

Supporting Information

A Theoretical and Experimental Approach to the Compaction Process of DNA by Dioctadecyldimethylammonium Bromide/Zwitterionic

Mixed Liposomes

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TABLE S1: Values of electrophoretic mobility, μ_e , zeta potential, ζ , and surface density charge, σ_ζ , at different values of L/D mass ratios for DODAB/DOPE-DNA and DODAB/DLPC-DNA lipoplexes. DNA concentration was kept constant at 0.050 mg/mL

DODAB/DOPE-DNA			
L/D	$10^2 \mu_e$ ($\text{m}^2 \text{V}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$)	ζ (mV)	$10^3 \sigma_\zeta$ (C m^{-1})
1.0	-4.61	-59	-21
2.1	-4.16	-53	-18
3.1	-4.13	-53	-18
3.4	-3.32	-42	-13
5.5	1.66	21	6
5.7	2.67	34	10
8.0	3.52	45	15
9.8	3.78	48	16
14.8	3.67	47	15
∞^a	4.17	53	18

DODAB/DLPC-DNA			
L/D	$10^2 \mu_e$ ($\text{m}^2 \text{V}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$)	ζ (mV)	$10^3 \sigma_\zeta$ (C m^{-1})
0.8	-4.55	-58	-20
2.0	-3.95	-51	-17
3.1	-4.28	-55	-19
4.3	-3.55	-45	-15
5.0	2.94	38	12
6.0	3.36	43	14
8.1	3.71	47	16
10.0	3.39	43	14
14.9	4.23	54	19
∞^a	4.61	59	21

^aLiposome in the absence of DNA.

Errors are estimated to be around 2 % in electrophoretic mobility, 3% in zeta potential and around 6% in surface charge density.

TABLE S2: Parameters of the deconvoluted gaussian bands of EtBr fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of DODAB/DOPE-DNA lipoplexes at different L/D ratios: wavelength, λ_i , width, W_i , and area, A_i , in terms of % contribution to the overall fluorescence emission area (within parenthesis). Medium: aqueous HEPES 40 mM, pH = 7.4. DODAB:DOPE ratio is 1:1; DNA:EtBr ratio is 6:1; [DNA] = 0.025 mg/mL

L/D	I_{588}	2 Gaussians							1 Gaussian			
		λ_1 (nm)	W_1	A_1 (%)	λ_2 (nm)	W_2	A_2 (%)	r^2	λ_1 (nm)	W_1	A_1	r^2
0	22	582	37	5670	603	50	7876	0.999	—	—	—	—
	3			(42)			(58)					
1.0	21	581	34	3494	599	51	8983	0.999	—	—	—	—
	2			(28)			(72)					
2.0	17	581	30	1712	596	51	8633	0.999	—	—	—	—
	5			(17)			(83)					
3.0	14	583	29	1138	594	52	7525	0.999	—	—	—	—
	7			(13)			(87)					
4.0	11	582	28	656	594	52	5714	0.999	—	—	—	—
	5			(10)			(90)					
5.0	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	592	52	1552	0.997
6.0	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	591	52	1265	0.991
7.0	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	591	55	1363	0.991
8.0	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	591	51	1389	0.992
∞^a	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	597	59	708	0.998
HEPES	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	597	57	839	0.984

^aLiposome in the absence of DNA. $[L] = 0.075$ mg/mL

TABLE S3: Parameters of the deconvoluted gaussian bands of EtBr fluorescence emission spectra in the presence of DODAB/DLPC-DNA lipoplexes at different L/D ratios: wavelength, λ_i , width, W_i , and area, A_i , in terms of % contribution to the overall fluorescence emission area (within parenthesis). Medium: aqueous HEPES 40 mM, pH = 7.4. DODAB:DLPC ratio is 1:1; DNA:EtBr ratio is 6:1; [DNA] = 0.025 mg/mL

