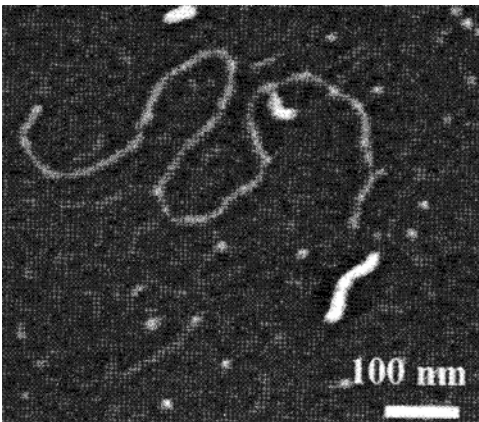


# The physical characterisation of polysaccharides in solution



**Stephen Harding**  
**University of Nottingham**

# The physical characterisation of polysaccharides in solution



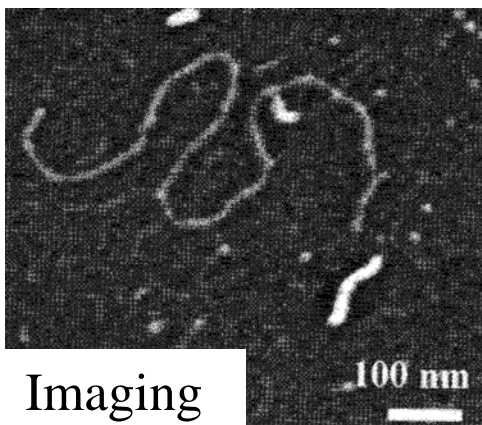
Viscometry



SEC-MALLS



Analytical  
Ultracentrifugation



Imaging

**Stephen Harding**  
**University of Nottingham**

LA RINASCITA  
DELLA  
ULTRACENTRIFUGA ANALITICA

Dr. Steve E. Harding  
University of Nottingham  
Laboratorio di Biochimica Fisica

Akademie der Wissenschaften der DDR

Zentralinstitut für Molekularbiologie

DIE ANALYTISCHE ULTRAZENTRIFUGE SPIEGELT WIEDER

S.E. Harding

Universität Nottingham

LUNDS UNIVERSITET  
Institutionen för Medicin  
och Fysiologi, Lund



UNIVERSITY OF LUND  
Department of Physiological Chemistry

Meddelande om föreläsning den  
14:e maj, 10.00:

"Pånyttfödelse av den  
analytiska ultracentrifugen"

av

Dr. S.E. Harding

Föreläsningssal 3

Akademie der Wissenschaften der DDR

*Lehrstuhl für Molekularbiologie*

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Föreläsningssal 3

# Physical characterisation

1. Viscosity, stability
2. Heterogeneity, Molecular weight & distribution, stability
3. Conformation in solution
4. Interactions

# Physical characterisation

1. Viscosity, stability
2. Heterogeneity, Molecular weight & distribution
3. Conformation in solution
4. Interactions

1: Viscometry. 2: SEC-MALLs & analytical ultracentrifugation.  
3: Viscometry, SEC-MALLs & analytical ultracentrifugation. 4.  
Analytical ultracentrifugation & atomic force microscopy

# **1. Viscosity from precision viscometry**



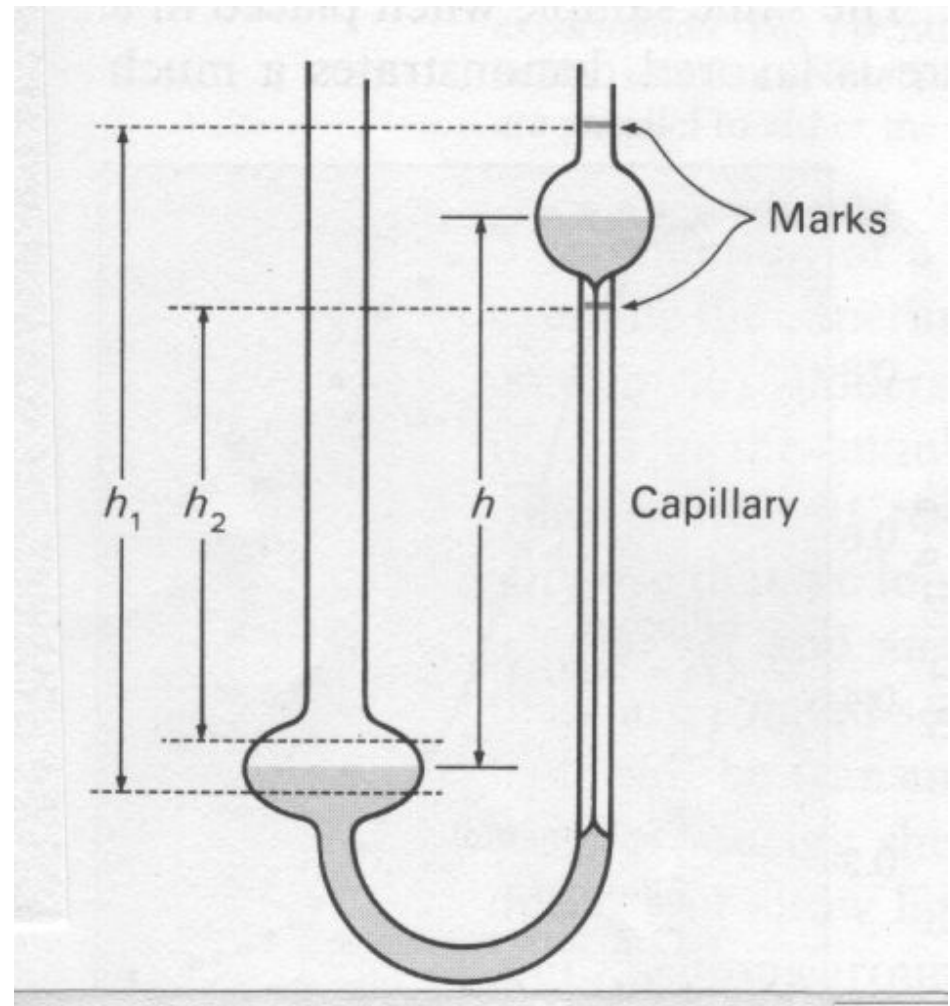
# 1. Viscosity by Precision viscometry



⇒  $[\eta]$

*Intrinsic viscosity, ml/g*

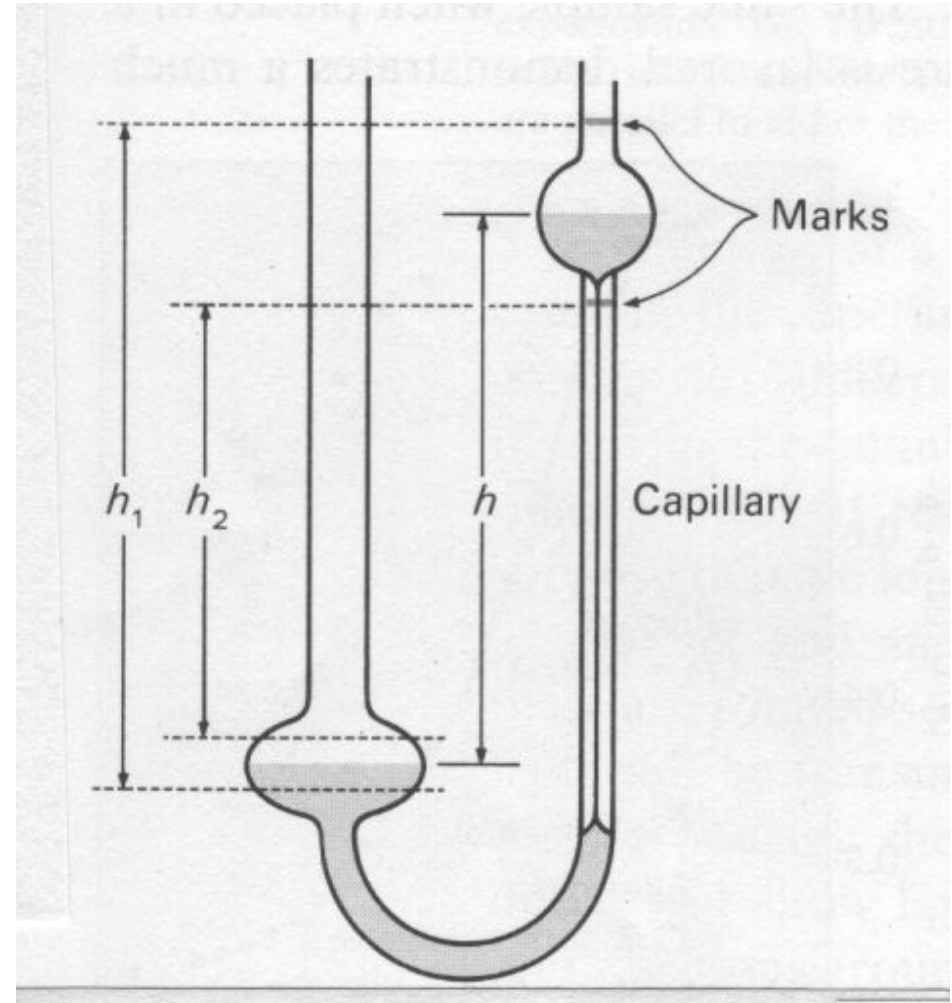
# Types of Viscometer:



*Ostwald Viscometer*

# Types of Viscometer:

1. “U-tube” (Ostwald or Ubbelohde)

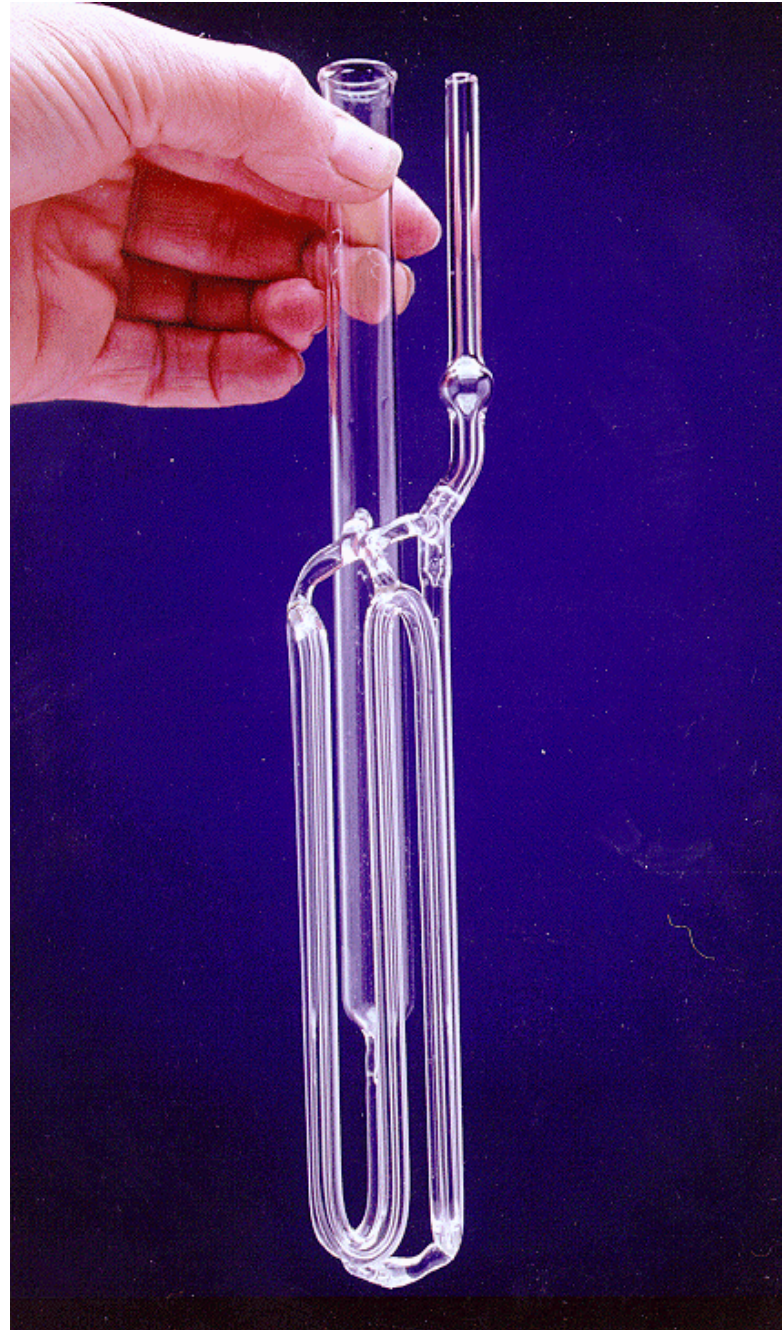


*Ostwald Viscometer*

# Types of Viscometer:

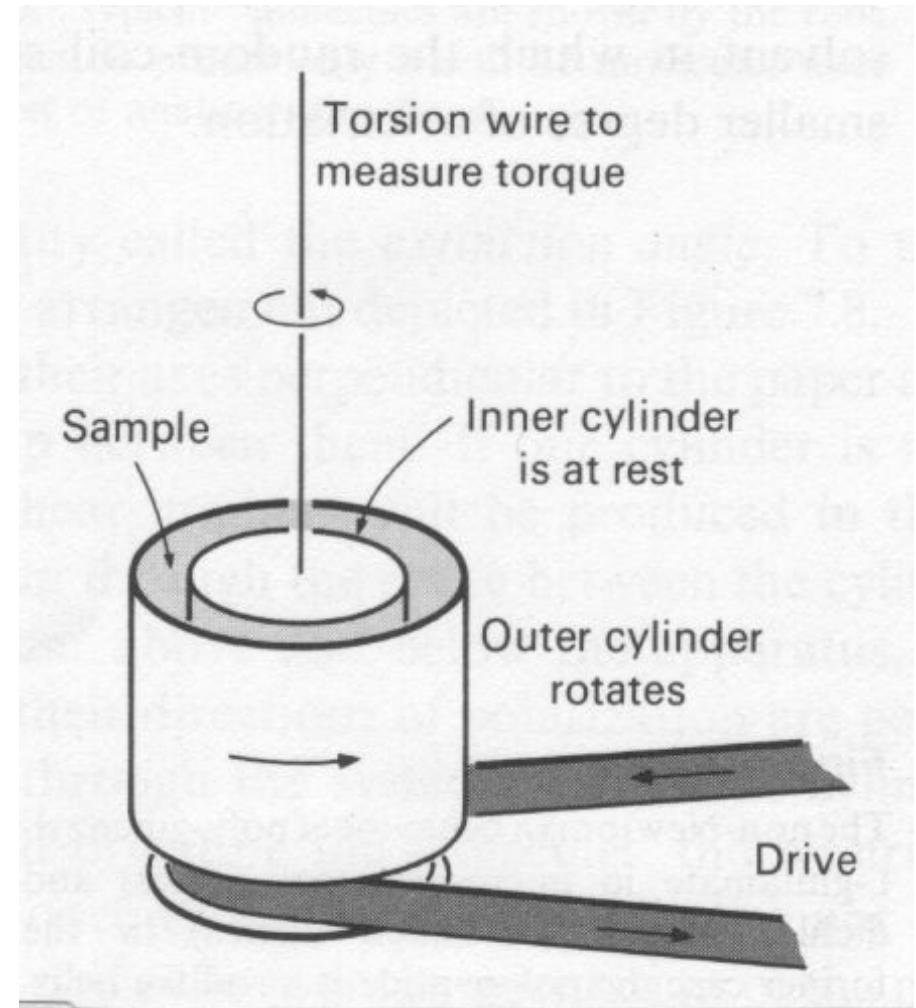
1. “U-tube” (Ostwald or Ubbelohde)

*Extended Ostwald Viscometer*



## Types of Viscometer:

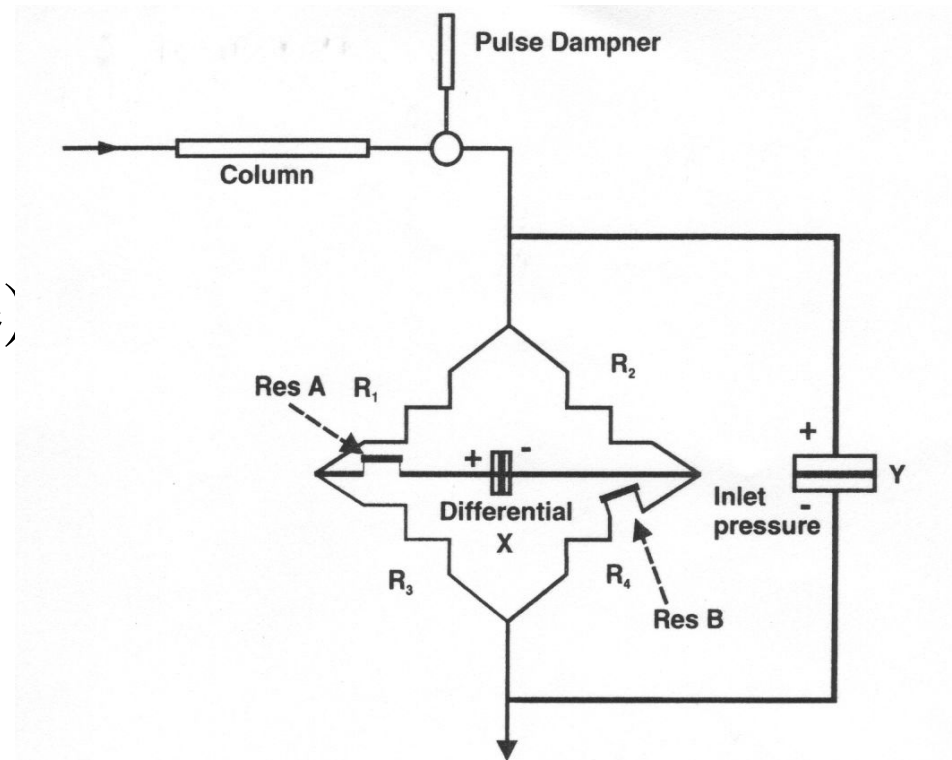
1. “U-tube” (Ostwald or Ubbelohde)
2. “Cone & Plate” (Couette)



*Couette-type Viscometer*

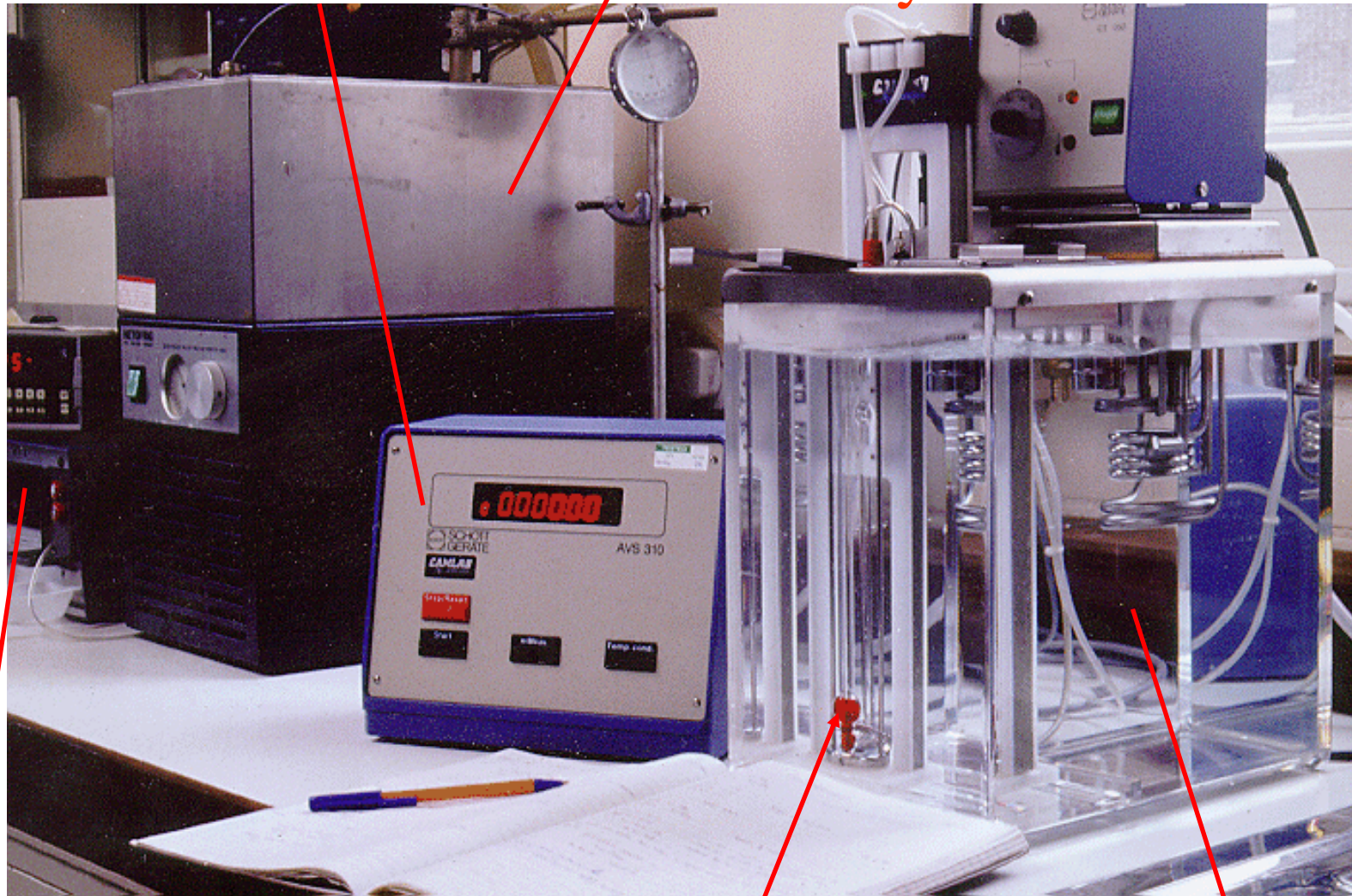
# Types of Viscometer:

1. “U-tube” (Ostwald or Ubbelohde)
2. “Cone & Plate” (Couette)
3. Pressure imbalance on-line viscometer



Auto-timer

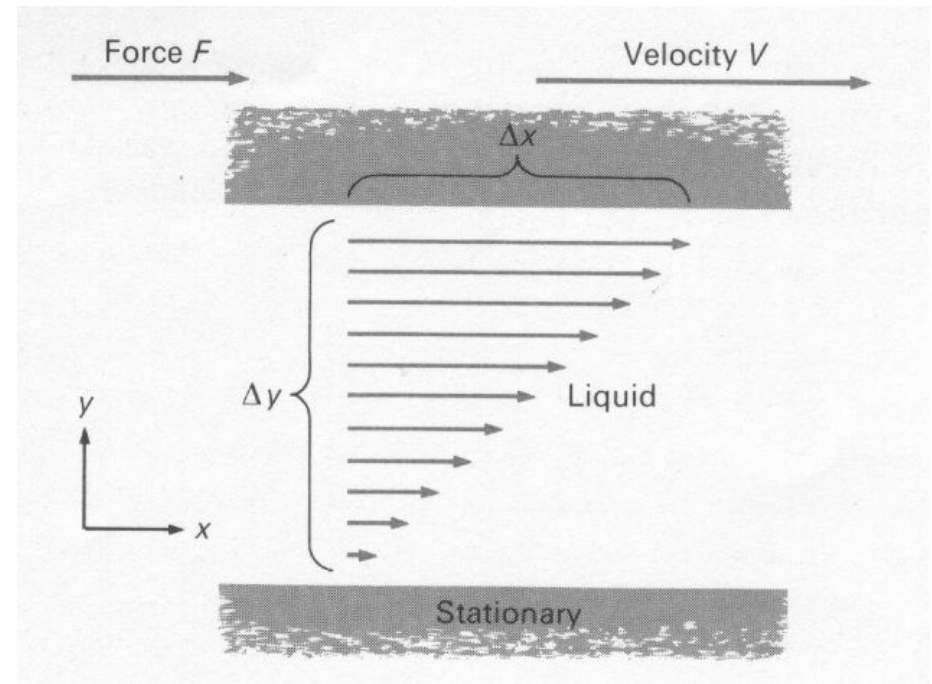
Coolant system



Density meter

Solution

Water bath  $\pm$   
0.01°C



## Definition of viscosity:

For normal (Newtonian) flow behaviour:

$$\tau = (F/A) = \eta \cdot (dv/dy)$$

viscosity      shear rate

shear  
stress

$$\eta = \tau / (dv/dy)$$

units:  $(\text{dyn}/\text{cm}^2)/\text{sec}^{-1}$

=  $\text{dyn} \cdot \text{sec} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ .

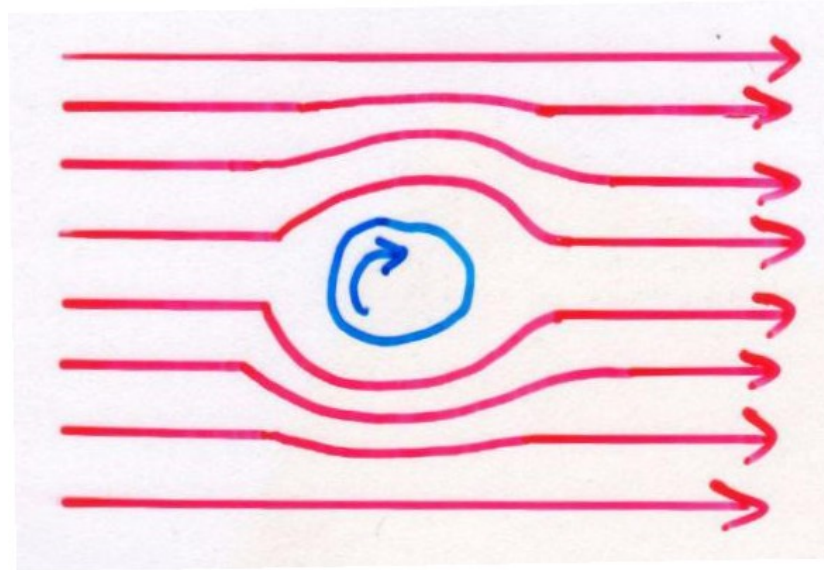
= POISE (P)

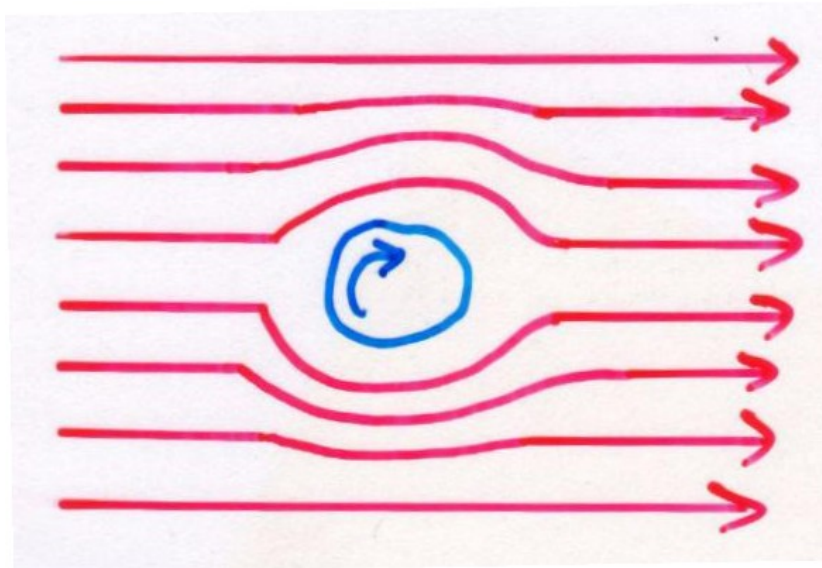
At 20.0°C,  $\eta(\text{water}) \sim 0.01\text{P}$



## Viscosity of biomolecular solutions:

A dissolved macromolecule will INCREASE the viscosity of a solution because it disrupts the streamlines of the flow:





We define the relative viscosity  $\eta_r$  as the ratio of the viscosity of the solution containing the macromolecule,  $\eta$ , to that of the pure solvent in the absence of macromolecule,  $\eta_o$ :

$$\eta_r = \eta/\eta_o \quad \text{no units}$$

For a U-tube viscometer,  $\eta_r = (t/t_o) \cdot (\rho/\rho_o)$

## Reduced viscosity

The relative viscosity depends (at a given temp.) on the concentration of macromolecule, the shape of the macromolecule & the volume it occupies.

If we are going to use viscosity to infer on the shape and volume of the macromolecule we need to eliminate the concentration contribution.

The first step is to define the reduced viscosity

$$\eta_{\text{red}} = (\eta_r - 1)/c$$

If  $c$  is in g/ml, units of  $\eta_{\text{red}}$  are ml/g

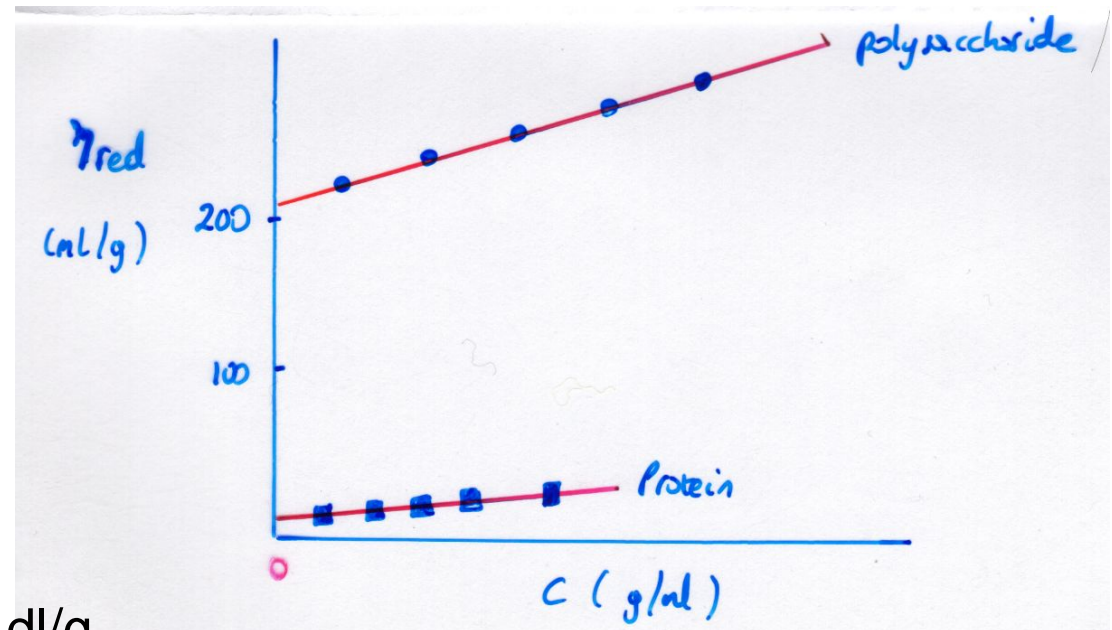
## The Intrinsic Viscosity $[\eta]$

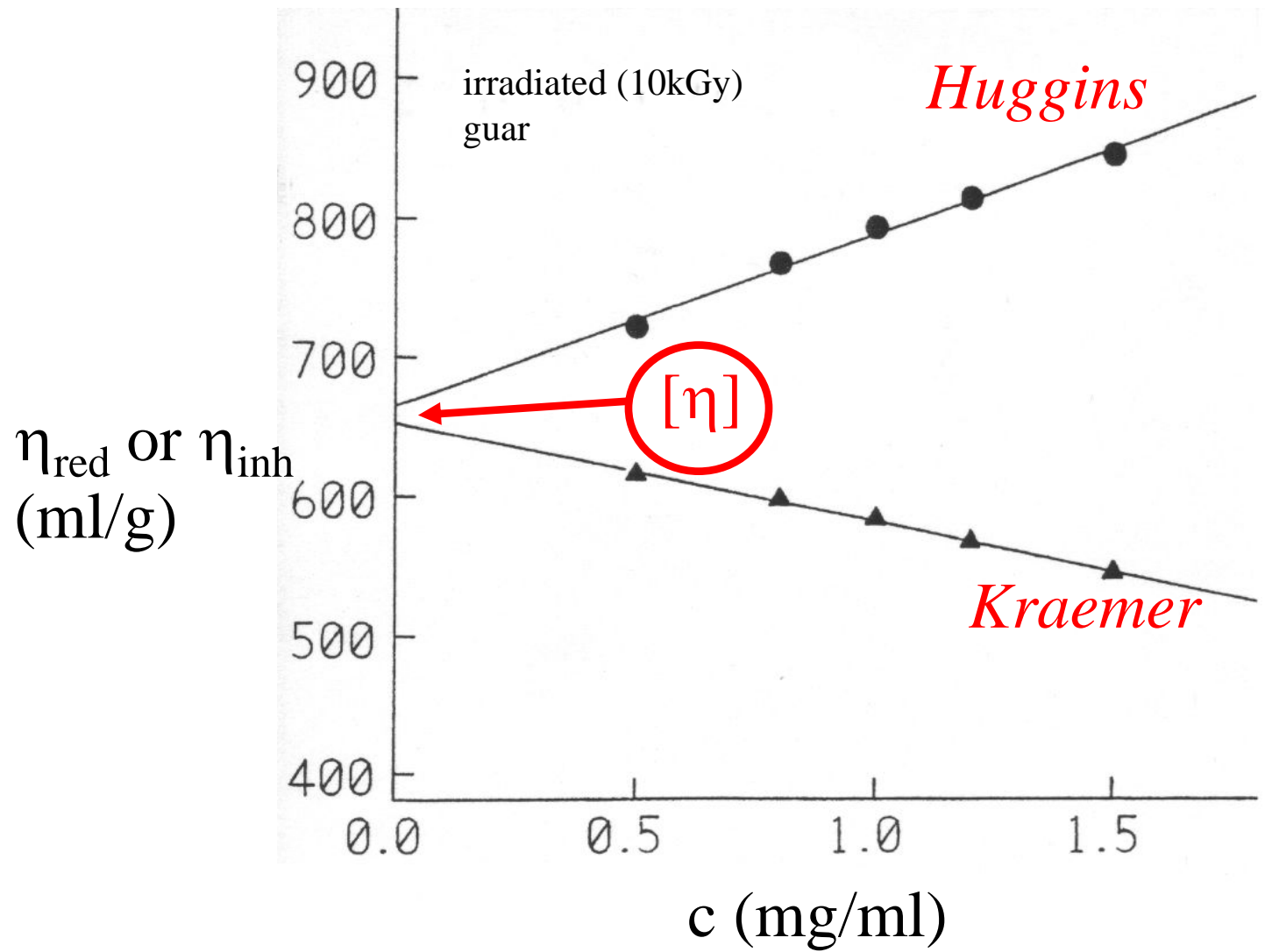
The next step is to eliminate non-ideality effects deriving from exclusion volume, backflow and charge effects. We measure  $\eta_{\text{red}}$  at a series of concentrations and extrapolate to zero concentration:

$$[\eta] = \lim_{C \rightarrow 0} (\eta_{\text{red}})$$

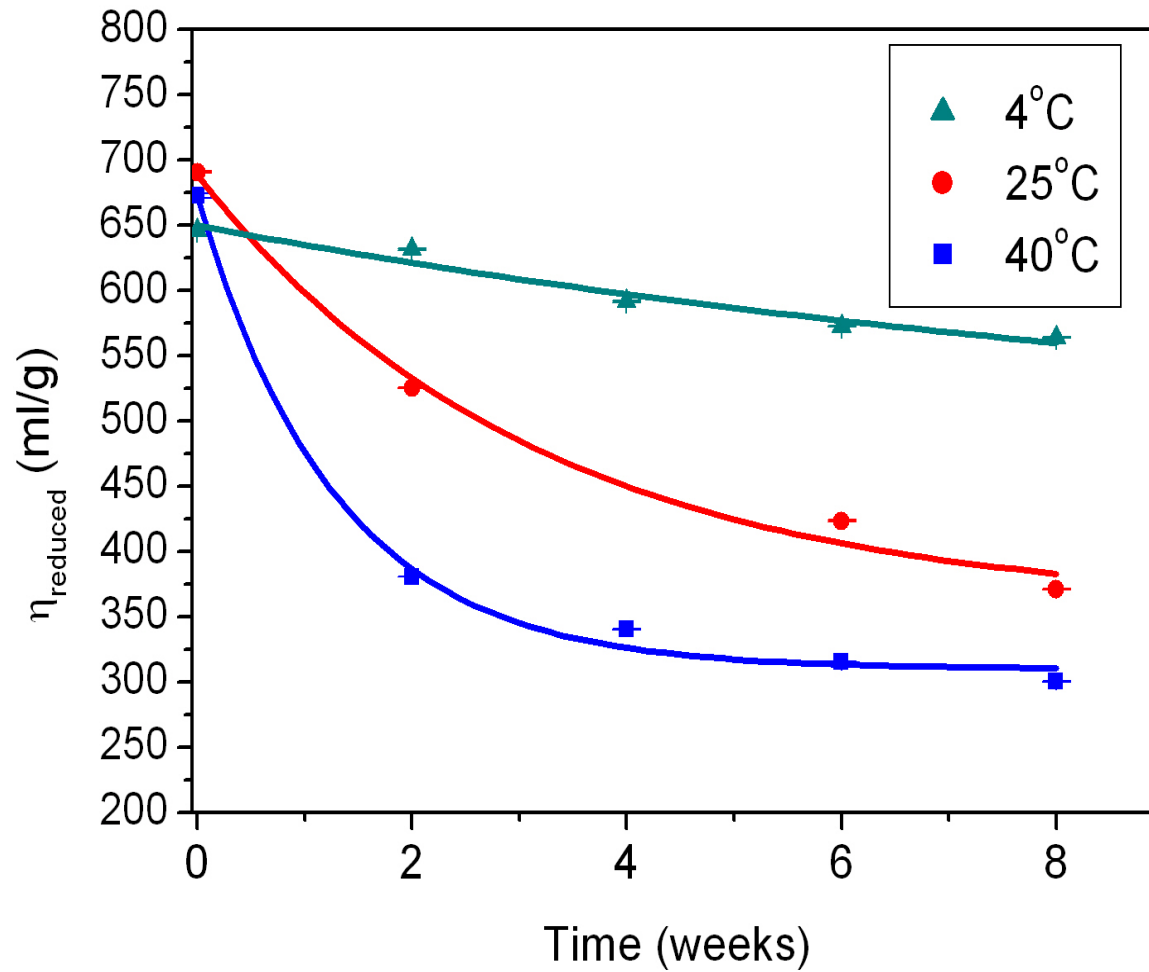
units  $[\eta] = \text{ml/g}$

sometimes researchers use dl/g  
so  $200 \text{ ml/g} = 2 \text{ dl/g}$





## Viscosity probe: chitosan stability



Fee et al, 2006

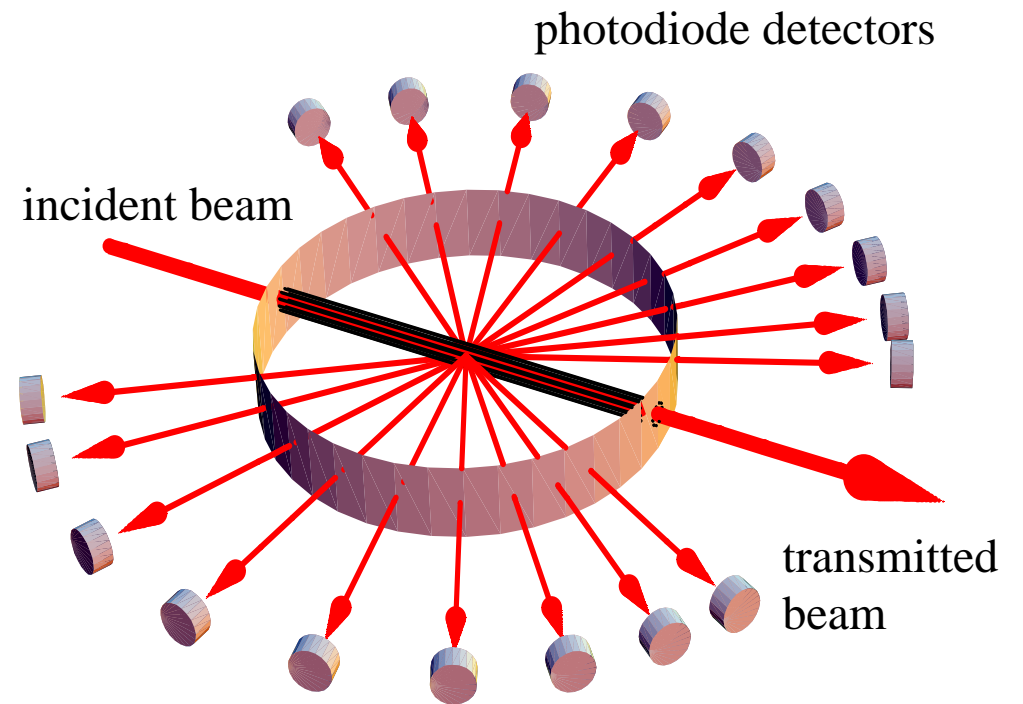
## **2. Heterogeneity and molecular weight: SEC-MALLs**

