

Motor-Driven Assembly of Dynamic, Self-Healing Lipid Nanotube Networks

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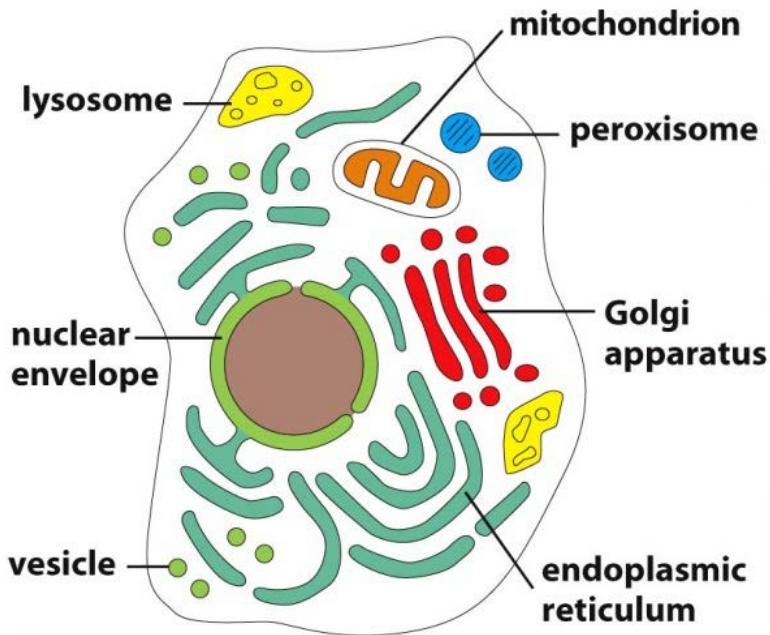
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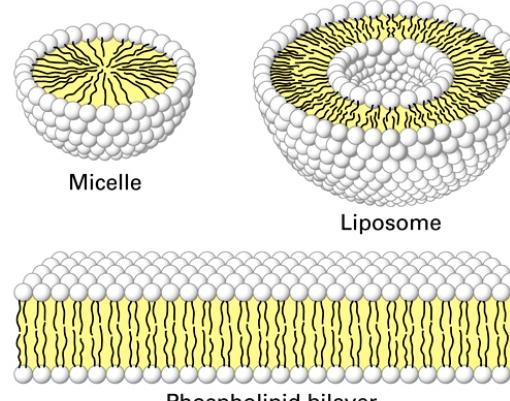
Natural vs. Synthetic Lipid Assemblies

Non-equilibrium lipid assemblies are critical to a wide range of cellular functions (e.g., energy conversion), but difficult to reproduce in artificial environments.



Alberts et al., *Essential Cell Biology* (2010)

How does Nature form these highly complex and functional lipid structures?



