

Stability Behaviour of Monolayer Tetraether Lipids on the Amino-Silanised Silicon Wafer: Comparative Study between Langmuir-Blodgett Monolayers with Self-Assembled Monolayers

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How to cite this paper: Vidawati, S., Bakowsky, U. and Rothe, U. (2020) Stability Behaviour of Monolayer Tetraether Lipids on the Amino-Silanised Silicon Wafer: Comparative Study between Langmuir-Blodgett Monolayers with Self-Assembled Monolayers. *Advances in Materials Physics and Chemistry*, 10, 270-281.

<https://doi.org/10.4236/ampc.2020.1011021>

Received: September 11, 2020

Accepted: November 22, 2020

Published: November 25, 2020

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Abstract

This study investigated the stability behaviour of molecular monolayer symmetric chemically modified tetraether lipids caldarchaeol-PO₄ on the amino-silanised silicon wafer using Langmuir-Blodgett films, Self Assembling Monolayers (SAMs), ellipsometry, and atomic force microscopy (AFM). The monolayers of caldarchaeol-PO₄ were stable on the solid surface amino-silanised silicon wafer. The organizations of molecular monolayers caldarchaeol-PO₄ by Langmuir-Blodgett method and SAMs have been analyzed. The surface of pressure in Langmuir-Blodgett processing is carried out monolayers caldarchaeol-PO₄ more flat island inhomogeneous. Another method of monolayers caldarchaeol-PO₄ by SAMs is showed a large flat domain. Monolayers caldarchaeol-PO₄ by Langmuir-Blodgett method seems to be stable and chemically resistant after washing with organic solvent and an additional treatment ultrasonification with various thickness lipids around 2 nm to 6 nm. Conversely, monolayer caldarchaeol-PO₄ by SAMs appears fewer than monolayers caldarchaeol-PO₄ by Langmuir-Blodgett method, the thickness of various from 1 nm to 3 nm.

Keywords

Caldarchaeol-PO₄, Langmuir-Blodgett Films, Self Assembling Monolayers (SAMs), Amino-Silanised Silicon Wafer

1. Introduction

The study of monolayers has quite implications in many fields of science and

technology, such as in physics, material science, chemistry and biology. Molecular organization of organic monolayers on the solid surface can play an important role in interfacing bio-technological devices and many applications [1] [2] [3]. Monolayer bola amphiphiles have attracted the community for several years because these films provide a key model for understanding the molecular orientation and packing mode of bipolar molecules in the air-water interface. Self-assembled phospholipid membranes play an important role in biological processes. Mimicking these natural thin films, lipid-coated surfaces are of great importance to a number of biomedical applications, including intravenous drug delivery, biomaterials, and biosensors. Surface-supported lipid layers are also interesting as model surfaces in studies of protein adsorption or biophysical membrane studies.

A profound understanding of the behaviour of monolayer is crucial to exploiting the Langmuir-Blodgett monolayers. Preparation of arranged monolayers using Langmuir-Blodgett method is established on the organic molecules, such as lipids or phospholipids, to form a monolayer in the air-water interfaces. Monolayer stability and homogeneity are a prerequisite for the formation of organised lipid Langmuir-Blodgett films with excellent structural integrity. The organic monomolecular films have been shown to be useful for a variety of technological applications. The Langmuir-Blodgett film method has significant advantages in the study of the air-water and as air-solid interfacial behavior of thin solid films [4] [5] [6].

Self-assembly, in a general sense, may be defined as the spontaneous formation of the complex hierarchical structures of pre-designed building blocks, usually involving some energy scales and some degrees of freedom. The self-assembly is also a very general principle in nature, as seen in the formation of, for example, membranes of lipid molecules, or living cell as probably the most important paradigm. The self-assembled monolayers are ordered for the molecular assemblies that are formed spontaneously by the adsorption of a surfactant with the specific affinity of the headgroup to the substrate. Self assembly is a term of supermolecular chemistry [7] and is generally used to define the interaction of supermolecular among molecules in a solution or solid state to provide special arrangements or architectures. Self-assembled monolayers (SAMs) are highly ordered molecular assemblies formed spontaneously by chemisorptions and self organization of the long chain molecules on the surface of appropriate substrates. This is an interesting process for biological relevance as it provides a new approach to complex structures having nanoscale dimensions. Self-assembled monolayers (SAMs) comprise a fundamental of bottom-up nanotechnology widely used for applications such as interface control and solid surface functionalization.

