



# Sample characterization: quality control and sample handling prior to data collection

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# Sample characterization prior to data collection: why?

“The correct interpretation of many biophysical/structural characterization experiments relies on the assumption that:

- the protein samples are **pure and homogeneous**
- their **concentration is assessed precisely**
- all of the protein is solubilized and in a natively **active state**”

“ Those who assess and **optimize carefully the quality of their protein** preparations **significantly increase their chances of success in subsequent experiments**”

- Optimize the homogeneity
- Time-stability and storage conditions of purified samples
- Evaluate reproducibility and lot-to-lot consistency

Raynal et al. *Microbial Cell Factories* (2014) 13:180  
DOI 10.1186/s12934-014-0180-6



REVIEW

Open Access

## Quality assessment and optimization of purified protein samples: why and how?

Bertrand Raynal<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Pascal Lenormand<sup>1,2</sup>, Bruno Baron<sup>1,2</sup>, Sylviane Hoos<sup>1,2</sup> and Patrick England<sup>1,2\*</sup>



COMMENT

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-23167-z>

OPEN

## Quality control of protein reagents for the improvement of research data reproducibility

Ario de Marco<sup>1</sup>, Nick Berrow<sup>2</sup>, Mario Lebendiker<sup>3</sup>, Maria Garcia-Alai<sup>4</sup>, Stefan H. Knauer<sup>5</sup>, Blanca Lopez-Mendez<sup>6</sup>, André Matagne<sup>7</sup>, Annabel Parret<sup>4</sup>, Kim Remans<sup>8</sup>, Stephan Uebel<sup>9</sup> & Bertrand Raynal<sup>10</sup>✉

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## Reproducibility in crisis: Sample quality and the importance of early and ongoing analysis

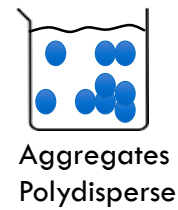
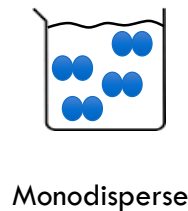
14 MAR 2018 • 9:00 AM ET • SPEAKERS: JOHN P.A. IOANNIDIS, M.D., D.Sc., GREGOR WITTE, PH.D. • MODERATOR: SEAN SANDERS, PH.D.

# The use of Molecular Biophysics methods to characterize macromolecules and interactions

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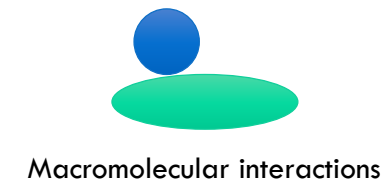
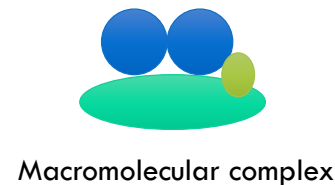
## Intrinsic Properties

- Homogeneity
- Aggregation
- Size distribution
- Oligomeric states
- Stoichiometry of assemblies
- Secondary/tertiary Structures
- Quality control



## Interactions

- $K_d$
- $k_{on} / k_{off}$
- Thermodynamics  $\Delta G$ ,  $\Delta H$ ,  $-\Delta DS$
- Stoichiometry of interaction



## How? Quality control - QC- workflow

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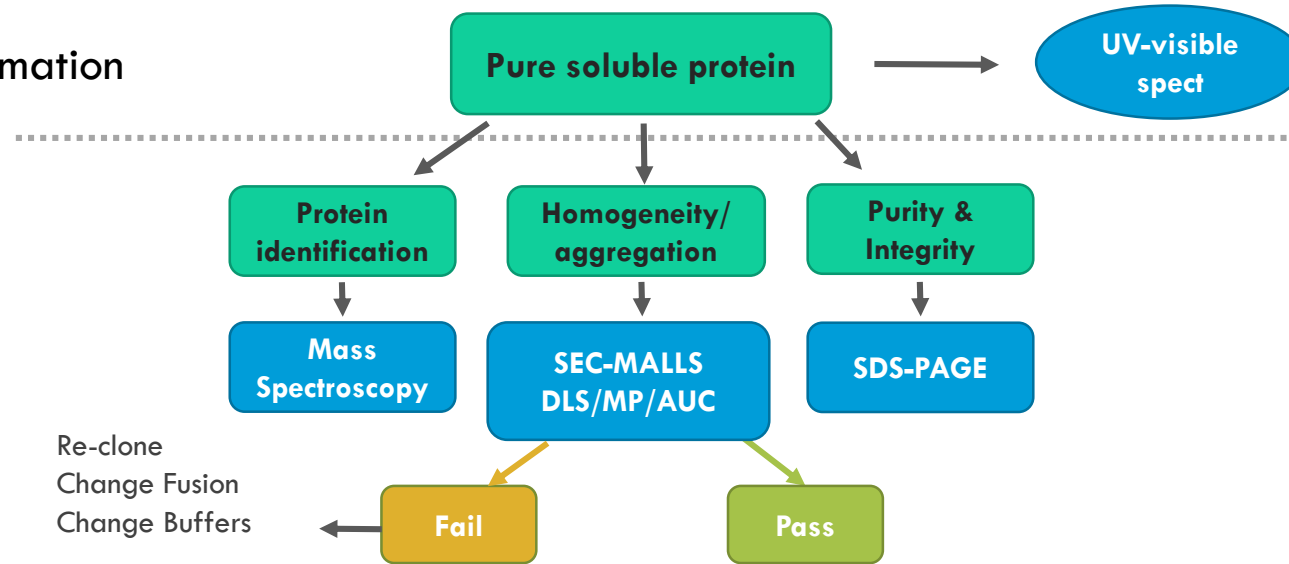
Minimal Information



# How? Quality control - QC- workflow

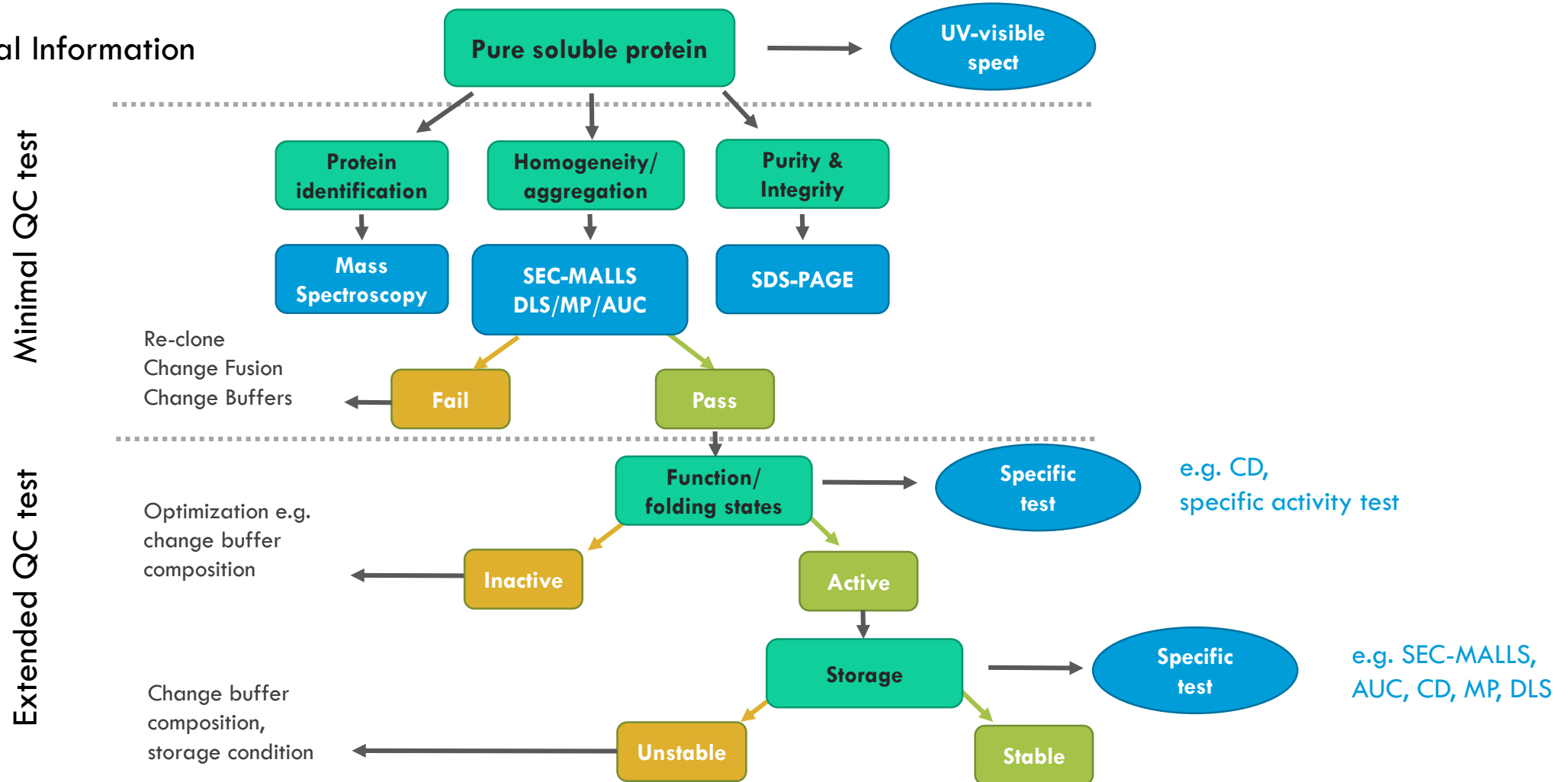
Minimal Information

Minimal QC test



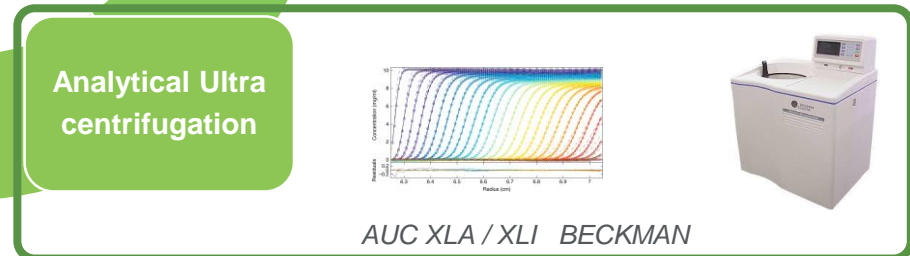
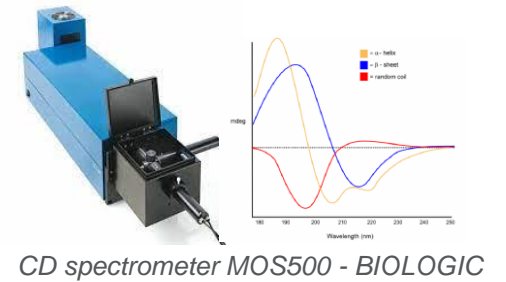
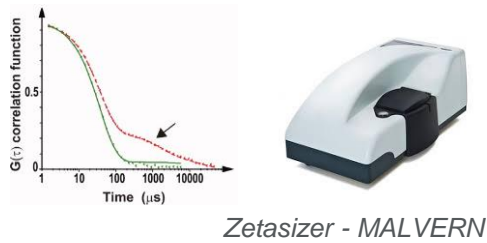
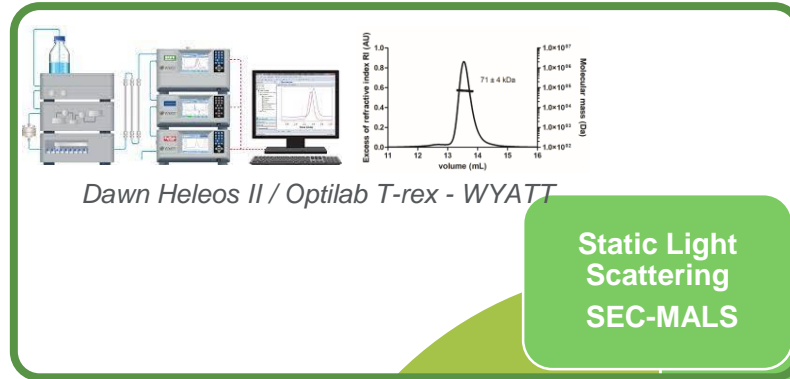
# How? Quality control - QC- workflow

Minimal Information



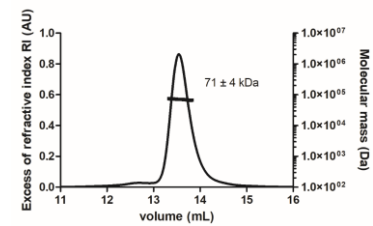
# Intrinsic Properties of Macromolecules and their Assemblies

- Homogeneity
- Aggregation
- Size distribution
- Oligomeric states
- Stoichiometry of assemblies
- Secondary Structures



# Size Exclusion Chromatography (SEC) coupled with Multi Angle Laser Light Scattering (MALLS)

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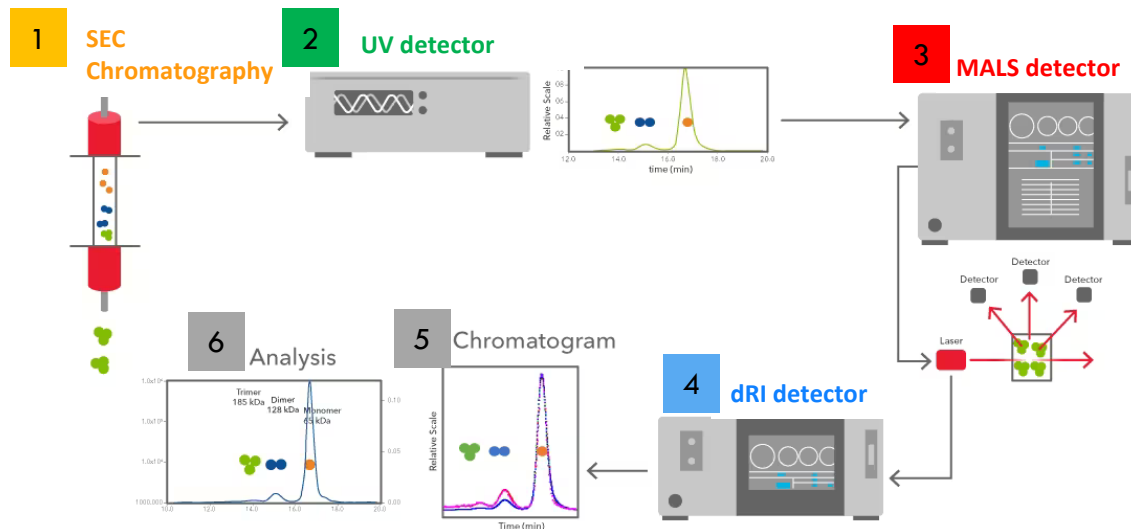


# SEC-MALLS Principle

Multi-Angle Laser Light Scattering (MALLS), UV Absorbance and Refractive Index (RI) coupled to a size-exclusion chromatography (SEC) system allows the simultaneous determination of the molecular weight of each component of a sample.

MALLS measurements work by calculating the amount of scattered light (LS) by a sample at various angles. The intensity of the light scattered of a solution is directly proportional to :

- the concentration of its components (RI or UV)
- the average molecular weight (LS)



# SEC-MALLS Principle

## Macromolecules separation $R_h$

1 SEC - Size exclusion chromatography, separation according to the  $R_h$

## Macromolecules characterization with 3 detectors

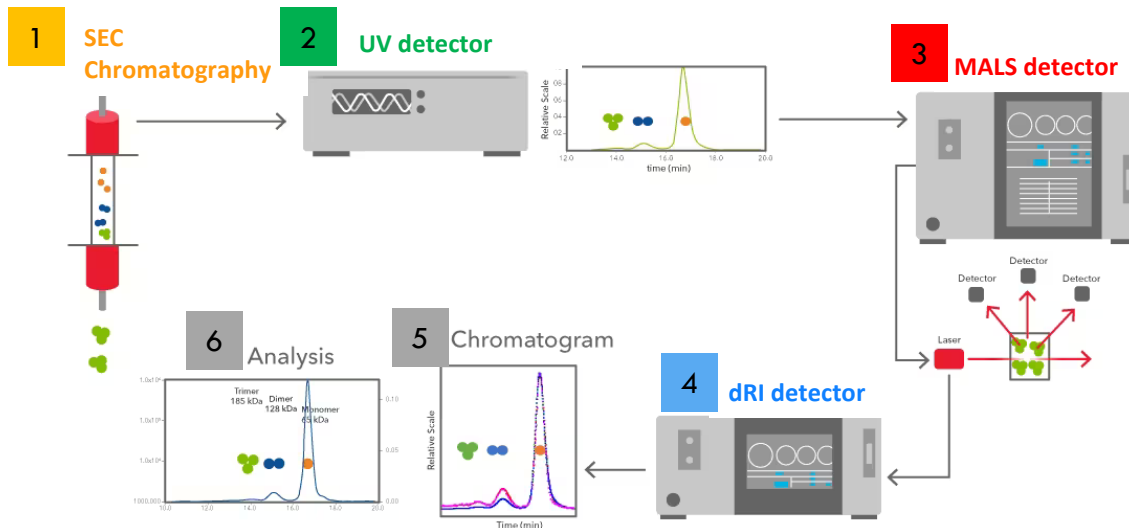
2 UV 280nm

3 MALLS - Multi angle laser light scattering  $I_s(\theta)$  ►  $M_w$  and  $C$

4 Refractometer  $\Delta RI$  ►  $C$  concentration

$$I_s(\theta) \propto C \times M_w \times \left(\frac{dn}{dc}\right)^2$$

The **intensity of light scattering** of is directly proportional to the average **molecular weight** and to the **concentration** of its components  
*dn/dc is a constant*

