

## Table of contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	The liquid crystalline state of matter.....	2
1.2	The nematic phase.....	6
1.2.1	Order parameter and anisotropic properties .....	6
1.2.2	Elastic free energy .....	9
1.2.3	Defects and disclinations.....	11
1.3	The cholesteric or chiral nematic phase .....	15
1.4	Lyotropic micellar and chromonic liquid crystals.....	19
<b>2</b>	<b>Motivation and Scope of this thesis.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Chiral structures of achiral micellar lyotropic liquid crystals under capillary confinement .....</b>	<b>28</b>
3.1	Director field configurations under capillary confinement .....	29
3.2	Optical anisotropy of liquid crystals and polarizing optical microscopy .....	36
3.3	Materials and experimental methods.....	44
3.3.1	Sample preparation.....	44
3.3.2	Alignment in a magnetic field.....	46
3.3.3	Polarizing optical microscopy .....	47



3.4	Results and Discussion.....	49
3.4.1	Chiral configurations under capillary confinement.....	49
3.4.1.1	Twisted Escaped Radial Configuration ( $H = 0$ ) .....	49
3.4.1.2	Twisted Polar Configuration ( $H > H_c$ ) .....	53
3.4.1.3	Defect Stabilization of the Twisted Escaped Radial Configuration (TERPD) .....	65
3.4.2	Regimes of chiral induction .....	69
3.4.2.1	Doubly Twisted Escaped Radial Configuration ( $H = 0$ ) .....	69
3.4.2.2	Regimes of chiral induction for the Twisted Polar Configuration ( $H > H_c$ )	74
3.5	Chapter Conclusion .....	80
<b>4</b>	<b>Viscoelastic properties of micellar lyotropic liquid crystals .....</b>	<b>82</b>
4.1	Elastic constants .....	83
4.1.1	Measuring elastic constants.....	83
4.1.2	The elastic constants of lyotropic and thermotropic LCs.....	83
4.2	Measuring elastic constants via dynamic light scattering .....	86
4.2.1	Experimental Setup .....	86
4.2.2	Sample preparation.....	88
4.2.3	Dynamic light scattering (DLS) analysis .....	91
4.2.3.1	General DLS analysis.....	91
4.2.3.2	DLS analysis for nematic LCs .....	94
4.2.3.2.1	Relative values of the elastic constants .....	94
4.2.3.2.2	Absolute values of the elastic constants and viscosities .....	97
4.3	Results and Discussion.....	99
4.3.1	5CB calibration .....	99
4.3.2	$K_3$ of the lyotropic nematic LC CDEAB/DOH/H <sub>2</sub> O .....	101



4.3.3	<i>K</i> <sub>1</sub> and <i>K</i> <sub>2</sub> of the lyotropic nematic LC CDEAB/DOH/H <sub>2</sub> O .....	103
4.3.4	Splay, twist and bend viscosities.....	110
4.4	Chapter Conclusion .....	115
4.5	Appendix .....	116
<b>5</b>	<b>Chirality detection using thermotropic nematic liquid crystal droplets on anisotropic surfaces .....</b>	<b>122</b>
5.1	Motivation .....	123
5.2	Materials and experimental techniques .....	130
5.3	Results and Discussion.....	132
5.3.1	Achiral and chiral nematic LC sessile droplets .....	132
5.3.2	Pitch measurements.....	137
5.4	Chapter Conclusion .....	144
<b>6</b>	<b>Summary and Outlook .....</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Zusammenfassung und Ausblick .....</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>References.....</b>		<b>159</b>