

LAMELIS ADVANCED SUMMER SCHOOL

# “OPTICAL TWEEZERS”

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HUNGARIAN  
GOVERNMENT

European Union  
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# Lecture Plan:

- Motivation for high-resolution mechanical studies in biology:  
“SINGLE MOLECULE STUDIES”
- What are optical tweezers and how do they work?
- Mechanical properties of optical tweezers and energy change in biological reactions:  
picoNewton forces and nanometre movements  
energy  $< 10k_bT$
- Motor proteins (kinesin & myosin) as model systems for single molecule studies.
- Other laser-based single molecule methods e.g. TIRF microscopy.

# Why work with individual molecules?

- Single molecule experiments can give unequivocal information about how enzymes work and can provide new insights into enzyme mechanism.
- Sequential steps that make up biochemical pathways can be observed directly. The chemical trajectory of an individual enzyme can be followed in space and time.
- There is no need to synchronise a population in order to study the biochemical kinetics
- Single molecule data sets can be treated in a wide variety of ways – e.g. can specifically look for heterogeneity in behaviour (ie strain dependence of rate constants, effects of membrane structure, etc).

# Single molecule experiments:

## Energy levels in biology :

1 Photon	= 400 pN.nm
1 ATP	= 100 pN.nm
1 Ion moving across a membrane	= 10 pN.nm
Thermal energy ( $k_bT$ ) ( $k_bT = RT/A$ )	= 4 pN.nm

$$\{ \underline{1 \text{ pN.nm} = 1 \times 10^{-21} \text{ Joules}} \}$$

# SINGLE MOLECULE TECHNOLOGIES:

## PATCH CLAMP:

A single ion channel admits >5000 ions when it opens and the resulting current flow (picoAmps) can be measured relatively easily using a high input-impedance transistor.

(Energy  $\equiv 50,000 \text{ pN.nm} = 12,000 k_b T$ )

## FLUORESCENCE MICROSCOPY:

A single fluorophore emits >10,000 photons per second and can be imaged quite easily using modern cameras (and seen by the naked eye).

(Energy  $\equiv 1 \times 10^6 \text{ pN.nm/video frame} = 250,000 k_b T$ )

# Mechanical Studies have no “built-in” gain

## SINGLE MOLECULE MECHANICS:

Molecule motors consume 1 ATP molecule for each step taken.

(Energy  $\equiv$  50 pN.nm = 10  $k_bT$  (i.e. very challenging))

## Optical Tweezers

Protein-Protein

Protein-Ligand interactions

## Magnetic Tweezers

DNA topology

DNA-protein interactions

## AFM

Protein (un)folding

Protein-Protein & Protein-Ligand interactions

# Optical Force:

$$E = mC^2$$

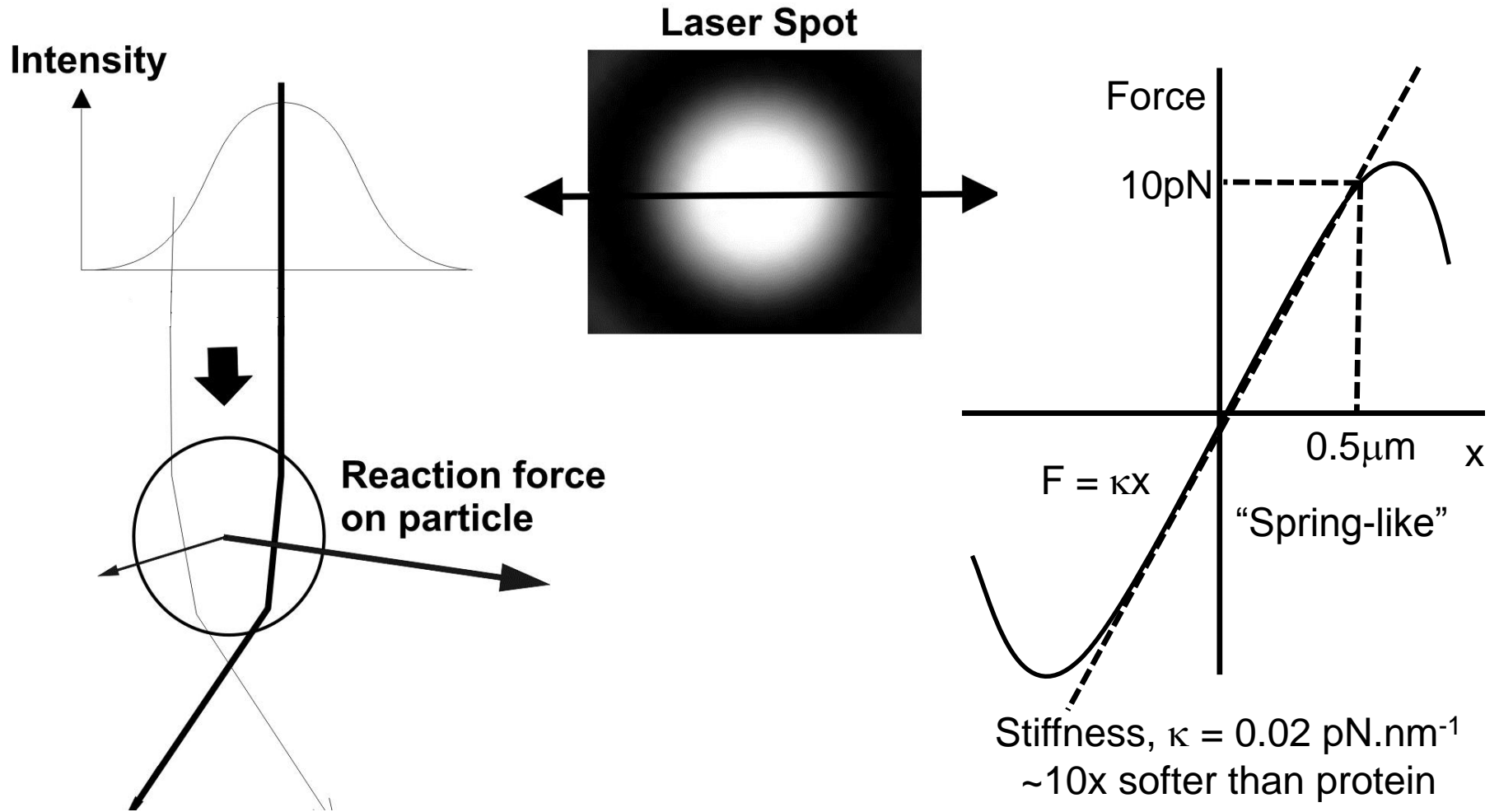
$$\text{Momentum, } mC = E/C$$

$$\text{Force} = mC/t = \mathbf{P/C}$$

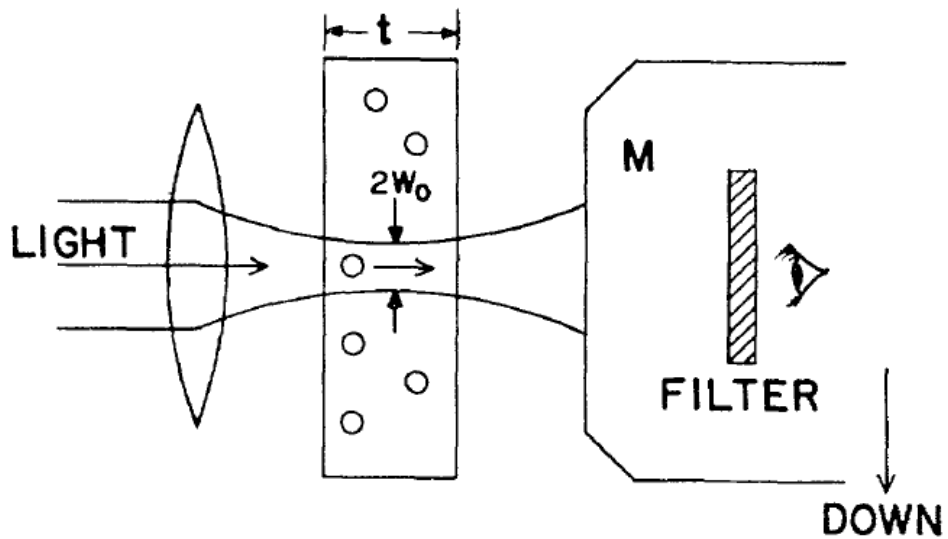
(P = optical power)

....calculate the force produced by a 3mW laser pointer....

Laser beam has Gaussian intensity profile.  
Restoring force is proportional to displacement

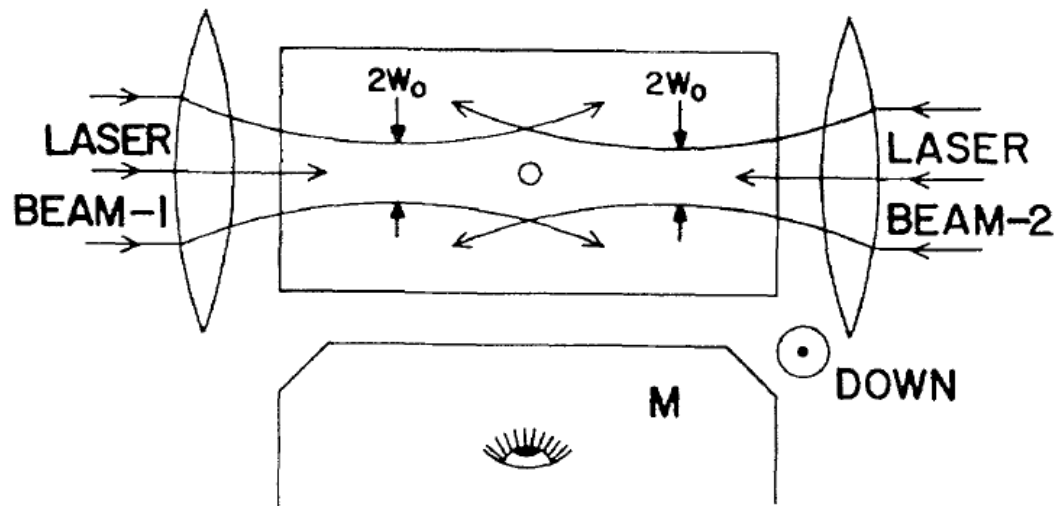






(a)

3-D trap using counter-propagating laser beams

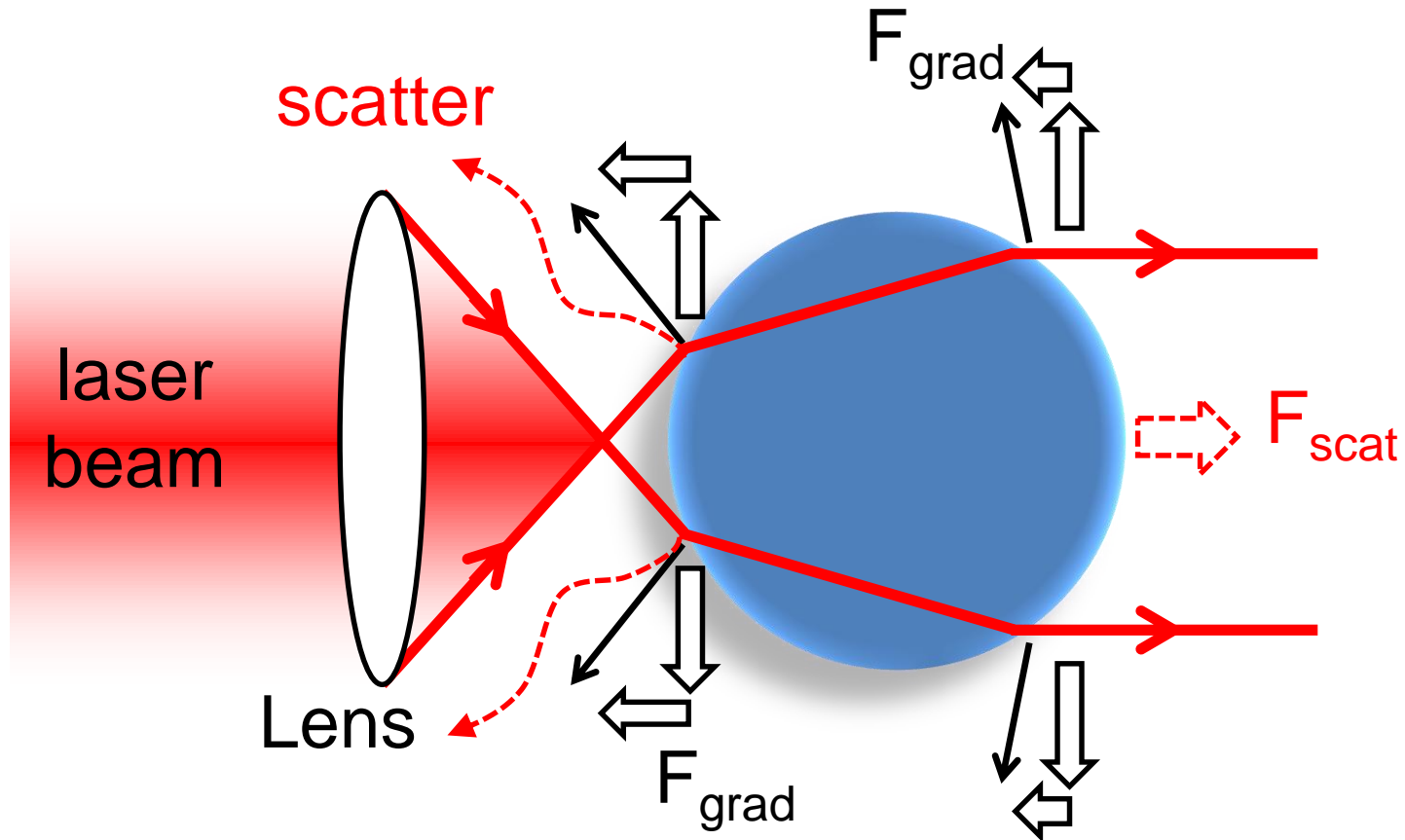


(b)

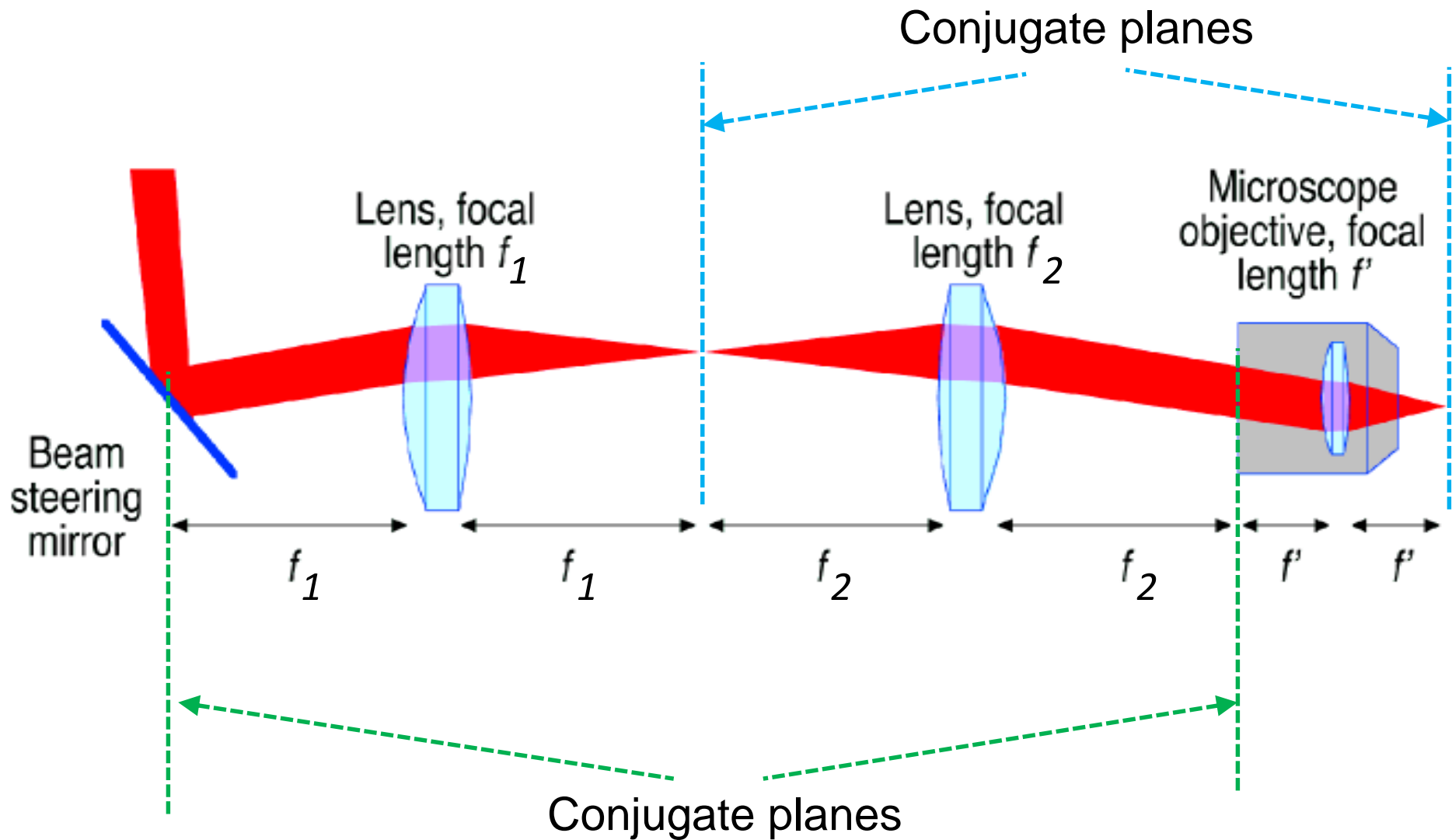
Ashkin & Dziedzic, 1971

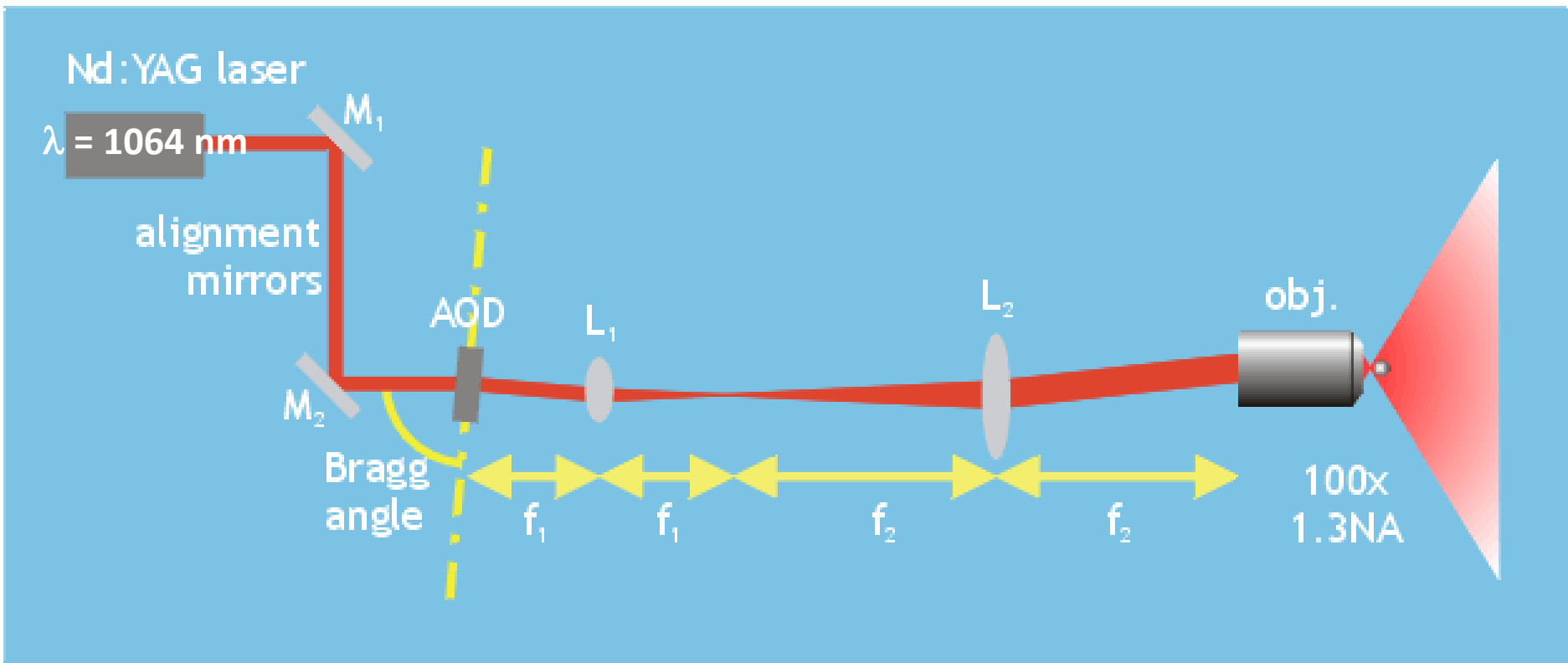
# Single beam “gradient trap”

