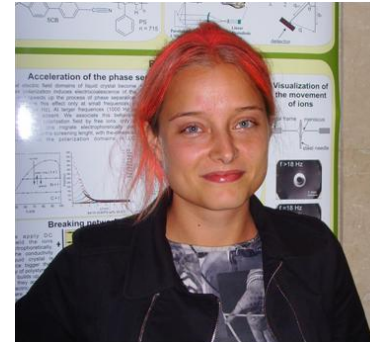
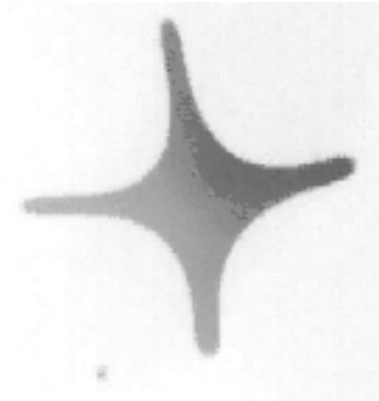


# Dynamiczna kontrola separacji ładunków elektrostatycznych w układach miękkiej materii



**Tomasz Szymborski, Natalia Ziębacz, Piotr Korczyk, Jan Tobiś, Olgierd Cybulski, Stefan Wieczorek, Andrzej Żywociński, Robert Hołyst i Piotr Garstecki**



**Department of Soft Condensed Matter**  
Institute of Physical Chemistry  
Polish Academy of Sciences

- controlling soft matter with electric fields

- **dynamic separation of charge in LC**

can we see the motion of ions with an optical microscope?

- **electrocoalescence**

ionic contribution to polarization of droplets

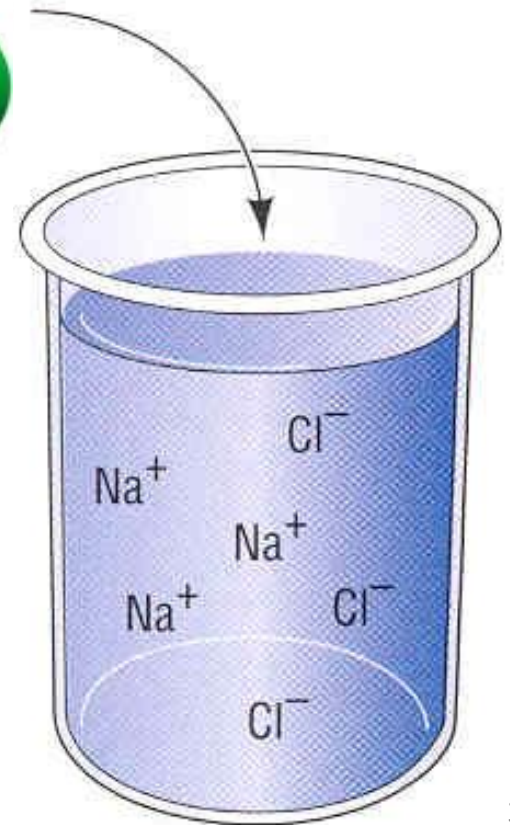
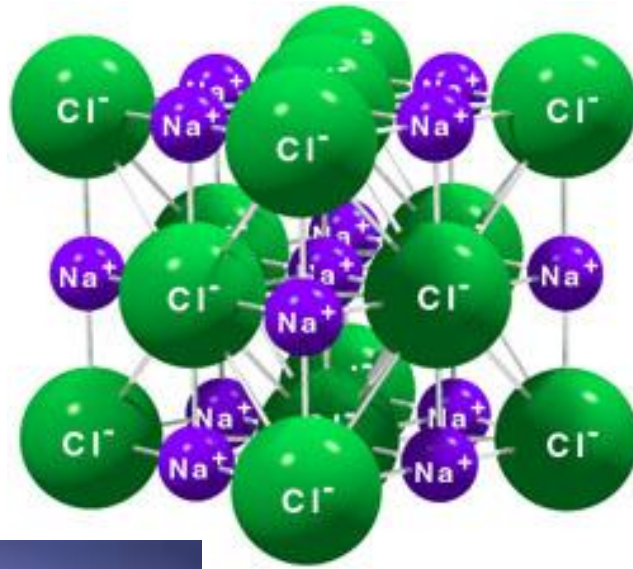
- **phase separation in a blend of LC and PS**

1000 fold increase of the rate of phase separation



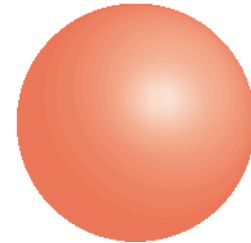
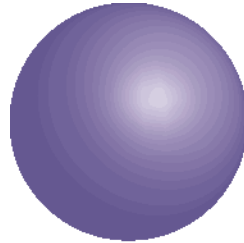
- **summary**

# electrostatic forces



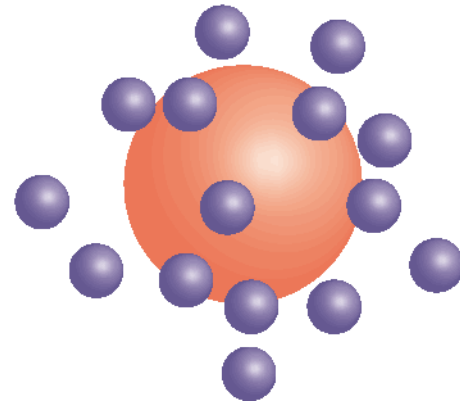
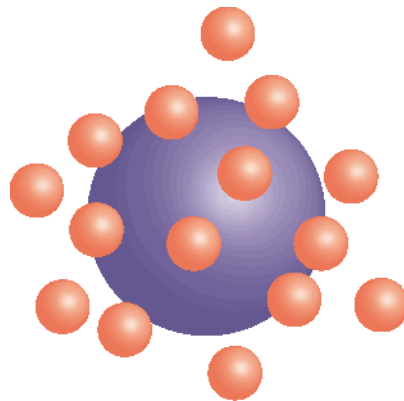
# electrostatic potential

$$\frac{1}{R}$$



- any other behavior?
- control the electrostatic interactions with electric fields?

$$\frac{\exp(-R/d)}{R}$$



- **dynamic separation of charge in LC**

can we see the motion of ions with an optical microscope?

- **electrocoalescence**

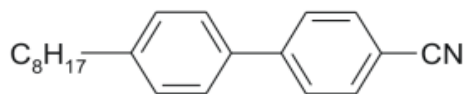
ionic contribution to polarization of droplets

- **phase separation in a blend of LC and PS**

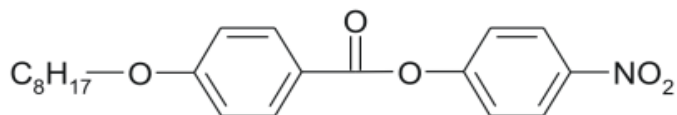
1000 fold increase of the rate of phase separation

- **summary**

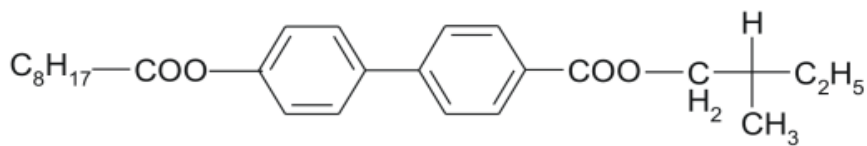
# dynamic separation of charge in LC



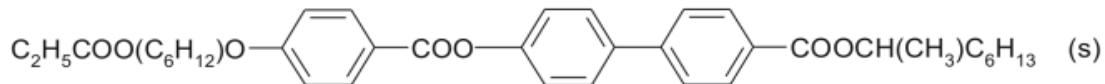
8CB



NPOB

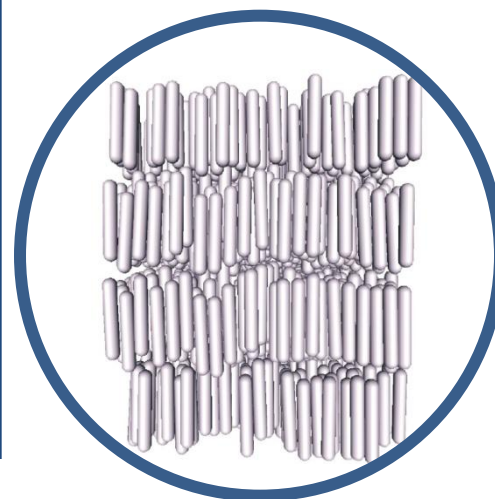
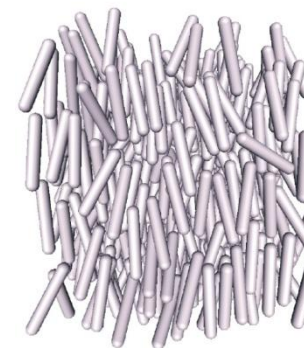


MBOBC



MHPPHBC

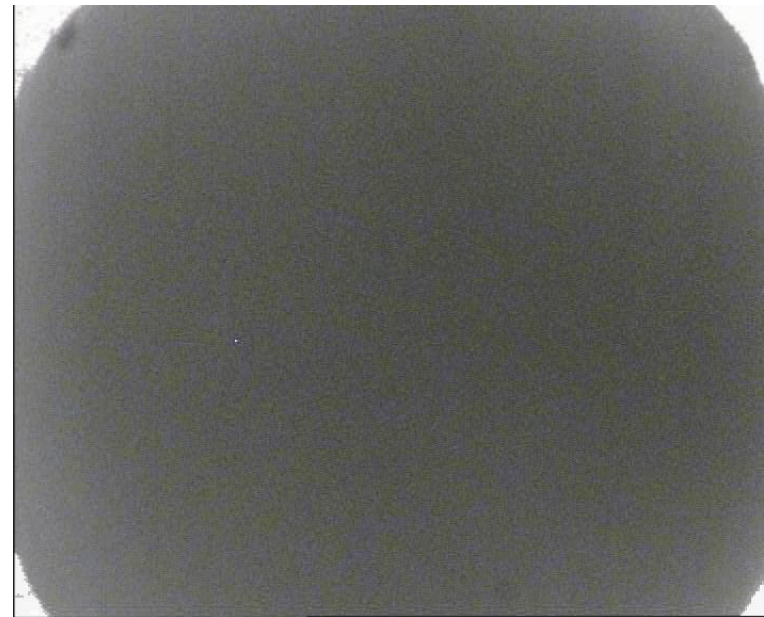
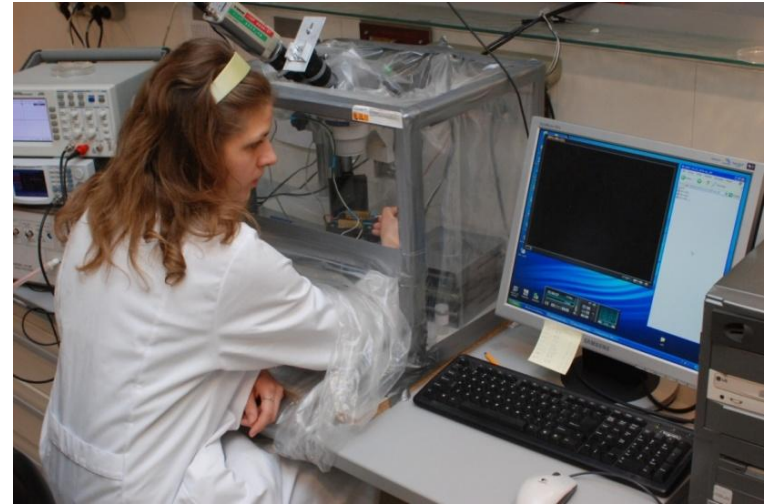
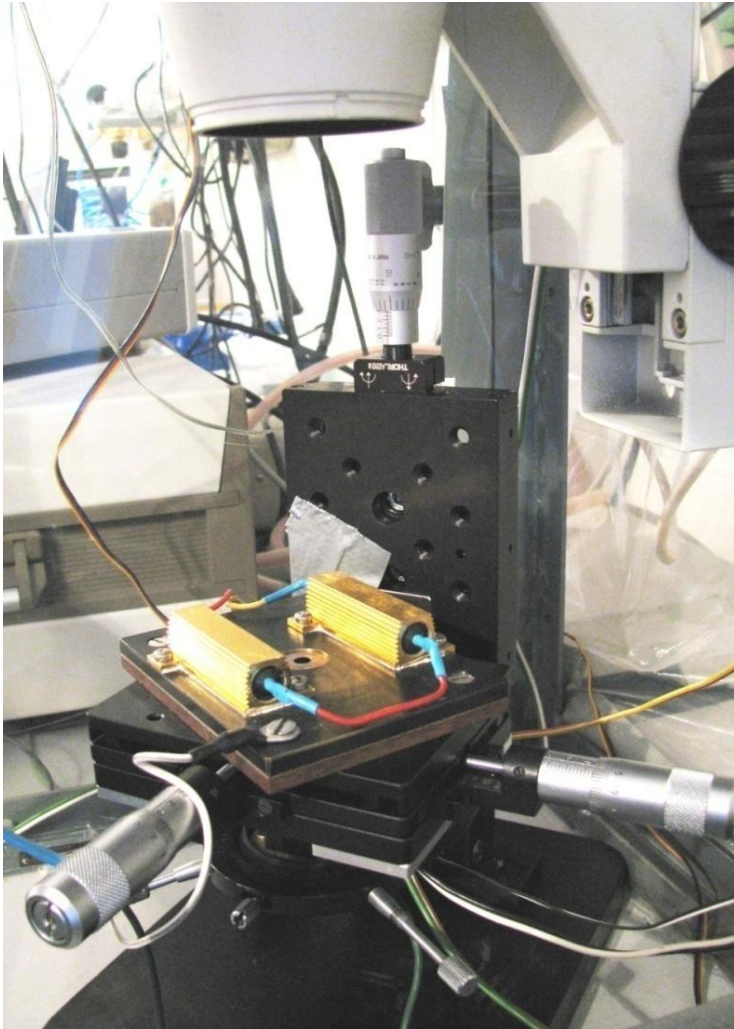
temperature ↑





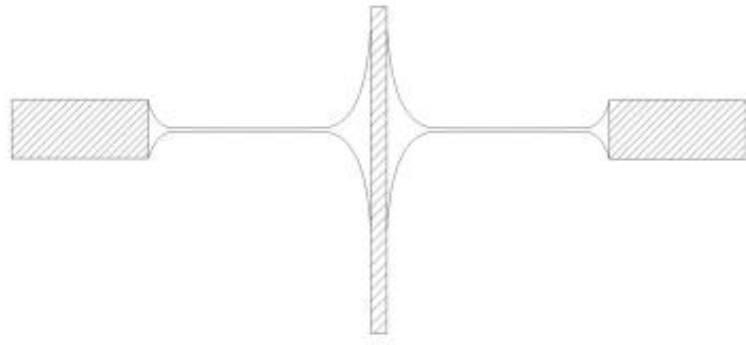
# dynamic separation of charge in LC

## experiment

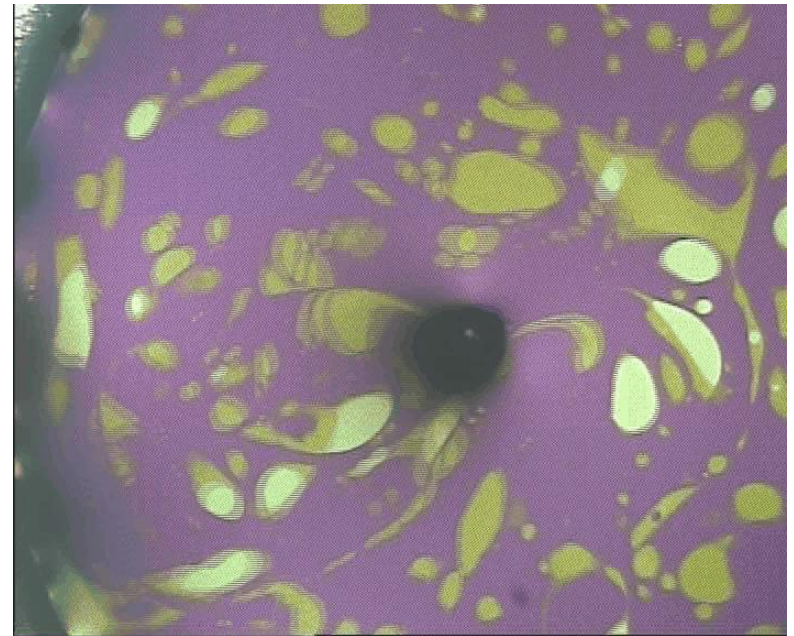
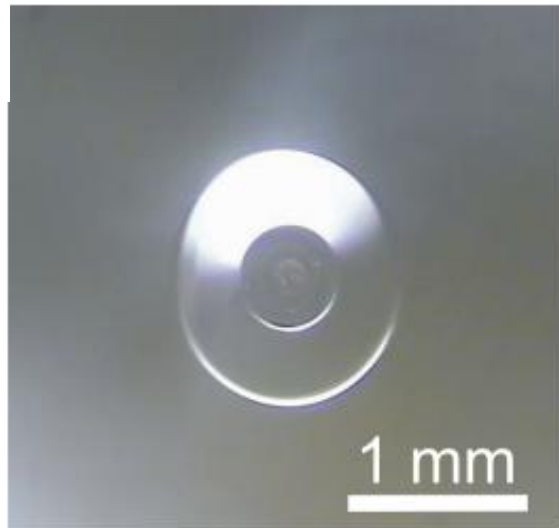


