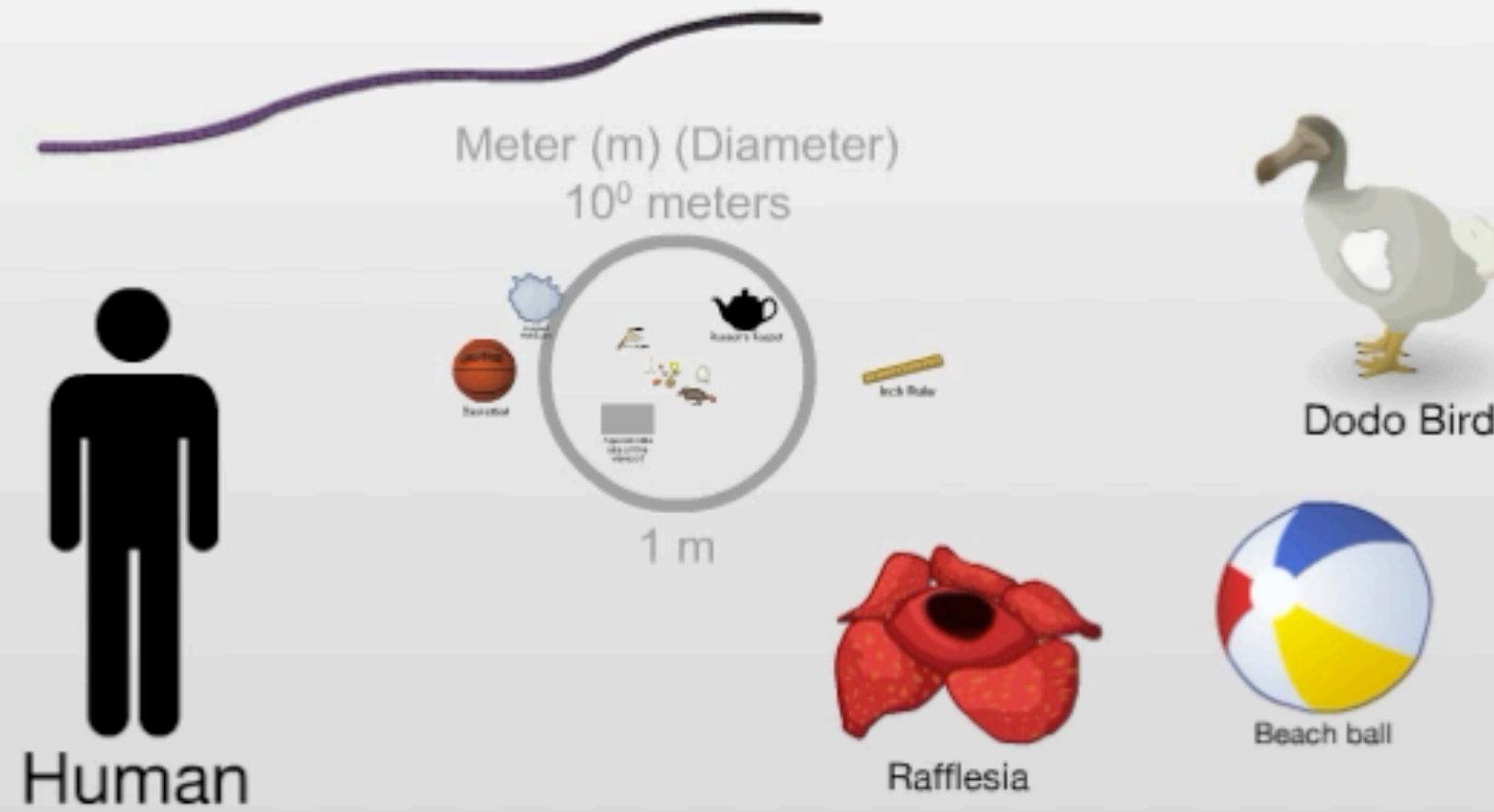


# SINGLE MOLECULE BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY

KELLERMAYER MIKLÓS

# Giant Earthworm

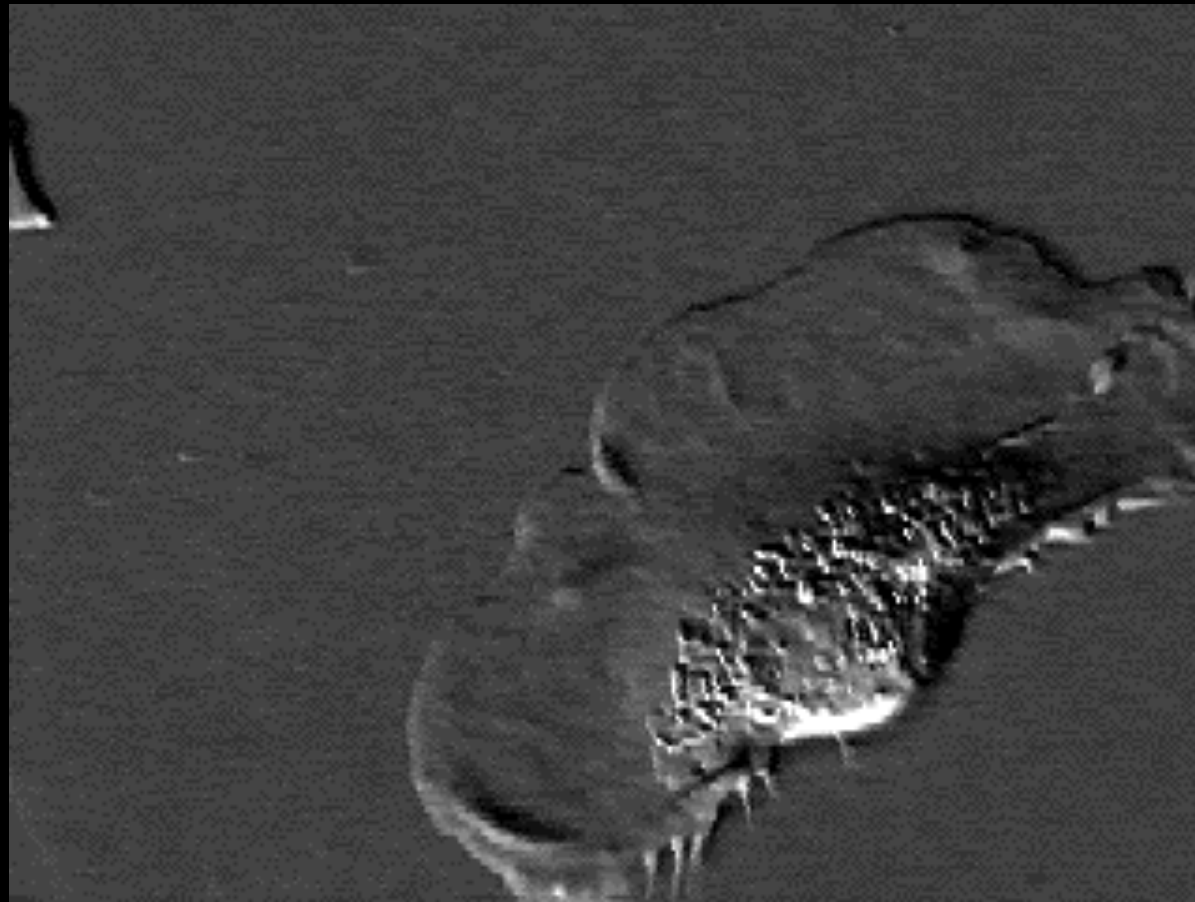


$10^{0.0}$

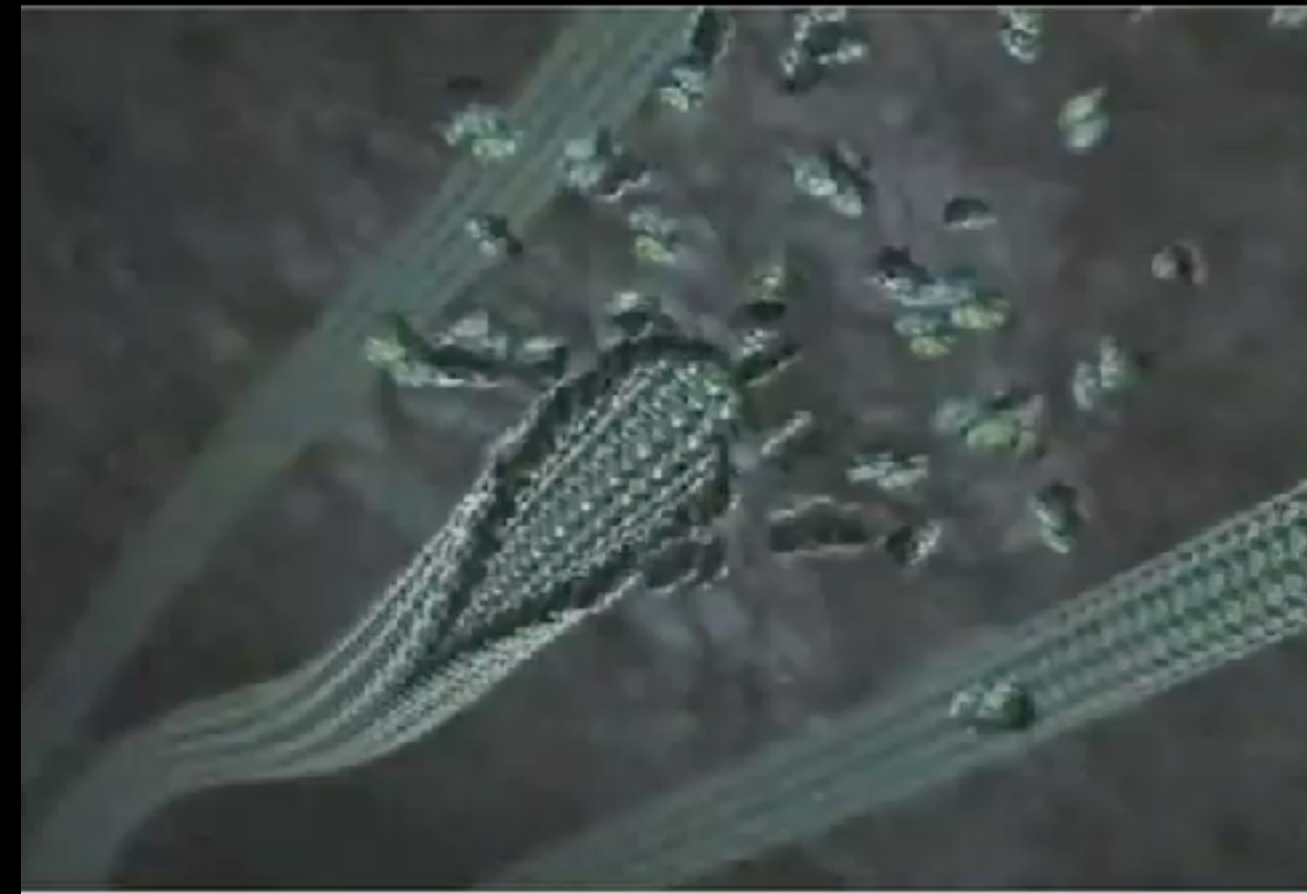
Cary and Michael Huang (<http://htwins.net>)



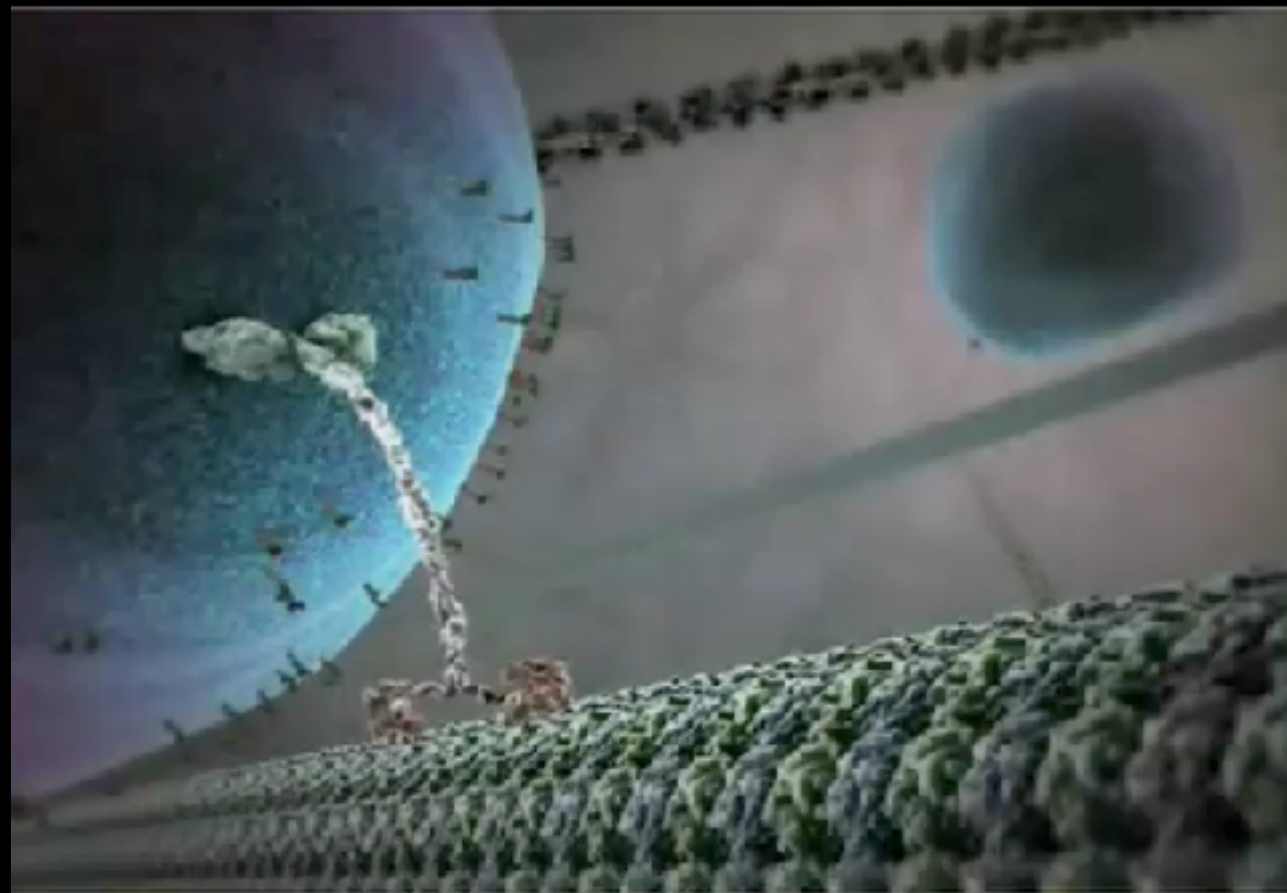
# The living cell is a complex network of nanoscale machines



*Crawling keratinocyte*



*Microtubule dynamic instability*



*Kinesin-driven vesicular transport*

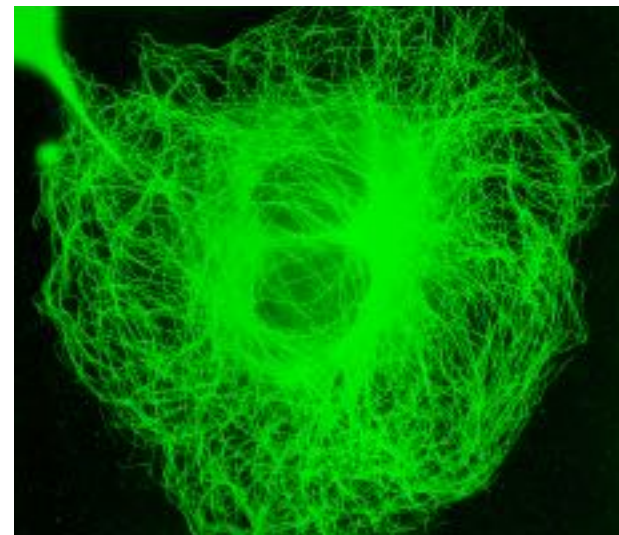


*Protein synthesis on the ribosome*

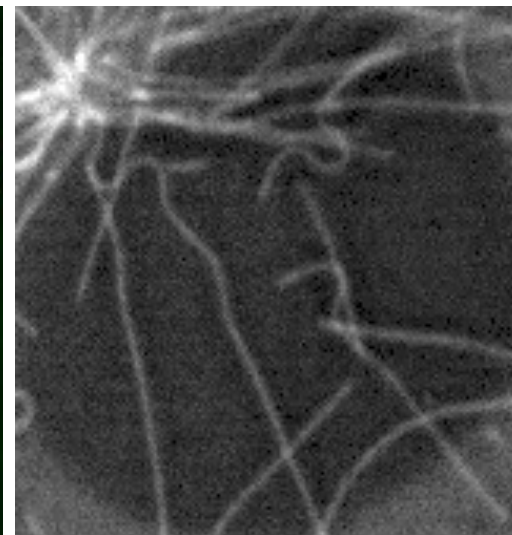


# Why single molecules?

1. Individuals (spatial and temporal trajectories) may be identified in a crowd



Ensemble - microtubular system

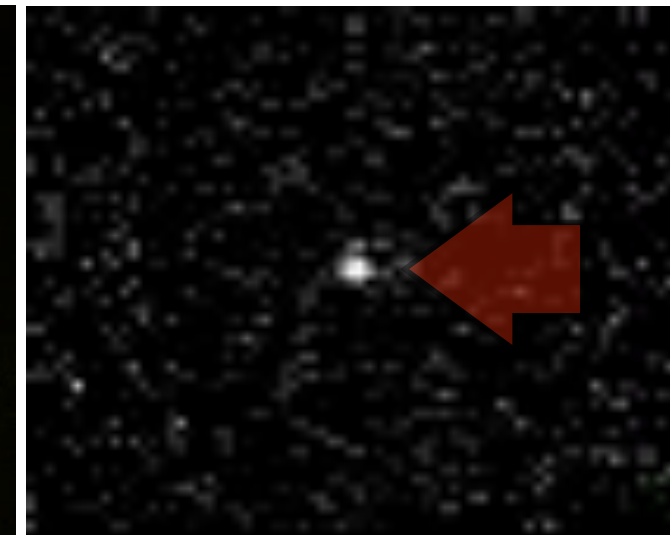


Single microtubules - treadmilling

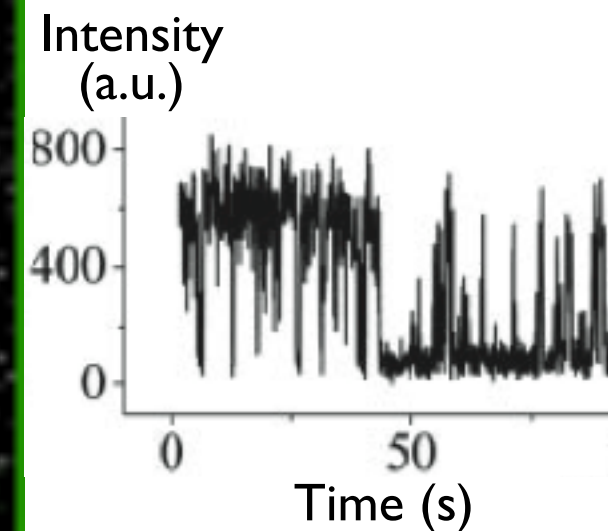
2. Stochastic processes may be uncovered



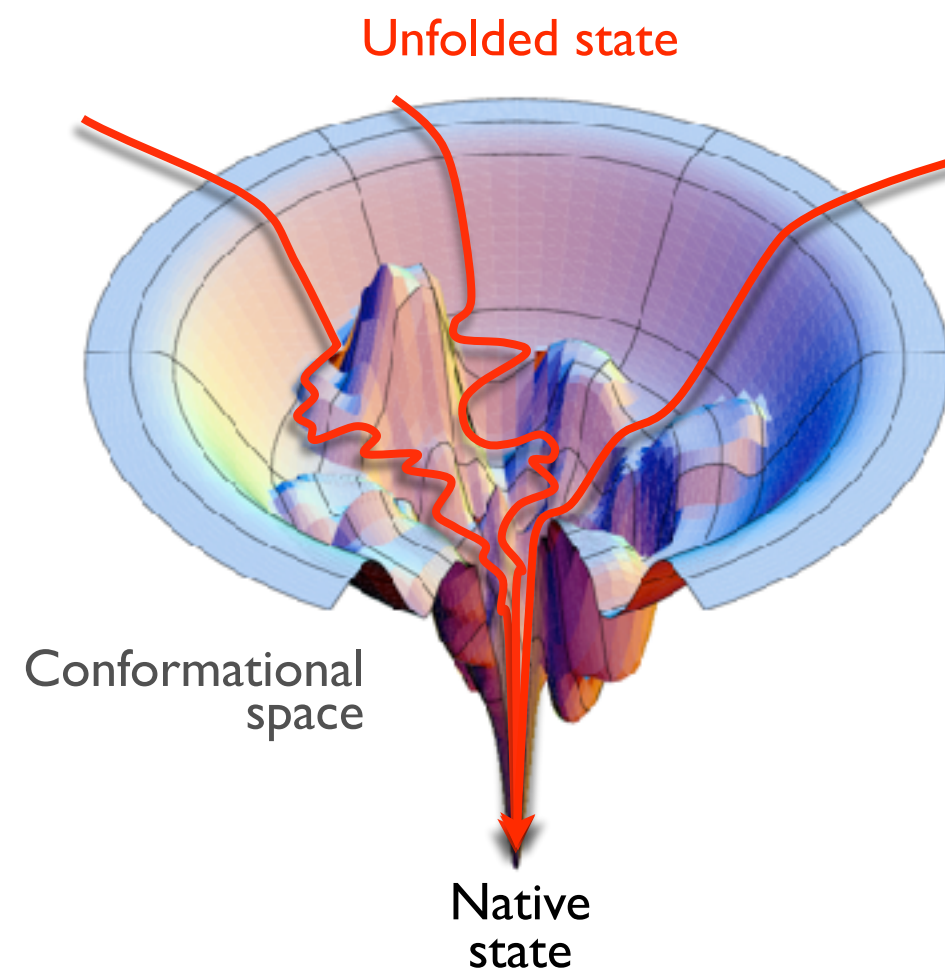
Ensemble - intensity



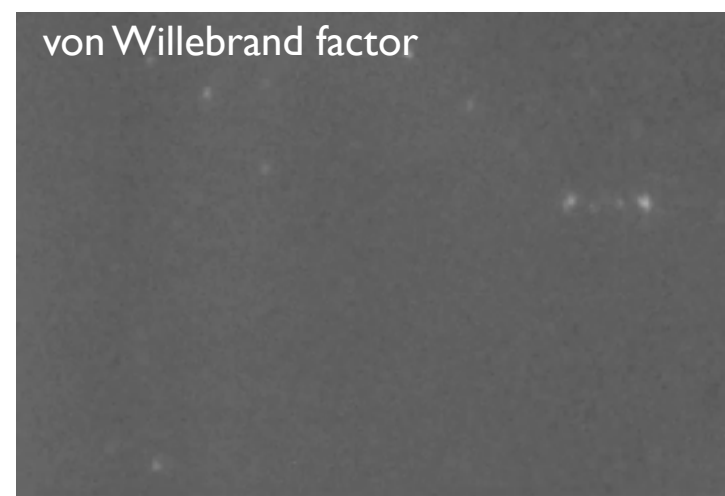
Single quantum dot - blinking



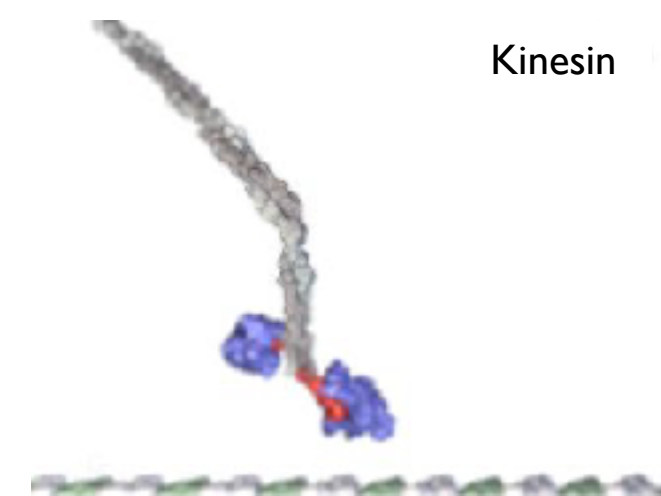
3. Parallel-pathway events may be identified



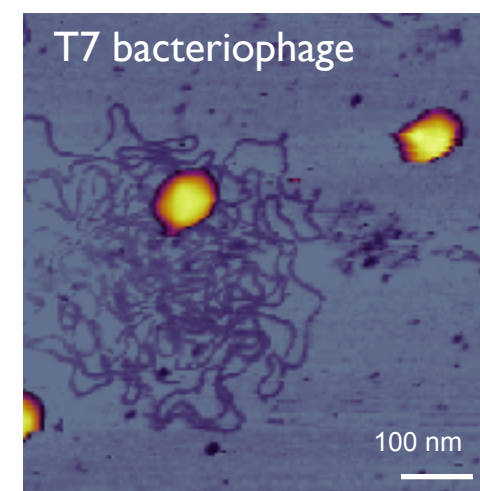
4. Mechanics of biomolecules may be characterized



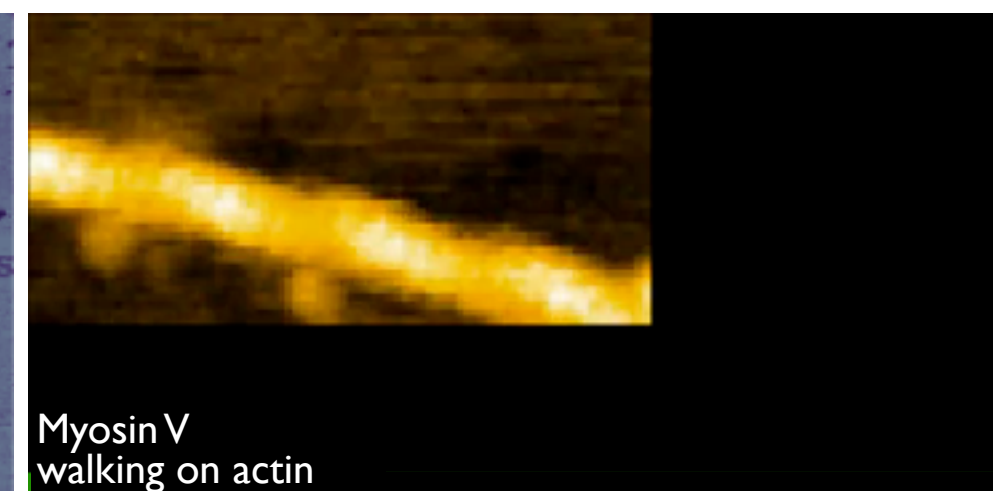
von Willebrand factor



Kinesin



T7 bacteriophage



Myosin V walking on actin



# Brief history of single-molecule science



1976: Fluorescence microscopy of a single antibody molecule

1986: J. Spudich, T. Yanagida, *in vitro* motility assay

1991: J. Spudich, T. Yanagida, J. Molloy, single myosin mechanics

1994: T. Yanagida, single ATP turnover on myosin

1994: K. Svoboda, S. Block, single kinesin mechanics

1996: C. Bustamante, D. Bensimon, mechanical stretch of a single dsDNA molecule

1996: T. Ha, S. Weiss, single-pair FRET



1997: W.E. Moerner, GFP blinking

1997: M. Kellermayer, M. Rief, L. Tskhovrebova, mechanical stretch of a single protein (titin)



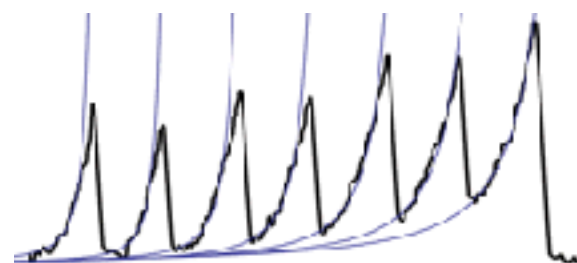
1998: Kinosita, F1F0 ATPase stepping kinetics

1998: J. Fernandez, nanomechanics of a genetic polymer

2001: J. Liphardt, C. Bustamante, single RNA manipulation

2004: J. Fernandez, single protein molecule folding

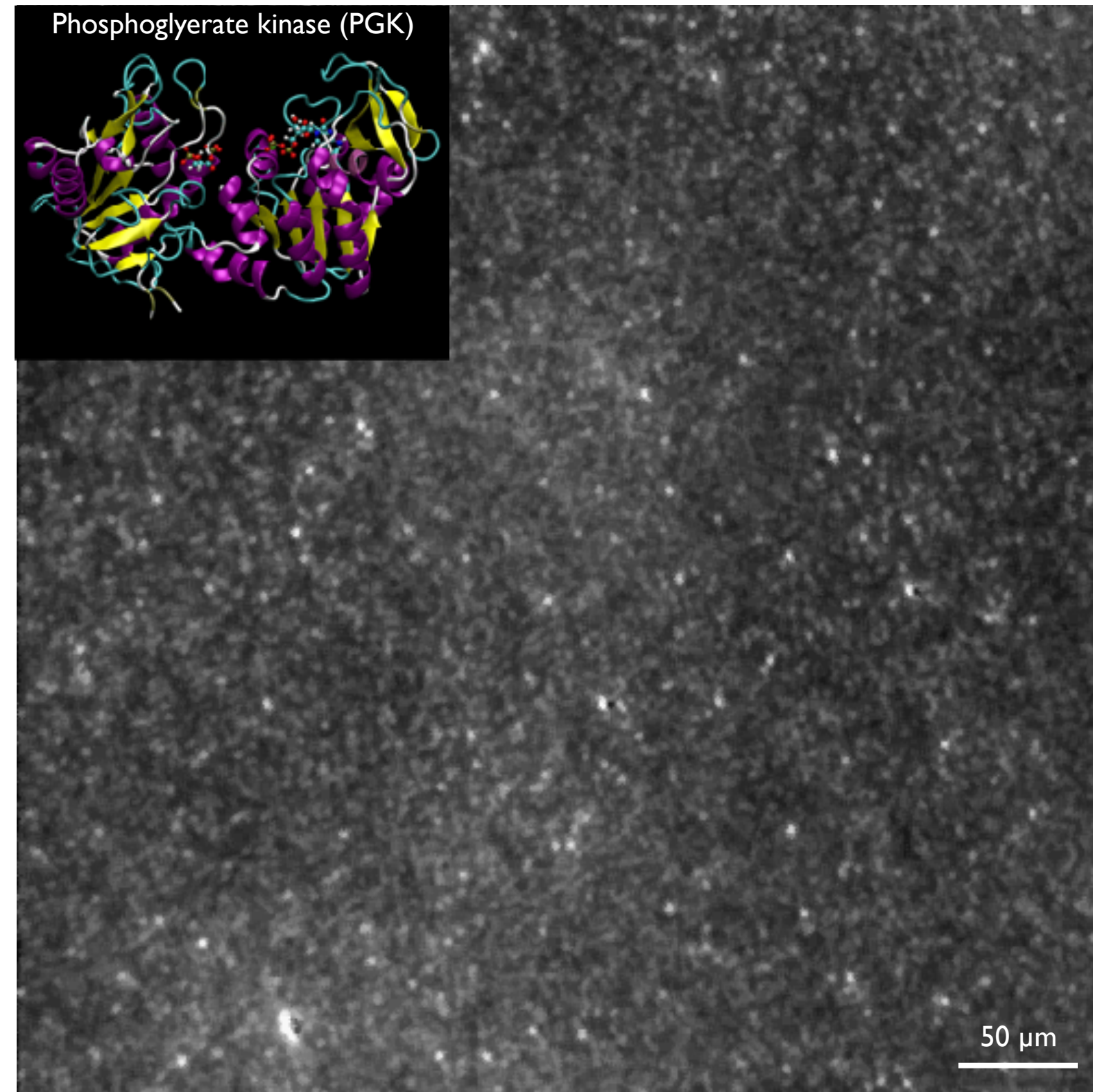
2008: Bustamante, Tinoco: ribosome mechanics



# Measurable parameters I.

## Fluorescence

What are the conformational states of a molecule?



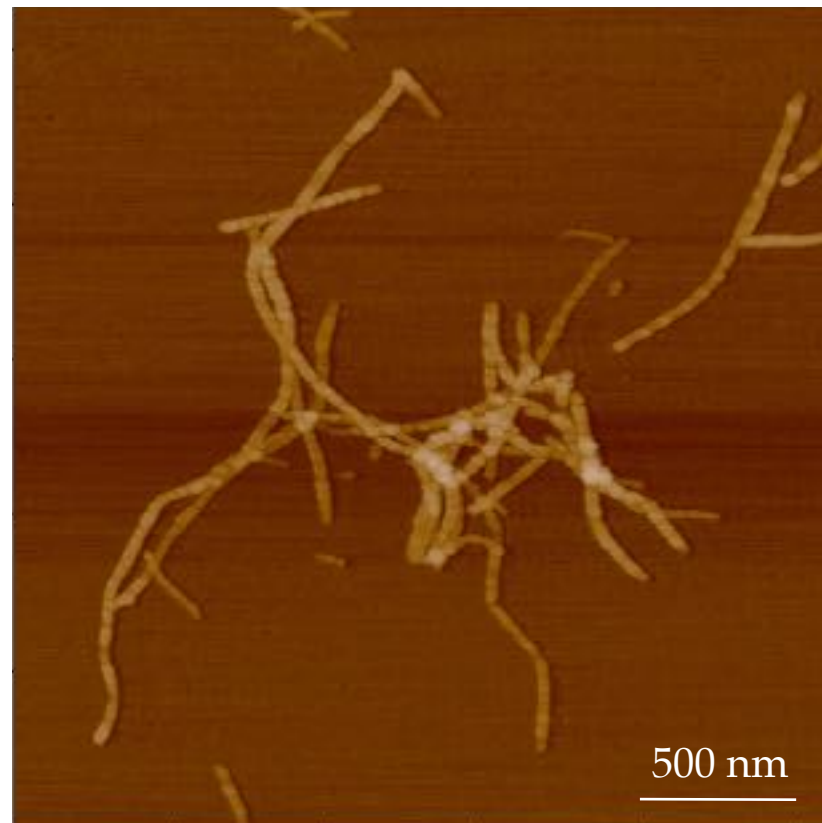
PGK molecules labeled with Alexa488, TIRF microscopy



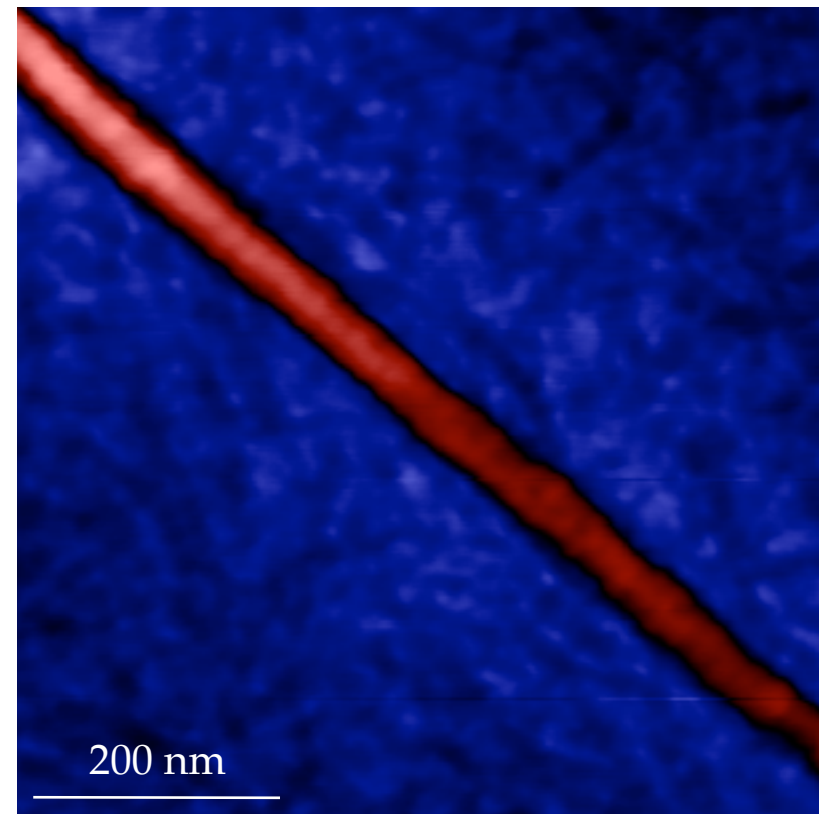
# Measurable parameters II.

