## Expansion microscopy

Technical JC presentation 2015-04-11 Stephan Isringhausen



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Back in the days...

## Introduction - Background



Abbe E (1873) Beiträge zur Theorie des Mikroskops und der mikroskopischen Wahrnehmung. *Archiv für mikroskopische Anatomy.*9: 413-420.

# Superresolution microscopy

## Superresolution Microscopy



The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2014 Eric Betzig, Stefan W. Hell, William E. Moerner

## The Nobel Prize in **Chemistry 2014**



Photo: A. Mahmoud Eric Betzig Prize share: 1/3



Photo: A. Mahmoud Stefan W. Hell Prize share: 1/3



Photo: A. Mahmoud William E. Moerner Prize share: 1/3

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2014 was awarded jointly to Eric Betzig, Stefan W. Hell and William E. Moerner "for the development *of super-resolved fluorescence microscopy*". http://www.nobelprize.org/

**Different superresolution** techniques:

- a. Patterned illumination (STED, SIM/SSIM) - 'true' or disternoninhination superposed offion fluorophores
- b. Single-molecule switching (STORM, (F)PALM) – 'functional' osettemparabbehavior of fluorophores

## The struggle with SRM

- Expensive, specialized equipment required
- Long acquisition, high illumination intensities
- Often superficial

## Clearing - Background



Werner Spalteholz, 1914



Figure 2 | Signal generation and fluorescence collection in clear tissue (no scatter) and in scattering tissue (scatter). In clear tissue all excitation light reaches the focus, but in scattering tissue, scattering (even by a small angle) causes light rays to miss the focus and be lost to signal generation. This leads to a roughly exponential decrease in excitation with depth. In clear tissue only fluorescence light rays initially emitted into the collection cone, determined by the objective's NA, can be detected, but in scattering tissue fluorescence light is (multiply) scattered and may even 'turn around'. Fluorescence light apparently originates from a large field of view but a larger fraction than in the nonscattering case is actually within the angular acceptance range  $\theta_f$  of the objective.

#### DOI:10.1038/NMETH818

Ueber das Durchsichtigmachen von menschlichen und tierischen Praeparaten und seine theoretischen Bedingungen

## 3D imaging and clearing

**Resource Resource** 

#### Whole-Brain Imaging with Single-Cell Resolution Using Chemical Cocktails and Computational Analysis

Etsuo A. Susaki,<sup>1,2,3,4,14</sup> Kazuki Tainaka,<sup>1,3,4,14</sup> Dimitri Perrin,<sup>2,14</sup> Fumiaki Kishino,<sup>5</sup> Takehiro Tawara,<sup>6</sup> Tomonobu M. Watanabe,<sup>7</sup> Chihiro Yokoyama,<sup>8</sup> Hirotaka Onoe,<sup>8</sup> Megumi Eguchi,<sup>9</sup> Shun Yamaguchi,<sup>9,10</sup> Takaya Abe,<sup>11</sup> Hiroshi Kiyonari,<sup>11</sup> Yoshihiro Shimizu,<sup>12</sup> Atsushi Miyawaki,<sup>13</sup> Hideo Yokota,<sup>6</sup> and Hiroki R. Ueda<sup>1,2,3,4,\*</sup>

#### Whole-Body Imaging with Single-Cell Resolution by Tissue Decolorization

Kazuki Tainaka,<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> Shimpei I. Kubota,<sup>1,4</sup> Takeru Q. Suyama,<sup>1</sup> Etsuo A. Susaki,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Dimitri Perrin,<sup>2</sup> Maki Ukai-Tadenuma,<sup>2</sup> Hideki Ukai,<sup>2</sup> and Hiroki R. Ueda<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup>

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## Clearing - Background

#### **CLARITY (2013)**



## Summary

Advances in resolution

Numerous methods for making brains (organs) transparent

Limited clearing, limited speed for superresolution

## Expansion Microscopy

#### **OPTICAL IMAGING**

# **Expansion microscopy**

Fei Chen,<sup>1</sup>\* Paul W. Tillberg,<sup>2</sup>\* Edward S. Boyden<sup>1,3,4,5,6</sup>+

In optical microscopy, fine structural details are resolved by using refraction to magnify images of a specimen. We discovered that by synthesizing a swellable polymer network within a specimen, it can be physically expanded, resulting in physical magnification. By covalently anchoring specific labels located within the specimen directly to the polymer network, labels spaced closer than the optical diffraction limit can be isotropically separated and optically resolved, a process we call expansion microscopy (ExM). Thus, this process can be used to perform scalable superresolution microscopy with diffraction-limited microscopes. We demonstrate ExM with apparent ~70-nanometer lateral resolution in both cultured cells and brain tissue, performing three-color superresolution imaging of ~ $10^7$  cubic micrometers of the mouse hippocampus with a conventional confocal microscope.



http://syntheticneurobiology.org/people

## The idea

#### Volume 45, Number 20

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

17 NOVEMBER 1980

#### Phase Transitions in Ionic Gels

Toyoichi Tanaka, David Fillmore, Shao-Tang Sun, Izumi Nishio, Gerald Swislow, and Arati Shah Department of Physics and Center for Materials Science and Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 (Received 13 June 1980)

The polymer network of a gel, under certain conditions, undergoes a discrete transition in equilibrium volume with changes in solvent composition or temperature. This Letter demonstrates that ionization of the gel network plays an essential role in the phase transition. The volume collapse is also observed when the  $\rho$ H within the gel is varied.

