



Strongly coarse-grained membrane simulations

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with many thanks to

**Ira Cooke, Benedict Reynwar, Gregoria Illya,
Vagelis Harmandaris, Kurt Kremer**

and our afternoon experts

Mingyang Hu and Patrick Diggins

**International Workshop on Coarse Grained Biomolecular Modeling,
October 17–21, 2011, Lausanne, Switzerland**

October 19, 2011

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Why coarse-graining?

**If you haven't figured that out by now,
you should ask for your money back.**

No, seriously.

Why coarse graining?



Why coarse-graining?

Efficiency

Insight



Efficiency

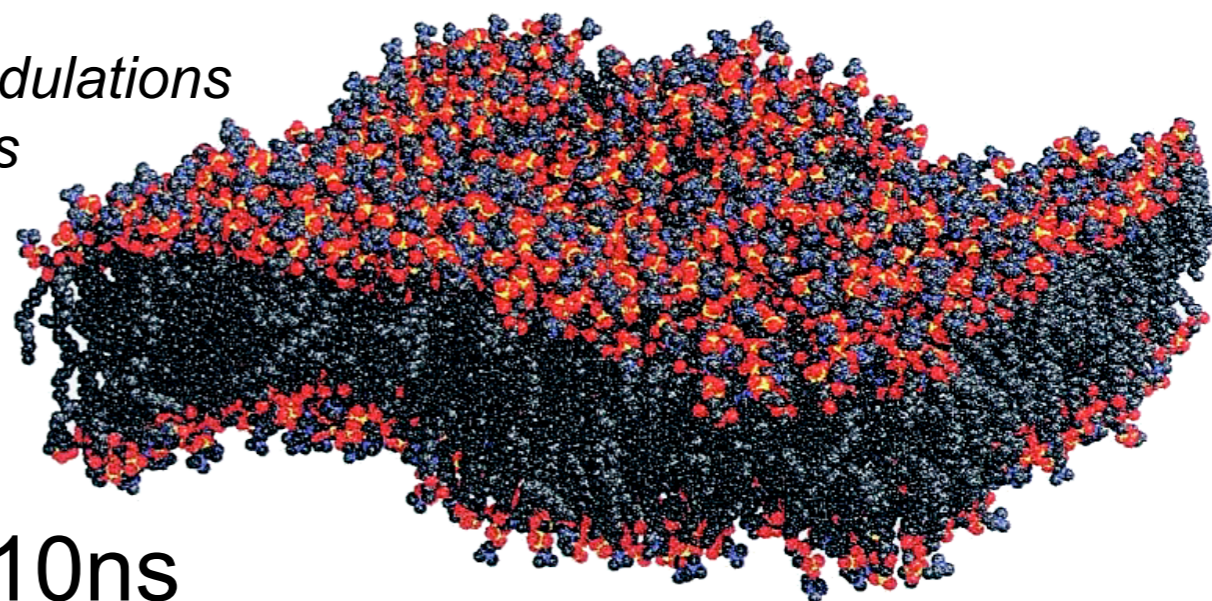
**Does that mean just
“bigger systems”?**

No. Not *just*.



Efficiency

Lindahl, E. & Edholm, O. *Mesosopic undulations and thickness fluctuations in lipid bilayers from molecular dynamics simulations.* Biophys. J. **79**, 426-433 (2000).



All-atom lipid bilayer
20nm×20nm, 1024 lipids, 10ns

What if we want a boxlength of $L=200\text{nm}$?

How does computing effort scale with L ?

$$\text{effort} \sim L^2 \times L^4 \sim L^6$$

Amount of material

Equilibration time



Efficiency

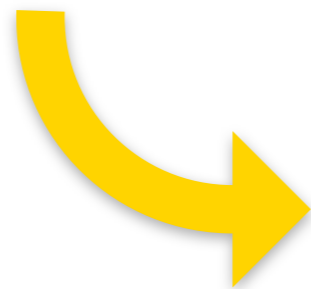
20nm



200nm

Million times more
computationally
expensive!

$$10^6 \approx 2^{20}$$



20 doublings of computer power!

20 x 2 years (Moore's law)

40 years

I'll be retired by then!

(best case scenario)

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Efficiency

Stated differently:

The amount of material scales with the membrane area A . Using a domain decomposition scheme, this can (in the best case) be compensated by increasing the number of processors proportional to A .

But the simulation time towards equilibration scales like A^3 . This still leaves an uncompensated factor of A^2 that you must do more work or have faster chips or better ideas.



Efficiency

Coarse graining cannot just help you to look at *much* bigger systems. It can help you to get well equilibrated data for *somewhat* bigger systems.

If someone offers you 1000 times more computational power, you should make your membrane length ~ 3 times bigger and simulate it for ~ 100 time longer!



Efficiency

Coarse graining cannot just help you to look at *much* bigger systems. It can help you to get well equilibrated data for *somewhat* bigger systems.

(Unfortunately, the latter doesn't look as obviously sexy.)

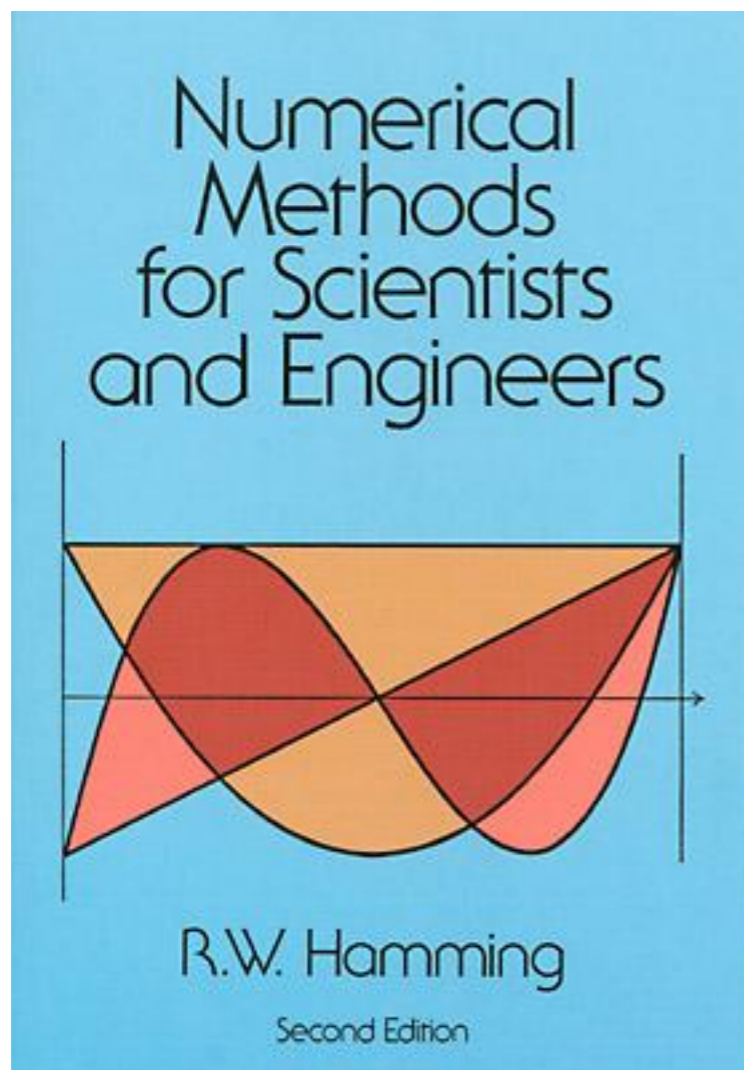
(Is it better to have non-equilibrated data of an impressively big or complex system, or to rather have equilibrated data of a system that is not accurate or big enough?)



Insight

“The purpose of computation is insight, not numbers.”

Richard W. Hamming (1915-1998)



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Insight

Assume that there's some biophysical problem that can *only* be solved by sifting through many Terabytes of all-atom simulation trajectories.

This of course might happen!

But if it does, how much have we *understood* of the problem, after we have done the simulation?

As scientists we ought to be curious about how many Terabytes of detail we can throw away before we begin to model the system.

Because our brains are finite.

(Engineering, on the other hand, might be a whole different issue. Numbers often matter!)

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Insight

Coarse graining is the art of throwing such supposedly unnecessary detail away.

(In fact, I believe that *Physics* is the art of throwing unnecessary detail away)

It's an *art*.

There's no sure-fire way of getting it right.

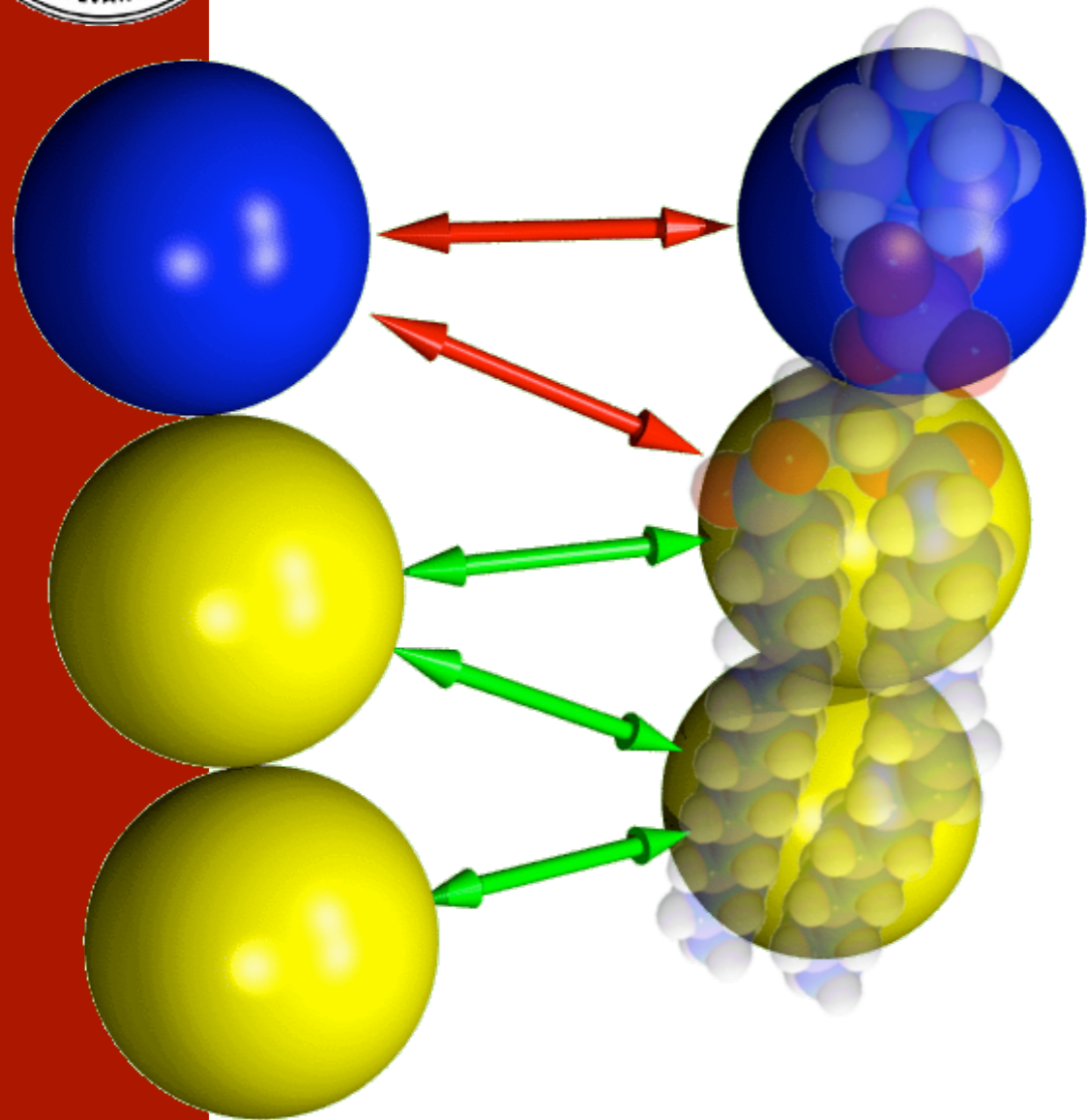
You throw the wrong stuff away, you're *doomed!*

Well, *not really*: If you make sure that your simulation is correct, then you have a *falsifiable result!* So you're scientific!

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Today:



I'll illustrate a way to treat the mesoscopic regime in an efficient and insightful way.
(OK, that's a tall order.)

- **Generic top-down bead-spring**
- **solvent free**
- **only pair forces**
- **robust & physically meaningful**

I.R. Cooke, K. Kremer, M. Deserno, *Phys. Rev. E* **72**, 011506 (2005);

I.R. Cooke and M. Deserno, *J. Chem. Phys.* **123**, 224710 (2005).



Today:

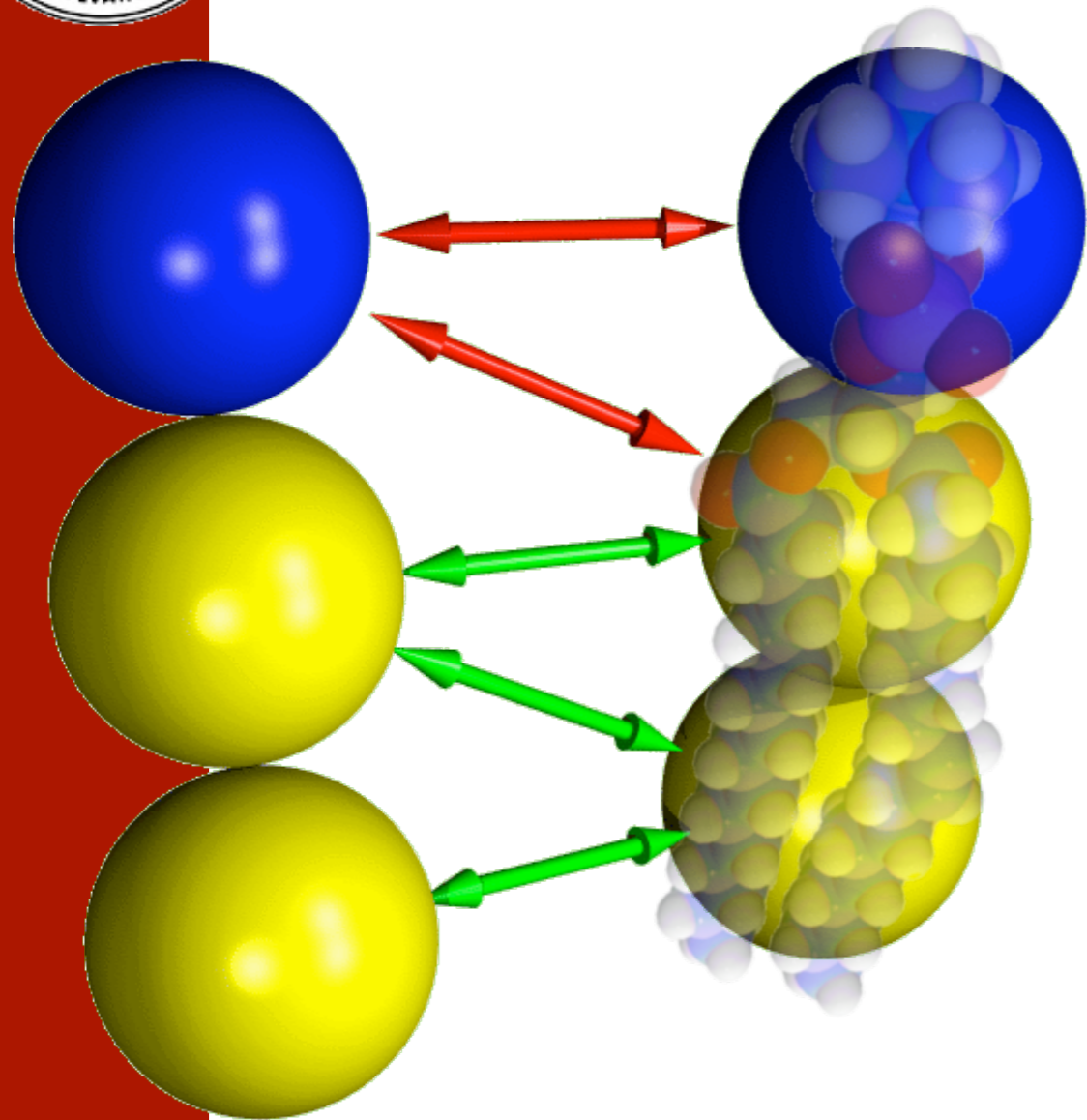
- J.-M. Drouffe, A. C. Maggs, and S. Leibler, *Science* **254**, 1353 (1991)
- H. Noguchi and M. Takasu, *Phys. Rev. E* **64**, 041913 (2001)
- Z.-J. Wang and D. Frenkel, *J. Chem. Phys.* **122**, 234711 (2005)
- H. Noguchi and G. Gompper, *Phys. Rev. E* **72**, 021903 (2006)
- G. Ayton and G.A. Voth, *Biophys. J.* **83**, 3357 (2002)
- O. Farago, *J. Chem. Phys.* **119**, 396 (2003)
- G. Brannigan and F.L.H. Brown, *J. Chem. Phys.* **120**, 1059 (2004)
- G. Brannigan, P.F. Philips, and F.L.H. Brown, *Phys. Rev. E* **72**, 011915, (2005)

I.R. Cooke, K. Kremer, M. Deserno, *Phys. Rev. E* **72**, 011506 (2005);

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Today:



Physics based?

Definitely Yes!

But is there room for
physical reasoning or
physics-based effects in
biology?

I think: **Definitely Yes!**

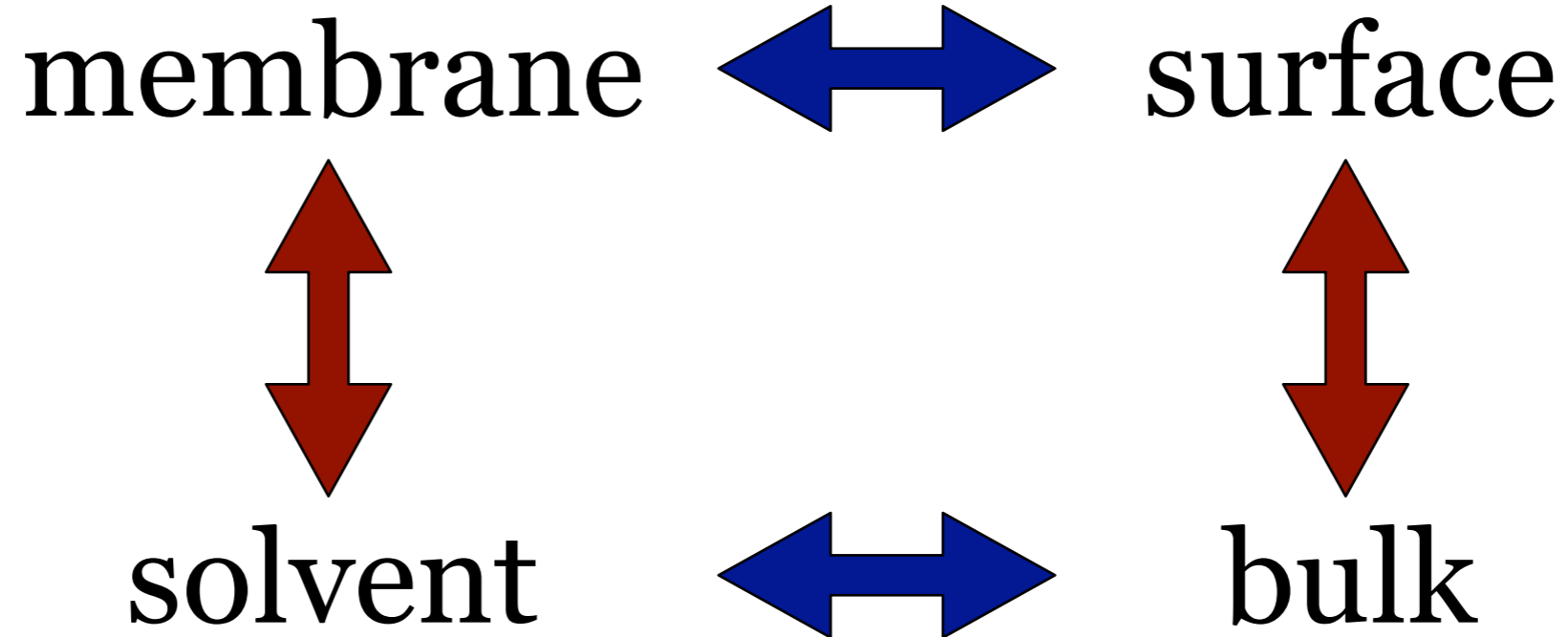
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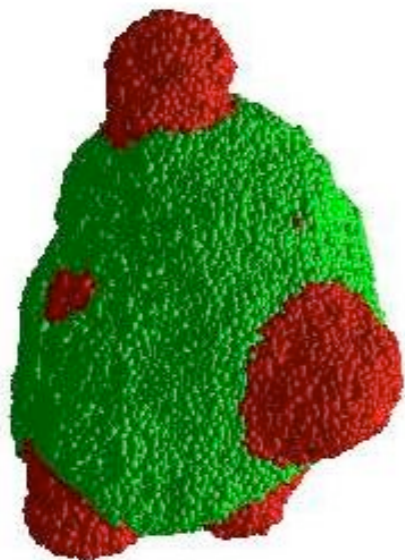
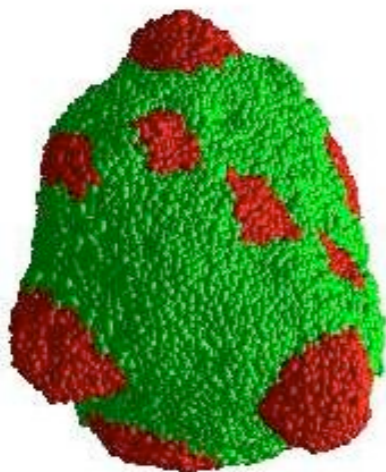
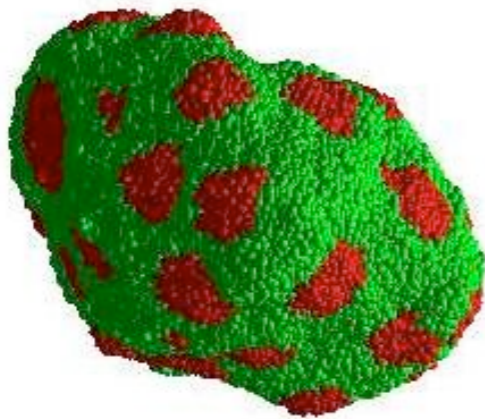
Why is “solvent free” good?



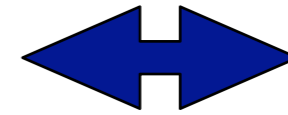
Unless you're careful, you might end up simulating a finite size effect!



Example



membrane



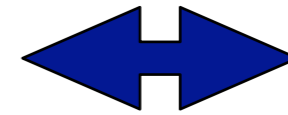
surface



solvent



bulk



16,000 DPD lipids 4 beads per lipid.
64,000 degrees of freedom for lipids.

But in total 1,536,000 particles in box!

**96% of simulation time
spent with solvent!**

(They had a good reason for doing this. But do you, too?)

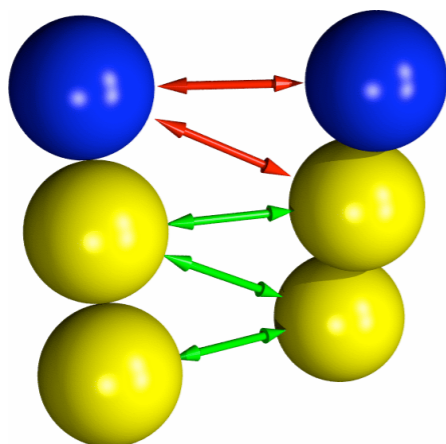


Difficulties

Implicit solvent models are incredibly common and useful in polymer physics.

Why has it taken so long for them to appear in the field of membrane research?

☞ Polymers don't first have to self assemble!



One needs additional cohesion to make the lipids come together.

☞ Fluidity has proven to be the major challenge.



Difficulties

Implicit solvent models are incredibly common and useful in polymers

Why has
field of n

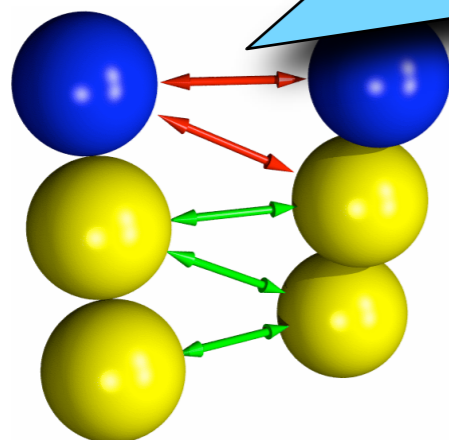


Polymer

weak attraction \Rightarrow gas phase

no fluid phase inbetween !?!!?

strong attraction \Rightarrow solid (gel) phase



One needs additional cohesion to make the lipids come together.



Fluidity has proven to be the major challenge.



