

MOLECULAR BIOPHYSICS SUITE  
DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



## **STRUBI FACILITY TALK**

David Staunton

27th January 2022

# Molecular Biophysics Suite

- Organised by Dept and STRUBI and funded by Fell Fund in 2008
- Brought together equipment from various sites to one location in New Biochemistry
- Set up booking system and charging
- Maintenance and servicing
- Training and workshops

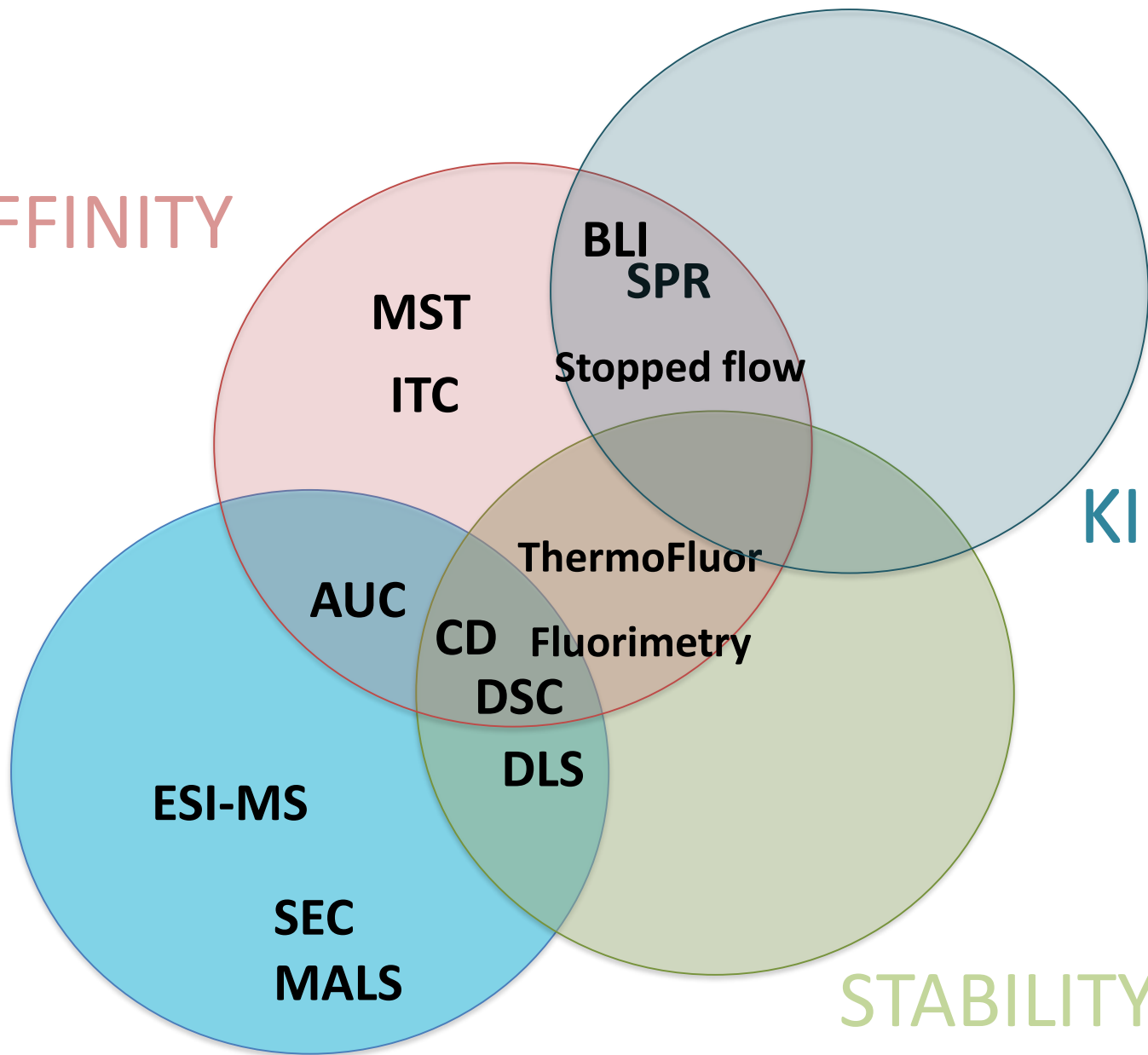


Instrument	Technique	Abbreviation
Wyatt HELEOS	Size exclusion chromatography Multiple Angle Light Scatter	SEC MALS
Beckman XL-I	Analytical ultracentrifugation	AUC
Viscotek 802	Dynamic light scatter	DLS
Malvern Vcap	Differential scanning calorimetry	DSC
JASCO 815	Circular Dichroism	CD
Stratagene MC3005PCR	Differential scanning fluorimetry	Thermofluor
Monolith 11.5	Microscale Thermophoresis	MST
Biacore T200	Surface plasmon resonance	SPR
Malvern PEAQ	Isothermal titration calorimetry	ITC
Horiba FluoroMax-4	Fluorimetry	Fluorimetry
Applied Photophysics SX	Stopped flow	Stopped flow
OctetRed 384	Biolayer interferometry	BLI
Agilent Q-TOF	Electrospray ionisation mass spectrometry	ESI-MS

# Facility to move in February

- The facility will move temporarily to Phase 2 Biochemistry in February while basement redeveloped
- It will return to its new location in the basement in late summer 2022
- During the moves the facility will be closed for a week

AFFINITY



KINETICS

STABILITY

CHARACTERISATION

<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Technique</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>
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# Analytical Ultracentrifugation XL-I

Absolute measurement of  
mass and protein  
conformation in solution

Sedimentation equilibrium  
gives the true MW of the  
macromolecule, and  
information on solution  
behaviour e.g. polydispersity

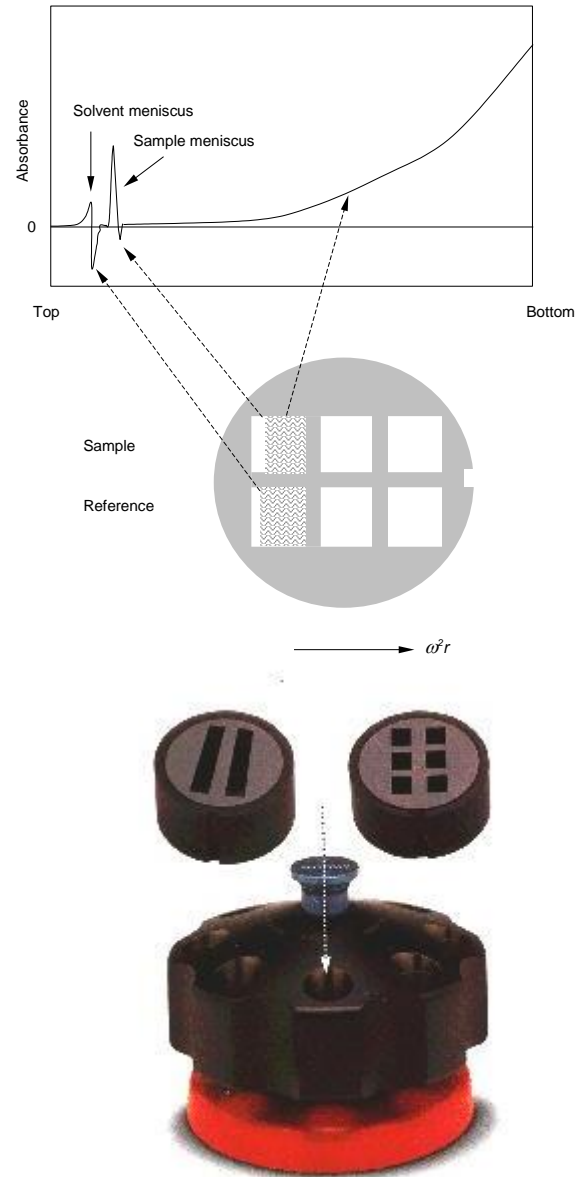
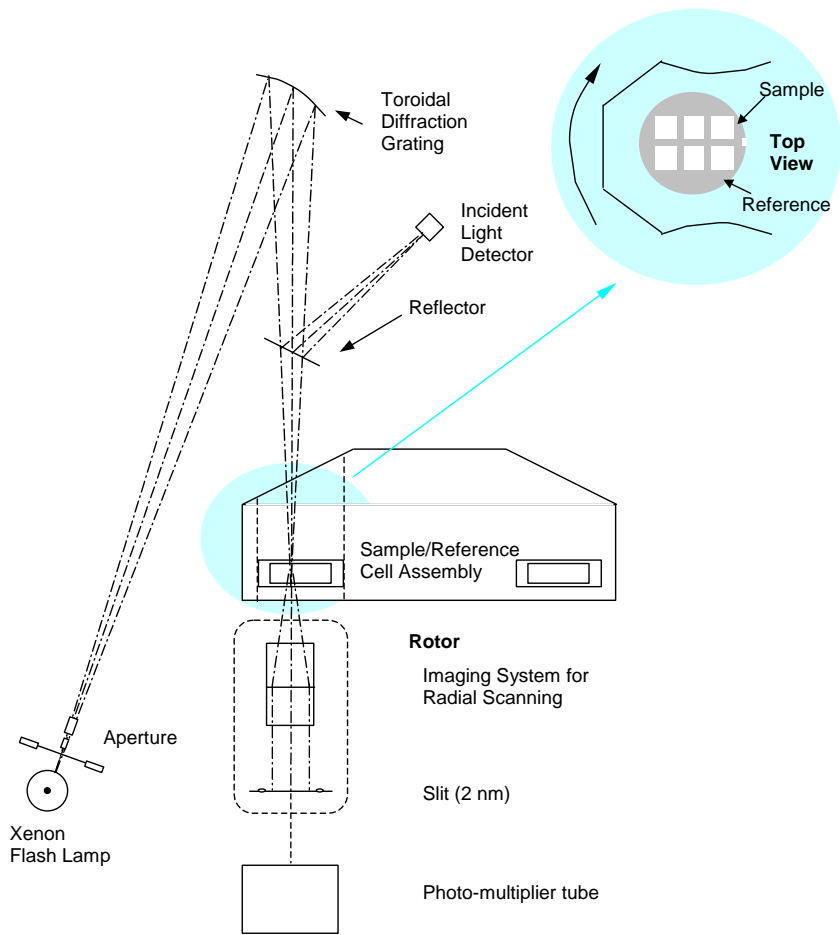
Sedimentation velocity gives  
information on mass, shape  
and size distribution

Require 100-400ul of sample  
and buffer control.

