



**OPAALÉ**  
**INRAE**



➤ Multi-scale dynamics of water in bio-sourced materials.  
NMR and MRI approaches

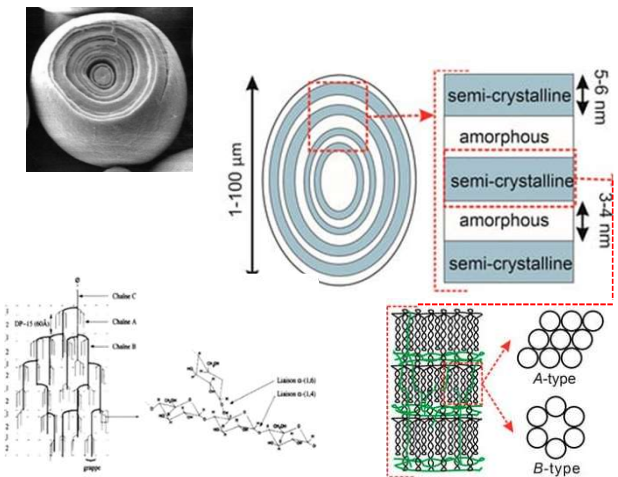
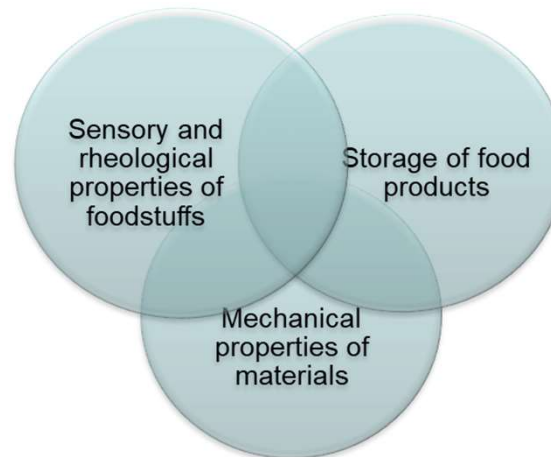
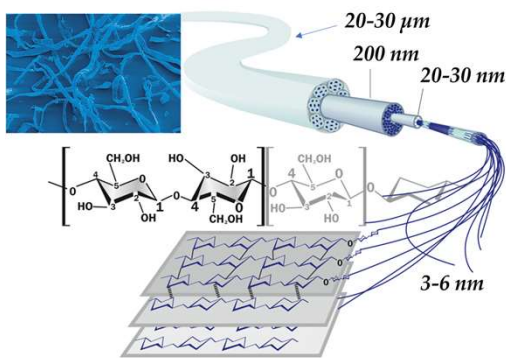
**C. Rondeau-Mouro – UR OPAALÉ**

R. Kovrlija-Ferbus, E. Rakhshi, M. Cambert, S. Quellec, S. Challos

# Role of water in food and material science



- Understand and quantify **water transfers** in bio-sourced products
- Investigate the **structure-function relationship of molecules** during transformation
- Innovation and optimization of **industrial processes** through the understanding of phenomena of transfer of matter at meso-, micro- and macroscopic scales (baking, water-uptake of materials)



# Time/length scales

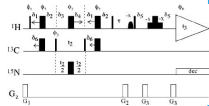


Structural NMR

MRI

Structural water in biopolymers

ss-NMR  
X. Falourd et al.

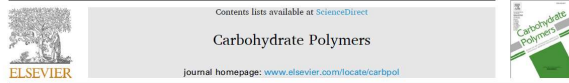


Carbohydrate Polymers 298 (2022) 120104

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

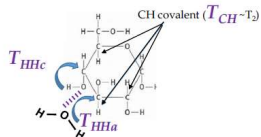
Carbohydrate Polymers

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/carbpol](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/carbpol)

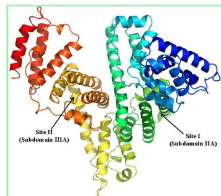
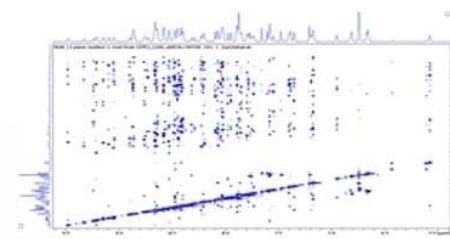
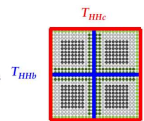


Assessment of cellulose interactions with water by ssNMR:  $^1\text{H} \rightarrow ^{13}\text{C}$  transfer kinetics revisited

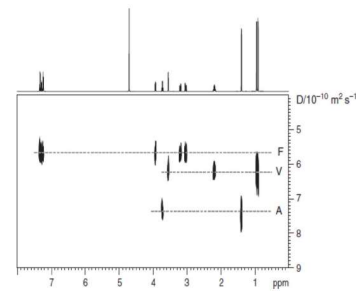
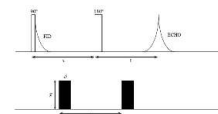
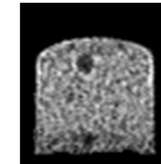
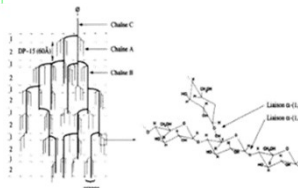
X. Falourd <sup>a,\*,</sup>, M. Lahaye <sup>a,</sup>, C. Rondeau-Mouro <sup>b</sup>



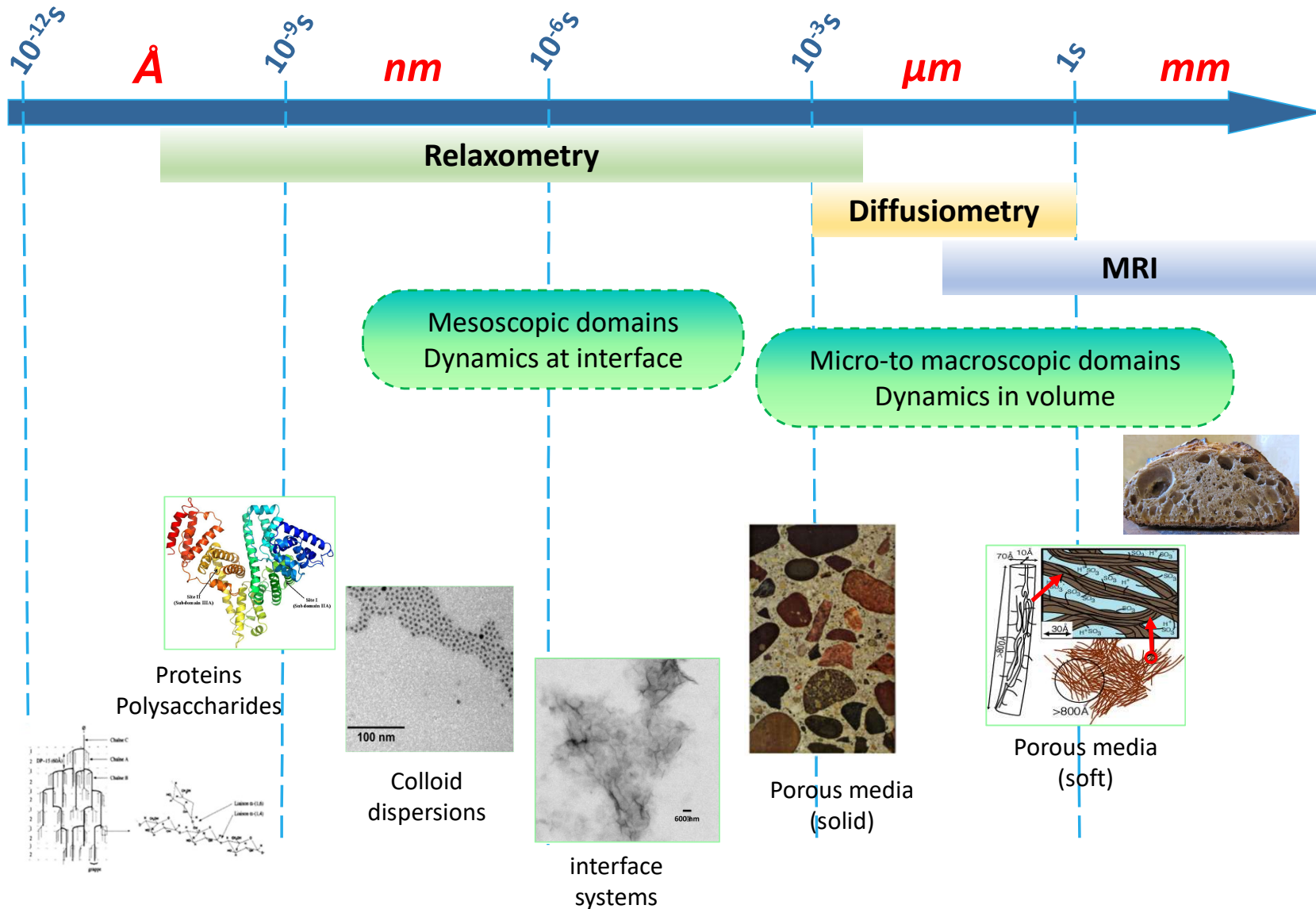
- Crystalline
- Para-crystalline
- Inaccessible surfaces
- Accessible surfaces