The ability to mimic natural monolayers on lipid-coated surfaces is essential for a number of biomedical applications, such as intravenous drug delivery, as well as the production of biomaterials, and biosensors. Unfortunately, the extensive industrial application of the supported monomolecular lipid films has been

prevented by the mechanical and chemical sensitivity of these thin layers. Studies of the organization of archaeal lipids in artificial membranes between two water environments indicate that in these systems lipids are generally organised as monolayers of fully expanded molecules, normal to the membrane fields [8]. Archaeal tetraether lipids can be of great value in bioelectronics, biomedicine and nanotechnology, because they can self-assemble into an ordered structure with tremendous stability against chemical degradation and microbes [9] [10] [11].

In this paper, we report the preparation of chemically modified symmetric tetraether lipids films caldarchaeol- PO_4 in **Figure 1**. The film on the substrate prepared by Langmuir-Blodgett method and Self-assembled monolayers (SAMs) method. The amino-silanised substrate is prepared on the silicon wafer substrates. Monolayer of caldarchaeol- PO_4 on amino-silanised silicon wafer substrates was subjected to rinsing with organic solvent and physical treatments (ultrasonification). We studied to analyze the behaviour comparisons between monolayers Langmuir Blodgett with SAMs of caldarchaeol- PO_4 on the amino-silanised silicon wafers using AFM and ellipsometry.

2. Material and Methods

2.1. Lipid and Other Materials

The Lipids of the archae *S. acidocaldarius* is used for all of these experiments. Lipids is prepared from dried bacteria according to duPlessis (2008) [12]. Caldarchaeol is extracted and purified using the procedure Blöcher *et al.* (1984) [13]. A two-step chromatography method was developed, using DEAE-cellulose and silica columns, and the samples were eluted with chloroform and methanol. The head-groups (hydroxyl groups) of caldarchaeol are synthesized with PO_4 according to the method of Bakowsky *et al.* (2006) [2]. The lipids are lyophilised at 10^{-2} Torr and stored above phosphopentoxide. The monolayer experiments were carried out with the tetraether lipids from the highest purity available. All other chemicals obtained from Merck (Damstadt) or Sigma (Deisenhofen) at the highest purity.

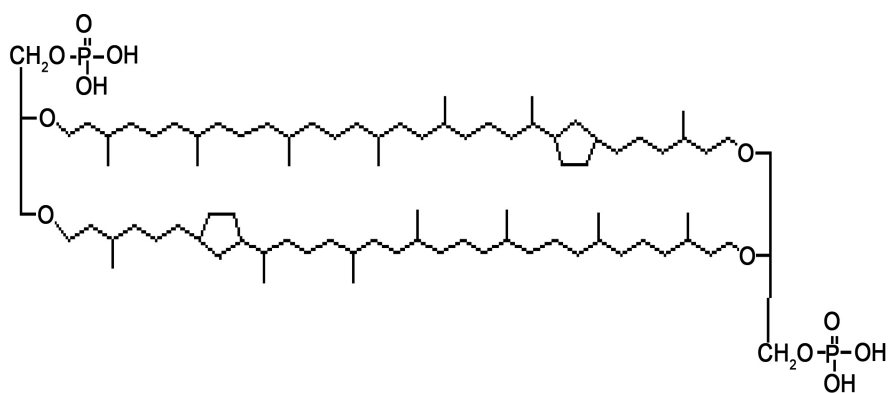


Figure 1. Caldarchaeol- PO_4 .

