

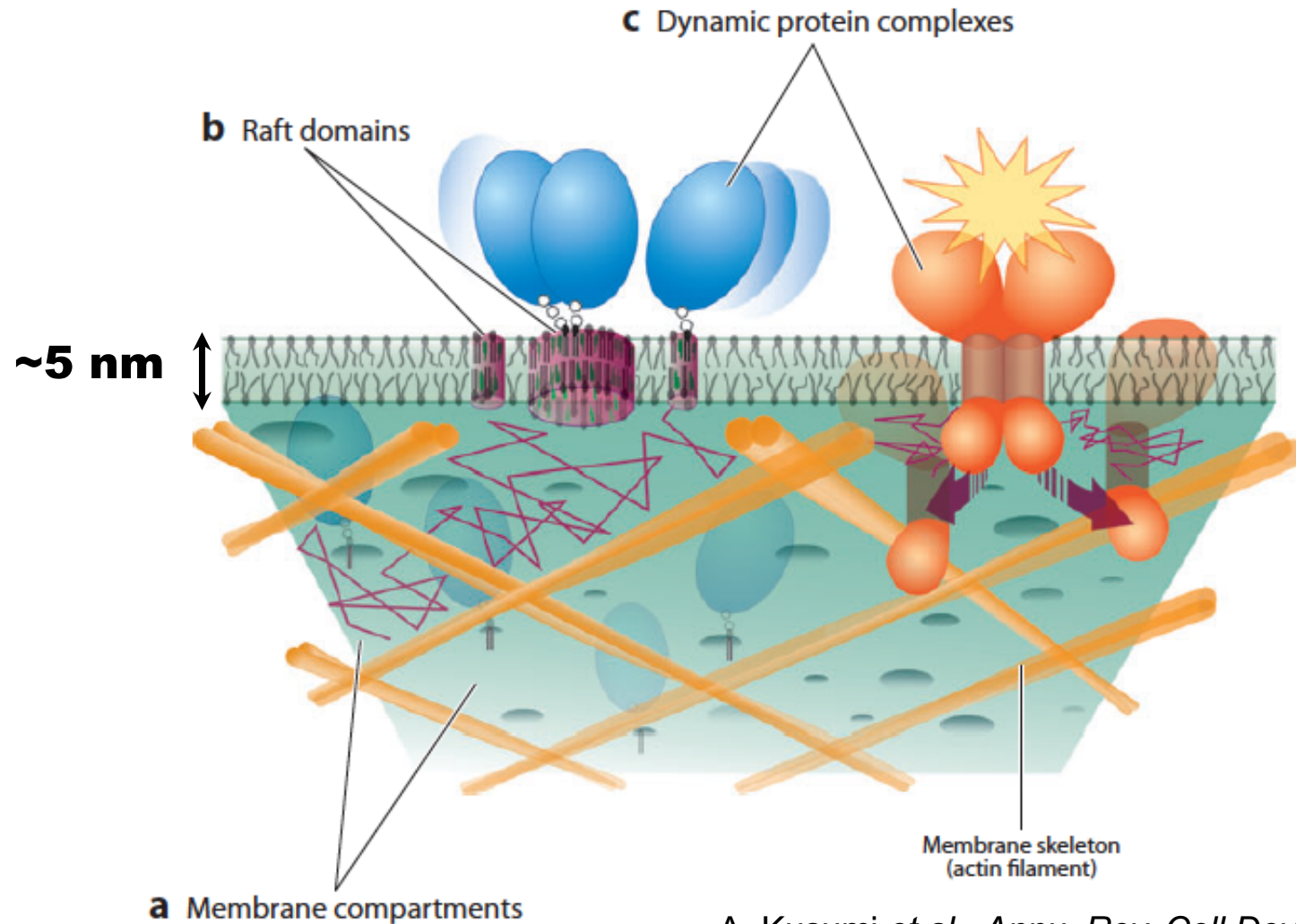


# Active Membranes: Where we are and Where should we go



Patricia Bassereau  
Institut Curie

# Cell Plasma Membrane



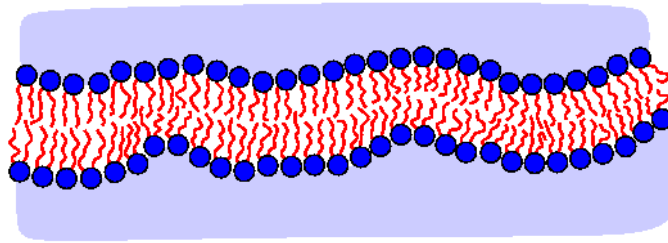
A. Kusumi *et al.*, *Annu. Rev. Cell Dev. Biol.* (2012)

Membrane: *Fluid* (viscosity  $\sim$  100 times water)

+ many membrane proteins

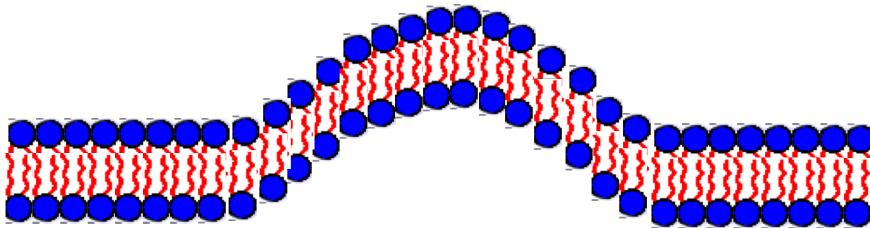
*Confinement* due to cortical actin filaments

# Physics of Fluid Membranes



- Membrane mechanical properties described by 2 parameters:

