



Atomic Force Microscopy and Optical Tweezers – Applications

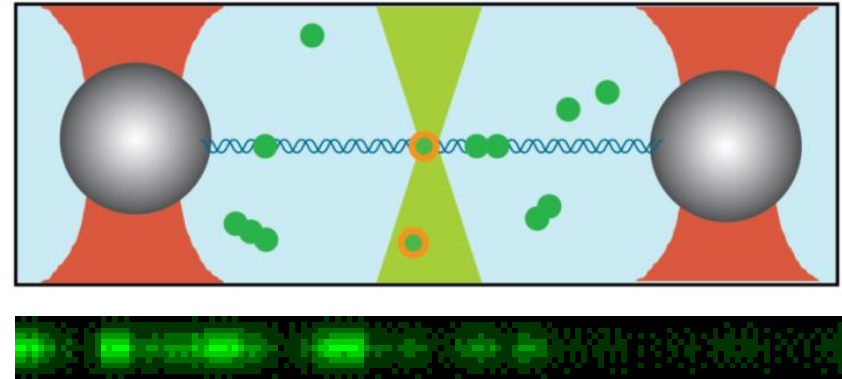
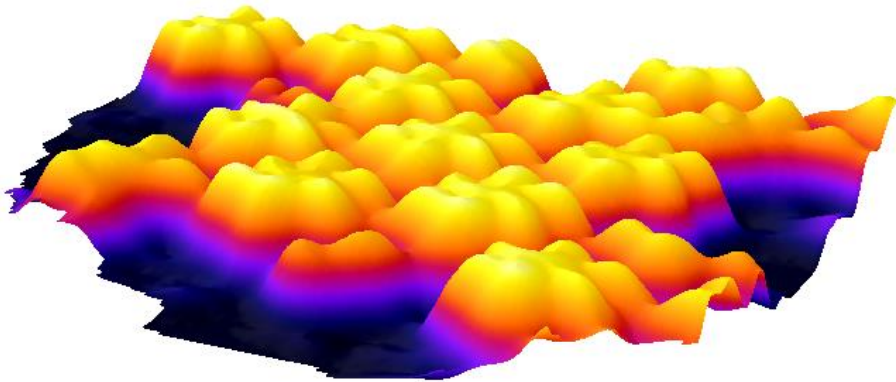
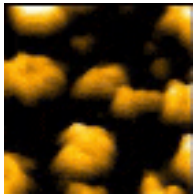
Wouter Roos



**rijksuniversiteit
 groningen**



Atomic Force Microscopy and Optical Tweezers



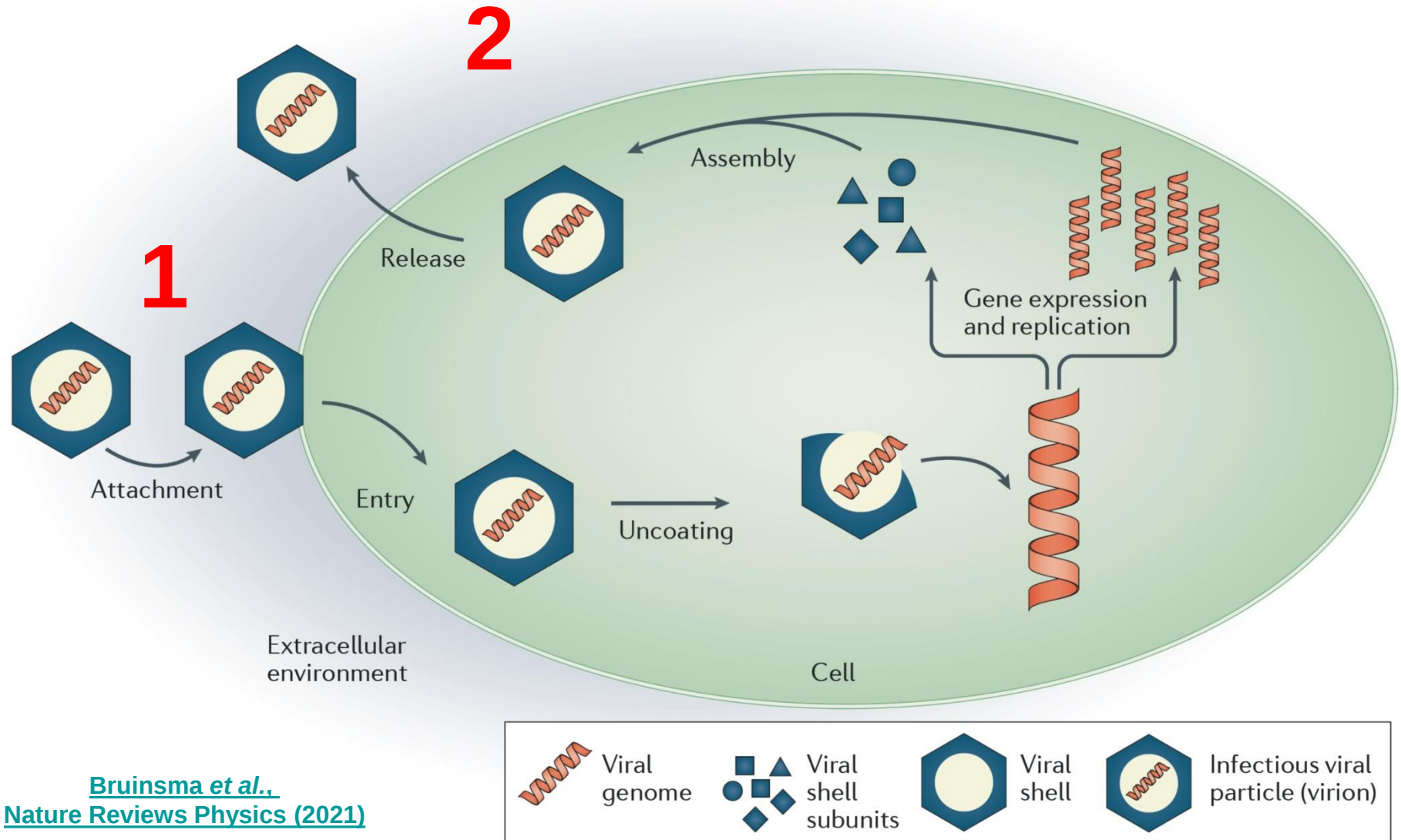
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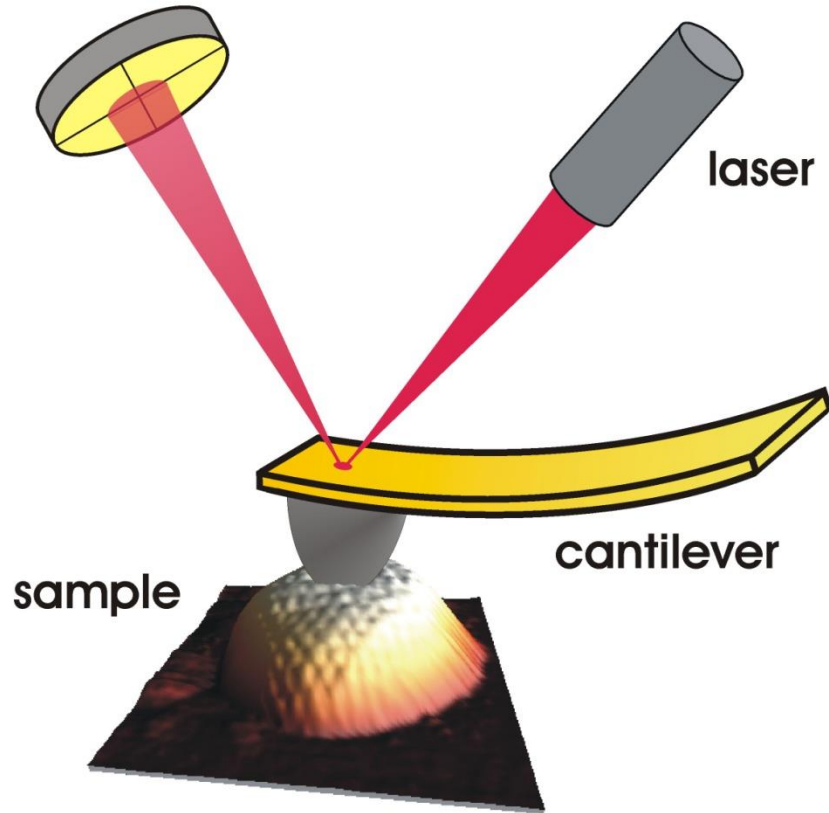
zernike institute for
advanced materials

Viral life cycle



Atomic Force Microscopy

quadrant photodiode



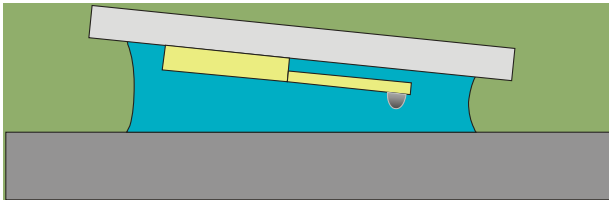
sample

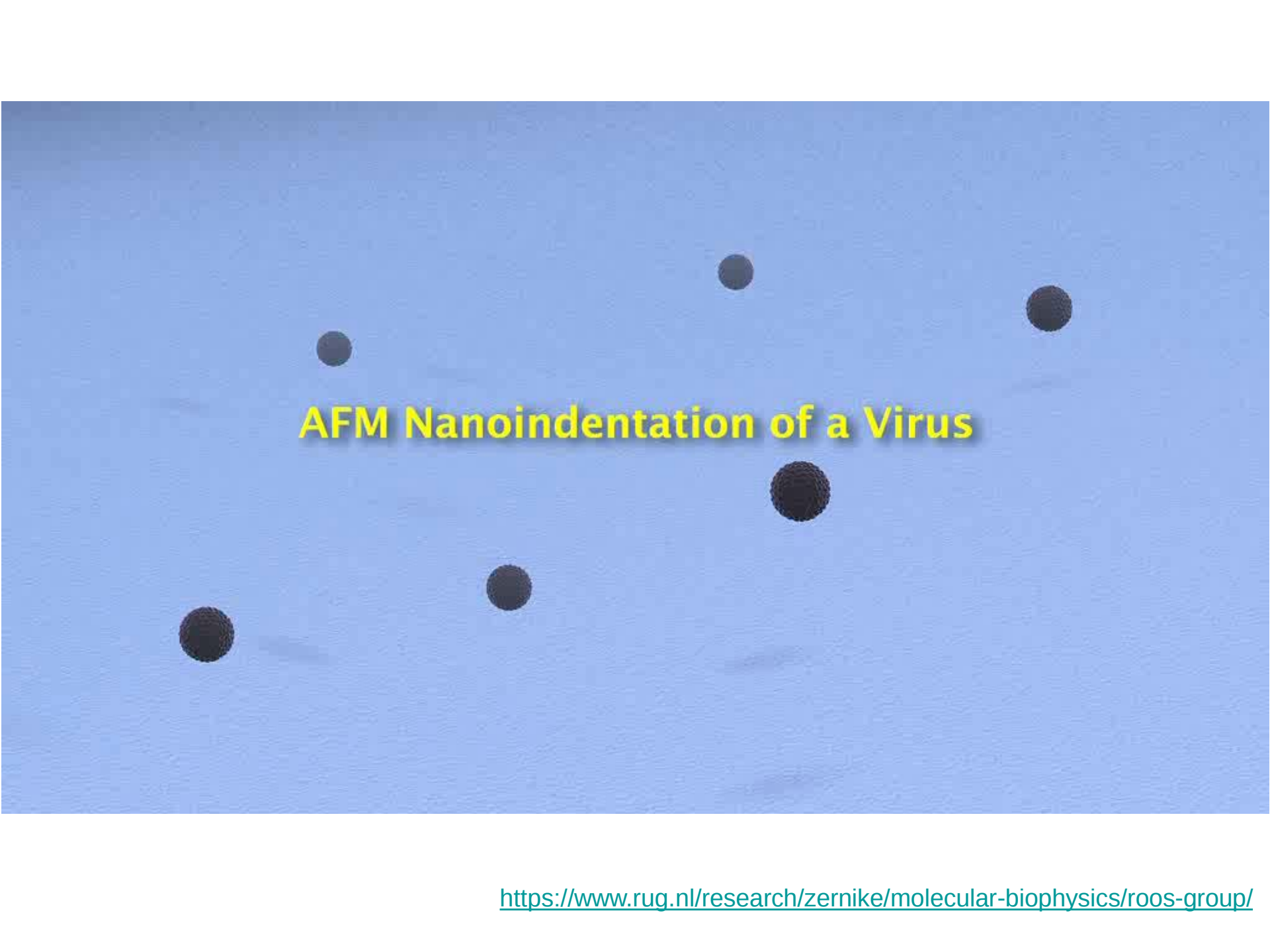
cantilever

laser

AFM:

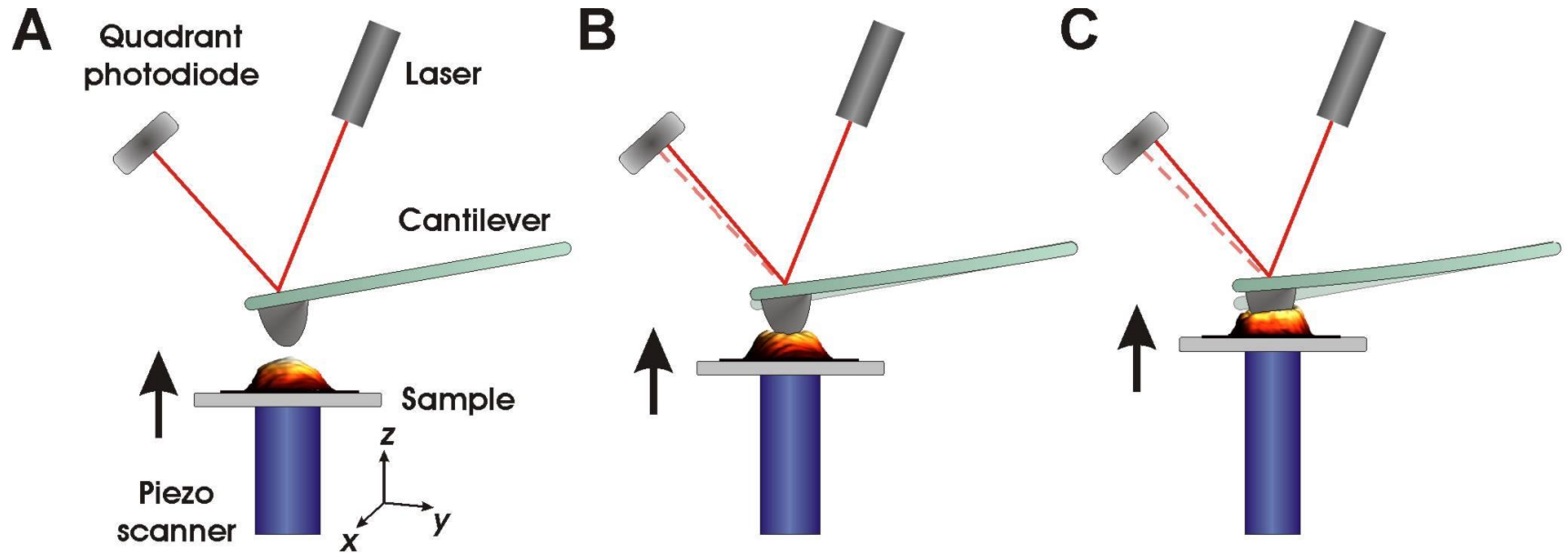
- nm resolution
- force measurements
- dynamic measurements
- measurements in liquid



