

Dynamics of functionalised particles diffusing through reversible ligand-receptor bridges

Bortolo Matteo Mognetti

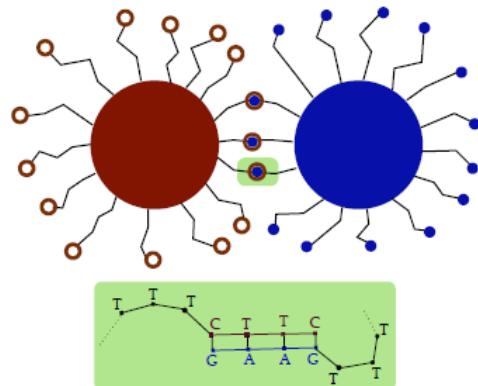
Université libre de Bruxelles, Interdisciplinary Center for Nonlinear Phenomena and Complex Systems, Belgium

Nanoparticle assemblies: 6 April 2023



Kavli Institute for
Theoretical Physics
University of California, Santa Barbara

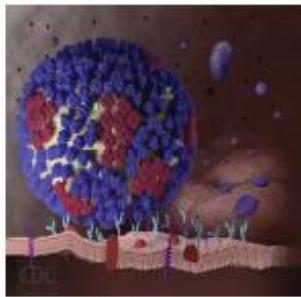
Ligand-receptor-mediated interactions



Mirkin *et al*, Nature 1996
Alivisatos *et al*, Nature 1996

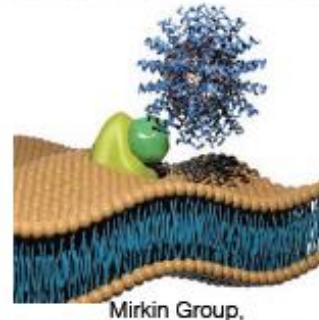
- Reversible supramolecular reaction (proteins, DNA/RNA, chemical complexes)
- Programmable self-assembly

from biology to materials



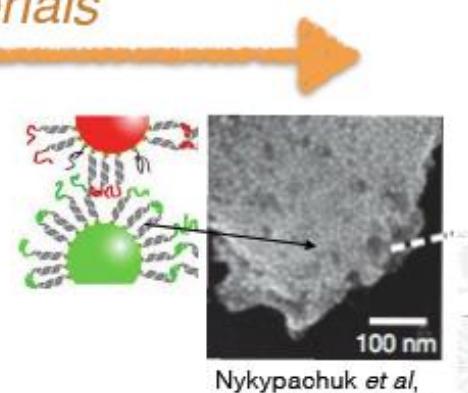
CDC website

viral infection
cell signaling



Mirkin Group,
Northwestern University

nanoparticles for
drug delivery



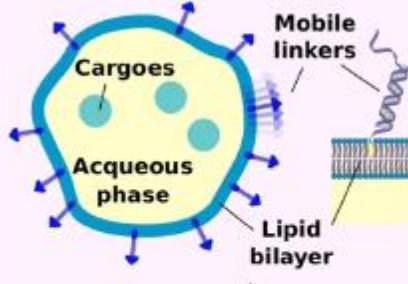
Nykypachuk *et al*,
Nature 451 (2008)

Self-Assembly

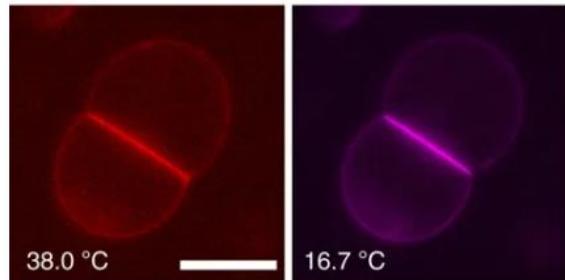
Particles functionalized by mobile linkers

Mognetti *et al*, Rep. Progr. Phys. 2019

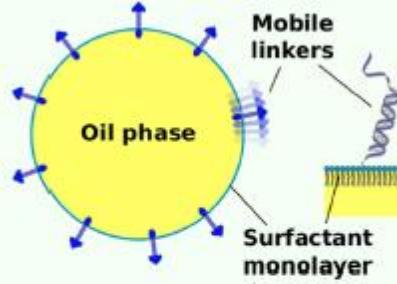
a. Lipid Vesicles



- Linker mobility
- Highly deformable
- Cargo encapsulation
- Mimics cell membrane
- Artificial cell technologies
- Nanomedicine applications

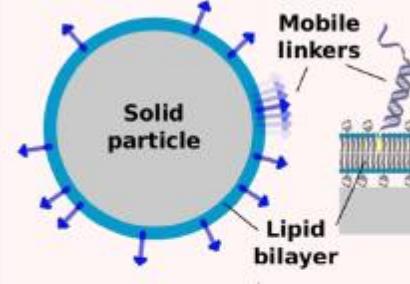


b. O/W Emulsion Droplets

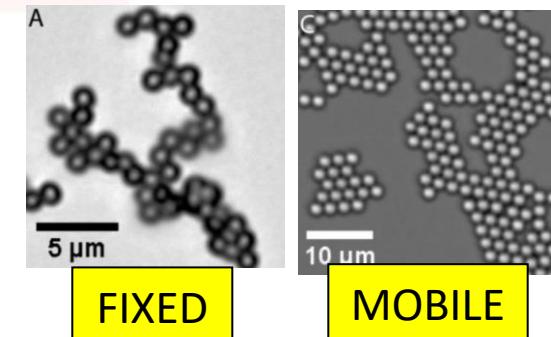
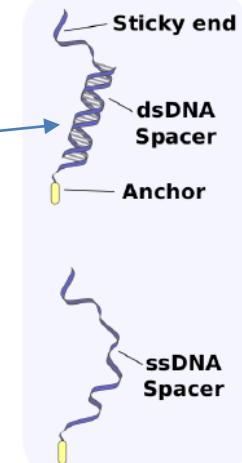


- Linker mobility
- Low deformability
- Good stability
- Easy microfluidic production

c. Bilayer-coated Solid Particles



- Linker mobility
- Undefor mable
- High monodispersity
- Shape control



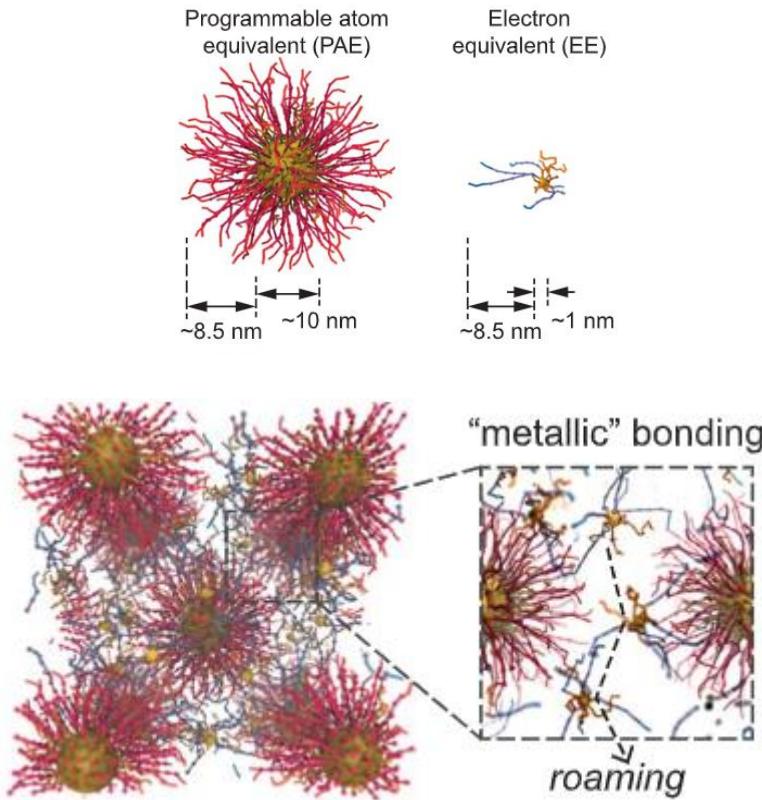
Parolini *et al*, Nat. Comm. 2015;
ACS Nano 2016
Bachmann *et al*, Soft Matter 2016

Feng *et al*, Soft Matter 2013
Zhang *et al*, Nat. Comm. 2018;
PNAS 2019

Van der Meulen *et al*, JACS 2013
Rinaldin *et al*, Soft Matter 2019

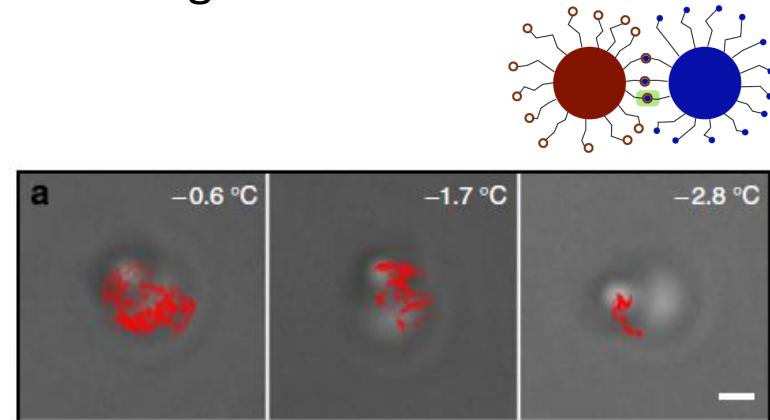
Building multivalent models

- Sticky ends continuously bind/unbind
 - Particles acting as electrons



Girard *et al*, Science 2019

- DNA coated colloids can roll without detaching



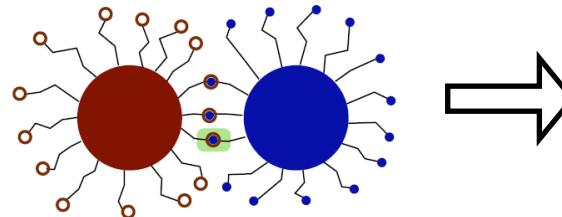
Wang *et al*, Nat. Commun. 2015

- We need computational platforms capable of performing many reactions between sticky ends

Equilibrium models

- Effective interactions

Bell *et al*, Biophys. J. **1984**

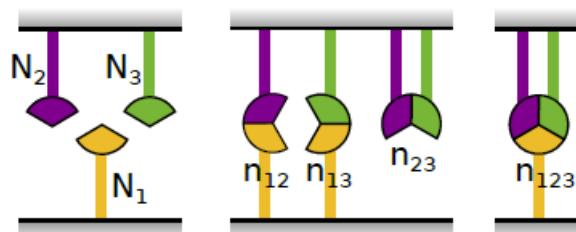


$$F = -k_B T \log \Omega$$

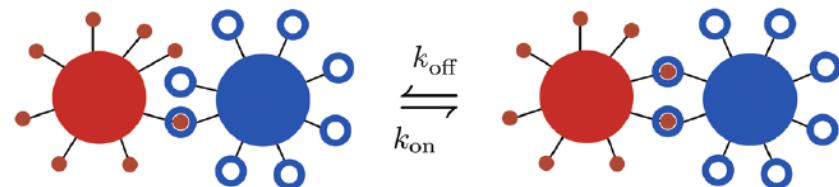
- Sampling over all possible ligand-receptor reactions

$$\frac{F}{k_B T} = \sum_i N_i \log \frac{\bar{n}_i}{N_i} + \sum_{i \leq j} \bar{n}_{ij} + 2 \sum_{i \leq j \leq k} \bar{n}_{ijk} + 3 \dots$$

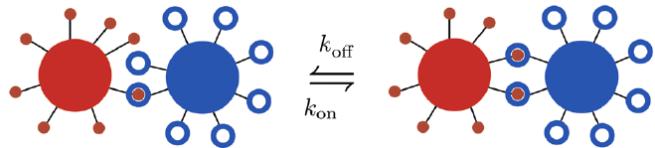
Di Michele *et al*, J. Chem. Phys. **2016**; Angioletti-Uberti *et al*, J. Chem. Phys. **2013**; Varilly *et al*, J. Chem. Phys. **2013**



- Effective interactions based on the assumption that the reaction timescales are small