$\kappa$ : Bending rigidity modulus

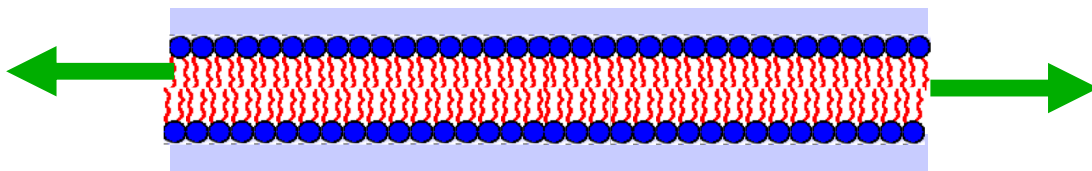


$$f_{bending} = \frac{1}{2} \kappa C^2$$

C: Mean curvature

W. Helfrich, *Zur Naturforschung* **28c**, 693 (1973)

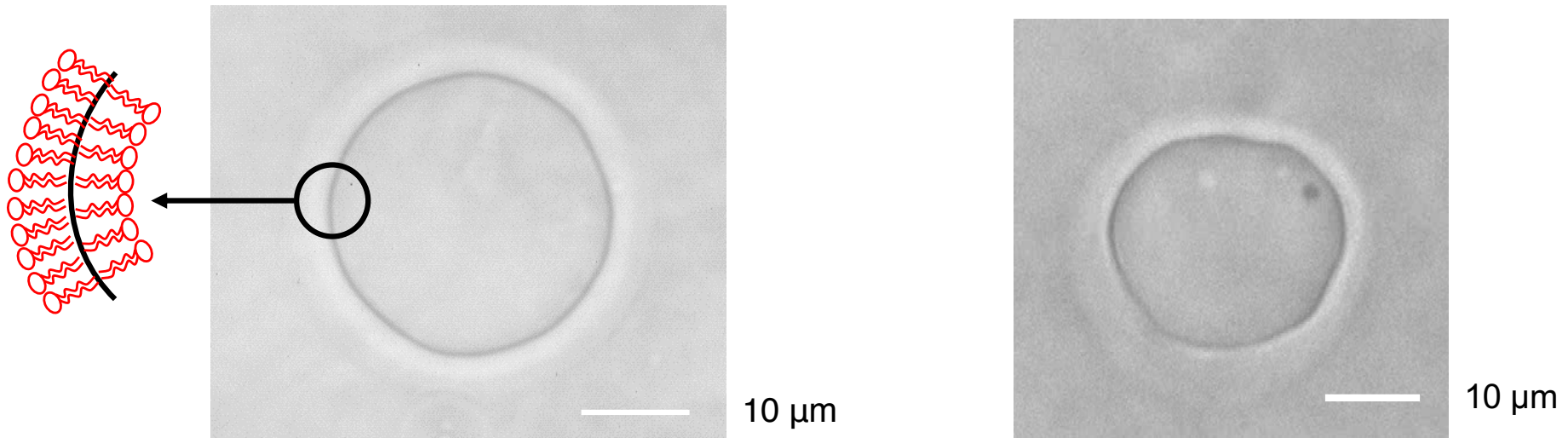
$\sigma$ : Membrane tension



$$\sigma = \frac{\partial H_s}{\partial A}$$

# Membrane Fluctuations

$\kappa$ : from a few  $k_B T$  to  $\approx 60 k_B T$

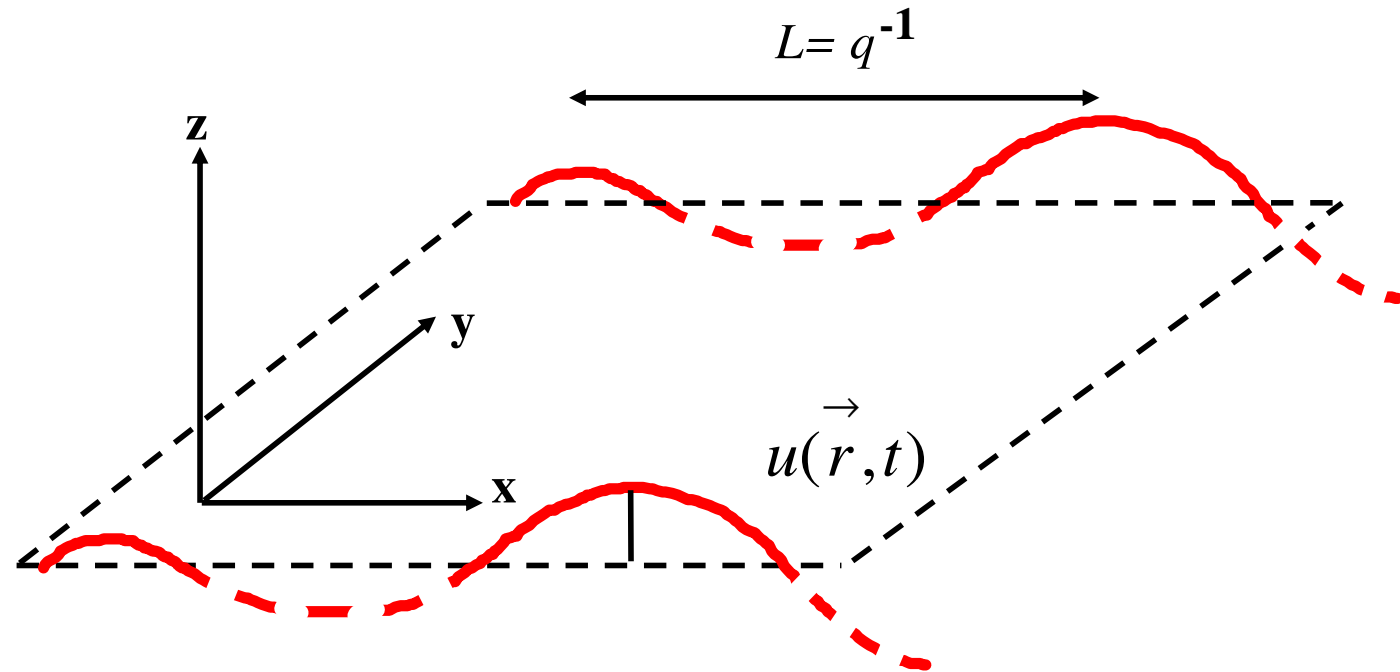


Optically visible membrane fluctuations, *thermally induced*

See Petia Vlahovska's talk



# Membrane Fluctuation Spectrum

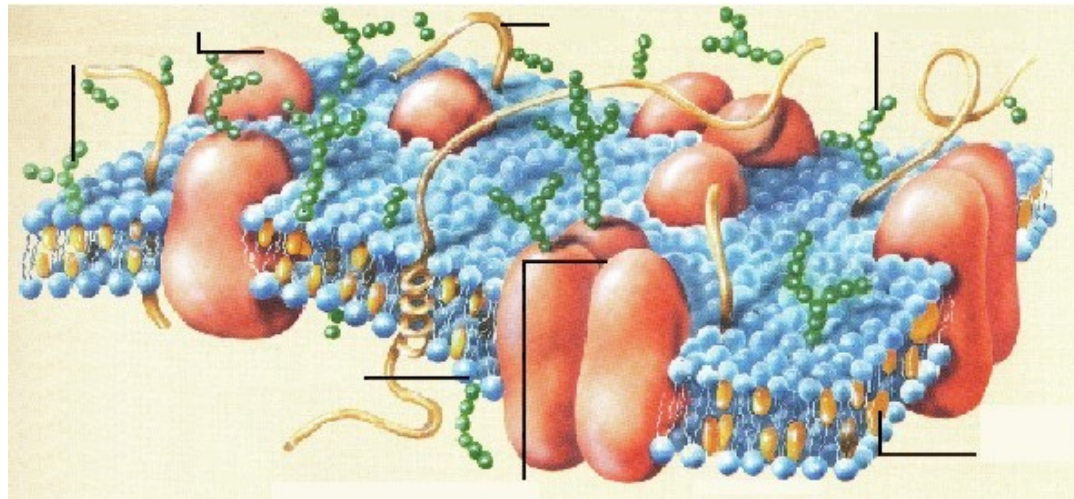


"Thermal noise" only (at equilibrium)

$$\langle |u(\vec{q})|^2 \rangle = \frac{k_B T}{\sigma q^2 + \kappa q^4}$$

W. Helfrich, R.M. Servuss  
*Il nuovo Cimento* 3D (1984)

# But, *Active* Transport of Ions through Membranes



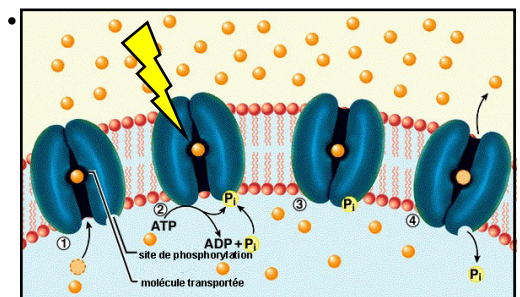
Lipid bilayer: quasi impermeable to ions

Transport of ions: Specialized proteins + source of energy

- **Channels:** Activable selective holes  
Fast response (1000 ions/ms) by gradient relaxation  
Muscle contraction, Action potential ...  
Activated by: voltage, mechanical stretching...



- **Pumps:** Use energy to build up gradients  
Slow transport : 1 ion/ms  
Activated by: light, ATP hydrolysis...



1994 : Jacques Prost & Robjin Bruinsma @ KITP (Santa Barbara)

effect of the *non-equilibrium* activity of these proteins on the fluctuation spectrum?

EUROPHYSICS LETTERS

1 February 1996

*Europhys. Lett.*, **33** (4), pp. 321-326 (1996)

## Shape fluctuations of active membranes

J. PROST<sup>1,2</sup> and R. BRUINSMA<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Institut Curie, Section de Recherche*

*11 rue P. et M. Curie, 75231 Paris Cedex 05, France*

<sup>2</sup> *ESPCI - 10 rue Vauquelin, 75231 Paris Cedex 05, France*

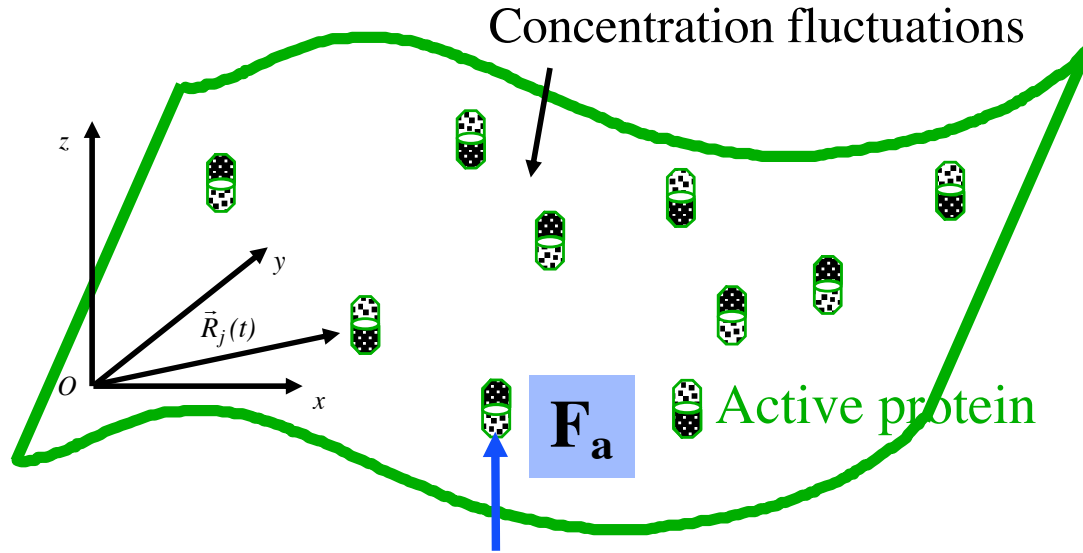
<sup>3</sup> *Physics Department, UCLA - Los Angeles, CA, 90024, USA*

Pioneer in a new area of biophysics (*active materials*)