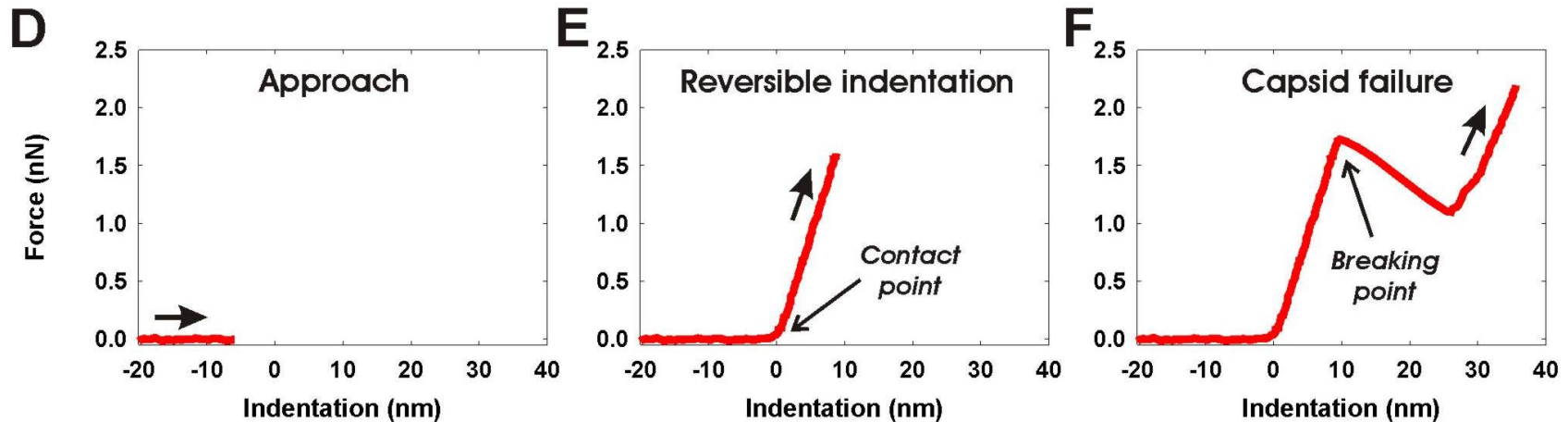


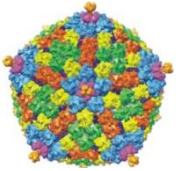
AFM Nanoindentation of a Virus

Atomic force microscopy-based mechanobiology



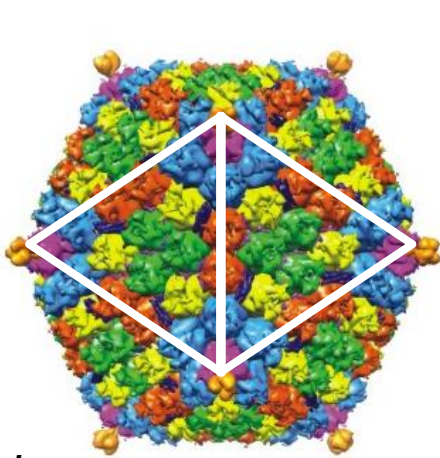
Roos *et al.*, Nature Physics 2010
Krieg *et al.*, Nature Reviews Physics 2019





Linking virus mechanics to infectivity

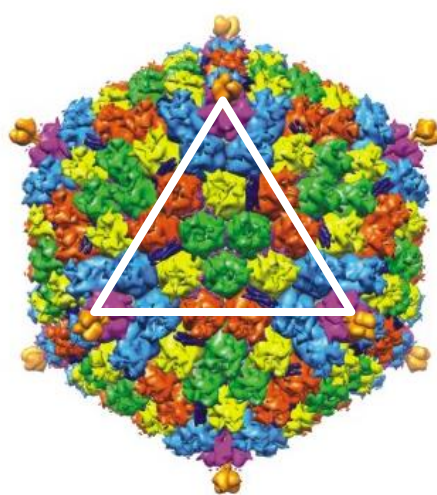
Imaging Adenovirus along its principle symmetry axes



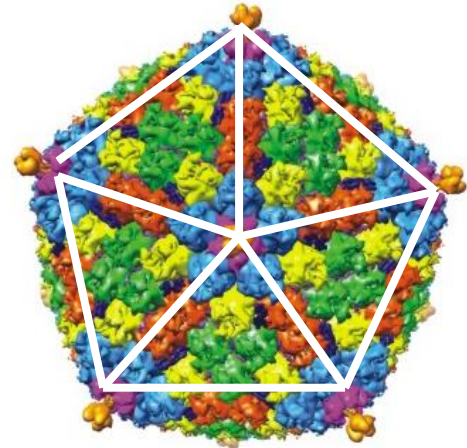
Snijder *et al.*
J Virol (2013)

Van Rosmalen *et al.*
J Biol Phys (2018)

2-fold

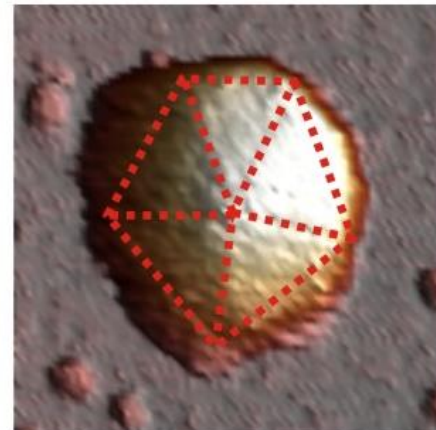
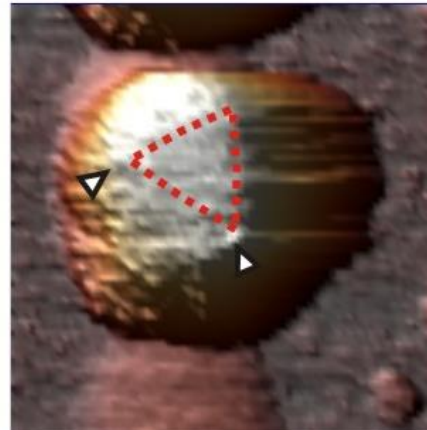
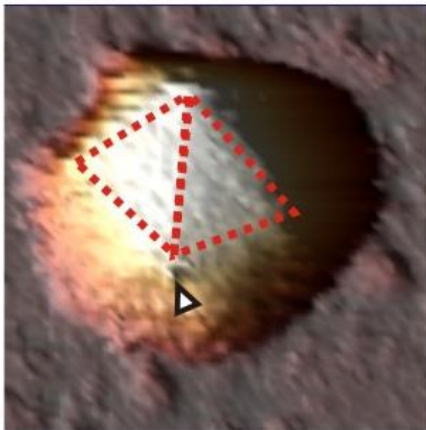


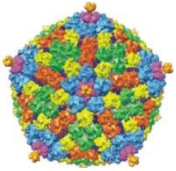
3-fold



5-fold

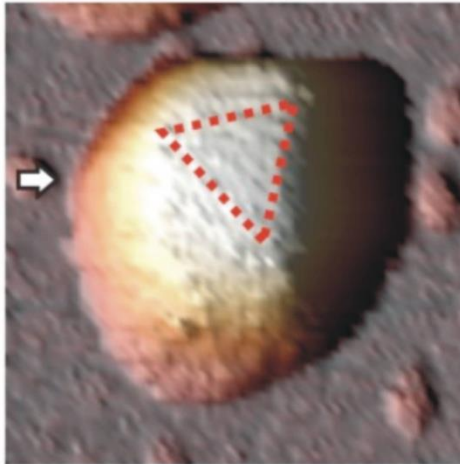
Denning *et al.*
Nanoscale (2019)



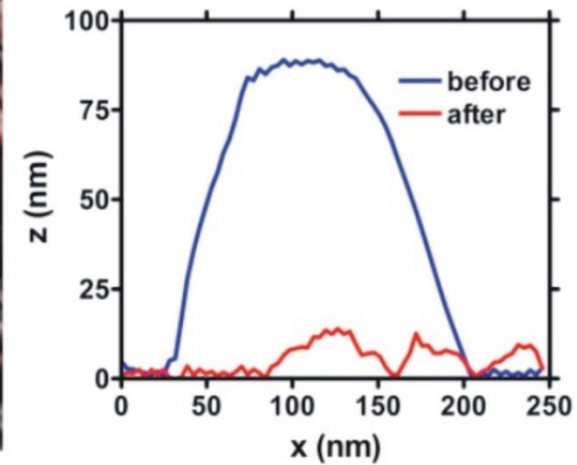
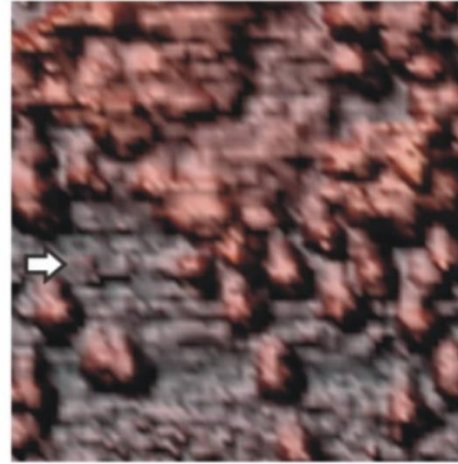


Mechanical probing of Adenovirus

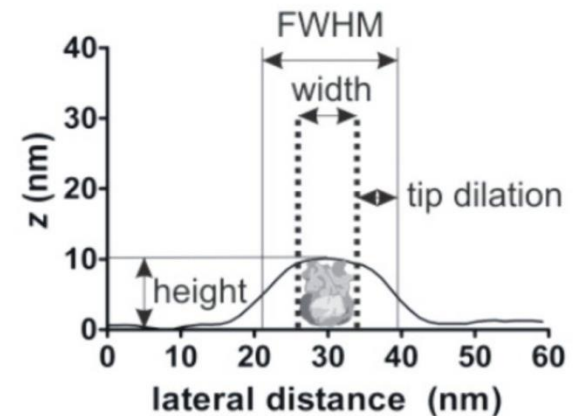
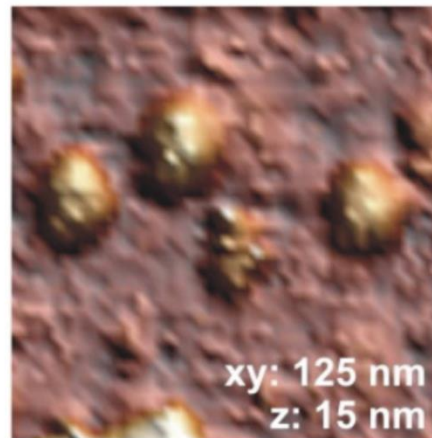
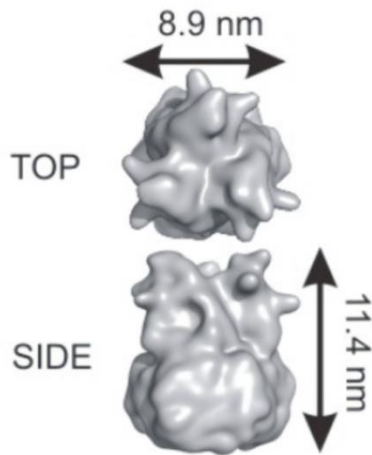
a) before

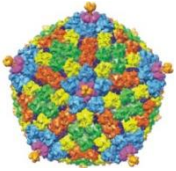


after



240
hexons
in
1 AdV





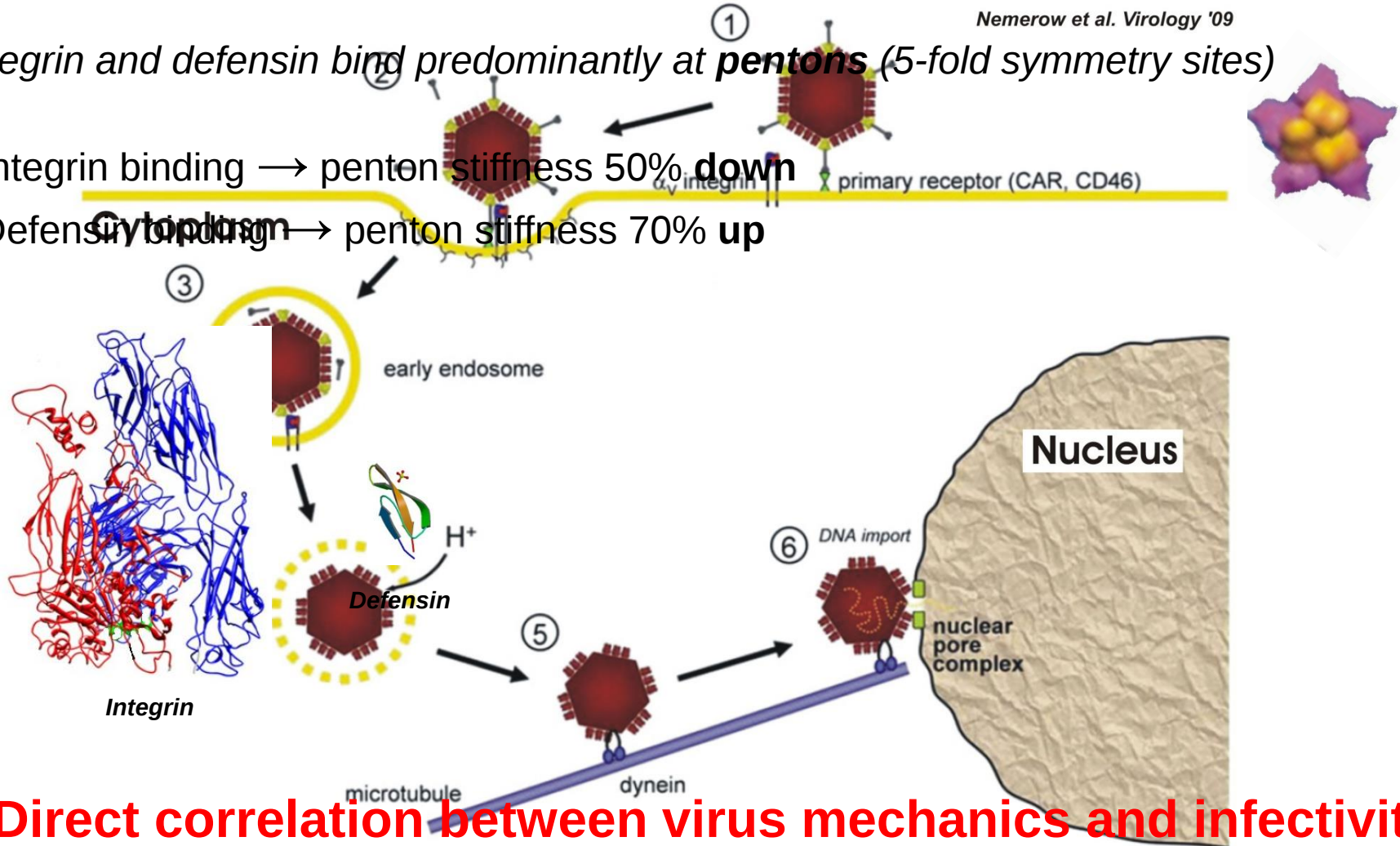
Host factors, mechanics & infectivity

- Integrin $\alpha\beta 5$ is cell surface receptor for adenovirus: promotes DNA uncoating
- Human alpha defensin (HD5, antimicrobial protein): blocks adenovirus infection

