# Advanced approaches to characterize stability and dynamics of single particles in real-time







## Wouter Roos



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#### Viral life cycle



#### **Atomic Force Microscopy**



AFM:

- nm resolution
- force measurements
- dynamic measurements
- measurements in liquid



http://www.rug.nl/research/zernike/molecular-biophysics/

#### Atomic force microscopy-based mechanobiology





## Linking virus mechanics to infectivity

Imaging Adenovirus along its principle symmetry axes





## Mechanical probing of Adenovirus

a) before

#### after



240 hexons in 1 AdV



## Host factors, mechanics & infectivity





#### Adenovirus maturation



*immature capsid* 

G33 mutant capsid

wild type mature capsid



Large difference in infectivity between WT and G33, but spring constant is the same





Denning et al. Nanoscale (2019)







Full penton destabilization when the genome is present in addition to the successful maturation-linked proteolytic cleavage of preprotein VI.



Maturation induces penton destabilization priming the capsid for endosomal release & disassembly

#### Viral structure and assembly



**Optical Tweezers** 

#### micron-sized particles can be stably trapped in the focus of a laser beam



https://home.uni-leipzig.de/pwm/web/?section=introduction&page=opticaltraps

1986 Arthur Ashkin (Bell labs)

**Nobel Prize Physics 2018** 

#### **Optical Tweezers**



Review by Bustamante and co-workers: Nature Reviews Methods Primer (2021) 1:25

#### Following virus assembly by optical tweezers



#### Following assembly by optical tweezers







#### Synthetic Virus-Like-Particles



#### Particle visualisation by AFM

#### DNA 2.5 kbp ~ 1 μm



350 nm

- Stiff rod-like appearance of the VLPs (300nm)
- DNA compacted 1/3 its original length
- Cooperative self-assembly.

#### Protein attachment, in real-time





#### Protein attachment, in real-time



Binding Event Size (# peptides)

#### DNA compaction by rod shaped VLP



Marchetti *et al.* Nano Letters (2019)



#### DNA compaction in real-time



#### Regular compaction steps for assembly model



Average Compaction-Step:

~ 30 nm



300 nm



Mean particle HEIGHT: 9.1 ±0.5 nm



#### High Speed AFM studies of dynamics



#### Are we able to follow assembly in real-time?

#### High speed AFM



<u>Toshio Ando</u> Professor, Nano Life Science Institute (WPI-NanoLSI), Kanazawa University

Ando,...,Kodera, Annu. Rev. Biophys. (2013) Ando,...,Scheuring, Chem. Rev. (2014) Ando, Biophys Rev. (2018)



Myosin molecular motor on actin filaments



7 frames s<sup>-1</sup>



Kodera,...,Ando, Nature (2010)

#### High speed AFM

(1) Ultrasmall cantilevers (low cantilever mass allows high resonance frequencies)

- (2) Fast actuators (dummy piezo, balance weight)
- (3) Fast amplitude detectors
- (4) Adaptive/dynamic feedback (against 'parachuting')

Casuso,...,Rico, Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A (2020)



Ando, Curr. Opin. Struct. Biol. (2014)

#### High Speed AFM studies of 2D HIV assembly



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#### High Speed AFM studies of 2D HIV assembly





Buzon et al. Science Advances 2021





Cp condenses nucleic acids, even under tension (F = 11 pN)

Assembly footprint: ~70 nt

Work per condensation step:  $F^* step size = \sim 100 k_BT$ 

This corresponds to ~1.4 k<sub>B</sub>T/nt (compare to ~5 k<sub>B</sub>T/bp for ATP driven packaging motor of  $\Phi$ 29)













#### For those not (only) interested in viruses



<u>Extracellular vesicles /</u> <u>lipoprotein particles</u>

Vorselen *et al.* Nat. Comm. (2018)

Piontek *et al.* J Extracell. Biol. (2022)

AFM nanoindentation (mechanical probing) Single-Cell Activation Kinetics

Vasse *et al.* Small Methods (2021)

Optical Tweezers studies of cell dynamics



#### For those not (only) interested in viruses



#### ESCRT:

Maity *et al.* Science Advances (2019) Azad *et al.* Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol. (2023)



<u>Bacterial transporters:</u> Maity *et al.* PNAS (2022)



<u>Assembly of synthetic systems:</u> Maity *et al.* JACS (2020) Liu *et al.* Nat. Chem (2023)

> <u>Assembly of antibiotics:</u> Shukla *et al.* Nature (2022) Melcrova *et al.* bioRxiv (2023)



#### High Speed AFM studies of dynamics

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