

European School On Nanosciences & Nanotechnologies

Advanced biophysics for micro-system design Learning from nature the future of nanobiotechnology

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Structure of course

Part I – Biological systems Labelling and Interactions

- Number and scale in biology
- Labelling proteins
- Complex chaos
- Interactions and networks
- Molecular construction
- Molecular machines

Part II - Molecular characterization Methods and results

- Fluorescence and Single molecule detection
- Tracking of objects
- Super-resolution methods
- Fluctuation methods
- Single molecule experiments
- Single or few molecule devices

The "n" in biology

Nanoscience & -technology deal with the study, design & control of matter on an atomic and molecular scale of the size ≤ 100 nm.

Nano-objects in biology are either molecules or molecular assemblies

Solute molecules 1 Å - few nm

Proteins 1 - 100 nm

DNA 2.5 nm in diameter & 10⁷ nm in length

Membranes 4 nm thick & 10³ to 10⁹ nm in length

Viri 10^{1} to 10^{2} nm

Bacteria 10² to 10³ nm

Eukaryotic cells μm to m's

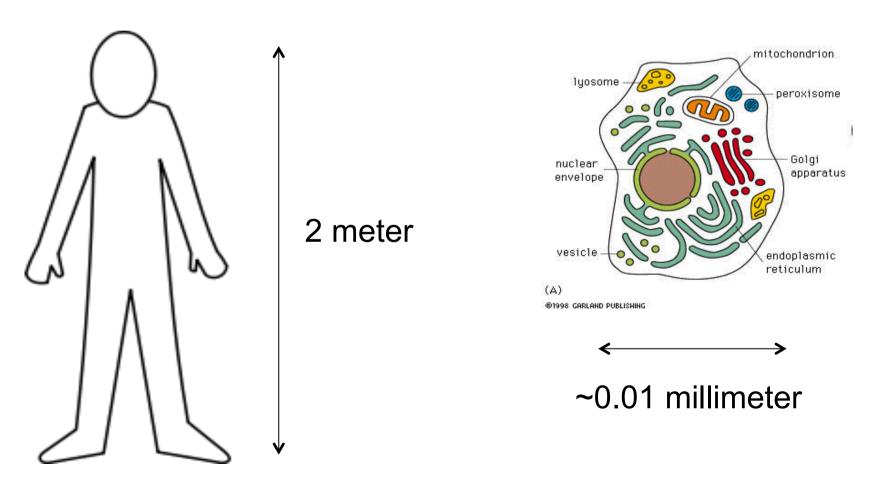
Dead

iving

Cell Talk

Communication between the cells that constitute our body

One human is composed of ~10'000'000'000'000 cells.



Communication

There are two complementary parts:

- Sending a message
- Perception of the message

Perception on the scale of man

The five senses

sight, hearing, smell, taste & touch

Perception on the scale of a cell

Protein or DNA-like molecules

=> induction of an electrical or chemical signal

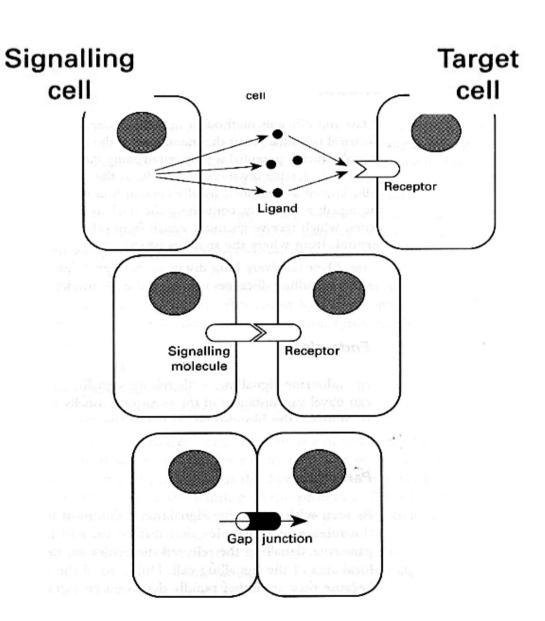
How do cells communcate?

Sending chemical compounds

Contact detection

"touch"

Exchange of content



Sending chemical compounds

• Excretion => towards the exterior of the organisme

 Secretion => within the organisme

long distance - Endocrine

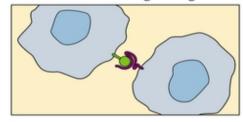
:: short distance - Paracrine

neighbour by contact - Juxtacrine

- Autocrine :: self

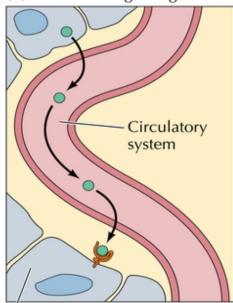
- Synaptic neighbour

Direct Cell-Cell Signaling



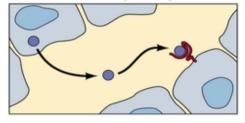
Signaling by Secreted Molecules

(A) Endocrine signaling

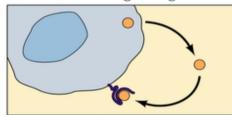


Target cell

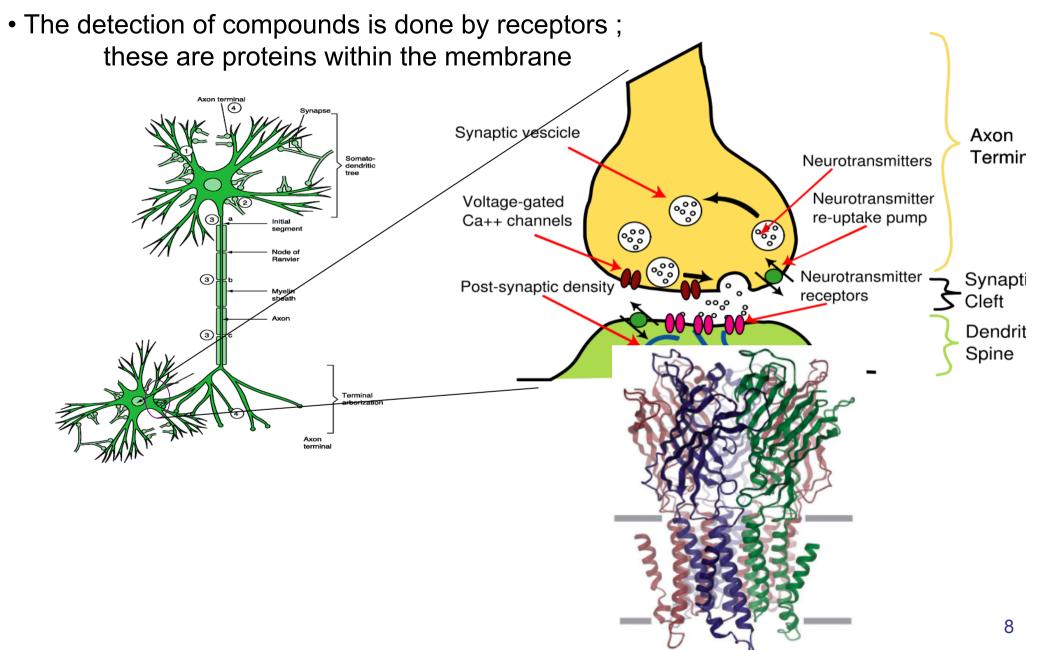
(B) Paracrine signaling



(C) Autocrine signaling



Detecting chemical signals by neurons



Scale of distance

The distance between sending and receiving cells can differ dramatically

÷ Endocrine

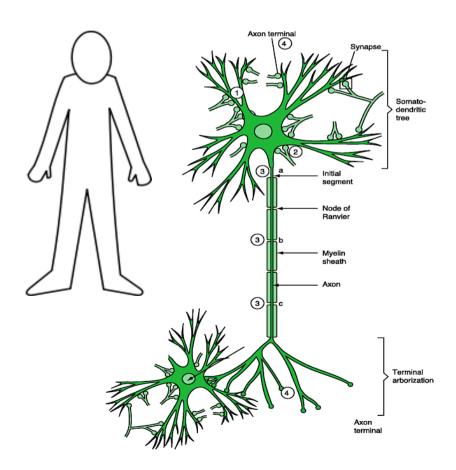
÷ Synaptic contact between neurons

Endocrine System Hypothalamus-Pineal Body Pituitary Synaptic vescicle Axon Termi Neurotransmitters Thymus Neurotransmitter Voltage-gated Thyroid and re-uptake pump Ca++ channels Parathyroids **%** Neurotransmitter Synap Post-synaptic density receptors Cleft Adrenal Gland Heart Dendr Spine Kidney 50 nanometer Ovary 0.000'000'050 meter female

Long distance signalling between cells

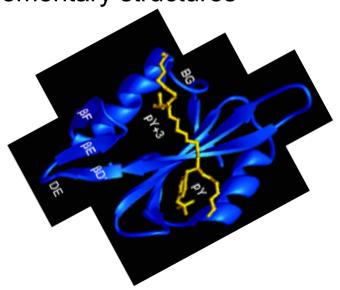
Two complementary solutions:

Long nerve cells
 up to 1 meter
 need ~ n² neurons



 Precise targetting of chemical signals combined with
 highly sensitve detection

=> Message & receptor with complex and complementary structures



÷ Comparaison: telephone number 00 41 21 123 4567

The consequences of long distances

The signal diminishes with the distance **r**

In quantitative terms: When one is at a distance r from the source

÷ in two dimensions the signal diminishes with r²

÷ in three dimensions

the signal diminishes with **r**³

Thus: at 50 nanometers

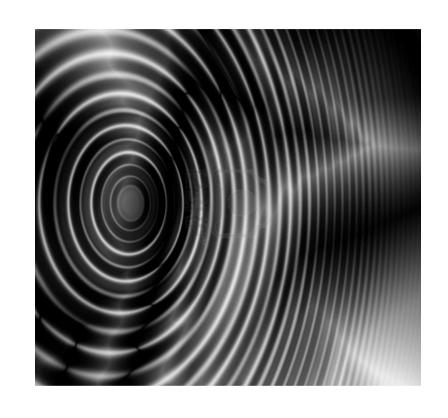
=> strong signal

=> High concentration

vs at 2 meter

=> extremely weak signal

=> highly diluted



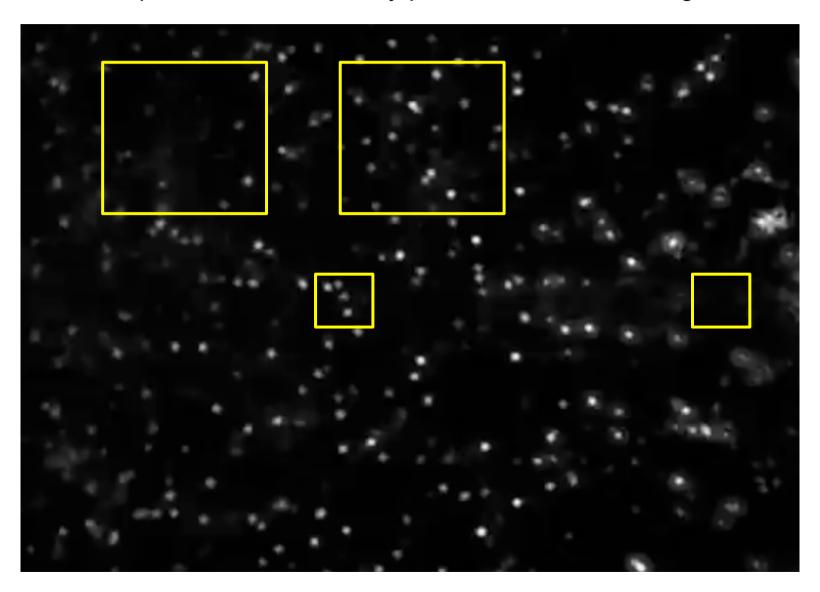
Quantities in biology

• Consequence of scale on the number of molecules present

	Macroscopic world	Cellular world
Salts Synaptic transmitter	10 ²³	100' 000' 000
	10 ²¹	1'000' 000
Hormone	10 ¹⁵	1

Consequence of a small number

A solution filled with particles – How many particles are there in a given volume?



Law of Poisson

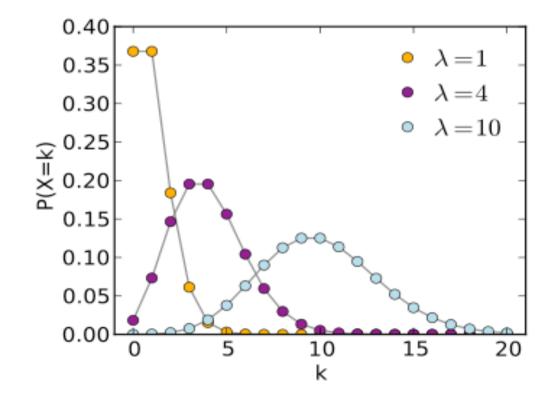
"when the average is small, the change with find nothing is not null!"

In fact, there is a distribution of the average λ with different probabilities \boldsymbol{p} to observe value \boldsymbol{k} :



Siméon Denis Poisson 1781 - 1840

$$p(k) = P(X = k) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^k}{k!}$$



The "n" in biology

Some effects of small numbers

 Detection of molecular properties of N molecules signal ∞ N standard deviation ∞ √N

$$N = 10^6$$
 => $SD = 10^3$

$$N = 1$$
 $SD = 1$

• Imagine a molecule with an equal change to be red or white

$$N = 10^6$$
 => average properties => pink

=> individual molecules with individual & changing properties !!

One of the consequences of Poisson

The metric average is not always valid in the cellular world.

An example,

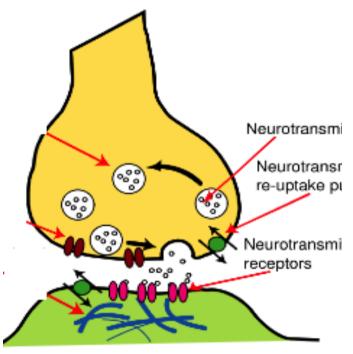
In the synaptic contact between neurons there are 10 receptors present that are active for only 10 % of the time

=> on the average there is **only 1** receptor active at the time

• Consequence of Poisson:

=> There is 37 % chance that none of these 10 receptors is active !!

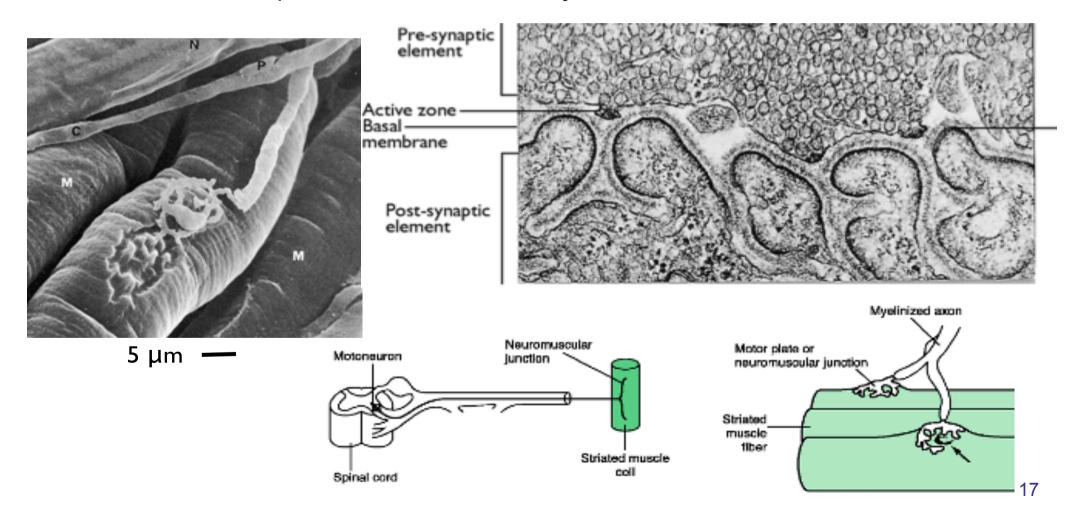




One of the consequences of Poisson

How to make a synapse that always works?

=> Many receptors & high concentration of transmitter Text book example: the neuro-muscular junction.

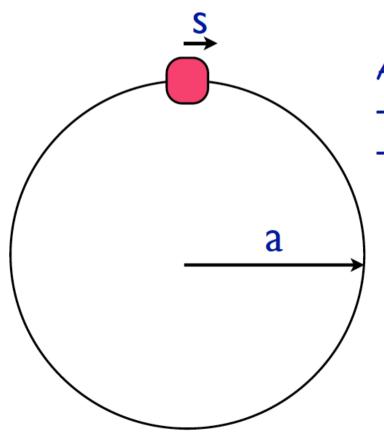


Receptors sample extracellular ligand concentration

Or rather fluctuation is the concentration c of a ligand.

How many receptors does a cell need to do this accurately?

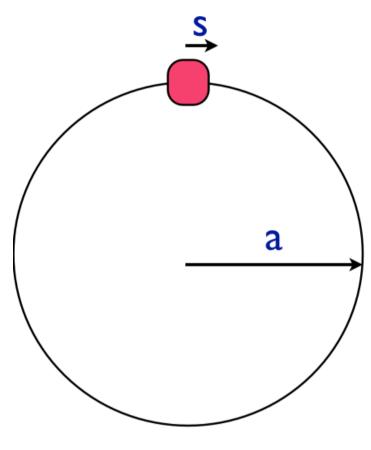
Berg & Purcell, 1977



Assumptions:

- Receptor occupancy reflects cellular response
- Ligand binding events are independent
 - ? what is the smallest error Δc possible?
 - ? How many receptors are needed per cell?

Receptors sample extracellular ligand concentration



=> The error Δc in concentration c detected in a time interval T equals

$$\frac{\Delta c}{c} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{T \cdot c \cdot a \cdot D}}$$

where: D is the ligand's diffusion coefficient c is [Ligand] in molecule.cm⁻³

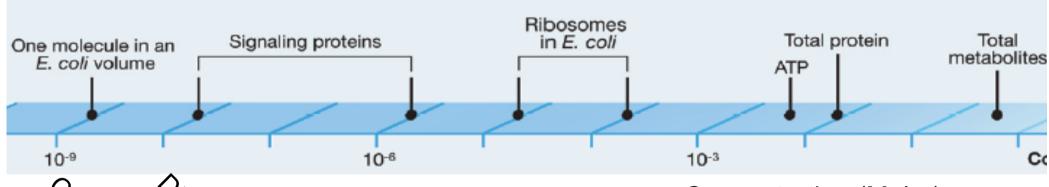
=> The number N of receptors needed is

$$N = \frac{a}{s}$$

The "n" in biology

Escherichia coli: Volume 10⁻¹⁵ L





Chronosome Olymeras

Several important molecules are rare, almost alone => these molecules are decisive or deciding !!

