

Rapid Microtubule Self-Assembly Kinetics

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Microtubules

*Molecular
“Nanoscale”*

*Cellular
“Microscale”*

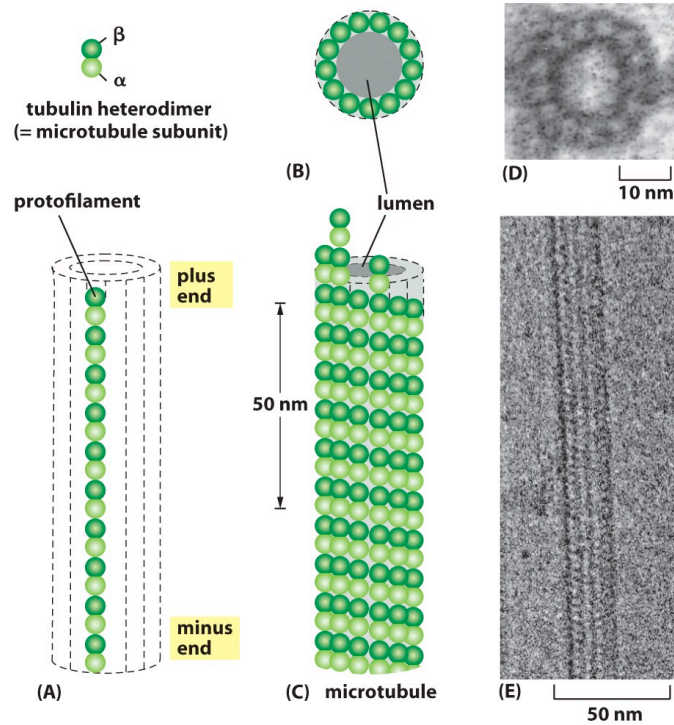


Figure 17-9 Essential Cell Biology 3/e (© Garland Science 2010)

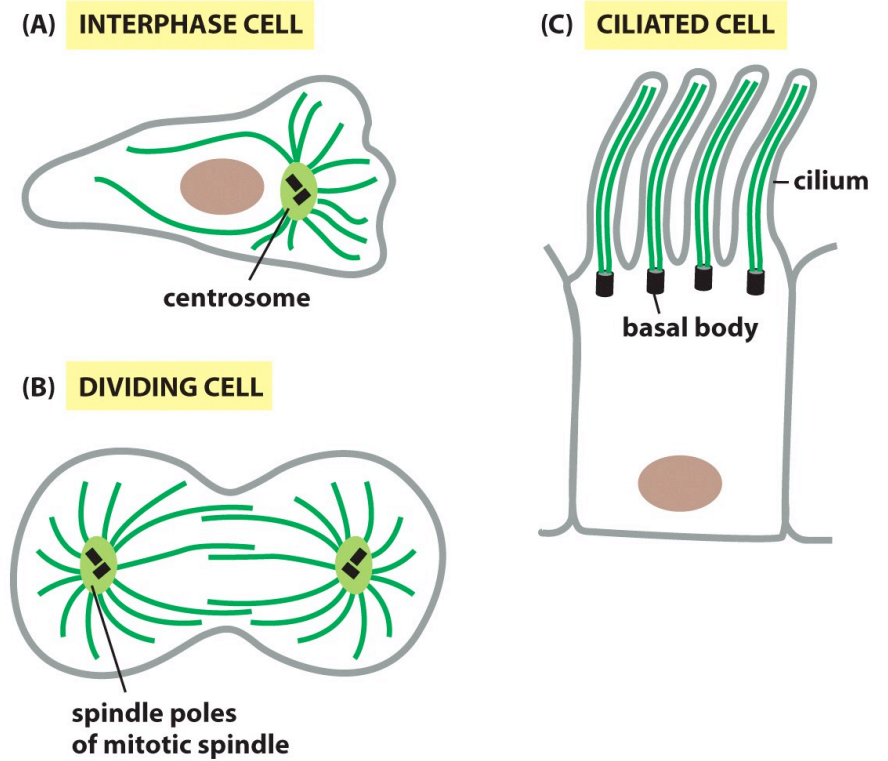
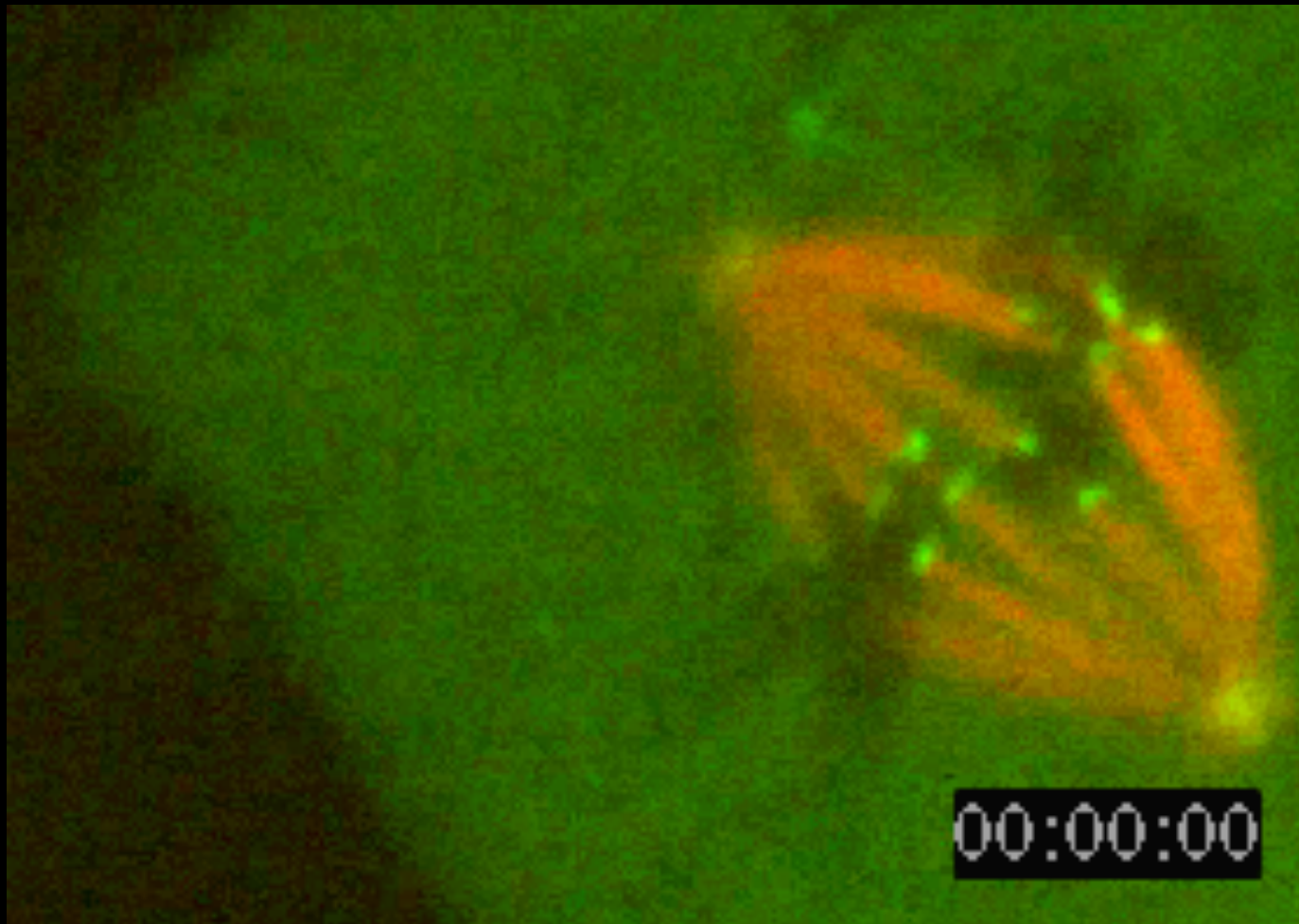


Figure 17-8 Essential Cell Biology 3/e (© Garland Science 2010)

Microtubule Dynamics in the Mitotic Spindle



Cimini and Salmon, Current Biology, 2004

Oosawa 1D Model

J. theor. Biol. (1970) **27**, 69–86

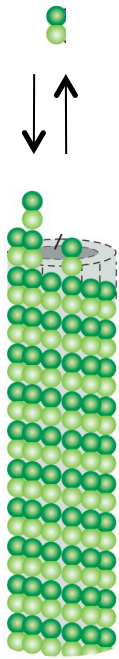
Size Distribution of Protein Polymers

FUMIO OOSAWA

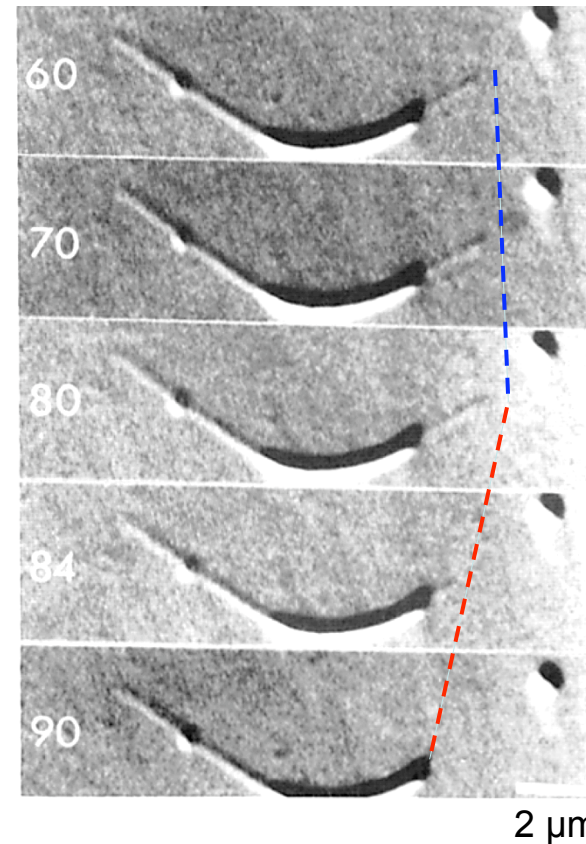
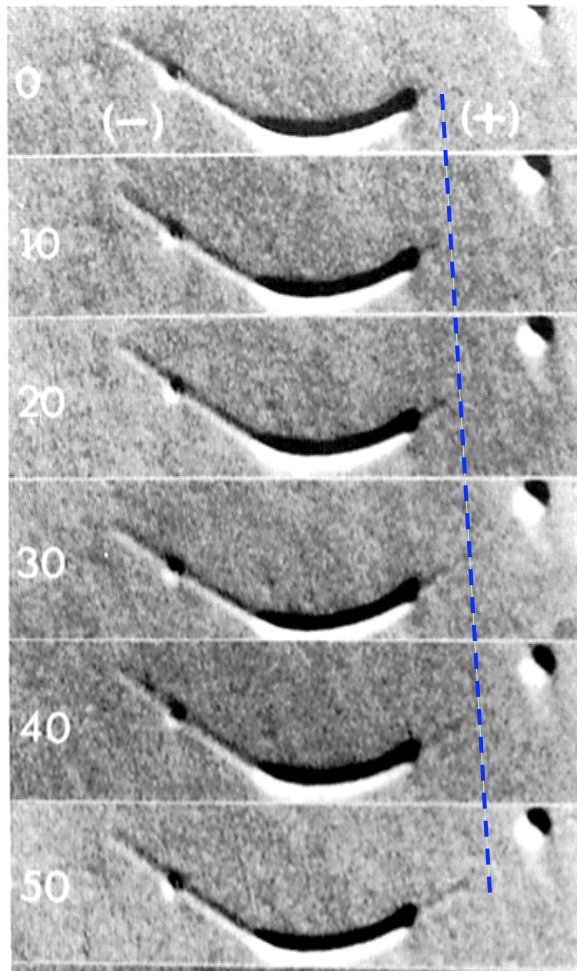
*Institute of Molecular Biology, Faculty of Science,
Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan*

