



# On the thermodynamics of lipid mixtures on curved substrates

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Hydrodynamics at All Length Scales: From High-Energy to Hard and Soft Matter  
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Universiteit Leiden



# Self-assembled lipid membranes

Hydrophobic tail



Hydrophilic head

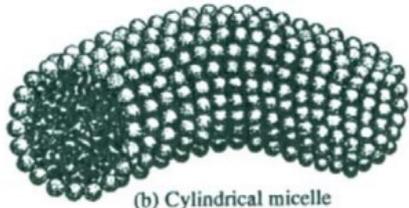
## Structural DOFs



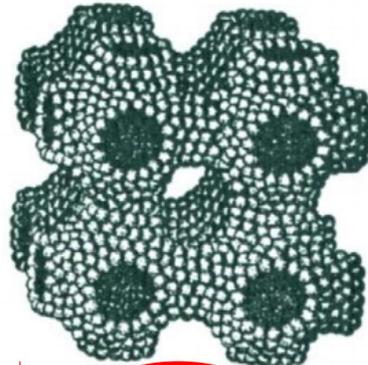
(a) Spherical micelle



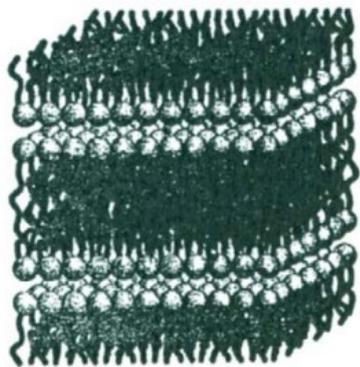
(d) Reversed micelle



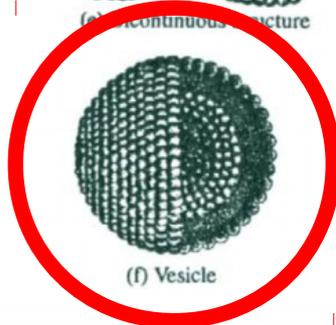
(b) Cylindrical micelle



(e) Discontinuous structure

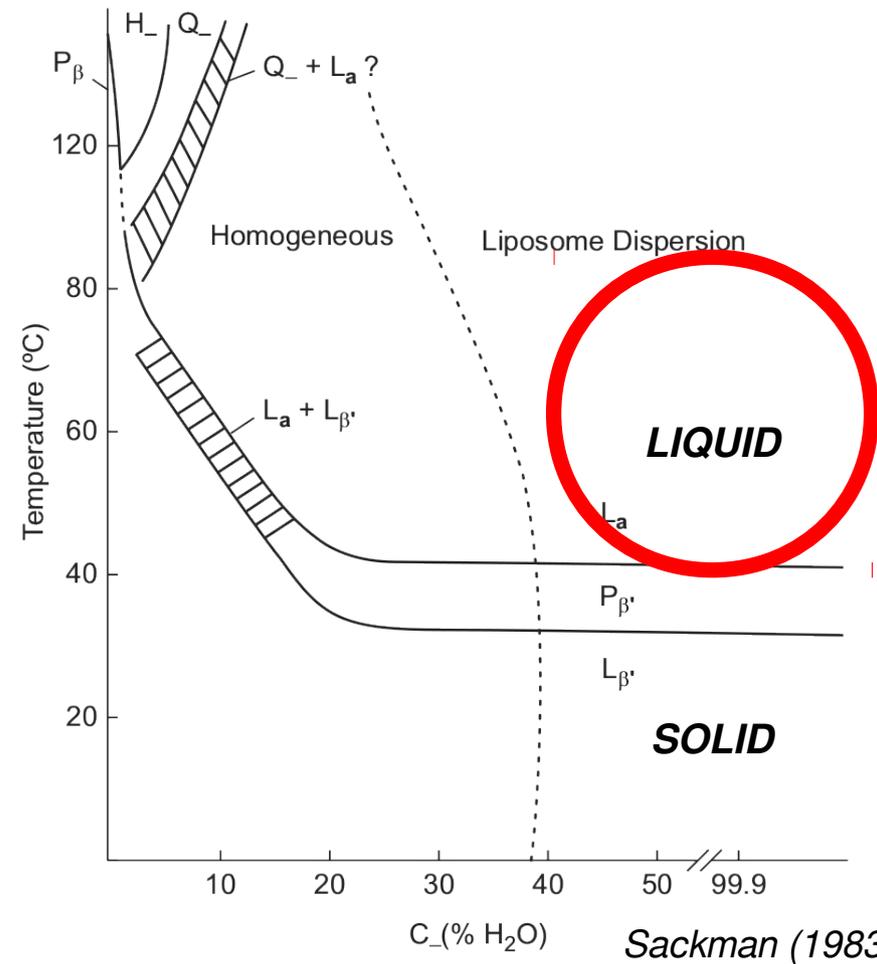


(c) Lamellar phase



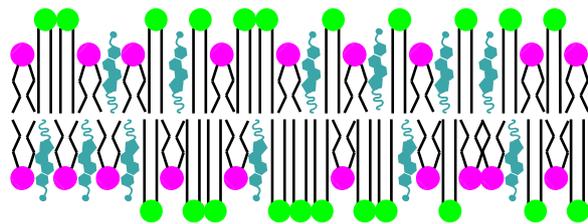
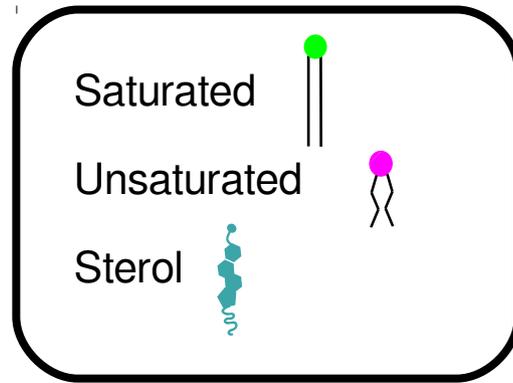
(f) Vesicle

## Thermodynamical DOFs



# Multicomponent artificial lipid membranes

## Ternary mixtures on a vesicle



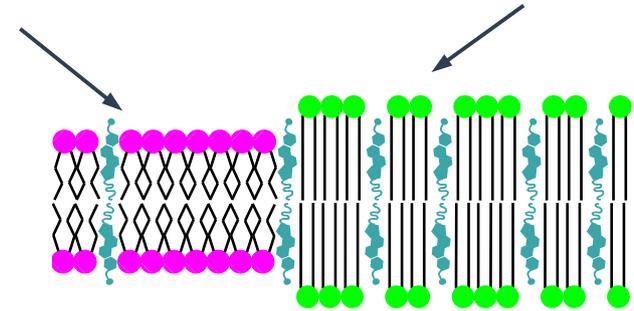
Single 2D liquid  
(mixed)



changing  
 $T, \phi_i, \dots$

Liquid disordered  
phase (LD or  $L_{\alpha}$ ):  
“liquid heads”  
“disordered tails”

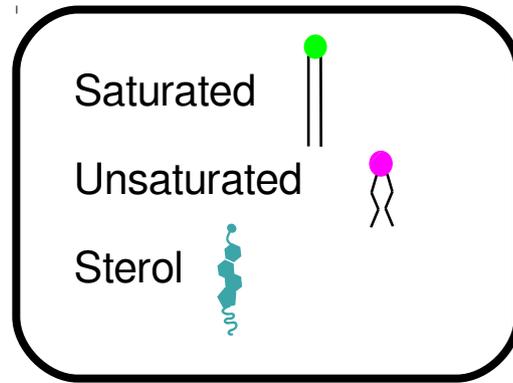
Liquid ordered  
phase (LO or  $L_{\beta}$ )  
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“ordered tails”



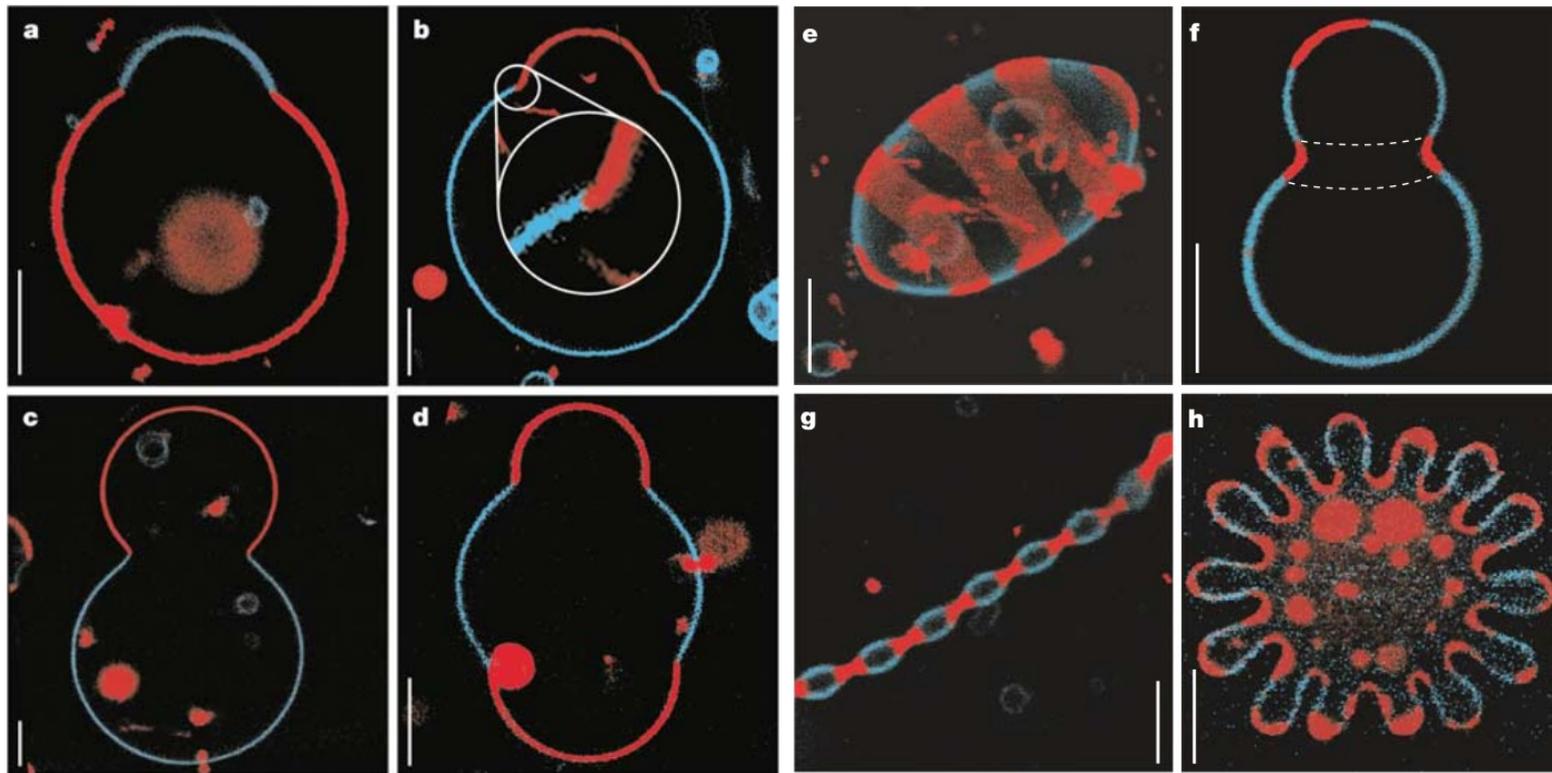
2D Liquid/Liquid coexistence  
(phase separated)