# dynamic separation of charge in LC

needle through



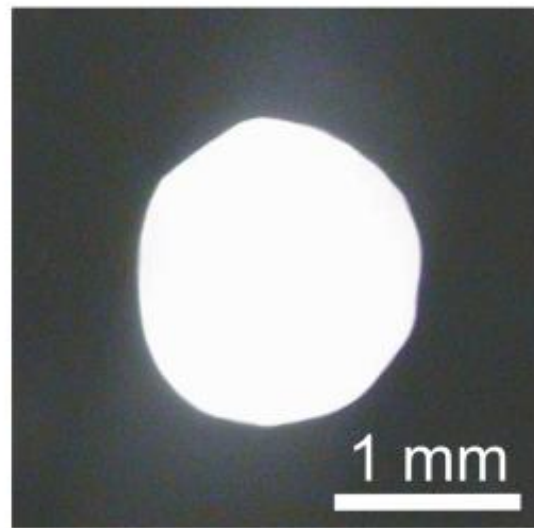
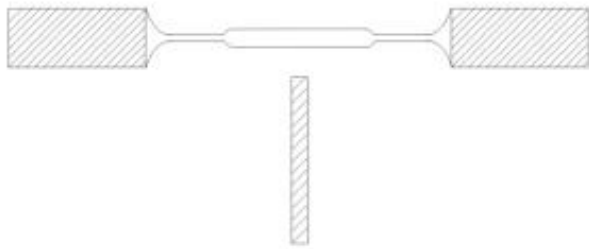
DC



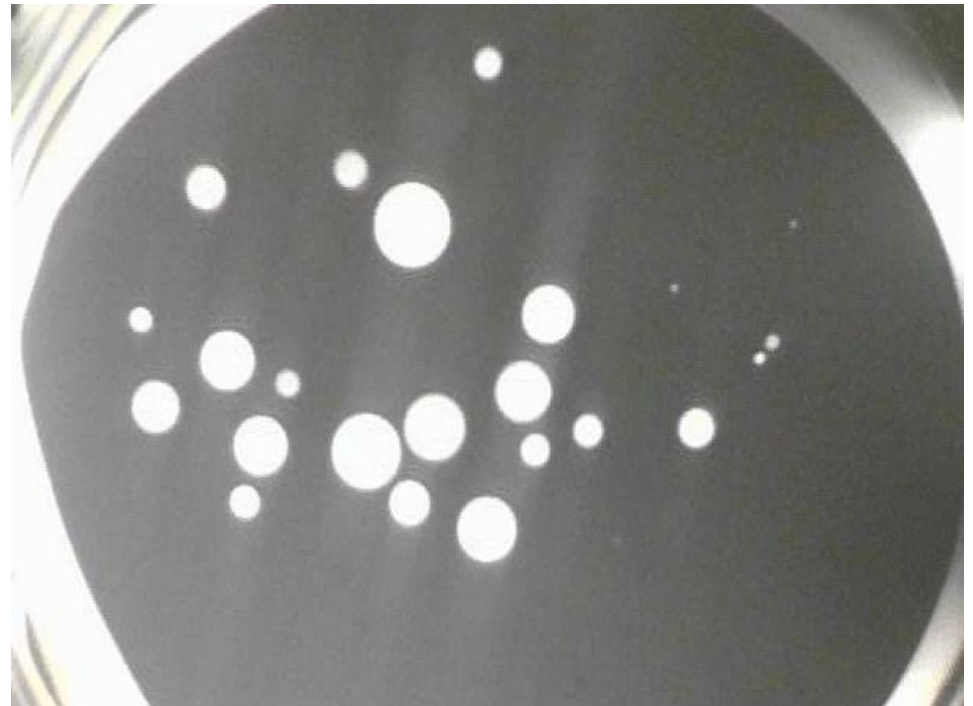


# dynamic separation of charge in LC

needle below

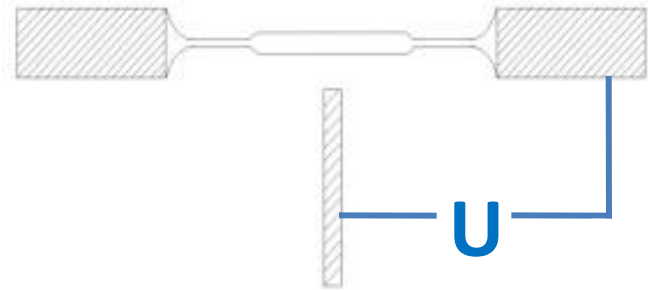
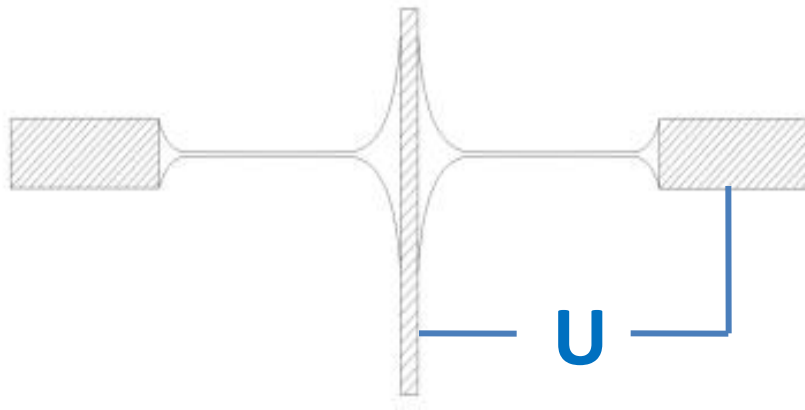


