

**Problem 4. (6 points)**

Define the surfactant packing parameter  $P$  and explain its physical meaning. What physical or chemical factors determine the values of the different quantities in  $P$ ? How could one control the value of  $P$  in the case of some given surfactant?

Finally, show that surfactants form cylindrical micelle aggregates when  $\frac{1}{3} < P \leq \frac{1}{2}$ .

**Problem 5. (6 points)**

a) Consider two flat, semi-infinite surfaces parallel to each other, and separated by a distance  $D$  in vacuum. Let the atomic densities of the surfaces be  $\rho_1$  and  $\rho_2$ . Starting from the general expression of the van der Waals interaction between two atoms,  $U_{vdw} = -C/r^6$ , use the Hamaker theory to derive the interaction free energy per unit area between the surfaces.

b) Assuming a typical value for the Hamaker constant,  $A = \pi^2 C \rho_1 \rho_2 \approx 10^{-19}$  J, at which distance  $D$  is the attractive force per unit area between the surfaces comparable to the atmospheric pressure (1 bar =  $10^5$  Pa)?

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**Useful constants, equations etc.**

Avogadro's number  $N_A = 6.0221 \times 10^{23}$  mol<sup>-1</sup>

Boltzmann's constant  $k_B = 1.3807 \times 10^{-23}$  J/K

Elementary charge  $e = 1.60218 \times 10^{-19}$  C

Permittivity of vacuum  $\epsilon_0 = 8.85419 \times 10^{-12}$  F/m

Molar mass of water:  $M_{H_2O} = 18.015$  g/mol

Chemical potential of an ideal solution:  $\mu_k(x_k, p, T) = \mu_k^0(p, T) + k_B T \ln x_k$