

Lipids and their properties

Electron crystallography
UC Davis 2008

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Overview

- Lipid- definition classification
- The structure of membrane lipids
- Physical properties of lipids
 - Lipid polymorphism
 - Lipid phase diagrams
 - Lipid phase transition temperature
 - Lipid mobility
- An example of lipid mobility: transitory formation of pores in giant unilamellar vesicles

Lipid -definition

Lipid: any molecule (MW 100-5000) that contains a substantial portion of aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon.

Lipids

- hydrocarbons
- oil
- waxes
- cholesterol, steroids
- vitamins (such as vitamins A,D,E and K)
- (mono-di-tri)glycerides
- phospholipids
- soap
- detergents
- surfactants
-

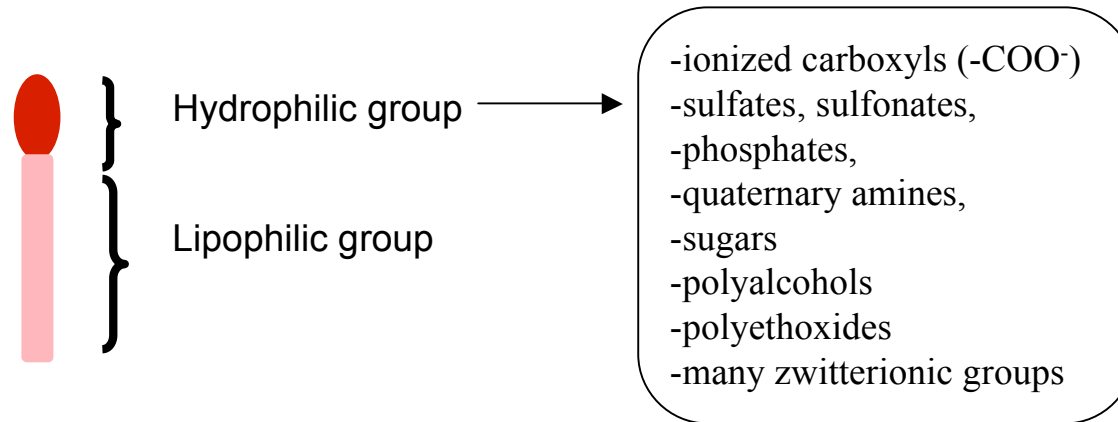
Biological functions

- Structural component of the membranes
- Energy storage
- Intermediate in signalling pathways
-

Lipids classification based on interactions with water

hydrophilic-lipophilic balance HLB

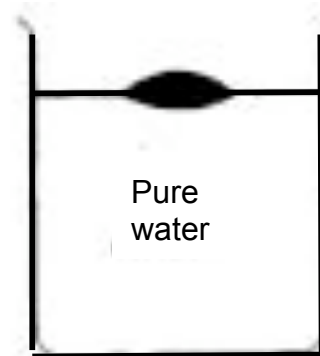
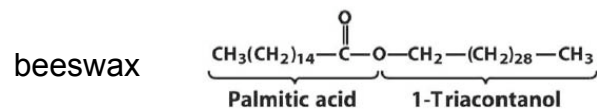
The physical-chemistry properties of the lipids are dependent on the amphiphilic structure



I. Nonpolar lipids

-They are insoluble in water, very soluble in organic solvent (hexane, chloroform or benzene)

Long chain hydrocarbons i.e. octadecane $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_{16}\text{CH}_3$



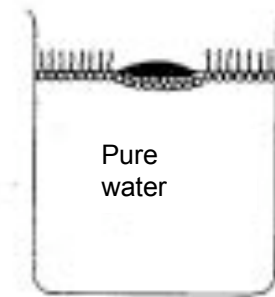
Lipids classification based on interactions with water

II. Polar lipids

Class I: insoluble in water , Nonswelling amphiphiles

Form a stable monolayer Soluble in organic solvent

- triglycerides
- long-chain un-ionized fatty acids
- cholesterol**
- many fat-soluble vitamins (vitamins A,D,E,and K)
- Solubility $<10^{-10}M$

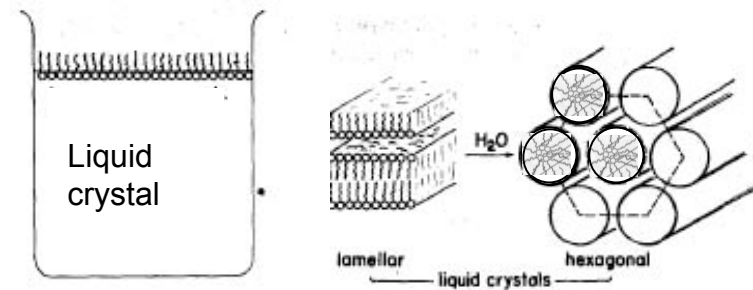


Class II: insoluble in water , Swelling amphiphiles

Form a stable monolayer sparingly soluble in organic solvent
soluble in amphiphilic solvent such as ethanol

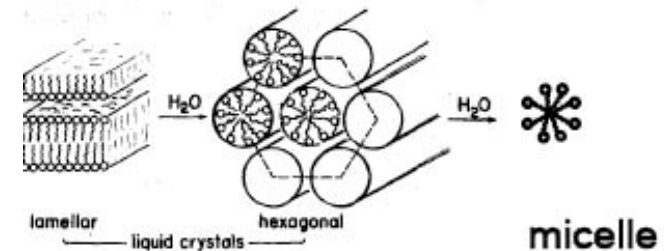
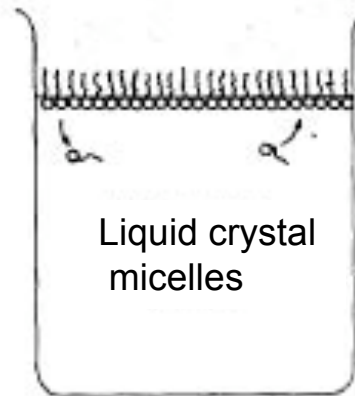
Lipids from membrane

- Phospholipids
- cerebrosides
- lipoproteins
- monoglycerides

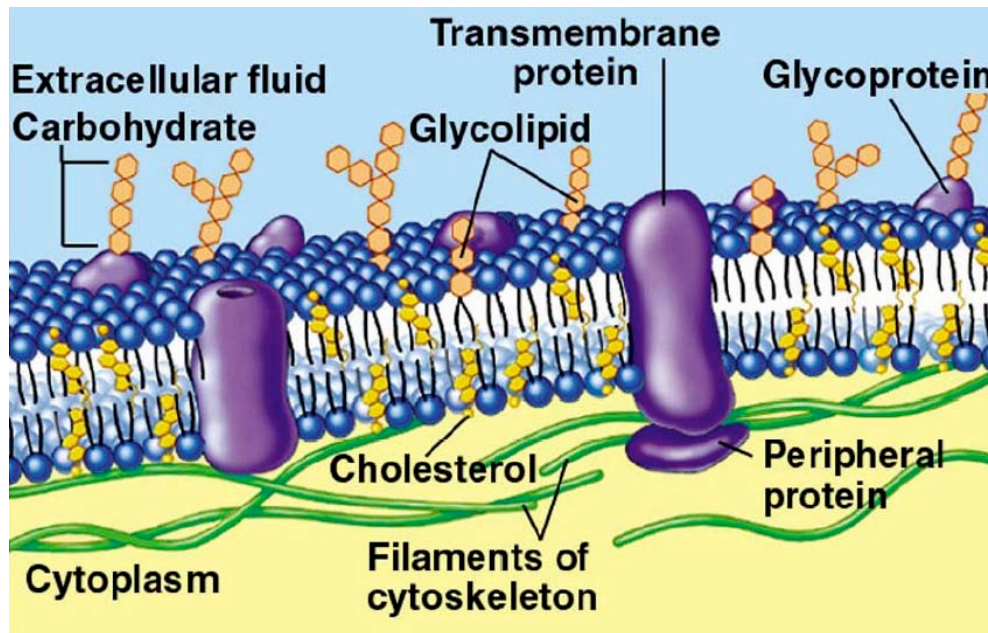


Class III: soluble amphiphiles

Form an instable monolayer
insoluble in organic solvent
Soaps, lysolecithin, **detergents**,
bile salts
Solubility $>10^{-4}M$,
(Saponine: $10^{-2}M$)



Structure of a membrane



A membrane is a barrier that defines a boundary to a cell and/or organelle

-Prokaryotes

- Only membrane is plasma membrane and in the case of Gram negative bacteria (eg E. coli) an additional outer membrane

-Eukaryotes

- Plasma membranes
- Organelles membranes
 - Mitochondria
 - Nucleus
 - Lysosomes
 - Endoplasmic reticulum

-Enveloped viruses

- nucleic acid core is surrounded by a simple membrane)

•But is it really just simply a barrier??

Functions of a membrane

- Forms boundaries to create separate spaces
- Insulation
- Most membranes are electrically polarized
- Mediate cell-cell adhesion
- Signal and nerve transmission
- Cell identity and antigenicity
- Energy storage (lipids)

- All (biological) membranes contain protein and lipid
- BUT the proportions vary massively... mass ratio lipid/protein 1:4 to 4:1

Tissue	Lipid	Protein
Myelin Sheath	76	18
Mitochondrial inner membrane	24	76
Plasma membrane of RBC	43	44

The structure of membrane lipids

Three major kinds of membrane lipids

-Phospholipids (glycerophospholipids, sphingolipids)

-Glycolipids

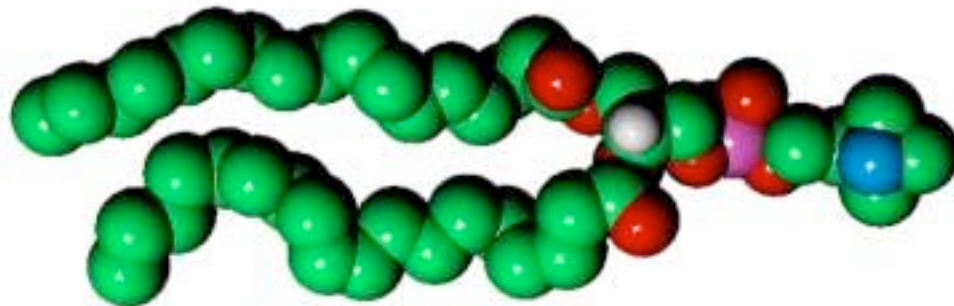
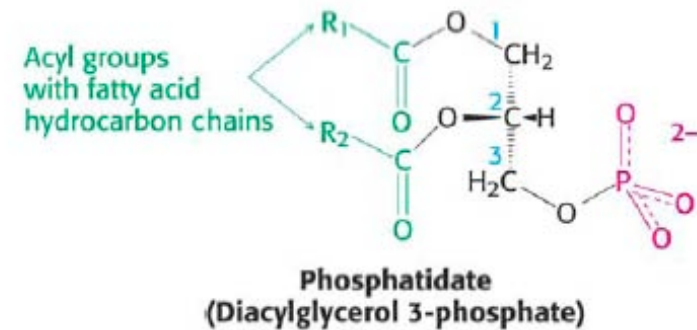
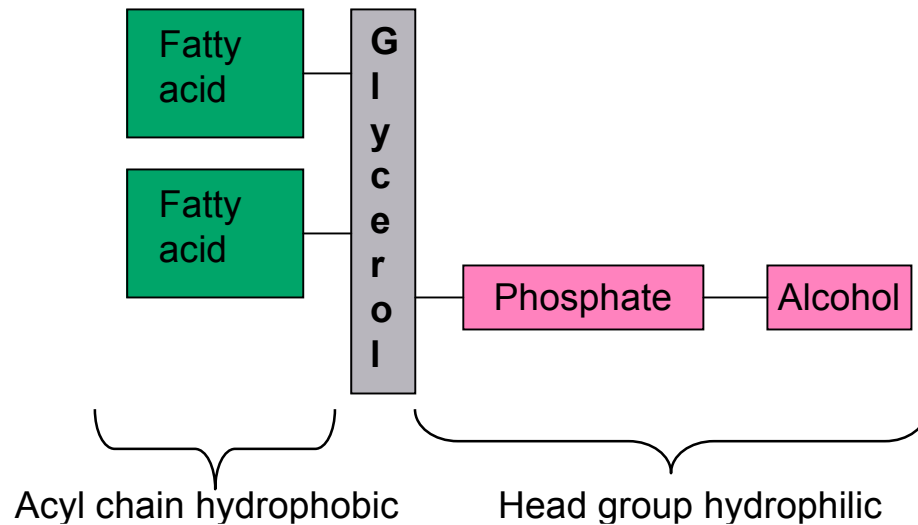
-Cholesterol

Phospholipids-Glycerophospholipids

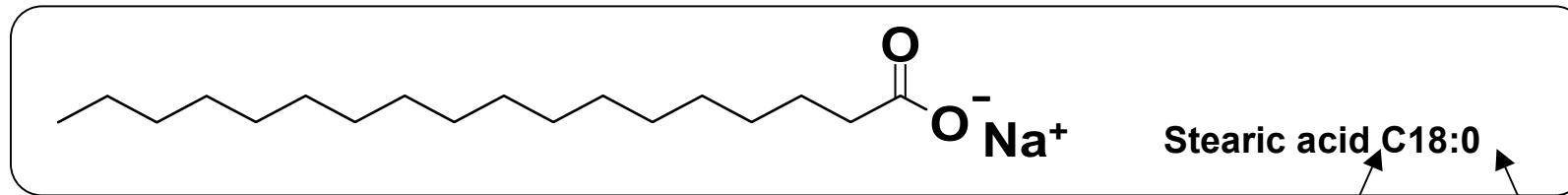
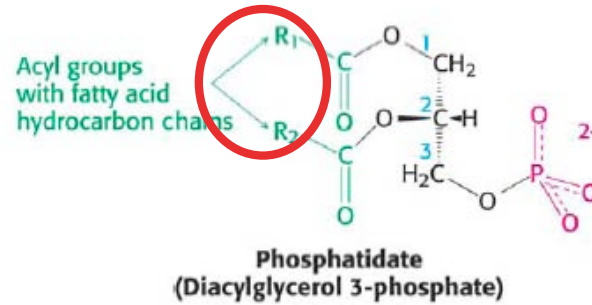
Nomenclature Naming is complicated (due to historical reasons)

It is formalized now but some older names are still in common use (eg. Lecithin is still used for phosphatidylcholine).

IUPAC-IUB is the defining authority though



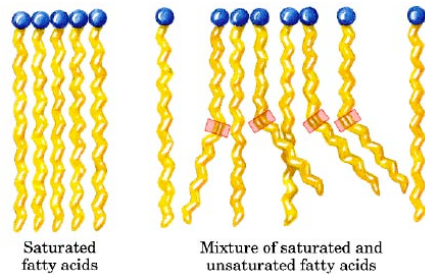
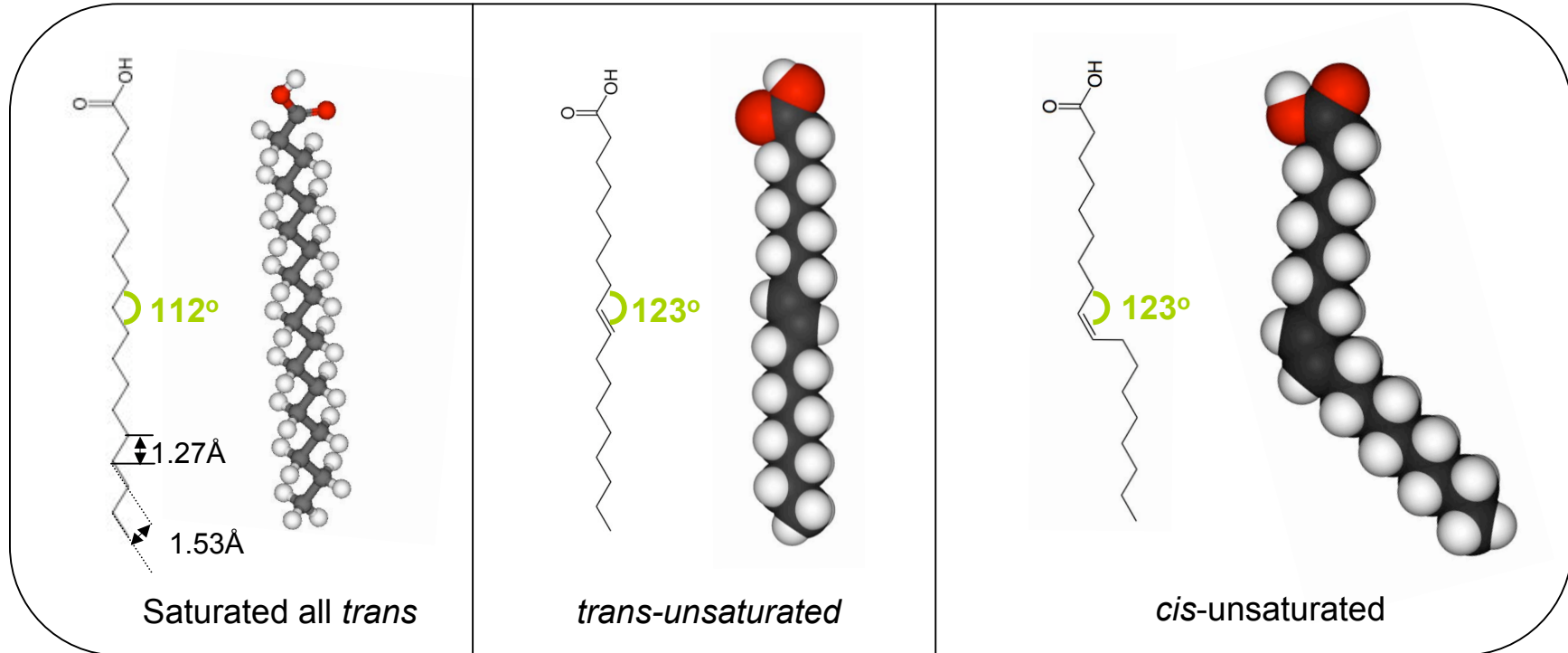
glycerophospholipids-fatty acids



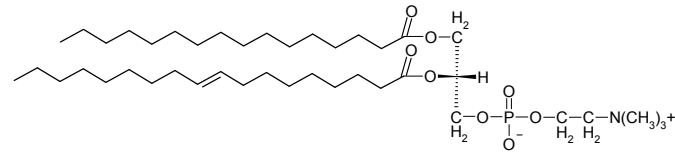
No of Cs No of C=C units

Common Name	Chain length: unsaturation	Systematic Name
Lauric	12:0	Dodecanoic acid
Myristic	14:0	Tetradecanoic acid
Palmitic	16:0	Hexadecanoic acid
Palmitoleic	16:1 (9-cis)	9-Hexadecenoic acid
Stearic	18:0	Octadecanoic acid
Oleic	18:1 (9-cis)	9-Octadecenoic acid
Linoleic	18:2 (9-cis, 12cis)	9,12-Octadecenoic acid
Arachidonic	20:4 (5, 8, 11, 14 -cis)	5,8,11,14-Eicosatetraenoic acid

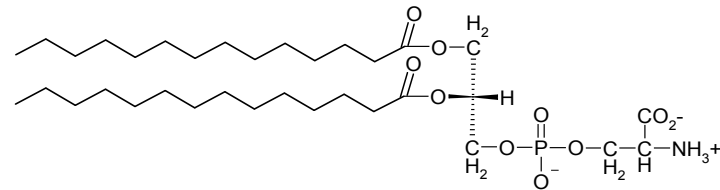
The structure of fatty acids: cis-unsaturated and trans-unsaturated acids



Glycero-phospholipids Put it all together...

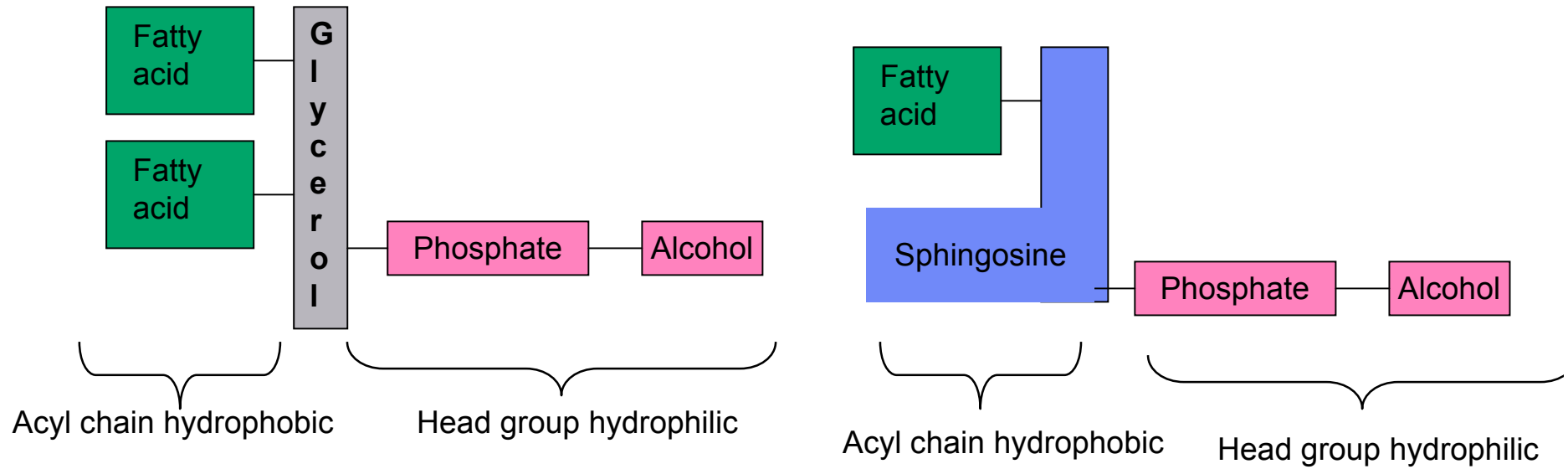


1-Palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-*sn*-Glycero-3-Phosphatidylcholine (POPC)

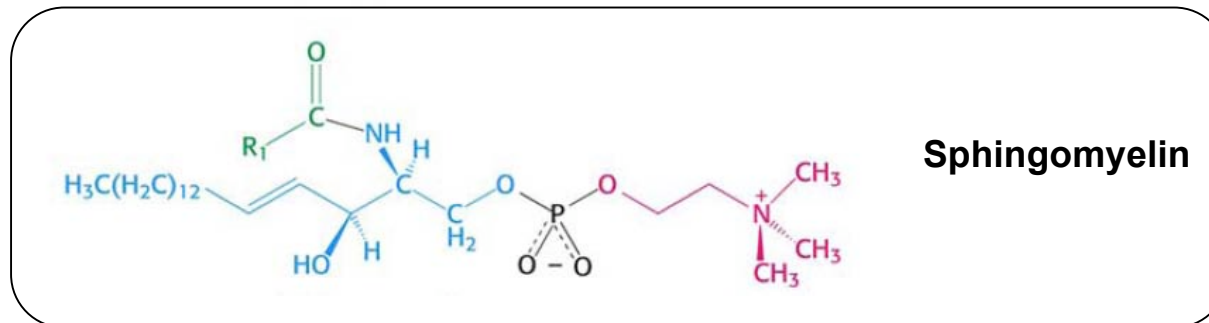


1,2-Dimyristoyl-*sn*-Glycero-3-Phosphatidylserine (DMPS)

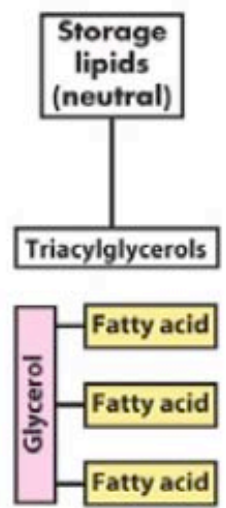
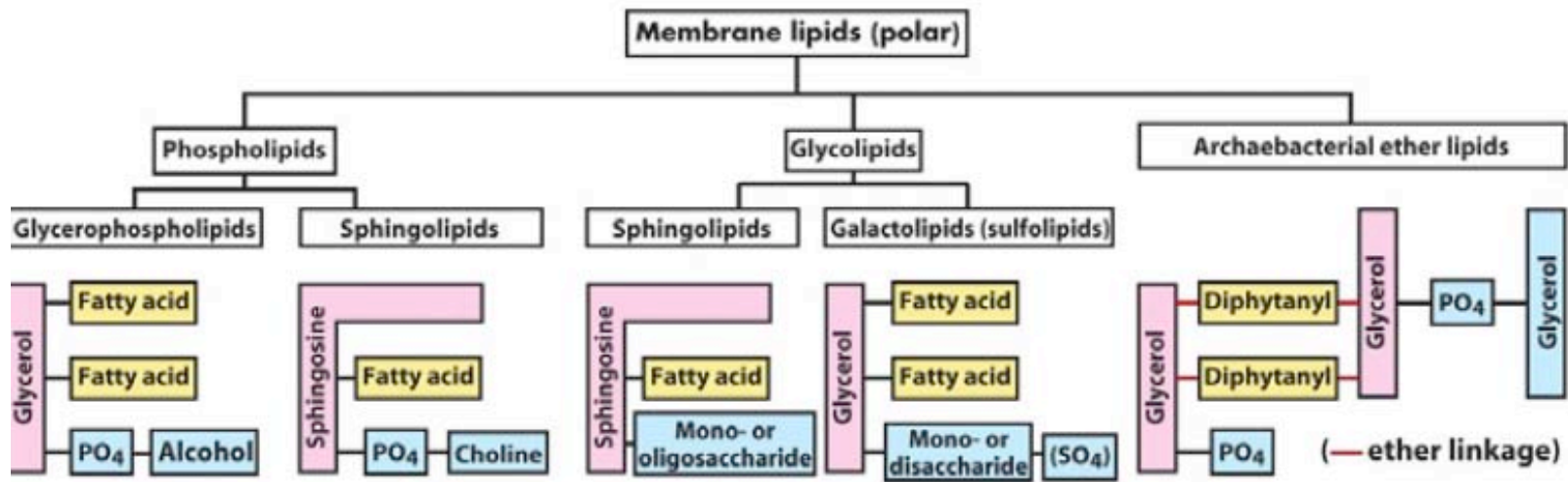
Phospholipids-Sphingolipids



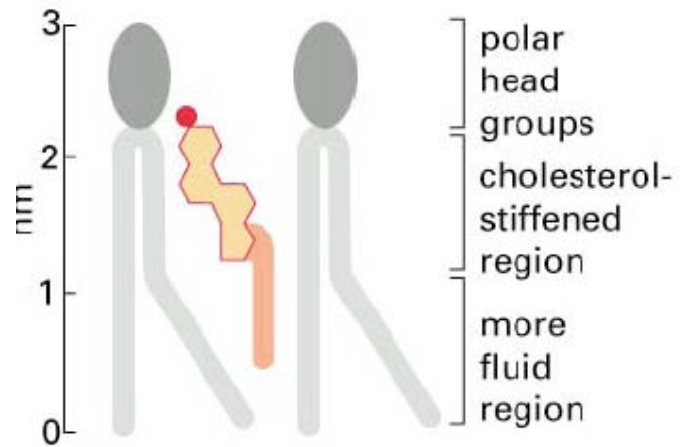
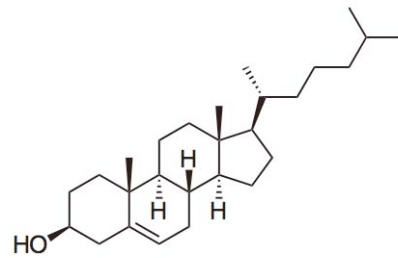
Sphingosine



Sphingomyelin



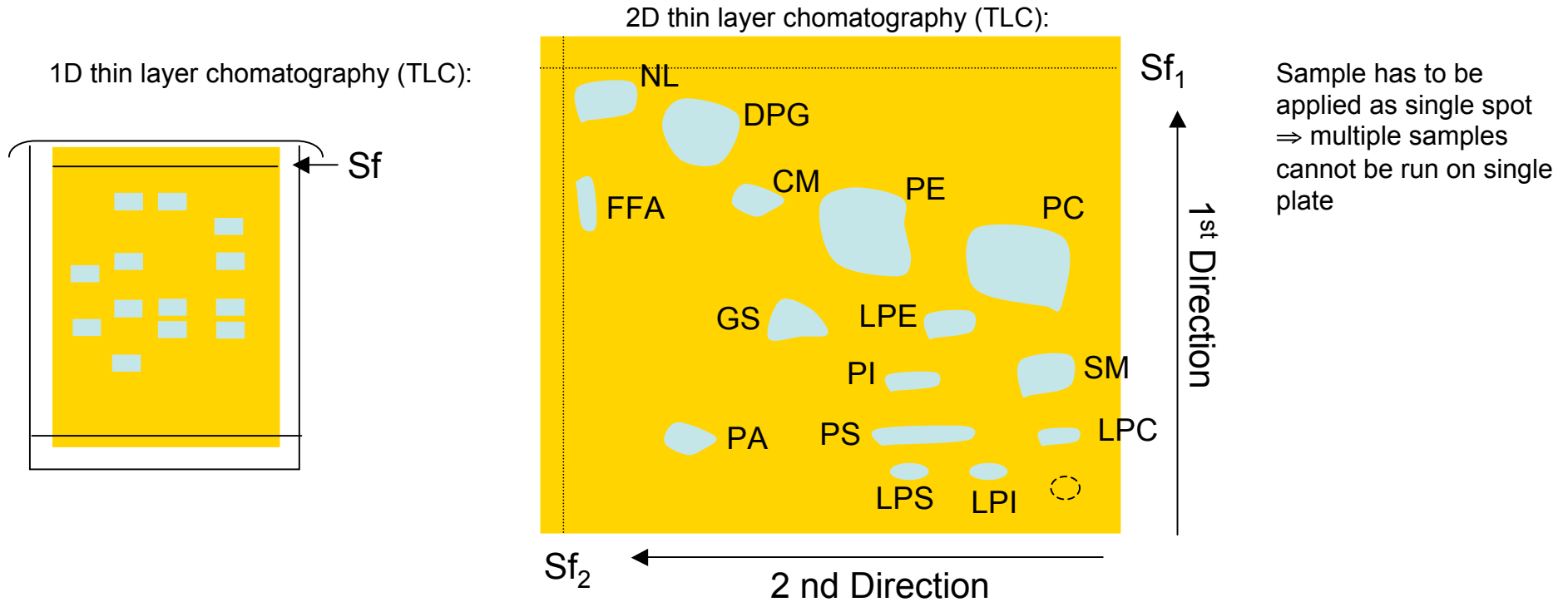
Cholesterol



Lipid extraction from membranes and characterization

Lipid extraction

Lipid separation using Thin Layer Chromatography technique lipids are separated according to polarity



Solvent: chloroform/methanol/30% aq. Ammonia/ water (90:54:5.5:5.5)
 chloroform/methanol/acetone/glacial/acetic acid/water (60:20:80:20:10)

- LPC: Lyso-PC GS: gangliosides
- LPE: Lyso-PE PA: phosphatidic acid
- LPI: Lyso-PI FFA: free fatty acid
- LPS: Lyso-PS CM: ceramide monohexoside
- NL: neutral lipids PI: phosphatidylinositol
- DPG: diphosphatidylglycerol
- SM: sphingomyelin PE: phosphatidylethanolamin
- PS: phosphatidylserine PC: phosphatidylcholine

Lipid polymorphism

Single lipid system can adopt rich variety of liquid-crystalline phase structures by varying water content and/or temperature.

Driven by **HYDROPHOBIC EFFECT**

Cohesive forces between hydrocarbon tails → minimization of hydrocarbon-water contact area

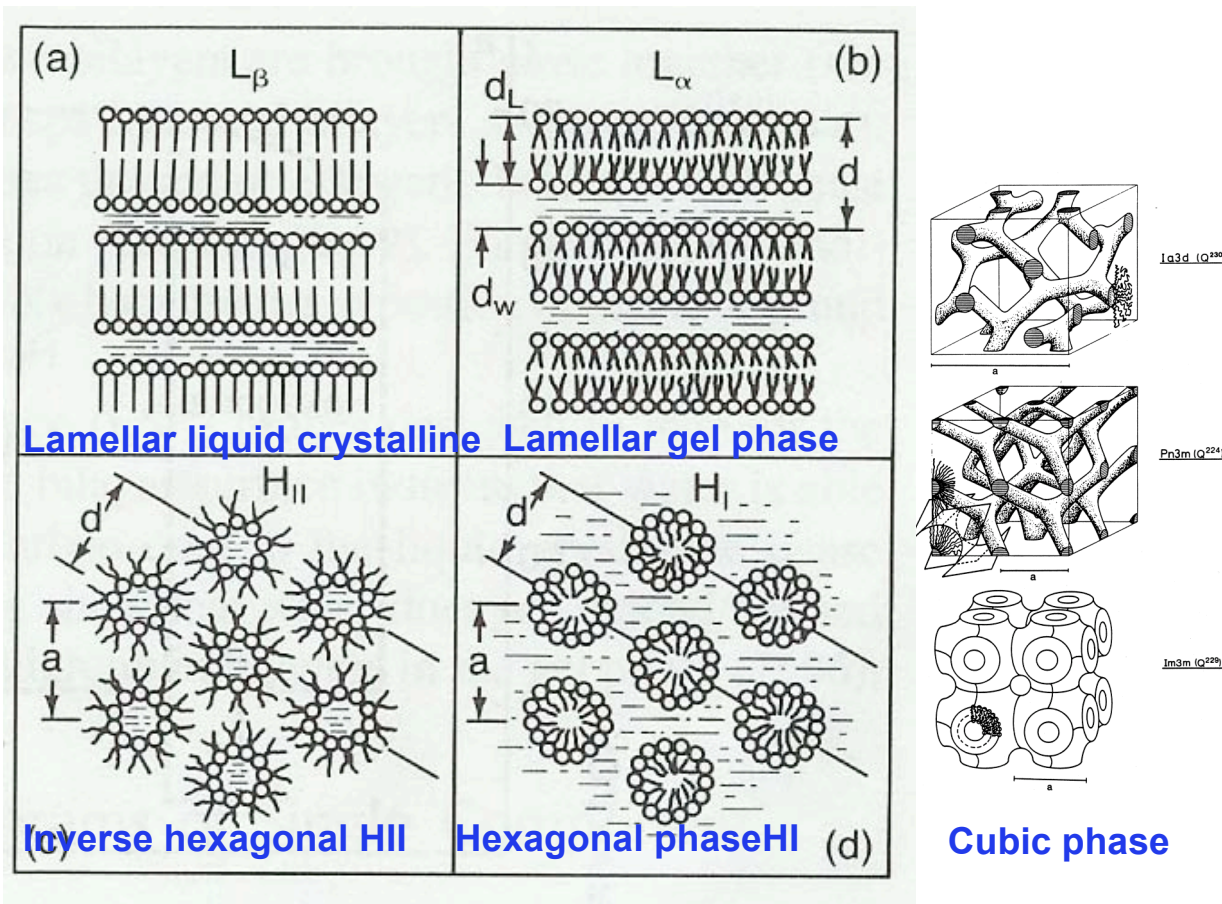
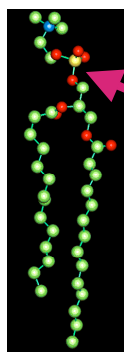


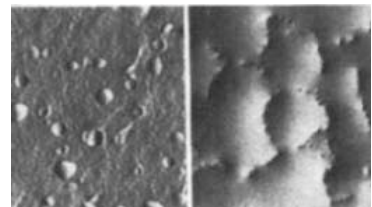
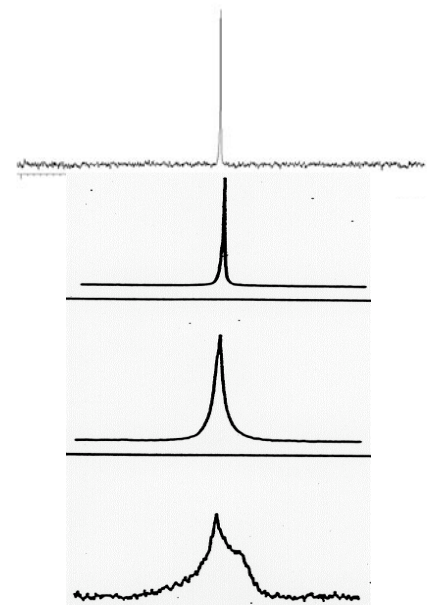
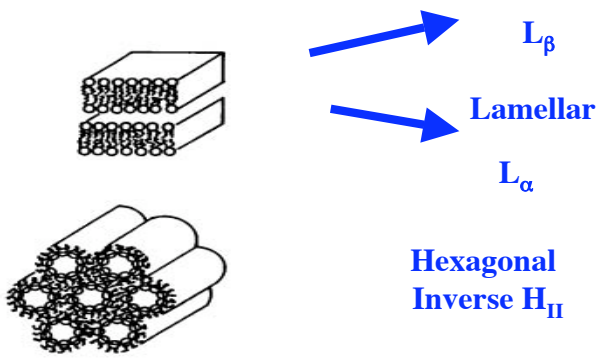
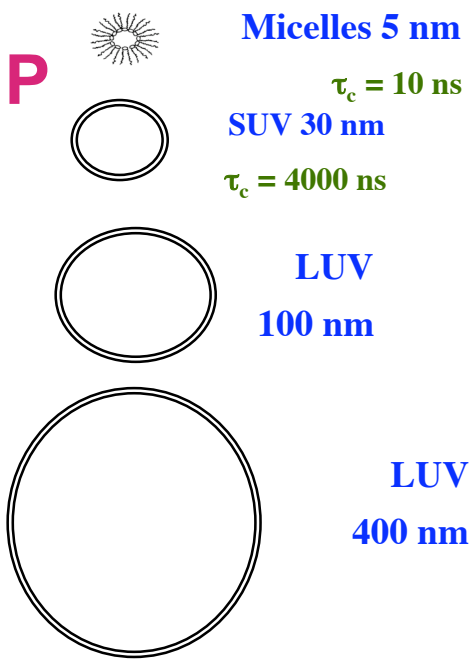
Table 1 Principal Lyotropic Mesophases

Solidlike lamellar phases		
Type	Name	Phase structure
3-D	L_c	3-D crystal
2-D	L_c^{2D} $P_{\beta'}$ P_{δ} B	2-D crystal Rippled gel Ordered ribbon phase Ordered ribbon phase?
1-D	L_{β} $L_{\beta'}$ $L_{\beta I}$ $L_{\alpha\beta}$	Untilted gel Tilted gel Interdigitated gel Partial gel
Fluid phases		
Type	Name	Phase structure
1-D	L_{α}	Fluid lamellar
2-D	H H^c R M	Hexagonal Complex hexagonal Rectangular Oblique
3-D	Q T R O	Cubic Tetragonal Rhomboidal Orthorhombic

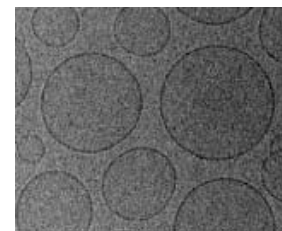
Polymorphism: identification of structures of lipids using ^{31}P -NMR and EM



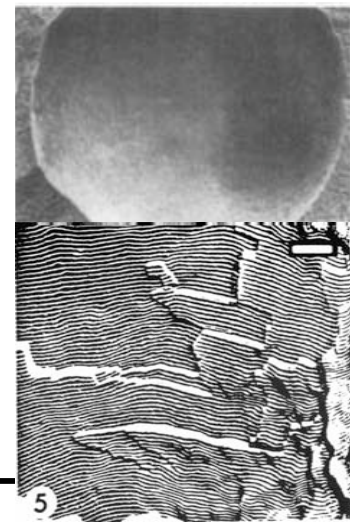
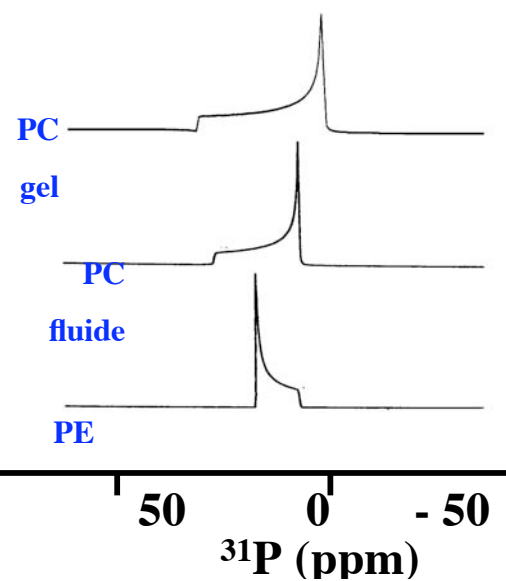
^{31}P



Freeze-fracture



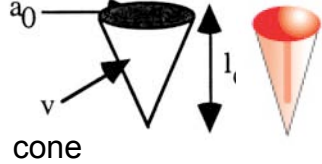


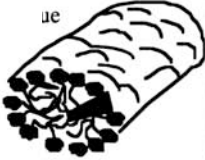

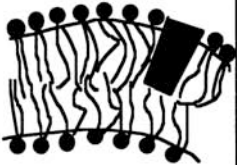
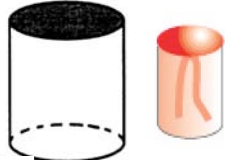
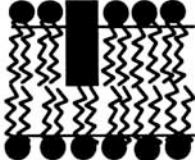
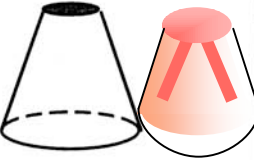
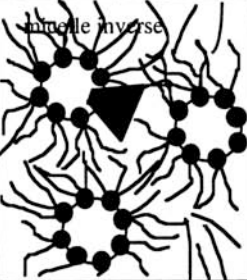
Cryo-EM



Freeze-fracture

5

Phospholipid polymorphic phase preferences

$P = \frac{v}{a_0 l_c}$	Lipid	shape	Phases
<1/3	Detergent with one chain SDS low salt	 <p>cone</p>	
1/3-1/2	Lipid with one chain, small polar head SDS or CTAB high salt ...		
1/2-1	Two chains lipid fluid PC sphingomyelin ...		
1	Two chains lipid small polar head PE		
>1	Unsaturated chains, high Temp cardiolipin plus Ca ²⁺		

micelle

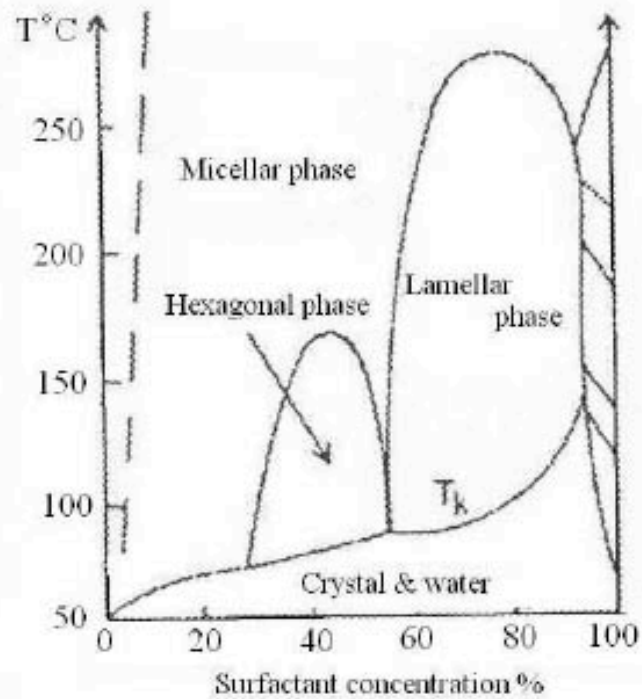
cylindrical micelle

Flexible bilayer vesicle

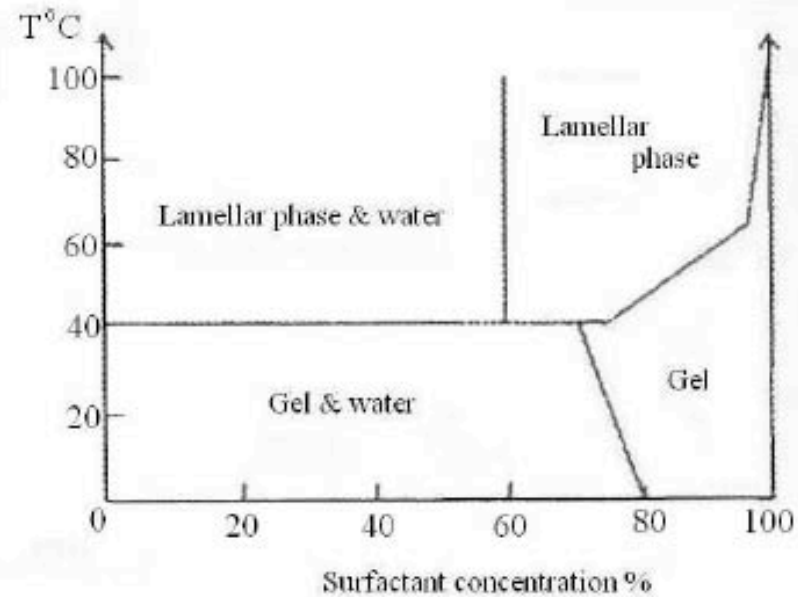
flat bilayer

Inverted micelle

Typical lipid phase diagrams

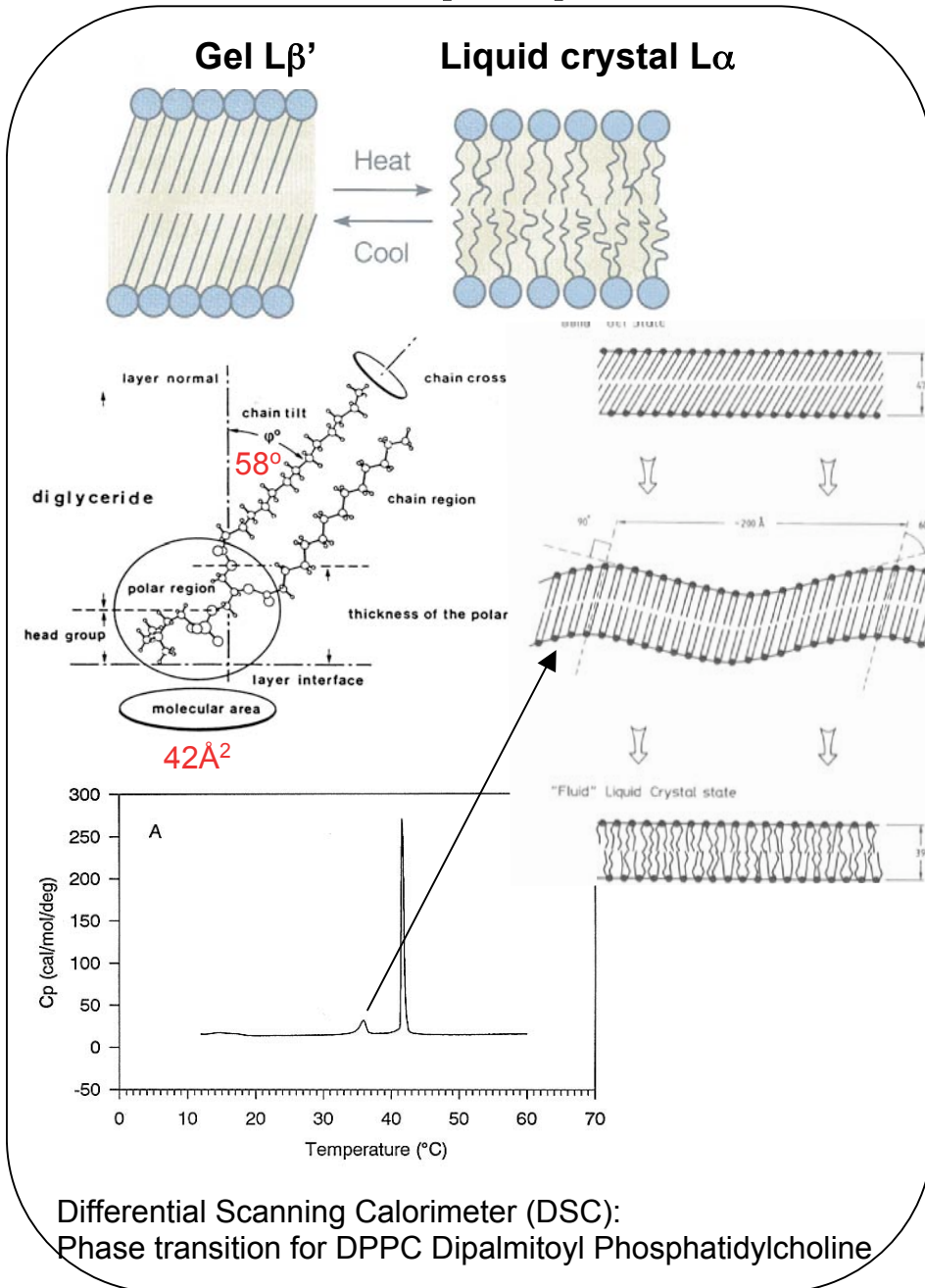


Soluble lipid



Insoluble lipid

Lipid phase transition temperatures



Phase transition temperatures for glycerophospholipids

T_m increases with increased tail length

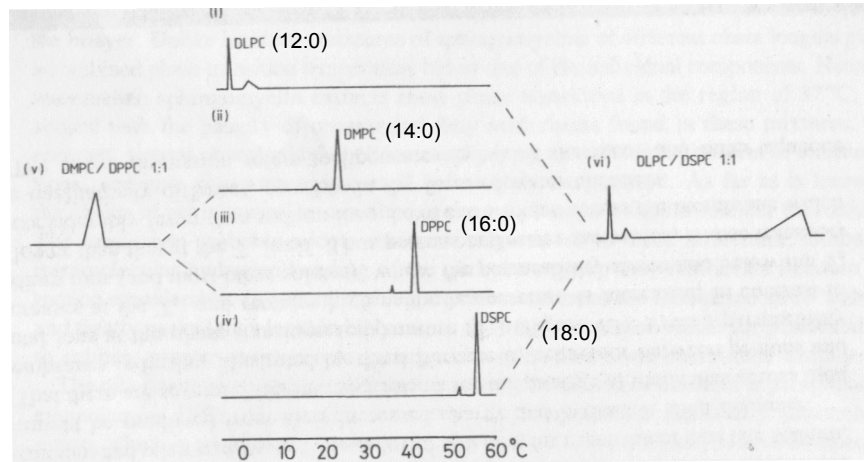
T_m decreases with increased double bonds

T_m decreases with increasing head size

Phosphatidylcholine		Phosphatidylglycerol (Sodium Salt)		
Product	T_m °C	Product	T_m °C	
12:0 PC	-1	12:0 PG	-3	
13:0 PC	14	14:0 PG	23	
14:0 PC	23	16:0 PG	41	
15:0 PC	33	18:0 PG	55	
16:0 PC	41	18:1 PG	-18	
17:0 PC	48	16:0-18:1 PG	-2	
18:0 PC	55	Phosphatidylserine (Sodium Salt)		
19:0 PC	60	14:0 PS	35	
20:0 PC	66	16:0 PS	54	
21:0 PC	72	18:0 PS	68	
22:0 PC	75	18:1 PS	-11	
23:0 PC	79	16:0-18:1 PS	14	
24:0 PC	80	Phosphatidic Acid (Sodium Salt)		
16:1 PC	-36	12:0 PA	31	
18:1c9 PC	-20	14:0 PA	50	
18:1t9 PC	12	16:0 PA	67	
18:1c6 PC	1	18:0 PA	75	
18:2 PC	-53	18:1 PA	-8	
18:3 PC	-60	16:0-18:1 PA	28	
20:4 PC	-70	Phosphatidylethanolamine		
14:0-16:0 PC	35		T_m °C	T_h °C
14:0-18:0 PC	40	12:0 PE	29	
16:0-14:0 PC	27	14:0 PE	50	
16:0-18:0 PC	49	16:0 PE	63	118
16:0-18:1 PC	-2	18:0 PE	74	100
16:0-22:6 PC	-27	20:0 PE	83	96
18:0-14:0 PC	30	18:1c9 PE	-16	10
18:0-16:0 PC	44	18:1t9 PE	38	64
18:0-18:1 PC	6	18:2 PE	-40	-15
18:1-16:0 PC	-9	18:3 PE		-30
18:1-18:0 PC	9	16:0-18:1 PE	25	71

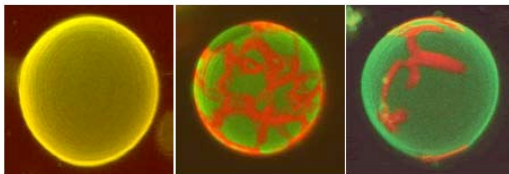
Phase transition of mixture of lipids

Microcalorimetry curves showing phase transitions of membranes containing single components or mixtures of phospholipids



