



# Real Time Analysis of Protease Reaction Utilizing Nanopore

2023. 4. 22. Literature Session  
D2 Takeuchi Aoi

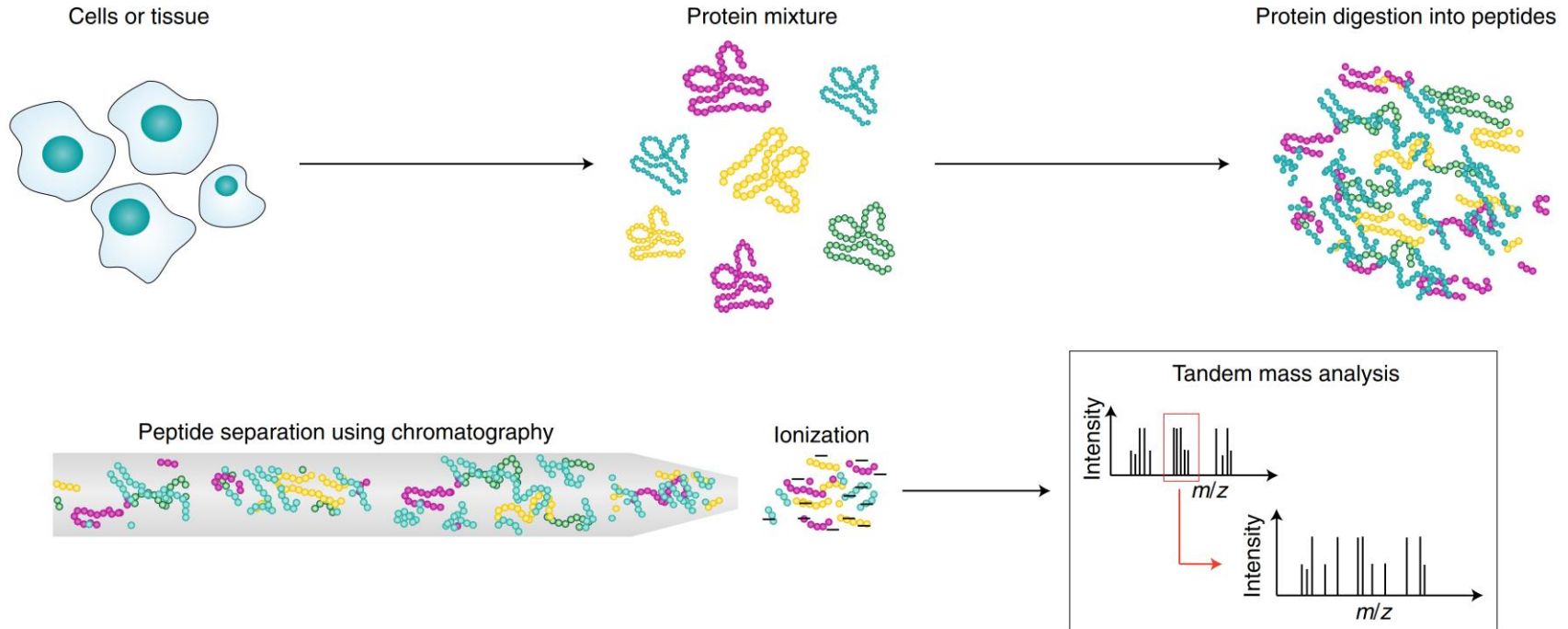
- Introduction
- **Protein nanopore reveals the renin–angiotensin system crosstalk with single-amino-acid resolution**

Jiang, J.; Li, M.-Y.; Wu, X.-Y.; Ying, Y.-L.; Han, H.-X.; Long, Y.-T. *Nat. Chem.* **2023**, *15*, 578.

# Protein Sequencing

identification and quantification of proteins: essential for understanding of biological processes and diseases

mass spectrometry: gold standard for proteome analysis



## drawbacks of mass spectrometry

- dynamic range ( $10^4$ - $10^5$ ): insufficient to cover the range of protein concentration ( $\sim 10^9$ )
- detection limit (0.1-10 fmol): difficulty in detecting proteins in low-copy numbers (<100 molecules/cell)
- ensemble measurement: limited ability to provide dynamic information

