

# High-resolution mechanical characterization of biological matter over various frequency regimes

Kareem Elsayad (VBCF), Jan Přibyl (CEITEC-MU)

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# Pilot project introduction



Project partners:

***Jan Pribyl (CEITEC), Petr Skladal (CEITEC), Kareem Elsayad (VBCF), Carina Pleha (VBCF)***

**Goal:**

*Connecting, correlating, and complimenting **AFM microscopy/spectroscopy** measured mechanical properties (CEITEC MU, CF NanoBiotechnology) and **Brillouin Microscopy** measured mechanical properties (VBCF Advanced Microscopy, Vienna).*

The two techniques provide complimentary information which together can tell us more about the mechanical properties of a sample.

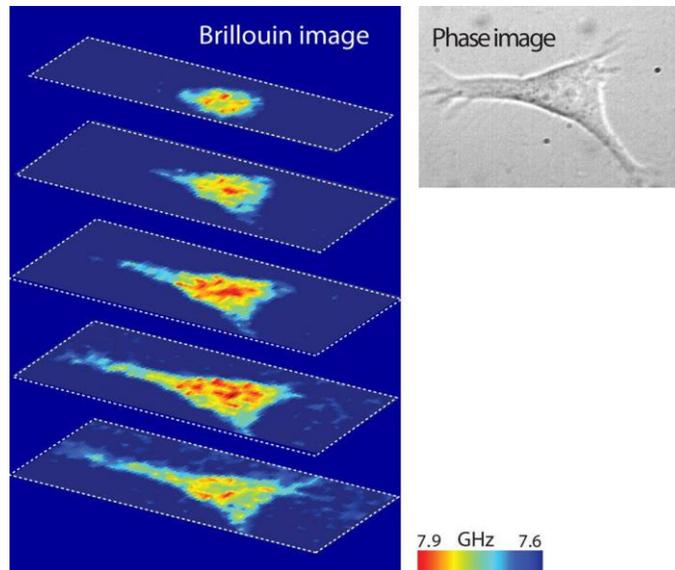
# Pilot project introduction



## Brillouin Microscopy (VBCF)

Measures Longitudinal Modulus  
Measures in GHz frequency-regime

*3D confocal reconstruction—obtained via Brillouin microscopy (fibroblast cell)*

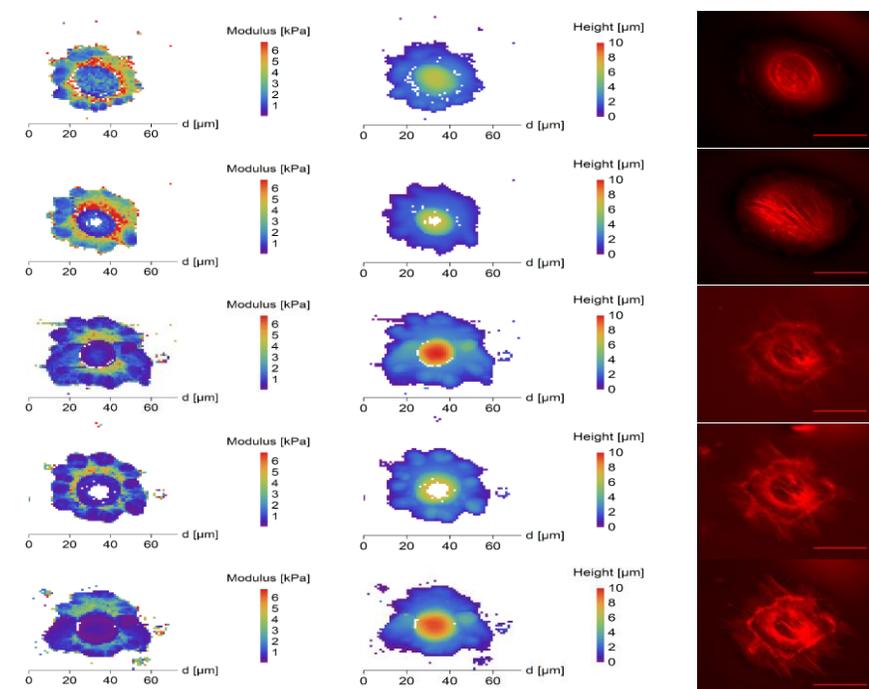


*SPIE Newsroom 10.1117/2.1201611.006698*

## Atomic Force Microscopy (CEITEC)

Measures Young's Modulus  
Measures in <kHz frequency-regime

*AFM - Young's Modulus map (left), height (in the middle) and fluorescence images of fibroblast cytoskeleton (right)*



*Golan M. Et al., Front Physiol. 2018 Jun 29;9:804*

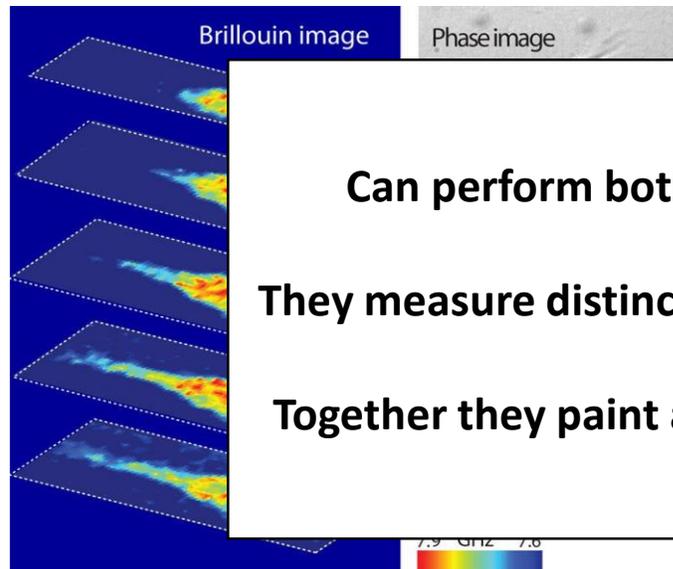
# Pilot project introduction



## Brillouin Microscopy (VBCE)

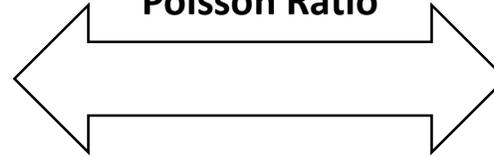
Measures Longitudinal Modulus  
Measures in GHz frequency-regime

3D confocal reconstruction—obtained via Brillouin microscopy (fibroblast cell)



SPIE Newsroom 10.1117/2.1201611.006698

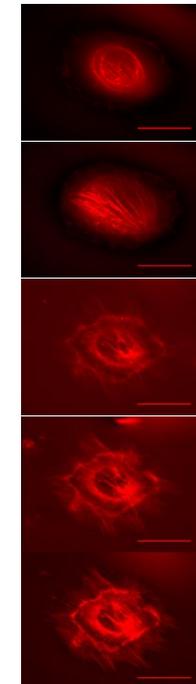
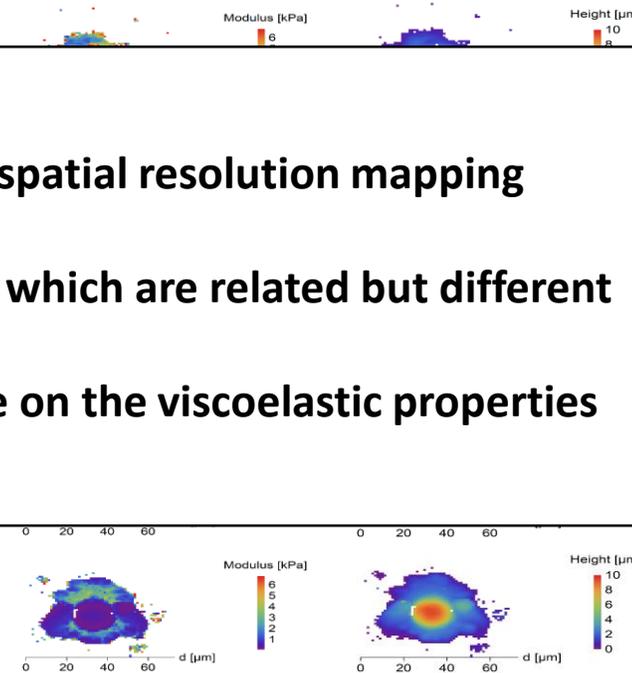
...related by  
"Poisson Ratio"



## Atomic Force Microscopy (CEITEC)

Measures Young's Modulus  
Measures in <kHz frequency-regime

AFM - Young's Modulus map (left), height (in the middle) and fluorescence images of fibroblast cytoskeleton (right)



Can perform both on live cells with high spatial resolution mapping  
They measure distinct mechanical properties which are related but different  
Together they paint a more complete picture on the viscoelastic properties

# Pilot project introduction



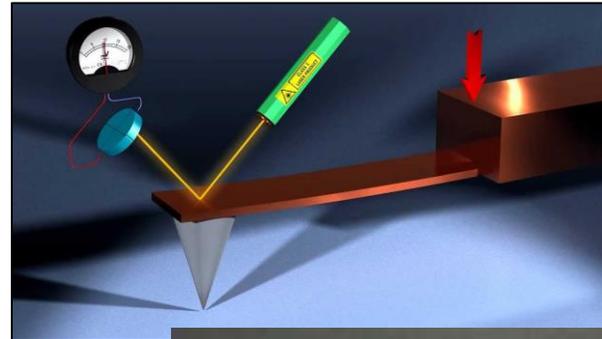
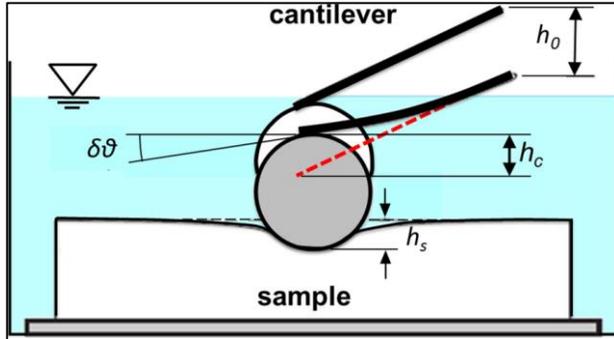
- Potential end-users:

## ***Mostly academic users – possible candidates:***

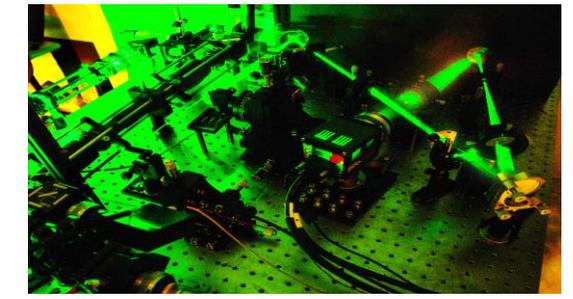
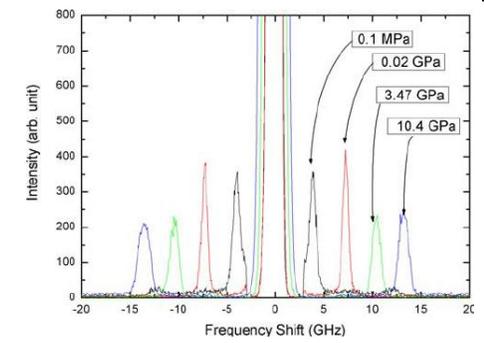
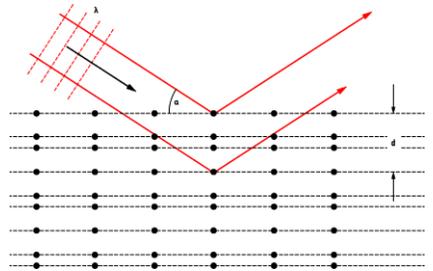
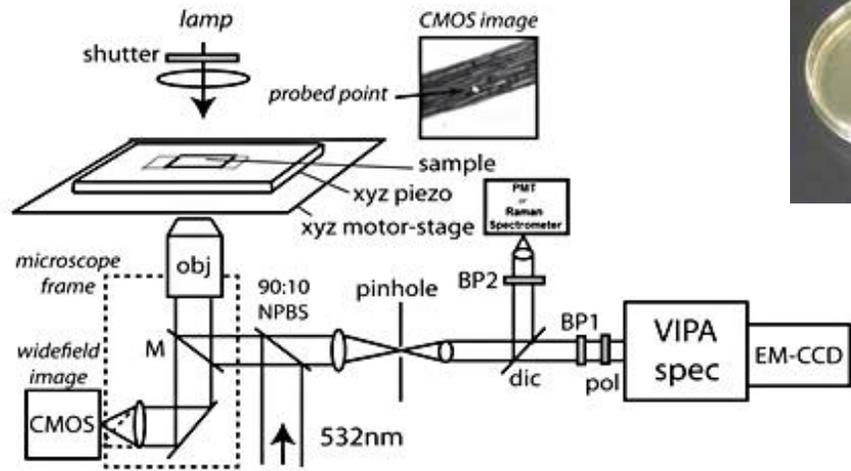
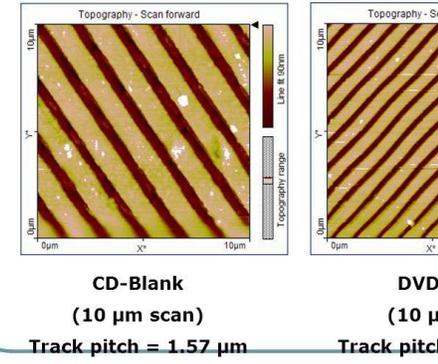
- *Giancarlo Forte, ICRC Brno – dECM samples*
  - *Eva Benkova, IST Austria – plant tissues*
  - *Jan Hejátko, CEITEC MU - plant tissues*
- *Daniel Hadraba, Institute of Physiology CAS*
- *Irena Kratochvilova, Institute of Physics CAS*
- *Vladimir Rotrekl, Faculty of Medicine, MU*
  - *Daniel Gerlich, IMBA, Vienna*
  - *Youssef Belkhadir GMI, Vienna*
  - *Josef Penninger IMBA, Vienna*
  - *Ulrich Technau, University of Vienna*
- *Sabine Eichinger, Medical University of Vienna*
  - ...

