

A Conclusion of the
Intelligent Design of Life is
Rationally Compelling

Michael J. Behe
Lehigh University

Charles
Darwin

1809-1882

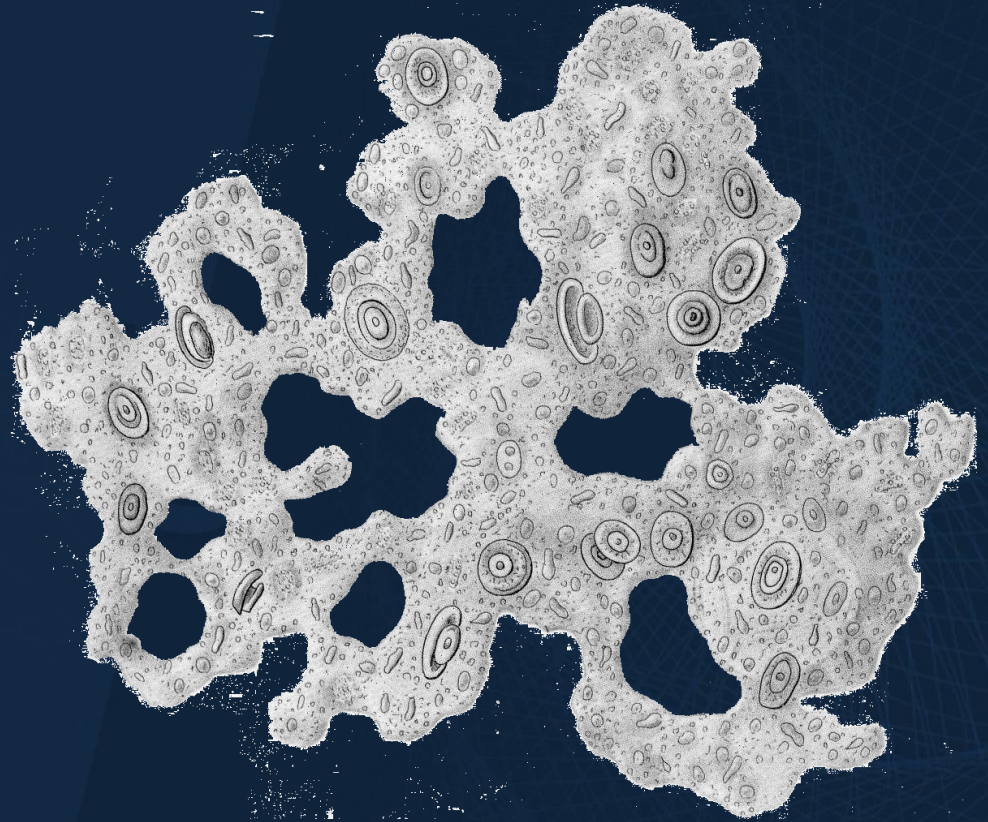
Karol
Darwin



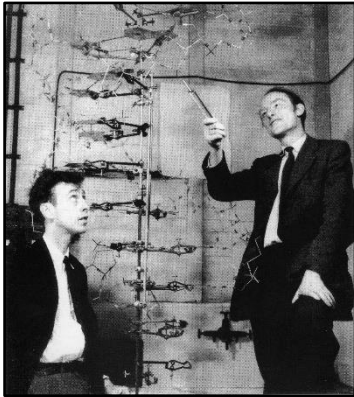
Bathybius haeckelii
1870

“Protoplasm”

“Protoplazma”