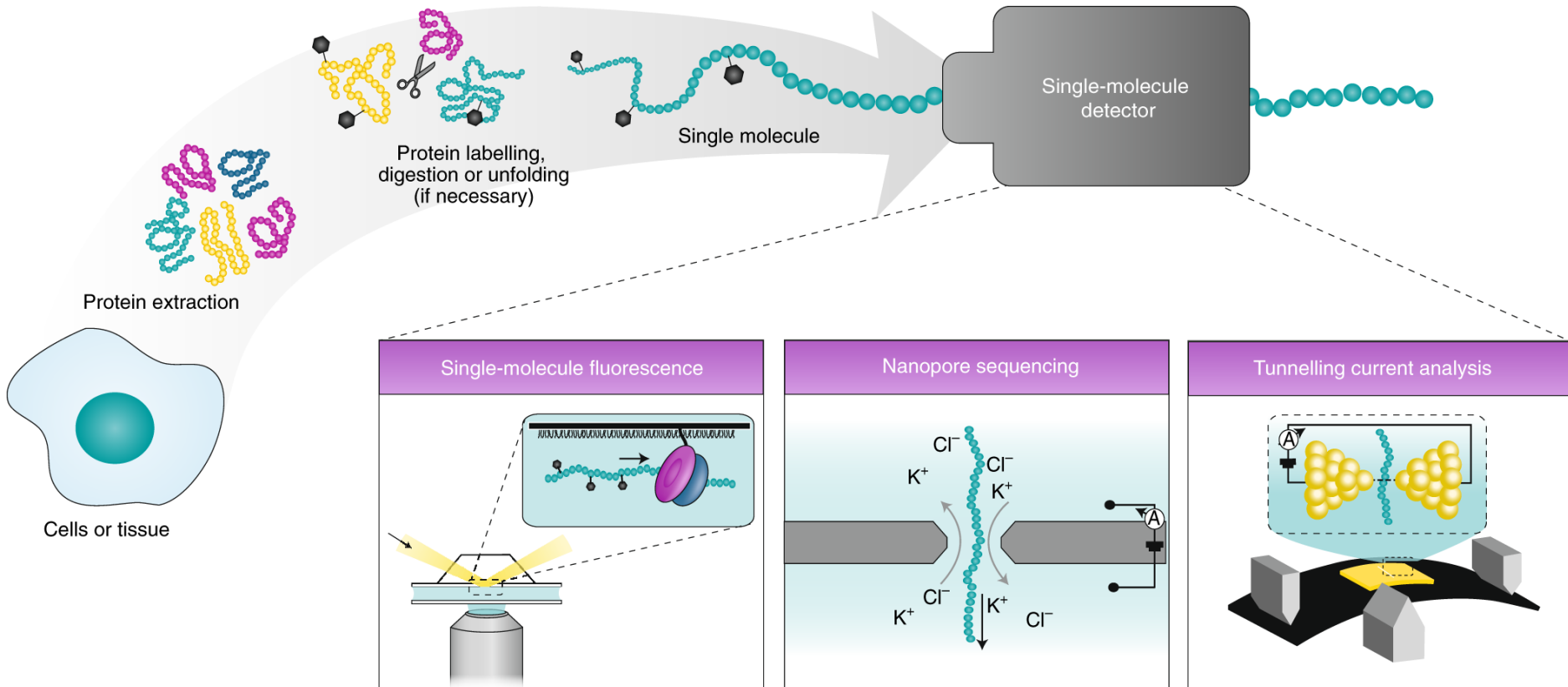
Single-molecule sensing have been pursued for more comprehensive analysis.

# Single-Molecule Sequencing of Protein

properties of biopolymers for sequencing

	nucleic acid	protein
types	4 nucleobase	20 amino acids
amplification	PCR	unable

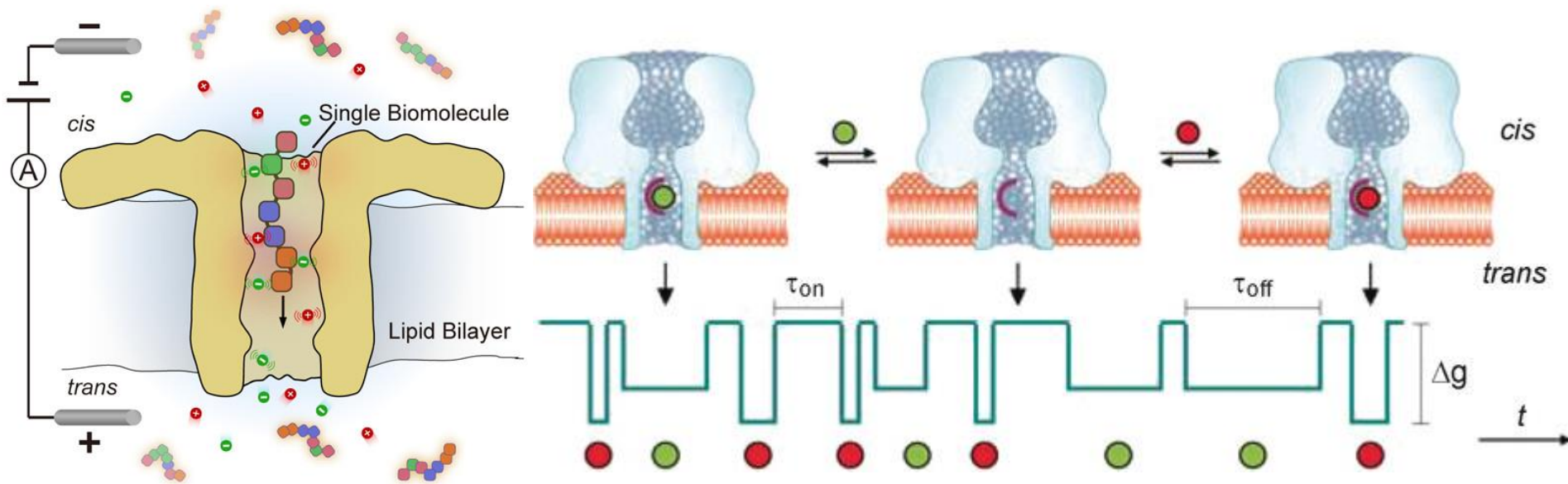
The development of highly sensitive, high-throughput protein sequencing techniques is a great challenge.



