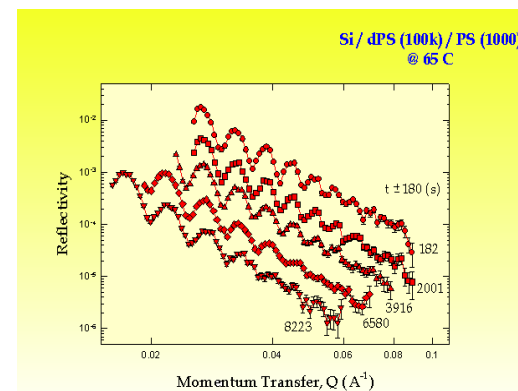
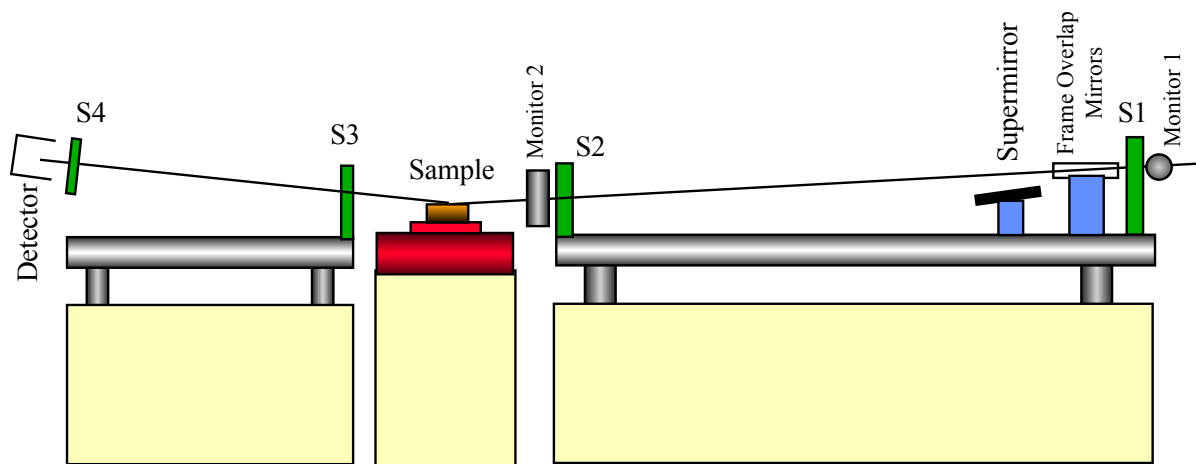


# Introduction to Neutron Reflectivity

J.R.P. Webster

ISIS Facility, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

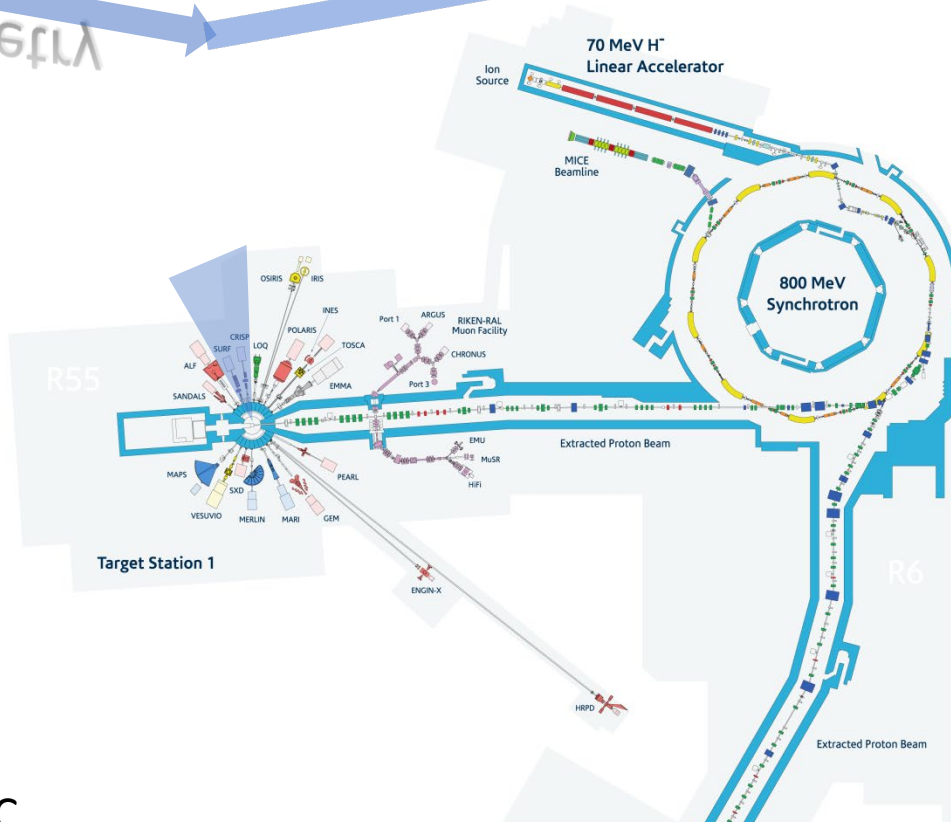


# Reflectometry

REFLECTOMETRY

TS1

CRISP  
SURF

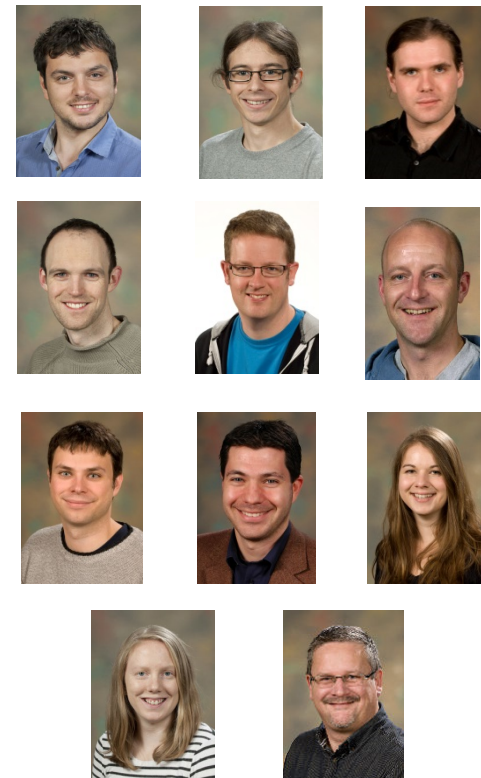


TS2

OFFSPEC  
INTER  
POLREF

### Types of Instrument at ISIS

- Diffractometer
- Reflectometer
- Small Angle Scattering
- Indirect Spectrometer
- Direct Spectrometer
- Muon Spectrometer/Instrument
- Chip Irradiation
- Imaging and Diffraction

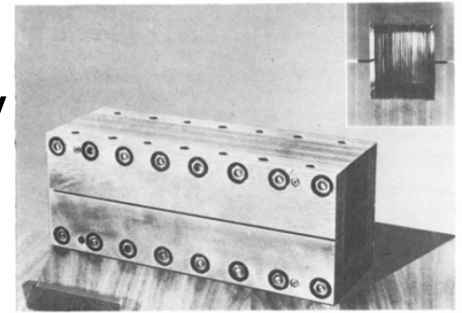


# Neutrons – a tailor-made probe

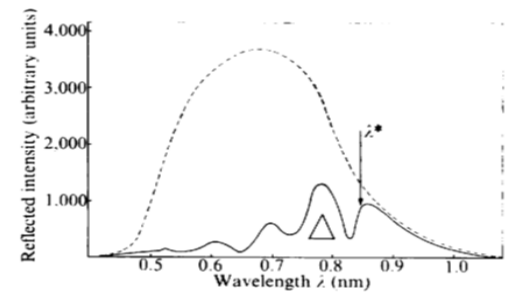
- Neutron wavelength and energy ‘just right’ for condensed matter - *structure and dynamics*
- Neutron cross-section - *isotopic dependence*
- H / D contrast - *nuclear form factor*
- Magnetic Moment - *magnetic order*
- Weak probe - *theoretical interpretation*
- Highly penetrating - *bulk probe - complex SE*
- Non Destructive

## Evolution of Neutron Reflectivity (ISIS centric)

- 1965 Koester: gravity mirror  
determination of scattering lengths
- 1976 Hayter, Penfold, Williams  
first interference fringes
- 1981 Application of NR to chemical  
surfaces and interfaces  
(Faraday Trans, D17)
- 1986 Argonne IPNS polarised  
reflectometer (Gian Felcher)  
CRISP 1<sup>st</sup> spectrum (august)
- 1988 Spread monolayers (Richardson)
- 1998 Adsorption at the Liquid Surface  
(Penfold, Thomas)



Polarising Soller Guide



Fe/Co thin film: Nature, 262, 1976, 569

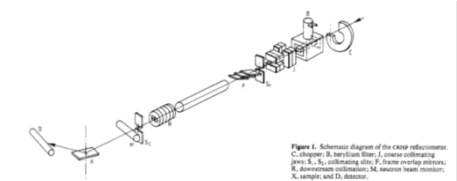


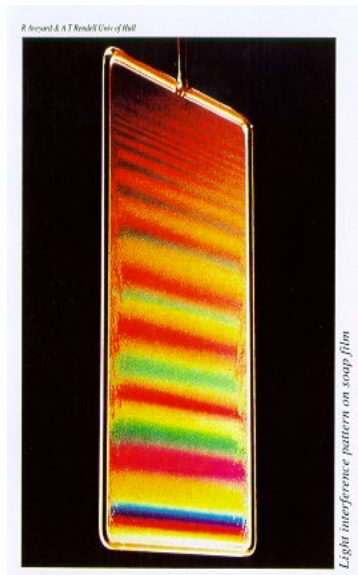
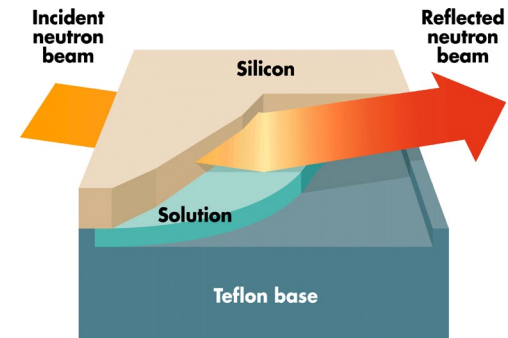
Figure 1. Schematic diagram of the neutron reflectometer:  
 C, collimator; M, monochromator; S, sample; D, detector; A, detector collimator; B, neutron beam monitor; E, detector collimator; F, frame overlap mirrors.



# Specular reflection of neutrons from surfaces and interfaces

Analogous to optical interference,  
ellipsometry

Equivalent to electromagnetic radiation with  
electric vector perpendicular to the plane  
of incidence



**Depth Profiling** : provides  
information on concentration  
or composition profile perpendicular  
to the surface or interface

(Penfold, Thomas, *J Phys Condens Matt*, 2  
(1990)1369,  
T P Russell, *Mat Sci Rep* 5 (1990) 171 )

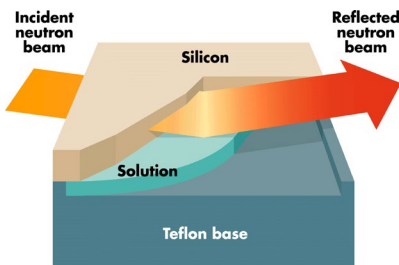
# Reflectometry

## Kinetics

- Polymer Diffusion
- Critical exponents in SCF
- Protein unfolding
- Non equilibrium surfactant films
- Temporal resolution of
  - Ion transfers
  - Solvent transfers
  - Polymer structure

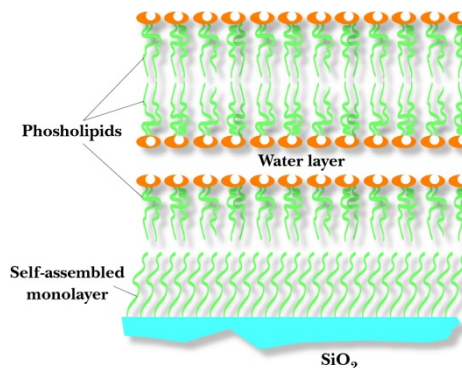
## Electrochemistry

- Electrodeposition and Surface nucleation
- Self Assembly of systems
  - Metal Hydroxide electroprecipitation (batteries)
  - Novel templating mechanisms



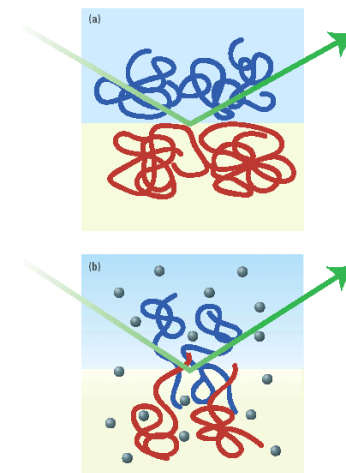
## Surfactants

- Parametric Studies
- Liquid/Liquid Interface
- Reduce Label size in Structural Studies
- Self Assembly
- Foams



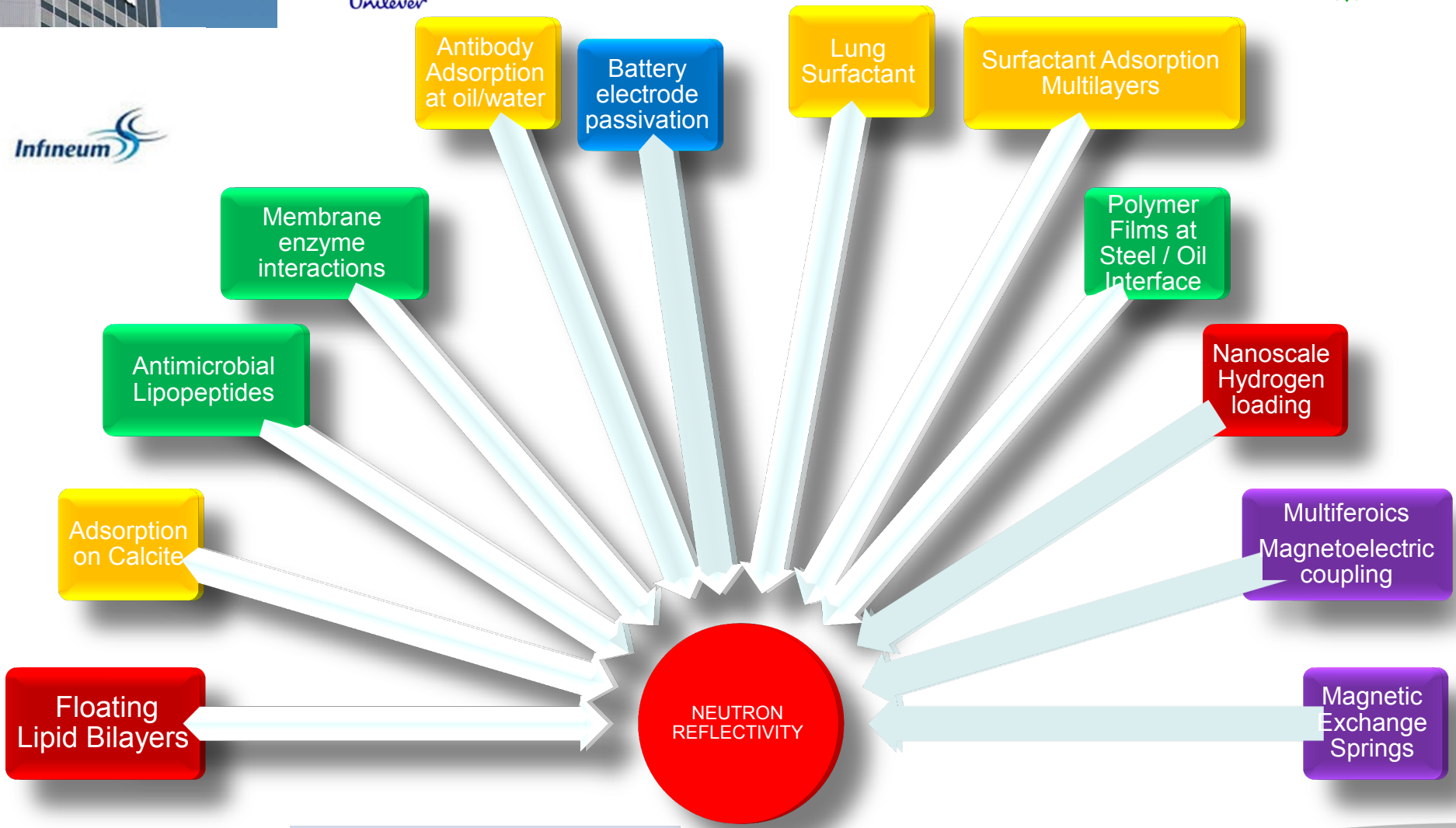
## Model Devices

- Thin polymer films (finite size effects)
- Spin coating



## Biology

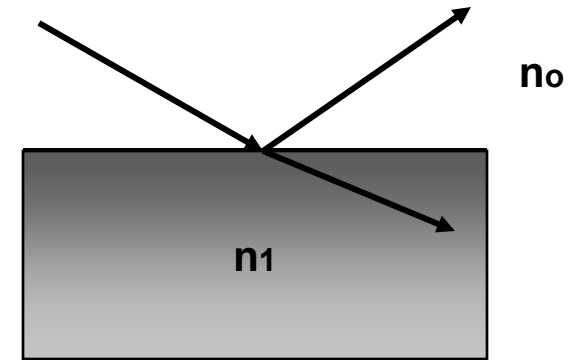
- Protein adsorption
- Biocompatible polymers
- Drug transport
- Anaesthesia mechanisms



# Specular reflection of neutrons

Refractive index defined using the usual convention in optics:

$$n = k_1 / k_0$$



$$n = 1 - \lambda^2 A - i\lambda B$$

$$A = Nb / 2\pi$$

$$B = N(\sigma_a + \sigma_i) / 4\pi$$

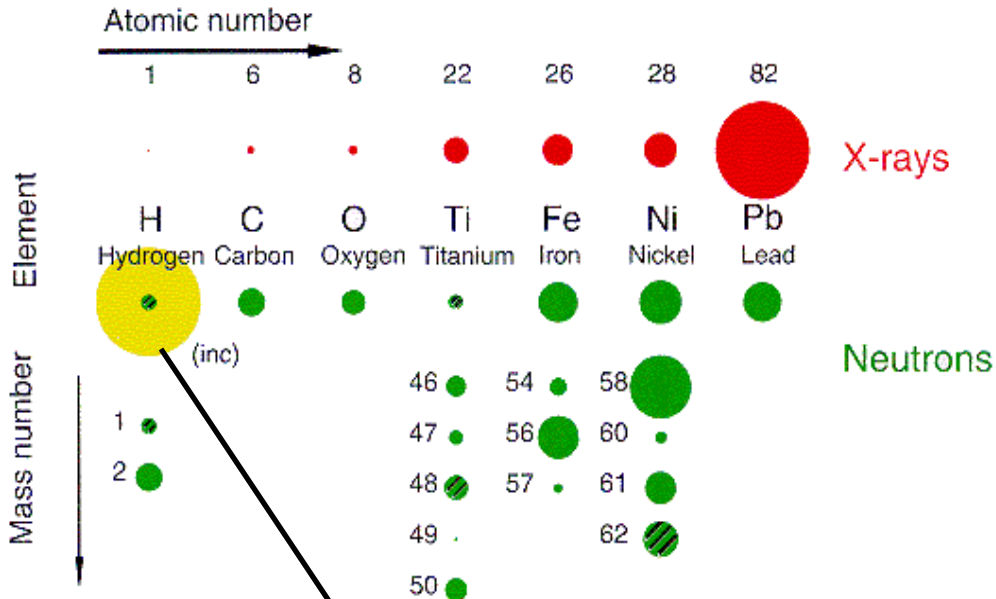
X-rays

$$n = 1 - \alpha - i\beta$$

$$\alpha = N\lambda^2 Z_{re} / 2\pi$$

$$\beta = \lambda \mu / 4\pi$$

# Refractive Index for neutrons



The diameters of the circles shown scale with the scattering amplitude  $f_1$  ( $\sin\theta=0$ ) for x-rays, and  $b_{coh} \times 10$  for neutrons. Hatching indicates negative scattering amplitudes.

$$n = \frac{k_1}{k_0}$$

$$n = 1 - \lambda^2 A - i\lambda B$$

$$A = Nb/2\pi$$

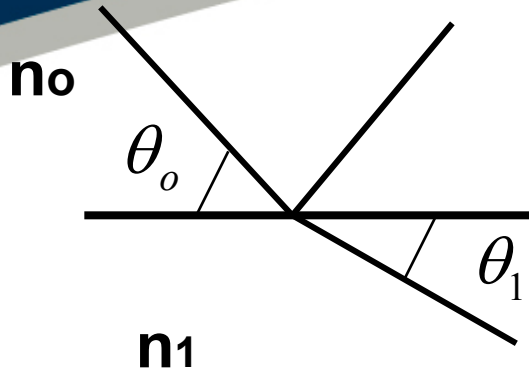
Extensively use H/D isotopic substitution to manipulate "contrast" or refractive index

