

Module II: Single Molecule Mechanics

25.3	Tue (6, GT)	Introductory unit: Single molecule mechanics	Read PBoC 8.3
27.3	Thu (GT)	Open discussion, Q&A	Ask questions
1.4	Tue (7)	Paul Hansma	Read paper
3.4	Thu (GT)	Discuss paper analysis	Bring completed worksheet
8.4	Tue (8)	Carlos Bustamante	Read paper
10.4	Thu (GT)	Discuss paper analysis	Bring completed worksheet
15.4	Tue (9)	Steven Block Outlook: Single molecule mechanics	Read paper
17.4	Thu (GT)	Discuss paper analysis	Bring completed worksheet
29.4	Tue (10)	Discussion: Single molecule Introductory unit: Collective/emergent properties	Read pdf

Previously



Paul Hansma

Development of AFMs to monitor individual protein molecules, in liquids (1990-2000)

Awarded in 2000:

“For pioneering contributions to the development of biological scanning probe microscopy and for the molecular resolution imaging of biological molecules in aqueous solutions.”



Carlos Bustamante

Study of DNA, RNA, and protein molecular mechanics (1990-2000)

Awarded in 2002:

“For his pioneering work in single molecule biophysics and the elucidation of the fundamental physics principles underlying the mechanical properties and forces involved in DNA replication and transcription.”

Imaging Crystals, Polymers, and Processes in Water with the Atomic Force Microscope

[B. DRAKE](#), [C. B. PRATER](#), [A. L. WEISENHORN](#), [S. A. C. GOULD](#), [T. R. ALBRECHT](#), [C. F. QUATE](#), [D. S. CANNELL](#), [H. G. HANSMA](#), AND [P. K. HANSMA](#) [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

SCIENCE • 24 Mar 1989 • Vol 243, Issue 4898 • pp. 1586-1589 • DOI: [10.1126/science.2928794](#)

Reversible Unfolding of Individual Titin Immunoglobulin Domains by AFM

[MATTHIAS RIEF](#), [MATHIAS GAUTEL](#), [FILIPP OESTERHELT](#), [JULIO M. FERNANDEZ](#), AND [HERMANN E. GAUB](#) [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

SCIENCE • 16 May 1997 • Vol 276, Issue 5315 • pp. 1109-1112 • DOI: [10.1126/science.276.5315.1109](#)

Direct Mechanical Measurements of the Elasticity of Single DNA Molecules by Using Magnetic Beads

[STEVEN B. SMITH](#), [LAURA FINZI](#), AND [CARLOS BUSTAMANTE](#) [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

SCIENCE • 13 Nov 1992 • Vol 258, Issue 5085 • pp. 1122-1126 • DOI: [10.1126/science.1439819](#)

Reversible Unfolding of Single RNA Molecules by Mechanical Force

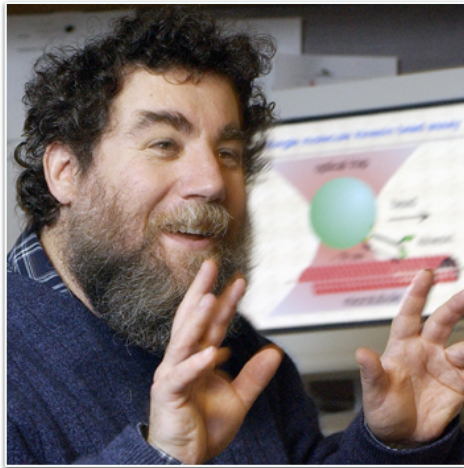
[JAN LIPHARDT](#), [BIBIANA ONOA](#), [STEVEN B. SMITH](#), [IGNACIO TINOCO, JR.](#), AND [CARLOS BUSTAMANTE](#) [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

SCIENCE • 27 Apr 2001 • Vol 292, Issue 5517 • pp. 733-737 • DOI: [10.1126/science.1058498](#)

Today's agenda

- ✦ Steven Block
- ✦ Outlook
 - ✦ Genome editing
 - ✦ Single molecule technologies in cells

Lecture 9 - On the work of Steven Block



Steven Block

Study of bimolecular complexes for DNA, RNA and intracellular transport

Awarded in 2008:

“For his originality in the direct measurement of forces and motions in single biomolecular complexes undergoing the nucleoside triphosphate hydrolysis reactions that drive intracellular transport, cell motility, and DNA and RNA replication.”

