

Plan:

- I. Some basic concepts of cryo electron microscopy
- II. Similarities between structural biology methods
- III. Integrated structural biology examples using cryo-EM
- IV. Current & future challenges in cryo-EM
- V. Instrumentation & technical highlights towards multi-scale integration

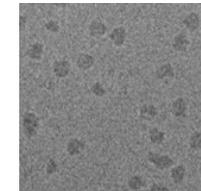
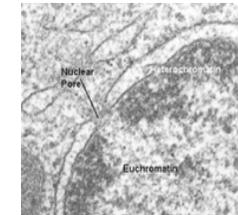
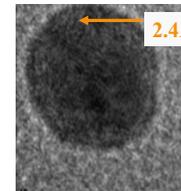


Electron Microscopy:

A) material sciences

B) cellular biology
(cell sections)

C) molecular biology
(extracted, purified
single molecules)



Visual assignment of sample quality, visual annotation of cellular structure

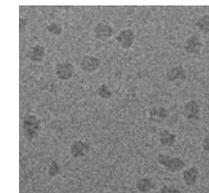
Direct visualization, and more... **3D reconstruction!**
Involves a lot of image processing



Some basic concepts of cryo electron microscopy

- visualize biological complexes in a hydrated, functional state
- images are 2D projections of a 3D object, i.e. they contain all internal features
- requirement: see the object under different angles to be able to reconstruct it

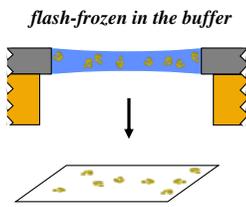
particles
in ~ random
orientations



Some basic concepts of cryo electron microscopy

extracted, purified complexes, preserved in hydrated state:

flash-frozen in the buffer



sample conc.: ~ 0.5 mg/ml
[compare 3D crystallization: ~2-20mg/ml]

Prioritize cryo-EM over negative staining EM:

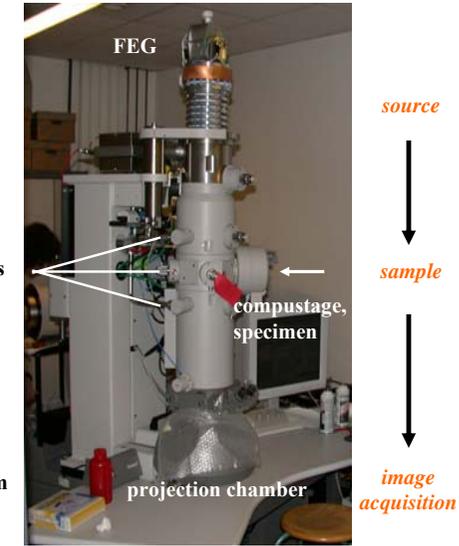
- avoids artifacts and limitation in resolution (~30Å) due to staining artifacts and flattening of the structures
- cryo-EM provides best specimen preservation:

no adsorption, no drying

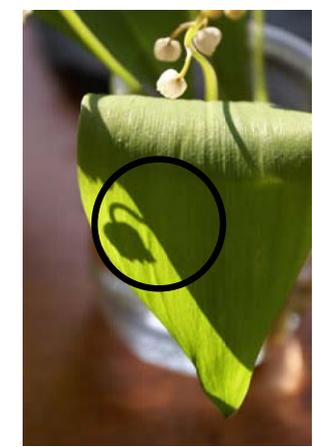
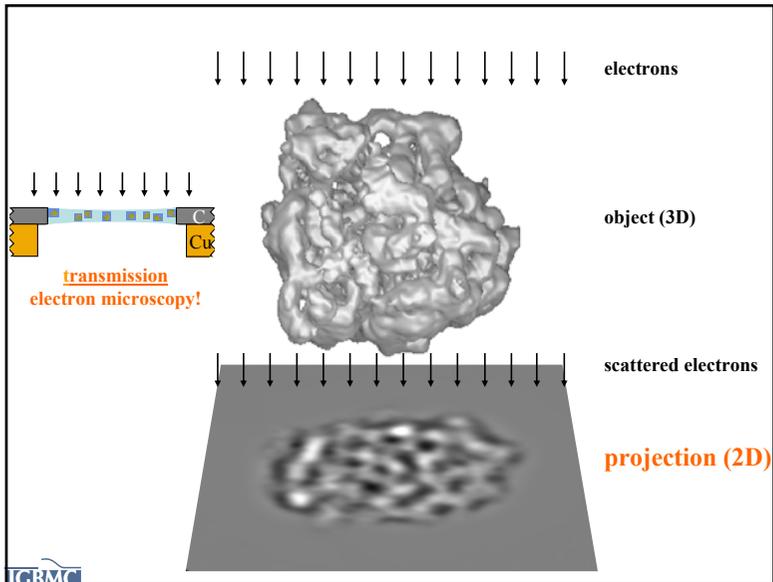


A transmission electron microscope (TEM)

- vacuum: $\sim 10^{-6}$ Pa
- potentially high electron dose
- potentially high resolution ($\lambda \approx 0.025 \text{ \AA}$ at 200kV) i.e. **not limited by the wavelength** or the optical system

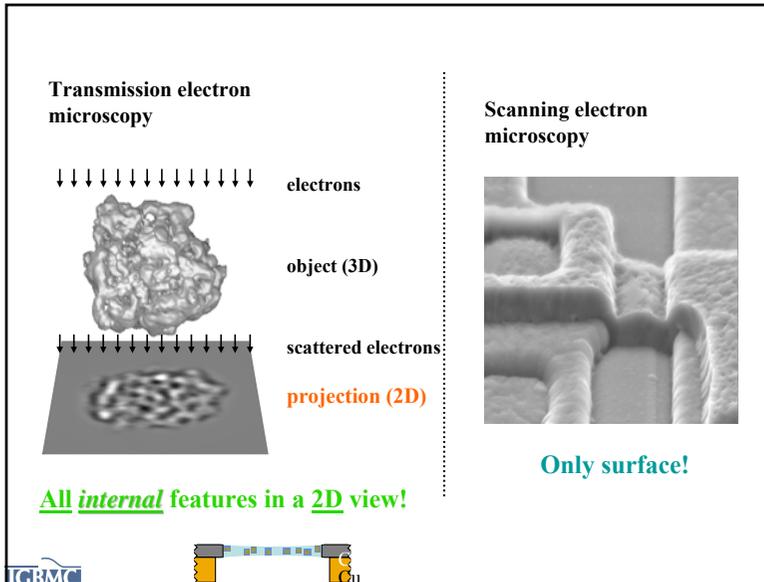


Field emission gun (FEG) electron microscope (Tecnai20, IGBMC)

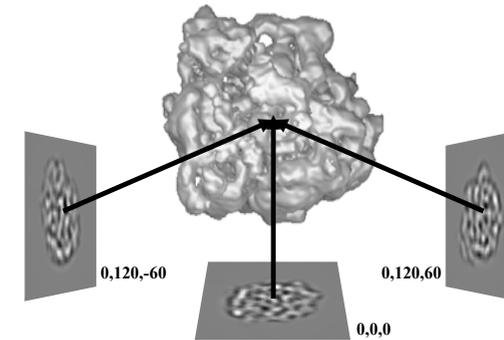


Unlike cryo-EM: here only shadow because of light absorption (amplitude contrast), information about internal features is lost, only contours of the object; like for negative staining...

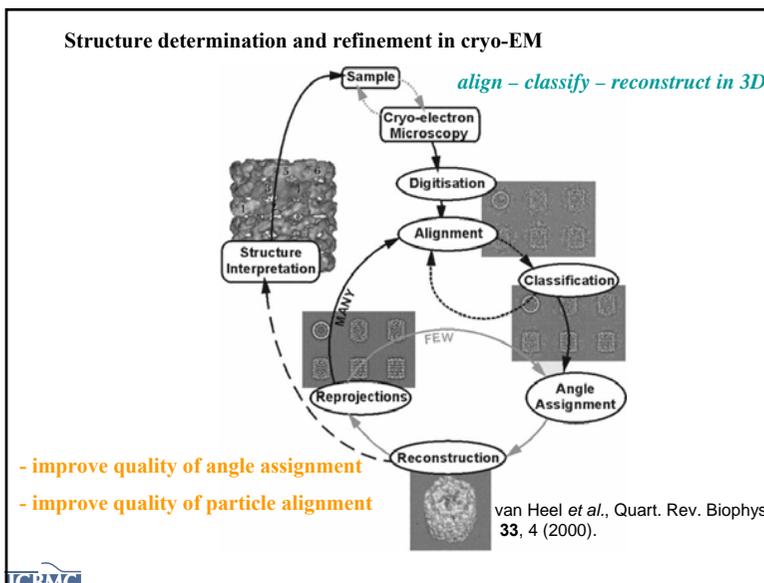




Concept of 3D reconstruction: **back-projection (franc.: rétro-projection)**



Reconstruction provides a **3D density map**, i.e. a **structure** with all internal features
Requires to have **angles** assigned



Some basic concepts of cryo-EM & 3D reconstruction

Correct terms are important (be precise and rigorous in science :-)

By cryo-EM, we obtain:

- a "3D reconstruction" (initial or refined)
- a "cryo-EM map" or "density map"
- a "structure"

technically:

- back-projection
- angular reconstitution
- random conical tilt
- tilt series / tomogram

NOT:

- an "envelope" (would be SAXS or neg. stain. EM)
- a "volume", units would be \AA^3 (e.g. volume of a pocket, volume x density = mol. mass)
- a "surface", units would be \AA^2 (e.g. interaction surface between 2 proteins)
- a "model", would be a **molecular model fitted to the map** (crystallography/cryo-EM)
or a model *compatible* with SAXS data or NMR restraints;
other "models": "homology model", "hypothetical model", "working model"



