



# Data and biophysics

Osvaldo Burastero

ARISE Fellow, Garcia-Alai Team

MOSBRI Course - Quality control for Integral Membrane Proteins

2022

14 September 2022

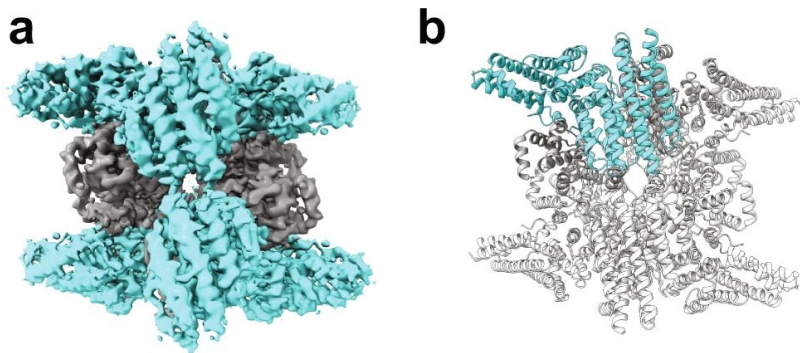


EMBL

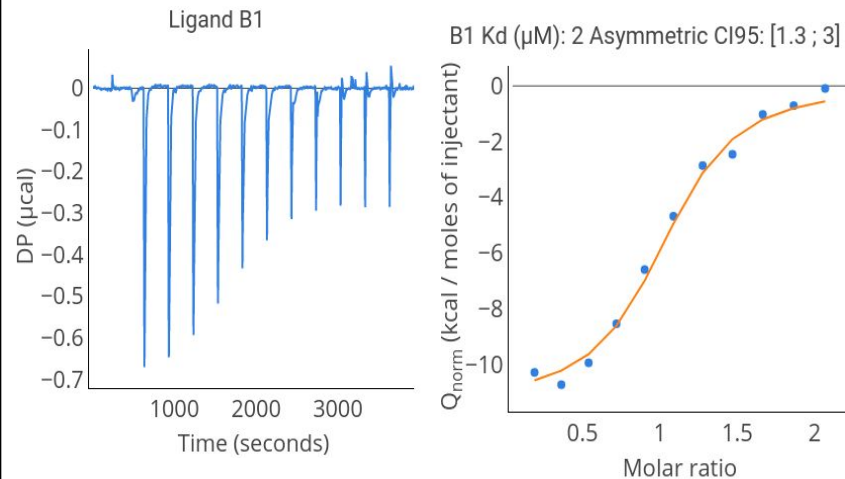


# The final objective

Cryo-EM structure of a 16-mer  
AENTH complex



Isothermal titration calorimetry  
example

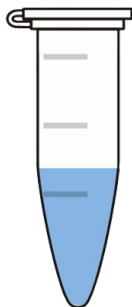


# How to get there



## 1. Experiment planning

- Data management plan
- Predict possible outcomes



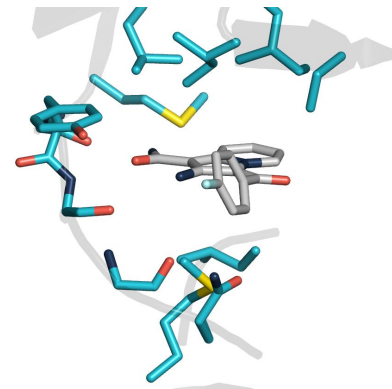
## 2. Sample preparation

- Protein expression & purification



## 3. Quality check

- Homogeneity
- Integrity
- Identity



## 4. Measure & analysis

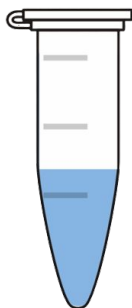
- Activity / inhibition assays
- Structural studies

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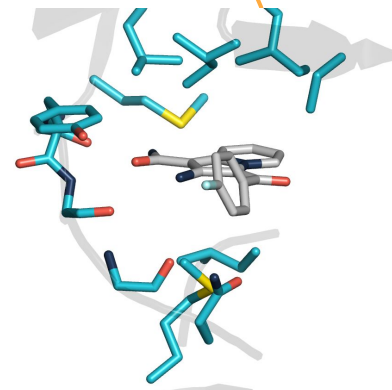
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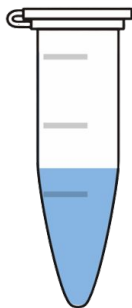
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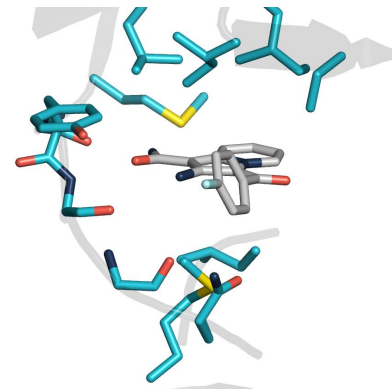
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# What is research data?

Data	Metadata
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Digital data generated during and after the research project<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Observations</li><li>• Acquired data (raw &amp; processed): text files, videos, ...</li><li>• Software (code, algorithms)</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Data about the data (provides context)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Origin of the data</li><li>• Who, when, why, how</li><li>• Used resources</li><li>• Licenses</li></ul></li></ul>

“Good metadata will save us  
precious time in the future”

# Data management plan (DMP)

## What is a DMP?

- Formal document that describes how the data will be handled during and after the project

## Why we need it?

- Good scientific practice
- Required by funders and/or institution



Horizon 2020  
European Union Funding  
for Research & Innovation





# Data management plan (DMP)

What is a DMP?	Why we need it?	Benefits	FAIR Principles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Formal document that describes how the data will be handled during and after the project</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good scientific practice</li><li>• Required by funders and/or institution</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Save time and resources</li><li>• Improved reproducibility and reusability</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Findable</li><li>• Accesible</li><li>• Interoperable</li><li>• Reusable</li></ul>



Horizon 2020  
European Union Funding  
for Research & Innovation

## scientific **data**

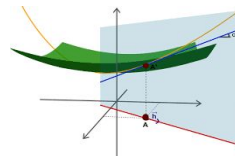
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[Open Access](#) | [Published: 15 March 2016](#)

## The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship

# DMP checklist

Project	What is the project?
Data	What type, format and size does the used and produced data have?
Interpretation	Which information is required to understand the data?
Procedures	Which procedures will be used to create, process and quality control the (meta)data?



# DMP checklist

## Documentation

How the data processing steps will be recorded?



## Access

Are there any security or access control requirements?



## Project end

What happens to the data after the project finishes?



# DMP checklist

Documentation	How the data processing steps will be recorded?
Access	Are there any security or access control requirements?
Project end	What happens to the data after the project finishes?
Intellectual property (IP)	How will be the IP managed?
Responsibilities	Who is responsible for which part of the data management?



# DMP checklist - zoom in

Interpretation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can the data be read only with specific software?</li><li>• Where is the data documentation to be found? Lab information management system?</li><li>• How is data going to be documented?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Metadata, identifiers (of biological entities) &amp; ontologies</li></ul></li></ul>	

# DMP checklist - zoom in

Interpretation	Procedures
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# DMP checklist - zoom in

## Processing

- Manual data processing steps
- Configuration parameters
- Analysis versions
- Scientific workflow management system
- Open source software
- etc.