# Active Membranes: a Different Fluctuation Spectrum

J. Prost, R. Bruinsma *Europhys. Lett.*(1996)

Model initially for *ion channels*



$F_a$  : active force

$\lambda_p$  : permeation coefficient

$\eta$  : solvent viscosity

$\rho$  : pump/channel concentration

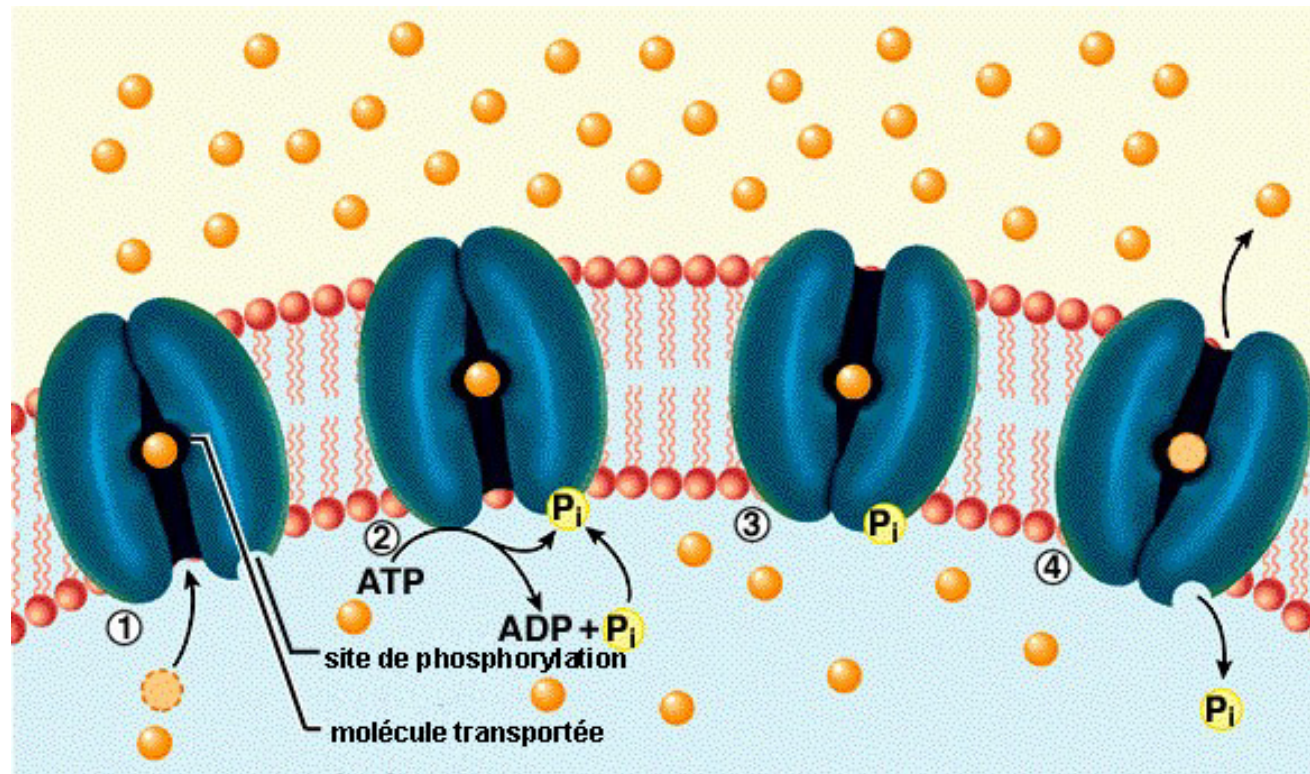
$D$ : diffusion coefficient

$$\sigma \rightarrow 0 \quad \langle |u(\vec{q})|^2 \rangle = \underbrace{\frac{kT}{\kappa q^4}}_{\text{Passive contribution}} + \underbrace{\frac{\rho \lambda_p^2 F_a^2}{4\eta} \times \frac{1}{\frac{\kappa q^3}{4\eta} + \frac{1}{4} D q^2}}_{\text{Active contribution}}$$

$$q \rightarrow 0 \quad \langle |u(\vec{q}_\perp)|^2 \rangle \approx \frac{\eta \lambda_p^2 F_a^2 \rho}{D \kappa} \frac{1}{q^5}$$

New spectrum +  
Fluctuation enhancement





# Active Membranes

Jean-Baptiste Manneville, Philippe Girard, Jacques Pécréaux, Faris El Alaoui

Theory: J.F. Joanny, [J.Prost](#) (I.C.)

Coll: S. Ramaswamy (Bangalore), R. Bruinsma (UCLA),  
J. Toner (Eugene), D. Lacoste (ESPCI, Paris)

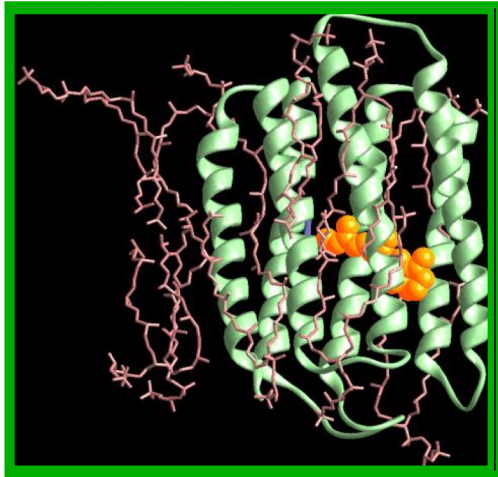
Coll: J-L. Rigaud , D. Lévy (I.C.)

P. Falson, (CEA-Saclay), H.G. Döbereiner (MPI Golm), T. Salditt (Göttingen)

# Experimental Systems

Coll: D. Lévy J.L Rigaud (Curie) - P. Falson (CEA Saclay)

## *Ion pumps*

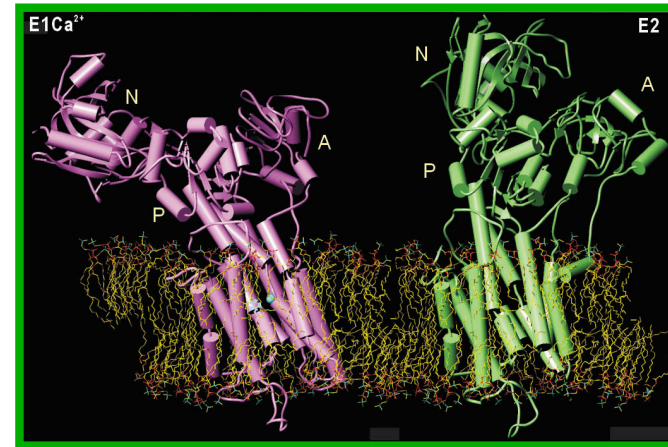


**Bacteriorhodopsin**

H<sup>+</sup> pump

Activated by visible light (green)

or



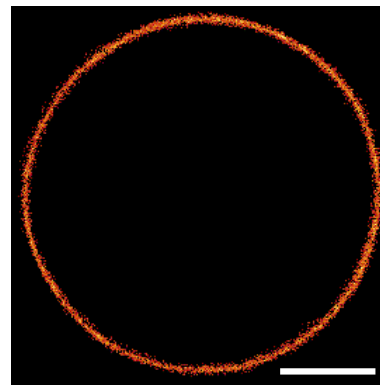
**Ca<sup>2+</sup>-ATPase (SERCA1a)**

Ca<sup>2+</sup> pump

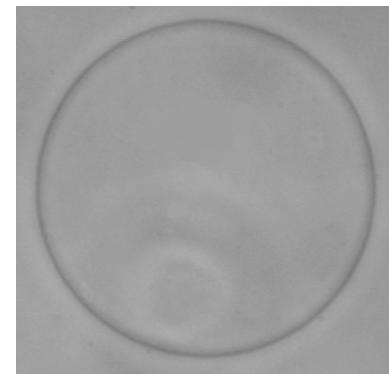
Activated by ATP hydrolysis

Reconstituted in lipid

*Giant Unilamellar Vesicles*



Ca<sup>2+</sup>-ATPase 5 μm

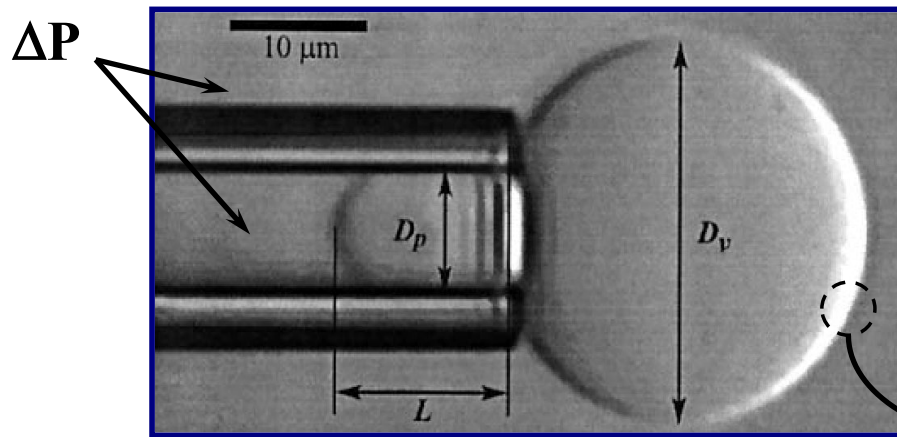


P. Girard et al *Biophys.J.* (2004)

# Method

Micropipette aspiration (E. Evans)

Kwok and Evans, *Biophys. J.* (1981)



Aspiration  $\Delta P \leftrightarrow$  Tension  $\sigma$

Tongue length  $\Delta L \leftrightarrow$  Excess area  $\Delta\alpha$

At low tension, at equilibrium :

$$\ln\left(\frac{\sigma}{\sigma_0}\right) \cong \frac{8\pi\kappa}{k_B T} \Delta\alpha$$

Evans, E., W. Rawicz. *PRL* (1990)

Expected for active membranes ( not possible to measure spectrum)

$$\ln\left(\frac{\sigma}{\sigma_0}\right) \cong \frac{8\pi\kappa}{k_B T_{eff}} \Delta\alpha$$

$T_{eff} \leftrightarrow$  Protein activity ( $F_A, \lambda_P$ )