Some basic concepts of cryo-EM & 3D reconstruction

Correct terms are important:

A classification is based on a statistical analysis:

- multivariate statistical analysis (MSA) provides information on variance (variability) which serves to merge similar images into class averages (classes); is independent of a reference
- classes *are NOT*: the sum of images that correlate best with a reference (through a multi-reference alignment)



Some basic concepts of cryo electron microscopy

Basic aspects:

- "resolution" corresponds to "spatial frequency" in image processing ($1/\text{\AA}$)
- Nyquist frequency is $= 2 \times \text{pixel size}$, e.g. $1 \text{\AA} / \text{pixel} \rightarrow \text{Nyquist} = 2 \text{\AA}$
- interpolations during 2D image alignment and 3D reconstruction limit the possible resolution to about 2/3 of the Nyquist frequency, i.e. here $\sim 3 \text{\AA}$ ^(exception: super-reso)
pixels in 3D: "voxel"

Consider:

- any correlation calculation (e.g. alignment) is biased by the reference used
- resolution estimation, criteria used:
 - 0.5, arbitrary, historically from the virus field, tends to underestimate resol.
 - 0.143 (Henderson) and $\frac{1}{2}$ bit (van Heel)
 - 3σ , not used anymore (over-estimation)
 - features in the map: can we see dsRNA helices ($\sim 10\text{-}12 \text{\AA}$ resolution), α -helices ($\sim 8 \text{\AA}$), β -sheets ($\sim 5 \text{\AA}$) or side chains ($4\text{-}2.5 \text{\AA}$ depending on size)?



Single particle cryo-EM image processing and 3D reconstruction

I. Pre-processing

- Digitization of micrographs (negatives); not needed if CCD images
- particle selection, « boxing »
- correction of the contrast transfer function
- band-pass filtering and normalisation of particle images

II. Structure determination

- particle centering / alignments
- MSA (multivariate statistical analysis) + classification
- angle assignment
 - angular reconstitution
 - projection matching
- 3D reconstruction
- structure refinement
- resolution assessment: criteria + **what you can resolve in the 3D map!**
- map interpretation ; fitting of crystal or NMR structures, ...



II. Similarities between structural biology methods

Is the purified sample homogeneous?

What means homogeneity?

- same composition
- same functional state
- same structural state, i.e. same conformational state

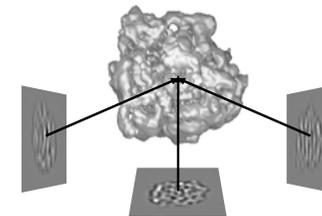
Why do we need homogeneity?

--> **most structural biology approaches are averaging techniques:**

- crystallography
- SAXS
- NMR
- EM and 3D reconstruction
- mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF etc.)
- dynamic light scattering
- protein / RNA gel electrophoresis
- kinetic studies

exceptions:

- electron tomography
- other single molecule experiments

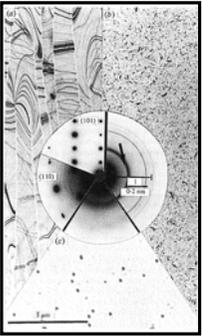


The importance of cryo-approaches

For both crystallography and cryo-EM:

- preservation of the hydrated, functional state
- reduction of irradiation damage
- mechanical stabilization of the sample

cryo-EM:
flash-freezing,
low salt, no cryo-protectants
(would reduce image contrast)

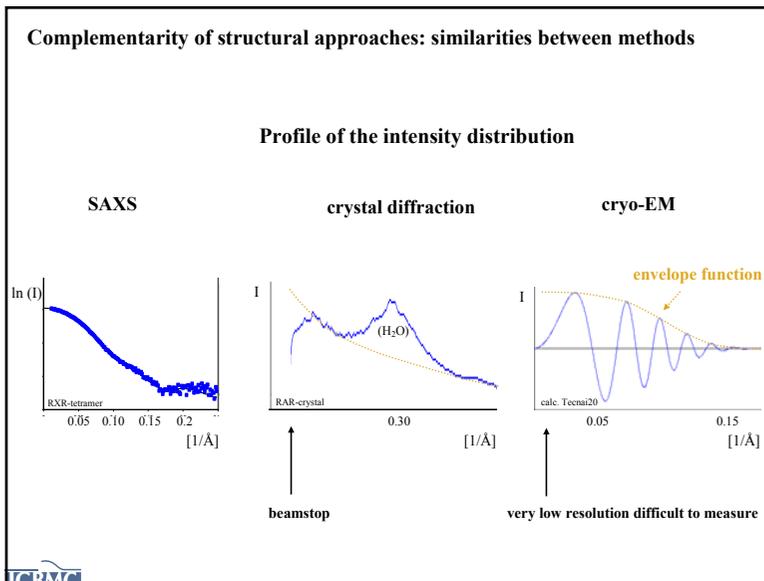
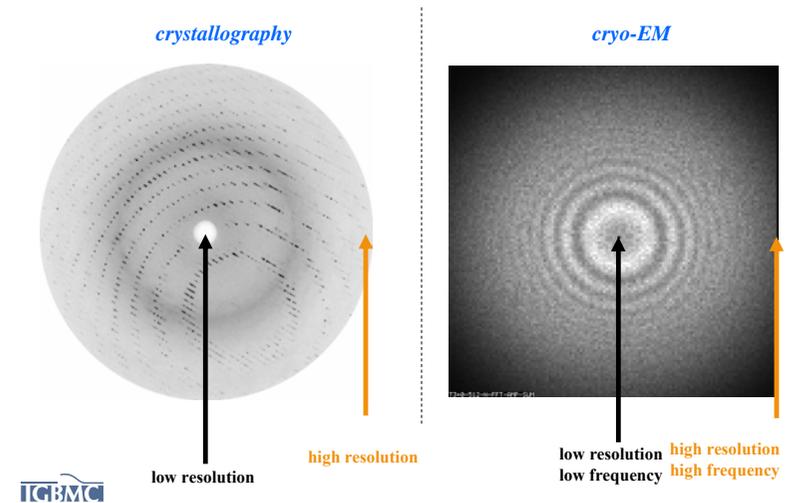


Dubochet *et al.*, 1988

crystallography:
cryo-protectants
glycerol, PEG, high salt, oil, etc.



Complementarity of structural approaches: similarities between methods



Real space

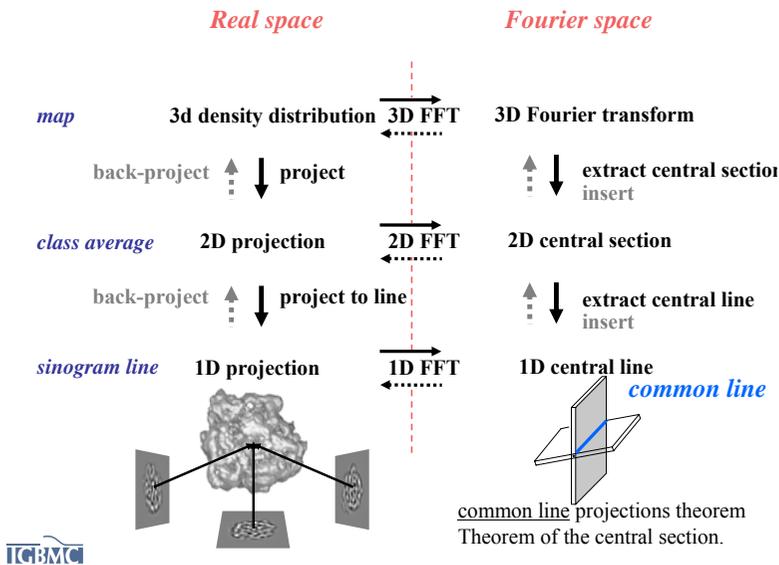
Fourier space

map 3d density distribution $\xrightarrow{3D\ FFT}$ 3D Fourier transform

$\rho(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{V} \sum_{\mathbf{h}} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{h}) \exp(-2\pi i \mathbf{h} \cdot \mathbf{x})$ ← Diffraction pattern, [h, k, l, phases]

Patterson (molecular replacement)
/ auto-correlation function in imaging





III. Integrated structural biology examples using cryo-EM



Common problem: determination of the handedness

- crystallography: depends on correct processing of phased reflections
- SAXS: ambiguity cannot be resolved easily (unless clear fitting of crystal structure etc.)
- NMR: ambiguity solved by using chirality constraints
- single (cryo-)EM images are projections, i.e. mirrors are indistinguishable

Determination of handedness in EM:

- random conical tilt (Radermacher *et al.*, J. Microsc. 1987)
- tomography (technically tricky on single particles)
- phase residual error using a tilt pair (Rosenthal & Henderson, JMB 2003)
- fitting of crystal structures (requires reasonable resolution)
- high-resolution features: right-handed protein and DNA/ARN helices!



Structure and function of full nuclear receptors

- architecture of full-length DNA-bound NR complexes
- topology of full-length NR's bound to different response elements
- mechanism of **ligand-** and **DNA-dependent activation** and co-regulator recruitment
- important targets for biomedical research (steroids, vitamin D etc.)

