

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

3: Membrane Phases and Morphologies

One of the most important properties of a lipid bilayer is the relative mobility (fluidity) of the individual lipid molecules and how this mobility changes with temperature. This response is known as the phase behavior of the bilayer. The phase behavior of lipid bilayers is largely determined by the strength of the attractive Van der Waals interactions between adjacent lipid molecules. The extent of this interaction is in turn governed by how long the lipid tails are and how well they can pack together.

[3.1: Membrane Phase Transitions](#)

[3.2: The Main Phase Transition](#)

[3.3: The Fluid Phase](#)

[3.4: The Gel Phase](#)

[3.5: The Ripple Phase](#)

[3.6: Rafts](#)

[3.7: Lipid Phase Coexistence](#)

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