## 2. Heterogeneity and Molecular Weight: SEC-MALLs

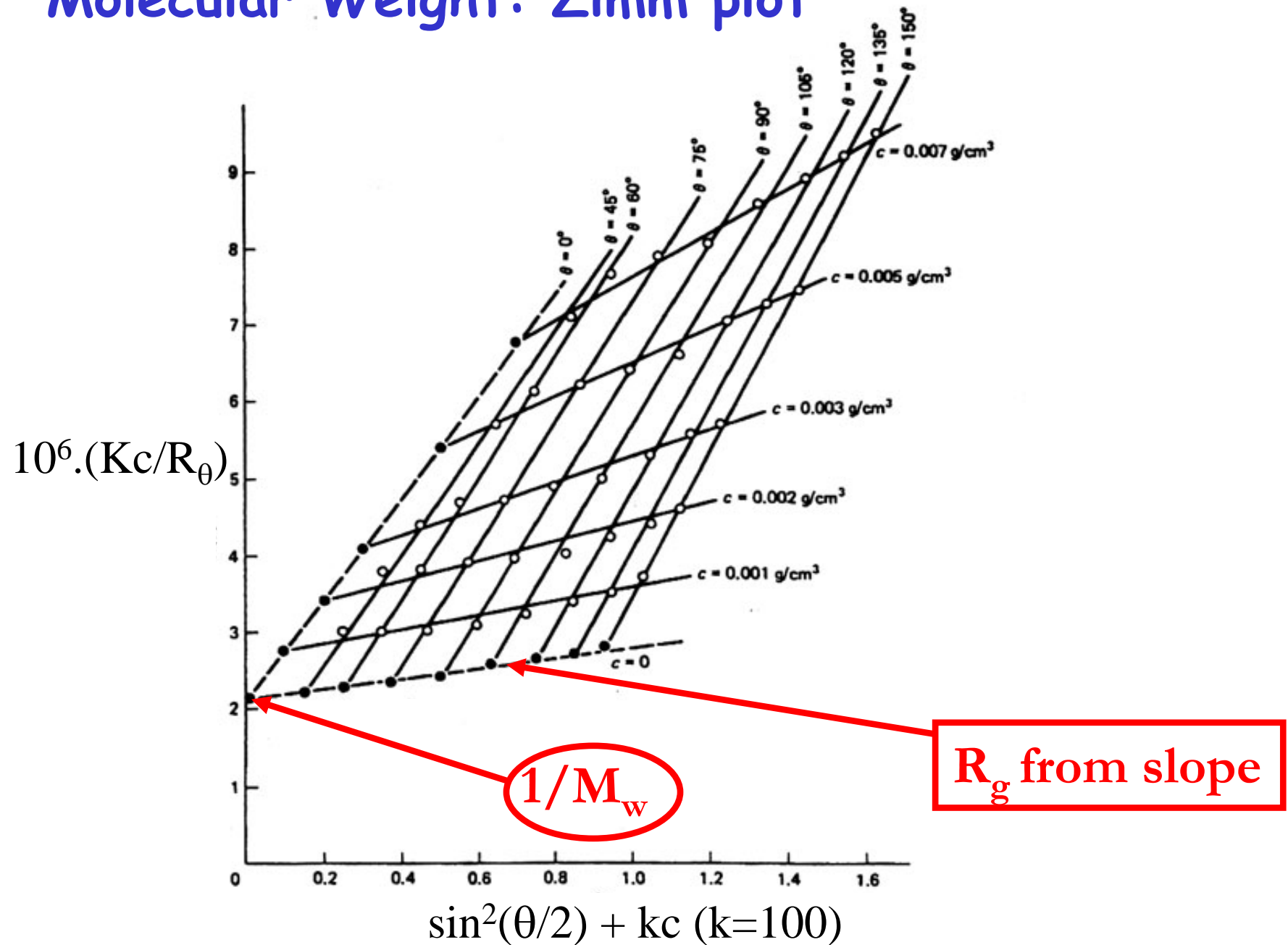




# Molecular Weight: Light scattering



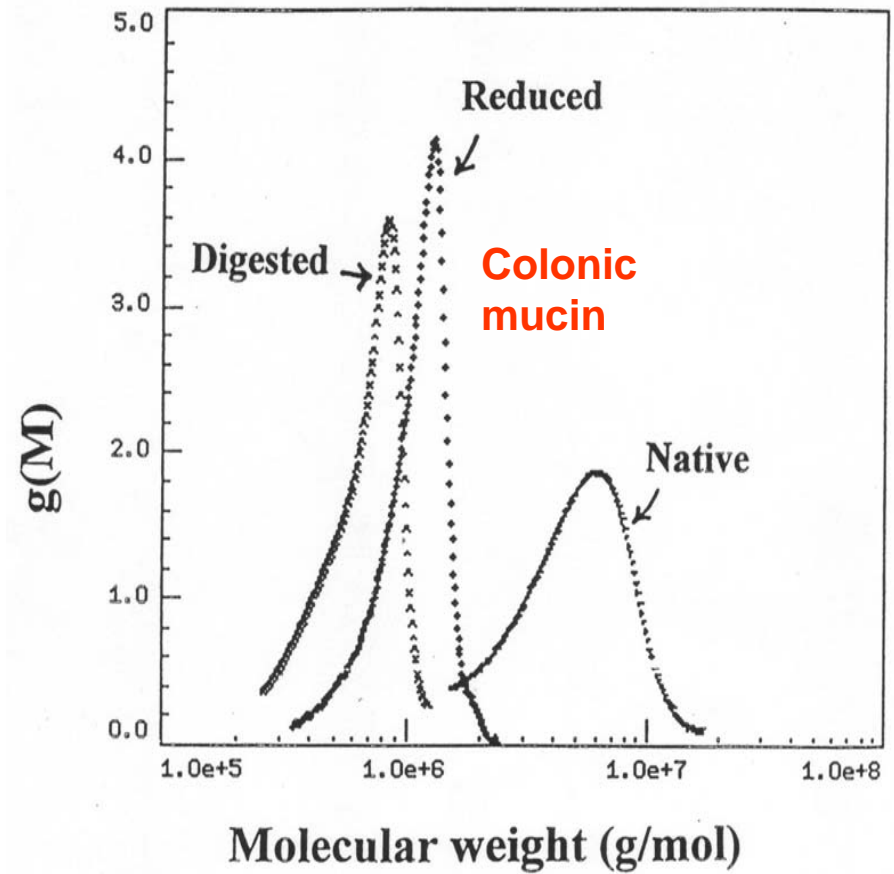
# Molecular Weight: Zimm plot



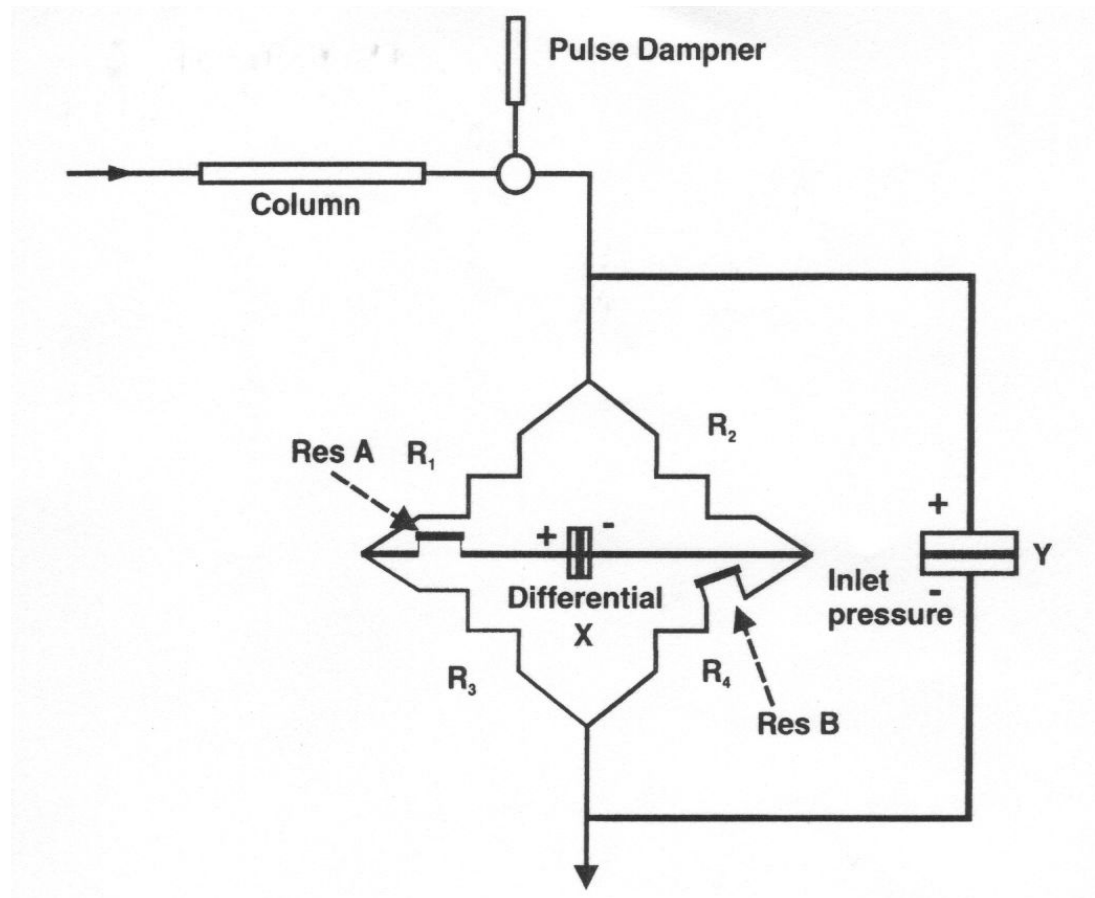
# Molecular Weight: SEC-MALLS

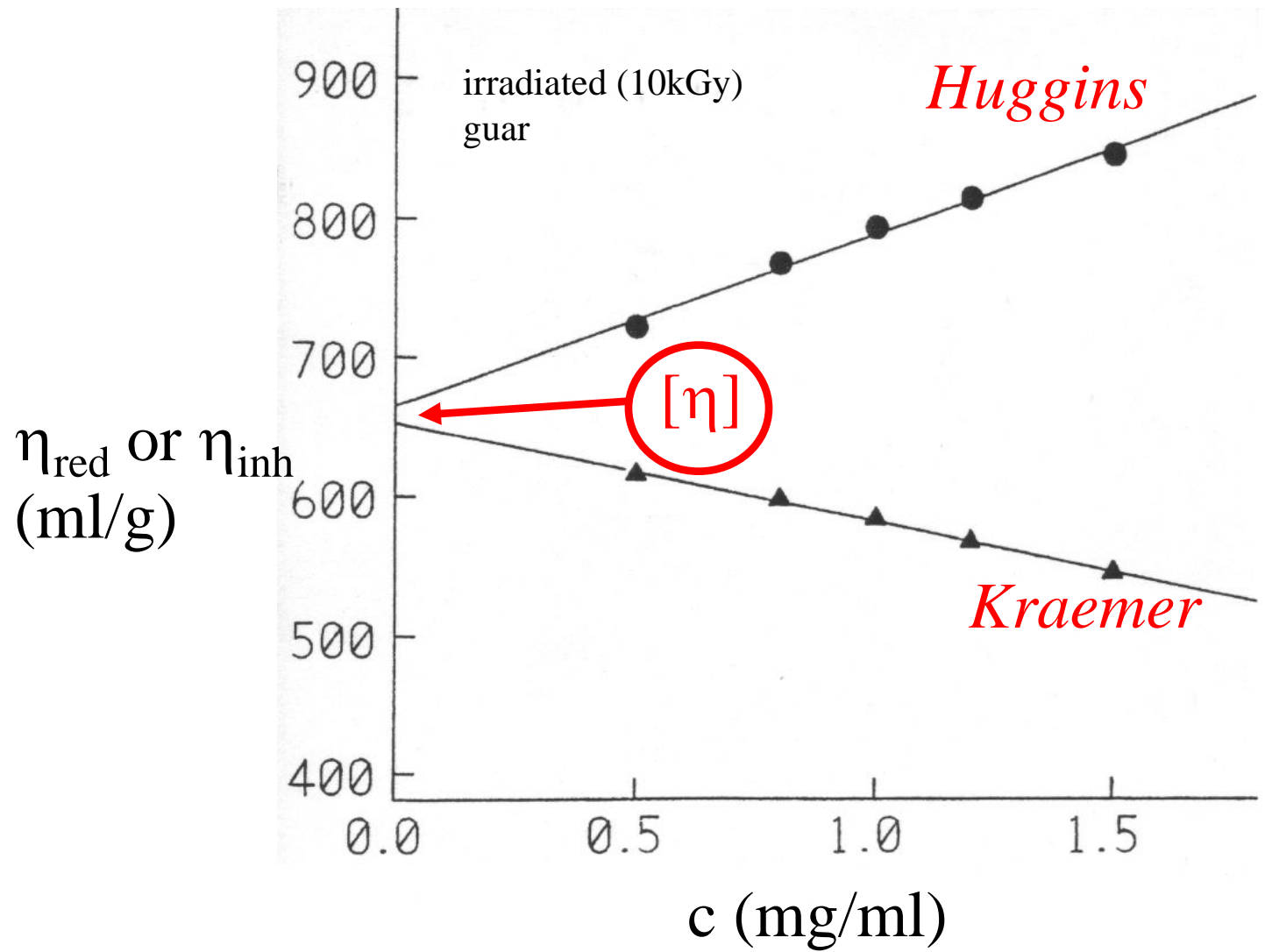


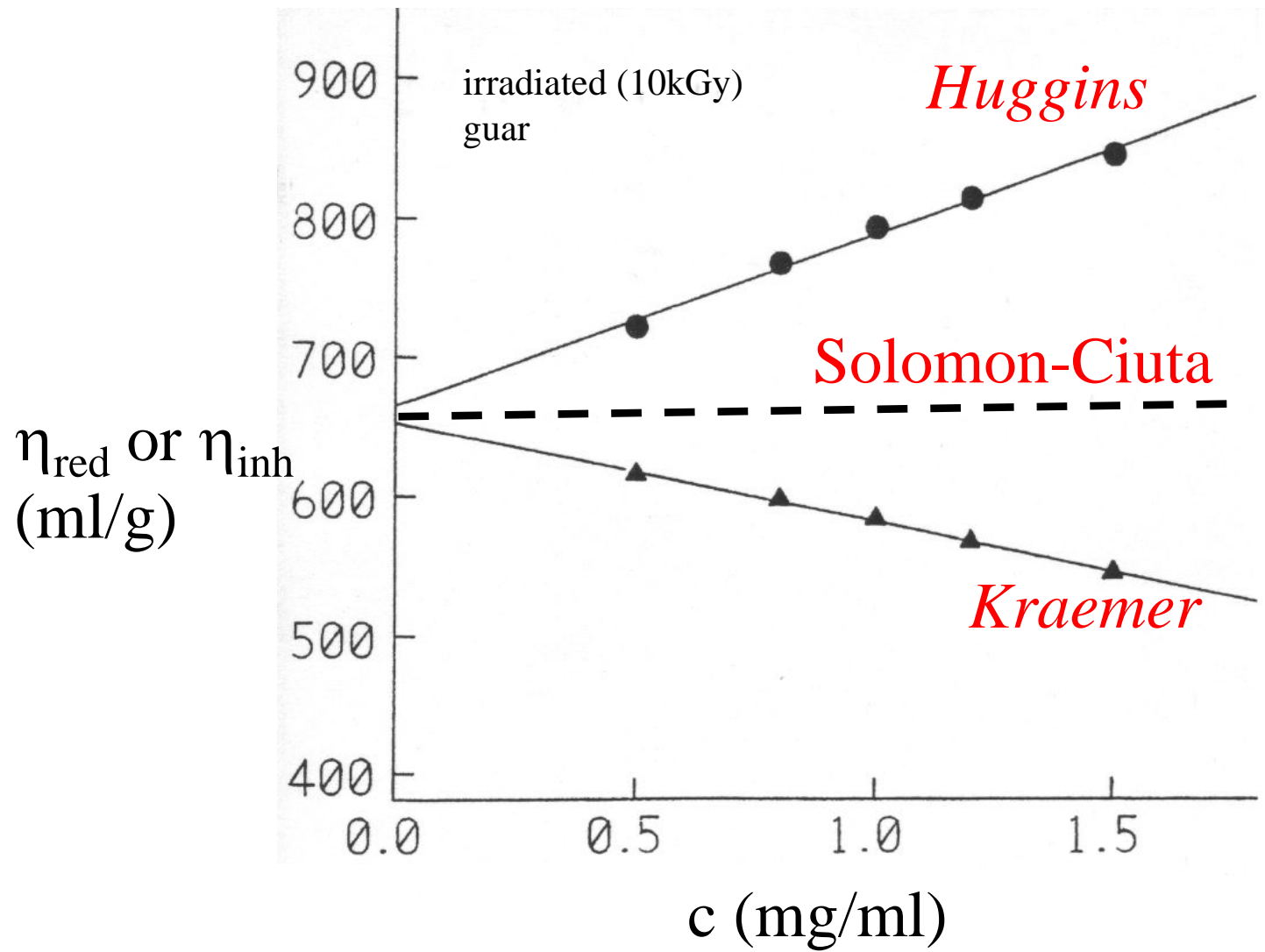
# Molecular Weight: SEC-MALLS



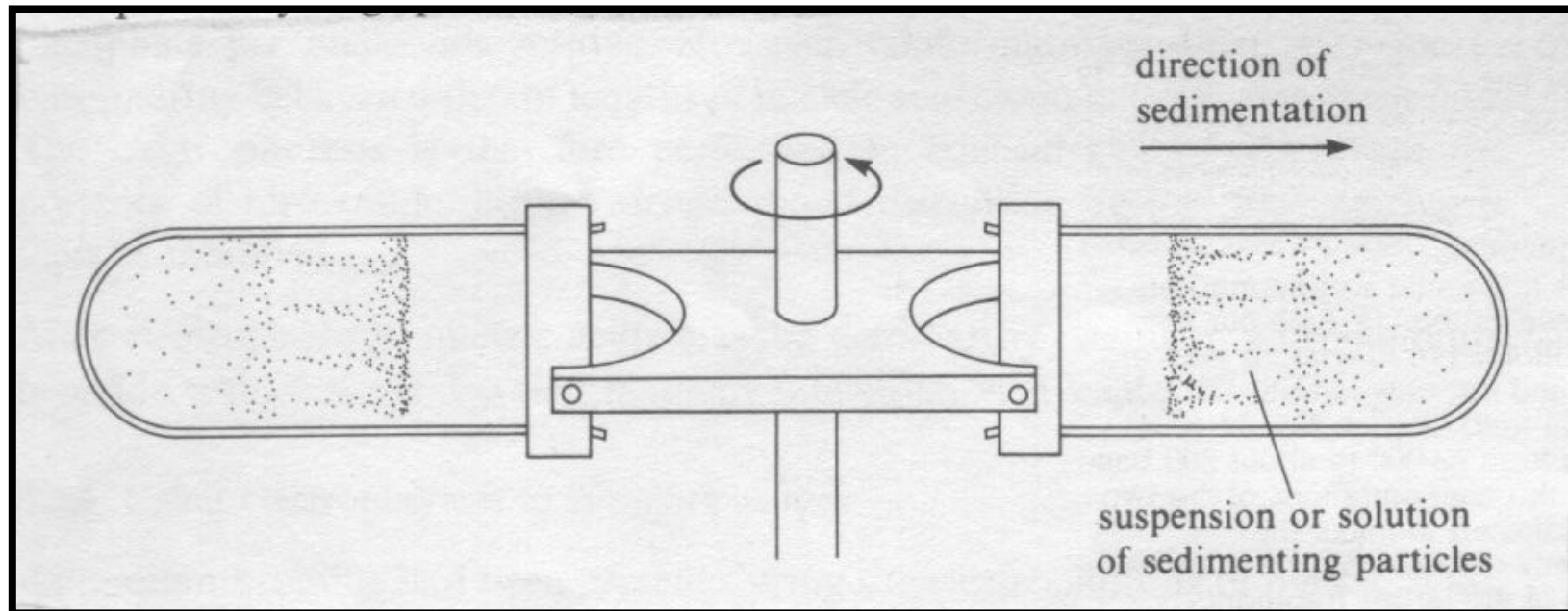
Can also couple a "pressure imbalance" type of viscometer on-line...