# Effect of Protein Activity

$\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -ATPase

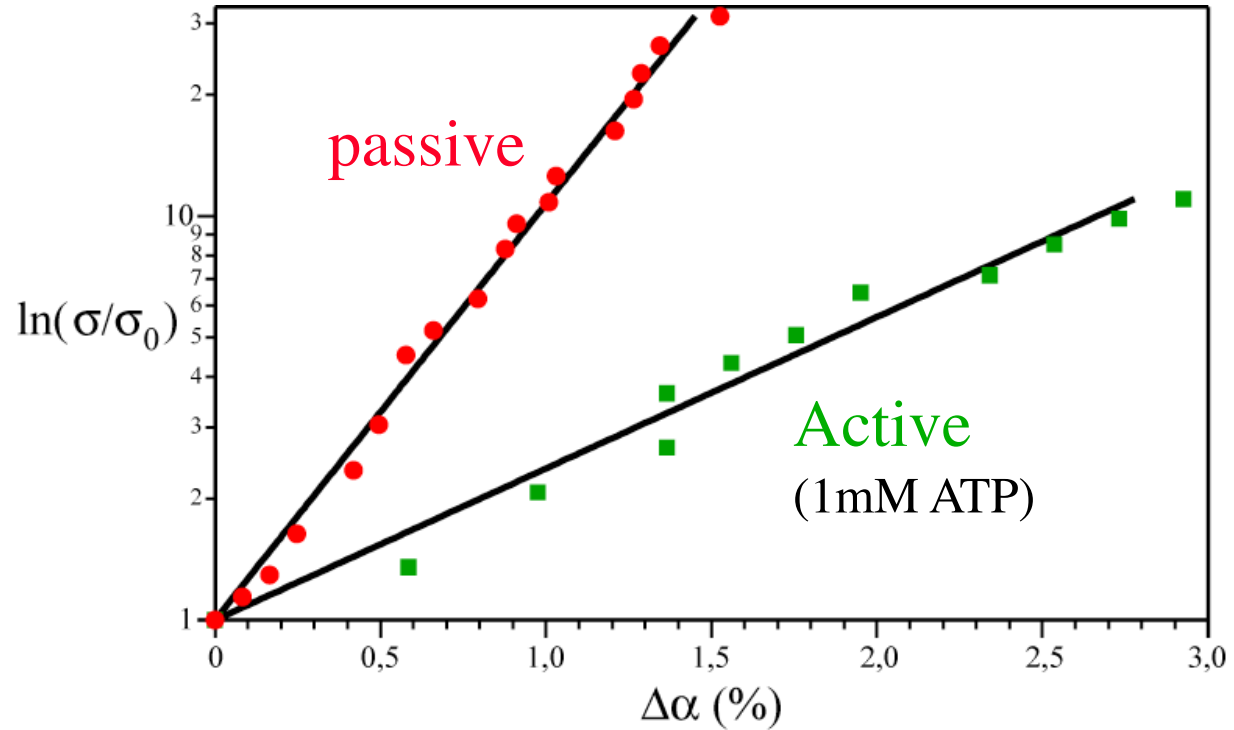
Girard et al, *PRL* (2005)

$$\phi = 3 \times 10^{15} \text{ m}^{-2}$$

Slope:

$$\frac{8\pi\kappa}{k_B T}$$

$$\frac{8\pi\kappa}{k_B T_{eff}}$$



● no ATP : **passive proteins**

$$\frac{\kappa_p}{k_B T} = 9.4 \pm 0.3$$

■ with ATP (1mM) : **active proteins**

$$\frac{\kappa_p}{k_B T_{eff}} = 3.5 \pm 0.4$$

$$T_{eff} = 2.7 \text{ T}$$

$$T_{eff} \approx 1000^\circ \text{K}$$

**Bacteriorhodopsin + light** :  $T_{eff} = 2.0 \text{ T}$

Manneville et al, *PRL* (1999), *PRE* (2001)

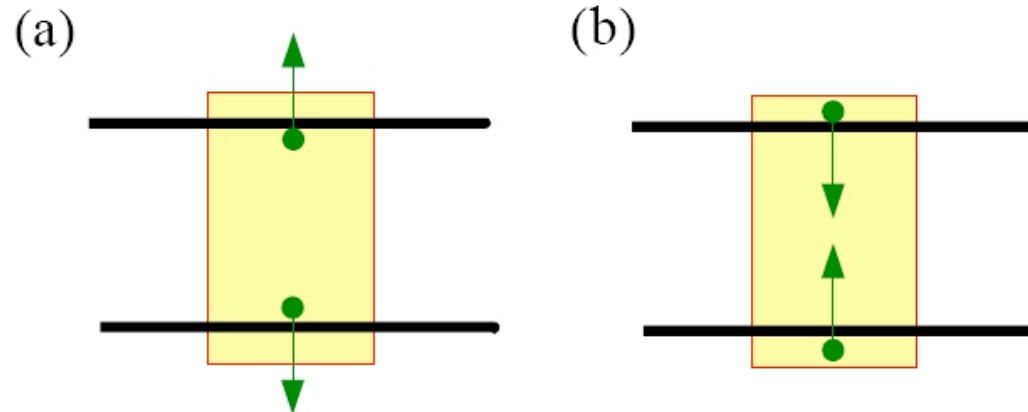




Pump activity has a strong effect on membrane fluctuations

- Linear term negligible for pumps (very low permeation)
- Consider the dipolar term

Force dipoles:



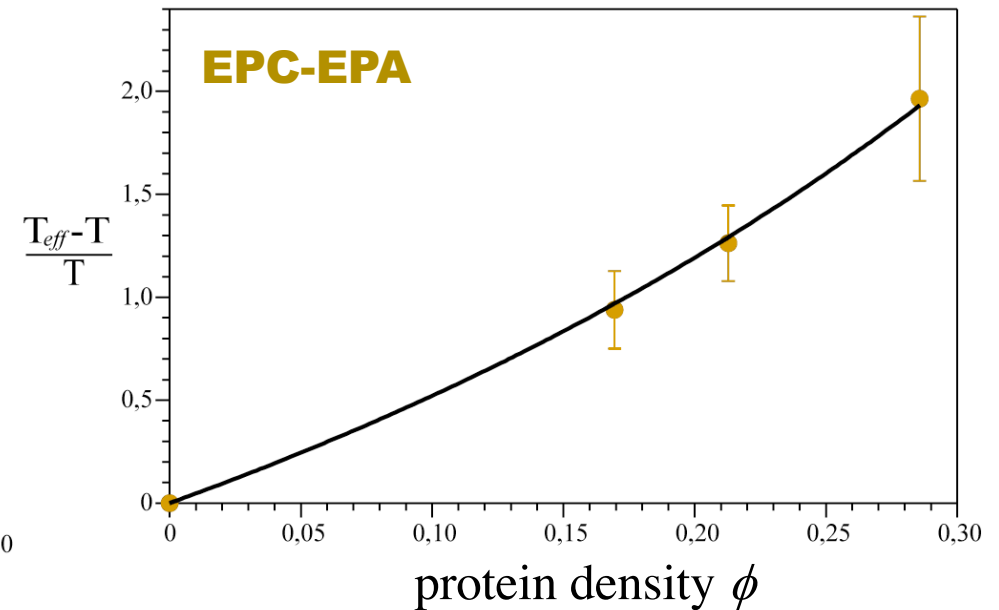
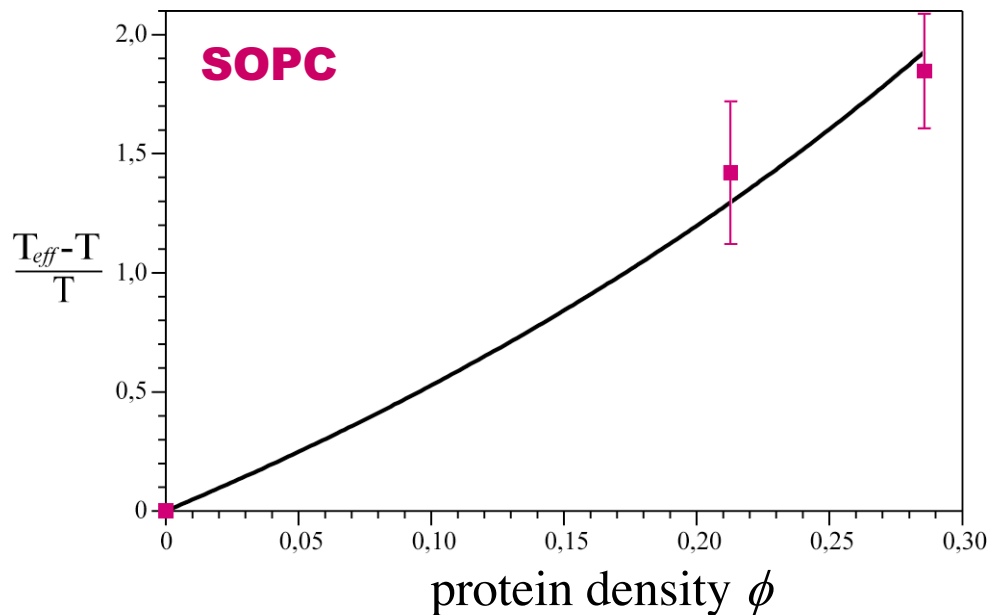
Change of conformation of the pump, but at that stage, not possible to relate the molecular effect of activity and the force dipole

Theory : Activity  $\longleftrightarrow$  Force dipole  $\longleftrightarrow$  Effective temperature

$$\frac{T_{eff} - T}{T} = f(\mathcal{P}_a, \phi)$$

Manneville et al, *PRE* (2001)

Ca<sup>2+</sup>-ATPase



**Force dipole :  $\mathcal{P}_a = 8-10 \text{ k}_B\text{T}$**

1 ATP hydrolysis  $\approx 15 \text{ k}_B\text{T}$

Girard et al, *PRL* (2005)

