



# Chemical Applications of Neutron Scattering: *Coherent Scattering and Adsorbed Layers*

## *EXAMPLES*

ISIS Neutron School 2017  
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# Talk Outline

- **Neutron scattering**

- Coherent scattering - structure
- Incoherent scattering - dynamics

- Examples of surfaces / neutron applications:

## **Adsorbed layers:**

In-plane structure – 2D diffraction (D20)

Out-of-plane structure – reflection (SURF, CRISP,  
INTER, POLREF, OFFSPEC)

What's adsorbed? (IQNS - dynamics) IRIS

## **Colloidal dispersions (dominated by surfaces)**

What's on the surface? SANS (LOQ)

What arrangement ? SE- SANS

Liquid structure PDF (SANDALS, NIMROD)

- **Conclusions**

We use LOTS of different techniques to answer complex problems  
Too much to cover.... See how far we get..

## Conclusions

### Neutrons

Very powerful tool(s) for Structure (Dynamics)

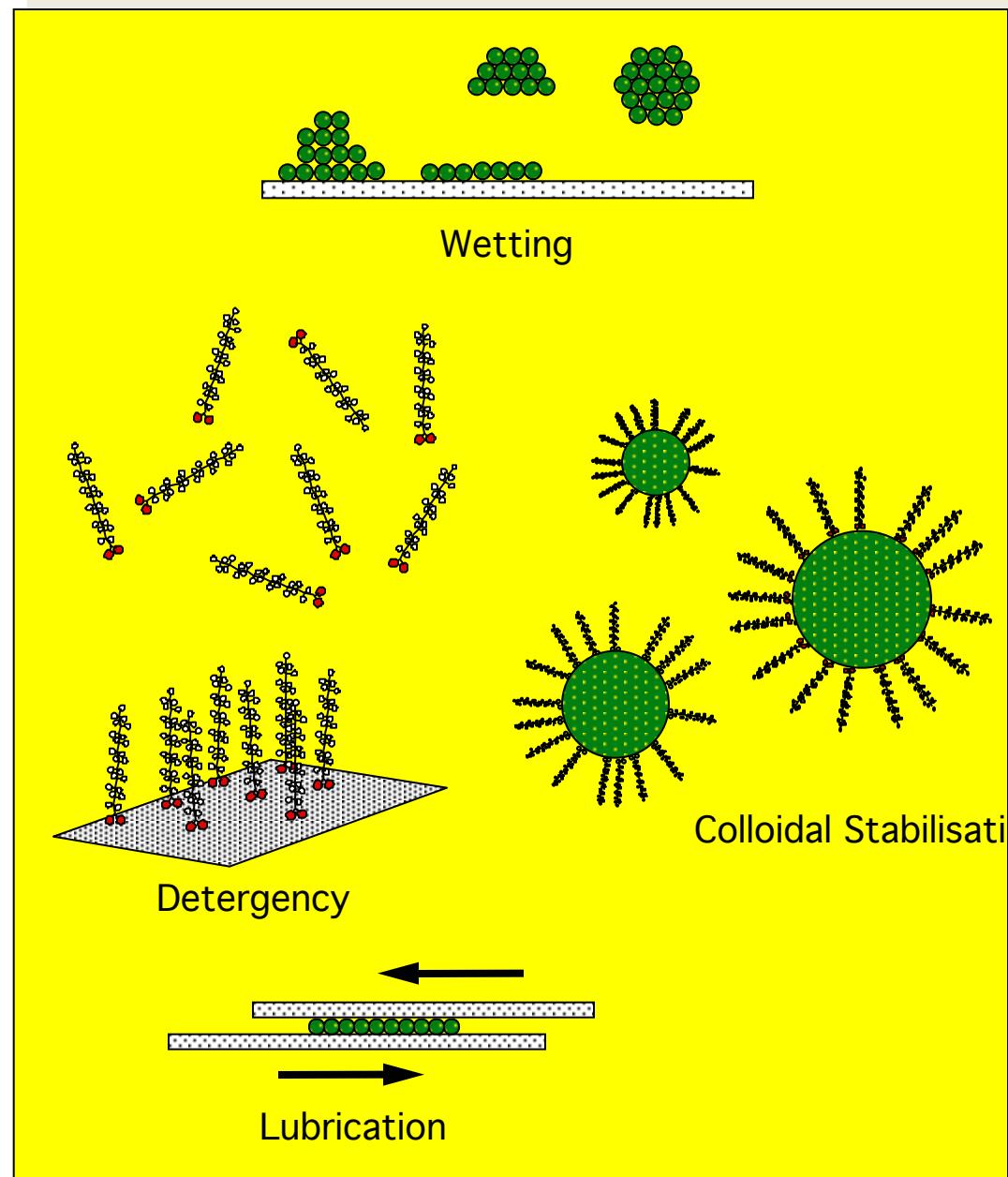
- Contrast between H and D very useful: highlight
- Can ‘see’ Hydrogen: Highlight
- Excellent transmission (extreme/commerical conditions)

BUT.

- Tricky to get hold of/limited access  
(complement with other methods)

# Examples of Monolayers

- Academic and industrial issues:  
Colloidal stabilisation, molecular patterning,  
wetting behaviour, detergency,  
Slip agents, liquid crystals.
- Solid monolayers
- Mixtures / Multicomponent:  
Cheaper ...
- ‘Buried’ monolayers  
inaccessible to study:  
Need to get through bulk phase  
-neutrons have great transmission  
Unusual experimental approaches



# Talk Outline

- Examples of surfaces / neutron applications:  
Adsorbed layers:

**In-plane structure – 2D diffraction**

Out-of-plane structure – reflection

What's adsorbed? (IQNS - dynamics)

Colloidal dispersions (dominated by surfaces)

What's on the surface? SANS

What arrangement ? SE- SANS

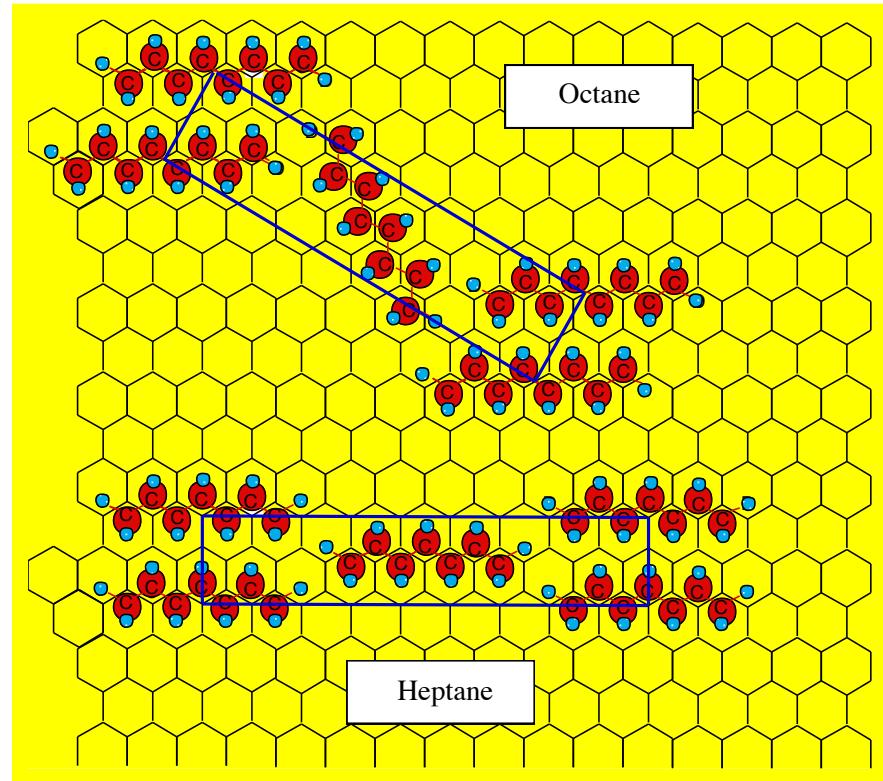
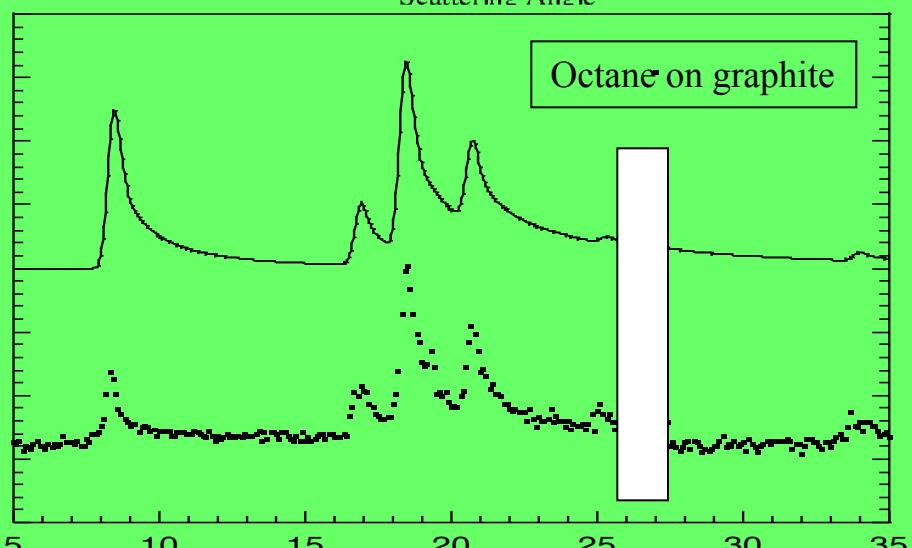
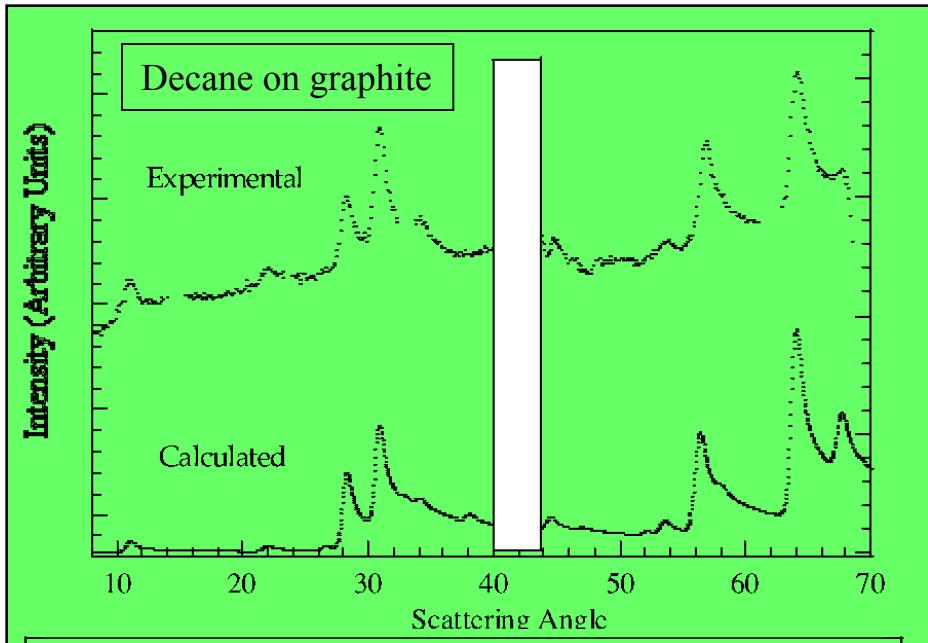
Liquid structure PDF (NIMROD)

# 3D diffraction:crystallography

- ‘work horse’ of chemical community
- Crystal structures of minerals, materials, organic molecular structure determination.
- Neutrons very good at hydrogen (xrays no so good)
- Adjacent elements (look the same to xrays)

TODAY: 3D → 2D diffraction

# In-plane 2D Structure: X-ray and Neutron diffraction

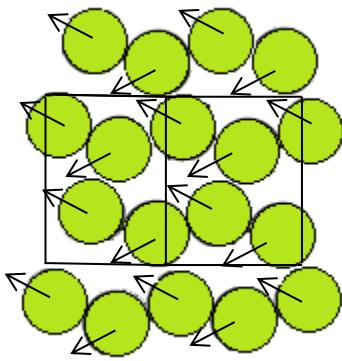
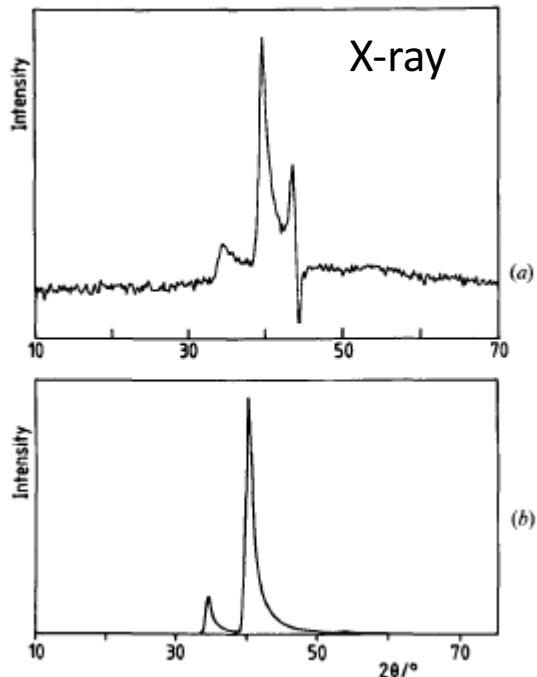


Neutrons: sensitive to hydrogen  
X-rays: greater precision  
Independent information  
Combination is often essential

Why Xrays AND neutrons are important.

Low coverage

# Chloromethane monolayer: X-rays



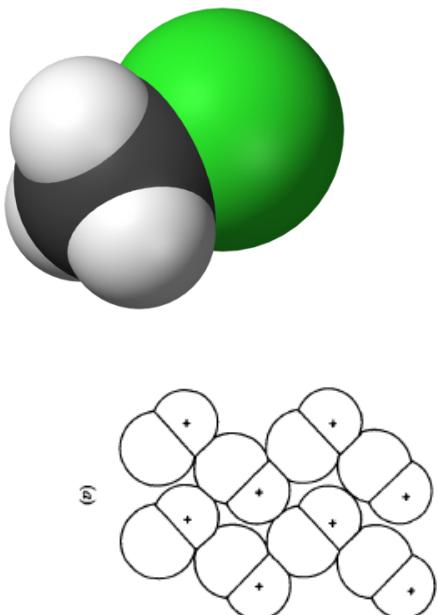
Chlorine atoms

Where are CH<sub>3</sub> groups?

**Guessed:**

Ferro electric ordering?

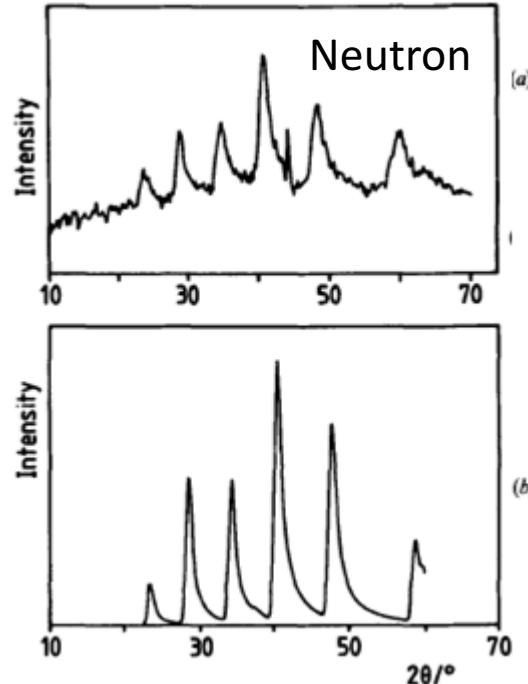
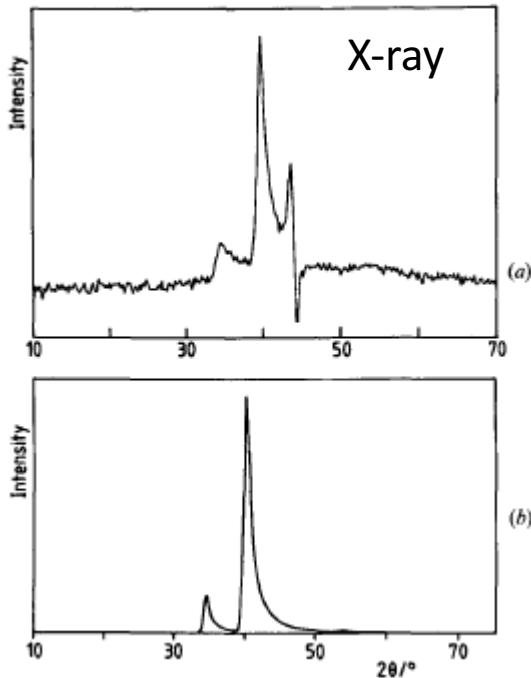
Like bulk crystal plane...



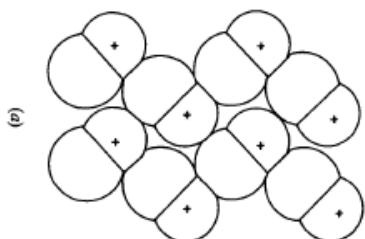
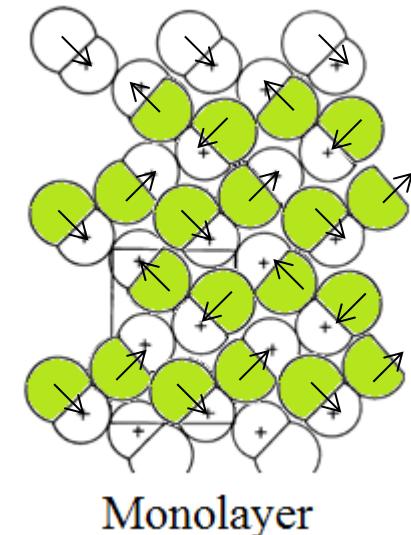
Bulk Plane

Morishige, et al., *Mol Phys*, **72** 395-411 (1991). 'The Structure of Chloromethane Monolayers Adsorbed on Graphite'.

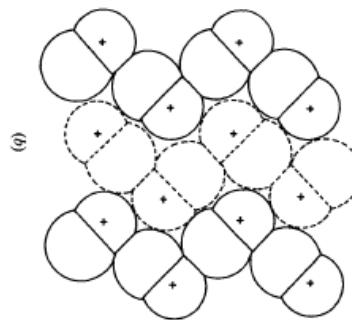
# Chloromethane



Low coverage

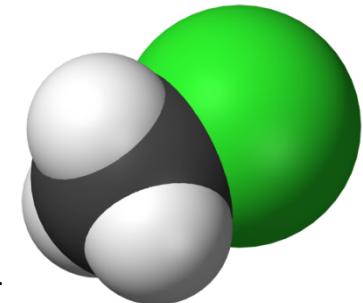


Bulk Plane



Monolayer

**With neutrons:**  
Anti ferroelectric  
Alternating chains



Morishige, et al., *Mol Phys*, **72** 395-411 (1991). 'The Structure of Chloromethane Monolayers Adsorbed on Graphite'.

**Need neutrons to see  $\text{CH}_3$  groups and full symmetry**

# Mixing:

## How do you tell if two species like each other?

- 1) They avoid each other → phase separation:



# Mixing ideally

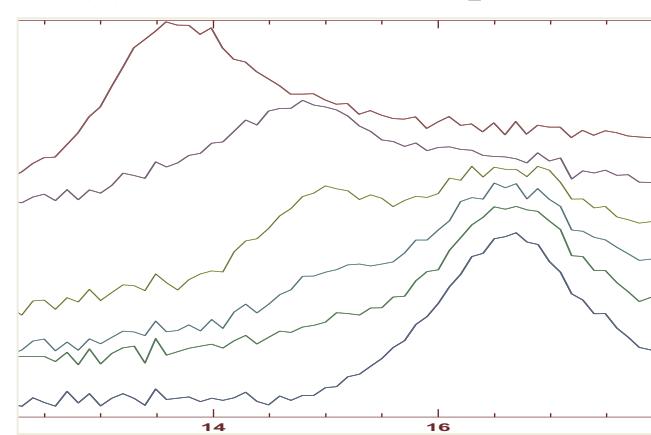
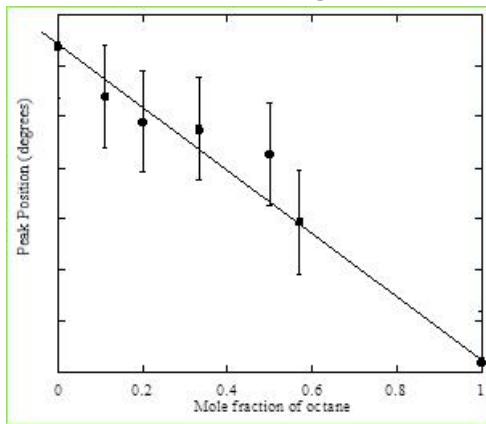
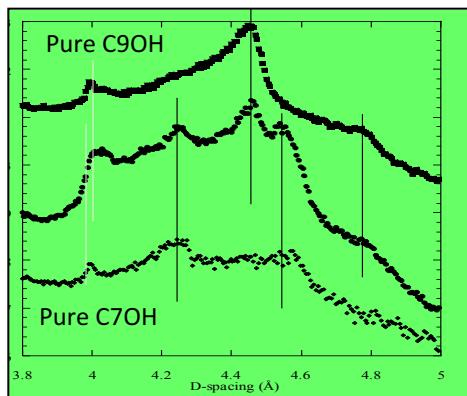
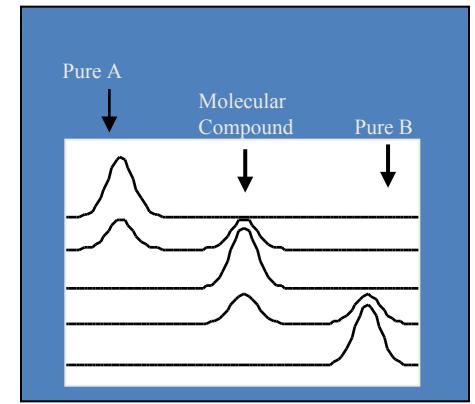
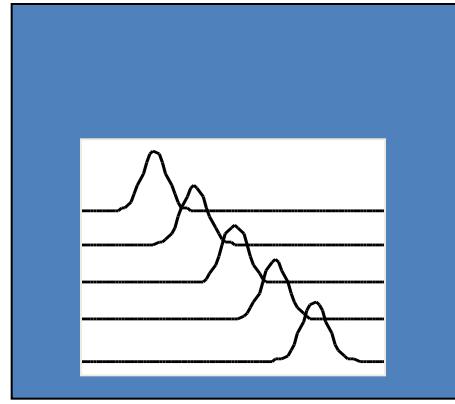
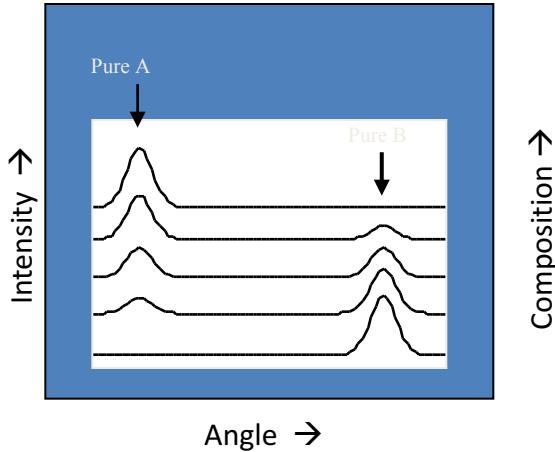