Early 1950s



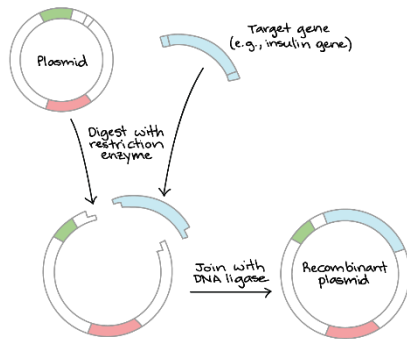
Late 1950s



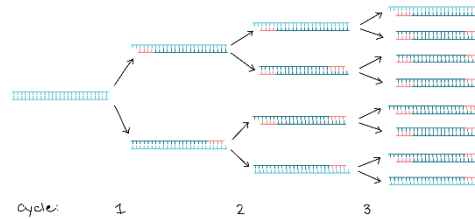
1960s

	T	C	A	G				
T	TTT	phe	TCT	TAT	tyr	TGT	cys	T
	TTC		TCC	TAC		TGC		C
	TTA	leu	TCA	TAA	stop	TGA	stop	A
	TTG		TCG	TAG		TGG	try	G
C	CTT		CCT	CAT	his	CGT		T
	CTC	leu	CCG	CAC		CGC	arg	C
	CTA		CCA	CAA	gln	CGA		A
	CTG		CCG	CAG		CGG		G
A	ATT	ile	ACT	AAT	asp	AGT	ser	T
	ATC		ACC	AAC		AGC		C
	ATA	ile	ACA	AAA	lys	AGA	arg	A
	ATG	met	ACG	AAG		AGG		G
G	GTT		GCT	GAT	asp	GGT		T
	GTC		GCC	GAC		GGC		C
	GTA	val	GCA	GAA	glu	GGA	gly	A
	GTG		GCG	GAG		GGG		G

