

# **EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECT OF MACROMOLECULAR CROWDING ON PROTEIN CONFORMATION**

Josef HAMACEK, Francesco PIAZZA,  
Claire MADELEINE-PERDRILLAT, Salvatore MAGAZU

*Center of Molecular Biophysics CNRS / University of Orléans, Rue  
Charles Sadron, 45071 Orléans Cedex 2, France*



*Warsaw, March 2018*



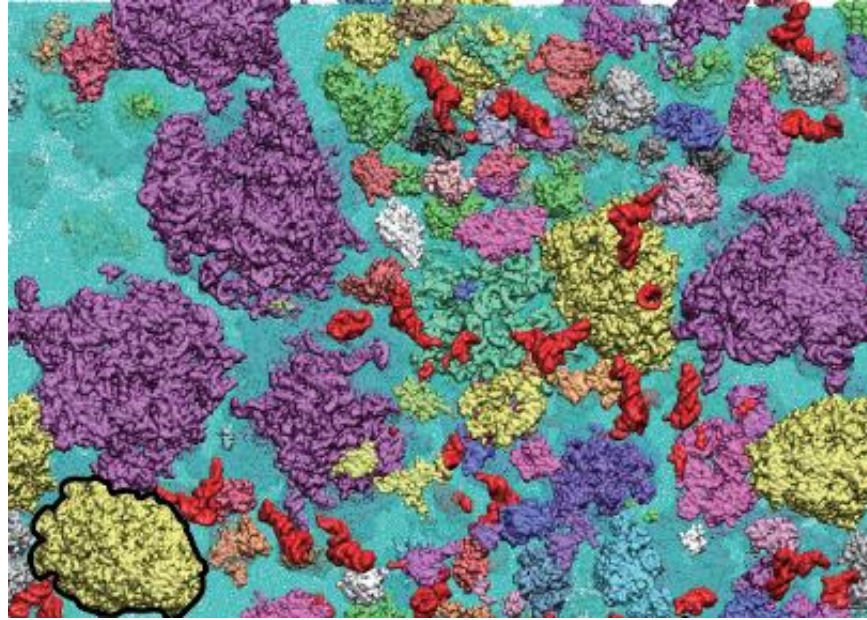


## CBM – Center for Molecular Biophysics (CNRS)





# Crowded Media and Living Systems



- High concentrations of different macromolecules (excluded volume)
- Limited diffusion to reaction centres, impact on kinetics

## Aims:

- Evaluate enzymatic activity in artificial media models
- Understand dynamic behaviour and excluded volume effects

# Characterisation of Reaction Systems

- “Crowding” medium - sugar-derived molecules and polymers

Concentration, density, viscosity, solution structure

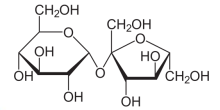
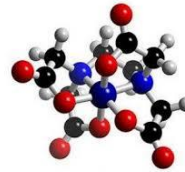
- Active components – substrate, enzyme, product(s)

Concentration, activity, diffusion, conformation

- Self-organisation

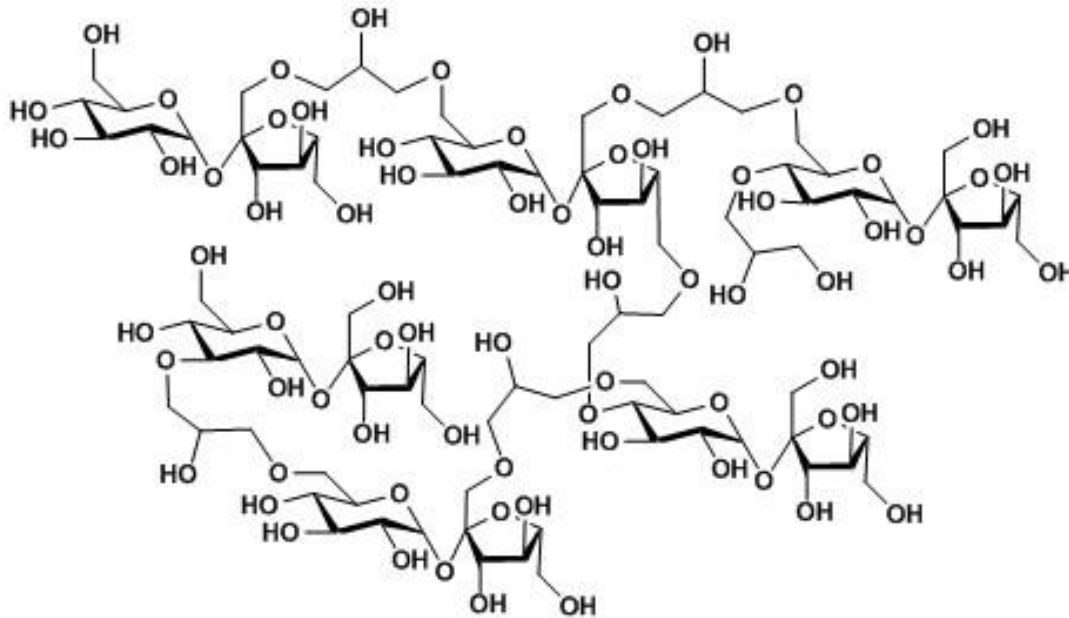
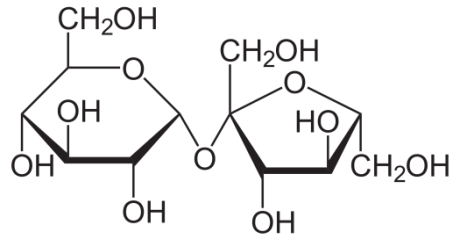
Specific and nonspecific interactions in solution

