$  : **viscous** response

$$\gamma \propto \sigma \cdot t / \eta$$

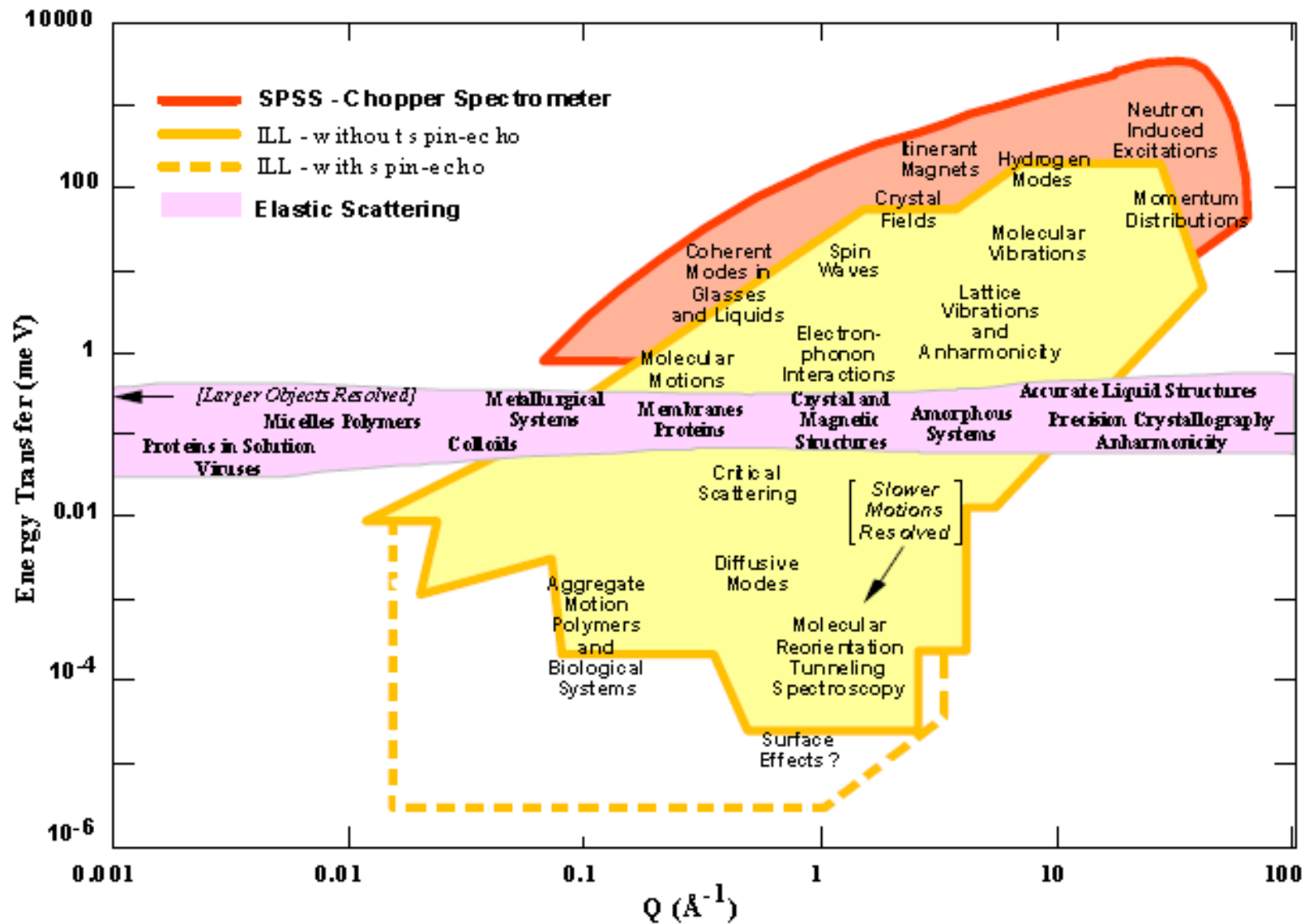
$\gamma$  shear angle

Step-wise stress starting at  $t=0$

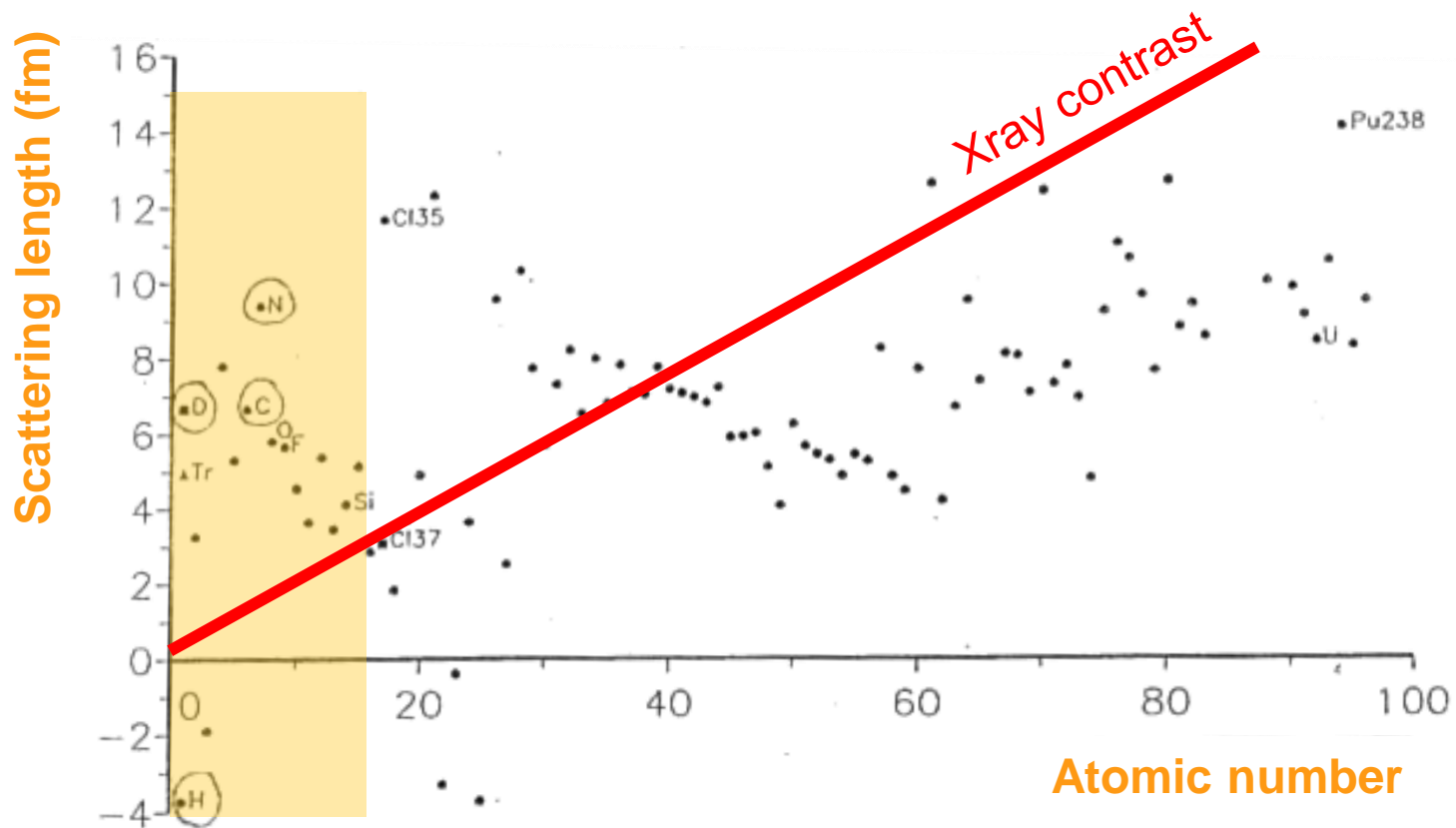
normal liquid

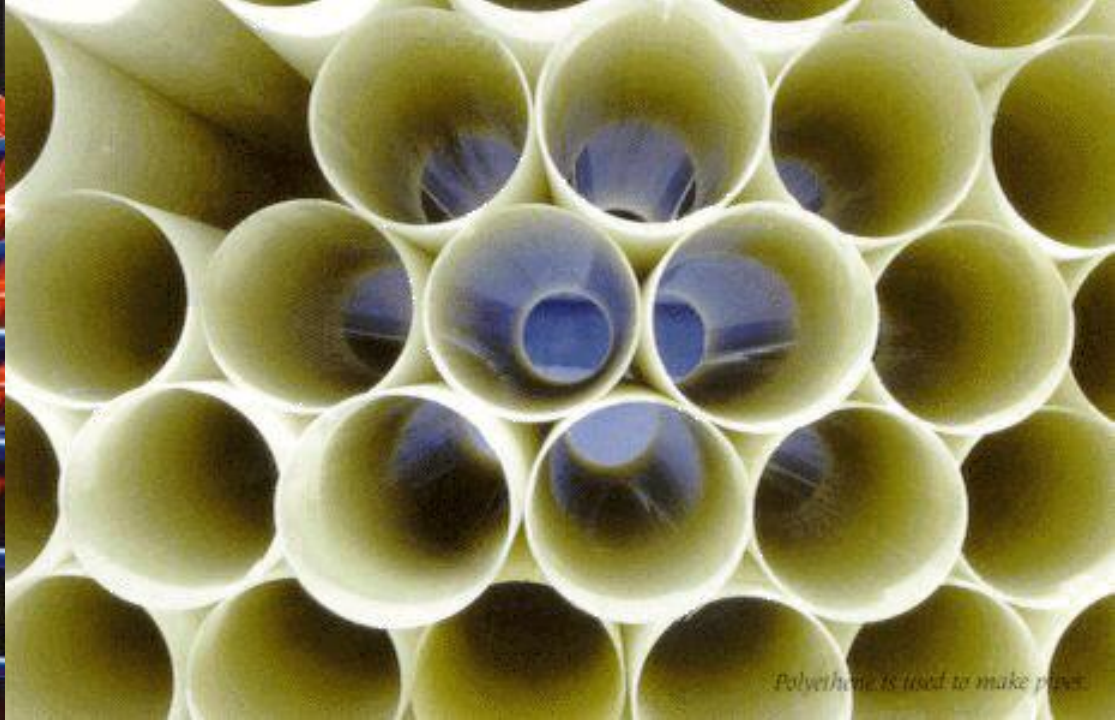
polymer

# Neutron scattering is *key* in soft condensed matter



# Neutron scattering is *key* in soft condensed matter



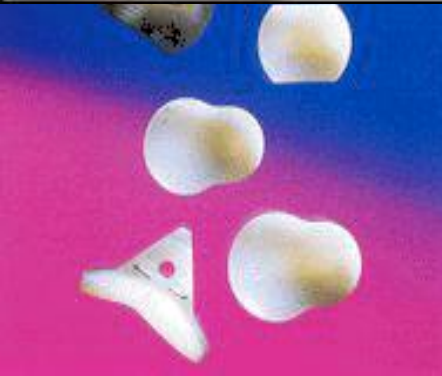
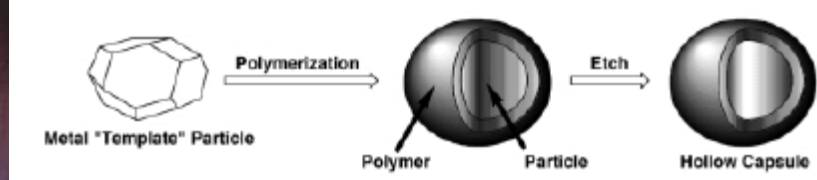
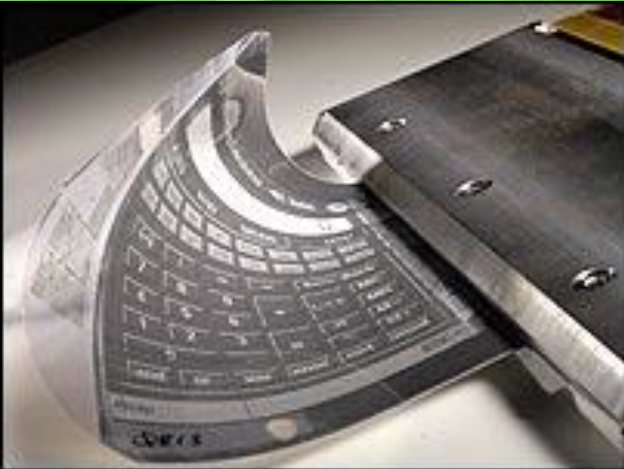
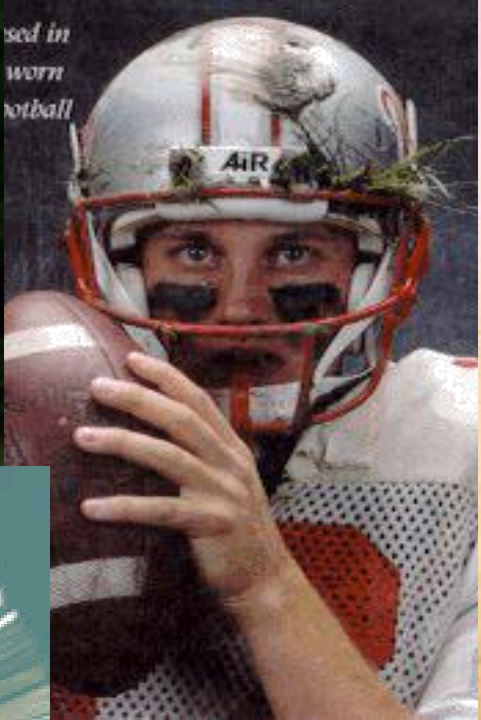


*Polyethylene is used to make pipes.*

## Common soft matter



*Household products packaged in plastic containers.  
Courtesy of British Plastics Federation.*



# Speciality polymers



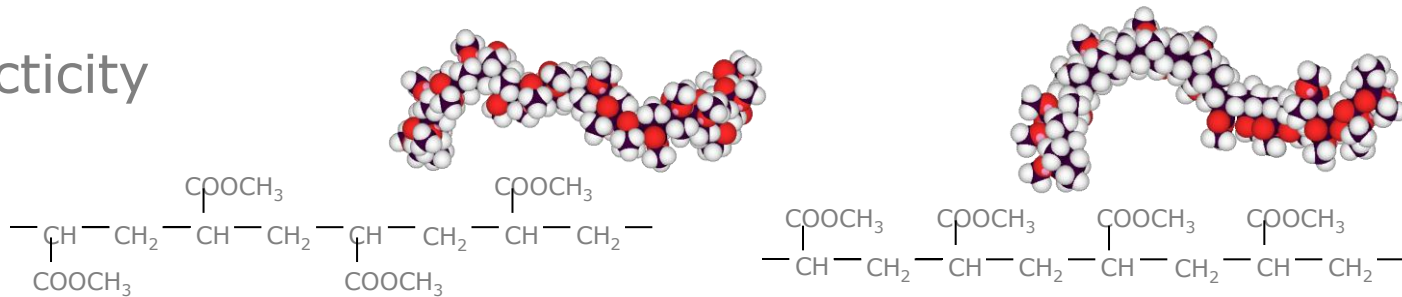


# Polymer key properties

Molecular weight,  $N$   (size)

Polydispersity  (distribution of sizes)

Tacticity

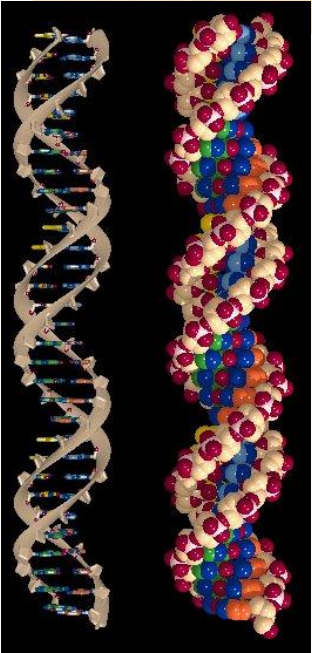
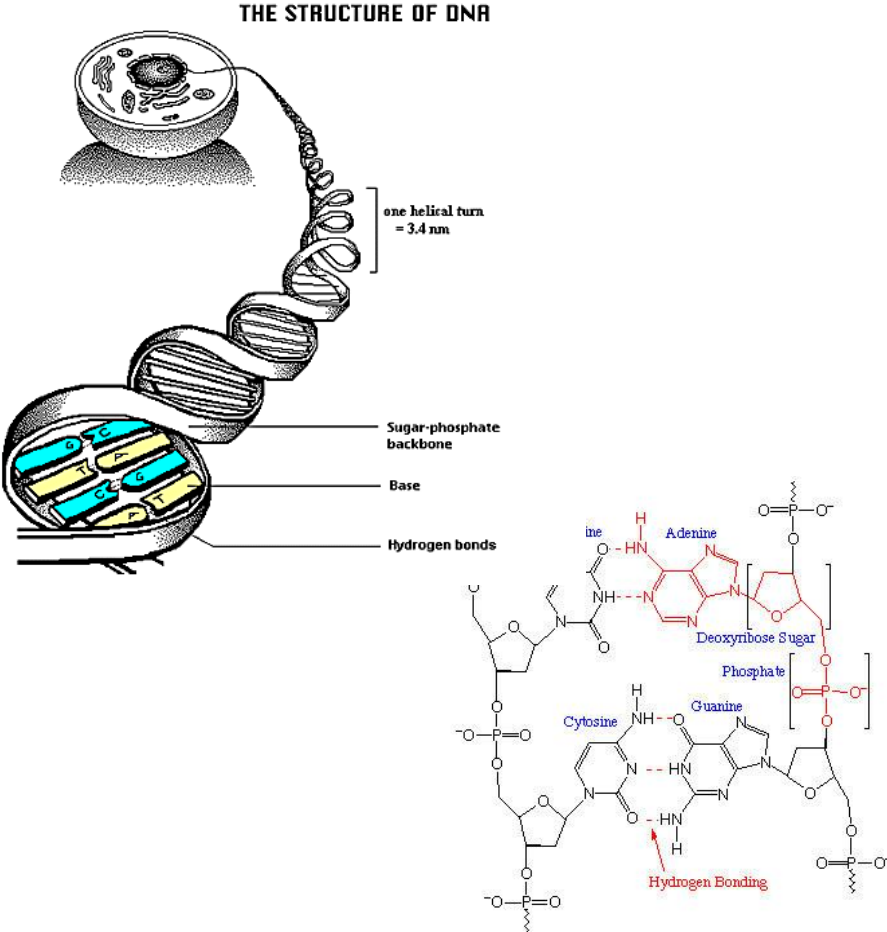


Glass transition (solid-liquid)

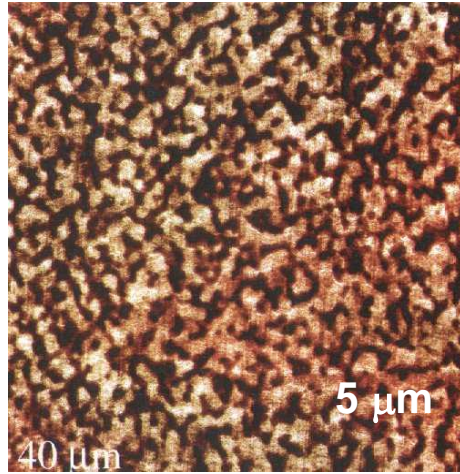
Crystallinity

Interaction parameter  $\chi$   $\longrightarrow$  Combine properties to make new materials!