AC, high frequency



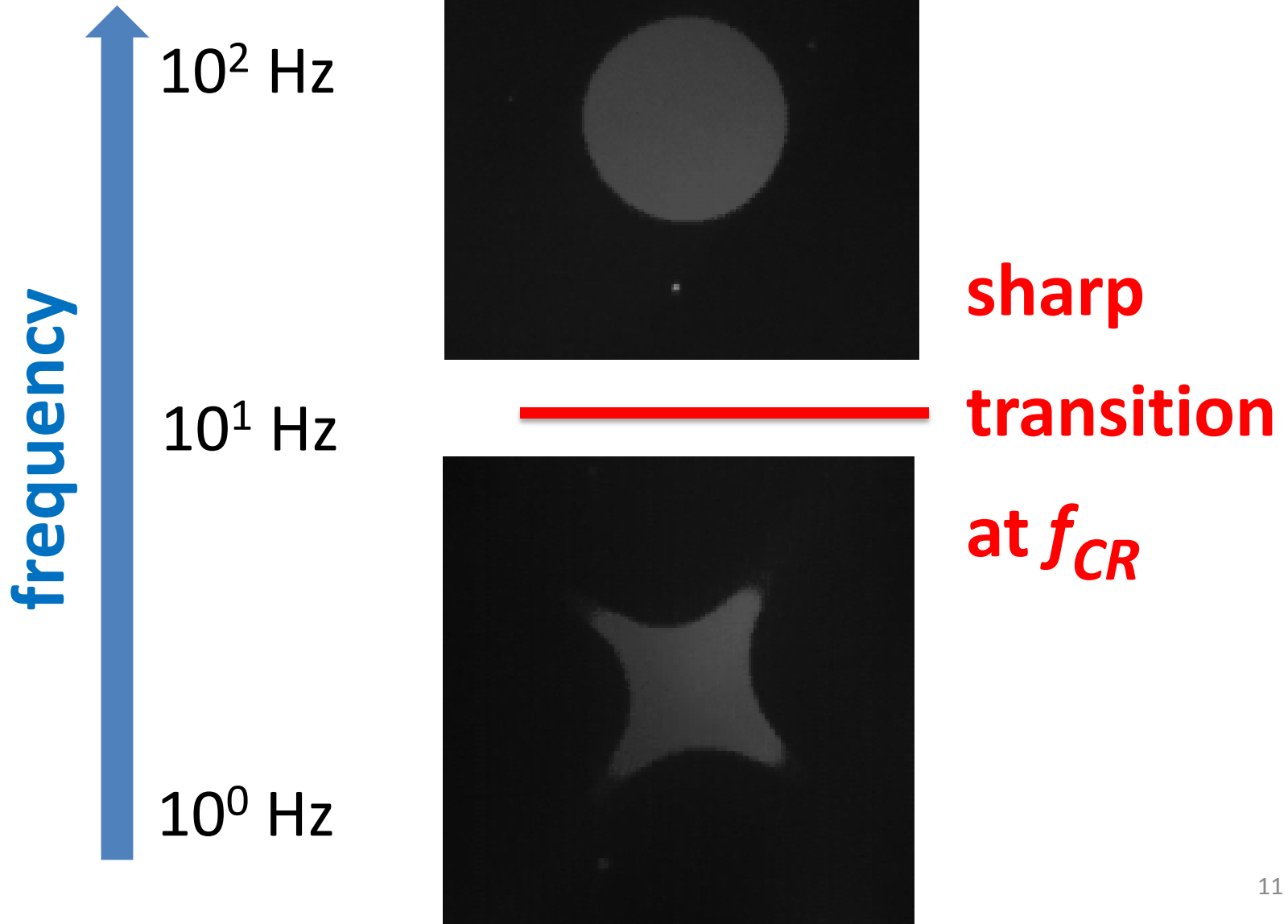
# dynamic separation of charge in LC

## electric field



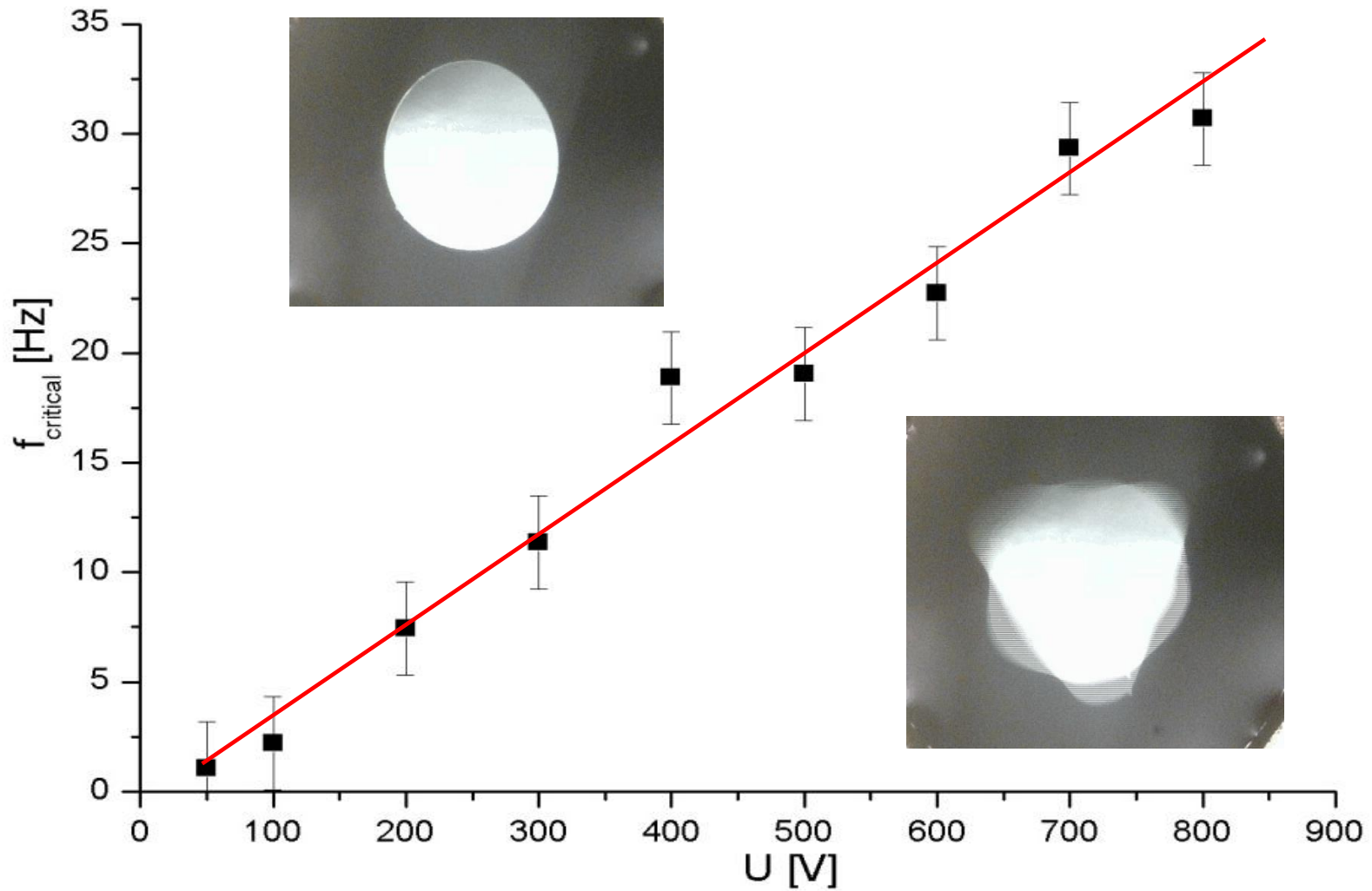
# dynamic separation of charge in LC

## electric field



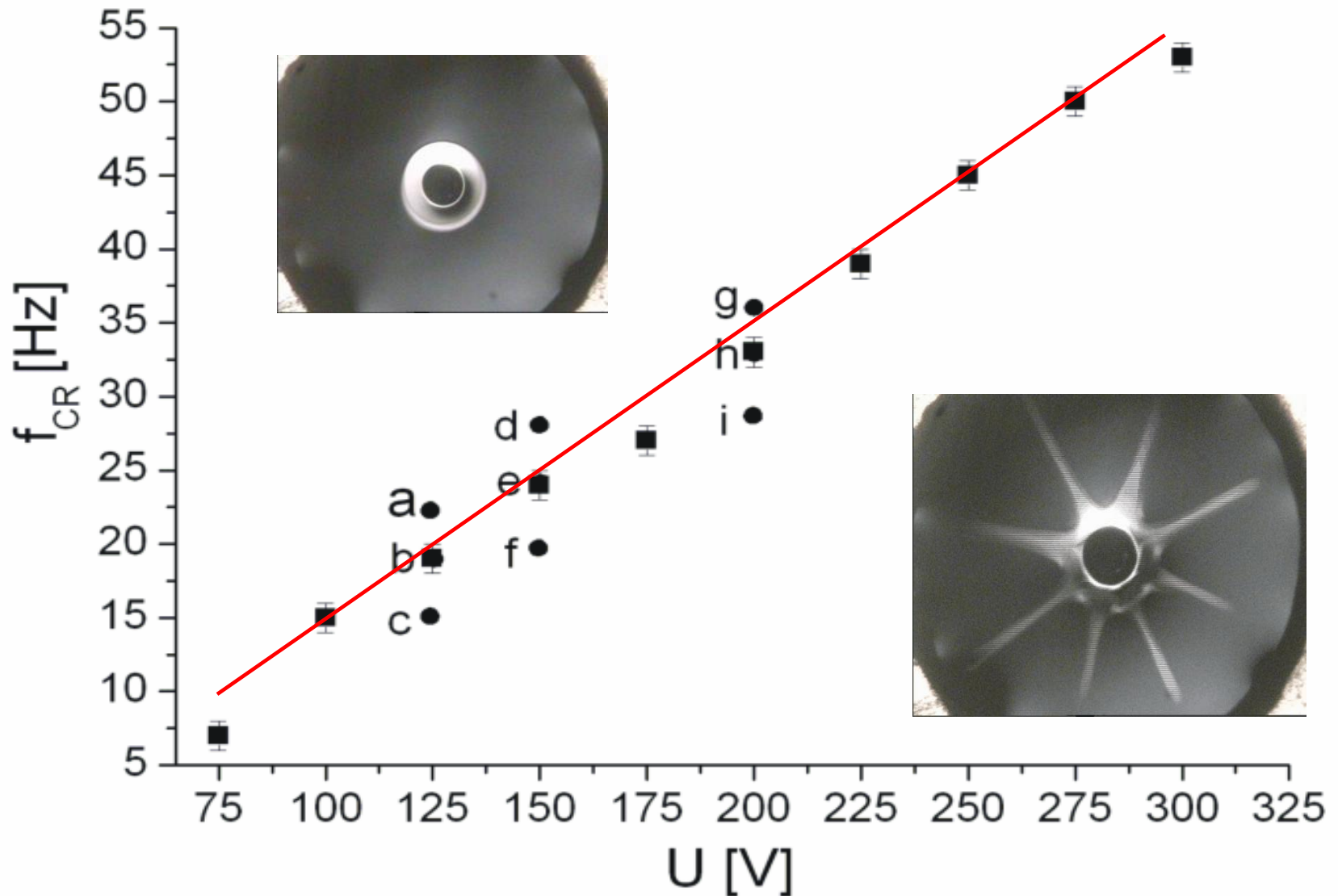
# dynamic separation of charge in LC

## MHPPHBC – ferroelectric LC



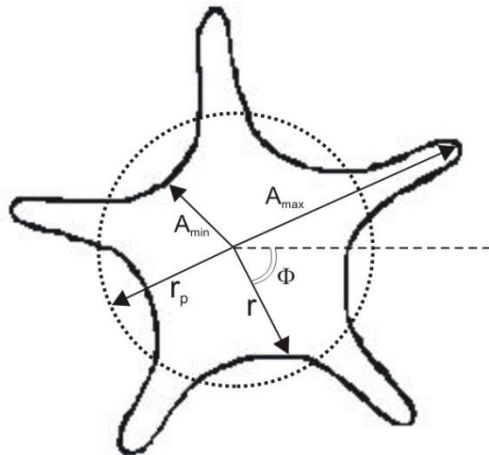
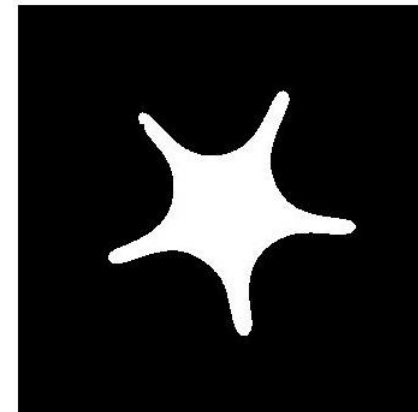
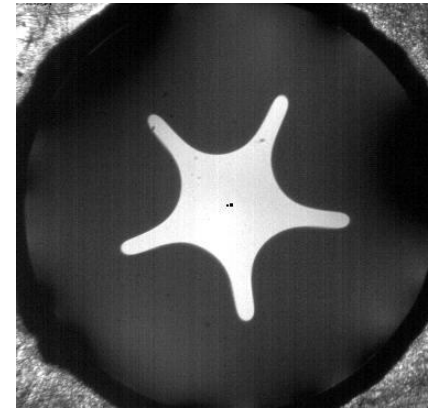
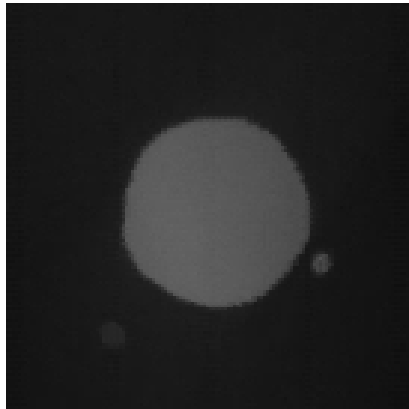
# dynamic separation of charge in LC

## 8CB – non-ferroelectric LC

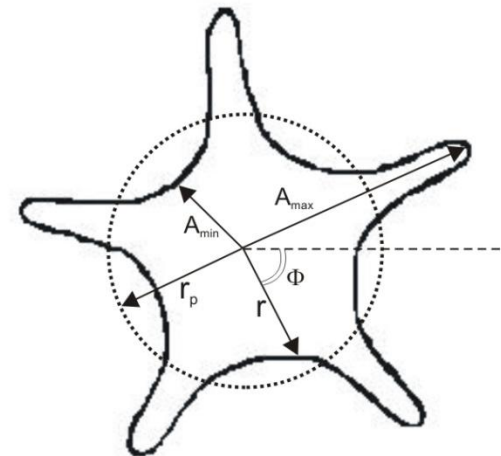
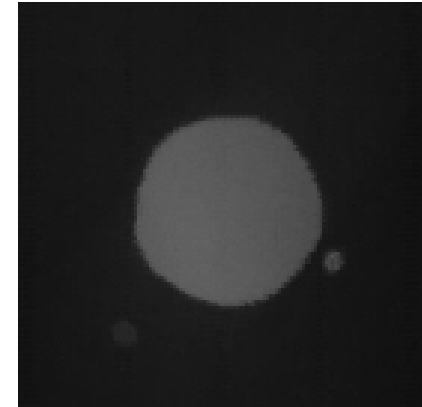
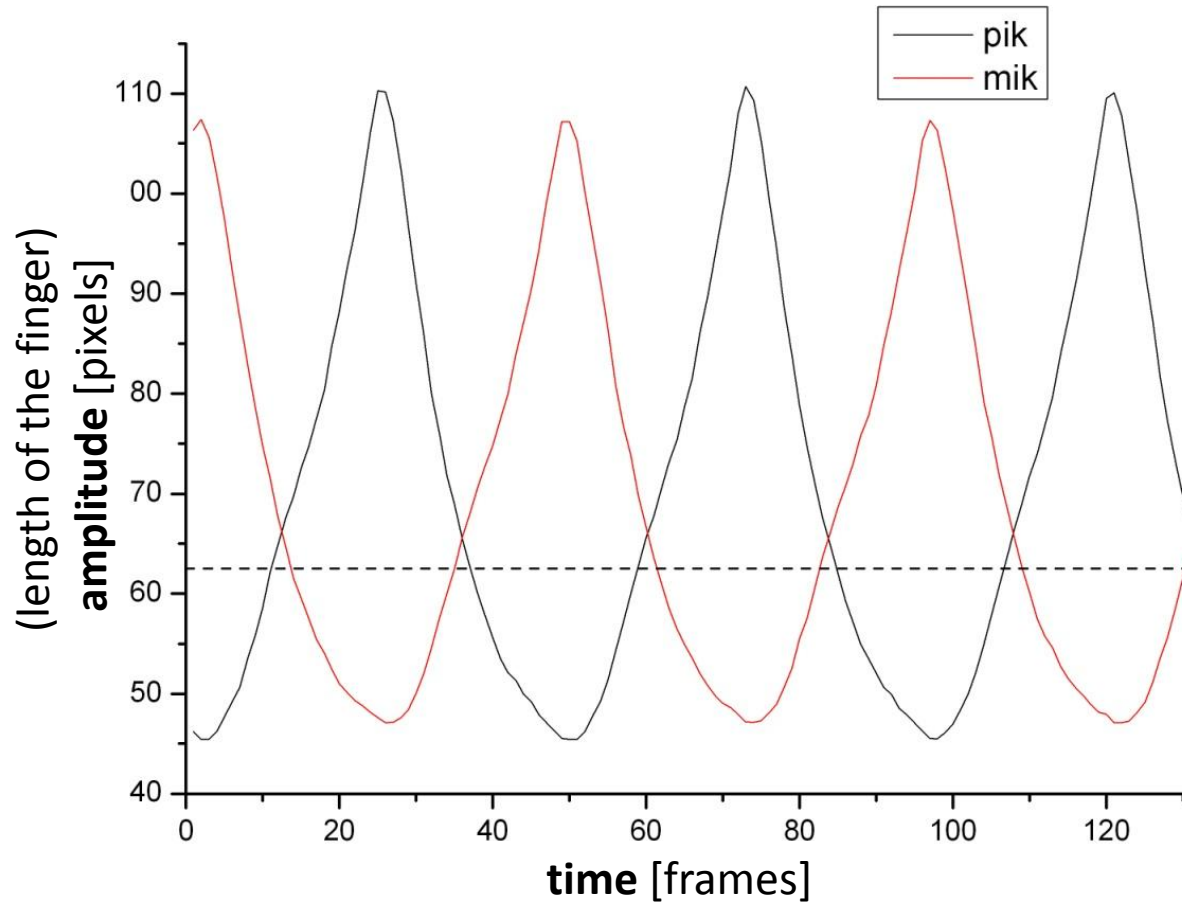




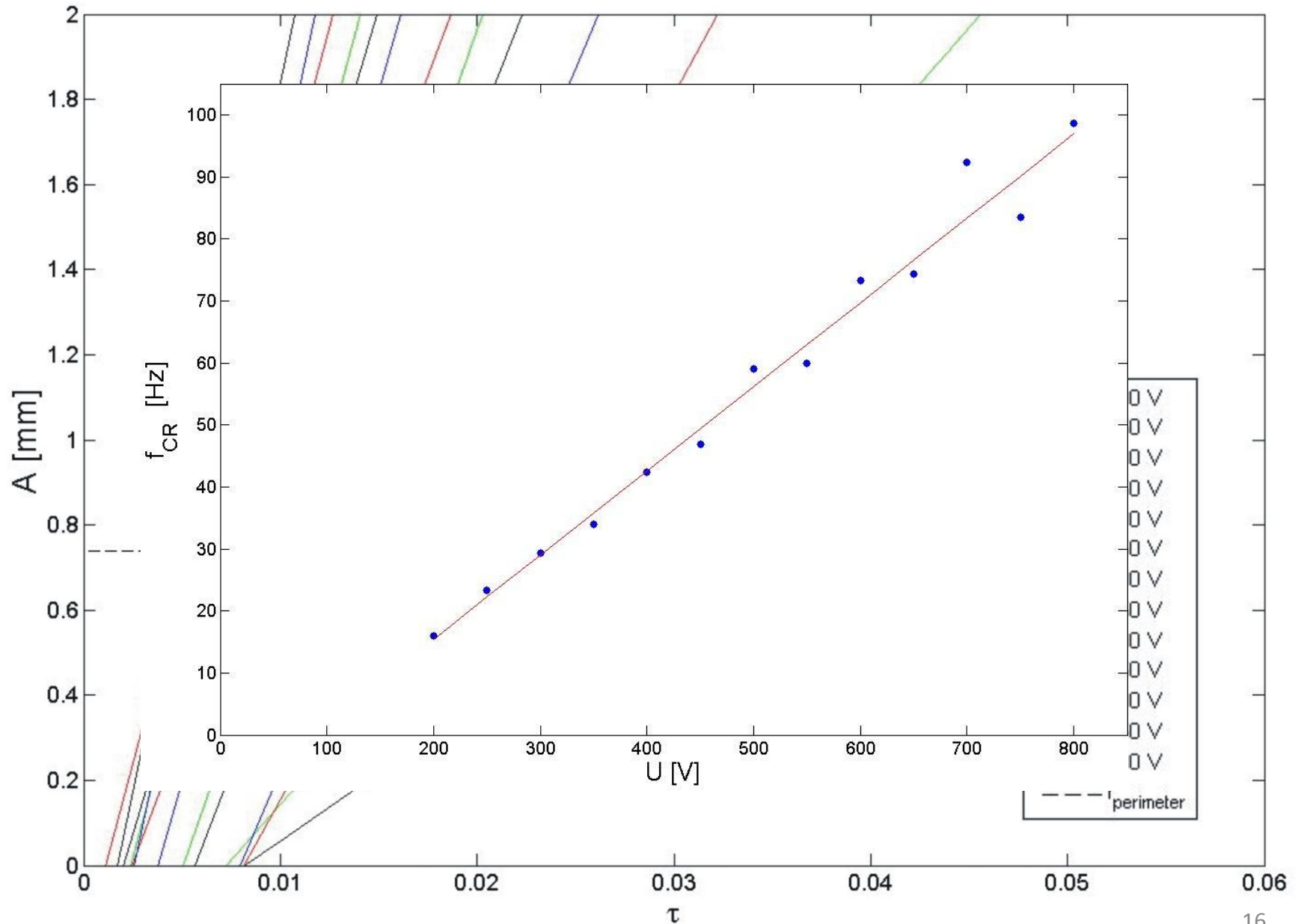
# dynamic separation of charge in LC



# dynamic separation of charge in LC

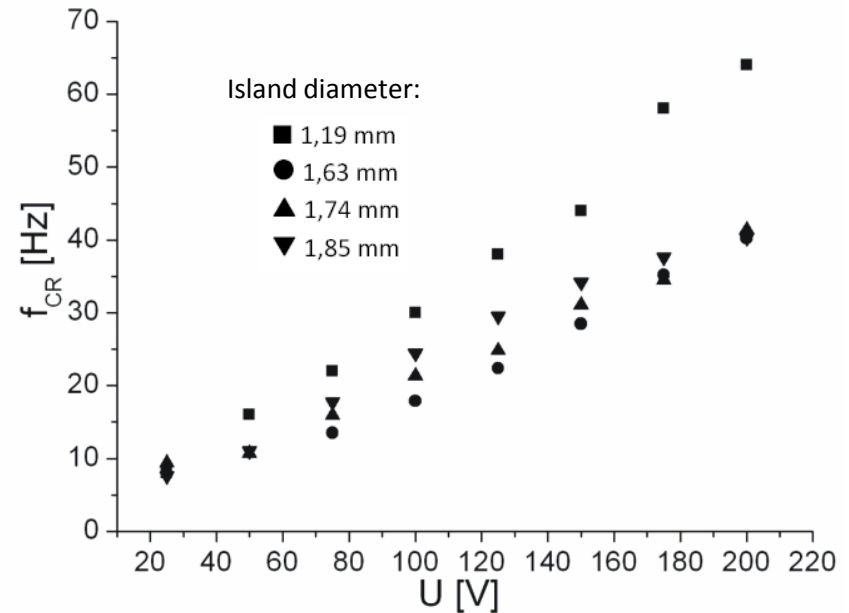
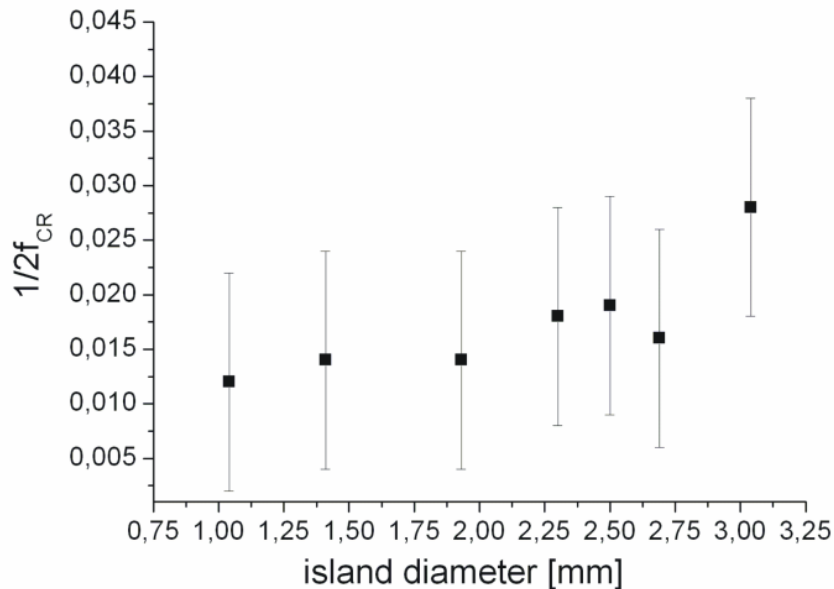


# dynamic separation of charge in LC



# dynamic separation of charge in LC

- critical frequency ( $f_{CR}$ ) is linear in voltage
- $dA/dt$  is linear in voltage
- $f_{CR}$  does not depend on the diameter of the island



- $f_{CR}$  does not depend on the thickness of the island  
(repetitive experiments on new films yield very similar values of  $f_{CR}$ )

# dynamic separation of charge in LC

1. We estimate the EC mobility *via*

$$\mu = \frac{q}{6\pi R\eta}$$

literature gives  $\sim 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  for electrophoretic mobility of ions in LCs.