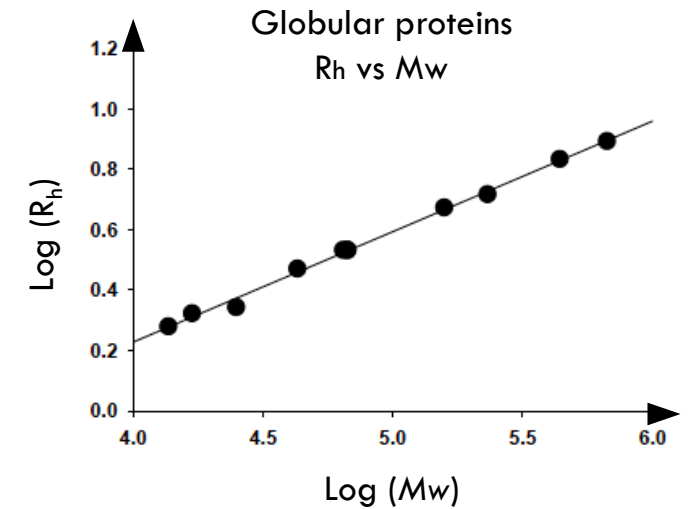
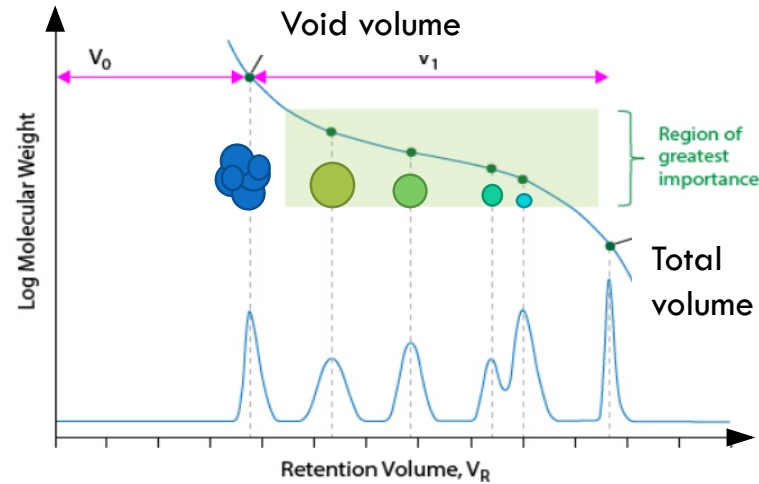
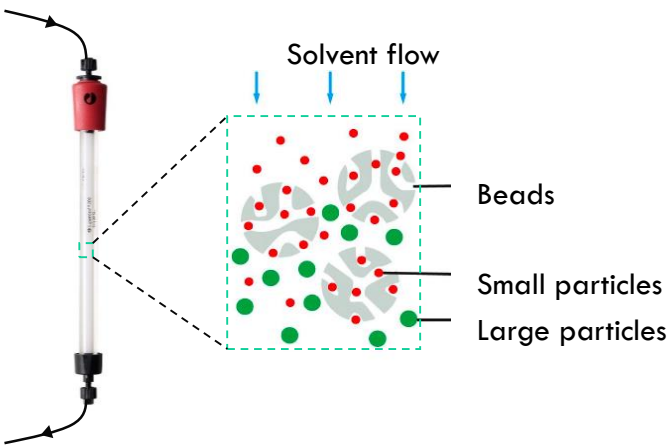


$$C = \frac{\Delta RI}{\left(\frac{dn}{dc}\right)}$$

**Concentration** of the components is calculated with the **differential refractive index**

►  $M_w$  determination independent of the elution volume and therefore of the column calibration

# Size exclusion chromatography - SEC

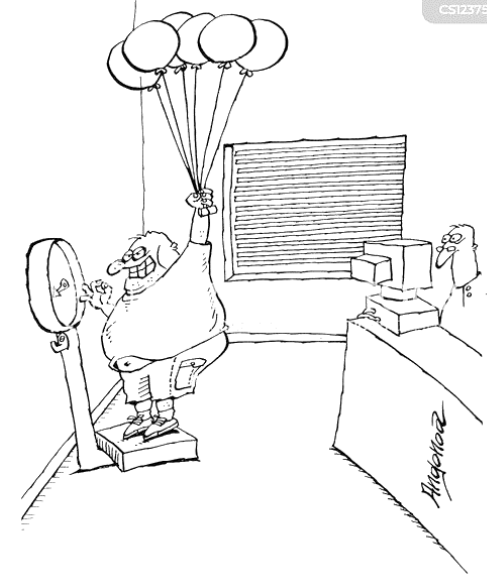
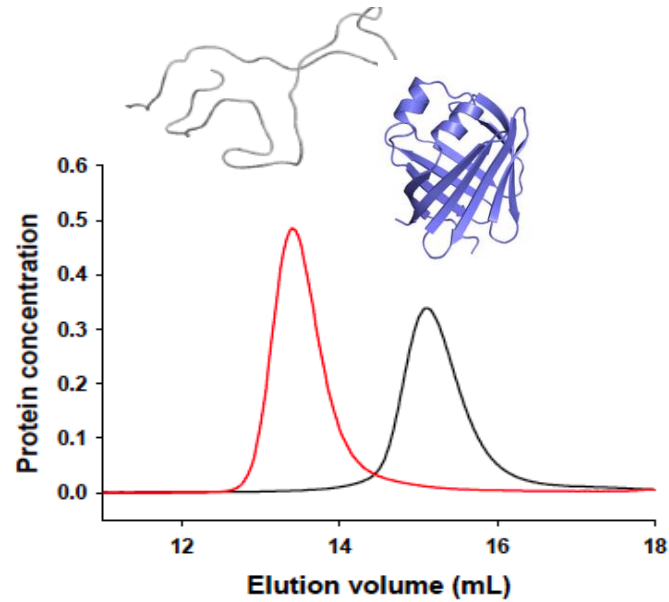
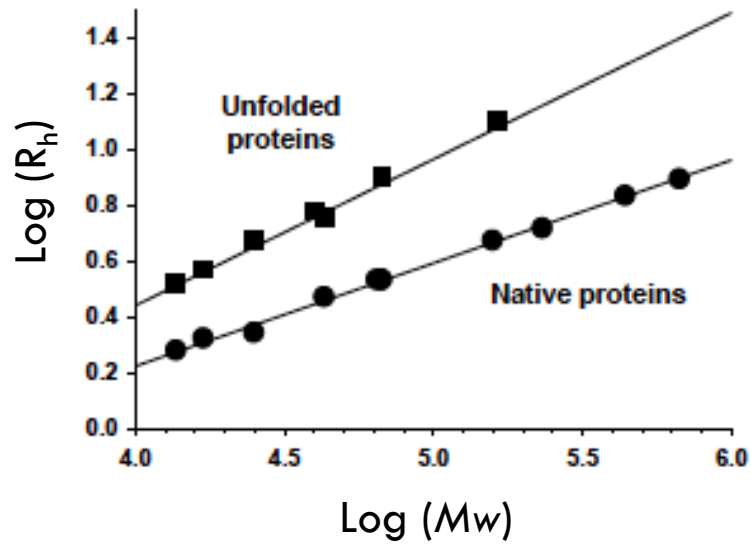


Size Exclusion Chromatography (SEC) is a chromatographic method in which molecules are separated based on their size:

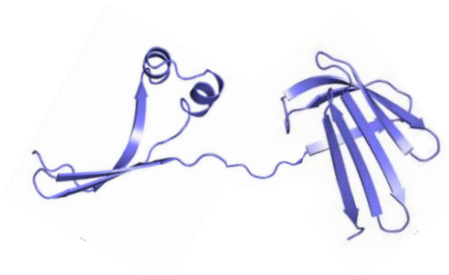
- elution volume is related to their **hydrodynamic radius ( $R_h$ ) and not to their molecular weight**
- To **connect  $R_h$  to the molecular weight**, it is necessary to make a **calibration with known globular molecular weight standards**
- Traditional SEC assumes that the sample of interest:
  - has the **same molecular conformation as the calibration standards**
  - **does not interact with the stationary phase** of the column

# What about non-globular proteins?

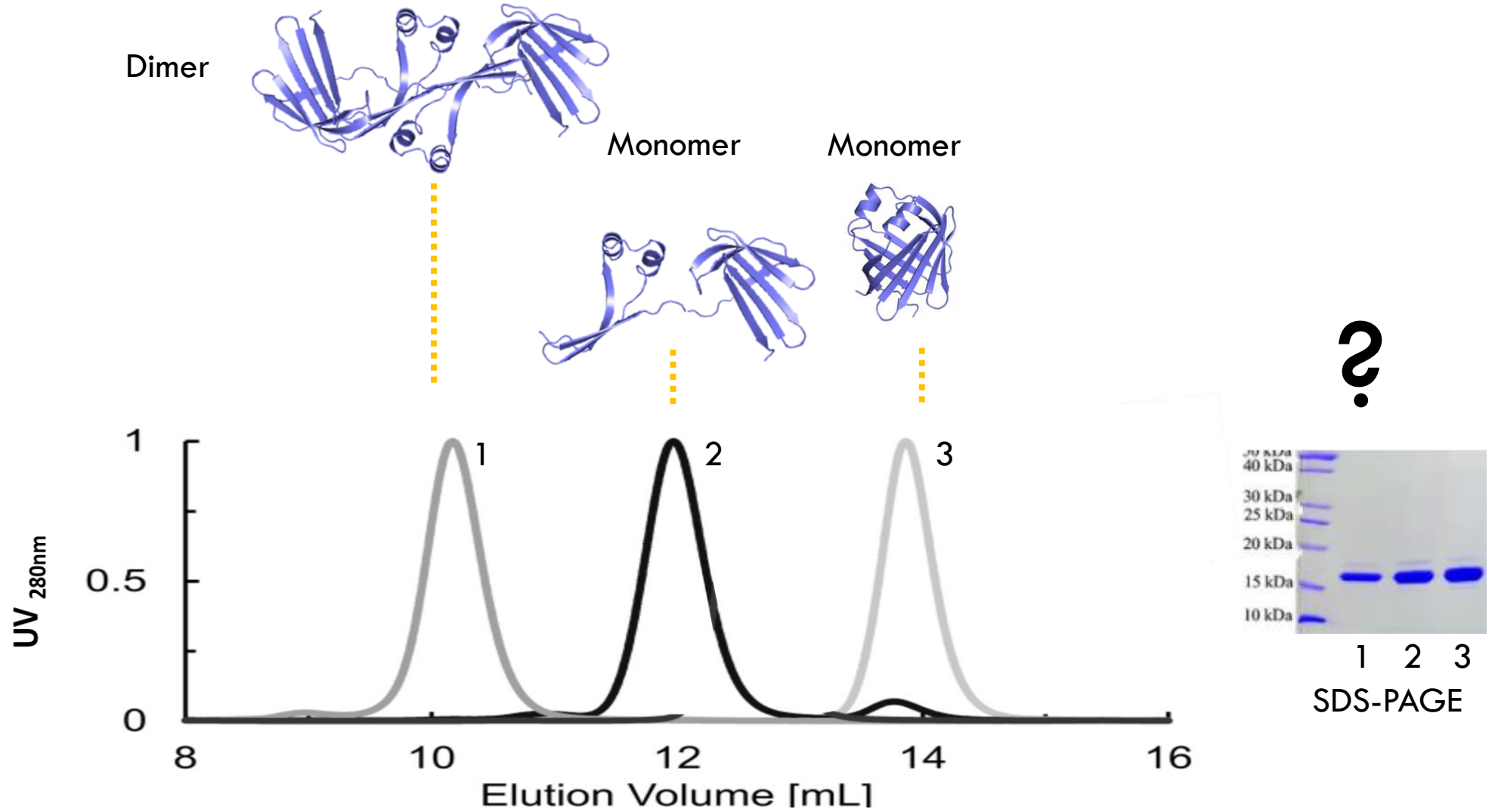
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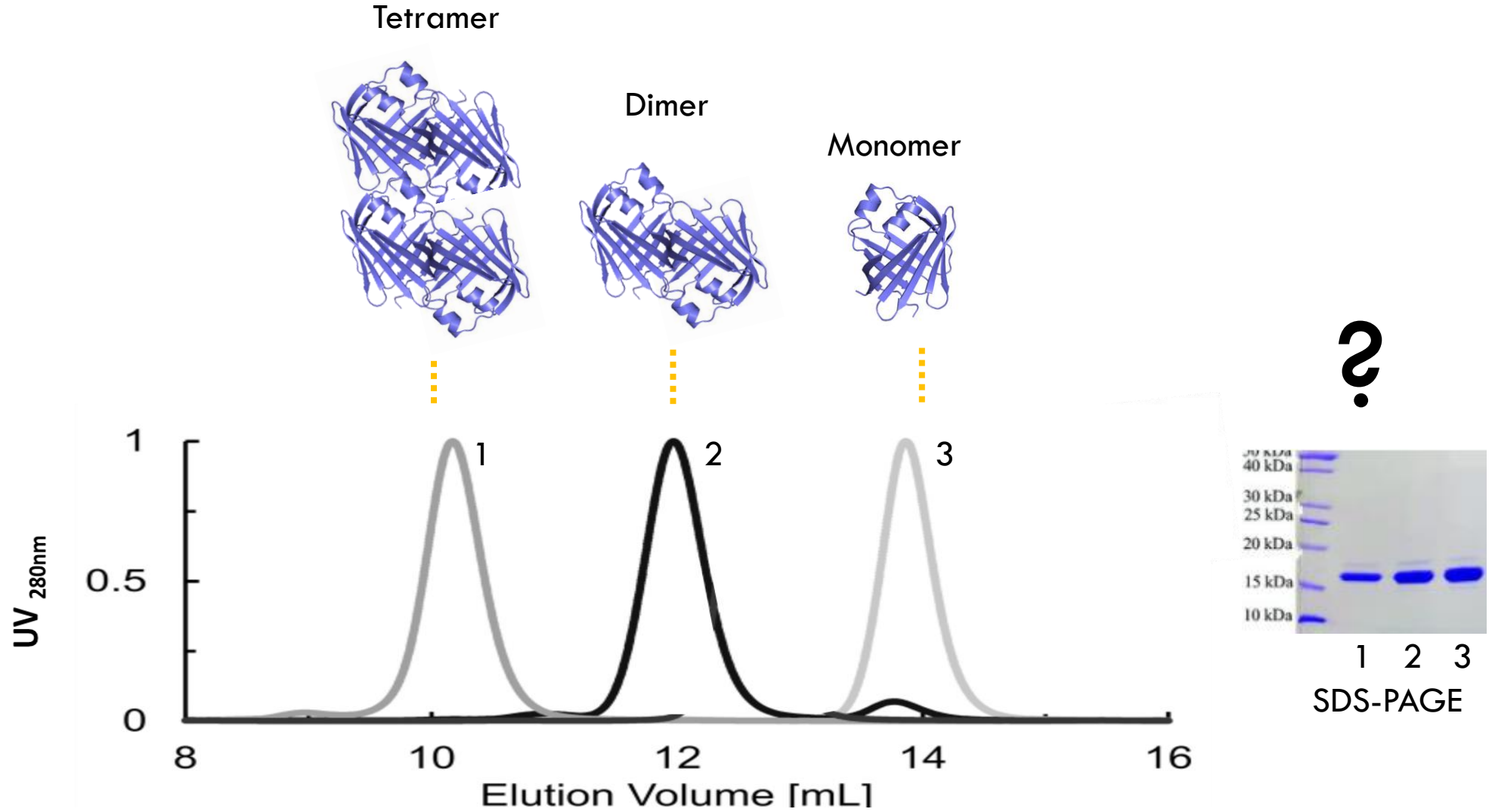
The hydrodynamic radius depends on the shape of the particle  
Most proteins are not globular...