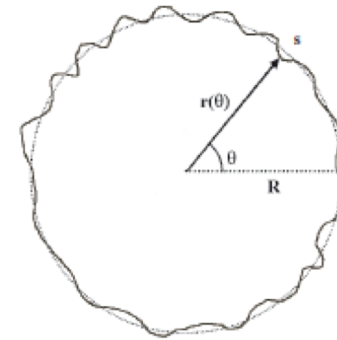
# Fluctuation Spectrum



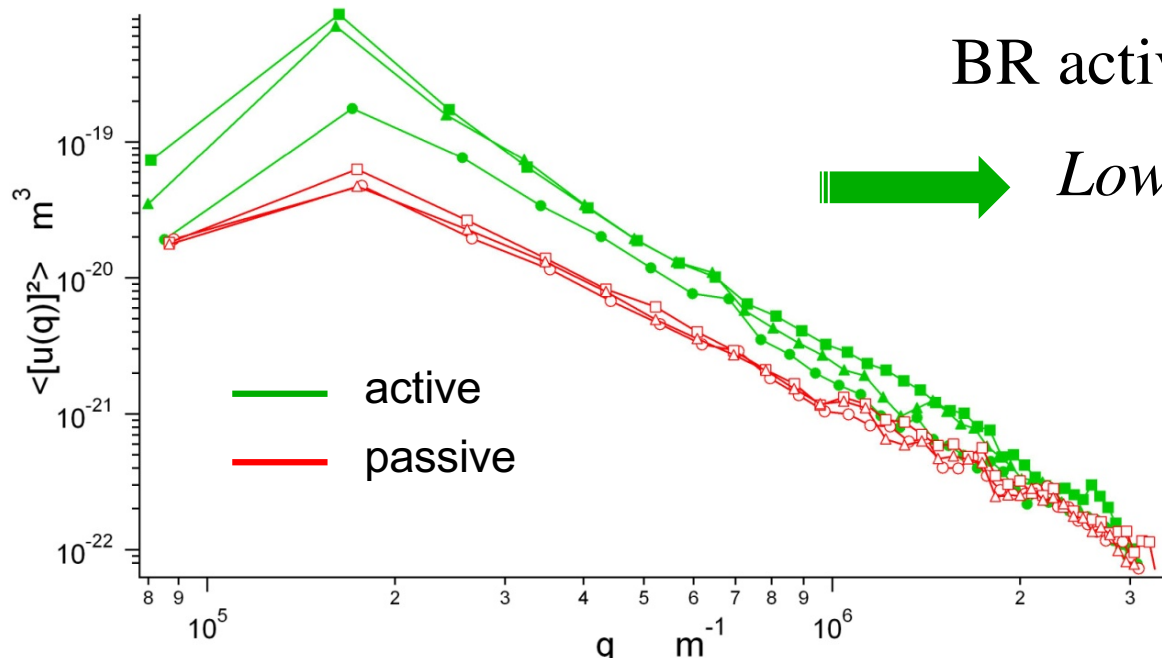
Flickering Spectroscopy:  
Contour Fourier analysis

J. Pécrciaux *et al.*, *EPJE* (2004)

Coll. H.G. Döbereiner



Same GUV (Bacteriorhodopin))



BR activity



*Lowering of membrane tension*

M. El Alaoui Faris *et al.*, *PRL* (2009)

# Fluctuation Spectrum

Cf. later model (M. Lomholt): *active effect on tension*:

M. Lomholt, *PRE* (2006)


$$\langle |u(q)|^2 \rangle = \frac{k_B T}{2\tilde{\sigma}} \left[ \frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{q^2 + \tilde{q}_c^2}} \right] + \frac{F_{(2)}^2 n_\Sigma}{16\kappa^2} \frac{1}{\left( \sqrt{q^2 + \tilde{q}_c^2} \right)^3}$$

With:  $\tilde{\sigma} = \sigma + \sigma_{dip}$

Active correction

$$\& \quad \sigma_{dip} = \int h F_{act}(h) dh$$

$$F_{(2)} \propto Q = \int h^2 F_{act}(h) dh \quad \tilde{q}_c = \tilde{\sigma} / \kappa$$

  $\sigma_{dip} \propto -10^{-7} \text{ N/m}$

M. El Alaoui Faris et al., *PRL* (2009)



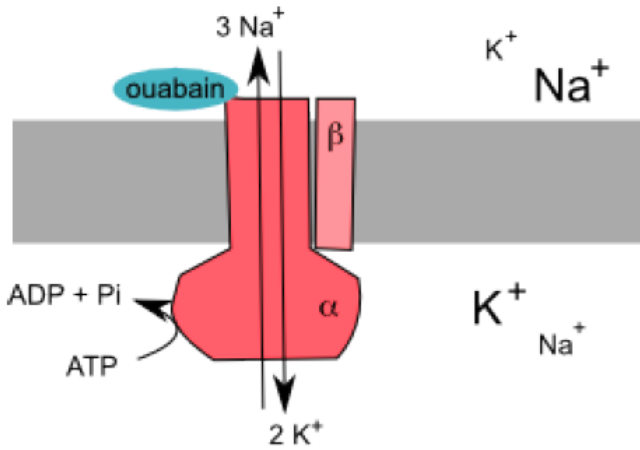
# Active Membranes : Some Conclusions

- Increase of the fluctuations due to protein activity  
Consequences at large scale of molecular conformational changes
- Some quantitative validation of the theoretical model  
Measurement of the force dipole:  $P_a = 8-10 k_B T$  ( $Ca^{2+}$ -ATPase)  
Effective tension due to activity  $\sigma_{\text{eff}} < \sigma$
- Non-equilibrium membranes upon lipid addition/fluxes  
J. Solon *et al.*, *PRL* (2006)      Theor: P. Girard, F. Jülicher, J. Prost *EPJE* (2004)  
M. Rao, R. Sarasij, *PRL* (2001)
- Limited number of experiments so far

# More Recent Work

# Active Model Membranes

H. Bouvrais... J.H. Ipsen, O. Mouritsen, *PNAS* **109**, 18442-18446, (2012)

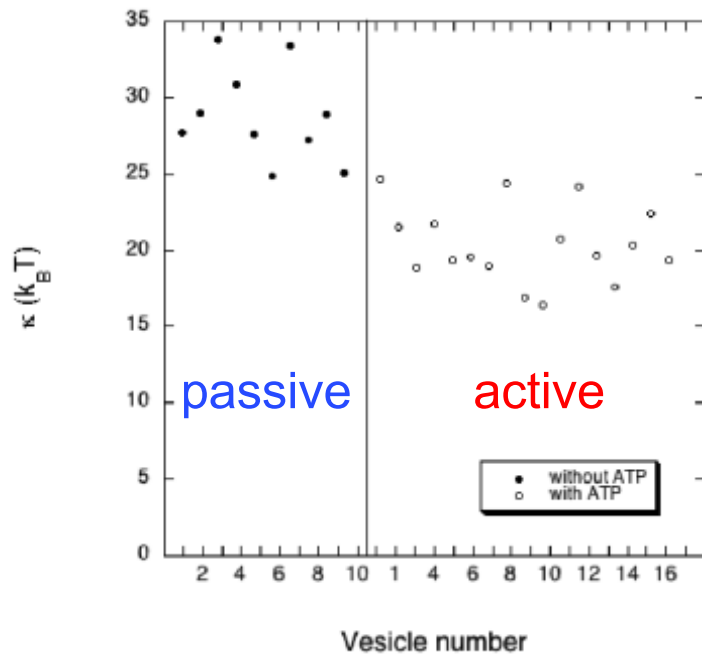


Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup> ATPase pump

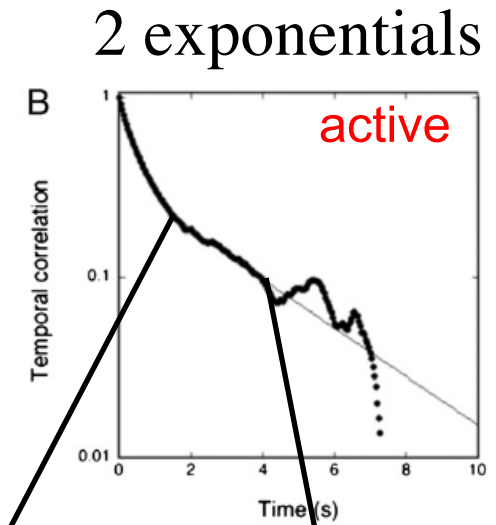
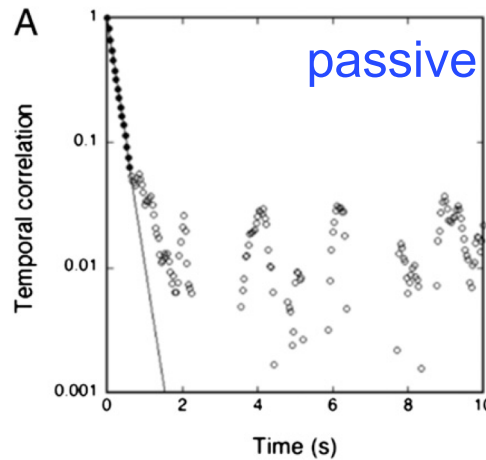
Fluctuation spectrum

*Dynamics: Time correlation (n=5)*

*Bending modulus*



Membrane softening



$n^{-3}$

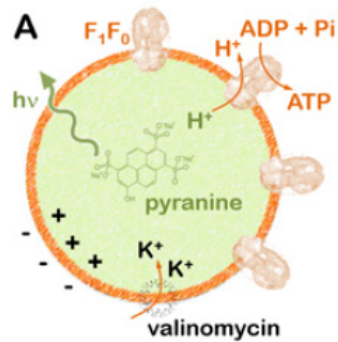
$n^0$

~ passive membrane

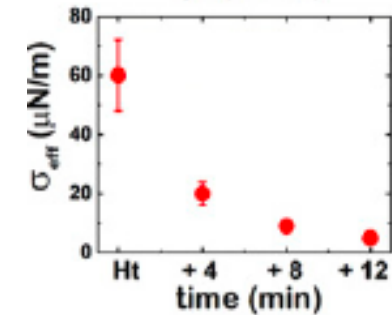
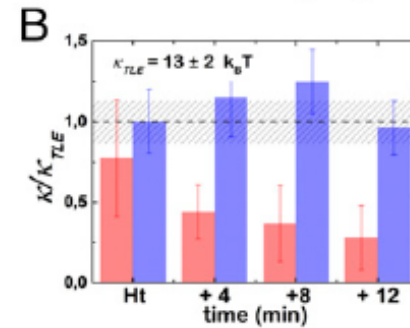
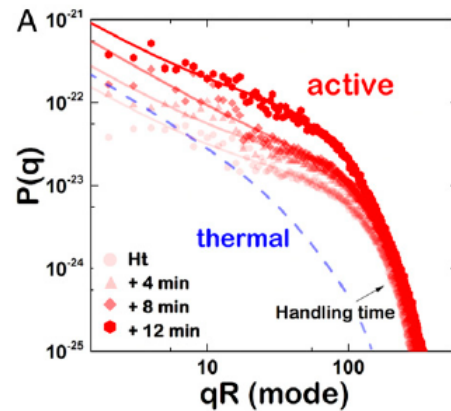
~ 0.5 sec