Ashkin *et al.* 1986

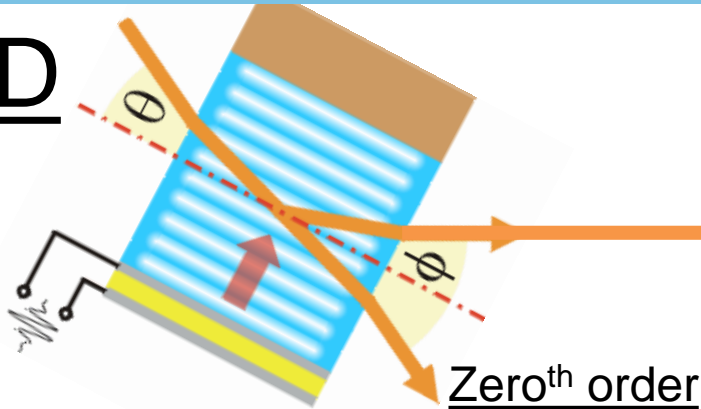


Optical “Trap” when:  $\sum F_{\text{grad}} = \sum F_{\text{scat}}$





# AOD



First order:

$$\sin(\phi) = (\lambda/d) = 1.064 \mu\text{m} / 15 \mu\text{m}$$

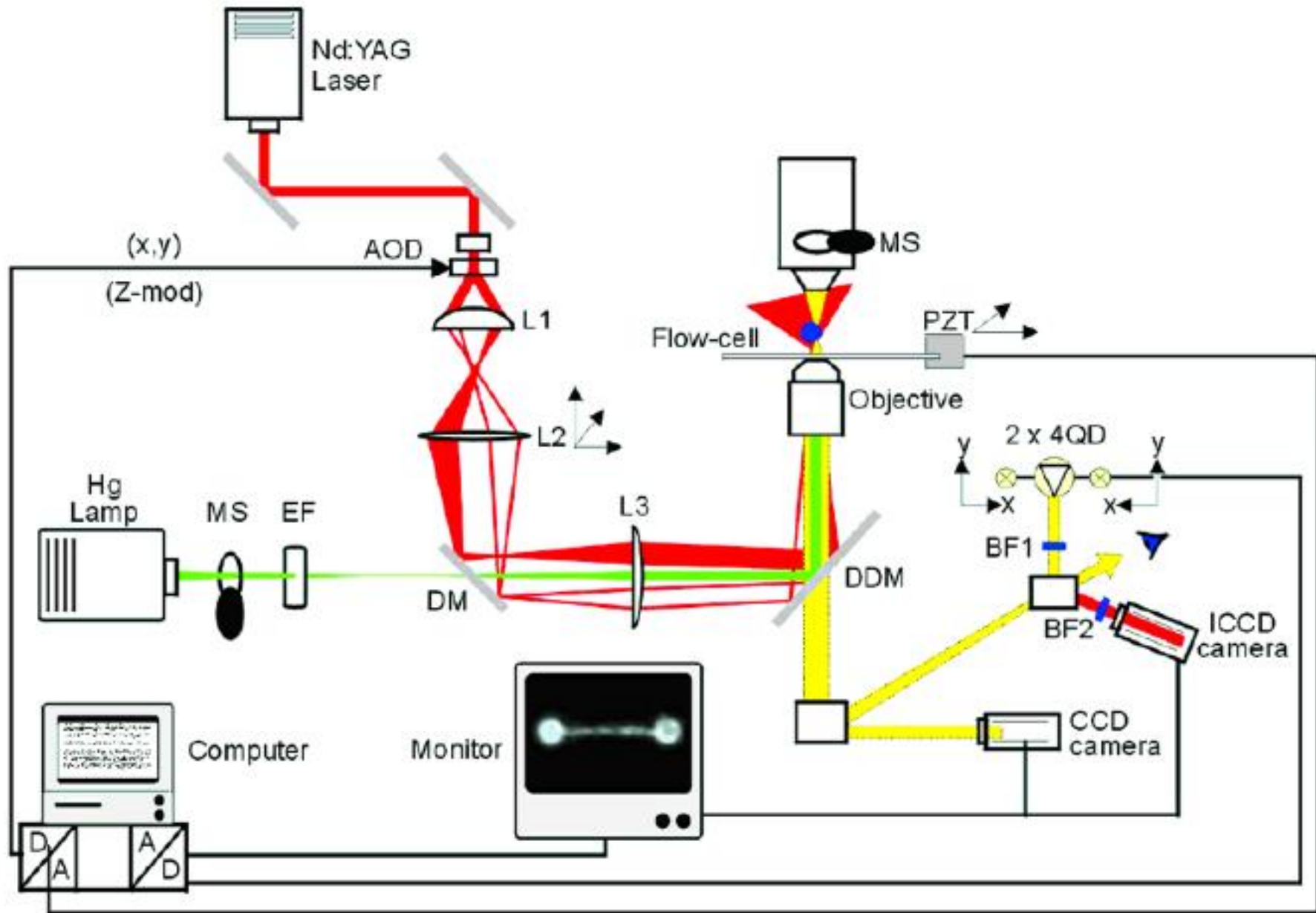
$$\phi = 75 \text{ mRads}$$

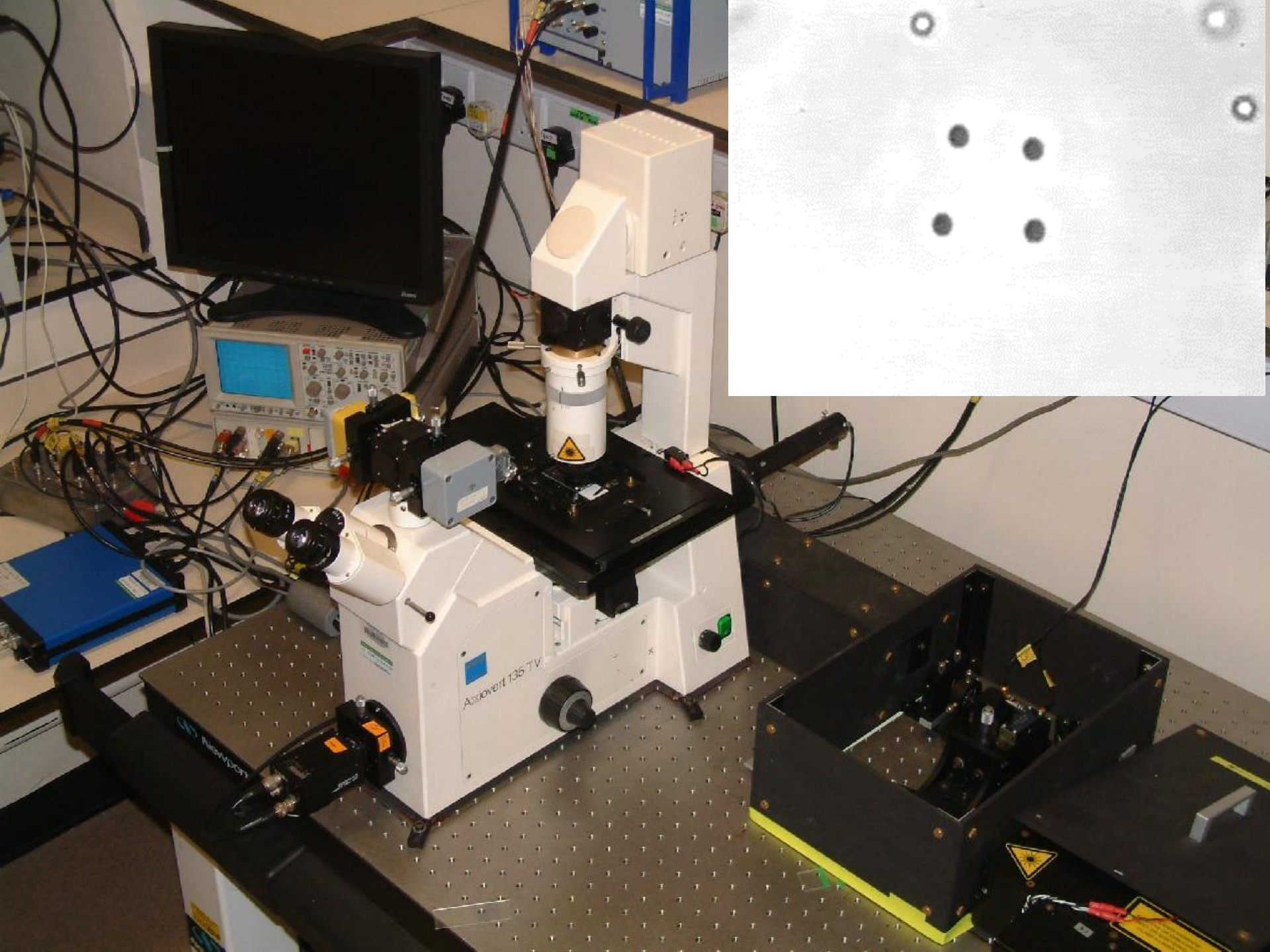
$$\Delta\phi (\pm 10\%) \sim \underline{15 \text{ mRads}}$$

travelling acoustic wave

acoustic velocity ( $\text{TeO}_2$ ) =  $800 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$   
 freq.  $\sim 50 \text{ MHz}$  (spacing,  $d \sim \underline{15 \mu\text{m}}$ )

# Realistically, it's a bit more complicated

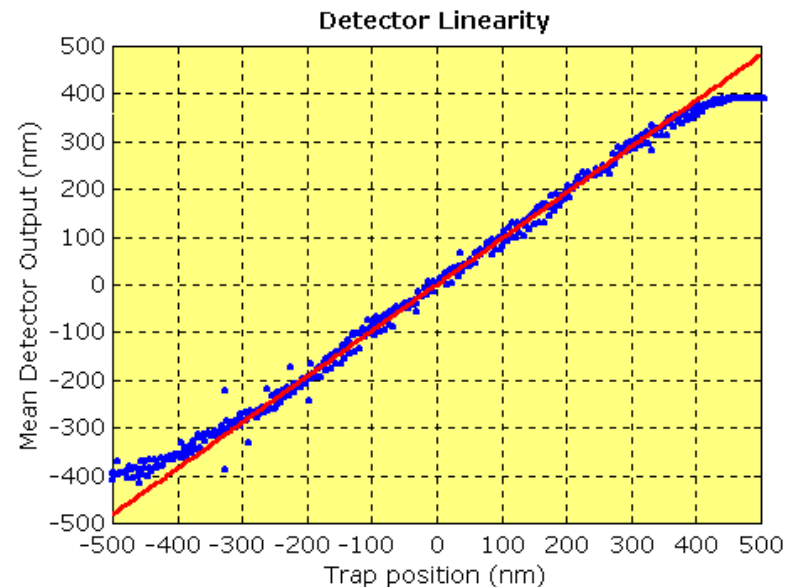
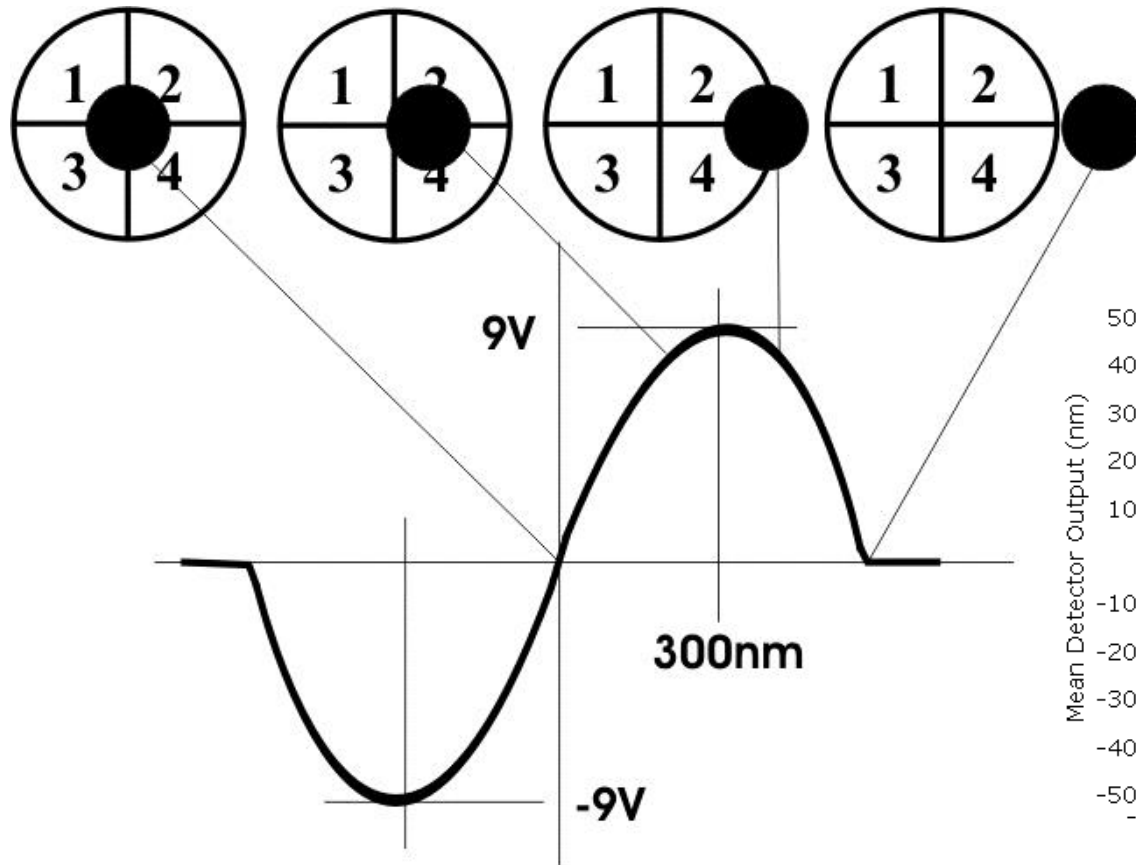




In order to measure forces we need to measure the position of the optically trapped particle with very good accuracy ( $<1$  nm) and good time resolution ( $>1$  kHz).

Most instruments use 4-quadrant photodiodes.

However, modern (inexpensive) CMOS cameras operate at 5kHz (over a limited field of view) and are now commonly used to “centroid” the bead image.



# Super-resolution imaging

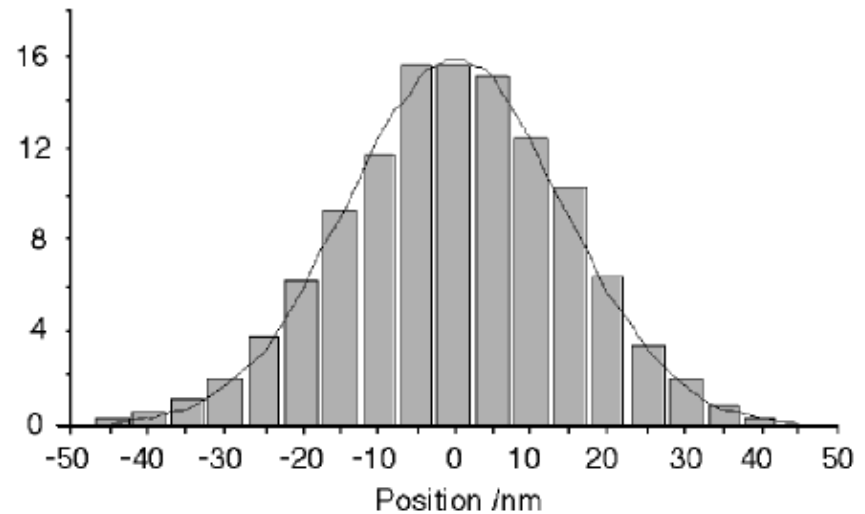
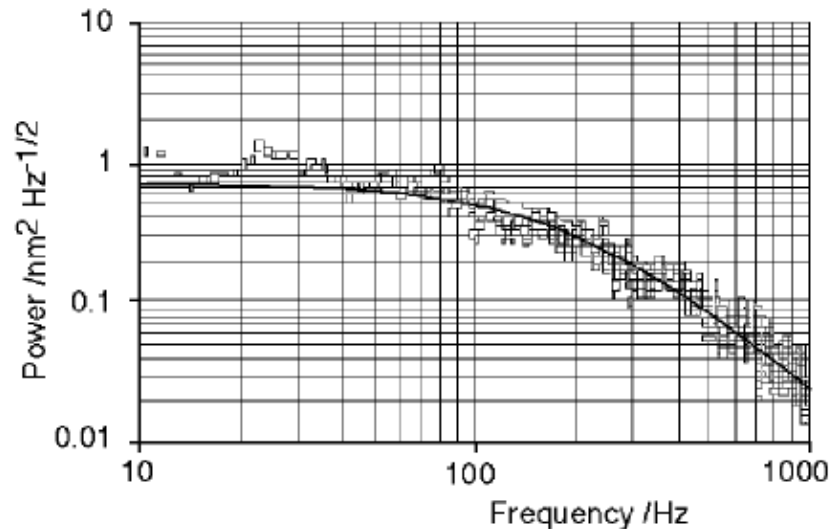
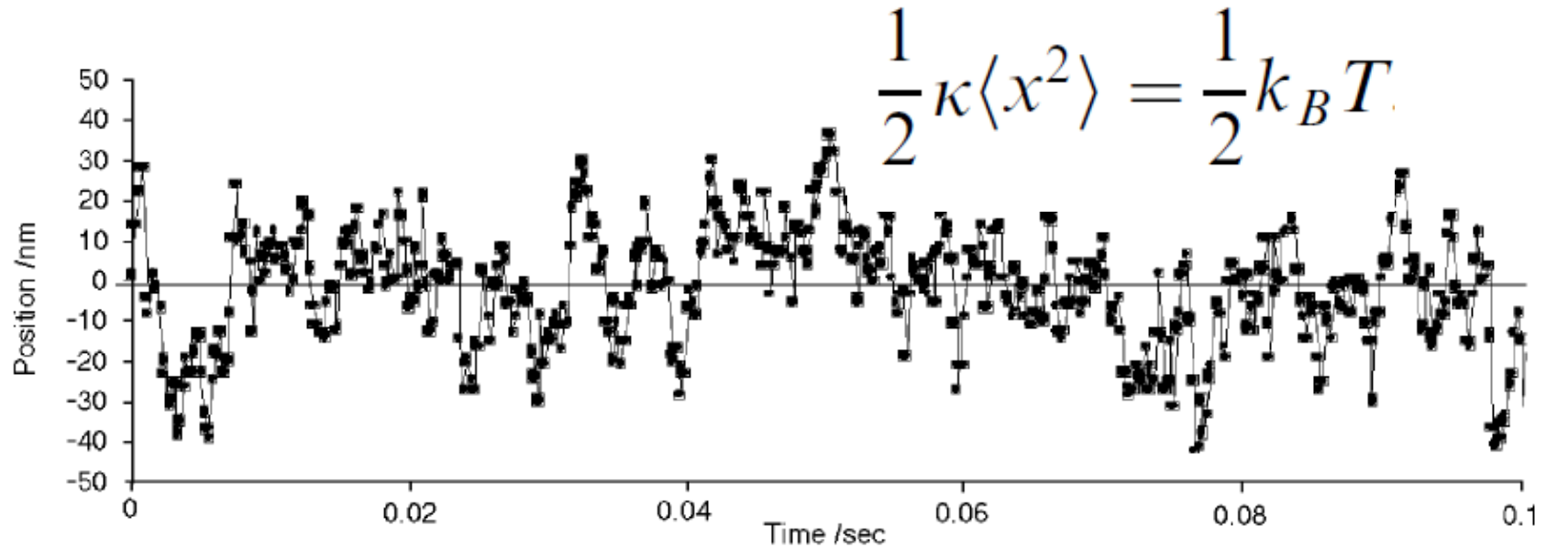
## Super-resolution mechanics

Super-resolution optical imaging requires statistical analysis of the spatial distribution of photons arising from a diffraction-limited source. We need to characterise the spatial autocorrelation function (the “Airey disc”)

Super-resolution mechanics requires statistical analysis of the temporal distribution of forces and movements arising from a thermal-noise-limited source. We need to understand the temporal autocorrelation function (the “power density spectrum”)

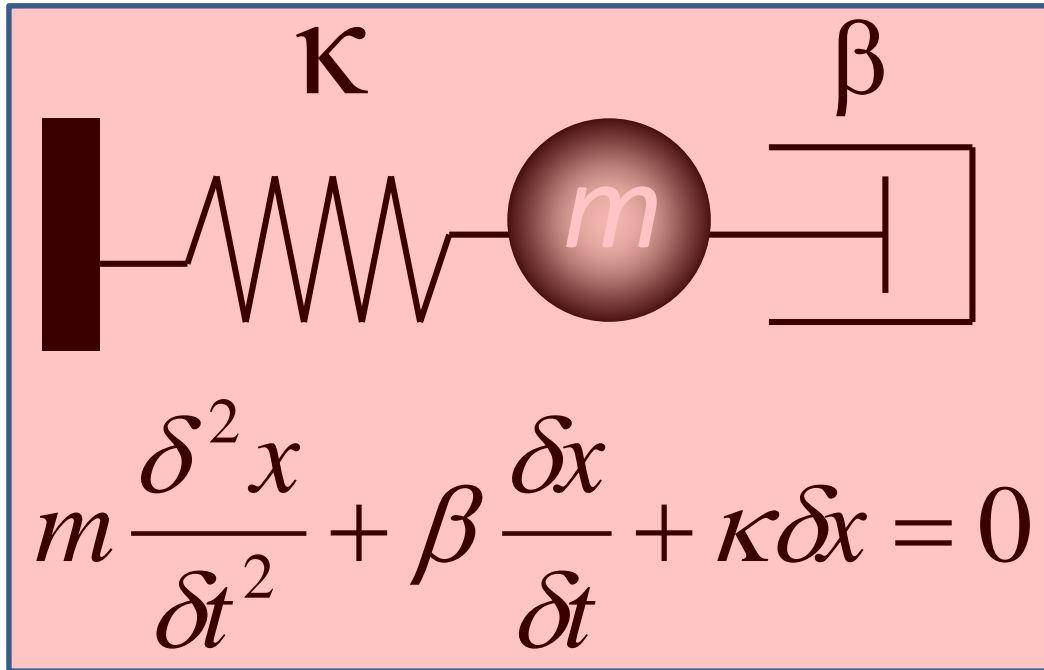


# Thermal motion of an optically trapped particle



Thermal noise is  $\sim 14$  nm r.m.s.

