## Introduction to Simulation and Modeling of DNA Systems

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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

CAMBRIDGE AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

4339

1948

### DNA, the blueprint



# A nucleus of a human cell contains 23x2 chromosomes



#### Human chromosomes



# Each chromosome is millimeters-long single fiber: chromatin



#### **DNA** is a highly *negatively charged* Δ polymer that forms human genome G Nucleus Base Phosphate (PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>) 0.34 nm ~10 µm G A human nucleus contains 23x2 chromosomes made of 12 billion 2 hm nucleotides (~2 meters of DNA)

## Same sign charges ....



### MD simulation of dense DNA arrays

Seethaler, et al.



#### What we control

DNA density (or harmonic constraint radius) [Na<sup>+</sup>]<sub>buf</sub> ~ 200 mM [Mg<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>buf</sub> ~ 0 or 20 mM

#### What we measure

Pressure as a function of [ion] & [DNA]
DNA / ion distribution:
DNA / ion diffusion inside the array



# The standard MD force field fails to predict internal pressure of a DNA array



Too strong Na/Mg-phosphate attraction induces artificial DNA clusters!! [Na] ~ 4M!!



Interaxial distance /nm

\* Rau, D. C.; Lee, B.; Parsegian, PNAS (1984)

Pressure /bar

# Recalibrate ion-DNA parameters using osmotic pressure data

permeable only



- Osmotic pressure is directly related to ion-pair formation: π = φcRT
- Pros: modify only ion-DNA phosphate interaction, without altering ion-water interaction.
- Cons: nothing.

\* Luo & Roux, JPCL (2009)

# Improved parametrization of ion-DNA interactions



Interaxial distance /nm

Pressure /bar

# CUFIX: Accurate parameterization of non-bonded interactions



http://bionano.physics.illinois.edu/CUFIX

## Journal of Physics Condensed Matter

Journal of Physics: Condensed Matter 26: 413101 (2014)

Volume 26 Number 41 15 October 2014

#### Topical review Close encounters with DNA C Maffeo, J Yoo, J Comer, D B Wells, B Luan and A Aksimentiev



# The nucleotide sequence contains biological information

#### ATGACGGATCAGCCGCAAGCGGAATTGGCGACATAA

#### TACTGCCTAGTCGGCGTTCGCCTTAACCGCTGTATT











### The Human Genome Project

Duration: October 1990 - 2003

Discovered <u>ALL</u> 20,000-25,000 human genes



Determined complete sequence of the 3 billion DNA bases

GTGGGTGCATAGCTGTGCTGTAAGTGAAGTGAGGCGGCAGGTGTTGAAAG TCGATGTAGTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTCGATGTGAAATGCTGATGCTAGT GGACAGGGTGACTAGTGAATCGATGCTAGCCTAGCTAGTCAGTGGTGCTA GCTACGATCGATTTCAGGCTGCTGTGGGTGCATAGCTGTGCTGTAAGTGAA GTGAGGCGGCAGGTGTTGAAAGTCGATGTAGTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTC GATGTGAAATGCTGATGCTAGTGGACAGGGTGACTAGTGAATCGATGCTAG CCTAGCTAGTCAGTGGTGCTAGCTACGATCGATTTCAGGCTGCTGTGGGTG CATAGCTGTGCTGTAAGTGAAGTGAGGCGGCAGGTGTTGAAAGTCGATGTA GTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTCGATGTGAAATGCTGATGCTAGTGGACAGGG GATTTCAGGCTGCTGTGGGTGCATAGCTGTGCTGTAAGTGAAGTGAGGCGG CAGGTGTTGAAAGTCGATGTAGTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTCGATGTGAAAT CAGTGGTGCTAGCTACGATCGATTTCAGGCTGCT CCTAGCTAGTCAGTGGT GTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTCGATGTGAAATGCTGATGCTAGTGGACAGGG GATTTCAGGCTGCTGTGGGTGCATAGCTGTGCTGTAAGTGAAGTGAGGCGG CAGGTGTTGAAAGTCGATGTAGTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTCGATGTGA TC GATGTAGTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTCGATGTGAAATGCTGATGCTAGTGGA CAGGGTGACTAGTGAATCGATGCTAGCCTAGCTAGTCAGTGGTGCTATTGT GCTACGATCGATTTCAGGCTGCTGTGGGTGCATAGCTGTGCTGTAAGTGAA GTGAGGCGGCAGGTGTTGAAAGTCGATGTAGTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTC GATGTGAAATGCTGATGCTAGTGGACAGGGTGACTAGTGAATCGATGCTAG CCTAGCTAGTCAGTGGTGCTAGCTACGATCGATTTCAGGCTGCTGTGGGTG