# Principle of Nanopore Sensing

- Translocation of the analyte induces the characteristic current event.
- The magnitude of the associated resistance pulses reflects the nature of the analyte, thus allowing differentiation between different analytes.

- ✓ single-molecule detection
- ✓ high-throughput
- ✓ label-free



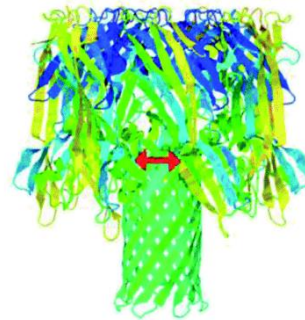
## Nanopore sensing can

- identify the properties without losing information for low-abundance molecules.
- monitor the dynamic transformation processes of a series of biomolecules in a complex system.

# Types of Nanopores

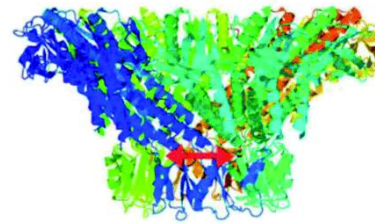
- **Biological nanopore**
  - porin in phospholipid membrane
  - natural interaction with bio-analyte
  - engineering by site-directed mutagenesis

$\alpha$ -hemolysin



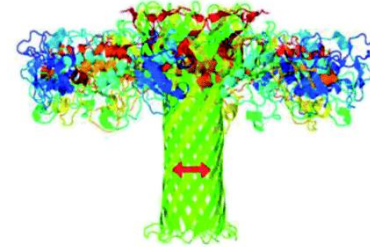
1.4 nm

bacteriophage  $\Phi$ 29



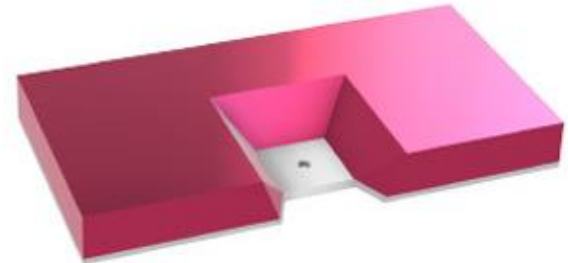
3.6 nm

aerolysin



1.0 nm

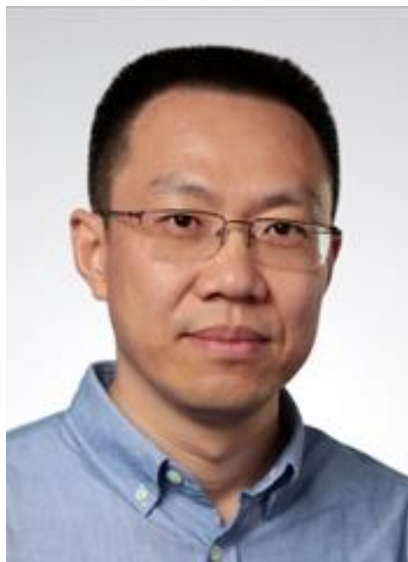
- **Solid-state nanopore**
  - inorganic material ( $\text{SiNx}$  or  $\text{SiO}_2$ , graphene etc.)
  - pore fabrication by focused ion or electron beams.
  - easy tuning of the size and geometry of the pore
  - mechanical and chemical stability



- Introduction

- **Protein nanopore reveals the renin–angiotensin system crosstalk with single-amino-acid resolution**

Jiang, J.; Li, M.-Y.; Wu, X.-Y.; Ying, Y.-L.; Han, H.-X.; Long, Y.-T. *Nat. Chem.* **2023**, *15*, 578.