## Structure - topography

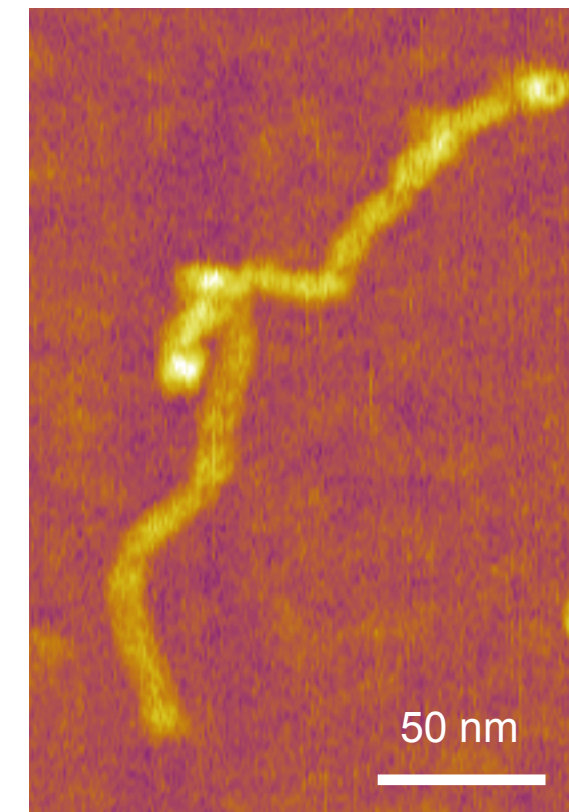
What are the conformational states of a molecule?



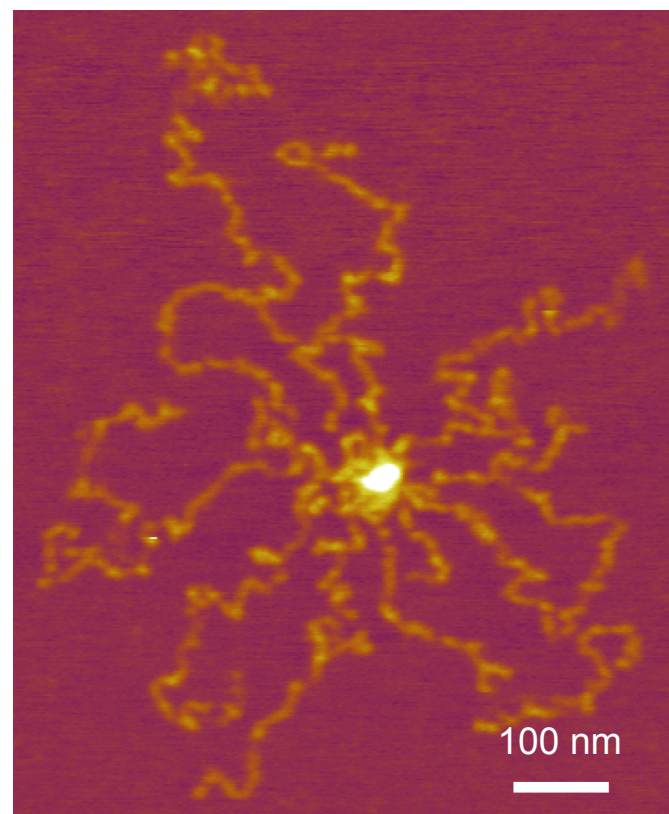
Amyloid  $\beta$ 1-42



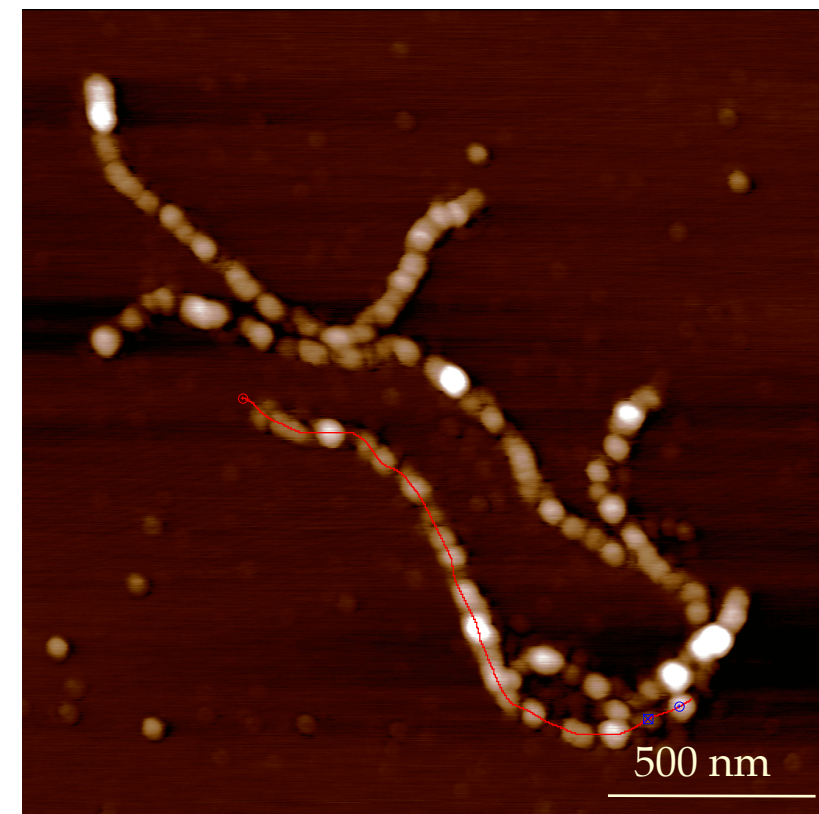
Fibrin protofibril



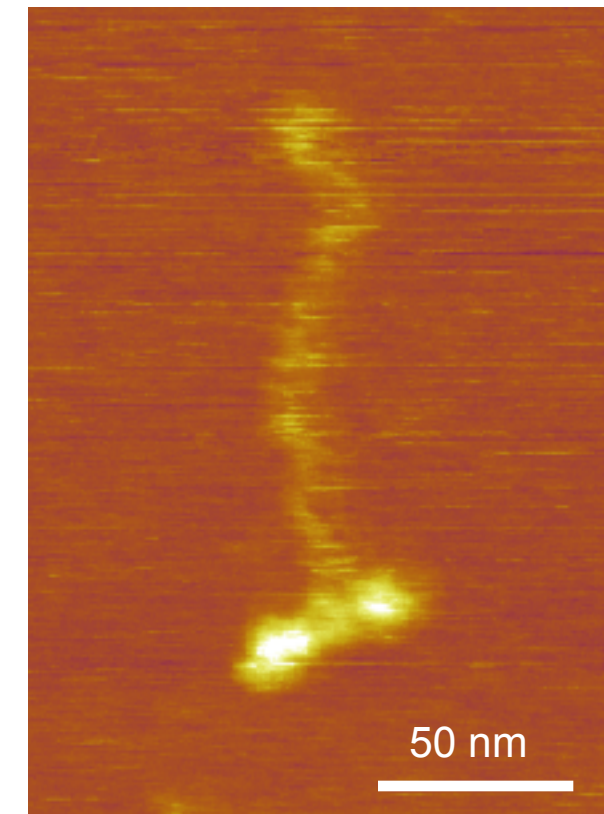
RNA-DNA hybrid



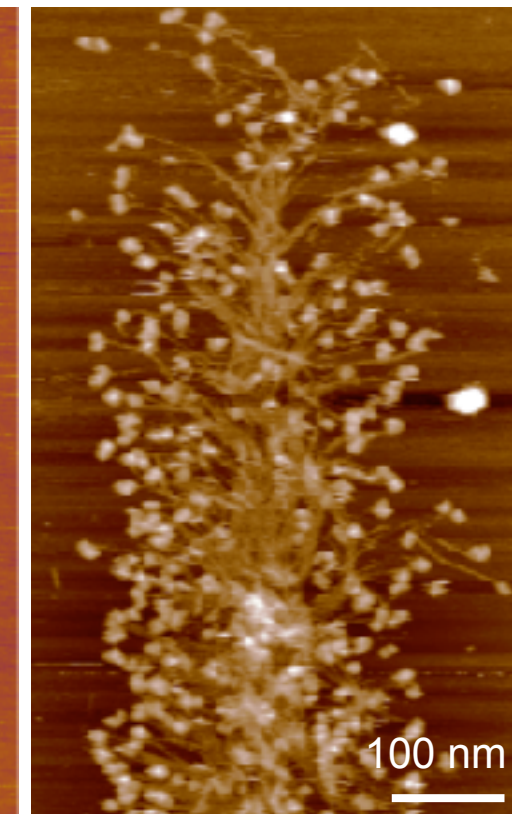
Titin molecule



Desmin filament



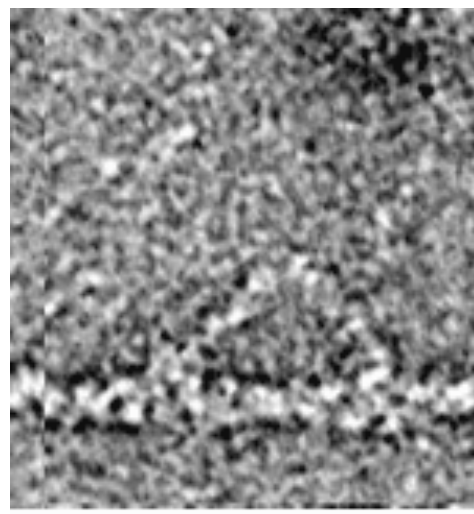
Myosin molecule



Myosin thick filament

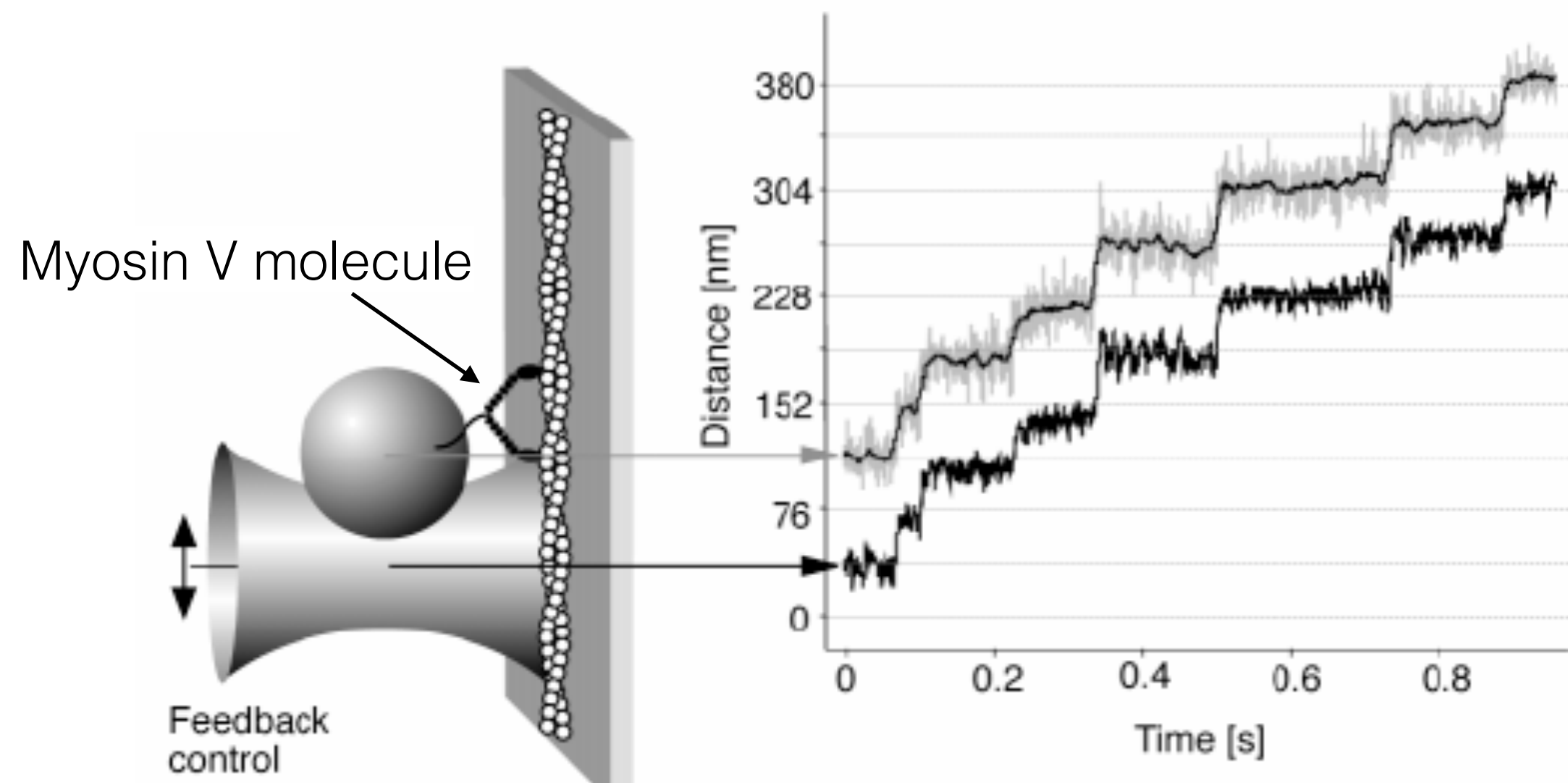
# Measurable parameters III. Distance

What is the step size of a motor protein?



The Muscle Group, Leeds 2000

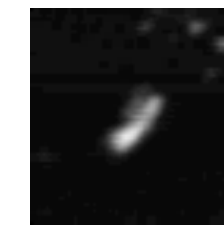
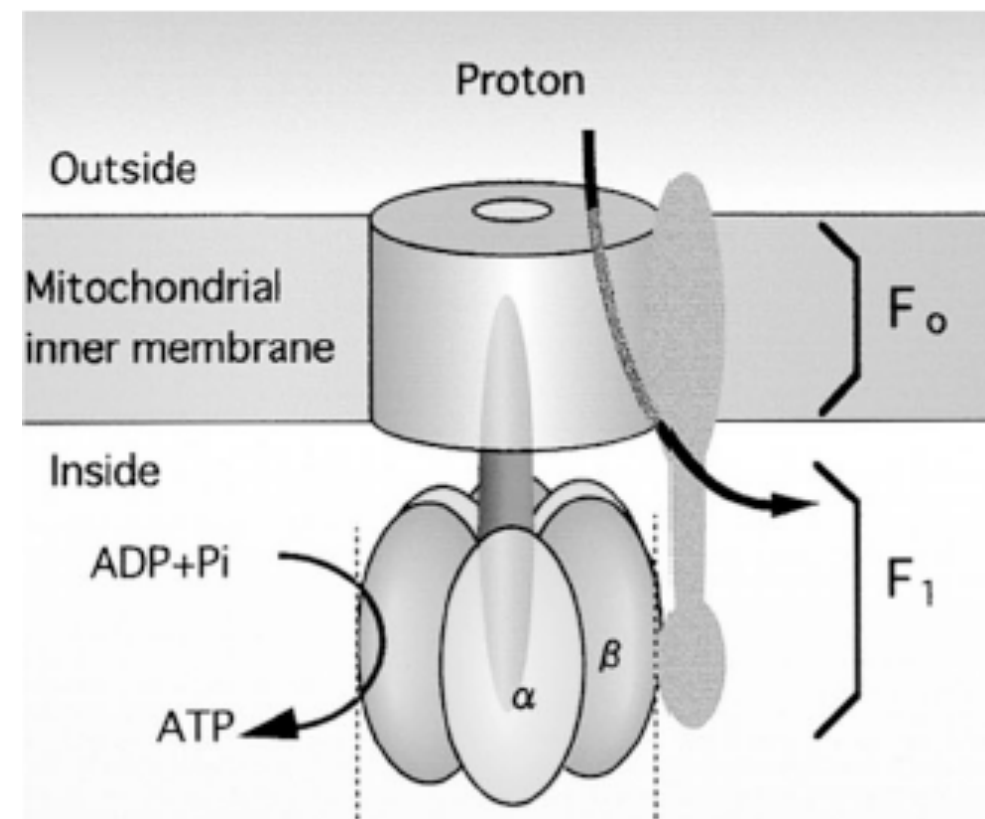
Myosin V  
cryoelectron-  
microscopic image  
series



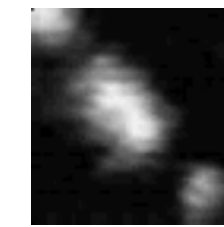


# Measurable parameters IV. Rotational angle

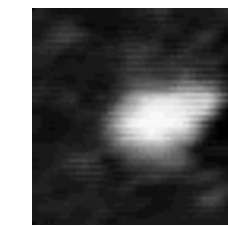
How does the ATP synthase work?



1 mM ATP

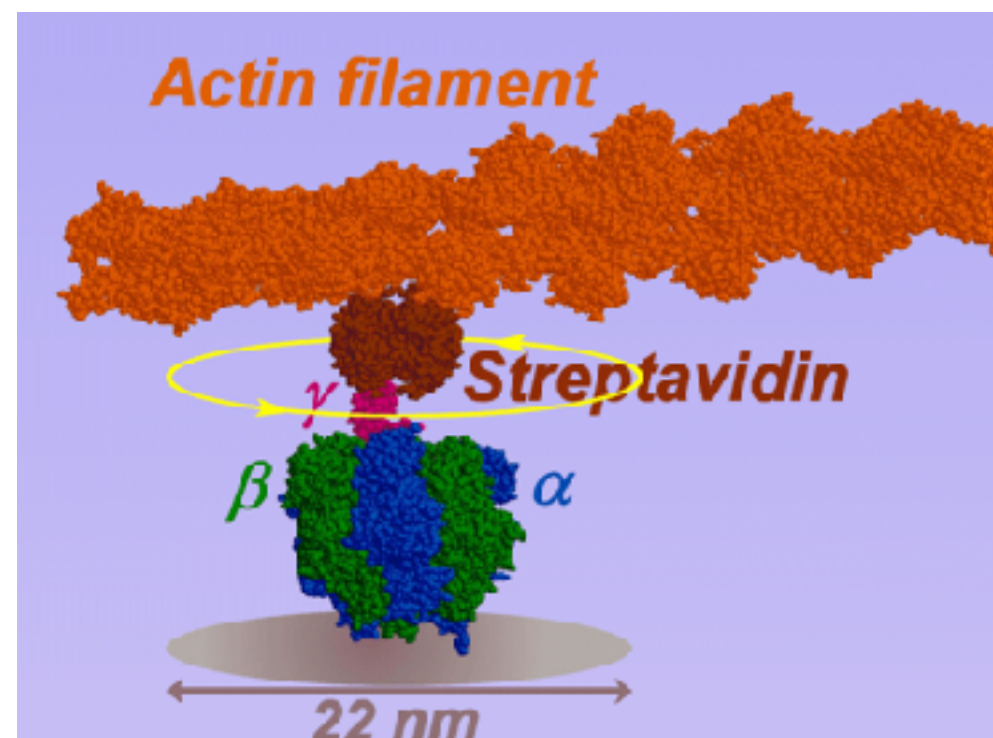
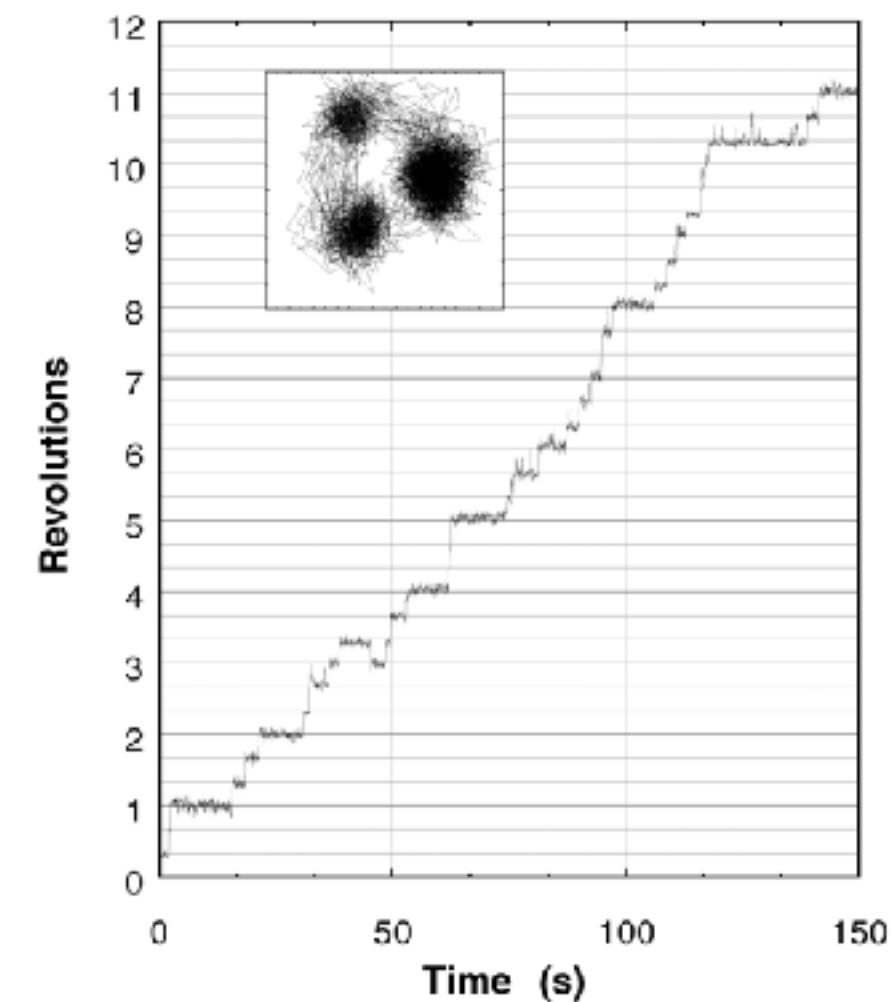


200 nM ATP



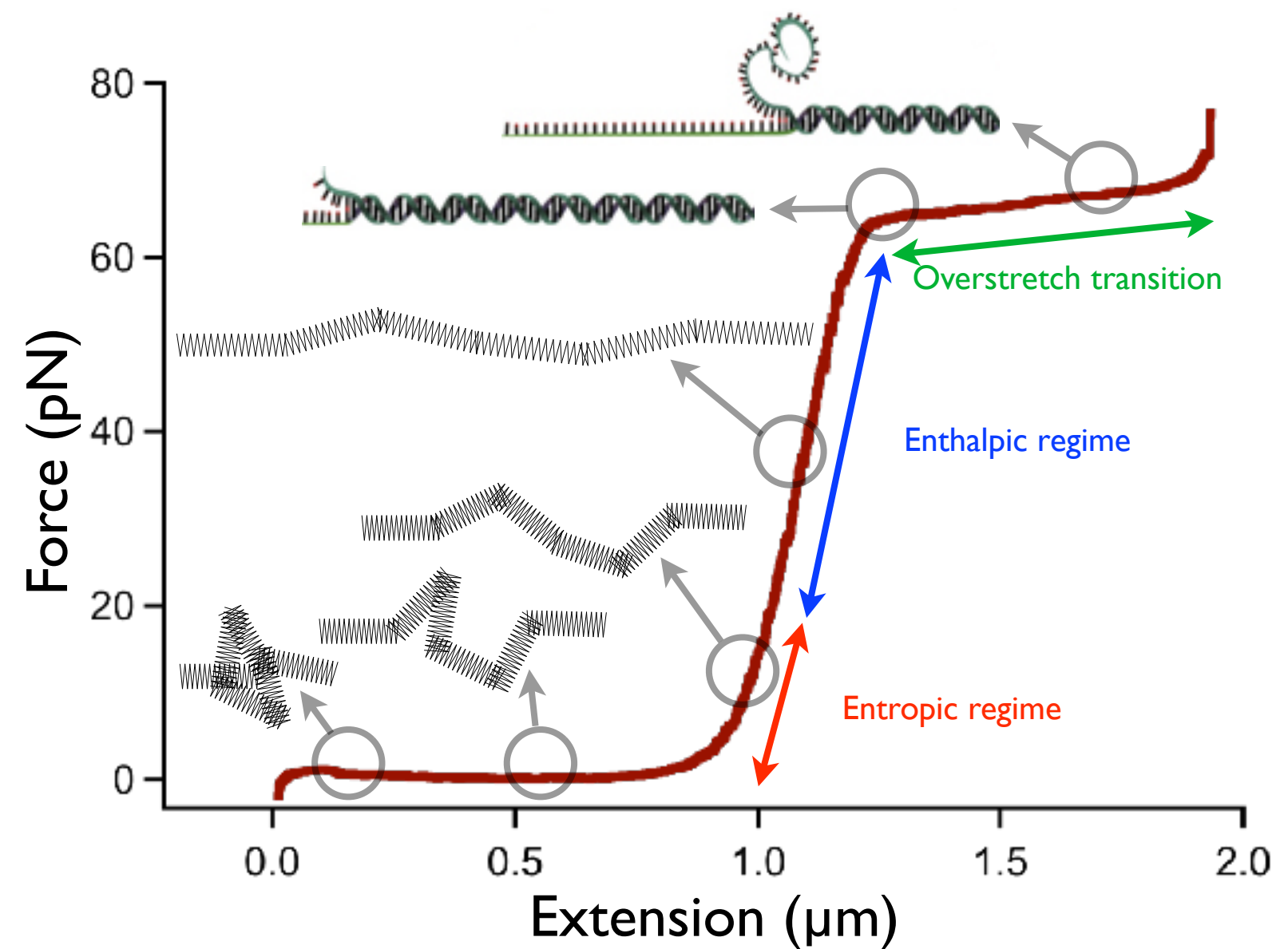
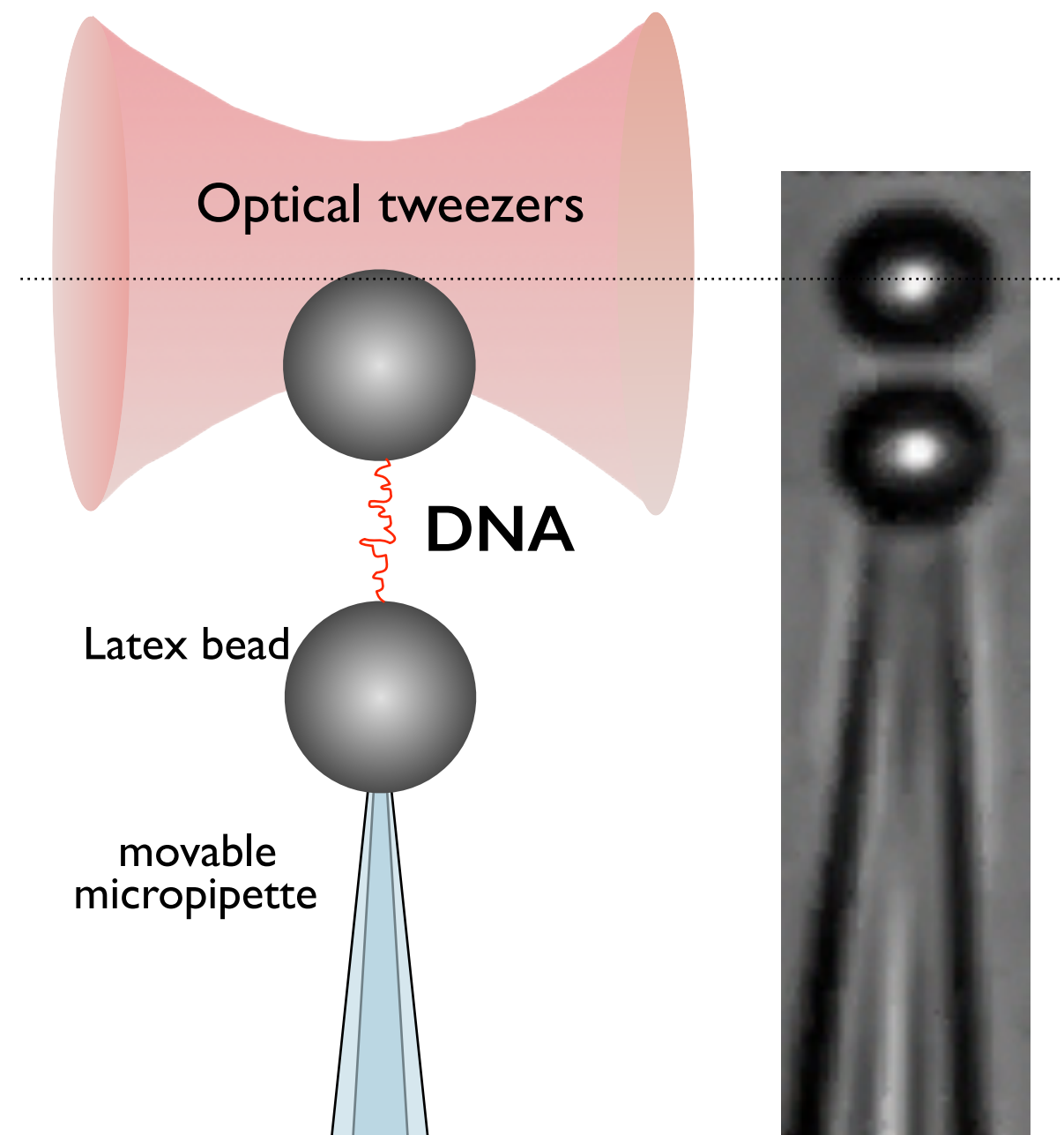
20 nM ATP

Discrete rotational steps of  $120^\circ$



# Measurable parameters V. Force

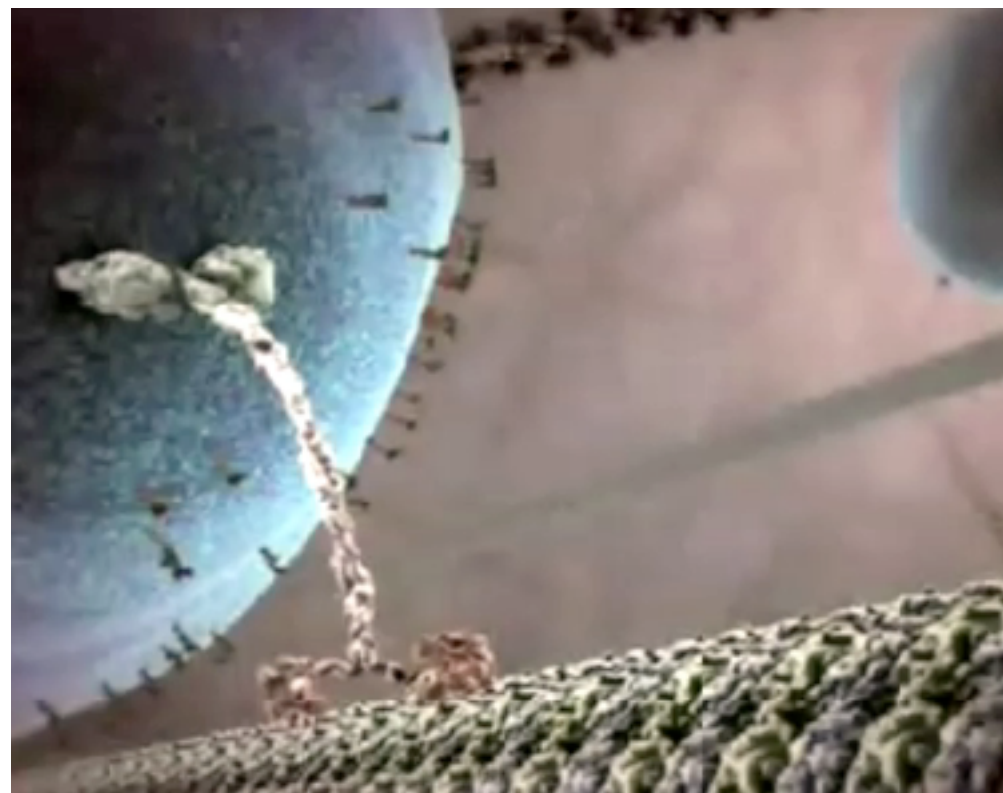
How much force develops during the stretch of a single dsDNA molecule?