Proteins  
Polysaccharides



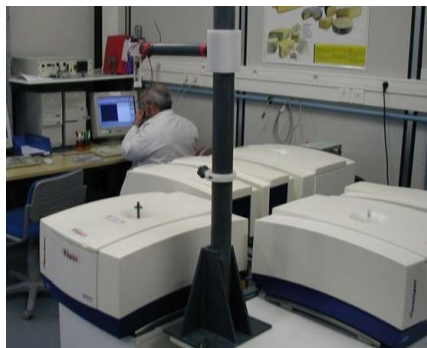
# Time/length scales



# Facilities

Low-field (proton NMR !)

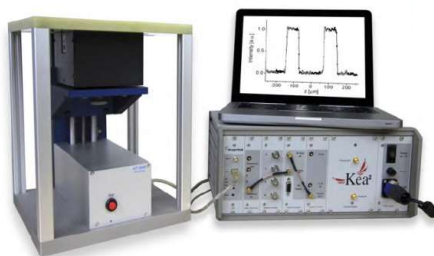
0,47 - 0,23 T



minispec Bruker (20 MHz)

NMR

0,47T 0,3T



NMR MOUSE Magritek

MRI

0,2 T



Concerto Siemens

1,5 T



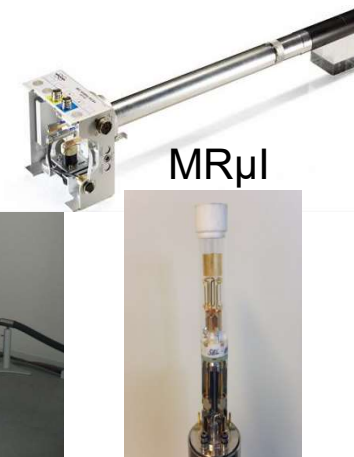
Avanto Siemens

High-field

11,7 T



500 MHz Bruker



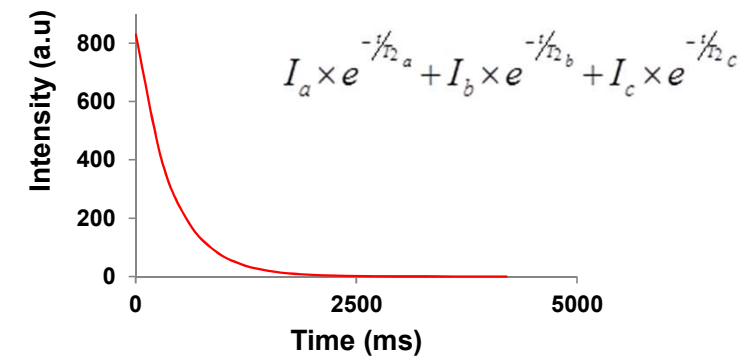
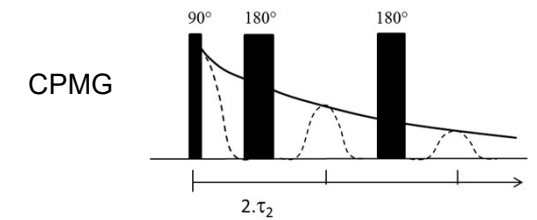
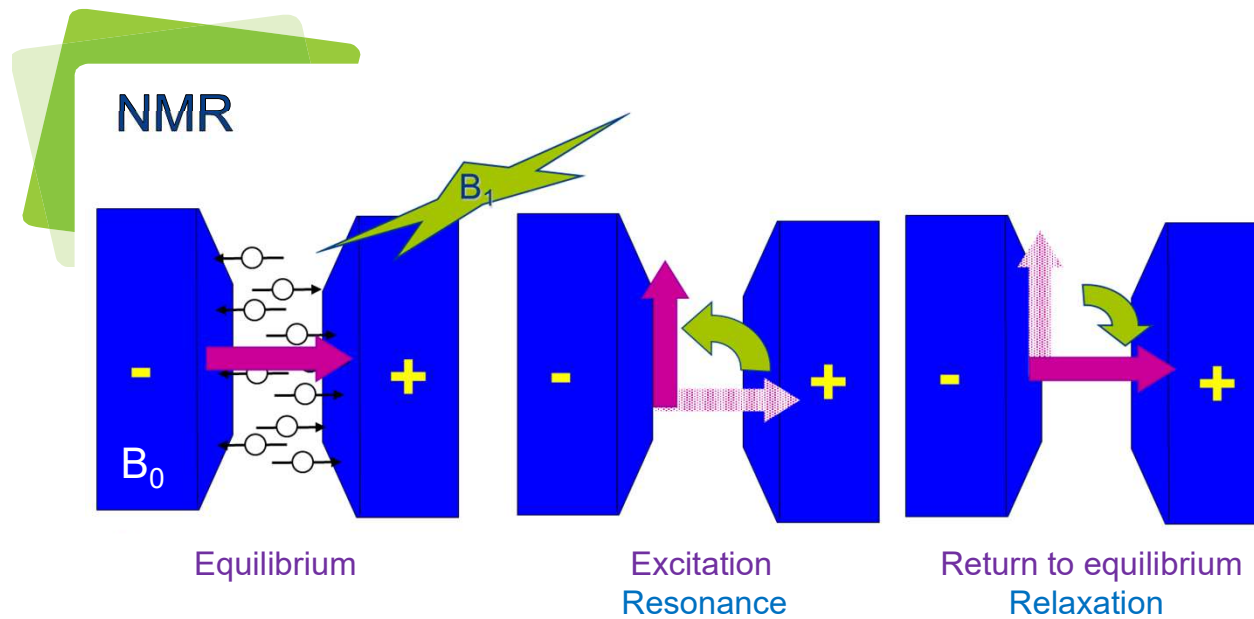
MRμI

PHENIX  
Sorbonne Paris



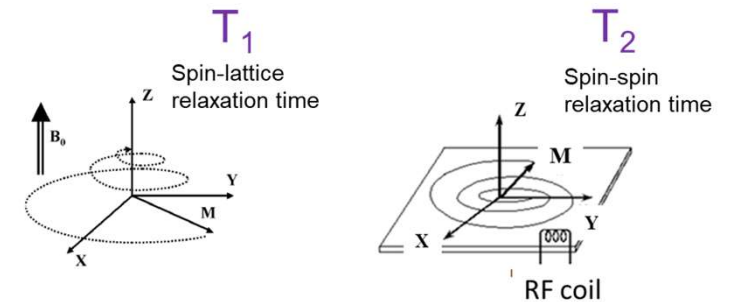
Spinmaster Stelar

PRISM  
Imagerie et spectroscopie  
multi-modales  
Université Rennes & Angers,  
CNRS, INRAE Rennes