# Special relationship; stoichiometric complex Molecular compound

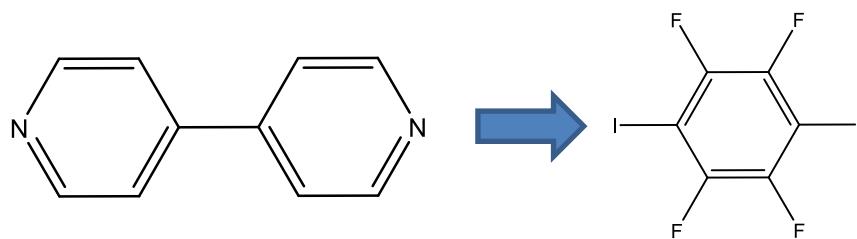


# Structure: Diffraction from Mixed Monolayers

## How do molecules mix on a surface?



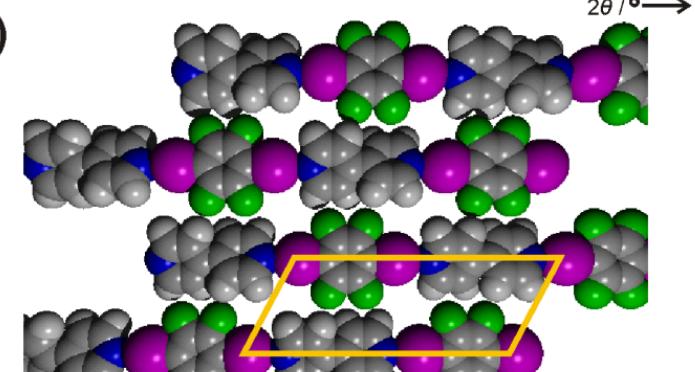
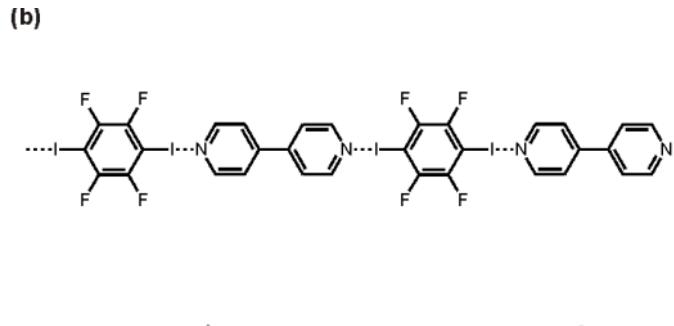
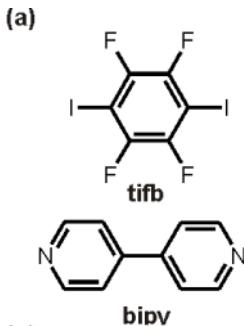
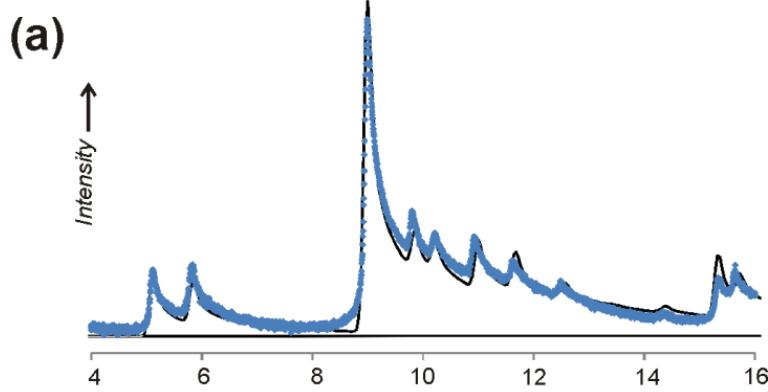
‘Special, non-covalent bonding between molecules’  
Big topic of supramolecular self assembly



Donation of lone pair from nitrogen to Iodine atom

# Novel Chemical interactions: Halogen Bonded co-crystal

N....I-C



Monolayer

'New hydrogen bonds'  
Very stable layers  
 $2DT \gg 3DT$   
Directional  
Strong  
'Controls' strength  
and orientation

# 2D –diffraction: summary

- Can see in-plane molecular structure.  
(non-invasive)
- X - ray and neutrons can be essential :  
Neutrons ‘see’ H
- Determine surface phase behaviour
- Characterise inter molecular bonding

# Talk Outline

- Examples of surfaces / neutron applications:

Adsorbed layers:

In-plane structure – 2D diffraction

**Out-of-plane structure – reflection**

What's adsorbed? (IQNS - dynamics)

Colloidal dispersions (dominated by surfaces)

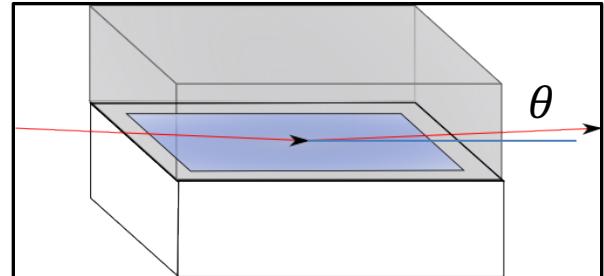
What's on the surface? SANS

What arrangement ? SE- SANS

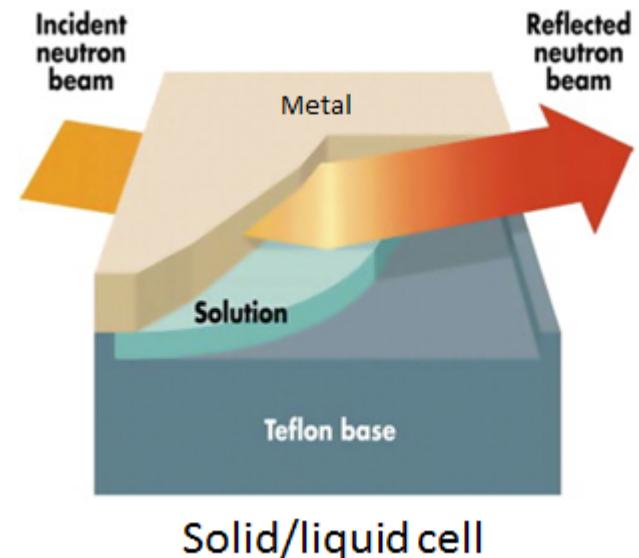
Liquid structure PDF (NIMROD)

# Neutron Reflection: how does it work?

- Extend to new solid/liquid Interfaces: iron oxides, stainless, alumina, Ti oxides, Ni, Cu ...  
(previously: silica,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ )
- New conditions:  
applied shear

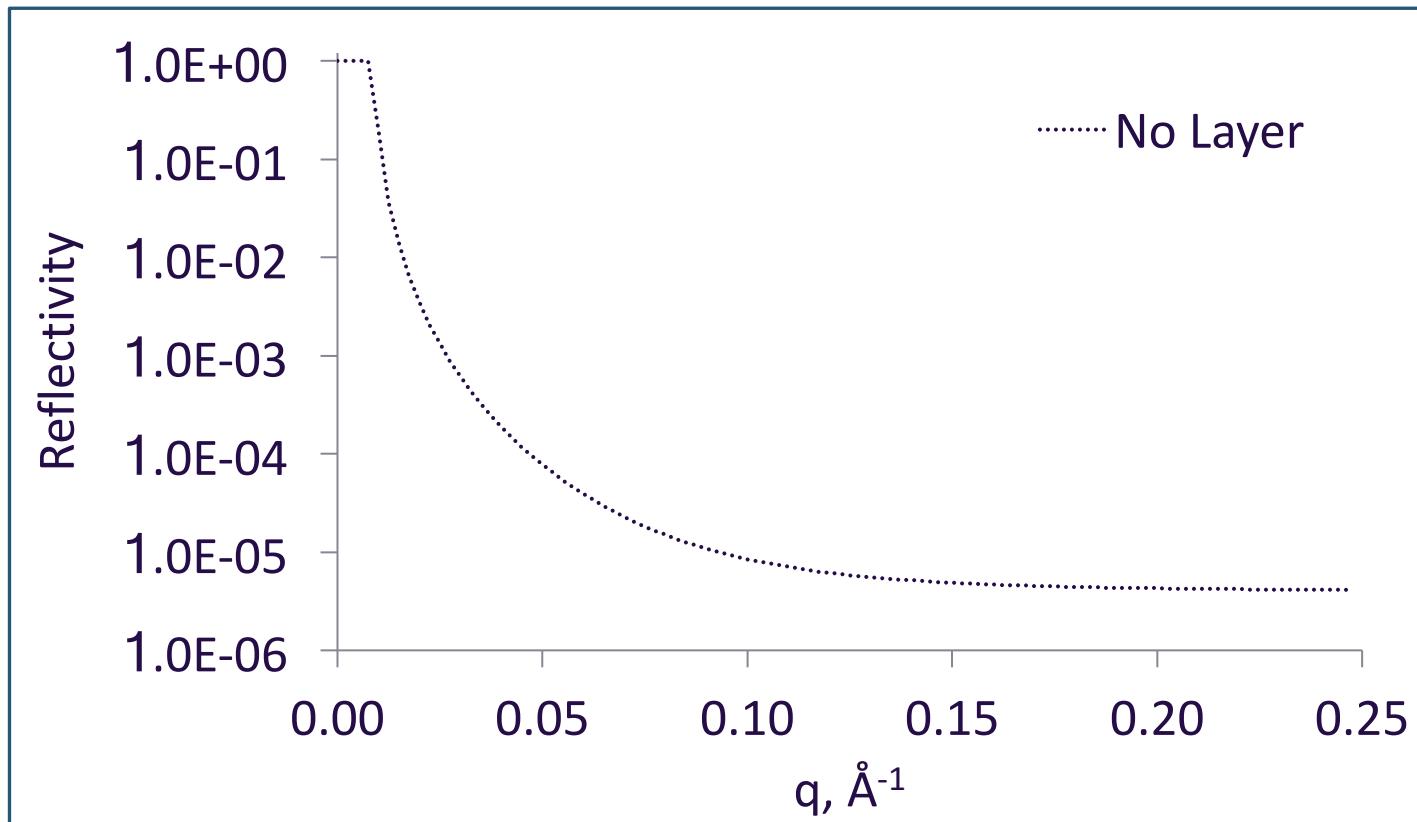


function of 'angle' ( $q$ )..  
aces

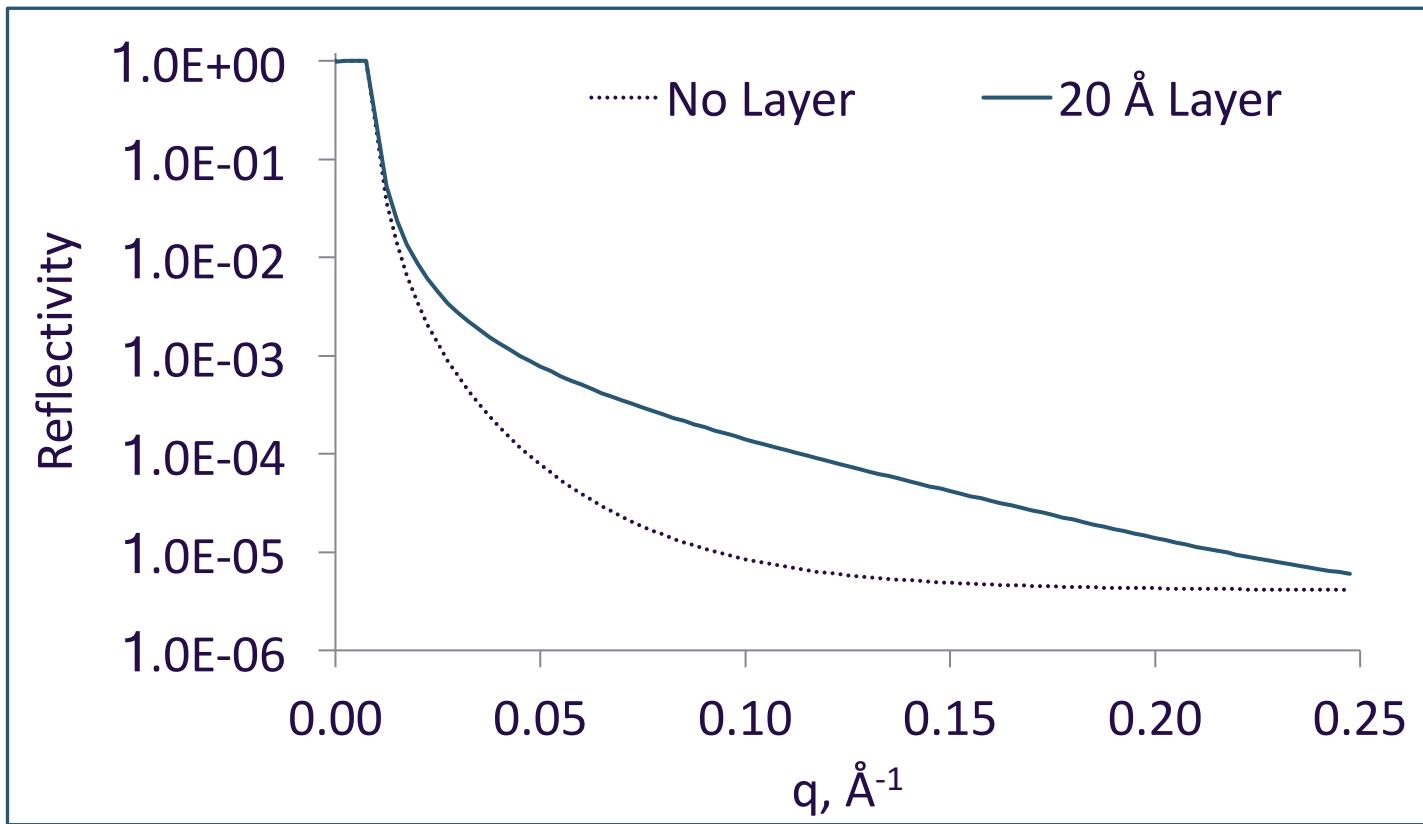


$$q = \frac{4\pi \sin \theta}{\lambda}$$

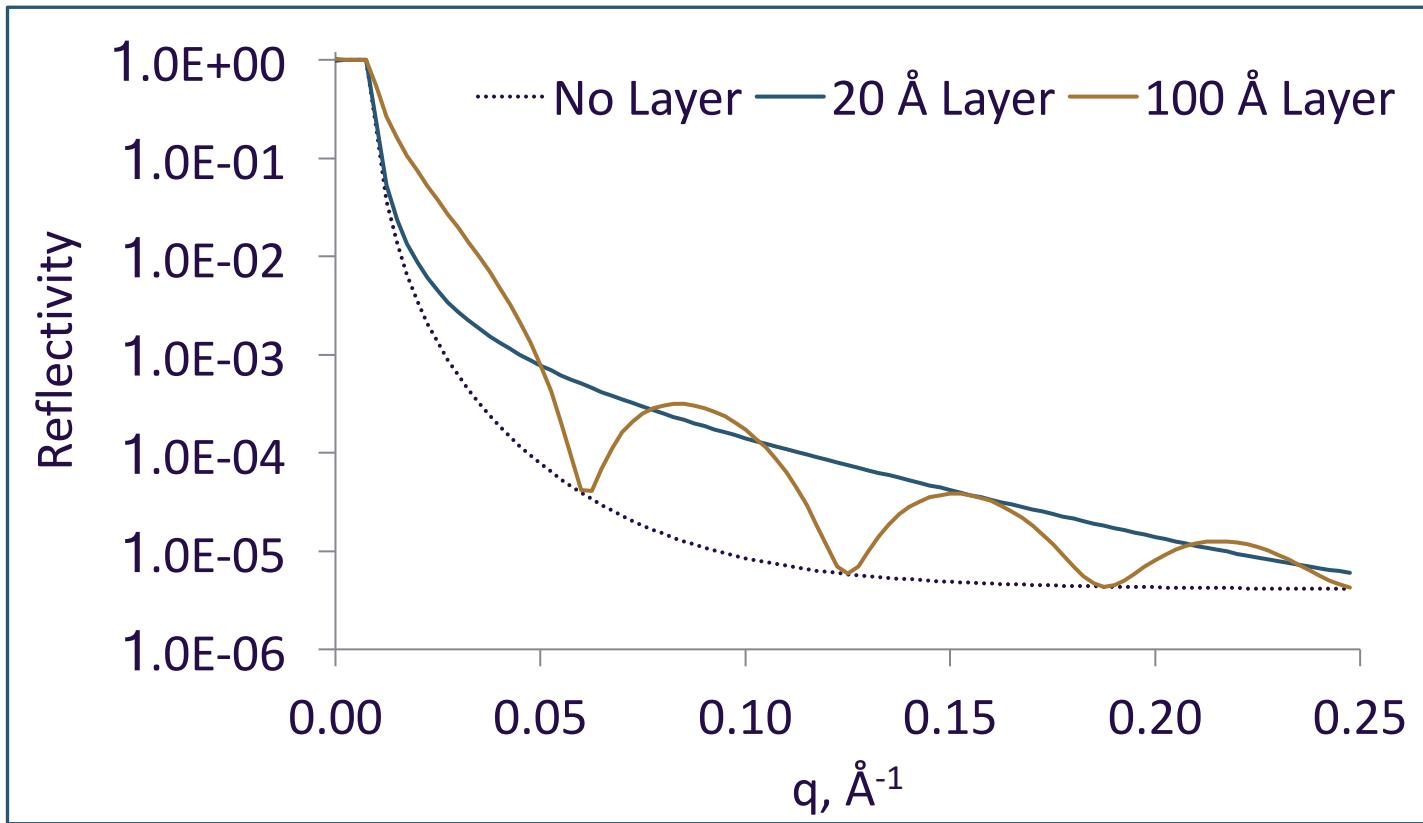
# Neutron Reflection Theory



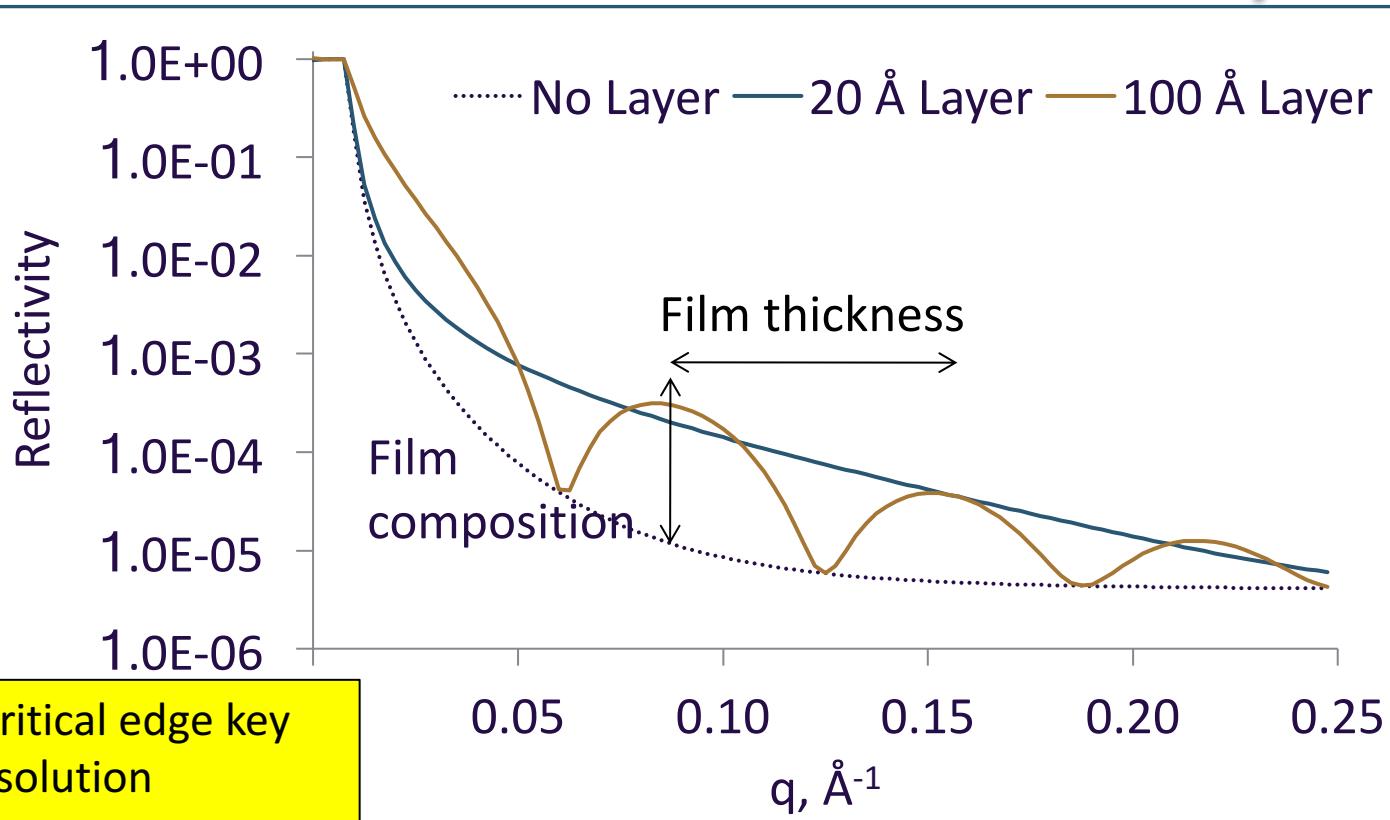
# Neutron Reflection Theory



# Neutron Reflection Theory



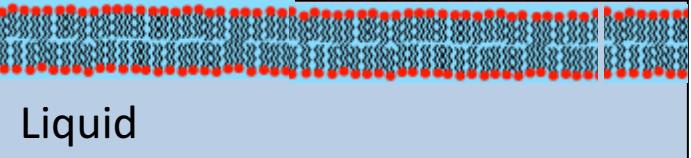
# Neutron Reflection Theory



Position of critical edge key indicator of solution composition  
(Tutorial problem)

'Fit' experimental data to model.  
→ How much material at the surface  
→ Layer 'structure'  
→ Non-invasive/in-situ

Substrate



Layer thickness

Liquid

# Neutron: ‘Magic’

- Contrast matching..
  - Making things disappear!
  - Unique structural solution.
- BIG advantage of neutrons
- 
- Need to make sure complete exchange of solutions.. Not always easy..
  - Ask me about ‘baby oil’?