# Project implementation

- Approach/methodology



## AFM Images of CD and DVD (unrecorded)

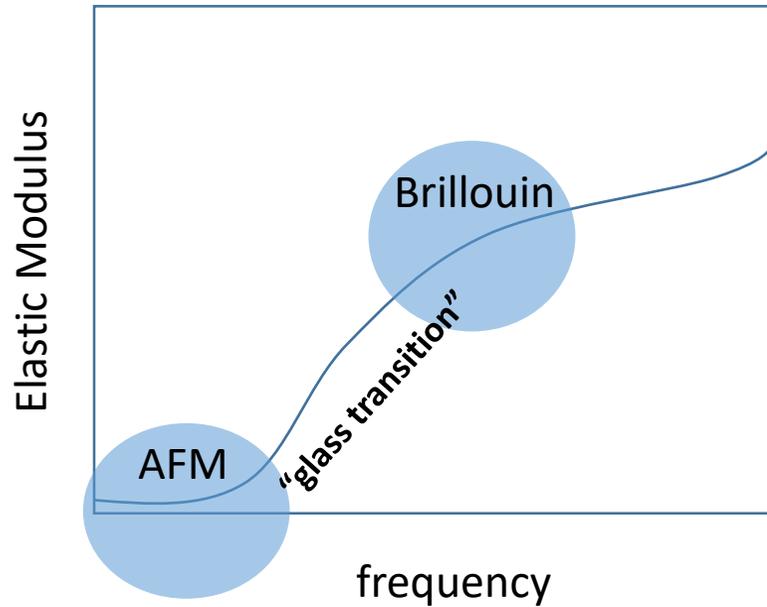


*There is no budget for staff exchanges.  
We are cooperating by exchanging the samples and results („remote control“).*

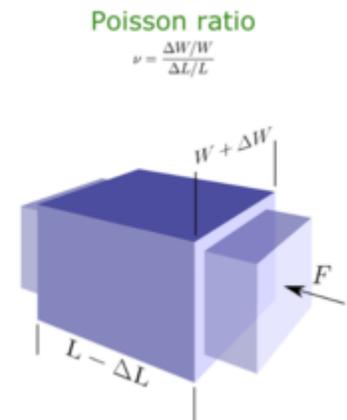
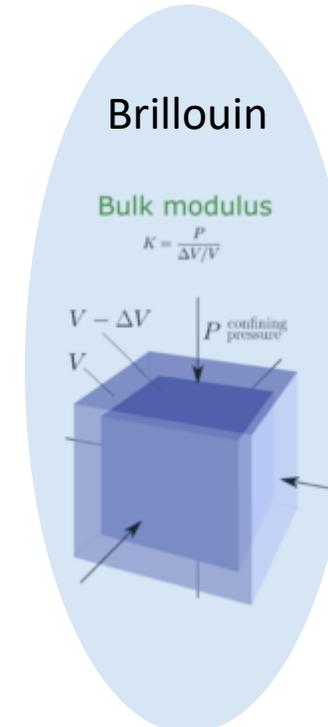
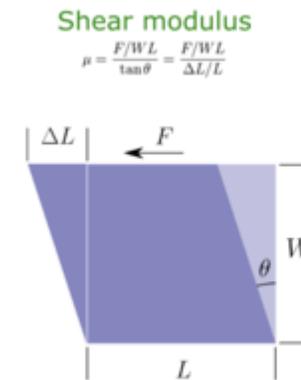
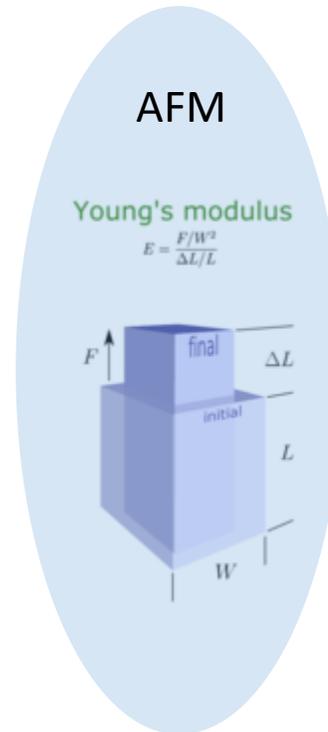
# Project results

*How do the measurements even compare?*

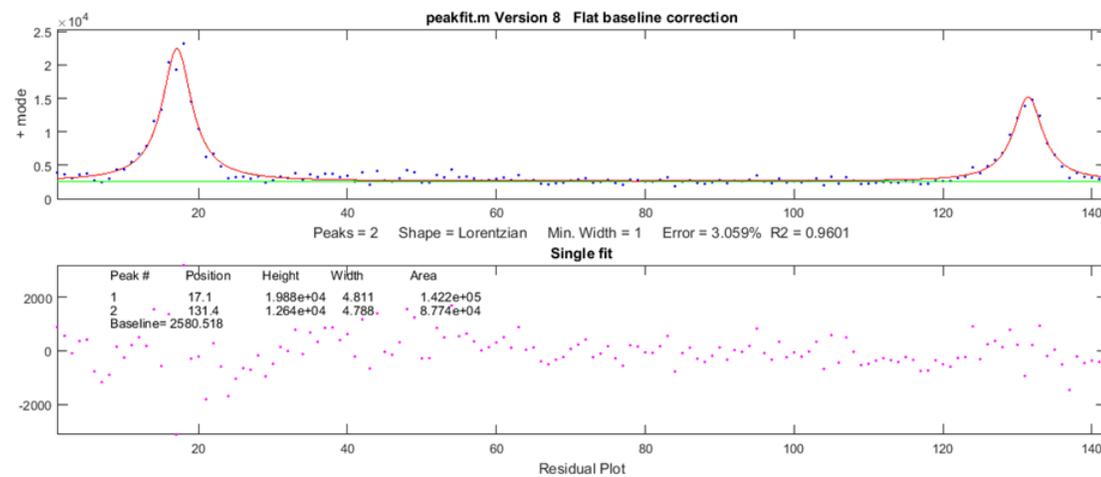
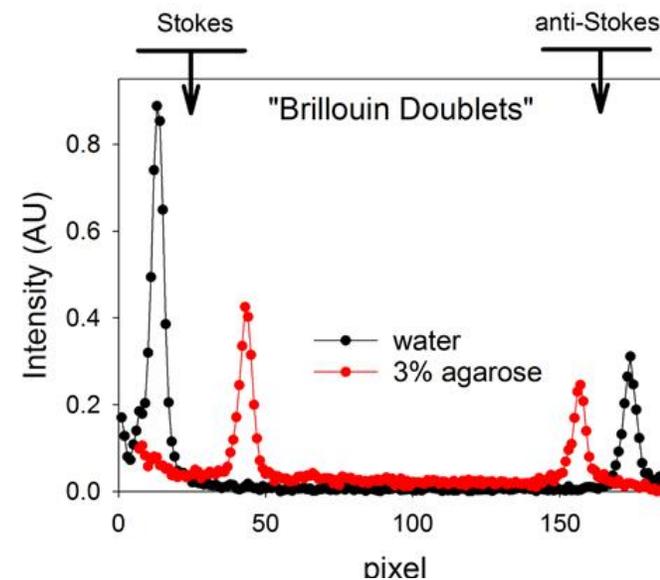
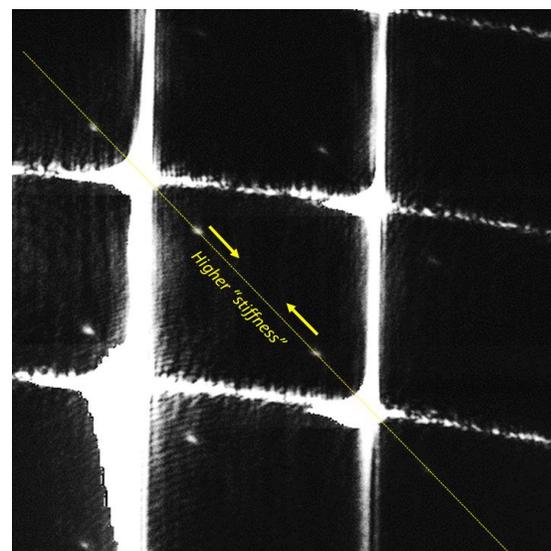
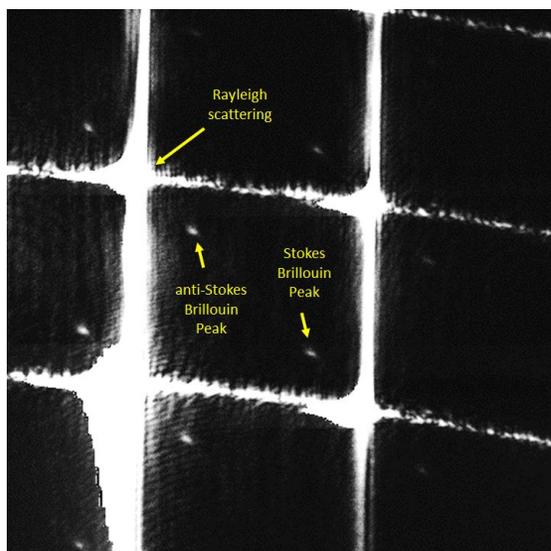
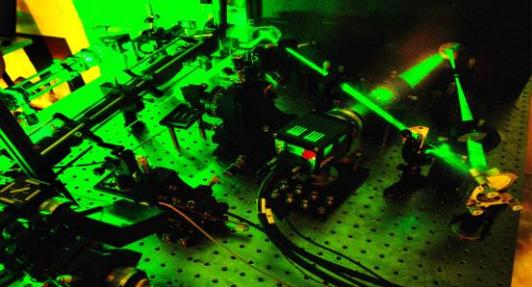
*Different relaxation mechanism(s)*