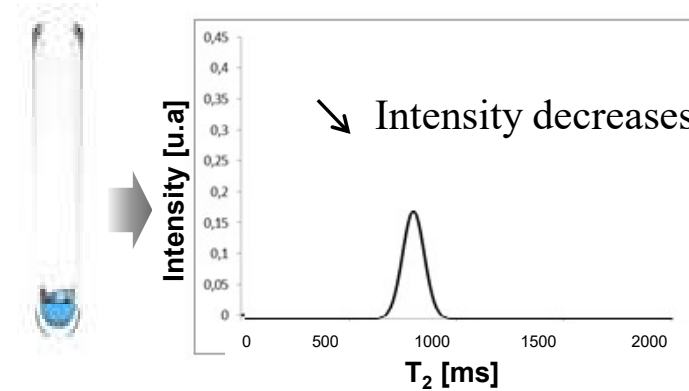
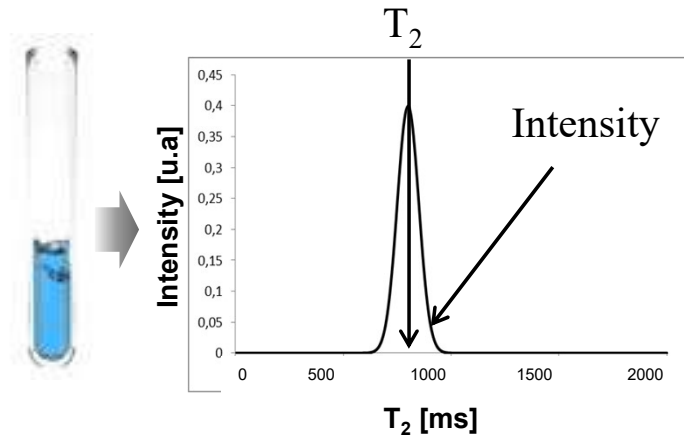
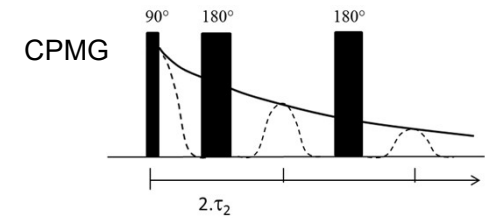


## Mobility of atoms and molecules

- according to their nature, their chemical environment and physical state (in solvent, polycrystalline powder, aggregated in vesicles, etc.)
- depending on their form (aliphatic chain or globular protein)
- according to their interactions with other molecules



# BASICS OF TD-NMR

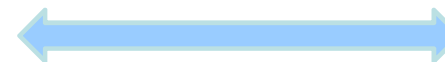


$T_2$



Water mobility

Signal intensity

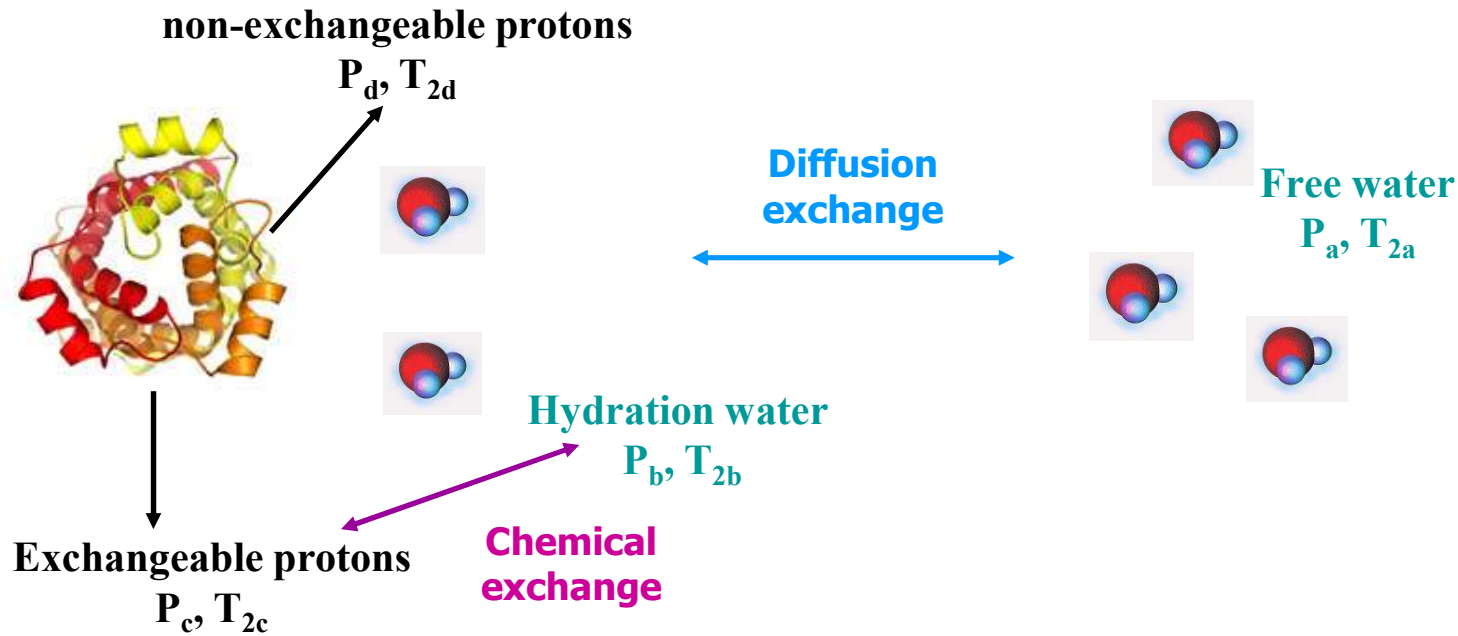


Water amount

NMR is a non-invasive and quantitative method

Proton relaxation times depend on the **nature of molecules**, their **size**, their **physical state** (liquid/soft/solid), their **environment** (compartment/interactions)