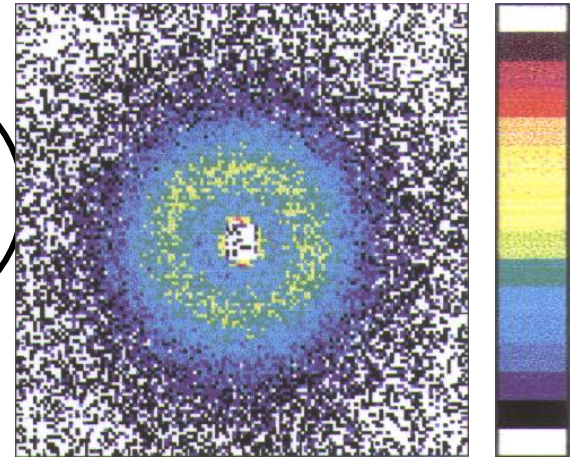
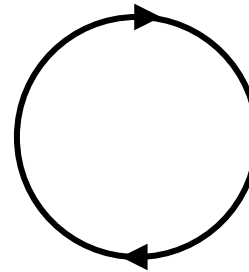
# Soft matter: DNA



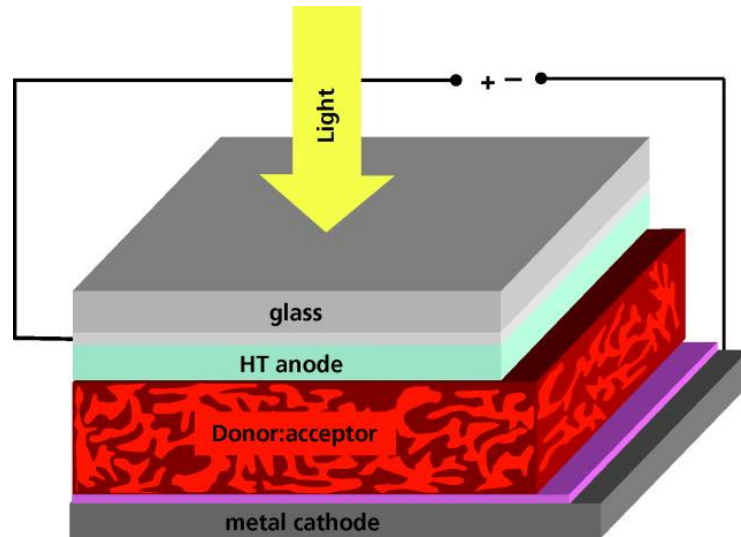
# Soft Matter: membranes, photovoltaics (BHJ)



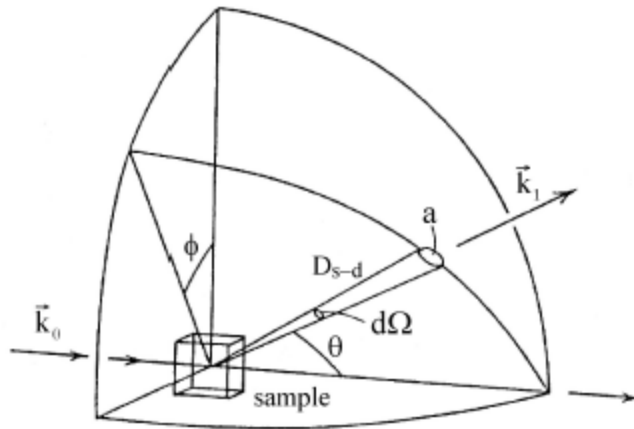
Real space



Reciprocal space



# Scattering theory reminder



## Scattering cross section

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE} = \left(\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE}\right)_{coh} + \left(\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE}\right)_{inc}$$

*coherent incoherent*

$$\left(\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE}\right)_{coh} = \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \frac{k_1}{k_0} \frac{\sigma_{coh}}{4\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \sum_{i,j} \langle e^{-i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{R}_i(0)} e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{R}_j(t)} \rangle e^{-i\omega t} dt$$

$$\left(\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE}\right)_{inc} = \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \frac{k_1}{k_0} \frac{\sigma_{inc}}{4\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \sum_i \langle e^{-i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{R}_i(0)} e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{R}_i(t)} \rangle e^{-i\omega t} dt$$

## Dynamic structure factor

$$\text{FT } (t, \omega) \updownarrow S(\mathbf{q}, \omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} I(\mathbf{q}, t) e^{-i\omega t} dt.$$



## Elastic structure factor

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} S(\mathbf{q}, \omega) |_{\mathbf{q}=\text{const.}} d\omega = S(\mathbf{q})$$

## Intermediate scattering function

$$\text{FT } (r, q) \updownarrow I_s(\mathbf{q}, t) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \langle e^{-i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{R}_i(0)} e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{R}_i(t)} \rangle e^{-i\omega t}.$$

## Pair correlation function

$$G(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int I(\mathbf{q}, t) e^{-i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{r}} d\mathbf{q}.$$

**S(q)**

$$S(q) = Nz^2P(q) + N^2z^2Q(q)$$

Form factor

$$P(q) = \frac{1}{z^2} \sum_{i=1}^z \sum_{j=1}^z \langle e^{-i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{r}_{ij}} \rangle$$

Structure factor

$$Q(q) = \frac{1}{z^2} \sum_{i_p=1}^z \sum_{j_q=1}^z \langle e^{-i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{r}_{ipjq}} \rangle$$

# Reminder: Fourier Transforms

$$H(f) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(t) e^{2\pi i f t} dt$$

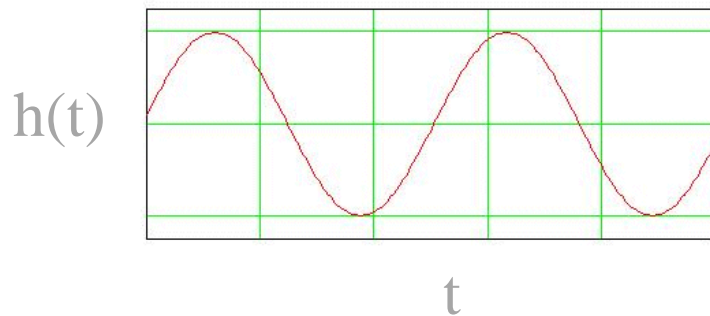
$$h(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} H(f) e^{-2\pi i f t} df$$



Fourier  
transform:

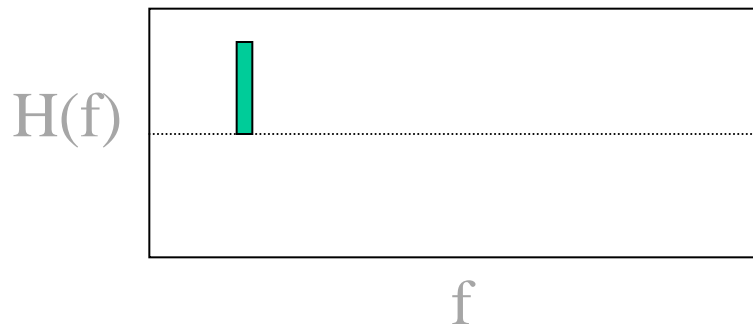
$$\Phi(H(f), t) = h(t)$$

$$\Phi^{-1}(h(t), f) = H(f)$$



$$h(t) = A e^{i(t+\phi)}$$

$$H(f) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(t) e^{2\pi i f t} dt$$



$$H(f) = 0 \quad \text{if } (ft \neq 1)$$

$$H(f) = A e^{i\phi} \quad \text{if } (ft = 1)$$

# Reminder: Fourier Transforms

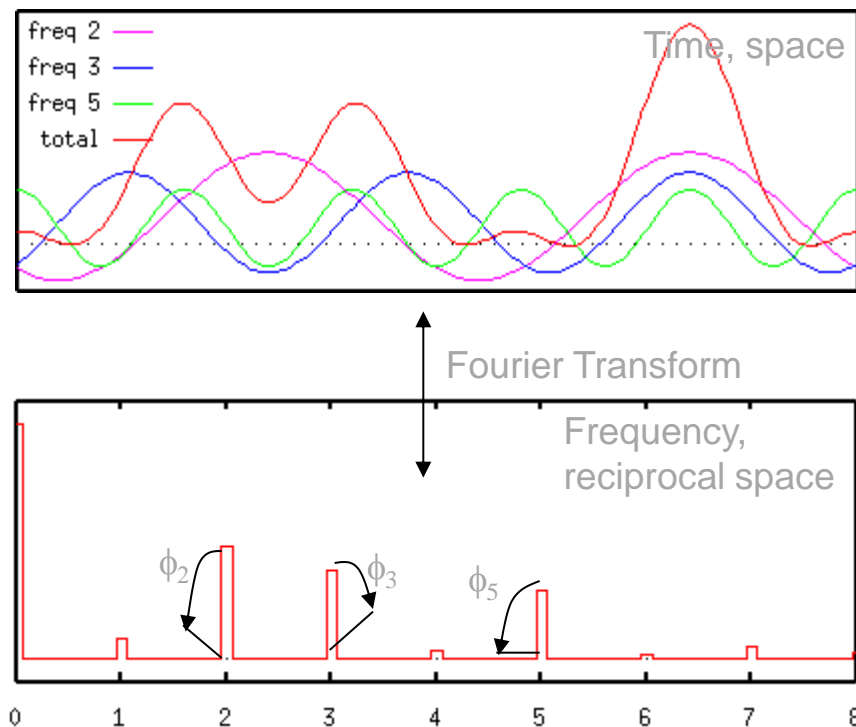
$$H(f) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(t) e^{2\pi i f t} dt$$

$$h(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} H(f) e^{-2\pi i f t} df$$

Fourier transform:

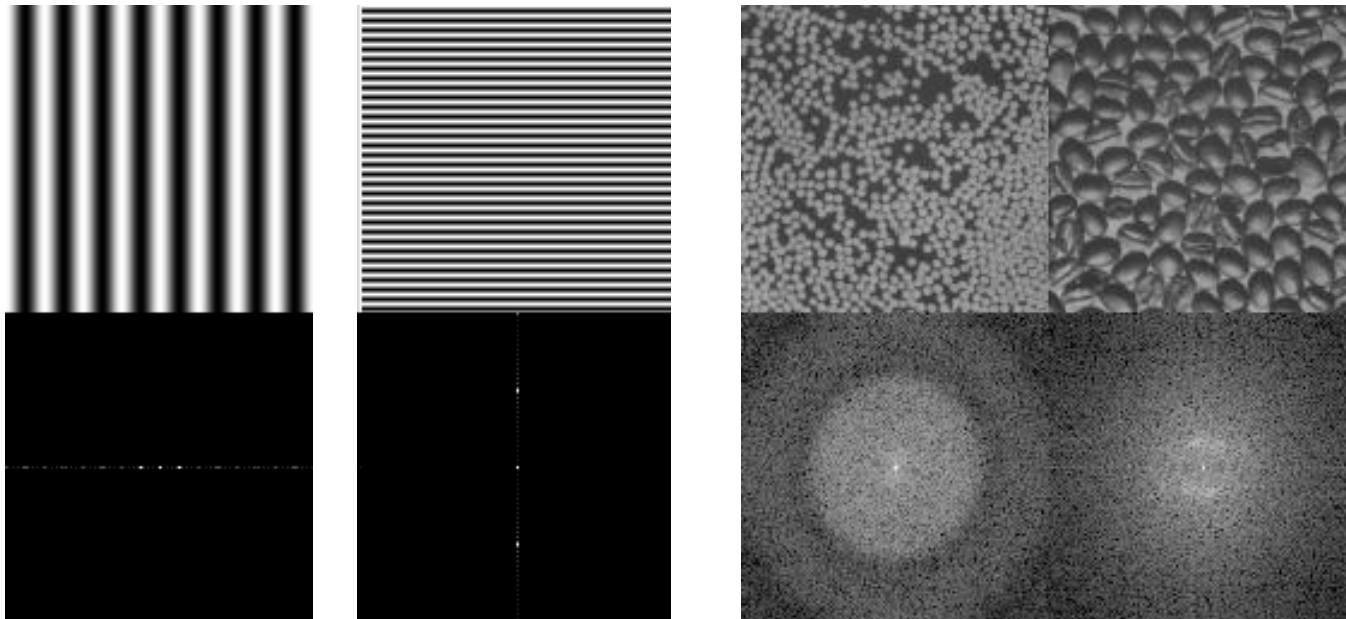
$$\Phi(H(f), t) = h(t)$$

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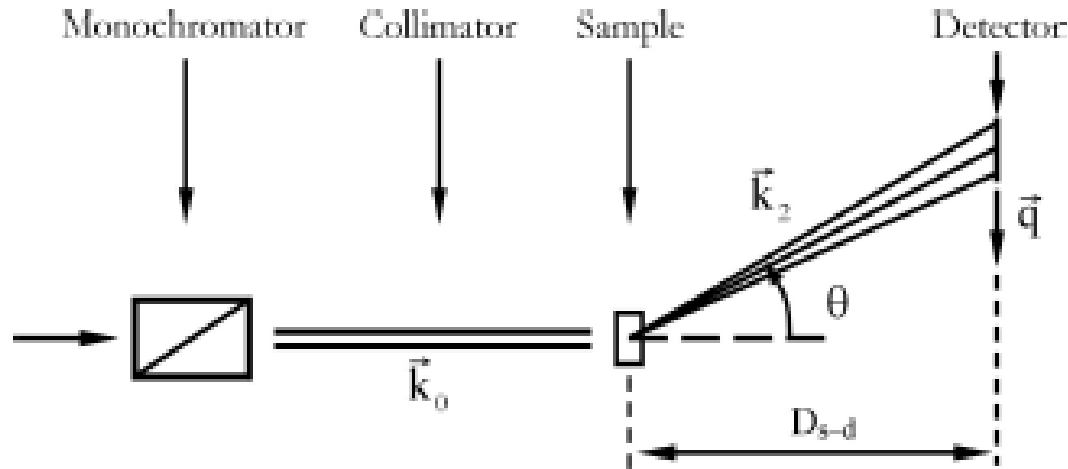
# Reminder: Fourier Transforms

Real space



Reciprocal space

# SMALL-ANGLE NEUTRON SCATTERING



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

$$q \approx \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \theta$$

$$q \approx \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \frac{R}{D_{s-d}}$$

Absolute scattering intensity [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]

$$\frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial \Omega}(Q) = N_p V_p^2 (\Delta\delta)^2 P(Q) S(Q) + B_{inc} \quad \text{incoherent background}$$

$N_p$  number density  
 $V_p^2$  volume  
 $(\Delta\delta)^2$  contrast  
 $P(Q)$  form factor  
 $S(Q)$  structure factor  
 $B_{inc}$  incoherent background

Scattering length density

$$\delta = \sum_i b_i \cdot \frac{D N_A}{M_w}$$



# Relationship between $q$ $\lambda$ $\theta$ and $d$

$$q = \frac{4\pi}{\lambda} \sin(\theta/2)$$

$$d = \frac{2\pi}{q}$$

**small  $q$  ~ large  $d$**  [large  $q$  ~ small  $d$ ]

**small  $\lambda$  ~ large  $q$  ~ small  $d$**   
[large  $\lambda$  ~ small  $q$  ~ large  $d$ ]

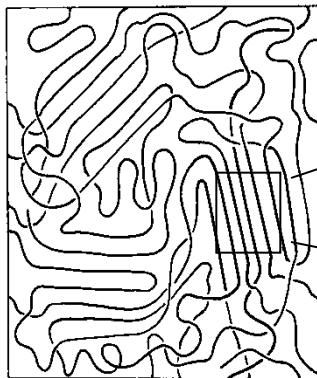
Radiation	Wavelength
<b>light</b>	~ 500 nm
<b>X-rays</b>	~ 1 Å
<b>neutrons</b>	~ 5 Å

Ångstrom:  
1 Å =  $10^{-10}$  m  
1 nm = 10 Å

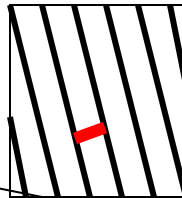
Bottom line:

**radiation of small wavelength  $\lambda$  can 'see' smaller sample features  $d$**   
(provided that contrast is sufficient).

# Example: crystalline structure of polymer



Semi-crystalline poly(ethylene) PE



lamella spacing is  $d \sim 20$   
**nm**  
 $q = 2\pi/d \sim 0.3 \text{ nm}^{-1}$

$$q = \frac{4\pi}{\lambda} \sin(\theta/2)$$

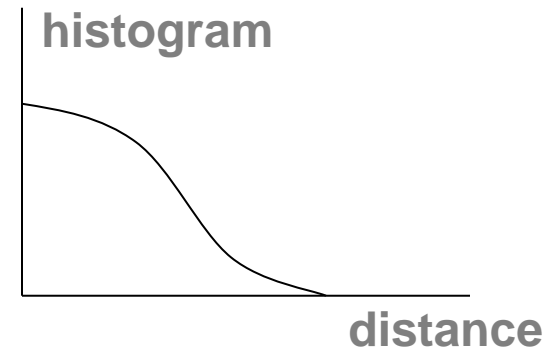
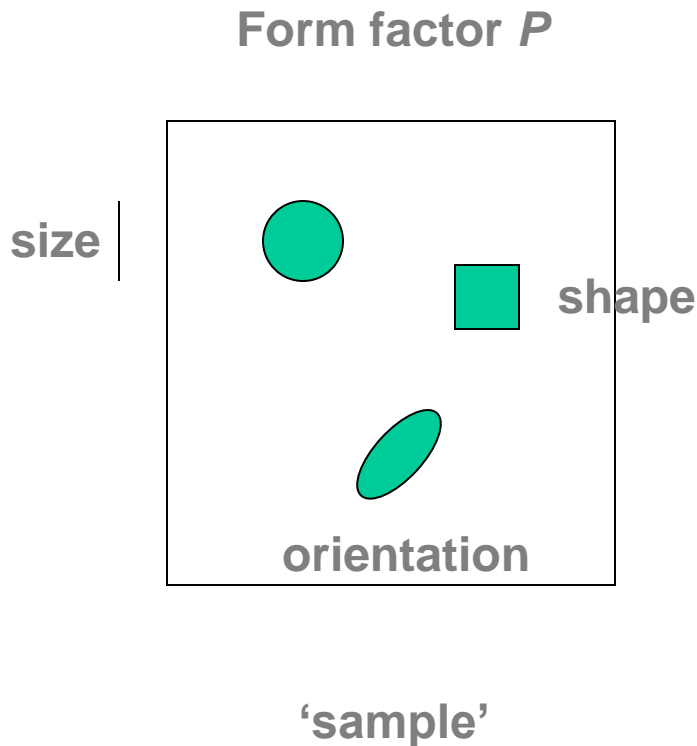
Radiation	Wavelength	Scattering angle
<b>X-rays</b>	$\sim 1 \text{ \AA}$	$\theta \sim 0.27$ degrees
<b>neutrons</b>	$\sim 5 \text{ \AA}$	$\sin(\theta/2) \sim 0.013$ , $\theta \sim 0.7$ degrees
<b>light</b>	$\sim 500 \text{ nm}$	$\sin(\theta/2) > 1$ <b>impossible!</b>

the smallest dimension probed by wavelength  $\lambda$  corresponds to largest angle  $\theta=180$  degrees (backscattering). For light  $d_{\min} \sim 0.25 \mu\text{m}$ , for X-rays or neutrons  $d_{\min} \sim 0.5$  to  $2.5 \text{ \AA}$ .

In typical experiments, scattering angles range from  $0.1 < \theta < 70$  degrees

# Form factor: P

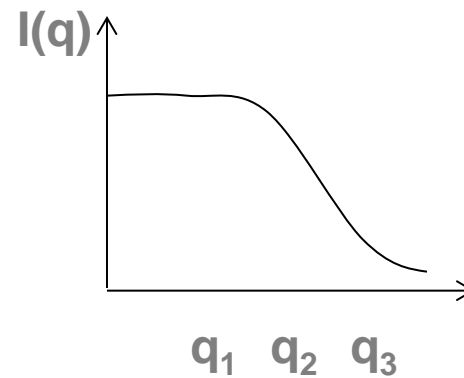
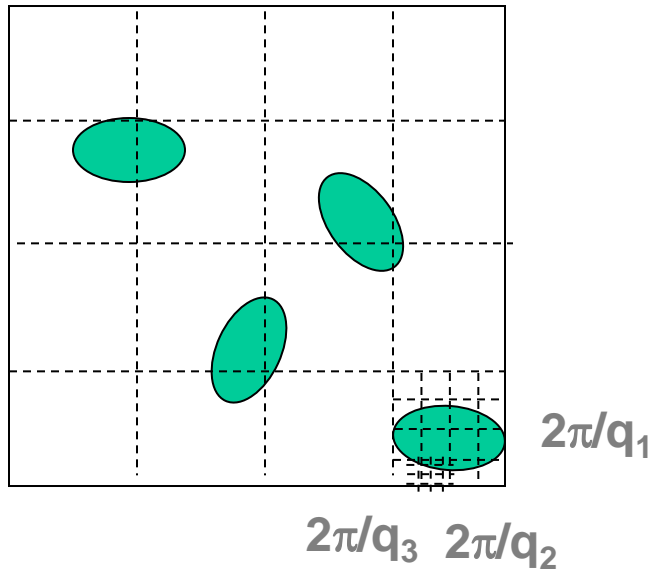
*Self-correlations*



$$P(Q) = \frac{1}{V_p^2} \left| \int_0^{V_p} \exp[i f(Q \alpha)] dV_p \right|$$

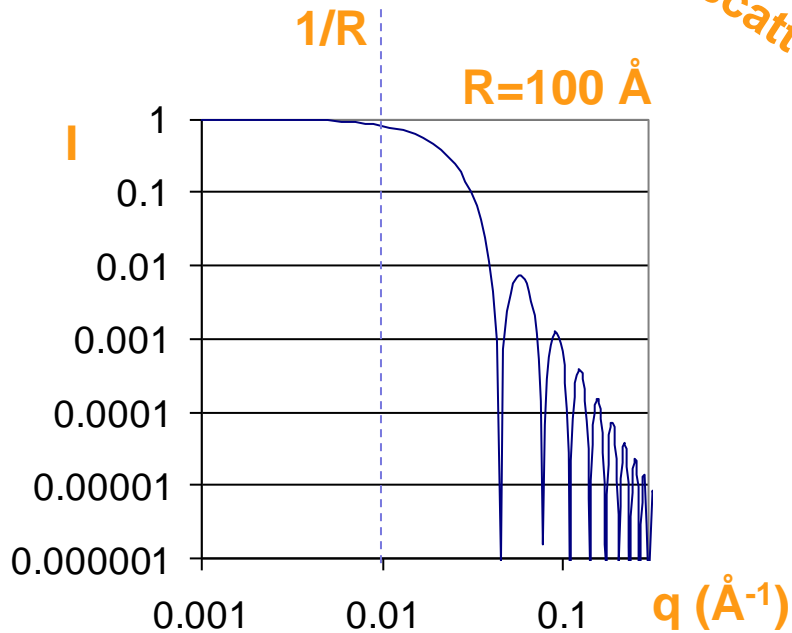
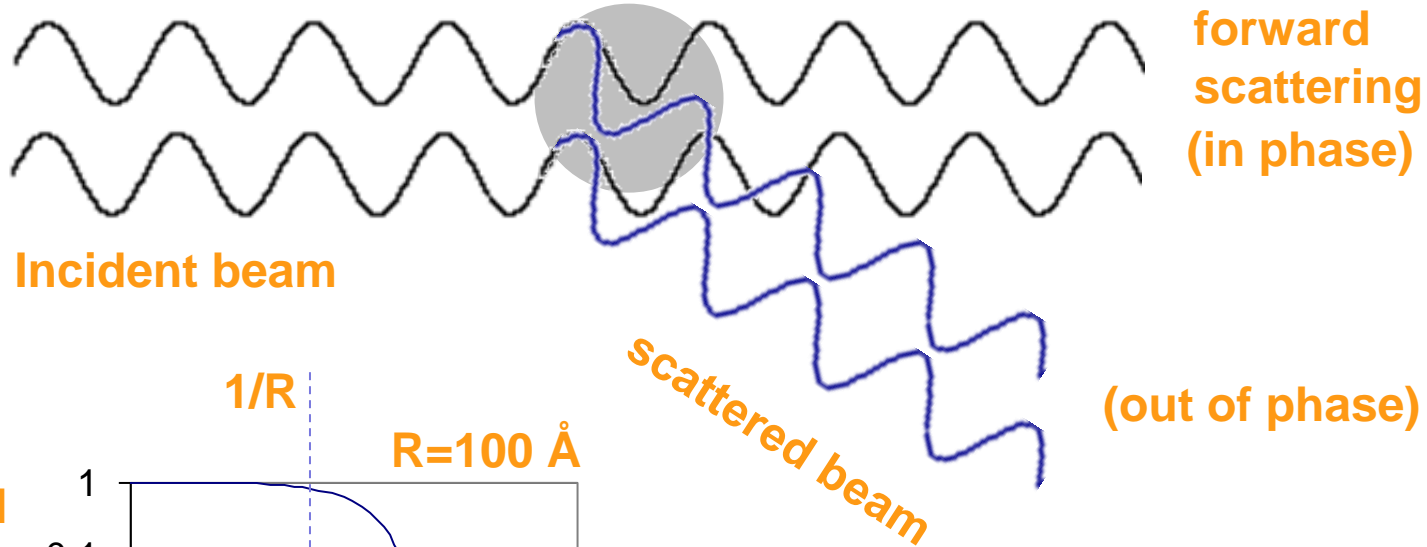
Interference between scattered radiation from different parts of the same object  
(analytical solutions for common shapes)