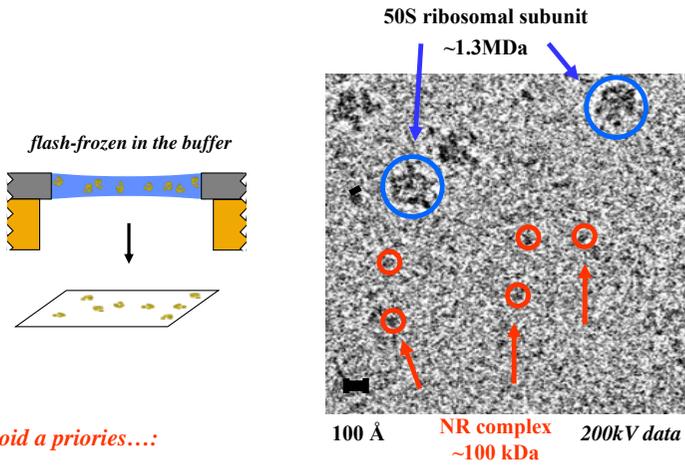
Possible structural approaches:

- NMR
- crystallography
- SAXS
- cryo-EM

"textbook drawing" molecular weight: ~100-150kDa



Architecture of the RXR/VDR DR3 DNA complex

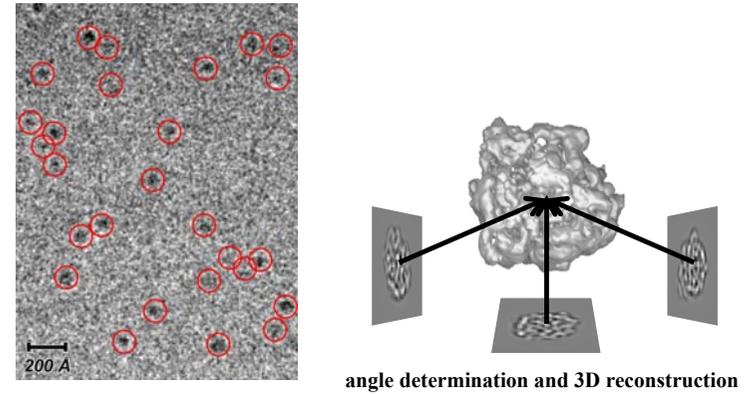


Avoid a priories....:

was usually considered too small for cryo-EM... (limit >250kDa)



Image processing: particle selection, classification, structure determination

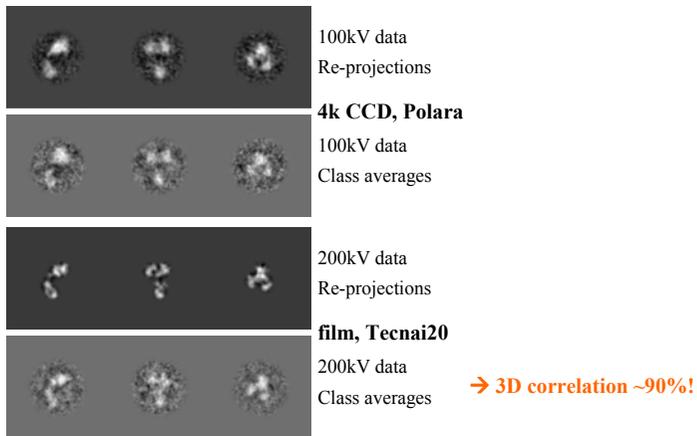


20 000 particles selected, defocus used: -2 to -4 μm

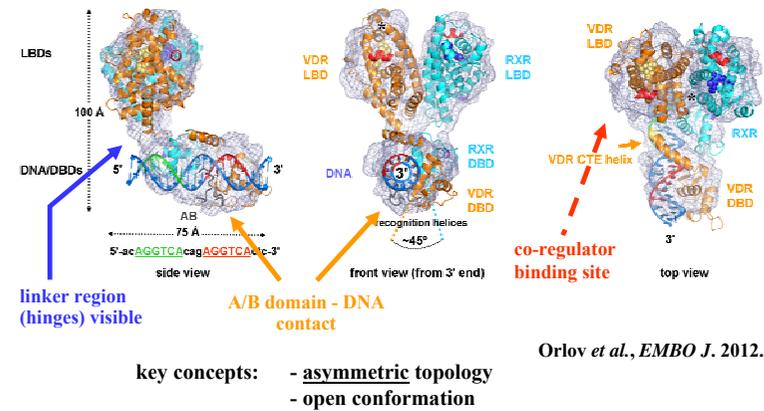
MSA, classification, common-line angle assignment and refinement (Imagic)
(no projection matching)



Two independent *ab initio* structures:



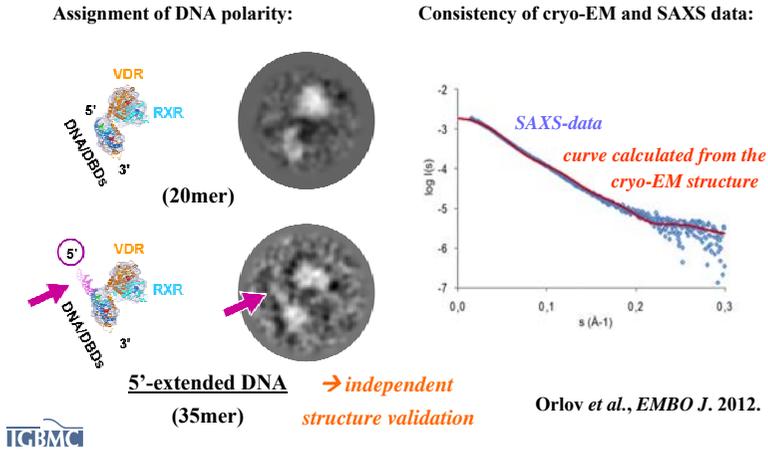
Architecture of the RXR/VDR DR3 DNA complex



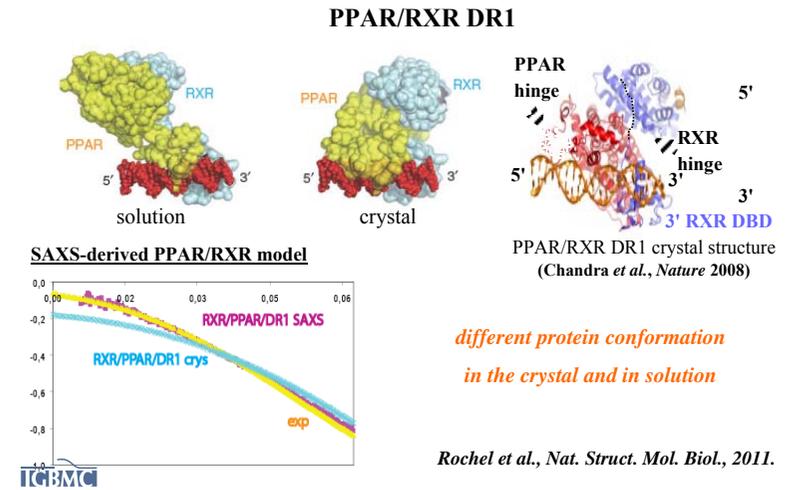
Orlov *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 2012.



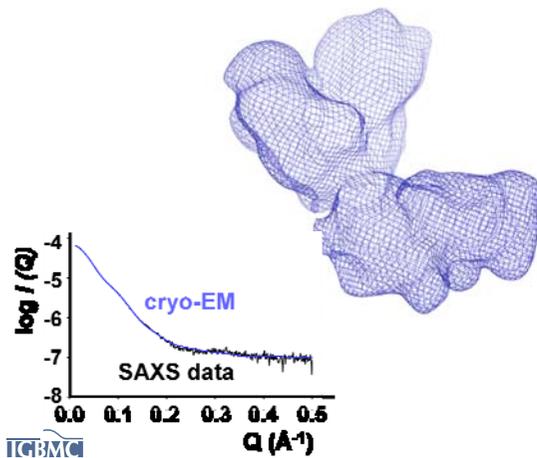
Architecture of the RXR/VDR DR3 DNA complex



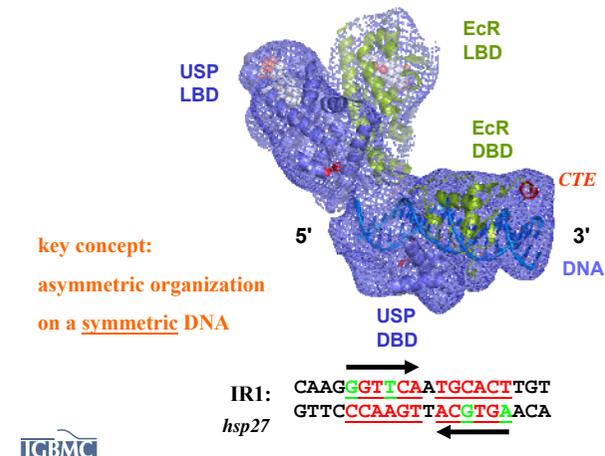
Architecture of nuclear receptors on DR1 response elements



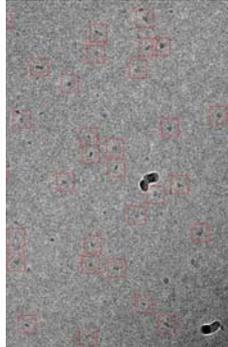
Structure of the USP/EcR complex on a natural DNA inverted repeat (IR1)



Structure of the USP/EcR complex on a natural DNA inverted repeat (IR1)

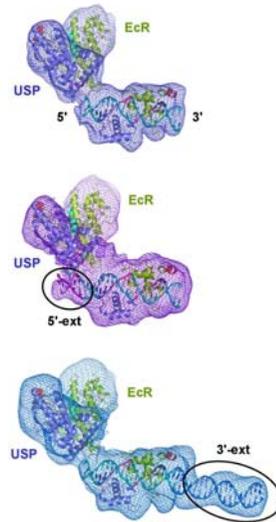


3 cryo-EM structures:



Polara electron microscope data,
CCD, 100kV, 59k, 50 000 particles

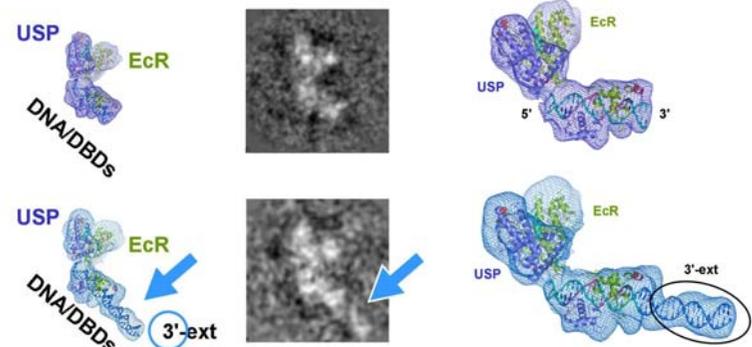
→ independent
structure validation



Maletta et al., Nature Communications, 2014.