# DMP in real life - a living document

Data generated for analysis of protein X stability and homogeneity

Dataset	Origin	Size	Format	Availability
DSF data	measurements performed in a nDSF Prometheus <sup>®</sup> (Nanothemper)	<100 MB	.xlsx .csv	Open
DLS data	measurements performed in a DynaPro <sup>®</sup> Plate Reader (Wyatt Technology)	<10 MB	.csv	Open

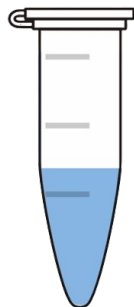


# How to get there



## 1. Experiment planning

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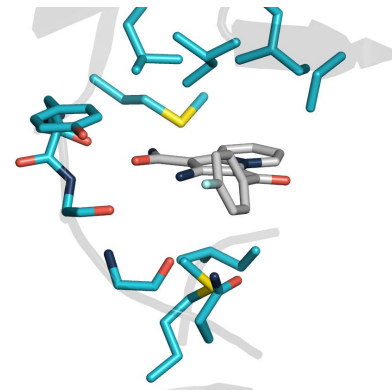
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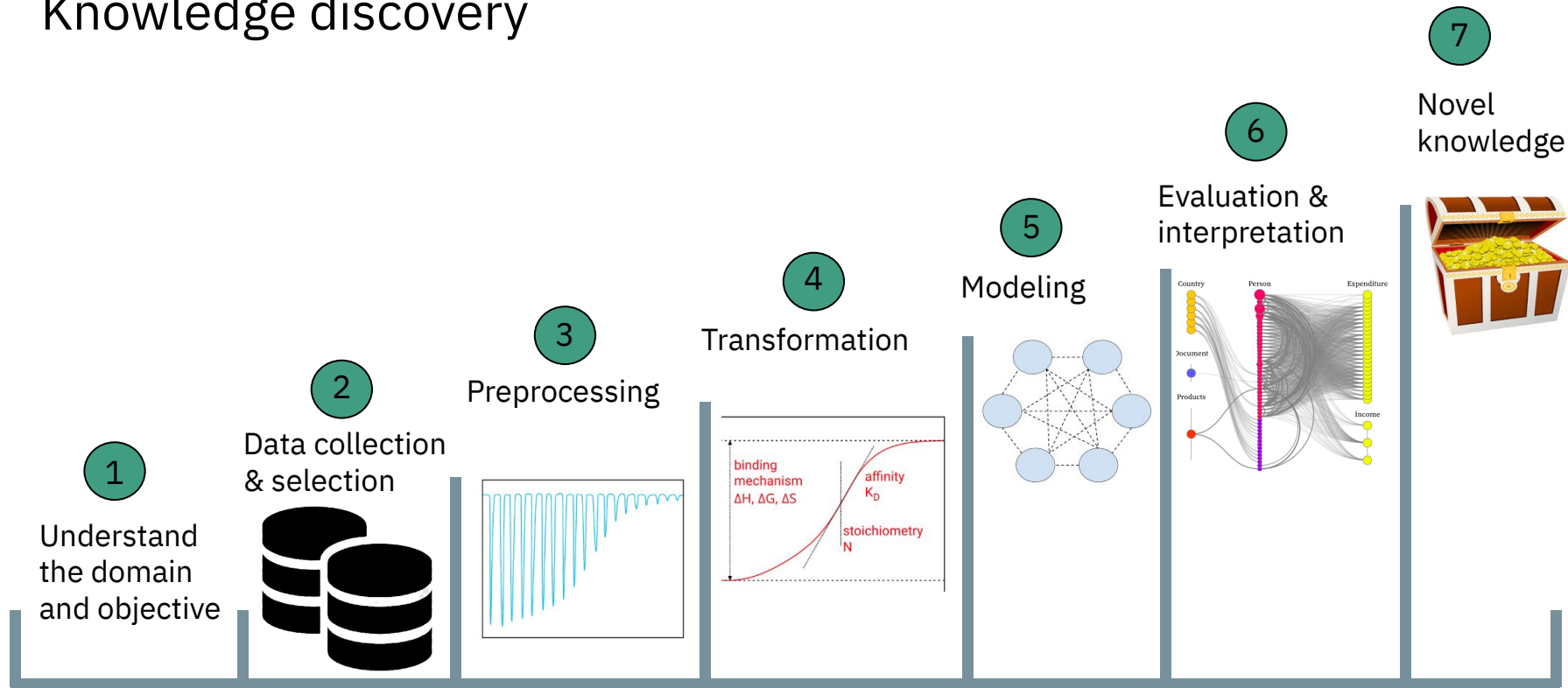
- Homogeneity
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## 4. Measure & analysis

- Activity / inhibition assays
- Structural studies

# Knowledge discovery



# Sample Preparation & Characterization (SPC) Facility

- Optimisation
- Quality control
- Characterisation (thermodynamics & kinetics)



MALDI TOF



Differential Scanning  
Fluorimetry



Circular Dichroism



Mass Photometry



Isothermal Titration  
Calorimetry



MicroScale  
Thermophoresis

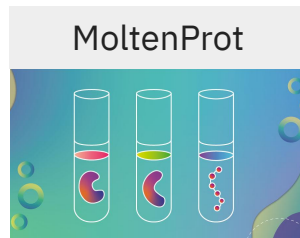


Dynamic Light  
Scattering

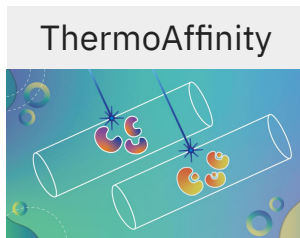
**and much more!**

# eSPC, enriching service provision

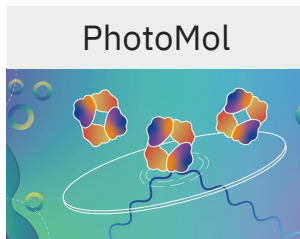
Differential Scanning  
Fluorimetry (DSF)



MicroScale  
Thermophoresis  
(MST)



Mass Photometry  
(MP)



# Sample Preparation & Characterization (SPC) Facility

- Optimisation
- Quality control
- Characterisation (thermodynamics & kinetics)



MALDI TOF



Differential Scanning  
Fluorimetry



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Dynamic Light  
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**and much more!**

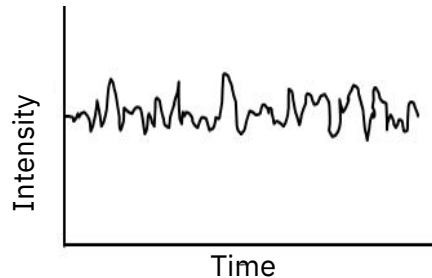
# Dynamic light scattering (DLS) in a nutshell

## Why?

- Homogeneity of a sample
- Estimation of the hydrodynamic radius (Hr)

## How does it work?

- It measures the autocorrelation of the scattered light



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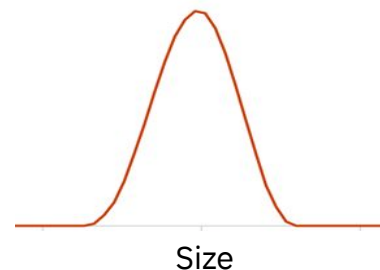
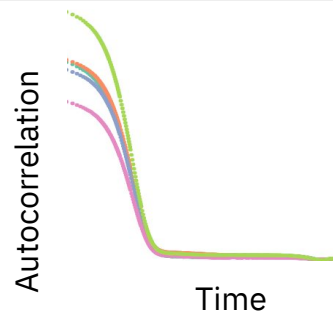
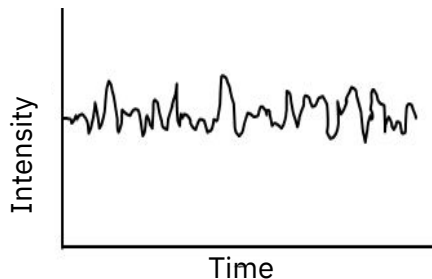
- It measures the autocorrelation of the scattered light