Introduction: Kinesin

State of the art - at the beginning of the '90s:

- ❖ Discovery of kinesin (1985)
- ❖ Many members of the kinesin superfamily, functions:
 - ❖ transport of vesicles or other cargo
 - ❖ regulating microtubule growth and shrinkage
 - ❖ mediating chromosome-microtubule interactions
- ❖ Kinesin walks in one direction: towards the microtubule plus end

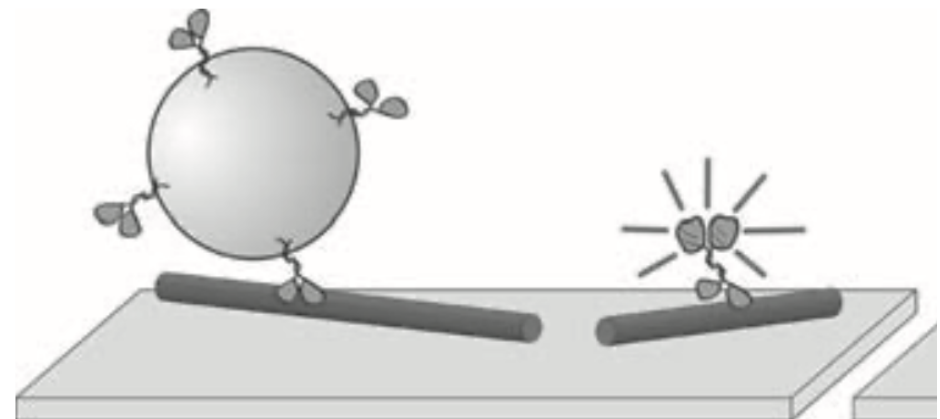
Main tool:

- ❖ Walking assay: Kinesin-coated, fluorescently labelled beads are imaged when moving on fixed microtubules

Cell, Vol. 42, 39–50, August 1985, Copyright © 1985 by MIT

Identification of a Novel Force-Generating Protein, Kinesin, Involved in Microtubule-Based Motility

Ronald D. Vale,^{*,†‡} Thomas S. Reese,^{*} and Michael P. Sheetz,^{*,†§}



Guiding Questions

- ❖ What was the scientific breakthrough?
- ❖ Can you identify a key insight(s) needed for the breakthrough?
- ❖ How do the findings align with or challenge existing models?
- ❖ Can you put this work in the context of others in the course?
Compare/contrast.
- ❖ What are some potential implications of their findings?
- ❖ Pay attention to the sources, their attributes and “genre”

MOLECULES MOVEMENT AND MOTORS

October 14, 2011



RADCLIFFE INSTITUTE
FOR ADVANCED STUDY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Steven Block: the impact

[Published: 22 November 1990](#)

Bead movement by single kinesin molecules studied with optical tweezers

[Steven M. Block](#), [Lawrence S. B. Goldstein](#) & [Bruce J. Schnapp](#)

[Nature](#) **348**, 348–352 (1990) | [Cite this article](#)

5132 Accesses | 823 Citations | 4 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

[Published: 21 October 1993](#)

Direct observation of kinesin stepping by optical trapping interferometry

[Karel Svoboda](#), [Christoph F. Schmidt](#), [Bruce J. Schnapp](#) & [Steven M. Block](#)

[Nature](#) **365**, 721–727 (1993) | [Cite this article](#)

8667 Accesses | 1540 Citations | 34 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

[Published: 13 November 2005](#)

Direct observation of base-pair stepping by RNA polymerase

[Elio A. Abbondanzieri](#), [William J. Greenleaf](#), [Joshua W. Shaevitz](#), [Robert Landick](#) & [Steven M. Block](#) 

[Nature](#) **438**, 460–465 (2005) | [Cite this article](#)

9033 Accesses | 661 Citations | 23 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Direct Measurement of the Full, Sequence-Dependent Folding Landscape of a Nucleic Acid

[MICHAEL T. WOODSIDE](#), [PETER C. ANTHONY](#), [...], AND [STEVEN M. BLOCK](#)

+3 authors

[Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

SCIENCE • 10 Nov 2006 • Vol 314, Issue 5801 • pp. 1001-1004 • DOI: [10.1126/science.1133601](#)

[Published: 19 August 2009](#)