# Dynamic response



Stoke's drag

$$\beta = 6\pi\eta r$$

Typical values:

$$f_{res} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{\kappa}{m}} > 50 \text{ kHz}$$

$$f_c = \frac{\kappa}{2\pi\beta} < 1 \text{ kHz}$$

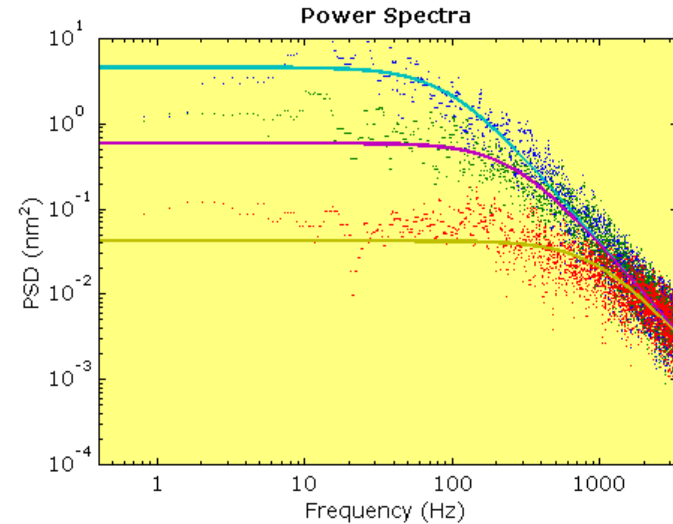
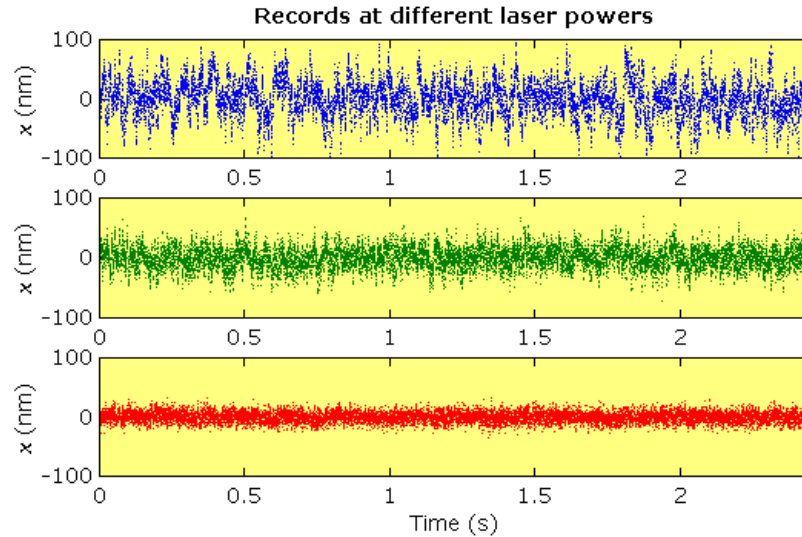
$$m = 5 \times 10^{-16} \text{ kg}$$

$$\beta = 1 \times 10^{-8} \text{ N.s.m}^{-1}$$

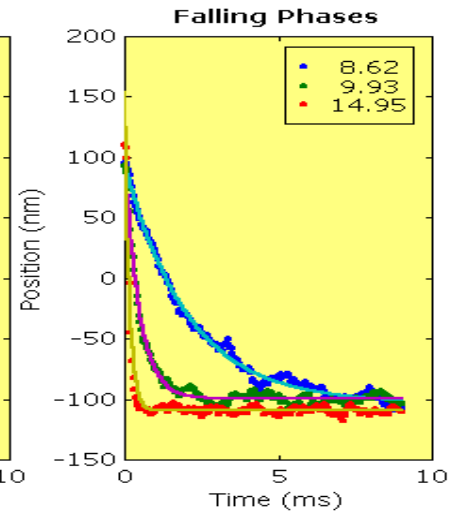
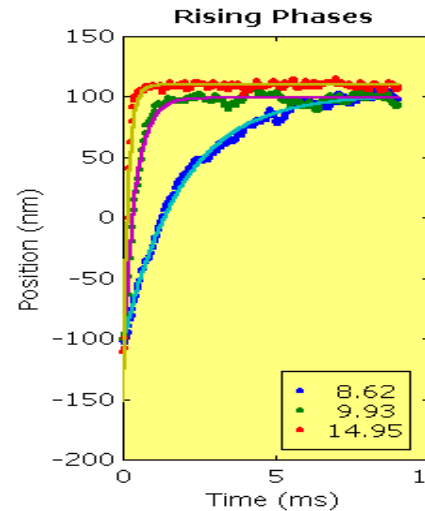
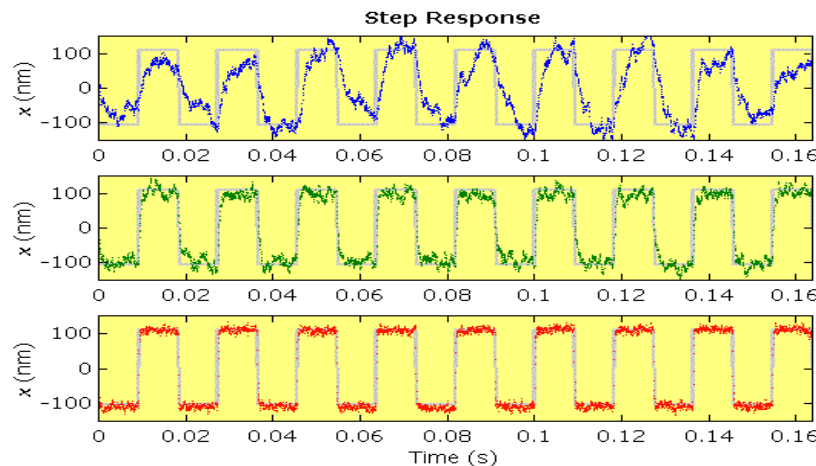
$$\kappa \sim 1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ N.m}^{-1}$$

# Calibration of optical trap stiffness

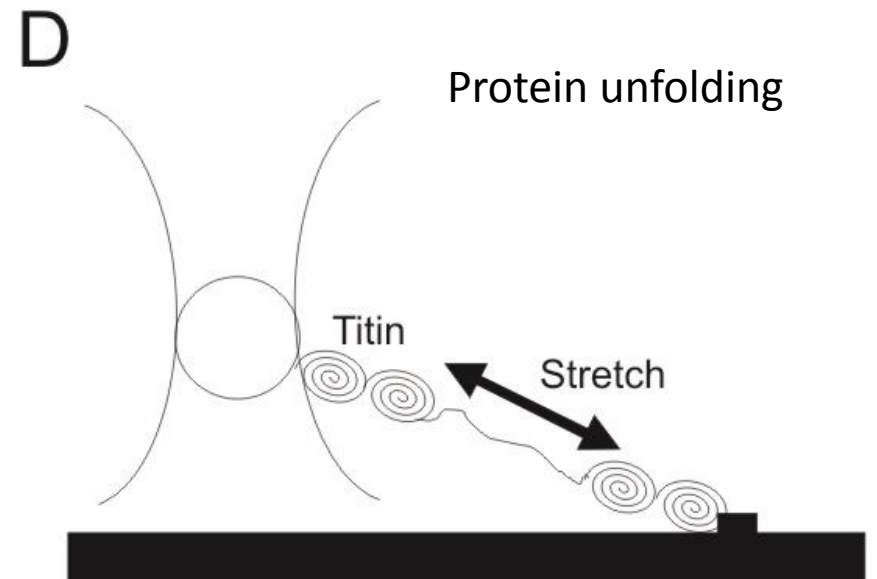
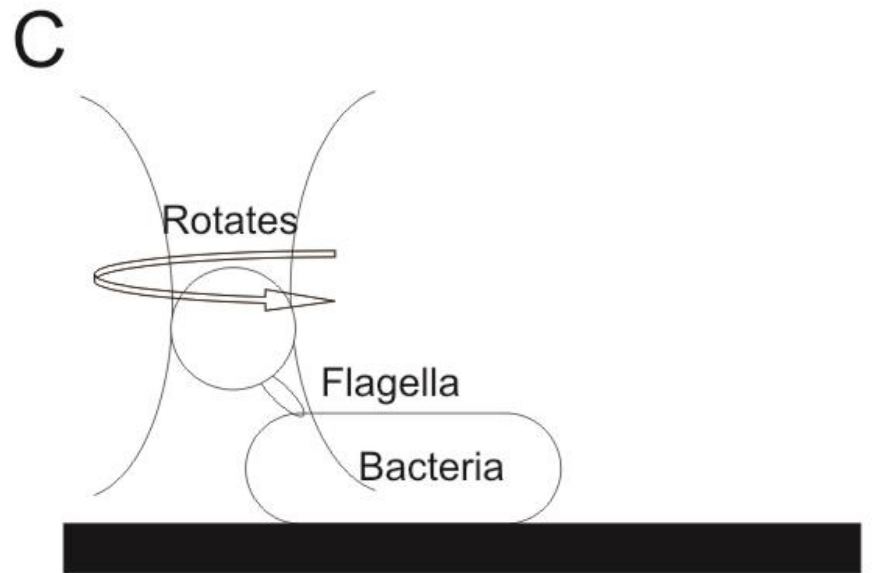
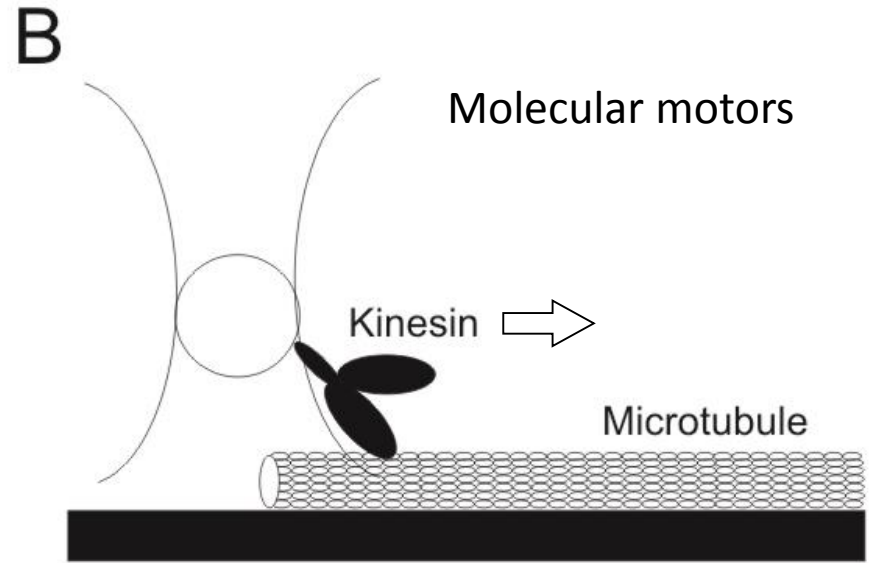
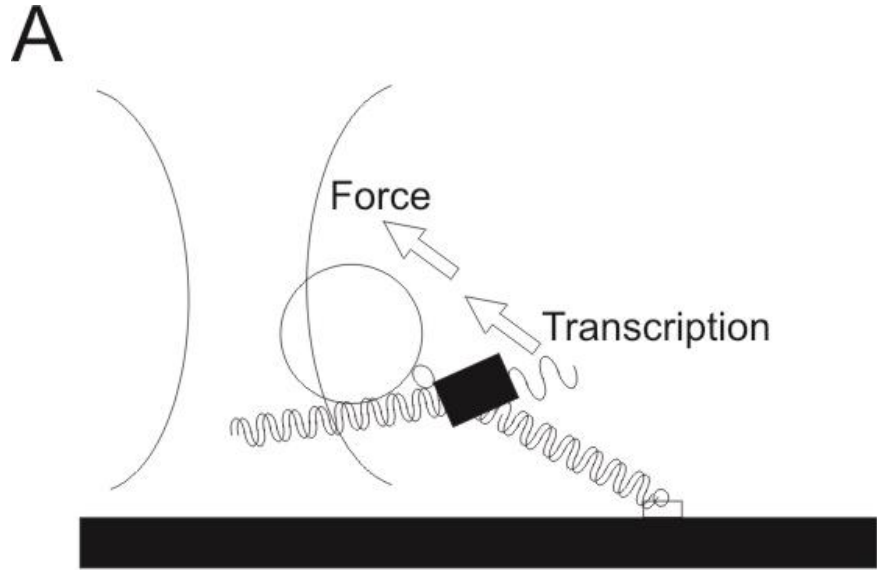
## 1) Brownian motion



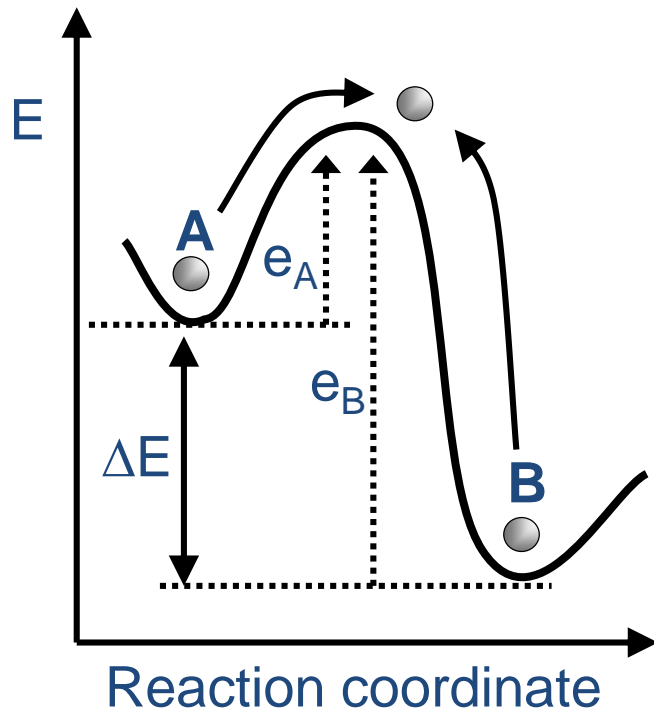
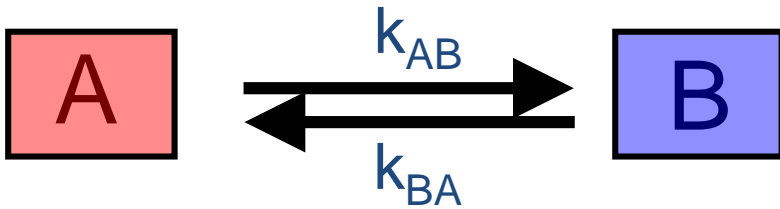
## 2) Bead deflection caused by viscous drag



