# **Advances of AFM in Life Science**

Gerald Kada, Ph.D. Agilent Technologies (Nano Measurements Division)

Austria / USA

## The cell membrane – the main interest for AFM



60% of prescription drugs target membrane proteins!



# ... on Top of a Living Cell in dynamic force mode



Live endothelial cells, in PBS buffer solution (Left) 70 μm scan, 5 μm height (courtesy of K. Van Vliet, MIT) (Right) 13x20 μm scan, 150 nm height (courtesy of Ch. Riethmüller, Uni Münster)





Dynamic Force Mode (MAC) is ideal for imaging DNA, Proteins or Cells under physiological conditions



**Agilent Technologies** 

**Plasmid DNA in buffer solution** 450 nm scan size





# Salt-induced 'melting' of DNA-protein complexes



<sup>0.8</sup> x 1 µm scans

Wang, Lindsay et al, Biophys J (2002)



## Live Human Rhinovirus (MAC mode in liquid)



80 nm

### **RNA release** from virus by decreasing pH



Kienberger, Hinterdorfer et al, J Virology (2004) & Structure (2005)







Agilent Technologies

## Higher Harmonics imaging with Triple Lock-In Box Bacterial S-Layer

Topography



(b) Averaged image of 55 unit cells

<1 nm resolution on protein crystal in liquid (MAC) 3 pm amplitude sensitivity in 2<sup>nd</sup> harmonics 2nd Harmonic



Preiner et al, PRL 2007



## Frequency spectrum (MAC mode in liquid) Glass surface





## Single Molecule Studies of Antibody–Antigen Interaction Strength Versus Intra-molecular Antigen Stability

Sendai-loop







Varying the loading rate for  $x_{R}$  (binding pocket size),  $k_{off}$  (kinetic off-rate) and  $\Delta G$  (Energy)



# **Close look on modified AFM tip**



Fully covered AFM tip



### Single Molecule tethering to AFM tip

Näreoja, Kienberger, Ebner, Hinterdorfer, Uni Linz Kada et al, Nanotoday 2008



**Agilent Technologies** 

# Cell imaging: Optical Microscopy combined with AFM imaging



**Mitochondrion** lying between two muscle microfibrils (5 x 5 µm scan)

> Defranchi et al, Micr.Res.Tech. 2005

> > DIC (Differential interference contrast) simultanous with AFM imaging and Fluorescence

Madl et al., Ultramicroscopy 2006

Agilent Technologies

## Immunofluorescence (Muscle Fibers)

### **Bottom: Immunofluorescence Images**

- Staining the sarcomeric protein **alpha-actinin (red)** using a monoclonal antibody;

- Adding 500nm fluorescent microspheres (green)

Top: AFM Topography Image of the same area

The pattern allows unambiguous identification of individual beads and their positions relative to sarcolemma folds at the top and to Z lines (positive for anti alpha-actinin antibody, bottom).



Defranchi et al, Micr. Res. Techn. 2005

Page 12



Agilent Technologies

# Topography and Recognition Imaging (TREC)



Topography

### Recognition





# DNA-protein complexes as stored in the chromosomes

H. Wang, ASU



**Agilent Technologies** 

# Medicinal Diagnostics with TREC: Patients with Cystic Fibrosis

Topography

Recognition



Sick



#### Sample:

1 x 1 um scans

Erythrocyte (red blood cell) membranes on mica - taken from human blood of patients **Tip:** Antibody against CFTR membrane protein

### Top: healthy person

**Bottom**: patient with Cystic Fibrosis (degenerative CFTR [i.e. Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane conductance Regulator - a chloride channel] proteins in erythrocyte membrane)

> Nikova et al., Appl. Scanning Probe Meth. III (2006)



**Agilent Technologies** 

# Recognition imaging examples:



VEGFR2 receptors on fixed HUVEC cells (scale bar 10 µm, 500 nm resp.)

