### Modern Aspects of Colloid Science

### MICELLES

critical micelle concentration (CMC)

micellar shape

determination of critical micelle concentration

purity of surfactants

Krafft temperature

micellar equilibria

micelles as reaction partners

surfactants - block copolymers - particles

#### amphiphilic molecules

Iyophilic and Iyophobic parts combined in one molecule reference state water: e.g. paraffin chain ions water: high cohesive forces (hydrogen bonding) & high dielectric constant

hydrocarbon chains attract each other (short range van der Waals forces) promoting micelle formation ionic heads repel each other (long range electrical forces) counteracting micelle formation micelle is a self-assembled structure of amphiphilic molecules and consists of core and shell

lyophobic core

lyophilic shell



transition from a solution to a colloidal dispersion



Fig. 2. Interfacial and solution properties of surface active agents:- (a) air-water tension versus log concentration, (b) oil-water interfacial tension versus log concentration, (c) scattered light intensity versus concentration, (d) specific conductance versus concentration.

### practical example



CMC depends on temperature, ionic strength, solvency



CTAB







#### some surfactants:



Surfactant <sup>a</sup>	CMC/m mol dm <sup>-3</sup>	Aggregation number	% Counterion bound
SDeS <sup>40</sup>	41.0	30	40
SDS <sup>25</sup>	8.0	50	60
AOT <sup>25</sup>	3.0	15	10
NaC <sup>20</sup>	12.0	2	
NaDC <sup>20</sup>	5.0	4	
NaTC <sup>20</sup>	10.0	4	-
DTAB <sup>30</sup>	16.0	48	77
TTAB <sup>30</sup>	3.1	55	73
CTAB <sup>30</sup>	0.8	55	85
CPC <sup>30</sup>	0.83		58
Triton X-100 <sup>25</sup>	0.03	134	
Tween 20 <sup>25</sup>	0.05	86	
Tween 40 <sup>25</sup>	0.023	92	-
Tween 60 <sup>25</sup>	0.021	112	
Tween 80 <sup>25</sup>	0.01	124	

Table 2. Physicochemical properties of some typical surfactants

<sup>a</sup> Superscripts refer to the temperature in °C. Abbreviations as in Table 1.

micellar shape and surfactant geometry:

Factors governing micellar shape:

- optimal headgroup area:
- volume of the alkyl chains:
- critical chain length:

For a spherical micelle with N surfactants: volume = NV =  $(4\pi/3)R^3$ outer area = Na<sub>0</sub> =  $4\pi R^2$ 

So: 
$$R = 3NV/Na_0 = 3V/a_0$$

Spherical packing is allowed when: So: critical packing parameter:

a V (= 27.4 + 26.9n<sub>c</sub> [Å<sup>3</sup>]) L<sub>c</sub> (= 1.54 + 1.26n<sub>c</sub> [Å]) length  $R \leq L_{c}$ volume V area an  $R < L_{c}$ V/a<sub>0</sub>L<sub>c</sub> < 1/3

> not a geometrical area but an effective area including head group repulsion

### micellar shapes:



### micellar shapes:



micelles of paraffin chain mono-salts in solution:

•interior of the micelle consists of hydrocarbon chains

•polar groups are spaced on the surface

•chains are in unordered arrangement (liquid state)

•there cannot be an open space in the interior  $L_c$  cannot be the same for all chains

with this limitation, the simplest geometric form having the least area for the volume is that of sphere or an oblate spheroid



oblate spheroid (earth – like)

the shape of a micelle may vary from spherical depending upon the chain length (chain length distribution) and the area occupied per head group estimate shape of micelles:



$$L_C = 1.5 + 1.265 n_C$$
  $V_C = 27.4 + 26.9 n_C$   $V_M = \frac{4\pi}{3} \cdot R_C^3$ 



van der Waals radius of terminal  $CH_3$  group (2.1Å)

one half of the bond length to the first atom not combined with the hydrophobic core (0.6 Å)

C. Tanford J. Phys. Chem. 76 (1972) 3020-3024

n <sub>c</sub>	L <sub>C</sub> (Å)	V <sub>C</sub> (Å <sup>3</sup> )	V <sub>M</sub> (Å <sup>3</sup> )	m	S/m (Ų)
6	9.1	189	3150	17	92.7
8	11.6	243	6570	27	86.0
10	14.2	296	11870	40	81.9
12	16.7	350	19440	56	79.0
14	19.2	404	26690	74	76.9
16	21.7	458	43040	94	75.3
18	24.3	512	59880	117	74.1
20	26.8	565	80630	143	73.1

experimental value SDS: m ~ 62 (absence of salt) and 126 (in 0.5 M NaCl)

the calculated  $n_{\rm C}$  - values are too small

distortion in the spherical shape to incorporate a larger number of molecules



C. Tanford J. Phys. Chem. 76 (1972) 3020-3024; H. V. Tartar J. Phys. Chem. 59 (1955) 1195-1199

from a sphere to an oblate spheroid:



the stronger the deviation from a sphere the larger the aggregation number



➤ distortion is accompanied by an increase in the total surface but the increase is less than the increase in volume

> the surface area per hydrocarbon chain is diminished

>S/m is the surface area per surfactant molecule or the area per head group, which is an important quantity because it measures the distance between polar head groups

> the decrease in S/m with increasing chain length reflects the increasing attraction at constant repulsion

➢if S/m becomes larger there will be necessarily contact between water molecules and the core surface, and a consequent pressure to reduce S/m all theory is based on pure substancesmonodisperse chain length

➢ for surfactants purity is always an issue



dodecanol has higher surface activity and adsorbs first



the corresponding alcohol is always an admixture in alkylsulfates

#### the very classical spherical shape

spokes - of - a - wheel structure

Hartley - micelle



G. S. Hartley disclaimed: "The symmetrical asterisk form ... has no physical basis and is drawn for no other reason than the human mind is an organizing instrument and finds un organized processes uncongenial." (G. S. Hartley Aqueous Solutions of Paraffin-Chain Salts. A Study of Micelle Formation; Herman, Paris 1936, Fig.11A and discussion) in fact a micelle is a highly disorganized structure with multiple bent chains, cavities, hydrocarbon – water contact, and deviations from an exact spherical shape (JACS 108 (1986) 1297, Langmuir 9 (1993) 9, J. Phys. Chem. 89 (1985) 153)



Figure 1. A: the misnamed "Hartley" micelle as portrayed in most modern chemistry and biochemistry texts. B: a more realistic schematic attempting to depict the disordered and fluid nature of the micelle interior.