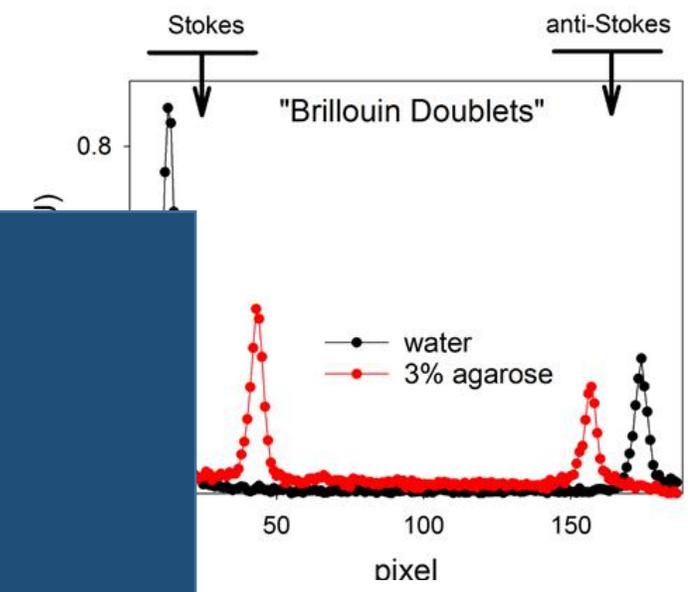
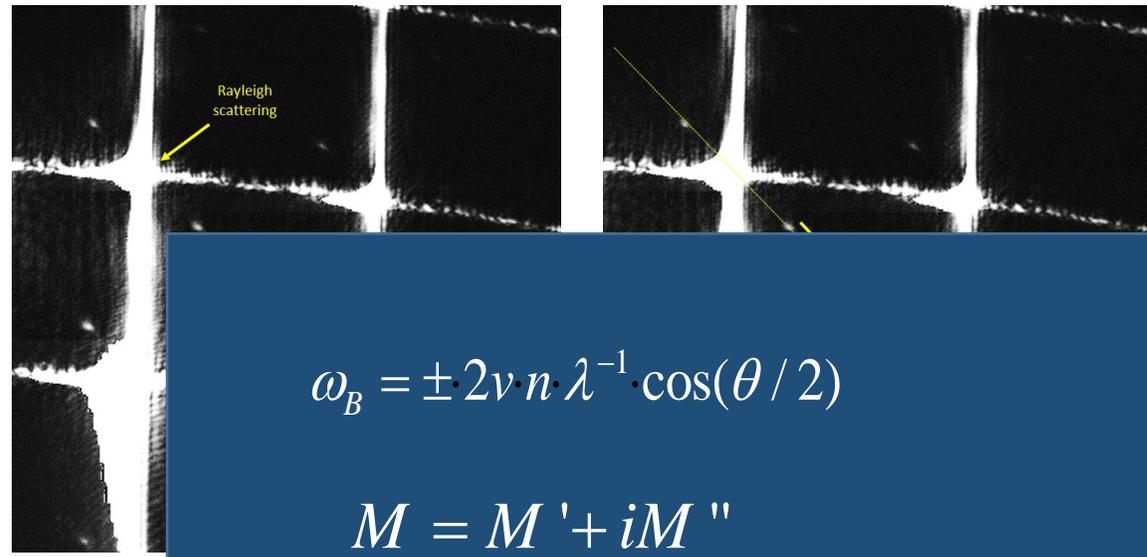
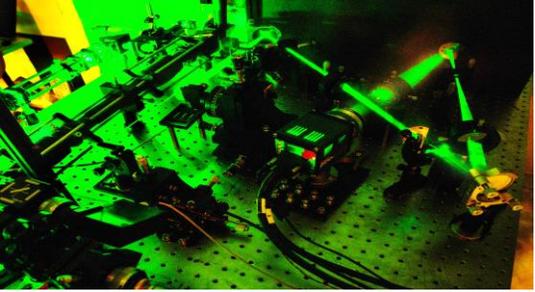


*Different boundary conditions*



*Different Moduli important for different processes*





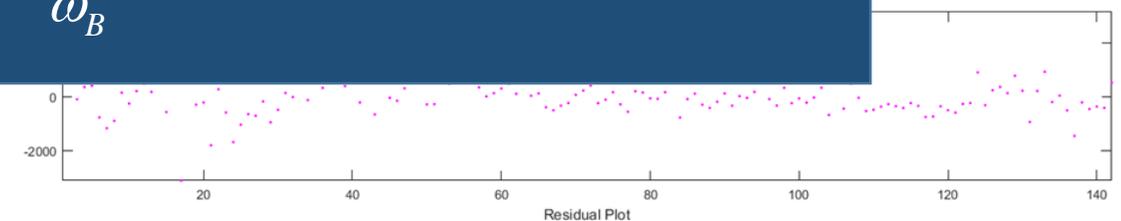
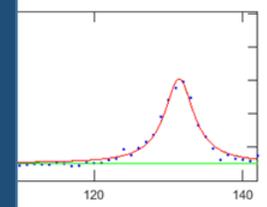
$$\omega_B = \pm 2v \cdot n \cdot \lambda^{-1} \cdot \cos(\theta / 2)$$

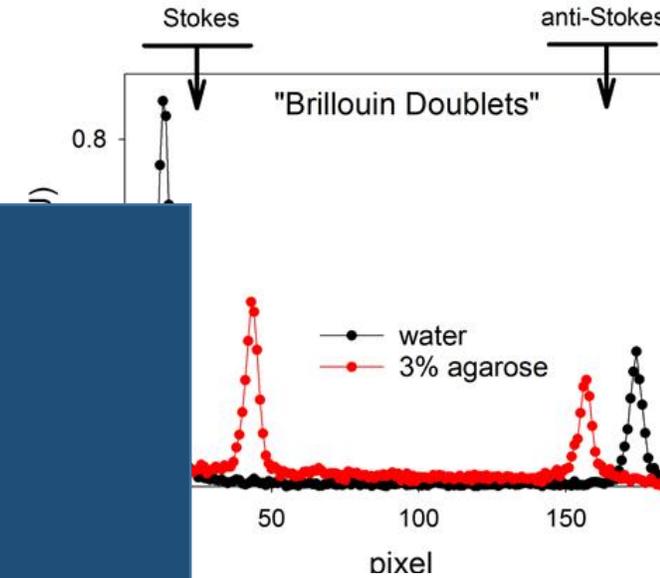
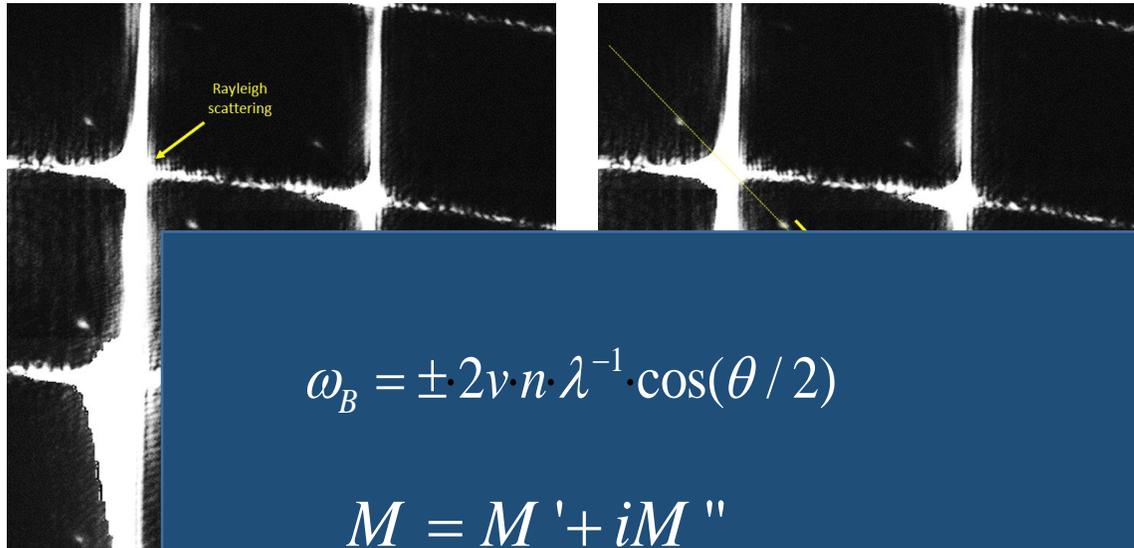
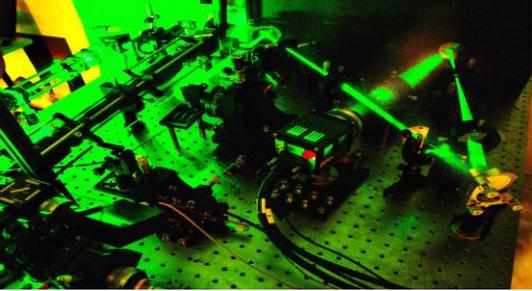
$$M = M' + iM''$$

$$M' = v^2 \cdot \rho$$

$$M'' = \frac{v^2 \cdot \rho \cdot \Delta\omega_B}{\omega_B}$$

$M$  = Longitudinal Modulus





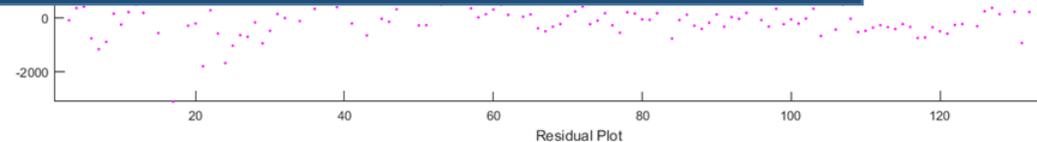
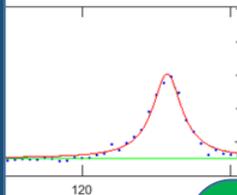
$$\omega_B = \pm 2v \cdot n \cdot \lambda^{-1} \cdot \cos(\theta / 2)$$

$$M = M' + iM''$$

$$M' = v^2 \cdot \rho$$

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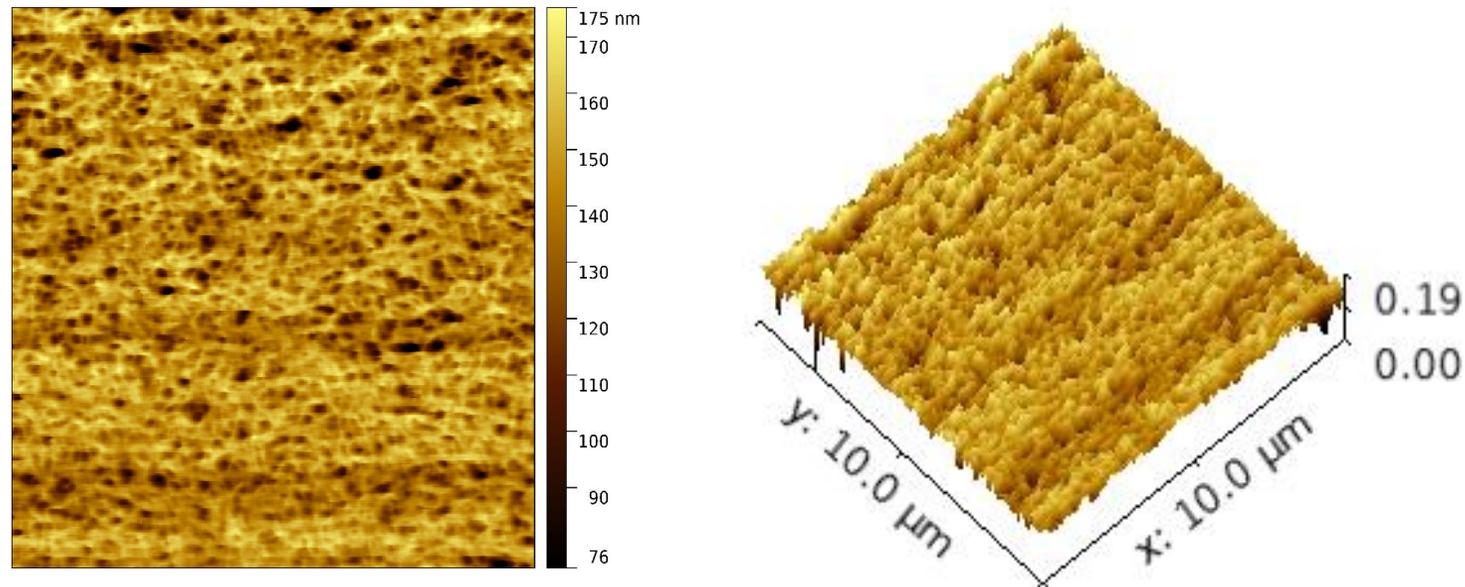


(+) 3d spatial mapping possible

# Project results

*How do the measurements compare?*

Agarose samples of different concentrations (0-2%)