# Multiple lengthscales



scattering spectrum corresponds to different “magnifications”, thus several approximations may be relevant

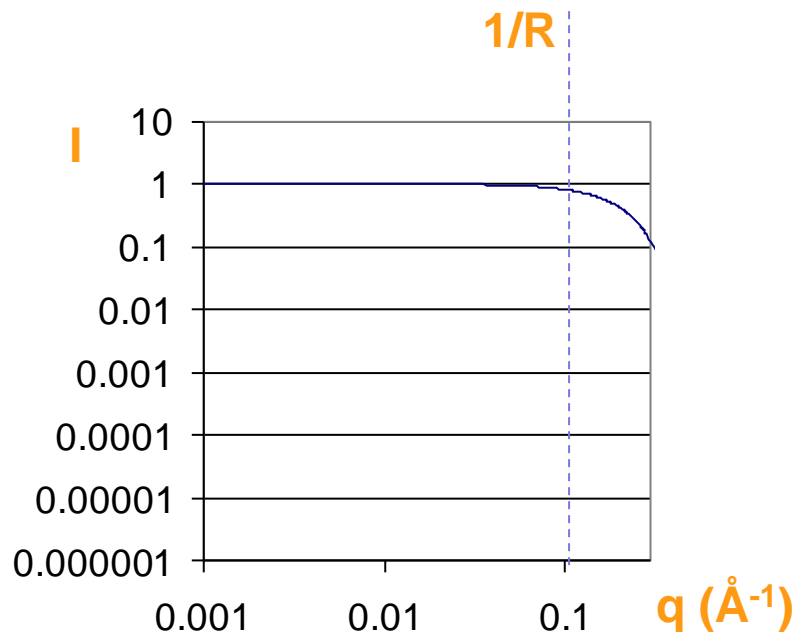
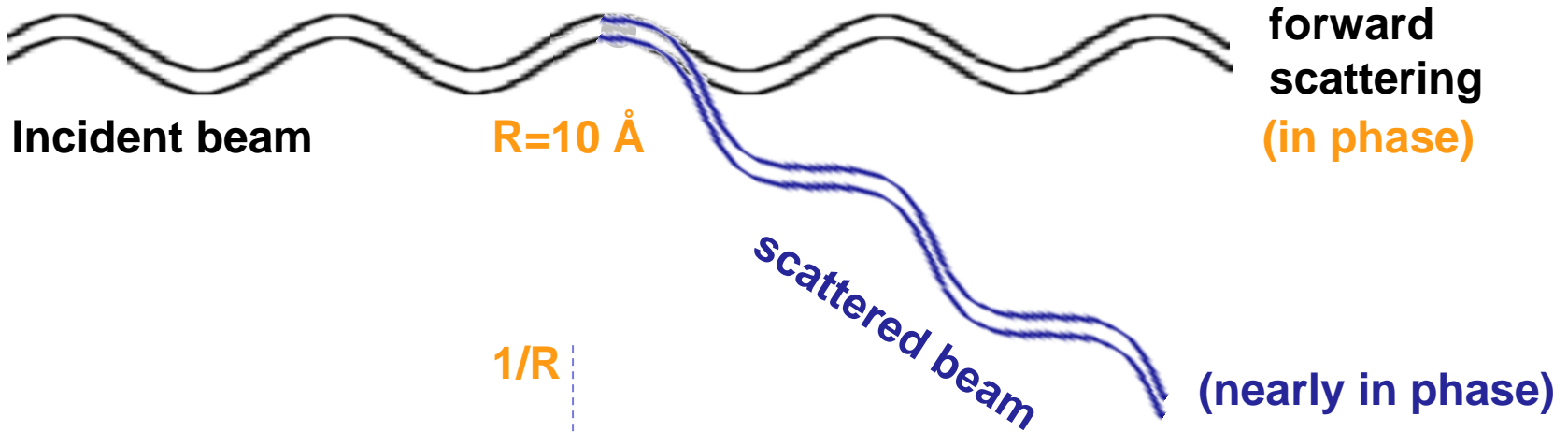
# Scattering from a sphere



$$P(q) = \frac{9 (\sin qR - qR \cos qR)^2}{(qR)^6}$$

$$R_g^2 = \frac{3}{5} r^2$$

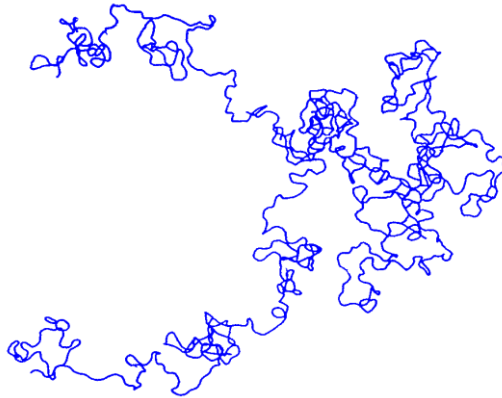
# Scattering from a (tiny) sphere



$$P(q) = \frac{9 (\sin qR - qR \cos qR)^2}{(qR)^6}$$

$$R_g^2 = \frac{3}{5} r^2$$

# Scattering from a random coil



Debye form factor

$$g_D(x) = \frac{2}{x^2} (x - 1 + e^{-x})$$

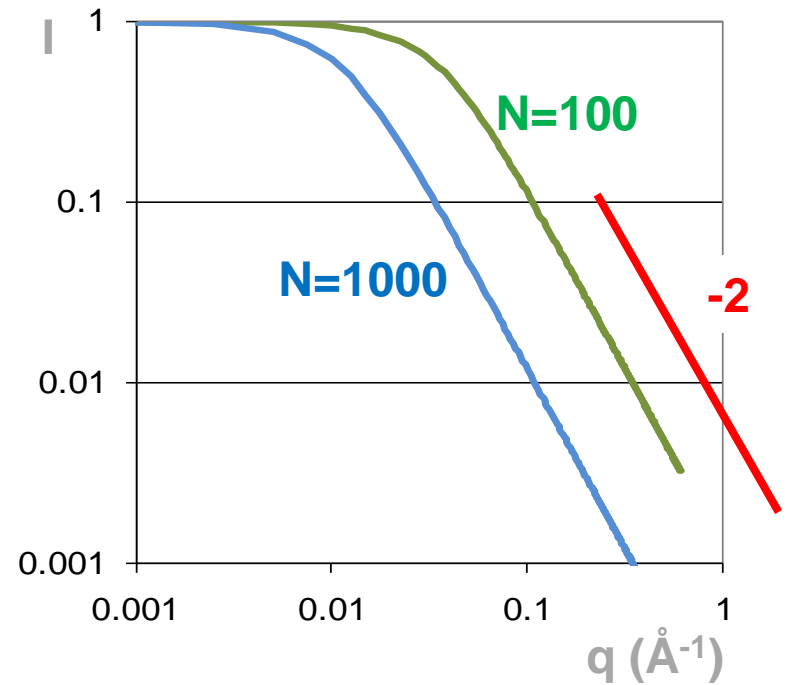
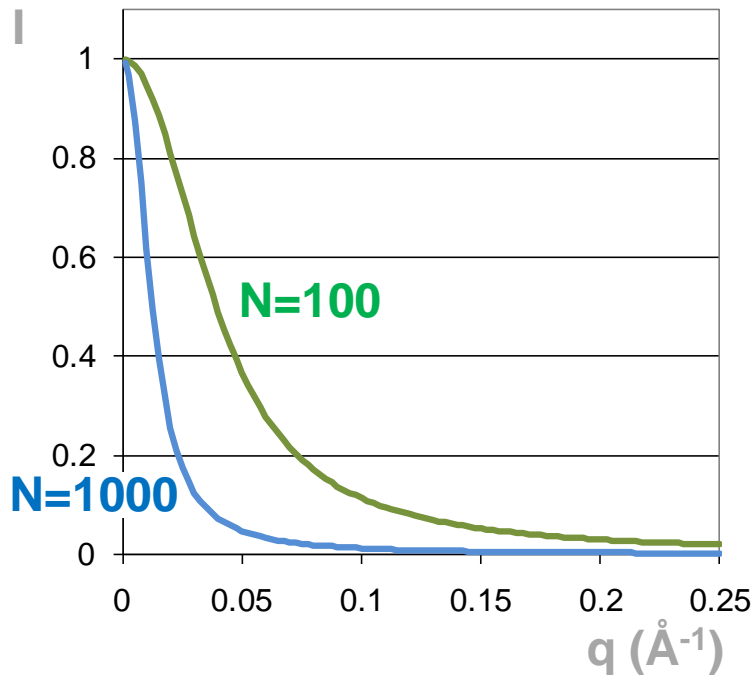
$$x \equiv q^2 R_g^2$$

$$R_g^2 = \frac{Na^2}{6}$$

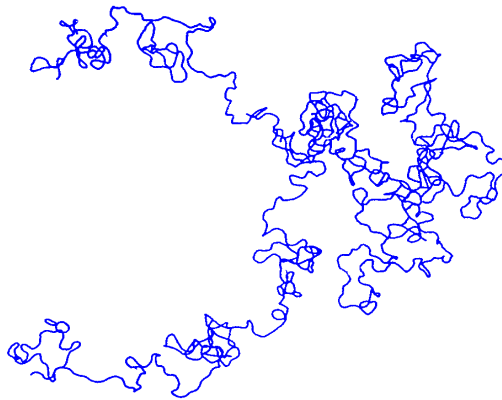
$a=10 \text{ \AA}$

$N=100 \rightarrow R_g \approx 4 \text{ nm}$

$N=1000 \rightarrow R_g \approx 13 \text{ nm}$



# Scattering from a random coil



Debye form factor

$$g_D(x) = \frac{2}{x^2} (x - 1 + e^{-x})$$

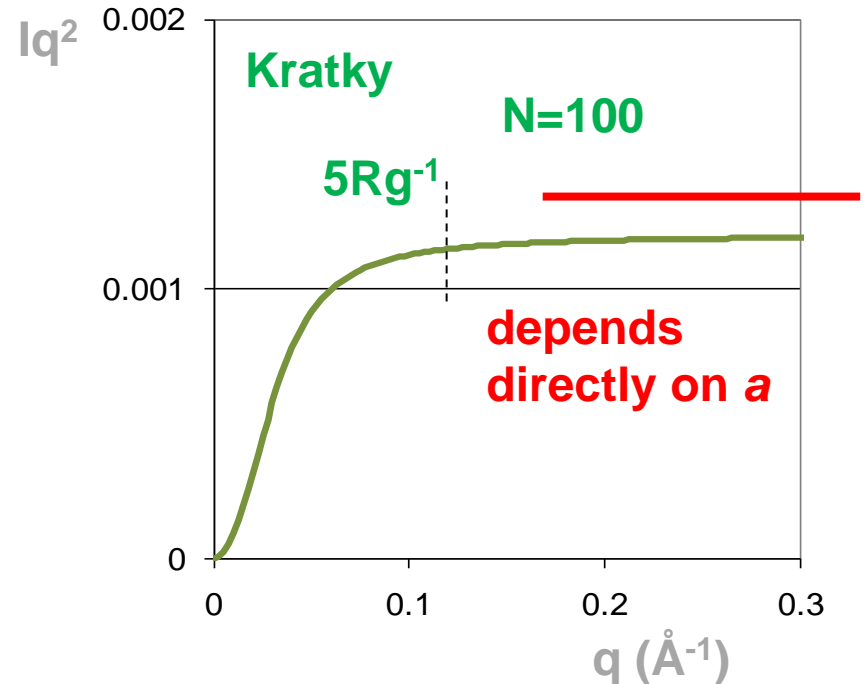
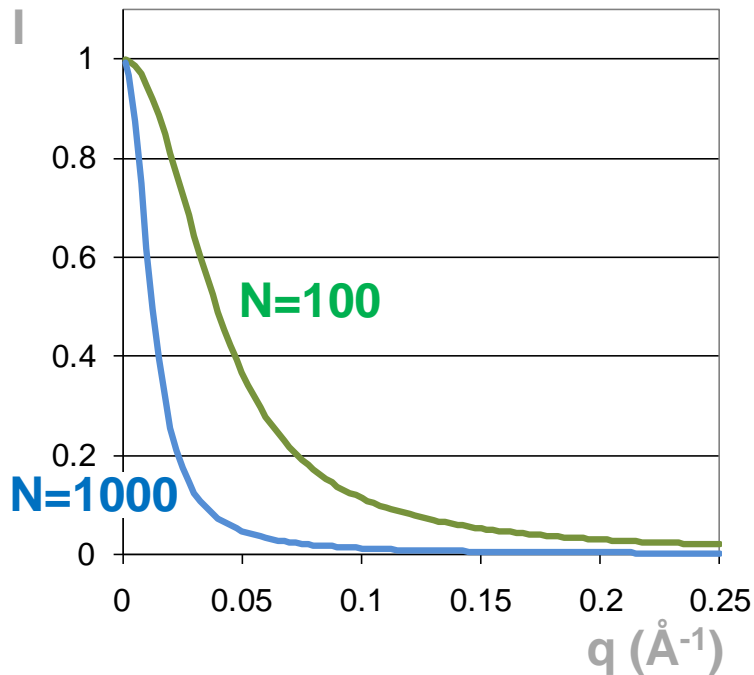
$$x \equiv q^2 R_g^2$$

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$a=10 \text{ \AA}$

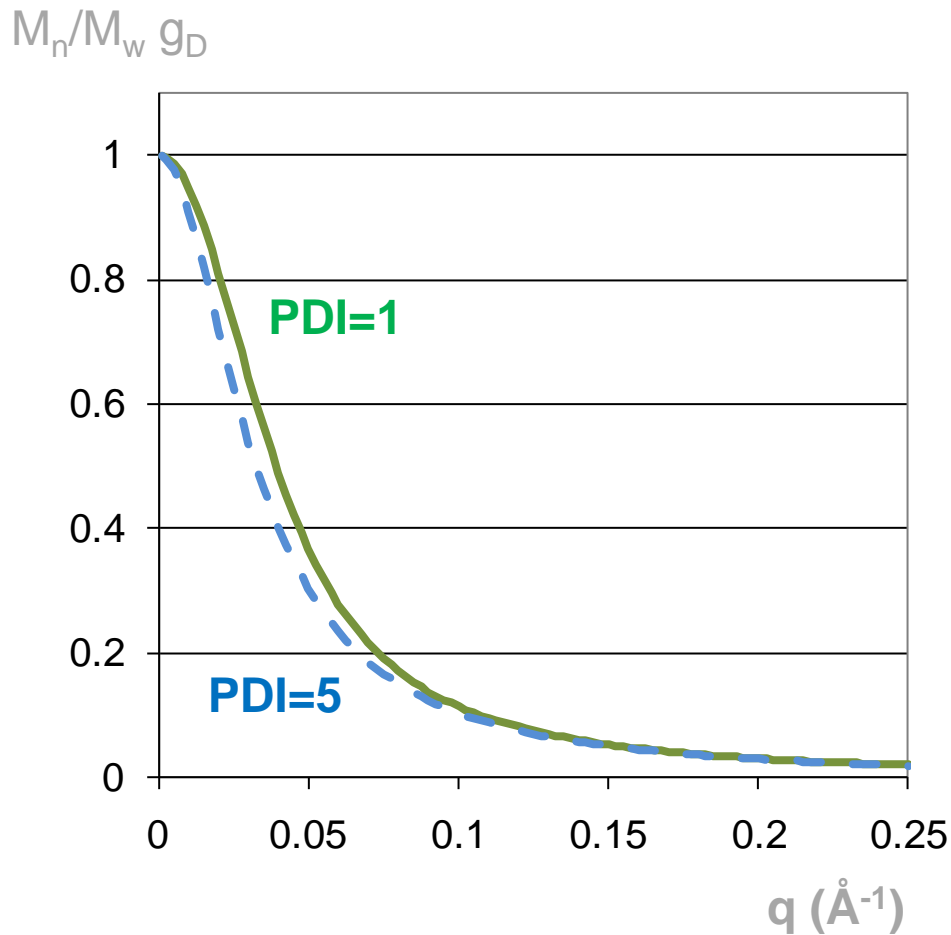
$N=100 \rightarrow R_g \approx 4 \text{ nm}$

$N=1000 \rightarrow R_g \approx 13 \text{ nm}$





# Polydisperse random coils



Polydisperse debye form factor

$$g_D(x) = \frac{2}{(1 + 1/h)x^2} \left[ \left(1 + \frac{x}{h}\right)^{-h} - 1 + x \right]$$

$$x \equiv q^2 \langle R_g^2 \rangle_n \equiv \frac{q^2 \langle R_g^2 \rangle_z}{1 + 2/h}$$

$$h = \left( \frac{M_w}{M_n} - 1 \right)^{-1}$$

(normalised to PDI)

$a=10 \text{ \AA}$

**$N=100 \rightarrow R_g \approx 4\text{nm}$**

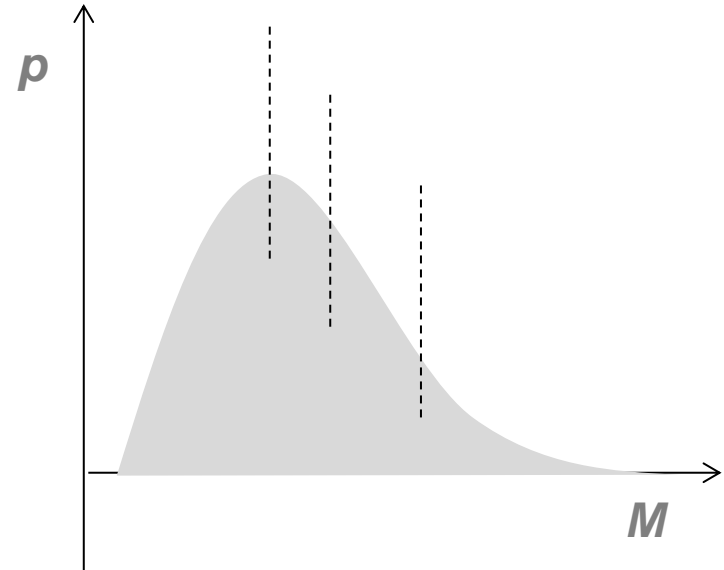
**$N_w=100, N_w/N_n=5$**

# A polydispersity model

(Schultz-Zimm)

$$p(M) = \frac{h^h}{\Gamma(h)} \left( \frac{M}{M_n} \right)^h e^{-h \left( \frac{M}{M_n} \right)}$$

$$h = \left( \frac{M_w}{M_n} - 1 \right)^{-1}$$

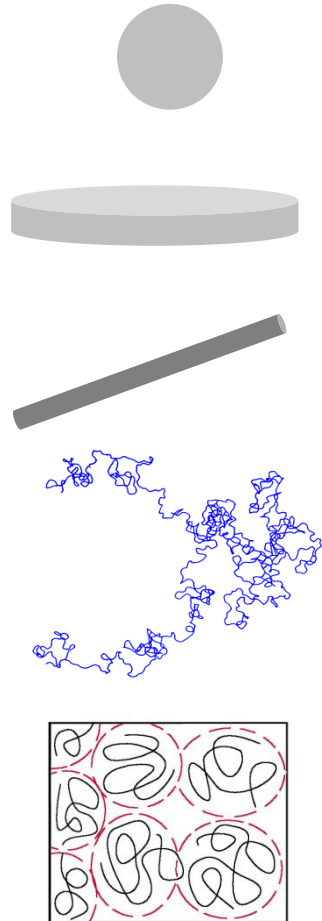


Number average  $M_n = \int p(M)M dM$

Weight average  $M_w = \frac{\int p(M)M^2 dM}{\int p(M)M dM} \equiv \frac{\langle M \rangle_2}{\langle M \rangle_1}$

z - average  $M_z = \frac{\int p(M)M^3 dM}{\int p(M)M^2 dM} \equiv \frac{\langle M \rangle_3}{\langle M \rangle_2}$

