From facilitated diffusion to Lévy flights

— POSTECH Pohang, 6th February 2018 —

– Typeset by FoilT $_{\!\!E\!} \! X$ –

1 ..

Hitting a visible target: an old science



Random strategy for hidden target: intermittent search



& now it's time for something completely different



Luria-Delbrück experiment (1943)



The Luria-Delbrück experiment or Fluctuation Test demonstrates that in bacteria mutations against a specific viral infection arise *randomly over time*, and are not induced by exposure to the virus itself. Those bacteria with the appropriately mutated genes will survive and proliferate the resistance.

Max Delbrück and Salvador Luria (Nobel Prize, 1969)

SE Luria & M Delbrück, Genetics (1943)

Main protagonist: bacteria cells such as E.coli





 $(\exists$ also cells with fully delocalised chromatin)

Gene regulation is intrinsically stochastic

Phenotypic difference in a single cell line:



Sources of cellular noisiness: chemical vs physical



Gene expression one molecule at a time



synthesised proteins (bursty) along three cell lineages, dashed lines marking cell divisions

Yu et al, Science (2006); I Golding et al, Cell (2005)

Genetic information is stored on DNA





The Eagle, Cambridge Discovery of DNA

On this spot, on February 28, 1953, Francis Crick and James Watson made the first public announcement of the discovery of DNA with the words "We have discovered the secret of life". Throughout their early partnership Watson & Crick dined in this room on six days every week

3

A CALLER

Central Dogma of Molecular Biology

by FRANCIS CRICK MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 2QH

The central dogma of molecular biology deals with the detailed residue-by-residue transfer of sequential information. It states that such information cannot be transferred from protein to either protein or nucleic acid.



Fig. 1. The arrows show all the possible simple transfers between the three families of polymers. They represent the directional flow of detailed sequence information.



Fig. 2. The arrows show the situation as it seemed in 1958. Solid arrows represent probable transfers, dotted arrows possible transfers. The absent arrows (compare Fig. 1) represent the impossible transfers postulated by the central dogma. They are the three possible arrows starting from protein.

Gene regulation by transcription factors: Lac repressor



Smoluchowski search picture

Search rate for a particle with diffusivity D_{3d} to find an immobile target of radius a (assuming immediate binding):

 $k_{
m on}^S = 4\pi D_{
m 3d} a$

Protein-DNA interaction: $a \approx \{\text{few bp}\} \approx 1 \text{nm}$ $D_{3d} \approx 10 \mu \text{m}^2/\text{sec}$ (typically $\emptyset_{\text{TF}} \approx 5 \text{nm}$):

$$k_{\mathrm{on}}^S pprox rac{10^8}{(\mathrm{mol/l}) imes \mathrm{sec}}$$



Lac repressor [AD Riggs, S Bourgeois, M Cohn, J Mol Biol 53, 401 (1970)]:

$$k_{\rm on} \approx \frac{10^{10}}{({
m mol}/l) \times {
m sec}}$$

\rightarrow Facilitated diffusion picture

M v Smoluchowski, Physikal. Zeitschr. (1916); P von Hippel and O Berg, J Biol Chem (1989)

Facilitated diffusion: the Berg-von Hippel model



Non-specific binding energy based on in vivo data



 $[\mathbf{X}] = [\mathbf{X}_{\mathrm{free}}] + [\mathbf{X}_{@\mathrm{O}_{\mathrm{P}}}] + [\mathbf{X}_{\mathrm{NSB}}]$

 $\Delta G_{\rm NSB}({
m CI}) = -4.1 \pm 0.9 \, {
m kcal/mol},$ $\Delta G_{\rm NSB}({
m Cro}) = -4.2 \pm 0.8 \, {
m kcal/mol}$



A Bakk & RM, FEBS Lett (2004); J Theoret Biol (2004)



 $\Delta = 1.74 \pm 0.35, 1.85 \pm 0.24, 2.08 \pm 0.39, 1.95 \pm 0.17$

YM Wang, RH Austin & EC Cox, PRL (2006); IM Sokolov, RM, K Pant & MC Williams, Biophys J (2005)

