

# Floc, EPS and Membrane Fouling

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The background is a 3D-rendered scene in shades of blue. It features a checkered floor in the foreground, a large curved structure on the right with a bright blue light source, and various mechanical or architectural elements on the left, including a large sphere and a staircase-like structure.

# Disclaimer

Process Integration, backwashing sequence, risk assessment, etc



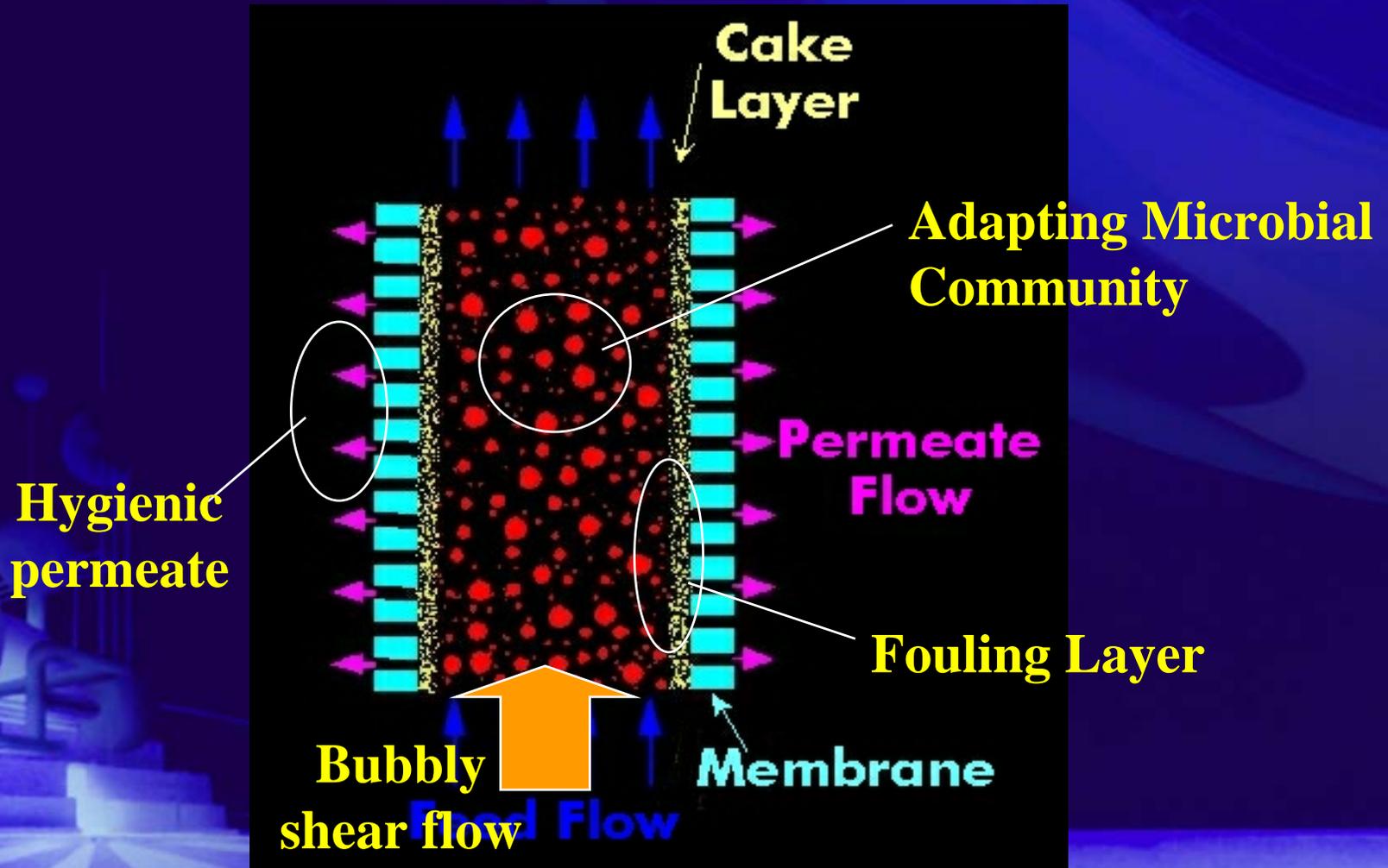
Pre-coagulation  
Extraction  
Prevaporation  
Phase transfer  
etc

Two-phase flow  
O<sub>2</sub> transfer  
Adapting MOs  
Monitoring  
etc

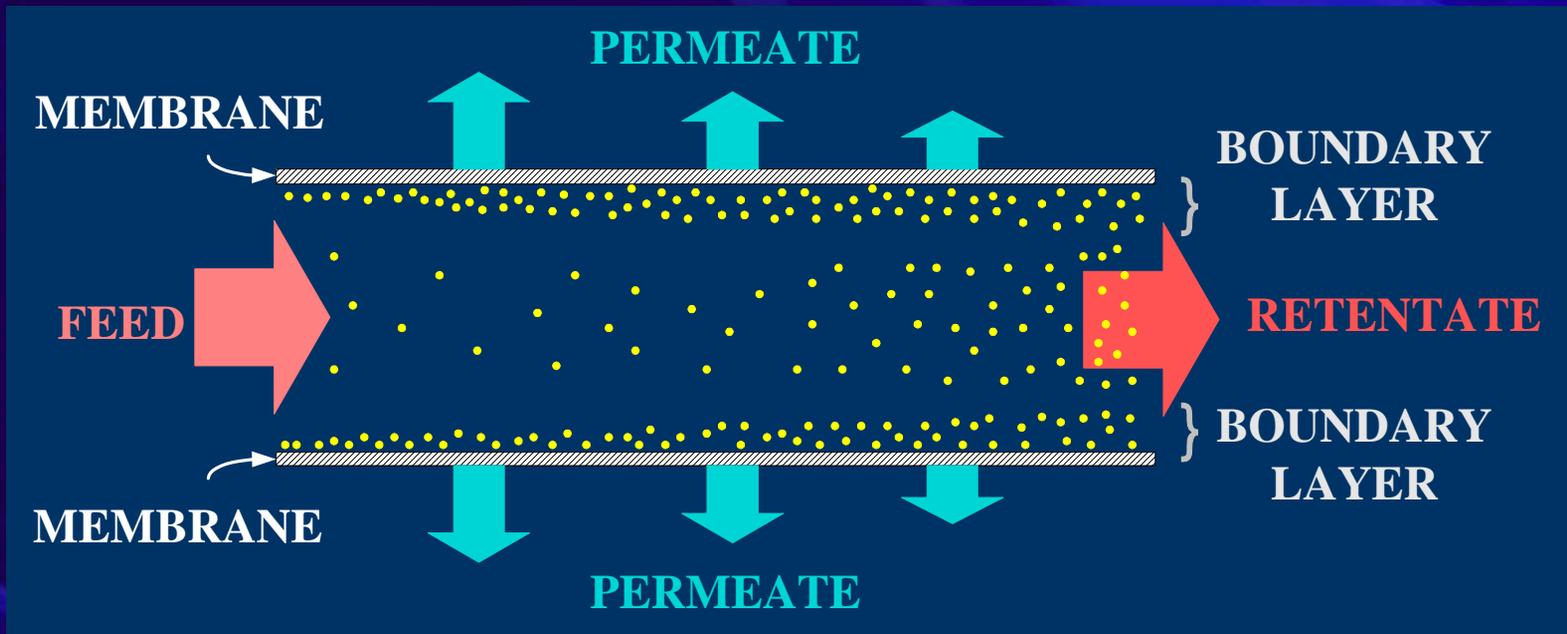
Fouling control  
New membrane  
Monitoring  
etc

Monitoring  
Gene Chip  
etc

# What occurs in MBR

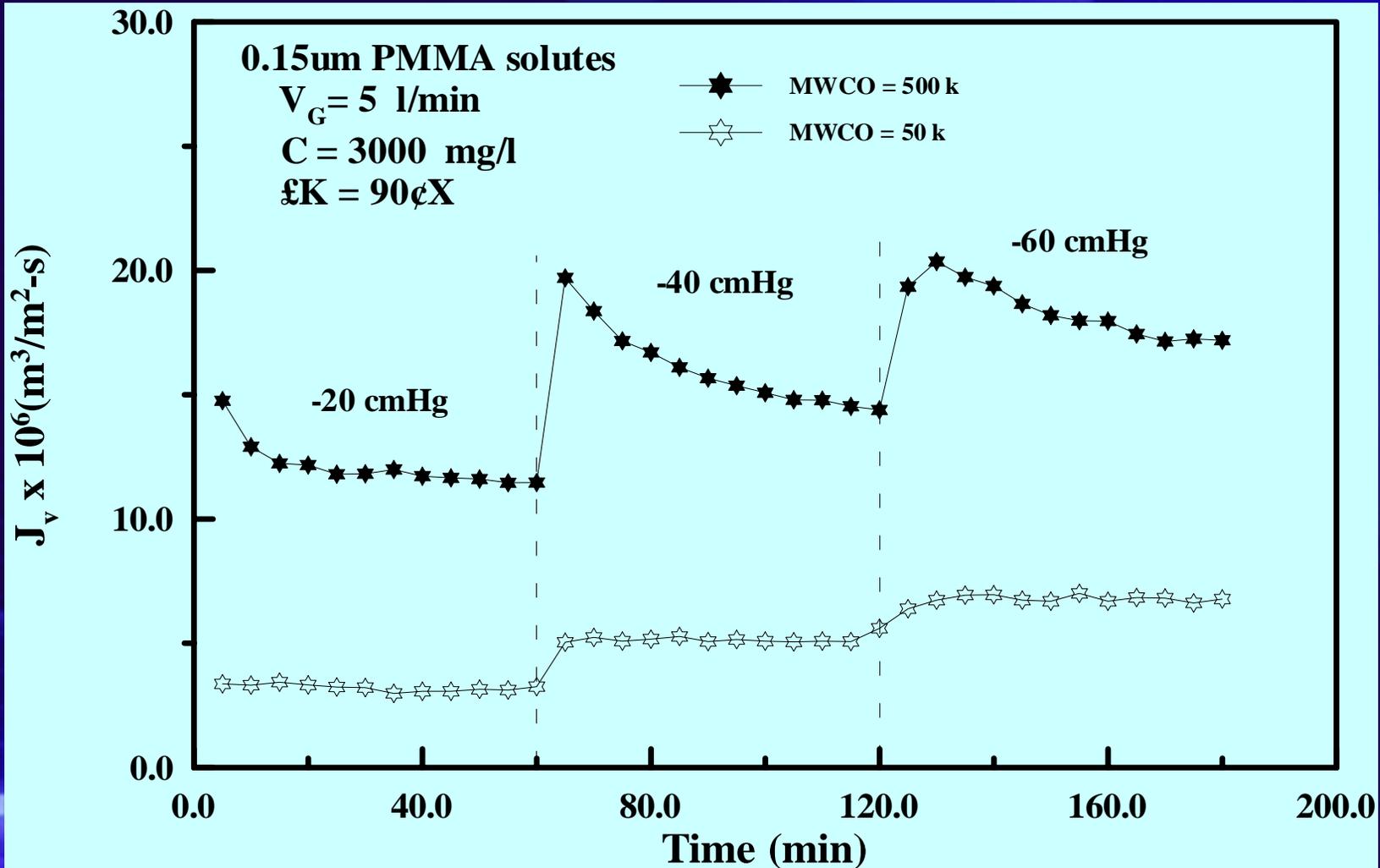


# □ Membrane Ultrafiltration

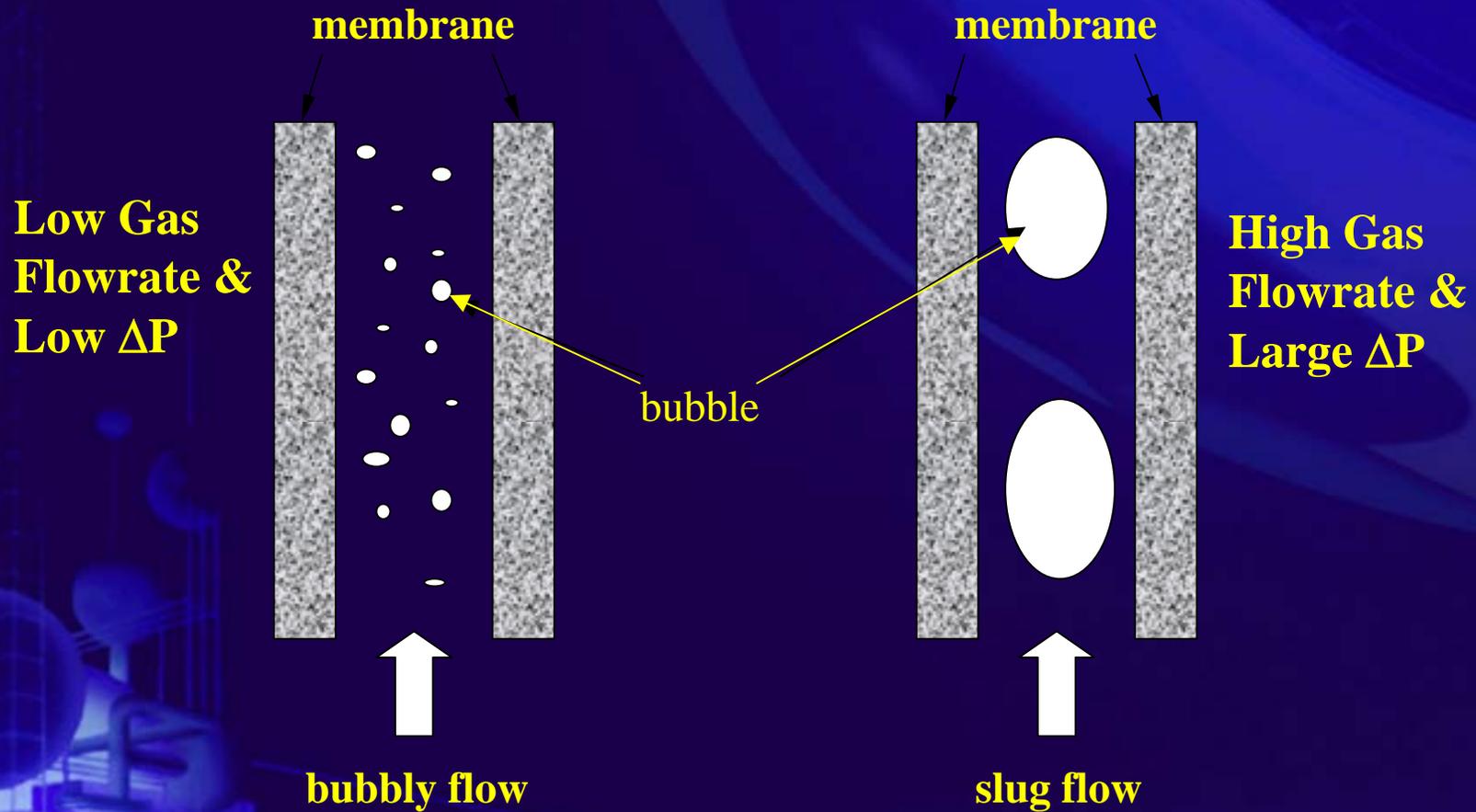


# □ To reduce fouling:

- 1. Pretreatments of feed solution**
- 2. Modifying membrane properties**
- 3. Cleaning**
- 4. Positive control**
  - Assisted field (electric, vibrating, etc)
  - Flow manipulation
    - 1. Turbulence promoters**
    - 2. Secondary flow**
    - 3. Pulsating flow**
    - 4. Gas-liquid two-phase flow**

