

# Chem 452 - Lecture 11

## Molecular Motors

### 111207

For living cells, location means everything. In multicellular organisms location determines what a cell does and how it interacts with its neighbors. Many organisms, both multicellular and unicellular, must also be able to move in order to locate food sources and to avoid dangerous situations. Location is also important at the intracellular level, where the cellular components must be able to locate themselves where they are needed for the cell to function properly. In this section we will examine the molecular motors that are used to move the components within a cell as well as whole organisms. There are many common themes for these molecular motors, such as movement along tracks, including actin filaments and microtubules, and the use of nucleotide triphosphates to both influence the polymerization of these tracks and to fuel the movement along them. We will also look at the bacterial flagella, which look and function remarkably like an electrical motor, but which derives its free energy not from the hydrolysis of nucleotides, but from an ion gradient across the cell membrane.

# Chem 452 - Lecture 11

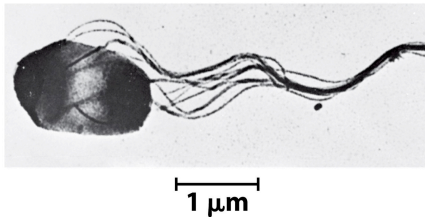
## Molecular Motors

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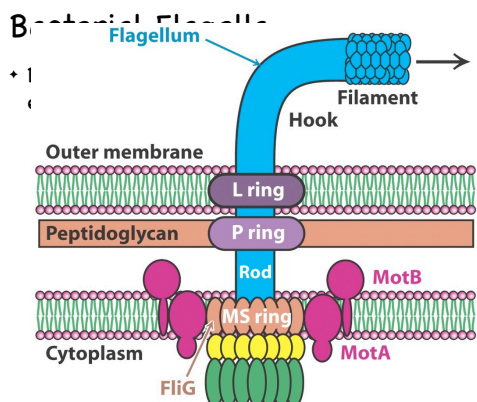
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## Bacterial Flagella

- Bacterial flagella are remarkably similar to an electrical motor.



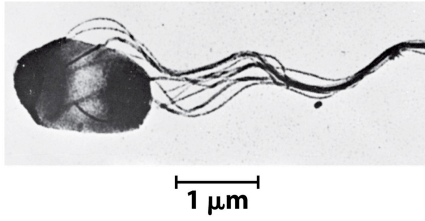
Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 3



Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 3

## Bacterial Flagella

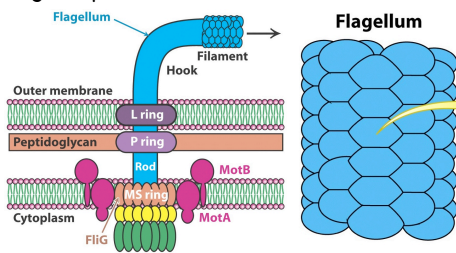
- † Bacterial flagella are remarkably similar to an electrical motor.



Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 3

## Bacterial Flagella

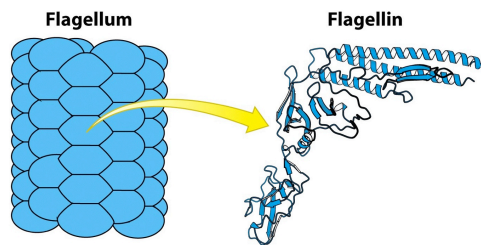
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Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 4

## Bacterial Flagella

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Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 5

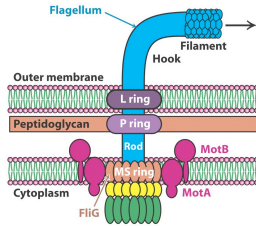
## Bacterial Flagella

- † Bacterial flagella are made from the 56 kd flagellin protein.
- † Flagella grow from their distal ends
- † Unlike G-actin and tubulin, flagellin is not an NTPase.

Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 6

## Bacterial Flagella

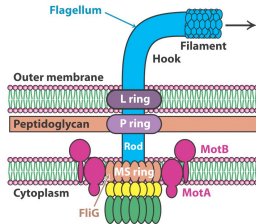
- The MotA and MotB proteins are paired.
- Approximately 11 copies assemble together to make up the stator at the base of the flagellum.



Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 7

## Bacterial Flagella

- The FliG, FliM and FliN assemble to form the MS (membrane and supramembrane) ring.
- Approximately 30 copies of FliG form the rotor that is located in the cytoplasmic membrane.



Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 8

## Bacterial Flagella

- The MotA/MotB stator and the FliG rotor work together to couple proton flow across the membrane to rotation of the flagellum.
- The mechanism is believed to be similar to that used by ATP Synthase, which couples proton flow across the membrane to the synthesis of ATP

Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 9

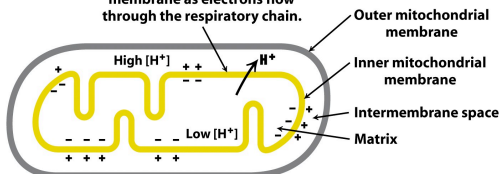
## ATP Synthase

- ATP Synthase is used by bacteria, plants and animals to synthesize ATP.
- ATP Synthase (pp.545-550, Chapter 18)
- The free energy ultimately comes either from photosynthesis or from the oxidation of food molecules.
- This free energy is used to establish a proton gradient across membranes.
  - cell membrane in bacteria
  - inner mitochondrial membrane in animals and plants
  - thylakoid membrane in photosynthetic plants

Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 10

## ATP Synthase

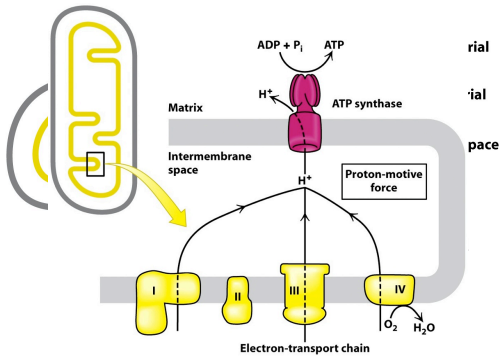
Protons are pumped across this membrane as electrons flow through the respiratory chain.



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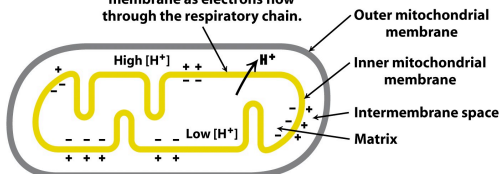
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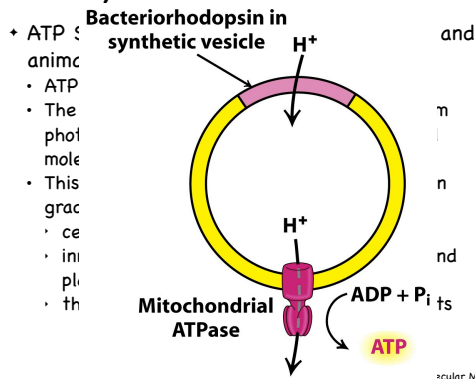
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## ATP Synthase



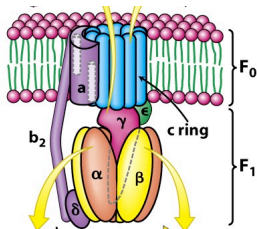
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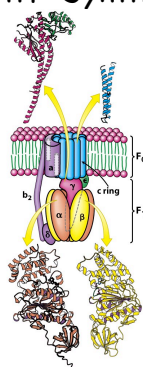
## ATP Synthase

- + ATP Synthase couple the flow of H<sup>+</sup> back down the concentration gradient to the synthesis of ATP.