# Optical tweezers can be used to measure forces in biology



# SINGLE MOLECULE DATA SETS

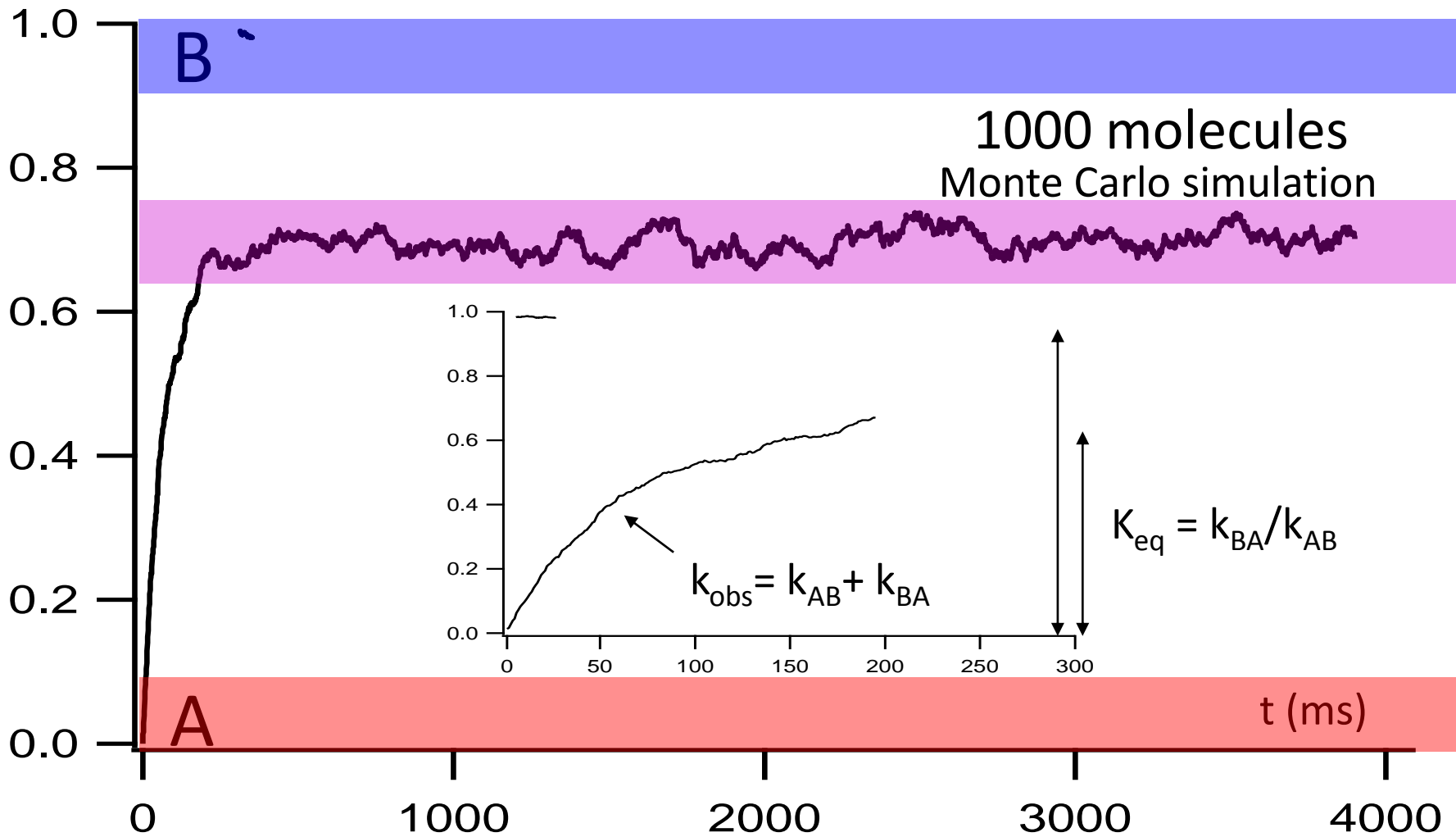


Transition state theory describes the kinetic properties of the system

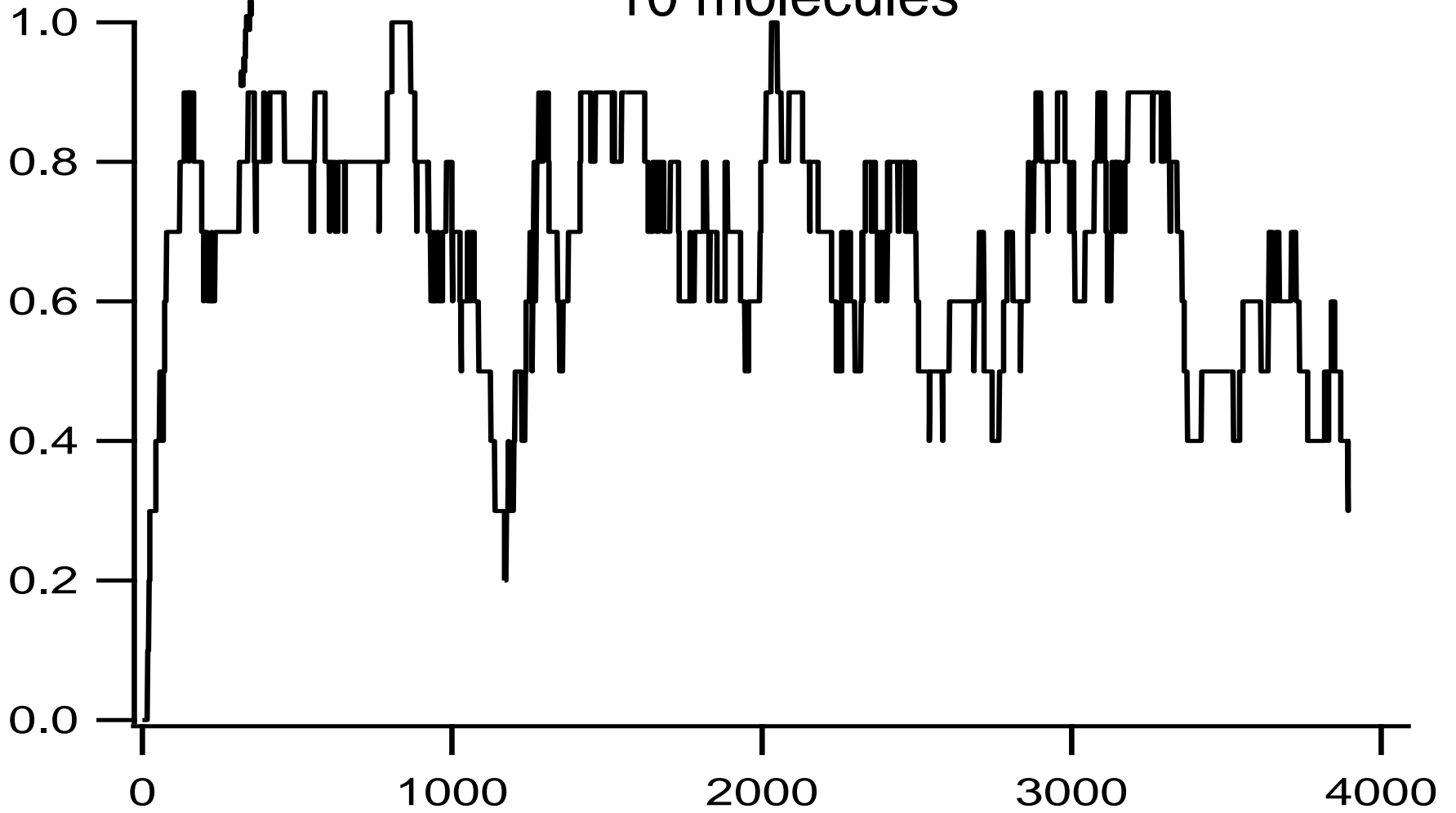
$$k_{AB} \propto e^{\frac{-e_A}{k_b T}} \quad k_{BA} \propto e^{\frac{-e_B}{k_b T}}$$

$$K = \frac{k_{AB}}{k_{BA}} = e^{\frac{-(e_B - e_A)}{k_b T}} = e^{\frac{-\Delta E}{k_b T}}$$


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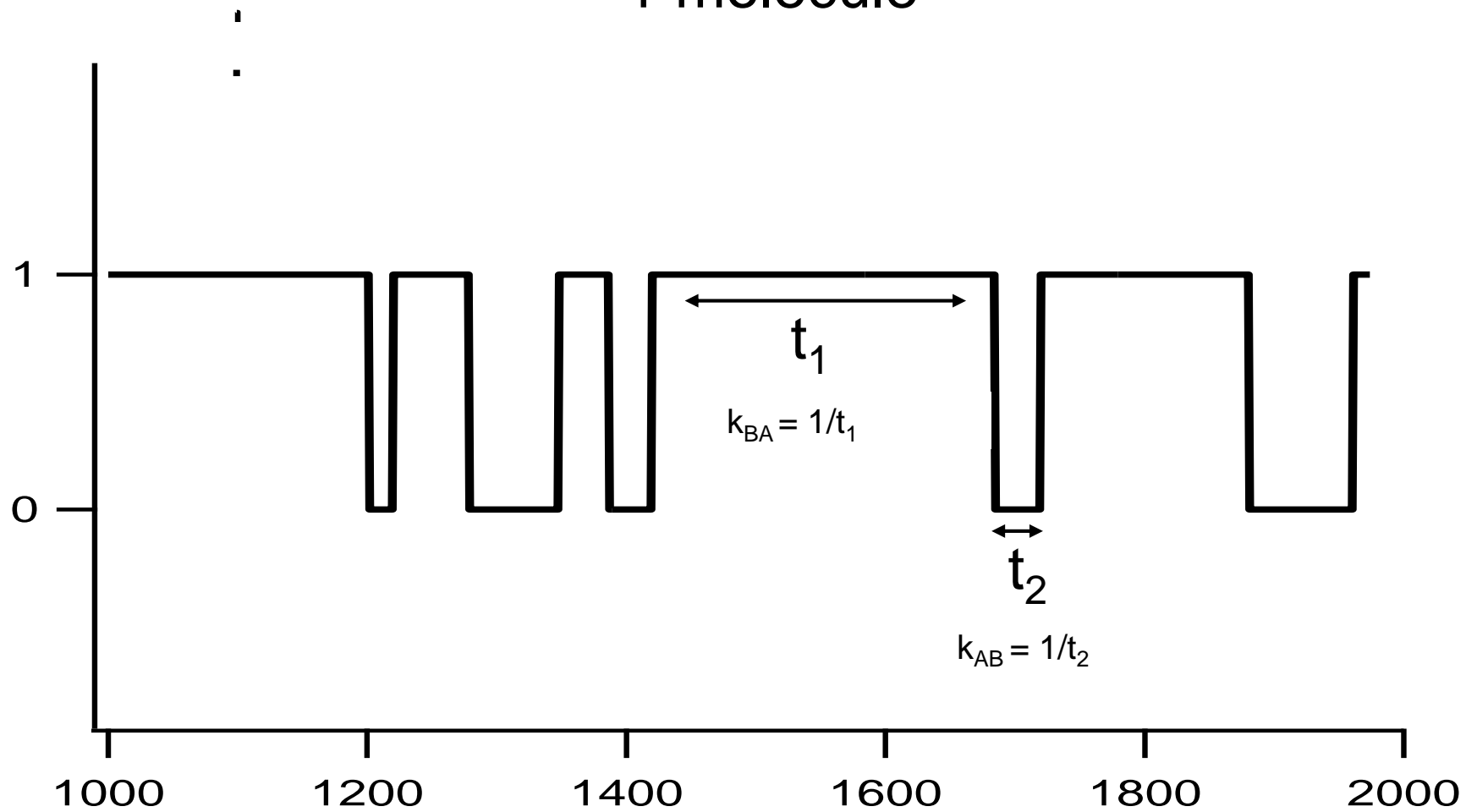


10 molecules





1 molecule

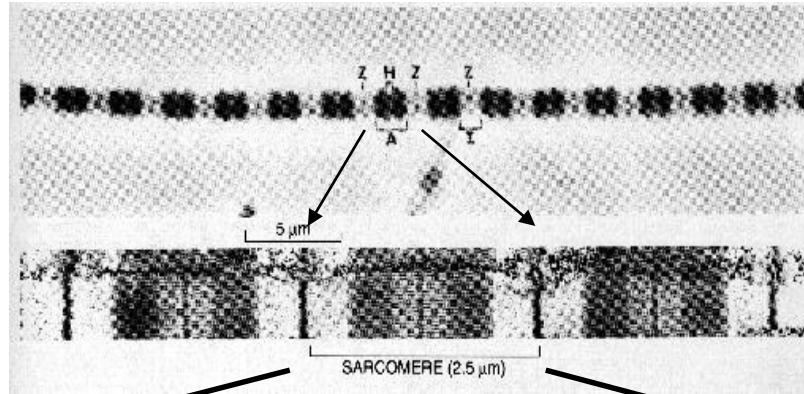


- We want to measure the duration and amplitude of single molecule “Events”.
- “Events” have different names and forms:
  - “open” and “closed”
  - “on” and “off”
  - “bound” and “free”
  - etc..
- “Events” can be single chemical states or comprise “sub-states” which can only be revealed by careful kinetic or amplitude analysis.

How can we use optical tweezers to understand how molecular motors produce force and movement from ATP?