# Investigating Dynamics and Structure



- DLS
- SAXS / SANS
- Optical spectroscopy (IR, Raman, fluorescence)
- NMR spectroscopy
- Other methods

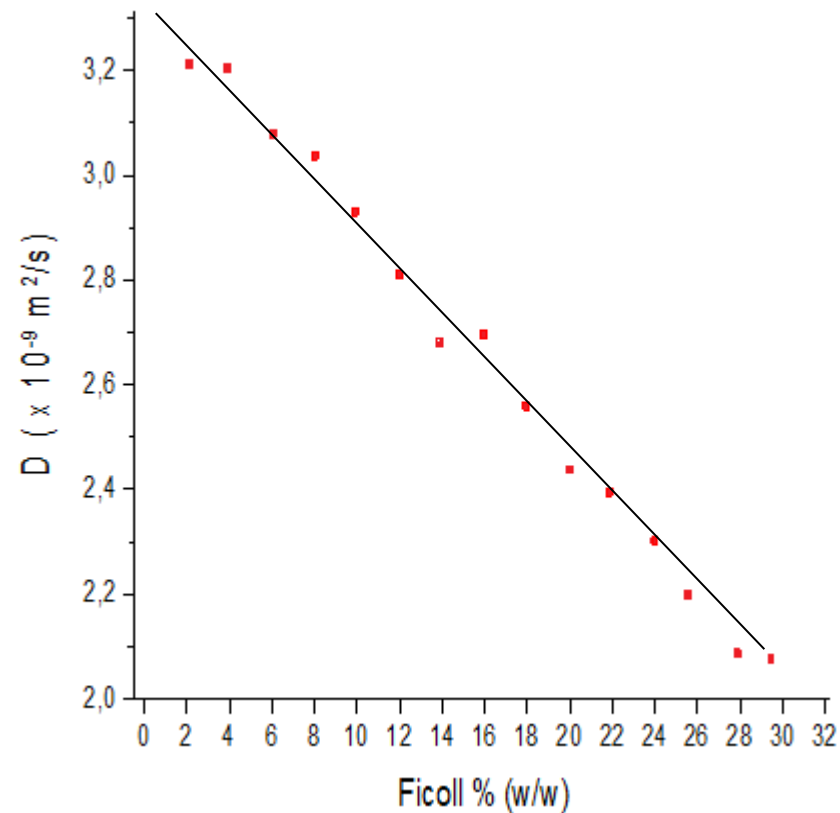
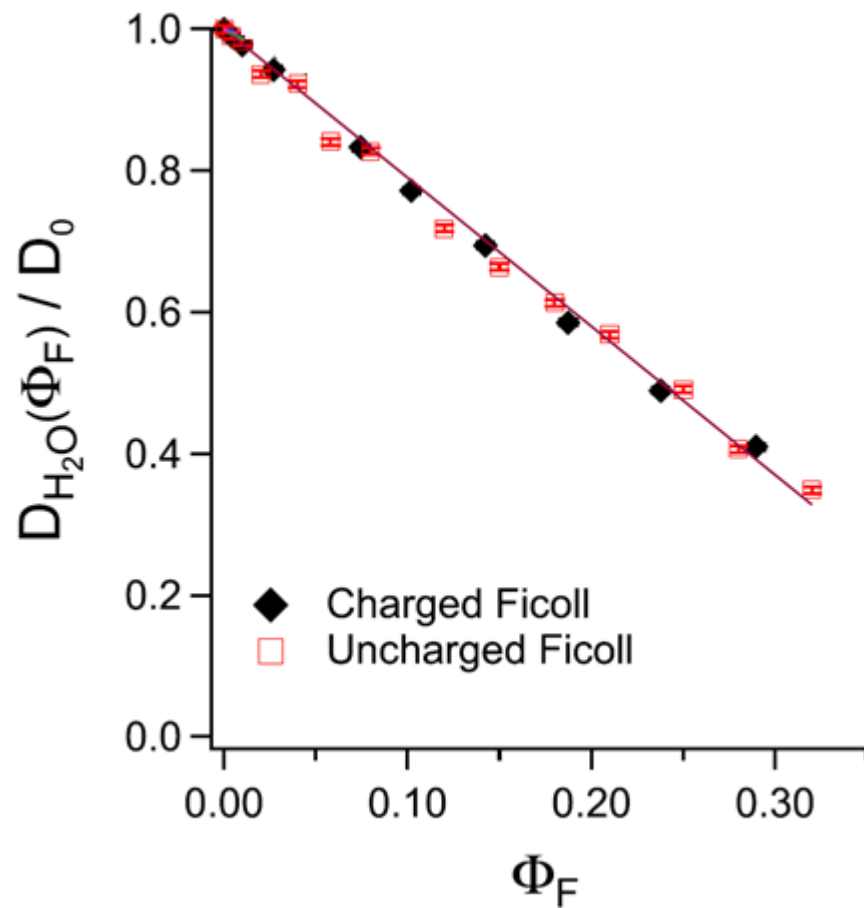
# Ficoll 70