Electrophoretic mobility for different ion diameter and charge

q (e)	R (Å)	$\mu$ ( $\text{m}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ )
1	1	$3,29 \cdot 10^{-10}$
2	5	$1,32 \cdot 10^{-10}$
3	10	$0,98 \cdot 10^{-10}$

2. We estimate the distance  $d_{ions}$  traveled by the ions within  $t = (2f_{CR})^{-1}$   
 $d_{ions}$  compares well to the Debye screening length<sup>1</sup>:

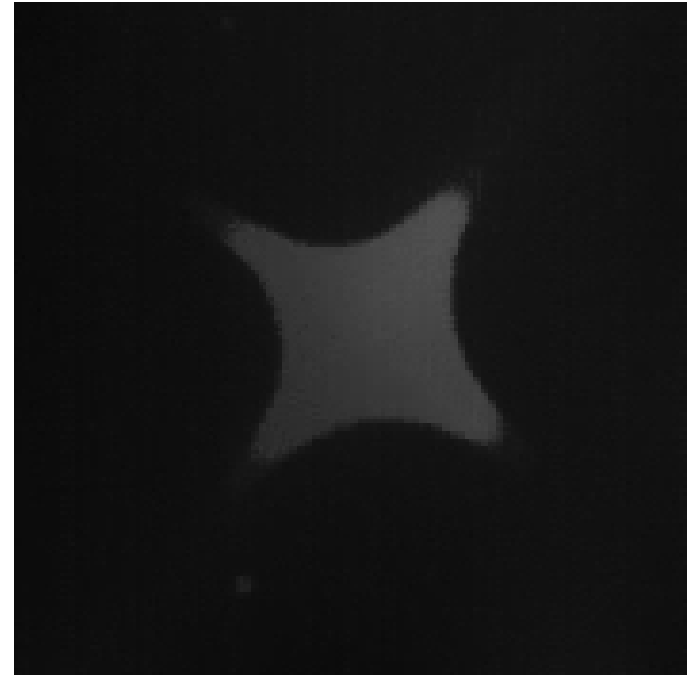
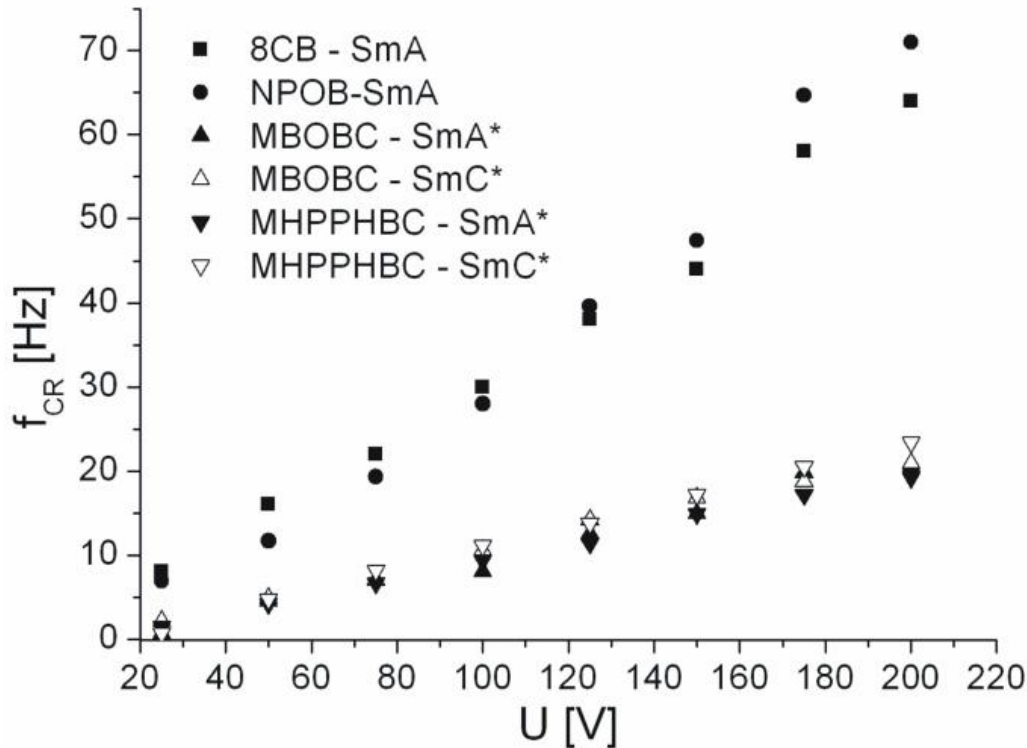
$d_{ions}$  ranged from  $d_{ions} = 50 \text{ nm}$  for NPOB in SmA phase  
to  $d_{ions} = 460 \text{ nm}$  for MHPPHBC in the SmC\* phase.

These values are similar in magnitude to the reported value of the Debye screening length of  $0,7 \mu\text{m}^1$  in CS1015 SmC\* phase.

[1] J.-B. Lee, R. A. Pelcovis and R. B. Meyer, *Phys. Rev. E*, 2007, **75**, 051701



# dynamic separation of charge in LC

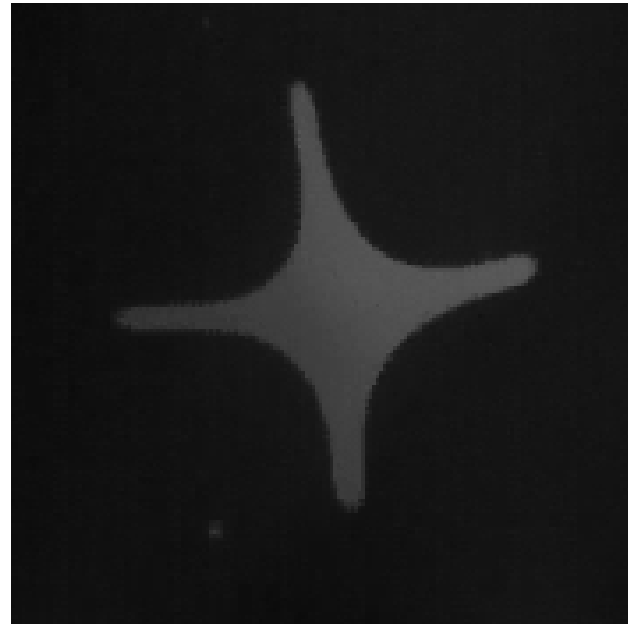
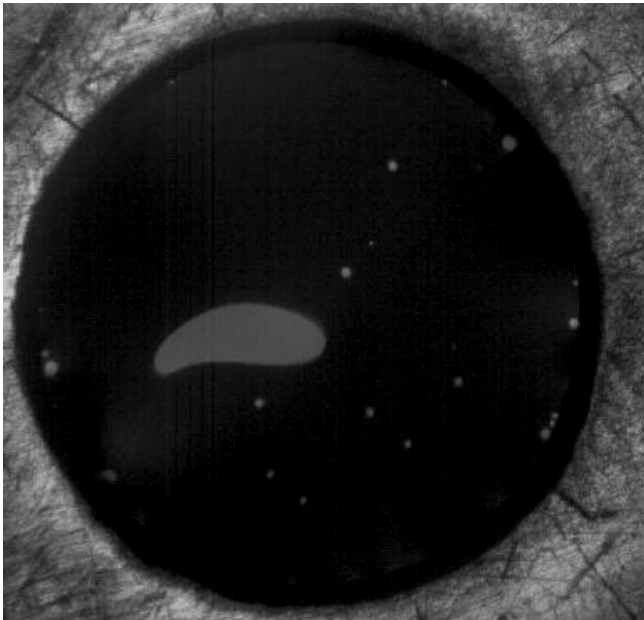


$$\mu(2f_{CR})^{-1} E_{||} \sim \text{Debye Length}$$

microscopic separation of charges

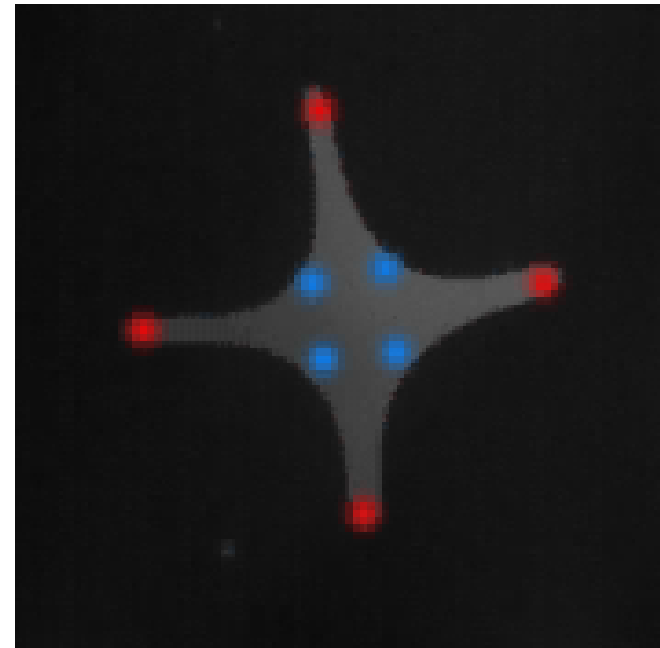
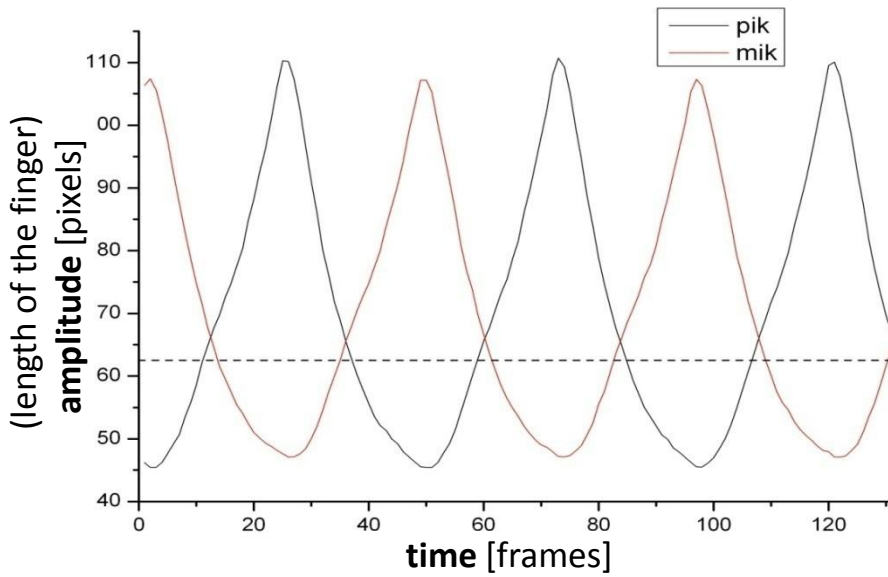
# dynamic separation of charge in LC

- **high frequencies** – ions oscillate with amplitude  $<$  Debye length
- **low frequencies** – ions oscillate with amplitudes  $>$  Debye length  
→ „microscopic” separation of charges
- the boundary of the meniscus becomes charged and undergoes an electrohydrodynamic instability  
→ **macroscopic** separation of charges



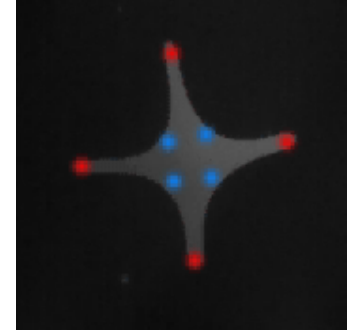
# dynamic separation of charge in LC

- **low frequencies** – ions oscillate with amplitudes  $>$  Debye length  
→ „microscopic” separation of charges
- the boundary of the meniscus becomes charged and undergoes an electrohydrodynamic instability  
→ **macroscopic** separation of charges



# dynamic separation of charge in LC

- we can visualize (indirectly) the motion of ions
- instability only ensues when ions are separated over distances larger than the Debye length
- macroscopic separation of charges, slow relaxation  $\rightarrow$  dynamically controlled



- **dynamic separation of charge in LC**

can we see the motion of ions with an optical microscope?

- **electrocoalescence**

ionic contribution to polarization of droplets

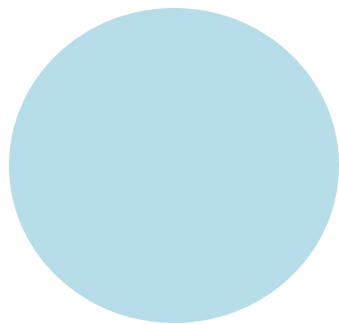
- **phase separation in a blend of LC and PS**