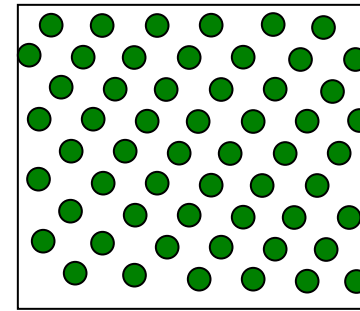
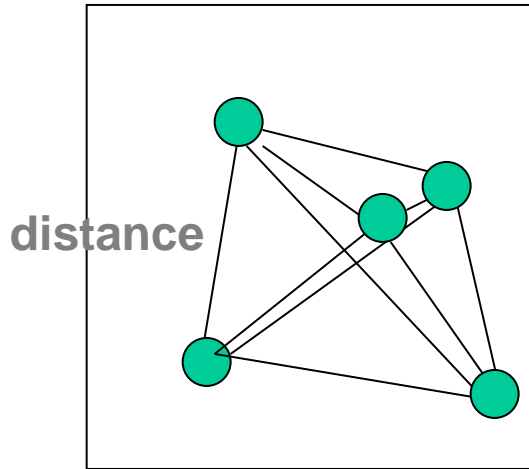
# Useful form factors



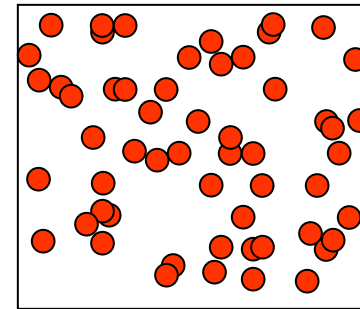
<p>Sphere of radius <math>R_p</math></p>	$P(Q) = \left[ \frac{3 (\text{Sin}(QR_p) - QR_p \text{Cos}(QR_p))}{(QR_p)^3} \right]^2$
<p>Disc of negligible thickness and radius <math>R_p</math> (<math>J_1</math> is a first-order Bessel function)</p>	$P(Q) = \frac{2}{(QR_p)^2} \left[ 1 - \frac{J_1(2QR_p)}{QR_p} \right]$
<p>Rod of negligible cross-section and length <math>L</math> (<math>S_i</math> is the Sine integral function)</p>	$P(Q) = \frac{2S_i(QL)}{QL} - \frac{\text{Sin}^2(QL/2)}{(QL/2)}$
<p>Gaussian random coil with z-average radius of gyration <math>R_g</math>, polydispersity <math>(Y+1)</math> and</p> $U = \frac{(QR_g)^2}{(1+2Y)}$	$P(Q) = \frac{2 \left[ (1+UY)^{-1/2} + U - 1 \right]}{(1+Y) U^2}$
<p>Concentrated polymer solution with screening length <math>\xi</math> where</p> $\xi = R_g \left( \frac{\phi}{\phi^*} \right)^{1/(2+D)}$	$P(Q) = P(0) \left[ \frac{1}{1 + (Q\xi)^2} \right]$

S King

# Structure factor: S



Ordered  
structure  
'crystal'



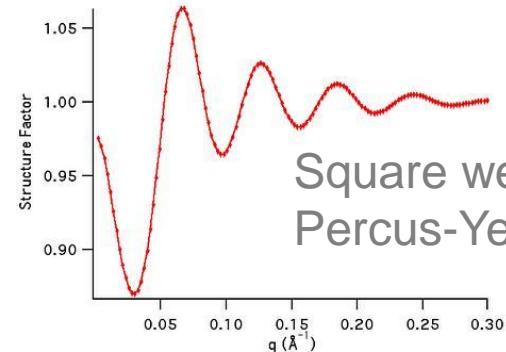
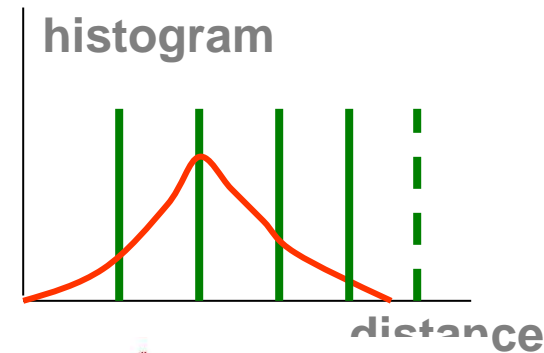
Disordered  
structure

Interference between radiation scattered by distinct objects

$$S(Q) = 1 + \frac{4\pi N_p}{QV} \int_0^\infty [g(r) - 1] r \text{Sin}(Qr) dr$$

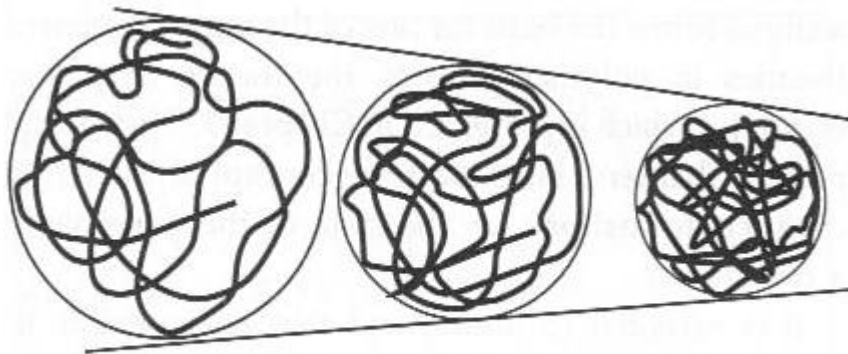
$$G(r) = \frac{4\pi N_p r^2}{V} g(r)$$

Radial distribution function, provides information about their relative position



# Interactions: Polymers in solution and melt

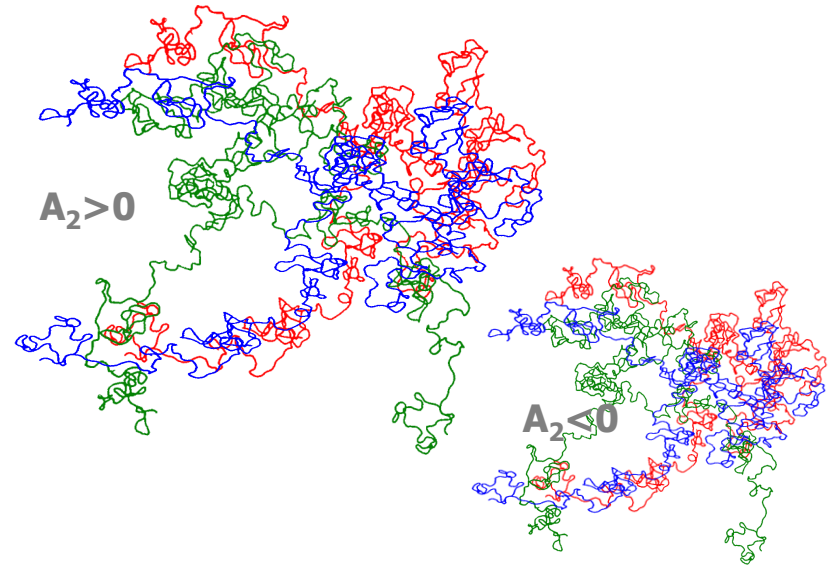
**1953 Flory** described the shape and size of individual polymer molecules in solutions and melts.



Good solvent:  
 $A_2 > 0$

Theta solvent:  
 $A_2 = 0$

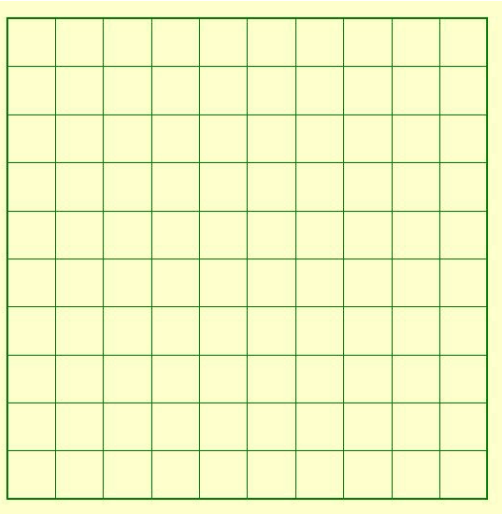
Poor solvent:  
 $A_2 < 0$



Ideal chains occur in  $\theta$ -solutions (ie, neutral solvent,  $A_2 = 0$ ) or in melt. Chains expand or contract depending on interactions:  $A_2$  (Second Virial coeff, for solutions) or  $\chi$  (for polymer mixtures)

# Polymer miscibility (1)

## Flory-Huggins lattice



Binary mixture

Thermodynamics  $\Delta G_m = \Delta H_m - T\Delta S_m$

Combinatorial entropy

$$-\frac{\Delta S}{R} = n_A \ln \phi_A + n_B \ln \phi_B \quad \Omega \text{ Boltzmann law}$$

Enthalpy  $\Delta H_m = K_B T \phi_A \phi_B \chi_{AB}$

$$\frac{\Delta G_m}{K_B T} = \frac{\phi_A}{N_A} \ln \phi_A + \frac{\phi_B}{N_B} \ln \phi_B + \phi_A \phi_B \chi_{AB}$$

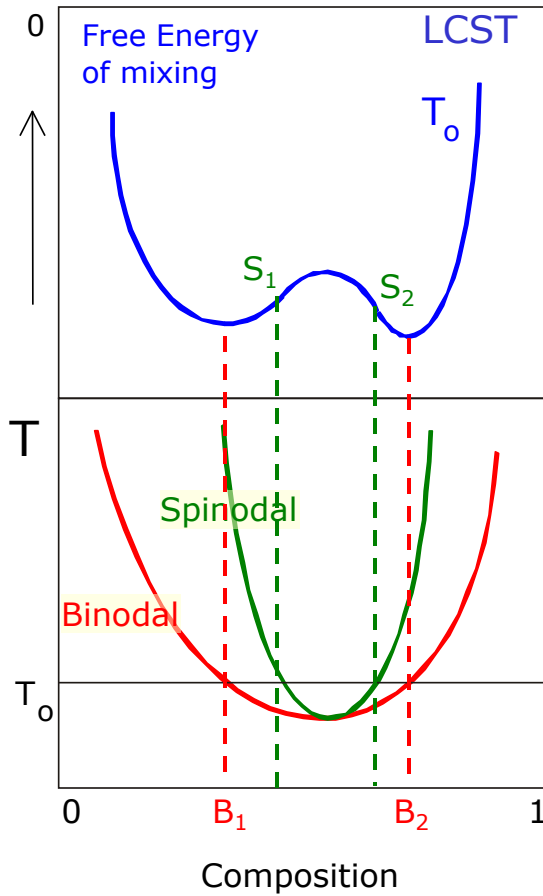
Combinatorial  
entropy

Enthalpy

$$\chi < 0 \quad \text{mixing occurs} \quad \forall T, \phi$$

$$\chi > 0 \quad \Delta G_m = \Delta H_m - T\Delta S_m \quad \text{only at high } T$$

# Polymer miscibility (2)



Thermodynamics

$$\Delta G_m = \Delta H_m - T\Delta S_m$$

$$\frac{\Delta G_m}{k_B T} = \frac{\phi}{v_A N_A} \ln \phi + \frac{(1-\phi)}{v_B N_B} \ln(1-\phi) + \frac{\phi(1-\phi)}{v} \chi$$

Combinatorial  
entropy

Enthalpy

Phase boundaries?

Binodal

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial \Delta G_m}{\partial \phi_{B1}} = \frac{\partial \Delta G_m}{\partial \phi_{B2}} \equiv \mu \\ \Delta G_m(\phi_{B1}) + \Delta G_m(\phi_{B2}) = \min \end{array} \right. \quad \text{'minima'}$$

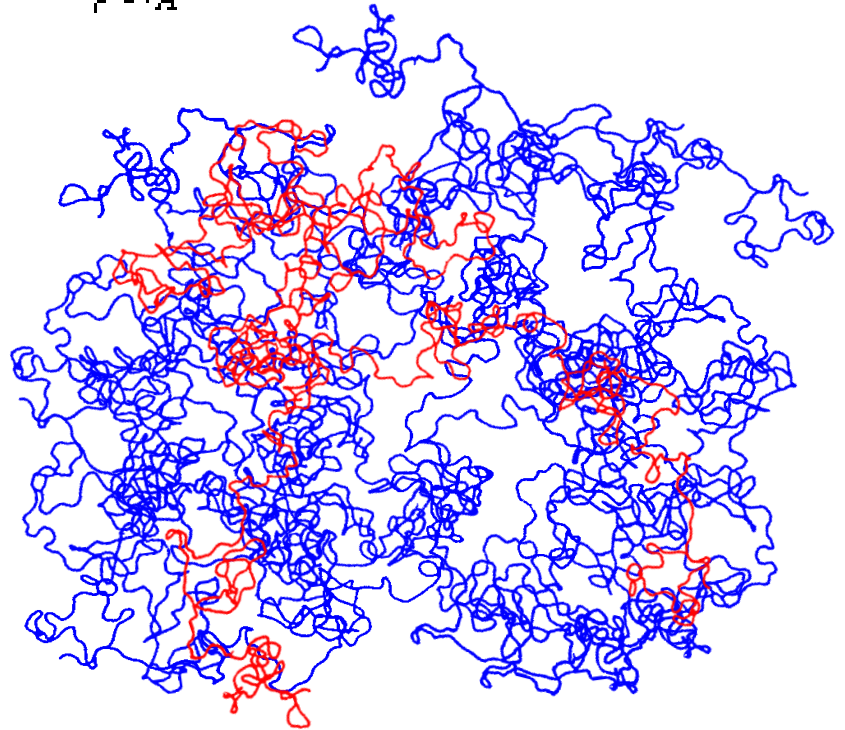
Spinodal

$$\frac{\partial^2 \Delta G_m}{\partial \phi^2} = 0 \quad \text{inflection points}$$

# Isotopic polymer mixture

$$\frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial \Omega}(g) = (b_D - b_H)^2 S_{DD}(g) = (b_D - b_H)^2 \phi(1 - \phi) N z^2 P(g)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{V} \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(g) \Big|_{c \rightarrow 1} &= (b_D - b_H)^2 \phi(1 - \phi) \langle M \rangle_w \frac{\rho N_A}{r^2} P(g) \\ &= (b_D - b_H)^2 \phi(1 - \phi) \langle M \rangle_w \frac{(\Delta e)^2}{\rho N_A} P(g) \end{aligned}$$





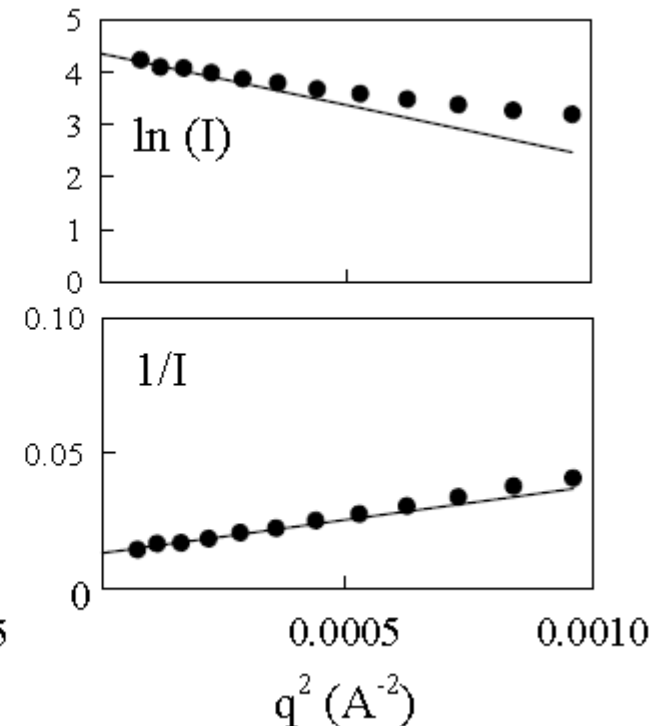
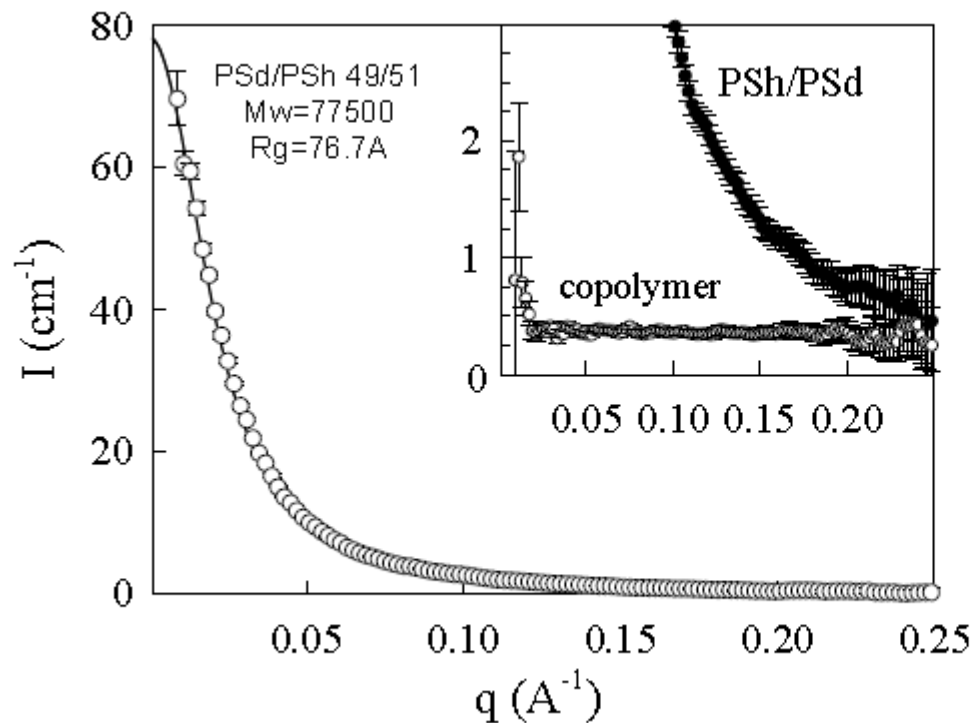
# Approximations: Guinier & Zimm

Guinier :  $\frac{d\Sigma(q)}{d\Omega} \approx \frac{d\Sigma(0)}{d\Omega} \left( -\frac{(qR_g)^2}{3} \right)$

where  $\frac{d\Sigma(0)}{d\Omega} = \frac{\phi(1-\phi) M_w (\Delta\rho)^2}{N_A \rho}$

Zimm :  $\left[ \frac{d\Sigma(q)}{d\Omega} \right]^{-1} \approx \left[ \frac{d\Sigma(0)}{d\Omega} \right]^{-1} \left[ 1 + \frac{(qR_g)^2}{3} \right]$

for a polymer coil



# Interacting polymer mixtures

$$\frac{1}{V} \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(q) \Big|_{\text{corr}^{-1}} = N_A \left( \frac{b_1}{v_1} - \frac{b_2}{v_2} \right)^2 S(q)$$

$$\frac{1}{S(q)} = \frac{1}{S_1(q)} + \frac{1}{S_2(q)} - 2 \frac{\tilde{\chi}_{12}}{v_0}$$

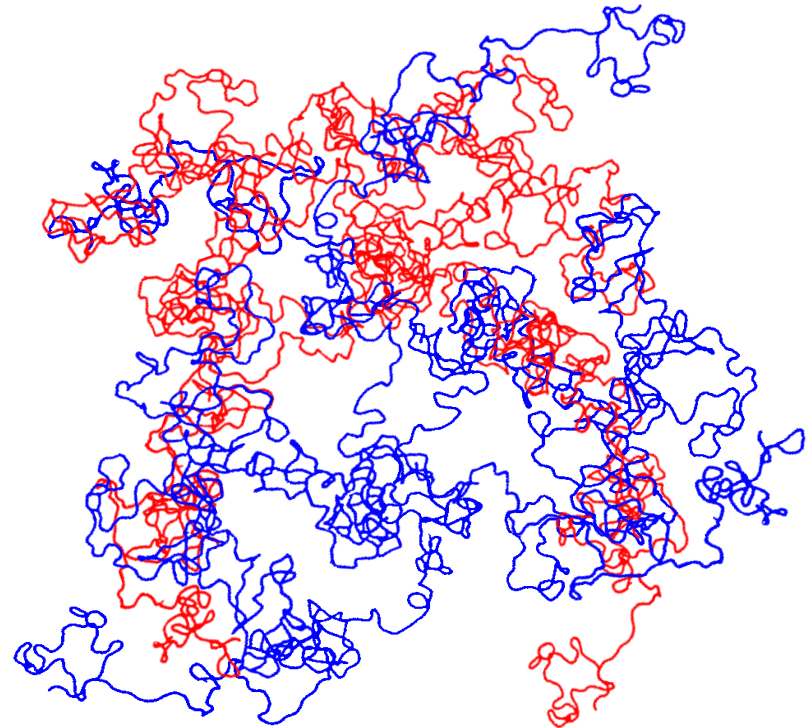
$$S_i(q) = \phi_i v_i \langle N_i \rangle_w \langle g_D(R_{gs}^2) \rangle_w$$

**Zimm**  $S_i(q) \approx \phi_i v_i \langle N_i \rangle_w \left( 1 - \frac{1}{3} \langle R_{gs}^2 \rangle_w q^2 \right)$

$$\frac{1}{S(q)} = \frac{1}{S(0)} \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{3} R_{\text{zimm}}^2 q^2 \right]$$

where  $R_{\text{zimm}}^2 = \left( \frac{\langle R_{g1}^2 \rangle_w}{\phi_1 v_1 \langle N_1 \rangle_w} + \frac{\langle R_{g2}^2 \rangle_w}{\phi_2 v_2 \langle N_2 \rangle_w} \right) S(0)$