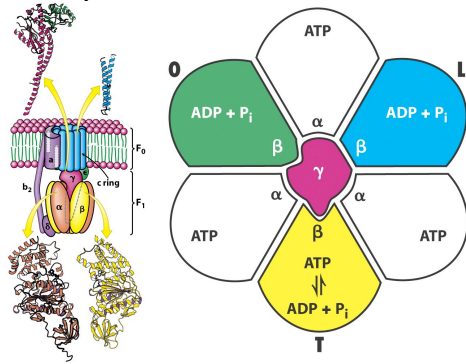
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## ATP Synthase



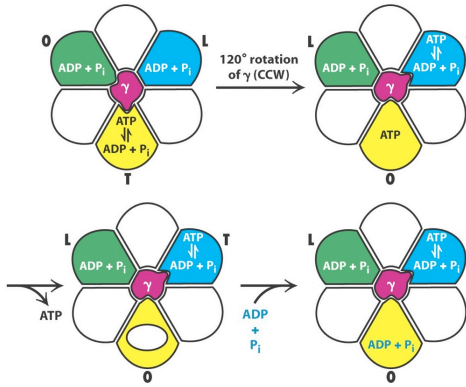
Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 12

## ATP Synthase



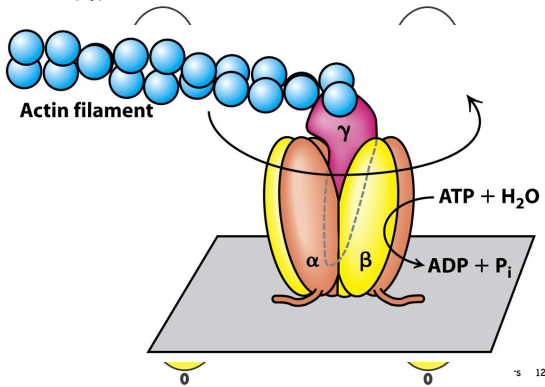
Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 12

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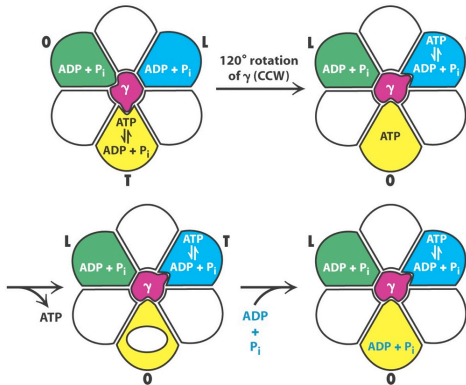
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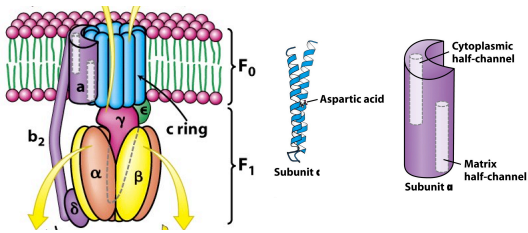
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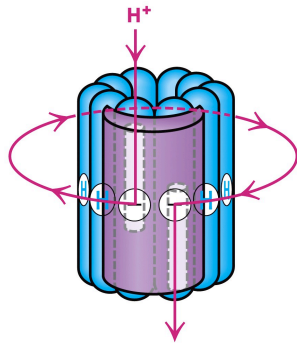
## ATP Synthase

- The flow of  $H^+$  across the membrane occurs in the a subunits and involves 2 half-channels.
- Subunit c shuttles the  $H^+$  from one half-channel to the other.



