## Exploring the Size and Resolution Limits of Conventional Single-Particle cryo-EM at 200 keV



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#### EM Map Resolution Distribution Across the EMDB



Resolution distribution for released maps



## The Impact of ~0.5 Å Gain in Resolution – Why We Chase Higher-Resolution

~4.9 Å



~3.5 Å





~3.0 Å



~3.9 Å



~2.2 Å



## Structures in the EMDB Resolved to Better than 5 Å Resolution



>98% of EMDB entries better than 5 Å resolution have been imaged at 300 keV



[The Krios is the "go-to" microscope for high resolution. Why is this?

- 3 Constant power condenser lenses
- Very stable optics
- Customization
- First microscope with autoloader



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- 3 Constant power condenser lenses
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- Customization
- First microscope with autoloader

• NO



[The Krios is the "go-to" microscope for high resolution. Why is this? Is access to a Krios necessary for a lab to compete in the cryo-EM field? Can conventional cryo-EM be used to solve small structures?

- 3 Constant power condenser lenses
- Very stable optics
- Customization
- First microscope with autoloader

• NO



• YES!



No phase plate No energy filter K2 camera







- Manually frozen
- Leginon
- Appion
- MotionCorr2
- CTFFIND4/gCTF
- RELION 1.4/2.0/2.1



NATURE METHODS | BRIEF COMMUNICATION

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## Achieving better-than-3-Å resolution by singleparticle cryo-EM at 200 keV

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Affiliations | Contributions | Corresponding author

Nature Methods 14, 1075–1078 (2017) | doi:10.1038/nmeth.4461 Received 22 May 2017 | Accepted 29 August 2017 | Published online 09 October 2017

PROTOCOL EXCHANGE | COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTED

Setting up the Talos Arctica electron microscope and Gatan K2 direct detector for high-resolution cryogenic single-particle data acquisition

Mark A. Herzik, Jr., Mengyu Wu & Gabriel C. Lander

Lander Lab, The Scripps Research Institute

Protocol Exchange (2017) | doi:10.1038/protex.2017.108 Published online 12 October 2017

## T. Acidophilum 20S Proteasome Core at ~3.1 Å Resolution

## T. Acidophilum 20S Proteasome Core at ~3.1 Å Resolution









#### Comparison of 20S EM Density – Arctica vs. Krios



Campbell et al. eLife 2015

#### Ideal Structural Target <200 kDa? – Rabbit Muscle Aldolase

22

23

24

#### A2714 SIGMA Aldolase from rabbit muscle lyophilized powder, ≥8.0 units/mg protein Synonym: D-Fructose-1,6-bisphosphate-D-glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate-lyase, Fructose-diphosphate Aldolase SIGNAL base from rabbit mus SIMILAR PRODUCTS SDS Enzyme Commission (EC) Number 4.1.2.13 (BRENDAS | IUBMBS) CAS Number 9024-52-6 EC Number 232-781-0 MDL number MFCD00130453 目POPULAR DOCUMENTS: SPECIFICATION SHEET (PDF) Ownload Files -Display Files -**Biological Assembly 1** 6ALD **RABBIT MUSCLE ALDOLASE A/FRUCTOSE-1,6-BISPHOSPHATE** COMPLEX DOI: 10.2210/pdb6ald/pdb Classification: LYASE Deposited: 1998-12-23 Released: 2000-01-05 Deposition author(s): Choi, K.H., Mazurkie, A.S., Morris, A.J., Utheza, D., Tolan, D.R., Allen, <u>K.N.</u> Organism: Oryctolagus cuniculus Expression System: Escherichia coli Mutation(s): 1 Structural Biology Knowledgebase: 6ALD (>23 annotations) SBKB.org 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20

10

## 20S vs. Aldolase – Comparison of Particle Size and Particle Density

#### 45000x, 0.91 Å/pixel





## 20S vs. Aldolase – Comparison of Particle Size and Particle Density

### 45000x, 0.91 Å/pixel



## 20S vs. Aldolase – Comparison of Particle Size and Particle Density

45000x, 0.91 Å/pixel



## ~150 kDa Rabbit Muscle Aldolase at ~2.6 Å Resolution





#### Ideal Structural Target <100 kDa? – Horse Liver Alcohol Dehydrogenase

## Alcohol Dehydrogenase equine

recombinant, expressed in *E. coli*, ≥0.5 U/mg

Synonym: ADH







73000x, 0.556 Å/pixel





~110 Å

~40 Å

~110 Å

90

~40 Å











## 3.2 Å Resolution Human Hemoglobin Structure Using Volta Phase Plate







## 3.2 Å Resolution Human Hemoglobin Structure Using Volta Phase Plate



### Khoshouei et al. Nature Comm 2017







## 3.2 Å Resolution Human Hemoglobin Structure Using Volta Phase Plate



175,374 particles = 3.2 Å



34,181 particles = ~4.5 Å



#### What could we do better? What are the Anticipated Limitations?

#### What could we do better?

- How far can we image away from parallel illumination?
- Per-frame, per-particle CTF correction?
  - Minimize aberrant effects of Z-translation
- Alternate processing/refinement schemes?
  - Why didn't classification help the 20S data sets?
- Lower defocus range?
  - $\geq$ -1.5µm defocus did not contribute highest resolution information

#### What are the anticipated limitations?

- Particle heterogeneity
- Not all particles tolerate thin ice and high density
- Thin ice
- Slightly inflexible when choosing exposure rate

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# A multi-model approach to assessing local and global cryo-EM map quality

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This article is a preprint and has not been peer-reviewed [what does this mean?].



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