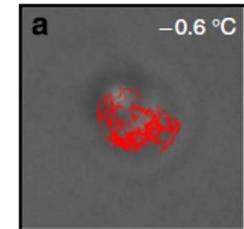


Plan of the talk



- Dynamics of particles moving through reversible ligand-receptor contacts

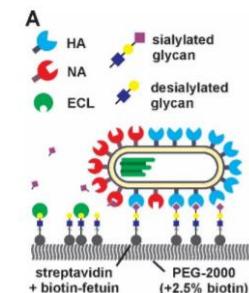
- Predicting the emerging diffusion constant D in reaction-limited conditions
 - Comparison with simulations and experiments



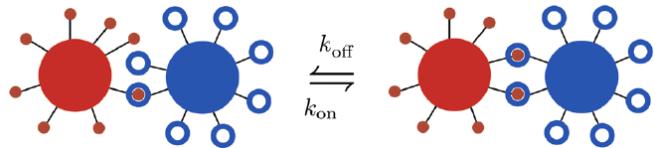
- Increasing the motility of the particles using enzymes (Influenza A Virus)

- Self-assembly dynamics

- Finite reaction rates alter the morphology of steady aggregates

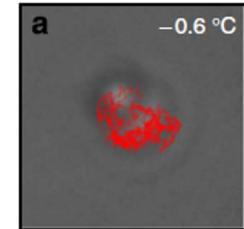


Plan of the talk



- Dynamics of particles moving through reversible ligand-receptor contacts

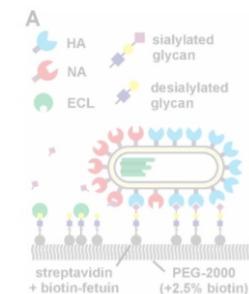
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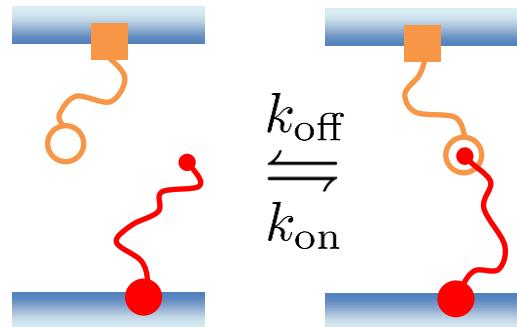
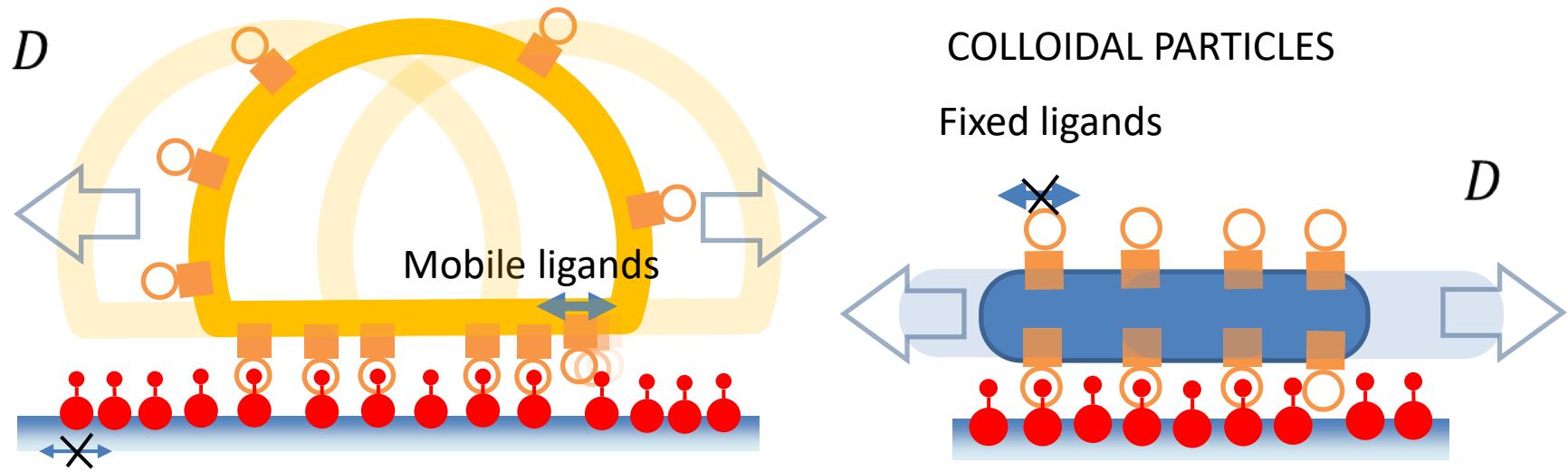
- Increasing the motility of the particles using enzymes (Influenza A Virus)

- Self-assembly dynamics

- Finite reaction rates alter the morphology of steady aggregates



Sliding across functionalised surfaces

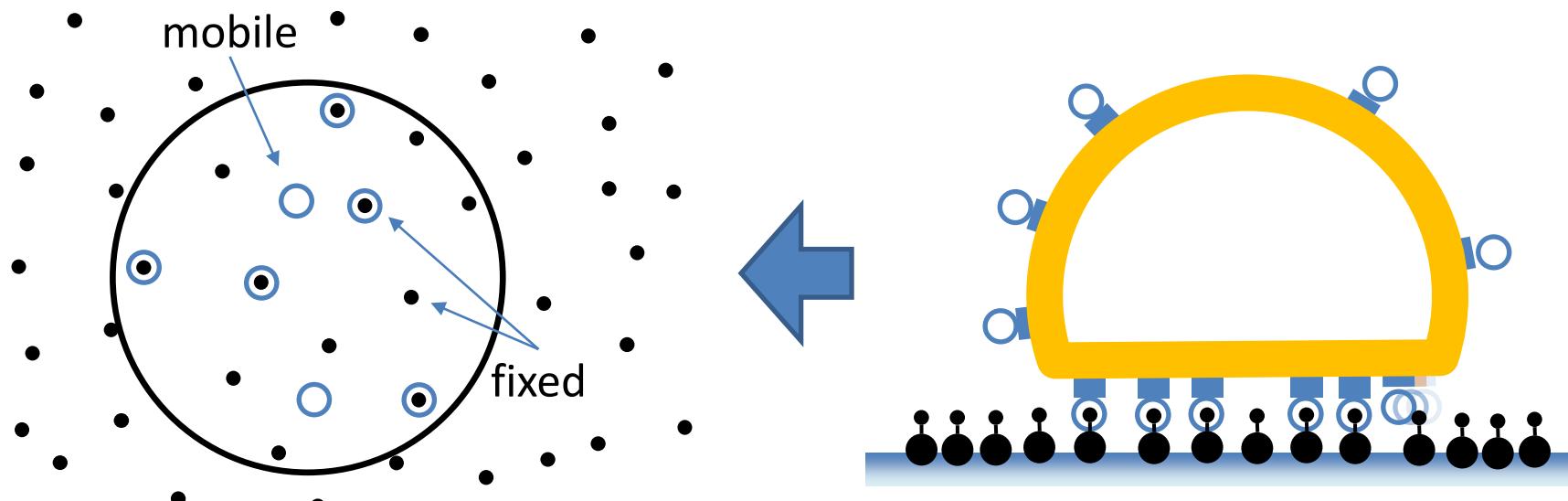


- We aim to predict the emerging diffusion constant of the particle, D , from the reaction rates, k_{on} and k_{off} , and the number of ligand-receptor bridges, n_b

Lowensohn, Stevens *et al.*, J. Chem. Phys. 2022

Coarse-graining the diffusion dynamics

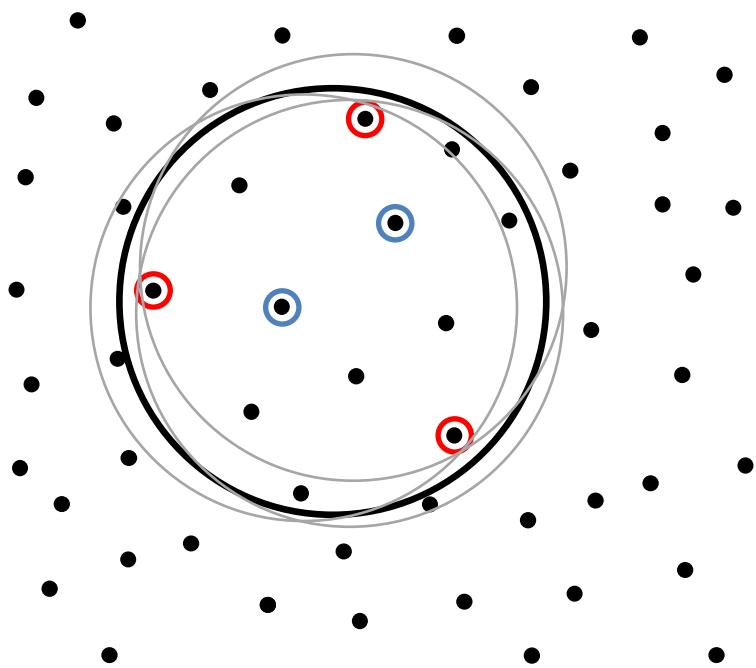
- 2D representation with fixed receptors and mobile ligands



- Receptors
- Ligand-receptor bridges
- Ligands

Coarse-graining the diffusion dynamics

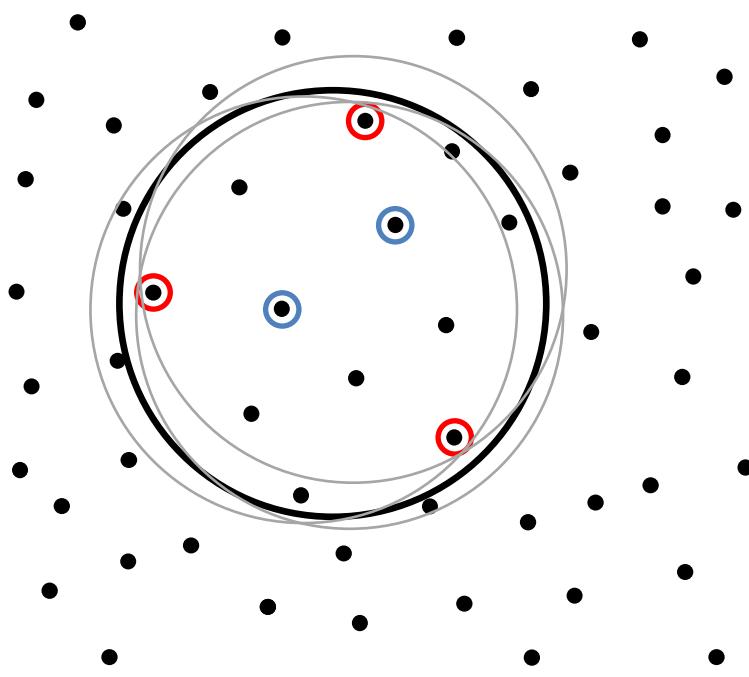
- Short timescales: the particle rattles around the current set of constraining bridges



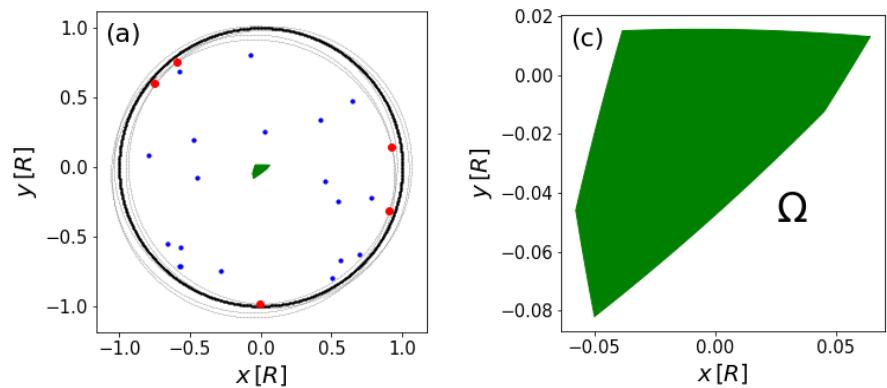
- Receptors
- Ligand-receptor (non constraining) bridges
- Constraining bridges (CBs)