# Reflection Example #1

- Calcite ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ )

Very important mineral

Scale in your kettle

Oil reservoirs

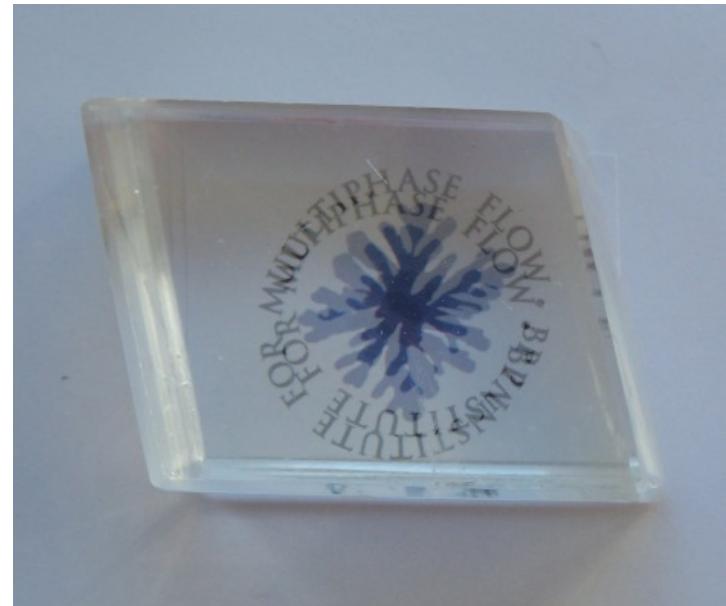
Overbasing agent in engines

What adsorbs and how?

In oil? In water?

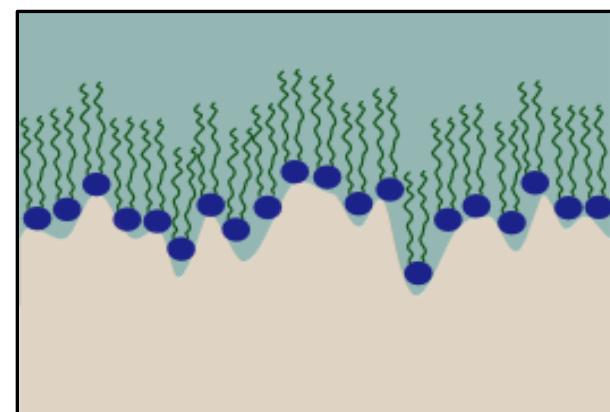
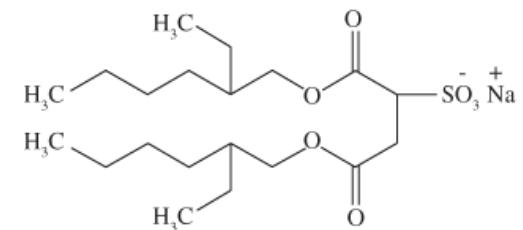
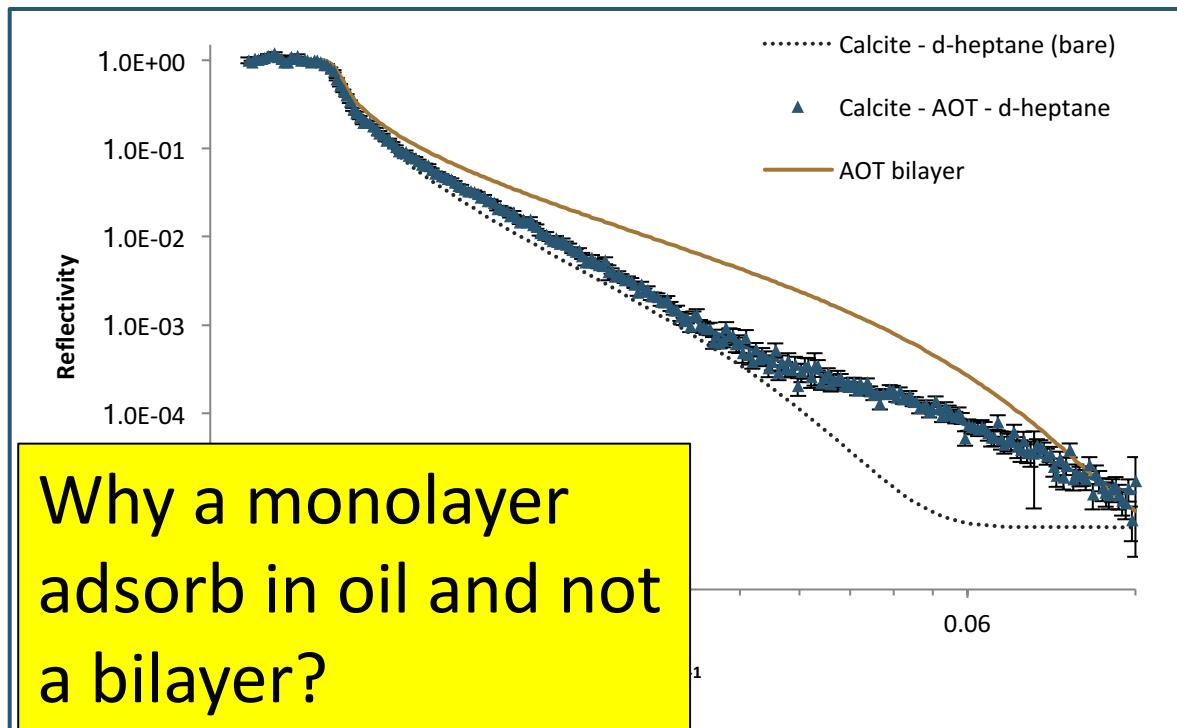
Polymers? Surfactants?

(Birefringent...! Double refraction)



# Neutron reflection: Example #1

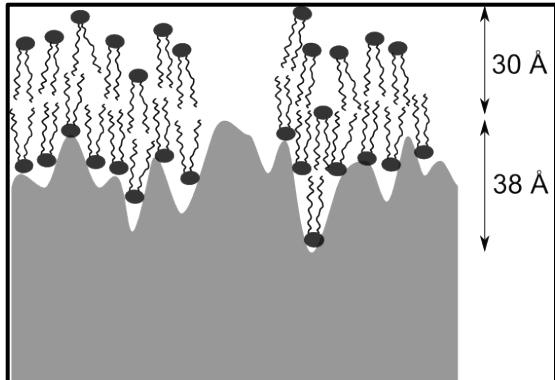
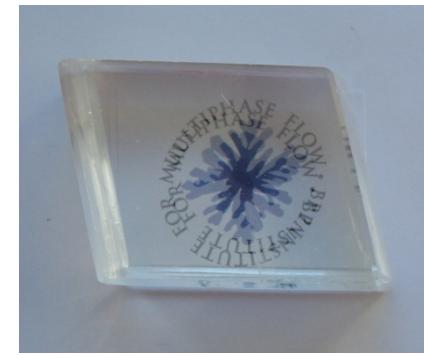
## Surfactant, AOT, on Calcite ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) in oil



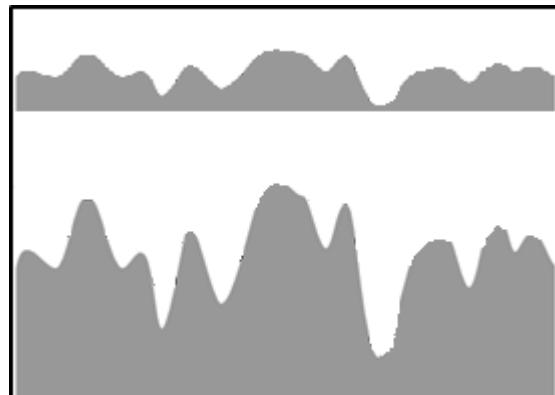
Adsorption of a monolayer on a surface:

(The bare surface, monolayer and bilayer calculations)

# Reflection Example : Additives on calcite..

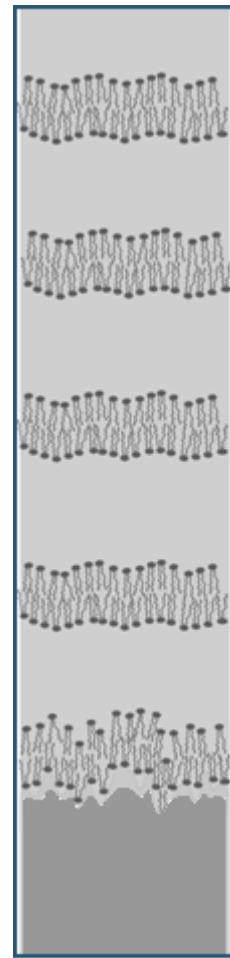
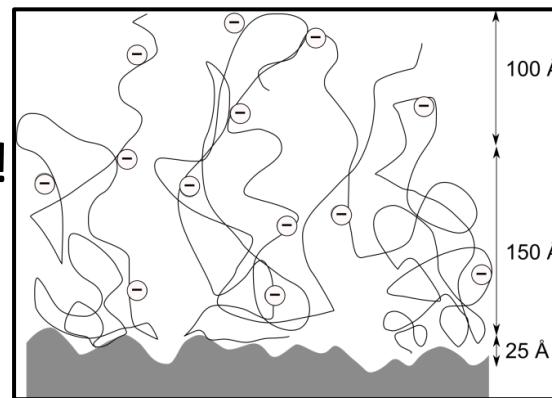
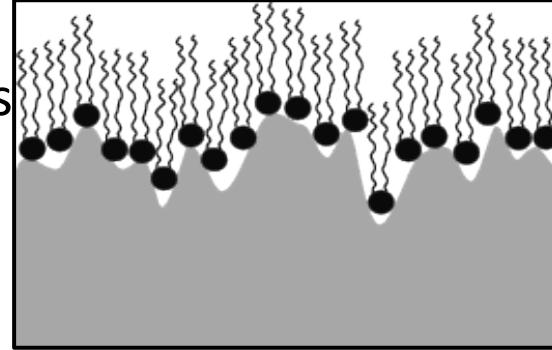


Monolayers, Bilayers  
multilayers and  
adsorbed polymers



Surface corrosion

Molecular precision!



Why a bilayer  
adsorbs in water?

# Reflection Example : Mineral Surfaces - mica

(Kate Miller)

Layered silicate: mineral books



**Mica:**

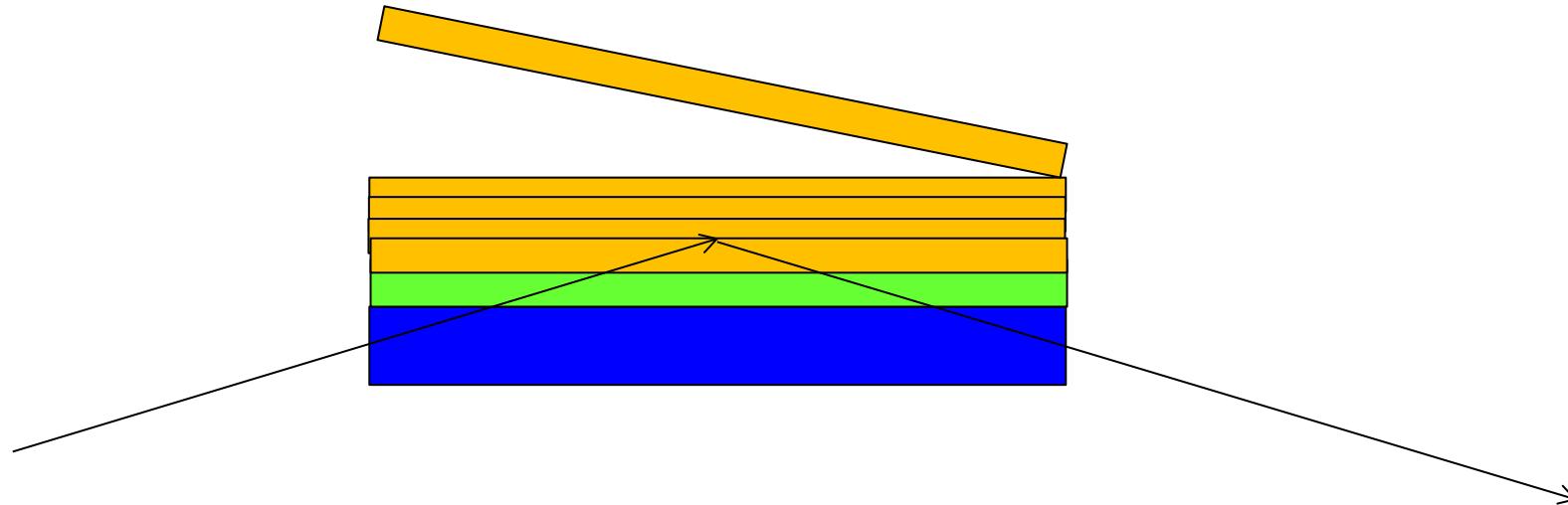
**Clays are key component of many oil reservoirs**

**Very common in AFM/SFA studies**

**Many attempts to study with neutron reflection failed**

- ➔ To hard to get a beam through
- ➔ Can't deposit through vapour
- ➔ Thin sheets too flexible/break.. So..?

# ‘Peeling’ Mica

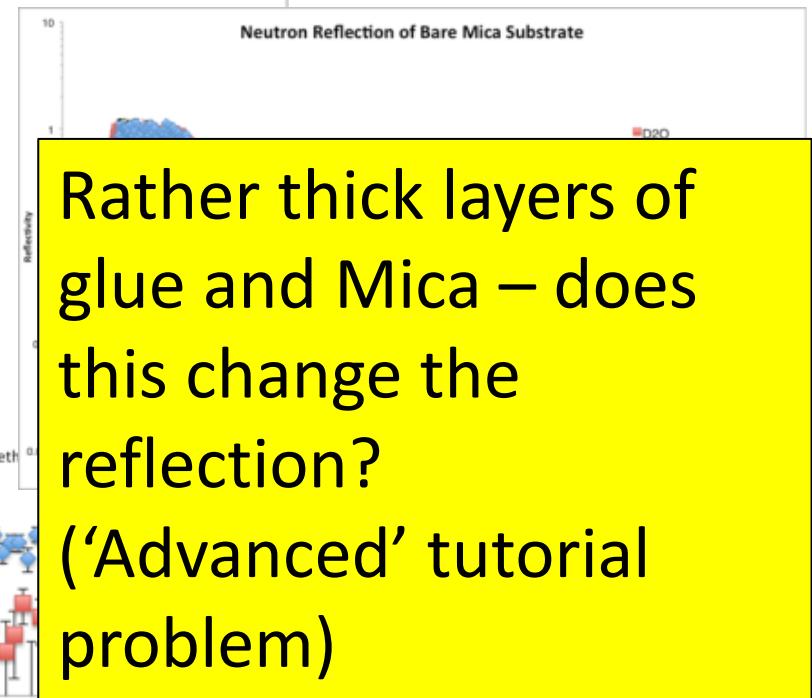
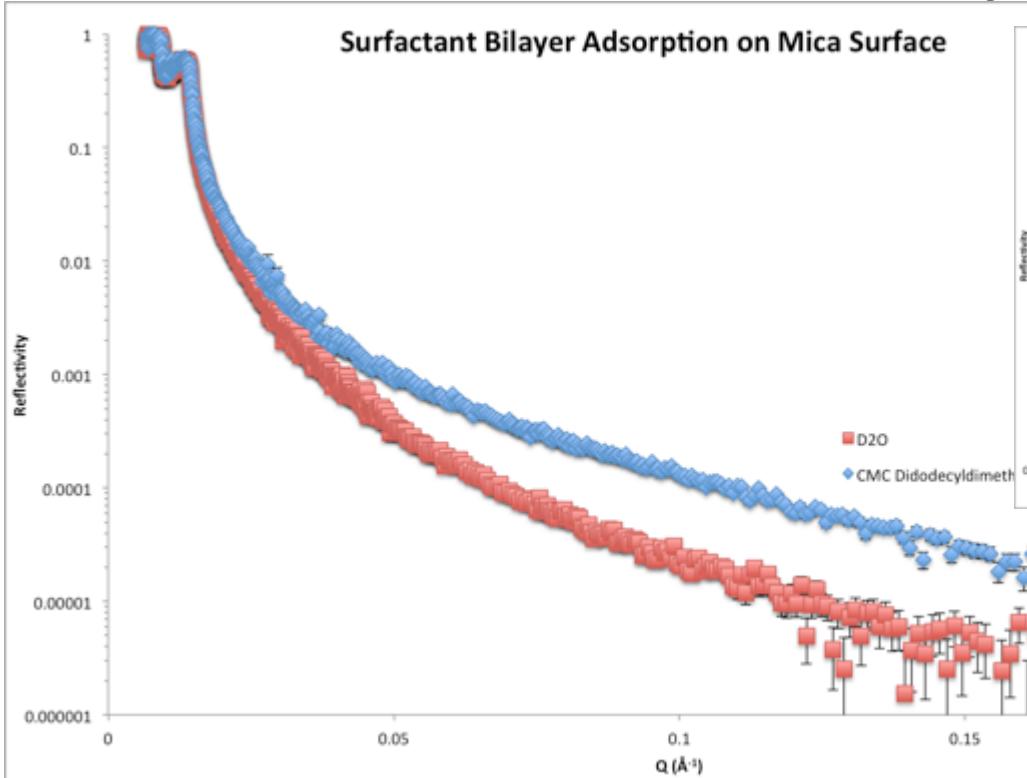


Support very thin layers on solid substrate and ‘peel’

Does it work?.....

Can we see adsorption on mica in solution?...

# Surfactant adsorption on mica

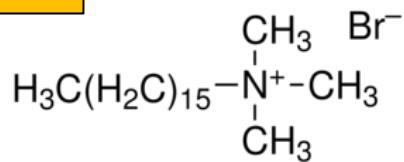
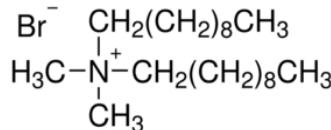


Non-invasive:

(a) D₂O: Surfactant bilayer

Neutrons non-invasive

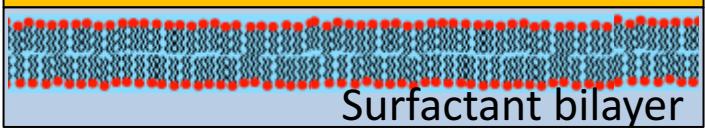
(same result as AFM)



(b) CTAB: NOT same as AFM

Neutrons

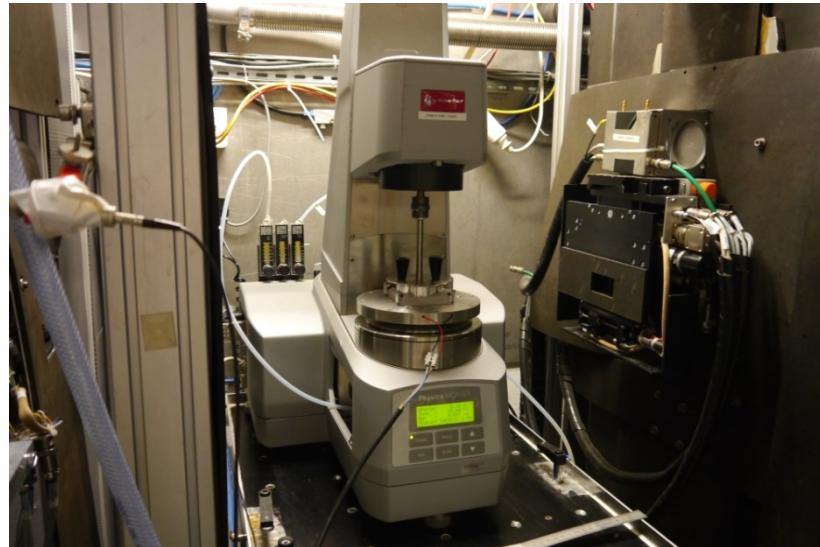
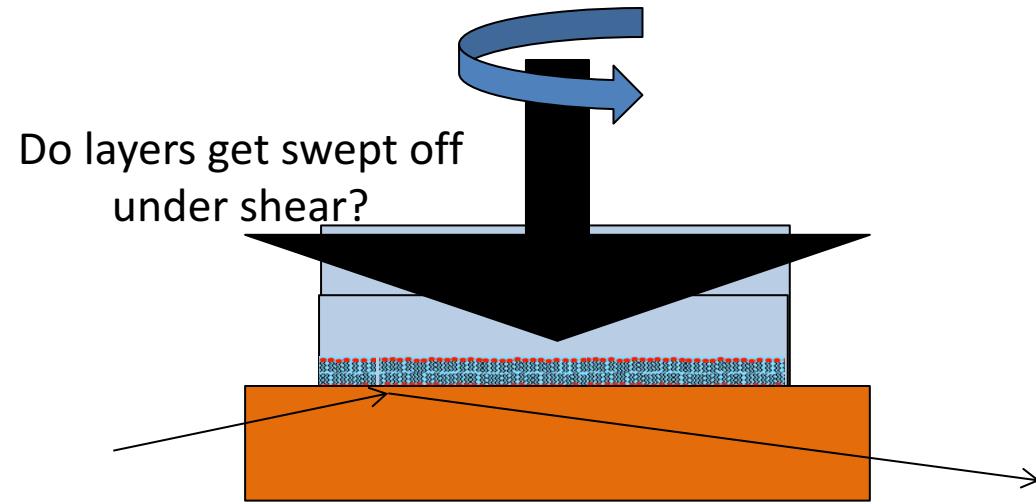
Mica



