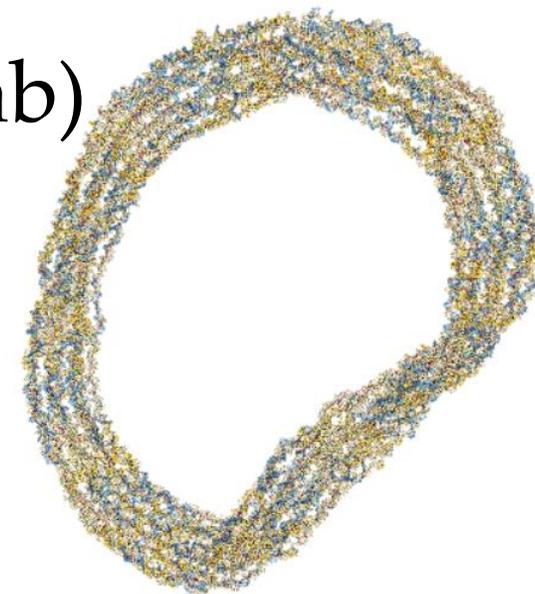
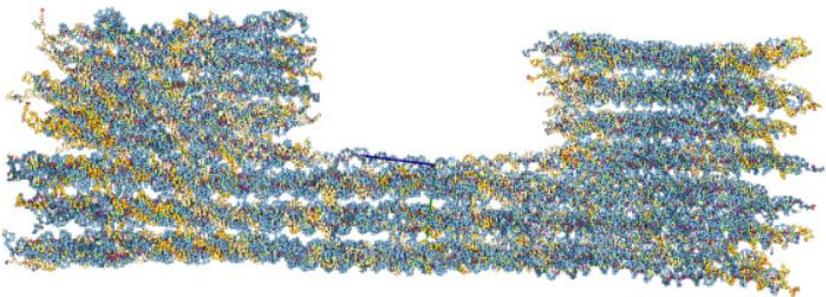


Alessandro Passera (Balzarotti lab)
How Do You Do It, 3.3.2023



What am I going to talk about

What are DNA origami?

How do we use DNA origami in the lab?

What can you do with DNA origami?

How do I get started with the technique?

Origin of DNA origami

First ideas of programmable structures composed of DNA is from the early 90s. The first actual realisation I could find is from 2004:

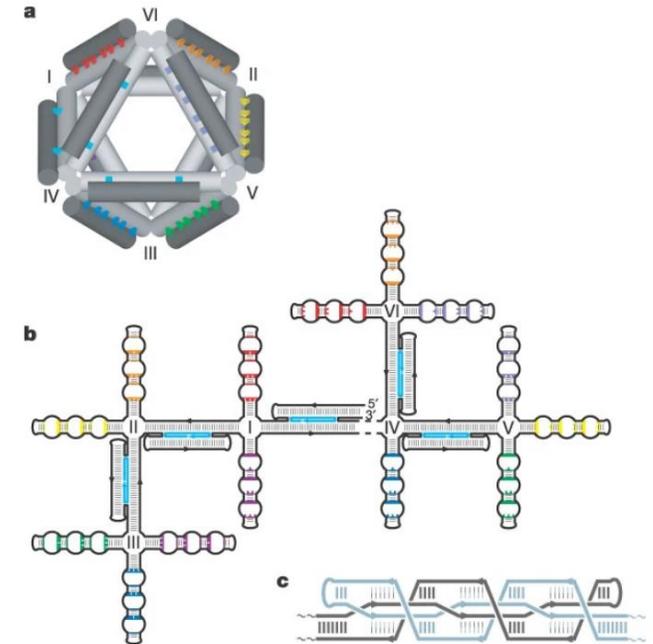
[Published: 12 February 2004](#)

A 1.7-kilobase single-stranded DNA that folds into a nanoscale octahedron

[William M. Shih](#), [Joel D. Quispe](#) & [Gerald F. Joyce](#)

[Nature](#) 427, 618–621 (2004) | [Cite this article](#)

8889 Accesses | 774 Citations | 23 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)



A single, *ad hoc* designed ssDNA strand (black) assembles when 5 shorter oligonucleotides (cyan) are mixed with it

[Published: 16 March 2006](#)

Folding DNA to create nanoscale shapes and patterns

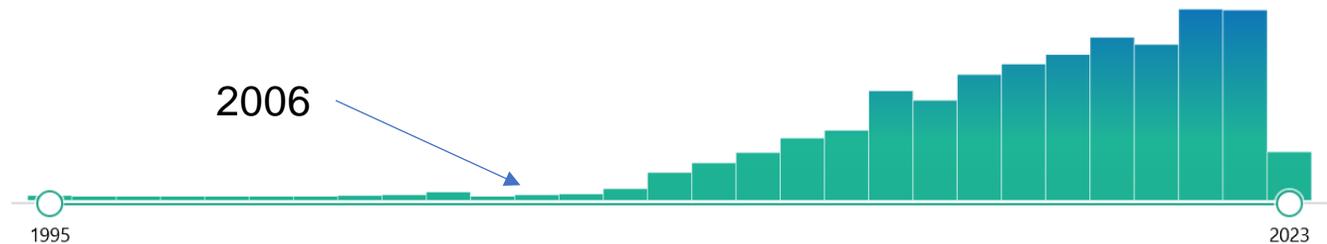
[Paul W. K. Rothemund](#)

[Nature](#) 440, 297–302 (2006) | [Cite this article](#)

95k Accesses | 5123 Citations | 428 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)



Paul Rothemund, now professor at Caltech



Huge difference: shapes can be arbitrarily programmed, using the same framework

How does it work?

The scaffold is not a special sequence: in our case M13 bacteriophage ssDNA, circular, 7249 nt-long and very cheap.

What determines the shape are the short (~30 nt) oligos (“staples”) that anneal to distant parts of the scaffold and bring them together in 3D

In our case they are 184

Scaffold and staples are mixed, the solution is heated to 80°C to melt any structure, then slowly brought to 4°C over the course of a few hours to allow annealing

Buffer is a weak Tris buffer pH 8, with the only crucial component being the Mg^{2+} ion

