Bioorthogonal Chemistry: Enabling nCAA Protein Labelling 1 A. Manos-Turvey, Wipf Group: Frontiers of Chemistry Jan. 17th, 2015

From the Genome to Proteins

- Pre-genomic era: ended with the completion of the human genome project in 2003
- Genomic era: resulted in the rapid collection of immense databases of genomic sequences
- Post-genomic era: decipher the structural and functional information about biomolecules encoded by the genomic data
 - O 3-4 D structure
 - Dynamics
 - Function



International Human Genome Sequencing Consortium, *Nature*, **2004**, *431*, 931-945 Image: <u>http://www.howscienceismade.com/2013/06/writing-gene-nomenclature.html</u>

Understanding Biology through Chemistry

- The ability to incorporate non-canonical amino acids (nCAAs) into proteins, allowing chemical probes to be synthesised, is aiding this search
- Methods of nCAA incorporation in proteins are well documented
 - Solid phase synthesis
 - Native chemical ligation
 - In vitro translation







Bioorthogonal Chemistry

- To be labelled a bioorthogonal reaction, a reaction must meet several criteria many only meet some of these prescriptions
 - Incorporated functionality + probe react selectively with one another
 - Reactions yield stable covalent linkages with no by-products
 - Reactants must be kinetically, thermodynamically and metabolically stable, and nontoxic, prior to reaction
- Many chemoselective reactions have been found, but few are truly bioorthogonal
 - Many remain restricted to cell surface labelling or in vitro systems
 - Kinetics of the reaction are very important

E.M. Sletten, C.R. Bertozzi, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, **2009**, *48*, 6974-6998 R.K. Lim, Q. Lin, *Chem. Commun.*, **2010**, *46*, 1589-1600

Bioorthogonal Chemistry Kinetics

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- Biological processes are very rapid, bioorthogonal reactions need to be able to compete with these
- Bioorthogonal reactions often follow second-order kinetics and the rate of reaction is dependent upon:
 - o [biomolecule]
 - [labelling reagent]
 - O Second-order rate constant

• Difficulties:

- Target biomolecules are usually in low abundance in their native environment
- Higher conc. of labelling reagents can increase insolubility/chances of off-target effects
- Need reactions which have higher intrinsic rate constants
- Faster chemoselective reactions are needed to increase utility of labelling



Ketone/Aldehyde-Hydrazine/Alkoxylamine Reactions

- Aldehyde and ketone reactions were amongst the first bioorthogonal reactions to be identified
 - Ketones are preferable due to lower general activity under physiological conditions
- Under acidic conditions the carbonyl group is protonated and reacts with amines to form reversible Schiff base





- Can be run at pH 7
- Accelerates the reaction > 40 fold (> 400 at pH 4.5)
- Formation of the aniline schiff base becomes the rate determining step
- Live cell surface labelling has proven successful

A. Dirksen, T.M. Hackeng, P.E. Dawson, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, **2006**, *45*, 7581-7584 J. Rayo, N. Amara, P. Krief, M.M. Meijler, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2011**, *133*, 7469-7475



• Hydrazones and oximes can be hydrolytically cleaved over extended periods of time

A. Dirksen, T.M. Hackeng, P.E. Dawson, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2006, 45, 7581-7584

Ketone/Aldehyde-Hydrazine/Alkoxylamine Reactions

Pictet-Spengler Reaction



Tryptamine

tetrahydrocarboline k₂ ~10⁻⁴ M⁻¹s⁻¹ at pH 4-5

Pictet-Spengler Ligation

Accelerates the reaction in aqueous media



Ketone/Aldehyde-Hydrazine/Alkoxylamine Reactions



Pictet-Spengler Ligation

- Successfully used to label proteins and antibodies
- Shows heightened stability to its oxime counterparts
- Still requires acidic conditions
- Mainly in vitro utility



P. Agarwal, J. van der Weijden, E.M. Sletten, D. Rabuka, C.R. Bertozzi, PNAS, 2013, 110, 46-51

Azide-Phosphine (Staudinger) Reactions

- Azide groups are absent from biological systems
 - o Small in size
 - Stable under physiological conditions
 - React with bioorthogonal triaryl phosphines

Staudinger Reduction



• Need to trap the reaction at the aza-ylide intermediate

K. Lang, J.W. Chin, Chem. Rev., 2014, 4764-4806

Azide-Phosphine (Staudinger) Reactions

Staudinger Ligation

- Intermediate aza-ylide undergoes intramolecular formation to give an amide
 - A electrophilic trap was incorporated into the phosphine
 - Stable under physiological conditions
 - Reacts with bioorthogonal triaryl phosphines ($k_2 = 10^{-3} M^{-1}s^{-1}$)