2.2. Silicon Wafers Substrates

Silicon wafers cut into dimensions 1.0 cm × 1.0 cm. We use the Piranha method to clean the silicon wafer substrates for all experiments. The Piranha solution, which is a mixture of concentrated sulfuric acid and hydrogen peroxide (7:3 concentrated H₂SO₄:H₂O₂), is a very common oxidizing agent used to clean silicon wafers substrate. The amino-silanised substrate is prepared on the silicon wafer substrates. For activation, the wafer is placed under the UV-lamp (Xeradex, Lampenwerk Wipperfürth, Germany) for 5 minutes and then submerged in 1% aminopropyltrimethoxysilane in chloroform at 70°C overnight. Amino-silanisation of the substrate produces a layer thickness of 1 nm and a water contact angle of 70°.

2.3. Langmuir Blodgett Monolayer Experiments

The investigations of the monolayer Langmuir is executed by the commercial film balance (R & K GmbH, Mainz, Germany) by going a rectangular thermostatted Teflon trough (area 418 cm², 1 cm depth). The surface pressure is measured with a filter paper Wilhelmy balance. For the film balance experiments the tetraether lipids dissolved in chloroform/methanol 2:1 (v:v) consisting of a concentration 1.0 mmol/l. Pure water of Milli Q quality (18.2 M, pH 5.6) was used as a subphase. All experiments were conducted at a temperature of 19°C ± 1°C. After spreading, the lipid films were equilibrated at zero surface pressure before starting the measurements. All films were compressed at a constant speed of 0.045 cm²·s⁻¹ (2.5 × 10⁻² nm²·s⁻¹ per molecule). Y-type transfer (on the upward stroke) can be used on aminosilanized silicon wafers substrates.

2.4. Self Assembly Monolayer Experiments

The lipid monolayers are formed by self assembly. Material with an amino group on the surface silicon wafers treated with PO₄ activated Caldarchaeol in acetone (1 mg/ml) for 2 hours at 40°C in the presence of diisopropylethylamine.

2.5. Ellipsometry Measurements

The thicknesses of all monolayer films are characterized by ellipsometry. The ellipsometry measurement was performed by a mapping single wavelength of ellipsometer SE-400 (Sentech Instruments, Berlin, Germany). Such the light source, the He/Ne laser with a wavelength of $\lambda = 632.8$ nm was used. The incidence angle is 60°. For measurements, silicon wafers (1 cm × 1 cm) with natural oxide layer (thickness 2.6 nm - 2.9 nm) and optical parameters of $n_s = 3.828$ and $k_s = -i0.200$ are used. The refractive index of the tetraether lipids is established to be $n_u = 1.58$. As a special scanning technique the line scan method is used for the presented measurements. Therefore, the substrates are covered only at the half of the total surface area by the lipid layer. The surface was scanned in a single line directing from the pure silicon oxide layer into the lipid layer. The distance between the measurement points was 200 μm and the measured area of one

detected point was 250 m². For the correct determination of the mean film thickness an area of 1 mm² in the middle of the lipid covered silicon wafer is scanned by mapping ellipsometry. The resolution was 250 m² per scanned point and the presented values are calculated according to the statistical standard deviation method using all points in the observed area.

2.6. Atomic Force Microscopy Measurements

The morphology of the monolayer film surface is characterized using an Atomic force microscopy. The Atomic force microscopy is performed using NanoWizard apparatus (JPK instruments, Berlin, Germany) under atmospheric conditions. The commercial pyramidal Si₃N₄ tips (NSC16AlBS, Micromasch, Estonia) are mounted on cantilever with a length of 230 μm, a resonance frequency of approximately 170 kHz and a nominal force constant of approximately 40 N/m used. Scan the size and scan frequency using from 0.5 to 1.5 Hz. AFM image characterization is accomplished by indicating the signal height in the retrace direction (512 × 512 pixels).