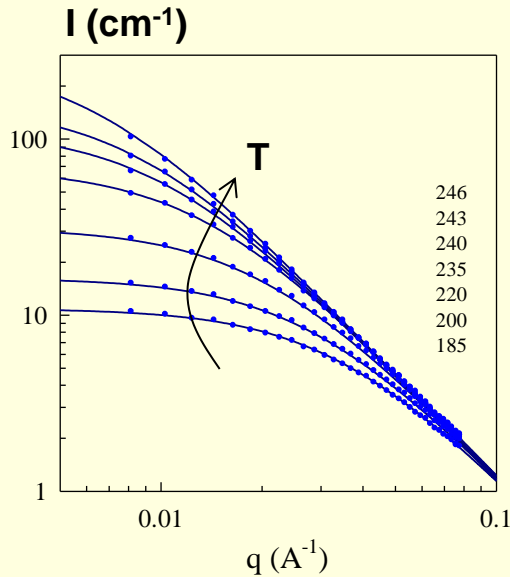
$$\frac{1}{S(0)} = \frac{1}{\phi_1 v_1 \langle N_1 \rangle_w} + \frac{1}{\phi_2 v_2 \langle N_2 \rangle_w} - 2 \frac{\tilde{\chi}_{12}}{v_0}$$



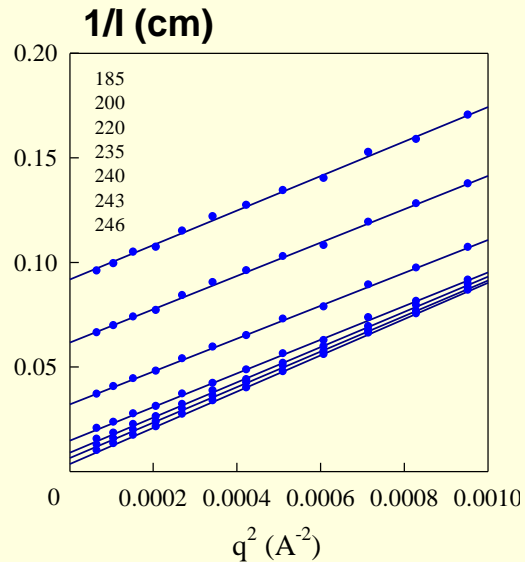
# Equilibrium: SANS

TMPC/PSd 50/50

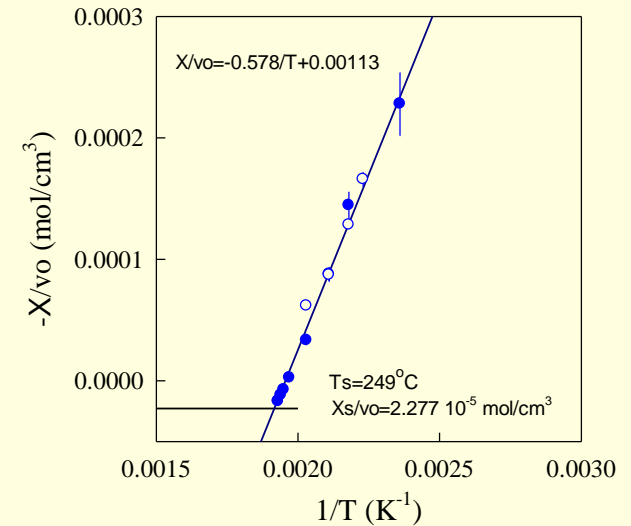
## 1-phase scattering



## Orstein-Zernike



## Interaction $\chi_{FH}$



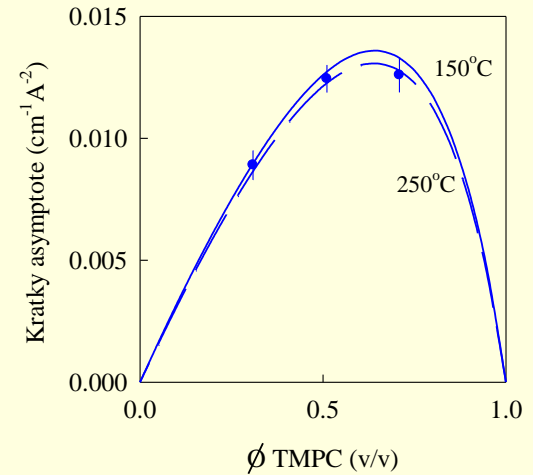
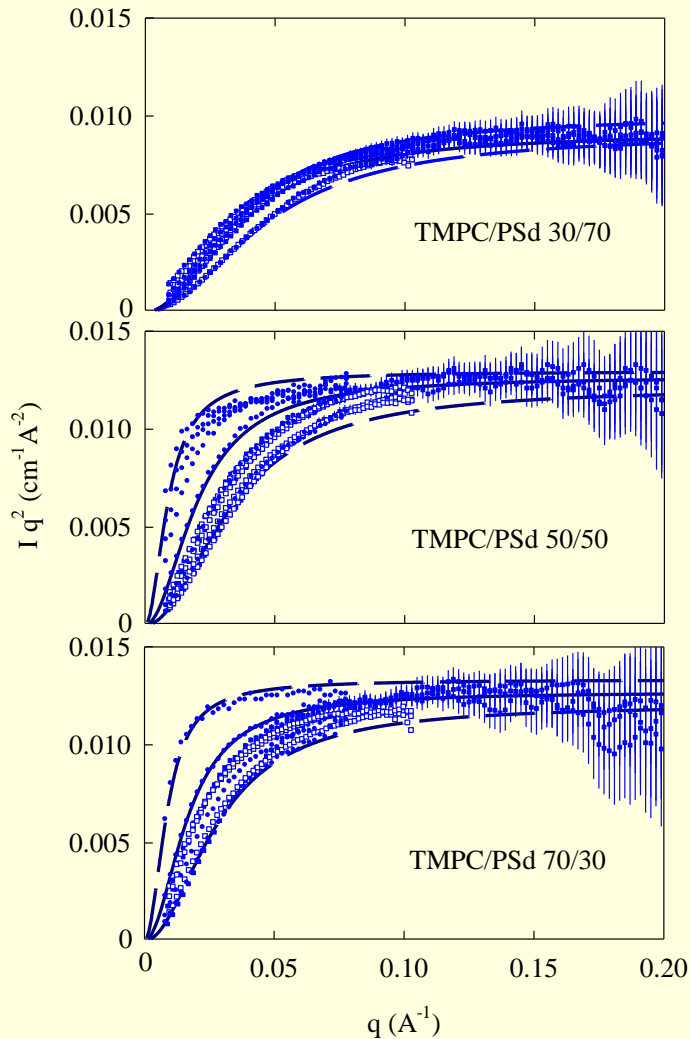
## Random Phase Approximation

$$\frac{1}{S_{AB}(q)} = \frac{1}{\phi_A v_A \langle N_A \rangle_n \langle g_D(q) \rangle_w} + \frac{1}{\phi_B v_B \langle N_B \rangle_n \langle g_D(q) \rangle_w} - 2 \frac{\tilde{\chi}_{AB}}{v_o}$$

$$\frac{1}{S(q)} = 2(\chi_S - \chi_F) + \frac{\xi^z}{S(0)} q^2$$

$$\xi^2 = \frac{v_o}{36(\tilde{\chi}_S - \tilde{\chi}_{AB})} \left( \frac{\langle N_A \rangle_z a_A^2}{\langle N_A \rangle_w \phi_A v_A} + \frac{\langle N_B \rangle_z a_B^2}{\langle N_B \rangle_w \phi_B v_B} \right)$$

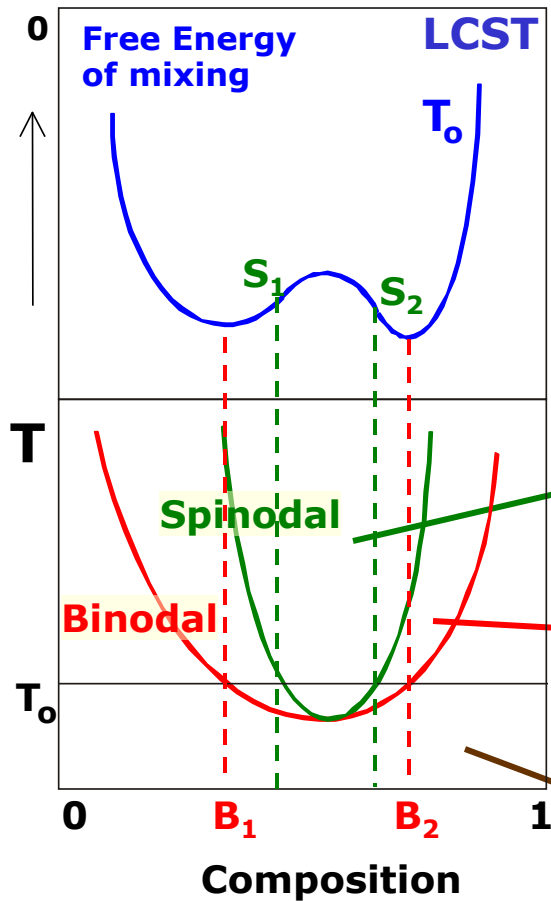
# Equilibrium: Kratky asymptote



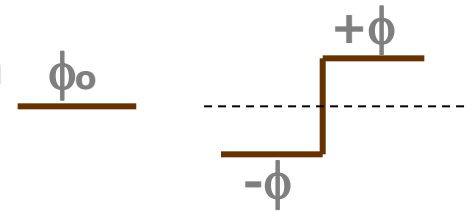
## Kratky asymptote and segment length

$$S(q) \approx \frac{12\phi_1\phi_2}{q^2} \frac{v_o}{\hat{a}^2} \quad \frac{\hat{a}^2}{v_o} \equiv \phi_1\phi_2 \left( \frac{a_1^2}{\phi_1 v_1} + \frac{a_2^2}{\phi_2 v_2} \right)$$

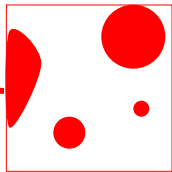
# Non-equilibrium: Fluctuations & Phase separation



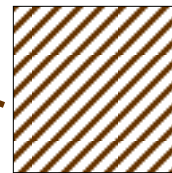
Concentration fluctuations



**Unstable:**  $G'' < 0$   
*spinodal decomposition*

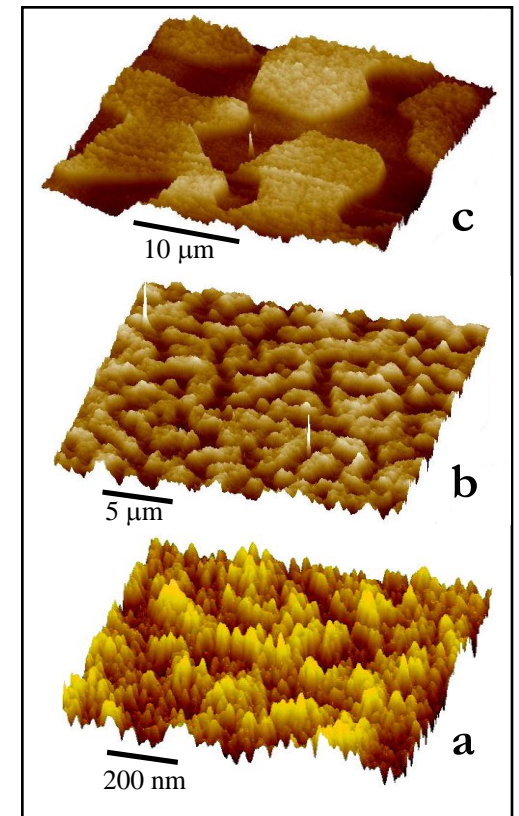
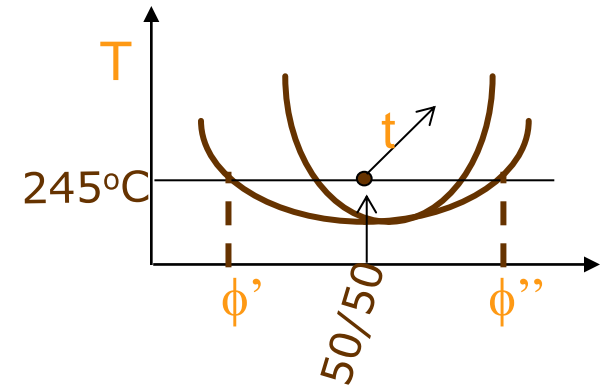
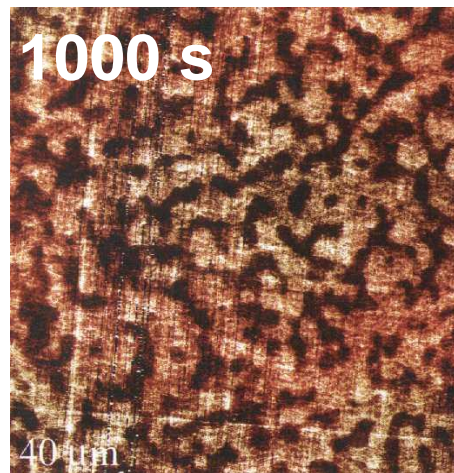
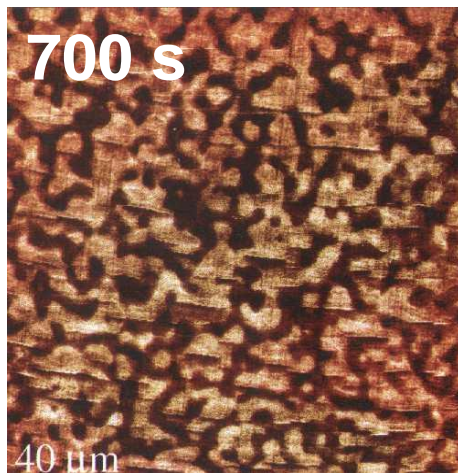
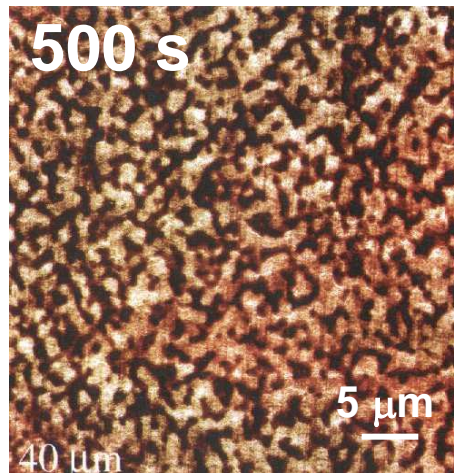
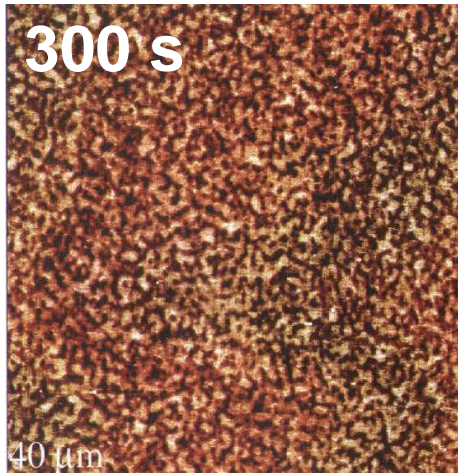


**Metastable:**  
*nucleation & growth*

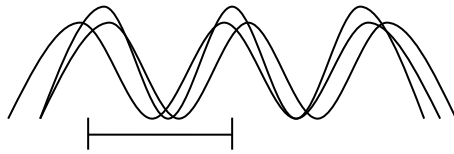
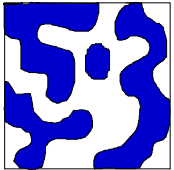


**Stable:**  
*equilibrium*

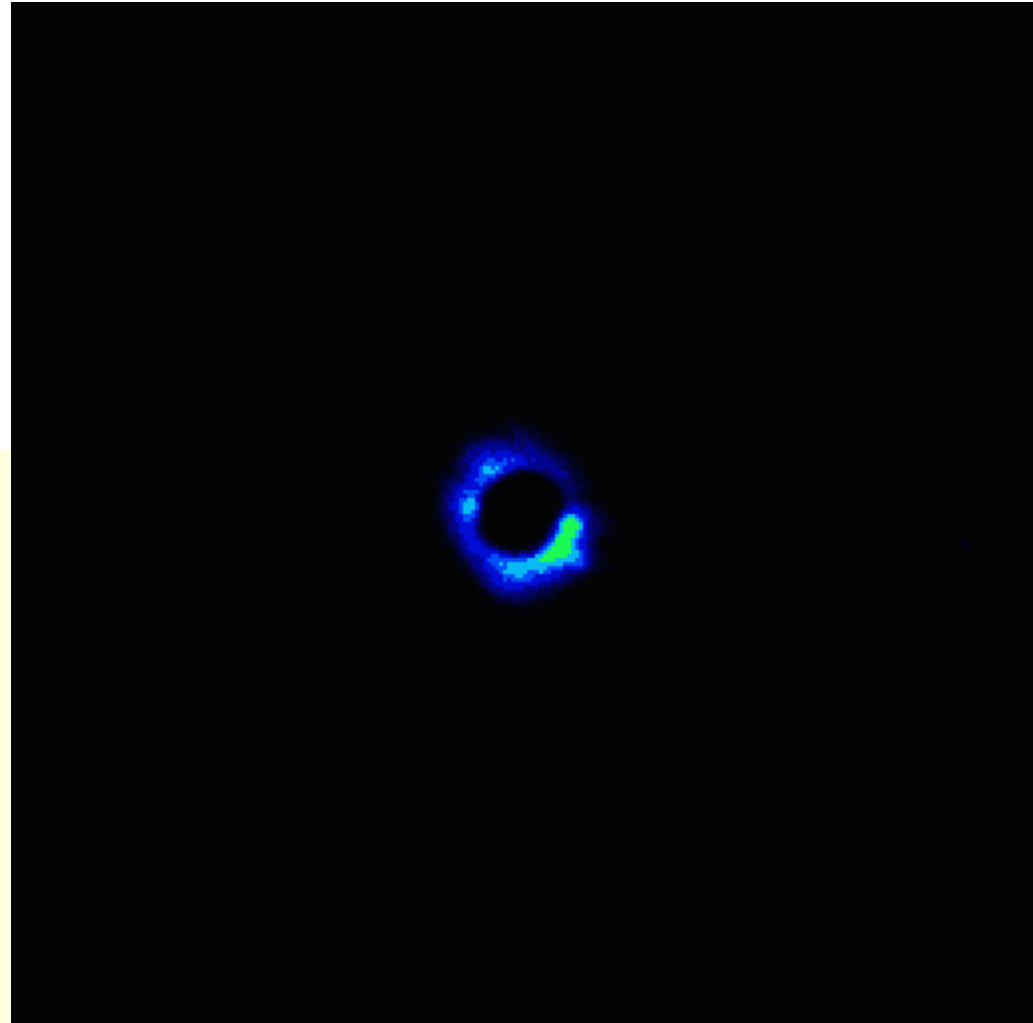
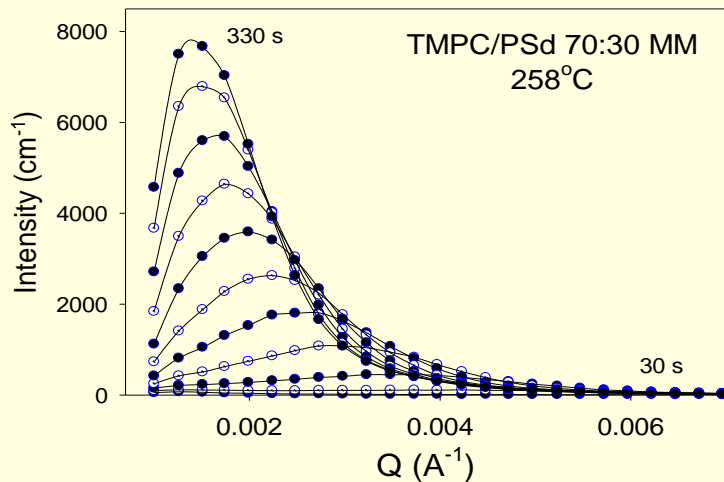
# Phase separation: spinodal decomposition