# Multicomponent artificial lipid membranes

**Ternary** mixtures  
on a vesicle



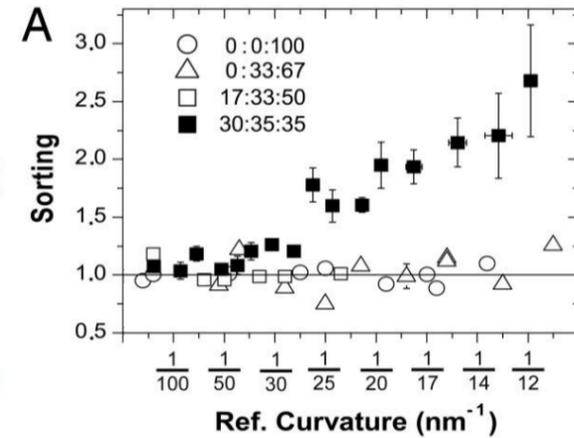
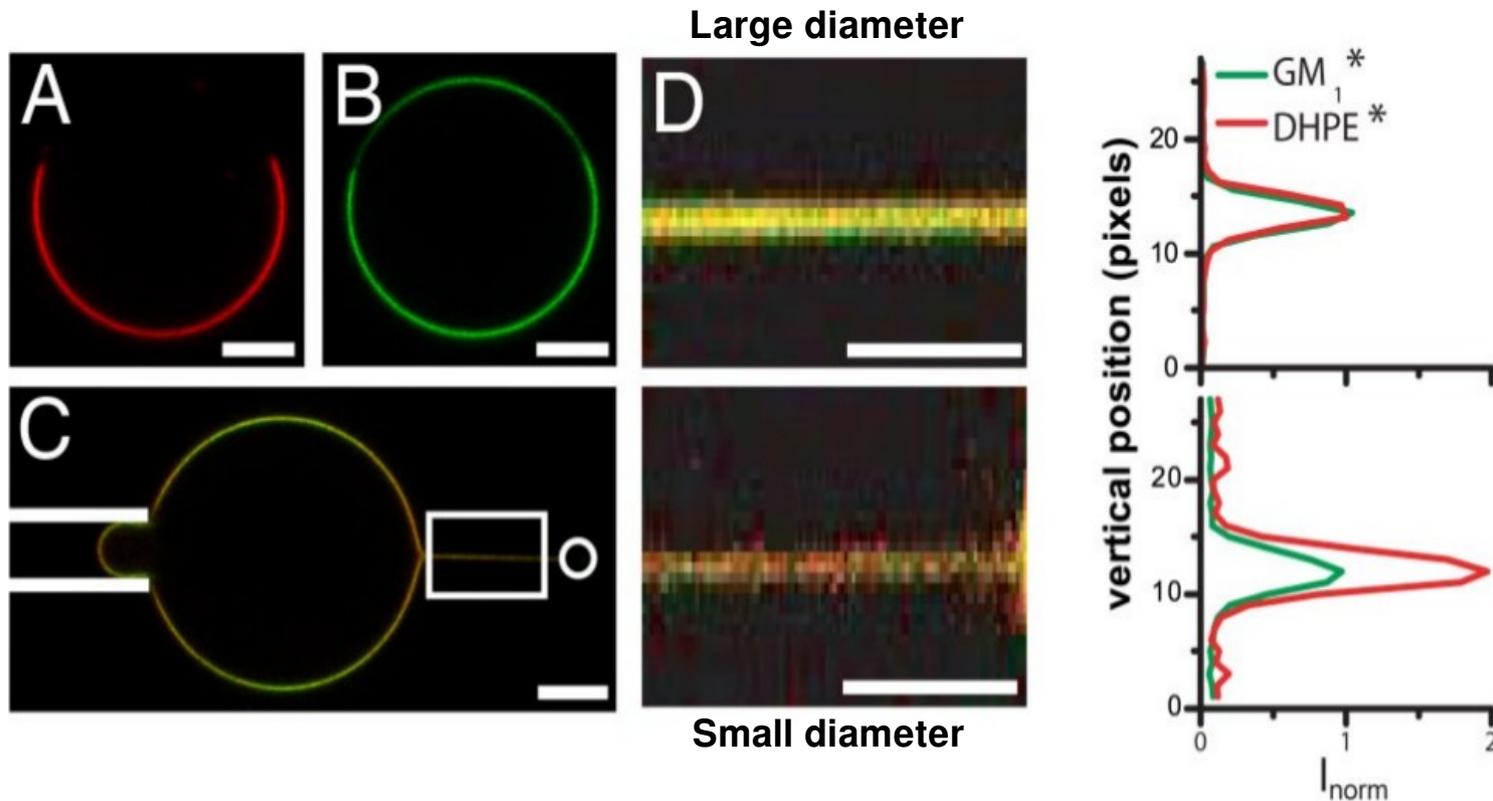
**2D Liquid/Liquid phase coexistence on a curved surface**



Baumgart, Das, Webb (Nature, 2003)

# Shape effects on mixed states

Pulling out a tube from a spherical vesicle:



**Curvature-driven lipid sorting needs proximity to a demixing point and is aided by proteins**

Benoit Sorre<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Andrew Callan-Jones<sup>a,1</sup>, Jean-Baptiste Manneville<sup>b</sup>, Pierre Nassoy<sup>a</sup>, Jean-François Joanny<sup>a</sup>, Jacques Prost<sup>a,c</sup>, Bruno Goud<sup>b</sup>, and Patricia Bassereau<sup>a,2</sup>

Sorre et al. (PNAS, 2009)

# Degrees of freedom

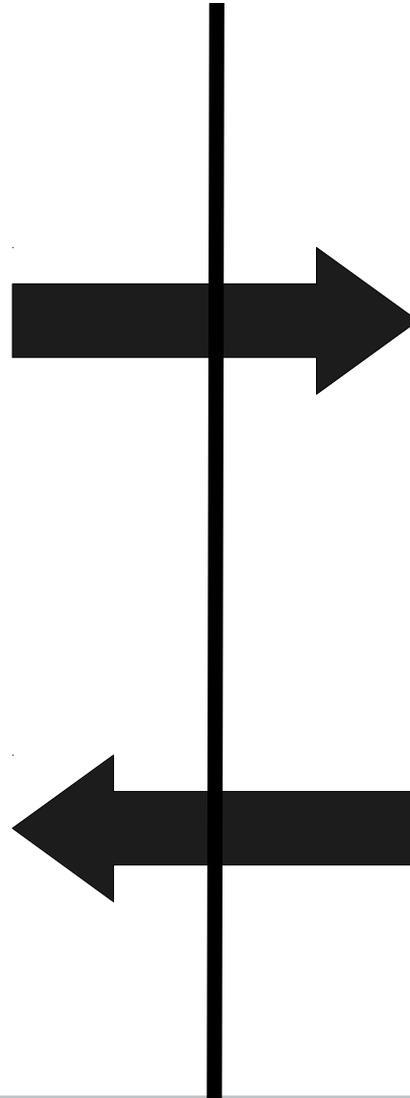
Two *liquid* phases with different *mechanical* properties

## Geometry

*Shape*  
*Area & volume*  
*Membrane topology*

## Thermodynamics *(at equilibrium)*

*Local composition*  
*Domain size, shape & number*  
*Interface topology*



# Degrees of freedom

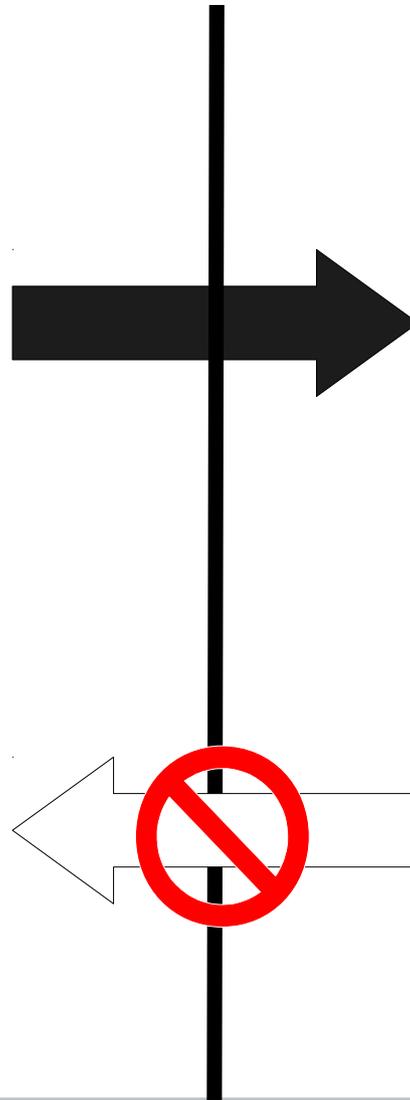
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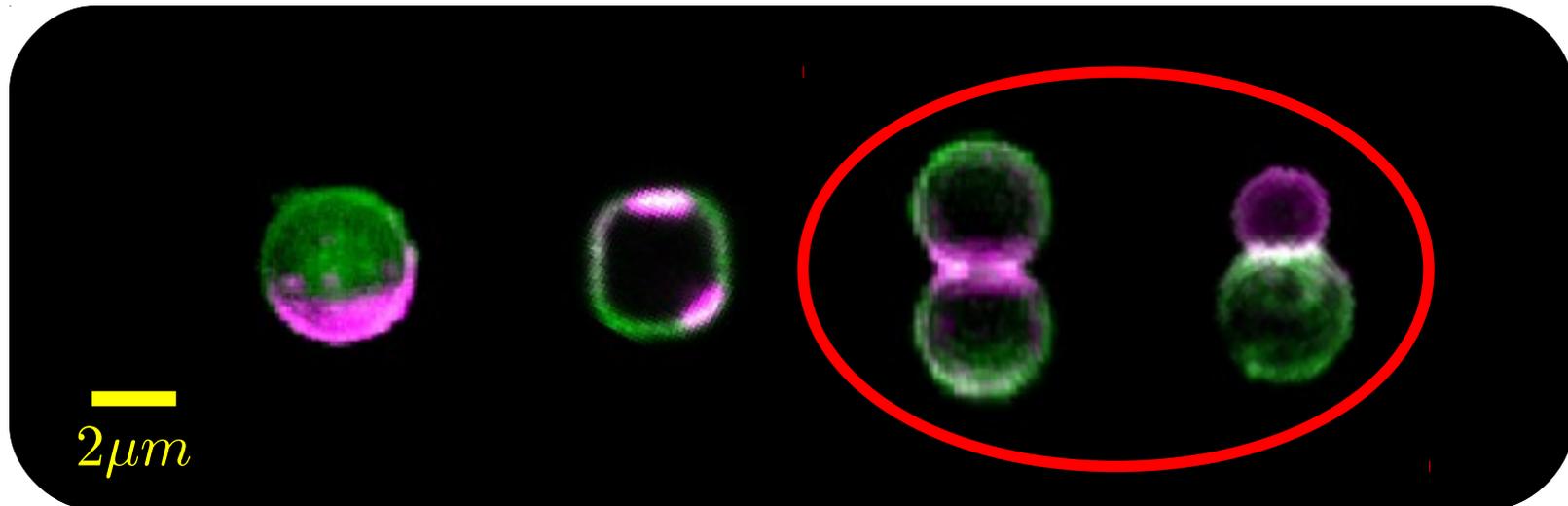
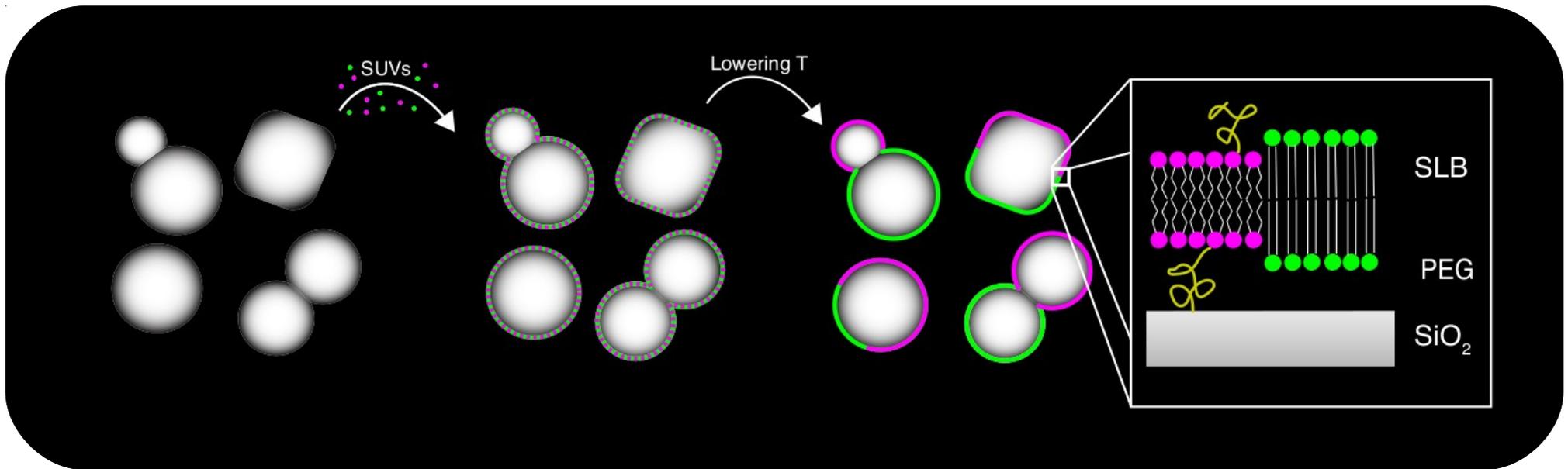
*Shape*  
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## Thermodynamics *(at equilibrium)*

*Local composition*  
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# Scaffolded Lipid Vesicles (SLVs)