# Interpretation of SEC data



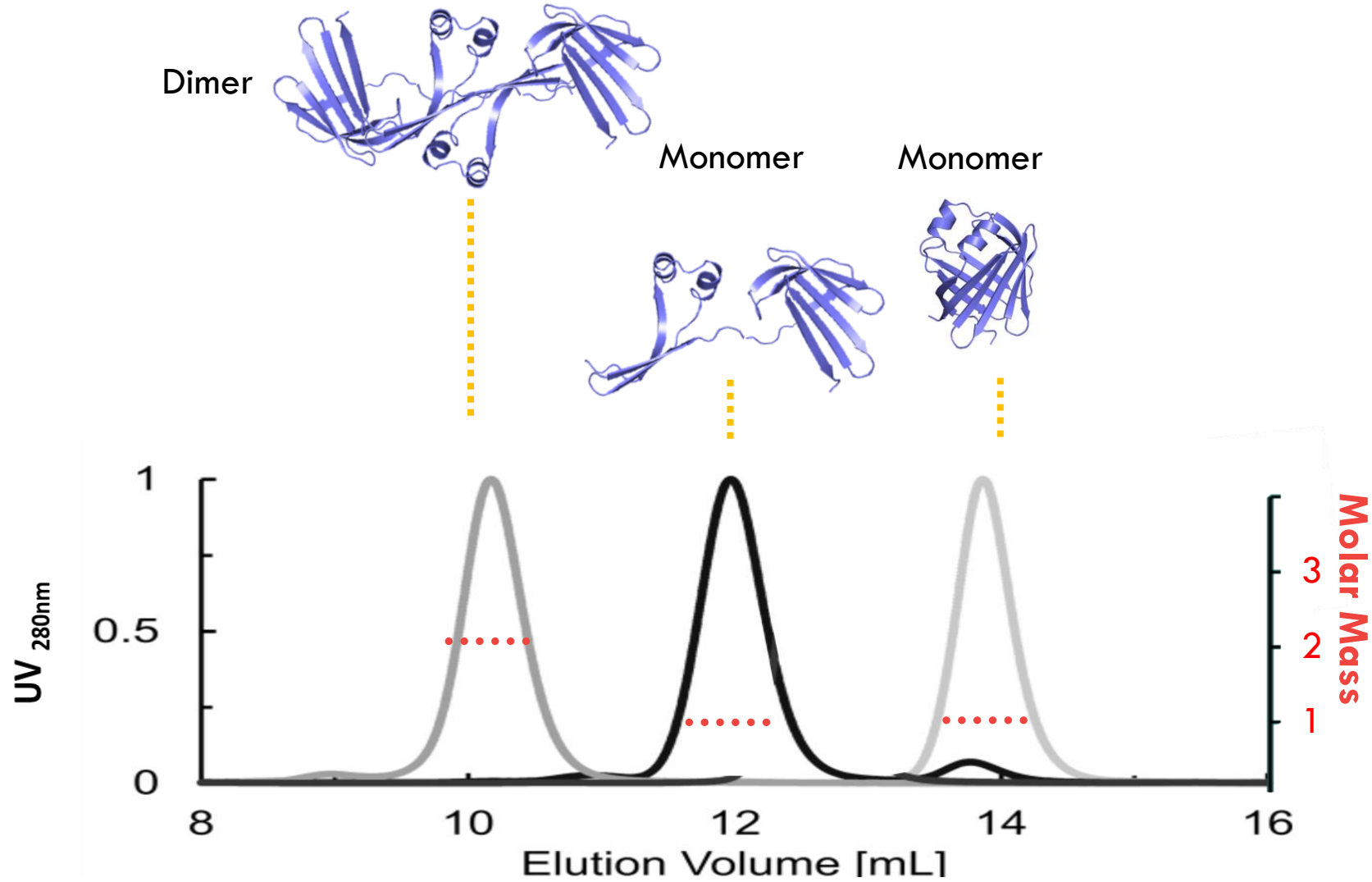
# Interpretation of SEC data



# Interpretation of SEC data

## Molar Mass information

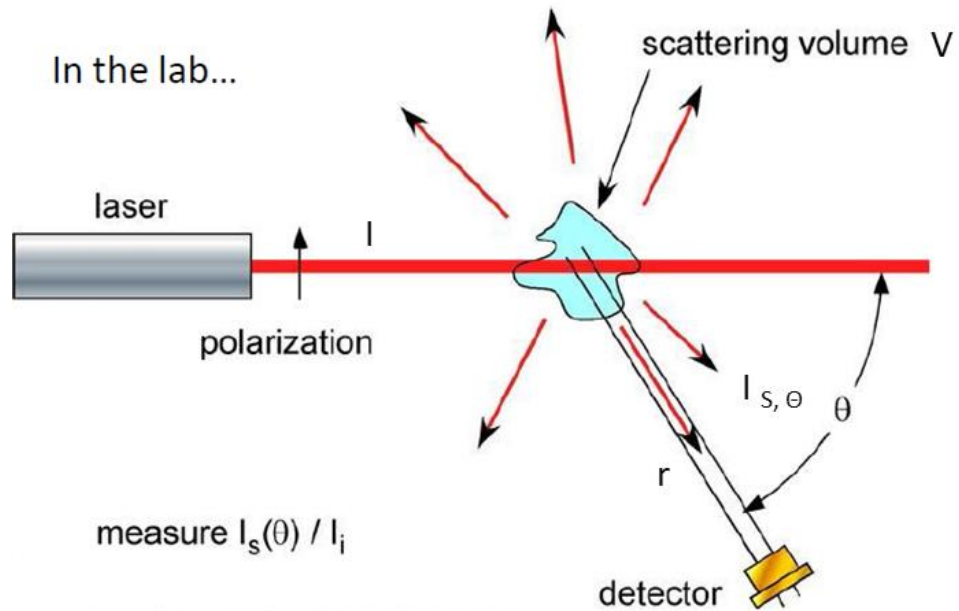
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# Multi Angle Laser Light Scattering

## Static Light Scattering – SLS

MALLS measures the time-average intensity of scattered light

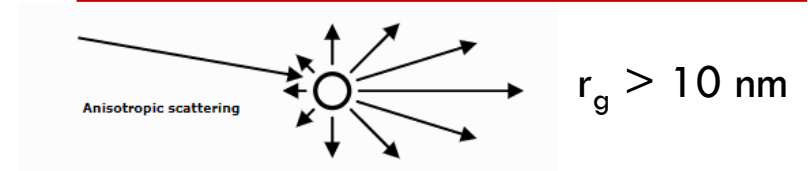
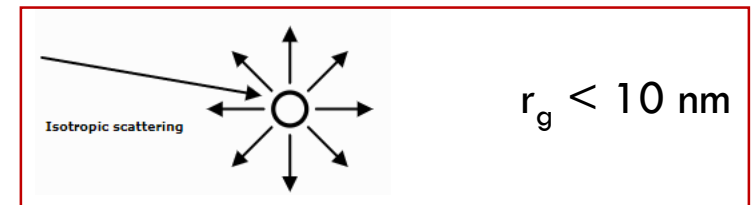


Rayleigh scattering

$$R(\theta) = \frac{I_{s,\theta}}{I_0} \frac{r^2}{V \sin^2 \theta}$$



Lord Rayleigh (John Strutt)  
(1842-1919)





# Simple analytical description of Rayleigh scattering

## The Rayleigh-Gans-Debye Equation

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$$R(\theta) = \frac{4\pi^2 n_0^2}{N_A \lambda_0^4} \left( \frac{dn}{dc} \right)^2 M c P(\theta) [1 - 2A_2 M c P(\theta)]$$

Excess Rayleigh scatter (above solvent) at angle  $\theta$

K : optical constant

M: molar mass  
C: concentration

$P(\theta)$  : Form factor  
Angular term reflecting Rg  
> Negligible (isotropic scattering)

Term accounting for the intermolecular interference terms in the second virial coefficient  $A_2$   
> Negligible

## Multi Angle Laser Light Scattering

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The **intensity of light scattering** of a solution is directly proportional to the average **molecular weight** and to the **concentration** of its components

$$I_s(\theta) \propto c \times M \times \left(\frac{dn}{dc}\right)^2$$

- $M$  is the average molar mass of the scattering macromolecules, which is to be determined
- $c$  is the concentration of the macromolecule(in mg/ml)
- $dn/dc$  is a sample specific value, which relates changes of refractive index of the solution in relation to the change of concentration. Averaged value for proteins: 0.185 ml/g

## Refractive index

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The Refractometer detector measures the difference of refractive index between sample and reference  
Detection of all types of compounds even if they do not absorb.  
> RI measurement is used to measure sample's concentration.

$$\Delta RI = n_s - n_r = c \times \frac{dn}{dc} \quad c = \frac{\Delta RI}{\left(\frac{dn}{dc}\right)}$$

For **soluble proteins**: RI is used to measure the quantity of protein

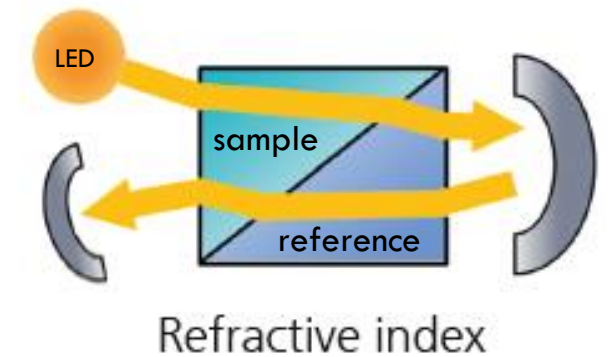
For **membrane proteins**: RI and  $A_{280}$  are used for determination of detergent bound

$$n = c/v$$

c is the speed of light in vacuum

v is the speed of light in the in the medium

$dn/dc$  is the specific refractive index increment = 0.185 ml/g for proteins



# UV Absorbance

## For **soluble proteins**

Absorbance is not used for the determination of the molar mass (RI is used)

## For **membrane proteins or Glycosylated proteins**

UV and RI detectors are used for concentration measurements in two orthogonal ways: Allows for deconvolution of mass contribution of two components (protein/detergent or protein/glycosylation)

## Absorbance 280 nm

- concentration of protein -  $\epsilon_{\text{prot}}$

## Deconvolution of signal RI

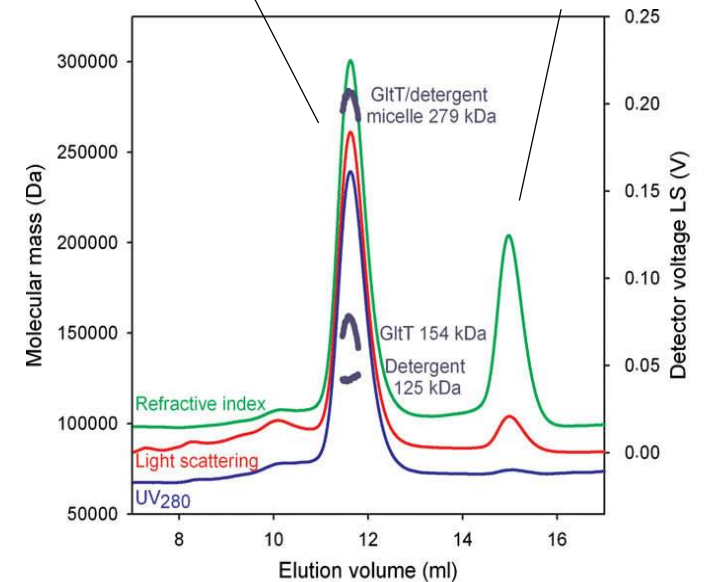
- used to calculate the amount and mass of detergent and calculate the mass of the protein



Protein detergent complex



Micelle



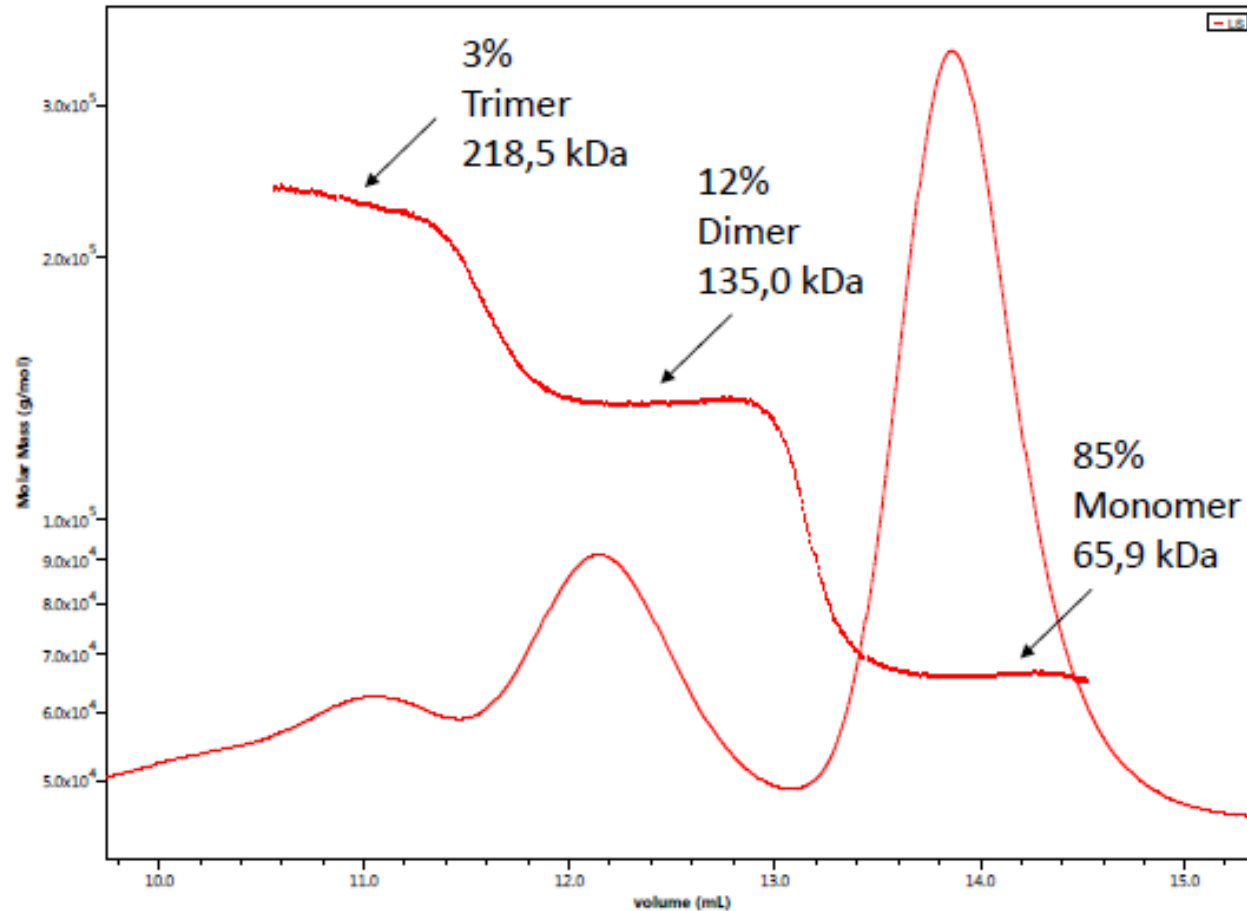
# SEC-MALLS Applications

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- Simple analysis of BSA
- Detection of aggregates, Sample Quality
- Protein/protein interaction
- Membrane proteins/Glycosylated protein

# Analysis of Bovine serum albumin - BSA

- Example of the BSA (50uL at 2mg/mL injected on a KW 804 Shodex column)

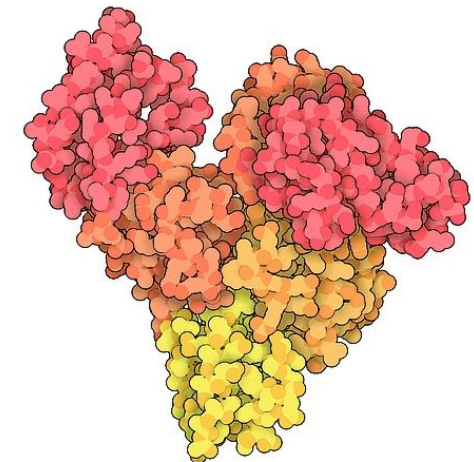


RI + LS  $\Rightarrow$  c + M

➤ RI gives the *amount* ( $\mu\text{g}$ ) under each peak

Input :  $\partial n / \partial c$

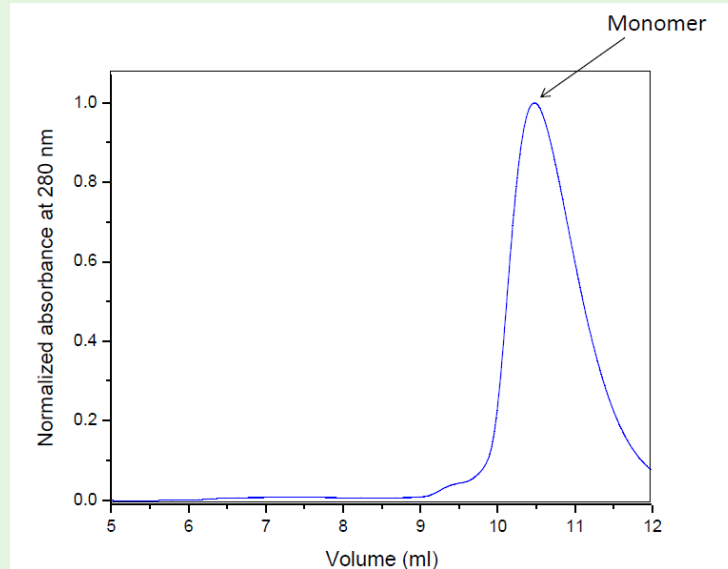
**UV** not used



BSA molecular artwork, courtesy of Dr. David Goodsell.

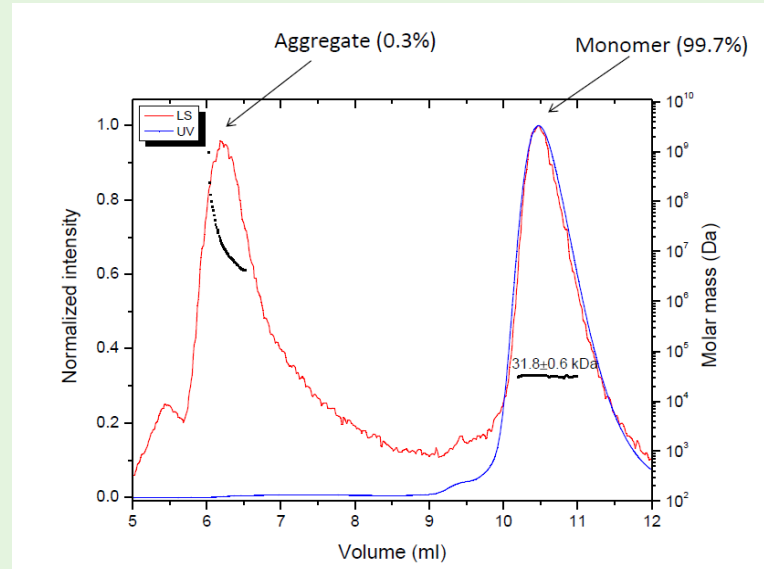
# Detection of aggregates

## SEC



- Separation by size
- Calculating Mw based on calibration curves of globular proteins
- Heterogeneity of a sample is undetectable

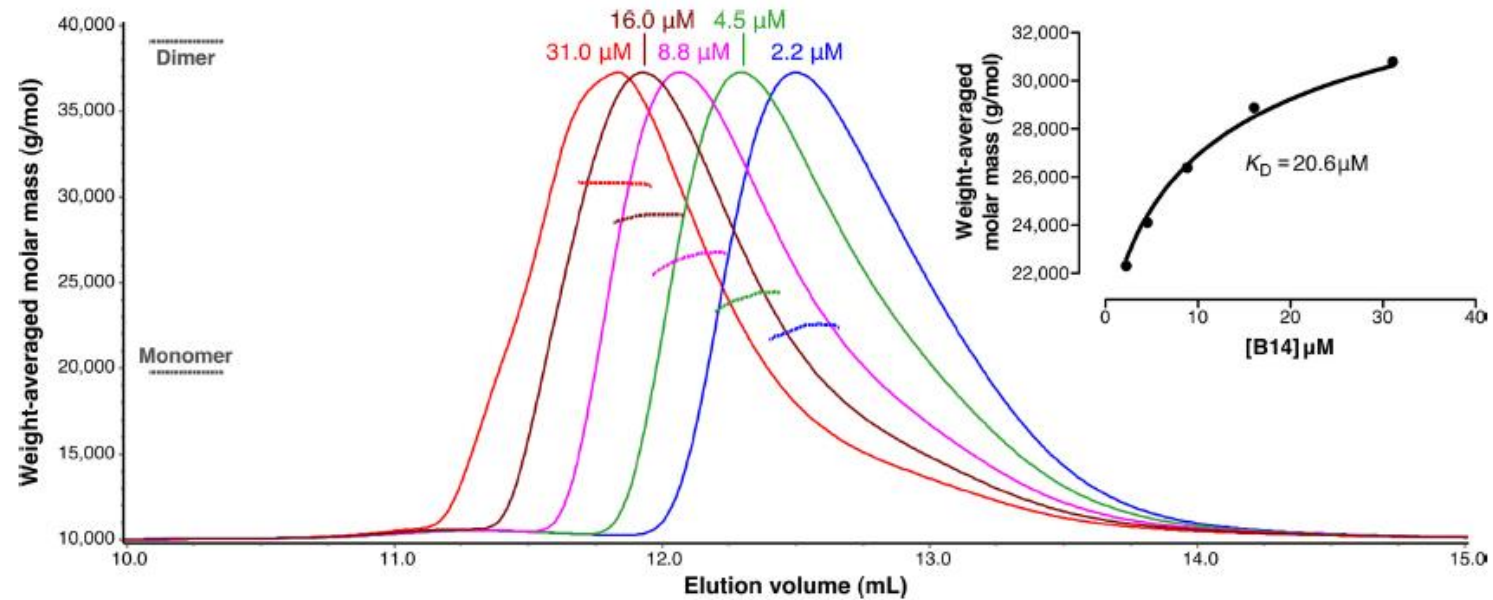
## SEC- MALLS



- Separation by size
- Calculating Mw from the light scattering equations
- Calculate the Mw during the elution peaks, indicate homogeneity of a sample
- Detect low amount of aggregation : large molecules amplify the intensity of LS

- Light scattering
- Absorbance 280 nm

# Monomer-dimer Fast exchange equilibrium



Weight average molar mass across the elution profile at five different concentrations.