Calculating facilitated diffusion (our version): manifestation of intermittency

$$\frac{\partial n(x,t)}{\partial t} = \left(D_{1d} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} - k_{\text{off}} \right) n(x,t) - j(t)\delta(x) + G(x,t) + k_{\text{off}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx' \int_{0}^{t} dt' W_{\text{bulk}}(x-x',t-t')$$

n: line density of TFs

x: chemical co-ordinate along DNA

 k_{off} : unbinding rate of non-specifically bound TFs

$$D_{1d}$$
: 1D diffusion constant ($\sim 10^{-2}D_{3d}$)

$$j(t)$$
: flux into target (δ sink @ $x = 0$)

G: virgin flux of previously unbound TFs

 W_{bulk} : 3D diffusion propagator

Long chain, fast dynamics: Lévy flights

The antenna effect

Target search rate for cylindrical DNA model:

$$k_{\rm on} \sim 4\pi D_{3d} \ell_{\rm sl}^{\rm eff} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{\ln(\ell_{\rm sl}^{\rm eff}/r_{\rm int})}}$$

Sliding length:

Effective sliding length:

$$\ell_{\rm sl}^{\rm eff} = \sqrt{\frac{k_{\rm on}}{2\pi D_{3d}}} \times \ell_{\rm sl}$$





B van den Broek, MA Lomholt, S-M Kalisch, RM & GJL Wuite, PNAS (2008)

More compact DNA conformations speed up the search

[NaCl]	$k_{\mathrm{on}}^{\mathrm{straight}}$ [Ms]	$l_{\rm sl}^{\rm eff}$ [bp]	$1/\sqrt{l_{\rm DNA}}$ [bp]	$\ell_p \; [bp]$	R_{theory}	$R_{\rm measured}$
0 mM	0.8×10^{8}	195	518	188	1.18	1.3 ± 0.2
25 mM	1.0×10^{8}	250	485	175	1.23	1.1 ± 0.2
100 mM	1.0×10^{8}	250	150	159	1.67	1.7 ± 0.3
150 mM	0.9×10^{9}	15.5	120	153	1.15	1.3 ± 0.4

 $R = k_{\rm on}^{\rm max}/k_{\rm on}^{\rm straight}$: enhancement ratio of attachment rates @ max and straight configuration)



MA Lomholt, B van den Broek, S-M Kalisch, GJL Wuite & RM, PNAS (2009)

Speed-stability paradox in TF search along DNA



From simulations:

- B: Search & recognition modes for a zinc finger protein
- C: Intersegmental transfer of the protein

Facilitated diffusion: rate with search & recognition states



In vivo bacterial gene regulation: E.coli



Chromosome is approx an SAW [M Buenemann & P Lenz, PLoS ONE (2010)]



M Bauer & RM, PLoS ONE (2013)

In vivo gene regulation consistent with facilitated diffusion



@ optimum the target association time is $\tau \approx 311$ sec (no fit parameter) single molecule experiment: $\tau_{exp} = 354$ sec [Elf et al, Science (2007)]

M Bauer & RM, PLoS ONE (2013)

TF regulation effects gene proximity

Does distance between genes interacting via TFs matter?

Gene-gene distance distribution for local TFs (regulate < 4 operons, left) and global (regulate ≥ 4 operons, right). Blue line: random location of genes



Rapid search hypothesis



Spatial aspects: do gene locations matter?

Képès: TF targets are typically located next to or at regular distances from the TF gene \rightarrow TF gene-target pairs close in 3D

Kuhlman & Cox: • localisation of TF near TF gene • TF distribution highly heterogeneous

• TF gene influences distribution



Kepes et al, J Mol Biol (2004); Kuhlman & Cox, Mol Syst Biol (2012)

Transient intracellular signalling is diffusion controlled



Result 1: transient response to repression



Mean field approximation (full & dashed lines):

$$p_{on}(r,t) = \left\langle \frac{1 + K_{\rm NS} \rho_{\rm TF}(r,t)}{1 + \tilde{K} \rho_{\rm TF}(r,t)} \right\rangle \approx \frac{1 + K_{\rm NS} \langle \rho_{\rm TF}(r,t) \rangle}{1 + \tilde{K} \langle \rho_{\rm TF}(r,t) \rangle}$$

O Pulkkinen & RM, PRL (2013)

Result 2: time dependence of gene response



Result 3: gene location matters



Numerical analysis confirms relevance of proximity effect



Sequence (binding energy) effects on target search time



Energetic funnel facilitated diffusion





T Ambjörnsson, SK Banik, O Krichevsky & RM, Phys Rev Lett (2006)

