



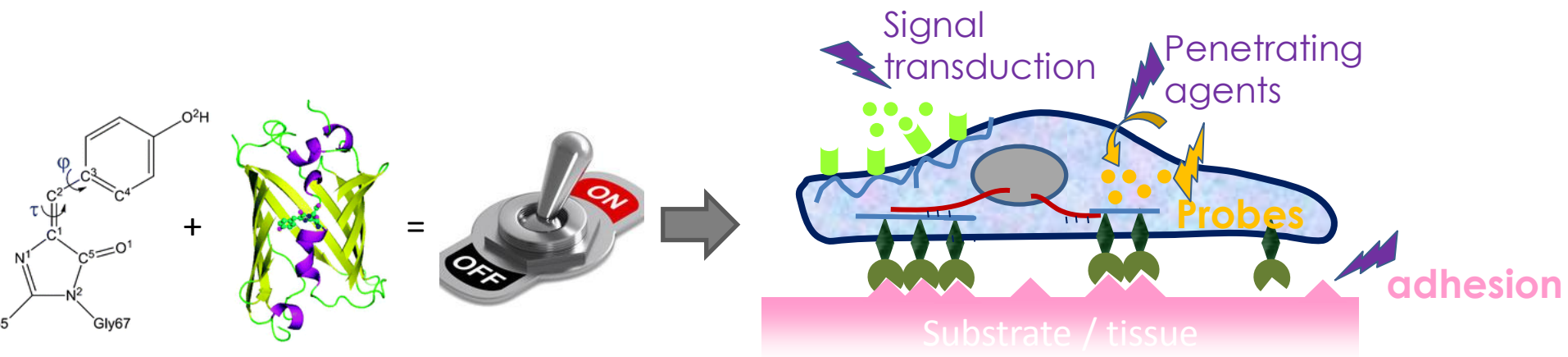
# Etudier in situ l'agrégation de protéines: intérêts et limites des méthodes de diffusion de rayonnement

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# Pôle de Chimie Biophysique



- **From chemistry toward biology**

- **Molecular “tools”** coupled with biological systems (Chemical Biology/Biophysics)
- **Remote**, non-toxic **stimuli** (light,  $\Delta T$ , magnetic)

- **From biology toward chemistry**

- Bio-inspired functions,
- Genetically encoded constructs (fluorogens, particles)

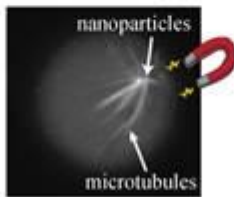
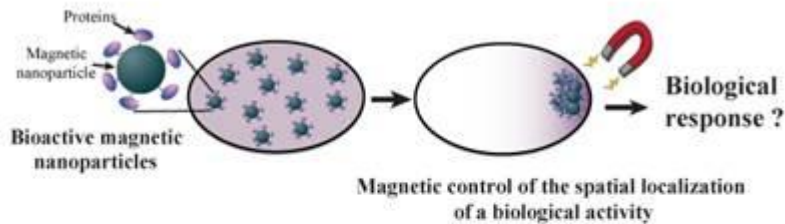
# Pôle de Chimie Biophysique

## Manipulation of proteins in complex environments

### Spatial distribution of signal proteins



Zoher  
Gueroui

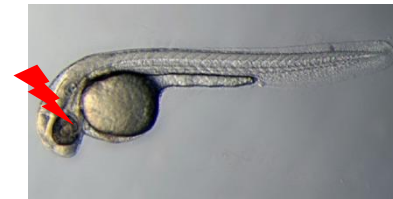


### Fluorescent proteins readouts

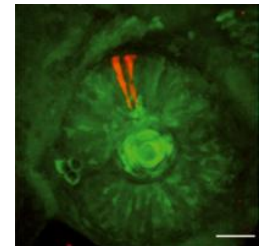
Ludovic  
Jullien



Arnaud  
Gautier



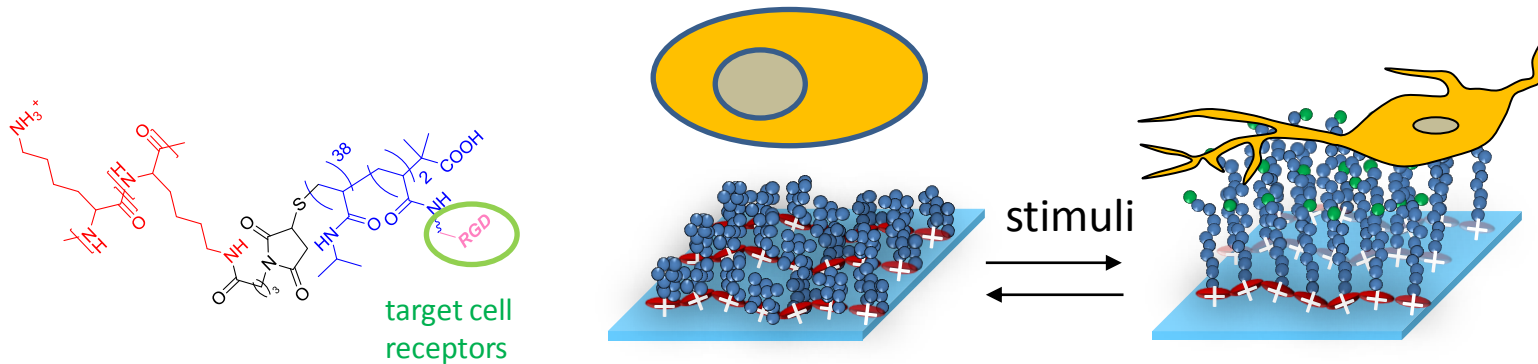
Zoom



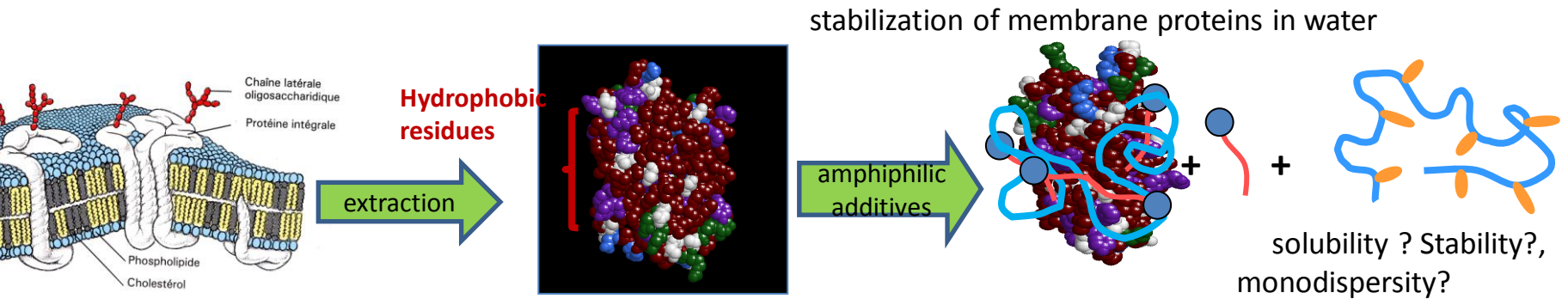
# Pôle de Chimie Biophysique

## Manipulation of proteins in complex environments

### Remote control of protein/peptide presentation:



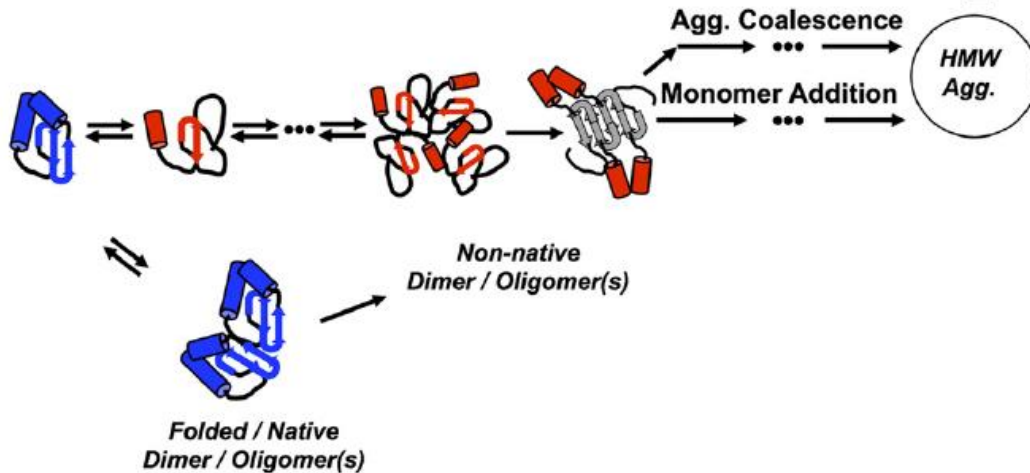
### Artificial chaperones:



⇒ **Refolding** of IMPs, soluble enzymes, **scFv**

⇒ Stability of IgG

# Stability/aggregation issues of proteins in stressfull environment

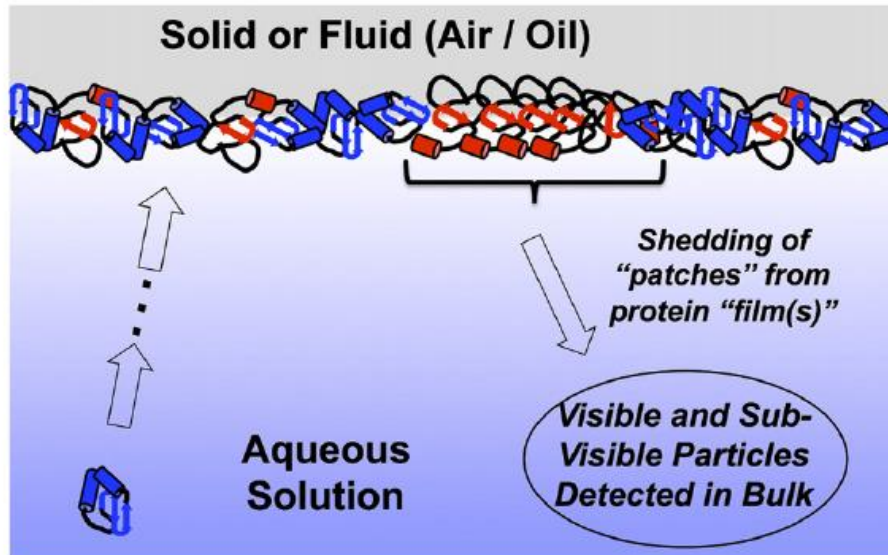


diversity of aggregation routes

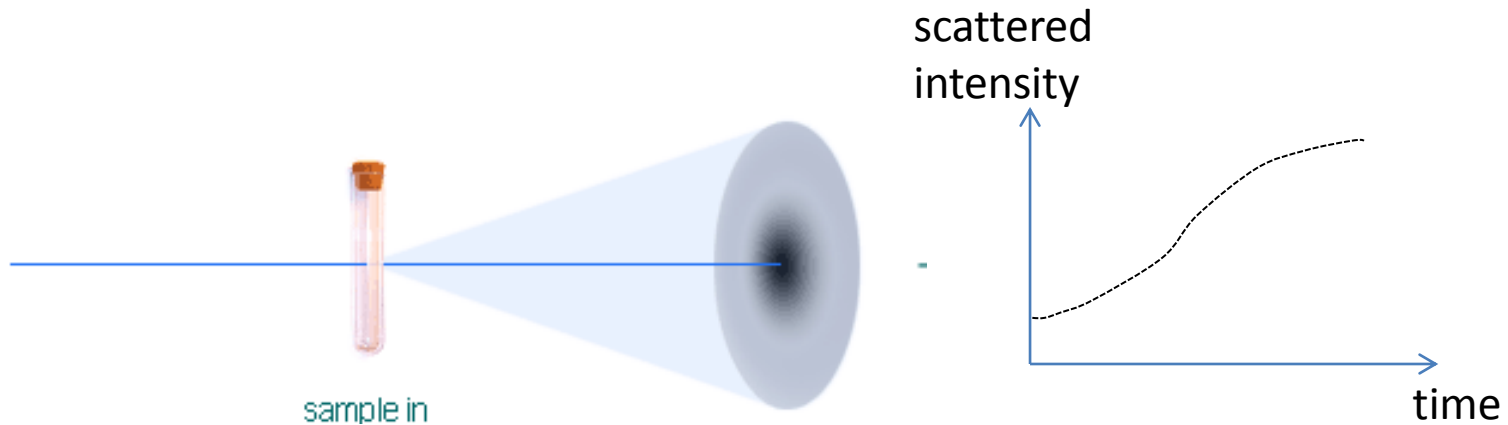
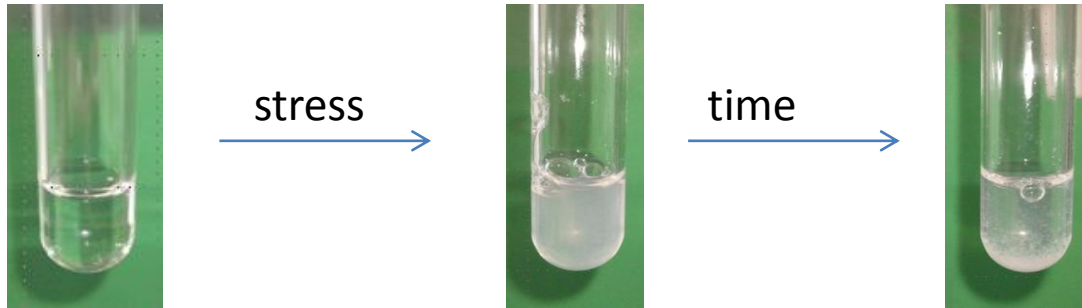
Influence of additives , of interfaces, external stresses ...



in situ characterization of protein association/aggregation in complex environments ?



# Scattering techniques to assess aggregation



Highest sensitivity to aggregates

# Common drawbacks attributed to (light) scattering methods

- « Although the sensitivity of [LS to] detect aggregates is unsurpassed, quantification is not possible » .. [Den Engelman et al. Pharm. Res. 2011, 28, 920-933] »
- « very sensitive to high Mw particles » = difficult to quantify size distribution (Chaudhuri et al., AAPS journal 2014)
- « requires filtration, biasing from dust or polydispersity » A. Pluen, Trends Biotechnol 2013 , 31(8), 447-
- « signal depends on particle morphology and (unknown) refractive index » « only useful when paired to size-selective separation techniques... » (Ripple et al., J pharma sci, 2012)
- « high concentration may lead to [bias ]» (H Samra F. He, Molecular Pharma 2012)

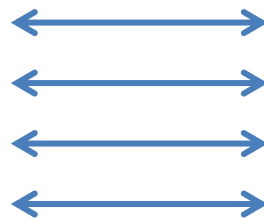
# Practical advantages and drawbacks

- Pros:**
- small amount (2-20  $\mu\text{L}$  , 0.1-100 g/L)
  - non invasive, label-free
  - fast (< 10s– 2 min. ; fastest SAXS = ms)
  - amenable to high throughput instruments
  - broad size range (< nm – microns)
  - viscosity measurement (DLS)
- Cons:**
- filtration required for light scattering, ... but not in SAXS
  - estimates of % aggregated (specific cases = large & solid-like clusters)
  - do not discriminate proteins from dust, bubbles, droplets...

What can be quantified ?