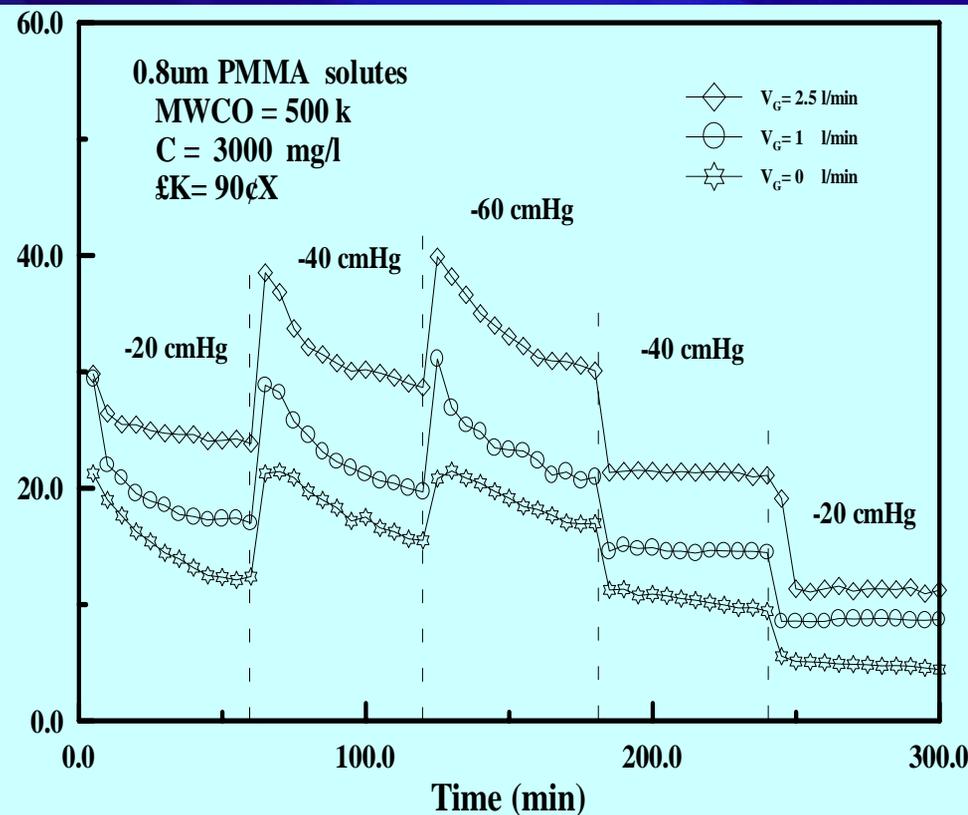
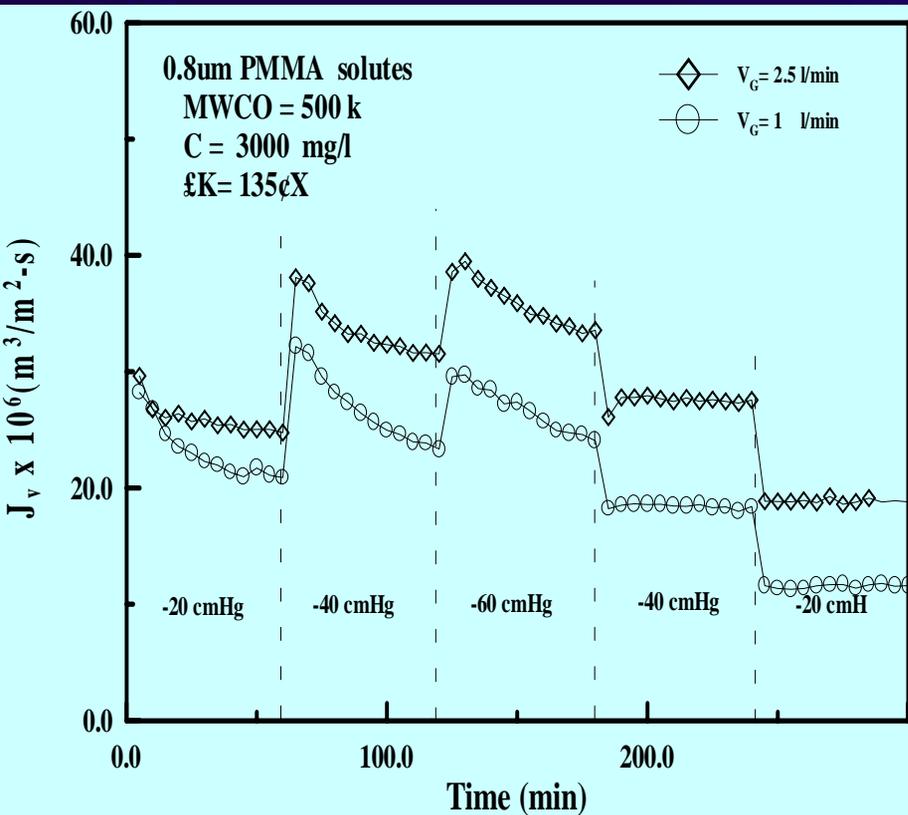


# Flow Patterns in MBR



Affects Floc Deposition & Detachment

# Effect of $\Delta P$ and attack angle ( $90^\circ$ or $135^\circ$ )



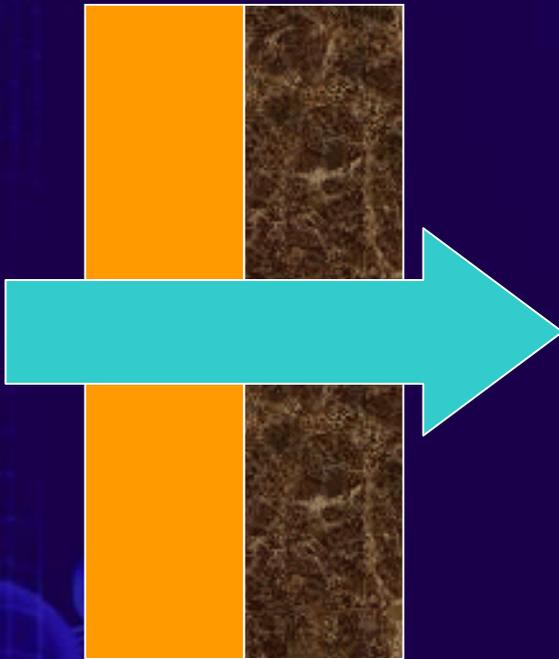
# Membrane fouls ...

**Interactions between  
microorganisms  
and the membrane**

Medium fouling:

Neutral polysaccharides: Kimura, Hane, Watanabe, 2003/Nov

Not carbohydrates or protein: Watanabe, 2004/Feb



# Filtration resistance = Cake + medium + others

Cake layer:

Polysaccharides & protein: CH Lee, 2004/Feb

Permeate resistance and screener of fines

Goal:

Fast rate & quality effluent

Less irreversible clogging

Good cake → slow rate & good screener??

# Very confused term

Choi/Fane (2002) EPS contributed most to membrane fouling

Lee/Hang/Shin (2003) Floccs 70%, others 30%.  
No role of EPS.

Choi et al. (2002) hydrophobic membrane fouls more severely than hydrophilic ones.

Ognier et al. (2002) Fouling is reversible if the TMP-flux curve shows no hysteresis.

Defrane/Jaffrin (1999) if TMP does not increase the fouling is reversible.

Many others....

# EPS: Glue together the floc

Extracellular polymeric substances was produced by microorganisms to bind water and chemicals to form protective layer and storage room.

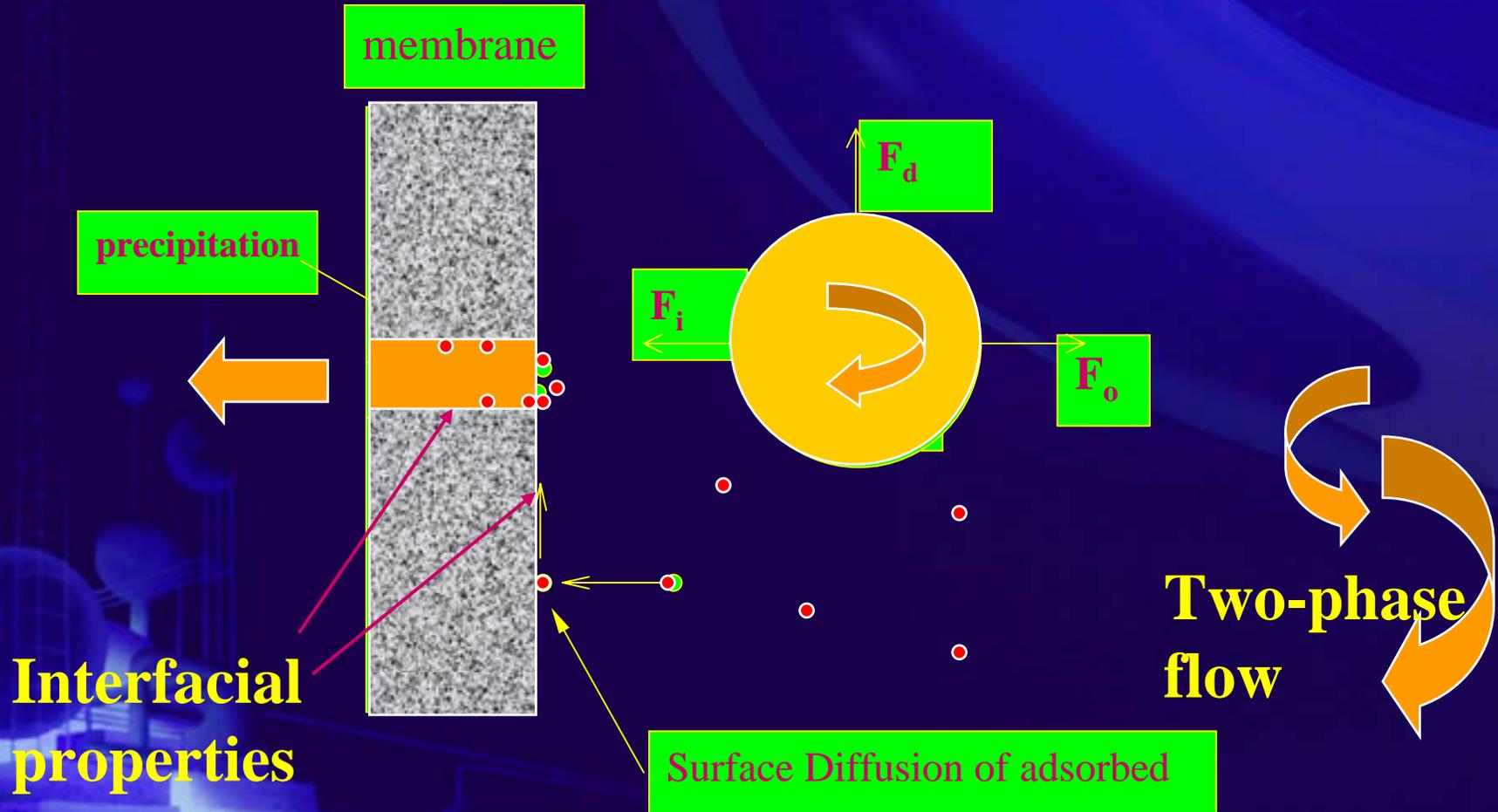
EPS is easily formed from soluble BOD by MO when N- or P- is deficient. Suspended EPS increases with F/M ratio and shearing velocity

Proposed to correspond to 5-90% fouling

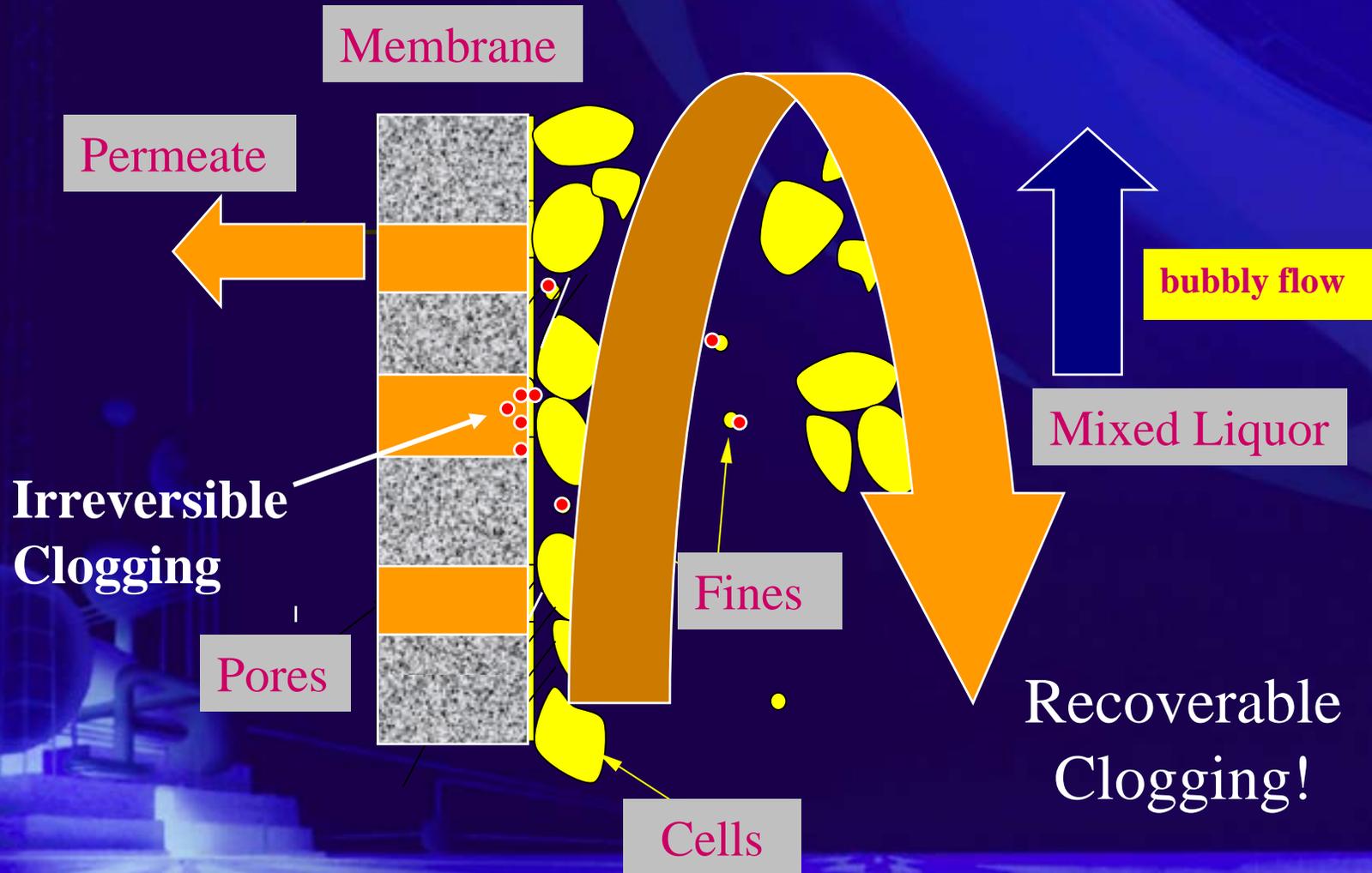
Mainly comprised of carbohydrate and protein

Role of EPS/soluble matters/colloidal particles normally studied under subcritical condition

# Near-Membrane Dynamics



# Fouling schematics



# Irreversible clogging

## ❏ Mechanism I:

- ❏ The fines pass through and precipitate inside the membrane pores.

