

Organisation spatiale et temporelle à l'échelle mésoscopique d'une protéine de signalisation cellulaire

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Cell at the mesoscopic scale

The meso scale for eukariotic cells



The meso scale for eukariotic cells







What is found at the meso scale?

Macromolecular complexes, supramolecular assemblies of ~10-100 molecules





100nm

100nm David Goodshell

Why the meso scale is a challenge?



MD simulation of the Ecoli cytoplasm (100nm, 1µs) McGuffee, and Elcock 2010

Why the meso scale is a challenge?



MD simulation of the Ecoli cytoplasm (100nm, 1µs) McGuffee, and Elcock 2010

Dividing mammalian cell (100µm, 1hrs) www.nanolive.ch

Why the meso scale is a challenge?



Fluorescent microscopy to follow biomolecules



Diffraction limit

Protein 10nm

Fluorescent spot 200nm

Signaling in cells

Signal transduction



Signaling pathways

Signaling network controlling actin cytoskeleton dynamics



Signaling in space and time







Functional MRI Spontaneous brain activity J. Vincent

nm-µm s-min

> FRET Biosensor of Rac1 activity Spontaneous intracellular activity K. Hahn

Collective protein dynamics



Rac1 nanoclusters

Remorino A. et al, Cell Report, 2018

Rac1 signaling protein

RhoGTPase switch and shuttling activity cycle



Rac1 signaling protein







K. Hahn, 2009

How signal is regulated at the meso scale?



Diffraction limit



Pointillist super-resolution





Single molecule imaging of Rac1





PALM image of Rac1 distribution



70 nm nanoclusters
~50 molecules
Localized in active regions

Functional role of nanoclusters?



Roob et al, 2019

A new physics for the meso scale?

Membraneless organelles



Biological meso-objects



Weak and multivalent interactions

Two key physical concepts for meso-assemblies

> Avidity

> Liquid-liquid phase separation





kT is the measure of thermal energy

Hydrogen-bond ~10 kT Covalent bonds ~ 100–200 kT

Many bonds in biological systems are weak

"The reason for the weakness and short lifetimes of LR bonds is that nature does not actually want all of its bonds to be long-lived, just long enough for them to perform some function that requires a certain time—not less, but not more either."

« lock-and-key » interactions in biology

Table 21.2. Bond Energies and Lifetimes of LR Bonds¹

Binding Protein (Receptor, R)	Target (Ligand, L)	Affinity [<i>K</i> _D (M)]	Energy ² (kT)	Lifetimes of Bonds ³
Avidin	Biotin	10 ⁻¹⁵	35	months
Antibody	Antigen	10 ⁻⁷ -10 ⁻¹¹	16–25	seconds-hours
Receptor	Hormone	10 ⁻⁹	21	seconds
Enzyme	Substrate	10 ⁻³ -10 ⁻⁹	7–21	µs–seconds
Transport protein	Hormone	$10^{-6} - 10^{-8}$	14–18	<seconds< th=""></seconds<>
Lectins ⁴	Glycoconjugates	10 ⁻³ -10 ⁻⁵	7–12 ⁵	µs–ms ⁵

Intermolecular and Surface Forces Jacob N. Israelachvili

Multimers increase the lifetime of interaction ex: the two strands of DNA, Transcription factors, ...



Short polymer

Low avidity



"because individual binding events increase the likelihood of other interactions to occur (i.e. increase the local concentration of each binding partner in proximity to the binding site), avidity should not be thought of as the mere sum of its constituent affinities but as the combined effect of all affinities participating in the biomolecular interaction" Wikipedia



Example: switch like response of a biomolecule

A.1.1a

A.1.1b

A.5.5a

A.5.5b

Engineering synthetic signaling proteins with ultrasensitive input/ output control

SH3 OUTPUT

OUTPUT

OUTPUT

 $(Kd = 10 \mu M)$

STRONG (Kd = 0.1 μ M)

John E Dueber^{1,5,6}, Ethan A Mirsky^{2,5} & Wendell A Lim^{3–5}

SH3

SH3 SH3

SH3

SH3

WEAK



Phase separation

Multivalency + weak affinity



Phase separation

Multivalency + weak affinity







Liquid droplets Toettcher Cell 2017

LCD, IDR, Prion like domains

More than 40% of the proteome is made of disordered regions

The protein disorder continuum





Ongoing project: Ewing Sarcoma



Open questions



Chong S. et al, Biorxiv 2021

LOC²O: Light-based Observation and Control of Cell Organization

LOCCO Team

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FRANCE-BIOIMAGING





Clustering due to the charged protein tail



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Nanoclusters immobilize Rac1



And are enriched by molecular interactions

