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Supporting Material

Atomistic Simulations of Phosphatidylcholines and Cholesteryl Esters in High Density Lipoprotein-Sized Lipid Droplet and Trilayer: Clues to Cholesteryl Ester Transport and Storage

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Force field

Force field parameters are described in detail in earlier simulation studies of bulk CO system and POPC bilayer (1, 2). It should be noted that the previous simulation of bulk COs was carried out using the ffgmx force field (GROMOS87). In order to simulate POPCs (described by Berger's lipid parameters) with COs, we changed the van der Waals interaction parameters of COs to the corresponding Berger's lipid parameters, since it is well known that the van der Waals interactions between the ffgmx and Berger lipid parameters are greatly overestimated (two different force fields are basically mixed) (3). The van der Waals parameters for the oleate chain of CO were taken from the oleate chain of POPC as described in the Berger's lipid parameters. Cholesterol body's van der Waals parameters were chosen so that similar carbon atoms, e. g. carbon atoms forming double bonds, are described by similar atom types in the oleate chain and cholesterol body as it was done in the previous simulation of bulk CO system. Atom types based on Berger lipid parameters (4) are found in the topology file of CO that is showed later in the SM. For water, we employed the SPC water model (5, 6).

Simulation details

The MD simulations were performed using GROMACS 4.0 Beta (7). In the trilayer system, initially the Berendsen thermostat and barostat (8) with 0.1 ps and 1.0 ps coupling constants, in respective order, were used in the simulation of the trilayer system. After the simulation time of 40 ns, the schemes were switched to the N ose-Hoover thermostat (9, 10) and the Parrinello-Rahman barostat (11) to produce the more realistic NpT ensemble (see below).

In the droplet simulation, only the N ose-Hoover and Parrinello-Rahman coupling schemes were used. The coupling constants used for the thermostat and the barostat were 0.1 ps and 1.0 ps, respectively, and these values for these two schemes were also used in the trilayer simulations. Temperature was set to 330 K in order to produce liquid state for COs, like in the previous simulation of isotropic CO carried out by Heikel  et al (1).

In both trilayer and droplet simulations semi-isotropic and isotropic pressure couplings were used, respectively, with reference pressure of 1.0 bar. The van der Waals interactions were chosen to have a cutoff at 1.0 nm. Electrostatic interactions were evaluated by using the reaction field technique (12) with a cut-off of 2.0 nm and a dielectric constant of 80. This combination has been shown to produce reliable results in lipid bilayer simulations (13). The bonds of lipid molecules were constrained by using LINCS (14) and water molecules by using SETTLE (15). Time step was set to 2 fs.

Additional data analysis information

To characterize intermolecular orientation order between CO molecules, we defined the director of CO as a vector from C_b to C_a . Then we defined the ring-ring correlation function as

$$S_{RR} = \frac{1}{2} \left\langle 3\cos^2\varphi - 1 \right\rangle, \quad (1)$$

where φ is the angle between the directors of two different CO molecules (see Fig. 1 in the article). The order parameter S_{RR} was computed as a function of the distance between the centers of the directors. In order to calculate the intramolecular angle distribution of CO, we defined an angle between the director and the oleate chain of CO (angle between vectors formed by atoms C_b - C_c and

C_b-C_a). The angle thus describes the average orientation of the oleate chain with respect to the ring structure, and its distribution $P(\text{angle})$ allowed us to gain insight into the structure and orientation properties of individual CO molecules. Using the same approach, we considered the average orientation of the short hydrocarbon chain by a vector from C_a to C_d at the other end of the cholesterol ring structure. Then, the average orientation of the fatty acyl chain segments with respect to the steroid structure of the same cholesteryl ester molecule was described by an order parameter

$$S_{CD,k} = \frac{1}{2} \langle 3\cos^2\beta_k - 1 \rangle, \quad (2)$$

where β_k is the angle between the director and a C–H bond at the k^{th} carbon atom in the oleate chain. In the case of POPC molecules, we calculated S_{CD} order parameters (deuterium order parameters) of the acyl chains with respect to the normal of the trilayer or the local normal of the spherical droplet. For this purpose, as the apolar hydrogens are not explicitly present in united-atom simulations, we reconstructed the corresponding C–H vectors using backbone chain configuration.