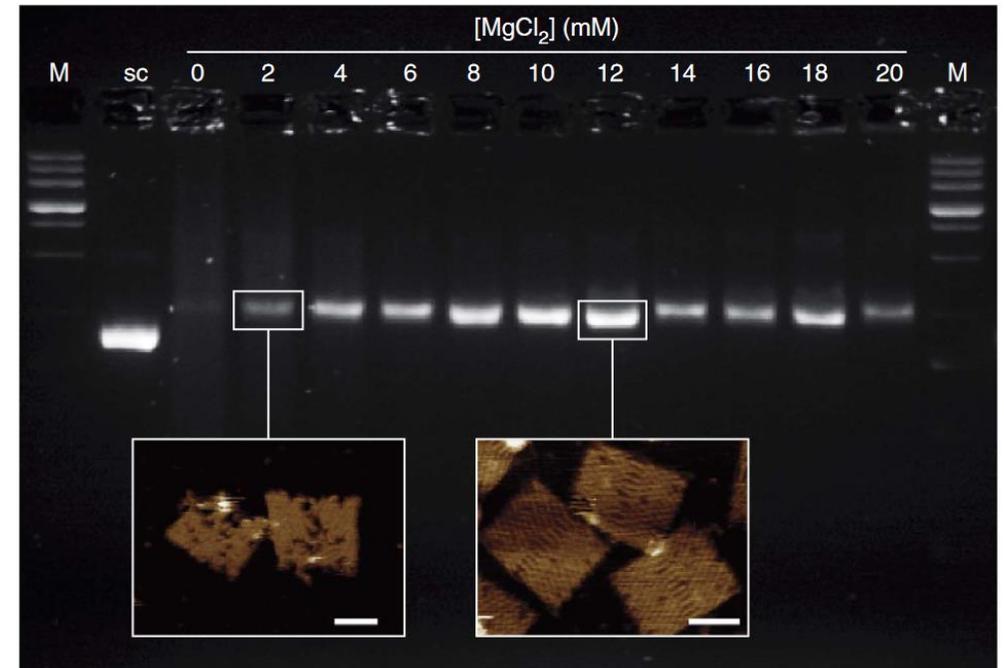
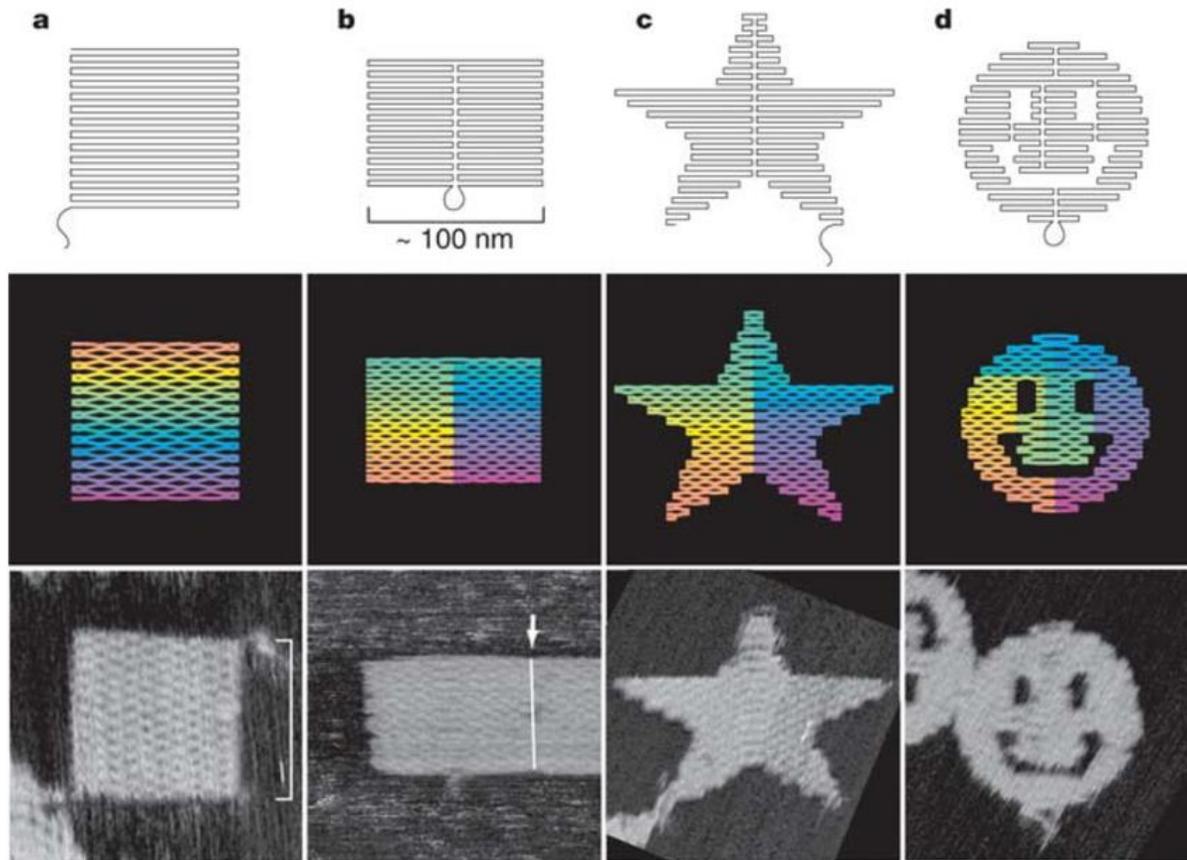


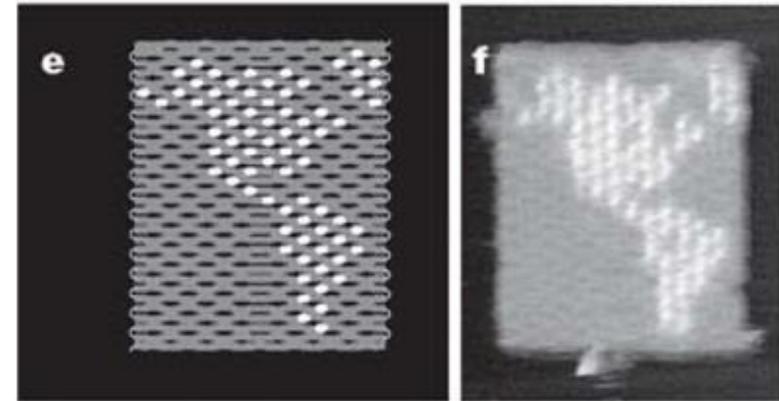
Image from Schmied, J. J., P. Tinnefeld. et al. “DNA Origami–Based Standards for Quantitative Fluorescence Microscopy.” *Nature Protocols* (2014) 5

A very robust technique

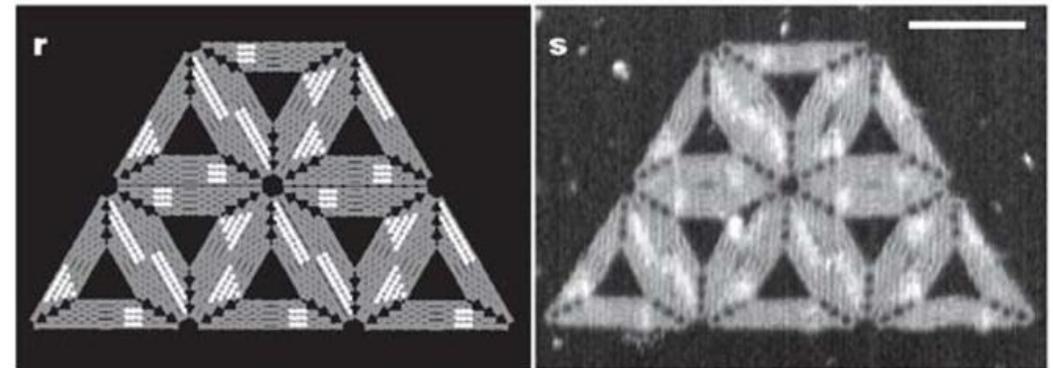
Diverse structures can be programmed with the same sequences



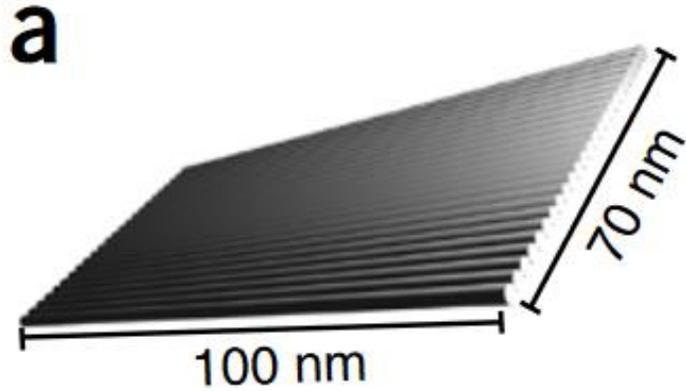
Origamis are breadboards



Origamis can combine into larger structures



What do we do with them in the lab?