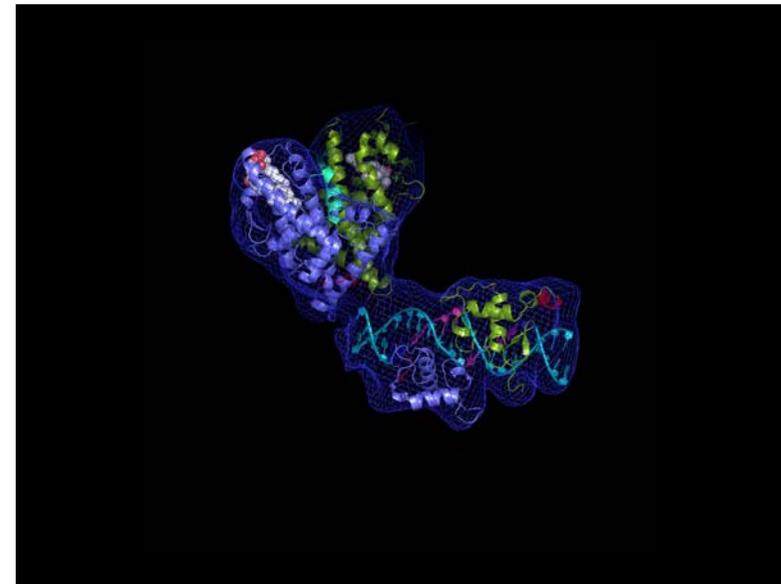
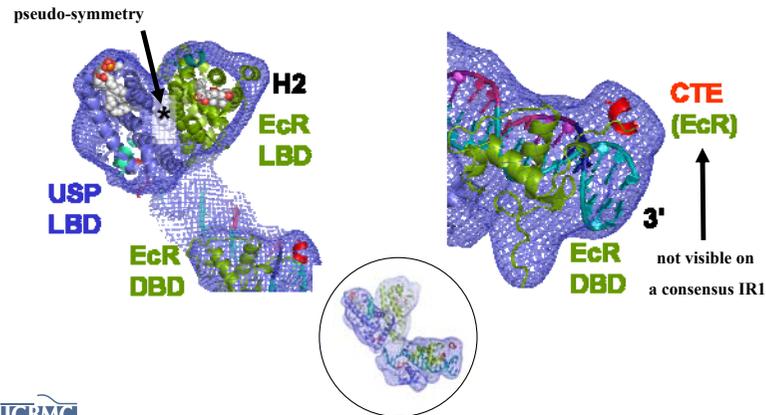
Assignment of the polarity on the DNA:



3'-DNA extended complex (35mer, +18mer)



Identification of key structural features in the USP/EcR complex



IV. Current & future challenges in cryo-EM:

- how to push resolution to the atomic level?
- how to analyze flexible complexes?
- how to integrate towards the cellular level?

→ instrumentation

→ software developments for image processing

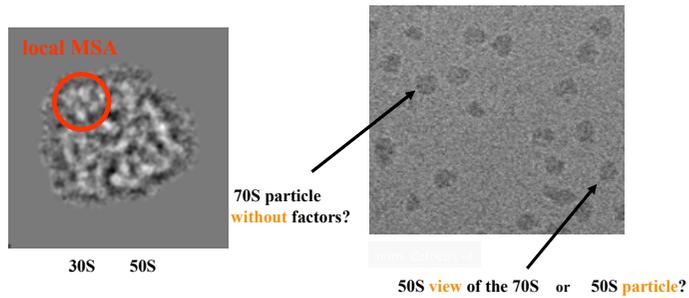


Conformational changes of cats?



Determining structures of multiple conformational states in a single sample

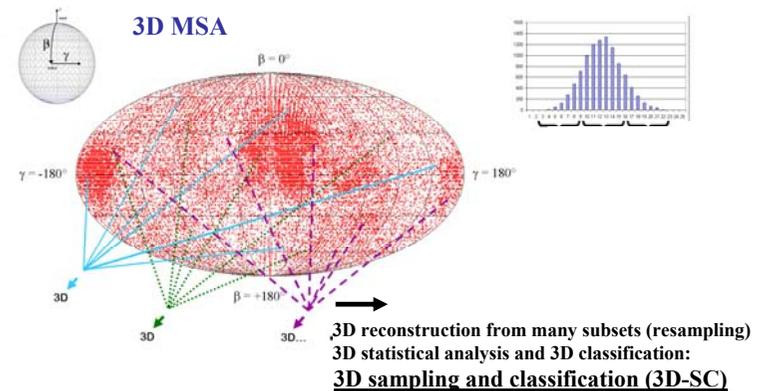
local 2D MSA (multi-variate statistical analysis)



Klaholz et al., *Nature* 2004; see Suppl. Mat.



Determining structures of multiple conformational states in a single sample



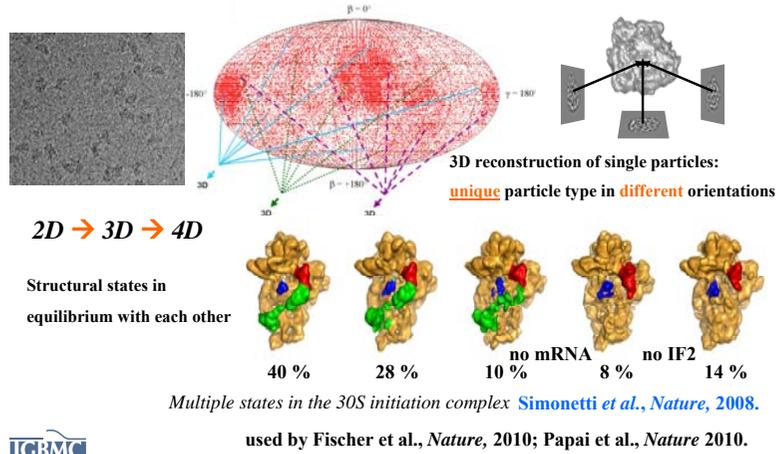
Simonetti et al., *Nature*, 2008.

→ does both re-sampling and 3D classification;
 see also work by P. Penczek (bootstrapping (re-sampling), used primarily to find region of variance)
 see also S. Scheres/J-M Carazo (maximum likelihood parameter refinement and classification)

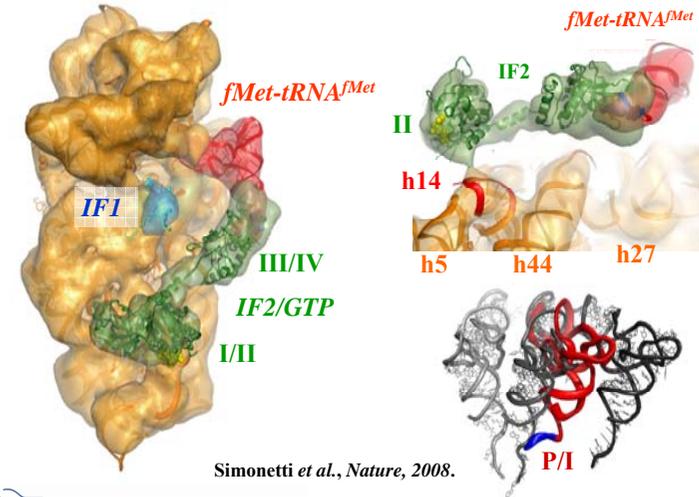


Sorting out heterogeneity of the complexes:

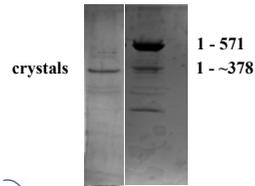
3D statistical analysis and 3D classification:
3D sampling and classification (3D-SC)



Cooperative binding of the initiator tRNA and IF2 in the 30S initiation complex



Structure determination of translation initiation factor IF2

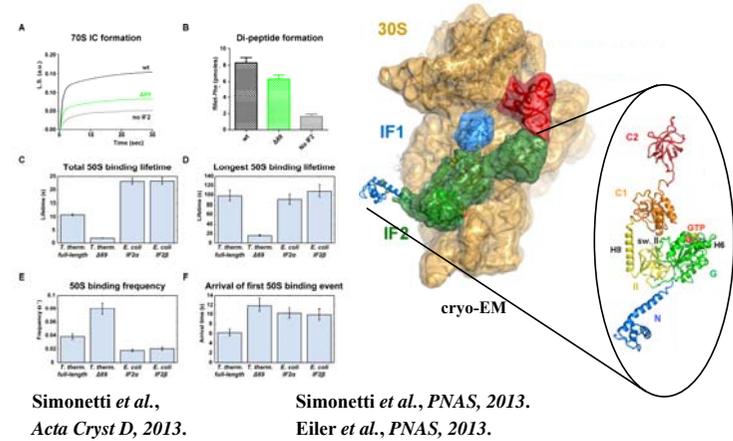


	Native	Se-Met		
Data collection				
X ray source	SLS (Pilatus Detector)	SLS (Pilatus Detector)		
Space group	P2 ₁ :2 ₁ :2 ₁	P2 ₁ :2 ₁ :2 ₁		
Cell dimensions				
a, b, c (Å)	45.42, 61.46, 162.4	45.19, 60.93, 160.74		
α, β, γ (°)	90, 90, 90	90, 90, 90		
Molecules/A.U	4	4		
Solvent Content (%)	50	50		
Wavelength(Å)	0.9194	0.9792	0.9796	0.9537
Resolution (Å)	50 - 1.95	50 - 2.4	50 - 2.4	50 - 2.4
Distance (mm)	200	450		
Exposure time (sec)	2	2		
R _{int} (%)	9.7 (43.7)	7.1 (30.9)	6.5 (28.3)	15.6 (60.4)
Reflections	36,743	33,368	33,414	68,585
Completeness (%)	100 (100)	99.6 (99.7)	99.5 (99.4)	99.6 (98.7)
Redundancy	10.96	4.67 (4.3)	4.77 (4.53)	4.98 (4.91)
Refinement				
Resolution (Å)	1.95			
No. of reflections	32,857			
Protein atoms	2886			
Solvent atoms	235			
R _{int} /R _{free}	18.6/22.5 (21.6/27.4)			