Azide-Phosphine (Staudinger) Reactions 15 **Staudinger Ligation** ÇO2 OH (1) Inject Ac₄ManNAz solution for 7 days SiaNAz (2) Isolate splenocytes AcO_H AcO AcO OAc Ac₄ManNAz (1) Staudinger ligation OCH₃ -O2C - KDDDDKYD PPh₂ O Flag Phos-Flag

Azide-Phosphine (Staudinger) Reactions

Traceless Staudinger Ligation

- Final amide-linked product does not contain a phosphine oxide group
- Useful in the synthesis of peptides
 - Does not require a cysteine residue (unlike NCL)



General Difficulties

- Slow kinetics (10⁻³ M⁻¹s⁻¹)
 - Requires high [labelling reagent]
- Increasing nucleophilicity of phosphines leads to oxidation

E. Saxon, J.L. Armstrong, C.R. Bertozzi, *Org. Lett.*, **2000**, *2*, 2141-2143 K. Lang, J.W. Chin, *Chem. Rev.*, **2014**, 4764-4806

- Azide groups are absent from biological systems
 - Small in size
 - Stable under physiological conditions
 - React with physiologically stable alkynes

Copper Catalysed Azide-Alkyne 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition (CuACC)



- Requires sufficient Cu(I) to maintain rate of reaction
 - O E. coli stop growing after 16 h of 100 μM CuBr exposure
 - Mammalian cells tolerate < 500 μ M of Cu(I) for ~ 1 h

H.C. Kolb, K.B. Sharpless, *Drug Discovery Today*, **2003**, *8*, 1128-1137 K. Lang, J.W. Chin, *Chem. Rev.*, **2014**, 4764-4806

Copper Catalysed Azide-Alkyne 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition (CuACC)

- Water soluble ligands
 - Reduces cytotoxicity by acting as reductants
 - Has led to faster reaction times, improved kinetics ($k_2 = 10-200 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$)
 - Effective for cell surface labelling



 Reaction conditions: propargyl alcohol (50 μM), 3-azido-7-hydroxycoumarin (100 μM), CuSO₄ (50 μM) ([ligand]/[CuSO4]=6:1), potassium phosphate buffer (0.1 M, pH 7.0)/DMSO=95:5, sodium ascorbate (2.5 mM), rt

C. Besanceney-Webler, H. Jiang, T. Zheng, L. Feng, D. Soriano del Amo *et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, **2011**, *50*, 8051-8056 S.I. Presolski, V. Hong, S.-H. Cho, M.G. Finn, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2010**, *132*, 14570-14576

Copper Catalysed Azide-Alkyne 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition (CuACC)

- Copper-chelating organic azides
 - Raises the effective [Cu(I)] at the reaction site through proximal pyridine N
 - $\,\times\,$ Reaction rate at 10 μM exceeds that of non-chelating variants at 100 μM
 - Can be used in concert with water soluble ligands ([Cu(I)] = 10μ M)
 - Effective for labelling proteins in live cells



K. Lang, J.W. Chin, Chem. Rev., 2014, 4764-4806

Strain-Promoted Alkyne-Azide Cycloaddition (SPAAC)

- **Copper Free**
 - Uses cyclooctynes as reagent Ο
 - Shows no observable cytotoxicity Ο
 - Some are now commercially available Ο









DIBO $k_2 = 5.7 \times 10^{-2} M^{-1} s^{-1}$

 $k_2 = 9 \times 10^{-1} M^{-1} s^{-1}$



Improvements in derivatives has only led to rates Ο of ~0.1 to 1 M⁻¹s⁻¹

 $(k_2 = all for test reaction with benzyl azide)$

BARAC

C.G. Gordon, J.L. Mackey, J.C. Jewett, E.M. Sletten, K.N. Houk, C.R. Bertozzi, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2012, 134, 9199-9208 J. Codelli, J.M. Baskin, N.J. Agard, C.R. Bertozzi, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2008, 130, 11486-11493 X. Ning, J. Guo, M.A. Wolfert, G.-J. Boons, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2008, 47, 2253-2255



D.A. MacKenzie, A.R. Sherratt, M. Chigrinova, L.L.W. Cheung, J.P. Pezacki, Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol., 2014, 21, 81-88





- Difficulties
- Can be quenched by chloride ions/acidic conditions
- Internal *cis*-alkenes are endogenous in biological systems, could compete

Z. Yu, T.Y. Ohulchanskyy, P. An, P.N. Prasad, Q. Lin, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2013, 135, 16766-16769 C.P. Ramil, Q. Lin, Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol., 2014, 21, 89-95 K. Lang, J.W. Chin, Chem. Rev., 2014, 4764-4806

• 1,2,4,5-Tetrazines are reacted with electron-rich dienophiles (alkenes) = iEDDA



