



# Asymetrical Flow Field-Flow Fractionation coupled with Multi-Angle Light Scattering and Differential Refractometer (AF4-MALS-DRi): An analysis tool to characterize milk protein aggregates produced in semi-industrial way

M Hennetier, D De-Guibert, Y Gu, V Solé, Catherine Garnier, G Delaplace, Romain Jeantet, A Riaublanc

## ► To cite this version:

M Hennetier, D De-Guibert, Y Gu, V Solé, Catherine Garnier, et al.. Asymetrical Flow Field-Flow Fractionation coupled with Multi-Angle Light Scattering and Differential Refractometer (AF4-MALS-DRi): An analysis tool to characterize milk protein aggregates produced in semi-industrial way. FFF2018-19th International Symposium on Field- and Flow-based Separations, May 2018, Columbia, United States. hal-03370393v1

**HAL Id: hal-03370393**

**<https://hal.inrae.fr/hal-03370393v1>**

Submitted on 8 Oct 2021 (v1), last revised 12 Oct 2021 (v2)

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial - NoDerivatives 4.0 International License

# Asymetrical Flow Field-Flow Fractionation coupled with Multi-Angle Light Scattering and Differential Refractometer (AF4-MALS-DRI): An analysis tool to characterize milk protein aggregates produced in semi-industrial way

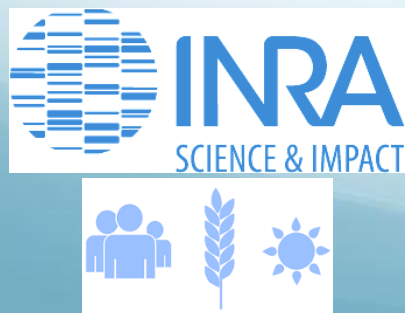
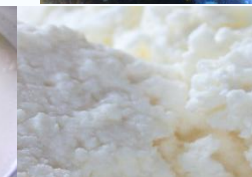
**M.Hennetier<sup>1\*</sup>, D.De-Guibert<sup>2</sup>, Y.Gu<sup>3</sup>, V.Solé<sup>1</sup>, C.Garnier<sup>1</sup>, G.Delaplace<sup>3</sup>,  
R.Jeantet<sup>2</sup>, A. Riaublanc<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> UR1268 INRA, Biopolymers Interactions Assemblies, Nantes, France

<sup>2</sup> UMR1253 INRA, Science and Technology of Milk and Egg, Rennes, France

<sup>3</sup> UMR8207 UMET, Interface Processes and Hygiene of Materials, Lille, France

\* E-mail address: [marie.hennetier@purpan.fr](mailto:marie.hennetier@purpan.fr)



# Context



**Thickening  
or gelling  
agents**

**Natural product  
please!!!**



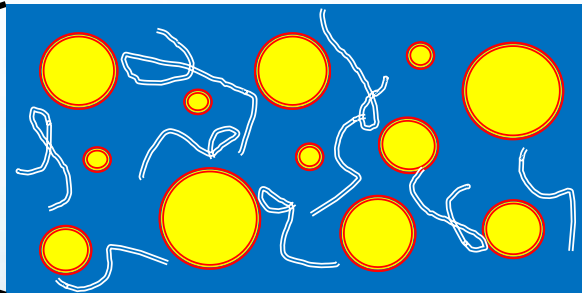
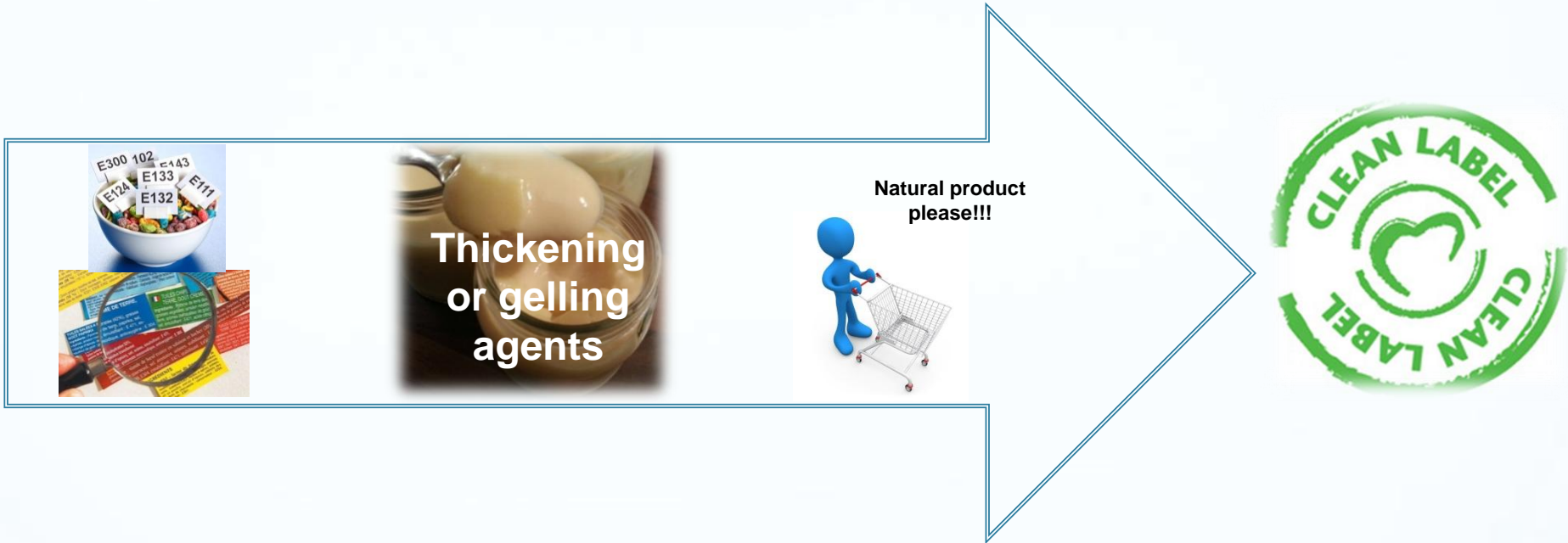
**Introduction**

Methods

Results

Conclusion and  
perspectives

# Context

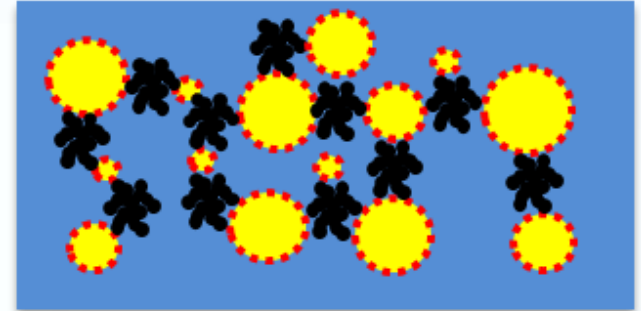


Oil/Water emulsion

Gelling agents texture the continuous phase and entrap the oil droplets

# Whey protein aggregates properties

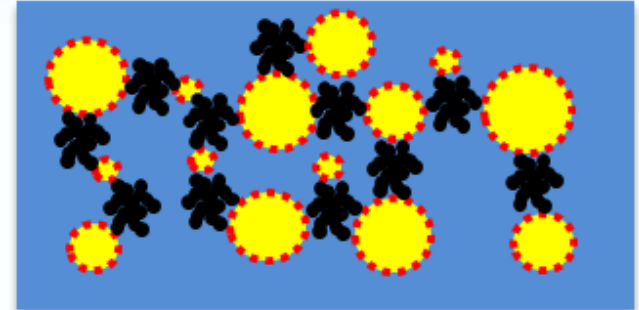
- ✓ Use oil droplets to texture emulsion without gelling agents
- ✓ Connect oil droplets through whey protein aggregates
- ✓ Heating can form aggregates with different shapes and sizes (Nicolai, 2011)



C. Surel, J. Fouquier, N. Perrot, A. Mackie, C. Garnier, A. Riaublanc, and M. Anton, "Composition and structure of interface impacts texture of O/W emulsions," *Food Hydrocoll.*, vol. 34, pp. 3–9, 2014.

# Whey protein aggregates properties

- ✓ Use oil droplets to texture emulsion without gelling agents
- ✓ Connect oil droplets through whey protein aggregates
- ✓ Heating can form aggregates with different shapes and sizes (Nicolai, 2011)



C. Surel, J. Fouquier, N. Perrot, A. Mackie, C. Garnier, A. Riaublanc, and M. Anton, "Composition and structure of interface impacts texture of O/W emulsions," *Food Hydrocoll.*, vol. 34, pp. 3–9, 2014.

## Applications

Replace food additives like thickening or gelling agents in neutral dairy products

Texture emulsions even at low fat content



**Fractal aggregates production from Whey Protein Isolate (WPI) at semi-industrial scale**

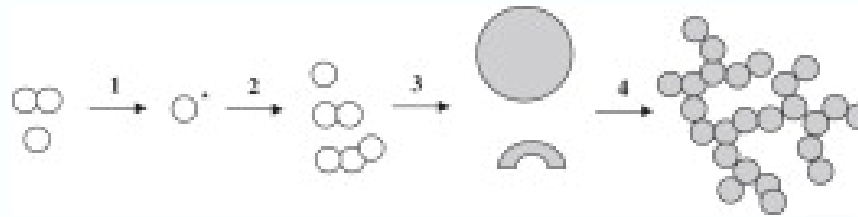
Introduction

Methods

Results

Conclusion and perspectives

# Fractal aggregate formation

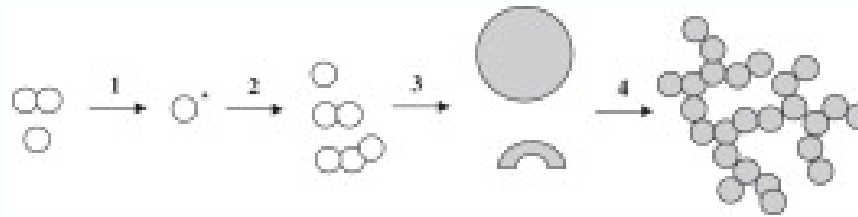


(Nicolai, 2011)

- 1: Dimer/trimer of whey proteins ( $\beta$ -lactoglobulin) are heated at 80°C  
→ Denaturation, unfolding and thiol/hydrophobic group exposition



# Fractal aggregate formation



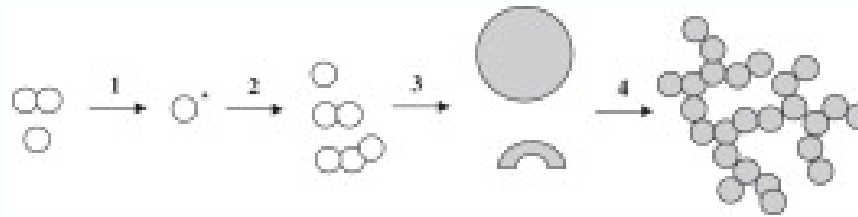
(Nicolai, 2011)

1: Dimer/trimer of whey proteins ( $\beta$ -lactoglobulin) are heated at 80°C  
→ Denaturation, unfolding and thiol/hydrophobic group exposition

2: Denatured proteins form oligomers (irreversible)



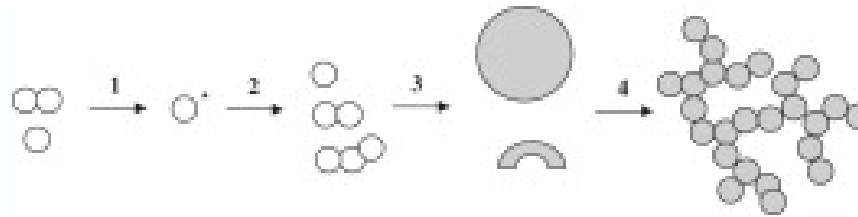
# Fractal aggregate formation



(Nicolai, 2011)

- 1: Dimer/trimer of whey proteins ( $\beta$ -lactoglobulin) are heated at 80°C  
→ Denaturation, unfolding and thiol/hydrophobic group exposition
- 2: Denatured proteins form oligomers (irreversible)
- 3: Critical concentration in oligomer : Primary aggregates : curved if pH=7

# Fractal aggregate formation



(Nicolai, 2011)

- 1: Dimer/trimer of whey proteins ( $\beta$ -lactoglobulin) are heated at 80°C  
→ Denaturation, unfolding and thiol/hydrophobic group exposition
- 2: Denatured proteins form oligomers (irreversible)
- 3: Critical concentration in oligomer : Primary aggregates : curved if pH=7
- 4: When Salt concentration is sufficient: Branched aggregate formation (disulfides bonds, hydrogen and hydrophobic interactions)

## Objective:

# Characterization of aggregates produced at semi-industrial scale

### Dynamic light scattering (DLS) in batch



- Large objects are exacerbated
- No differentiation in large particle populations

### Size exclusion chromatography (SEC)



- Aggregates obstruct the column

# Objective:

## Characterization of aggregates produced at semi-industrial scale

### Dynamic light scattering (DLS) in batch



As-FIFFF

- Large objects are exacerbated
- No differentiation in large particle populations

- Injection of entire product without filtration
- Fractionation of large particles