Concentration range  $\mu\text{M}$   
(230nm) to  $\text{mM}$  (interference)

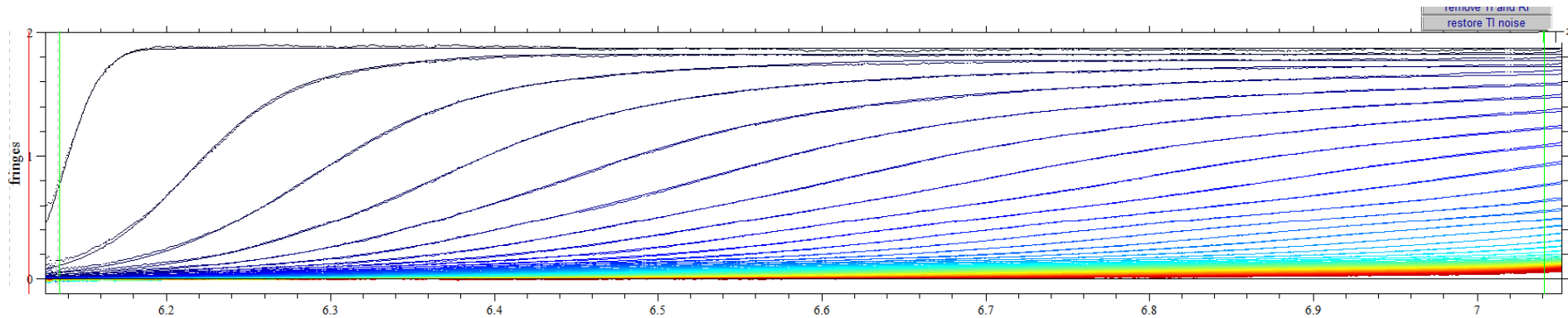
Can identify complex  
formation for weak  
interactions



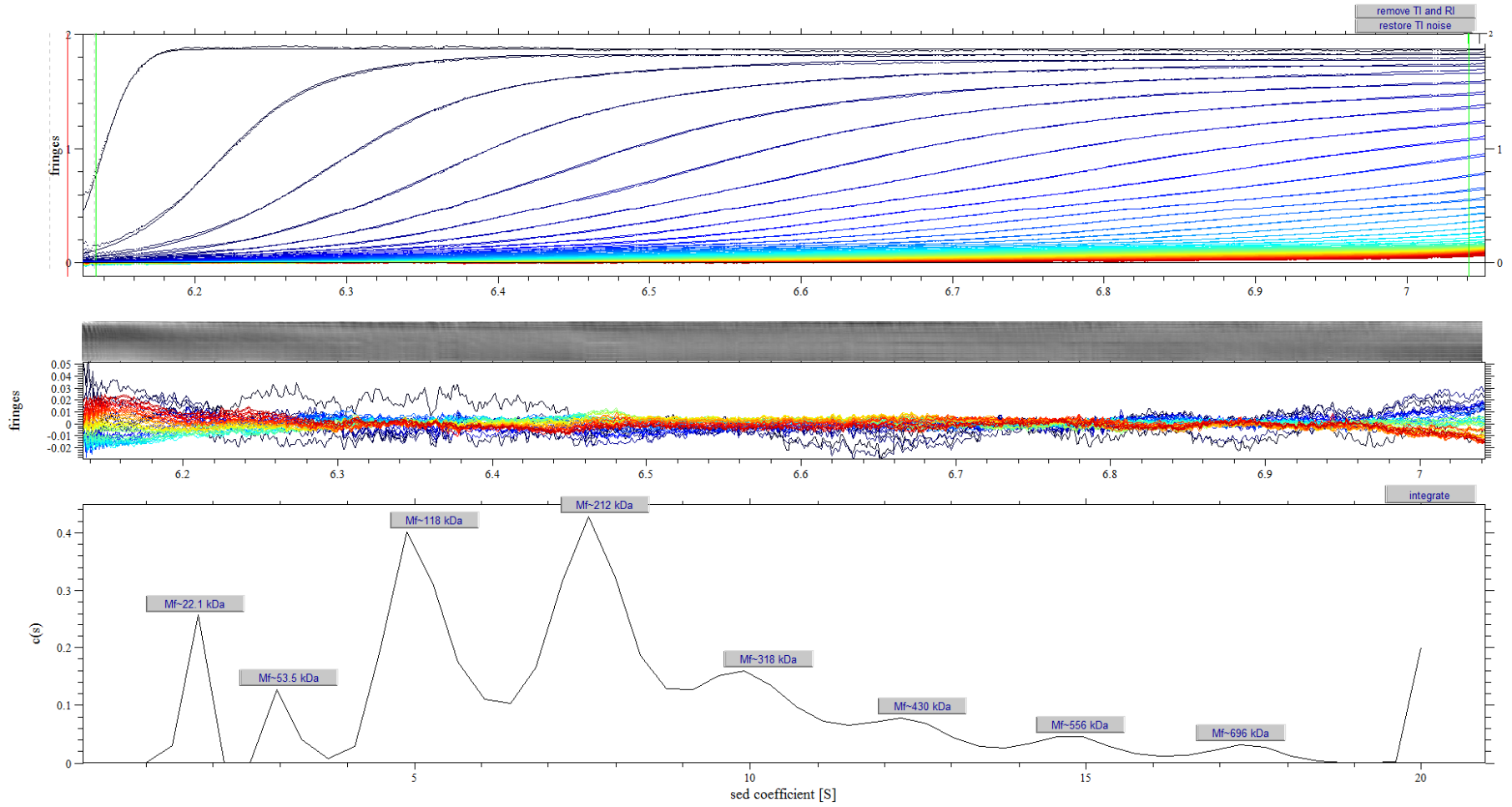




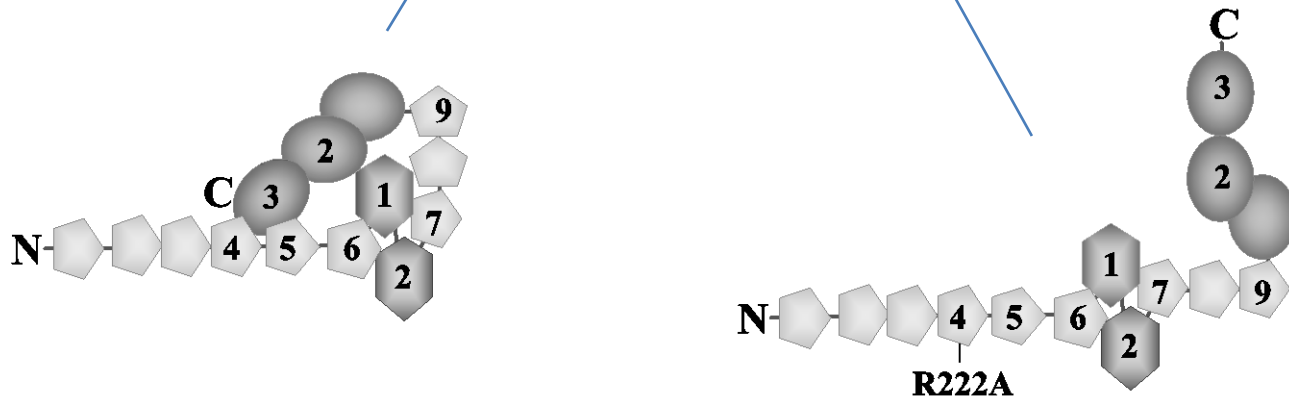
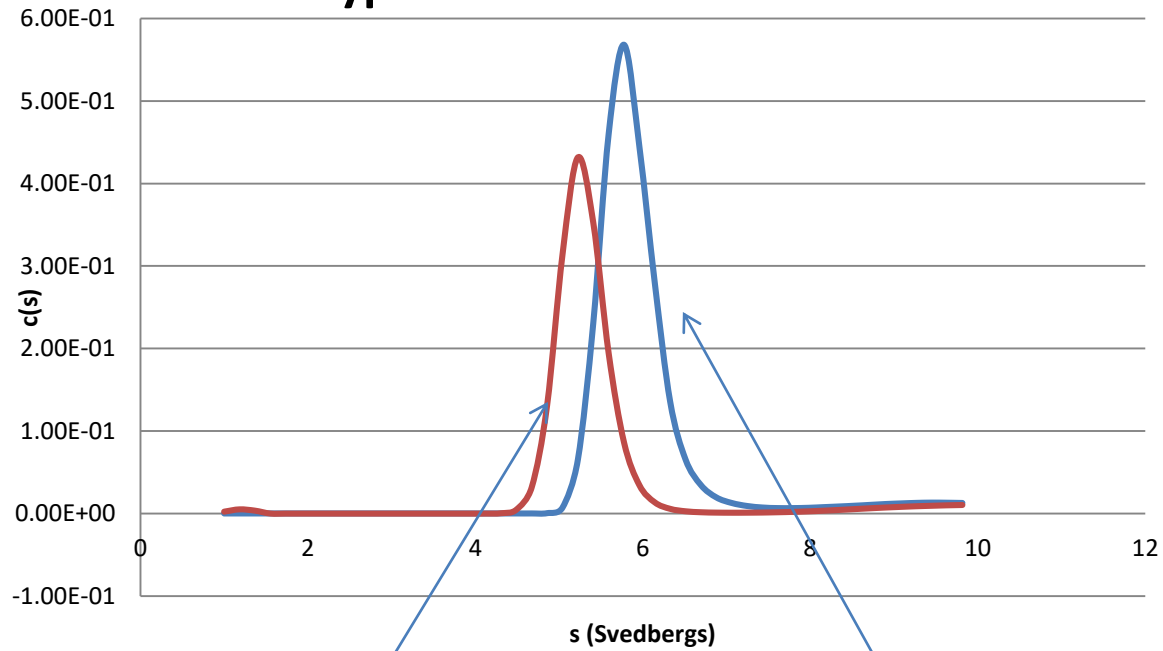
# Sedimentation Velocity Experiment analysed by Sedfit