The apparent molar mass under a range of different concentrations show that:

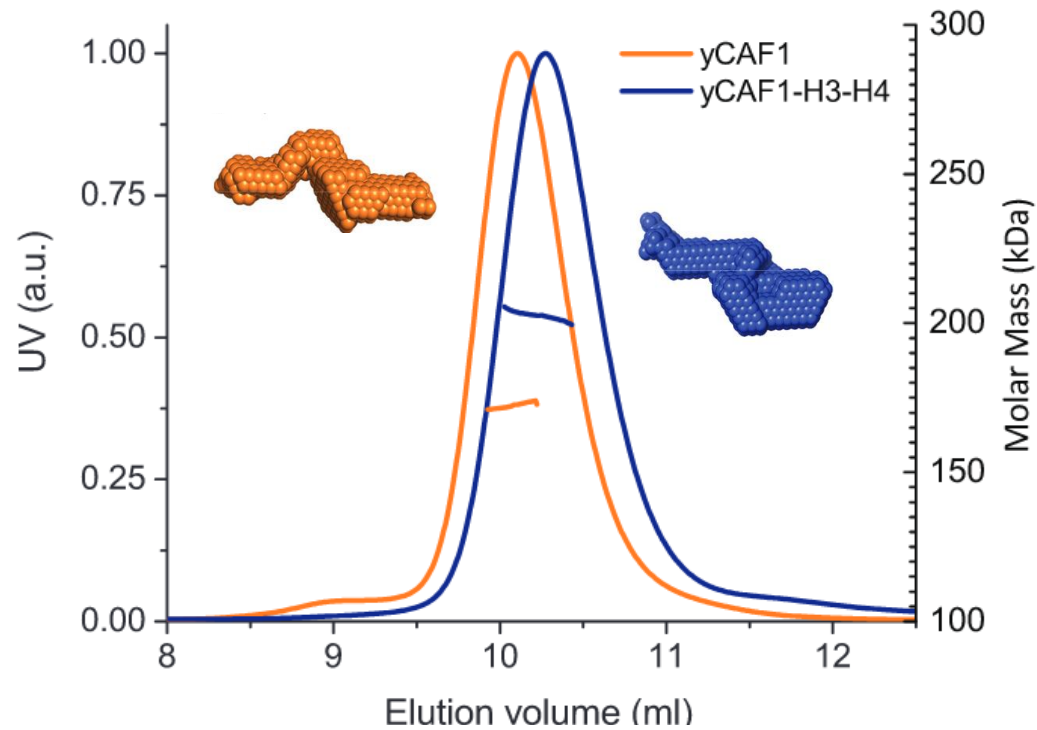
- Elution volume of the peak fraction decreased
- Average molar mass increased with increasing concentrations of protein

In solution, the protein is in monomer-dimer equilibrium, self-associating with modest affinity

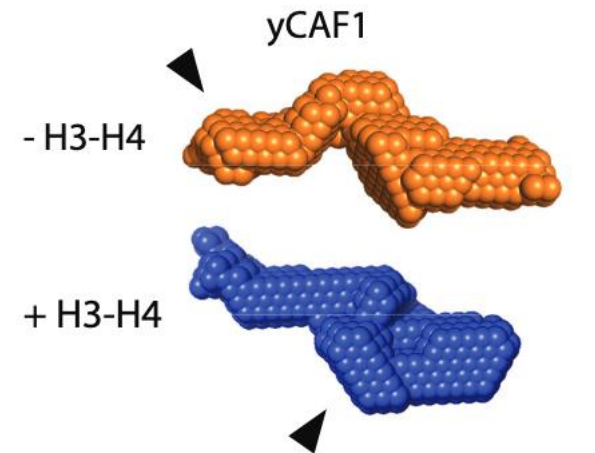


## Protein/protein interaction

Budding yeast **CAF1 (yCAF1)** is a heterotrimeric complex containing the Cac1, Cac2 and Cac3 subunits and its interaction with **histone H3-H4**

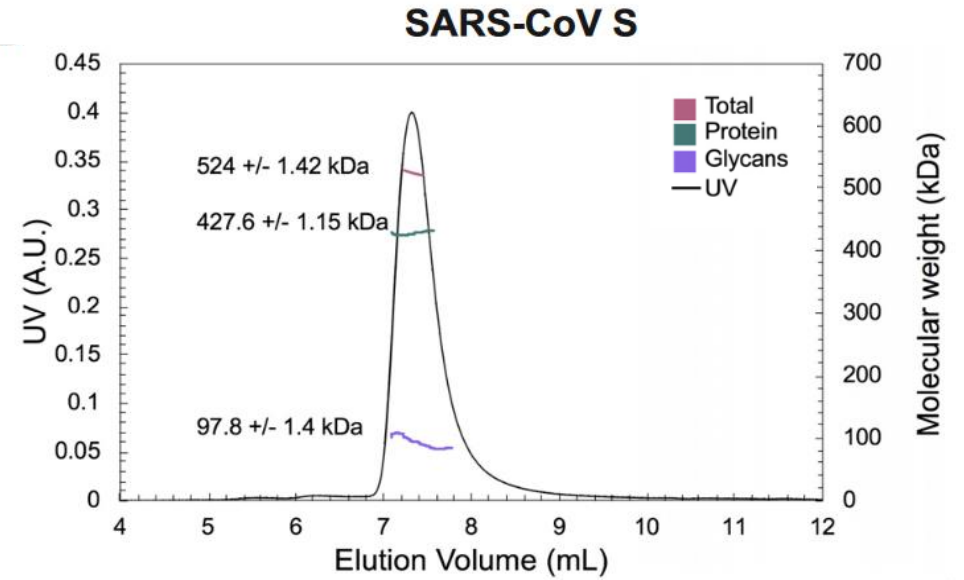
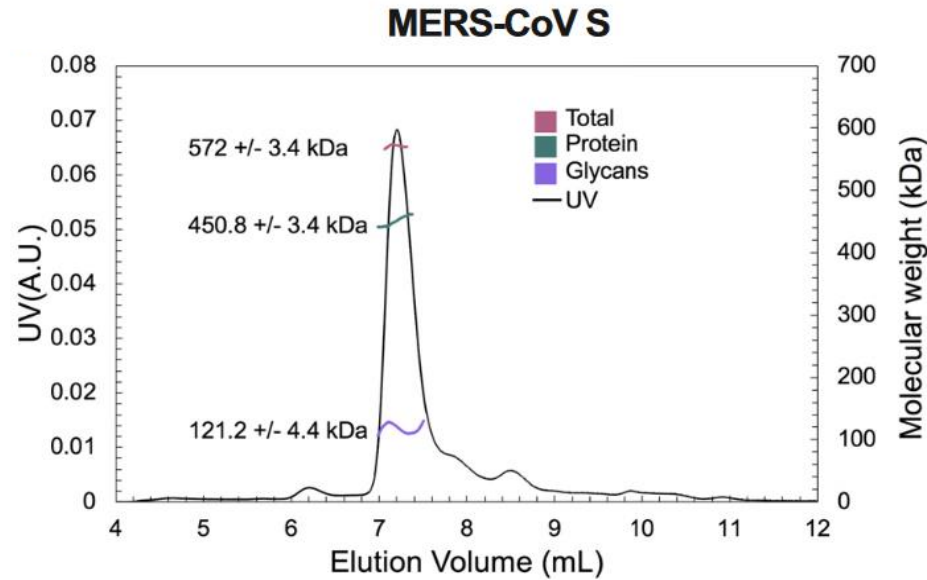


Determination of the apparent molecular mass of yCAF1  $\pm$  H3-H4 using SEC-MALLS

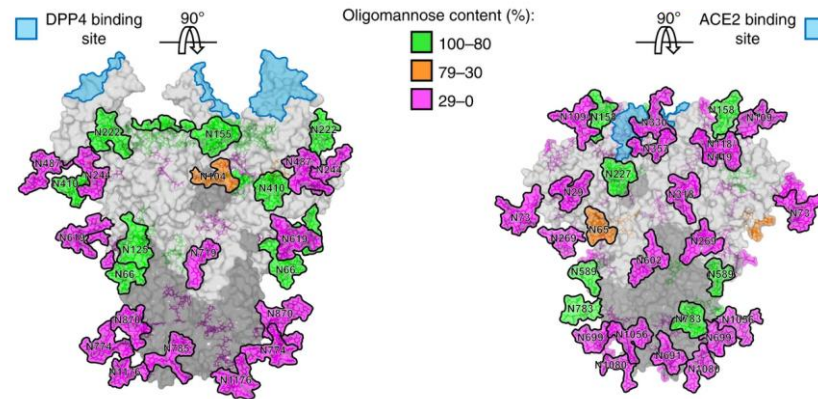


SAXS envelop of yCAF1  $\pm$  H3-H4

# Glycosylated protein



Modelling of the experimentally observed glycosylation is illustrated on the prefusion structure of trimeric MERS S and SARS S glycoproteins.



## Conclusions - Advantages / Limitations

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### **Advantages**

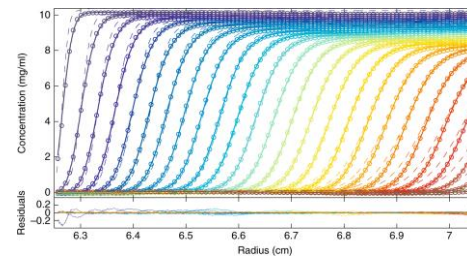
- Simple and rapid (50 min for one injection)
- Absolute value of molecular mass
- Estimation of the polydispersity in a single chromatographic peak
- The column act as a filter and remove large aggregates

### **Limitations**

- Sample dilution upon elution
- Not adapted to weak interactions with fast dissociation
- Require the separation of the various species upon elution

# Analytical Ultracentrifugation

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# Analytical ultracentrifugation

## Spinning and watching molecule transportation

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Measures the rate of sedimentation of your molecule

Measures the concentration as a function of the radial position at various times of centrifugation

Centrifugal force:  $F_c = m\omega^2 r$

$m$ : mass of the particule

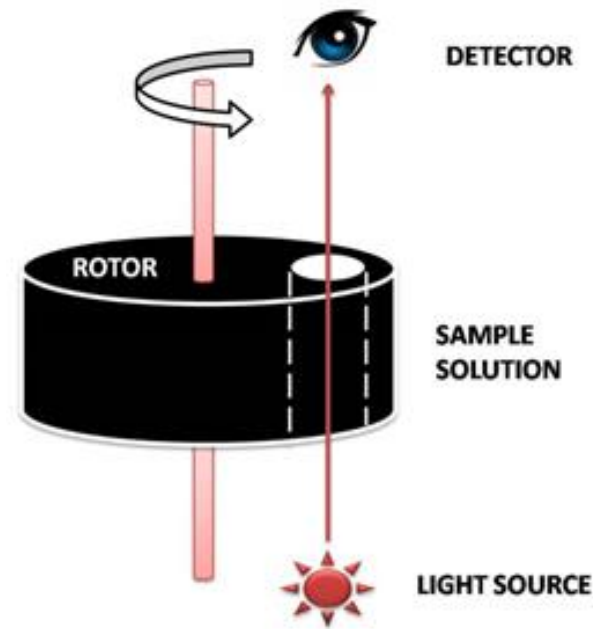
$\omega$ : 60000 rpm

$r$ : 6-7 cm

➤ 300 000 g

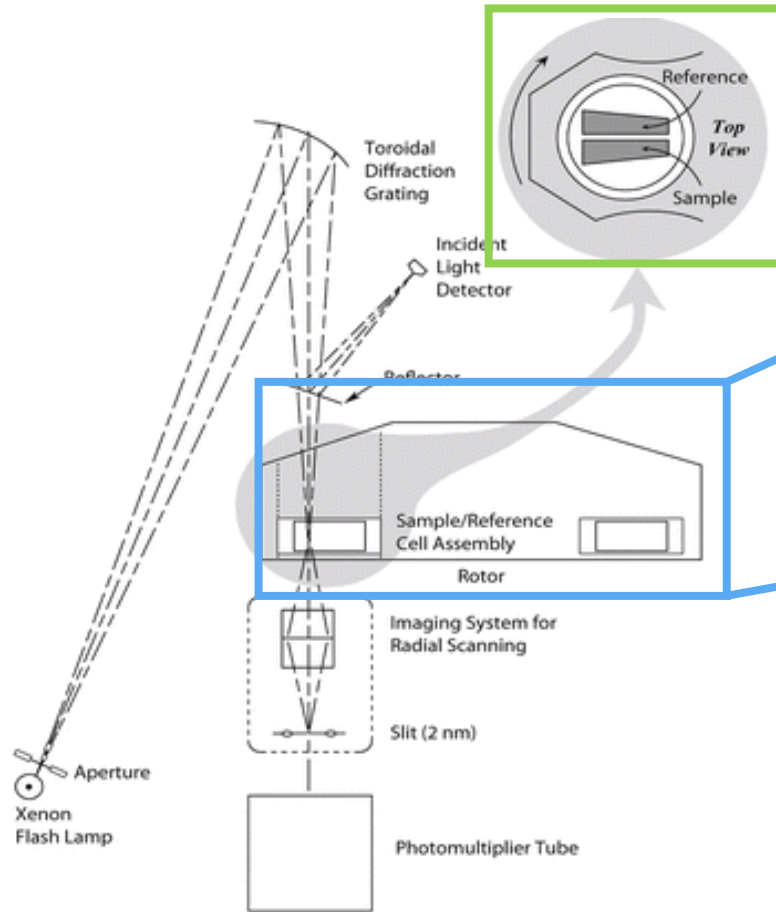
## Applications

- Particle size distribution
- Particle composition
- Molecular weight distribution
- Shape factor
- Purity or heterogeneity
- Analysis of associating systems



# Analytical ultracentrifugation

Spinning and watching molecule transportation

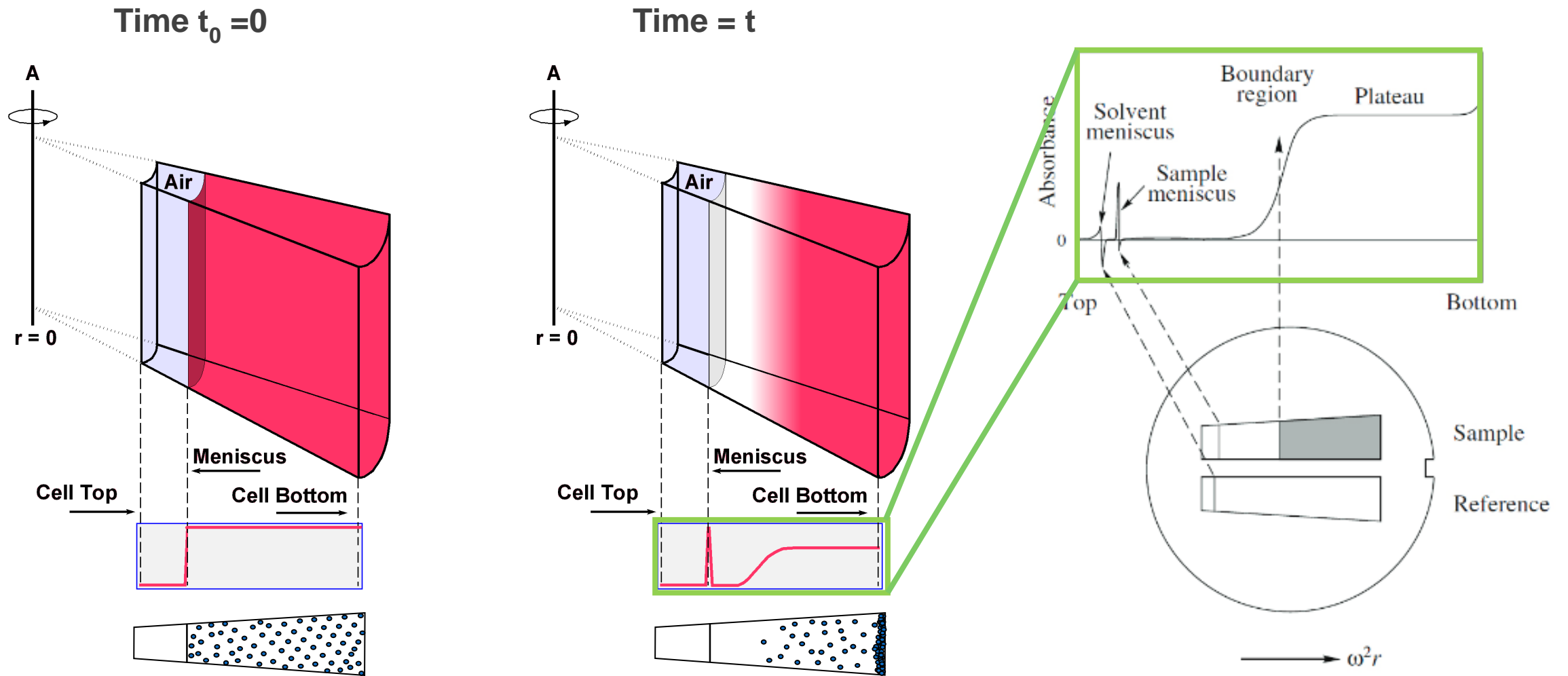


Path length (cm)	Volume ( $\mu\text{L}$ )	Required ( $\mu\text{L}$ )
1.2	400-420	450
0.3	100-110	150
0.15	50-55	75