### Size exclusion chromatography (SEC)



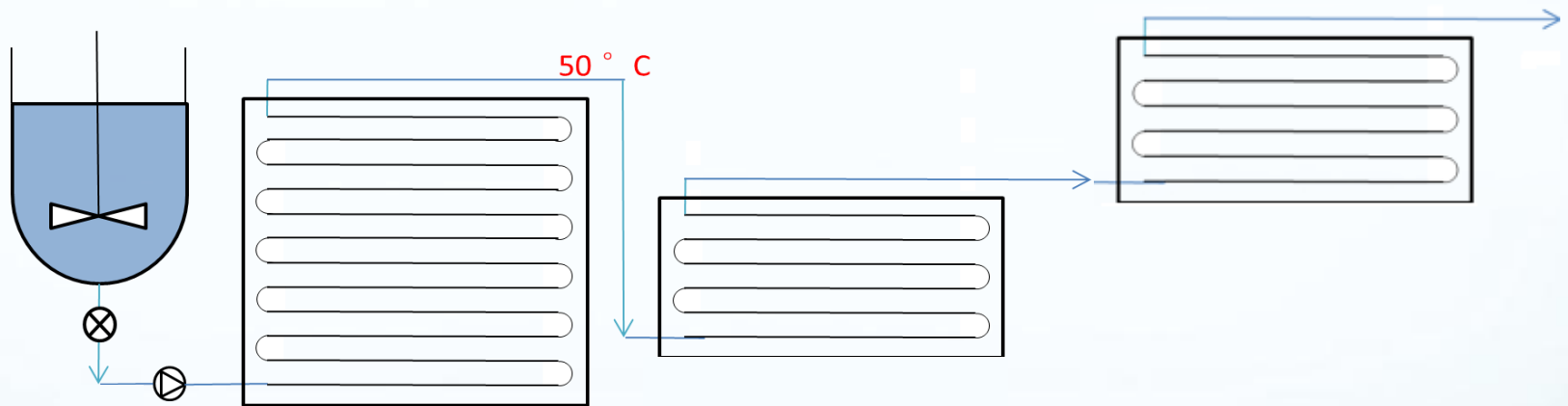
- Aggregates obstruct the column

### Transmission Electronic Microscopy (TEM)

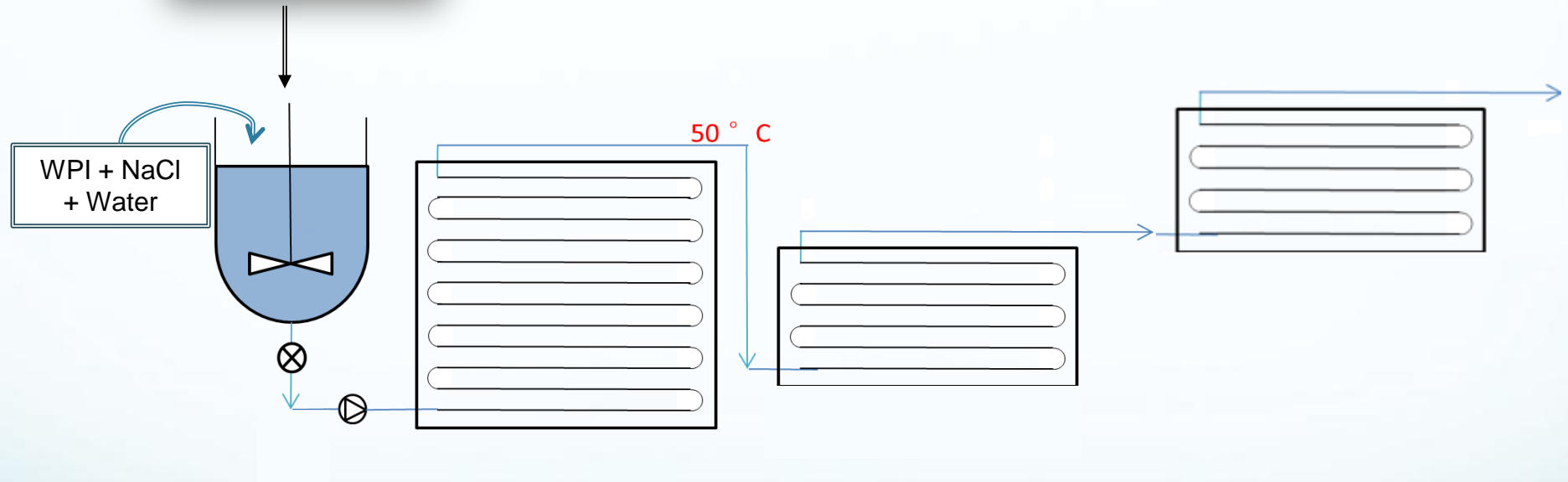
- Correlation between size/form factor (As-FIFFF) and microscopic visual



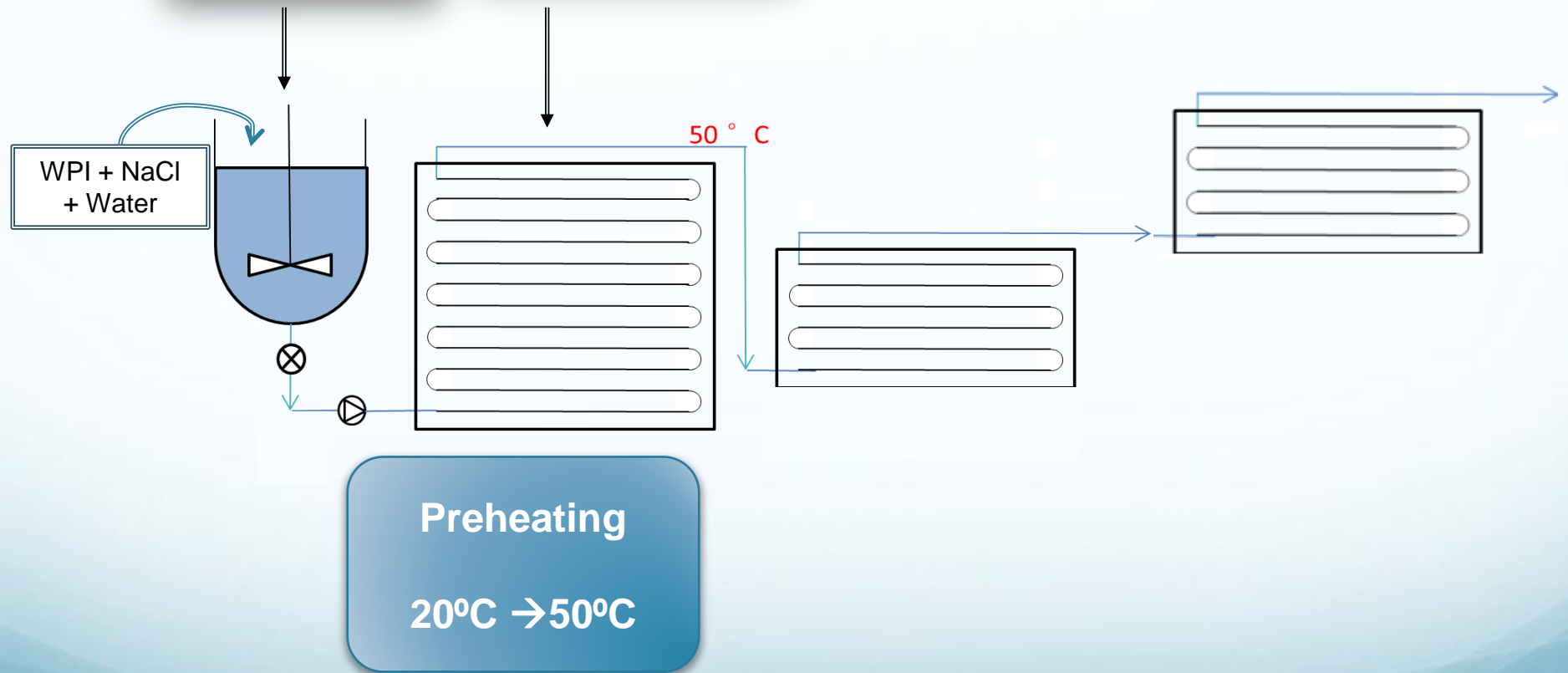
# Aggregates production by semi-industrial way



# Aggregates production by semi-industrial way

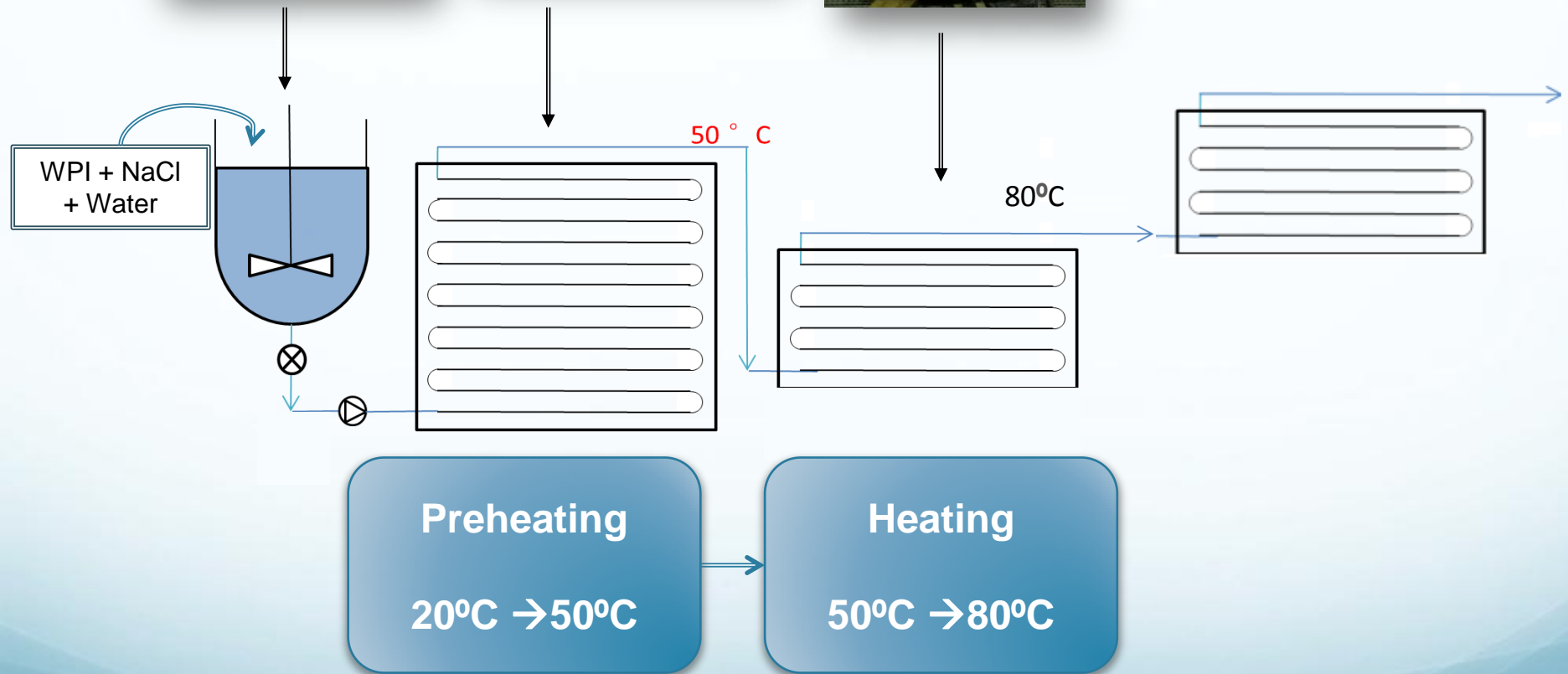


# Aggregates production by semi-industrial way

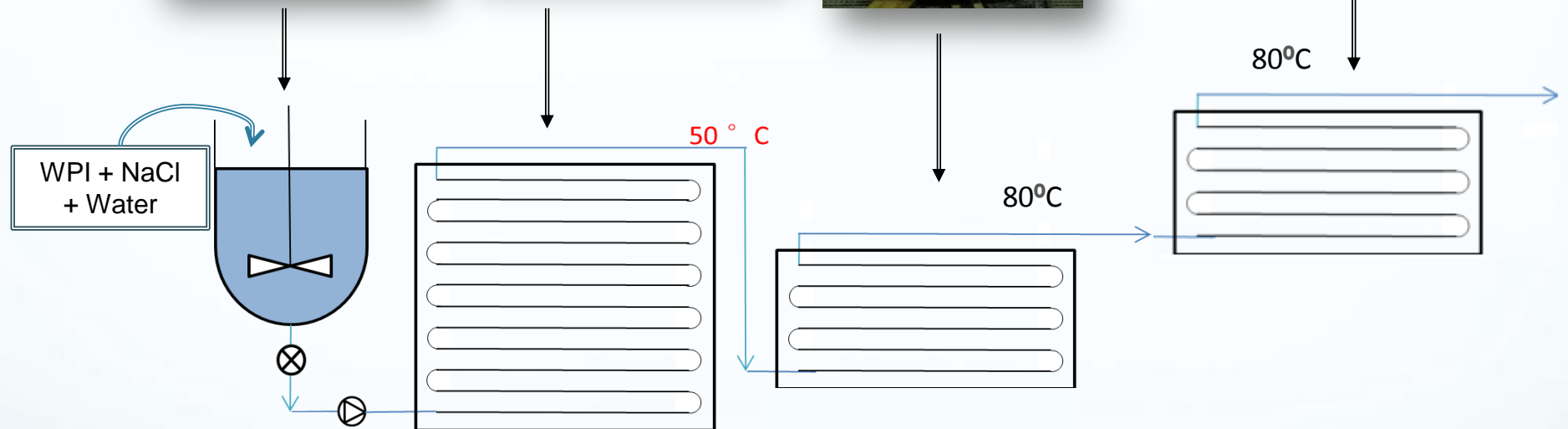
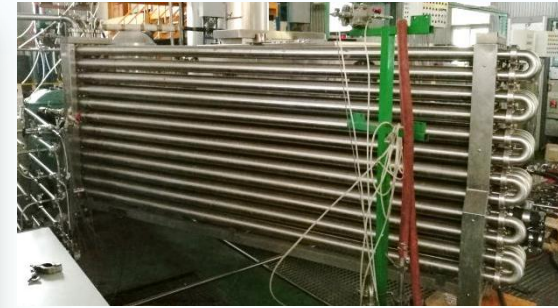
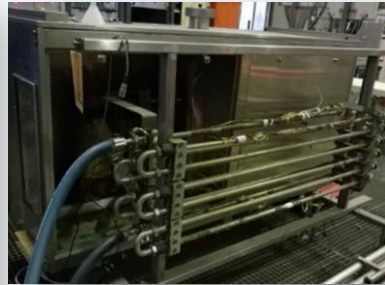