1000 fold increase of the rate of phase separation

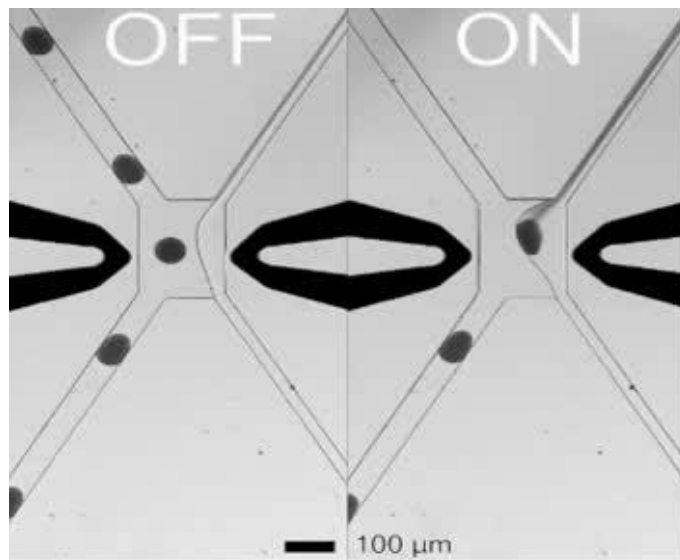
- **summary**



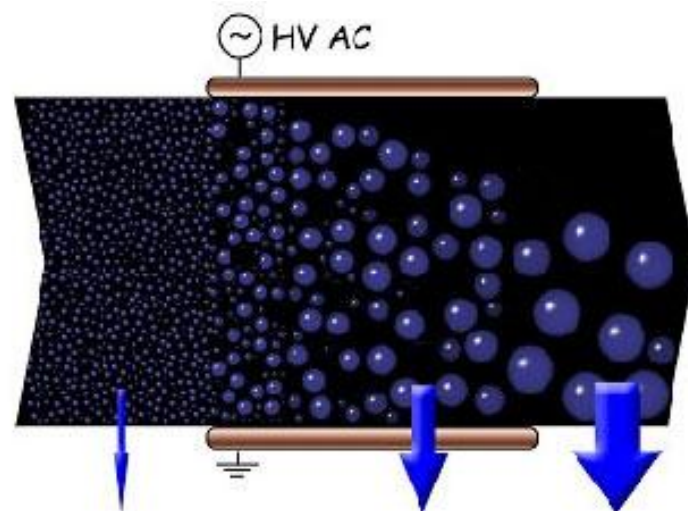
# electrocoalescence



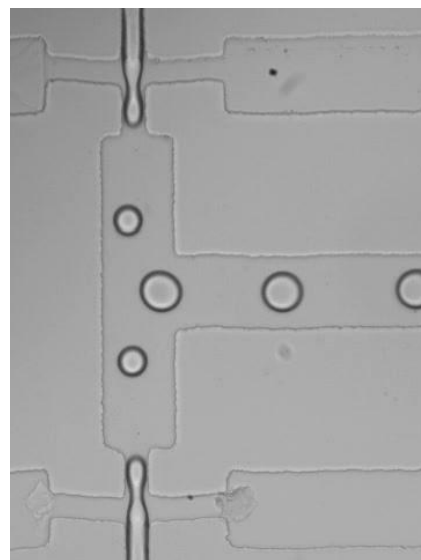
**U = 2.3 kV DC**



L. Fidalgo *et al.*  
Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.  
2008, 47



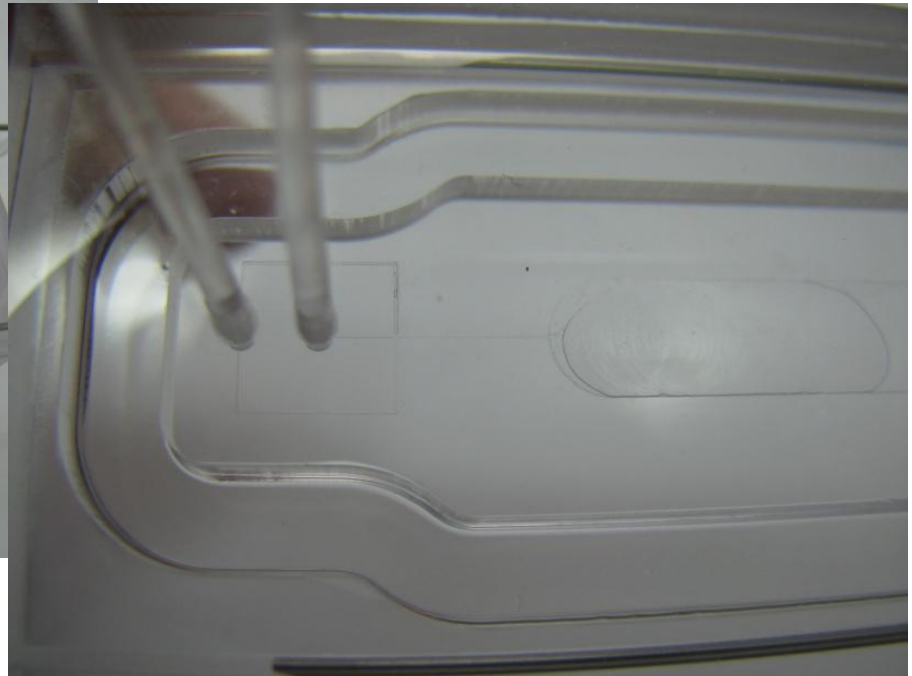
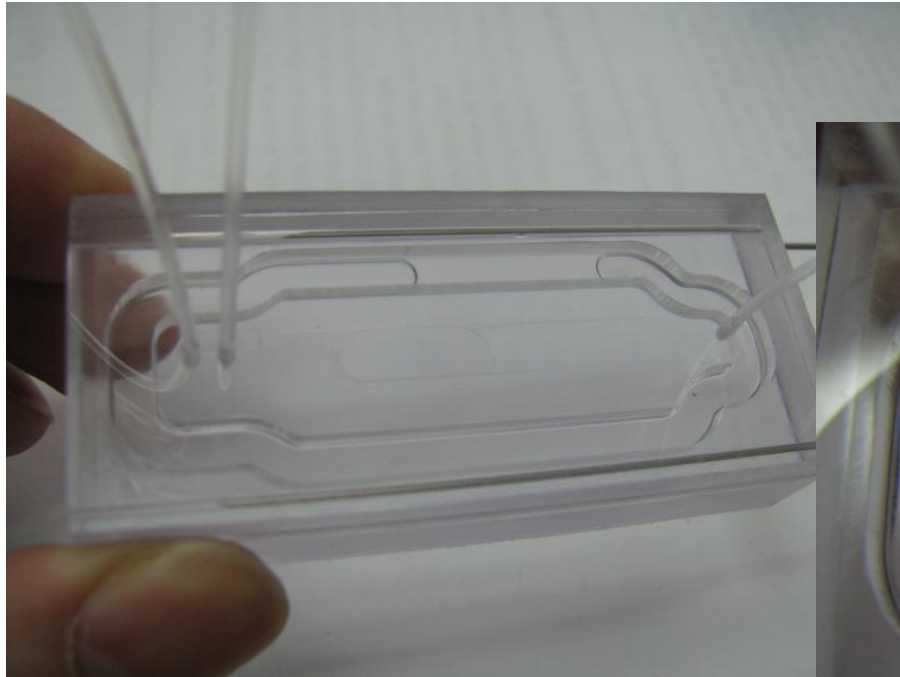
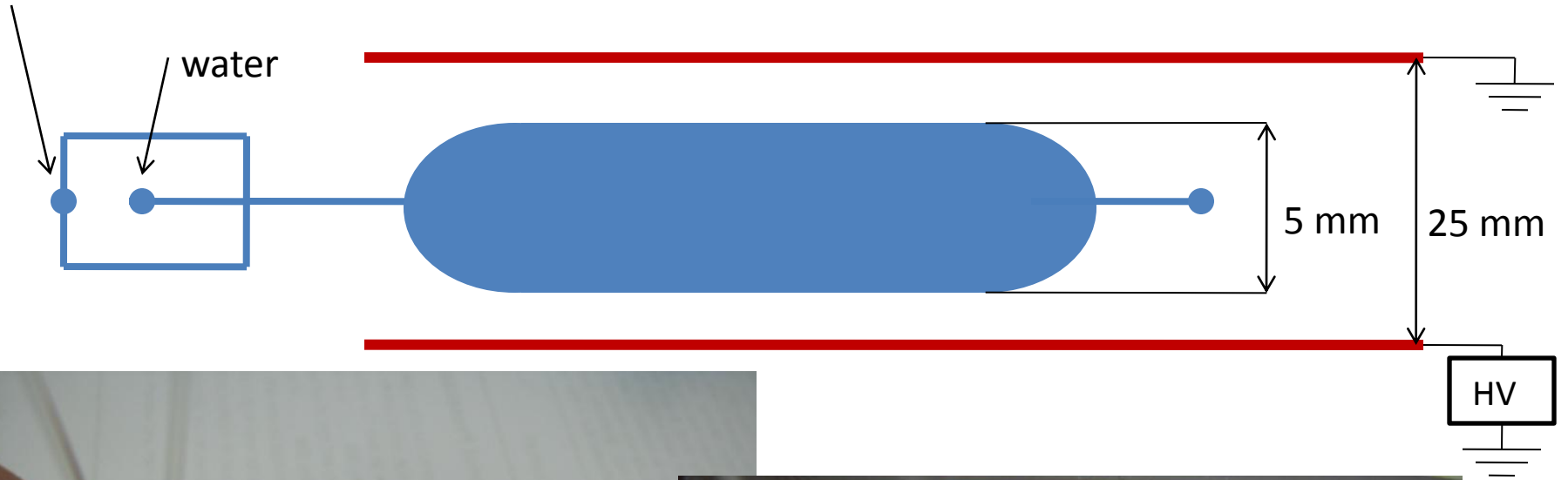
**U = 400 V**



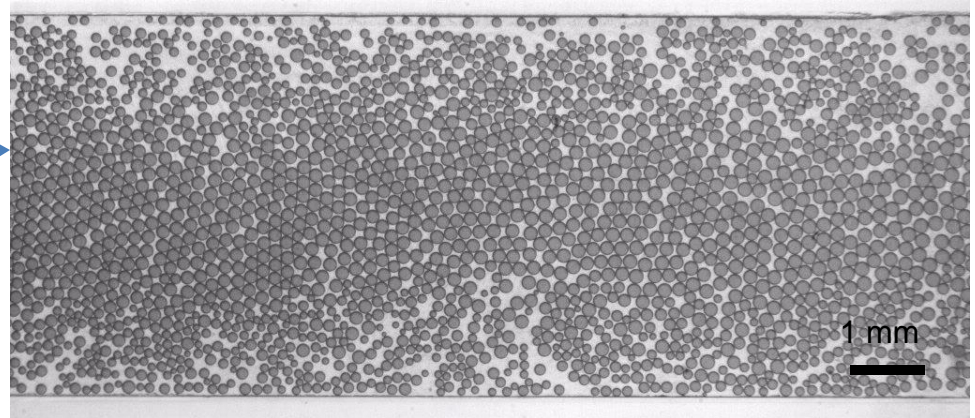
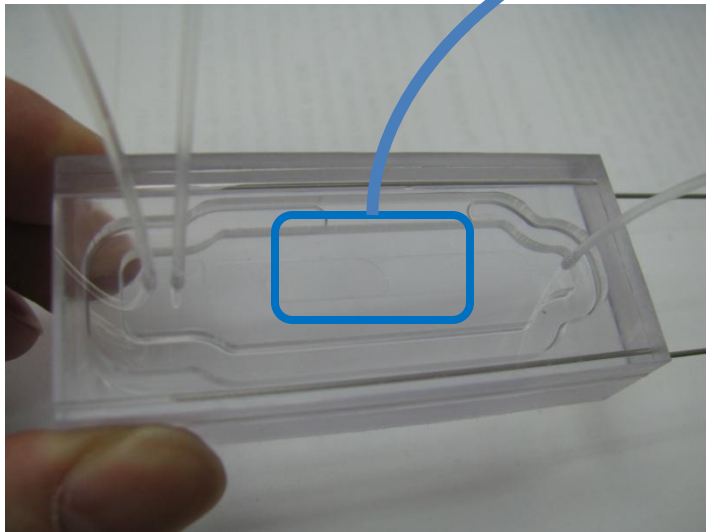
R. Link *et al.*  
Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.  
2006, 45