Our model

Link three beads

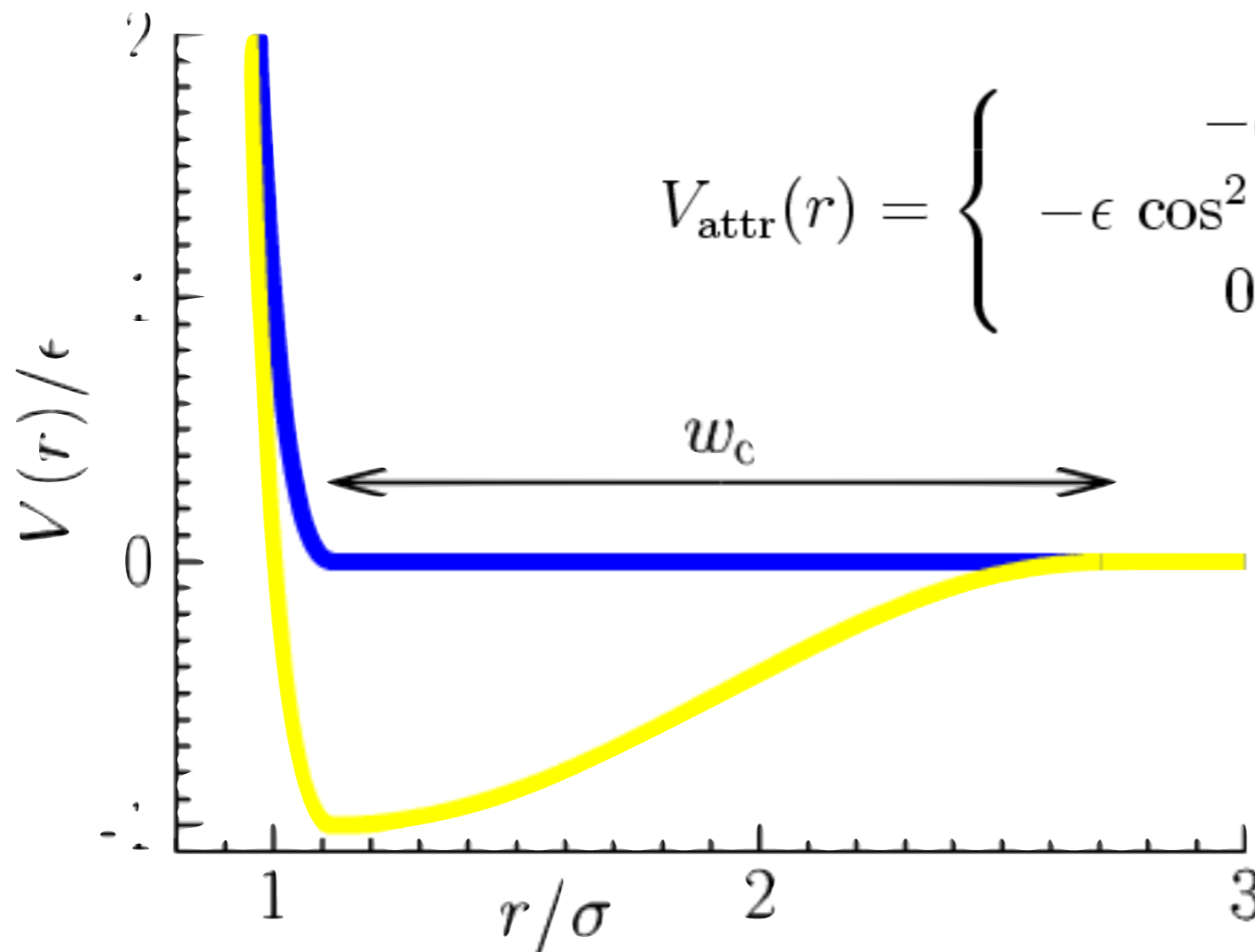
$$V_{\text{bond}}(r) = -\frac{1}{2}k_{\text{bond}}r_{\infty}^2 \log [1 - (r/r_{\infty})^2]$$

Make lipid stiff

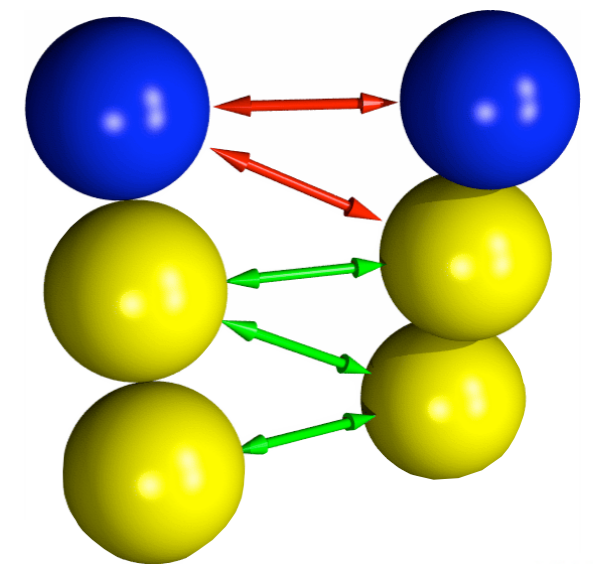
$$V_{\text{bend}}(r_{13}) = \frac{1}{2}k_{\text{bend}}(r_{13} - 4\sigma)^2$$

Nonbonded

$$V_{\text{rep}}(r) = 4\epsilon \left[\left(\frac{r_c}{r}\right)^{12} - \left(\frac{r_c}{r}\right)^6 + \frac{1}{4} \right] \Theta(r_c - r)$$

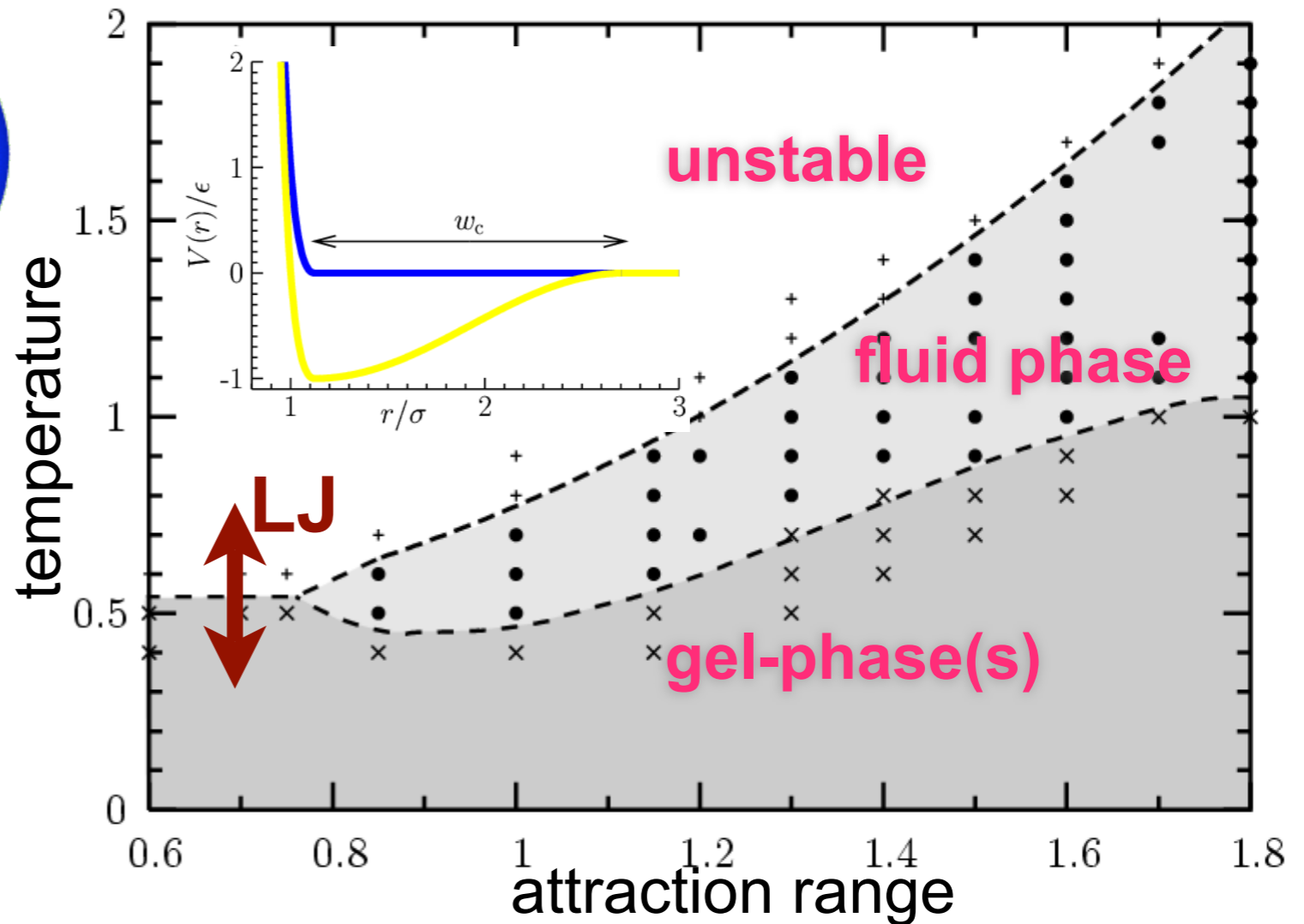
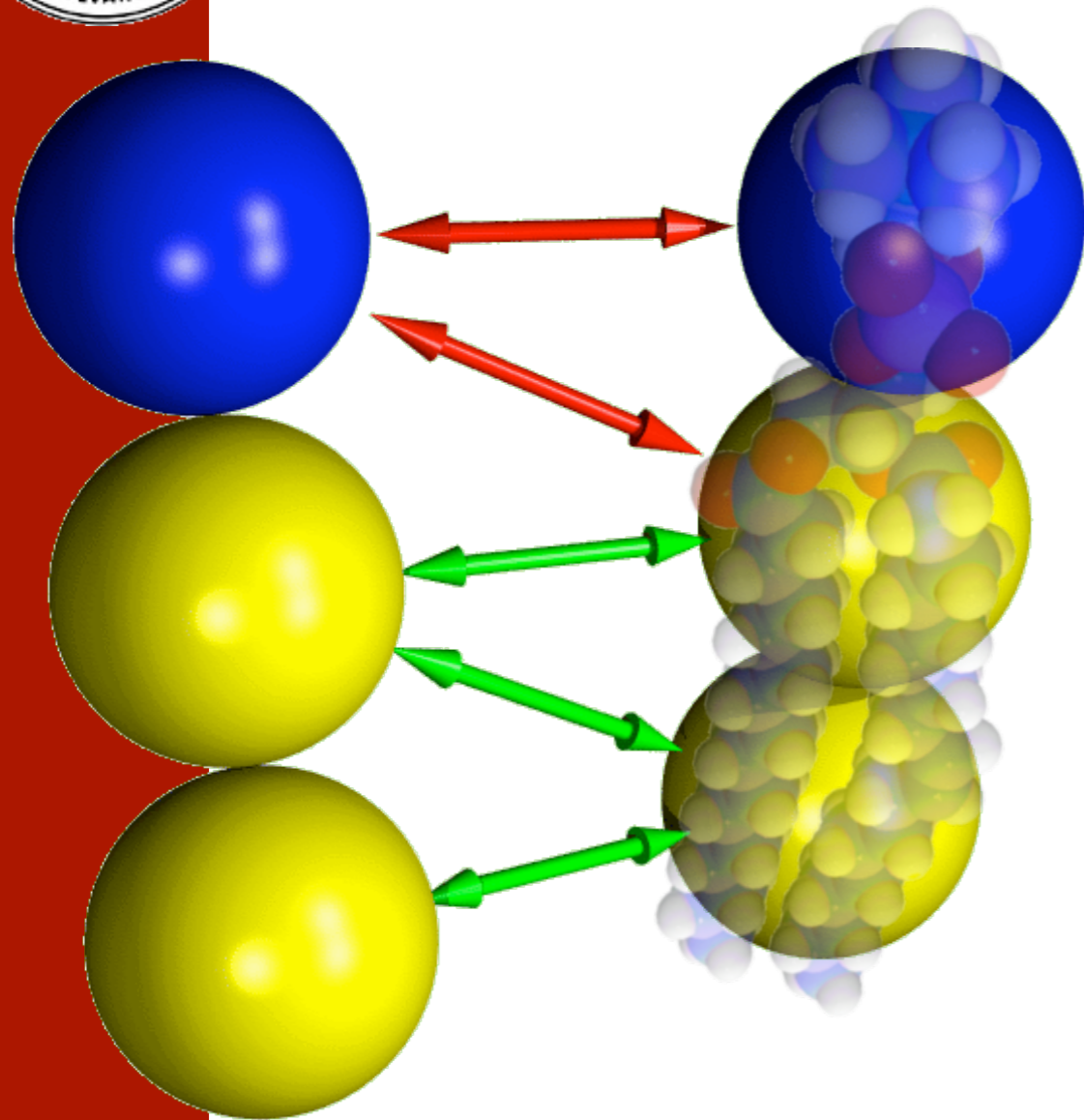


$$V_{\text{attr}}(r) = \begin{cases} -\epsilon & , \quad r < r_c \\ -\epsilon \cos^2 \frac{\pi(r-r_c)}{2w_c} & , \quad r_c \leq r \leq r_c + w_c \\ 0 & , \quad r > r_c + w_c \end{cases}$$





Overall phase behavior



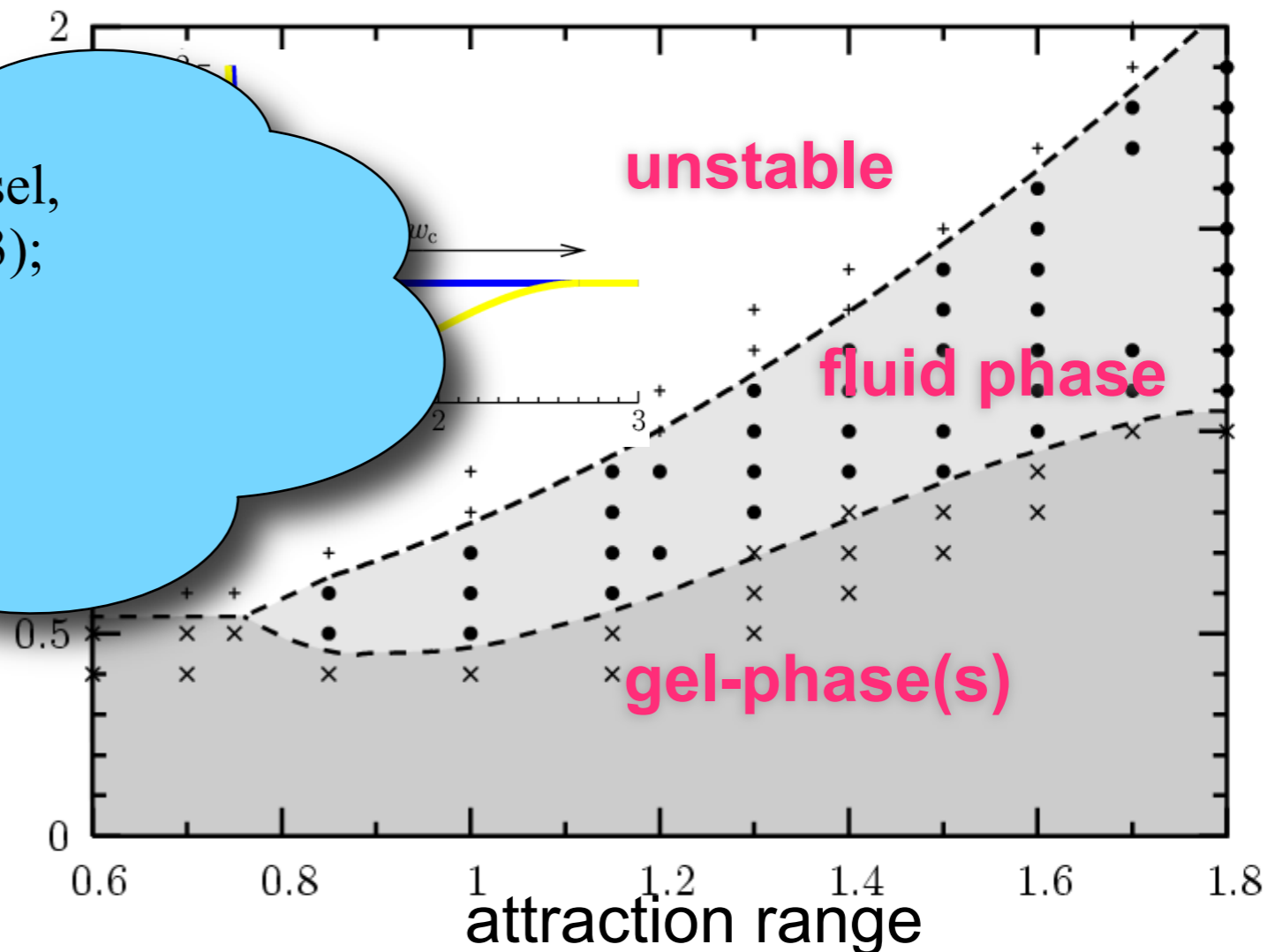
Long-ranged attractions “save” the system some entropy!

I.R. Cooke, K. Kremer, M. Deserno, Phys. Rev. E **72**, 011506 (2005);
I.R. Cooke and M. Deserno, J. Chem. Phys. **123**, 224710 (2005).



Overall phase behavior

A.P. Gast, C.K. Hall, and W.B. Russel,
J. Coll. Interface Sci. **96**, 251 (1983);
M.H.J. Hagen, D. Frenkel,
J. Chem. Phys. **101**, 4093 (1994);
A.A. Louis, Phil. Trans. R. Soc.
Lond. A **359**, 939 (2001).



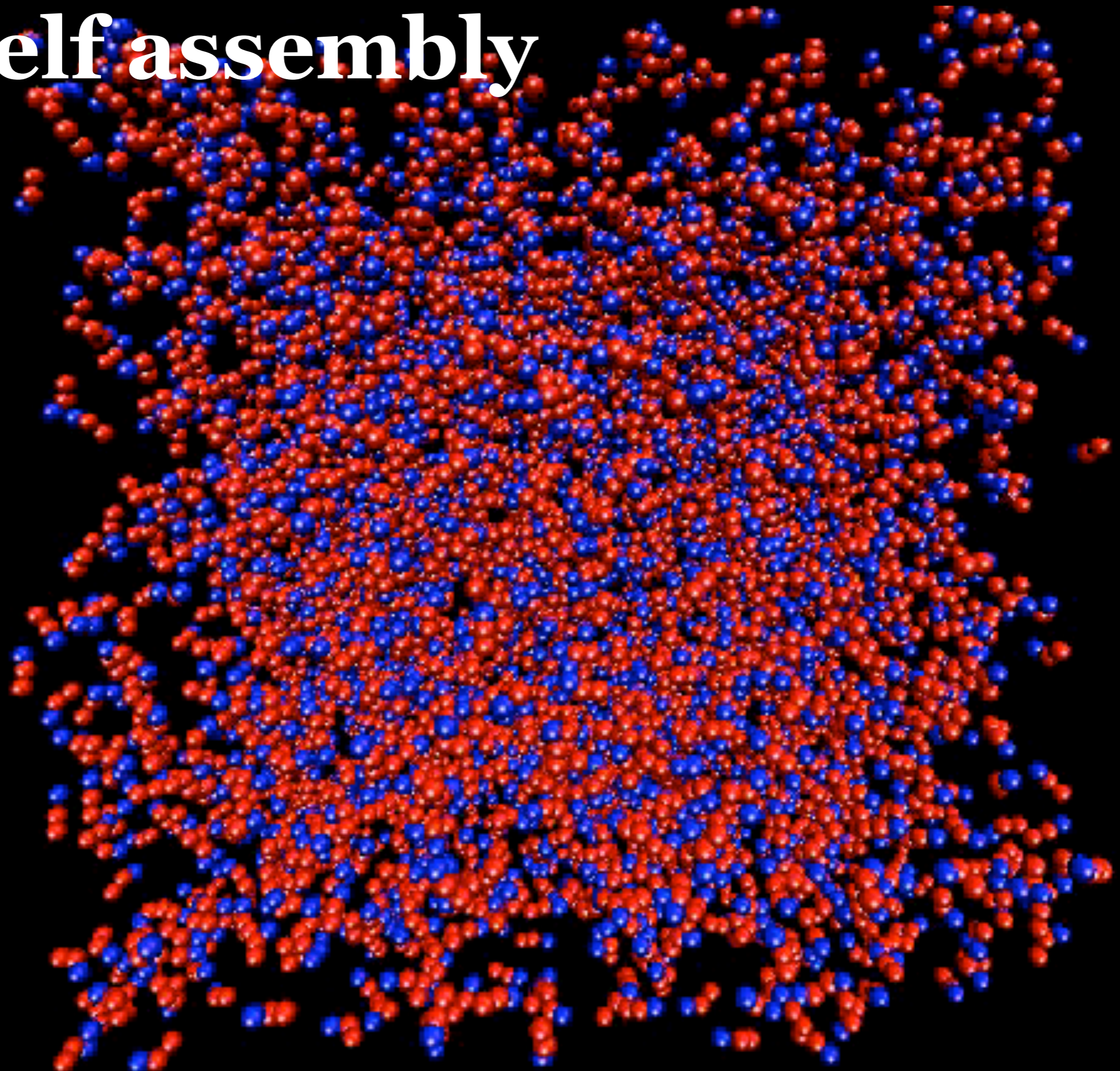
Long-ranged attractions “save” the system some entropy!

Shape of CG potential is *qualitatively* important!

I.R. Cooke, K. Kremer, M. Deserno, Phys. Rev. E **72**, 011506 (2005);
I.R. Cooke and M. Deserno, J. Chem. Phys. **123**, 224710 (2005).



Self assembly





Properties

Are these things
really lipid
membranes?

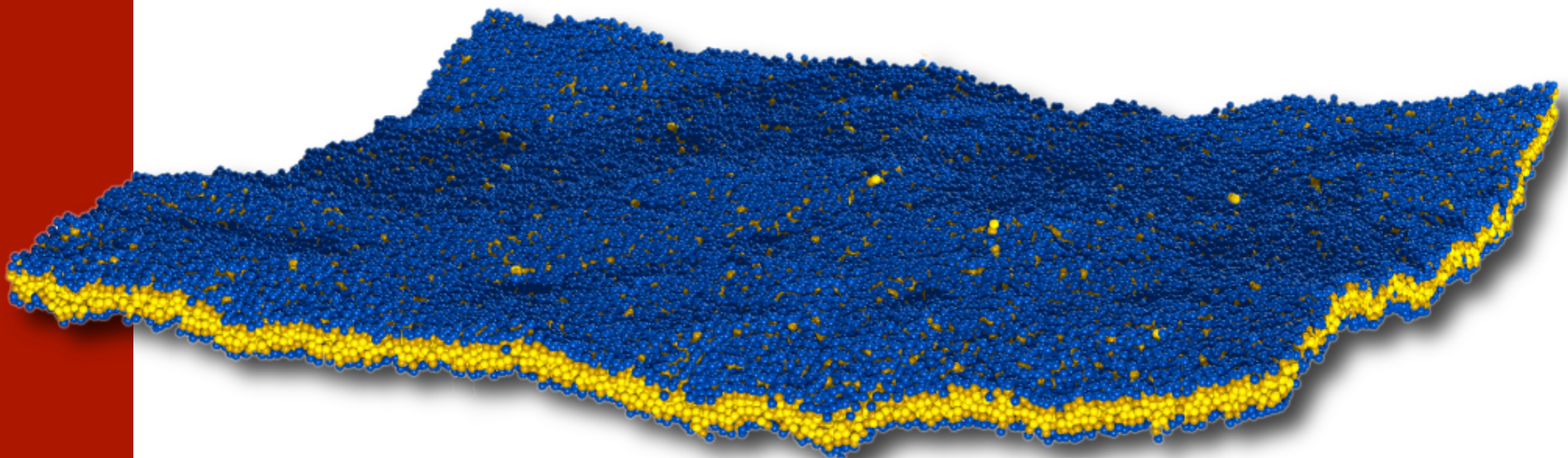


Bending modulus

Fluctuation spectrum from continuum theory

$$E = \int dA \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \kappa K^2 + \sigma \right\} \approx \frac{1}{2} \int dx dy \left\{ \kappa (\nabla^2 h)^2 + \sigma (\nabla h)^2 \right\}$$

total curvature surface tension “linearized Monge gauge”





Bending modulus

Fluctuation spectrum from continuum theory

$$E = \int dA \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \kappa K^2 + \sigma \right\} \approx \frac{1}{2} \int dx dy \left\{ \kappa (\nabla^2 h)^2 + \sigma (\nabla h)^2 \right\}$$

total curvature surface tension “linearized Monge gauge”

Fourier expansion and equipartition theorem

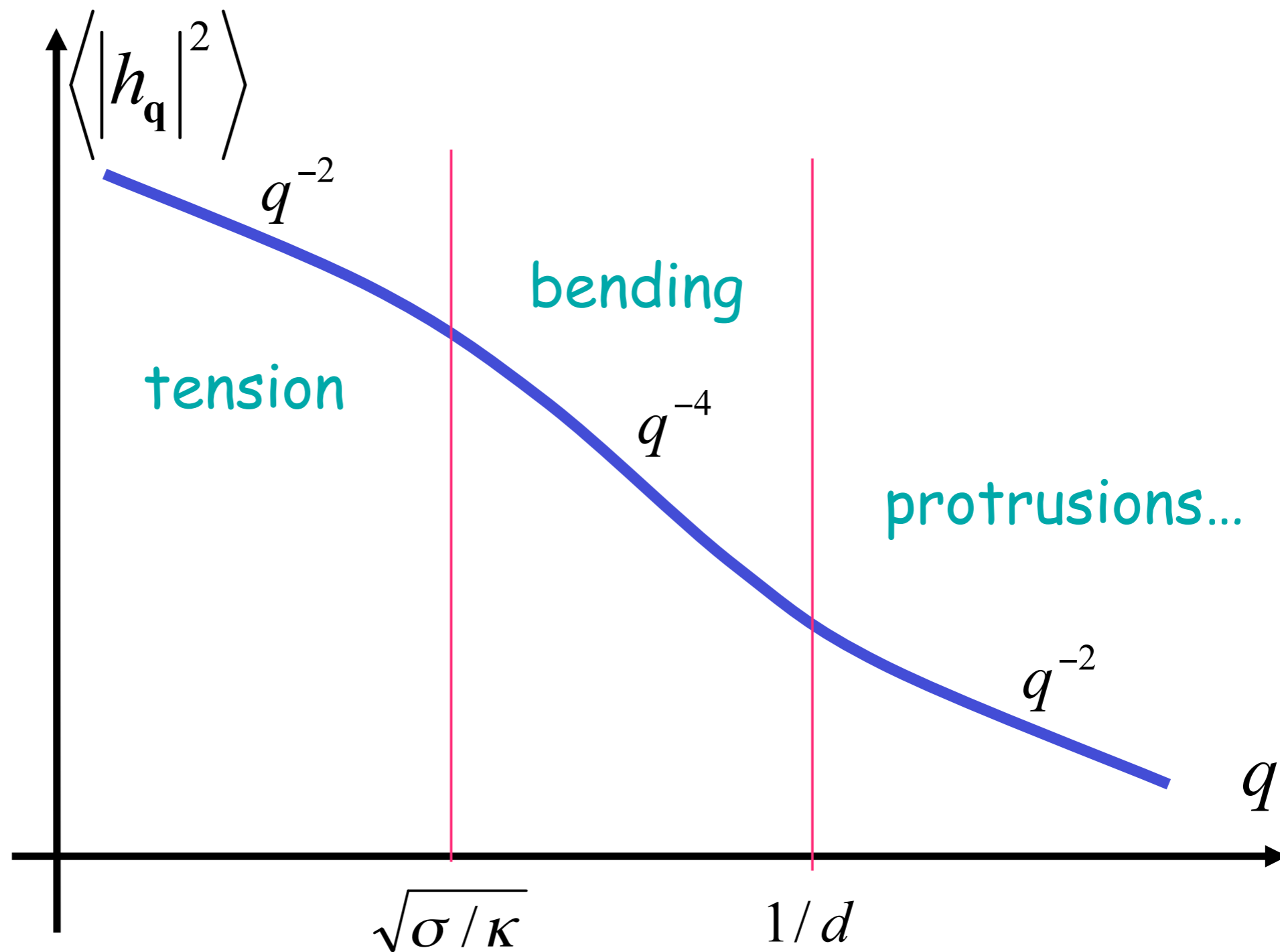
$$\langle |h_{\mathbf{q}}|^2 \rangle = \frac{k_B T}{L^2 [\kappa q^4 + \cancel{\sigma q^2}]} = \frac{k_B T}{L^2 \kappa} q^{-4}$$

zero surface tension **determine bending modulus!**



Bending modulus

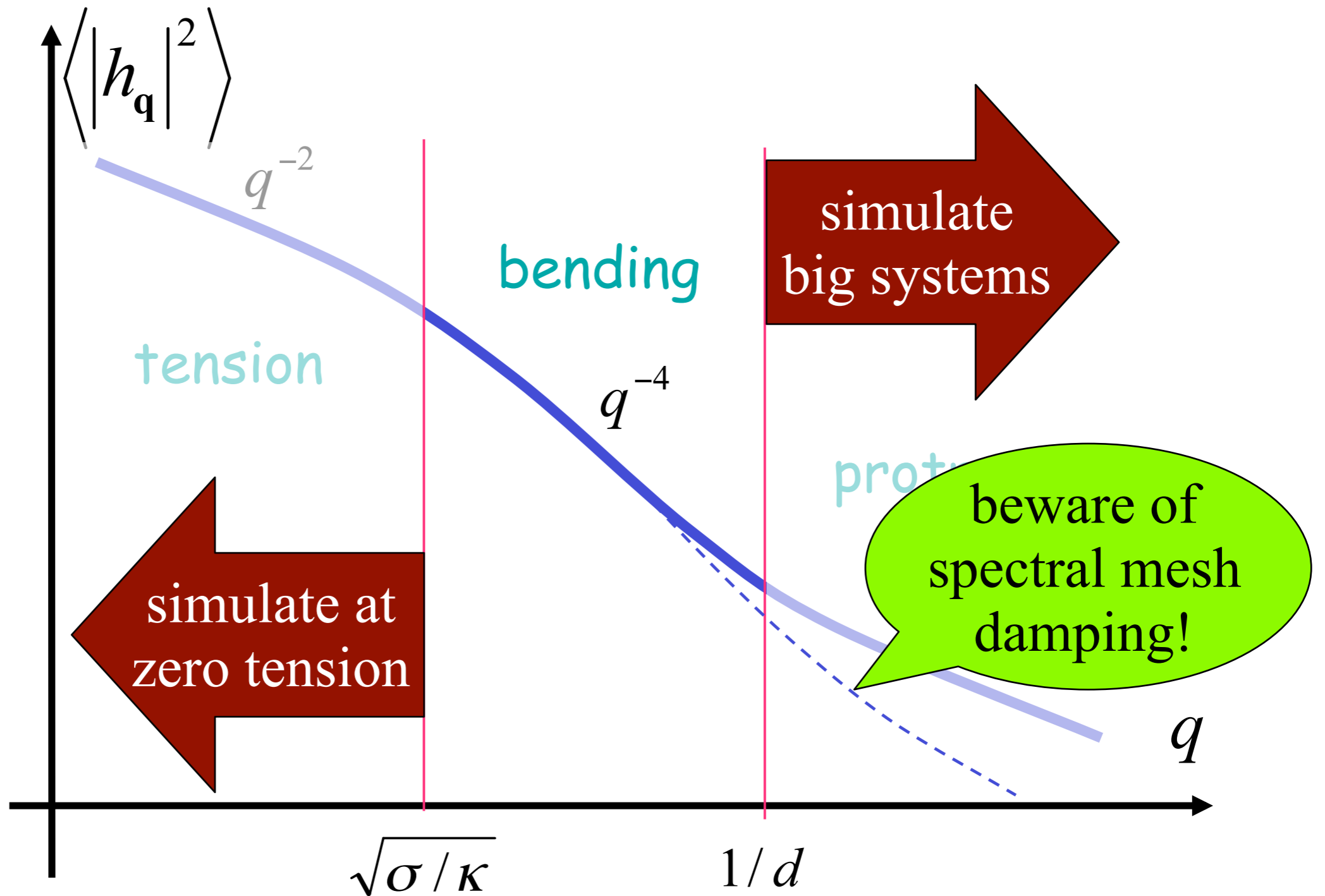
Fluctuation spectrum from continuum theory





Bending modulus

Fluctuation spectrum from continuum theory





Bending modulus

However...