3. Result

3.1. Tetraether Lipid Caldarchaeol-PO₄ Monolayers on the Amino-Silanised Silicon Wafer

According Vidawati *et al.* [14] [15] [16] the Langmuir film monolayer of caldarchaeol-PO₄ is performed thermodynamic stable. The isothermal surface is generally used to characterize the strength and stability of LB-films. On the surface of pressure/area (π/A) isotherm caldarchaeol-PO₄ LB-films are most stable at a surface pressure of about 18 mN/m, the molecular area between 1.0 nm² and 1.5 nm² in concentration caldarchaeol-PO₄ of 30 L 1 mMol at the air-water interface. This parameter has been used in the experiment of LB-monolayer of caldarchaeol-PO₄. LB-monolayer was deposited using Y-type film transfers for amino-silanised silicon wafer.

The other lipid monolayers are formed by self assembly. Material with amino-silanised silicon wafer was treated with PO₄ activated Caldarchaeol in acetone (1 mg/ml) for 2 hours at 40 °C in the presence of diisopropylethylamine. The silicon wafer is then washed with chloroform and methanol.

3.2. Ellipsometry

The thickness of all monolayer of caldarchaeol-PO₄ is characterized by ellipsometry. Ellipsometric data provides the mean film thickness over a large spot area of 250 m², and therefore cannot distinguish between films with different morphological structures. The lipids are observed after transfer onto the amino-silanised substrates and the thickness values are recorded. The thickness of 0.8 nm for the amino-silanised surface.

The monolayer of caldarchaeol-PO₄ on the amino-silanised silicon wafer is then washed with organic solvent and the thickness of each substrate is again

measured. Finally, the monolayers of caldarchaeol-PO₄ on the amino-silanised silicon wafer are subjected to additional ultrasonification treatment, to analyze the resistance and stability of the films on the amino-silanised surface.

3.3. Atomic Force Microscopy

The morphology of the surface and thickness of monolayer caldarchaeol-PO₄ studied on a molecular scale using AFM. The Typical topographical images of the AFM of the monolayer caldarchaeol-PO₄ on the amino-silanised surfaces are rinsed with organic solvents and is subjected them to ultrasonification treatment displayed in **Figure 2**. To further analyse the behavior of monolayers caldarchaeol-PO₄ comparison between by Langmuir Blodgett method and SAMs, the area in the middle of AFM image has been scratched with the AFM-tip, All images displayed in **Figure 3**.

4. Discussion

Lipid monolayers were formed by self-assembly and Langmuir-Blodgett methods. In the first step, an inert silicone surface should be activated. A very popular substrate for silane-based SAMs and Langmuir-Blodgett monolayer is silicon with its native oxide layer. In this case, the comparison of the structure and morphology is less a problem, since the native oxide layer is non-crystalline but usually very smooth. However, a specific cleaning procedure should be applied. For the removal of possible organic contaminants from the substrate as well as the glassware used for solution deposition, “piranha solution” is often used. The amino-silanised substrate was prepared on SiO₂ wafer substrates. For activation, the wafer was placed under the UV-lamp