36
First-past-the-post: few-encounter limit & geometry control



T Mattos, C Mejía-Monasterio, RM & G Oshanin, PRE (2012); A Godec & RM, PRX (2016); Sci Rep (2016)

First-past-the-post for 2-channel diffusion



Few-encounter effect in cylindrical domain /w finite reactivity





D Grebenkov, RM & G Oshanin, NJP (2017); E-print (2018)

Anomalous diffusion of GFP in cell cytoplasm & nucleus



 $\langle \mathbf{r}^2(t) \rangle \simeq K_{\alpha} t^{\alpha}$: Subdiffusion when $0 < \alpha < 1$

Anomalous facilitated diffusion



Many unknowns in the modelling:

Physical mechanism of anomalous diffusion & cutoff time of anomalous motion?

Effects of crowders with different sizes: see eg Shin et al, Soft Matter (2015) influencing immediate rebinding?

DNA conformations & dynamics due to crowding & active motion: Shin et al, NJP (2015), NJP (2016)

L Liu, AG Cherstvy & RM, JPC (2017)

Subdiffusion does not compromise cellular fitness



Low-# Michaelis-Menten



Active sensing limit



A Godec & RM, PRE(R) & PRE (2015), Sci Rep (2016) 43

O Pulkkinen & RM, Sci Rep (2015)

Gene regulation in eukaryotic cells



Exchange versus nucleic membrane, chromosomal dynamics & packaging

Active motion: motor transport, drag, or swirling (cytoplasmic streaming), see, e.g., Seisenberger et al, Science (2001) or Reverey et al, Sci Rep (2015)

K. Nørregaard, RM, C. Ritter, K. Berg-Sørensen & L. Oddershede, Chem Rev (2017)

Colocalisation still exists in the nucleus



Increase of percentage Q of coregulated pairs of genes in chromosome 19 which colocalise during the MD protocol. Red (???) highlighted regions designate chromosome regions involved in the coregulatory network

M Di Stefano, A Rosa, V Belcastro, D di Bernardo, & C Micheletti, PLoS Comp Biol (2013)

Superdiffusion in living Acanthamoeba castellani



JF Reverey, J-H Jeon, H Bao, M Leippe, RM & C Selhuber-Unkel, Sci Rep (2015)

46

Molecular motor dynamics

A large cargo subdiffuses freely & causes anomalous transport by the motor in the viscoelastic, crowded liquid of cells:

 $\langle x(t) \rangle \simeq t^{\alpha} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \langle \Delta x^2(t) \rangle \simeq t^{2\alpha}$





D Robert, T-H Nguyen, F Gallet & C Wilhelm, PLoS ONE (2010); I Goychuk, V Kharchenko & RM, PLoS ONE (2014), PCCP (2014) 47

Lévy walks of molecular motors in living cells



Run: motor motion on microtubule for $1/k_{\rm off}$ Flight: consecutive runs persisting in direction



48

K Chen, B Wang & S Granick, Nat Mat (2015)

Lévy foraging: on the watchout for sparse targets



Rôle of the Central Limit Theorem (de Moivre, 1733)



If the distribution of the sum $Y_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_n$ of i.i.d. random variables X_n converges to some distribution P for $n \to \infty$, P is stable. If the variance of Y_n is finite, P is Gaussian (Gnedenko-Kolmogorov GCLT).

$$f_{\alpha,\beta}(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \operatorname{Re} \int_0^\infty \exp\left(-\mathrm{i} x z - z^\alpha \exp\left\{\mathrm{i} \frac{\pi\beta}{2}\right\}\right) \iff f_{\alpha,\beta}(x) \simeq \frac{1}{|x|^{1+\alpha}} \ (0 < \alpha < 2)$$

Examples: Gauß distribution ($\alpha = 2$), Cauchy/Lorentz distribution ($\alpha = 1$)

W Feller, An Introduction to Probability Theory and its Applications; BD Hughes, Random Walks and Random Environments 50

The Lévy flight model

Ingredients: Poisson waiting time and Lévy jump length distribution:

$$\psi(t) = \tau^{-1} \exp\left(-t/\tau\right) \quad \lambda(x) = \mathsf{L}_{\alpha}(x,\sigma) \sim \sigma^{\alpha}/|x|^{1+\alpha}$$

Fractional diffusion equation:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}P(x,t) = K^{\alpha}\frac{\partial^{\alpha}}{\partial |x|^{\alpha}}P(x,t) \quad \therefore \quad K^{\alpha} = \frac{\sigma^{\alpha}}{\tau}$$

Fractional derivative:

$$\frac{\partial^{\alpha}}{\partial |x|^{\alpha}} P(x,t) \equiv \kappa^{-1} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{P(x',t)}{|x-x'|^{\alpha-1}} \therefore \kappa \equiv 2\Gamma(2-\alpha) \left| \cos \frac{\pi \alpha}{2} \right|$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \mathscr{F}\{\partial^{\alpha} P(x,t)/\partial |x|^{\alpha}\} = -|k|^{\alpha} P(k,t)$$

Solution in Fourier space:

$$P(k,t) = \exp\left(-K^{\alpha}|k|^{\alpha}t\right) \qquad \rightsquigarrow \qquad P(x,t) \simeq \frac{K^{\alpha}t}{|x|^{1+\alpha}}$$

RM & J Klafter, Phys Rep (2000); JPA (2004)

Lévy foraging hypothesis: to avoid oversampling

Shlesinger & Klafter (1986): Lévy flights as efficient search mechanism

Lévy foraging hypothesis: Superdiffusive motion governed by fat-tailed propagators optimise encounter rates under specific (but common) circumstances: hence some species must have evolved mechanisms that exploit these properties [...].

Lévy flight (Mandelbrot): $\psi(t) = \tau^{-1} \exp(-t/\tau) \wedge$

 $\lambda(x) \simeq |x|^{-1-lpha}, \ 0 < lpha < 2 \ \curvearrowright \ \langle x^2(t)
angle o \infty$

Lévy walk (Shlesinger, Klafter & Wong, JSP, 1982): spatiotemporal coupling

 $\psi(x,t) = \lambda(x)\delta(x - |v|t) \quad \curvearrowright \quad \langle x^2(t) \rangle \simeq t^{3-\alpha}$



Viswanathan GE, da Luz MGE, Raposo EP, Stanley HE, The physics of foraging (CUP, 2011)





Non-locality due to long-distance travel



Courtesy, D Brockmann



D Brockmann, Physics World (2010)

C

111

Human movement behaviour: money sticks



D Brockmann, L Hufnagl, T Geisel, Nature 439, 462 (2006)

Single human motion patterns: mobile phone tracking



The jumps of the spider monkeys



The good old albatross story: some do it



Dynamic soaring (unflapping flight)

Shear wind field >30 km/h:

- [1] bird climbs into wind
- $\left[2\right]$ turns to leeward
- [3] descends
- [4] again turns into wind

Viswanathan et al, Nature (1996, 1999): Lévy flight of albatross Edwards et al, Nature (2007): flawed data analysis

Humphries et al, PNAS (2012): single birds indeed Lévy fly



Overshooting the target: leapovers



T Koren, MA Lomholt, AV Chechkin, J Klafter & RM, PRL (2007); AV Chechkin, RM, VY Gonchar & LV Tanatarov, JPA (2003) 62

Getting around the leapover problem



Both models: Cauchy distribution $\lambda(x) \sim |x|^{-2}$ optimises search for <u>rare</u> targets

Naturally intermittent: facilitated diffusion





Cyclization is returning random walk $(t \div \ell)$:

 $p(\ell) \sim \begin{cases} \ell^{-d/2} & \text{phantom chain} \\ \ell^{-d\nu - (\gamma - 1)} & \text{SAW, } \nu \approx \frac{3}{5}, \ \gamma pprox \frac{7}{6} \end{cases}$

Probability for contact is more restrictive:

$$p(\ell) \sim \ell^{-d\nu + \sigma_4} \sim \ell^{-1 - 1.2} \land \langle \ell^2 \rangle \to \infty$$



J des Cloizeaux & G Jannink, Polymers in Solution (1990); B Duplantier, J Stat Phys (1989); Exptl ν : F Valle et al, PRL (2005) 64



AV Chechkin, VYu Gonchar, J Klafter & RM, Europhys Lett 2005

65

Lévy flights do not always optimise random search



VV Palyulin, AV Chechkin & R Metzler, PNAS (2014), JSTAT (2014)

66

Area coverage of Lévy flights

LFs with jump length distribution $\lambda(x)\simeq \sigma^{\mu}/|x|^{1+\mu}$



M Vahabi, J Schulz & RM, PRE (2013)