- Equilibration time of Fourier modes scales like q^{-4} (remember?)
- Large bending modulus (κ) from small perturbation (kT) \rightarrow small signal!
- Result relevant for strong bending?

$$h(x) = h_q e^{i q x} \quad \longrightarrow \quad K = -h''(x) = h_q q^2 e^{i q x}$$

$$\langle K^2 \rangle = \langle |h''(x)|^2 \rangle = q^4 \langle |h_q|^2 \rangle = \frac{k_B T}{L^2 \kappa}$$

$$\bar{R} = \frac{1}{\langle K^2 \rangle^{1/2}} = \sqrt{\frac{\kappa}{k_B T}} L \simeq 3 \dots 5 L$$



Bending modulus

However...

- Equilibration time of Fourier modes scales like q^{-4} (remember?)
- Large bending modulus (κ) from small perturbation (kT) \rightarrow small signal!
- Result relevant for strong bending?

Maybe we need an alternative technique?



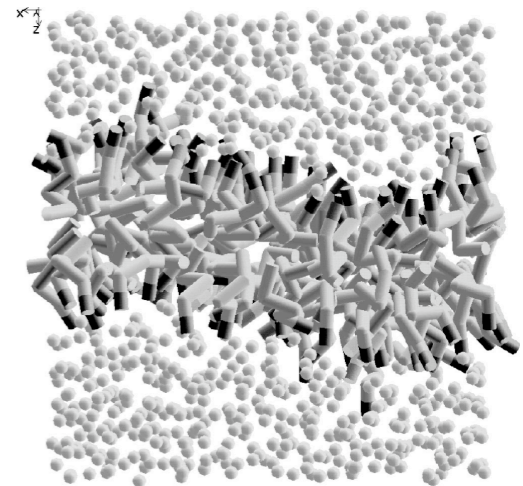
Bending modulus

...from actively bent membranes

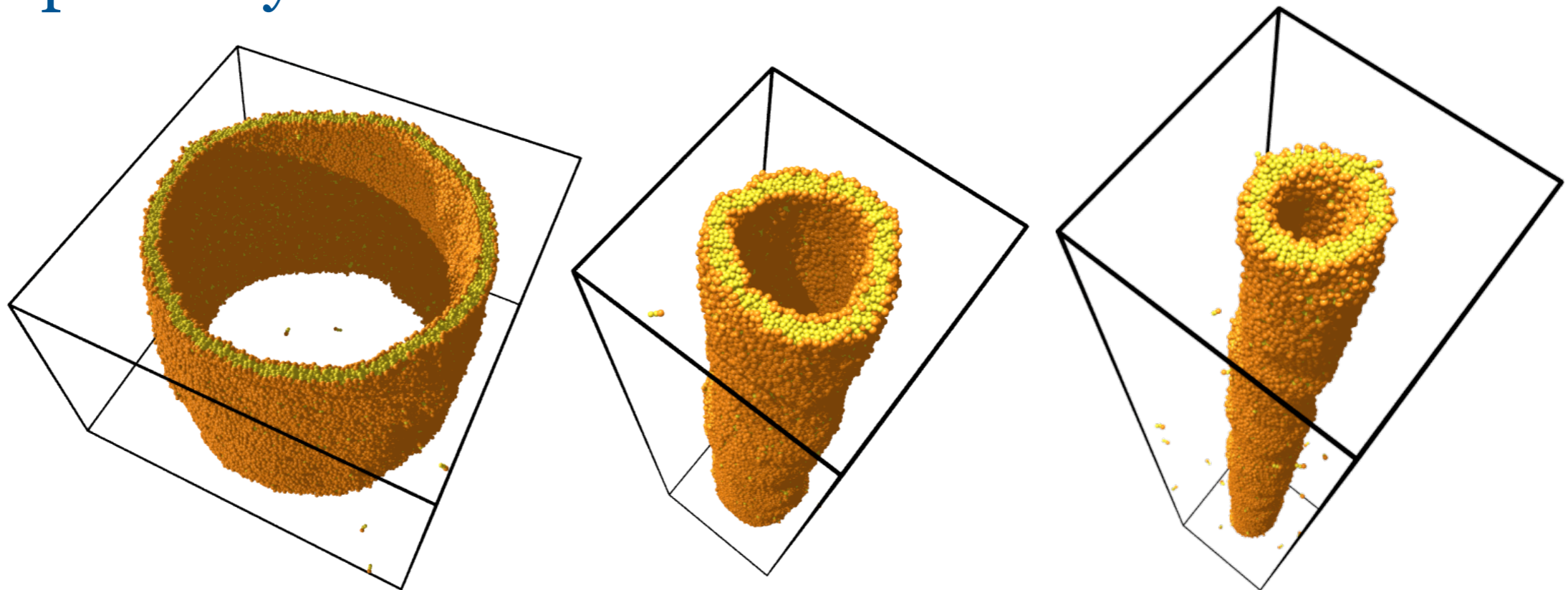
first implementation:

W.K. den Otter and W.J. Briels, *J. Chem. Phys.* **118**, 4712 (2003)

Enforce large undulation mode, measure constraining force.



Simpler way: Stretch a membrane tether!



V. A. Harmandaris and M. Deserno, *J. Chem. Phys.* **125**, 204905 (2006)

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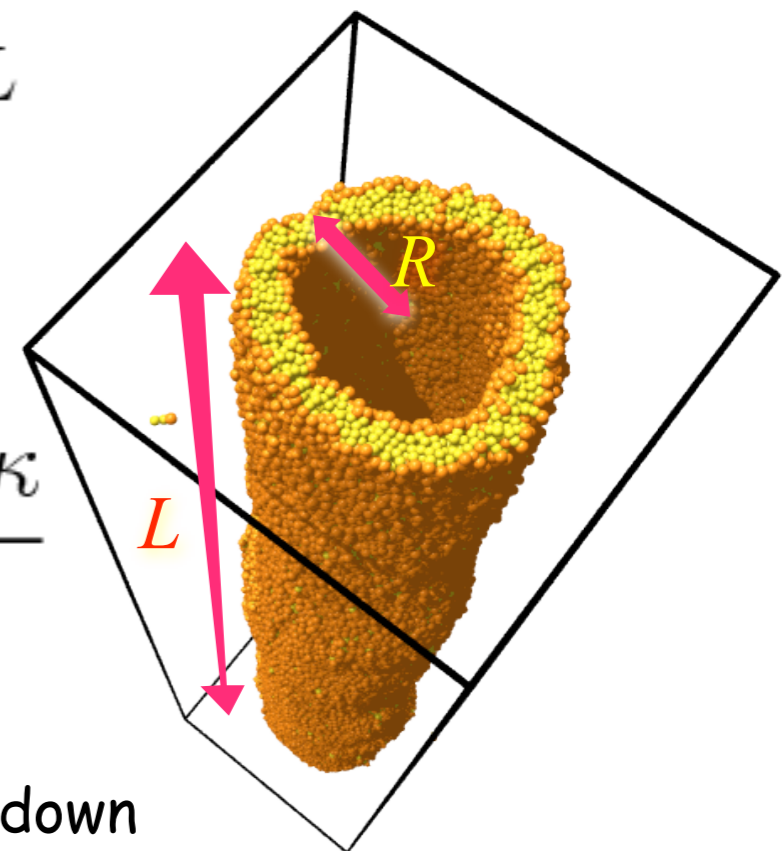


Bending modulus

...from actively bent membranes

Energy: $E = \frac{\kappa}{2} \times \frac{1}{R^2} \times A$ $A = 2\pi RL$

Force: $F = \left(\frac{\partial E}{\partial L} \right)_A = \dots = \frac{2\pi\kappa}{R}$



goes up \rightarrow goes down

Bending modulus:

$$\kappa = \frac{FR}{2\pi} \approx \frac{\bar{F} \bar{R}}{2\pi}$$

what about fluctuations?

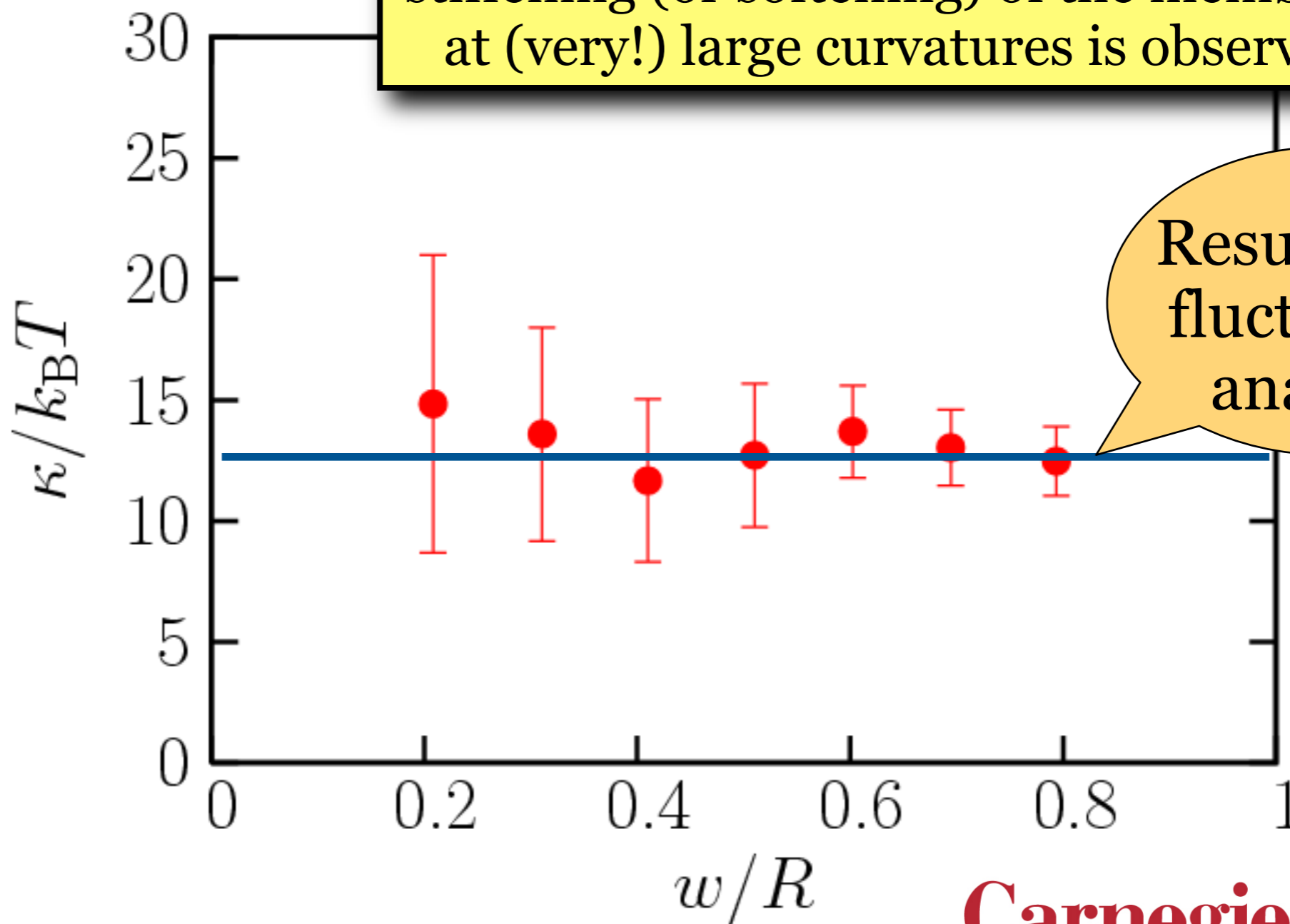


Bending modulus

...from actively bent membranes

Results:

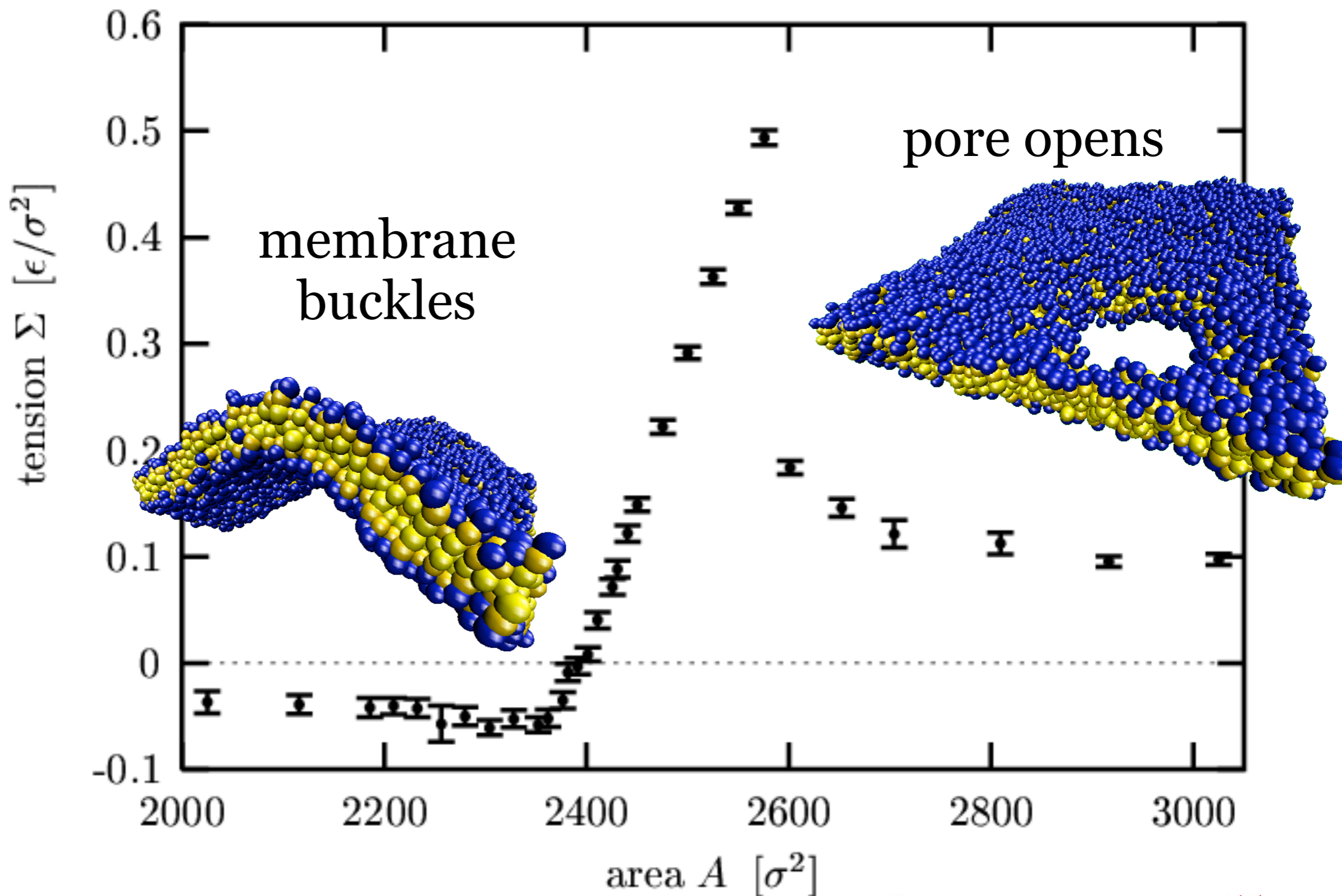
Within the limits of our resolution no stiffening (or softening) of the membrane at (very!) large curvatures is observed.



Result from fluctuation analysis



Stretching modulus





Stretching modulus

Simple theory for this:

Farago, JCP, 2003; Tolpekina/den Otter/Briels, JCP 2004; Cooke/Deserno, JCP 2005

Membrane stretching
plus line energy

$$E = \frac{1}{2} M \frac{(A - A_S - \pi R^2)^2}{A_S} + 2\pi\gamma R$$

rescaling of energy:

$$\lambda^3 = \frac{\gamma A_S}{\pi M}, \quad \tilde{R} = \frac{R}{\lambda}, \quad B = \frac{A - A_S}{\pi \lambda^2}$$

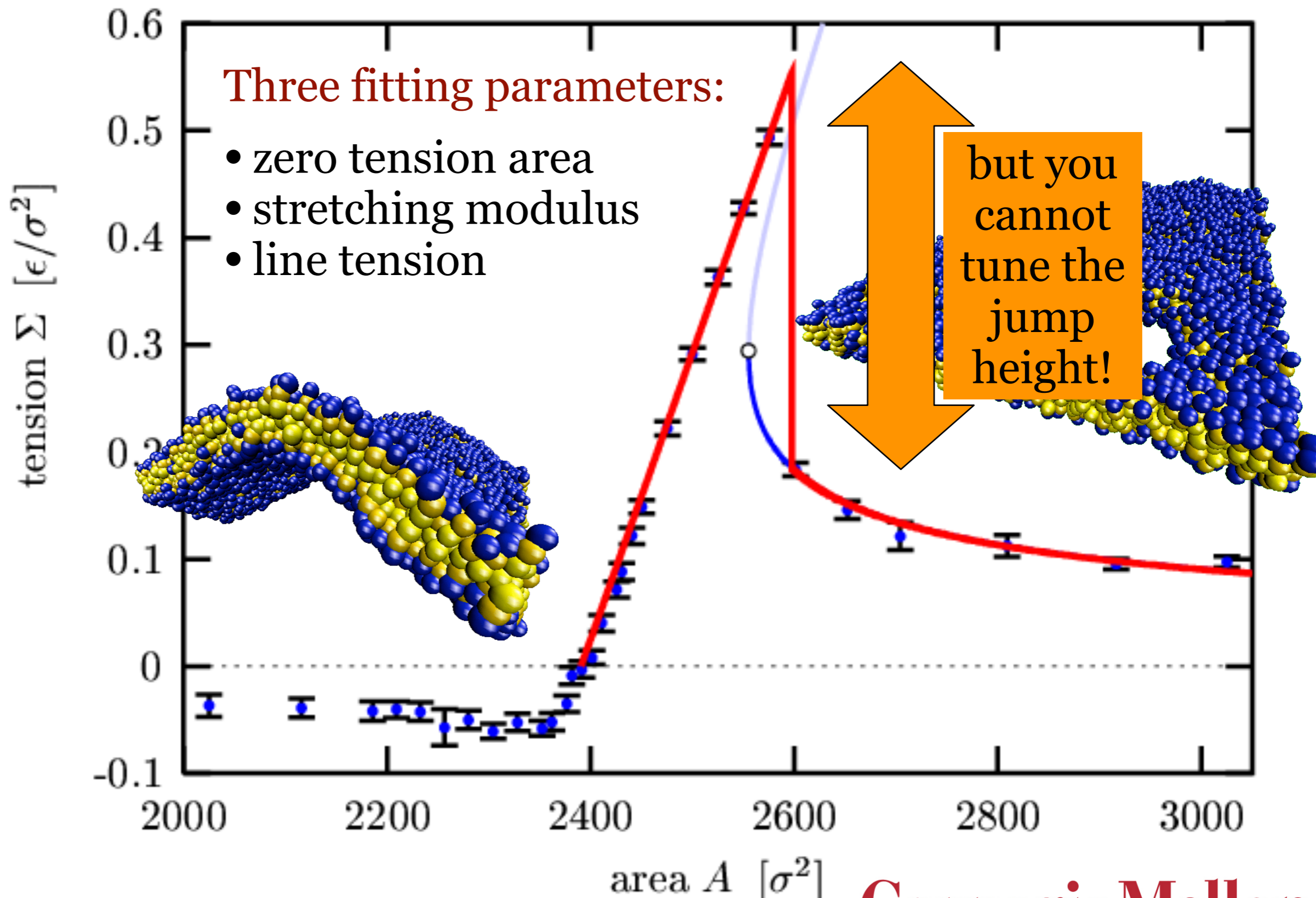
equilibrium condition
for pore radius:

$$\tilde{R}^3 - B\tilde{R} + 1 = 0$$

Only one length scale, only one dimensionless driving parameter!



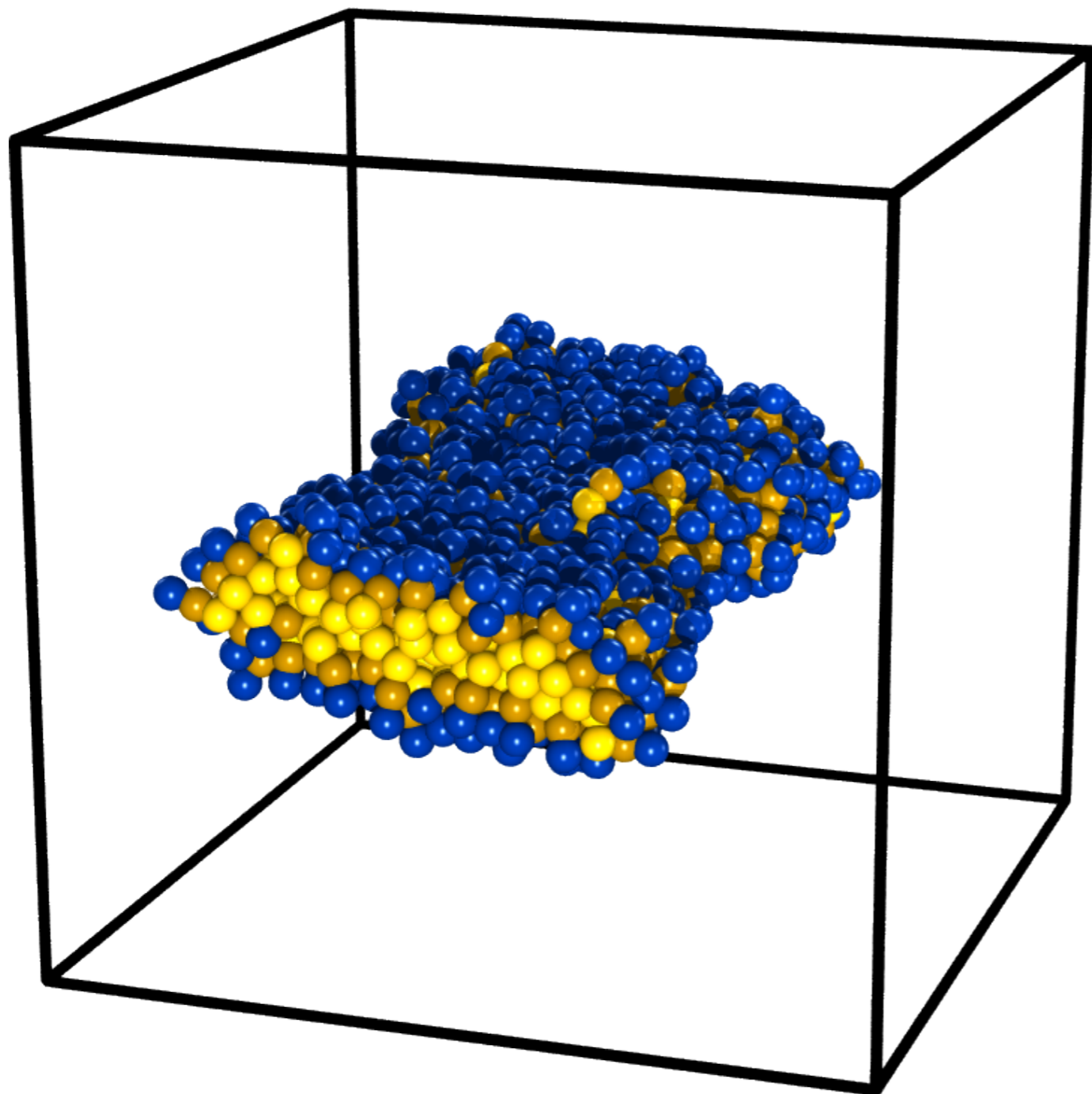
Stretching modulus





Line tension

However, if all you want is the line tension, there's a simpler way of doing this:



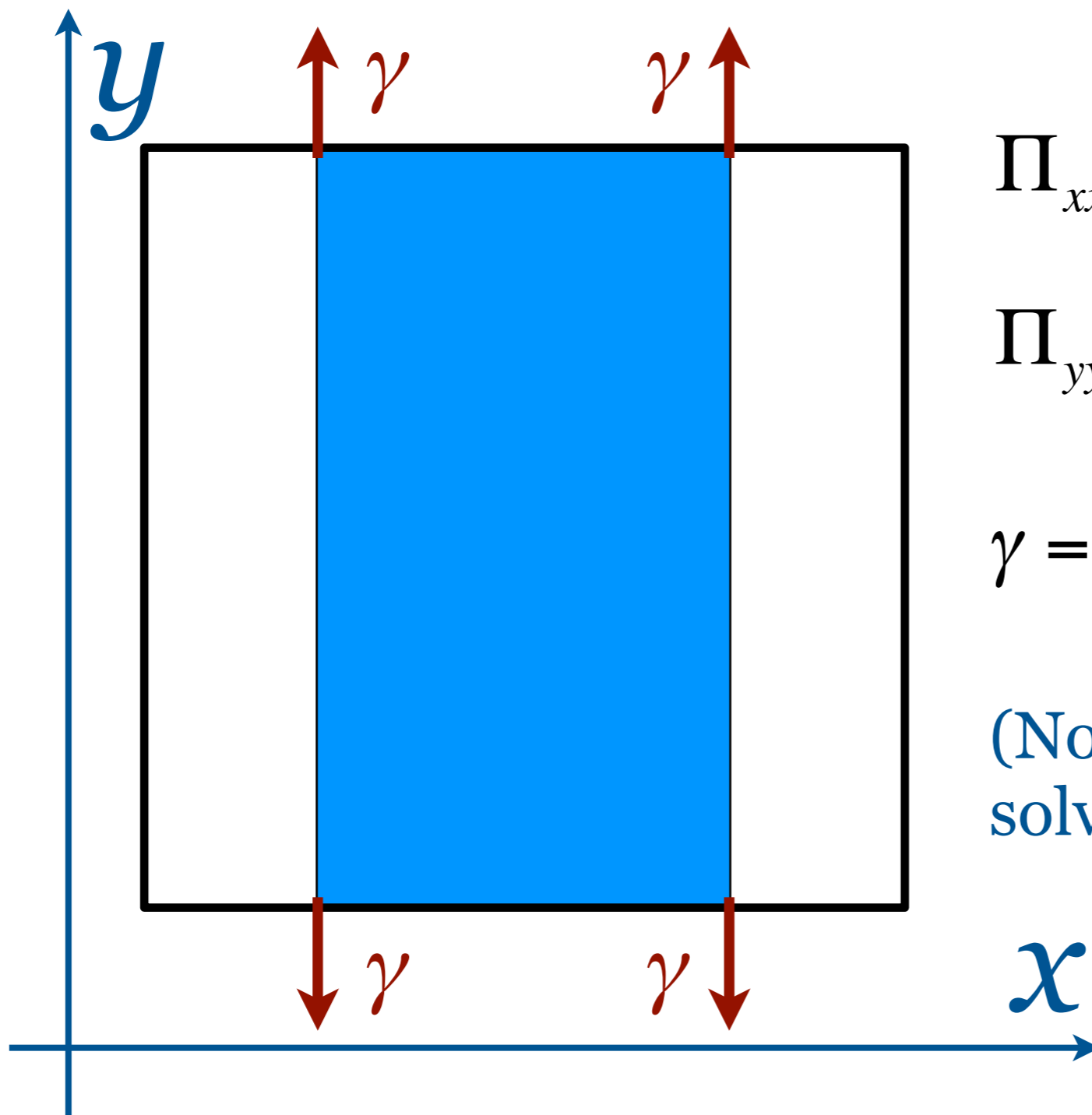
Simulate a periodically half-connected bilayer in a box.