Fantastic samples for super-resolution (breadboards with a ~5 nm pixel size)

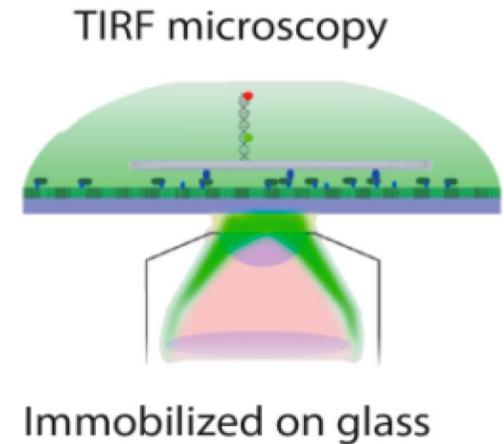
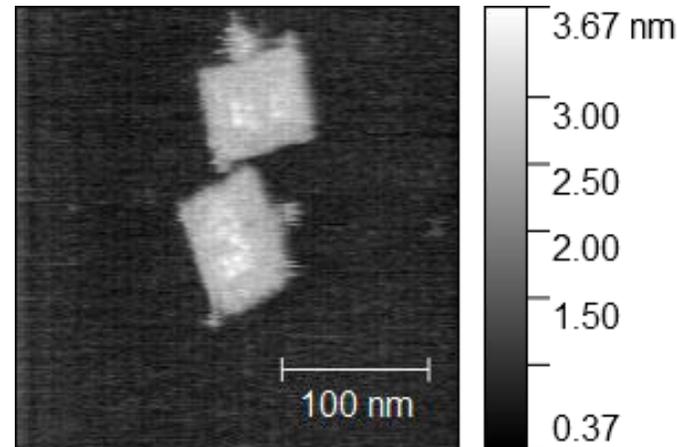
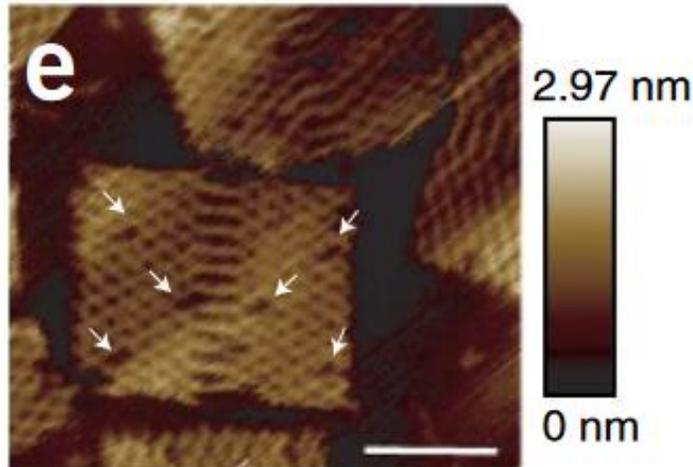
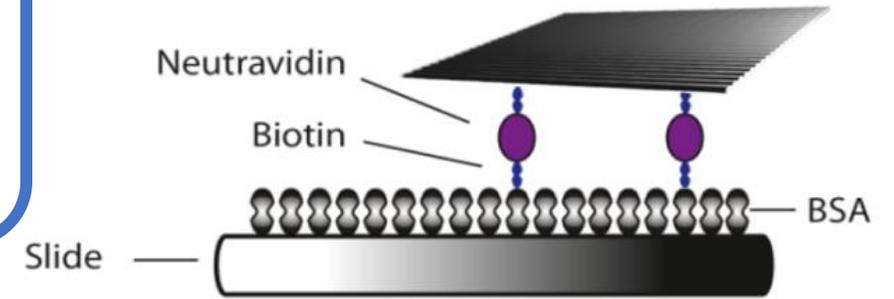
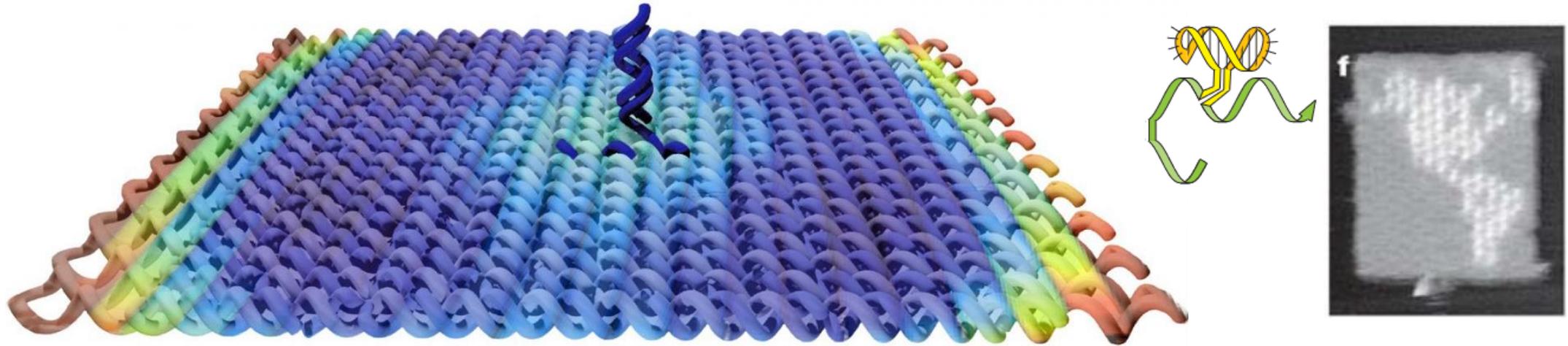


Image from Schmied, J. J, *Nature Protocols* (2014)

High-speed AFM with Sabrina Horn (Peters)

Modified from Gust et al., *Molecules*, 2014

Modifying DNA origamis



Extending a staple strand at its 5' or 3' will have the extension stick outside the structure

For example, one can buy biotinylated oligos, and program it so that all the biotins stick out from the same side

Then, one can extend other oligos with excess DNA that sticks on the other side, and use these as **handles**