SNAP shot Key numbers in Biology (2010) Cell 141
S.Xie (2006) Science Vol 311

Concentration (Molar)



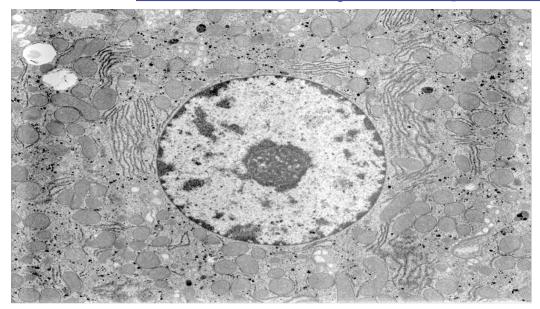
Molecular interactions - Biological networks

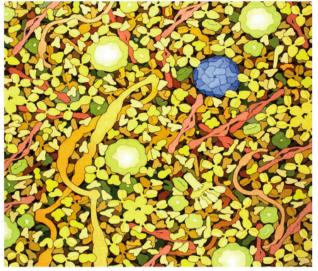
 The cell is extremely complex many intertwined signaling and metabolic multi-dimensional networks a strong spatial-temporal organization

Integrin V Cytokine GLYCOGEN - 91y SYNTHESIS - 97 → NF-kB pathway CARDIOVASCULAR Wnt pathway |-GSK3 JNK pathway Raft **CELL CYCLE CELL DEATH CELL SURVIVAL CELL GROWTH**



Cells - Very complicated conditions





Goodsell, Nat Chem Biol 3 (2007) p.681

- Highly heterogeneous compartments with very different contents
- Diffusion, transport and separation
- Highly crowded
- Many different components 5' 000 different gene products
 - => Very far from an ideal system in physicochemical terms
- => Systems biology:

Molecular description in space (x,y,z) and time (t) of a cell or an organism

Effects of Crowding: Diffusion



versus



- Macroscopically, the diffusion slows down
 - => the diffusion coefficient D decreases strongly
 - => larger molecules are more affected

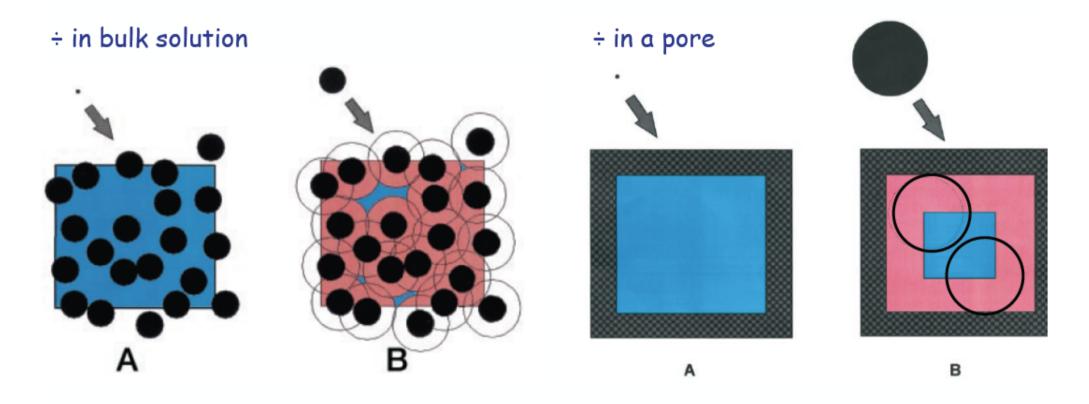
The time t to travel a certain distance increase as $t \propto D^{-2}$

e.g. GFP diffuses 10 times slower in the cytosol than in an aqueous buffer => takes in cytosol 100 time more time to travel the same distance

Effects of Crowding: Excluded volume and activity

Size matters!!

Compare a small (A) and a large (B) molecule for accessible to centre of mass (blue) and excluded (pink) volume with in a solution containing large solutes



Effects of Crowding: Chemical equilibria

Ideal system: No interactions between molecules

This condition is met in systems like: - gases at low pressure

- very diluted solutions

Imagine a polymerisation reaction:

$$nA \rightleftharpoons A_n$$

characterized by a dissociation constant

$$K_d = \frac{\left[A\right]^n}{\left[A_n\right]}$$

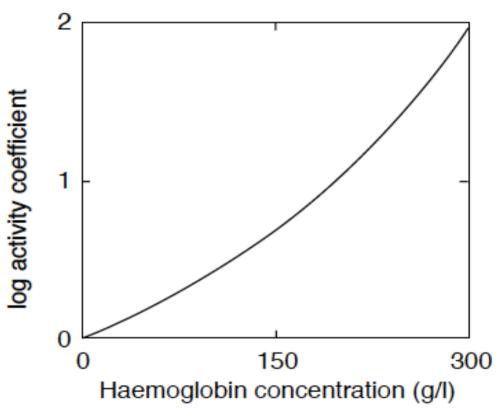
Under non-ideal conditions the concentrations of each species has to be multiplied by a correction factor - the activity constant a

$$K_d = \frac{a_A^n \cdot [A]^n}{a_{An} \cdot [A_n]} \approx \frac{a_A^{n-1} \cdot [A]^n}{[A_n]} \quad \text{if } \mathbf{n} \text{ is small}$$

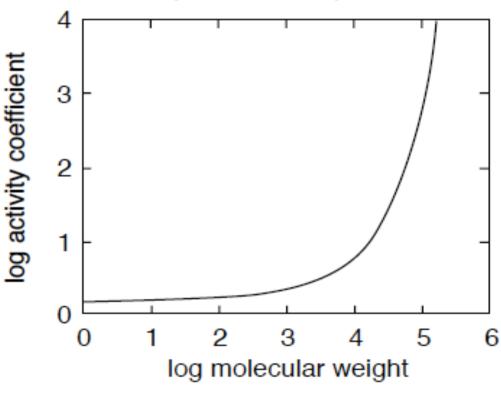
Effects of Crowding: Chemical equilibria

Activity coefficient of a species depends on molecular size & total solute density

Haemoglobin in water



at low conc. a = 1in blood cell $a \approx 100$ Molecules dissolve in a solution of haemoglobin of 300 g/l



at low MW at high MW

a = 1 a = 1

Methods: Fluorescence labelling & microscopy

Fluorescent labeling in needed to discriminate between molecules of interest and matrix in a living system

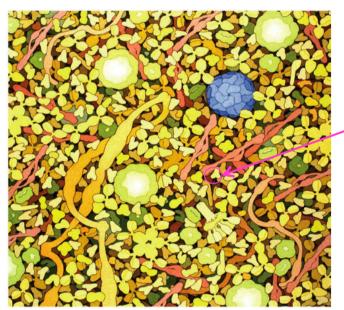
Advantages of fluorescence methods

Non-invasive => in vivo

Sensitive => down to a single molecule

• On line => direct info from ns to days

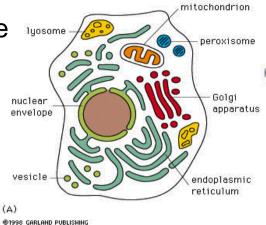
- High spatial & temporal resolution
- High information content
 - Location, movement & distance
 - Number of molecules
 - Microenvironment
 - Molecular interactions



Focus:
Bio-orthogonal
labelling of proteins

Where & When?

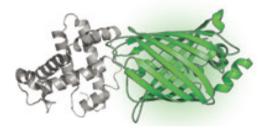
- On the cell surface
- Within the cell
- Anywhere



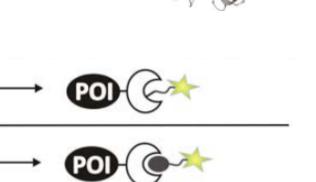
- Temporarily
- Always
- Reversible

How to label your protein of interest "POI"?

During biosynthesis of protein
 Autofluorescent
 protein



Non-natural amino acid



 After biosynthesis of protein covalent



covalent

enzyme mediated

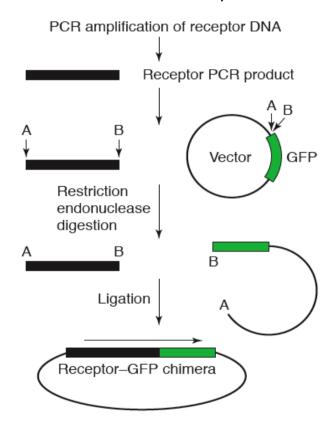




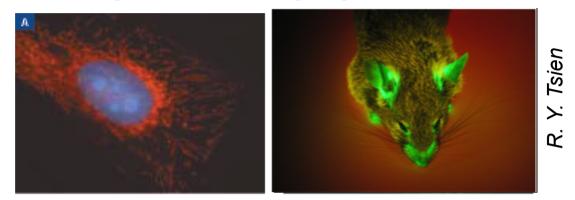


Biosynthetic labeling: Fluorescent proteins

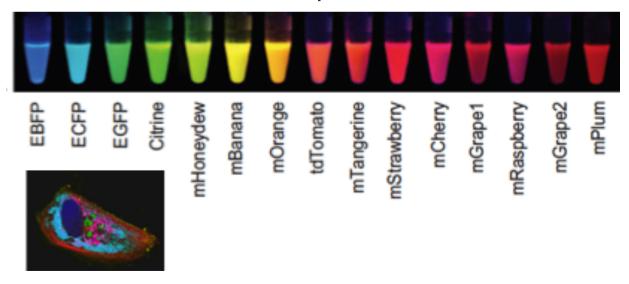
Fusion to protein of interest
 N- or C- terminal, internal



