## Biological space

Cosmic scale



Macroscale

F = ma

Bio-nano-scale

$$\zeta \frac{dx}{dt} = -\frac{\partial \varphi(x,t)}{\partial t} + f_B(t)$$

**Quantum Mechanics** 

$$i\hbar\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\Psi = \hat{H}\Psi$$

**Time-dependent Schrödinger equation** (general)



# Diffusion Thermal fluctuations

**Low Reynold's number** 

The radius of a water molecule is about 0.1 nm.



Protein radius is in the range 2 - 10 nm.



Fluid can be considered as a continuum

## **Transport Phenomena**

A system is not in equilibrium when the macroscopic parameters (T, P, etc.) are not constant throughout the system.

To approach equilibrium, these non-uniformities have to be dissipated through **the transport of energy, momentum, and mass**.

The mechanism of transport is molecular movement.

$$\frac{3}{2}kT = \frac{1}{2}M\langle v \rangle^{2}$$
$$\langle v \rangle = \left(\frac{3kT}{M}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Molecular speed

*For* T = 300 K

500 Da (ATP) - v = 70 m/s

50 000 Da (protein) -v = 7 m/s

6.25 GDa (200 nm diameter vesicle) –  $v = 600 \mu m/s$ 



## Actual velocity ⇒ Maxwell's distribution

$$f(v) = 4\pi \left(\frac{M}{2\pi RT}\right)^{3/2} v^2 e^{-\frac{Mv^2}{2RT}}$$



#### dS=0 defines thermal, mechanical and chemical equilibria

$$dS = \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial U}\right)_{V,N} dU + \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial V}\right)_{U,N} dV + \sum_{j=1}^{M} \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial N_j}\right)_{U,V,N_{i\neq j}} dN_j$$
$$dS = \left(\frac{1}{T}\right) dU + \left(\frac{p}{T}\right) dV - \sum_{j=1}^{M} \left(\frac{\mu_j}{T}\right) dN_j$$

The tendency to maximize multiplicity predicts that when there is inequity in a given quantity (e.g. concentration of particles), there will be a net movement of this quantity from areas of higher concentration to areas of lower concentration until equilibrium is reached = diffusion

μ/T is a measure of system's tendency for particle exchange *Diffusion* – the flow of randomly moving particles caused by variations of the *concentration* of particles.

$$J \propto \frac{d(potential)}{dx} = -Force$$

## The random walk of a large number of particles results with deterministic flow of particles.

![](_page_6_Figure_3.jpeg)

the rms displacement

## **Macroscopic theory of diffusion**:

#### Assumptions:

- 1. conservation of mater
- 2. the relation between gradient and flux is linear

![](_page_7_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Picture_5.jpeg)

Adolf Eugen Fick (1829-1901)

In thermodynamic terms, we're watching the increase in entropy within a small, isolated system without an input of energy.

## **Diffusion coefficient**

*Diffusion coefficient* depends on the velocity of diffusing particles and hence on *size* of the particles, *temperature*, and on the *viscosity* of the media

![](_page_8_Figure_2.jpeg)

$$D = \frac{RT}{N_A} * \frac{1}{F_{friction}}$$
$$F_{friction} = 6\pi\eta r \quad \text{its units } m^2 \, \text{s}^{-1}$$

$$D = \frac{RT}{6\pi\eta r N_A} = \frac{k_B T}{6\pi\eta r}$$

Stokes-Einstein relation

## **Diffusion coefficient**

Calculate diffusion coefficient for a typical globular protein (100 kDa;  $r \sim 2nm$ ) in aqueous media

$$D = \frac{k_B T}{6\pi\eta r} \quad S$$

Stokes-Einstein relation

 $k_{B} = 1.38 * 10^{-23} JK^{-1} \qquad 1 J = 1 kg * m^{2} s^{-2} = 10^{3} g * m^{2} s^{-2}$   $\eta_{H2O} = 1 cP = 1 g * m^{-1} s^{-1}$   $T \approx 300K$  $r \approx 2 nm = 2 * 10^{9} m$ 

$$D \approx 10^{-10} m^2 s^{-1}$$

![](_page_10_Figure_0.jpeg)

 $\langle l^2 \rangle = 6Dt$ 

In three dimensions:

$$\vec{J} = -D\nabla C$$
 and  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = D\nabla^2 C$ 

$$\frac{dc(x,y,z)}{dt}\bigg|_{x,y,z} = D\left(\frac{d^2C}{dx^2} + \frac{d^2C}{dy^2} + \frac{d^2C}{dz^2}\right)\bigg|_{t}$$

$$\langle x \rangle = 0$$

$$\sqrt{\left\langle x^2\right\rangle} \approx \sqrt{Dt}$$

![](_page_11_Figure_6.jpeg)

X, cm

## Diffusion across exchange epithelium

![](_page_12_Figure_1.jpeg)

