

# Mesoscale Modeling of Cell Membrane-Mediated Trafficking\*

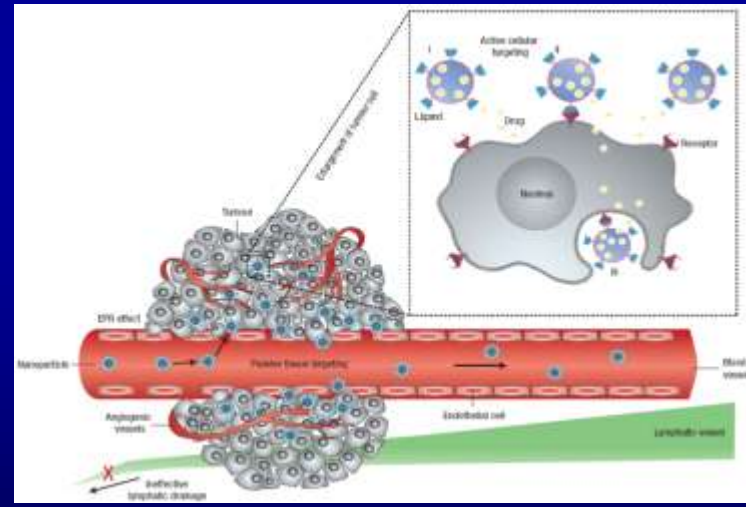
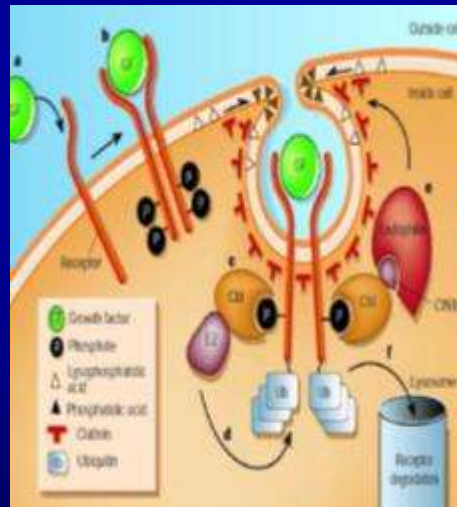
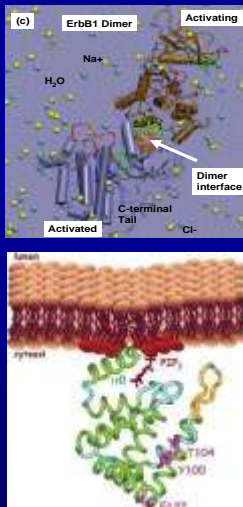
**Ravi Radhakrishnan**

[www.seas.upenn.edu/~biophys](http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~biophys)



# Minimal Models for Intracellular Trafficking based on Coarse-Coarse Graining from Direct Experimental Data

Ravi Radhakrishnan  
[www.seas.upenn.edu/~biophys](http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~biophys)