In addition to these previously done analyses we monitored the angle formed by the director of CO (vector C_B-C_A , see Fig. 1 in the article) and the normal of the system as a function of distance from the center of mass (COM) of the droplet or from the x-y plane of the geometrical center (GC) of the trilayer.

In order to study the ordering of the director angle of CO respect to the normal of the system we also defined the order parameter

$$S_{RN} = \frac{1}{2} \langle 3\cos^2\alpha - 1 \rangle, \quad (3)$$

where α is the angle between the director and the normal of the system. S_{RN} order parameter was calculated as a function of distance from the COM or the x-y plane of GC to study the distance dependence of the ordering of CO director.

Simulation snapshots for the additional lipid droplet simulation.

Here, we initially placed six COs outside of the particle as seen in one of the three simulation snapshots (0 ns) in Figure S1 below. In five nanoseconds all six COs readily diffused and localized into the core of lipid droplet indicating that the mixing of the lipids is well conserved in our simulations.

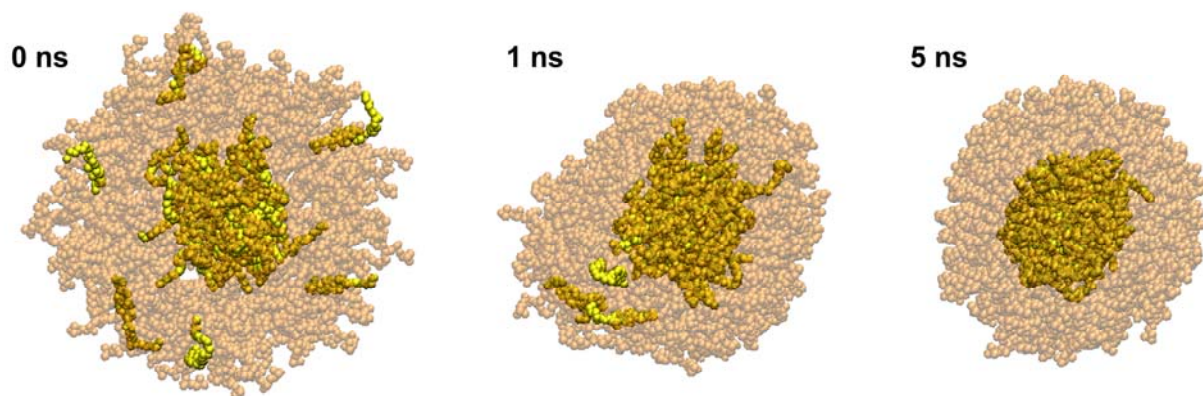


Figure S1. Molecules are visualized using van der Waals radii. The POPC molecules are shown in orange with transparency whereas CO molecules appear in yellow. For clarity water molecules are not shown.

Additional intermolecular properties

The intermolecular orientational order parameter S_{RR} between the directors of COs (defined as the $C_B - C_A$ vector) was determined imilarly to the isotropic CO system (1) and is shown in Figure S2 as a function of distance between the center of masses of the CO directors. Apparently the profiles suggest that within the distance range of 0.4-1.5 nm the most prevailing intermolecular orientation is parallel or antiparallel, approaching a random orientation at longer intermolecular distances. Intermolecular correlation is very similar in the droplet and the trilayer systems and also in the isotropic bulk CO system studied earlier (1). This type of intermolecular arrangement is also supported by atomic distributions shown in Figure 3 (in the article), as the density peaks of carbonyl oxygens and the C_A atom are consistent with the short-range stacking of the sterol bodies revealed by the S_{RR} profiles.

The intermolecular orientation of COs at the liquid state at very short distances interestingly resembles the suggested structure of COs in the crystal-phase (16). In addition, the observed parallel and antiparallel orientations starting from the intermolecular distance of 0.4 nm accords with the earlier conclusions based on the X-ray studies of various CEs (17). Furthermore, the acyl chain-ring stacking was also observed, which could induce ordering to the acyl chain of COs. In Figure S4 snapshots are shown from the trilayer simulation representing the examples of the above mentioned intermolecular arrangements.