## Yi-Tao Long

- B.S.: Chemistry, Shandong University (1989)
- Ph.D.: Bioelectrochemistry, Nanjing University (1998)  
Prof. Hong-Yuan Chen
- Postdoctoral fellow: Heidelberg University (1999-2001)  
Prof. Michael Grunze
- Research Associate: University of Saskatchewan (2001-06)  
Prof. Jeremy S. Lee
- Senior Research Scientist: University of California, Berkeley (2006-07)
- Distinguished Professor: East China University of Science and Technology (ECUST) (2007-18)
- Professor: Nanjing University (2019-)

### Research interests

Nanopore Single Molecule Analysis

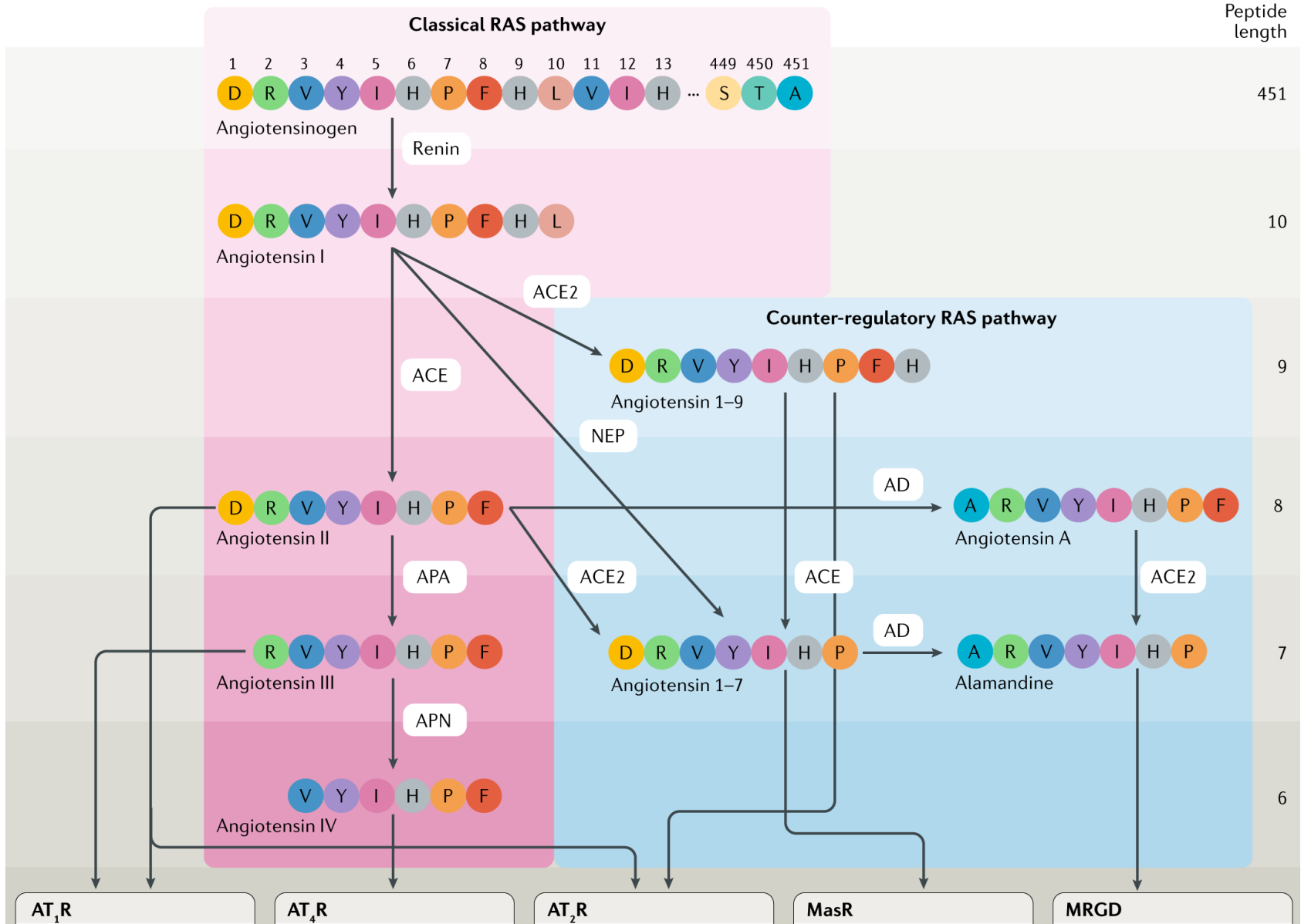
Nanoelectrochemistry

*in-situ* Spectroelectrochemistry



# Renin-Angiotensin System (RAS)

renin-angiotensin system: hormone system that regulates blood pressure and electrolyte balance<sup>1</sup>