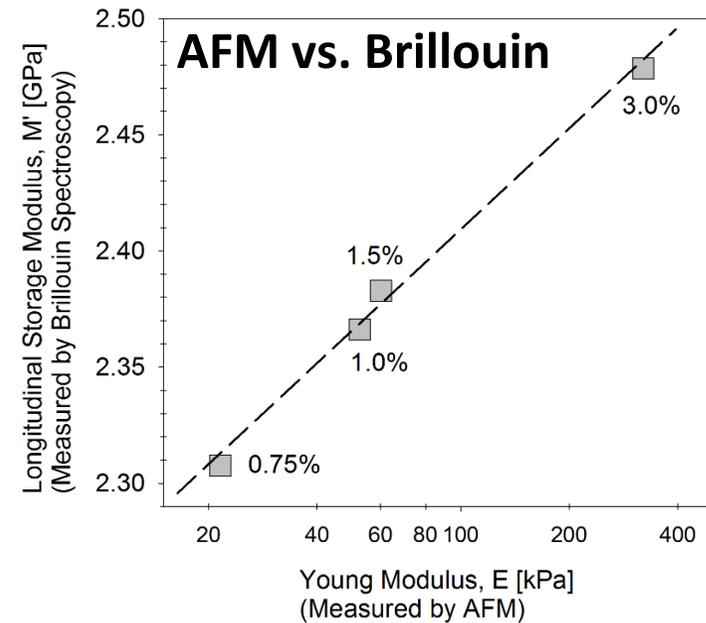
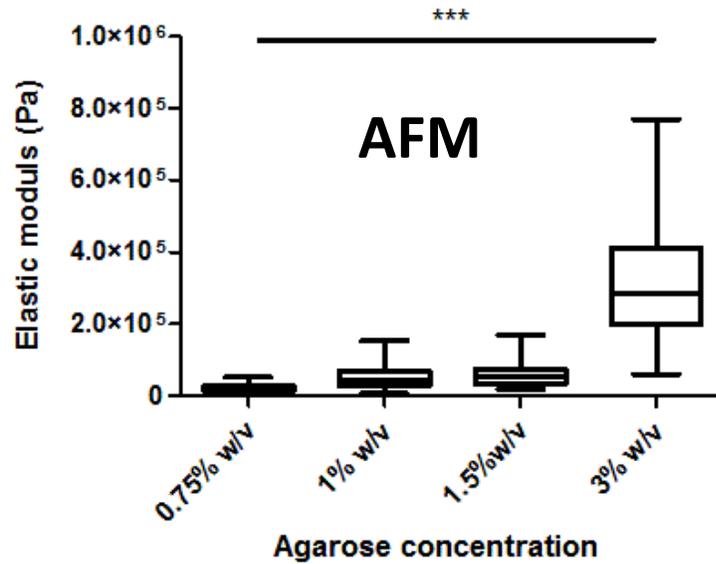
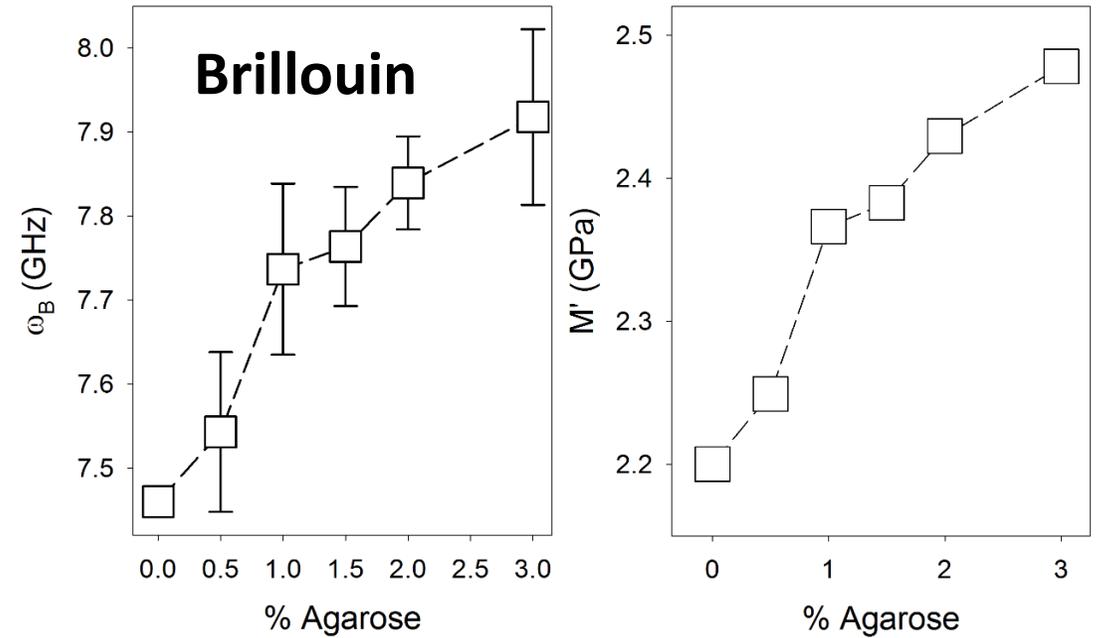
**10\*10 $\mu\text{m}$  topography  
2% Agarose w/v**

Surface imaging (with HYDRA-ALL B)

# Project results

How do the measurements compare?

Agarose samples of different concentrations

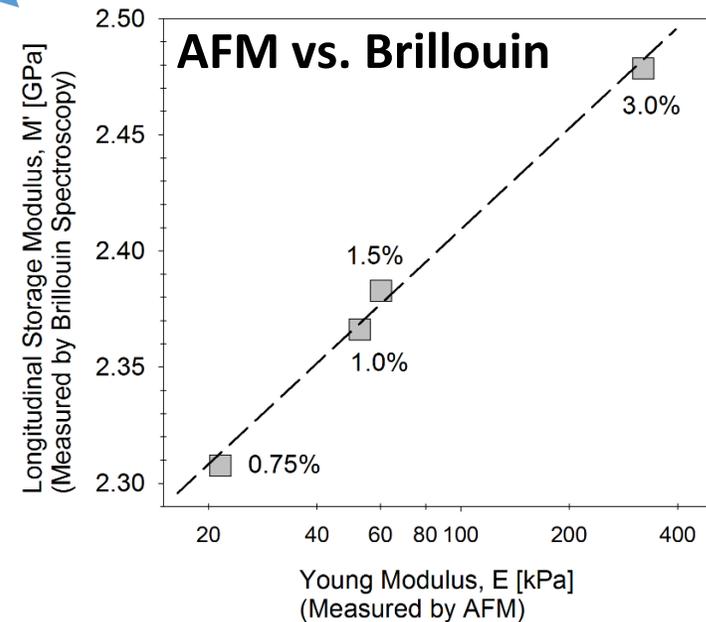
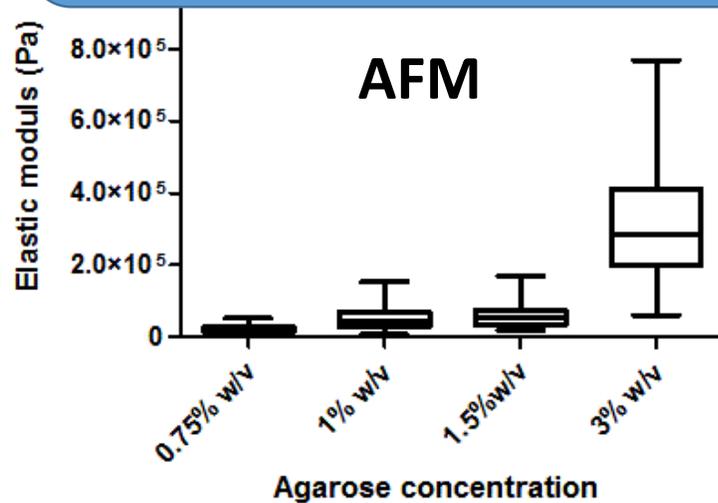
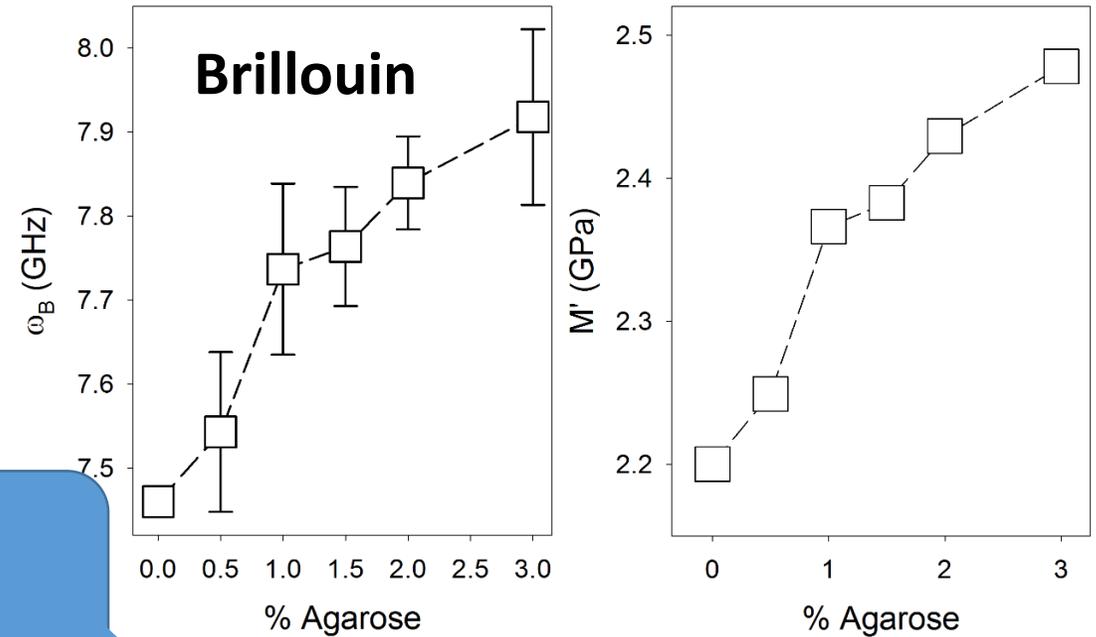


# Project results

How do the measurements compare?

