Coherent Effects in Photosynthetic Complexes Principles of noise assisted transport and the origin of long-lived coherences

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(Non-trivial) Quantum Effects in Biology??



NJP **13** 115002 (2011) **Focus on quantum effects and noise in biomolecules** GR Fleming, SF Huelga and MB Plenio Eds interferometer for interference of the two photons in this black box

radio frequency trapping voltages applied

pulsed laser light enters here

ion B trapped here

vacuum chambers

laser light to measure the atom

-ion A trapped here

imaging optics for viewing atom



LETTERS

Evidence for wavelike energy transfer through quantum coherence in photosynthetic systems

Gregory S. Engel^{1,2}, Tessa R. Calhoun^{1,2}, Elizabeth L. Read^{1,2}, Tae-Kyu Ahn^{1,2}, Tomáš Mančal^{1,2}†, Yuan-Chung Cheng^{1,2}, Robert E. Blankenship^{3,4} & Graham R. Fleming^{1,2}



Experimental evidence at cryogenic and physiological temperatures indicates the presence of quantum coherence





www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1005484107

Long-lived quantum coherence in photosynthetic complexes at physiological temperature

Gitt Panitchayangkoon^a, Dugan Hayes^a, Kelly A. Fransted^a, Justin R. Caram^a, Elad Harel^a, Jianzhong Wen^b, Robert E. Blankenship^b, and Gregory S. Engel^{a,1}

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Other results: Scholes (Toronto), van Hulst (ICFO)...

2D Spectroscopy













GS Engel group, PNAS 2011



And beyond

A fundamental question arises: Is there any link between coherence and biological function?

Do/could quantum features **facilitate** processes of biological relevance?





More prosaic: New perspectives for non-equilibrium open quantum systems



Careful **interplay between coherent and** *noisy* **interactions** is key for keeping quantum traits and for them to survive (even) in the steady state

Outline

Noise assisted transport: Fundamental mechanisms The concept of *phonon antenna*

Long lived coherence How can quantum coherence persist in a *wet* and *hot* environment?



Fenna-Matthew-Olson (FMO) complex



Deconstructing the transport dynamics

$$H = \sum_{j=1}^{N} \hbar \omega_j \sigma_j^+ \sigma_j^- + \sum_{j \neq l} \hbar v_{j,l} (\sigma_j^- \sigma_l^+ + \sigma_j^+ \sigma_l^-)$$

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Further simplification: Fully Connected Networks (FCN)



Single irreversible process: population transfer from site N to the sink N+1

$$\mathcal{L}_{sink}(\rho) = \Gamma_{N+1}[2\sigma_{N+1}^{+}\sigma_{k}^{-}\rho\sigma_{k}^{+}\sigma_{N+1}^{-} - \{\sigma_{k}^{+}\sigma_{N+1}^{-}\sigma_{N+1}^{+}\sigma_{k}^{-},\rho\}]$$

In a given time T, how much of the initial population in site 1 can be transferred to site N+1 (**trapping site**) and how is the transport affected by noise?



N=7 uniform FCN

Deconstructing the transport dynamics

Opinion: Well, this is obvious

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 215 & -104.1 & 5.1 & -4.3 & 4.7 & -15.1 & -7.8 \\ -104.1 & 220.0 & 32.6 & 7.1 & 5.4 & 8.3 & 0.8 \\ 5.1 & 32.6 & 0.0 & -46.8 & 1.0 & -8.1 & 5.1 \\ -4.3 & 7.1 & -46.8 & 125.0 & -70.7 & -14.7 & -61.5 \\ 4.7 & 5.4 & 1.0 & -70.7 & 450.0 & 89.7 & -2.5 \\ -15.1 & 8.3 & -8.1 & -14.7 & 89.7 & 330.0 & 32.7 \\ -7.8 & 0.8 & 5.1 & -61.5 & -2.5 & 32.7 & 280.0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Site basis

Deconstructing the dynamics

Opinion: This is obvious

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 215 & -104.1 & 5.1 & -4.3 & 4.7 & -15.1 & -7.8 \\ -104.1 & 220.0 & 32.6 & 7.1 & 5.4 & 8.3 & 0.8 \\ 5.1 & 32.6 & 0.0 & -46.8 & 1.0 & -8.1 & 5.1 \\ -4.3 & 7.1 & -46.8 & 125.0 & -70.7 & -14.7 & -61.5 \\ 4.7 & 5.4 & 1.0 & -70.7 & 450.0 & 89.7 & -2.5 \\ -15.1 & 8.3 & -8.1 & -14.7 & 89.7 & 330.0 & 32.7 \\ -7.8 & 0.8 & 5.1 & -61.5 & -2.5 & 32.7 & 280.0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Site basis

	/ 513	0	0	0	0	0	0 \
	0	332	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	307	0	0	0	0
H =	0	0	0	268	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	121	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	102	0
		0	0	0	0	0	-23 /