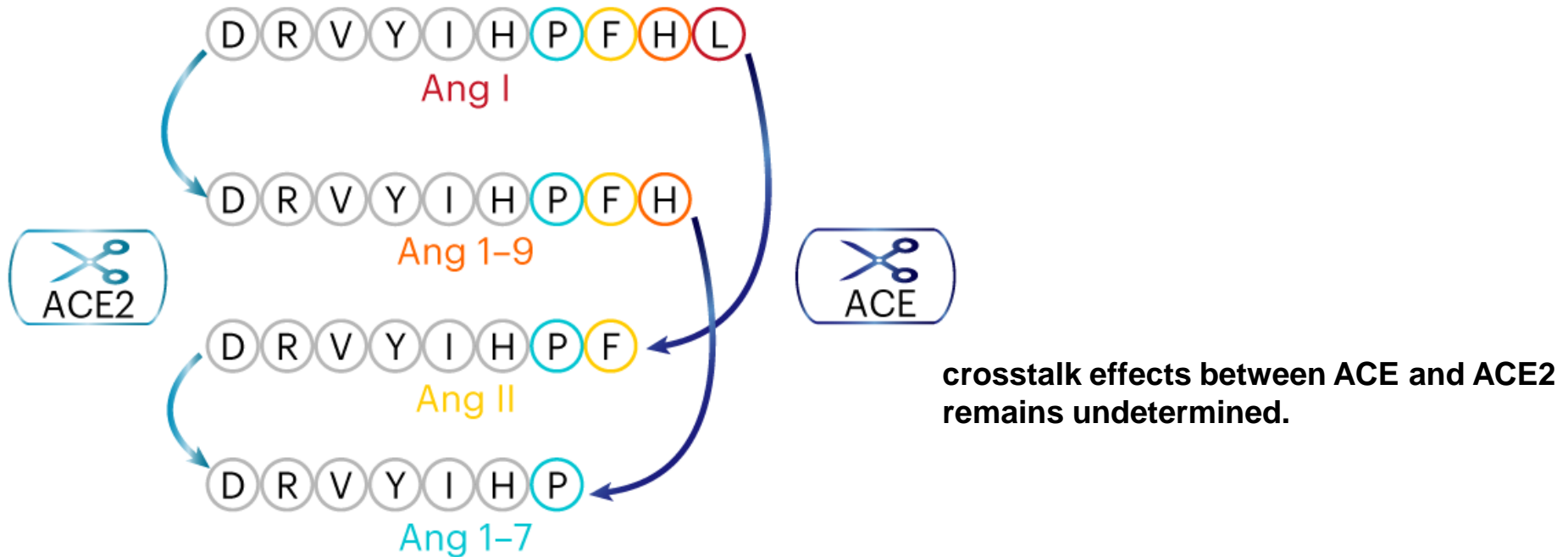


1. Ocaranza, M. P.; Riquelme, J. A.; Garcia, L.; Jalil, J. E.; Choing, M; Santos, R. A.; Lavandero, S. *Nat. Rev. Cardiol.* **2019**, *17*, 116.

# Crosstalk in the Renin-Angiotensin System

10

Renin-angiotensin system involving ACE and ACE2



direct reading a number of individual molecules of multiple Ang peptides during the enzymatic process  
→ nanopore framework to reveal crosstalk effects

requirement:

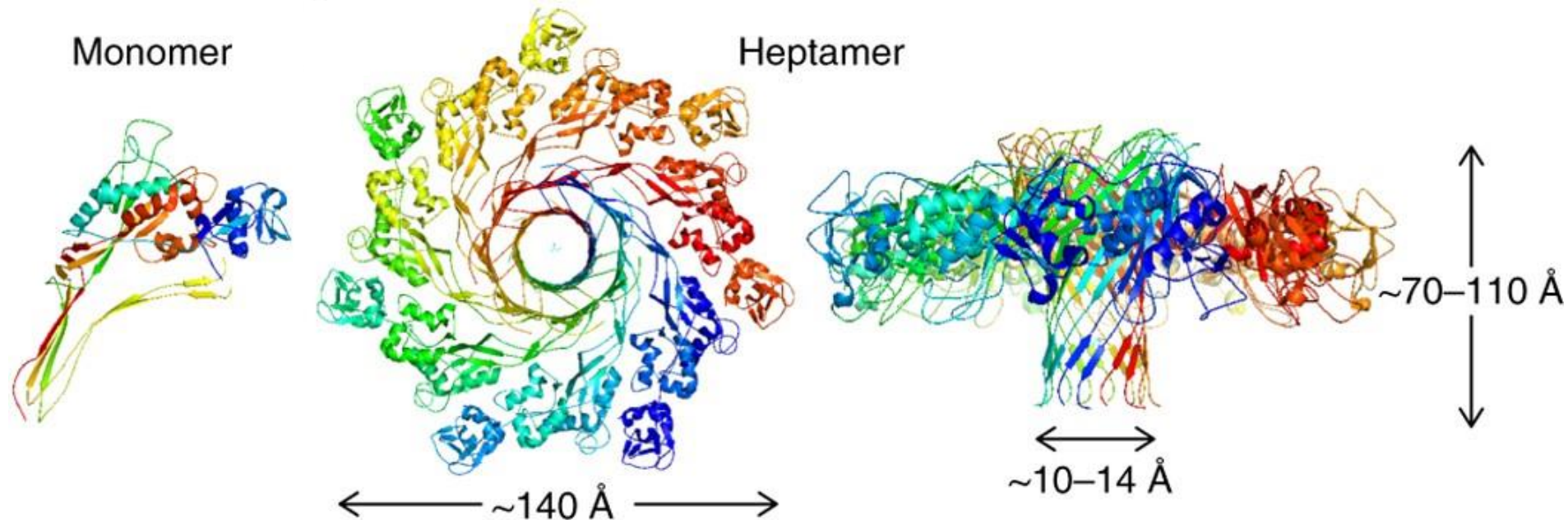
- (1) sufficient resolution to identify peptides with one-amino-acid difference
- (2) high capture efficiency to ensure real-time analysis
- (3) peptide detection that are compatible with the enzyme reaction environment