# Analytical Ultracentrifugation

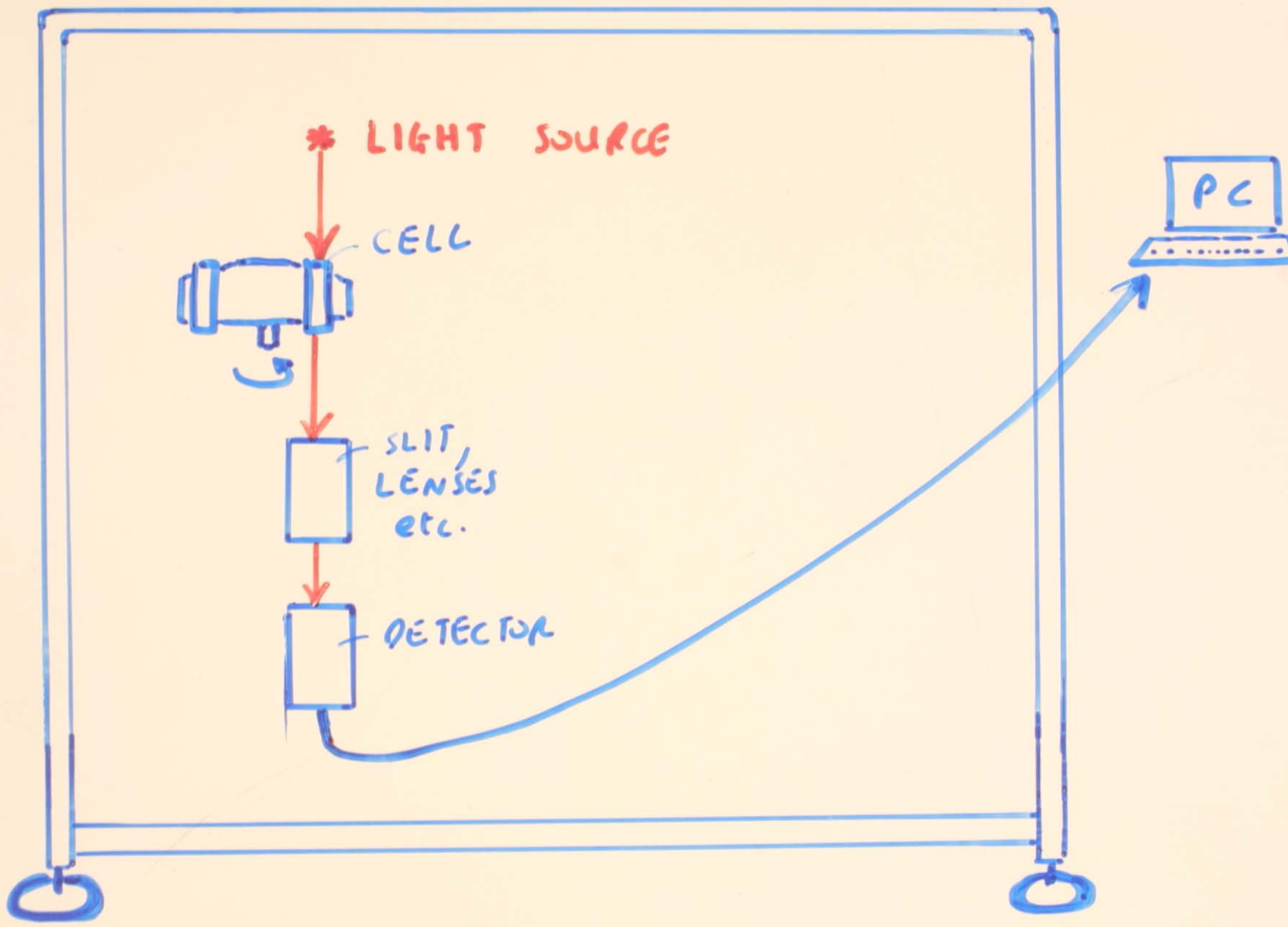




# Optima XLA/ XLI

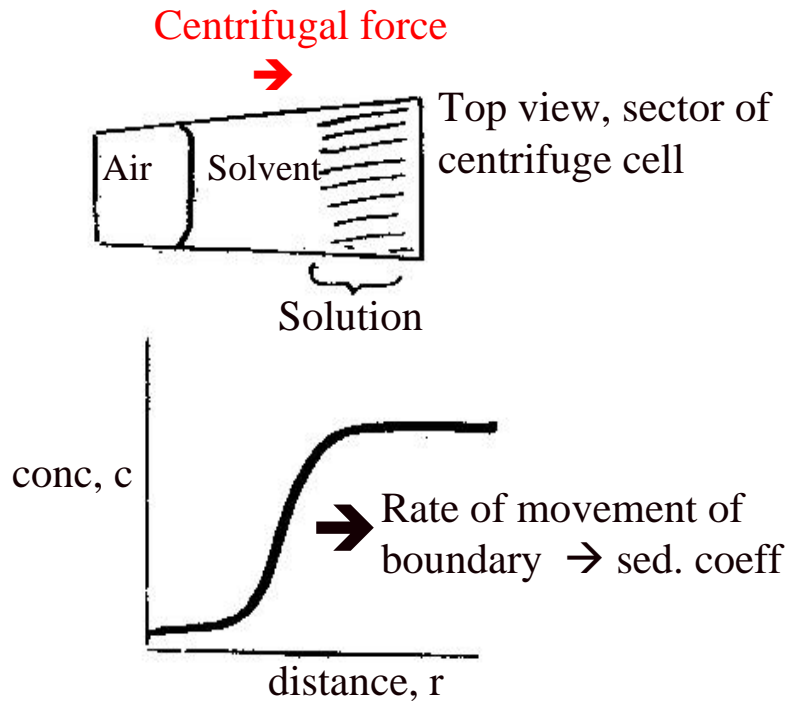








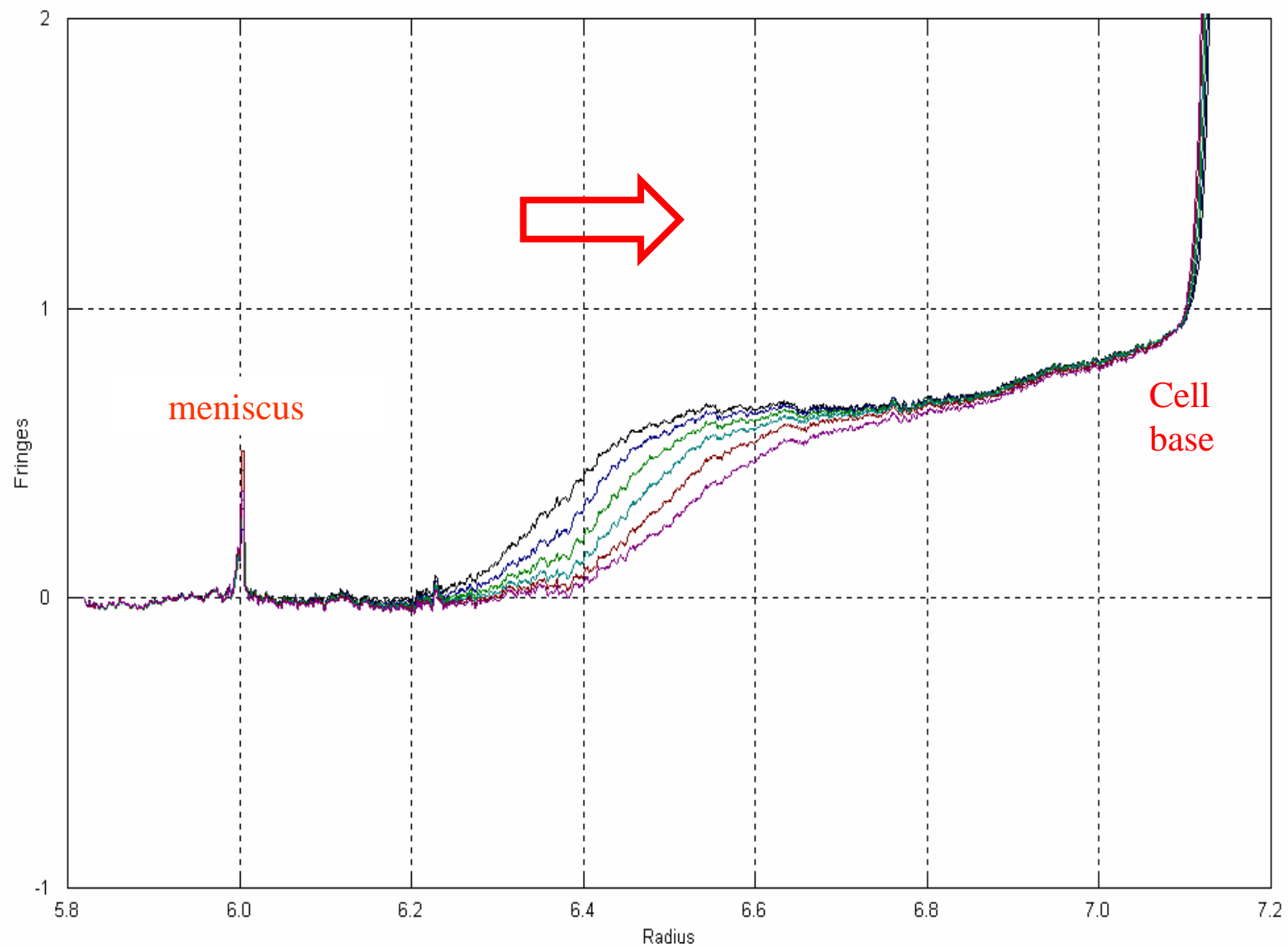
# Sedimentation Velocity



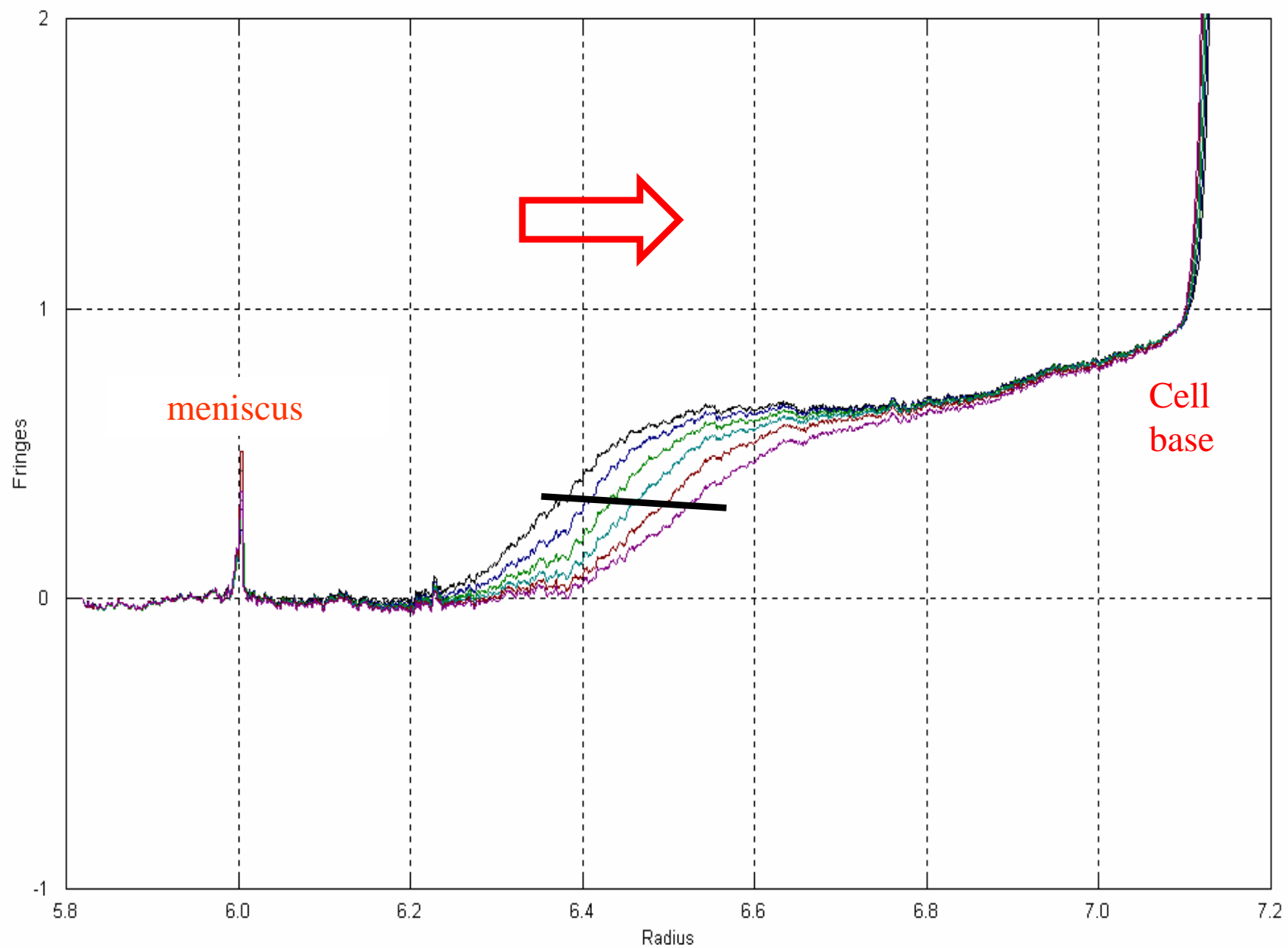
→  $S_{20,w}^0$

*Sedimentation coefficient,  $S$*

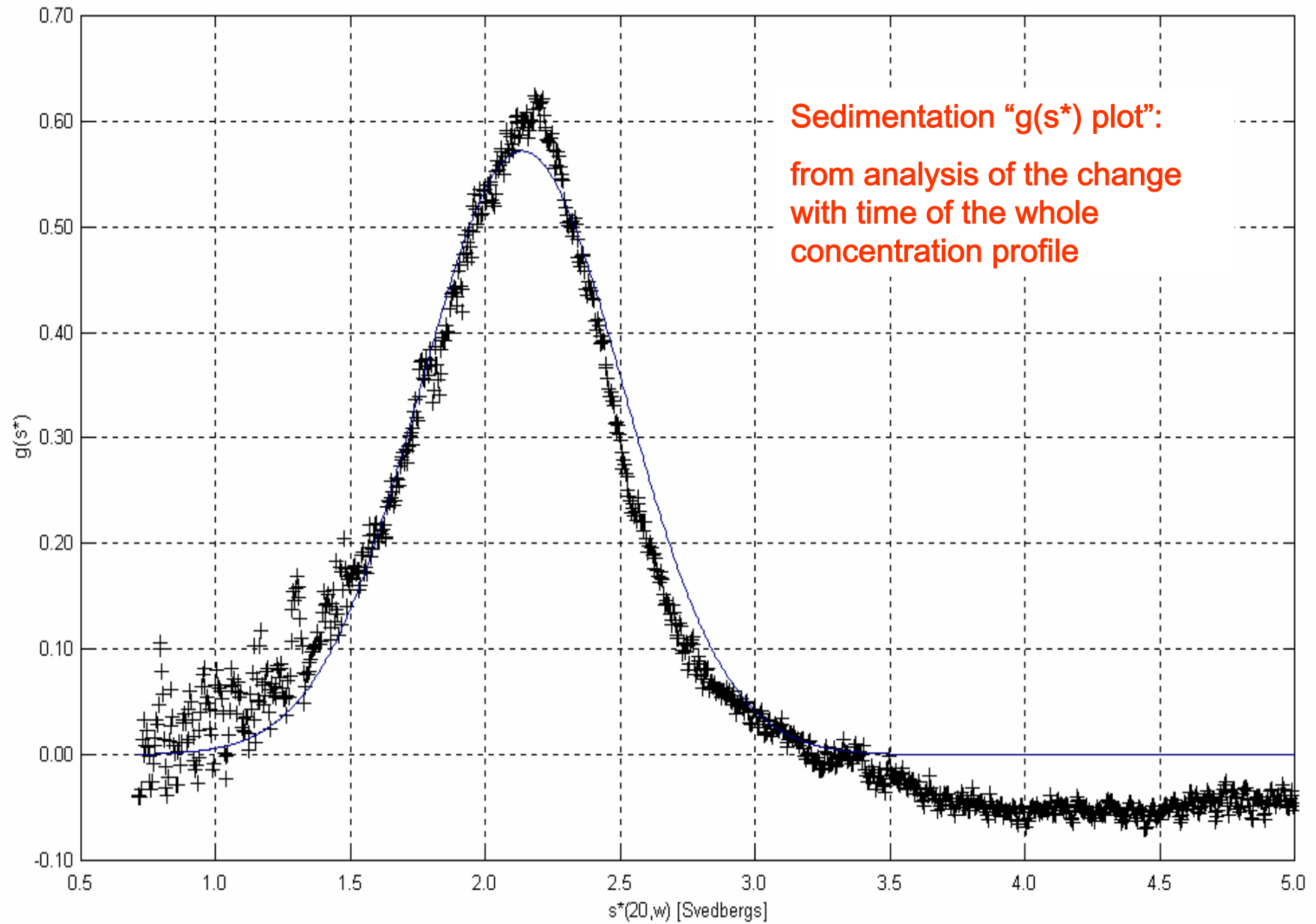
# Chitosan G213, 0.5 mg/ml



# Chitosan G213, 0.5 mg/ml

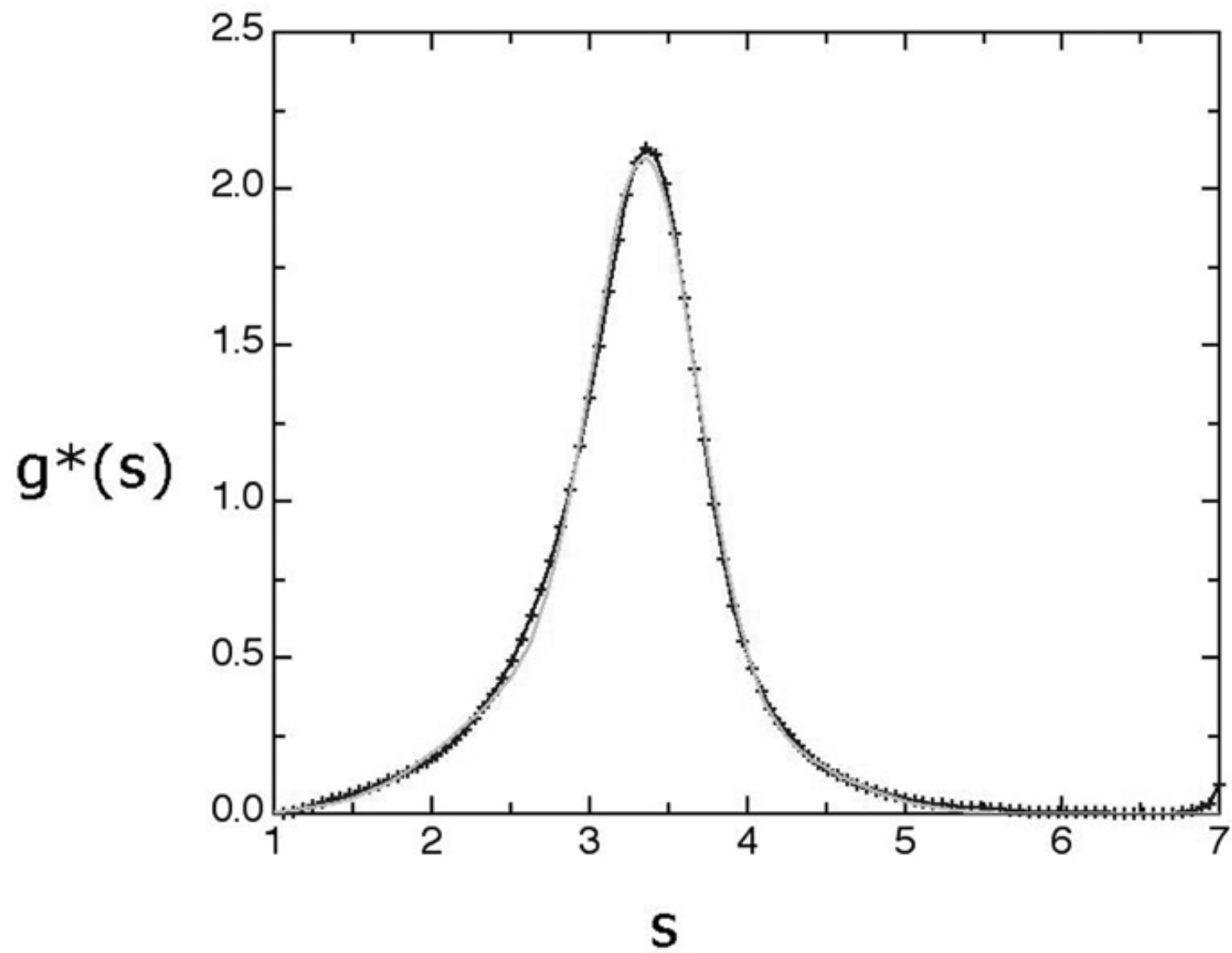


# Chitosan G213, 0.5 mg/ml

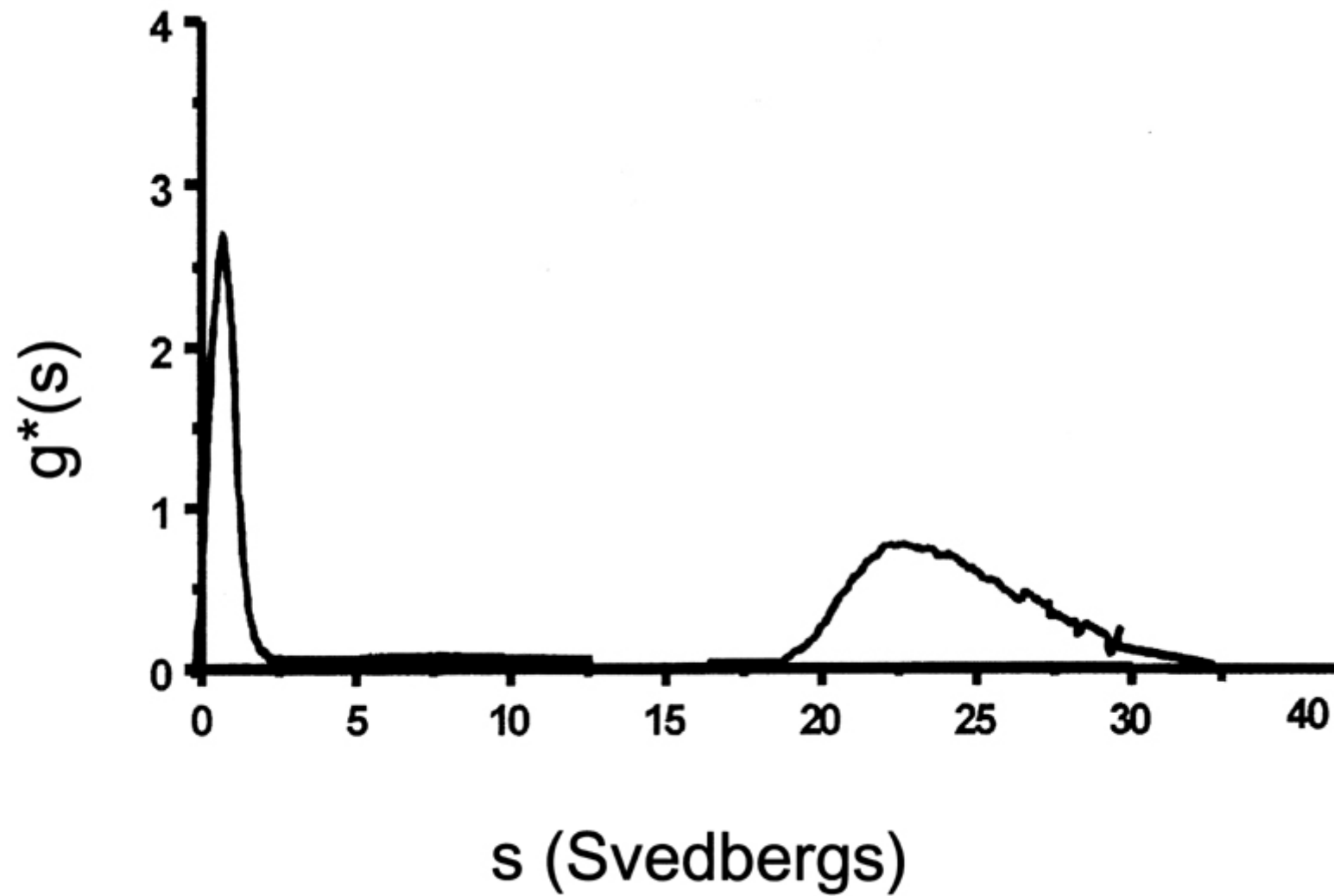




Guar, 0.75 mg/ml

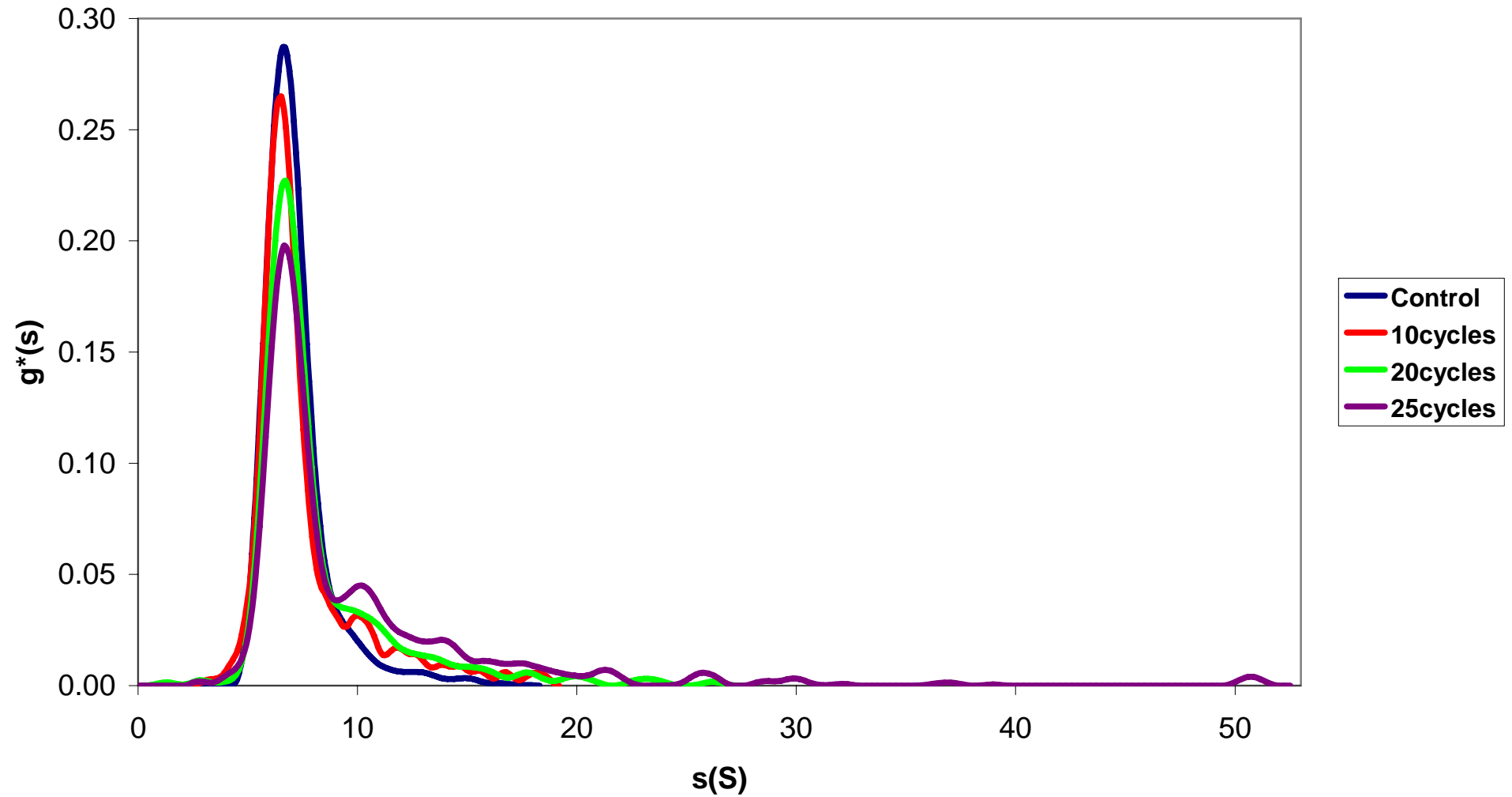


Wheat starch, 8 mg/ml

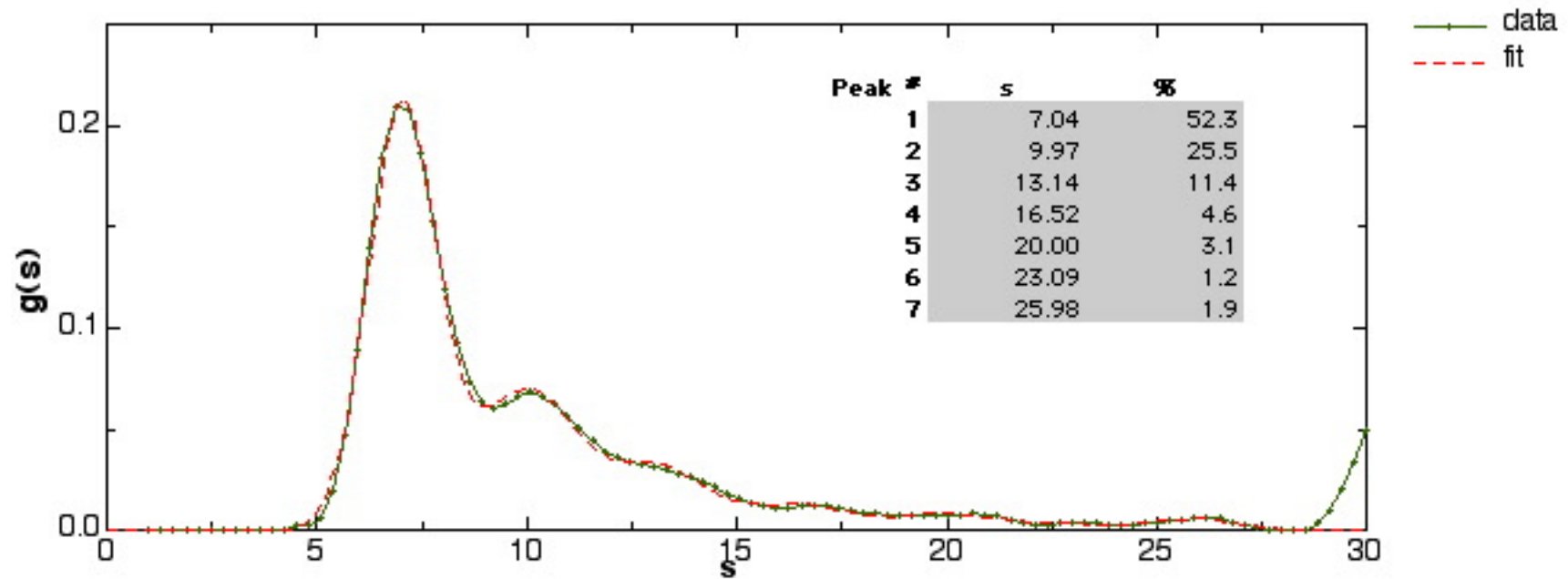


.....stability studies

**SAN02 Freeze-thaw (1.16mg/mL)**

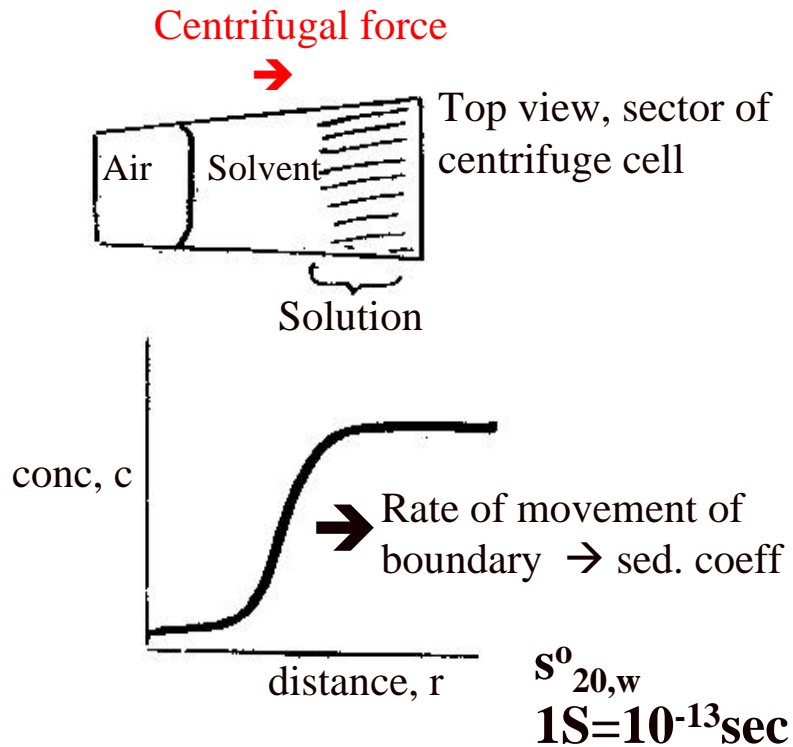


Multi-Gaussian fit estimates *proportions* of each species too:

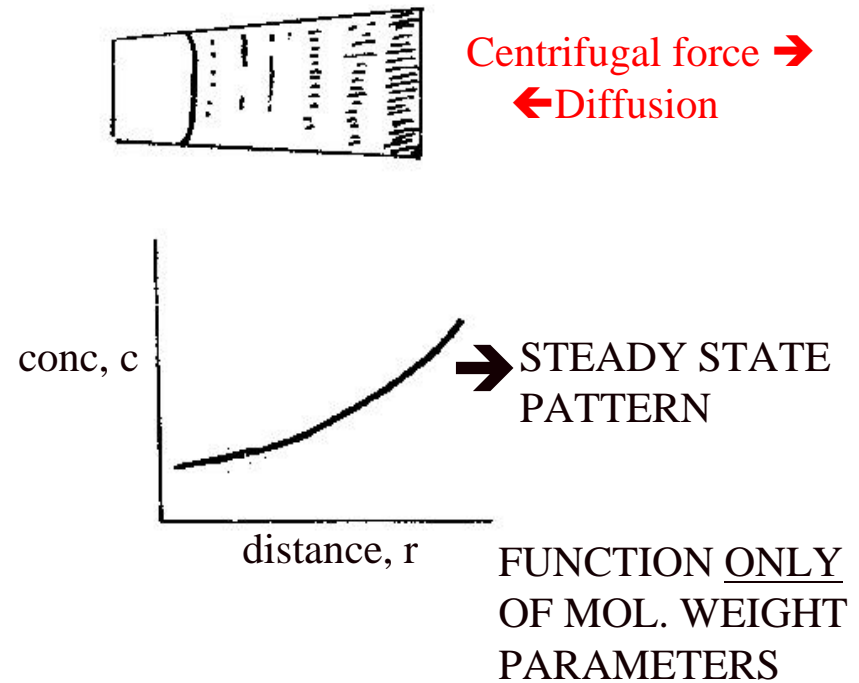


# 2 types of AUC Experiment:

## Sedimentation Velocity

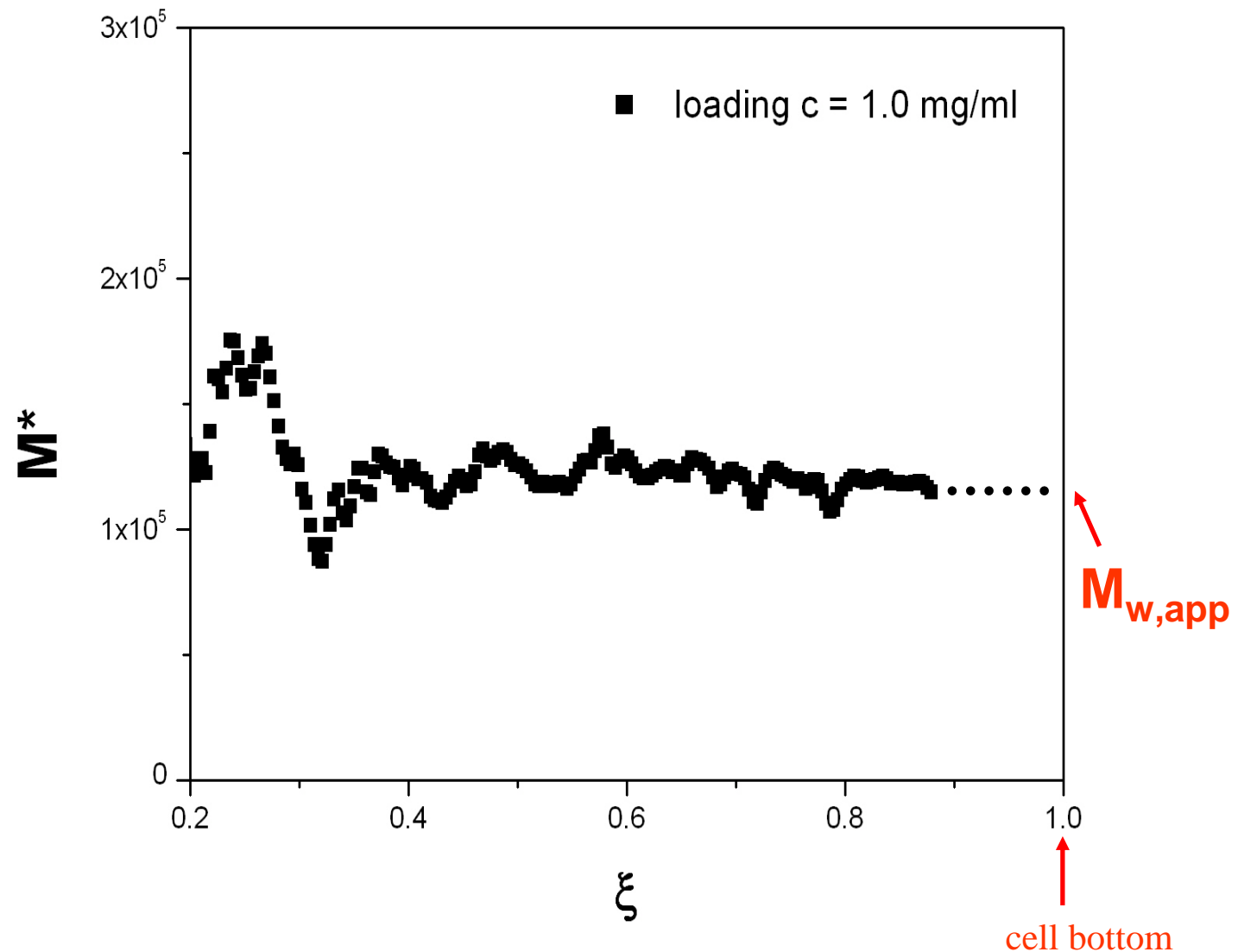