[Simonetti et al., Acta Cryst D, 2013.](#)



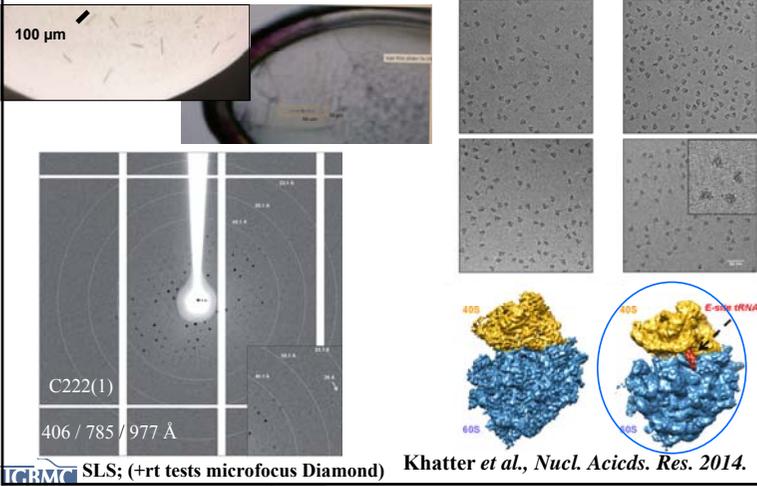
Involvement of IF2 N domain in ribosomal subunit joining revealed from architecture and function of the full-length initiation factor



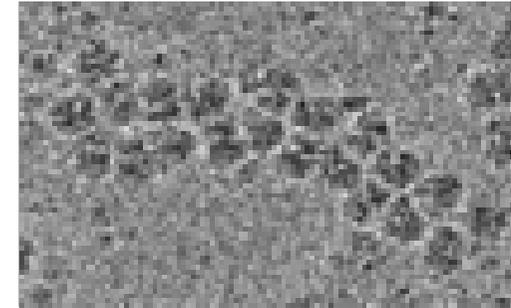
crystallography, SAXS, cryo-EM, kinetics and single molecule fluorescence



Crystallography of (large) macromolecular complexes:
 use cryo-EM for sample optimization: first human 80S ribosome crystals



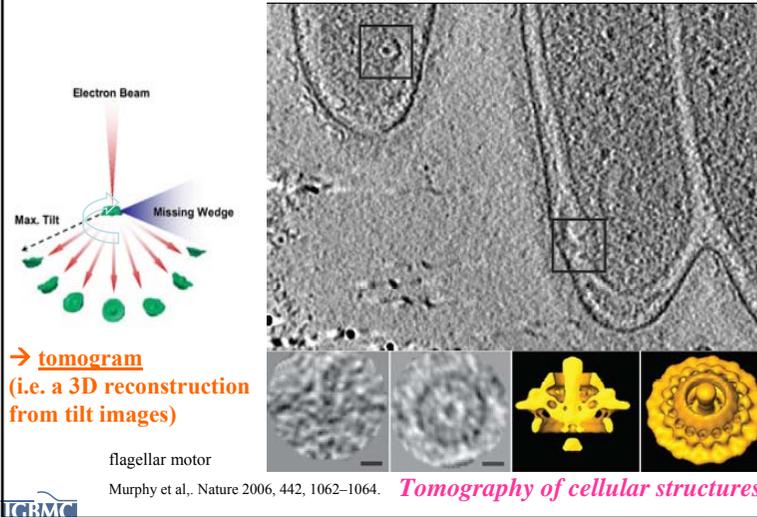
Towards higher complexity: molecular assemblies



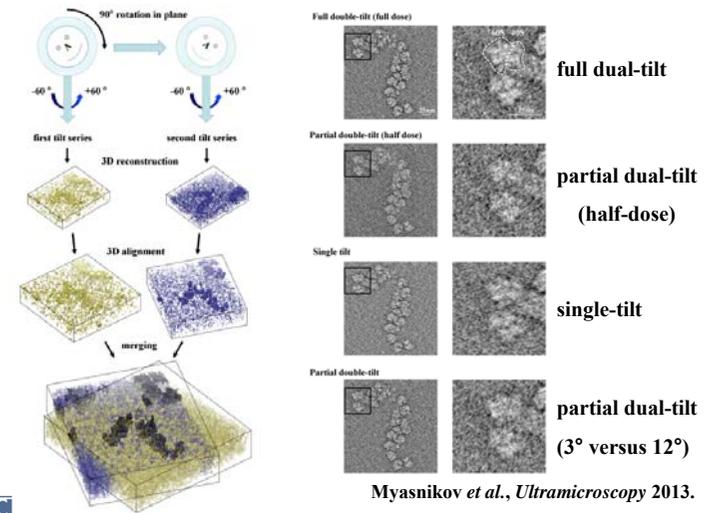
Cryo electron tomography (cryo-ET) of
 - purified complexes
 - cell sections



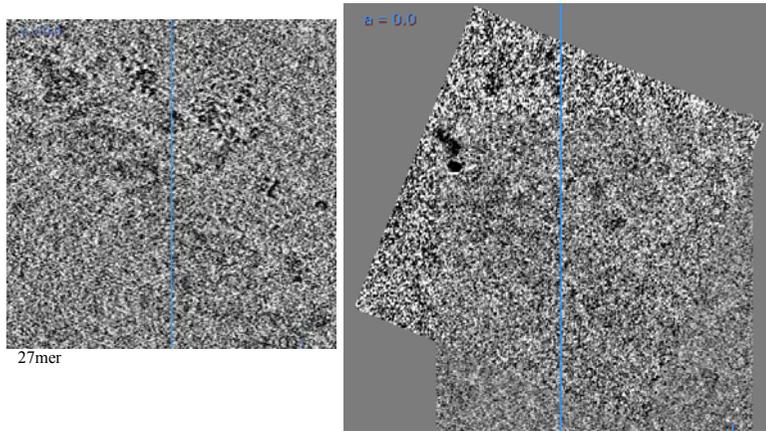
Cryo electron tomography



3D polysome reconstruction from single- / dual-tilt cryo electron tomography

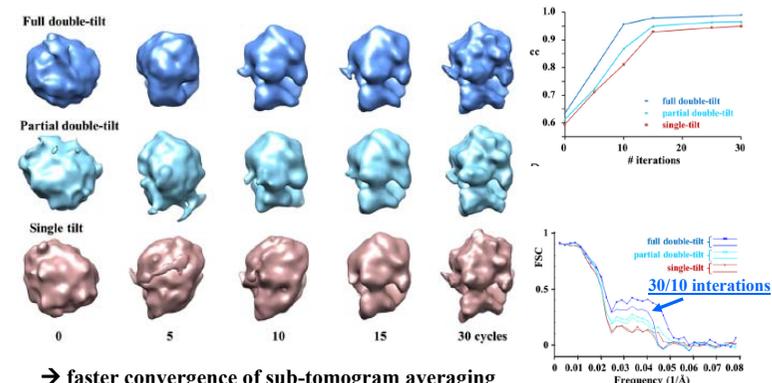


3D polysome reconstruction from single- / dual-tilt cryo electron tomography



single tilt Polara, 4k CCD, 150kV [like a κ -goniometer setup] inspect3D, IMOD Myasnikov et al., *Ultramicroscopy* 2013.
 dual tilt

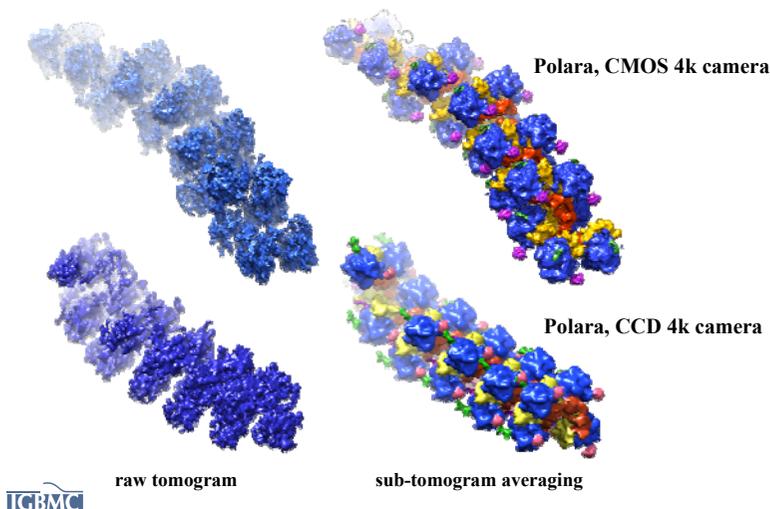
3D polysome reconstruction from single- / dual-tilt cryo electron tomography



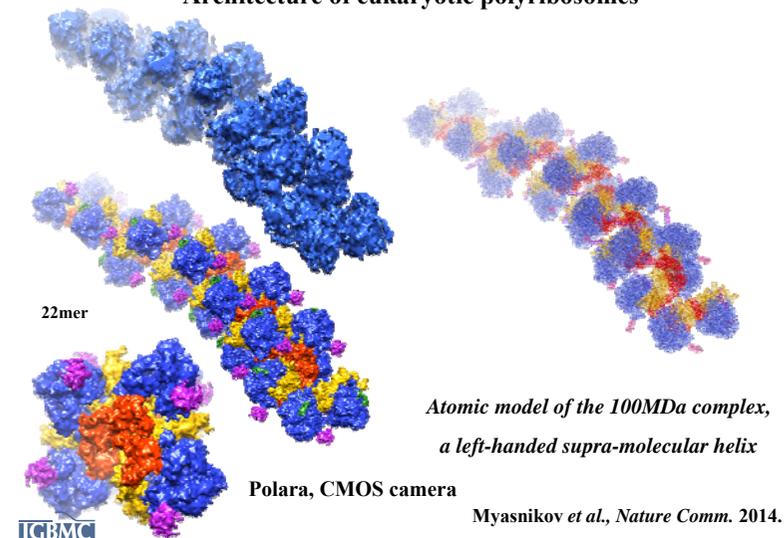
→ faster convergence of sub-tomogram averaging when using dual-axis data (even partial)

Myasnikov et al., *Ultramicroscopy* 2013.