# electrocoalescence

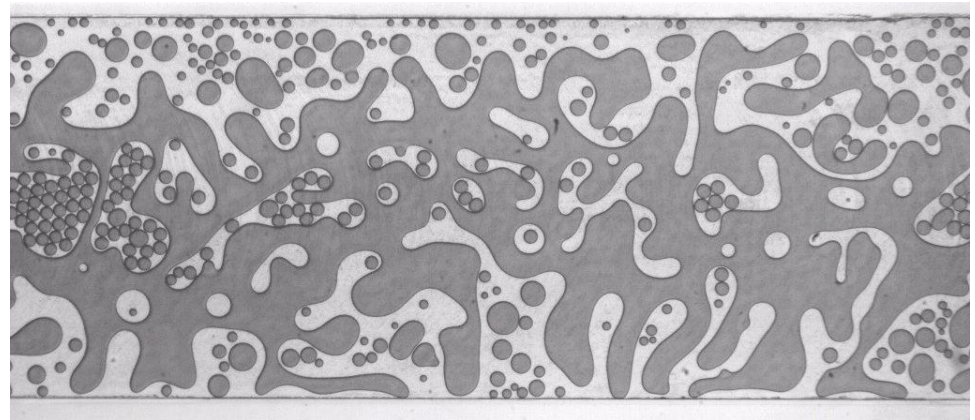
Hexadecane + Span80



# electrocoalescence



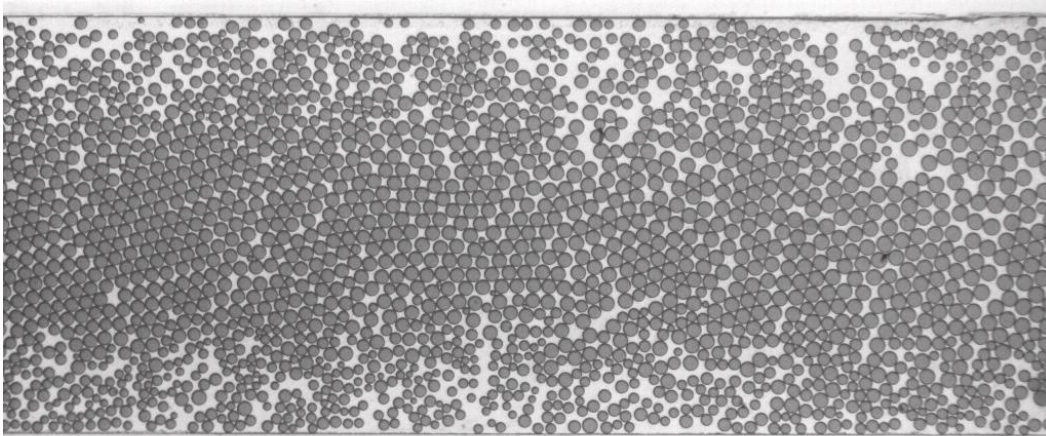
↓ AC EF



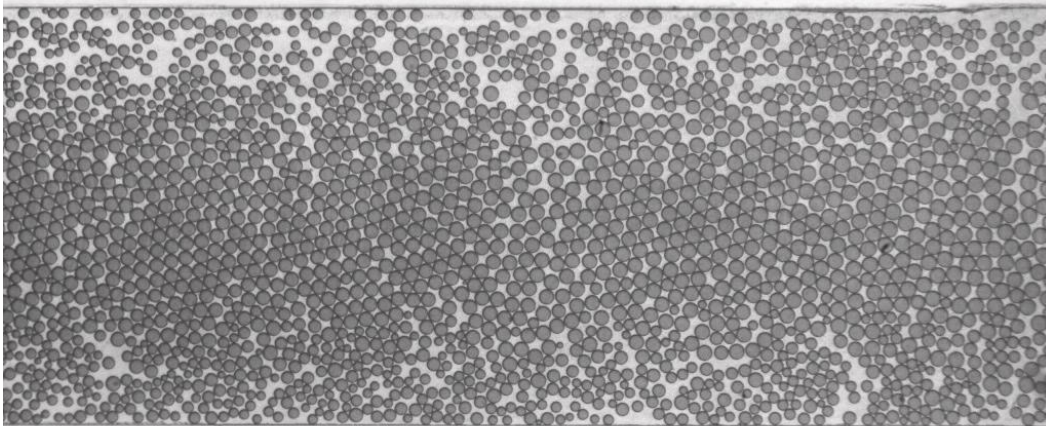
**Oil phase:** hexadecane + 2% SPAN 80

**Droplets:** water + dye

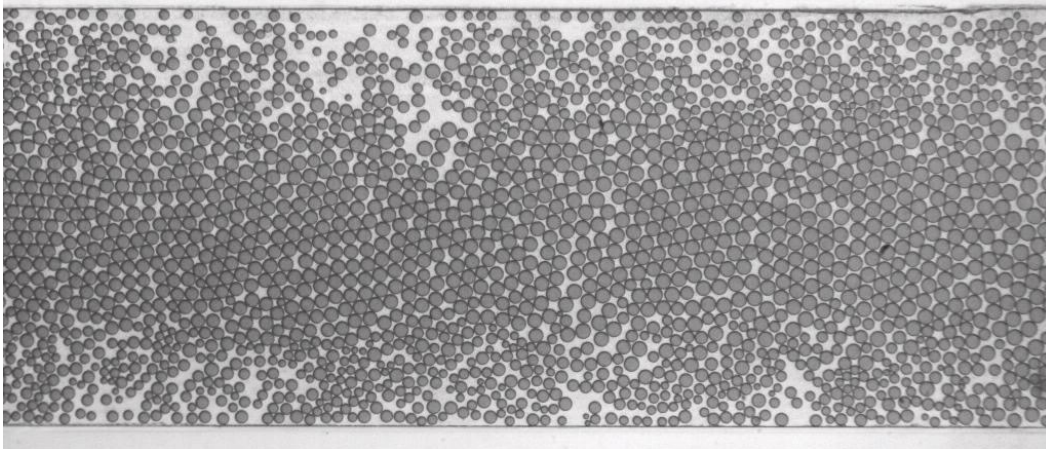




**1 kHz, 100 V**

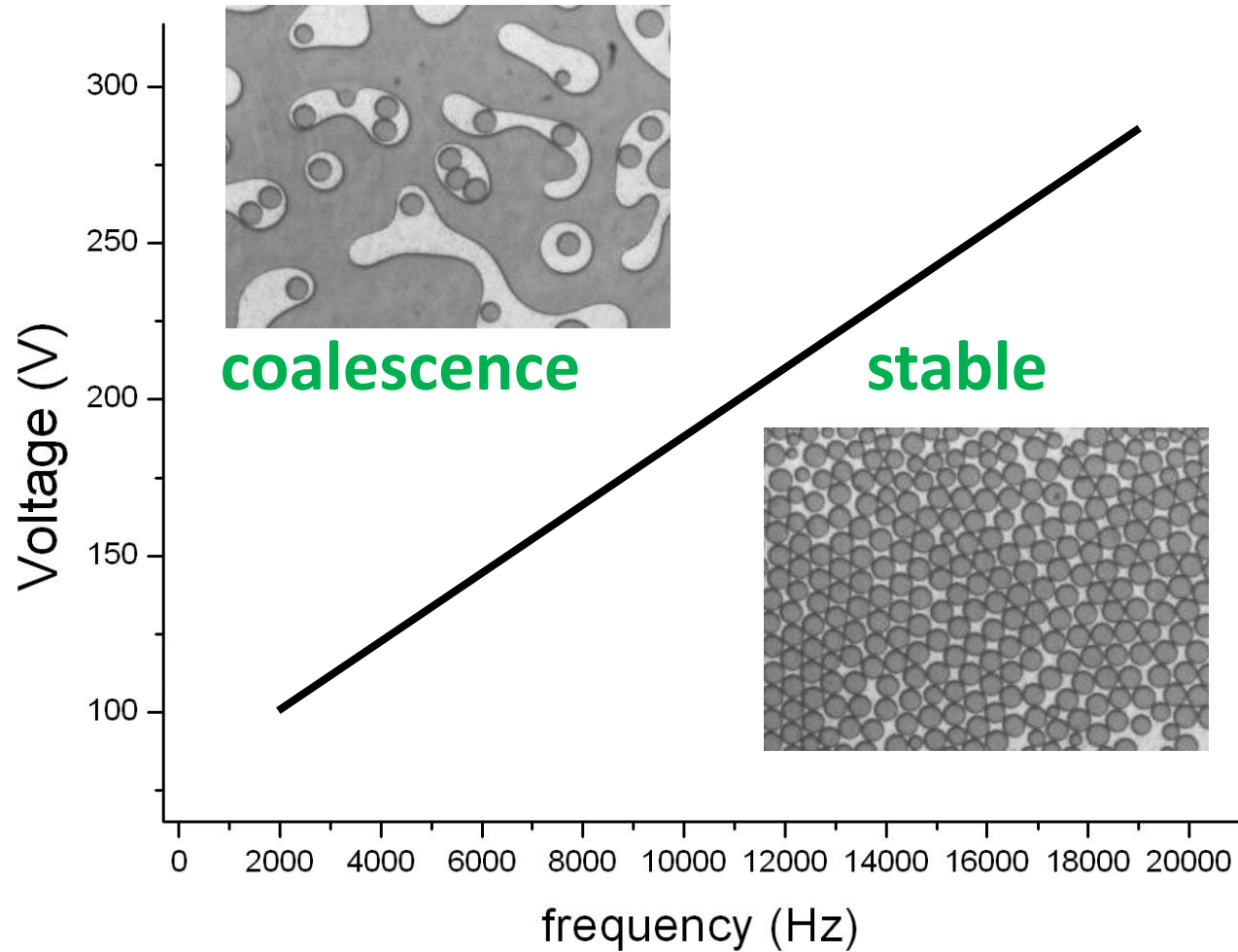


**1 kHz, 500 V**



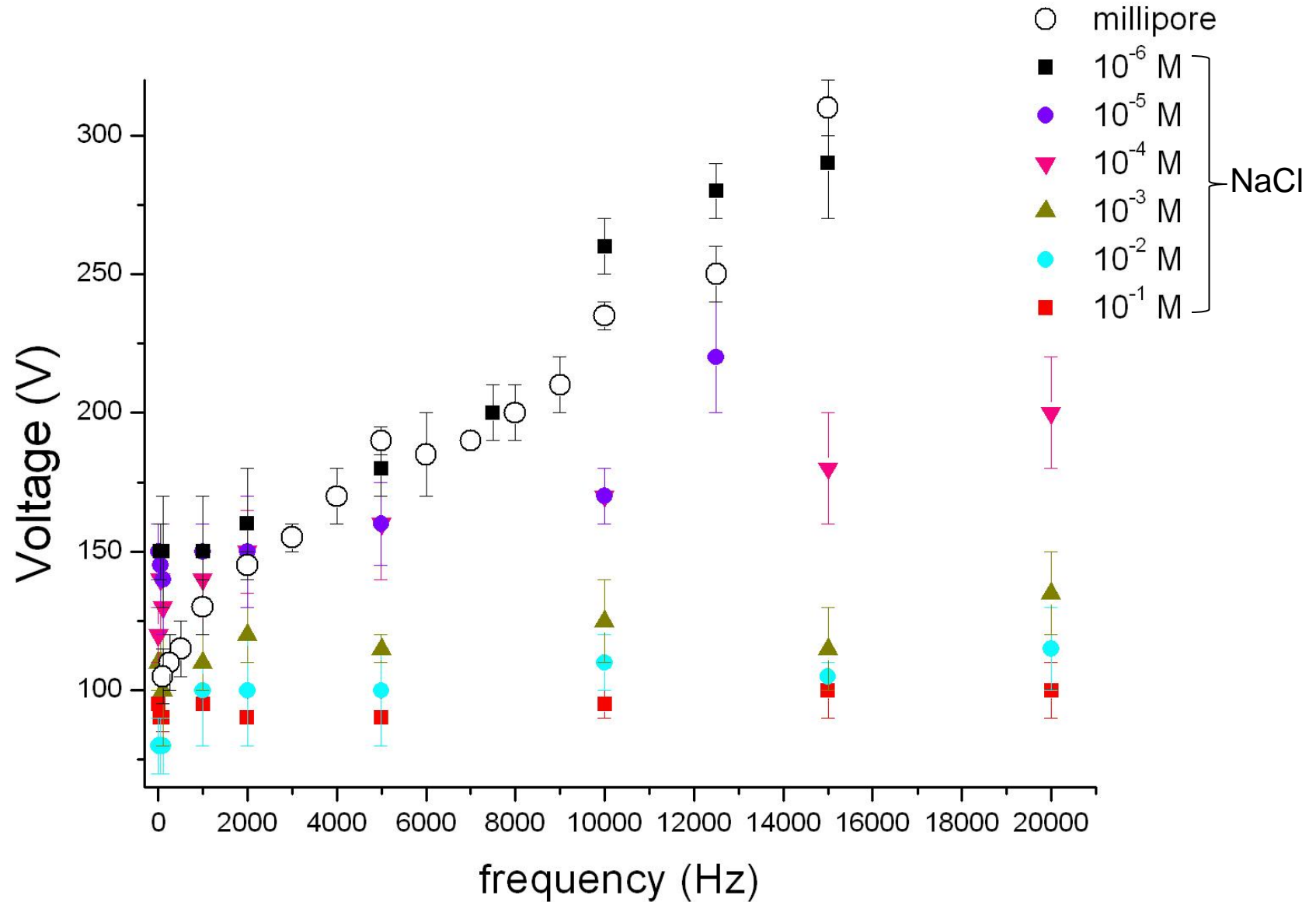
**1 kHz, 5000 V**

# electrocoalescence





# electrocoalescence

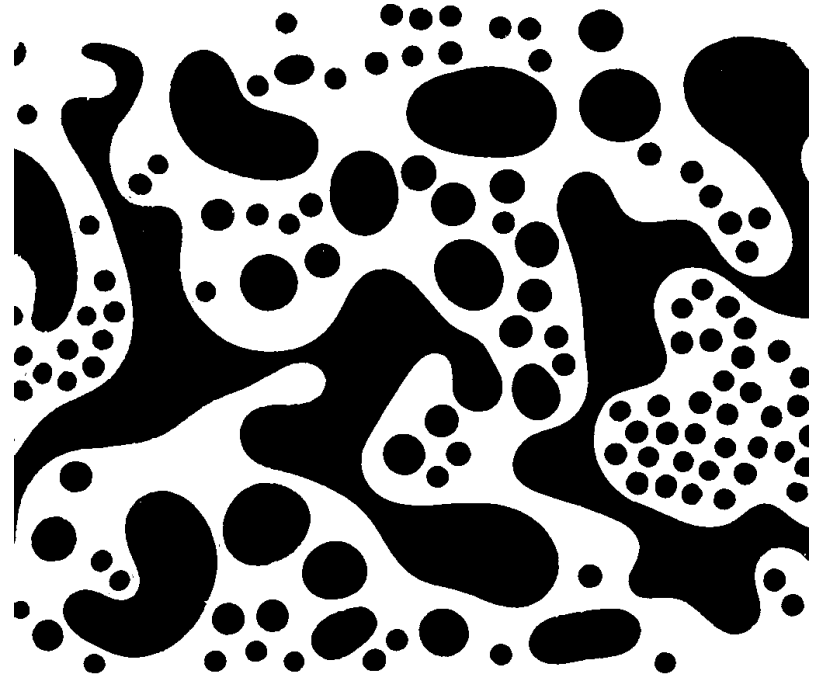
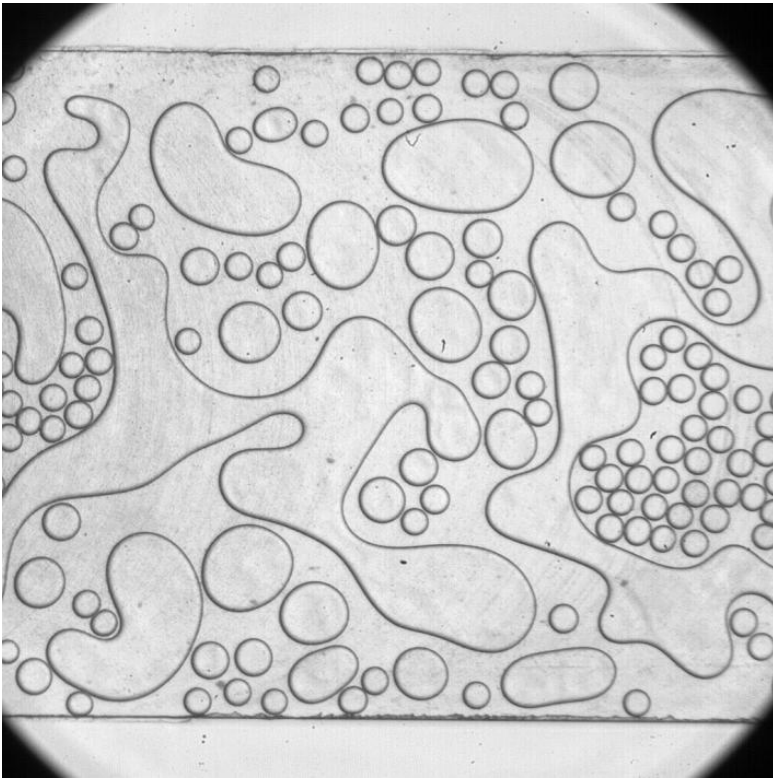


# electrocoalescence

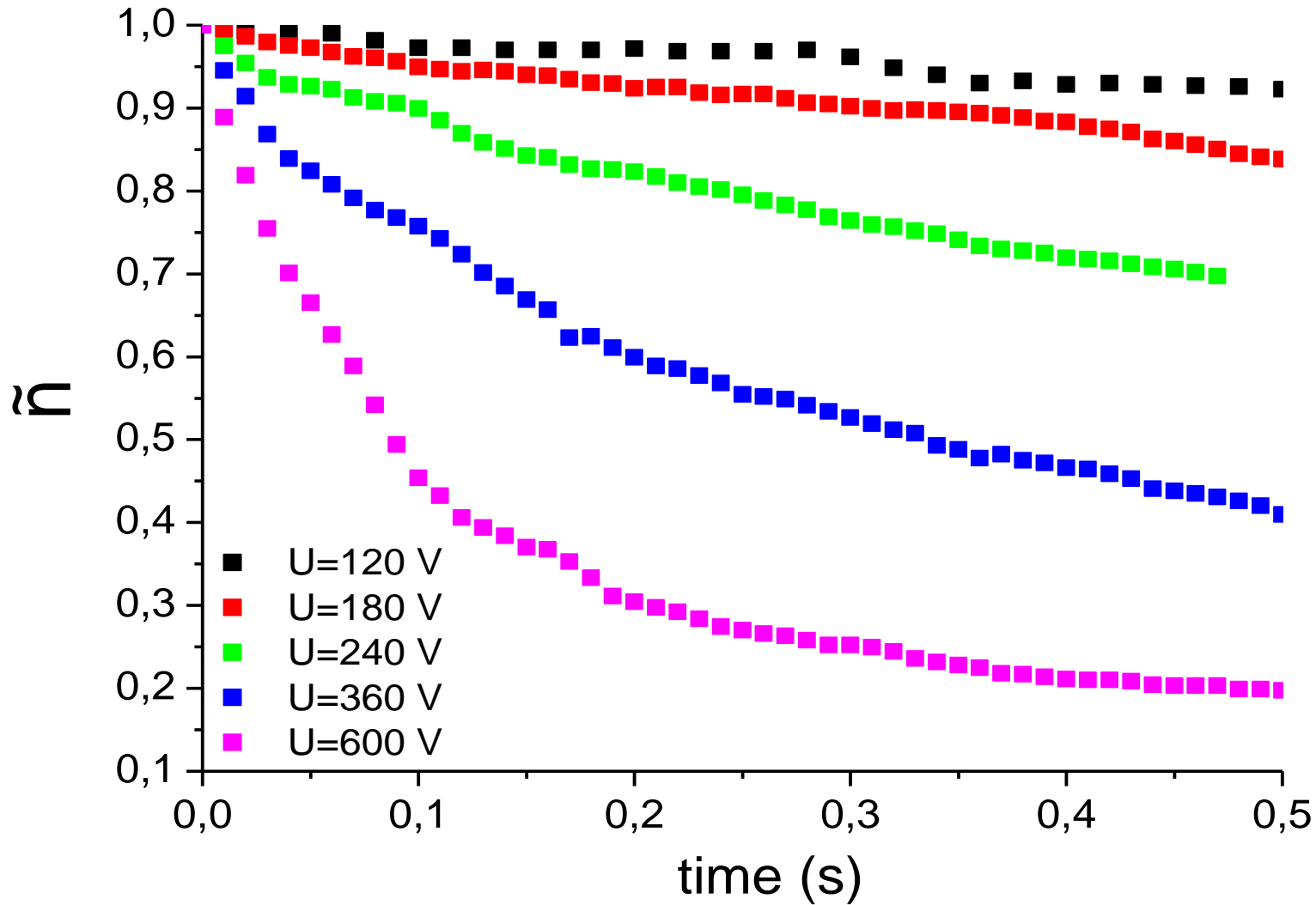
## Image analysis

number of droplets

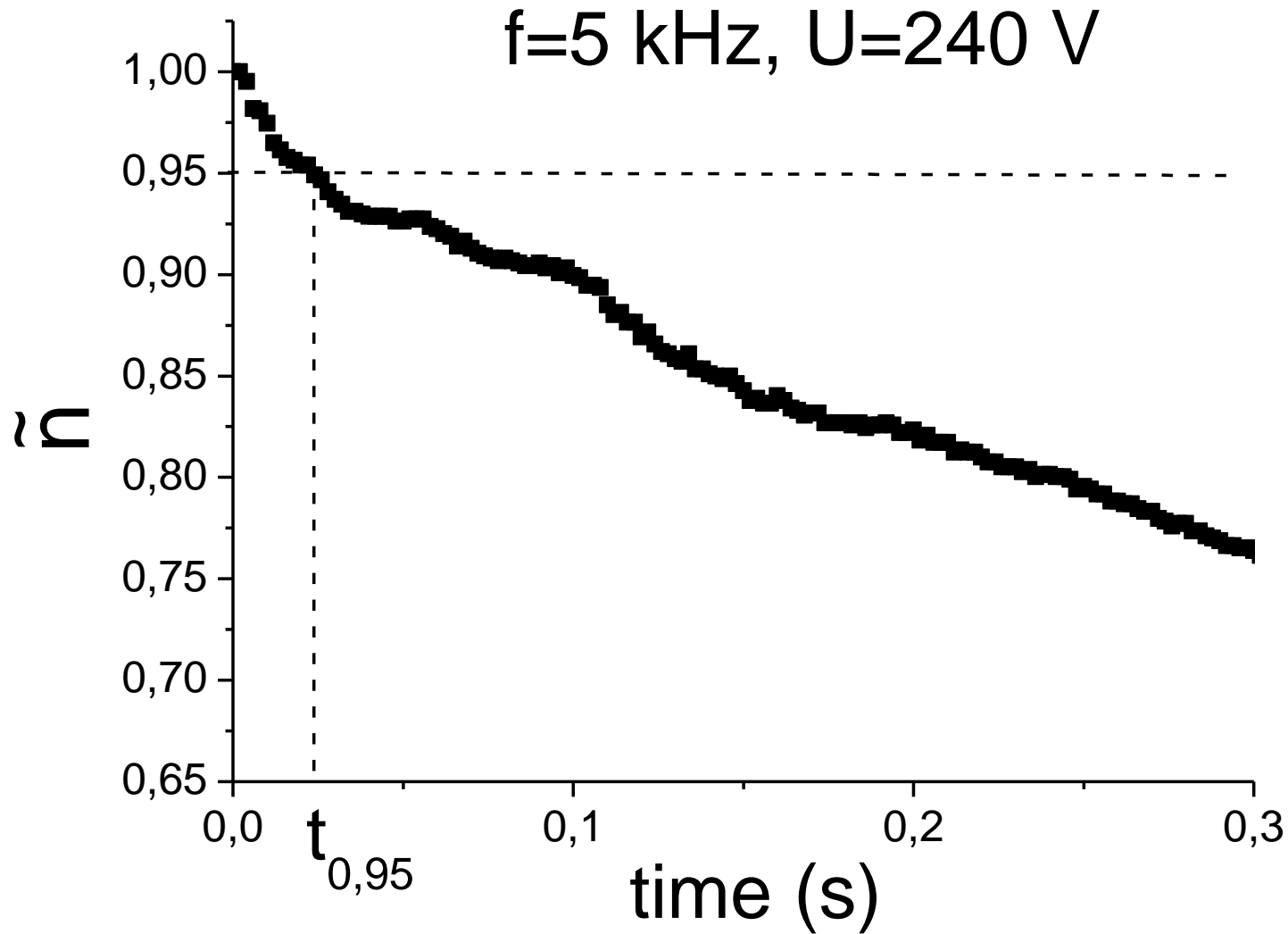
total contour



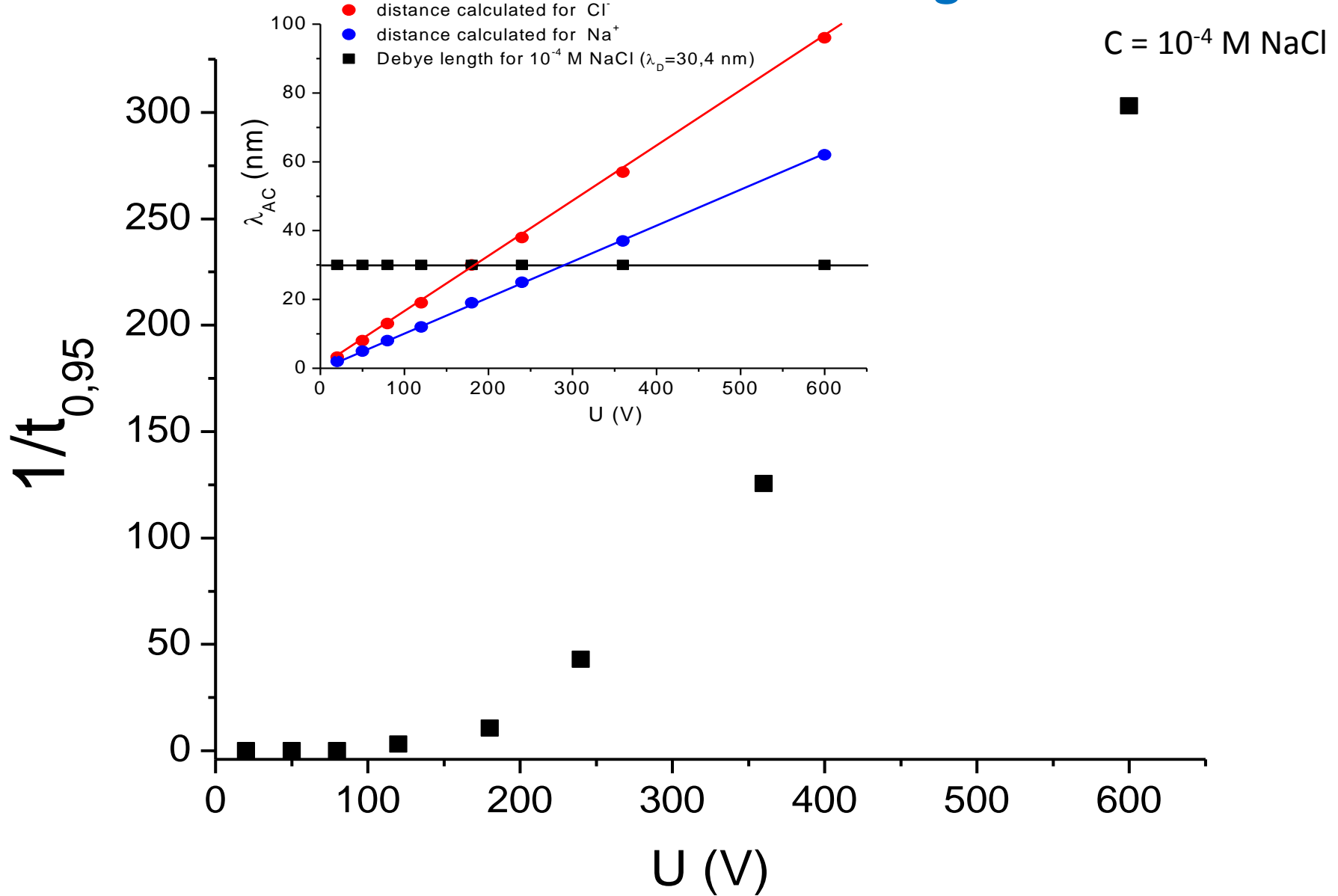
# electrocoalescence – influence of voltage