Relation to stability

shape, size of monomer or oligomer  
proteins interactions +/- additives  
characteristic aggregation rates  
kinetics, shape & size of clusters



elementary «bricks» of dense phases  
phase transition vs metastability  
intrinsic stability index  
class of aggregation pathway



# Light and X-ray scattering to assess in situ the stability of proteins

## Outline:

### 1) SAXS characteristic features of monomers / oligomers (radius, shape, interactions)

protein shape and radius (IgG, proteins in 2-phase systems)

protein-protein interactions vs solubility

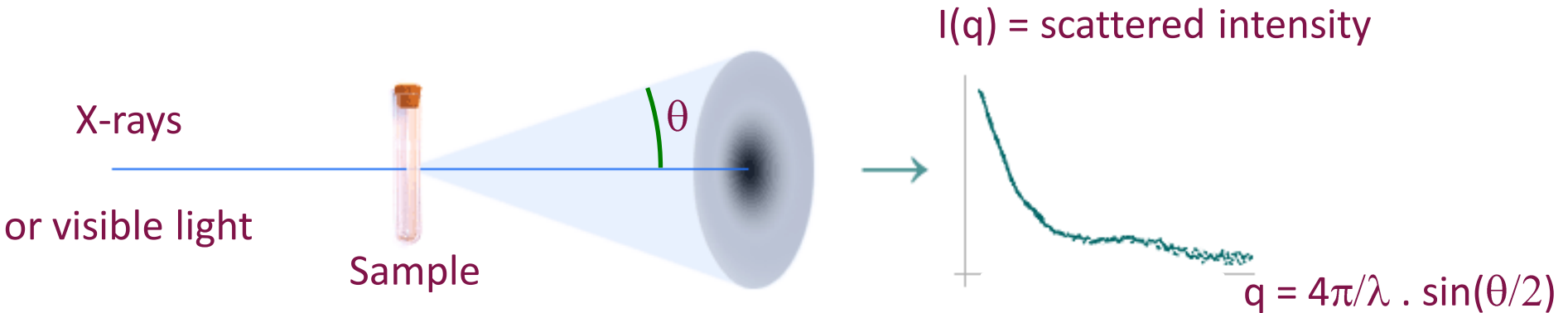
### 2) LS characterisations of growth rate of protein clusters

interface-born aggregates

kinetic stability index

efficiency of chaperones

# Light & X-ray scattering



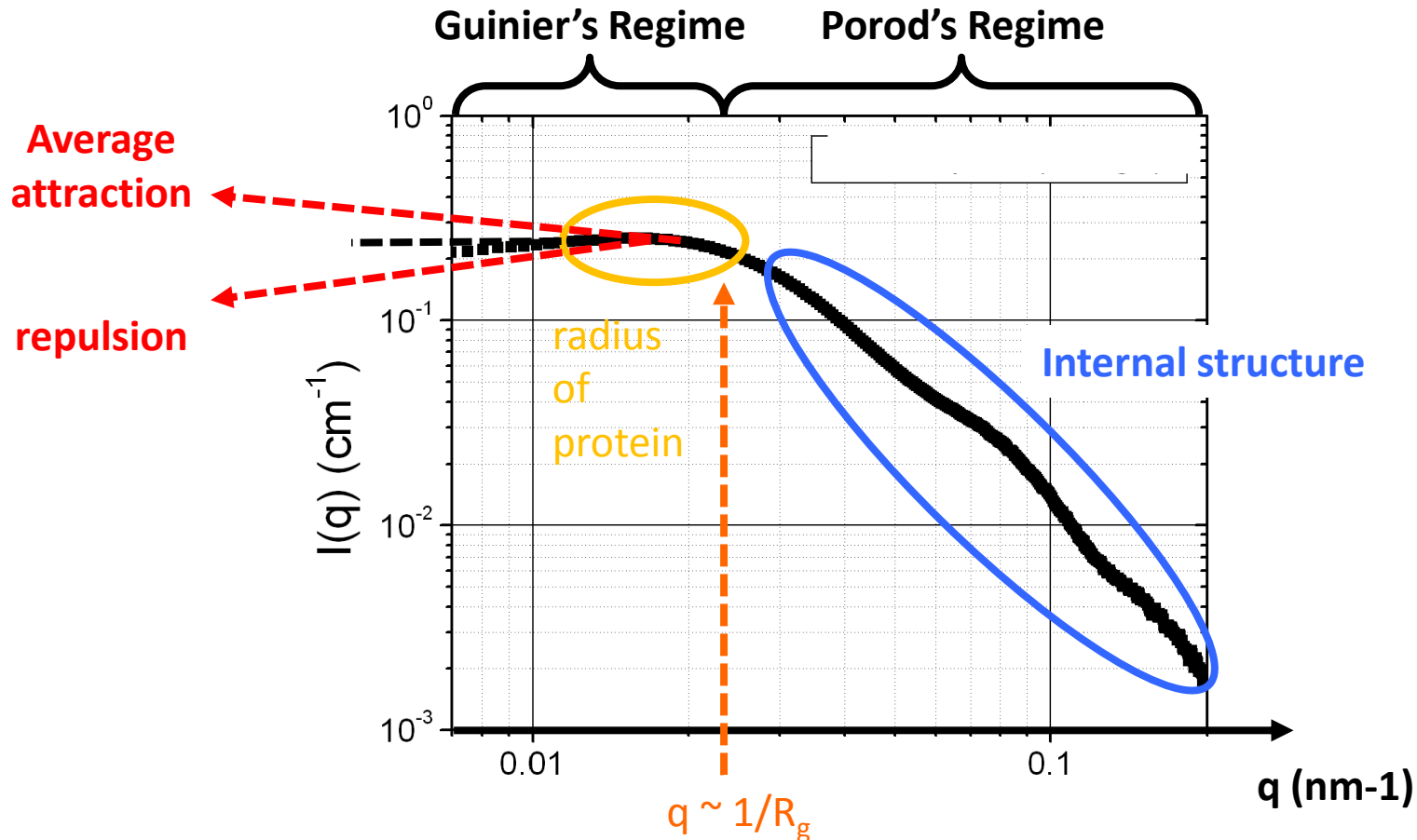
**STATIC (average) structure of protein (SAXS, SANS), or of aggregates (SAXS, light)**

**interpretation depends on the value of  $q.R$  ( $\gg 1$  or  $< 1$ )**

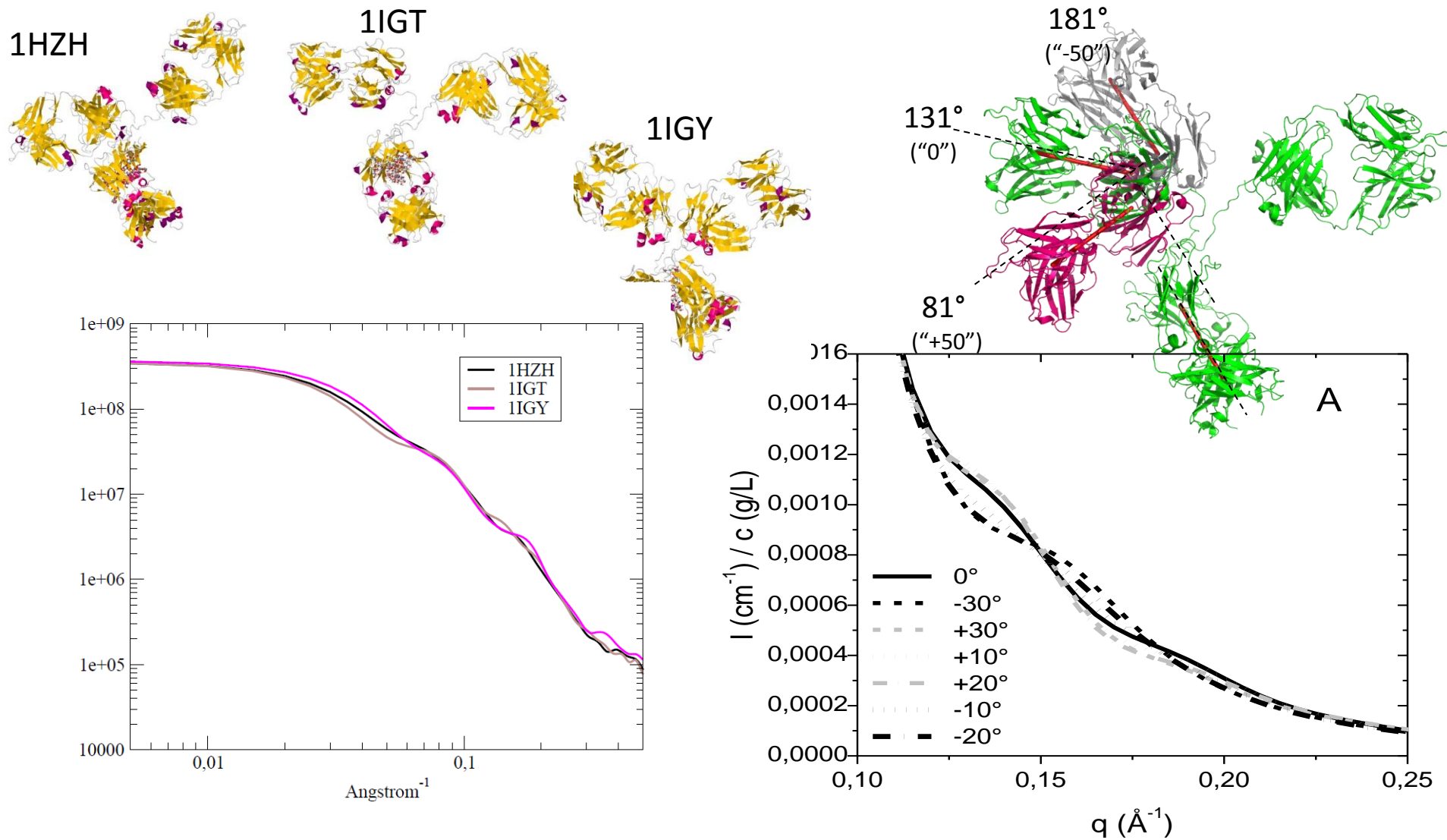
# SAXS for characterization of structures & protein-protein interactions

larger length scales than protein radius  
protein-protein interaction + spatial  
distribution

Configuration at < nm distances  
protein "shape"



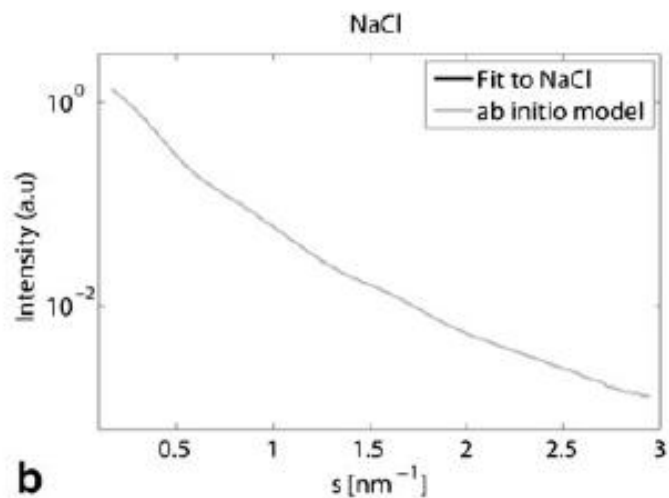
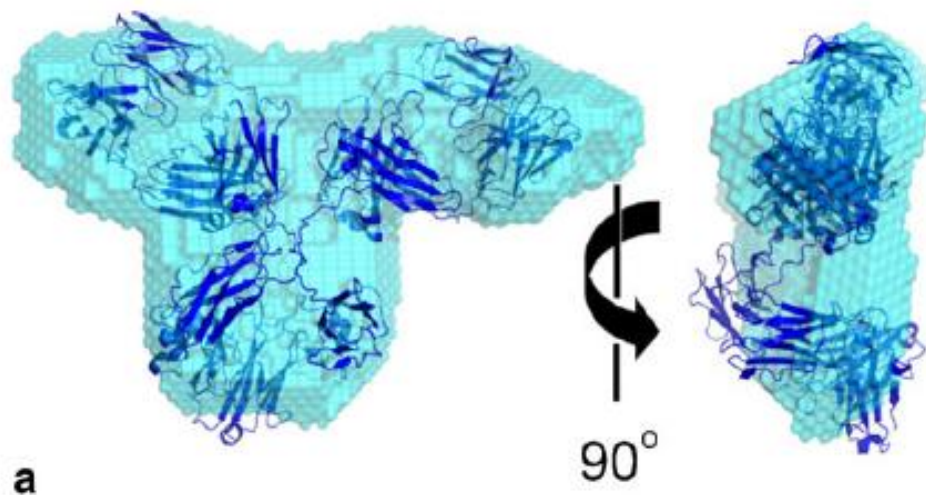
# SAXS as internal structure assessment



check the absence of obvious distortions  
N.B.: average over the whole population

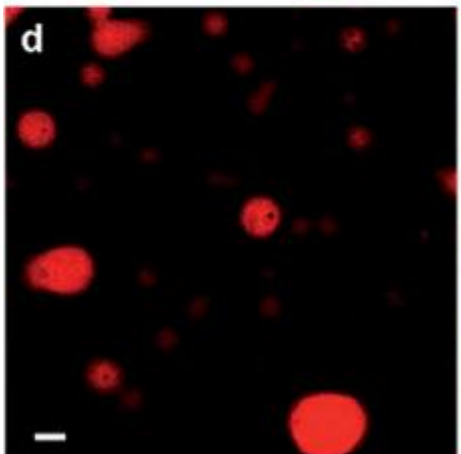
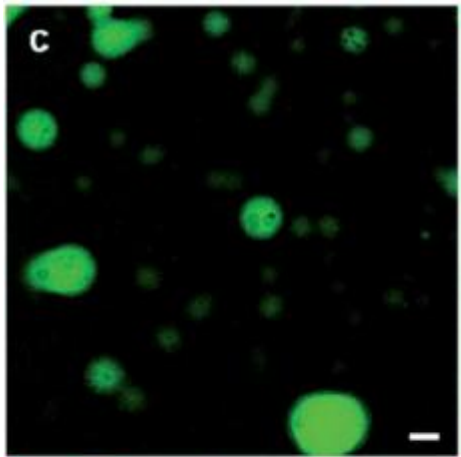
# SAXS as internal structure assessment

Ab-initio reconstitutions (Panitumumab)

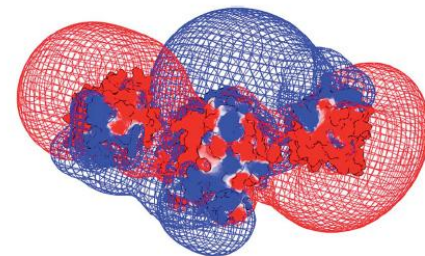
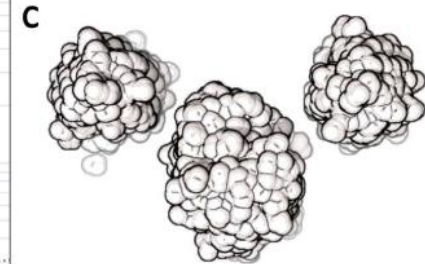
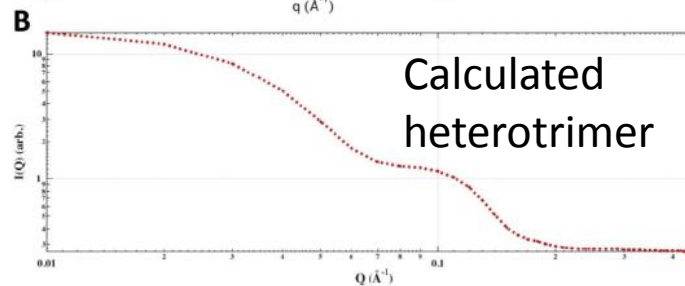
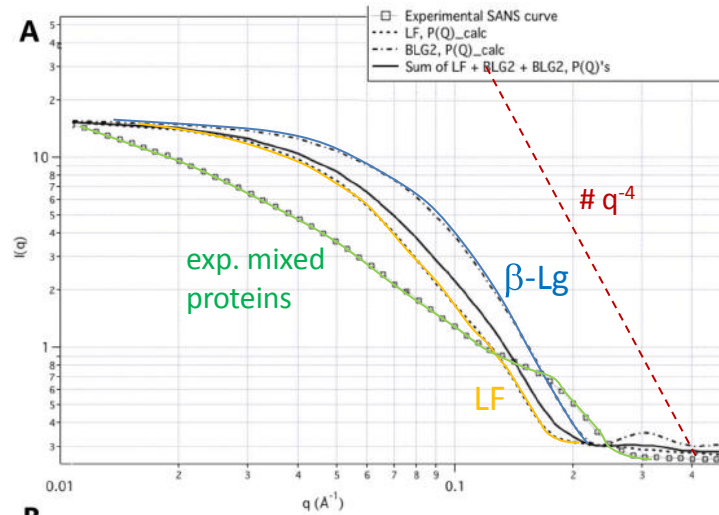