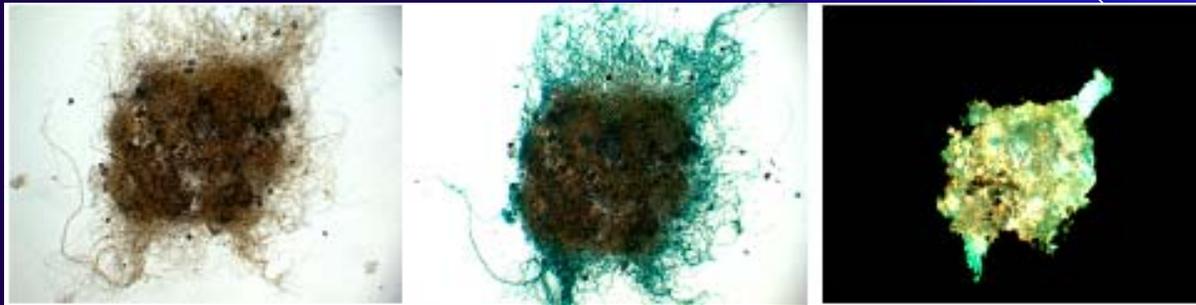
## ❏ Mechanism II:

- ❏ Cell deposits at the membrane surface first, and then yields ECPs to clog the pores.

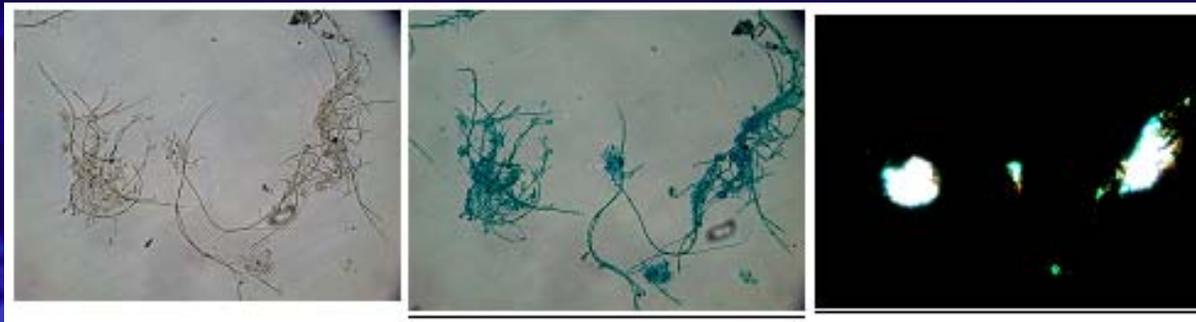
**Ways to block out Mech. I or II are different!!**

# EPS: abundant in floc, rarely in solution

(40X)

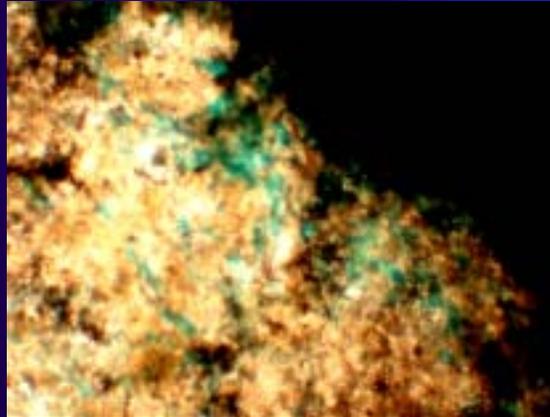


(100X)

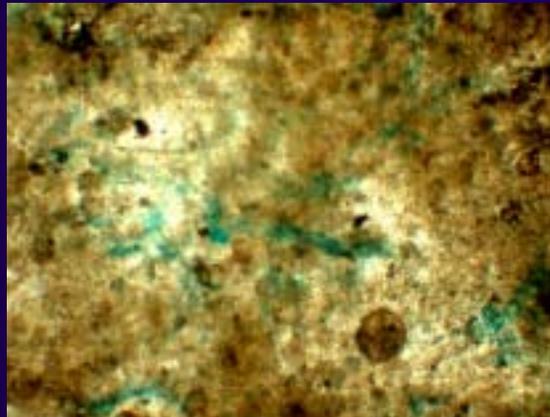


# Alcian Blue & indian ink staining

Perimeter



Centre



(40X)

(1000X)

# EPS: not in a uniform state (Li XY, 2004): LB (exchangeable) & TB EPS



Centri. 6,000 g, 10 min  
Sonicated 2 mins in  
0.85% NaCl solu  
Shaken 10 mins, sonicated 2 mins,  
centri. 8,000 g 10 min

Liquid

**LB EPS**

Sonicated 2 mins  
in 0.85% NaCl solu  
Heated at 80oC for 10-45 mins  
centri. 12,000 g 30 min

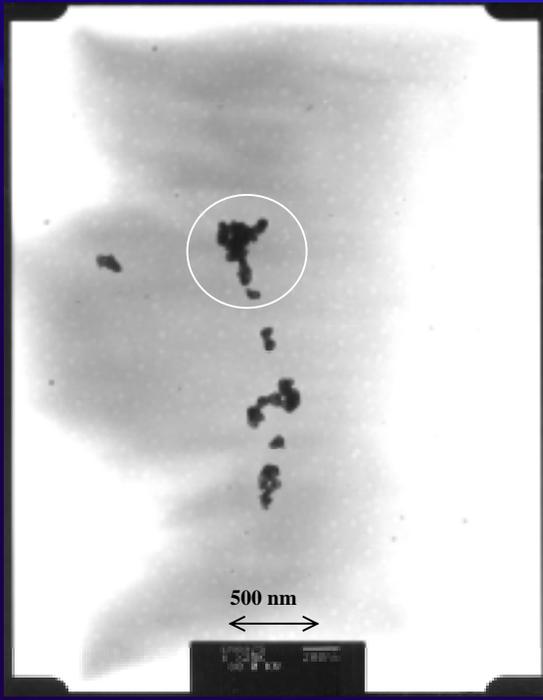
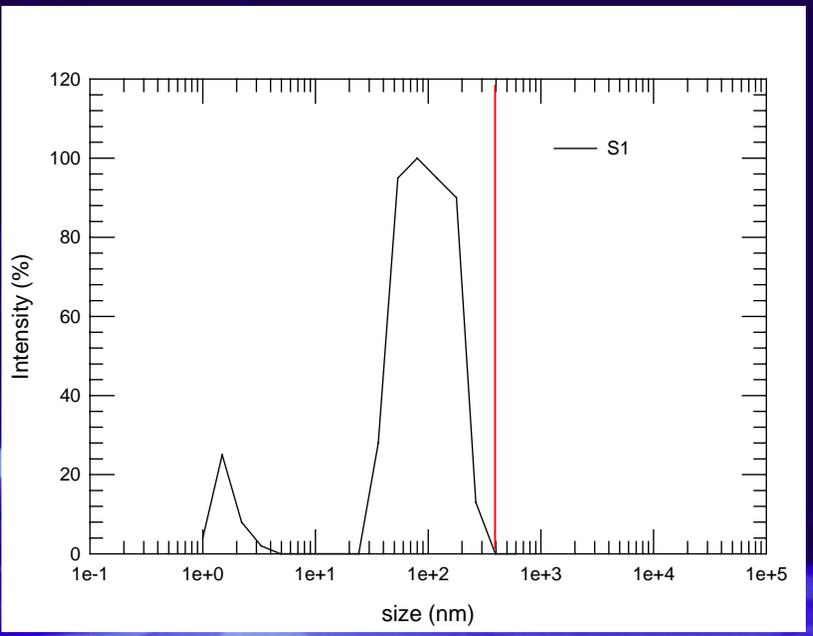
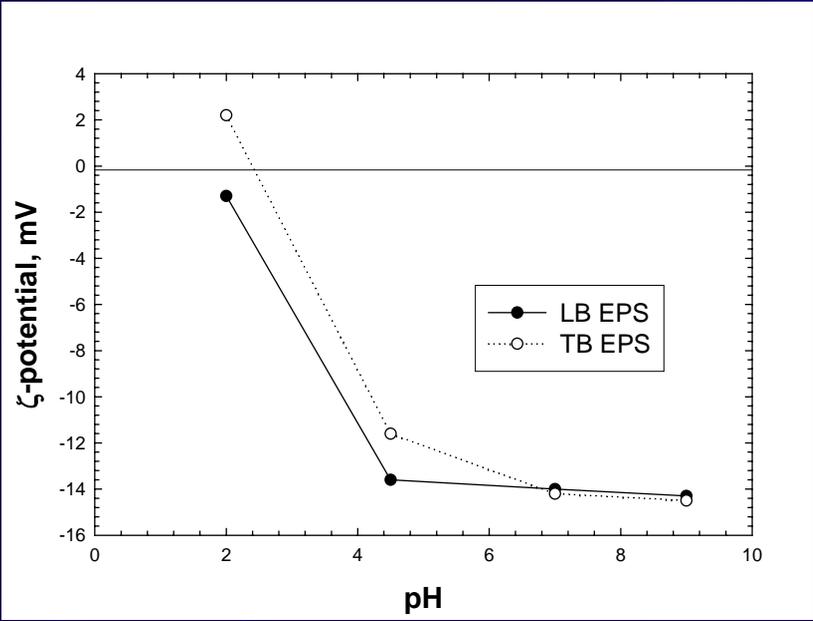
Liquid

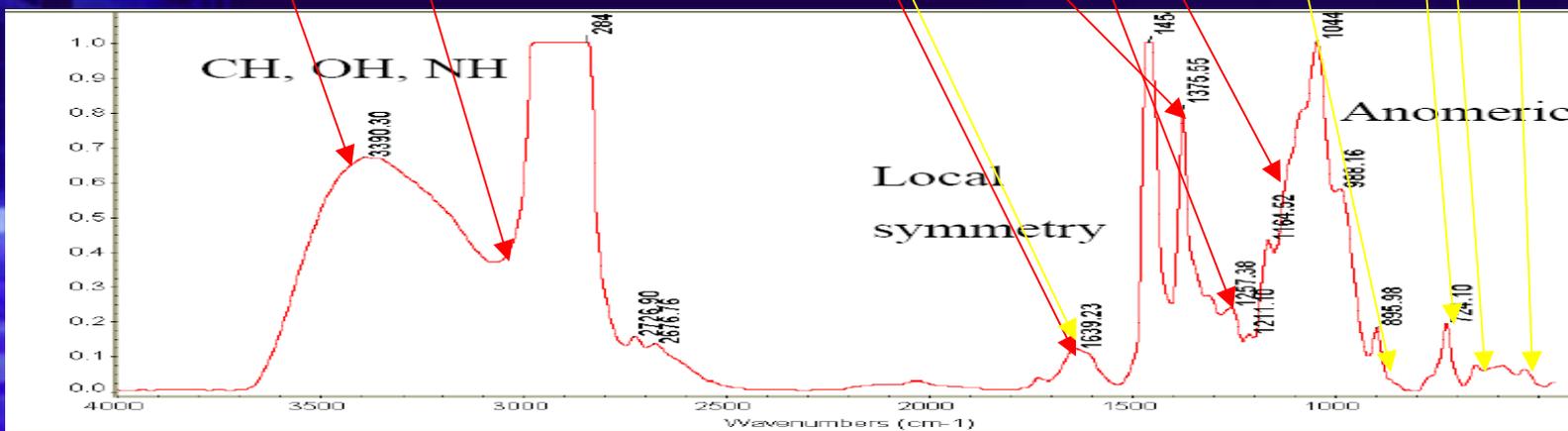
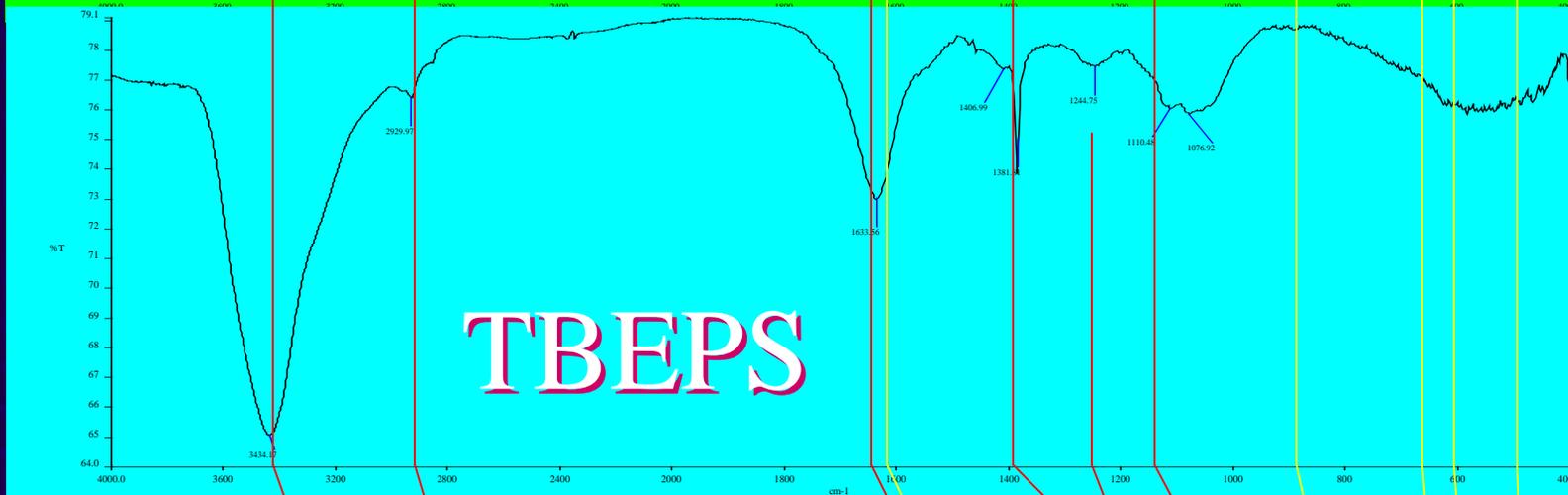
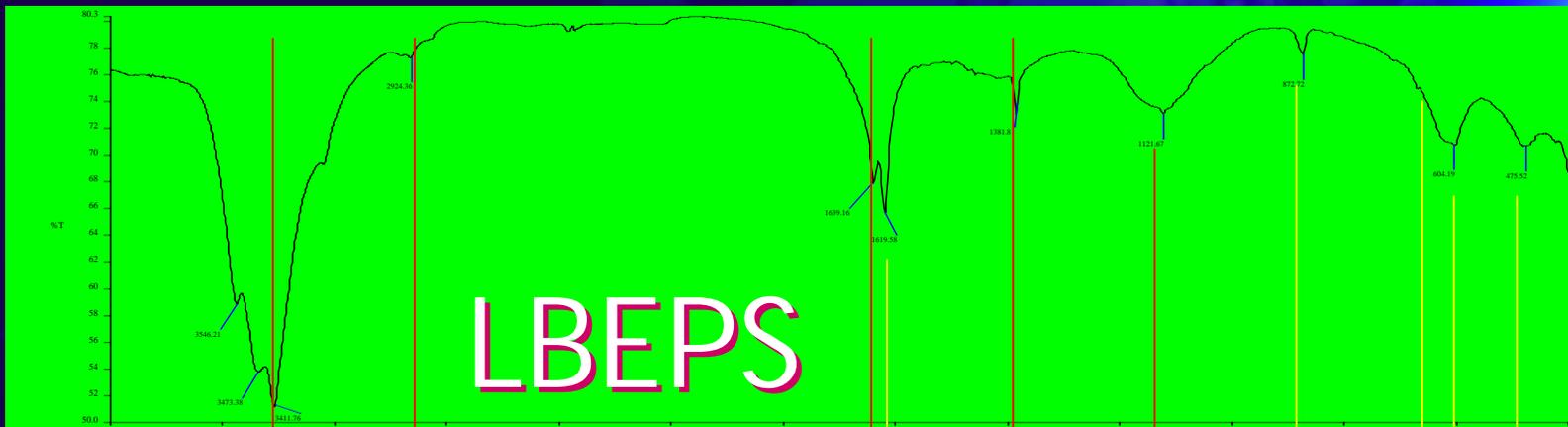
**TB EPS**