Coarse-graining the diffusion dynamics

- Short timescales: the particle rattles around the current set of constraining bridges



- Ω : configurational region available to the particle's centre at a given set of CBs

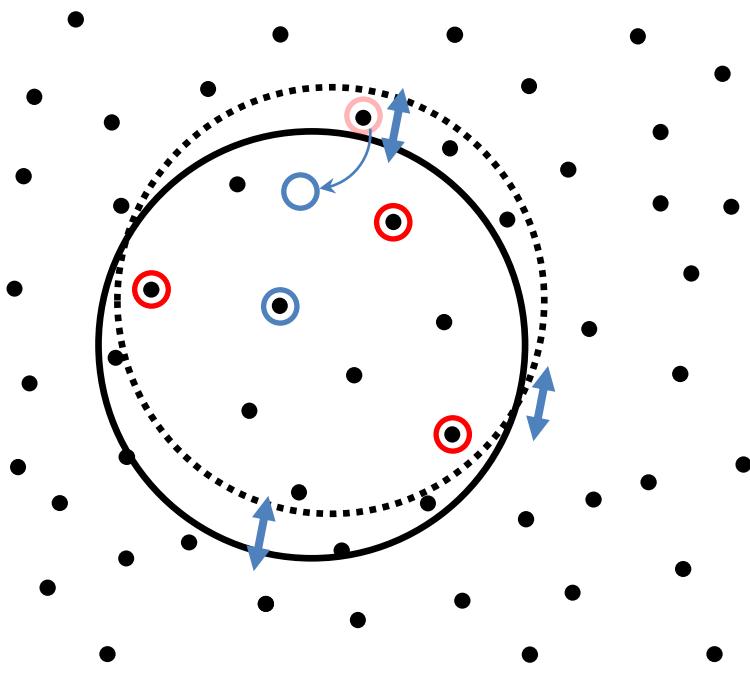


- Receptors
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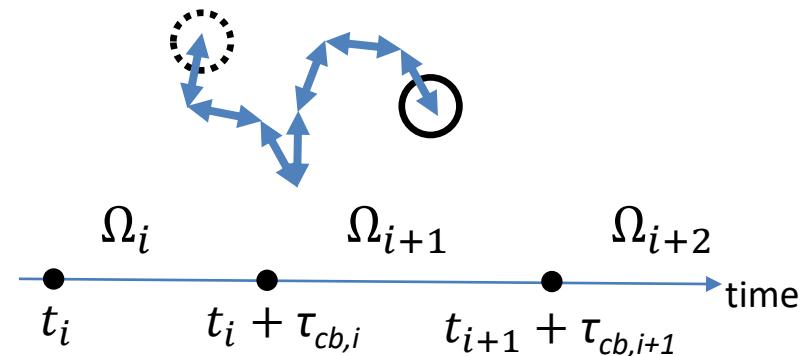
Coarse-graining the diffusion dynamics

- Emerging diffusion controlled by the evolution of the set of CBs:

$$\dots, \Omega_i, \Omega_{i+1} \dots$$



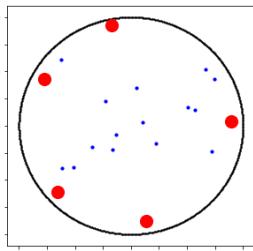
- Receptors
- Ligand-receptor bridges
- Constraining bridges (CBs)



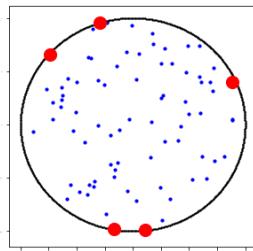
- Time to update the set of CBs: τ_{cb}
 - Average displacement following an update of the CBs: δ_{cb}
 - Emerging sliding diffusion constant, D
- $$D = \frac{\langle \delta_{cb} \rangle^2}{2\langle \tau_{cb} \rangle}$$

Constraining bridges

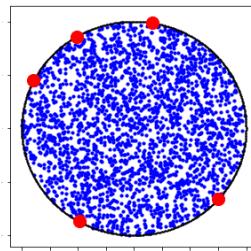
- The number of constraining bridges is finite



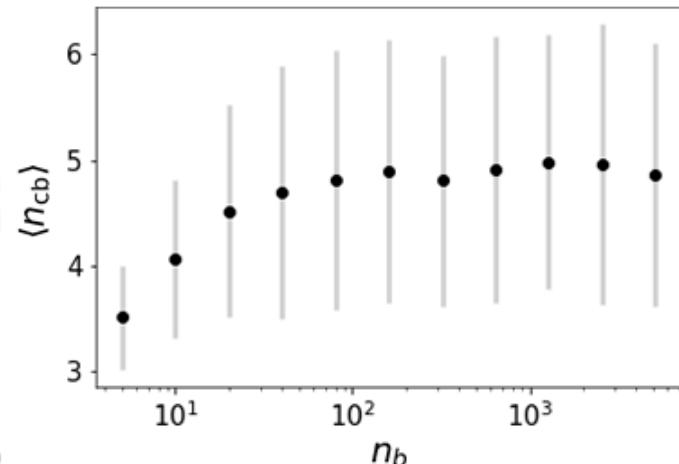
$$\langle n_b \rangle = 20$$



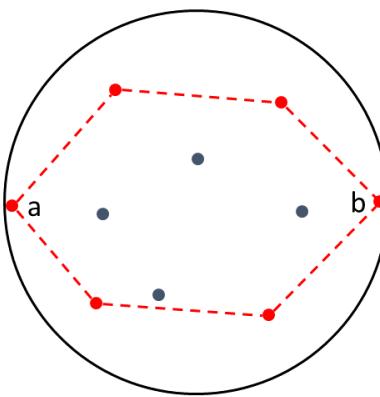
$$\langle n_b \rangle = 80$$



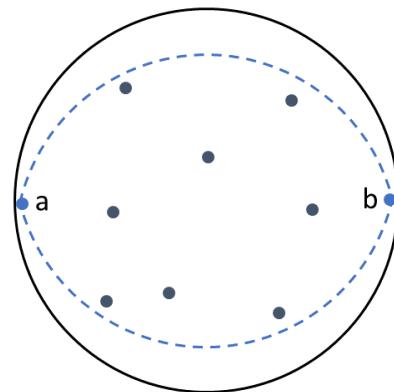
$$\langle n_b \rangle = 2560$$



- Not all bridges on the border of the particle (e.g., vertices of the convex hull) are CBs



$$\langle n_{ch} \rangle \approx \log n_b$$



$$\langle n_{cb} \rangle \approx 4.9$$

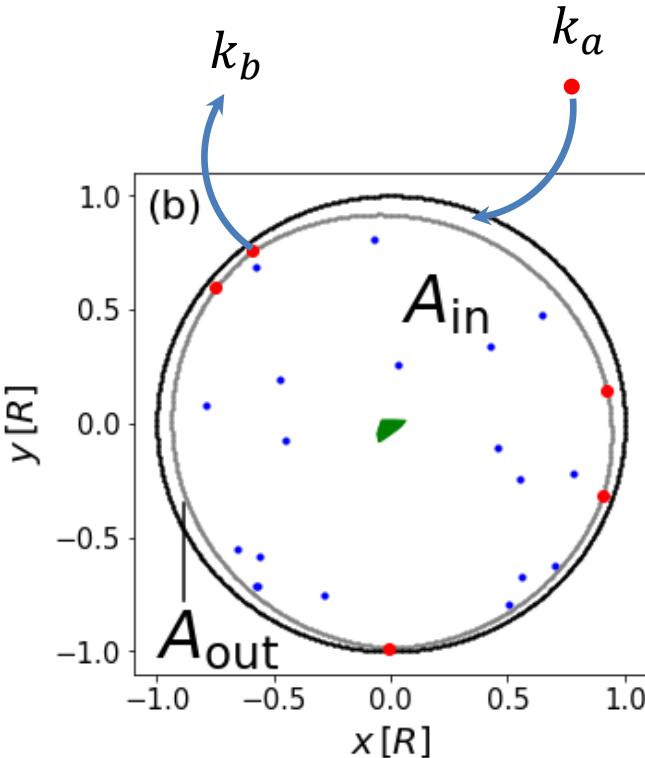
Efron, Biometrika 1965

● --- convex hull

● --- constraining bridges

Updating sets of CBs: τ_{cb}

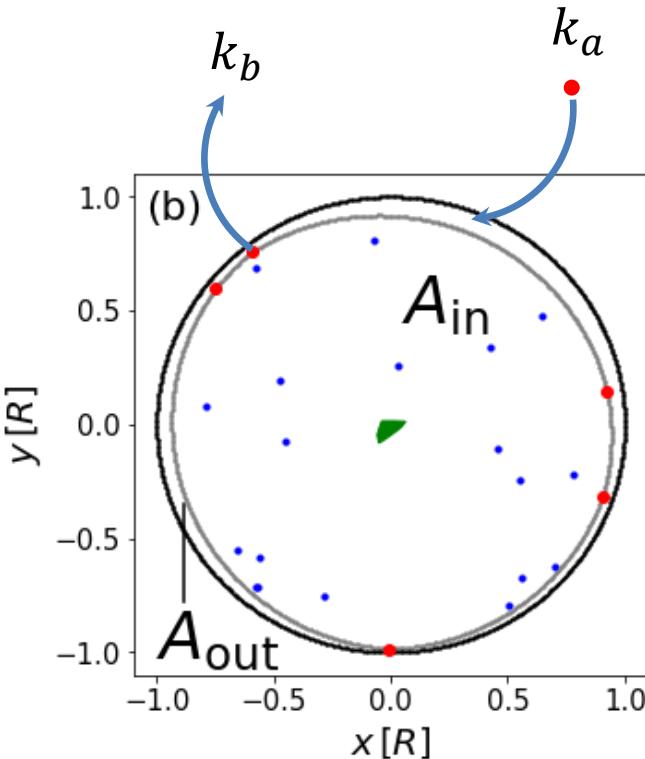
- Ω_i changes when (a) a bridge appears in A_{out} or (b) an existing CB is removed



- k_a : rate at which a bridge appears in A_{out}
$$k_a = n_L n_R k_{\text{on}} \frac{A_{\text{out}}}{\pi R^2}$$
- k_b : rate at which a constraining bridge is removed
$$k_b = n_{cb} k_{\text{off}}$$
- In steady conditions, $\langle k_a \rangle = \langle k_b \rangle \rightarrow$
$$\langle \tau_{cb} \rangle = \frac{1}{\langle k_a \rangle + \langle k_b \rangle} = \frac{1}{2k_{\text{off}} \langle n_{cb} \rangle}$$

Updating sets of CBs: τ_{cb}

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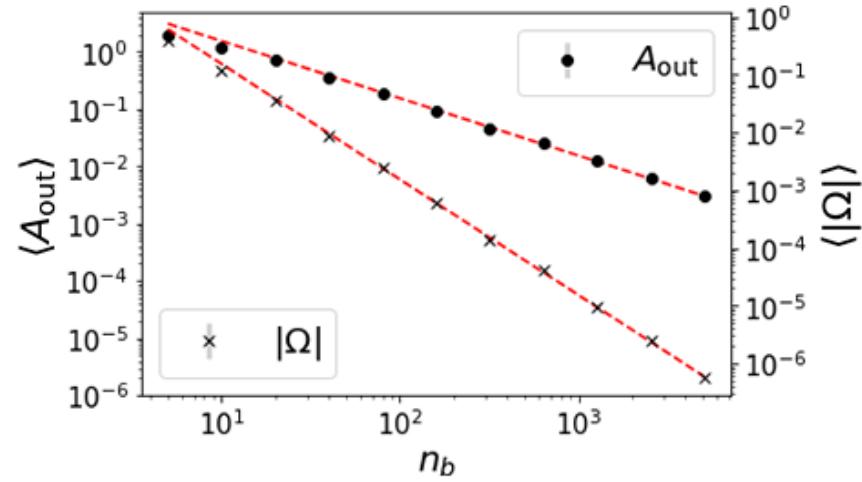
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$$\langle \tau_{cb} \rangle = \frac{1}{\langle k_a \rangle + \langle k_b \rangle} = \frac{1}{2k_{\text{off}} \langle n_{cb} \rangle}$$
- In steady conditions, $\frac{d \langle n_b \rangle}{dt} = 0 \rightarrow$