# electrocoalescence – influence of voltage

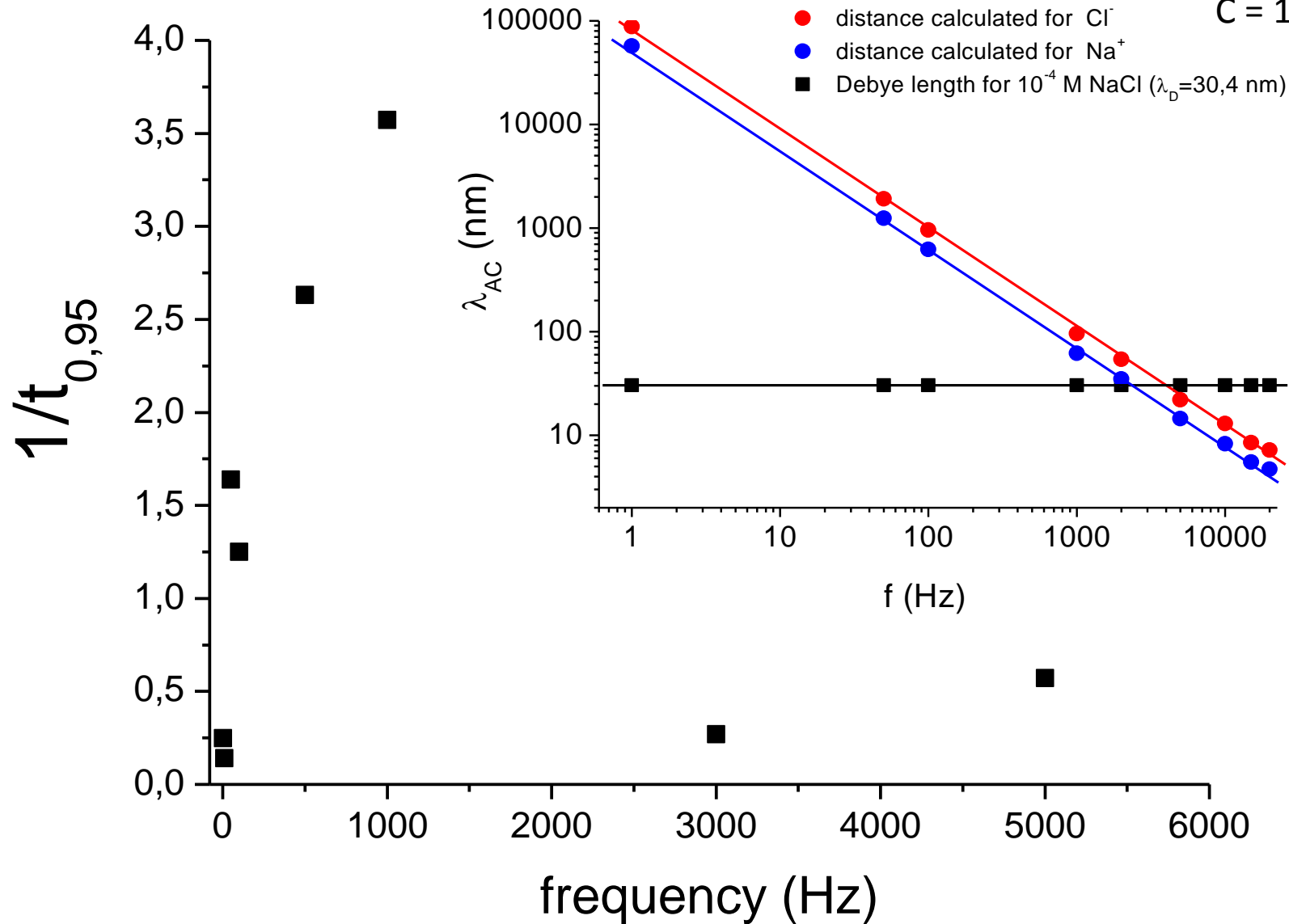


# electrocoalescence – influence of voltage



# electrocoalescence – influence of frequency

$C = 10^{-4}$  M NaCl



- **dynamic separation of charge in LC**

can we see the motion of ions with an optical microscope?

- **electrocoalescence**

ionic contribution to polarization of droplets

- **phase separation in a blend of LC and PS**

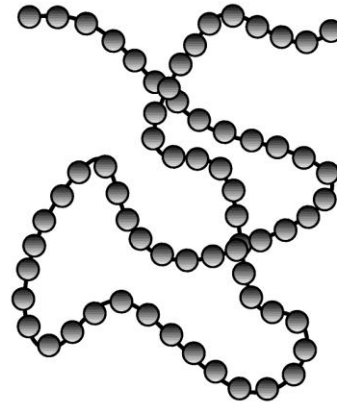
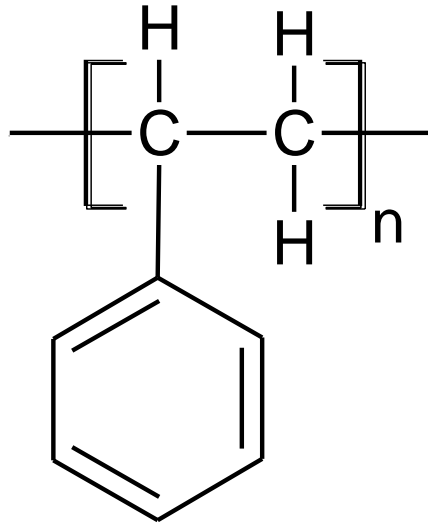
1000 fold increase of the rate of phase separation

- **summary**

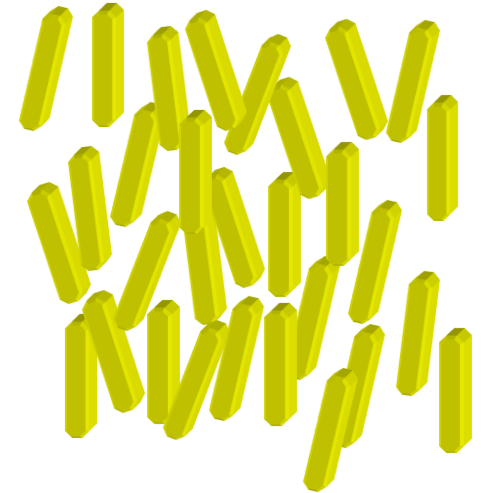
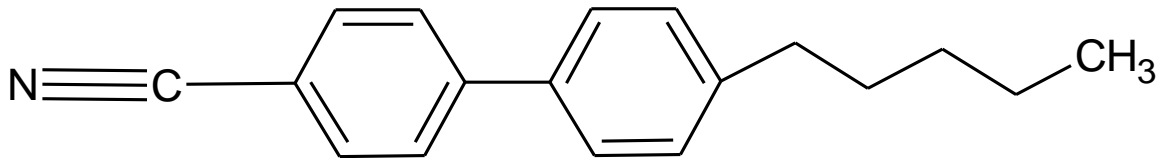


# phase separation in polymer & liquid crystal blend

## Polymer-polystyrene

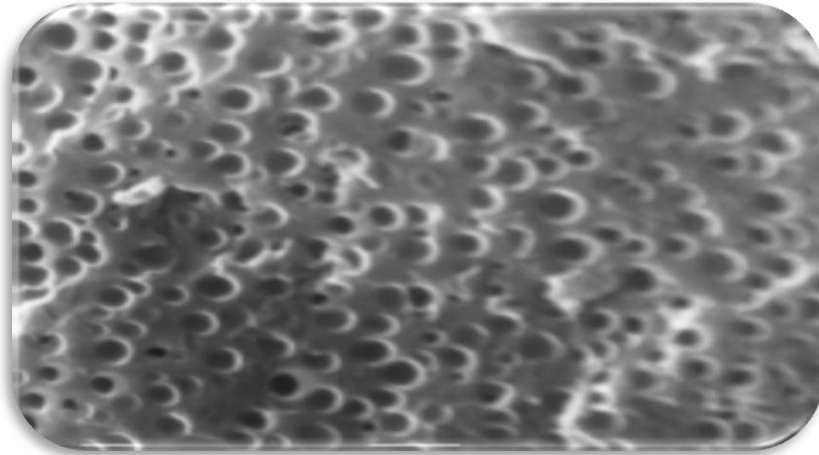


## Liquid crystal-5CB

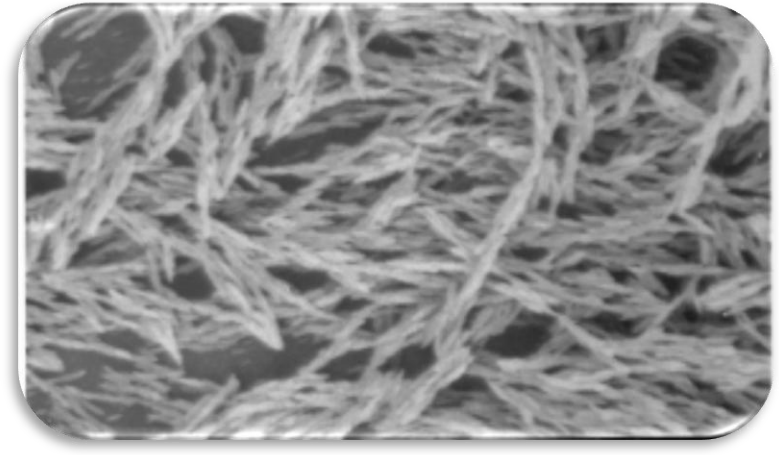


# phase separation in polymer & liquid crystal blend

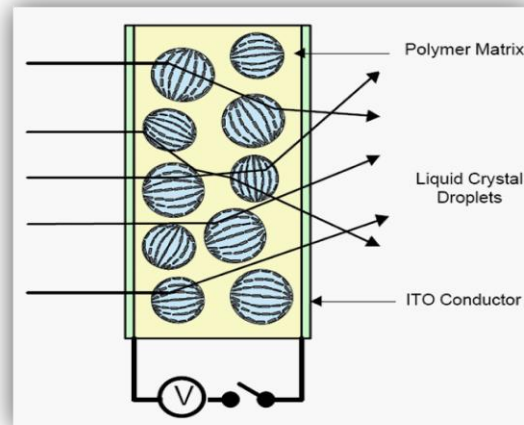
polymer-dispersed liquid crystals  
(PDLCs)



polymer-stabilized liquid crystals  
(PSLCs)

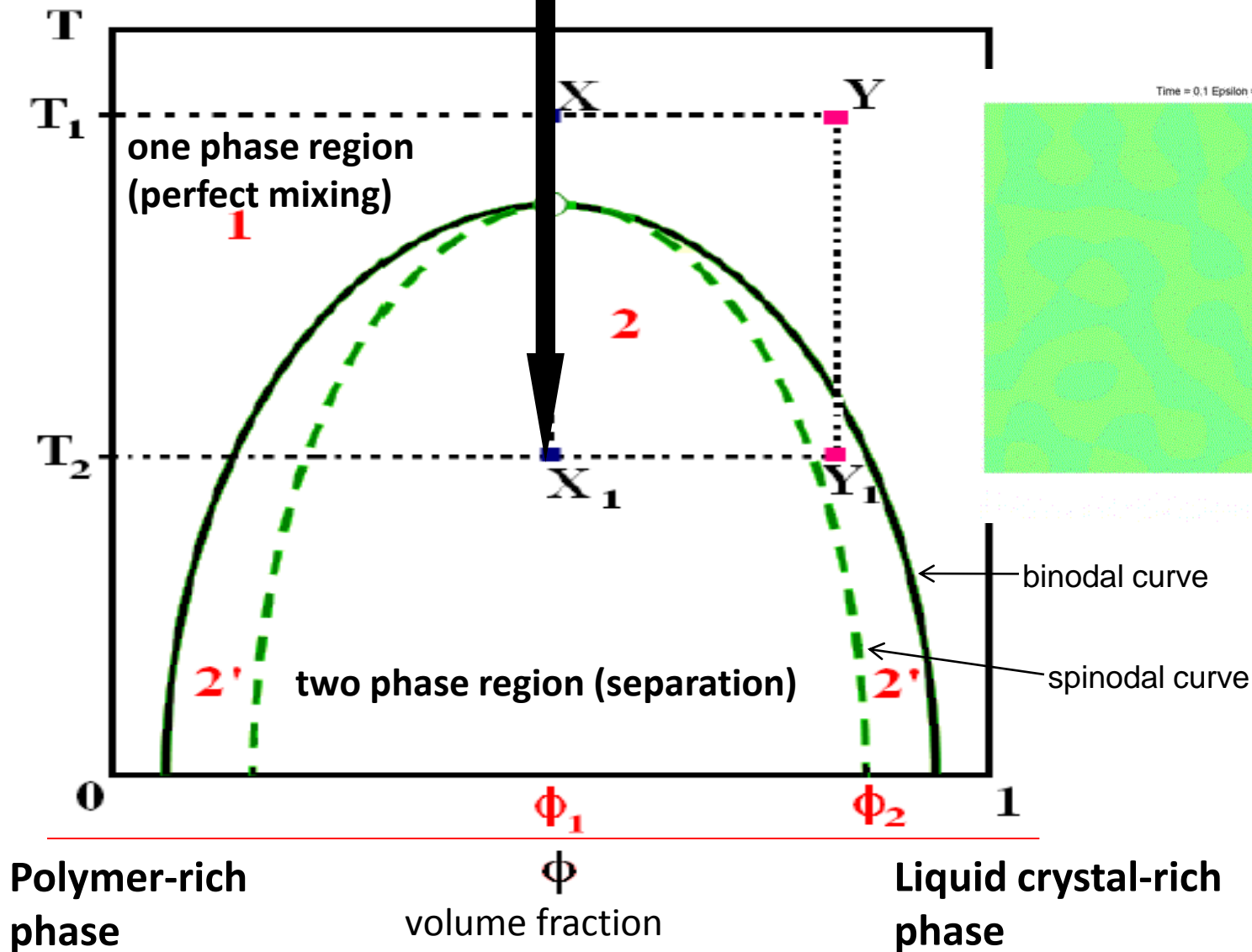


PDLCs were invented at Kent State University in 1983.