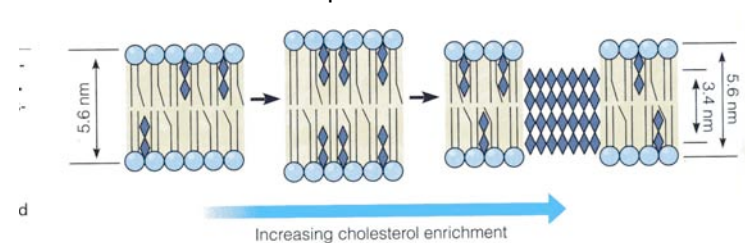
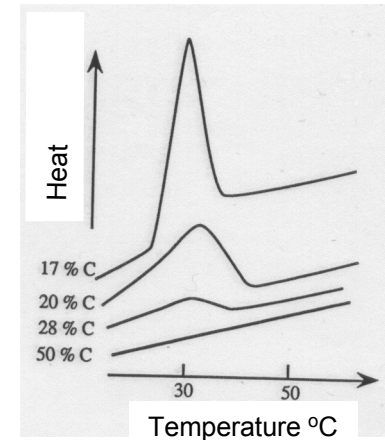
If the T_m of the individual lipids are close to each other
 -> Single phase transition

If the T_m of the individual lipids differ greatly from each other
 -> Lipids will undergo phase transition independently from each other
 Non ideal mixing, Separation of phases



Phase separation visualized using giant unilamellar vesicle and confocal microscopy

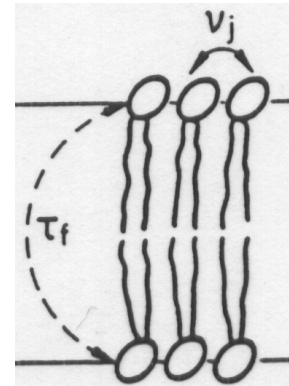
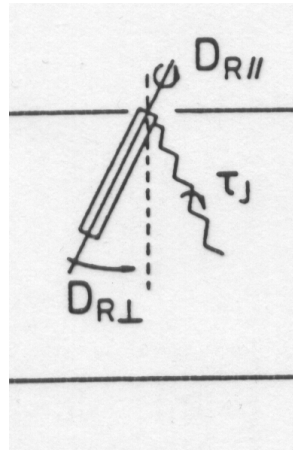
Influence of Cholesterol on phase transition



- Cholesterol has a little effect of the position of the phase transition
- Cholesterol is able to abolish completely the heat of transition
- At low temp, rigid cholesterol destabilizes gel phase by disrupting efficient tail packing
- At high temp, cholesterol destabilizes liquid crystal by decreasing motional freedom

Mobility of lipids

Rotation



Flip-flop

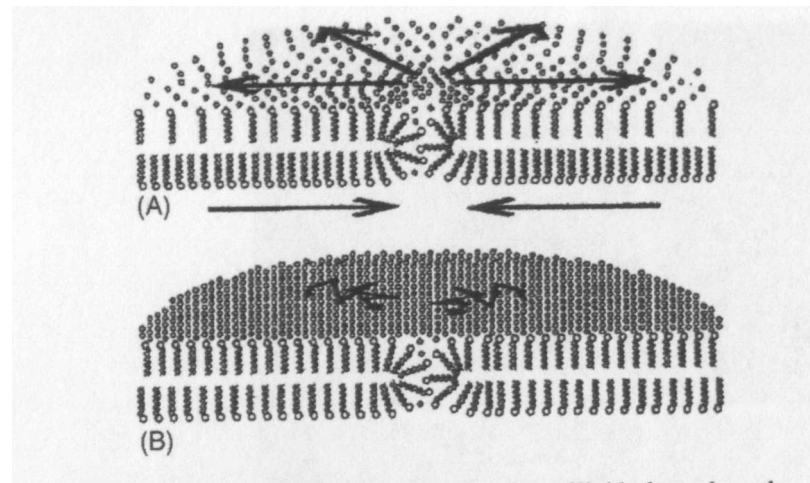
Motional modes of the lipid molecules in a biological membranes

D_T (cm ² sec ⁻¹)	D_R parallel (sec ⁻¹)	D_R perpend (sec ⁻¹)	Flip-flop half time
Liquid crystal: 10^{-7} Gel phase: 10^{-11}	10^9	10^9	DOPC > 11days Lyso PC 100 hr PA 30-40 mins

An example of lipid mobility: transitory formation of pores in giant unilamellar vesicles

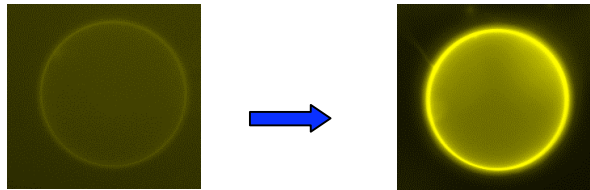
In a biological membrane, there are fluctuations in local curvature, thickness, and sometimes mismatch between the tension in 2 monolayers. These local defects are points of lipid flip-flop.

Small pores can form temporarily that allow the membrane to relax the mismatch by a local flow of lipids from the more constrained surface to the less constrained surface of the membrane.

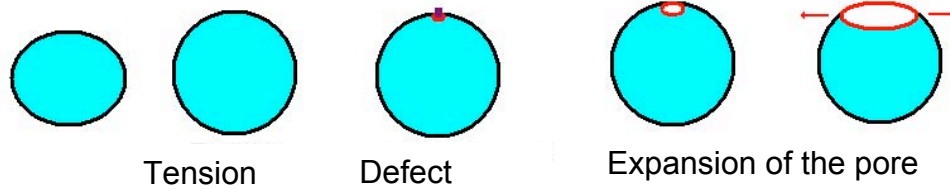
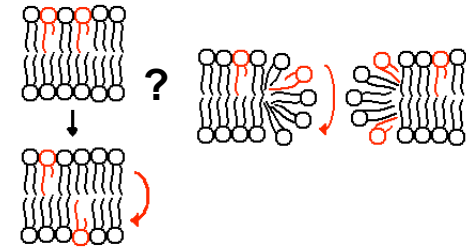
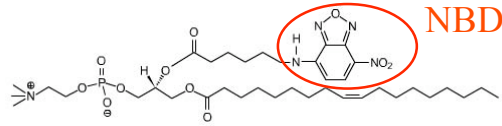


Model assuming that the translocation of lipids depends on the formation of defects forming transient pores and on the route at which a lipid diffuses to the defect site

An example of lipid mobility: transitory formation of pores in giant unilamellar vesicles

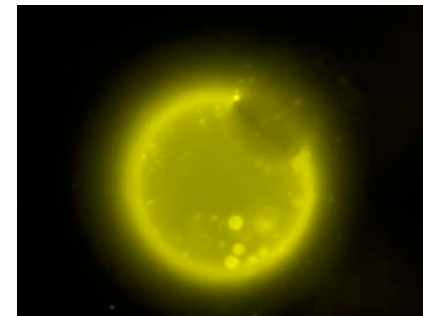


Insertion C6NBD-PC in DOPC GUV



GUV is emptied, the pore closes

Model for the pore formation



N. Rodriguez
S. Cribier
P. Devaux
IBPC, Paris

References

General Texts

Any general biochemical text will have most of this information but the following have good descriptions.

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- Molecular biology of the cell B. Alberts, A. Johnson, J. Lewis, M. Raff, K. Roberts and P. Walter. (2002).. Chapter 10.
- Biochemistry. J. M. Berg, J. L. Tymoczko and L. Stryer. (2002). Chapter 12
- Molecular Cell Biology. H. Lodish, A. Berk, L. Zipursky, P. Matsudaira, D. Baltimore and J. Darnell. (1999). Chapter 5

More advanced/specialist references

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