H  $-0.374 \times 10^{-12}$  cm

D  $0.667 \times 10^{-12}$  cm

$n < 1.0$  hence **TOTAL EXTERNAL REFLECTION**

# Specular reflection of neutrons ( some basic optics )

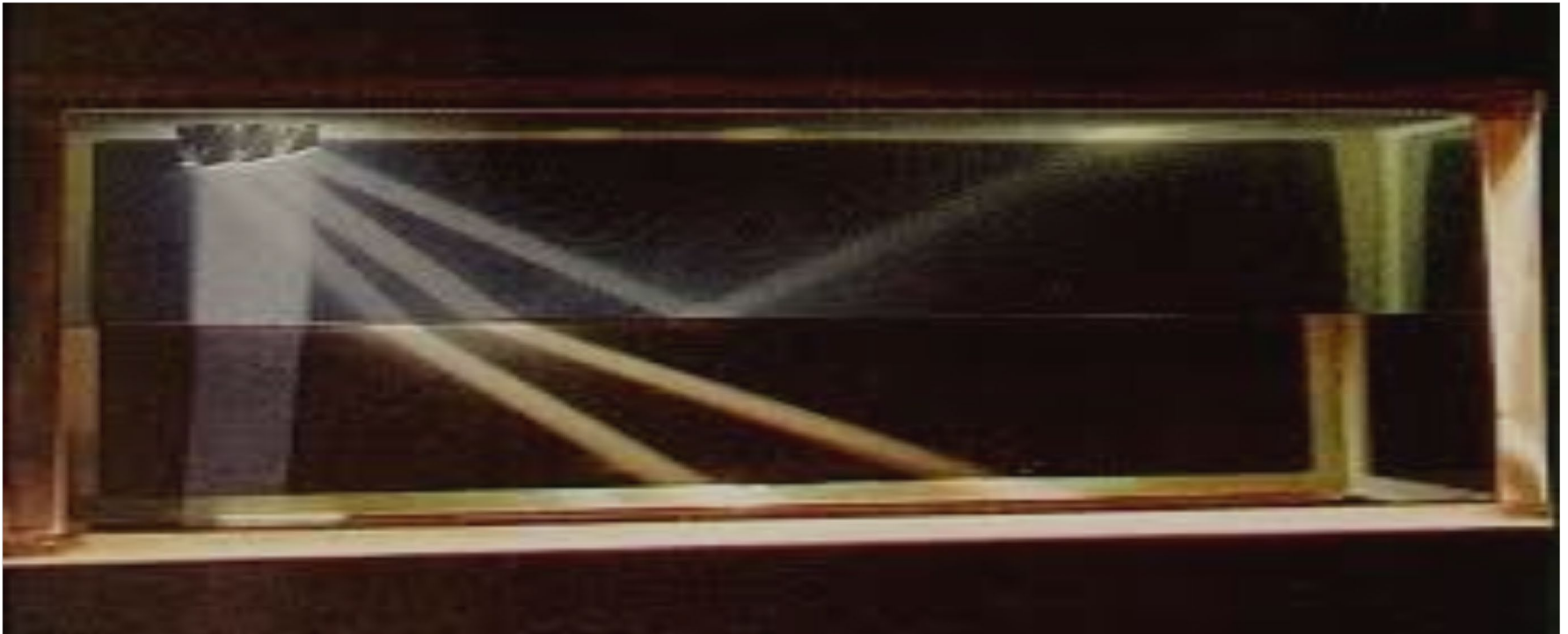


From Snell's Law, 
$$n = \frac{n_1}{n_0} = \frac{\cos \theta_0}{\cos \theta_1}$$

At total reflection  $\theta_0 = \theta_c$   
 $\theta_1 = 0.0$        $\cos \theta_1 = 1.0$

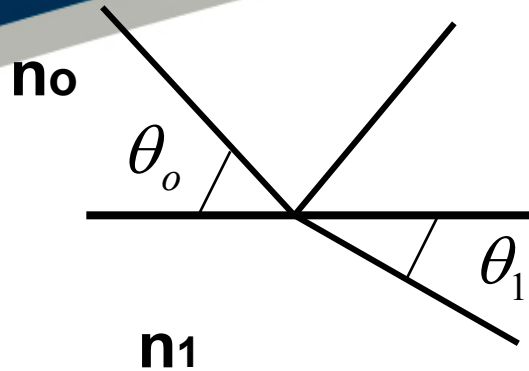
Critical angle

Total reflection (  $R=1.0$  ) for  $\theta < \theta_c$





# Specular reflection of neutrons ( some basic optics )



From Snell's Law,  $n = \frac{n_1}{n_0} = \frac{\cos \theta_0}{\cos \theta_1}$

At total reflection  $\theta_0 = \theta_c$   
 $\theta_1 = 0.0$   $\cos \theta_1 = 1.0$

Critical angle

$$\cos \theta_c = 1 - Nb \frac{\lambda^2}{2\pi}$$

$$\theta_c = \lambda \sqrt{\frac{Nb}{\pi}}$$

Total reflection (  $R=1.0$  ) for  $\theta < \theta_c$

For  $\theta > \theta_c$  Fresnel's Law

$$R = \left| \frac{n_0 \sin \theta_0 - n_1 \sin \theta_1}{n_0 \sin \theta_0 + n_1 \sin \theta_1} \right|^2$$

$$n_1 \sin \theta_1 = \left( n_1^2 - n_0^2 \cos^2 \theta_0 \right)^{1/2}$$

$\theta < \theta_c$   $n_1 \sin \theta_1$  is imaginary ( Evanescent wave )

$\theta > \theta_c$   $n_1 \sin \theta_1$  Is real, and zero at  $\theta = \theta_c$



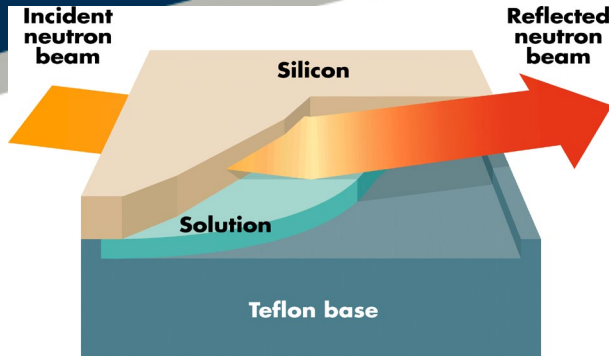


## Some typical values for $\theta_c$ and $\sigma_a$

Material	$\theta_c$ (deg / Å)
Ni	0.1
Si	0.047
Cu	0.083
Al	0.047
D <sub>2</sub> O	0.082

Material	$\sigma_a$ (barns)
Si	0.17
Cu	3.78
Co	37.2
Cd	2520
Gd	29400
Al	0.231

# Specular Neutron Reflection (simple interface)

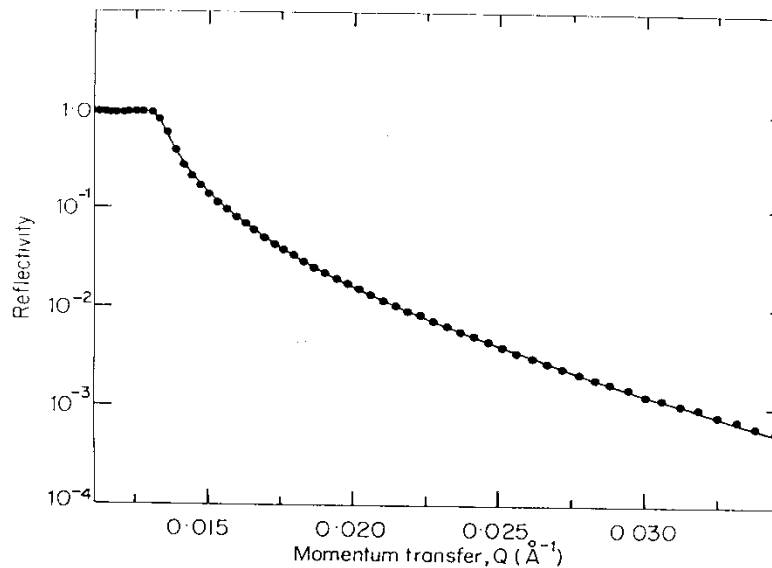


Within **Born Approximation** the Reflectivity is given as,

$$R(Q) = \frac{16\pi^2}{Q^4} \left| \int \rho'(z) e^{-iQz} dz \right|^2$$

$$Q = k_1 - k_2 = 4\pi \sin \theta / \lambda$$

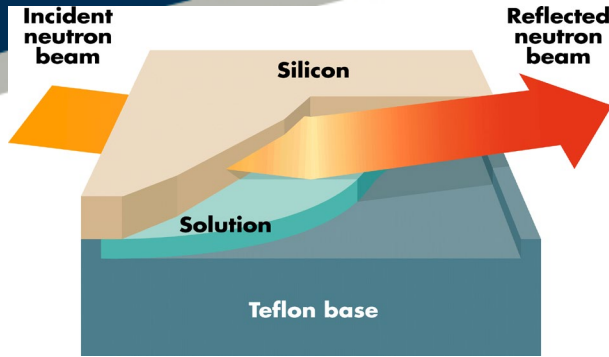
Reflectivity from a simple single interface is then given by **Fresnel's Law**



$$R = \left| \frac{n_0 \sin \theta_0 - n_1 \sin \theta_1}{n_0 \sin \theta_0 + n_1 \sin \theta_1} \right|^2$$

$$R(Q) = \frac{16\pi^2}{Q^4} \Delta\rho^2$$

# Specular Neutron Reflection (simple interface)

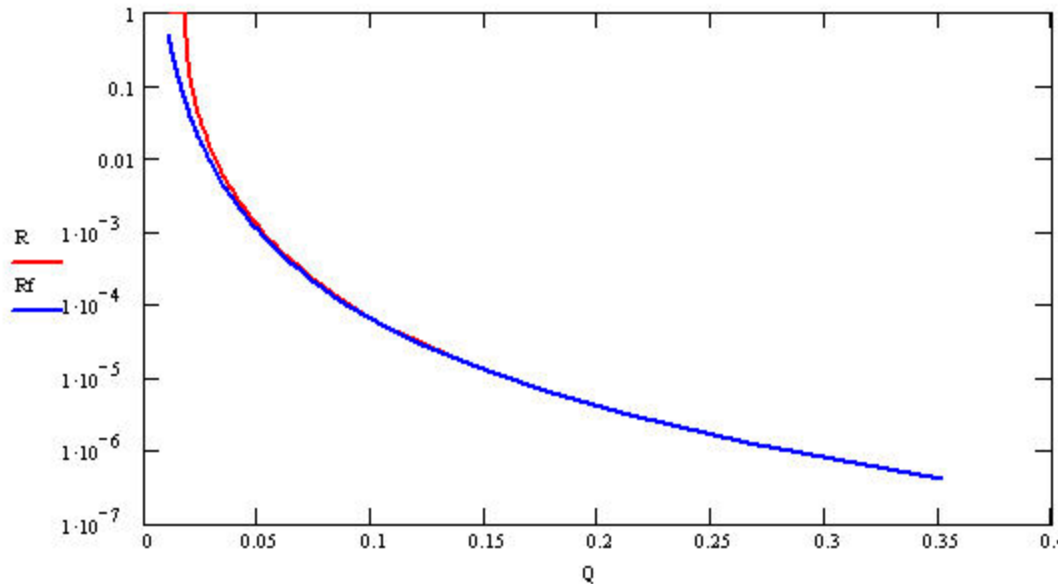


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$$R(Q) = \frac{16\pi^2}{Q^4} \Delta\rho^2$$

# Specular Neutron Reflection

For thin films see interference effects that can be described using standard thin film optical methods

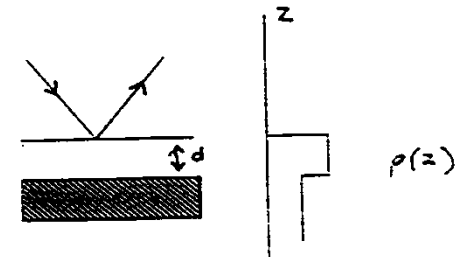
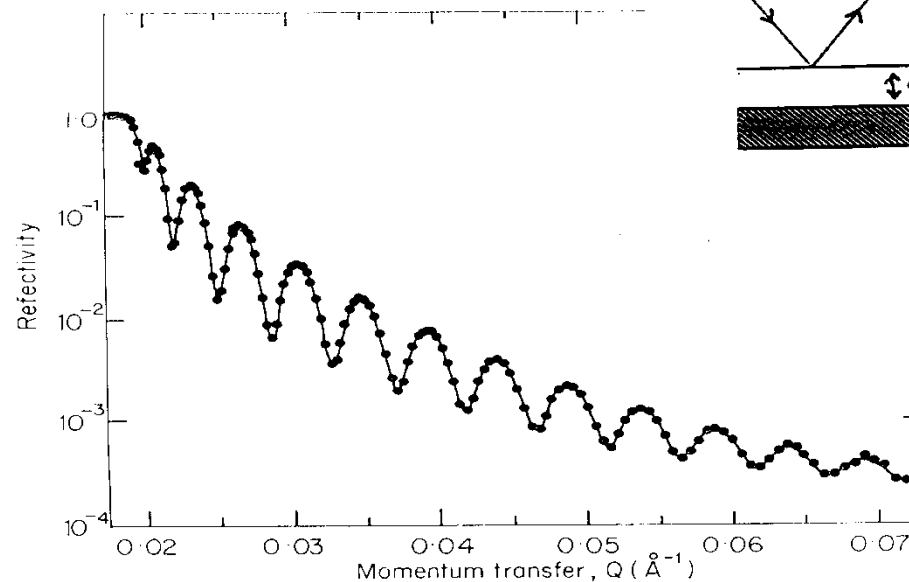
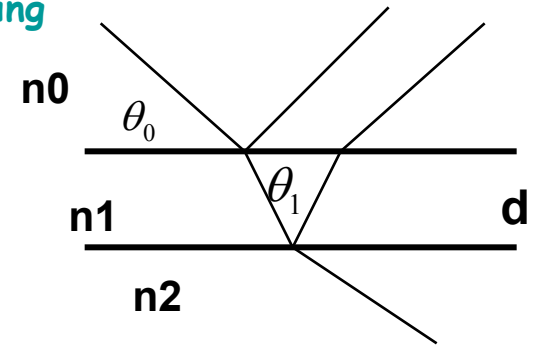
For a single thin film at an interface

$$R(Q) = \left| \frac{r_{01} + r_{12} e^{-2i\beta}}{1 + r_{01} r_{12} e^{-2i\beta}} \right|^2$$

$$r_{ij} = \frac{p_i - p_j}{p_i + p_j}$$

$$p_i = n_i \sin \theta$$

$$\beta_i = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} n_i d_i \sin \theta_i$$



For a single thin film :

$$R(Q) = \frac{r_{01}^2 + r_{12}^2 + 2r_{01}r_{12} \cos 2n_1 k_1 d_1}{1 + r_{01}^2 r_{12}^2 + 2r_{01}r_{12} \cos 2n_1 k_1 d_1}$$

For  $Q \gg Q_c$  :

$$R(Q) \sim \frac{16\pi^2}{Q^4} \left[ (\rho_1 - \rho_0)^2 + (\rho_2 - \rho_1)^2 + 2(\rho_1 - \rho_0)(\rho_2 - \rho_1) \cos(Qd) \right]$$

Fourier transform of 2 delta functions (young's slits)

**FRINGE SPACING :**

$$\Delta Q = \frac{2\pi}{d}$$

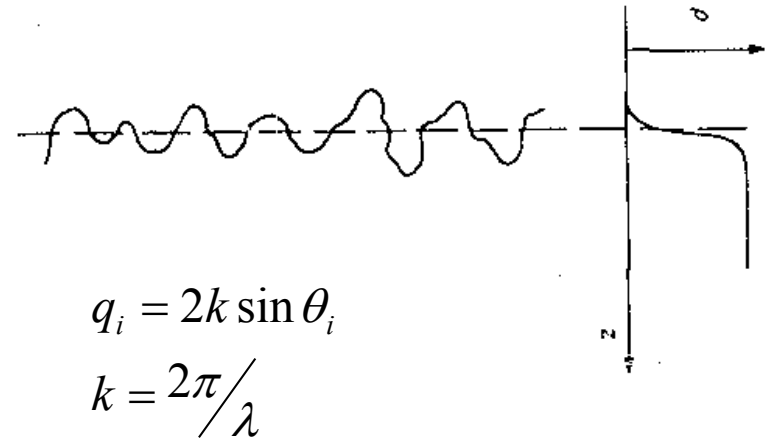
# Rough or Diffuse Interface

For a simple interface reflectivity modified by,

$$R = R_0 \exp(-q_0 q_1 \sigma^2)$$

$\sigma$  is rms Gaussian roughness

Gaussian factor ( like Debye-Waller factor ) results in larger than  $q^{-4}$  dependence in the reflectivity.

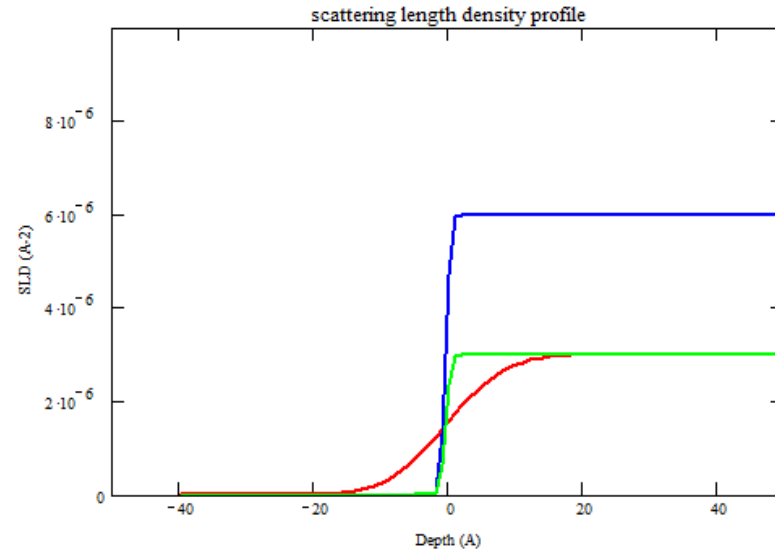
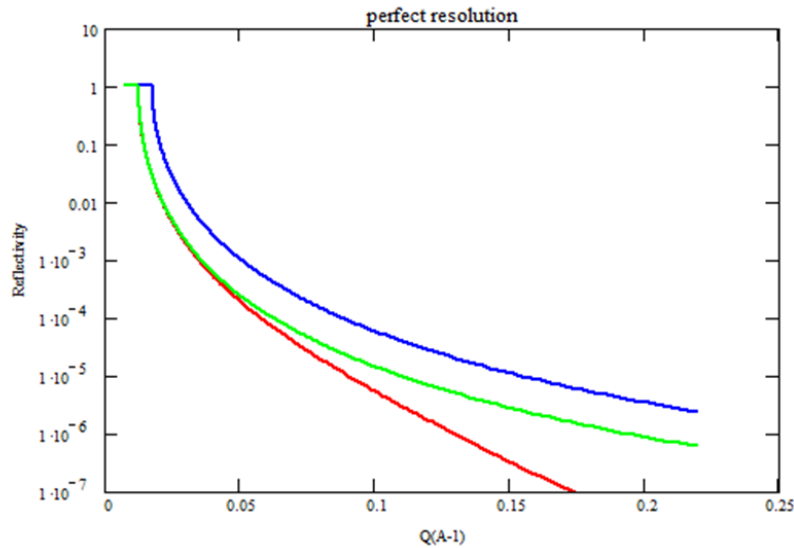


( Nevot, Croce, *Rev Phys Appl* 15 (1980) 125, Sinha, Sirota, Garoff, Stanley, *Phys Rev B* 38 (1988) 2297)

Can be also applied to reflection coefficients in formalism for thin films,

$$r_{ij} = \frac{(p_i - p_j)}{(p_i + p_j)} \exp(-0.5(q_i q_j \sigma^2))$$

From specular reflectivity cannot distinguish between roughness and diffuse interface