Ultraweak ergodicity breaking of Lévy walks & flights

$$\langle x^2(t) \rangle \sim \frac{2(\alpha-1)}{(3-\alpha)(2-\alpha)} t^{3-\alpha} \sim (\alpha-1)\overline{\delta^2(t)}, \ 1 < \alpha < 2$$

Time averaged MSD

$$\overline{\delta^2(\Delta)} = \frac{1}{T - \Delta} \int_0^{T - \Delta} \left(x(t + \Delta) - x(t) \right)^2 dt$$
$$\overline{\delta^2(\Delta)} \sim 2 \left(\frac{(1 + \Delta)^{3 - \alpha} - 1}{(3 - \alpha)(2 - \alpha)} - \frac{\Delta}{2 - \alpha} \right) + \left(\frac{\alpha - 1}{3} \left[\frac{\Delta}{T} \right]^3 - \alpha \left[\frac{\Delta}{T} \right]^2 \right) T^{3 - \alpha}$$

Linear response for constant external force f ($0 < \alpha < 2$):

$$\langle x(t) \rangle \sim \beta f \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}t^2, & 0 < \alpha < 1\\ \frac{1}{2-\alpha}t^{3-\alpha}, & 1 < \alpha < 2 \end{cases} \qquad \langle x(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2}\beta f \langle x^2(t) \rangle$$

A Godec & RM, PRL (2013), PRE (2013); D Froemberg & E Barkai, PRE (2013), EPJE (2013)



Ubb. 140. Erlegter Albatroß mit 2,80 Meter Spannweite. In der Mitte Kapitänlt. Siburg und Oberlt. Löwisch.

Non-Gaussian diffusion in viscoelastic systems

So far consensus: submicron tracer motion in cytoplasm is FBM-like, i.e., Gaussian RNA-protein particles in E.coli & S.cerevisiae perform exponential anomalous diffusion:



Non-Gaussian diffusion with diffusing diffusivity

B Wang, J Kuo, SC Bae & S Granick, Nat Mat (2012): superstatistical approach $P(x,t)=\int_0^\infty G(x,t)p(D)dD$

MV Chubinsky & G Slater, PRL (2014); R Jain & KL Sebastian, JPC B (2016): diffusing diffusivity

Our minimal model for diffusing diffusivity with Fickian $\langle x(t) \rangle = 2D_{\text{eff}}t$:

$$\dot{x}(t) = \sqrt{2D(t)}\xi(t)$$
$$D(t) = y^{2}(t)$$
$$\dot{y}(t) = -y + \eta(t)$$



AV Chechkin, F Seno, RM & IM Sokolov, PRX (2017)

Crowding in membranes: non-Gaussian lipid/protein diffusion



J-H Jeon, M Javanainen, H Martinez-Seara, RM & I Vattulainen, PRX (2016)
Geometry-induced violation of Saffman-Delbrück relation



Crowded membrane & 2DLJ discs:

 $D(R) \simeq 1/R$

M Javanainen, H Seara Monne, RM & I Vattulainen, JPC Lett (2017)

Non-Gaussian diffusion of Dictyostelium cells



AG Cherstvy, O Nagel, C Beta & RM (2018)

Power spectral density of a single Brownian trajectory



Power spectrum /w conserved slope

Amplitude distribution for various \boldsymbol{d}

Stochasticity of fixational eye movements



CJJ Herrmann, RM & R Engbert, Sci Rep (2017)

Time averages & ageing in financial market time series



AG Cherstvy, D Vinod, E Aghion, AV Chechkin & RM, NJP (2017)

77

Journal of Physics A's new Biological Modelling section





For anything interesting too mathematical for Biophys J, Phys Biol, or J Theoret Biol, or not general enough for PRL or NJP ...

Suggestions for topical reviews & special issues are welcome



Gene expression based on stochastic binding of TFs; facilitated diffusion model verified in vitro for certain TFs. Speed-stability paradox

Facilitated diffusion model also applies to in vivo gene regulation

■ Distance matters: conformation of DNA in facilitated diffusion & genegene distance for TF-TU regulation—support for rapid search hypothesis

III (Transient) anomalous diffusion of TFs in vivo

Anomalous diffusion models: RM & al, PCCP (2014)
Anomalous diffusion in membranes: RM & al, BBA Biomembranes (2016)
Single molecule manipulation & tracking: C Nørregaard et al, Chem Rev (2017)

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80