## Sedimentation Equilibrium

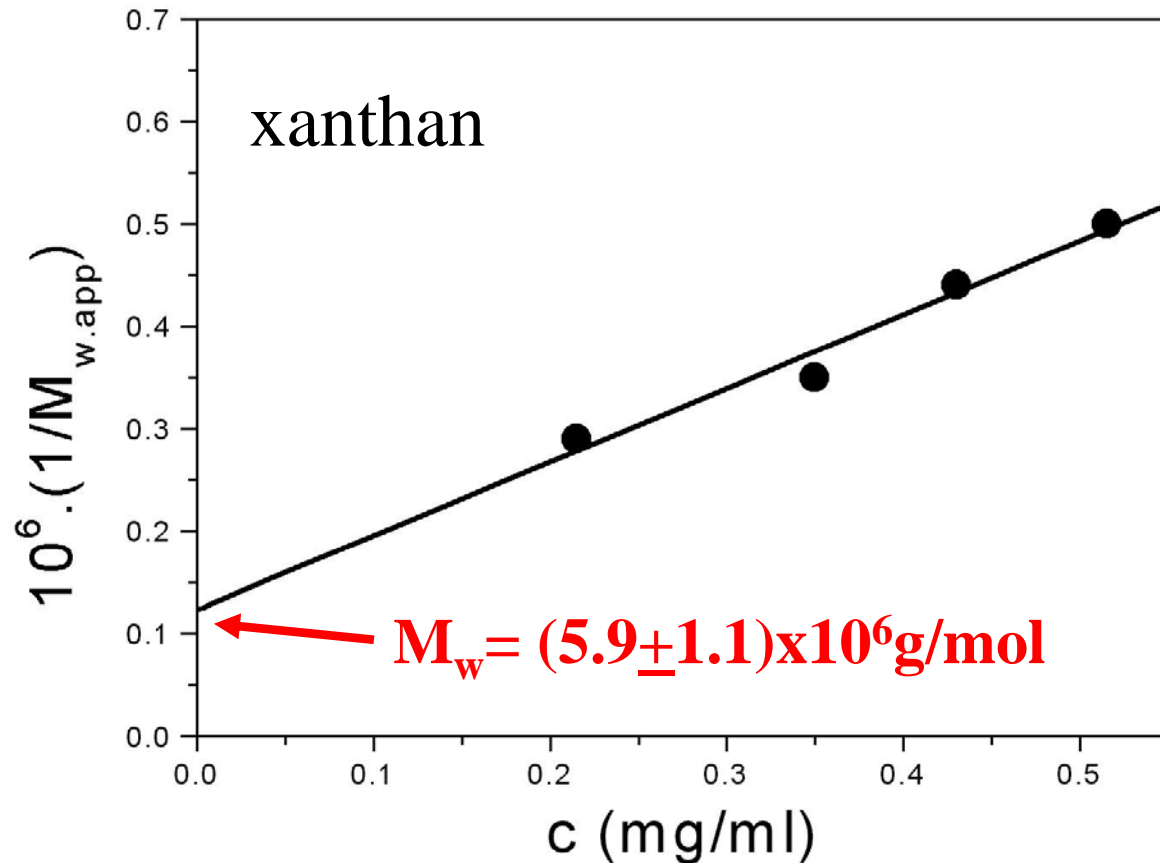


# Extraction of $M_{w,app}$ from sedimentation equilibrium and "MSTAR" analysis

Chitosan G213



# Extraction of $M_{w,app}$ from sedimentation equilibrium and "MSTAR" analysis



# **3. Conformation in solution**



# Conformation in solution

## *1. Experimental data required*

- Molecular weight
- $[\eta]$ ,  $s$ ,  $R_g$

## *2. Modelling strategies*

- General conformation type (rod, coil or sphere etc.)
- Measure of flexibility – the persistence length,  $L_p$ ,
- If  $\sim$  rigid then aspect ratio.

# Conformation in solution

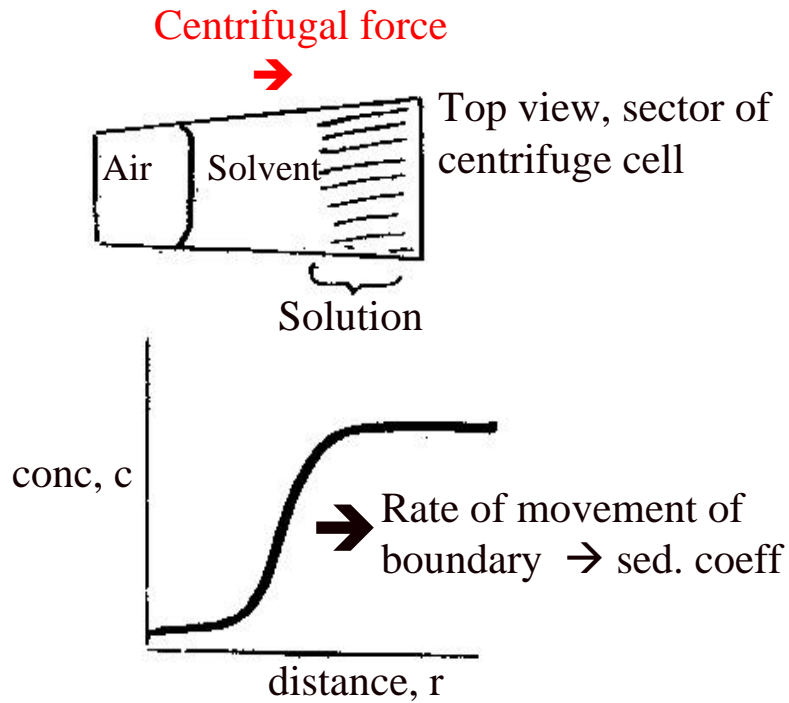
## *1. Experimental data required*

- Molecular weight: SEC-MALLs reinforced by sed. equilibrium
- $[\eta]$ ,  $s$ ,  $R_g$

## *2. Modelling strategies*

- General conformation type (rod, coil or sphere etc.)
- Measure of flexibility – the persistence length,  $L_p$ ,
- If  $\sim$  rigid then aspect ratio.