## Effect of roughness and sld

### Glass optical flat

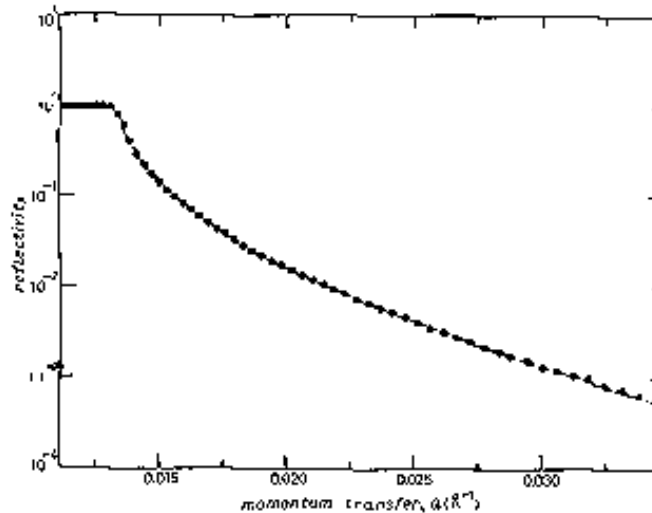
$$\theta = 0.35$$

$$Nb = 0.35 \times 10^{-5} \text{ A}^{-2}$$

$$\sigma = 33 \text{ A}$$

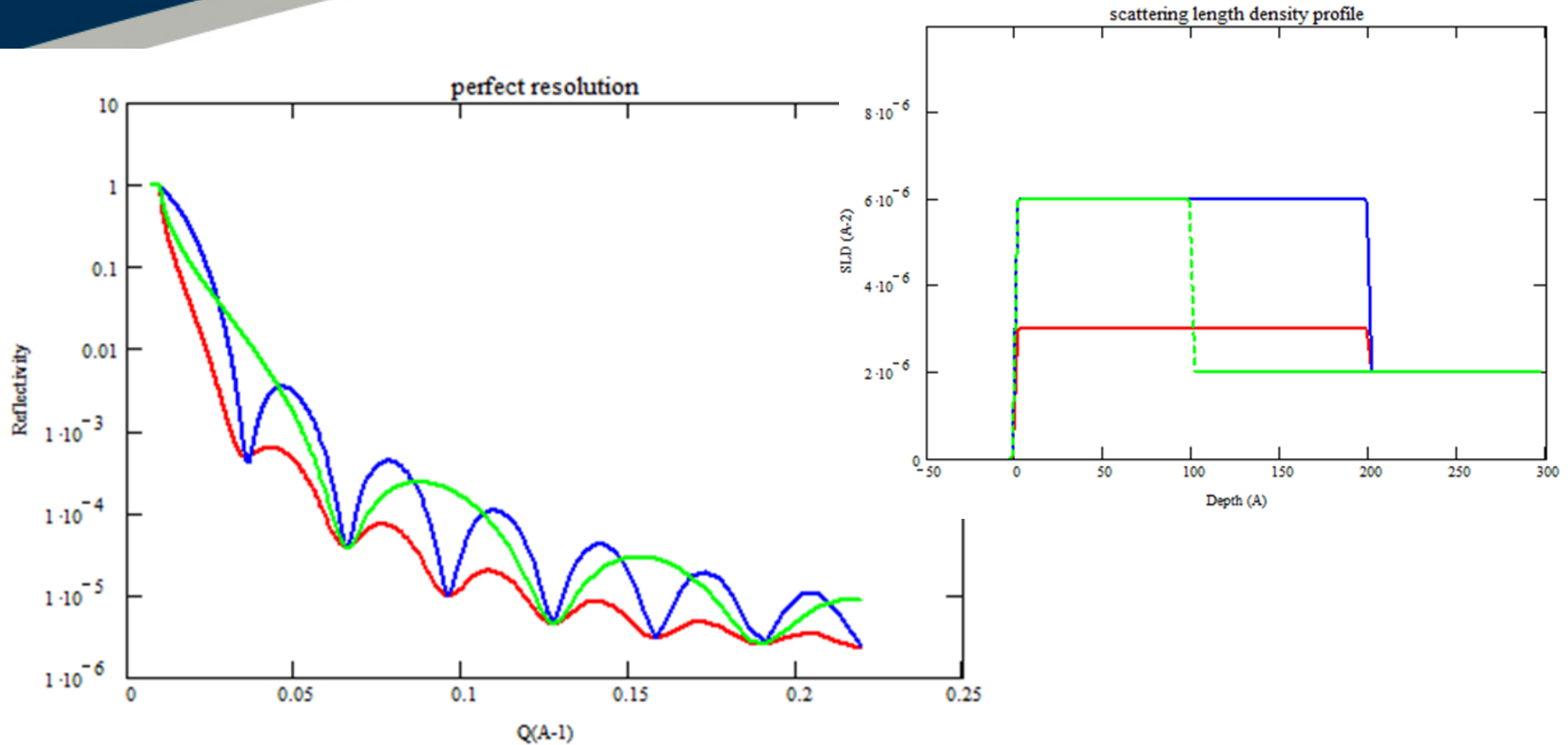
$$\Delta\theta = 5\%$$

Penfold & Thomas  
1990



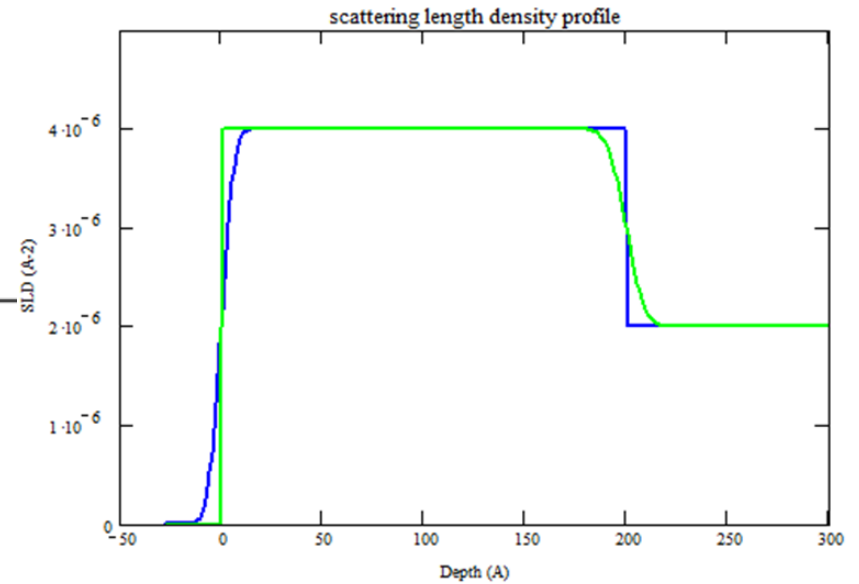
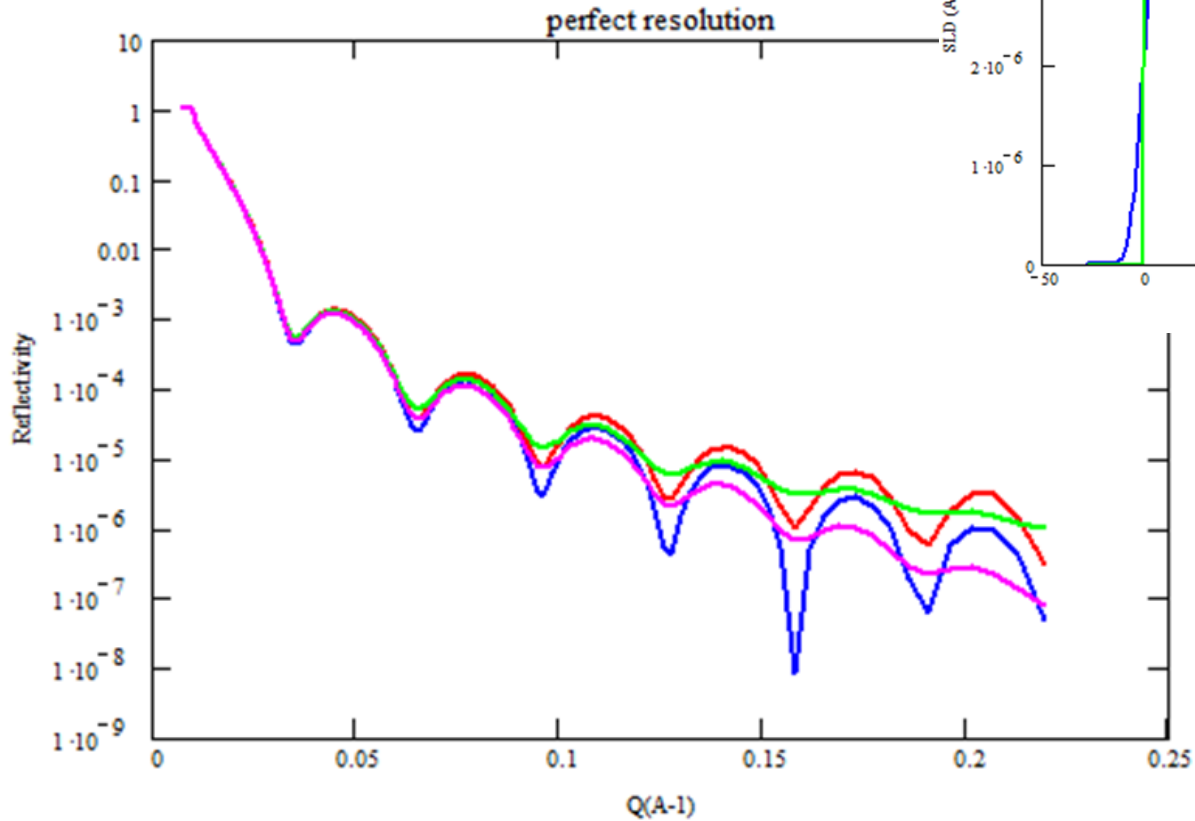


# Reflectivity from thin films



Effect of film thickness and refractive index

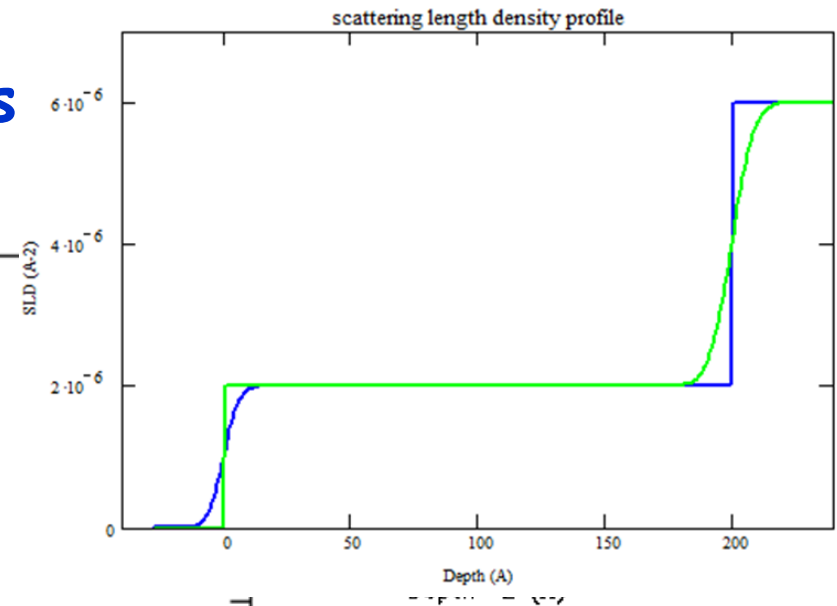
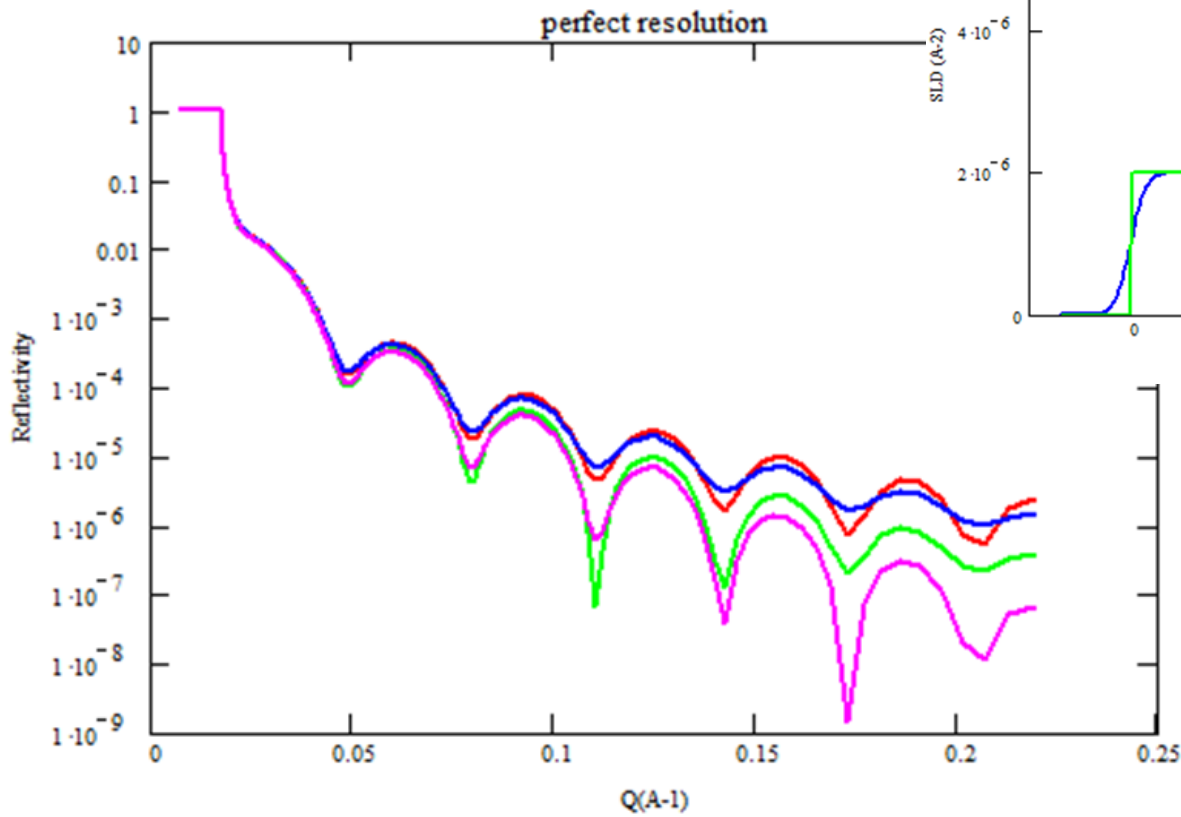
# Reflectivity from thin films



Effect of interfacial roughness

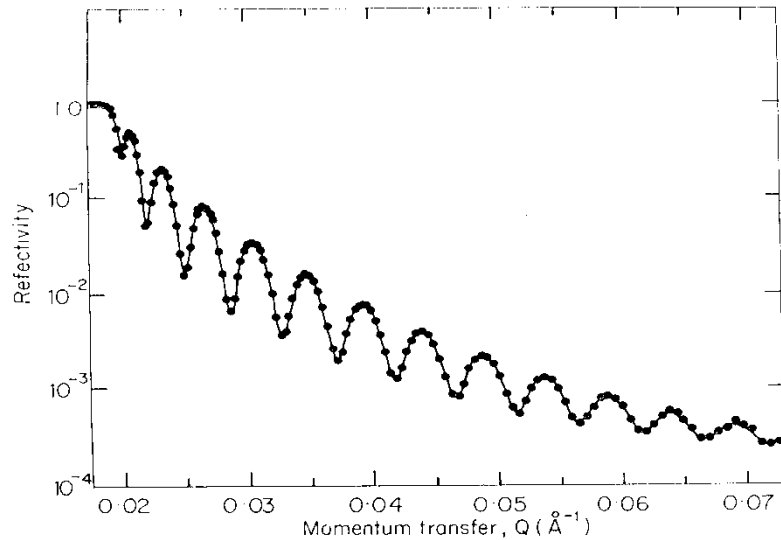


# Reflectivity from thin films



Effect of interfacial roughness

# Reflectivity from a thin film



## Deuterated L-B film on silicon

$$d = 1198 \text{ \AA}$$

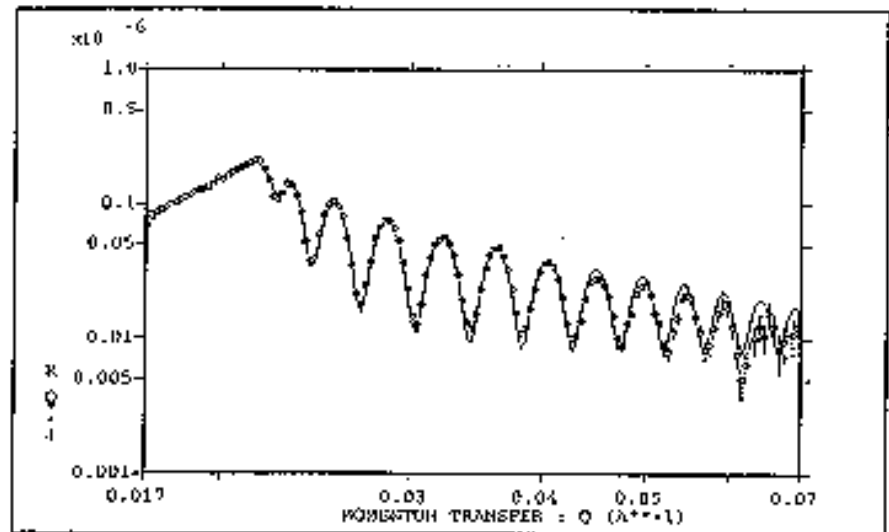
$$Nb = 0.74 \times 10^{-5} \text{ \AA}^{-2}$$

$$\theta = 0.5, \Delta\theta = 4\%, \sigma = 20 \text{ \AA}$$

## NiC film on silicon

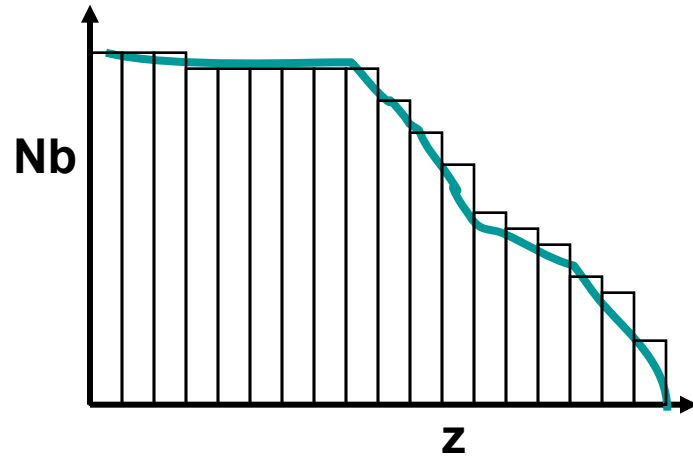
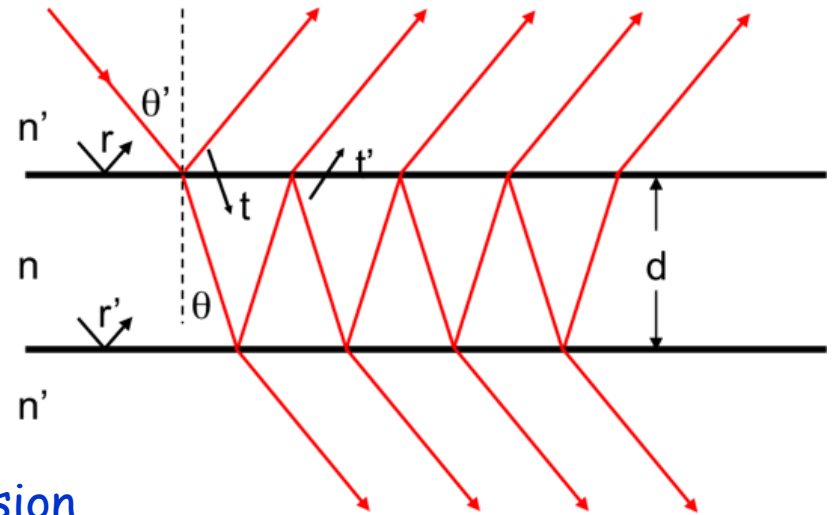
$$d = 1194 \text{ \AA}, Nb = 0.94 \times 10^{-5} \text{ \AA}^{-2}$$

$$\theta = 0.5, \Delta\theta = 4\%, \sigma_1 = 10, \sigma_2 = 15 \text{ \AA}$$



## Reflection from more complex interfaces ( multiple layers )

Airy's formula ( Parratt )



Combination of reflection and transmission coefficients give amplitude of successive beams reflected,

$$r_1, t_1 t_1' r_2, -t_1 t_1' r_1 r_2^2, t_1 t_1' r_1^2 r_2^3 \quad \text{and so on}$$

( Parratt, Phys Rev 95 91954) 359  
G B Airy, Phil Mag 2 (1833) 20)

Phase change on traversing film,  $\delta_1 = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} n_1 d_1 \sin \theta_1$

$$R = r_1 + t_1 t_2' r_2 e^{-2i\delta_1} - t_1 t_1' r_1 r_2^2 e^{-4i\delta_1} + \dots$$

More general matrix formulisms ( Born & Wolf, Abeles ) available

# Reflection from multiple layers

## Born and Wolf matrix formalism

Applying conditions that wave functions and their gradients are continuous at each boundary gives rise to a **Characteristic matrix** per layer,

$$M_j = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \beta_j & -(i/p_j) \sin \beta_j \\ -ip_j \sin \beta_j & \cos \beta_j \end{bmatrix}$$

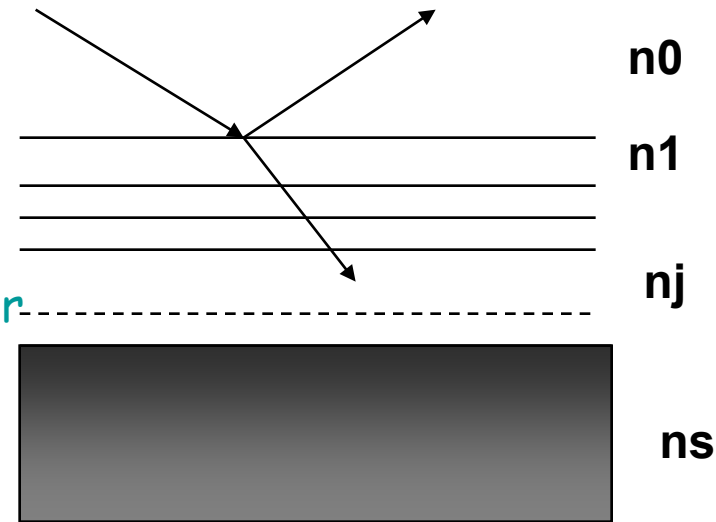
$$p_j = n_j \sin \theta_j$$

$$\beta_j = (2\pi/\lambda)n_j d_j \sin \theta_j$$

$$M_R = [M_1][M_2] \dots [M_n]$$

The resultant reflectivity is

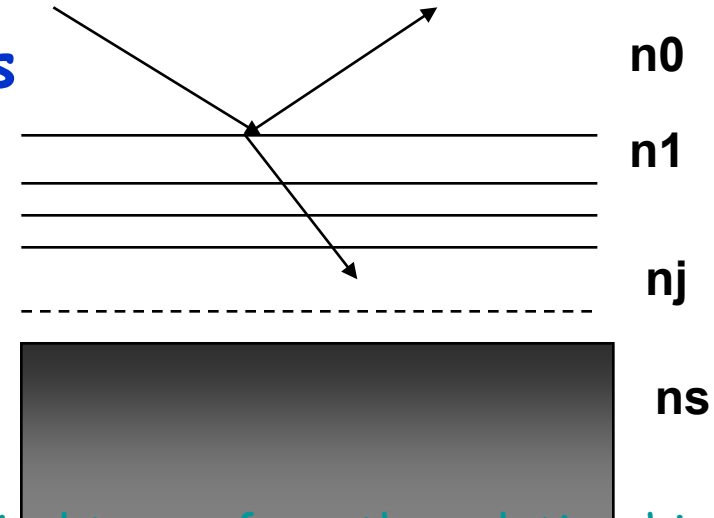
$$R = \left[ \frac{(M_{11} + M_{12}p_s)p_a - (M_{21} + M_{22})p_s}{(M_{11} + M_{12}p_s)p_a + (M_{21} + M_{22})p_s} \right]^2$$



(Born & Wolf, 'Principles in Optics',  
6th Ed, Pergammon, Oxford, 1980)

## Reflection from multiple layers

In Born and Wolf approach can only include roughness / diffusiveness at interfaces by further sub-division in small layers.