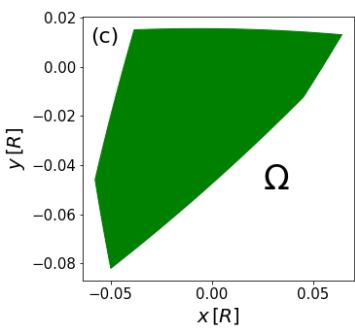
$$\langle A_{\text{out}} \rangle = \pi \frac{R^2 \langle n_{cb} \rangle}{\langle n_b \rangle}$$

Updating sets of CBs: τ_{cb}

- Ω_i changes when (a) a bridge appears in A_{out} or (b) an existing CB is removed



$$\langle |\Omega| \rangle = \frac{\langle A_{\text{out}} \rangle}{\langle n_b \rangle} \quad (\text{fitted})$$



- k_a : rate at which a bridge appears in A_{out}

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 - k_b : rate at which a constraining bridge is removed

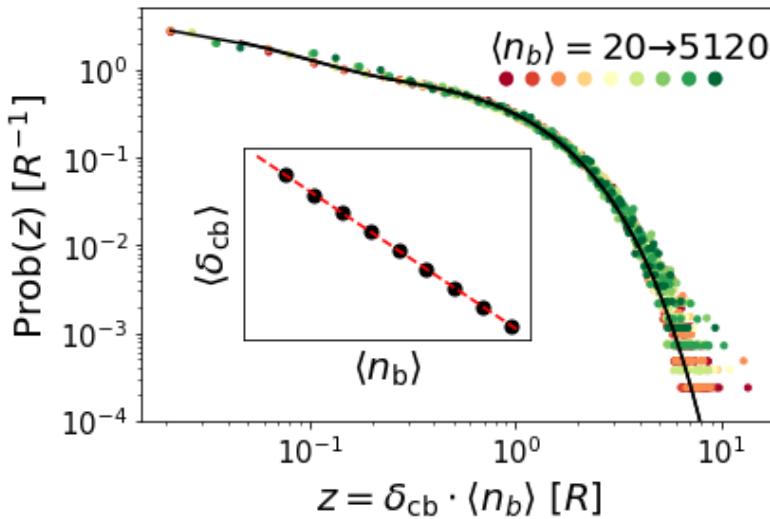
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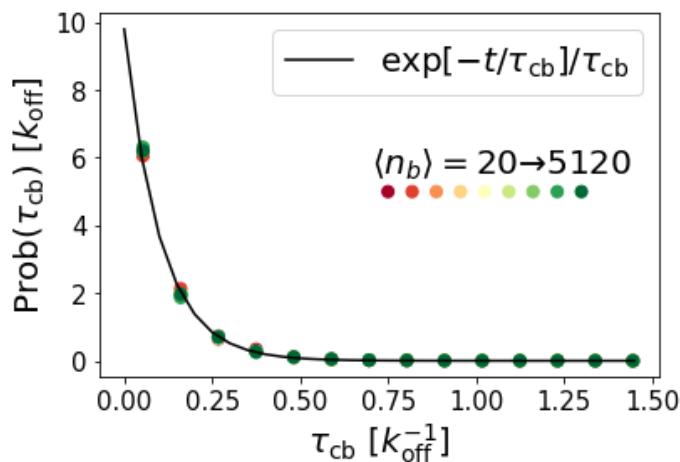
Updating sets of CBs: δ_{cb}

- Average displacement following an update of the CBs, δ_{cb}



$$\langle \delta_{cb} \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\langle n_{cb} \rangle \langle n_b \rangle}} R \quad (\text{fitted})$$

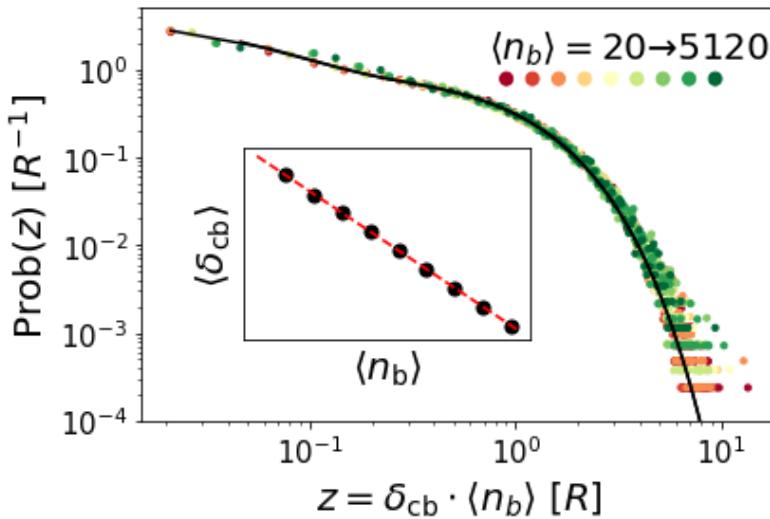
- δ_{cb} sampled using MC simulations in which we add/remove bridges while rattling the disk



- We verify that τ_{cb} follows the expected Poisson distribution

Updating sets of CBs: δ_{cb}

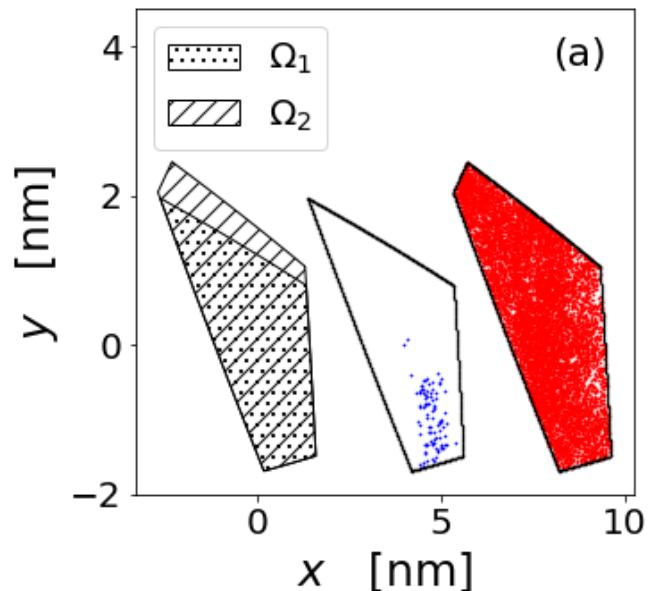
- Average displacement following an update of the CBs, δ_{cb}



$$\langle \delta_{cb} \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\langle n_{cb} \rangle \langle n_b \rangle}} \frac{R}{(fitted)}$$

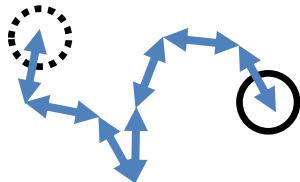
- δ_{cb} sampled using MC simulations in which we add/remove bridges while rattling the disk

- $\langle \delta_{cb} \rangle = \frac{\sqrt{\langle |\Omega| \rangle}}{\langle n_{cb} \rangle} \rightarrow$ Subsequent configurational spaces visited by the particle overlap $\Omega_i \cap \Omega_{i+1} \neq \emptyset$

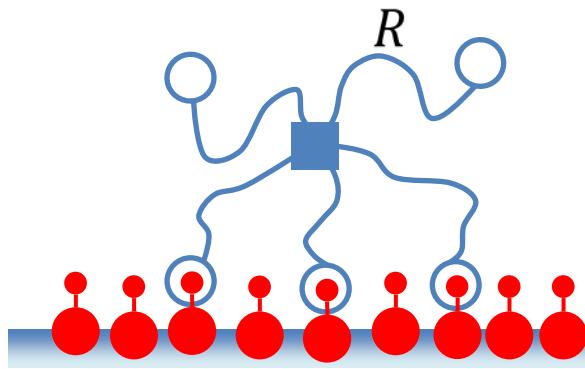


Emerging sliding diffusion constant

- Emerging diffusion constant, **mobile ligands**, $D = \frac{\langle \delta_{cb} \rangle^2}{2\langle \tau_{cb} \rangle} = \frac{\pi R^2 k_{\text{off}}}{\langle n_b \rangle^2}$



$$\langle \delta_{cb,i} \delta_{cb,i+1} \rangle = \langle \delta_{cb,i} \rangle \langle \delta_{cb,i+1} \rangle$$

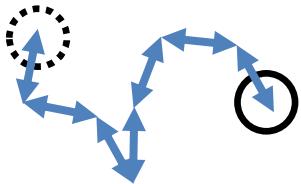


$$D = \frac{1}{2} \frac{k_{on} k_{off}}{k_{on} + k_{off}} \frac{R^2}{\langle n_b \rangle^2}$$

Kowalewski *et al*, J. Phys. Chem. B **125**, 6857 (2021)

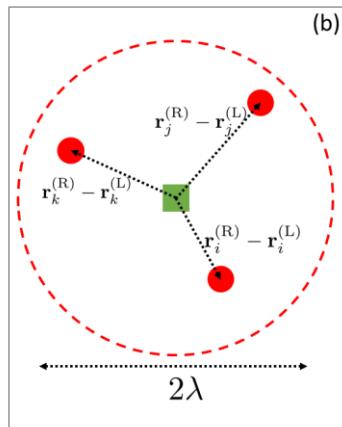
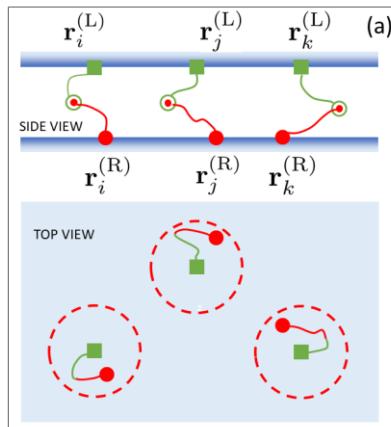
Emerging sliding diffusion constant

- Emerging diffusion constant, **mobile ligands**, $D = \frac{\langle \delta_{cb} \rangle^2}{2\langle \tau_{cb} \rangle} = \frac{\pi R^2 k_{\text{off}}}{\langle n_b \rangle^2}$



$$\langle \delta_{cb,i} \delta_{cb,i+1} \rangle = \langle \delta_{cb,i} \rangle \langle \delta_{cb,i+1} \rangle$$

- Emerging sliding diffusion constant, **fixed ligands**, $D = \frac{\langle \delta_{cb} \rangle^2}{2\langle \tau_{cb} \rangle} = \frac{\pi \lambda^2 k_{\text{off}}}{\langle n_b \rangle^2}$



$$\langle \tau_{cb} \rangle = \frac{1}{2k_{\text{off}} \langle n_{cb} \rangle}$$

$$\langle \delta_{cb} \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\langle n_{cb} \rangle \langle n_b \rangle}} \frac{\lambda}{\langle n_b \rangle}$$

- λ : extensibility of a bridge

Simulation validation

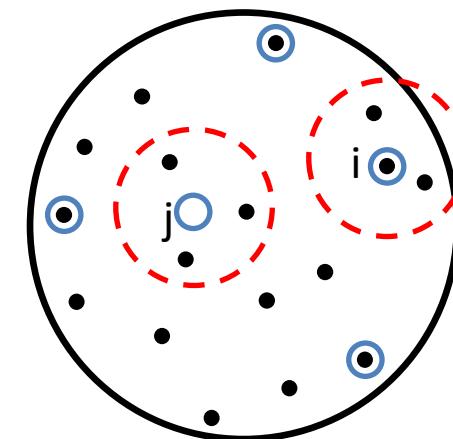
- **Mobile ligands:** $D = \frac{\langle \delta_{cb} \rangle^2}{2\langle \tau_{cb} \rangle} = \frac{\pi R^2 k_{\text{off}}}{\langle n_b \rangle^2}$
- **Fixed ligands:** $D = \frac{\langle \delta_{cb} \rangle^2}{2\langle \tau_{cb} \rangle} = \frac{\pi \lambda^2 k_{\text{off}}}{\langle n_b \rangle^2}$
- Simulations (reaction-diffusion dynamics) validate the theory
 - The reaction algorithm (Gillespie) samples the type of reaction to be implemented and the time for it to happen t_{reac}

```

1:  $t \leftarrow 0$ 
2: while  $t < t_E$  do
3:   Fire Reactions( $\Delta t$ )
4:    $i_B = 0$ 
5:   while  $i_B < N_B$  do
6:     Brownian Diffusion( $\Delta t / N_B$ )
7:      $i_B \leftarrow i_B + 1$ 
8:   end while
9:    $t \leftarrow t + \Delta t$ 
10: end while