<http://andersonlab.qb3.berkeley.edu>

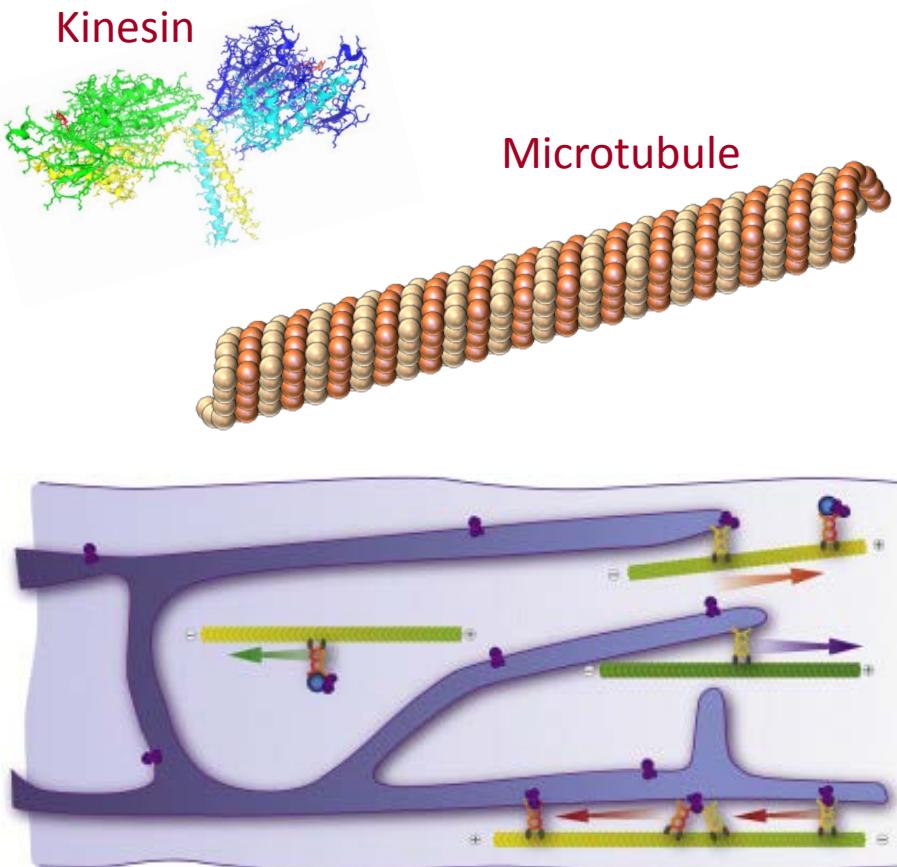


Wegrzyn et al., 2011, *Nano Commun. Netw.*, 2, 4

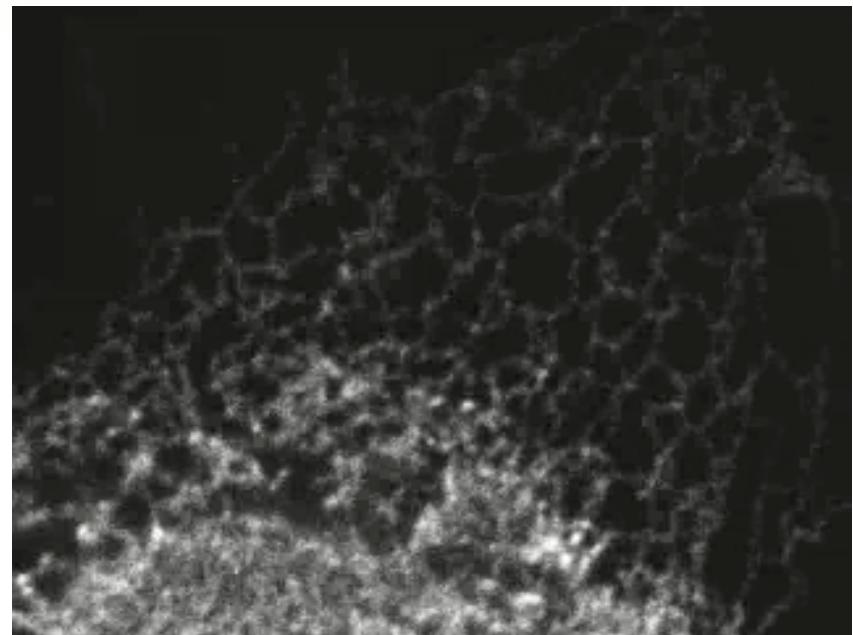


Dynamic Assembly of Lipid Structures

Energy-dissipative, active transport drives the formation and reorganization of lipid-based organelles into complex structures such as the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) and Golgi apparatus.



Valenzuela et al. (2011) *Mol. Cell. Neurosci.*, 48, 269



Alberts et al., *Essential Cell Biology* (2010)

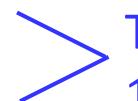
Can we reconstruct a similar system
in vitro?



A Synthetic System for Creating Lipid Networks

A minimalistic system can be assembled from:

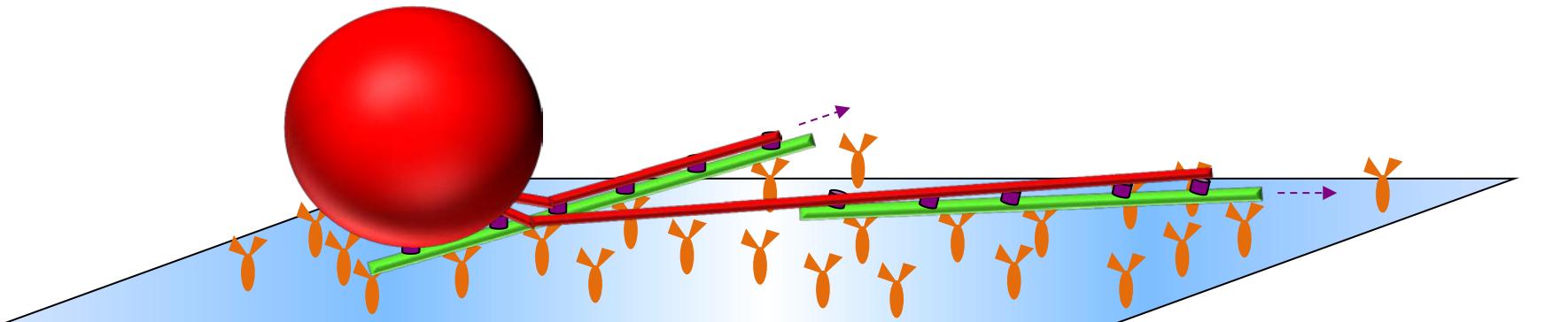
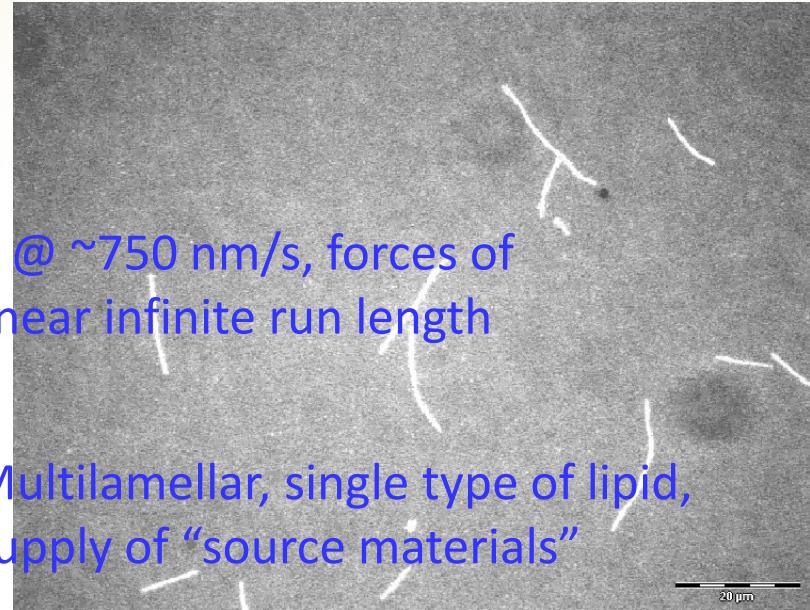
- Solid surface
- Kinesin motor proteins
- Biotinylated microtubules
- Streptavidin bridge
- Biotinylated lipid vesicle



Transport @ ~750 nm/s, forces of 100s pN, near infinite run length



Multilamellar, single type of lipid, supply of “source materials”