Origamis for DNA-PAINT

Points Accumulation In Nanoscale Topography

Objective: extend staples to have DNA-PAINT bindingsites

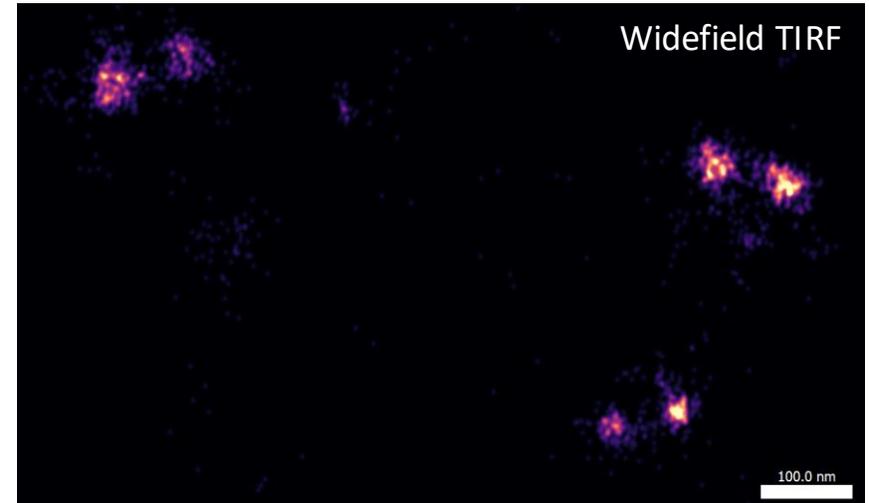
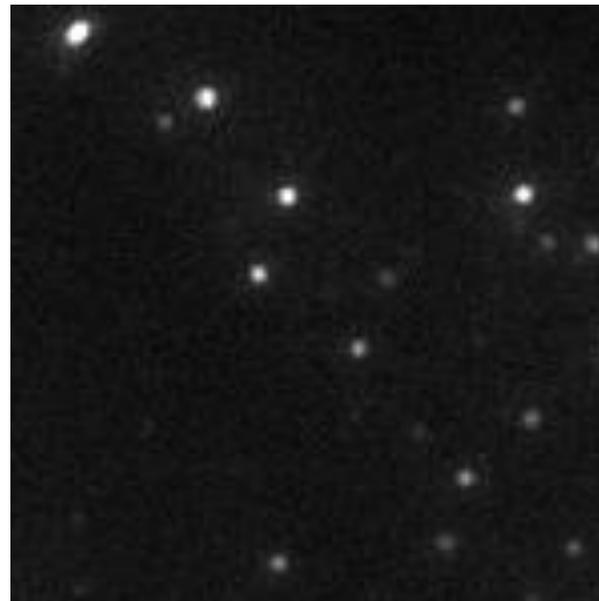
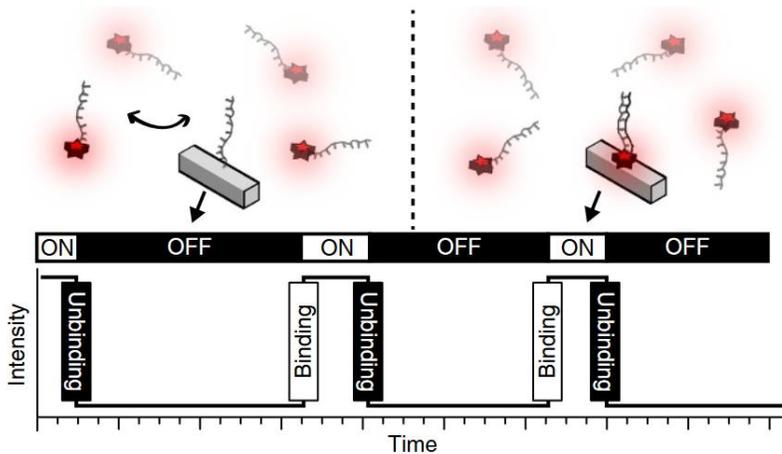
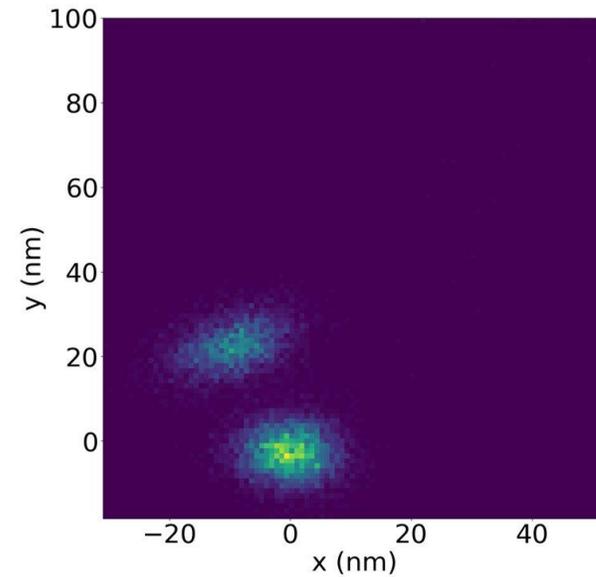
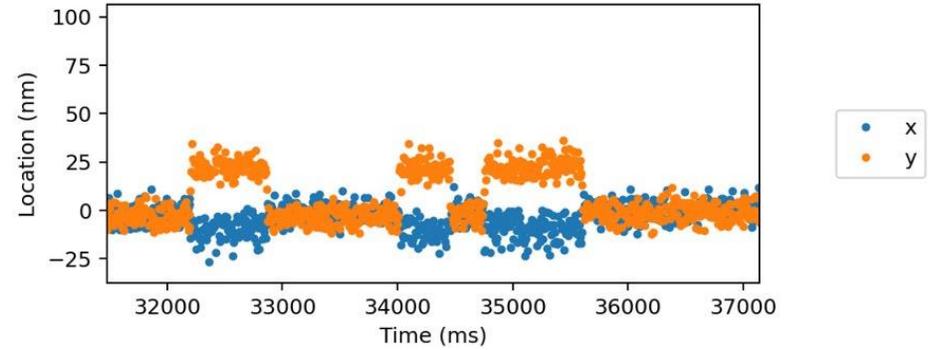
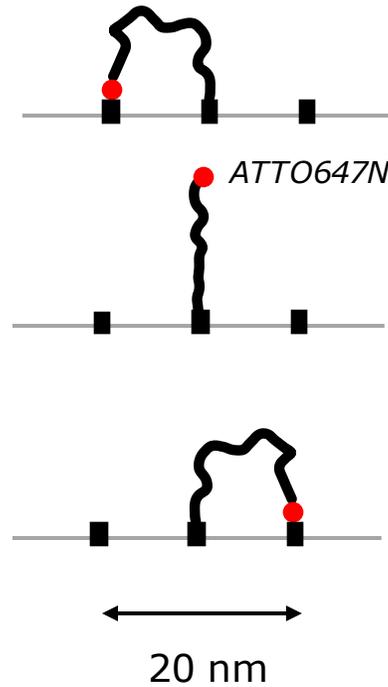


Image by Claudio Polisseni (Tanaka)



“Dynamic” origamis

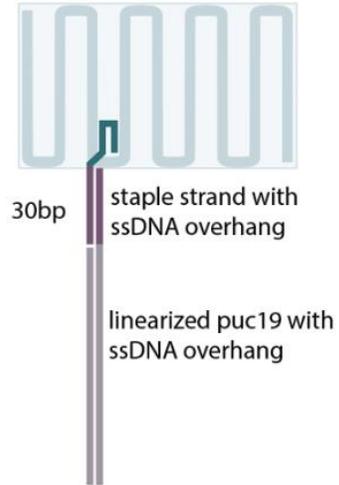
2D MINIFLUX tracking



Proxy for protein complex movements, etc.