```

[https://github.com/bmognetti/
SlidingDiffusionConstant_Mobile.git](https://github.com/bmognetti/SlidingDiffusionConstant_Mobile.git)
https://github.com/StevensLaurie/Disk_Diffusion



$$a_{on}^T = \sum_i a_{on}(i) \quad a_{off}^T = k_{off} n_b$$

$$a_{on}(i) = 0$$

$$a_{on}(j) = 3k_{on}$$

Simulation validation

- **Mobile ligands:** $D = \frac{\langle \delta_{cb} \rangle^2}{2\langle \tau_{cb} \rangle} = \frac{\pi R^2 k_{\text{off}}}{\langle n_b \rangle^2}$
 - **Fixed ligands:** $D = \frac{\langle \delta_{cb} \rangle^2}{2\langle \tau_{cb} \rangle} = \frac{\pi \lambda^2 k_{\text{off}}}{\langle n_b \rangle^2}$
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- ```

1: $t \leftarrow 0$
2: while $t < t_E$ do
3: while $i_B < N_B$ do
4: Fire Reactions(Δt)
5: $i_B = 0$
6: while $i_B < N_B$ do
7: Brownian Diffusion($\Delta t / N_B$)
8: $i_B \leftarrow i_B + 1$
9: end while
10: $t \leftarrow t + \Delta t$
11: end while

```
- ↗
- $$a_{on}^T = \sum_i a_{on}(i) \quad a_{off}^T = k_{off} n_b$$
- $$P(t_{\text{reac}}) = (a_{on}^T + a_{off}^T) e^{-(a_{on}^T + a_{off}^T)t_{\text{reac}}}$$
- If  $t_r + t_{\text{reac}} < \Delta t$ , we update the affinity lists, implement a reaction, and select a new  $t_{\text{reac}}$

[https://github.com/bmognetti/  
SlidingDiffusionConstant\\_Mobile.git](https://github.com/bmognetti/SlidingDiffusionConstant_Mobile.git)  
[https://github.com/StevensLaurie/Disk\\_Diffusion](https://github.com/StevensLaurie/Disk_Diffusion)

# Simulation validation

- **Mobile ligands:**  $D = \frac{\langle \delta_{cb} \rangle^2}{2\langle \tau_{cb} \rangle} = \boxed{\frac{\pi R^2 k_{\text{off}}}{\langle n_b \rangle^2}}$
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- Simulations (reaction-diffusion dynamics) validate the theory