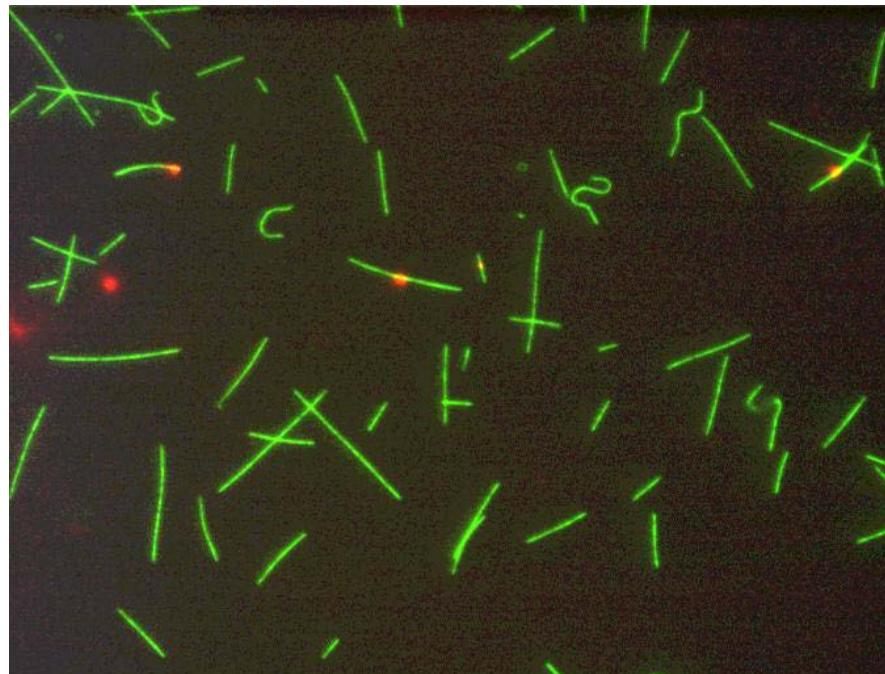


Transport, Nanotube and Network Formation

Motor protein-based transport enables various behavior depending upon the vesicle size (i.e., amount of source material).

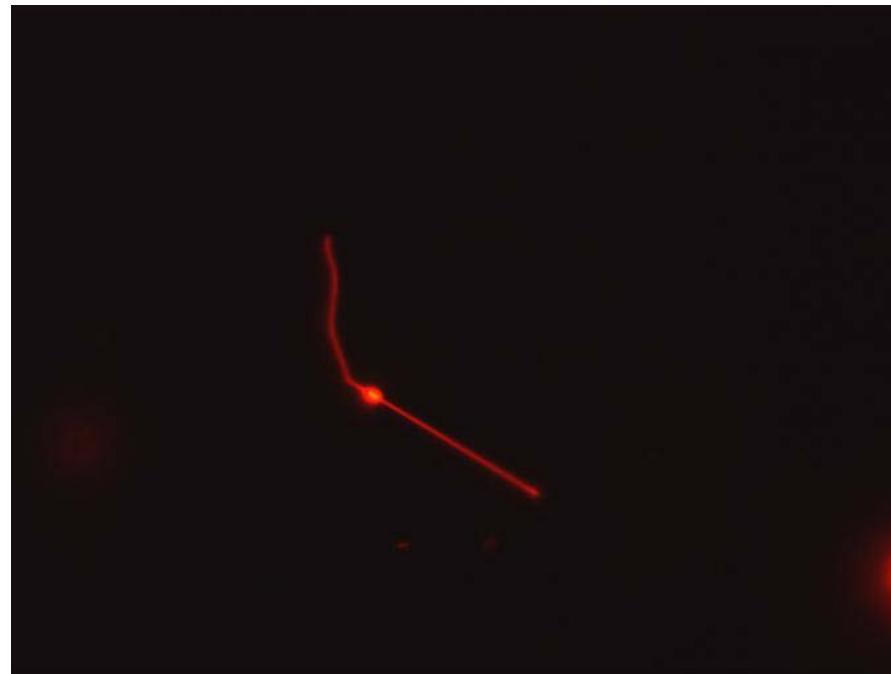
Vesicle Size

Vesicle transport (1-2 μm)



Vesicle = red; MTs = green

Self-limiting networks (2-5 μm)