$$dc_p/dt = (k_+ c_1 - k_-)m$$

$$V_G = k_{on} [tubulin] - k_{off}$$

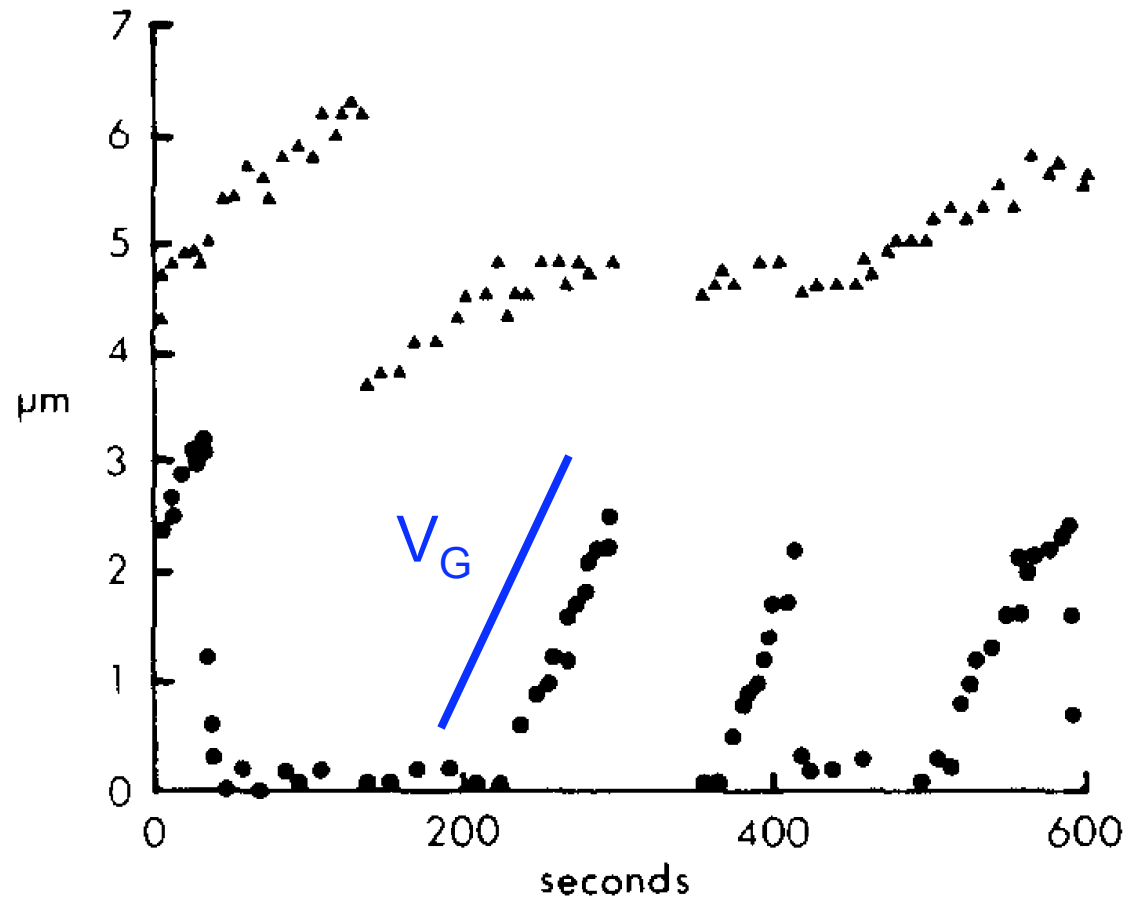


Direct Observation of MT Dynamic Instability In Vitro by Light Microscopy



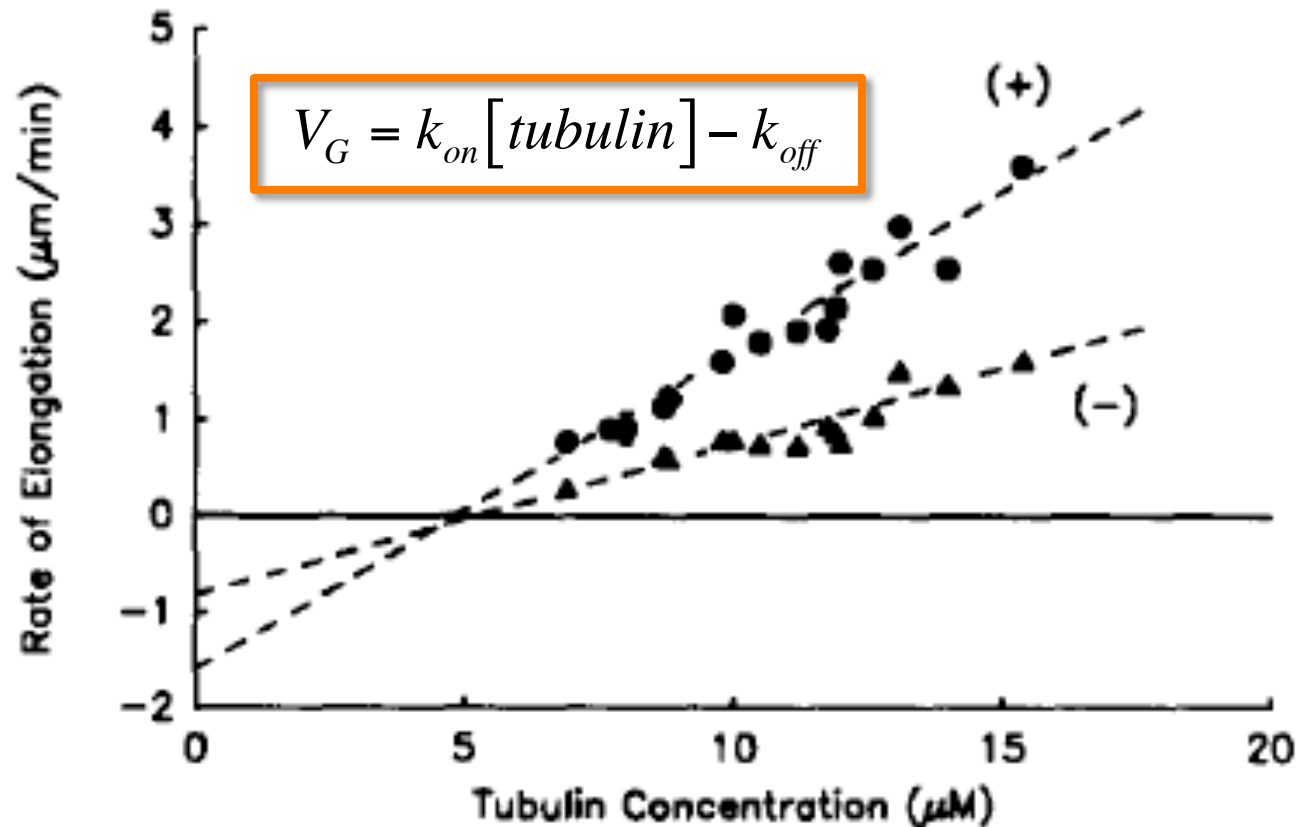
Walker et al., J Cell Biology, 1988
(see also *Horio and Hotani, Nature, 1986*)

Direct Observation of MT Assembly In Vitro by Light Microscopy



Walker et al., JCB, 1988

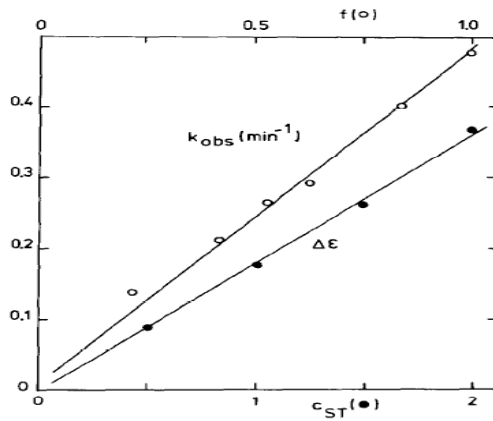
Microtubule Growth Rate: 1D Model



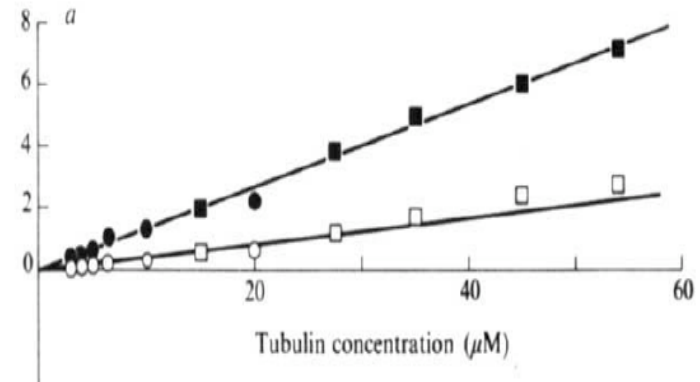
Walker et al., JCB, 1988

Success of the 1D Model

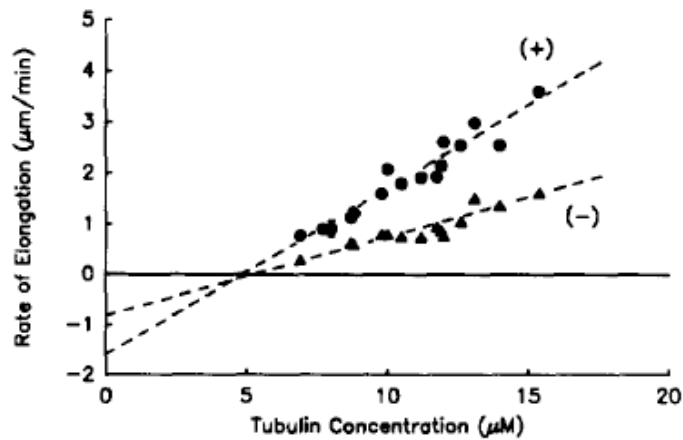
Engelborghs et al. (1977)



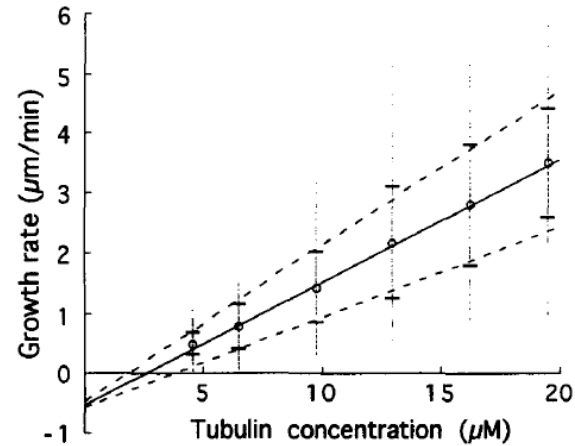
Mitchison and Kirschner (1984)



Walker et al., J Cell Biol (1988)



Chretien et al., J Cell Biol (1995)



Kinetics of Microtubule Assembly: 1D model

Source	On-Rate Constant $\mu\text{M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}\text{MT}^{-1}$	Off-Rate Constant $\text{s}^{-1}\text{MT}^{-1}$
Engelborghs et al. (1977)	3.9±1.8	25.7±7.1
Bergan & Borisy (1980)	7.2	17
Farrell & Jordan (1982)	1.00±0.36	2.00±0.18
Carlier, Hill, and Chen (1984)	4.2	2.3
Mitchison & Kirschner (1984)	3.82	0.37
Gard & Kirschner (1987)	1.4	--
Walker et al. (1988)	8.9±0.3	44±14
O'Brien et al. (1990)	6.8	25-30
Drechsel et al. (1992)	3	0.1
Trinczek et al. (1993)	6.9±0.5	32±6.0
Hyman et al. (GMPCPP) (1992)	5	0.1
Chretien et al. (1995)	5.7	14.1
Brouhard et al. (GMPCPP) (2008)	4.9±2.3	0.49±0.12
Mean	4.8	15.0

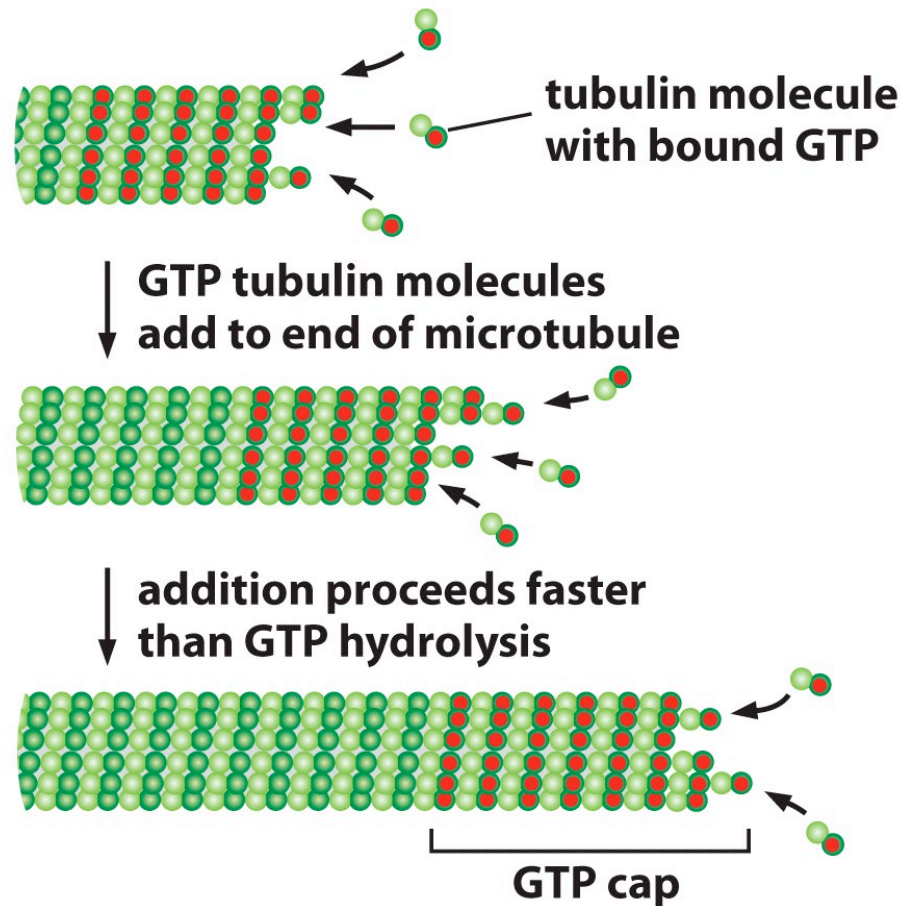
$$k_{\text{on}} \approx 5 \mu\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1} \text{MT}^{-1}$$

1D model

At 10 μM tubulin:

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 k_{\text{on}}^* & = & k_{\text{on}}[\text{tub}] = +50 \text{ s}^{-1} \\
 k_{\text{off}} & = & -10 \text{ s}^{-1} \\
 \text{net} & = & \underline{+40 \text{ s}^{-1}}
 \end{array}$$