Origamis for AFM and single molecule fluorescence

DNA origami with dsDNA extension



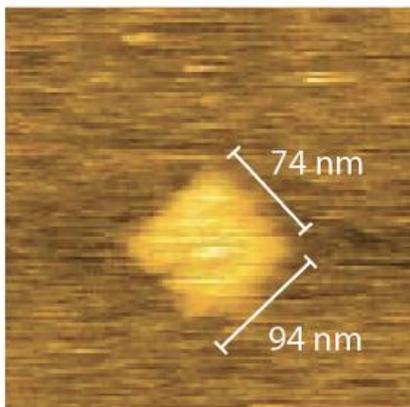
Attaches well to mica surface for AFM

Easily resolvable

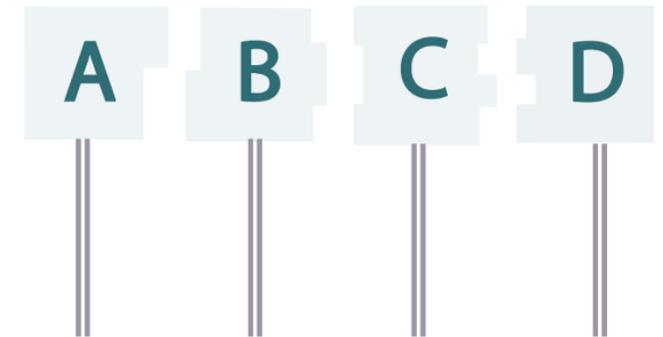
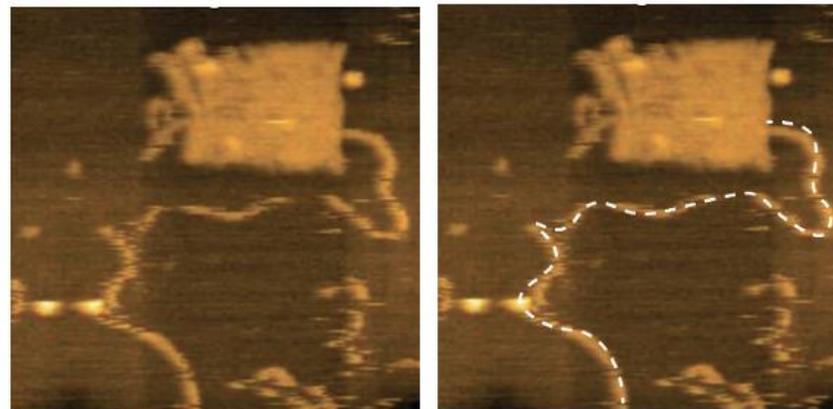
Long pieces of DNA can be attached specifically to the origami

The sample can then be used for AFM or single-molecule fluorescence

B

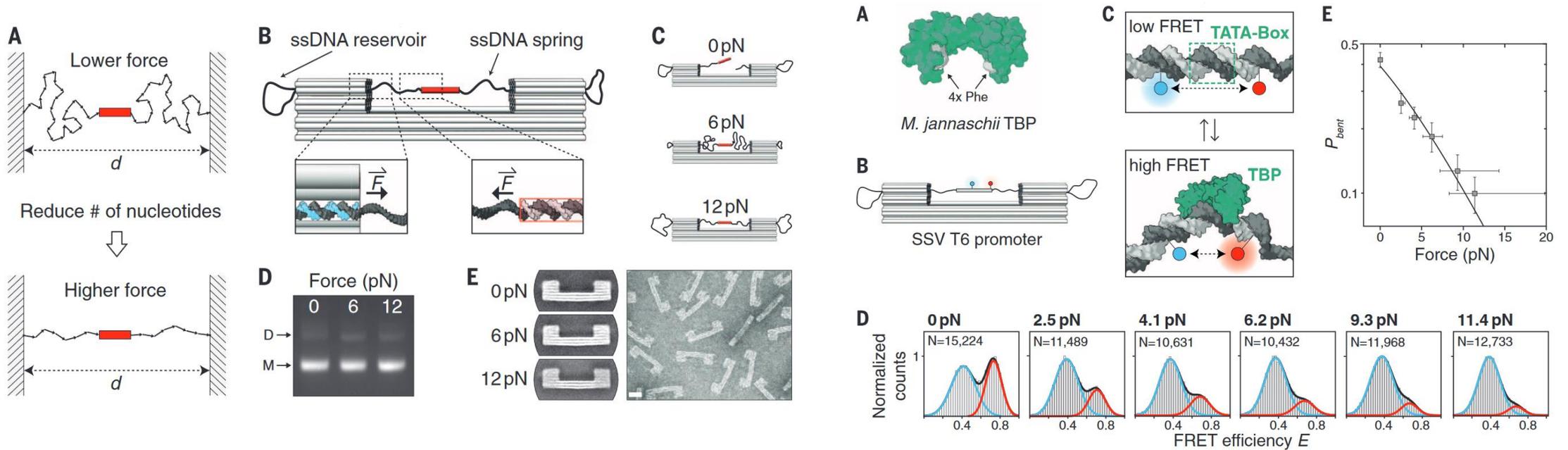


C



Images by Sabrina Horn (Peters)

Force sensors or springs

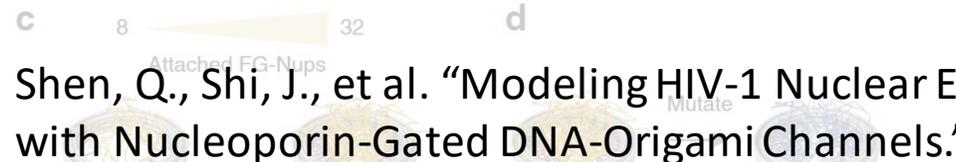
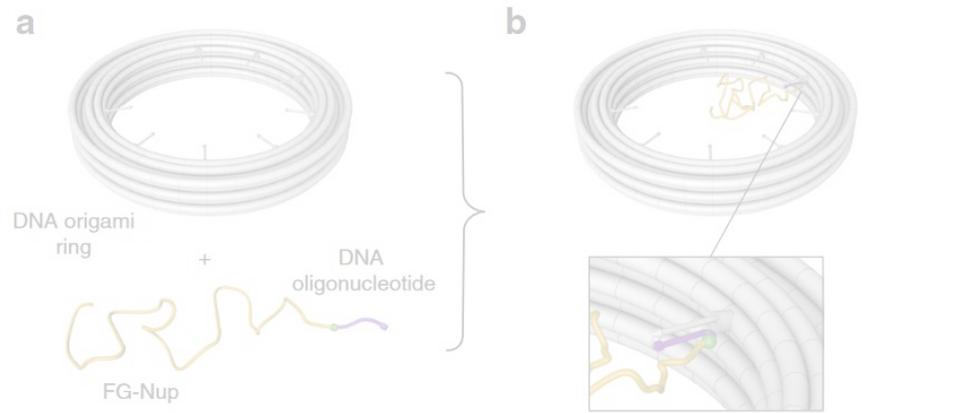


Goal: create an alternative to AFM or optical tweezers (costly, low throughput) for the application of controlled forces