Length, Time

Complexity  
 Simplicity



# Acknowledgements

Collaborators

Mark



Raj



Vlad



Boris



Dave



Ayya

## Funding

- NSF CBET-0730955, 0853539, 0853389
- NIH/NIBIB-1R01EB006818, NHLBI-1R01HL087036
- NPACI- MCB060006



## Computational Biology Group Members

Undergraduates

Randall



DK



Fei



Palak



Sean

Graduate students  
and Postdocs

Jin Shannon Andrew



Yingting



Uma



Neeraj

Former Members

Jeremy



Josh



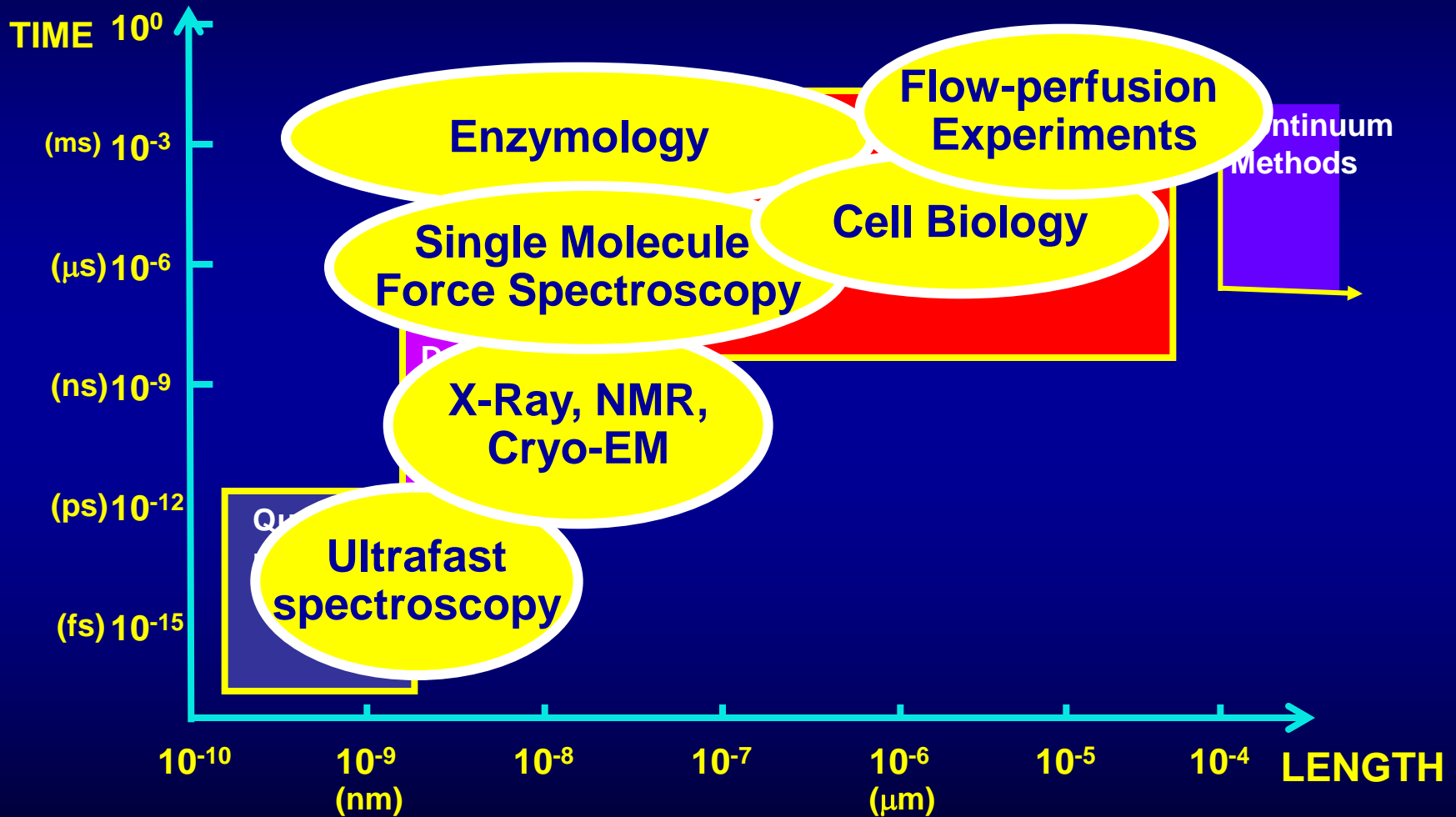
Ravindra



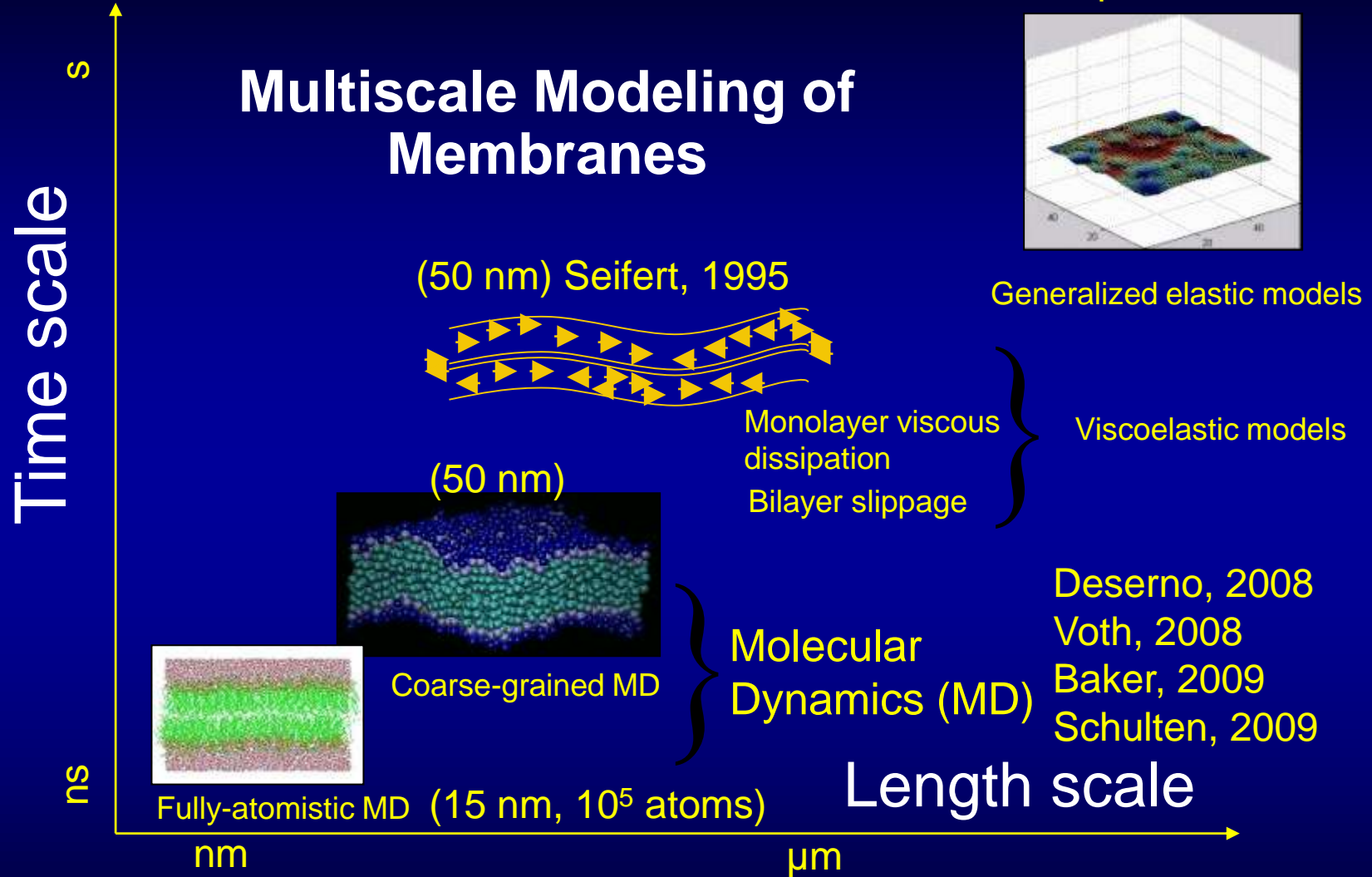
Jon



# Modeling at Multiple Simulation Scales and Connection with Experiment



# Multiscale Modeling of Membranes



# Mesoscale Elastic Model for Membranes

## Helfrich Free Energy

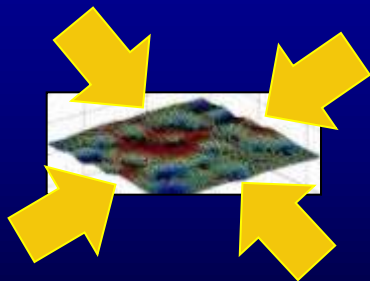
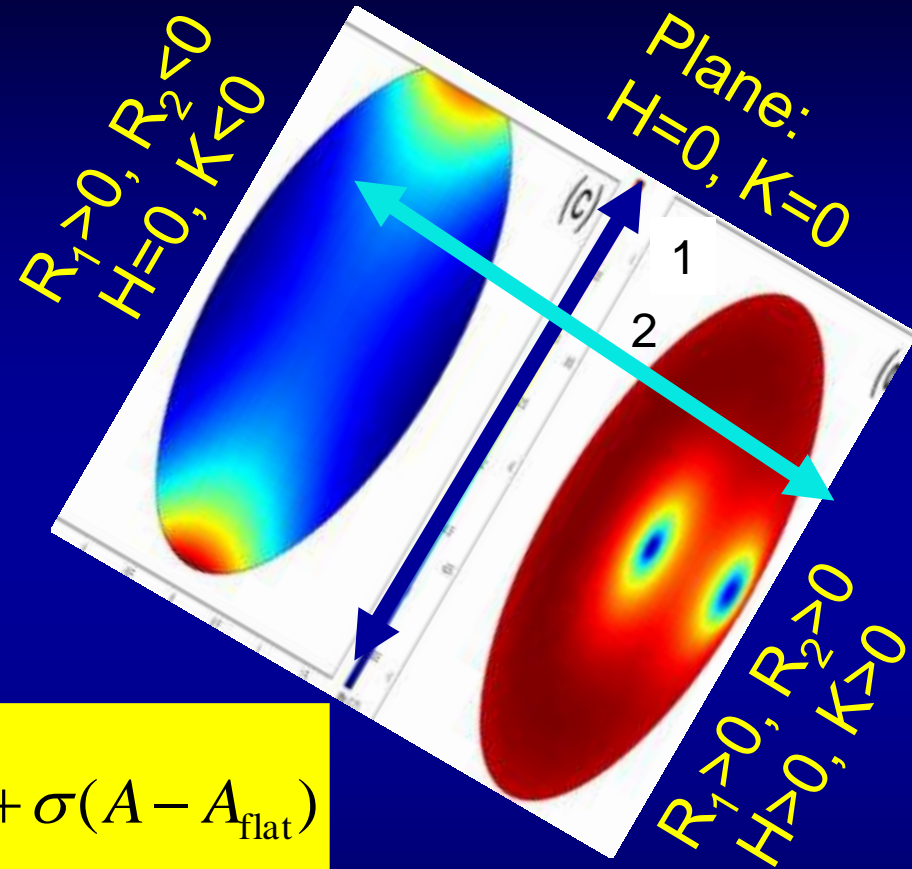
Nelson, Piran, Weinberg, 1987

$$f_c = \frac{1}{2}k(H - H_0)^2 + \bar{k}K.$$

$H_0$ : Intrinsic curvature

$k$ : Bending Modulus

$\bar{k}$ : Gaussian Curvature Modulus



$$E = \int_A \frac{K}{2} (H - H_0)^2 dA + \sigma (A - A_{\text{flat}})$$

Elastic free energy including frame tension on a membrane patch

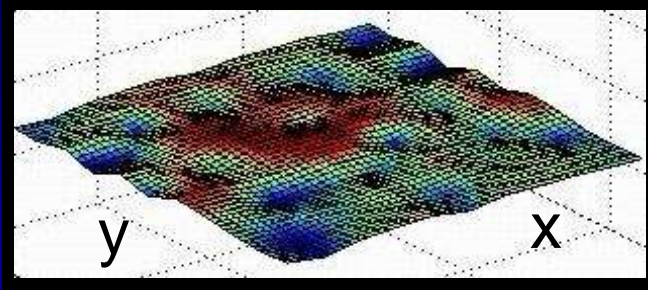
$$H \Rightarrow 1/2 [1/R_1 + 1/R_2]$$

$$K \Rightarrow 1/R_1 \times 1/R_2$$



# Mesoscale Linearized Elastic Model for Membrane (small deformation limit)

$$z=h(x,y)$$



## Helfrich Free Energy

$$f_c = \frac{1}{2}k(H - H_0)^2 + \bar{k}K.$$

Cartesian (Monge) notation:  $z=h(x,y)$

$$H = \frac{(1 + h_x^2)h_{yy} + (1 + h_y^2)h_{xx} - 2h_x h_y h_{xy}}{2[(1 + h_x^2 + h_y^2)]^{3/2}},$$

$$K = \frac{h_{xx}h_{yy} - h_{xy}^2}{(1 + h_x^2 + h_y^2)^2}.$$

Time-Dependent Ginzburg Landau Eq.

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = -M \frac{\delta E}{\delta z} + \zeta.$$

Langevin Equation (TDGL)

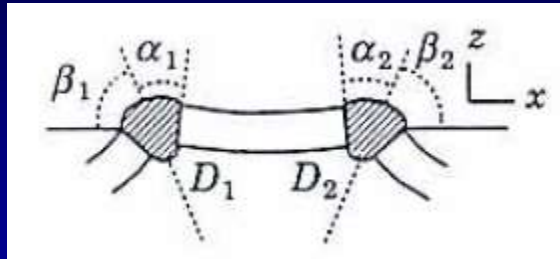
Hohenberg and Halperin, 1977

$$E = \iint_A \frac{\kappa}{2} (\nabla^2 z - H_0)^2 + \left( \frac{\kappa}{4} H_0^2 + \frac{\sigma}{2} \right) (\nabla z)^2 + \bar{\kappa} (z_{xx}z_{yy} - z_{xy}^2) dx dy$$

$$F_z = -\frac{\delta E}{\delta z} = 2H_0\kappa (z_x H_{0,x} + z_y H_{0,y}) + \left( \frac{\kappa}{2} H_0^2 + \sigma \right) (\nabla^2 z) - \kappa \nabla^4 z + \kappa \nabla^2 H_0 + \xi$$



# Coarse-Grained Representation of Protein-Membrane Interaction



## Integral Membrane Proteins

Membrane is attached to the protein at a fixed contact angle

Goulian M, Bruinsma R, Pincus P (1993)

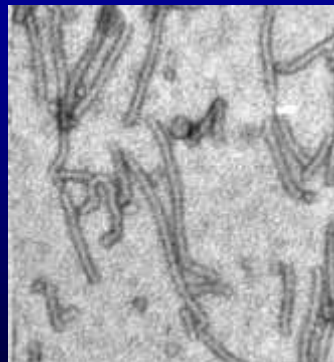
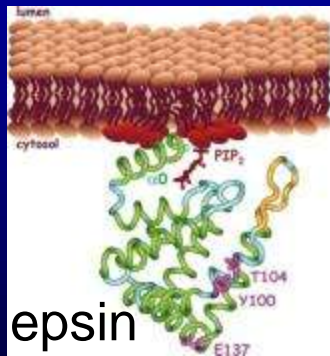
Lubensky T (1997)

Kim KS, Neu J, Oster G (1998)

## LOCAL CURVATURE INDUCER MODEL

McMahon, 2003, 2005

Tubule diameter=20 nm;  $\Delta E_{\text{binding}} = -14 k_B T$

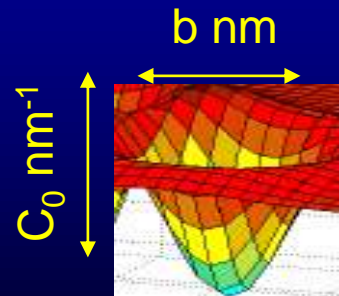


Seifert, et. al. 2006;

Weinstein, Radhakrishnan, 2006;