```

1: $t \leftarrow 0$
2: while $t < t_E$ do
3: Fire Reactions(Δt)
4: $i_B = 0$
5: while $i_B < N_B$ do
6: Brownian Diffusion($\Delta t / N_B$)
7: $i_B \leftarrow i_B + 1$
8: end while
9: $t \leftarrow t + \Delta t$
10: end while

```

- Brownian Dynamics diffusion of the particle's position  $r(t + \Delta t) = r(t) + \Delta r$

$$\Delta r = \frac{f D_0 \Delta t}{k_B T} + \delta r \quad \langle \delta r^2 \rangle = 2 D_0 \Delta t$$

$$\Delta \varphi = \frac{\tau D_0^R \Delta t}{k_B T} + \delta \varphi \quad \langle \delta \varphi^2 \rangle = 2 D_0^R \Delta t$$

- If a bridge becomes overstretched the BD update is rejected

- To limit the rejection rate, we divide the BD update into  $N_B$  sub-steps

[https://github.com/bmognetti/  
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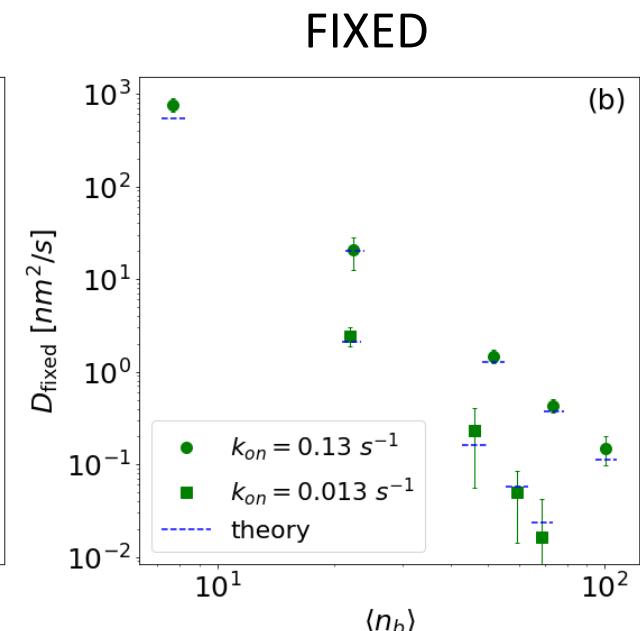
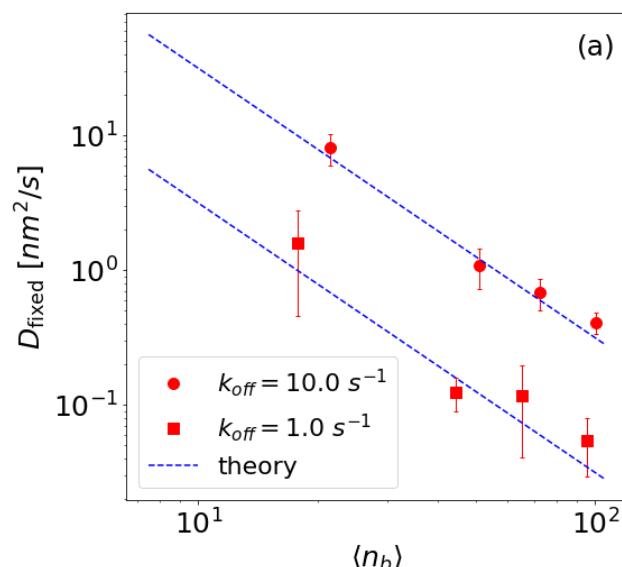
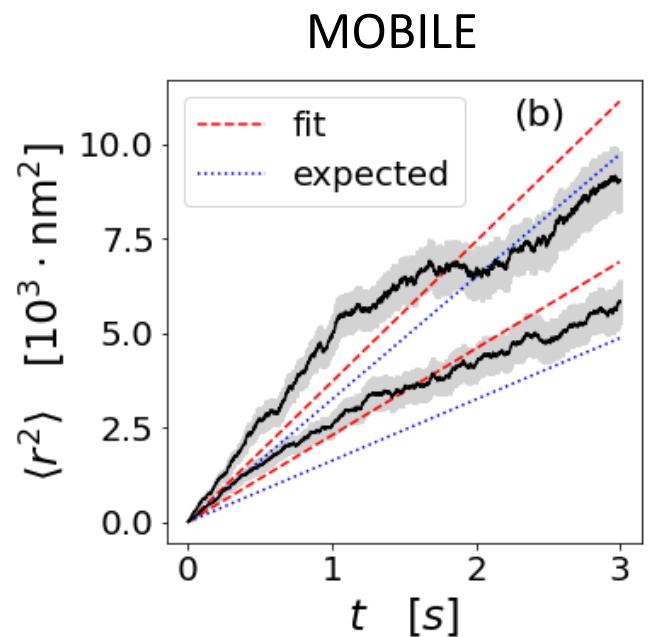
```
1: $t \leftarrow 0$
2: while $t < t_E$ do
3: Fire Reactions(Δt)
4: Static Update()
5: $t \leftarrow t + \Delta t$
6: end while
```

- In the reaction-limited regime, we update the position of the particle by sampling  $\Omega$  statically

[https://github.com/bmognetti/  
SlidingDiffusionConstant\\_Mobile.git](https://github.com/bmognetti/SlidingDiffusionConstant_Mobile.git)  
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$$k_{\text{off}} = 318 \cdot s^{-1}; 636 \cdot s^{-1}$$

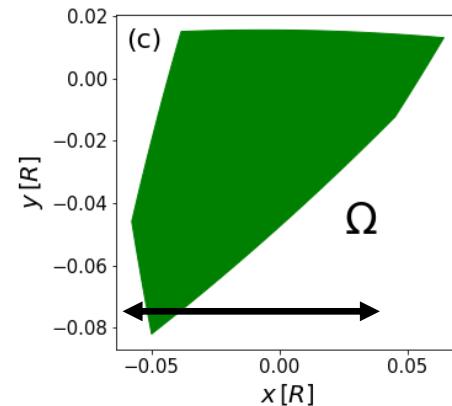
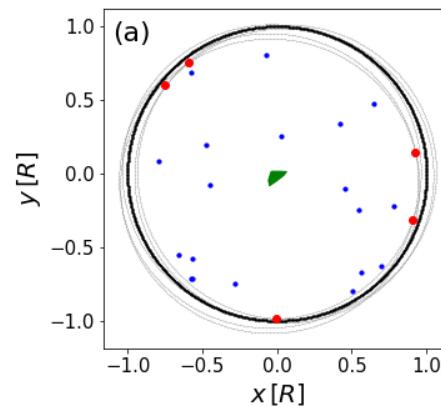
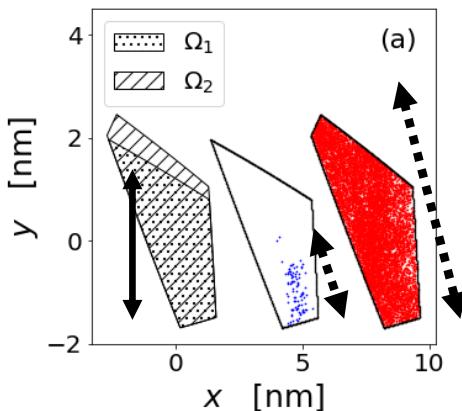
$$\langle n_b \rangle \approx 110$$

- Different values of  $k_{\text{on}}$

- Different values of  $k_{\text{off}}$

# Discussion: possible limitations

- **Mobile ligands:**  $D = \frac{\langle \delta_{cb} \rangle^2}{2\langle \tau_{cb} \rangle} = \frac{\pi R^2 k_{\text{off}}}{\langle n_b \rangle^2}$
- **Fixed ligands:**  $D = \frac{\langle \delta_{cb} \rangle^2}{2\langle \tau_{cb} \rangle} = \frac{\pi \lambda^2 k_{\text{off}}}{\langle n_b \rangle^2}$
- The theory neglects that  $D$  may be limited by hydrodynamic friction.  
Predictions are reliable if  $D_0 \langle \tau_{cb} \rangle \geq |\Omega|$  (reaction-limited diffusion)



- $\sqrt{D_0 \cdot \tau_{cb}}$ : potential distance explored by the trajectory while rattling
- $\sqrt{|\Omega|}$ : typical linear extension of the configurational space  

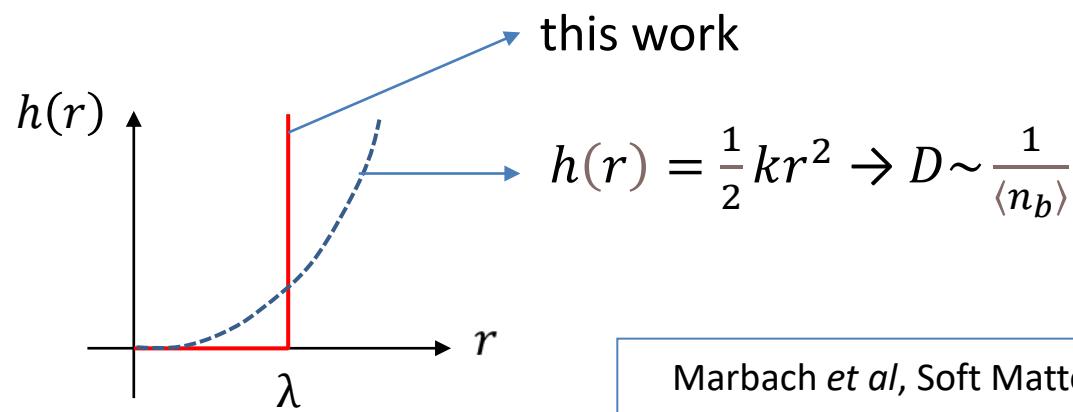
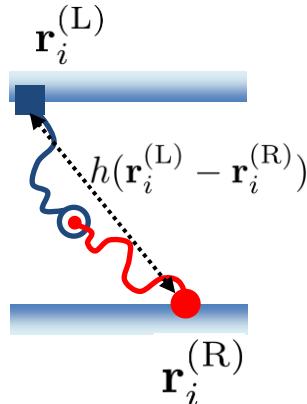
$$\sqrt{|\Omega|} \sim \frac{R}{\langle n_b \rangle}$$
 (mobile)  $\sim \frac{\lambda}{\langle n_b \rangle}$  (fixed)

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- Static and dynamic correlations between stochastic variables (e.g.,  
 $\langle A_{out} n_{cb} \rangle, \langle \delta_{cb} \cdot n_{cb} \rangle, \langle \delta_{cb,i} \cdot \delta_{cb,i+1} \rangle, \dots$ )

# Discussion: possible limitations

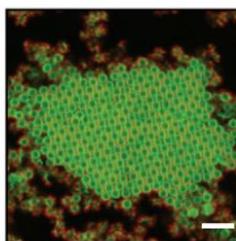
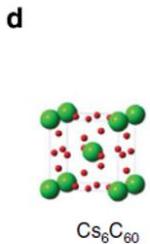
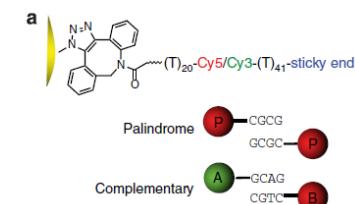
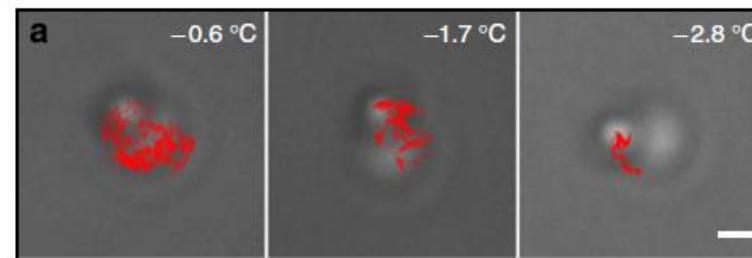
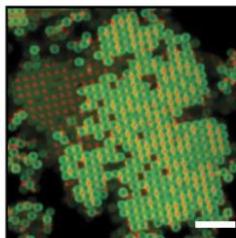
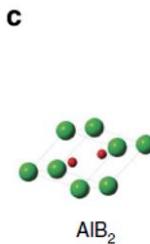
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- Results based on a particular choice of the bond potential  $h(r)$



Marbach *et al*, Soft Matter 2022