ATP turn-over

# Active Model Membranes



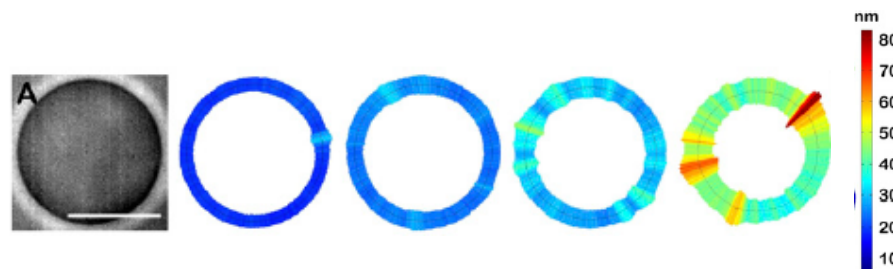
Rotating motor (F1-F0 ATP-synthase)



Activity  $\longrightarrow$  softening of the membrane  
reduction of the tension

*Localized* membrane deformations

Active clustering?

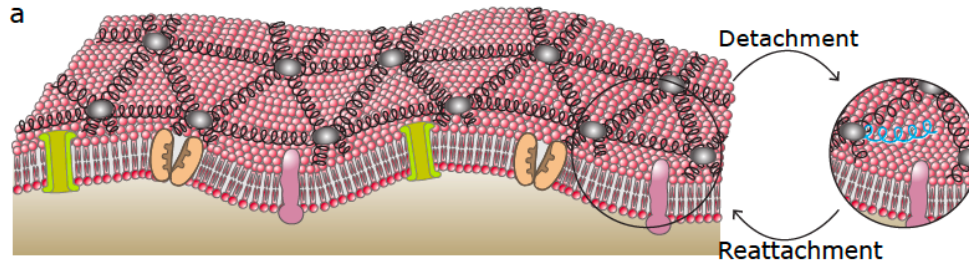


# Active Cell Membranes

H. Turlier ... T. Betz *Nat. Phys.* **12**, 513-519 (2016)

H. Turlier & T. Betz. *Annu. Rev. Condens. Matter Phys.* **10**, 213-232 (2019)

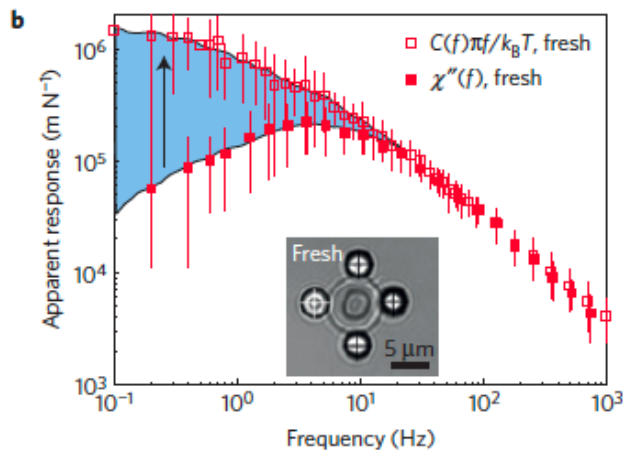
## Red Blood Cell flickering



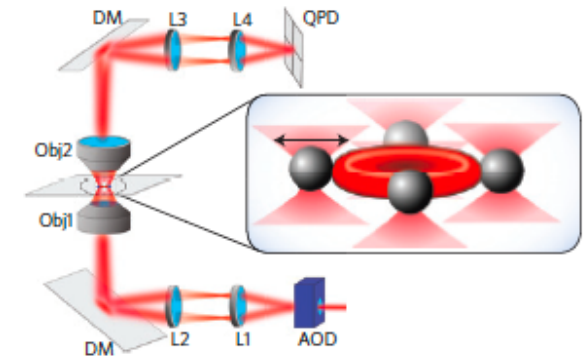
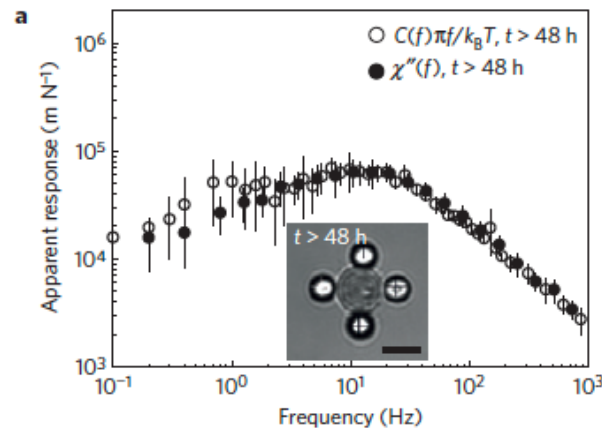
Membrane actively coupled to a cytoskeleton

Measures fluctuations  $C(f)$  and mechanical response  $\chi(f)$

Fresh cells



"Old" cells



$$C(f)\pi f / k_B T \neq \chi''(f)$$

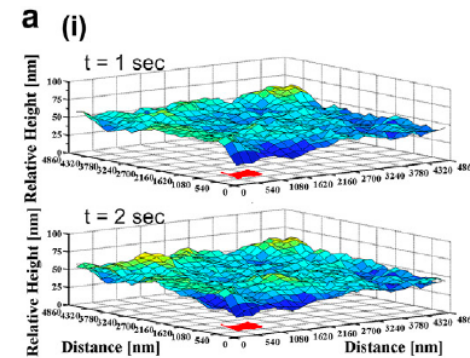
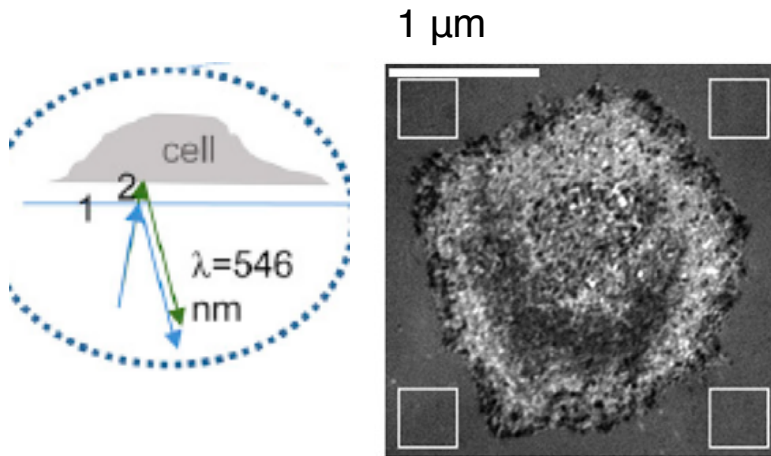


Violation of the fluctuation-dissipation theorem  
Non-equilibrium membrane

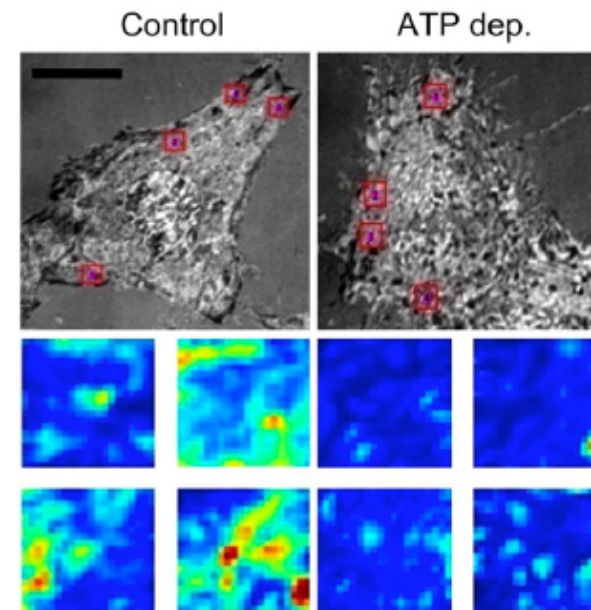
# Active Cell Membranes

Cell fluctuating on a surface

A. Biswas, A. Alex, B. Sinha, *Biophys. J.* **113**, 1768 (2017)



Interferometric image  
of the bottom part



Fluctuations depend on ATP  
(active)

2

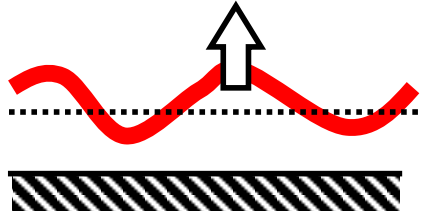
6 nm

10

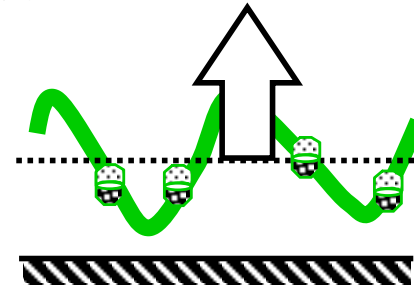


# To be Studied (in more details):

- Active fluctuating membrane near a wall



"Helfrich" entropic pressure



Amplification of the fluctuations

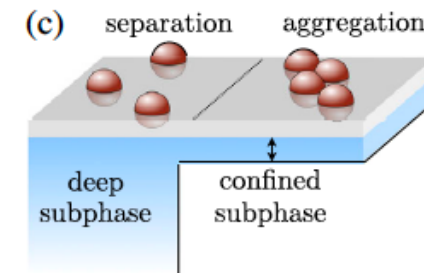
J. Prost, J.-B. Manneville, R. Bruinsma,  
*Eur. Phys. J. B* **1**, 465 (1998).

