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# Transport and Directed motions in microenvironments



Electro-osmotic flow

Directed motions in a gradient of thermodynamic variables

#### Thermophoresis





YITP, August 1, 2012

bacterial motility (Thermotaxis)

### The Soret effect 1/3

The Ludwig-Soret effect: a solute move along a temperature gradient

C. Ludwig, S-B Akad. Wiss. Wien. *Nature* **20**, 539 (1856); C. Soret. *Arch. Geneve.* **3**, 48 (1879)



D Braun and A Libchaber. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **89**, 188103 (2002) S Duhr and D Braun. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **101** 168301 (2008)

Charged molecules move along a temperature gradient

From HOT to COLD

### The Soret effect 2/3





YF Chen et al. Nano Letters **12:** 1633 (2012)

#### Alignment of anisotropic molecules



F Romer et al *Physical Review Letters* **108**: 105901 (2012)

## The Soret effect 3/3

- Thermophoresis of colloidal particles in a polymer solution
- Direction of colloidal transport is flipped.
  → Little material dependence





H.R.Jiang, H.Wada, N.Yoshinaga, M.Sano *Physical Review Letters* **102**: 208301 (2009)

### Focus in this study

### **Complex fluids in a temperature gradient**



- 1. Thermophoresis of complex fluids and molecular separation
- 2. The effects of molecular folding on thermophoresis
- 3. The origin of the entropic force

# 1. Thermophoresis of complex fluids and molecular separation



Polymer PEG10,000 (polyethylene glycol 10,000) solution of 0-5% volume fraction is enclosed in a thin chamber.

#### Temperature gradient in experiments

Temperature visualization using the intensity drop of fluorescent dye







#### Size-dependent separation

**RNA(1.5kb)** DNA(250bp)

2.5 2.0 % 1.3 1.2 1.75 % 2 1.1 1.5 0.9 0.8 0.7 0 10 20 30 40 50 40.5∟ 0 20 40 60 4.0 % 2.5 % 10 .5 2 1.5 0 10 20 30 40 50 Radial distance [μm] 0 0 0 10 20 30 40 50 Radial distance [µm]

<u>Yusuke T. Maeda</u>, Axel Buguin, Albert Libchaber *Physical Review Letters* **107**: 038301 (2011) P, August 1, 2012

Beads 0.5μm 0.1μm

Scale bar 35µm

## The mechanism of localization (1/4)

#### PEG molecules are also subject to thermophoresis



## The mechanism of localization (2/4)



## The mechanism of localization (3/4)

Depletion of PEG from the surface of a solute

 $c(x,z) \approx c_0(x) \exp\left[-\frac{U(z)}{k_B T}\right]$ 



• Balance of osmotic pressure and hydrostatic Pressure (No net force on a fluid in the bulk)

$$p(x,z) - k_B T c(x,z) = p_0 - k_B T c_0(x) = \text{constant}$$
$$\partial_x p(x,z) = k_B T \partial_x \left[ c(x,z) - c_0(x) \right]$$

•The diffuse-osmotic flow is balanced by viscous shear stress at equilibrium

$$\partial_x p(x,z) = \eta \partial_x^2 v_x$$



#### The mechanism of localization (4/4)



#### Pores in hydrothermal vent

#### Large temperature gradients in nature





# 2. The effect of molecular folding on thermophoresis





### Coil-globule transition occurs in a PEG



#### Single molecule observation

非公開

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#### The effect of stem-loop on RNA transport

Next question: <u>Why the force from a PEG</u> gradient can act on small RNA?

tRNA ( $\sim$ 5 nm) can be accumulated in a PEG ( $\sim$ 3 nm) solution.





#### Folding dependent accumulation



The accumulation of small RNA and DNA is folding-dependent.

#### Rigid part is essential



• The stem (double-stranded, rigid) of RNA and DNA strongly enhances accumulation while the loop (single-stranded, flexible) has few effect.