Agrawal, Weinstein, Radhakrishnan, 2008

$C_0 = 0.1 \text{ nm}^{-1}$ ;  $b = 8 \text{ nm}$ ;  $\kappa = 20 k_B T$

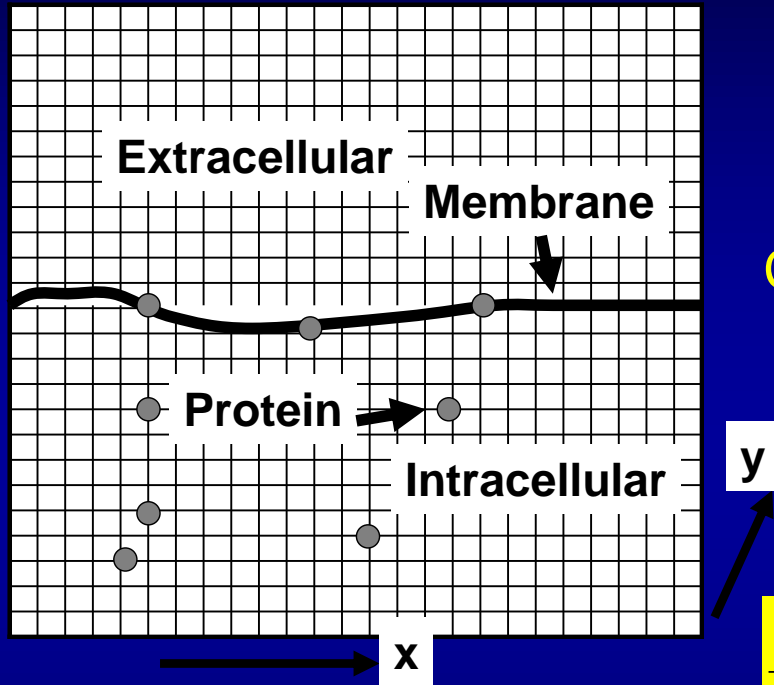


$$H_0 = C_0 e^{-s^2/b^2}$$





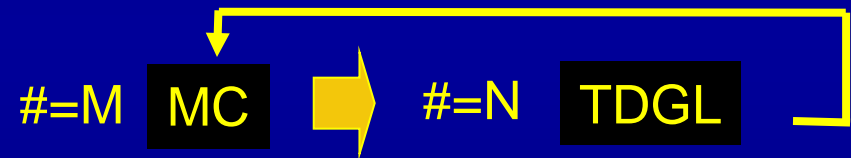
# Multiscale Integration: Protein-Mediated Membrane Fluctuations



Weinstein, Radhakrishnan, 2006;  
Agrawal, Weinstein, Radhakrishnan, 2008

Canonical Ensemble (Constant Temperature)

MC-MD algorithm of La Berge and Tully, 2001



$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial x_{0i}} = -\frac{\kappa C_i}{R_i^2} \iint_A e^{-\frac{(x-x_{0i})^2+(y-y_{0i})^2}{2R_i^2}} \left( \nabla^2 z - H_0 + \frac{H_0 (\nabla z)^2}{2} \right) (x-x_{0i}) dx dy$$

Proteins perform a random walk on membrane surface with a membrane mediated force field

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = -M \frac{\delta E}{\delta z} + \zeta.$$

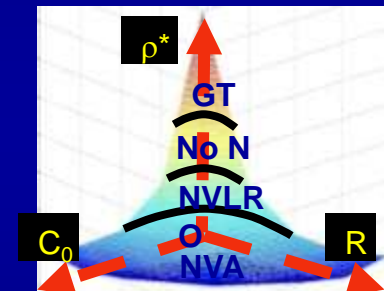
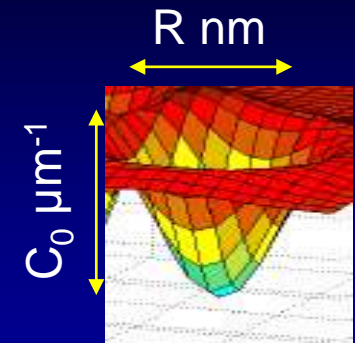


# State Diagram: Protein-Mediated Membrane Fluctuations

- $\rho^*$ , Surface Density 1-100 per  $\mu\text{m}^2$
- $R=b/2$ , Range 10-50 nm
- $C_0$  or  $H_0$ , Intrinsic Curvature 0-40  $\mu\text{m}^{-1}$
- Radial Distribution, Orientational Correlation
- Membrane Height Autocorrelation

J. Weinstein, R. Radhakrishnan, 2006

N. J. Agrawal, J. Weinstein, R. Radhakrishnan, 2008.

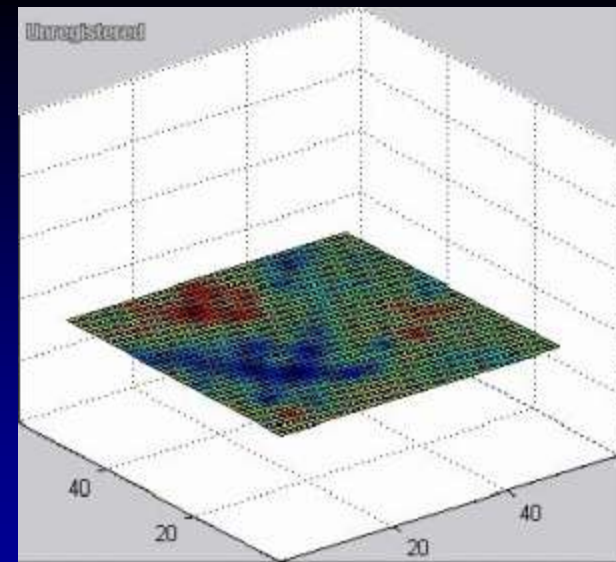


How does the protein induced curvature affect the equilibrium properties and conformations of the membrane ?

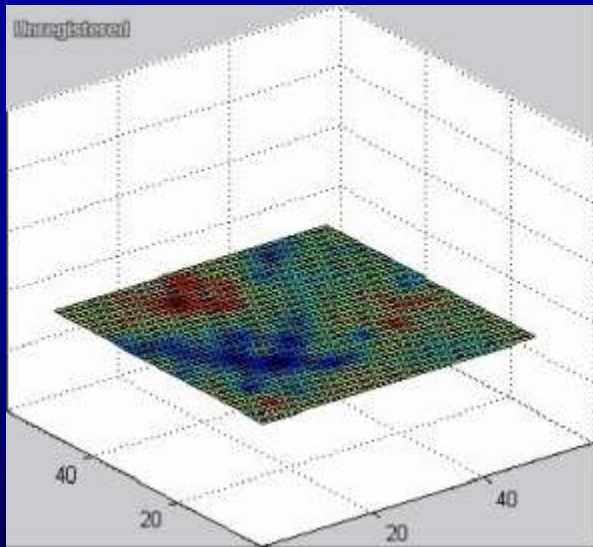


# State Diagram

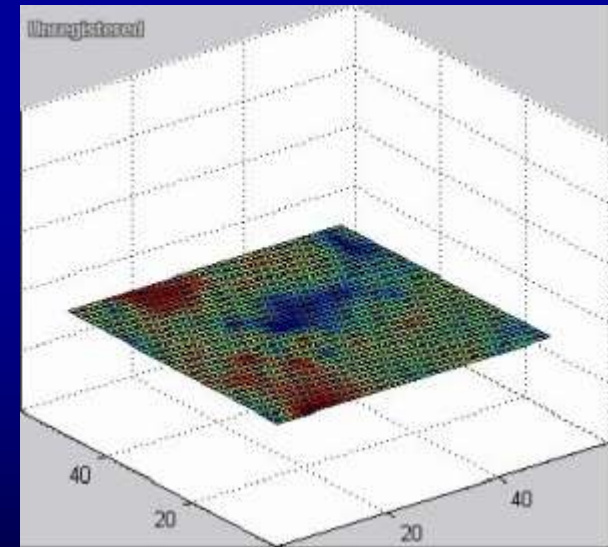
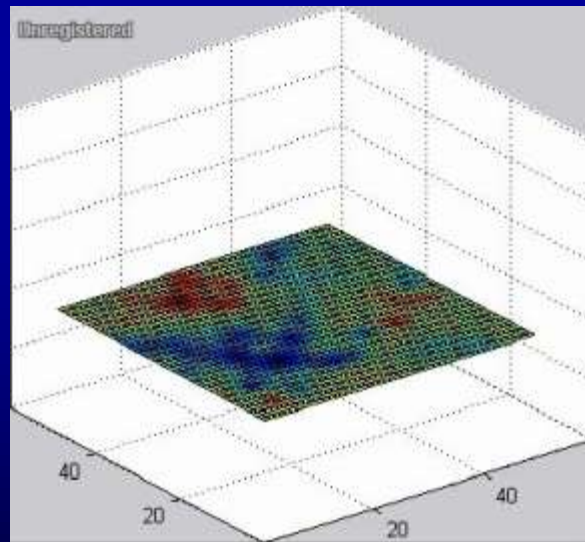
**RU:** Repressed Undulations;  
**No N:** No nucleation  
**NVOO:** Nucleation via orientational ordering  
**NVA:** Nucleation via diffusional association