Stress tensor will be imbalanced precisely by twice the line tension!



Line tension

However, if all you want is the line tension, there's a simpler way of doing this:



$$\Pi_{xx} = P$$

$$\Pi_{yy} = P - 2\gamma / L_x L_z$$

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{2} L_x L_z (\Pi_{xx} - \Pi_{yy})$$

(Notice that $P = 0$ in the solvent free case!)



Vesicles

After having measured bending rigidity and line tension, we can make a prediction about the size of certain vesicles.

“The size of bilayer vesicles generated by sonication”,
W. Helfrich, Physics Letters A, Volume 50, Issue 2, p. 115-116

Sonicate vesicle solution, rip vesicles into bits and pieces!
These (flat!) pieces will merge and grow bigger.

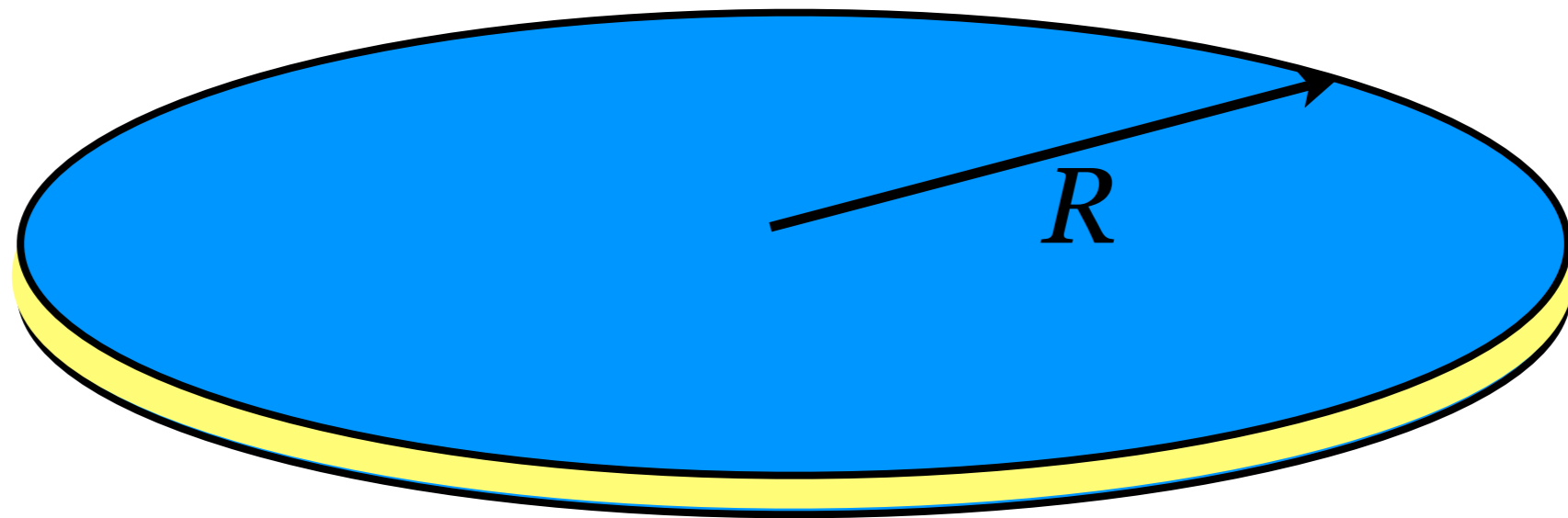
At what point will they again close up and form vesicles?

Why would they close up in the first place?



Vesicles

After having measured bending rigidity and line tension, we can make a prediction about the size of certain vesicles.



$$E_{\text{pancake}} = 2\pi R \gamma$$

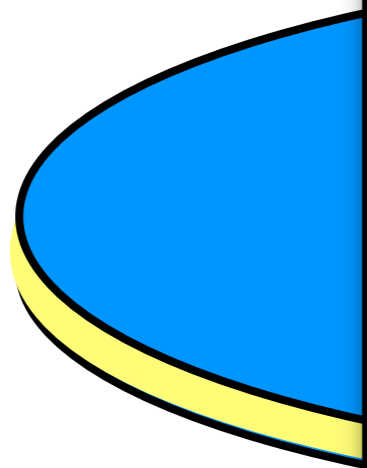
$$E_{\text{vesicle}} = 4\pi(2\kappa + \bar{\kappa})$$



Vesicles

After having me
we can make a p

$$e_{\text{curvature}} = \frac{1}{2} \kappa \left(\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} \right)^2 + \bar{\kappa} \frac{1}{R_1} \cdot \frac{1}{R_2}$$



$$E_{\text{vesicle}} = 4\pi R^2 \cdot \left[\frac{1}{2} \kappa \left(\frac{1}{R} + \frac{1}{R} \right)^2 + \bar{\kappa} \frac{1}{R} \cdot \frac{1}{R} \right]$$
$$= 4\pi [2\kappa + \bar{\kappa}]$$

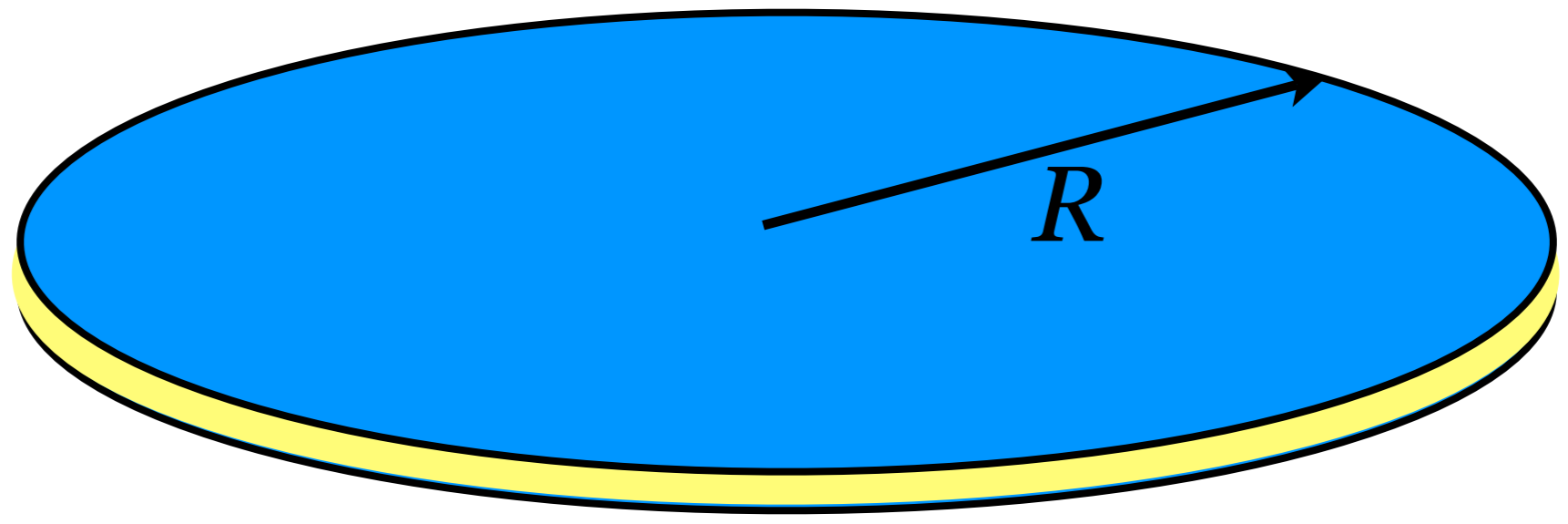
$$E_{\text{pancake}} = 2\pi R \gamma$$

$$E_{\text{vesicle}} = 4\pi (2\kappa + \bar{\kappa})$$



Vesicles

After having measured bending rigidity and line tension, we can make a prediction about the size of certain vesicles.



$$E_{\text{pancake}} = 2\pi R \gamma$$

$$E_{\text{vesicle}} = 4\pi(2\kappa + \bar{\kappa})$$

Energies are equal, if

$$R_{\text{pancake}} = \frac{2(2\kappa + \bar{\kappa})}{\gamma}$$

(real stability analysis: 2 → 4)



Vesicles

What values do we expect?

$$\kappa \approx 20 k_B T \approx 80 \text{ pN nm}$$

$$\bar{\kappa} \approx -\kappa \quad \gamma \approx 10 \text{ pN}$$

$$R_{\text{pancake}} = \frac{4(2\kappa + \bar{\kappa})}{\gamma} \approx \frac{4\kappa}{\gamma} \approx \frac{320 \text{ pN nm}}{10 \text{ pN}} \approx 32 \text{ nm}$$

Very little is known about this value!

This is then also the diameter of the vesicles we expect to find!



Vesicles

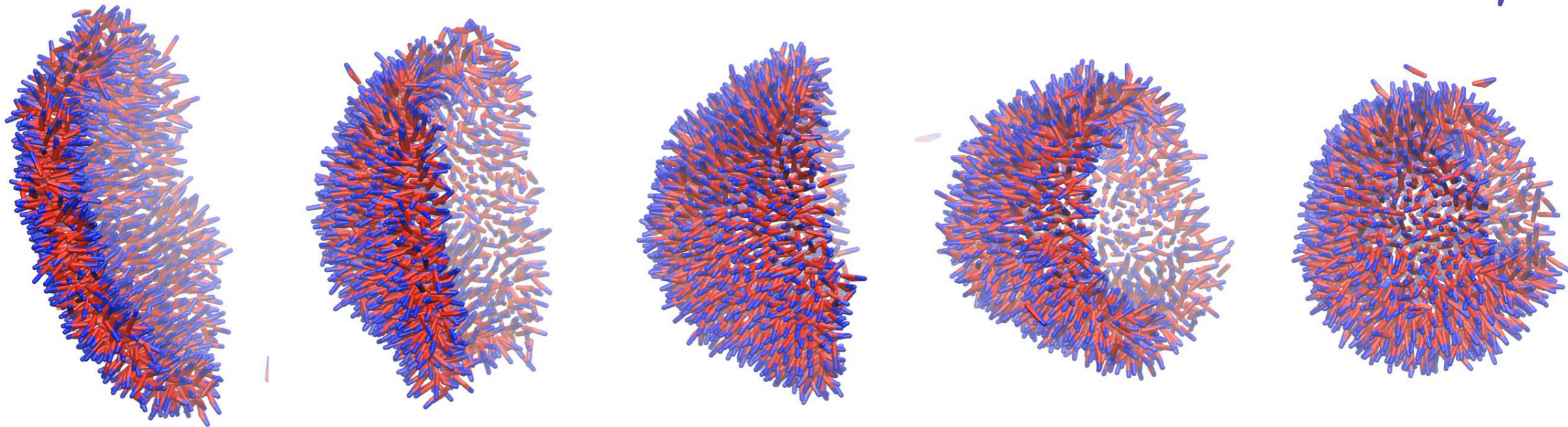
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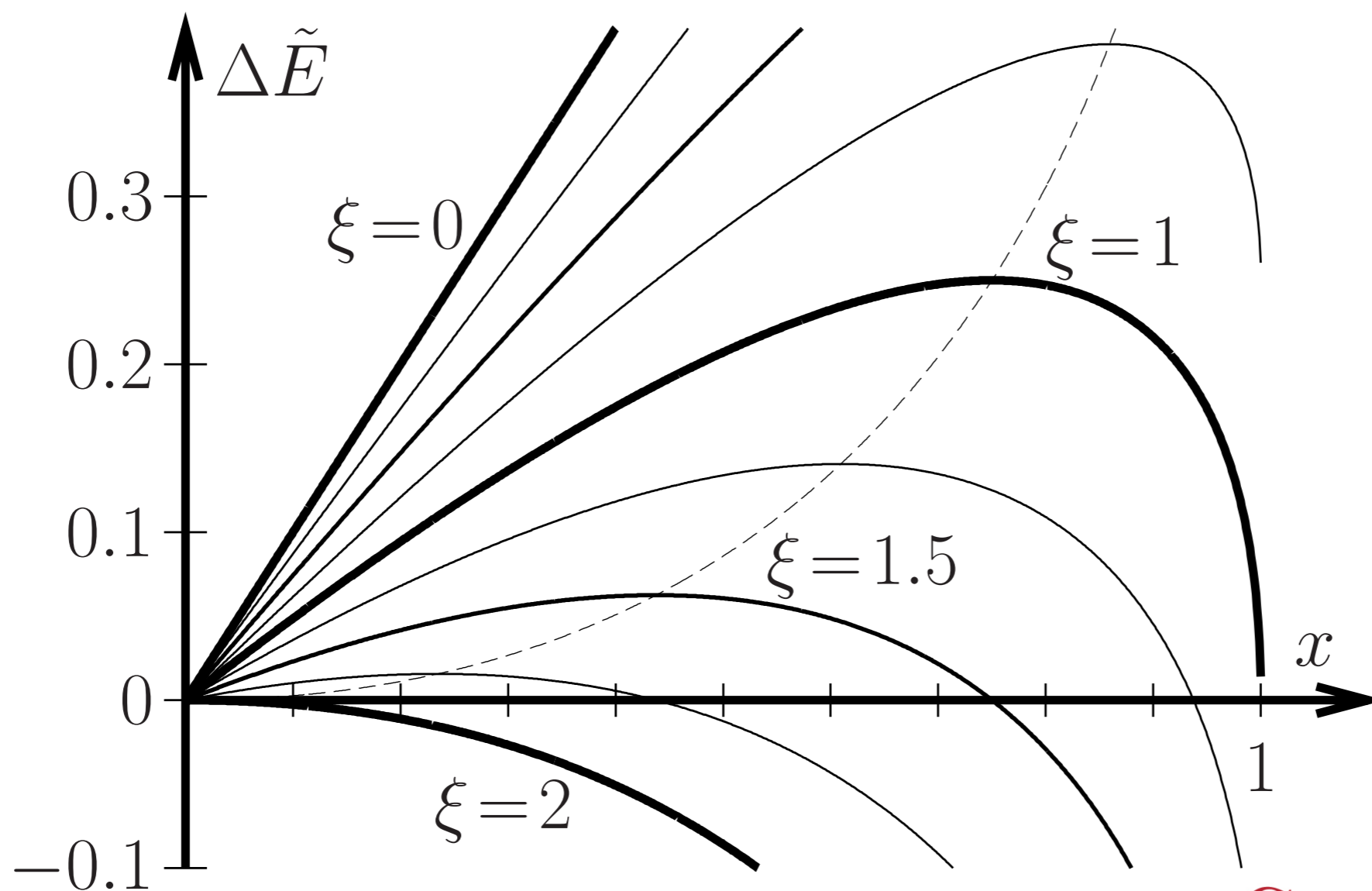




How we measure $\bar{\kappa}$

The energy of a partially curved patch can be calculated as:

$$\frac{\Delta E(x, \xi)}{8\pi\kappa + 4\pi\bar{\kappa}} = \Delta\tilde{E}(x, \xi) = x + \xi \left[\sqrt{1-x} - 1 \right]$$



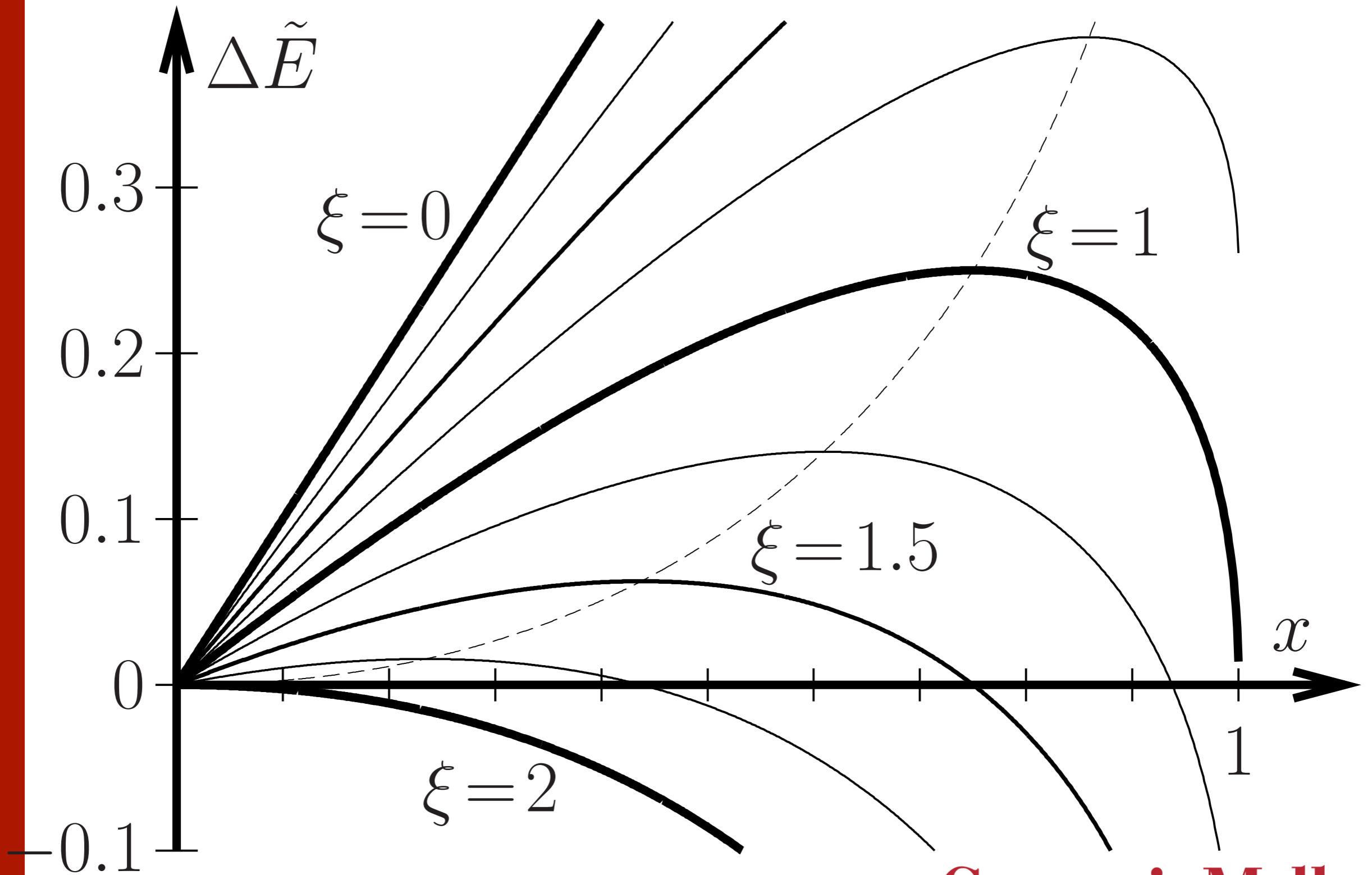
$$x = (Rc)^2$$

$$R = \sqrt{\frac{A}{4\pi}}$$

$$\xi = \frac{\gamma R}{2\kappa + \bar{\kappa}}$$

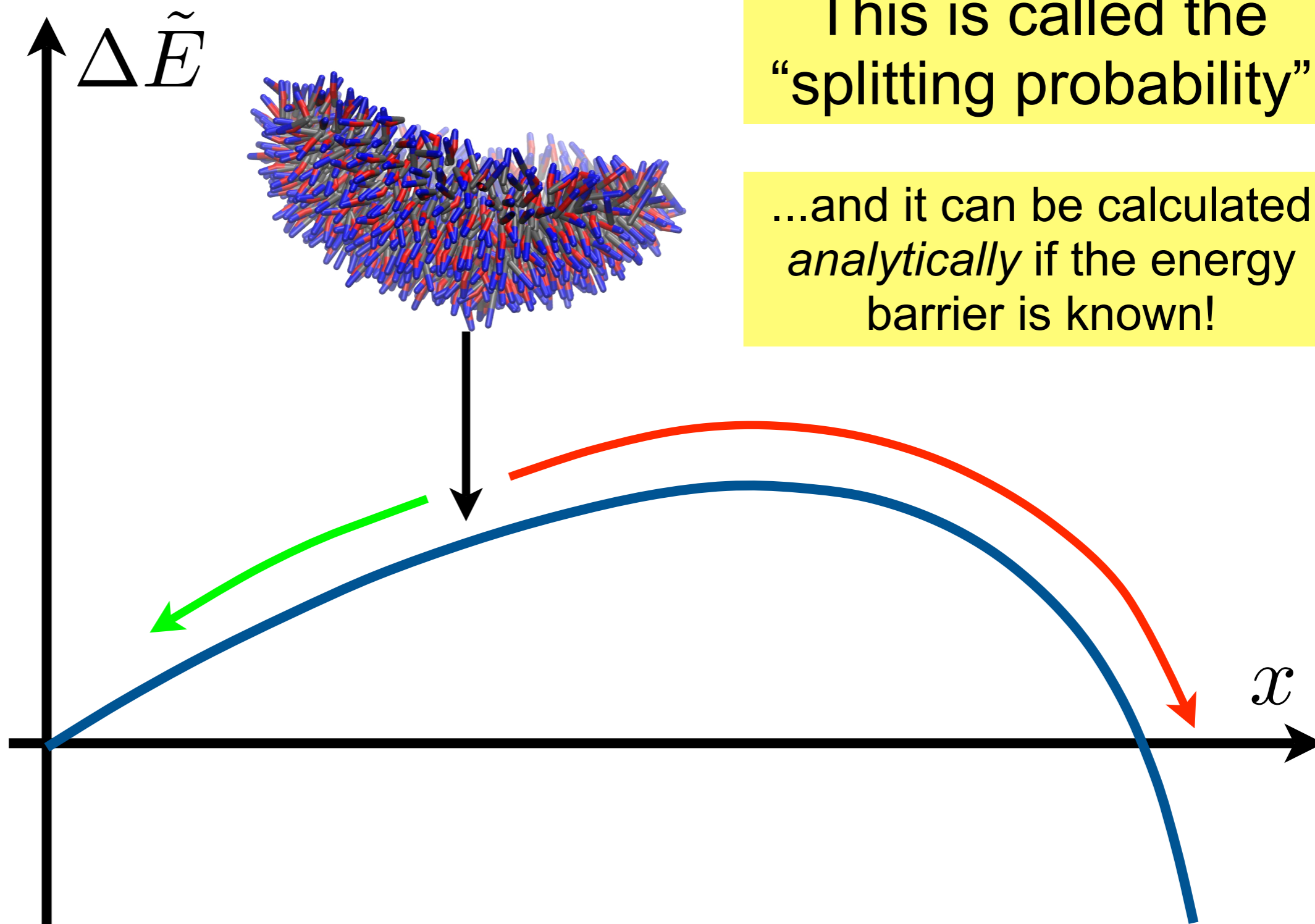


How we measure $\bar{\kappa}$





How we measure $\bar{\kappa}$

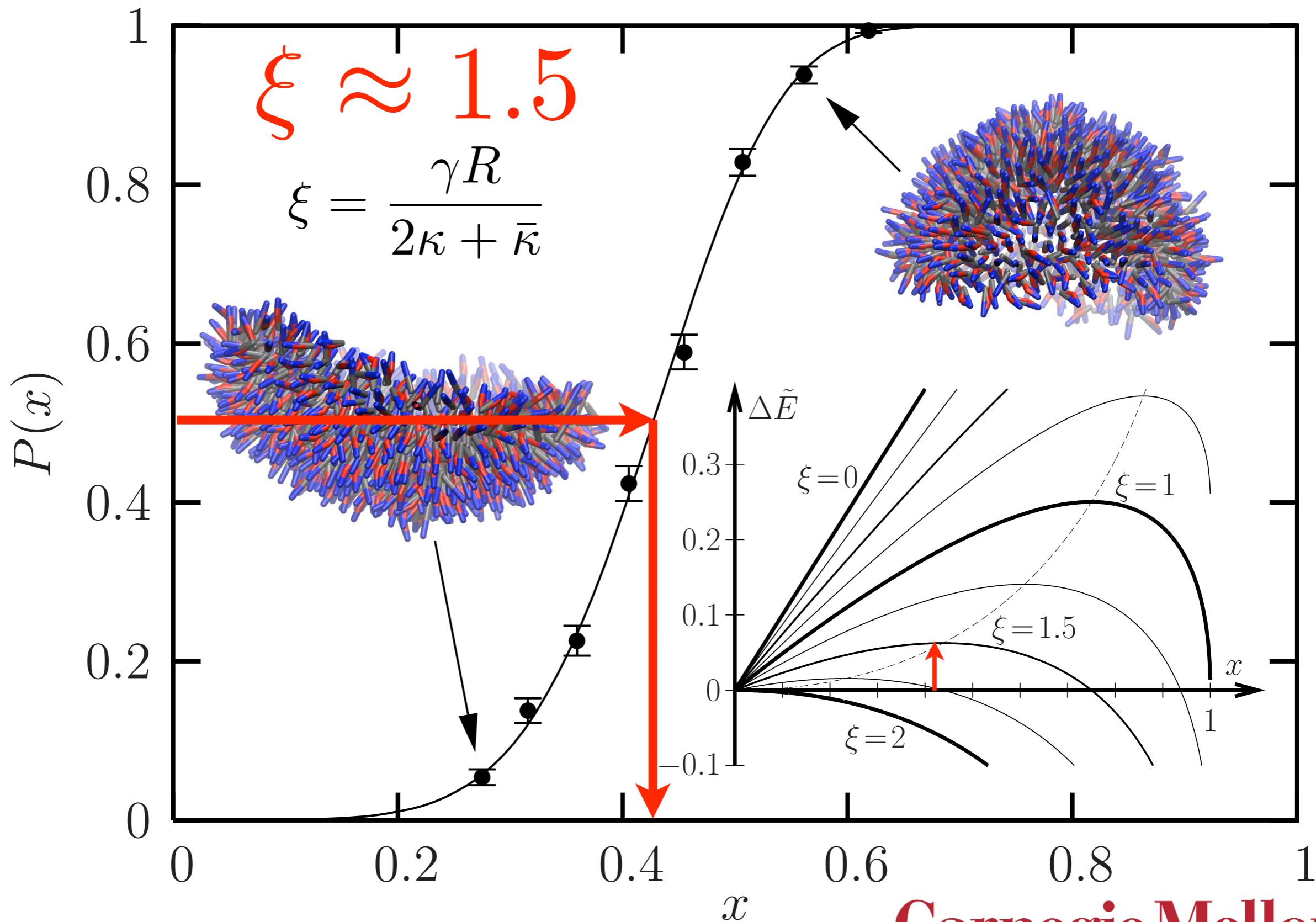


This is called the “splitting probability”

...and it can be calculated *analytically* if the energy barrier is known!