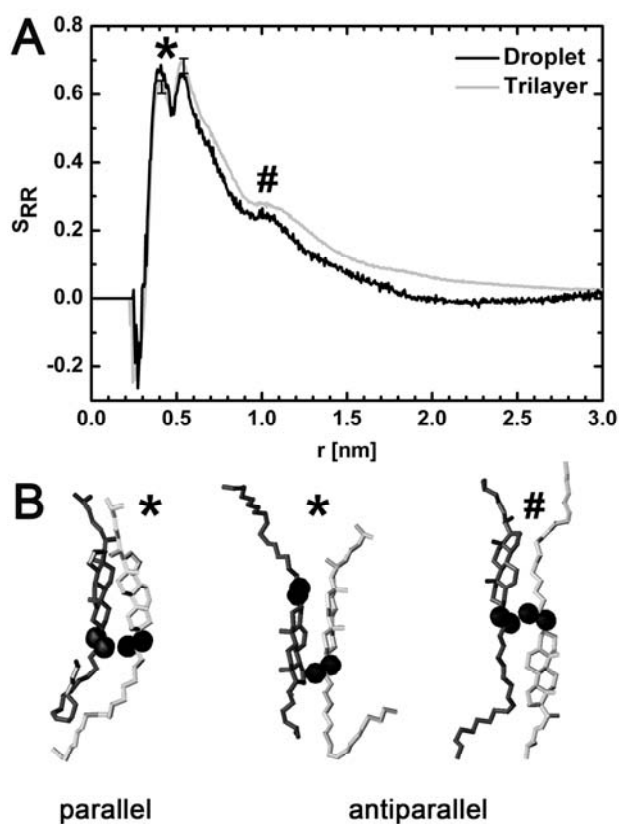


Figure S2. **A**) Orientational ordering of sterol rings (indicated by the director vector shown in Figure 1) as a function of distance between the centers of directors. **B**) Snapshot conformations from the

simulations presenting situations causing the two positive peaks in A). The first and the second peaks in A) arise from the antiparallel (oleate chains point to different directions) and parallel conformations of COs with the centers of cholesterol directors close by (marked with *). The weak third peak arises either from antiparallel conformations of COs with higher distance between the directors than in the first and second peak (marked with #) or possibly from slight second nearest-neighbor ordering. The oxygen atoms of COs are marked with black van der Waals spheres to clarify the orientations of COs.

Additional intramolecular properties

Phospholipid head group orientation

Figure S3 shows the probability distribution of the angle between the phosphorus-nitrogen (P-N) vector of the head group and the local normal of the system. The distributions show how the prevailing orientation of the head group is slightly more towards the water phase in the small lipid droplet. Comparison to our POPC bilayer simulation at the temperature of 330 K revealed that the P-N distribution profile in the trilayer simulation is identical to the bilayer simulation (data not shown). Possible biological implications of the difference in the orientation distribution between the planar and highly spherical surface could be related to the resulting difference in the electrostatic surface of the systems, which rises due to the difference in the prevailing orientation of the P-N dipole.