# Water-macromolecule mixture



→ Depending on the rate of chemical and diffusion exchanges,

mean value of  $T_2$

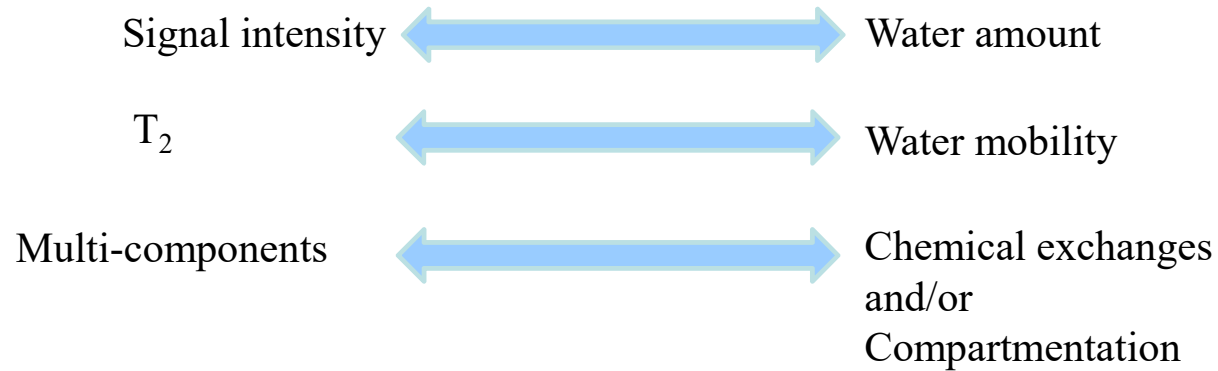
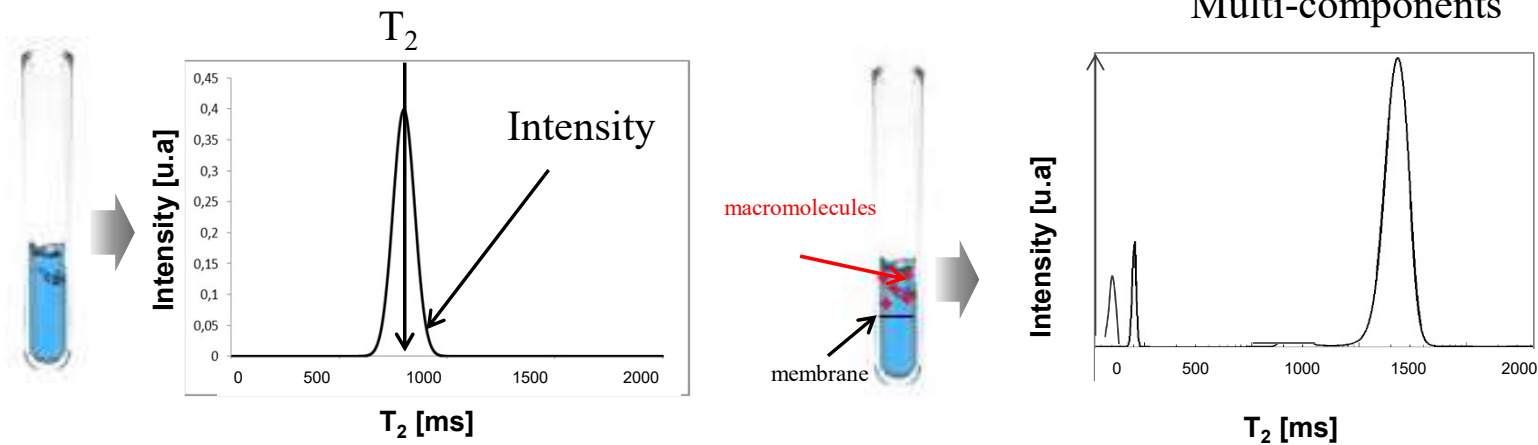
$$M(t) = (P_a + P_b + P_c + P_d) \cdot e^{-\left(\frac{P_a}{T_{2a}} + \frac{P_b}{T_{2b}} + \frac{P_c}{T_{2c}} + \frac{P_d}{T_{2d}}\right)t}$$

several  $T_2$  values

$$M(t) = P_a e^{-\frac{P_a}{T_{2a}}t} + P_b e^{-\frac{P_b}{T_{2b}}t} + P_c e^{-\frac{P_c}{T_{2c}}t} + P_d e^{-\frac{P_d}{T_{2d}}t}$$



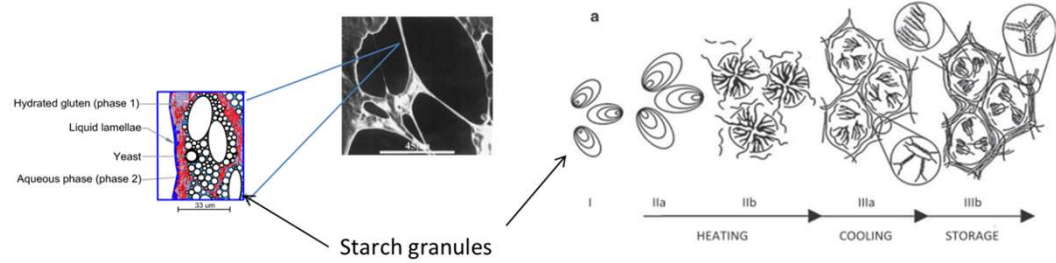
# Water NMR relaxation in **slow chemical and diffusion exchange** between compartments





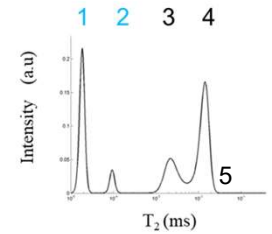
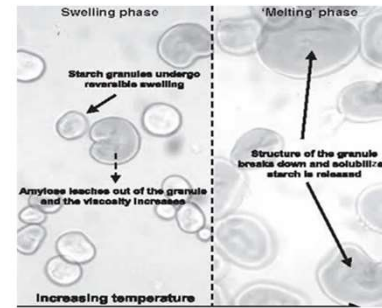
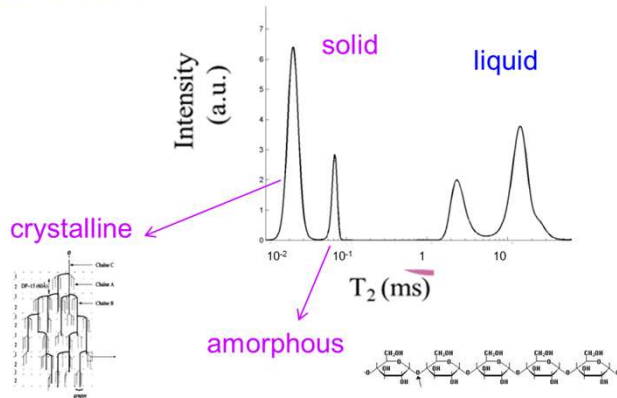
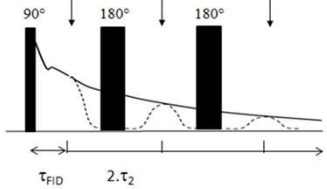
# Time-domain NMR

## Water state at molecular scale



Starch-Water 20 MHz T= 20°C  
(45%,wb)

FID-CPMG

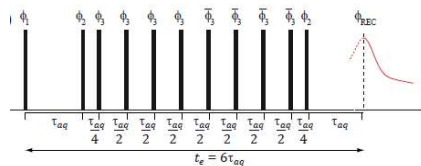


C. Rondeau-Mouro et al., FAPT (2015)



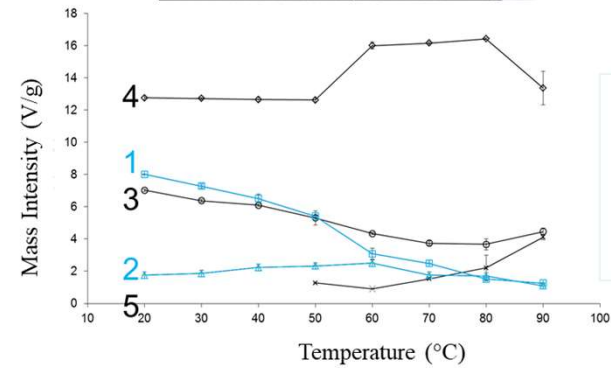
Coupling of FID and CPMG sequences to quantify the liquid and solid phases in sample

- getting a **better time resolution** in the microsecond T<sub>2</sub> range
- making possible the **quantitation of changes** of each T<sub>2</sub> component whatever is the physical state of molecules



Alternative to the FID : Magic Sandwich Echo

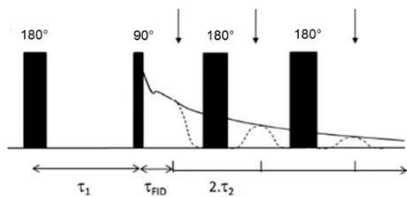
A. Pines et al. J. Magn. Reson. (1972)  
S. Matsui, J. Magn. Reson. (1992)



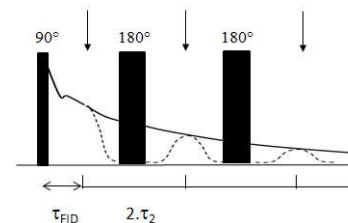
- 1 – non-exchangeable starch (amylopectin + amylose) protons
- 2 – non-exchangeable amylose protons
- 3 – intra-granular water protons
- 4, 5 – extra-granular water protons