Architecture of eukaryotic polyribosomes

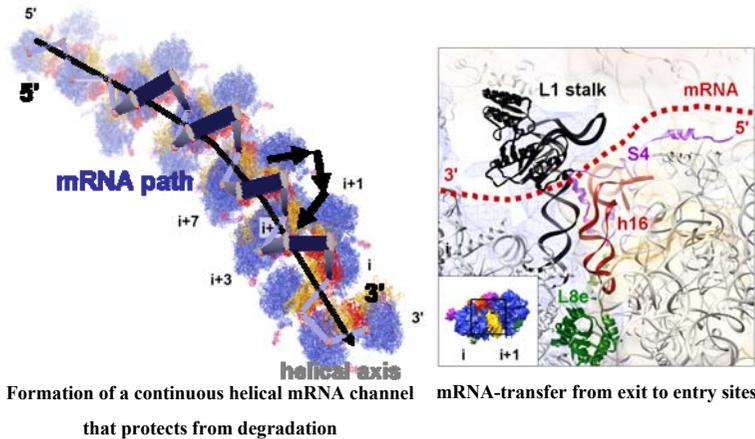


Architecture of eukaryotic polyribosomes



Atomic model of the 100MDa complex, a left-handed supra-molecular helix
 Polara, CMOS camera
 Myasnikov et al., *Nature Comm.* 2014.

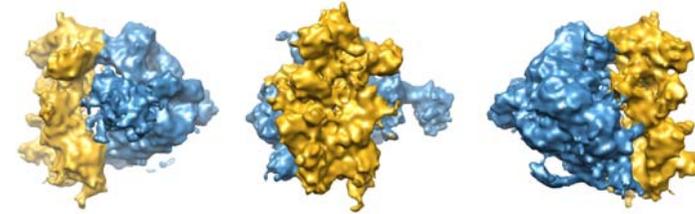
Architecture of eukaryotic polyribosomes



Myasnikov *et al.*, *Nature Com.*, 2014.



Architecture of eukaryotic polyribosomes



sub-tomogram average structures from Polara + direct electron detector (Falcon 1),
→ single particle cryo electron tomography

Myasnikov *et al.*, *Nature Comm.* 2014.



V. Instrumentation & technical highlights towards multi-scale integration

High-resolution electron microscopes:

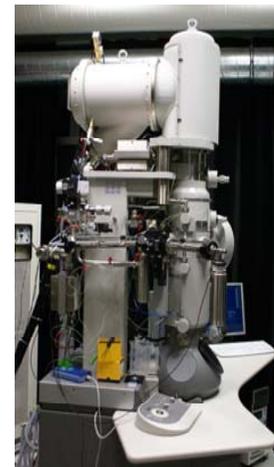
- ultra-stable specimen holders,
- high-resolution optics,
- parallel electron beam,
- aberration correction,
- use lower voltage for better contrast of small complexes,
- automatic data collection for single particle cryo-EM and cryo electron tomography (cryo-ET),
- standardize sample preparation (cryo-EM freezing, high-pressure freezing and ultra-microtomy for cell section)
- phase plates (Zernike, Volta etc.)

High-sensitivity cameras:

direct electron detectors, CMOS camera, counting events;
is part of a "revolution" in cryo-EM and structural biology, like for Pilatus/Eiger detectors in X-ray crystallography



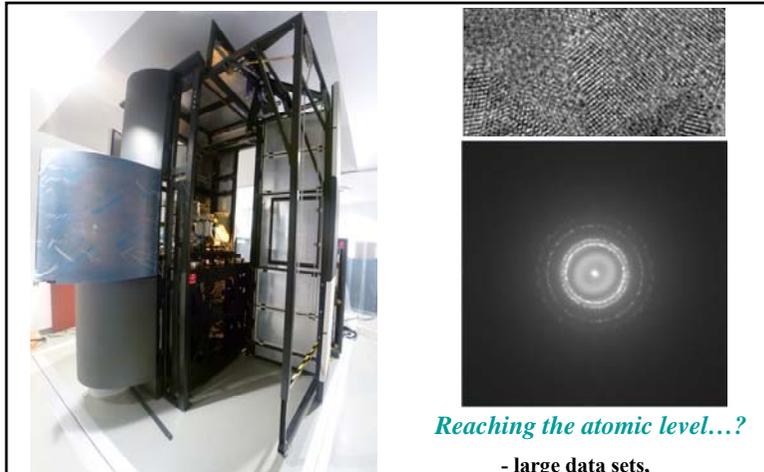
High-resolution electron microscopes and direct electron detectors



CMOS camera

Polara electron microscope





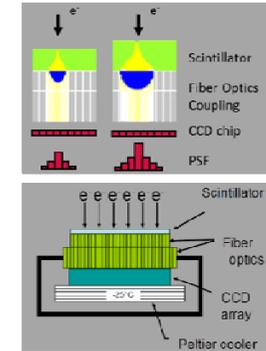
Titan Krios installation 10-12.2013, CBI,
Instruct/FRISBI-infrastructure access

Reaching the atomic level...?
- large data sets,
- image processing to high-resolution
→ see data set for the cryo-EM practicals

ICBM

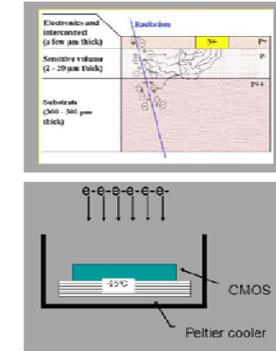
High-resolution electron microscopes and direct electron detectors

CCD: multi stage conversion of electron energy via fiber or lens optics



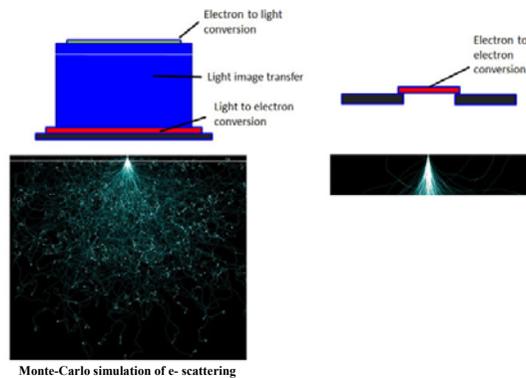
ICBM

CMOS: direct conversion of electron energy without fiber or lens optics



FEI website

High-resolution electron microscopes and direct electron detectors



Gatan website

ICBM

High-resolution electron microscopes and direct electron detectors

- back-thinning of Si-layer
- counting mode
- super-resolution mode
- dose fractionation
- movie processing
- beam-induced specimen drift correction
- exposure filtering (dose optimization / frame selection)

Brilot *et al.*, *JSB*, 2012.
Campbell *et al.*, *Structure*, 2012.
Li *et al.*, *Nat Methods*, 2013.
Ruskin *et al.*, *JSB*, 2013.
Liao *et al.*, *Nature*, 2013.
Fernández *et al.*, *Science* 2013.
McMullan *et al.*, *Ultramicroscopy*, 2014.
Allegretti *et al.*, *eLife*, 2014.
Wong *et al.*, *eLife*, 2014.
Bartesaghi *et al.*, *PNAS*, 2015.
Scheres, *eLife*, 2014.
Fischer *et al.*, *Nature*, 2015.
Khatter *et al.*, *Nature*, 2015.
Greber *et al.*, *Science*, 2015.
Bartesaghi *et al.*, *Science*, 2015.
Grant *et al.*, *eLife*, 2015.

...

ICBM

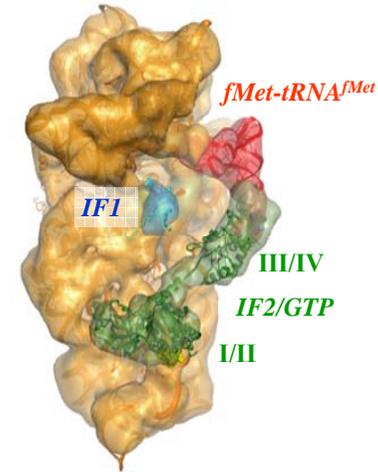
Atomic interpretation of cryo-EM maps

2 levels:

- global positioning of crystal/NMR structures, protein domains etc.
- (*ab initio*) atomic modelling



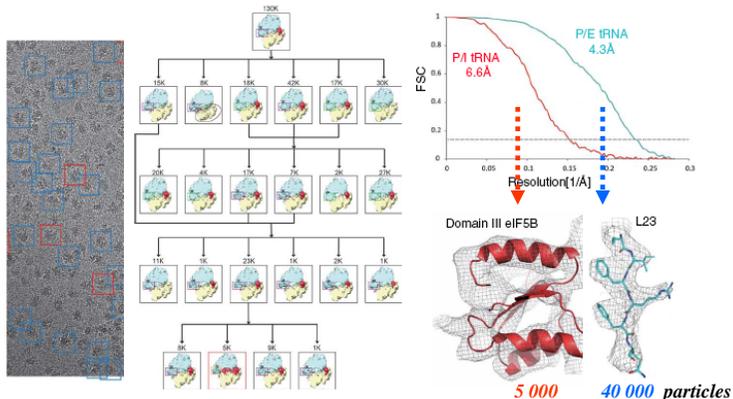
II. Atomic interpretation of cryo-EM maps



Simonetti *et al.*, *Nature*, 2008.