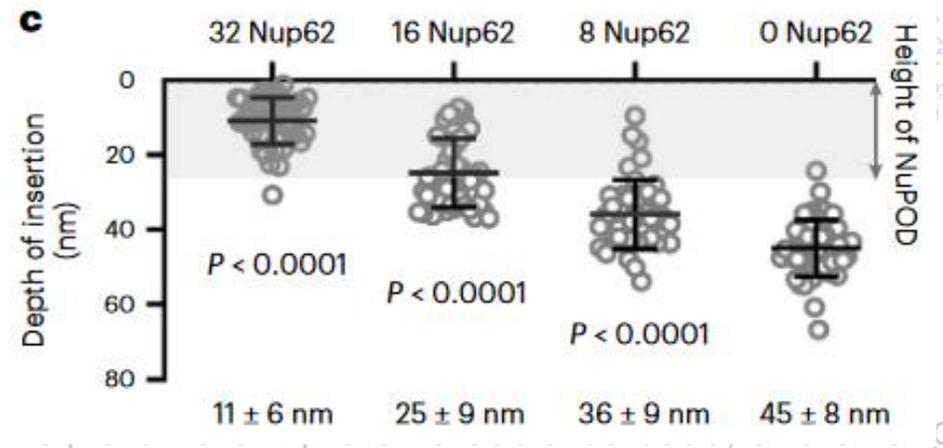
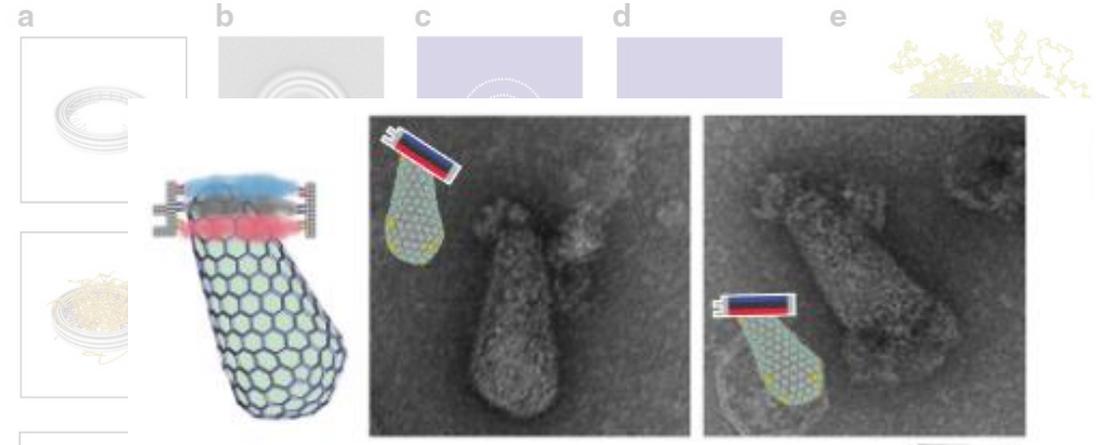
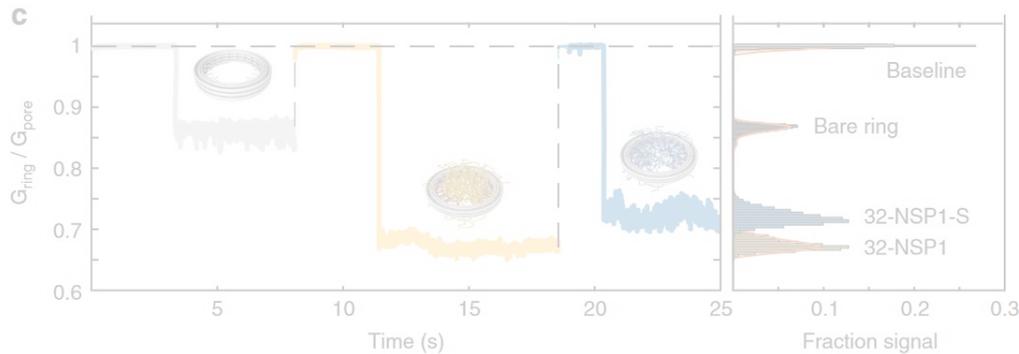
The DNA origami can apply forces from 1.2 to 50 pN to the ends of a DNA molecule

Useful for studying DNA binding proteins, or any target as long as the two pieces to pull can be functionalized with DNA handles

Platforms for protein attachment

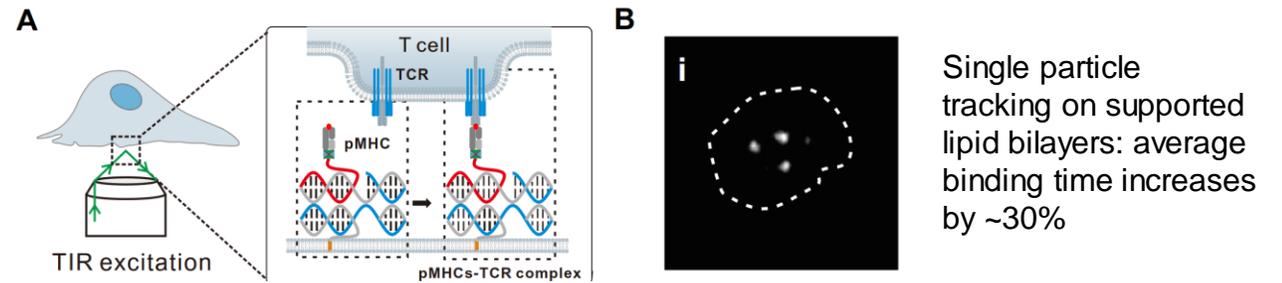
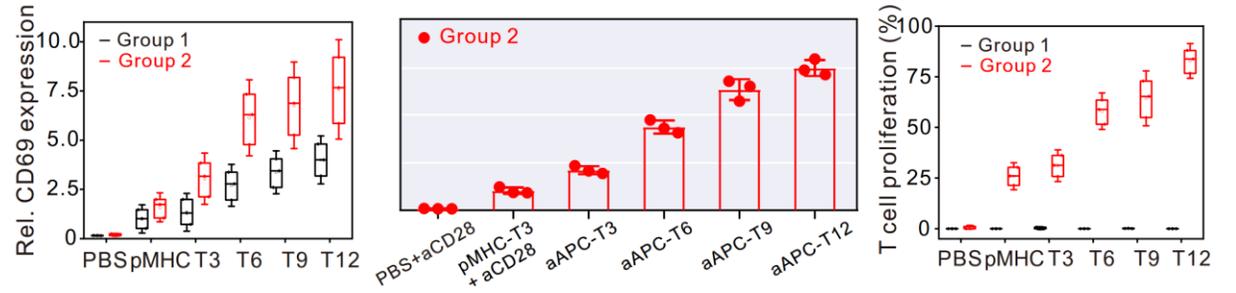
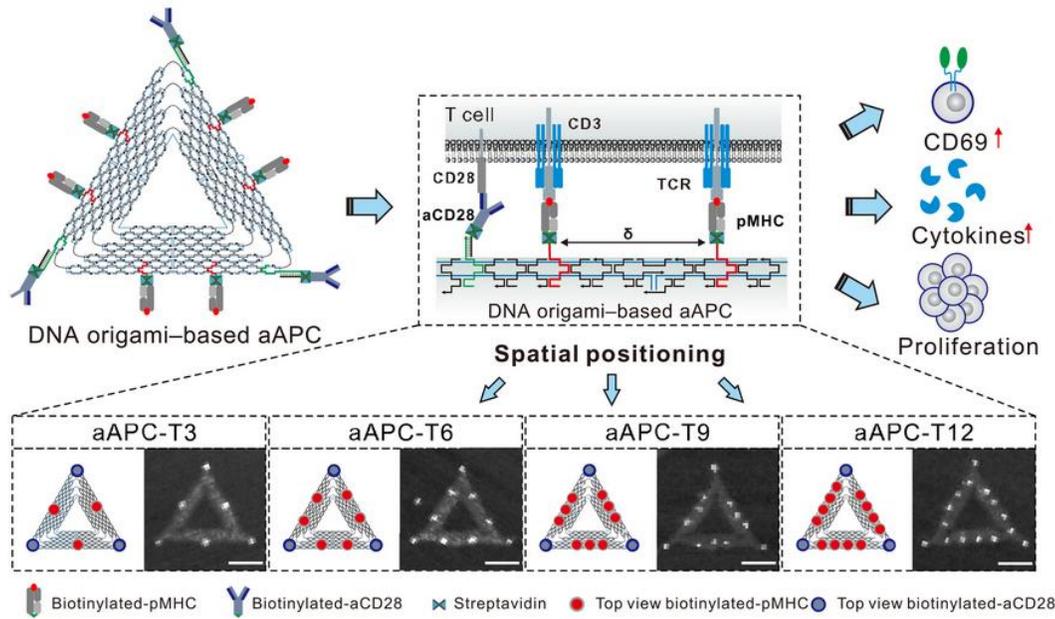


Shen, Q., Shi, J., et al. "Modeling HIV-1 Nuclear Entry with Nucleoporin-Gated DNA-Origami Channels." *Nature Structural & Molecular Biology* (2023)