# Aggregates production by semi-industrial way



# Aggregates production by semi-industrial way



**Preheating**

20°C → 50°C

**Heating**

50°C → 80°C

**Static or dynamic holding**  
80°C ; up to 1h

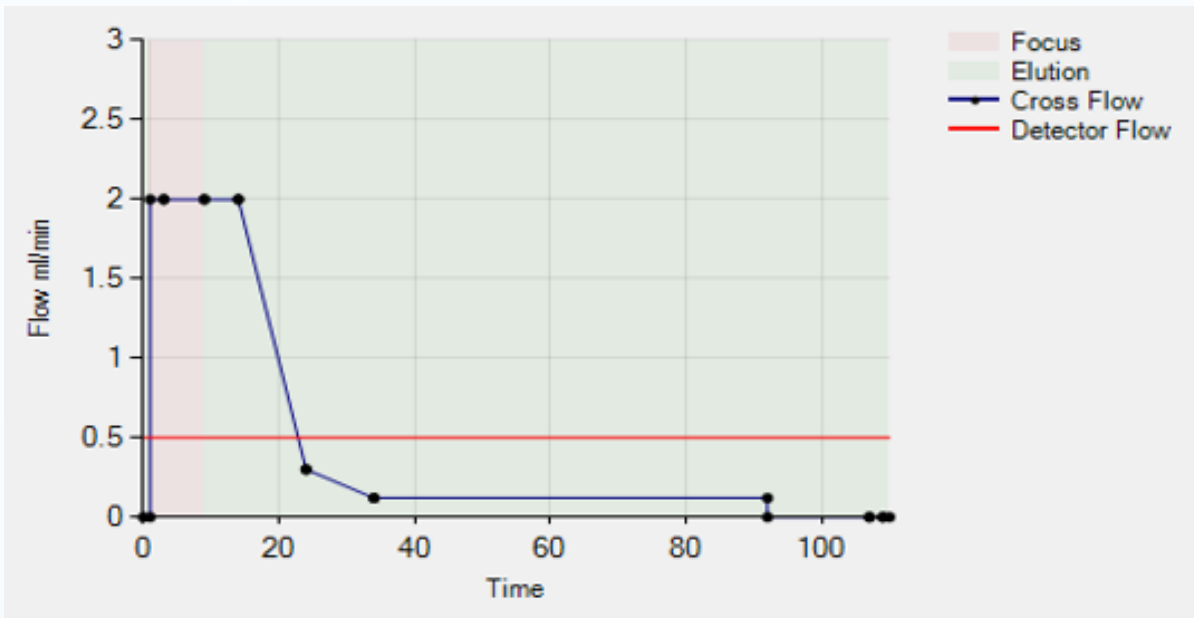
Introduction

**Methods**

Results

Conclusion and perspectives

# As-FIFFF method



✓Wyatt Dualtec System

✓MALS

✓Differential Refractometer

Elution : 1 min

Focus : 2 min

Focus + inject : 6 min

Eluent	Ultrapure water + 0.02% NaN <sub>3</sub> + 45mM NaCl
Membrane	Regenerated cellulose, cut-off 10kDa
Spacer (μm)	350
Canal	Short Canal
Injected mass (μg)	20

Introduction

**Methods**

Results

Conclusion and perspectives

# Interest parameters

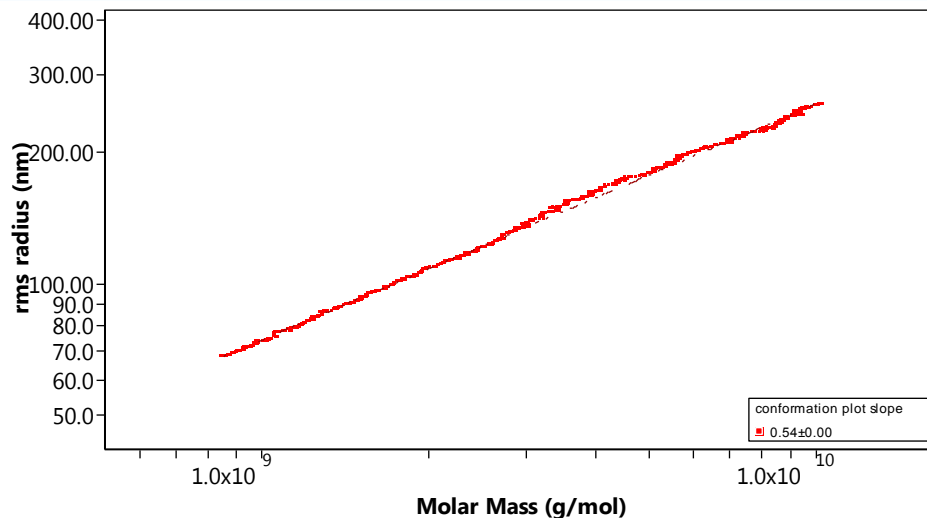
- Radius of gyration ( $R_g$ ) distribution
- Molar mass ( $M$ ) distribution

# Interest parameters

- Radius of gyration ( $R_g$ ) distribution
- Molar mass ( $M$ ) distribution
- Normalized concentration: Concentration from RI divided by Calculated Mass (=Mass recovery) from refractometer ;  $dn/dc=0,1850$  (it allows to compare samples)

# Interest parameters

- Radius of gyration ( $R_g$ ) distribution
- Molar mass ( $M$ ) distribution
- Normalized concentration: Concentration from RI divided by Calculated Mass (=Mass recovery) from refractometer ;  $dn/dc=0.1850$  (it allows to compare samples)
- Fractal dimension ( $D_f$ ):  $\log(R_g).D_f = f(\log(M))$



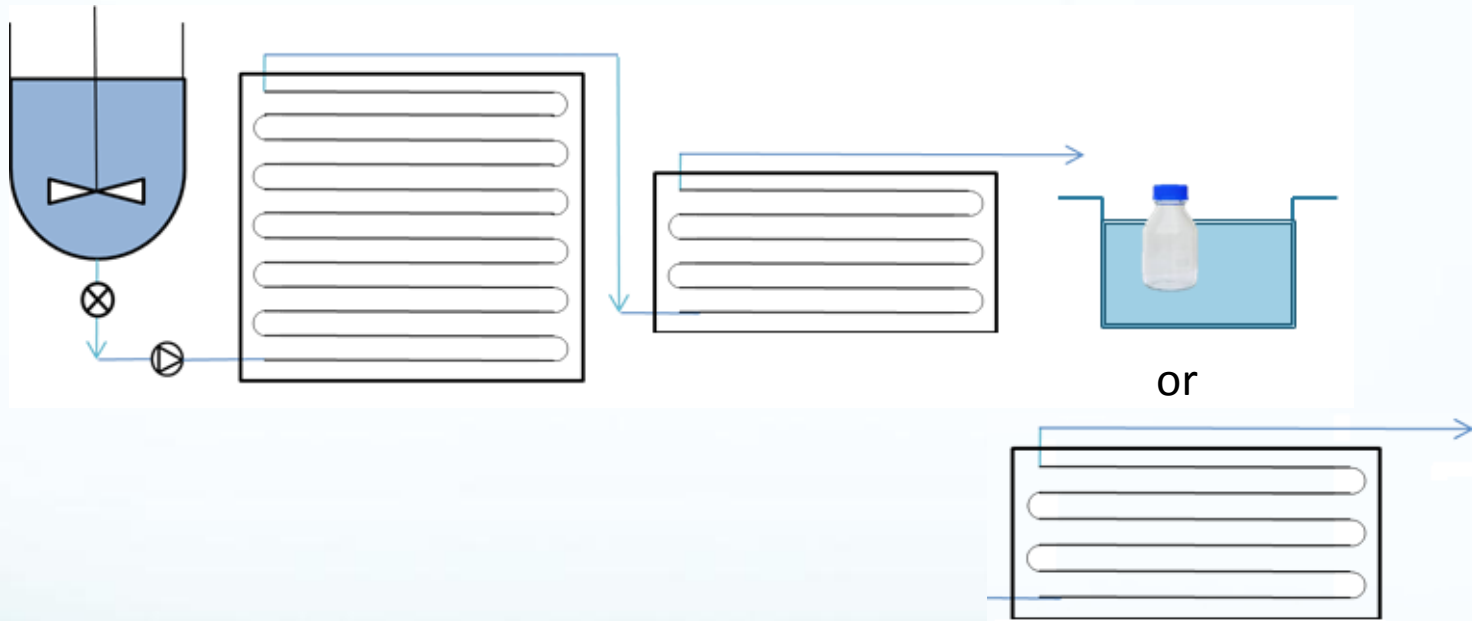
Molecular conformation model :

