

DNA Elasticity at Different Architecture

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ABSTRACT

Mechanical properties of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) attracted interest of both physicist and biologists because it is important in numerous mechanical and biological processes. Physical model in static and dynamics of DNA was presented by us as a very thin helicoidal strip. Similar strip in straight form is used in many precision measuring instruments and well presents DNA model properties. It may have different circular architecture with different elasticity especially at action of light. In this article we present mathematical expressions for pressure of light and elasticity of DNA in straight form for linear and nonlinear versions under pressure, and elasticity of curved circular DNA model which is found by biologists in the eyes of nocturnal animals as tiny light-collecting lenses. The circular model of DNA under pressure is presented in this article first time that required experimental verification in the future. In conclusion, we see that further research in the field of DNA architecture connected with radiation pressure of light is required both in physics and biology with special technique and instrumentation. Pressure of light depends on the mean value of spatial density of incidence light, coefficient of light reflection, the incident angle of light, the concentration of photons in incidence light, Plank's constant, and the frequency of light in the medium which depends on its refractive index. These important features should be carefully estimated in experimental studies of DNA elasticity at different architecture

Date of Submission: 17-07-2020

Date of acceptance: 01-08-2020

I. INTRODUCTION

Physical model in static and dynamics of DNA was presented by us¹ as a very thin helicoidal strip. Similar strips with appropriate dimensions were used in sensitive mechanical and electro-mechanical transducers and measuring heads² (microkators, opticators, micators, photoelectric sorting transducers, microchators with the frequency output, etc.). Resolution of these measuring devices may be up to nanometer. These systems very sensitive to environmental parameters including the pressure of light. From another hand, researchers have discovered an important element for making night vision possible in nocturnal mammals (cats, bats, mice): the DNA within their eyes photoreceptor rod cells responsible for low light vision is packaged in a very unconventional way, according to a report issue of Cells^{3, 4}. That special DNA architecture turns the rod cell nuclei themselves into tiny light-collecting lenses, with millions of them in every nocturnal eye. Let us consider this phenomenon in respect of light pressure acting on DNA physical models.

II. PRESSURE OF LIGHT

Let us recall¹ that pressure of light p_{il} can be expressed by the following formula:

$$p_{il} = \langle w \rangle (1 + R_{ref}) \cos^2 i_{\varphi}$$

where $\langle w \rangle = 2\pi\hbar n_0 v_{igt}$ is the mean value of the spatial density of incidence light, R_{ref} is the coefficient of light reflection, i_{φ} is the incident angle of light on flat surface, n_0 is the concentration of photons in incidence light, $2\pi\hbar$ is Plank's constant, and

$$v_{igt} = c n_{ref,i} (\lambda_{vac})^{-1}$$

is the frequency of light in the medium. In the latter expression, the velocity of light $c = 299,792.458$, λ_{vac} is the wave-length of light in vacuum, and $n_{ref,i}$ is the refractive index of the medium.

III. ELASTICITY OF STRAIGHT DNA MODEL

Regular DNA model presented by us as a straight beam of pretwisted strip¹ with central hole under extension with width of section $b=2b_1$, its thickness $h=2h_1$, number of section rotations n_0 in the length l of the strip as $r=2\frac{\pi}{l}n_0$. Force F_Q pressure on the area of cross section A_{csec} provides extension s of the strip in accordance with the following formula

$$F_Q/sA_{csec} = E(1 + 0.1786b^2r^2/\lambda)/2003l(1 + 0.32b^2r^2/\lambda), \quad (1)$$

where $\lambda = (h/b)^2$, E is the Young's modulus of the model's material, $F_Q/A_{csec} = p$ is the pressure.

In nonlinear version we have in accordance with Eq 6.34 in Ref.1 the following relations:

$$F_Q(S_{\gamma 1}) = 57.3L_i\psi_2j_{\theta\eta}L_c\theta_{\gamma}(S_{\gamma})S_{\gamma 1}, \quad (2)$$

where $S_{\gamma} = s/L_c$, $S_{\gamma 1} = 2S_{\gamma}$, $\psi_2 = 0.25$, L_c is the molecular length, $\theta_{\gamma} = \theta/L_c$, where θ is the angle of the strip's end rotation in radians at its extension s , L_i is the experimental scale factor, and

$$j_{\theta\eta} = F_Q/\theta = 0.698GA_{csec}(1.4)^3/\lambda(1 + \nu_{if}\lambda_{kp})L_c k_{po}, \quad (3)$$

where $1.4 \cong \sqrt{2}$, G is the shear modulus of strip's material, A_{csec} is the area of strip's cross section.

4. Cantilever ring segment schematic in Fig. 1 represents loading of special circular DNA (as in the eyes of nocturnal mammals) in the perpendicular to its plane direction by distributed load with the intensity p . Displacement of this segment in the perpendicular direction u represents by corresponding formula from Table 6.10 in Ref.1

$$u = \frac{pR^4}{EJ} [(1 - \cos\alpha)^2 + \lambda_k(\alpha - \sin\alpha)^2], \quad (4)$$

where $\lambda_k = EJ/GJ_k$ and EJ , GJ_k are the flexural and twisting stiffness of the ring's (circular beam's) cross section with the Poisson's ratio $\nu_p = \frac{E}{2G} - 1$.