AFM



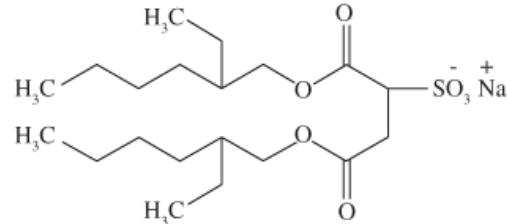
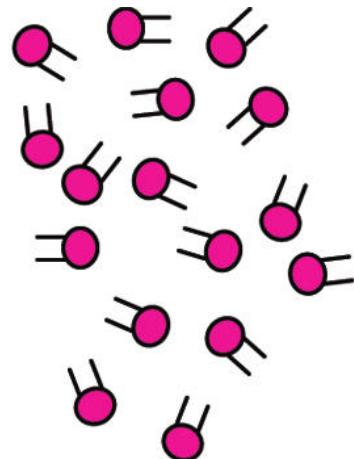
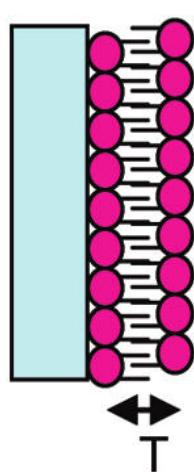
# Example: Layers under Shear



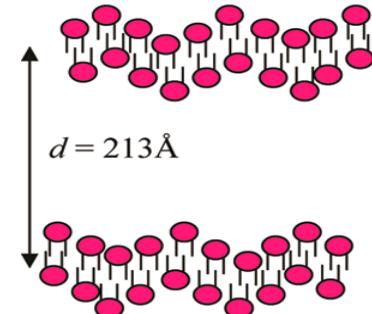
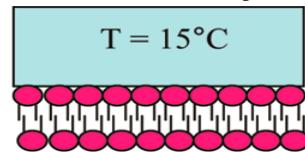
(steady and oscillatory shear)  
Modest shear rates  $< 500\text{s}^{-1}$   
(pipe flow, or flow over rock-beds)

# Shear/Flow: AOT on Alumina/water

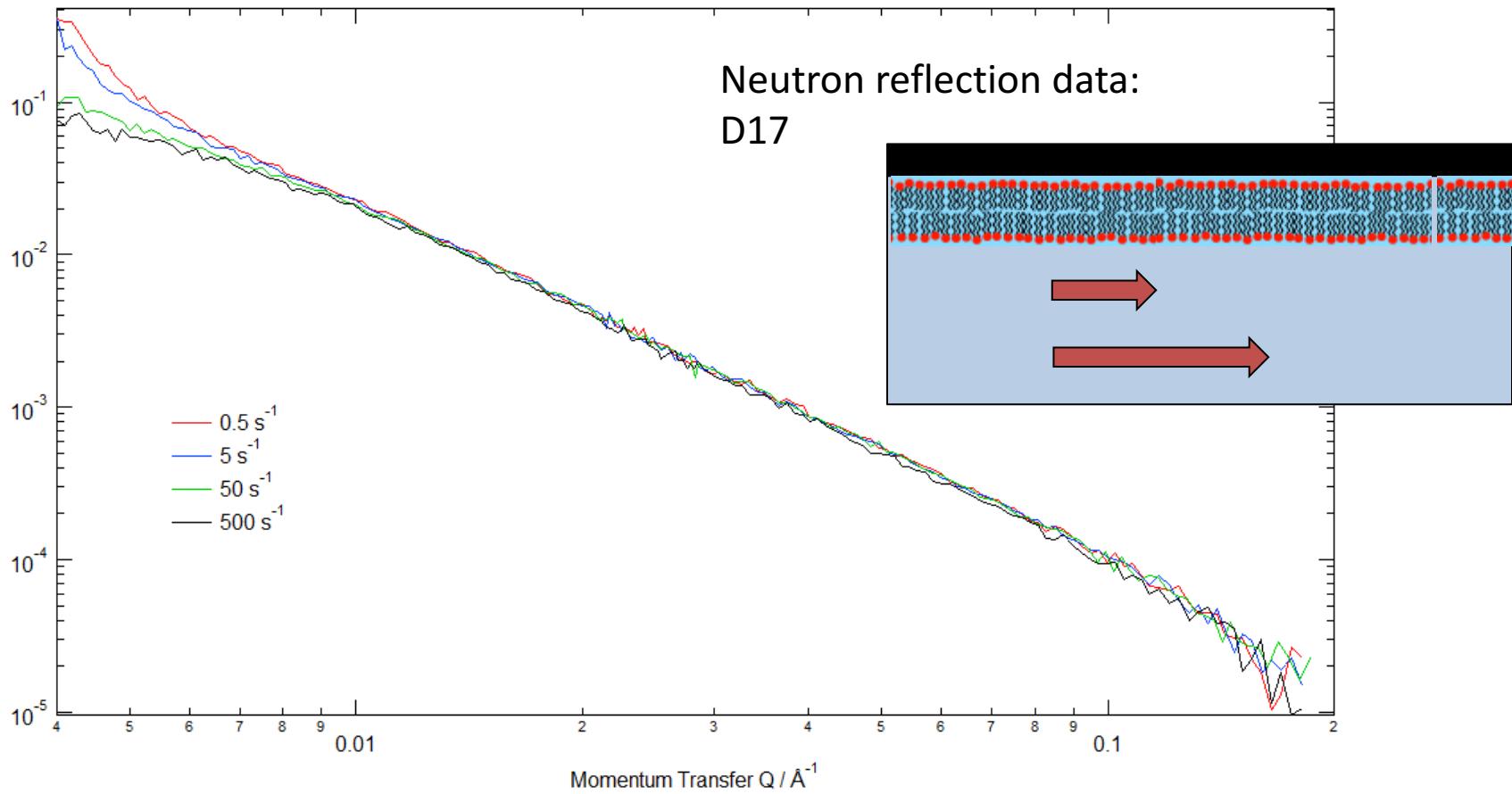
Thin layers



Thick layers



# Effects of Shear: neutron reflection: Thin layer



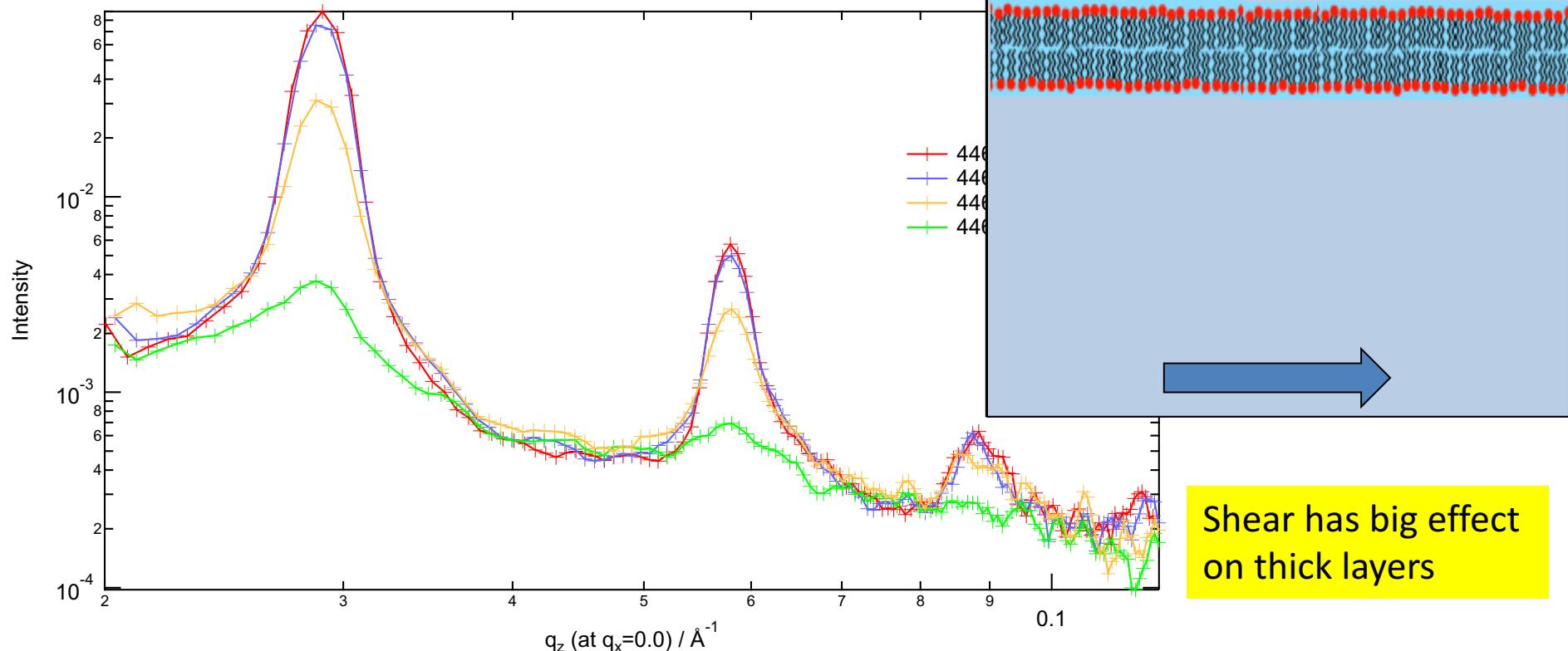
**SURFACTANT BILAYER (thin layer approx. 30Å thick)**

Data: under steady shear increasing to approx  $1000 \text{s}^{-1}$ :

Shear has no effect  
on thin layer

Very thin layer - too thin for significant shear effects.  
(Same result under oscillatory shear).

# Effects of Shear: neutron reflection: Thick layer



**Adsorbed multi layer**

Thick layer!!

Under steady and oscillatory shear: → BIG effects

Higher shear rates  
planned

Critical shear rate that delaminate the layers

# Talk Outline

- Examples of surfaces / neutron applications:

Adsorbed layers:

In-plane structure – 2D diffraction

Out-of-plane structure – reflection

**What's adsorbed? (IQNS - dynamics)**

Colloidal dispersions (dominated by surfaces)

What's on the surface? SANS

What arrangement ? SE- SANS

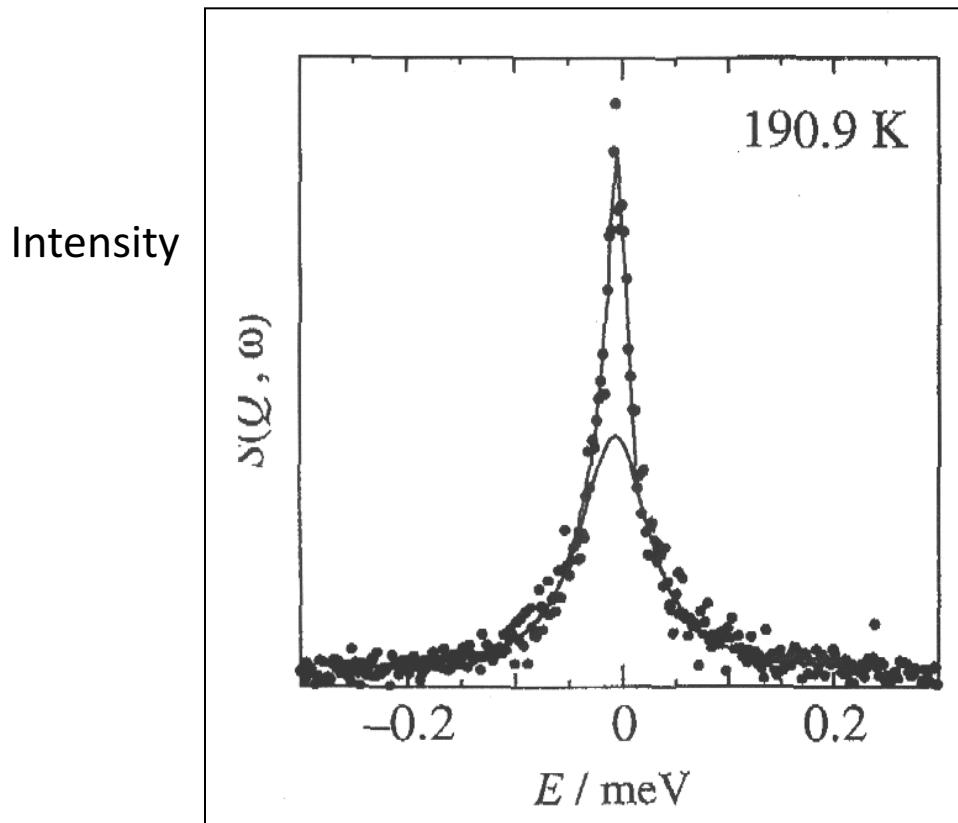
Liquid structure PDF (NIMROD)

# Quasi-elastic neutron scattering

- Diffusive motions
- How long to move out of your ‘box’

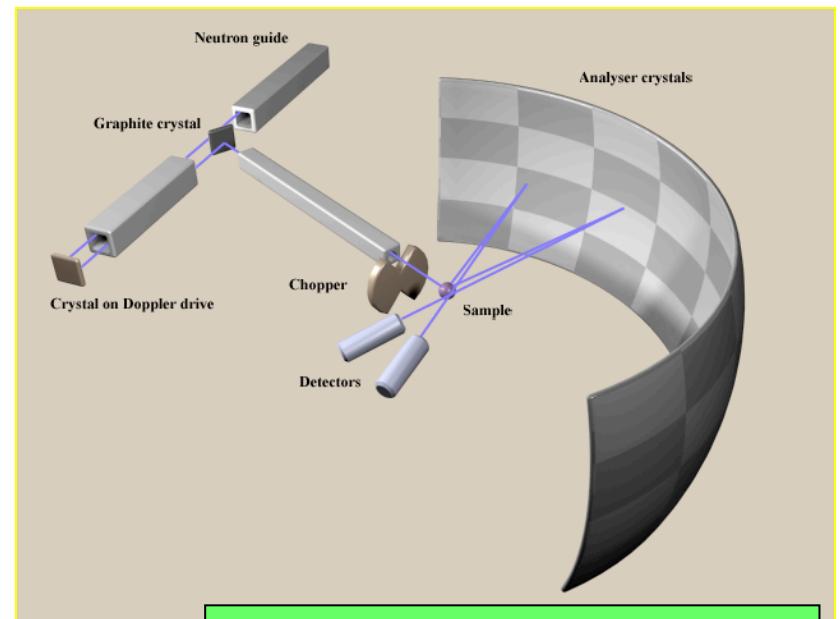
# Incoherent Neutron Scattering

- Actually get a distribution of scattered neutron energies:



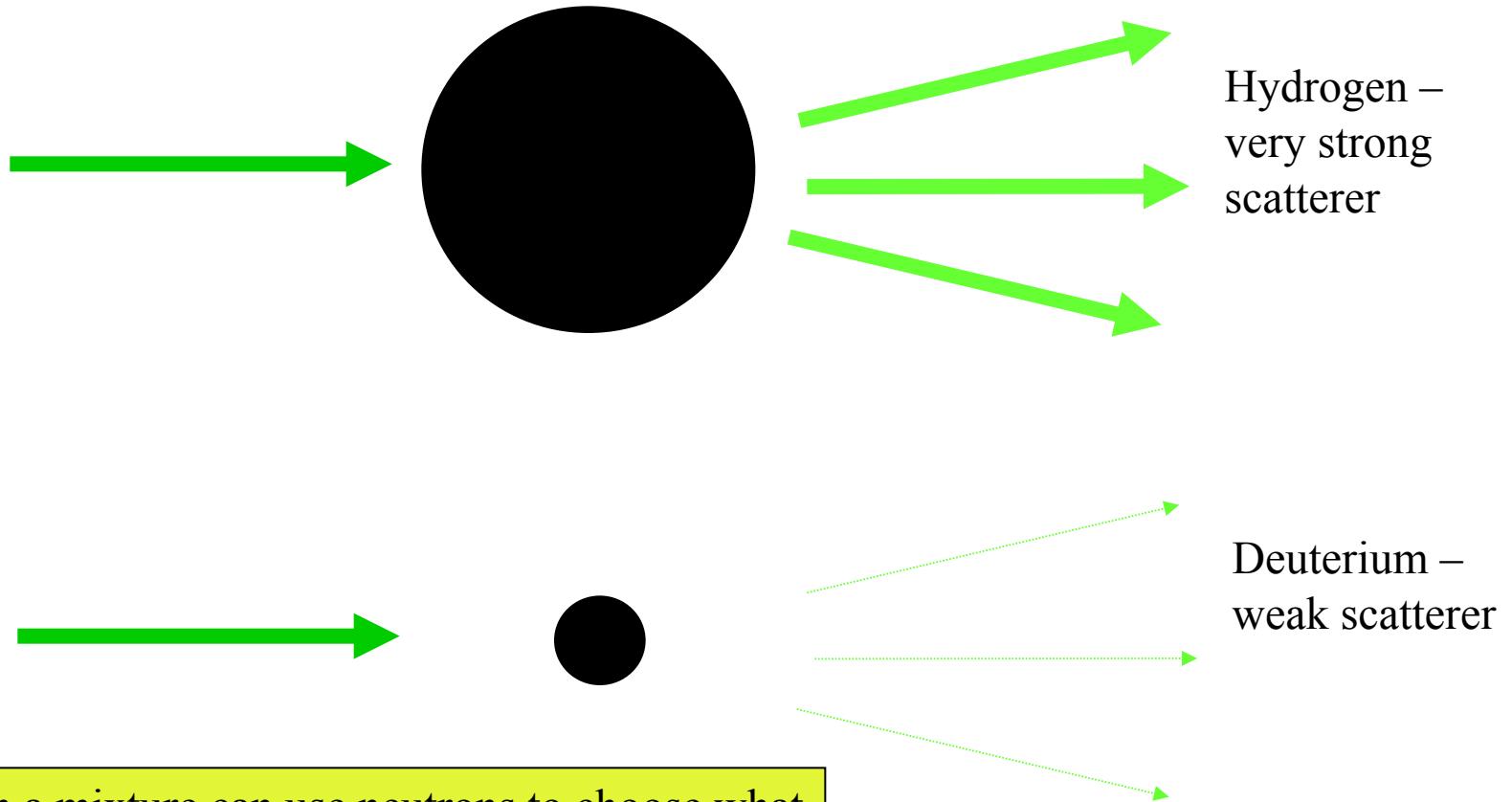
$\Delta E$

Details of the angular dependence of the scattering can inform us about molecular motions



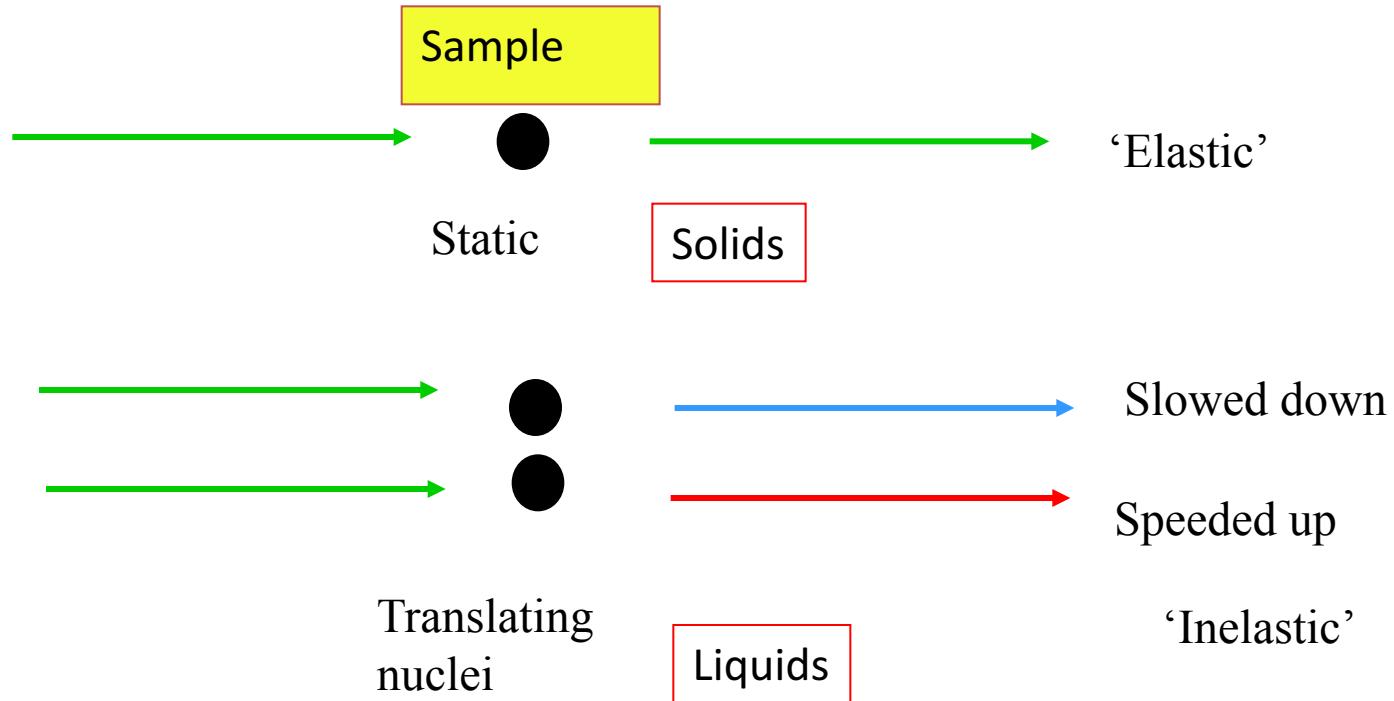
Very high energy resolution, 1  $\mu\text{eV}$   
IN10/IN16/IRIS

# Hydrogen and Deuterium are different



# Quasi-elastic Incoherent Neutron Scattering (IQNS) – ‘Dynamics’

- Isotopic substitution to distinguish components ( $H \gg D$ )
  - Dynamics to differentiate adsorbed from non-adsorbed materials
- Neutrons can exchange energy with sample nuclei:

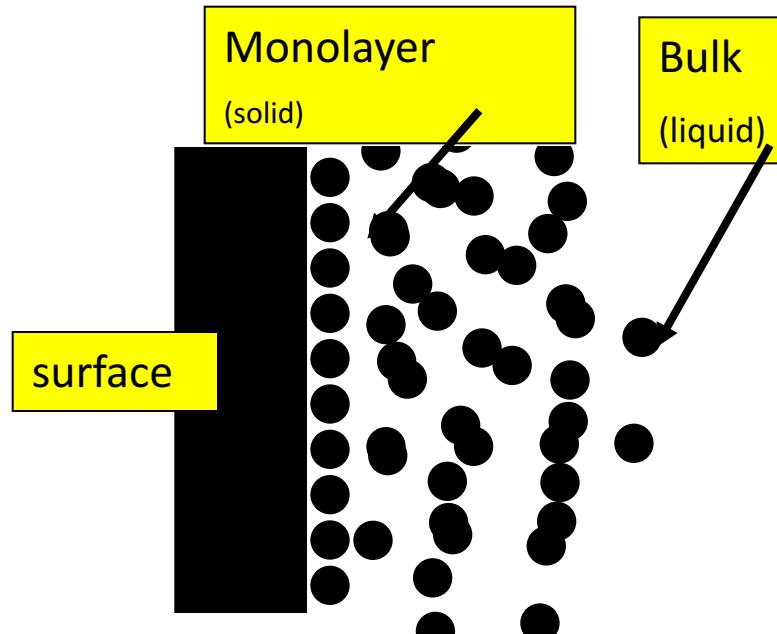


Intensity of elastic scattering → Amount of adsorbed material

# Adsorbed Molecules are different

Adsorbed layers are 'static'