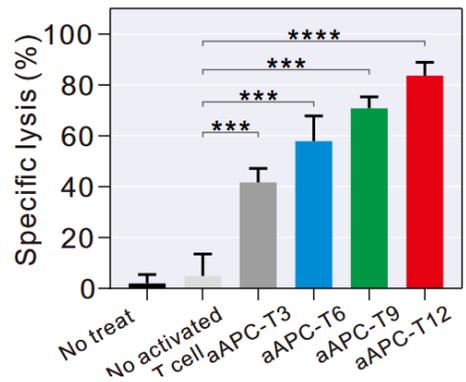


Ketterer, P., Dekker C. et al. "DNA Origami Scaffold for Studying Intrinsically Disordered Proteins of the Nuclear Pore Complex." *Nature Communications* (2018)

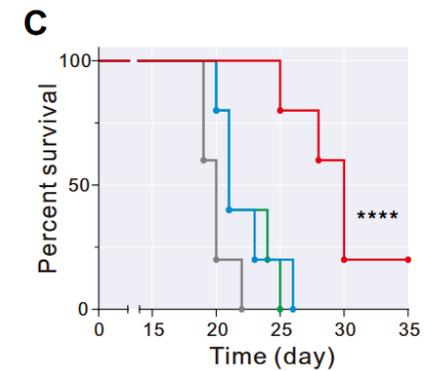
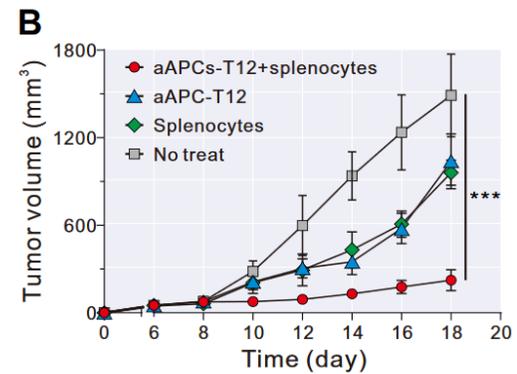
Artificial antigen-presenting cells



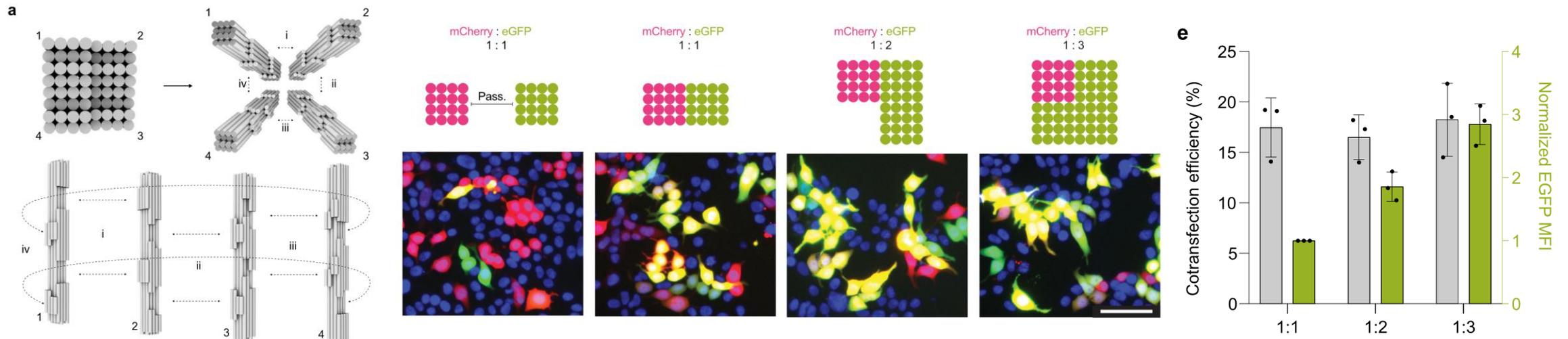
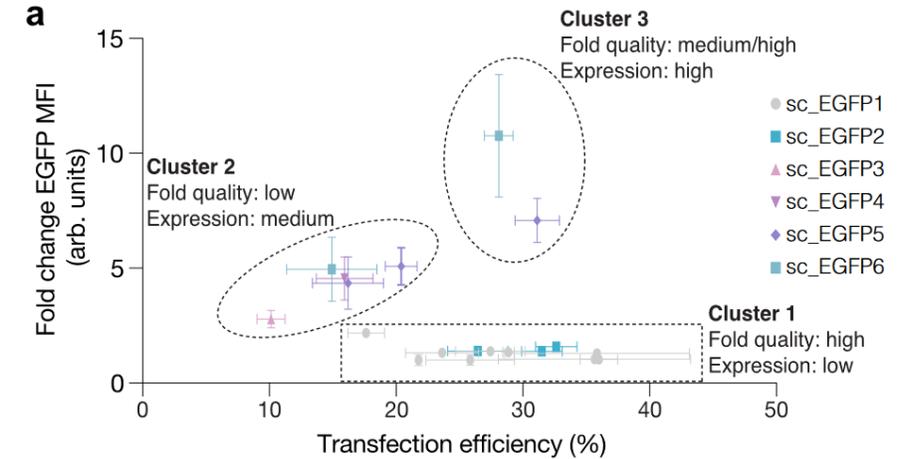
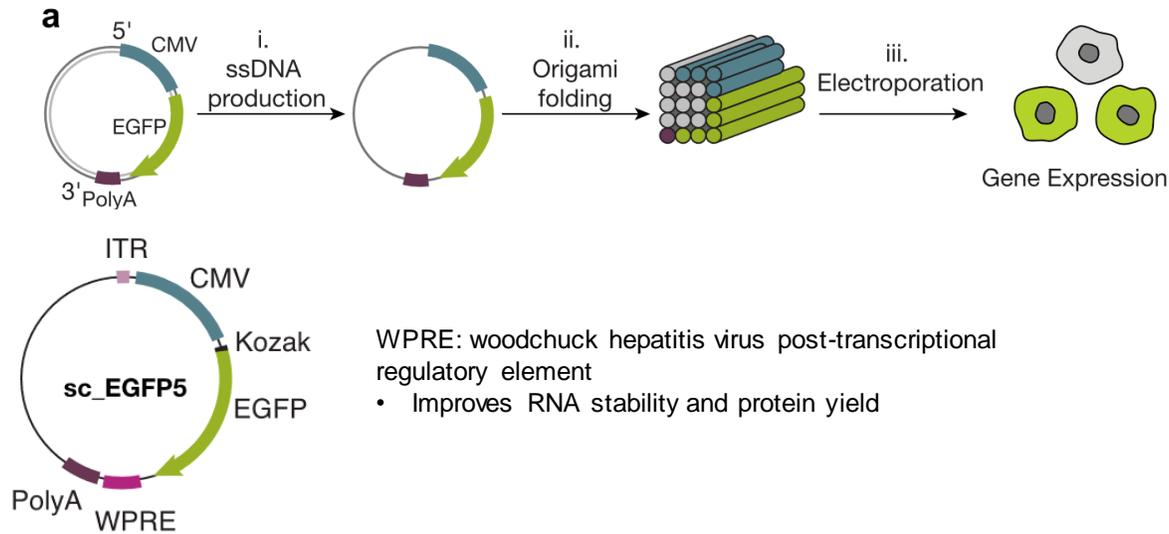
In vitro: treatment of melanoma cells with origami pre-incubated T cells



