Metals in and around DNA



Thomas Carell LMU Munich Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry ...conductivity, magnetic properties, DNA as a catalyst...

DNA as a multidentate ligand

DNA as a template



DNA Catalyst or Wires

DNA Nanowires in Devices

Constructing the nanoworld from DNA



N. Seeman, the famous cube P. W. K. Rothemund, *Nature* **2006**, *440*, 297-302

The self recognizing information in DNA allows the assembly of complex nanostructures / architectures



...conductivity, magnetic properties, DNA as a catalyst...

DNA as a Template

Collaboration between

Carell at LMU Munich Simon at RWTH Aachen Eichen at the Technion, Israel Mayer at RWTH Aachen





DNA nanowires

How can we make DNA conductive?

Coat with a metal film !



Braun, Eichen, Sivan *et al.*, *Nature*, **1998**, *391*, 775. Keren *et al.*, *Nano Lett.*, **2004**, *4*, 323. *How can we make DNA conductive?*

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Use principles of black and white photography



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The chemistry behind black and white photography (1. Step)



Black & White Photography: Physical development deposition of Ag⁺ from solution



- J. Eggert: Wissenschaftliche Photographie, Verlag O. Helwich, Darmstadt 1958, p. 328.
- R. Matejec, R. Meyer, Z. Wiss. Photogr. Photophys. Photochem. 57 (1963) 45.
- R. Matejec, Photogr. Korresp. 107 (1971) no. 3, 37.
- R. Matejec, J. Signalaufzeichnungsmat. 3 (1975) 219.

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DNA metallization to increase conductivity

- modify the DNA with reducing groups



























Use molecular biology to construct nanodevices



DNA duplexes with up to 2000 bp are accessible in this way ! (around 500 modifications)

[3+2] cycloaddition (click reaction) to label DNA with aldehydes



1: 5'-GCG CTG TXC ATT CGC G 2: 5'-GCG CTG XXC ATT CGC G 3: 5'-GCG CXG TXC AXT CGC G 4: 5'-GCG CXX XXX XGT CGC G 5: 5'-GCG CTG TYC ATT CGC G 6: 5'-GCG CTG YYC ATT CGC G 8: 5'-GCG CYY YYY YGT CGC G







... In the presence of excess azide, a Cu(I) salt and DNA a range of adducts corresponding to strand breaks were observed, suggesting that the original click procedure was not amenable to high density functionalisation of DNA.

However, using the Cu(I)-stabilising ligand (tris-(benzyltriazolylmethyl)amine),full conversion of both ODN-1 and ODN-4 to their respective triazole products was observed ...

Gierlich, Burley, Carell Org. Lett 2006



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Click reaction at work



Enzymatic incorporation of building blocks using a high fidelity DNA polymerase





Back to silver staining: Sugar coating of DNA



G. A. Burley, J. Gierlich, M. R. Mofid, H. Nir, S. Tal, Y. Eichen, T. Carell. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*. 1398. Highlighted in *Science*, **2006**, *311*, 437.

Clicking of sugar dendrimers DNA increases metallization



J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2006



Lane 1, 3, 5, 7, 9: **floppy Alkin 1**: 300 bp. 7 ng, 3.5 ng, 1.75 ng, 0.88 ng, 0.44 nm Lane 2,4,6,8: **natural DNA**: 300 bp. 7 ng, 3.5 ng, 1.75 ng, 0.88 ng



Ag-Staining (down to 100 atomol)
PCR free detection

Fluorescence-Staining

Nano wires templates by sugar coated DNA



Sugar coated DNA after Ag deposition



AFM images depicting the (a,c) height- and (b,d) phase images of DNA strands after the two-step metallization process: The upper part (a) and (b) shows an overview, below zoomed images (c) and (d) of a strand are depicted Fischler, Simon*, Nir, Eichen, Burley, Gierlich, Gramlich, Carell, *Small* **2007**

Metallised DNA





Preliminary results of electrical characterization UNIVERSITY



EDX analysis: elements detected along the line:

I(V)- curve (range -0.1 - +0,1 V)



Click with µ-contact printing

Printing 240406_S2A 5'-GCGCTGTXCATTCGCG



AFM picture

hybridized with 5'-Cy5-CGCGAAT at 2 °C

D. I. Rozkiewicz, J. Gierlich, G. A. Burley, K. Gutsmiedl, T. Carell, B. J. Ravoo, D. N. Reinhoudt *ChemBioChem* **2007**, *8*, 1997-2002.

P. M. E. Gramlich, S. Warncke, J. Gierlich, T. Carell *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 3442-3444.

Can we design the nucleus needed for metallization



Di-aldehyde modified DNA to generate a Ag₄ Cluster







a) 300mer DNA. b) 900mer DNA. c) 2000mer DNA.

Lane 1: **native** triphosphates: DNA•N; Lane 2: dTTP substituted with **monoaldehyde-**triphosphate Lane 3: dTTP substituted with **dialdehyde**-triphosphate

The Tollens reaction



UV-VIS of the Tollens reaction Black line: before addition of Tollens solution, Colored lines: 5 min interval after Tollens addition



Plasmon peak development Black: Monoaldehyde Red: Dialdehyde



Membrane staining experiment performed with

- 1: Unmodified DNA
- 2: Monoaldehyde DNA
- 3: Dialdehyde DNA
- **a:** 40 ng/μL, **b:** 4 ng/μL, **c:** 0.4 ng/μL, **d:** 0.04 ng/μL



HR STEM micrographs.

- A Tollens solution without DNA,
- **B** Tollens solution incubated with native DNA,
- C Tollens solution incubated with 900mer monoaldehyde-NA,
- **D** Tollens solution incubated with 900mer dialdehyde-DNA.

A new copper-free click reaction for DNA modification (strained alkenes plus nitrile oxides)









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