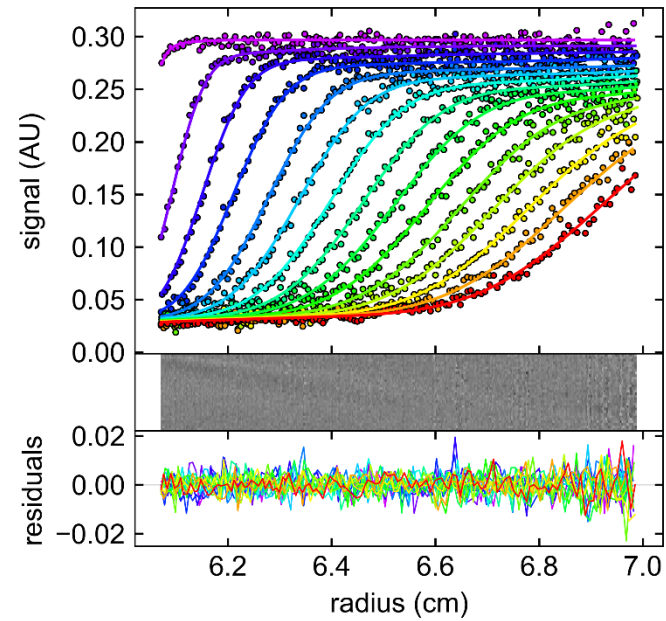
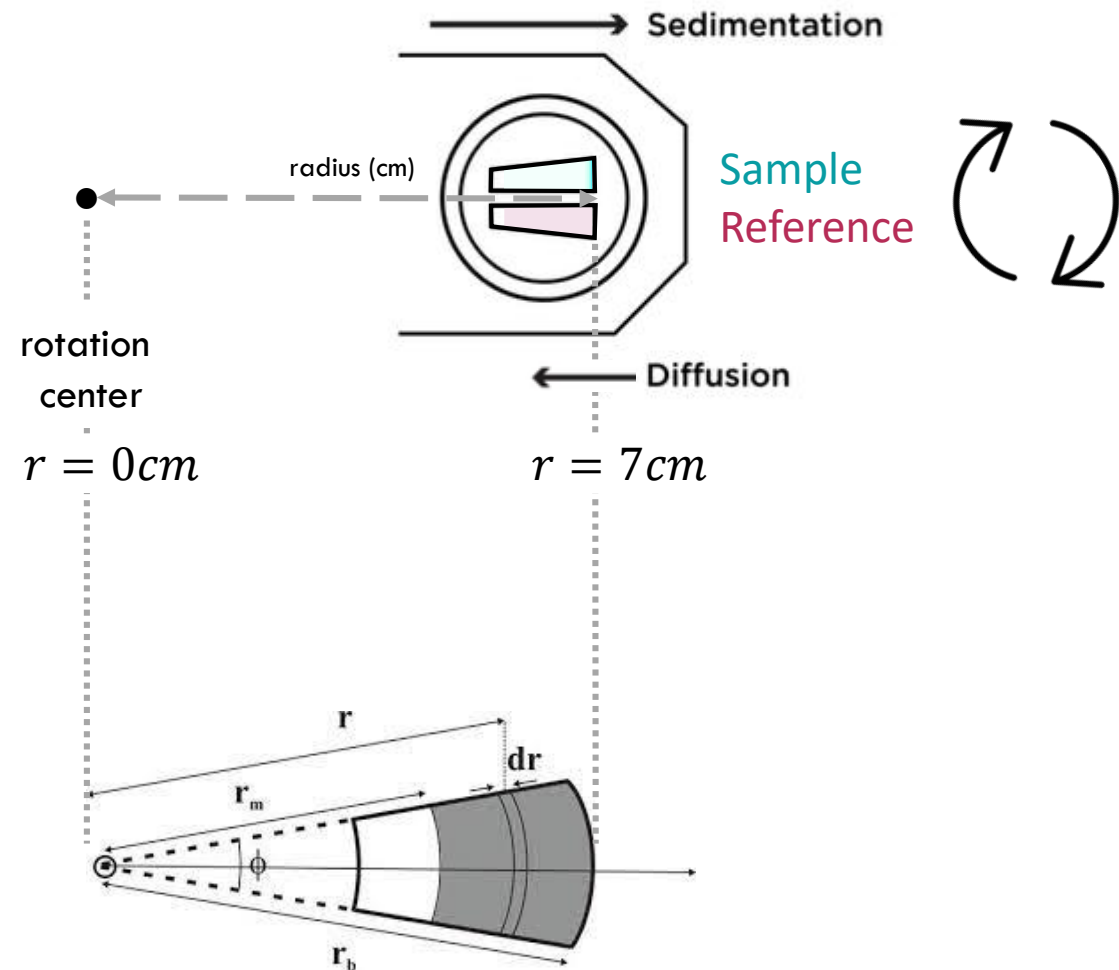


# Analytical ultracentrifugation

Spinning and watching molecule transportation



# Sedimentation velocity

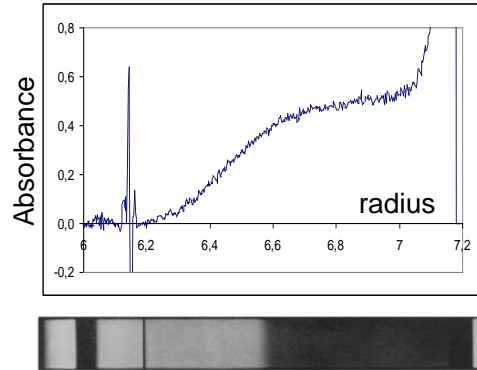


- $t = 0\text{ min}$
- $t = 30\text{ min}$
- $t = 1\text{ h}$
- $t = 3\text{ h}$
- $t = 5\text{ h}$
- $t = 6\text{ h}$



# Optical system

## Absorbance



$$A = E_{0.1\%} I c$$

Selectivity depending on presence of chromophore

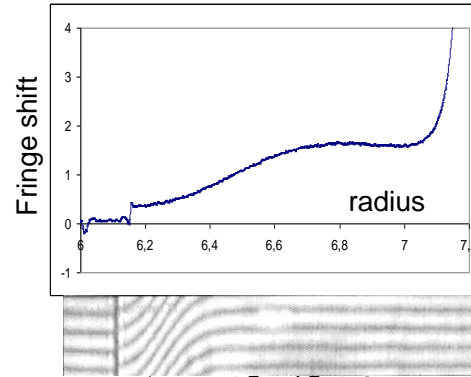
$$220\text{nm} < \alpha < 600\text{nm}$$

Scan of 3  $\alpha$  possible

up to 20  $\lambda$  on the recently commercialized AUC

0.1-2 mg/mL typically  
(60-500  $\mu\text{L}$ )

## Interference



$$\Delta J \propto (\partial n / \partial c) I c$$

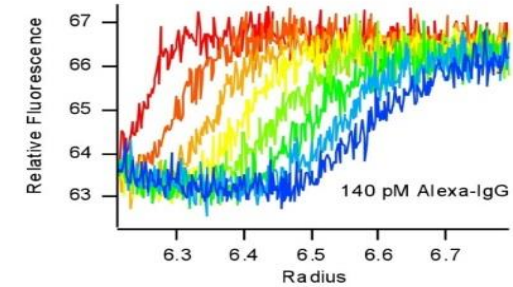
Not selective

Measures everything  
(detergent, glycerol...)

Reference channel should be solvent with same composition as the sample

0.1- >10 mg/mL  
(60-500  $\mu\text{L}$ )

## Fluorescence



Signal in arbitrary units

Highly selective  
Requires GFP fusion  
or FITC labeling

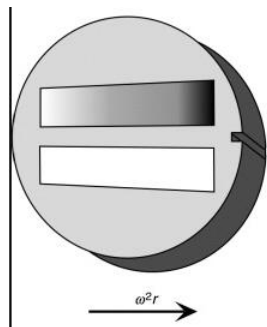
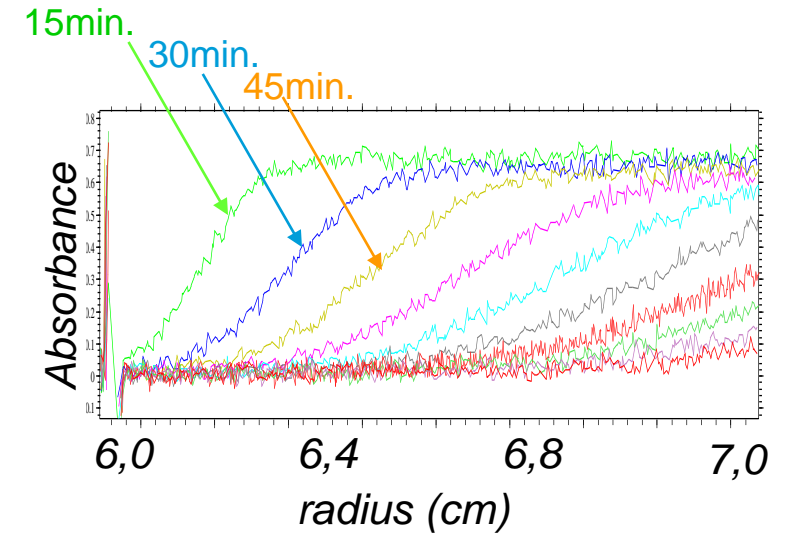
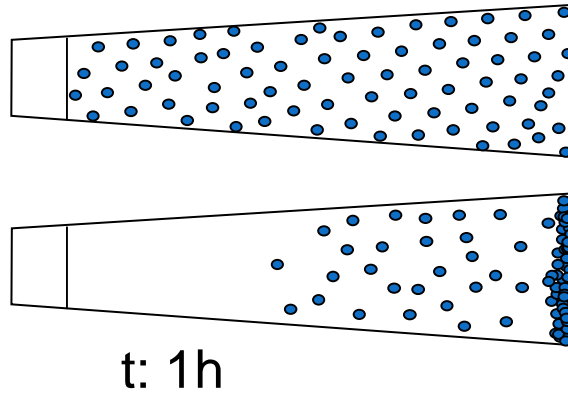
$$I_{\text{exit}} = 488\text{nm}$$

pM- $\mu\text{M}$   
(500  $\mu\text{L}$ )

Can be used in the same run | up to 3 or 7 samples  
> duplicate analysis  
> estimate of composite particle composition

up to 6 or 14 samples

# Sedimentation velocity



Angular velocity:

Large compared to the ability of the particle to sediment (typically 42000 revs. per min)

Duration:

Some hours

Analysis:

Measures rate of sedimentation as a function of time  
Formation of a boundary

Sample:

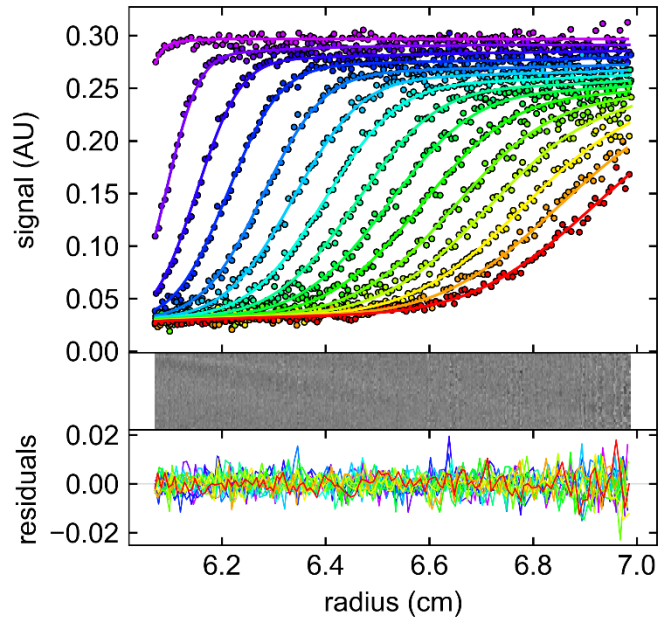
420, 110 or 55  $\mu$ l (l =12, 3 or 1.5 mm)

Information:

Sedimentation coefficient (s), Frictional ratio  $f/f_{min}$  (shape), estimate  $M_w$

# Sedimentation velocity

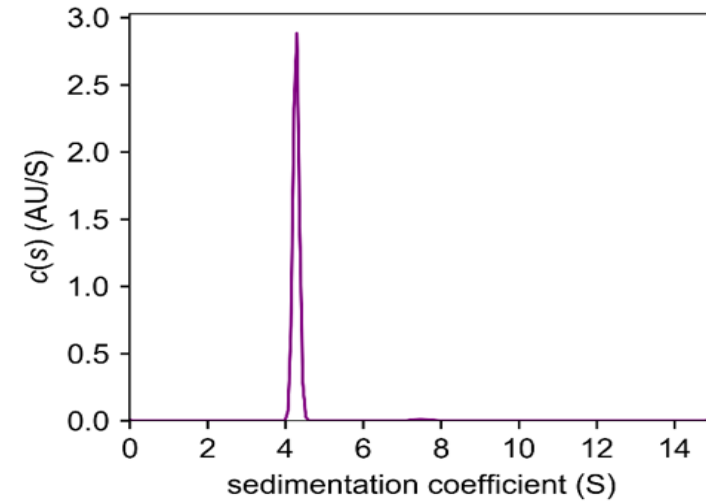
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Sedimentation profile



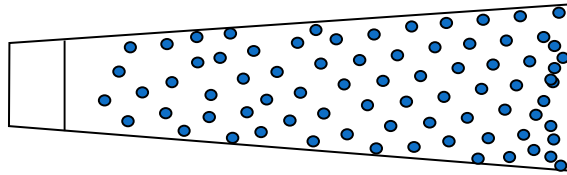
Data analysis



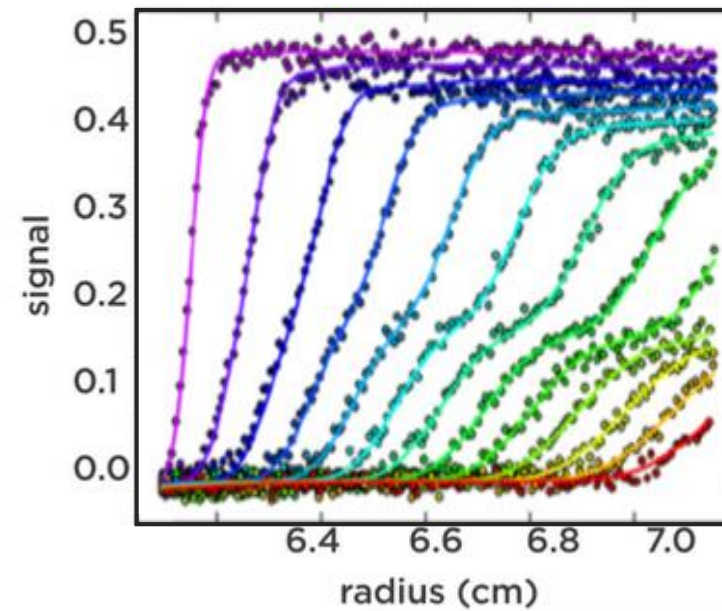
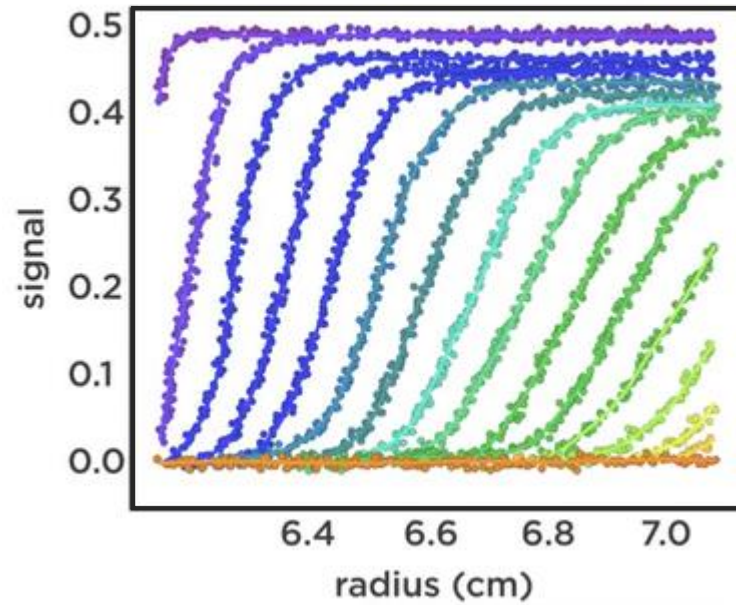
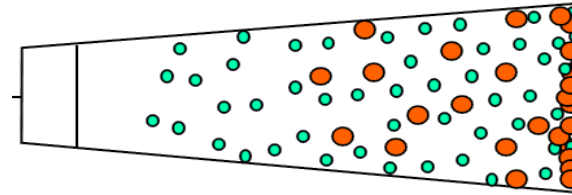
c(s) distribution