Consequences of the 1D Model

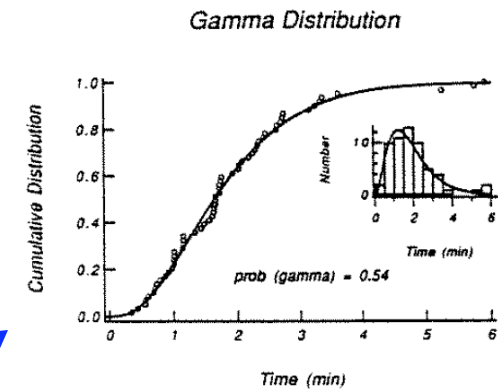
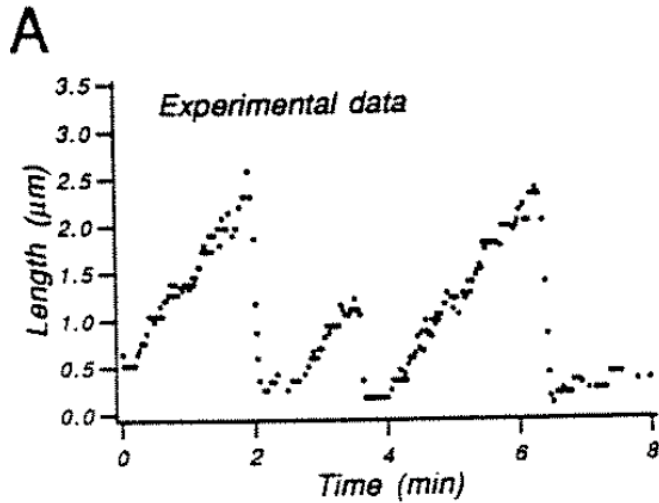


GROWING MICROTUBULE

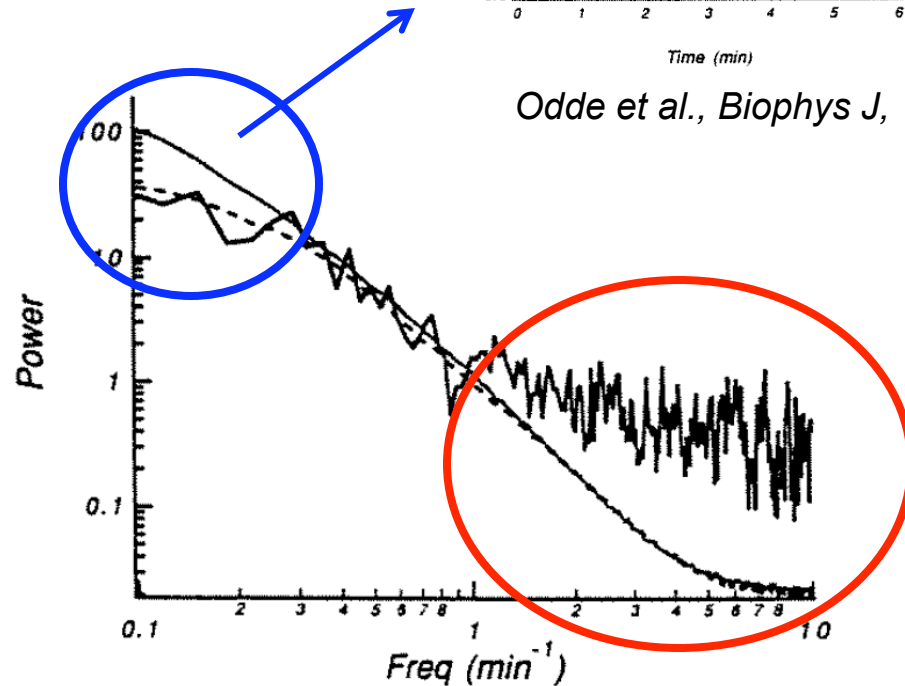
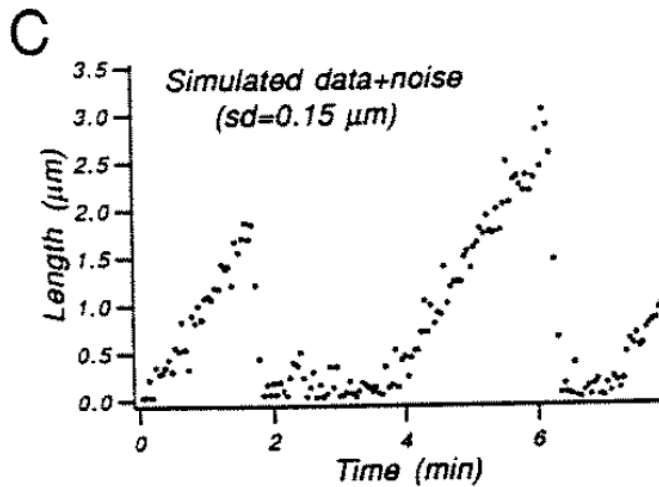
At 10 μM tubulin:	
$k_{\text{on}}^* = k_{\text{on}}[\text{tub}] =$	$+50 \text{ s}^{-1}$
$k_{\text{off}} =$	-10 s^{-1}
net =	$\frac{-10 \text{ s}^{-1}}{+40 \text{ s}^{-1}}$

How is assembly regulated by MAPs and drugs?

Problems with 1D model?



Odde et al., *Biophys J*, 1995



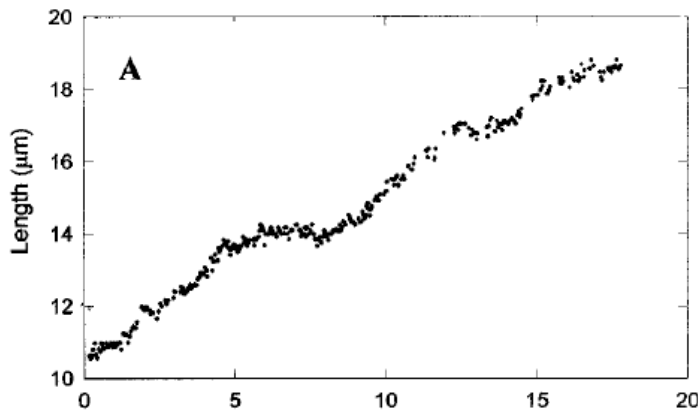
Long times

Short times

Odde et al., *AIChE J*, 1996

Questions raised by 1D model

- Why is the assembly rate so variable within a growth phase?



See also:

- Gildersleeve et al., JBC, 1992
- Odde et al., AIChE J, 1996
- Pedigo et al., Biophys J, 2002
- Schek, Gardner et al., Curr Biol, 2007

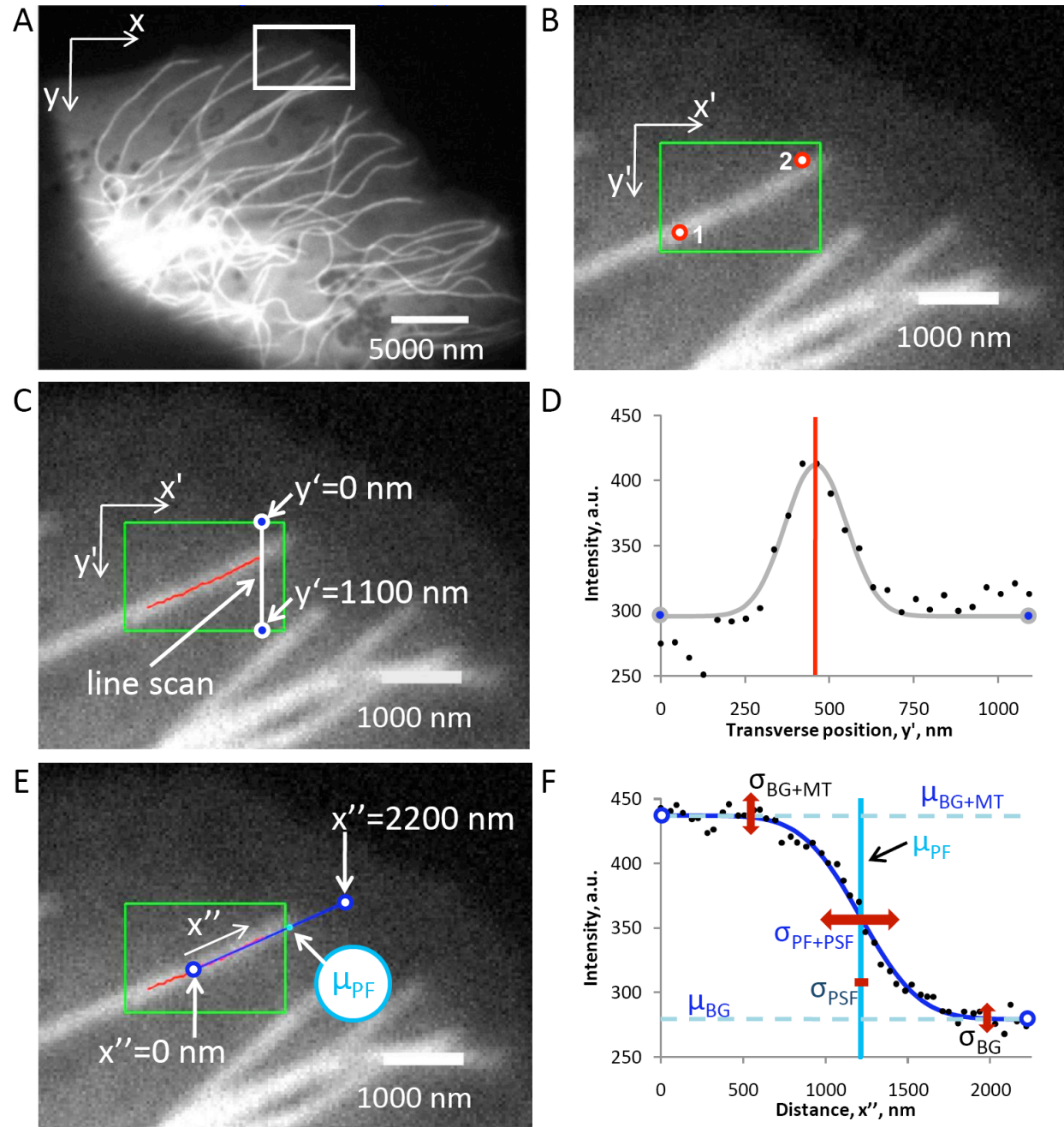
Dye and Williams, Biochemistry, 1996

Source	Resolution	Nucleotide
Dye and Williams, 1996	115 nm	GMPCPP
Schek, Gardner et al., 2007	4 nm	GTP
<i>Not yet done (?)</i>	<i>4 nm</i>	<i>GMPCPP</i>

Microtubule Tip Tracking

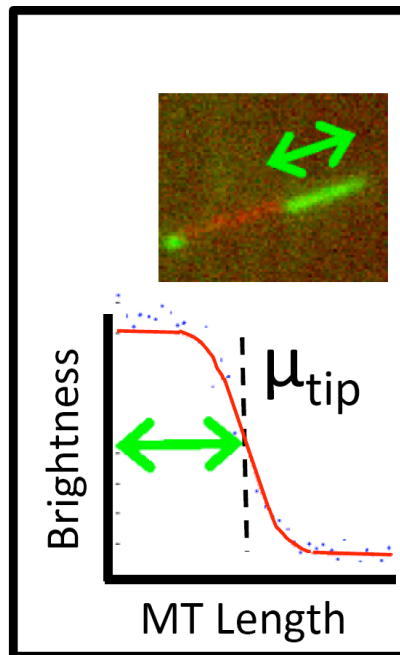
Accuracy: ~ 36 nm

Demchouk et al.,
*Cellular and Molecular
Bioengineering*,
2011



Microtubule Assembly at the Nanoscale

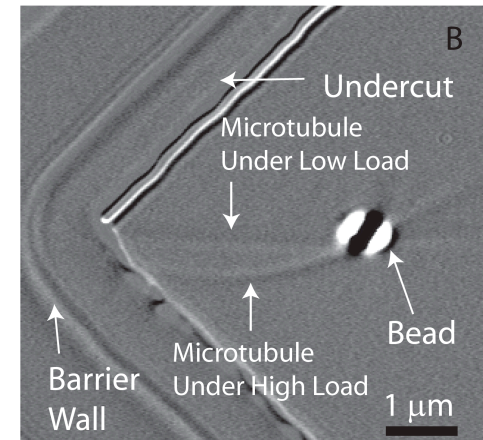
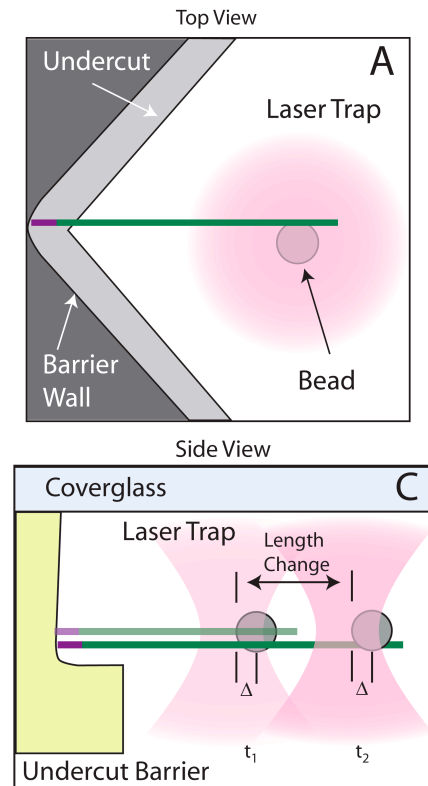
TIRF Microscopy