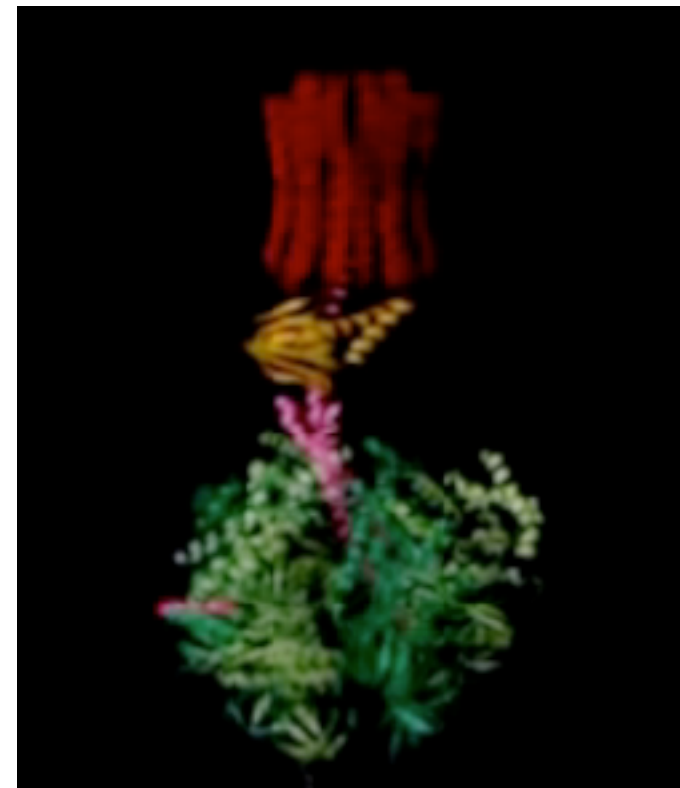


# 1. Force: develops

Kinesin



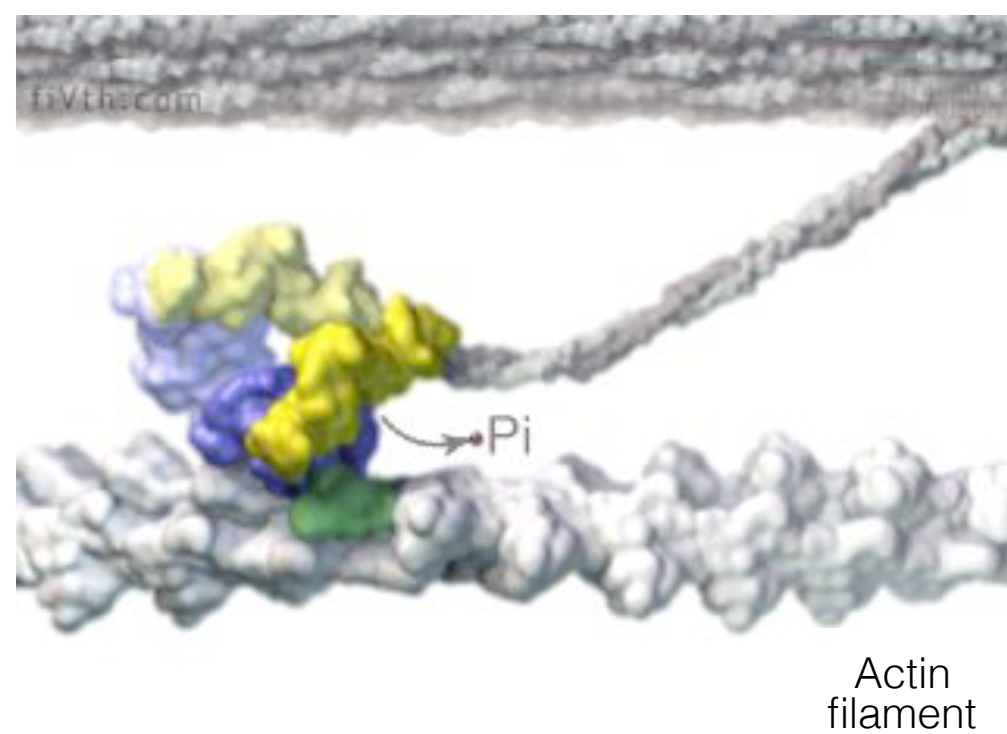
F1F0 ATPase



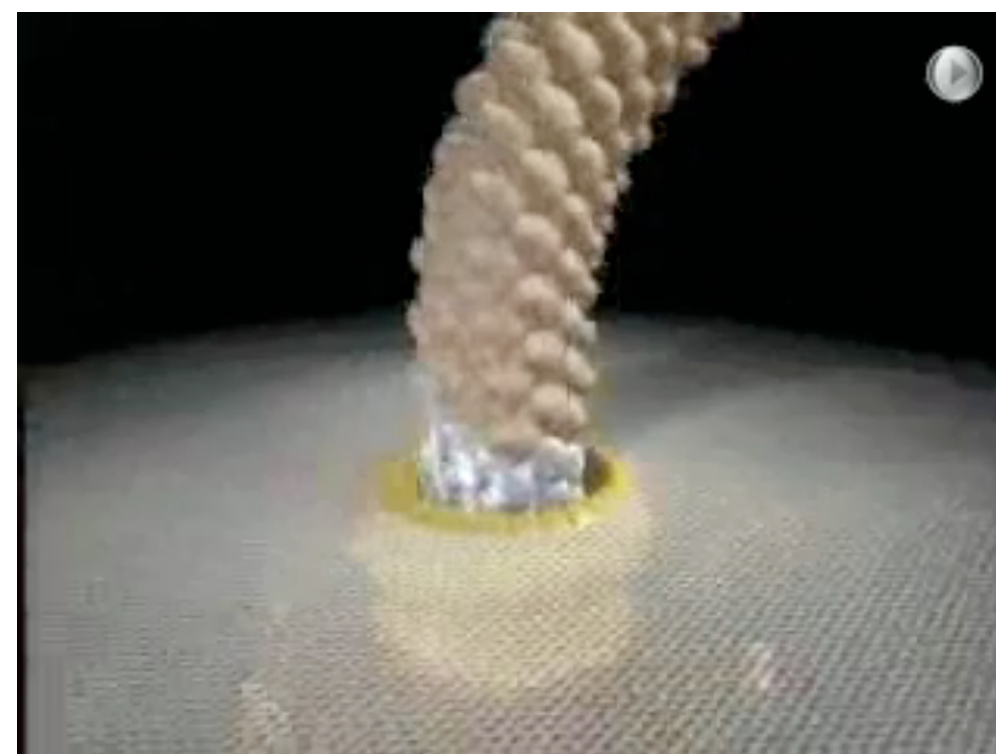
Ribosome



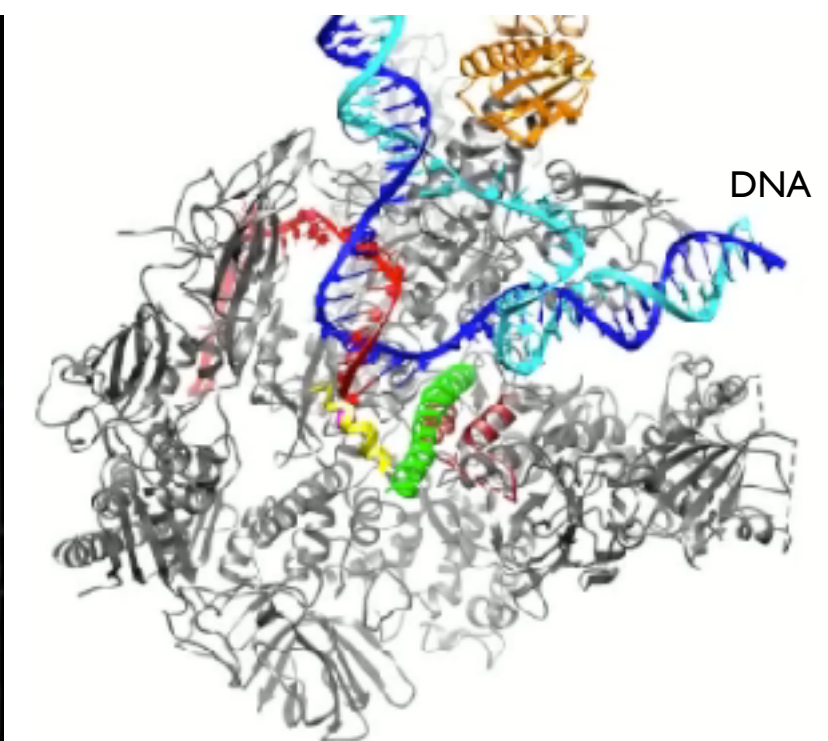
Myosin II



Bacterial flagellar motor

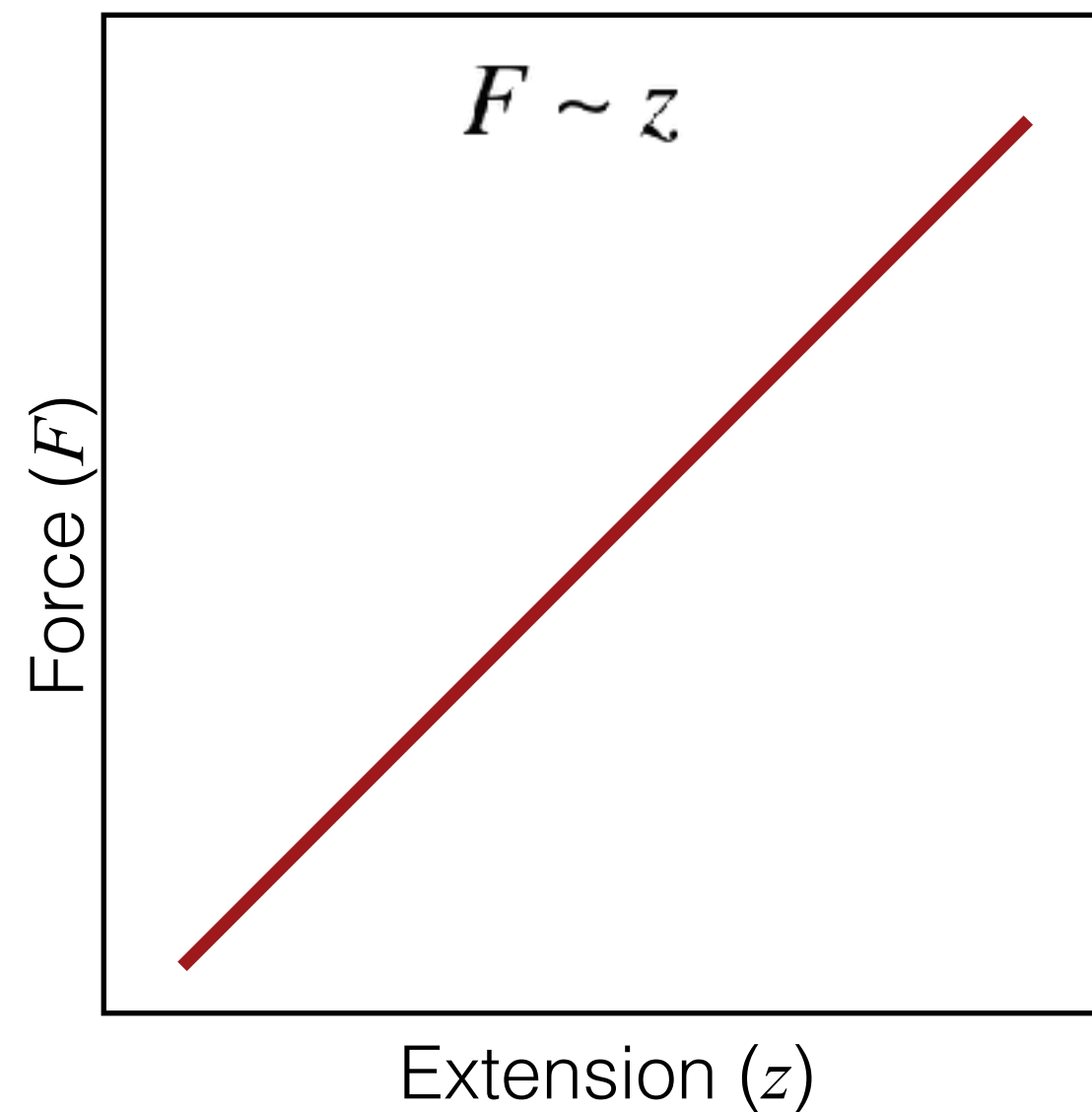
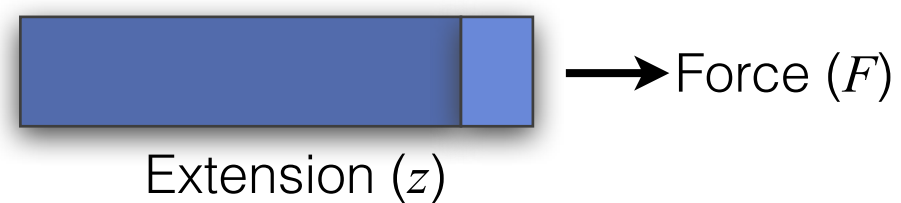


RNA polymerase

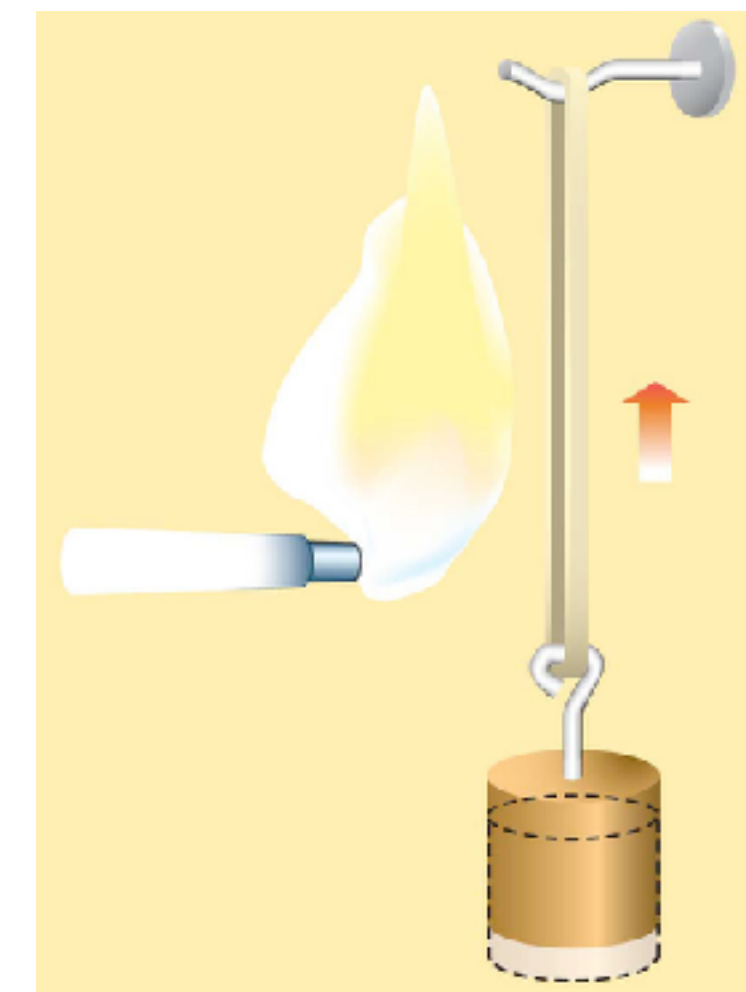
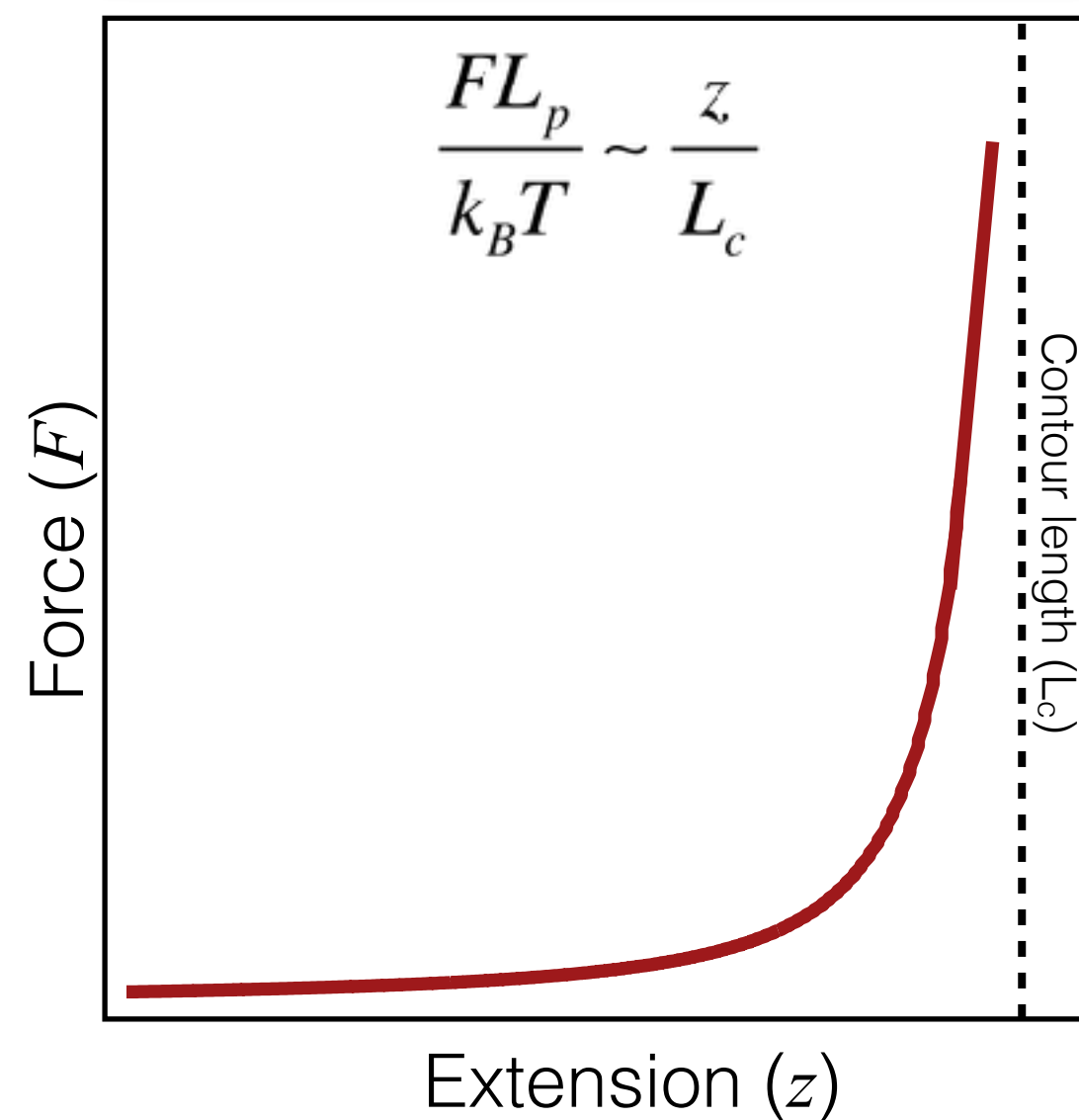
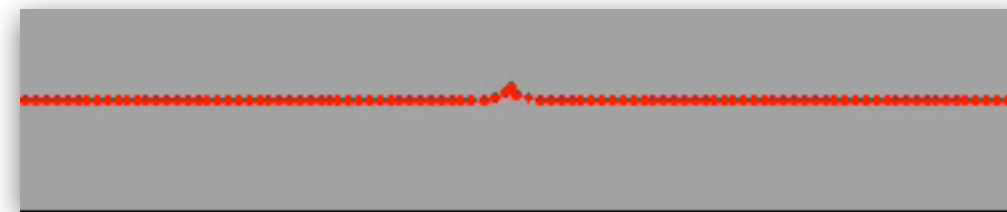


# 2. Force: deforms shape

Rigid body:  
Hooke's law



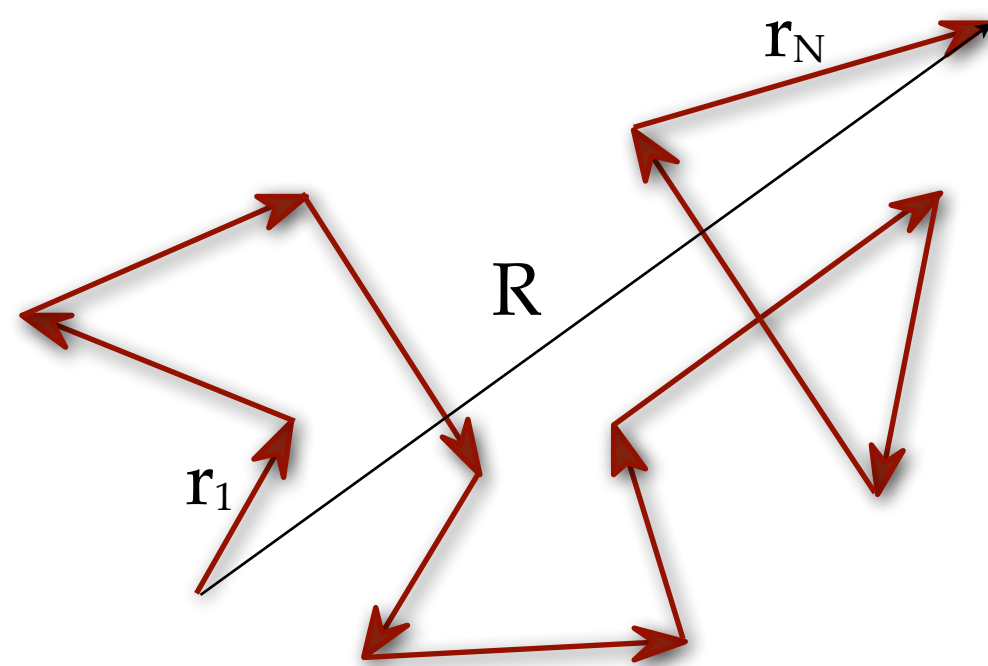
Polymer chain:  
fluctuations, configurational entropy



Macroscopic manifestation  
of entropic elasticity:  
Gough-Joule effect



# Models of entropic elasticity



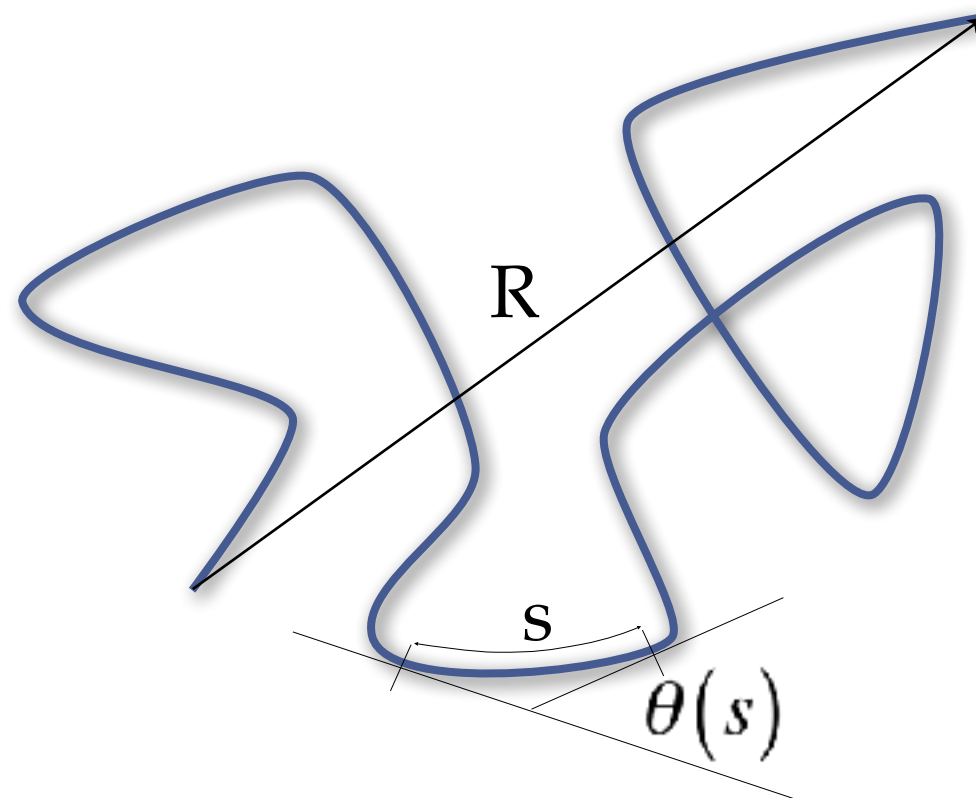
## Freely jointed chain

$$\langle R^2 \rangle = N \langle \vec{r}_i \rangle^2 = N l_K^2 = L_C l_K$$

$R$  = end-to-end distance

$L_C$  = contour length

$l_K$  = Kuhn segment length



## Wormlike chain

$$\langle \cos \theta(s) \rangle = e^{-\frac{s}{L_P}} \quad L_P = \frac{EI}{k_B T}$$

$L_P$  = persistence length

$EI$  = bending rigidity

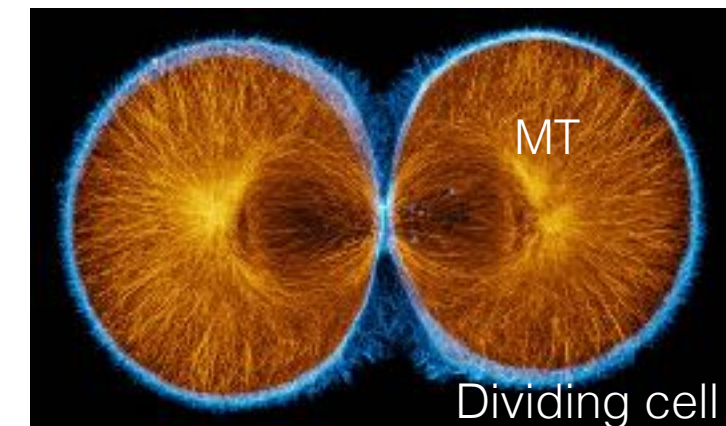
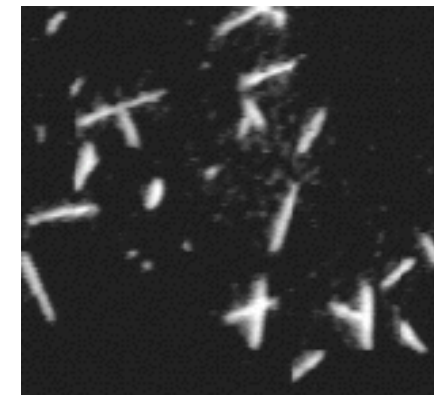
$l_K = 2L_P$

# Equilibrium shape and bending rigidity of a polymer chain are related

## Rigid chain

$$L_p \gg L_c$$

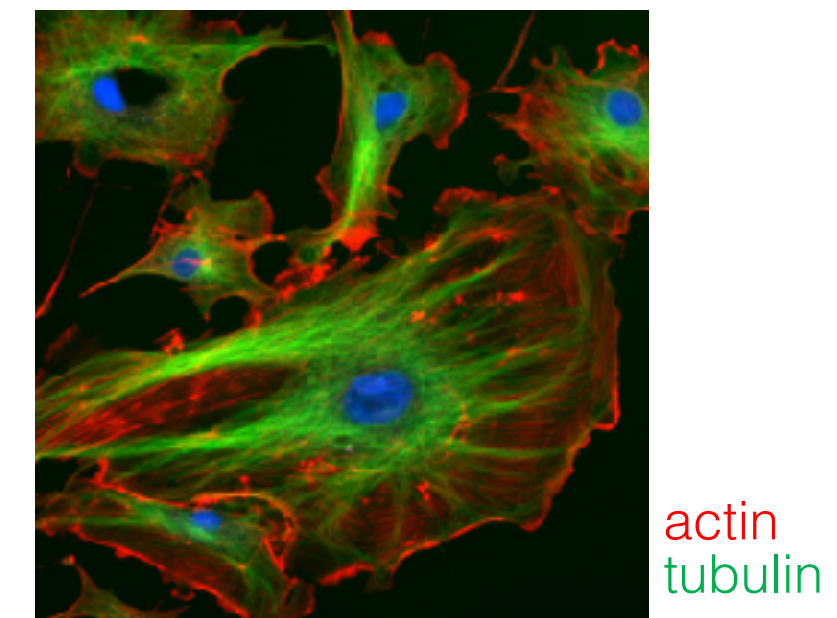
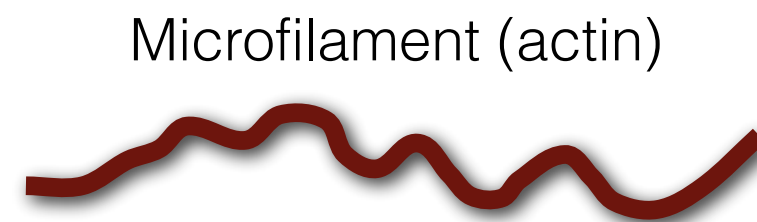
(mm  $\gg$  10  $\mu$ m)



## Semiflexible chain

$$L_p \approx L_c$$

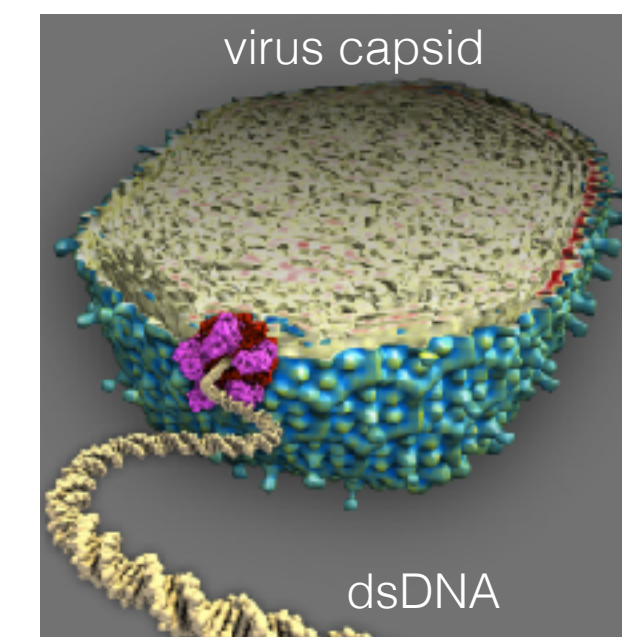
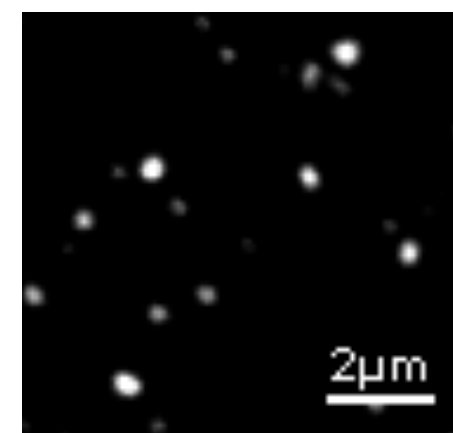
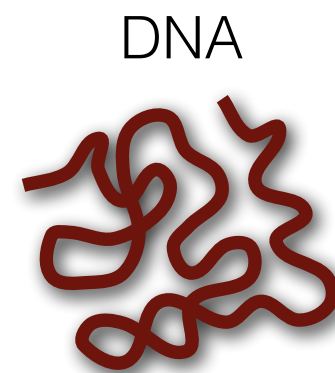
( $\mu$ m  $\approx$   $\mu$ m)



## Flexible chain

$$L_p \ll L_c$$

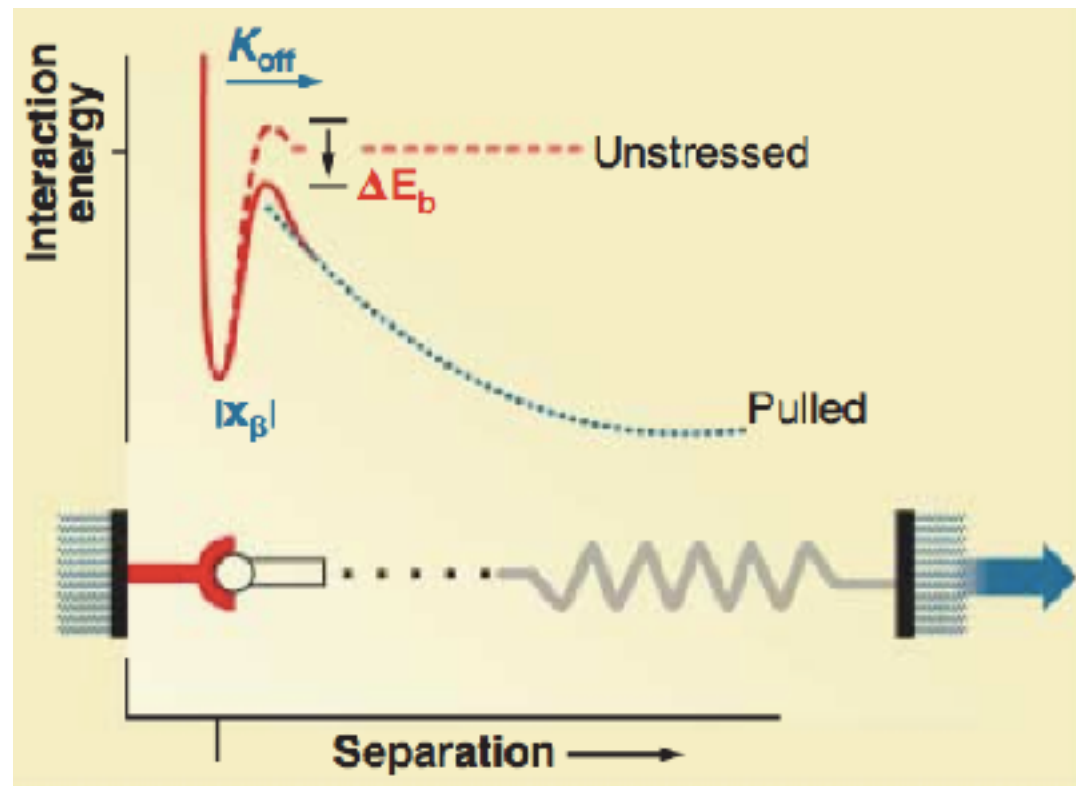
(50 nm  $\ll$  cm)



