FA1-MS05-T01

Filling the missing cone: Automatic recovery of data in tilt-limited microscopy. Henning Stahlberg[a], Xiangyan Zeng[b], Daniel J. Masiel[c], Nigel Browning[c], John Spence[d], Kaoru Mitsuoka[e], and Bryant Gipson[a] [a]*C-CINA, Biozentrum, University Basel, Switzerland,* [b]*Dep. of Math and Comp. Science, Fort Valley State Univ., GA 31030, USA ,*[c]*Dep. Chemical Engineering and Mat. Sciences, UC Davis, Davis, CA 95616, USA,* [d]*Dep. of Physics, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287, USA,* [e]*Biomedicinal Information Research Center, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Tokyo, Japan*
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Electron Crystallography of 2D protein crystals is a powerful tool for the determination of membrane protein structure. It is, however, dependent on the quality of the 2D crystalline arrangement, and in the past suffered from the tilt-limited data collection scheme in form of a missing cone in Fourier space, producing resolution loss in the direction perpendicular to the membrane plane. We here describe a single-particle approach to 2D crystals, employing a maximum likelihood algorithm [1]. We further describe a solution for the full recovery of the missing cone data, based on projective constraint optimization that, that for sufficiently oversampled data produces complete recovery of unmeasured data in the missing cone. We apply this method to an experimental dataset of bacteriorhodopsin and show that, in addition to producing superior results compared to traditional reconstruction methods, full, reproducible, recovery of the missing cone from noisy data is possible. Finally, we present an automatic implementation of the refinement routine as open source, freely distributed, software to be included in our 2dx software package [2] (available at http://2dx.org).

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Keywords: missing cone, electron crystallography, membrane protein structure

FA1-MS05-T02

Small angle X-ray scattering from biological macromolecules. Alexey G. Kikhney[a], [a]*European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Hamburg Outstation, Germany*
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Small-angle X-ray scattering (SAXS) experiences a renaissance in the studies of macromolecular solutions allowing one to study the structure of native particles and to rapidly analyze structural changes in response to variations in external conditions. Novel data analysis methods [1] significantly enhanced resolution and reliability of structural models provided by the technique. Emerging automation of the experiment, data processing and interpretation make solution SAXS a streamline tool for large scale structural studies in molecular biology. The method provides low resolution macromolecular shapes *ab initio* and is readily combined with other structural and biochemical techniques in multidisciplinary studies. In particular, rapid validation of predicted or experimentally obtained high resolution models in solution, identification of biologically active oligomers and addition of missing fragments to high resolution models are possible. For macromolecular complexes, quaternary structure is analyzed by rigid body movements/rotations of individual subunits. Recent developments made it possible also to quantitatively characterize flexible macromolecular systems, including intrinsically unfolded proteins. The novel methods will be illustrated by advanced SAXS applications to solutions ob biological macromolecules.

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Keywords: SAXS, Biological macromolecules, Rapid characterization

FA1-MS05-T03

Electron diffractive imaging of TiO_2 nanocrystals at 70 pm resolution. C. Giannini[a], L. De Caro[a], E. Carlino[b], G. Caputo[c,d], P. D. Cozzoli[c,d]. [a]*Istituto di Cristallografia (IC-CNR) via Amendola 122/O, 70126 Bari, Italy.* [b]*TASC-INFM National Laboratory, Area Science Park - Basovizza, Bld MM SS 14, Km 163.5, 34012 Trieste, Italy.* [c]*Scuola Superiore ISUFI, Università del Salento, Distretto Tecnologico, Via per Arnesano Km 5, 73100 Lecce, Italy.* [d] *National Nanotechnology Laboratory (NNL) of CNR-INFM, Unità di Ricerca IIT, Via per Arnesano Km 5, 73100 Lecce, Italy.*
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The structure-function relationship understanding of a nanomaterial requires an accurate map of its shape, strain and surface/interface structure. Electron diffractive imaging (EDI) has recently proved to be a powerful method to image shape and internal structure of Au [1] and CdS [2] nanocrystals of few nm diameters with a spatial resolution of 80-100 pm. A synergic use of measured diffraction patterns and phase-retrieval techniques allowed to bypass the need for imaging lenses, avoiding the resolution limits associated to their aberrations. We here phase-retrieved electron diffractive HRTEM images of individual TiO_2 nanocrystals at 70 pm resolution, even exposing the specimen to a low electron dose [3]. For the first time, while retrieving the detailed crystal structure of the oxide nanomaterial, O atomic columns were visualized in the coupled EDI-HRTEM experiment without the need for any lens aberration corrector [4]. In addition, our approach allowed us to reveal subtle deviation of the nanocrystal unit cell structure from the bulk counterpart. These highlithing results demonstrate EDI-HRTEM as a unique tool to study the actual atomic structure of nanomaterials with an unprecedented level of accuracy and sensitivity to light atomic elements.
In principle, the resolution is only diffraction and dose limited (dependent on wavelength, detector aperture size and exposure time), giving to EDI-HRTEM the potential to achieve record sub-atomic resolutions and promising numerous applications in life and materials sciences.