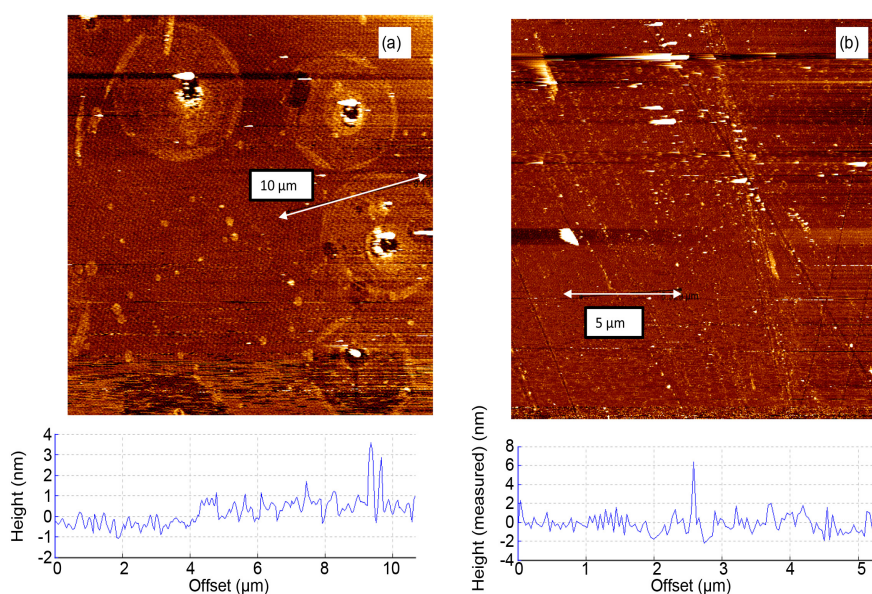


Figure 2. Representative AFM images of monolayer caldarchaeol-PO₄ after washing with organic solvent and an additional treatment ultrasonification (a) Langmuir-Blodgett method, (b) Self-Assembled Monolayers (SAMs) method.

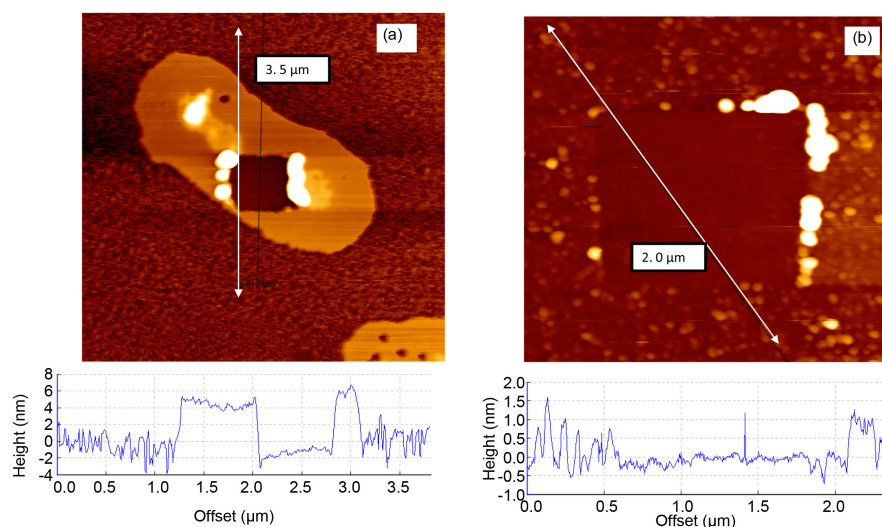


Figure 3. Representative AFM images with scratched in the middle area with AFM-tip of monolayer caldarchaeol- PO_4 after washing with organic solvent and an additional treatment ultrasonification (a) Langmuir-Blodgett method, (b) Self-Assembled Monolayers (SAMs) method.

(Xeradex, Lampenwerk Wipperfürth, Germany) for 5 minutes and then submerged in 1% aminopropyltrimethylsilane in chloroform at 70°C overnight. Amino-silanised of the substrate produced a layer thickness of 1 nm and a water contact angle of 70° . Silanization was confirmed by FTIR measurements. Thus it was possible to attach a dense monomolecular lipid layer on the silicone surface and to provide a sufficient amount of chemical binding sites for further modification strategies. The molecules introduced in this step were chemically coupled into the second phosphate group on the caldarchaeol, and these molecules preferentially had to contain amino groups.

The self-assembly, in a general sense, can be defined as the spontaneous formation of the complex hierarchical structures of the previously designed building blocks, usually involving some energy scales and some degrees of freedom. Self-assembly is also a very common principle in nature, as seen in the formation of, for example, membranes from lipid molecules, or the living cell is probably the most important paradigm. The self-assembled monolayers are ordered molecular assemblies that are formed spontaneously by the adsorption of a surfactant with the specific affinity of the headgroup to the substrate [17].