# Sedimentation velocity

Single boundary



Multiple boundaries



# AUC theoretical background

For a dilute homogeneous sample

**$F_c$  : centrifugal force**

$$F_c = m\omega^2 r = \frac{M}{N_A} \omega^2 r$$

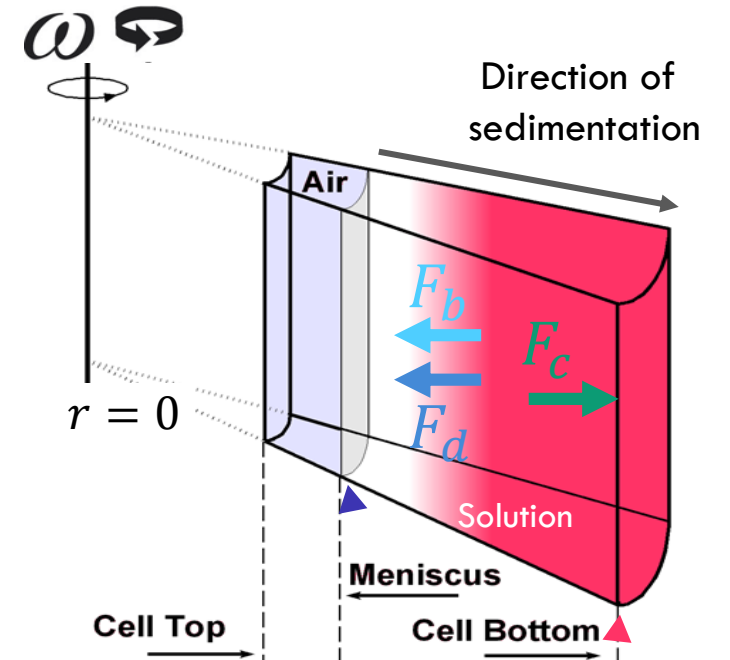
**$F_d$  : Viscous drag**

$$F_d = -fv$$

**$F_b$  : buoyant force**

from Archimedes' principle, is equal to the weight of fluid displaced

$$F_b = -m_0\omega^2 r = -(m\bar{v}\rho)\omega^2 r = -\left(\frac{M}{N_A}\bar{v}\rho\right)\omega^2 r$$



- $\omega$  angular velocity
- $r$  distance to the axe of rotation
- $m$  mass of the particle
- $M$  molar mass
- $f$  frictional coefficient, which depends on the shape and size of the particle
- $v$  velocity

$m_0$  mass of fluid displaced by the particle

$$m_0 = m\bar{v}\rho = \frac{M}{N_A}\bar{v}\rho$$

- $\rho$  density of the solvent (g/mL)
- $\bar{v}$  partial specific volume, is the volume that each gram of the solute occupies in solution (the inverse of its density)

## AUC theoretical background

---

$$F_c + F_b + F_d = 0$$
$$\frac{M}{N_A} (1 - \bar{v}\rho)\omega^2 r - fv = 0$$
$$\frac{M(1 - \bar{v}\rho)}{N_A f} = \frac{v}{\omega^2 r} = s$$

Within a very short time  
the 3 forces come into balance

**Sedimentation coefficient  $s$**  :  
velocity of the particle per unit of  
gravitational acceleration  
➤ measurement

# AUC theoretical background

Sedimentation coefficient - velocity of the particles

$$S = \frac{M(1 - \bar{v}\rho)}{N_A f} = \frac{M(1 - \bar{v}\rho)}{N_A 6\pi\eta R_h}$$

mass relative density



$M_b$  buoyant mass

sedimentation coefficient  
 $s$  in Svedberg (S)  
 $1 \text{ S} = 10^{-13} \text{ s}$

Spreading function:  
viscosity and shape

with  $f = 6\pi\eta R_h$

## The Svedberg equation

$R_h$  hydrodynamic radius

$\eta$  solvent viscosity

$f$  frictional coefficient of a molecule

depends on the size of the particle, it is proportional to the hydrodynamic radius  $R_h$



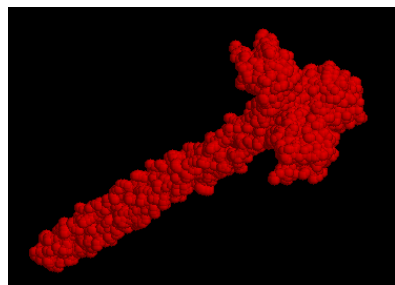
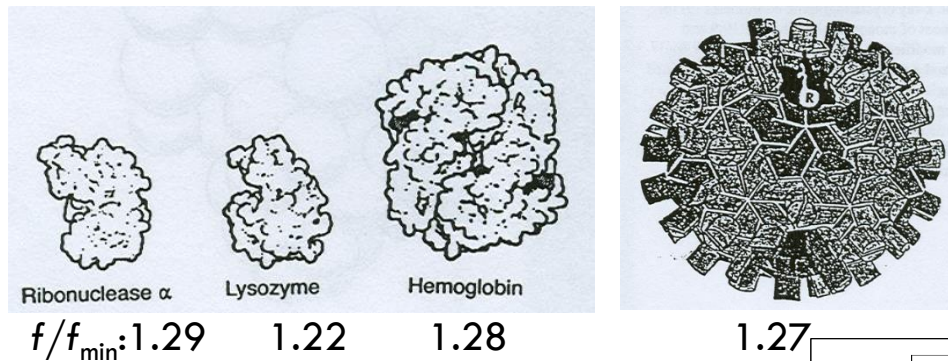
Theodor Svedberg (1884-1971)  
Swedish chemist, Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1926 for his invention of the analytical ultracentrifuge

# Approximate Values of Partial Specific Volumes $\bar{v}$ and frictional ratios $f/f_{min}$

$\bar{v}$  (ml/g)

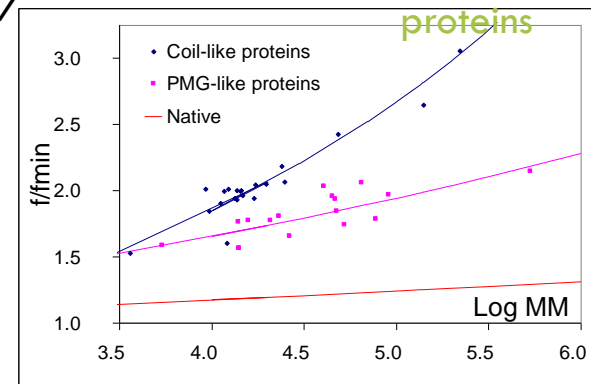
Protein:  $\approx 0.74$   
 Sugar:  $\approx 0.62$   
 DNA, Na<sup>+</sup>:  $\approx 0.54$   
 DDM: 0.82  
 LAPAO: 1.067  
 lipid:  $\approx 1$   
 H<sub>2</sub>O: 1

$f/f_{min}$

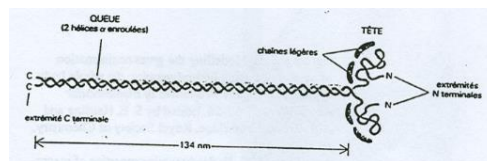


Langerin ECD  $f/f_{min}=1.8$

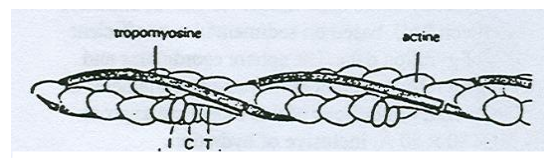
Globular compact macromolecule  
 $f/f_{min} \approx 1.25$



Glycosylated protein:  
 typical  $f/f_{min} = 1.5-1.8$

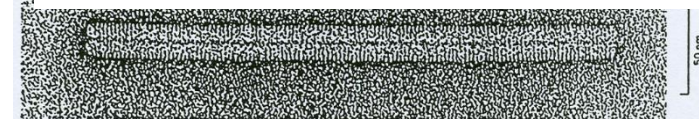


Myosin tail:  $f/f_{min}=3.63$



tropomyosin:  $f/f_{min}=2.65$

tobacco mosaic virus :  $f/f_{min} = 2.65$





# $\rho, \eta$ : Density and viscosity of the solvents

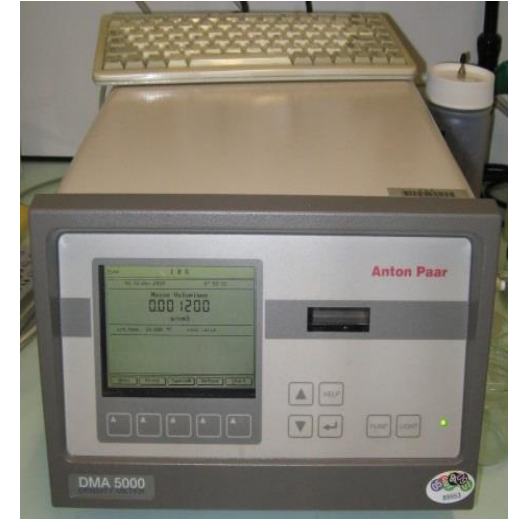
calculated by SEDTERP / UltraScan

<http://www.jphilo.mailway.com/download.htm>

The screenshot shows the SEDTERP / UltraScan software interface. It features a menu bar with 'File', 'Estimating Database', and 'Help'. The main window is divided into several sections:

- Calculate Buffer Density:** A checked checkbox. It shows a 'Density' input field with the value '0.99823' and a 'Density Corrected for Temperature & Isotopes of Water' output field with the value '0.99823'.
- Calculate Buffer Viscosity:** An unchecked checkbox. It shows a 'Viscosity' input field with the value '0.01002' and a 'Viscosity Corrected for Temperature' output field with the value '0.01002'.
- Components List:** A scrollable list of chemical components including 1-Propanol, 2-Propanol, Acetic acid, Acetone, Ammonium chloride, Ammonium hydroxide, Ammonium sulfate, Barium chloride, Cadmium chloride, Cadmium sulfate, and Calcium chloride. There are 'Compute' and search buttons.
- Heavy Isotopes of Water:** A section with checkboxes for H<sub>2</sub>O, D<sub>2</sub>O, H<sub>2</sub>O<sup>18</sup>, and D<sub>2</sub>O<sup>18</sup>, each with a corresponding volume percentage input field.
- Buffer Components Table:** A table with columns for 'Buffer Components', 'Concentration', and 'Units', which is currently empty.
- Search and pH:** A search bar and a 'pH' input field.
- Buttons:** 'Read Composition from File', 'Save Composition to File', 'Save Solvent to Database', 'OK', and 'Cancel' buttons.

Or measured..

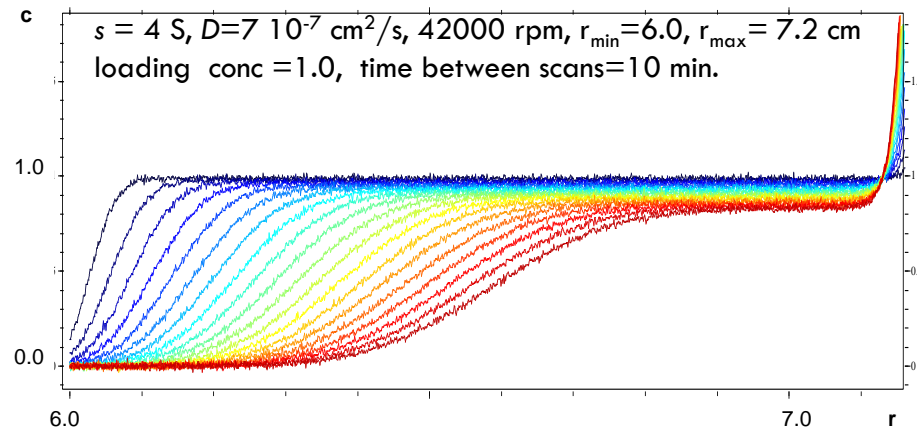


# The Lamm equation

- Equation for the change in concentration over change in time
- Used to predict what the boundary shapes will look like

$$\frac{\delta C}{\delta t} = -\frac{1}{r} \left\{ \underbrace{\frac{\delta}{\delta r} \left[ \omega^2 r^2 s C \right]}_{\text{Sedimentation flux}} - \underbrace{D r \frac{\delta C}{\delta r}}_{\text{Diffusion flux}} \right\}$$

The Lamm equation allows to **calculate the sedimentation concentration profile  $c(r,t)$**  for a **single component** with a sedimentation coefficient  $s$  and a diffusion coefficient  $D$  at a given angular velocity  $\omega$



# The Lamm equation

---

The Lamm equation can be solved **numerically**.

Computer programs like **SEDFIT** developed by P. Schuck fit the **experimental data**, by considering a **finite number of solutions (50-250)** and by applying a non linear least square analysis (or regularization process).

$$c(r,t) = \int c(s) f(s, D, r, t) ds \approx \sum c_n(s) f(s_n, D_n, r, t)$$

The diagram illustrates the relationship between experimental data, concentration, the Lamm equation, and calculated data. It features the equation  $c(r,t) = \int c(s) f(s, D, r, t) ds \approx \sum c_n(s) f(s_n, D_n, r, t)$  with four blue arrows pointing upwards from descriptive text to the corresponding terms in the equation:

- Experimental data for multiple components** (in red text) points to  $c(r,t)$ .
- Concentration of each specie** points to  $c(s)$ .
- Lamm equation for one specie** points to  $f(s, D, r, t)$ .
- Calculated data with  $n$  species defined by  $c, s$  and  $D$**  (in blue text) points to  $c_n(s) f(s_n, D_n, r, t)$ .

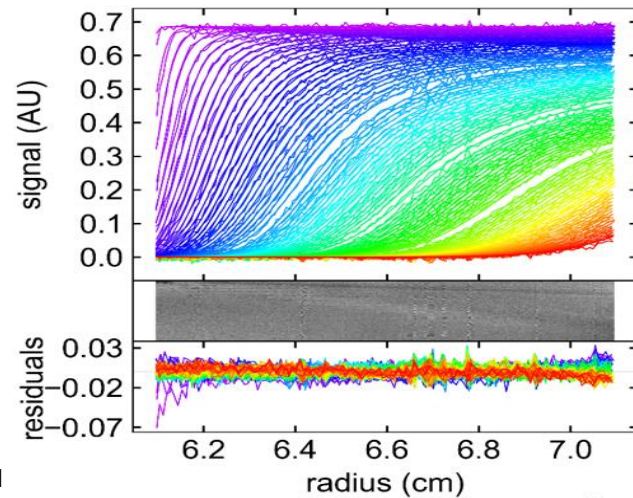
Different models are available, including:

- $c(s)$  model: **diffusion + sedimentation** taken into account (proteins, small molecules)
- $ls-g^*(s)$ : **Only sedimentation taken into account** (nanoparticles > 20 nm)

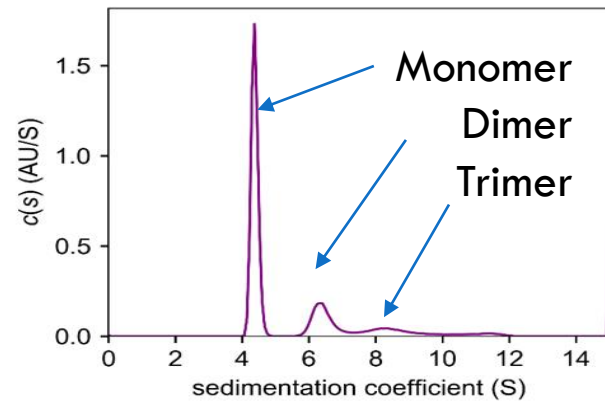
# BSA SV-AUC Sample homogeneity

## Non-interacting species analysis Fitting $s$ and $D$

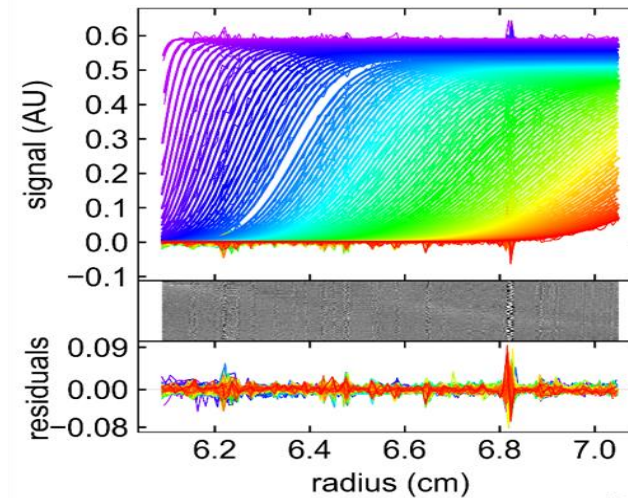
Lyophilized BSA **A**



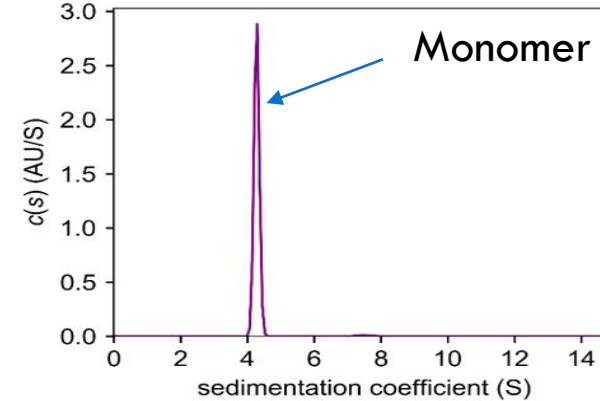
➤ **erroneous  $M=27.4$  kDa**  
model of 1 species is  
inappropriate