$L_p$  = persistence length  
 $L_c$  = contour length



# 3. Force: reduces bond lifetime



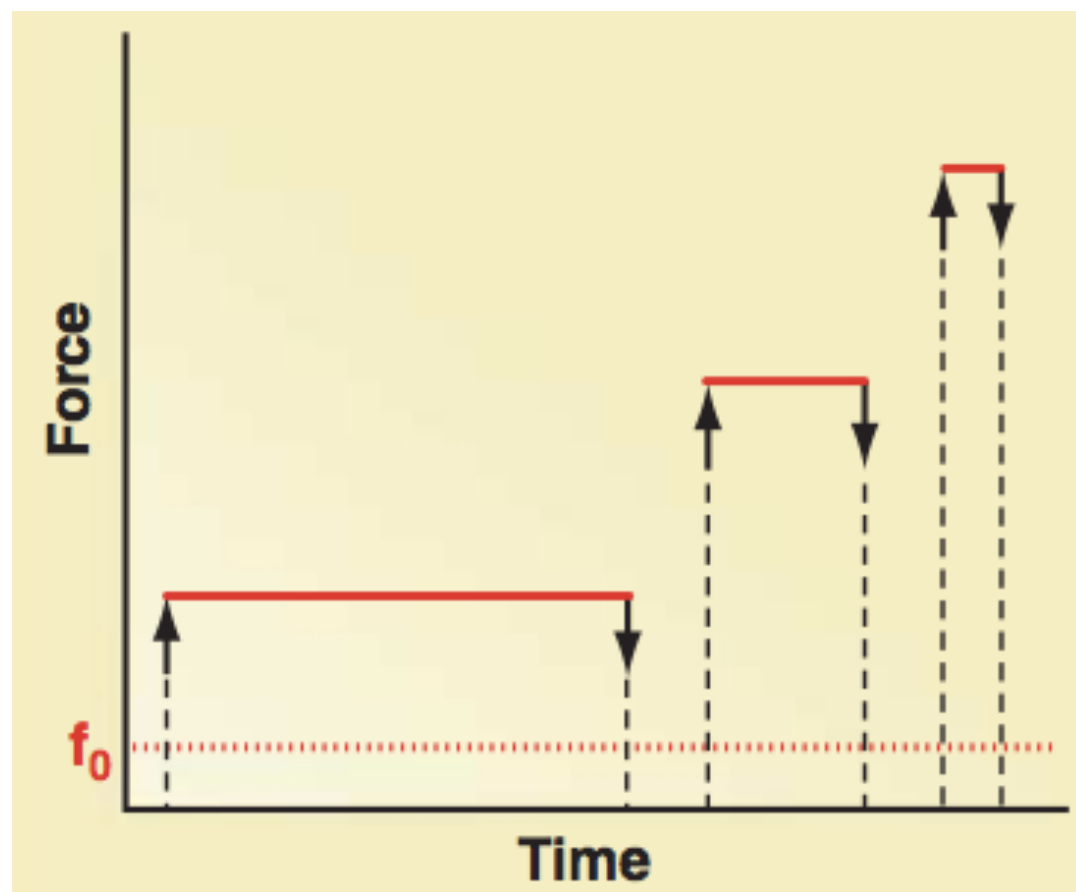
Under thermal activation:  $\tau(0) = \omega e^{\frac{E_a}{k_B T}}$

Under mechanical load:  $\tau(F) = \omega e^{\frac{E_a - F\Delta x}{k_B T}} = \tau(0) e^{-\frac{F\Delta x}{k_B T}}$

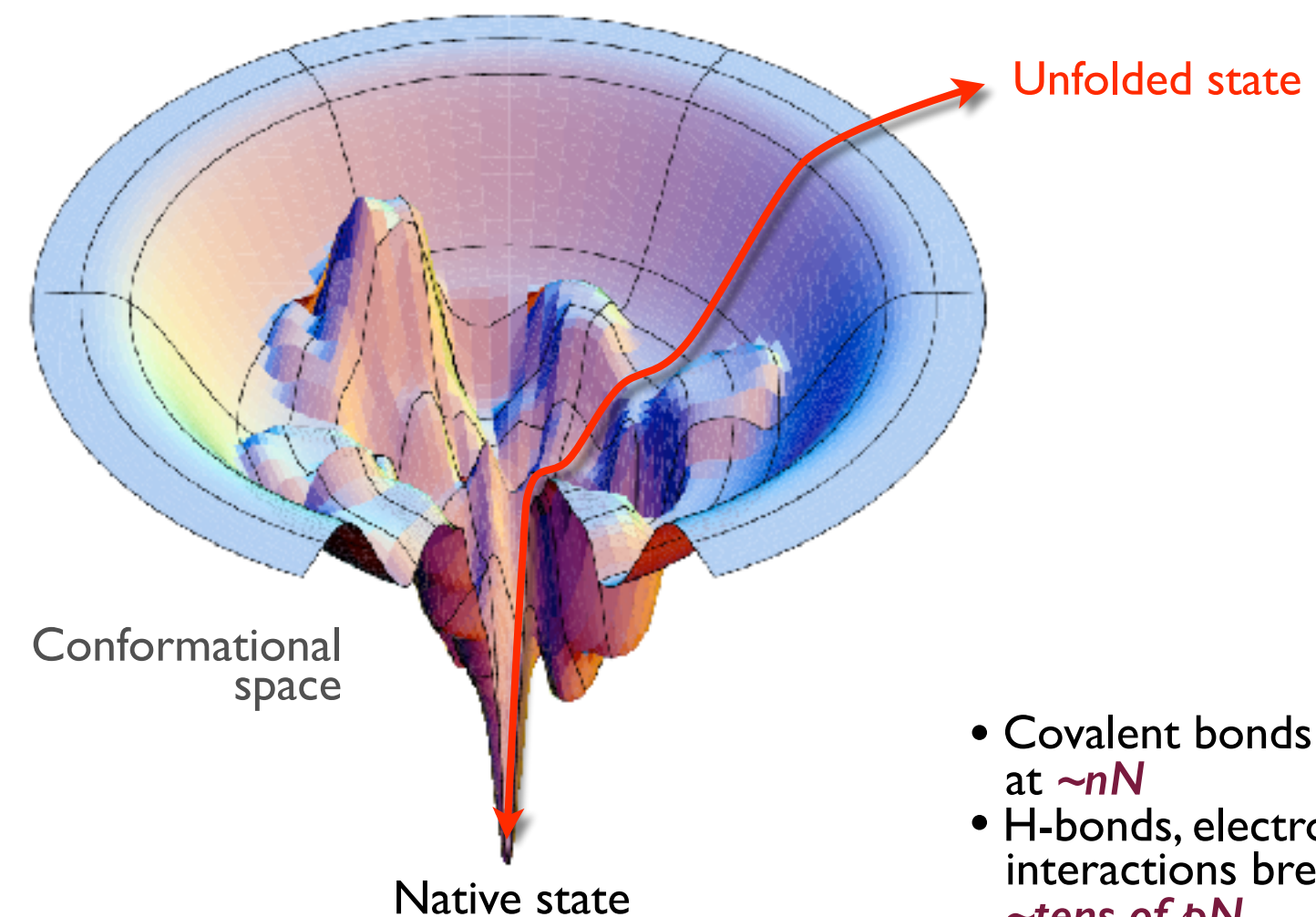
$\omega$  = characteristic time

$E_a$  = activation energy

$\Delta x$  = distance between bound and transition states



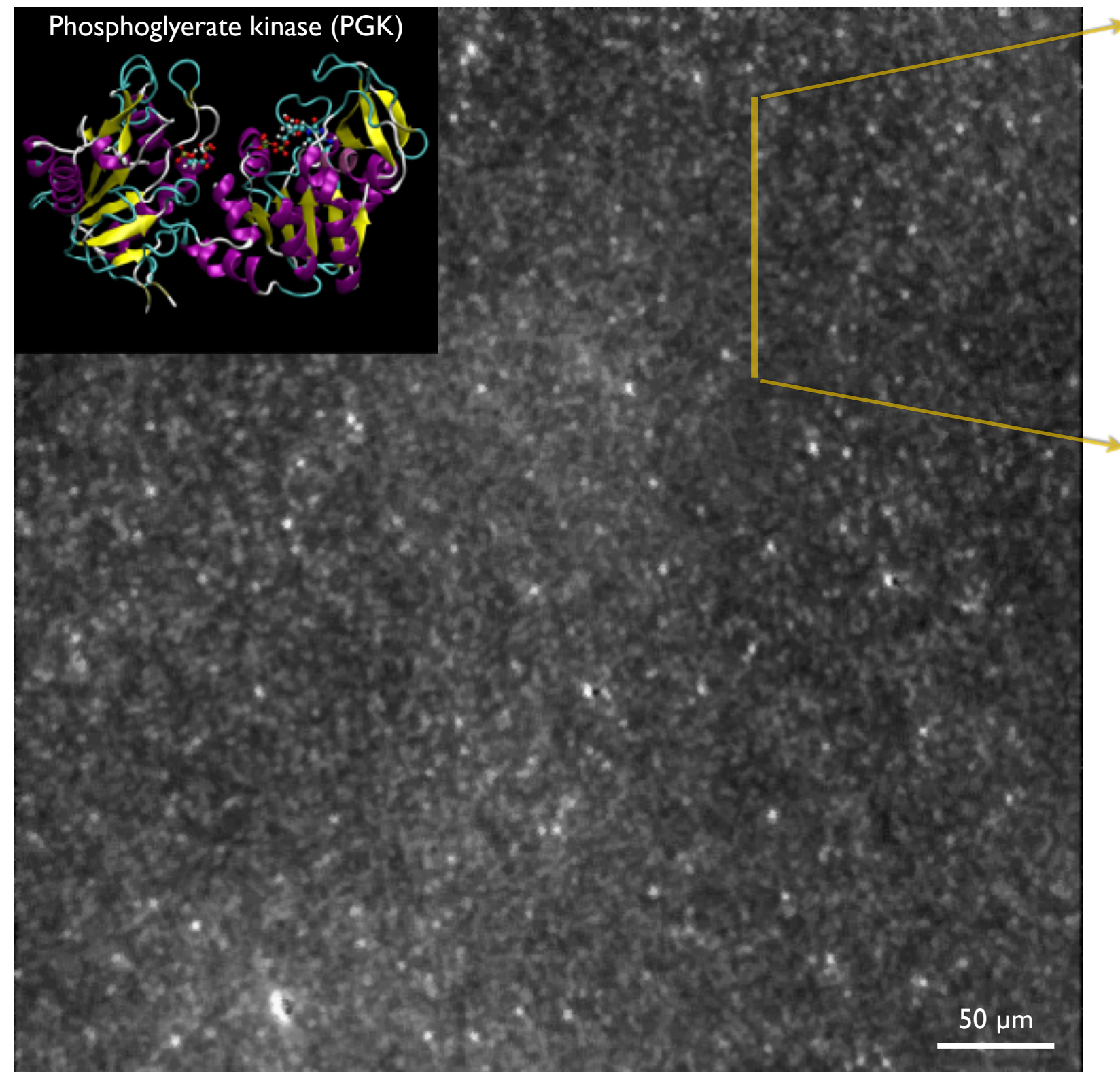
Evan A. Evans and David A. Calderwood Science 316, 1148 (2007)



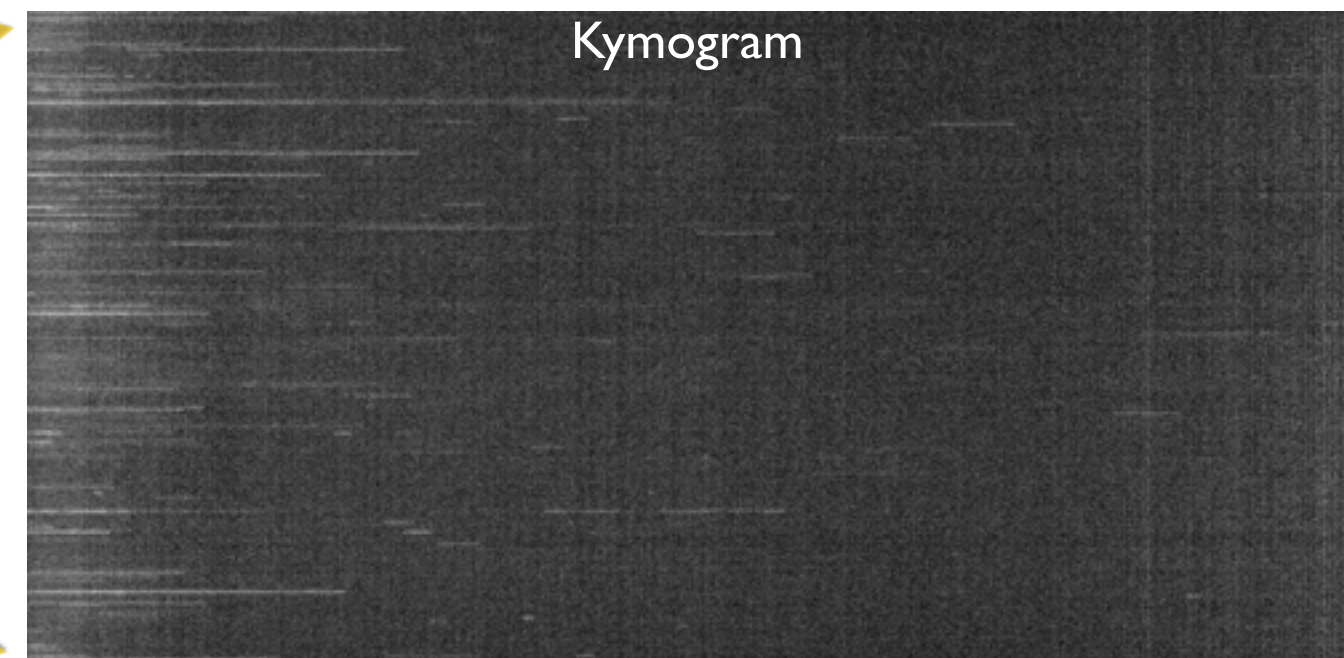
- Covalent bonds break at  $\sim nN$
- H-bonds, electrostatic interactions break at  $\sim \text{tens of } pN$

# Molecular singularity I.

## Single-step photobleaching

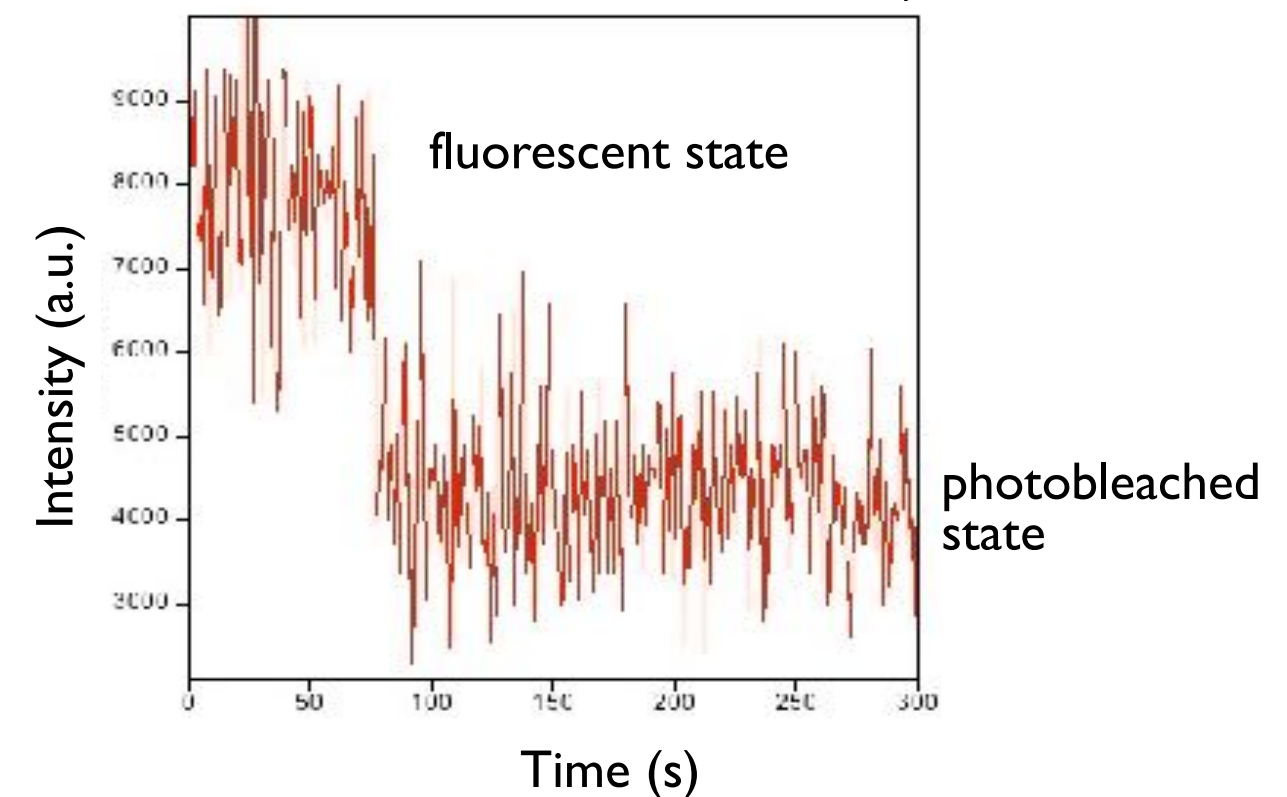


PGK molecules labeled with Alexa488, TIRF microscopy



Time

Single-step photobleaching (exponential function in an ensemble!)

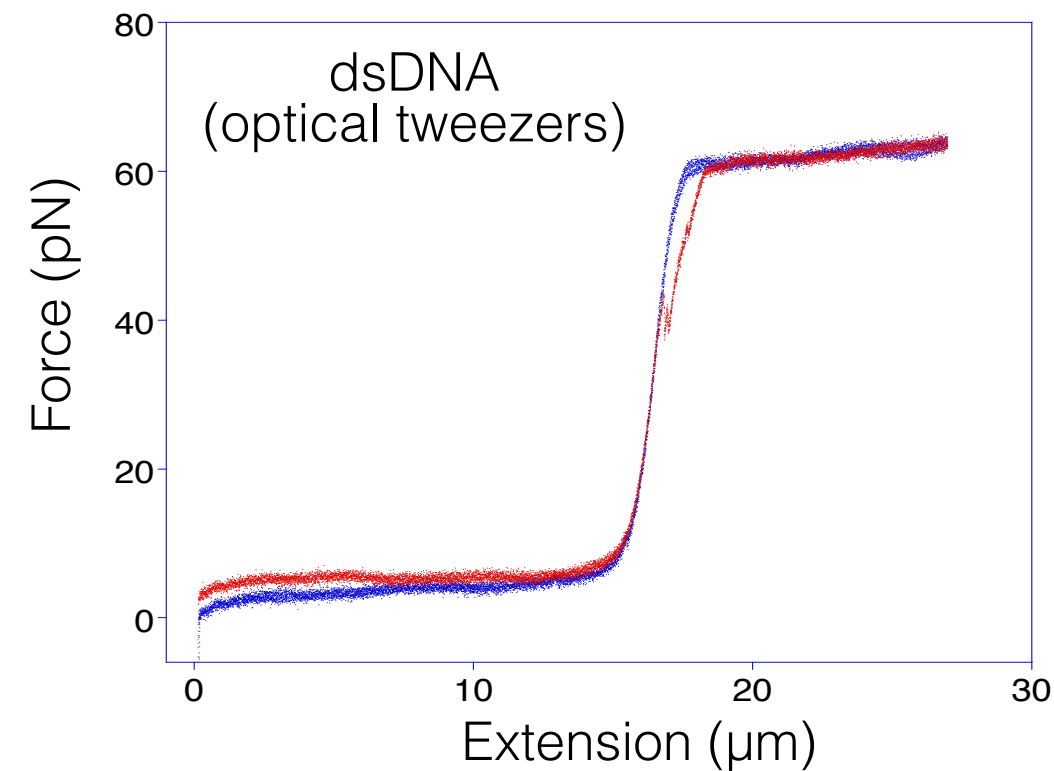
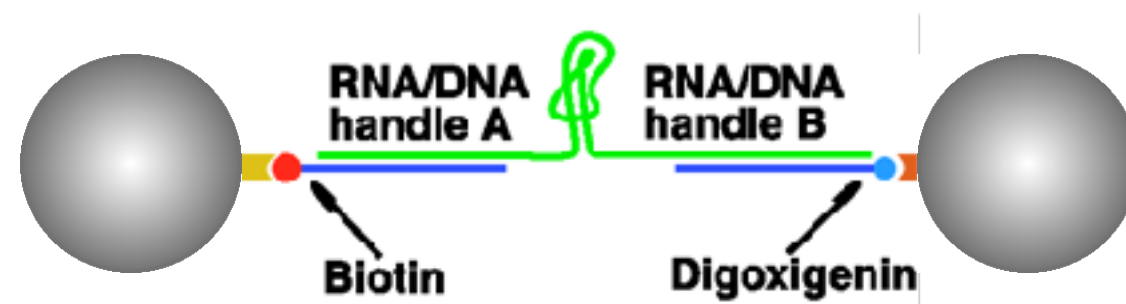




# Molecular singularity II.

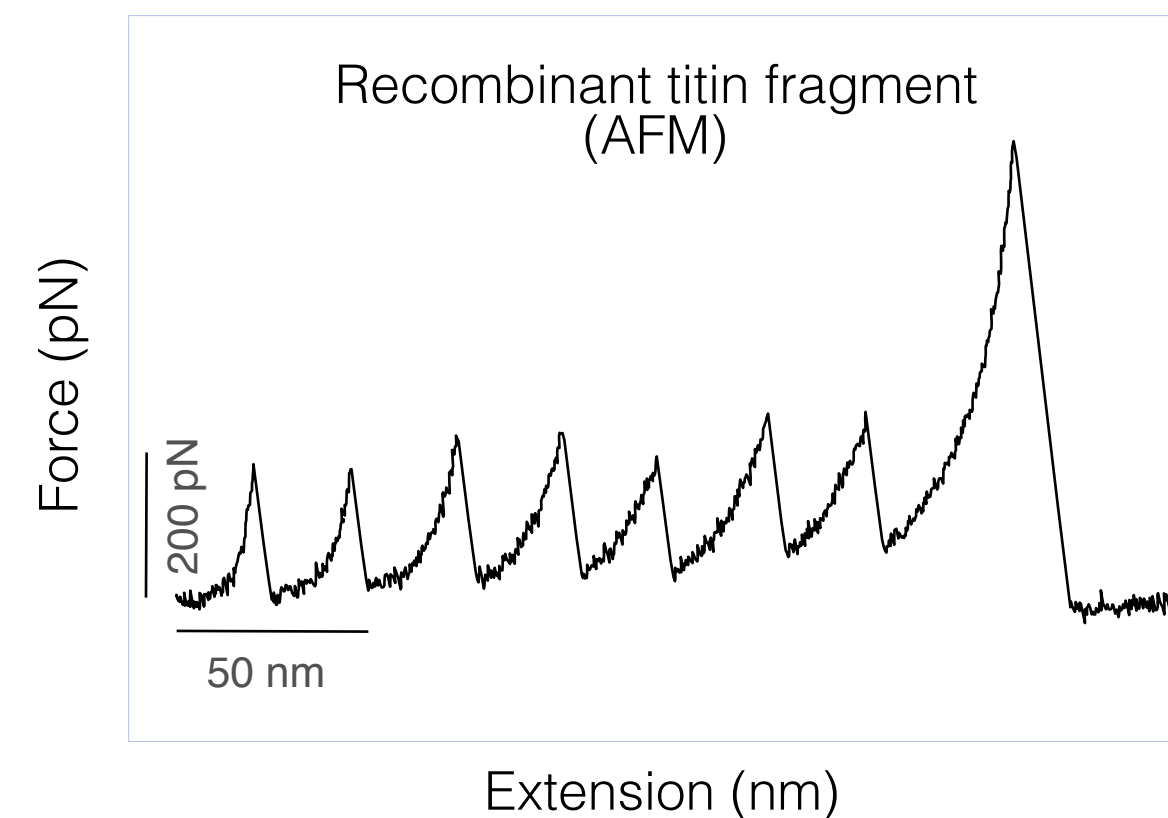
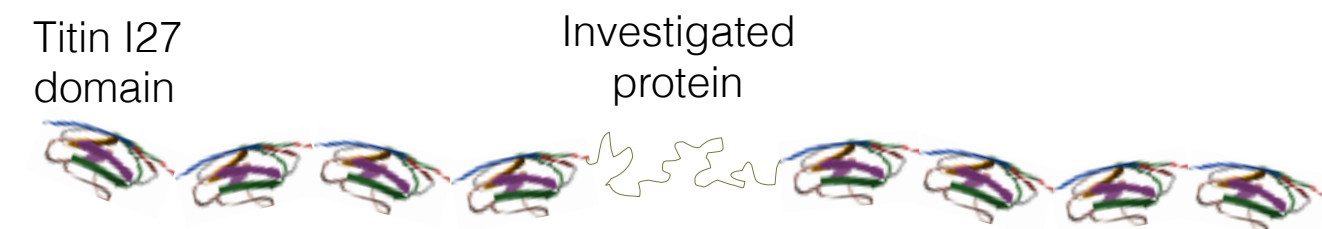
## Nanomechanical fingerprint

DNA handle



Cooperative transition at 65 pN

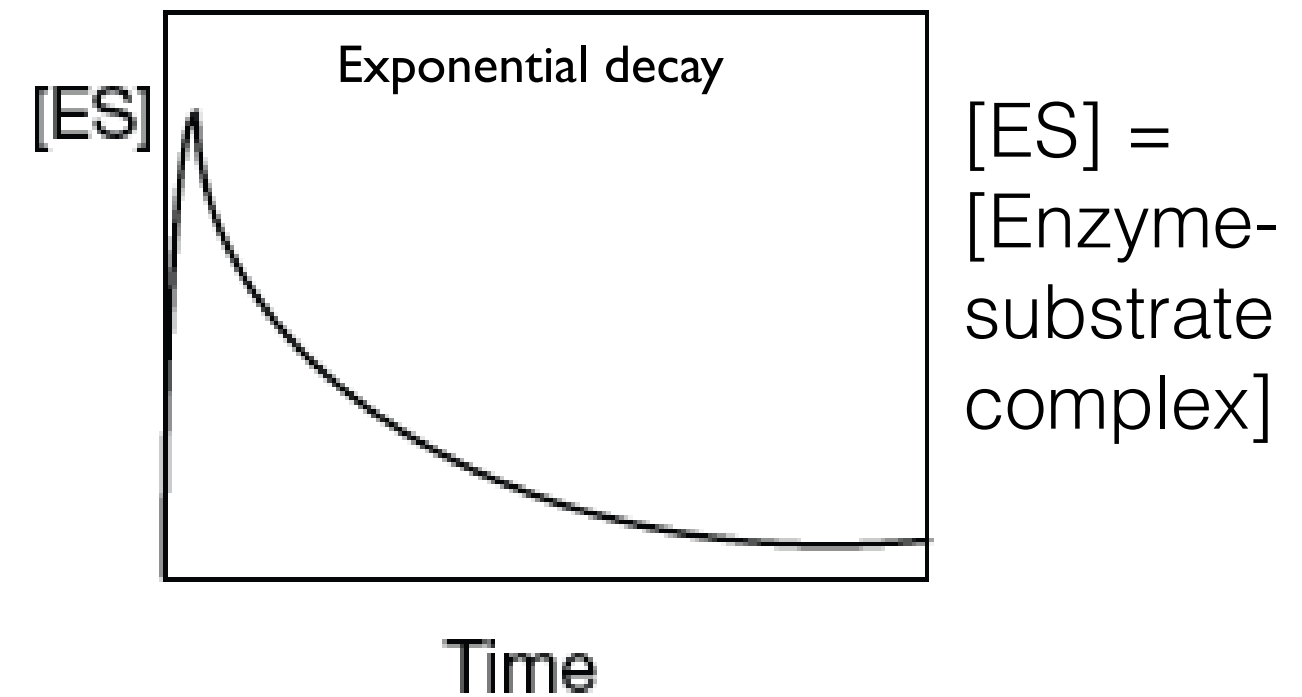
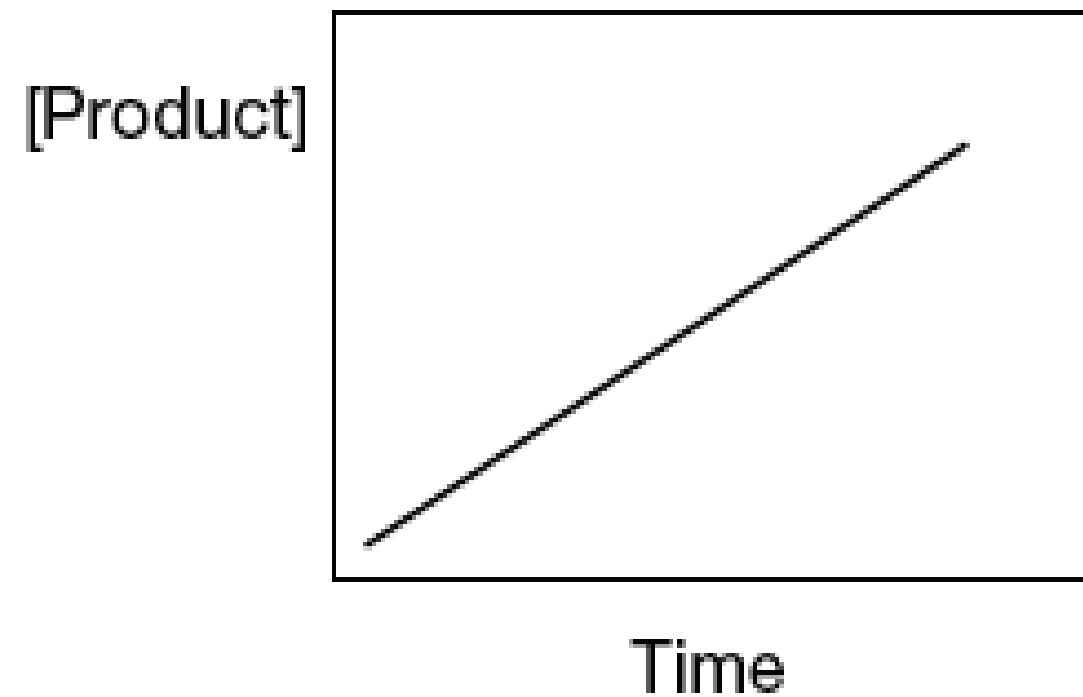
Recombinant polyprotein



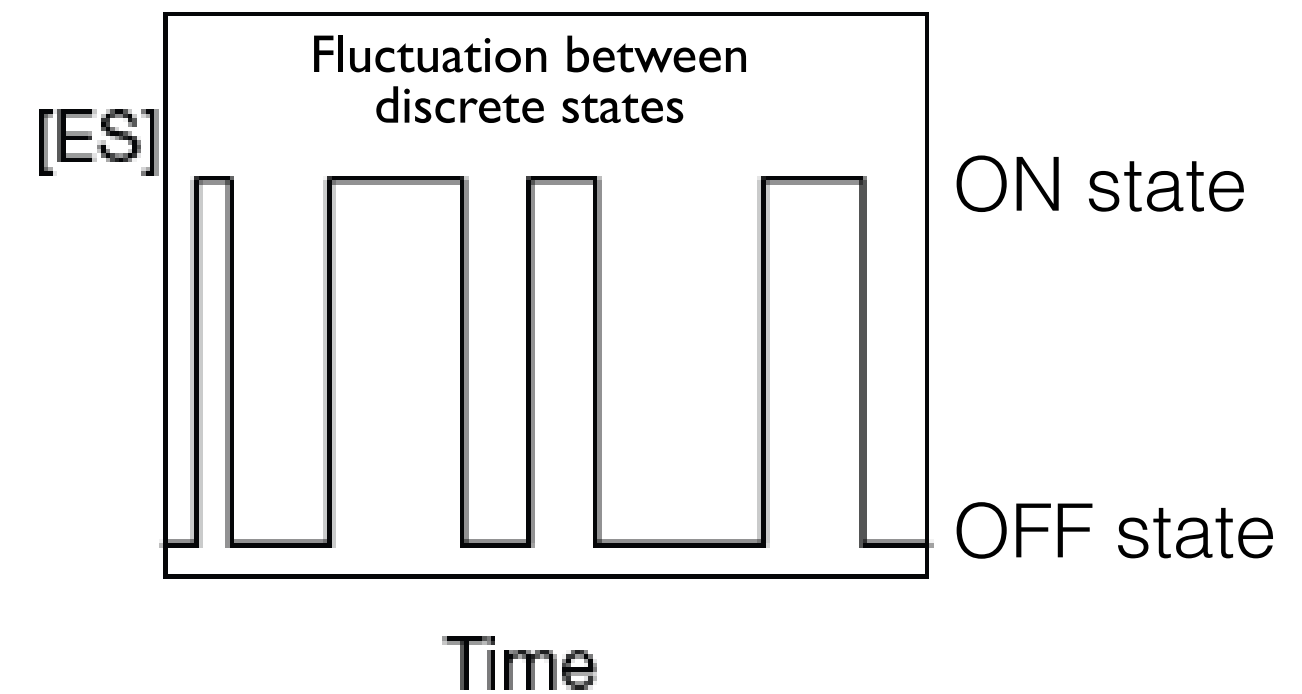
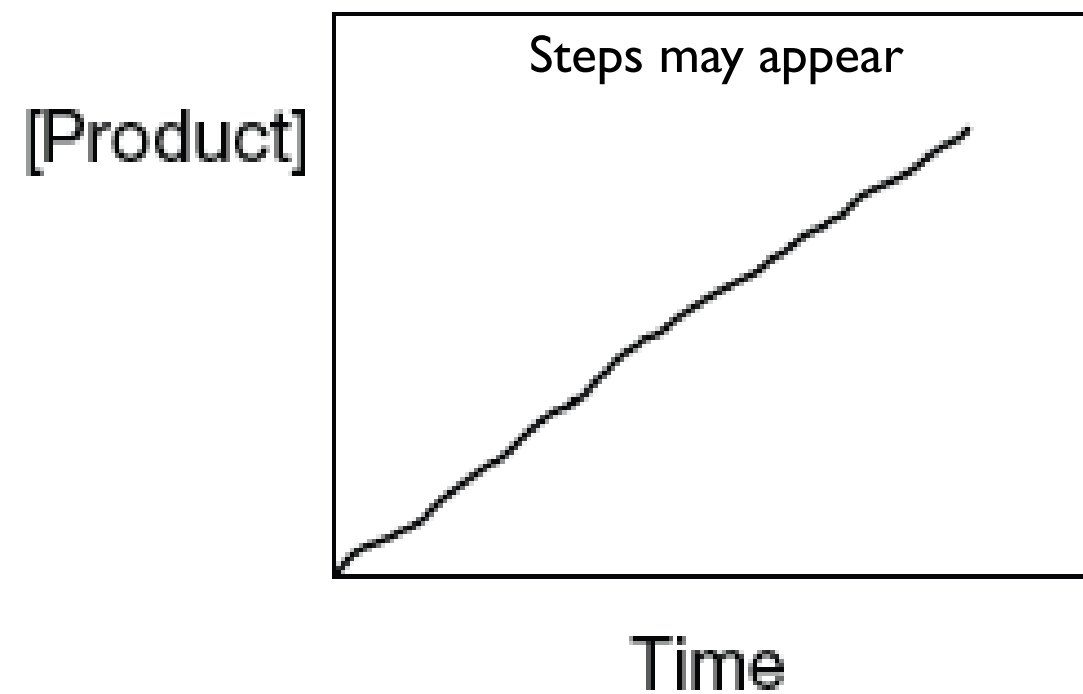
Sawtooth-shaped, equidistant transitions

# Ensemble *versus* single molecule behavior

Ensemble:



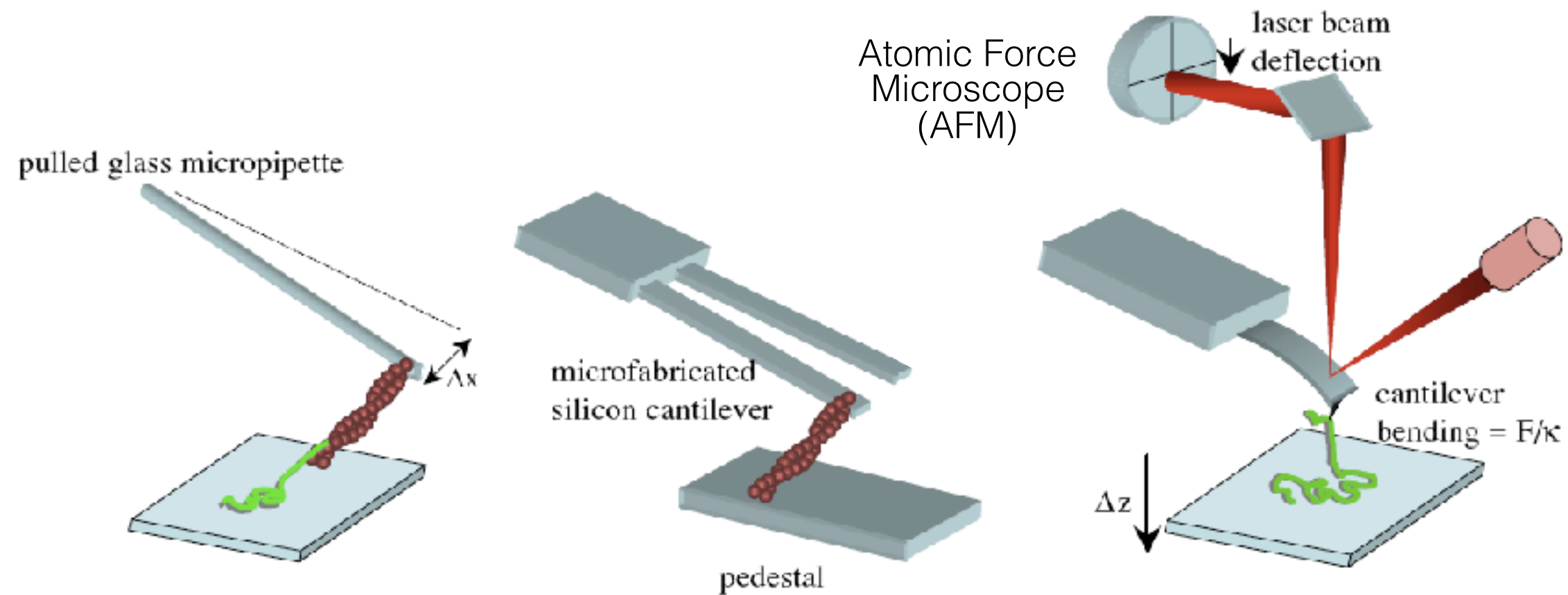
Single molecule:



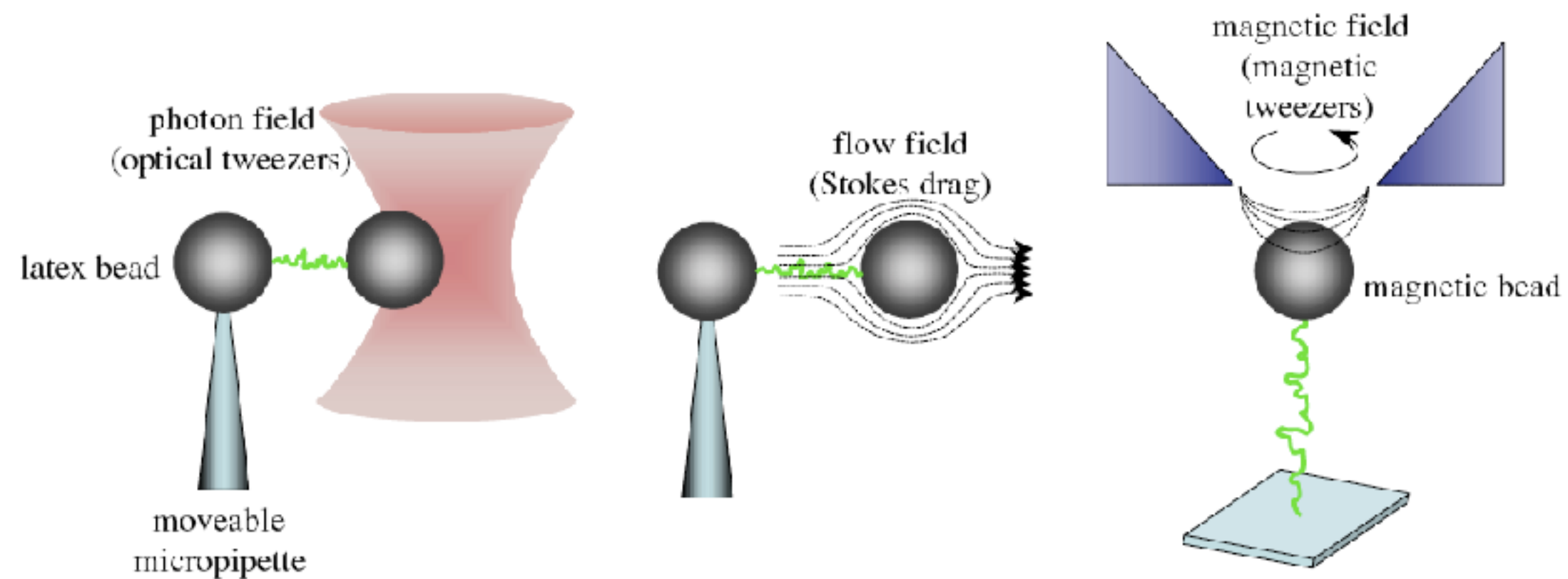


# Methods of manipulation

## Cantilever methods

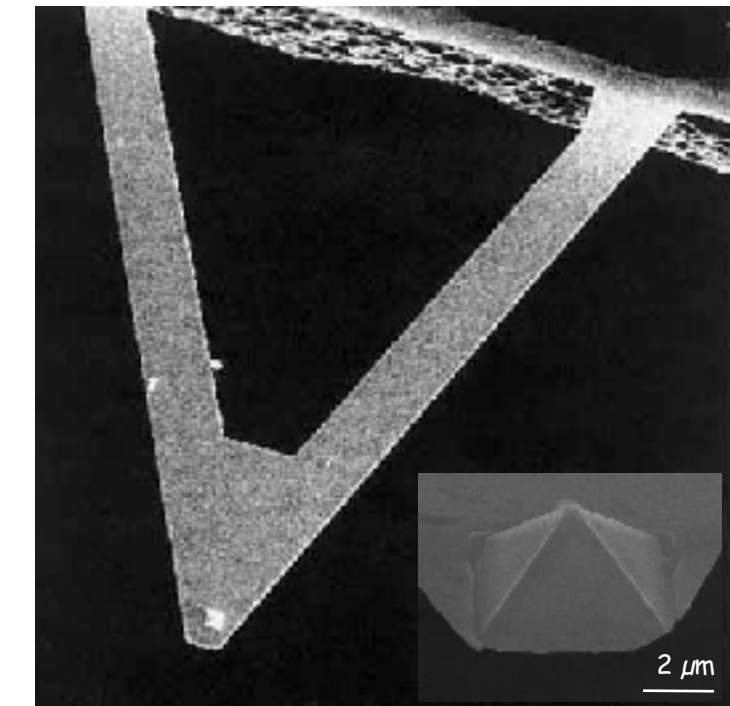
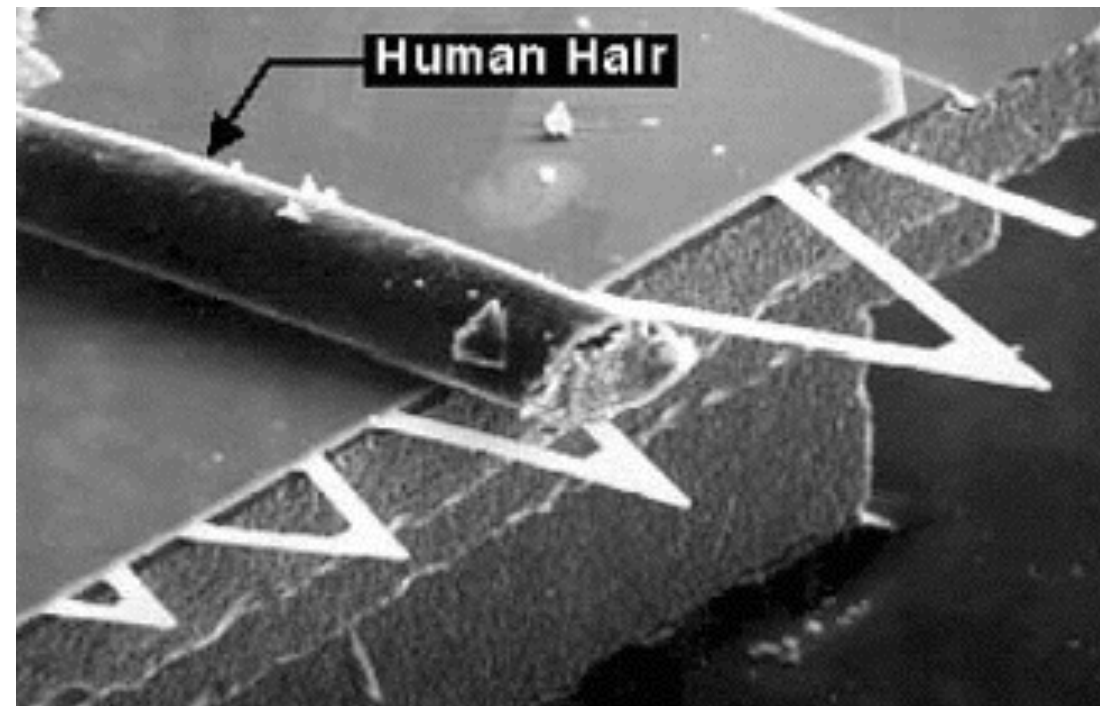
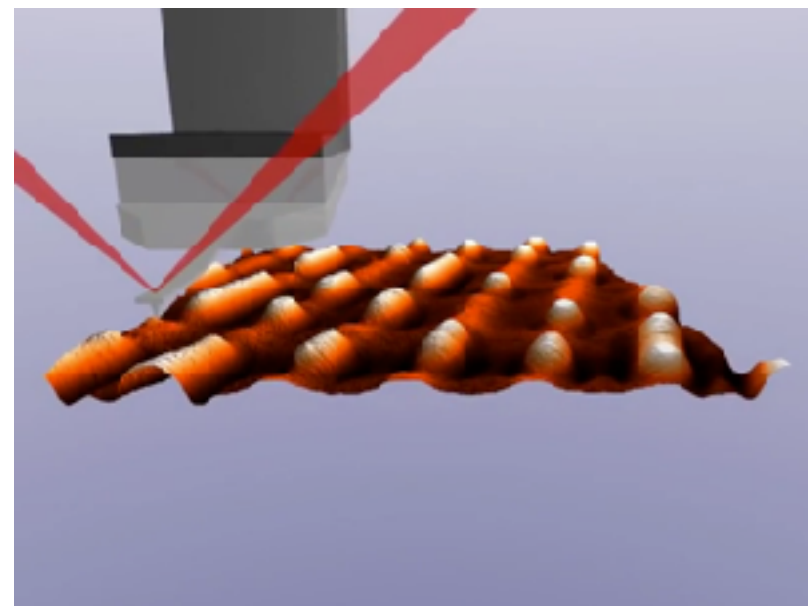
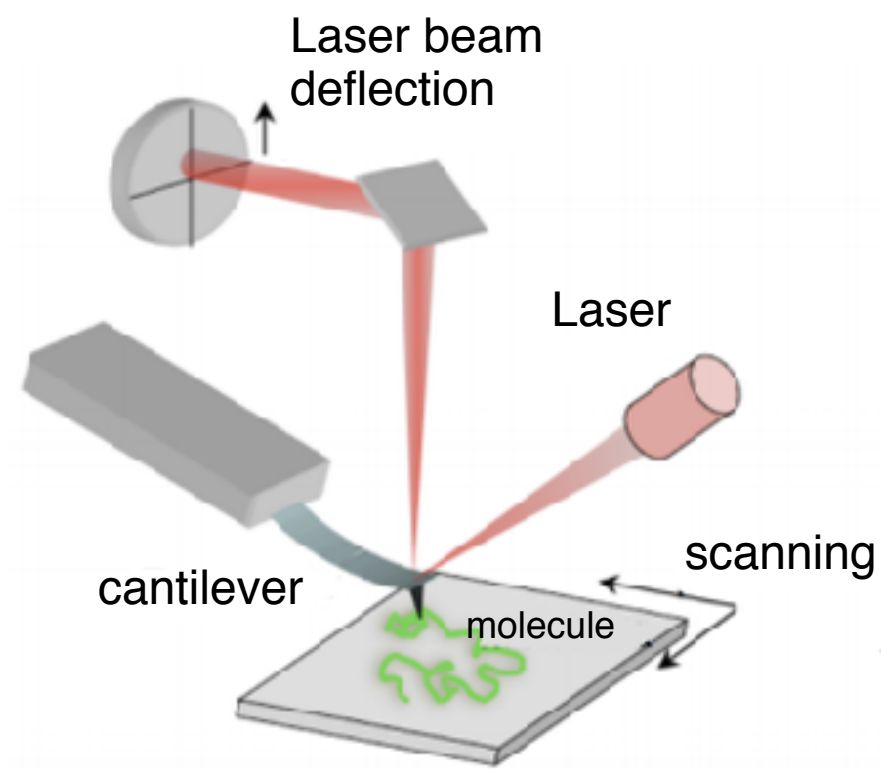


## Field-based methods

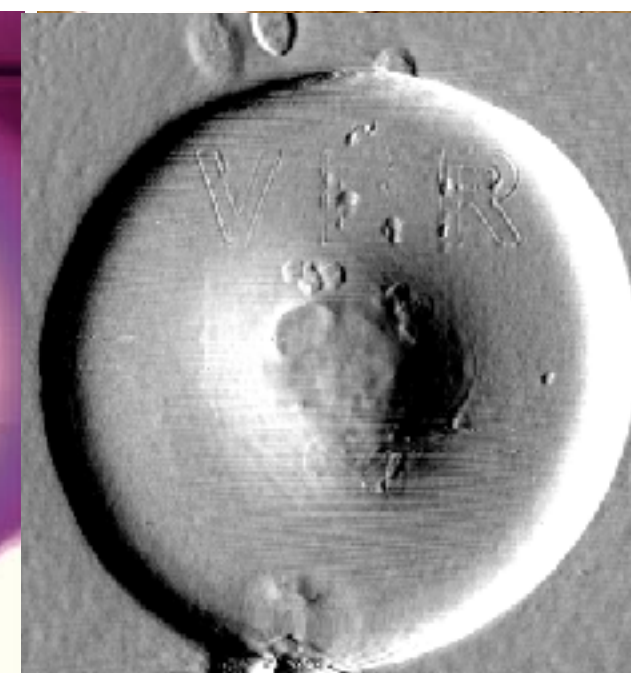


# Manipulation with AFM

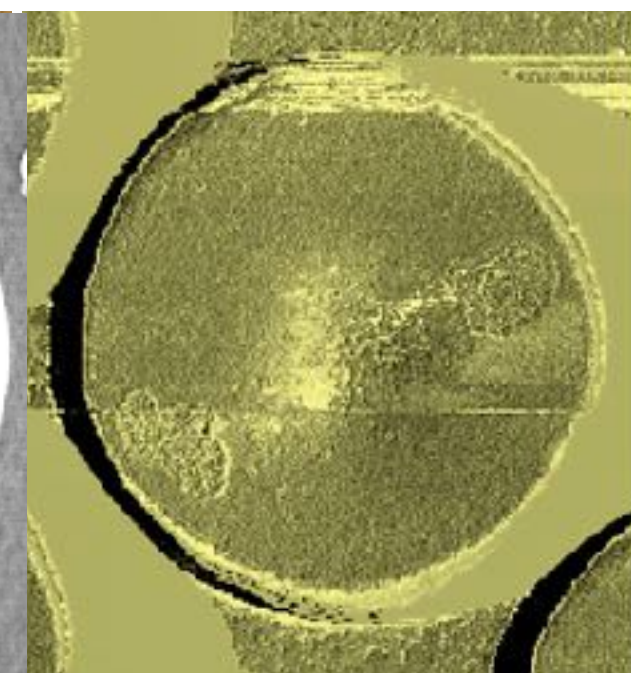
## Atomic Force Microscopy



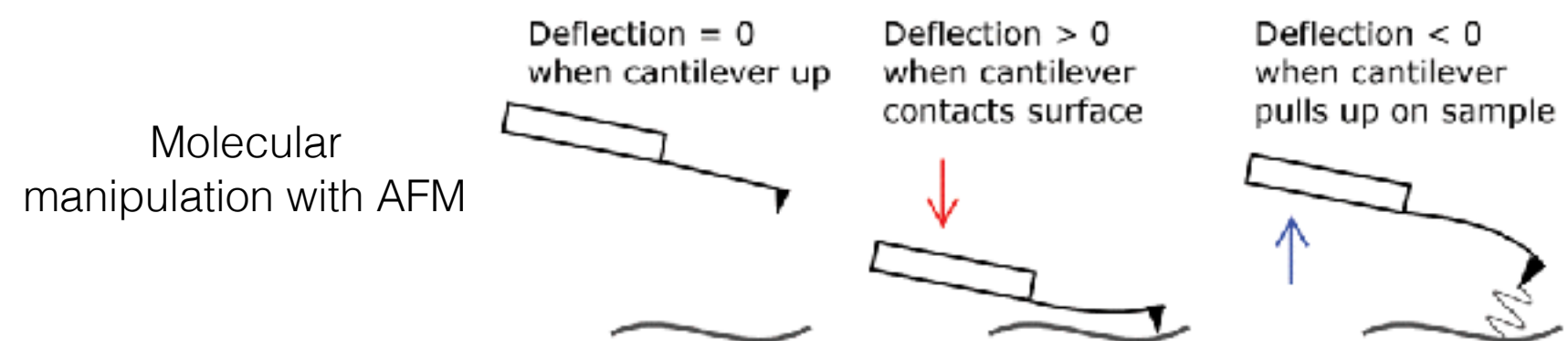
Height contrast



Amplitude contrast



Phase contrast





# Manipulation with light

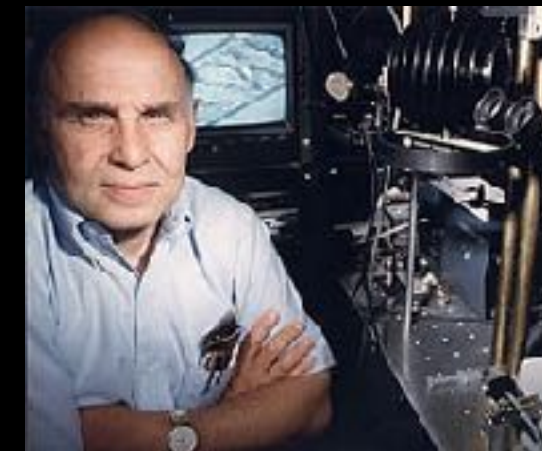


"Tractor beam", Star Trek



3  $\mu\text{m}$  latex bead in the optical tweezers

## Optical tweezers

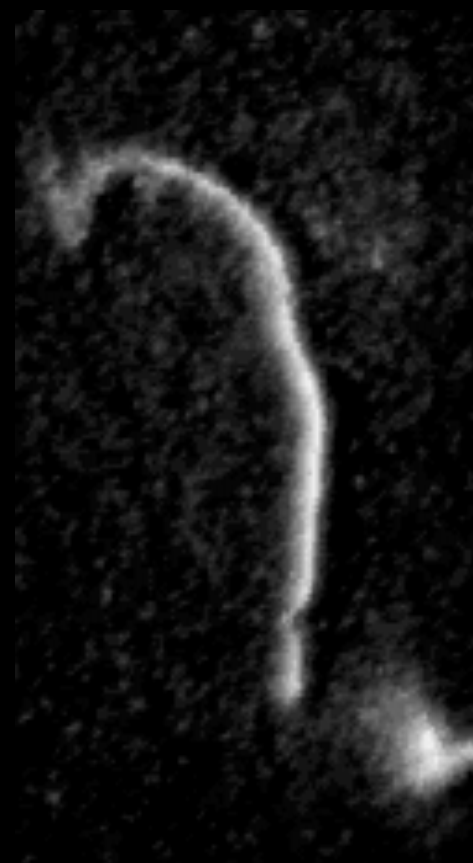


Arthur Ashkin, Nobel-prize 2018

## *E. coli* bacterium

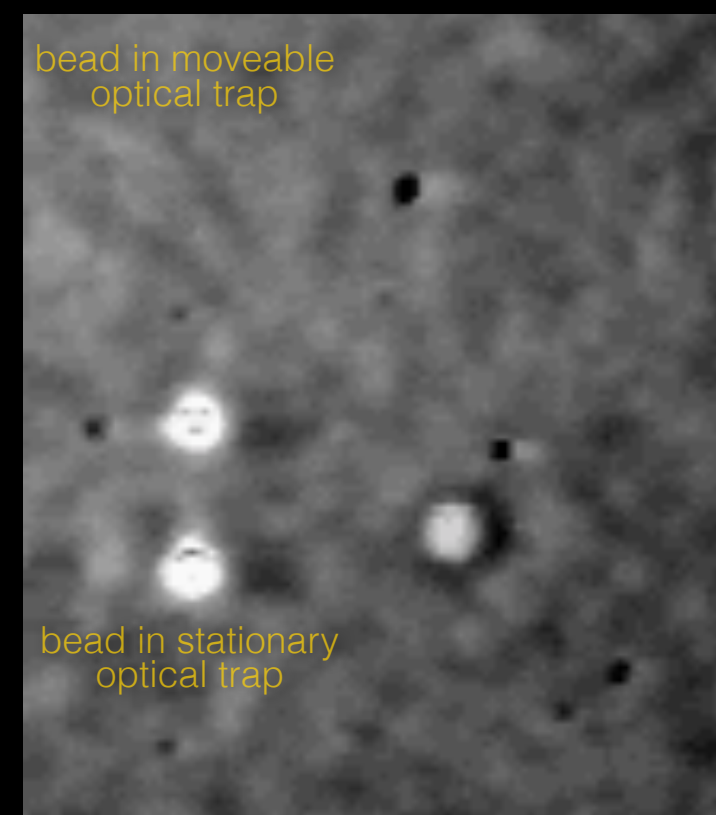


## Actin filament

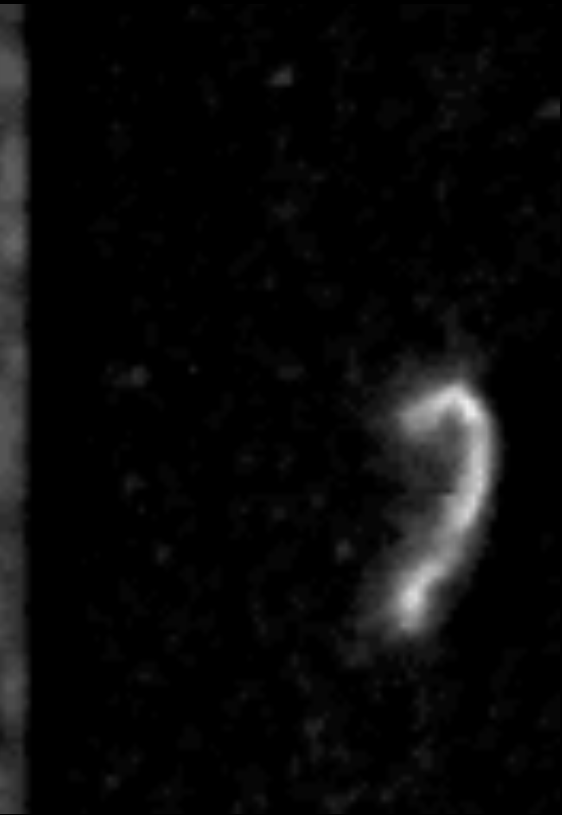


## DNA

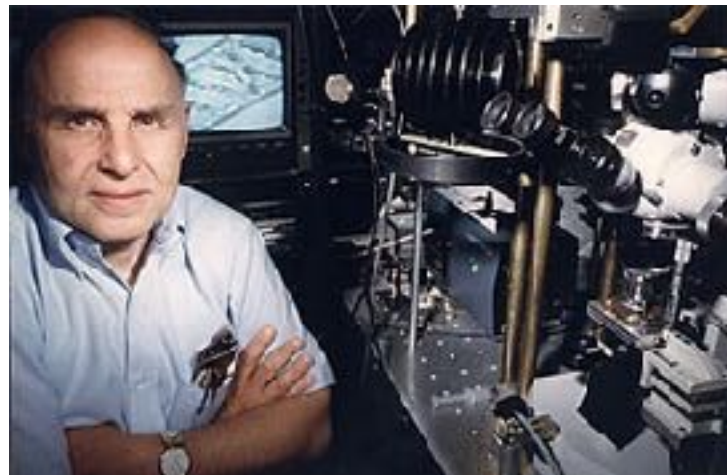
Phase contrast image



Fluorescence image



# Optical tweezers - brief history



Arthur Ashkin

1970: Arthur Ashkin: optical tweezers (Nobel-prize, 2018)

1991: J.Spudich, T.Yanagida, J.Molloy, single myosin mechanics

1994: T.Yanagida, single ATP turnover on myosin

1994: K.Svoboda, S. Block, single kinesin mechanics



J.Spudich



J.Finer

1996: C.Bustamante, D.Bensimon, DNS molecule manipulation

1997: S. Chu, W.D. Phillips and C. Cohen-Tanoudji (Nobel-prize, 1997): atom cooling with optical tweezers.

1997: M.Kellermayer, M.Rief, L.Tskhovrebova, titin manipulation

2000: Galajda P., Ormos O., microfabrication and optomechanical manipulation of artificial motors

2001: J.Liphardt, C.Bustamante, RNA stretch

2002: Holographic optical tweezers (spatial light modulator, SLM)

2008: Bustamante, Tinoco: ribosome mechanics



C.Bustamante



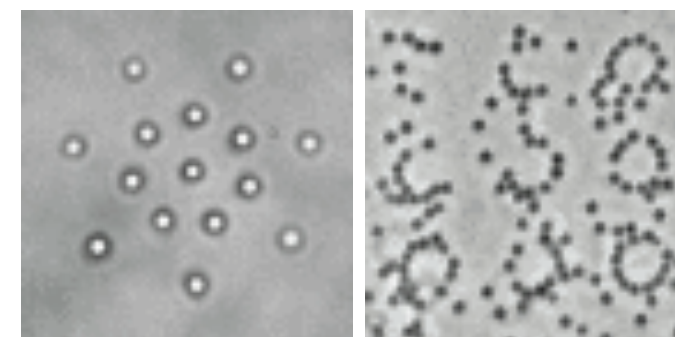
S. Chu, W.D. Phillips és C. Cohen-Tanoudji



J.Molloy



Microfabricated propeller



Simultaneous manipulation of many particles with holographic optical tweezers



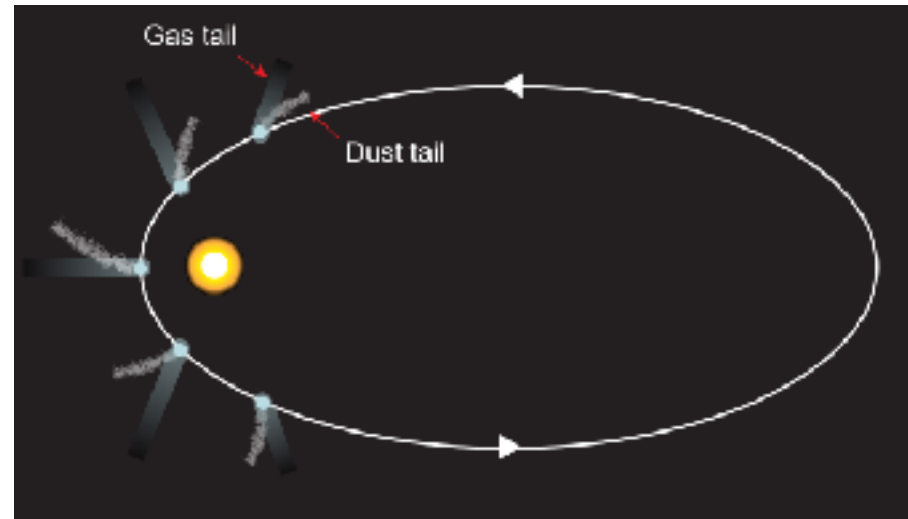
S. Block



# Photonic momentum changes upon interaction with particles

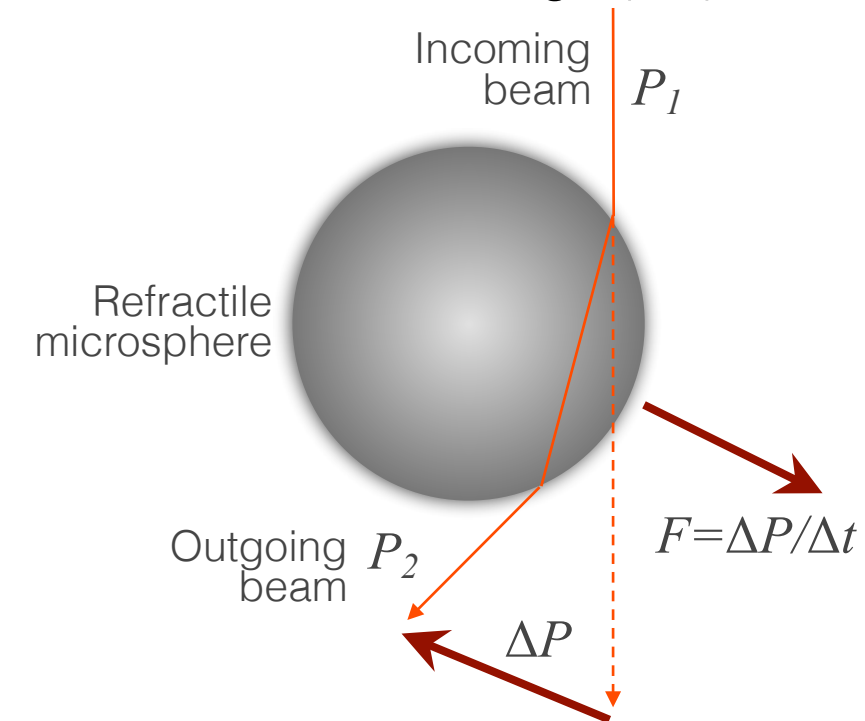


Johannes Kepler  
(1571-1630)



Comet tail stands away from the sun: mechanical effect of the light rays?