On the other hand, based on the experimental experience with a simple SAM system, the concept of SAMs is ready to be utilized for the applications of monolayers with pre-designed properties. These range from the use of SAMs as building blocks for heterostructures to wetting control and for specific adsorption of biomolecules. With a variety of fundamental problems and, at the same time, very diverse applications, the importance of SAMs is derived less than the usefulness of a particular system, but rather from the general concept SAMs. We believe that this concept will prove important and beneficial to many technical applications as well as in the view of its role as a low-dimensional molecular

model of the system.

The Langmuir films consist of an amphiphilic molecule that spreads on liquid surface such as water [18]. The hydrophilic headgroup has an affinity for the water while the end group is a hydrophobic stick out on the other side. The Langmuir-Blodgett (LB) films were prepared by transferring the Langmuir films to a solid substrate [19] [20]. Multilayers are prepared by repeated immersion (periodic) on the substrate in the proper solutions.

In the Langmuir-Blodgett method, caldarchaeol-PO₄ has a collapse pressure of 18 mN/m and a molecular area between 1.0 nm² and 1.5 nm² [15]. Ellipsometric measurements after a transfer to an amino-silanised surface by Langmuir-Blodgett method is a small domain with a thickness between 2.0 nm and 4.5 nm has been formed. We conclude that the caldarchaeol-PO₄ can be transferred to the amino-silanised, the film adopts both upright standing and horseshoe configurations, which can be attributed to the charge interactions of the ammino-modified surface and the lipid headgroups. Another method by SAMs, monolayers of caldarchaeol-PO₄ has been formed thickness around 5.0 nm and 6.0 nm, the films adopted an upright standing configuration.

AFM was also employed to observe surface morphology. Monolayer films on the surface of amino-silanised by Langmuir-Blodgett method and SAMs were analyzed. The stability of archaeobacterial membranes has been attributed with their composition and structure on an interface, where monolayers are the only stable structure; and the archaeal membranes can be prepared by Langmuir-Blodgett method [14] [21] [22]. SAMs have been successfully formed from a modified tetraether lipids (caldarchaeol-CyCl) on a silicon surface, and a new process for coating silicon surfaces with caldarchaeol monolayers has been developed, with special emphasis on coating applications for catheters and other medical devices [23] [24]. Structural surface analysis and interfacial features are crucial to comparing and understanding the properties of these nano systems. The adsorption and stability of the monolayers used for solid surfaces modification are important to prepare and control the properties of the tetraether membrane lipid films for various applications.

Most of our AFM results for the monolayers of the caldarchaeol-PO₄ on an amino-silanised surface indicate that most of the lipids are removed after washing with organic solvent and an additional treatment ultrasonification. For the monolayers of caldarchaeol-PO₄ by Langmuir-Blodgett method on an amino-silanised surface, AFM image analysis is revealed, along with many small circular domains, than appeared to be inhomogeneous flat islands with a thickness of around 2.0 nm to 6.0 nm, see in **Figure 3(a)**. After transfer to the amino-silanised monolayers of caldarchaeol-PO₄ are subjected to rinsing with organic solvent (chloroform) and physical treatment of ultrasonification. For monolayer caldarchaeol-PO₄ by SAMs on an amino-silanised surface, AFM image analysis reveals a large flat domain, between 2.0 nm to 4.0 nm, see in **Figure 3(b)**. Monolayers of caldarchaeol-PO₄ by Langmuir-Blodgett method more

thickness and stabilize than the monolayers of caldarchaeol- PO_4 by SAMs after washing with organic solvent and an additional treatment ultrasonification.