# SAXS : structure assessment in concentrated phases

macro-heterogeneous dispersions (e.g. coacervates)



20  $\mu\text{m}$

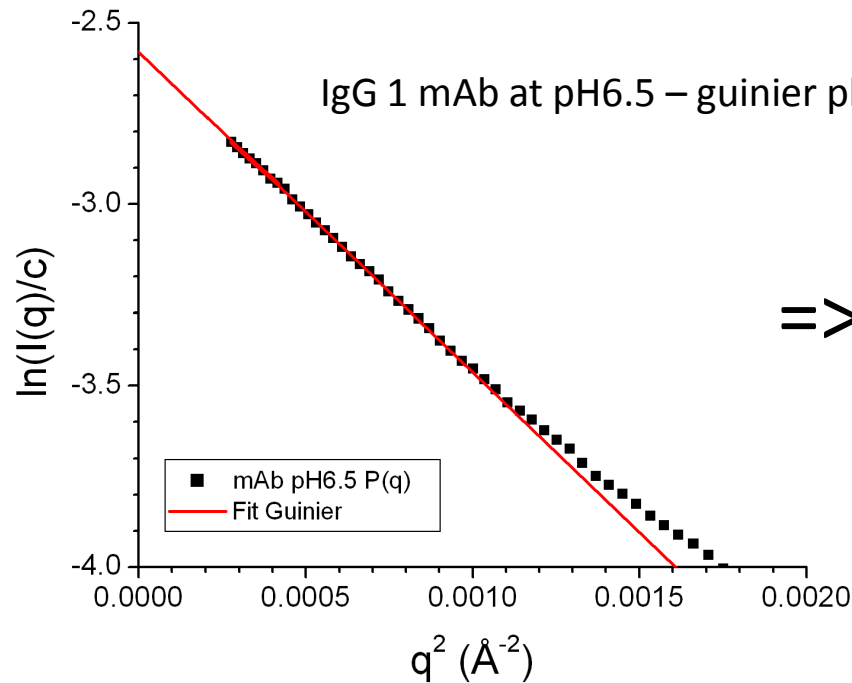


Lactoferrin +  $\beta$ -lactoglobulin  
1:1 mol/mol, pH 6

# Fast assessment of size in dilute solutions



low  $q$  SAXS ,  $q \cdot R_g < \sim 1$   $P(q) = P_0 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{q^2 R_g^2}{3}\right)$

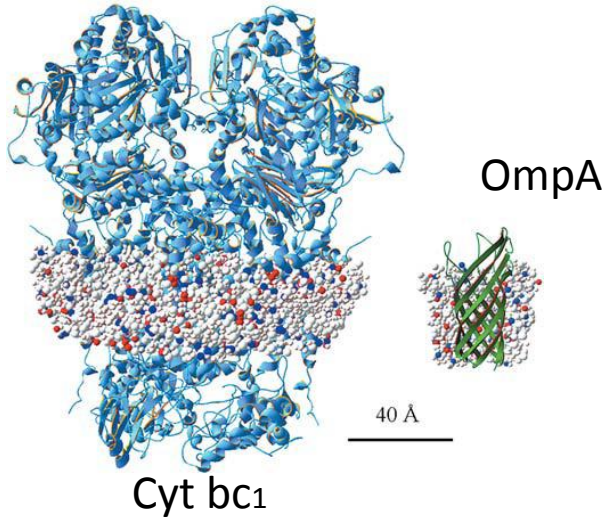


$\Rightarrow R_g = 52 \text{Å}$

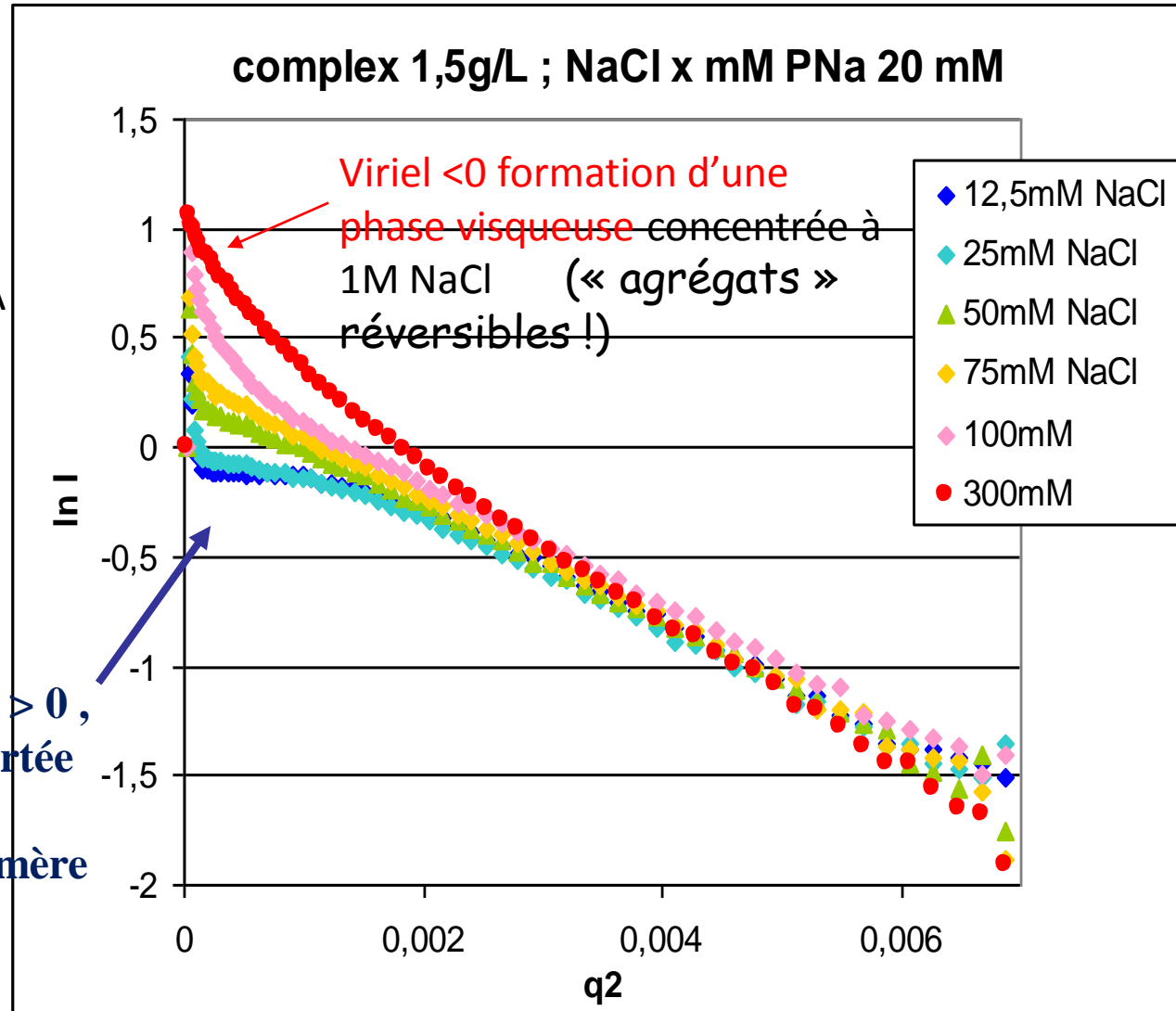
# Fast size assessment of complex assemblies

complexes between proteins and stabilizing additives

Integral membrane proteins in a amphilic belt

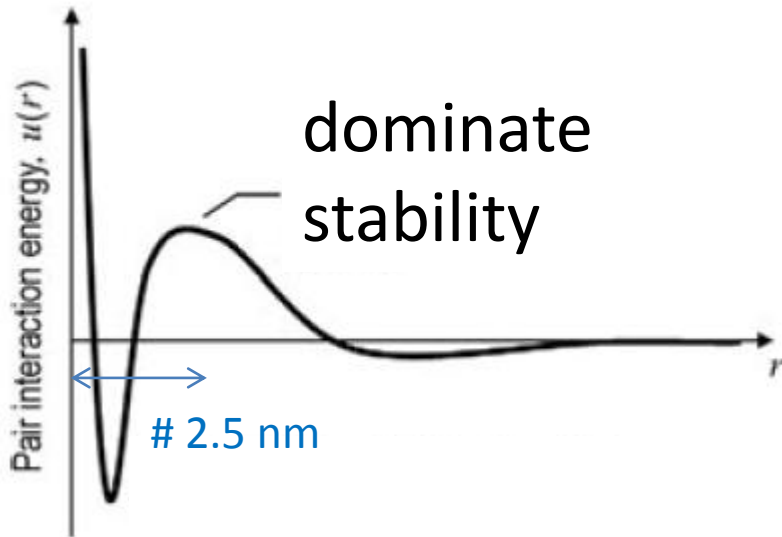


Coeff du viriel  $> 0$ ,  
solubilité apportée  
par répulsions  
polymère/polymère



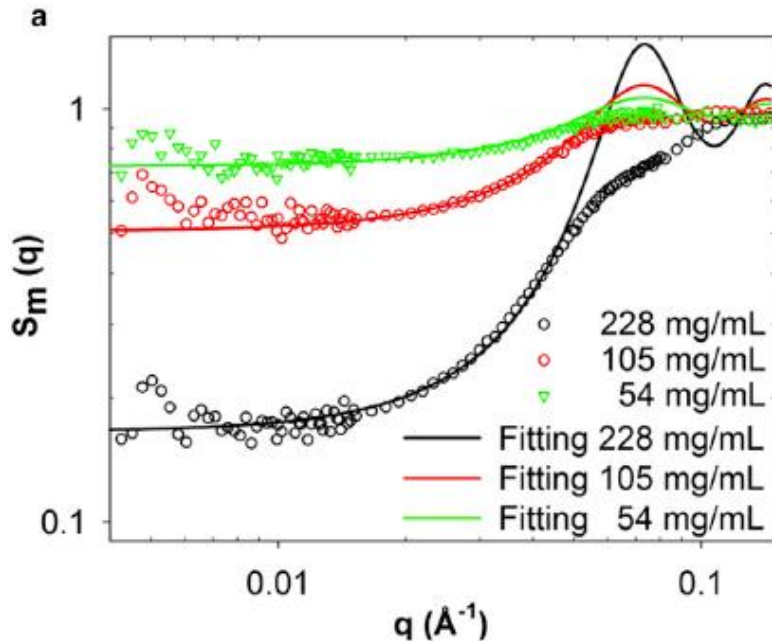


# Interactions in concentrated IgG1 solutions



3) Effective pair interaction potential (assumes spherical averaging)

Fit to model energy-distance curves

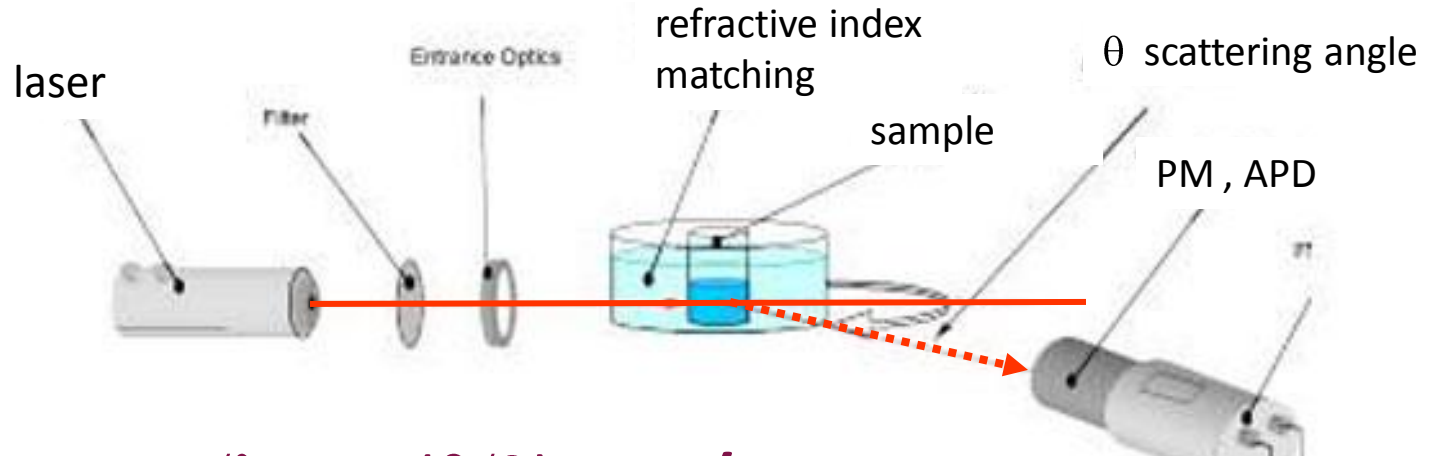


2) repulsions between IgG...but suggest METASTABILITY

model = weak repulsive barrier (0.04 kT + deep minimum at contact (- 3.8 kT)