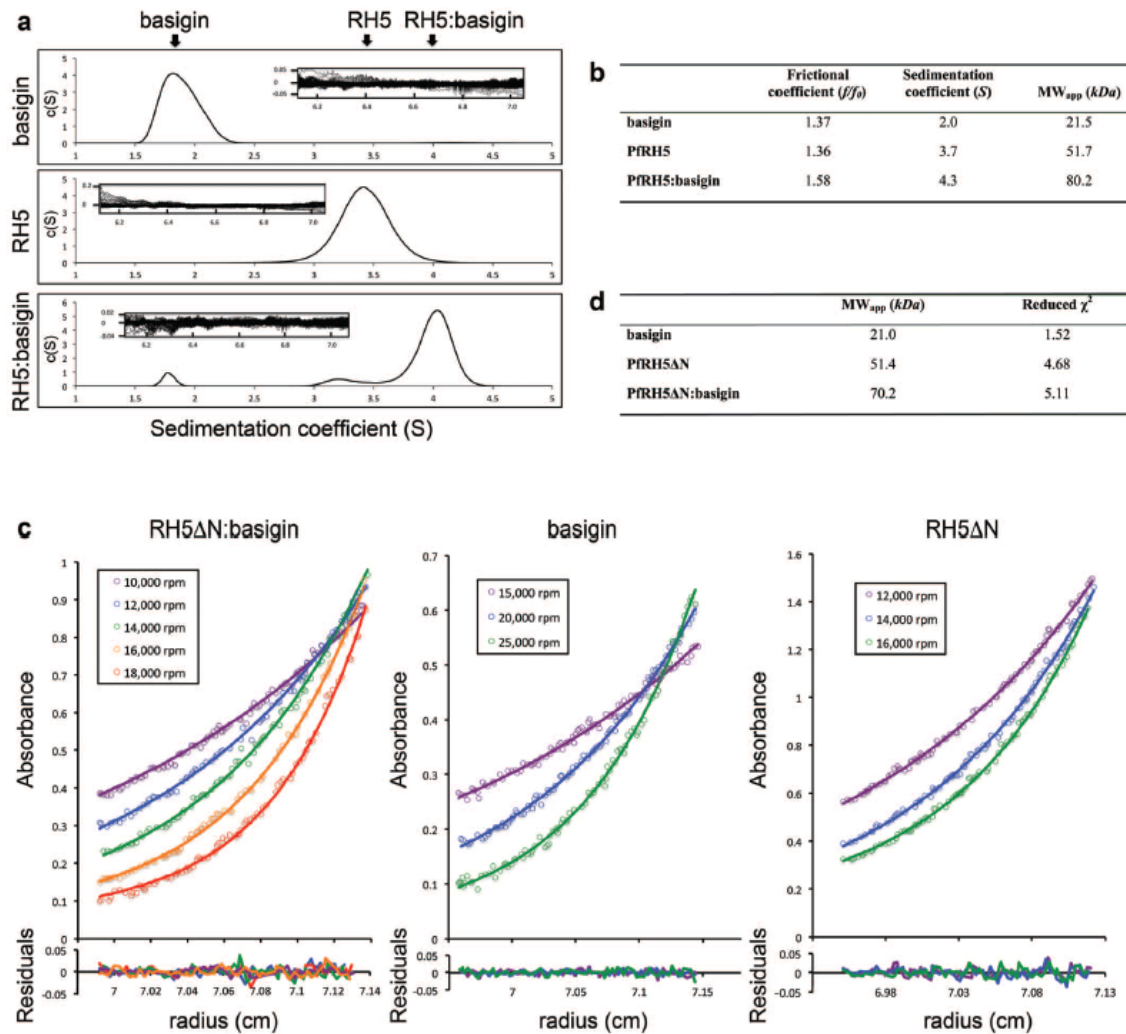


“Gel filtration without the gel”



# Velocity sedimentation analysis of Wild type and R222A 100kDa Fn





**Extended Data Figure 7 | Analysis of the PfRH5–basigin complex using analytical ultracentrifugation.** **a, b,** Sedimentation velocity analysis. The continuous sedimentation coefficient distributions that best fit the data are shown for basigin (top), full-length PfRH5 (middle), and a gel-filtered PfRH5–basigin complex (bottom). The inset shows the fitting residuals.

**c, d,** Sedimentation equilibrium analysis. PfRH5ΔN (residues 140–526),

basigin, and a gel-filtered PfRH5ΔN–basigin complex were analysed. The runs lasted 20 h at different speeds, as indicated in the inset legends. Ultraviolet absorbance was monitored at 280 nm. The residuals are shown below fitted data. The calculated molecular weights are consistent with the formation of a 1:1 complex between PfRH5ΔN and basigin.

# Dynamic Light Scatter Viscotek

Measure the time dependant fluctuations in scattered light intensity to calculate the translational diffusion coefficient  $D$  and hence the hydrodynamic radius  $R_h$  using the Stokes Einstein equation:

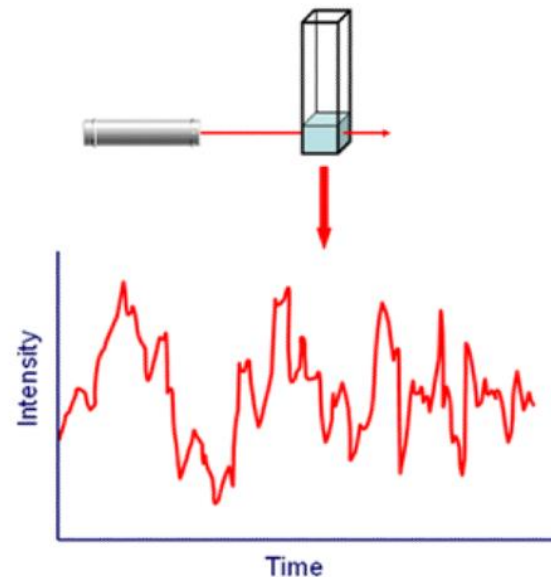
$$D = \frac{kT}{6\pi\eta R_h}$$

where  $\eta$  = viscosity

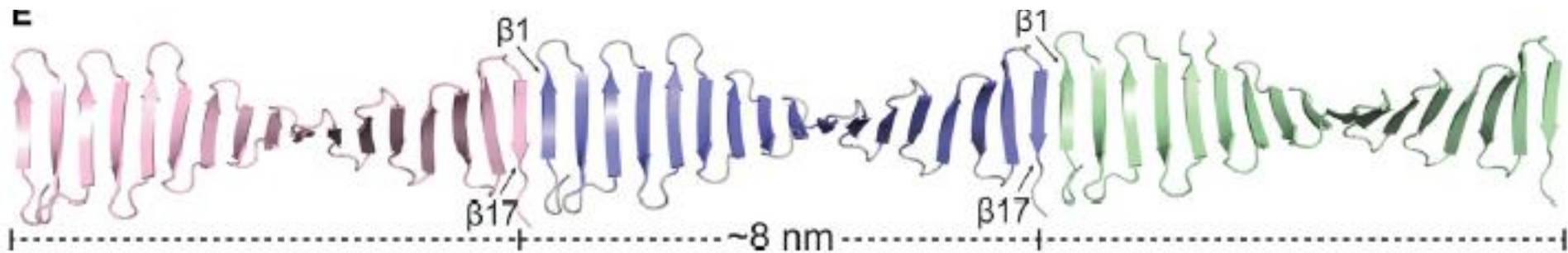
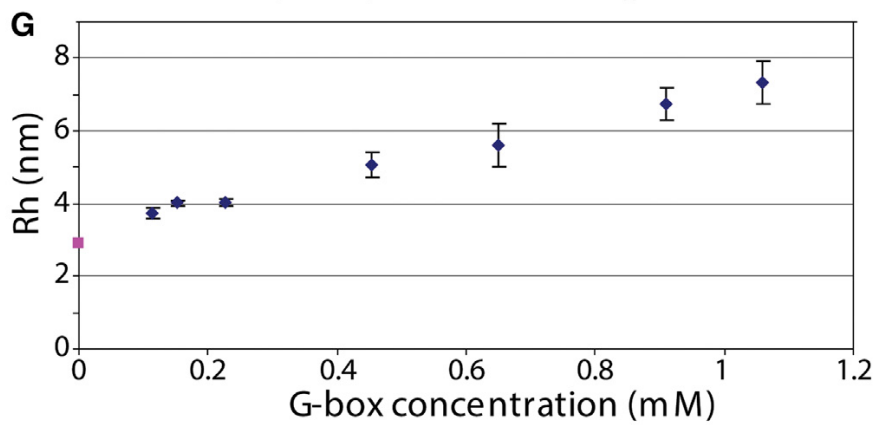
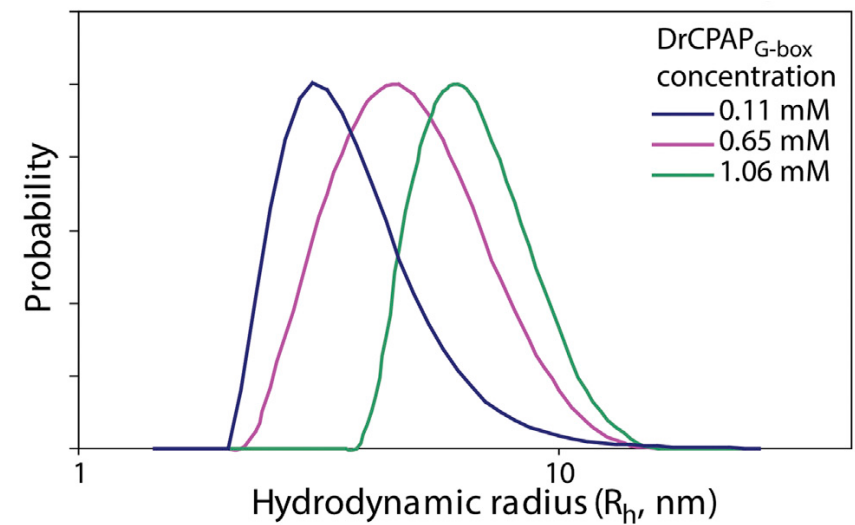
12  $\mu$ l sample volume, best for 100nm range of particle size.

Signal strength inversely proportional to size therefore need higher concentrations for small proteins and macromolecules