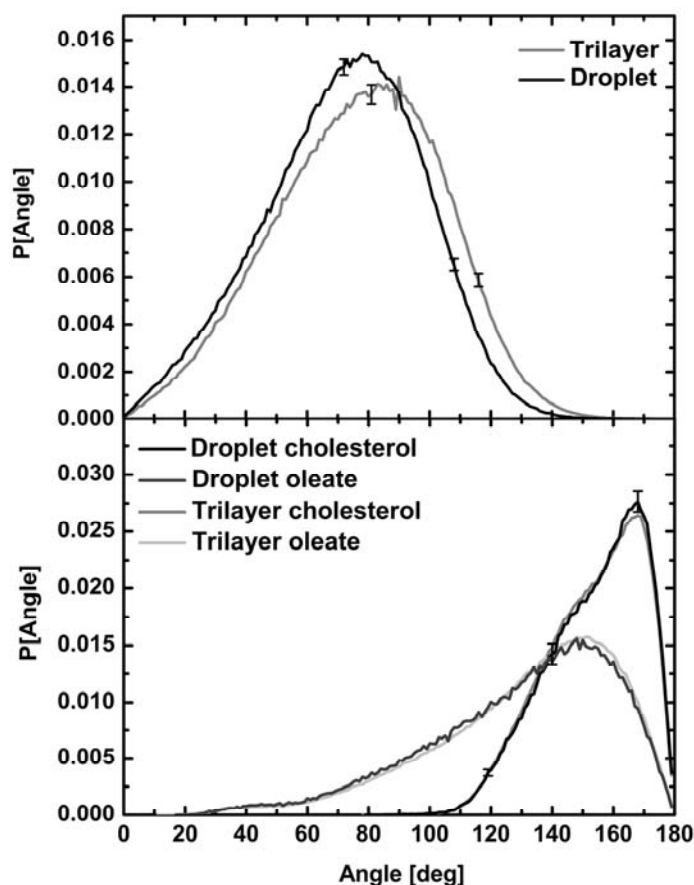


Figure S3. Distribution of the angle between the head group P-N vector and the local normal in the droplet and trilayer (upper panel). Intramolecular angle distribution of the oleate chain with respect to the CO director and the distribution of the short cholesterol chain with respect to the negative CO director (lower panel).


```

33    LP2      1    CHOL    C35    30    0
34    LP2      1    CHOL    C36    31    0
35    LP2      1    CHOL    C37    32    0
36    LP2      1    CHOL    C38    33    0
37    LP2      1    CHOL    C39    34    0
38    LH1      1    CHOL    C40    35    0
39    LH1      1    CHOL    C41    36    0
40    LP2      1    CHOL    C42    37    0
41    LP2      1    CHOL    C43    38    0
42    LP2      1    CHOL    C44    39    0
43    LP2      1    CHOL    C45    40    0
44    LP2      1    CHOL    C46    41    0
45    LP2      1    CHOL    C47    42    0
46    LP2      1    CHOL    C48    43    0
47    LP3      1    CHOL    C49    44    0
;
;
; cholesterol.itp:
;
; All values were taken from the most corresponding parameters in ffgmxnb.itp
; and ffgmxbon.itp
;
[ bonds ]
; ai    aj funct          c0          c1
  1     2     1          0.153          334720.
  2     3     1          0.153          334720.
  3     4     1          0.153          334720
  4     5     1          0.153          334720
; Removed bonds that relate to the atoms that are replaced by the ester bond
  5     6     1          0.153          334720
  6     7     1          0.153          334720
  7     2     1          0.153          334720.
  7     8     1          0.139          418400
  8     9     1          0.153          334720.
  9    10     1          0.153          334720
 10    11     1          0.153          334720
  2    11     1          0.153          334720.
 11    12     1          0.153          334720
 12    13     1          0.153          334720
 13    14     1          0.153          334720.
 14    15     1          0.153          334720.
 16    14     1          0.153          334720.
 16    10     1          0.153          334720
 16    17     1          0.153          334720
 17    18     1          0.153          334720
 18    19     1          0.153          334720
 14    19     1          0.153          334720.
 19    20     1          0.153          334720.
 20    21     1          0.153          334720.
 20    22     1          0.153          334720.
 22    23     1          0.153          334720.
 23    24     1          0.153          334720.
 24    25     1          0.153          334720.
 25    26     1          0.153          334720.
 25    27     1          0.153          334720.
; The rest adapted from Tielemans POPC
  5    28     1          0.1435          251000.
 28    29     1          0.136          376600.
 29    30     1          0.123          502100.
 29    31     1          0.153          334700.

```


31	32	1	0.153	334700.
32	33	1	0.153	334700.
33	34	1	0.153	334700.
34	35	1	0.153	334700.
35	36	1	0.153	334700.
36	37	1	0.153	334700.
37	38	1	0.153	334700.
38	39	1	0.139	418400.
39	40	1	0.153	334700.
40	41	1	0.153	334700.
41	42	1	0.153	334700.
42	43	1	0.153	334700.
43	44	1	0.153	334700.
44	45	1	0.153	334700.
45	46	1	0.153	334700.
46	47	1	0.153	334700.

[pairs]