Unstable formulation upon 1 month incubation

# Average interaction determined by light scattering ( $B_2$ ) predicts solubility



$$q = 4\pi n/\lambda \cdot \sin(\theta/2) \ll 1/R_{\text{prot}}$$

$$K \cdot c / R_{\theta} = K \cdot c \cdot \frac{I_0}{I r^2} = \frac{1}{M} + 2B_2 c + o(c^2)$$

concentration

scattered intensity

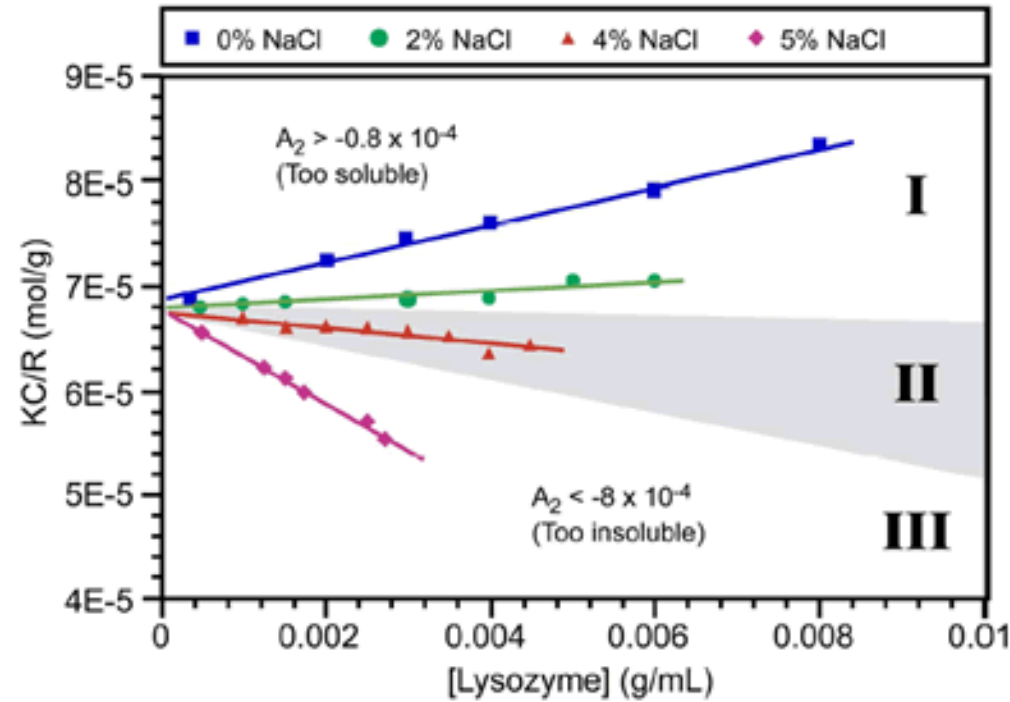
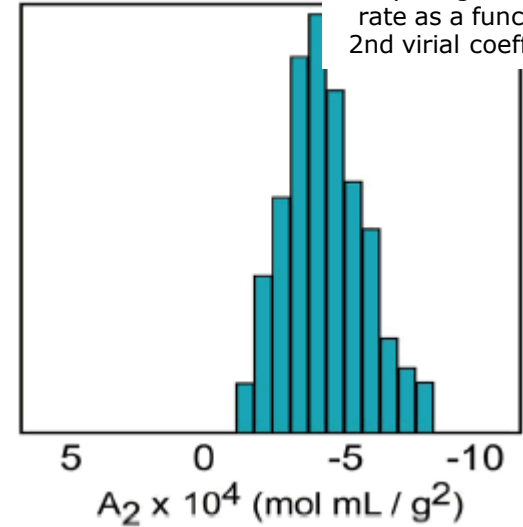
molar mass of scatterers

second du virial coeff

$$K = \frac{4\pi^2 n_0^2 (dn/dc)^2}{N_A \lambda^4}$$

# Light scattering :solubility vs $B_2$

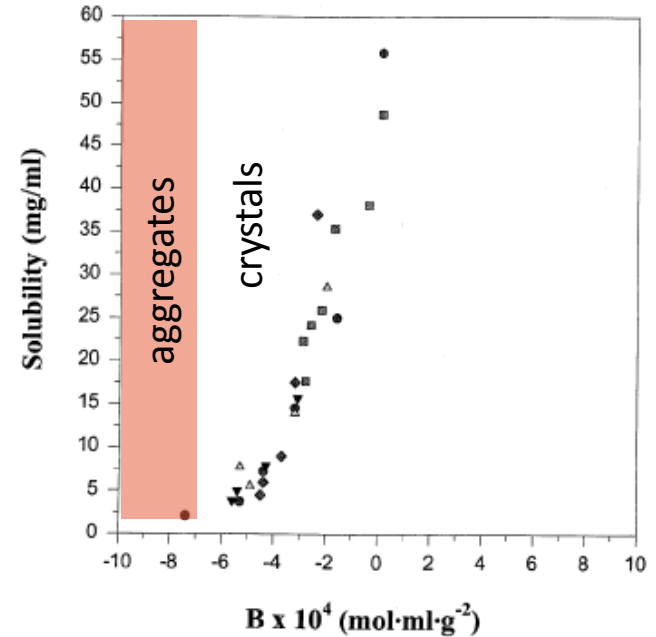
Crystal growth success rate as a function of the 2nd virial coefficient ( $A_2$ ).



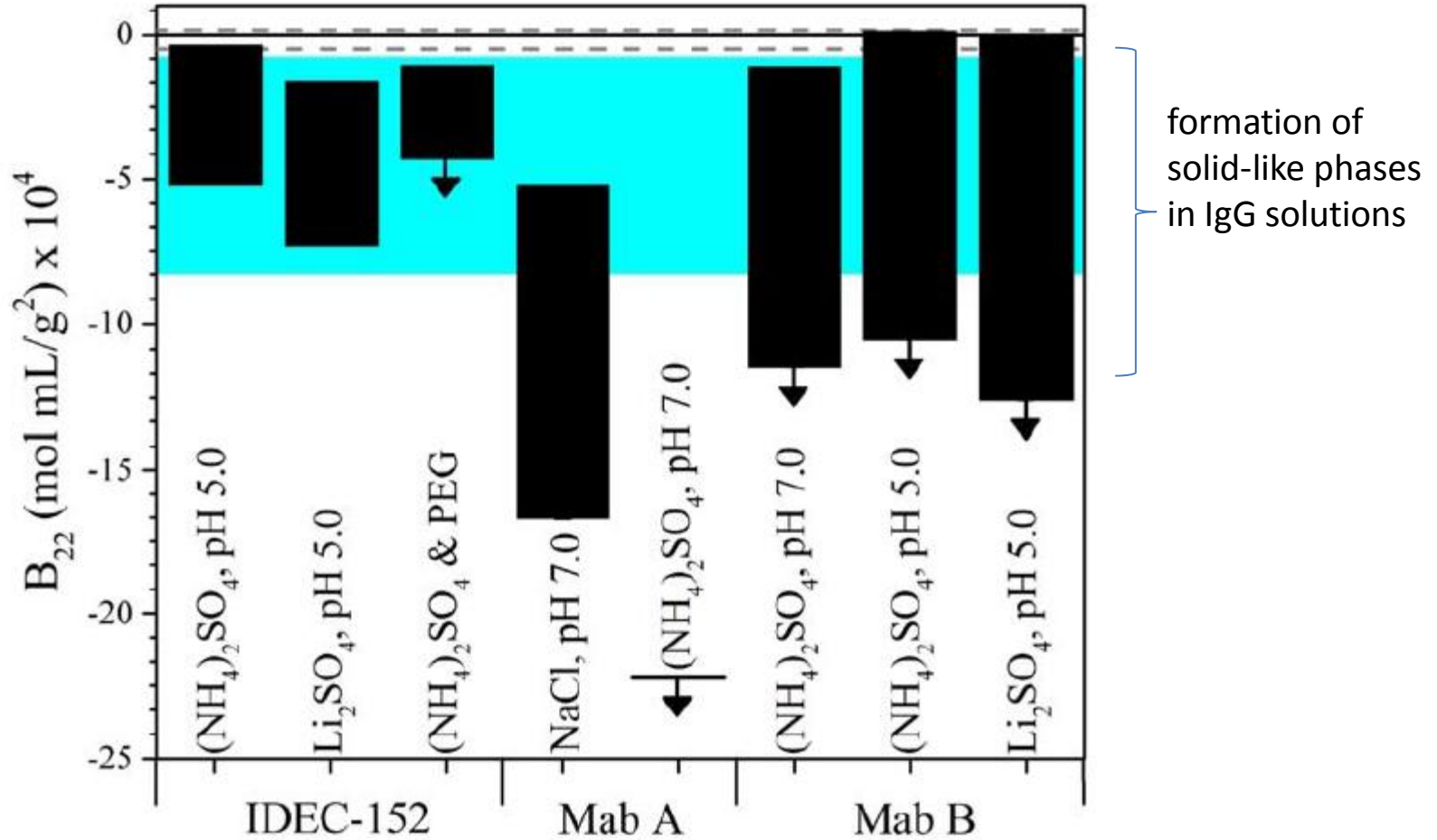
Debye plots for lysozyme vs NaCl

crystallization slot:  $-0.8 \times 10^{-4} > A_2 > -8.0 \times 10^{-4}$

wilson et al. J. crystal Growth (1999), 196, 424-433



# Solubility vs $B_2$ in solutions of IgGs

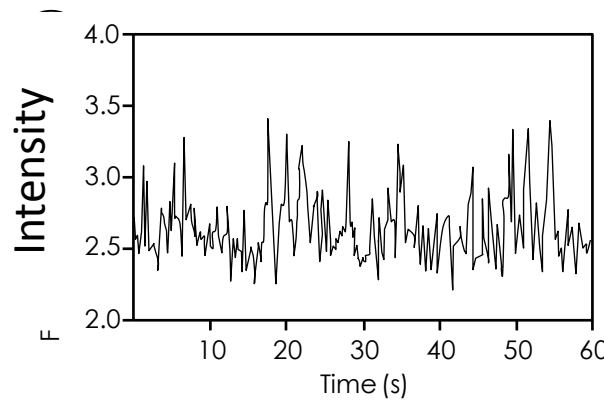
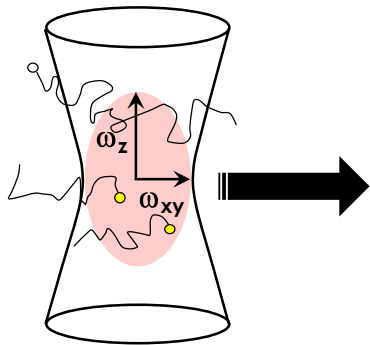


# Dynamic light scattering for robust, faster characterisations

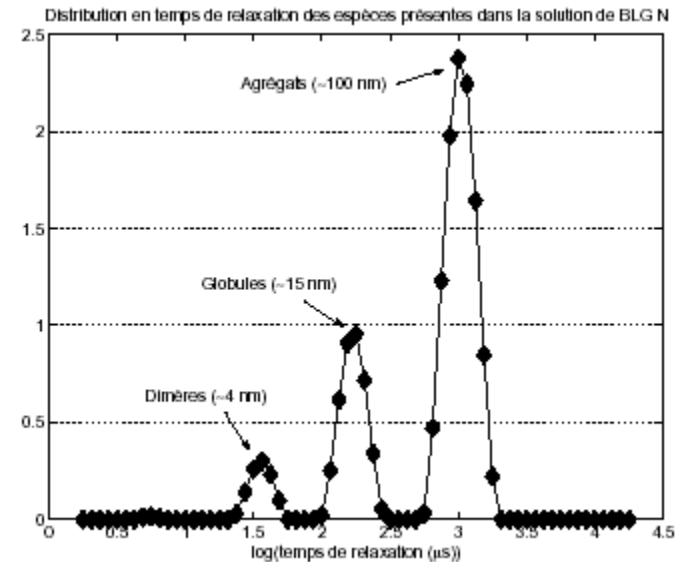
Static scattering drawback:

- average contribution of any particle = contributions from dust, bubbles
- sensitivity to optics (cell wall, centering, etc..) = moving sampling difficult
- lack identification of multimodal populations

Dynamic analysis: robust to static optical « defects »  
radius-based discrimination of populations



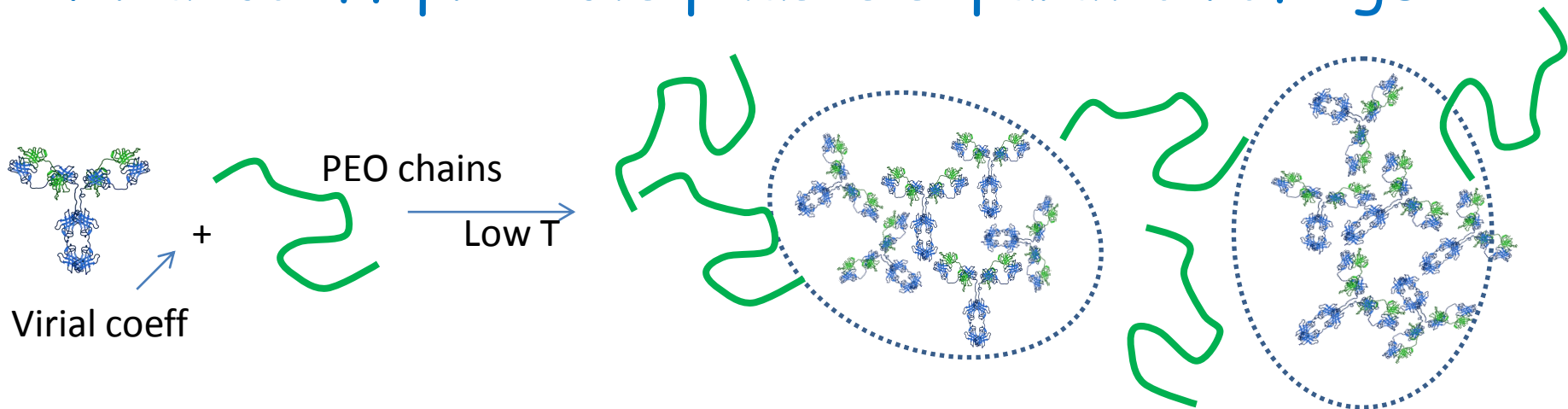
Fluctuation due to  
brownian diffusion



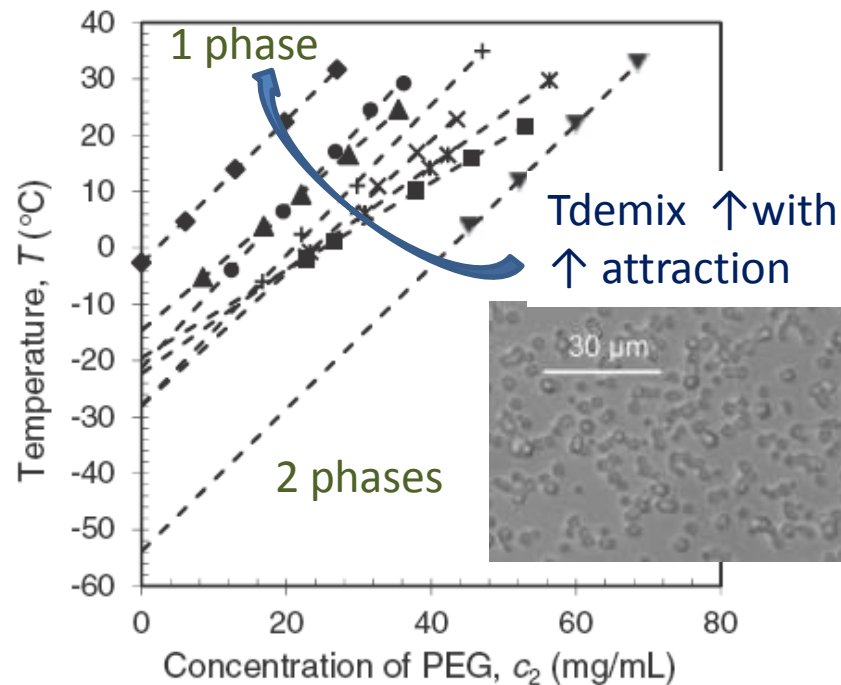
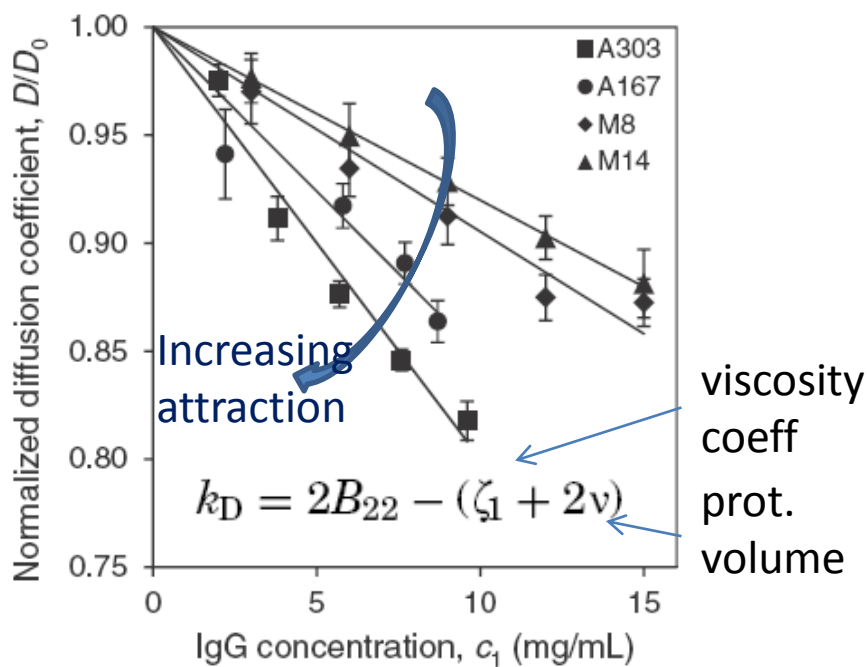
e.g. thermal aggregation of  $\beta$ -Lg