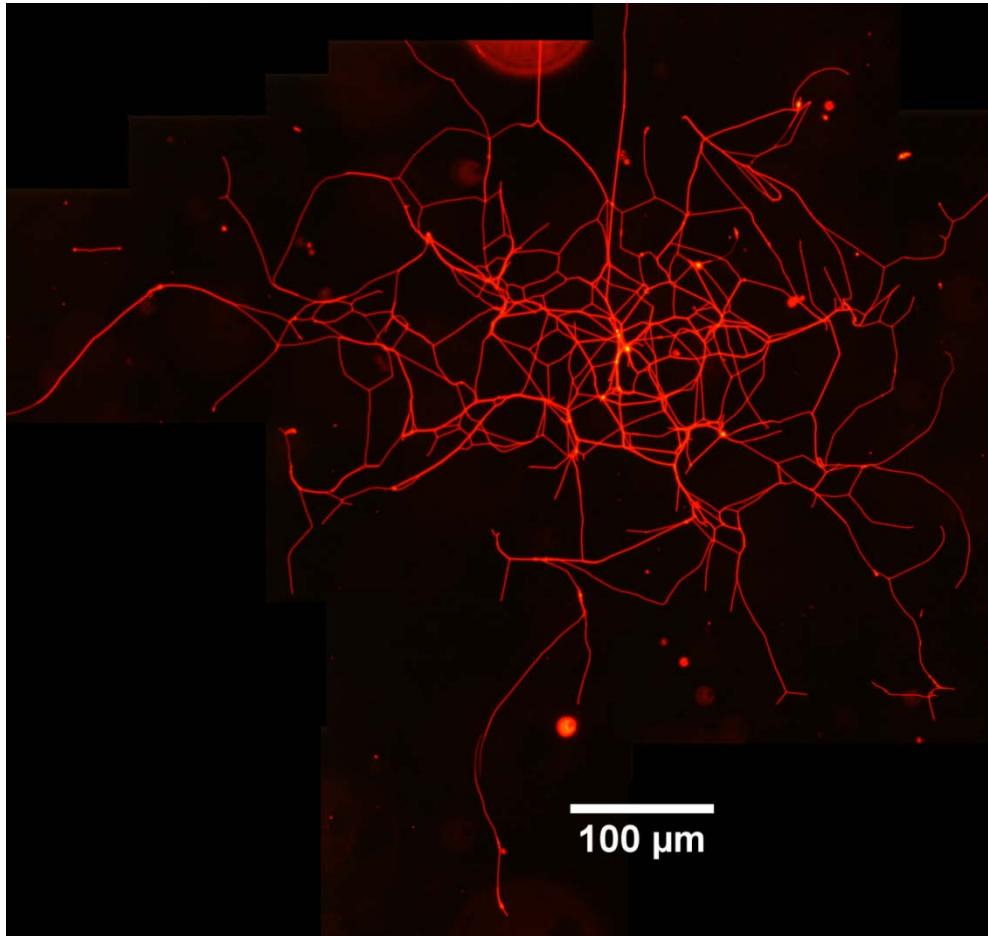


Vesicle = red; MTs = not visible

Transport, Nanotube and Network Formation

Motor protein-based transport enables various behavior depending upon the vesicle size.

Large, highly bifurcate networks (10-20 μm)

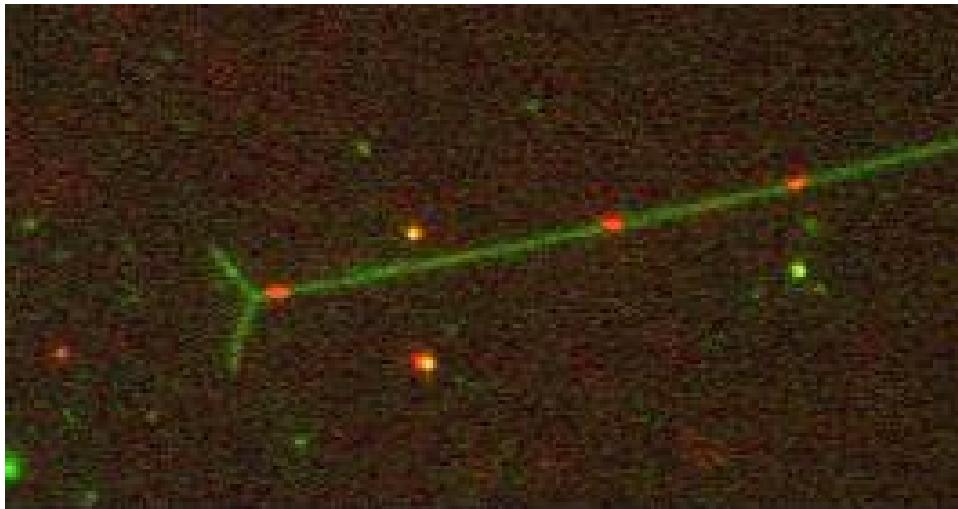


- Total network size >10 mm from a single MLV
- Assembly within 15 min
- Self-healing: networks continue growing, shrinking, moving
- Morphology can be altered by surface density of moving microtubules

Materials Transport on Lipid Nanotube Highways

Nanoparticle (red) “surfing” – transport of materials on outer leaflet of lipid nanotubes (green) via thermal motion.

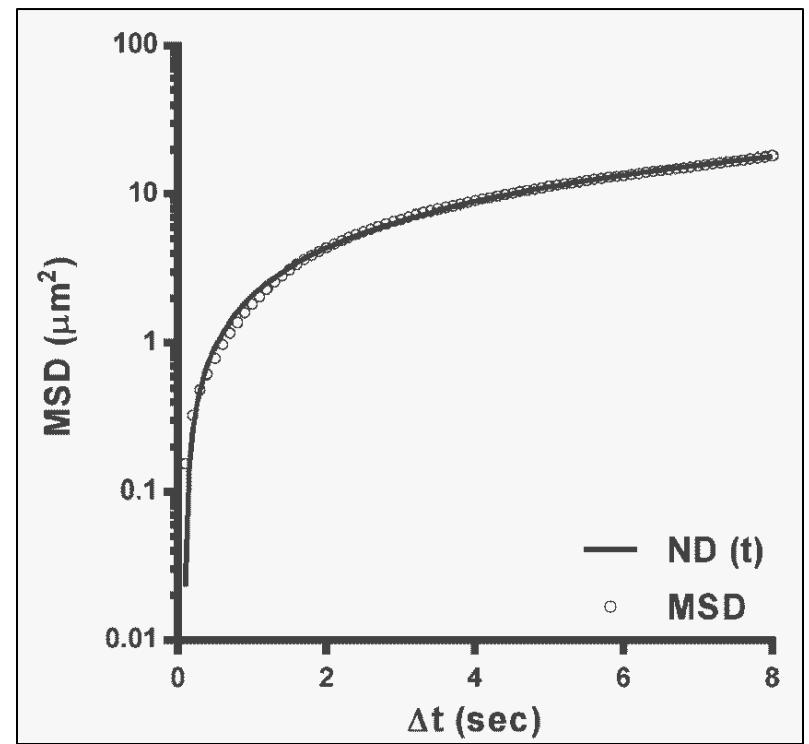
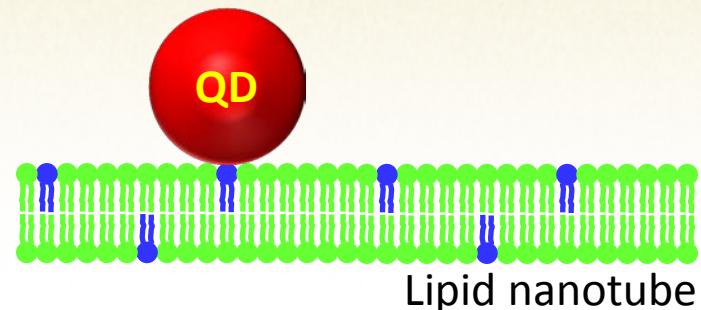
- Fluidity across junctions