# Filament sliding causes muscle to shorten:

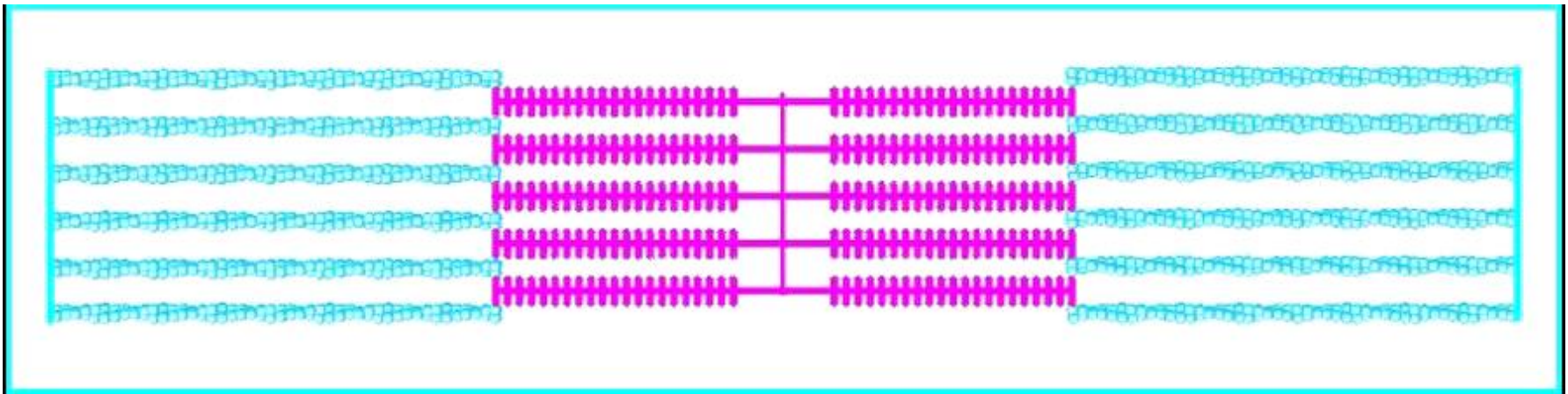
myofibril



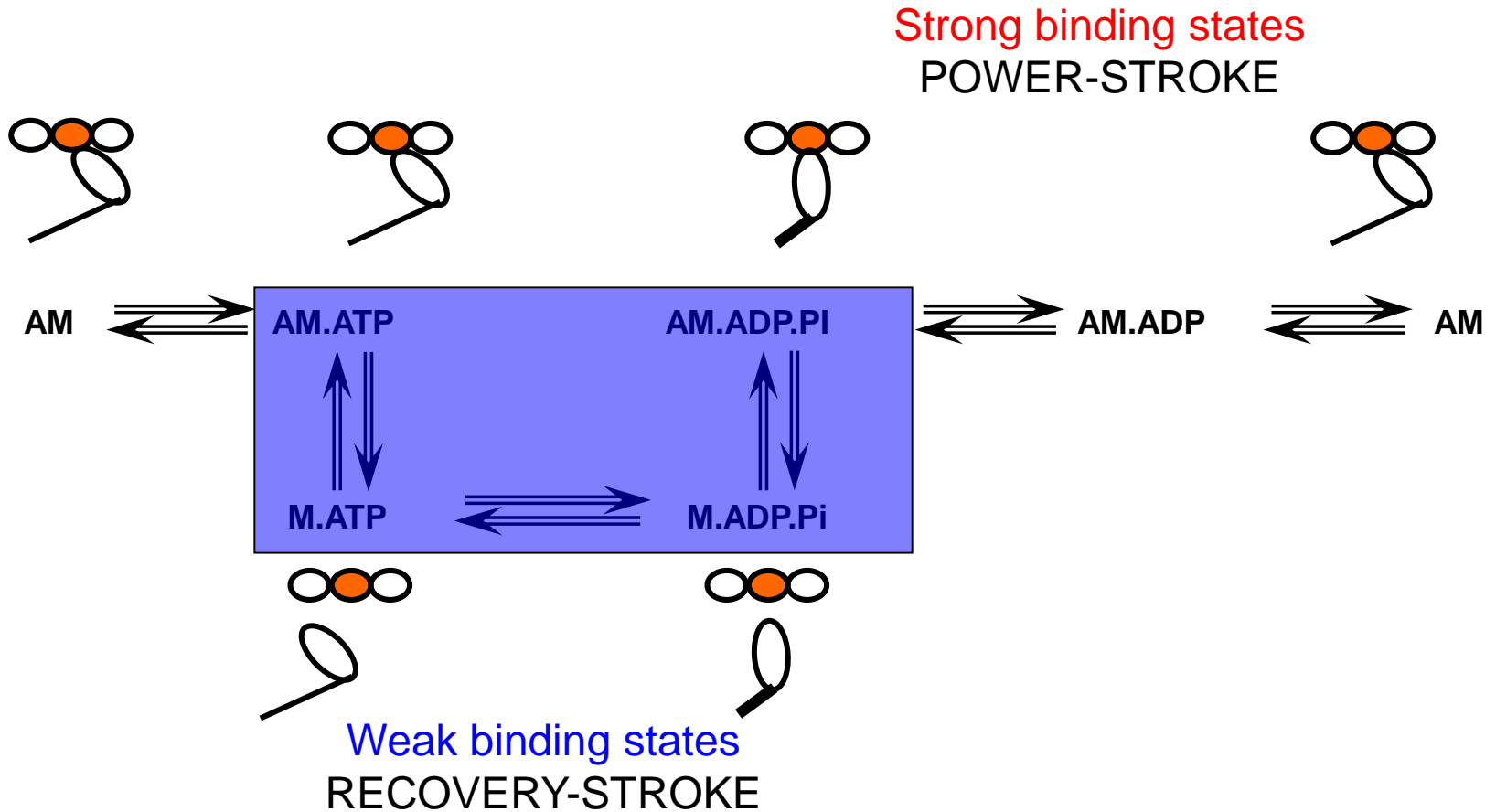
Light micrograph

Electron micrograph

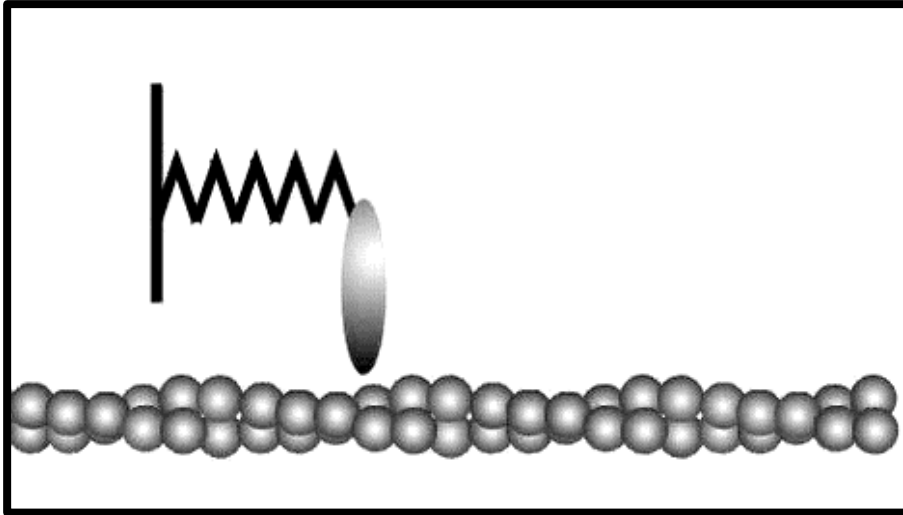
sarcomere



# Acto-myosin ATPase pathway

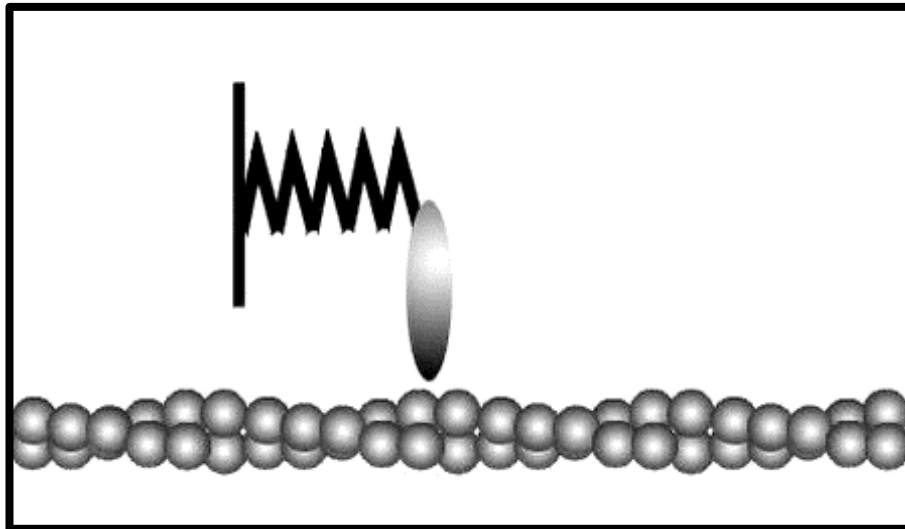


# How do myosin motors actually produce force and movement?



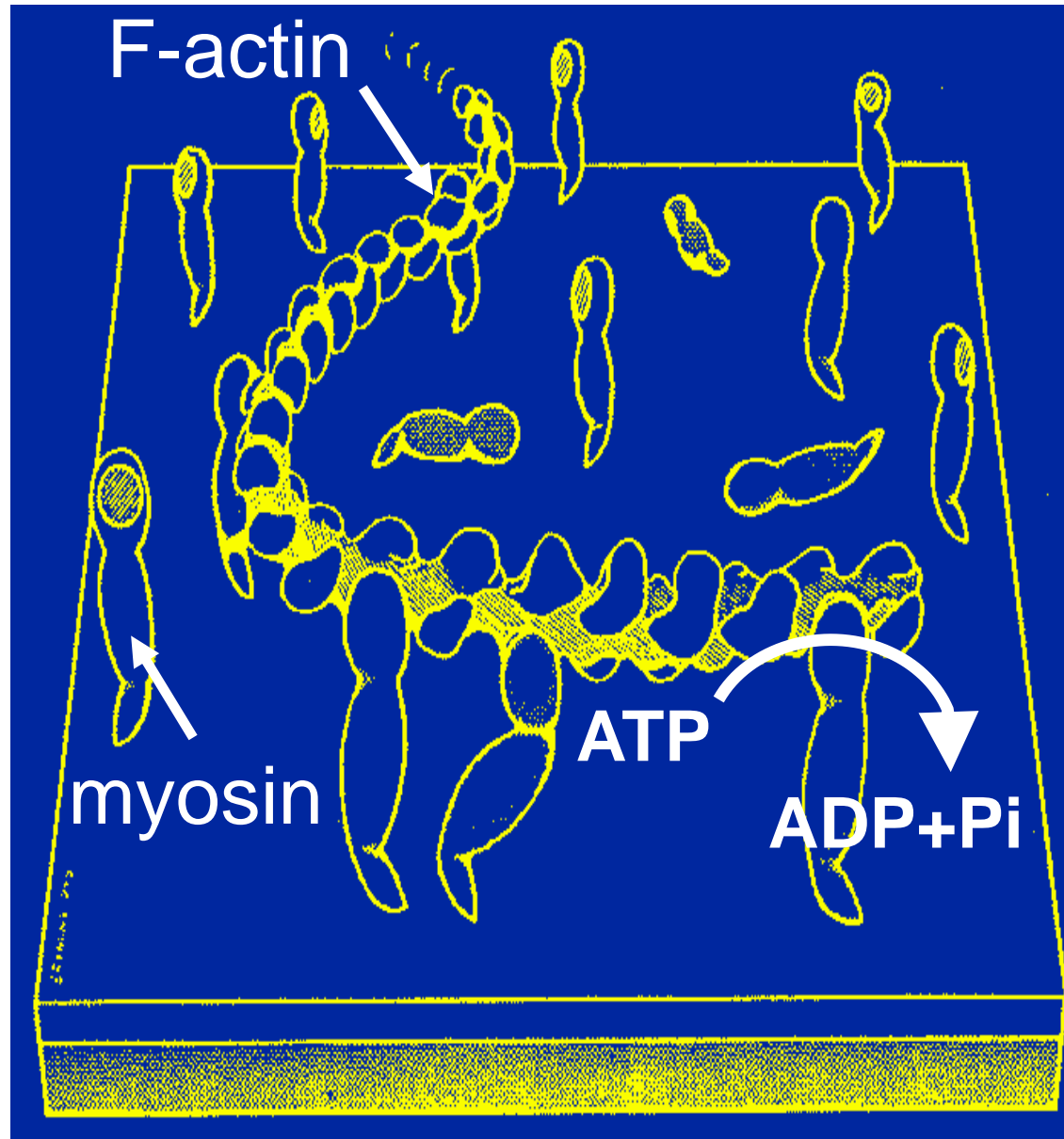
Thermal Ratchet

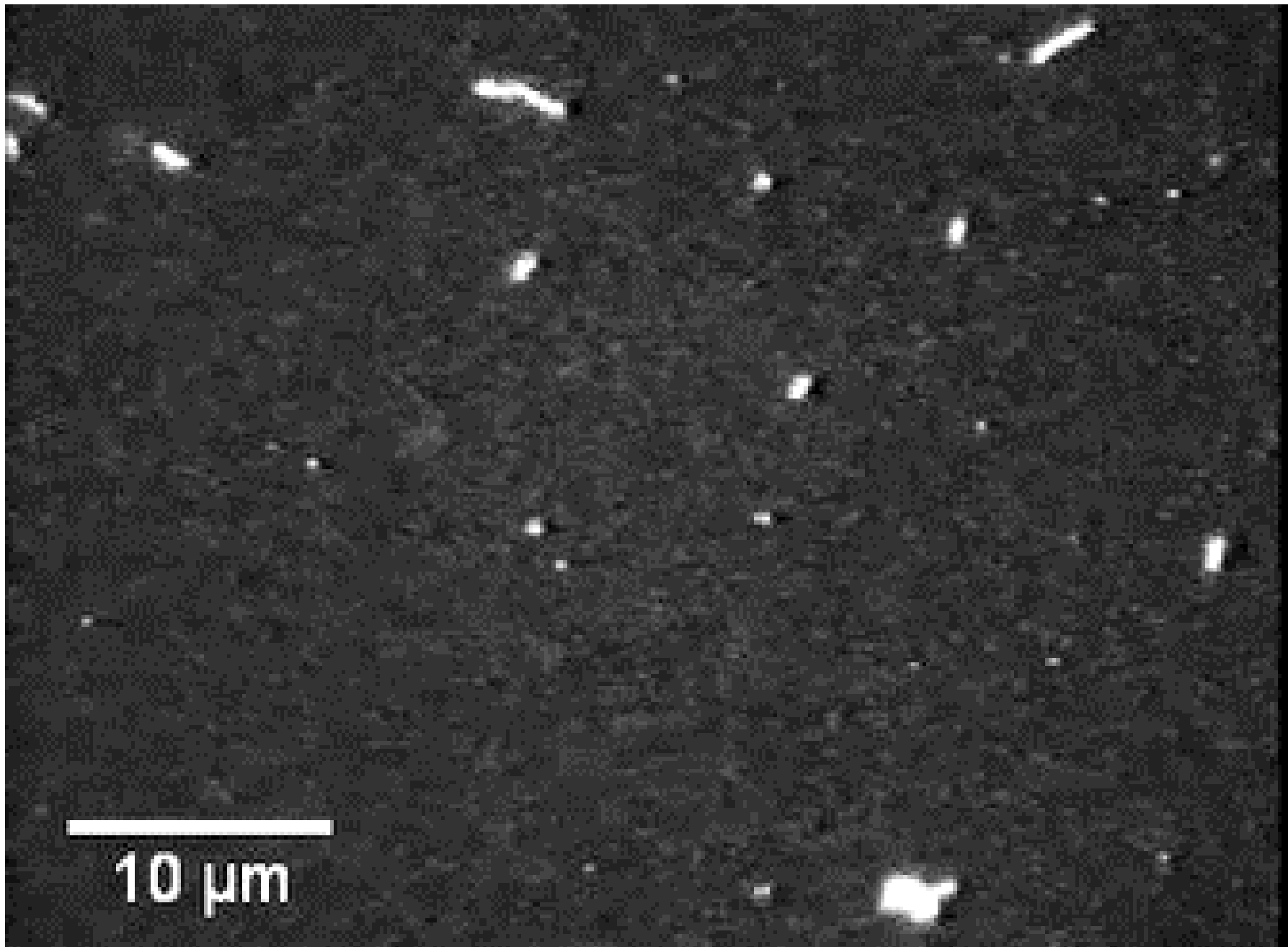
or



Power-stroke  
conformational  
change

# Acto-myosin *in vitro* motility assay :

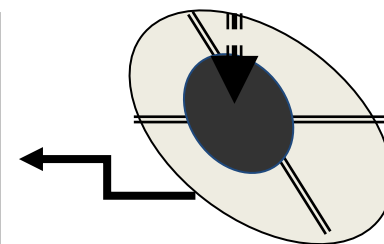
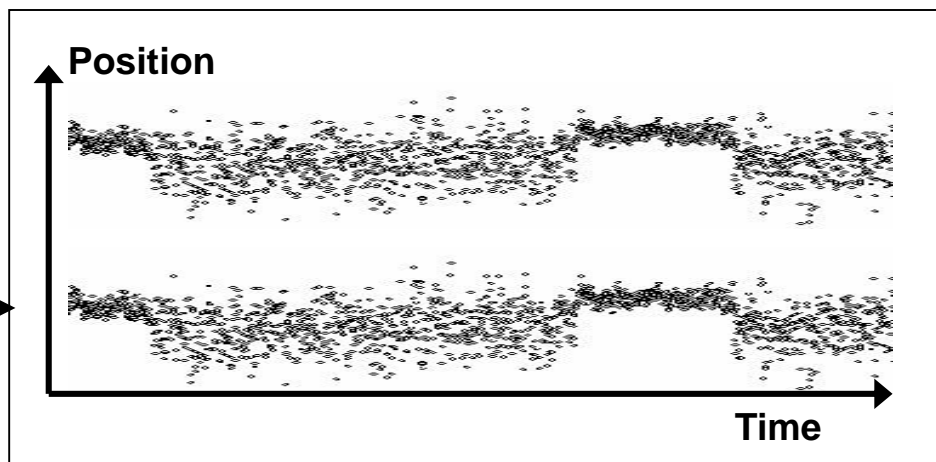
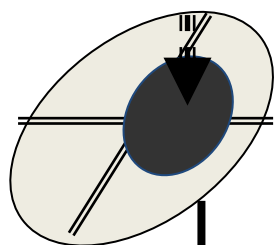
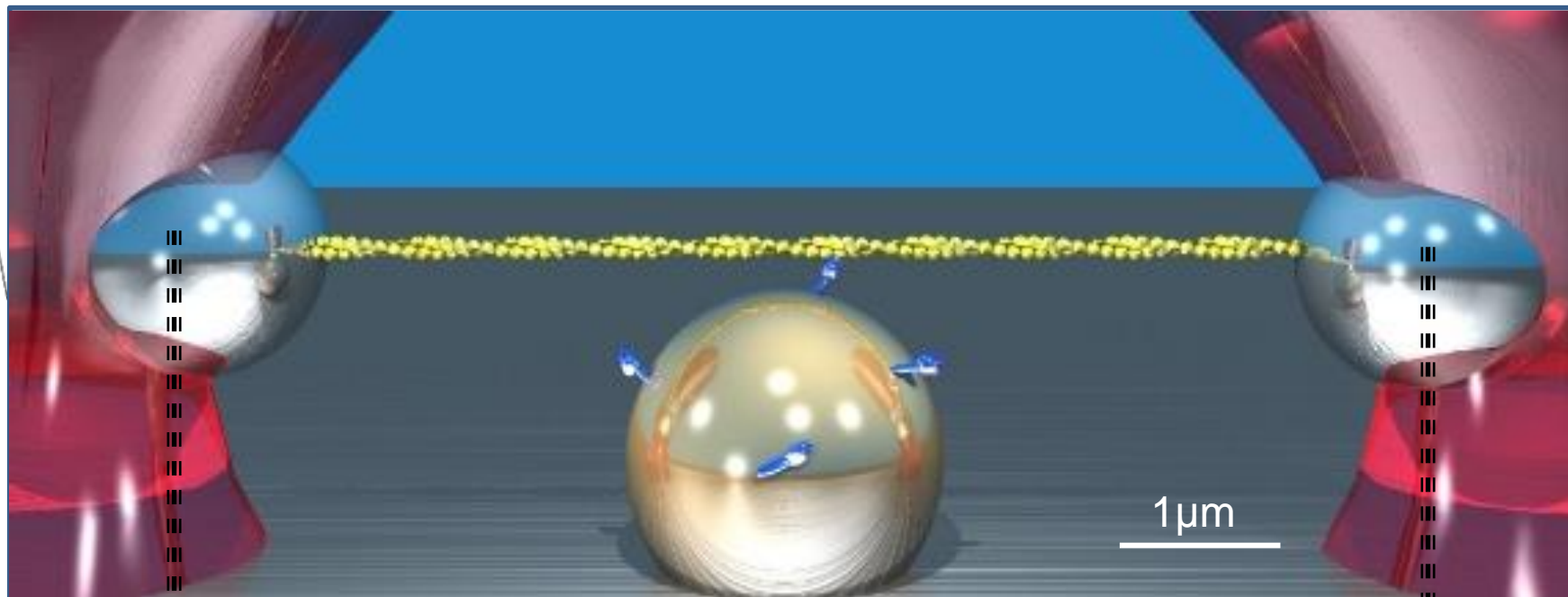




10  $\mu\text{m}$



# High-resolution mechanical studies



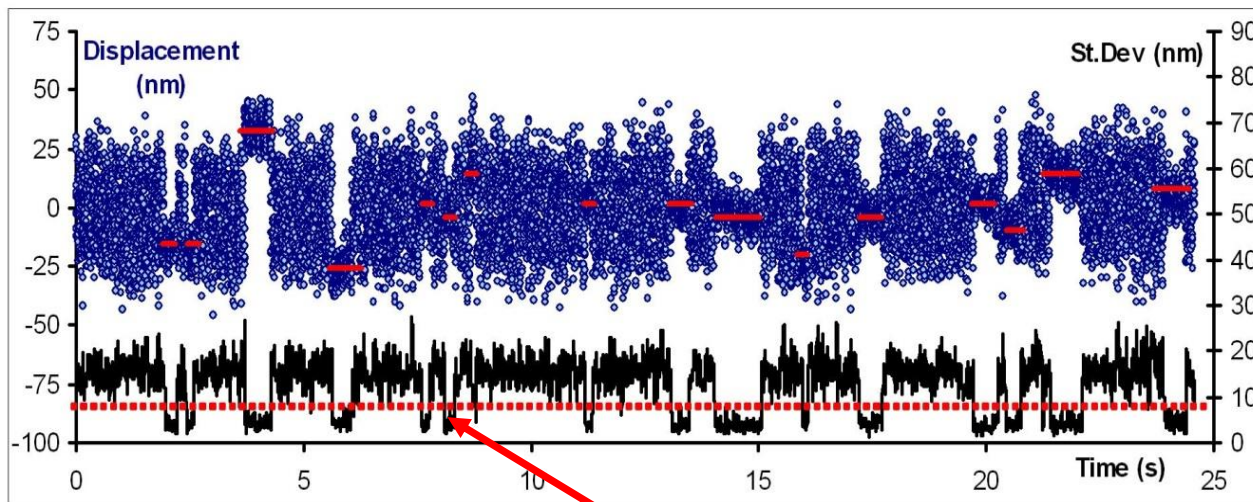
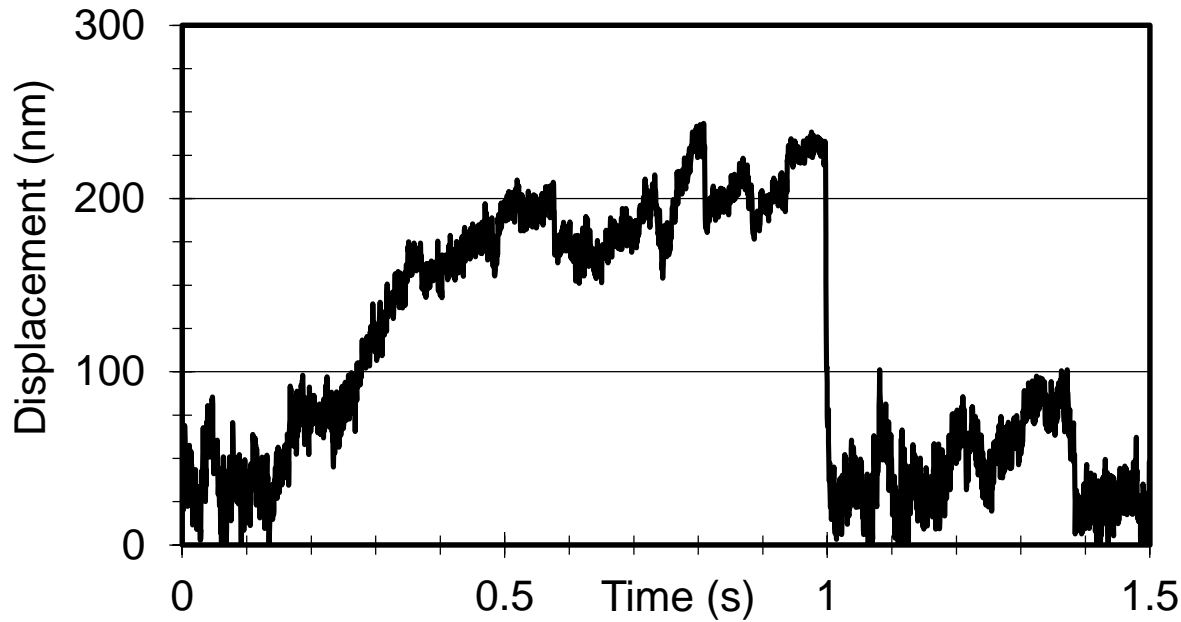
**Actin Filament Held Between  
Two Latex Beads**

**Coated with :  
Monomeric NEM-Myosin  
& BSA-TRITC**

**Interacting with :  
1.7 $\mu$ m glass bead**

**Coated with :  
HMM @ 50 $\mu$ g/ml**

**[ATP] = 2 $\mu$ M**

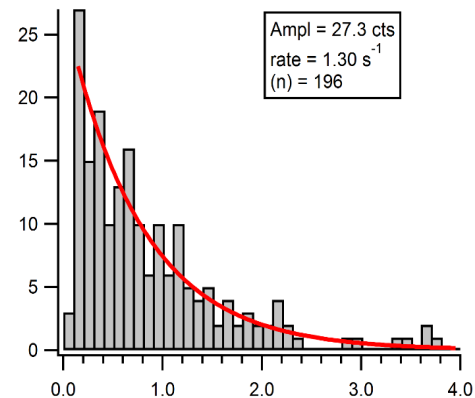
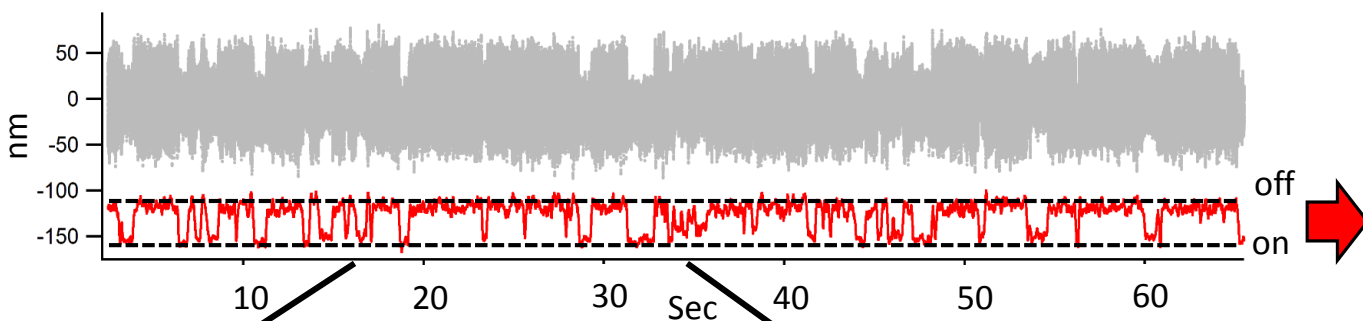


1 molecule

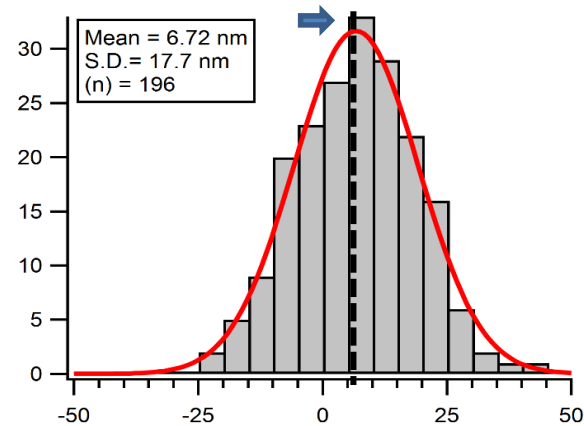
Variance tells us about the system STIFFNESS