# Aerolysin

11

aerolysin:  $\beta$ -barrel pore-forming toxins produced by *Aeromonas hydrophila*<sup>1</sup>

structure of aerolysin (PDB ID: 5JZT)<sup>2</sup>

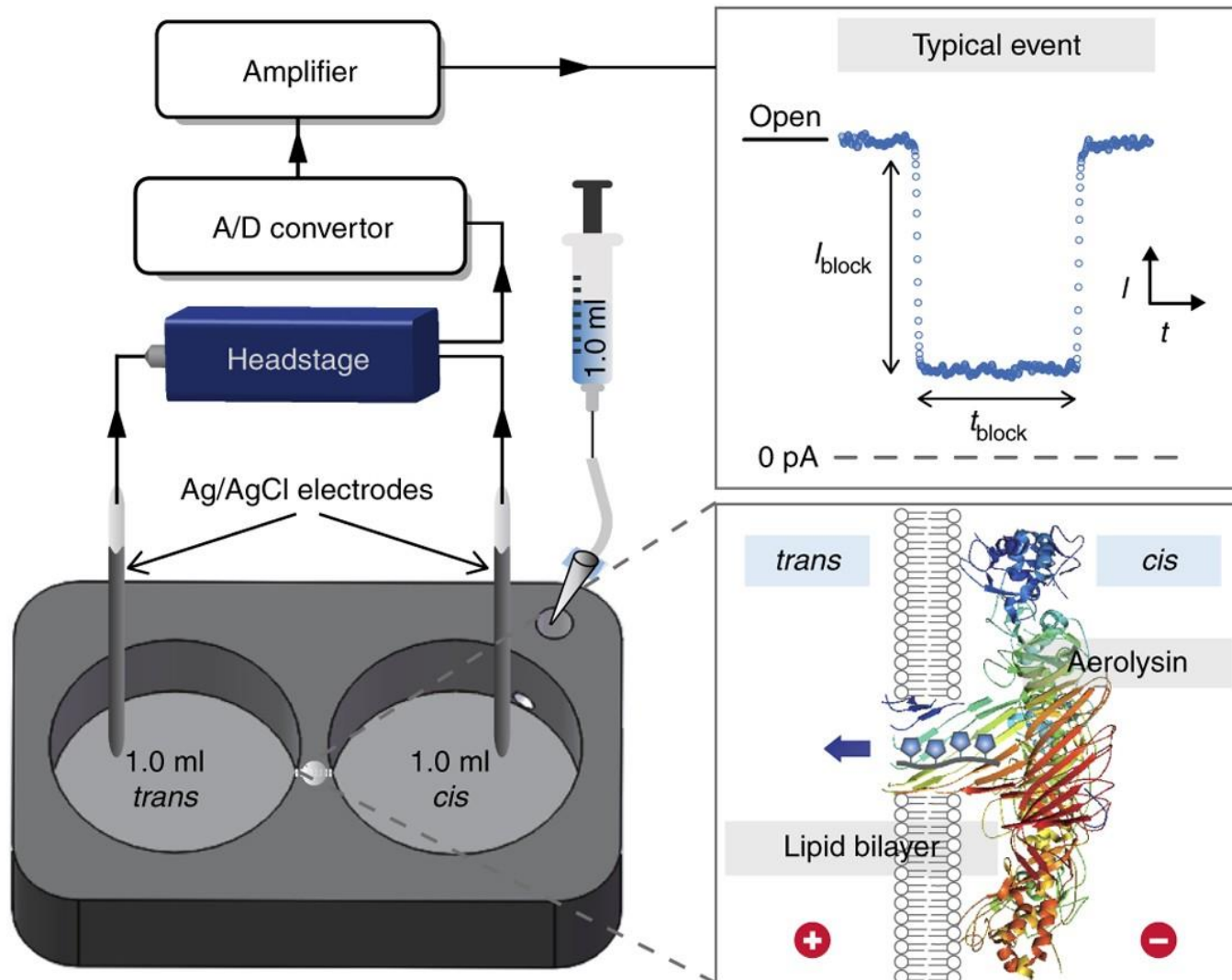


- long retention of analytes
- applicable in wide range of pH (4.0~10.1)
- stable under denaturing agents

**Aerolysin has been utilized as a suitable nanopore for precise analysis of single molecules.**

1. Parker, M. W.; Buckley, J. T.; Postma, J. P. M.; Tucker, A. D.; Leonard, K.; Pattus, F.; Tsernoglou, D. *Nature* **1994**, 367, 292.
2. Iacovache, I.; Carlo, S. D.; Cirauqui, N.; Peraro, M. D.; van der Goot, F. G.; Zuber, B. *Nat. Commun.* **2016**, 7, 12062.