Solids

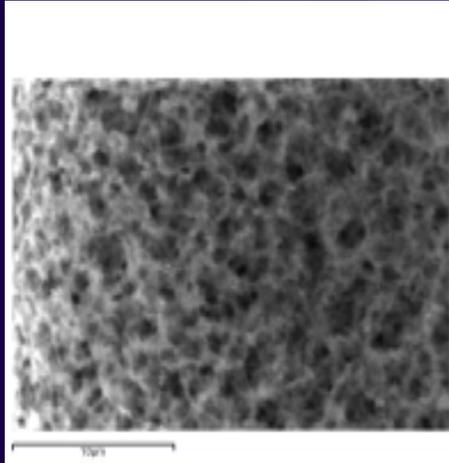
Solids

**Residue**

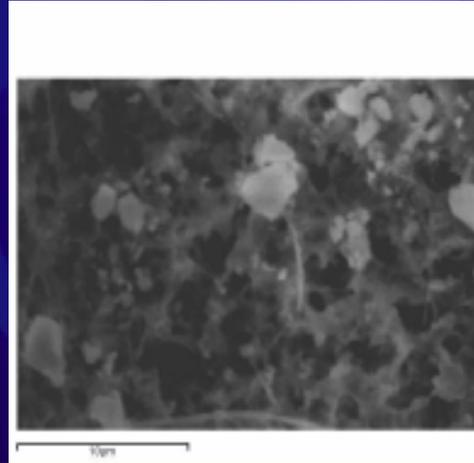




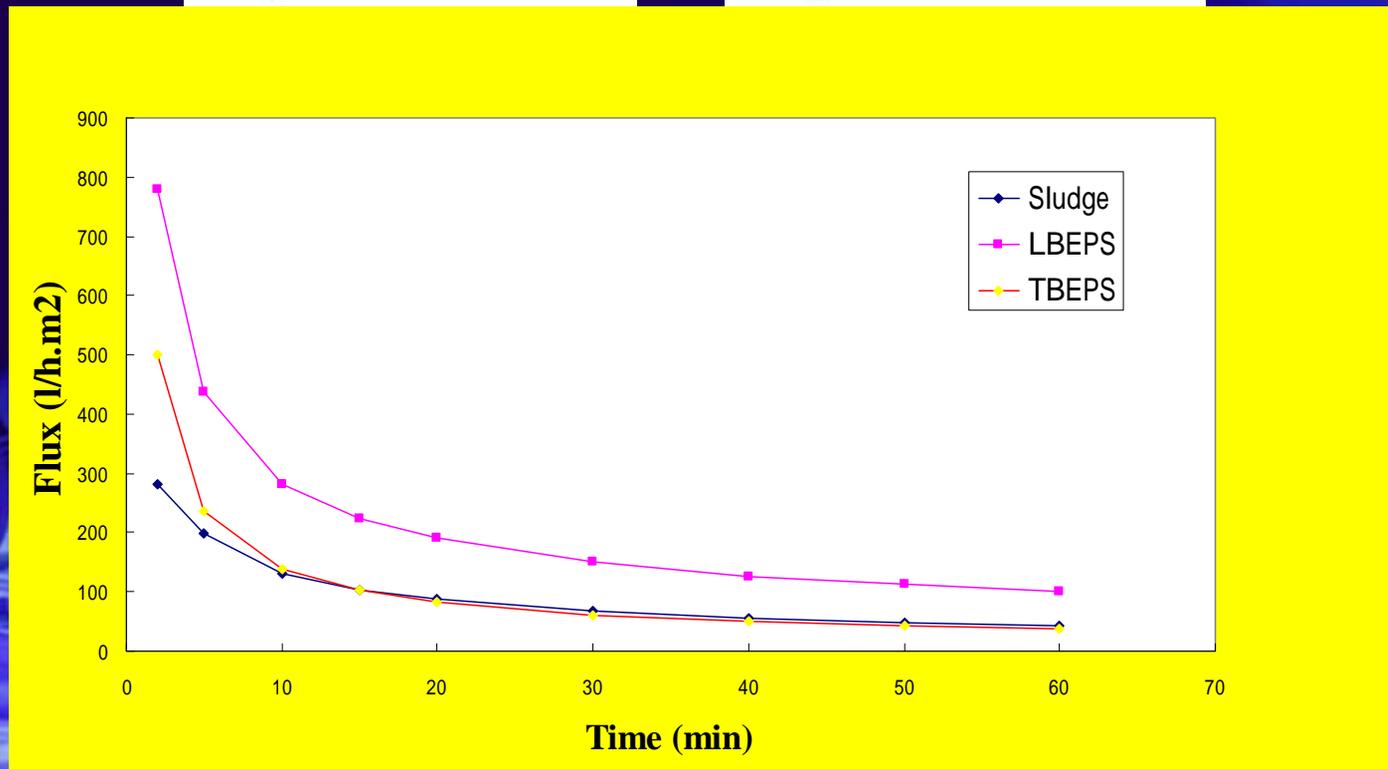
Clean membrane



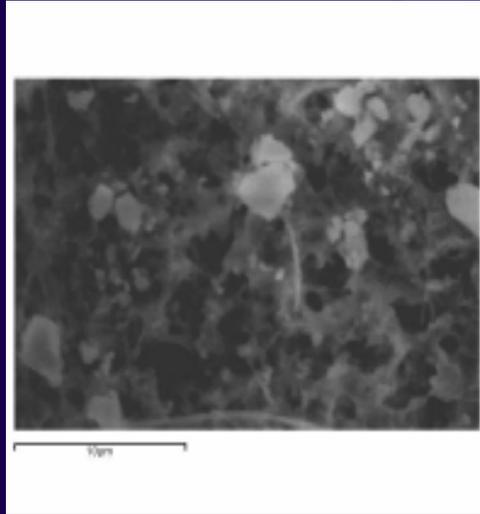
Fouled membrane



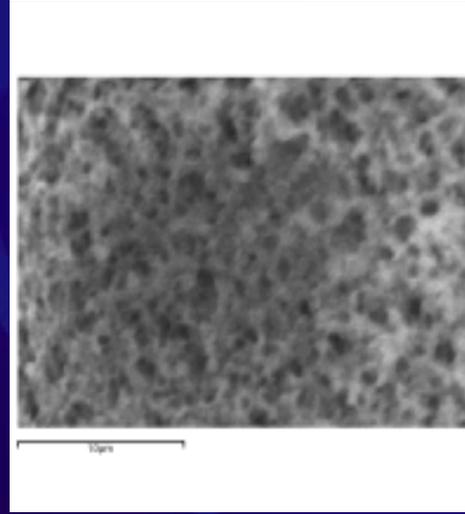
Low MLSS

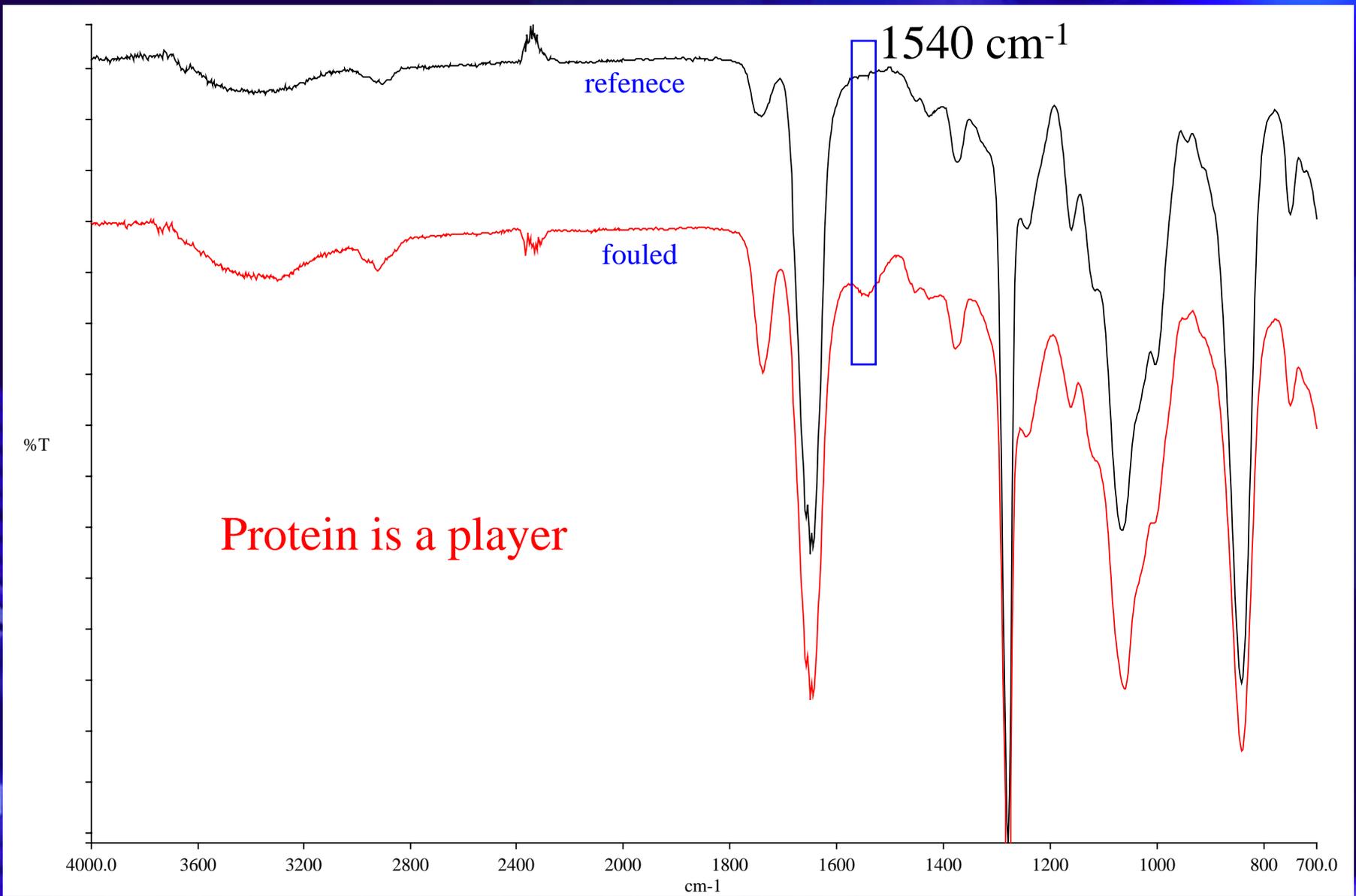


Fouled membrane



Cleaned membrane





FTIR-Microscope  
Perkin Elmer spectrum 1  
Measured down to 10 x 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .



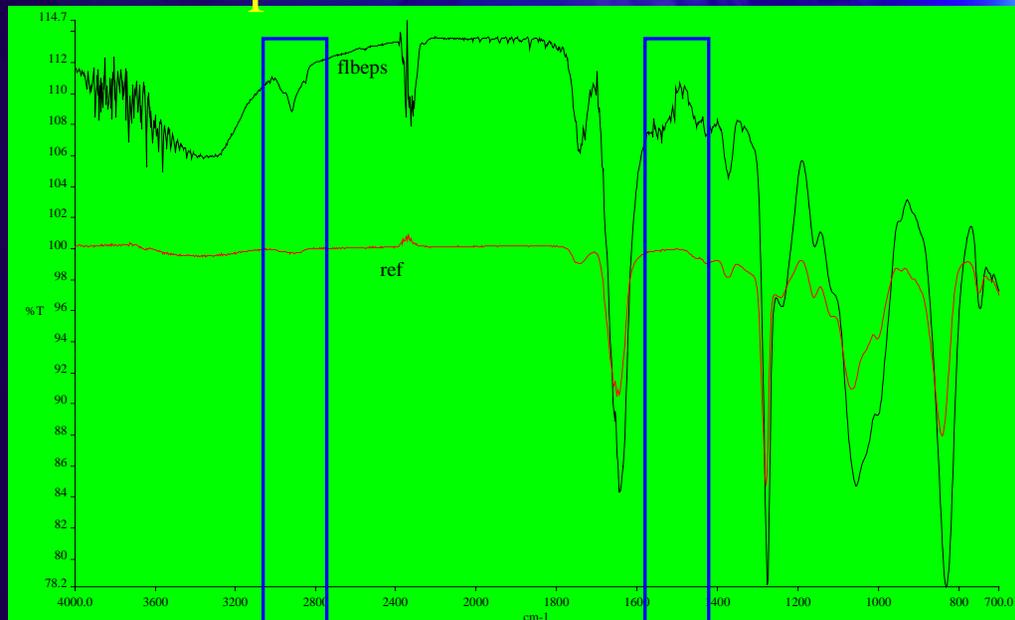
LBEPS fouled

&

TBEPS fouled  
membranes

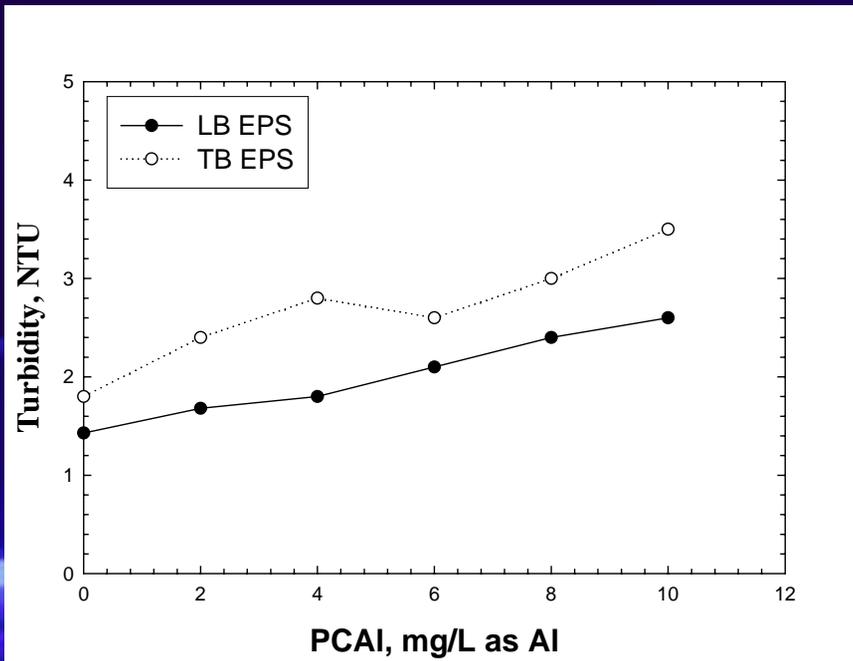
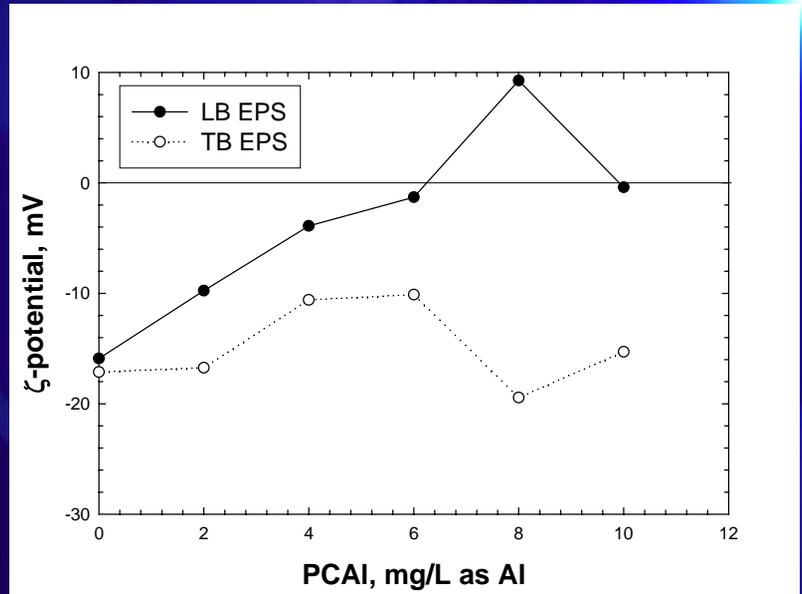
Aliphatic

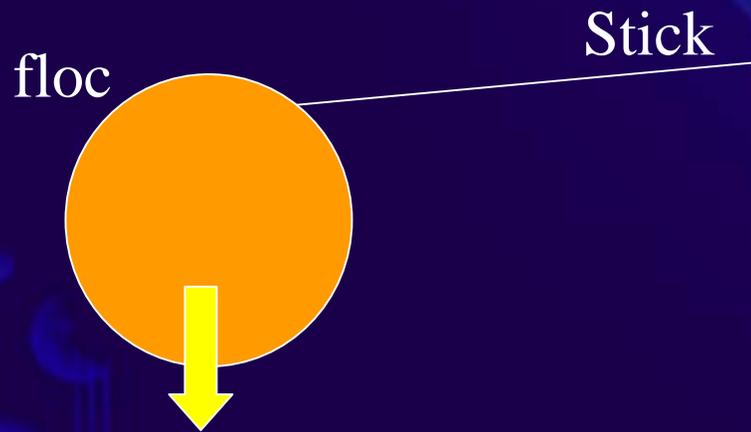
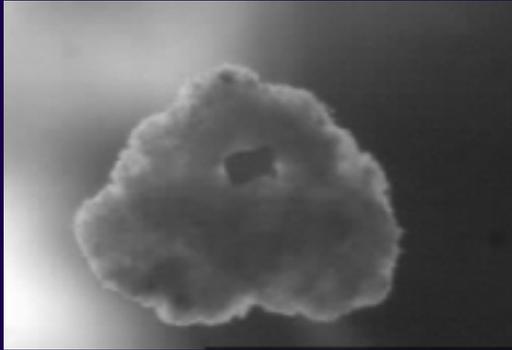
Amide



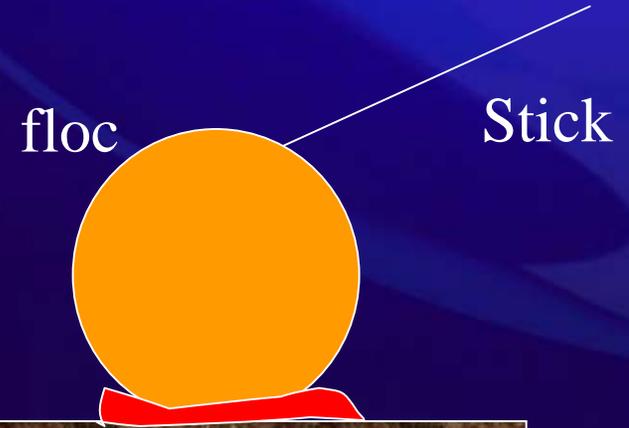
Probably grease  
As well!

PACl coagulation is not efficient to remove EPS



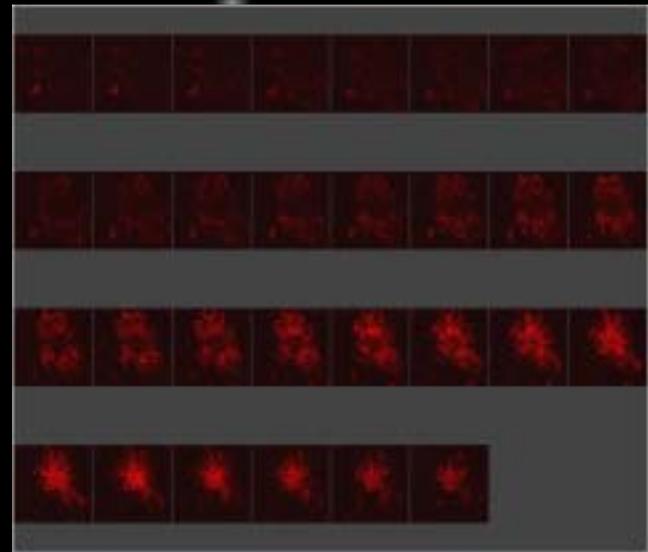
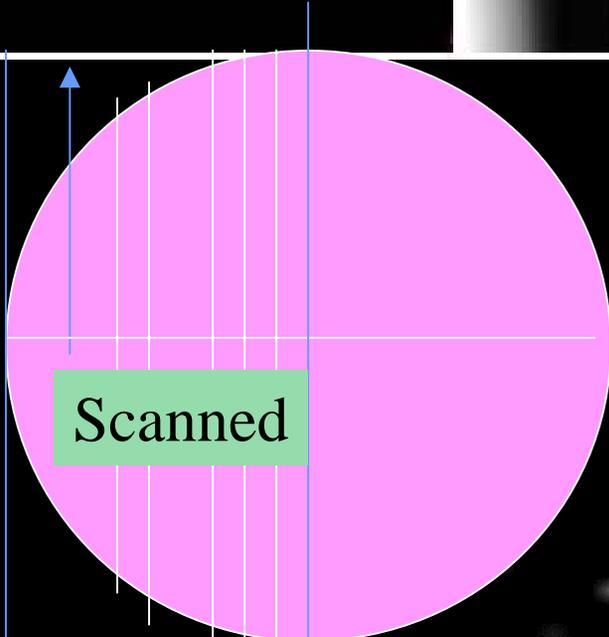
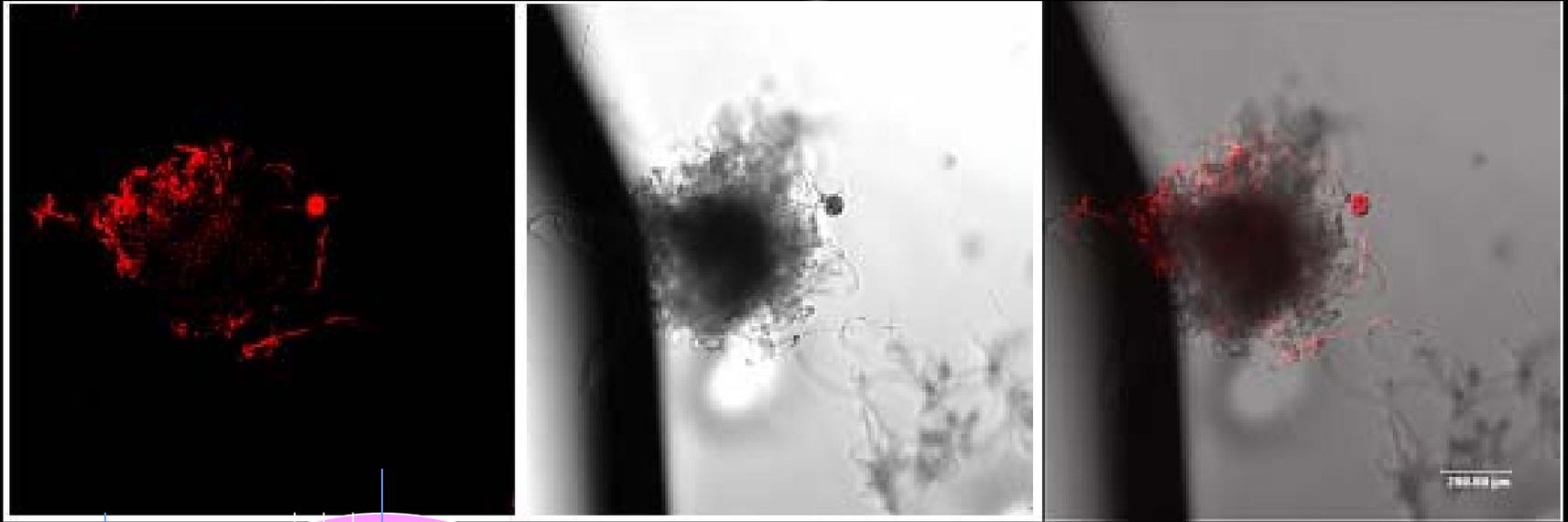


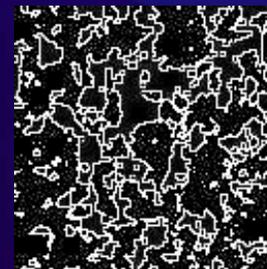
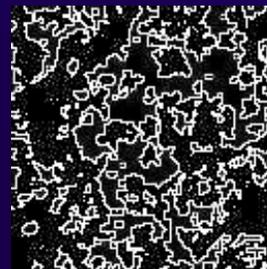
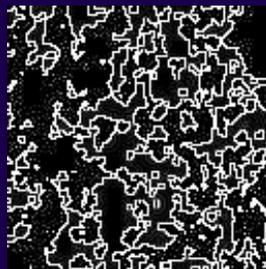
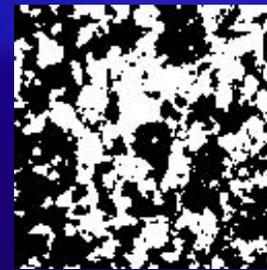
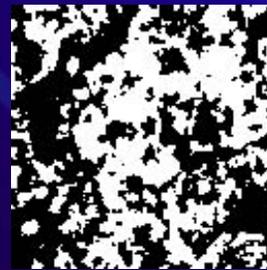
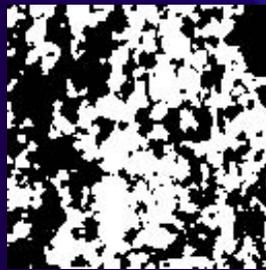
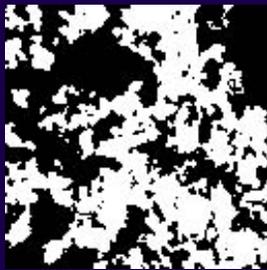
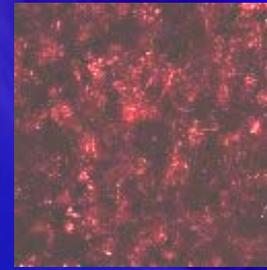
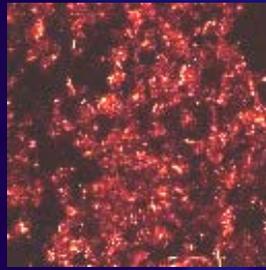
Clean membrane