Transport follows normal 1D diffusion

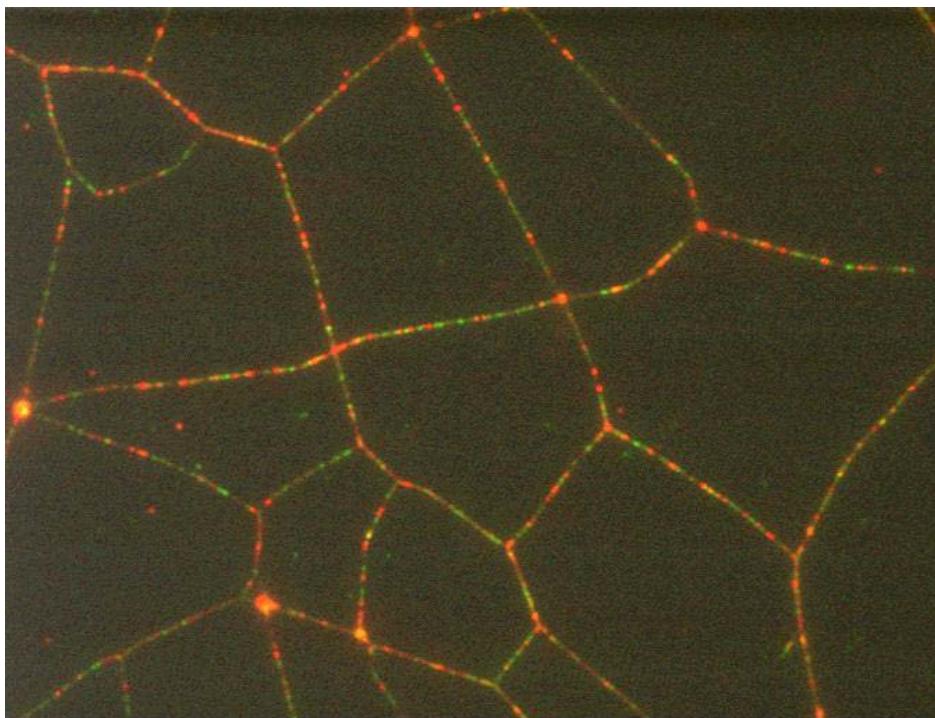
$$D_{QD} = 2.3 \text{ } \mu\text{m}^2 \text{ sec}^{-1}$$

$$(D_{DOPC} = 9.32 \text{ } \mu\text{m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1})$$

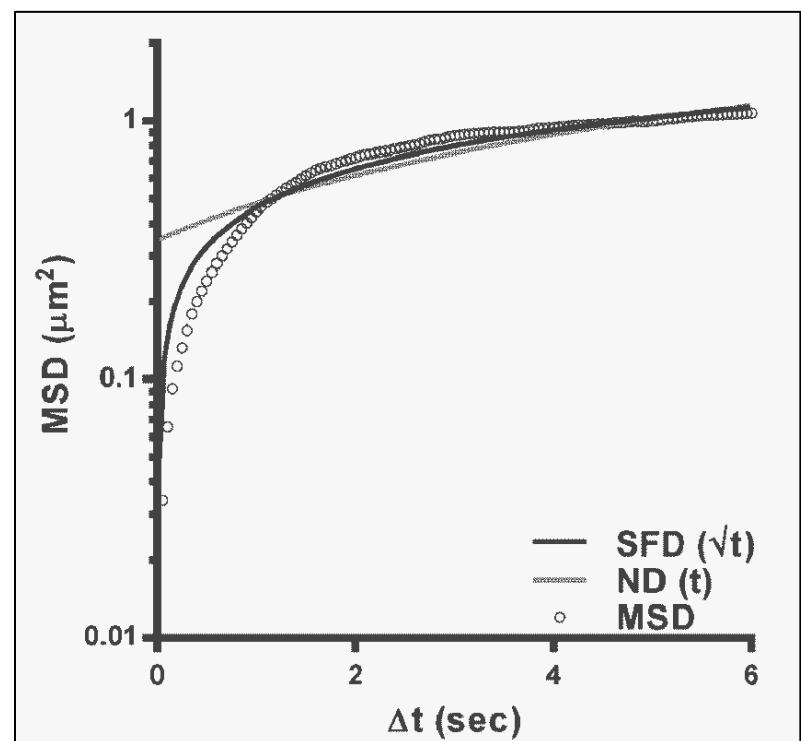
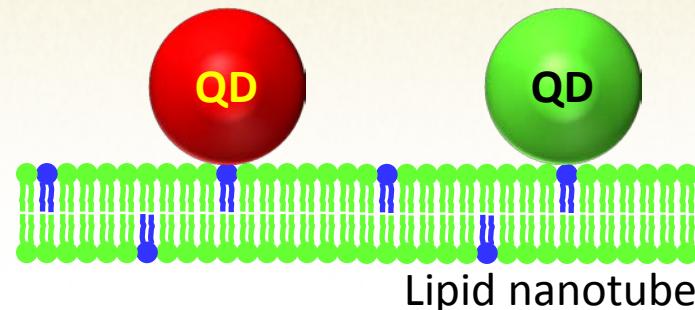


Lipid Nanotube Highways – Effects of Traffic

At high capture densities, nanoparticle surfing experiences significant traffic effects (red and green QDs).