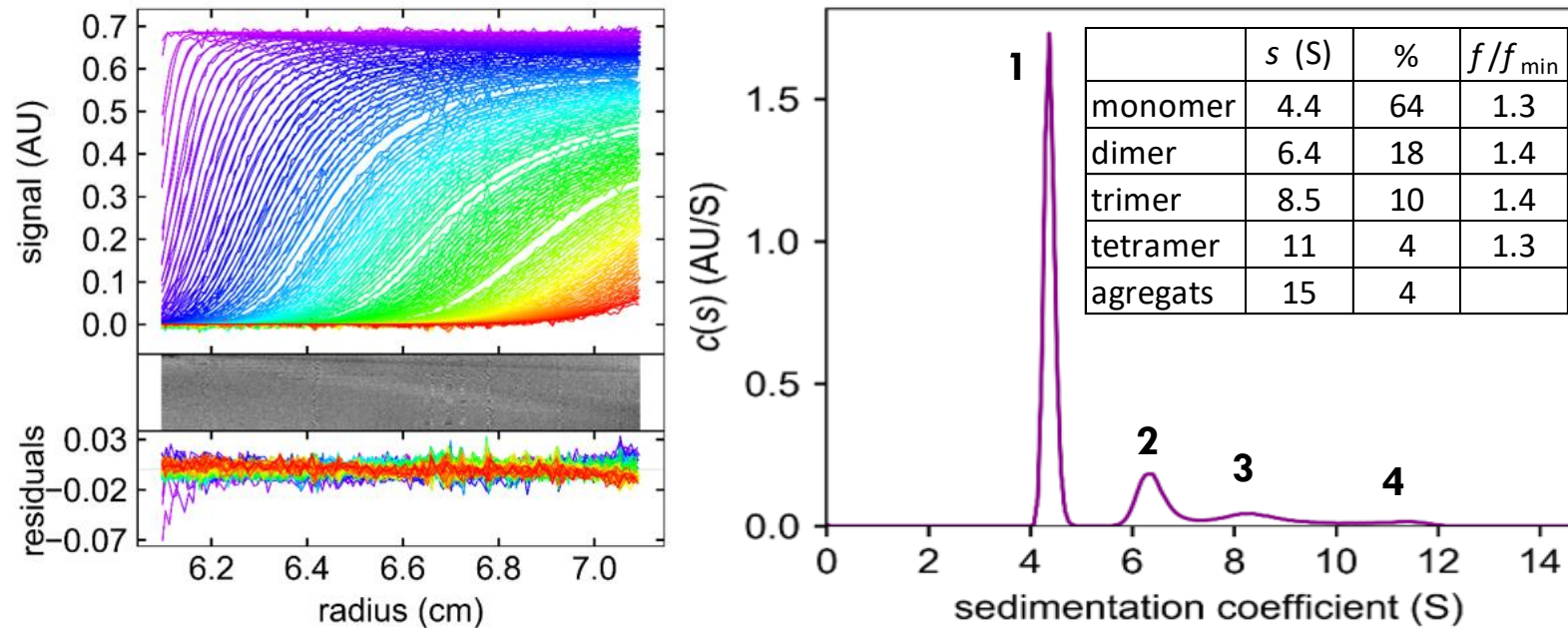
After purification of the monomer with size  
exclusion chromatography **C**



➤  **$M=65.9$  kDa**  
 $M_{\text{theo}}=66$  kDa  
 $s = 4.3$  S  
Rmsd = 0.009

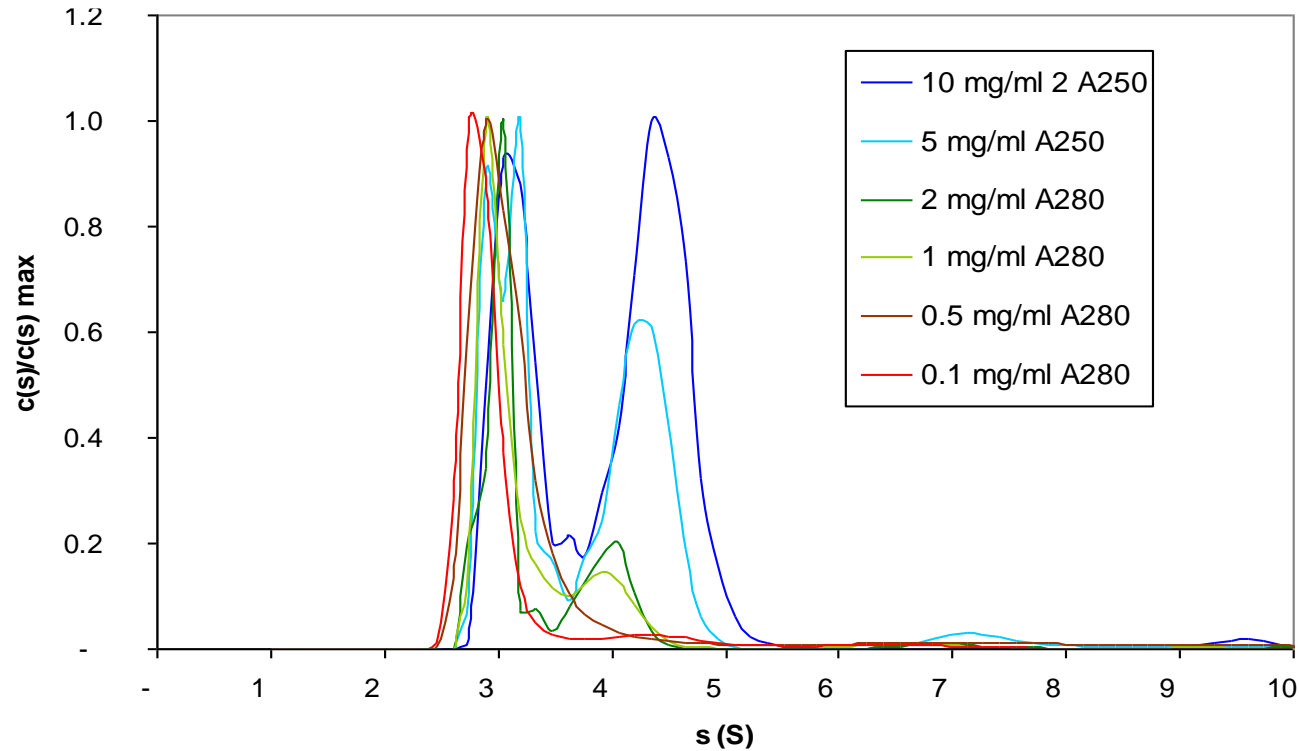


## Sample homogeneity, composition from $c(s)$



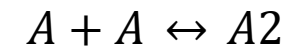
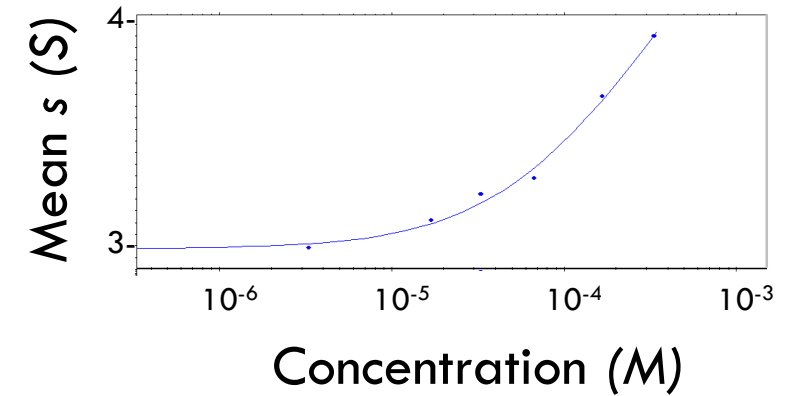
- Integration of each peak allows to determine  $s$ , and concentration from signal.
- Association states are here confirmed by  $f/f_{\min}$  indicating a globular compact shape
- Measurement of traces of aggregates in samples of therapeutic proteins in the biopharmaceutical industry remains tricky & requires rigorous analysis

# Equilibrium monomer-dimer



$$s = \frac{\sum c_i s_i}{\sum c_i}$$

Fitting  $s = f(c)$



$s_{20w} \text{ mono} = 3.13 \text{ S}$

$s_{20w} \text{ dimer} = 5.69 \text{ S}$

$K_d = 0,7 \text{ mM} (0.4 - 1.5 \text{ mM})$

## Conclusions

### AUC sedimentation velocity is a versatile technique

---

- **No sample dilution**
- It allows the characterization of complex samples
- It addresses a **very large range of molar mass/size/density** (evaluated at different rotor speeds/solvent densities)
- Investigation of a **rather large concentration range** depending on the choice of the optical system, cells with different optical paths
- The sample is analyzed in a robust way, in terms of a **distribution of sedimentation coefficients** which is then interpreted in terms of a distribution of molar masses
- Information on **particle composition may be obtained using different optics or different buffer densities**
- More sophisticated analysis are available depending on the specificity of the samples

# MASS PHOTOMETRY

New technology to characterize mass distribution  
at low concentration

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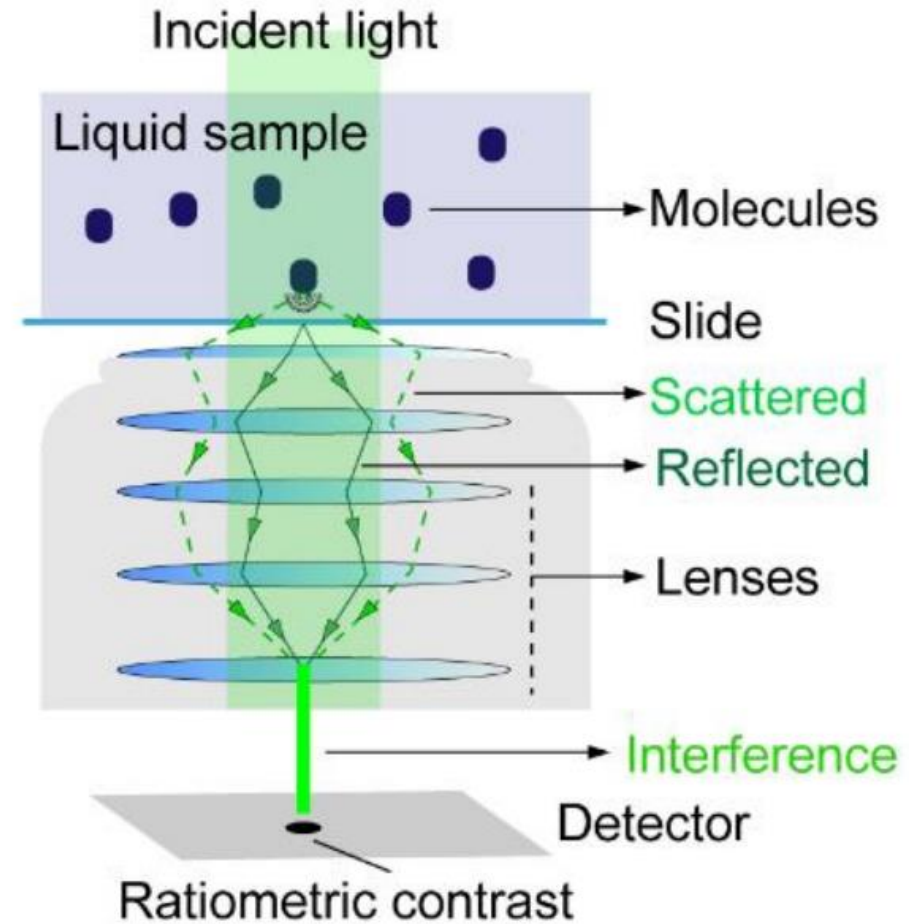
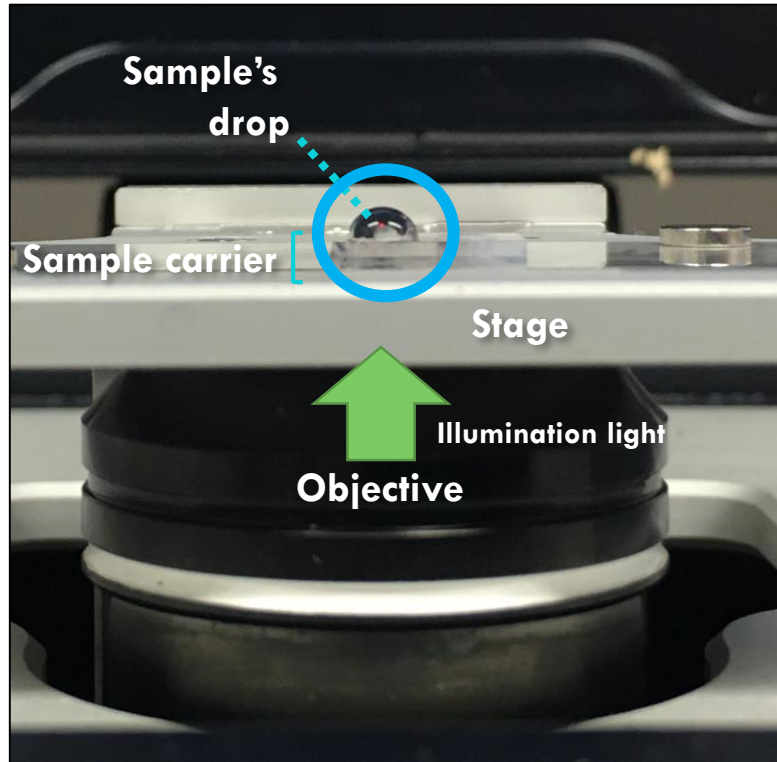
## Mass Photometry - Principle

---

Mass Photometry is **a label free single-molecule** technique based on optical detection of the **scattering signal generated by a single particule at glass-water interface**

Measures the **mass of individual molecules** and thereby determines **mass distributions of biomolecule samples in solution**

# Mass Photometry – Principle Interferometric scattering iSCAT



# Mass Photometry – Principle Interferometric scattering iSCAT

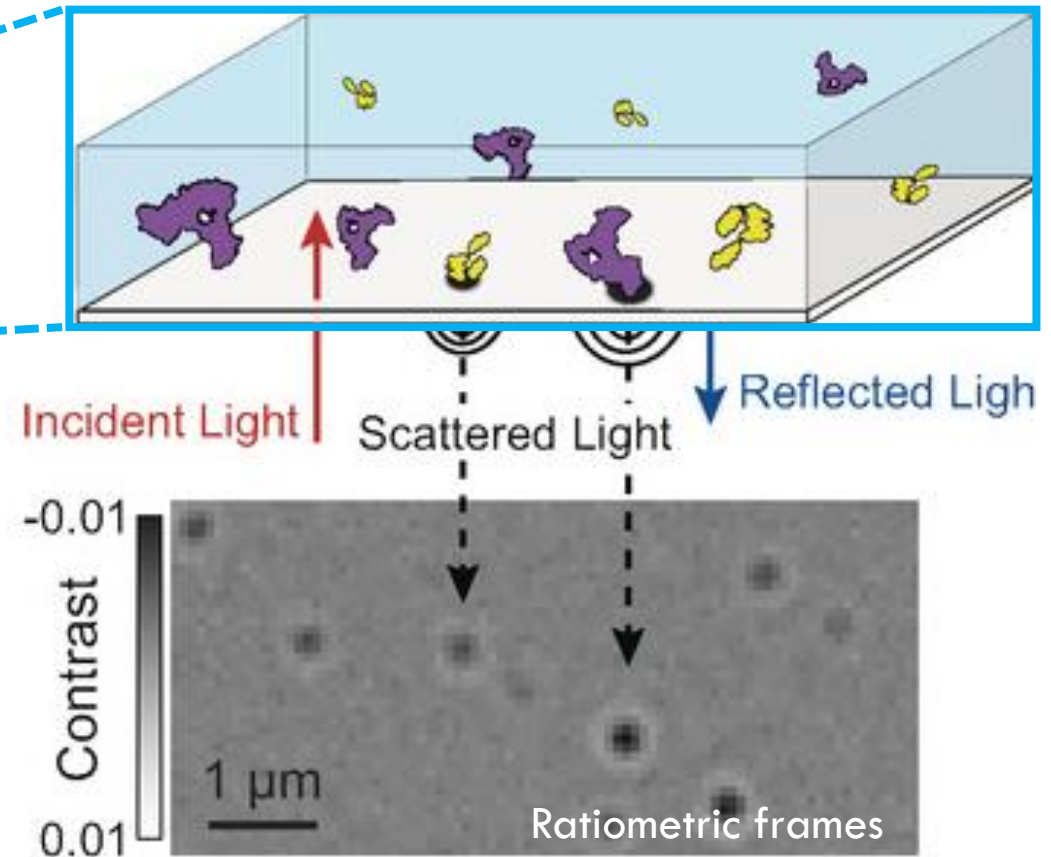
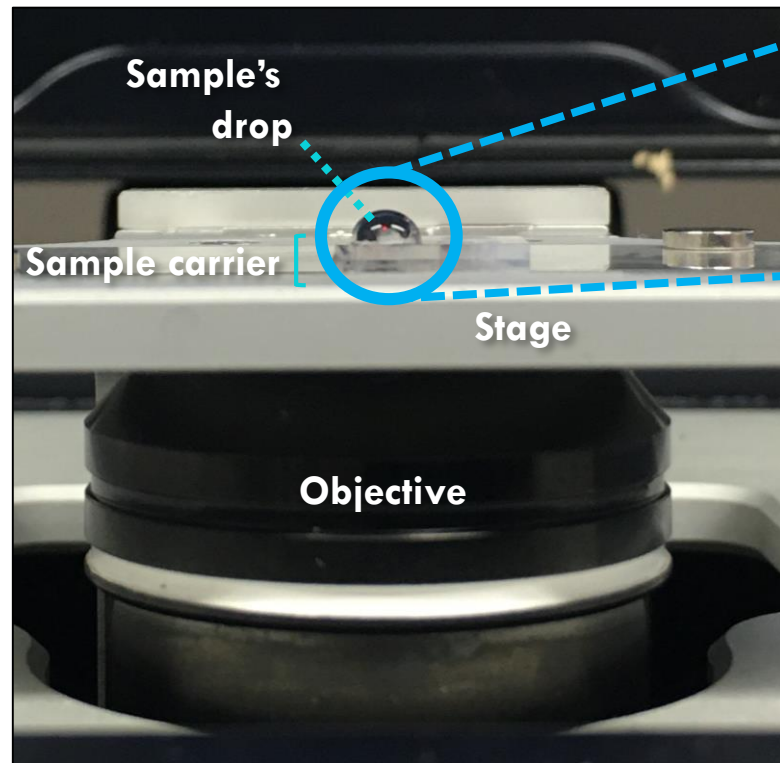
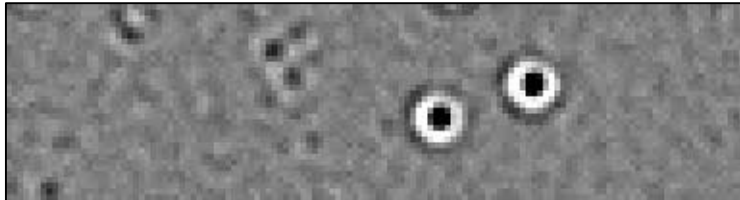


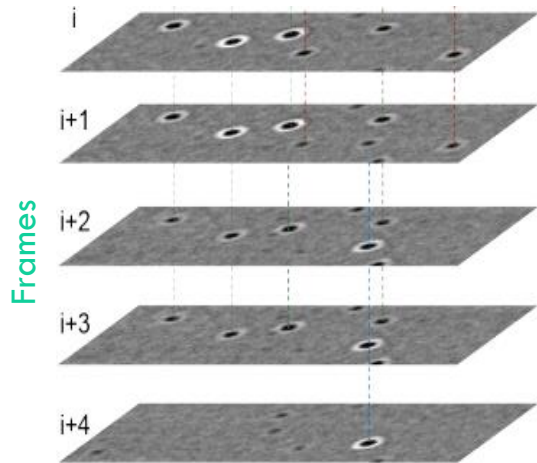
Image the coverslip to record a movie of the landings of macromolecules