L/D	I_{588}	2 Gaussians							1 Gaussian			
		λ_1 (nm)	W_1	A_1 (%)	λ_2 (nm)	W_2	A_2 (%)	r^2	λ_1 (nm)	W_1	A_1	r^2
0	225	582	37	5713 (42)	603	50	7954 (58)	0.999	—	—	—	—
1.0	210	582	36	5016 (40)	602	50	7657 (60)	0.999	—	—	—	—
2.1	187	581	36	3787 (34)	601	51	7217 (66)	0.999	—	—	—	—
3.2	158	581	34	2266 (24)	598	52	7108 (76)	0.999	—	—	—	—
3.6	148	582	35	2239 (26)	598	52	6408 (74)	0.999	—	—	—	—
4.2	134	582	32	1561 (19)	596	52	6446 (81)	0.999	—	—	—	—
4.7	87	581	30	814 (16)	595	52	4317 (84)	0.999	—	—	—	—
5.2	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	593	51	1347	0.990
5.7	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	596	52	926	0.995
6.2	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	594	55	892	0.994
∞^a	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	598	57	692	0.998
HEPES	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	597	56	523	0.998

^aLiposome in the absence of DNA. [L] = 0.180 mg/mL

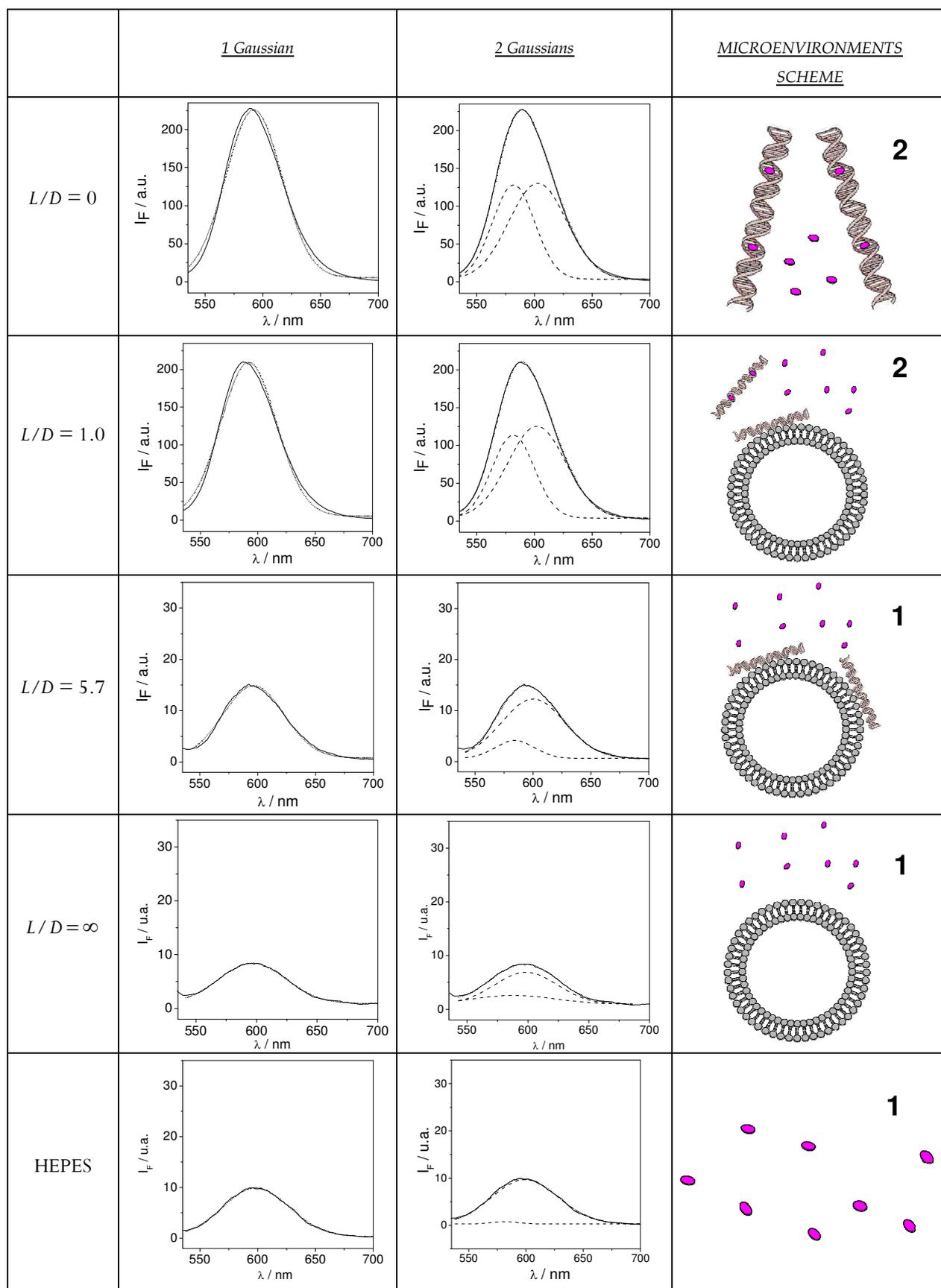


Figure S1. Emission fluorescence spectra of EtBr in the presence of DODAB/DLPC-DNA lipoplexes at a selection of L/D ratios, together with their deconvolutions into 1 or 2 gaussian components: $L/D = 0$, only DNA; $L/D = 1.0$, below $(L/D)_\phi$; $L/D = 5.7$, above $(L/D)_\phi$; $L/D = \infty$, only DODAB/DLPC liposomes; and HEPES, EtBr in the buffered medium, without liposomes and/or lipoplexes. Solid line: experimental spectra. Dash line: gaussian components. Dot line in 2 gaussian cases: total sum of gaussian components. Medium: aqueous HEPES 40 mM, pH = 7.4. DODAB/DLPC ratio is 1:1. A schematic diagram with the microenvironments where the probe is housed in included.