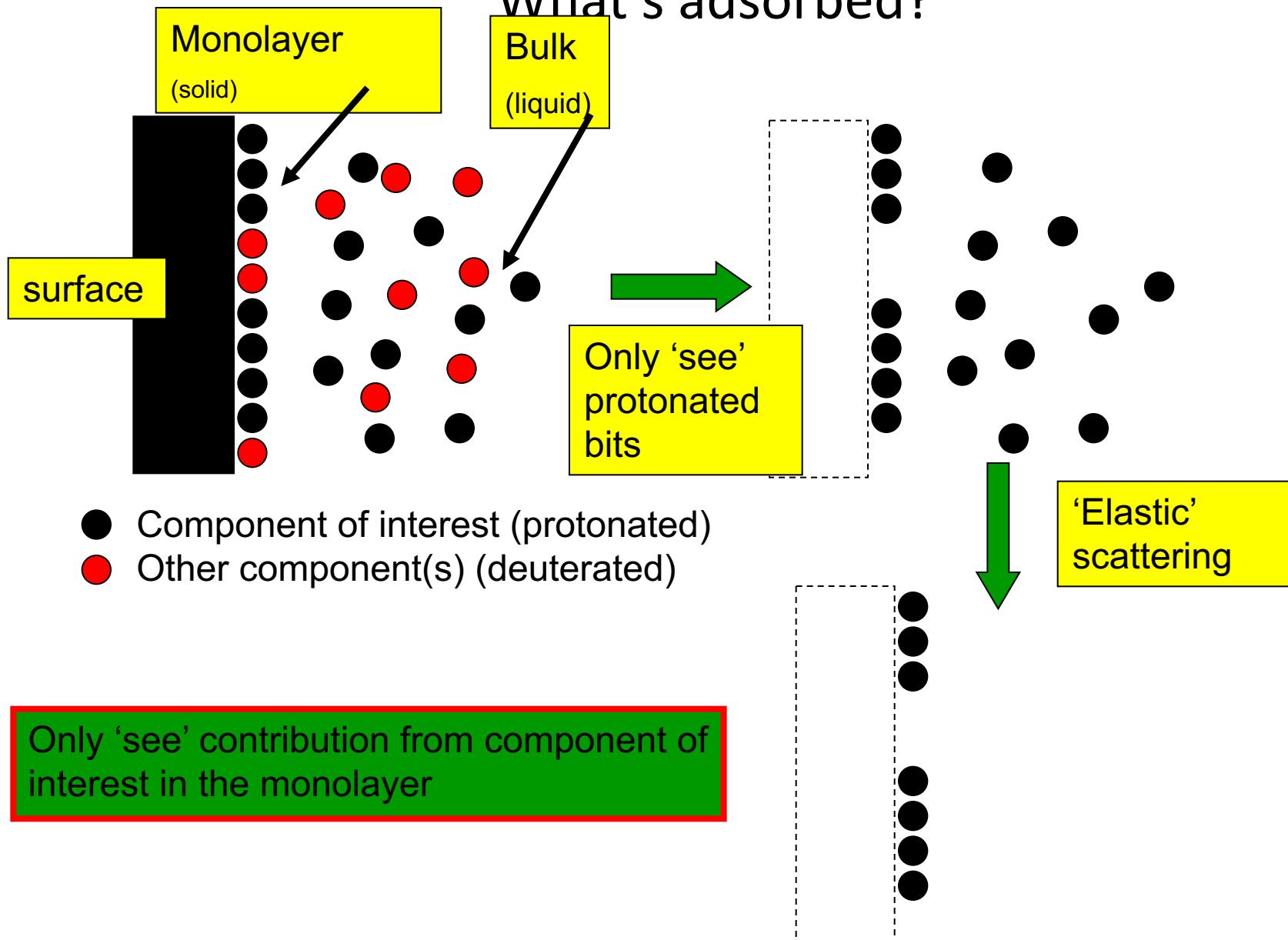
Liquids are 'dynamic'



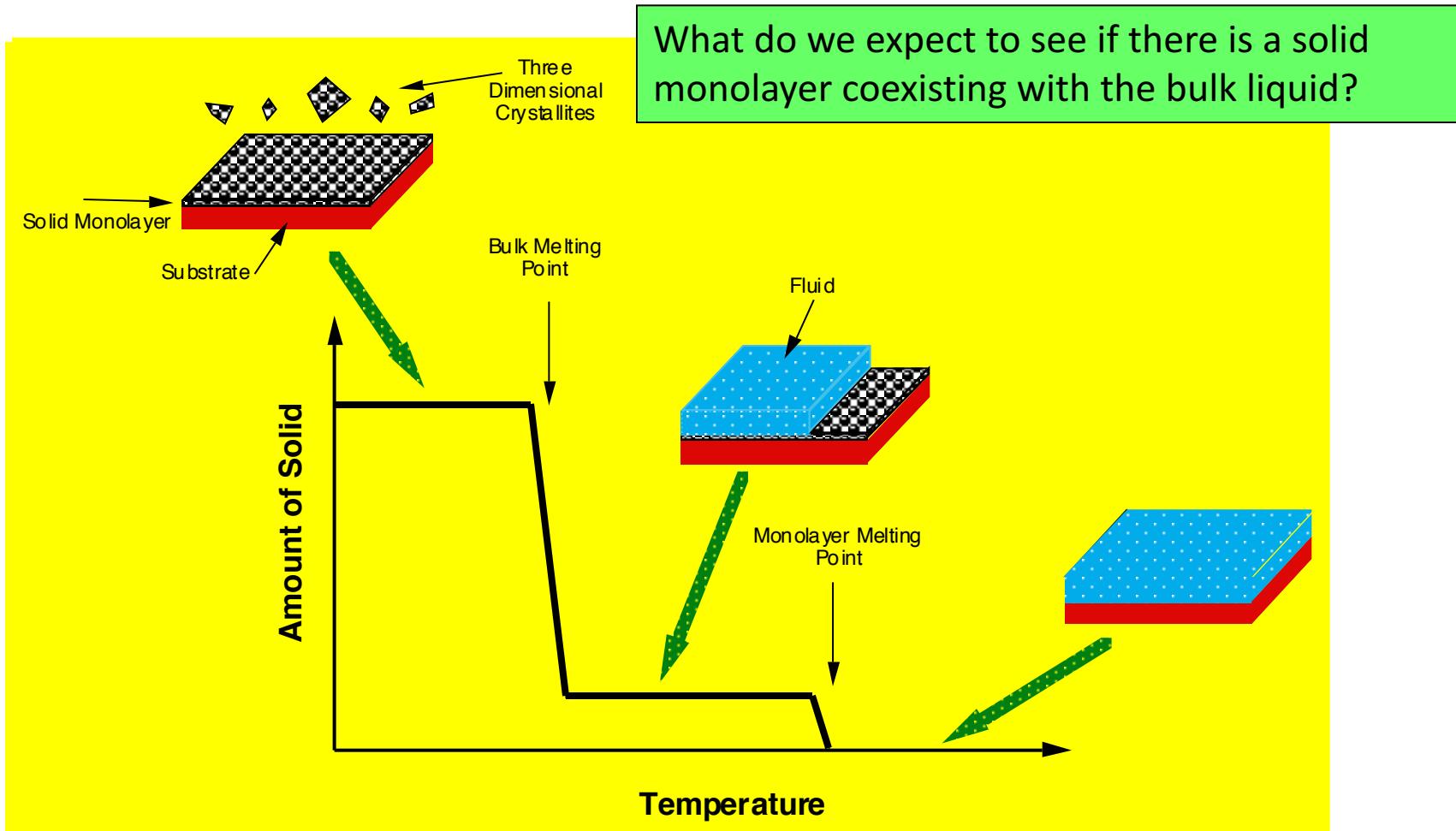
Use mobility to distinguish adsorbed layers

# 'IQNS'

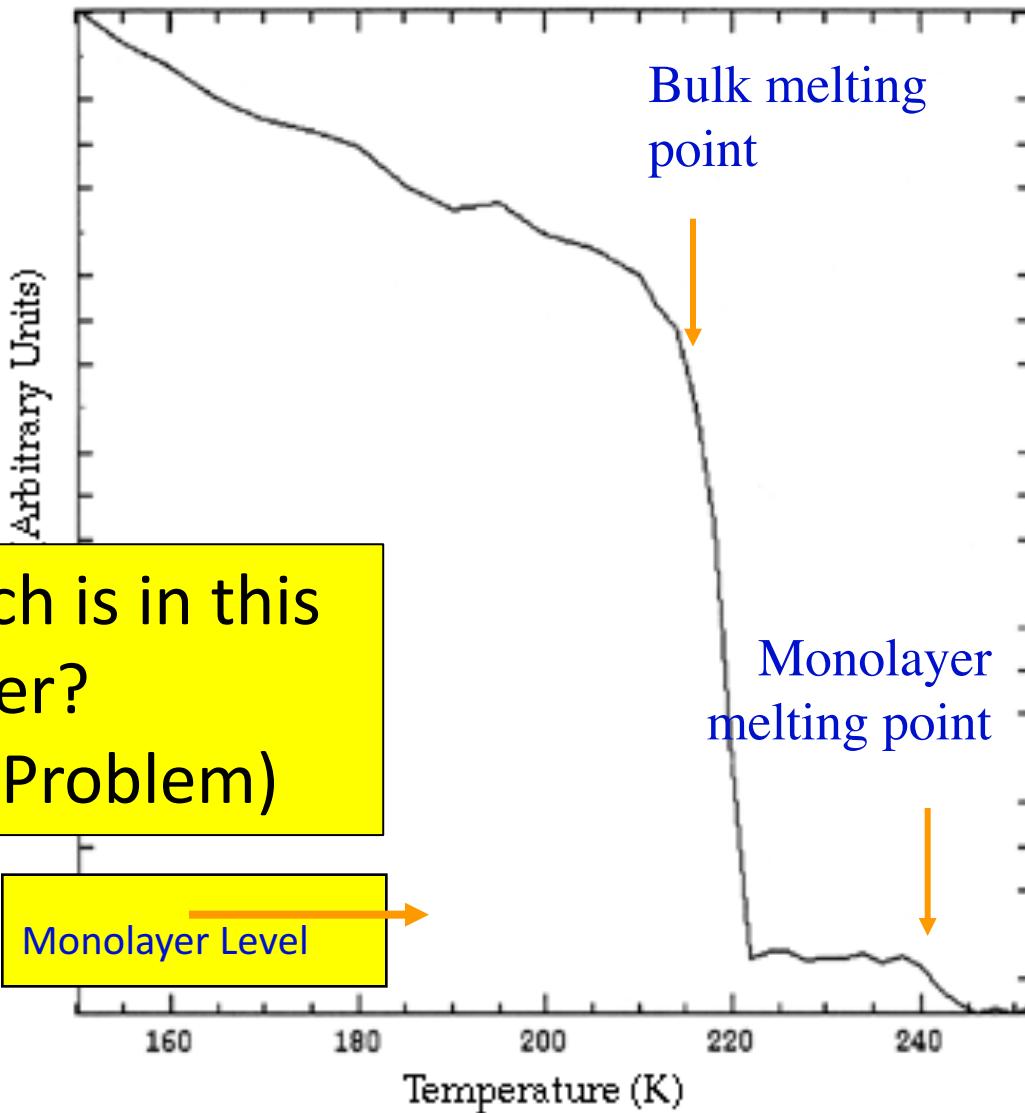
## What's adsorbed?



# Incoherent quasi-elastic neutron scattering (IQNS)



# IQNS Results: Octane on Graphite



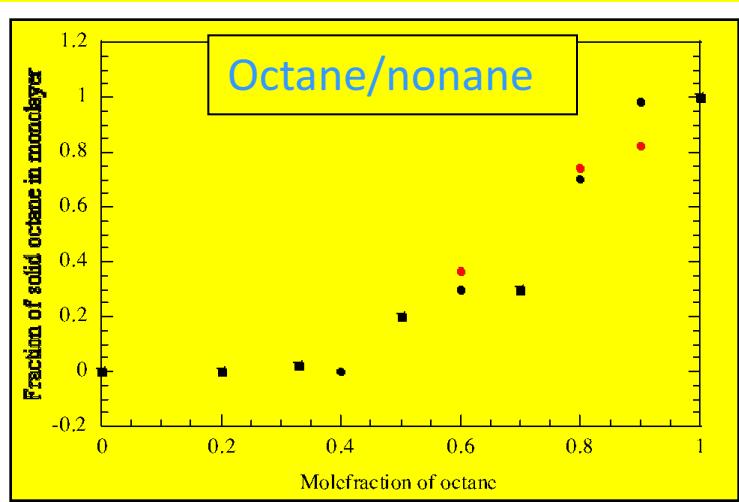
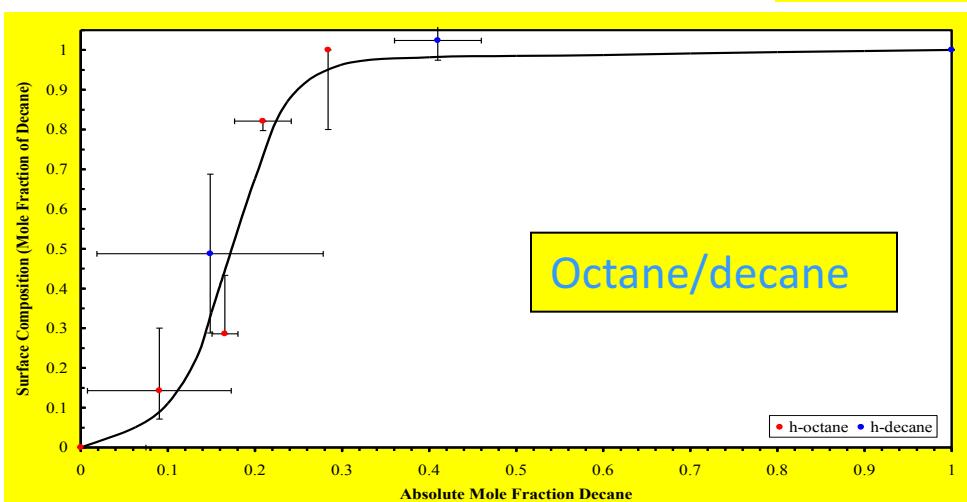
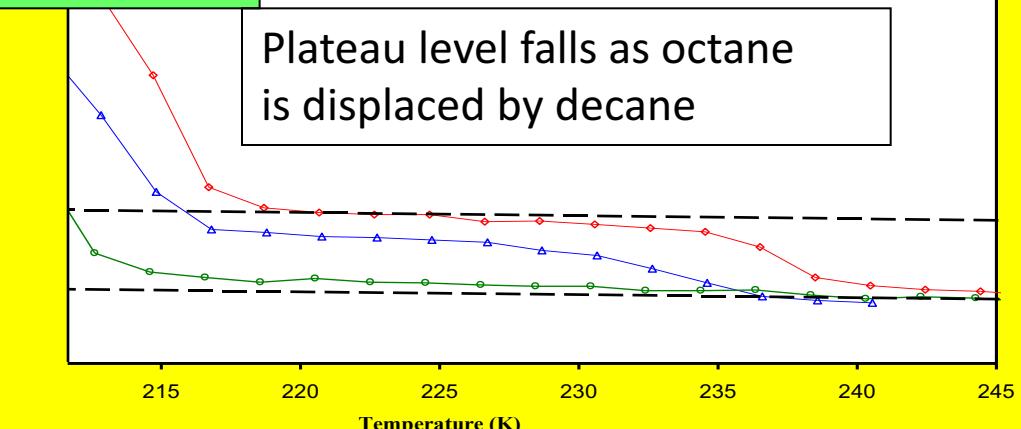
# What's adsorbed: (IQNS) Results from mixtures

## Monolayer composition as a function of solution composition

S data for Octane-Decane (h-octane + d-decane)

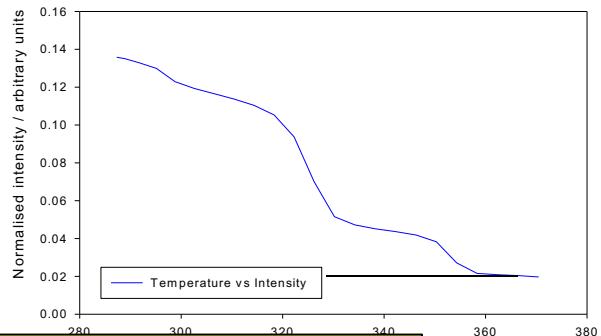
Red circles: Pure h-octane  
Blue triangles:  $X = 0.909$   
Green circles:  $X = 0.715$

Plateau level falls as octane is displaced by decane



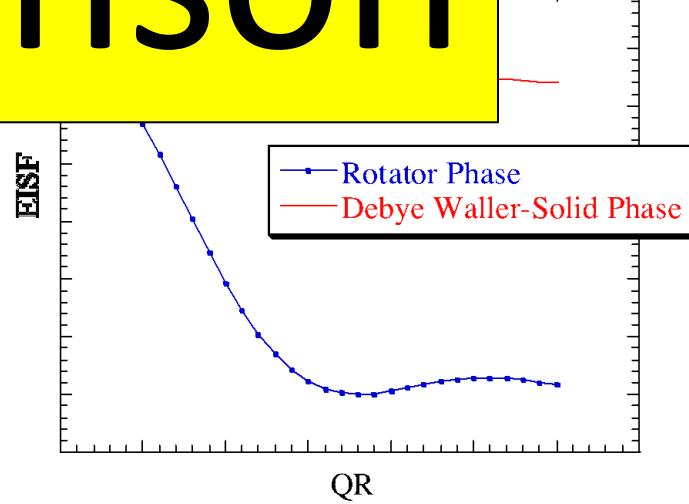
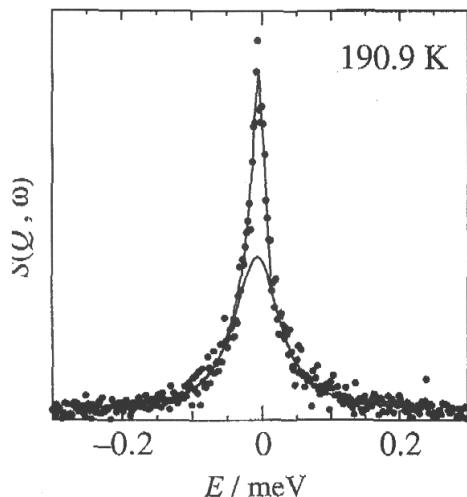
# Dynamics of Adsorbed Layers

- Distinguish solid from liquid
  - elastic scattering
- Diffusion coefficient of liquid layers
  - Width of the quasi-elastic peak



# Mark Johnson

- Rotations
  - q-dependence of the elastic scattering



# Talk Outline

- Examples of surfaces / neutron applications:

Adsorbed layers:

In-plane structure – 2D diffraction

Out-of-plane structure – reflection

What's adsorbed? (IQNS - dynamics)

## **Colloidal dispersions (dominated by surfaces)**

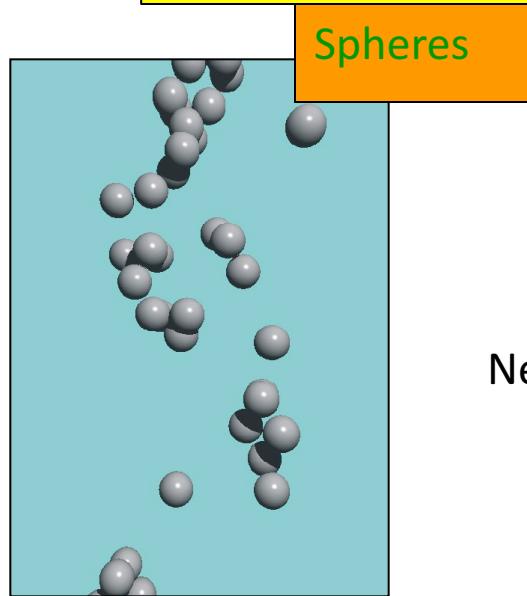
**What's on the surface? SANS**

What arrangement ?      SE- SANS

Liquid structure            PDF (NIMROD)

# What are Colloids?

- The particles are suspended
  - Different shapes
- Example
- Want to know
- What shape are the separate colloids
- What orientation
- What arrangement



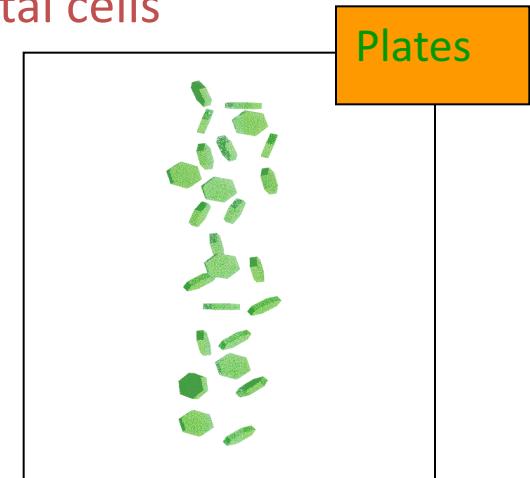
Spheres

Important flow properties

Need to 'look' through metal cells

Opaque samples

Neutron Transmission

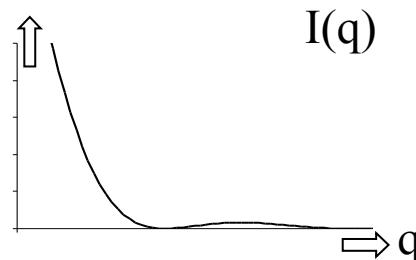
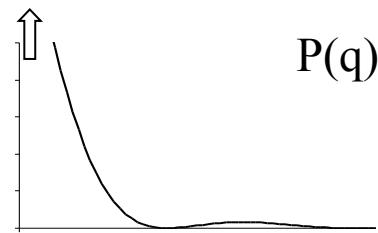
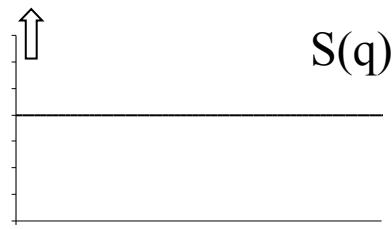