Exciton basis U No coherent dynamics left U Noise supports transport

Deconstructing the transport dynamics

Opinion: This is obvious

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 215 & -104.1 & 5.1 & -4.3 & 4.7 & -15.1 & -7.8 \\ -104.1 & 220.0 & 32.6 & 7.1 & 5.4 & 8.3 & 0.8 \\ 5.1 & 32.6 & 0.0 & -46.8 & 1.0 & -8.1 & 5.1 \\ -4.3 & 7.1 & -46.8 & 125.0 & -70.7 & -14.7 & -61.5 \\ 4.7 & 5.4 & 1.0 & -70.7 & 450.0 & 89.7 & -2.5 \\ -15.1 & 8.3 & -8.1 & -14.7 & 89.7 & 330.0 & 32.7 \\ -7.8 & 0.8 & 5.1 & -61.5 & -2.5 & 32.7 & 280.0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Site basis

But: Answer depends on structure of network

Sometimes noise helps sometimes it hinders transport

	/ 513	0	0	0	0	0	0 \
	0	332	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	307	0	0	0	0
H =	0	0	0	268	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	121	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	102	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	-23 /

Exciton basis U No coherent dynamics left U Noise supports transport

Moreover: Is exciton relaxation entirely incoherent?

How can *noise* assist transport?

Identifying the building blocks for NAT (noise assisted transport) (or ENAQT (environment assisted quantum transport))

(1) Bridging energy gaps and blocking unfavourable (coherent) transport paths



Typical **line broadening** mechanisms Excess noise may not always be detrimental

Basic Mechanisms underpinning noise assisted transport

(2) Interference effects

Simplest case: N=3 network

$$H = \sum_{k=1}^{3} E_i |i\rangle \langle i| + \sum_{k=1}^{2} J_{k3}(|k\rangle \langle 3| + h.c)$$

$$J_{13} = J_{23}$$

Destructive interference of tunneling amplitudes. Transport to site 3 is inhibited



(2) Interference effects

Selective excitation:

$$|01\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left[\frac{|01\rangle - |10\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{|01\rangle + |10\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right]$$



What effects can release a non-propagating state ?



Trapping site

Reduction of destructive interference effects

Transport

Is this relevant in the context of EET?



Dominant noise source: Pure dephasing due to protein environment

Simplest Theoretical Model

N

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} = -i[H,\rho] + \mathcal{L}_{deph}(\rho) + \mathcal{L}_{diss}(\rho)$$

$$H = \sum_{j=1}^{N} \hbar \omega_j \sigma_j^+ \sigma_j^- + \sum_{j \neq l} \hbar v_{j,l} (\sigma_j^- \sigma_l^+ + \sigma_j^+ \sigma_l^-)$$

Relaxation Energy exchange

$$\mathcal{L}_{diss}(\rho) = \sum_{j=1}^{N} \Gamma_{j} [-\{\sigma_{j}^{+}\sigma_{j}^{-}, \rho\} + 2\sigma_{j}^{-}\rho\sigma_{j}^{+}]$$
(ps range)

Dephasing

Phase randomization

$$\mathcal{L}_{deph}(\rho) = \sum_{j=1}^{N} \gamma_j \left[-\{\sigma_j^+ \sigma_j^-, \rho\} + 2\sigma_j^+ \sigma_j^- \rho \sigma_j^+ \sigma_j^-\right]$$

Faster time scale (fs)

Dynamical Map is CPTP

Does it work for transport across FMO?



Plenio & Huelga, New J. Phys. 2008 Caruso, Chin, Datta, Huelga, Plenio, J. Chem. Phys. 2009 Chin, Caruso, Datta, Huelga, Plenio, New J. Phys. 2010

Mohseni, Rebentrost, Lloyd, Aspuru-Guzik, J. Phys. Chem. 2008 Rebentrost, Mohseni, Kassal, Lloyd, Aspuru-Guzik, New J. Phys. 2009



Plenio & Huelga, New J. Phys. 2008 Caruso, Chin, Datta, Huelga, Plenio, J. Chem. Phys. 2009 Chin, Caruso, Datta, Huelga, Plenio, New J. Phys. 2010

Mohseni, Rebentrost, Lloyd, Aspuru-Guzik, J. Phys. Chem. 2008 Rebentrost, Mohseni, Kassal, Lloyd, Aspuru-Guzik, New J. Phys. 2009

Transport dynamics in FMO (microscopic details)



t

SINK

Transport dynamics in FMO (microscopic details)



See also work by Aspuru-Guzik et al Ishizaki,Fleming et al Whaley et al Thorwart et al,....

Caruso, Chin, Datta, Huelga, Plenio, J Chem Phys 2009 Chin, Caruso, Datta, Huelga, Plenio, NJP 2010

Robustness



Plenio & Huelga, New J. Phys. 2008 Caruso, Chin, Datta, Huelga, Plenio, J. Chem. Phys. 2009

Noise leads to the creation of transport paths that were forbidden under a purely quantum evolution





Removal of destructive interference via dephasing of tunnelling amplitudes Activation of energetically unfavourable transition via line broadening Suppression of inefficient coherent paths

Moreover, the presence of coherent couplings can allow the system to efficiently harvest *noise* via the creation of a *phonon antennae* Possible structure in the environment has been ignored so far Exciton relaxation may have a coherent component

(3) Splitting of energy levels—Phonon Antennae

Electronic coupling may facilitate the creation of a **phonon antenna**



Chin, Huelga, Plenio, Phil.Trans.Royal Soc 2012 Eds. Olaya-Castro, Nazir & Fleming

(3) Splitting of energy levels—Phonon Antennae

t (ps)

6

0.3

0.2

0.1



FIG. 6. Psink as a function of time for a three-site system without any coupling to a mode. Weak transport is now seen for $J_{12} = 100 \text{cm}^{-1}$ (squares). the other curves are $J_{12} = 150 \text{cm}^{-1}$ (diamonds), $J_{12} = 200 \text{cm}^{-1}$ (triangles), $J_{12} = 300 \text{cm}^{-1}$ (inverted squares) and $J_{12} = 50 \text{cm}^{-1}$ (dots). For all curves $J_{23} = 30 \text{cm}^{-1}$ and the initial state of the vibrational mode is a thermal state at 77 K.

Beyond transport

Engel et al, Science 2007 Panitchayangkoon et al, PNAS 2010



What about the *long lasting* coherences?

Experimental evidence from traditional spectroscopy supports the existence of localized vibrational modes (in particular modes quasiresonant with excitonic transitions)

Crucial??

Dimer system subject to the action of damped local modes



System experiences **dephasing in the site basis Populations are preserved**



Standard open system theory inappropriate for pigmentprotein complexes

-Slow fluctuations, long memory Non-Markovian dynamics

-Strong couplings and spatial correlation -Structured spectral function **non-perturbative**





Olbrich et al. J. Phys. Chem Lett. 2. 2011

Significantly correlated system-bath dynamics –Many-body physics important

Efficient exact simulation of many body systems (TEDOPA)

Main result: Powerful numerical tool with associated physical insight



Non-perturbative description of system-environment interaction for structured environments

$$H_{res} = \int dx \, g(x) a_x^{\dagger} a_x$$



$$V = \int dx \, h(x) \hat{A}(a_x^{\dagger} + a_x)$$



t-DMRG yields dynamics for general spectral densities

$$c_{0}\hat{A}(b_{0}+b_{0}^{\dagger})+\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\omega_{n}b_{n}^{\dagger}b_{n}+t_{n}b_{n+1}^{\dagger}b_{n}+t_{n}b_{n}^{\dagger}b_{n+1}$$

J. Math. Phys. **51**, 092109 (2010)

Efficient simulation of strong system-environment interactions: dimer system (building block of complex bio-molecular aggregates)



Exact Simulations (T=77 K)



arXiv:1203.0776

Exact Simulations



Other results involving localized modes:

Mancal & Pullerits, Olaya-Castro & Scholes, Kreisbeck & Kramer (arXiv 2012)

Conclusions

- The basis for efficient and robust transport in the FMO complex is provided by an intricate interplay of environmental protein interactions and coherent pigment-pigment couplings

-Structure in the protein spectral density leads to strong coherent pigment-protein interactions – boundary of *system* and *environment* is obscured. Many-body treatment of open quantum dynamics needed

- Non-equilibirum system-bath (coherent) effects may be behind the enhancement of inter-exciton coherences



- Simulate larger networks at finite temperature and with full structure
- Evaluation of spectral density from excitonically coupled systems (test bed WSCP)
- Compute 2D spectra from non-perturbative dynamics
- Extract clear dynamical features via different experimental techniques (quantum control)

What about the *big* question?



Collaboration with Robin Gosh (Stuttgart) and Fedor Jelezko (Ulm)



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Main references from our group

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Stiftung/Foundation



Cross-peak-specific two-dimensional electronic spectroscopy

Elizabeth L. Read^{†‡}, Gregory S. Engel^{†‡}, Tessa R. Calhoun^{†‡}, Tomáš Mančal^{†‡§}, Tae Kyu Ahn^{†‡}, Robert E. Blankenship¹¹, and Graham R. Fleming^{†‡||}

Fig. 1. The evolution of the 2D electronic spectrum of *P. phaeum* FMO is shown. In the conventional 2D spectra (*Left*), the emergence of cross-peaks below the main diagonal is evidenced by the contour lines bowing away from the diagonal by 200 fs. In the cross-peak-specific spectra (*Right*), the emergence of the negative features below the main diagonal corresponds to the cross-peaks largely obscured in the conventional 2D spectra.