~ 70 kDa

- Sucrose branched polymer, uncharged, relatively inert
- Supposed spherical structure (5.1 Å)

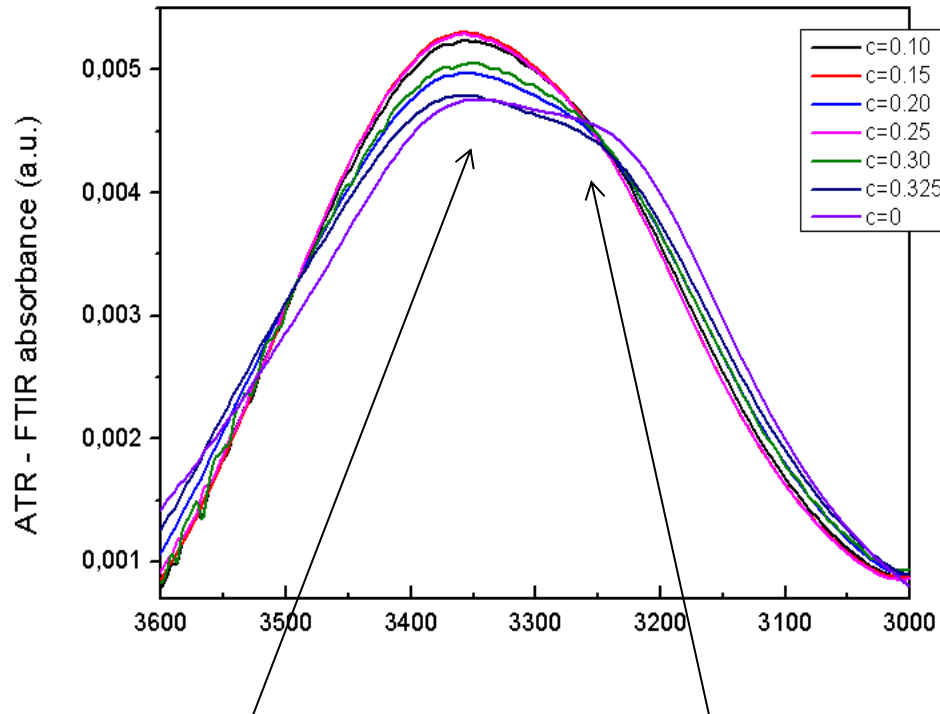
# Diffusion of Water in Ficoll 70



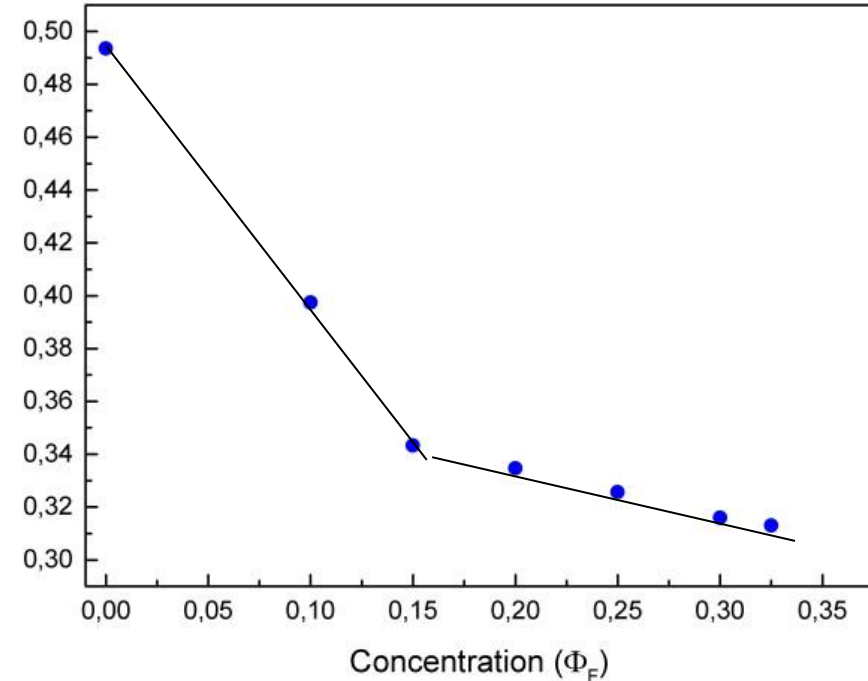
S. Palit, A. Yethiraj, *J. Chem. Phys.*, 149, **2017**