# Single molecule optical trapping

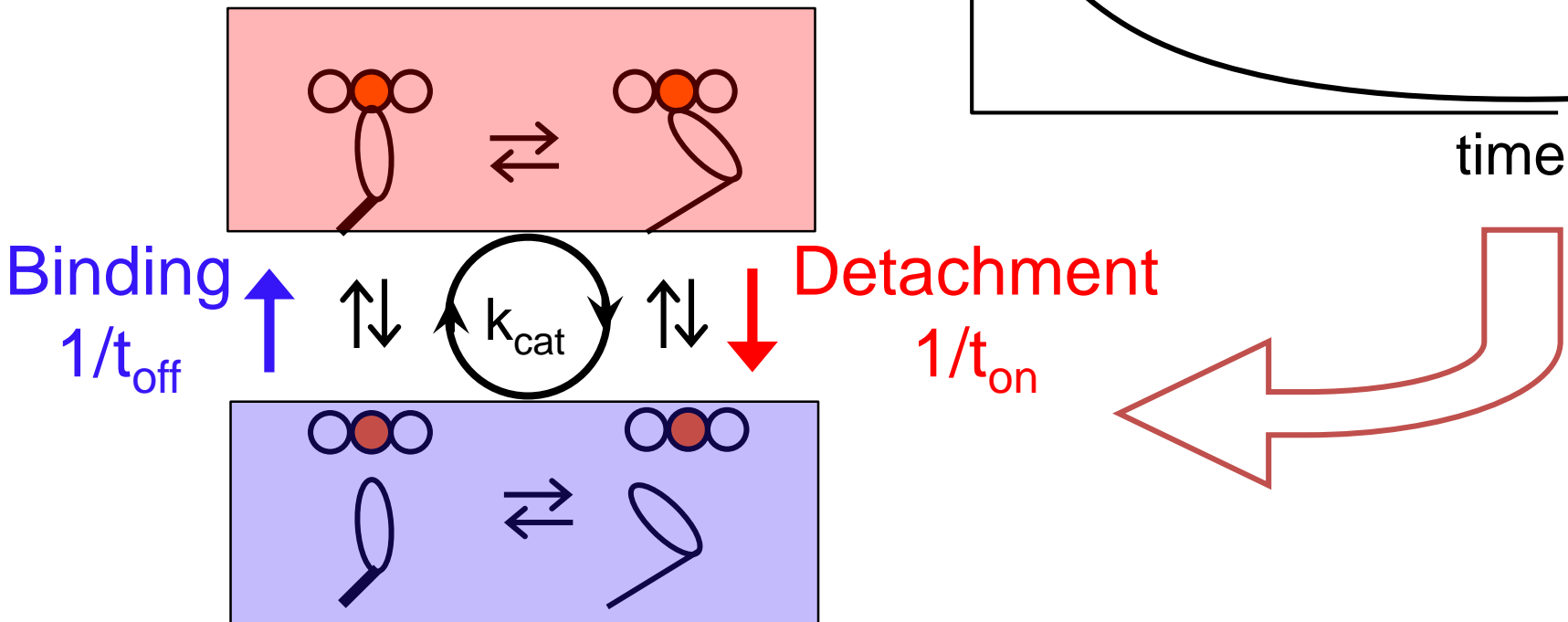
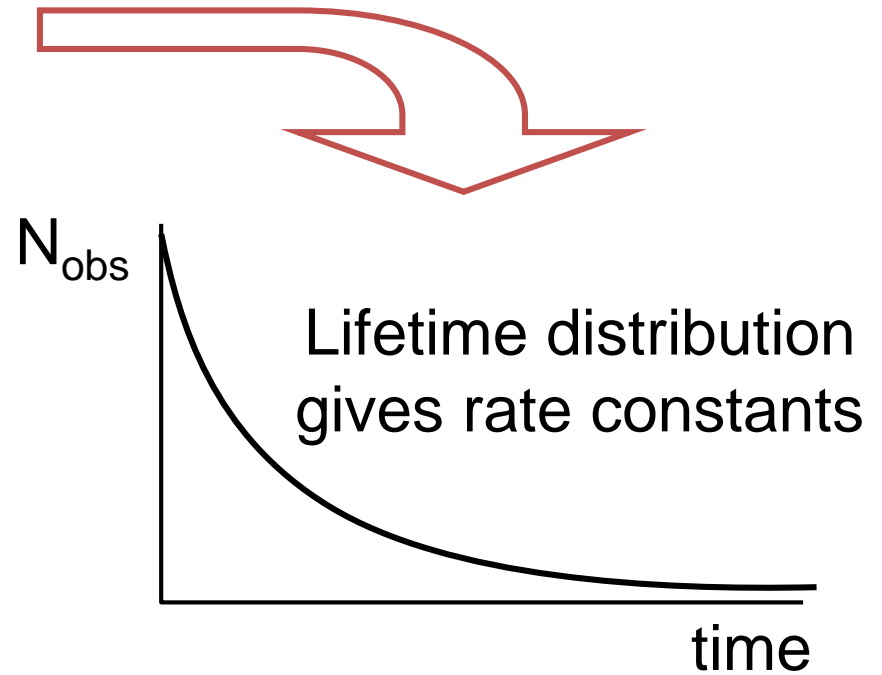
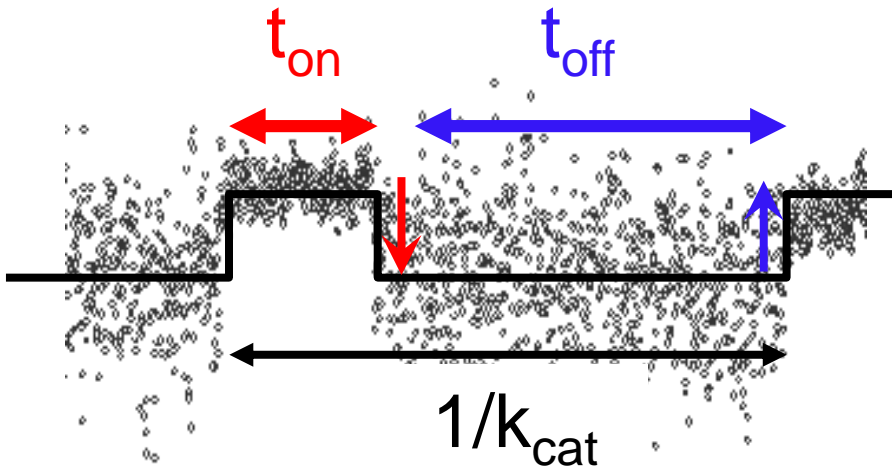
## KINETICS



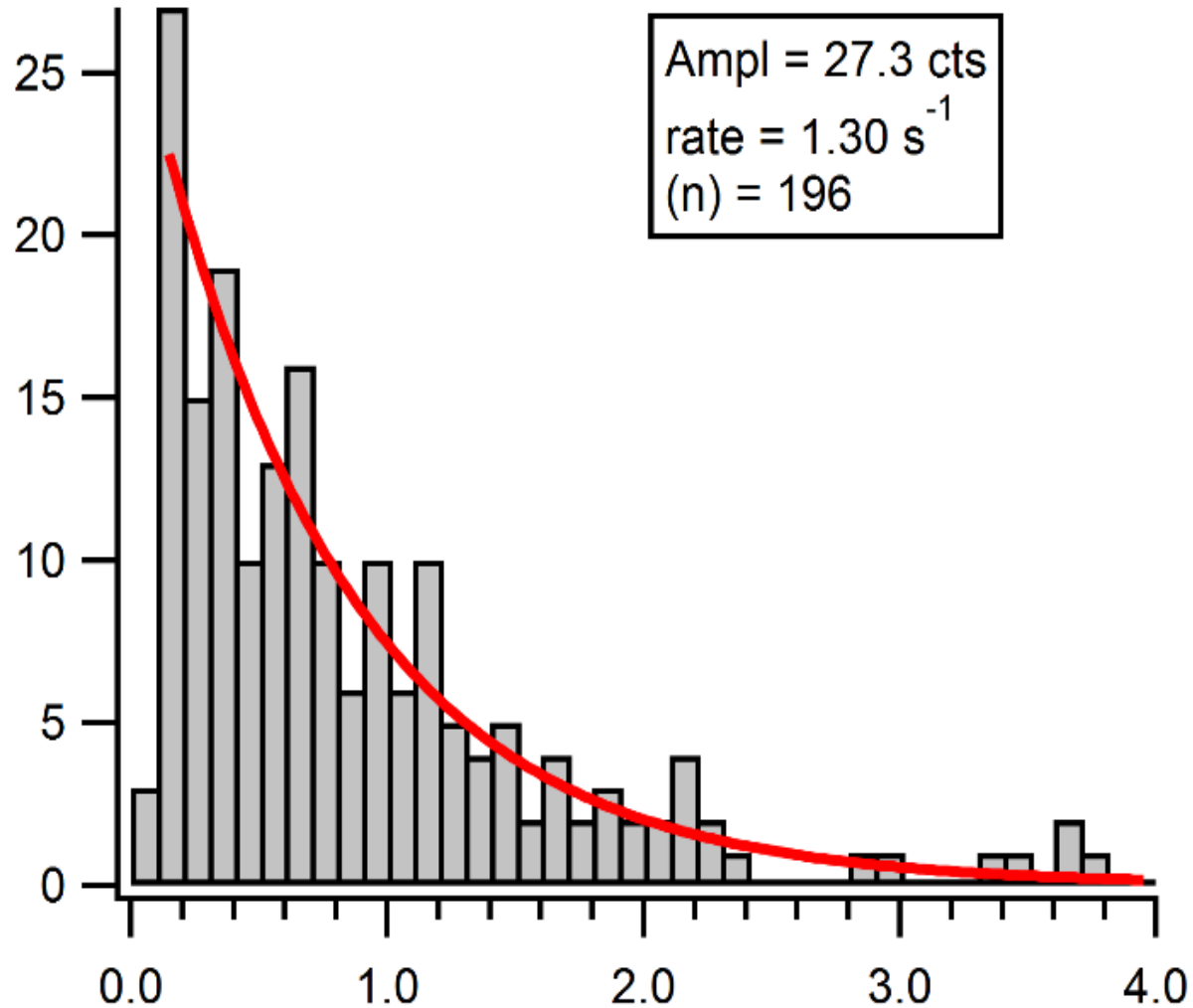
## Amplitude of power-stroke



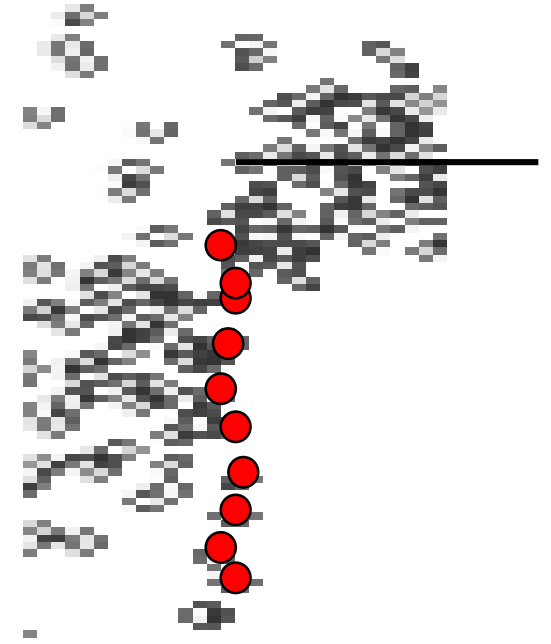
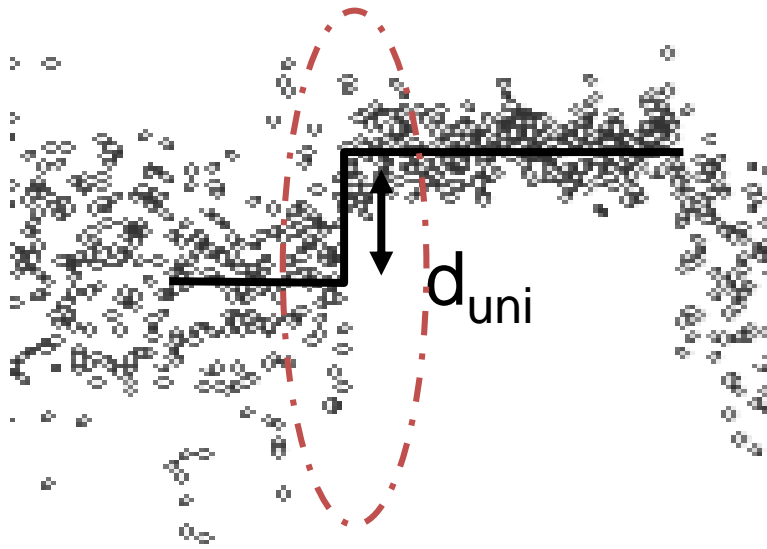
# Basic Analysis (I)



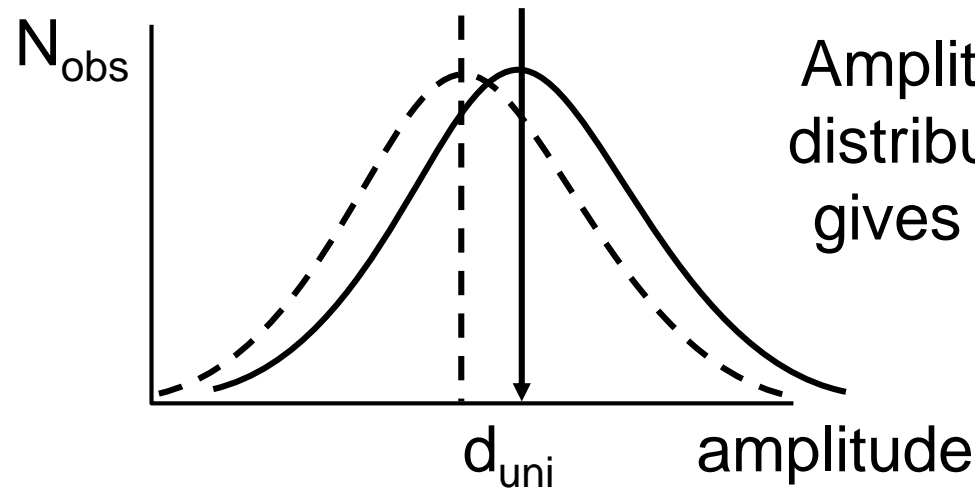
# Detachment rate



# Basic Analysis (II)

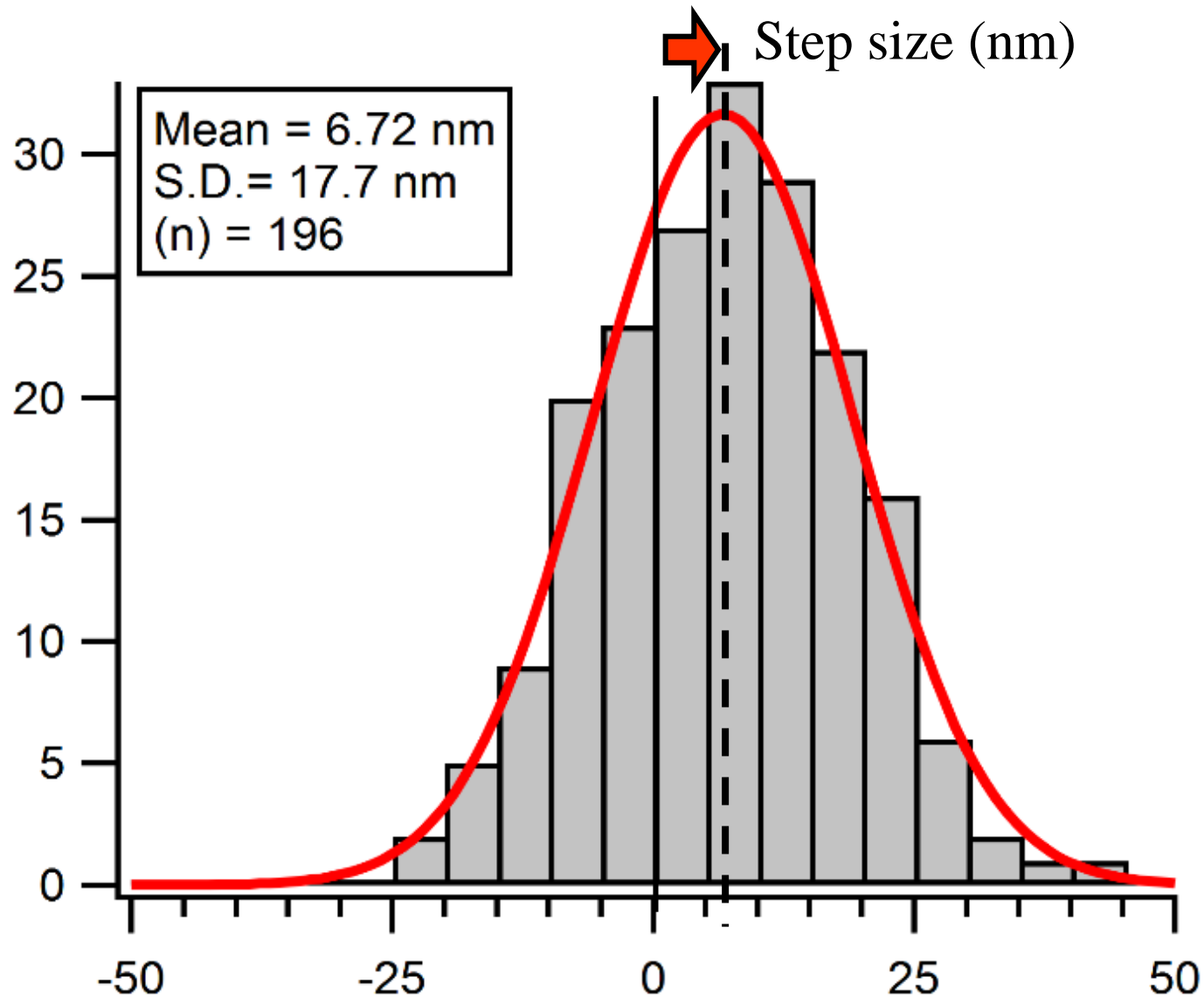


Start point is uncertain



Amplitude distribution gives  $d_{\text{uni}}$

# Size of the power-stroke





# What have we learnt by studying single myosin molecules?

## Muscle myosin:

### Kinetics:

Binding event terminated by ATP binding  
1 Powerstroke requires 1 ATP  
Event lifetimes are stochastic  
<10% of time bound to actin >90% unbound

### Amplitudes:

Powerstroke produces 5-10 nm movement & 2-5 pN force  
Myosin stiffness is  $\sim 1 \text{ pN.nm}^{-1}$

### Efficiency:

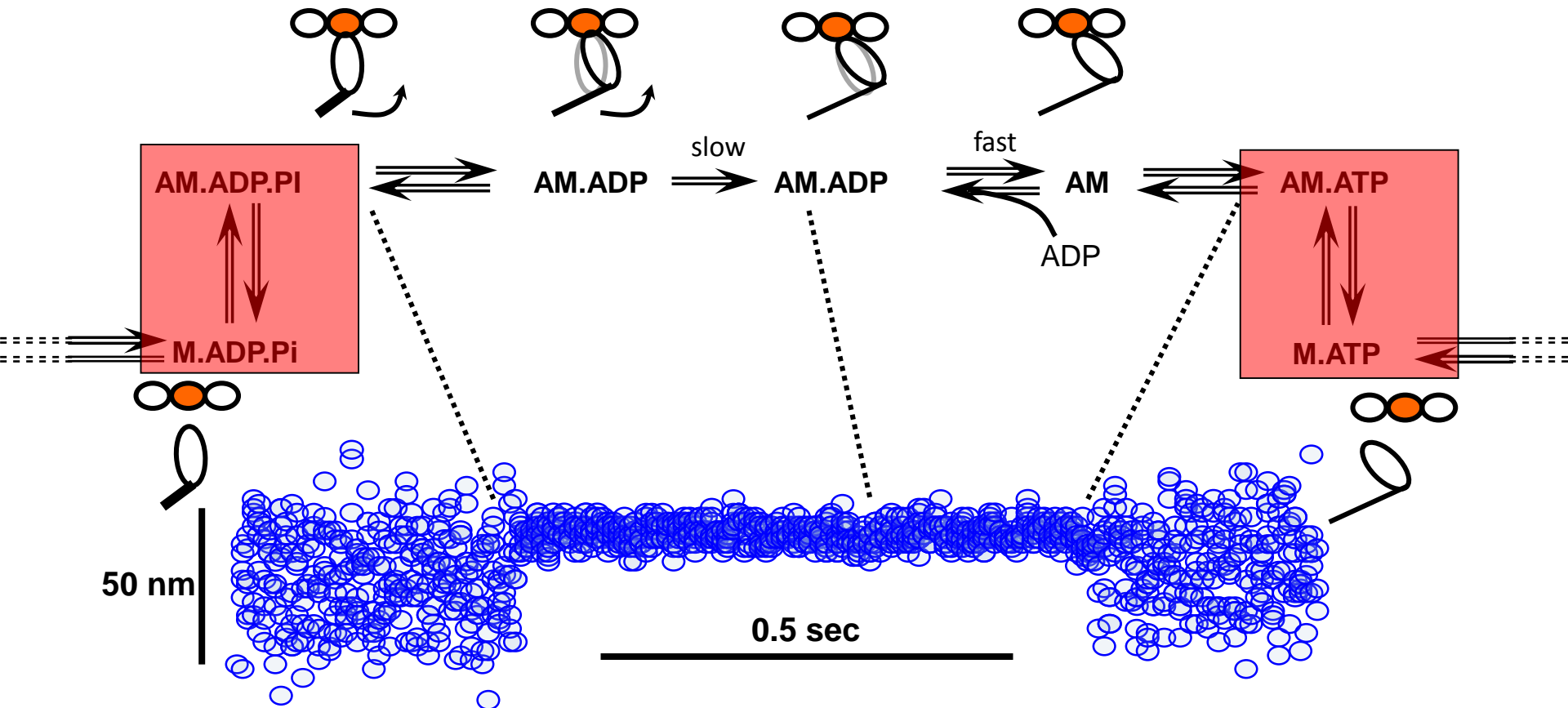
30 pN.nm mechanical work  $\sim 30\% \Delta G \text{ ATP}$