NVA



NVOO



RU

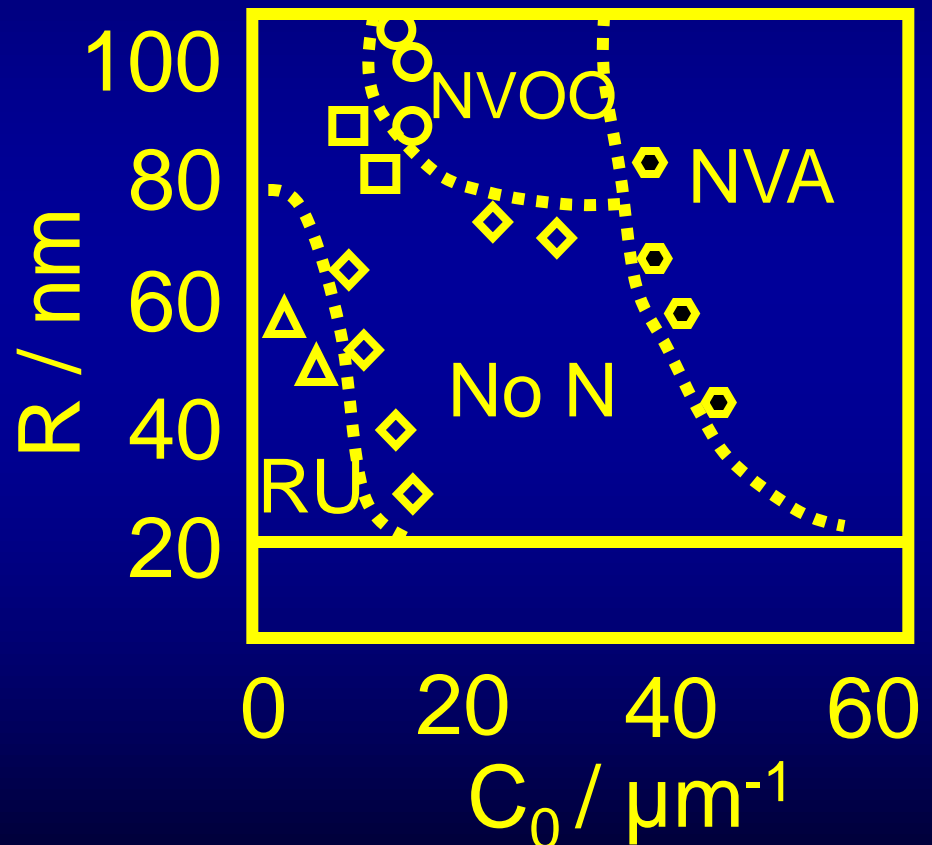
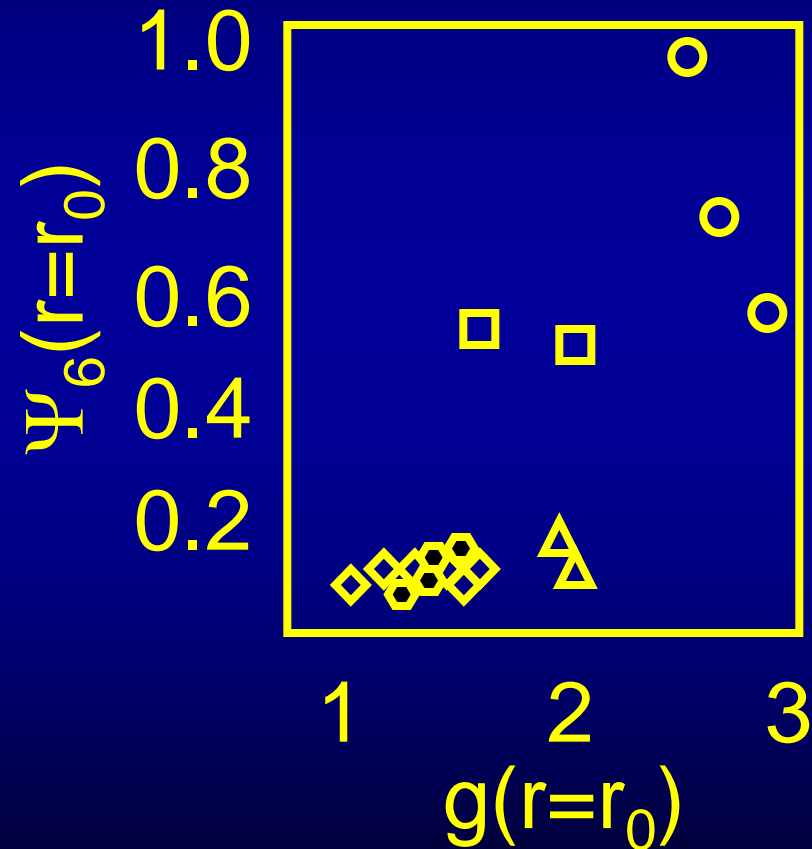


# State Diagram

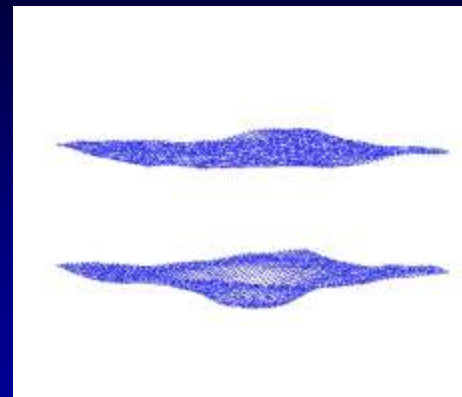
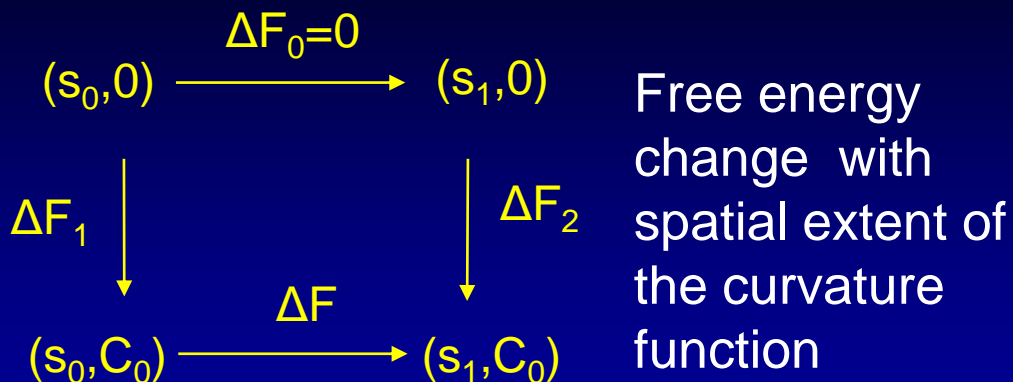
**RU**: Repressed Undulations; **No N**: No nucleation

**NVOO**: Nucleation via orientational ordering

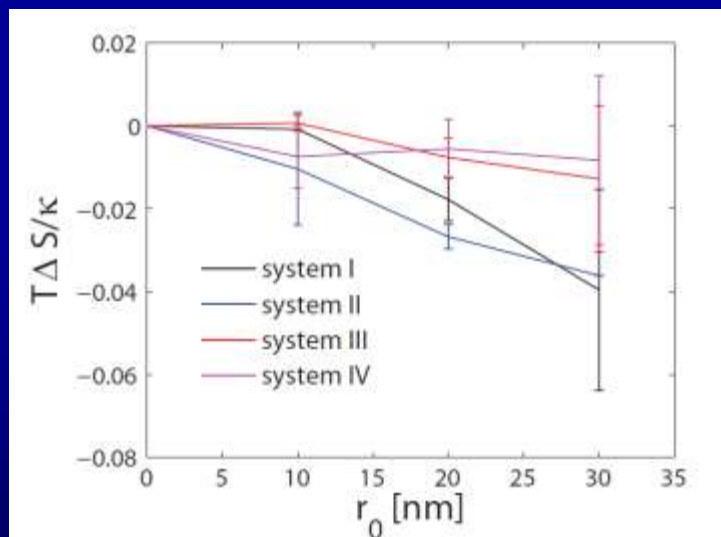
**NVA**: Nucleation via diffusional association



# Free Energy Calculations via Thermodynamic Integration



Agrawal, Radhakrishnan, 2009



Entropy change is small (<5% of the Energy change) but is of order  $k_B T$

$$\left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial \lambda} \right)_{N,V,T} = -\frac{1}{\beta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \ln Q = \left\langle \frac{\partial E}{\partial \lambda} \right\rangle_\lambda$$