Refraction is accompanied by photonic momentum change ( $\Delta P$ ):



Einstein:  
mass-energy  
equivalence  
 $E = mc^2$

Planck:  
radiation  
law  
 $E = hf$

Maxwell:  
speed of light  
 $c = \lambda f$



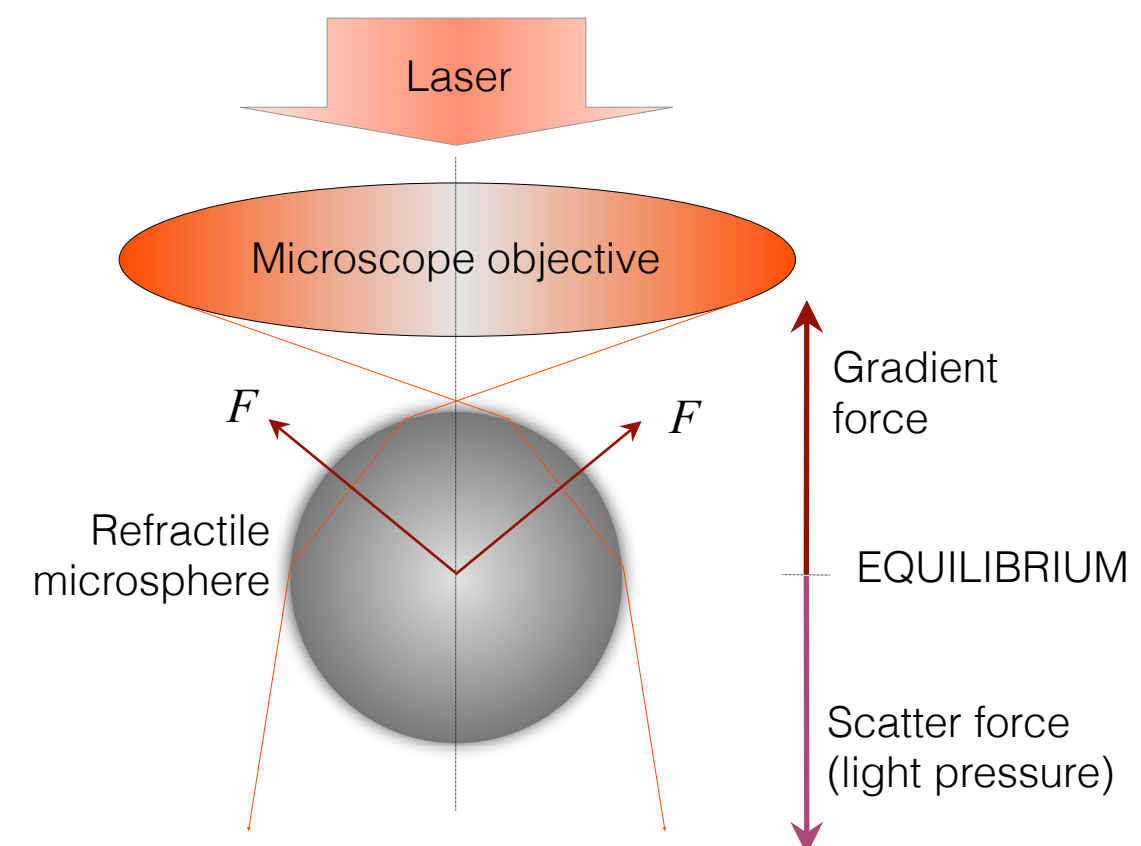
Louis-Victor-Pierre-Raymond,  
7th duc  
de Broglie (1892-1987)

$$mc^2 = h \cdot \frac{c}{\lambda}$$

Momentum of photon:

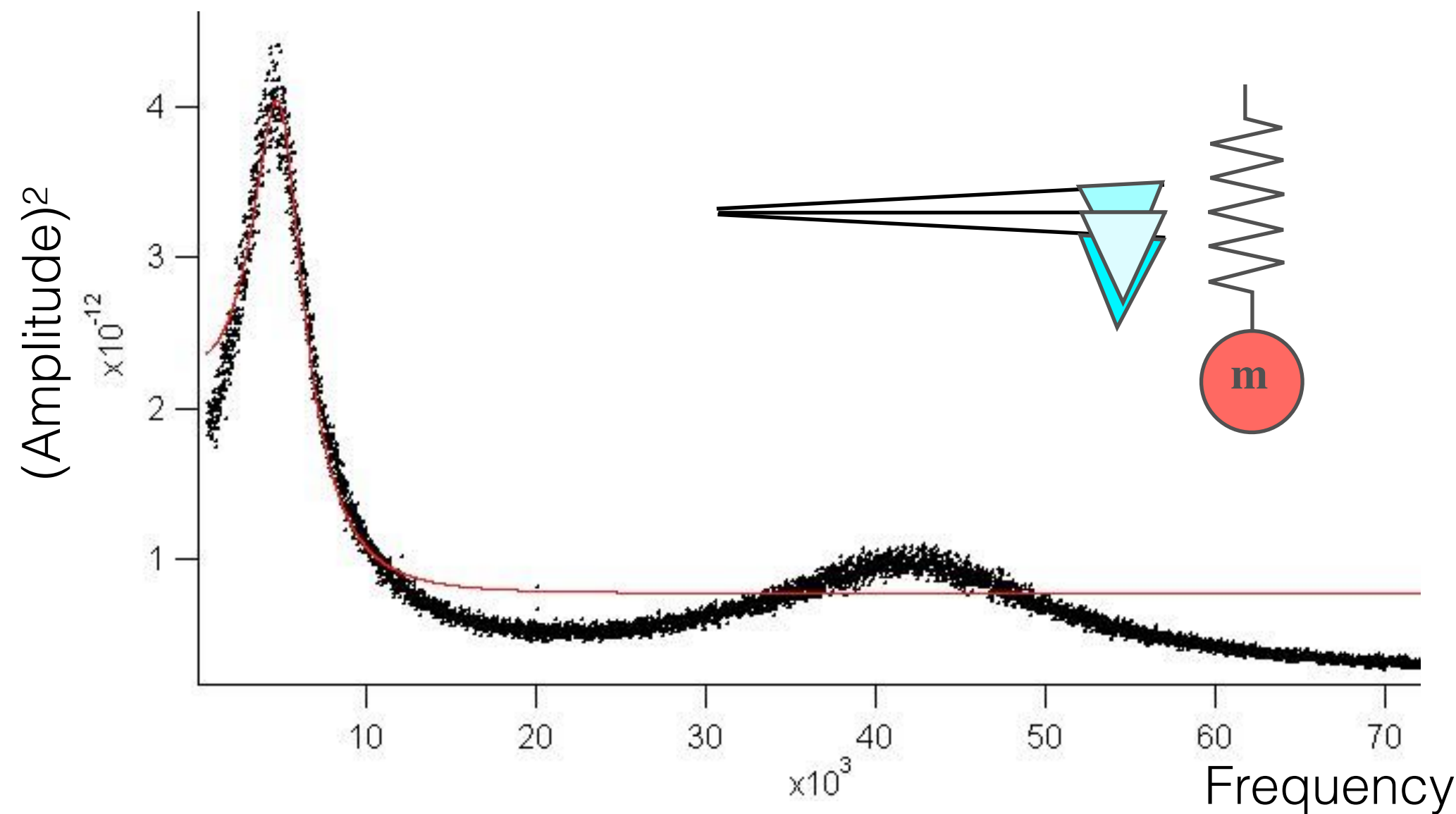
$$P = \frac{h}{\lambda}$$

In the optical trap a momentum change occurs between the photons and the trapped particle:



# Calibrating the probe

- Direct force measurement (photonic momentum change)
- Application of known forces (added weight, Stokes drag)
- Thermal method (equipartition theorem)



$$\kappa = m\omega^2$$
$$\frac{1}{2}\kappa \langle x^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{2}k_B T$$

$\kappa$  = stiffness  
 $m$  = mass  
 $\omega$  = resonance frequency  
 $x$  = deflection

AFM cantilever stiffness  $\sim 10$ -1000 pN/nm

Optical trap stiffness  $\sim 0.1$ -1.0 pN/nm

# Molecule - handle geometry

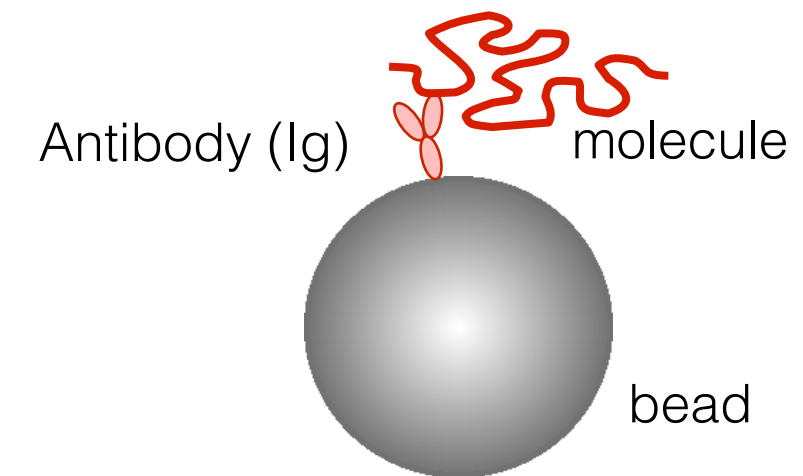
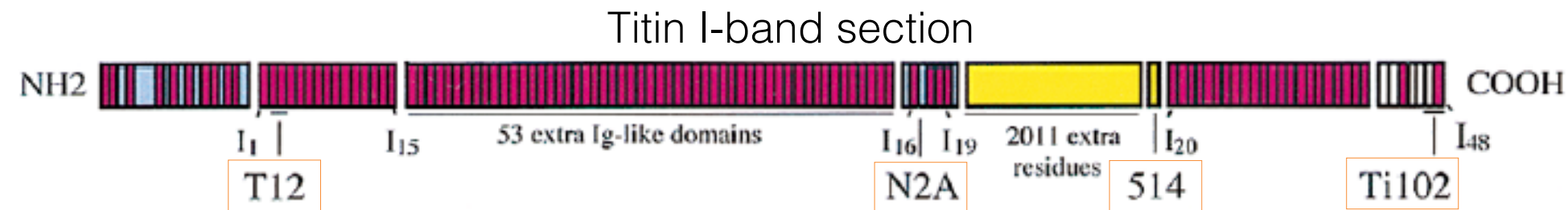
microscopic bead  $\sim 1\ \mu\text{m}$



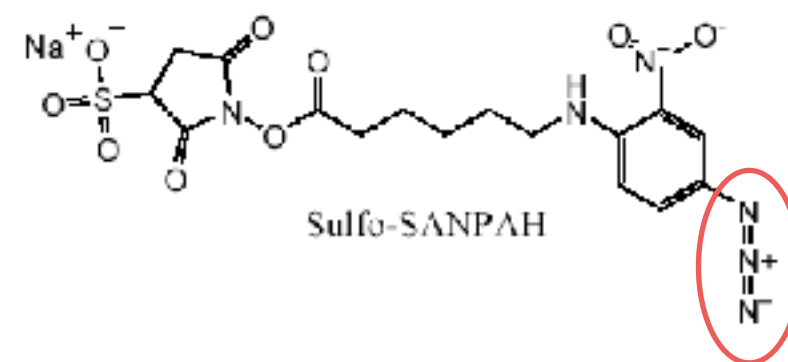


# Attaching the molecule to the handle

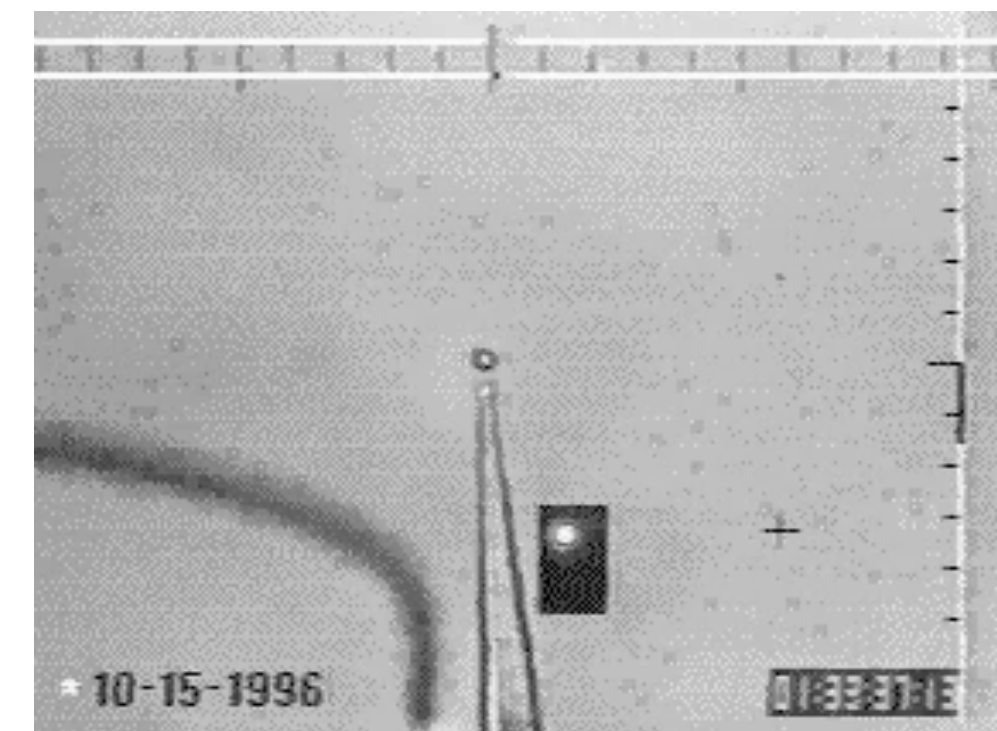
## Sequence-specific antibodies



## Photoreactive cross-linker - “molecular welding”

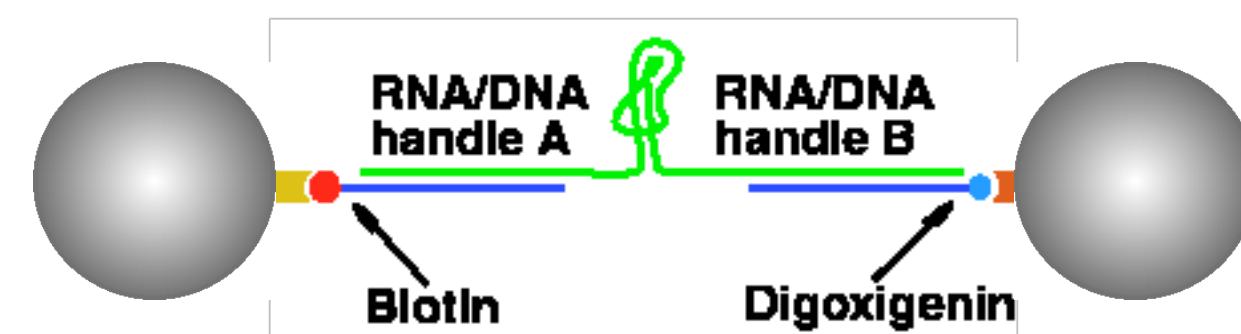


- Non-specific
- Photoreactive N<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> (azido) group (reacts with amines)
- UV illumination



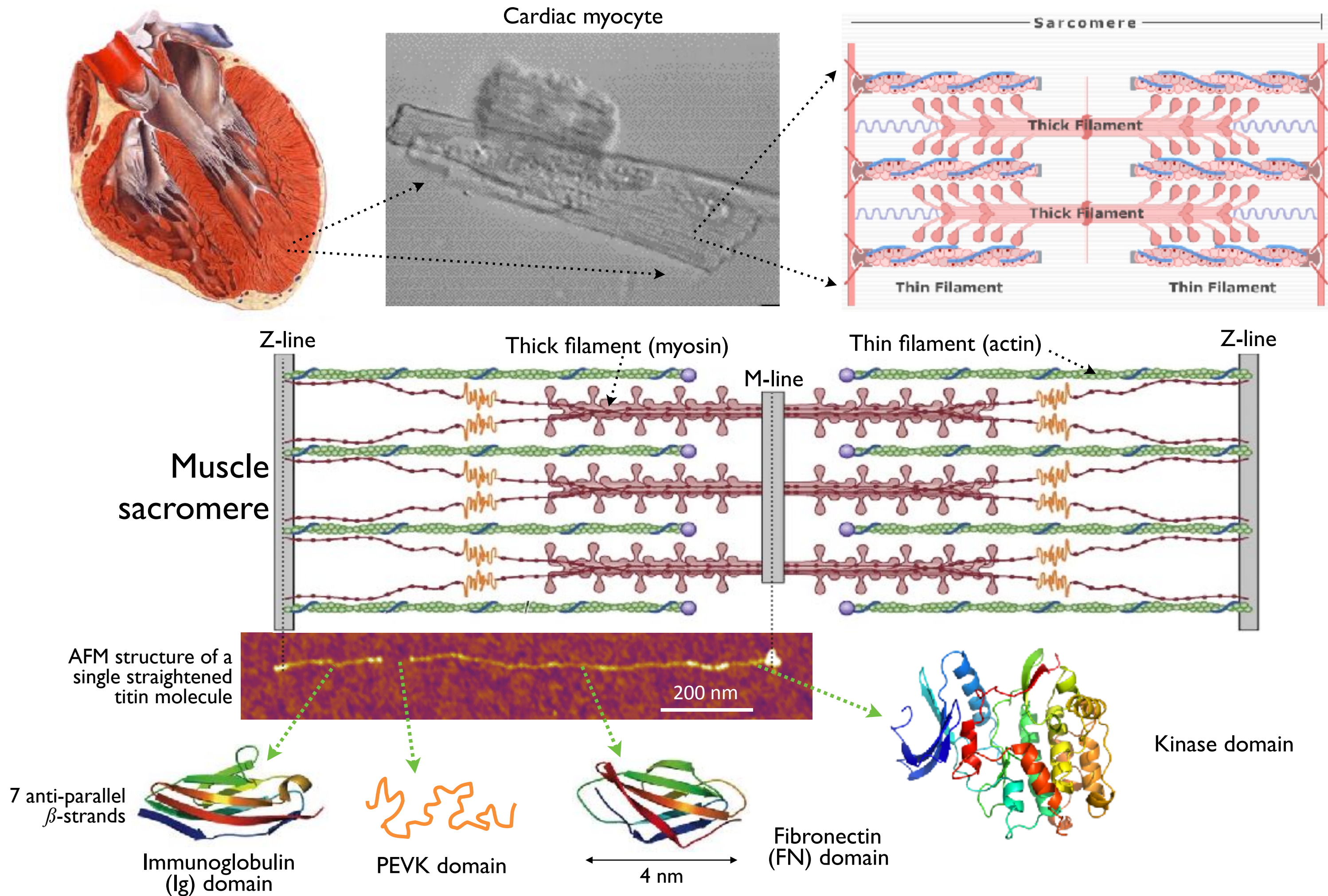
## DNA handle

- Molecular dimension
- Can be made specific with cloning techniques
- Provides mechanical fingerprint



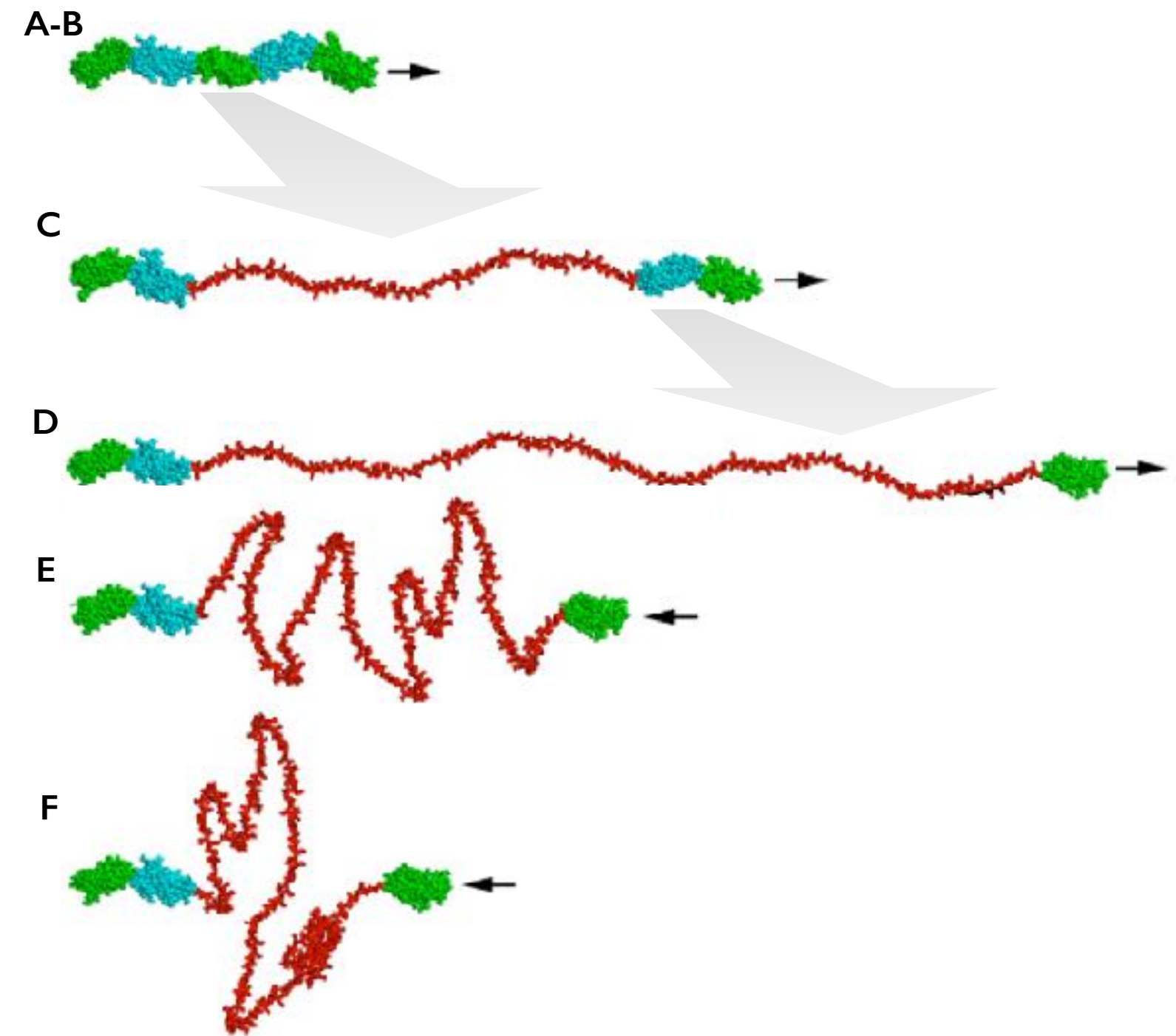
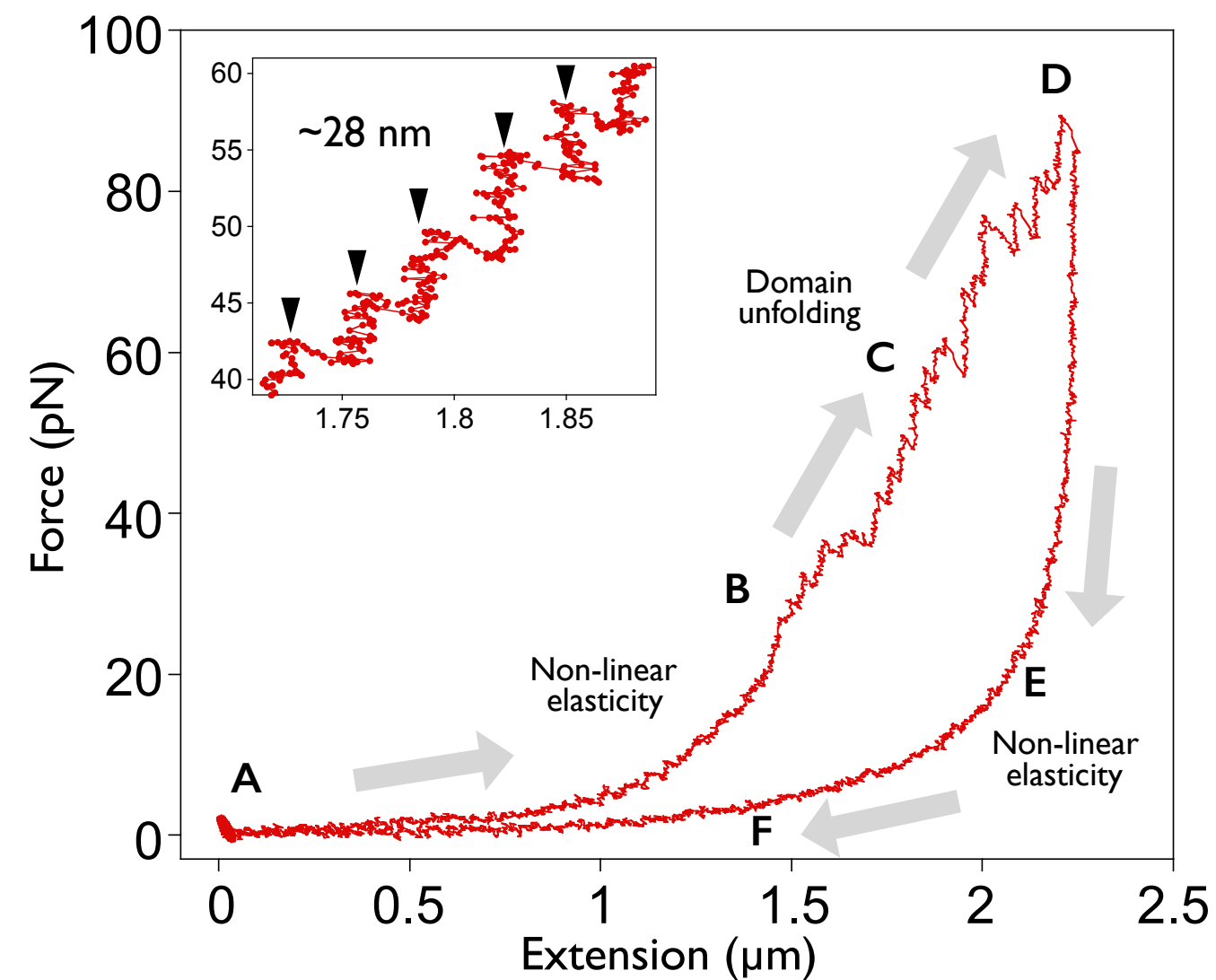


# 1. Titin: giant elastic muscle protein

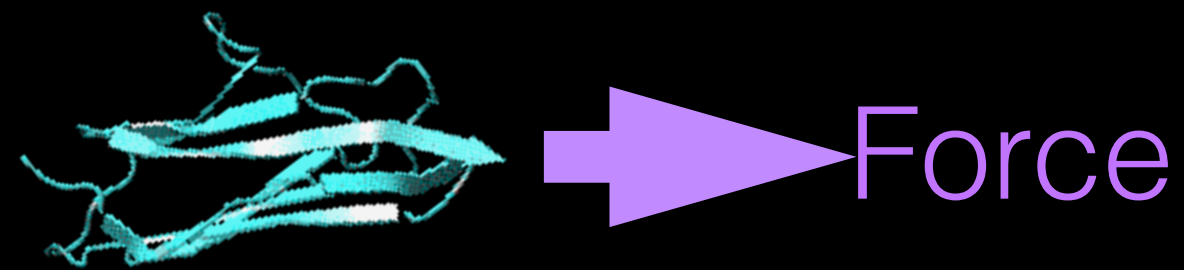
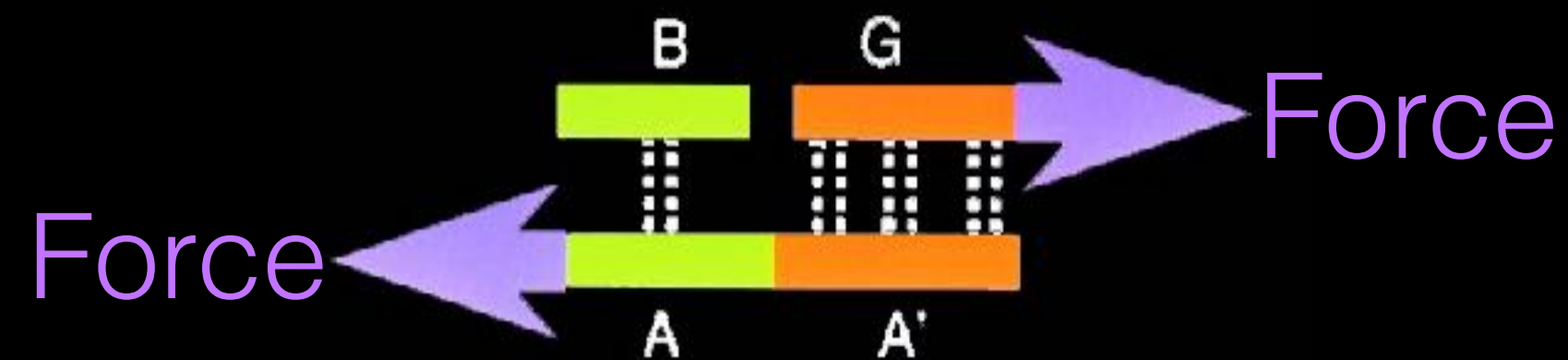
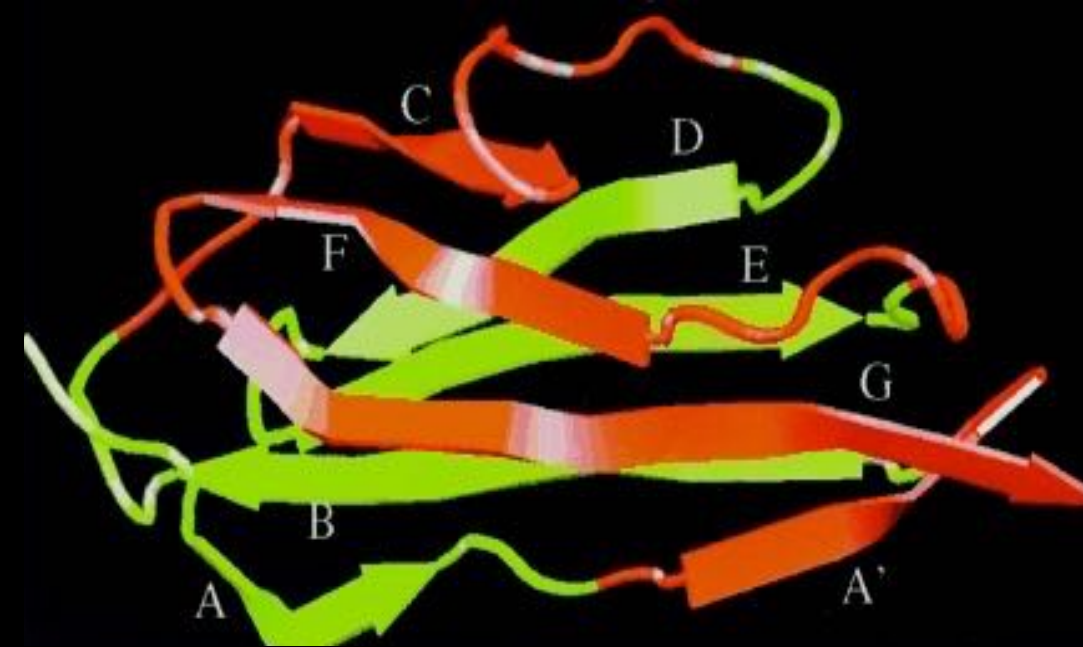




# Titin mechanics - constant-velocity experiment: non-linear elasticity + domain unfolding



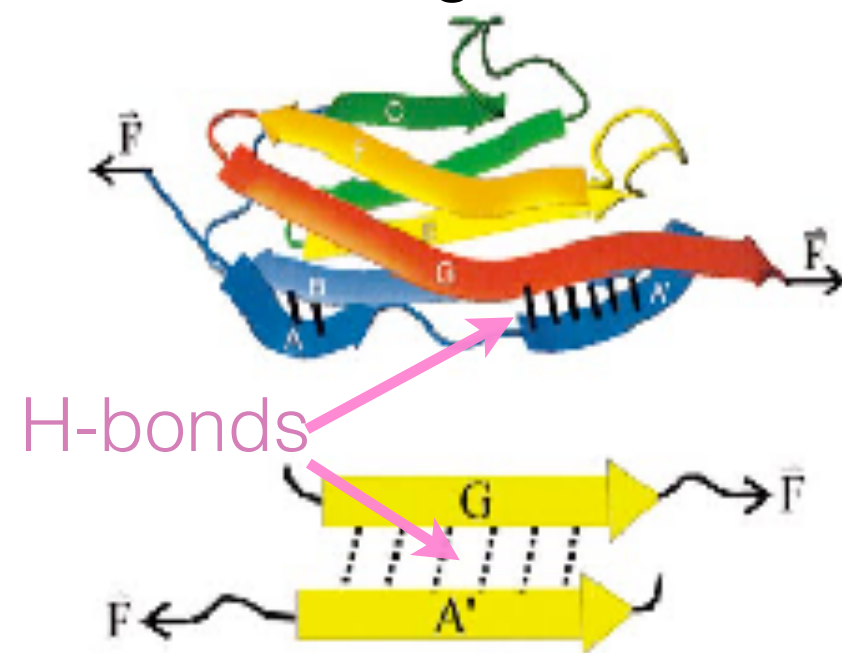
# Structural basis of mechanical stability



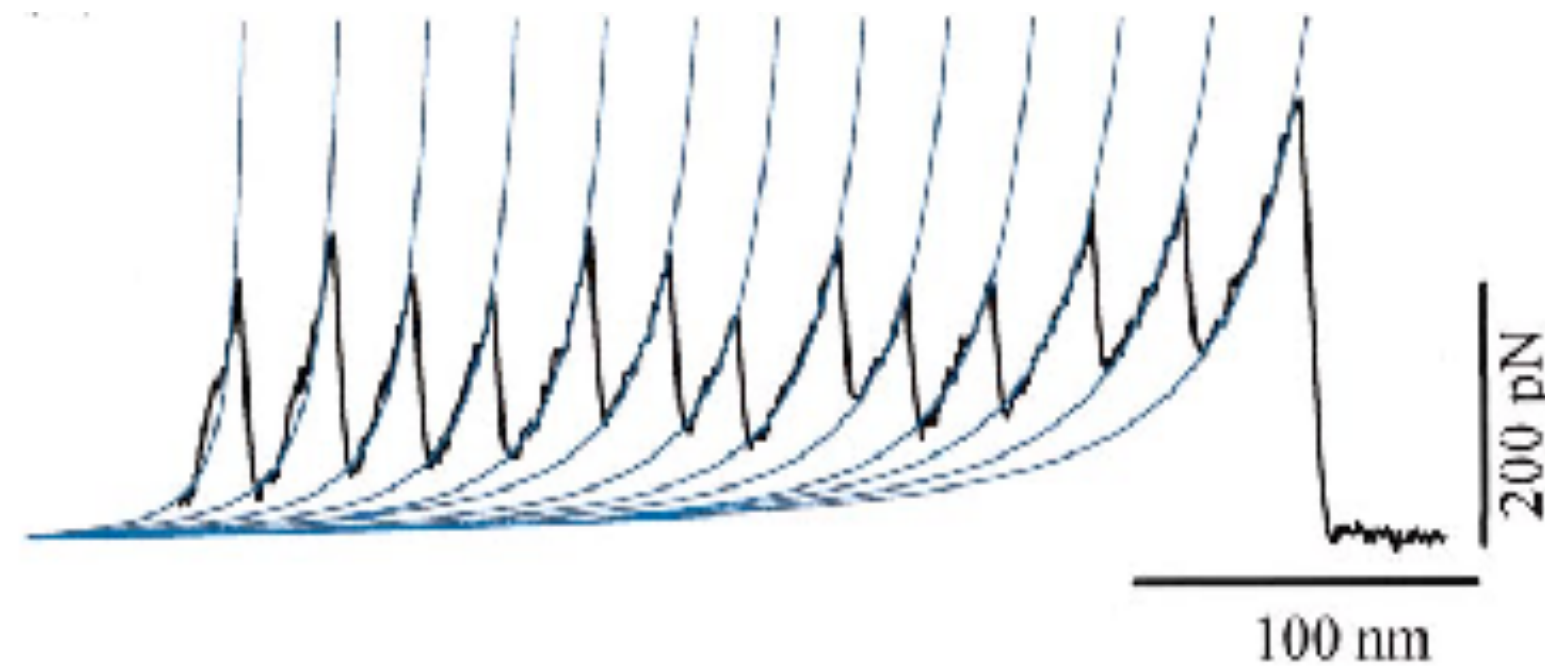


# Biological logic of mechanical stability

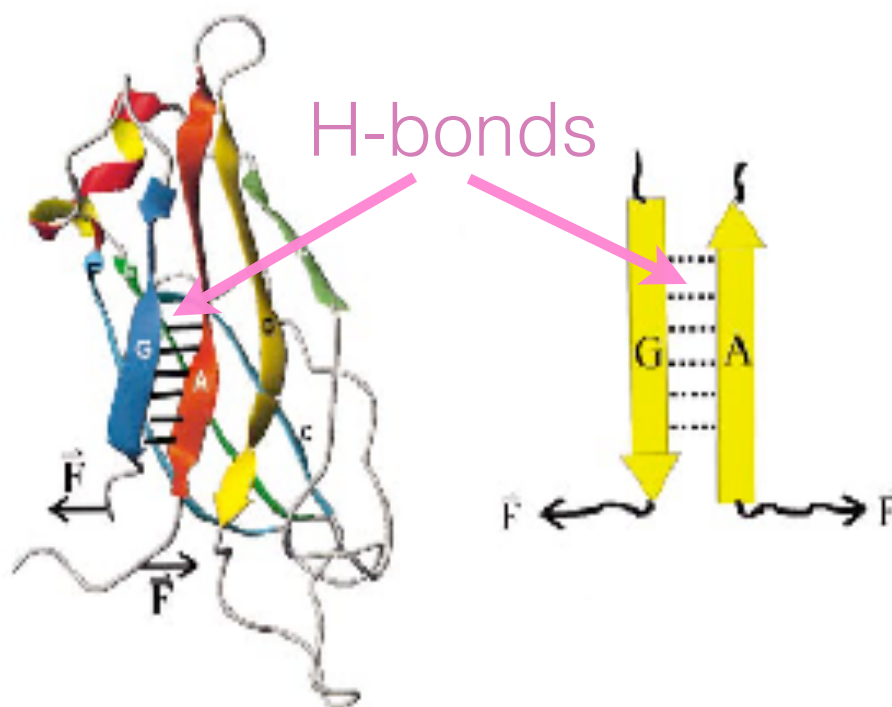
Parallel coupling of structure-stabilizing H-bonds