$D_f = 1$  : Rod shape

$D_f \sim 2$  : Coil

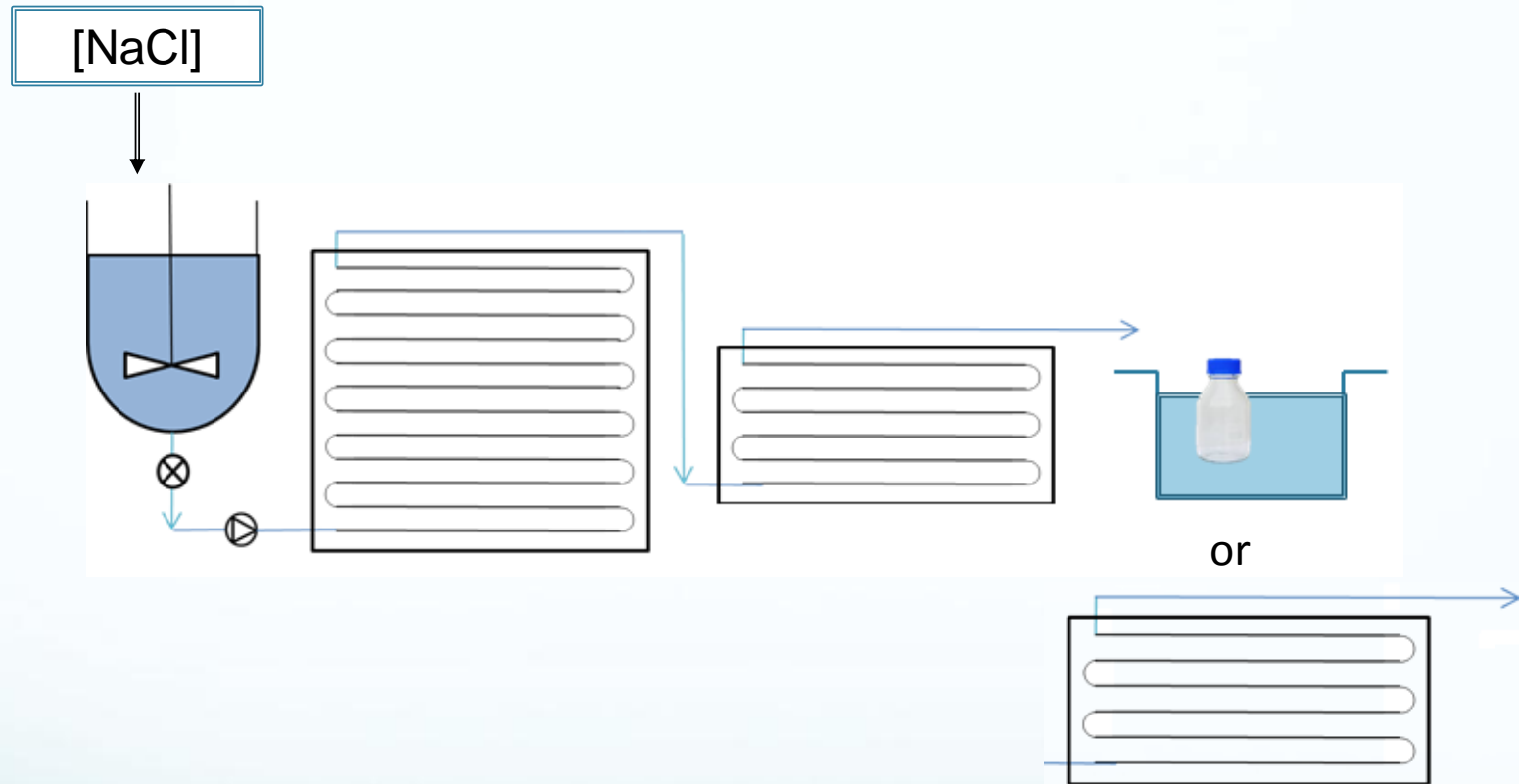
$D_f = 3$  : Spherical shape

# Size/shape aggregate control : process parameter variations

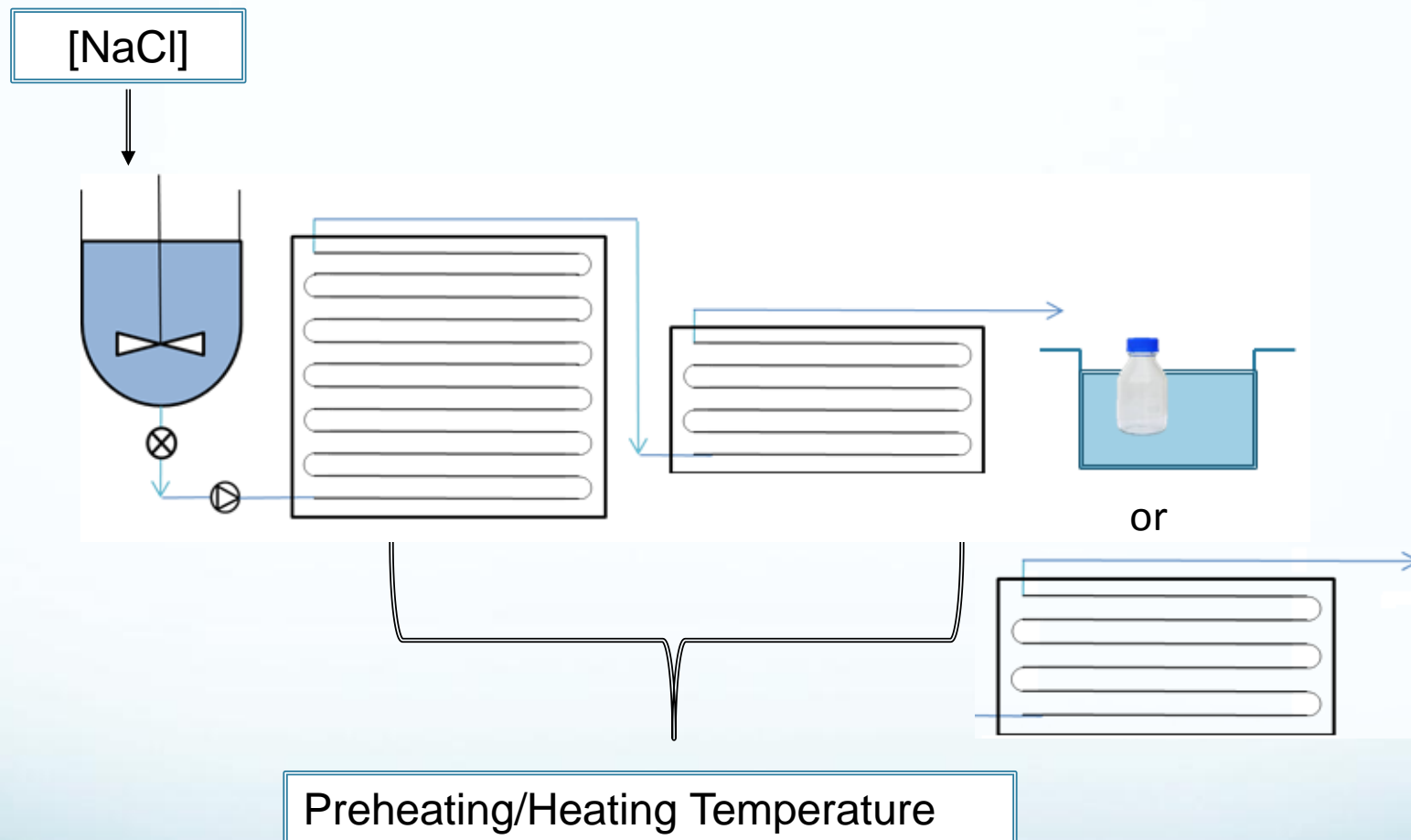




# Size/shape aggregate control : process parameter variations

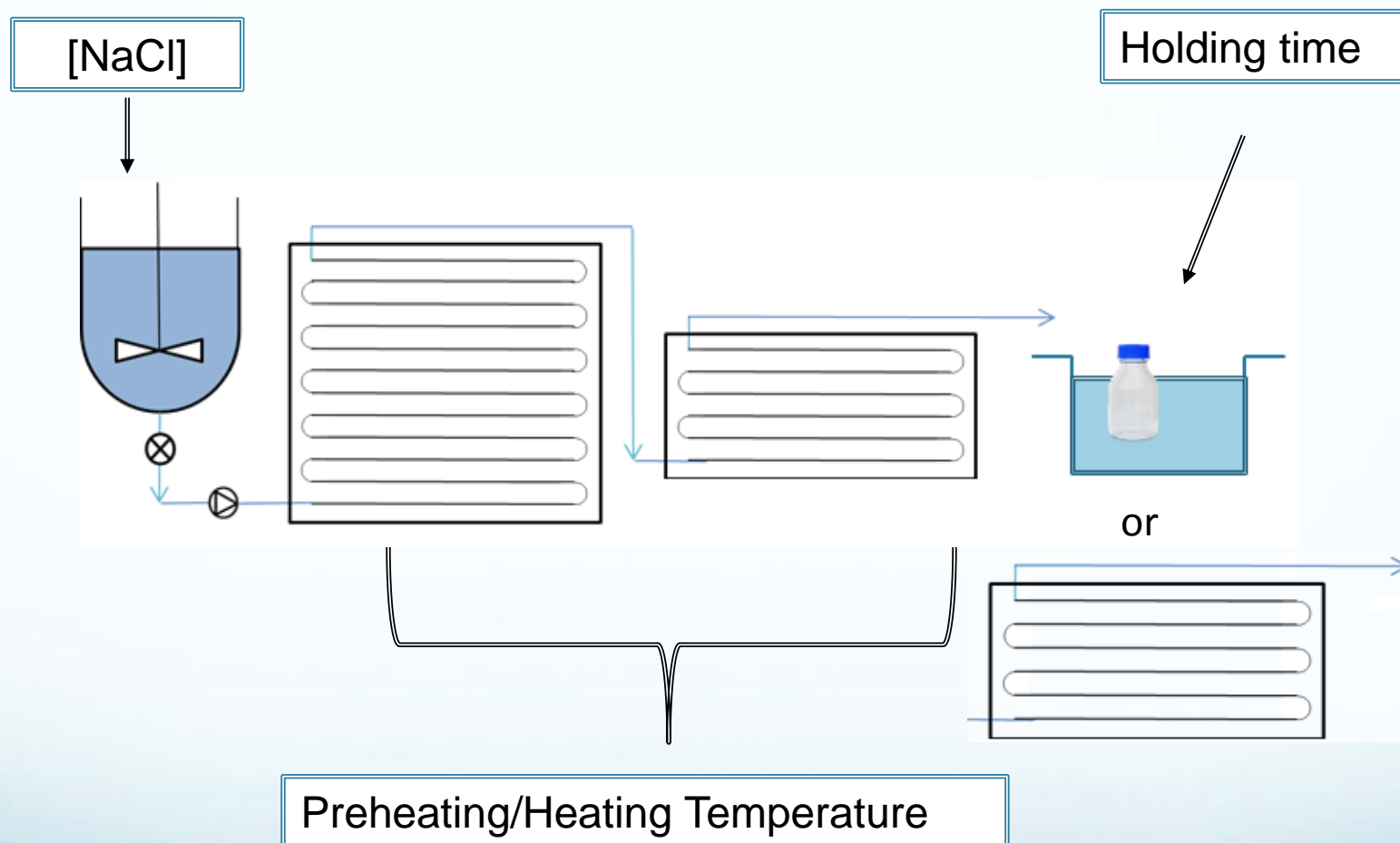


# Size/shape aggregate control : process parameter variations

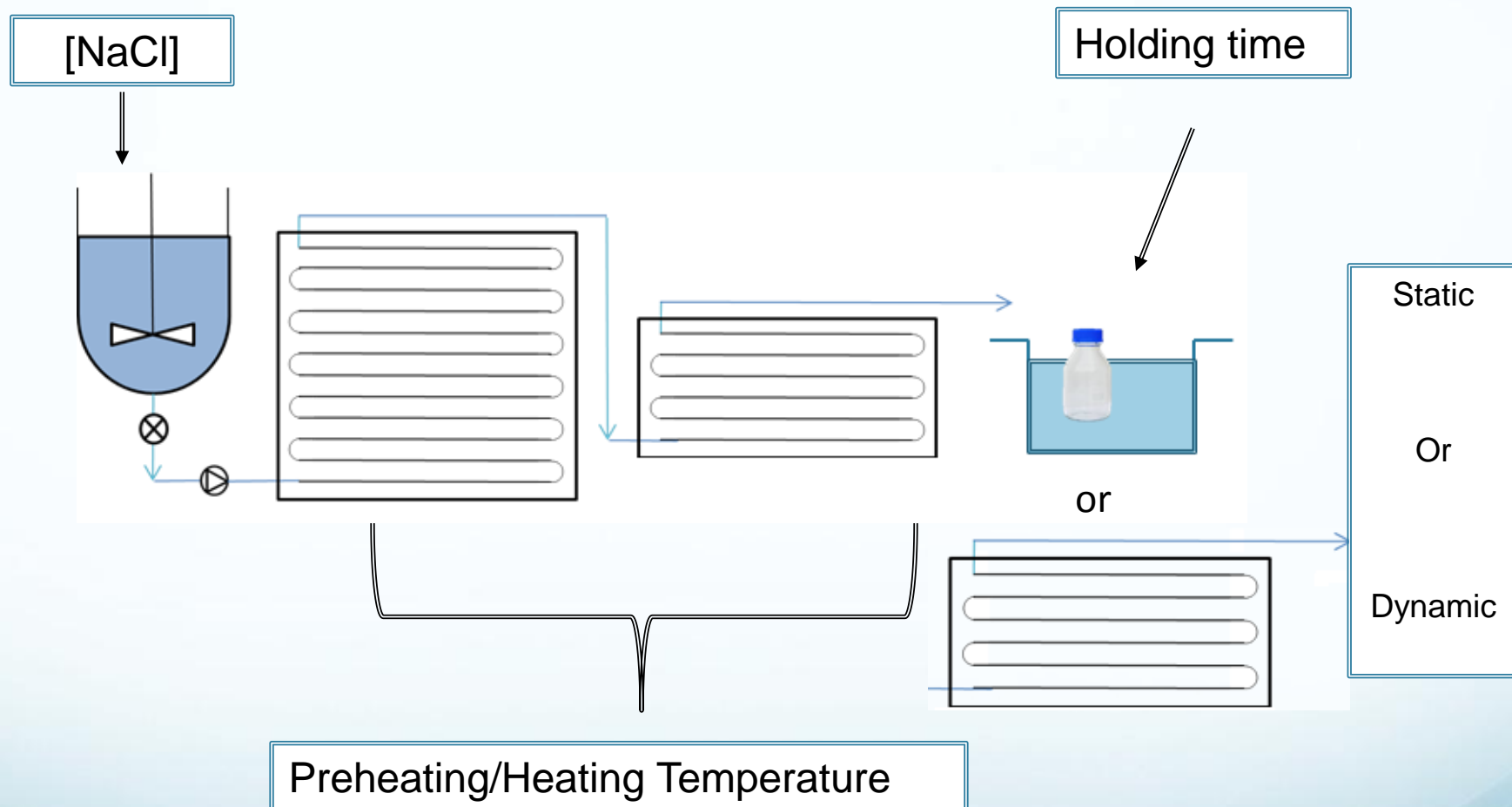


Preheating/Heating Temperature

# Size/shape aggregate control : process parameter variations



# Size/shape aggregate control : process parameter variations



# First production results

**5%** proteins ; **10mM** NaCl ; **Static** holding ; **15min** of holding time ; **50/80°C** Preheating/Heating

Introduction

Methods

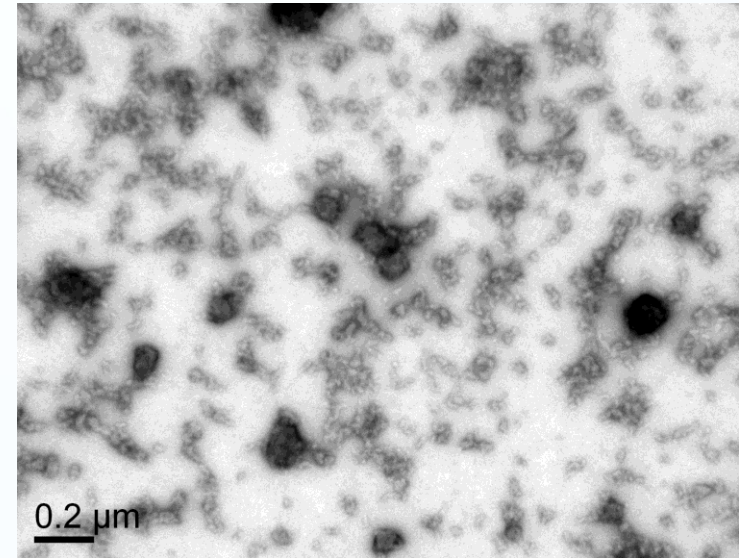
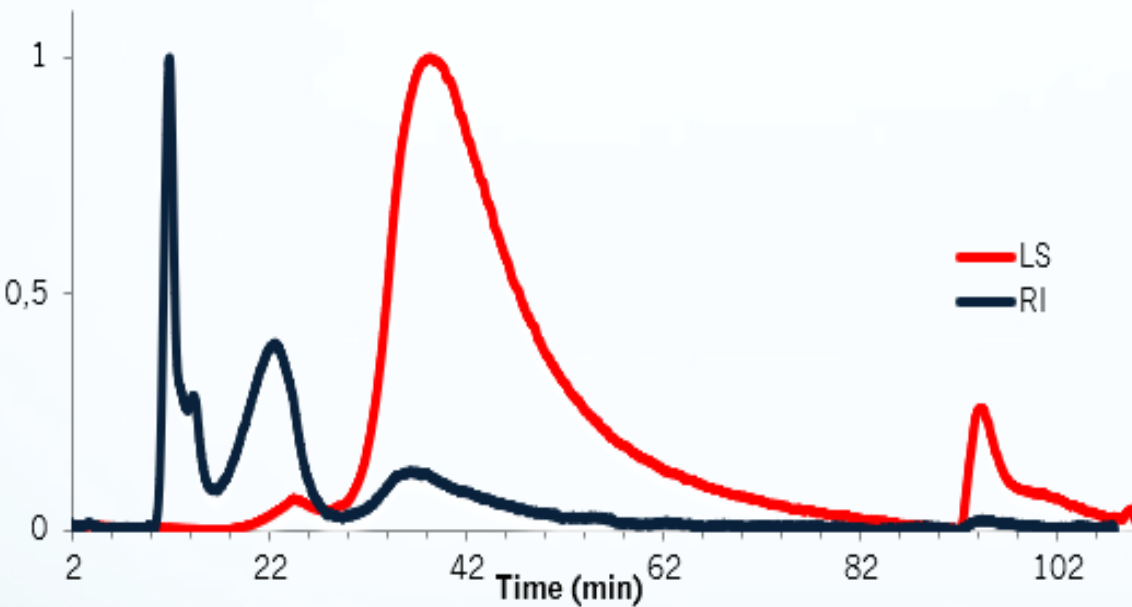
**Results**