# Experimental Setup



**monitored parameters**

- $I_{\text{block}}$  : blockade current
- $t_{\text{open}}$  : duration
- $f$  : frequency

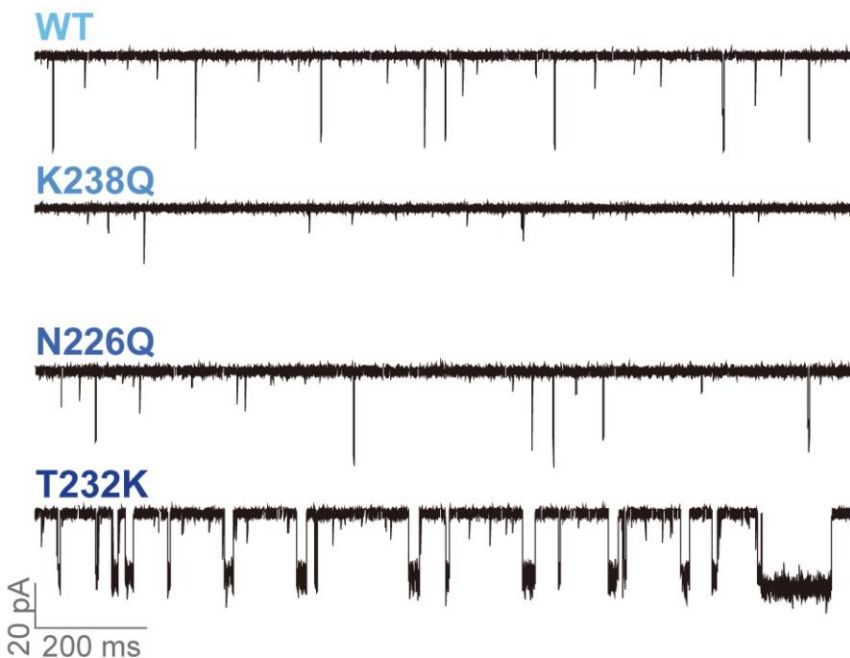
translocation event is characterized by  $I/I_0 = I_{\text{block}}/I_{\text{open}}$   
 $I_{\text{open}}$ : open pore ionic current

# Establishment of a Nanopore Framework

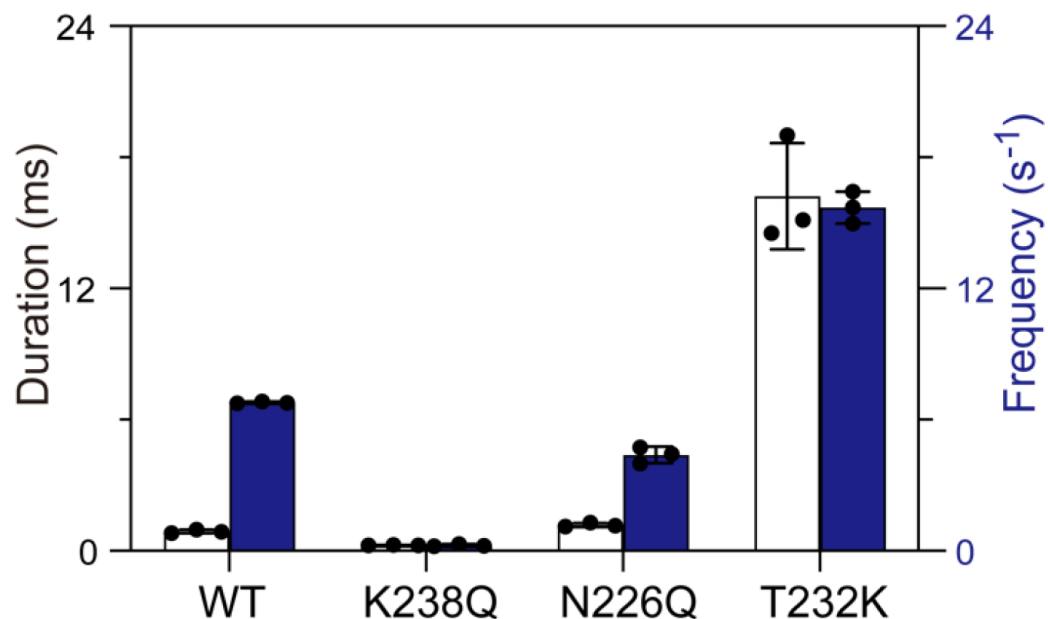
13

For the discrimination of Ang peptides in a single amino acid resolution, mutant aerolysin candidates<sup>1,2</sup> were investigated to introduce electroosmotic flow and enhance the interactions with target peptides.