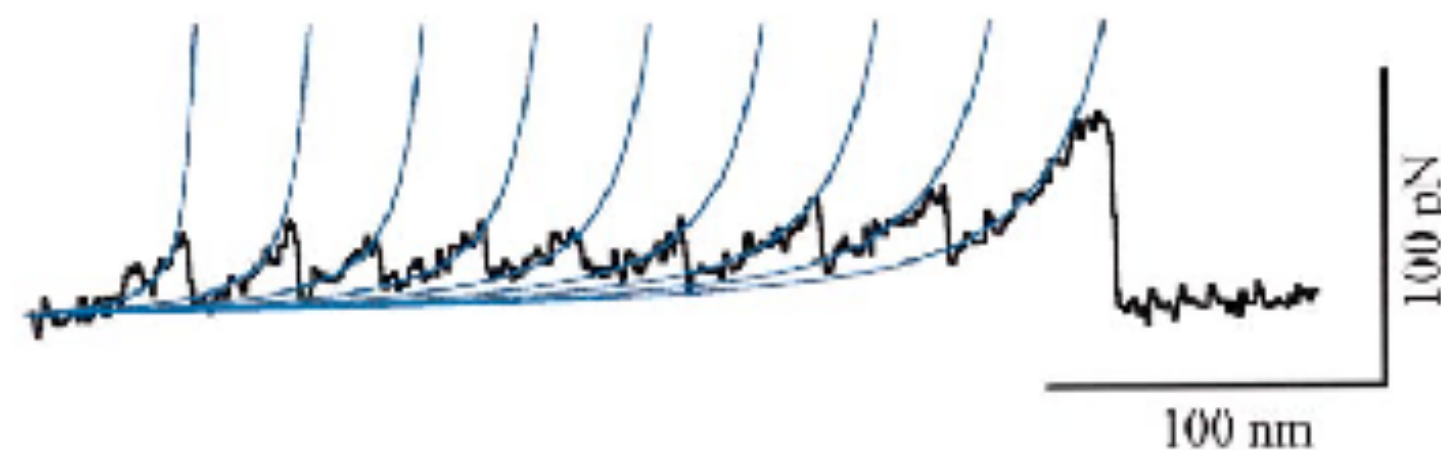
High unfolding forces



Serial coupling of structure-stabilizing H-bonds



Low unfolding forces



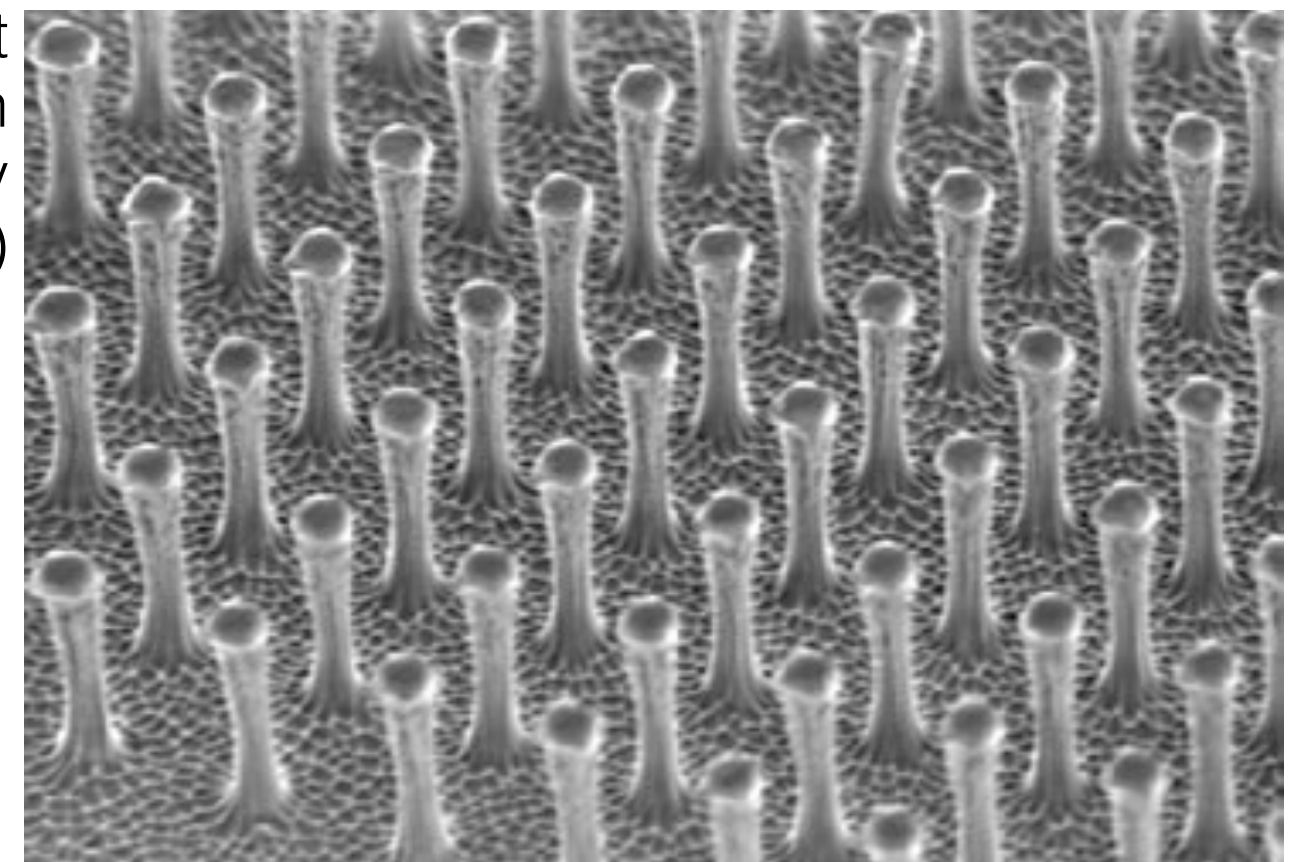


# Macroscopic mechanical stability

Highly efficient glue based on the principle of parallel coupling



Artificial gecko foot  
(prepared with  
nanotechnology  
methods)



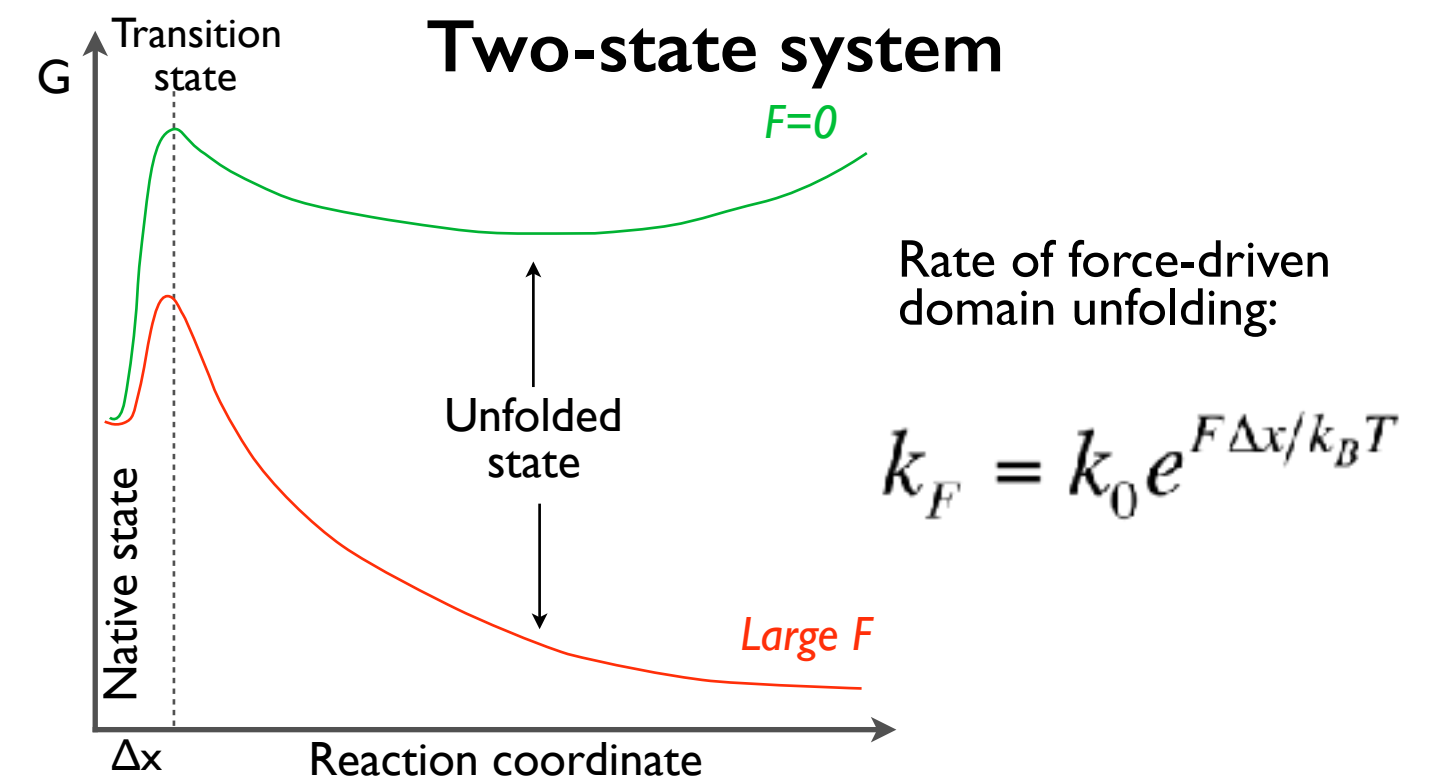
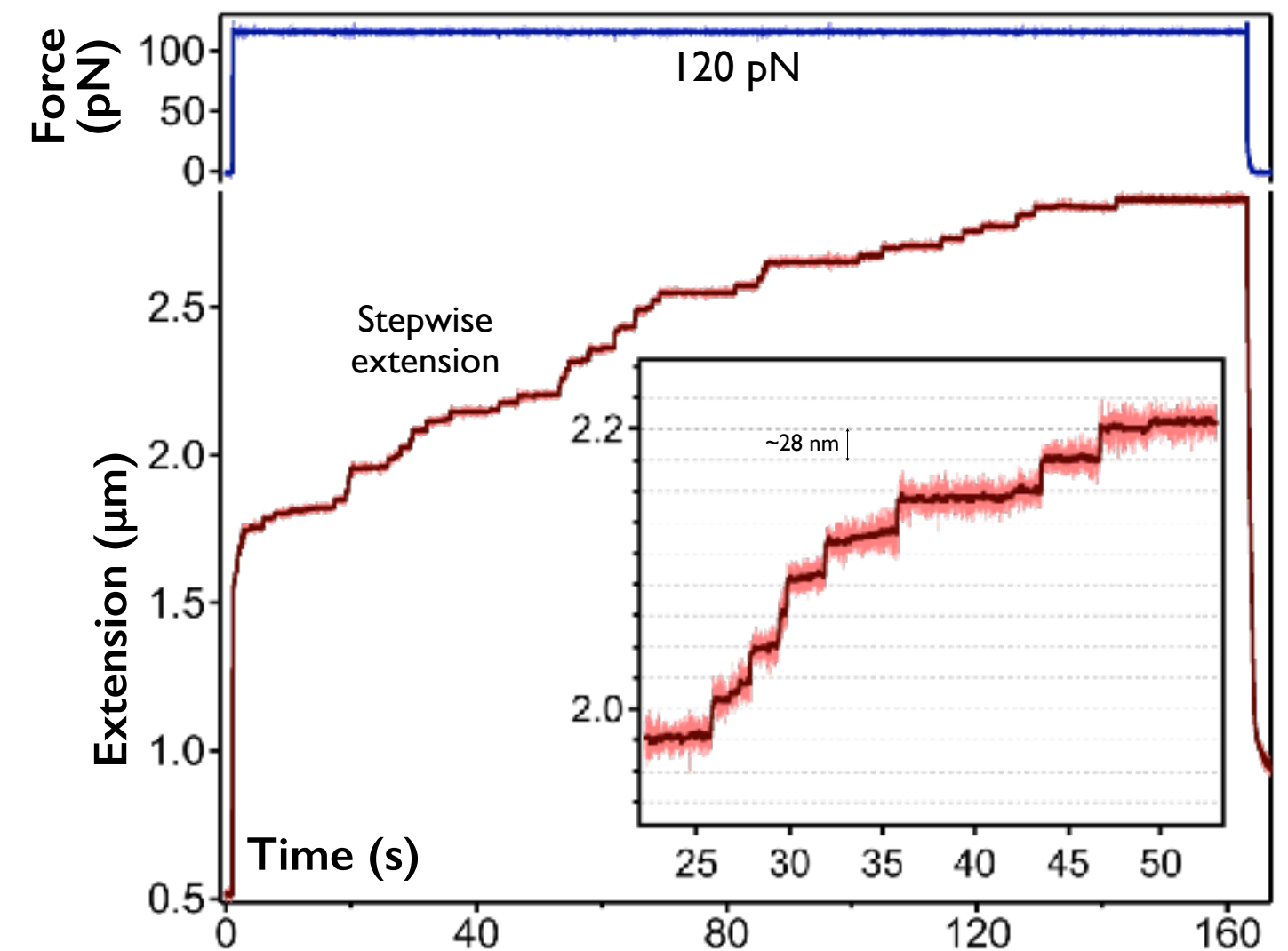
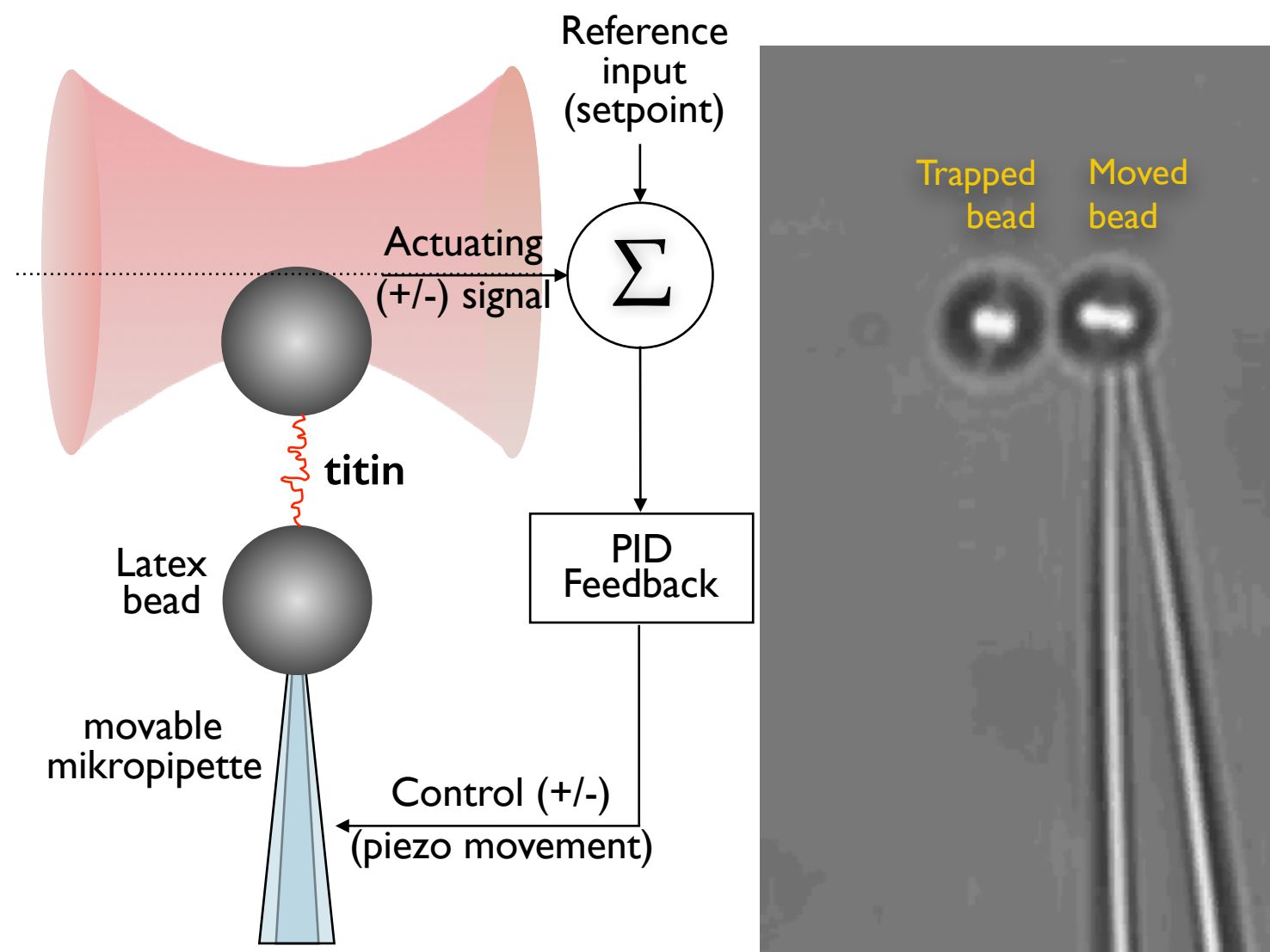
Surface  
attachment of the  
gecko foot:  
Numerous Van der  
Waals interactions  
- between bristles  
and surface -  
coupled in parallel



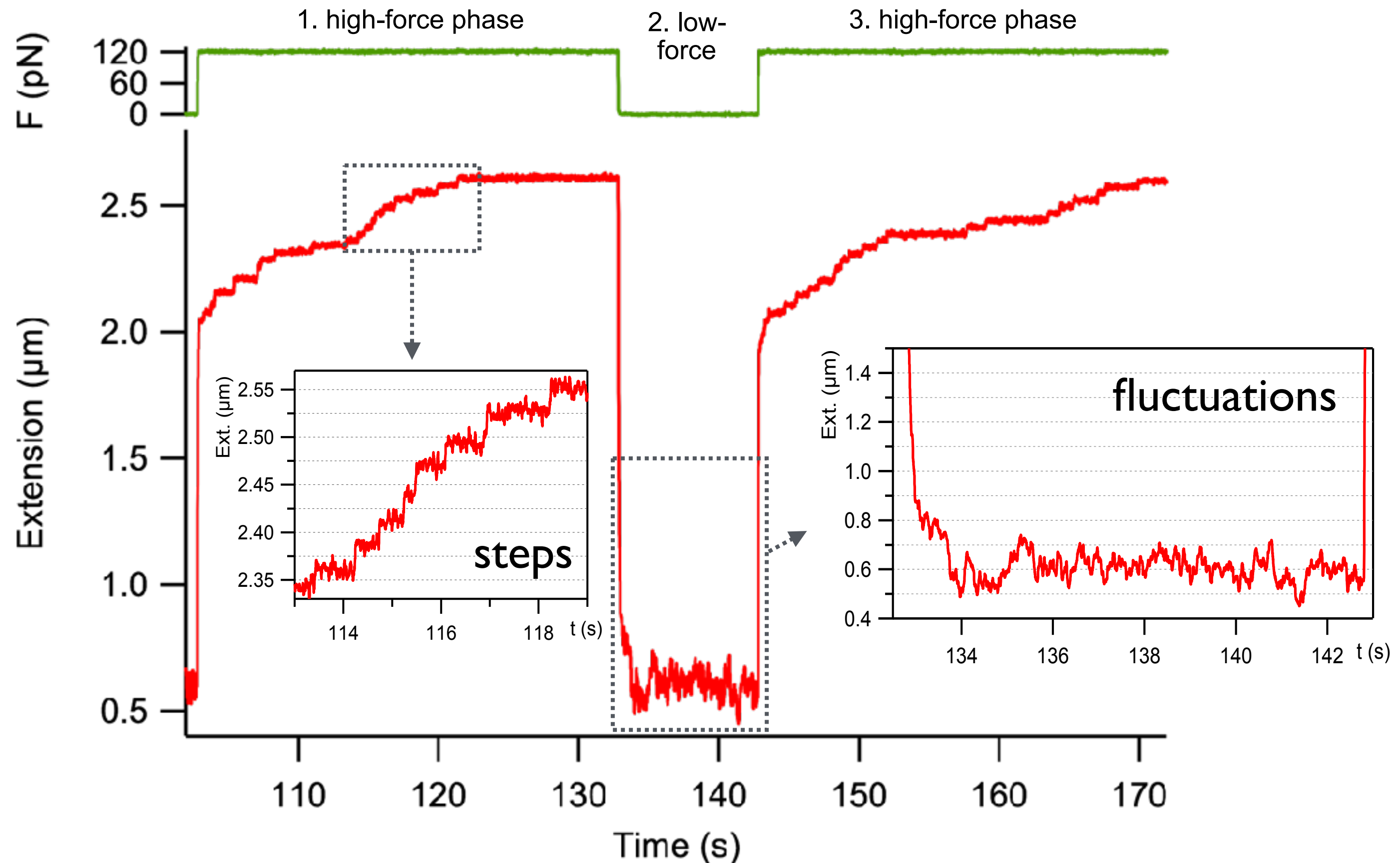


# Titin mechanics - constant-force experiment: extension *via* stepwise domain unfolding

Manipulation with force-clamp optical tweezers

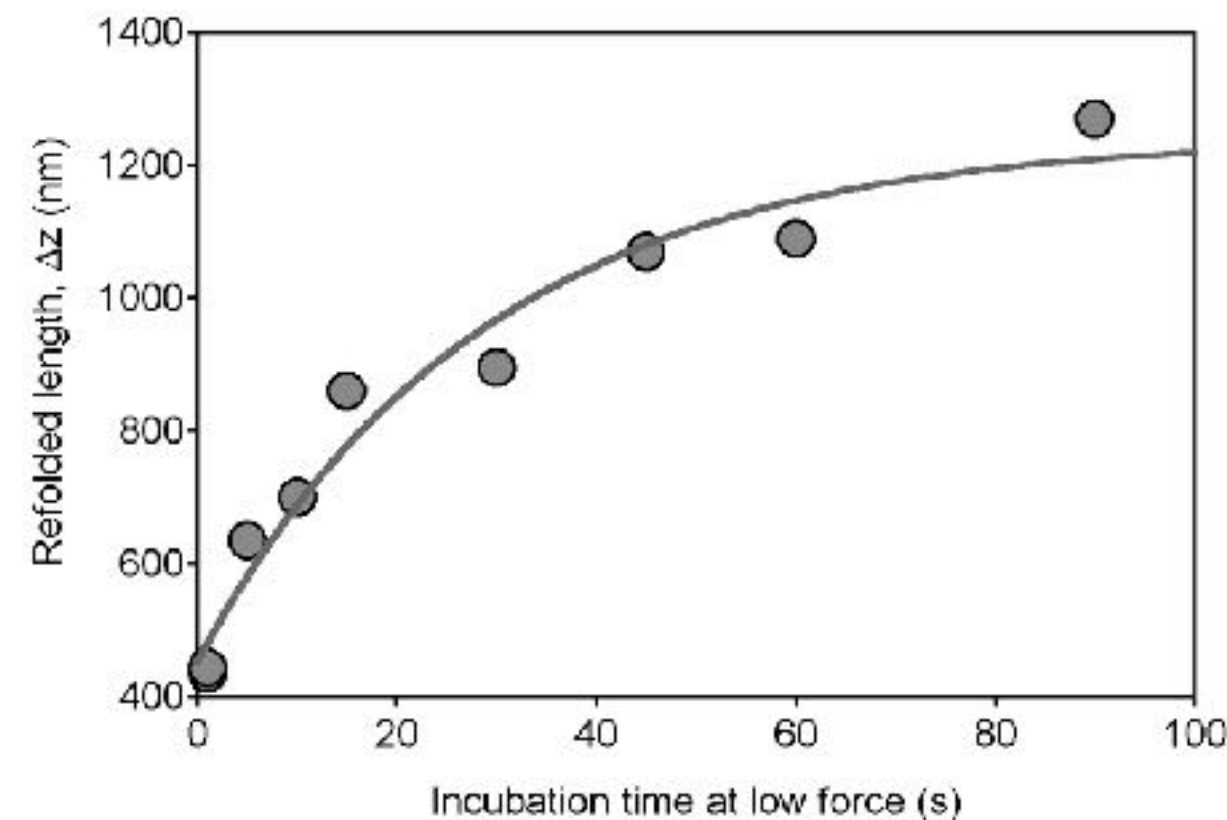
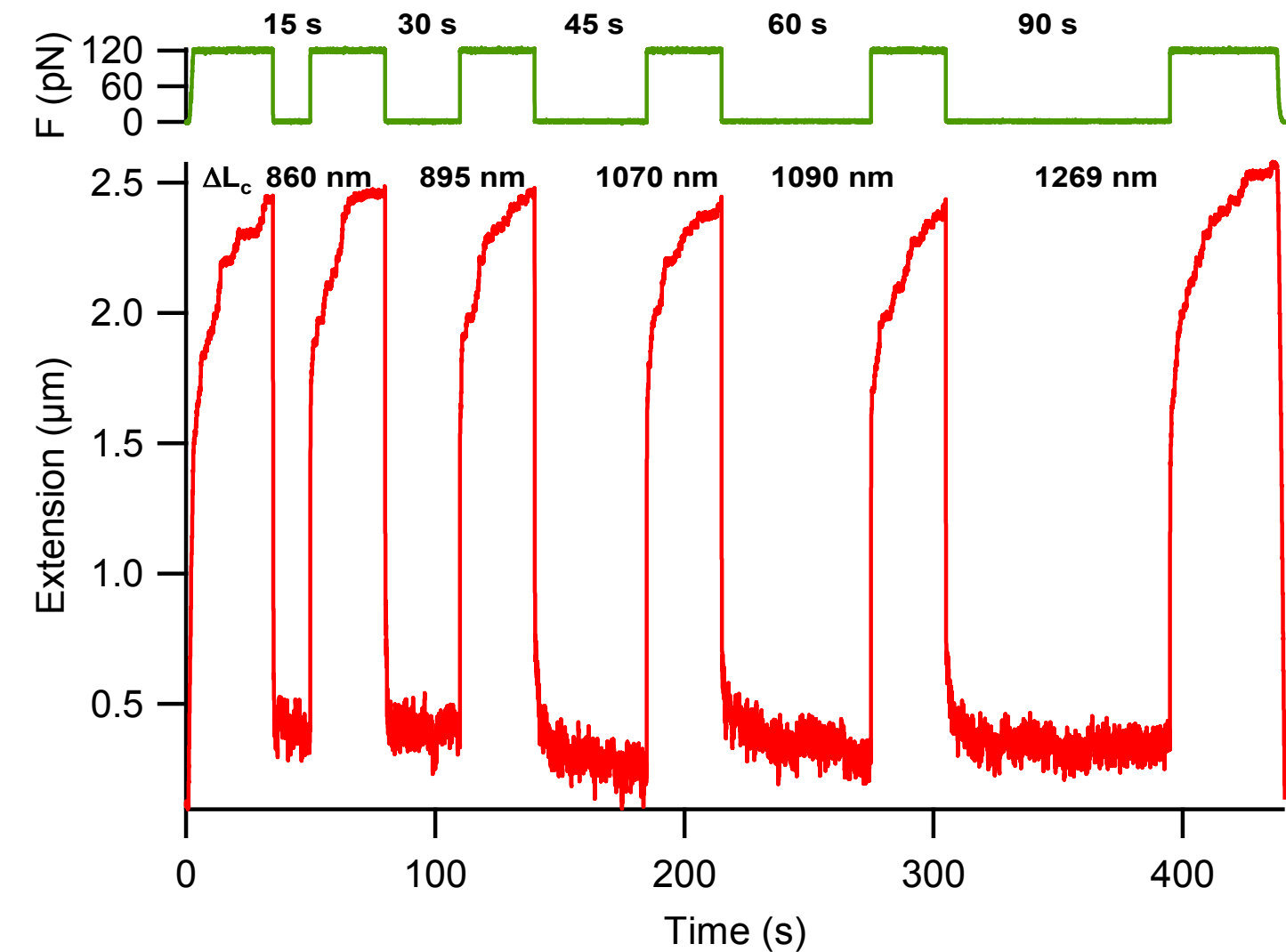
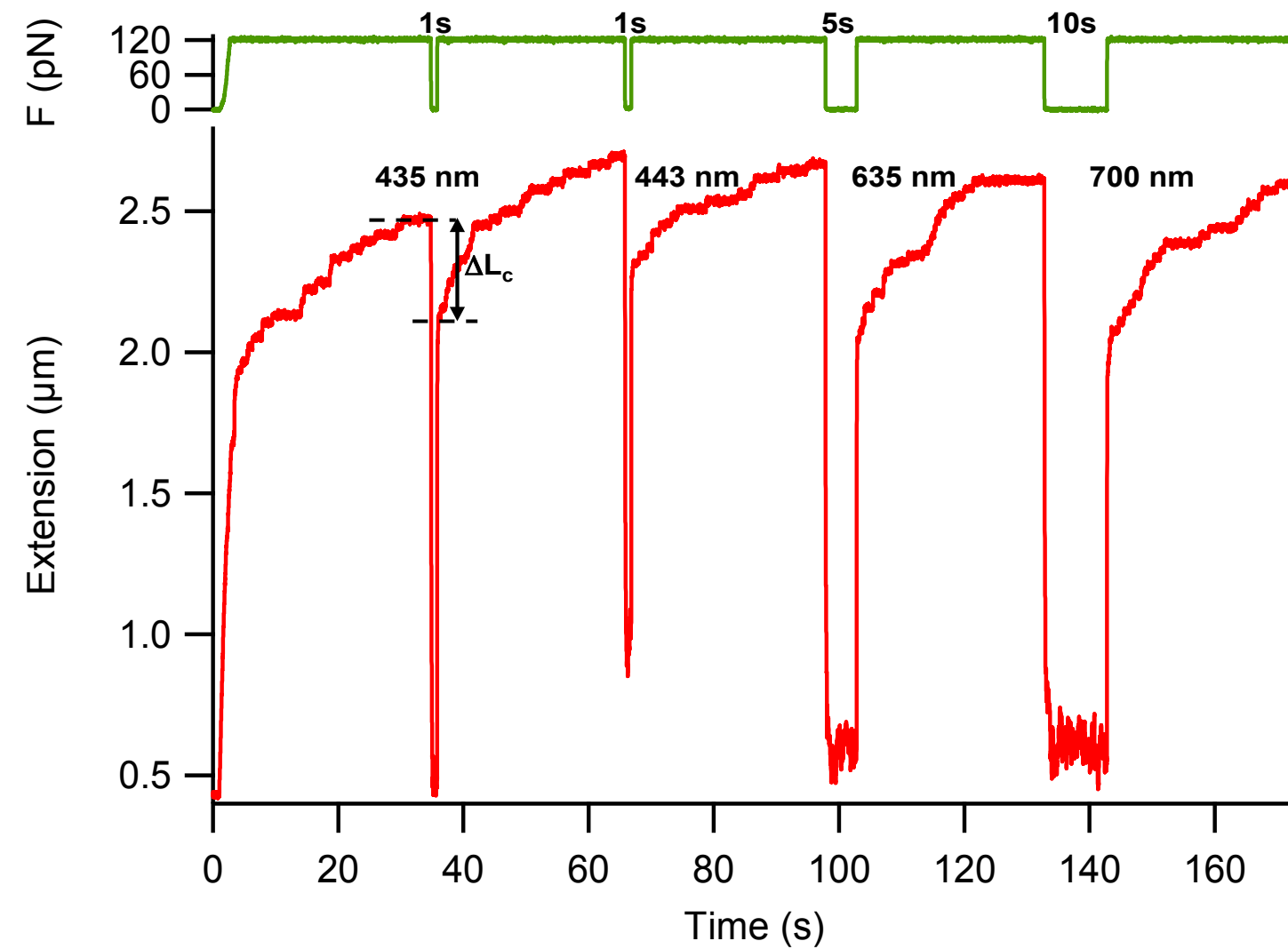


