Single Molecule Techniques & Single Molecule Biological Physics

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Why bio? And how?

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WHAT IS LIFE?

The Physical Aspect of the Living Cell

BY

ERWIN SCHRÖDINGER

SENIOR PROFESSOR AT THE DUBLIN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

> Based on Lectures delivered under the auspices of the Institute at Trinity College, Dublin, in February 1943



1948

4339





 $ih\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial t} = E\psi$

The Cell Is a Collection of Protein Machines.

B. Alberts, Cell <u>92</u>, 291-294 (1998)



It has become customary to explain molecular mechanisms through simple cartoons. BUT fully understanding the mechanism will require returning to where the studies of DNA first began — in the realms of chemistry and physics.

B. Alberts, Nature <u>421</u>, 431-435 (2003)

Bruce Alberts, biologist, Editor-in-Chief of 《Science》

Watson & Crick



Feynman's suggestions....

"It is very easy to answer many of these fundamental **biological** questions; you just look at the thing!"



from R. P. Feynman's talk

There's plenty of room at the bottom. Dec. 29th, 1959

Steven Chu's Action



Other solutions: Watching the action of a molecule!



Why single molecule?

People are used to thinking about biological problems in a single molecular way.



The common language for physicists and biologists.

The single molecule roadmap towards quantitative life science.

单分子技术,物理到生物的最佳切入点

A simplified view of the basic life processes



The 2 strands of a DNA must be separated in order for the genes to be duplicated.





After the separation, there comes the synthesis of new ssDNA, using a ssDNA as template...



....Then comes the production of mRNA





Shaevitz JW, nature 426 684 (2003)

...And almost lastly, the synthesis of proteins



核糖体上新生肽链折叠研究原理示意图 I(没有按比例画)



单分子操作 + 全内反射荧光共振能量转移

核糖体上新生肽链折叠研究原理示意图 II (没有按比例画)



单分子操作 + 全内反射荧光共振能量转移

小球移位代表mRNA移位,与多肽合成同步。由此可知多肽合成进度。

Some biochemistry is needed to connect a DNA to a surface and hold it via a handle.







Instrumentation

Length, energy- and force-scales



Instruments









Optical tweezers Magnetic tweezers



Manipulating the microscopic world



Working principle of optical tweezers

- One photon carries momentum $p = h/\lambda$
- photon refraction \implies momentum change
- Gaussian beam: intense center
- momentum conservation
- **Lateral trapping**: refraction of Gaussian beam \implies gradient force (F_{gr}) and a scattering force (F_{scat}).
- The lateral gradient force pulls particle to beam center





Force measurement



A short story of a helicase

The EMBO Journal (2008) 00, 1–9 | © 2008 European Molecular Biology Organization | All Rights Reserved 0261-4189/08 www.embojournal.org



Impediment of *E. coli* UvrD by DNA-destabilizing force reveals a strained-inchworm mechanism of DNA unwinding

Fu WB, Wang XL, Zhang XH, Ran SY, Yan J, Li M, DNA condensation dynamics, **J Am Chem Soc**, 128,15040(2006).



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Non-hexameric DNA helicases and translocases: mechanisms and regulation

Nature Reviews

Timothy M. Lohman, Eric J. Tomko and Colin G. Wu



Expected observations





1) Dimer is the functional form of UvrD, although UvrDs exists in solution as monomers.

[UvrD]=5 nM and 10 nM [ATP]=1 mM
A loading tail **longer** than 15 nt is required!



2) There are two binding events before dimerization occurs at the DNA junction

Binding kinetics



Single-Molecule Enzymatic Dynamics

H. Peter Lu, Luying Xun, X. Sunney Xie*

SCIENCE VOL 282 4 DECEMBER 1998

REPORTS 1877



 $=\frac{k_1k_2}{k_2-k_1}$ $-(e^{-k_1t}-e^{-k_2t})$ f(t)



 $K_1=0.23 \pm 0.05 \text{ /s}; K_2=0.38 \pm 0.08 \text{ /s} @ [UvrD]=5 nM$

K₁=0.05 /s; K₂=0.07 /s @ [UvrD]=1 nM

1/K₁=20 Sec; 1/K₂=14 Sec



K ₋₁=0.12 /s @ [UvrD]=1 nM

1/K ₋₁=8.3 Sec

Maluf NK, Ali JA, Lohman TM (2003a) Kinetic mechanism for formation of the active, dimeric UvrD helicase-DNA complex. J Biol Chem 278: 31930–31940

Model of the assembly of a dimer at the DNA junction



3) Dimerization process is dynamical.

Details of the unwinding events



Details of the unwinding events



UW=unwinding; SRW=slow rewinding; FRW=fast rewinding; P=pausing; UB=unbinding









4) Dimer undergoes a configurational change to become active.



Configurational change of the dimer bends the ssDNA tail.

Force performs negative work!



Configurational change of the dimer bends the ssDNA tail.

Force performs negative work!

Docking of two UvrDs supports the mechanism.



Structures were from the PDB

Configurational change bends the ssDNA tail by ~50deg.



Biological significance

A road cleaner!





Proposed molecular mechanism of UvrD



Sun et al. EMBO Journal 2008, 27, 3279

Thermodynamics of Kinesin

Kinesin is a motor protein moving along microtubule toward the plus end



kinesin



Walking on a microtubule

Stepwise movement of kinesin



Taniguchi et al., Nat Cell Bio(2005) 1, 342



rachet



Can we measure the free energy landscape? What drives the motor? enthalpy or entropy?



Motion under increasing forces...



Taniguchi et al., Nat Cell Bio(2005) 1, 342

Dwell time distributions..., not exponential !



Single-Molecule Enzymatic Dynamics

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Dwell time distributions -> rate constants



$$k(F,T) = A \cdot Te^{\left(-\frac{\Delta G(T) + Fd}{k_B T}\right)} \Longrightarrow k(0,T) = A \cdot Te^{\left(-\frac{\Delta G(T)}{k_B T}\right)}$$



$$k(0,T) = A \cdot T e^{\left(-\frac{\Delta G(T)}{k_B T}\right)}$$

$$\ln(\frac{k_f(0,T)}{T}) = \ln(A) + \frac{\Delta S_f}{k_B} - \frac{\Delta H_f}{k_B T}$$
$$\ln(\frac{k_b(0,T)}{T}) = \ln(A) + \frac{\Delta S_b}{k_B} - \frac{\Delta H_b}{k_B T}$$





Mechanism of stepping



Summary

Single molecule biological physics is an efficient pathway towards quantitative life science.

It opens the door for physicists to enter the biological realm quickly.

Its language can be understood by both the physicists and the biologists.

> It is a nice choice for people who love bio-x.
http://softmatter.iphy.ac.cn

Acknowledgement

In collaboration with Dr. XG Xi of the Institut Curie, France

UvrD Helicase Unwinds DNA One Base Pair at a Time by a Two-Part Power Stroke



Jae Young Lee¹ and Wei Yang^{1,*}

Cell 127, 1349-1360, December 29, 2006 @2006 Elsevier Inc. 1349