*Einstein eqn:* 
$$< x^2 >= 2Dt$$

 $\langle x^2 \rangle$  - mean square distance (cm<sup>2</sup>) D - diffusion coefficient (cm<sup>2</sup>/s) t - time interval (s)

#### **Lateral Diffusion**

![](_page_13_Figure_1.jpeg)

## **3D vs. Lateral Diffusion**

![](_page_14_Figure_1.jpeg)

$$D_L = \frac{k_B T}{4\pi\eta_m h} \left( \frac{\ln \eta_m h}{\eta_w a} - 0.5772 \right)$$

![](_page_14_Picture_3.jpeg)

$$D = \frac{RT}{6\pi\eta r N_A} = \frac{k_B T}{6\pi\eta r}$$

## $D \sim 10^{-5}$ for most small molecules in water

Distance	Ave. Diffusion Time	Significance	
100 angstroms	0.0000001 sec	Cell membrane thickness	
1 micron	0.001 sec	Size of most bacteria or mitochondria	
10 microns	0.1 sec	Diameter of small eukaryotic cells	
100 microns	10 sec	Diameter of large eukaryotic cells	
250 microns	1 min	Radius of giant squid axon	
2 millimeters	1 hr	Thickness of frog sartorius muscle, half thickness of lens of eye	
5 millimeters	7 hr	Radius of mature ovarian follicle	
2 centimeters	5 days	Thickness of ventricular myocardium	
10 centimeters	120 days	Diameter of sea urchins & other small animals	
1 meter	32 yrs	Half height of human	

## **Diffusive transport in biology**

$$J_x = -D\frac{dC}{dx}$$

▲ *A concentration penalty* – diffusive transport requires a concentration gradient.

No directional specificity

**4** *The time penalty* – diffusive transport time scales as the square of the distance or  $\langle X^2 \rangle = 4Dt$ 

There is a time when its surface area is insufficient to meet the demands of cells.

![](_page_16_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Figure_7.jpeg)

## **Characteristics of Fluids**

(1) Fluids have density (ρ), and thus moving fluids have momentum (requires a force to start or stop them).

## (2) Fluids have viscosity

- (1) Viscosity changes with temperature and salinity
- (2) When fluids contact a solid, there is a thin layer that sticks very tightly to the solid surface. = "Noslip condition"

### Momentum Transfer, Viscosity

Drag – transfer of the momentum in the direction perpendicular to velocity.

$$\frac{\Delta p_x}{\Delta t} \equiv F_x \propto \frac{A \cdot \left(u_{x, \text{top}} - u_{x, \text{bottom}}\right)}{\Delta z}$$

![](_page_18_Figure_3.jpeg)

Laminar flow between two surfaces moving with respect to each other.

$F_x$	- n	$d u_x$
$\overline{A}$	- //	$\Delta z$

 $F_x$  – the viscous drag force,  $\eta$  - the coefficient of viscosity  $F_x/A$  – shear stress

Shear viscosity  $\eta$  is the proportionality between the velocity gradient and the force required, per area, to keep the plates moving at constant velocity.

	$\eta(kg/m\bullet sec \ at \ 20^{\circ} \ C)$
Water	10-3
Olive oil	0.084
Glycerine	1.34
Glucose	1013

## The Langevin approach – dissipative force

Averageing over a large number of particles

Forces acting on a particle due to the solvent:

- (i) Stochastic thermal (Langevin) force:
  - **4** changes direction and magnitude

**4** averages to zero over time

$$\langle \boldsymbol{\xi}(t) \rangle = 0$$

(ii) a viscous drag force that always slows the motions.

$$f = -\xi v$$

$$f = -\xi v$$

$$f = -\xi v$$

$$f = 6\pi \eta R$$

$$f \approx 4.5nN$$

$$F_g \approx 10^{-14} nN \ll f$$

Newton's law for the protein motion in a one-dimensional domain of length L, x(t):

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = v, \quad m\frac{dv}{dt} = -\xi v + f_B(t) \quad 0 \le x(t) \le L$$
$$\frac{m}{2}\frac{d^2(x^2)}{dt^2} - mv^2 = -\frac{\xi}{2}\frac{d(x^2)}{dt} + xf_B(t)$$

L

The average over a large number of proteins

$$\frac{m}{2}\frac{d^2\langle x^2\rangle}{dt^2} - \langle mv^2\rangle = -\frac{\xi}{2}\frac{d\langle x^2\rangle}{dt} + \langle xf_B(t)\rangle$$

The mass, m, of a typical protein is about 10<sup>-21</sup> kg

The random impulses from the water molecules are uncorrelated with position.

$$\langle x(t) \cdot f_B(t) \rangle = 0$$

Integrating twice between t = (0, t) with x(0) = 0:

$$\frac{d\langle x^2 \rangle}{dt} = \frac{2k_BT}{\xi} (1 - e^{-t/\tau}), \quad \langle x^2 \rangle = \frac{2k_BT}{\xi} \left[ t - \tau (1 - e^{-t/\tau}) \right]$$

where  $\tau = m/\zeta$ .