## How do we extract valuable information?

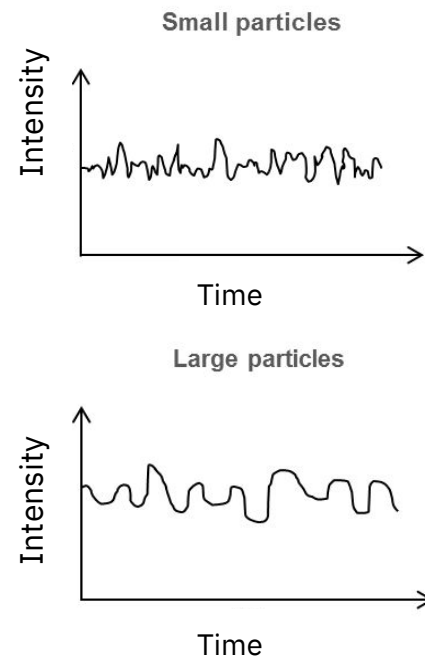
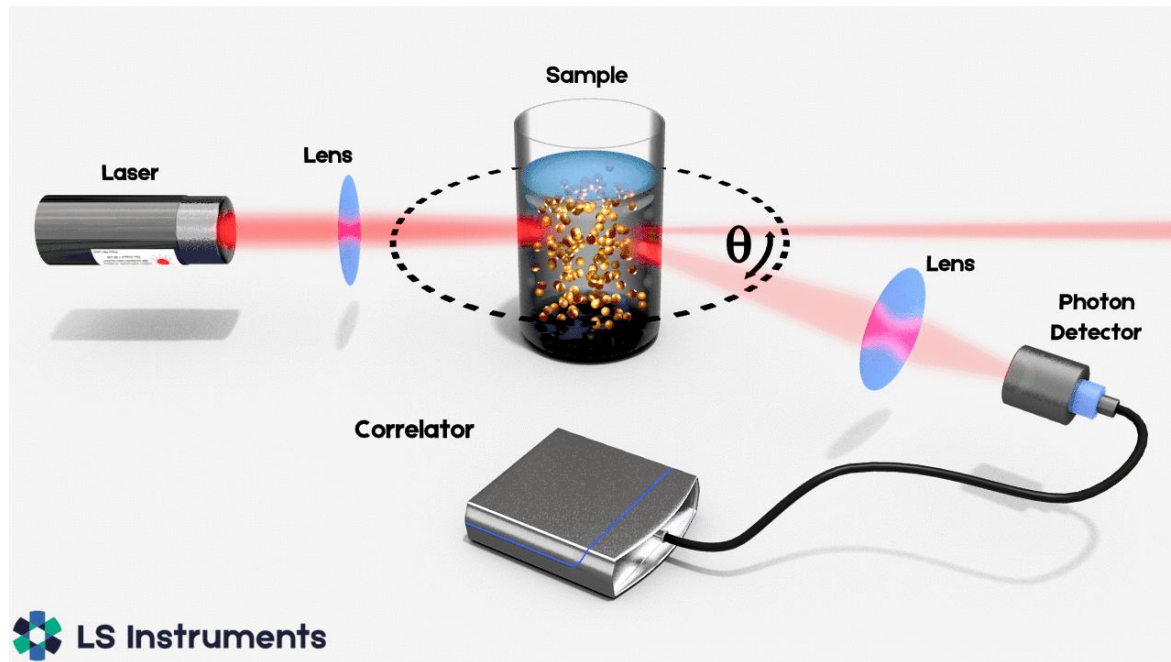
- We fit one/two, or a distribution of decay rates

## Limitations

- $\text{Signal} \propto \text{Hr}^6$
- Semi-quantitative
- Scattering isn't isotropic for large particles

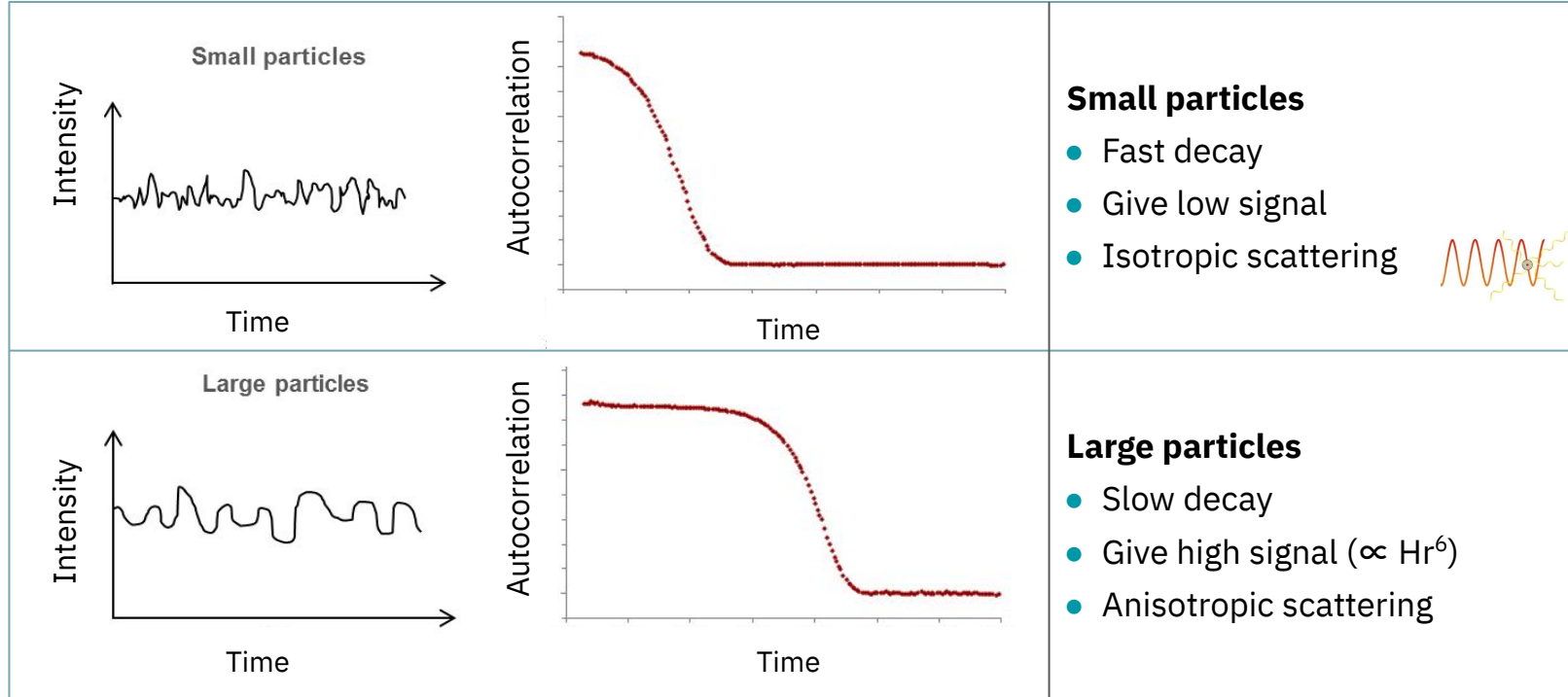


# DLS - Theory





# DLS - Theory



“Any model is at best, an  
useful fiction”

# DLS - Model & fitting

## What we measure

Second order correlation  
function  $G_2$

$$G_2(\tau) = \langle I(t)I(t + \tau) \rangle$$

Integral over the product of  
intensities at time  $t$  and delayed  
time  $t+\tau$

$$g_2(\tau) = \frac{\langle I(t)I(t + \tau) \rangle}{\langle I(t) \rangle^2}$$

# DLS - Model & fitting

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## Relationship with particle motion

Normalised first-order correlation function  $g_1$

$$g_2(\tau) = 1 + \beta |g_1(\tau)|^2$$

Coherence factor  $\beta \propto$   
instrument & molecules

# DLS - Model & fitting

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Coherence factor  $\beta \propto$  instrument & molecules

## Distribution of decay rates

Second order correlation function

$$g_1(\tau) = \int_0^\infty G(\Gamma) \exp(-\Gamma\tau) d\Gamma$$

Intensity-weighted integral over a distribution of decay rates

# DLS - Model & fitting

## Decay rate & diffusion rates

Each decay rate can be associated to a certain diffusion factor  $D$

$$D(s, q) = 1/(s * (q^2))$$

where  $s$  is the inverse of the decay rate and  $q$  is the Bragg wave vector ( $\propto$  angle of detector & refractive index)

## Conversion to hydrodynamic radius

Sphere-like model allows estimating the  $Hr$

$$Hr = \frac{k_b * temperature}{D * viscosity * 6\pi}$$

## The ISO recommended cumulants approach

- Moment analysis of the linear form of the measured correlogram
- Assumes a single particle family (Gaussian)
- Gives the Z-average (mean value) and the PdI (polydispersity index, relative variance of the Gaussian)

# DLS - Model & fitting

## Limitations of the cumulants approach

- Extremely sensitive to small amounts of aggregates
- Unsuitable for a polydisperse sample (polydispersity > 20 %)

## Fitting a distribution of decay rates

- We need to define a decay rate space

$$g_1(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{200} c_i \exp \frac{-t}{s_i}$$