Small scattering volume  
 $\Delta C \sim C$

# Virial coeff predicts phases separation of IgG1



$$D(c) = D_0 [1 + k_D c + O(c^2)]$$



# Light and X-ray scattering to assess in situ the stability of proteins

## Outline:

### 1) « monomer » characteristic features

protein shape and radius (IgG, protein in 2-phase systems)

protein-protein interactions vs solubility

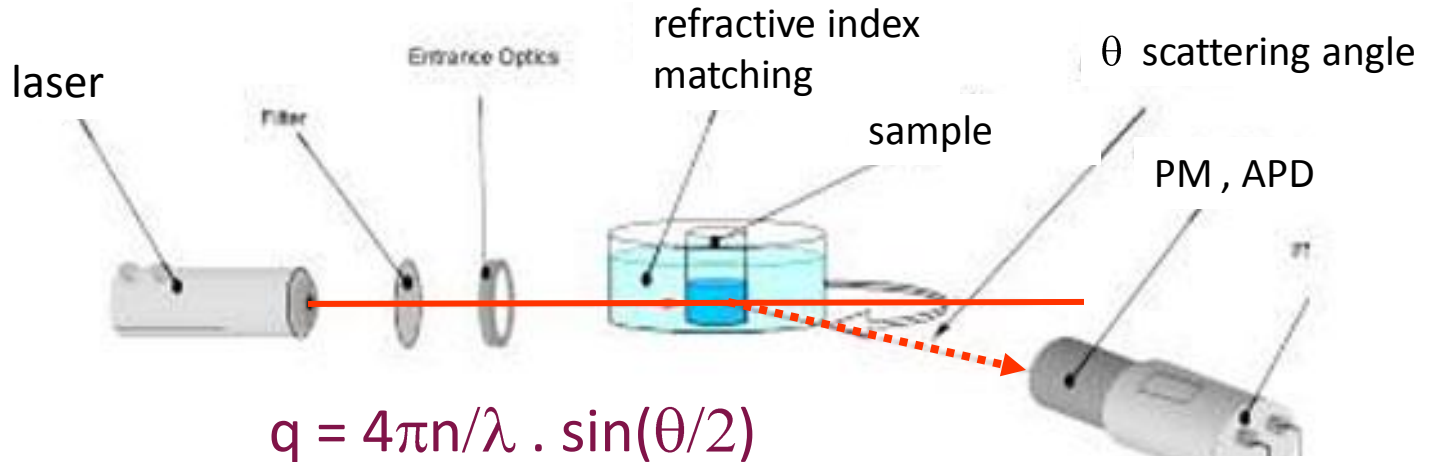
### 2) Characterisations of growth rate of protein clusters

interfacial-born aggregates

kinetic stability index

efficiency of chaperones

# Light scattering : $\langle M_w \rangle$ , $\langle R \rangle$ , $B_2$



- structural informations on aggregates larger than  $\sim \lambda/10$  (fractal dimension)
- average characteristic molar mass (from monomer to clusters)

weight concentration

$$K \cdot c / R_\theta = K \cdot c \cdot \frac{I_0}{I r^2} = S(q) \left( \frac{1}{M} + 2B_2 c + o(c^2) \right)$$

High sensitivity:  $I \uparrow$  with  $\langle \text{molar mass} \rangle$  of aggregates

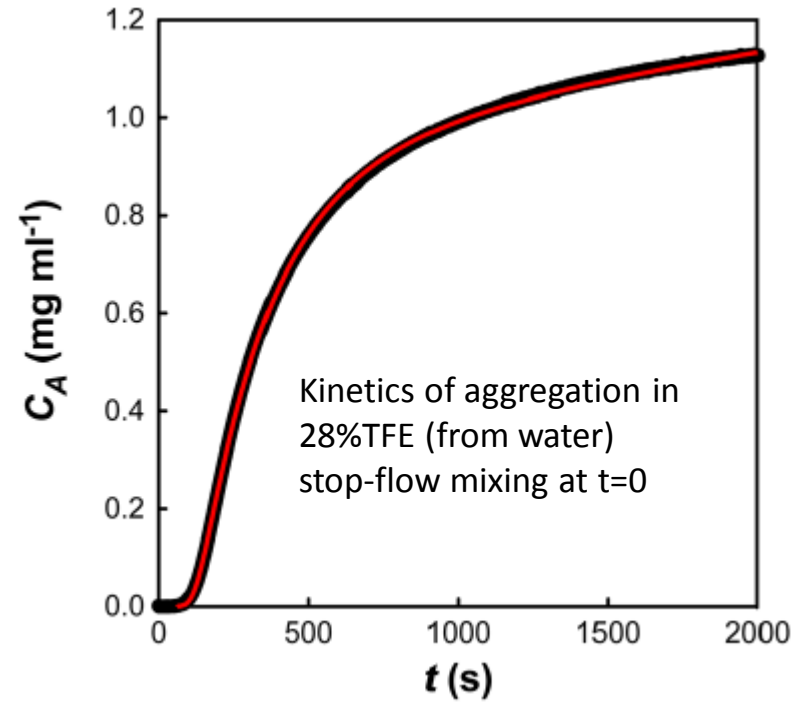
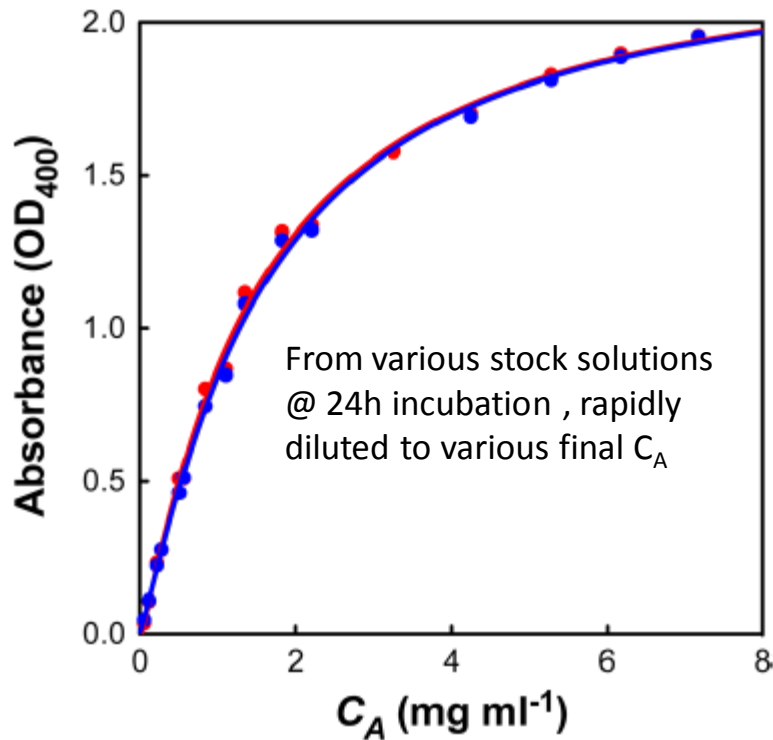
Oligomers:  $S(q) \# 1$

or

Large aggregates ( $qR \gg 1$ ):  
 $S(q) \sim q^{-D_f}$



# Turbidity : the simplest determination of concentration of aggregates ?

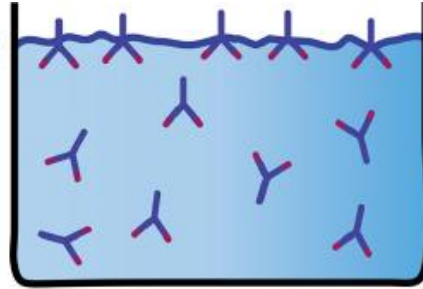


Validation required: no evolution with time &  $C_{init}$

# Case of large, solid-like & dispersed aggregates

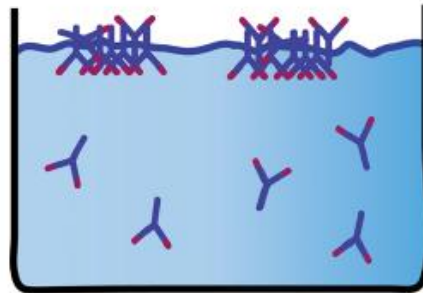
## Interface-driven aggregation

1) ADSORPTION OF ANTIBODIES  
AT THE INTERFACE



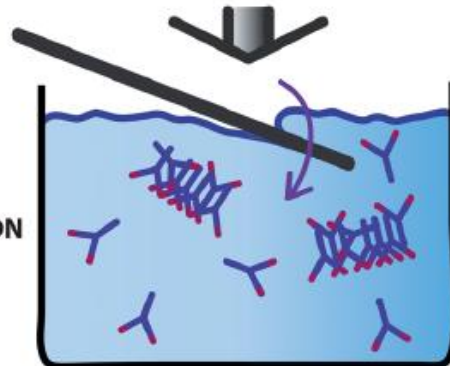
Shaking IgG solution  
produces aggregates

2) INTERFACIAL NUCLEATION  
OF AGGREGATES



Role of interface ?

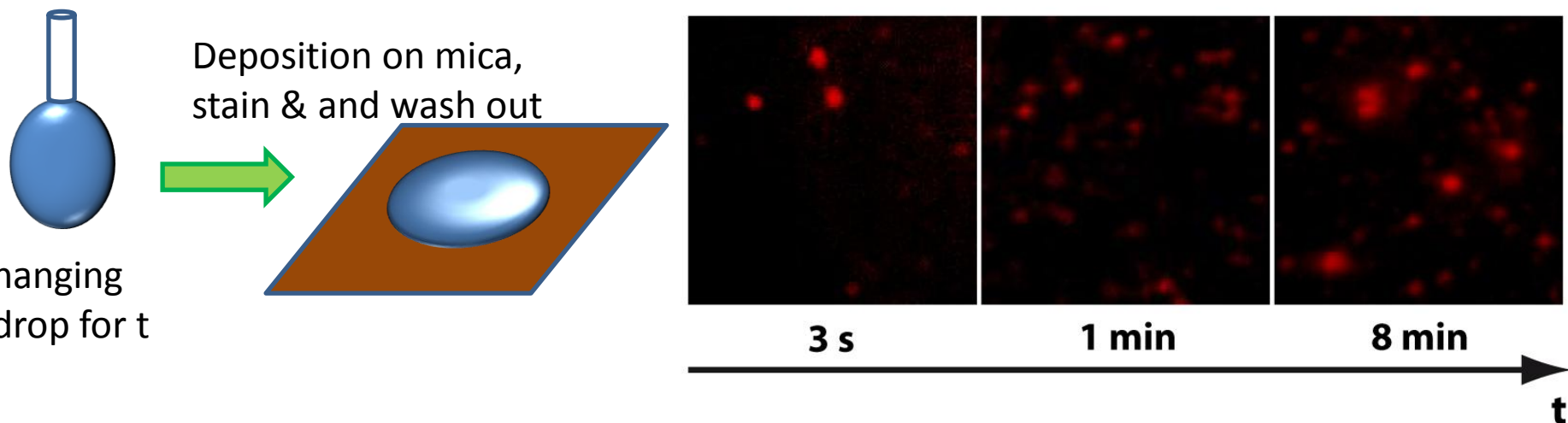
3) RELEASE OF AGGREGATES  
IN THE SOLUTION UPON  
MECHANICAL PERTURBATION



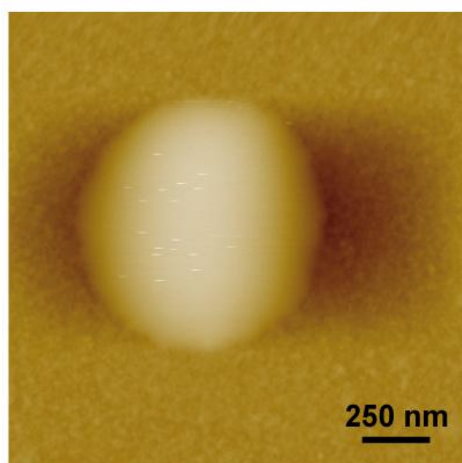
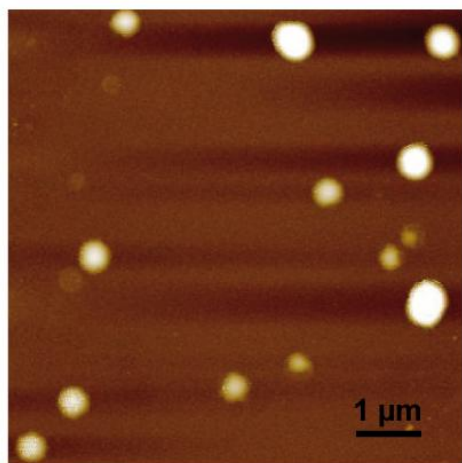
Role of shearing ?

# Interface-driven aggregation of IgG

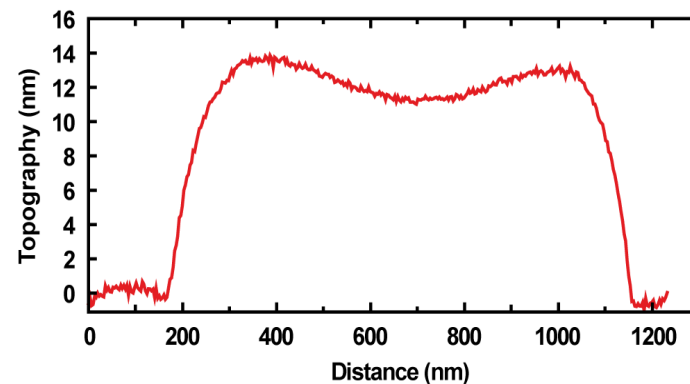
Fluorescence microscopy (RITC-Ab staining)



AFM



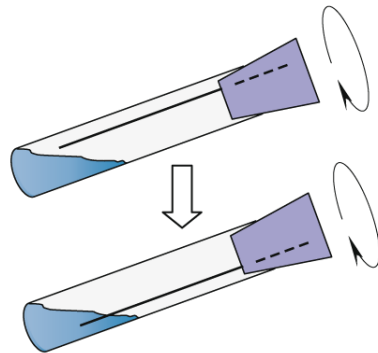
- 200-1000 nm diameter
- 12-14 nm thickness