See T. Mukhina...T. Charitat, G. Fragneto *J. Colloid Interf. Sci.* on line

Future experiments?

- Effect on adhesion?
- *Clustering* predicted for active proteins if membrane close to a surface

H. Manikantan, *PRL* **125**, 268101 (2020)



# Active Proteins in Membranes: Diffusion, Clustering

- Attractive Forces between 2 active inclusions

**Theory** J.-B. Fournier, K. S. Ronia, *J. Stat. Mech.* **2013**, P08005 (2013)

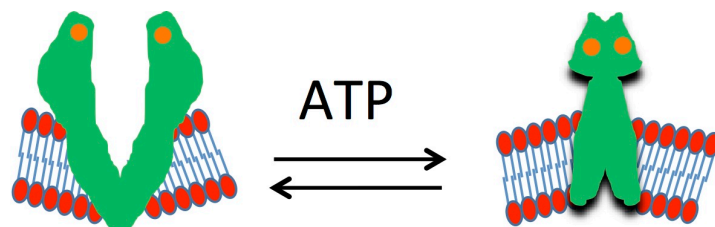
If clustering, size of the active domains?

Coupling membrane deformation, protein clustering and protein activity

- Mobility in a membrane depends on protein shape

F. Quemeneur *et al.*, *PNAS* **111** 5083 (2014)

If protein actively switches its shape, mobility affected?



More work still needed:

Theory, simulations and experiments



# Thanks to:

## Experiments

Philippe Girard  
Jerome Solon  
Jacques Pécréaux  
Jean-Baptiste Manneville

## Theory

Philippe Girard  
J-B. Manneville  
Frank Jülicher  
J. François Joanny  
Jacques PROST

## Collaborations :

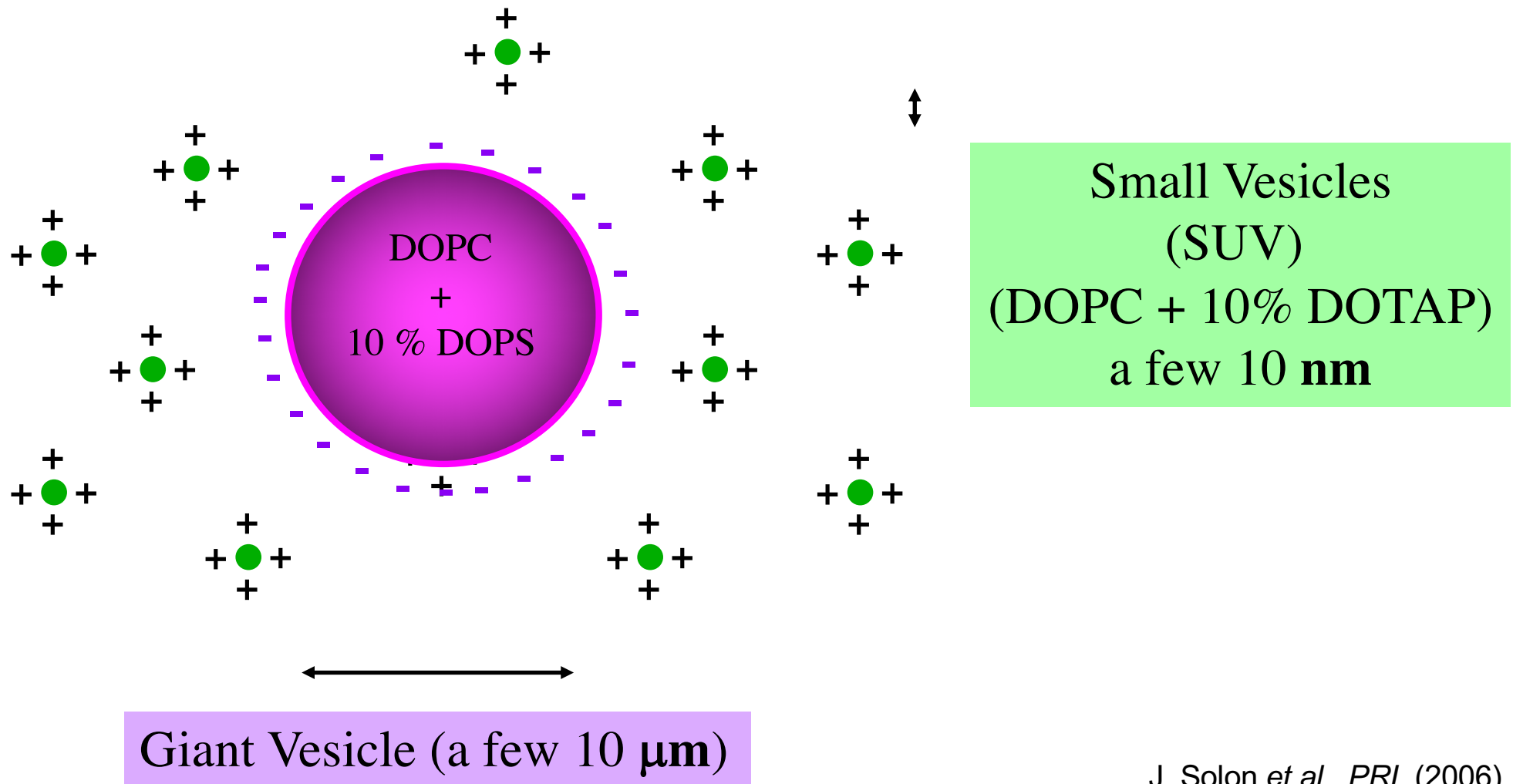
P. Falson, G. Lenoir,  
P. Champeil (CEA-Saclay)  
J-L. Rigaud , D. Lévy  
(PCC, Institut Curie)  
H.G. Döbereiner

S. Ramaswamy (Bangalore)  
R. Bruinsmac(UCLA)  
D. Lacoste (ESPCI, Paris)

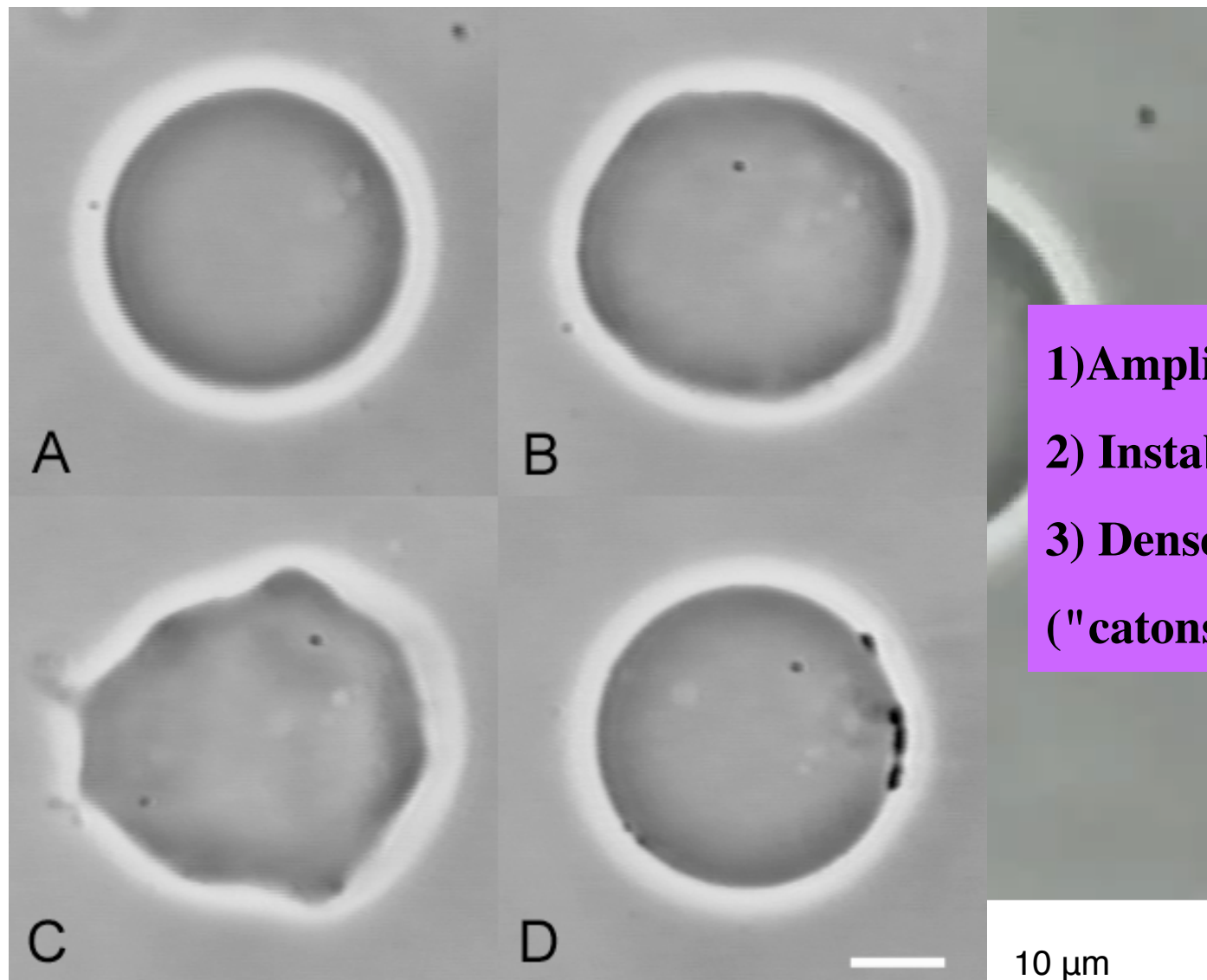
# Experimental System for Fast Lipid Addition

