Molecular orientation at biological interfaces: Water and lipids studied through surface-specific vibrational spectroscopy
Pool, R.E.

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: http://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As anyone who has followed through with a PhD trajectory will agree, it is filled with high mountain tops of bliss and dark valleys of doubt. Sometimes I desperately tried to understand why I was doing something so abstract and unrelated to everyday life, while at other times I realized how privileged I was to be able to do intelligent, independent work within a group of great people. This last factor was decisive in completing this thesis: my colleagues, as well as my family and friends, always helped me up from the valleys.

First of all, I would like to thank Mischa for his continuous support and confidence in me and my work. I am very impressed by the way Mischa makes the best of the little time he has, quickly getting to the core of scientific problems and remaining friendly and attentive. Next, I am infinitely thankful to the other colleagues that have actively contributed to this thesis. Ellen, who’s optimistic and pragmatic personality make her the ideal colleague and supervisor. Jan, whose thorough technical knowledge and sometimes boyish enthusiasm motivated me to see the experimental setup as more than a necessary evil. Leonie, who gave my PhD new momentum by being the most self-reliant, motivated and modest student that any supervisor could wish for. Yuki, with his strangely brilliant mix of optimism and criticism, modesty and leadership. Dirk-Jan, who must be one of the most creative and friendly people I have ever met. Thanks for the guitar! And of course Kramer, who could have been world famous as a writer, comedian or politician, but chose to be a tormented scientist instead and shines in that role, too. Often, a miniature Mischa would be sitting on my left shoulder, urging me to write and publish, while on my right shoulder a tiny Kramer would tell me to read more and do more analysis. I have learned tremendously from both.

Then, my other colleagues from AMOLF. And what a colorful bunch they were! I’ll start with Søren, because of all the great exchanges of movie ideas and quotes, for all the patience he has had with me being annoying and chaotic, and for becoming one of my best friends. Then Ronald, who taught me that you don’t always have to be nice. Gianluca, who showed me that being emotional can be a respectable strength instead of a weakness. Maria, who patiently taught me about SFG spectroscopy. Enrique, with his movie-star coolness and ‘good advice’ on relationships and science. Cho-Shuen, for the countless times he made me laugh. Hinco, the tattooed gamer with a pink motorcycle who lives on a boat; need I say more? Marc Jan, always helpful and friendly and with a great sense of humor—although mostly at my expense.

The people I worked with in the Personeelsvereniging were some of the best company AMOLF had to offer: José, Martin, Jeanette and Corianne, I hope