*Integrin and defensin bind predominantly at **pentons** (5-fold symmetry sites)*

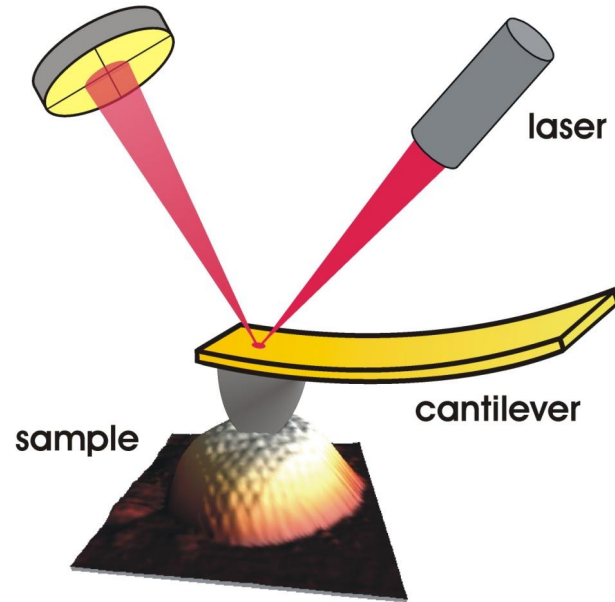
- Integrin binding $\rightarrow$ penton stiffness 50% **down**
- Defensin binding $\rightarrow$ penton stiffness 70% **up**

Nemerow et al. *Virology* '09



Viral structure and assembly

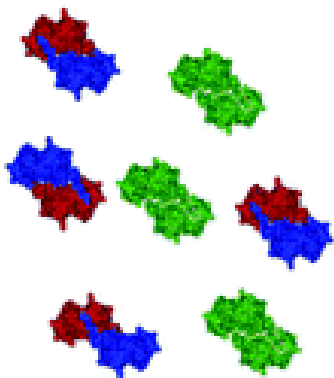
quadrant photodiode



Viral structure:

*Increasingly better view on
mechanical & atomic structure*

Nat Chem (2013), J Virol (2017), Nanoscale (2019), Viruses (2023)



?

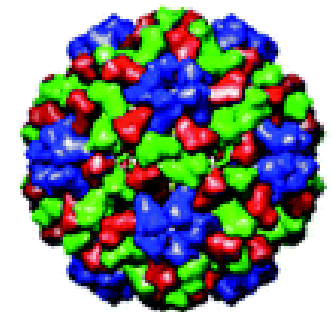
?

?

?

?

?



Protein Dimers

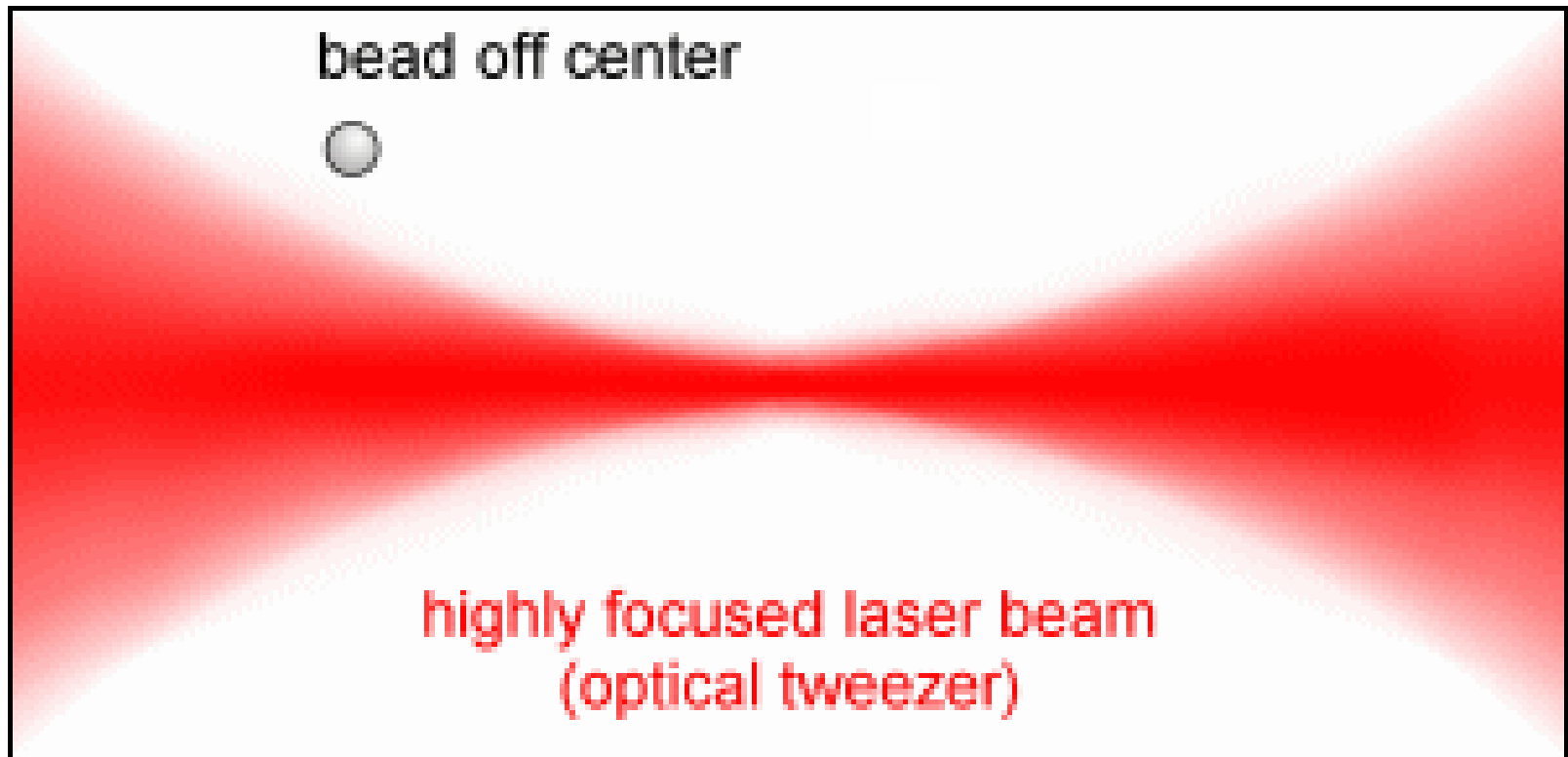
Viral assembly:

*Fascinating but still poorly
understood self-organisation process*

Virus Capsid

Optical Tweezers

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

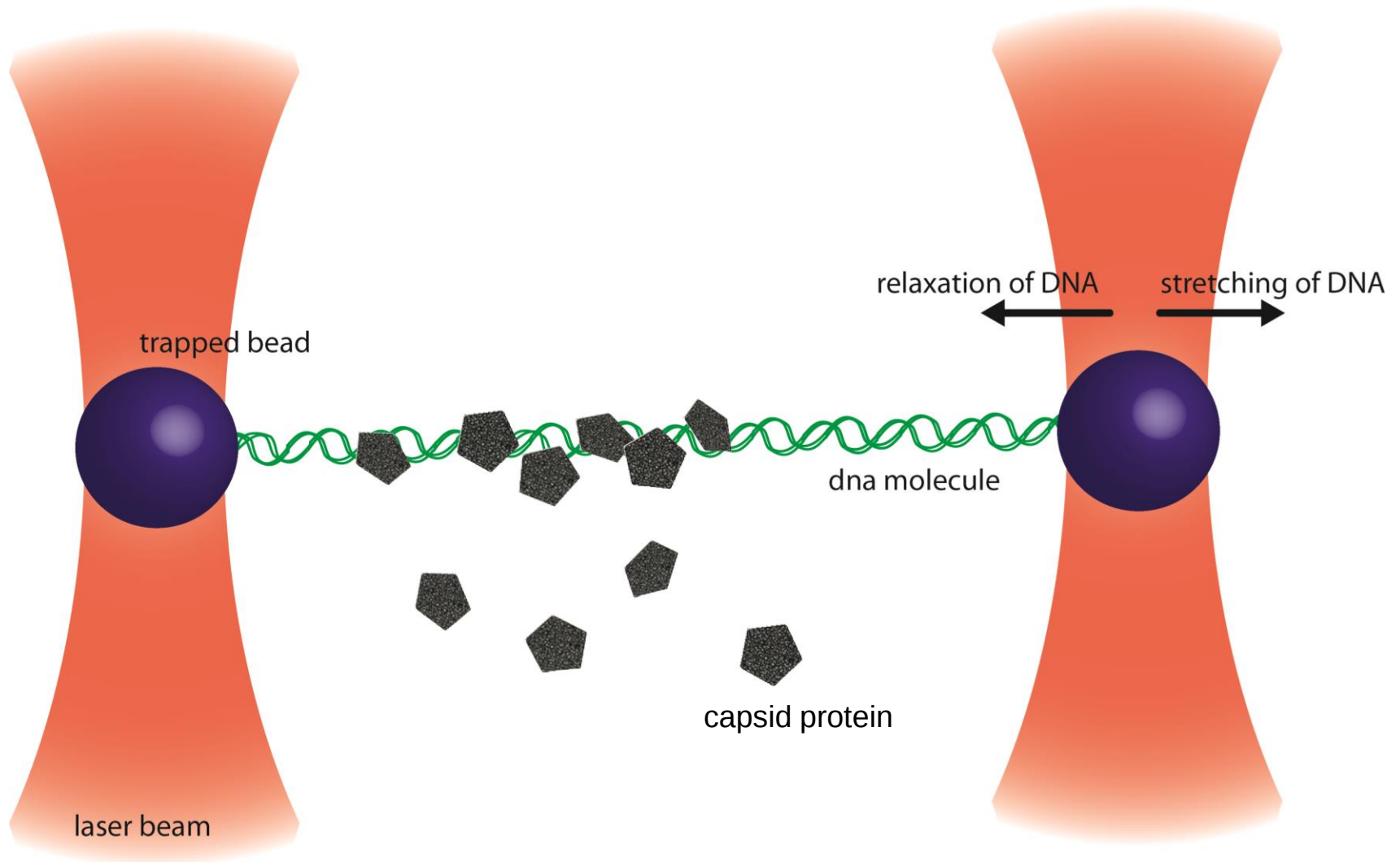


<https://home.uni-leipzig.de/pwm/web/?section=introduction&page=opticaltraps>

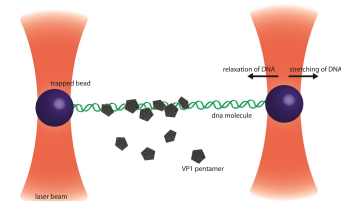
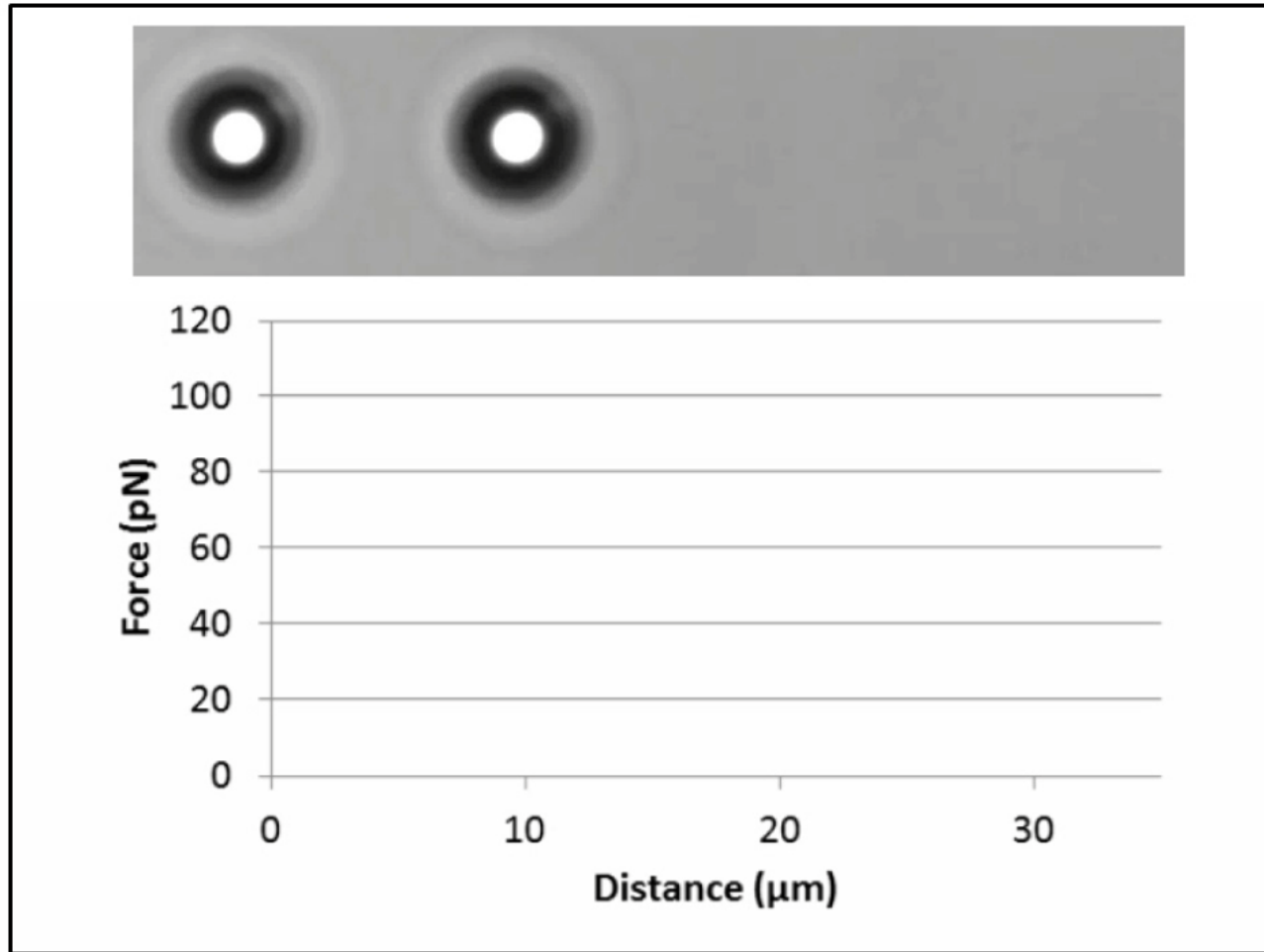
1986 Arthur Ashkin (Bell labs)