GATGTGAAATGCTGATGCTAGTGGACAGGGTGACTAGTGAATCGATGCTAG CCTAGCTAGTCAGTGGTGCTAGCTACGATCGATTTCAGGCTGCTGTGGGTG CATAGCTGTGCTGTAAGTGAAGTGAGGCGGCAGGTGTTGAAAGTCGATGTA GTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTCGATGTGAAATGCTGATGCTAGTGGACAGGG GATTTCAGGCTGCTGTGGGTGCATAGCTGTGCTGTAAGTGAAGTGAGGCGG CAGGTGTTGAAAGTCGATGTAGTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTCGATGTGAAAT CAGTGGTGCTAGCTACGATCGATTTCAGGCTGCT CCTAGCTAGTCAGTGGT GTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTCGATGTGAAATGCTGATGCTAGTGGACAGGG GATTTCAGGCTGCTGTGGGTGCATAGCTGTGCTGTAAGTGAAGTGAGGCGG CAGGTGTTGAAAGTCGATGTAGTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTCGATGTGA TC GATGTAGTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTCGATGTGAAATGCTGATGCTAGTGGA CAGGGTGACTAGTGAATCGATGCTAGCCTAGCTAGTCAGTGGTGCTATTGT GCTACGATCGATTTCAGGCTGCTGTGGGTGCATAGCTGTGCTGTAAGTGAA GTGAGGCGGCAGGTGTTGAAAGTCGATGTAGTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTC GATGTGAAATGCTGATGCTAGTGGACAGGGTGACTAGTGAATCGATGCTAG CCTAGCTAGTCAGTGGTGCTAGCTACGATCGATTTCAGGCTGCTGTGGGTG AAACGATGTGAAATGCTGATGCTAGTGGACAGGGTGACTAGTGAATCGATG CTAGCCTAGCTAGTCAGTGGTGCTAGCTACGATCGATTTCAGGCTGCTGTG GGTGGCTGATGCTAGTGGACAGGGTGACTAGTGAATCGATGCTAGCCTAGCT 

CAGGTGTTGAAAGTCGATGTAGTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTCGATGTGATC GATGTAGTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTCGATGTGAAATGCTGATGCTAGTGGA CAGGGTGACTAGTGAATCGATGCTAGCCTAGCTAGTCAGTGGTGCTATTGT GCTACGATCGATTTCAGGCTGCTGTGGGTGCATAGCTGTGCTGTAAGTGAA GTGAGGCGGCAGGTGTTGAAAGTCGATGTAGTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTC GATGTGAAATGCTGATGCTAGTGGACAGGGTGACTAGTGAATCGATGCTAG CCTAGCTAGTCAGTGGTGCTAGCTACGATCGATTTCAGGCTGCTGTGGGTG AAACGATGTGAAATGCTGATGCTAGTGGACAGGGTGACTAGTGAATCGATG CTAGCCTAGCTAGTCAGTGGTGCTAGCTACGATCGATTTCAGGCTGCTGTG CAGTGGTGCTAGCTACGATCGATTTCAGGCTGCT CCTAGCTAGTCAGTGGT GATGTGAAATGCTGATGCTAGTGGACAGGGTGACTAGTGAATCGATGCTAG CCTAGCTAGTCAGTGGTGCTAGCTACGATCGATTTCAGGCTGCTGTGGGTG CATAGCTGTGCTGTAAGTGAAGTGAGGCGGCAGGTGTTGAAAGTCGATGTA GTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTCGATGTGAAATGCTGATGCTAGTGGACAGGG GATTTCAGGCTGCTGTGGGTGCATAGCTGTGCTGTAAGTGAAGTGAGGCGG CAGGTGTTGAAAGTCGATGTAGTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTCGATGTGAAAT CAGTGGTGCTAGCTACGATCGATTTCAGGCTGCT CCTAGCTAGTCAGTGGT GTTCGTAGGTCAGTTGATGTCGATGTGAAATGCTGATGCTAGTGGACAGGG GATTTCAGGCTGCTGTGGGTGCATAGCTGTGCTGTAAGTGAAGTGAGGCGG

# ... and ~ 3,000,000 more pages!

(one month to show 24/7)

Just four letter:



~715 Mb

DNA code is billion times more efficient 2 bits 0 01 1 8 bits = 1b  $4/8*3*10^{9}$ 

С

G

# Differences in the code are important

Among unrelated individuals, 99.4% of the sequence is similar That is still over 1,000,000 differences.