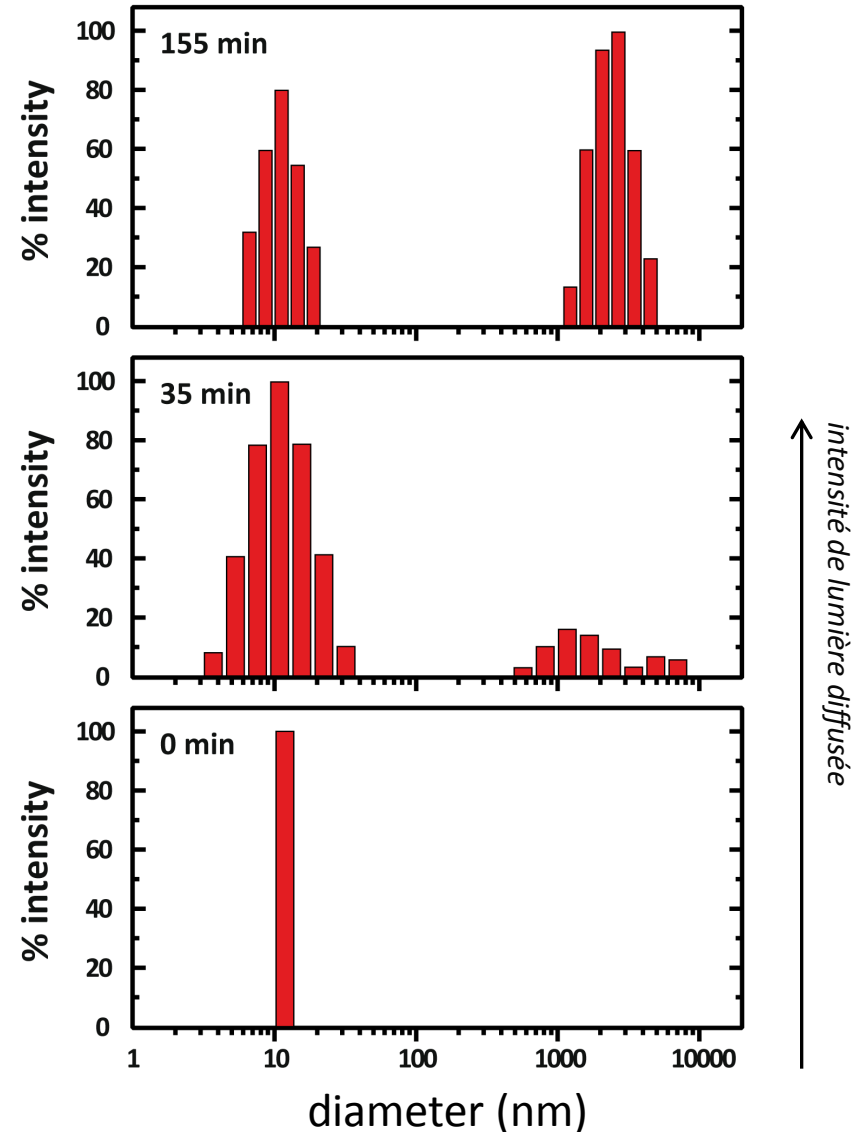
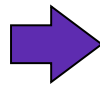
# Surface-driven aggregation

## Generation of interfacial stress in mAb solutions

*needle cross the interface at each rotation*



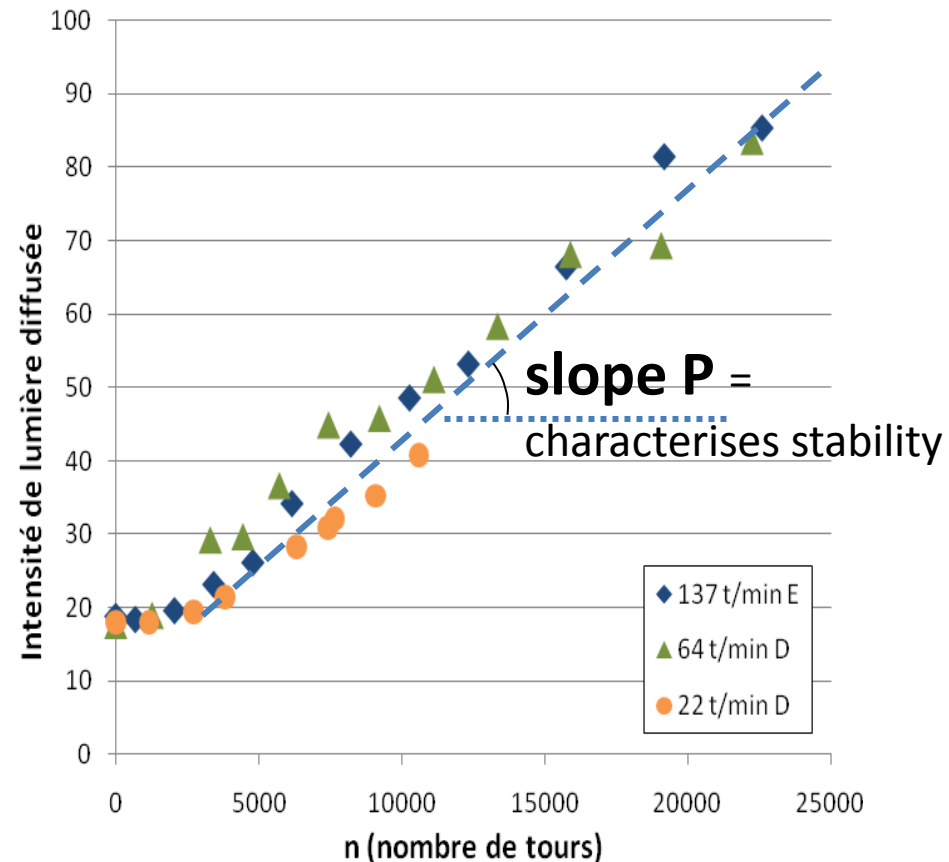
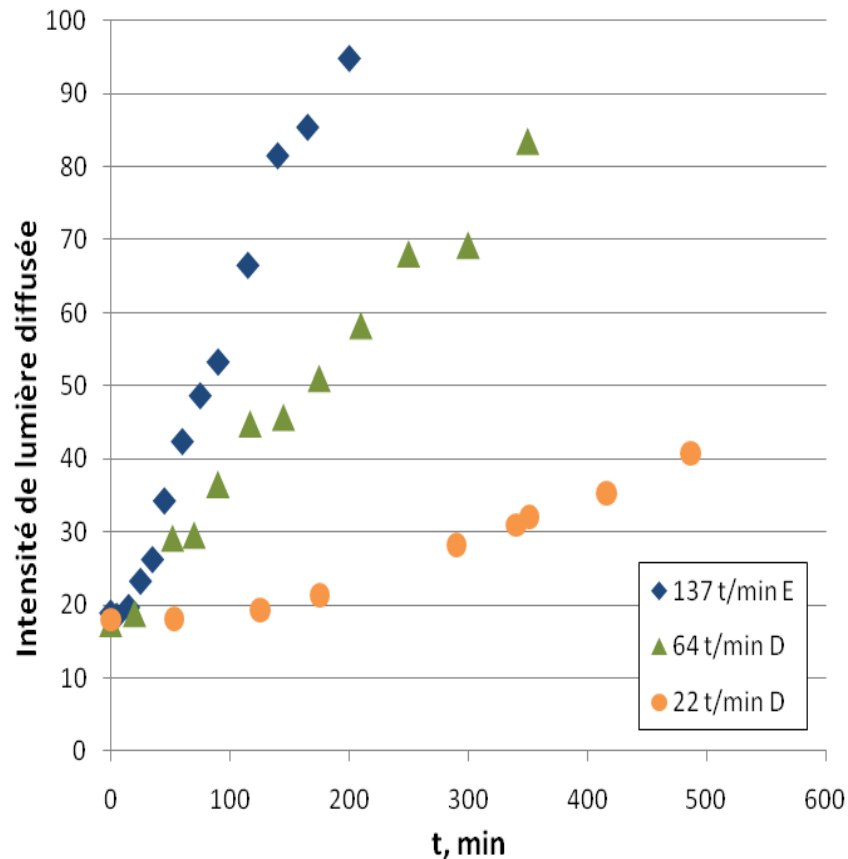
1. aggregation detected by SLS/DLS vs nb of full rotation
2. References = no needle or needle always in solution



# Light-scattering intensity , normalisation of aggregation rate

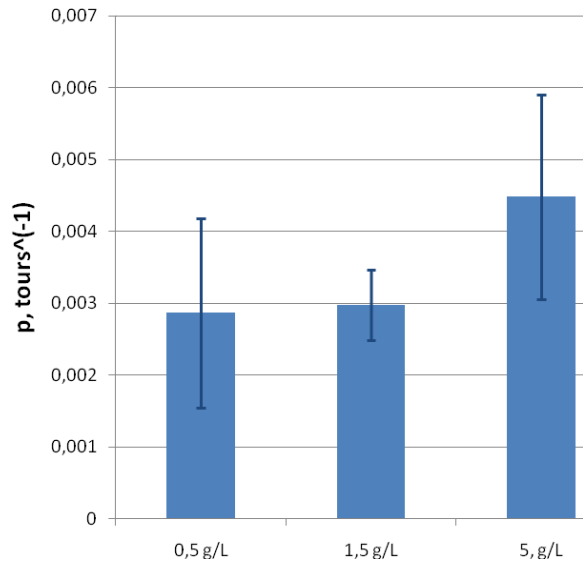
Hypothesis: intensity reflects the nb of particles ( $R_{agg} \gg 1/q$  and internal structure fixed)

Similar results with human polyclonal, and monoclonal IgG 1,5 g/L



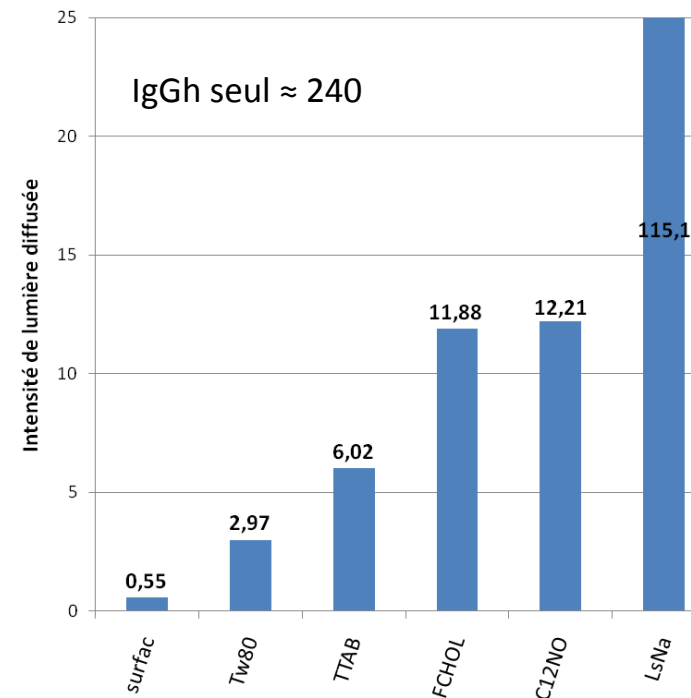
# Destabilization by interfacial stress studied by LS

No effect of IgG concentration  
= limiting step is not adsorption



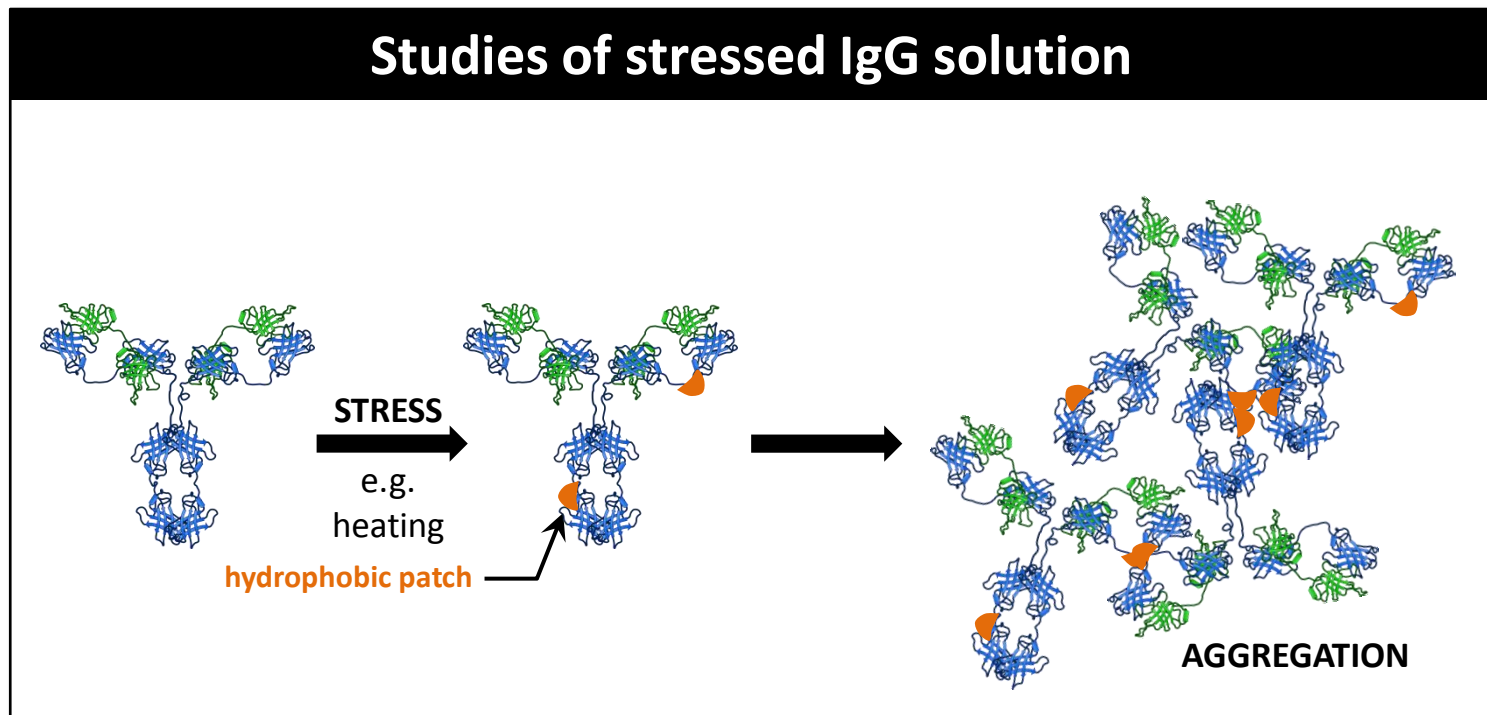
*rotation 65 h 64 rpm*

Effect of amphiphilic additives  
= efficacy driven by adsorption rate of surfactant



Surfac > Tw80 > TTAB > FCHOL > C12NO > LsNa

## Case 2: solution-born aggregates



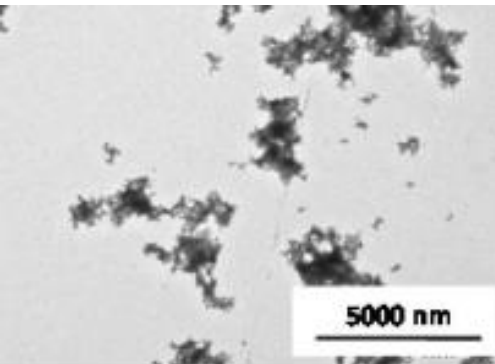
Morbidelli et al. , J Phys Chem 2012, 116, 7066

Roberts, C. J. et al. (2011). Int.J. Pharma. 418(2): 318

Amin et al Curr. Opinion Coll.Interf. Sci. 2014,19(5): 438-449

# Internal mass distribution in clusters of IgG1

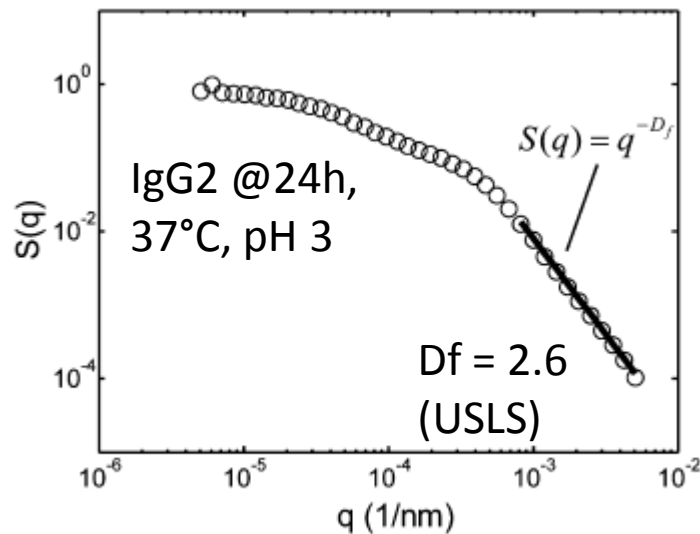
Experimentally measured fractal dimension # 2.1 – 2.6



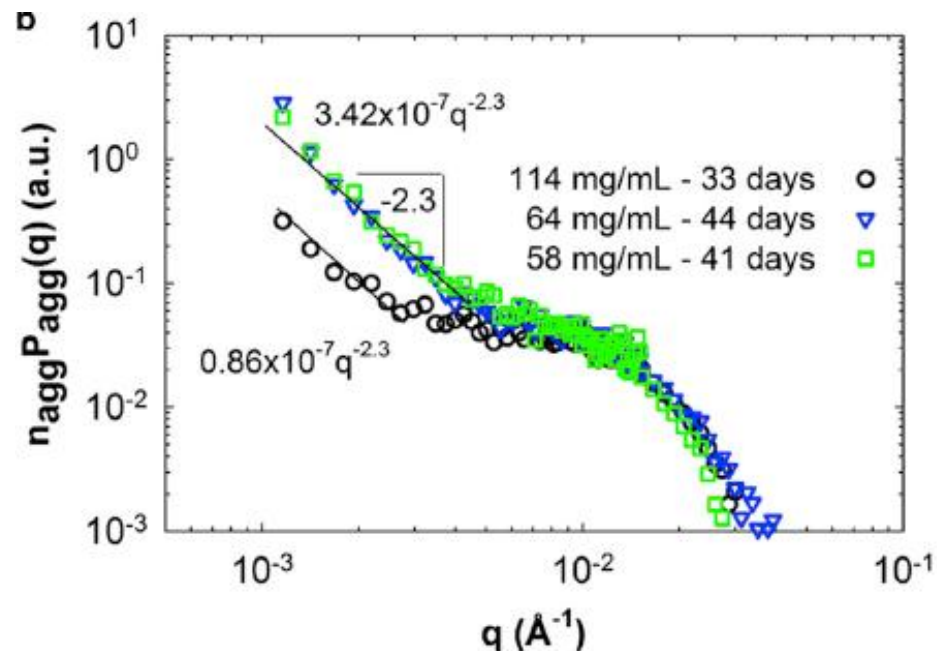
$$S(q) \sim q^{-D_f}, \quad \text{for } 1/\langle R_g \rangle \ll q \ll 1/R_p$$

radius of the bigger cluster
radius of the monomer

Light scattering



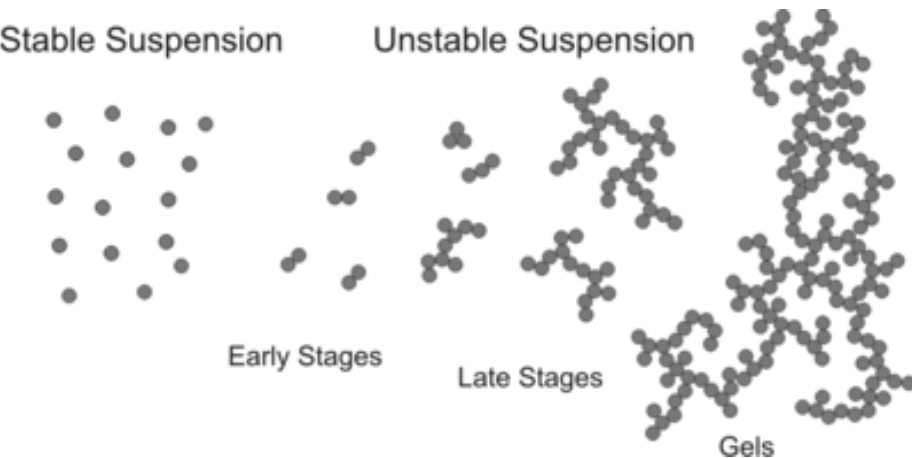
X-ray or neutron scattering





# Case of constant $D_f$ (tight bridging, no evolution of aggregate density with time)

- Intensity at fixed  $q$  vary in proportion to the amount of aggregated proteins
- Smoluchowski's random aggregation (kinetics of inter-cluster coagulation)  
one may neglect monomer accretion and impact of oligomers at long time scales



$$\frac{dN^*_i}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{j=2} k_{j,i-j} N^*_j N^*_{i-j} - N^*_i \sum_{\infty}^{j=2} k_{i,j} N^*_j$$

$$k_{i,j} = \frac{k_B}{W} B_{i,j} P_{i,j} \quad B_{i,j} = \frac{(i^{1/D_f} + j^{1/D_f}) \left( \frac{1}{i^{1/D_f}} + \frac{1}{j^{1/D_f}} \right)}{4}$$

Wikipedia.org/particle aggregation

Single index of stability :  $W$  = Fuchs stability ratio

# Determination of Fuchs stability ratio

( case 2a:  $D_f$  does not evolve & cluster radius  $> R_{\text{protein}}$  )

Smoluchowski's random aggregation  
(kinetics of inter-cluster coagulation)

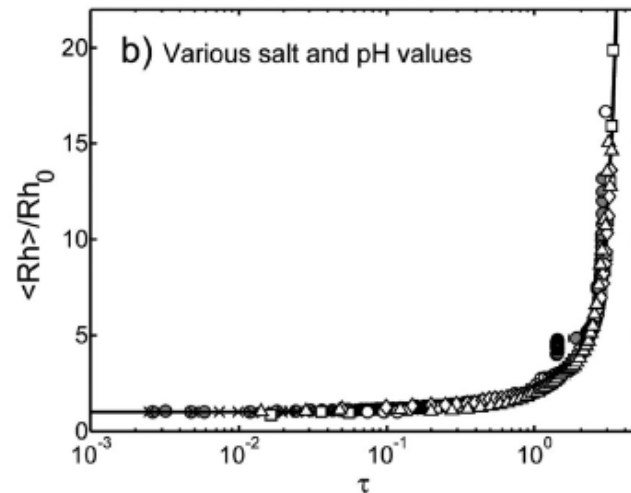
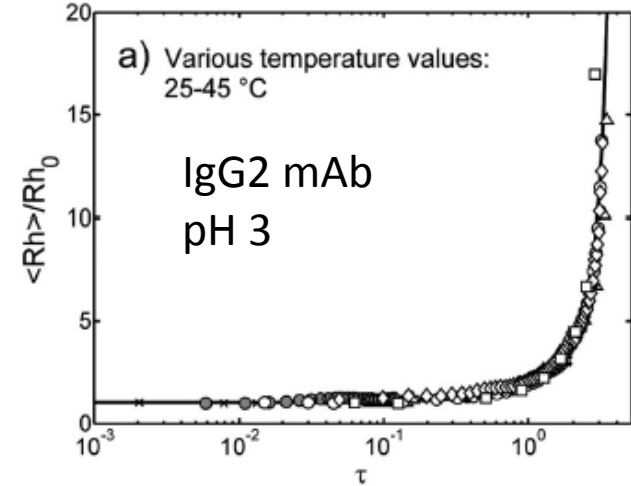
If one can neglect monomer accretion and role of oligomers :

Normalisation by  $\tau = t/t_c$

$$1/t_c = k_s^0 \cdot C_0 / W$$

$$k_s = \frac{k_s^0}{W} = \frac{4k_B T}{3\eta W}$$

$W = \text{collision freq.} / \text{bridging freq.}$



Morbidelli et al. , J Phys Chem 2012, 116, 7066

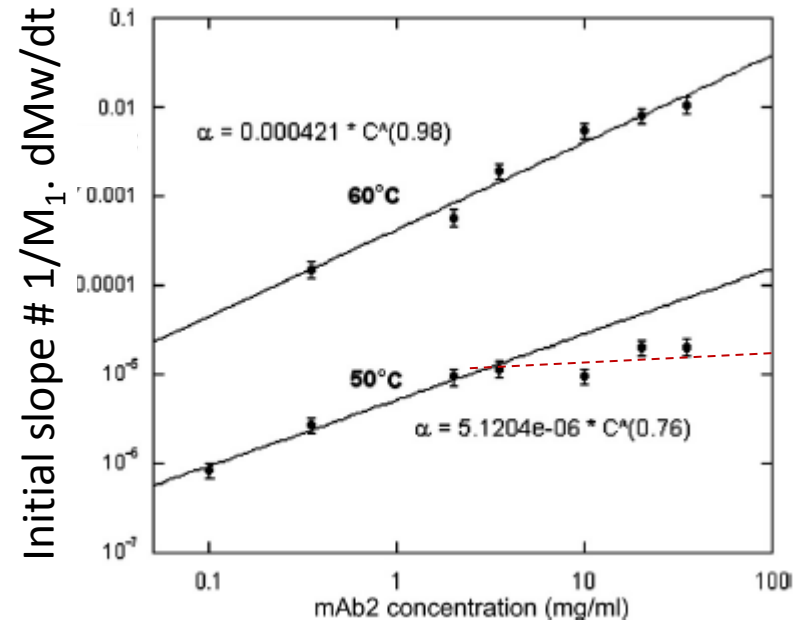
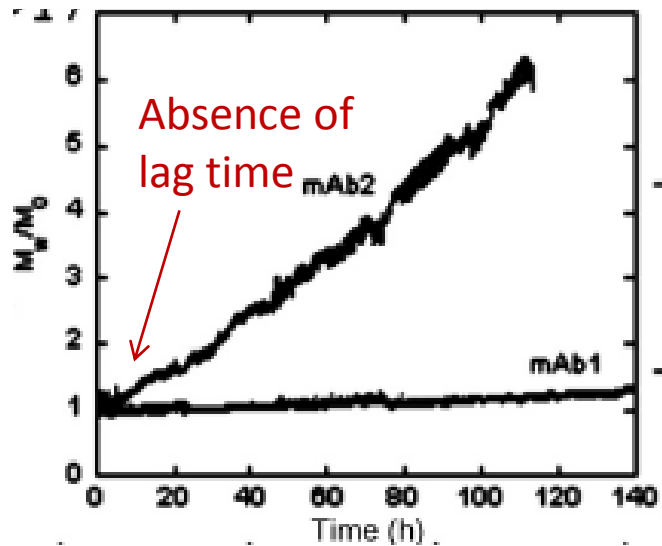
$W$

	25 °C	30 °C	35 °C	37 °C	39 °C	45 °C
pH 3.0 and 0.15 M $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ at various temperatures	$1.7 \times 10^{10}$	$2.5 \times 10^9$	$5.1 \times 10^8$	$3.3 \times 10^8$	$1.7 \times 10^8$	$4.3 \times 10^7$
	$\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4$	$\text{NaCl}$	$\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$	$\text{NaNO}_3$		
pH 3.0 and 37 °C, with 0.15 M solutions of various salts	$6.3 \times 10^9$	$2.5 \times 10^9$	$3.3 \times 10^8$	$2.2 \times 10^8$		

# Determination of Fuchs stability ratio

(case 2b: measurements at short time scales, oligomerisation)

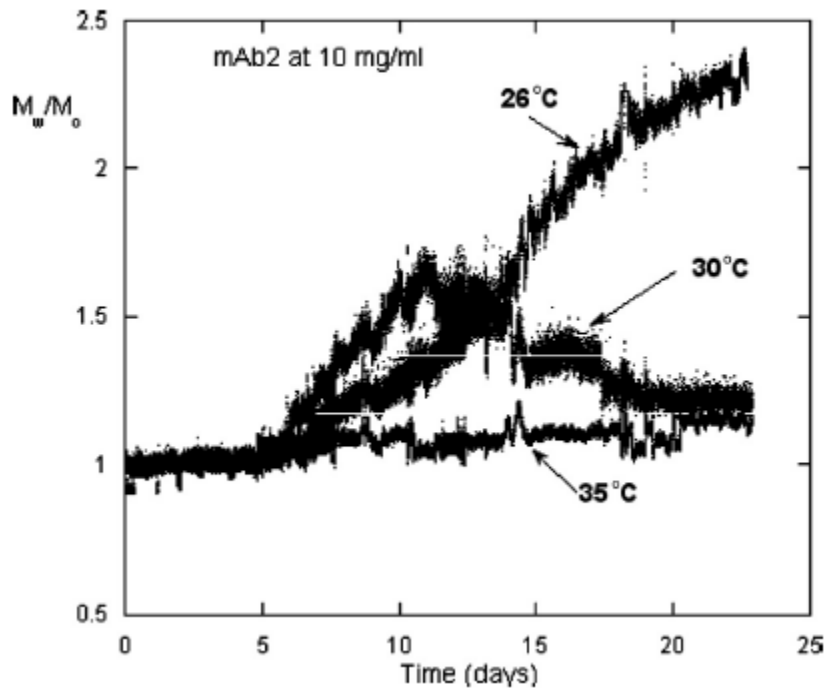
$$I(t) = I_0(1 + n_0 \cdot k_s \cdot t)$$



Diffusion limited: no lag time,  $k_s \sim C^0$  & determination of effective Fuchs ratio  
( $W^*$  may combine rate of oligomerization between activated/non activated species)

Activation limited + quasi steady state:  $k_s =$  rate of activation

# Limit of characterisation: conditions of slow clustering, artefacts or chaotic aggregation ?



Sampling of 1% of the total volume (30 $\mu$ L):

- Aggregates may form and sedimentate?

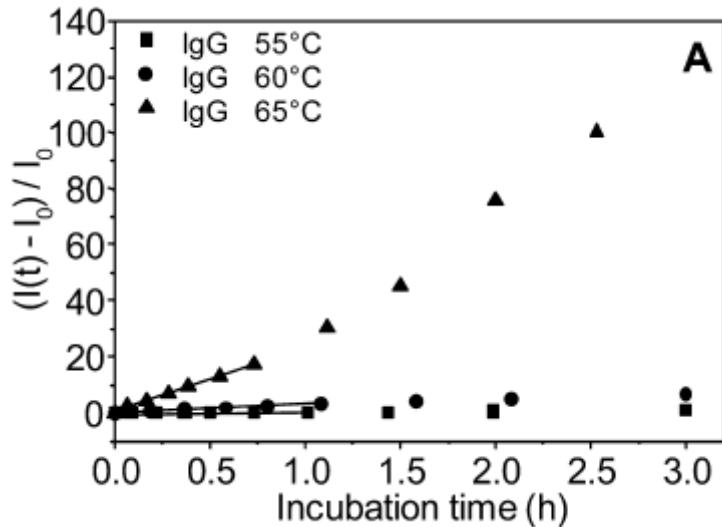
- Role of dust and impurities, vibrations ,  
nature of cell surfaces ?

- Lag time = rare event of nucleation ?

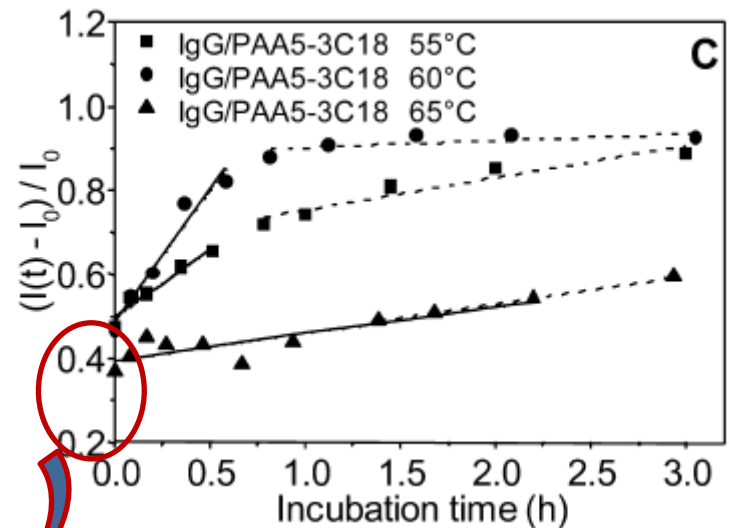
# Limit : chaperon efficiency vs effective Fuchs stability ratio?

(measurements with protein:additive complexes)

IgG, no additives



IgG, polymer additives



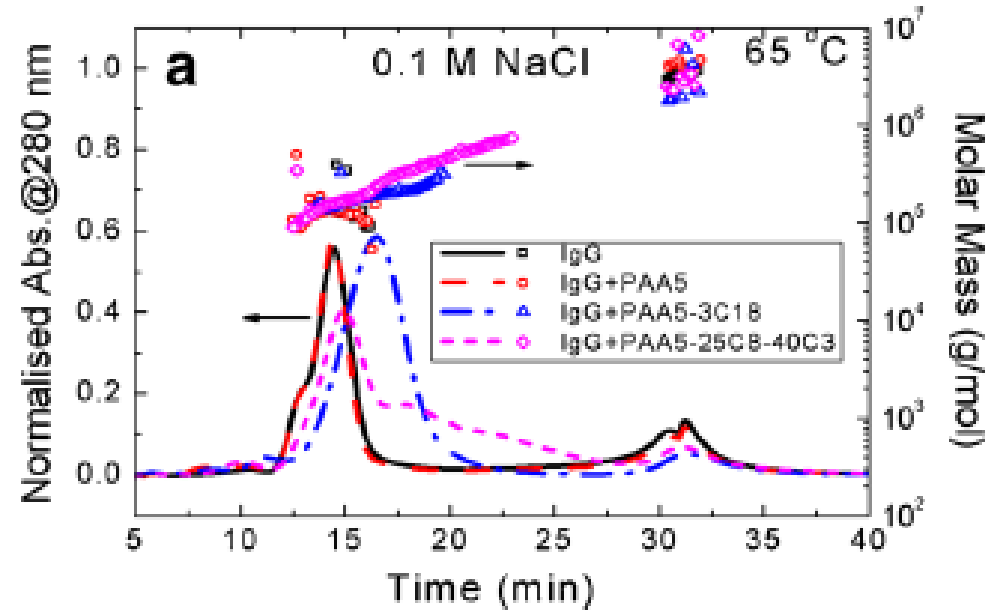
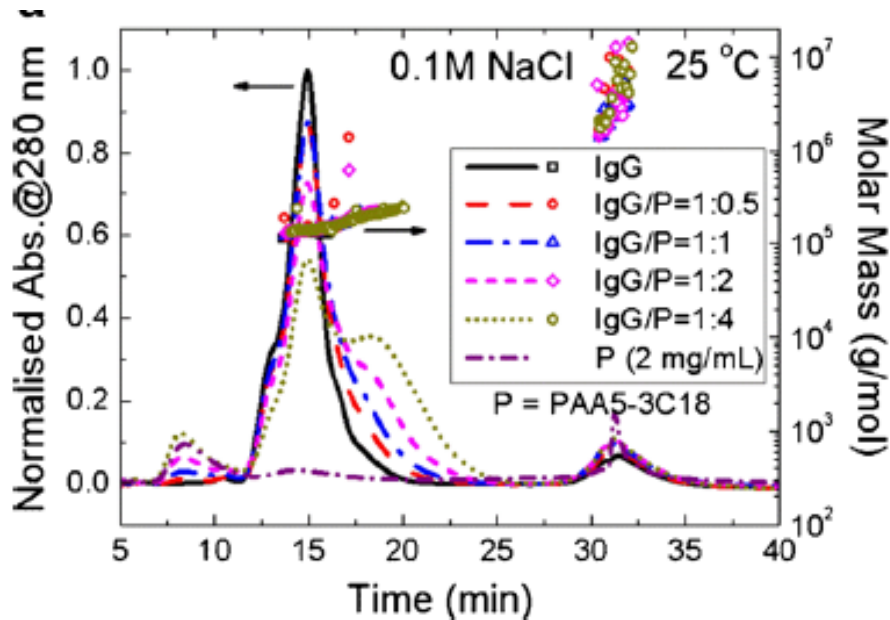
Effective  $W \times 10^{-6}$

T (°C)	IgG	IgG/PAA5	IgG/PAA5-3C18
55	240	200	660 <sup>a</sup> <<600
60	16	9.8	2900 <sup>a</sup> <<50
65	2.0	1.3	720 <sup>a</sup> <<30

non zero at t=0 :  
model not valid

# Complementary characterisations by AF4: (mixed complexes with stabilizing agents)

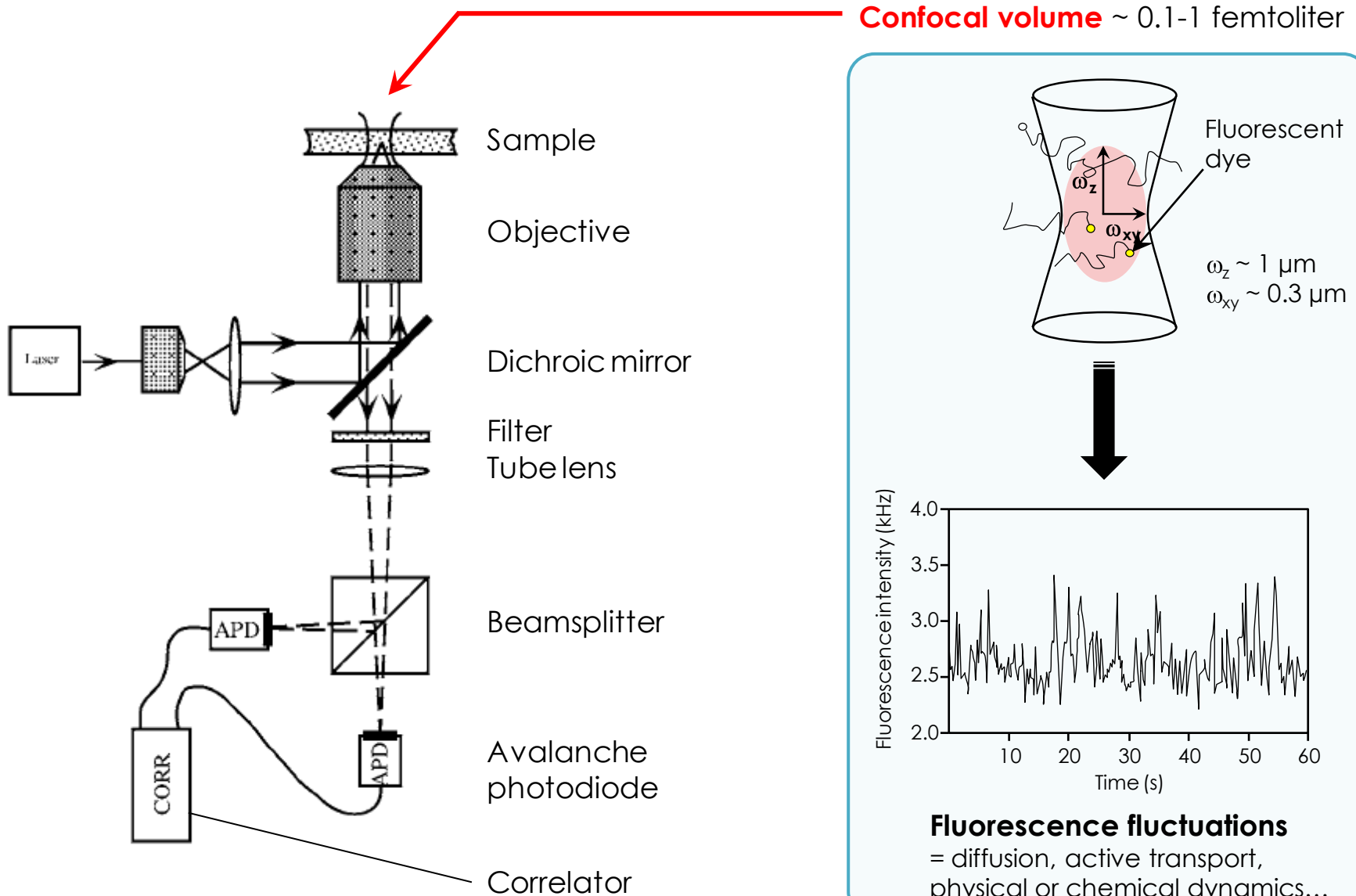
AF4 : decoupling Mw & size from signal



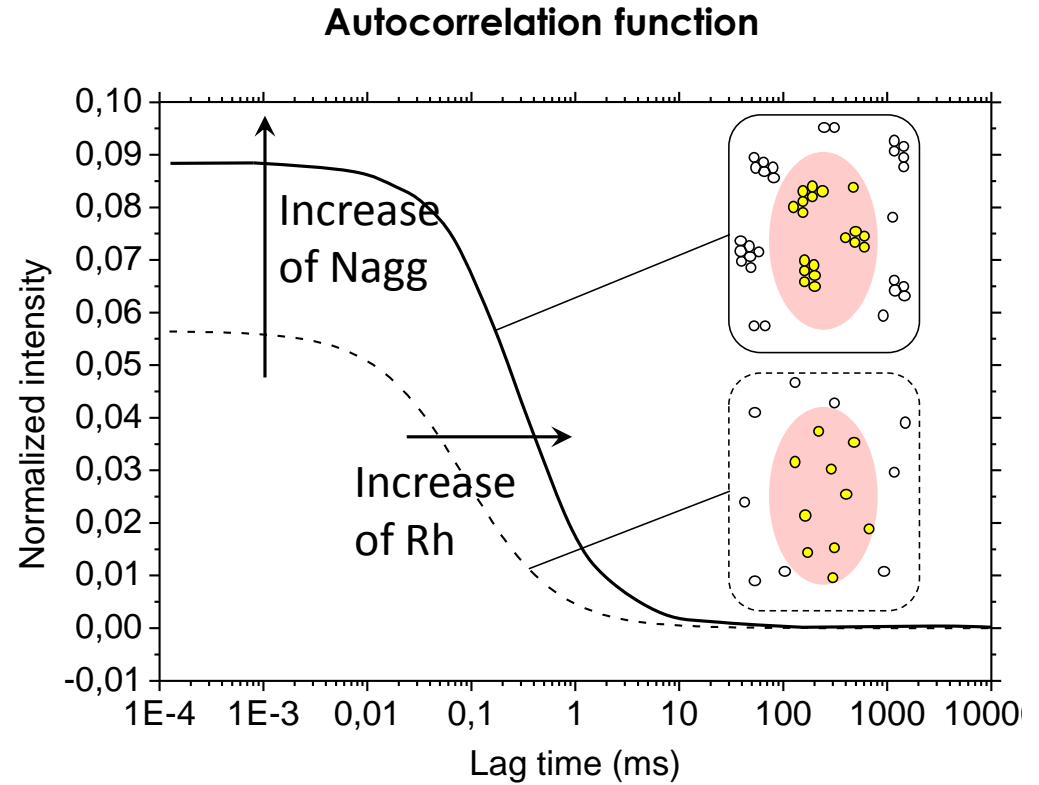
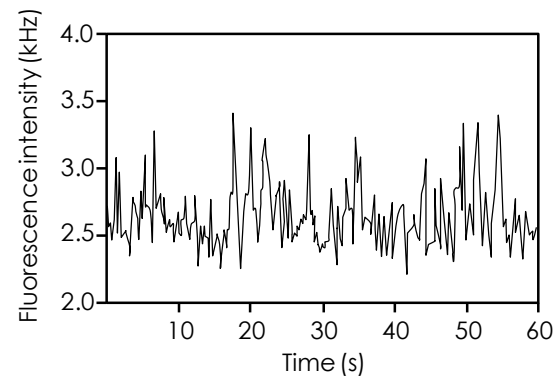
evidence for species of Mw < 300 kDa, ...  
unknown stoichiometry of IgG:polymer  
complexes

distinguish IgG aggregation routes (e.g.  
gradual growth vs absence of oligomers) ...  
not amenable to fast kinetics

# Toward specific readout: two-photon FCS



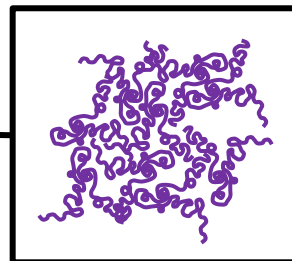
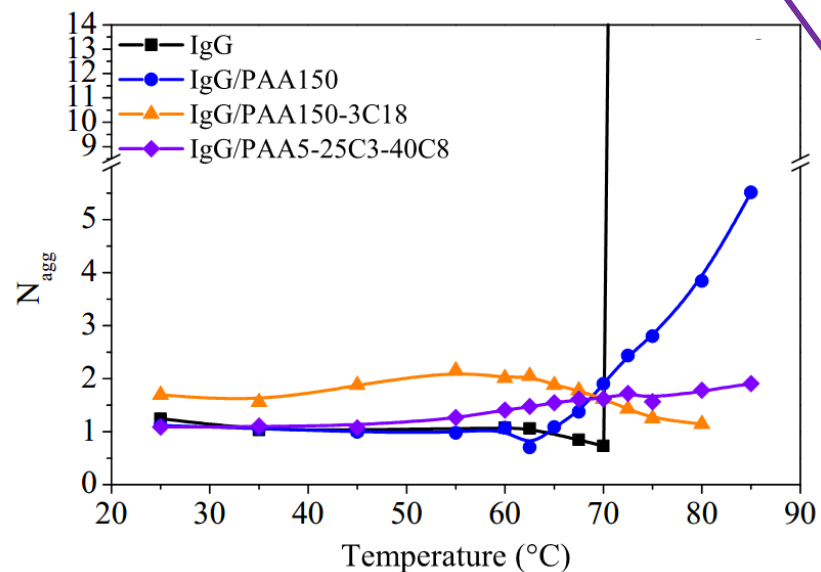
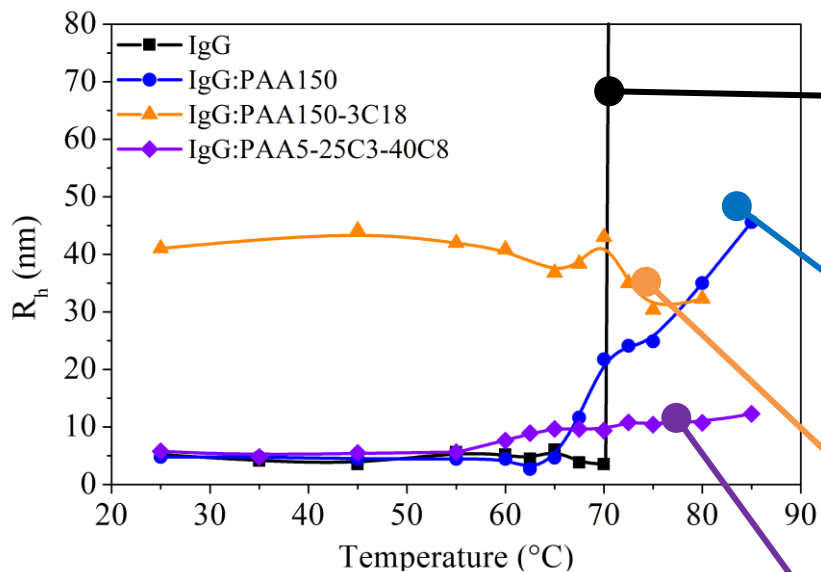
# Evolution of the autocorrelation function



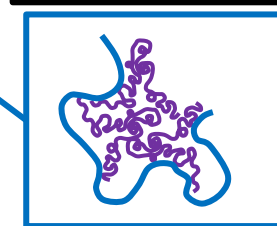


# Size/stoichiometry of polymer:IgG-FITC complexes

LOW IONIC STRENGTH



aggregation



slow aggregation rate  
stabilization of oligomers



protection  
stabilization of monomers



protection  
stabilization of monomers

**Other applications:**

evidencing reversible associations (surfactants)  
Assesment of chemical refolding

# summary SAXS/SANS

## What can be quantified ?

- ✓ characteristic time of growth
  - master curves  $R_h$  vs  $t$  , check models
  - amount of aggregates in specific cases
- ✓ Size of primary clusters, preservation of native-like shape
- ✓ energy barrier / binding well amplitude (solubility vs stability)

## What are the limits:

- ENSEMBLE characterisation = average features
  - Question of sensitivity to molar % of clusters, or non-native structures
  - models based on spherical averaging
- Access to SAXS instruments (SOLEIL, ESRF) & cost
- no distinct signal from non-protein particles (except SANS)

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