Nobel Prize Physics 2018

Following virus assembly by optical tweezers



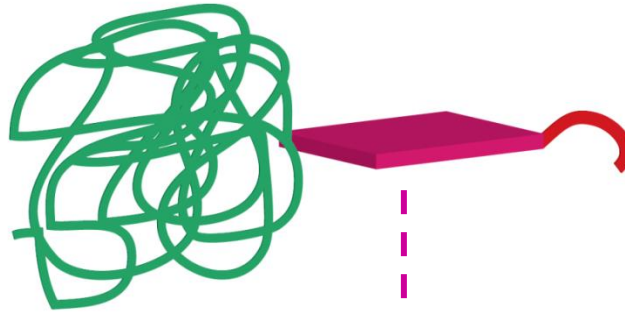
Following assembly by optical tweezers



Synthetic Virus-Like-Particles

Artificial
virus-like particles are
controlled systems

Our goal:
unravel the assembly process of a
rod-shaped artificial VLP



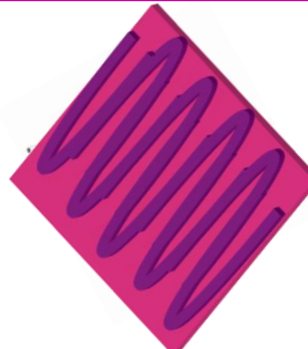
Biosynthetic coat
protein: polypeptide

44.8 kDa

Prevent aggregation of the assembled VLPs.
High fraction of prolines and hydrophilic
(mostly uncharged) amino acids:
~400-amino-acid- hydrophilic random-coil C

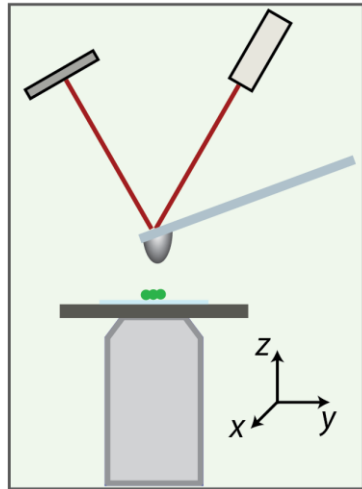
Folds and stacks in solution into stiff
filamentous structures.
Precisely tunes cooperativity:
Silk-like sequence $S_{10} = (\text{GAGAGAGQ})_{10}$

Binds DNA non-sequence-
specifically through electrostatic
interactions:
Oligolysine block B

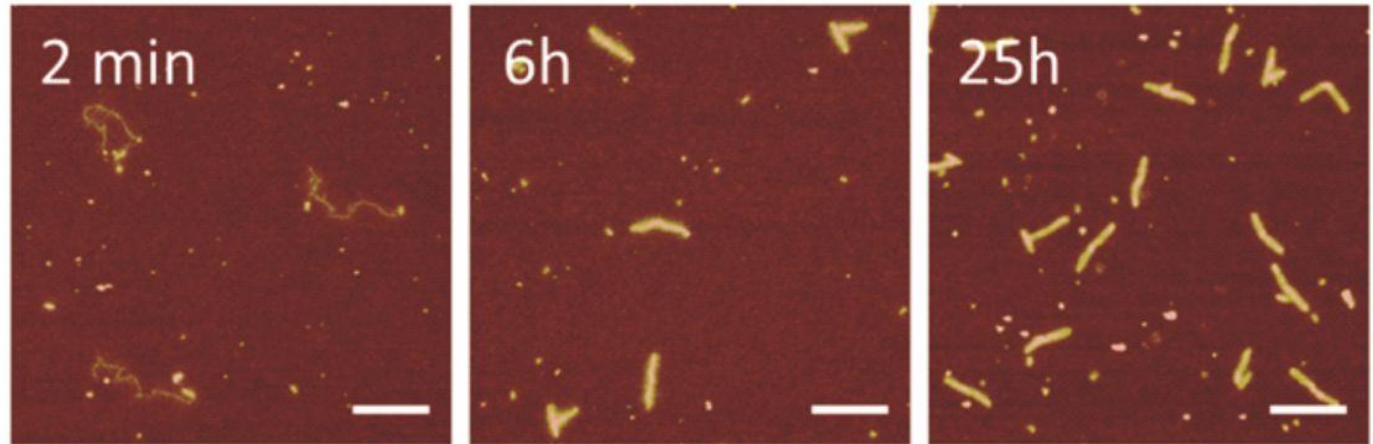


De Vries Lab:
A. H. Garcia et al., *Nature Nanotechnology* (2014)
B. Zhao et al., *Soft Matter* (2016)

Particle visualisation by AFM



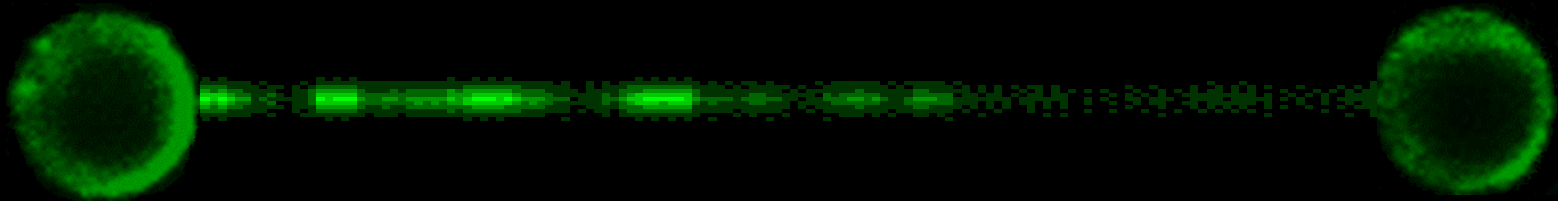
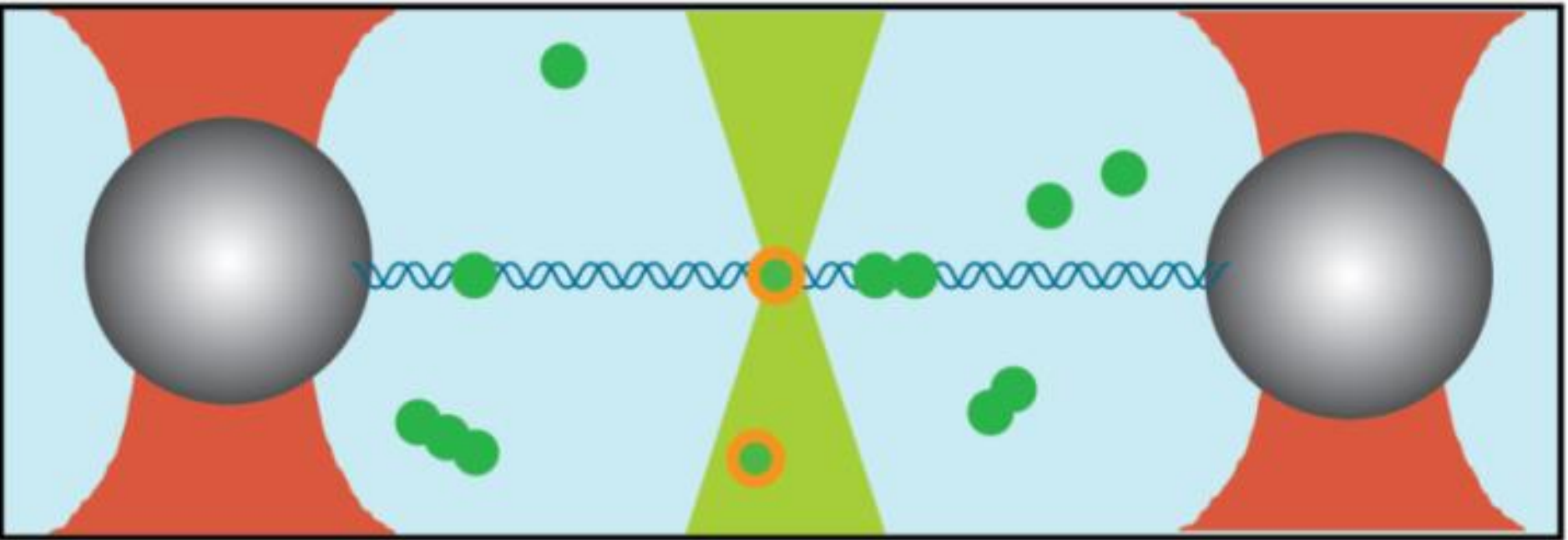
DNA 2.5 kbp $\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$



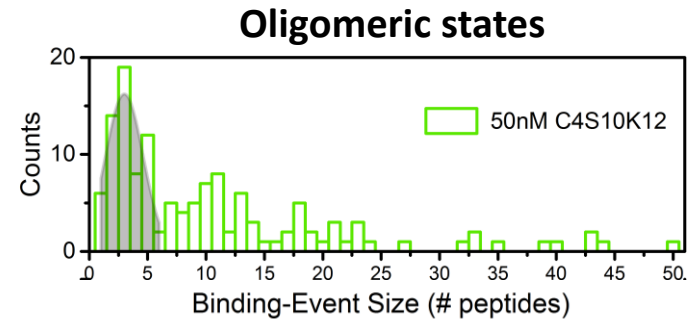
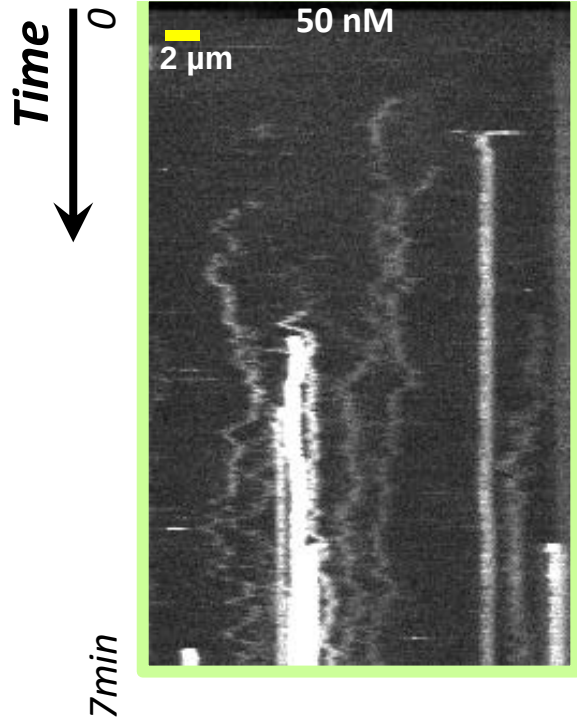
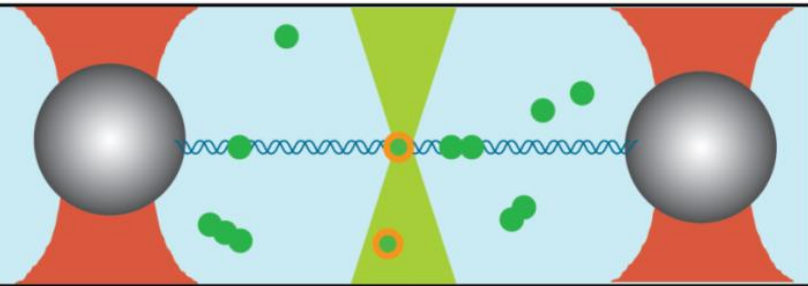
350 nm

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

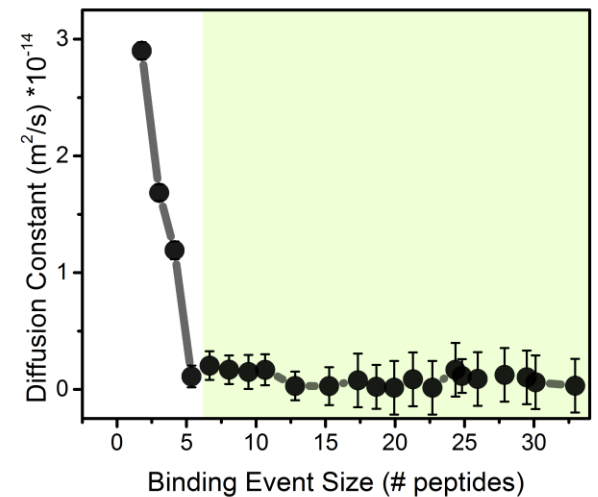
Protein attachment, in real-time



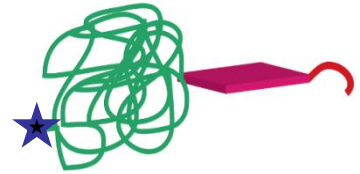
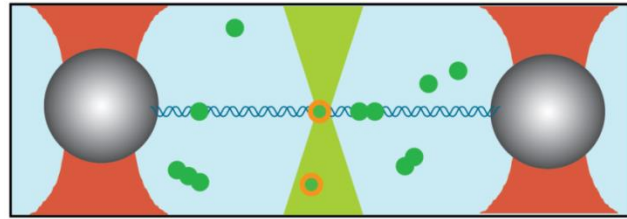
Protein attachment, in real-time