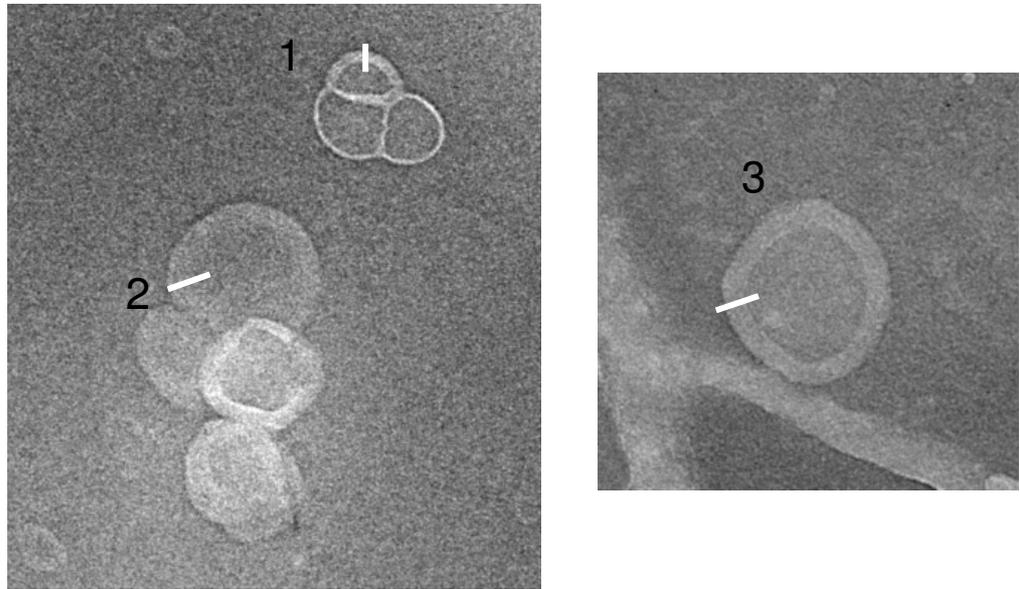
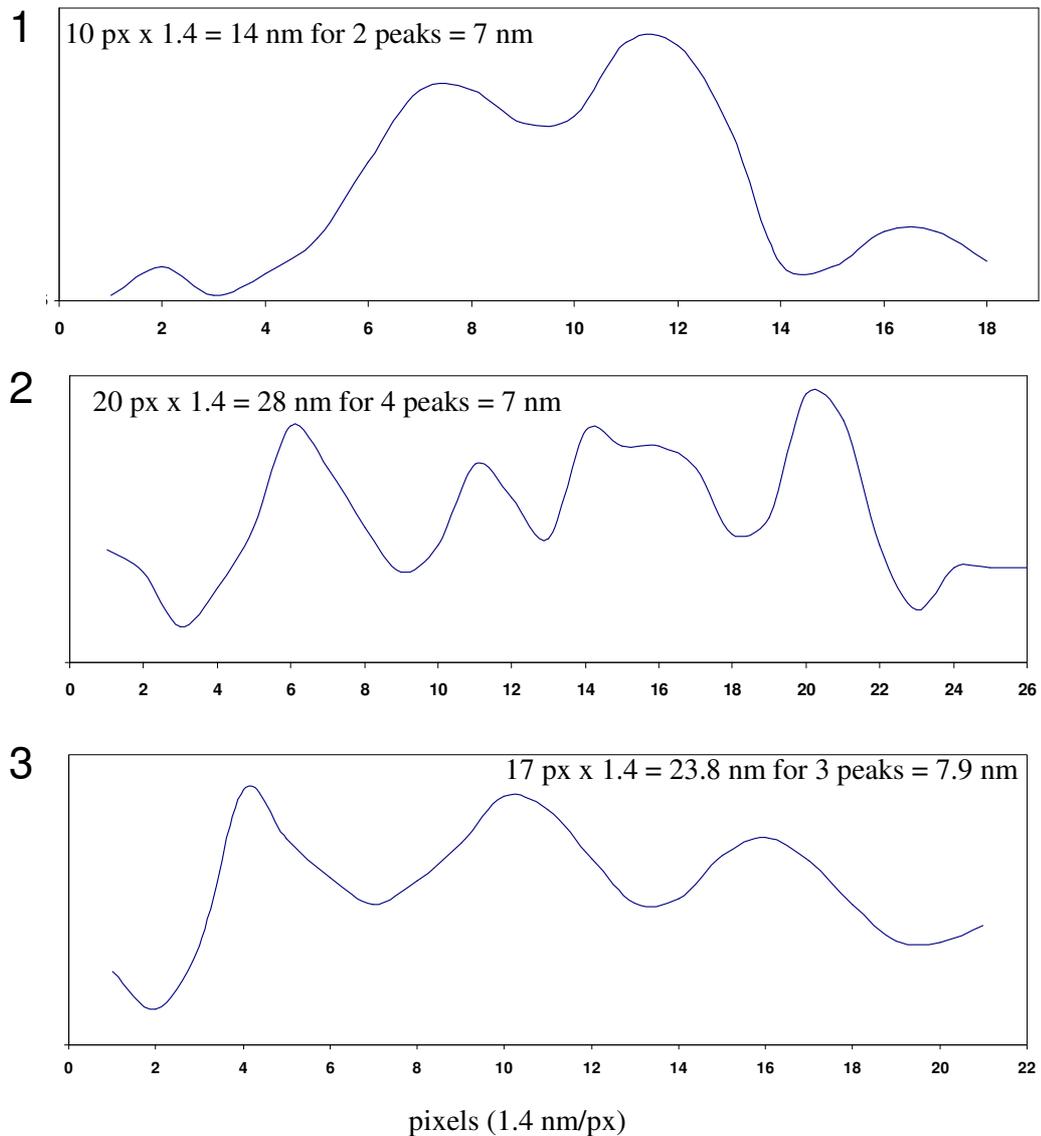
A**B**

Figure S2. Details extracted from the original cryo-TEM micrographs of DODAB/DOPE-DNA lipoplexes, at $L/D > (L/D)_\phi$. (A) 2000x2000 pixel square images extracted from one micrograph, then low-pass filtered to remove high frequency noise, and finally scaled down to 500x500 and 1.4 nm/pixel. (B) Plots of the grey level vs. distance along a straight line across the 2D image shown in A. Averaged periodicity = 7.3 nm