# Discussion: experimental predictions

- **Mobile ligands:**  $D = \frac{\langle \delta_{cb} \rangle^2}{2\langle \tau_{cb} \rangle} = \frac{\pi R^2 k_{\text{off}}}{\langle n_b \rangle^2}$
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- DNA coated colloids with a high grafting density crystallize



Wang *et al*, Nat. Commun. 2015; Kim *et al*, Langmuir. 2006

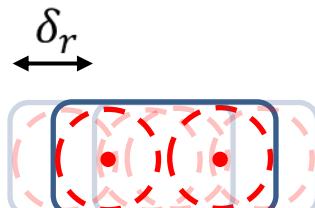
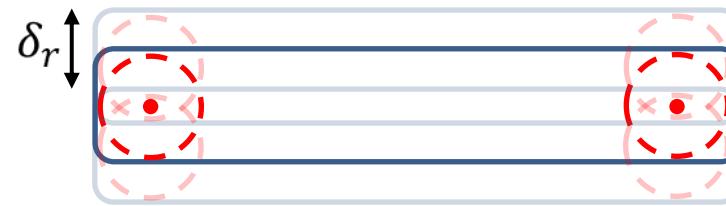
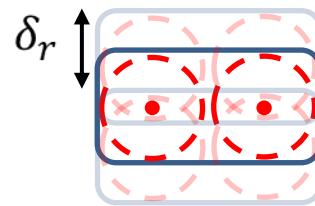
$$\langle n_b \rangle \sim \rho_R \rho_L e^{-\beta \Delta G(T)}$$

$$k_{\text{off}} \sim e^{\beta \Delta G(T)}$$

- Higher values of  $\rho_R$  or  $\rho_L$  will increase the value of the hybridisation free energy  $\Delta G(T)$  (at a given  $\langle n_b \rangle$ ) and therefore increase  $k_{\text{off}}$

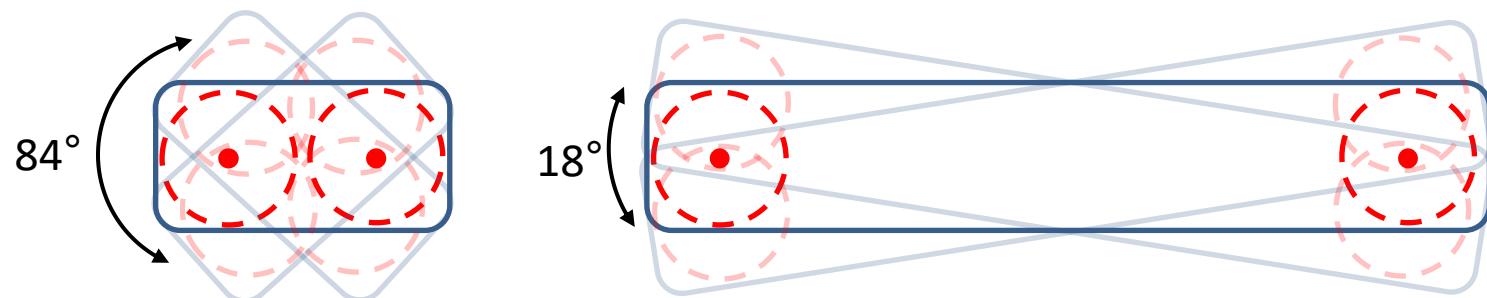
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  - DNA coated colloids with a high grafting density crystallize
  - The translational diffusion constant is not a function of the particle shape



# Discussion: experimental predictions

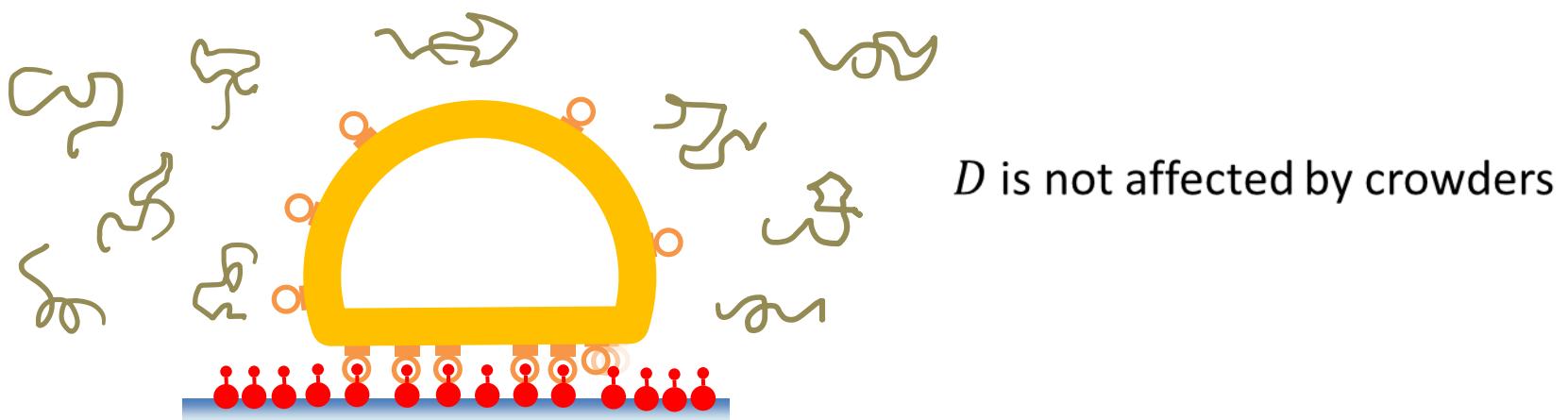
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  - DNA coated colloids with a high grafting density crystallize
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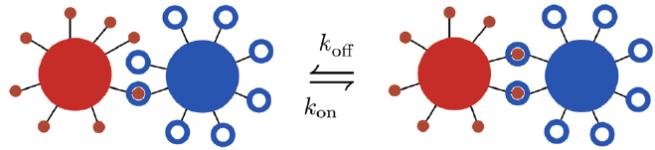
(the rotational diffusion constant is affected by the particle shape)

# Discussion: experimental predictions

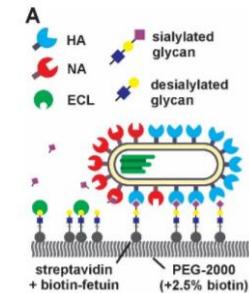
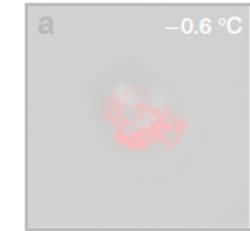
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- DNA coated colloids with a high grafting density crystallize
- The translational diffusion constant is not a function of the particle shape
- The emerging mobility is not a function of the hydrodynamic friction



# Plan of the talk

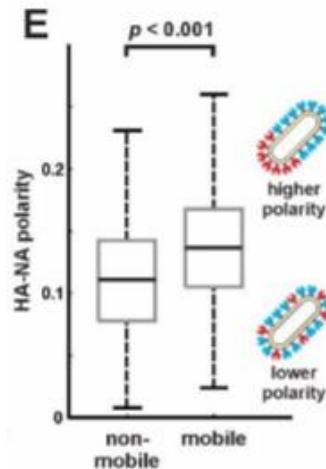
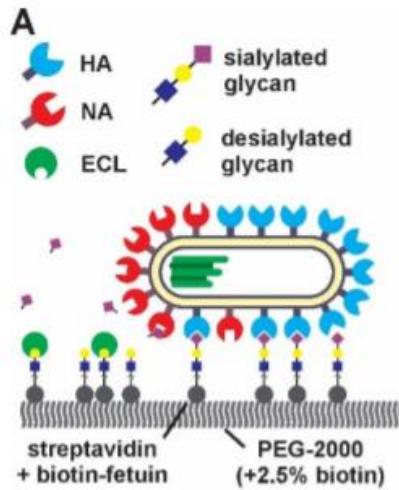


- Dynamics of particles moving through reversible ligand-receptor contacts
  - Predicting the emerging diffusion constant  $D$  in reaction-limited conditions
  - Comparison with simulations and experiments
  - Increasing the motility of the particles using enzymes (Influenza A Virus)
- Self-assembly dynamics
  - Finite reaction rates alter the morphology of steady aggregates

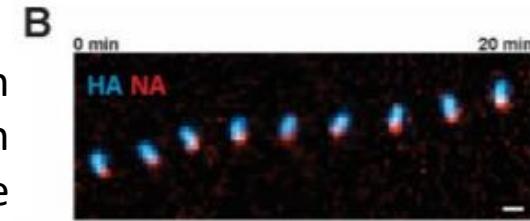
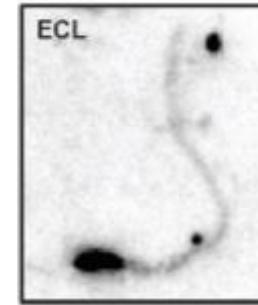


# Mobility of IAV virions

- IAV virions carry receptor-binding (HA) and receptor-cleaving (NA) proteins



persistent motion  
towards the HA-rich  
pole



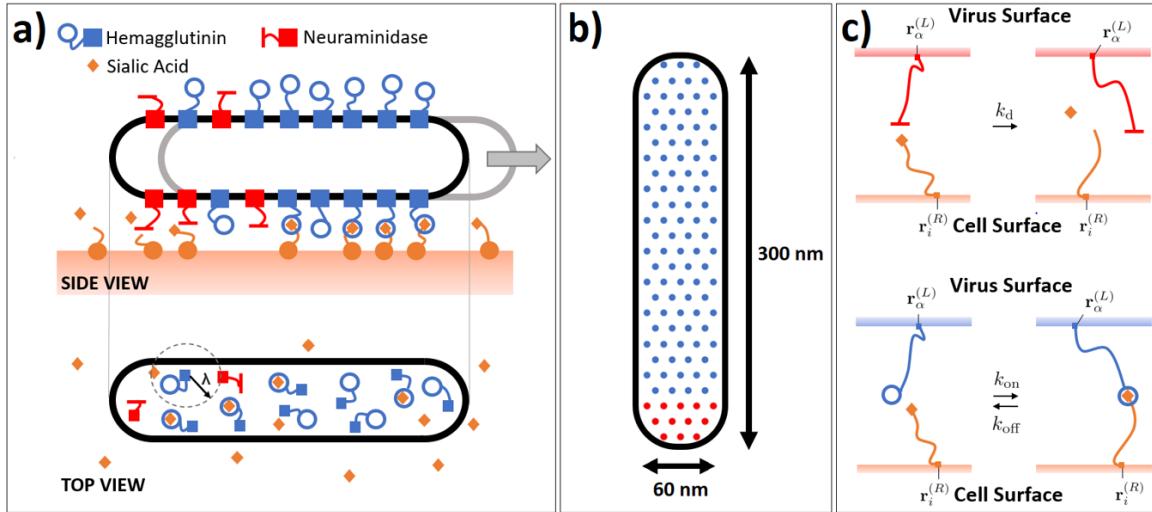
trails of passivated  
receptors

Vahay, Fletcher eLife 2019

- Hemagglutinin (HA) binds to receptors presenting sialic acid (SA) residues
- Receptor-cleaving protein neuraminidase (NA) passivates receptors
- The reduced number of HA-SA contact increases the motility of IAV virions

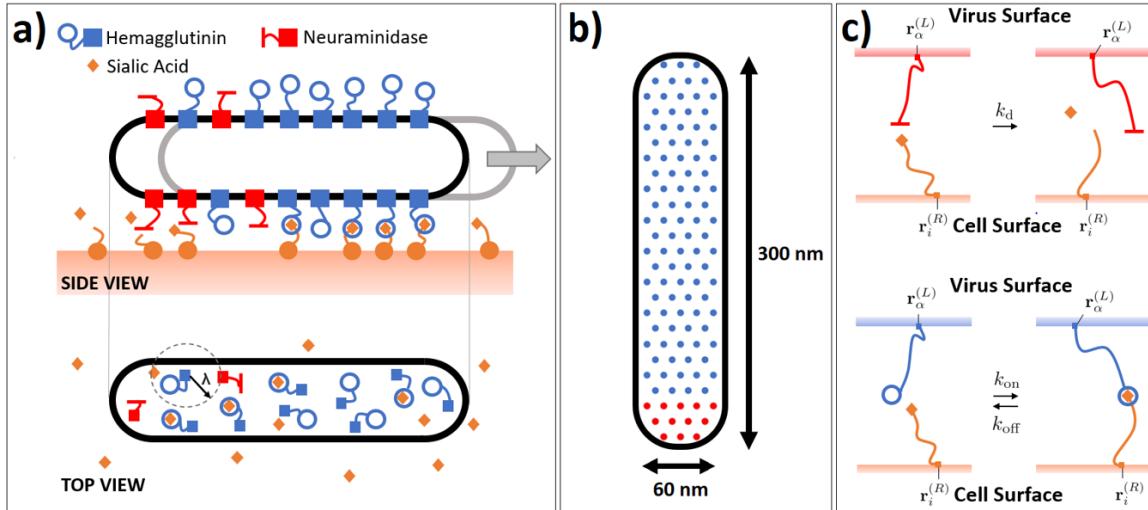
# Mobility of IAV virions

- Polarised IAV virions (in which NA ligands are clustered)

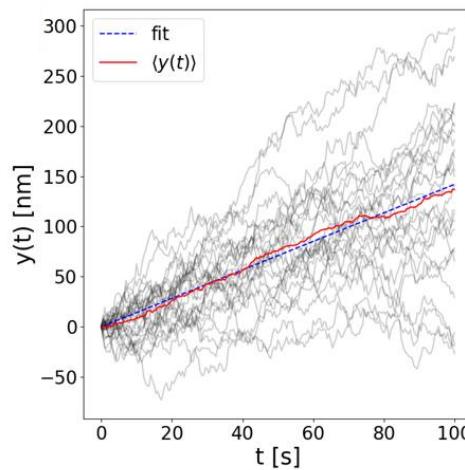
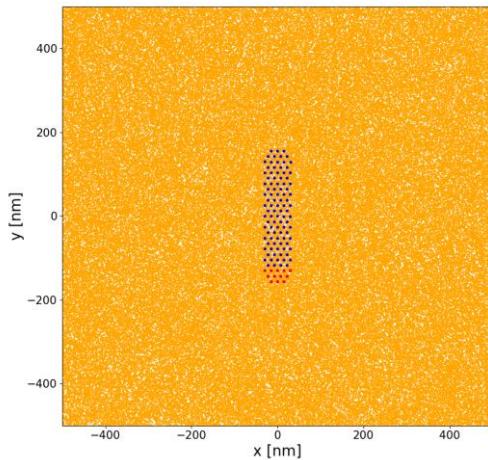


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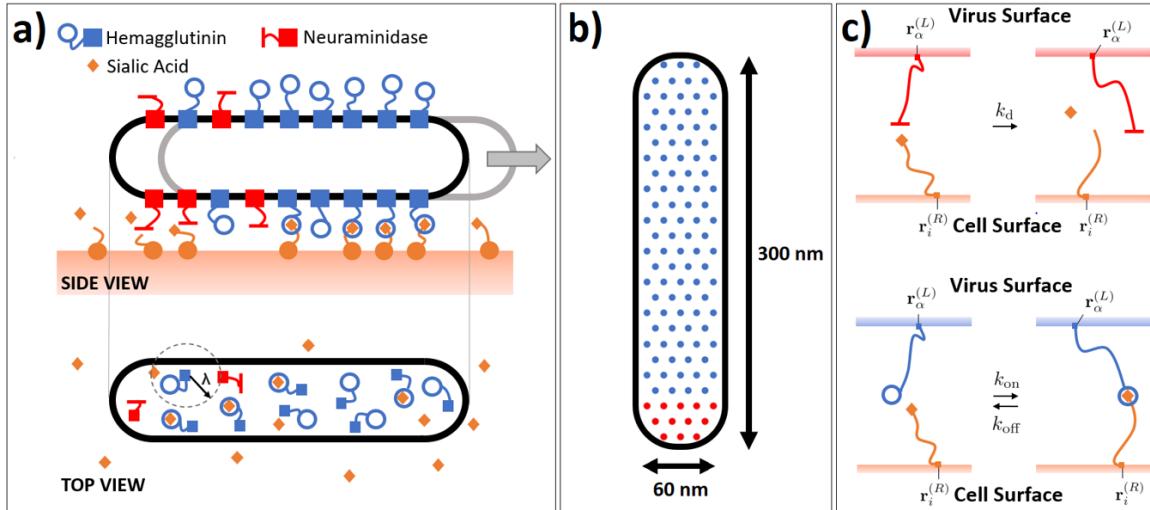


- At short timescales, the virion drifts in the direction opposite to the NA ligands

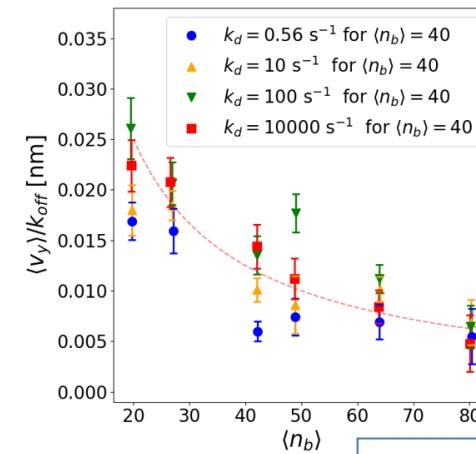
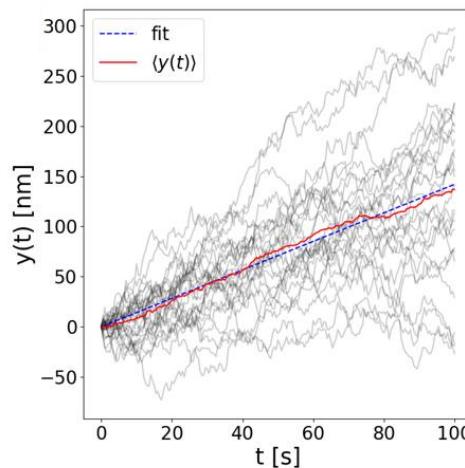