You and chimpanzee: 99%

Advanced diagnostics (early detection and, possibly, prevention of 4,000 genetic disorders) **Research instrumentation** 

(reconstruction of the tree of life, human history, psychology)

Personal pharmaceutics (tailor drugs to an individual's genetic make-up)



Prenatal diagnostics



## The Sanger's method

Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1980

As the DNA is synthesized, nucleotides are added on to the growing chain by the DNA polymerase.

The reactions start from the same nucleotide and end with a specific base







Fluorescence-based sequence gel http://bbrp.llnl.gov

# Cost of sequencing a human genome (logarithmic scale)



### DNA electrophoresis through a nanopore



- Compatible with several detection schemes
- No limit on the read length

## The nanopore technology



## Nanopore sequencing of DNA



# The ionic current blockade reveals the sequence of the confined nucleotides

### Sequencing DNA using a biological nanopore



MD simulation ssDNA- DNA polymeraze complex

Nature Biotech. 32: 829 - 834 (2014)

## MinION (Oxford Nanopore Technologies)



Only 100g, great for *in situ* measurements

MinION: 800 parallel detection wells

Read length: up to 200,000 nucleotides

Biological pore (R9, CsgG-derivative)

Helicase motor to control translocation

**Direct readout of DNA epigenetic markers** 

Accuracy: 80 - 98 %



### Biological nanopore: why does it work?



MD simulation neutravidin-anchored ssDNA in MspA

Manrao ... Gundlach, Nature Biotech. 30: 349 - 353 (2012)

# All-atom molecular dynamics simulations: the computational microscope

Massive parallel computer Blue Waters (UIUC): ~200,000 CPUs Atoms move according to classical mechanics (F= ma)





Time scale:  $\sim 0.1-100 \ \mu s$ Length scale: 10K - 100M atoms or (< 50 nm)^3</th>Time resolution: 2 fsSpacial resolution: 0.1 A

Interaction between atoms is defined by molecular force field

Nanoscale 2:468 (2010)

### Setting up a simulation is like cooking

PROTEIN DATA BANK	A MEMBER OF THE CPD An Information Portal to Biological Mac As of Tuesday Mar 31, 2009 Sthere are 56751 Struc	<b>MyPDB:</b> Login   Register romolecular Structures tures @   PDB Statistics @
CONTACT US   FEEDBACK   HELP   PRINT	PDB ID or keyword O Author Site	Search 🕜   Advanced Search
Home Search	A Resource for Studying Biological Macromolecules	News Complete News
<ul> <li>Home</li> <li>Getting Started</li> <li>Structural Genomics</li> <li>Electron Microscopy</li> <li>Download Files</li> <li>Deposit and Validate</li> <li>Dictionaries &amp; File Formats</li> <li>Software Tools</li> </ul>	The PDB archive contains information about experimentally- determined structures of proteins, nucleic acids, and complex assemblies. As a member of the wwPDB, the RCSB PDB curates and annotates PDB data according to agreed upon standards. The RCSB PDB also provides a variety of tools and resources. Users can perform simple and advanced searches based on annotations relating to sequence, structure and function. These molecules are visualized, downloaded, and analyzed by users who range from students to specialized scientists.	<ul> <li>Newsletter</li> <li>Discussion Forum</li> <li>Job Listings</li> <li>31-March-2009</li> <li>Bridgewater-Raritan</li> <li>High School Wins New</li> <li>Jersey Science</li> <li>Olympiad Protein</li> <li>Modeling State Finals</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>General Education</li> <li>Site Tutorials</li> </ul>	Molecule of the Month: Hydrogenase	
<ul> <li>BioSync</li> <li>General Information</li> <li>Acknowledgements</li> <li>Frequently Asked Questions</li> </ul>	Hydrogen gas is an unusual substance. Normally, it is stable and must be coaxed with powerful catalysts to enter into chemical reactions. But when mixed with oxygen, a tiny spark will set off an explosive chain reaction. Hydrogen gas holds great promise to be the greenest of green energy sources. It has many advantages: compared with	
Quick Tips: •• X	many fuels, it releases a lot of energy for its weight, and the reaction forms only energy and pure water. It has substantial disadvantages, however. It is dangerous to store, and it is difficult to perform the reaction in a controlled, non-explosive manner. <b>Read more Previous Features</b>	The team from