- Ill-posed problem that requires regularization

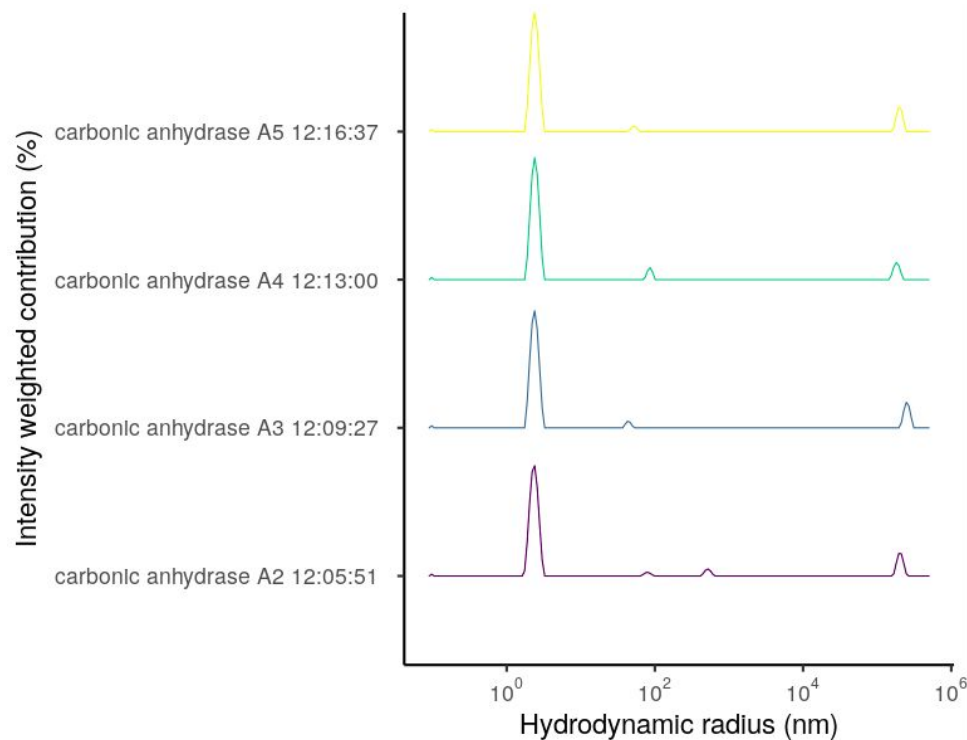
$$||Ax - b|| + \alpha ||Mx|| + \beta ||Ix||$$

$$\alpha || \sum_{i=2}^{199} 2c_i - c_{i-1} - c_{i+1} ||$$

“DLS is (almost always)  
semi-quantitative”

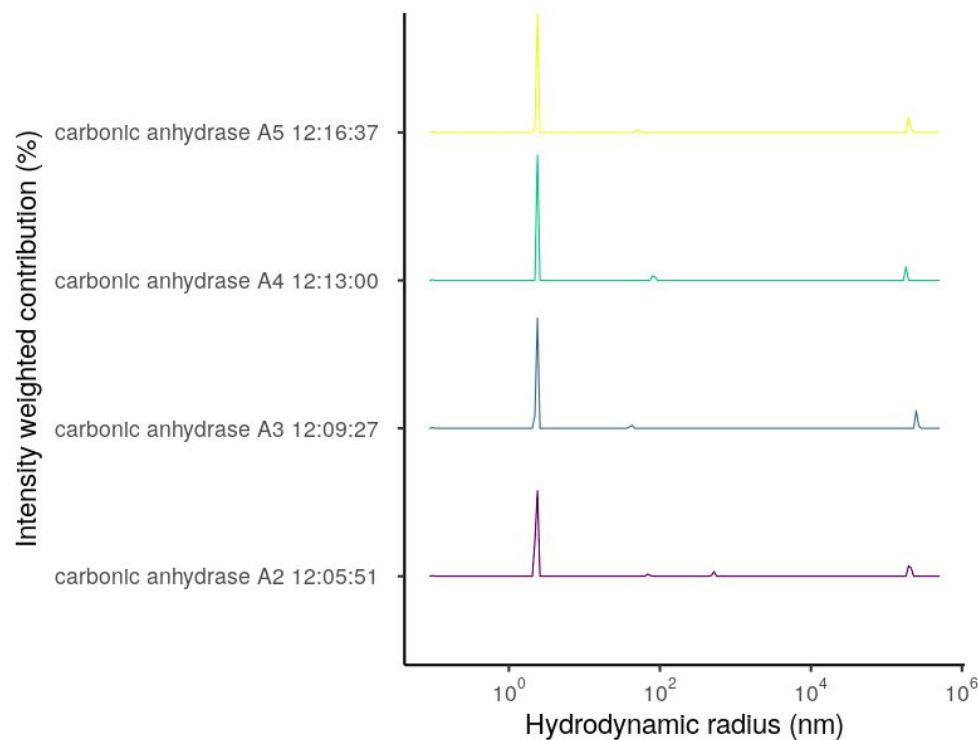


# DLS - Fitting in practice



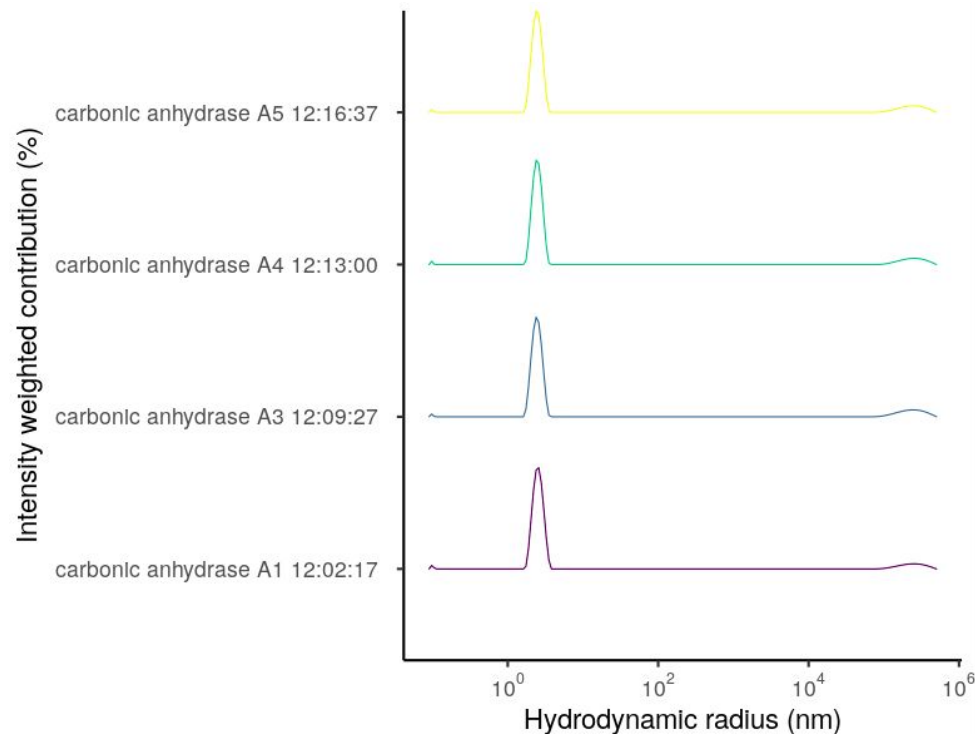
- Hr min value 0.09 nm
- Hr max value 5e5 nm
- Number of Hr points 200
- Max time 1 sec
- Alpha regularization 0.1
- Beta regularization 0

# DLS - Fitting in practice



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# DLS - Fitting in practice



- Hr min value 0.09 nm
- Hr max value 5e5 nm
- Number of Hr points 200
- Max time 100  $\mu$ s
- Alpha regularization 0.1
- Beta regularization 0

# DLS - Interpretation

## Good samples

- Cumulants PdI < 20 % (Malvern)
- One peak in region 1-20 nm with mass > 99.9 %

## Oligomerization

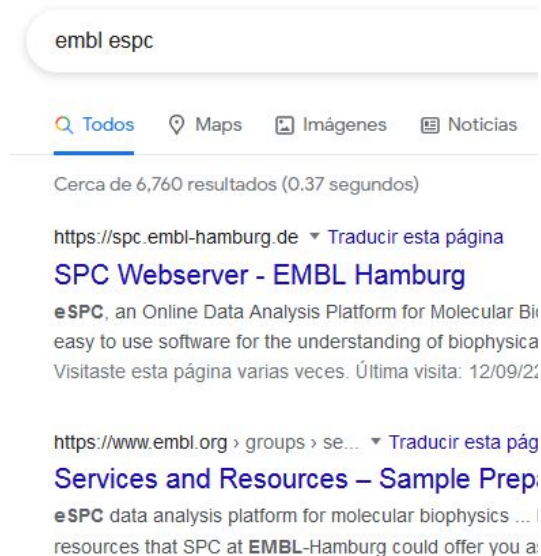
- Only big differences in size (factor 3-5) are detected, i.e., monomer to hexamer