Plates

# Form and Structure Factors

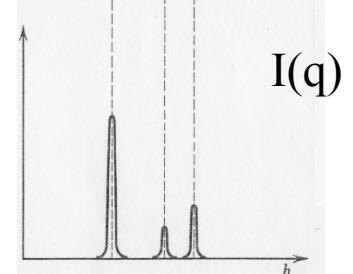
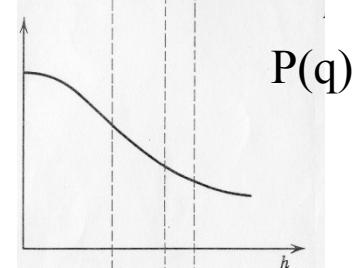
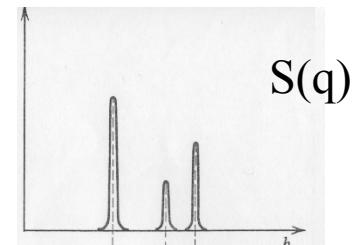
$$I(Q) = P(Q)S(Q)$$

Dilute Spheres



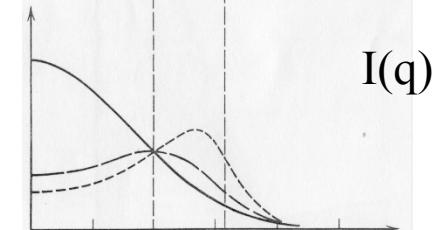
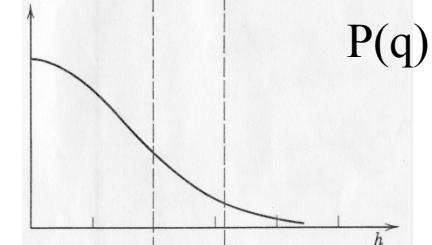
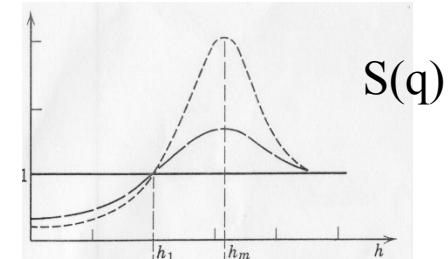
Character particles

Crystal



Diffraction peaks

Liquid



'Liquid' ring

# SANS: single colloid scattering (Dilute)

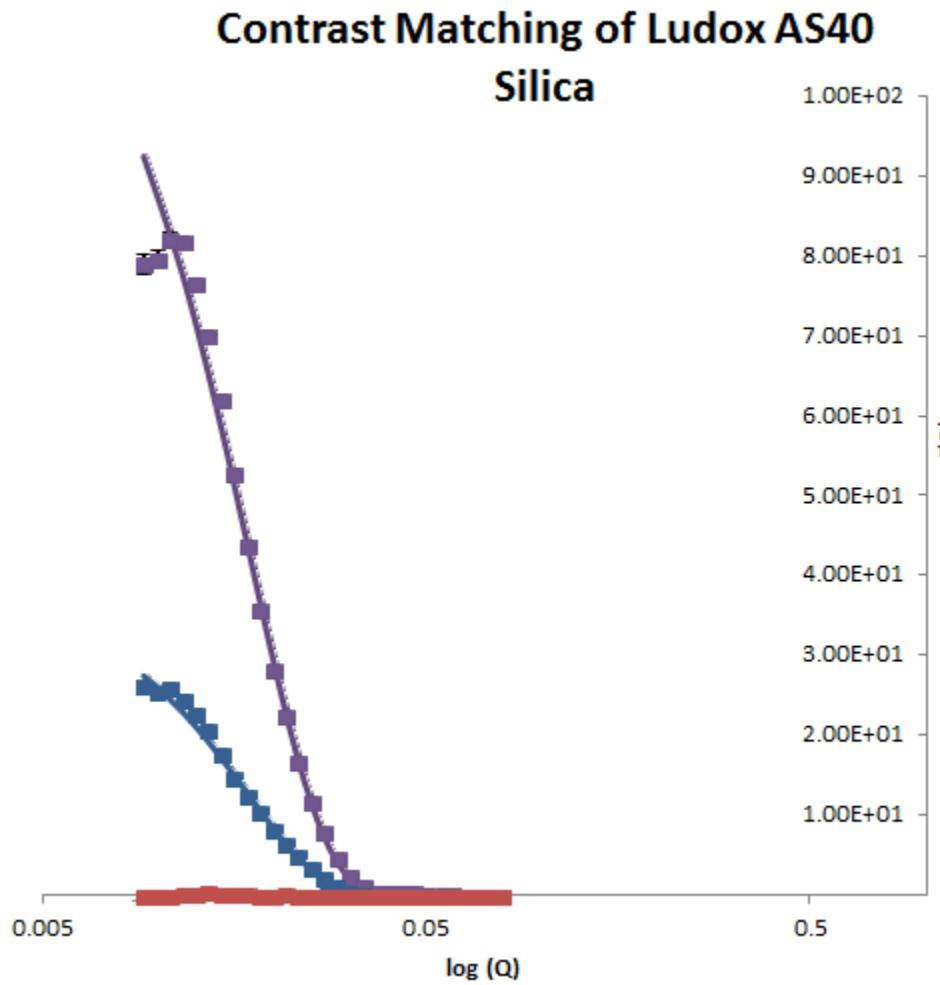
## What's on the surface

# Mixtures: Contrast matching: ‘magic’



- Scattering from silica in water:  
Mixtures of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$

Change scattering of water  
(refractive index = ‘colour’):  
silica –disappears

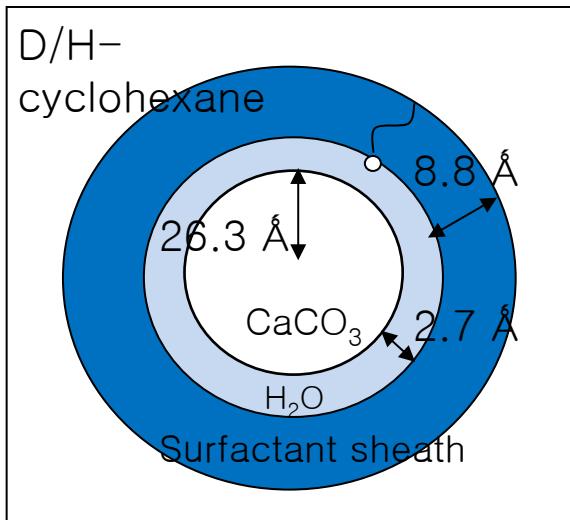


‘See’ each component of a mixture separately  
Simplify complex systems

# Small Angle Scattering: - P(Q)

## Dilute core-shell particles

### Thin water layer on calcite colloids in oil

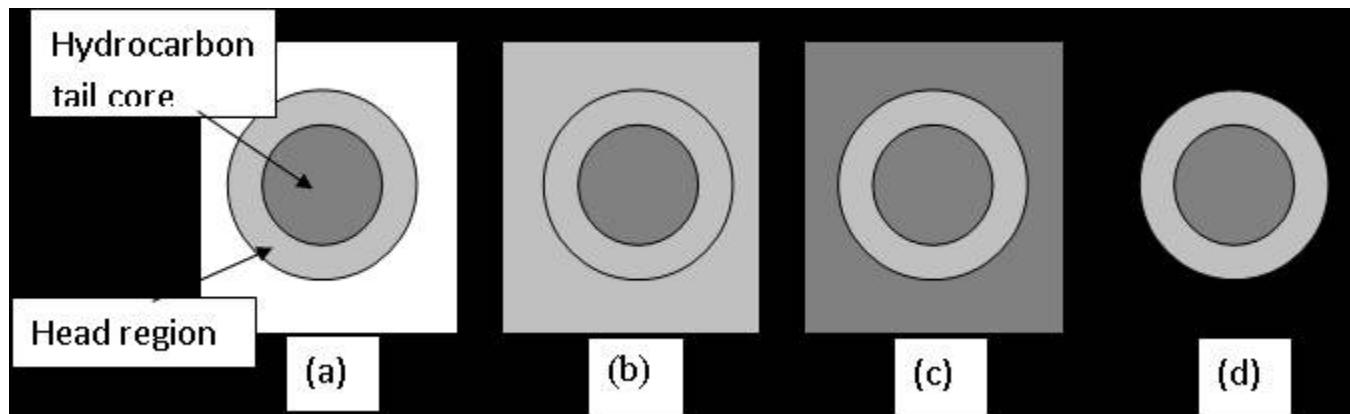


P(Q) form factor for core-shell more complex  
Structure: core/water/surfactant/oil

**'Contrast variation'**  
H<sub>2</sub>O and D<sub>2</sub>O mixtures  
change 'colour' of different bits

# Contrast variation:

- Enhance sensitivity to each bit by selective deuteration

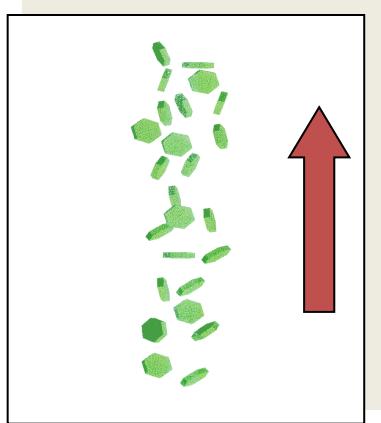


IF TIME

SANS: Single particle orientation

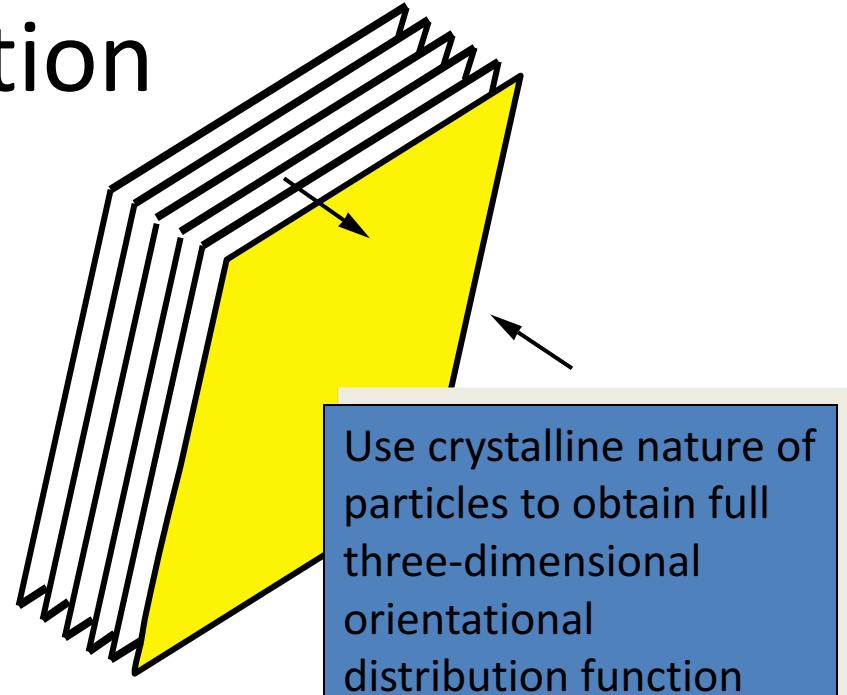
- SANS of plate-like particles

# SANS: single particles - orientation



Flow  
Direction

When is the extent of orientational order?  
Under flow?  
With particle size?  
Aspect ratio?  
Concentration?

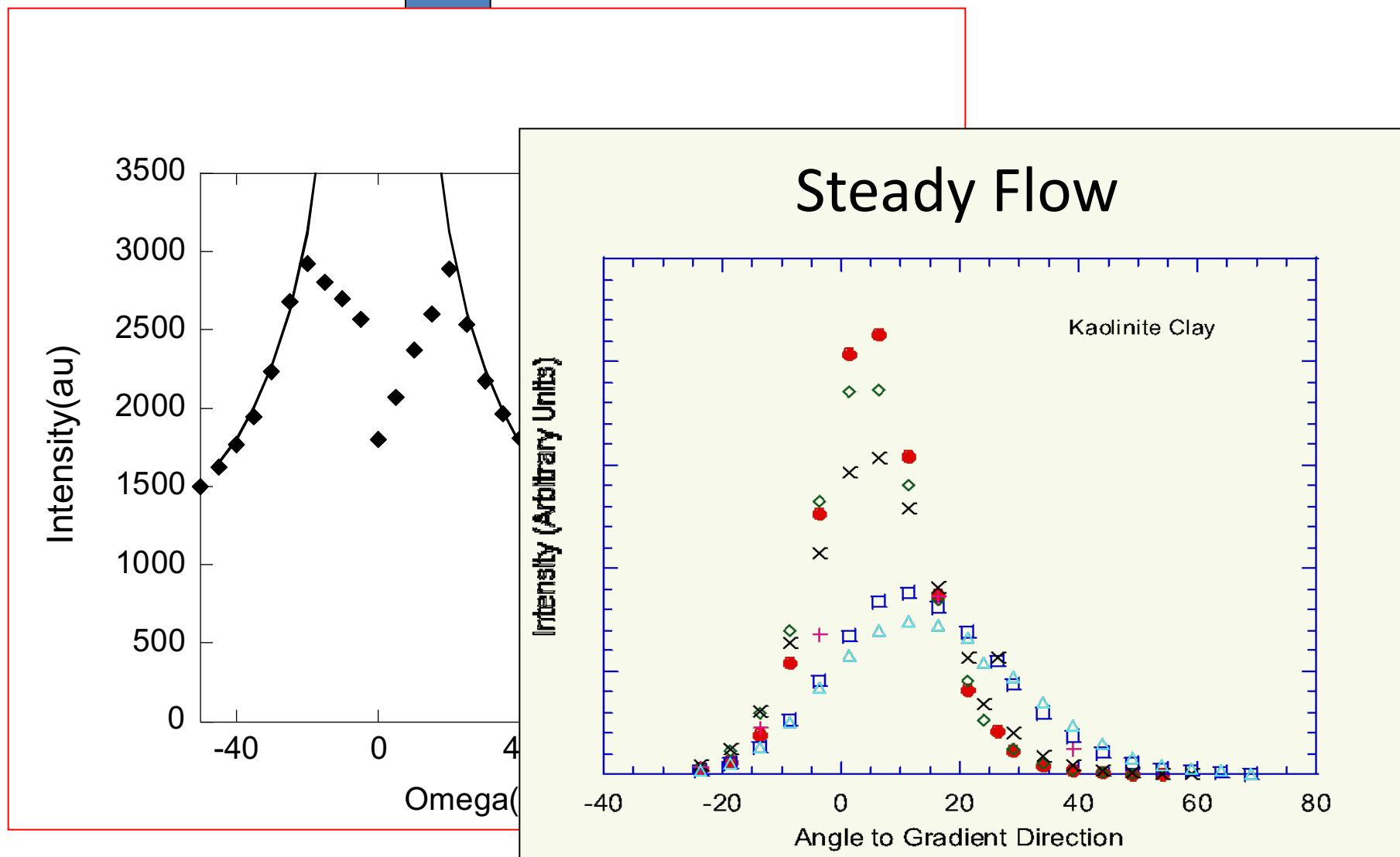


Use crystalline nature of  
particles to obtain full  
three-dimensional  
orientational  
distribution function

Anisotropic Particles

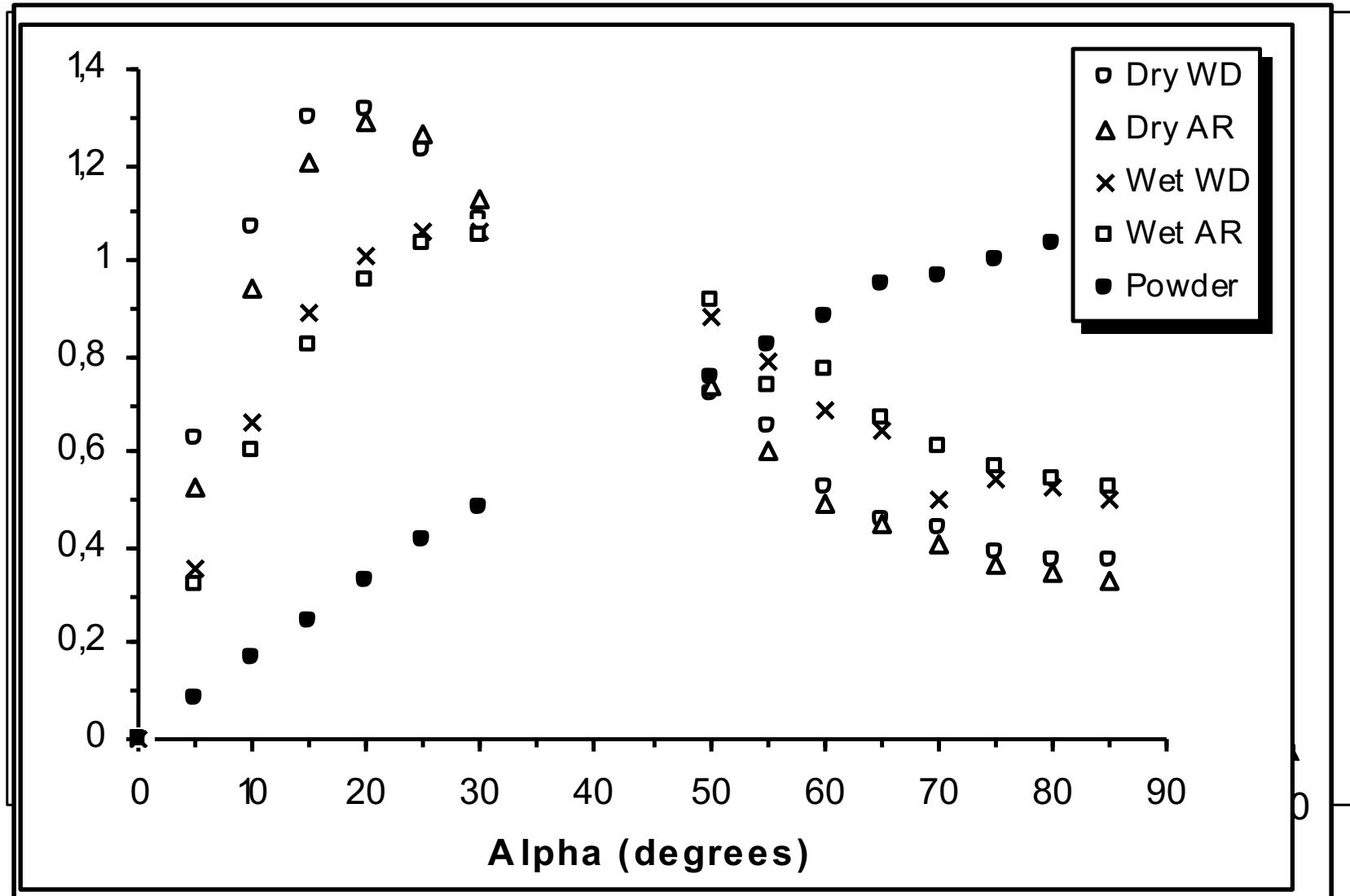
Completely random particle distribution => 'powder' ring  
Perfectly aligned => single 'spot'  
Preferred orientation => 'arc' of intensity