### Setting up a simulation is like cooking



# Computing conductance of $\alpha$ -hemolysin with molecular dynamics



Protein + lipid bilayer membrane + 1M water solution of KCl =  $\sim$ 300,000 atoms

Average electrostatic potential map

#### Current-voltage curve of $\alpha$ -hemolysin

Biophys. J. 88:3745 (2005)



Instantaneous current

### Current-voltage curve of $\alpha$ -hemolysin

Biophys. J. 88:3745 (2005)



#### MD simulations of current blockades in MspA



(350,000 atoms, 150 ns)

Reduced system (28,000 atoms)
#### MD simulations of current blockades in MspA Bhattacharya, Yoo, Aksimentiev, ACS Nano 10, 4644 (2016) 5'-poly(dT) $< I/I_0 > = 20.1 \pm 2.3$ $(0)^{60}_{60}$ Time ( $\mu$ s) 5'-poly(dA) $I/I_0$ $< I/I_0 > = 31.6 \pm 3.0$ www.h.m.h.m. Time (µs)

#### Water mediates DNA sequence recognition

Bhattacharya, Yoo, Aksimentiev, ACS Nano 10, 4644 (2016)



### MinION (Oxford Nanopore Technologies)



Only 100g, great for *in situ* measurements

MinION: 800 parallel detection wells

Read length: up to 200,000 nucleotides

Biological pore (R9, CsgG-derivative)

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**Direct readout of DNA epigenetic markers** 

Accuracy: 80 - 98 %



### Silicon Nanotechnology for Sequencing DNA

(Back in 2003!)

#### ultra-thin membranes



projection)

T. Sorsch, V. Dimitrov, C. Ho

### Imaging nanopores using MD

Transmission electron micrograph of a nanopore in Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (Timp Lab, UIUC)



Experiment

Simulation



J. Phys. Chem. B 2006, 110, 21497



Dangling Oxygen



Non-Dangling Oxygen

All atom model of a nanopore in  $Si_3N_4$  built by the Aksimentiev group



Grid based surface potential

#### DNA electrophoresis through a nanopore



- Compatible with several detection schemes
- No limit on the read length

### **Graphene Nanopores**





14-A diameter pore (surface-to surface); 3-layer graphite; poly(dT)<sub>20</sub>; 500 mV bias

Nano Letters 12:4117 (2012)

#### DNA transport is stepwise

14-A diameter pore (surface-to surface);3-layer graphite;poly(dT)<sub>20</sub>; 500 mV bias

DNA-graphene interactions act as a stepping motor!





Nano Letters 12:4117 (2012)

#### Can ionic current blockades can reveal the DNA sequence?

#### single layer

double layer

tripple layer



#### Sequencing proteins using graphene nanopores?

Wilson et al., Adv. Func. Mat. 26:4830-4838 (2016)



#### Modeling Nanopores for Sequencing DNA



### What is the next step?

Biology is understood

- Means to detect a problem developed
- How are we going to fix the problem?



Prevent degradation before reaching target

Make sure the drug enters a cell







# **DNA origami**

Building a structure with nanoscale precision by folding DNA



## DNA origami



# DNA origami

Idea: direct folding of a long single strand of DNA into desired shapes.



Paul Rothemund (2006), NATURE Vol 440:297

# Design and characterization of DNA nanostructures



Cryo-EM reconstruction, the only experimentally derived structural model

Computer-aided design of DNA origami with caDNAno (Shih group, Harvard U.)