PACS numbers: 64.70.-p, 61.40.Km

#### Salt effects on the phase transition of ionic gels

#### Iwao Ohminea) and Toyoichi Tanaka

Department of Physics and Center for Materials Science and Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 (Received 10 June 1982; accepted 10 August 1982)

An ionized acrylamide gel is found to undergo a discrete phase transition in equilibrium volume upon varying the salt concentration in the solution. The salt concentration required for the transition depends strongly on the valency of the positive salt ion added to the solution. In certain cases the concentration at the transition is many thousand times larger for monovalent ions than for divalent ions. A simple theoretical consideration of the osmotic pressure of the ions can explain the phenomenon.



#### I. INTRODUCTION

The polymer network of partially ionized acrylamide gels undergoes a discrete and reversible volume transition with changes in temperature and solvent composition.<sup>1,2</sup> It has been shown that ionization of the polymer network plays an essential role in this phase transition. A discrete volume change as large as several 100-fold occurs if a small number of the acrylamide groups in the network is hydrolyzed into ionizable acrylic acid.<sup>3</sup>



## Sodium acrylate



Youtube clip: 'Sodium Polyacrylate'



Pilot: Perm/fix brain tissue Infuse Na-acrylate + acrylamide + X-line Protease K tissue digestion Dialysis with ddH<sub>2</sub>O



Scalebar 5mm

# $B_{0.5}$

The control – uniform digestion

#### What about transparency?



 $\rightarrow$  The sample is mostly water

## Progress

- ✓ Uniform digestion
- ✓ Clearing/transparency
- **×** Digestion efficiency

## Fluorescent labeling strategy

- Digestion is uniform, expansion looks uniform
- How to label proteins when everything is digested?



Fluorescent tag is targeted to biomolecule of interest, remains covalently anchored to polymer



#### The control retention after gelation



Supplementary Tables Table S1. Fluorescence retention during ExM chemical steps.

Fluorescence Retention After Gelation		
	Percent Retention	Standard Deviation (%)
Alexa 488	57.2	2.9 (n = 2 slices)
Atto 565	76.2	0.5 (n = 2 slices)
Atto 647N	58.5	2.8 (n = 2 slices)
<b>Covalent Anchoring Efficiency During Gelation</b>		
	Percentage Anchored	Standard Deviation (%)
Acrydite DNA	87.2	1.1 (n = 4  gels)



#### The control



Non-rigid registration



## Workflow

- I. Perfuse, fix, section
- II. Staining
- III. Polymer synthesis
- IV. Digestion
- V. Expansion
- VI. Imaging



## Progress

- ✓ Uniform digestion
- ✓ Clearing/transparency
- ✓ Labeling
- ✓ Uniform digestion

# How well does it perform?

## Expansion microscopy physically magnifies, with nanoscale isotropy



## SR-SIM image of microtubules

SR-SIM (structured illumination) Post-expansion confocal



2um (9.1um)





SR-SIM (structured illumination) Post-expansion confocal



D

Methacryloyl

Group

Oligonucleotide

3'

Chemical

Fluorophore

5'

Effective resolution: ~60nm

## Clathrin-coated pits (CCPs) in HEK293 cells



## Fixed brain tissue

## Fixed brain tissue

## Thy1-YFP-H mice

#### Widefield fluorescence



**Post-ExM Widefield** 



# Multicolor ExM



## Fixed brain tissue

Confocal



#### **Post-expansion confocal**



Thy1-YFP Homer1(presynaptic) Bassoon(postsynaptic)

## Fixed brain tissue



(F and G) Details of boxed regions in (D) and (E), respectively.

(H) Single representative synapse highlighted in (G).

# **3D** superresolution

## 3D superresolution

### 500x180x100um volume image of adult Thy1-YFP-H mouse

Thy1-YFP Homer1(presynaptic) Bassoon(postsynaptic)

Lateral Resolution ~70 nm, axial resolution 200 nm

## 3D superresolution



#### CA1 stratum lacunosum moleculare (slm)

![](_page_38_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Figure_0.jpeg)

'Focusing on a dendrite in CA1 slm, we observed the postsynaptic protein Homer1 to be well localized to dendritic spine heads, with the presynaptic molecule Bassoon in apposition'

## Summary

Imaging of large 3D structures with nanoscale precision

- $\Rightarrow$  Large tissue imaging with great accuracy
- ⇒ Axial & lateral resolution improved by same factor
- $\Rightarrow$  Improved mechanical error

Works with conventional microscopes and fluorophores

Harsh sample treatment – imaging of a 'ghost'⇒ Combine with light sheet microscopy

![](_page_41_Figure_0.jpeg)

## Criticism

![](_page_42_Figure_1.jpeg)

3' Chemical Fluorophore

![](_page_43_Picture_0.jpeg)

DOI: 10.1126/science.aaa5084

ILLUSTRATION: PETER AND MARIA HOEY