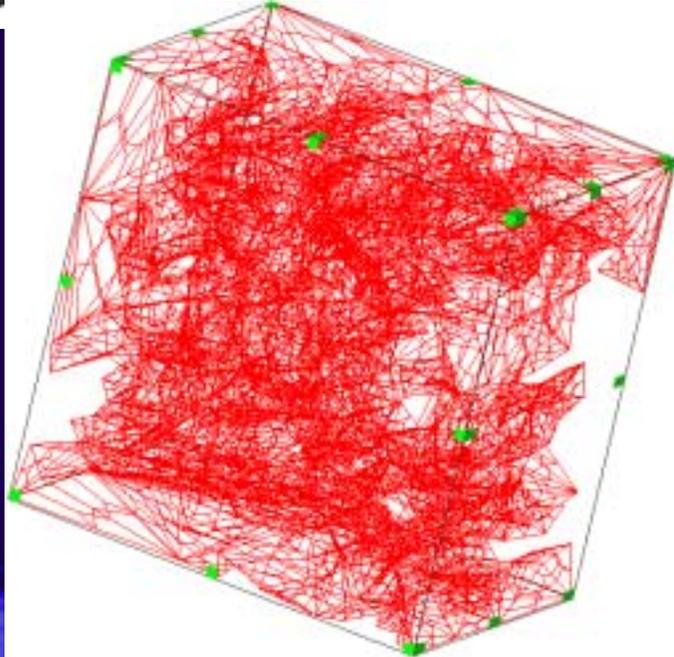
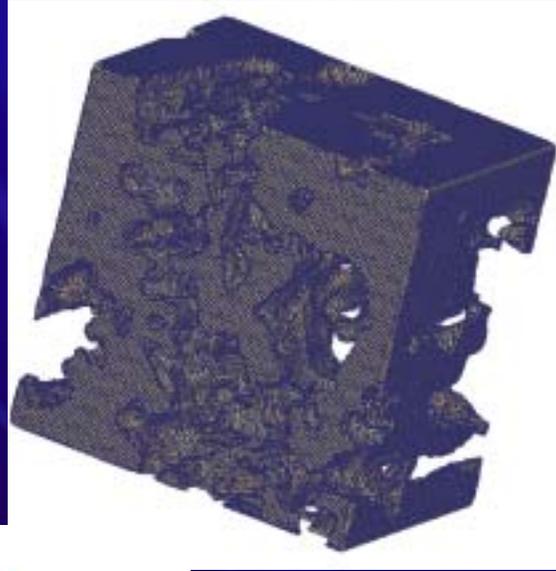
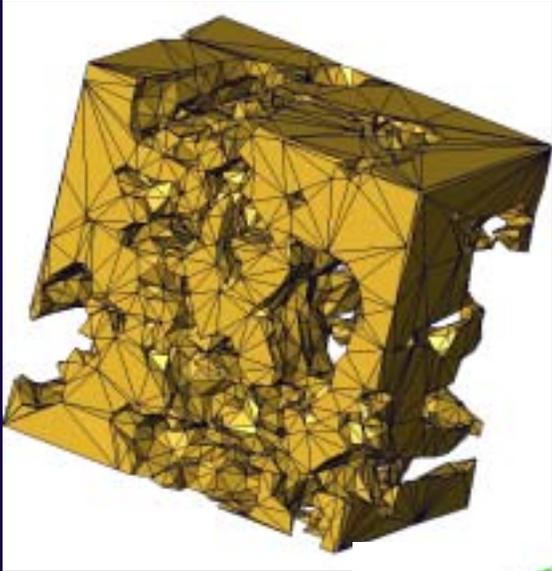


Membrane to foul

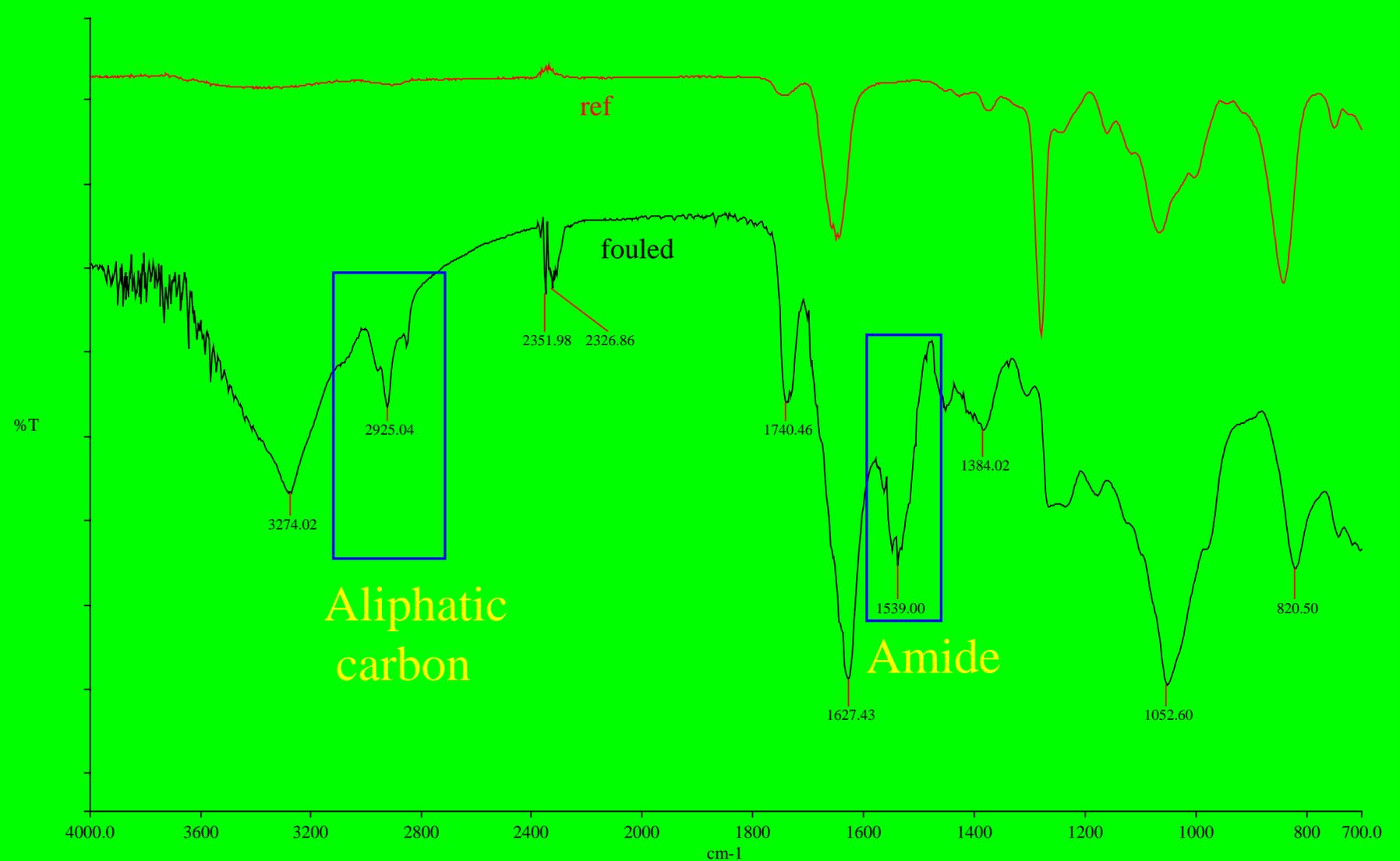
# Floc on membrane



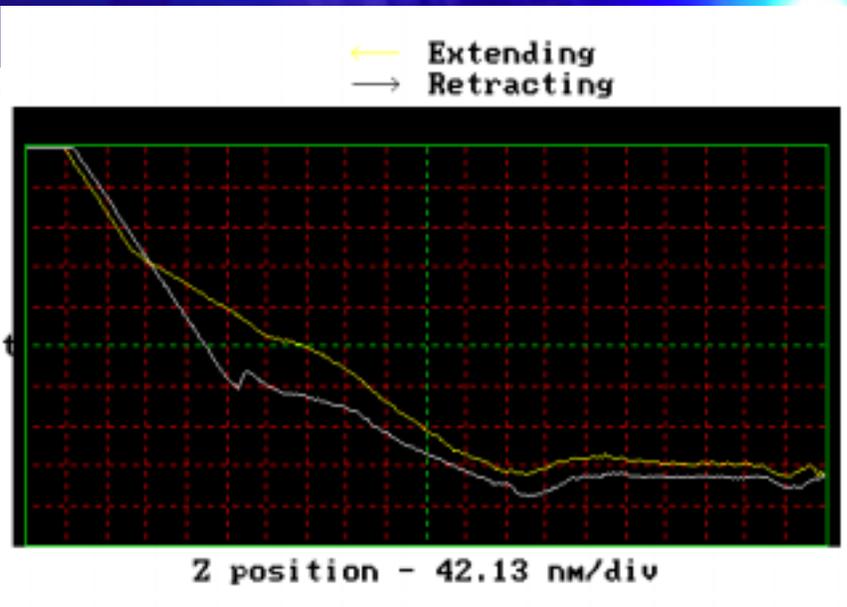
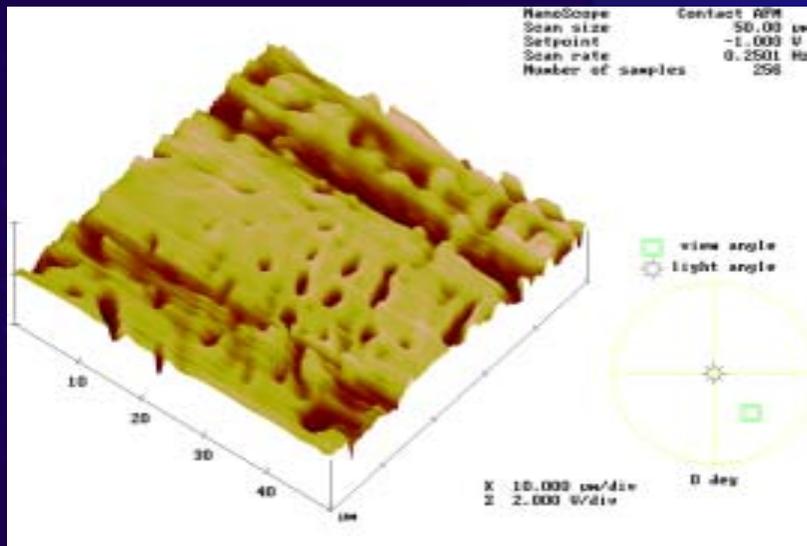




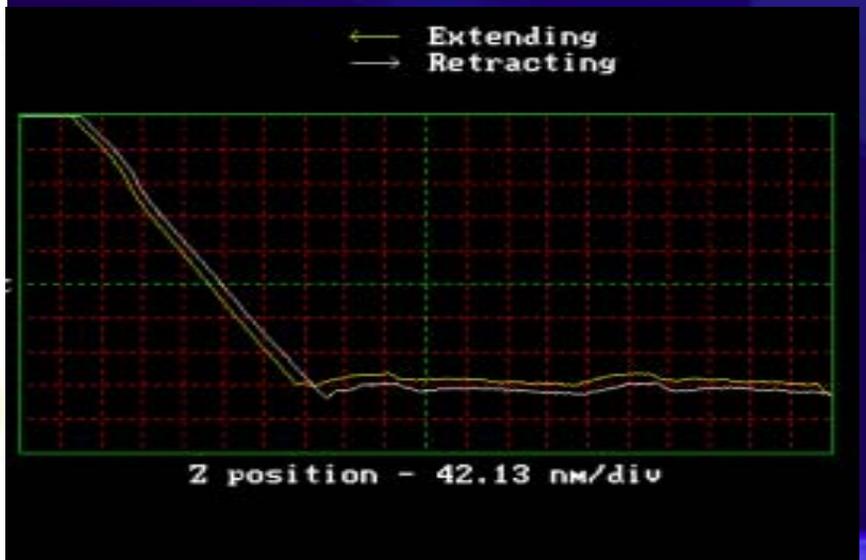
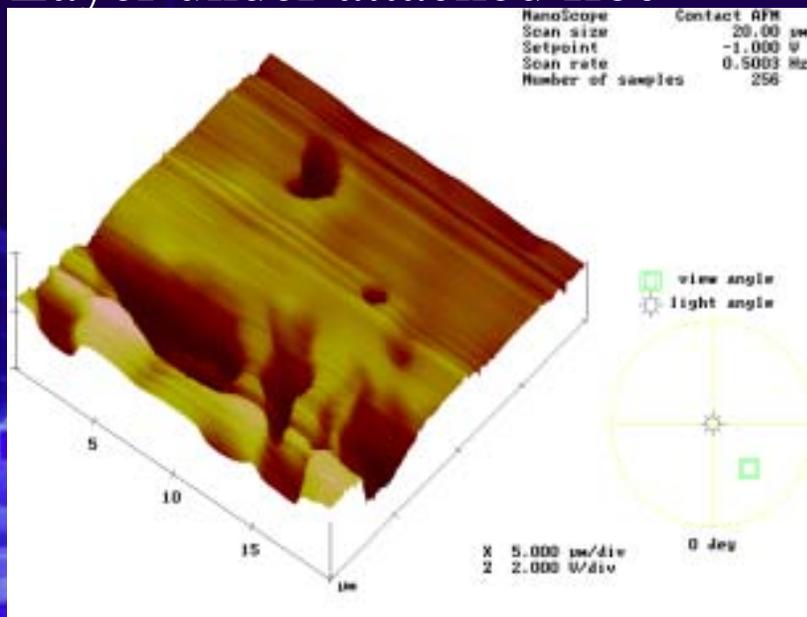
# Fouled and Clean Membranes



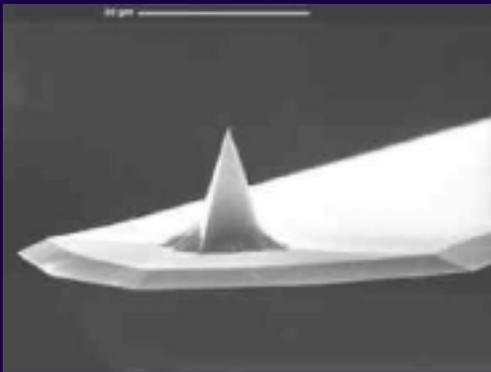
# Fouled membrane with TBEPS



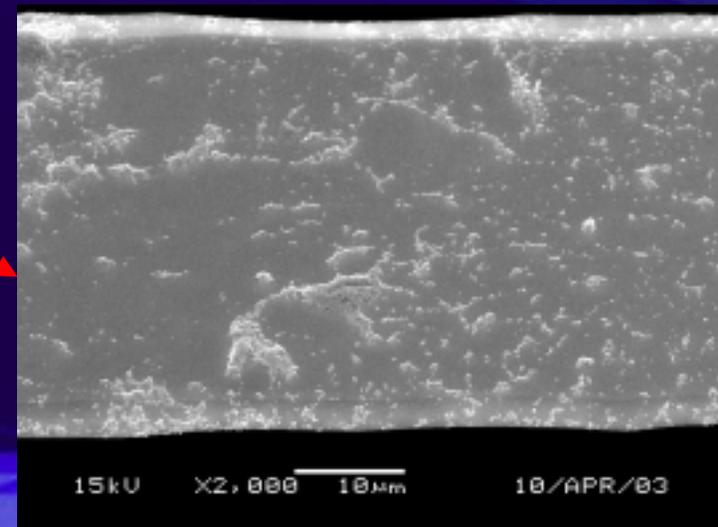
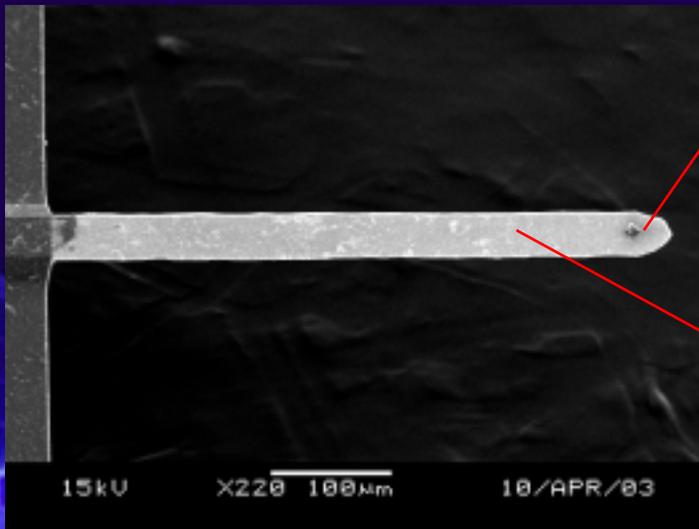
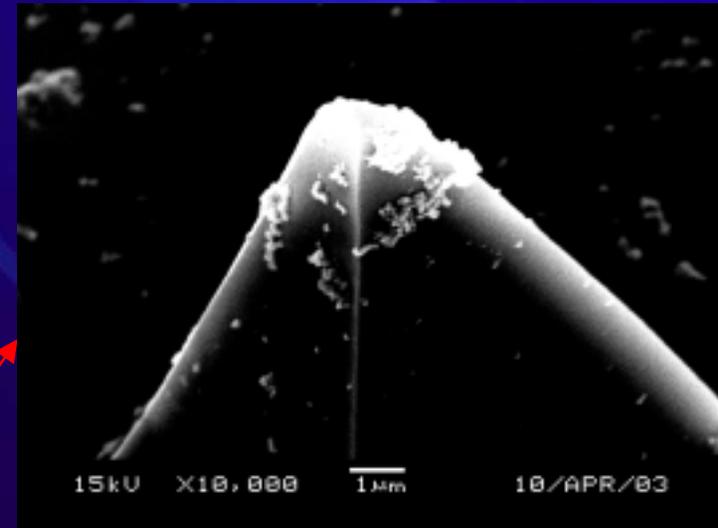
# Layer under attached floc