## Robert Brown and Brownian motion

![](_page_22_Picture_1.jpeg)

Robert Brown

Brown (1827): observed irregular movement of pollens in water under microscope.

Major contribution of Brown: made sure non-organic particles also have Brownian motion, confirmed that Brownian motion is not a manifestation of life.

![](_page_22_Picture_5.jpeg)

For short times, 
$$\mathbf{t} \ll \mathbf{\tau}$$
, the exponential can be expand to second order:  

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle x^2 \right\rangle &= \frac{2k_BT}{\xi} \left[ t - \tau (1 - e^{-t/\tau}) \right] \\ \left\langle x^2 \right\rangle &= \frac{k_BT}{m} t^2 \quad (t \ll \tau) \end{aligned}$$

The protein behaves as a ballistic particle moving with a velocity  $\mathbf{v} = (\mathbf{k}_{\rm B} T/m)^{1/2}$ . For a protein with  $m = 10^{-21}$  kg,  $\mathbf{v} = 2$  m/s.

For short times,  $t \ll \tau$ , the

second order:

In a fluid the protein moves at this velocity only for a time  $\tau \sim$  $m/\zeta = 10^{-13}$  sec – shorter than any motion of interest in a molecular motor.

**During this time the protein travels a distance**  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau} \sim 0.01$  nm before it collides with another molecule.

$$\langle x^2 \rangle = \frac{2k_B T}{\xi} \left[ t - \tau (1 - e^{-t/\tau}) \right]$$

When t >>  $\tau$ , the exponential term disappears and:

$$\langle x^2 \rangle = \frac{2k_BT}{\zeta}t \quad (t >> \tau)$$

Because  $\langle x^2 \rangle = 2Dt$  (Einstein relation – 1905):

$$D = \frac{k_B T}{\zeta}$$

Friction is quantitatively related to diffusion

For protein typically  $D \sim 10^{-11} \text{ m}^2/\text{sec.}$ 

# Einstein, Brownian motion, and atomic hypothesis

![](_page_25_Picture_1.jpeg)

Albert Einstein, 1905

Albert Einstein published 4 papers in the *Annalen der Physik* in 1905.

- Photoelectric effect
- Brownian motion
- Special theory of relativity

- Drag force:  $f = \gamma v$
- Diffusion due to random walk:  $d^2 = 6Dt$
- To reach equilibrium:  $D\gamma = kT$
- Random collisions (random walk) are related to the dissipation of kinetic energy to solvent molecules.

## External forces acting on macromolecules

$$\zeta \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} = F(x,t) + f_B(t)$$

The inertial term is neglected.

Forces acting on proteins can be characterized by a potential

$$F(x,t) = -\frac{\partial \varphi(x,t)}{\partial x}$$

$$\xi \frac{dx}{dt} = -\frac{\partial \phi(x,t)}{\partial t} + f_B(t)$$

Langevin equation

### The Reynolds Number Dimensionless constant

 $\frac{inertial \ term}{friction \ term} = \frac{va\rho_m}{\eta}$ 

- a radius of a particle
- v particle velocity
- $\rho_m$  medium density

When the Reynolds number 'R' is small the viscous forces dominate.

![](_page_27_Picture_6.jpeg)

		Mass [g]	Diffusion time	Swimming speed [cm/ s]	Reynolds number
Bacterium	1 µm	<b>10-</b> 12	1 msec	10 <sup>-3</sup>	10-5
Whale	10 m	<i>10</i> <sup>9</sup>	10 <sup>3</sup> years	1000	<i>10</i> <sup>8</sup>

### Low Reynolds Number = Laminar Flow

![](_page_28_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### Shark skin delays transition to turbulence

![](_page_28_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_0.jpeg)

## Advertisement of a new swim suit

## Small objects experience a large air viscosity.

If the animal tries to move by a reciprocal motion in low R number condition, it can't go anywhere.

![](_page_30_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### There is a minimum size for insects that are able to fly.

The smallest flying insect is a parasitic wasp (*Dicopomorpha Echmepterygis*), which is about 1/10 of a mm long.

![](_page_31_Picture_0.jpeg)

Power stroke

In addition the viscous friction coefficient can be anizotropic.

 $\eta_{II} < \eta_{\perp}$ 

![](_page_32_Picture_0.jpeg)

It is a rigid, helical object.

d f

![](_page_32_Figure_2.jpeg)

All the components in the xy plane are canceled but  $df_z$  does not concel.

![](_page_33_Figure_0.jpeg)

It can't do anything by stirring its local surroundings. It might as well wait for things to diffuse.