Demtchouk et al., Cellular and Molecular Bioengineering, 2011

Accuracy: ~11 nm

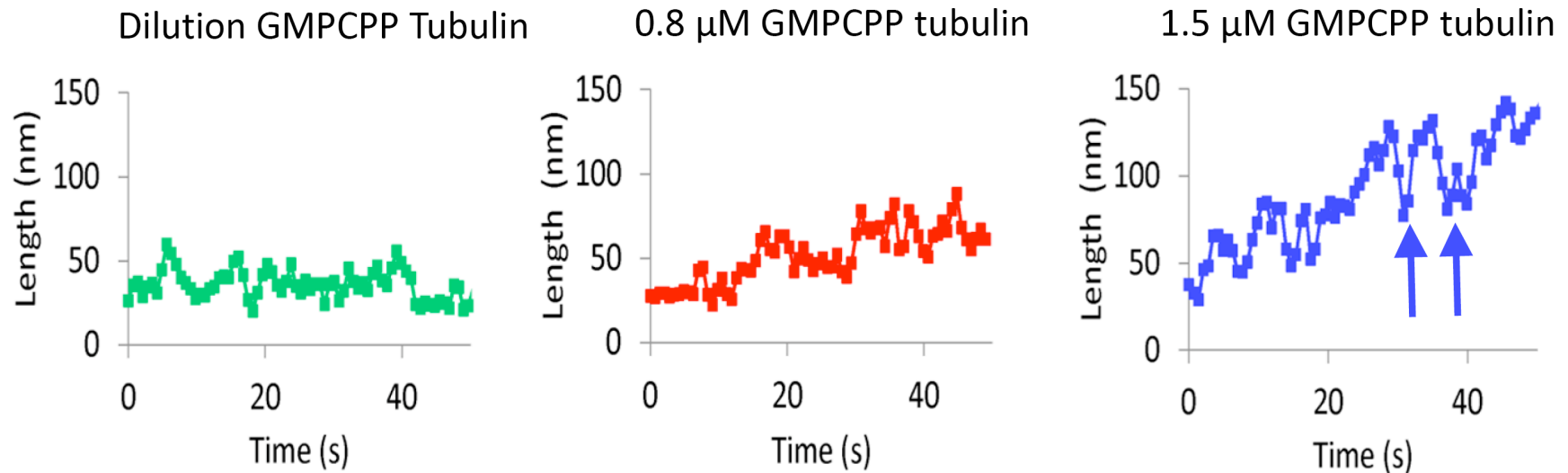
Laser Tweezers



*Schek, Gardner et al.,
Current Biology
2007*

Accuracy: ~4 nm

TIRF: GMPCPP-Microtubule Assembly at the Nanoscale



Gardner et al., Cell, in press

Predictions of the 1D model

For a given time interval τ :

Mean # subunits on: $\lambda_+ = k_{on} [tubulin] \tau$

Mean # subunits off: $\lambda_- = k_{off} \tau$

Increment mean: $\mu = \lambda_+ - \lambda_-$

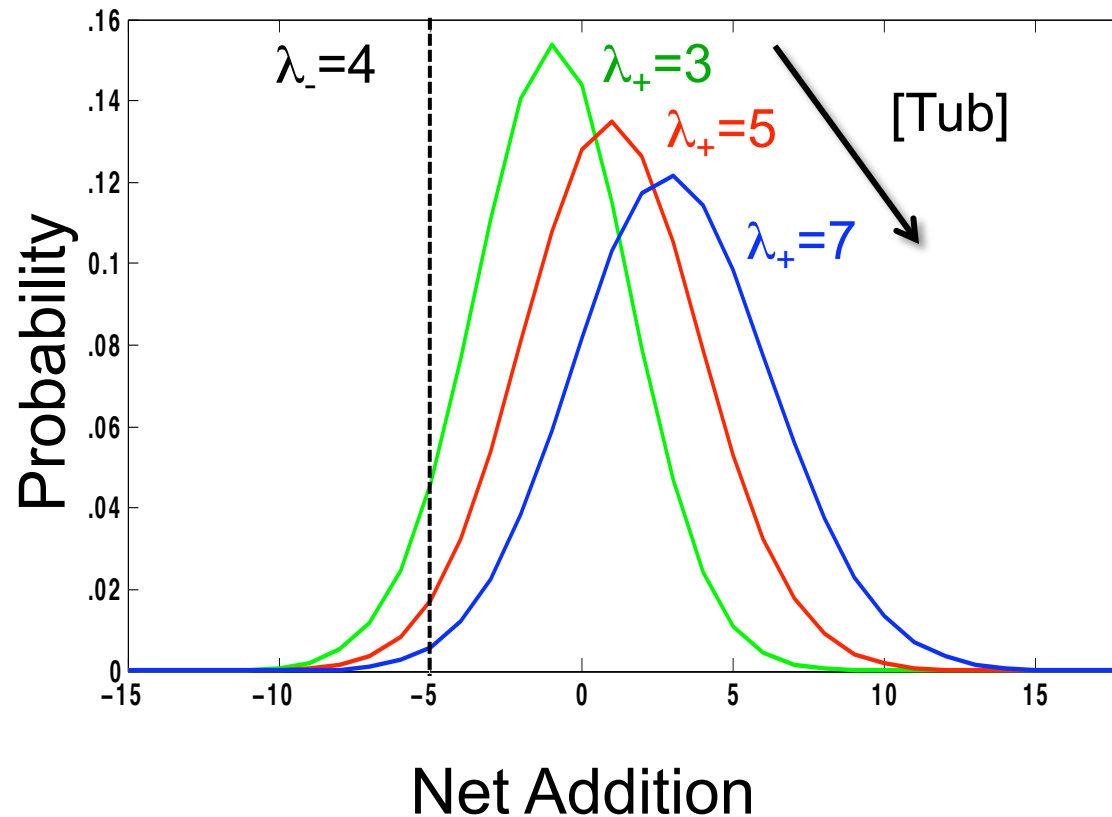
Increment variance: $\sigma^2 = \lambda_+ + \lambda_- \quad \sigma = \sim 2-4 \text{ nm}$

1D model

As $[tubulin]$ increases:

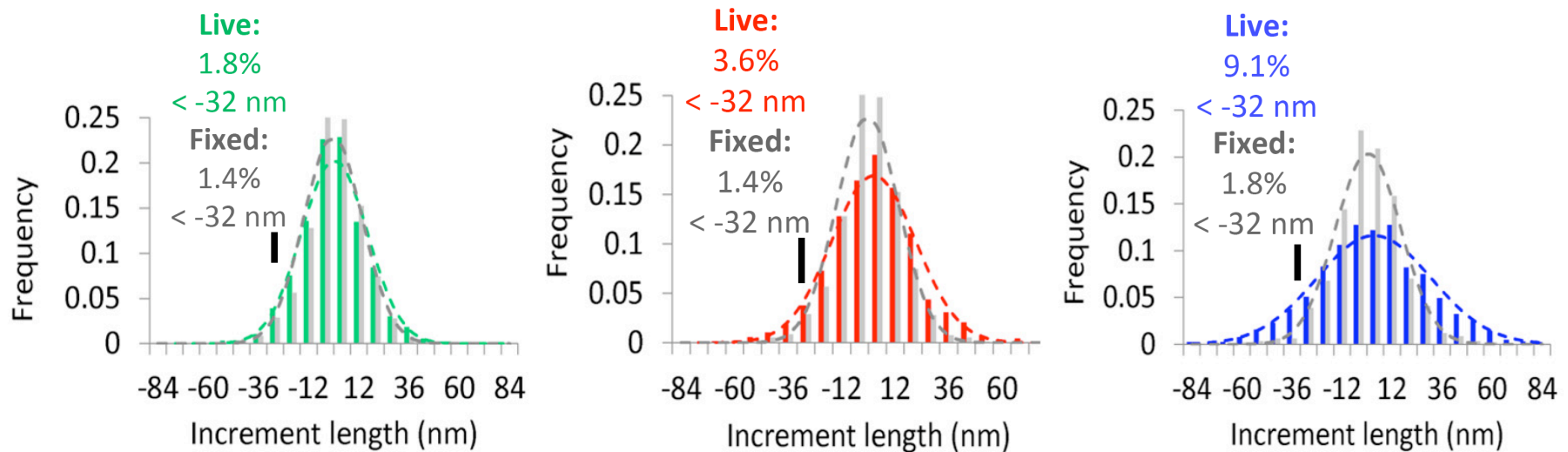
Probability of large negative increment should decrease

Predictions of the 1D model



Skellam, 1946

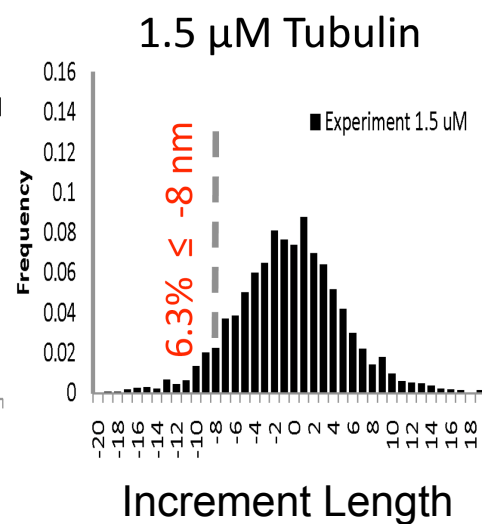
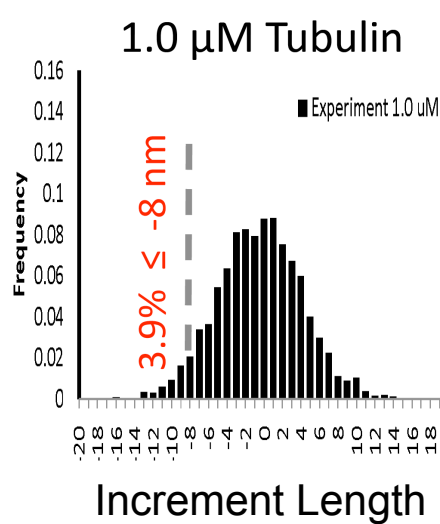
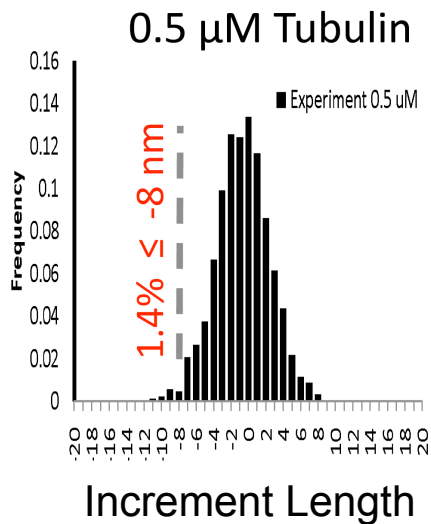
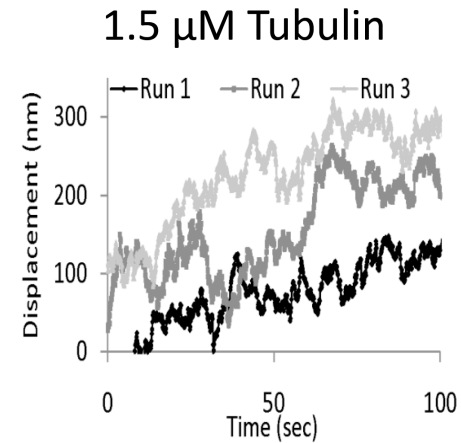
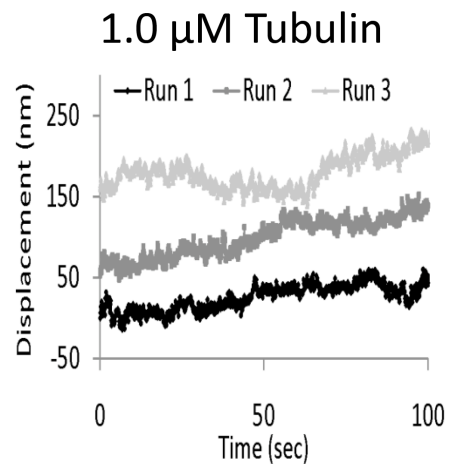
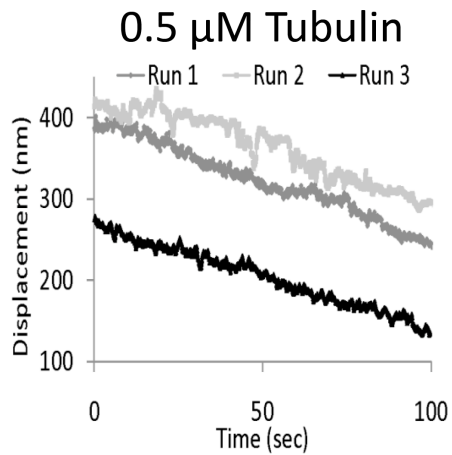
TIRF: Growing GMPCPP-Microtubule Increment Length Distribution