# Infrared Spectra of H<sub>2</sub>O in Ficoll 70

OH-stretching band



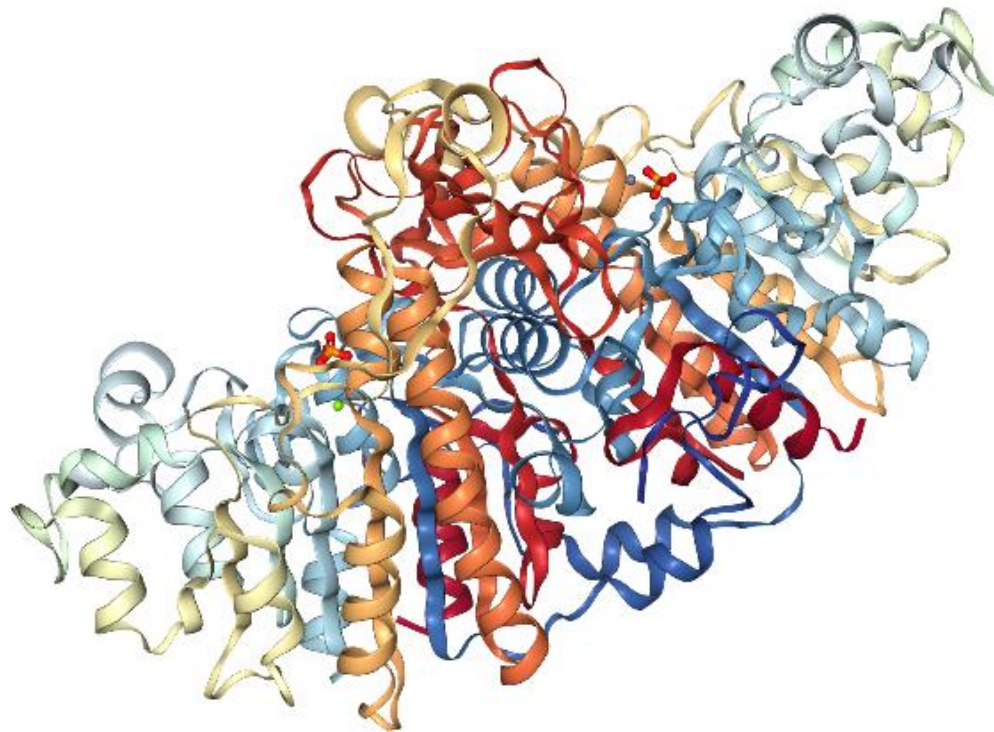
bulk water + H-bonded water



- Apparent break at 10-15 % of F70
- Fraction of bulk water significantly decreases
- Structural rearrangement in the F70 matrix



# Alcaline Phosphatase



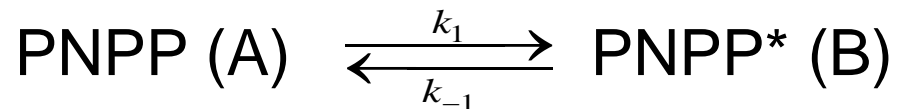
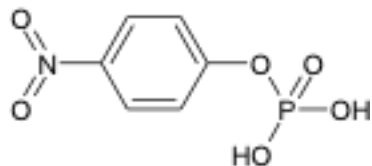
~160 kDa

