

Wei Kong, Chemistry

#### Serial single molecule electron diffraction imaging: A Journey





Serial single molecule electron diffraction imaging

Results

Electron diffraction of neutral molecules in droplets

Doping proteins – GFP

Unique properties of large droplets

The journey continues ...

## Structure Tools Comparison



## **Structure Tools Comparison**



## State of the Field



## Single Molecule Diffraction

## "Diffract & Destroy" Neutze, R., Wouts, R., van der Spoel, D., Weckert, E. and Hajdu, J., Nature 406 (2000) 752. Serial Single molecule Electron Diffraction Imaging (SS-EDI)

Beckmann, Kong, Voinov, Freund, US Patent: 9,279,778 (2016).



- Each particle produces one image
- Each image may be from a different orientation
- Particle orientation needs to be determined from image
- Orientational distribution has to be uniform

Light source: intense & short (< 100 fs)</p>

- Detector: high quality
- Image: good enough for orientation assignment

## **Diffract and Destroy**



Electrons vs nuclei?
Electron movement: < 1 fs</li>

#### IMPOSSIBLE?

Fratalocchi, A. and Ruocco, G., "Singlemolecule imaging with X-ray free-electron lasers: Dream or reality?" Phys. Rev. Lett. 106 (2011) 105504.

#### Serial Single molecule Electron Diffraction Imaging (SS-EDI)



Beckmann, Kong, Voinov, Freund, US Patent: 9,279,778





Zhang, He, and Kong, J. Chem. Phys. 144, 221101 (2016).





Electron diffraction of iodine in droplets



Electron diffraction of iodine in droplets



Electron diffraction of iodine in droplets



#### **Diffraction HALF** Electron diffraction of iodine in droplets





He, Zhang, Lei, and Kong, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 56, 3541 (2017)



## Isomers of pyrene dimer



Slipped Parallel (SP-L) Graphite type (Gr) Slipped Parallel (SP-S)







## **Protein Half: GFP in Droplets**



## Protein Half: GFP in Droplets



Alghamdi, Zhang, Oswalt, Porter, Mehl, and Kong, J. Phys. Chem. A 121, 6671 (2017).

## Protein Half: GFP in Droplets



Alghamdi, Zhang, Oswalt, Porter, Mehl, and Kong, J. Phys. Chem. A 121, 6671 (2017).

#### Probing Molecular Alignment Alignment of doped GFP: Fluorescence and ionization



Ryan Mehl Unnatural Protein Facility

Supplementary funding from NIH: New femtosecond laser for Coulomb Explosion

## Nonthermal Ejection



## Nonthermal Ejection of R6G



Forbes, M. W., & Jockusch, R. A. (2011)













Brauer, N. B., Smolarek, S., Zhang, X., Buma, W. J., & Drabbels, M. (2011)



### Size matters!

- > Small droplets (<10<sup>5</sup>): gas like
- > Large droplets (>10<sup>6</sup>): bulk like
  - Suppression of MPI
  - Multiple charges in one droplet
  - Suppression of charge transfer

### Missions to be accomplished

Reduce size of droplets and try again!

- Laser alignment
- Coulomb explosion
- Electron diffraction from ions (bare & doped)

Electron diffraction from laser aligned ions doped in droplets

## Conclusion

- Electron diffraction of neutral mol in helium droplets
- Doping of proteins into droplets
- Size matters
- The journey continues ...

#### **The Fearless Crew**

#### Postdoc

#### Fan Zhang Robert Kykyneshi

Engineer Yongsheng Liu



Ph. D Colin Harthcock (2015) Lei Chen (2016) Yunteng He (2017)

**Collaborators at OSU:** 

Ryan Mehl (Unnatural Protein Facility) Lan Xue (Statistics) Special thanks Professor D. R. Herschbach Professor J. P. Toennies The droplet community





## Funding