# Fouled Tip



force constant = 0.2 N/m  
Length = 450 μm  
Width = 50 μm  
Thickness = 2 μm  
Tip height is 10-15 μm

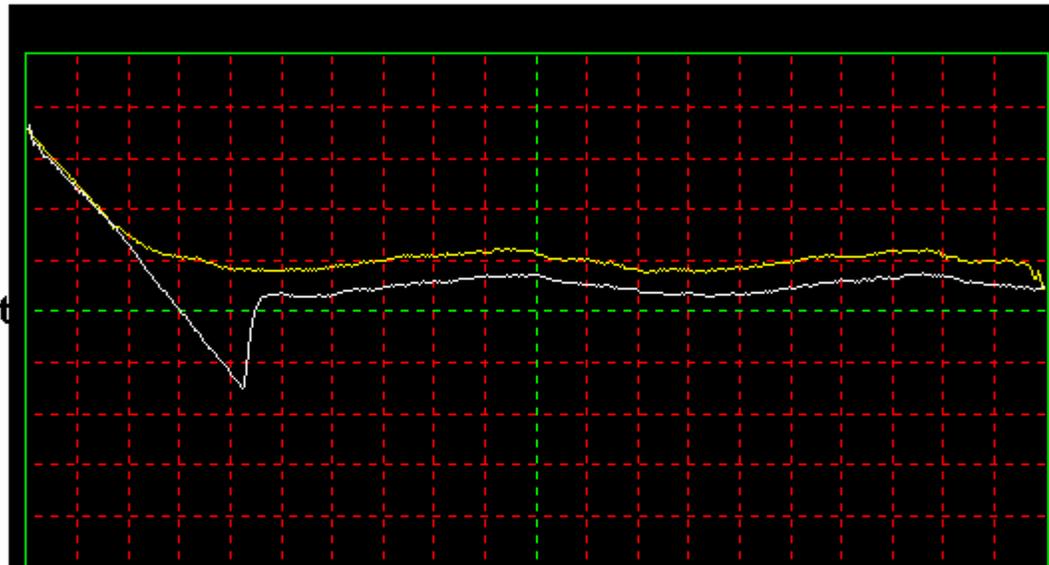


# Force Calibration Plot

← Extending  
→ Retracting

Tip  
Defl  
1.92 nm/div

Setpoint

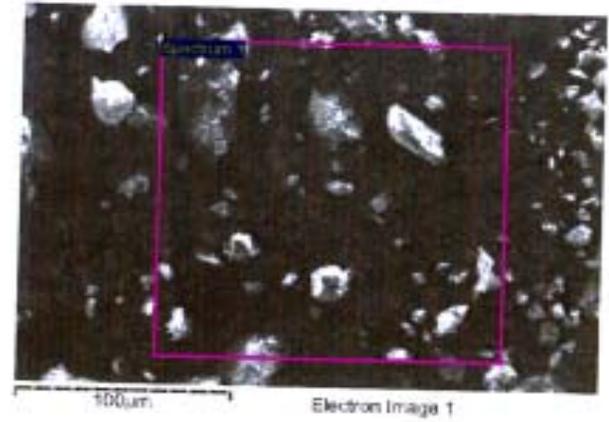
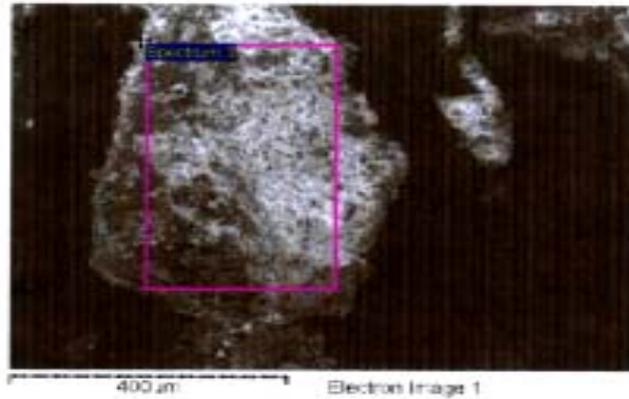


Z position - 33.44 nm/div

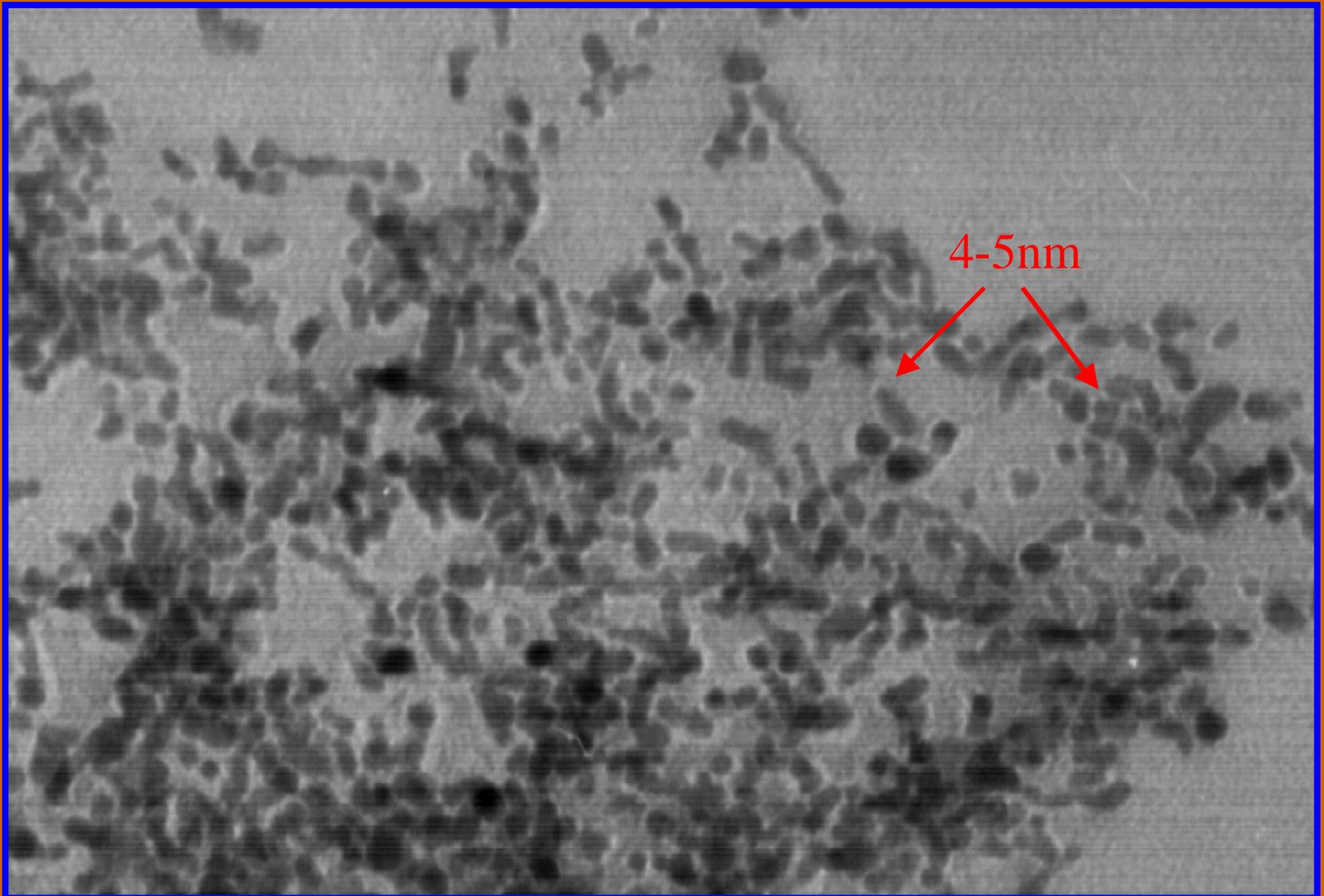
NanoScope  
Z scan size  
Setpoint  
Z scan rate  
Z range