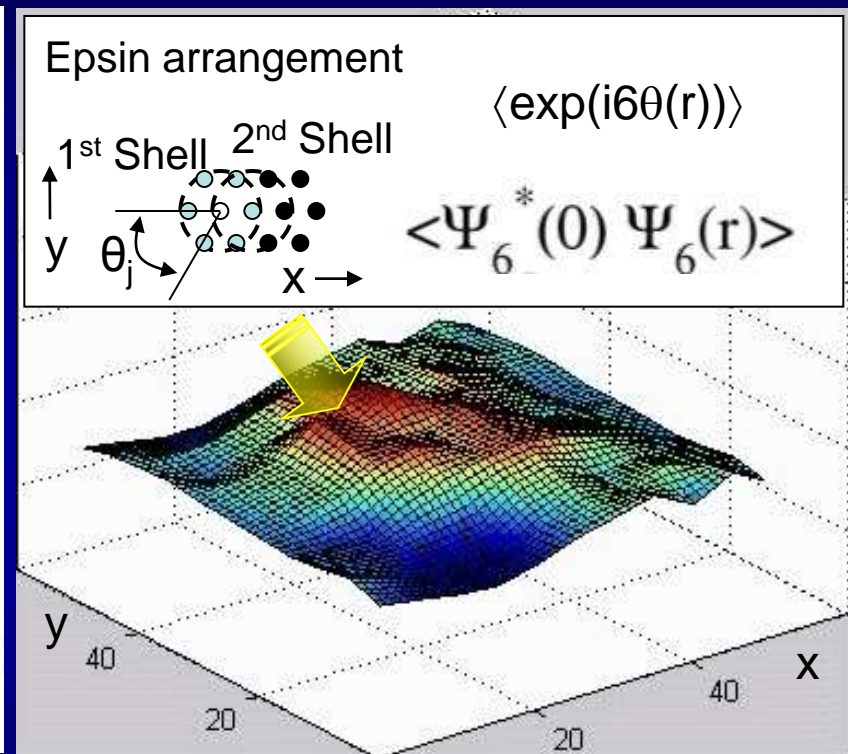
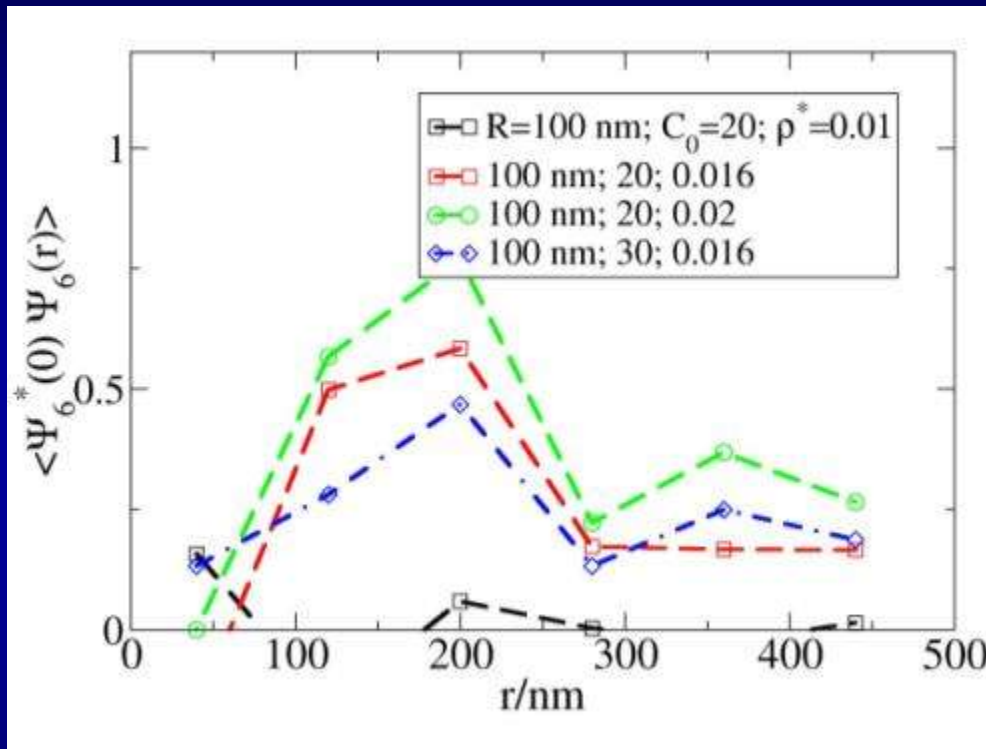
By choosing  $\lambda = C_0$ ,

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial C_0} = \left\langle \Gamma(r_0) \kappa \sum_N \left[ -(\nabla^2 z_i - \lambda \Gamma(r_0)) + \frac{\lambda}{2} (\nabla z_i)^2 \right] (\Delta r_i)^2 \right\rangle$$

$$\Delta F = F(C_0) - F(0) = \int_0^{C_0} \frac{\partial F}{\partial C_0} dC_0$$



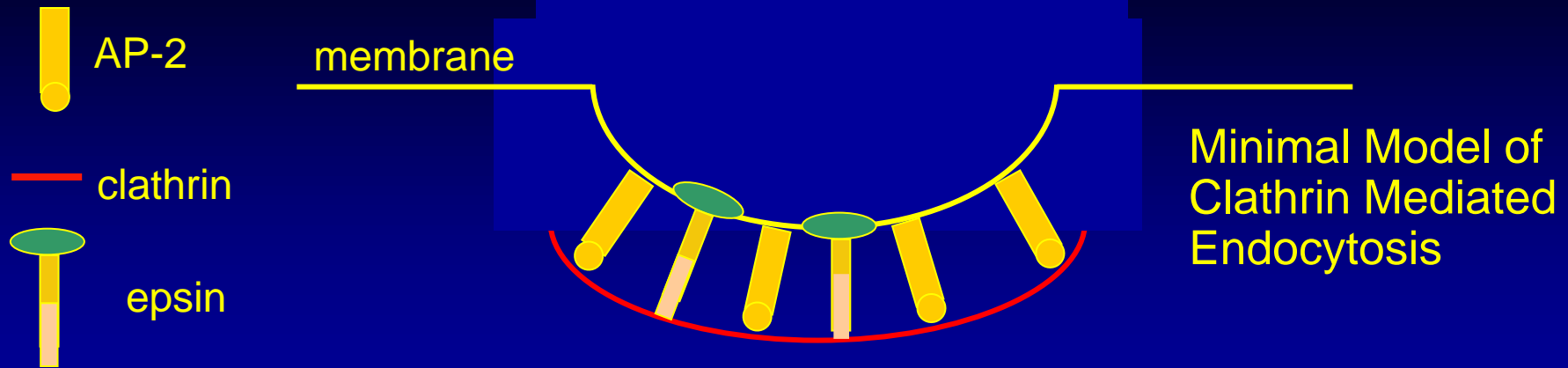
# Nucleation via Hexatic Orientational Ordering: NVOO



**Sustained orientational correlations beyond nearest-neighbors drives nucleation**



# Clathrin-Mediated Endocytosis: Inference-Based Model



## Recent Experimental Observations

- ❑ HeLa Cells: In absence of clathrin, AP-2 and accessory proteins form curvature lacking sub-domain. [Hinrichsen, PNAS 2006](#).
- ❑ HeLa Cells: Knockdown of AP-2 significantly reduces the number of clathrin coated pits (CCP) at the plasma membrane. [Hinrichsen, J. Biol. Chem. 2003](#).
- ❑ Neurons: epsin antibodies change the morphology of CCP. [Jakobsson, PNAS, 2008](#).
- ❑ Effect of accessory proteins is receptor (cargo) dependent.



# Surface Evolution

- Exact minimization of Helfrich energy possible for any (axisymmetric) membrane deformation.
- Energy is minimized instead of Free Energy
- Membrane parameterized by arc length,  $s$  and angle  $\psi$ .

Seifert, 1995

For topologically invariant transformations,

$$E = \iint_M \left\{ \frac{\kappa}{2} (H - H_0)^2 + \sigma \right\} dA$$

$\sigma$  Frame tension

$\kappa$  Bending modulus

$H_0$ : Spontaneous curvature

$$\psi'' = \frac{\cos \psi \sin \psi}{R^2} - \frac{\psi' \cos \psi}{R} + \frac{\gamma \sin \psi}{R\kappa} + H_0'(s)$$

$$\gamma' = \frac{\kappa}{2} (\psi' - H_0(s))^2 - \frac{\kappa \sin^2 \psi}{2R^2} + \sigma$$

$$R' = \cos \psi$$

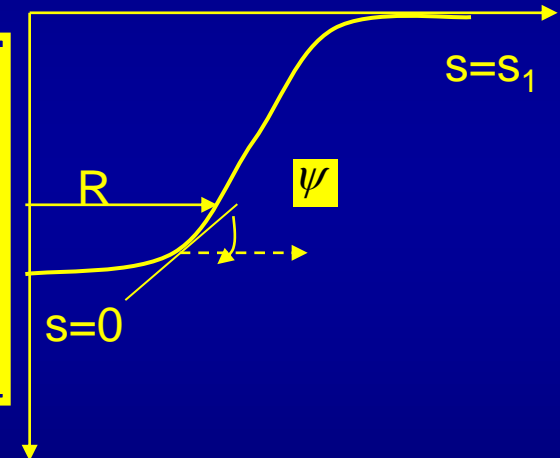
$$R(s=0) = 0$$

$$\psi(s=0) = 0$$

$$R(s=s_1) = R_0$$

$$\psi(s=s_1) = 0$$

$$\gamma(s=s_1) = \sigma R_0$$



Surface evolution provides a route to compute the profiles and energetics associated with minimum energy conformations of membranes subject to extreme curvature



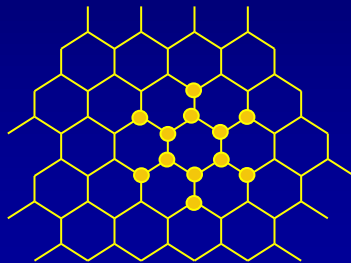


# Bond-Orientational Patterning of Epsin on Clathrin Lattice Leads to a Mature Vesicle Formation

Kirschhausen (2000)

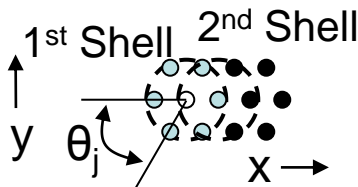
18.5 nm

Clathrin Coat



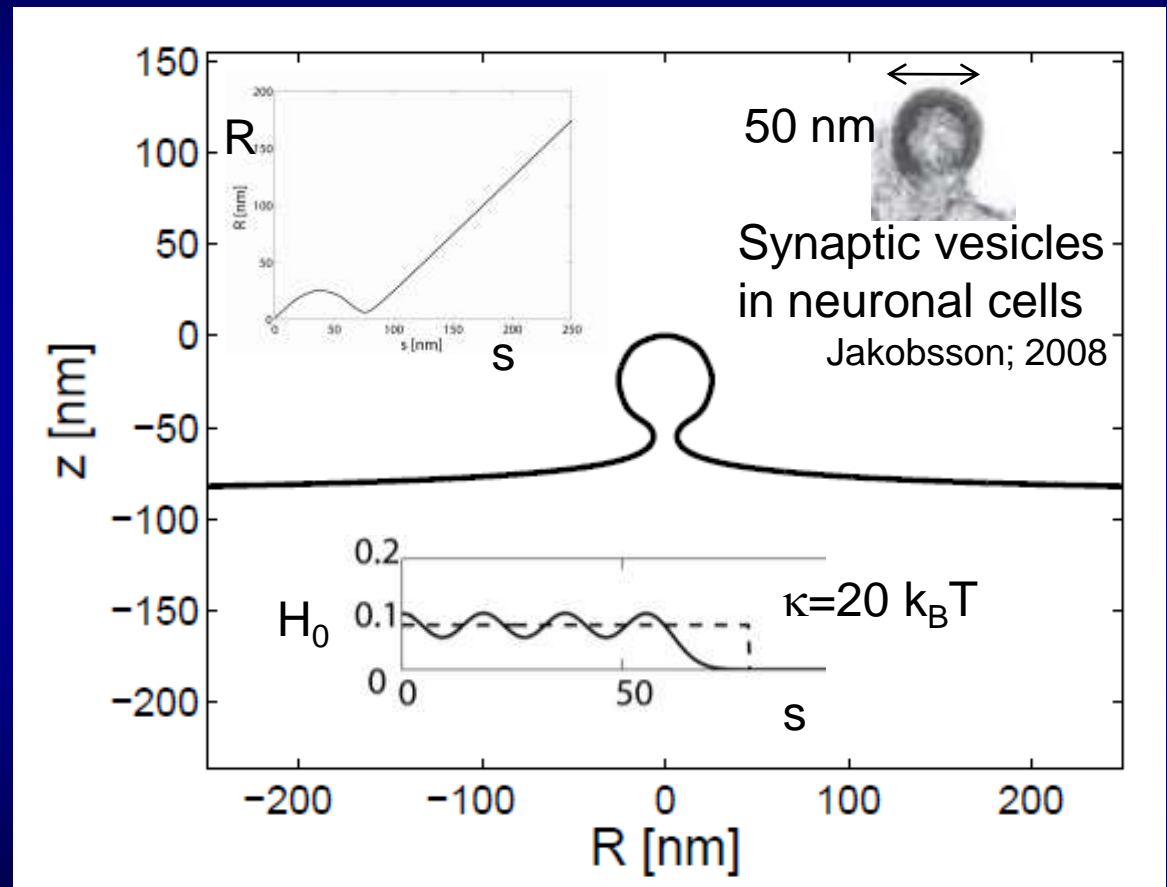
Area =  $A_a$

Epsin arrangement



$$\langle \exp(i6\theta(r)) \rangle$$

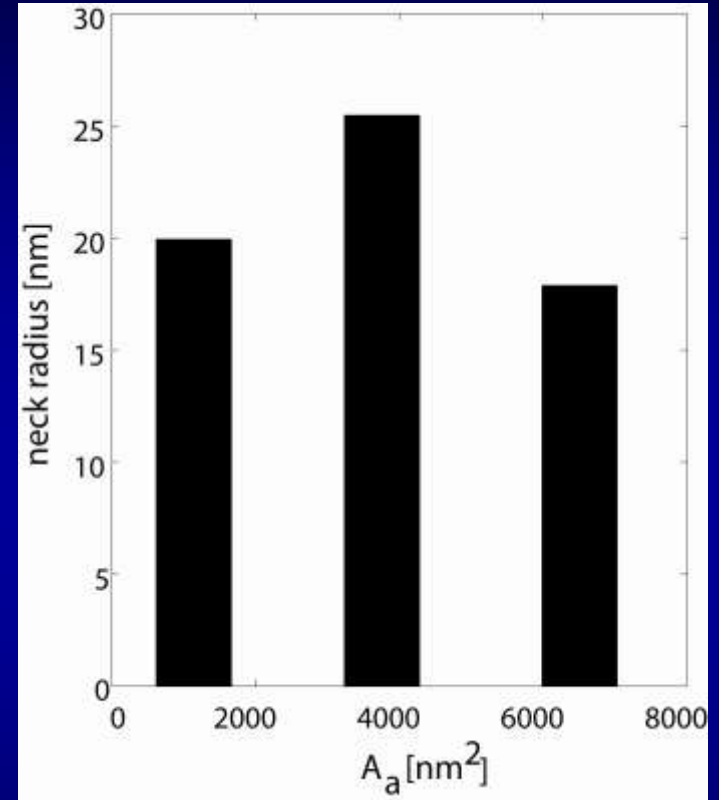
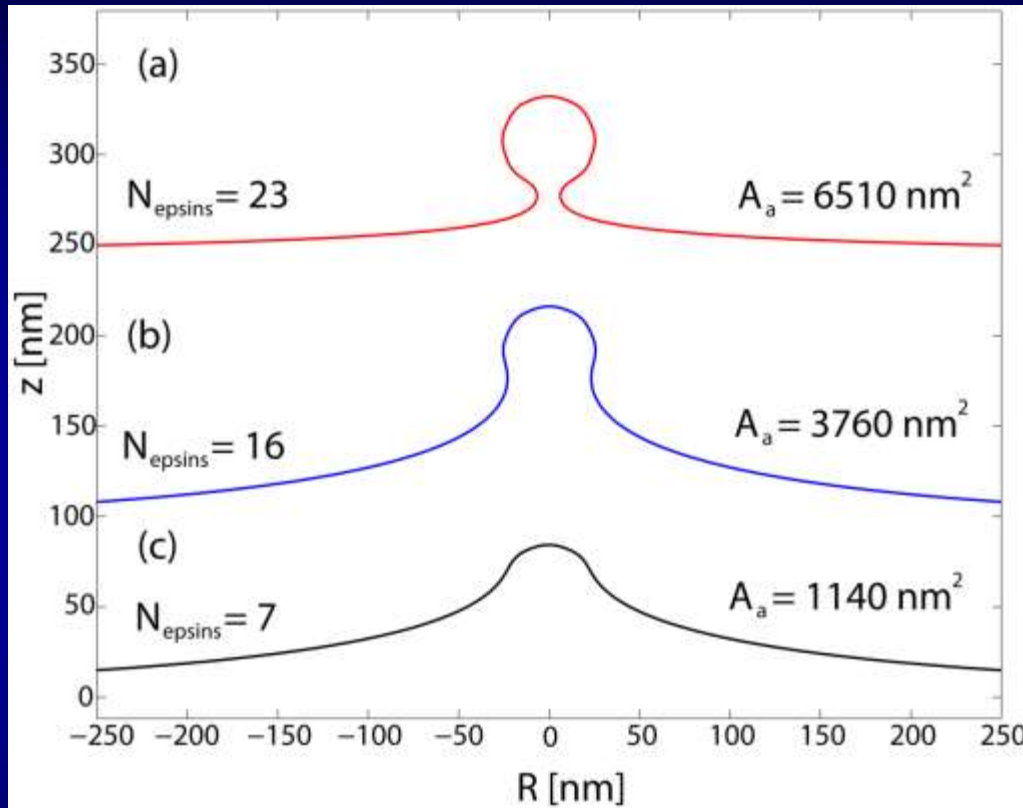
$$\langle \Psi_6^*(0) \Psi_6(r) \rangle$$



Agrawal, Radhakrishnan, Submitted



# Effect of Clathrin-Coat Size on Membrane Vesiculation

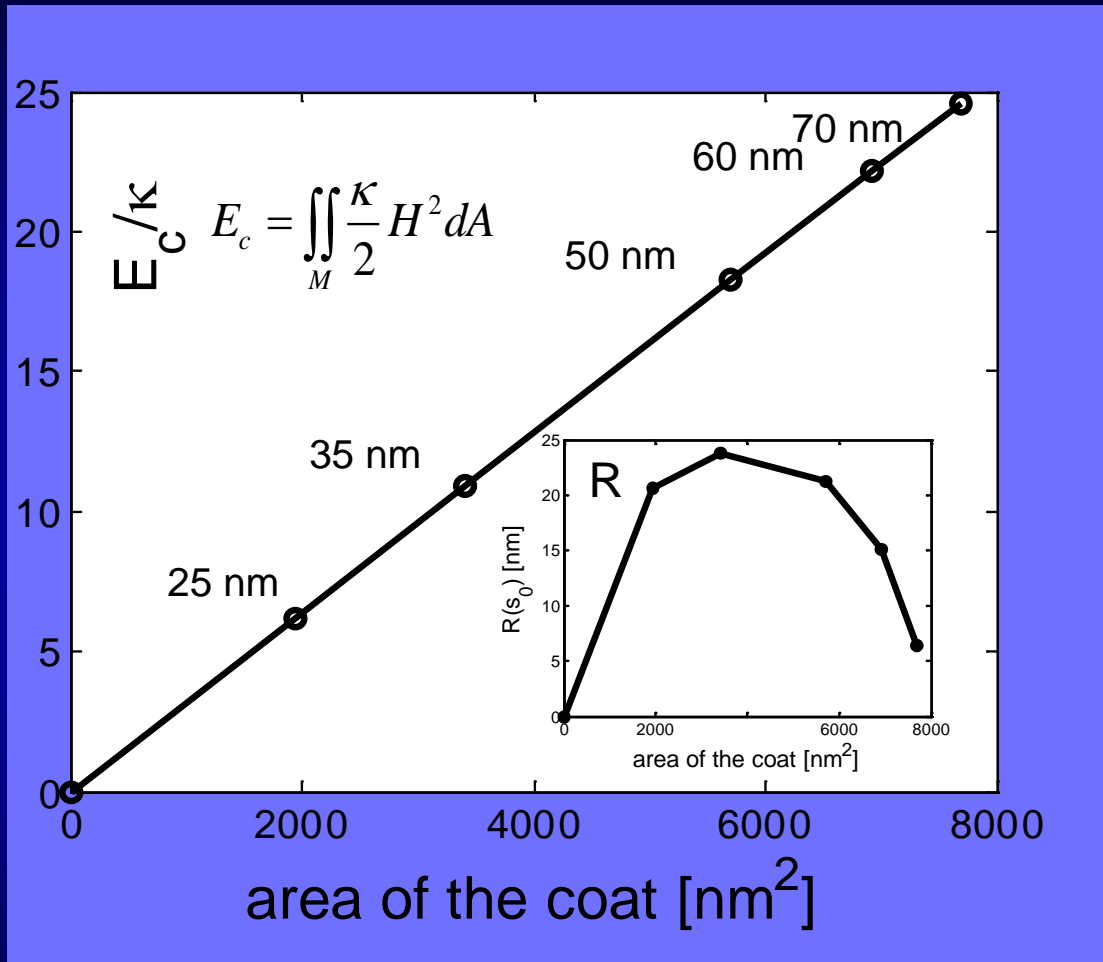


Critical size of a growing clathrin coat leads to membrane invagination

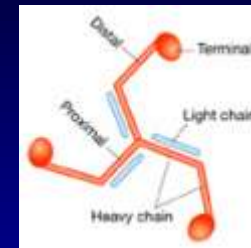
Agrawal, Radhakrishnan, Submitted



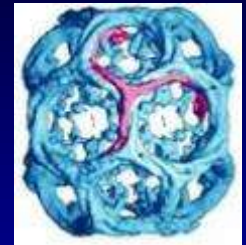
# Energy Considerations in Clathrin Induced Membrane Vesiculation