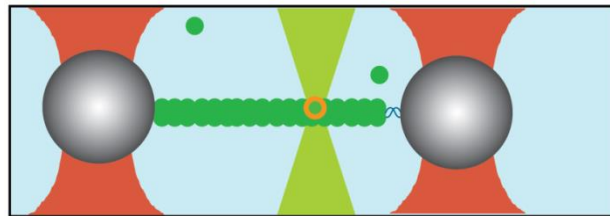
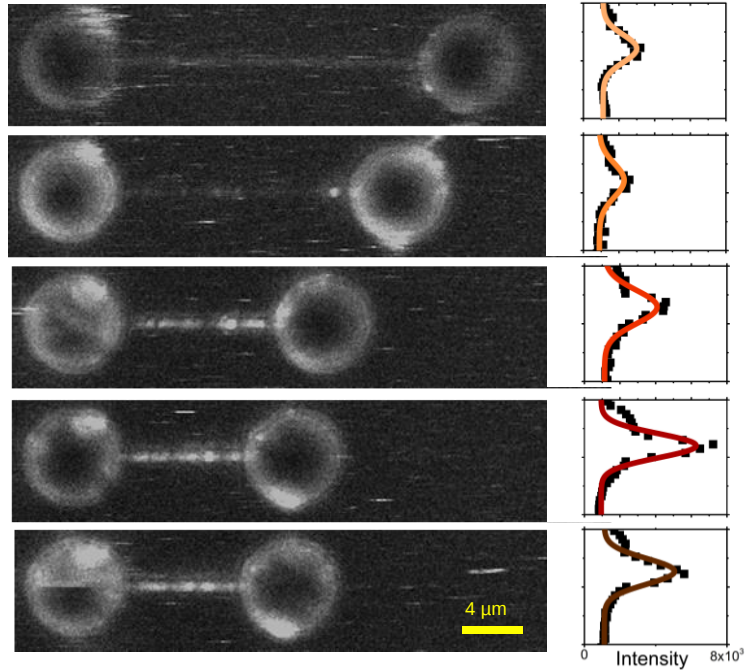
Diffusive events vs. Static Nuclei



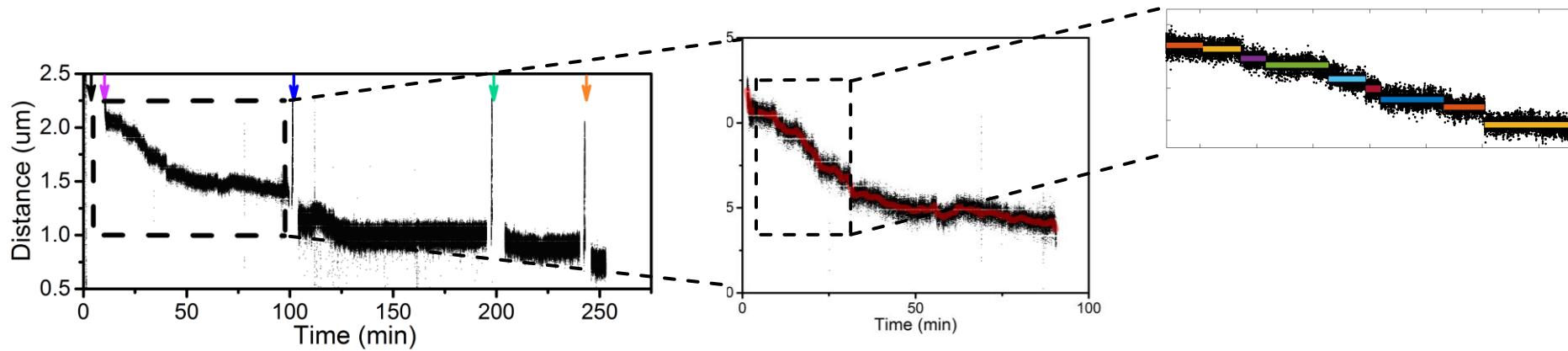
DNA compaction by rod shaped VLP



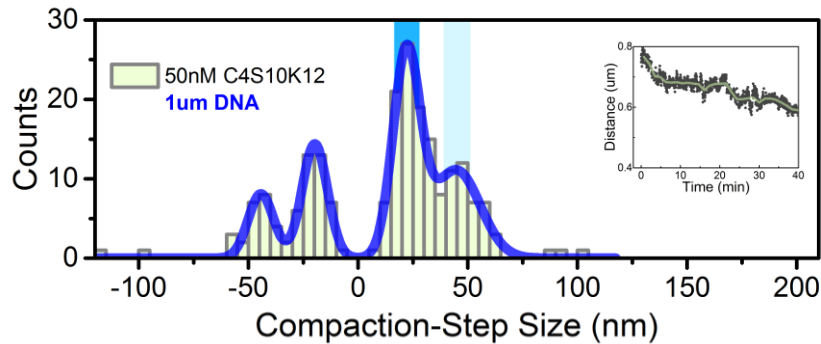
Marchetti et al.
Nano Letters (2019)



DNA compaction in real-time

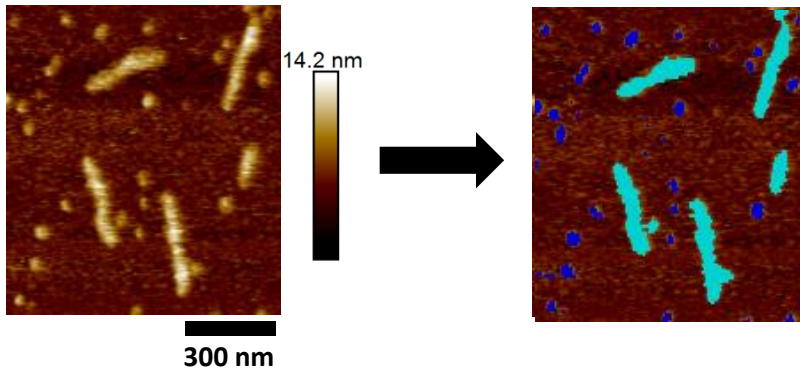


Regular compaction steps for assembly model

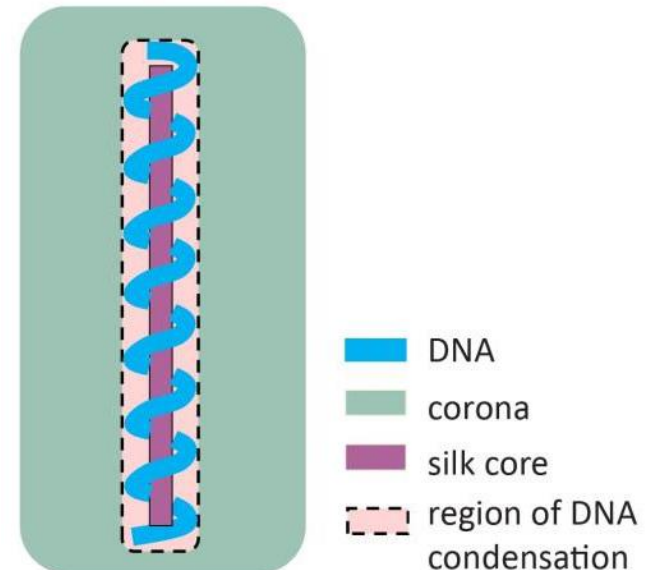


Average
Compaction-Step:

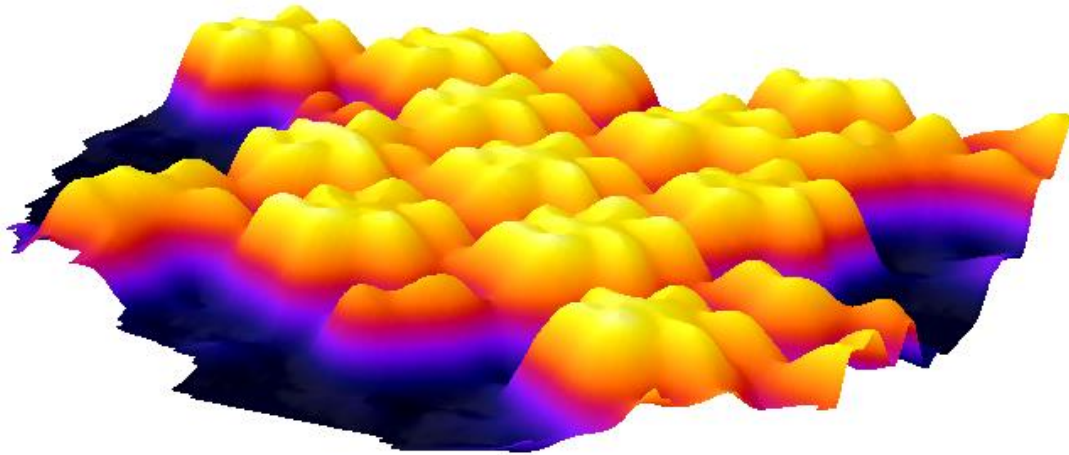
~ 30 nm



Mean particle
HEIGHT:
 9.1 ± 0.5 nm



High Speed AFM studies of dynamics



Are we able to follow assembly in real-time?

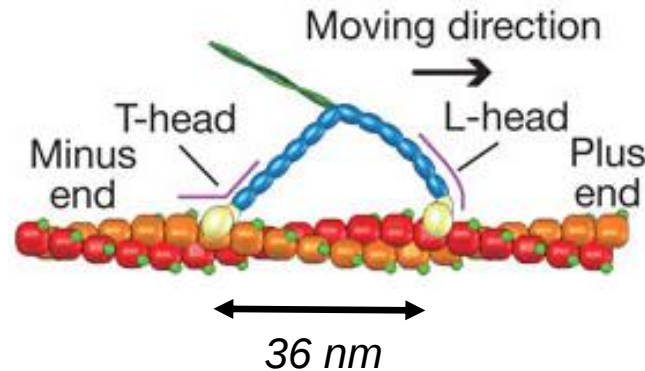
High speed AFM



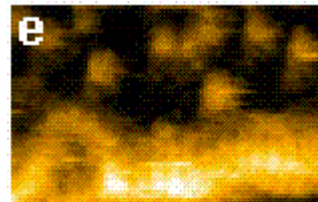
Toshio Ando

Professor, Nano Life Science
Institute (WPI-NanoLSI), Kanazawa
University

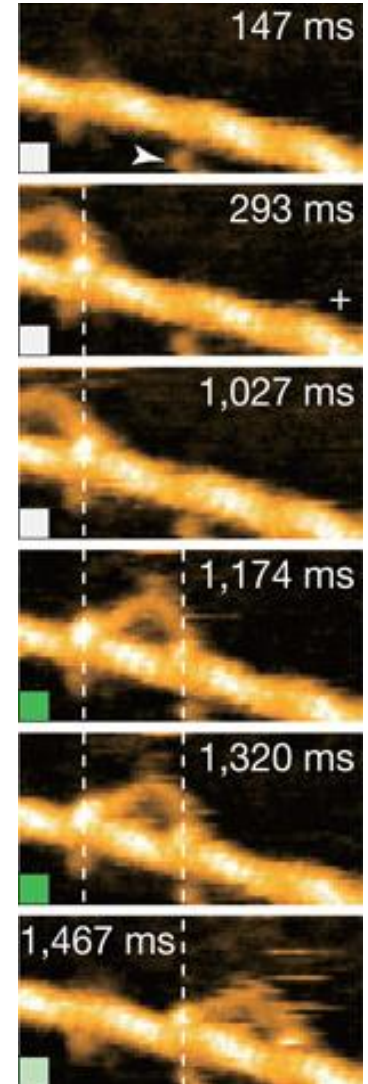
Ando,...,Kodera, *Annu. Rev. Biophys.* (2013)
Ando,...,Scheuring, *Chem. Rev.* (2014)
Ando, *Biophys Rev.* (2018)