#### 3. The origin of entropic force: diffusiophoresis

Thermophoresis

$$V_T = -D_T \nabla T(r)$$



Entropic force (Diffusiophoresis)

$$V = ??$$

 D<sub>T</sub> has little size-dependence and it cannot account for observed separation.

• Size-dependence should present in entropic force.

 $S_T \sim a^{1.1}$   $D_T \sim a^{0.1}$ 

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### Salt and migrate: Diffusiophoresis





• The fluid velocity increase in the bulk is  $V = -\frac{k_B T}{\eta} \Gamma L \nabla_x c_0$ Excess of solute  $\Gamma = \int_0^\infty \left( e^{-\frac{U(z)}{k_B T}} - 1 \right) dz$ The range of attraction  $L = \Gamma^{-1} \int_0^\infty z \left( e^{-\frac{U(z)}{k_B T}} - 1 \right) dz$ 

$$V \approx -\frac{k_B T}{\eta} \lambda^2 \nabla_x c_0 \approx -D_{DP} \nabla_x \log c_0$$

$$\lambda^2 = \varepsilon k T / 2q^2 c_0 \qquad D_{DP} = \varepsilon k^2 T^2 / 2q^2 \eta$$

B Abecassis, et al Nature Materials **7**, 785 (2008)

## PEG and Diffusiophoresis

Repulsion of PEG in the surface of a solute

$$c(x,z) \approx c_0(x) \exp\left[-\frac{U(z)}{k_B T}\right]$$
$$U(z) > 0$$



• The fluid velocity increase in the bulk is  $V \approx -\frac{k_B T}{3\eta} \lambda^2 \nabla c_{PEG}$ 

Diffusiophoresis velocity in no-slip condition is independent of the particle size.

We check if this relation holds or not, in the absence of temperature gradient.



#### Experimental setup: microfluidics





- Laminar flows in PDMS
  microfluidics
- Microchannel: Width 2 mm, Height 50 μm
- Polymer in a solution is PEG1000

$$\begin{split} D_{PEG} &= 1.35 \times 10^2 \ \mu\text{m}^2\text{/s} \\ U &= 1.16 \qquad \text{mm/s} \end{split}$$
 
$$\nabla c_{PEG} \approx c_{PEG}^0 / \sqrt{D_{PEG} y / U} \approx 0.5 \ \%/\mu\text{m}$$

#### PEG1,000 gradient-driven transport

Colloid (fluorescent) y=0 mm 0.1 μm, 2.0\*10<sup>-3</sup> % 10 mm PEG1,000, 20% (Not PEG10,000 !) 30 mm 200 Fluorescent intensity [au] 📕 y=0 mm **y**=30 mm 150 100 50 0 800 1200 400 1600 2000 X [μm]

#### Different sized-colloids in a gradient of small PEG1,000







• In small PEG such as PEG1,000, the velocity of diffusiophoresis is not strongly dependent on particle size.

• It is because 10% PEG1,000 is still in a dilute regime, which is included in a model.

#### Future works

The mechanism of size-dependent separation



The mechanism of trapping small RNA by comparable PEG

## (Putative) Relevance of biological systems

#### 1. Selection and evolution of small RNA



#### 2. Transport and segregation of genome

Blobs of newly synthesized DNA









#### Conclusions

□ DNA and RNA of various sizes show ring-like localization or accumulation under a temperature gradient in PEG.

□ The entropic force gradient generated by the PEG gradient on the surface of solute, called diffusiophoresis, can push solute to the hot region.

□ Simple microfluidic device allows us to study the transport by repulsive PEG. In a dilute regime, the clear size-dependence is not observed.

Size-dependence of DNA localization is reversed for a long DNA >5.6kbp.
 PEG osmotic pressure induces coil-globule transition and decreases its effective size.

The attraction by PEG concentration gradient is folding-dependent:
 Small RNA having stem-loop can be accumulated while poly-U of random chain cannot.

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