Transport follows single file 1D diffusion
i.e., Qdots cannot pass each other

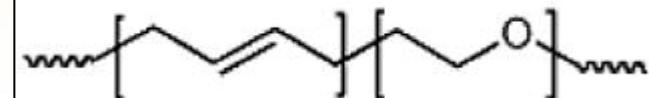


Assembly of Polymer Nanotube Networks

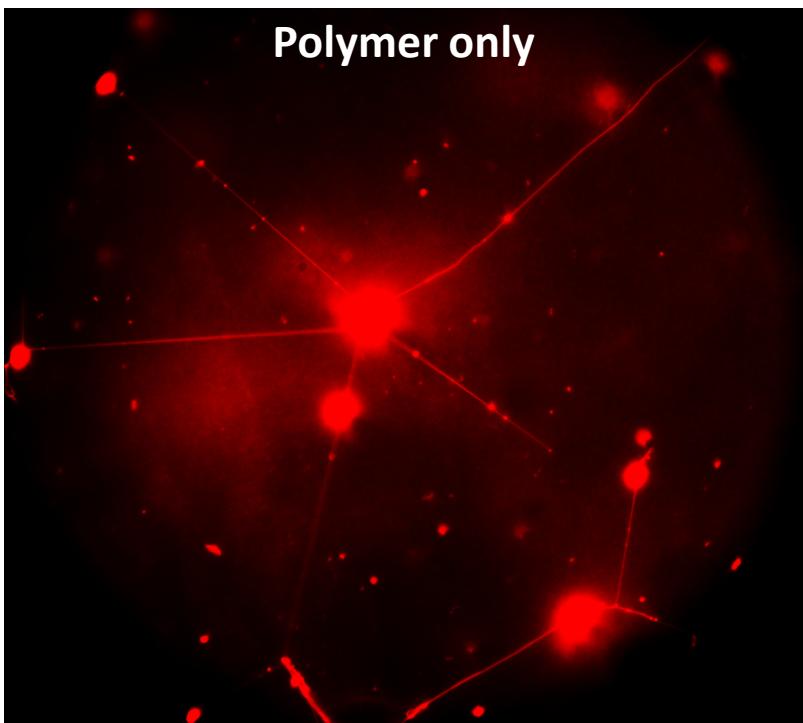
Can motor proteins actively assemble similar nanotube networks from polymersomes?

Yes, but...

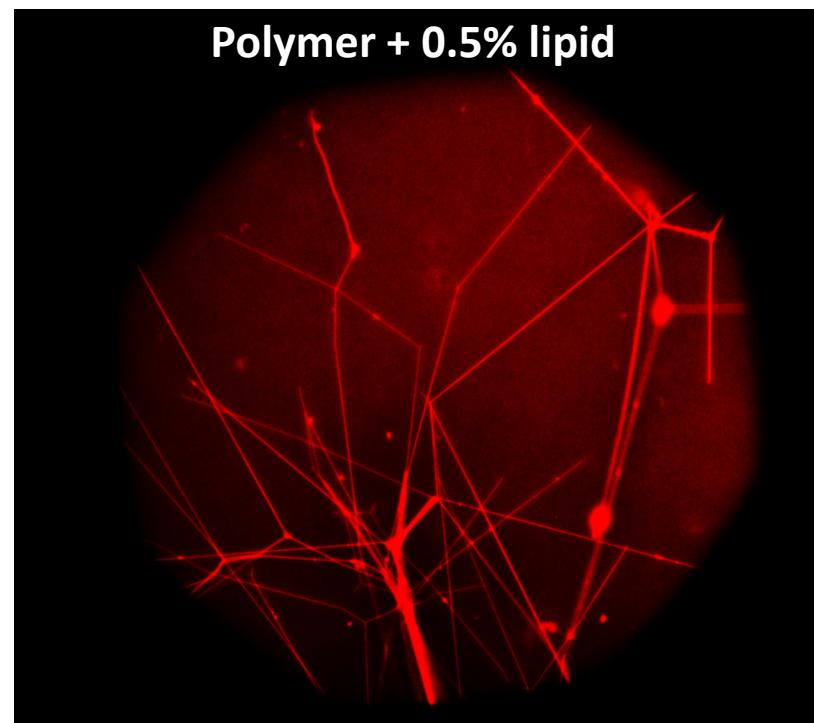
PBD-PEO diblock copolymer



Polymer only



Polymer + 0.5% lipid



Formation of large extended networks requires the addition of a lipid to the polymersomes. **What is the lipid's role?**



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Mobility in Polymer Nanotube Networks

Addition of lipid significantly affects the diffusivity of the polymers:

- Increase in 1D diffusivity of polymer
- Decrease in half-time of recovery (τ) of polymer
- Fraction recovered (mobile fraction) of polymer is unchanged