Contact AFM  
668.7 nm  
-1.450 V  
9.766 Hz  
19.22 nm

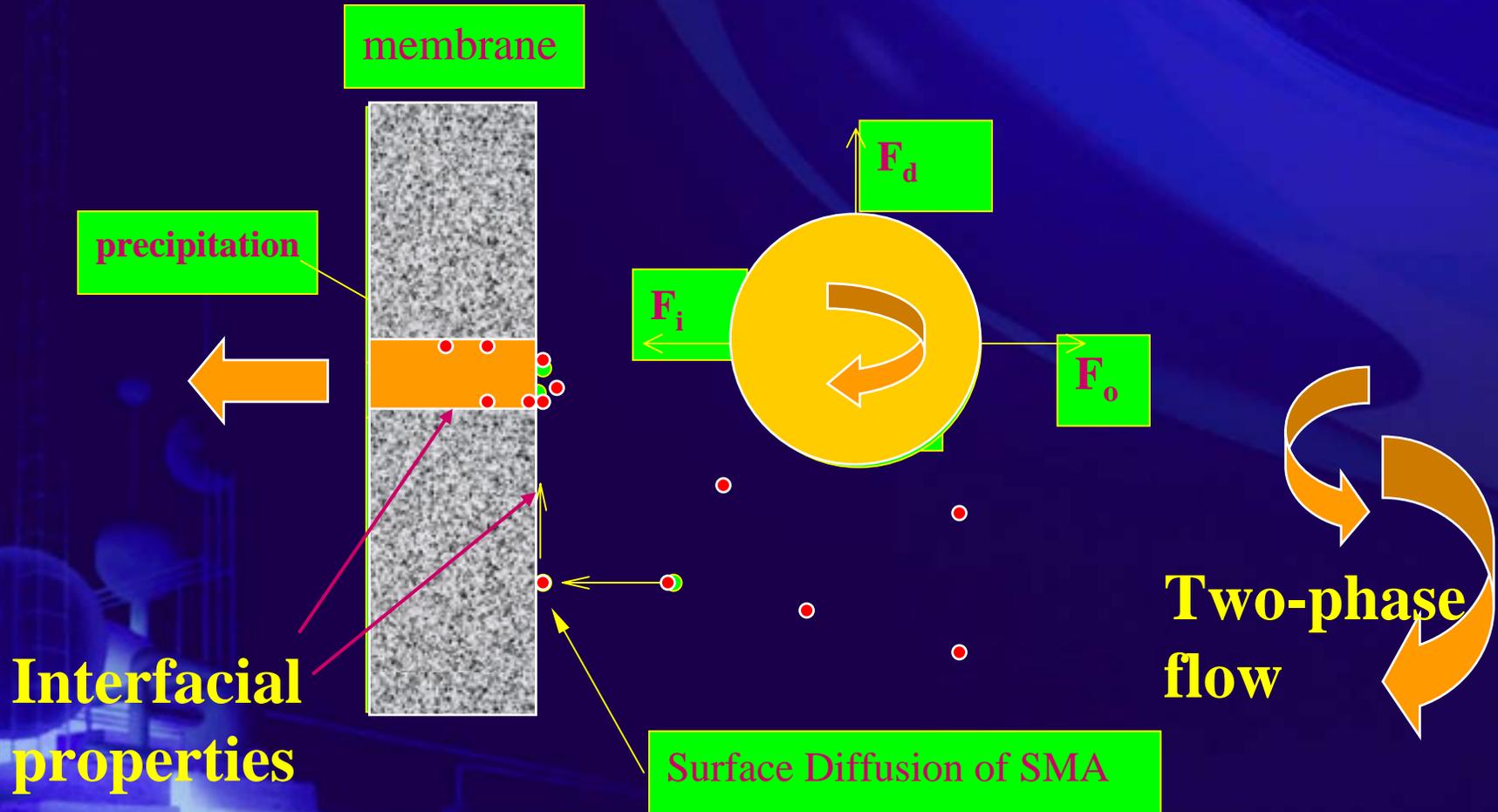
# Inorganic deposition on membrane

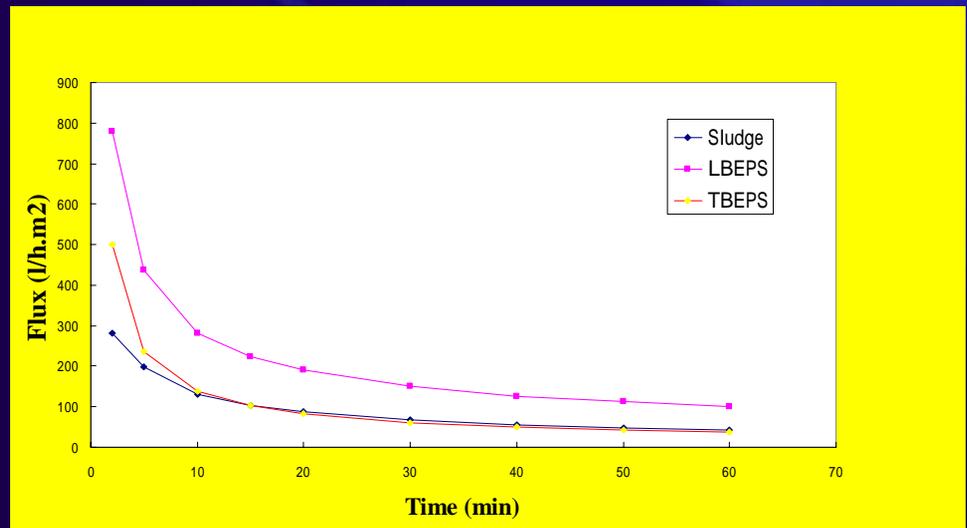
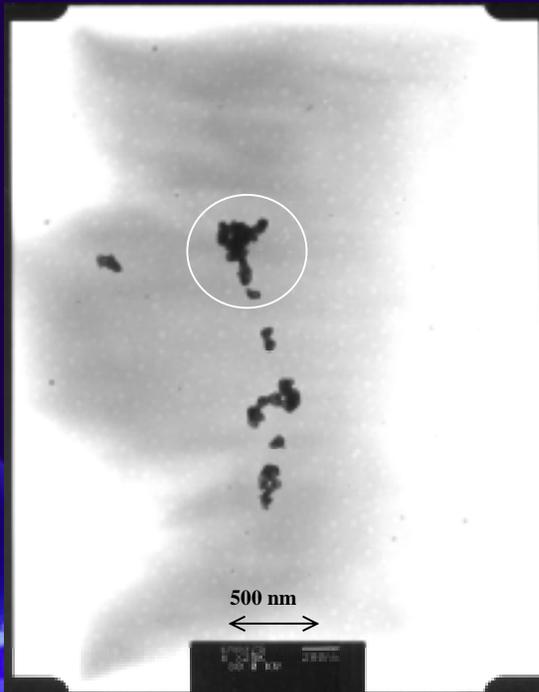
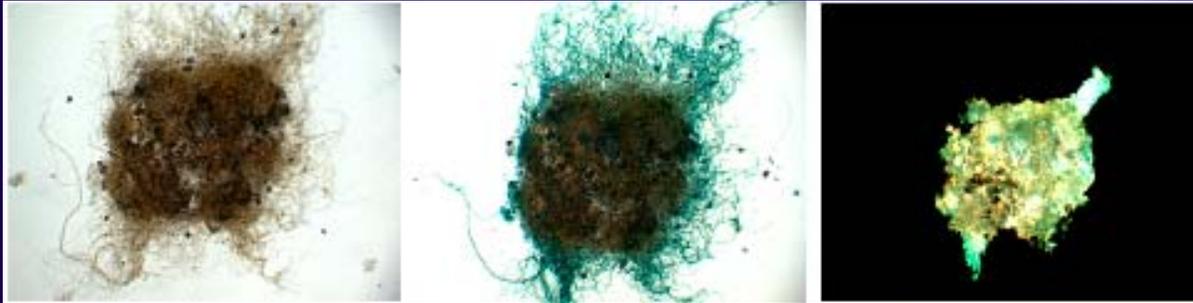


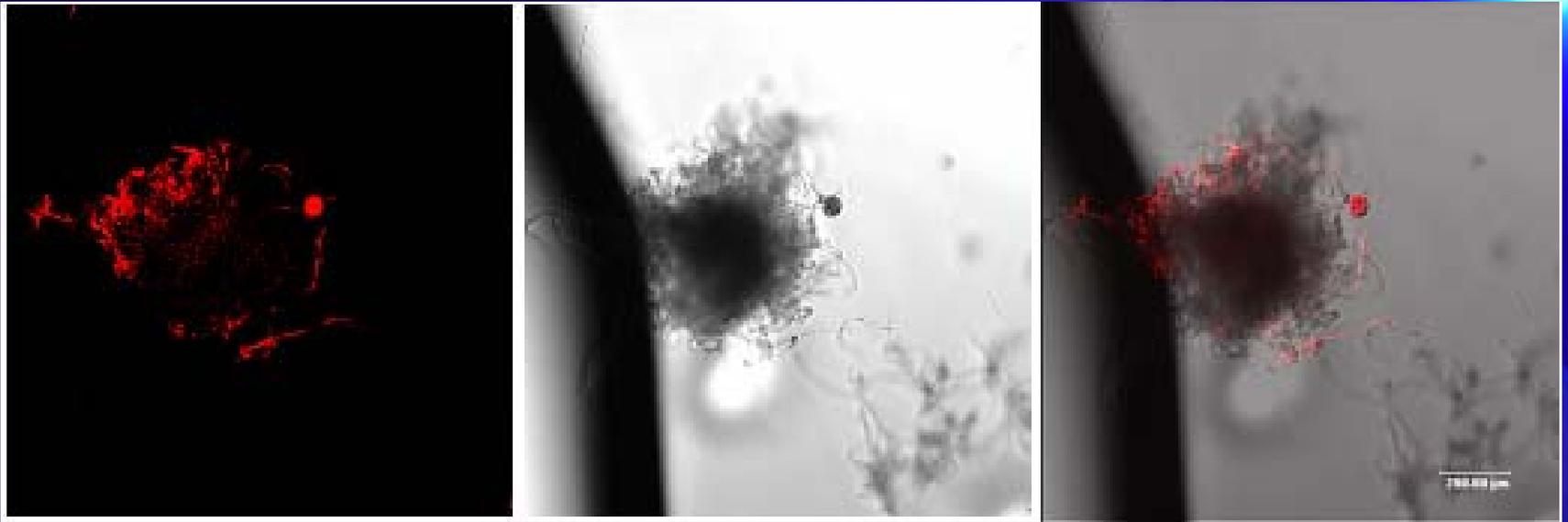
# Nano $\text{CaCO}_3$ particles



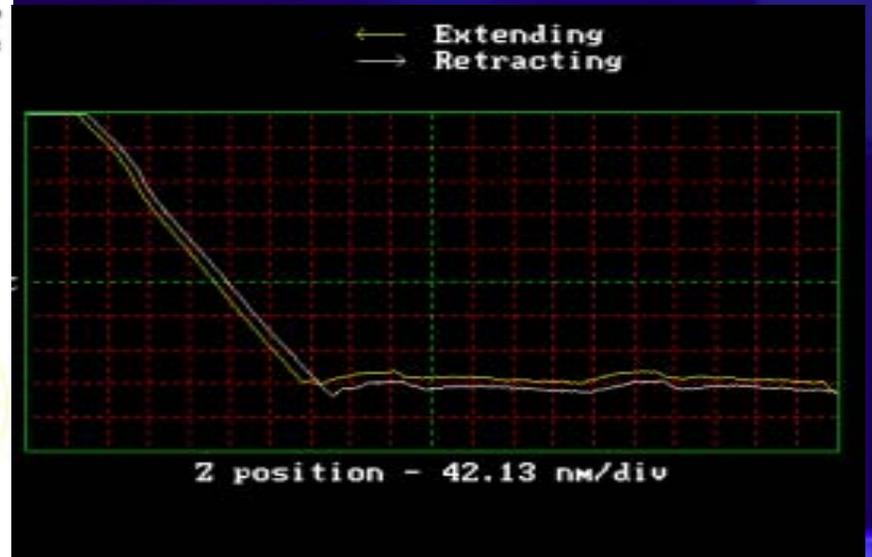
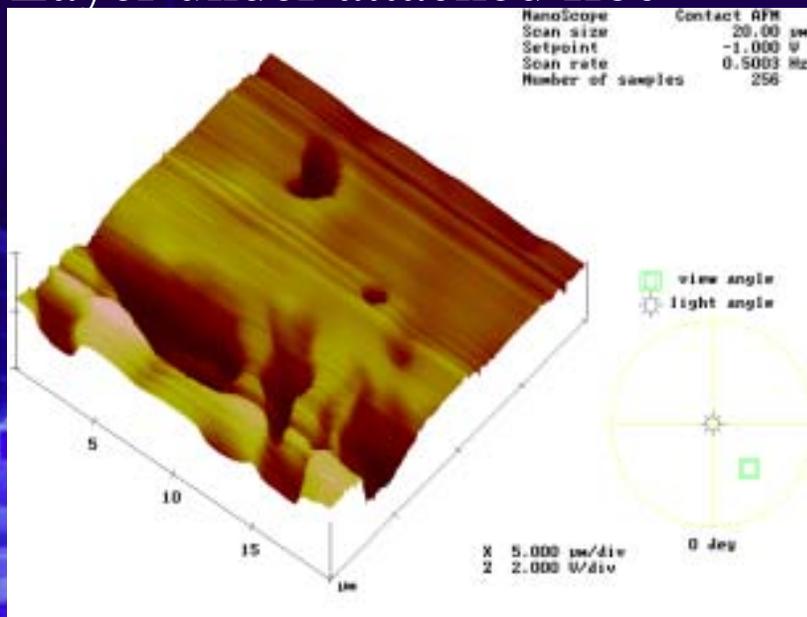
# Near-Membrane Dynamics







## Layer under attached floc



# **Proposal:**

**To clearly identify the terms used  
Interpret data in a unified way  
Provide fundamental information**

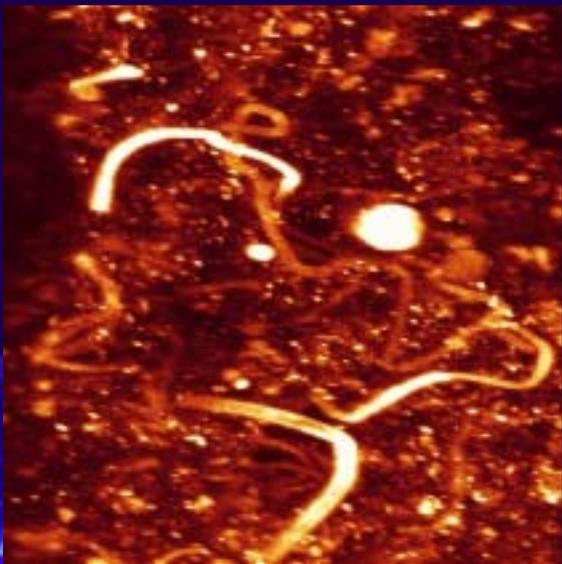
**In order to provide comprehensive data base  
For better design/control of MBR.**

黃帝曰：

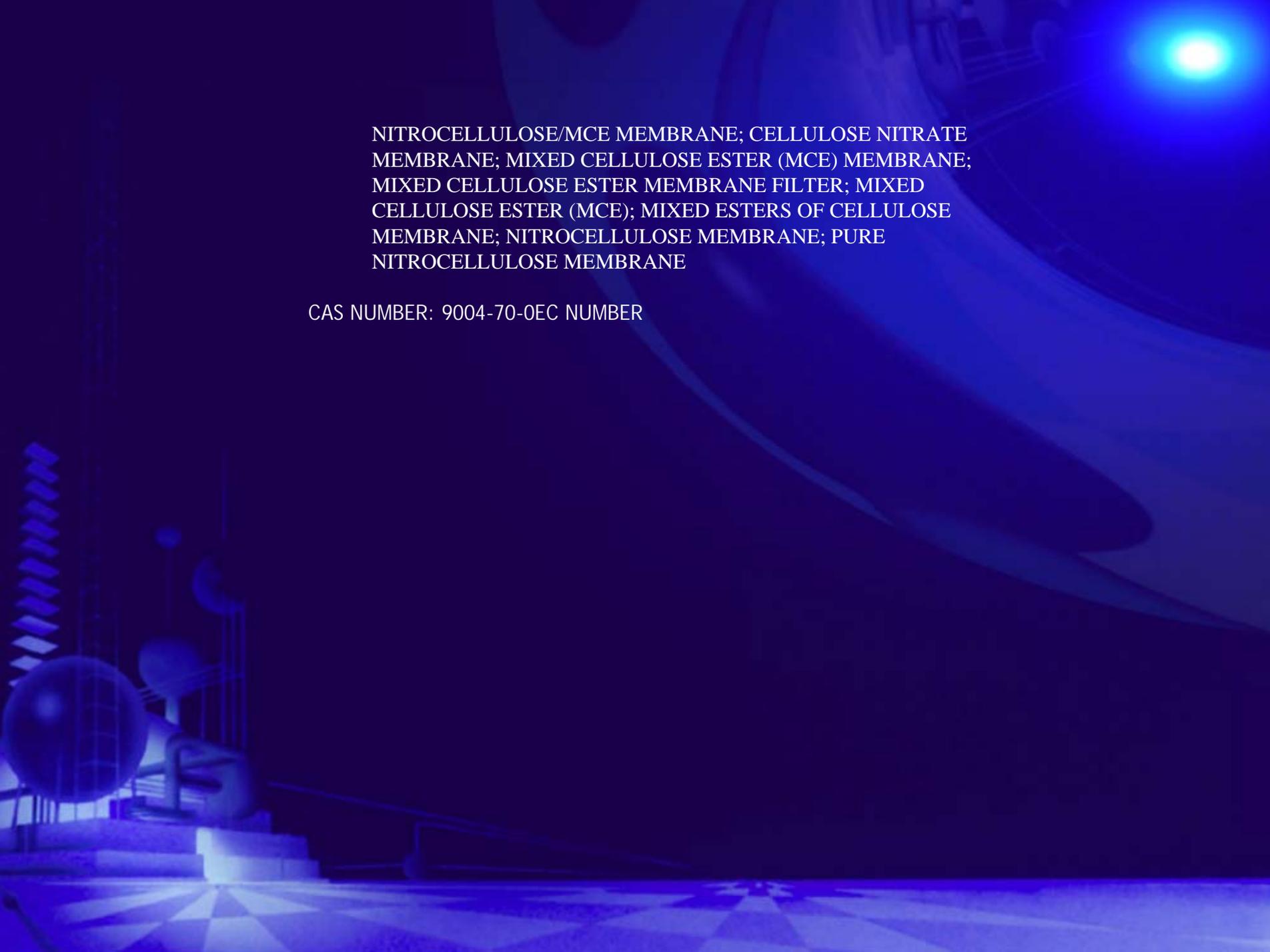
「彼無為謂真是也，狂屈似之，我與汝終不近也。夫知者不言，言者不知，故聖人行不言之教。道不可致，德不可至。仁可為也，義可虧也，禮相偽也。故曰：『失道而後德，失德而後仁，失仁而後義，失義而後禮。』」

《莊子·外篇·知北游第二十二》

Thank you O!







NITROCELLULOSE/MCE MEMBRANE; CELLULOSE NITRATE  
MEMBRANE; MIXED CELLULOSE ESTER (MCE) MEMBRANE;  
MIXED CELLULOSE ESTER MEMBRANE FILTER; MIXED  
CELLULOSE ESTER (MCE); MIXED ESTERS OF CELLULOSE  
MEMBRANE; NITROCELLULOSE MEMBRANE; PURE  
NITROCELLULOSE MEMBRANE

CAS NUMBER: 9004-70-0 EC NUMBER