### *Inter alia:*

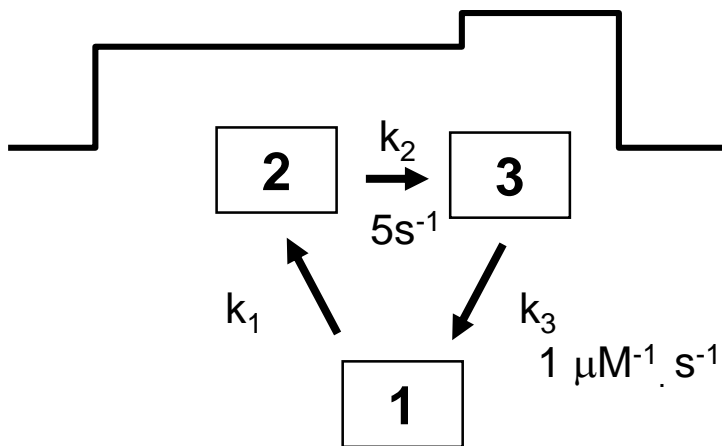
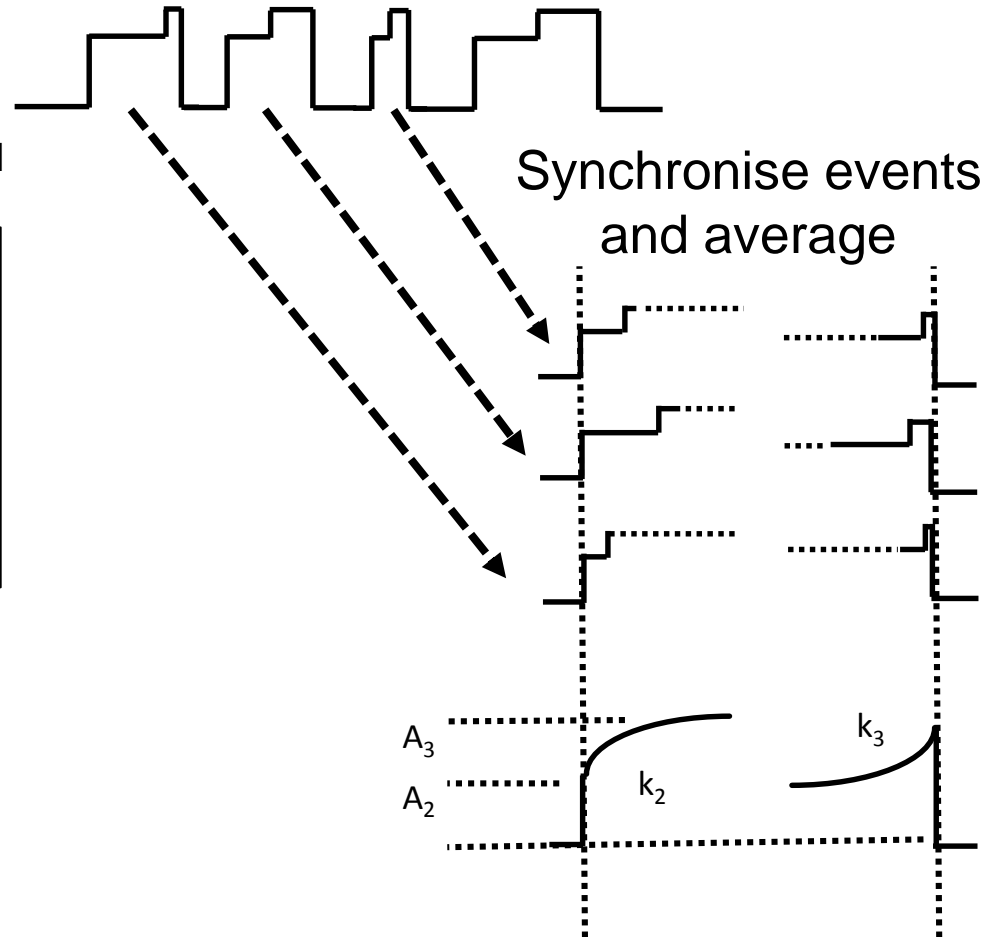
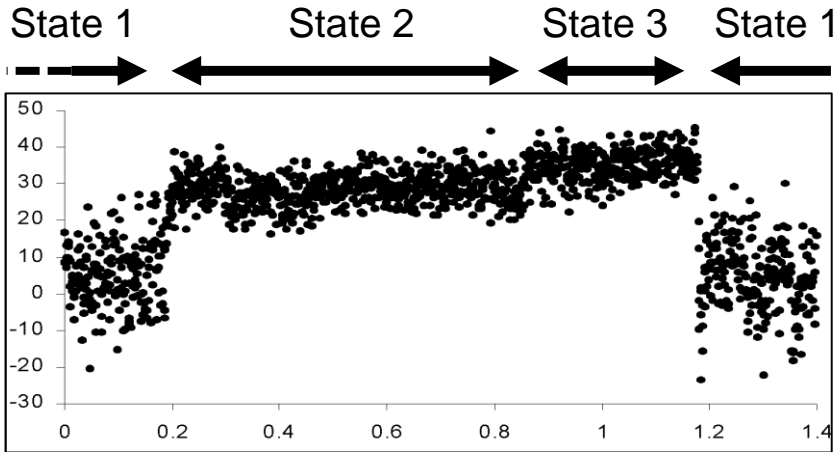
One myosin head is sufficient for force and movement  
Myosin binds preferentially at actin helical repeat distance  
Event lifetime is load-dependent  
Some myosins produce movement in two discrete phases  
i.e. Evidence for “different bound states”



# Super-resolution mechanics myosin class 1 (a “tension sensor”)



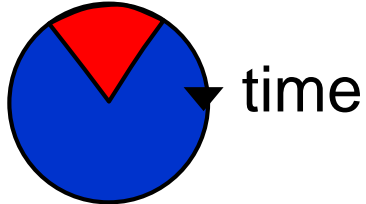
# Ensemble averaging reveals “sub-states”



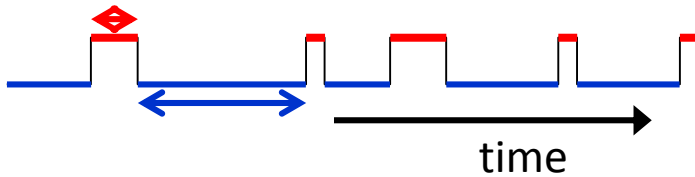
Veigel et al. (1999)  
Nature 398, 530-533

# DUTY-CYCLE RATIO

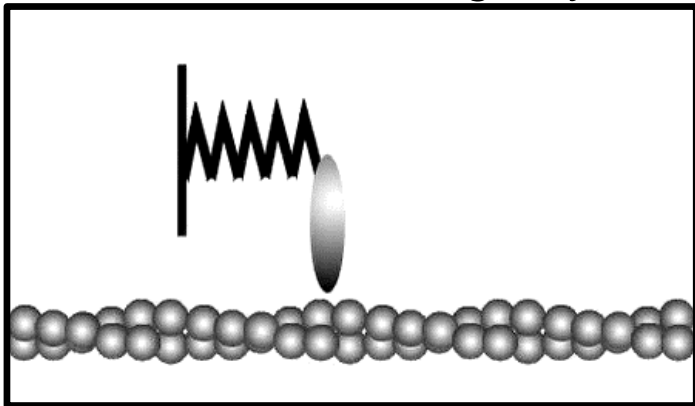
Attached time



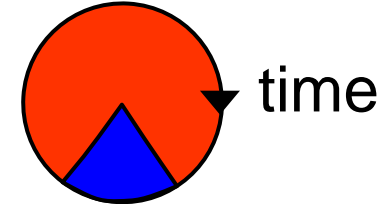
Detached time



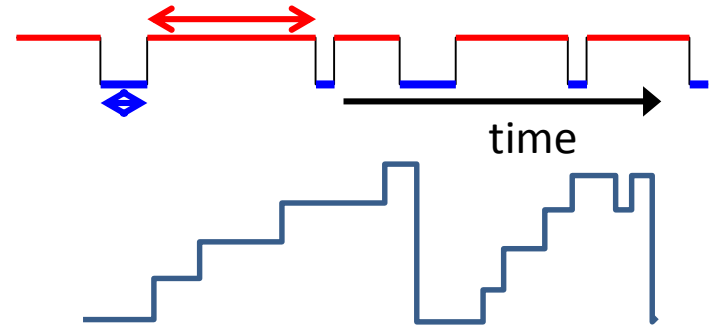
Intermittent Motor e.g. myosin-2



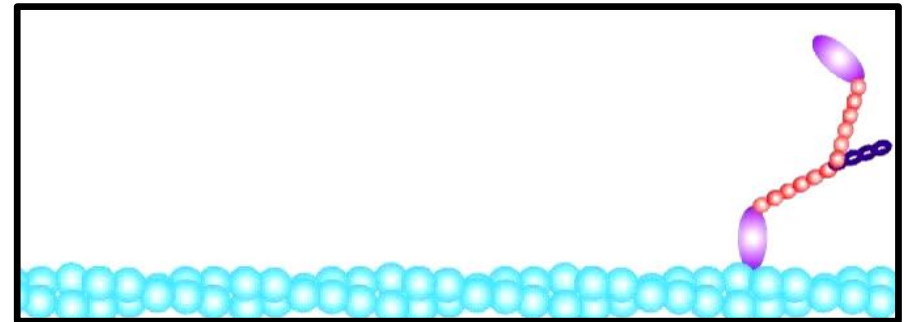
Attached time



Detached time



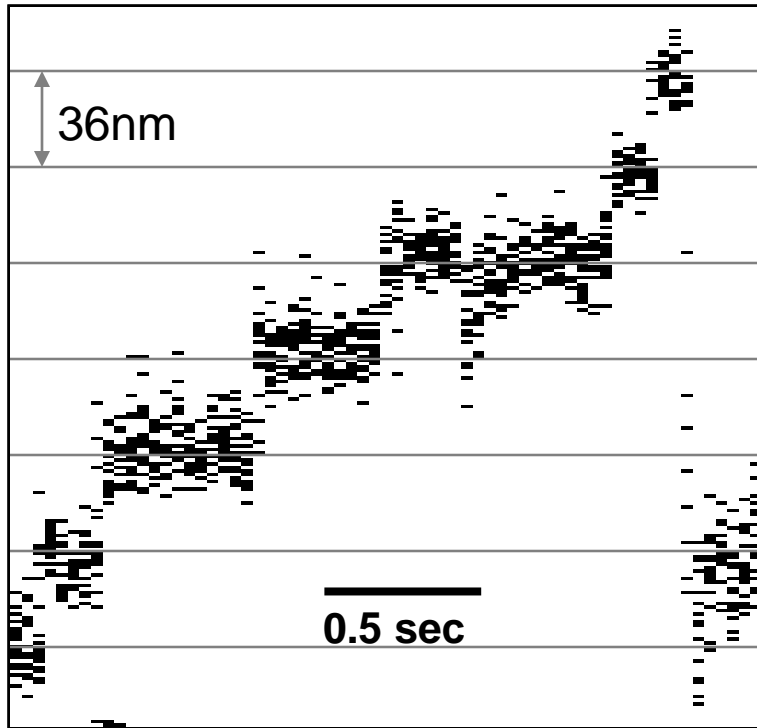
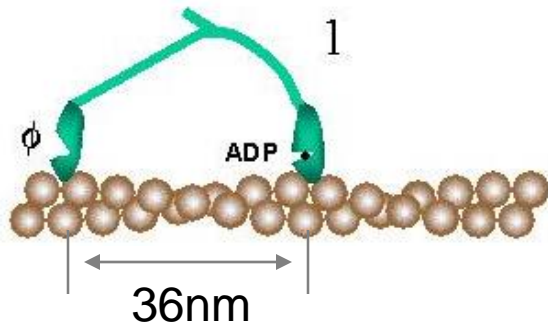
Processive Motor e.g. myosin-5



# “Processive” and “Intermittent” motors

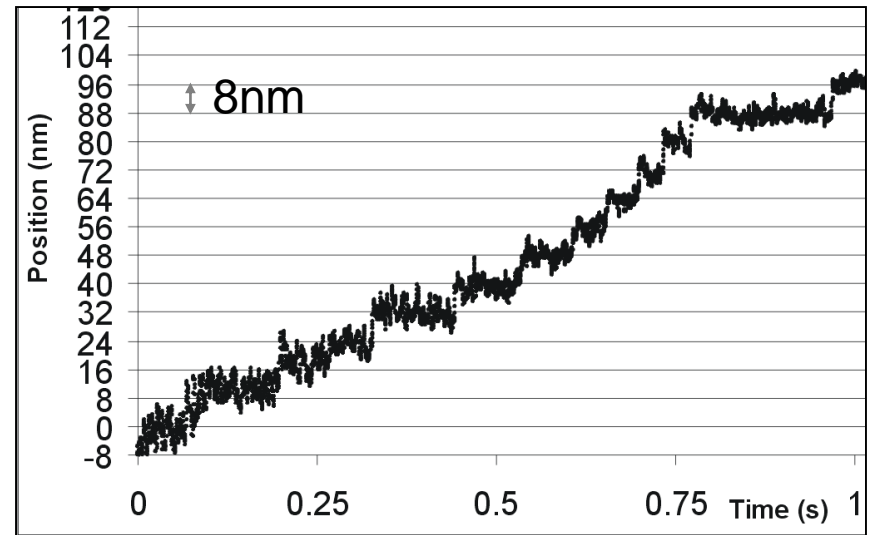
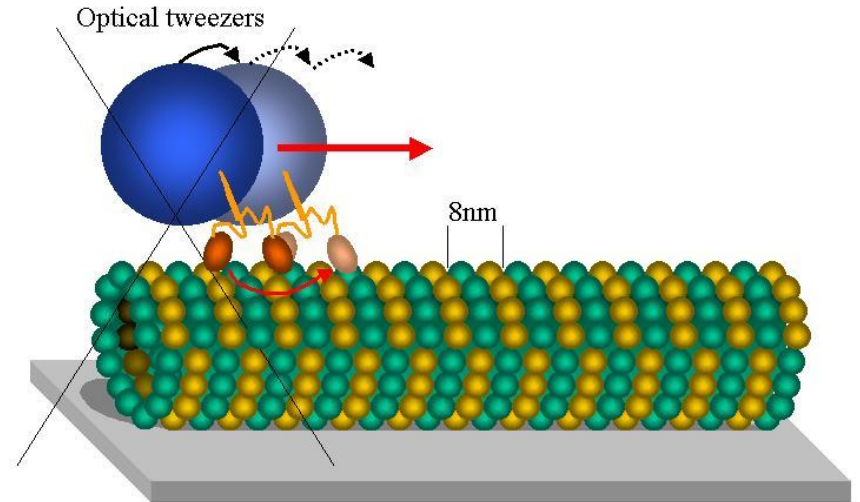
- **“*Intermittent*”** motors must work in teams to produce large movements and forces.
- **“*Processive*”** motors can take many steps before detaching from their track and they can work alone as single molecules.

# Myosin-5

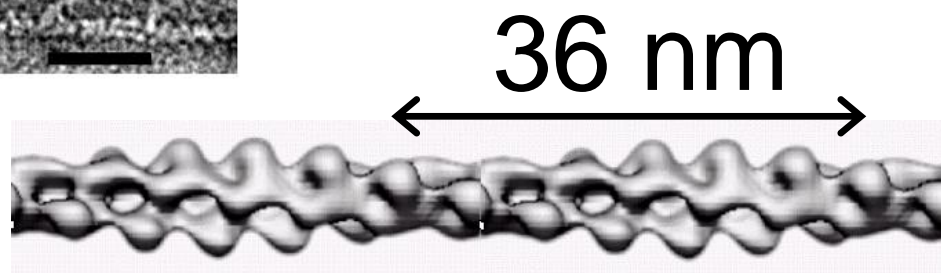
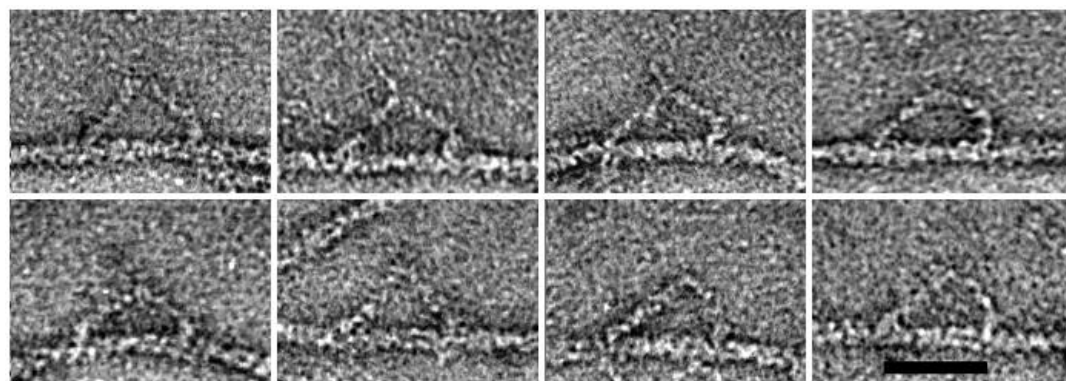
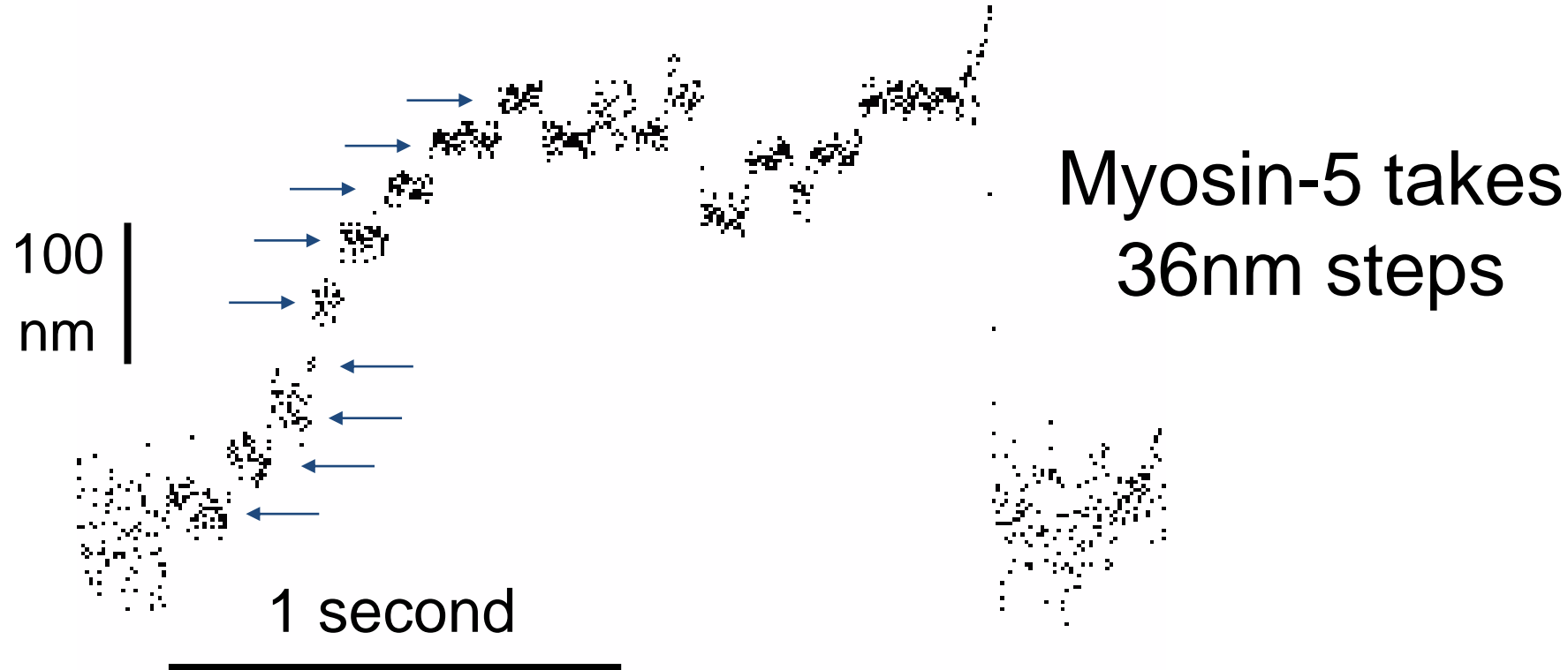