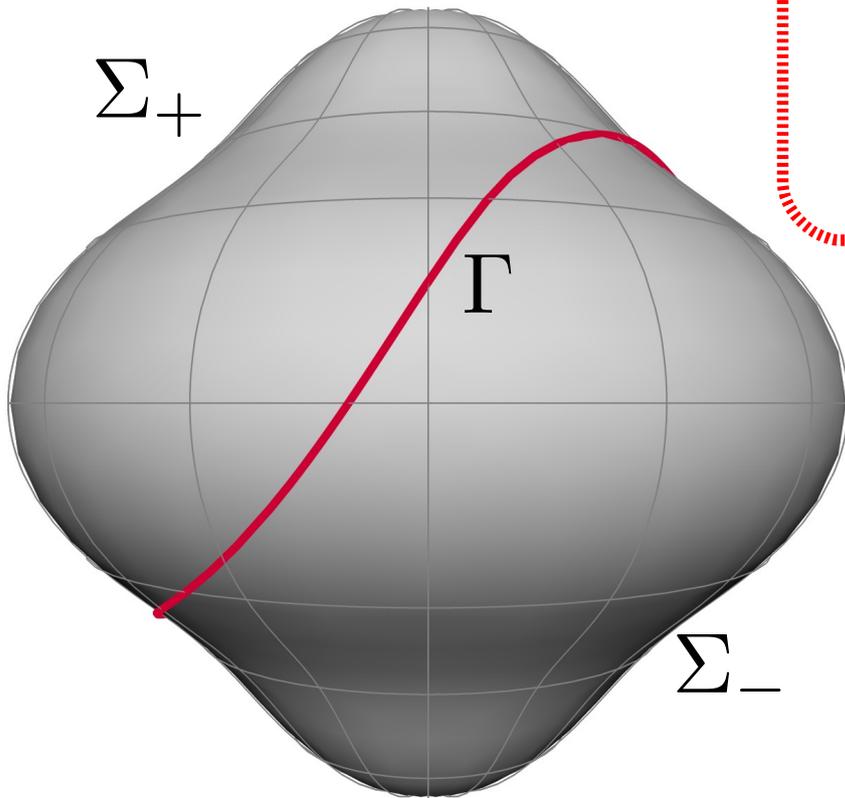


Rinaldin, P.F., Kraft, Giomi (arXiv 1804.08596, under review)

# The JL sharp interface model

$$F = \sigma \int_{\Gamma} ds + \sum_{\alpha=\pm} k_{\alpha} \int_{\Sigma_{\alpha}} dAH^2 + \bar{k}_{\alpha} \int_{\Sigma_{\alpha}} dAK$$

Jülicher, Lipowsky (PRL, 1993)



$k_{\pm}$  bending moduli

$\bar{k}_{\pm}$  saddle splay moduli

$\sigma$  line tension

Area( $\Sigma_{\pm}$ ) fixed

$\lambda_{\pm}$  Lagrange multipliers

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} \right) \text{ Mean curvature}$$

$$K = \frac{1}{R_1 R_2} \text{ Gaussian curvature}$$

# Shape equations

2D Bulk:

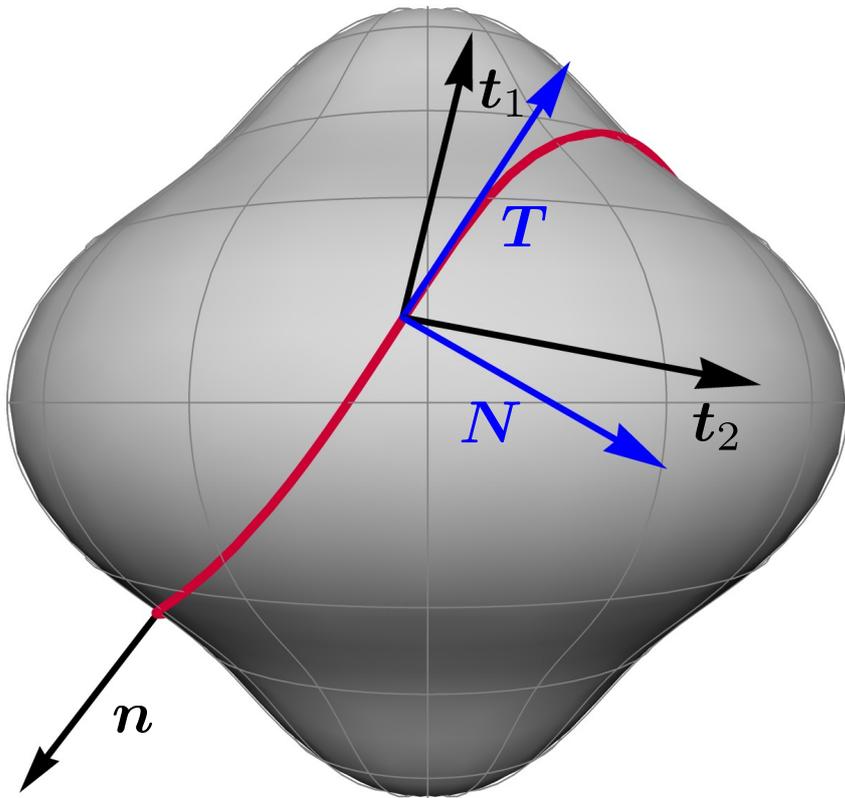
$$\lambda_{\pm} H = k_{\pm} (\nabla^2 H + 2H(H^2 - K))$$

1D Interface:

$$\sigma \kappa_n = \Delta \bar{k} \dot{\tau}_g + \Delta k_{\alpha} \nabla_N H$$

$$\sigma \kappa_g = \Delta k H^2 + \Delta \bar{k} K + \Delta \lambda$$

$$0 = 2\Delta k H + \Delta \bar{k} \kappa_n$$



# Shape equations

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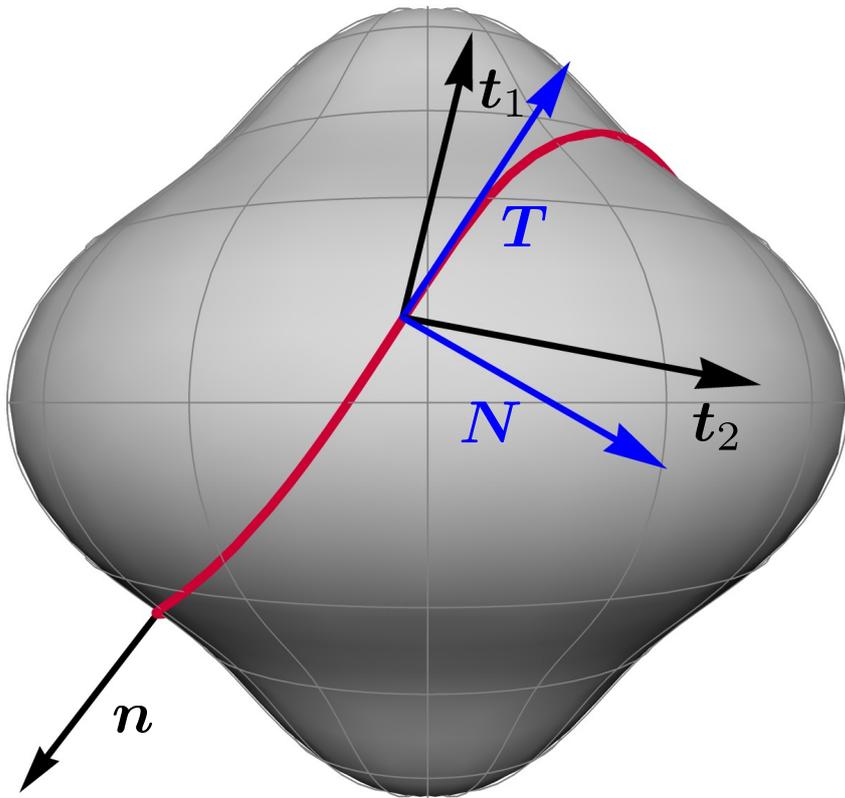
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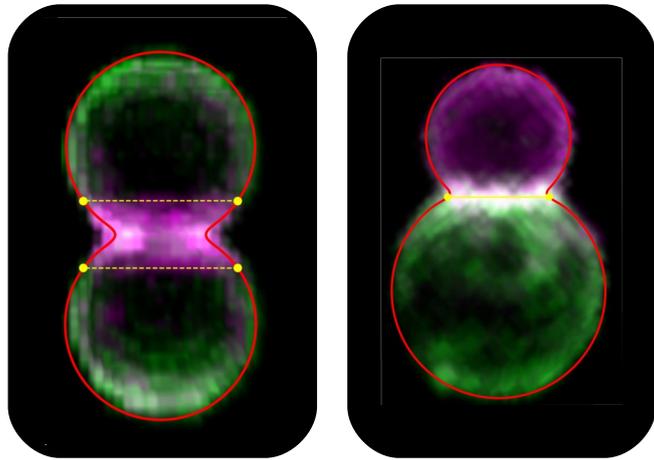
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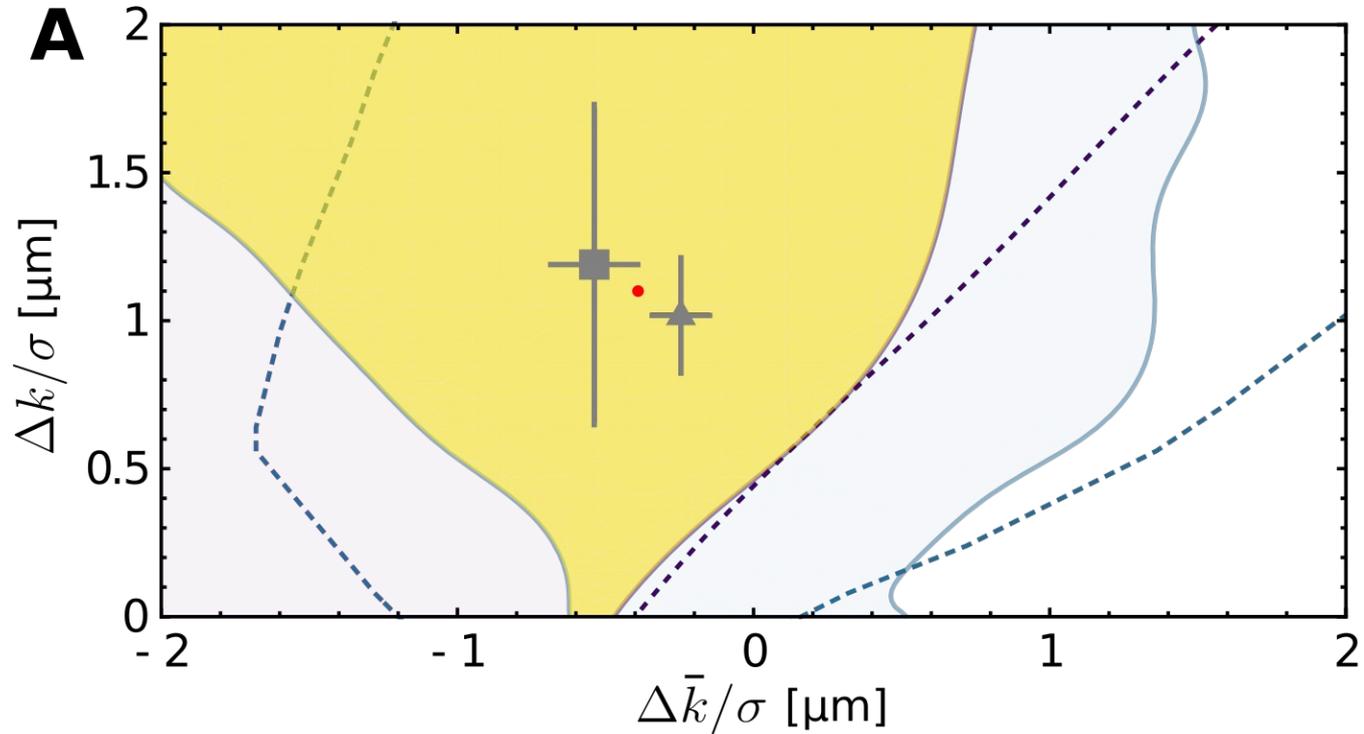
# The JL sharp interface model

The JL energy is *geometric*, and as such can be studied with tools from surface theory (see *PF et al. Phys. Rev. E* **98**, 032801).