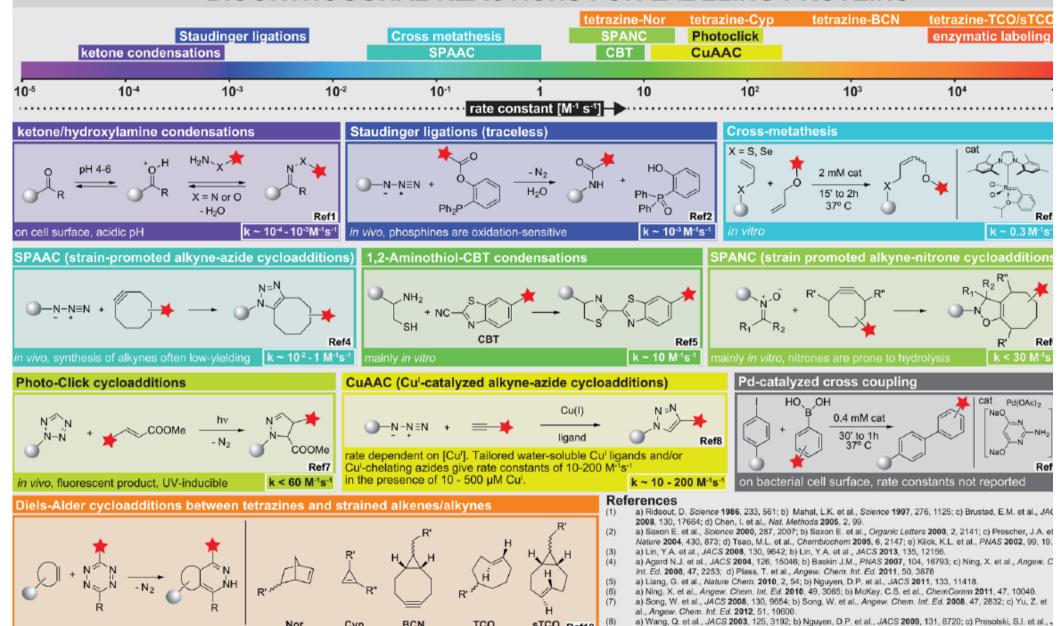
Within single cells or living organisms



 Parallel labeling of several proteins with different fluorescent proteins



BIOORTHOGONAL REACTIONS FOR LABELING PROTEINS



sTCO Ref10

2010, 132, 14570; d) Uttamapinant, C. et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2012, 51, 5852.

2012, 134, 2898; h) Elliott, T. et al., unpublished data.

a) Chalker, J.M. et al., JACS 2009, 131, 16346; b) Spicer, C.D. et al., JACS 2012, 134, 800

a) Blackman, M.L. et al., JACS 2008, 130, 13518; b) Devaraj, N.K. et al., Bioconjugate Chem. 2008, 19, 2297; c)

Lang, K. et al., Nature Chem. 2012, 4, 298; d) Plass, T. et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2012, 51, 4166; e) Lang, K. al., JACS 2012, 134, 10317; f) Yang, J. et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2012, 51, 7476; g) Seitchik, J.L. et al., JACS

Kathrin Lang and Jason W. Chin

cell surface and intracellular labeling, very fast, fluorogenic

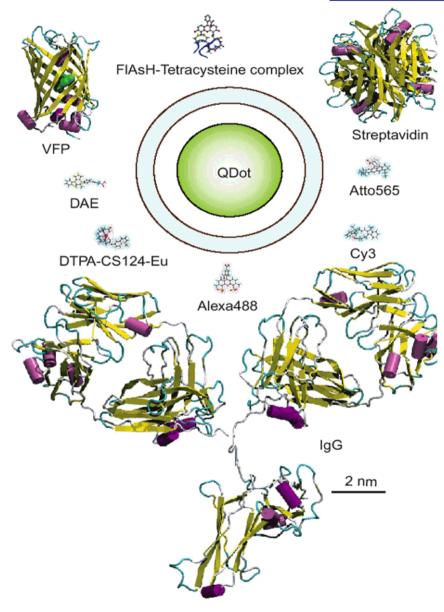
Medical Research Council, Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Center for Chemical and Synthetic Biology, Division for Protein and Nucleic Acid Chemistry, Francis Crick Avenue, Cambridge Biomedical Campus, Cambridge, CB2 0QH, UK

Nor

BCN

TCO

Labeling, with what?



E. A. Jares, Nat BioTech 21 (2003) 1387 Resh-Genger, Nat Methods (2008)

Ideally,

- the probe should be:
 - Small is beautiful
 - Bright
 - Stable
 - Non-perturbing

- .

- the labeling should be/allow:
 - Specific
 - Stoichiometric
 - Inside or on surface of cell
 - Permanent or reversible
- the duration of labeling should match the duration of the process of interest

Labeling with organic dyes

Very large choice of commercially available (reactive) dyes from e.g.

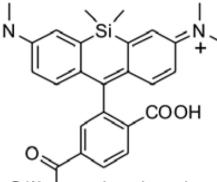
Invitrogen Alexa & Bodipy

GE **Cy** dyes

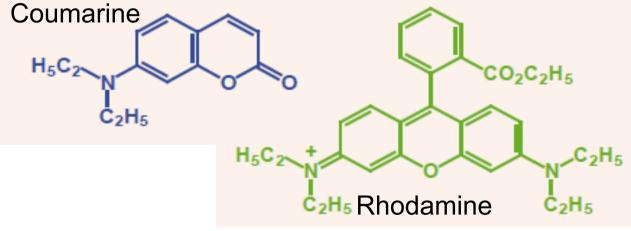
Atto-tec **Atto** dyes

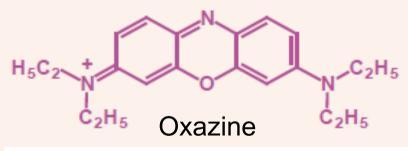
Toronto Research Chemicals, Biotium, Dyomics,





Silicon rhodamine

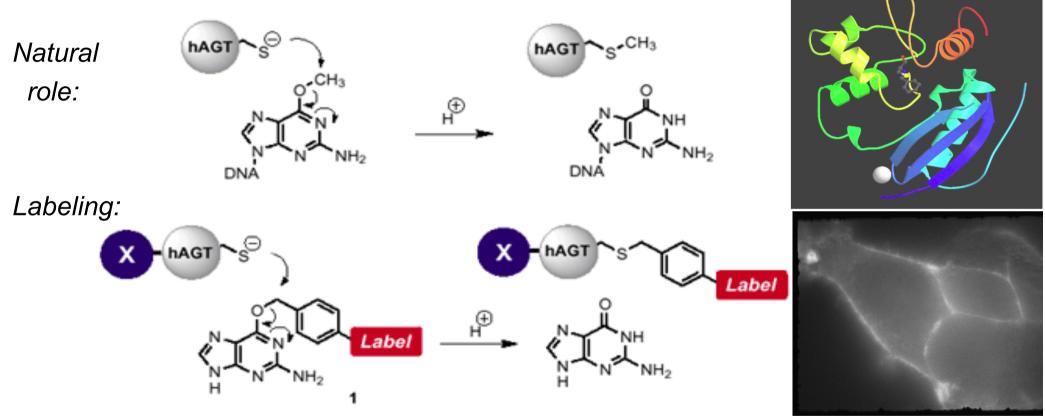




Enzyme-mediated covalent labelling: SNAP-tag

• O⁶-Alkylguanine-DNA Alkyltransferase (hAGT) is a DNA-repair "enzyme".

The nucleotide-modifying LABEL is covalently bound to AGT.



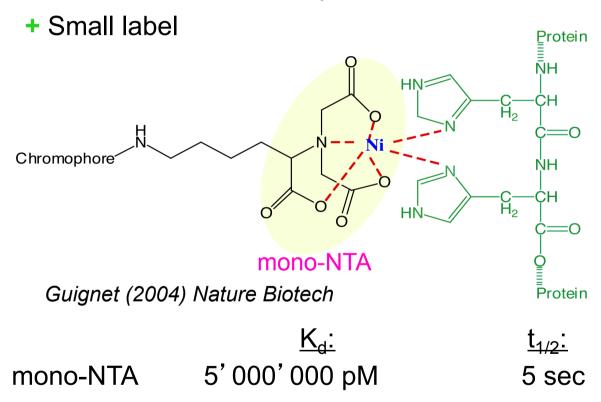
+ Some substrates are membrane impermeable => specific cell-surface labeling

Developed in the Johnsson lab

Reversible labelling: Peptide tags & NTA-Probes

Selective & revesible binding of NTA-Ni²⁺ to oligohistidine sequences added to proteins of interest by genetic engineering

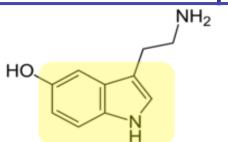
+ Wide choice of chromophores



Reversible labelling: Ligand for serotonin receptor

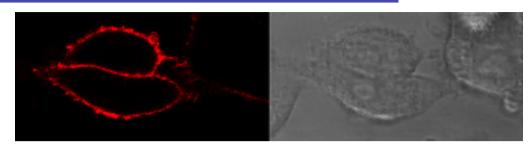
How to couple a fluorophore to a ligand?

- i) On the chemically reactive groups of the ligand e.g. serotonin: -OH -NH₂ or NH
 - => evaluate binding & effect of conjugate to receptor
- ii) Try ligand analogues, e.g. GR-67330
- iii) Look in literature!
 - => GR-119566x has been used for receptor purification by affinity chromatography



Reversible labeling of receptors with fluorescent ligands

e.g. GR-119566x labeled with Alexa-647

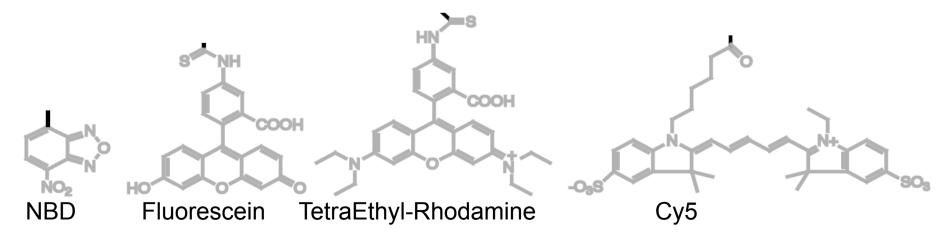


GR-119566x

36

Properties of conjugates:

	Affinity (pM)	
GR-H	30	i e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e
GR-Fluorescein	300	fluorescence decreases upon binding
GR-NBD	500	hardly fluorescent
GR-Rhodamine	800	aggregates receptor
GR-Cy5	18'000	high non-specific membrane staining



Reversible vs covalent labeling

Covalent

- + once it's there it is there to stay
- upon photo bleaching your labeled molecule is invisible

Reversible

Depending on affinity and off rate complexes can have a

- short lifetime of seconds to minutes
 - Cannot wash or label in advance
 - + Upon photobleaching can be replaced
 - + Repetitive labeling under same or different conditions
- long lifetime of hours to days => almost as covalent labeling

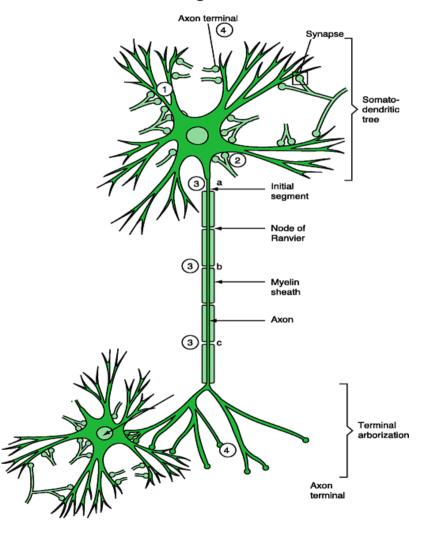
Labeling

The *ideal* label and labeling method do not exist.