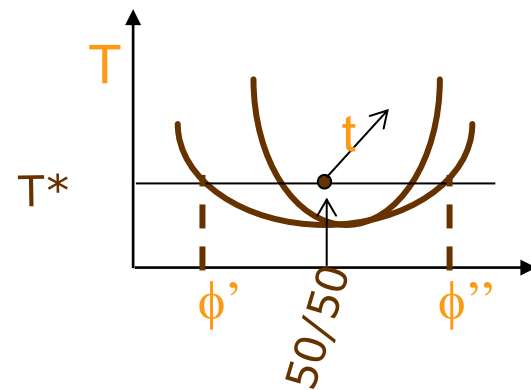
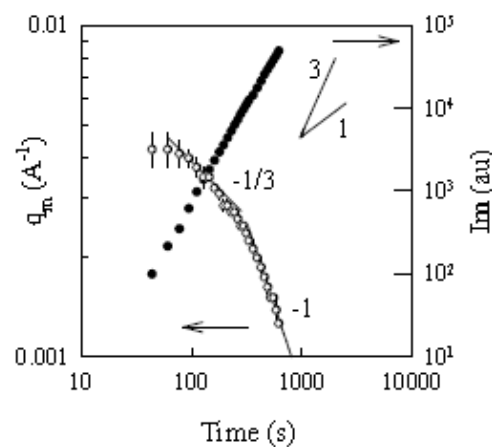
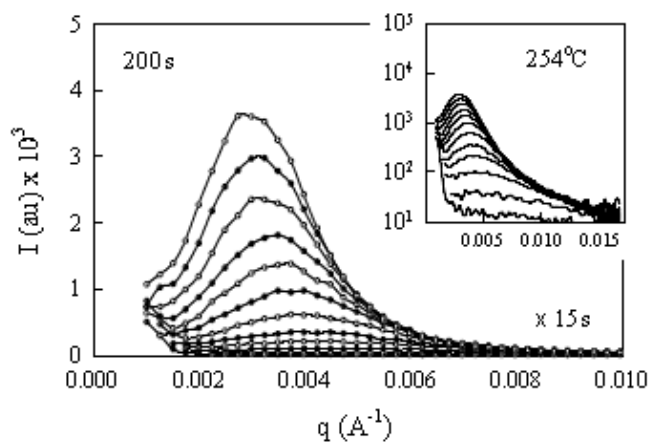
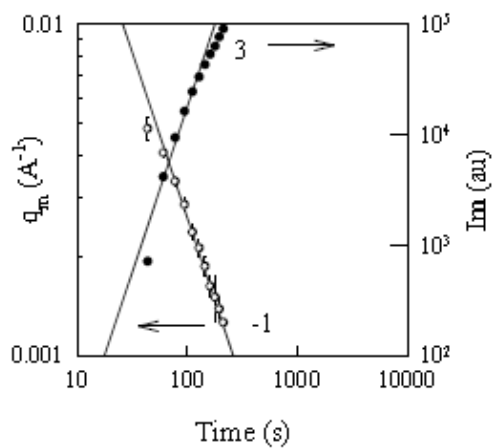
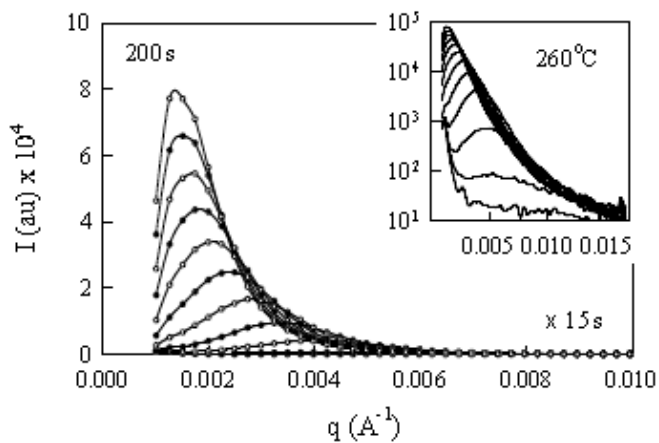
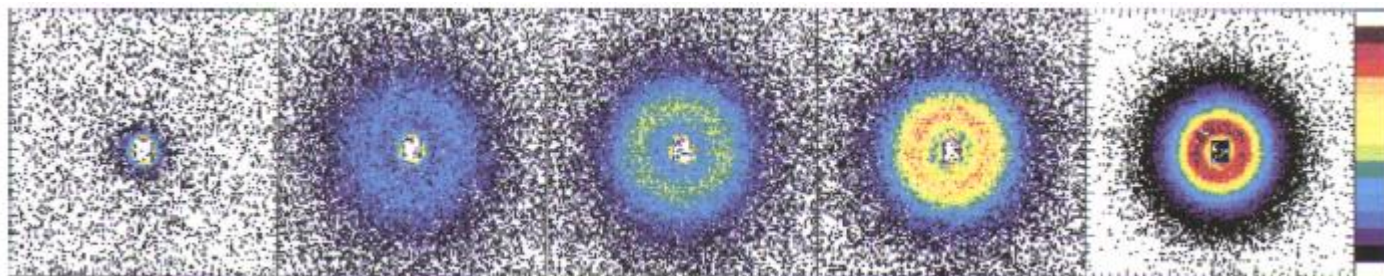


# Phase separation



$\Lambda_m$ : characteristic length of phase separation  $\sim 10s-100s$  nm



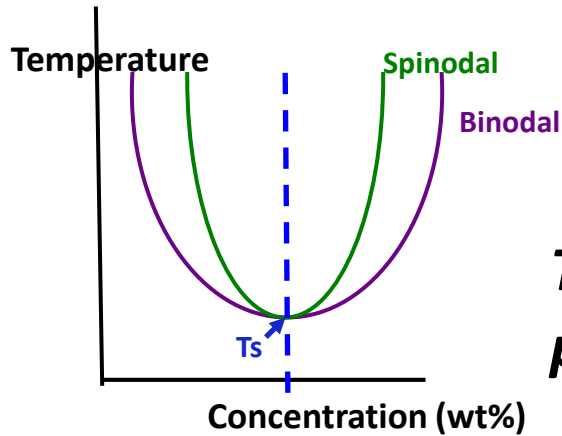
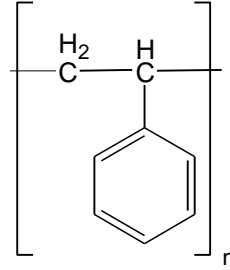




# Opportunities & recent developments

*nanocomposites*

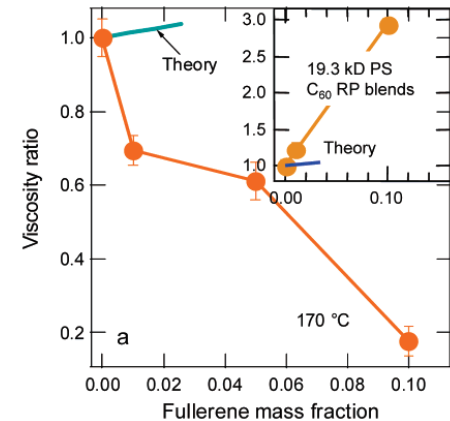
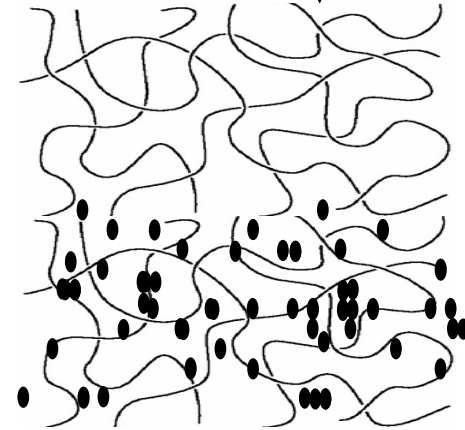
**structure**



**Bulk**

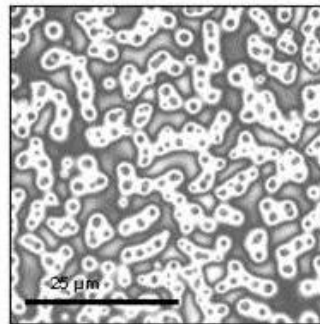
*Thermodynamics & phase separation*

**dynamics**

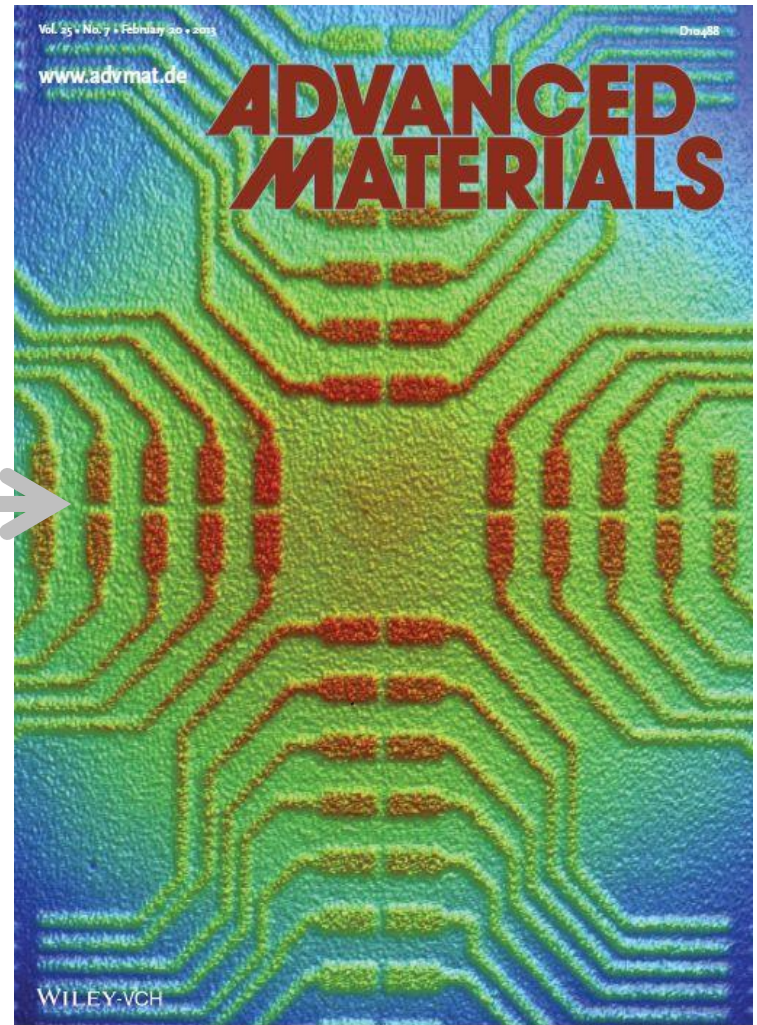
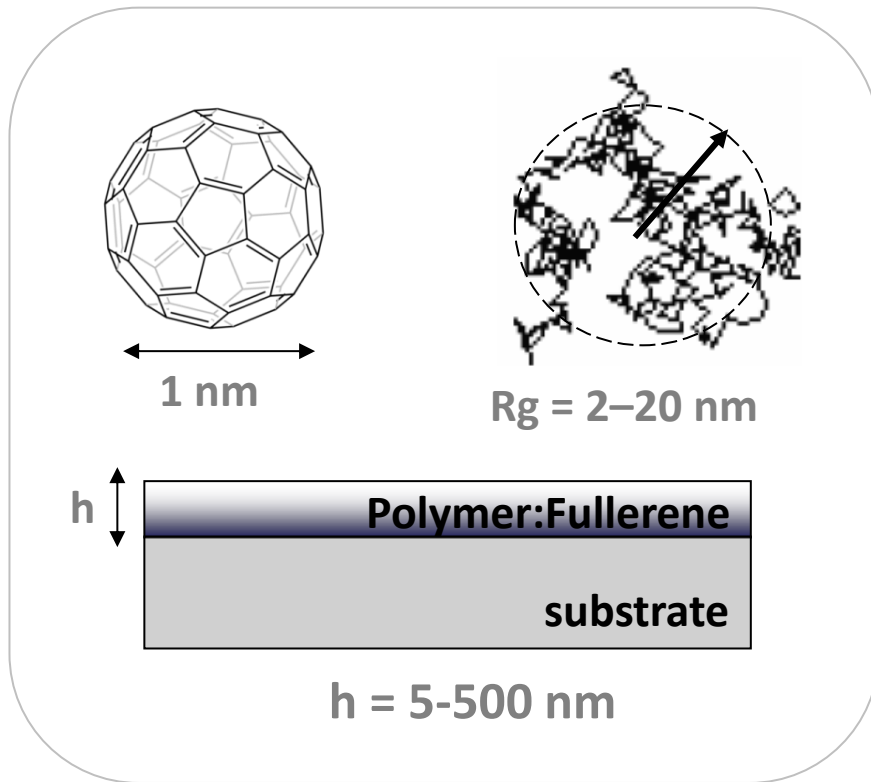


**Thin Films**

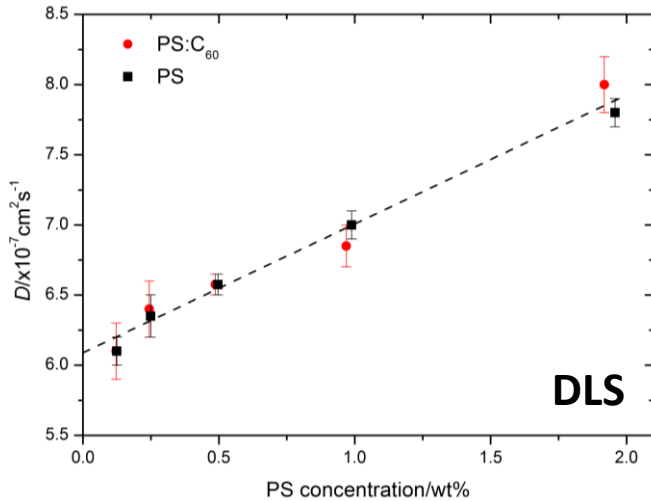
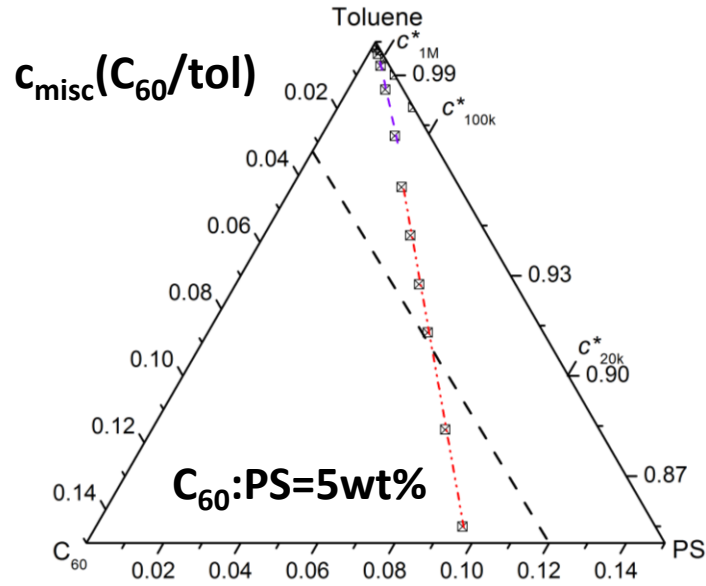
*Morphology*



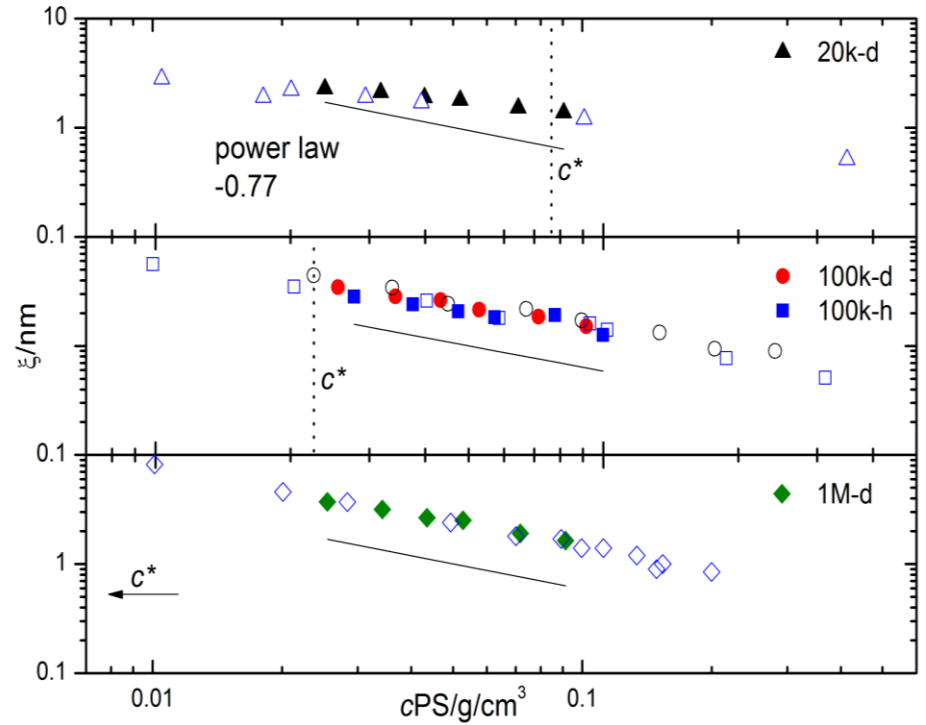
# Polymer-fullerene blends



# Polymer solution conformation + fullerenes

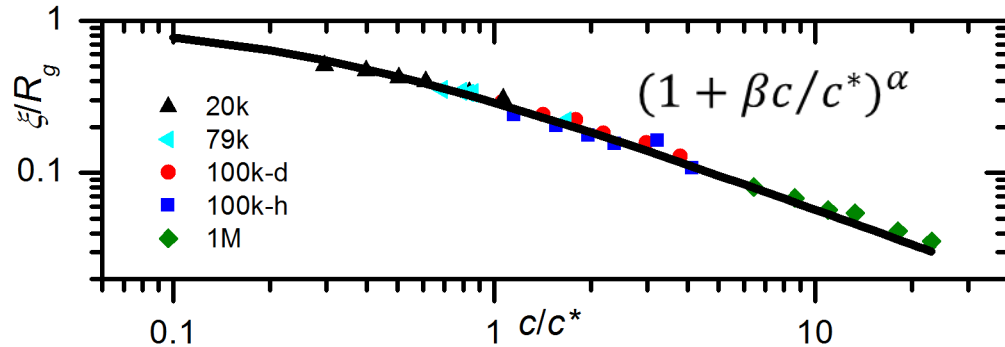


## SANS



**Dimensions unchanged**

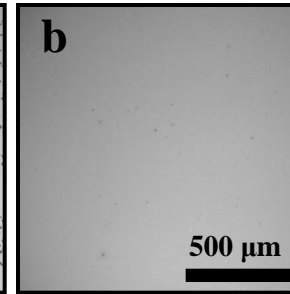
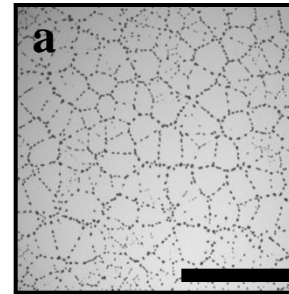
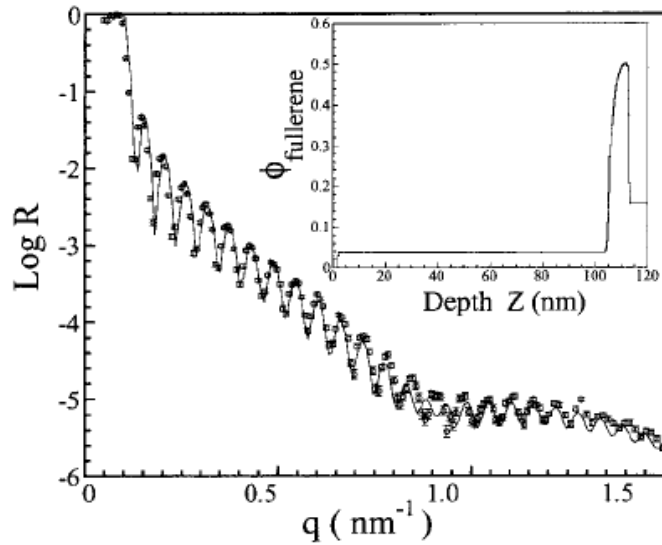
$$c^*: 3M/4\pi N_A R_g^3$$



# Design 3D composites

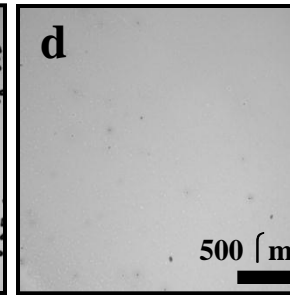
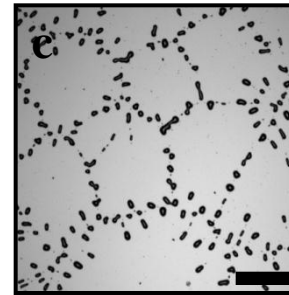
PS

PS + 5% C<sub>60</sub>



2K, 30 nm

140°C

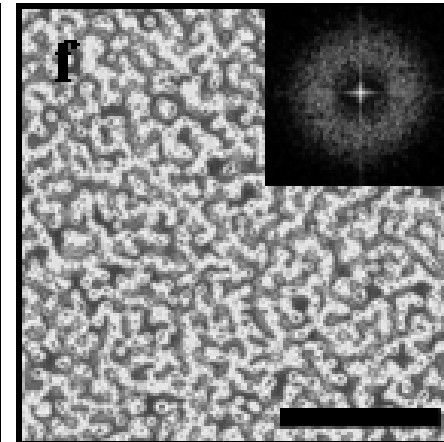
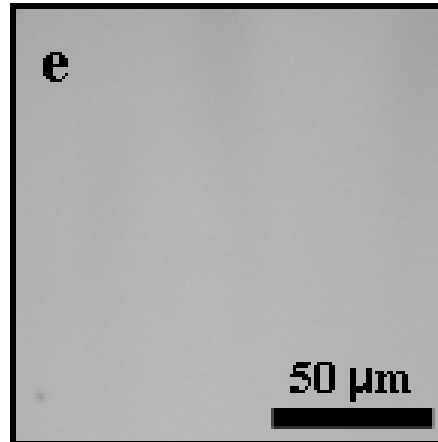