Analysis software available

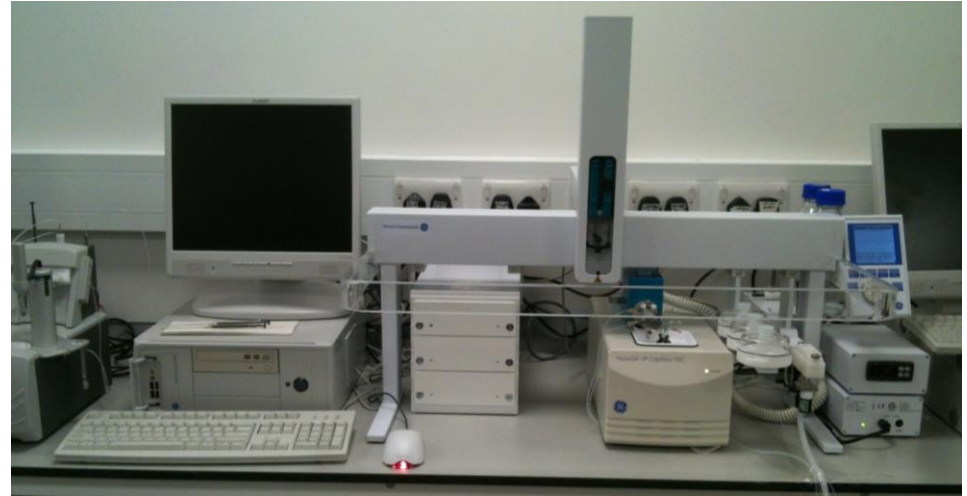


Hatzopoulos et al.,  
2014,

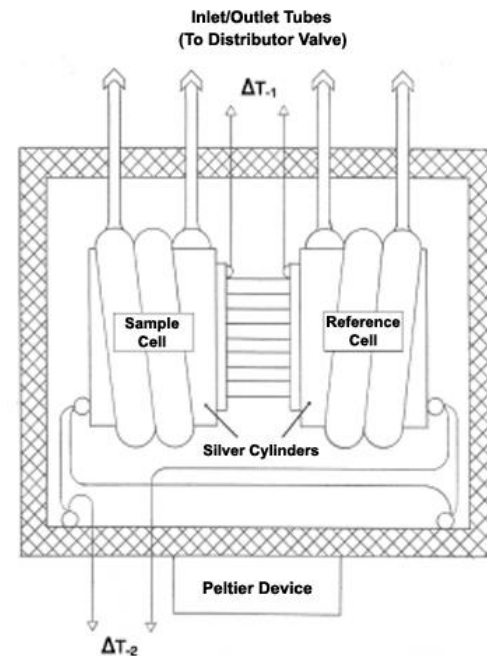


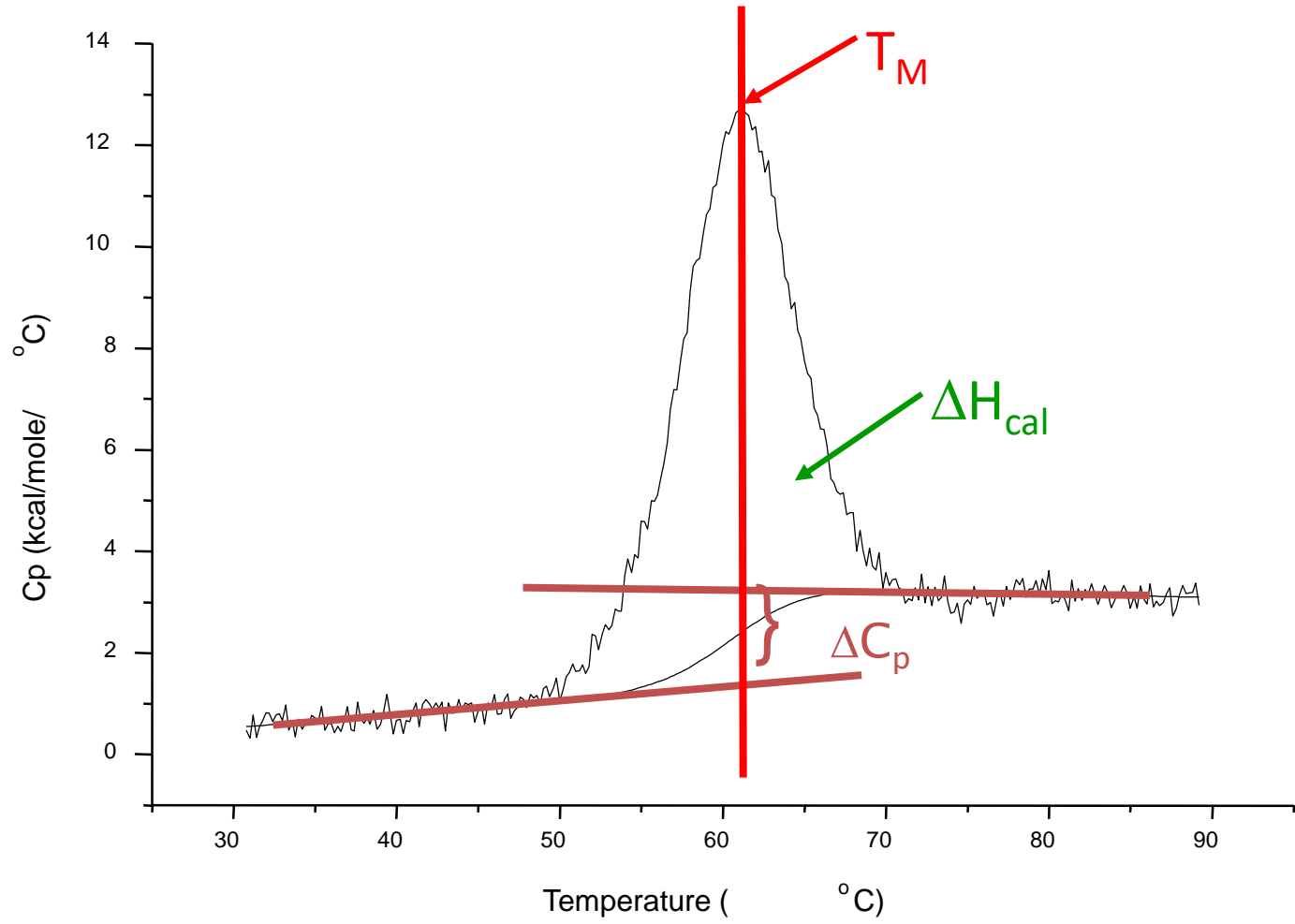
# VP-Capillary DSC

Measures heat energy uptake during controlled temperature change-heat capacity  
Output is a plot of heat capacity vs temperature  
Capillary cells are used for protein studies

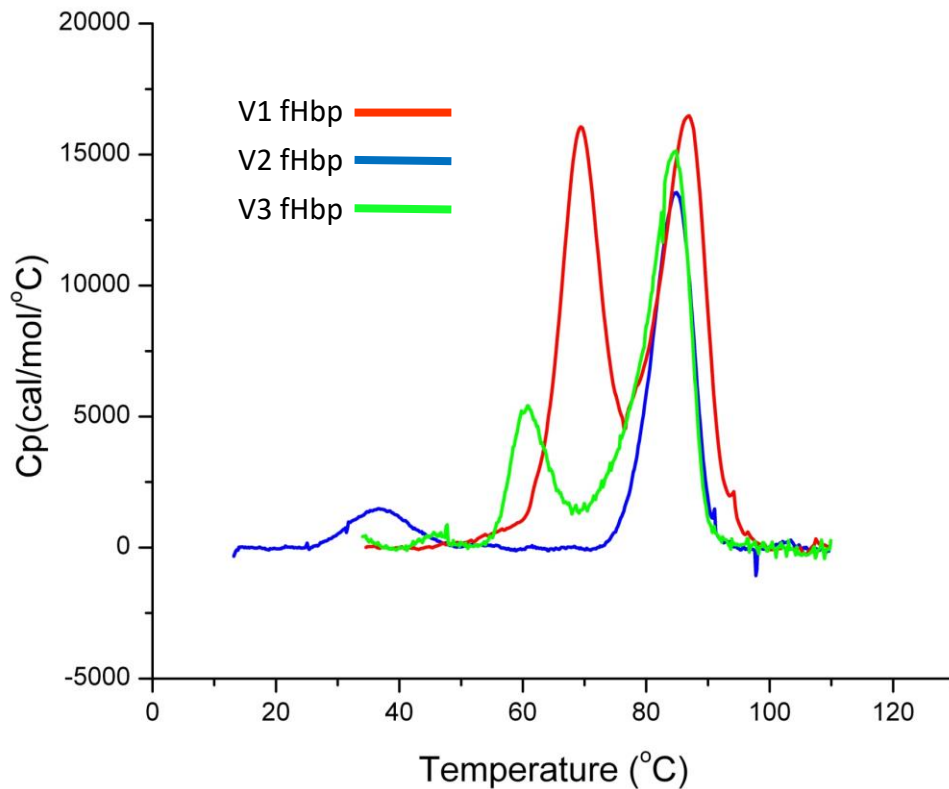


Temperature range -10 to 130 °C  
Volume of cell 130ul  
Sample size 400ul  
Sample concentration 100-500 ug/ml  
Pressurised at 30 psi  
50 samples per day









DSC used to routinely screen fHbp mutants so that potential vaccine candidates that do not bind fH and are stable can be identified.

Stability can now be routinely engineered into the vaccines by identifying the key residues in each module.

Implications for formulation of these vaccines

Variant	T <sub>m</sub> of N domain °C	T <sub>m</sub> of C domain °C
V1	69.5	86.8
V2	36.6	84.9
V3	60.6	84.5



# Jasco Circular Dichroism spectrometer

Absorption of polarised light

Path length; 1mm to 0.05mm (thin cuvettes)

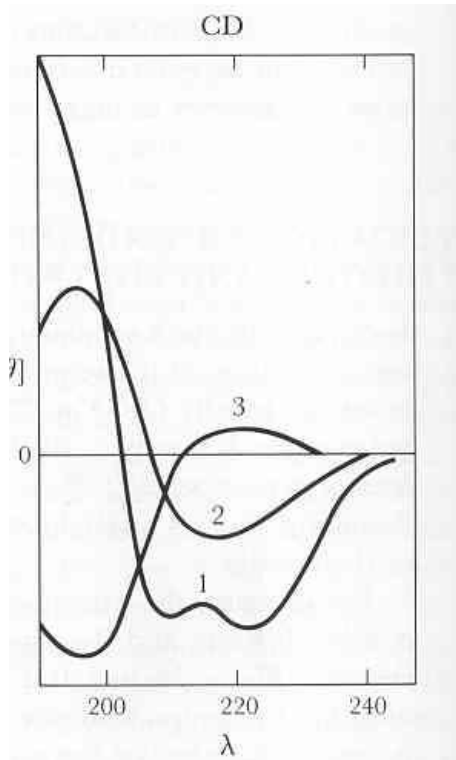
Protein concentrations; 0.1 - 0.05mg/ml, approx 200µl sample, for 1mm cuvette.

Buffers: low buffer concentration preferable. Usually 10mM phosphate buffer + 20mM NaCl

Nitrogen: need to purge sample compartment and lamp



# Circular Dichroism – protein secondary structure



1 = helical

2 = sheet

3 = random coil

All data should be saved as mean residues ellipticities prior deconvolution.