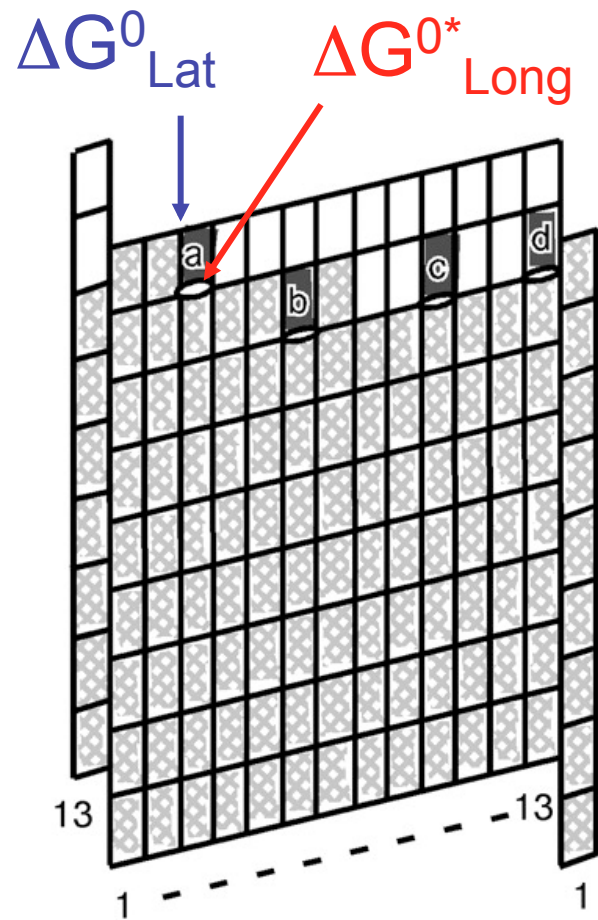
Large *negative* increments are *more* common at higher tubulin concentrations, opposite of **1D model** prediction

Off-rate is increasing with free concentration

Tweezers: GMPCPP-Microtubule Assembly at the Nanoscale



2D Model of Microtubule Assembly



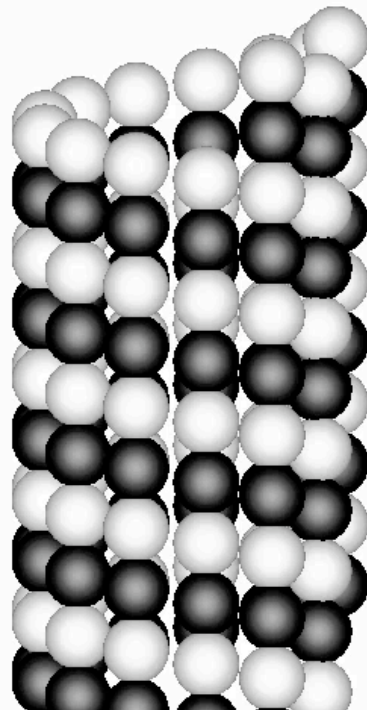
For every PF:

$$k_{on}^* = k_{on} [Tub - GTP]$$

$$k_{off} = k_{on} e^{\sum \Delta G^0 / k_B T}$$

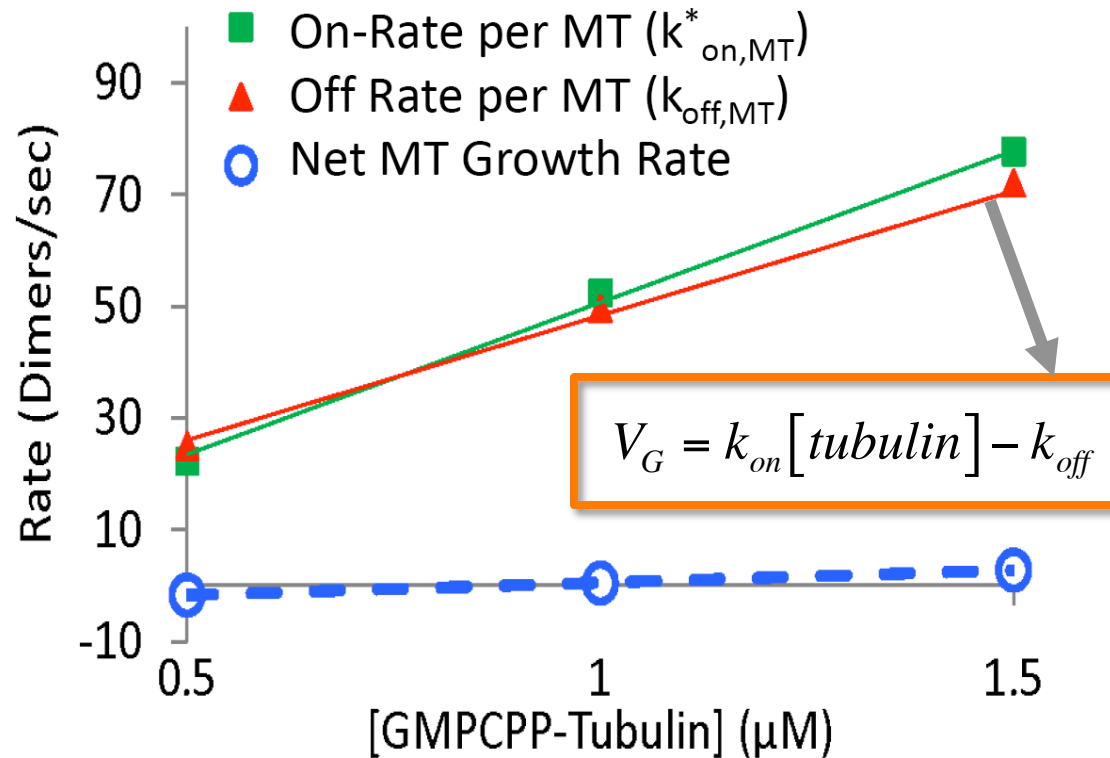
2D Model of Microtubule Assembly

10x slower
than real-
time,
1 sec total



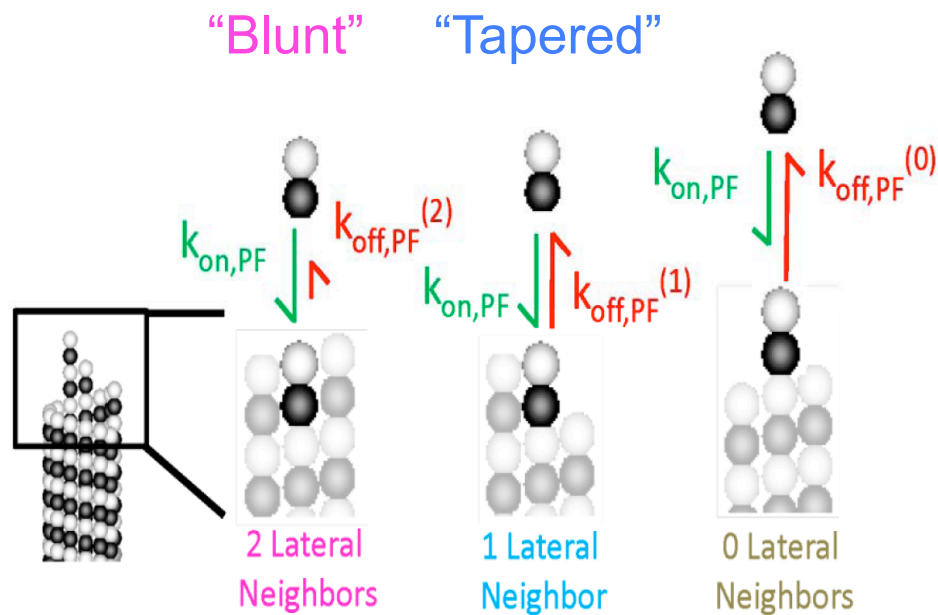
*VanBuren et al.,
PNAS 2002;
Animation by
M. Gardner*

2D Model: k_{off} is *not* constant



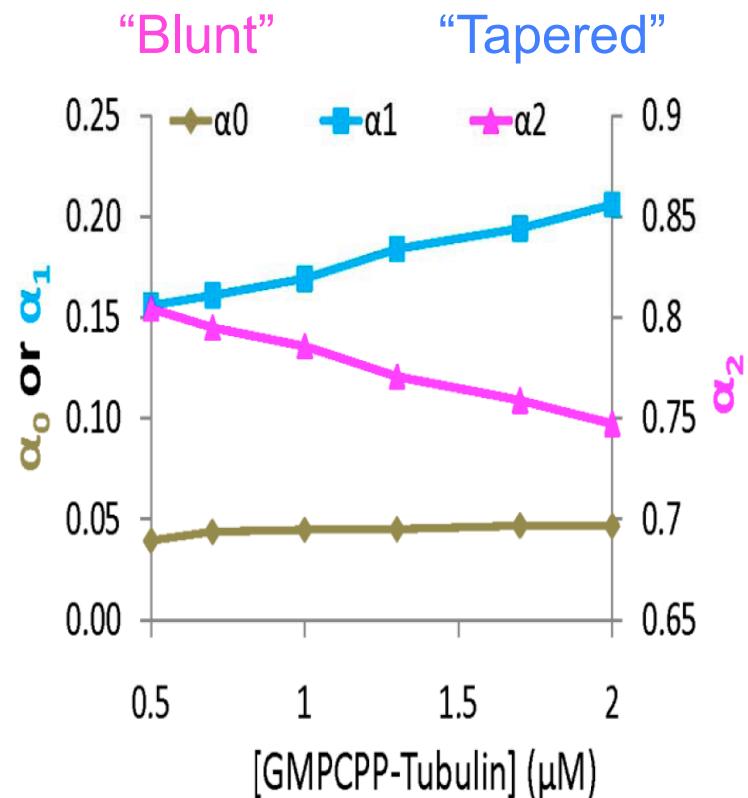
- On and off rates are nearly equal at all concentrations
- 2D model requires a higher on-rate constant than 1D model

2D Model tip structures: From 2 lateral neighbors to 1 lateral neighbor



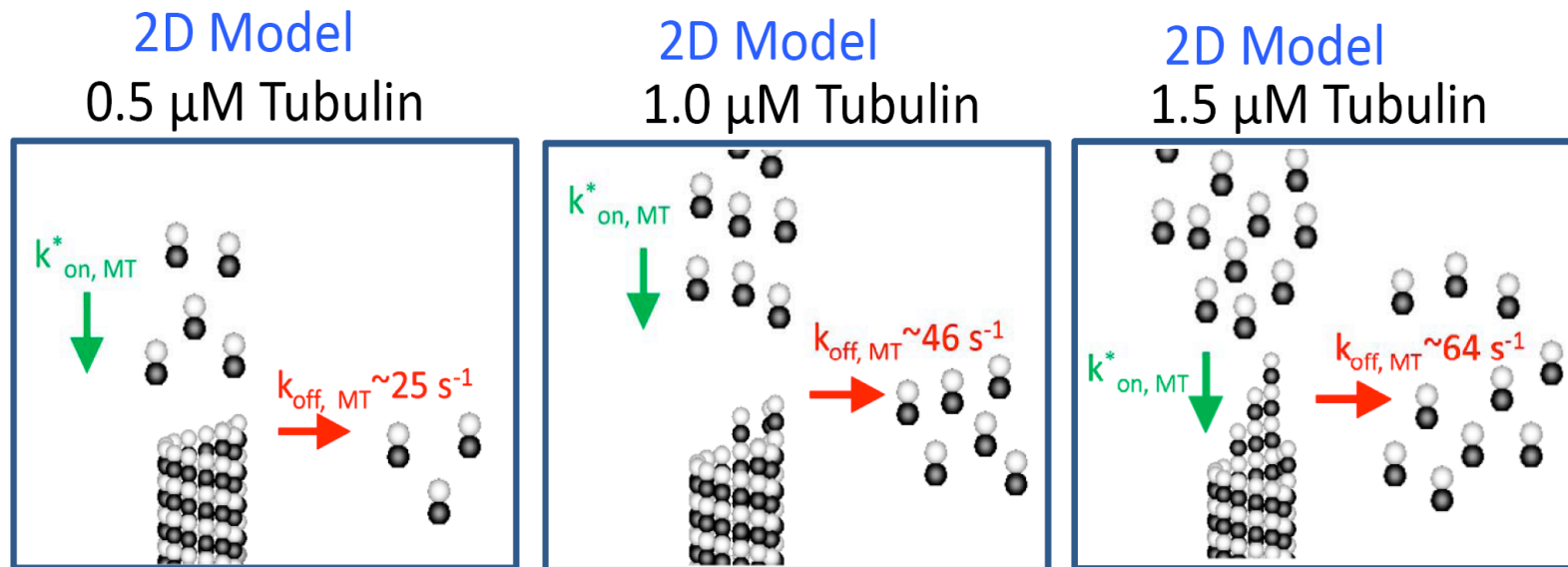
$$\langle k_{off, PF} \rangle = \alpha_2 k_{off, PF}^{(2)} + \alpha_1 k_{off, PF}^{(1)} + \alpha_0 k_{off, PF}^{(0)}$$

$$k_{off, MT} = N_{PF} \langle k_{off, PF} \rangle$$



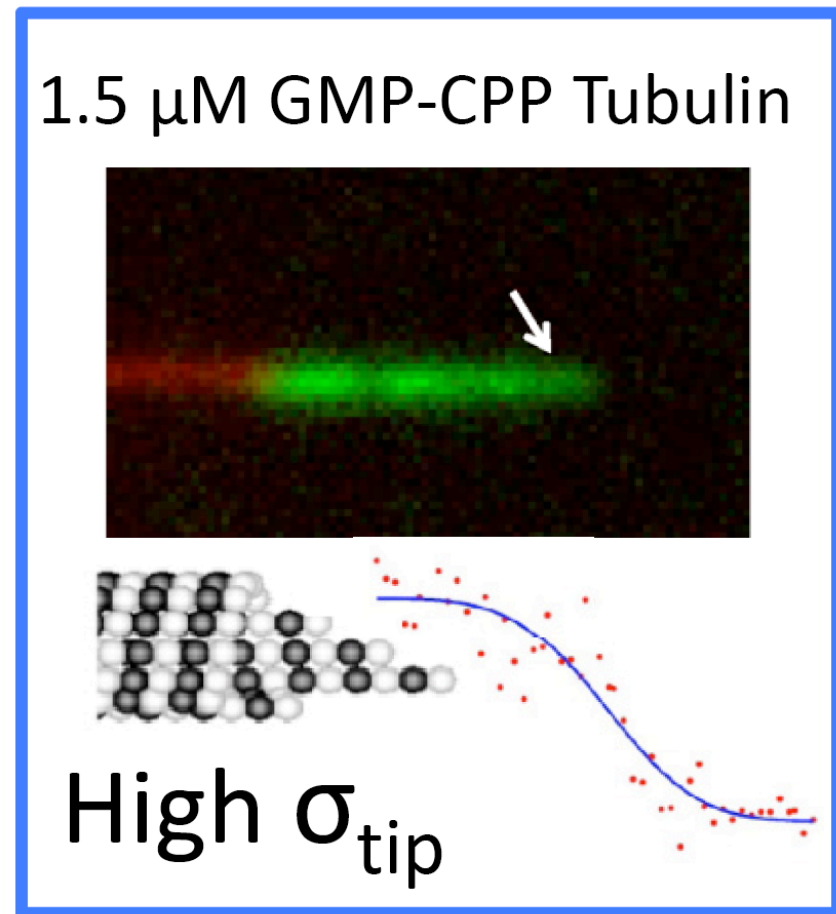
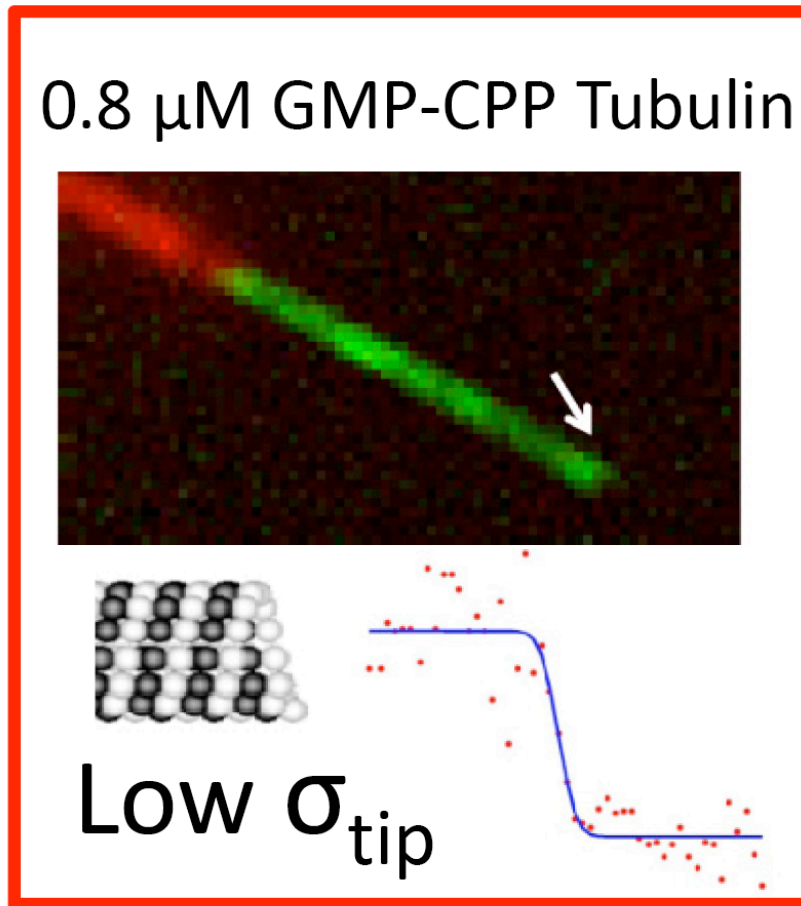
Gardner et al., Cell, in press

2D Model: MT tips are more tapered at higher tubulin concentrations



Gardner et al., Cell, in press

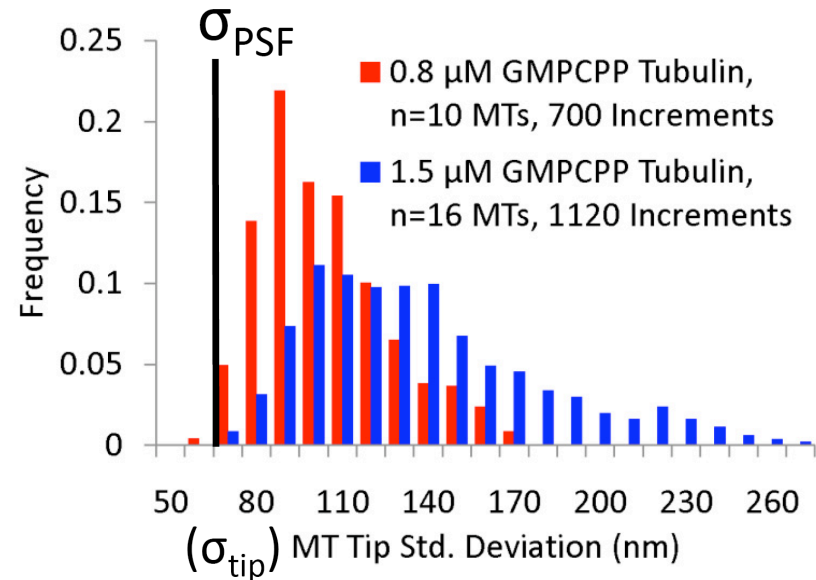
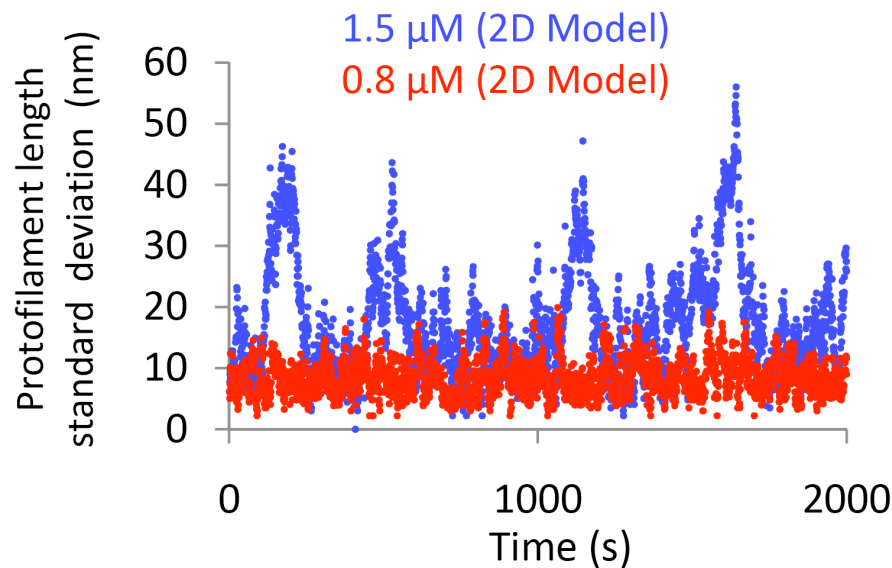
TIRF: Measuring Tip Structure Variance



Demchouk et al., Cellular and Molecular Bioengineering, 2011

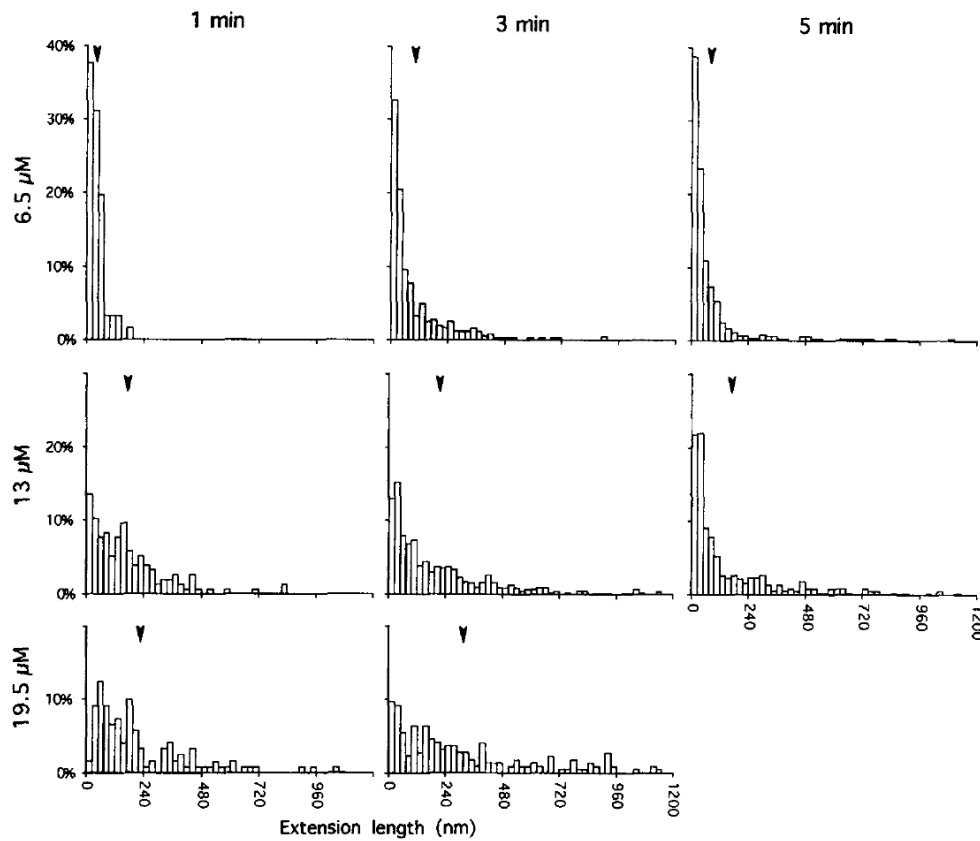
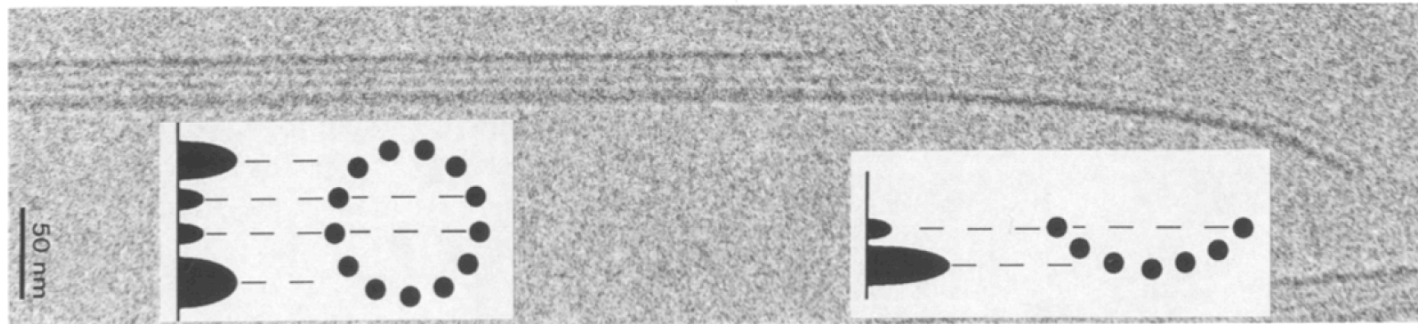
Gardner et al., Cell, in press

TIRF: Measuring Tip Structure Variance



Protofilament lengths are more variable at higher tubulin concentrations, consistent with [2D model](#)

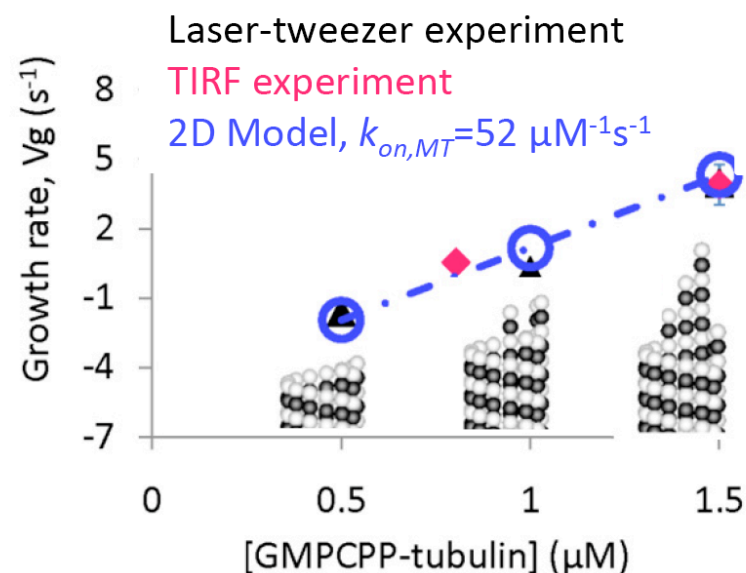
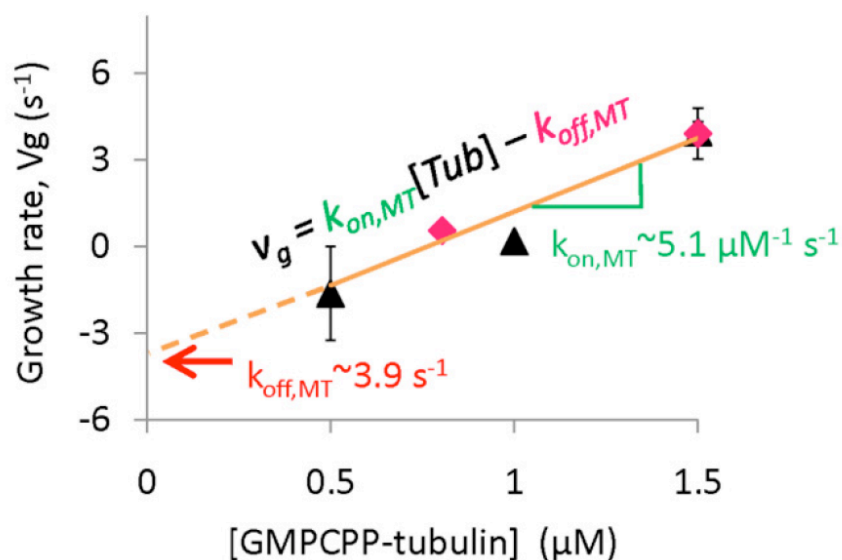
← Taper Length →