Agarose samples of different concentrations

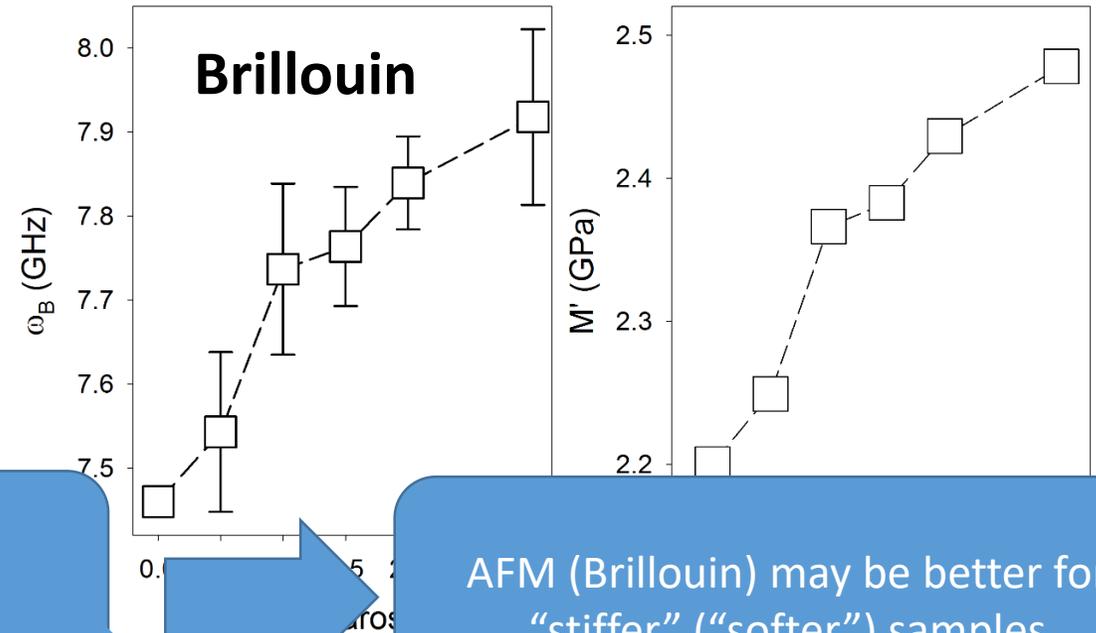
Power law or logarithmic relation



# Project results

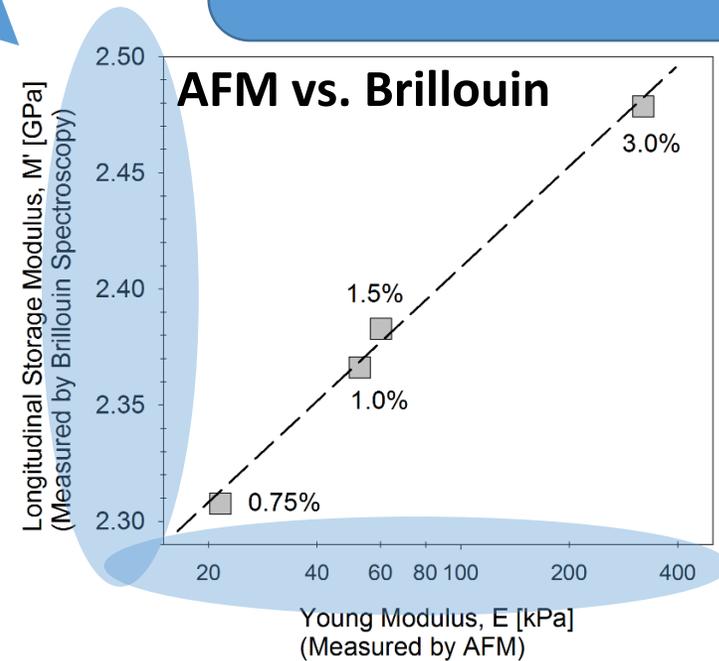
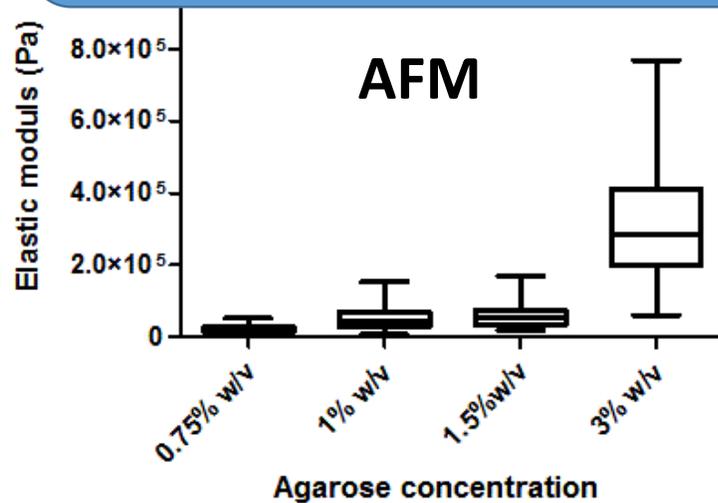
How do the measurements compare?

Agarose samples of different concentrations



Power law or logarithmic relation

AFM (Brillouin) may be better for "stiffer" ("softer") samples



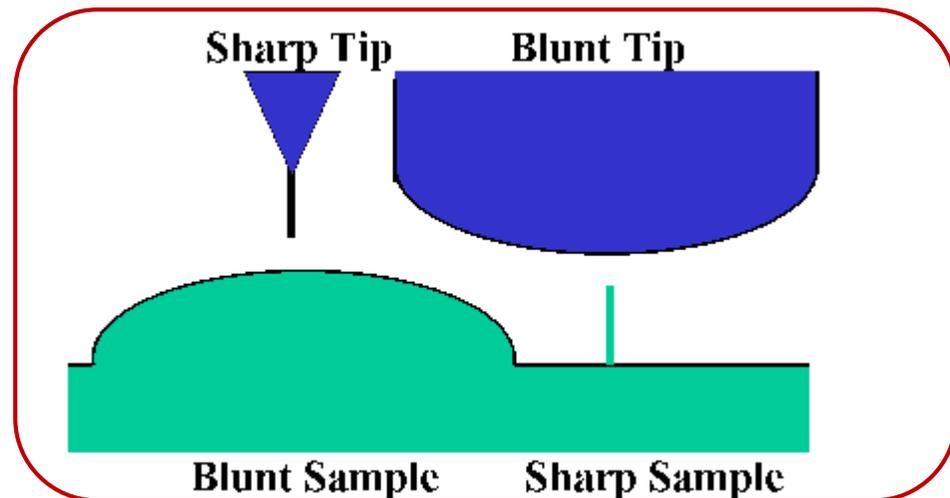
# Project results

*What about structural features?*

“real” biological samples are not homogeneous on sub-micron/micron scales

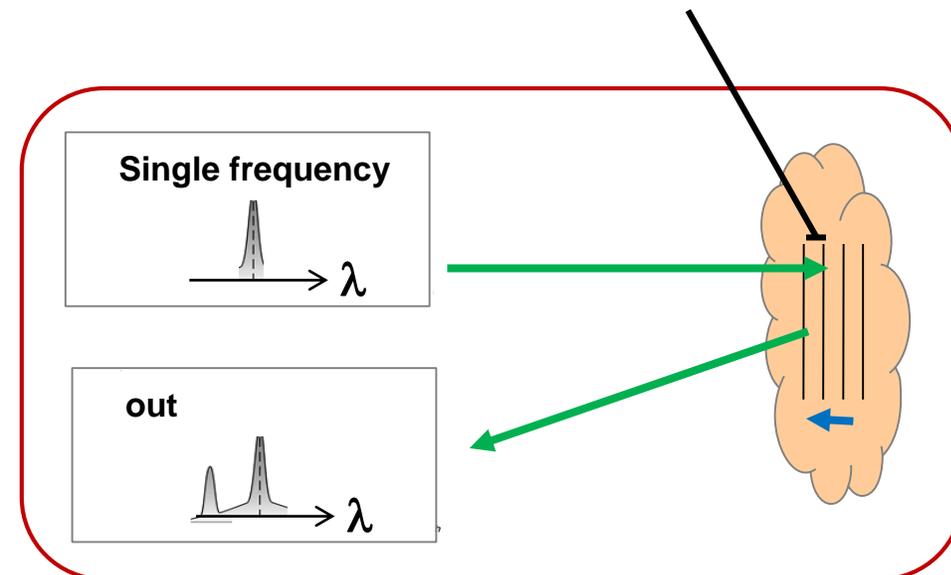
## AFM

probes an area the size of the tip



## Brillouin

probes area on the size of acoustic wavelength ( $\sim 100\text{-}200\text{nm}$ )

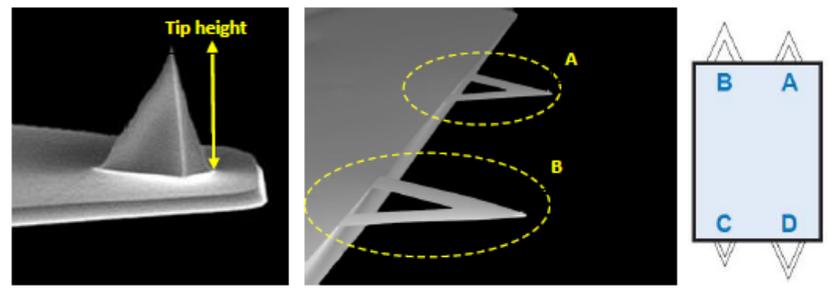


# FIB milling of AFM tips

## Plan

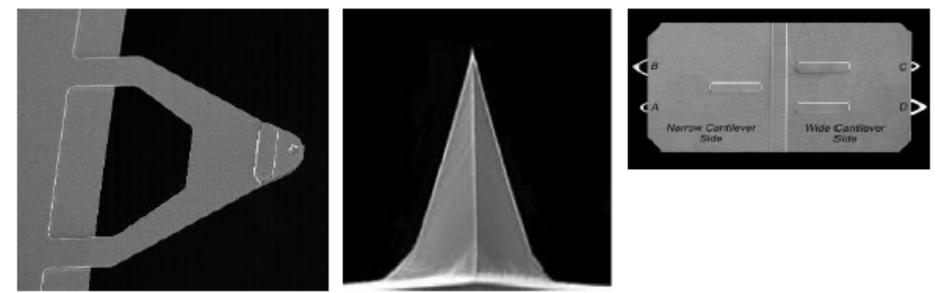
Modify size of AFM probing area

Bruker SNL10 A+B



- Silicon / silicon nitride tip on silicon nitride cantilever
- Cantilever spring constant 0.080 – 0.200 N/m
- Tip height 4-8  $\mu\text{m}$