Snapshot of a small part of the system. For clarity only the surfactants are shown; the white spheres are the hydrophilic segments, the red spheres the hydrophobic.

Langmuir 1993,9,9-11





Figure 2. Variation of  $1/\tau_1$  (shock tube) and  $1/\tau_2$  (P jump) with NaLS concentration at 20° and without added salt.



TABLE I: Values of the Relaxation Times at C = cmc

	NaLS <sup>o</sup>	LPI	LPBr <sup>,</sup>
$\tau_1, \ \mu \text{sec}$	29	12	<5
$\tau_2$ , msec	2.3	>100	0.4

<sup>a</sup> Results at 20°, <sup>b</sup> Results at 25°.



**Figure 3.** Variation of  $1/\tau_1$  and  $1/\tau_2$  with *C* for LPI solutions in 0.05 *M* KI at 25°: (+) shock-tube experiments; (O,X) T-jump experiments ( $\lambda$  342 nm).

# micellar phase as sorbent phase:



#### latex particles as sorbent phase:



Photograph of the neat 100 nm latex (right) particles and the particles after dying by sorption with the hydrophobic pigment Sudan IV (left).



Figure 1. Absorption spectra acquired during the sorption of a BDB in styrene solution into PS-seed particles.

micelles as containers:

swollen SDS micelles



styrene or benzene and alkanes have a different spatial distribution inside micelles



Handbook of Surface and Colloid Chemistry , K. S. Birdi p 108-109

Is the micellar core a safe place?



degradation of crystal violet (CV):



Can SDS - micelles protect CV against degradation?



# it's a surprising result

Krafft temperature or point:

>unusual solubility behavior of surfactants

➤ solubility increases drastically above a certain T

>behavior changes from hydrophobic to hydrophilic

 $C_{18}$ —SO<sub>3</sub>Na is absolutely hydrophobic at room temperature



Fig. 4. Solubility versus temperature for sodium decylsulphonate in water showing location of the Krafft point (after Shinoda, 1974); -0-, solubility data; -□-, c.m.c. values.

## diblock copolymer

#### micelle





$$m = N_A^{\alpha} N_B^{\beta}$$
$$\alpha > 0$$
$$\beta < 0$$

#### molecule

block copolymer micelles:

Binary Surfactant - Water Phase Diagram



block copolymer micelles: morphology is chain length dependent



TEM images (a, b) and optical micrograph (c) of aggregates for a series of PB-PEO block copolymers

M. Antonietti, S. Föärster Adv. Mat. 15 (2003) 1323 - 1333

block copolymer micelles: ways to change morphology



**Compositional Asymmetry** 

PREFERRED INTERFACE CURVATURE



Preferred Swelling



block copolymer micelles

#### PS(45)-b-P4VP(122) $D_{h} = 11.4 \text{ nm}$ Z = 54

PS(63)-b-P4VP(122) $D_{h} = 13.5 \text{ nm}$ Z = 123



aggregation numbers Z as function of  $N_{\rm A}$  and  $N_{\rm B}$  for:

PS-P4/VP (open circles), PS-PMAc (open squares) PMAc-PS-PMAc (open triangles)  $C_x E_y$  (filled circles) RN<sup>+</sup>(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>Br<sup>-</sup> (filled squares) ROSO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> (filled triangles up) RSO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> (filled triangles down)

influence of the corona block size is compensated by the factor  $N_{\rm B}^{0.8}$ 

additionally is compensated for the monomer volume  $v_0$  and interchain distance  $b_0$ , which are specific for each system; both parameters are absorbed into the quantity  $Z_0=36\pi v_0^2 / b_0^6$  (packing parameter at the core – corona interface)

#### block copolymers (Eisenberg)



Figure 3. Porous spheres made from PS(240)-b-PEO(45).



С

200 nm



PS(410)-b-PAA(25)

TEM images (A - C) and X-ray absorption microscopy image (D) of polystyrene particles showing various morphological features A – polystyrene particles prepared by surfactantfree emulsion polymerization with potassium peroxodisulfate as initiator

#### latex particles

2000 ml water, 91.1 g styrene monomer, 0.021 g sodium hydrogen carbonate buffer, and if necessary the thiomalic acid chain-transfer agent (either 1 or 0.2 mol % relative to styrene monomer); 70 °C, 1.872 g KPS



$$n_{sm} = \frac{\pi \cdot D^2}{a_s}$$

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{n}_{\mathsf{sm}}}\xspace$  - number of chains per particle if the surface is saturated with lyophilic groups

$$n_p = \frac{m_p \cdot N_A}{M_n}$$

 $n_p$  - number of chains per particles

 $n_p > n_{sm}$  more engroups than surface area and consequently phase separation inside the particles

surfactants - block copolymers - particles

self-assembled colloidal objects in a selective solvent







common properties: >stabilization >swelling, sorbent phases >nanoreactors >morphology >etc etc