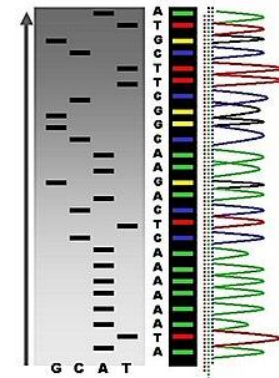
1970s



1980s



2000s



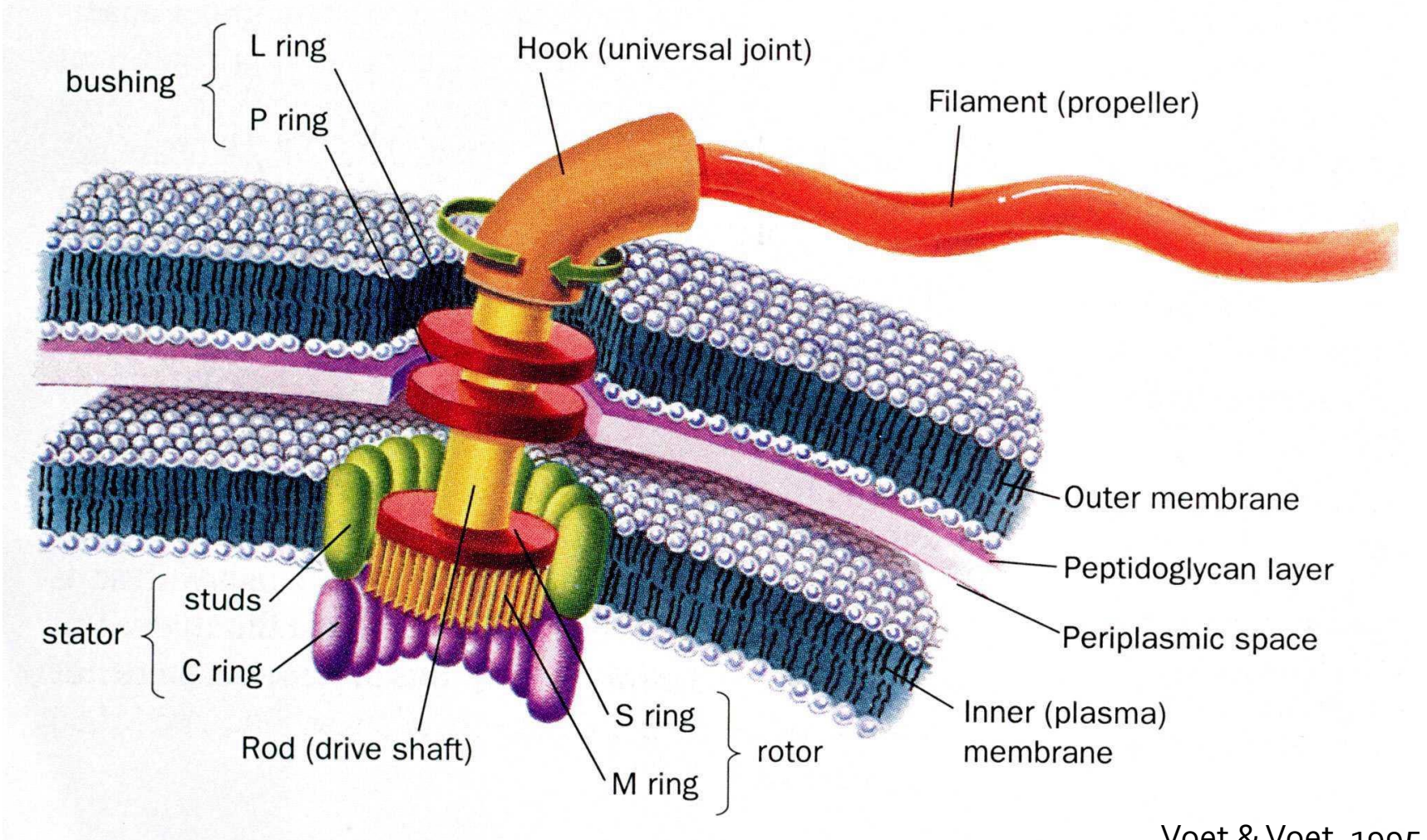
Wić bakteryjna

The Bacterial Flagellum

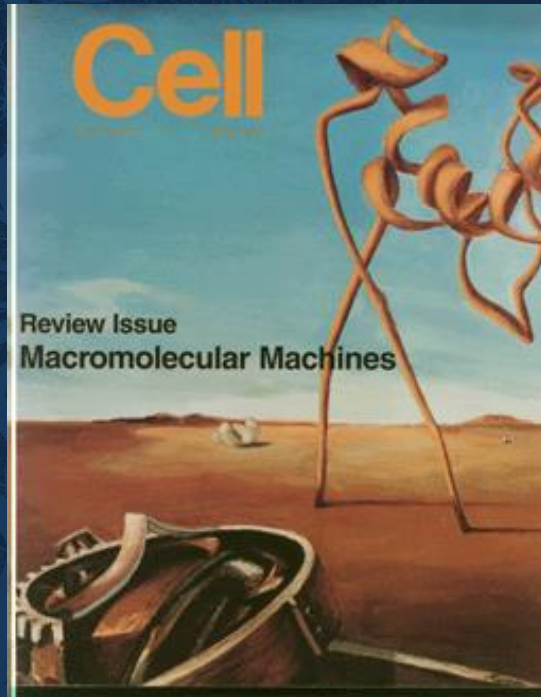


Wić bakteryjna

The Bacterial Flagellum



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Cryo-EM structure of the entire mammalian F₁-type ATP synthase

Gergely Pinke, Long Zhou and Leonid A. Sazanov

The majority of adenosine triphosphate (ATP) powering cellular processes in eukaryotes is produced by the mitochondrial F₁F₀ ATP synthase. Here, we present the atomic models of the membrane F₀ domain and the entire mammalian (ovine) F₁F₀, determined by cryo-electron microscopy. Subunits in the membrane domain are arranged in the 'proton translocation cluster' attached to the c-ring and a more distant 'hook apparatus' holding subunit e. Unexpectedly, this subunit is anchored to a lipid 'plug' capping the c-ring. We present a detailed proton translocation pathway in mammalian F₀ and key inter-monomer contacts in F₁F₀ multimers. Cryo-EM maps of F₁F₀ exposed to calcium reveal a retracted subunit e and a disassembled c-ring, suggesting permeability transition pore opening. We propose a model for the permeability transition pore opening, whereby subunit e pulls the lipid plug out of the c-ring. Our structure will allow the design of drugs for many emerging applications in medicine.

The ATP synthase (F₁F₀) employs a unique rotary mechanism, harvesting the proton motive force (PMF) created during respiration in mitochondria by electron transport chain (ETC) complexes^{1,2}. The ATP synthase/ATPase family comprises membrane-bound protein complexes responsible either for ATP synthesis, utilizing PMF (F-type and A-type), or for establishing PMF using the energy released from ATP hydrolysis (V-type)^{3,4}. F-type enzymes produce ATP in bacteria, chloroplasts and mitochondria, while V-ATPases (vacuolar) acidify the interior of eukaryotic intracellular compartments. The F₁F₀ complex consists of a soluble F₁ domain, responsible for the synthesis of ATP, and a membrane F₀ domain, involved in proton translocation. These domains are connected by a central stalk rotating inside the F₁ and a stationary peripheral stalk (PS)^{5,6}. During ATP synthesis, PMF-driven rotation of the c-ring in F₀ is transmitted via the central stalk to power the conformational changes in the F₁, resulting in the synthesis of one ATP molecule per 120° rotation (because F₁ is three-fold symmetric).

F₁F₀ plays other important roles apart from energy generation. ETC complexes I–IV are mostly organized into supercomplexes^{7–9} in flat regions of the inner mitochondrial membrane (IMM)¹⁰. F₁F₀, on the other hand, forms rows of dimers along the highly curved cristae ridges, thus shaping them¹¹. The enzyme is also implicated in the formation of the permeability transition pore (PTP), which triggers cell death^{12,13}.

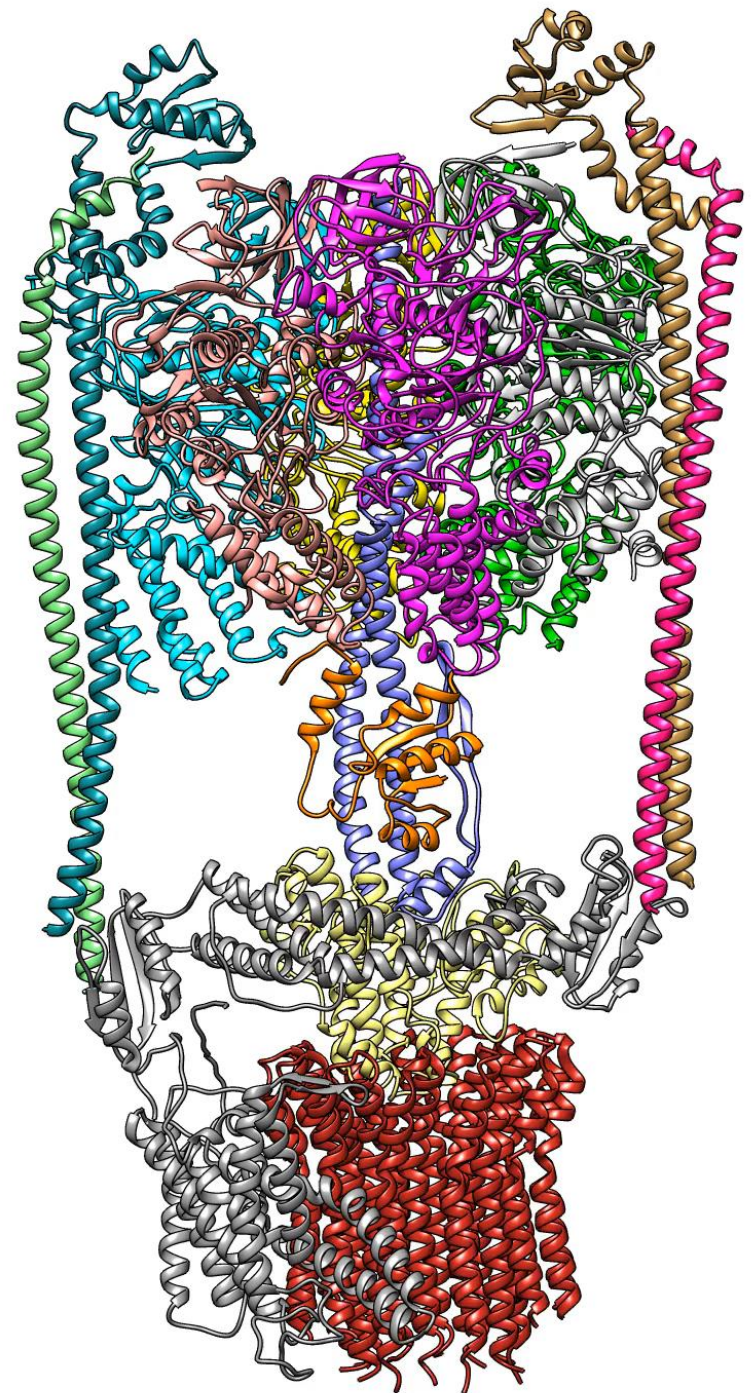
PTP opening can be triggered by the accumulation of Ca²⁺ or by intense oxidative stress, characterizing ischemia-reperfusion injury^{14,15}. The initial opening of the PTP is reversible, establishing a 2–3-nm pore, followed by mitochondria swelling and rupture, the release of pro-apoptotic factors such as cytochrome c and cell death^{15,16}. The molecular nature of the PTP is controversial. The mitochondrial matrix protein cyclophilin D (CyPD)¹⁷ sensitizes the PTP to Ca²⁺. CyPD binding to its partners is blocked by cyclosporin A (CsA), which inhibits the PTP¹⁸. The recent discovery that CyPD binds to F₁F₀ subunit OSCP opened up the possibility that F₁F₀ forms the PTP¹⁹. Many recent studies have both supported^{19–22} and refuted^{23–28} the still hotly debated role of F₁F₀ in the PTP (Supplementary Note 1). Several mutagenesis studies converge on the c-ring as a possible location of the pore^{19,20,29}.