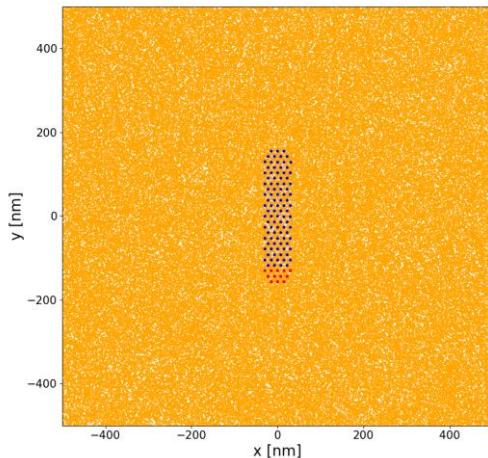


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- Polarised IAV virions (in which NA ligands are clustered)



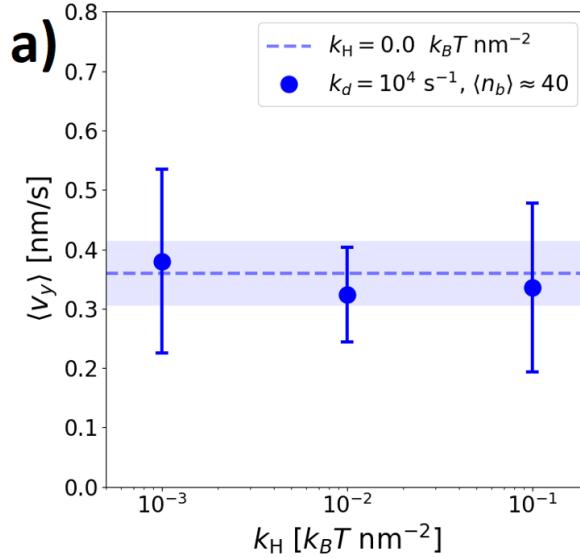
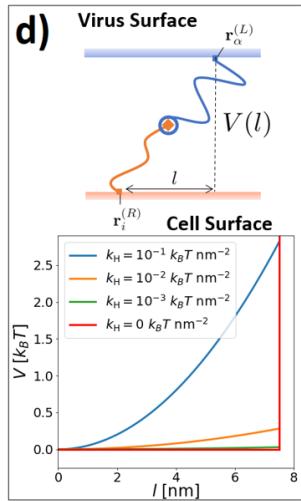
- At short timescales, the virion drifts in the direction opposite to the NA ligands
- The drifting velocity scales like  $\langle v_y \rangle \sim 1/\langle n_b \rangle$  and is weakly affected by  $k_d$



# Mobility of IAV virions

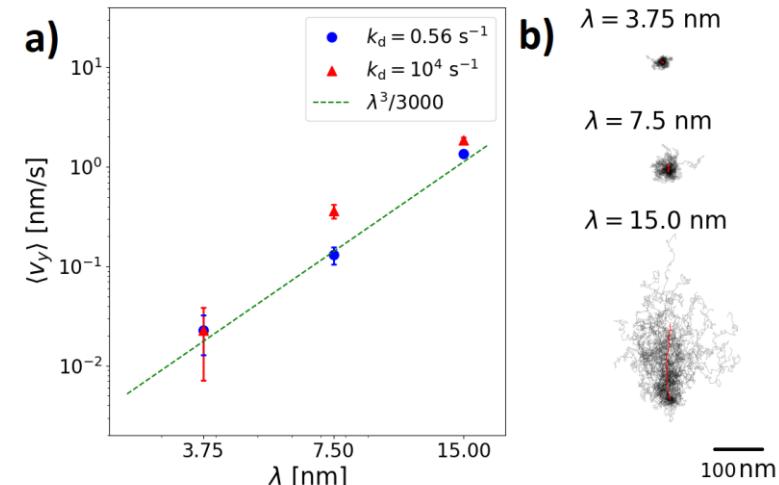
- IAV virions in which NA ligands are clustered

Stevens *et al*, submitted



- Configurational forces do not affect  $v_y$  (consistent with reaction-limited dynamics)

- The maximal lateral distance at which a pair of ligand-receptor molecules can form a bridge ( $\lambda$ ) greatly affects  $v_y$

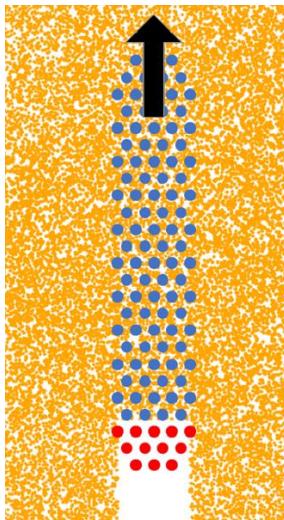


# Mobility of IAV virions

- Comparing different NA distributions

Stevens *et al*, submitted

POLARISED



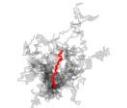
Polarized distribution

$$k_d = 0.56 \text{ s}^{-1}$$
$$\langle k_{SA} \rangle = 14.66 \pm 0.39 \text{ s}^{-1}$$



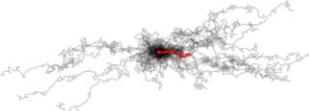
Polarized distribution

$$k_d = 10^4 \text{ s}^{-1}$$
$$\langle k_{SA} \rangle = 21.13 \pm 0.67 \text{ s}^{-1}$$



Uniform distribution

$$k_d = 0.56 \text{ s}^{-1}$$
$$\langle k_{SA} \rangle = 61.28 \pm 1.62 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

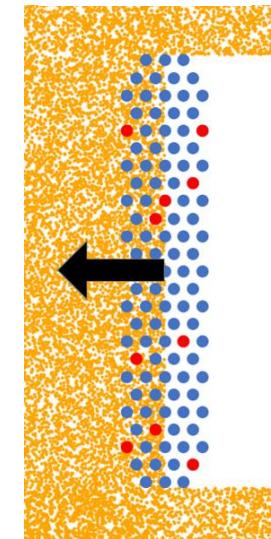


Uniform distribution

$$k_d = 10^4 \text{ s}^{-1}$$
$$\langle k_{SA} \rangle = 221.74 \pm 10.12 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

100 nm

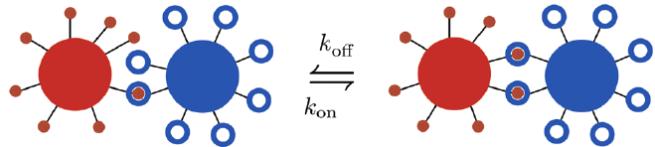
UNIFORM



- Virions with uniformly distributed NA ligands move orthogonally to the particle's axis
- The motility of virions with uniformly distributed ligands is more sensitive to variations in the catalytic rate ( $k_d$ )

Sakai *et al*, J. Virol. **2018**; Bazrafshan *et al*, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. **2020**

# Plan of the talk



- Dynamics of particles moving through reversible ligand-receptor contacts

- Predicting the emerging diffusion constant  $D$  in reaction-limited conditions
- Comparison with simulations and experiments
- Increasing the motility of the particles using enzymes (Influenza A Virus)



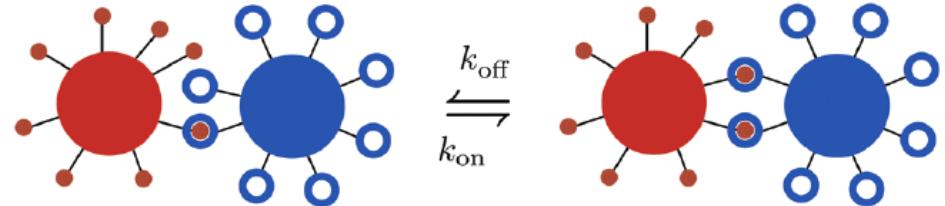
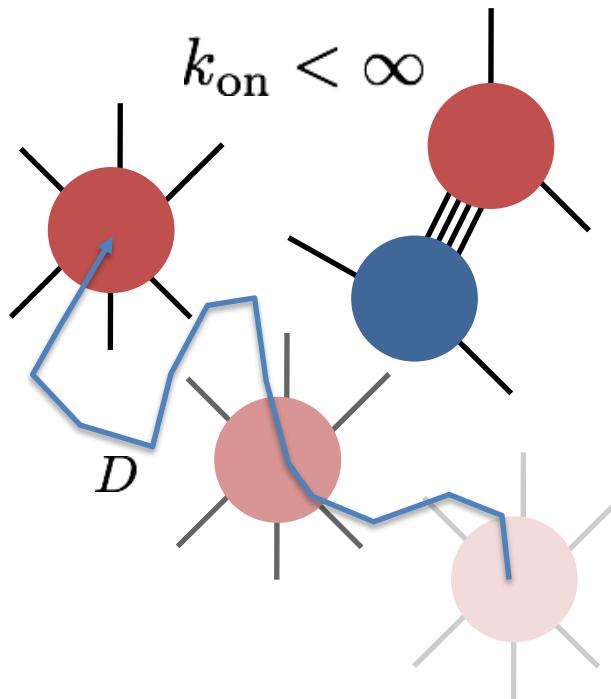
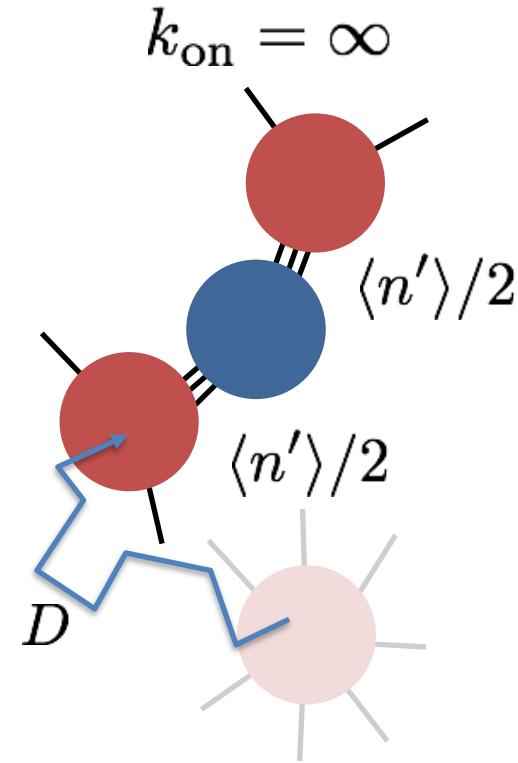
## • Self-assembly dynamics

- Finite reaction rates alter the morphology of steady aggregates



# Particles functionalized by mobile linkers

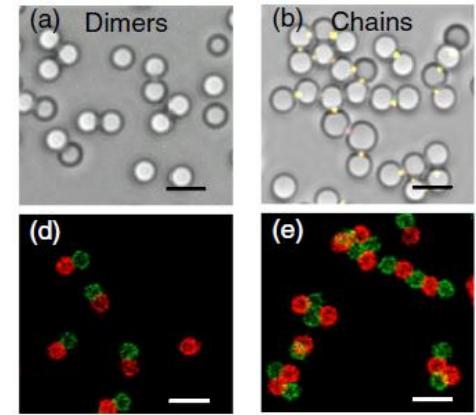
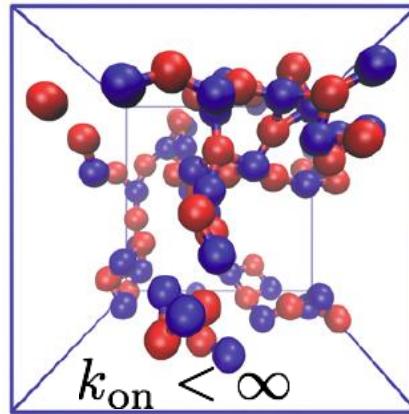
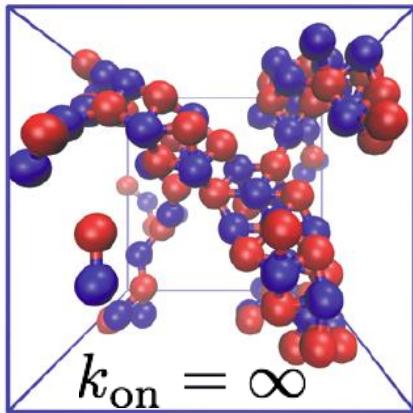
- Finite reaction rates drastically affect self-assembly



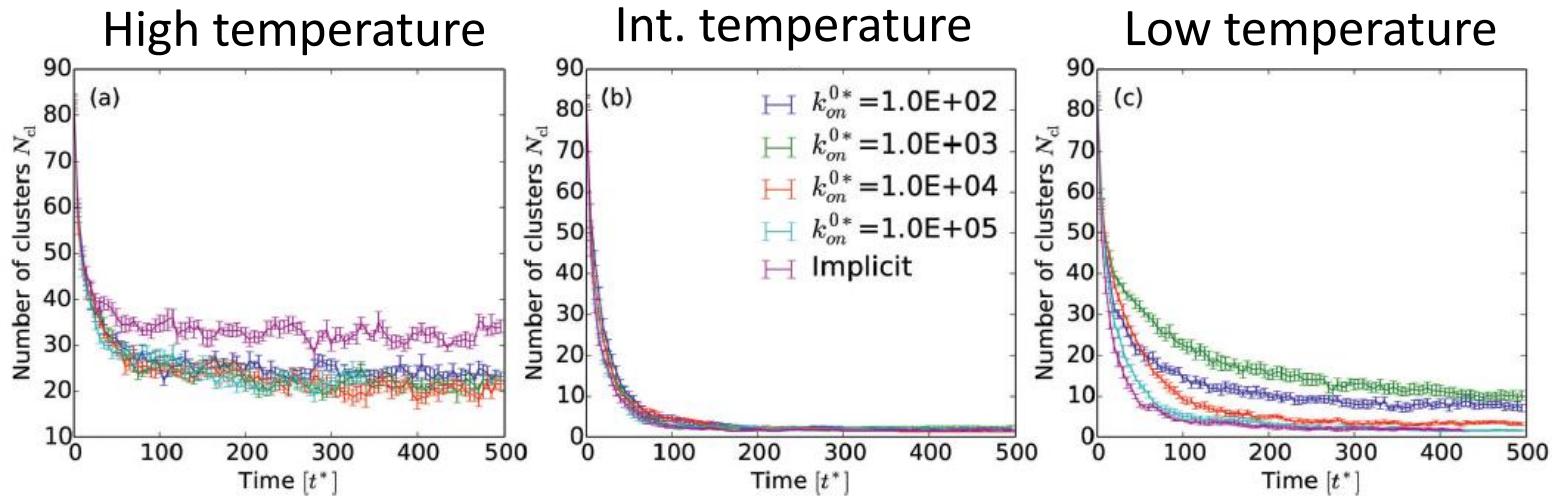
- Linkers segregate in the interaction patch
- Formation of new colloid-colloid contacts is limited by *on/off* reactions
- Kinetic control of the valency used to assemble *colloidomers*

# Particles functionalized by mobile linkers

- Finite reaction rates drastically affect self-assembly

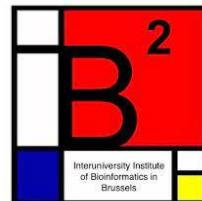


McMullen *et al*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **2019**;  
Feng *et al*, Soft Matter **2013**



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