*Myosin molecular motor
on actin filaments*

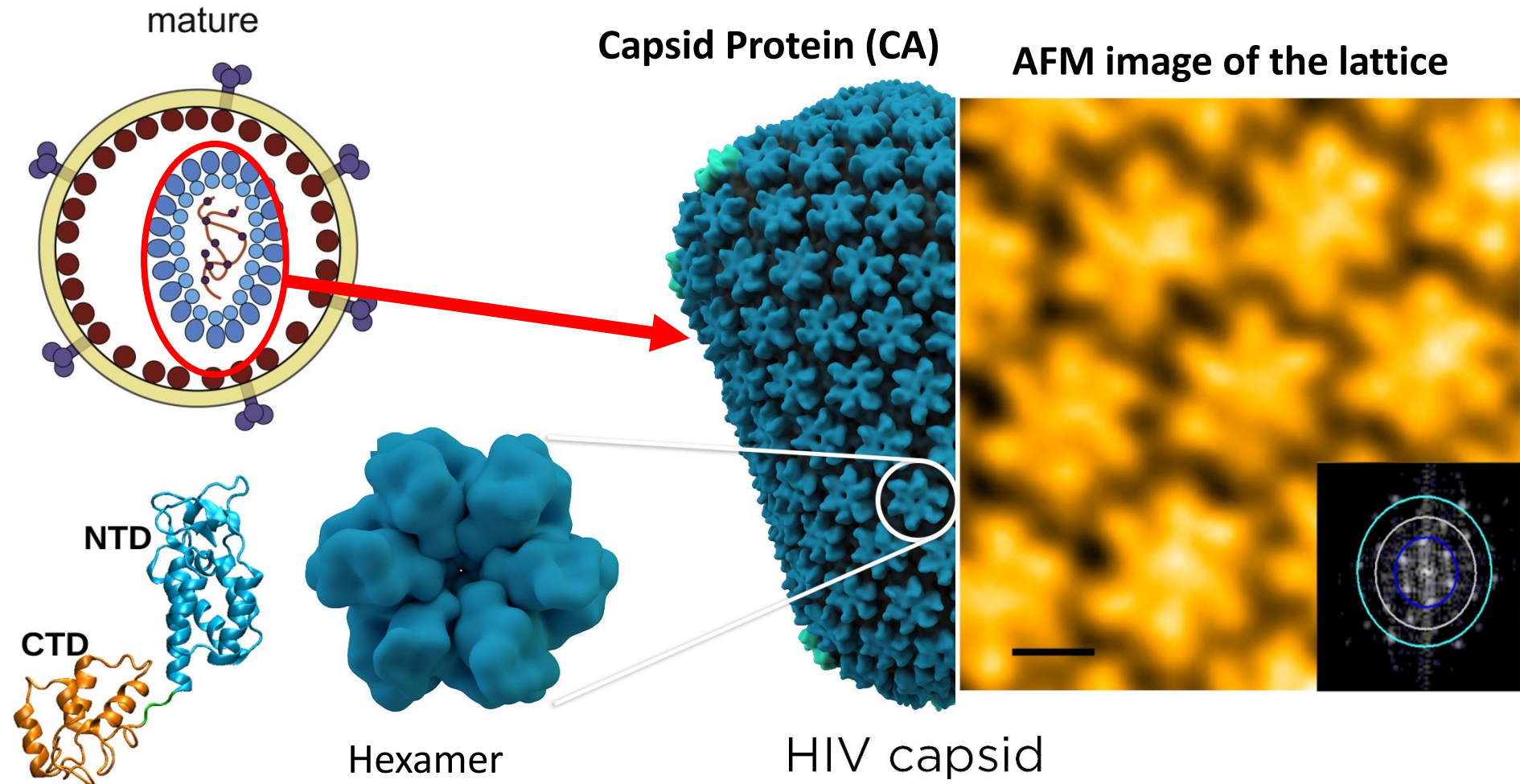


7 frames s⁻¹

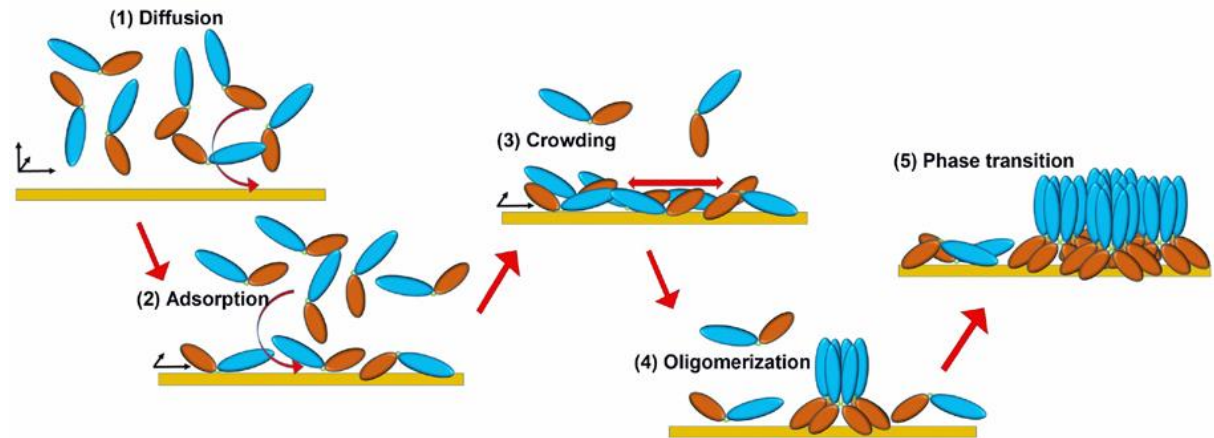
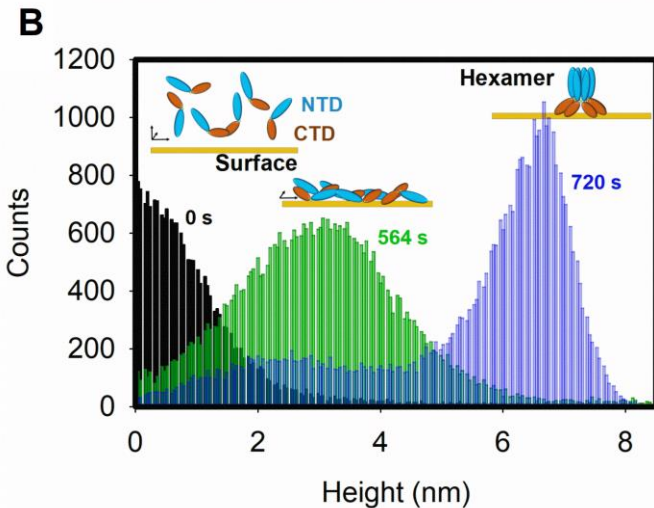
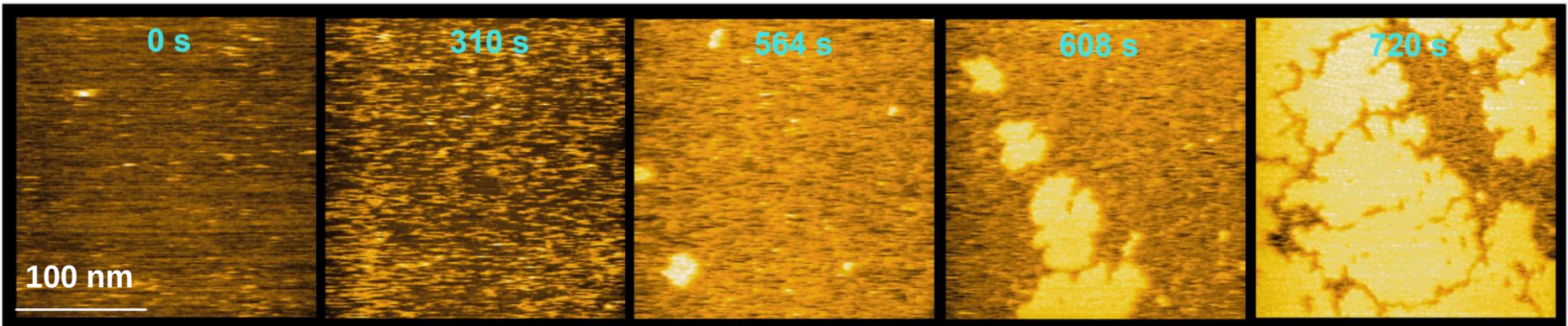


Kodera,...,Ando, *Nature* (2010)

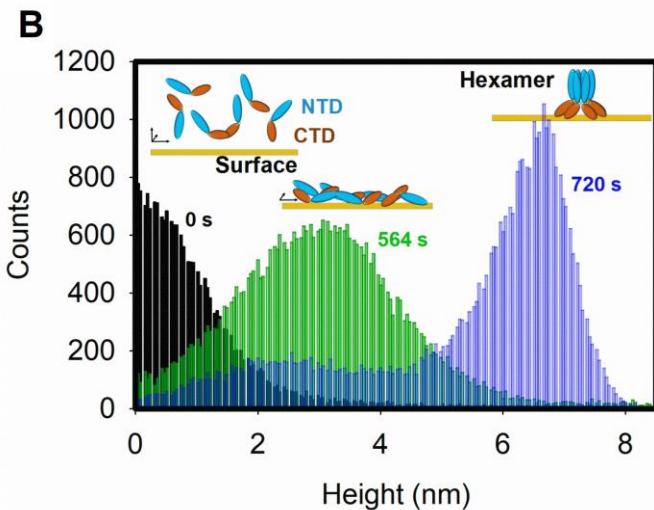
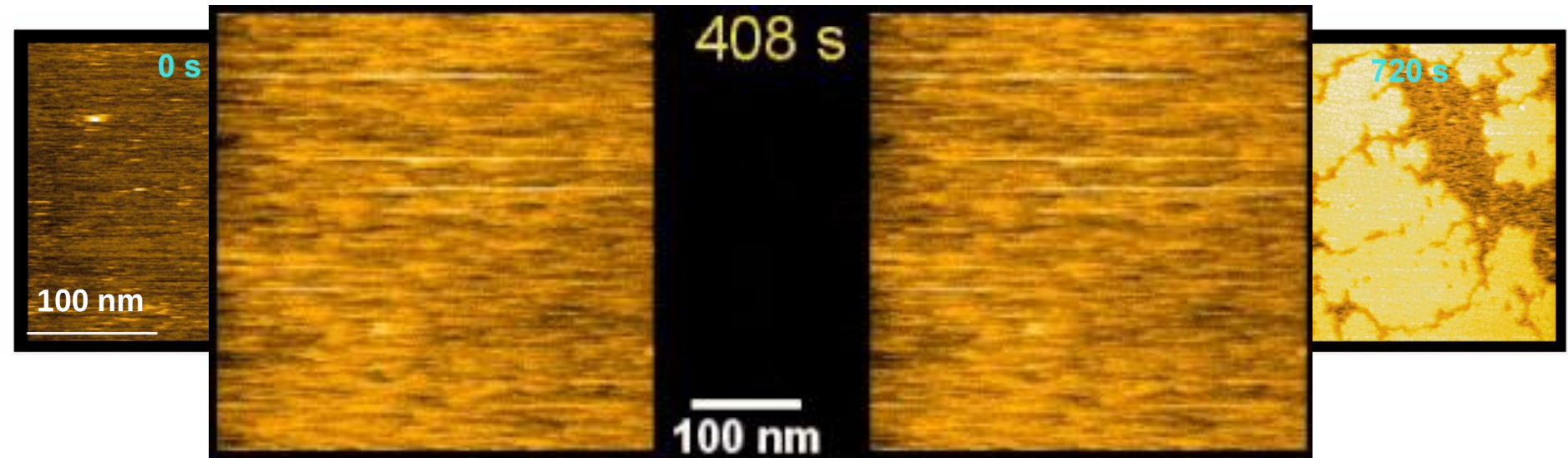
High Speed AFM studies of 2D HIV assembly



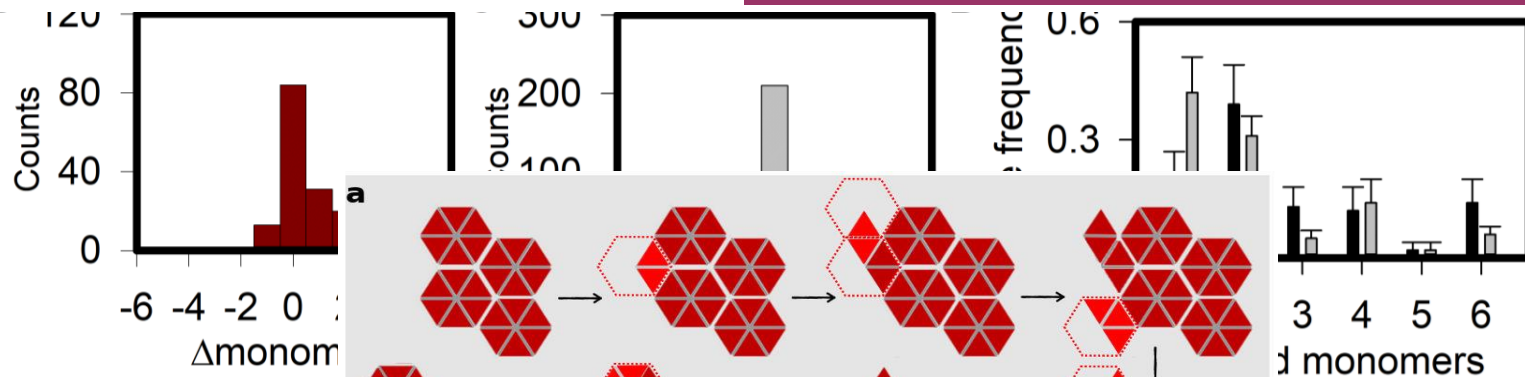
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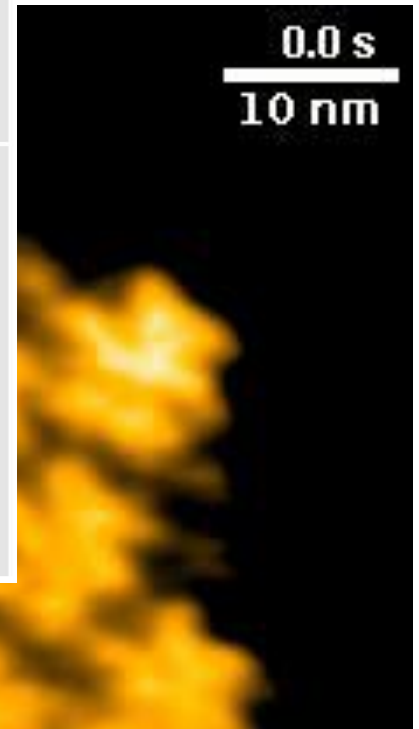
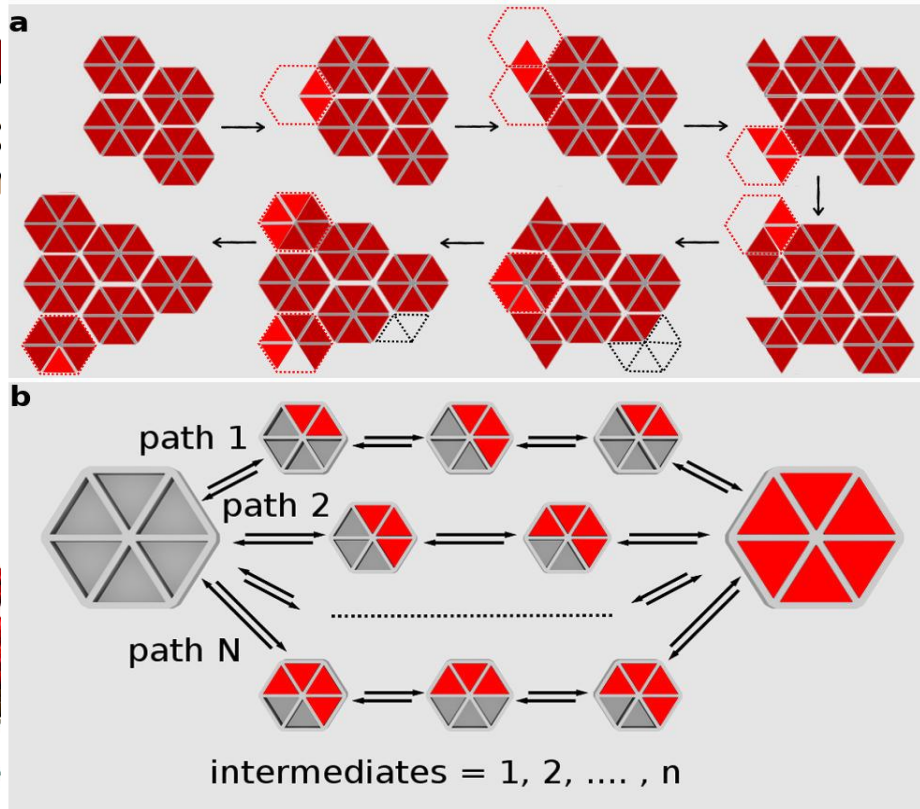
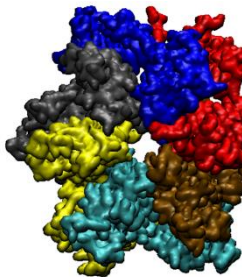
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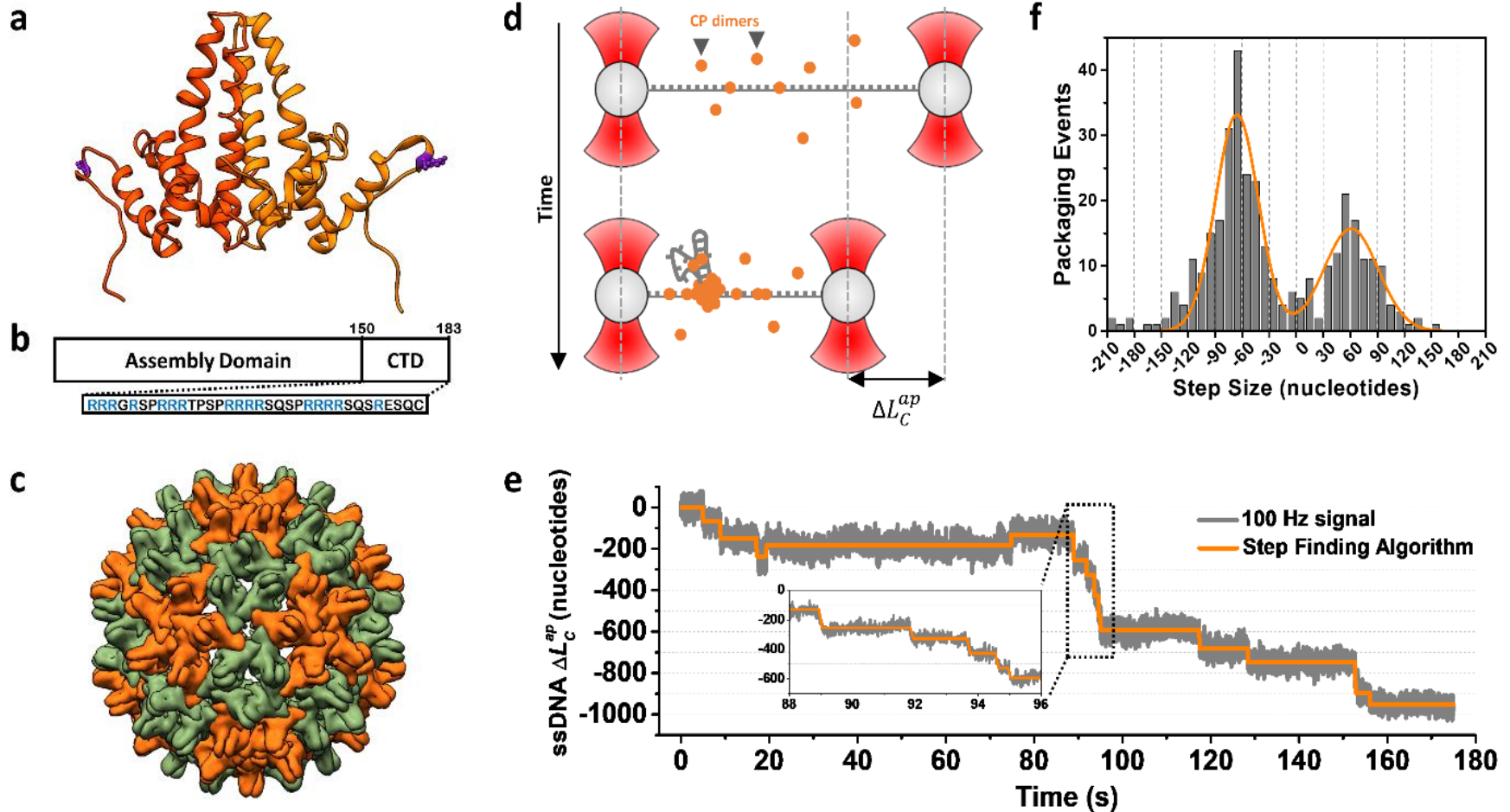
High Speed AFM studies of 2D HIV assembly