Conclusion and  
perspectives

# First production results

**5% proteins ; 10mM NaCl ; Static holding ; 15min of holding time ; 50/80° C Preheating/Heating**

Relative Scale

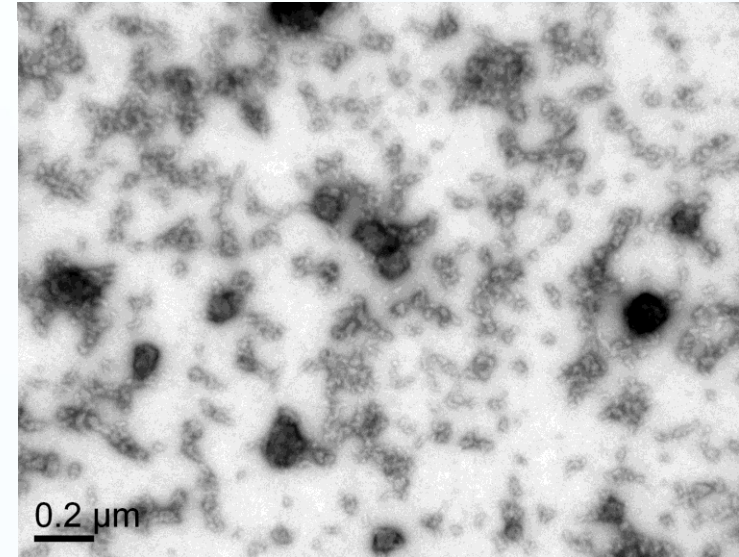
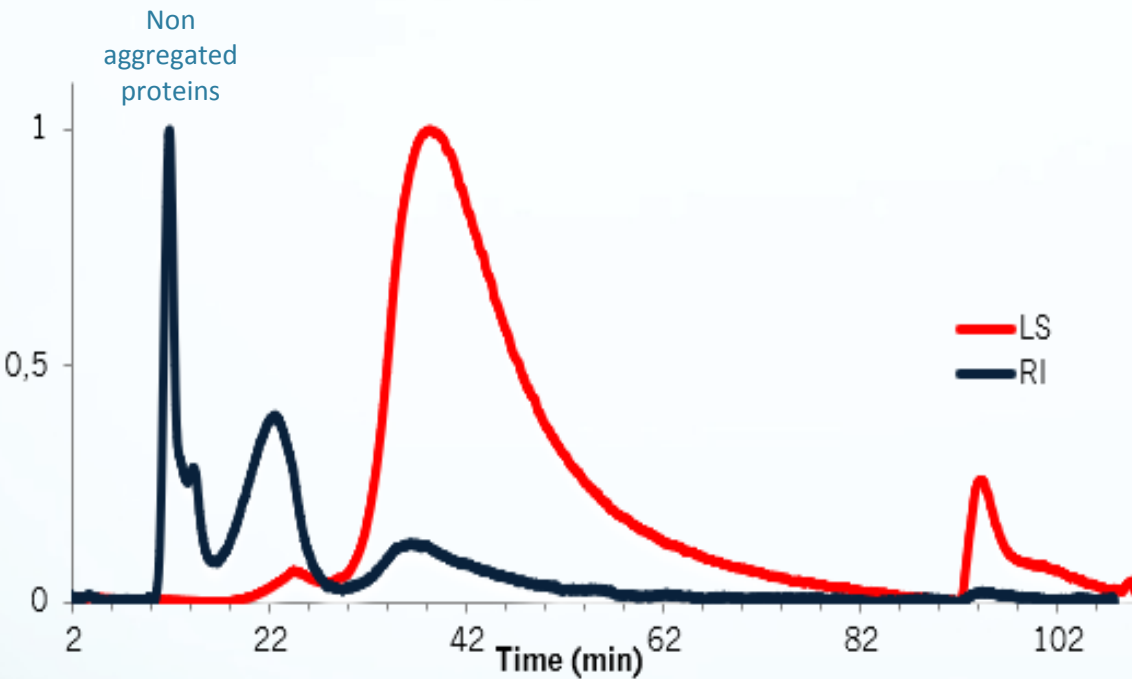


Transmission Electronic microscopy  
(negative coloration)

# First production results

**5% proteins ; 10mM NaCl ; Static holding ; 15min of holding time ; 50/80° C Preheating/Heating**

Relative Scale



Transmission Electronic microscopy  
(negative coloration)

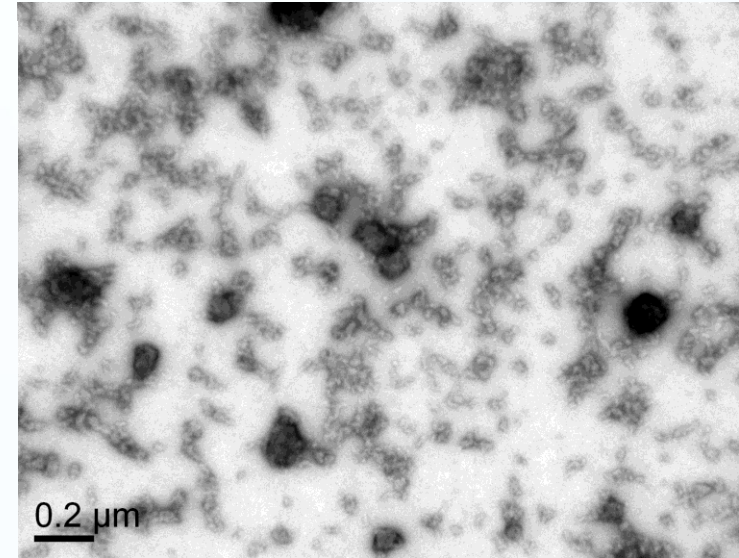
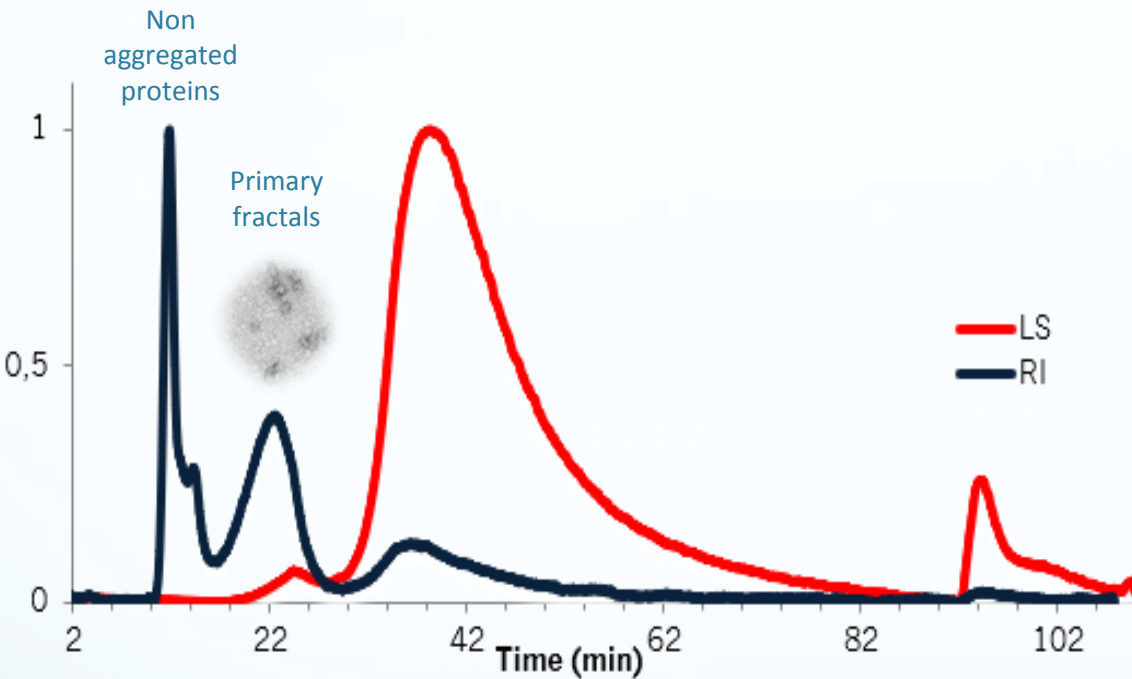
- 1<sup>st</sup> population (10-15min): non aggregated whey proteins



# First production results

**5% proteins ; 10mM NaCl ; Static holding ; 15min of holding time ; 50/80° C Preheating/Heating**

Relative Scale



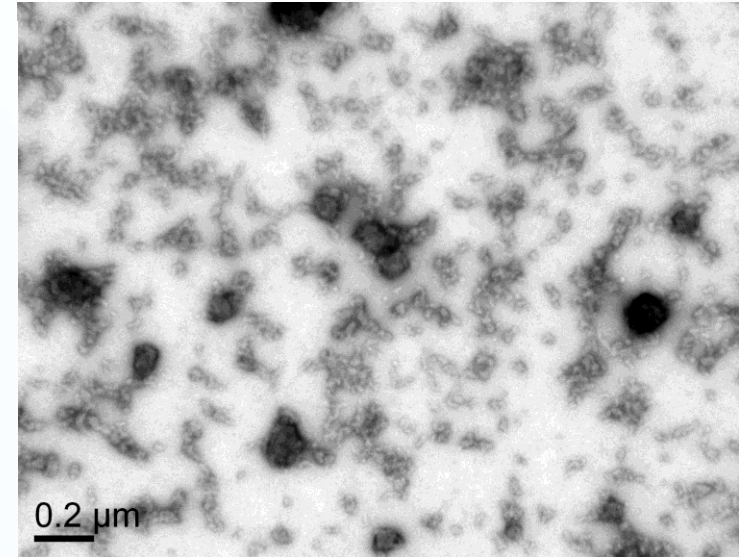
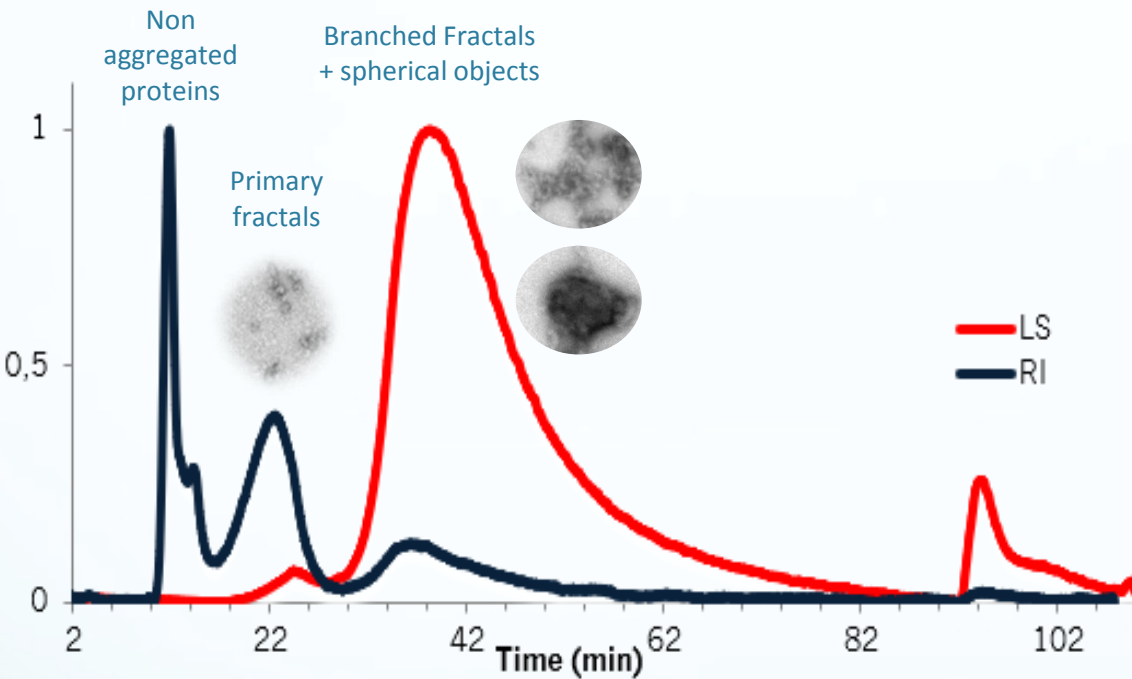
Transmission Electronic microscopy  
(negative coloration)

- 1<sup>st</sup> population (10-15min): non aggregated whey proteins
- 2<sup>nd</sup> population (15-30min): primary fractals