AppNano Hydra 100N-6V



# FIB milling of AFM tips

## Plan

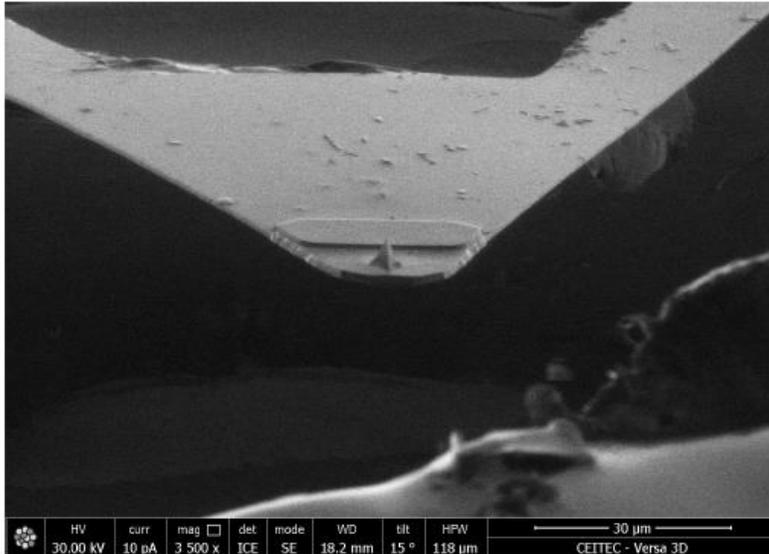
Modify size of AFM probing area

Bruker SNL10 A+B

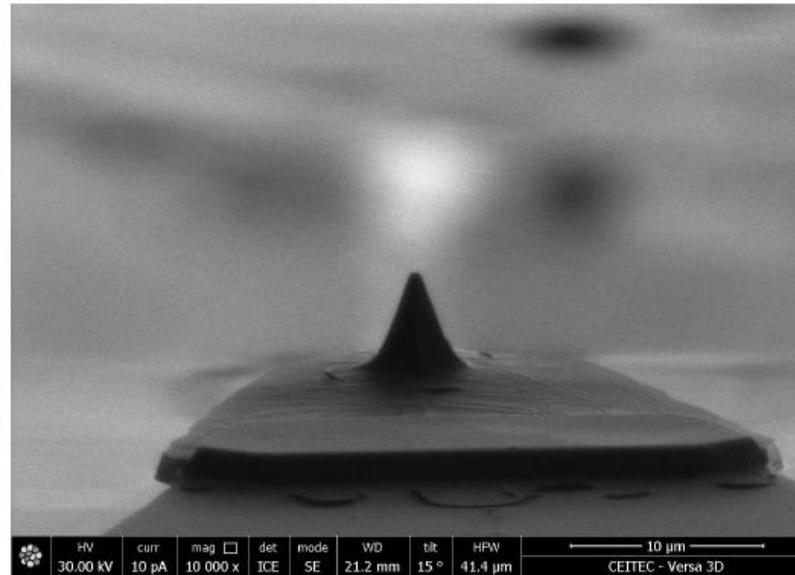


# FIB milling of AFM tips

## Results



AppNano Hydra 100N-6V  
Tip localization on cantilever



# FIB milling of AFM tips

## Plan

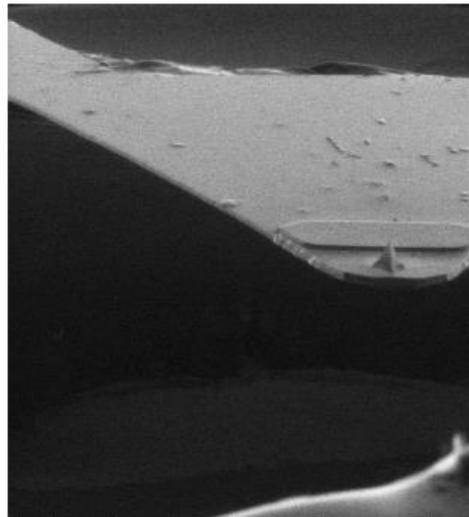
Modify size of AFM probing area

Bruker SNL10 A+B

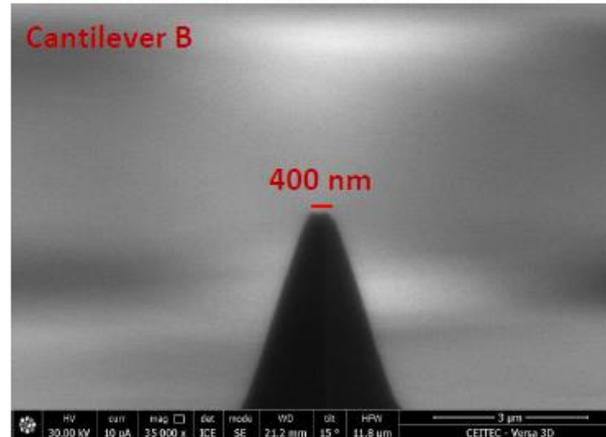
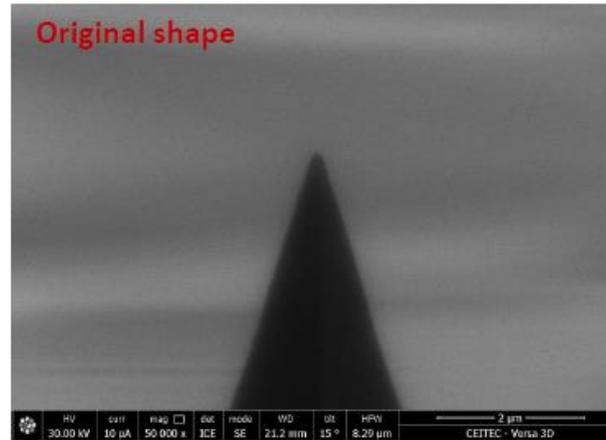


## FIB milling of AFM tips

AppNano Hydra 100N-6V

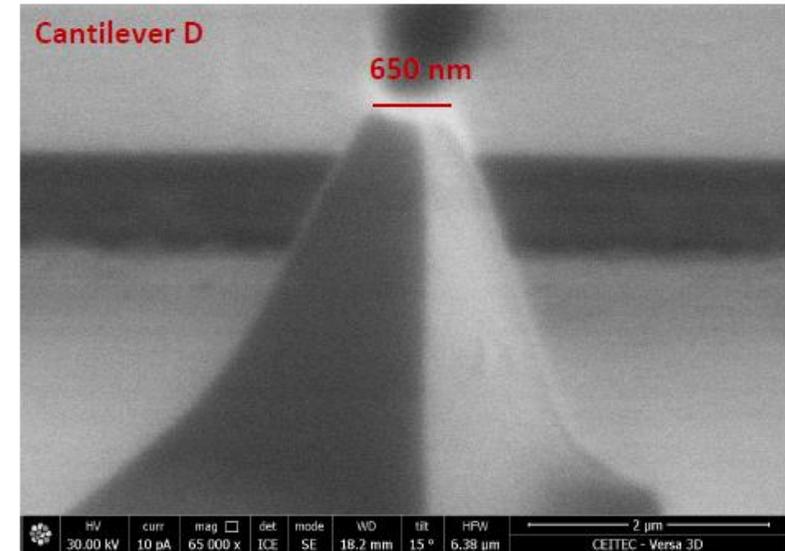


AppNano Hydra 100N-6V  
Tip localization on cantilever



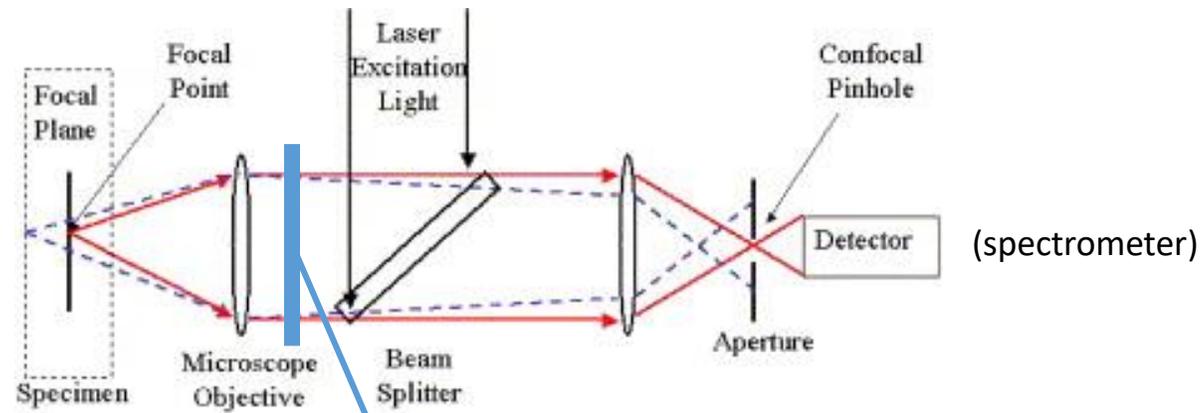
## FIB milling of AFM tips

### Results

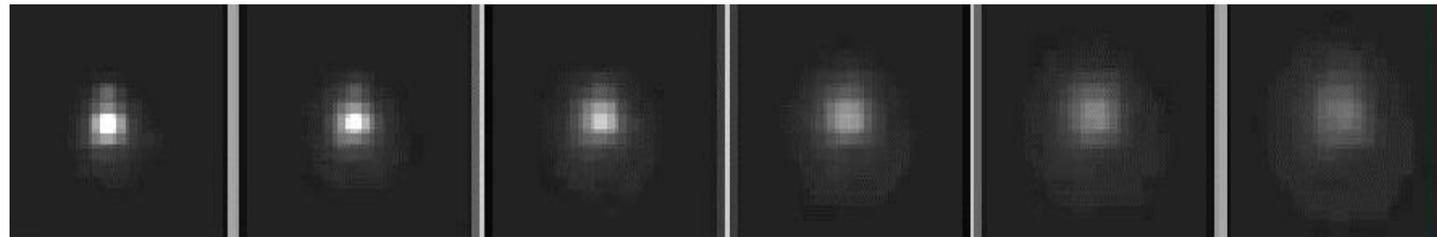


- Silicon nitride cantilever is very soft → bending in the stream of ions (FIB)
- Even low energy FIB has high energy for gentle milling

# Modify probing volume in Brillouin



...by adjusting iris opening  
-changes numerical aperture  
-changes probing volume

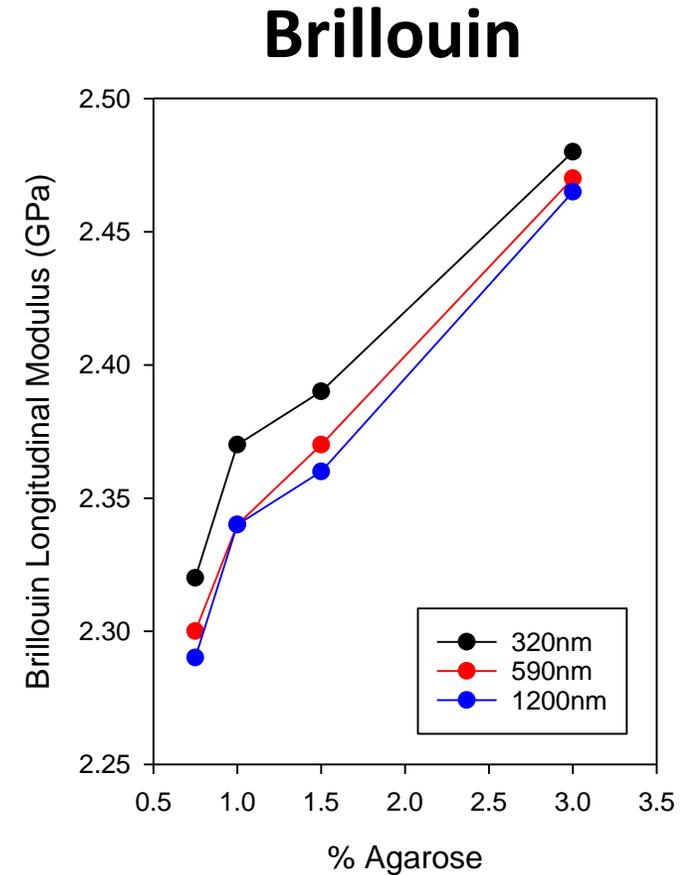
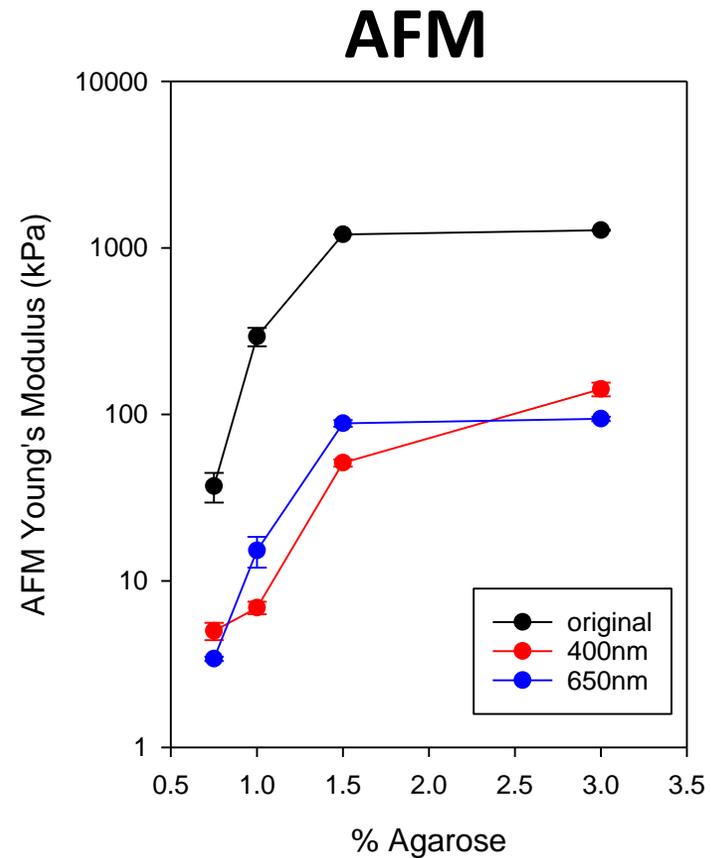