## Hr values

- The Hr values are semi-quantitative
- Hr estimation assumes sphere-like model

# Raynals, an app for DLS analysis

## Step 1. Google “embl espc”



embl espc

[Todos](#) [Maps](#) [Imágenes](#) [Noticias](#)

Cerca de 6,760 resultados (0.37 segundos)

<https://spc.embl-hamburg.de> [Traducir esta página](#)

**SPC Webserver - EMBL Hamburg**

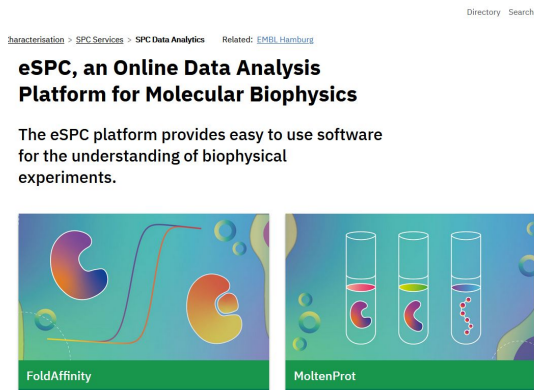
eSPC, an Online Data Analysis Platform for Molecular Biophysics. Easy to use software for the understanding of biophysical experiments. Visitaste esta página varias veces. Última visita: 12/09/2021

<https://www.embl.org/groups/sample-prep/> [Traducir esta página](#)

**Services and Resources – Sample Preparation**

eSPC data analysis platform for molecular biophysics ... | resources that SPC at EMBL-Hamburg could offer you at

## Step 2. Access spc.embl-hamburg.de



Directory Search

[Characterisation](#) > [SPC Services](#) > [SPC Data Analytics](#) Related: [EMBL Hamburg](#)

**eSPC, an Online Data Analysis Platform for Molecular Biophysics**

The eSPC platform provides easy to use software for the understanding of biophysical experiments.

**FoldAffinity**

**MoltenProt**

## Step 3. Access Raynals spc.embl-hamburg.de/app/ raynals



# Raynals, analysis code available under request

```
W      = np.arange(1,len(data)+1) * 0 + 0.1 # all weights are equal, except the initial and last value
W      = W / np.max(W)
W      = np.append(W,np.array([1e2,1e2,1e2])) # weight to force the initial and last values equal to 0, and the sum of contributions equal to 1

rowToForceInitialValue = np.zeros(kernel.shape[1])
rowToForceInitialValue[0] = 1
rowToForceLastValue    = np.flip(rowToForceInitialValue)

data    = np.sqrt(W) * np.append(data,np.array([1,0,0]))
data    = data.reshape(-1, 1)

kernel = np.vstack([kernel,np.ones(kernel.shape[1]),rowToForceInitialValue,rowToForceLastValue])
kernel = np.sqrt(W)[: , None] * kernel

cols    = kernel.shape[1]

M = np.zeros((cols,cols))
for i in range(1,M.shape[1]-1):
    M[i,i-1] = -1
    M[i,i]   = 2
    M[i,i+1] = -1

L      = alpha * M
C      = np.concatenate([kernel, L], axis=0)
d      = np.concatenate([data, np.zeros(cols).reshape(-1, 1)])

I      = beta * np.eye(*kernel.shape)
C      = np.concatenate([C, I], axis=0)
d      = np.concatenate([d, np.zeros_like(data)])
x, _   = nnls(C, d.flatten())

return x
```

# DLS - beyond the monodisperse / polydisperse sample

## Global Analysis of Dynamic Light Scattering Autocorrelation Functions

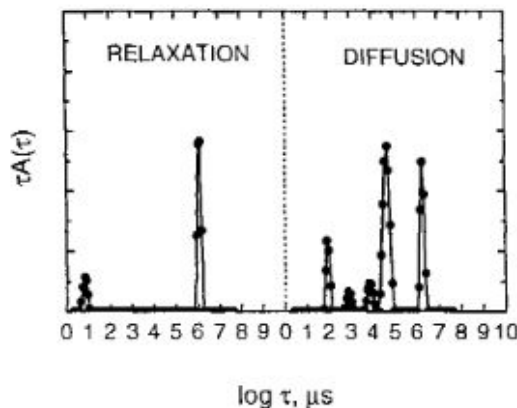
Stephen W. Provencher\*, Petr Štěpánek\*\*

$$\hat{g}_1(t) = \int A(\tau) e^{-t/\tau} d\tau.$$

$A(\tau)$  is related to decay rates that can be converted into diffusion coefficients

$$\beta(q)\hat{g}_1(t;q) = \int_0^\infty A_r(\tau) e^{-t/\tau} d\tau + \int_0^\infty A_d(D) e^{-q^2 D t} dD, \quad (2)$$

$$A(\tau;q) = A_r(\tau) + A_d[1/(q^2\tau)] \quad (3)$$



Decomposition into “diffusive” and “relaxational” (independent of angle) components

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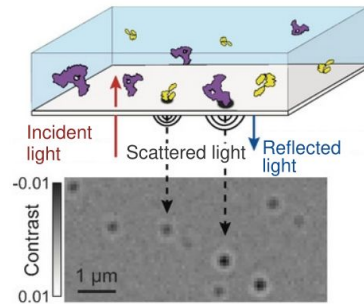
# Mass photometry (MP) in a nutshell

## Why?

- Homogeneity of a sample
- Estimation of the molecular masses of different species

## How does it work?

- Interference between scattered and reflected light combined with ratiometric imaging



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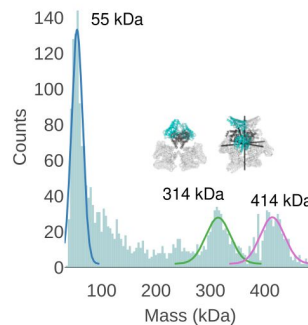
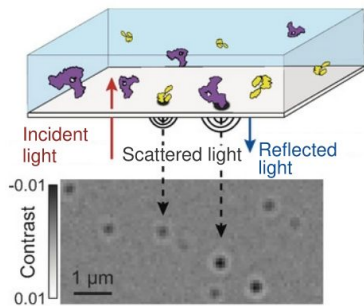
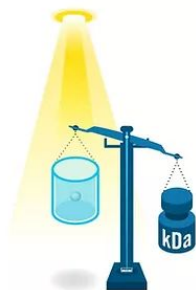
- Interference between scattered and reflected light combined with ratiometric imaging

## How do we extract valuable information?

- We compare contrasts with known samples
- We fit  $n$  distributions of masses

## Limitations

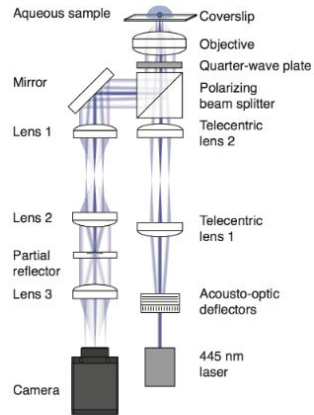
- nM concentration is required
- Detergent produces high background
- Accurate only with soluble proteins



# MP - Theory

## Experimental setup

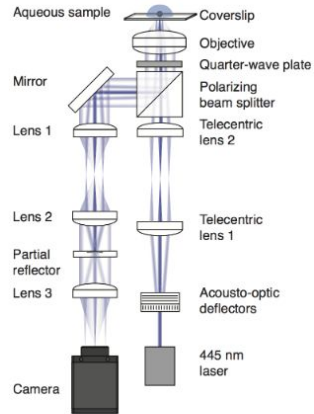
- Separation of incident from scattered and reflected light