# No steps, only fluctuations during refolding





# Refolding follows first-order kinetics

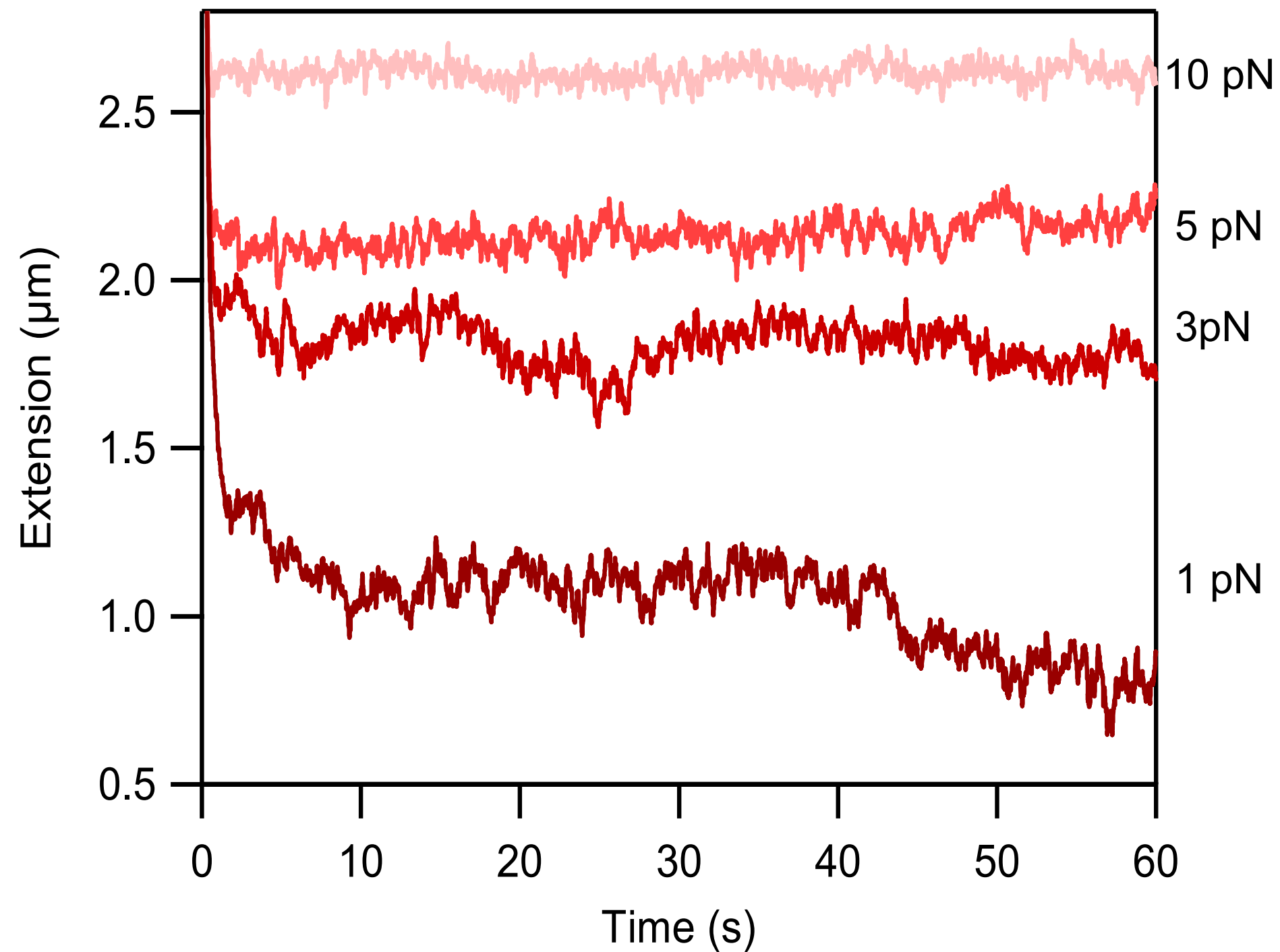


$$\Delta Z = \Delta Z_0 - A e^{-t/\tau}$$

$\Delta Z_0$  : maximal refolded length  
 $\tau$  : time constant

# Titin refolds against force

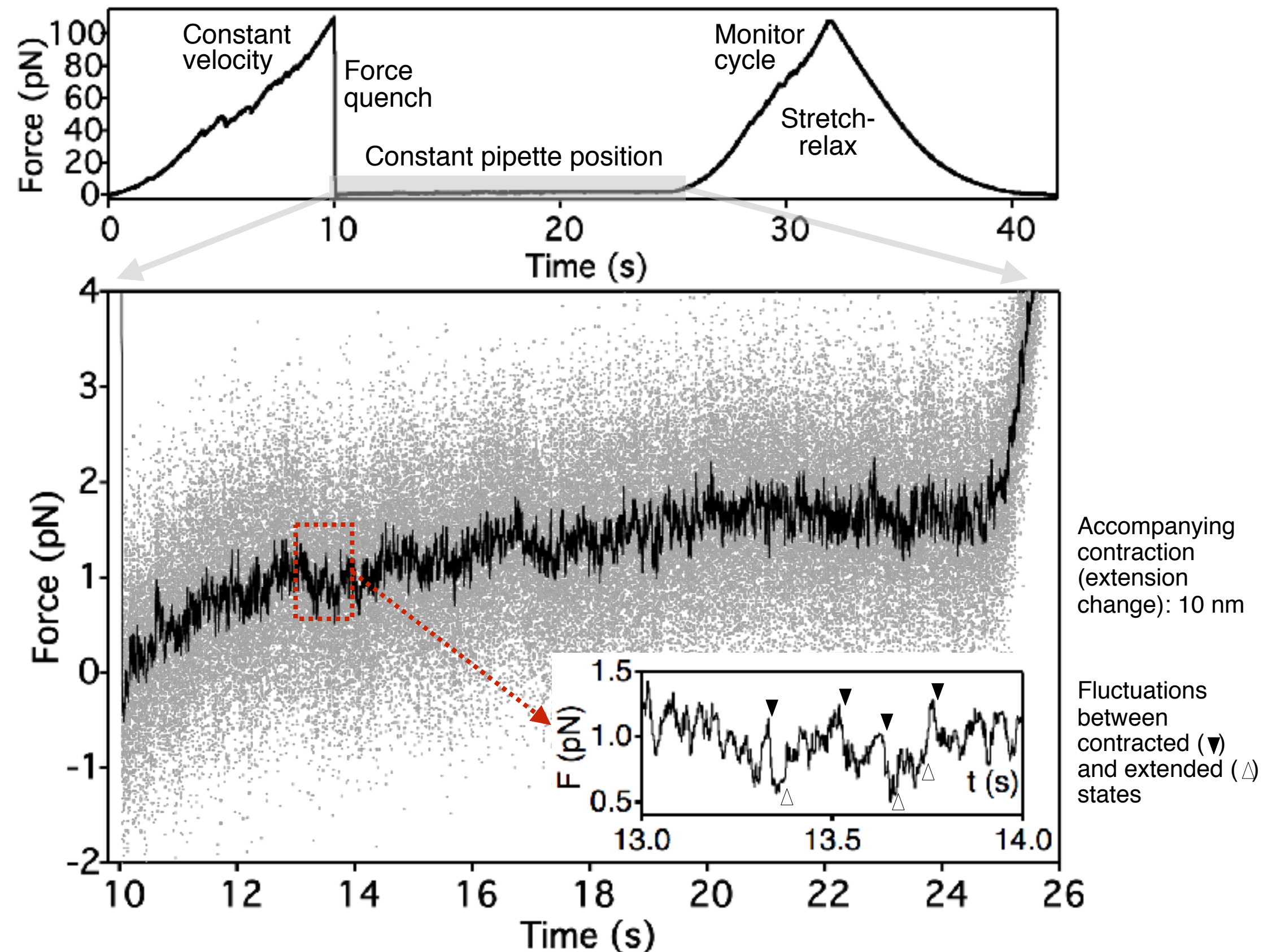
Large length fluctuations occur during refolding





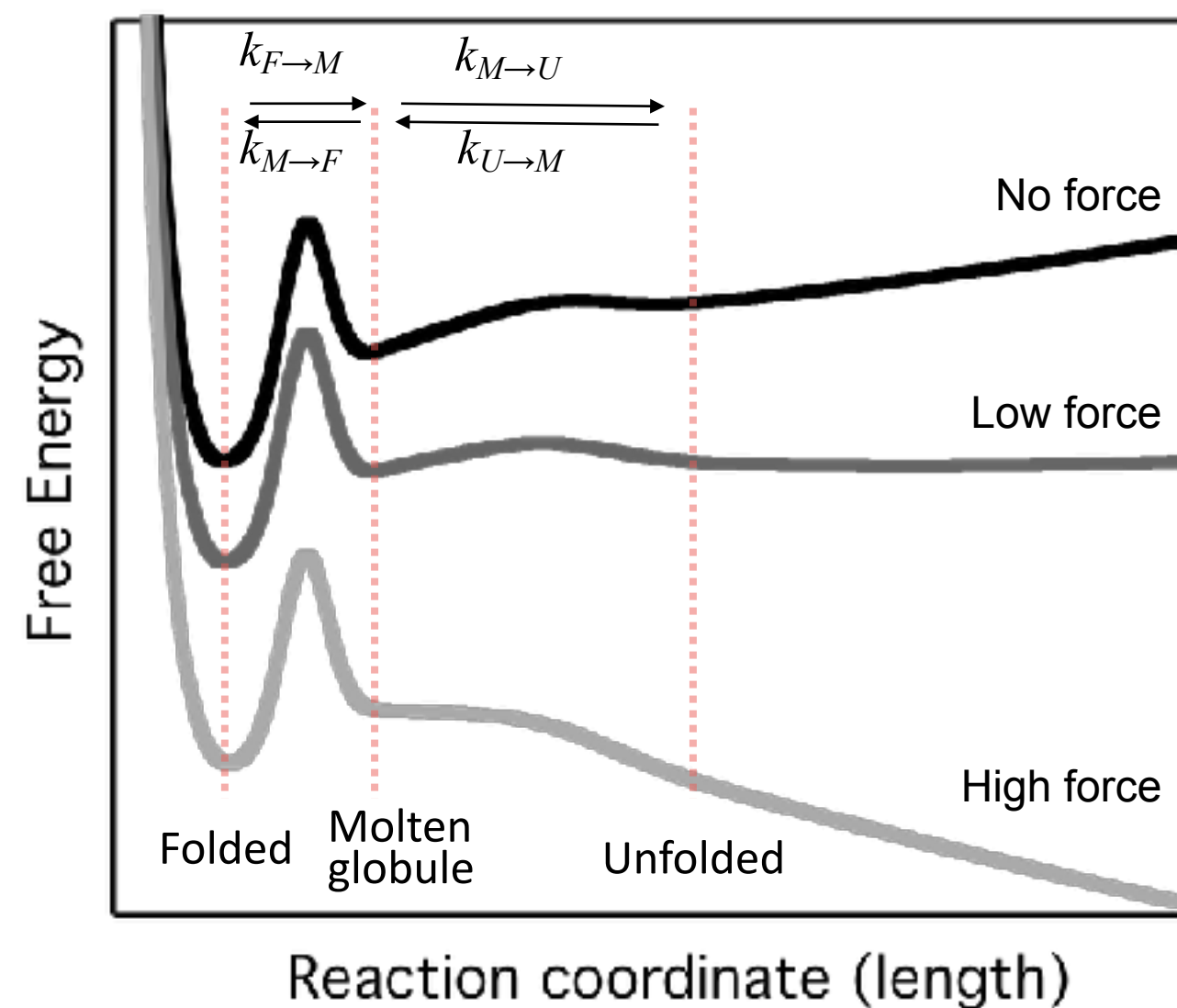
# Force is generated during refolding

## Position clamp experiment



# Fluctuations are explained by molten-globule dynamics

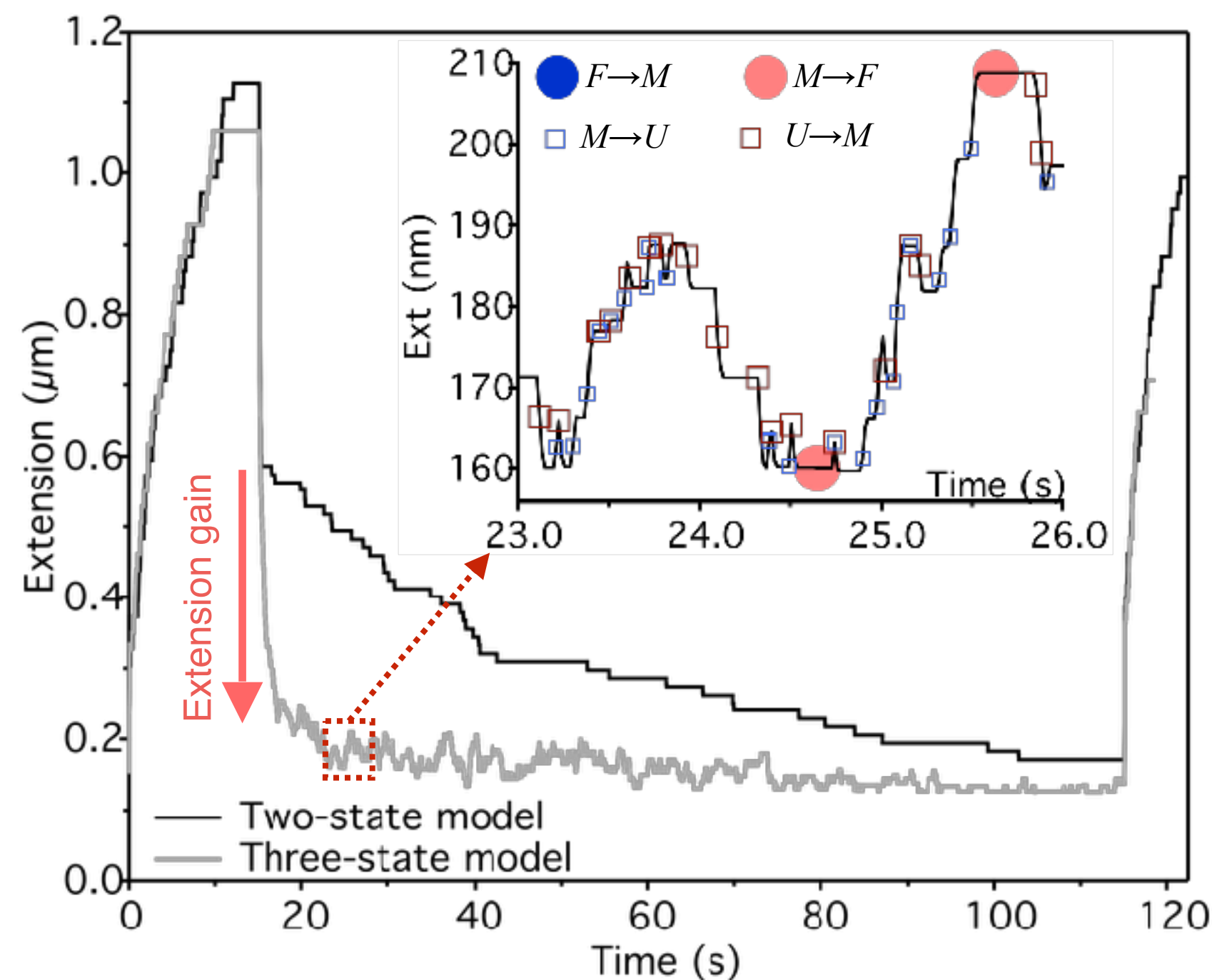
Three-state folding model



$$k_F = k_0 e^{\pm F \Delta x / k_B T}$$

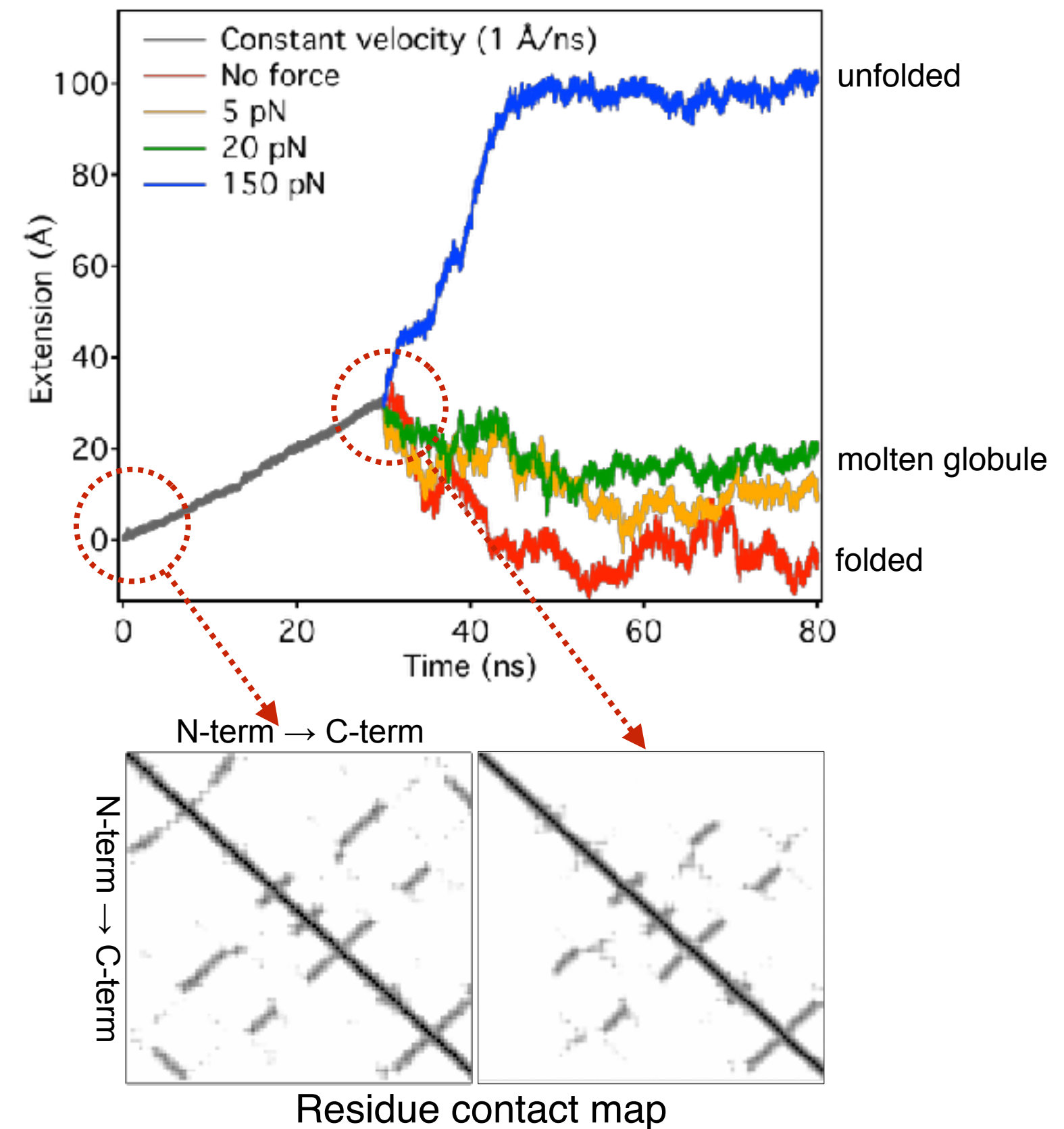
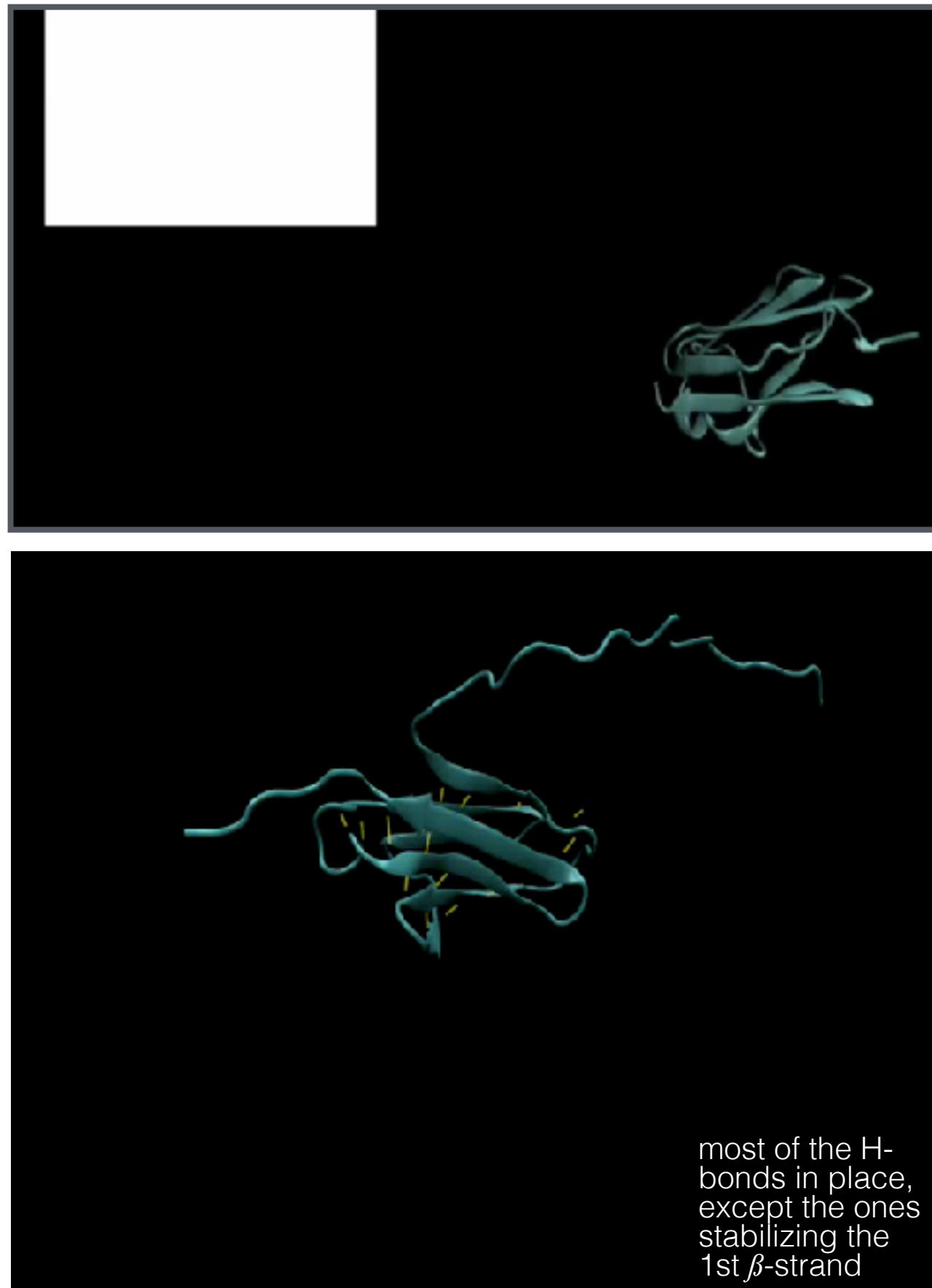
$k_0$  : spontaneous unfolding/refolding rate

Monte-Carlo simulation

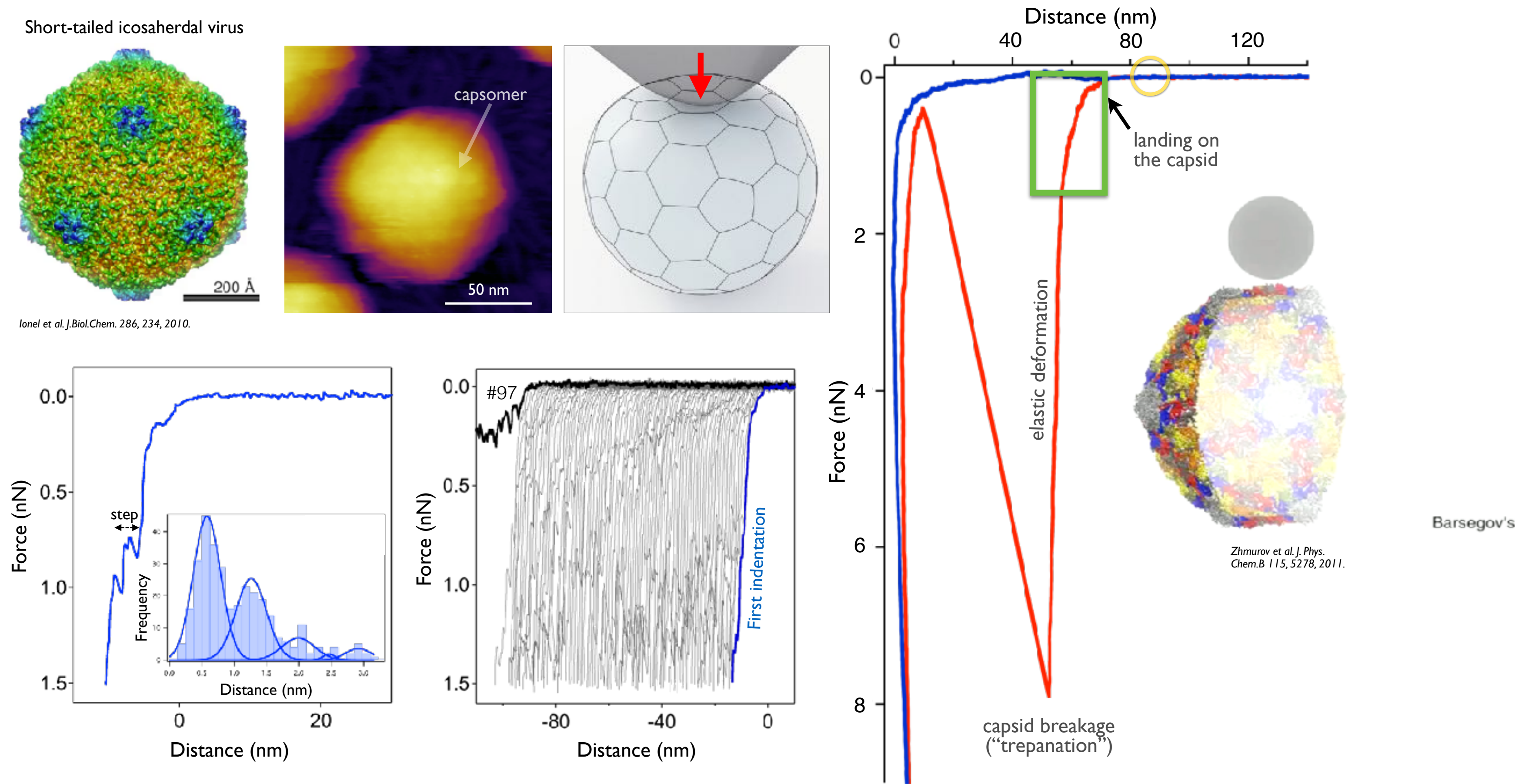




# Molten-globule structure explored with sMDS



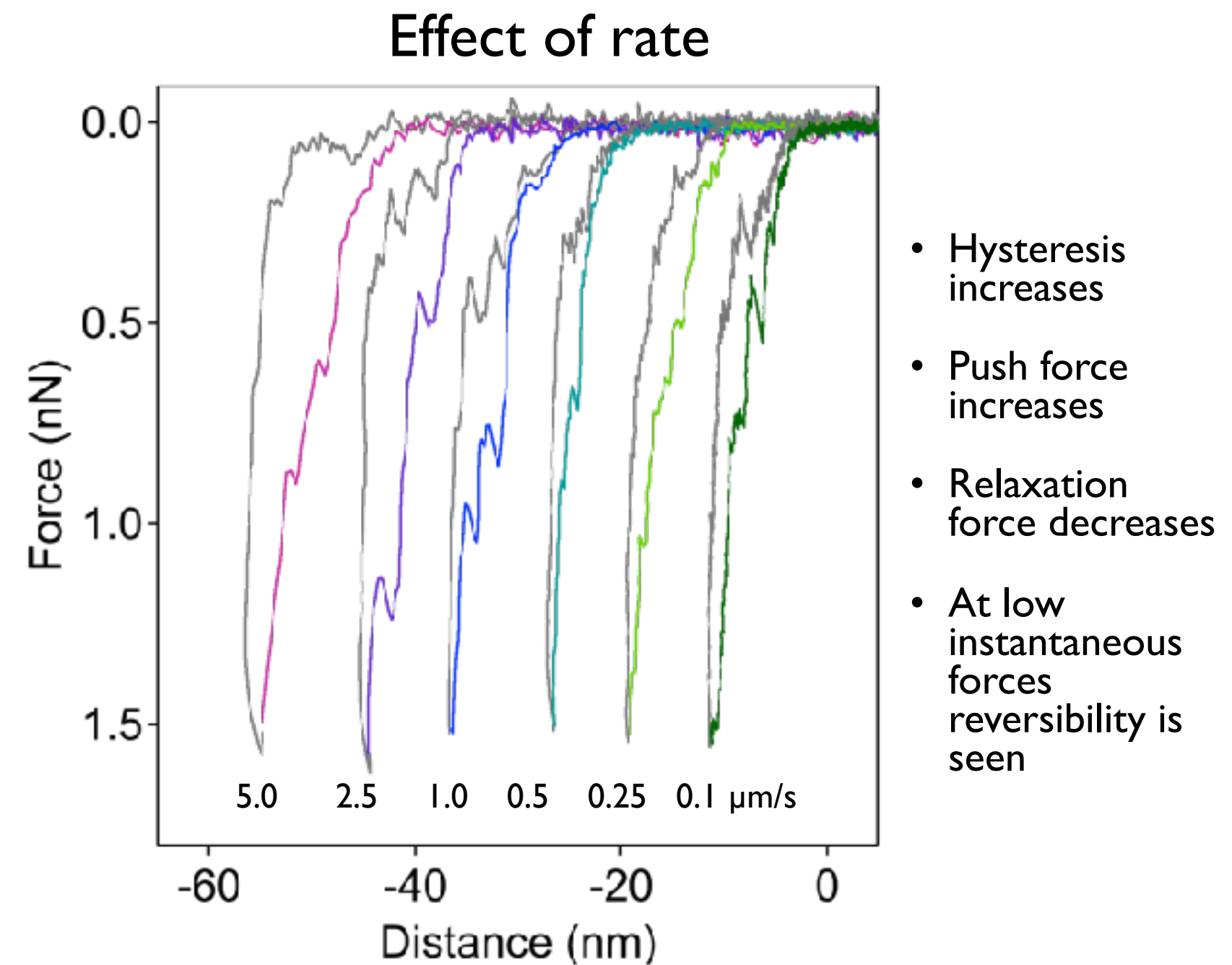
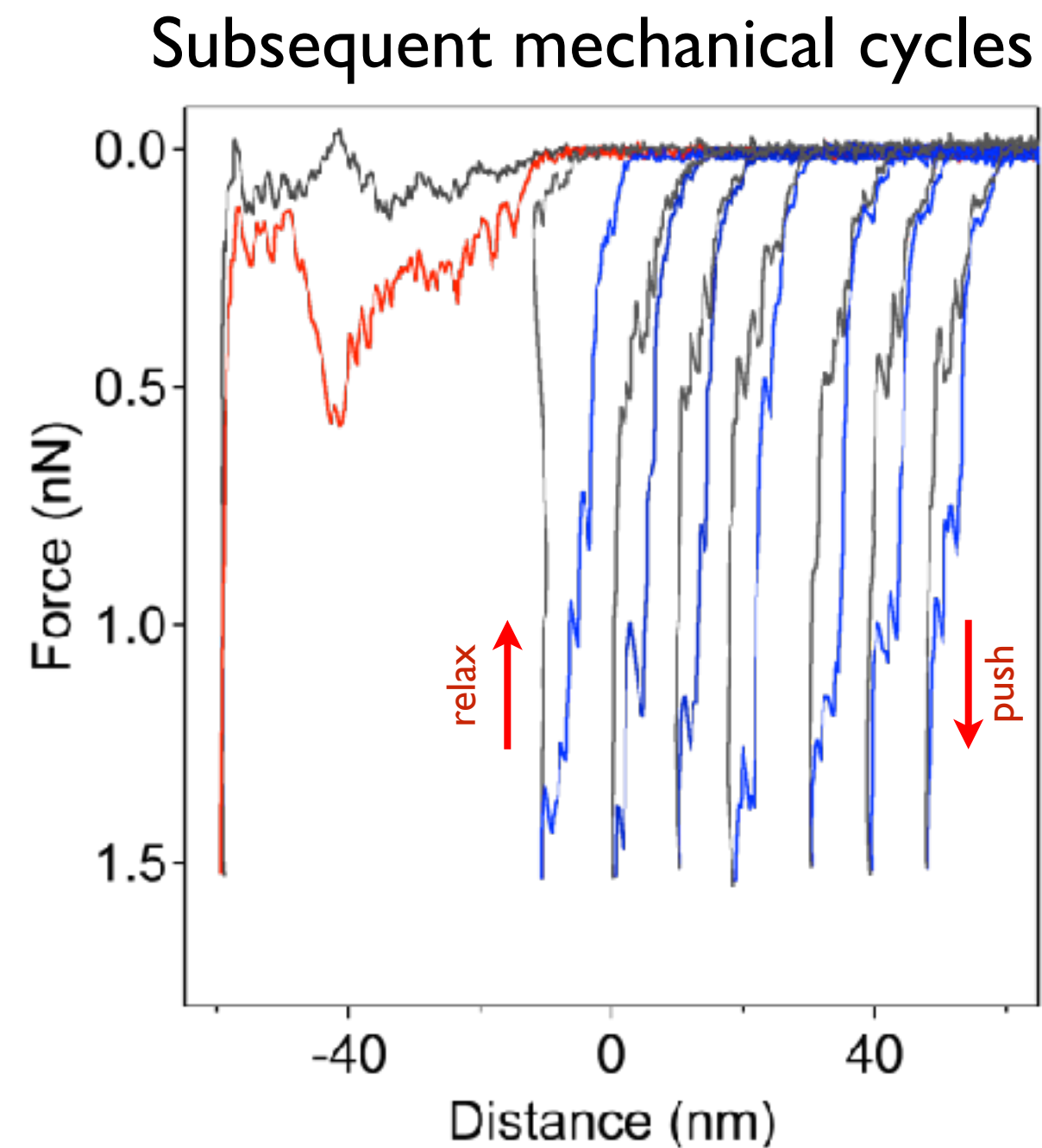
# 2. T7 phage nanomechanics



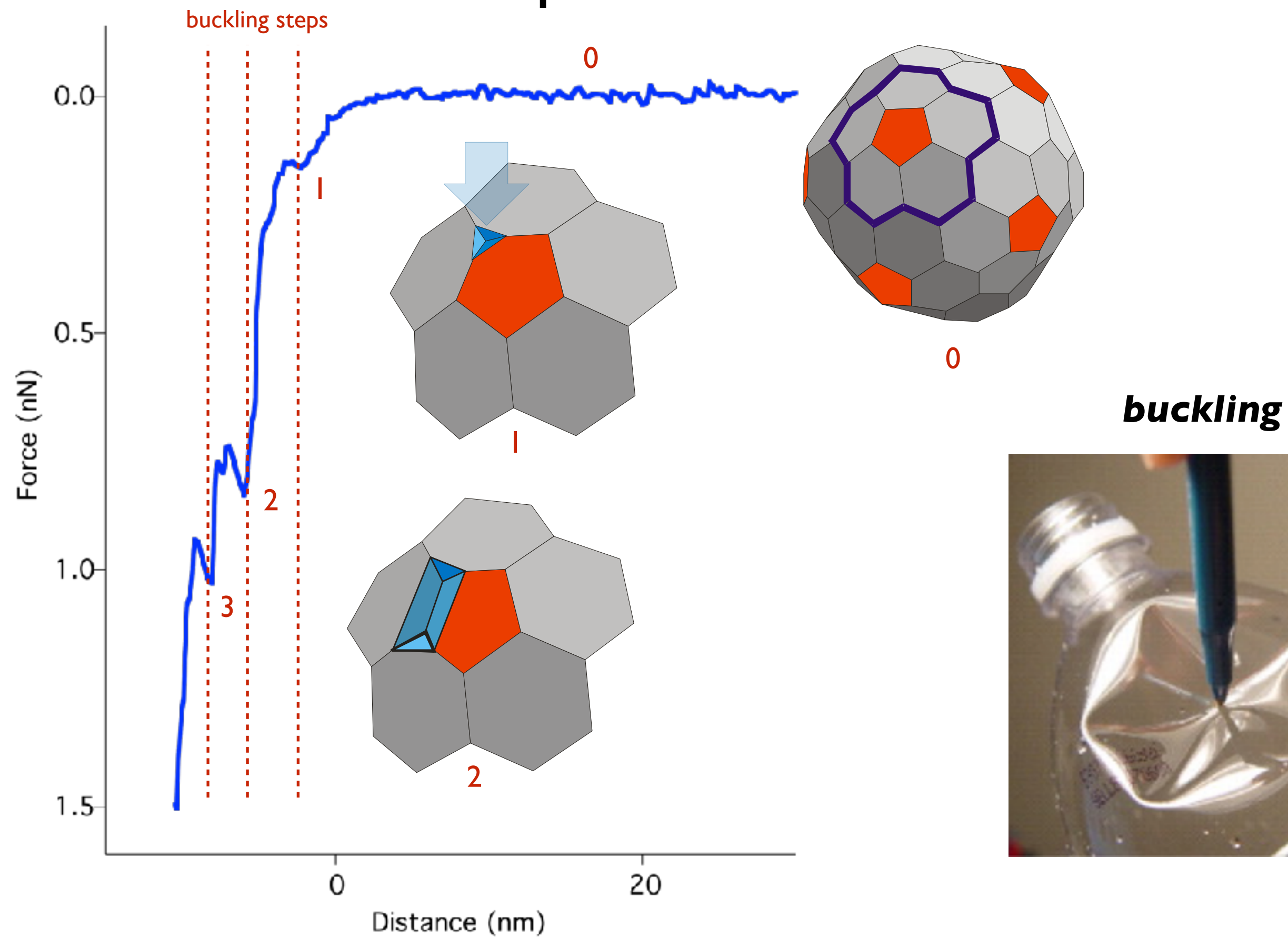
Reversible 6 Å buckling steps, followed by rapid relaxation.



# Similar discrete steps occur during mechanical relaxation



# Mechanical buckling of the T7 capsid





# Force triggers T7 DNA ejection