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Kwon, K. W. & Shim, M. Sub-ångström-resolution diffractive imaging of single nanocrystals. *Nat. Phys.,* 2009, 5, 129-133. [3] De Caro L., Carlino E., Caputo G., Cozzoli P.D., Giannini C., Electron diffractive imaging of oxygen atoms in nanocrystals at sub-ångström resolution, Nature Nanotechnology 2010 (DOI 10.1038/NNANO.2010.55). [4] Urban, K. W. Studying Atomic Structures by Aberration-Corrected Transmission Electron Microscopy. Science 321, 506-510 (2008).

Keywords: imaging, nanocrystals, phasing

FA1-MS05-T04

Self -assembly of the S-layer protein SbsC. Tea Pavkov-Keller[a], Janet Vonck[b], Eva M. Egelseer[c], Uwe B. Sleytr[c], Werner Kühlbrandt[b], Walter Keller[a], [a]*Institute of Molecular Biosciences, Karl-Franzens University, Graz, Austria.* [b]*Structural Biology, Max-Planck Institute of Biophysics, Frankfurt, Germany.* [c]*Department of Nanobiotechnology, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria.*
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Crystalline bacterial cell surface layer (S-layer) proteins are one of the most abundant cellular proteins with the ability to form crystalline arrays on prokaryotic cells. Different biological functions and promising nanobiotechnological applications have been demonstrated. However, detailed structural information on S-layer proteins is very scarce. For determining the structure-function relationship of SbsC, the S-layer protein from *Geobacillus stearothermophilus* ATCC 12980, deletion mutants were produced. It was shown that the N-terminal part is responsible for binding to a secondary cell wall polymer (SCWP) and that the C-terminal part is essential for self-assembly.
Combining X-ray crystallography and electron microscopy we could, for the first time, describe how the S-layer self-assembles. We present three X-ray structures of the different truncated forms of the S-layer protein SbsC. The protein consists of 9 domains: one coiled-coil domain and 8 Ig-like domains. The domains are connected via short linkers forming an elongated molecule with a great flexibility. These high resolution structures could be fit in an electron density map obtained by 3D-reconstruction of negatively stained 2D-crystals of a full length SbsC, showing which domains are involved in the self-assembly process.

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Keywords: S-layers, X-ray, electron microscopy

FA1-MS05-T05

SAXS Modeling of Structural Changes of DNA-Gadolinium Complexes. Vladimir Volkov[a], Eleonora Shtykova[a], Yuri Yevdokimov[b]. [a]*Institute of Crystallography, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia.* [b]*Institute of Molecular Biology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia.*
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Structure of cholesteric liquid-crystalline dispersions (CLCDs) formed by double-stranded DNA molecules and treated with gadolinium salts (i), and those with embedded gold nanoparticles (ii) were studied by small-angle X-ray scattering (SAXS). The obtained SAXS data were used for step by step structural modeling of the spatial organization of DNA complexes to give the comprehensive consideration of structural changes caused by the DNA modifications. This modeling provided a reasonable explanation for the increasing of the abnormal negative band in the CD spectra, accompanied by the disappearance of the diffraction peak in the experimental small-angle X-ray scattering curves, which was observed at the treatment of the CLCD by gadolinium salts. Computer simulations also allowed us to obtain structural characteristics of incorporated gold nanoparticles, such as their average size, size distributions and localization in DNA CLCDs. The novel SAXS data analysis methods in combination with early developed complementary modeling approaches were used [1 - 2]. The low resolution three-dimensional structural models of the DNA CLCD particles on the different stages of their modifications were obtained. This work was supported, in part, by the Federal Scientific Program No. 02.740.11.0218.

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Keywords: computer modelling and simulation of real structures, small-angle scattering