J. Solon

High fusion rate with charged systems



If [DOTAP] > 7 % **Fusion and Shape Instabilities**

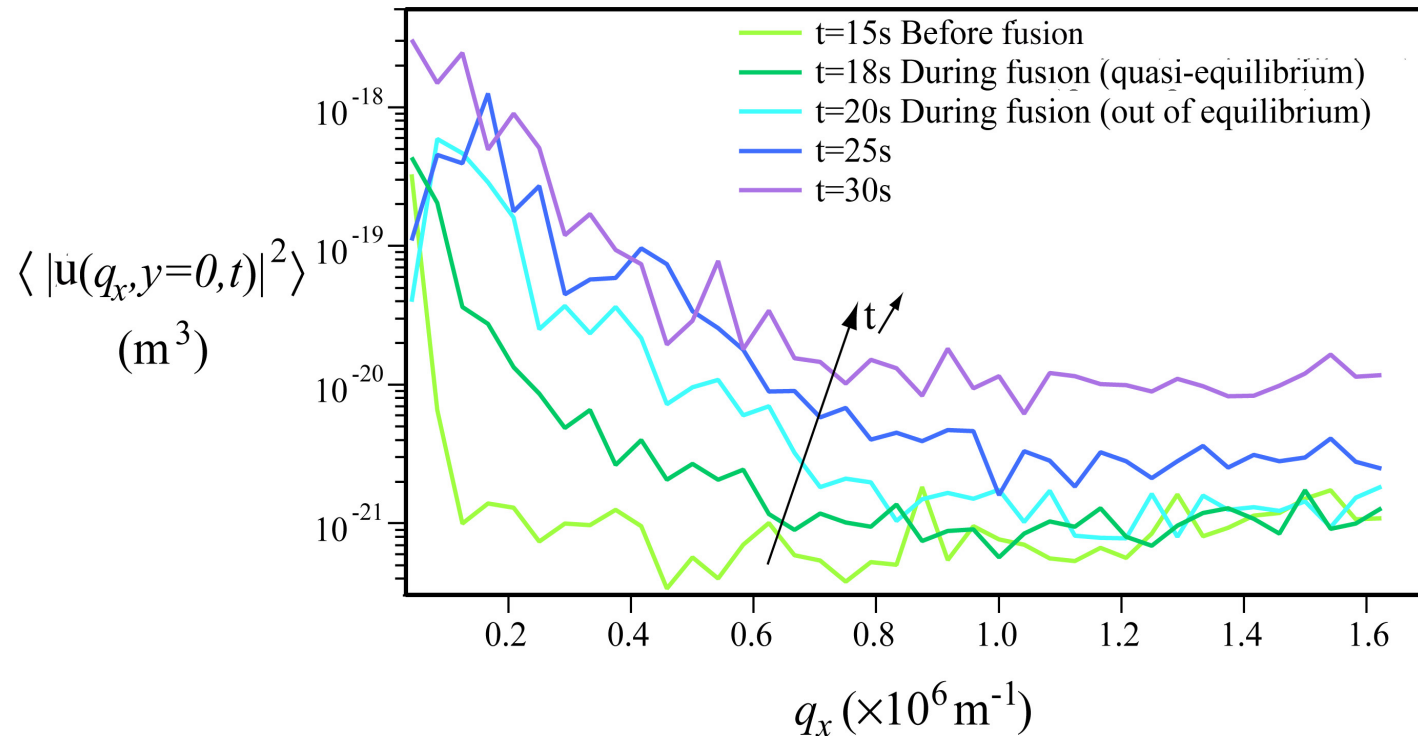
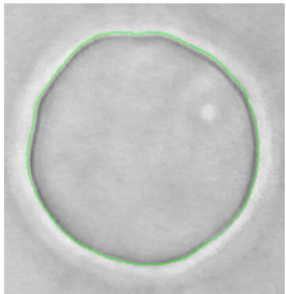


- 1) Amplification of fluctuations
- 2) Instabilities.
- 3) Dense lipid clusters ("catons") - tense vesicle.

(Real Time)



# Fusion Induces Large Amplification of Fluctuations



Theory (steady-state regime):

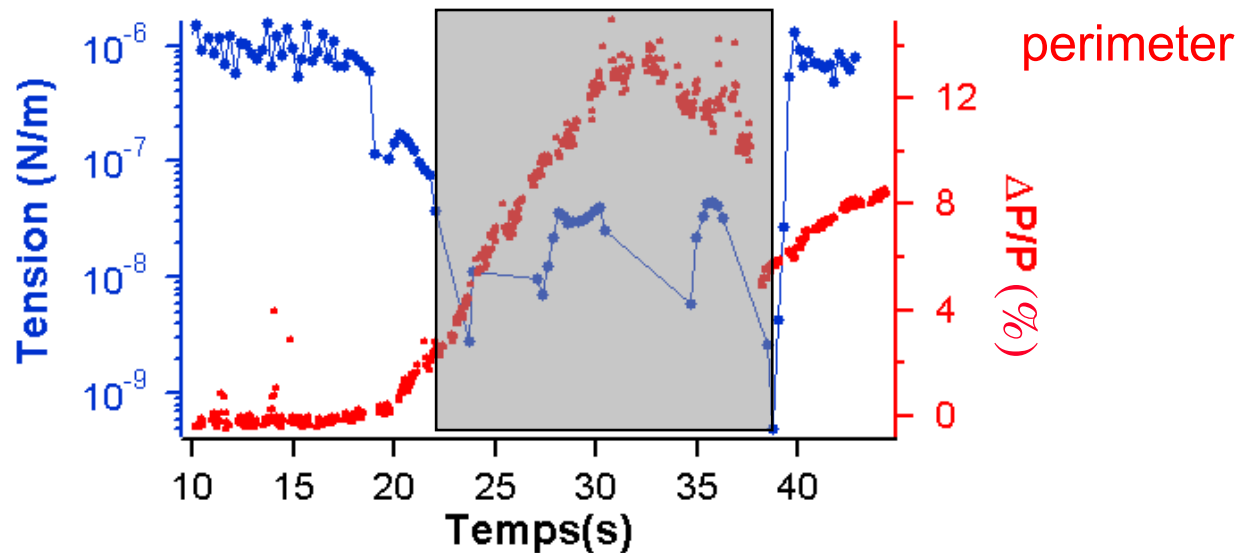
$$\langle u_{q_\perp}^2 \rangle = \frac{k_B T}{\sigma_{\text{eff}} q_\perp^2 + \kappa q_\perp^4}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{eff}} = \sigma - f(A)$$

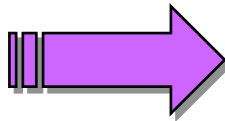
(P. Girard, F. Jülicher, J. Prost *EPJE* (2004))  
 (M. Rao, R. Sarasij, *PRL* (2001))

J. Solon *et al.*, *PRL* (2006)

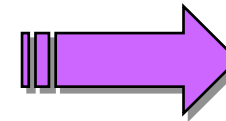
# Vanishing Tension and Instabilities



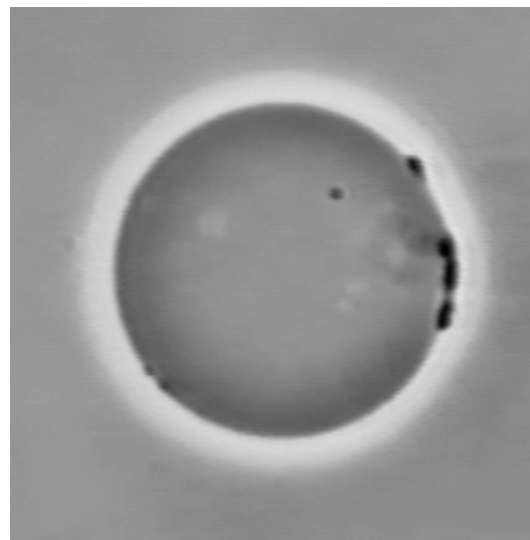
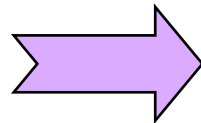
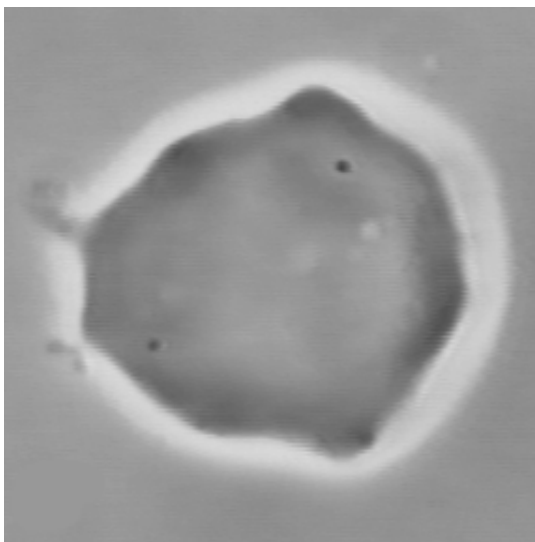
Fluctuation  
Regime



Large Deformation  
(instabilities)



Bilayer collapse



Dense lipid structures  
("catons")  
Equilibrium state