**Abeles method**, using reflection coefficients overcomes this limitation

Define characteristic matrix per layer, in optical terms from the relationship between electric vectors in successive layers,

$$C_j = \begin{bmatrix} e^{i\beta_{j-1}} & r_j e^{i\beta_{j-1}} \\ r_j e^{-i\beta_{j-1}} & e^{-i\beta_{j-1}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$[C_1] \cdot [C_2] \dots [C_{n+1}] = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$$

To include roughness,

$$r_j = \frac{(p_{j-1} - p_j)}{(p_{j-1} + p_j)} \exp(-0.5q_j q_{j-1} \sigma^2)$$

(Heavens, 'Optical properties of solid thin films', Butterworths, London, 1955, F Abeles, *Annale de Phys* 5 (1950) 596)

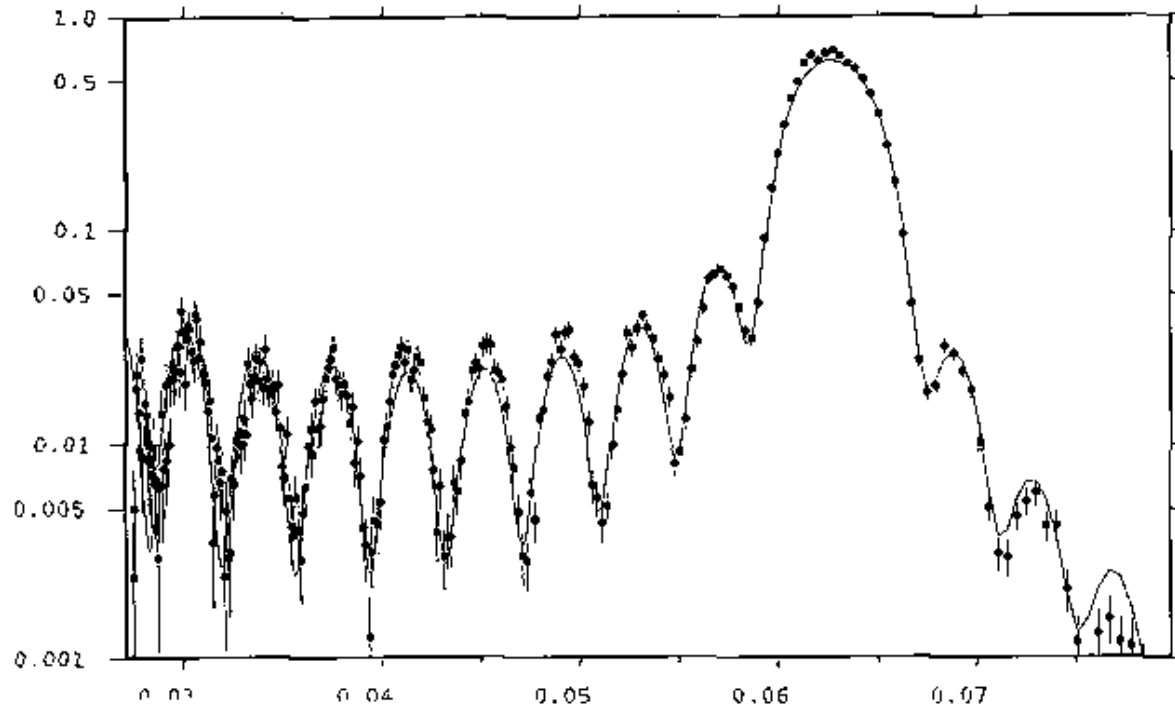
The resultant Reflectivity is then,

$$R = CC^* / AA^*$$





## Multiple Layer films

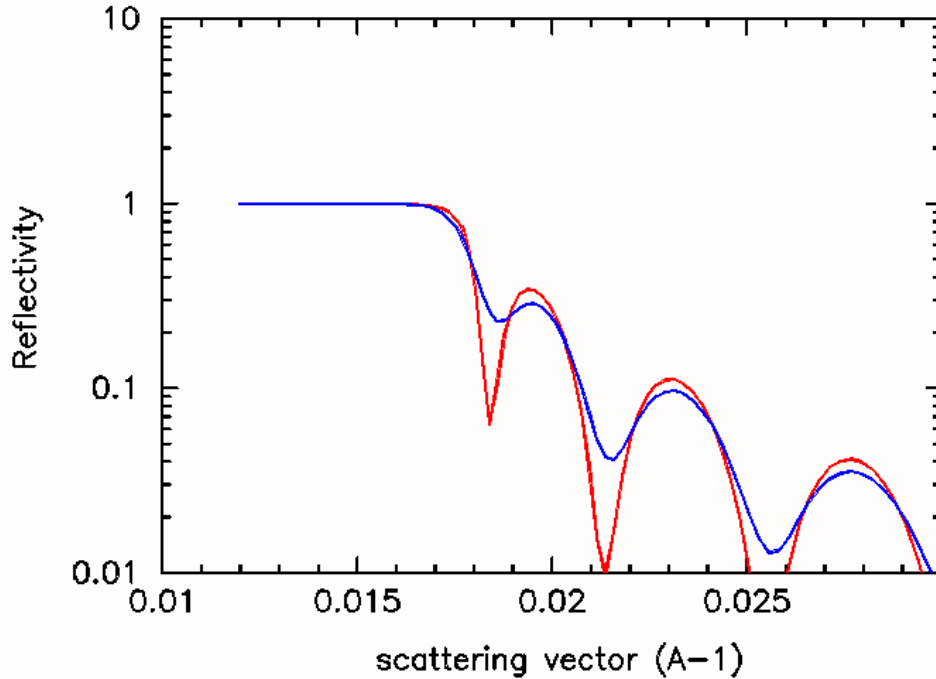


Region around 1st order Bragg peak for Ni/Ti multilayer  
15 bilayers ( 46.7,  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  / 55.7,  $-0.13 \times 10^{-5}$ )

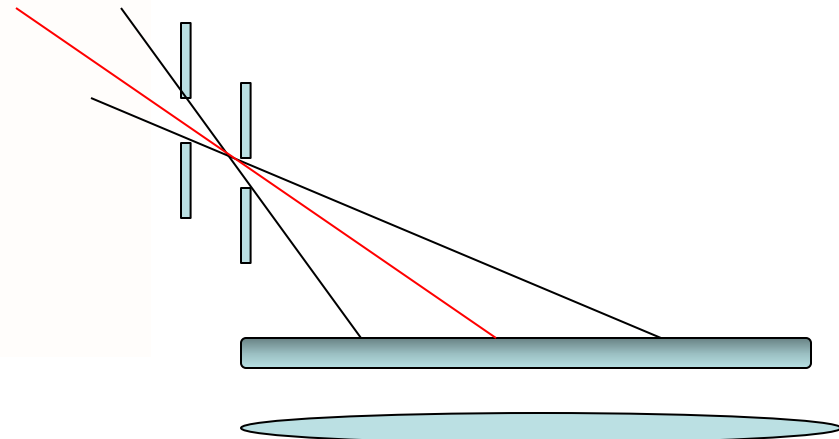


# Effects of resolution

$$\frac{\Delta Q^2}{Q^2} = \frac{\Delta t^2}{t^2} + \frac{\Delta \theta^2}{\theta^2}$$



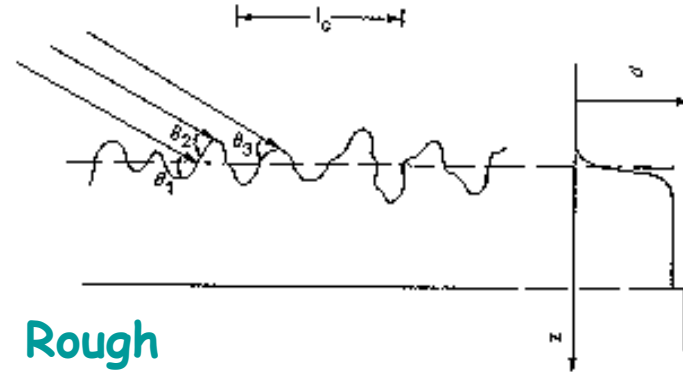
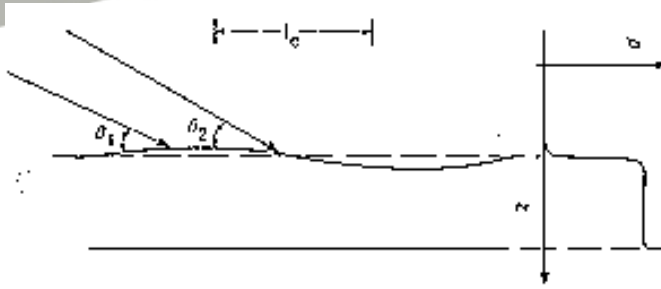
On ISIS reflectometers resolution is dominated by collimation



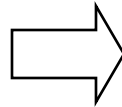
1000  $\text{\AA}$  film on Si ,  $\Delta Q/Q$  2%, 6%

Damps interference fringes, rounds critical edge

# Surface roughness and Waviness

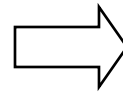


Curvature > coherence length



Rough

Curvature < coherence length



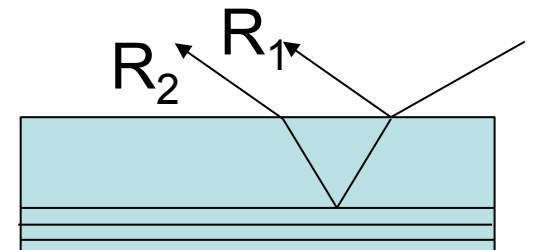
Waviness

This initially has an effect similar to resolution, and in the extreme can be treated by geometrical optics.

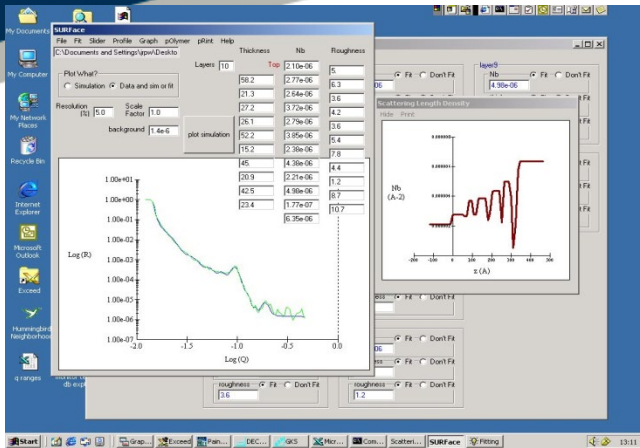
Incoherent reflectivity from 2 surfaces, separated by an adsorbing media:

$$R_{tot}(Q) = R_1(Q) + \frac{(1 - R_1(Q))^2 R_2(Q) A(Q)}{1 - R_1(Q) R_2(Q) A(Q)}$$

Thickness > coherence length  
 $A(Q) \sim$  Beer-Lambert



# Model fitting Reflectivity data



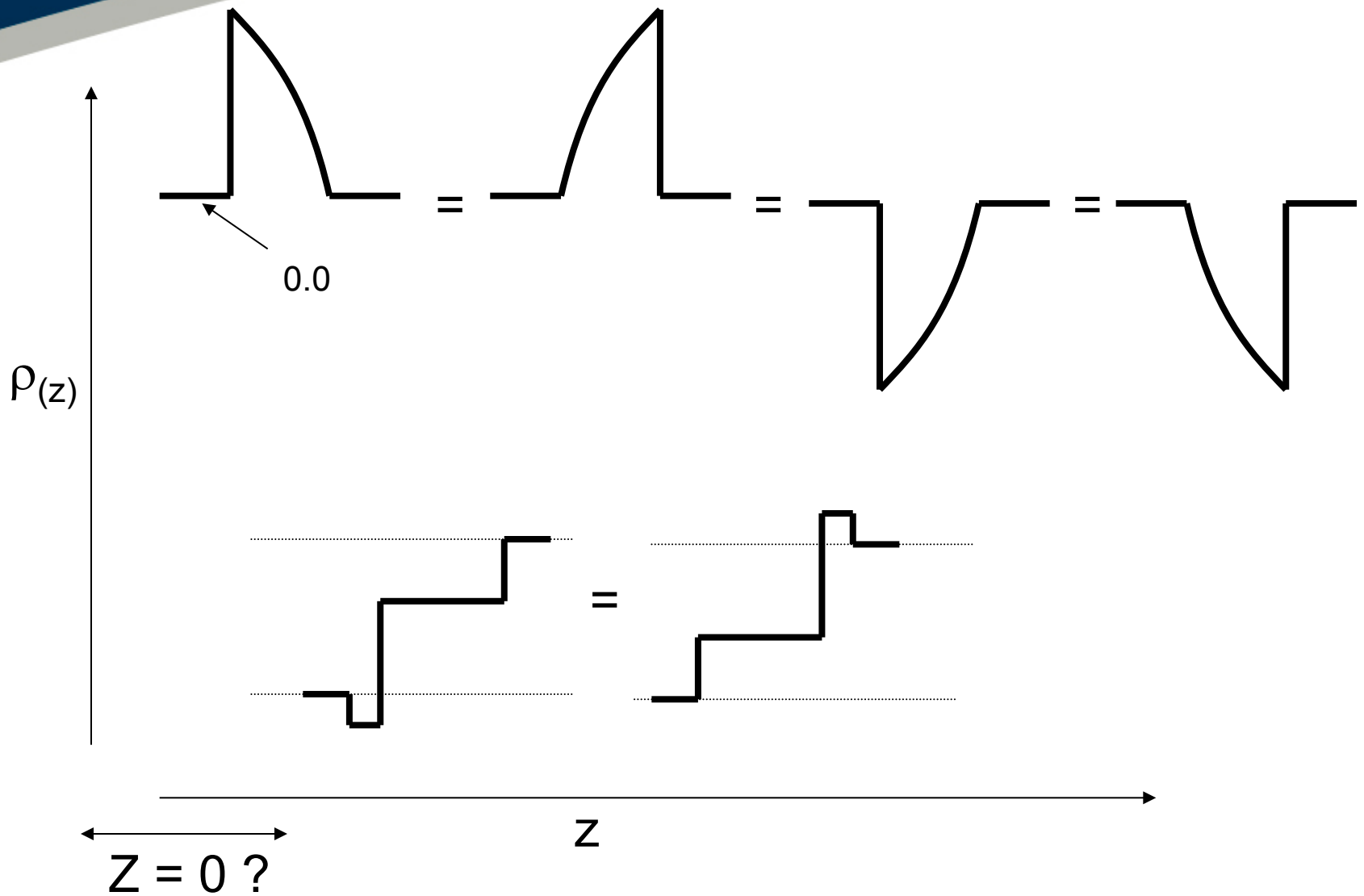
reflectivity  $\xrightarrow{\text{Scattering length density}}$

- Uniqueness ?
- Resolution ?
- Model dependent / over interpretation of data ?
- Does the scattering length density profile give access to the necessary physical parameters (Intra molecular) ?

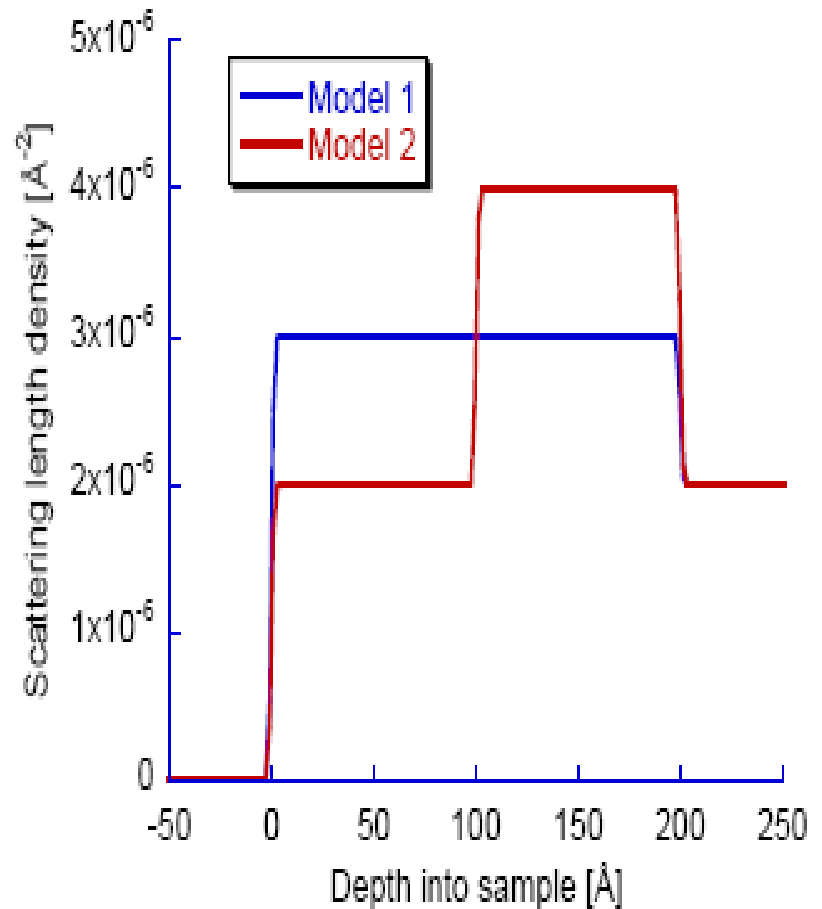
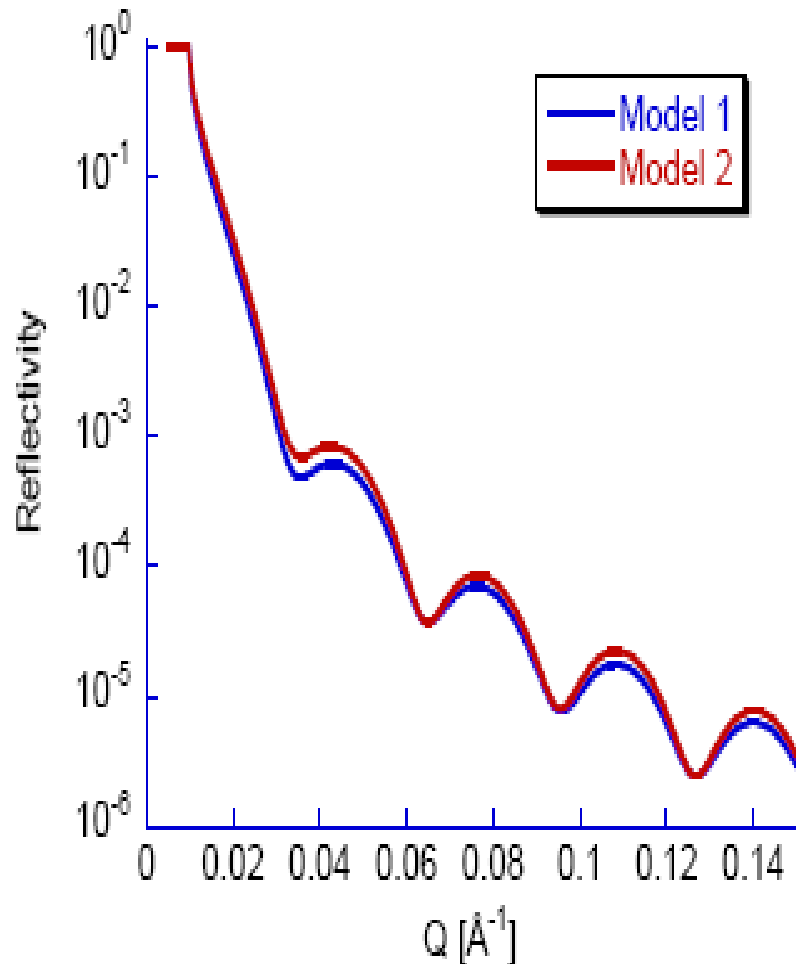
Steepest decent, simplex,  
 simulated annealing,  
 genetic, cubic spline + fft,  
 etc etc



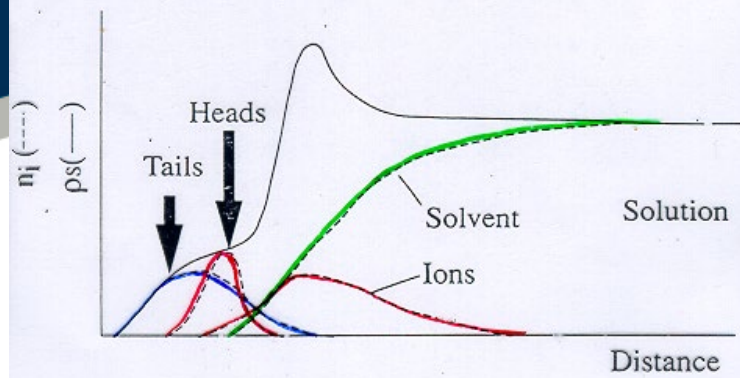
Lateral (z) and rotational  
 invariance



# Perils of fitting



# Partial Structure Factors



$$R(Q) = \frac{16\pi^2}{Q^2} \left| \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \rho(z) e^{-iQz} dz \right|^2$$

