THE MECHANICS OF OSMOTIC PRESSURE

LABORATORY : Institut Lumière Matière
IN COOPERATION WITH : Institut Lumière Matière (iLM)

LEVEL : M2
TEAM(S) : LIQ@INT

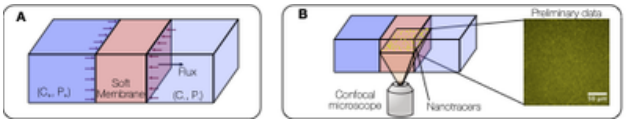
CONTACT(S) : BAIN Nicolas

CONTACT(S) DETAILS: nicolas.bain[at]univ-lyon1.fr /

KEYWORD(S) : osmosis / Soft membranes

SCIENTIFIC CONTEXT :

Is osmotic pressure a mechanical pressure? Osmotic pressure being the driving force of molecular fluxes through semi-permeable membranes, whether they are in our cells or in blue energy power plants, how it deforms a membrane is a fundamental yet unanswered question [1, 2].



Project overview. You can find a better version on my website

MISSIONS :

The aim of this project is to elucidate the mechanical nature of osmotic pressure. To this end, we will experimentally measure the deformations of a soft semi-permeable membrane under an osmotic flux (Fig. 1A). Based on preliminary results, we will engineer hydrogel semi-permeable membranes seeded with nanotracers in microfluidic chips, and quantify material displacements with confocal imaging techniques [3] (Fig. 1B). Beyond bringing fundamental insight into soft membranes, we expect this project will have far-reaching implications in the fields of biophysics and polymer physics.

You will be using state of the art imaging and numerical analysis tools, and the expected results are likely to be published in a peer-reviewed international journal.

OUTLOOKS :

The opportunity to continue as a Ph.D. student can be considered

BIBLIOGRAPHY :

[1] G. S. Manning and A. R. Kay. en. 2023.

[2] S. Marbach and L. Bocquet. en. Chemical Society Reviews (2019).

[3] N. Bain et al. arXiv preprint arXiv:2410.09158 (2024).

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