C. Rondeau-Mouro et al., FAPT (2015)

# Bi-dimensional TD-NMR



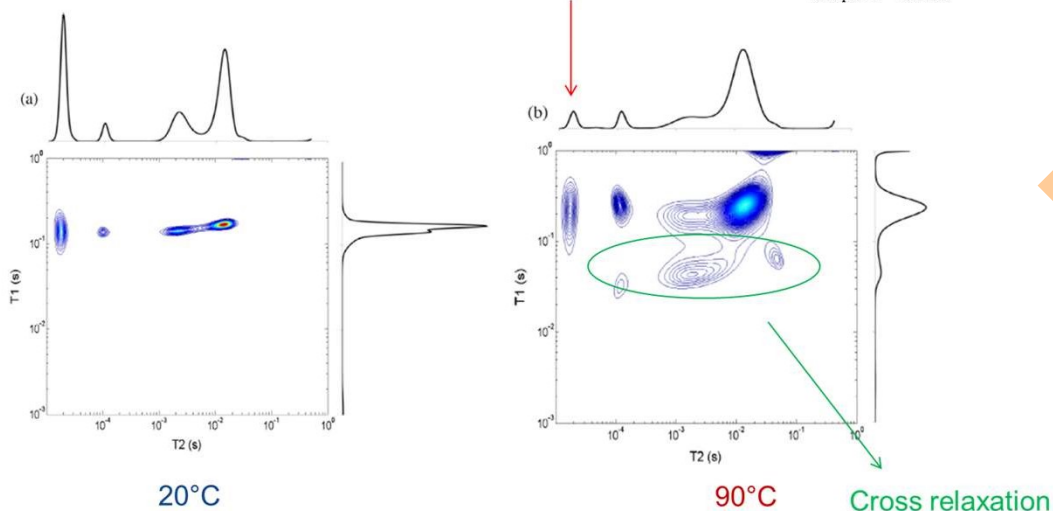
IR-FID-CPMG



FID-CPMG

wheat starch-water at 45 % wc

$$SC (\%) = \frac{I_{T_2(1)} + I_{T_2(2)}}{m_{\text{sample}} I / m_{\text{starch}}}$$



20°C

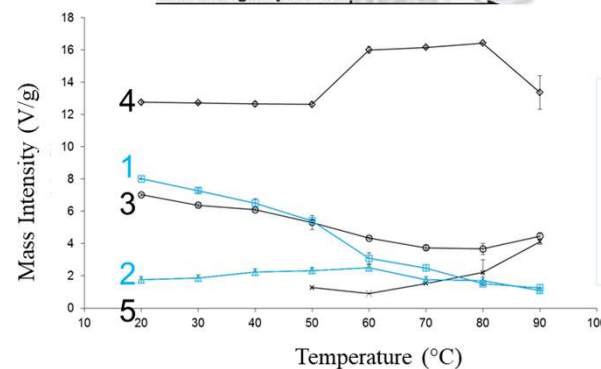
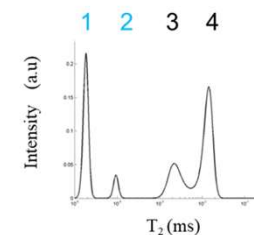
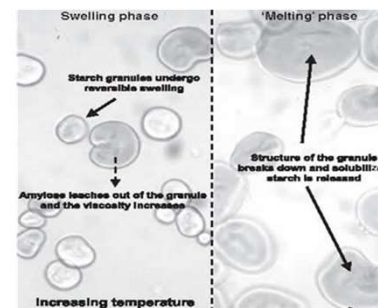
Solid Content = 59.1 ± 1.3 %

Starch gelatinisation

90°C

Solid Content = 20.4 ± 1.7 %

Cross relaxation



- 1 – non-exchangeable starch (amylopectin + amylose) protons
- 2 – non-exchangeable amylose protons
- 3 – intra-granular water protons
- 4, 5 – extra-granular water protons

R. Kovrljija, C. Rondeau-Mouro, Food Chemistry (2017)

R. Kovrljija, C. Rondeau-Mouro, FABT (2016)

C. Rondeau-Mouro et al., J. Magn. Reson. (2016)

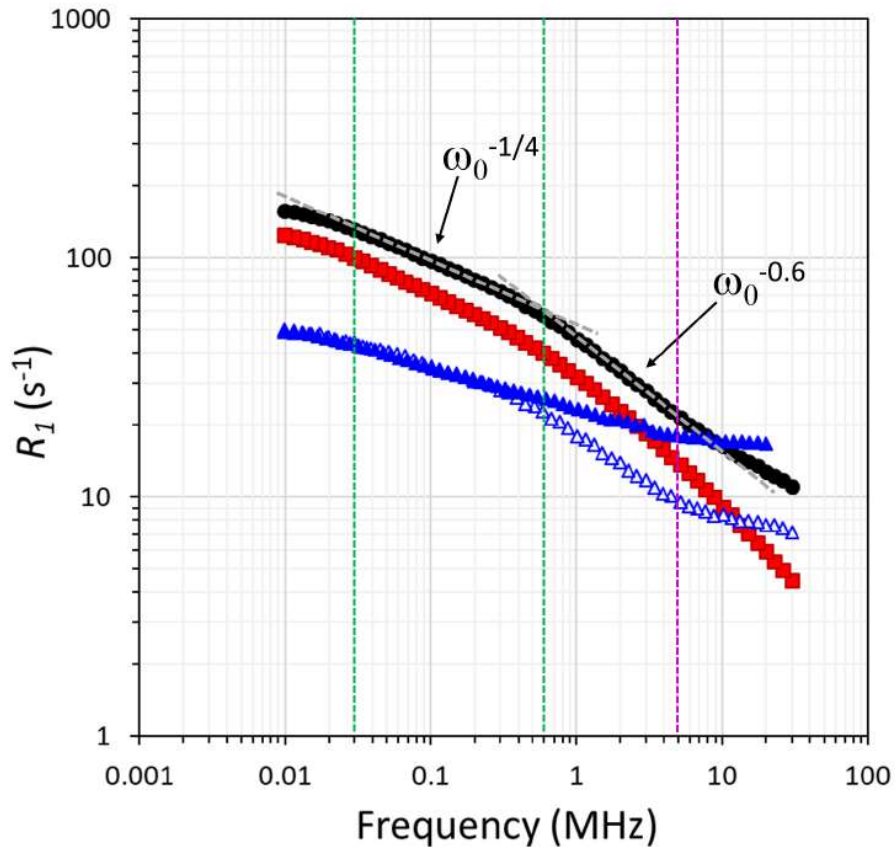
C. Rondeau-Mouro et al., FABT (2015) ; E. Rakhshi et al. Magn. Res. Chem. (2022)



Anne-Laure Rollet, Paris Sorbonne

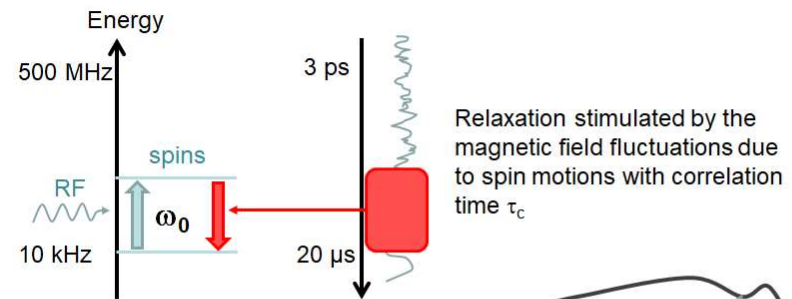
# FFC experiments on dough upon heating

## Nuclear Magnetic Relaxation Dispersion (NMRD) profile



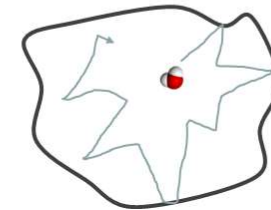
$$\tau_c \sim (2\pi\omega)^{-1}$$

Stimulated process



$$\omega_0 \tau_c = 1$$

Decreasing the magnetic field  $B_0 = \omega_0 / \gamma$  leads to a drastically increase in the spatial window explored by molecules