How we measure $\bar{\kappa}$





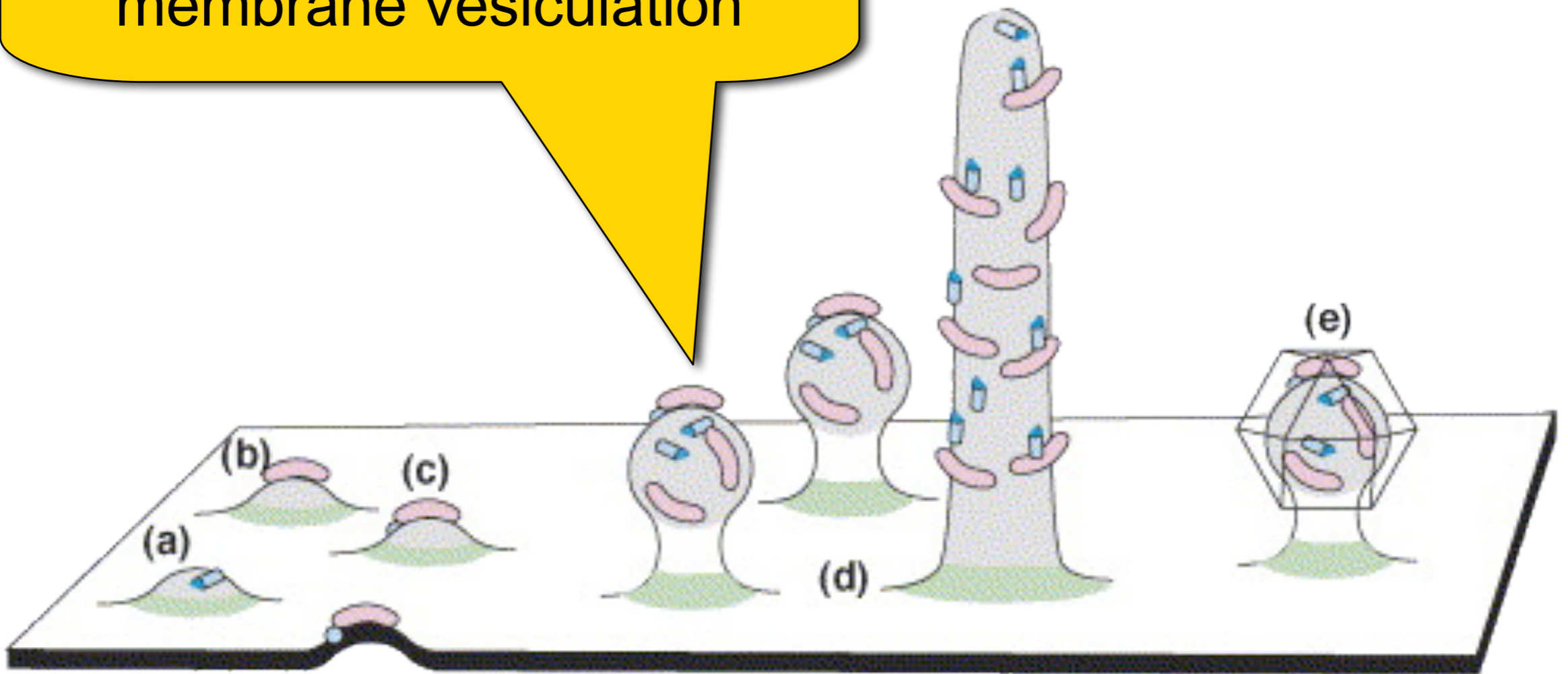
Applications



Protein-induced budding

Membrane-curving proteins
can attract and drive
membrane vesiculation

B. Antony, *Curr. Opin.
Cell Biol.* **18**, 386 (2006)



Intuitive, but no physical justification!



Protein-induced budding

Interaction potential from linearized theory
(spherical caps, radius a , detachment angle α)

$$U(R) = 2\pi\sigma a^2\alpha^2 \left[K_0\left(\frac{R}{\lambda}\right) + \left(\frac{a}{\lambda}\right) K_2^2\left(\frac{R}{\lambda}\right) \right]$$

[T.R. Weikl, M.M. Kozlov, W. Helfrich, PRE **57**, 6988 (1998)]

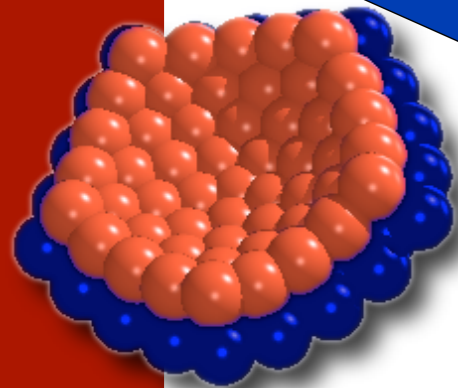
characteristic decay length: $\lambda = \sqrt{\kappa/\sigma}$

$\sigma = 0 \Rightarrow U(R) = 8\pi\kappa\alpha^2 \left(\frac{a}{R}\right)^4$ Goulian, Bruinsma, Pincus,
Europhys. Lett. **22**, 145 (1993)

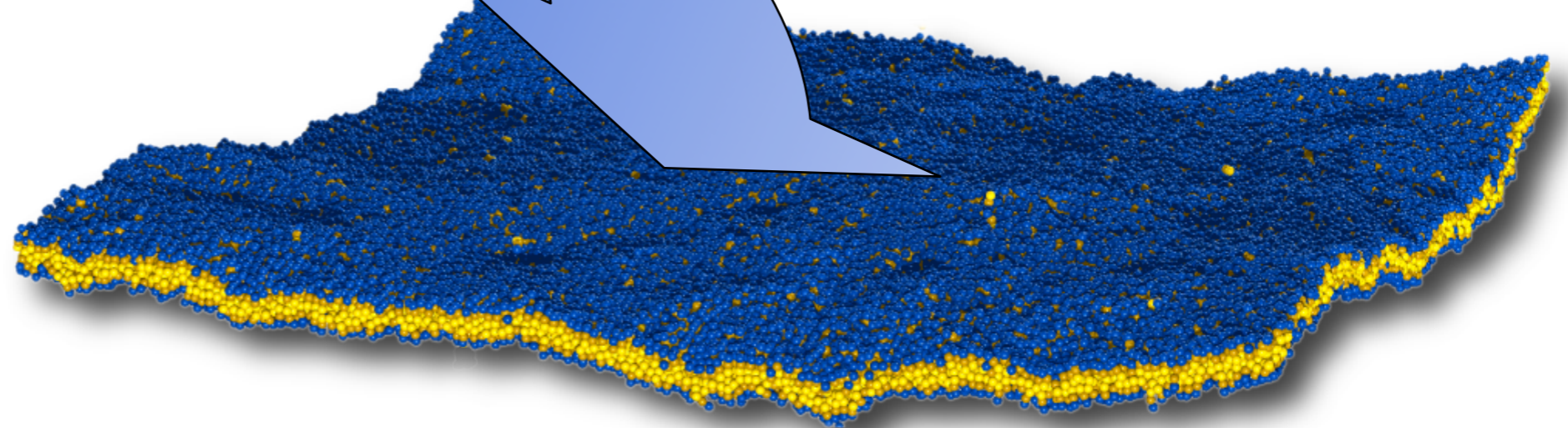
This is always repulsive!



Protein-induced budding



many caps
("contact lens")



36 curved caps, ~50000 lipids,
160nm side-length, total time ~1ms
no lateral tension
no explicit interaction between caps

B.J. Reynwar *et al.*, Nature **447**, 461 (2007)

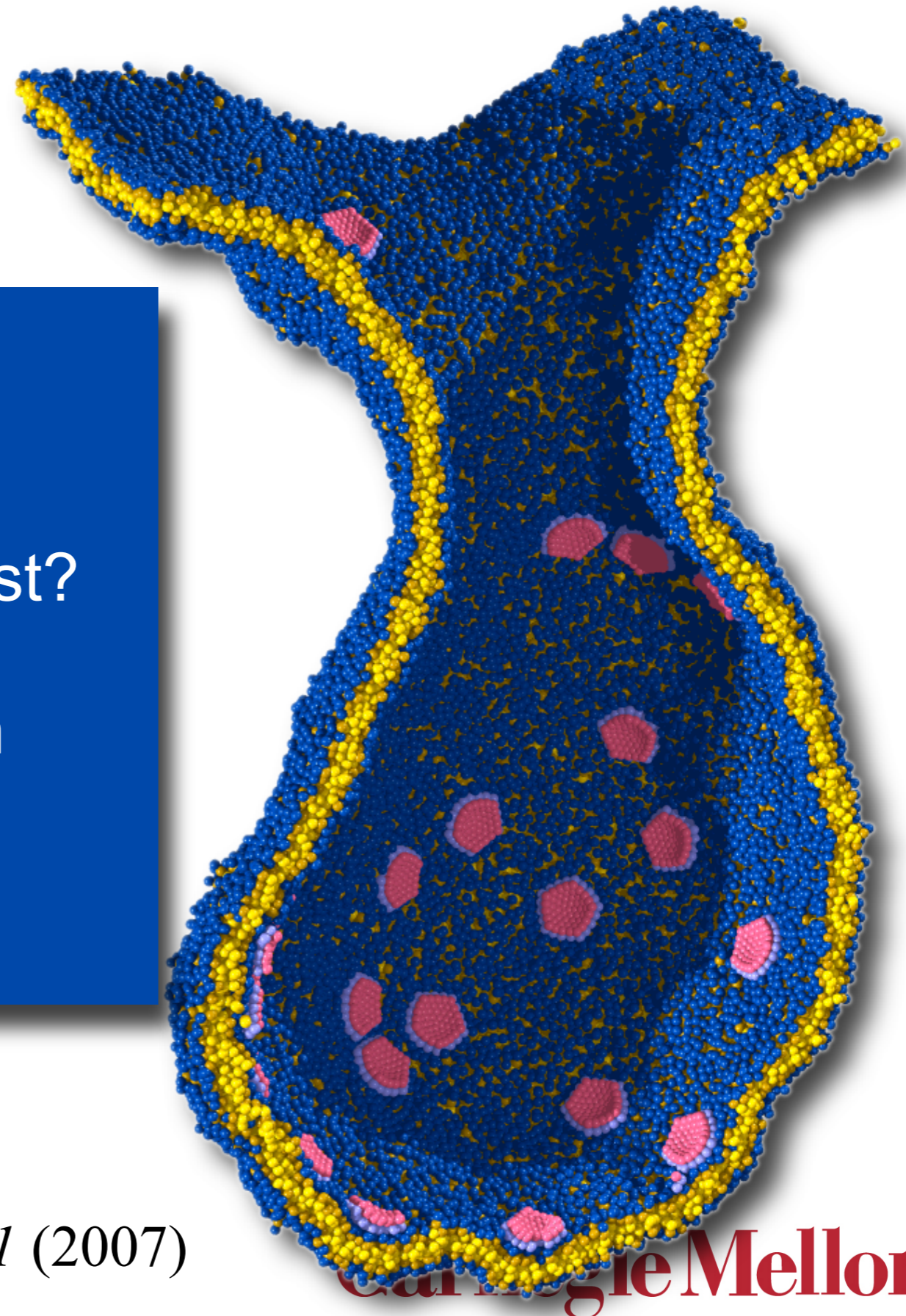
Carnegie Mellon



Protein-induced budding

Some observations:

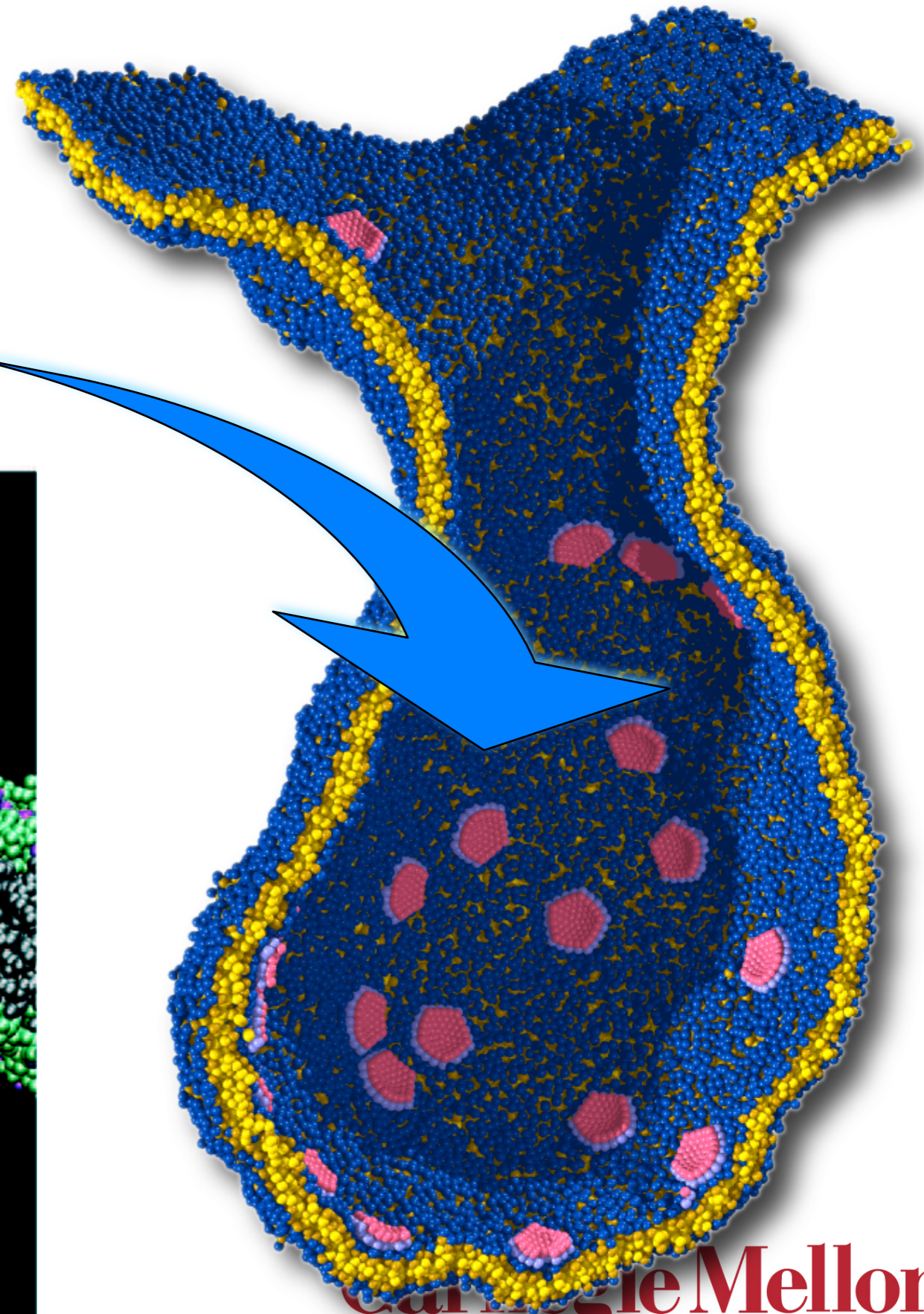
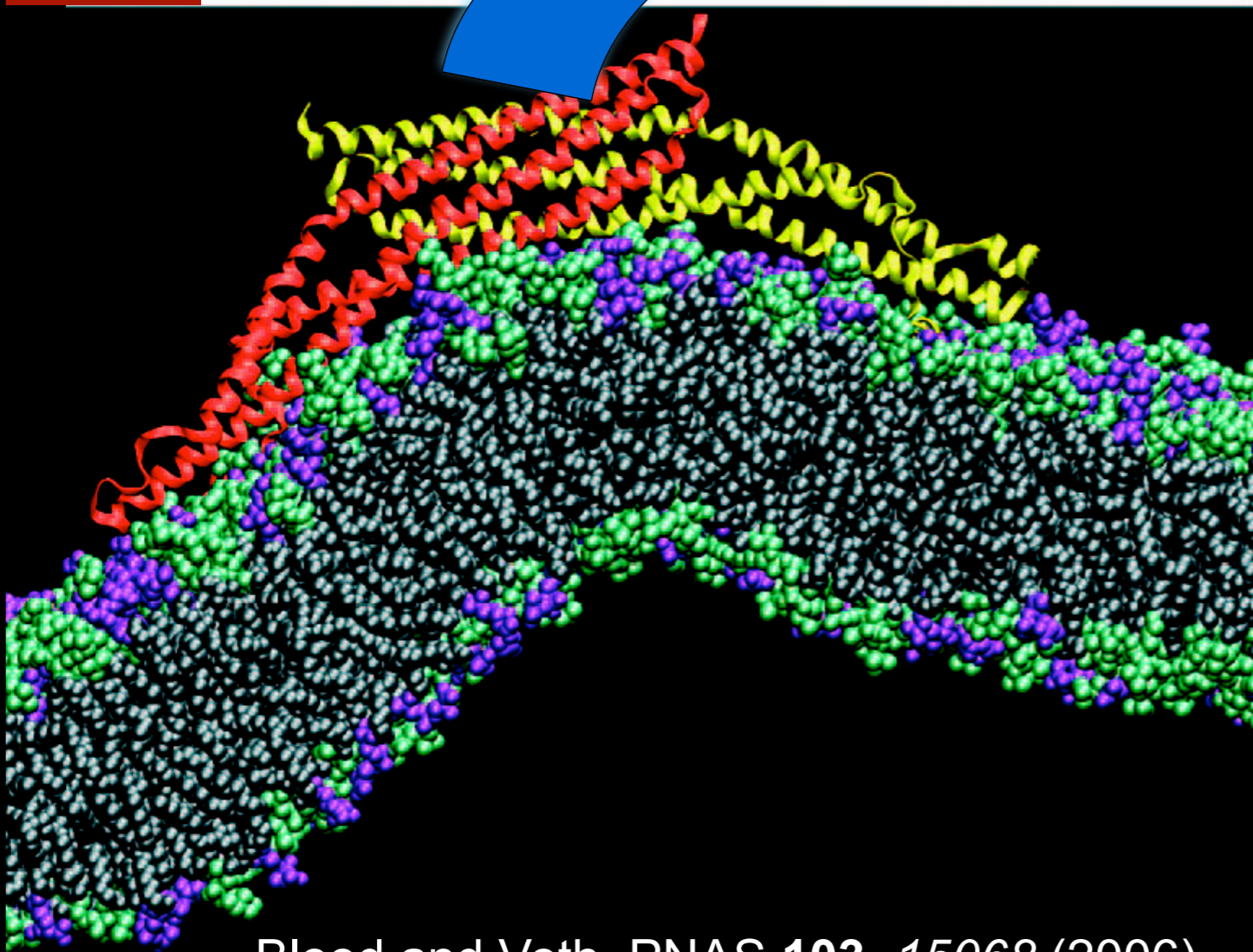
- Caps **attract** collectively
- Attractive pair-forces exist?
- No crystalline structure
- Cooperative vesiculation
- No “scaffolding”
- 50-100nm length scales
- several milliseconds



B.J. Reynwar *et al.*, Nature **447**, 461 (2007)



Protein-induced budding



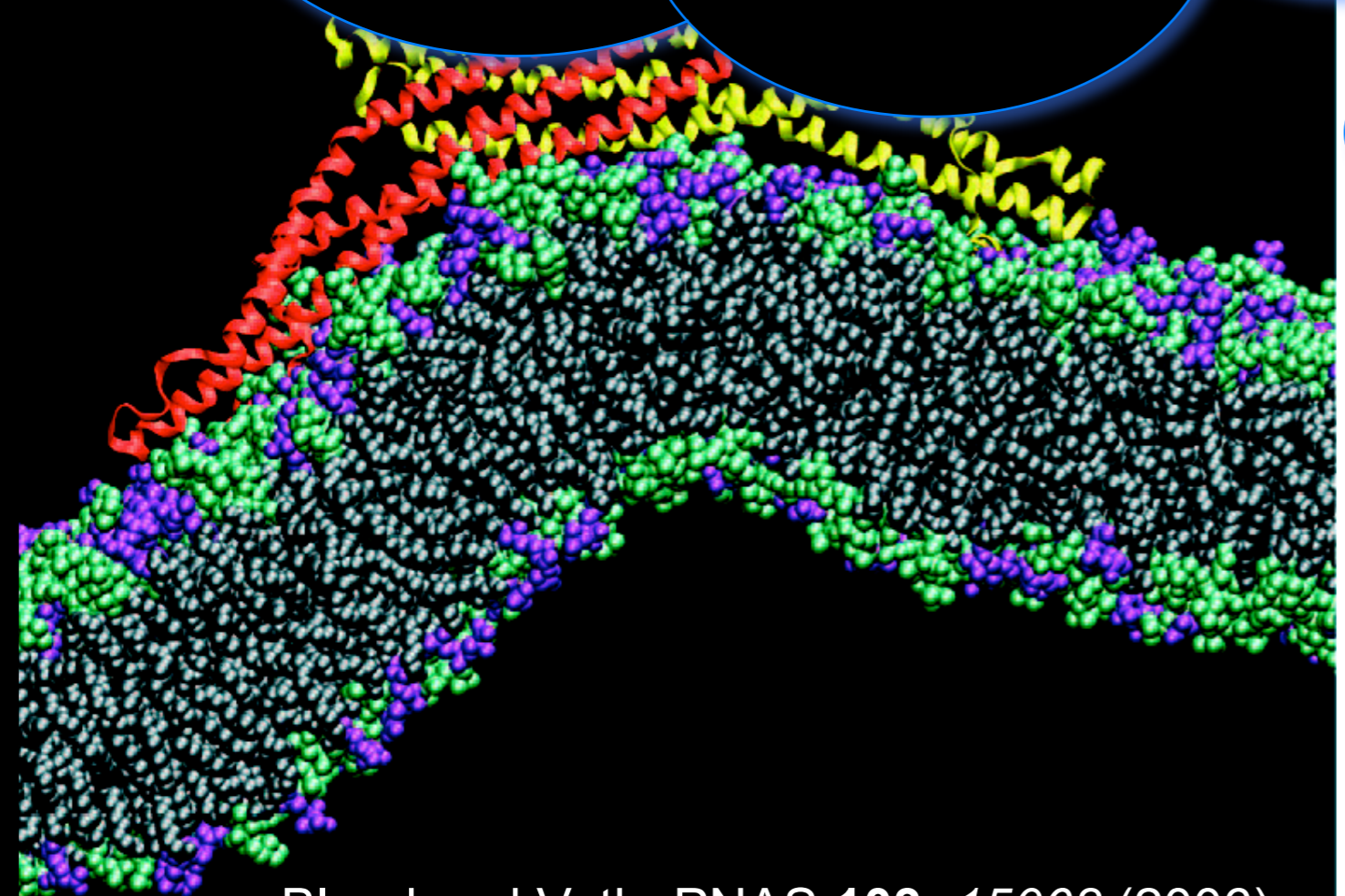
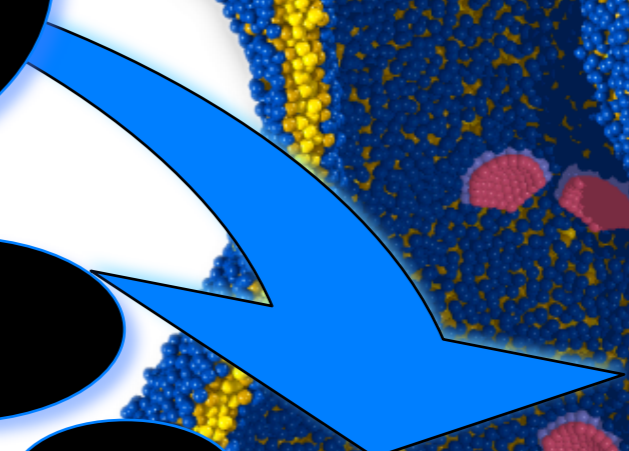
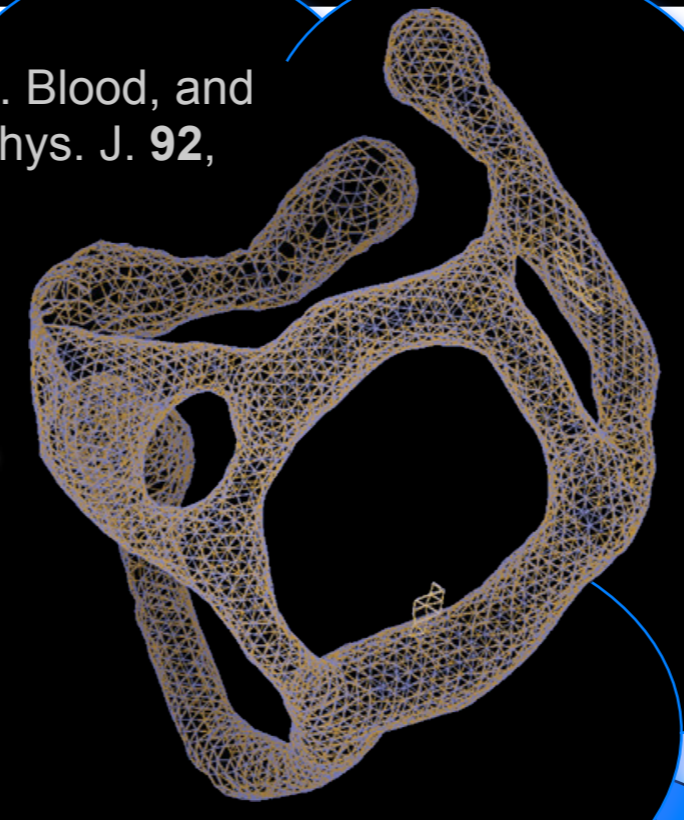
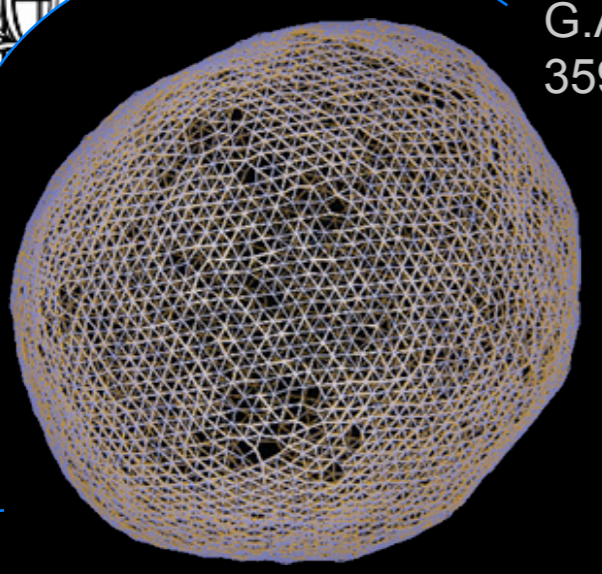
Blood and Voth, PNAS 103, 15068 (2006)