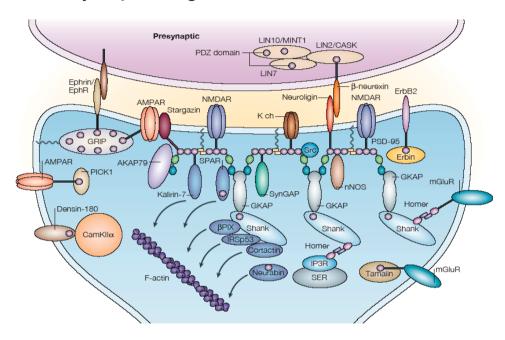
- => What do you would like to learn and where?
 - Localisation and movementIn live cells
 - + Molecular interactions+ Reconstituted systems
 - Structural changes
- => Each protein & each process needs an individual approach.
- => Combine orthogonal methods for multiple specific labeling.
- => Beware of nonspecific labeling and artefacts.
- => Combine measuring techniques.
- => Do lots of careful experiments.

Biological networks - Molecular interactions

Interacting neurons



Hammond "Cell & Mol Neurobiology" Kim, Nat Rev Neurosci 5 (2004) 772 Synaptic organization



Signaling events within a cell

- P Right place
- Þ Right time
- Proper arrangement
- Specificity & right partners

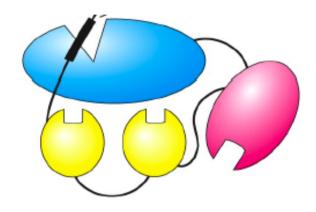
through reversible and adjustable molecular interactions.

Proteins - Modular assembly of functional domains

- Proteins must be multi-functional
 - specific interaction
 - regulation of interaction
 - effector
- Proteins are in general not monolithic globules



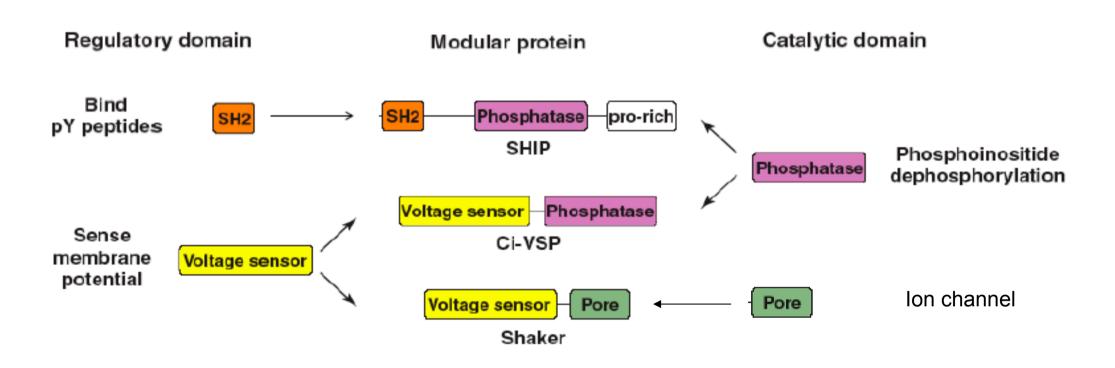
but rather have a beads-on-a-string multi-domain structures, where *each domain has a specific function*



- Domains: small (70-140 amino acids) autonomously folding sequences specific function e.g. catalysis or binding
 1'000 type of domains present in human genome
- Linear combination of a few domains yields an infinite variation of proteins with each unique properties

Domain combinations - Variations on a theme

"Combinatorial" protein design to create proteins with new properties



Reversible & adjustable protein interactions

Examples of protein domains involved in molecular recognition:

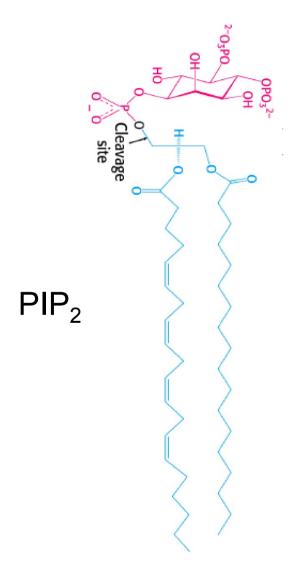
	Domain	Sequence recognised	Abundance
			human genome
	SH2	-pY-x-x-hydrophobic-	352
	PTB	-hydrophobic-x-N-P-x-pY-	141
	SH3	-P-x-x-P-x	894
	WW	-P-P-x-Y-	307
	14-3-3	-R-S-x-pS-x-P-	19
	PDZ	-E-S/T-D/V- C-terminus	918
\triangleright	PH	phospholipids	±250
	C2	phospholopids	641

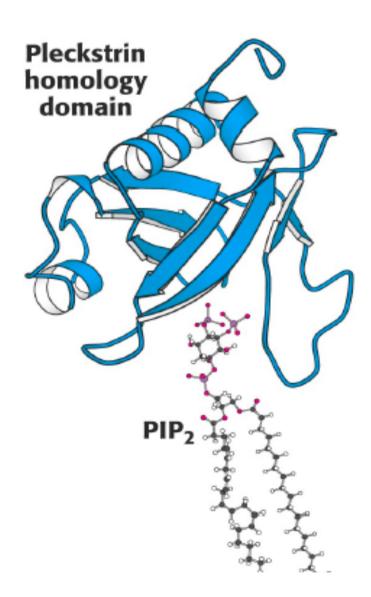
NB: human genome encodes approximately 3.104 proteins

Reversible & adjustable membrane binding

Pleckstrin homology (PH) domains binds specifically to so-called "PIP-lipids"

• some bind to "PIP₂" an abundant lipid in **only** the plasma membrane



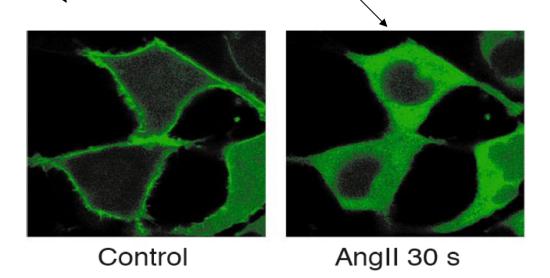


Imaging PIP₂ in vivo using PH-GFP chimeras

• PIP₂ is rapidly broken down upon activation of e.g. the angiotensin receptor

A fusion protein PH_GFP, composed of a green fluorescent protein (GFP) and a PH domain binds to PIP₂ in the plasma membrane

Angiotensin addition leads to PIP₂ breakdown
 => PH-GFP can not bind to membrane anymore



=> Regulated localisation

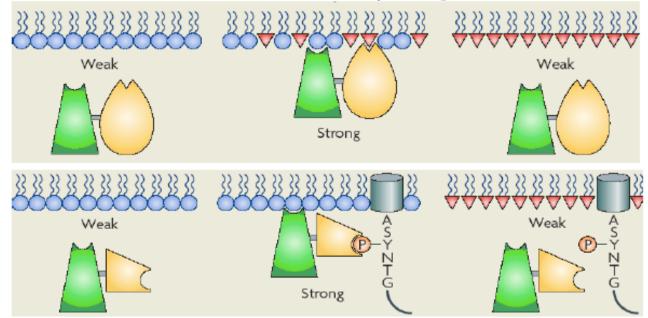
Combination of domains for co-incidence analysis

What now if one interaction domain is strong not enough for binding?