Veigel & Molloy

# Conventional kinesin



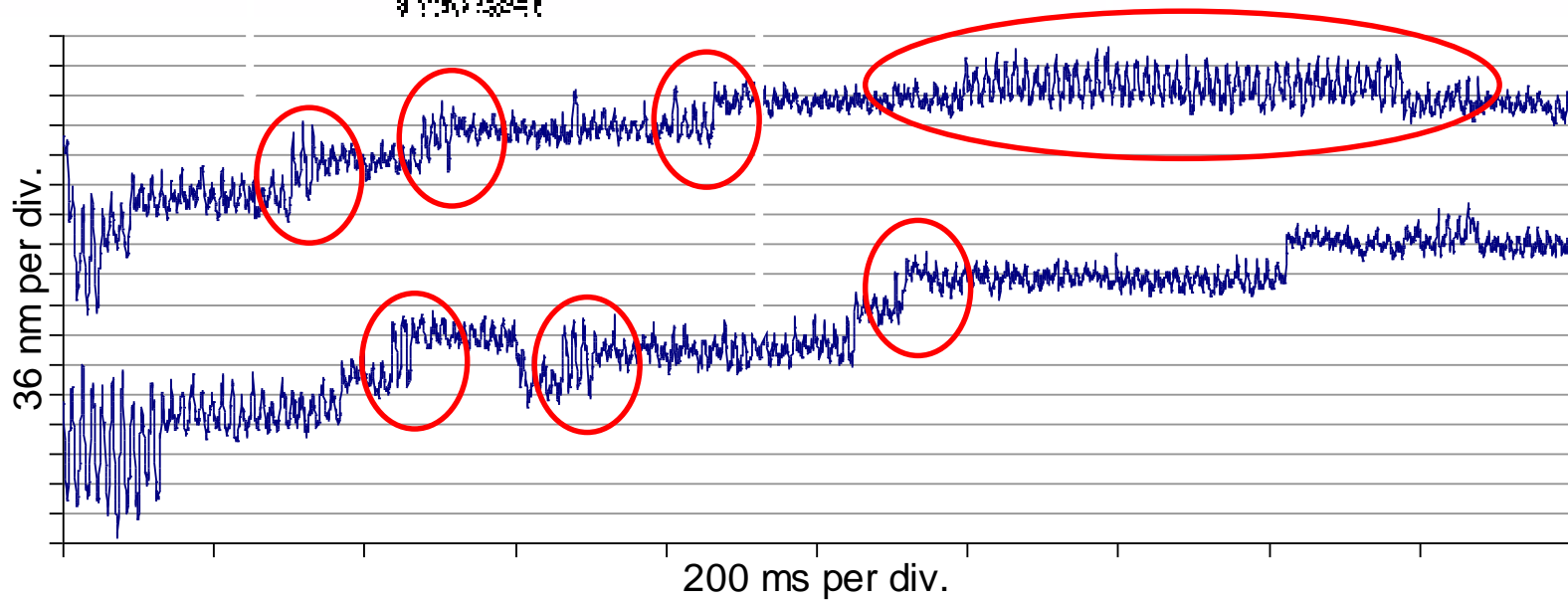
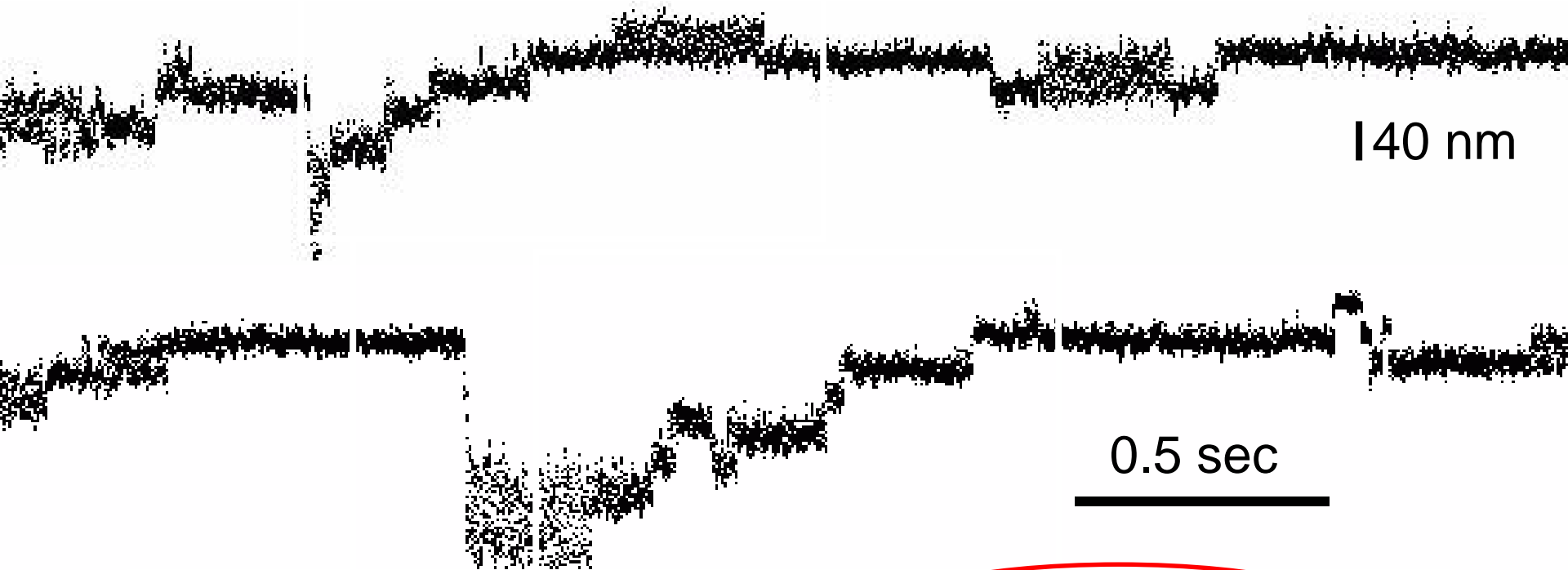
Carter & Cross





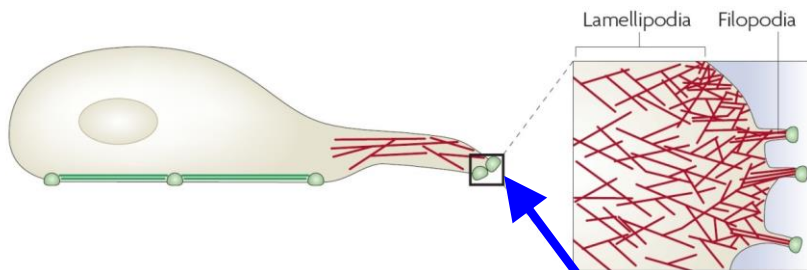
How does myosin-5 walk??.....





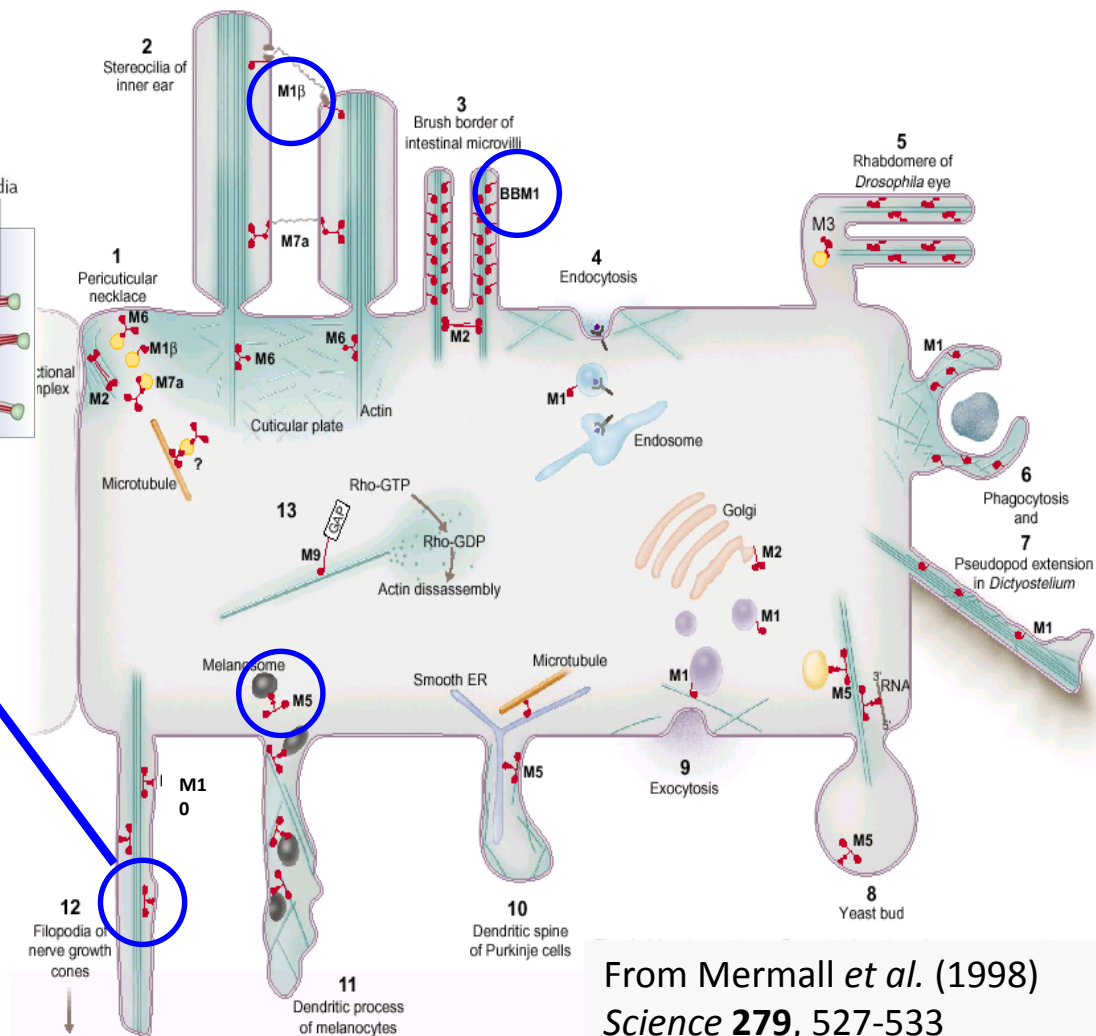
Veigel *et al.* (2002) *Nat. Cell Biol.* 4:59-65.

# Myosin Class-10



How does myosin-10 localise to the tip of the filopodium?

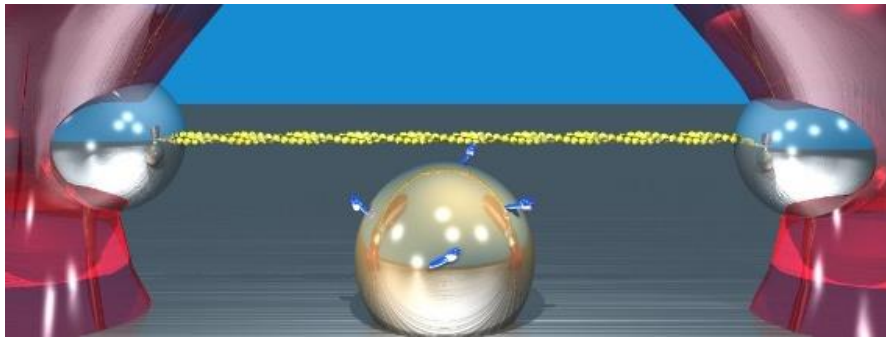
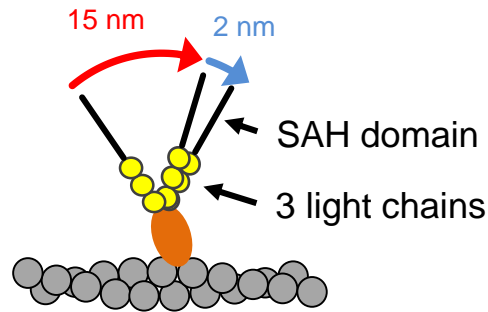
Can we observe single molecules inside a living cell?



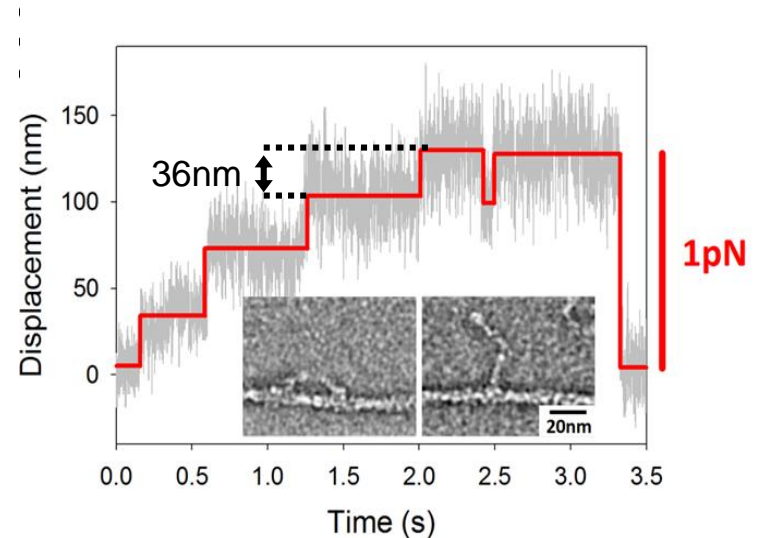
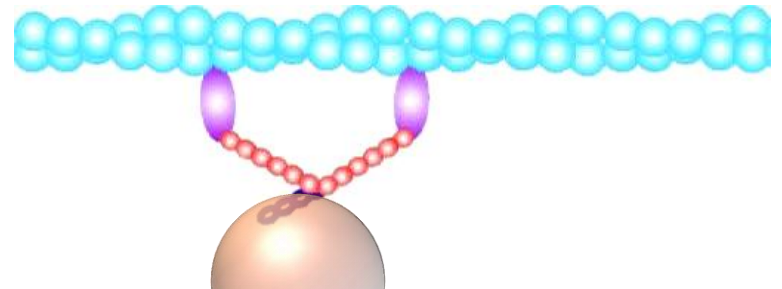
From Mermall *et al.* (1998)  
*Science* **279**, 527-533

# Myosin-10 can be both an intermittent, single headed motor and a processive dimeric motor.

## Monomeric form:

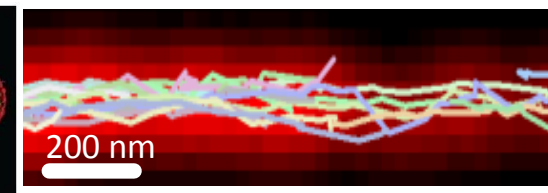
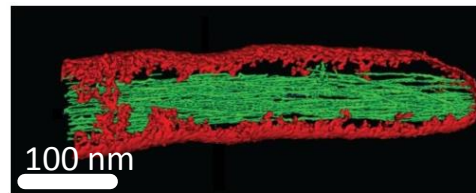
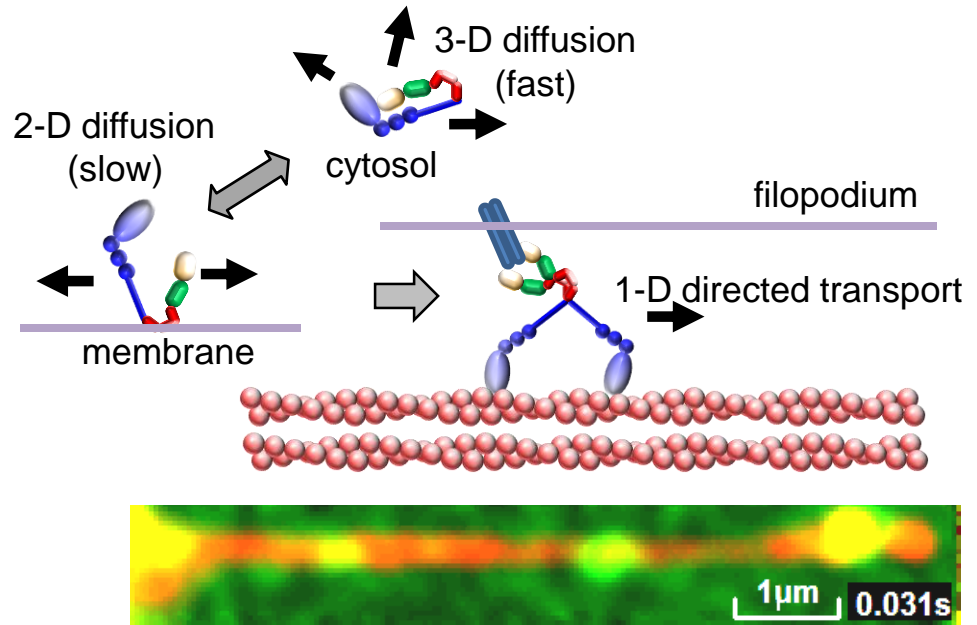
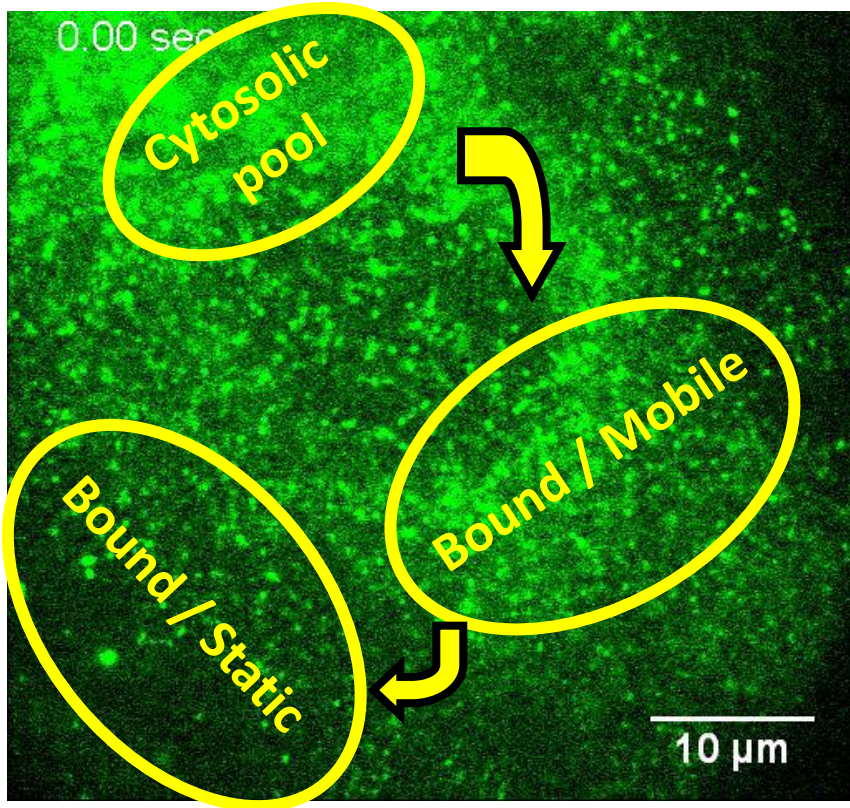


## Dimeric form:



Takagi, Y., et al. (2014) PNAS 111, E1833-E1842

# Using TIRF microscopy we can see individual molecules of myosin-10 moving inside a living cell



Cryo-electron tomography

Super-resolution optical microscopy

# Lecture Overview:

- Optical Tweezers are relatively simple to build and are compatible with standard laboratory microscopes
- They have a sensitivity and time-resolution suitable for studying biological macromolecules and cells
- They have contributed to our understanding of the mechanism and function of molecular motors (like kinesin, dynein and myosin) and also of DNA processing enzymes.

## THE FUTURE.....

- The advent of fast cameras, fast parallel processing, and more powerful lasers mean that time-resolution is now in the microsecond regime; and forces of  $\sim 100$  pN are possible - opening the possibility to study molecular dynamics and cellular mechanics.

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**

**SZÉCHENYI** 



HUNGARIAN  
GOVERNMENT

European Union  
European Social  
Fund



**INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE**