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Small-angle scattering from proteins: Crowding conditions and phase transformations

Protein solutions can exhibit rather complex behavior, in particular at high concentrations, i.e. “crowding” conditions. For a comprehensive understanding of the structures, from the molecular level to oligomers to larger-scale structures arising, e.g., in phase separating systems, small-angle scattering plays a crucial role. This is also the basis for the interpretation of the associated dynamics as well as kinetic effects.

We discuss examples for the crucial role of small-angle scattering, particularly for the kinetics of phase transformations such as liquid-liquid phase separation and phenomena related to crystallization.

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