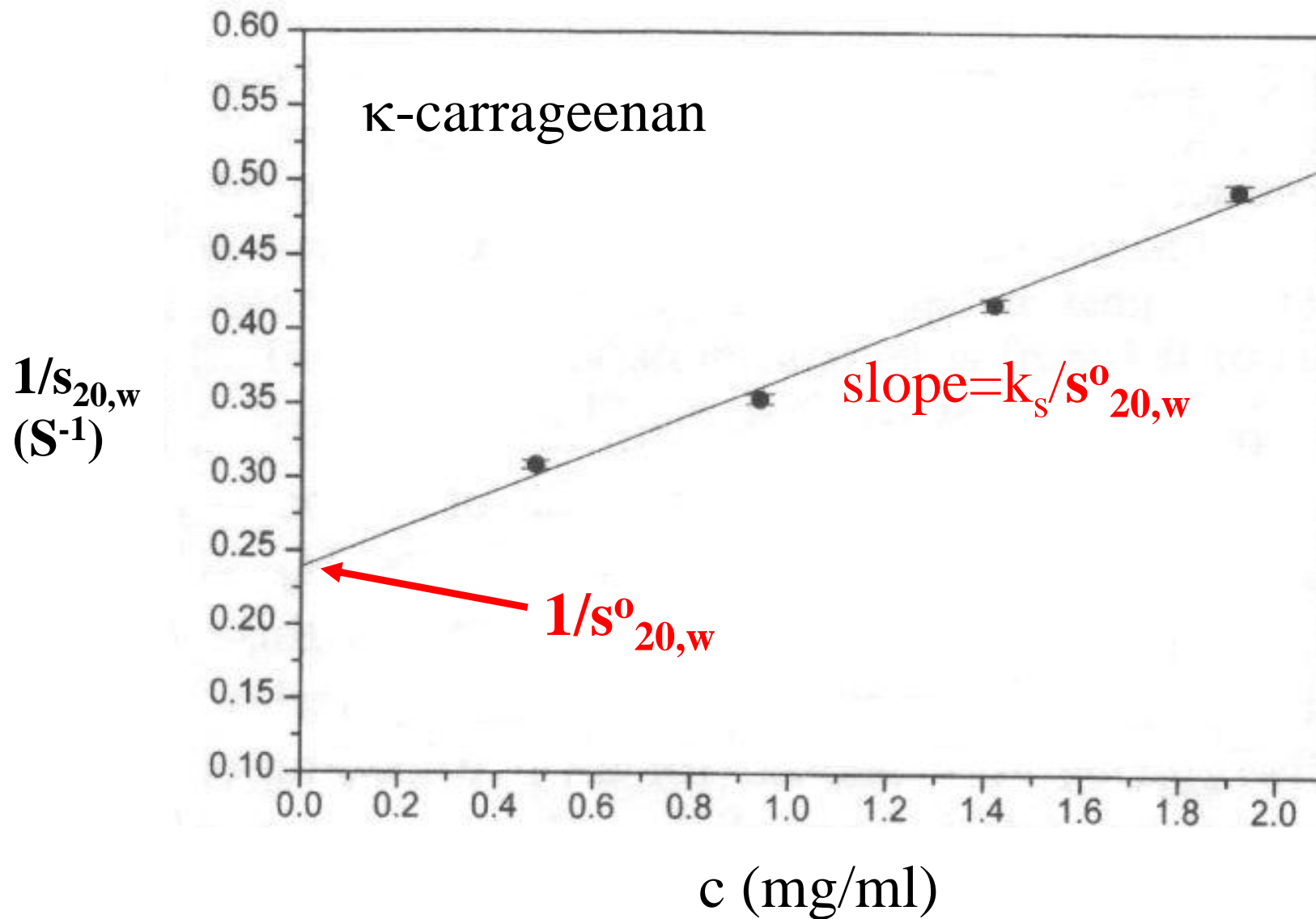
# Sedimentation Velocity



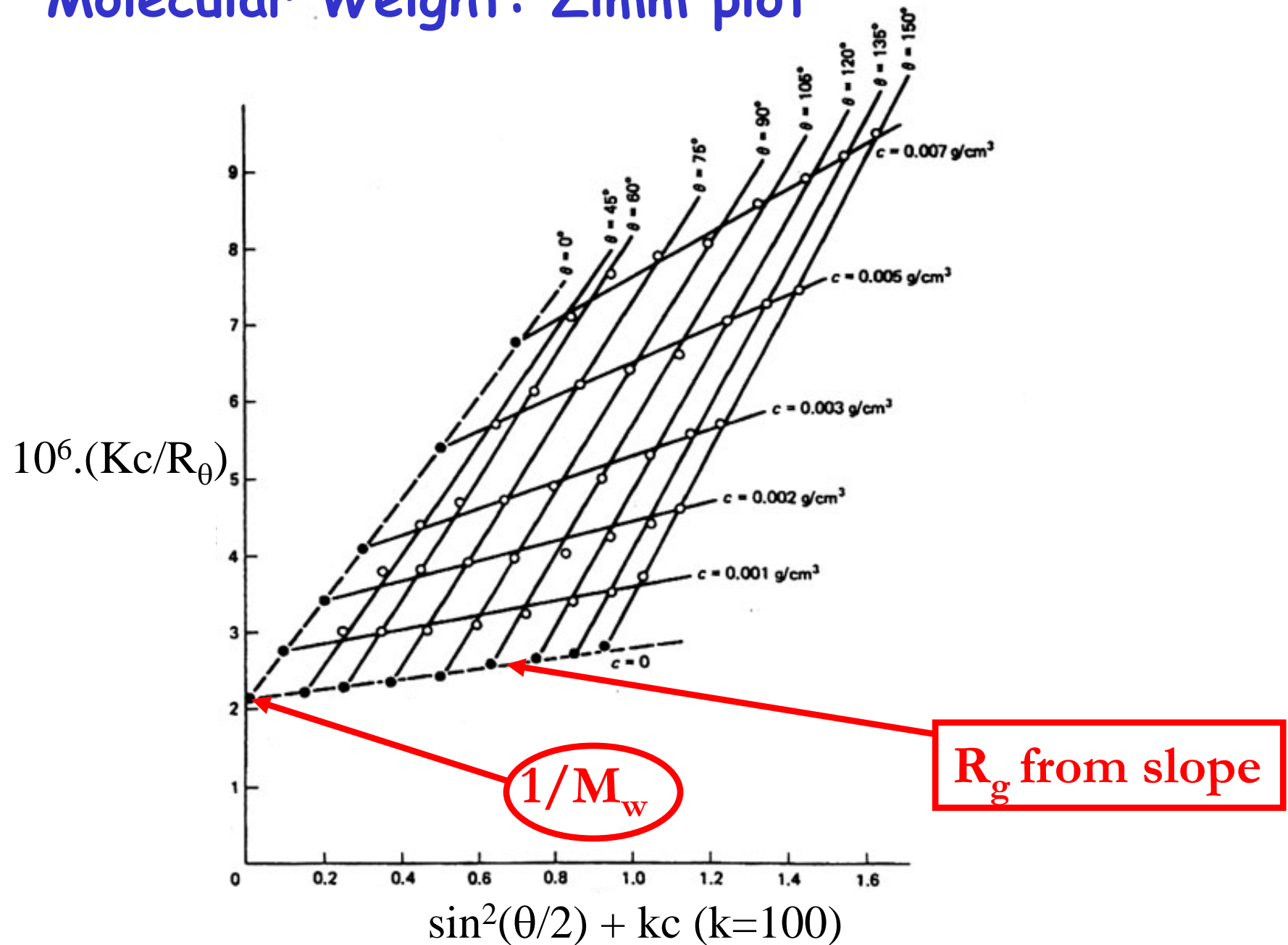
→  $S^0_{20,w}$

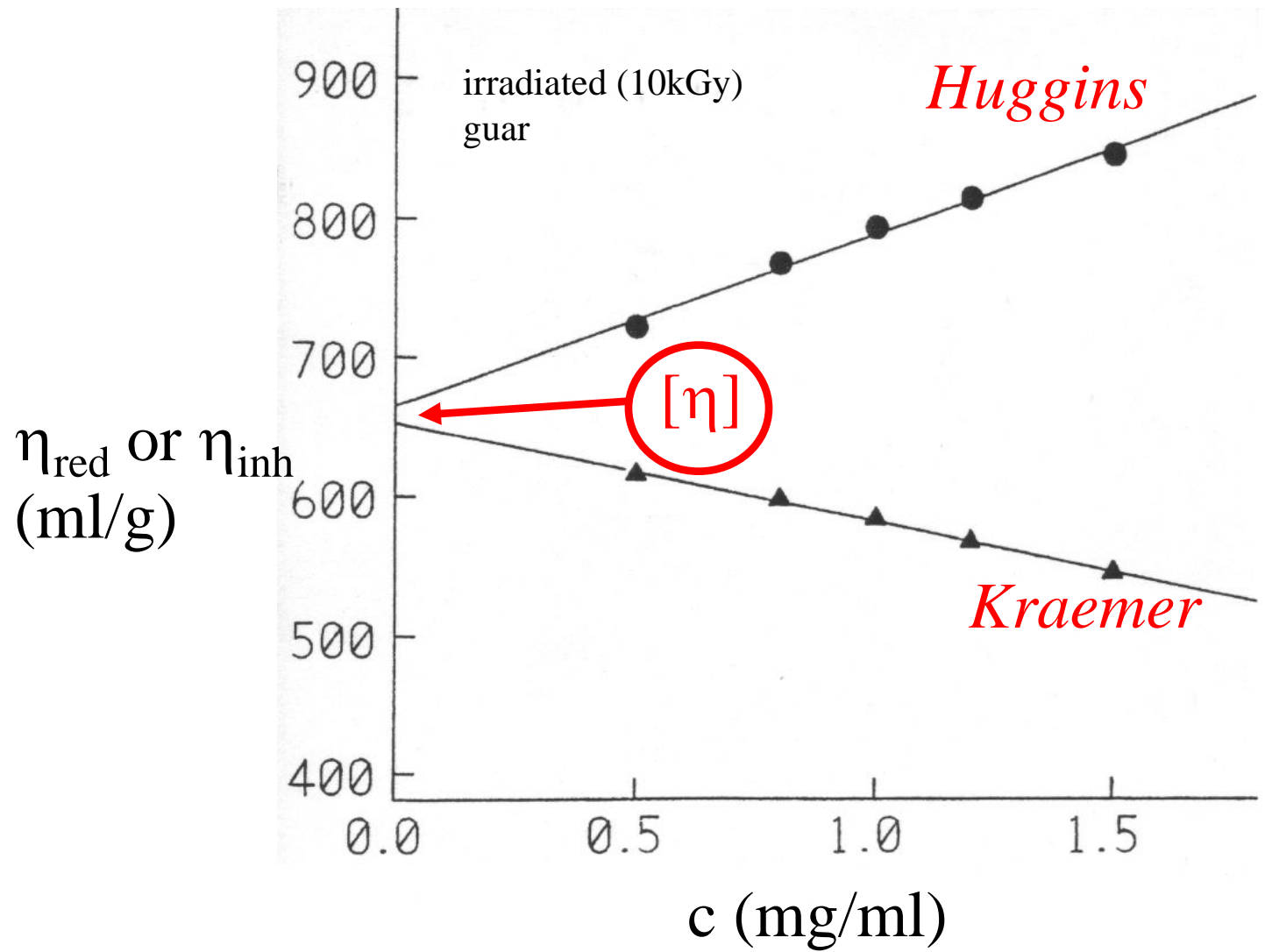
*Sedimentation coefficient,  $S$*

# $s^{\circ}_{20,w}$ extraction

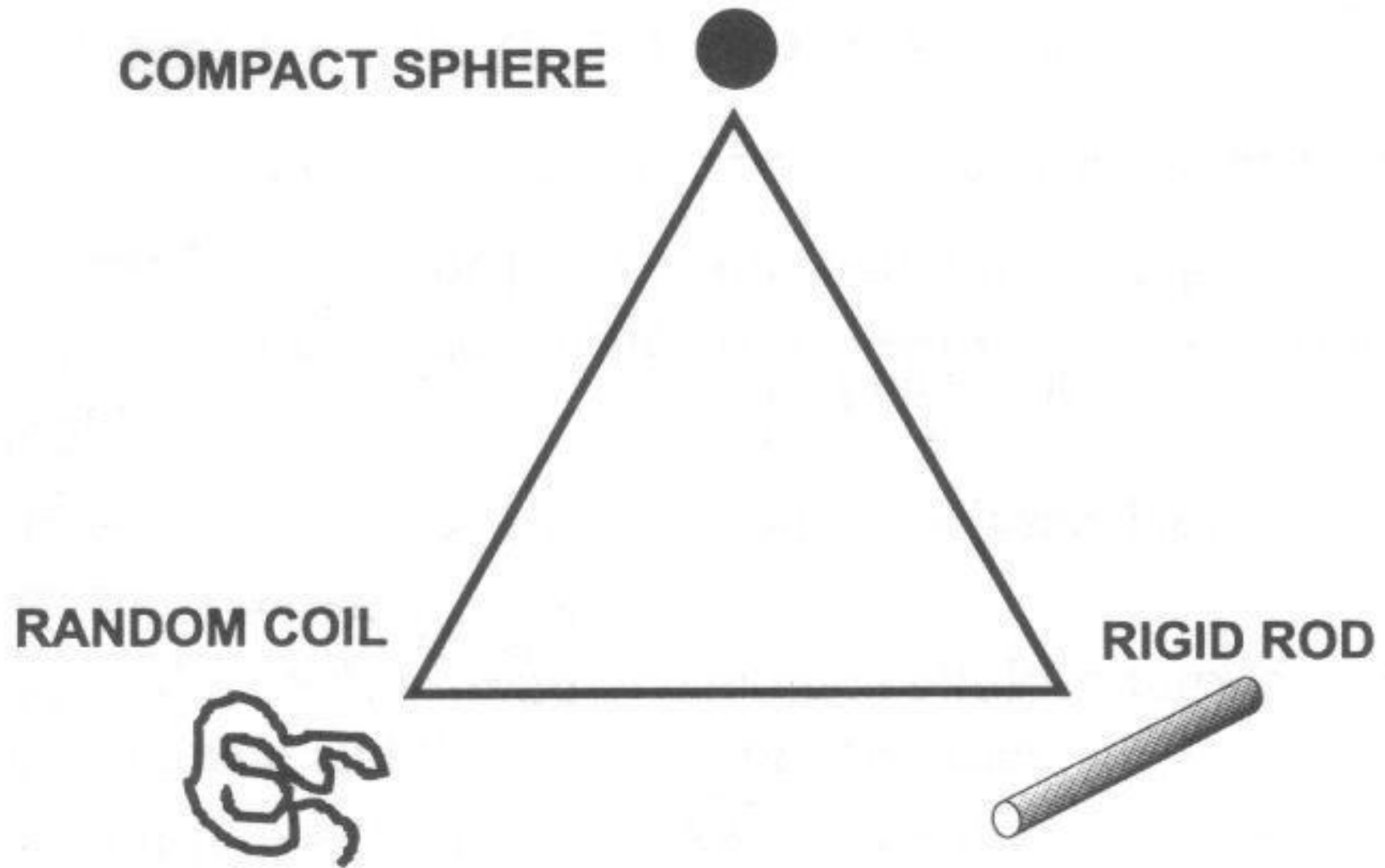


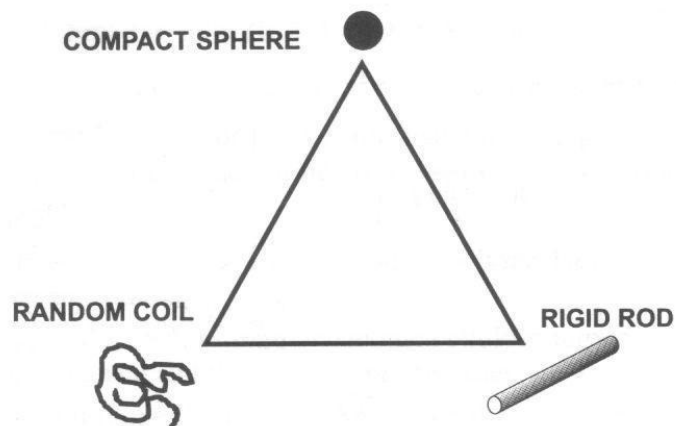
# Molecular Weight: Zimm plot





# Haug Triangle



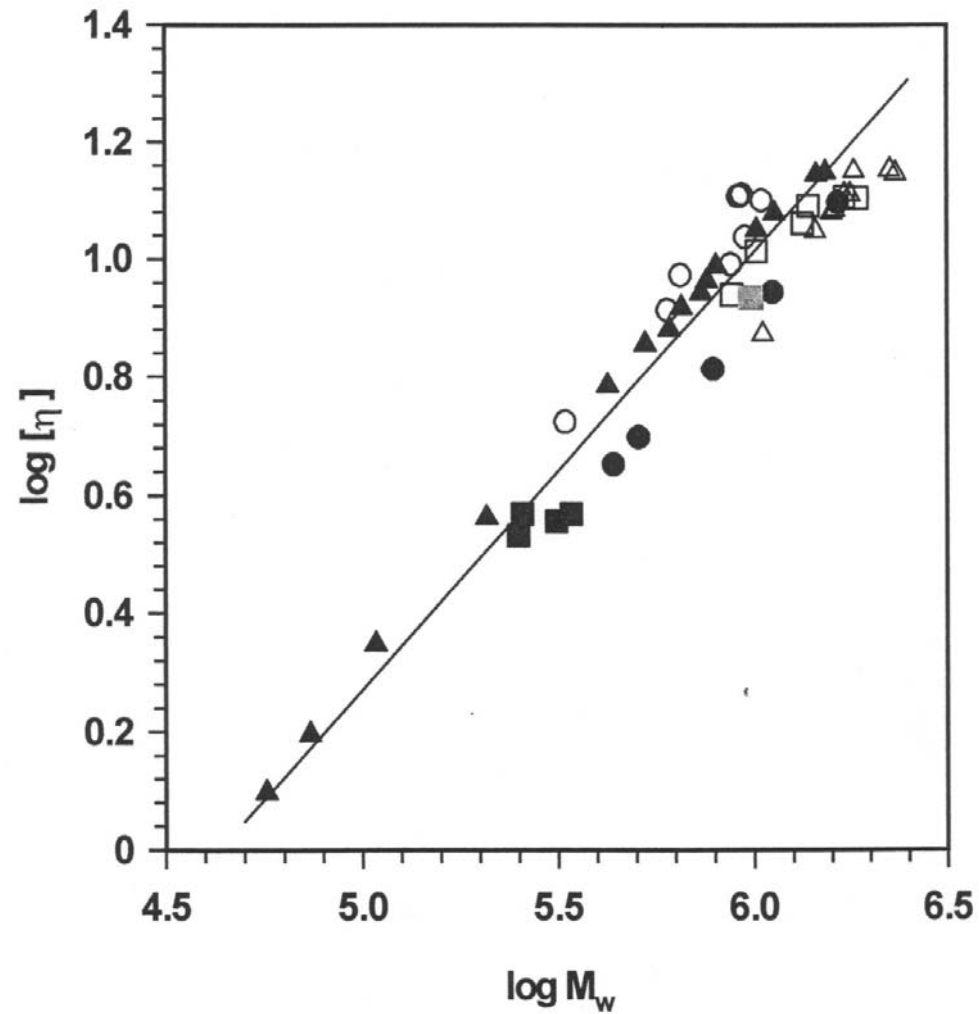


Sphere	Rod	Coil
$[\eta] \sim M^0$	$[\eta] \sim M^{1.8}$	$[\eta] \sim M^{0.5-0.8}$
$S_{20,w}^0 \sim M^{0.67}$	$S_{20,w}^0 \sim M^{0.15}$	$S_{20,w}^0 \sim M^{0.4-0.5}$
$R_g \sim M^{0.33}$	$R_g \sim M^{1.0}$	$R_g \sim M^{0.5-0.6}$

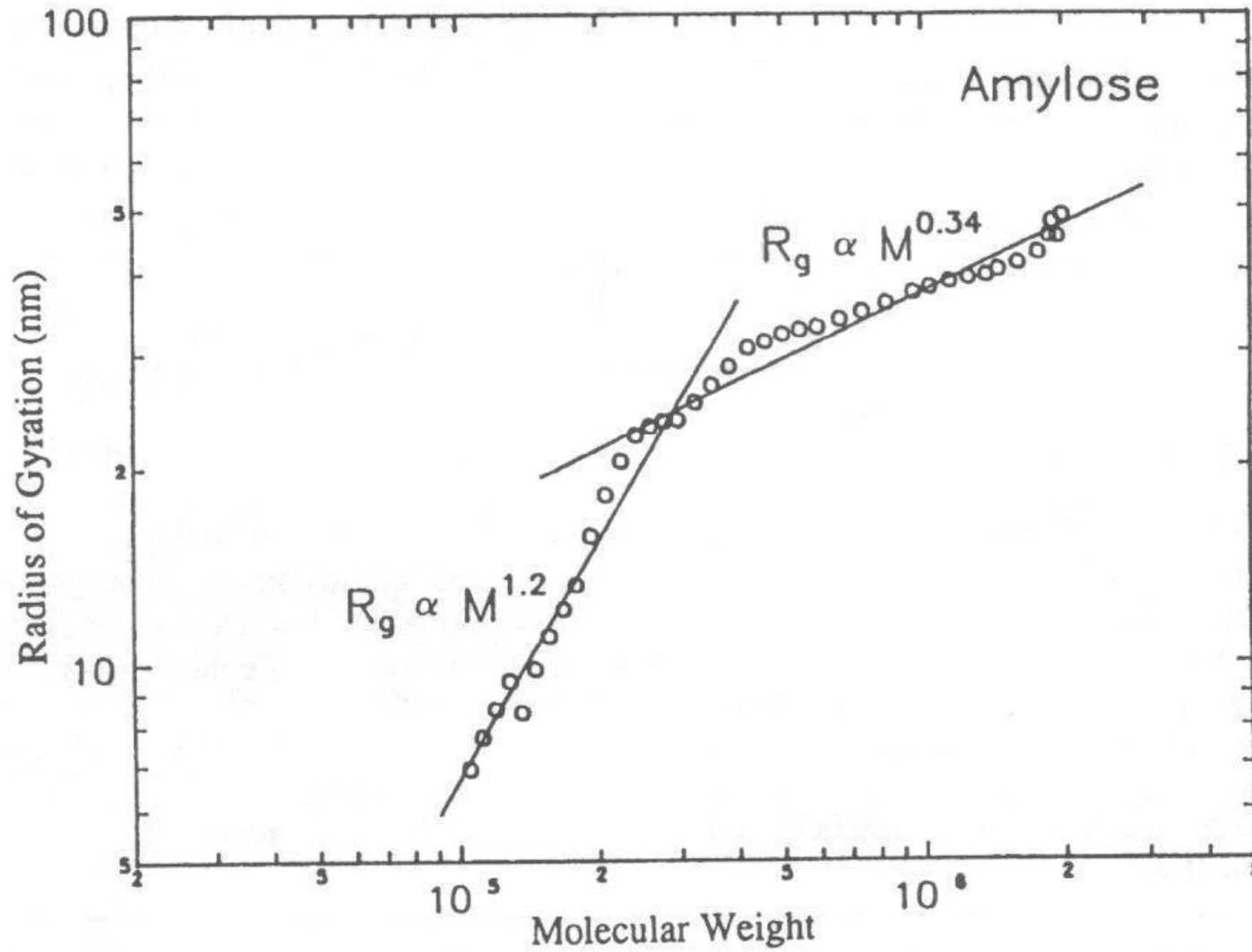


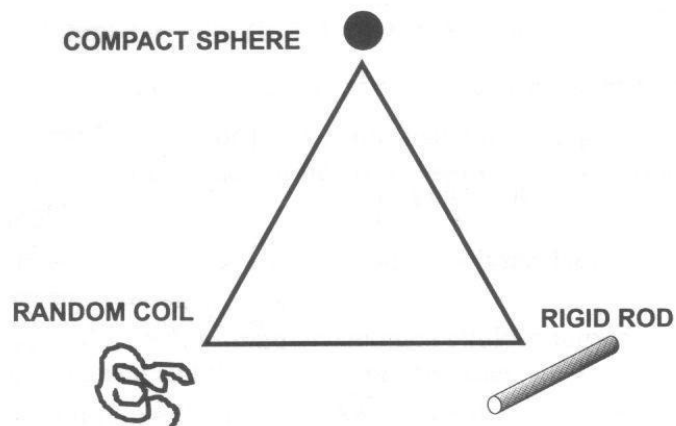
# Mark-Houwink-Kuhn-Sakurada Power law plot