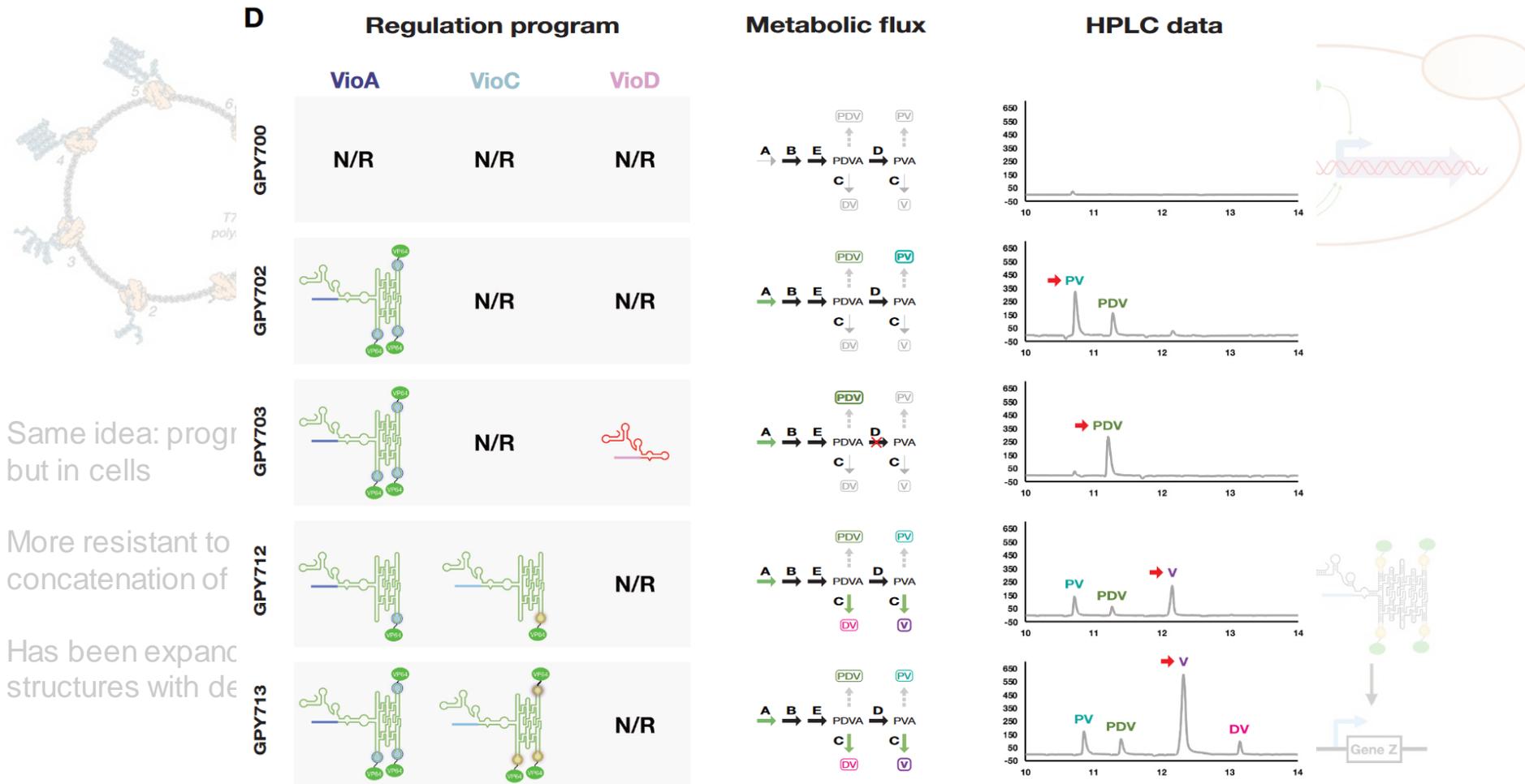
In vivo: (co-)injection of origami and/or T cells in mice



Gene delivery cassettes



RNA origamis



Geary, C, Andersen, E. S. "A Single-Stranded Architecture for Cotranscriptional Folding of RNA Nanostructures." *Science* (2014).

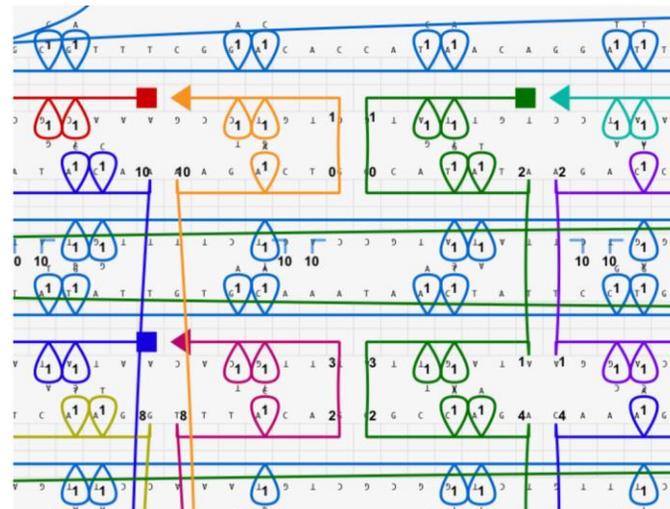
Pothoulakis, G., Andersen, E. S. et al. "Utilizing RNA Origami Scaffolds in *Saccharomyces Cerevisiae* for DCas9-Mediated Transcriptional Control." *Nucleic Acids Research* (2022).

How do I get started with them?

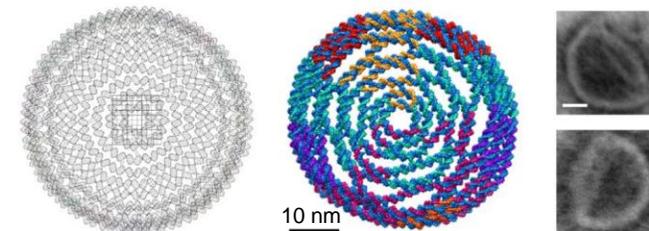
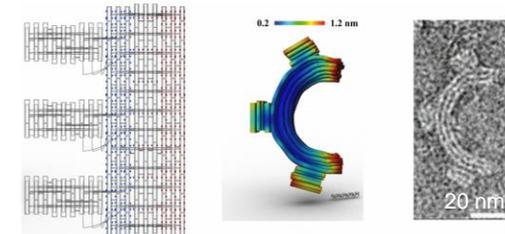
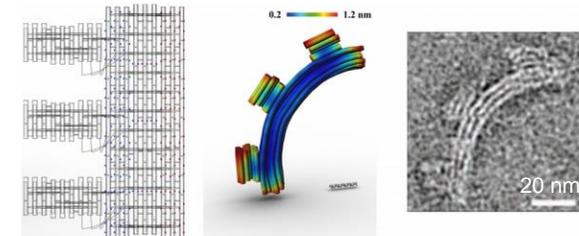
Schmied, J. J., Tinnefeld, P. et al. “DNA Origami–Based Standards for Quantitative Fluorescence Microscopy.” *Nature Protocols* 9, no. 6 (June 2014): 1367–91

Contains recipes for rectangles and 6/12-helix bundles

Guide to the use of cadnano



3D structure prediction tool from cadnano files



Costs and timing

For our DNA origami rectangle:

Scaffold \approx 5 € per reaction

Staples = 184 x \sim 5 euros each \approx 900 €, never bought again

Biotinilated staples = 8 x 30 € = 240 €, never bought again

No costly buffer component (comes all from the media kitchen)

\sim 15 minutes handling time to assemble the reaction pot

\sim 4 hours in thermocycler

\sim 90 minutes purification (PEG precipitation/gel extraction)

\sim 1 pmol per reaction, which for us is almost infinite