The mean residue molar ellipticity  $[\Phi]$  is:

$$[\Phi] = \frac{100\Phi}{lcn} = 3298\Delta\varepsilon$$

in which

$l$  is the optical width in cm

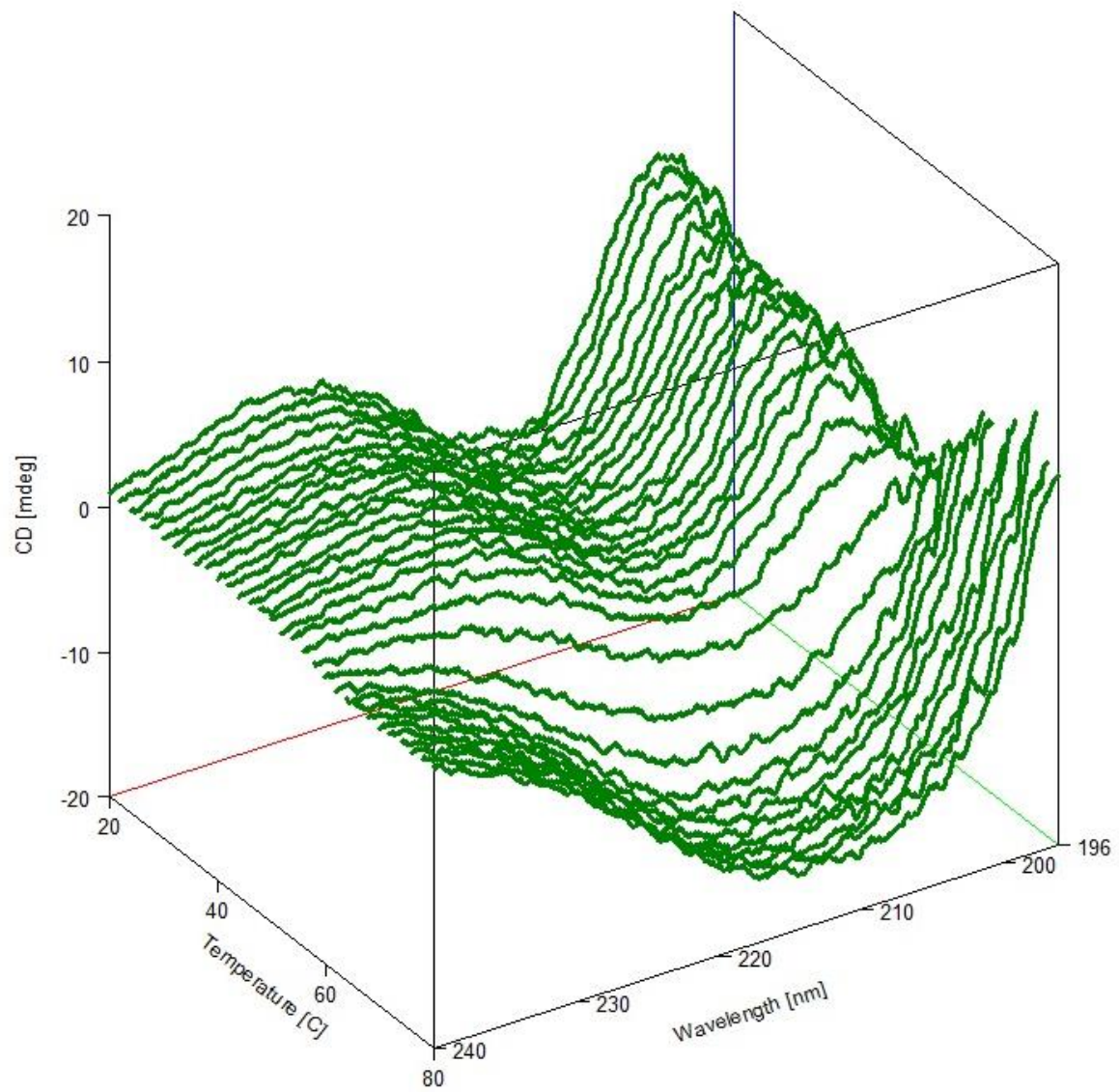
$n$  is the number of residues

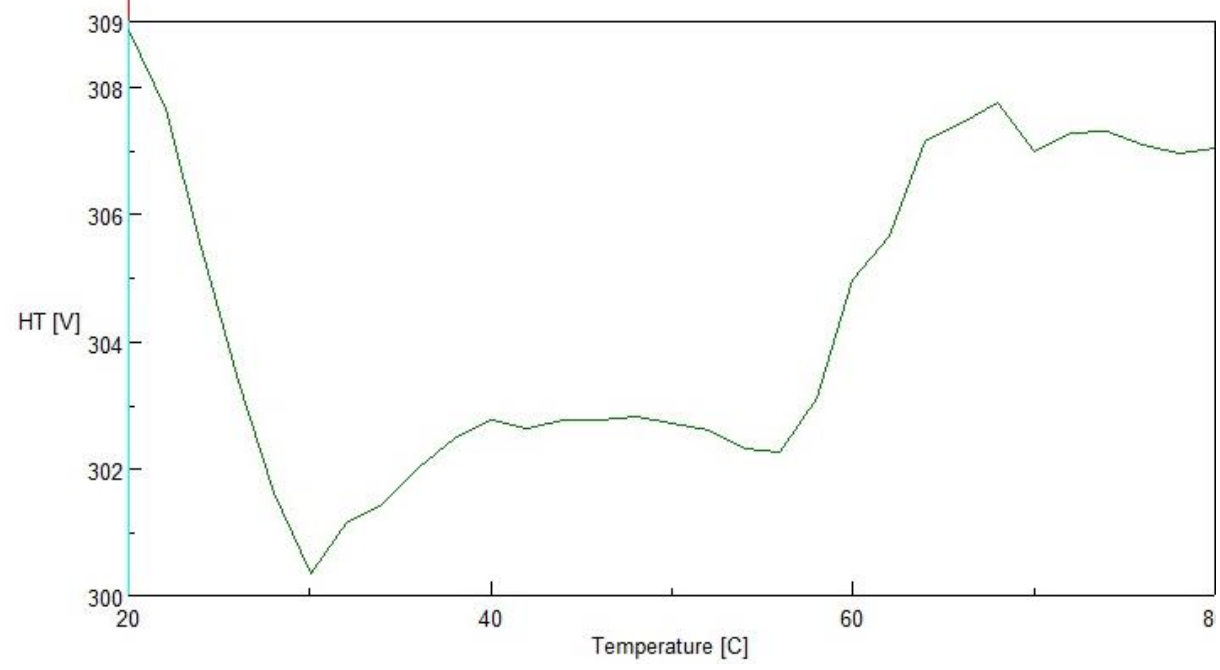
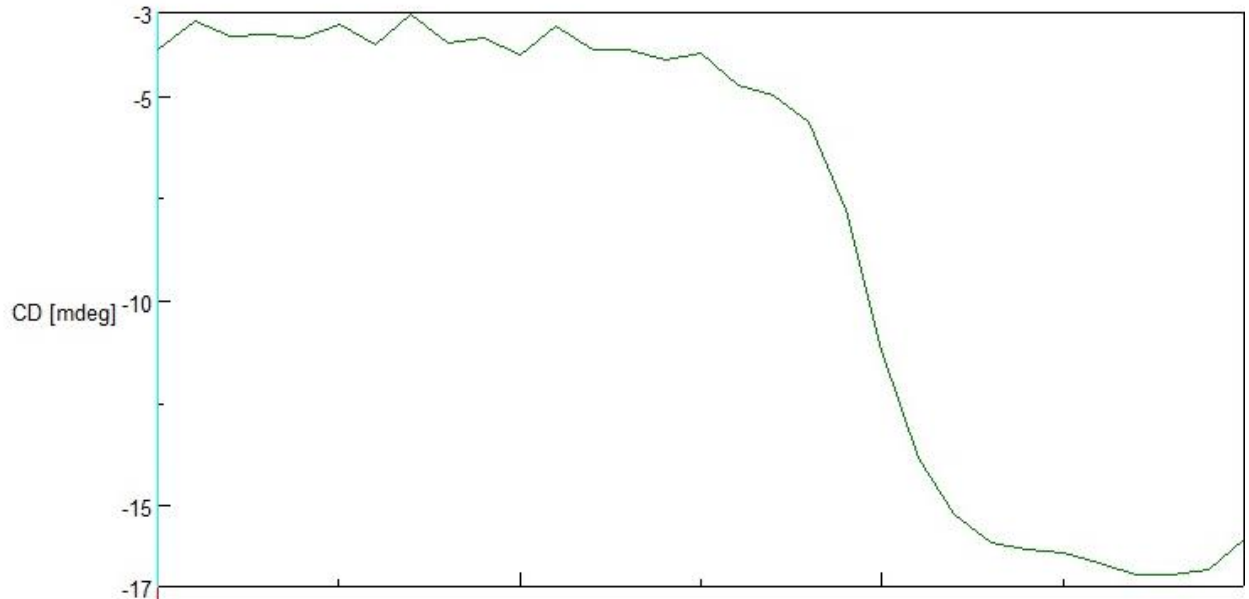
$c$  is the molar concentration of protein

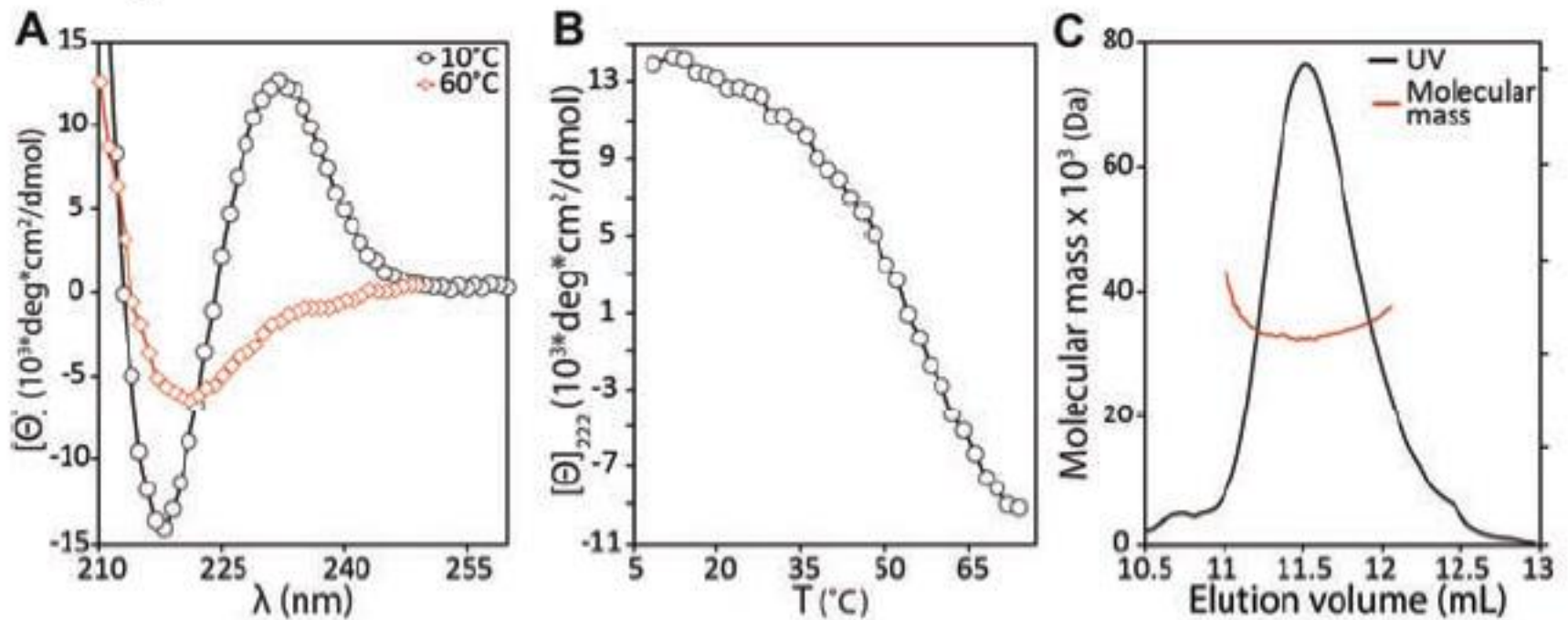
$\Delta\varepsilon$  is the molar circular dichroism

$\Phi$  is the ellipticity

**Must be calculated accurately!**







## Structural Analysis of the G-Box Domain of the Microcephaly Protein CPAP Suggests a Role in Centriole Architecture

Georgios N. Hatzopoulos,<sup>1</sup> Michèle C. Erat,<sup>1</sup> Erin Cutts,<sup>1</sup> Kacper B. Rogala,<sup>1</sup> Leanne M. Slater,<sup>1</sup> Philip J. Stansfeld,<sup>1</sup> and Ioannis Vakonakis<sup>1,\*</sup>

# Microscale Thermophoresis

The Monolith NT.115 can measure KDs between 1nM and 500mM.