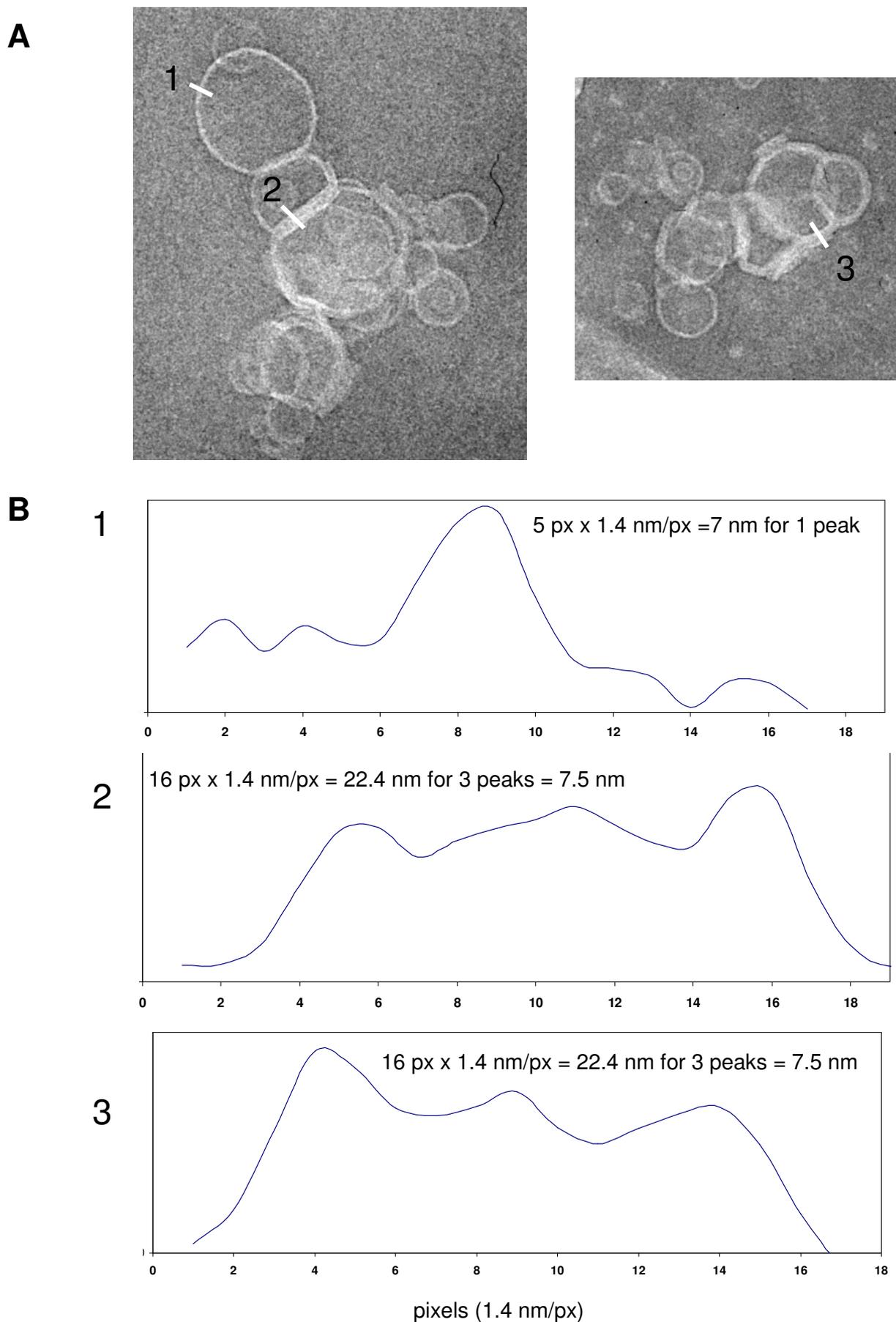


Figure S3. Details extracted from the original cryo-TEM micrographs of DODAB/DLPC-DNA lipoplexes, at $L/D > (L/D)_\phi$. (A) 2000x2000 pixel square images extracted from one micrograph, then low-pass filtered to remove high frequency noise, and finally scaled down to 500x500 and 1.4 nm/pixel. (B) Plots of the grey level vs. distance along a straight line across the 2D image shown in A. Averaged periodicity = 7.3 nm