Transmission electron microscopy and/or atomic force microscopy validates the design

### DNA origami structures







Yan and coworkers, Science (2011)









Yan and coworkers, Science (2013)



Shih and coworkers, Science (2009)



Dietz and coworkers, Science (2015)

# DNA origami box



ACS Nano, (2012) DOI: 10.1021/nn303767b

- Designed with Cadnano plugin using the design from Zagdedan et a...
- DNA origami box is 18.0 nm by 13.5 nm by 17.5 nm.
- Solvated system contains ~2.8 million atoms, where ~70,000 are in the DNA origami box.
- The solution contains 10mM Mg ions; gemcitabine (anti-cancer nucleoside), deoxycytidine kinase (protein that activates gemcitabine) and siRNA

## Cancer killing DNA robot (2012)



http://www.nature.com/news/dna-robot-could-kill-cancer-cells-1.10047

That's the question from experimentalist.

# DNA origami syringe





- Computer-Aided Design of DNA origami made by Shih group at Harvard.
- Designed as a plugin of Autodesk MAYA.
- Limited to a design of antiparallel DNA helices in a honeycomb or square lattice.





Douglas, S.M., Marblestone, A.H., Teerapittayanon, S., Vazquez, A., Church, G.M. & Shih, W.M., 2009, Rapid prototyping of 3D DNA-origami shapes with caDNAno, *Nucleic acids research*, 37(15), pp. 5001-6.



### From caDNAno to all-atom





- caDNAno returns topology (json) and sequence (csv) information.
- cadnano2pdb.pl combines json and csv files into a PDB file.

- \* CHARMM36 force field
- \* Explicit water
- \* [MgCl<sub>2</sub>] ~ 10 mM
- \* NAMD
- \* 1 to 3M atoms
- \* 500 to 1,000 CPUs



# Structural fluctuations reveal local mechanical properties

DNA-DNA distance (Å

26

24

22

20

18

MD trajectories allow us to compute natural bending and torsion as well as persistence length

- Inter-DNA distance in color map
- Chicken wire frame represents center line of helices & junction





Our simulations predict higher rigidity for honeycomb-lattice design.



### Tiled DNA nanostructures











#### LegoGen workflow @ nanoHub.org



# Cryo-EM reconstruction versus all-atom simulation



Bai et al, PNAS 109:20012 (2012)

# Cryo-EM reconstruction versus all-atom simulation





Bai et al, PNAS 109:20012 (2012)

# Cryo-EM reconstruction versus all-atom simulation



Bai et al, PNAS 109:20012 (2012)

# MD simulation of the cryo-EM object starting from a caDNAno design





Bai *et al*, PNAS 109:20012 (2012)

7M atom solvated model 130 ns MD trajectory

# MD simulation of the cryo-EM object starting from a caDNAno design



Bai et al, PNAS 109:20012 (2012)



7M atom solvated model 130 ns MD trajectory

# MD simulation of the cryo-EM object starting from a caDNAno design



Bai et al, PNAS 109:20012 (2012)



7M atom solvated model 130 ns MD trajectory

#### Direct comparison with cryo-EM reconstuction

Simulation on Blue Waters (UIUC)



<u>Time scale</u>: 200 ns / Size ~7,000,000 atoms



Maffeo, Yoo & Aksimentiev, NAR 44: 3013 Cryo-EM, Dietz group, PNAS (2012) http://bionano.physics.illinois.edu/origami-structure

#### De novo prediction of DNA origami structure



Cryo-EM, Dietz group, PNAS (2012) Maffeo, Yoo & Aksimentiev, NAR 44: 3013



Modest computational cost (10 hours single workstation)

Server implementation has been requested by experimentalists

nanoHub implementation pending

http://bionano.physics.illinois.edu/origami-structure
# CG ENRG MD can be used routinely during the design process



Modeling biomolecular systems with atomic-resolution Brownian dynamics (ARBD)

## Large biological systems

#### **Chromatin:**

genecompacting and regulating protein–DNA complex





### Nanotechnological systems

DNA sequencing via nanopores



current transients indicate passage of DNA

#### Chromatophor

**e:** light harvesting organelle

Point-particle representations of polymers & small molecules



### http://bionano.physics.illinois.edu/dna-nanotechnology







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Shu-Han Chao

Jim Wilson

Derek Vandamme

**Tera**Grid<sup>~</sup>





US Army Corps of Engineers. Construction Engineering Research unboratory