- Highly strained alkenes (such as *trans*-cyclooctene) react very rapidly in organic solvent
- Previously described tetrazines were not stable in H₂O

A.-C. Knall, C. Slugovc, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, **2013**, *42*, 5131-5142
C.P. Ramil, Q. Lin, *Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol.*, **2014**, *21*, 89-95

- Governed by the HOMO_{dienophile} LUMO_{diene} gap
 - EWG groups at the 3- and 6-positions of the tetrazine lower the LUMO = Faster iEDDA
 - Dienophiles with EDG substituents raise the HOMO = Faster iEDDA
 - High ring strain in the dienophile helps reduce the activation energy



- iEDDA was first shown to be bioorthogonal in 2008
 - \circ 3,6-Diaryl-s-tetrazines were found to be H₂O stable
 - Can be run in cell media and cell lysate with > 80% yield ($k_2 = 2000 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$)
 - Successfully used to label proteins in vitro and in vivo





• A range of strained alkenes/alkynes (a) and tetrazines (b) have now been investigated





Difficulties

- Tetrazine synthetic availability
 - Potentially explosive nature of synthetic precursors to tetrazines

A.-C. Knall, C. Slugovc, Chem. Soc. Rev., 2013, 42, 5131-5142
 C.P. Ramil, Q. Lin, Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol., 2014, 21, 89-95

Incorporation of nCAAs for Bioorthogonal Reactions

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- Proteins typically consist of 20 naturally occurring amino acids
- Syntheses of nCAAs bearing bioorthogonal groups are now well documented
- Highjacking protein translation can lead to successful nCAA incorporation
 - High fidelity of protein translation
 - Yields can be increased by encoding repressed translational promoters

Residue-specific

• 1950s – replace one of the 20 amino acids with a similar synthetic variant

Site-specific

 1980s – a nCAA can be incorporated at a specific site within a protein, in the presence of the natural amino acids

> A.-C. Knall, C. Slugovc, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, **2013**, *42*, 5131-5142 K. Lang, J.W. Chin, *Chem. Rev.*, **2014**, 4764-4806





- Produces globally modified proteins
- Simplest variants require no genetic alterations of the target organism
 - Targets entire proteome of the cell/organism

- Three key requirements:
 - Natural amino acid must be encoded at the genetic level
 - The unnatural amino acid must be a substrate for the natural variants tRNA synthetase
 - The desired protein must be expressed when the unnatural amino acid is in the cell

K. Lang, J.W. Chin, Chem. Rev., 2014, 4764-4806

 Greater alterations in nCAAs can be accomodated by mutating existing tRNA synthetase binding sites

Uses

- BONCAT & FUNCAT (Bioorthogonal/Fluorescent noncanonical amino acid tagging)
 - Determine kinetics of protein synthesis and separate newly synthesised proteins from pre-existing proteome
 - Analysis of localised synthesis of proteins critical to cell function (such as axons)
 - Labelling of newly synthesised proteins in multicellular organisms
 - Now progressed to cell selective protein labelling

lateral

incubation

Difficulties

- Labels all proteins in an organism or cell unless specifically genetically altered
- Some nCAA incorporation can be toxic to the cells
 - O Conc. and exposure time dependant
- Some nCAAs are poorly incorporated
 - O Addressed by use of mutated tRNA synthetases that can be selectively expressed
- Limited by requirements of the cell, i.e. 20 natural amino acids

- Uses genetic code expansion
- Allows a single amino acid of a peptide to be altered in the presence of the all 20 naturally occurring amino acids

- Three key requirements:
 - An orthogonal amino-acyl-tRNA synthetase/tRNA pair
 - A blank codon to encode for a nCAA
 - Commonly the amber stop codon UAG (TAG) as 93% of *E.coli* genes end with TGA or TAA
 - Methods to ensure the transfer of the nCAA to the orthogonal tRNA occurs selectively

T.S. Young, P.G. Schultz, *J. Biol. Chem.*, **2010**, *285*, 11039-11044 K. Lang, J.W. Chin, *Chem. Rev.*, **2014**, 4764-4806

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- Orthogonal tRNA synthetase: must not label any endogenous tRNA in a cell
- Orthogonal tRNA: must not be recognised by any endogenous tRNA synthetases
- Exploit the tRNA-synthetase/tRNA differences between organisms

- Four tRNAs (with desirable synthetase partner) that recognise amber stop codons have been identified and used in site-specific manipulations of proteins
 - o tRNA may require mutation to recognise nCAAs
 - o tRNA does not need to be altered to recognise a manufactured blank codon

Orthogonal translation pathway

- A new genetic code, evolved to include quadruplet codons
 - New ribosome synthesis
 - Will accommodate quadruplet codon tRNA
 - O New mRNA
 - New tRNA-synthetase/tRNA pairs
 - Could non-α-amino acids be used?