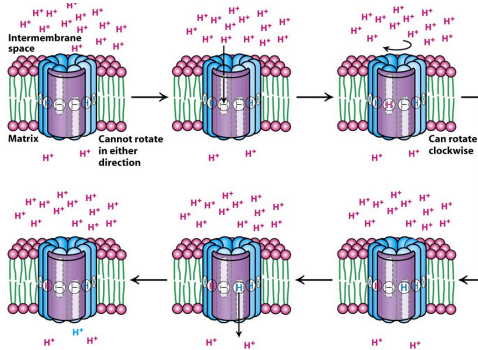
Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 13

## ATP Synthase



Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 14

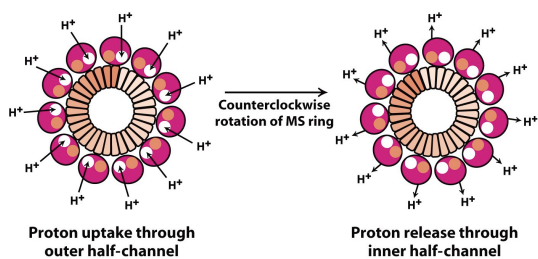
## ATP Synthase



Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 14

## Bacterial Flagella

- Bacterial flagella are believed to also have two half-channels.



Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 15

## Bacterial Flagella

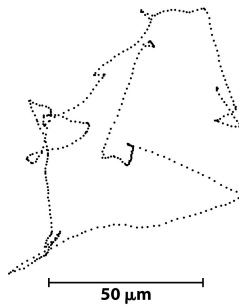
- Like secondary active transporters, they are driven not by the hydrolysis of ATP, but by ion gradients across the cell membrane.



Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 16

## Bacterial Flagella

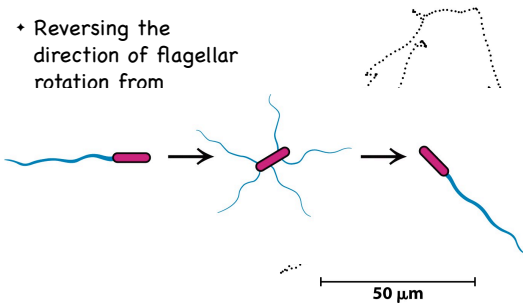
- Bacteria move in a random walk.
- Reversing the direction of flagellar rotation from counterclockwise to clockwise causes them to change direction.



Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 17

## Bacterial Flagella

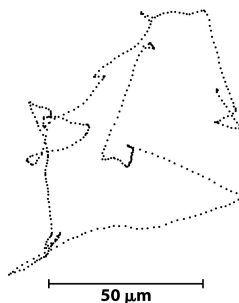
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Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 17

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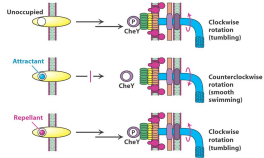
## Bacterial Flagella

- The random walk can be biased by **chemotaxis**.
- Bacteria are more likely to swim towards a **chemoattractant**.
  - Such as a food source, like glucose
- Bacteria are also more likely to swim away from a **chemorepellant**.
  - Such as a toxic chemical, like phenol

Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 18

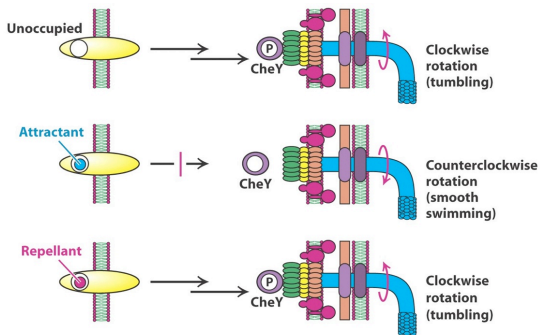
## Bacterial Flagella

- Chemotaxis is facilitated by the Che proteins.
  - When the CheY protein is phosphorylated it associates with the flagellar motor, which promotes clockwise rotation (tumbling).
  - When the CheY protein is dephosphorylated it dissociates from the flagellar motor, which promotes counterclockwise rotation (smooth swimming).



Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 19

## Bacterial Flagella



Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 19

## Next up

- Exam IV on Unit V (Lectures 9, 10 & 11)
  - Friday, Dec 9.
- Final exam on Units (I through V)
  - Wednesday, Dec 21 at 8:00am in Schneider 100

Chem 452, Lecture 11 - Molecular Motors 20