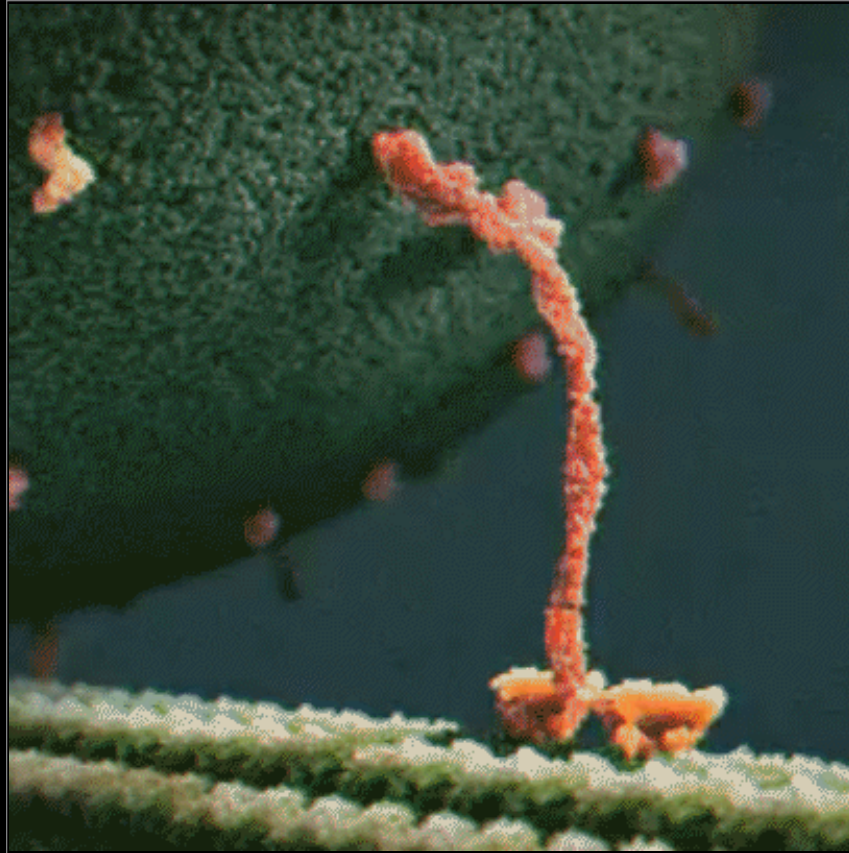
Direct observation of the binding state of the kinesin head to the microtubule

[Nicholas R. Guydosh](#) & [Steven M. Block](#) 

[Nature](#) **461**, 125–128 (2009) | [Cite this article](#)

1828 Accesses | 86 Citations | 1 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Steven Block: the impact



<https://xvivo.com/examples/the-inner-life-of-the-cell/>

Interview with Steven Block



Guiding Questions

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- ❖ Pay attention to the sources, their attributes and “genre”

Single Molecule Mechanics: Future

What's next?

- ❖ Genome editing
- ❖ Bringing single molecule measurements into cells



Jennifer Doudna
Nobel Prize, 2020

TED^xKFAS
x = independently organized TED event

TJ Ha



Xiaowei Zhuang
Breakthrough Prize, 2018

MINFLUX and MINSTED
The 2nd revolution in superresolution

Stefan W. Hell

Max Planck Institute for Multidisciplinary Sciences, Göttingen
&
Max Planck Institute for Medical Research, Heidelberg



ELMI, Turku
8 June 2022

Stefan Hell
Nobel Prize, 2014

Video resources

- "Shedding Light on Motor Function, One Molecule at a Time" by Steven M. Block - Stanford University
[Molecules, Movement, and Motors: Steven M. Block and Closing Remarks - Radcliffe Institute](#)
- Short interview with Steven Block:
[Applying physics to biology: single-molecule biophysics](#)
- iBiology lesson on Molecular Motor Proteins, by Ron Vale:
[Ron Vale \(UCSF, HHMI\) 1: Molecular Motor Proteins](#)
- ... and about discovering kinesin in the first place:
[Ron Vale \(UCSF, HHMI\) 1: Discovering Kinesin](#)
- Jennifer Doudna, Ted Talks: CRISPR's next advance is bigger than you think
- Taekjip Ha, TedX Talks: Eavesdropping on molecular conversations
- Xiaowei Zhuang, Breakthrough Prize: Imaging the molecular world of life

Scientific resources

- Block, S., Goldstein, L. & Schnapp, B. Bead movement by single kinesin molecules studied with optical tweezers. *Nature* **348**, 348–352 (1990). [link](#)
- Svoboda, K., Schmidt, C., Schnapp, B. *et al.* Direct observation of kinesin stepping by optical trapping interferometry. *Nature* **365**, 721–727 (1993). [link](#)
- Abbondanzieri, E., Greenleaf, W., Shaevitz, J. *et al.* Direct observation of base-pair stepping by RNA polymerase. *Nature* **438**, 460–465 (2005). [link](#)
- Michael T. Woodside *et al.* ,Direct Measurement of the Full, Sequence-Dependent Folding Landscape of a Nucleic Acid. *Science* **314**, 1001-1004(2006).DOI:[link](#)
- Guydosh NR, Block SM. Direct observation of the binding state of the kinesin head to the microtubule. *Nature*. 2009 Sep 3;461(7260):125-8. doi: 10.1038/nature08259. Epub 2009 Aug 19. PMID: 19693012; PMCID: PMC2859689. [link](#)
- A 2022 review on single molecule force spectroscopy, by Bustamante: [The development of single molecule force spectroscopy: from polymer biophysics to molecular machines | Quarterly Reviews of Biophysics | Cambridge Core](#)

Other

- An introduction to optical tweezers, from the Block lab: blocklab.stanford.edu/optical_tweezers.html
- Website for the xVivo project: amazing animations true to the science. [The Inner Life of the Cell - Cell Animation](#)