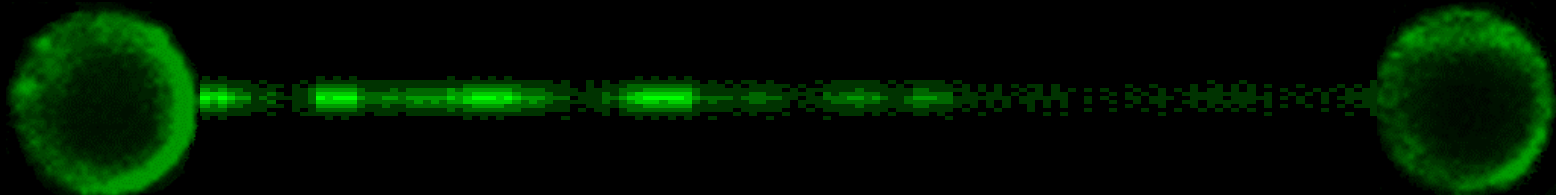
[Valbuena et al.](#)
[ACS Nano \(2020\)](#)



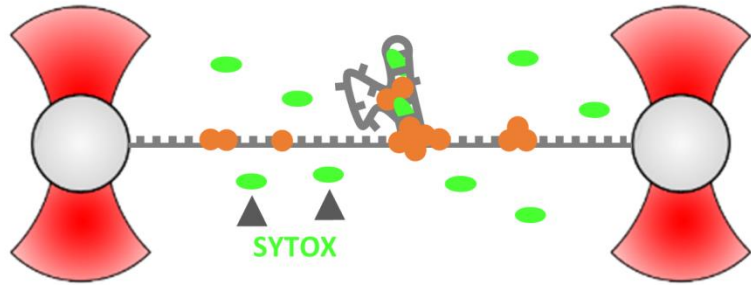
Hepatitis B Virus assembly



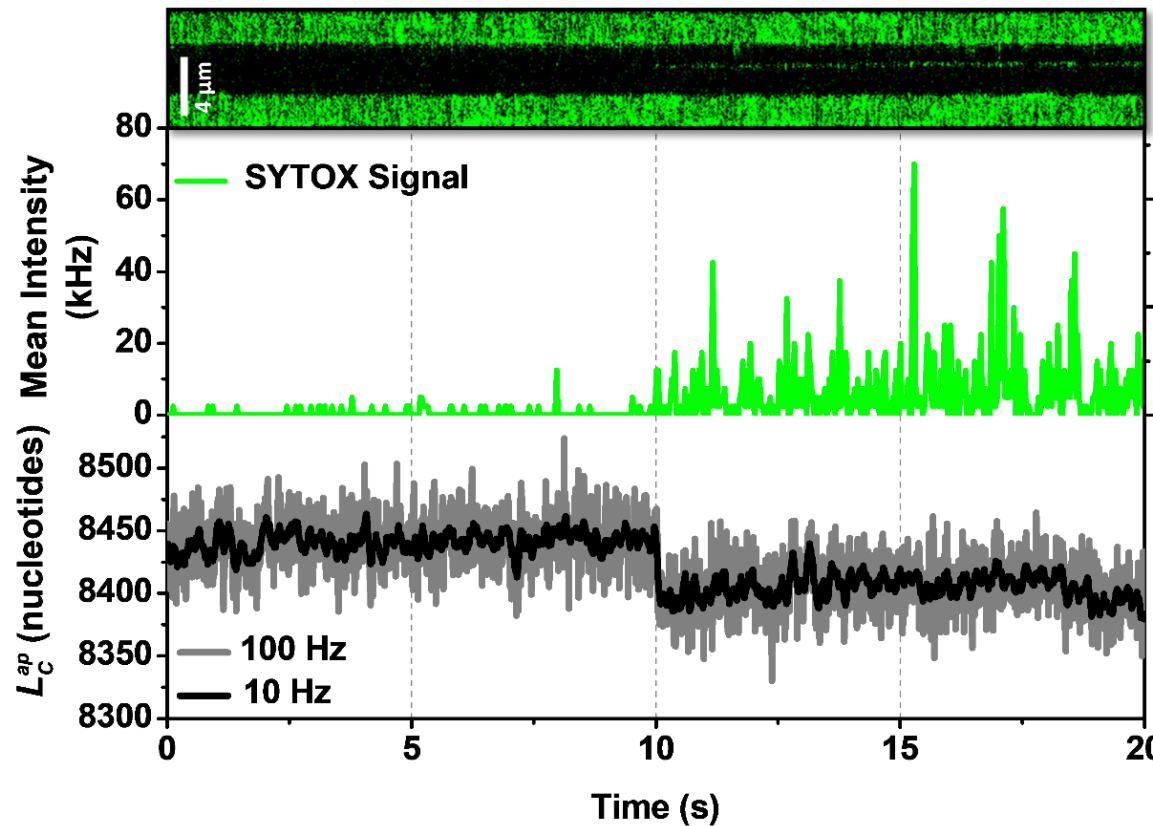
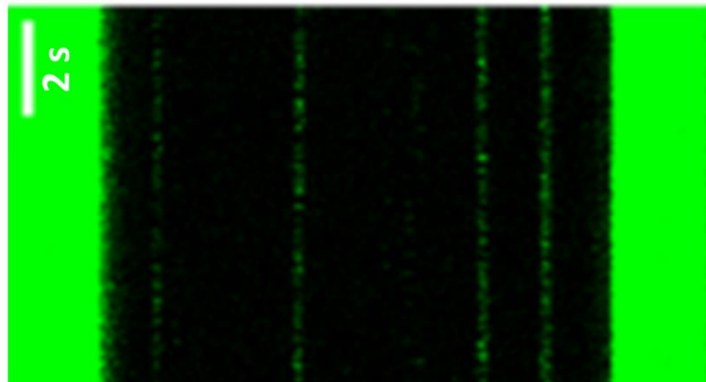
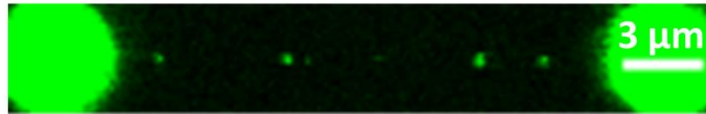
[Buzon et al. Science Advances 2021](#)



Hepatitis B Virus assembly



Cp has the capability to chaperone the formation of dsDNA



Hepatitis B Virus assembly

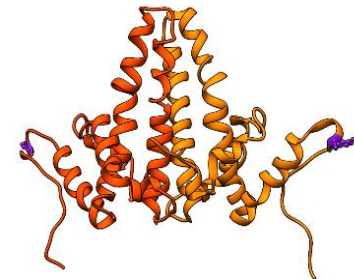
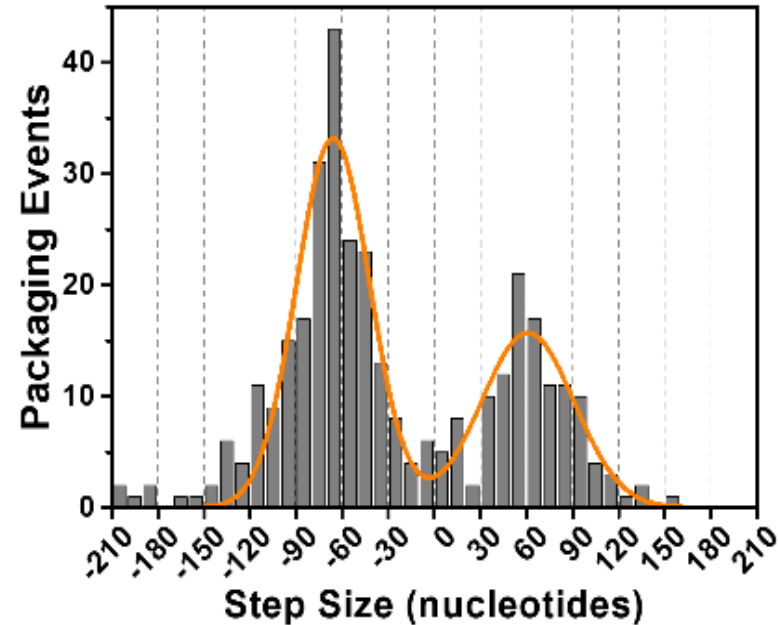
Cp condenses nucleic acids,
even under tension ($F = 11$ pN)

Assembly footprint: ~ 70 nt

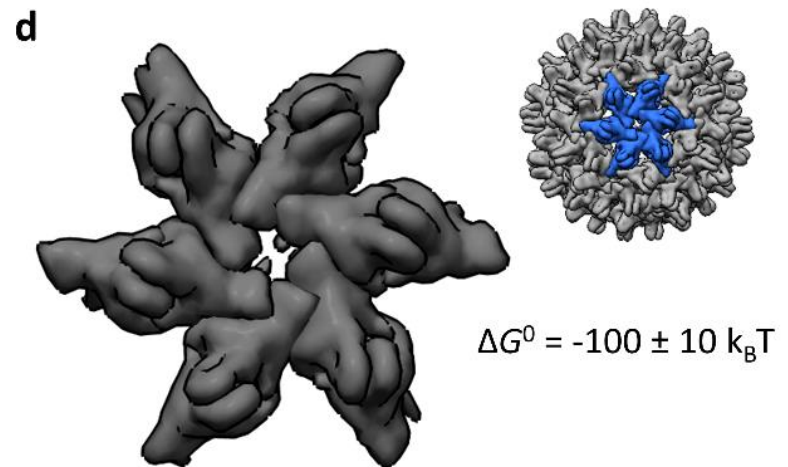
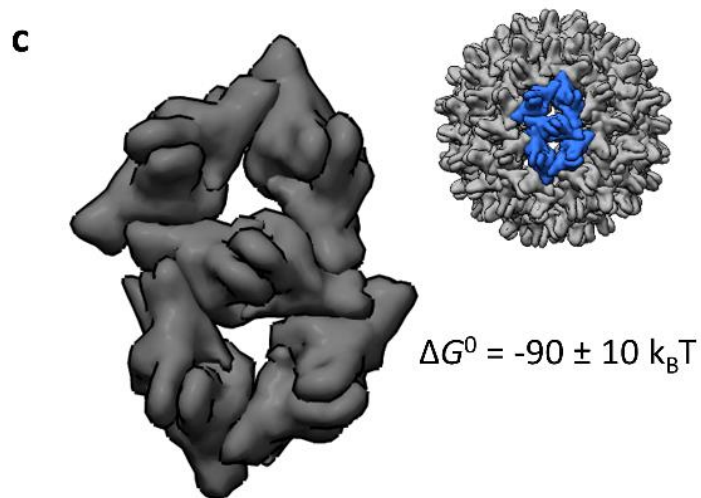
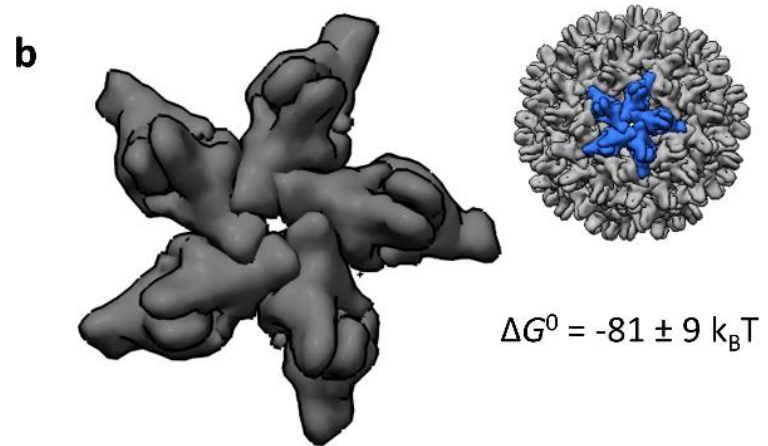
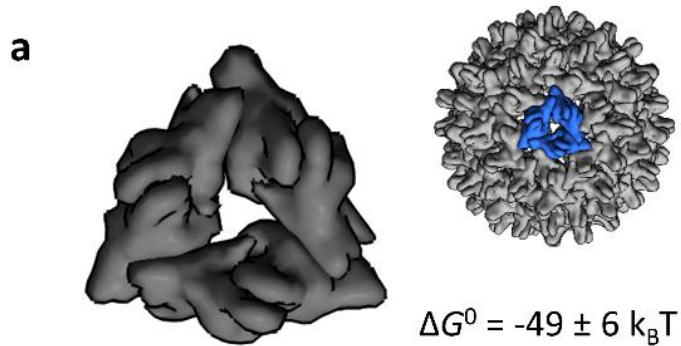
Work per condensation step:

$F^* \text{ step size} = \sim 100 k_B T$

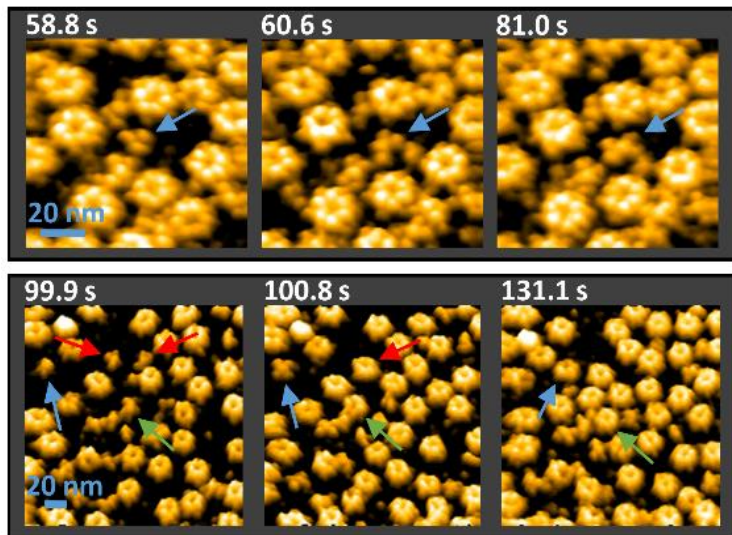
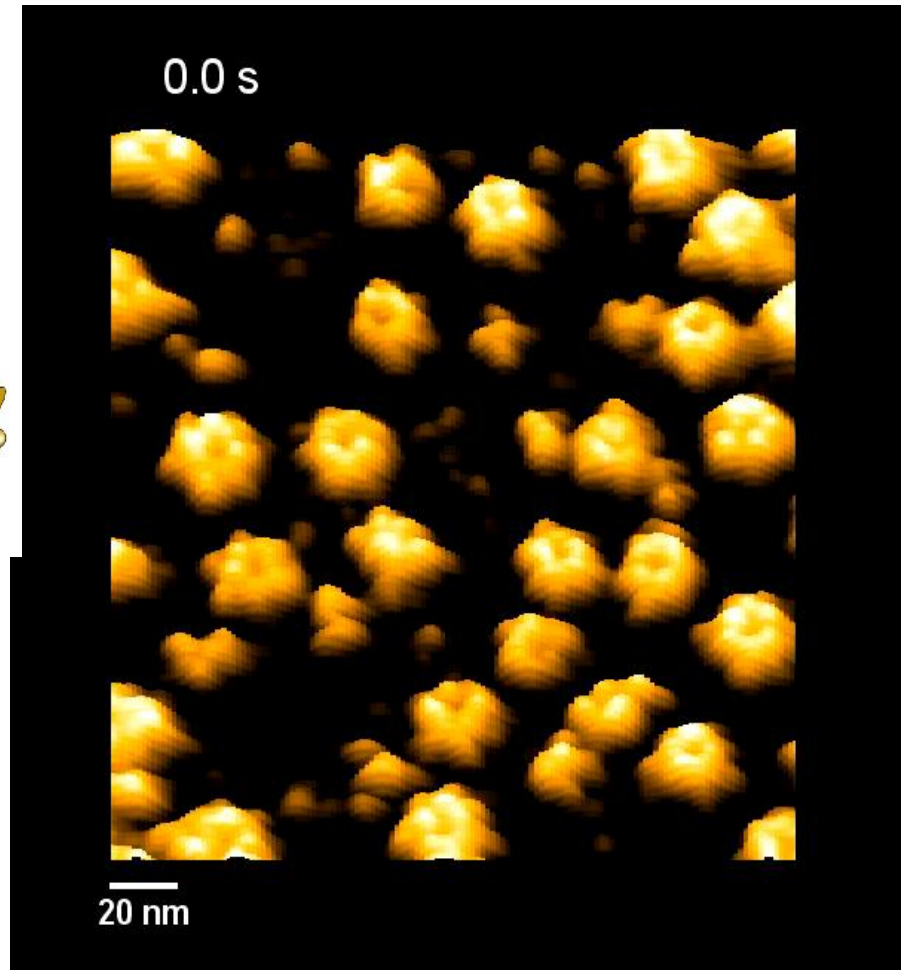
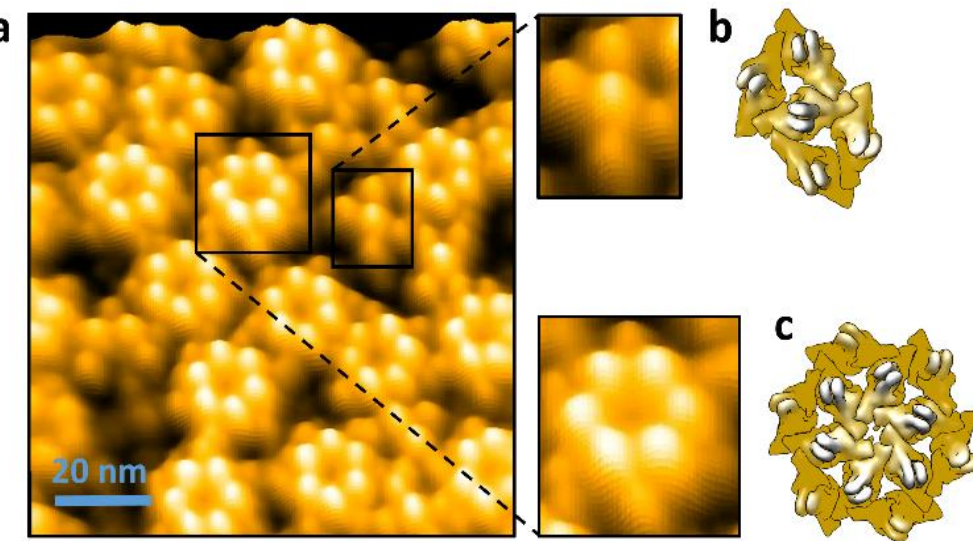
This corresponds to $\sim 1.4 k_B T/\text{nt}$
(compare to $\sim 5 k_B T/\text{bp}$ for ATP driven
packaging motor of $\Phi 29$)



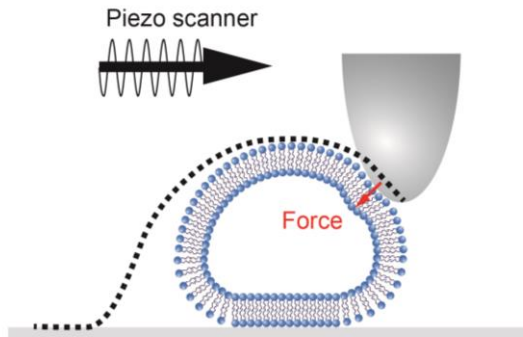
Hepatitis B Virus assembly



Hepatitis B Virus assembly



For those not (only) interested in viruses

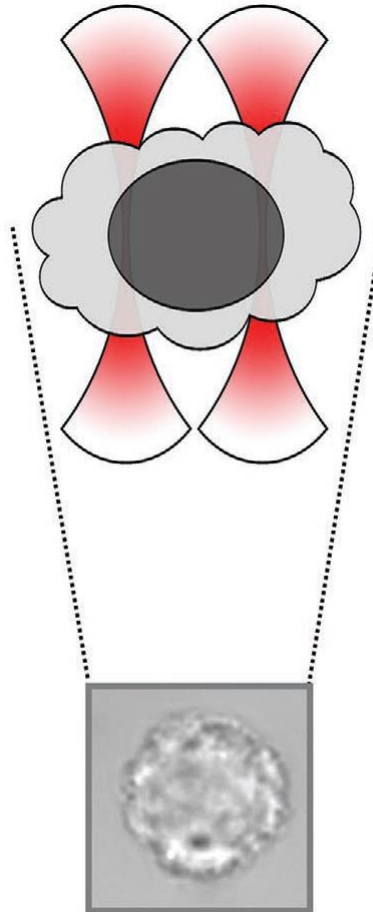


Extracellular vesicles /
lipoprotein particles

Vorselen et al.
Nat. Comm. (2018)

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

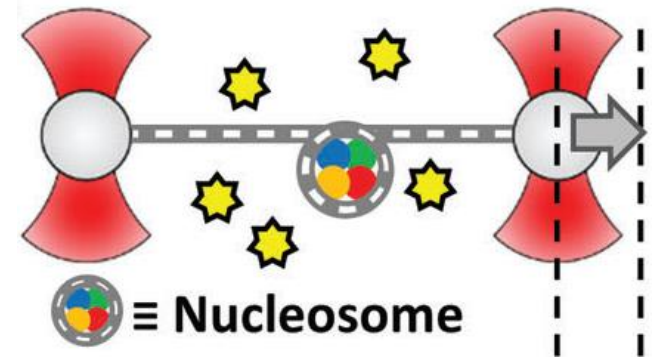
**AFM
nanoindentation
(mechanical
probing)**



Single-Cell Activation
Kinetics

Vasse et al.
Small Methods (2021)

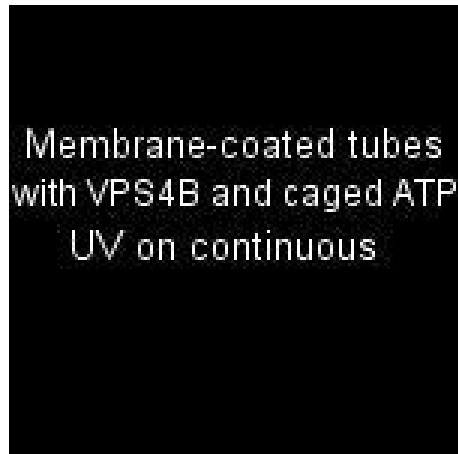
**Optical Tweezers
studies of cell
and histone
dynamics**



Histone-chaperone based nucleosome remodelling

Buzón et al. Adv. Scie. (2023)

For those not (only) interested in viruses

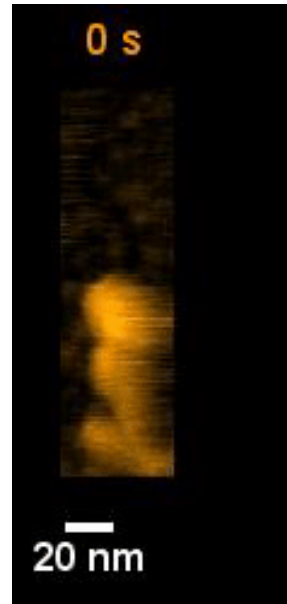


ESCRT:

[Maity et al. Science Advances \(2019\)](#)

[Bertin et al. Nat. Comm. \(2020\)](#)

[Azad et al. Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol. \(2023\)](#)



Assembly of synthetic systems:

[Maity et al. JACS \(2020\)](#)

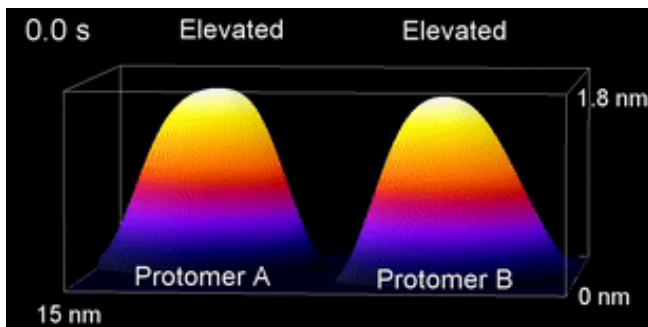
[Liu et al. Nat. Chem. \(2023\)](#)

Assembly of antibiotics:

[Shukla et al. Nature \(2022\)](#)

[Melcrova et al. Nat. Comm. \(2023\)](#)

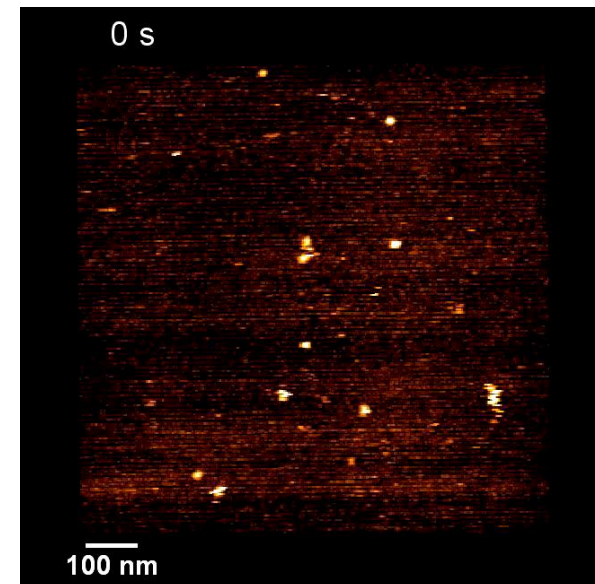
[Shukla et al. Cell \(2023\)](#)



Bacterial transporters:

[Maity et al. PNAS \(2022\)](#)

High Speed
AFM studies of
dynamics



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