Taper length increases with increasing [tubulin]

Chretien et al., J Cell Biology, 1995

Net growth rate: 1D model v. 2D model



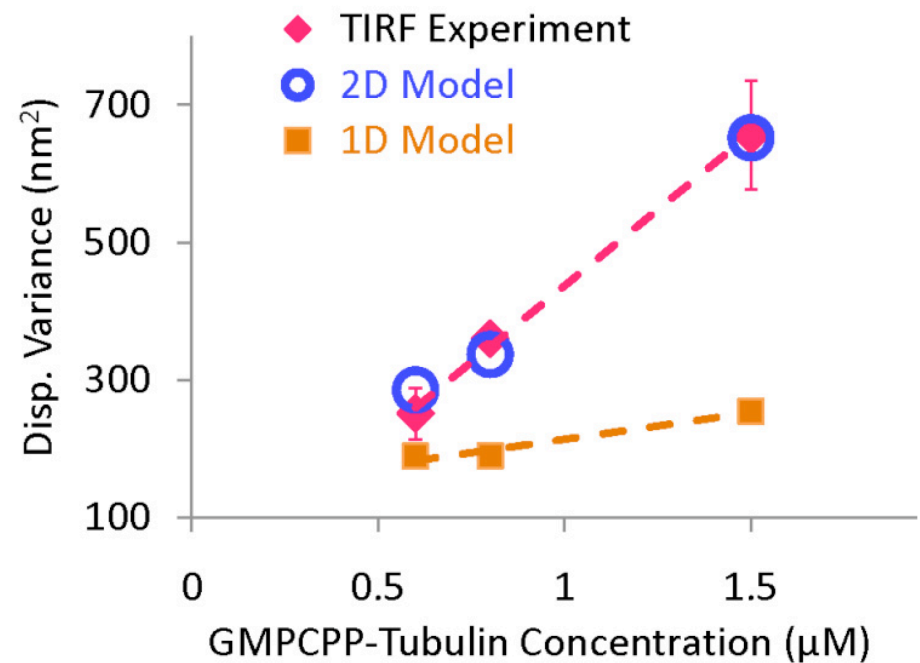
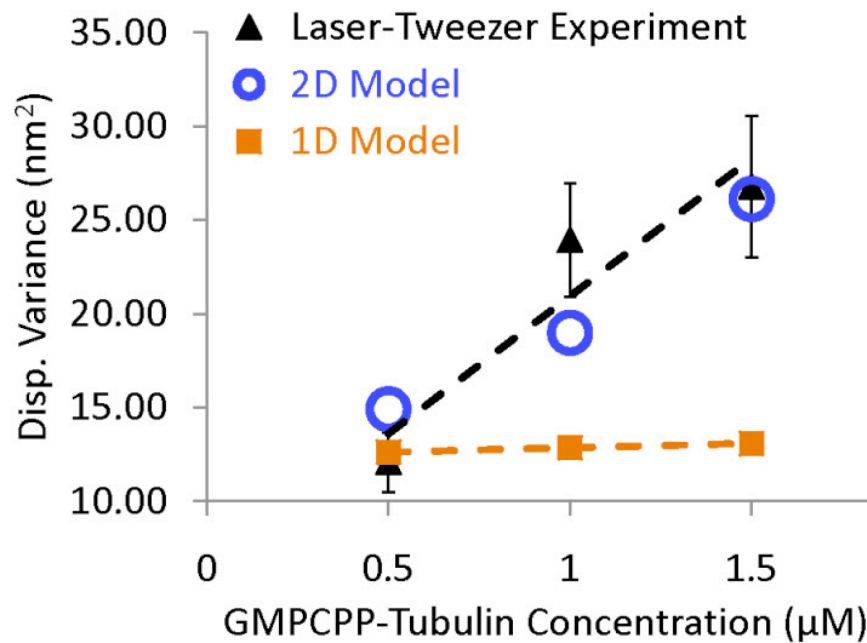
At 1 μM GMPCPP-tubulin: **1D model**

k_{on}^*	= $k_{on}[tub]$ =	+5 s^{-1}
k_{off}	=	<u>-4 s^{-1}</u>
net	=	+1 s^{-1}

At 1 μM GMPCPP-tubulin: **2D model**

k_{on}^*	= $k_{on}[tub]$ =	+52 s^{-1}
k_{off}	=	<u>-51 s^{-1}</u>
net	=	+1 s^{-1}

Growth rate variance: 1D model v. 2D model



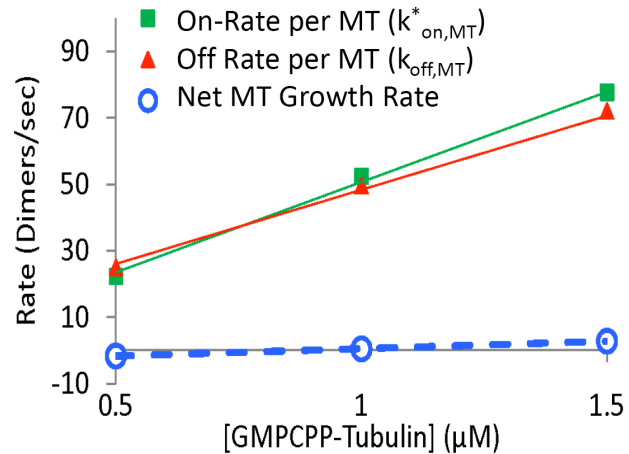
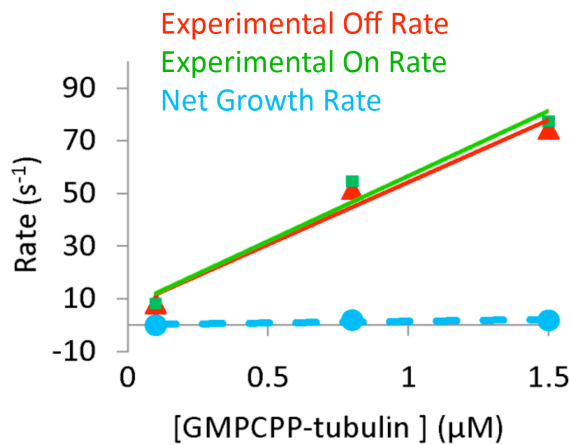
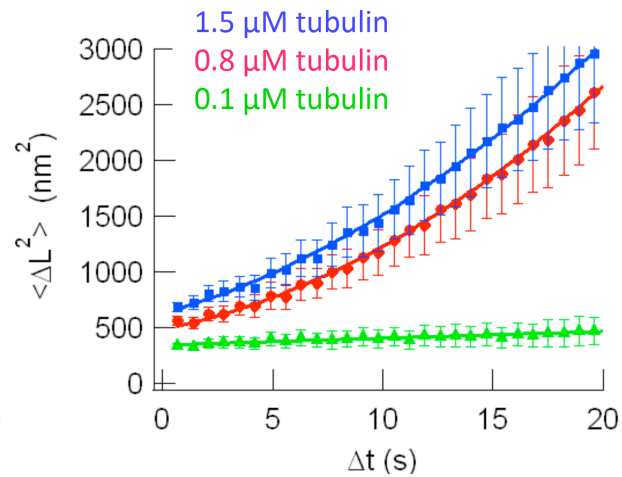
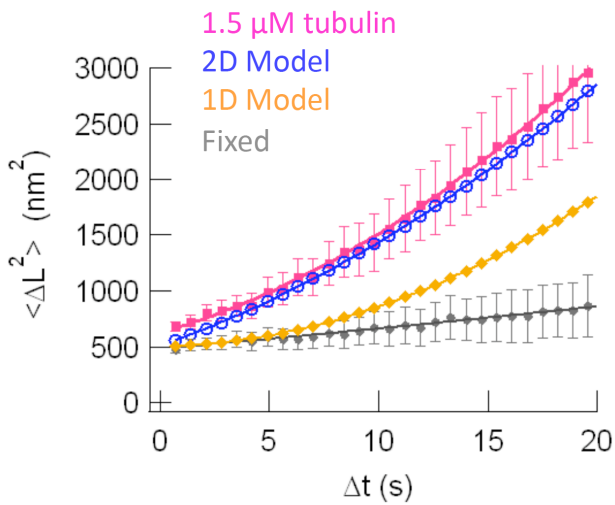
Gardner et al., Cell, in press

Estimation of GMPCPP-tubulin on and off rates

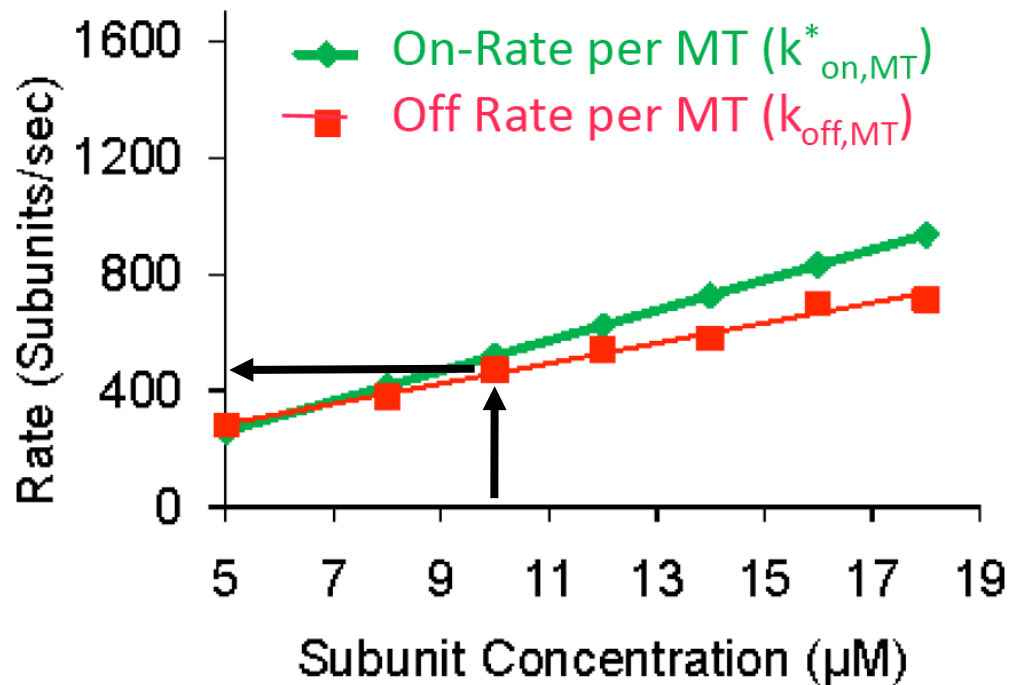
$$\langle \Delta L^2 \rangle = \sigma_0 + 2Dt + v^2 t^2$$