2K, 150 nm

180°C

PS+5% C60 h = 100nm

GISANS & reflectometry



270K, 150 nm

180°C

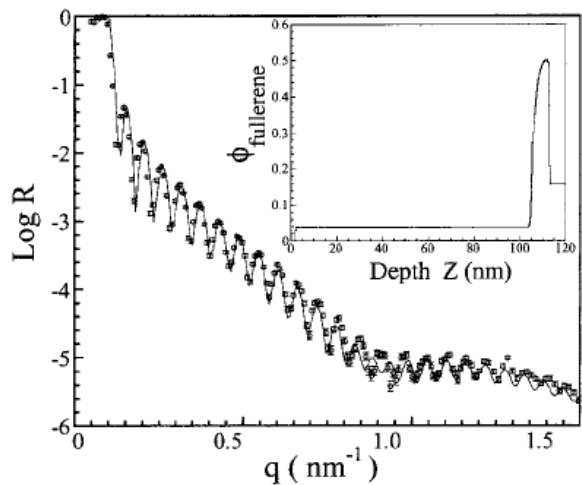
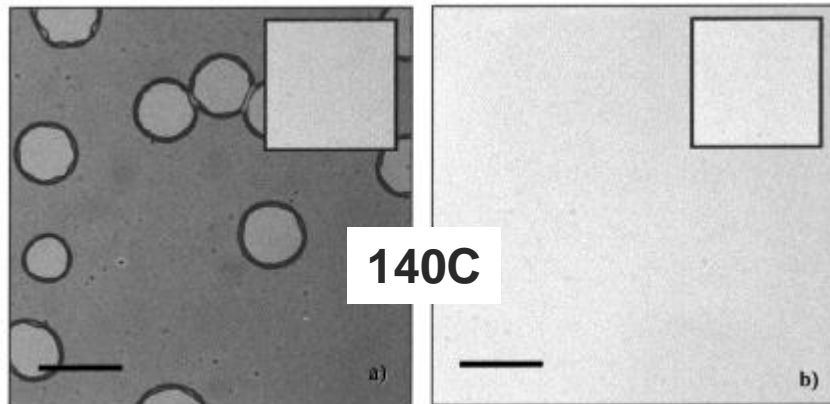
PRL 2010

'Spinodal Clustering'

# Thin films

PS (2k), 30 nm

1% C60, 30 nm

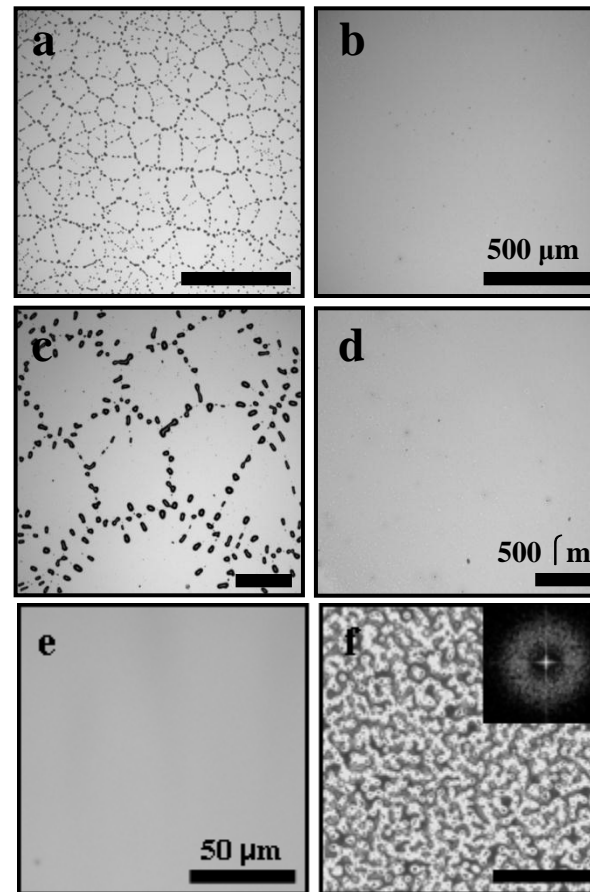


PS+5% C60  $h = 100\text{ nm}$

GISANS & reflectometry

PS

PS + 5% C<sub>60</sub>



2k, 30 nm

140°C

2k, 150 nm

180°C

270K, 150 nm

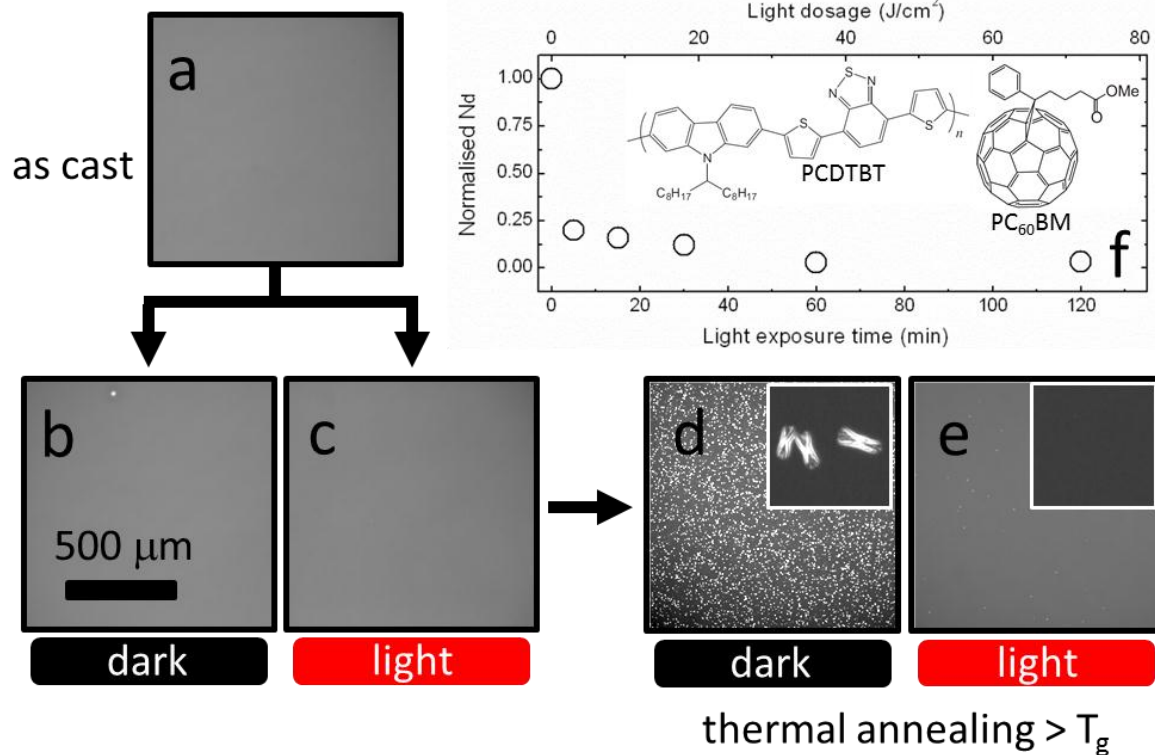
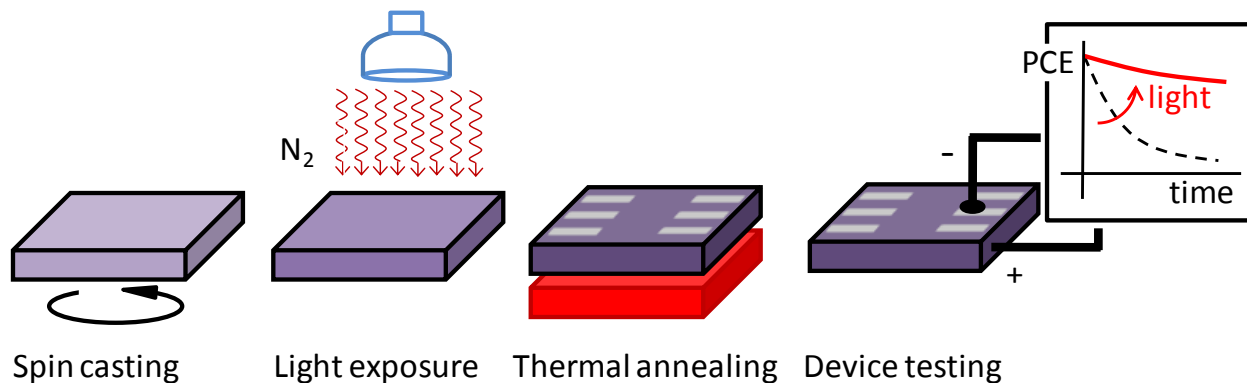
180°C

'Spinodal nucleation'

*Phys. Rev. Lett.* **105**, 038301 (2010)

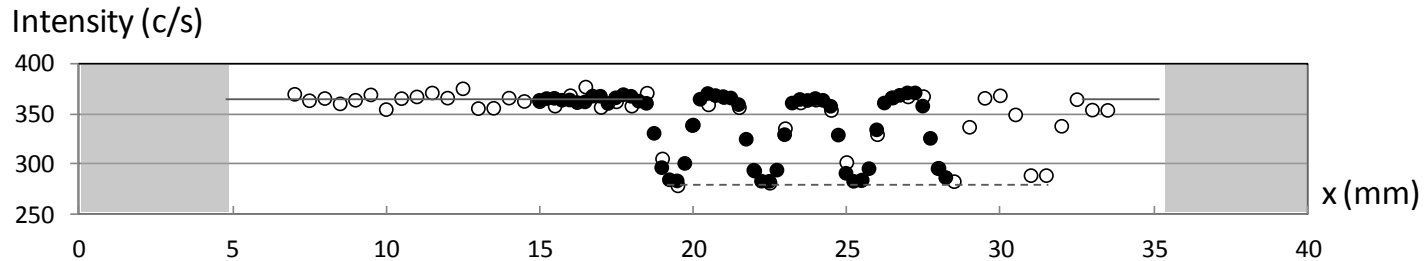
*Macromolecules* **44**, 4530-4537 (2011)

# Organic Solar Cell lifetime?



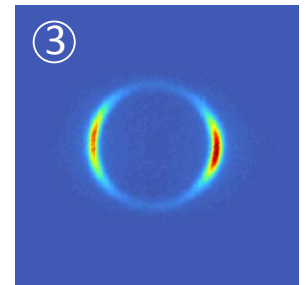
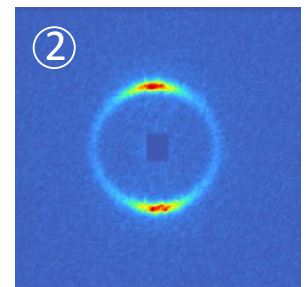
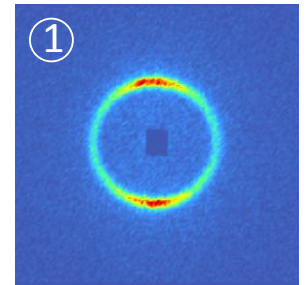
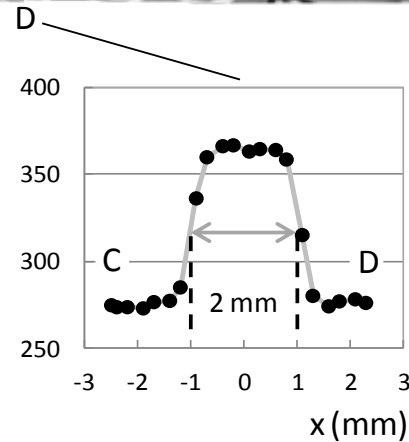
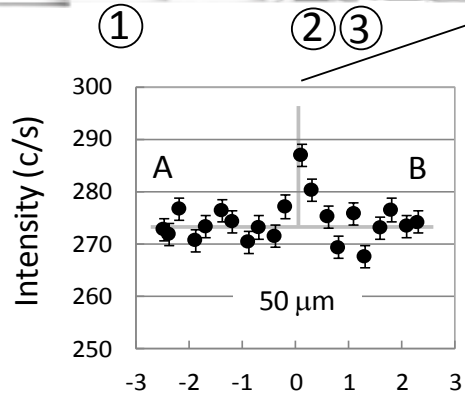
# New directions

## MicroSANS: microprocessing



5 mm

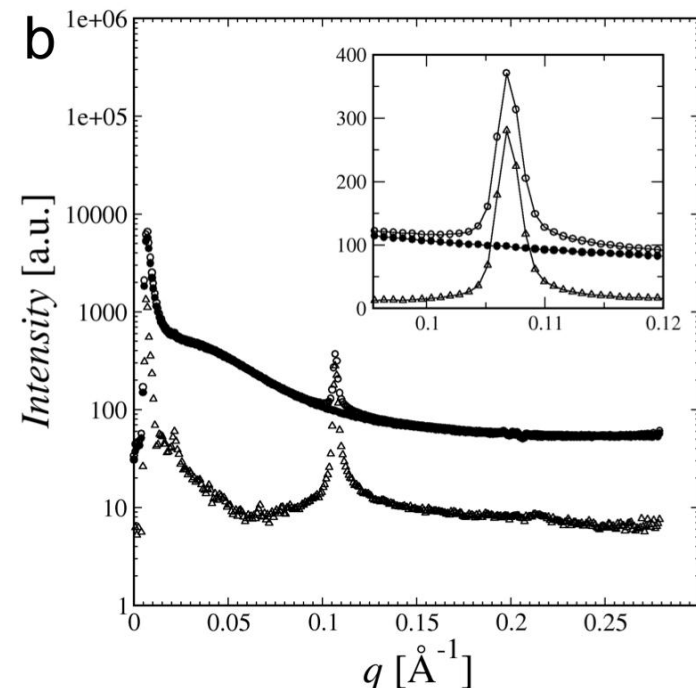
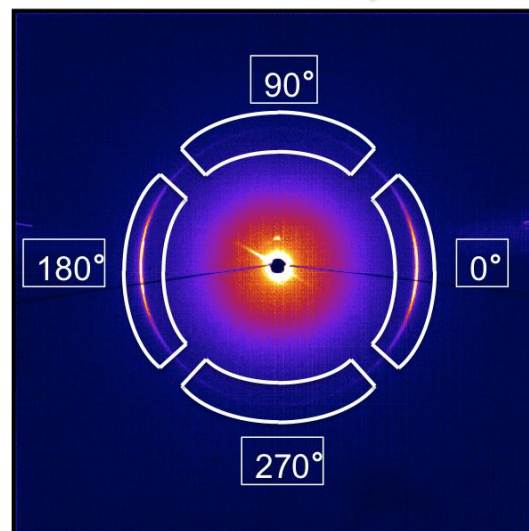
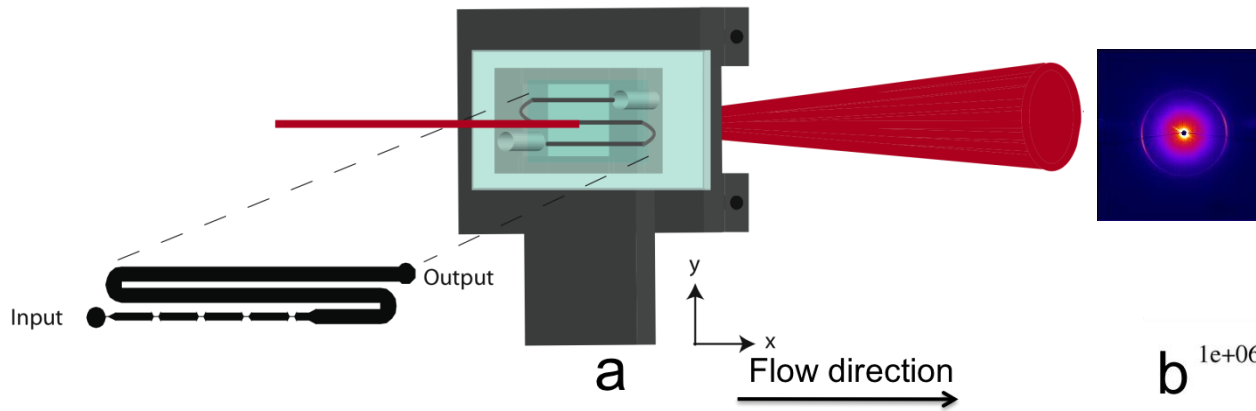
●  
500  $\mu\text{m}$   
neutron beam



CTAC/pentanol/water

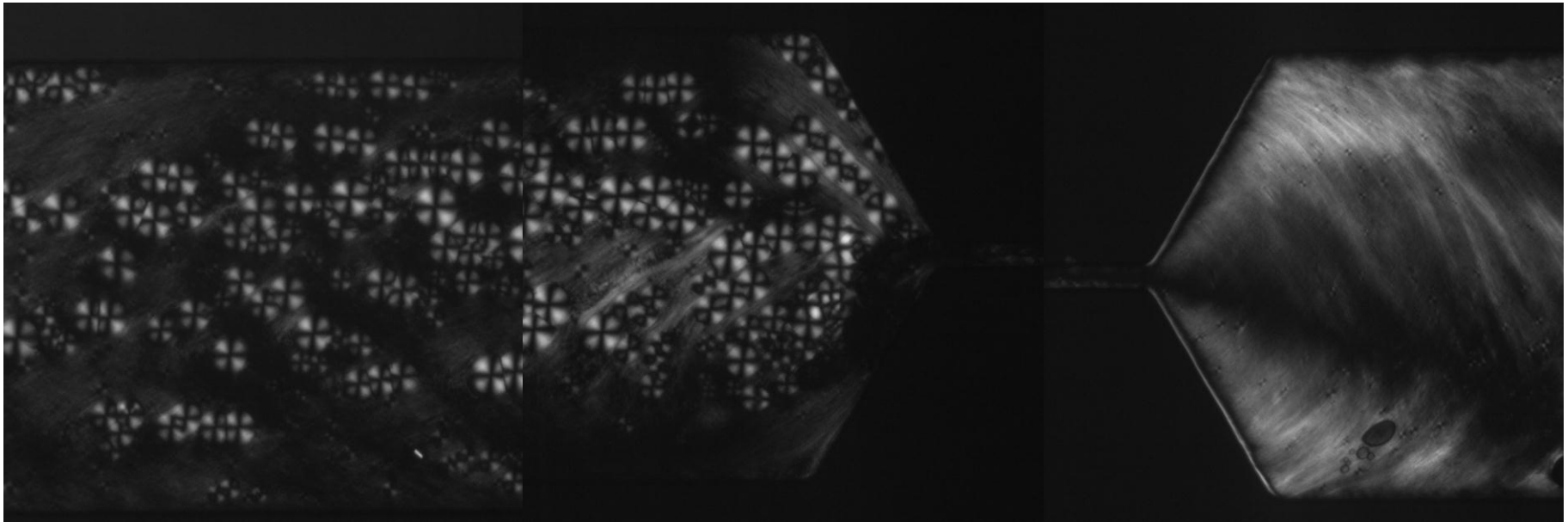
# Flow fields (and microfluidics?)

CTAC/ Pentanol/Water

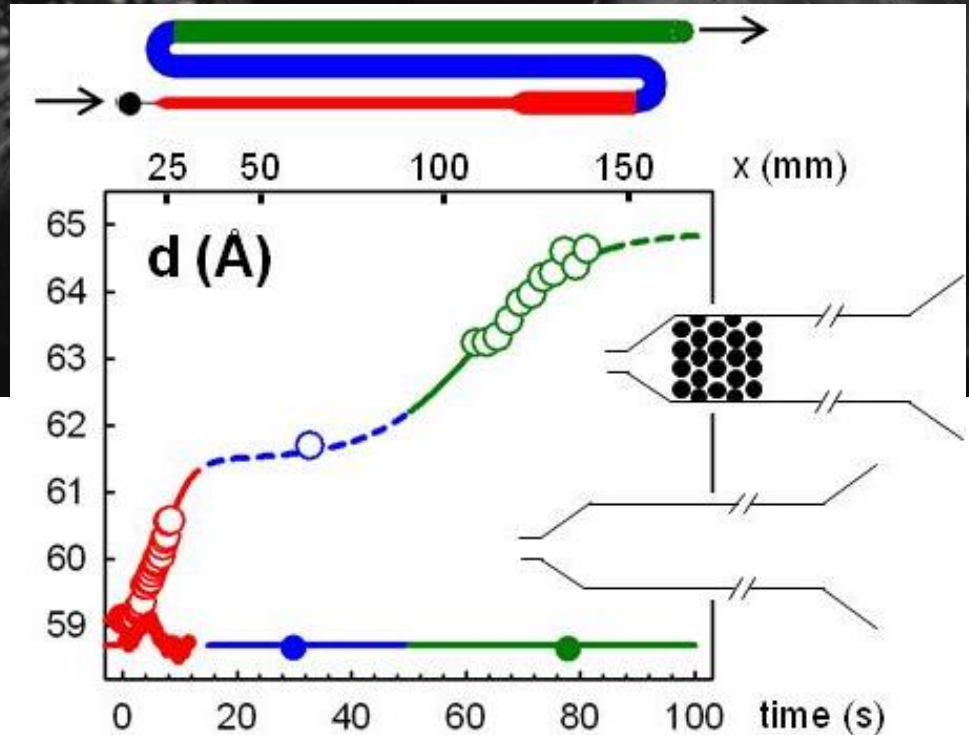
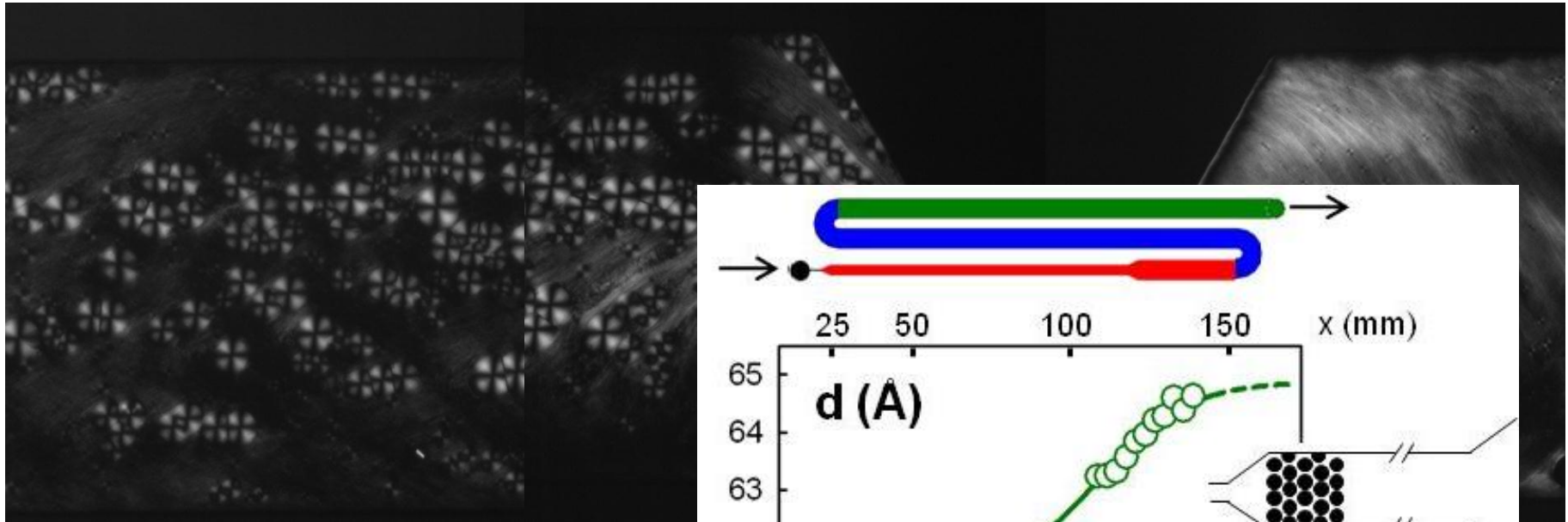