To further analyze the behavior of monolayers caldarchaeol- PO_4 comparison with Langmuir Blodgett method and SAMs, the area in the middle of the AFM image has scratched with AFM-tip. Monolayers caldarchaeol- PO_4 by Langmuir-Blodgett method seems to be stable and chemically resistant with various thickness lipids around 2 nm to 6 nm see in **Figure 3(a)**. Conversely monolayers caldarchaeol- PO_4 by SAMs appear fewer then monolayers caldarchaeol- PO_4 by Langmuir-Blodgett method, the thickness of various from 1 nm to 3 nm see in **Figure 3(b)**.

We can see the difference between the Langmuir Blodgett monolayer and SAMs is not completely significant. The Langmuir layers are on liquid surfaces and are usually also weakly bound to the substrate. SAMs as we define them here are on solid substrates and chemisorbed, which is strongly bounded. An interesting intermediate case would be a molecule on the liquid substrate with a strong interaction. The organizations of molecular monolayers Tetraether lipids by Langmuir-Blodgett method and SAMs have been analyzed [15] [21] [23]

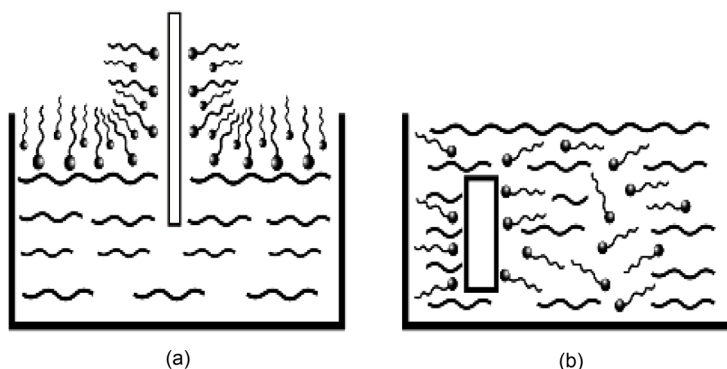


Figure 4. Organization molecule of monolayers Tetraether lipids by (a) Langmuir-Blodgett method and (b) Self-Assembled Monolayers (SAMs) method [15] [21] [23].

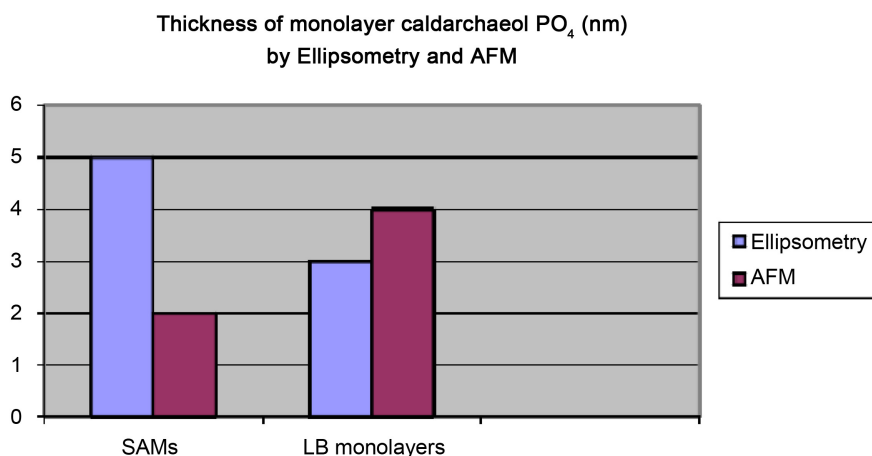


Figure 5. Comparison thickness of monolayers caldarchaeol- PO_4 between Langmuir-Blodgett method and Self-Assembled Monolayers (SAMs) method.

in **Figure 4**. The comparison thickness of monolayer caldarchaeol PO₄ by ellipsometry and AFM measurement can see in **Figure 5**. The surface of pressure in Langmuir-Blodgett processing is carried out monolayers caldarchaeol-PO₄ more flat island inhomogeneous on the amino-silanised silicon wafer. Another method of monolayers caldarchaeol-PO₄ by SAMs is showed a large flat domain on the amino-silanised silicon wafer.

Acknowledgements

This study was supported by the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD, SV).

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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