$$D = a^2(k_{on}^* + k_{off})/2$$

$$v = k_{on}^* - k_{off}$$



Predicted near 1 kHz kinetics of GTP-tubulin MT assembly in vitro

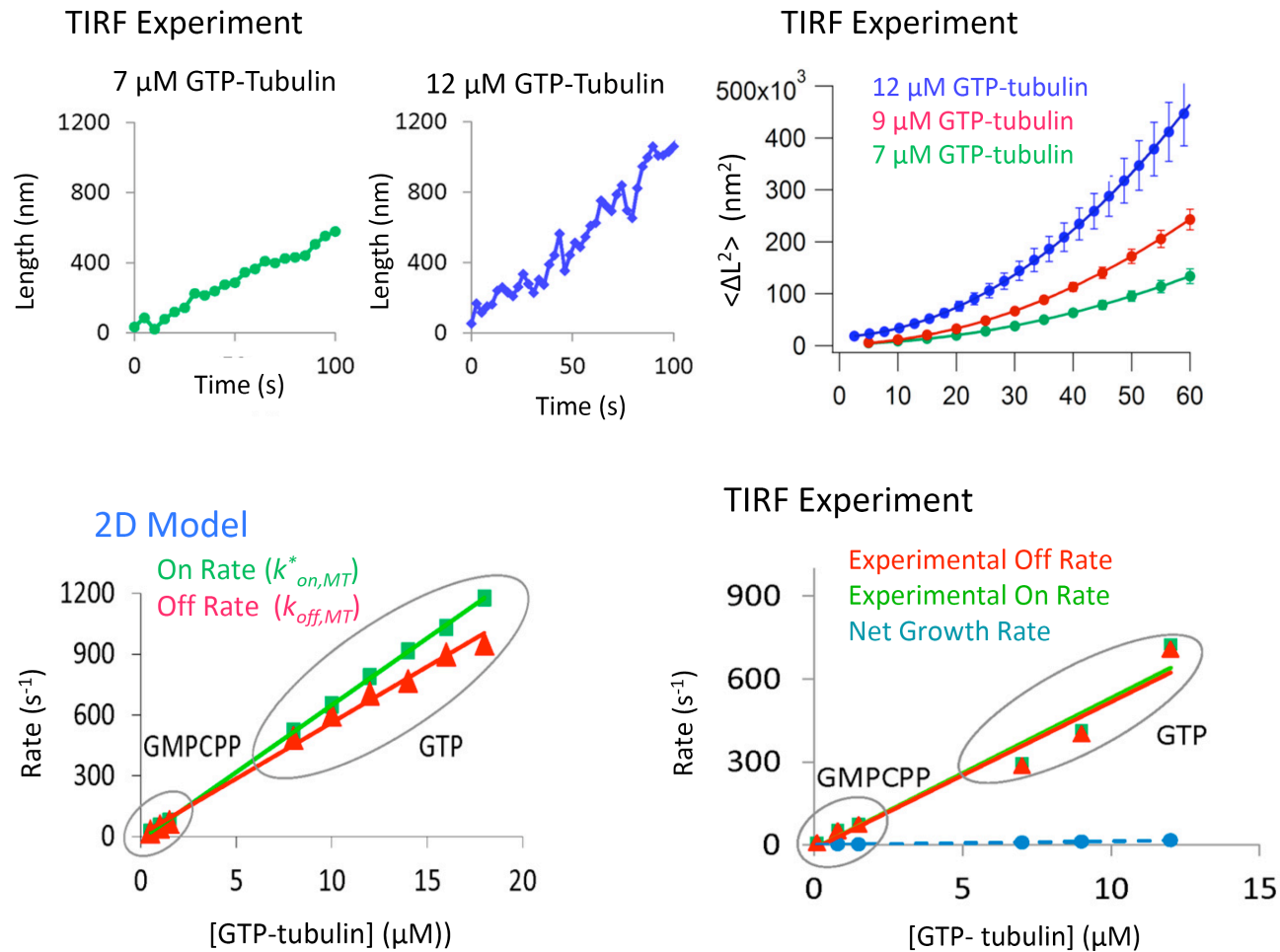


At 10 μM GTP-tubulin: 2D model

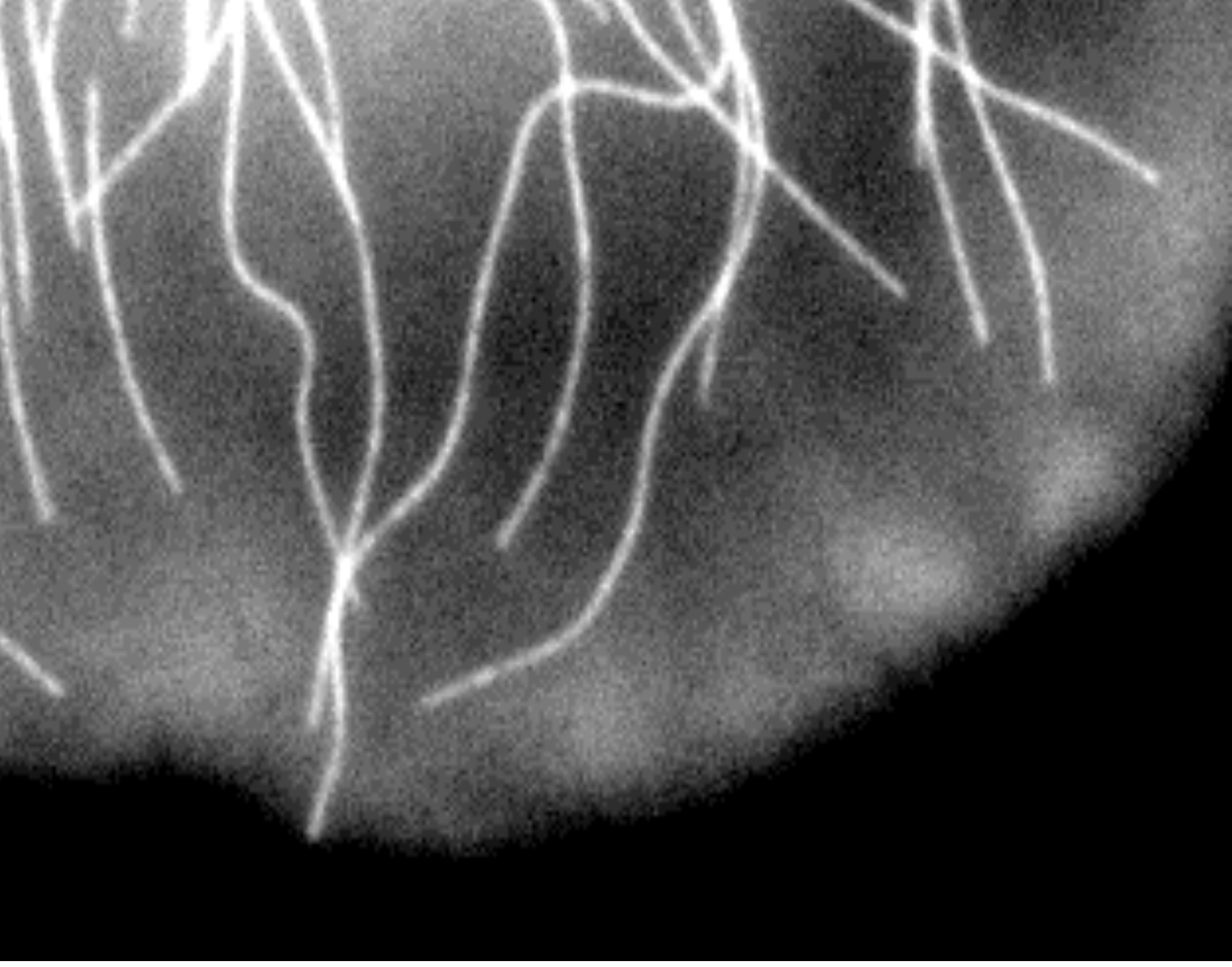
k_{on}^*	= $k_{on}[\text{tub}]$	=	+520 s^{-1}
k_{off}	=		- 480 s^{-1}
net	=		<u>+40 s^{-1}</u>

$$520 \text{ s}^{-1} + 480 \text{ s}^{-1} = 1000 \text{ events/s} = 1 \text{ kHz}$$

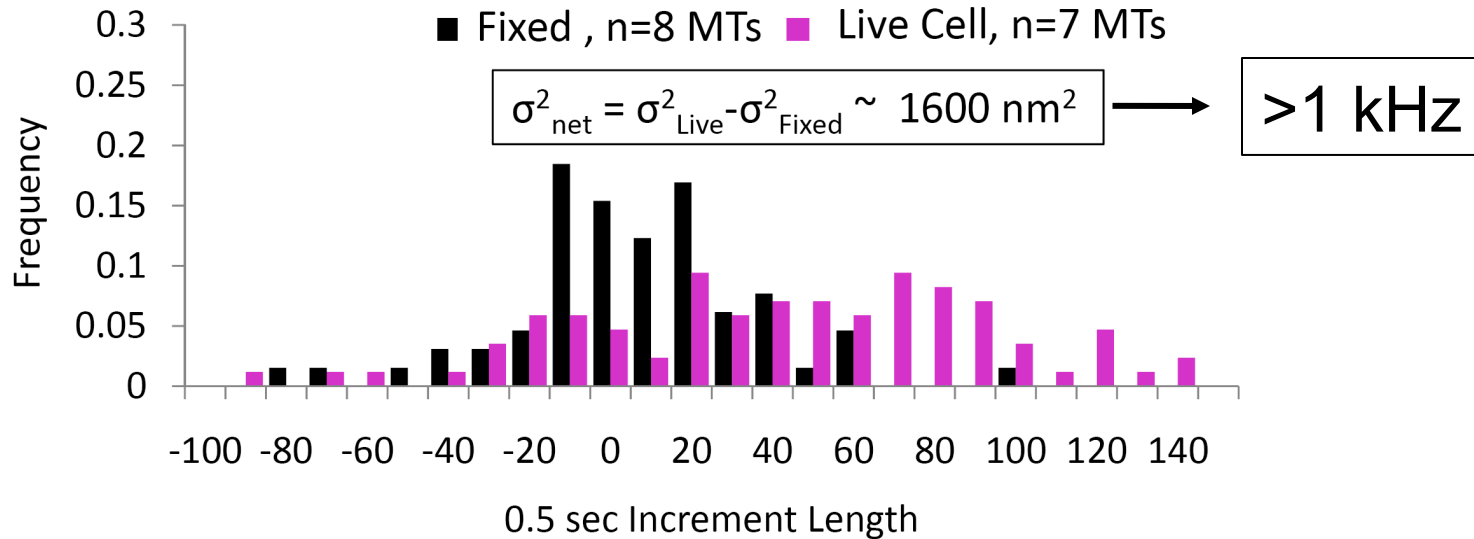
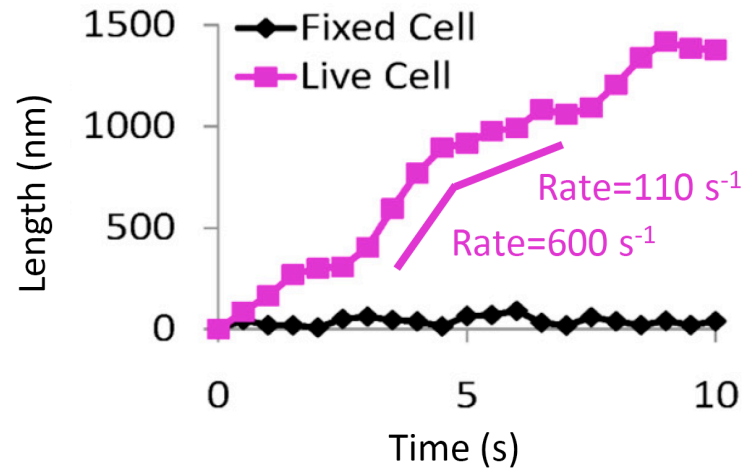
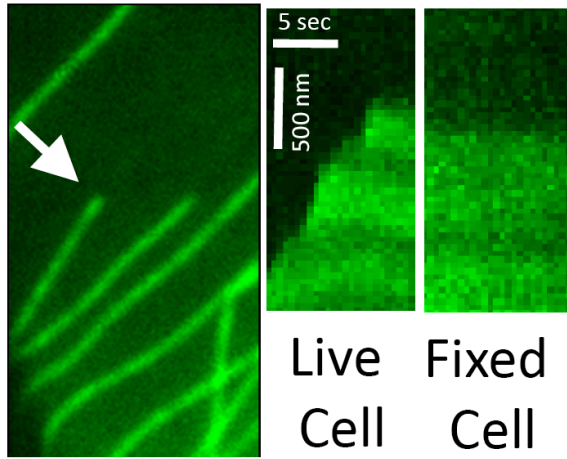
Kinetics of GTP-tubulin in vitro



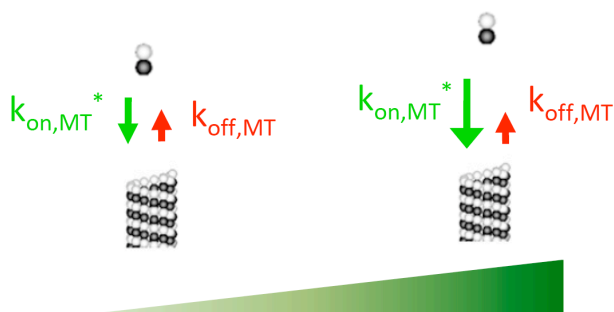
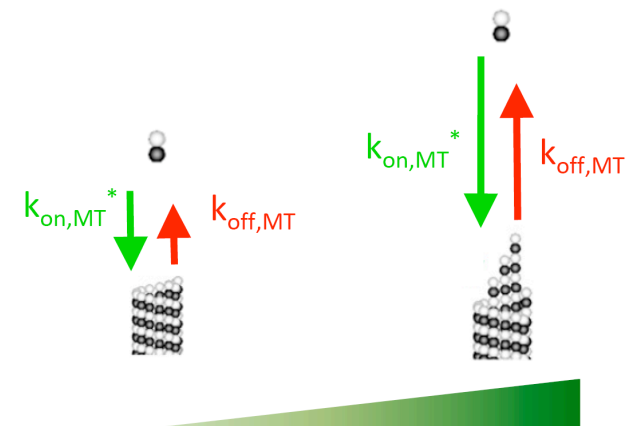
Gardner et al., Cell, in press



In Vivo Kinetics of MT Assembly



The Kinetics of Microtubule Assembly

	Previously	This Study
$k_{on,MT}$	$\sim 5 \mu M^{-1}s^{-1}$	$\sim 58 \pm 4 \mu M^{-1}s^{-1}$
$k_{off,MT}$	Constant	Concentration Dependent
Kinetics	<p>Slow Kinetics</p>  <p>Increasing Tubulin Concentration</p>	<p>Rapid Tip-State Dependent Kinetics</p>  <p>Increasing Tubulin Concentration</p>

Gardner et al., Cell, in press

Conclusions

- **1D model (Oosawa)** is problematic when applied to multiprotofilament polymers: k_{off} is not constant
- **1D model** parameters are not physically meaningful
- **2D model** captures mean and variance with consistent parameters, and predicts tip structures
- Tubulin on and off rates are **10-fold higher** than previously estimated
- Tubulin on and off rates are nearly equal at all tubulin concentrations
- Rates of addition-loss at 10 μ M GTP-tubulin are estimated to be **~ 1 kHz**
- In vivo kinetics are at least as rapid as in vitro kinetics (**> 1 kHz**)
- **Regulation via MAPs and drugs requires only weak or infrequent alteration of off-rate via alteration of lateral or longitudinal bonds**