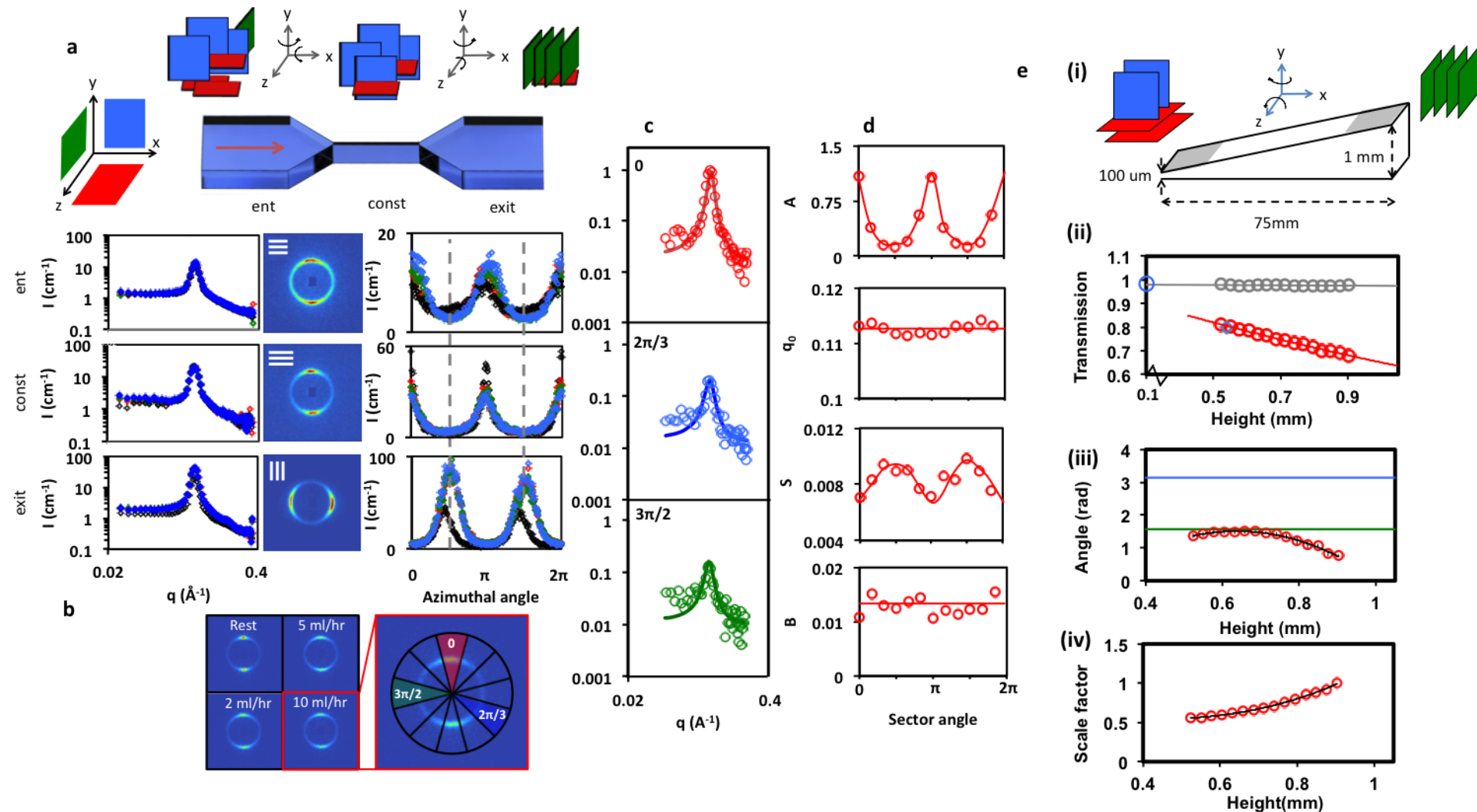
# Microflow complex fluids



# Microflow complex fluids

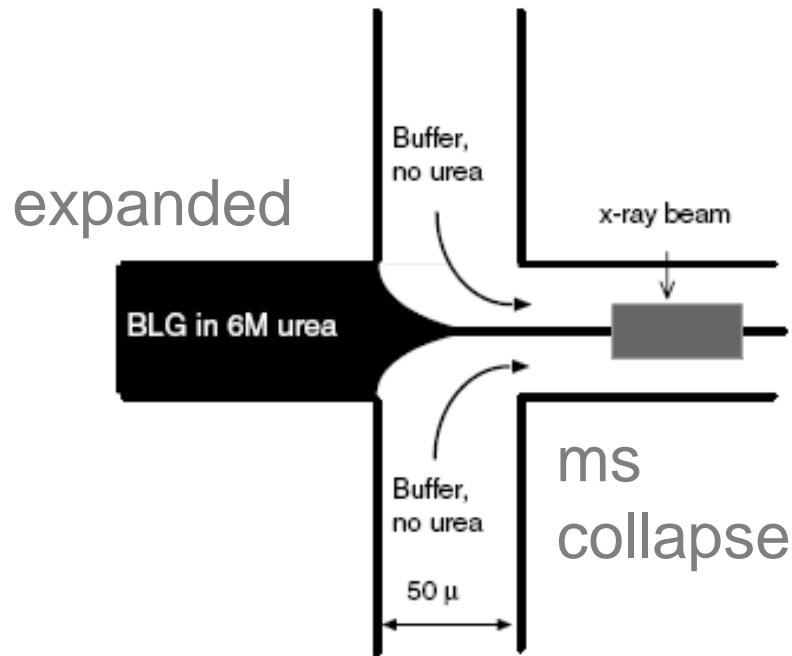


# Mechanistic molecular insight SANS/XS

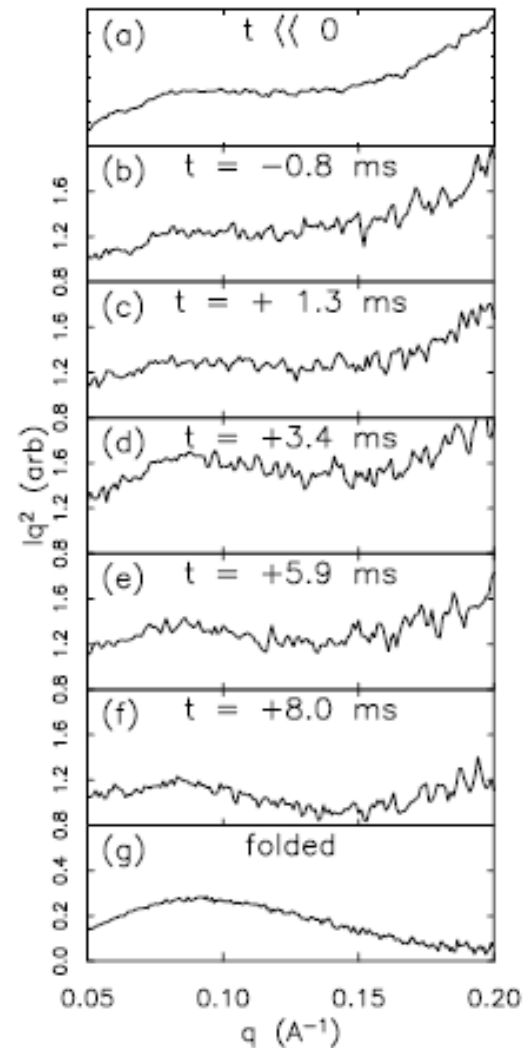


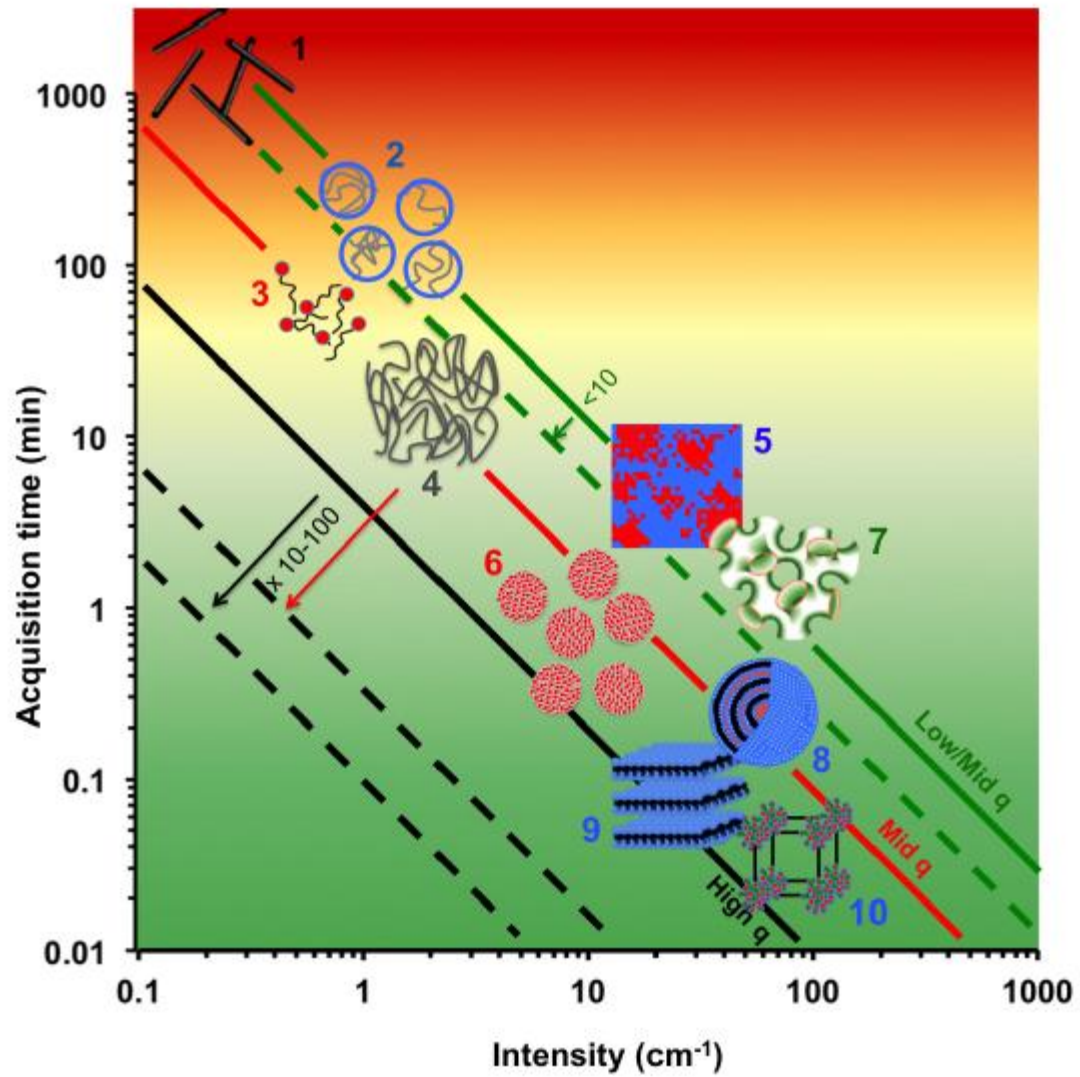
# Spatio-temporal mapping:

Coil-to-globule transition

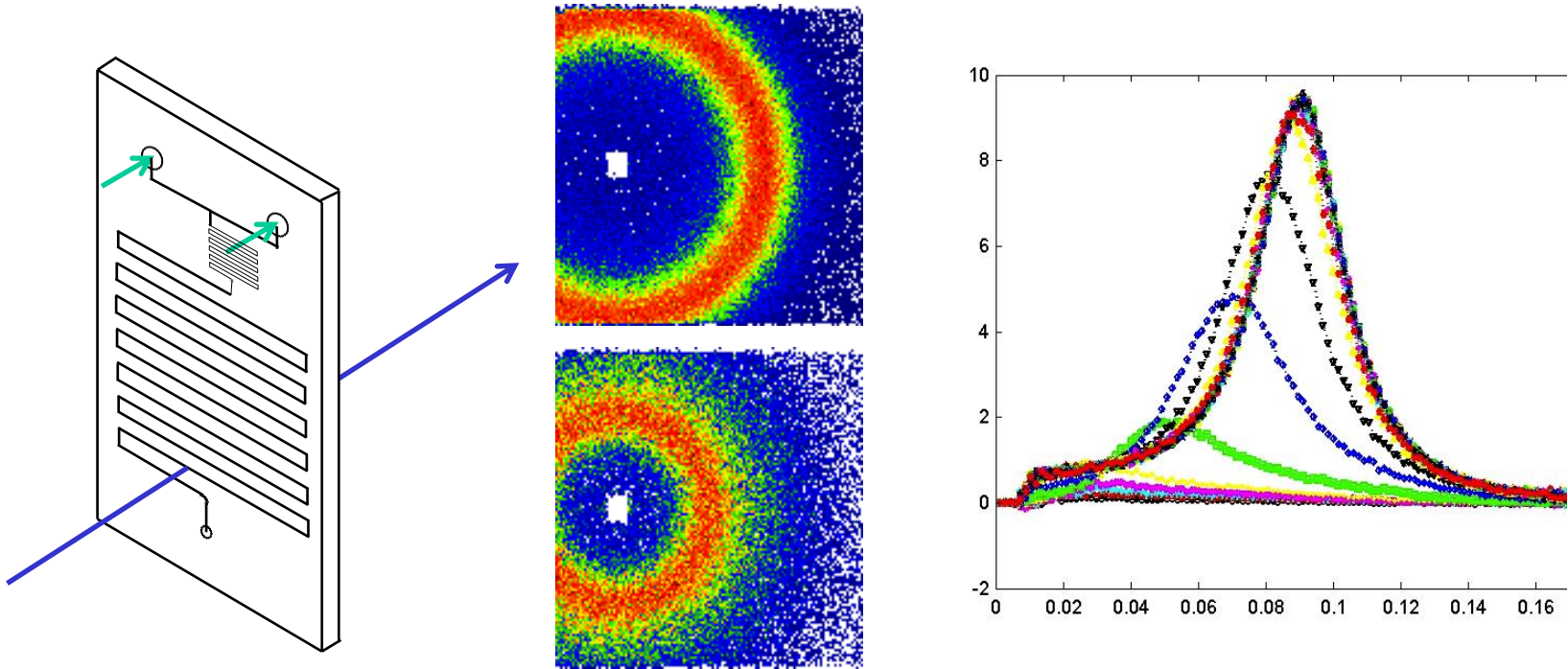


$\beta$ -lactoglobulin (BLG)

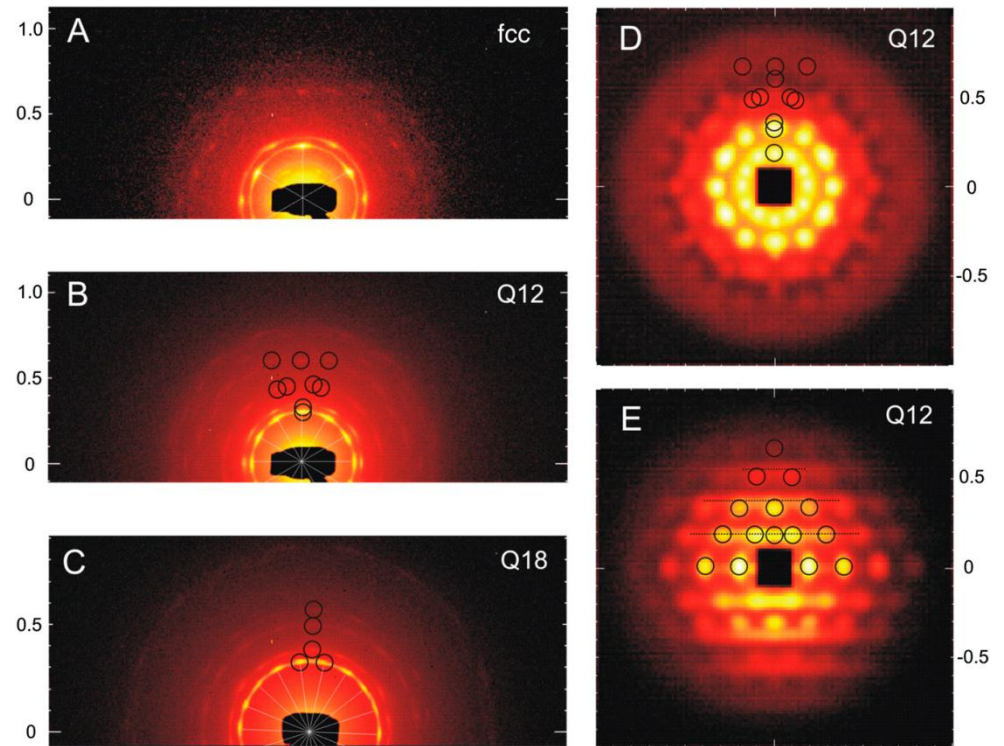
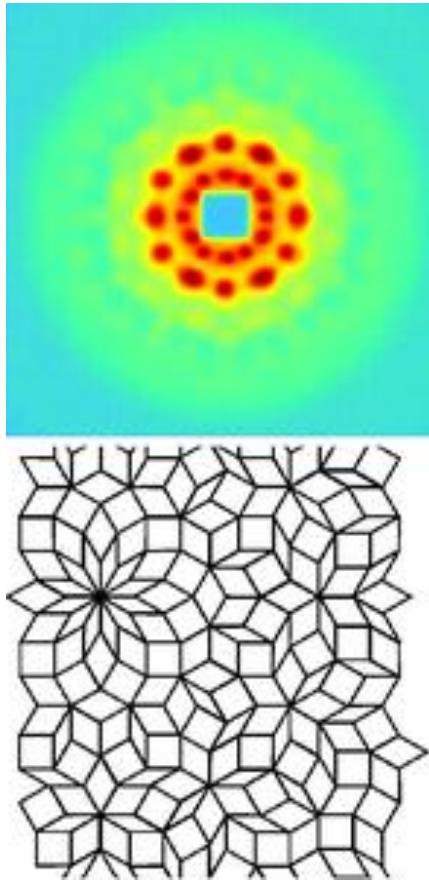




# MicroSANS: High throughput



# Soft colloids under flow



*Forster et al. PNAS 2011*

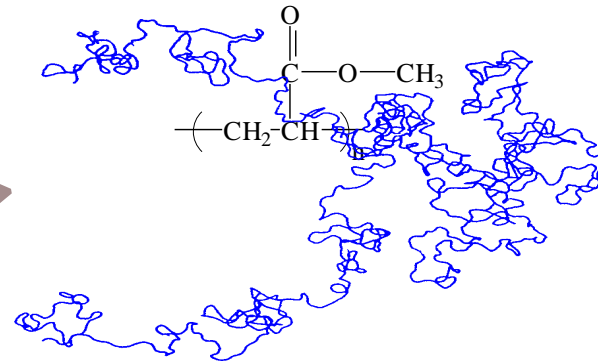
# Summary

## ① Intro



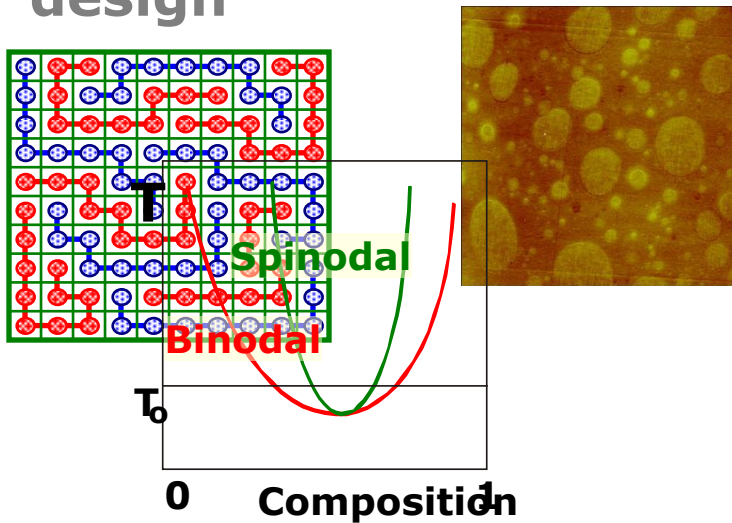
## History

## ② Soft matter



## ③ Form and structure

## ④ Mixtures & design



## ⑤ Outlook