We have previously determined the first atomic structure of V/A-ATPase as a representative of the V-type family³¹. Structures of entire bacterial³², yeast³³ and chloroplast³⁴ F-type ATP synthases have also been determined recently. However, knowledge about the arguably most important representative of the family—mammalian mitochondrial ATP synthase—remains incomplete. Crystallography has revealed many structures of F₁ subcomplexes^{35,36}, as have cryo-EM studies on the entire complex³⁷. The recent porcine enzyme model is the most complete so far³⁷. However, due to the limited resolution in the membrane domain, four subunits were modeled as poly-alanine and three more were completely misplaced, so the atomic model for most of the membrane domain remains unknown.

Detailed knowledge about the F₀ domain is of crucial importance because this is where the proton translocation takes place and where the monomers interact to form physiological dimers. Here, we address these questions by solving the structure of the entire mammalian F₁F₀.

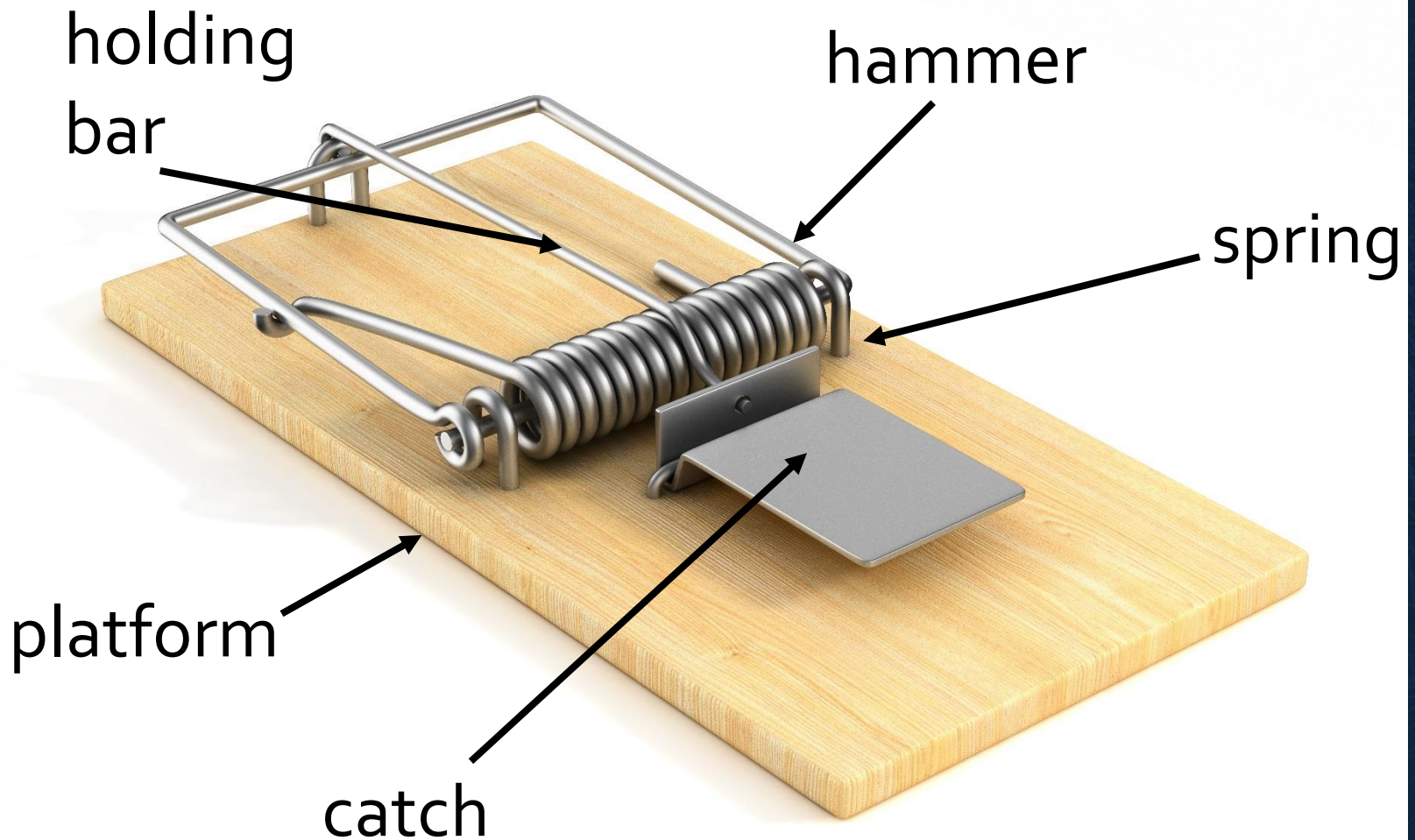
Results

Structure determination. We purified ATP synthase from ovine heart mitochondria in the mild detergent laurylmaltose neopentylglycol (LMNG) and collected two datasets, from the 'monomer' and 'multimer' fractions (Extended Data Fig. 1a–c). The most populated and best resolved ground state of the monomer (Extended Data Fig. 1d) is similar to the previously observed (at lower resolution) state 1a of bovine enzyme (PDB 5ARA)³⁸. The other two main rotational states (resulting from ~120° rotation of the central stalk subunit γ) were only at ~7–8-Å resolution due to the lower number of particles (Extended Data Fig. 2). Further 'in-between' states were also present, but with some of the α/β subunits disordered, possibly due to lower enzyme stability in such states. State-1a F₁F₀ maps were refined to 3.8-Å resolution overall (Extended Data Figs. 1d and 3d), with focused refinements reaching 3.5 Å for the F₁ domain and 4.2 Å for F₀ (obtained using a novel strategy of weighted masks; Methods). Focusing on F₀ classification of particles in all rotational states revealed that the majority of particles classify into one consensus class, producing, after Fo-focused refinement, a 3.8-Å-resolution map (Extended Data Fig. 3e). This map was well resolved at the side chain level in all Fo areas (Extended Data Fig. 4e), suggesting that,