# MP - Theory

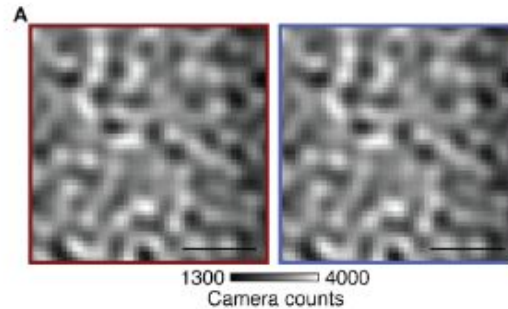
## Experimental setup

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## Raw images

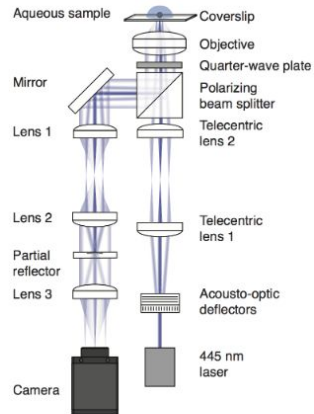
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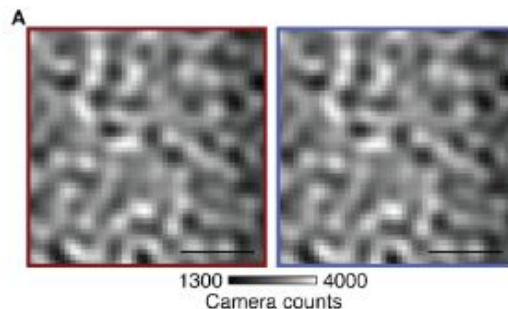
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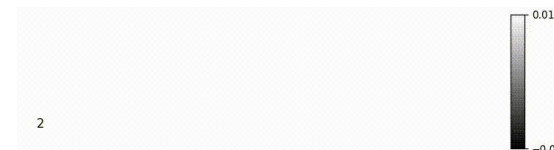
## Raw images

- Interference: scattered - reflected
- High background



## Preprocessing

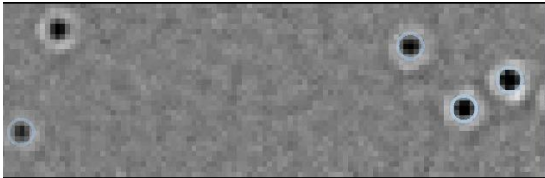
- Background is removed by conversion to ratiometric images



# MP - Theory

## Binding events

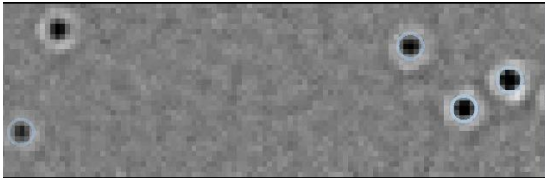
- Appear as a (dark) point spread function (PSF)
- The number should be  $\gg$  unbinding events (bright spots)



# MP - Theory

## Binding events

- Appear as a (dark) point spread function (PSF)
- The number should be >> unbinding events (bright spots)



## Particle detection & quantification

- Automated spot detection routine
- Fitting of candidate pixels (772 \* 772 nm<sup>2</sup>) to a 2D concentric gaussian model

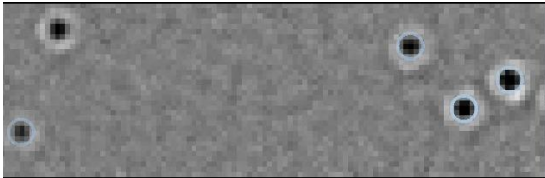
$$f(x, y) = A \left( e^{-\left[ \frac{(x-x_0)^2}{2\sigma_x^2} + \frac{(y-y_0)^2}{2\sigma_y^2} \right]} - \frac{(1-T)}{s} e^{-\left[ \frac{(x-x_0)^2}{2(s\sigma_x)^2} + \frac{(y-y_0)^2}{2(s\sigma_y)^2} \right]} \right) + b$$

$$A \left( 1 - \frac{(1-T)}{s} \right)$$

# MP - Theory

## Binding events

- Appear as a (dark) point spread function (PSF)
- The number should be >> unbinding events (bright spots)



## Particle detection & quantification

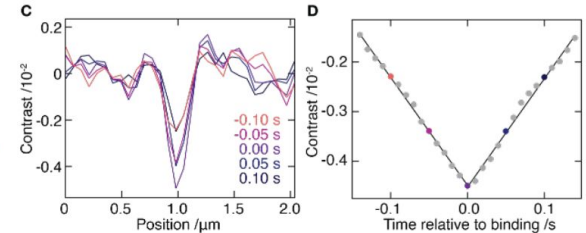
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- Fitting of candidate pixels ( $772 \times 772 \text{ nm}^2$ ) to a 2D concentric gaussian model

$$f(x, y) = A \left( e^{-\left[ \frac{(x-x_0)^2}{2\sigma_x^2} + \frac{(y-y_0)^2}{2\sigma_y^2} \right]} - \frac{(1-T)}{s} e^{-\left[ \frac{(x-x_0)^2}{2(s\sigma_x)^2} + \frac{(y-y_0)^2}{2(s\sigma_y)^2} \right]} \right) + b$$

$$A \left( 1 - \frac{(1-T)}{s} \right)$$

## Contrast of a given particle

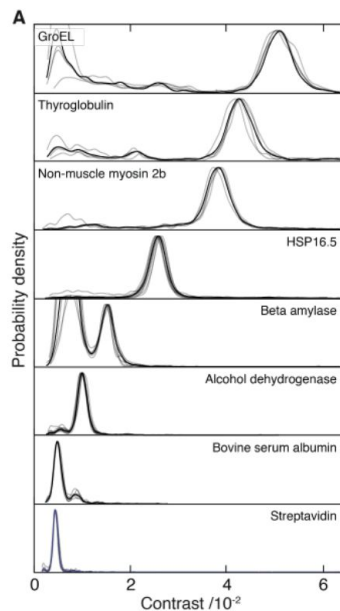
- Fitted from the contrast as a function of time





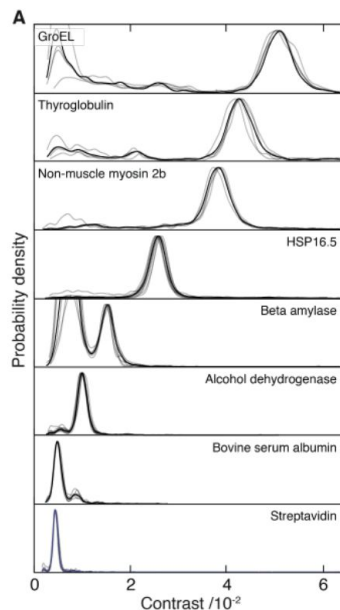
# MP - Model & fitting

## Contrast to molecular weight



# MP - Model & fitting

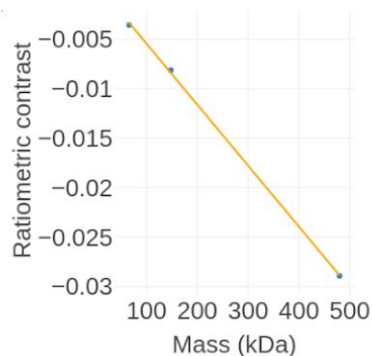
## Contrast to molecular weight



Young *et al.* (2018) / Science

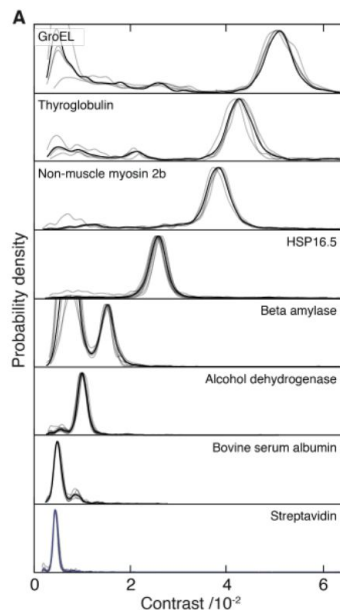
## Calibration

- Using known protein standards
- Quantitative for soluble proteins without post translational modifications!