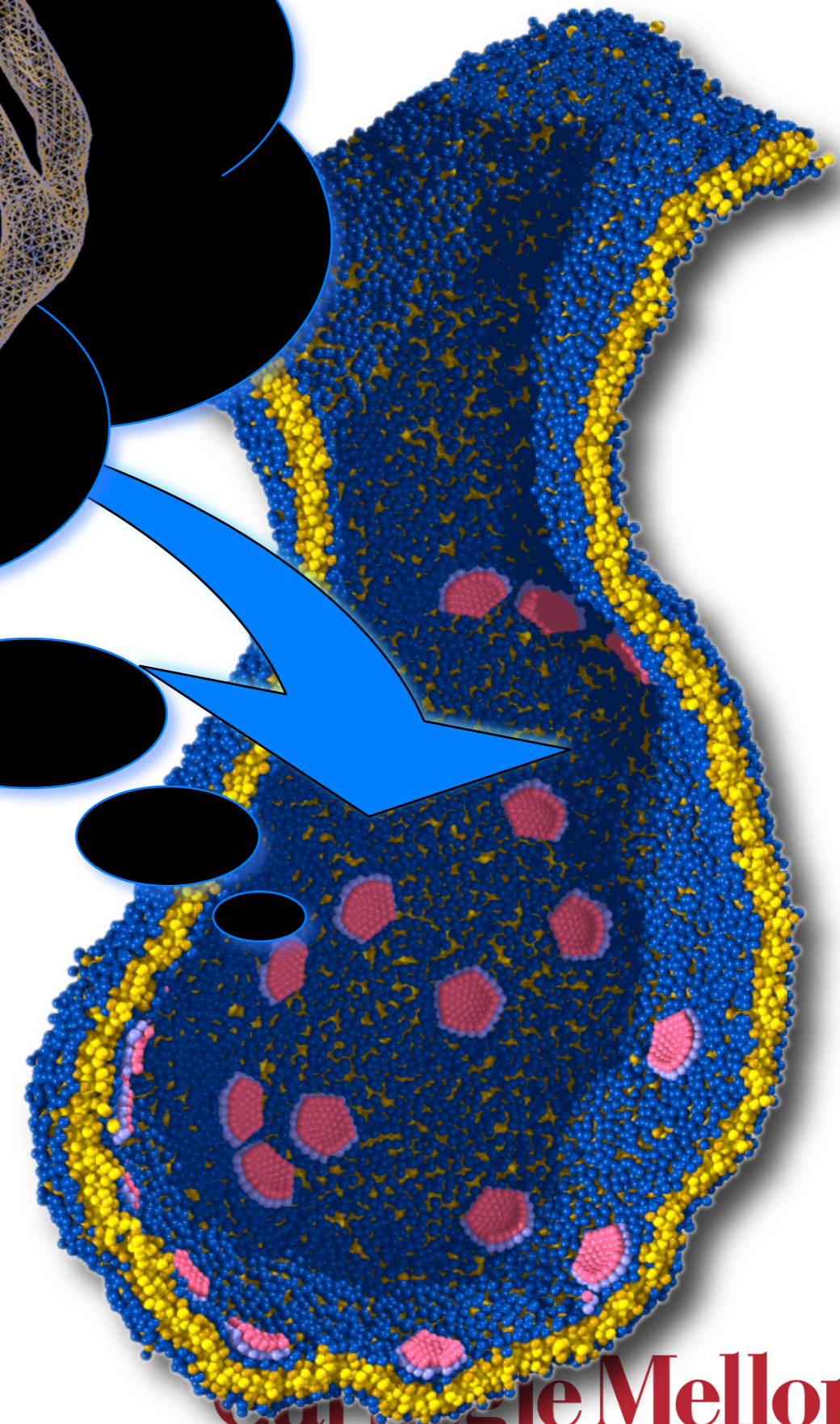
Reptile

G.S. Ayton, P.D. Blood, and
G.A. Voth, *Biophys. J.* **92**,
3595 (2007)

budding



Blood and Voth, *PNAS* **103**, 15068 (2006)



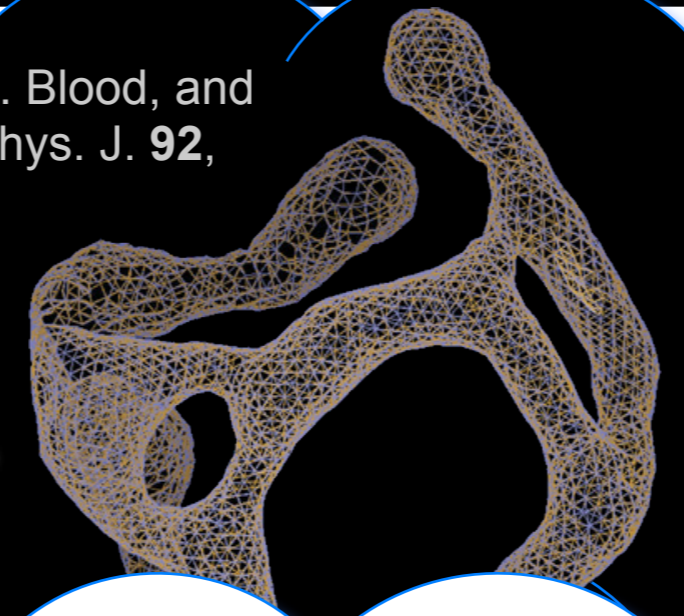
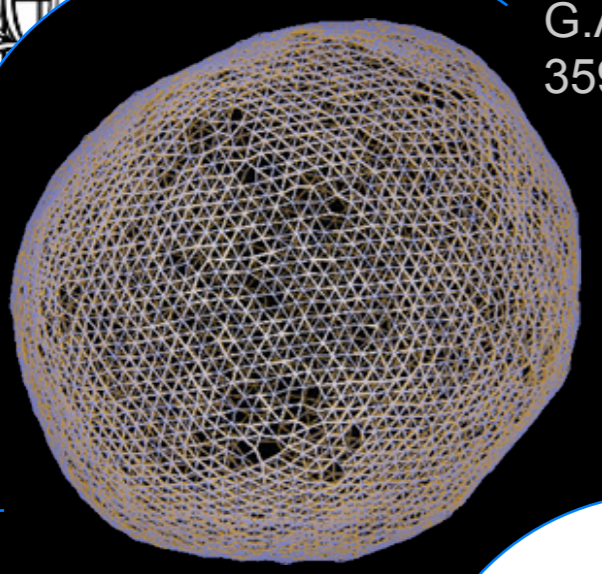
Carnegie Mellon



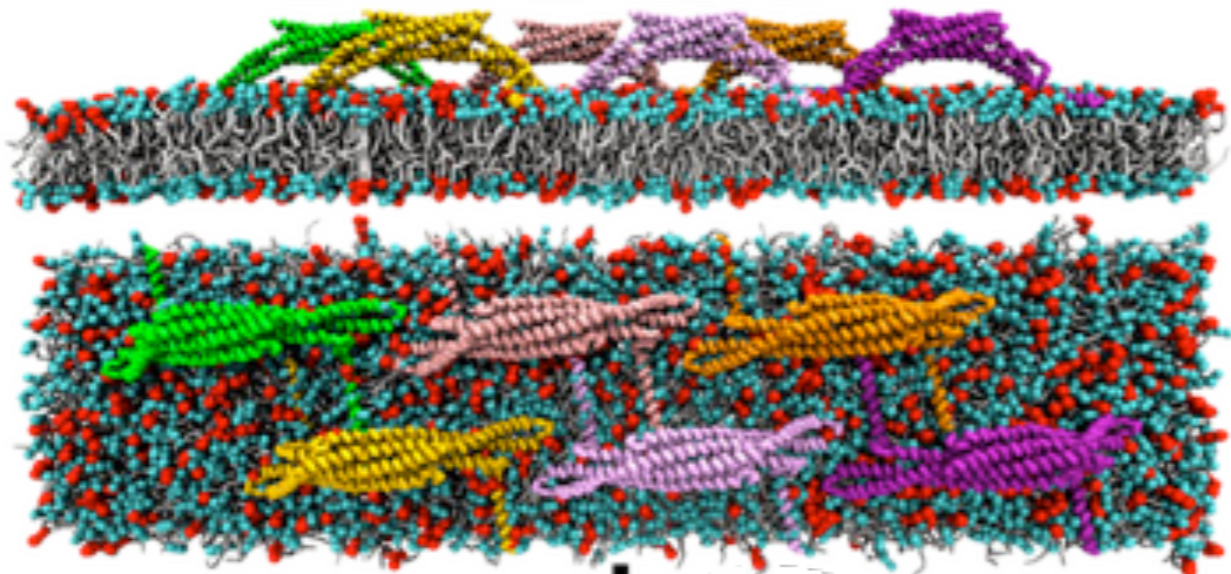
Dr. Blood

G.S. Ayton, P.D. Blood, and G.A. Voth, *Biophys. J.* **92**, 3595 (2007)

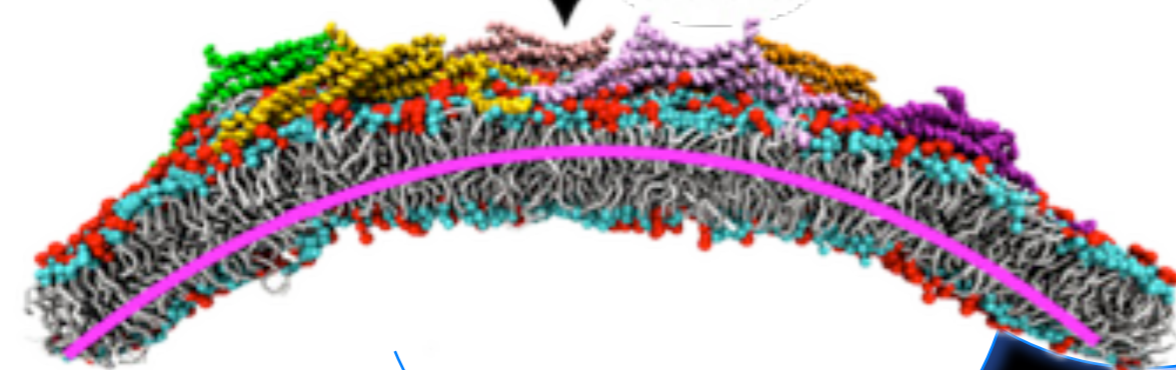
Budding



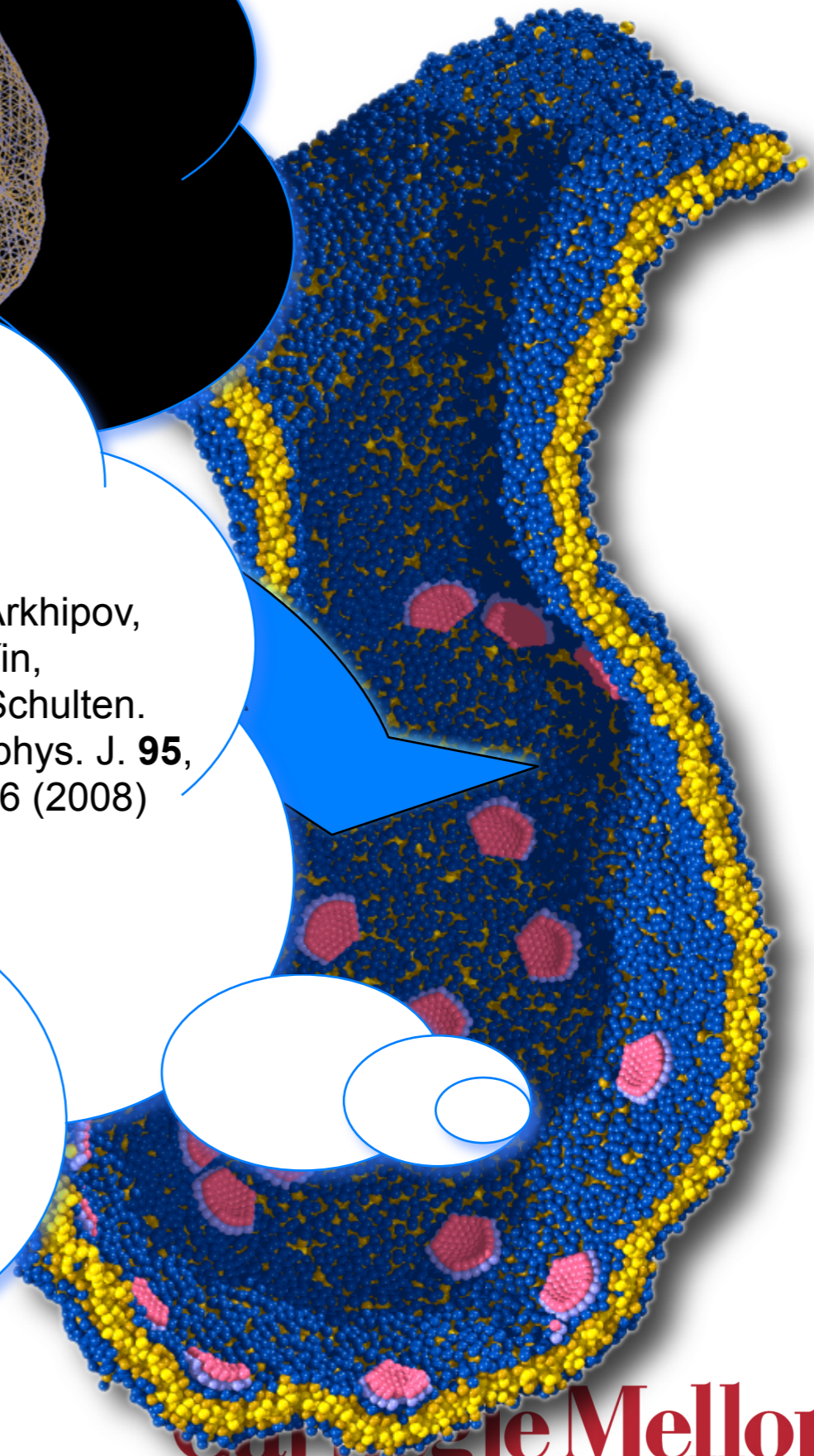
1 2 3 4 5 6



50 ns



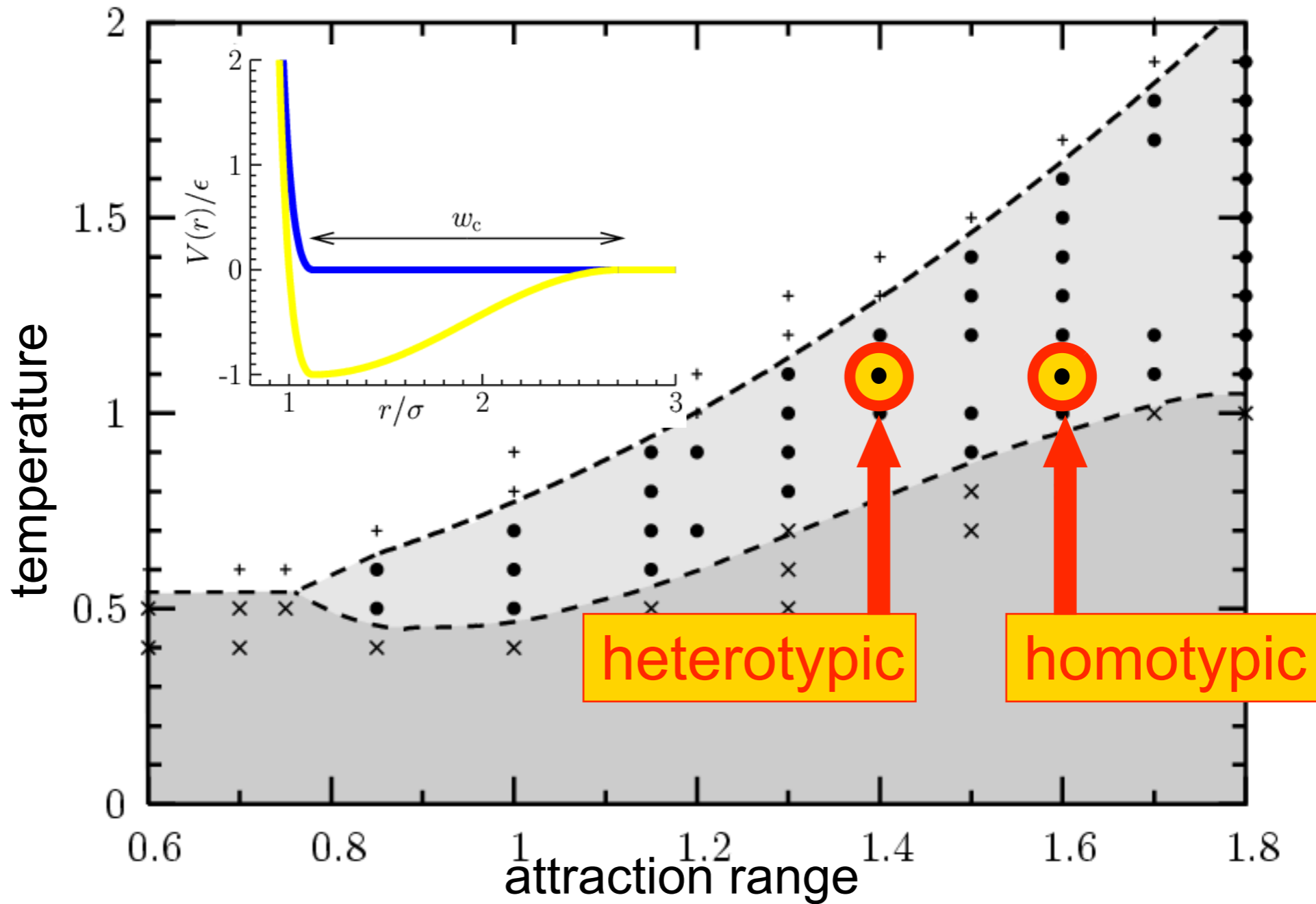
A. Arkhipov, Y. Yin, K. Schulten. *Biophys. J.* **95**, 2806 (2008)



Blood and Voth, *PNAS* **103**, 11115 (2006)



Lipid A-B-mixtures

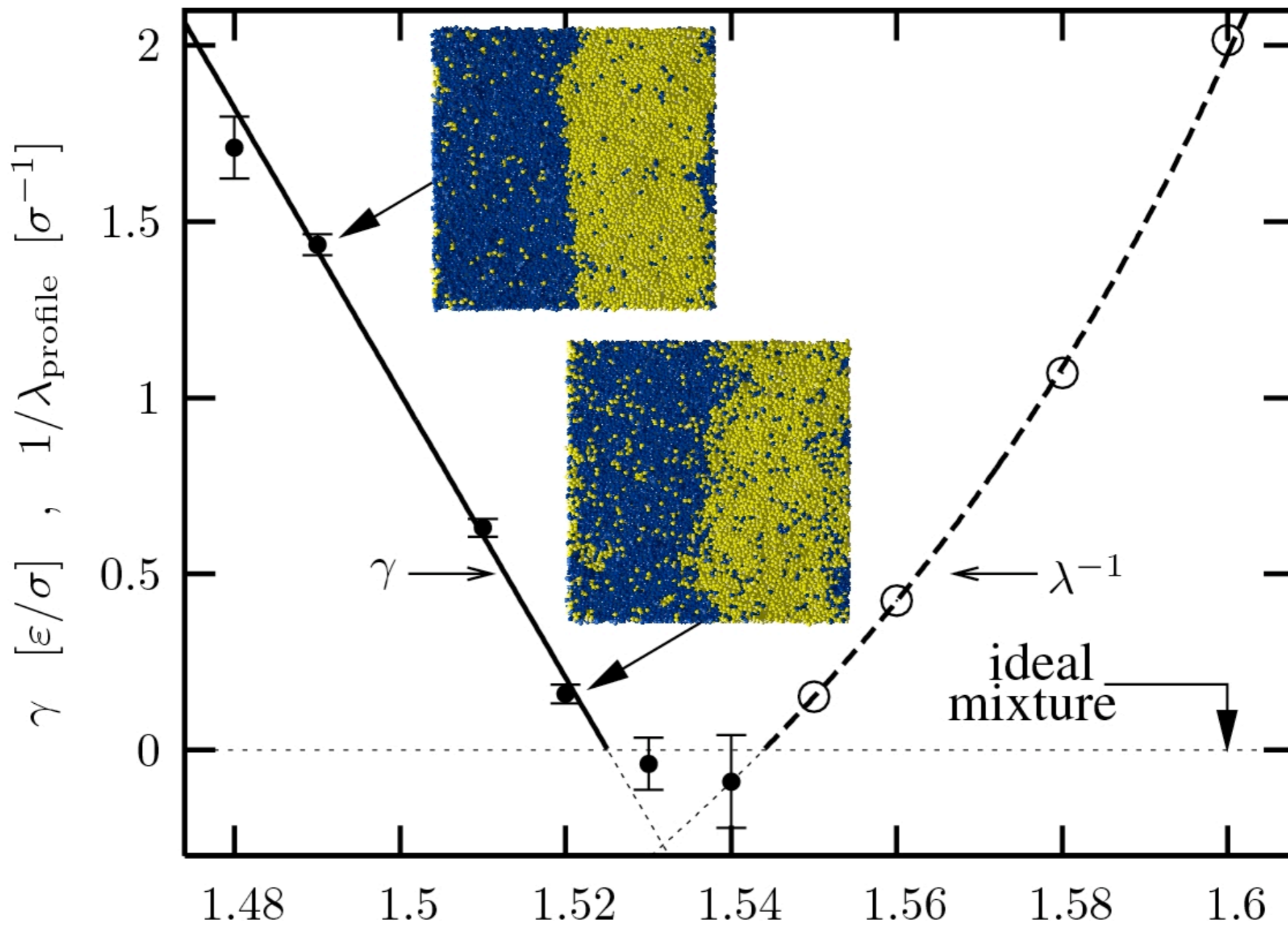


$$W_{AB} < W_{AA} = W_{BB}$$

B.J. Reynwar & M. Deserno,
Biointerphases 3, FA118 (2009)



Lipid A-B-mixtures



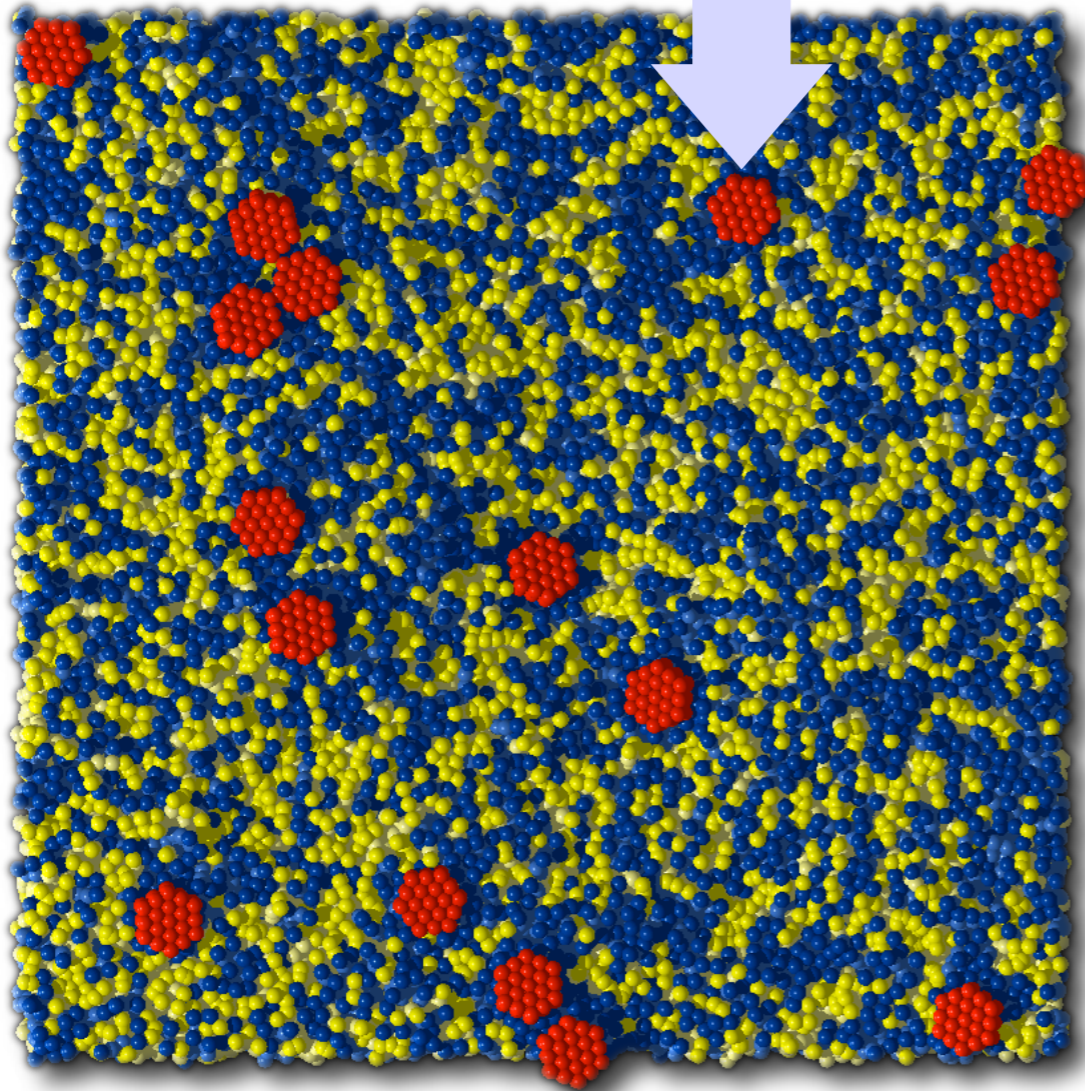
$$W_{AB} < W_{AA} = W_{BB} \quad w_{AB} [\sigma]$$