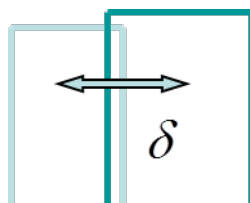
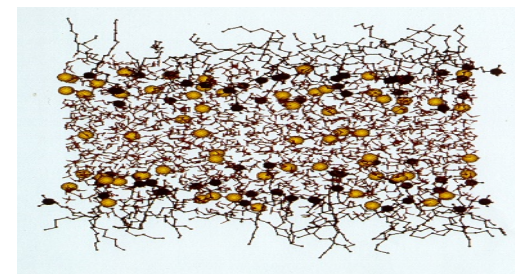
$$\rho(z) = b_c n_c(z) + b_h n_h(z) + b_s n_s(z)$$

$$R(Q) = \frac{16\pi^2}{Q^2} [b_c^2 h_{cc} + b_h^2 h_{hh} + b_s^2 h_{ss} + 2b_c b_h h_{ch} + 2b_c b_s h_{cs} + 2b_h b_s h_{hs}]$$

**Self Partial Structure Factors :**  $h_{ii} = |\hat{n}_i|^2$

$\hat{n}_i$  is a one dimensional Fourier transform of  $n_i(z)$

**Cross partial structure factors:**



$$h_{ij} = \pm [h_{ii} h_{jj}]^{1/2} \cos iQ\delta$$

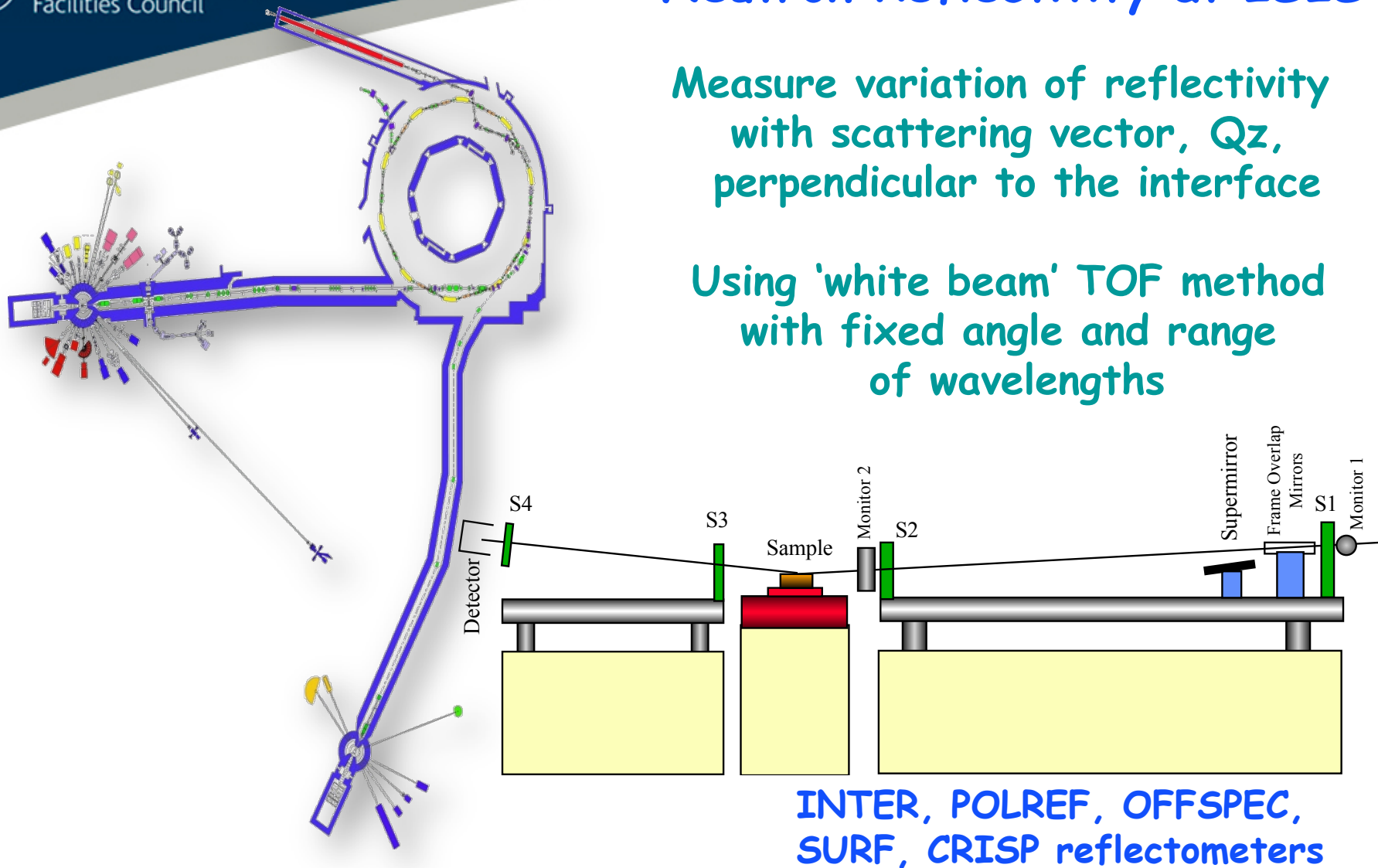
(Crowley, Lee, Simister, Thomas, Penfold, Rennie,  
*Coll Surf* 52 (1990) 85)



# Neutron Reflectivity at ISIS

Measure variation of reflectivity  
with scattering vector,  $Q_z$ ,  
perpendicular to the interface

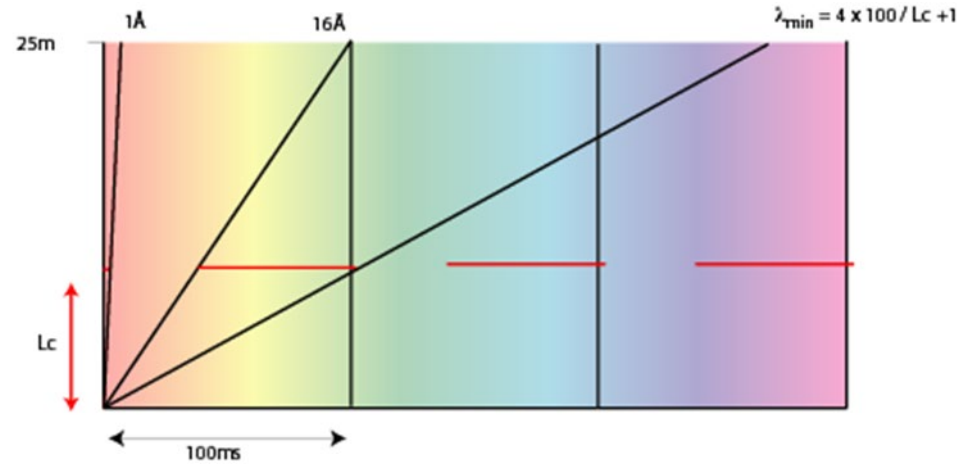
Using 'white beam' TOF method  
with fixed angle and range  
of wavelengths



**INTER, POLREF, OFFSPEC,  
SURF, CRISP reflectometers**

*(Penfold, Williams, Ward, J Phys E 20 91987) 1411; J Penfold et al,  
J Chem Soc, Faraday Trans, 94 (1998) 955*

## Instrumentation



White beam time of flight, fixed geometry: Wavelength range 1-7(16)Å  
Q range  $3 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $0.5 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$

$Q_{\max}$  ( $d_{\min}$ ) limited by background:

incoherent scattering in sample  
 $1.5 \times 10^{-6}$  for D<sub>2</sub>O,  $4 \times 10^{-6}$  for H<sub>2</sub>O  
 $< 10^{-6}$  for silicon

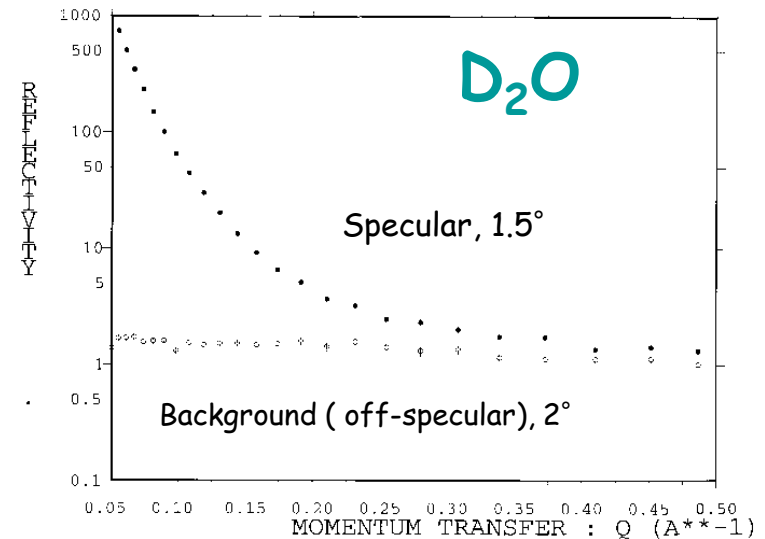
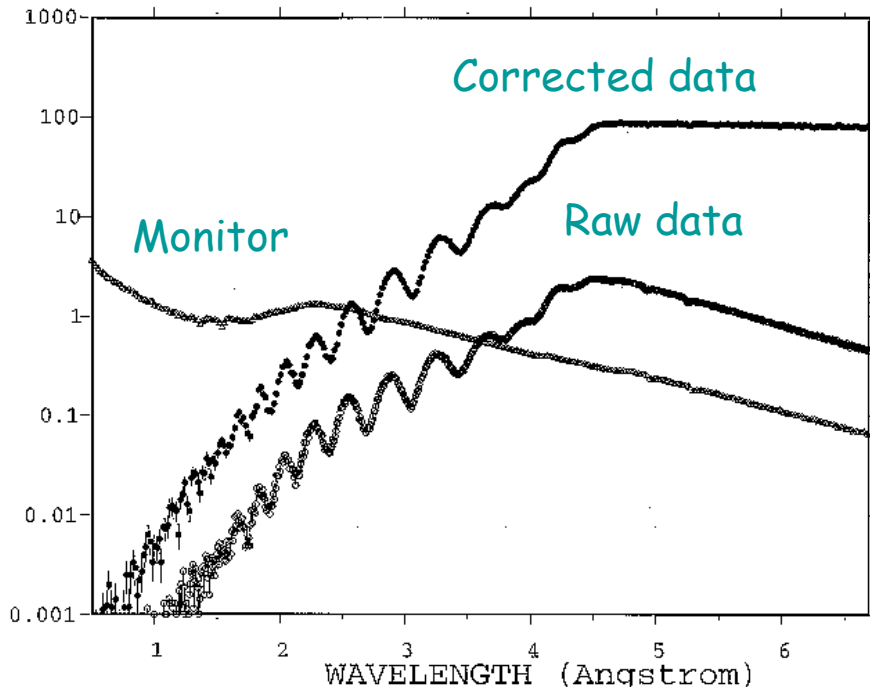
$d_{\max}$  determined by  $\Delta Q/Q$

# Instrumentation

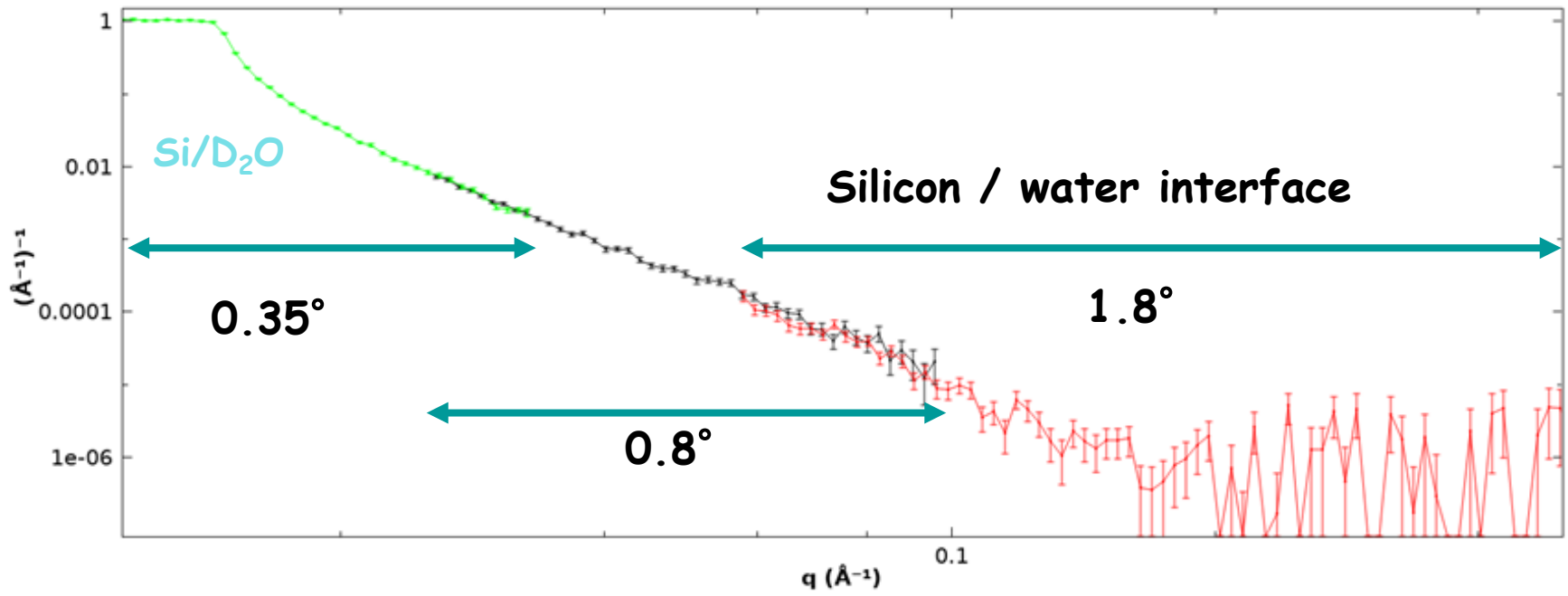
Correct for detector efficiency, spectral shape, background

$$R(Q(\lambda_i, \theta)) = f \frac{[I_d(\lambda_i) - b_d(\lambda_i)] \varepsilon_m(\lambda_i)}{[I_m(\lambda_i) - b_m(\lambda_i)] \varepsilon_d(\lambda_i)}$$

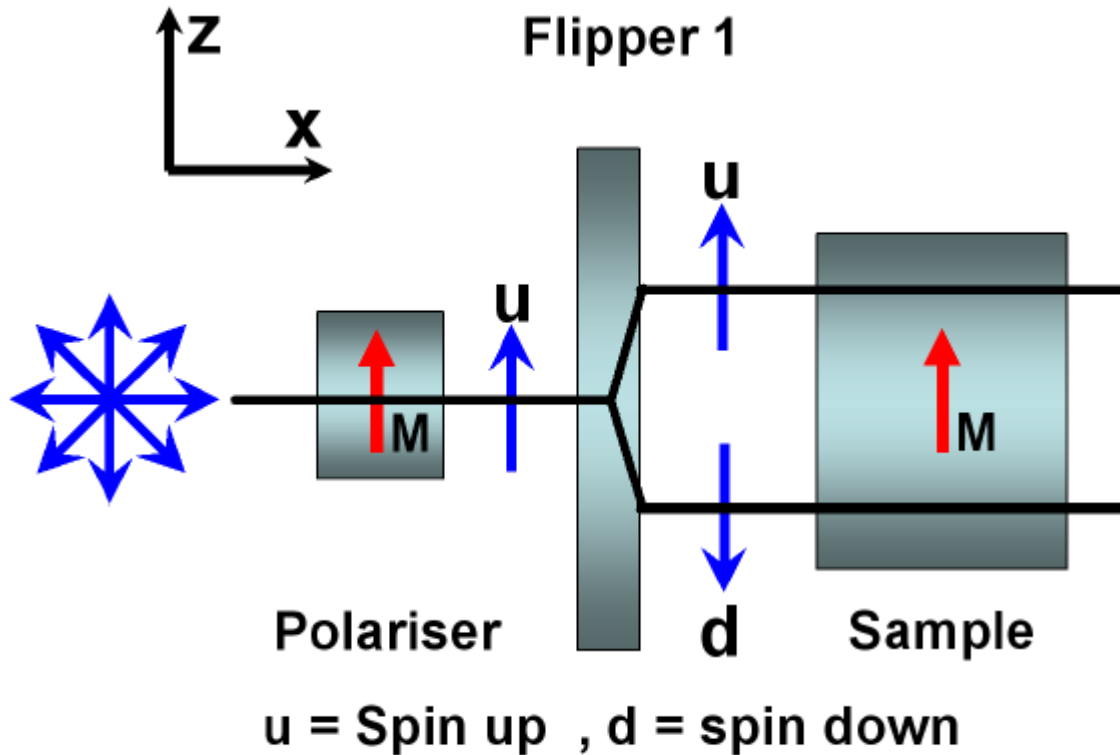
d,m refer to the detector and monitor  
m can also be a direct beam



# Instrumentation



# Polarised neutrons



Now measure to reflectivity curves spin up and spin down.

Experiments now takes 4 times as long to get similar statistics!

There several ways of polarising and flipping neutrons, but that is beyond scope of this talk.

# Polarised Neutron Reflectivity (PNR)

It is assumed that the polarisation vector and magnetisation are parallel

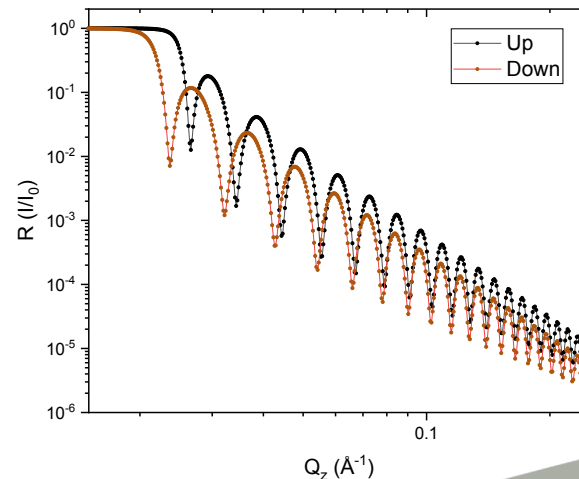
$$V = V_n \pm V_m \quad \text{where } V_n = \frac{2\pi\hbar^2}{m}Nb \text{ and } V_m = \frac{2\pi\hbar^2}{m}Np = \pm\mu_n B$$

$$\text{With } p = (2.695 \times 10^{-4} / \mu_B) |\mu_i|$$

For a single magnetic layer

$$V = \frac{\hbar}{2\pi m} N(b_N \pm b_m)$$

This essential means you get two reflectivity curves as the magnetic layer has two different values for its SLD depending if M is Parallel or anti-parallel to the Polarisation P direction

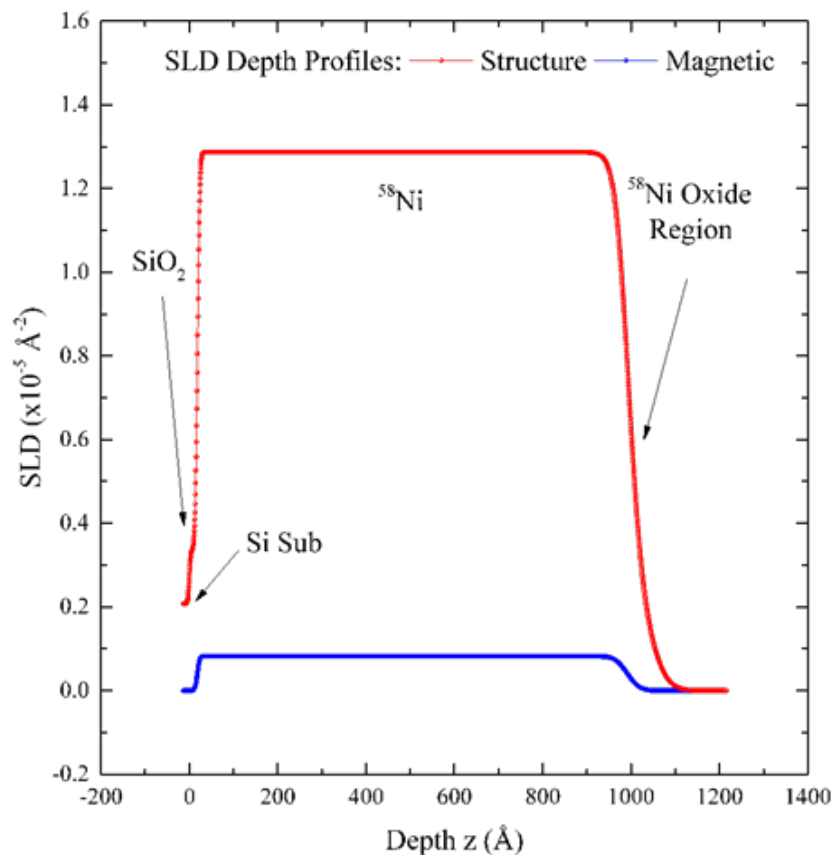
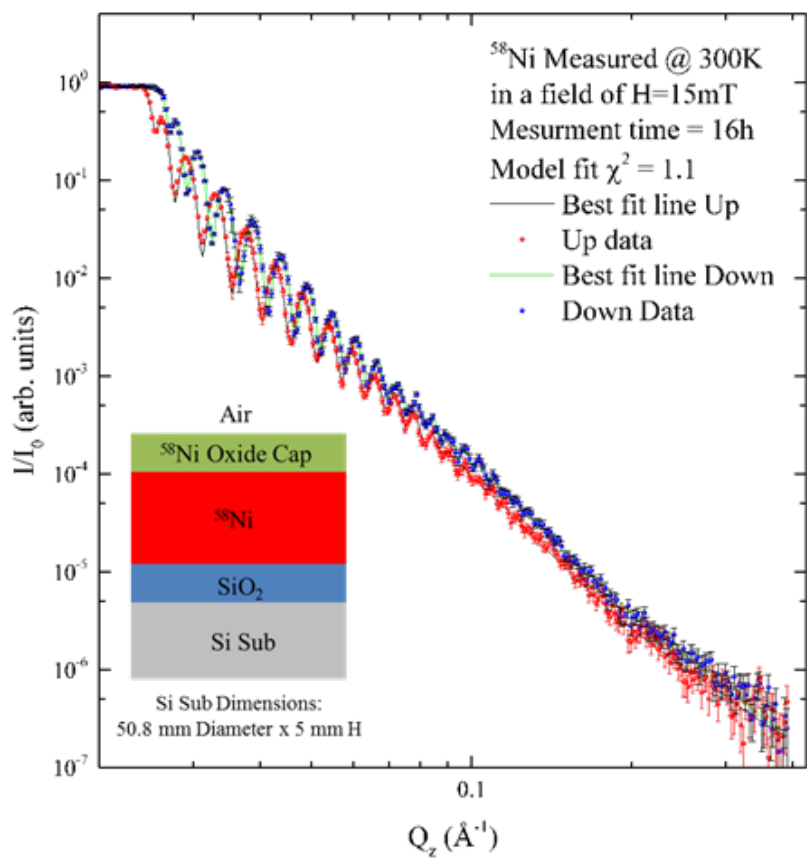


A 500 Å Ni layer on Si substrate

- Bland et al, Phys Rev B, 46, 3391 (1992)
- Zabel et al Physica B 276-278, 17 (2000)
- R. M. Moon et al Phys Rev, 1969, 181, 920-931
- S. Blundell et al, JMMM, 1993, 121, 185-188
- Bland et al, Phys Rev B, 46, 3391 (1992)
- G. L. Squires introduction to the Theory of Thermal neutron scattering



# Example of Polarised Neutron Reflectivity (PNR)



PNR provides both the Nuclear (structural) and magnetic SLD depth profile.

Effectively functions as a depth dependent magnetometer

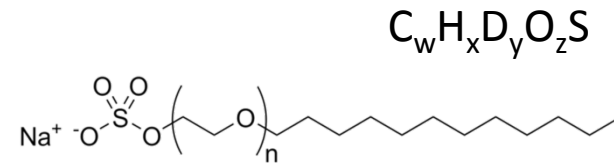
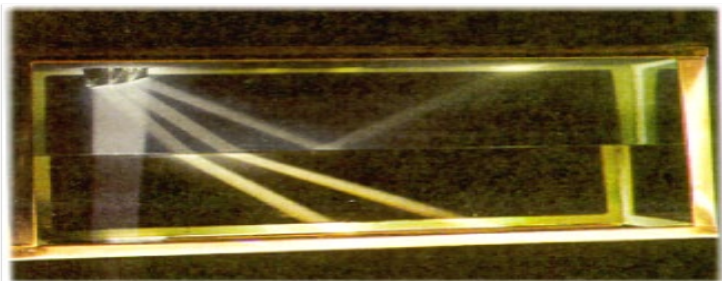
But takes longer than NR by a factor 4 for similar statistics





# Simple determination of surface excess (how much stuck to surface/interface)

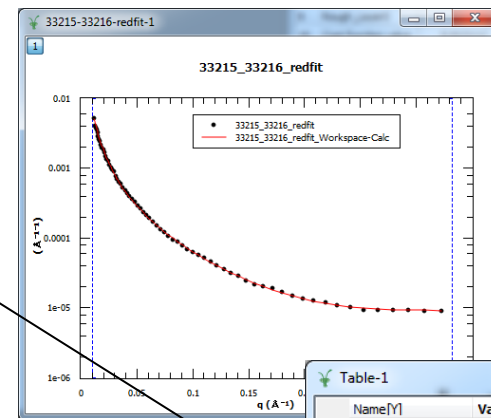
## Air Contrast Matched Water



$$A = \sum b / d\rho$$

$$\Gamma = 1 / A \cdot N_{av}$$

$$d\rho = \sum \frac{b_1}{A_1} + \sum \frac{b_2}{A_2}$$

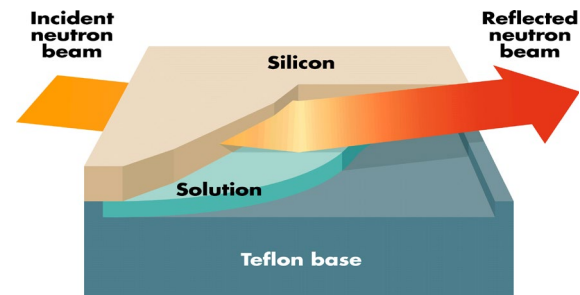
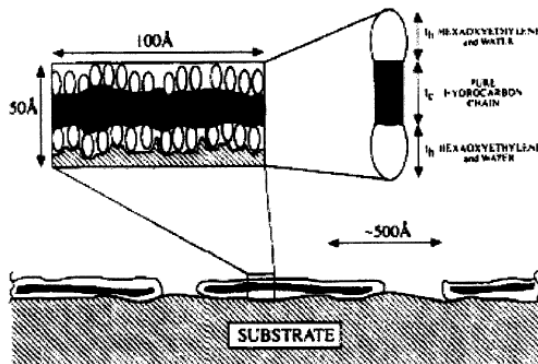
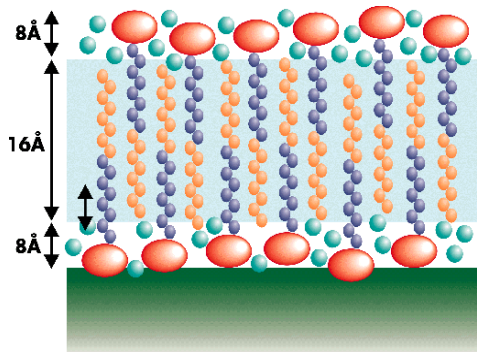


Name[Y]	Value[Y]	Error[Y]	
0	Theta	2.3	0
1	ScaleFactor	1	0
2	AirSLD	0	0
3	BulkSLD	0	0
4	Roughness	0	0
5	Background	9.09315e-06	2.69601e-07
6	Resolution	5	0
7	SLD_Layer0	3.51781e-06	4.94563e-08
8	d_Layer0	19.6907	0.303912
9	Rough_Layer0	0	0
10	Cost function value	0.912111	0

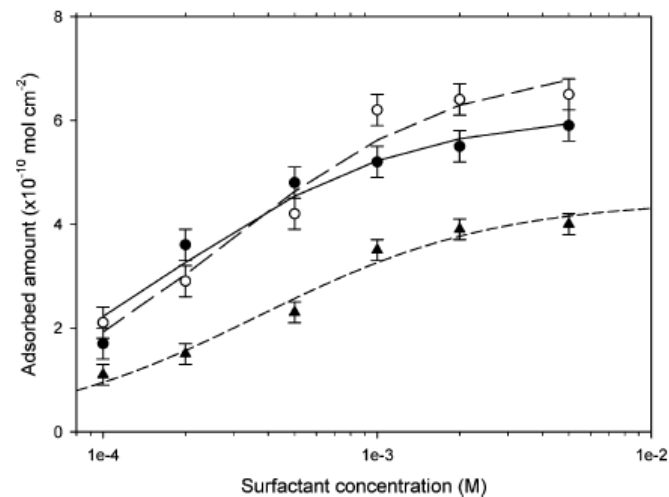
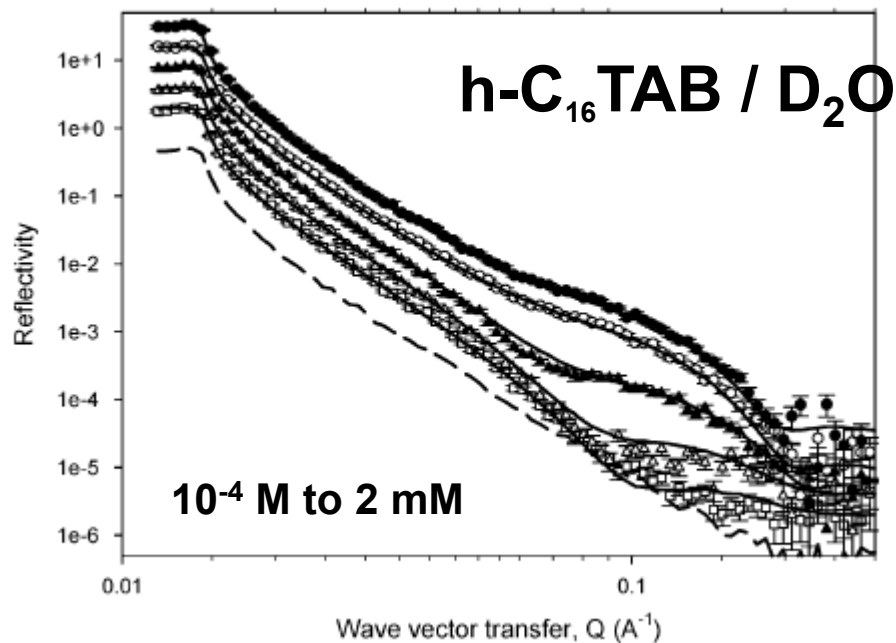




# Surfactant adsorption at the solid-solution interface

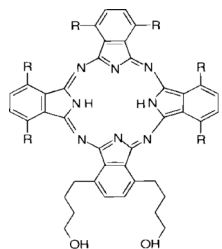


(●) silica, (○) phillip cellulose,  
(Δ) phobic cellulose



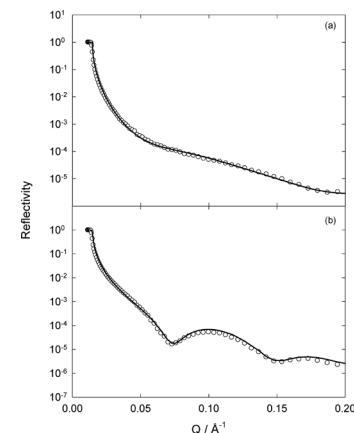
# Optical biosensors

Principle: contaminants in water degrade lipid layer allowing release of trapped  $\text{NO}_2$  causing colour change in pigment.

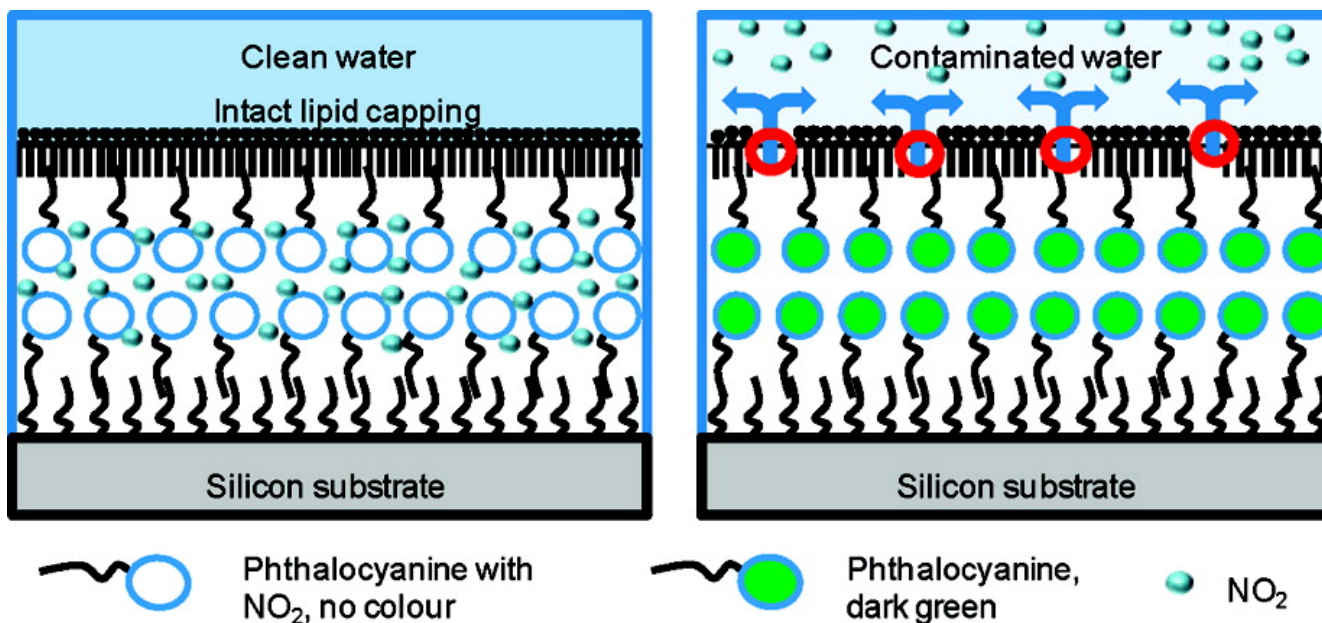


Chemical structure of the phthalocyanine ligand. The six R groups are  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{21}$ .

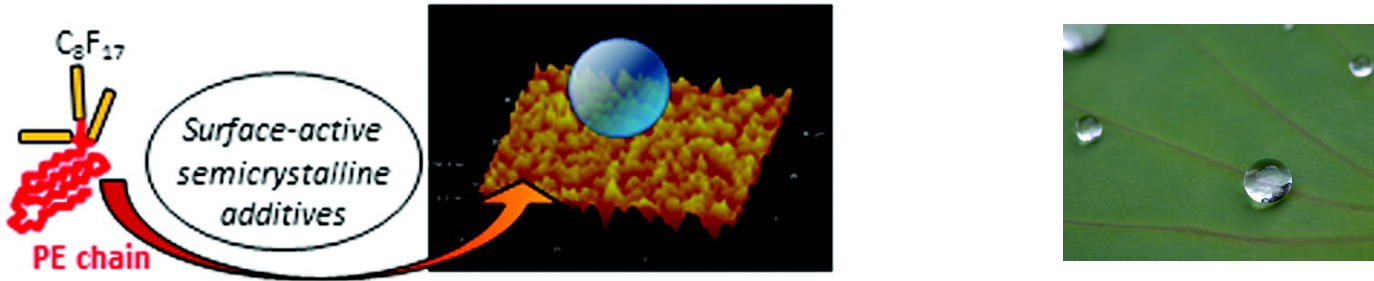
(a) Reflectivity profiles for DPPC-DPPE+PEG layer and (b) 2 layers of phthalocyanine covered by DPPC-DPPE+PEG at the silicon-D $_2$ O interface. The best fits to the data are shown by solid lines.



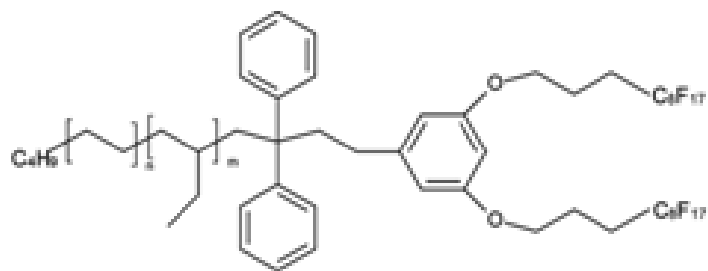
Reflectivity demonstrates effectiveness of the lipid layer in partitioning (sealing) the deposited phthalocyanine layers from the bulk water.



# Surface Modification of Polyethylene with Multi-End-Functional Polyethylene Additives



- “New” surface properties for polymer films
- Polymer hydrophobicity greatly enhanced by end addition of fluorine
- Multi-end-fluorinated chain additives spontaneously surface enrich
- Suitable for one step batch process
- Marked increase in both hydrophobicity and lipophilicity
- PTFE like surface properties



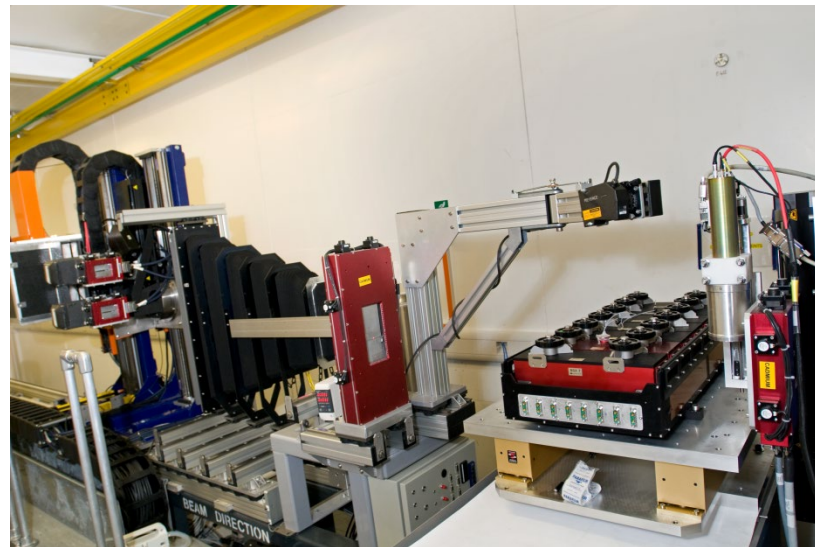
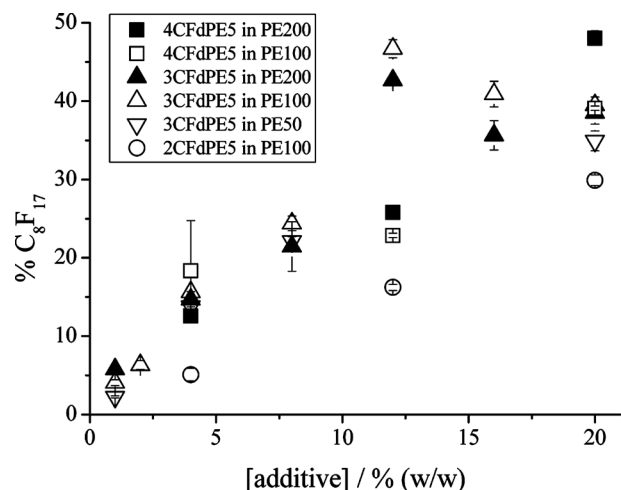
Additives made from polymerised 1,3 butadiene end capped with diphenyl ethylene and terminated with fluorinated aryl ether bromide followed by saturation with D<sub>2</sub> at 500 psi

sample code	target M <sub>n</sub> /kg mol <sup>-1</sup>	measured M <sub>n</sub> /kg mol <sup>-1</sup>	M <sub>w</sub> /M <sub>n</sub>	% end-capping	f (= [D]/[H + D])	T <sub>m</sub> /°C
2CFdPE5	5	7.1	1.05	84	0.43	96
PE50	50	56.6	1.04			106

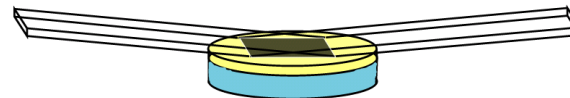
- Samples prepared by spin coating 1% polymer + additive in warm toluene at 2000 rpm onto silicon
- Resultant films ~1000Å thick



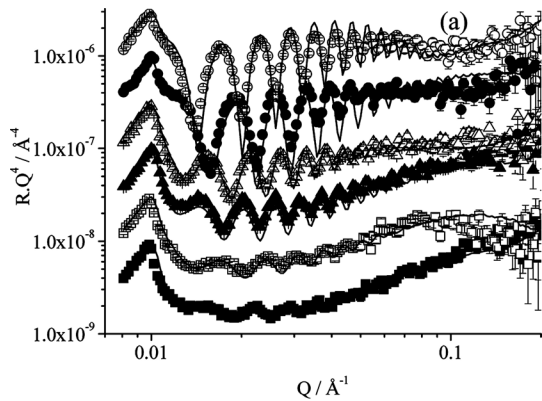
- XPS data confirm fluorocarbon present at film surface



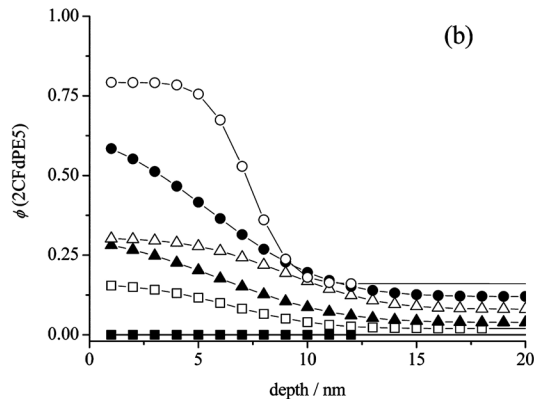
- NR on INTER at ISIS
- Samples heated to 120° C T<sub>m</sub>~109°
- Data taken at 2 angles of incidence (0.6, 1.8° ) with constant q resolution
- ~40 minutes per sample
- Blended films neutron refractive index close to that of air



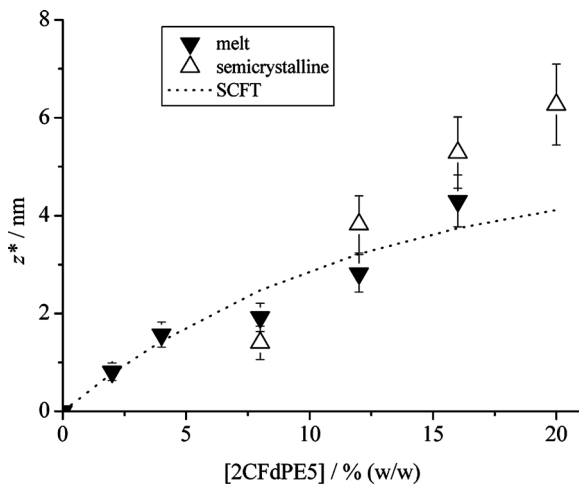




Kiessig fringes from film thickness: visibility proportional to additive surface excess



Data fitted to an error function profile  
0,2,4,8,12,16% additive



Comparison of adsorbed amount determined by NR (melt), Nuclear Reaction Analysis and simulated by SCF theory ( $\chi_b - \chi_s = 3.0k_B T$ )



## Conclusions

- Poly(ethylene) materials with well defined multi fluorocarbon functional groups produced
- As additives in blends generate films with enhanced hydrophobicity and lipophilicity
- At room temperature films are inherently crystalline but not sufficiently rough to give rise to super hydrophobicity (Wenzel wetting)
- Melting transition does not cause gross changes in self-organisation (NR Vs NRA data)



## Acknowledgements

- Richard Thompson
- Sarah Hardman
- Lian Hutchings
- Nigel Clarke
- Soloman Kimani
- Laura Mears
  
- Emily Smith

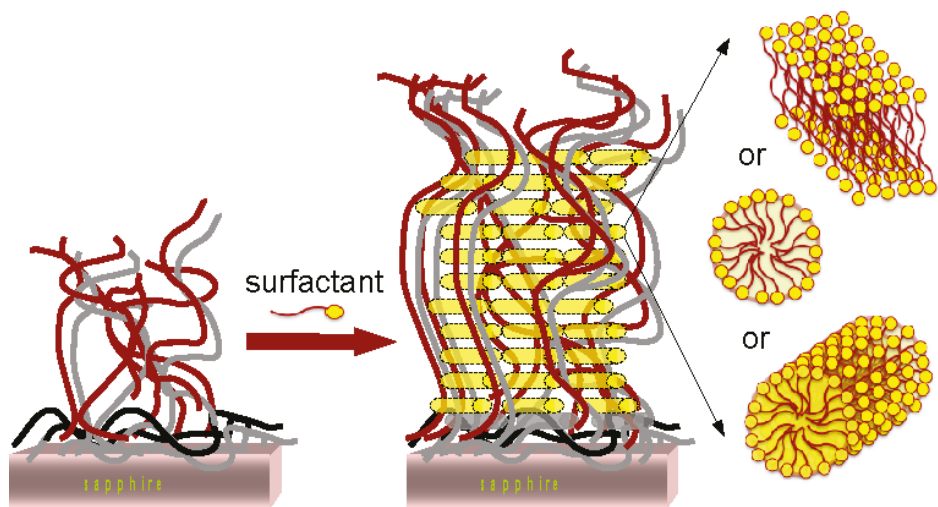
Durham (synthesis, NRA, Contact angle, AFM, SCF calculations)

Nottingham(XPS)



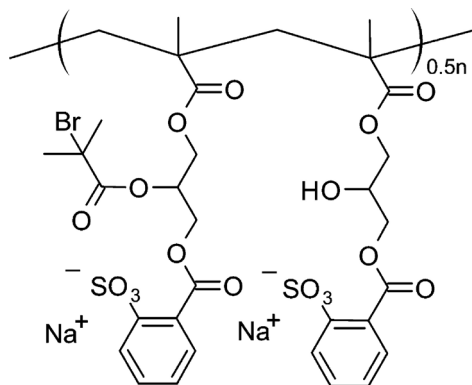


# A Neutron Reflectivity Study of Surfactant Self-Assembly in Weak Polyelectrolyte Brushes at the Sapphire-Water Interface



- Poly(2-(dimethylamino)ethyl methacrylate) (PDMAEMA) Brushes and oppositely charged surfactant sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS)
- PDMAEMA neutral at pH9 and cationic at pH3





- Polymer brushes grown by SI-ATRP onto sapphire substrate using a macroinitiator
- Characterised by ellipsometry, X-ray reflectivity, and neutron reflectivity measurements (Moglianetti et al. *Langmuir* 2010, 26, 12684–12689.)

sample	dry thickness (nm)	$\gamma$ (Å)	$\Gamma_{\text{DMAEMA}}$ ( $10^{-25}$ mol Å <sup>-2</sup> )	$\sigma$ (nm <sup>-2</sup> )	$N$	$M_w$ (kg/mol)
a	5	47	$3.5 \pm 0.3$	$0.13 \pm 0.02$	155	$24 \pm 5$
b	11	100	$7.4 \pm 0.7$	$0.12 \pm 0.02$	443	$70 \pm 16$
c	17	142	$10.4 \pm 1.0$	$0.14 \pm 0.02$	430	$68 \pm 15$
d	17	167	$12.4 \pm 1.2$	$0.18 \pm 0.03$	434	$68 \pm 15$



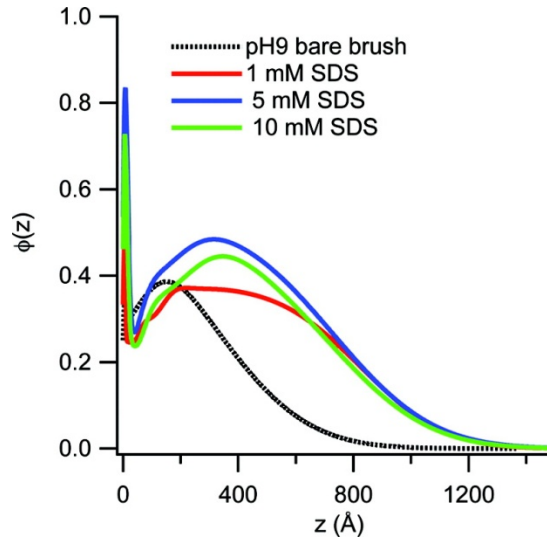
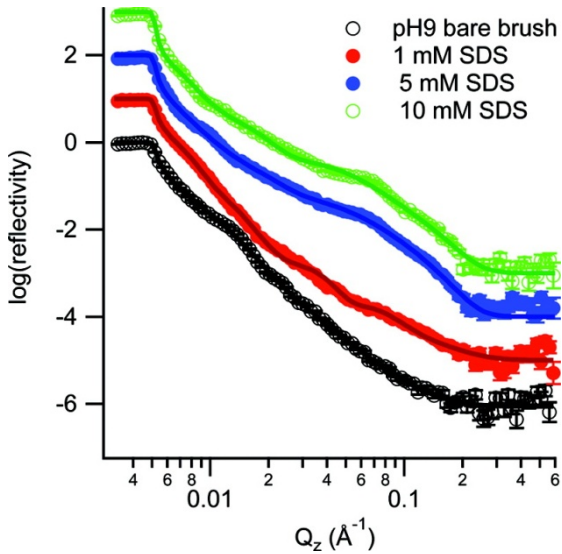
- NR data collected on the SURF reflectometer at ISIS
- Sapphire-D<sub>2</sub>O qc  $\sim 0.0048 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$
- 4 angles of incidence 0.1, 0.25, 0.7, 1.5° data combined to cover  $0.0033 < q < 0.6 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$
- Reflectivity modelled as three to five layers each characterised by a thickness, scattering length density and Gaussian roughness.
- SLD of segments and surfactant similar- determine VFP of SDS+DMAEMA
- Polymer adsorbed amount known and constant (grafted, no free polymer)



$$\varphi(z) = \frac{\rho_{D_2O} - \rho(z)}{\rho_{D_2O} - \rho_{DMAEMA}}$$



# pH 9 uncharged polymer (brush "d" dry thickness 17nm)



- No change in reflectivity up to 1mM SDS
- Development of fringe corresponds to swelling of adsorbed layer

[SDS] (mM)

1

5

10

$\Gamma_{\text{SDS}}$  ( $10^{-25}$  mol  $\text{\AA}^{-2}$ )

$4.6 \pm 0.5$

$6.7 \pm 0.7$

$5.3 \pm 0.5$

$n_{\text{SDS}}/n_{\text{DMAEMA}}$

0.37

0.55

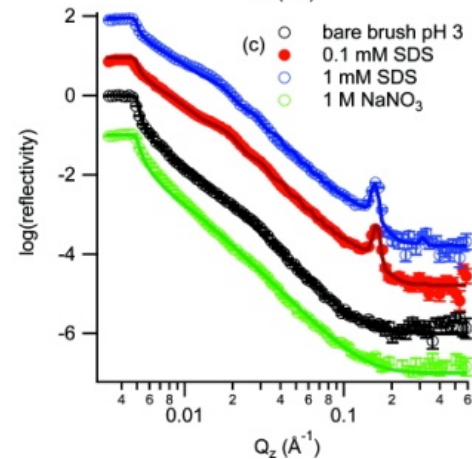
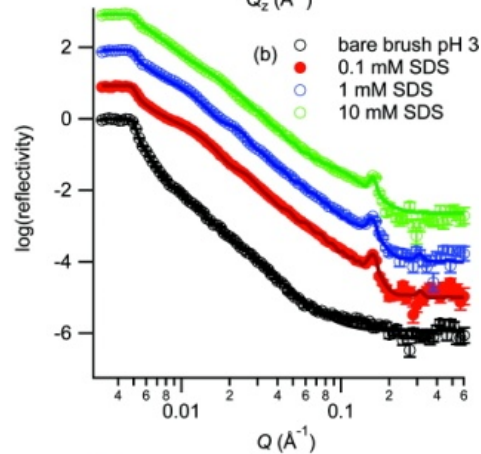
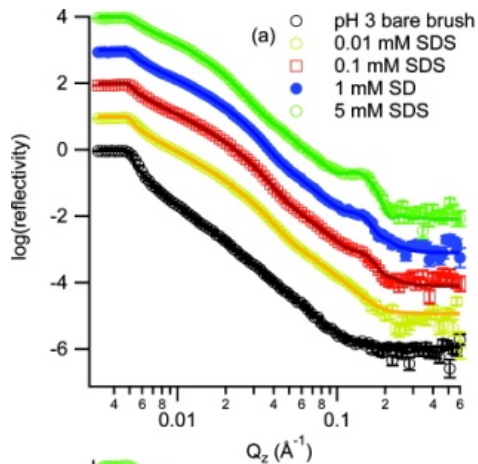
0.43

Onset of SDS adsorption analogous to CMC in bulk

Lowering of chemical potential in brush estimated from  $c_{ac}/c_{mc} \sim 1.4k_B T$



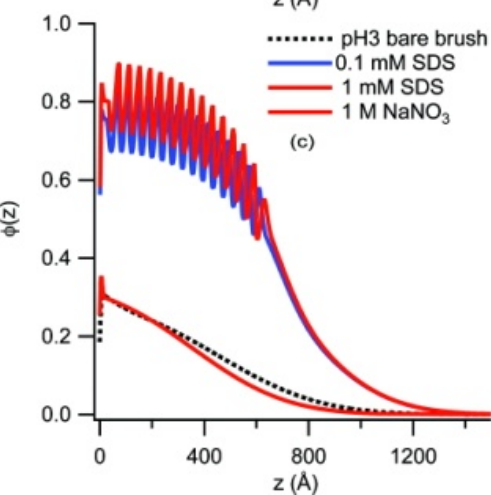
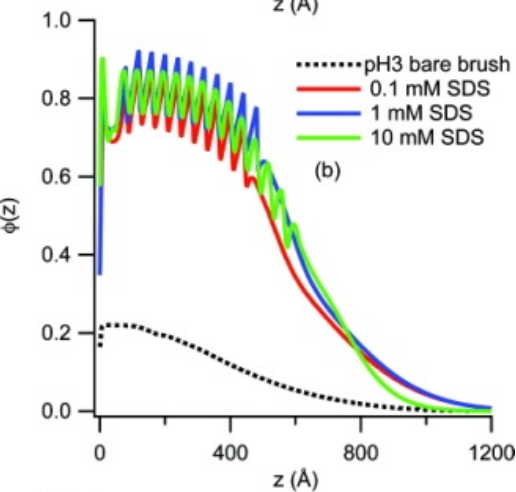
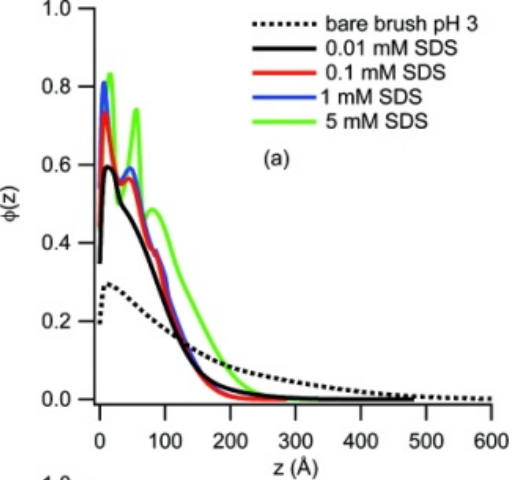
## pH 3 cationic polymer



- Brushes a-c (5,11,17 nm dry brush) with increasing SDS concentration and with addition of salt
- No change in R when rinse with D2O
- Presence of Bragg peak indicates multilayers formed
- Addition of salt results in loss of Bragg peak
- As brush thickness increases onset of change in R at higher concentration (0.01 – 0.1mM) with sharper Bragg peak
- Bragg peak position suggests spacing of  $\sim 40\text{\AA}$  typical of an SDS micelle or bilayer



## Interfacial volume fraction profiles SDS+DMAEMA

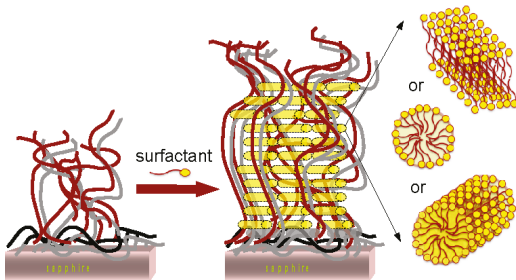


- 5nm brush 1-3 bilayers. Exchange of ions ( $\text{OH}^-$ ,  $\text{DS}^-$ )  $\sim 17.5\%$  at  $0.01\text{mM}$  results in deswelling (loss of mobile counter-ions). Up to 0.35 SDS/DMAEMA
- 11nm brush 10-14 bilayers. Onset of uptake  $0.1\text{mM}$ . Up to 2 SDS/DMEAMA. Excess  $\text{DS}^-$  over charged segments brings in  $\text{Na}^+$  resulting in osmotic swelling
- 17nm brush 15 bilayers. Onset of uptake  $0.1\text{mM}$  corresponding to  $4.4 k_B T$  relative to SDS micelle.  $\sim 3k_B T$  from screening of headgroup repulsions
- Addition of salt returns bare brush surface excess. Brush thickness  $\sim 15\%$  less. Osmotic  $\rightarrow$  salted regime



## Conclusions

- Polymer brushes provide a convenient method of systematically exploring the interactions between strongly interacting polyelectrolytes and surfactants
- PDMAEMA brushes of moderate grafting density exhibit significant uptake of the anionic surfactant SDS
- In the absence of PDMAEMA 89% of a single bilayer is formed at the sapphire-water interface at a SDS concentration of 7 mM
- At pH 3, multilayered surfactant aggregates form within the brushes, with a periodic repeat that is consistent with lamellae of SDS bilayers or a hexagonal phase of cylindrical SDS micelles
- At pH 9 electrostatic screening is absent but hydrophobic effect sufficient driving force for adsorption.



## Acknowledgements

- Simon Titmuss                      Edinburgh
- Mauro Moglianetti                EPFL
- Steve Armes                         Sheffield
- Steve Edmondson                 Loughborough



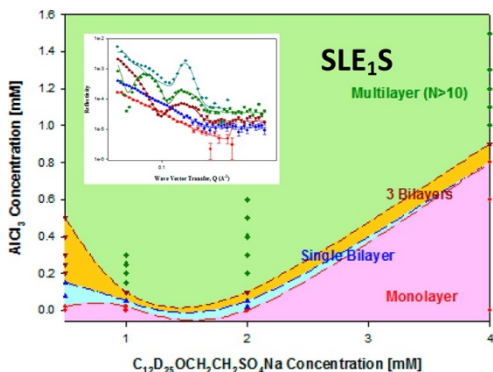




## Surface Multilayers at the Air-Water Interface

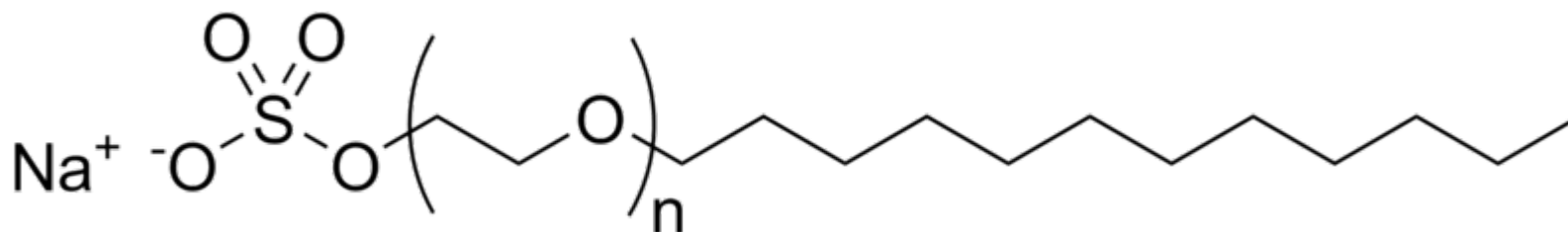


## Surface Multilayers at the Air-Water Interface in Dilute Surfactant Solutions



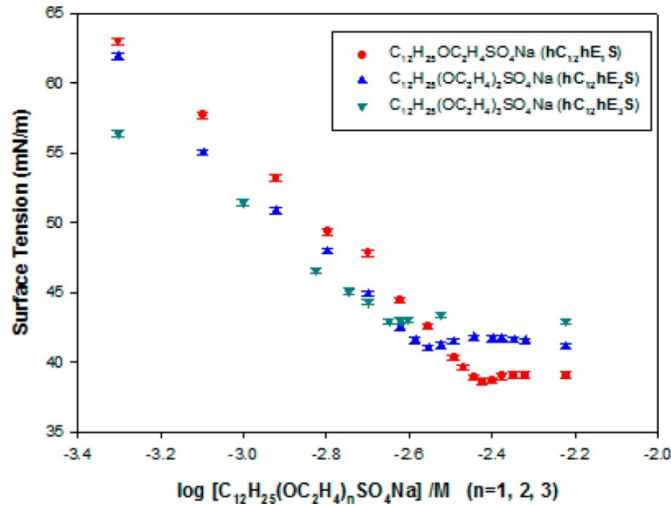
- sodium lauryl ether sulfate, SLES +  $\text{Al}^{3+}$
- NR and ST used to study Surface Adsorption

Anionic detergent found in many personal care products (soaps, shampoos, toothpaste...) often in mixtures with non-ionics



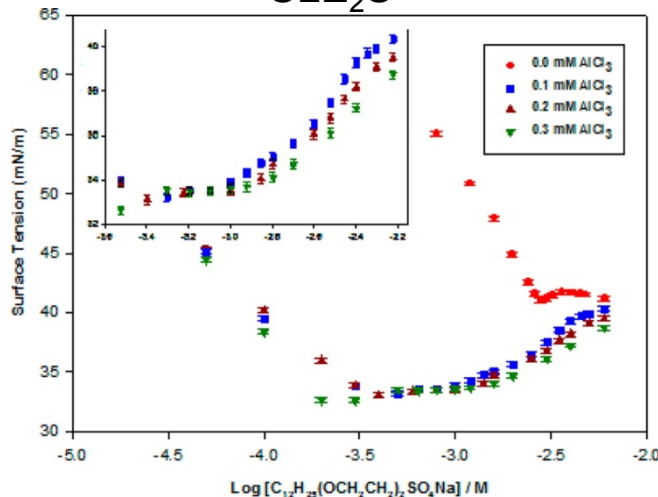


## Surface Tension Without Al<sup>3+</sup>



- Small minimum -> low level of impurity,  $\leq 0.01\%$ .
- plateau region increases as eo length increases but CMC decreases
- ~greater tendency for micelle formation

## SLE<sub>2</sub>S



## Surface Tension With Al<sup>3+</sup>

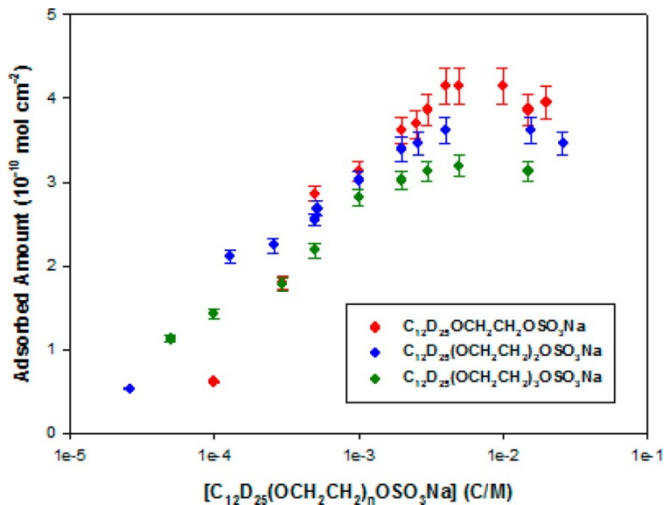
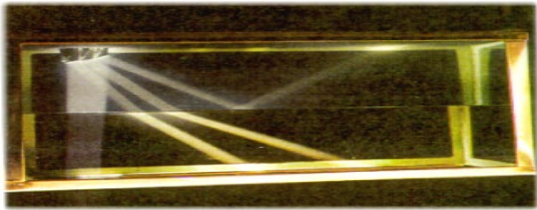
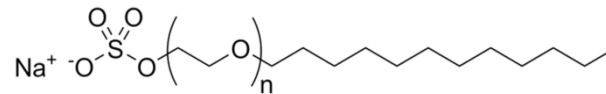
- Surface tension curve shifted to lower cmc in presence of Al<sup>3+</sup>
- As SLES in excess ST converges



## NR Without Al<sup>3+</sup>

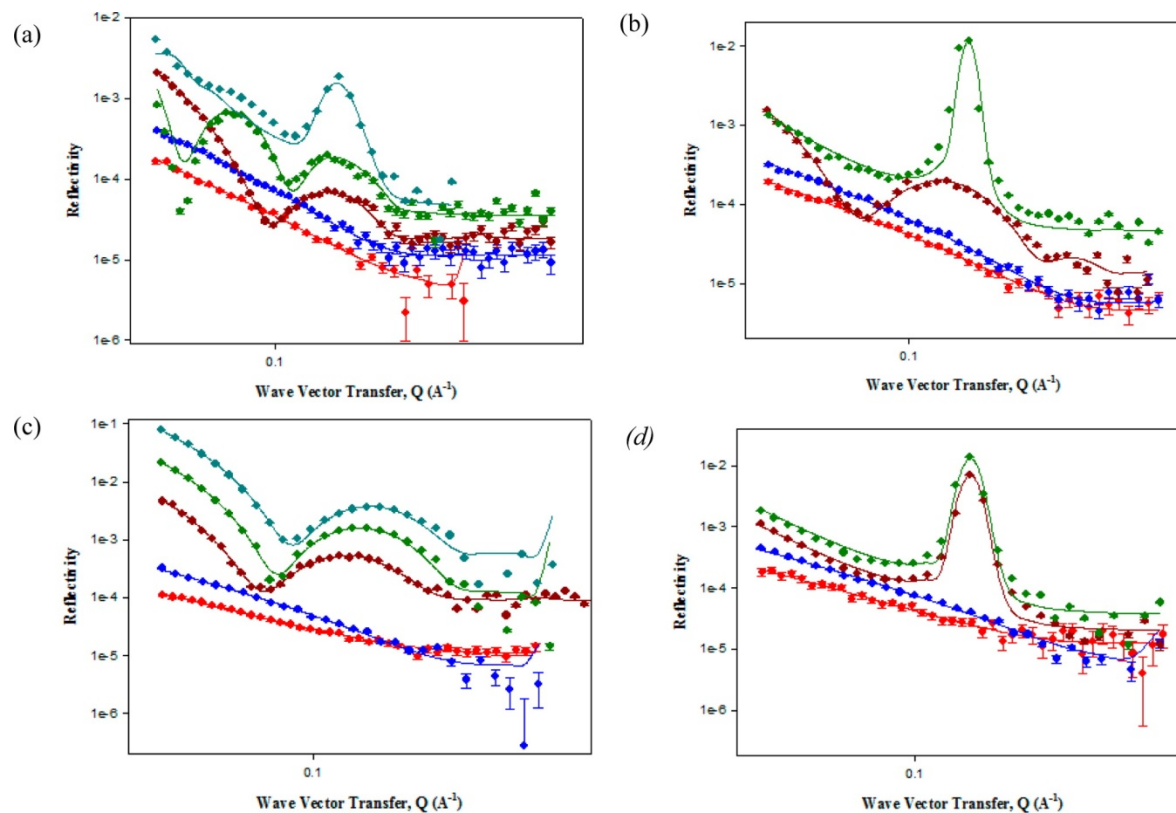
$$A = \sum b / d \cdot Nb$$

$$\Gamma = 1/A \cdot N_{av}$$



- alkyl chain d labelled SLES, dC12hE1S, dC12hE2S, and dC12hE3S.
- thin monolayer,  $\sim 17 \pm 2 \text{ \AA}$ , of uniform composition

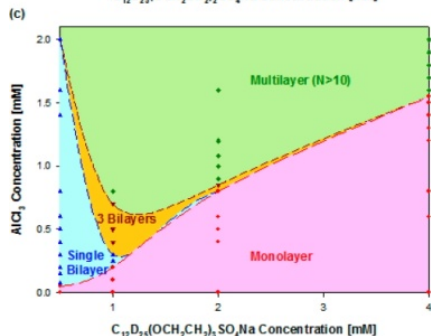
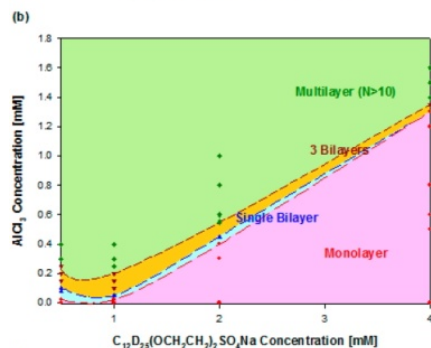
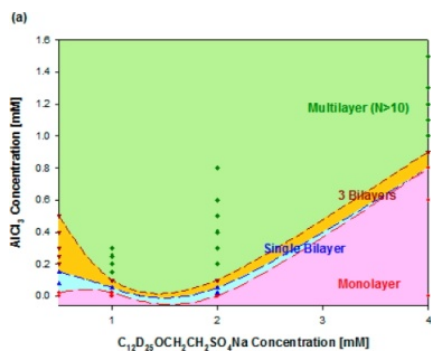
## NR With Al<sup>3+</sup>



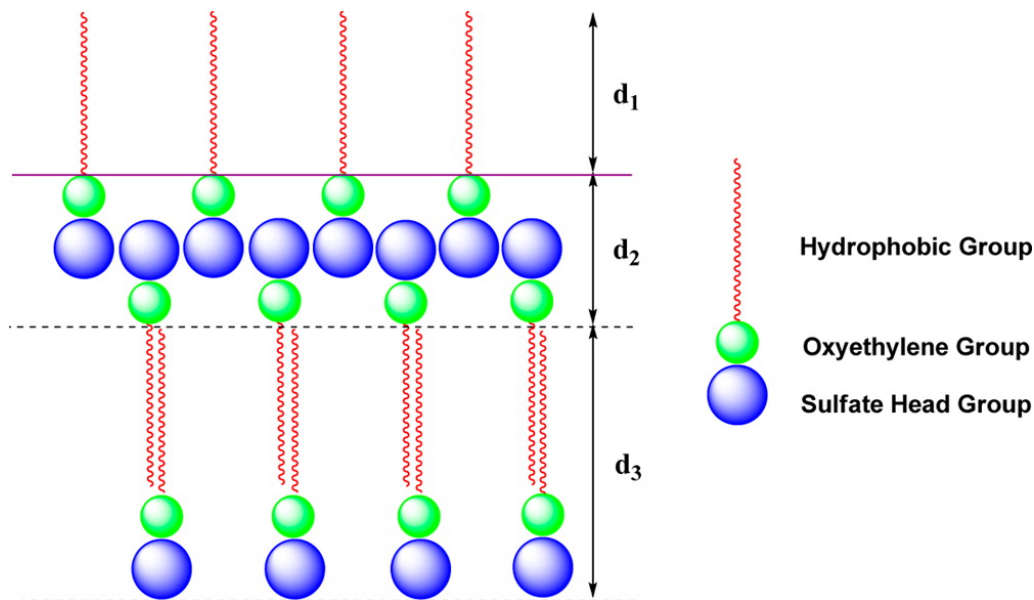
- (a) 1 mM SLE1S, 0.0 mM (red), 0.02 mM (blue), 0.05 mM (dark red), 0.1 mM (dark green), 0.2 mM AlCl<sub>3</sub> (dark cyan)  
 (b) 2 mM SLE2S, 0.0 mM (red), 0.4 mM (blue), 0.5 mM (dark red), 0.6 mM AlCl<sub>3</sub> (dark green)  
 (c) 0.5 mM SLE3S, 0.0 mM (red), 0.05 mM (blue), 0.15 mM (dark red), 0.5 mM AlCl<sub>3</sub> (dark green), 0.8 mM AlCl<sub>3</sub> (dark cyan)  
 (d) 4 mM SLE3S, 0.0 mM (red), 1.5 mM (blue), 1.6 mM (dark red), and 1.8 mM AlCl<sub>3</sub> (dark green).



# Approximate Surface Phase Diagrams For SLES / Al<sup>3+</sup>

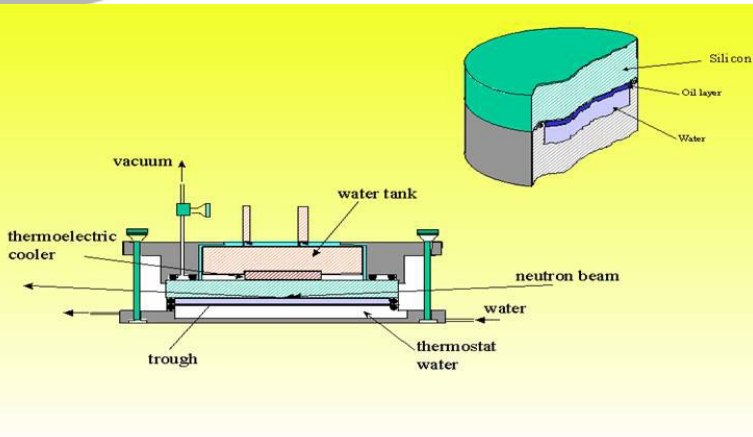


- strong complexation between SLES and Al<sup>3+</sup>, transition from monolayer to surface multilayer structures
- EO1 – EO3 increase monolayer region - require more Al<sup>3+</sup> to drive multilayers
- Increasing EO size disrupts complexation and multilayer formation





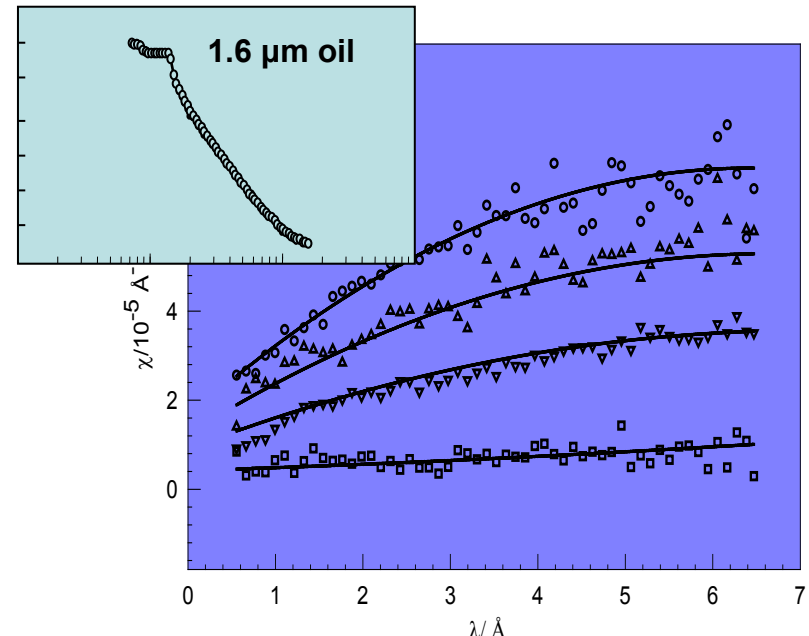
# Neutron Reflectivity at the Liquid/Liquid Interface



$$n(\lambda) \approx 1 - \frac{\lambda^2}{2\pi} Nb + i \frac{\lambda}{4\pi} N\sigma$$

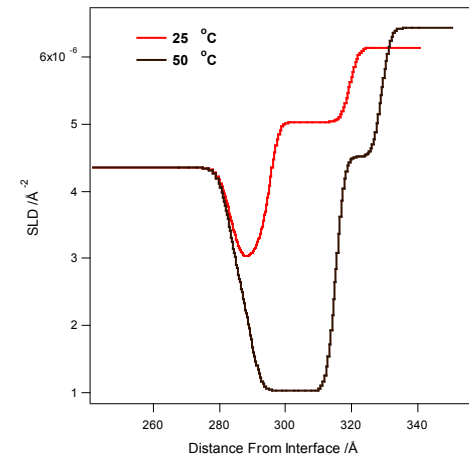
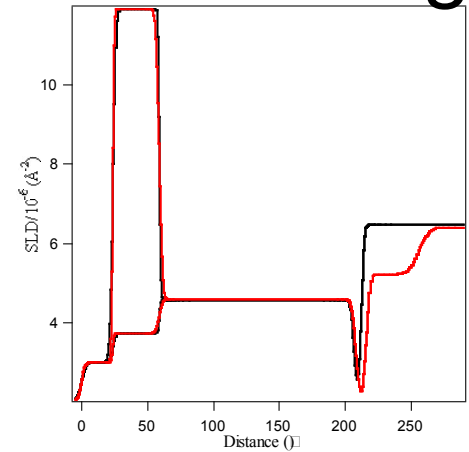
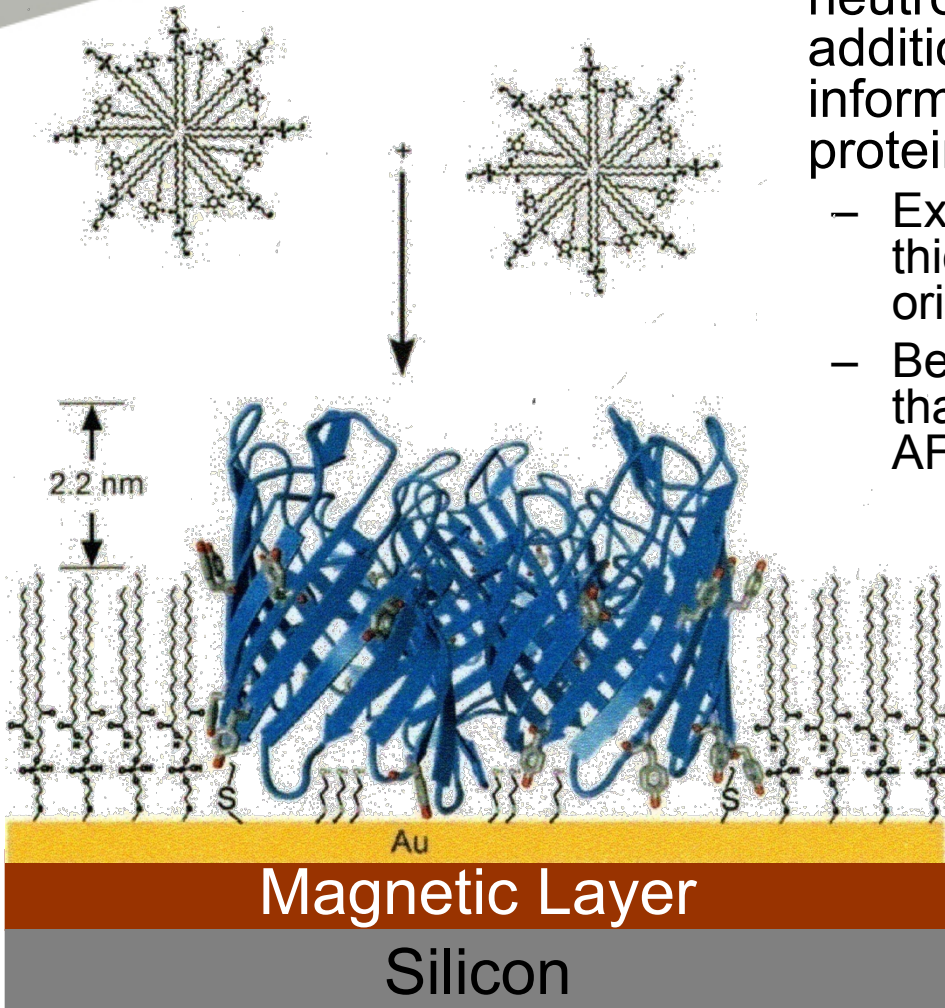
$$R_{\text{tot}} = R_1 + \frac{AR_2(1-R_1)^2}{1-AR_1R_2} \quad A = \exp\left(\frac{-2\chi d_{\text{oil}}}{\sin \theta_{\text{oil}}}\right)$$

- spin coat oil onto hydrophobed block
- freeze oil and assemble cell, introduce aqueous phase
- Film stable/reproducible
- Use a super mirror to change  $\theta_i$
- reflection from silicon/oil and oil/water phase decoupled
- with increasing sld get direct measure of oil thickness



# Polarised Neutrons for Biology

- Use polarised neutrons to provide additional information for protein absorption
  - Extract protein thickness and orientation
  - Better resolution than conventional AFM studies



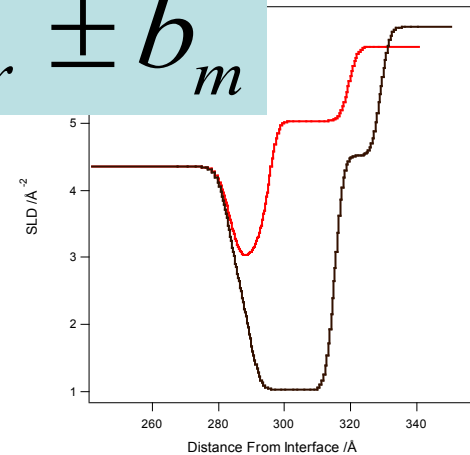
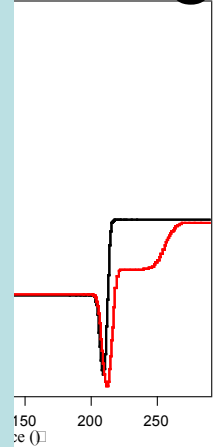
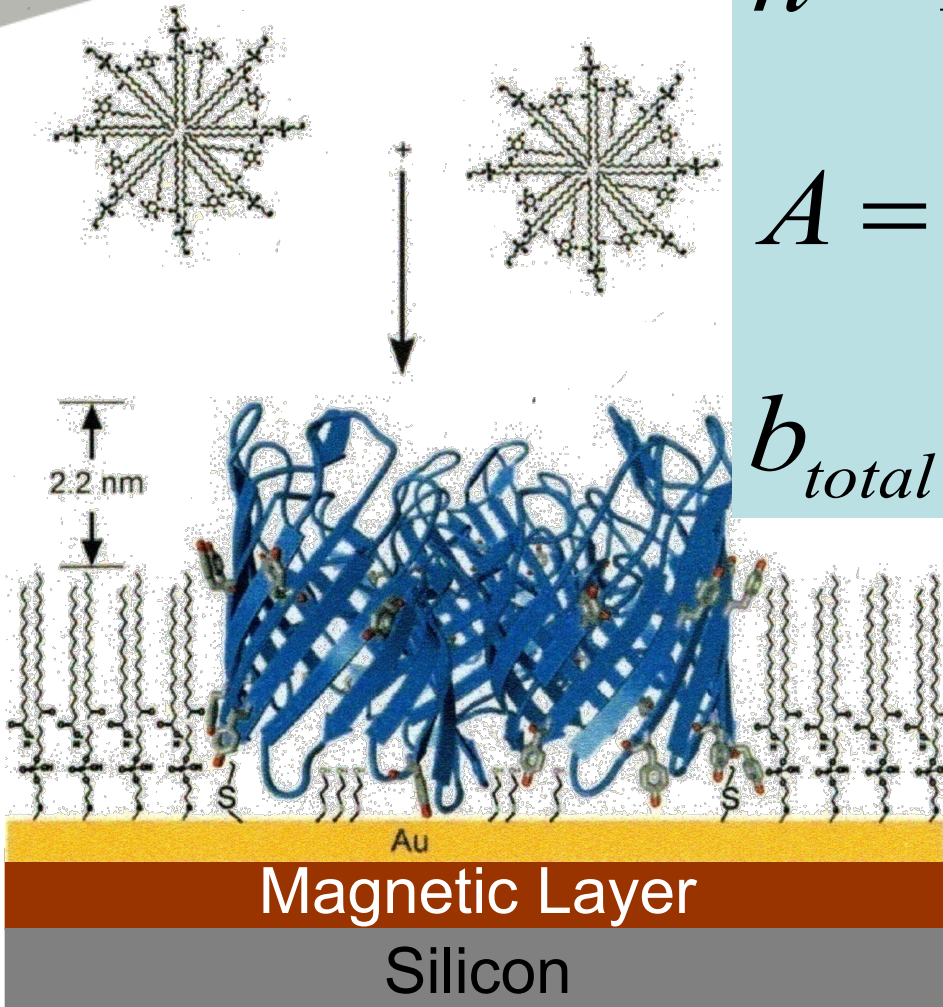


# Polarised Neutrons for Biology

$$n = 1 - \lambda^2 A - i\lambda B$$

$$A = \frac{Nb}{2\pi}$$

$$b_{total} = b_{nuclear} \pm b_m$$





# Reflectometry Summary

- Depth profile sensitive to number and type of atom
- $\sim 10\text{\AA}$  resolution
- Interface thickness  $\sim 5\text{\AA}$  to  $5000\text{\AA}$
- 'buried' interfaces
- Contrast variation
  - invisible substrate
  - Pick out components in complex mixtures
  - unique structure determination

## Background material

The following review articles, book chapter, and book provide a useful background to Neutron Reflectivity. The articles and book chapter are readily available on line and the book is available from most on-line outlets, such as Amazon.

### **(a) Basic Reviews on Neutron and x-ray reflectivity**

- (1) J Penfold, RK Thomas, J Phys: Condens Matt 2 (1990) 1369
- (2) TP Russell, Mat Sci Rep 5 (1990) 171

### **(b) Applications of neutron reflectivity in surfactants and polymer-surfactant**

- (1) JR Lu, RK Thomas, J Penfold, Adv Coll Int Sci 84 (2000) 143
- (2) DJF Taylor, RK Thomas, J Penfold, Adv Coll Int Sci 132 (2007) 69
- (3) J Penfold, RK Thomas, Int Sci and Technol, Adv Chem of Monolayers and Interfaces, Vol 14, Chapt 4, 87-115, Ed I Imae, Elsevier, 2007.

### **(c) Basic scattering theory**

- (1) Elementary Scattering Theory for x-ray and neutron users, DS Sivia, OUP, 2011, ISBN 978-0-19-922868-3