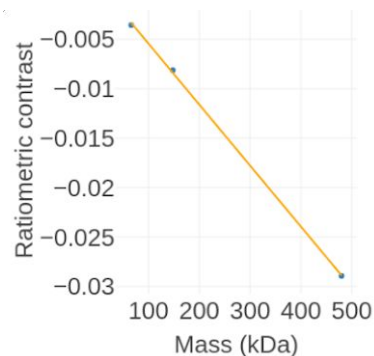
# MP - Model & fitting

## Contrast to molecular weight



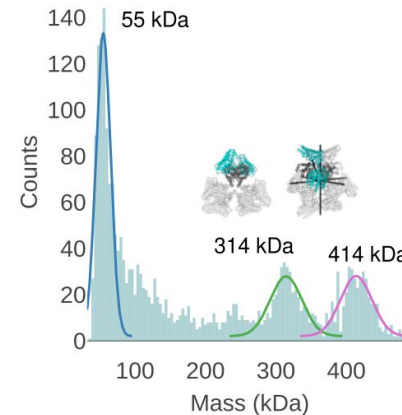
## Calibration

- Using known protein standards
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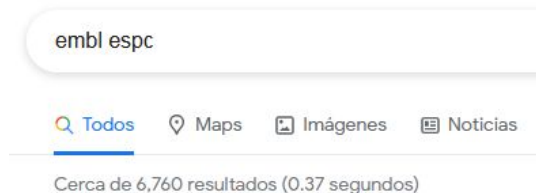
## Unknown sample

- Fitting of gaussian distributions



# PhotoMol, an app for MP analysis

## Step 1. Google “embl espc”



<https://spc.embl-hamburg.de> ▼ Traducir esta página

## SPC Webserver - EMBL Hamburg

eSPC, an Online Data Analysis Platform for Molecular Biophysics  
easy to use software for the understanding of biophysical  
Visitaste esta página varias veces. Última visita: 12/09/21

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## Services and Resources – Sample Prep

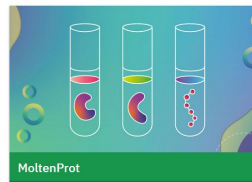
eSPC data analysis platform for molecular biophysics ...  
resources that SPC at EMBL-Hamburg could offer you at

## Step 2. Access [spc.embl-hamburg.de](https://spc.embl-hamburg.de)

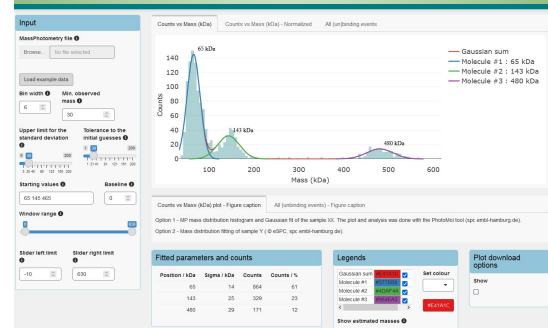
Characterisation > SPC Services > SPC Data Analytics Related: EMBL Hamburg

### eSPC, an Online Data Analysis Platform for Molecular Biophysics

The eSPC platform provides easy to use software for the understanding of biophysical experiments.



## Step 3. Access PhotoMol [spc.embl-hamburg.de/app/photoMol](https://spc.embl-hamburg.de/app/photoMol)

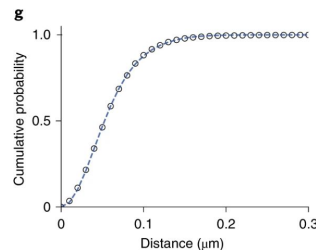
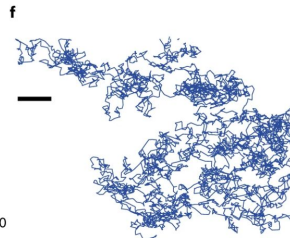
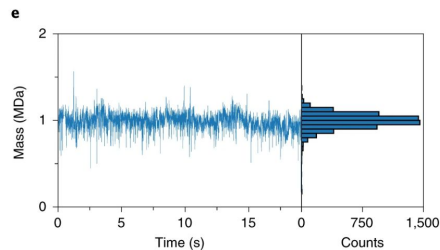
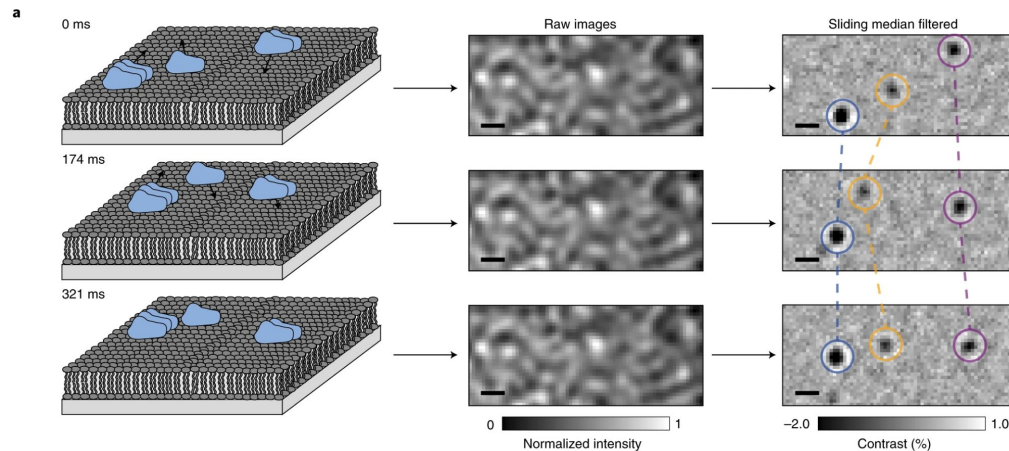


# MP - beyond the yes/no complex formation question

## Mass photometry enables label-free tracking and mass measurement of single proteins on lipid bilayers

[Eric D. B. Foley](#), [Manish S. Kushwah](#), [Gavin Young](#) & [Philipp Kukura](#) ✉

Simultaneously imaging, tracking and measuring the mass of diffusing biomolecular complexes on supported lipid bilayers (SLBs)

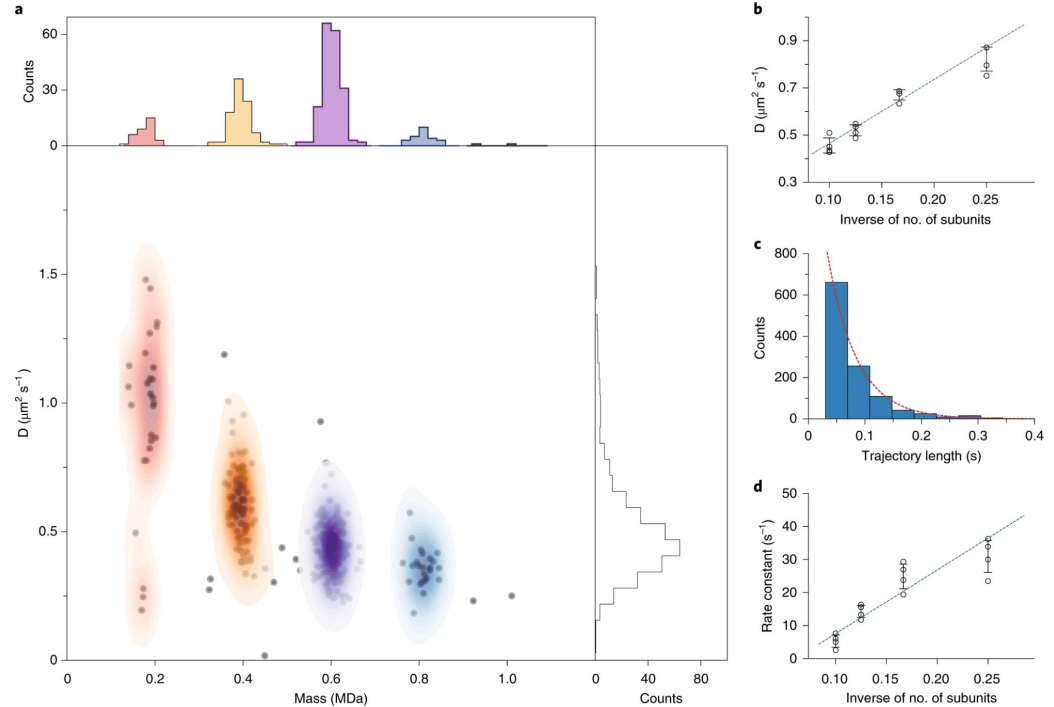


# MP - beyond the yes/no complex formation question

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# Sample Preparation & Characterization (SPC) Facility