# Mass Photometry - Principle

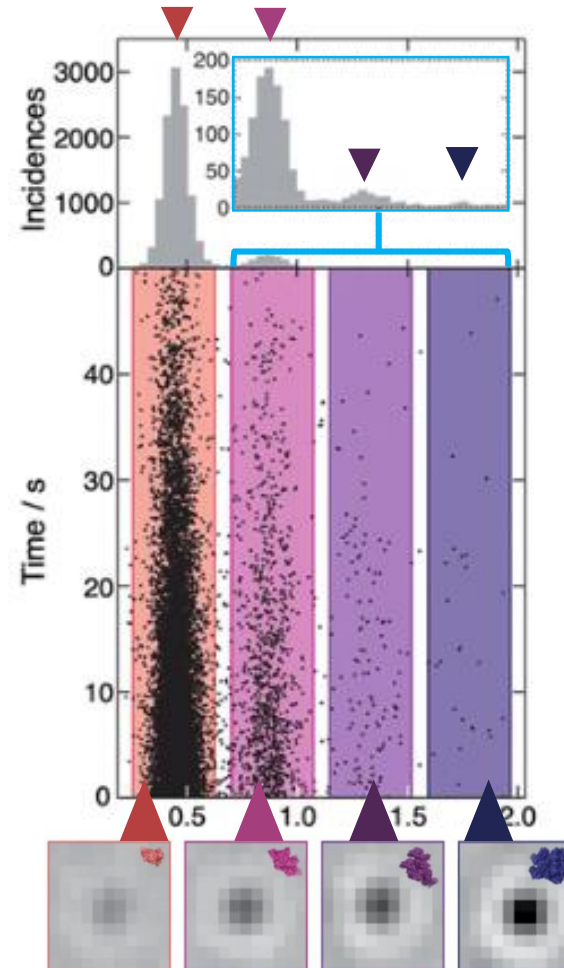
## 1 - Movie recording



Movie of particles landing on the coverslip



## 2 - Contrast / Mass



Contrast of various oligomeric states

## 3 - Sample's requirement

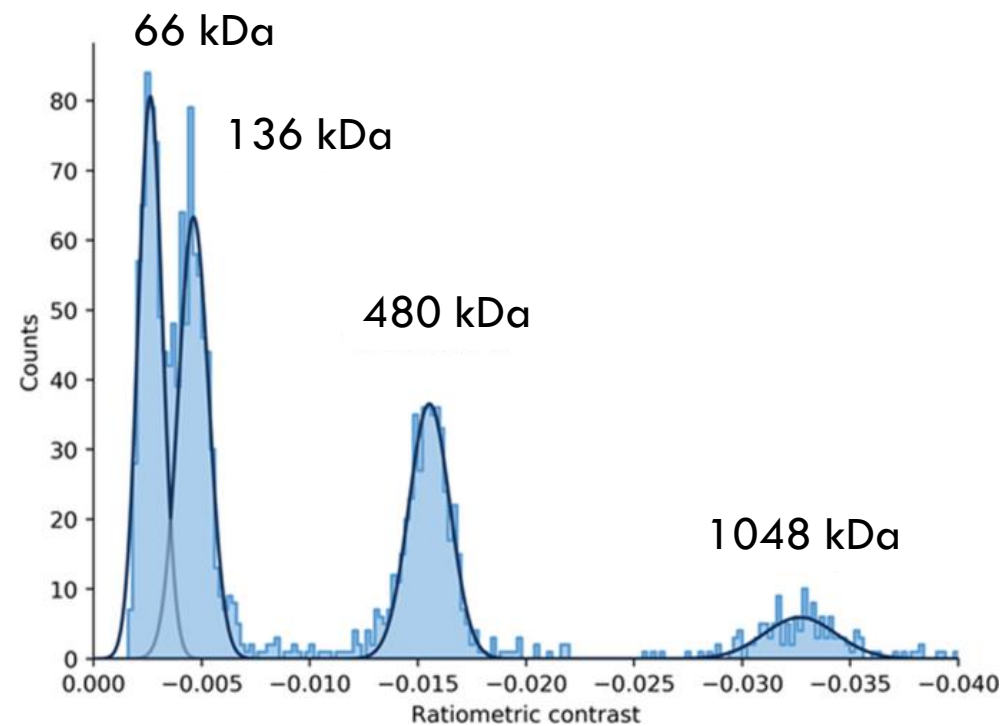
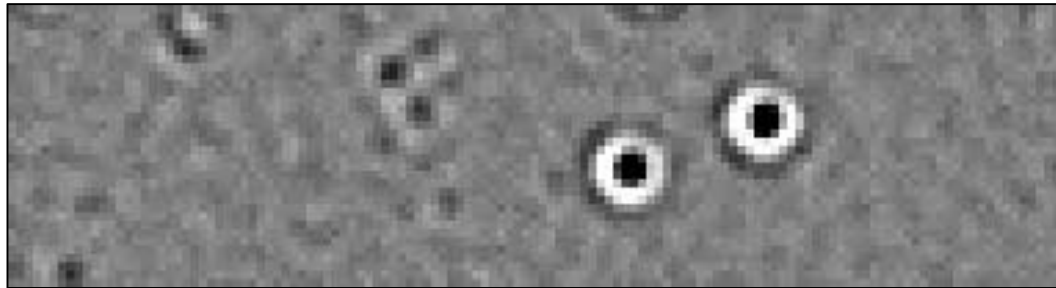
- Few  $\mu\text{L}$  at  $\sim 100\text{-}10\text{ nM}$
- 40 kDa - 5 MDa

## 4 - Applications

- Protein
- Unfolded protein
- RNA / DNA
- Membrane proteins
- Adeno-associated virus
- Interactions

## Mass Photometry Movie and Histogram : Example of calibration

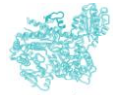
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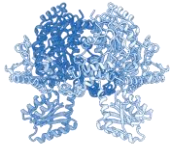
➤ Linear relationship  
contrast vs molecular mass

# Oligomeric state of an arginine decarboxylase at various pHs

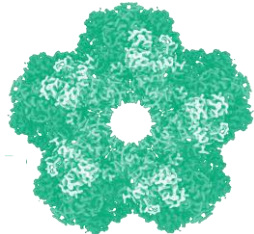
Monomer



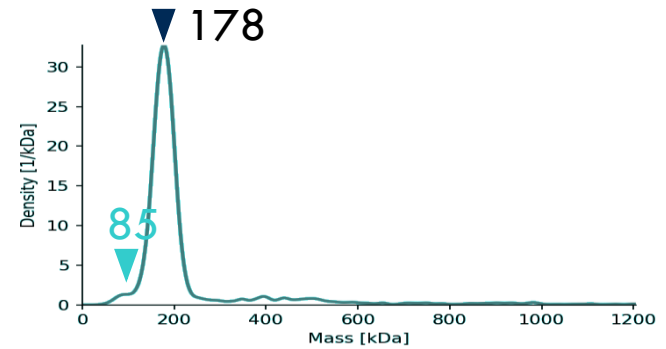
Dimer



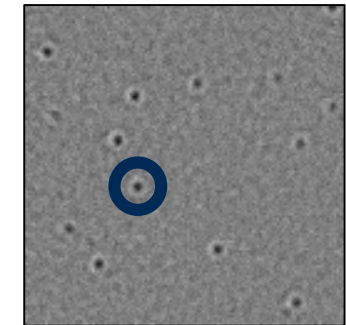
Decamer



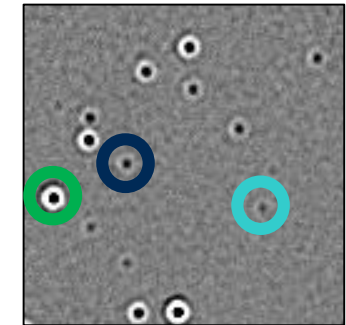
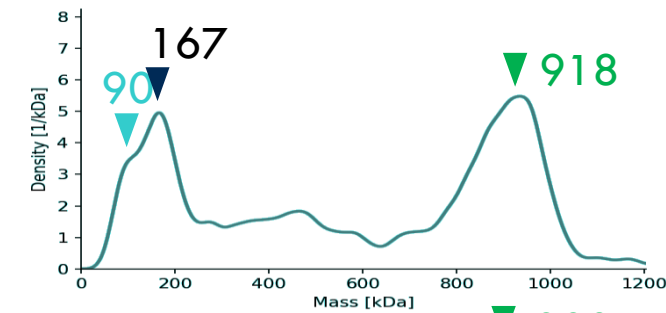
Mass distribution



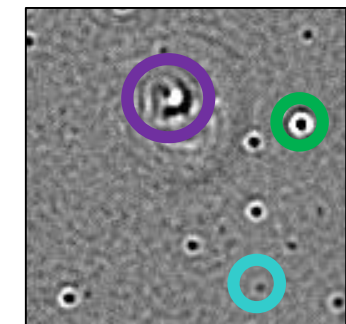
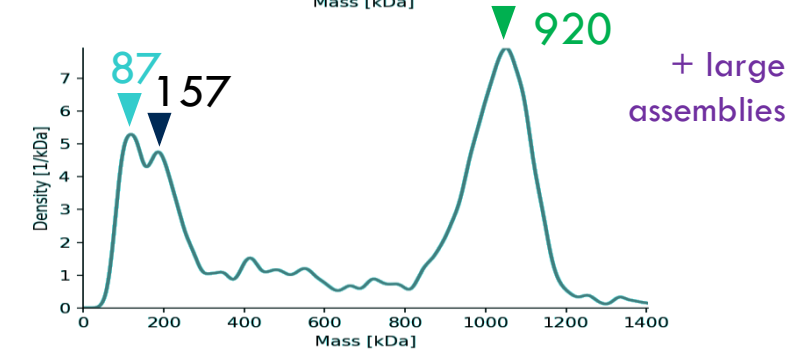
Ratiometric Frame



pH8



pH6.5



pH5

communications  
biology

ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-022-03276-1>

OPEN



Structural and biochemical characterisation of the *Providencia stuartii* arginine decarboxylase shows distinct polymerisation and regulation

Matthew Jessop<sup>1,2</sup>, Karine Huard<sup>1</sup>, Ambroise Desfosses<sup>1</sup>, Guillaume Tetreau<sup>1</sup>, Diego Carriel<sup>1</sup>, Maria Bacia-Verloop<sup>1</sup>, Caroline Mas<sup>1</sup>, Philippe Mas<sup>1</sup>, Angélique Fraudeau<sup>1</sup>, Jacques-Philippe Colletier<sup>1</sup> & Irina Gutsche<sup>1,2</sup>

## Conclusions - Advantages / Limitations

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### Advantages

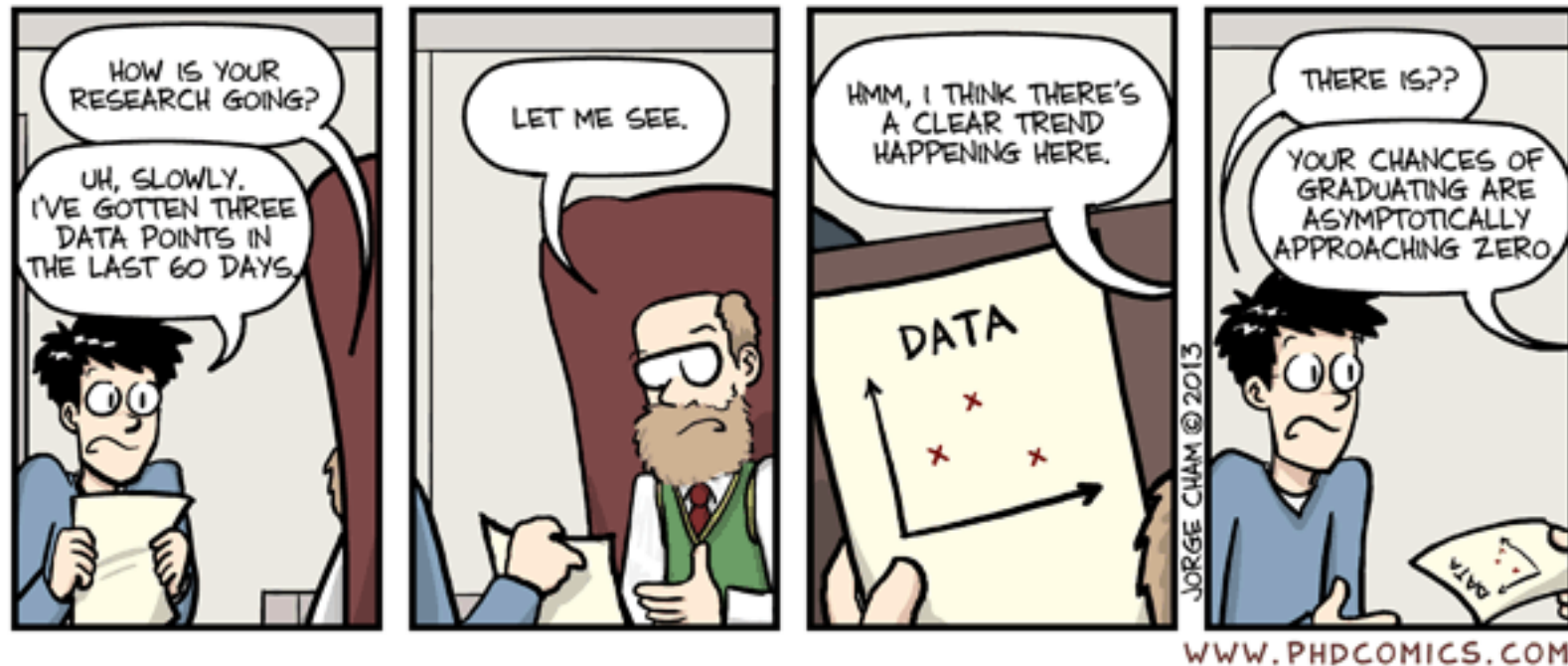
- Simple and rapid: 1 min/movie
- Low amount of sample required: few  $\mu\text{M}$  at concentration of nM

### Limitations

- Need a calibration
- Sample dilution
- Size limitation: 40kDa-5MDa
- Not adapted to weak interactions with fast dissociation
- Resolution of various species

## Sample characterization and quality control: why?

“ Those who assess and **optimize carefully the quality of their protein preparations significantly increase their chances of success in subsequent experiments**”





# National and International Platform Access for national and international users



Enabling technologies for the French and European structural biology community

Section (2/3) | Recalculer

Integrated Structural Biology Grenoble


Overview  
How to access ISBG platforms  
Samples preparation & quality control  
Biophysics Characterisation  
Analytical Ultracentrifugation AUC  
Protein Analysis On Line (PAOL)  
SPR  
OMSEC  
PEAQ-ITC  
VPR-ITC  
Circular Dichroism  
Microscale Thermophoresis (MST)  
DLS  
BLI  
Fluorimeter  
Nanoparticle Tracking Analysis (NTA)  
Mass Photometer MP100  
PROTEIN CRYSTALLISATION  
STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS  
CELLULAR ANALYSIS  
Access  
Credits  
Contact

Home > Biophysical Characterisation > Biophysics characterisation

**Biophysics Characterisation**

PAOL (HPLC/MALS) Analytical Ultracentrifugation AUC SPR  
OMSEC PEAQ-ITC MST monolith NT115 green/red  
DLS High pressure Fluorimeter FTI QM4

www.isbg.fr



FRENCH INFRASTRUCTURE FOR INTEGRATED STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY

PLATFORMS CATALOGUE CENTERS NETWORK TRAINING SUBMIT A PROPOSAL LOGIN

**FRISBI**  
French Infrastructure for Integrated Structural Biology

**CENTERS**

**INSTRUCT CENTRE - FRANCE 2 - IBS - ISBG**

The next challenge facing structural biologists is to understand biological processes at cellular and organism scales. This is one of the main goals of integrated structural biology, which encompasses a variety of high-tech methods for sample generation and characterisation (e.g. structure determination, complex assembly, dynamics, function and interactions). These studies often require expensive equipment, for example synchrotron beamlines, high-field NMR and electron microscopes, as well as expert knowledge at the interface of biology, physics and chemistry.

The IBS-ISBG FRISBI centre in Grenoble provides supported user access to state of the art structural biology instrumentation in France, notably high level cryoEM and NMR. Our services and technologies address areas of sample preparation, characterisation and structure determination. All platforms have ISO 9001 quality certification. User access to the platforms of the Institut de Biologie Structurale (IBS, www.ibs.fr) is managed by the Integrated Structural Biology Grenoble (ISBG, www.isbg.fr) service unit.

The IBS is located on the EPN Science Campus, an international science hub that also hosts three major European institutes – EMBL, ESRF and ILL, each with major research and user access programs in structural biology.

The center is part of the European Infrastructure Instruct-ERIC

**LOCATION**

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38000 Grenoble, France

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**Website**  
www.ibs.fr  
www.isbg.fr

**CENTERS**

www.frisbi.eu



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**- Instruct Centre FR2**

**Flagship Service/Technology at Instruct Centre FR2:**  
Electron Microscopy, Grenoble, France

The EM platform at IBS provides access to a full range of instruments (three in total) for national and European users via FRISBI and Instruct respectively. This includes classical quality control negative staining experiment (Tecnaï 12 EM) prior to setting up cryo conditions (F20 EM)

France 2 - The platforms of the Institut de Biologie Structurale (IBS) managed by Integrated Structural Biology Grenoble (ISBG).

www.instruct-eric.eu

## Contact details & acknowledgement

---



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Caroline Mas	<a href="mailto:caroline.mas@ibs.fr">caroline.mas@ibs.fr</a>

## Management & Support Team

ISBG Director - Darren Hart

Admin Manager - Linda Ponnet

Quality Engineer - Auriane Denis-Meyere



# Thanks for your attention

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EMBL



IBISA

Infrastructures  
en Biologie  
Santé et  
Agriculture