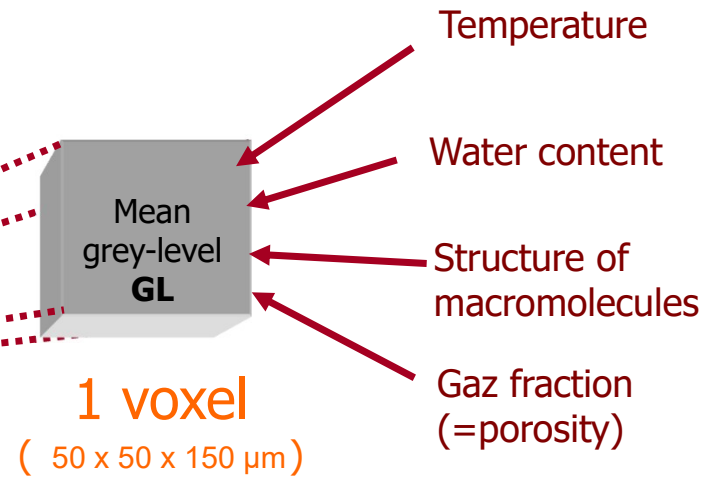
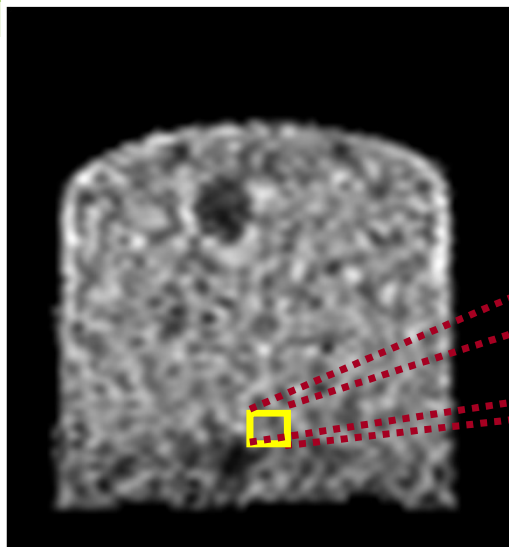


Long time motions  
Molecular diffusion

Korb, J.-P., & Bryant, R. G. (2001). The physical basis for the magnetic field dependence of proton spin-lattice relaxation rates in proteins. *The Journal of Chemical Physics*, 115(23), 10964–10974. <https://doi.org/10.1063/1.1417509>

Study of the water interaction with macromolecules (gluten and starch)

## MRI to analyze structures and processes with a spatial resolution



### MR $\mu$ I

- to study dynamical mechanisms (water uptake, heating, freezing, storage ...)
- to explicit the relationship between the MRI signal and local quantities (porosity, water content ...)

➤ conception of computer codes

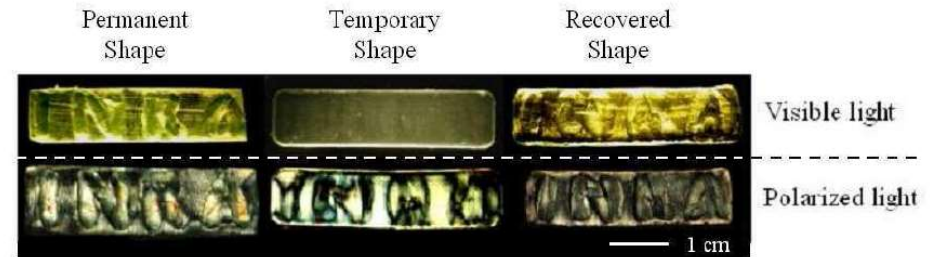


11.7 T

# Transport diffusion of water by micro-imaging

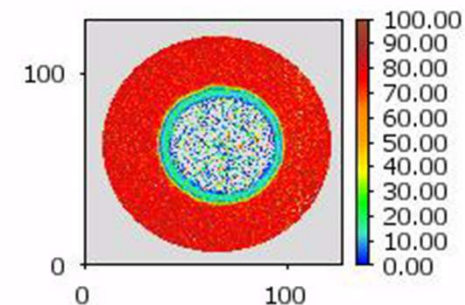
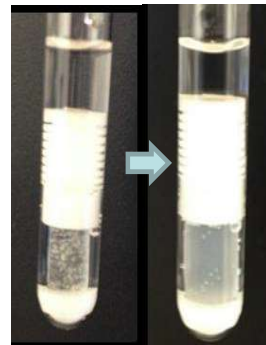


Potato starch-glycerol blends, 4mm Ø  
Shape-memory property :



11.7 T

MSME  
 $\Delta TE$  of 5 ms, 32 echoes  
 TR= 1.5 s, AQ=15min  
 128 × 128, FOV 10 × 10 mm  
 Resolution =  $(78 \times 78 \mu\text{m}^2) * 500 \mu\text{m}$

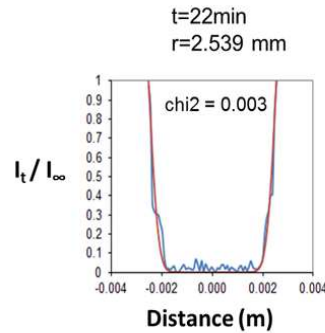
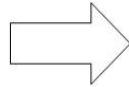
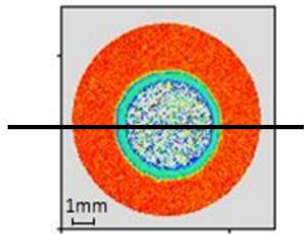


T<sub>2</sub> (ms)

0h18mn



## Initial transport diffusion of water



$$D_i = (5.5 \pm 1.5) \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$$

Crank defined diffusion models for several sample geometries, such as plane sheet, infinite cylinder or sphere.

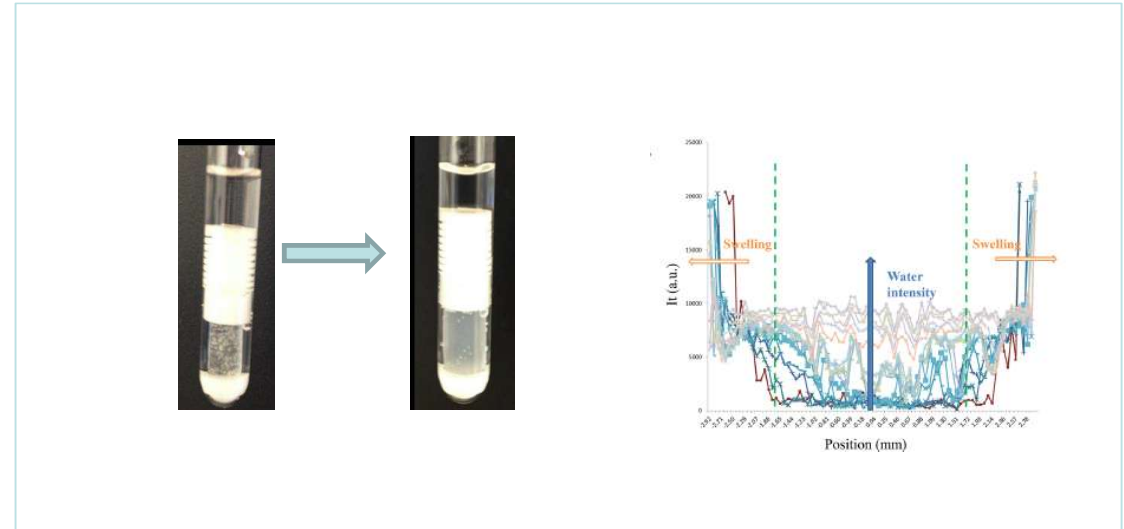
Concentration of water in a disc :

$$\frac{C - C_0}{C_{\infty} - C_0} = 1 - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{2n+1} e^{-D(2n+1)^2 \pi^2 t / 4l^2} \cos \frac{(2n+1)\pi x}{2l} \quad (2)$$