i	ai	aj	funct	c0	c1
	1	4	1		
	1	6	1		
	1	8	1		
	1	10	1		
	1	12	1		
	2	9	1		
	2	13	1		
	2	16	1		
	3	28	1		
	3	8	1		
	3	10	1		
	3	12	1		
	4	29	1		
	4	11	1		
	5	8	1		
	5	30	1		; fixed to be like in popc
	5	31	1		; fixed to be like in popc
	28	7	1		
	29	6	1		
	6	9	1		
	6	11	1		
	7	10	1		
	7	12	1		
	8	16	1		
	9	12	1		
	9	14	1		
	9	17	1		
	10	13	1		
	10	15	1		
	10	18	1		
	10	19	1		
	11	14	1		
	11	17	1		
	12	15	1		
	12	19	1		
	13	17	1		
	13	18	1		
	13	20	1		
	14	21	1		
	14	22	1		
	15	17	1		

```

15 18 1
15 20 1
16 20 1
17 20 1
18 21 1
18 22 1
19 23 1
20 24 1
21 23 1
22 25 1
23 26 1
23 27 1
;Adapted from popc.itp
28 32 1
29 33 1
30 32 1
37 40 1 ; (popc-fix)
; 36 39 1 ; pair around double bond (popc-fix)
; 38 41 1 ; pair around double bond (popc-fix)

[ angles ]
;from cholesterol.itp
; ai aj ak funct c0 c1
7 2 11 1 111. 460.240
7 2 1 1 109.5 460.240 ;according to
crystal data
7 2 3 1 111. 460.240
11 2 1 1 111. 460.240
11 2 3 1 111. 460.240
1 2 3 1 111. 460.240
2 3 4 1 111. 460.240
3 4 5 1 111.000 460.240
4 5 6 1 109.500 460.240
4 5 28 1 106.000 397.480
6 5 28 1 106.000 397.480
; 29 28 5 1 Took corresponding from POPC since it had params.
7 6 5 1 111.000 460.240
6 7 8 1 120.000 418.400
6 7 2 1 120. 460.240
8 7 2 1 120.000 418.400
9 8 7 1 126.000 418.400
10 9 8 1 111. 460.240
11 10 16 1 111.000 460.240
11 10 9 1 111.000 460.240
16 10 9 1 111.000 460.240
12 11 10 1 111.000 460.240
12 11 2 1 111. 460.240
10 11 2 1 111. 460.240
13 12 11 1 111.000 460.240
14 13 12 1 111.000 460.240
19 14 15 1 111. 460.240
19 14 16 1 111. 460.240
19 14 13 1 111. 460.240
15 14 16 1 111. 460.240
15 14 13 1 111. 460.240
16 14 13 1 111. 460.240
17 16 14 1 111. 460.240
17 16 10 1 111.000 460.240
14 16 10 1 111. 460.240
16 17 18 1 111.000 460.240
17 18 19 1 111.000 460.240

```

18	19	20	1	111.000	460.240	
18	19	14	1	111.	460.240	
20	19	14	1	111.	460.240	
21	20	22	1		111.000	460.240
21	20	19	1	111.000	460.240	
22	20	19	1	111.000	460.240	
23	22	20	1	111.000	460.240	
24	23	22	1	111.000	460.240	
25	24	23	1	111.000	460.240	
26	25	27	1	111.000	460.240	
26	25	24	1	111.000	460.240	
27	25	24	1	111.000	460.240	

;from popc.itp

5	28	29	1	0.12000E+03	0.41840E+03	
28	29	30	1	0.12400E+03	0.50210E+03	
28	29	31	1	0.11500E+03	0.50210E+03	
29	31	32	1	0.11100E+03	0.46020E+03	
30	29	31	1	0.12100E+03	0.50210E+03	
31	32	33	1	0.11100E+03	0.46020E+03	
32	33	34	1	0.11100E+03	0.46020E+03	
33	34	35	1	0.11100E+03	0.46020E+03	
34	35	36	1	0.11100E+03	0.46020E+03	
35	36	37	1	0.11100E+03	0.46020E+03	
36	37	38	1	0.11100E+03	0.46020E+03	
37	38	39	1	120.000	502.080	; cis thingies
38	39	40	1	120.000	502.080	; cis thingies
39	40	41	1	0.11100E+03	0.46020E+03	
40	41	42	1	0.11100E+03	0.46020E+03	
41	42	43	1	0.11100E+03	0.46020E+03	
42	43	44	1	0.11100E+03	0.46020E+03	
43	44	45	1	0.11100E+03	0.46020E+03	
44	45	46	1	0.11100E+03	0.46020E+03	
45	46	47	1	0.11100E+03	0.46020E+03	

[dihedrals]