# First production results

**5% proteins ; 10mM NaCl ; Static holding ; 15min of holding time ; 50/80° C Preheating/Heating**

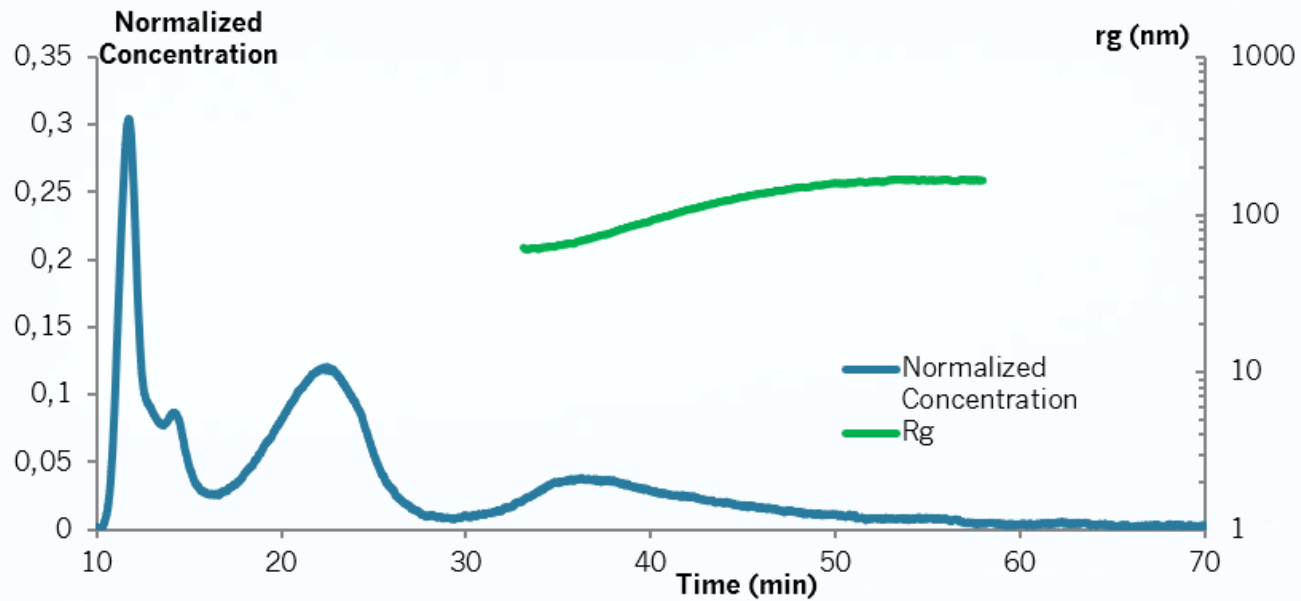
Relative Scale



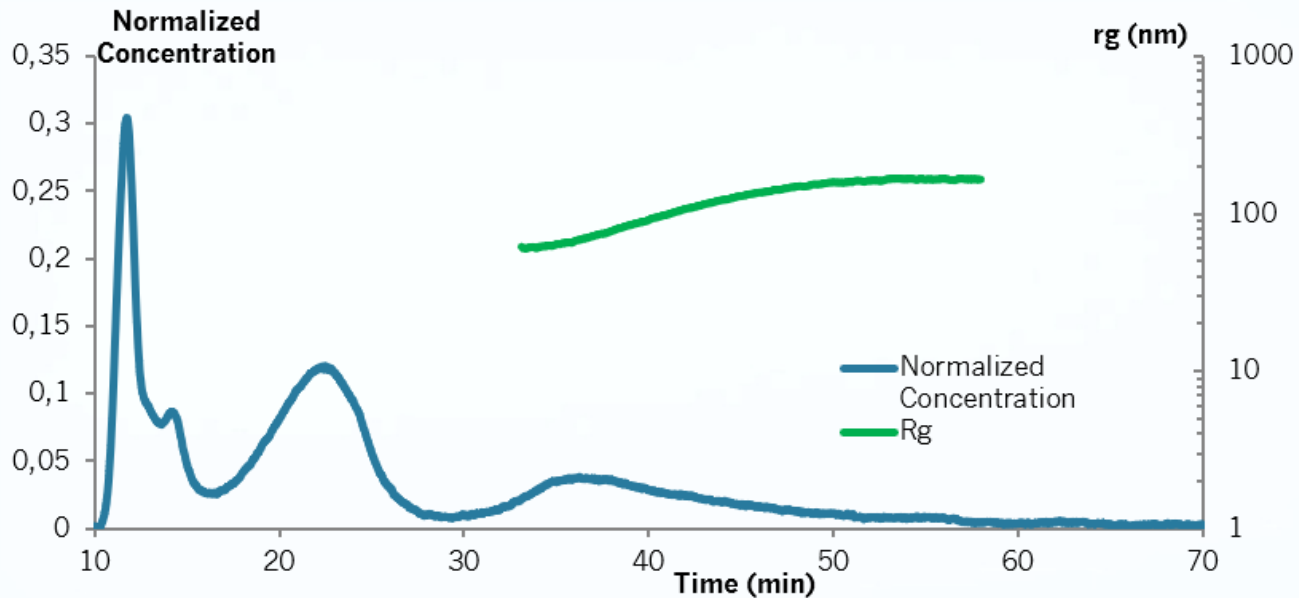
Transmission Electronic microscopy  
(negative coloration)

- 1<sup>st</sup> population (10-15min): non aggregated whey proteins
- 2<sup>nd</sup> population (15-30min): primary fractals
- 3<sup>rd</sup> population (after 30min): mix between large fractals and spherical objects

# First production results



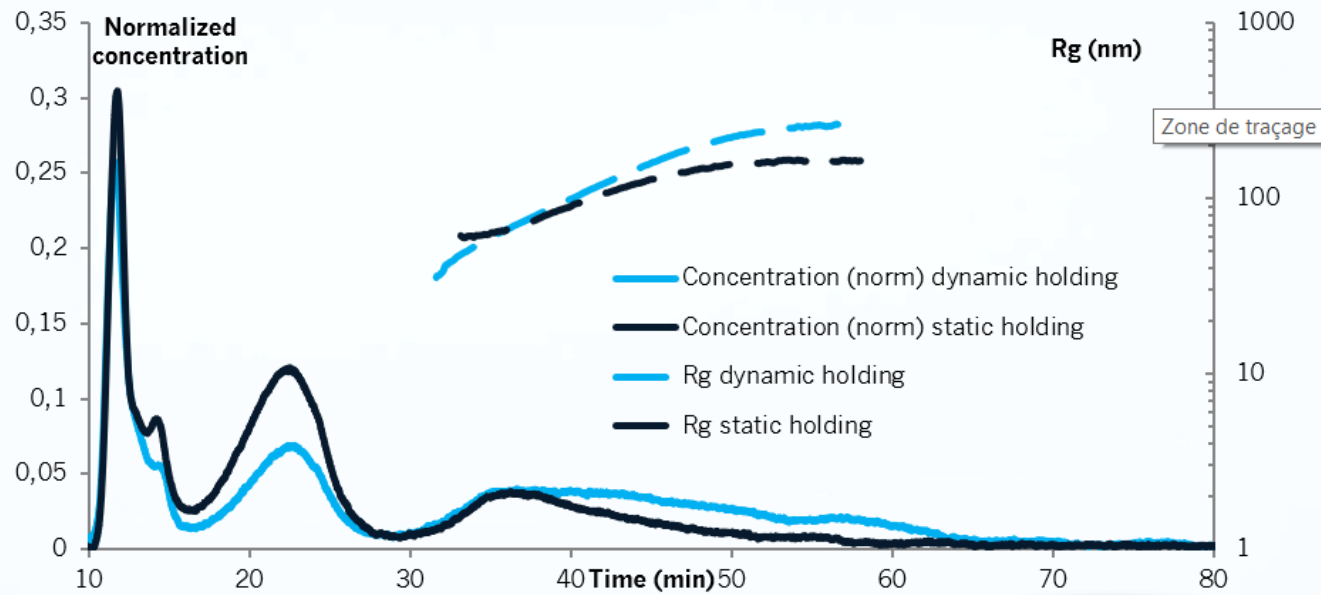
# First production results



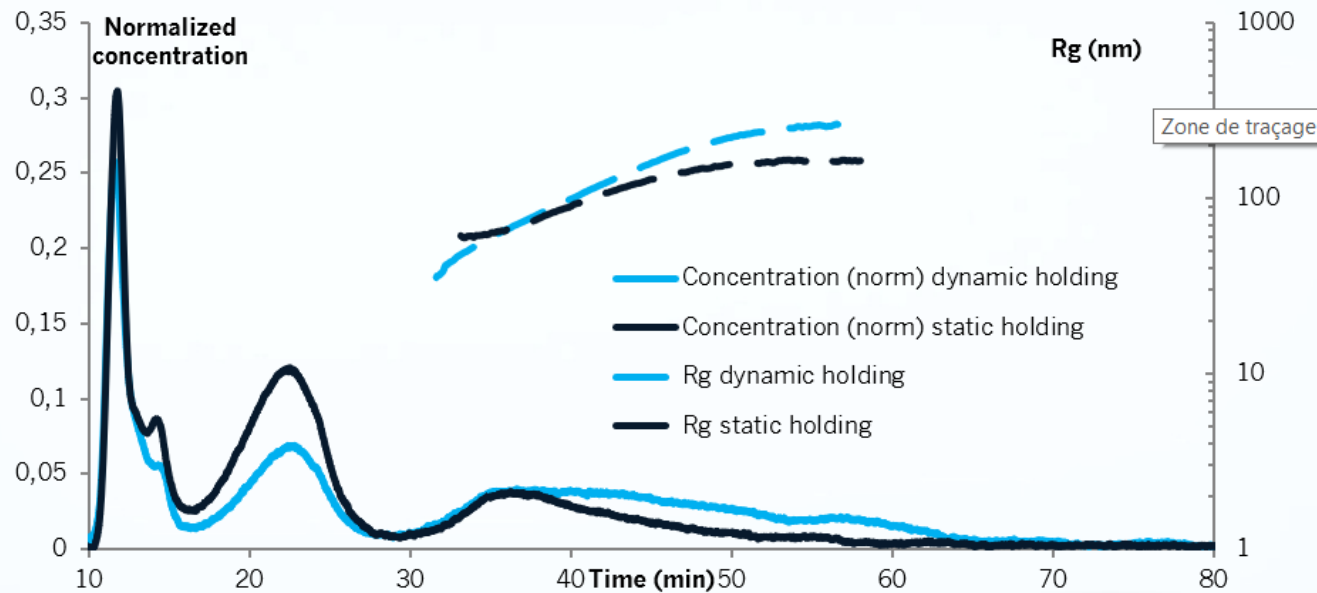
	$\overline{Mw}$ (g/mol)	$\overline{Rg}$ (nm)	Mass fraction (%)
1st population	/	/	30
2nd population	$8,5 \cdot 10^6 \pm 14\%$	/	40
3rd population	$8,3 \cdot 10^8 \pm 1,3\%$	$79 \pm 3\%$	30

**Objective :** Vary process parameters to obtain largest aggregates

# Dynamic/static holding

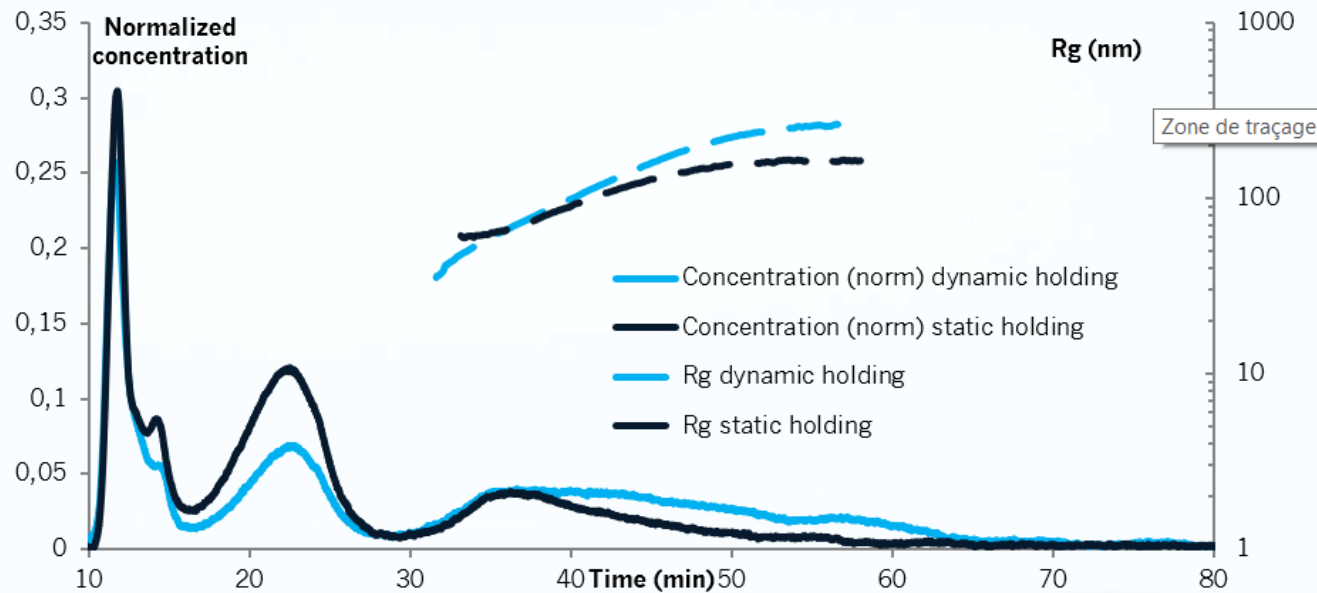


# Dynamic/static holding



Primary fractals aggregate together  
to form larger objects  
 $\overline{Rg} = 95\text{nm} \pm 3\%$

# Dynamic/static holding



	<i>Static</i> Mass fraction (%)	<i>Dynamic</i> Mass fraction (%)
1st population	30	30
2nd population	40	26
3rd population	30	44