The fluorescence label can be on either component.

It can measure the binding of small molecules (300Da) or ions to a target and it can be used with big complexes e.g. ribosomes.

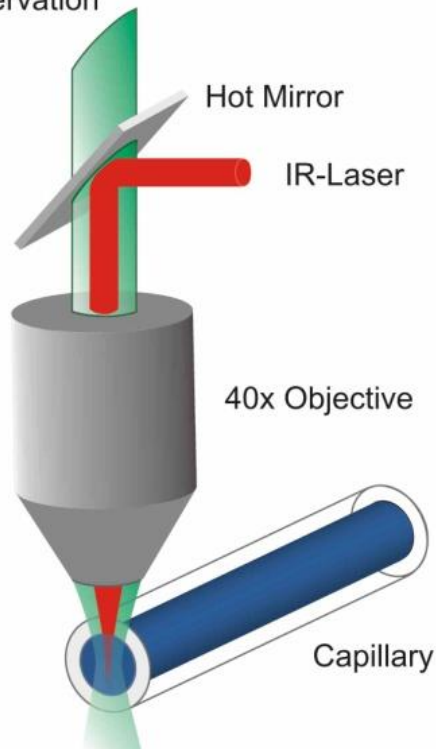
The principal is similar to shift mapping in NMR where you are looking at multiple effects (mass, electrostatics, etc) that give you an indication of the bound vs unbound state.

For an experiment you need as much of the labelled material as you can detect (~1nM) and then the unlabelled component straddles the dissociation constant by a factor of 10.

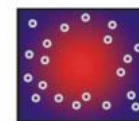
Although you only use 4ul per capillary in the instrument you need 20ul for each titration point just to avoid pipetting errors.