B.J. Reynwar & M. Deserno,
Biointerphases 3, FA118 (2009)

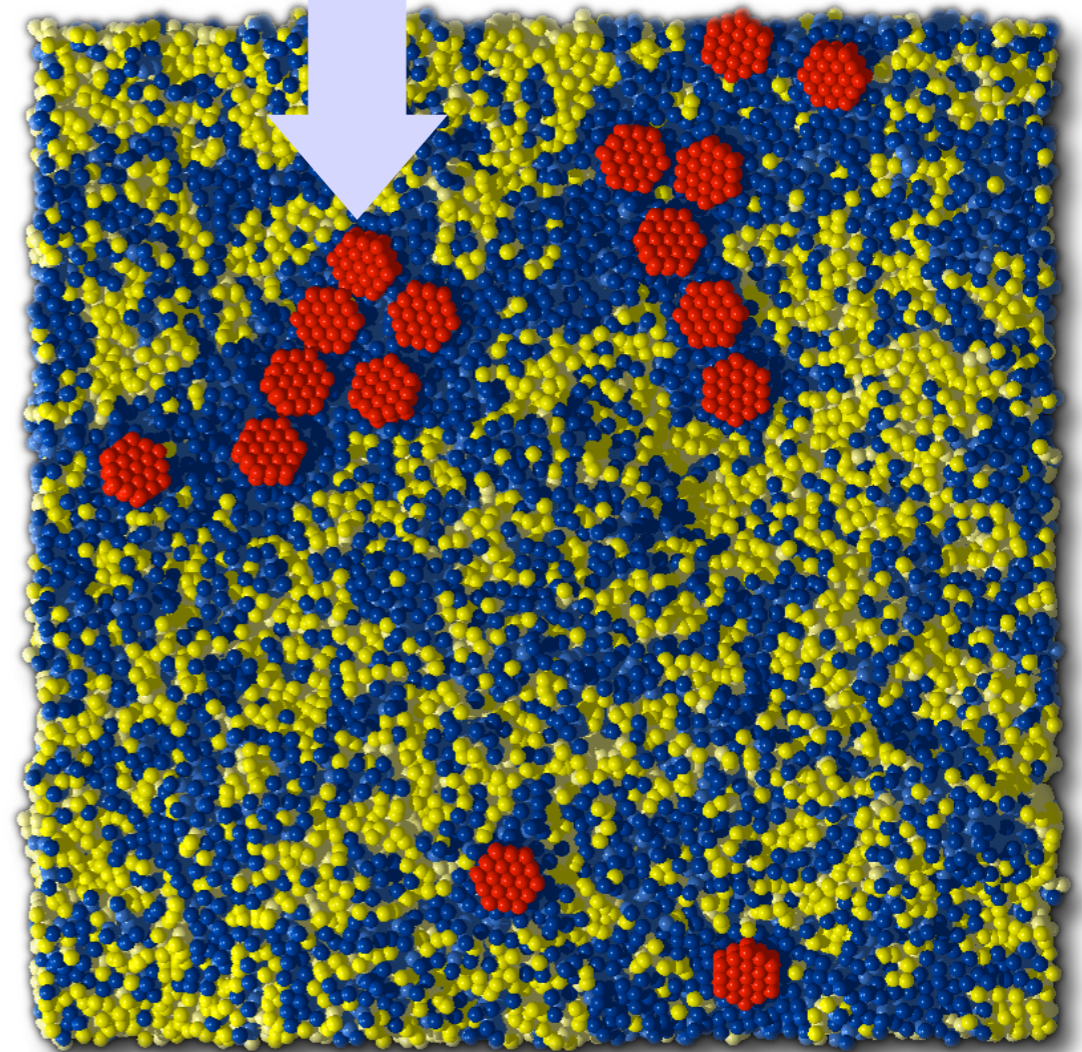


Lipid A-B-mixtures + proteins

Proteins only adsorb on blue lipids



ideal lipid mixture



non-ideal lipid mixture

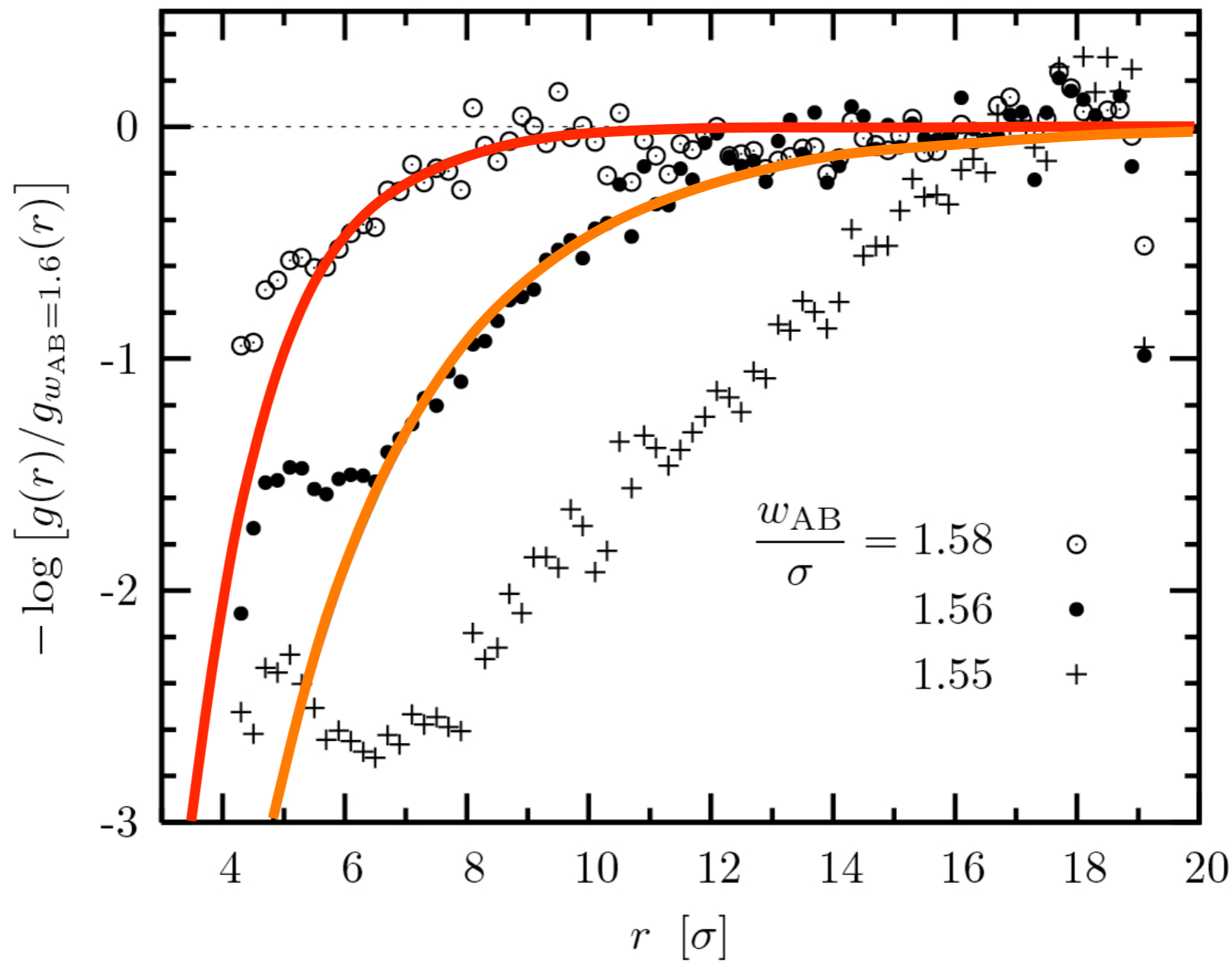
Composition-induced protein aggregation

B.J. Reynwar & M. Deserno,
Biointerphases 3, FA118 (2009)

Carnegie Mellon



Lipid A-B-mixtures + proteins

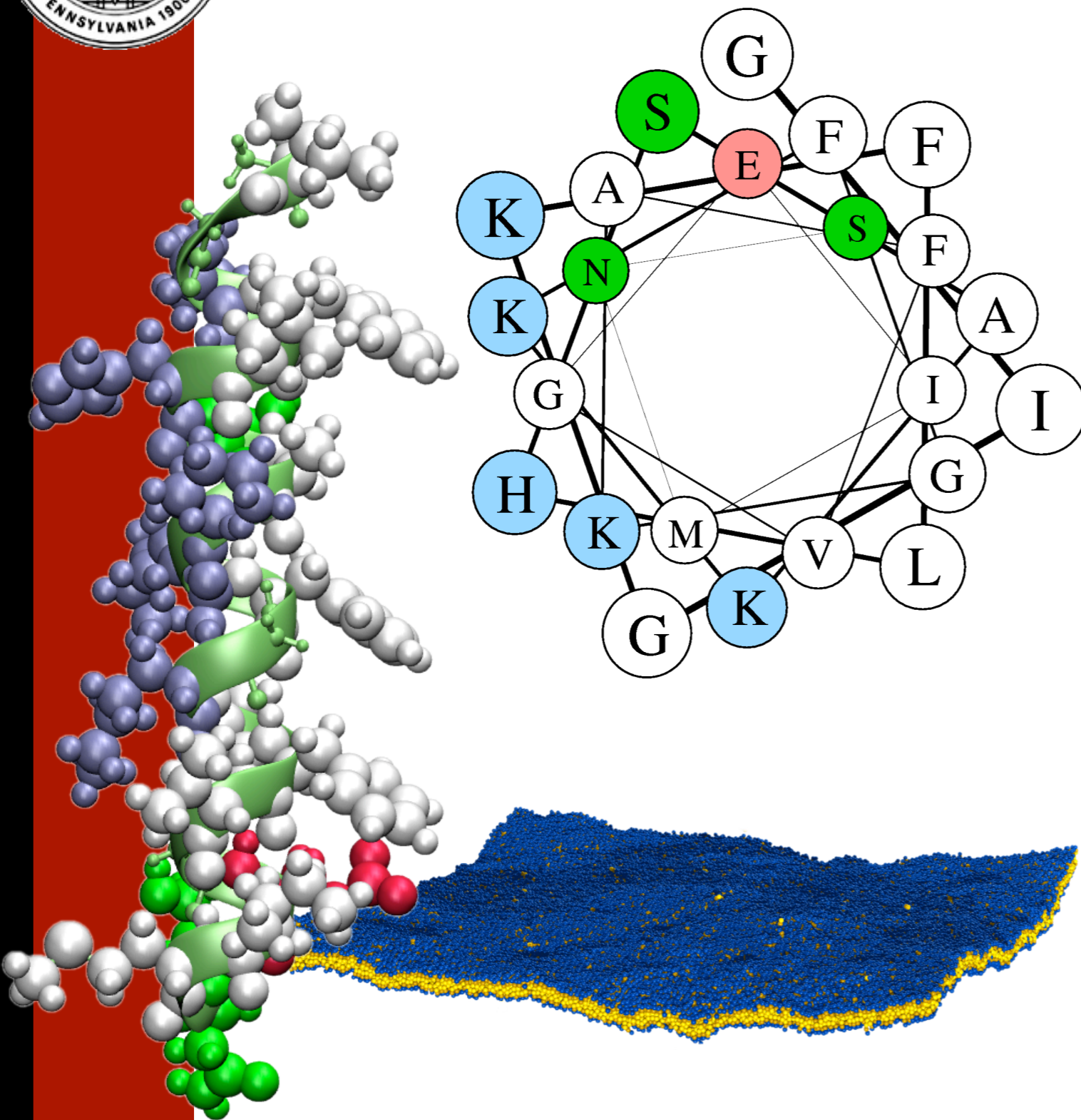


Pair potentials can be fitted by simple ground state theory.

B.J. Reynwar & M. Deserno,
Biointerphases 3, FA118 (2009)



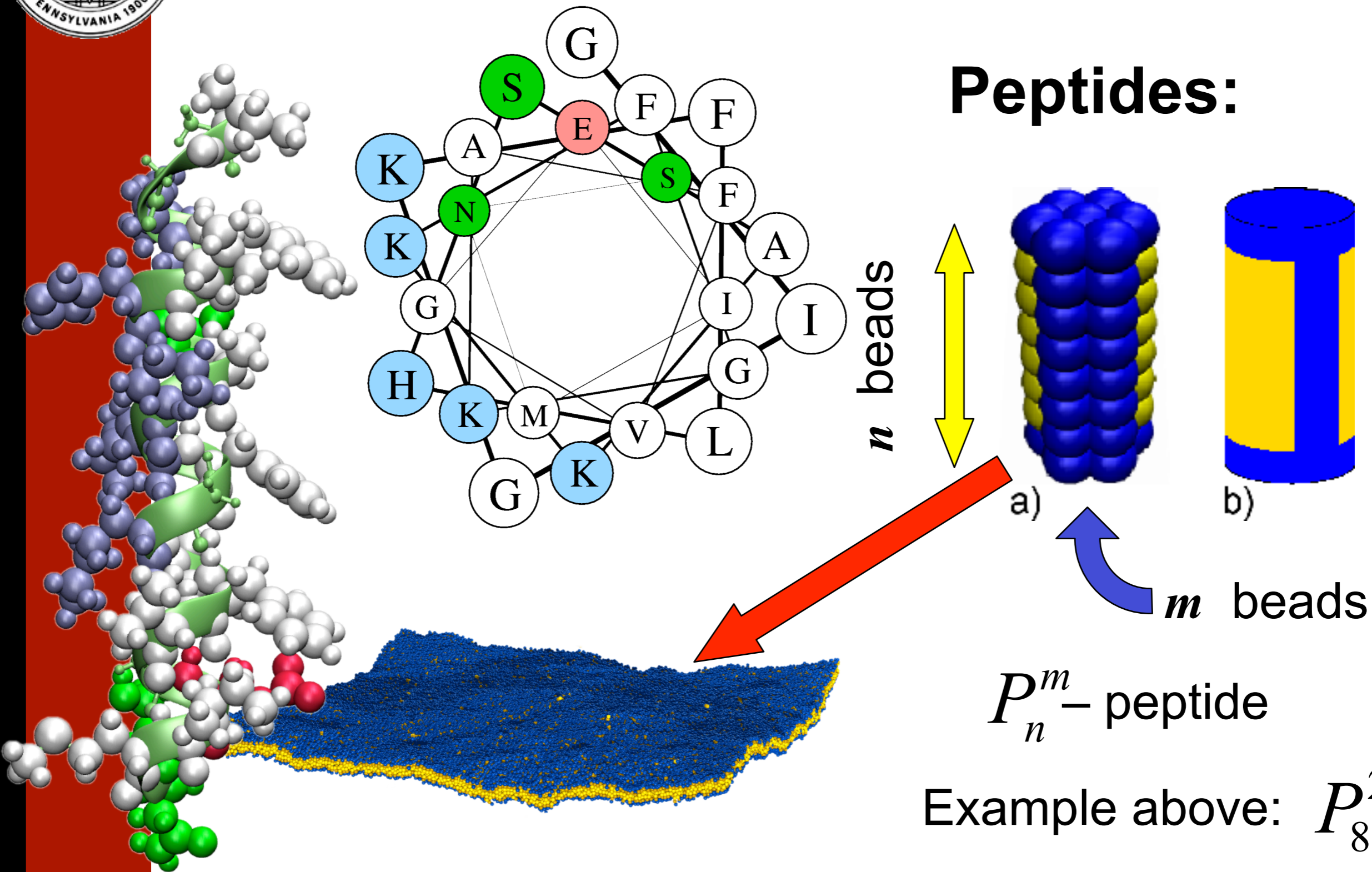
Peptide-induced pore formation



Antimicrobial
Peptide
“magainin”

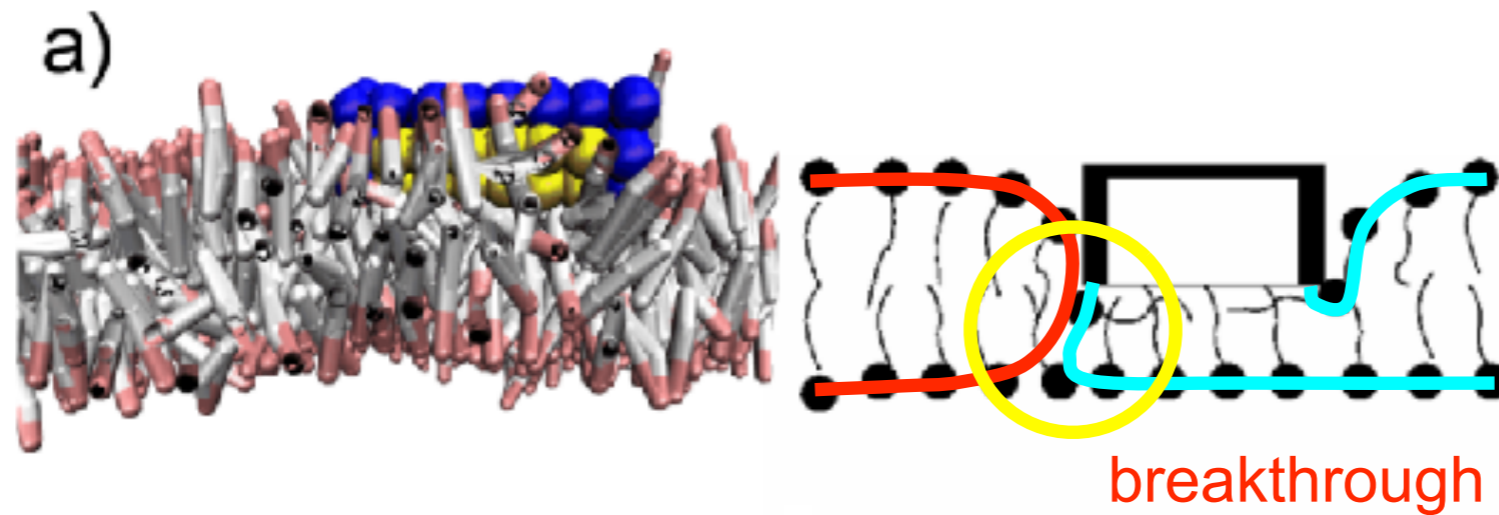


Peptide-induced pore formation

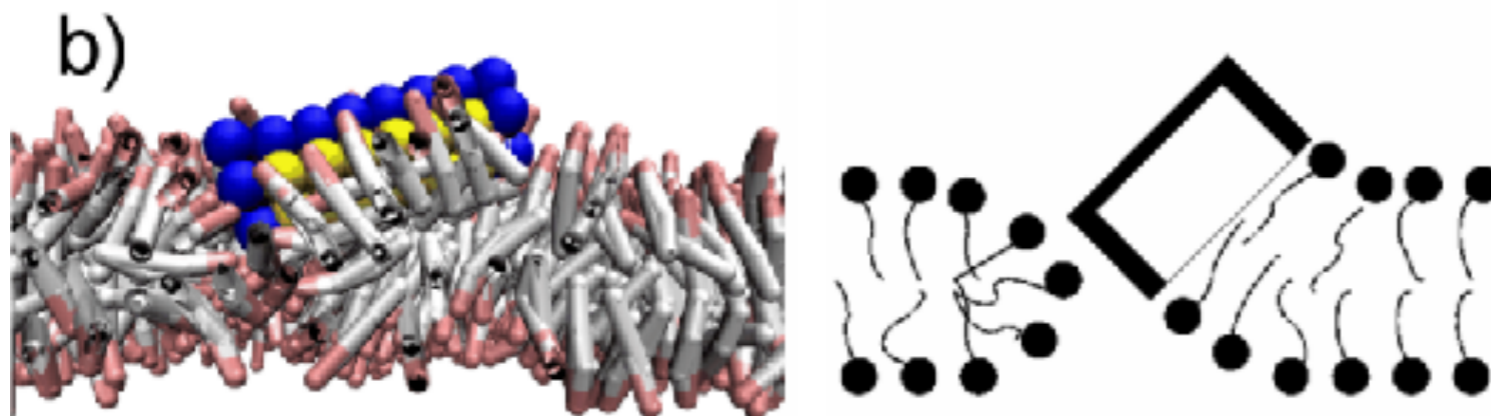




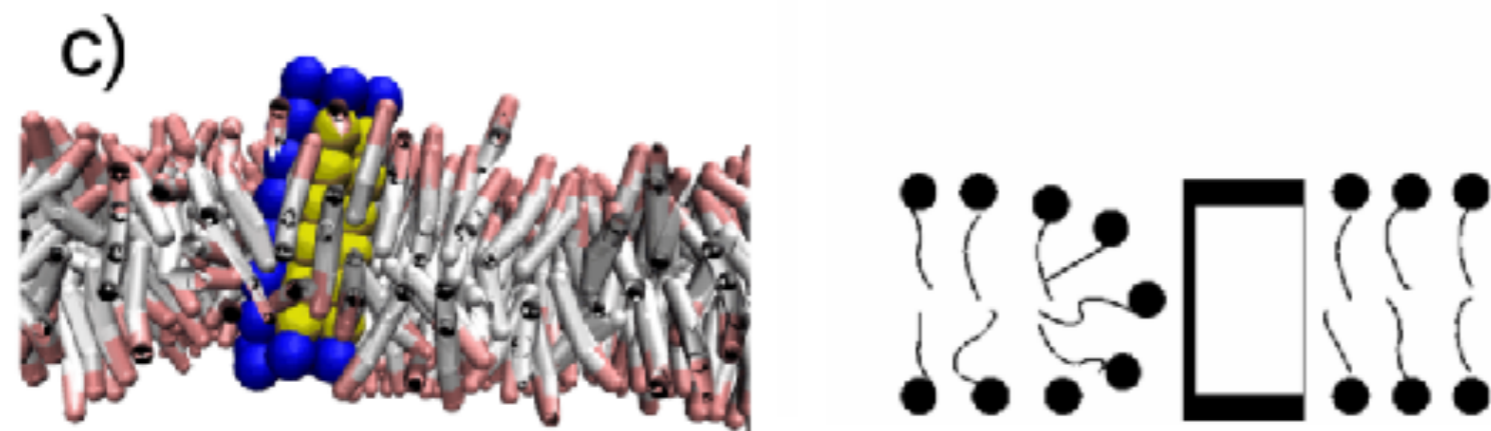
Peptide-induced pore formation



Surface adsorbed



Monolayer contact



Sliding in

G. Illya & M. Deserno, Biophys. J. 95, 4163 (2008)

Carnegie Mellon



Peptide-induced pore formation

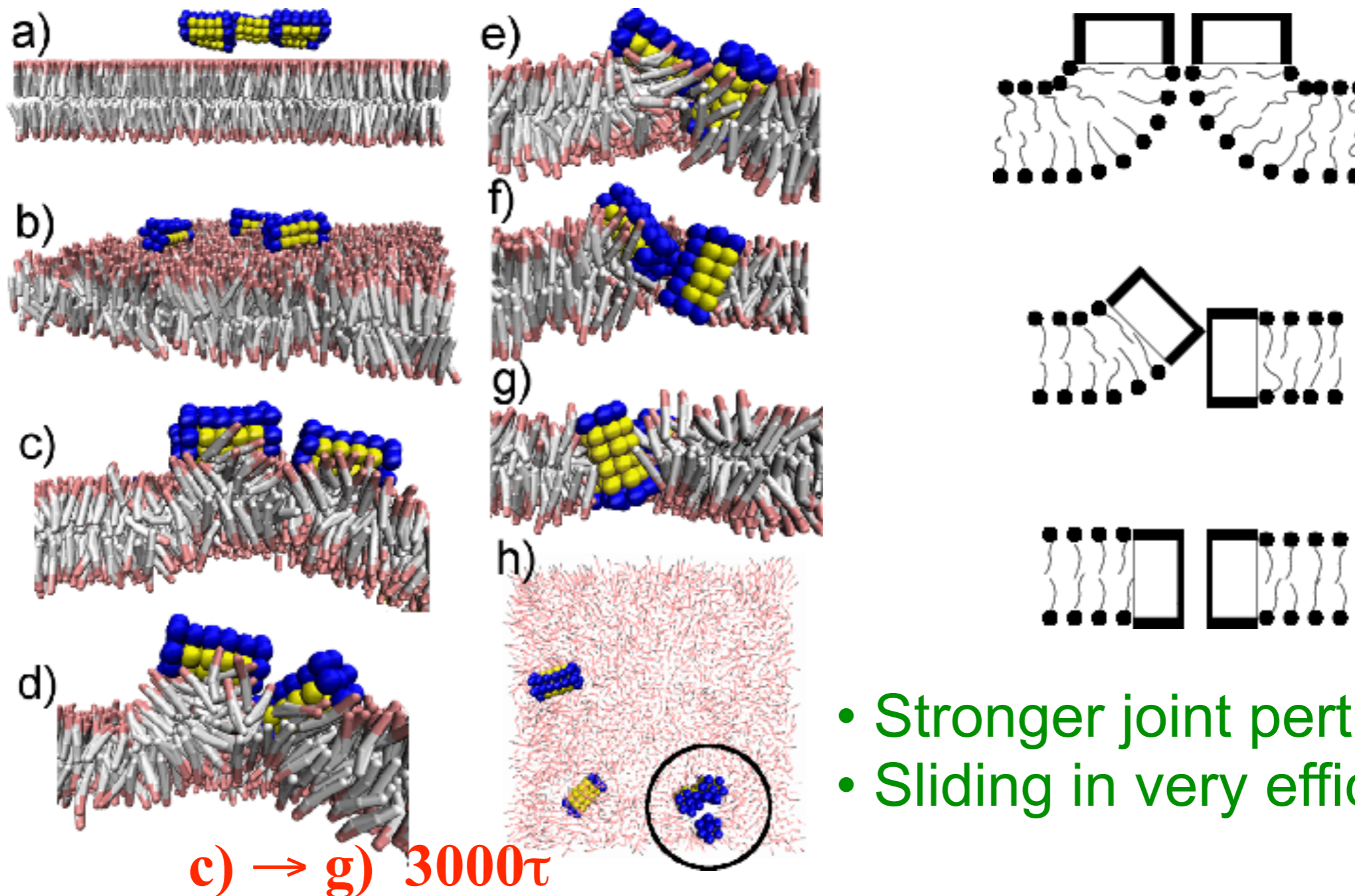
Binding strength		$k_B T = 1.7$	$k_B T = 1.9$
P_6^2	1.5	stray	stray
	1.6	bound	bound/inserted
	1.7	inserted	inserted
	1.8	inserted	inserted
P_8^2	1.4	stray	
	1.5	bound	
	1.6	inserted	
	1.7	inserted	
	1.8	inserted	inserted