Galactomannans  
 $a=0.74\pm 0.01$



# Change in Conformation

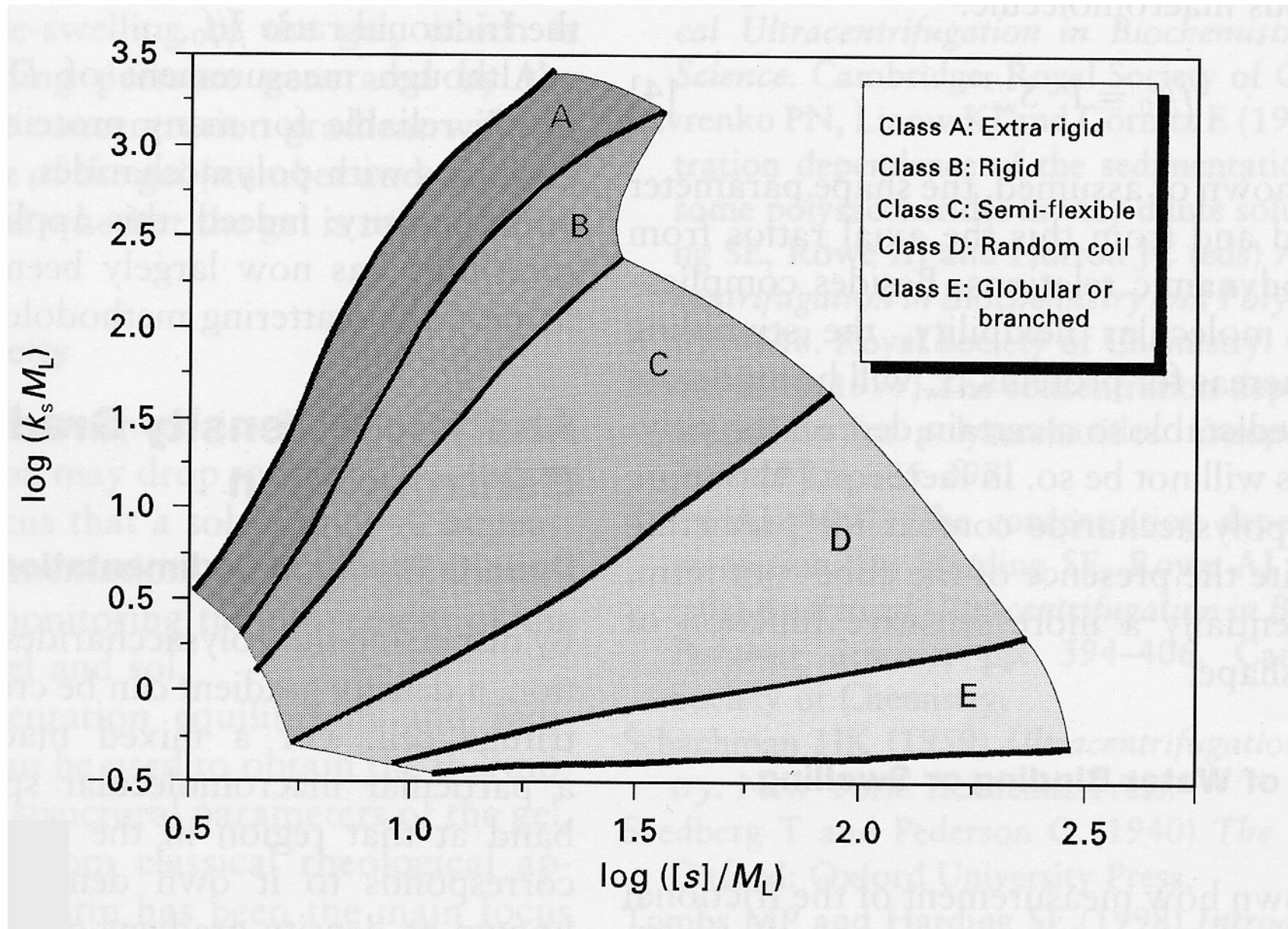




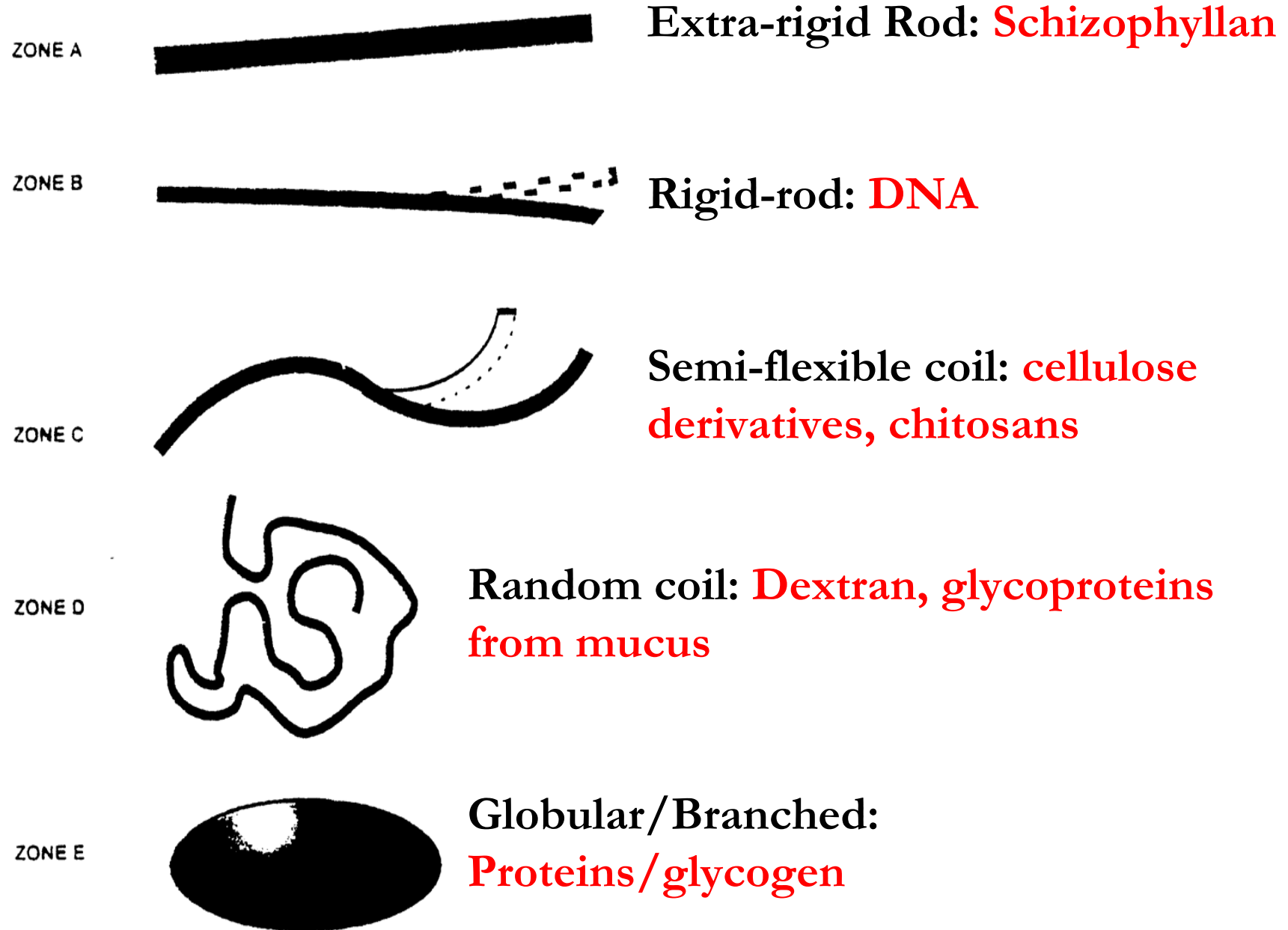
Sphere	Rod	Coil
$[\eta] \sim M^0$	$[\eta] \sim M^{1.8}$	$[\eta] \sim M^{0.5-0.8}$
$S_{20,w}^0 \sim M^{0.67}$	$S_{20,w}^0 \sim M^{0.15}$	$S_{20,w}^0 \sim M^{0.4-0.5}$
$R_g \sim M^{0.33}$	$R_g \sim M^{1.0}$	$R_g \sim M^{0.5-0.6}$
$k_s/[\eta] \sim 1.6$	$k_s/[\eta] < 1$	$k_s/[\eta] \sim 1.6$

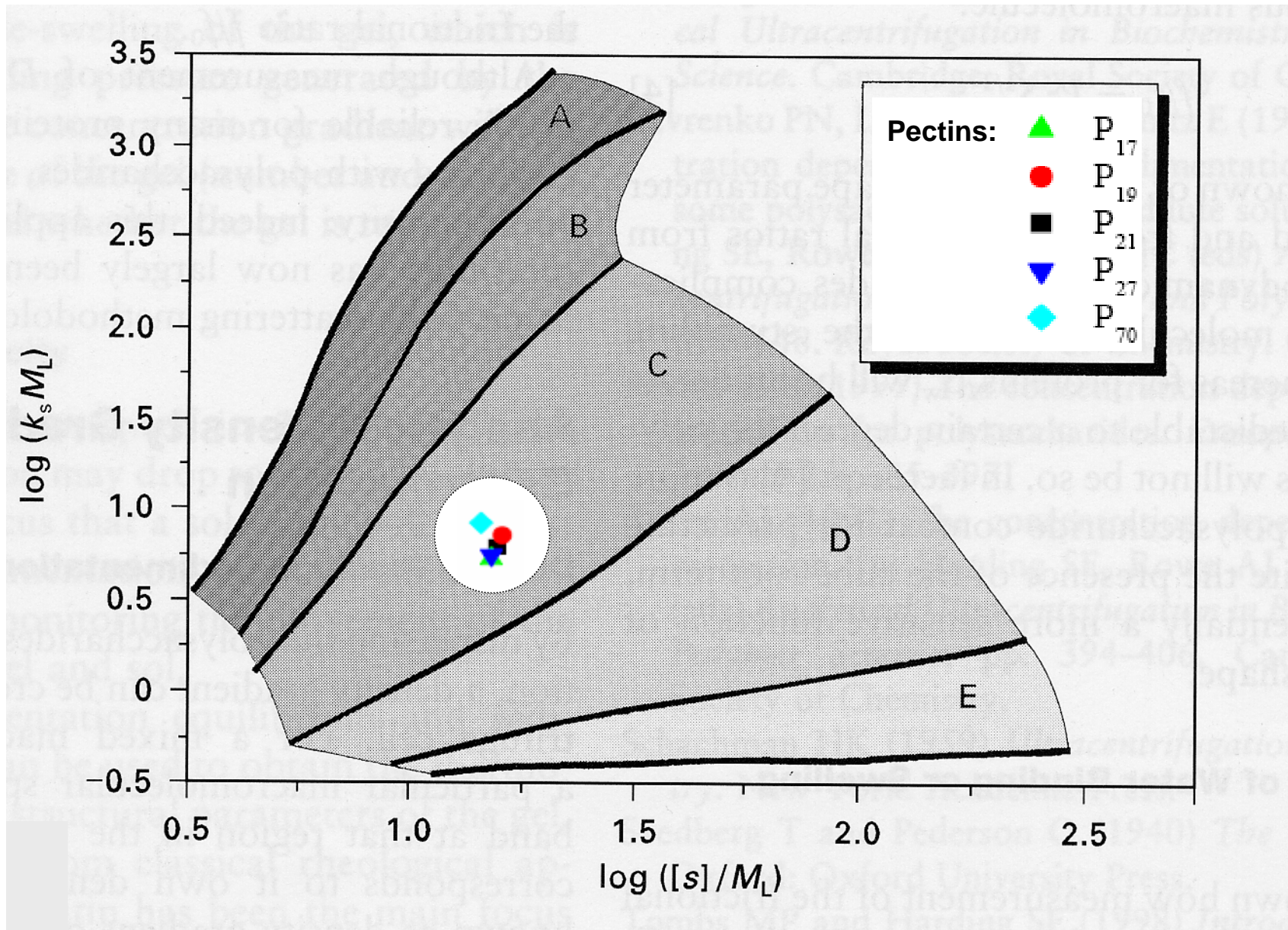


# Conformation Zoning:



# Conformation Zoning:

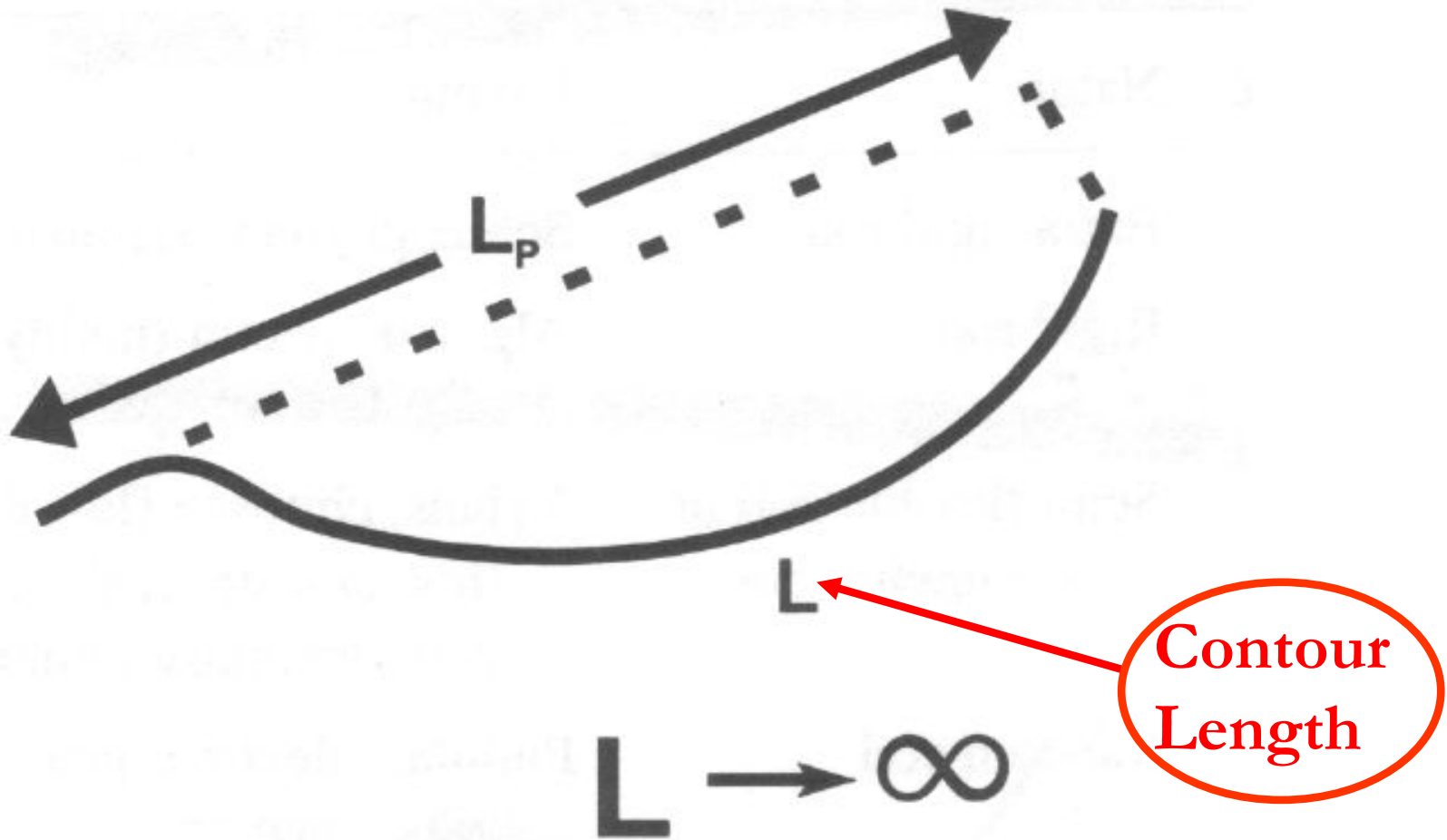




*Morris et al., 2007*

# Worm-like Chain

Flexibility parameter: Persistence length  $L_p$



Kuhn-statistical length  $\lambda^{-1} = 2L_p$

# Worm-like Chain

Flexibility parameter: Persistence length  $L_p$

Theoretical limits: Random coil  $L_p = 0$   
Rigid rod  $L_p = \text{infinity}$

Practical limits: Random coil  $L_p \sim 1\text{-}2\text{nm}$   
Rigid rod  $L_p \sim 200\text{nm}$



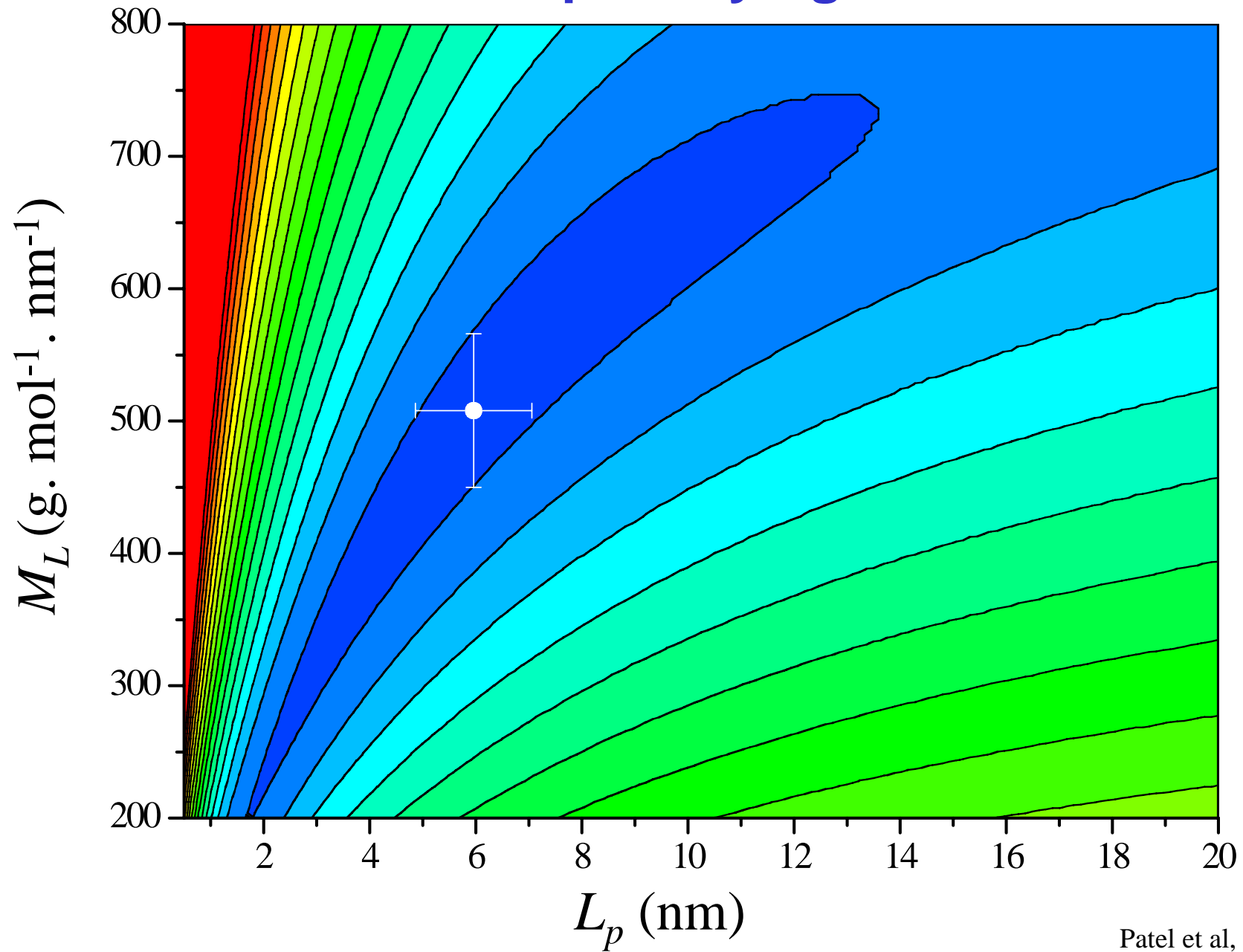
“Bohdanecky” relation

$$\left(\frac{M_w^2}{[\eta]}\right)^{1/3} = A_0 M_L \Phi^{-1/3} + B_0 \Phi^{-1/3} \left(\frac{2L_p}{M_L}\right)^{-1/2} M_w^{1/2}$$