Crank J. 1975. The mathematics of diffusion. Clarendon Oxford

$$\bar{D} > D_i$$

decrease in gradient driving force when the sample is increasingly hydrated



## Average diffusion coefficient

$$\frac{I_t}{I_{\infty}} = k t^n$$

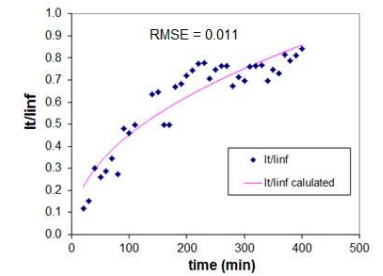
$$\bar{D} = \left(\frac{\pi k r}{4}\right)^2 = (2.00 \pm 1.06) \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$$

$$n = 0.48 \pm 0.03$$

Case I kinetics - Fickian Diffusion ( $n \sim 1/2$ )

$\psi$  water diffusion  $\ll$   $\psi$  starch relaxation

Signal intensity at 1.72 mm from the center



R. Kovrljija, C. Rondeau-Mouro, Food Chemistry (2017)  
C. Chevigny et al. Biomacromolecules (2018)

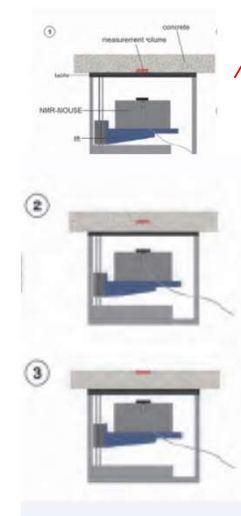
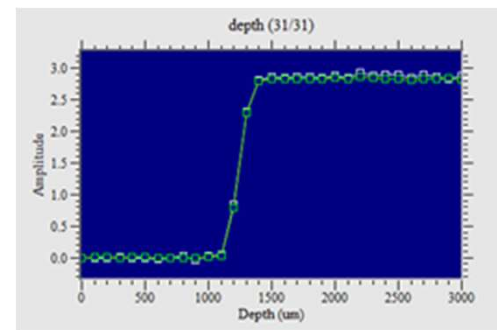
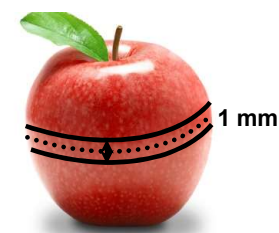
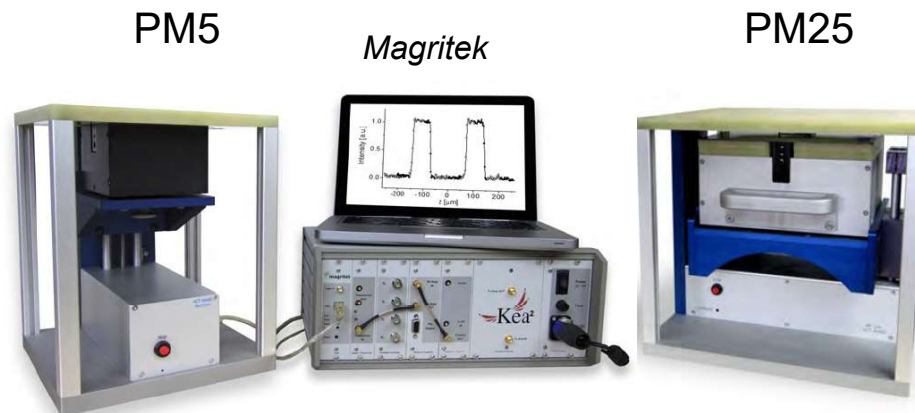
# MOUSE Mobile Universal Surface Explorer

Light and portable open unilateral NMR sensor with a permanent magnet (0.47 T, 0.31 T), a surface RF coil and a highly uniform gradient perpendicular to the scanner surface (**23.5 / 7.3 T/m**)

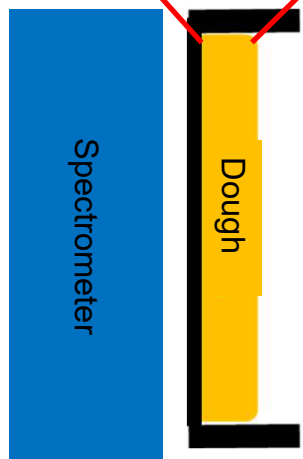
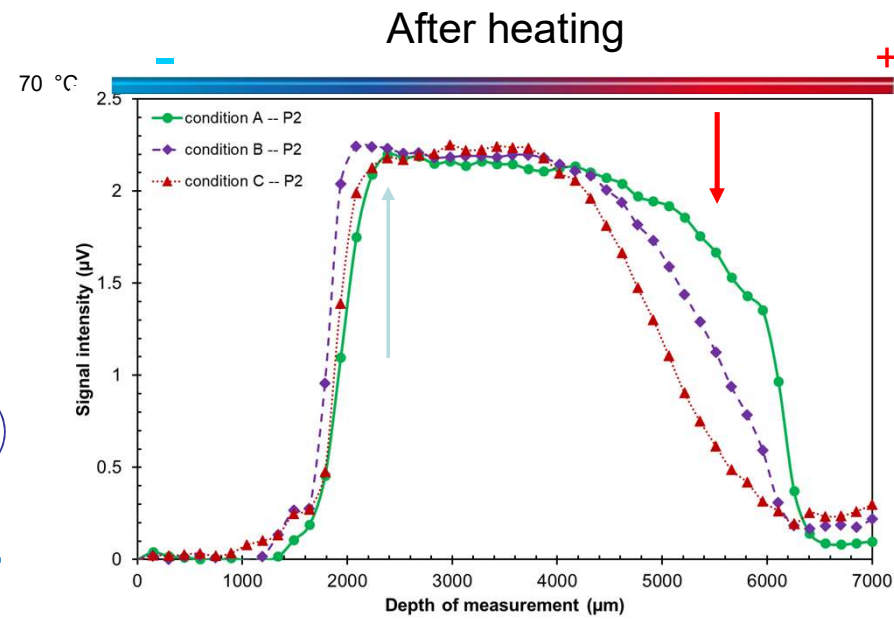
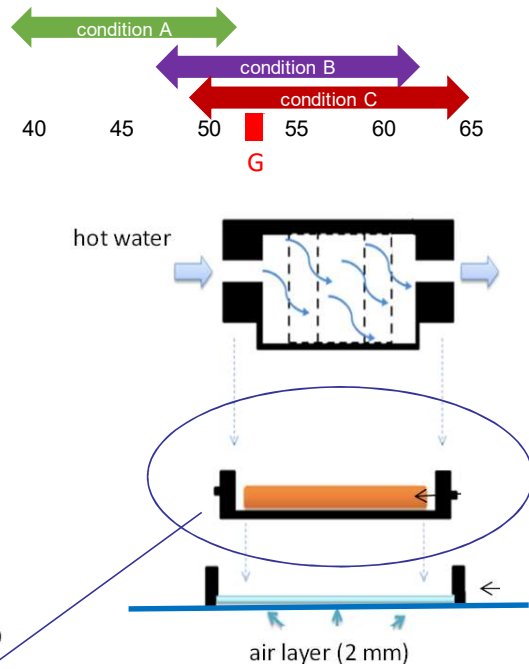
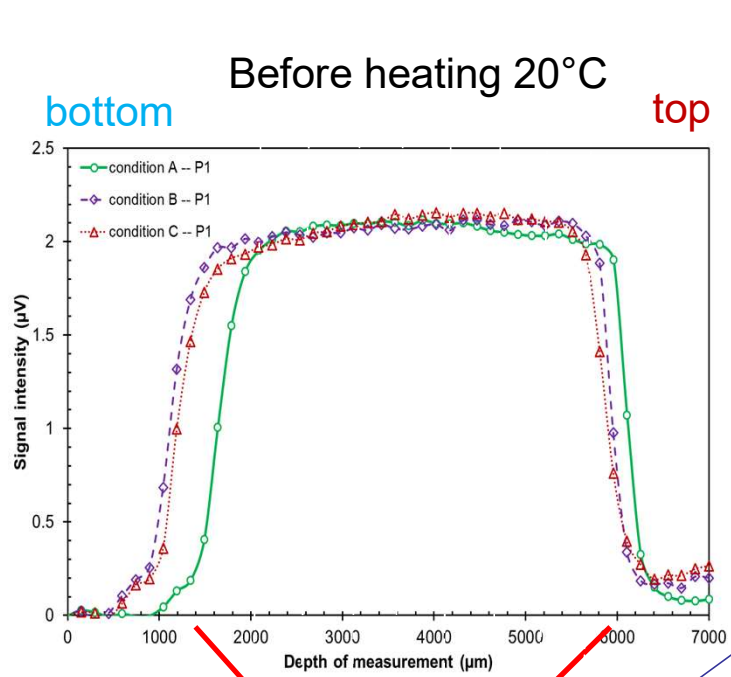
A flat sensitive volume is excited and detected by the surface RF coil placed on the top of the magnet

