Soft X-ray Tomography (SXT)



National Center for X-ray Tomography Supported by NIH-NIGMS & DOE-BER

Soft X-ray Tomography (SXT)

- Imaging whole, hydrated cells in the native state
- No fixatives, no stains
- Cryo-immobilized
- 50 nm isotropic resolution (not limit; source is 2.4 nm)
- See molecules using correlated fluorescence and x-ray tomography



Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

The Advanced Light Source

Soft x-ray microscope, Xm-2





Soft x-ray microscope, Xm-2



- Condenser zone plate focuses source onto specimen
- Objective zone plate magnifies object onto CCD camera

Zone plate lenses - diffractive optics

Condenser lens



Objective lens



Diameter = 1 cmOuter zone width = 50 nm Diameter = $63 \mu m$ Outer zone width = 50 nm

- Resolution determined by width of outermost zone of the lens
- As resolution of zone plate increases, depth of focus decreases



Specimen stage

Specimen stage







Le Gros MA, McDermott G, Cinquin BP, Smith EA, Do M, Chao WL, Naulleau PP, and Larabell CA (2014). J Synchrotron Radiation. 21, 1370-1377.

Specimen stage



Image between K shell absorption edges of C (284 eV) & O₂ (543 eV)



Absorption is linear with thickness & concentration



Hanssen et al (2012). *J. Struct. Biol.* 177, 224-232

Absorption is linear with thickness & concentration





Soft X-ray Tomography



- Whole, hydrated cells in near-native state (cryo-immobilized)
- Natural, quantitative contrast; absorption of x-rays linear

Comparing reconstruction methods

Filtered back projection (FBP)

Kremer et al. 1996

Conjugate Gradient Least Squares

Parkinson et al. 1996 Penalized-Likelihood

Stayman & Fessler 2004 L1 regularized Conjugate Gradient Least Squares *Vandeghinste et al.* 2011)



Soft X-ray Tomography



- Whole, hydrated cells in near-native state (cryo-immobilized)
- Natural, quantitative contrast; absorption of x-rays linear

Segmenting structures



Le Gros et al. (2016) Cell Reports. 17(8), 2125-2136

Segmenting structures



Plot histogram of all voxels



Le Gros et al. (2016) Cell Reports. 17(8), 2125-2136

Absorption is linear with thickness & concentration



Absorption is linear with thickness & concentration



Segmentation - machine learning



Pelt & Sethian. (2018). PNAS doi/10.1073/PNAS.1715832114.

Isotropic resolution

Full rotation vs. limited tilt



Cinquin et al. (2014). J Cellular Biochemistry. 115:2009-216

Biological applications

Segmentation of *E. coli*





Structural organization of S. cerevisiae



Uchida et al. (2011) Yeast. 28, 227-236

Quantitative analysis of S. cerevisiae

Cell volume

S

s

G2

G2

M

M

160 140

120 100

80

60 40

20

0

100

80

60

40

20

0

G1

G1

Range of Cell Vol. (µm³)

Average Cytosol Vol. (µm³)



9.00 Average Organelle Volume (μm^3) In Haploid Cells 6.00 3.00 0.00 G1 S G2 M Average Organelle Volume (µm³) In Diploid Cells 9.00 6.00 3.00 0.00

S

M

G2

Organelle surface area



Uchida et al. (2011) Yeast. 28, 227-236

G1

Phenotypic consequences of genetic knockouts

Mitochondria



Photosynethisis, Bioenergy

Krishna Niyogi

University of California Berkeley & HHMI



Chromochloris zofingiensis

Single cell

16 cells











Roth et al. (2017) PNAS. E4296-E4305, doi/10.1073/pnas.1619928114

Chromochloris zofingiensis









16 cell stage







Testing drugs to treat sickle cell disease



Darrow et al. (2016) J. Cell Science. 129, 3511-3517

Testing efficacy of drugs to reverse sickling



Darrow et al. (2016) J. Cell Science. 129, 3511-3517

Malaria-infected red blood cells

Leann Tilley Eric Hanssen

University of Melbourne Australia



Malaria-infected RBC



Stage

Stage

Hanssen et al. (2012) J. Structural Biol. 177, 224-232

Role of nuclear organization in gene expression

Neurogenesis: from stem cell to neuron

- About 1200 Olfactory Receptor (OR) genes found in 18 mouse chromosomes
- Each neuron transcribes one out of ~2400 OR alleles
- Allele selection occurs during neurogenesis



Heterochromatin organization during neurogenesis



Le Gros MA, Clowney EJ, Magklara A, Yen A, Markenscoff-Papadimitriou E, Colquitt B, Myllys M, Kellis M, Lomvardas S, and Larabell CA. In review.

From stem cell to neuron



Le Gros et al. (2016) Cell Reports. 17(8), 2125-2136

HeterochromatinEuchromatin

Nuclear structure and gene selection



Clowney et al. Cell. 151, 724-737

Glomeruli specificity



K Monahan and S. Lomvardas (2015) Ann Rev Cell Dev Biol. 31, 721-40

Does 3D organization of the nucleus matter?

Nuclear structure and gene selection



Clowney et al. Cell. 151, 724-737

Nuclear structure and gene selection

SXT



FISH



Silenced genes

LBR expressing cell

Wild type cell





OR expression disrupted

Clowney et al. (2012) Cell. 151, 724-737

Glomeruli specificity





Clowney et al. Cell. 151, 724-737

Nuclear structure and gene selection



Le Gros et al. (2016) Cell Reports. 17(8), 2125-2136

Chromatin condensation during neurogenesis



Stavros Lomvardas

Columbia University

Chromatin networks

TEM



No islands of heterochromatin





Le Gros et al. (2016) Cell Reports. 17(8), 2125-2136

Chromatin networks

Stem cell

Differentiated cell



Le Gros et al. (2016) Cell Reports. 17(8), 2125-2136



Le Gros et al. (2016) Cell Reports. 17(8), 2125-2136.

New information about the nucleus

- Heterochromatin ~ 30% more compacted (crowded) than euchromatin
- Increased compaction of heterochromatin during differentiation
- Chromatin networks; no islands of chromatin
- Nuclear volume directly proportional to euchromatin volume (active gene region)



Le Gros et al. (2016) Cell Reports. 17(8), 2125-2136

Nuclear reorganization during hematopoiesis

Camilla Forsberg

University of California Santa Cruz



Ugarte et al. (2015) Stem Cell Reports. 5(5), 728-470



From stem cell to blood cell

During differentiation:

Percent heterochromatin increases

Ugarte et al. (2015) Stem Cell Reports. 5(5), 728-470

From stem cell to blood cell

During differentiation:

Nuclear volume decreases and peripheral heterochromatin thickens

Ugarte et al. (2015) Stem Cell Reports. 5(5), 728-470

HU multimerization shift controls nucleoid compaction

HU - histone like protein

Hammel et al., (2016) Science Advances. doi: 10.1126/sciadv.1600650.

Topology of the human genome

First 3D structural models of the human genome at 4Mb resolution

Tjong et al. (2016) PNAS. Mar 22; 113 E1663-1672

Imaging molecules in context

Correlated fluorescence and x-ray tomography

Cryo confocal tomography

Le Gros et al. (2009) J. Microscopy. 235(1), 1-8

Cryo-light tomography

Do et al. (2015) Arch Biochem & Biophys 581:111-121.

Correlated fluorescence and x-ray tomography

Do et al. (2015) Arch Biochem & Biophys 581:111-121.

Mid51-GFP foci at ER - mitochondria contact sites

Elgass et al. (2015) J. Cell Science. 128(15), 2795-2804

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