For  $\kappa=20k_B T$ ,  $E_C \sim 500 k_B T$

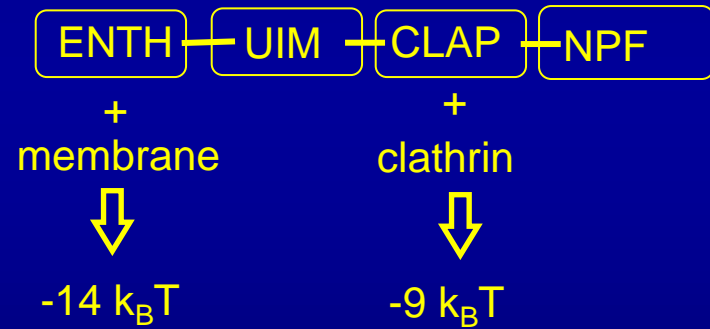


$E_a$   
 $-20 k_B T$   
 $\Rightarrow$



Nossal, Traffic, 2001.

$E_r$  EPSIN McMahon 2003



$$E_t = E_c + E_a + E_r; E_r = n_e \cdot \epsilon_e$$

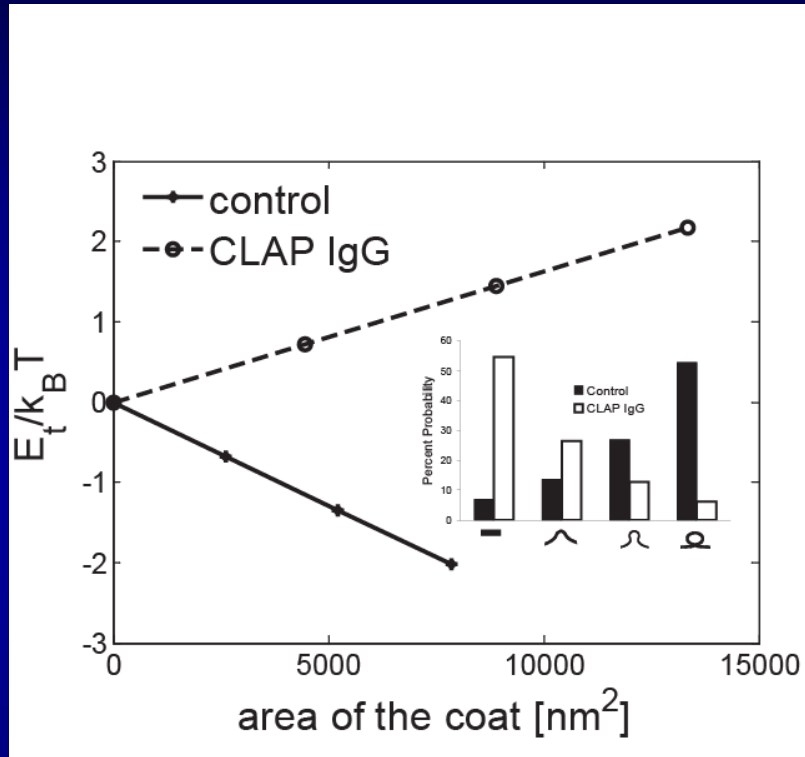
$$E_t = E_c + E_a + n_e \cdot \epsilon_e$$

Agrawal, Radhakrishnan, Submitted



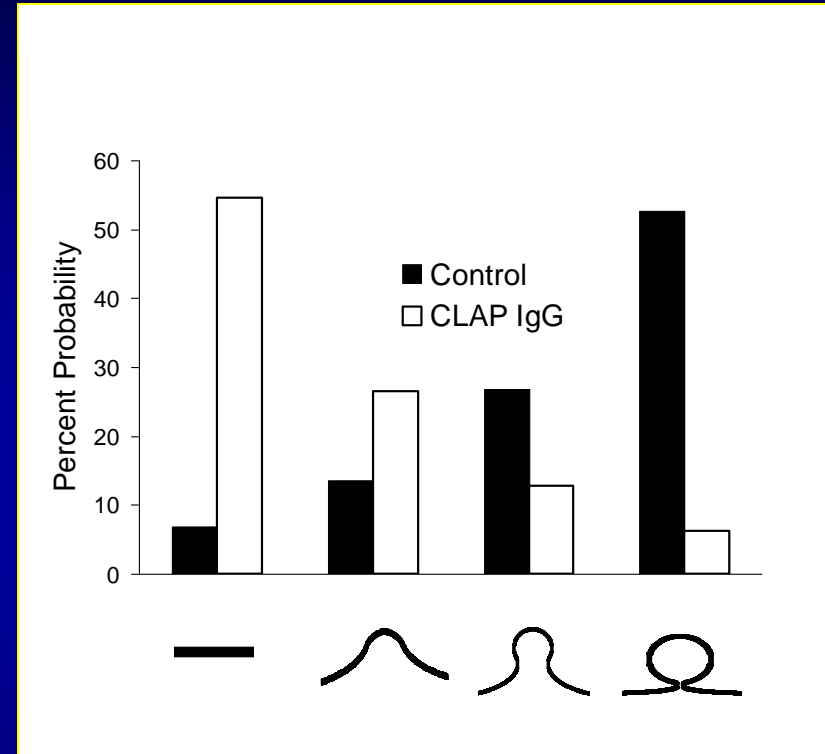
# Energy Considerations in Clathrin Induced Membrane Vesiculation

## Calculated



Agrawal, Radhakrishnan, submitted

## Experimental

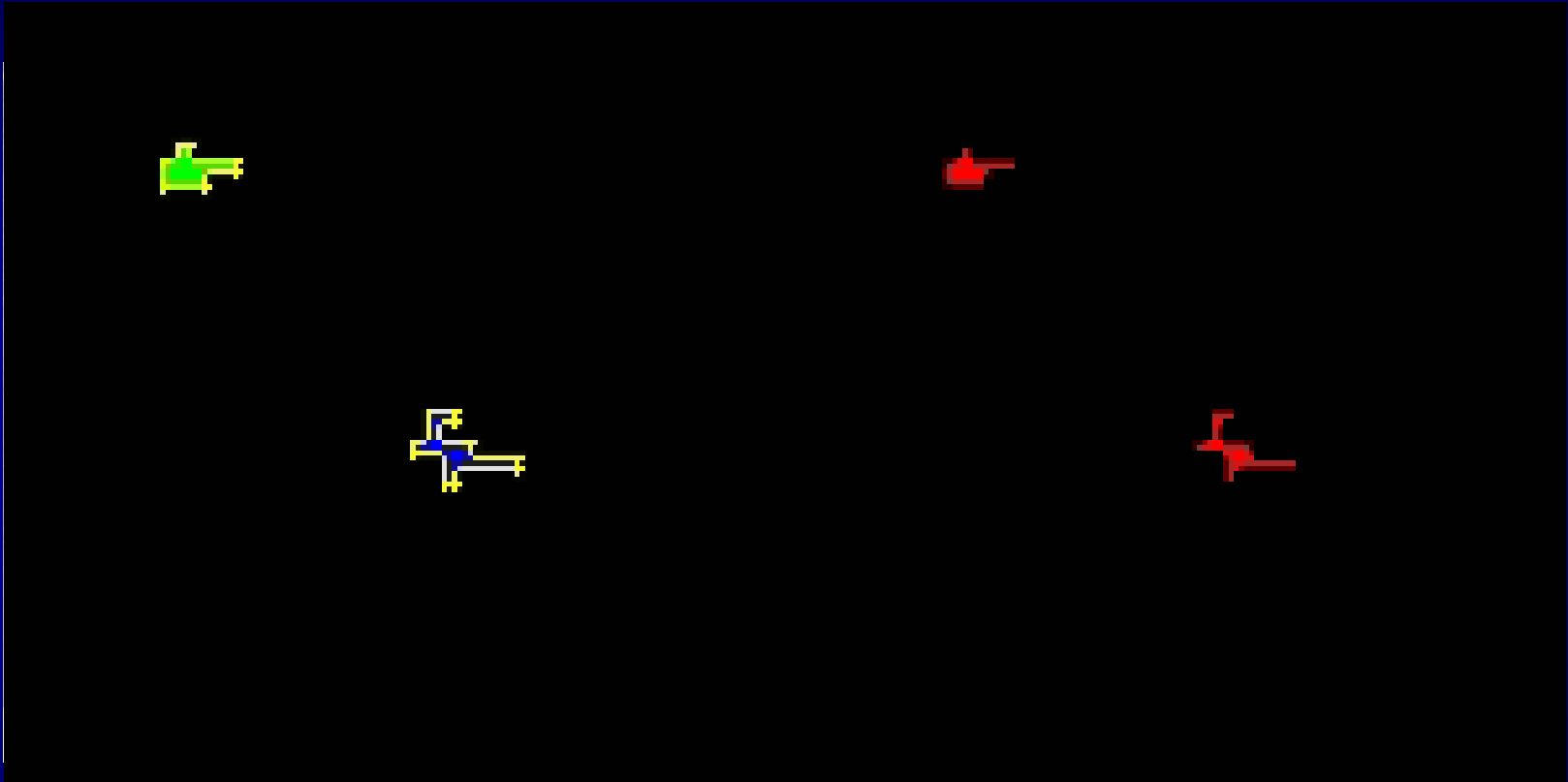


Jakobsson, J.; PNAS 2008, 6445.