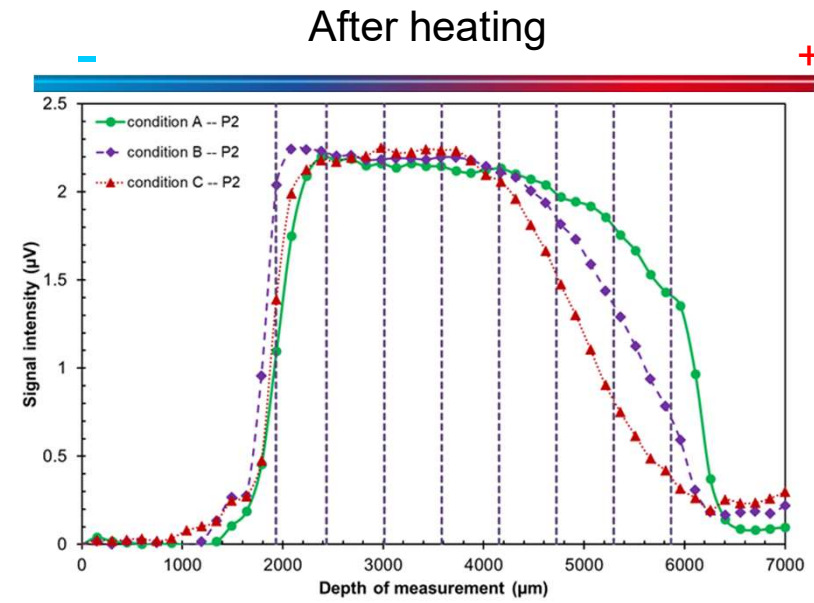
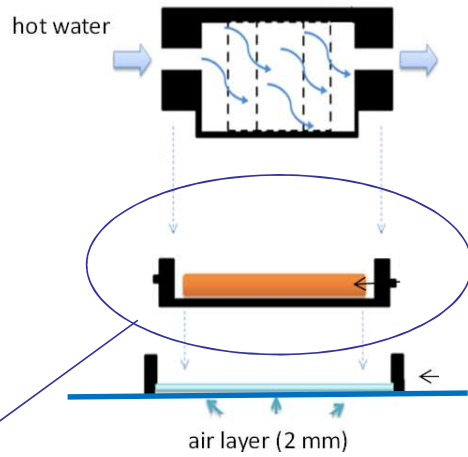
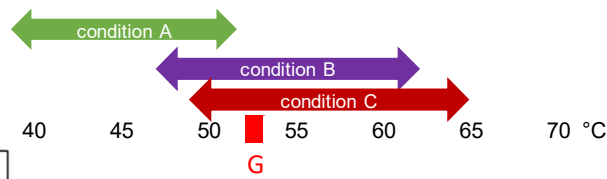
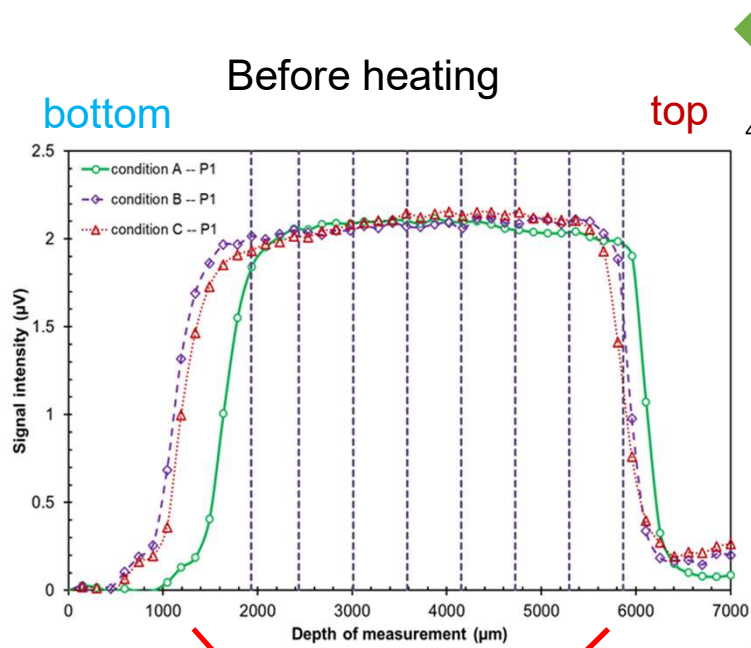
The high precision lift automatically moves the sensor to profile the sample as a function of the depth

Max depth = 5 / 25 mm, resolution 10 / 150  $\mu\text{m}$ , RF size = 13x13 mm / 40x40 mm

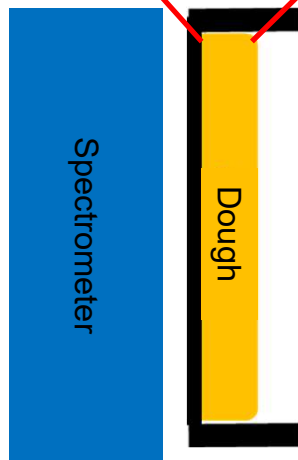




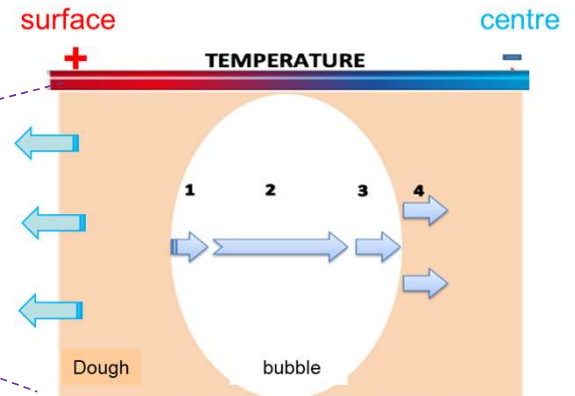
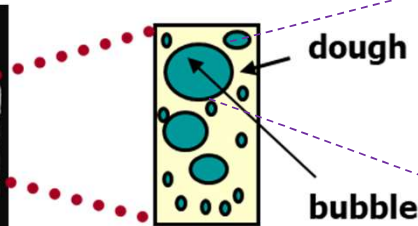
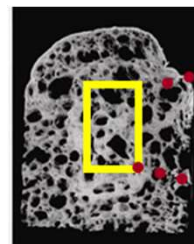




$T_1$  measurements at different depths



Evaporation-condensation-diffusion



Water vapor partial pressure gradient



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