FWHM~200nm

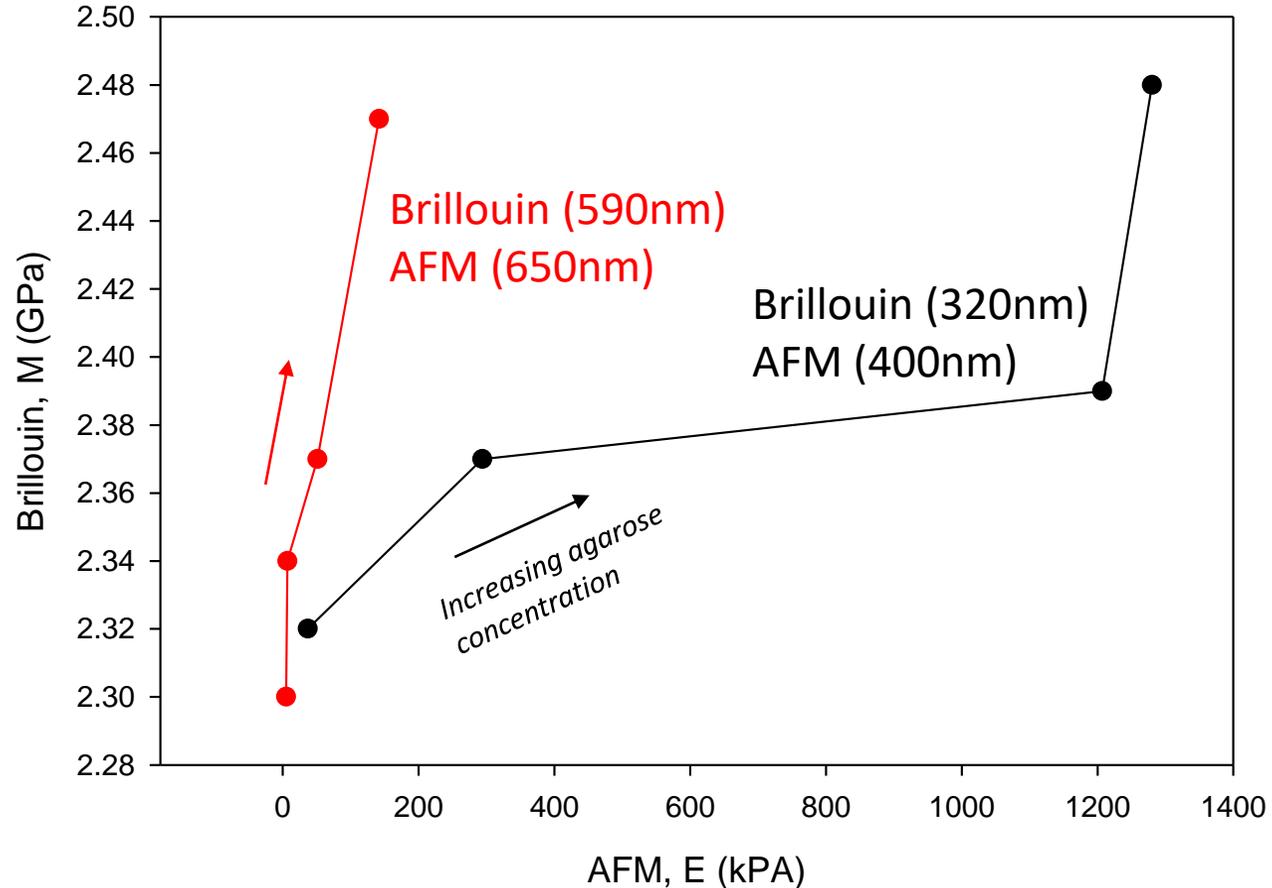
FWHM~600nm

*Effective Point Spread Function (PSF) = probing volume*

# Dependence on probing volume (agarose series)



# Dependence on probing volume (agarose series)



While AFM is very sensitive to probing volume  
Brillouin is largely insensitive in the measured range

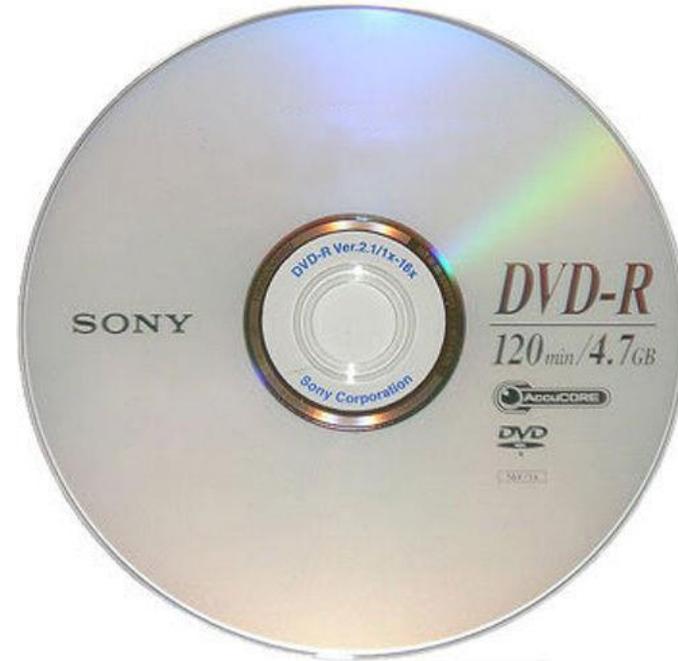
## Conclusion:

**Chosen probing volume in Brillouin is not critical  
(likely defined by acoustic length), whereas in AFM it is.**

***Comparative studies should account for this***

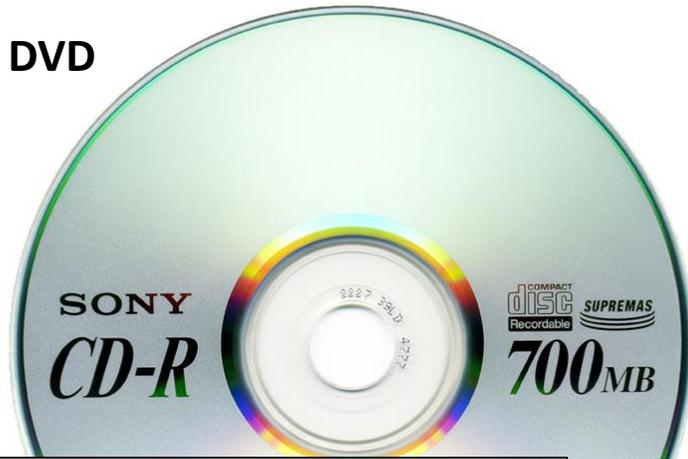
**This affects the spatial sampling distances/probes  
that should be chosen for comparative AFM  
and Brillouin measurements**

# Systematic investigation into structured samples



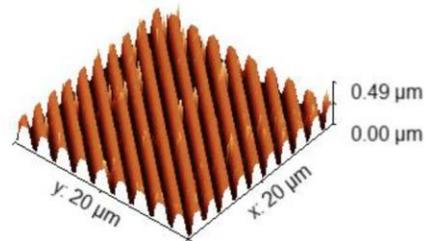
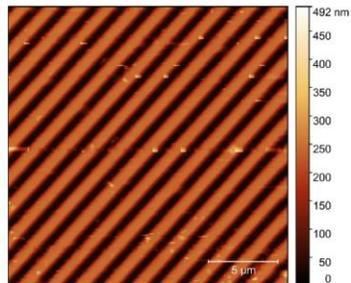
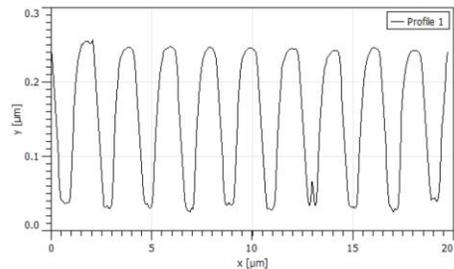
# Systematic investigation into structured samples

Use un-written CD and DVD  
as “stamp” on agarose



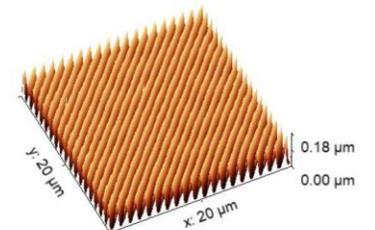
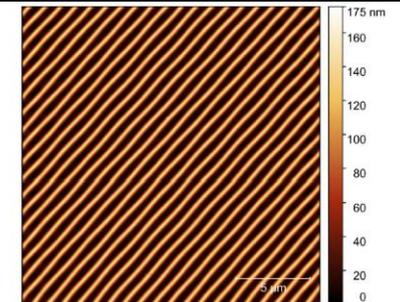
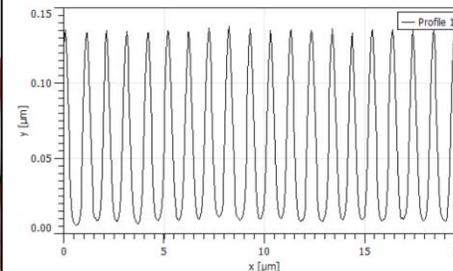
## CD-ROM Verbatim

Average height 210 nm  
Pitch to pitch distance 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$



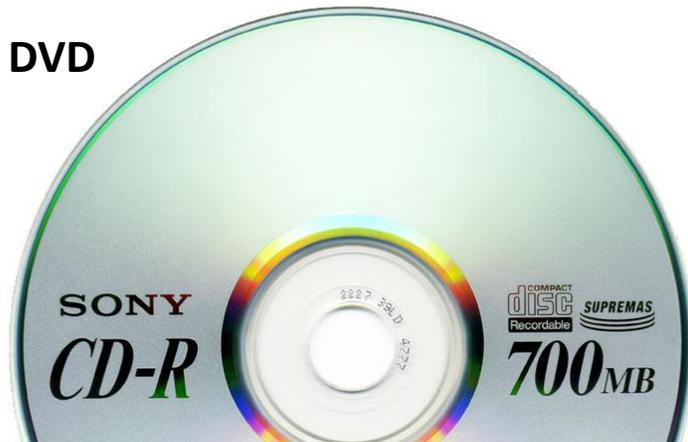
## DVD Verbatim

Average height 115.2 nm  
Pitch to pitch distance 0.78  $\mu\text{m}$



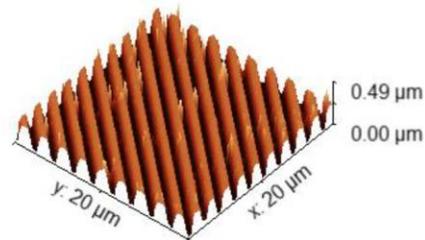
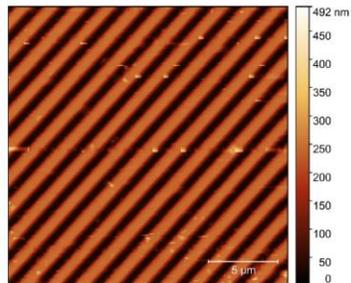
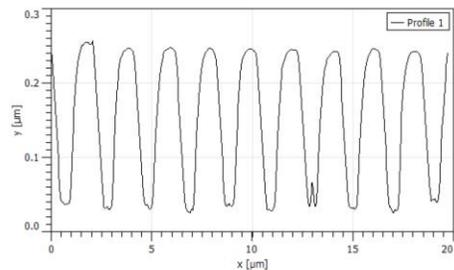
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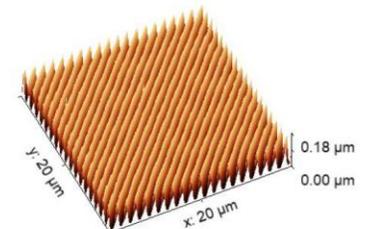
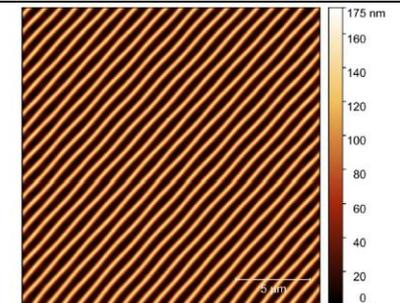
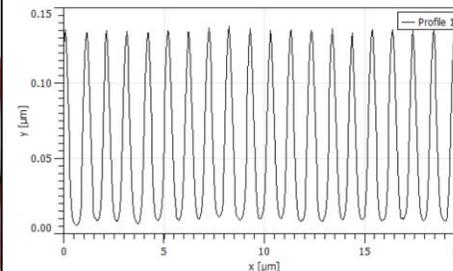
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Average height 115.2 nm  
Pitch to pitch distance 0.78  $\mu\text{m}$

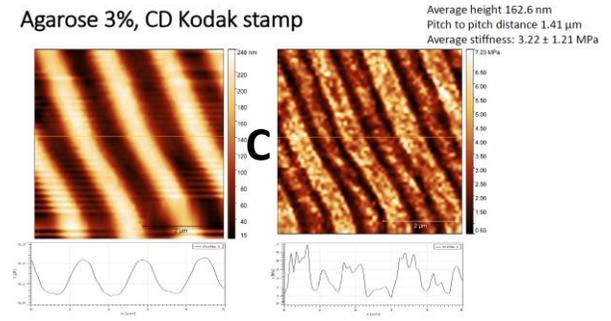
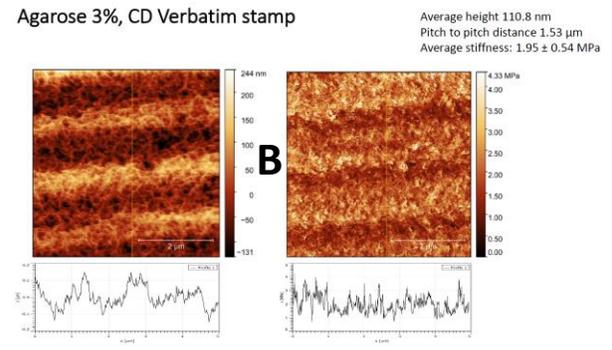
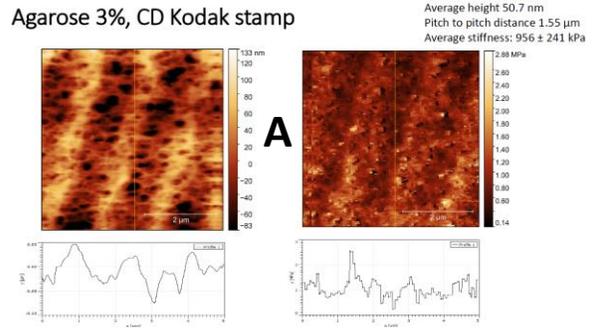
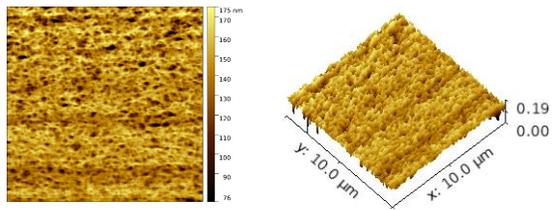