Orthogonal translation pathway

- Used successfully to create a modified GST-calmodulin protein
 - Only synthesised if both nCAAs are incorporated
 - Has the potential to create new proteins and alter functions and structures

H. Neumann, K. Wang, L. Davis, M. Garcia-Alai, J.W. Chin, *Nature*, **2010**, *464*, 441-444 K. Lang, J.W. Chin, *Chem. Rev.*, **2014**, 4764-4806

Uses

- More nCAAs have been successfully incorporated than in residue-specific experiments
- Help to investigate specific proteins within organisms and cells
- Being used to form antibody conjugates (such as ADC antibody-drug conjugates)
- Enables minimal disruption to normal protein folding
 - Can probe specific sites in the protein amenable to nCAA incorporation
- Can (and has) been adapted to DNA and RNA labelling (aptamers)
 - Could prove useful in early and specific cancer detection assays

Difficulties

- The number of orthogonal tRNA-synthetase/tRNA pairs is small
 - Limit of two nCAAs that can be incorporated in any cell
 - The process of mutation and selection can be painstaking

K. Lang, J.W. Chin, Chem. Rev., 2014, 4764-4806

S.B. Sun, P.G. Schultz, C.H. Kim, ChemBioChem, 2014, 15, 1721-1729

Conclusions and Scope

- Bioorthogonal chemistry has been developed
 - Chemoselective
 - Non-toxic/no byproducts

Conclusions and Scope

- Bioorthogonal chemistry has been developed
 - Reactions with faster kinetics are still needed
 - Need to investigate quantitative reaction specificity
 - Need to further optimise and analyse site-specific labelling in mammalian cells
- Some intracellular imaging difficulties need to be addressed
 - Selective imaging/washing out labelling probe Ο
 - More easily adapted fluorescent probes are also Ο needed to couple with this work
- As new reactions/reagents are discovered, the scope and utility of this field will increase

Bioorthogonal Chemistry: Fishing for Selectivity in a Sea of Functionality Ellen M. Sletten and Carolyn R. Bertozzi* alkynes · azides · bioconjugatio bioorthogonal reactions

Bioorthogonal Chemistry

Staudinger ligation

DOI: 10.1002/anie 20090094

K. Lang, J.W. Chin, Chem. Rev., 2014, 4764-4806 P. Shieh, C.R. Bertozzi, Org. Biomol. Chem., 2014, 12, 9307-9320 H.-W. Shih, D.N. Kamber, J.A. Prescher, Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol., 2014, 21, 103-111

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Copper Catalysed Azide-Alkyne 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition (CuACC)

Copper Catalysed Azide-Alkyne 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition (CuACC)

Water soluble ligands mechanism

S.I. Presolski, V. Hong, S.-H. Cho, M.G. Finn, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2010, 132, 14570-14576

Synthesis of nitrone bound to biomolecules

Scheme 1. One-pot N-terminal conjugation of a hexapeptide by SPANC: a) 1. NaIO₄, NH₄OAc buffer, pH 6.8, room temperature, 1 h; 2. *p*-MeOC₆H₄SH, room temperature, 1 h; then *p*-MeOC₆H₄NH₂, MeHNOH·HCl, room temperature, 20 min; b) **2**, room temperature, 1 h.

X. Ning, R.P. Temming, J. Dommerhalt, J. Guo, D.B. Ania et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2010, 49, 3065-3068

• Synthesis of nitrone bound to biomolecules

Scheme 2. One-pot N-terminal functionalization of IL-8 by SPANC: a) 1. NaIO₄, NH₄OAc buffer, pH 6.9, room temperature, 1 h; 2. p-MeOC₆H₄SH, room temperature, 2 h; b) p-MeOC₆H₄NH₂, MeNHOH·HCl, room temperature, 20 min; c) cyclooctynol 2 or PEG-cyclooctyne 16, room temperature, 20 h.

X. Ning, R.P. Temming, J. Dommerhalt, J. Guo, D.B. Ania et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2010, 49, 3065-3068

Synthesis of nitrone bound to labelling tags

Fig. 1 In situ labeling of EGF–EGFR interactions via SPANC in MDA-MB-468 cells. (a) Cyclic nitrone modified EGF-1c bound to EGFR was labeled by SPANC with 2b-biotin for 30 min prior to streptavidin-FITC fluorescent labeling. (b) Fluorescence (top) and

C.S. McKay, J.A. Blake, J. Cheng, D.C. Danielson, J.P. Pezacki, Chem. Commun., 2011, 47, 10040-10042

Alkene-Tetrazole Reactions (Photoclick Cycloaddition)

• Mechanism of nitrile imine interconversion