# Measuring orientational order of plates



Orientational order of the plates in flow

# Dense Clay pastes under static and cross-flow conditions

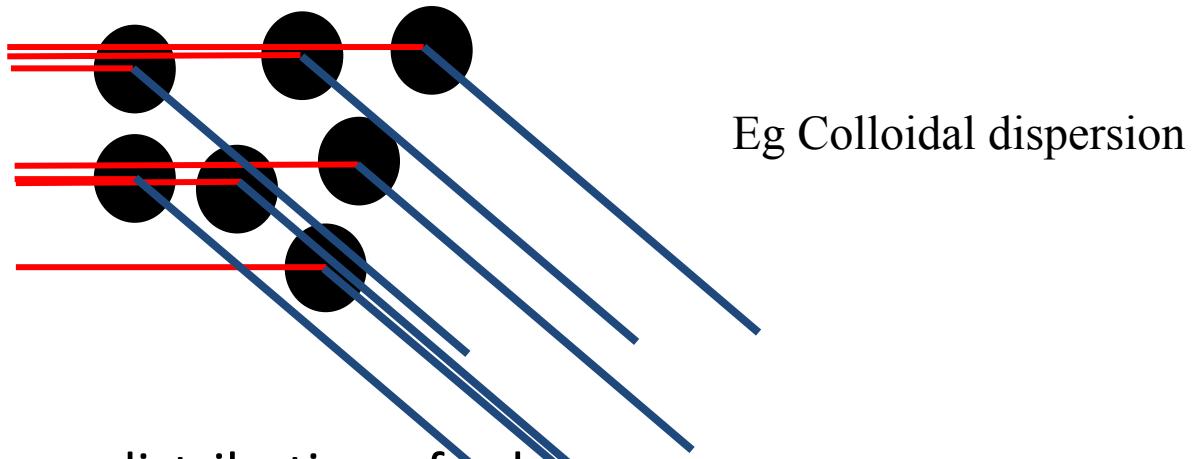


# Two colour cars



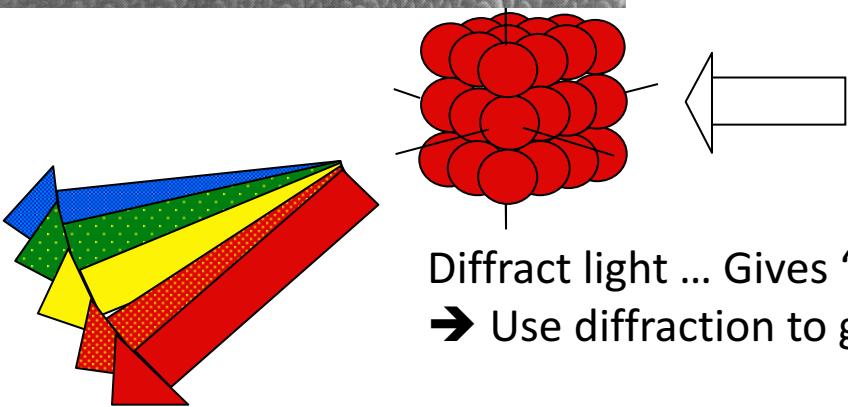
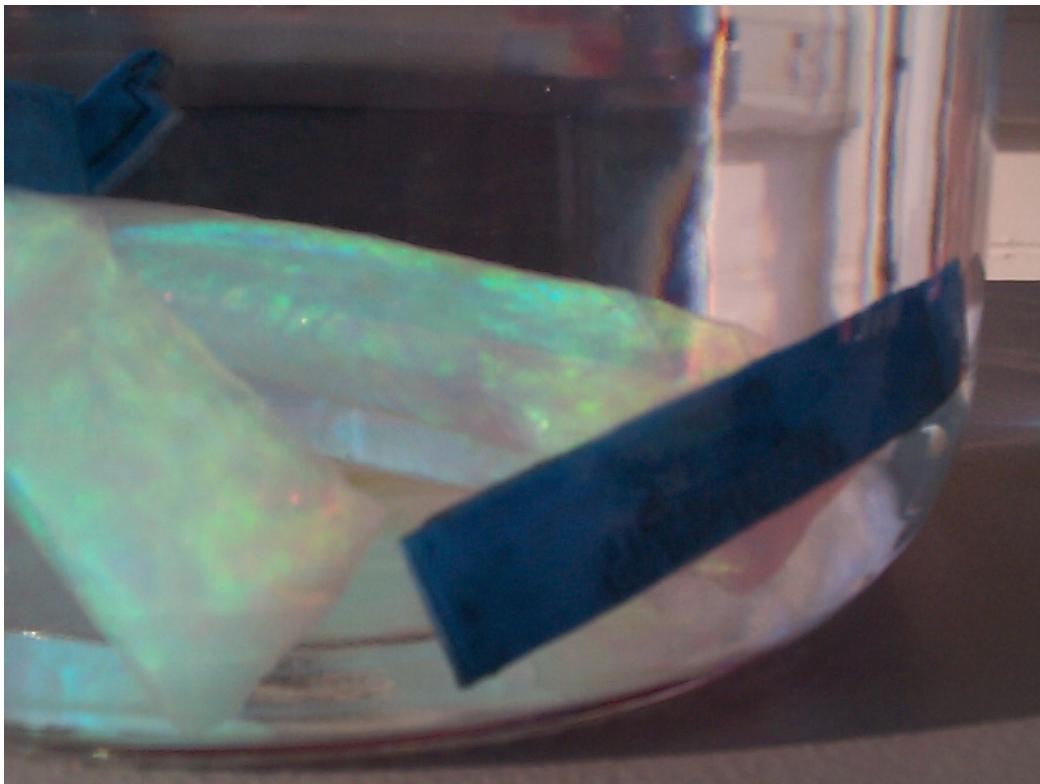
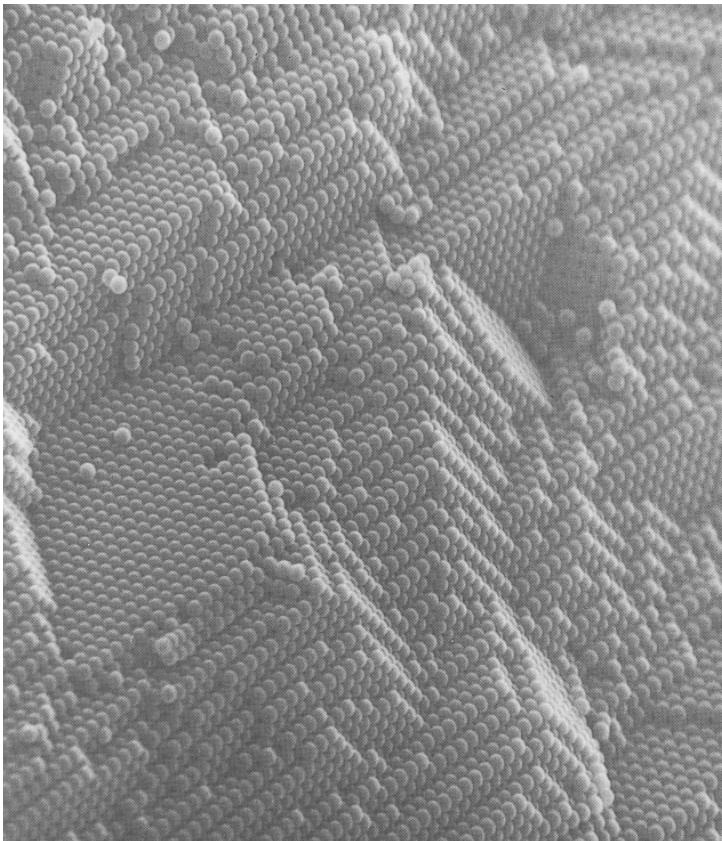
**END of EXTRA BIT**

# SANS: Interference Between Objects



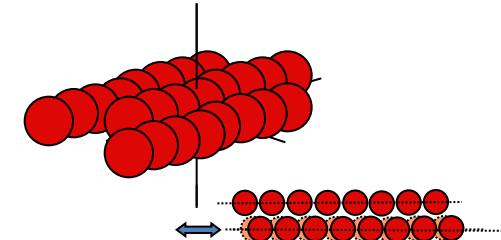
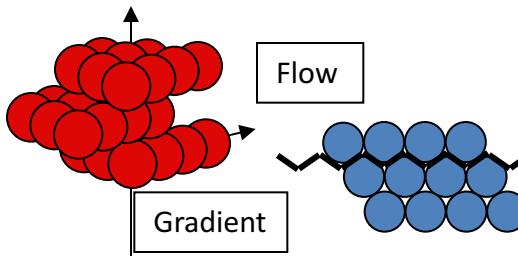
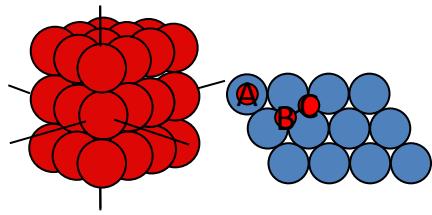
- Consider scattering as distribution of spheres
  - we know scattering for isolated object, e.g. spheres ( $P(Q)$ )
  - $S(Q)$  is called the interference or ‘structure factor’ arising from interference of scattering from different colloids.
  - Measured intensity is:  
$$I(Q)=P(Q)\times S(Q)$$
- Other systems:
  - Crystal - unit cells repeat on a regular lattice

# Colloidal crystals of spheres



Diffract light ... Gives 'diffraction patterns'  
→ Use diffraction to give structure

# Colloidal Spheres under flow



## Crystal

Perfectly ordered sequence  
of perfect hexagonally ordered layers

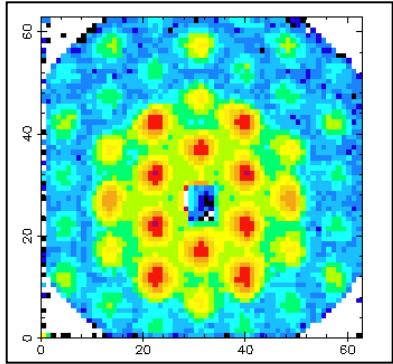
## 'Layers'

Perfect hexagonally ordered layers  
Sliding over each other with many  
different positions

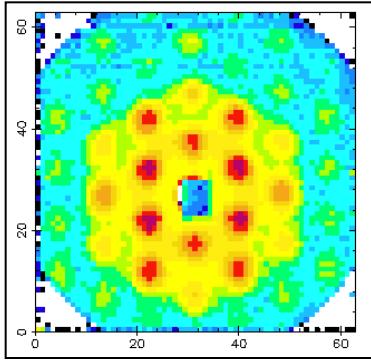
## 'Strings'

Particles in lines

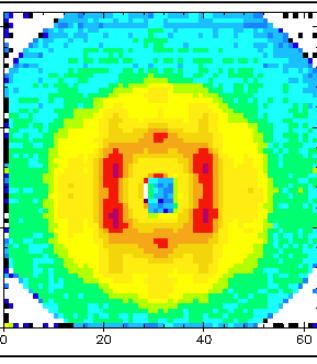
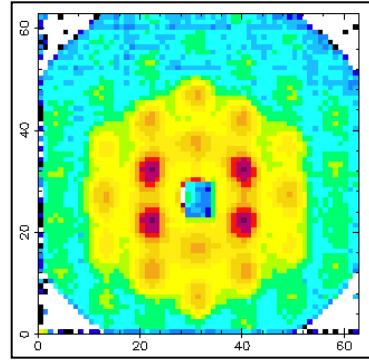
Increasing Shear Rate



'Crystal'



'Sliding layers'

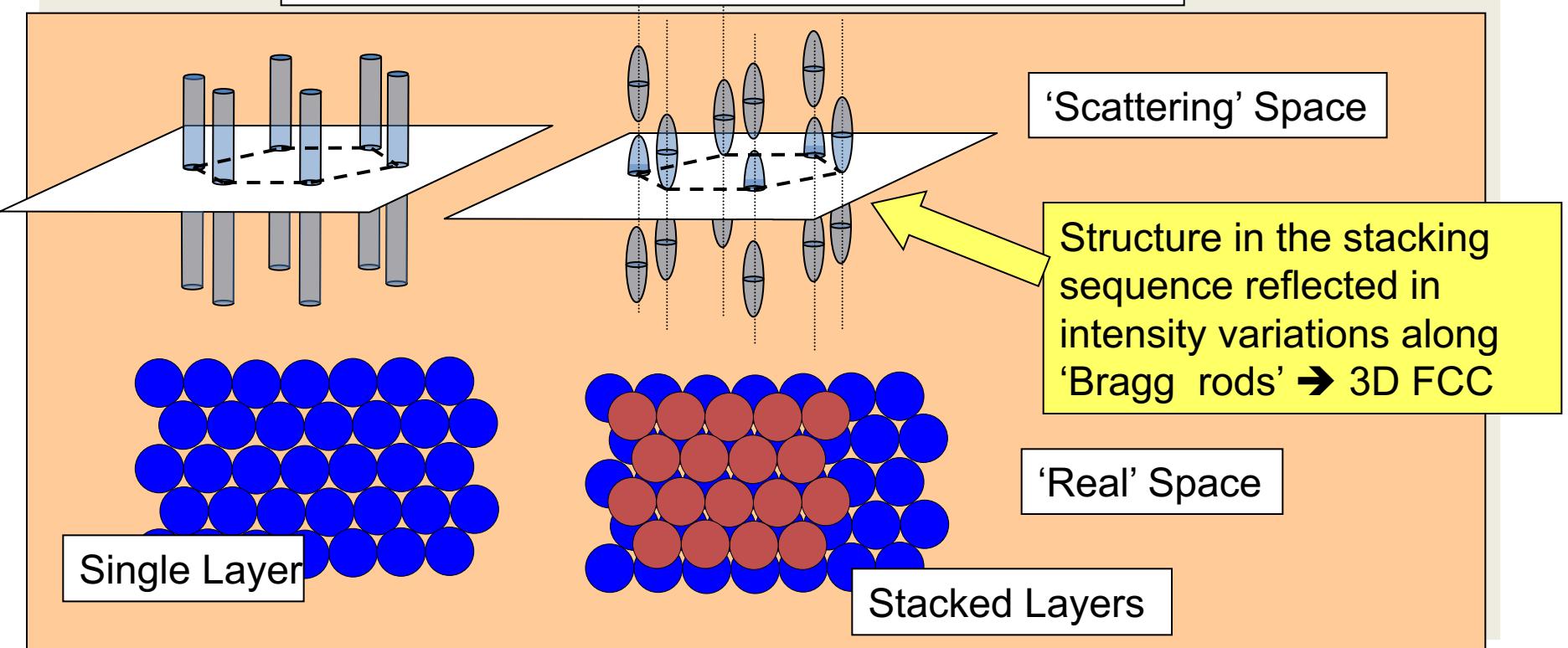


'Strings'

Behaviour like 'atoms' only much larger scales and slower

Charged stabilised  
latex spheres 8%

## $S(Q)$ : Scattering Patterns from Layered Systems



IF – TIME  
EXTRA BIT SE- SANS

TRICKY!!!!

# SANS → SE-SANS VERY BIG objects

**Big** objects are seen at **small** scattering angles  
(‘Reciprocal space’)

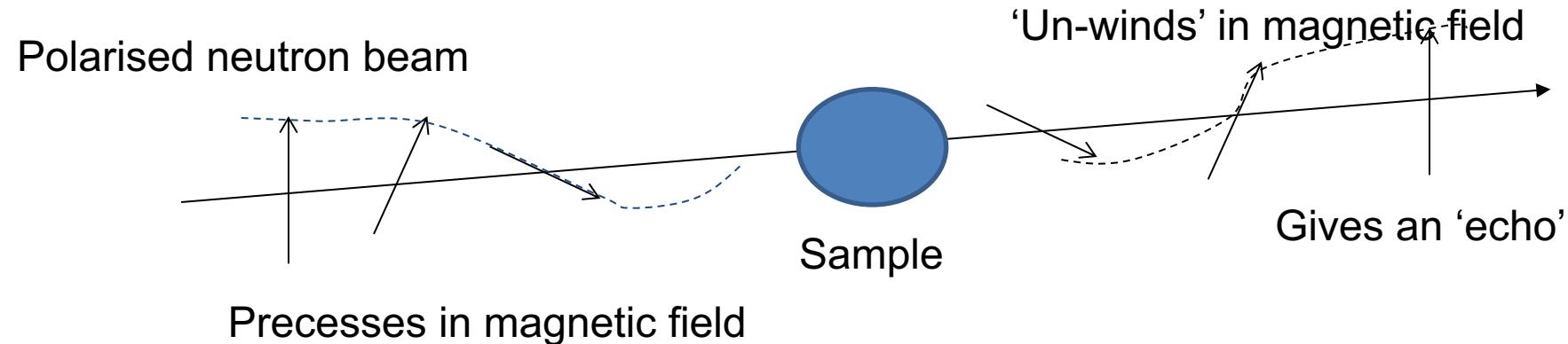
To see scattering by SANS at small angles need **VERY**  
tightly collimated beam: BUT THEN NO FLUX!!

Spin echo SANS → Keep wide open beam and  
Encode the scattering angle in the neutron spin!!

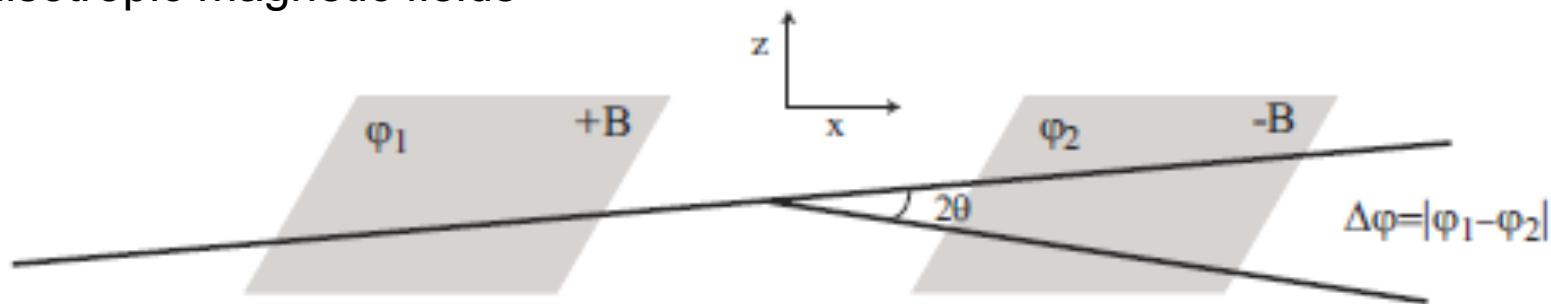
(**VERY CLEVER IDEA THIS!!**)

# Spin Echo -SANS

Encode scattering angle in the neutron polarisation



Anisotropic magnetic fields



Collect intensity as a function of 'z' (combination of field angle, wavelength etc)  
(Precession usually in horizontal plane)

Andersson 2008

# SE SANS technique: Basic approach

- Beam polarised in and out
- Polarisation rotates one way and then back
- Depends upon time in the magnetic fields
- If neutrons don't change direction → big echo
- If neutrons change direction (funny shaped field) → Weaker 'echo' or depolarised.
- Spin echo to encodes the angle (  $q'$  )

→ Actually Measure:

Real space, density-density correlation function,  $G(z)$

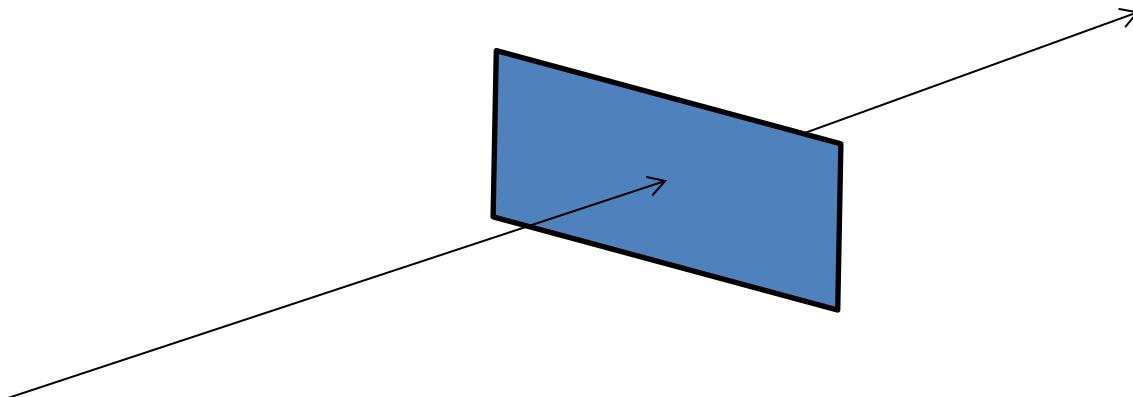
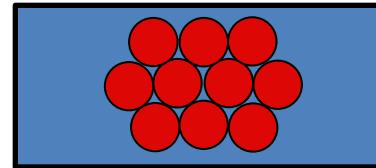
# Example: Silica particles in polymer matrix

## Colloidal Crystal

- J. Baumberg Samples:

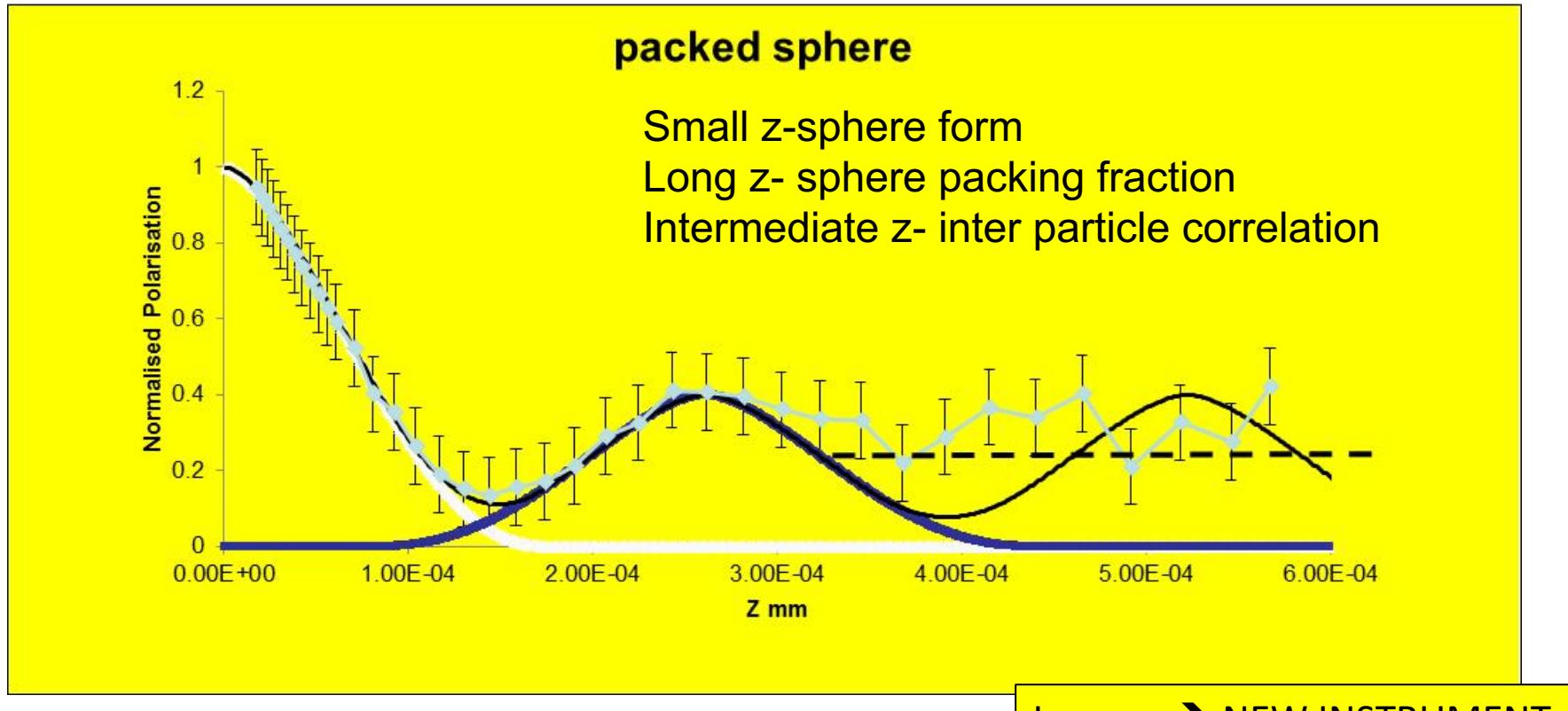
Hexagonal layers of 200nm silica in polymer matrix, 0.47 volume fraction.

Layers oriented and regularly stacked



Volume fraction 0.47 silica spheres  
Ordered by 'bending' process  
Stacked in layers.

- ‘Ordered’ array of spheres: SE-SANS



- (i) Core radius (big!): 90nm (good agreement)
- (ii) Vol fract as  $z \rightarrow \infty$ , 0.22 in reasonable agreement.
- (iii) First correlation peak is less ordered than expected.
- (iv) Higher order correlations of a true crystal are lost.  
Clearly indicates significant positional disorder in the ‘crystal’.