$R_{cr} \sim 31 \text{ \AA}$

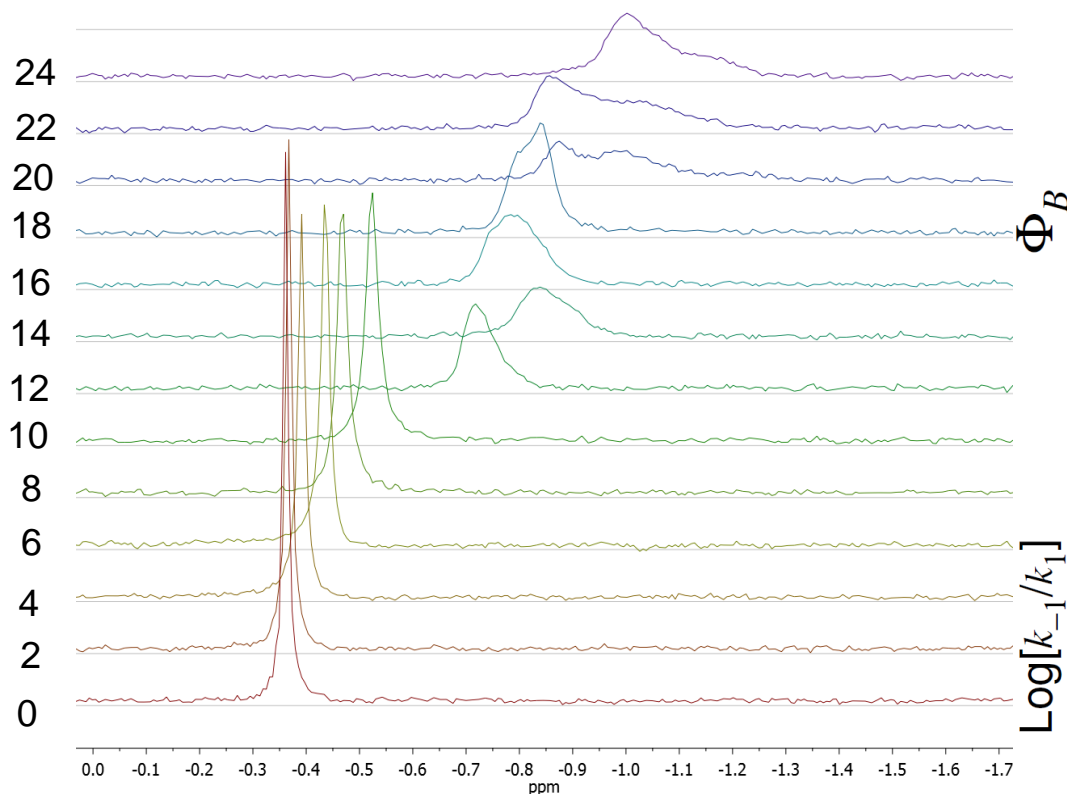
- Dimeric membrane-derived glycoprotein
- Dephosphorylation of proteins or DNA/RNA
- BIOSAXS (SOLEIL) with sucrose and sorbitol:  $R_{SAXS} \sim 31(2) \text{ \AA}$

# <sup>31</sup>P NMR Investigations

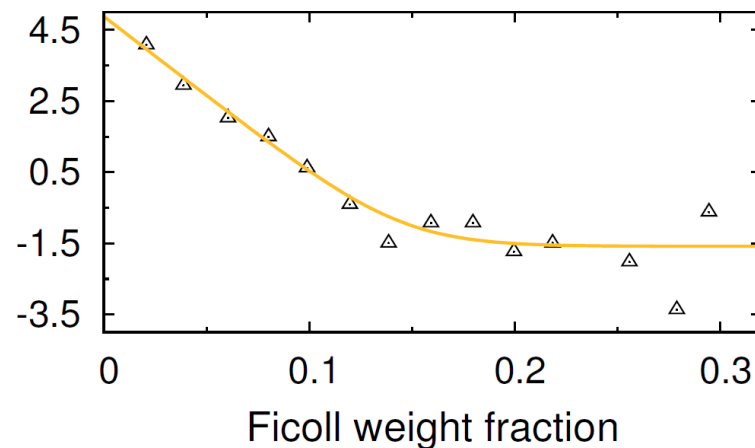
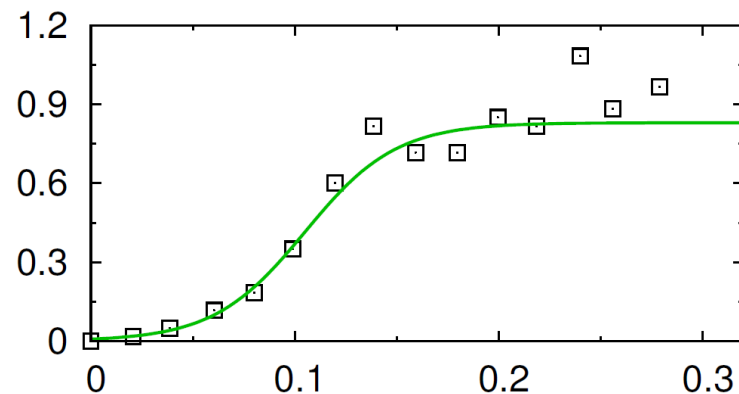
- PNPP in Ficoll 70 media