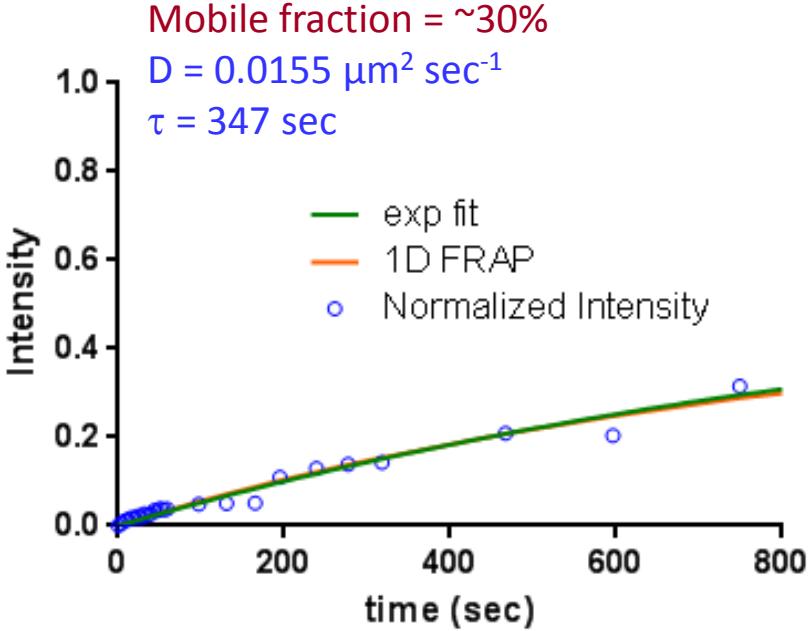
FRAP of Fluorescent Polymer Alone

TRITC-polymer

Mobile fraction = $\sim 30\%$

$D = 0.0155 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{ sec}^{-1}$

$\tau = 347 \text{ sec}$



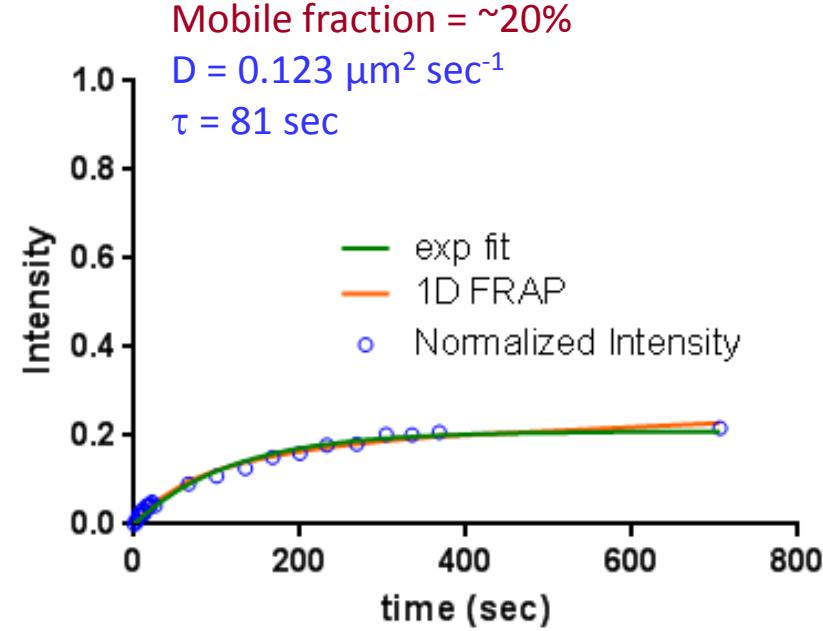
FRAP of Fluorescent Polymer + Lipid

TRITC-polymer

Mobile fraction = $\sim 20\%$

$D = 0.123 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{ sec}^{-1}$

$\tau = 81 \text{ sec}$



Mobility in Polymer Nanotube Networks

Diffusivity and half life of recovery of lipid and mobile polymer are relatively equivalent, but...

mobile fraction of lipid $>>$ mobile fraction of polymer

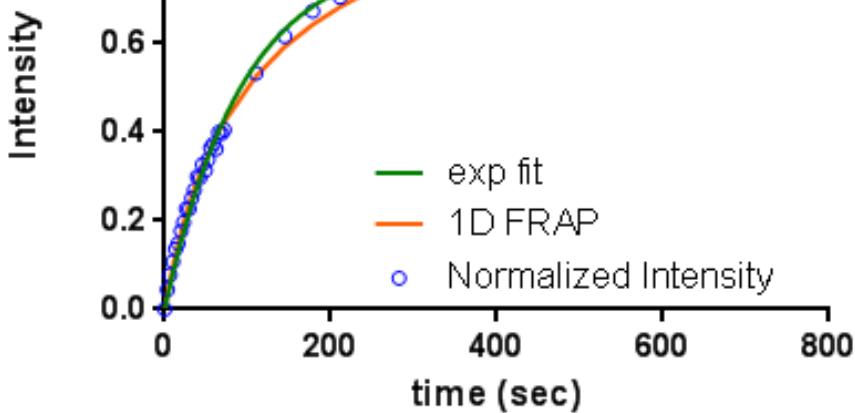
FRAP of Fluorescent Lipid

0.5% Texas Red-DOPE

Mobile fraction = 80%

$D = 0.084 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{ sec}^{-1}$

$\tau = 65 \text{ sec}$



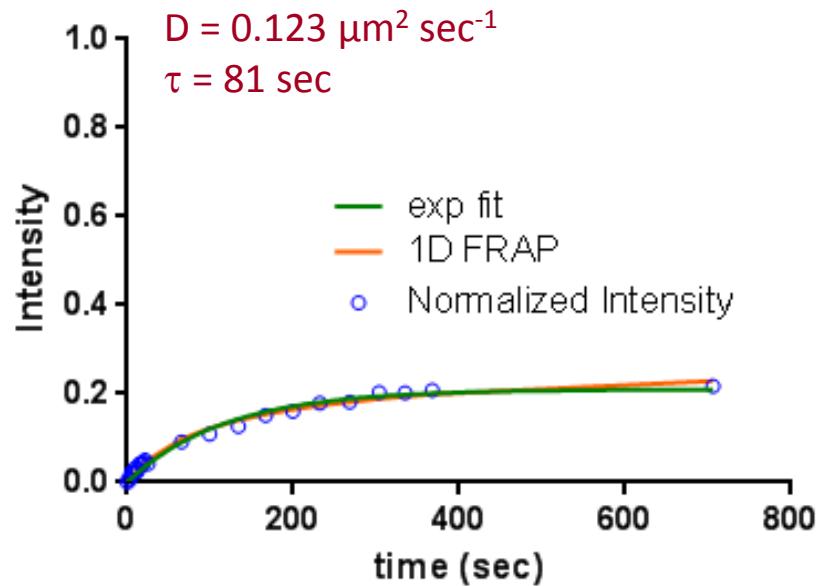
FRAP of Fluorescent Polymer

TRITC-polymer

Mobile fraction = 20%

$D = 0.123 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{ sec}^{-1}$

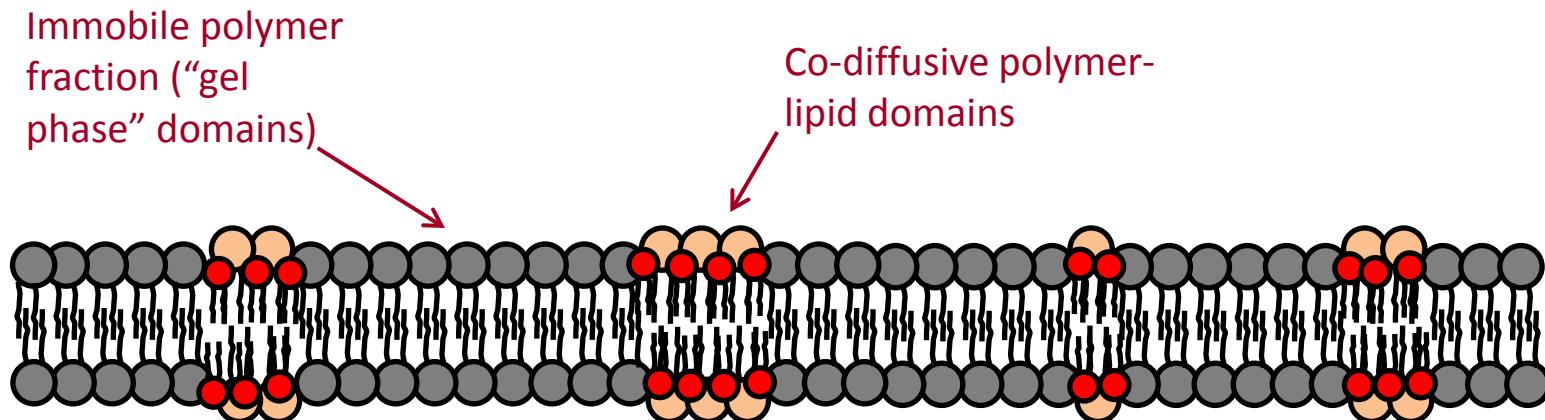
$\tau = 81 \text{ sec}$



Mobility in Polymer Nanotube Networks

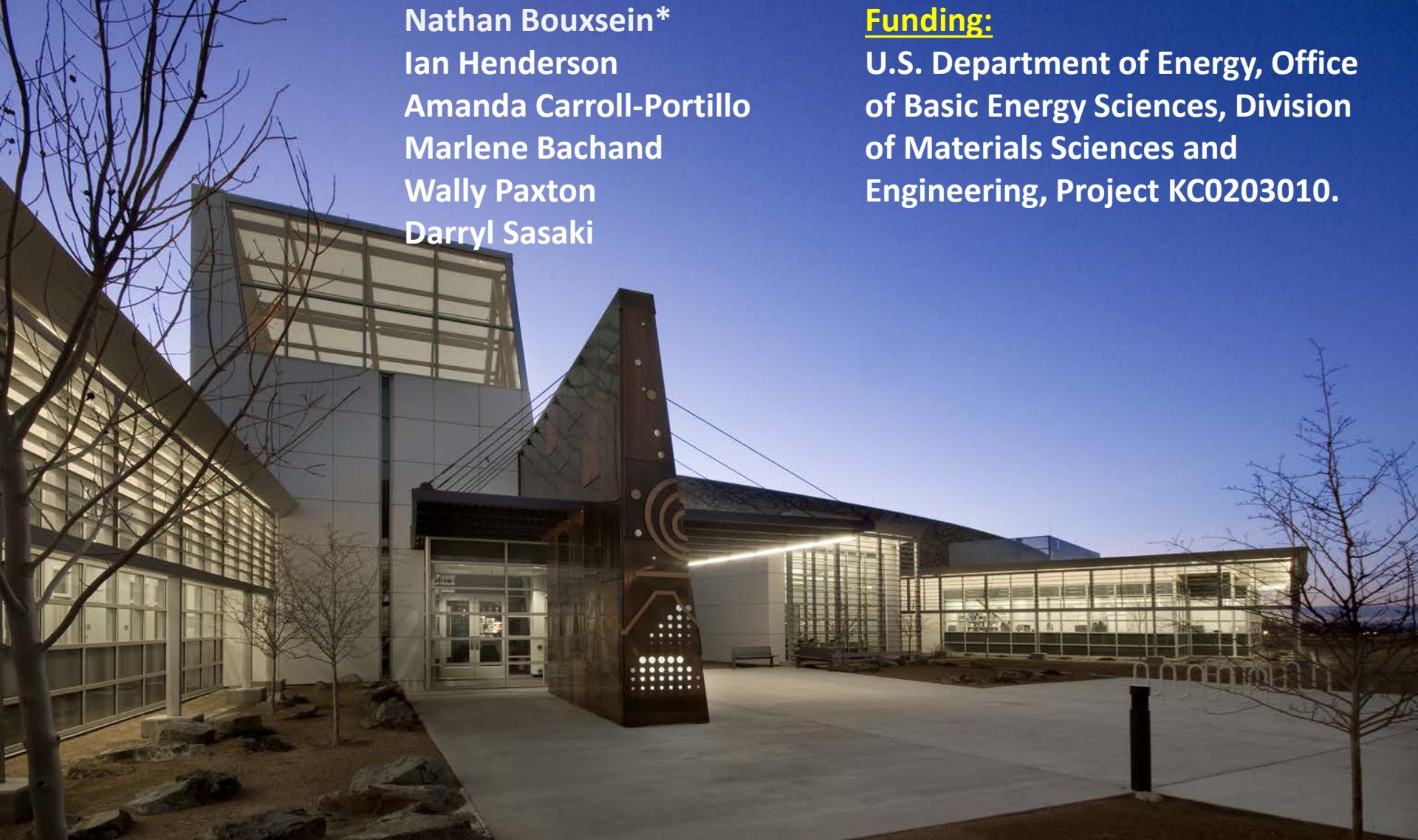
Hypothesized mechanism of mobility in PNTs:

- Majority of polymer immobile due to entanglement of hydrophobic tails, forming raft-like domains
- Majority of lipid is mobile
- Lipid co-localizes with fraction of polymer, changing interactions between tails
- Polymer and lipid co-diffuse as a unified domain
- Exchange of mobile polymers with immobile raft domains (?)





Acknowledgments



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