The model has **two**  
Independent parameters:

$$\frac{\Delta k}{\sigma} \quad \frac{\Delta \bar{k}}{\sigma}$$

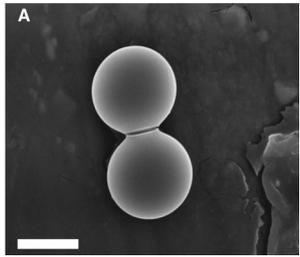


—+— Baumgart, Das, Webb, Jenkins (*Biophysical Journal*, 2005)

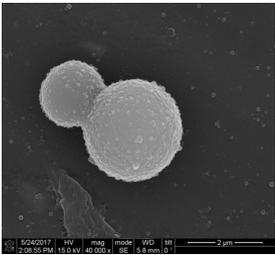
+ Semrau, Schmidt (*Soft Matter*, 2009)

**Agreement with results from free vesicles**

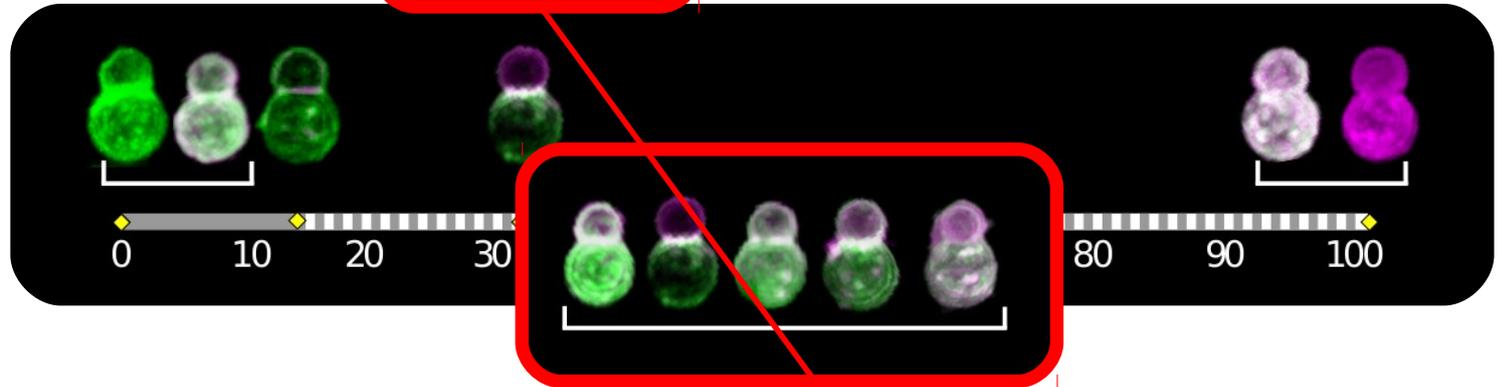
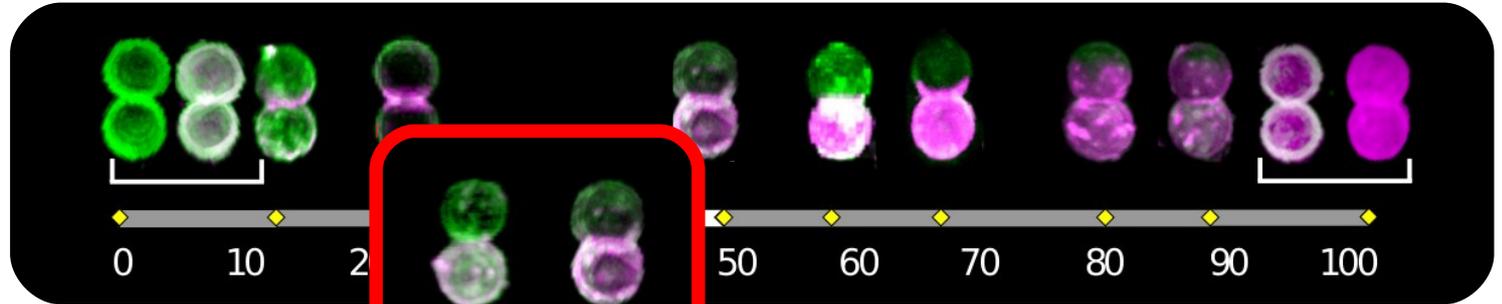
# Area fraction diagrams



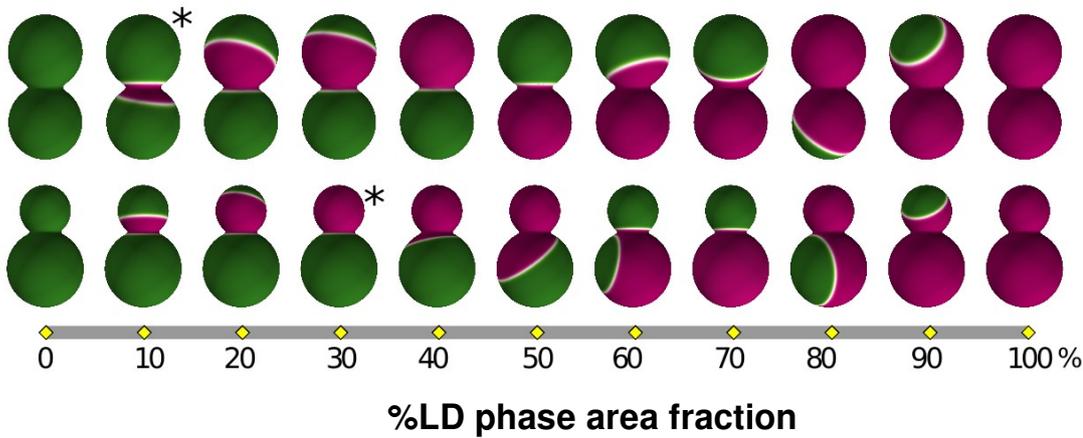
Dumbbell



Snowman



From JL model we get:



Is this phase separation?

Why something like



is **never** observed?

# Constructing a model

Effective free energy density with a *single* scalar order parameter (binary system)

$$F = \int_{\Sigma} dA \mathcal{F}(\phi, \nabla_i \phi, \Sigma)$$

Gradients and curvatures are small compared to microscopical scales

$$\mathcal{F} \simeq \frac{D(\phi)}{2} \nabla_i \phi \nabla^i \phi + f(\phi) + k(\phi) H^2 + \bar{k}(\phi) K + \dots$$

**Fixed** concentration

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{A_{\Sigma}} \int_{\Sigma} dA \phi(x)$$

$$G = F - \mu \Phi$$

$D(\phi)$  compressibility

$f(\phi)$  homogeneous free energy density

$k(\phi)$  bending modulus

$\bar{k}(\phi)$  saddle splay modulus

It has long history:

*Markin (1981)*

*Leibler (1986)*

*Leibler, Andelman (1986)*

⋮

**However:** the vast majority of literature focuses on local behavior and open systems

What is a *reasonable* choice of these coefficients?  
How does this choice affect the phase diagram?

# A simple model

We still need a way to choose the concentration (and temperature!) dependence of the coefficients. A *seemingly natural* starting point: **mean field approximation** of a **2D lattice-gas model** with curvature-dependent NN interactions:

$$\mathcal{H} = -\frac{1}{4} \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} J_i s_i s_j + \sum_i h_i s_i$$

$$J_i = a^2 \left( J + L_\kappa H_{(i)}^2 + L_{\bar{\kappa}} K_{(i)} \right)$$

$$h_i = a^2 \left( M_\kappa H_{(i)}^2 + M_{\bar{\kappa}} K_{(i)} \right)$$

After evaluation of Z and in the continuum limit:

$$f(\phi) = -k_B T \mathcal{S}(\phi) + J\phi(1 - \phi)$$

$$\kappa(\phi) = L_\kappa \phi(1 - \phi) + M_\kappa \phi$$

$$\bar{\kappa}(\phi) = L_{\bar{\kappa}} \phi(1 - \phi) + M_{\bar{\kappa}} \phi$$

Local mixing entropy

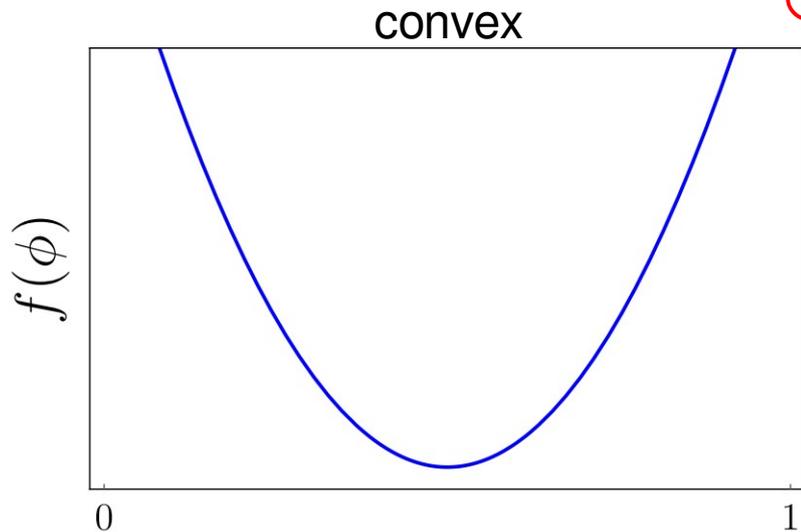
$$\mathcal{S}(\phi) = -\phi \ln \phi - (1 - \phi) \ln(1 - \phi)$$

4 new coupling constants which reduce to 2 for spheres:  
**now we can compute phase diagrams**

# Classical homogeneous phase separation

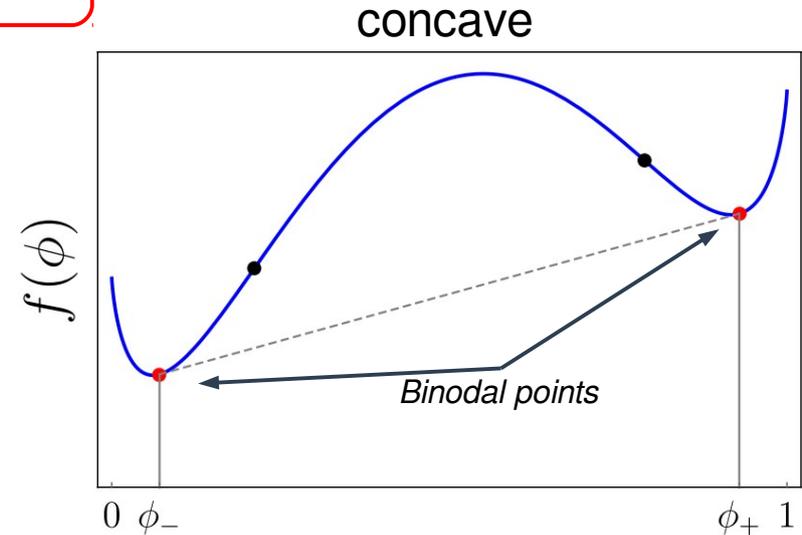
To understand bulk phases (far from interfaces), we **neglect gradients** for now. Thermodynamic equilibrium is given by minima of the free energy density:

$$f'(\phi) = \mu$$



$$\phi(x) = \Phi$$

The local order parameter is a constant everywhere  
**Mixed** phase always stable



$$\phi(x) = \begin{cases} \phi_+, & x \in \Sigma_+ \\ \phi_-, & x \in \Sigma_- \end{cases}$$

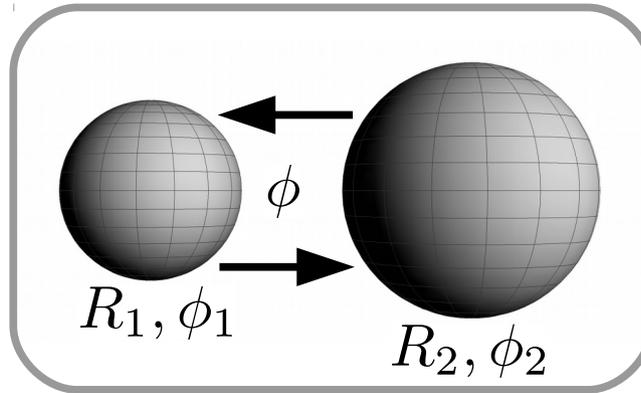
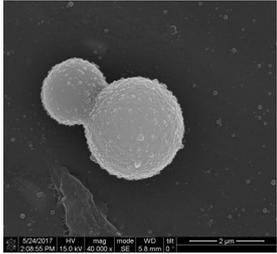
$$f'(\phi_{\pm}) = \frac{f(\phi_+) - f(\phi_-)}{\phi_+ - \phi_-}$$

Maxwell construction

**Demixed** phase for

$$\phi_- < \Phi < \phi_+$$

# Minimal inhomogeneous systems: two spheres



A *crude* approximation: two spheres isolated from the environment but freely exchanging order parameter with each other