$$k_{ex} = k_1 + k_{-1} = \pi \Delta\nu_0^2 / 2((W_{1/2})_e - (W_{1/2})_o)$$

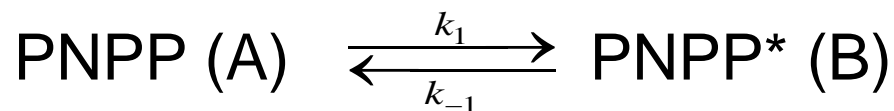


Bruker Avance 400 MHz, 310K

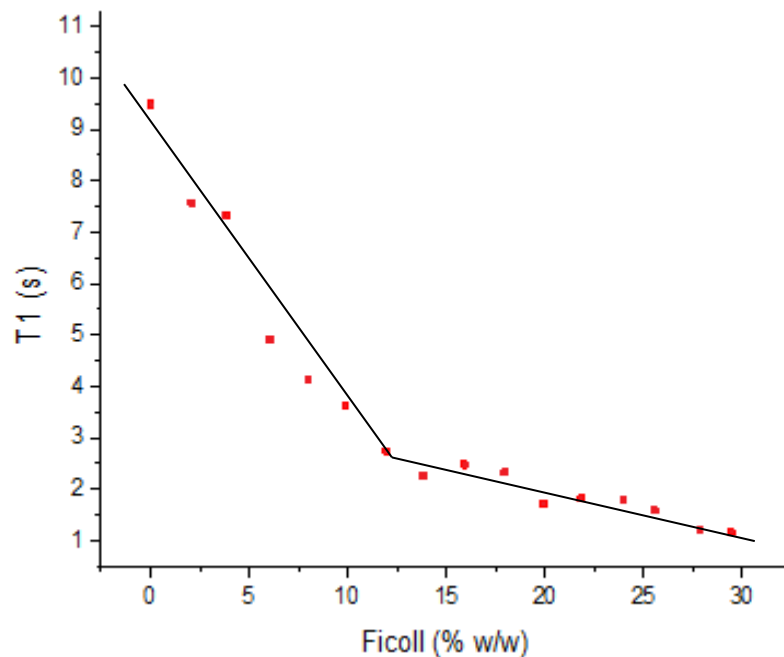


Ficoll weight fraction

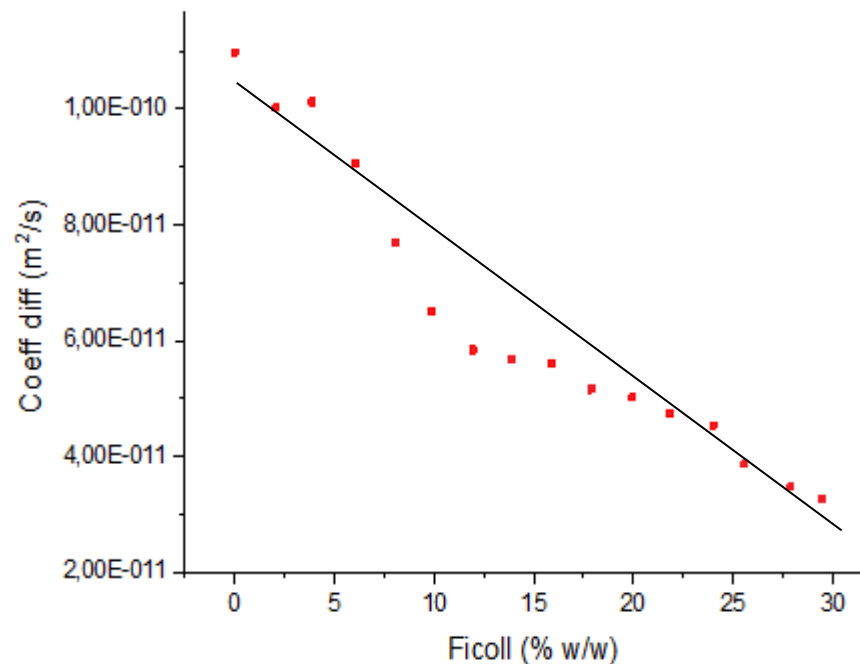
# $^{31}\text{P}$ NMR Investigations



- T1 Relaxation