=> Stronger by more of the same

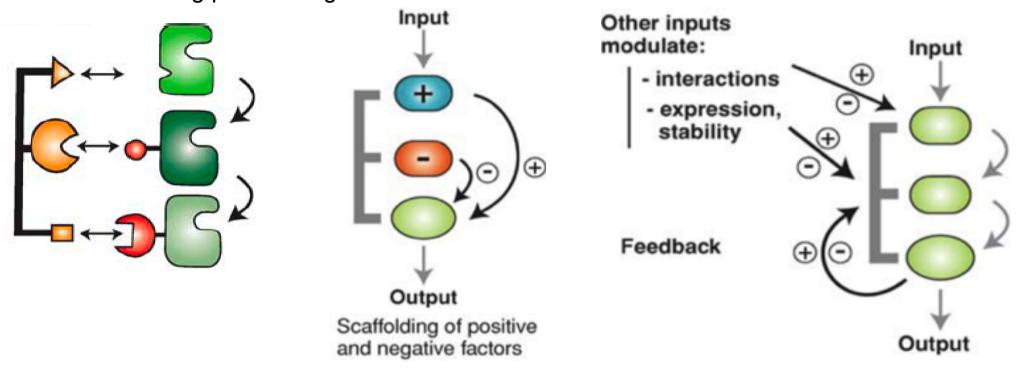


=> Stronger by co-incidence & more selective by integration of different inputs



Organizing molecular interactions using domains

Scaffold bring proteins together



"biological integrated circuit"

- Scaffolds allow regulation and integration of signals and organization of signaling molecules in space and time
- Modification of scaffold or proteins that bind affect output
- Coincidence of events is important for both control and out-put

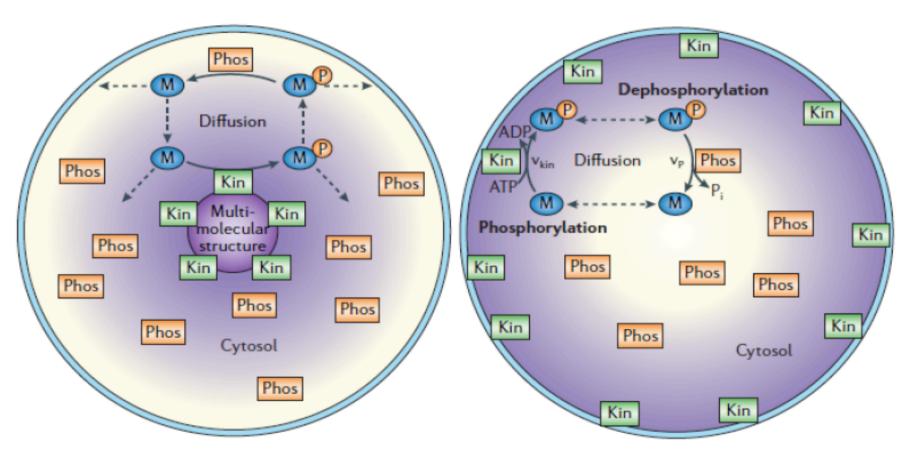
Space & time in signalling: A thought experiment

- E.g. for the phosphorylation state of protein M (purple hue indicate [M-Pi].
 - the phosphatase Phos is homogeneously distributed in the cytosol, but
 - the kinase is bound to

a central structure

or

the plasma membrane



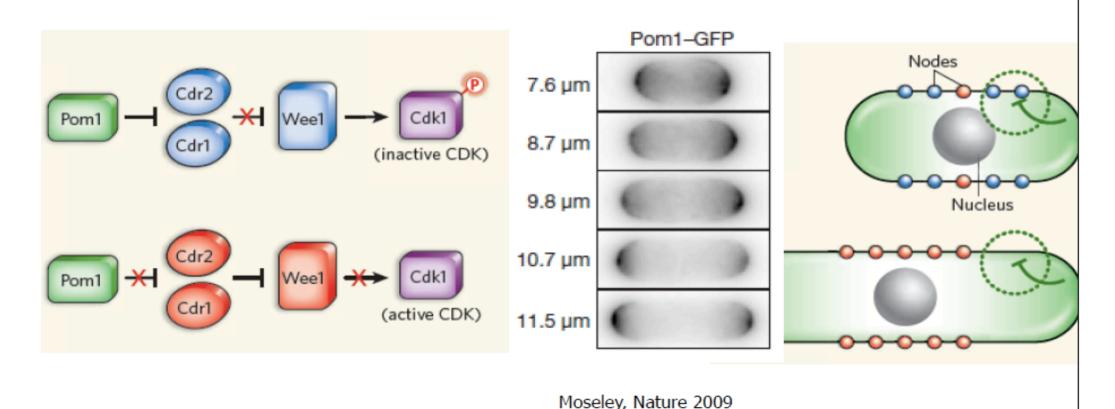
=> Localized activity creates concentration gradients

Space & time in signalling: A cellular mechanism

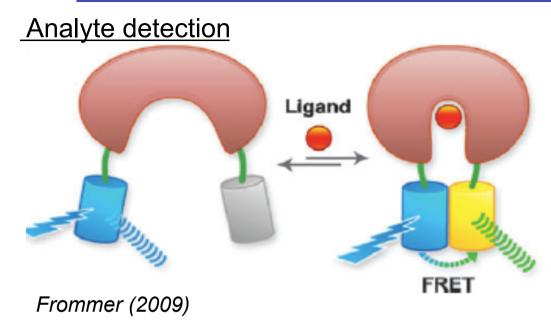
E.g. regulation of cell division of yeast.

Observations:

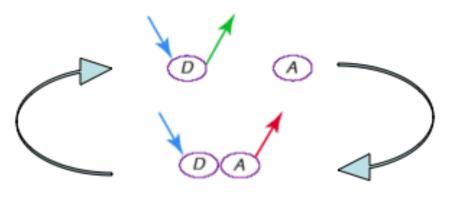
- only big cells divide
- all components needed seem to be present continuously
- When nucelar Cdk1 is active => cell division
- Pom1 inhibits Cdk1 via a cascade



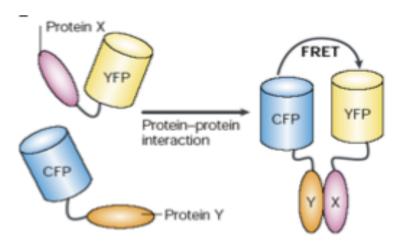
Sensors based on fluorescent proteins and molecular interaction



Föster resonance energy transfer (FRET):



Molecular interactions



Transer of excitation energy from one fluorophore "Donor" to an "Acceptor"; possible only when Donor and Acceptor are within a few nm.

Up-to-date list:

biosensor.dpb.carnegiescience.edu/

<u>Limitations of fluorescent protein-based sensors</u>

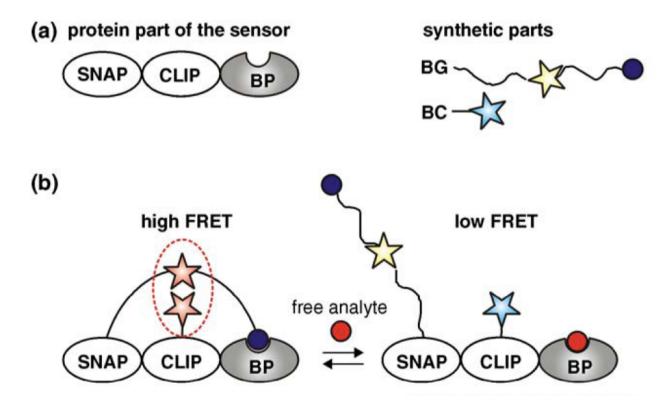
- Fluorescent protein-based sensors
 - limited photo-stability
 - not so bright
 - limited visible range of spectrum
 - always "on"
 - conformational change needed
- Semi-synthetic sensors with self-labeling tags offer the possibility to:
 - introduce photo-stable and red-shifted dyes
 - measure longer, increase S/N, penetrate deeper in tissue
 - choose time of labeling, pulse labeling, multi-color labeling
 - employ rigid binding domains

Semi-synthetic sensors

Snif-it's (SNAP-tag based Indicator proteins with a Fluorescent Intramolecular Tether) for visualizing the concentration of metabolites.

Additional innovation:

Binding domain does not have to undergo structural change!!



CLIP:

a mutant of SNAP not reacting with BG, but only with BC

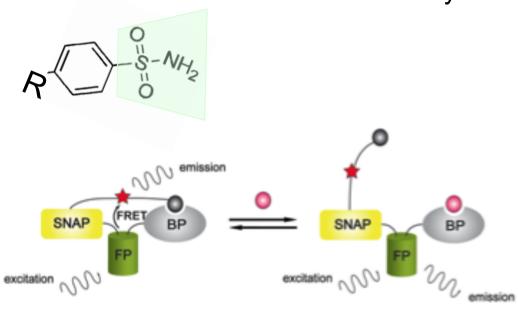
BP:

Binding protein for

<u>Semi-synthetic sensors – Snif-it's</u>

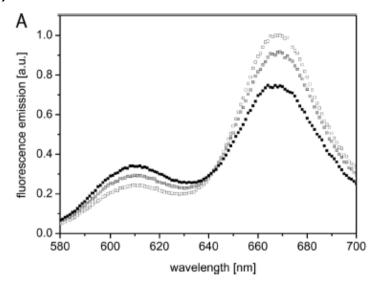
An example: - Human Carbonic Anhydrase (HCA) as binding protein (BP)

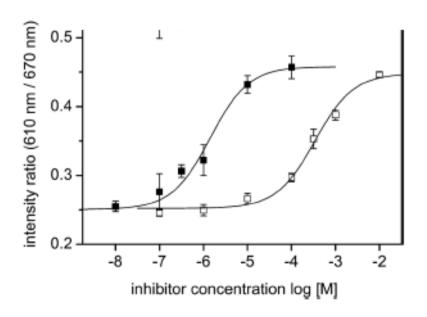
- Sulfonamides as analytes



mCherry & BG-PEG₁₁-Cy5

=> Principle works!

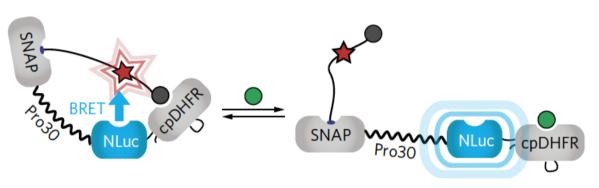


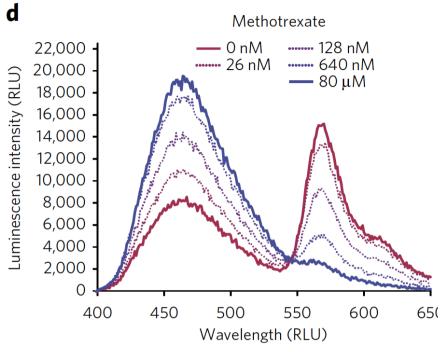


Snif-it's for drug monitoring: LUCID's

• LUCID's : Luciferase-based indicators of drugs

e.g. for the anti-cancer drug methotraxate







Interacting molecules - Nanoscopic building blocks

Constructing supra-molecular functional entities using nature's components.