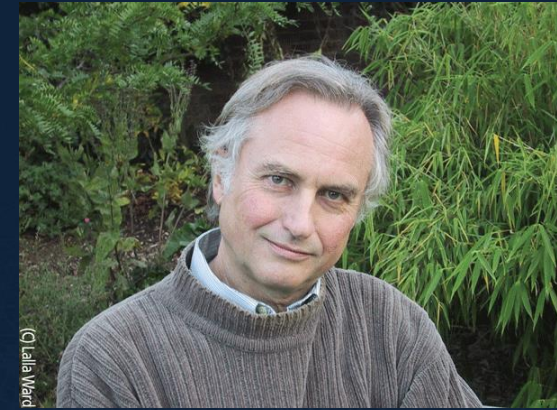
Nieredukowalna złożoność

Irreducible Complexity



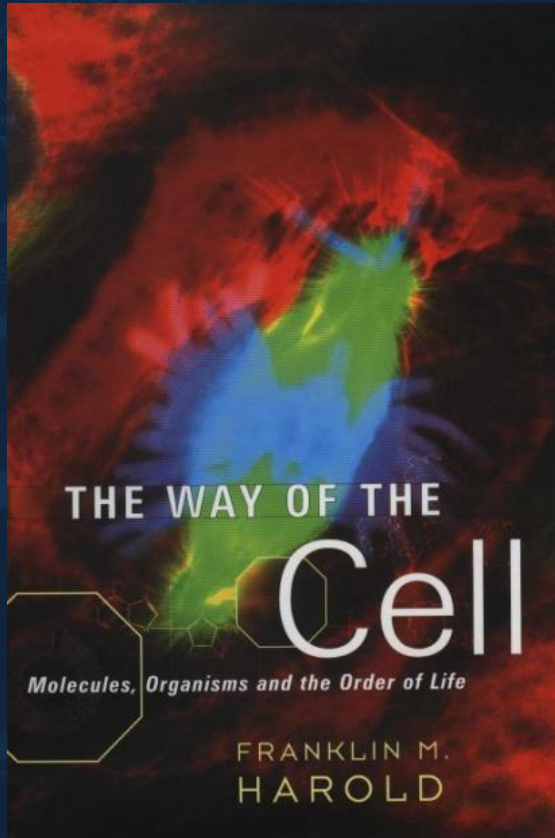
Dawkins R. 1986. *Ślepy Zegarmistrz*,
PIW Warszawa

Dawkins R. 1986. *The Blind Watchmaker*.
New York: Norton, p. 21



“Yet the living results of natural selection **overwhelmingly impress us with the appearance of design** as if by a master watchmaker, impress us with the illusion of design and planning.”

Franklin M. Harold, *The Way of the Cell*,
Oxford University Press, 2001, p. 205



“We should reject, **as a matter of principle**, the substitution of intelligent design for the dialogue of chance and necessity (Behe 1996); but we must concede that there are presently no detailed Darwinian accounts of the evolution of any biochemical system, **only a variety of wishful speculations.**”

The background of the slide features a dark, patinated bronze sculpture of a man in a state of deep, intense thought. He is seated, leaning forward with his chin resting on his hand, and his other hand resting on his knee. The sculpture is highly detailed, showing the texture of his skin and the musculature of his body. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the contours of his face and the folds of his clothing. The overall mood is one of profound intellectual struggle and contemplation.

A conclusion of
intelligent design is
rationally compelling

Niesprawiedliwość

Unjust

It is **UNJUST** for scientists to mislead the public into thinking they know how to explain life by unintelligent means. People have a **RIGHT** to an unbiased appraisal.

