

Max Planck lecture for natural sciences

December 4th, 2019 at 15:00 pm - DESY Auditorium Bldg. 5

Bahrenfeld Campus, Notkestraße 85, Hamburg 22607

A Molecular View of Water and Ice Interfaces

Mischa Bonn



MPI for Polymer Research, Dep. of Molecular Spectroscopy, Mainz, Germany

Water and ice surfaces and interfaces are ubiquitous, not just in nature, but also in many technological applications. Water is a rather unique liquid, owing to its strong intermolecular interactions: strong hydrogen bonds hold water molecules together. At the surface of water and ice, the water hydrogen-bonded network is abruptly interrupted, conferring distinct properties on the interface, compared to bulk.

I will present some challenges ("how can we study the ~1 monolayer of water molecules that is in direct contact with the other phase, and distinguish this ~Angstrom-thin layer from the bulk?") and progress in the study of interfacial water. I will specifically address the interaction of water with charged interfaces, and attempt to explain why ice is slippery.