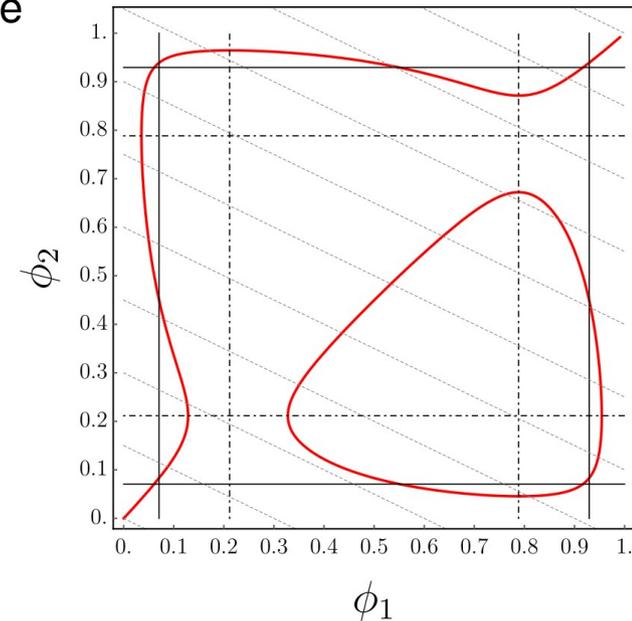
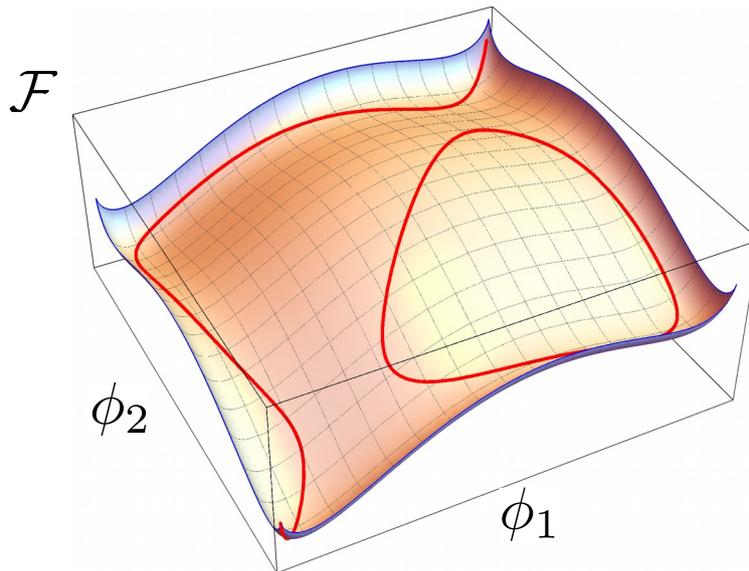
Equilibrium:

$$f'(\phi_1) + \frac{k'(\phi_1)}{R_1^2} = \mu = f'(\phi_2) + \frac{k'(\phi_2)}{R_2^2}$$

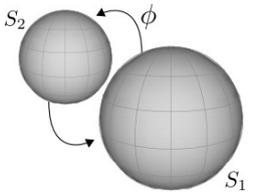
Total concentration constraint

$$\frac{R_1^2}{R_1^2 + R_2^2} \phi_1 + \frac{R_2^2}{R_1^2 + R_2^2} \phi_2 = \Phi$$

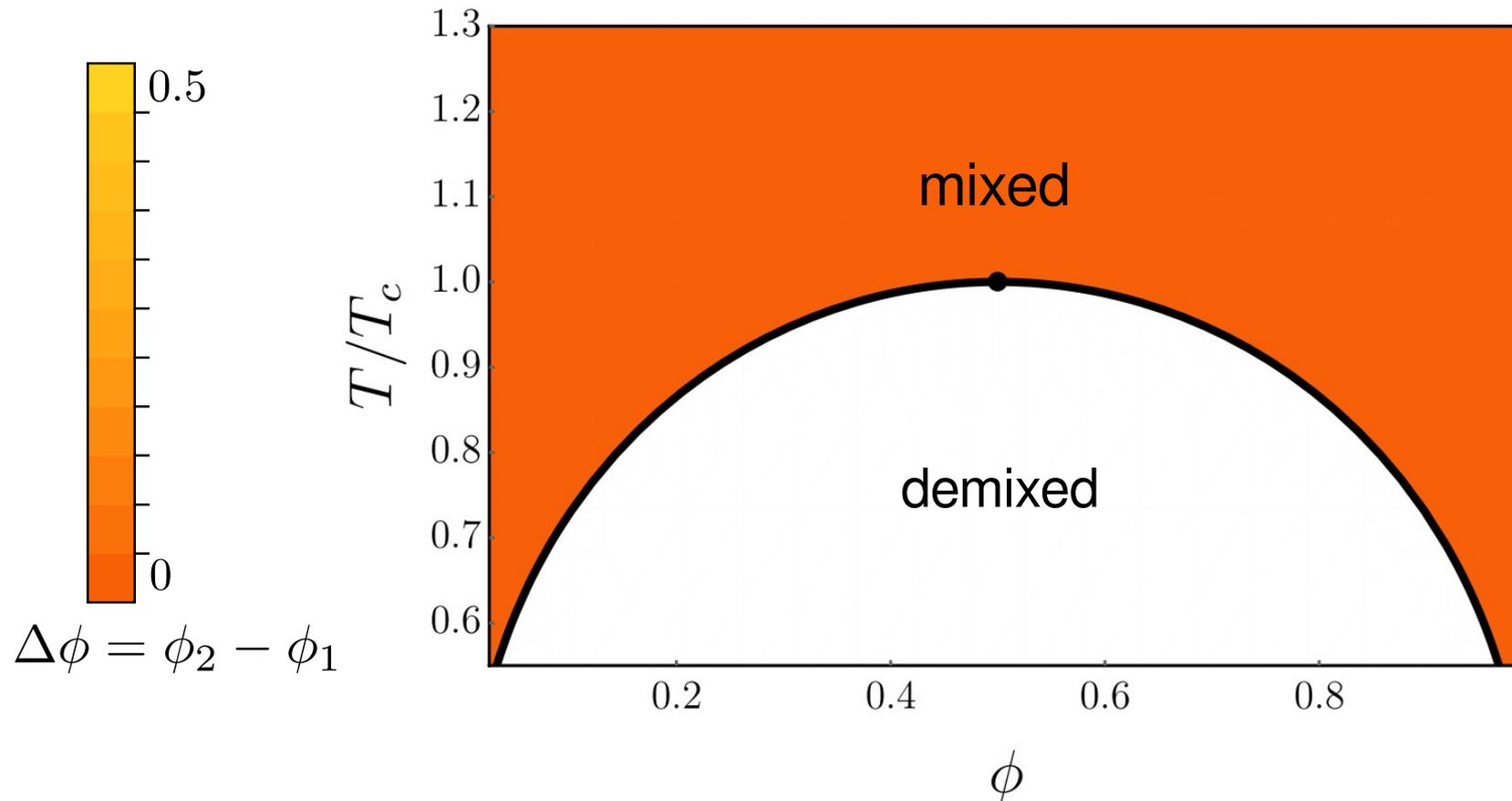
With concave potentials, **check stability against demixing** on each sphere



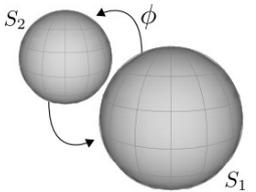
# Inhomogeneous thermodynamic potentials

The phase diagram of  for  $M_\kappa = 0$

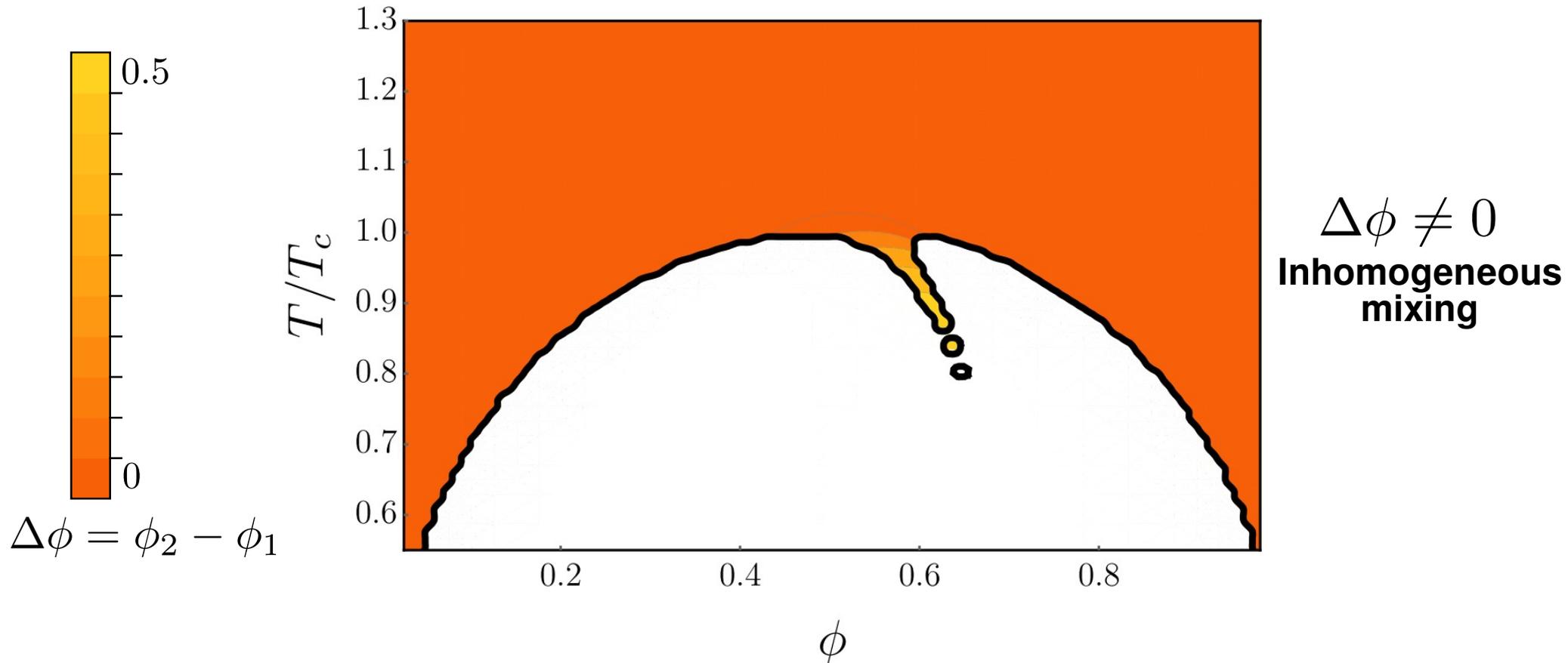
$$\mathcal{F} = f(\phi) + M_k \phi \frac{1}{R^2}$$



# Inhomogeneous thermodynamic potentials

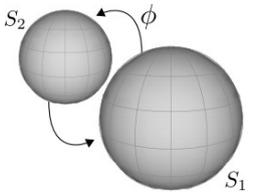
The phase diagram of  for\*  $M_{\kappa} \sim O(0.01)$

$$\mathcal{F} = f(\phi) + M_k \phi \frac{1}{R^2}$$

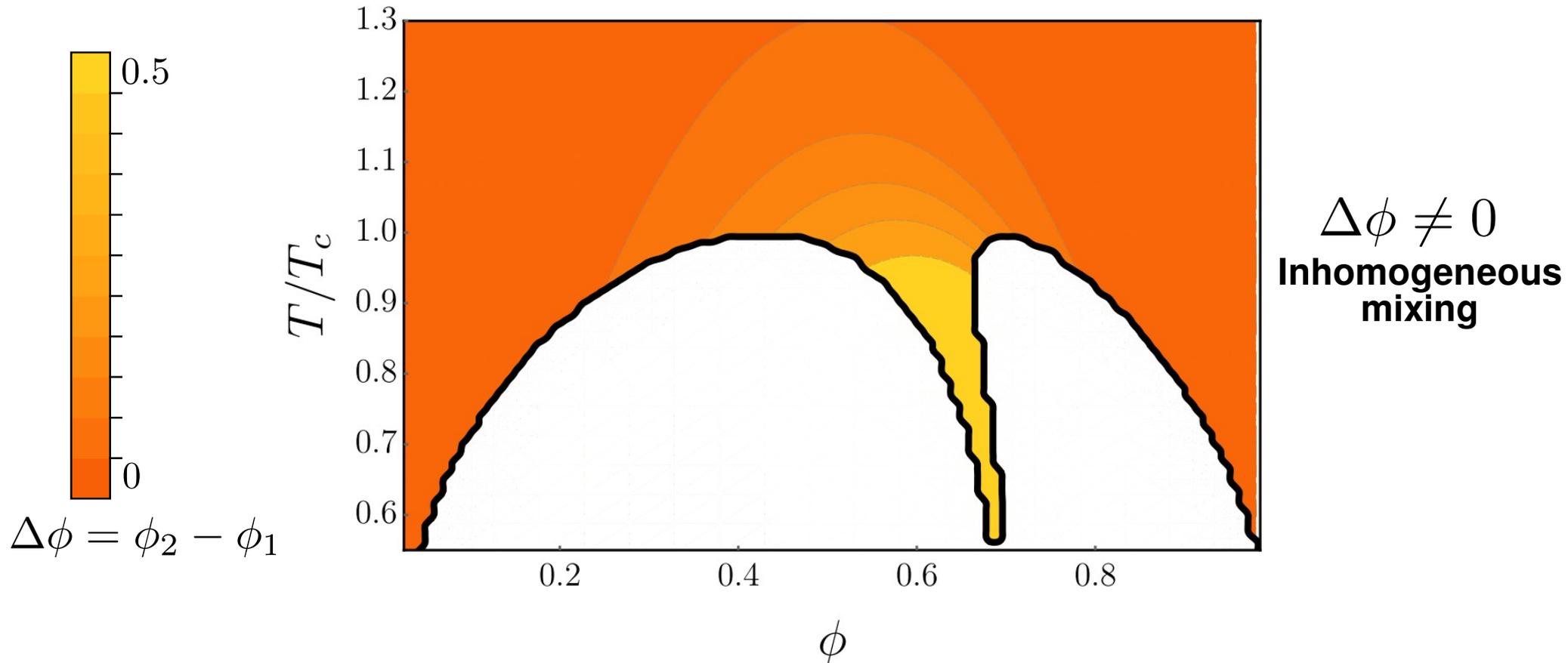


\*in units where  $f \sim O(1)$ ,  $R_1 = 1$

# Inhomogeneous thermodynamic potentials

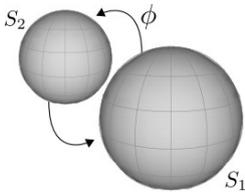
The phase diagram of  for\*  $M_\kappa \sim O(0.1)$