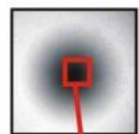
Fluorescence Observation



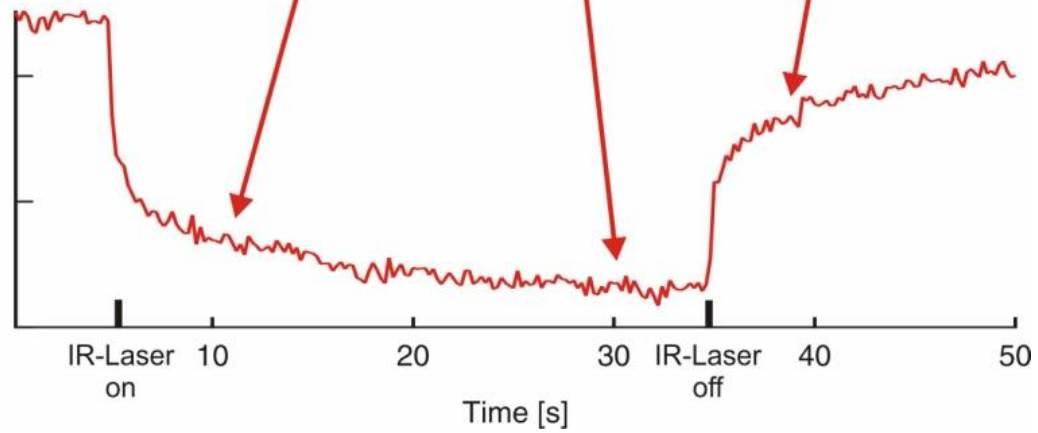
Molecular Principle



Fluorescence Images

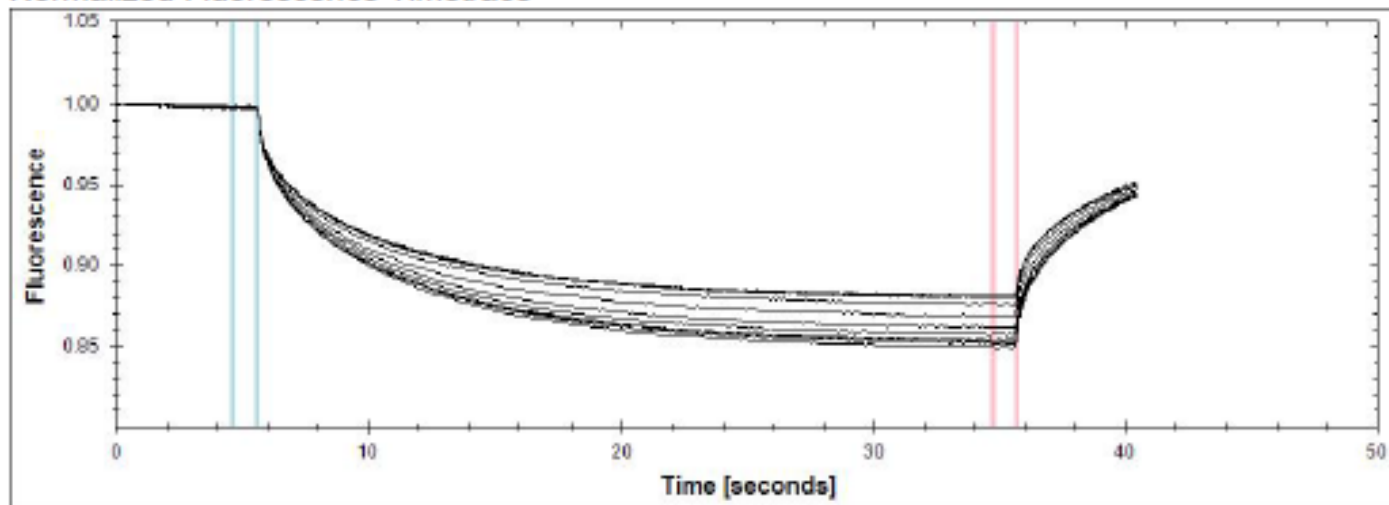


Normalized Fluorescence

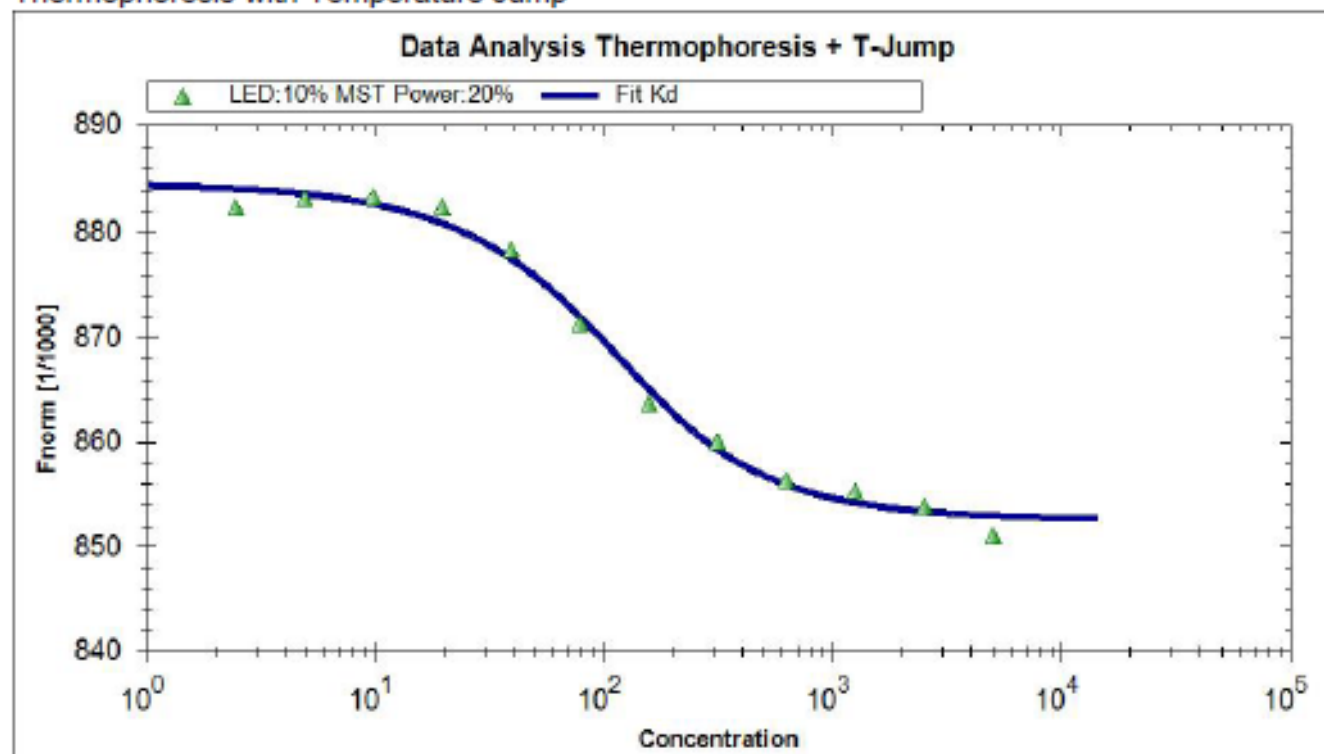




Normalized Fluorescence Timetrace



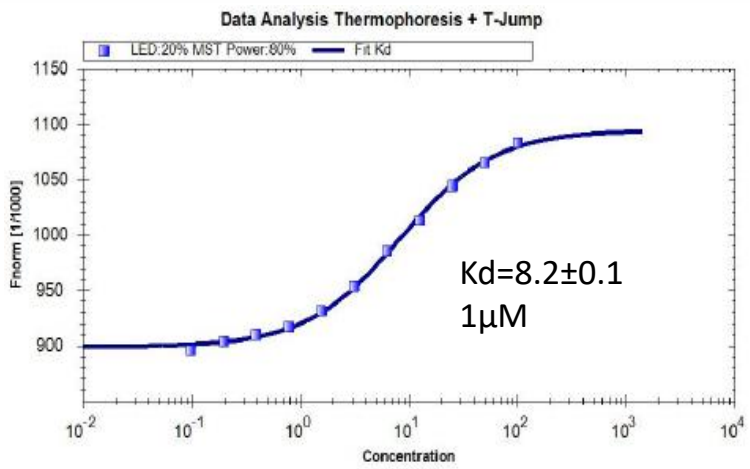
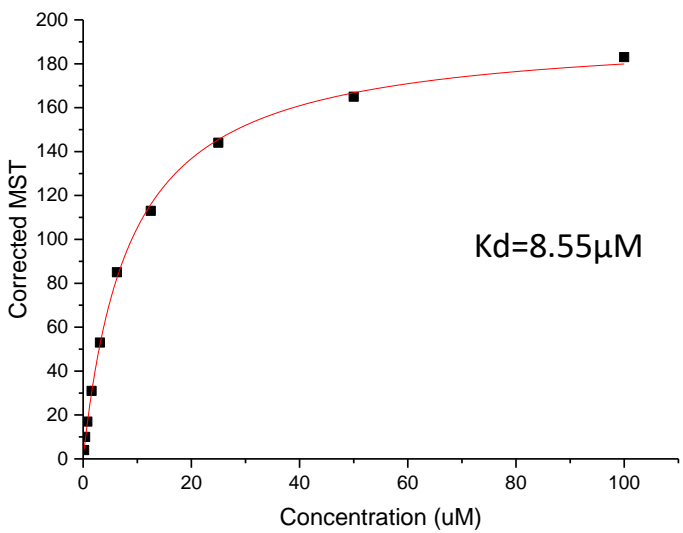
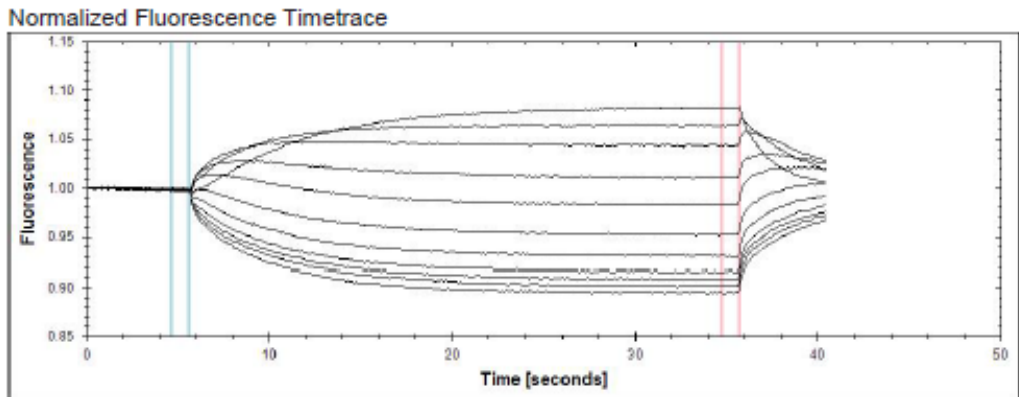
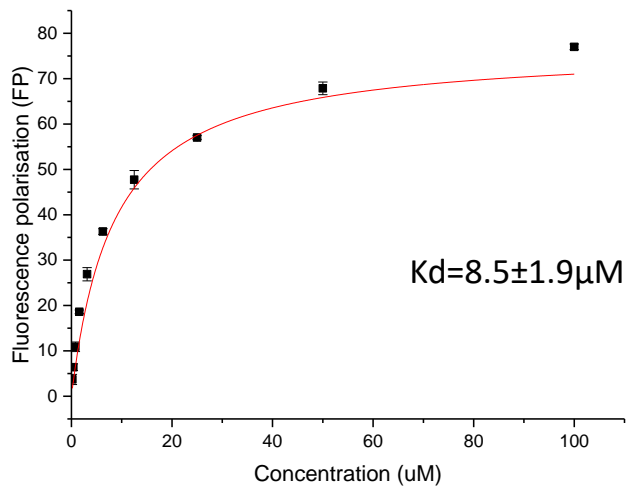
Thermophoresis with Temperature Jump



Use the same samples in another technique  
e.g. FP and MST.

Fluorescein type label used in FP. Samples in  
the multi well plate can be directly loaded into  
capillaries for MST analysis.

Note that discrepancies in KD values can arise  
from analysis method. Try to analyse  
identically.



# Surface Plasmon Resonance Biacore T200

Same principles as 2000 but  
greater sensitivity, throughput,  
sample temperature control.

Allows small molecule analytes

Software idiot proof

Sensor chips expensive but once  
immobilisation and regeneration  
conditions established very cost  
effective.

Comparison of binding

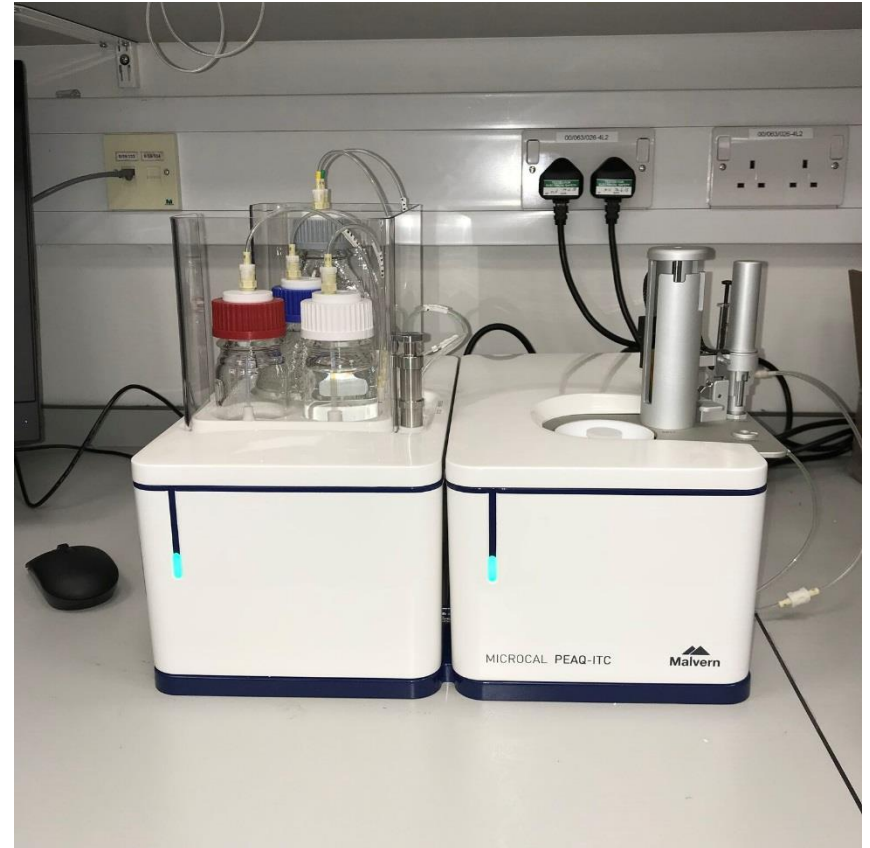
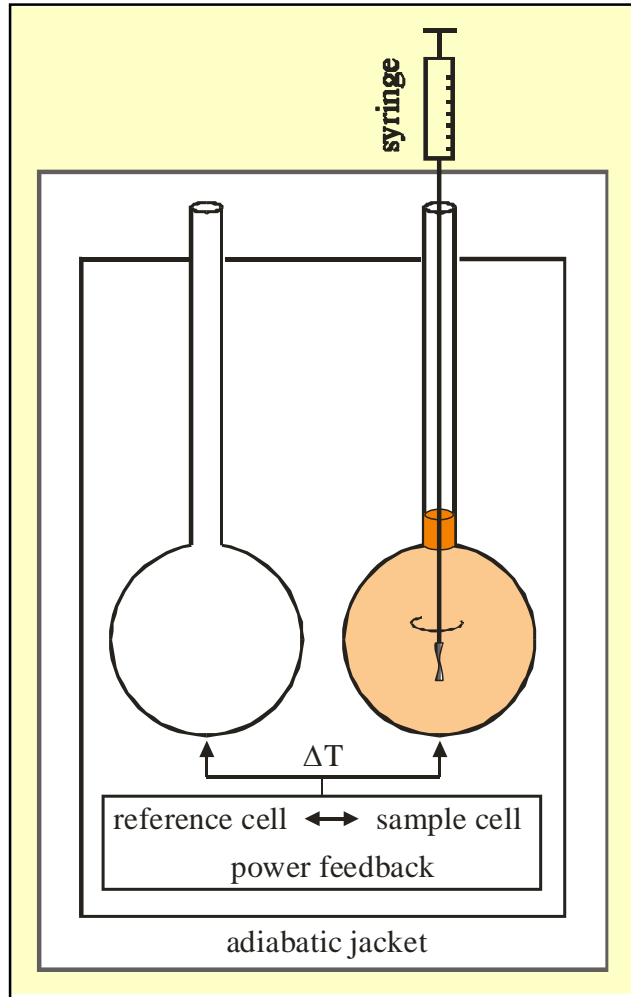
Determination of binding  
constants

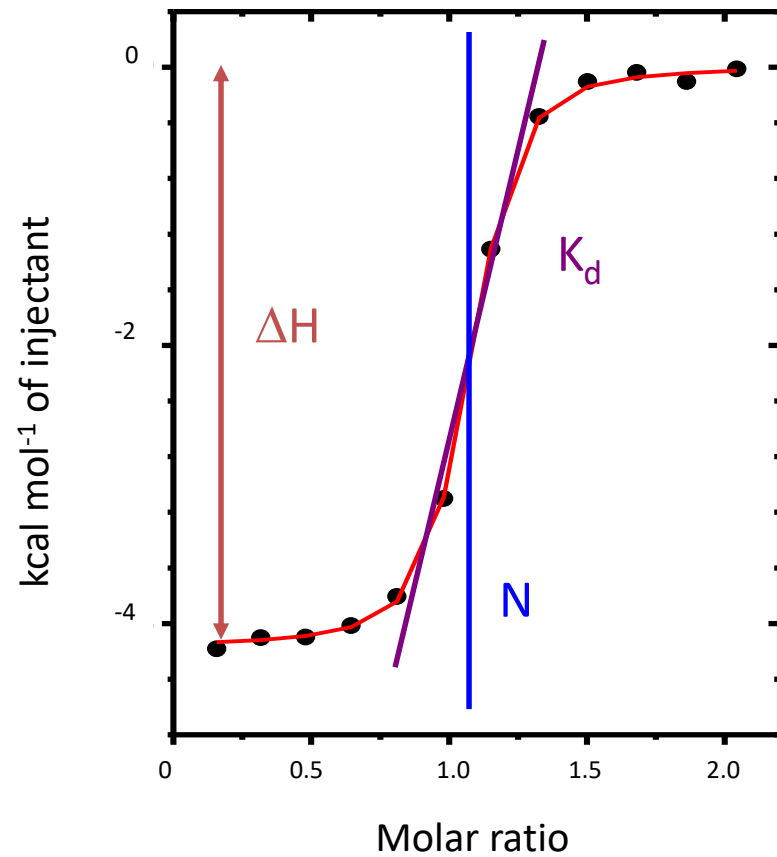
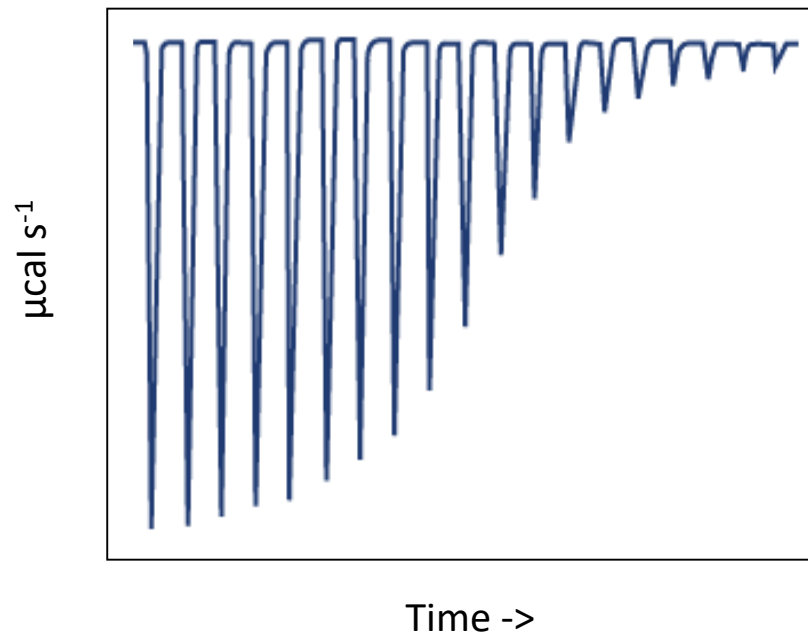
Small molecule screening