Let us now look at this system consisting of many of these peptides



Peptide-induced pore formation

...of a peptide which *alone* does *not* insert within 25000τ



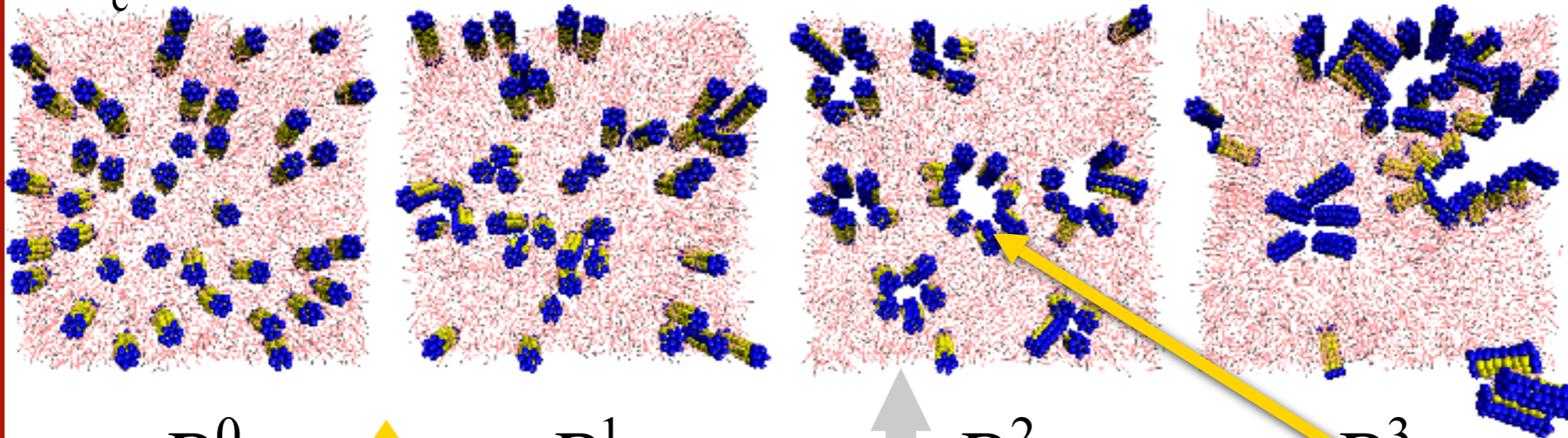
G. Illya & M. Deserno, Biophys. J. 95, 4163 (2008)

Carnegie Mellon



Peptide-induced pore formation

$$w_c = 1.5$$



$$P_8^0$$

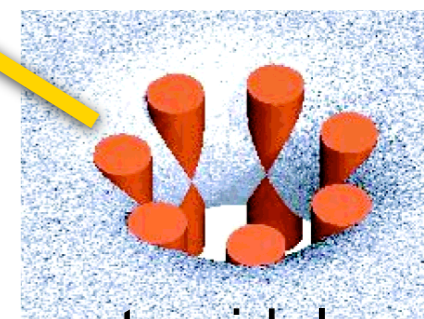
$$P_8^1$$

$$P_8^2$$

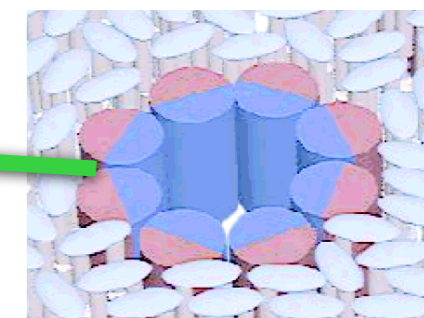
$$P_8^3$$

No peptide attraction

Some peptide attraction

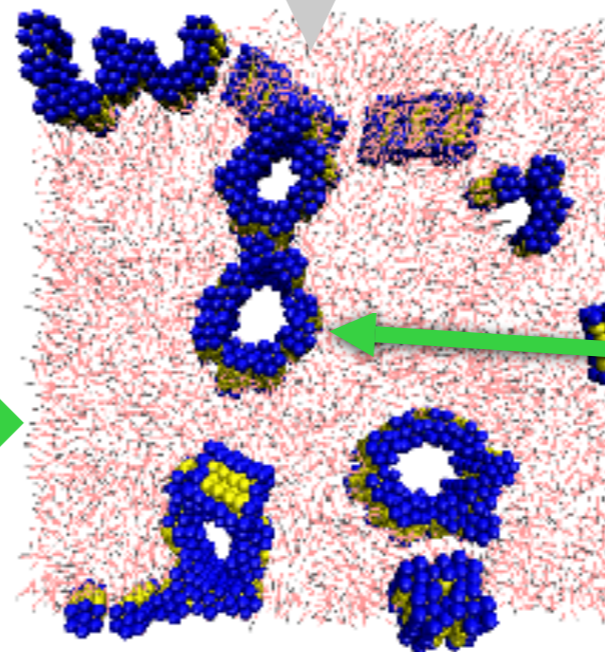


toroidal



barrel-stave

$$P_6^2 \quad w_c = 1.6$$





Lipid curvature effects

The model of Israelachvili, Mitchell and Ninham

J. Chem. Soc., Faraday Trans. **272** 1525 (1976)

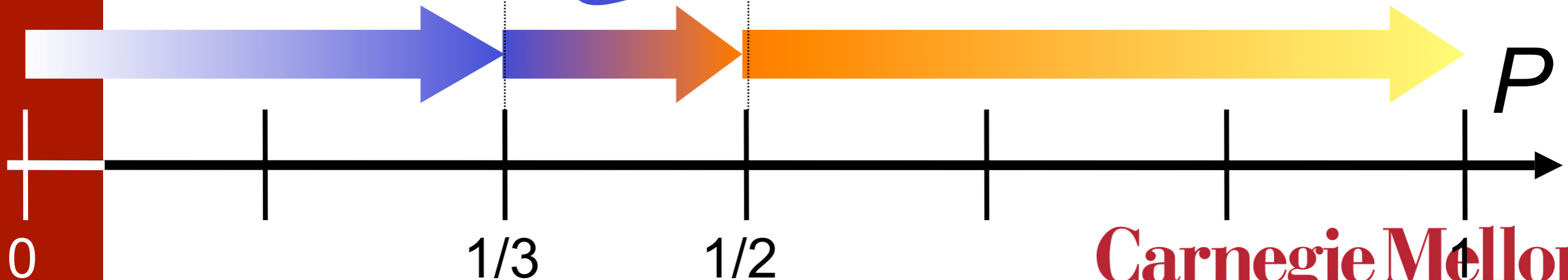
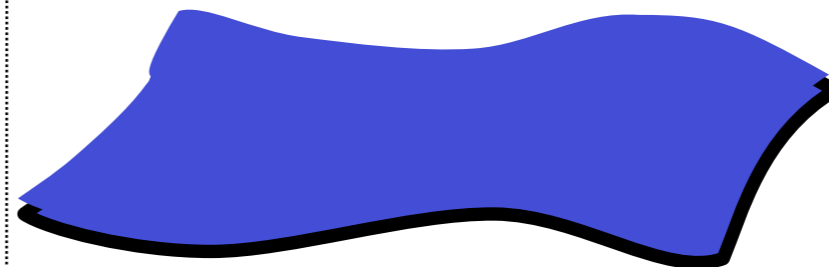
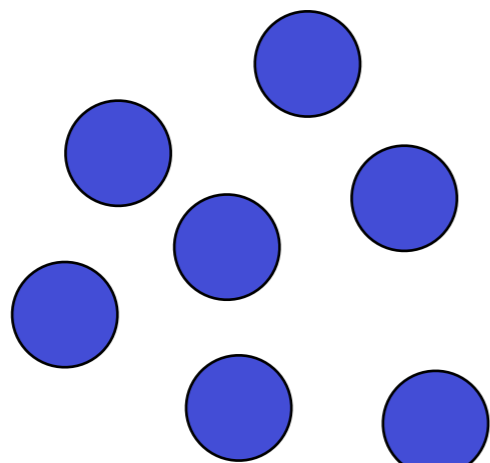
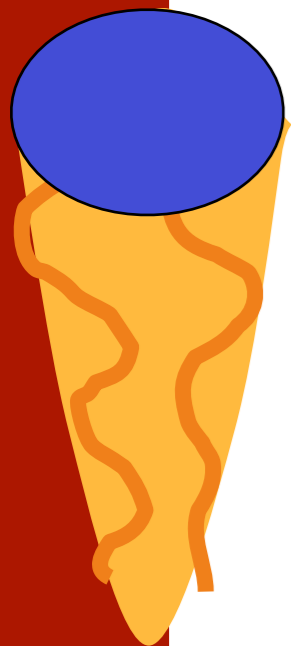
packing
parameter

$$P = \frac{V}{LA}$$

V = lipid volume

L = lipid length

A = lipid head area





Lipid curvature effects

The model of Israelachvili, Mitchell and Ninham

J. Chem. Soc., Faraday Trans. **272** 1525 (1976)

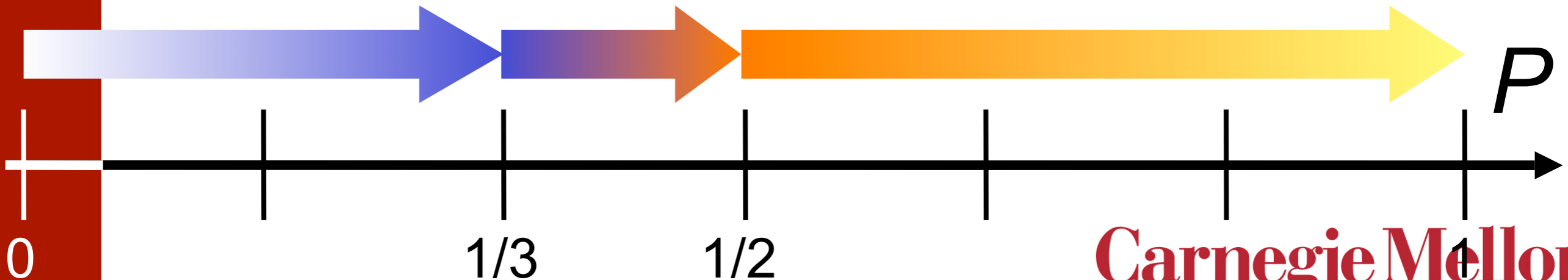
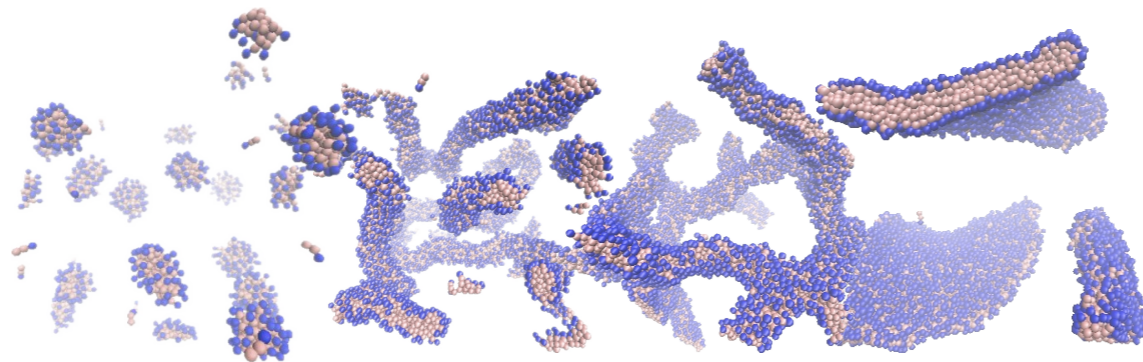
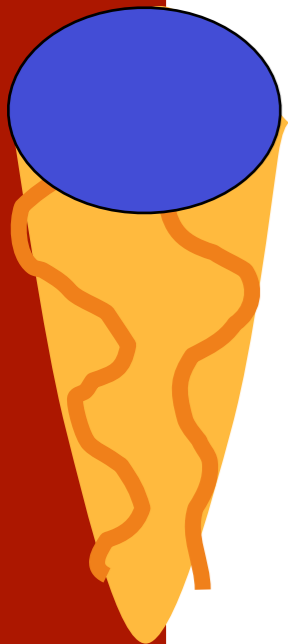
packing
parameter

$$P = \frac{V}{LA}$$

V = lipid volume

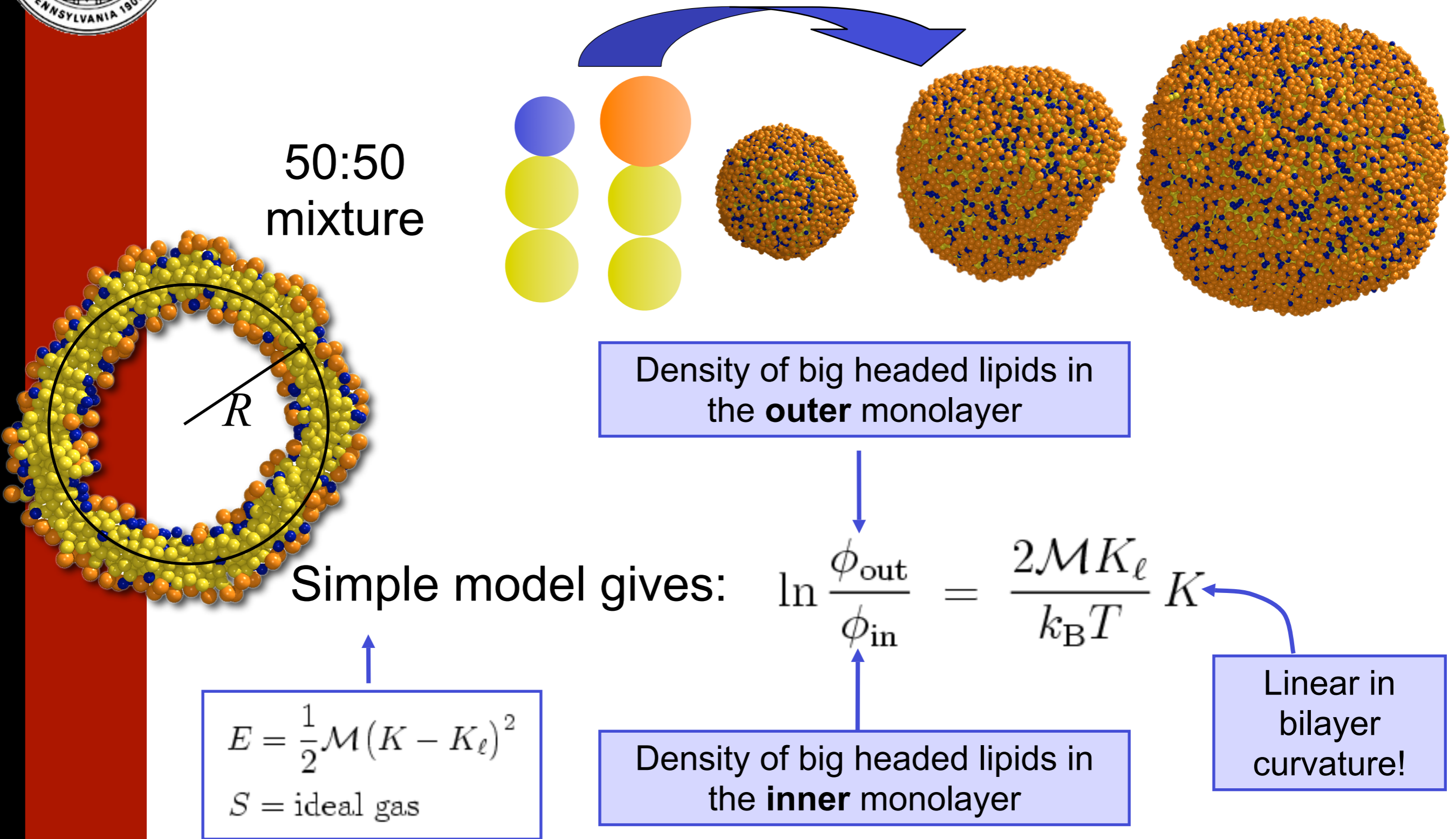
L = lipid length

A = lipid head area





Lipid curvature effects

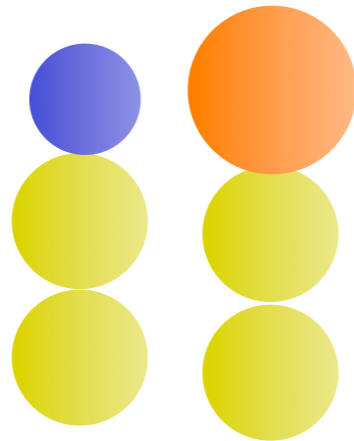


I.R. Cooke and M. Deserno, Biophys. J. **91**, 487 (2006)

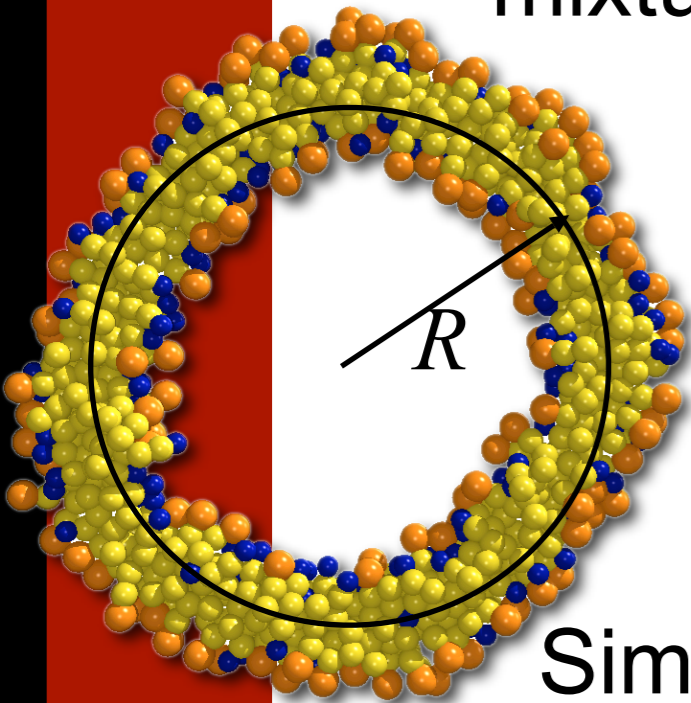


Lipid curvature effects

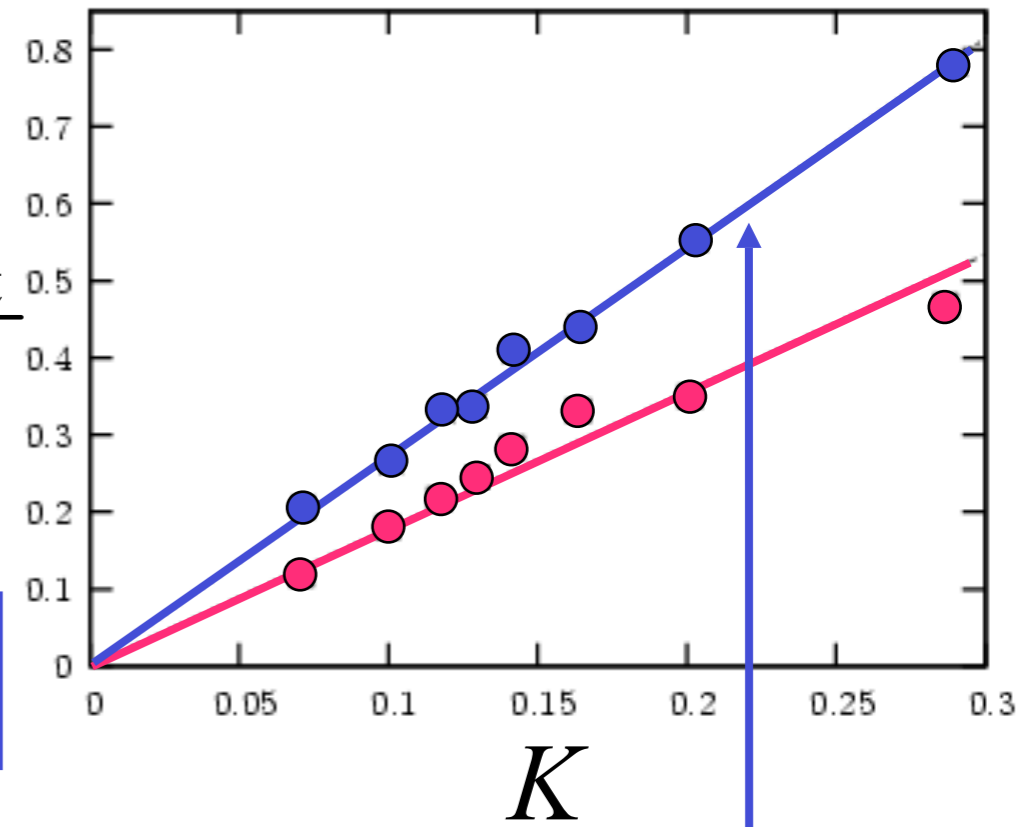
50:50 mixture



$$\ln \frac{\phi_{\text{out}}}{\phi_{\text{in}}}$$



Density of big headed lipids in the **outer** monolayer



Simple model gives:

$$\ln \frac{\phi_{\text{out}}}{\phi_{\text{in}}} = \frac{2\mathcal{M}K_{\ell}}{k_{\text{B}}T} K$$

$$E = \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{M} (K - K_{\ell})^2$$

$S = \text{ideal gas}$

Density of big headed lipids in the **inner** monolayer

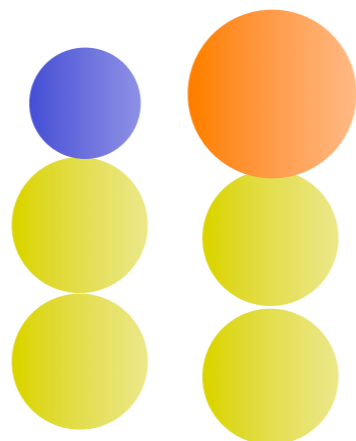
Linear in bilayer curvature!



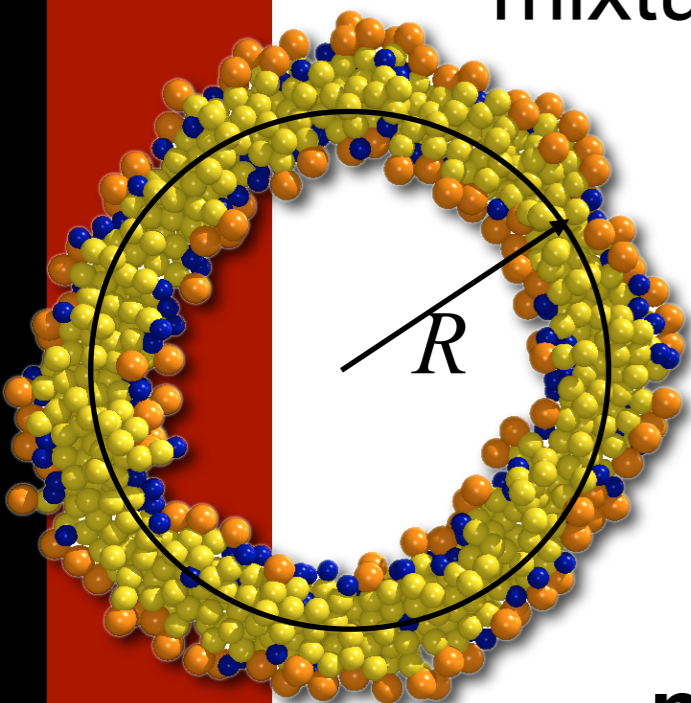


Lipid curvature effects

50:50
mixture

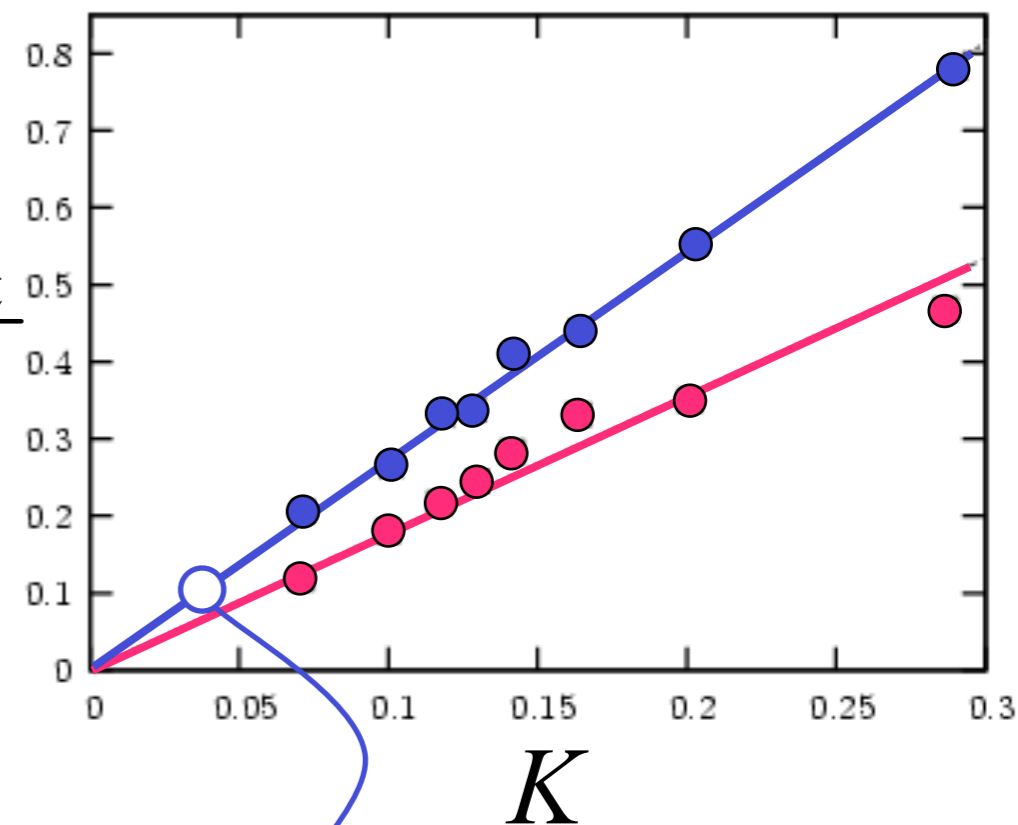


$$\ln \frac{\phi_{out}}{\phi_{in}}$$



...for realistic membrane curvatures the effect is **not** enough to drive sorting!

Tian & Baumgart,
Biophys. J. **96**, 2676 (2009)



$R \approx 50 \text{ nm}$

↓

$\delta\phi \approx 0.03$

I.R. Cooke and M. Deserno, Biophys. J. **91**, 487 (2006)