$$\mathcal{F} = f(\phi) + M_k \phi \frac{1}{R^2}$$

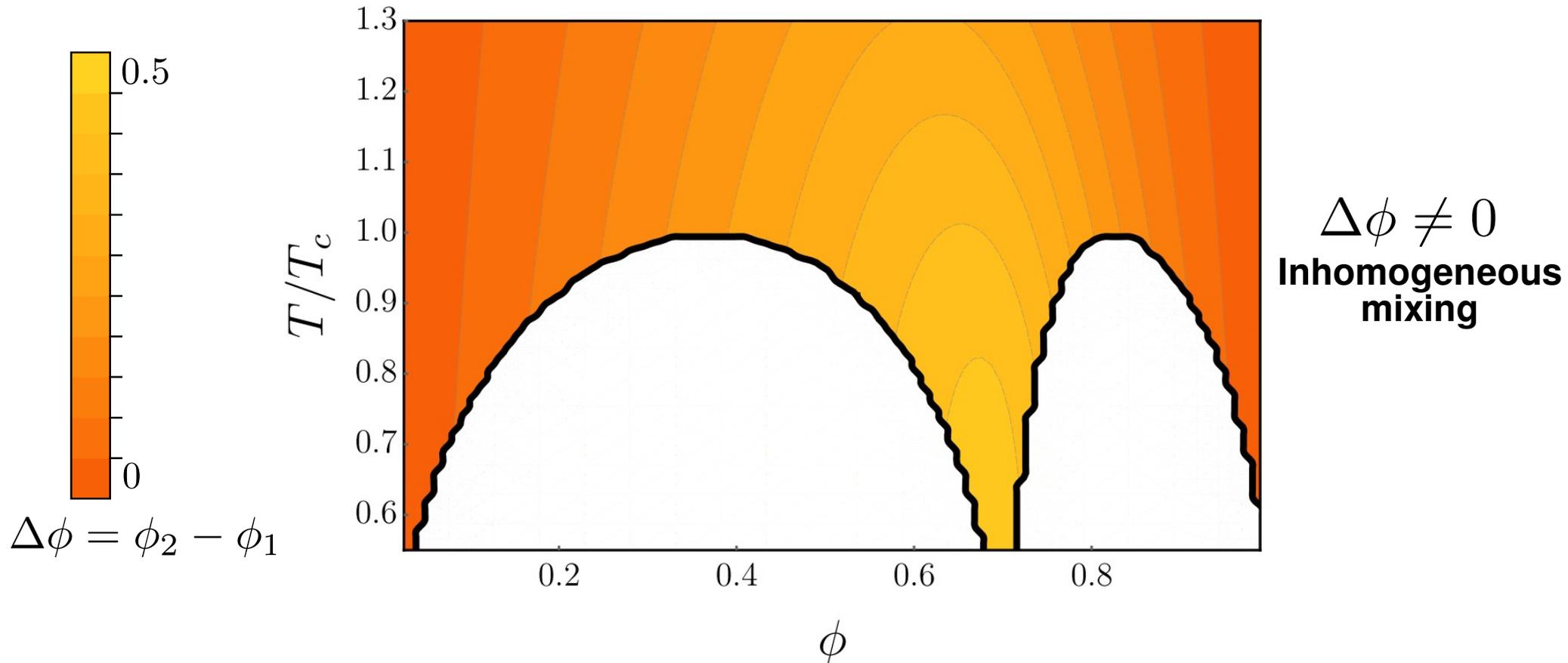


\*in units where  $f \sim O(1)$ ,  $R_1 = 1$

# Inhomogeneous thermodynamic potentials

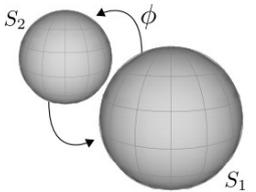
The phase diagram of  for\*  $M_{\kappa} \sim O(1)$

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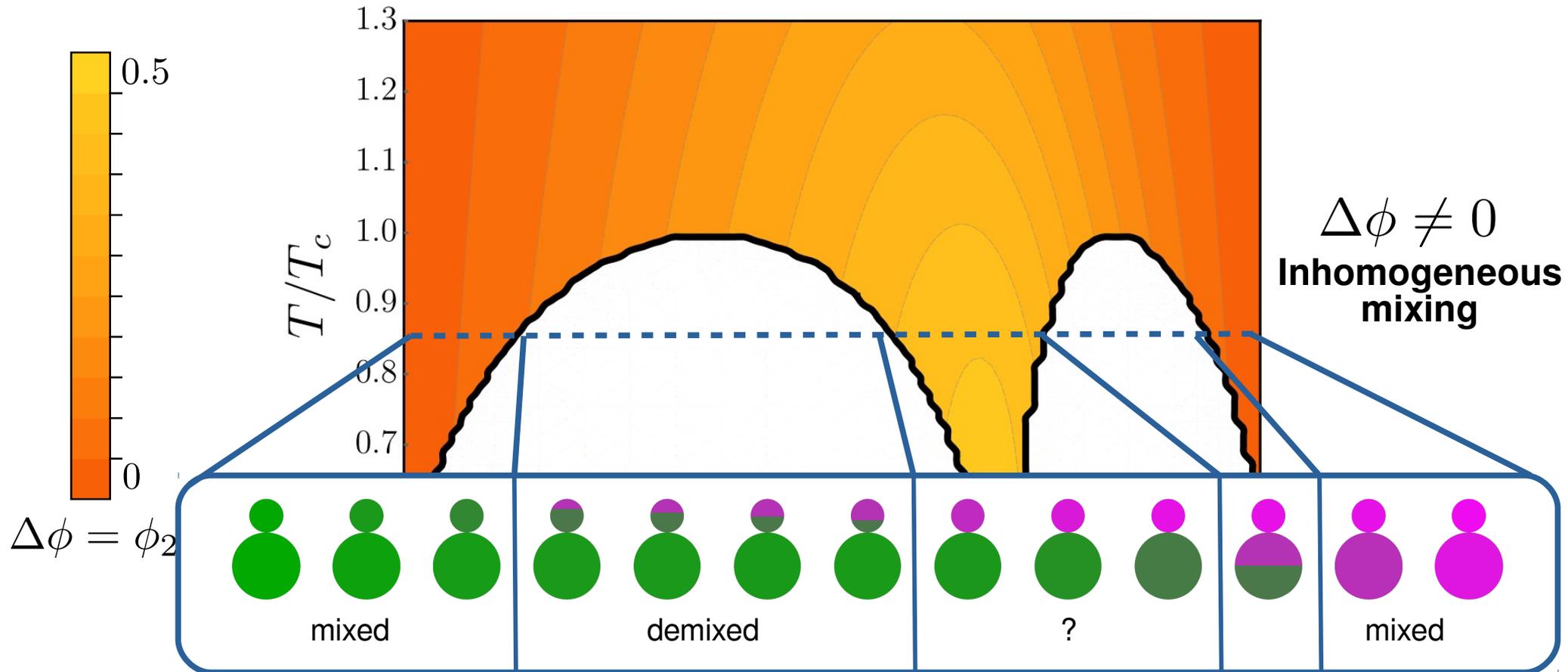


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# Inhomogeneous thermodynamic potentials

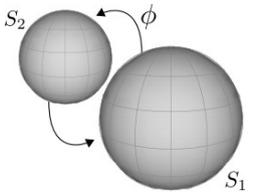
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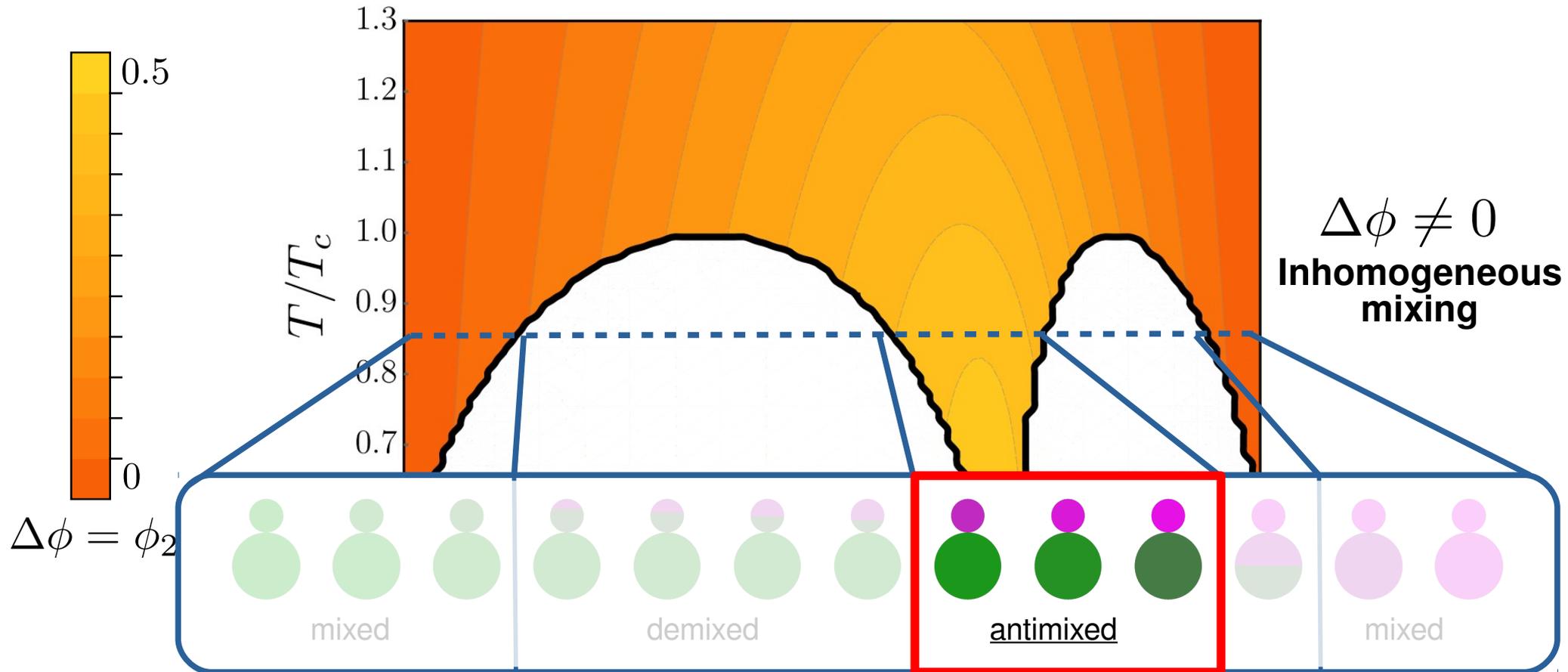