Primary fractals aggregate together  
to form larger objects

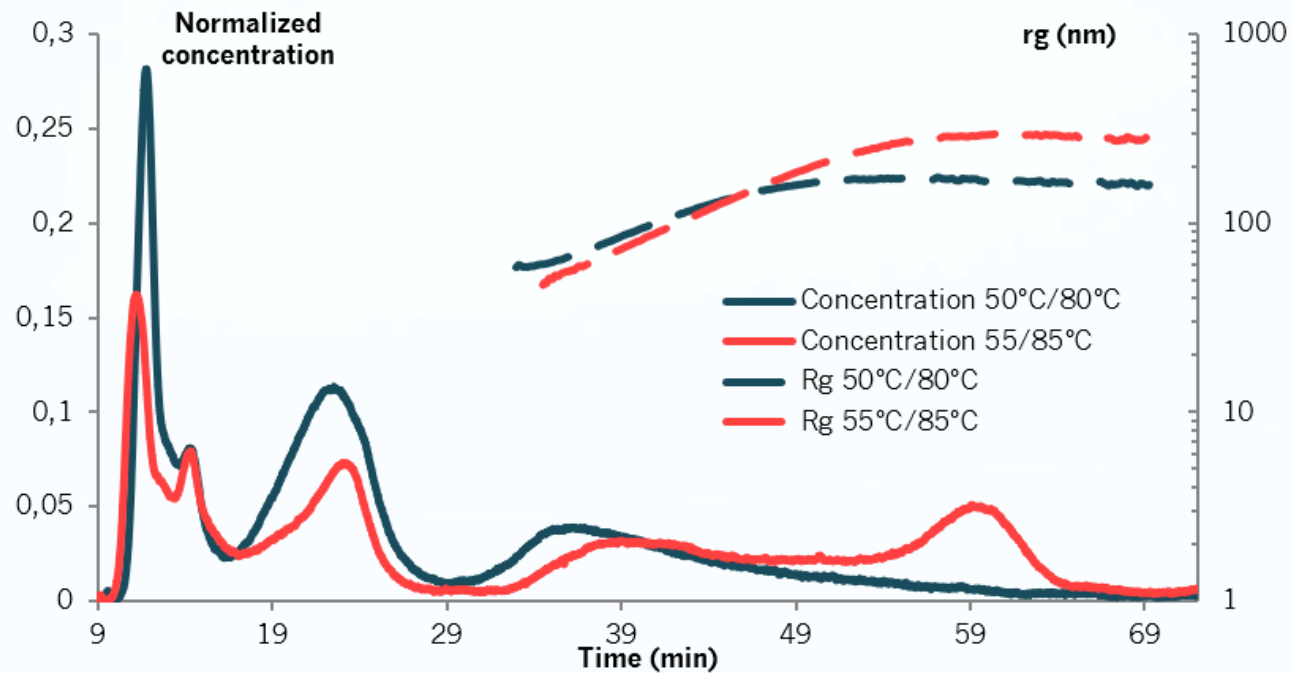
$$\overline{Rg} = 95\text{nm} \pm 3\%$$

Interaction probability between fractals is more important in dynamic system



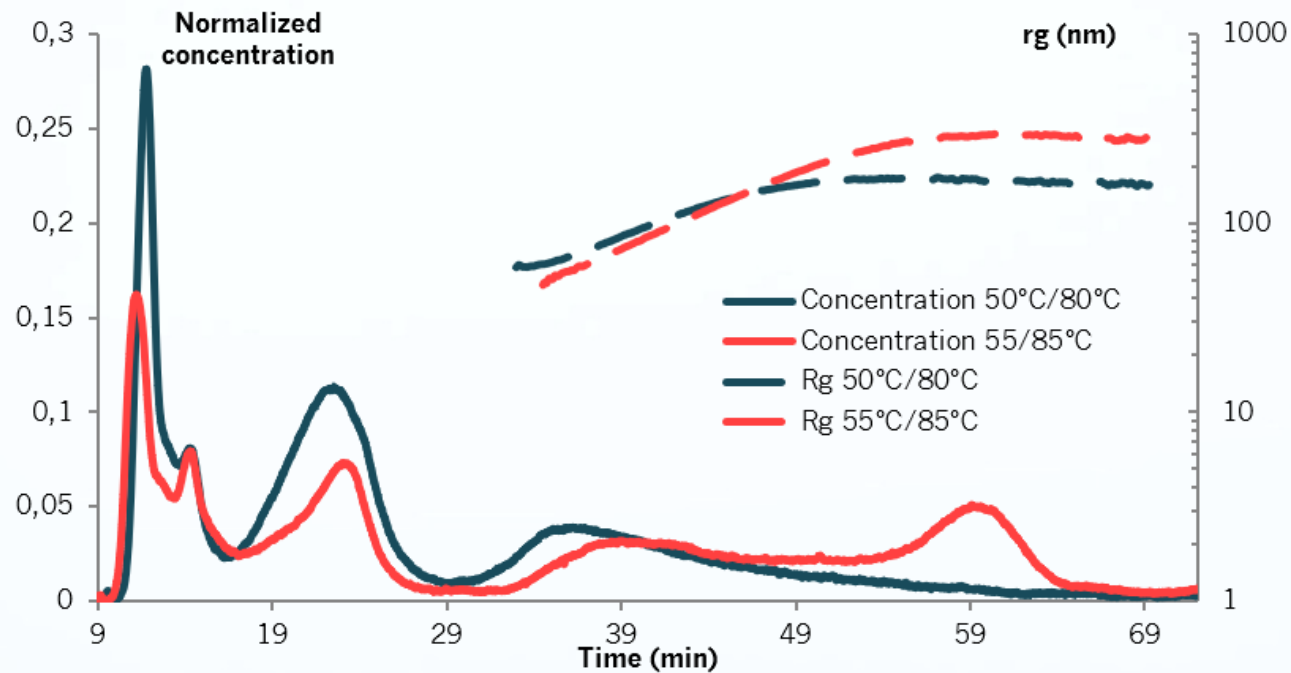
# Preheating/Heating Temperature Variation

$50/80^{\circ}\text{C} \longrightarrow 55/85^{\circ}\text{C}$



# Preheating/Heating Temperature Variation

50/80° C  $\Longrightarrow$  55/85° C

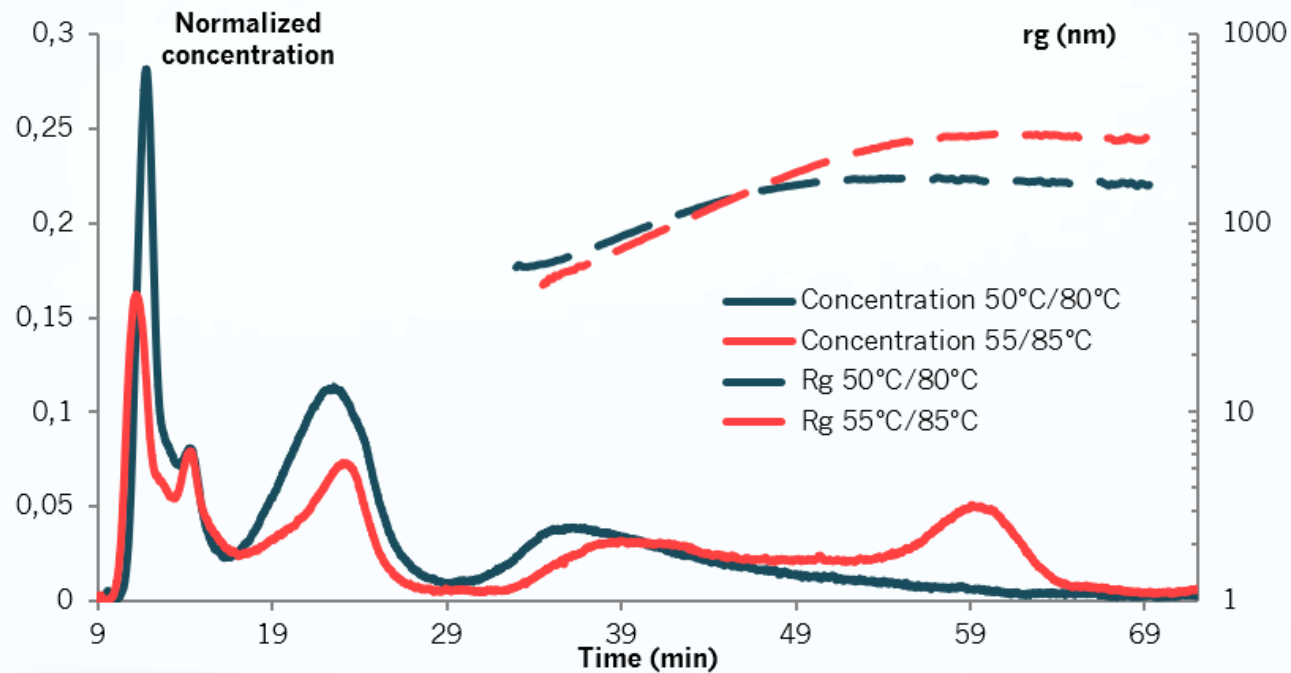


New population formation (55-65min)  
by increasing preheating/heating  
temperature

$$\overline{Rg} = 285\text{nm} \pm 0,7\%$$

# Preheating/Heating Temperature Variation

50/80° C  $\Longrightarrow$  55/85° C

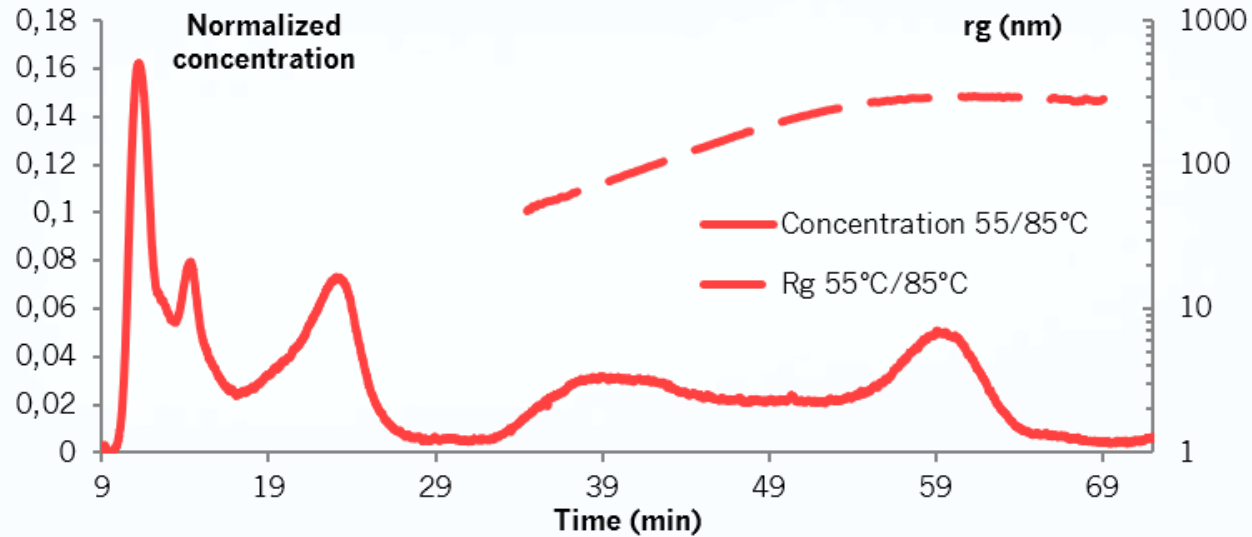


New population formation (55-65min)  
by increasing preheating/heating  
temperature

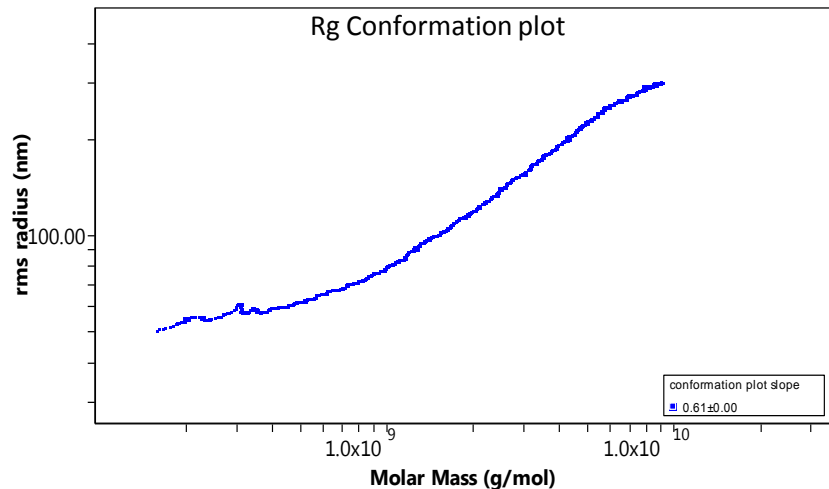
$$\overline{Rg} = 285\text{nm} \pm 0,7\%$$

Whey proteins and primary fractals  
concentration reduces to form a 4<sup>th</sup>  
largest population