Van Vliet et al, PNAS 2007

VE-cadherin domains on MyEnd cells

Chtcheglova et al, BJ 2007





MMTV chromatin (DNA/protein complexes) (1.5 µm scan)

Stroh et al, PNAS 2004



Agilent Technologies

# Thanks for your attention !

### Acknowledgements

University of Linz, Biophysics Institute Prof. Peter Hinterdorfer Prof. Hermann Gruber Prof. Gerhard Schütz Josef Madl
Ferry Kienberger (now Agilent Labs) Lilia Chtcheglova Johannes Preiner
Cordula Stroh Andreas Ebner

Finally...

- Arizona State University, Biodesign Institute Prof. Stuart Lindsay Hongda Wang
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology Prof. Krystyn van Vliet

Agilent Technologies Inc. Nano Measurements Division Tianwei Jing W. Travis Johnson Wenhai Han Sergei Magonov Maozi Liu (Agilent Labs)

Contact: Gerald Kada: gerald\_kada@agilent.com

www.agilent.com/find/AFM



Distributor: Javier Ledesma, Scientec Iberica, Madrid www.scientec.es jledesma@scientec.es



**Agilent Technologies** 

# NanoToday review publ. March 08





#### **Tiptop microscopy**

New advances in force microscopy Nanotechnology – cause for concern?



# Atomic force microscopy in bionanotechnology

Atomic force microscopy (AFM) is extensively used for imaging surfaces ranging from micro- to nanometer scales, with the objective of visualizing and characterizing surface textures and shapes. It is the only technique that provides subnanometer resolution under physiological conditions, needed for imaging biological species like proteins and living cells. Measurements of molecular recognition forces provide insights into the function and structure of biomolecular assemblies. Furthermore, in combination with fluorescence microscopy, AFM can identify biomolecules based on fluorescence labeling and high-resolution topography imaging. This review summarizes recently developed techniques for advanced topographical imaging and sensitive force measurements.

Gerald Kada<sup>a</sup><sup>\*</sup>, Ferry Klenberger<sup>a</sup><sup>\*</sup>, and Peter Hinterdorfer<sup>b†</sup> Agglent Technologies, Mooslackengasse 17, 1190 Venna, Austria <sup>b</sup>University of Linz, Institute for Biophysics, Altenbergerstr, 69, 4040 Linz, Austria <sup>b</sup>-mail: gestad, kada@agglent.com;fery\_klenberger@agglent.com <sup>†</sup>E-mail: peter.hinterdorfer@jku.at

Within the field of scanning probe microscopy, atomic force microscopy<sup>1</sup> (AFM) is extensively used in a wide range of disciplines such as life science, solid-state physics and materials science. The AFM has evolved into an imaging method that yields structural details of biological samples such as proteins, nucleic acids, membranes, and cells in their native environment<sup>2–5</sup>. AFM is a unique technique for providing subnanometer resolution at a reasonable signal-to-noise ratio under physiological conditions. As a result of continuous developments in sample preparation, imaging techniques, and instrumentation, AFM is now a companion technique of X-ray crystallography and electron microscopy (EM) for the determination of protein structures<sup>6</sup>, for example. It complements EM by allowing visualization of biological samples in buffers that preserve their native structure over extended time periods. AFM does not rely on symmetry averaging and crystallization, therefore revealing defects and structural anomalies not observable in classical ensemble measurements<sup>7</sup>. Unlike EM, AFM yields three-dimensional maps with an exceptionally good vertical resolution (less than a nanometer).

In addition to high-resolution imaging of proteins, nucleotides, membranes, and living cells<sup>2</sup>, the measurement of mechanical forces at the molecular level provides detailed insights into the function and structure of bicmolecular systems<sup>5</sup>. Inter- and intramolecular interactions can be studied directly at the molecular level, as

ISSN:1748 0132 @EbavlarEtd 2008

nanotoday MARCH 2008 | VOLUME 3 | NUMBER 1-2



Agilent Technologies