\*in units where  $f \sim O(1)$ ,  $R_1 = 1$

# Inhomogeneous thermodynamic potentials

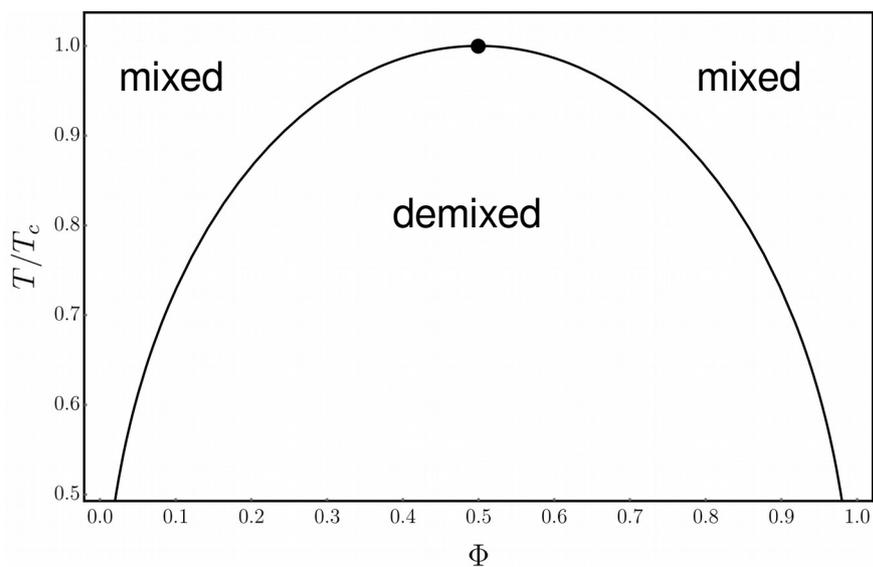
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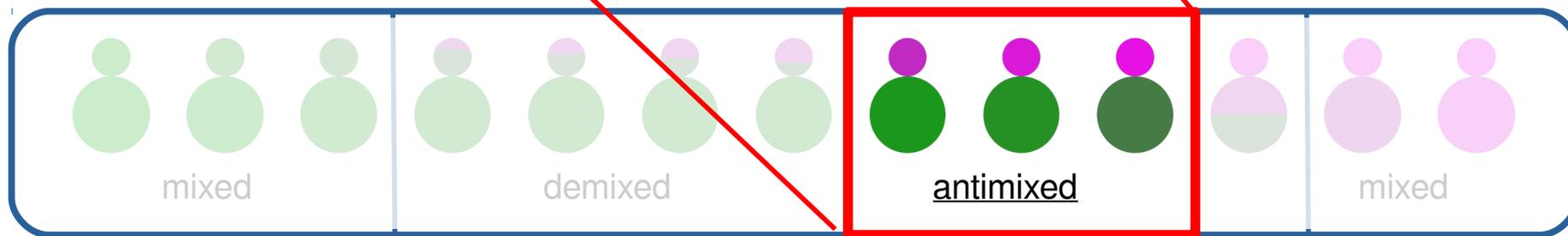
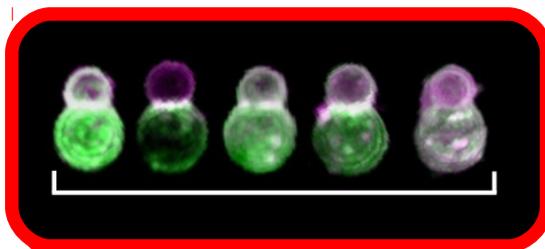
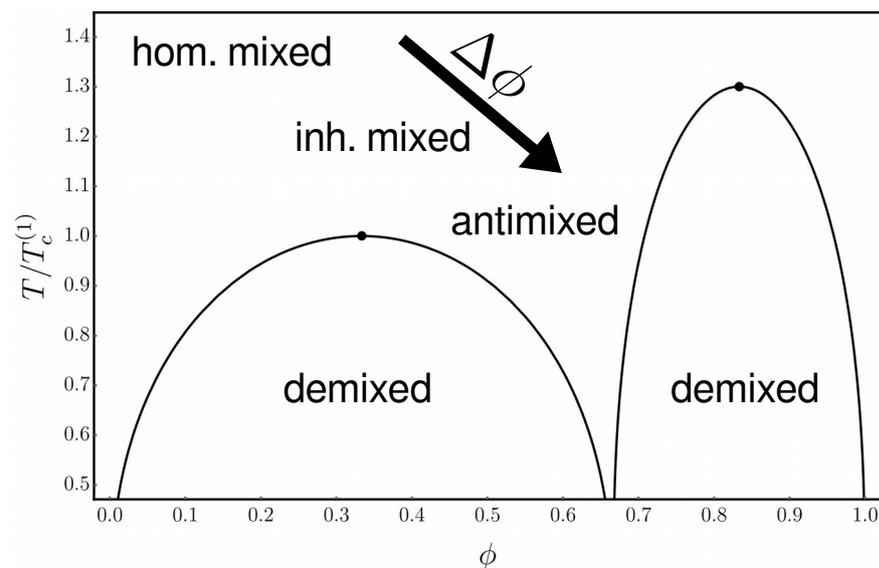


\*in units where  $f \sim O(1)$ ,  $R_1 = 1$

# A new framework



Membrane of non-constant curvature

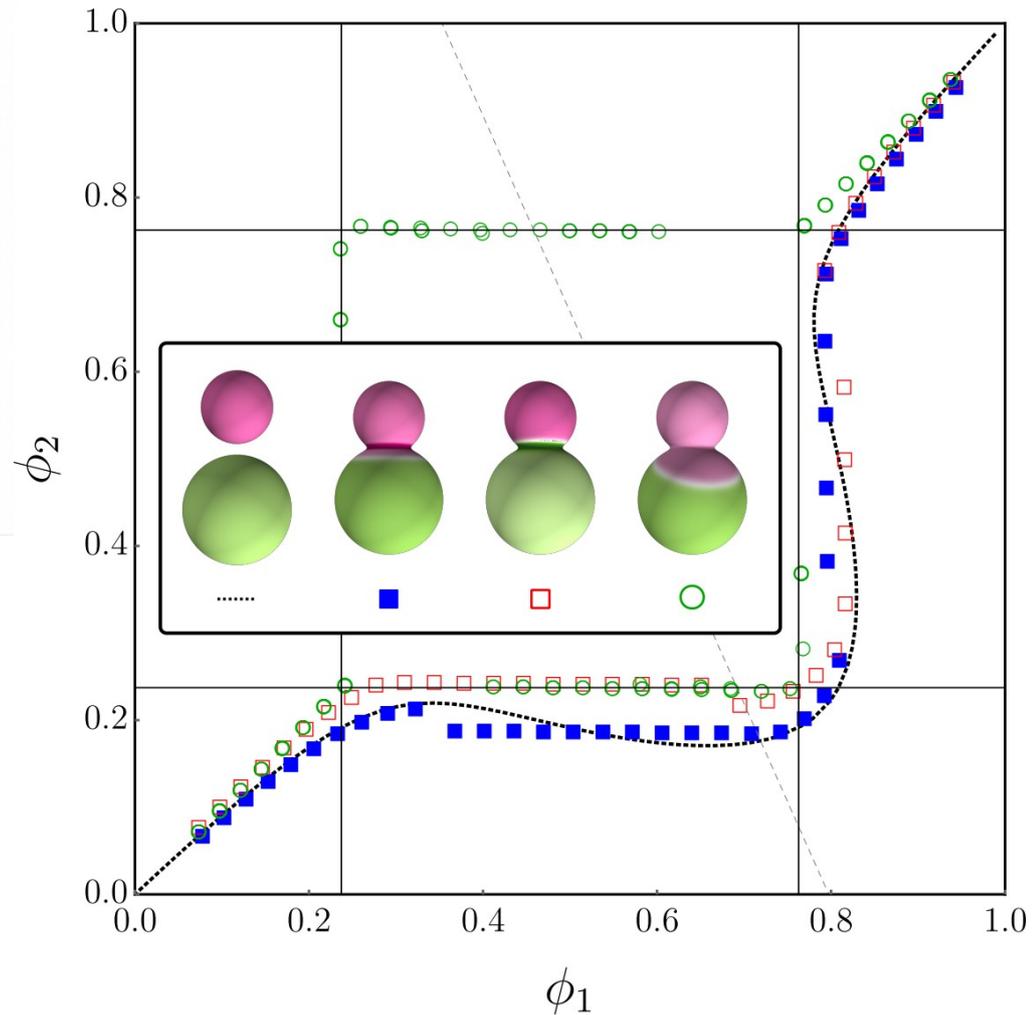
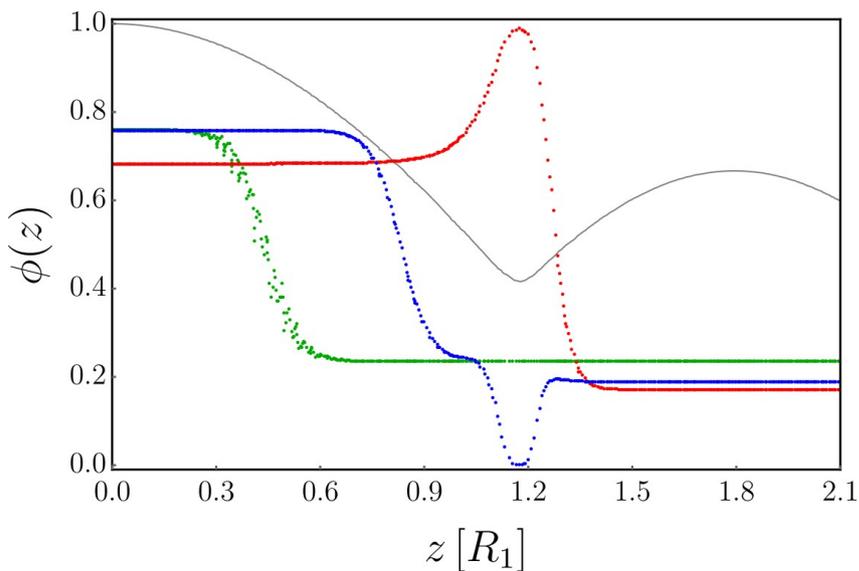
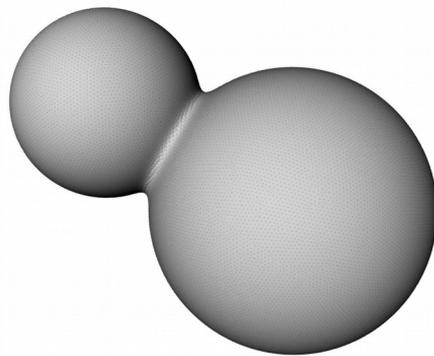
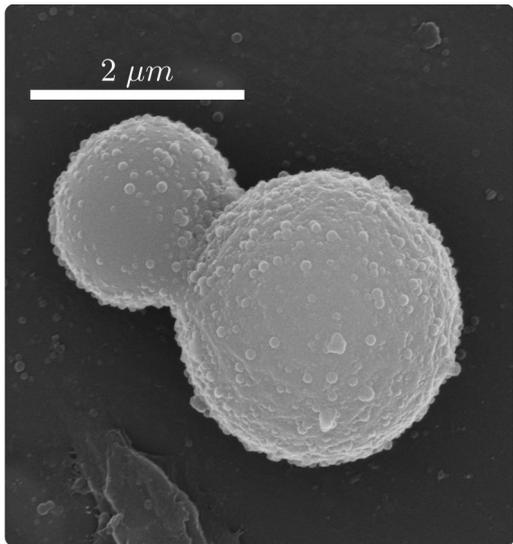


