# Cell membranes and cell water diffusion

- Membranes
  - Anisotropic motion
  - Effect on <sup>31</sup>P MRS
- Basics of diffusion MRI
- Water diffusion in cells







# Surfactants and liquid crystals

#### Self-assembly in water solution



# Motion in a lamellar phase

- Rotation, translation, change of conformation
- Fast, but anisotropic!



#### Anisotropic self-diffusion



#### Chemical shift, $\delta$



# Chemical shift anisotropy (CSA)

Shift depends on relative orientation  $B_0$  - molecular frame  $z_1$ 





#### Powder pattern



#### Rotation around molecular axis







## **DNA** and phospholipid



Leal, Sandström, Nevsten, Topgaard, Biochim. Biophys. Acta (2008)

# Water in biological tissues

- Extracellular space
- Cytoplasm
- Vacuoles
- Mitochondria
- ...

Separated by membranes of varying shape and permeability



Nicholson, Rep Prog Phys (2001)  $1 \mu m$  12

#### Self-diffusion



$$\langle Z^2 \rangle = 2Dt_{\rm d}$$

mean-square displacement,  $\langle Z^2 \rangle$ diffusion coefficient, D diffusion time,  $t_{\rm d}$ 13

SIMON 10, Topgaard

#### Free and restricted diffusion



# Magnetic field gradient, G



# Spin evolution in a gradient



# **Diffusion NMR/MRI**



#### D from exponential fit



Diffusion weighting (DW)

$$b = (\gamma G \delta)^2 (\Delta - \delta/3)$$
  
varied

$$E = e^{-bD}$$

MR signal, E

#### Two components



#### Baker's yeast



# Simple cell system



# Time scales $t_d$ and $\delta$



# Intracellular diffusion, $D_0$



model fit => R,  $D_0$ 

# The intracellular labyrinth



SIMON 10, Topgaard

http://bugs.bio.usyd.edu.au  $\oint 2R \approx 5 \ \mu m$ 

www.brio.se

 $D_0$  – infinite labyrinth

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# **Activation energies**



Åslund, Topgaard. J. Magn. Reson. 201 (2009) SIMON 10, Topgaard

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