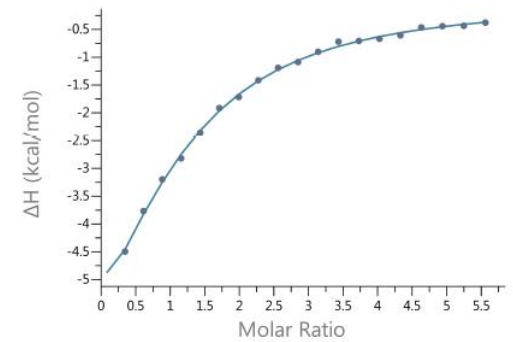
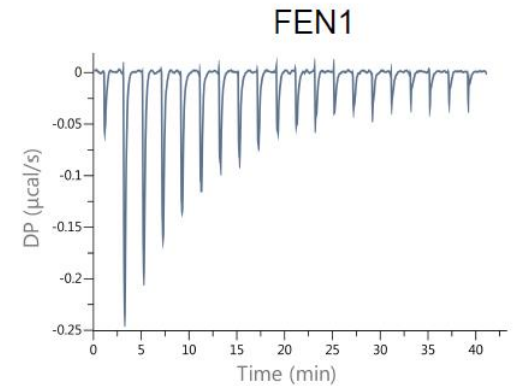
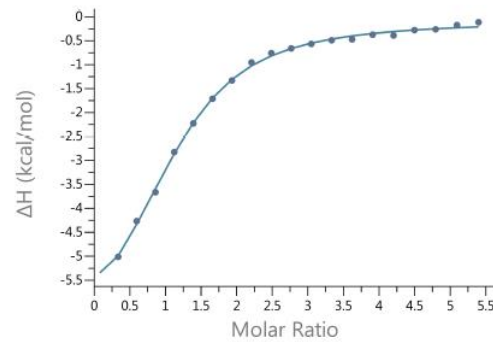
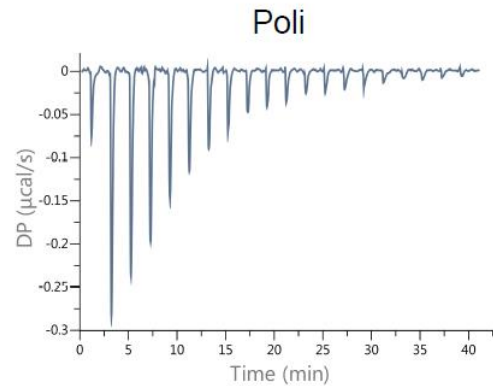
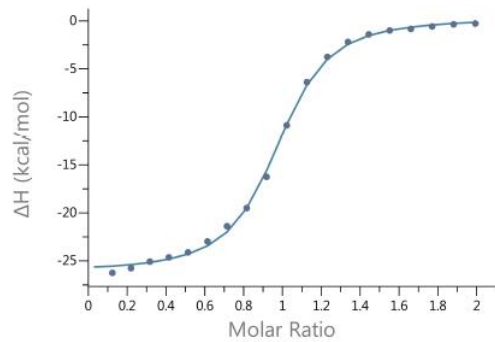
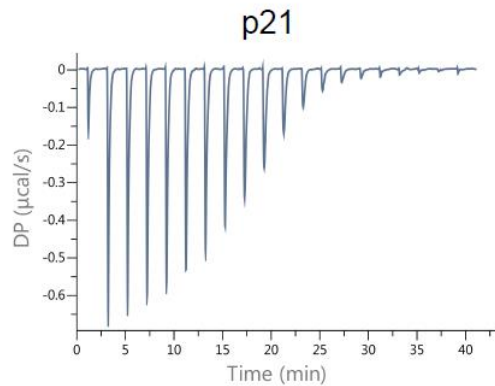
Usually require  $\mu\text{g}$  of material



# PEAQ-ITC







Sebesta et al (2017) Structural insights into the function of ZRANB3 in replication stress response. *Nat Commun.* **8**, 15847

# Fluorescence

Protein concs – about 0.05 mg/ml or 1 $\mu$ M

Buffers – do not absorb light at wavelengths used

Inner filter effects

Becomes significant at absorptions above 0.05 at excitation wavelength

Check that other proteins, nucleotides and buffer do not exceed this level

Equation to calculate

Kubista, M., Sjoback, R., Eriksson, S., and Albinsson, B. (1994) *Analyst* 119, 417-419

Accurate temperature control important

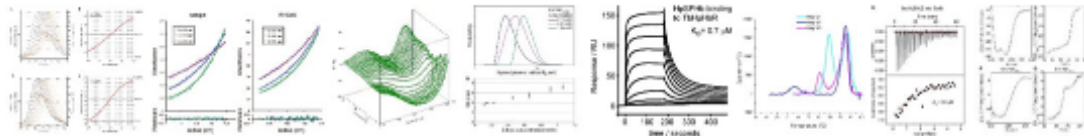


	Current charges for University users £
Instruments daily rate	
ESI-MS (per sample)	25
SPR	150
ITC	150
DSC (per sample)	25
AUC	85
CD	50
Thermofluor (per run)	25
DLS	10
Fluorimetry	50
SEC-MALS (per sample)	50
Stopped flow	100
Thermophoresis (per run)	25



[http://www.bioch.ox.ac.uk/molecular\\_biophysics\\_suite/](http://www.bioch.ox.ac.uk/molecular_biophysics_suite/)

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Applied PhotophysicsSX	Stopped flow	<a href="#">Stopped flow</a>



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<a href="#">Biochemistry: Plate Reader</a>	BMG Pherastar Plate Reader	1.2, HAK
<a href="#">Biophys: Fluorescent plate read</a>	Tecan Spectrafluor plus	00.059 New Biochemis
<a href="#">Biophys: Thermophoresis</a>	NanoTemper Monolith	00.064 New Biochemis
<a href="#">Biophys: Thermophoresis_Contrib</a>	NanoTemper Monolith	00.064 New Biochemis
<a href="#">Biophysics: AUC</a>	Optima XL-I	00.059 New Biochemis
<a href="#">Biophysics: CD</a>	Jasco J-815	00.059 New Biochemis
<a href="#">Biophysics: DLS</a>	Viscotek	00.059 New Biochemis
<a href="#">Biophysics: DSC</a>	Differential Scanning Calorimeter	00.059 New Biochemis
<a href="#">Biophysics: Fluorimetry</a>	Perkin Elmer LS-50B	00.059 New Biochemis
<a href="#">Biophysics: GE Healthcare ITC20</a>	GE Healthcare iTC200	00.059 New Biochemis
<a href="#">Biophysics: ITC</a>	MicroCal ITC200	00.059 New Biochemis
<a href="#">Biophysics: SPR</a>	BIAcore T200	00.064 New Biochemis
<a href="#">Biophysics: Thermofluor Assays</a>	Stratgene MX3005P	00.059 New Biochemis
<a href="#">Biophysics:MS</a>	ESI-TOF Mass Spectrometer	00.073 New Biochemis
<a href="#">Crystallisation: Gryphon LCP</a>	Robot for preparation of lipidic cubic phase cryst	00-055, New Biochemi
<a href="#">Crystallisation: Mosquito Robot</a>	Robot for dispensing protein	00-055, New Biochemi
<a href="#">Crystallisation: Oryx Robot</a>	Crystallisation Robot	Dunn School
<a href="#">Davis: Yoyo-invert DVcore</a>	DV core invert with EMCCD	Room: 03-069
<a href="#">Davis: Zippy-Upright-DVcore</a>	Zippy Upright DVcore	Room: 30-069
<a href="#">Flow Cytometry: FACScalibur</a>	FACScalibur	20.25, Rodney Porter
<a href="#">Flow Cytometry: FACScan</a>	FACScan	20.25, Rodney Porter

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**BIAcore T100**

00.073 New Biochemistry

[« earlier](#) | [today](#) | [later »](#)

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	17 August	18 August	19 August	20 August	21 August	22 August	23 August
10:00	<a href="#">Nick Brown</a>		<a href="#">Max Soegaard</a>	<a href="#">Max Soegaard</a>			
11:00							
12:00							
13:00							
14:00			<a href="#">Max Soegaard</a>	<a href="#">Max Soegaard</a>	<a href="#">Max Soegaard</a>		
15:00							
16:00							
17:00							
18:00	<a href="#">Nick Brown</a>	Overnight booking	<a href="#">Max Soegaard</a>	Overnight booking	<a href="#">Max Soegaard</a>	Overnight booking	Overnight booking
19:00							
20:00							
21:00							
22:00							
	24 August	25 August	26 August	27 August	28 August	29 August	30 August
10:00	<a href="#">Max Soegaard</a>	<a href="#">Max Soegaard</a>	<a href="#">David Staunton</a> Maintenance		<a href="#">David Staunton</a>		
11:00							
12:00							
13:00							
14:00	<a href="#">Max Soegaard</a>	<a href="#">Max Soegaard</a>					
15:00							
16:00							
17:00							
18:00	<a href="#">Max Soegaard</a>	Overnight booking	Overnight booking	Overnight booking	Overnight booking	Overnight booking	Overnight booking
19:00							
20:00							
21:00							
22:00							
	31 August	1 September	2 September	3 September	4 September	5 September	6 September
10:00			<a href="#">Christian Bell</a>	<a href="#">Sarah Iqbal</a>	<a href="#">Sarah Iqbal</a>		
11:00							
12:00							

# Introduction to MBS

[david.staunton@bioch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:david.staunton@bioch.ox.ac.uk)