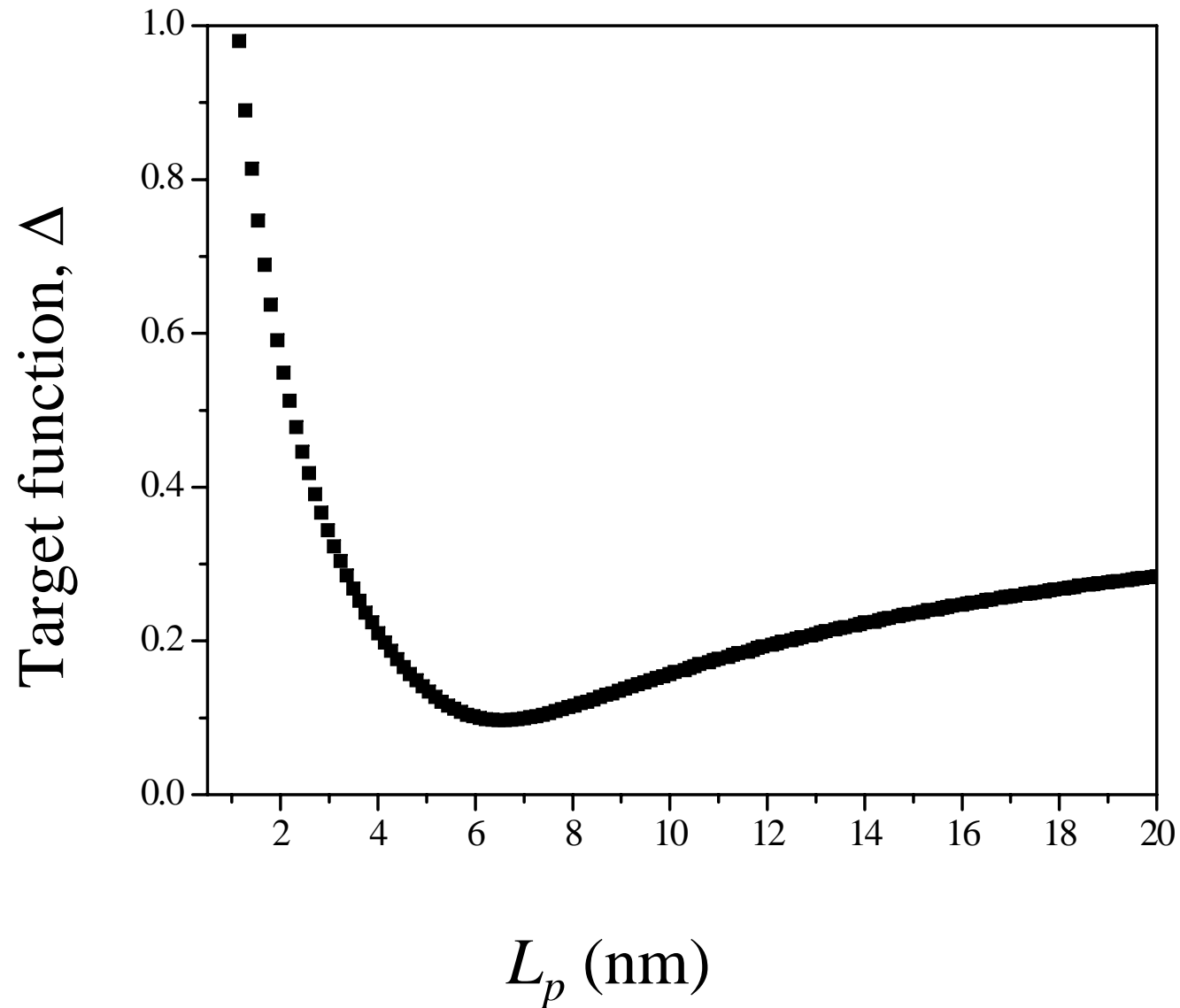
“Yamakawa-Fujii” relation

$$s^0 = \frac{M_L (1 - \bar{v} \rho_0)}{3\pi\eta_0 N_A} \times \left[ 1.843 \left(\frac{M_w}{2M_L L_p}\right)^{1/2} + A_2 + A_3 \left(\frac{M_w}{2M_L L_p}\right)^{-1/2} + \dots \right]$$

## Global plot: xyloglucan



....or if you know the mass per unit length

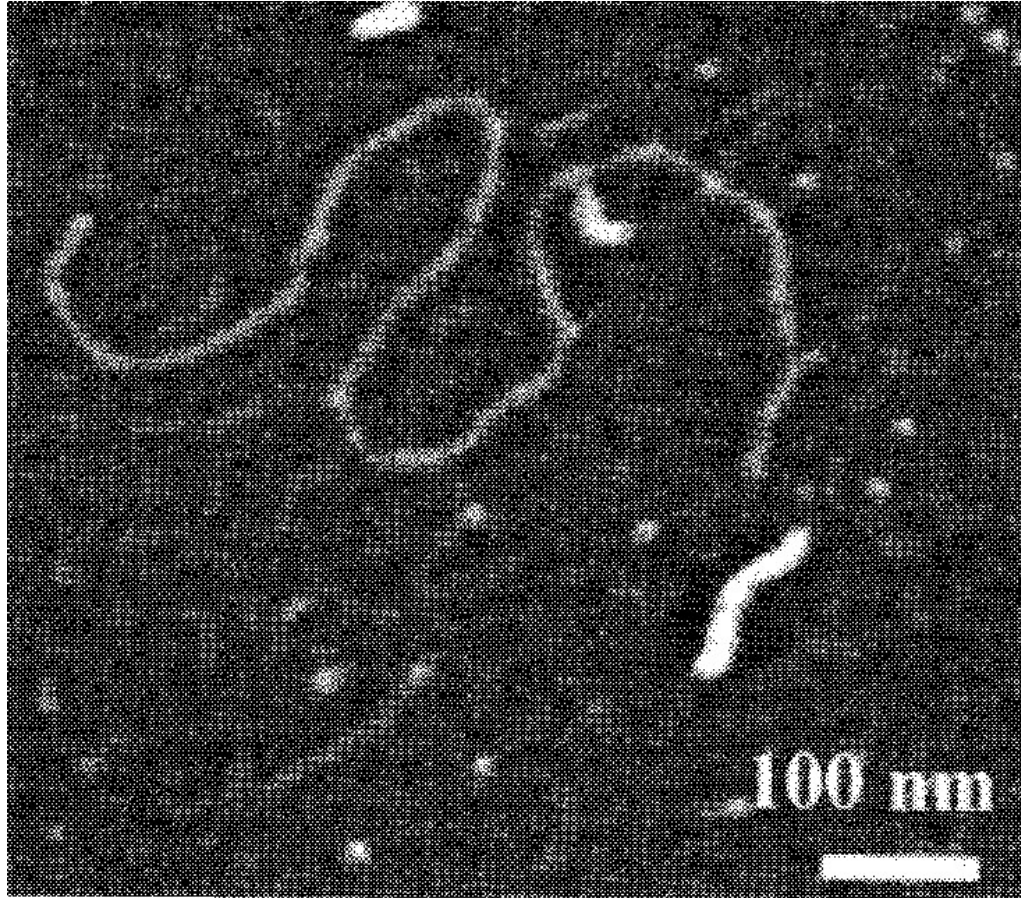


## Flexibilities of carbohydrate polymers

Carbohydrate Polymer	$L_p$ (nm)
Pullulan	1-2
Xyloglucan	5-8
Pectins	10-20
DNA	45
Schizophyllan	120-200
Scleroglucan	180 $\pm$ 30
Xanthan	200

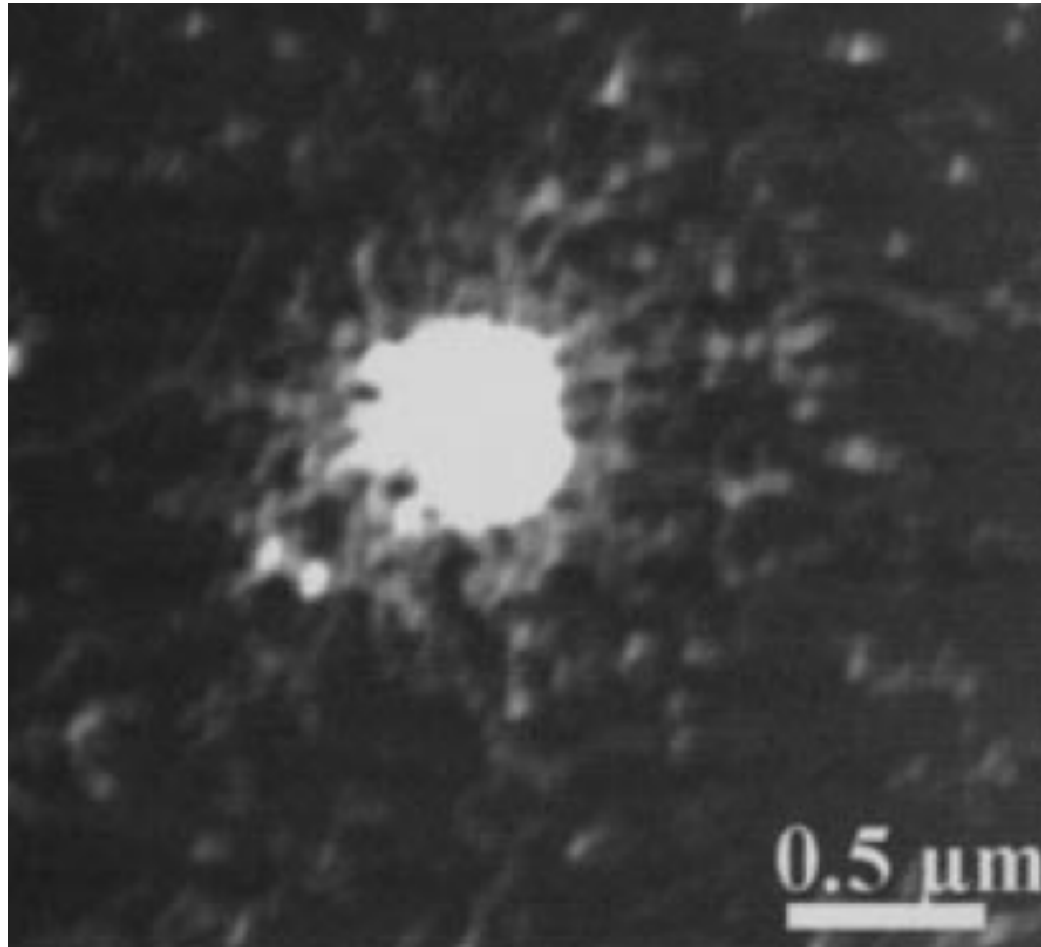
# **4. Interactions**

# Atomic Force Microscopy: chitosan



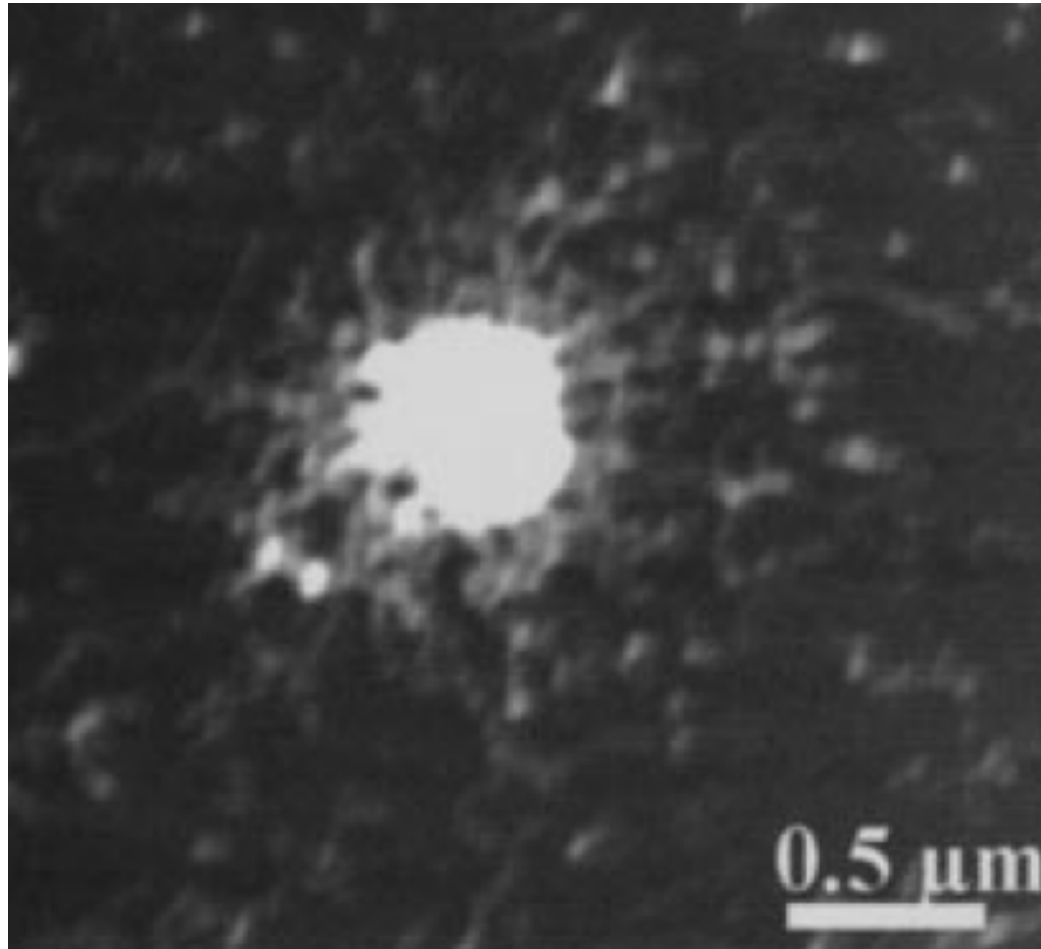
Sedimentation  
coefficient  $s_{20,w}^0 \sim 1S$

# chitosan-mucin complex



Sedimentation  
coefficient  $s^0_{20,w} \sim$   
2000S

# chitosan-mucin complex

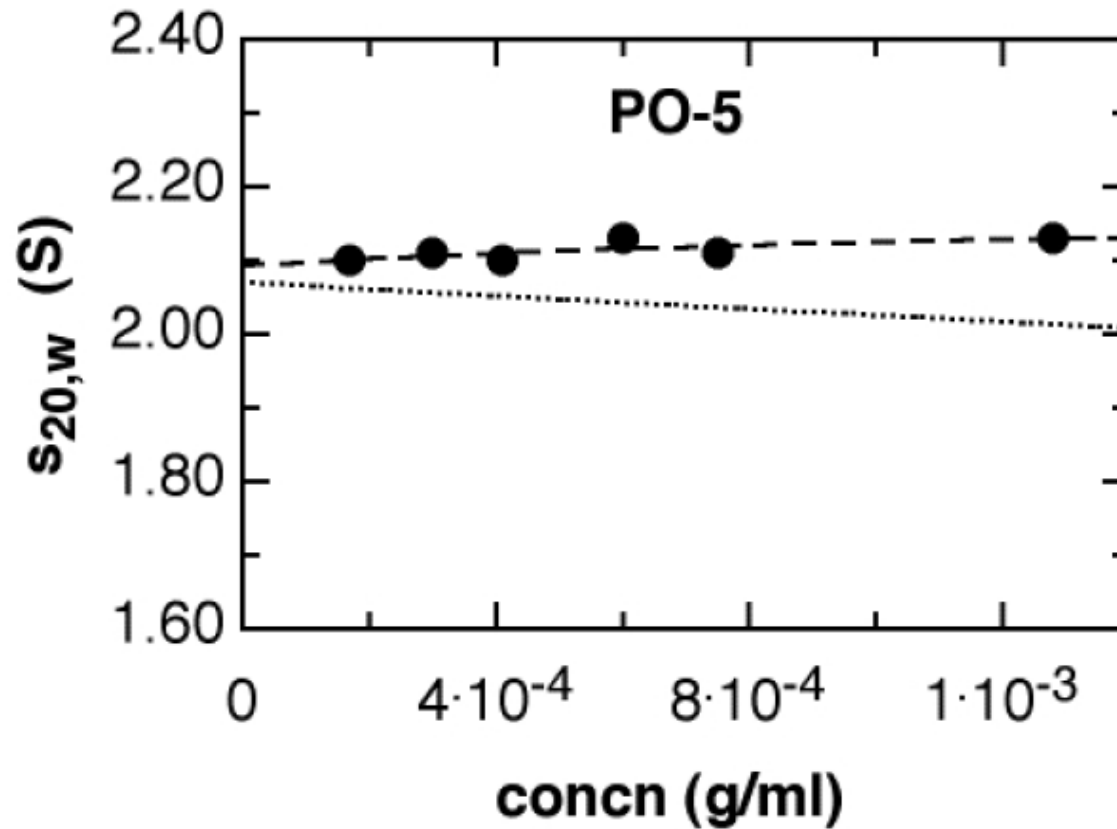


Sedimentation  
coefficient  $s^0_{20,w} \sim$   
2000S

very strong, irreversible interaction

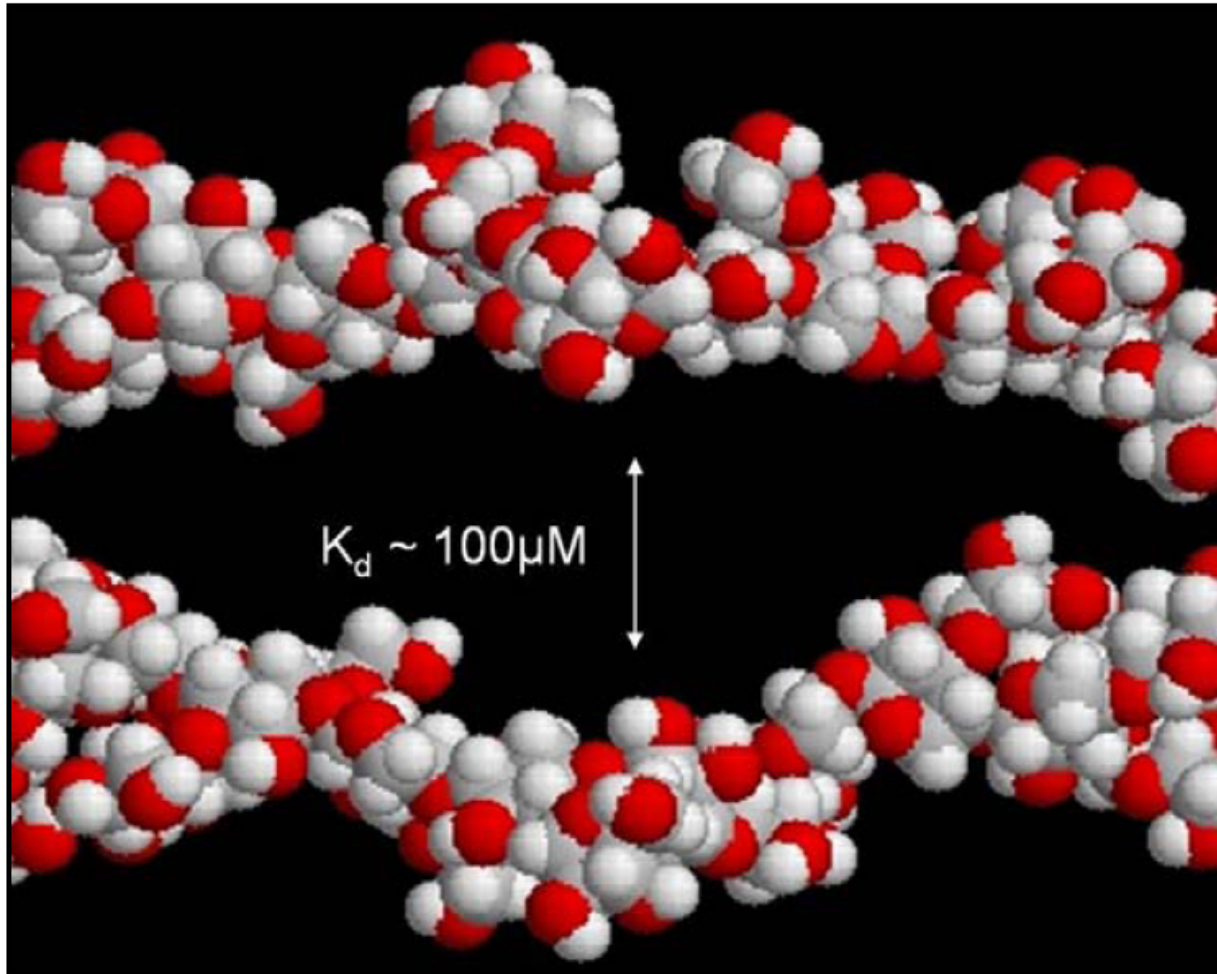


# “bioactive” arabinoxylan



very weak, reversible interaction

# “bioactive” arabinoxylan



very weak, reversible interaction

# Physical characterisation

1. Viscosity, stability
2. Heterogeneity, Molecular weight & distribution
3. Conformation in solution
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*Thanks to: Prof. Arthur Rowe, Drs. Gordon Morris, Yanling Lu, Trushar Patel (NCMH) & Professor Jose Garcia de la Torre (Murcia)*

**for a copy of this presentation ...**

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ncmh>