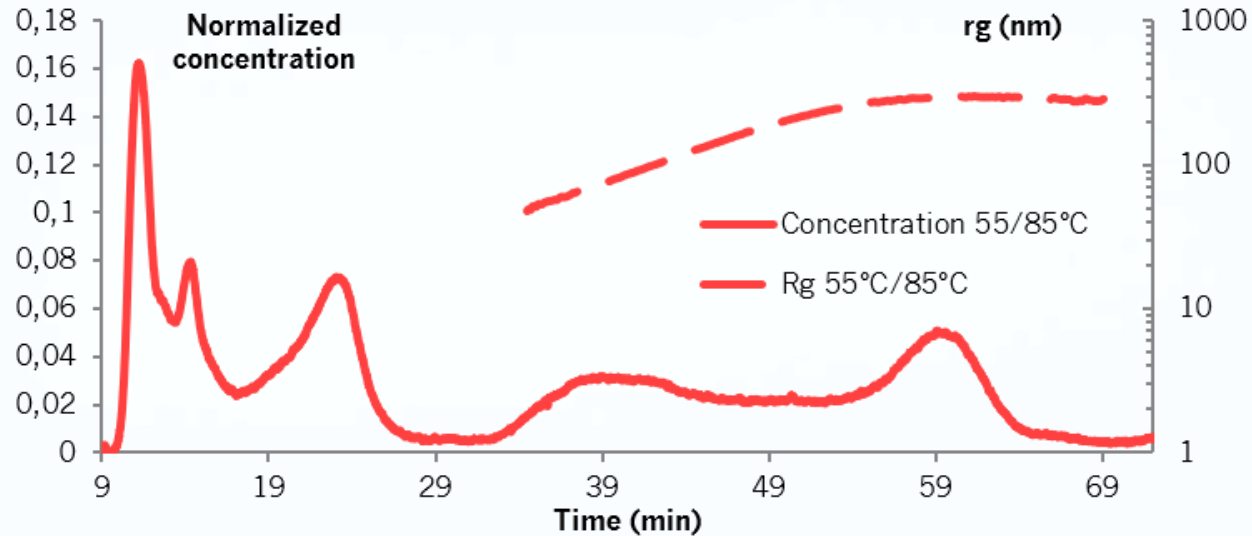
# Fractal Dimension



$$\log(Rg) = \frac{1}{Df} \cdot f(\log(Mw)) \text{ between 35-65min}$$

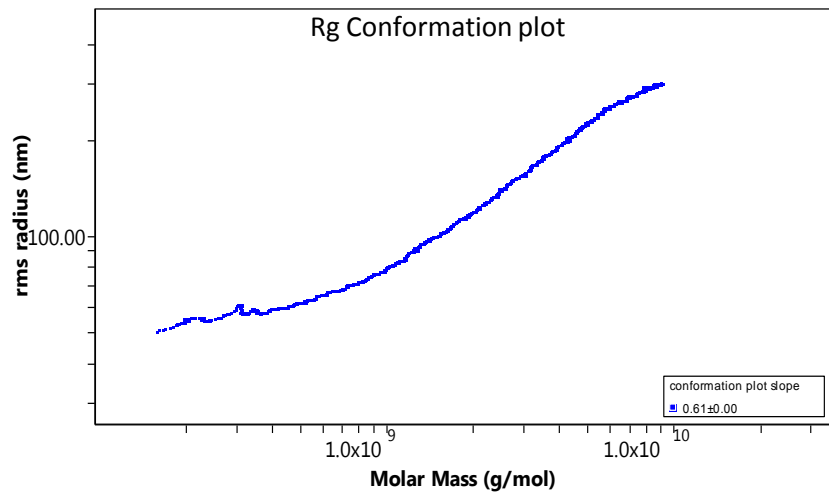


# Fractal Dimension

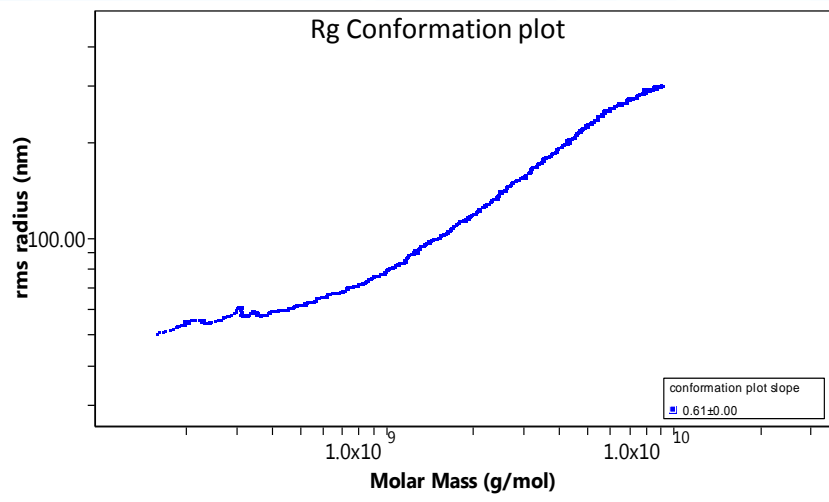
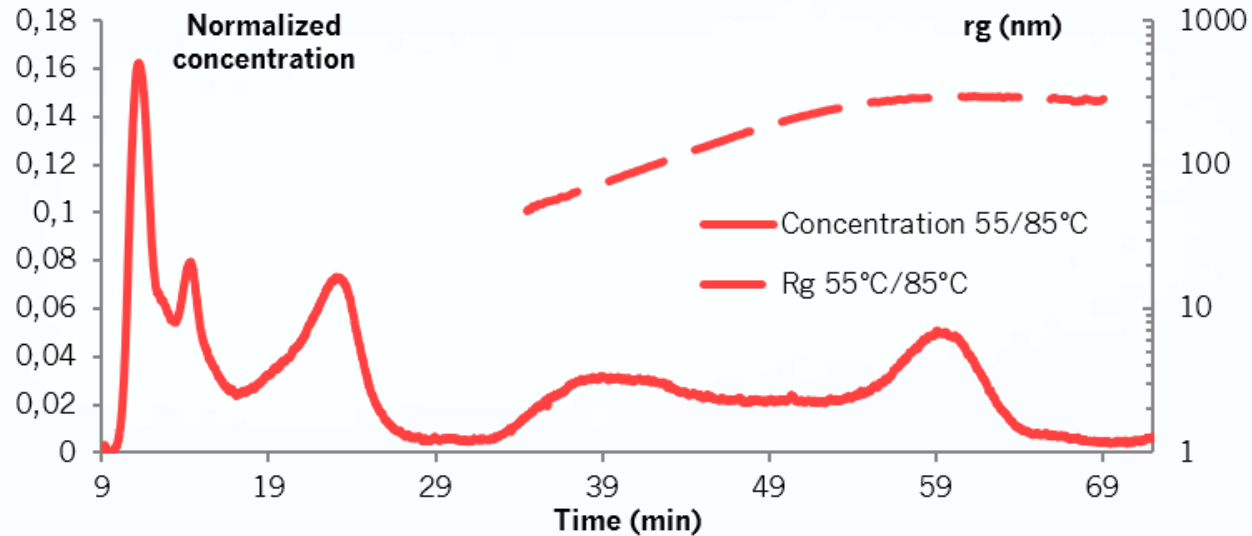


$$\log(Rg) = \frac{1}{Df} \cdot f(\log(Mw)) \text{ between 35-65min}$$

The slope increases over time (Df decreases)  
 → 4<sup>th</sup> population is less dense than 3<sup>rd</sup> one  
 Maybe there are less spherical objects?



# Fractal Dimension



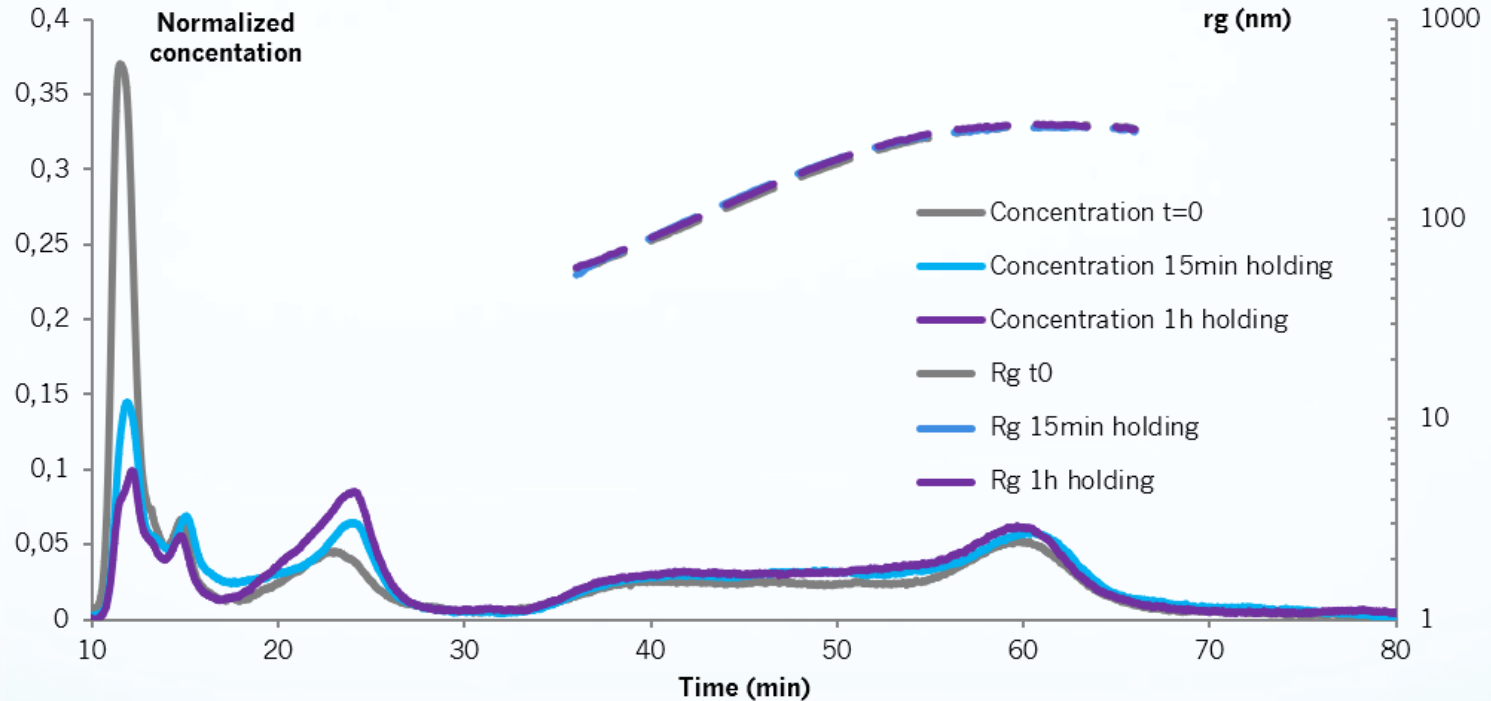
$$\log(Rg) = \frac{1}{Df} \cdot f(\log(Mw)) \text{ between 35-65min}$$

The slope increases over time (Df decreases)  
 ➡ 4<sup>th</sup> population is less dense than 3<sup>rd</sup> one  
 Maybe there are less spherical objects?

➡ Fraction collection + TEM

# Holding time variation

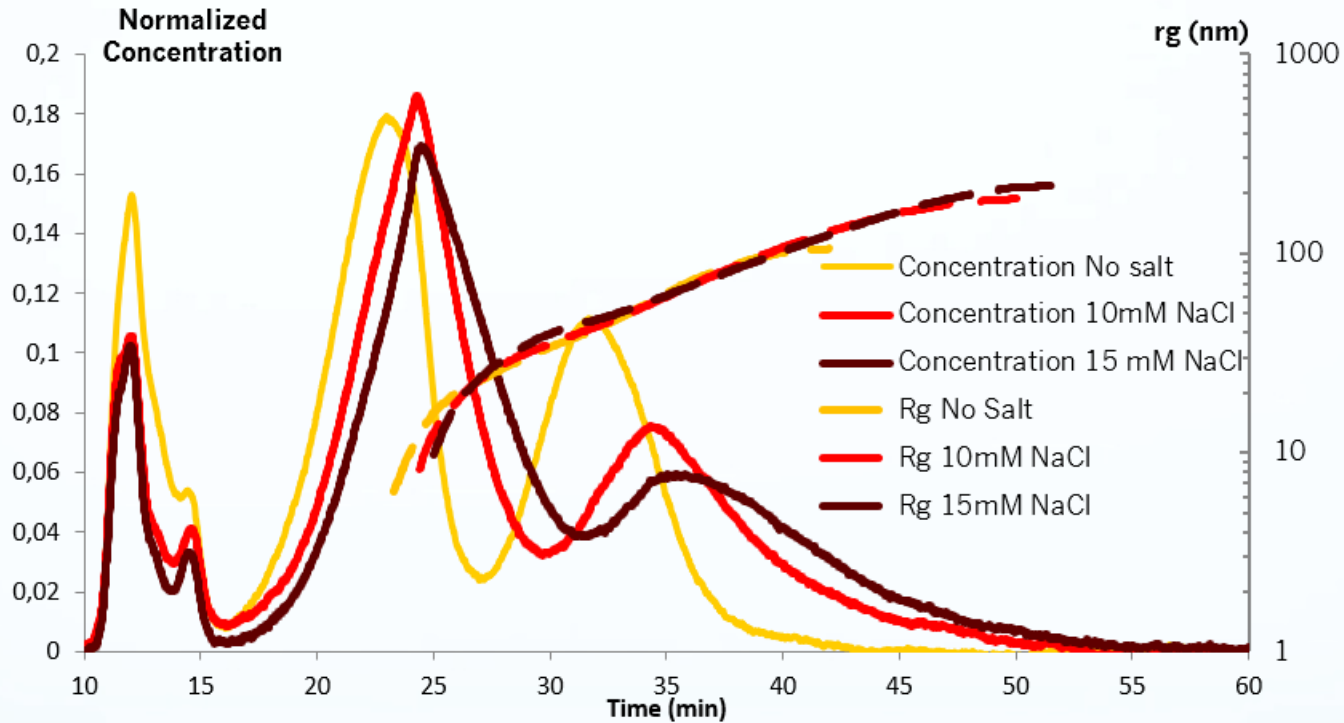
Holding time : 0/15min/1h at 80° C



- Last population size does not change with holding time
  - Large aggregates are present after heating without holding (t=0)
  - During holding, non-aggregated proteins form primary fractals
- Work on pre-heating and heating parameters

# Salt Variations

No Salt/10mM/15mM NaCl



The more salt concentration increases, the larger aggregates are formed

→ Salt decreases interaction hiding charges: aggregates are produced easier



# Conclusions and Perspectives

small **Ag size** large

- static **Holding** dynamic +

- **[NaCl]** +

- **Heating T°** +

# Conclusions and Perspectives



small **Ag size** large

- static **Holding** dynamic +

- **[NaCl]** +

- **Heating T°** +

## As-FIFFF

- Fractionate whey protein aggregates
- Filtration-free injection
- Informations: Radius of gyration / Molar mass / Conformation
- Tool to analyze and compare semi-industrial productions

# Conclusions and Perspectives



small **Ag size** large

- static **Holding** dynamic +

- **[NaCl]** +

- **Heating T°** +

## As-FIFFF

- Fractionate whey protein aggregates
- Filtration-free injection
- Informations: Radius of gyration / Molar mass / Conformation
- Tool to analyze and compare semi-industrial productions

## Perspectives :

- Flow rate variations
- Tube dimension variations
- Heating rate variations
- Fraction collection + TEM

# Thank you for your attention