End SE-SANS extra bit

# Talk Outline

- Examples of surfaces / neutron applications:

Adsorbed layers:

In-plane structure – 2D diffraction

Out-of-plane structure – reflection

What's adsorbed? (IQNS - dynamics)

Colloidal dispersions (dominated by surfaces)

What's on the surface? SANS

What arrangement ? SE- SANS

**Liquid structure**

**PDF (NIMROD)**

# Can we ‘understand’ liquid structure?

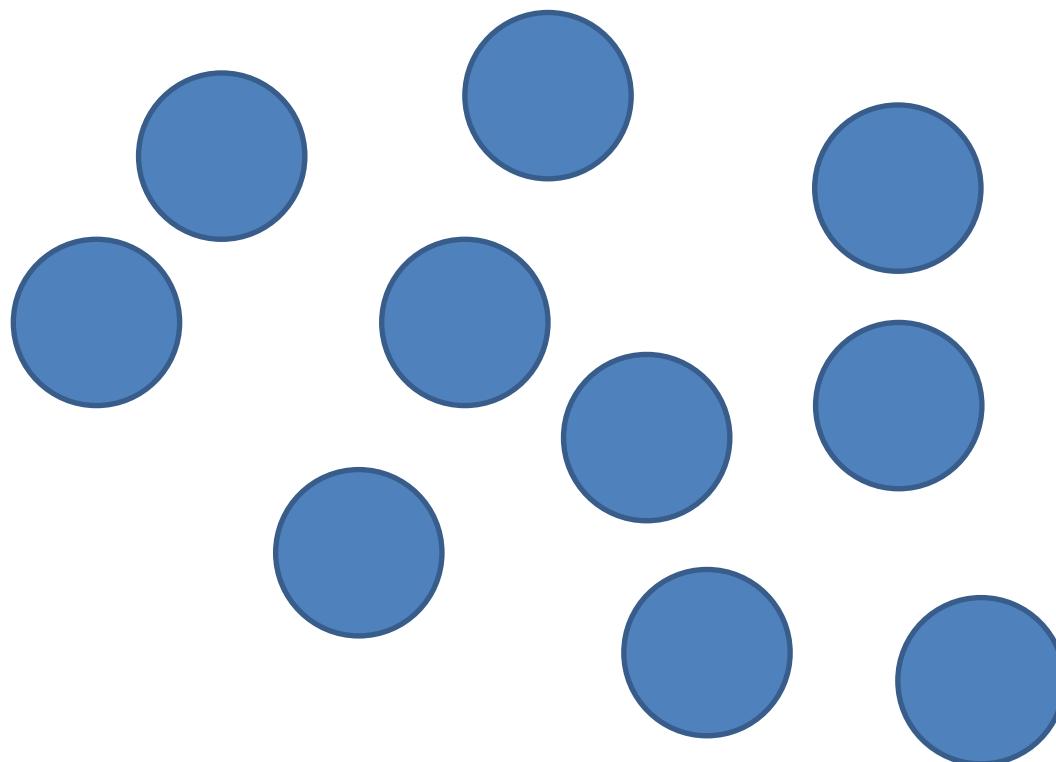
- No long range order: NO diffraction??

Oh dear!!

But still a lot of structure..

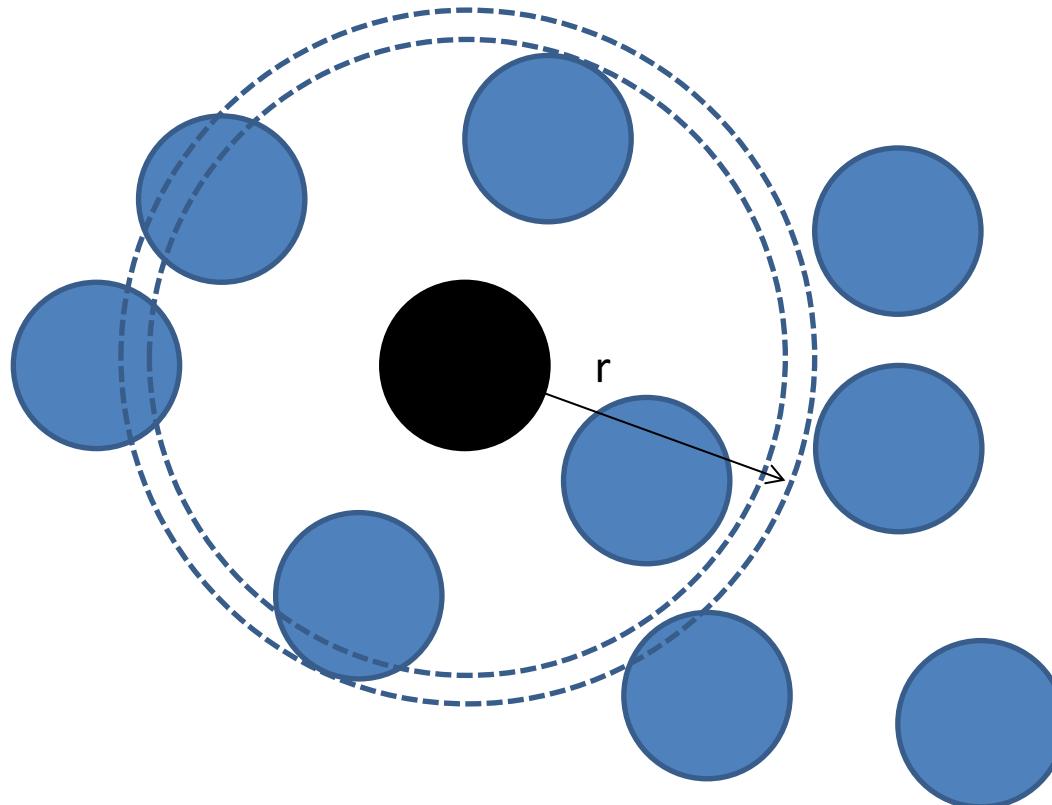
# Radial distribution function

Liquid species



# Radial distribution function

Liquid species

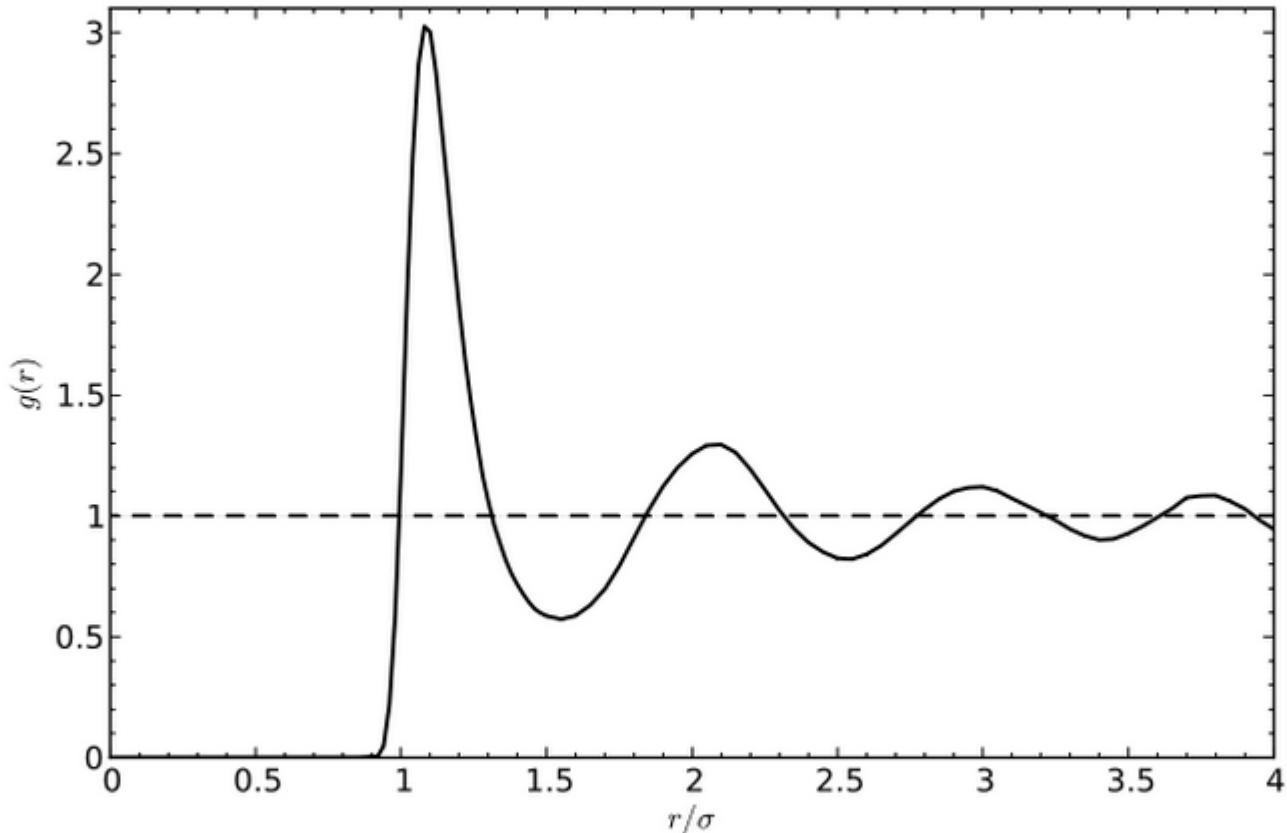


How many species in this shell at distance  $r$  from the central one:  $g(r)$

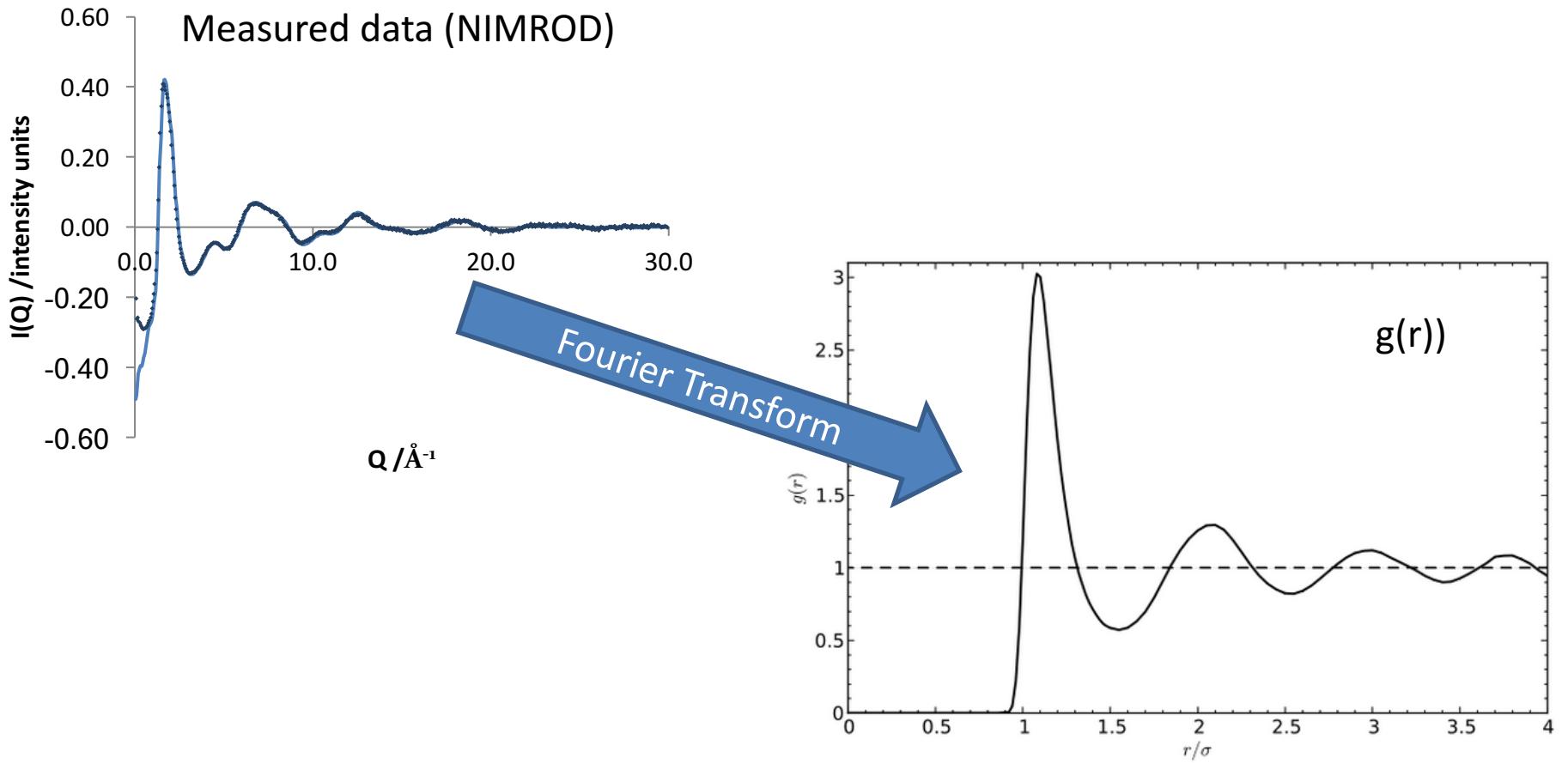
# Pair distribution function: $g(r)$

(normalised)

- ‘Hard’ core...
- Nearest neighbour shells..
- ...



# Pair distribution function: $g(r)$ , FT of scattering data

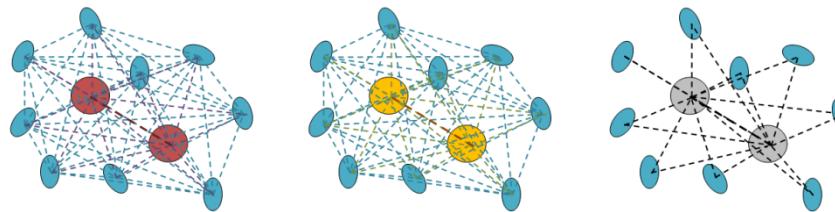


# Can we ‘understand’ liquid structure?

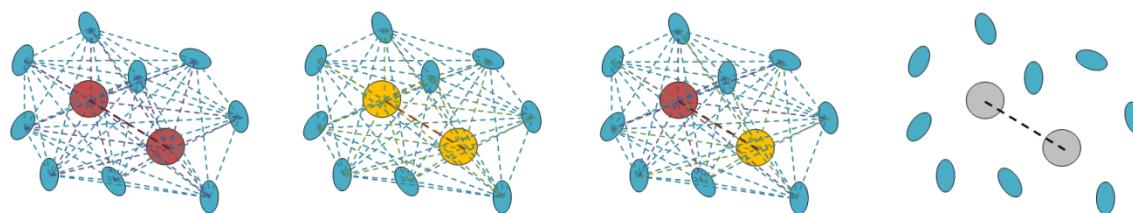
See all Atom-Atom distances

- Separate different atom contributions by isotopic exchange (H and D):

a) First difference (big circles exchanged):



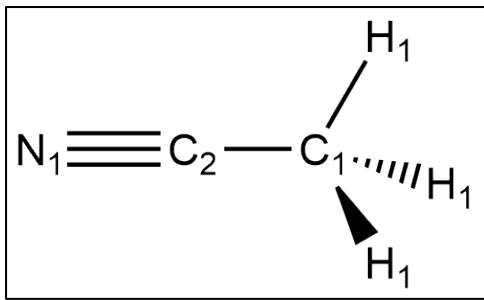
b) Second difference:



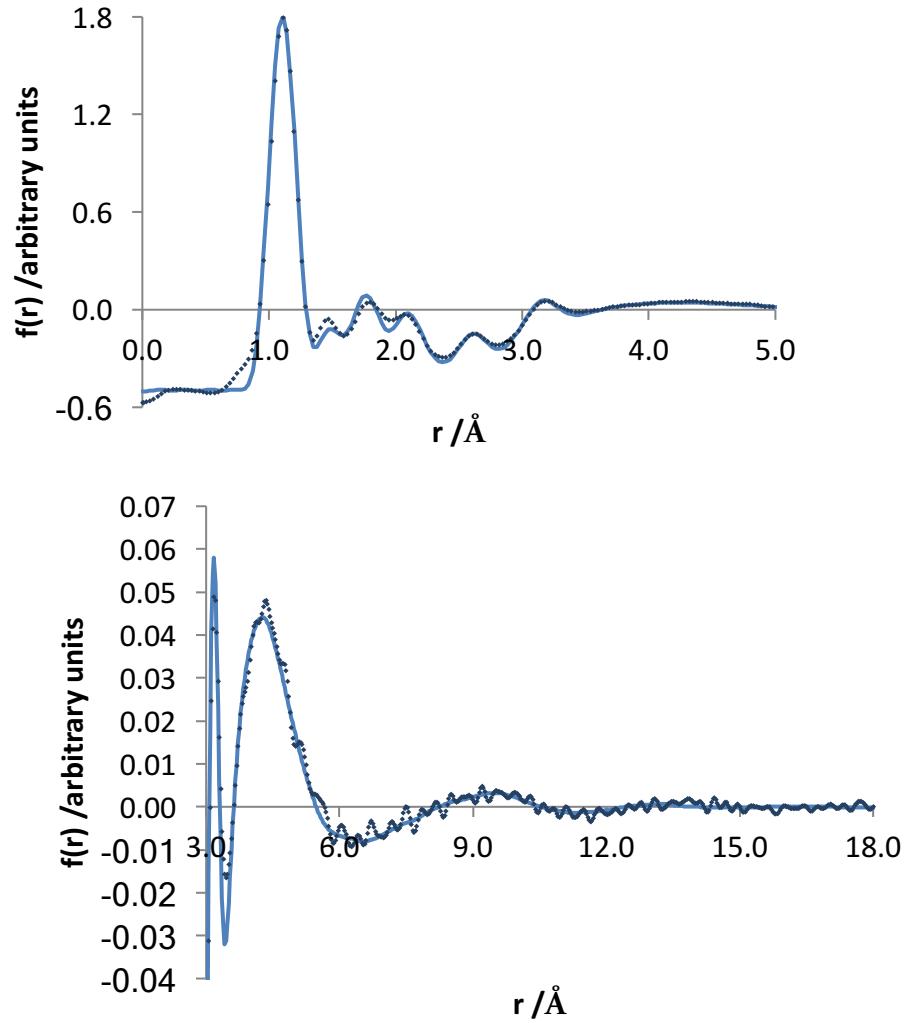
→ ONLY solute-solute distances!!

# PDF example: Acetonitrile

- See correct molecular structure at short distances

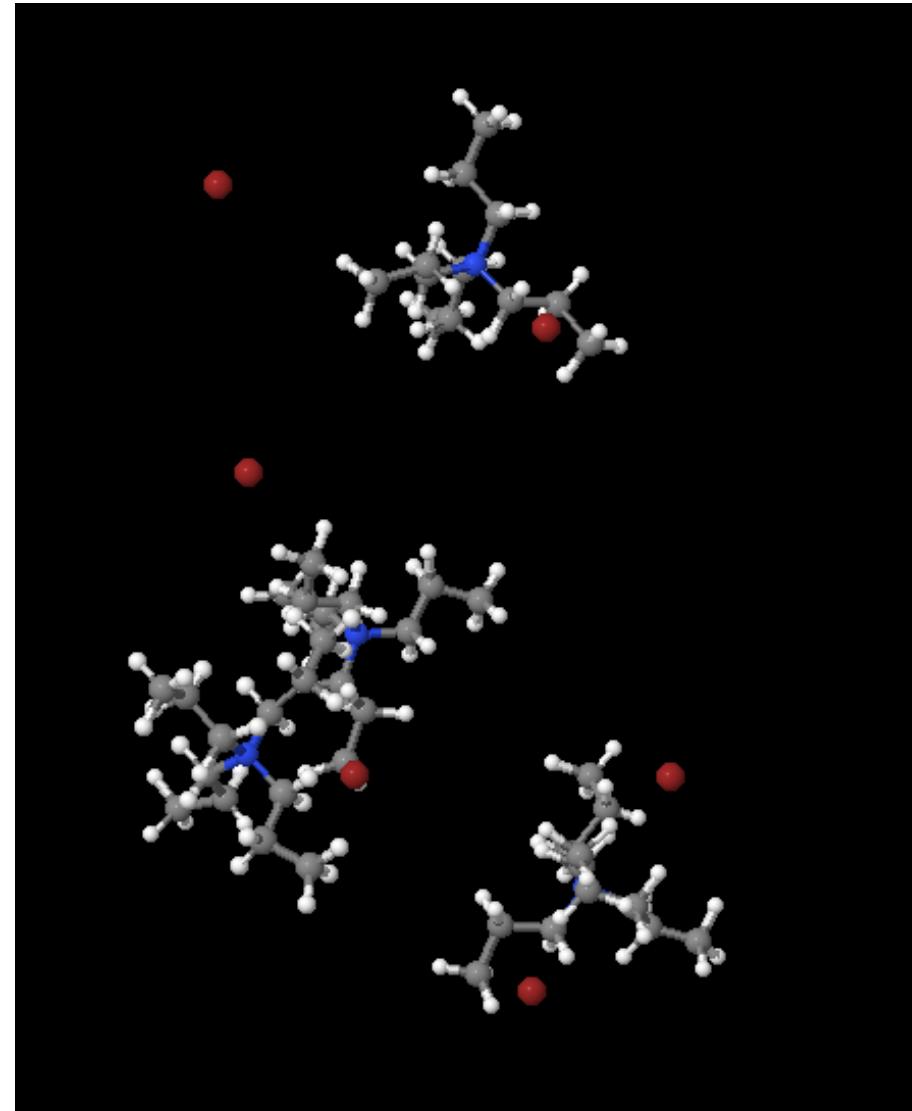
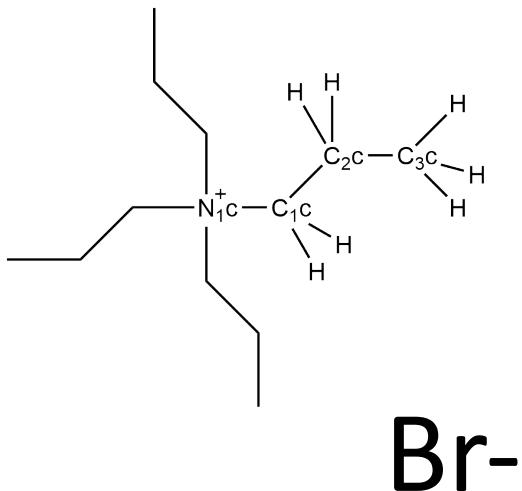


- Solvent shells at Longer distances



# Supercapacitors: Ions in acetonitrile

- TPA Br in acetonitrile:
- See 'ion pairs'



# Talk Outline

- Neutron sources
  - Coherent scattering - structure
  - Incoherent scattering - dynamics
- Examples of surfaces / neutron applications:
  - Adsorbed layers:
    - In-plane structure – 2D diffraction
    - Out-of-plane structure – reflection
    - What's adsorbed? (IQNS - dynamics)
  - Colloidal dispersions (dominated by surfaces)
    - What's on the surface? SANS
    - What arrangement ? SE- SANS
    - Liquid structure PDF (NIMROD)
- Conclusions

# Thanks..

- Adam Brewer Halogen bonding:
- Kate Miller/Lucy Griffin/Seung Lee: Calcite and Mica
- Beth Howe/ Becky Welbourne (Phoebe Allen): PDF
- Tom Arnold (DIAMOND): Alkane diffraction



ILL/ISIS / KEK/ LLB/ Berlin..etc.  
– neutron Time  
DIAMOND/SLS – SAXS time  
All the (Long suffering) beamline scientists

Thank YOU !

