



Figure 6.1. AFM morphology of two common membrane supports: mica (A) and glass (B). Mica is atomically planar with a hexagonal oxygen lattice that can be resolved atomically by contact-mode AFM (A). The lattice constant of mica (5.2 \AA) is confirmed by the AFM images. Cleaned glass slides (B) have a pronounced microroughness with 1–3 nm height variations. Optical grade mica substrates (C) can be fabricated by sandwiching mica with glass cover slips using a silicone elastomer. Mica can subsequently be cleaved to ultrathin dimensions.