II. Atomic interpretation of cryo-EM maps



Strong heterogeneity of a reconstituted eukaryotic translation initiation (eIF5B) complex:
 sorting → 5143 particles, representing 3% of the population in the sample, 6.6 Å reconstruction.
 Fernández *et al.*, *Science* 2013; V. Ramakrishnan & S. Scheres.



Fitting of crystal structures into cryo-EM maps and atomic model building

- Fitting procedures:
- manual fitting (e.g. O, Coot, Pymol, Chimera...)
 - real space fitting
 - reciprocal space fitting

- 1) global search
- 2) refinement

At ~8-20 Å resolution:

- fit complete structures, protein or RNA domains, factors; usually backbone is enough.

Rigid body or flexible fitting (e.g. Situs, MDFF, Flex-EM, iMODfit, ...)

- use full maps or difference maps

At ~3-5 Å resolution:

- atomic model building: start with poly-Ala model, check register (position of C α atom), check secondary structure elements (e.g. direction of α -helices), refine with crystallography programs (CNS, Buster, Phenix, CCP4,...), add side-chains if clearly visible,

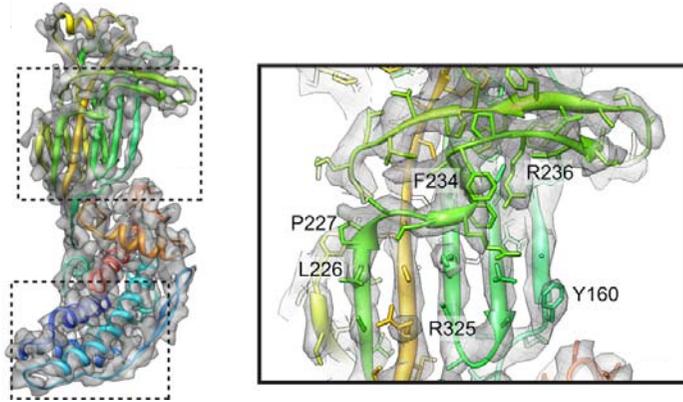
use information from multi-sequence alignments; check geometry with Ramachandran plot

In general: be careful with local minima and over-fitting/over-interpretation!

modelling



Atomic model building examples in cryo-EM



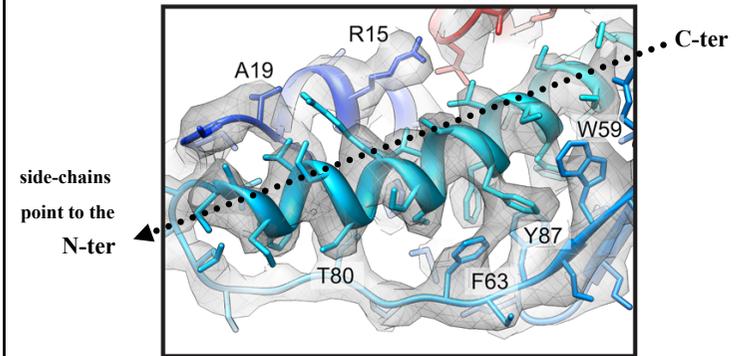
Rotavirus VP6 cryo-EM structure; 3.8 Å resolution; α -helices, β -sheets, bulky side-chains; Individual stands in the β -sheet region are separated, loops connecting the strands are defined.

Near-atomic-resolution cryo-EM for molecular virology.

Hryc CF, Chen DH, Chiu W. *Curr Opin Virol.* 2011.



Atomic model building examples in cryo-EM



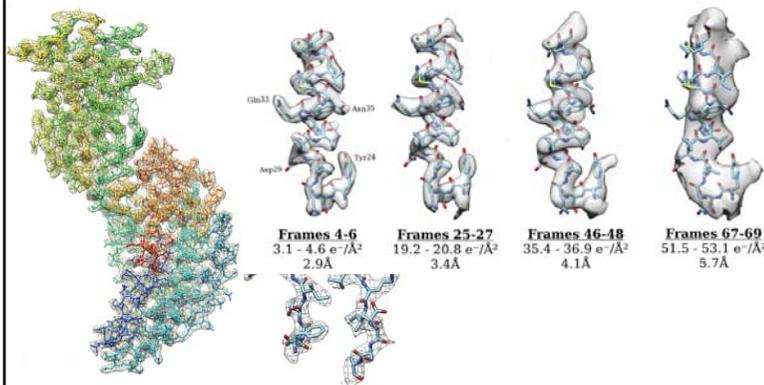
Rotavirus VP6 cryo-EM structure; 3.8 Å resolution; α -helices, β -sheets, bulky side-chains; Individual stands in the β -sheet region are separated, loops connecting the strands are defined.

Near-atomic-resolution cryo-EM for molecular virology.

Hryc CF, Chen DH, Chiu W. *Curr Opin Virol.* 2011.



Atomic model building examples in cryo-EM



Rotavirus VP6 cryo-EM structure; 2.6 Å resolution; side-chains are defined.

optimize exposure dose to select movie frames

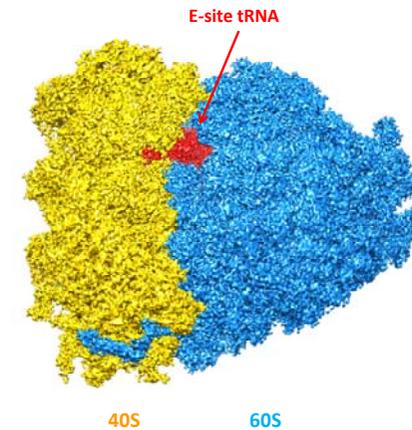
Grant, T., Grigorieff, N., *eLife*, 2015.



Human 80S structure

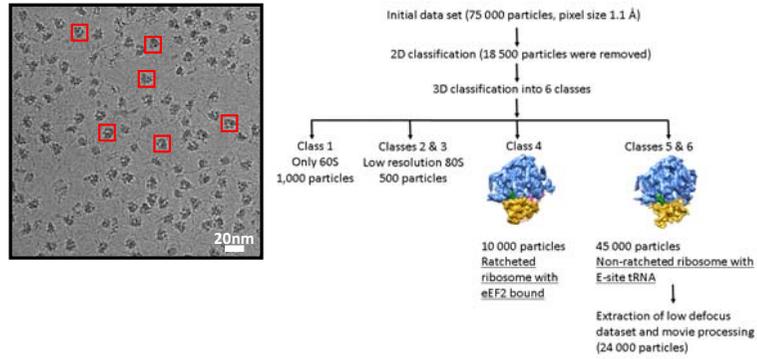
Titan Krios
Cs corrector
CMOS Falcon II

High Tension: 300kV
Defocus: from -0.6 to -1.4 (4.5) μ m
Magnification: 59k
Pixel Size: 1.08Å
Quantifoil Grids
R2/2
Conc.: 0.5mg/ml
Final no. of particles:
24,000
Movie processing
(3 frames only)



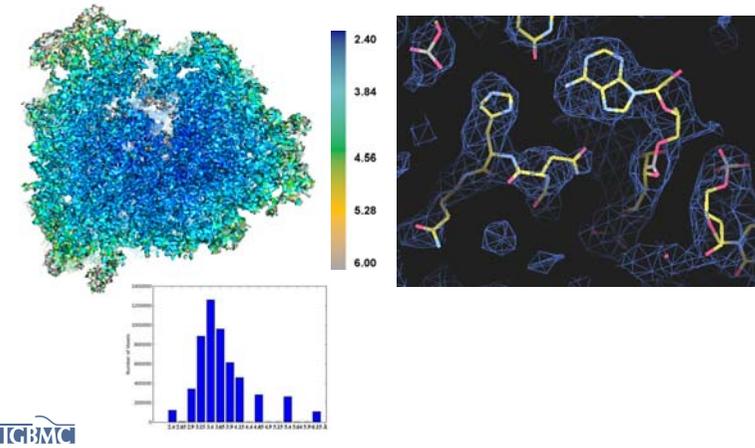
Atomic structure of the human ribosome

Structure determination at < 3 Å resolution by single particle cryo-EM



Atomic structure of the human ribosome

Structure determination at < 3 Å resolution by single particle cryo-EM



Usage of feature enhanced map for cryo-EM

- FEM calculation protocol**
- OMIT map filter (section 2.4)
 - Compute composite residual OMIT map: $M_{Coverage}$
 - Scale $M_{Coverage}$ by rms deviation (σ)
 - Compute filter: $M_{Filter}=0$ if $M_{Coverage}=1$ or else $M_{Filter}=1$
 - Initialize collector of integer maps, IMC (section 2.5)
 - For j in $1,16$:
 - Map randomization and averaging (sections 2.3, 2.5)
 - For $i, i=1,10$:
 - Compute 100 map coefficients (1,3) and average them: $M_{Coverage}$
 - Randomly remove 5% of terms from $M_{Coverage}$: $M_{Coverage}$
 - Compute Fourier map M_i from $M_{Coverage}$
 - Scale M_i by rms deviation
 - Truncate low values: set $M_i=0$ if $M_i < 0.5\sigma$
 - Eliminate regions in M_i with small volume (section 2.3)
 - Sharpen $M_i \rightarrow M_{Sharp}$ (section 2.6)
 - Histogram equalize $M_{Sharp} \rightarrow M_{Hist}$
 - Filter M_{Hist} by OMIT map: $M_{Filtered} = M_{Hist} * M_{Filter}$
 - Add $M_{Filtered}$ to IMC (section 2.5)
- Compute median map M_m from 16 maps in IMC (section 2.5), which is resulting Feature Enhanced Map, $M_{FEM} = M_m$

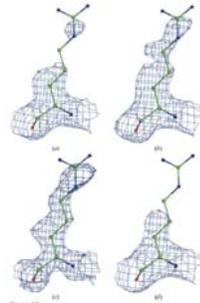


Figure 17
Maps for FEM were 100 residual. Any 100 terms (1,3) for Map from (1) at 1.00 Å. (2) Composite residual OMIT map from (1) at 1.00 Å. (3) Composite residual OMIT map from (1) at 1.00 Å. (4) FEM map from (1) at 1.00 Å.



Afonine *et al.*, *Acta Cryst D*, 2015.

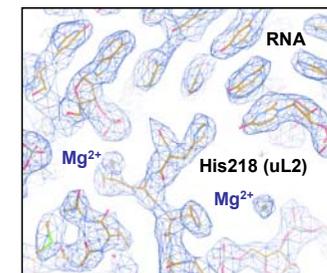
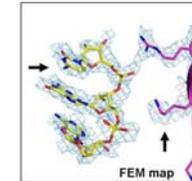
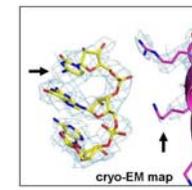
FEM: feature-enhanced map

Pavel V. Afonine,^{a,*} Nigel W. Moriarty,^a Marat Mustykhimov,^b Oleg V. Sobolev,^a Thomas C. Terwilliger,^c Dusan Turk,^{d,e} Alexandre Urzhumtsev,^{f,g} and Paul D. Adams^{a,h}



Atomic structure of the human ribosome

Atomic model building: combining cryo-EM and X-ray crystallography refinement procedures

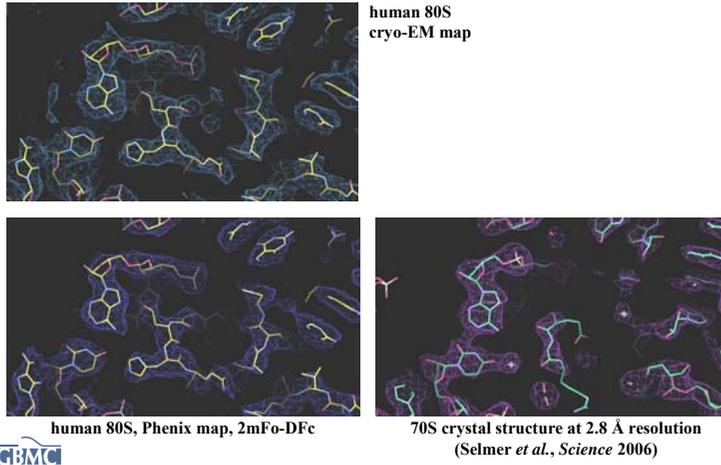


Fourier coefficients from cryo-EM map
and phases from refined atomic model
(= crystal structure refinement, 2mFo-DFc, σ -weighted)



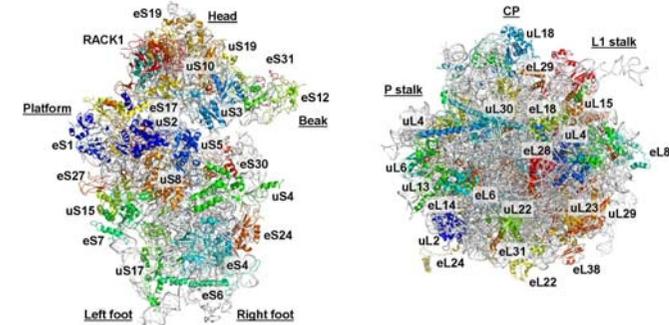
Atomic structure of the human ribosome

Comparison of maps determined by cryo-EM and X-ray crystallography



Atomic structure of the human ribosome

Overall structure: 80 proteins and 4 rRNA's (28S, 5, 5.8 and 18S),
~220 000 atoms (5866 nucleotides, ~11590 amino acids)



Ramachandran plot: preferred regions 67.9%; allowed regions 22.5%; 9.5% outliers, r.m.s. bond deviations of 0.008Å and angle deviations of 1.24°



V. Instrumentation & technical highlights towards multi-scale integration

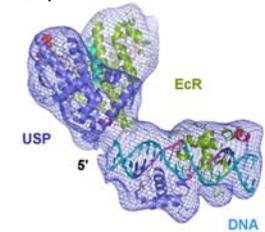
Latest cryo-EM structures in the 3 Å range or better:

- 2015 (likely incomplete selection):
- Fischer *et al.*, 2015
- Amunts *et al.*, 2015
- Greber *et al.*, 2015
- Khatter *et al.*, 2015
- Bartesaghi *et al.*, 2015
- Grant *et al.*, 2015
- ...



small,
challenging
complexes

cryo-EM, Polara



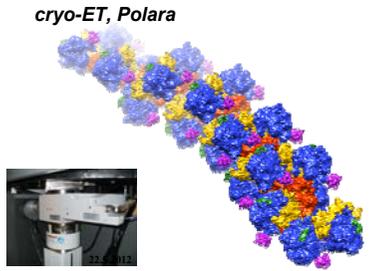
100 kDa
nuclear receptor complex
Maletta *et al.*, *Nature Comm.*, 2014.



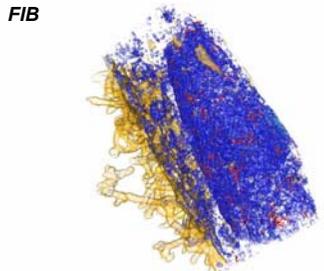
V. Instrumentation & technical highlights towards multi-scale integration

large, challenging complexes

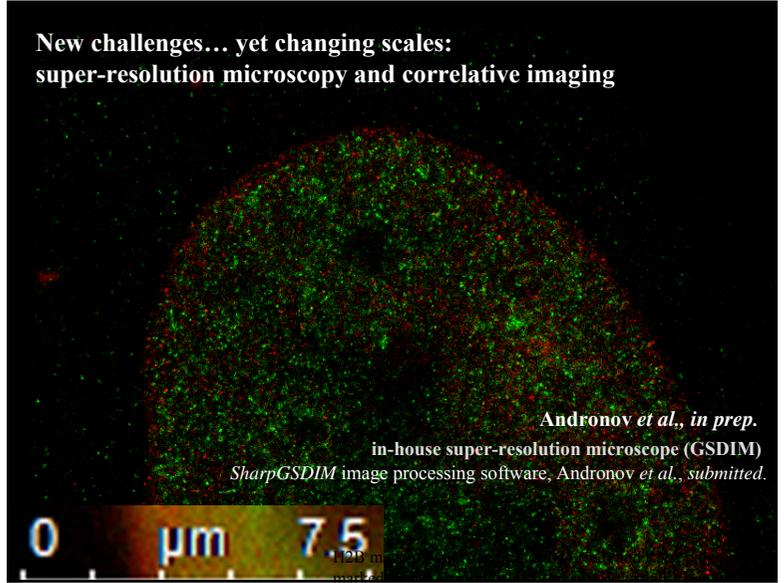
feasibility of FIB



100 MDa polyribosome complex
Myasnikov *et al.*, *Nature Comm.*, 2014.



12 nm 3D reconstruction of the nucleus
Orlov *et al.*, *Sci. Rep.*, 2015.



Andronov *et al.*, *in prep.*
in-house super-resolution microscope (GSDIM)
SharpGSDIM image processing software, Andronov *et al.*, *submitted.*

"Alsatian Ibis"

IBISS, a versatile and interactive tool for integrated sequence and 3D structure analysis

Beinstiner *et al.*, *Bioinformatics*, 2015, *in press.* <http://ibiss.igbmc.fr>



Molecular assemblies ← Single particles → Crystal structure
Myasnikov *et al.*, *Ultramicroscopy* 2013 Simonetti *et al.*, *Nature* 2008. Simonetti *et al.*, *Acta Cryst.* 2013
Myasnikov *et al.*, *submitted.* Simonetti *et al.*, *PNAS* 2013.



Integrative structural biology of (large) macromolecular complexes

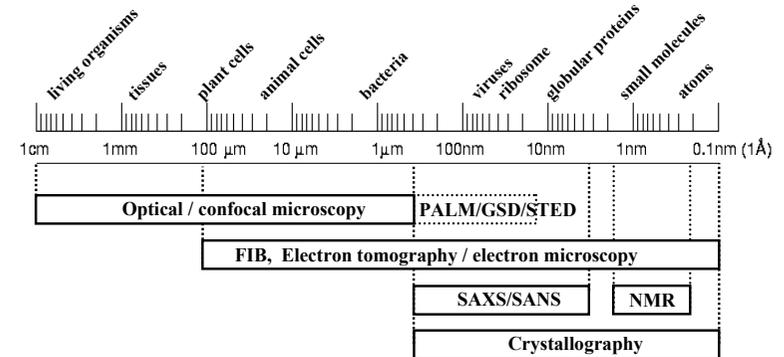
synergy-core for data integration:

- electron microscopy
- crystallography
- NMR
- SAXS
- bio-informatics
- biochemistry (purification, functional tests)

structure \rightleftharpoons function



Integrated Structural Biology



Challenging objects require multi-scale multi-resolution integration

→ integrative role of electron microscopy



Ménétrez *et al.*, RNA structure and folding (book), de Gruyter, 2013.