Is this phase separation? **No\***

\*Dumbbell  $\neq$  Two spheres

# More realistic surfaces

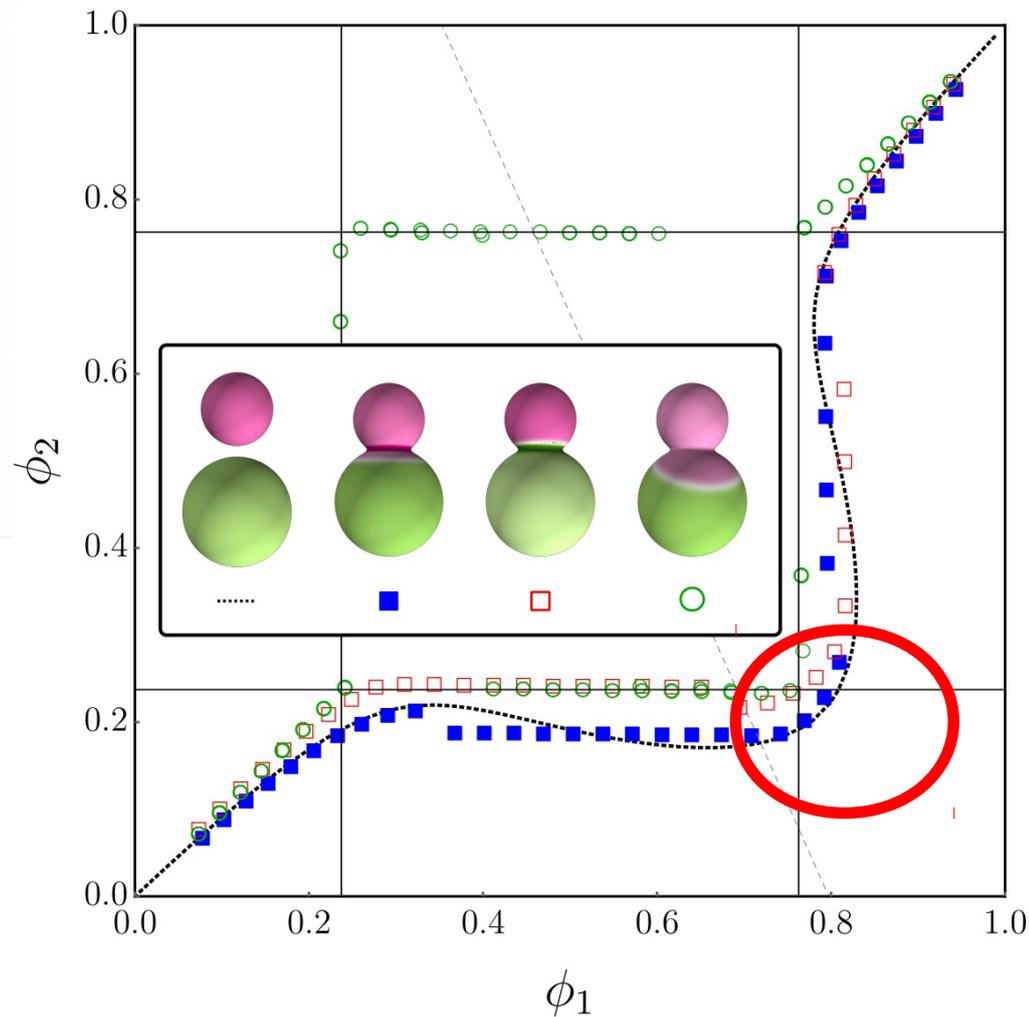
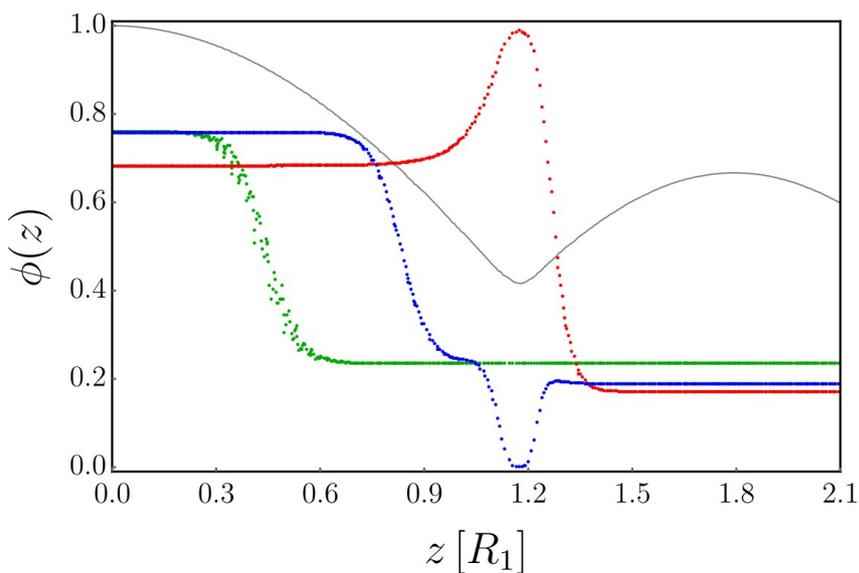
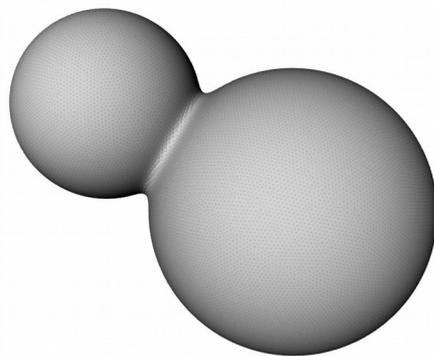
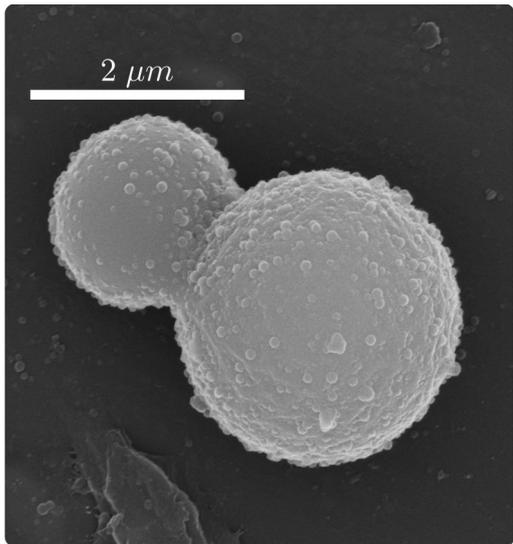
How good of an approximation are two disjoint spheres? Our colloids are dumbbells:



*P.F. et al. (arXiv 1812.11563, under review @ PRE)*

# More realistic surfaces

How good of an approximation are two disjoint spheres? Our colloids are dumbbells:



**The antimixed state survives for large enough bending modulus!**

*P.F. et al. (arXiv 1812.11563, under review @ PRE)*

# Are there quadratic curvature interactions?

$$\mathcal{F} \simeq J \frac{\xi^2}{2} \nabla_i \phi \nabla^i \phi + f(\phi) + k(\phi) H^2 + \bar{k}(\phi) K + \dots$$

If the full free energy has **location-dependent binodal points** we find – through boundary layer analysis of the gradient term – **corrections to the line tension due to curvature**

$$\tilde{\sigma} \simeq \sigma + \delta_k H^2 + \delta_{\bar{k}} K + \dots$$

Where

$$\sigma = \xi \int_{\phi_-}^{\phi_+} d\varphi \sqrt{2\tilde{f}(\varphi)} \quad \delta_k = \xi \int_{\phi_-}^{\phi_+} d\varphi \frac{\tilde{k}(\varphi)}{\sqrt{2\tilde{f}(\varphi)}}$$

$$\text{with } \tilde{f}(\varphi) = f(\varphi) + \frac{f(\phi_-)(\varphi - \phi_-) + f(\phi_+)(\phi_+ - \varphi)}{\phi_+ - \phi_-}$$

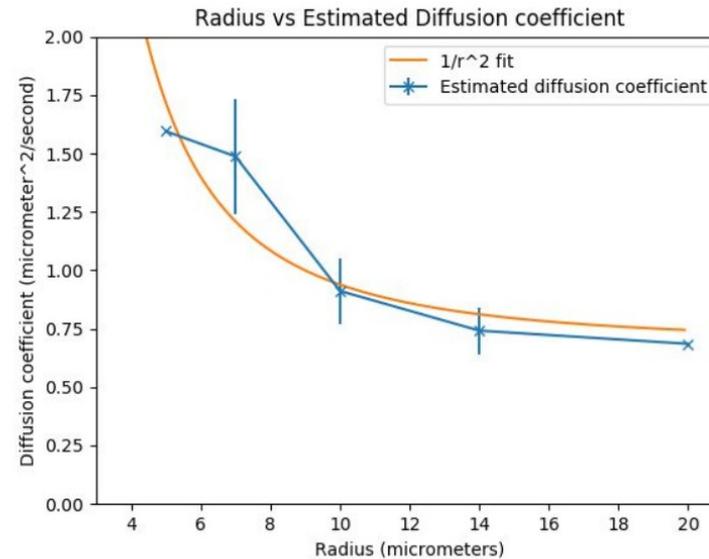
$\delta_{k, \bar{k}}/\sigma$  are the 1D analogues of the **Tolman lengths**

$$\text{For our MFT lattice gas model we find } \delta_{k, \bar{k}}/\sigma = \frac{3q}{4} L_{k, \bar{k}} (T_c - T)^{-1}$$

# Are there quadratic curvature interactions?

Actual MFT compressibility

$$D = \xi^2 (J + L_k H^2 + L_{\bar{k}} K)$$



$$D_{flat} = 0.679 \left[ \frac{\mu m^2}{s} \right]$$

$$\alpha = 25.96 \left[ \frac{\mu m^4}{s} \right]$$

$$D_s = D_{flat} + \frac{\alpha}{R^2} \quad \alpha \propto L_k + L_{\bar{k}}$$

Ten Haaf, Rinaldin, Kraft, PF (unpublished)

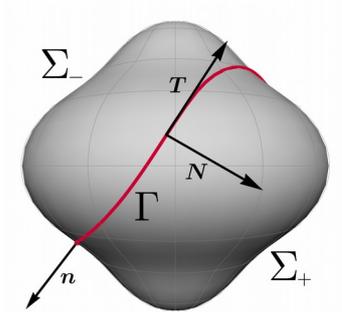
Since NN interaction modulates *both* diffusion and reaction forces, we infer that, in bilayer membranes, there should *be* a **quadratic interaction** and a **curvature dependent critical temperature**

$$T_c = \frac{q}{2} (J + L_{\kappa} H^2 + L_{\bar{\kappa}} K)$$

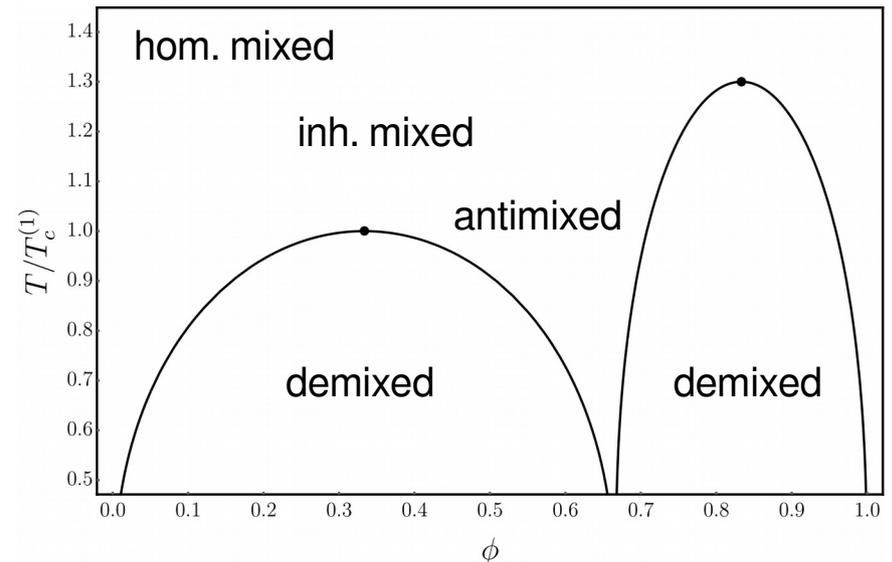
P.F. et al. (arXiv 1812.11563, under review @ PRE)

# Summary

- SLVs are **closed** thermodynamical systems
- Sharp interface models have **limited** applicability
- **Curvature-composition** interactions are essential to get the full picture
- **Non-spherical** shapes are necessary to make this effect evident



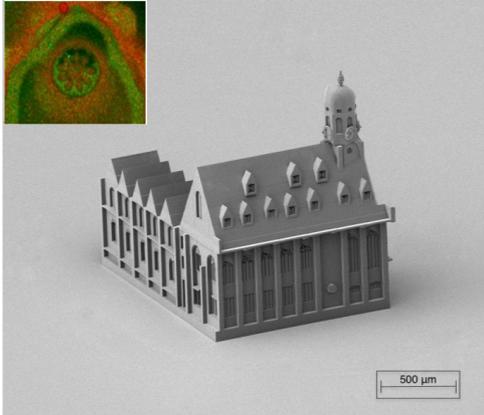
- New equilibrium states can emerge: **antimixing**
- Different couplings (**linear** vs. **quadratic**) produce very different phenomenologies



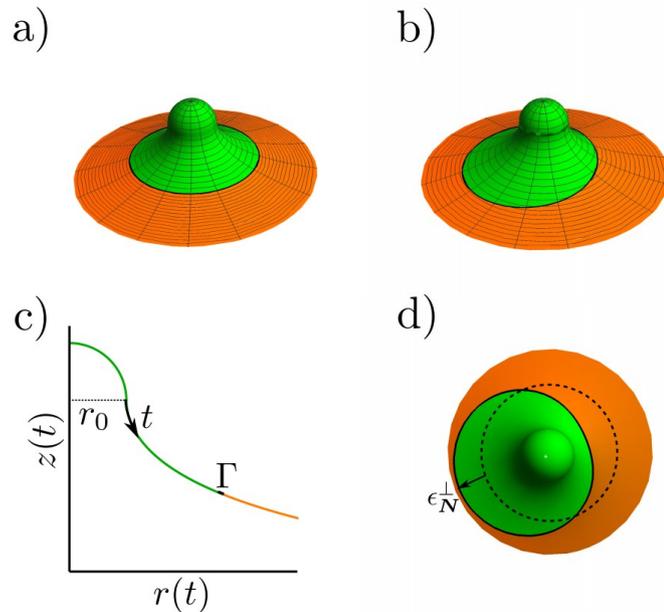
# Future directions

- Extend the model to n-nary mixtures
- Is critical temperature affected by curvature? And line tension?
- In Leiden, we can 3D print *any surface* and coat it with lipids: we want to engineer the right surface to highlight specific curvature effects:

Rinaldin, Doherty (unpublished)



A micron-sized version of the Academieggebouw in Leiden



**Measuring membrane Gaussian rigidity using curved substrates, PF et al. (in preparation)**

Honerkamp-Smith et al. (BJ, 2008)

A collaboration with:



Luca Giomi



Melissa Rinaldin



Daniela Kraft

**End of presentation**