Calculation of elastic rings displacement under applied forces requires knowledge of section's moment of inertia J which for our DNA model with helical pretwisted strip (Fig. 2a, b) is equal in each section to:

$$J = J_{\eta} \sin\varphi + J_{\xi} \cos\varphi,$$

$$\text{where } \varphi = (2\pi/S_0)x, J_{\eta} = b^3h/12, J_{\xi} = bh^3/12.$$

We see (Fig. 2) that $J_{\eta} \gg J_{\xi}$. Therefore we accept $J = J_{\eta} \sin\varphi$ and the average value of J in the helix pitch is equal to

$$\hat{J} = \frac{1}{S_0} \int_{-S_0/2}^{S_0/2} J_{\eta} \sin(2\pi/S_0)x dx = J_{\eta}/\pi$$

Explicit helical model has naturally pretwisted strip, with outer (o) and inner (i) elliptical surfaces. Therefore, its section's moment of inertia is equal to

$$J_{\eta} = \frac{1}{2} (J_{\eta o} - J_{\eta i}) = (b_o^3 h_o) - (\pi b_{i1}^3 h_{i1}/128)$$

and corresponding average moment of inertia equals

$$\hat{J} = J_{\eta}/\pi$$

In conclusion, we see that for night vision further research in the field of DNA architecture connected with radiation pressure of light is required both in physics and biology, because area light action in this case is larger than the cross section in the straight DNA.

Data openly available in a public repository that does not issue DOIs

The data that support the findings of this study are openly available in the article references.

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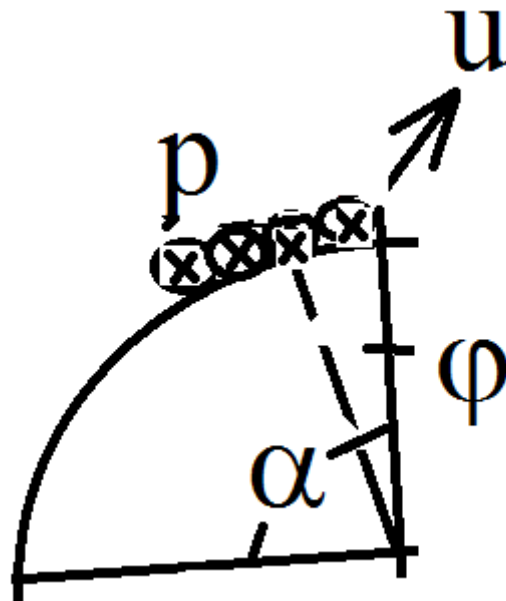


Fig.1. loading of special cantilevering-circular DNA

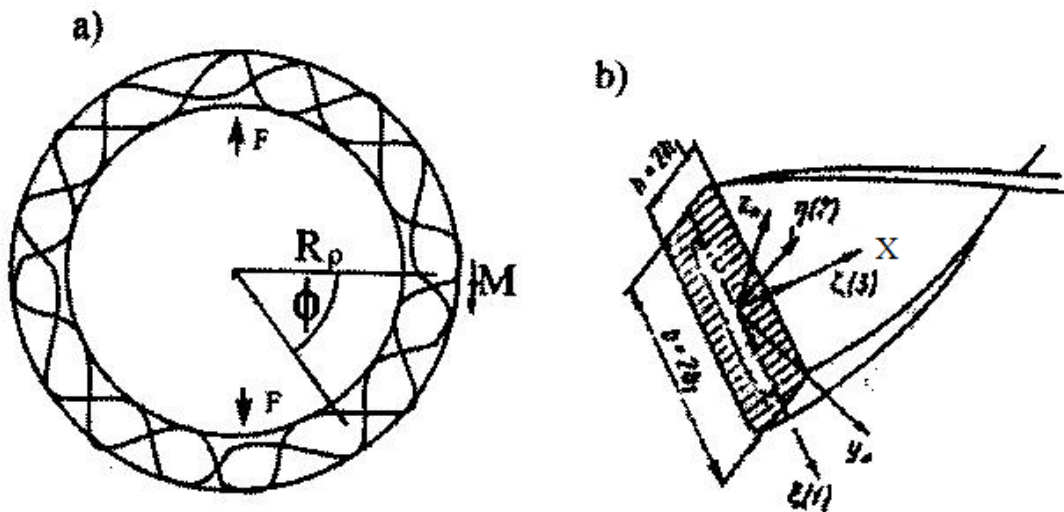


Fig.2. DNA chain in elastic ring (a) and its helicoidal model fragment of twisted strip with central hole(b).
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Yakov M. Tseytlin. "DNA Elasticity at Different Architecture." *American Journal of Engineering Research (AJER)*, vol. 9(07), 2020, pp. 188-190.