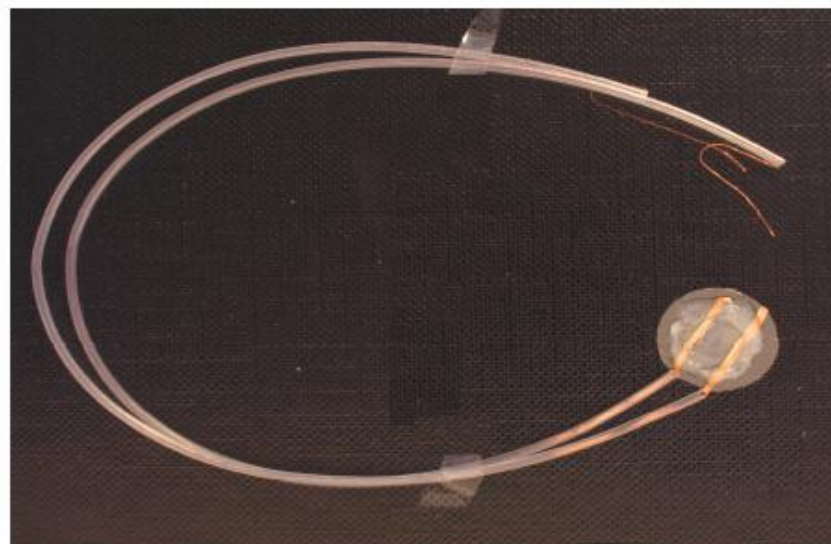
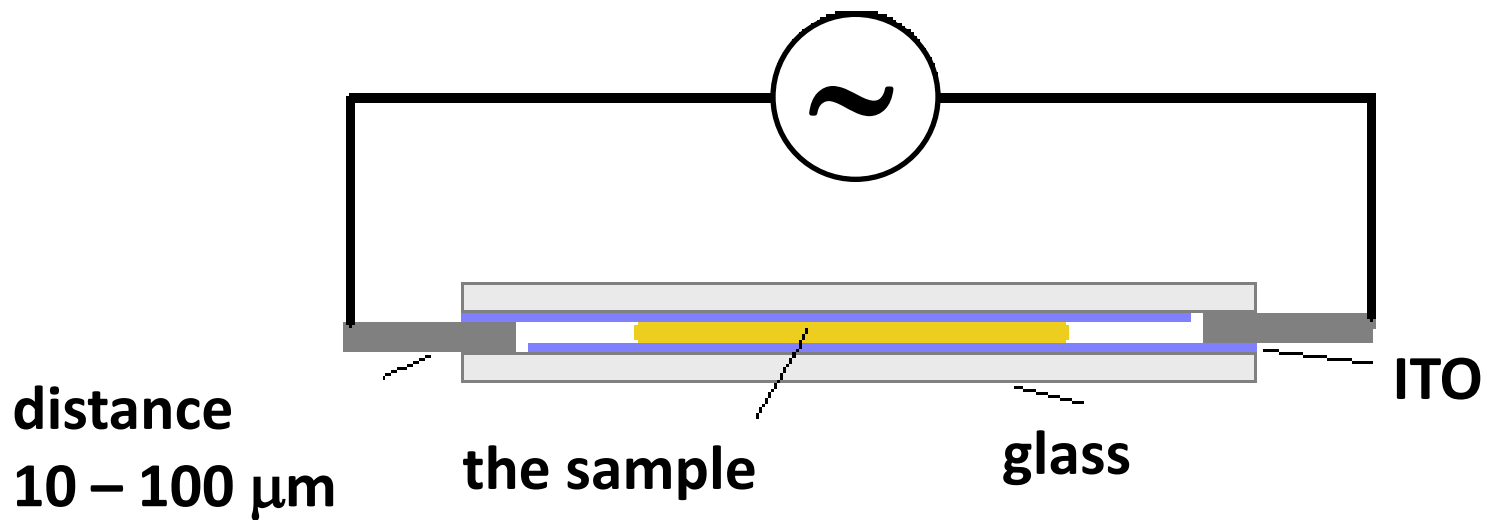


# phase separation in polymer & liquid crystal blend

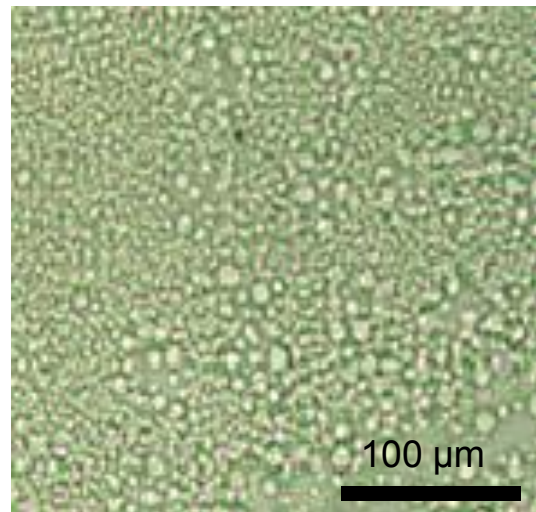
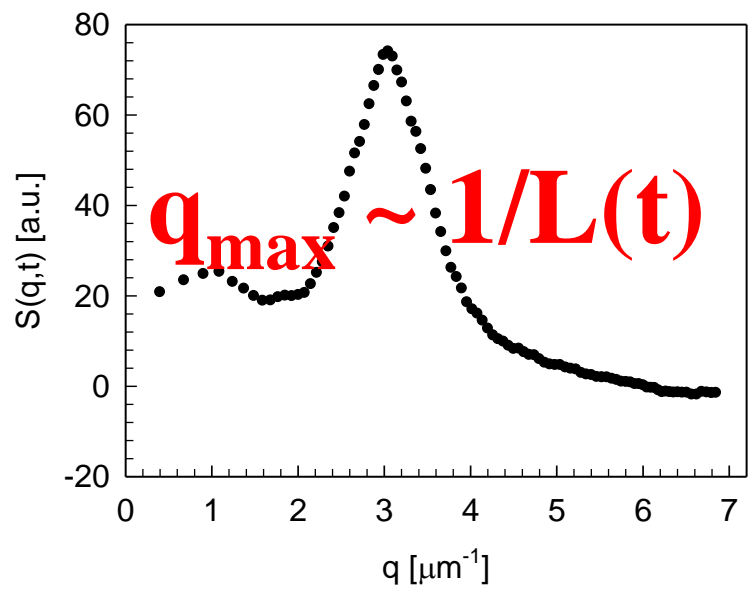
quench



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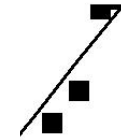
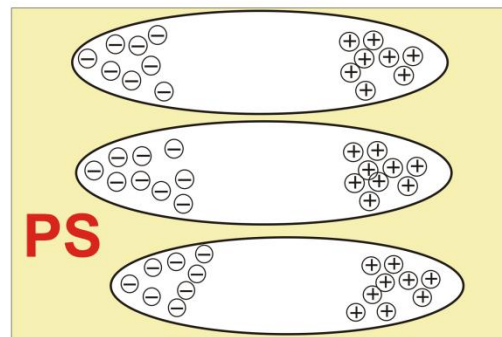
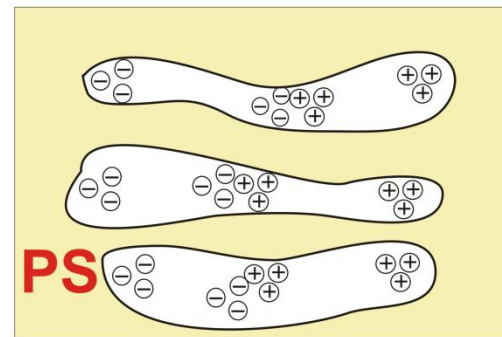
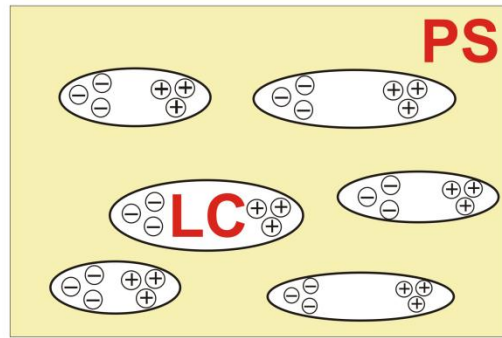
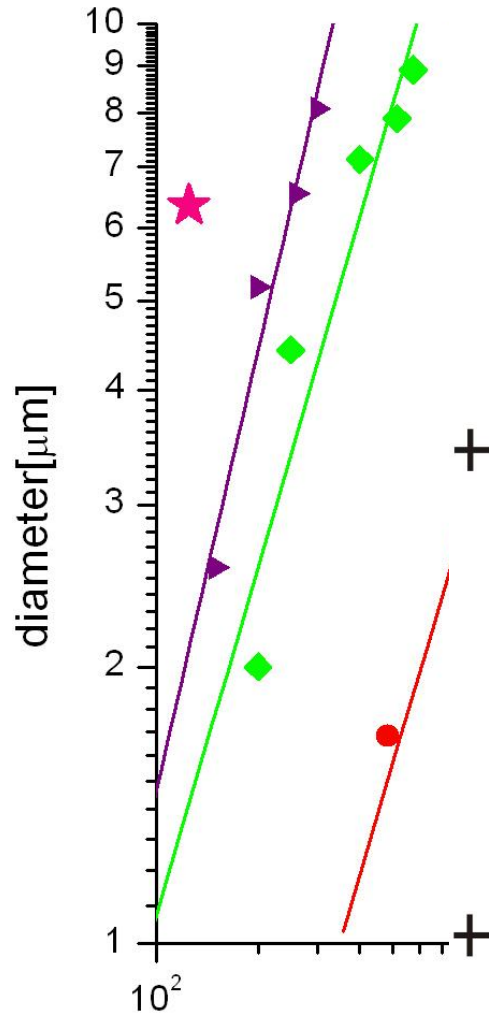


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# phase separation

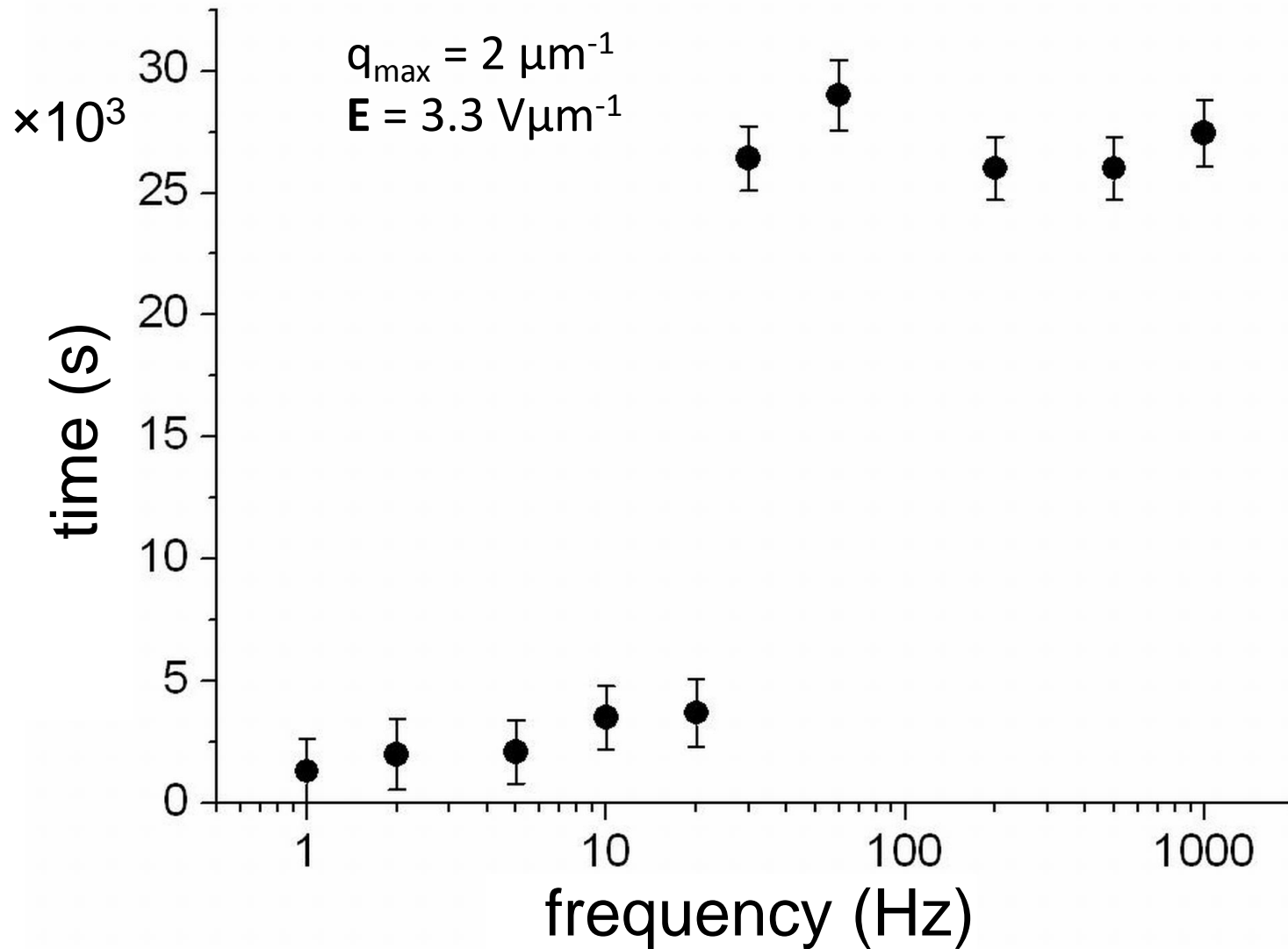


- 0V/μm 2Hz
- 1V/μm 2Hz
- ◆ 2V/μm 2Hz
- ▲ 3V/μm 2Hz
- ★ 5V/μm 2Hz



10<sup>5</sup>

# phase separation – influence of frequency



- **dynamic separation of charge in LC**

can we see the motion of ions with an optical microscope?

- **phase separation in a blend of LC and PS**

1000 fold increase of the rate of phase separation

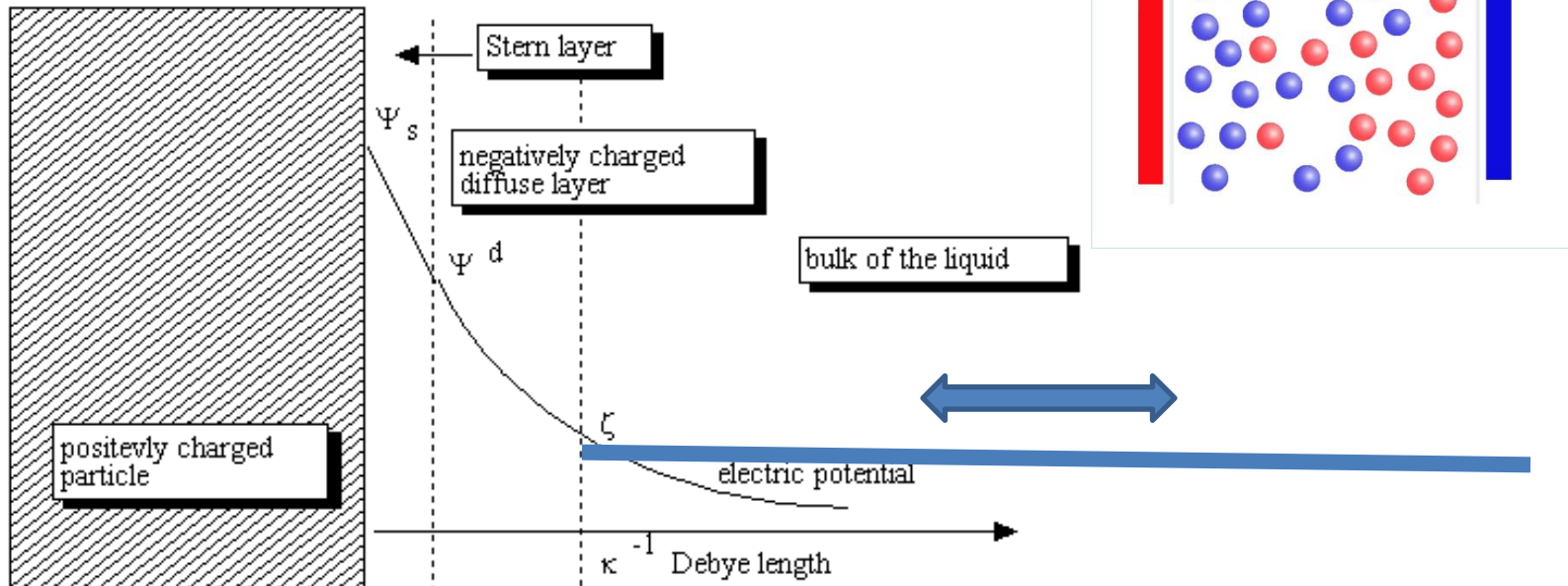
- **electrocoalescence**

ionic contribution to polarization of droplets

- **summary**



# summary



- **dynamic control of the efficiency of screening**
- **separation of charges** at the microscale
- possibility of macroscopic separation *via* other mechanisms
- **uses/applications:**
  - electrocoalescence
  - phase separations
  - electrokinetic transport ?
  - ordering of colloids ?



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# Thank you!