=> in solution or on surfaces

Commonly used constructing materials:

- Streptavidin

Biotin

- Immunoglobulins

Antigens

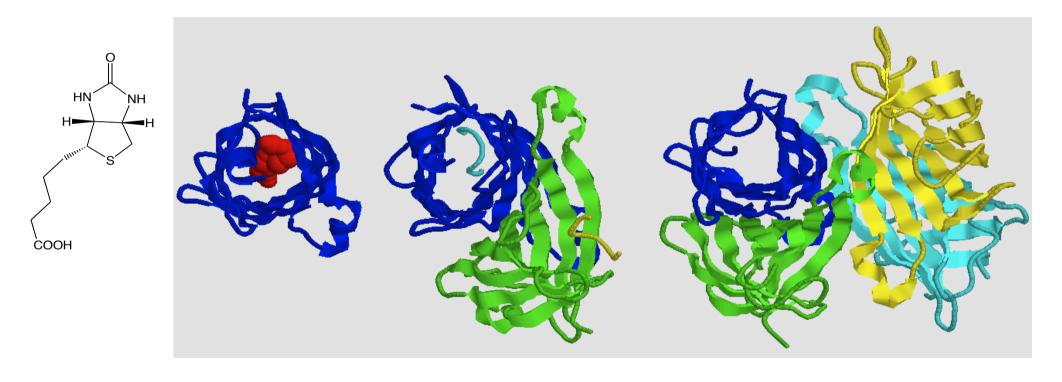
- Oligonucleotides

Oligonucleotides

- Natural or engineered binding proteins

Interacting molecules: Streptavidin

- Tetrameric protein from *Streptomyces avidinii*, about 65 kDa (approx 5x5x5 nm)
- each monomer binds very tightly to **biotin** : $K_d \sim 10^{-14}$ M or $\Delta G \sim 32$ kT. Biotin, also known as vitamin H or B7

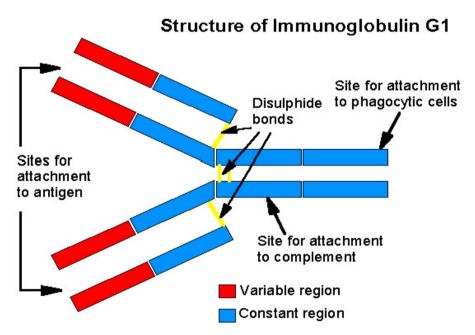


- Avidin is a glycoprotein from bird eggs with comparable structure and properties.
 It prevents biotin absorption in the gastrointestinal tract.
- Biotin can easily be linked chemically to many substances.

Interacting molecules: Immunoglobins

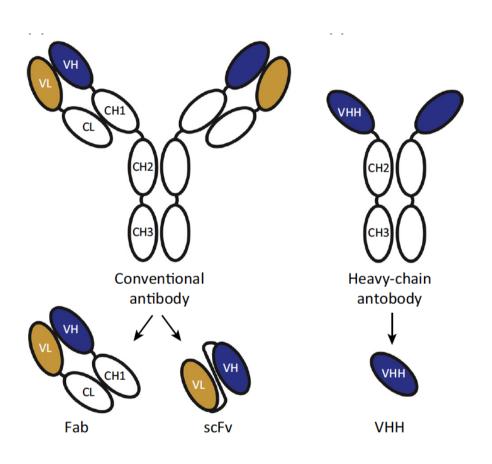
A binding partner to almost anything, the immune system uses immuno-globins, also called antibodies:

- the antigen is bound to the variable regions
- genetic recombination yield infinite variations



Antibody of IgG class

- Each domain is approx 50 kDa and 5 nm long.
- Dissociation constants are nM for good antibodies.

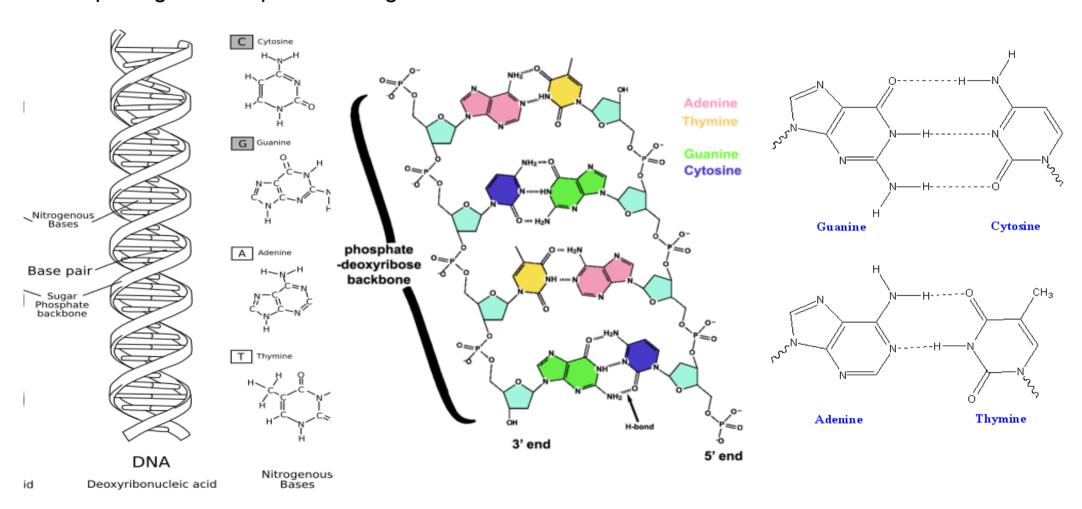


Smaller derived binding domains, e.g . VHH

Interacting molecules: Oligonucleotides

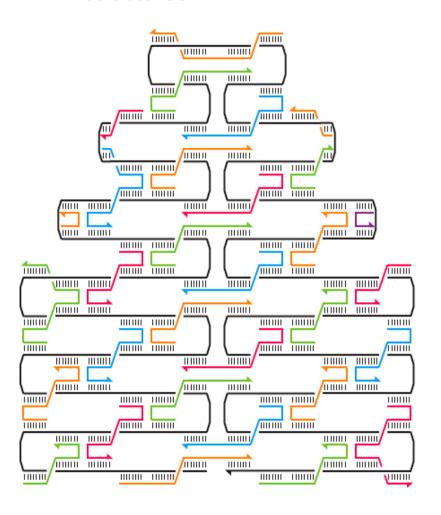
Oligonucleotides are polymers made of the 4 (ribo)nucleobases : A C G T

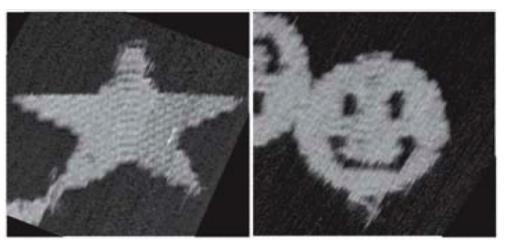
Complementary antiparallel strands hybridize through specific hydrogen-bond directed base pairing and sequence recognition



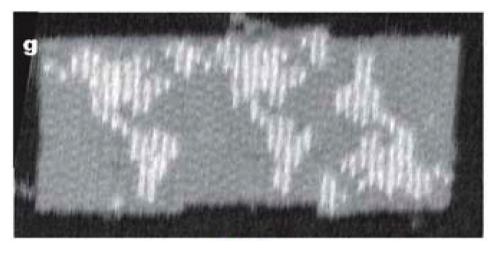
Molecular origami with oligonucleotides

Base pairing & sequence recognition can be used e.g. to construct complicated structures:





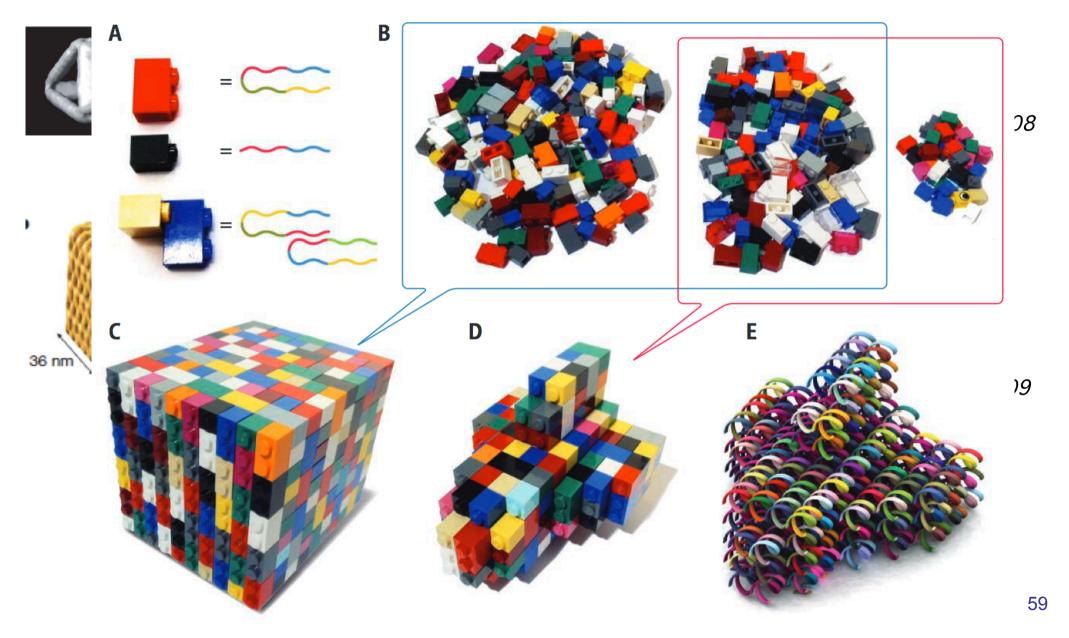
165x165 nm



Scale: 1 to 2.10¹⁴

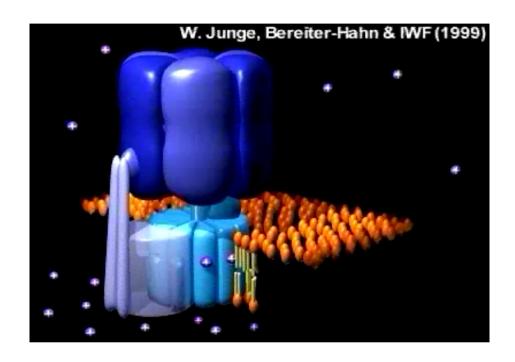
Molecular origami with oligonucleotides

Also 3-D structures can be made:



Molecular machines

- **Þ** Energy conversion
- Þ Linear motors
- **P** Rotational motors



ATPase uses H⁺- gradient to **produce ATP**: 3-5 H⁺ needed per ATP

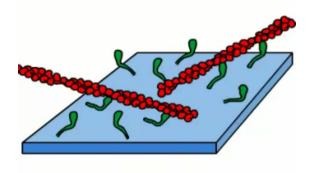
Energy conversion: Electro-chemical >> mechanical >> chemical

Dimensions: Diameter about 10 nm

Rotations: > 3000 rpm => >10' 000 ATP/min

Molecular machines

- Energy conversion
- Þ Linear motors
- **P** Rotational motors



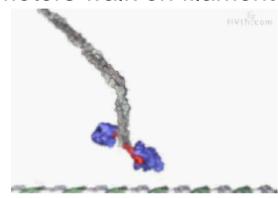
Actin filaments slide on myosin motors

Typical speed: about 1 μm/s

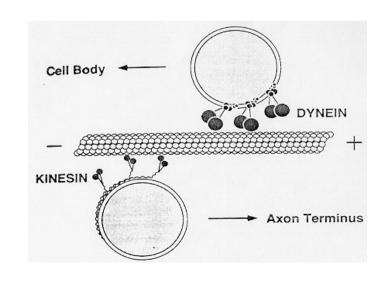
Step size: about 10 nm

Energy conversion: ATP => motion

Motors walk on filament



Kinesin on microtuble

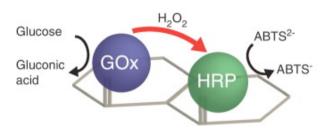


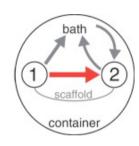
Bio-inspired nanotechnology => Nanomachines?

- **÷** Molecular interactions
- Nanoscopic structures

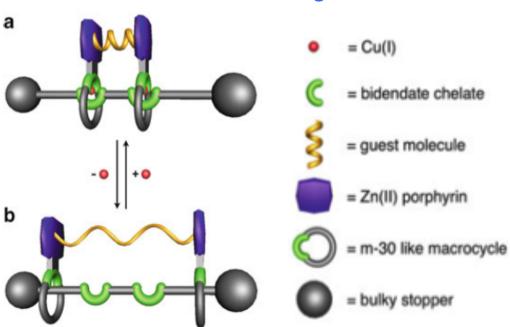
=> Nanobiomachines

Scaffolds for "assembly lines"

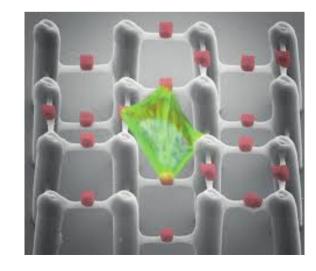




Responsive sensing

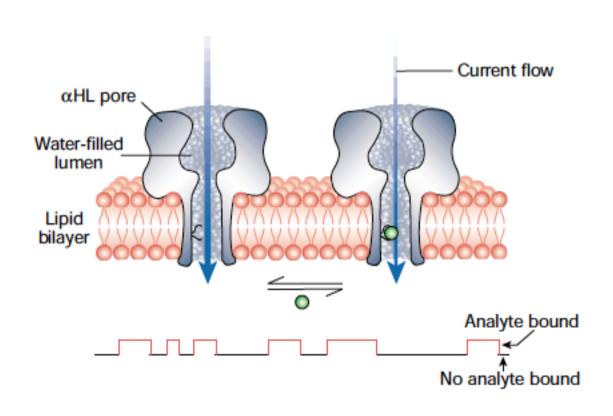


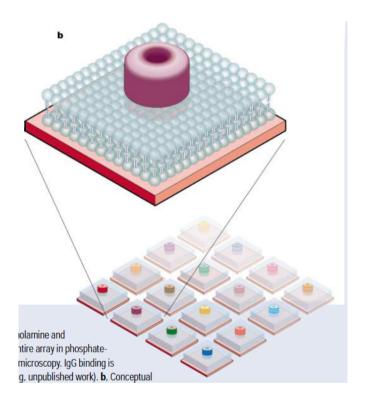
Cellular Mechanics



Nanopore sequencing: From dream to reality

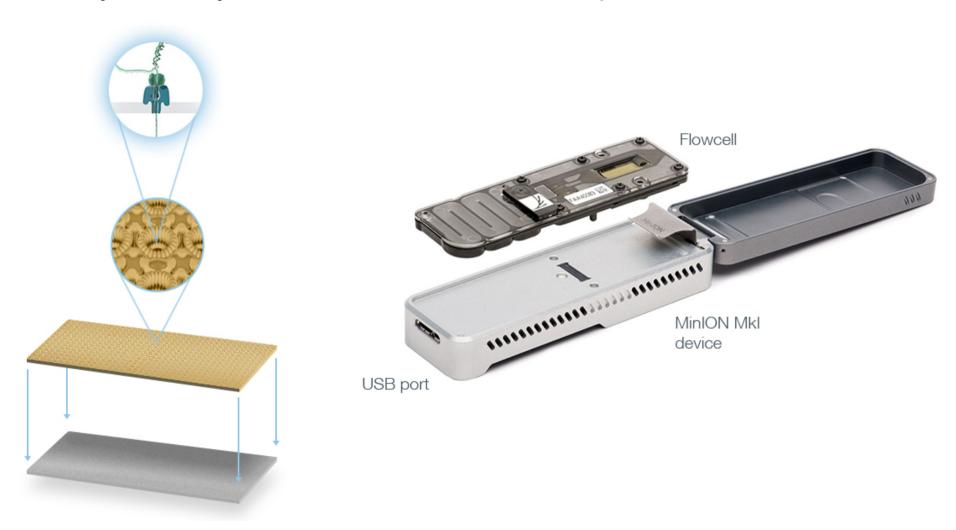
~2000 : The dream Hagan Bayley





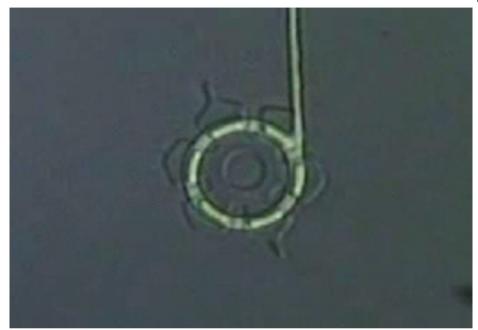
Nanopore sequencing: From dream to reality

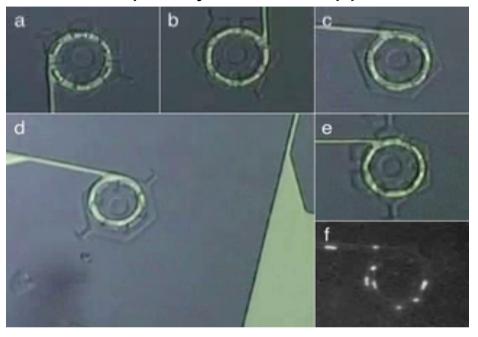
Today's reality Minion from Oxforn Nanopore

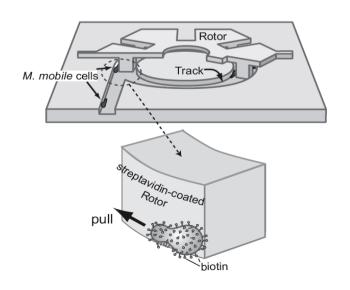


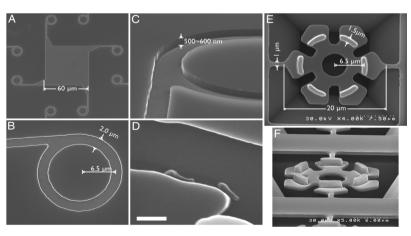
Biomolecular nanotechnology => Nanomachines?

Nanobiomachines: A recent example of a completely different approach









Hiratsuka, PNAS 103 (2006) 13618

Reviews

Chemical labelling

Wombacher & Cornish "Chemical tags: applications in live cell fluorescence imaging" *J. Biophotonics* (2011) 6. 391-402

Lang & Chin "Bioorthogonal Reactions for Labeling Proteins" ACS Chem Biol (2014) 9, 16-20

Lang & Chin "Cellular Incorporation of Unnatural Amino Acids and Bioorthogonal Labeling of Proteins" Chem Rev (2014) 114, 4764-4806

Resch et al "Quantum dots versus organic dyes as fluorescent labels" Nature Methods (2008) 5, 763–775

Fluorescent proteins

Wang et al "Fluorescence Proteins,Live-Cell Imaging, and Mechanobiology" *Annu. Rev. Biomed Eng.* (2008) 10, 1-38.

Ibraheem & Campbell. "Designs and applications of fluorescent protein-based biosensor" *Curr Op Chem Biol* (2010) 14.30-36

Fluorescent ligands

Baindur & Triggle "Concepts and Progress in the Development and Utilization of Receptor-Specific Fluorescent ligands" *Med Res Rev* (1994) 14, 591-664

Current Opinion in Chemical Biology