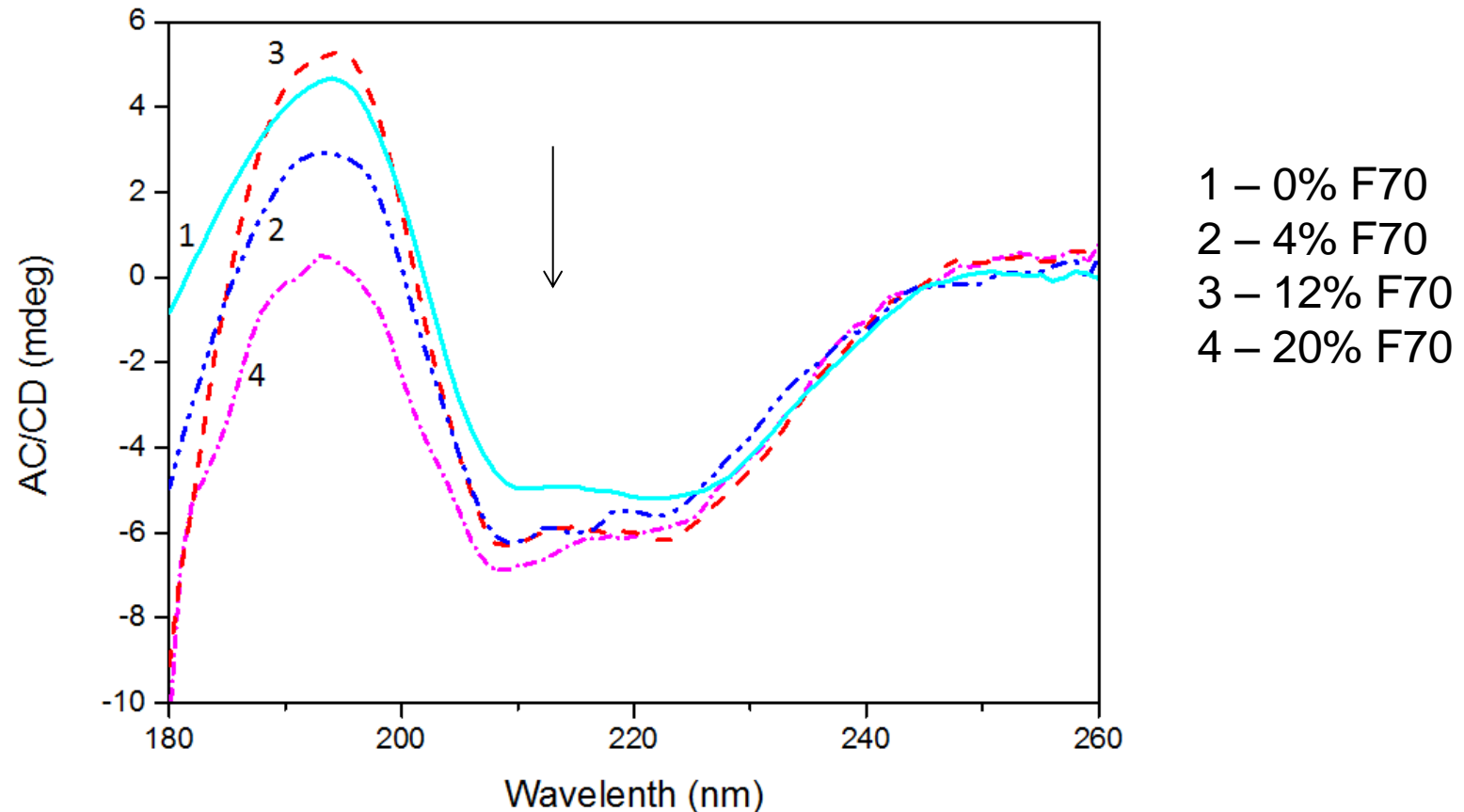
- DOSY



- NMR confirm the Ficoll rearrangement observed in IR

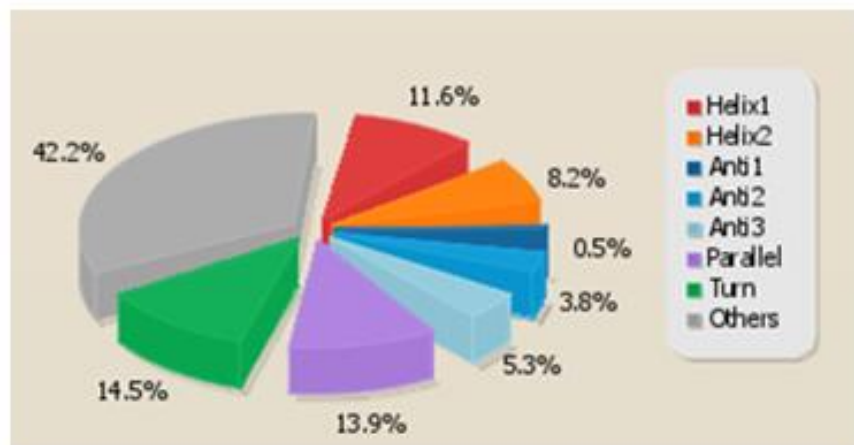
# Synchrotron Radiation Circular Dichroism (SRCD)

- Synchrotron SOLEIL, DISCO beamline (Gif-sur-Yvette, France), Dr Franck Wien
- Alkaline phosphatase in Ficoll 70 (3 mg/ml)