**Brillouin:** M~2500kPa

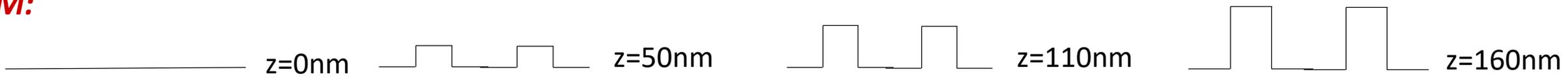
M~2500kPa

M~2500kPa

M~2500kPa



**AFM:**



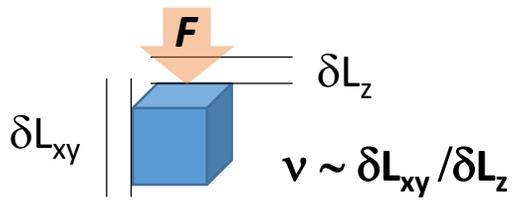
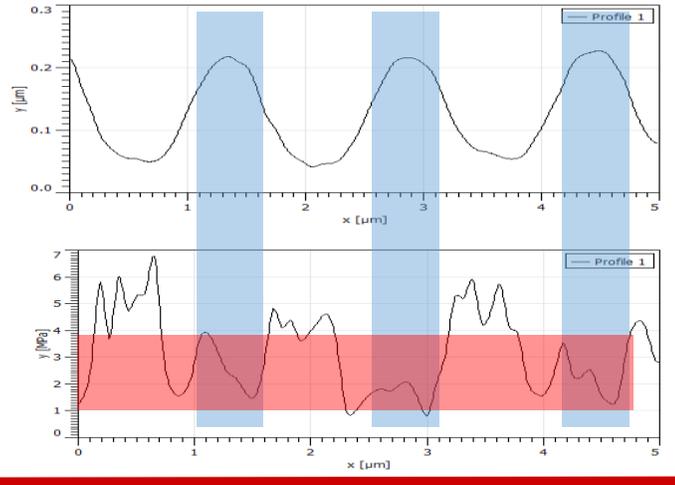
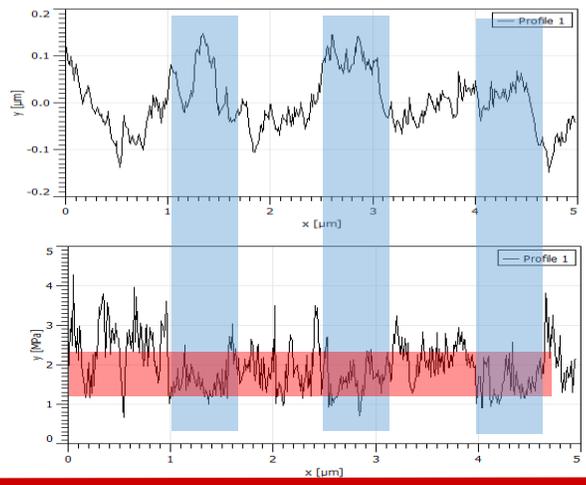
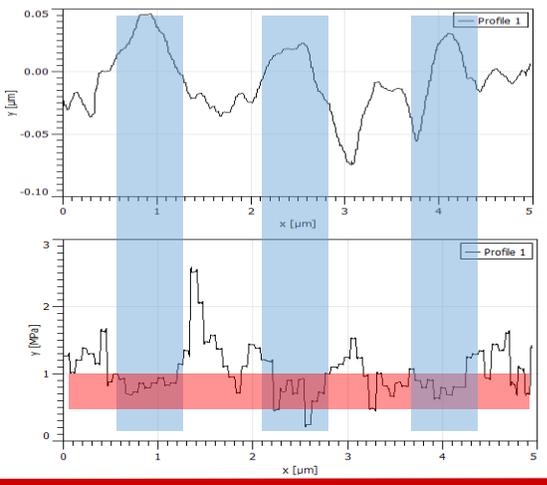
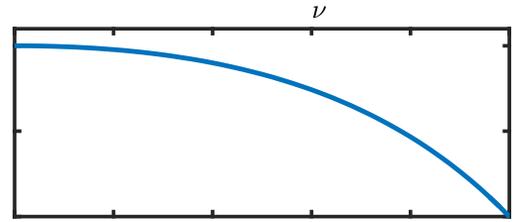
E~300kPa

E~900kPa

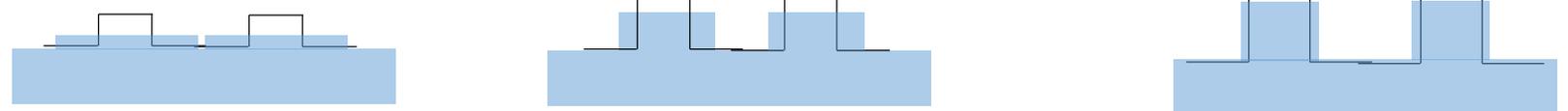
E~1500kPa

E~2000kPa

$$E = \frac{M(1 + \nu)(1 - 2\nu)}{(1 - \nu)}$$



$$\Rightarrow \nu_A > \nu_B > \nu_C$$



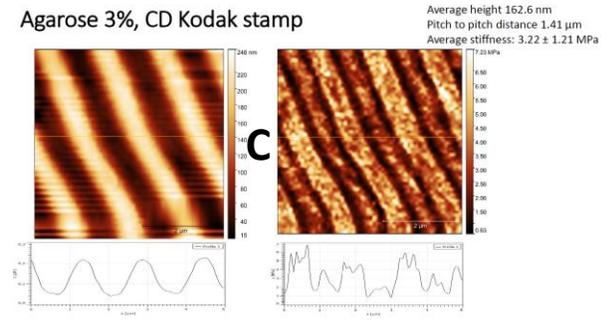
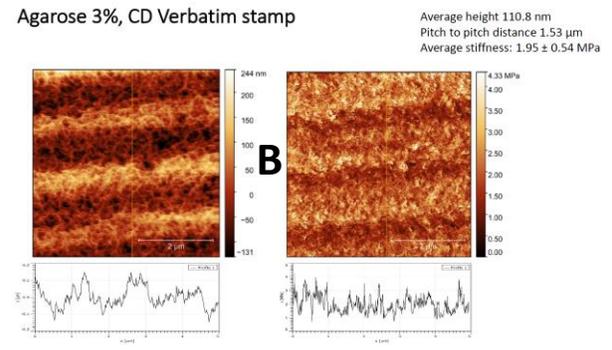
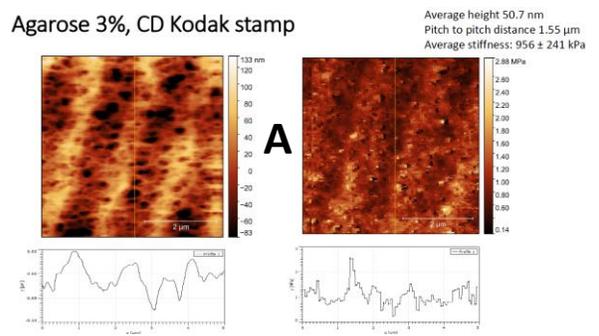
$$\delta L_z^{(A)} = \delta L_z^{(B)} = \delta L_z^{(C)} \quad \delta L_{xy}^{(A)} > \delta L_{xy}^{(B)} > \delta L_{xy}^{(C)}$$

**Brillouin:** M~2500kPa

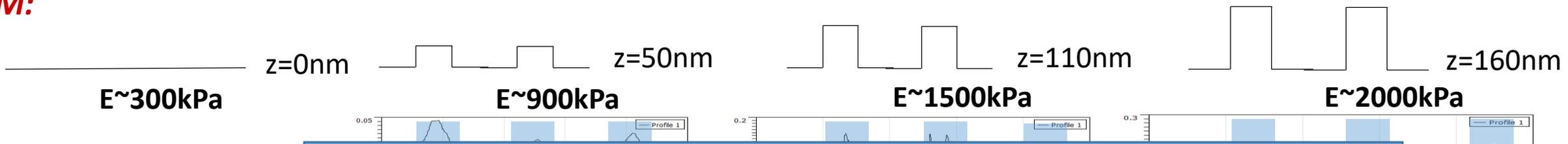
M~2500kPa

M~2500kPa

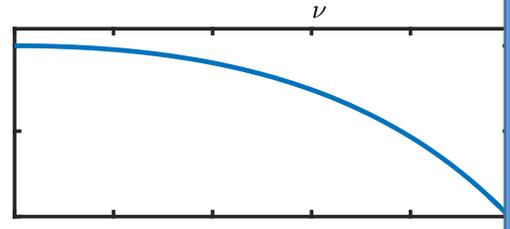
M~2500kPa



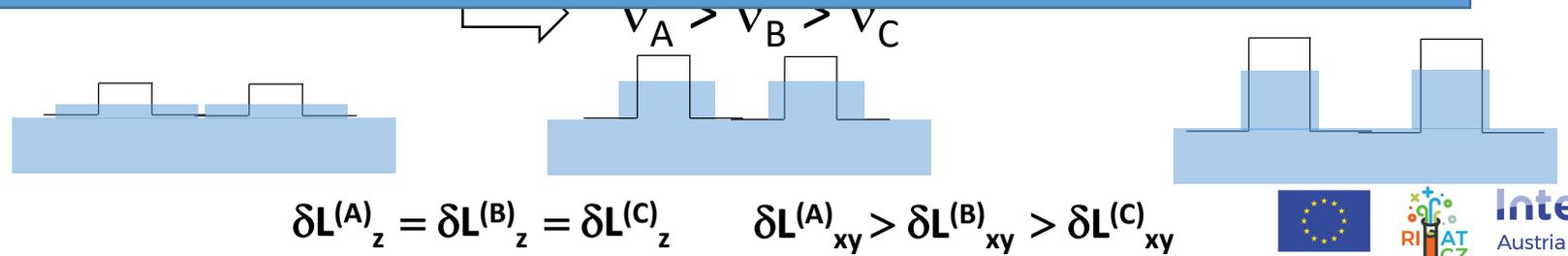
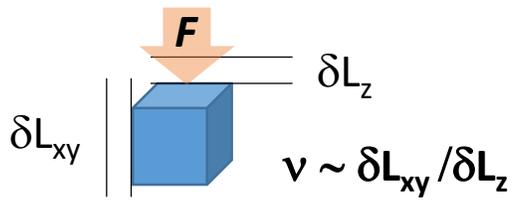
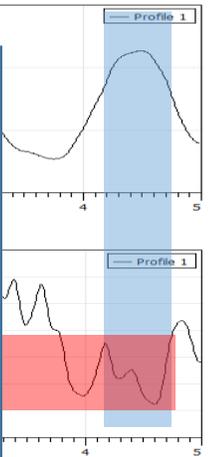
**AFM:**



$$E = \frac{M(1 + \nu)(1 - 2\nu)}{(1 - \nu)}$$



While the Young's Modulus obtained by AFM studies may depend on the local constraints, the Brillouin scattering measured Longitudinal modulus appears to be largely independent of these as one would expect. **A direct comparison between the two (even accounting for the different frequency regimes) needs to also account for the change in the Poisson ratio in different parts of the sample.**



# Conclusions

- Set up the basis for correlative AFM – Brillouin studies
- Established details on sample mounting and how to perform efficient site-matched studies
- Ongoing work on details of interpretation of data in light of different measurement modalities
- Next step should be proof-of-principle studies on real (live) biological samples, but current funding/resources are limiting this.
- **Can now perform select open access projects**