- Optimisation
- Quality control
- Characterisation (thermodynamics & kinetics)



MALDI TOF



Differential Scanning  
Fluorimetry



Circular Dichroism



Mass Photometry



Isothermal Titration  
Calorimetry



MicroScale  
Thermophoresis



Dynamic Light  
Scattering

**and much more!**

# Nano Differential scanning fluorimetry (nDSF) in a nutshell

## Why?

- Protein stability or ligand binding

## How does it work?

- By heating the sample and measuring the fluorescence

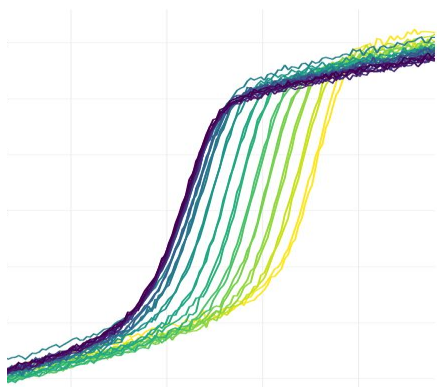


Photo credit: Vadim Kotov



# Nano Differential scanning fluorimetry (nDSF) in a nutshell

## Why?

- Protein stability or ligand binding

## How does it work?

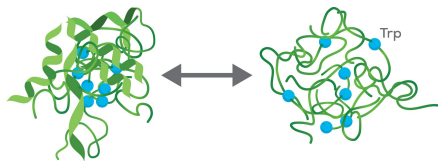
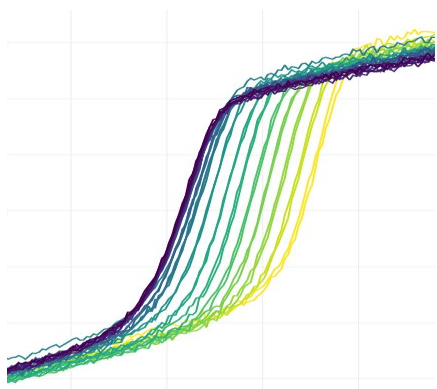
- Heating the sample and measuring the fluorescence

## How do we extract valuable information?

- Fitting unfolding models

## Limitations

- Autofluorescence
- Multiple transitions
- No transitions



Native  $\rightleftharpoons$  Unfolded

Photo credit: Vadim Kotov

Protein image: unchainedlabs.com

# nDSF - Unfolding models

n-mer	Protomers	States	Intermediates
Monomer	A	2	none
Monomer	A	3	1 monomer
Monomer	A	2+p	p monomers
Homodimer	A <sub>2</sub>	.	.
.	.	.	.
Heterodimer	AB	.	.
.	.	.	.
Heterotrimer	ABC	.	.
.	.	.	.

Native → Unfolded

Native ⇌ Unfolded

Native ⇌ Intermediate ⇌ Unfolded

# nDSF - How to build a model

Step 1. Equation of the signal with  $n$  states

$$Y_t(x) = Y_n[N] + \sum_j Y_j[I_j] + Y_u[U] + Y_d(x), j = 1, \dots, p$$

Step 2. Pre/post transition dependence

$$Y_n = y_n + m_n x;$$

Step 3. States interconversion

Native  $\rightleftharpoons$  Unfolded

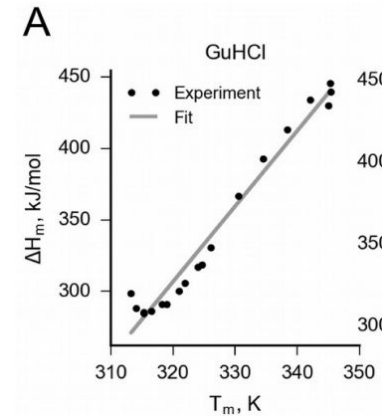
Send us code/equations & data and we will add them into the server!

# nDSF - The two state equilibrium model

- Reversible equilibrium between native & unfolded states

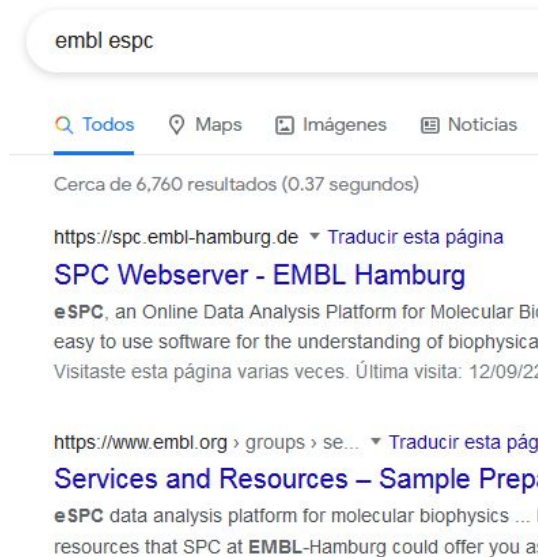
$$\Delta G(T) = -RT \ln [K(T)] = \Delta H_m (1 - T/T_m) - \Delta C_p [(T_m - T) + T \ln (T/T_m)]$$

- $\Delta H$  and  $T_m$  can be precisely determined (but not  $\Delta C_p$ )
- $\Delta C_p$  can be determined using different chemical denaturant concentrations



# MoltenProt & FoldAffinity, two apps for DSF analysis

## Step 1. Google “embl espc”



embl espc

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Cerca de 6,760 resultados (0.37 segundos)

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**SPC Webserver - EMBL Hamburg**

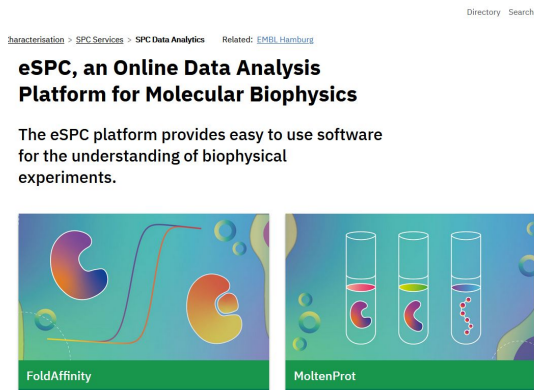
eSPC, an Online Data Analysis Platform for Molecular Biophysics. The eSPC platform provides easy to use software for the understanding of biophysical experiments. Visitaste esta página varias veces. Última visita: 12/09/2021

<https://www.embl.org/groups/se...> [Traducir esta página](#)

**Services and Resources – Sample Preparation**

eSPC data analysis platform for molecular biophysics ... | resources that SPC at EMBL-Hamburg could offer you a

## Step 2. Access [spc.embl-hamburg.de](https://spc.embl-hamburg.de)



Directory Search

[Characterisation](#) > [SPC Services](#) > [SPC Data Analytics](#) Related: [EMBL Hamburg](#)

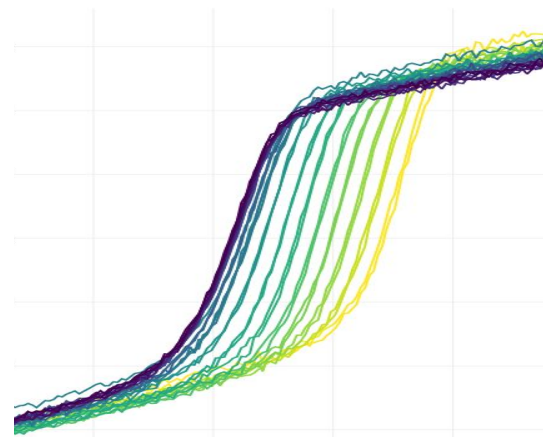
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**FoldAffinity**

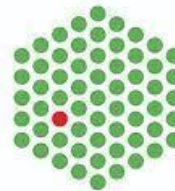
**MoltenProt**

## Step 3. Access MoltenProt or FoldAffinity



SPC Team

EMBL



European Molecular Biology Laboratory



EMBL Hamburg IT Team

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 945405.