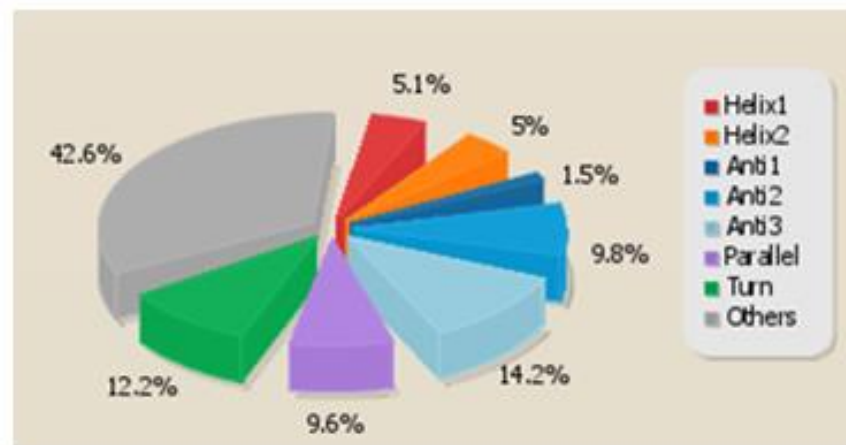


# Synchrotron Radiation Circular Dichroism (SRCD)

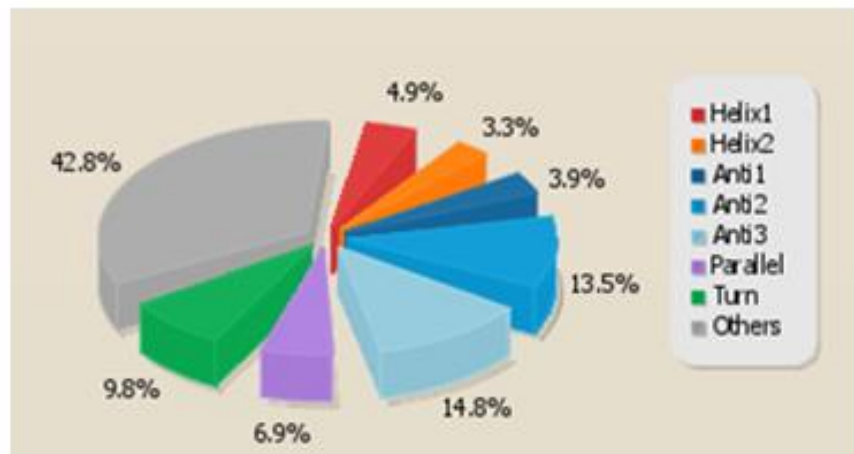
- BeStSel Algorithm (*Micsonai et al. PNAS 112:E3095-103 (2015)*)



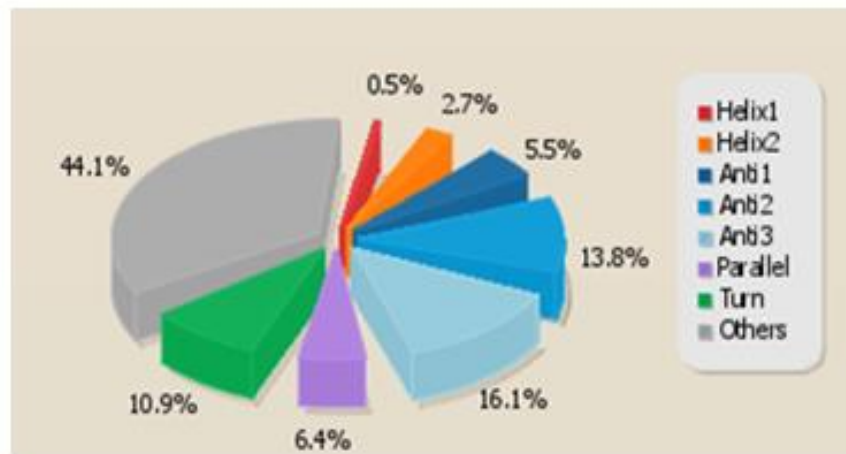
Alkaline phosphatase in solution of buffer without ficoll



Alkaline phosphatase in solution of buffer with 4% ficoll



Alkaline phosphatase in solution of buffer with 12% ficoll



Alkaline phosphatase in solution of buffer with 20% ficoll



# Conclusions

- Combination of biophysical approaches for a better fundamental understanding of crowding effects
- Correlation of experiments with theoretical models and simulations
- Parameterization for kinetics studies (see Poster 22)
- Rational predictions and design for applications in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and medicine

# Acknowledgement

## *CBM Orléans*

Pr Francesco Piazza, Poster No. 22

Pr Salvatore Magazu

Dr Claire Madelaine-Perdrillat

Dr Sandrine Villette

Sandra Henri



## *Synchrotron Soleil and ILL Grenoble*

Dr Javier Perez

Dr Franck Wien

Dr Viviana Cristiglio