; ai	aj	ak	al	funct			
4	5	28	29	1	0.000	3.766	3
4	5	6	7	1	0.000	5.858	3
6	5	4	3	1	0.000	5.858	3
5	4	3	2	1	0.000	5.858	3
4	3	2	7	1	0.000	0.418	6
7	2	11	12	1	0.000	0.418	6
11	2	7	6	1	180.000	41.840	2
2	7	8	9	1	180.000	41.840	2
2	7	6	5	1	0.000	0.418	6
7	8	9	10	1	180.000	41.840	2
8	9	10	11	1	0.000	5.858	3
11	10	16	17	1	0.000	5.858	3
16	10	11	12	1	0.000	5.858	3
10	11	12	13	1	0.000	5.858	3
11	12	13	14	1	0.000	5.858	3
12	13	14	19	1	0.000	0.418	6
13	14	16	17	1	0.000	0.418	6
13	14	19	20	1	0.000	0.418	6
18	19	20	21	1	0.000	5.858	3
17	18	19	20	1	0.000	5.858	3
19	18	17	16	1	0.000	5.858	3
18	17	16	10	1	0.000	5.858	3
19	20	22	23	1	0.000	5.858	3
20	22	23	24	1	0.000	5.858	3
22	23	24	25	1	0.000	5.858	3

```

    23    24    25    26    1    0.000    5.858    3
; From popc.itp
; ai    aj    ak    al funct    phi0    cp    mult
    28    5    6    7    1    0.000    5.858    3 ;These hold the
oxygen
    28    5    4    3    1    0.000    5.858    3 ;where it should be
;fix (added 2005)
    5    28    29    31    1    180.0    16.74    2    180.0    16.74    2
    28    29    31    32    1    0.0    0.42    6
    29    31    32    33    1    0.0    5.86    3
    31    32    33    34    3
    32    33    34    35    3
    33    34    35    36    3
    34    35    36    37    3
; popc-fix: neighborhood-of the double bond changed
; 35    36    37    38    3 ;(old)
; CH1-CH2-CH2-CH2    7    8    9    10 => C37-C38-C39-C40
; Note that atom names and numbers differ by 2 because esterification
; removes two atoms from cholesterol but atom names in cholesterol
; have not been changed.
;
    38    37    36    35    1    0.000    3.34957    1    0.000    3.34957    1
    38    37    36    35    1    180.000    -1.66004    2    180.000    -1.66004    2
    38    37    36    35    1    0.000    7.33265    3
; 36    37    38    39    1    0.000    5.858    3 ;(old)
; CH1-CH1-CH2-CH2    1    2    3    4 => C38-C39-C40=C41
;
    39    38    37    36    1    0.000    7.47    1    0.000    7.47    1
    39    38    37    36    1    0.000    3.9    2    0.000    3.9    2
    39    38    37    36    1    180.000    1.1    3
    39    38    37    36    1    0.000    -2.8425    0    0.000    -2.8425    0

; Commented out already in popc.itp, why?
; Improper used instead, thats why.
; 37    38    39    40    1

; 38    39    40    41    1    0.000    5.858    3 ;(old)
; CH1-CH1-CH2-CH2    1    2    3    4 => C40=C41-C42-C43
;
    41    40    39    38    1    0.000    7.47    1    0.000    7.47    1
    41    40    39    38    1    0.000    3.9    2    0.000    3.9    2
    41    40    39    38    1    180.000    1.1    3
    41    40    39    38    1    0.000    -2.8425    0    0.000    -2.8425    0

; 39    40    41    42    3 ;(old)
;
; C41-C42-C43-C44
;
    39    40    41    42    1    0.000    3.34957    1    0.000    3.34957    1
    39    40    41    42    1    180.000    -1.66004    2    180.000    -1.66004    2
    39    40    41    42    1    0.000    7.33265    3
; popc-fix: changes to double-bond neighborhood end here
    40    41    42    43    3
    41    42    43    44    3
    42    43    44    45    3
    43    44    45    46    3
    44    45    46    47    3

[ dihedrals ]
;from cholesterol
; ai    aj    ak    al funct

```

2	11	3	1	2	0.000	167.360
5	6	4	28	2	35.264	334.720
10	11	16	9	2	35.264	334.720
11	12	2	10	2	35.264	334.720
14	13	19	16	2	35.264	334.720
16	10	17	14	2	35.264	334.720
19	20	14	18	2	35.264	334.720
20	22	19	21	2	35.264	334.720
2	7	8	9	2	0.000	167.360
7	2	6	8	2	0.000	167.360
7	8	2	6	2	0.000	167.360

;from popc

;	5	28	4	6	2 35.264	0.33470E+03
	29	28	31	30	2 0.00000E+00	0.16740E+03
	37	38	39	40	2 0.000	167.360

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