Our results highlight the unique and central role played by epsin in the process of vesicle nucleation during endocytosis



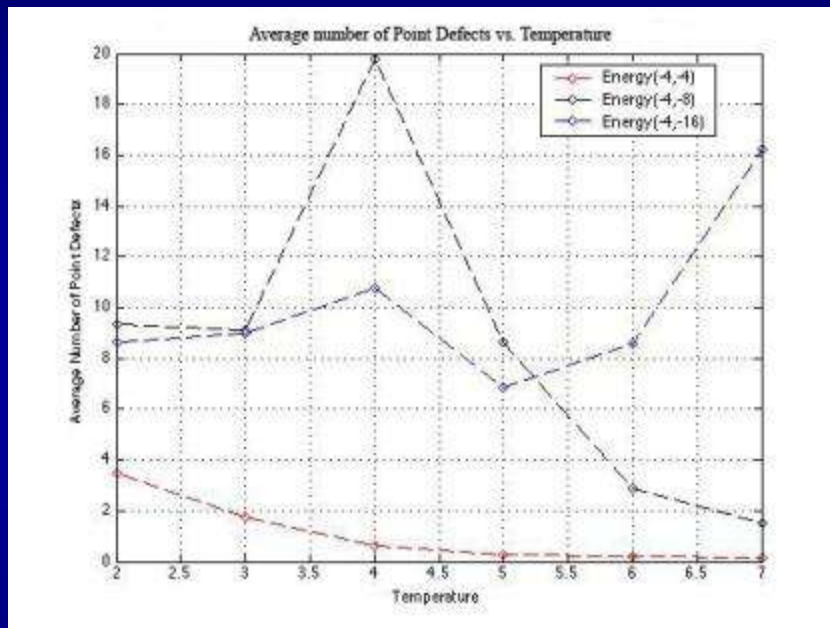
# Minimal Model for Clathrin Coat Nucleation



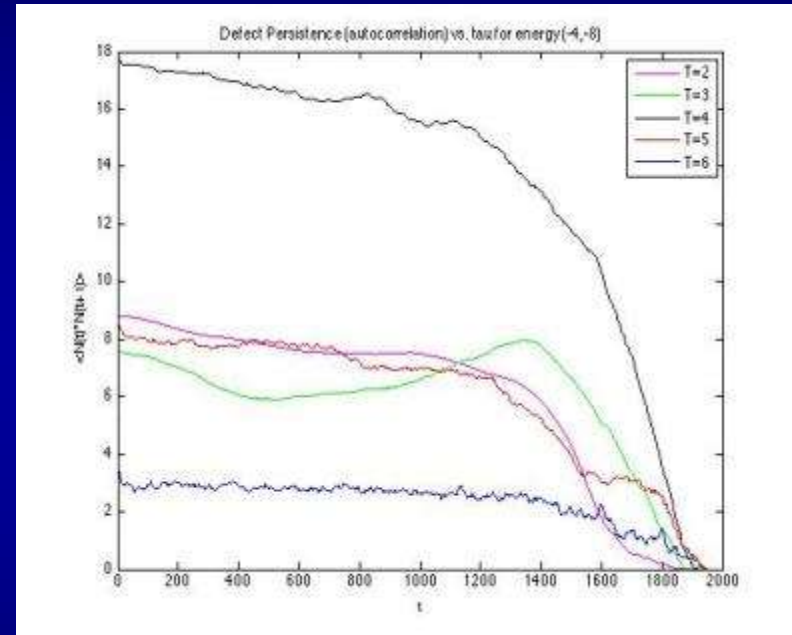
Point defects serve the role of disclinations in a hexagonal lattice and enable the coat to adaptively assume a curvilinear scaffold



# Minimal Model for Clathrin Coat Nucleation



Effect of Interaction Energy Variation on Number of Point Defects

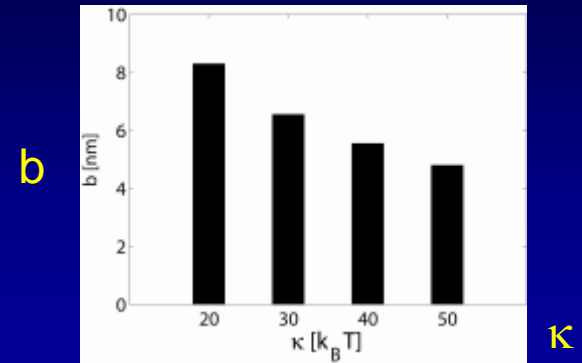
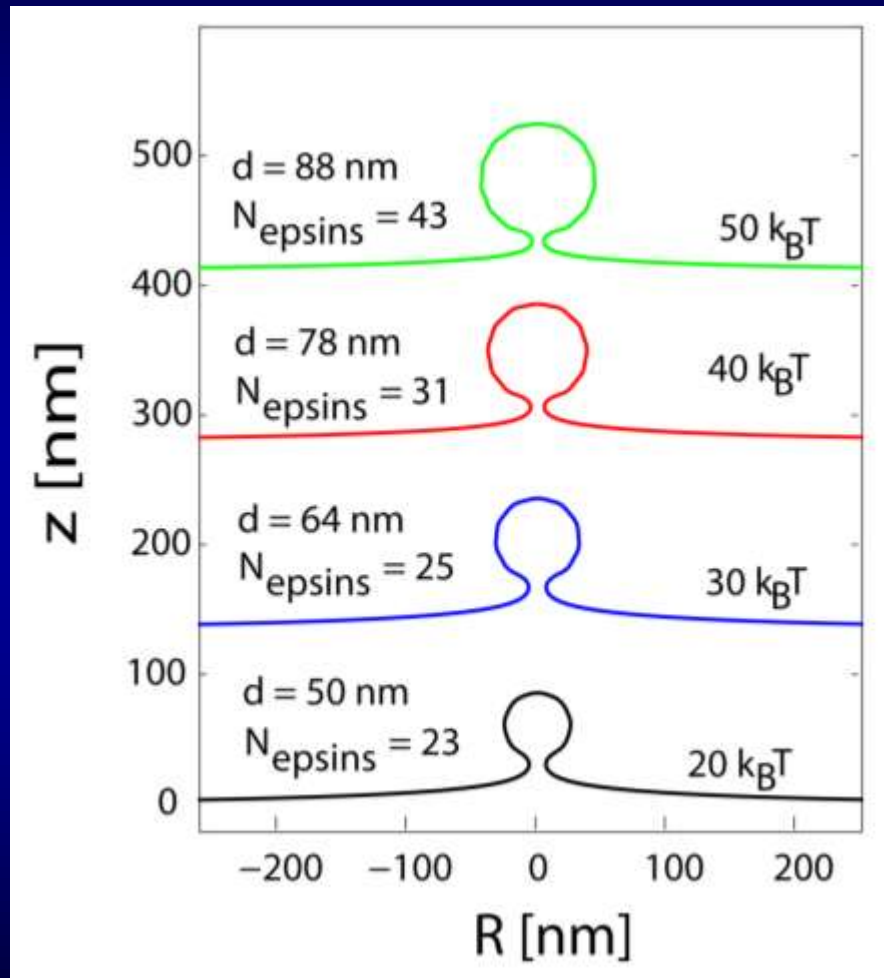


Autocorrelation and Persistence Time

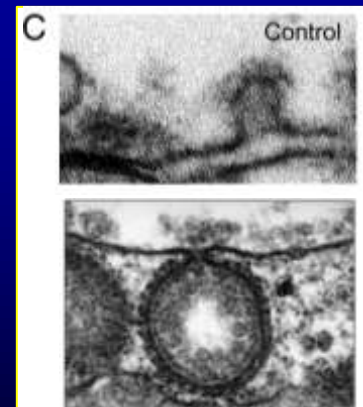


# Effect of Bending Rigidity on Membrane Vesiculation

Diameter of the budding vesicle depends strongly on membrane bending rigidity



Due to cell-cell variability, diameter of clathrin-coated vesicles range from 50-100 nm



Neuronal Cells  
 $d=50$  nm

Epithelial Cells  
 $d=100$  nm



# Integrated Molecular-Systems Model for ErbB Signaling, Trafficking

Clathrin adaptor	Cargo motif recognized	Ubiquitin binding	Membrane component bound
AP2 complex	$\Phi_{xx}Y_{xxx}\Phi$ [DE]xxxL[LI]	Yes	PtdIns(4,5)P <sub>2</sub>
AP1 complex	$\Phi_{xx}Y_{xxx}\Phi$ [DE]xxxL[LI]	Yes	PtdIns4P
GGA	DxxLL	Yes	ArfGTP
Epsin		Yes	PtdIns(4,5)P <sub>2</sub>
HRS/Vps27		Yes	PtdIns3P
DAB2/ARH	[FY]xNPxY	Yes	PtdIns(4,5)P <sub>2</sub>
Arrestin	GPCRs	Yes	PtdIns(4,5)P <sub>2</sub>
AP180/CALM		Yes	PtdIns(4,5)P <sub>2</sub>
Amphiphysin		Yes	Acidic phospholipid including PtdIns(4,5)P <sub>2</sub>

**TOFMS**

Survival

Activation of downstream effectors of cellular response is specific to the molecular context

- ErbB1-4 internalize at different rates
  - FYRALM recognition motif
  - Receptor:AP-2 in 2:2 is optimal
- Some ErbB1 mutants internalize slowly
- Link to altered downstream signaling: Erk vs. Akt vs. STAT5
  - Akt activation is optimal in membrane-bound receptor
  - Erk signaling occurs for internalized as well as membrane-bound receptors
  - STAT5 activation could be mutually exclusive of internalization