Detection of Ang I



Duration (white) and capture rate (blue) of Ang I



**T232K aerolysin exhibited the longest duration and highest capture efficiency for Ang I**

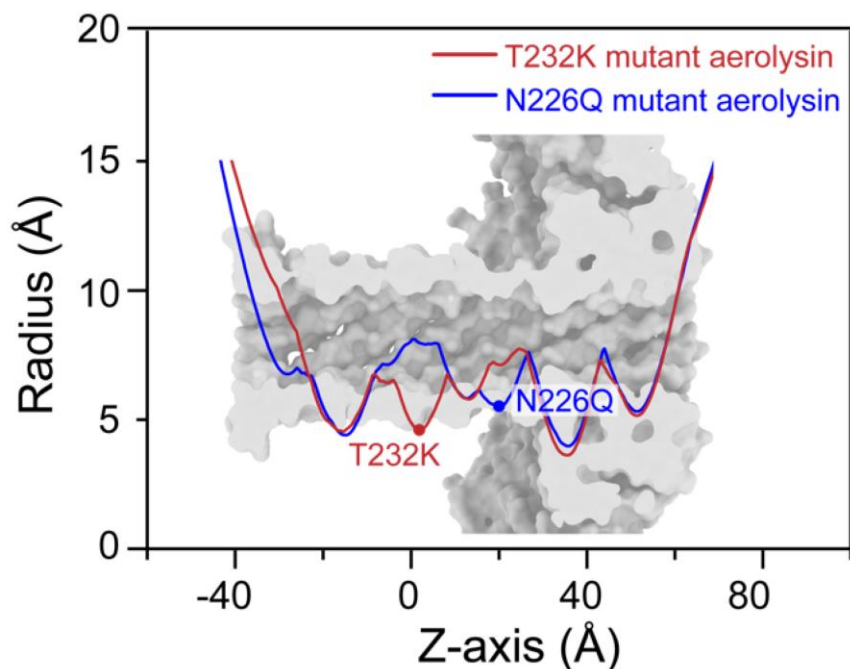
1. Wang, Y.-Q.; Cao, C.; Ying, Y.-L.; Li, S.; Wang, M.-B.; Huang, J.; Long, Y.-T. *ACS Sens.* **2018**, 3, 779.
2. Wu, X.-Y.; Wang, M.-B.; Wang, Y.-Q.; Li, M.-Y.; Ying, Y.-L.; Huang, J.; Long, Y.-T. *CCS Chem.* **2019**, 1, 304.

# MD Simulation of T232K Mutant Aerolysin

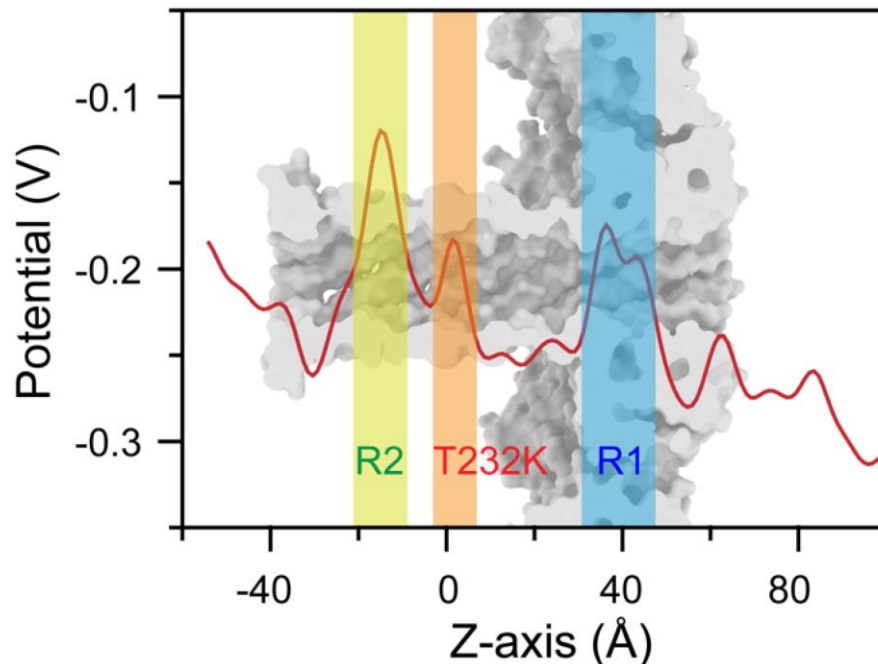
14

For the discrimination of Ang peptides in a single amino acid resolution, mutant aerolysin candidates<sup>1,2</sup> were investigated to introduce electroosmotic flow and enhance the interactions with target peptides.

Pore radius of T232K and N226Q mutant



Potential distribution of T232K mutant



- narrow radius and the longer side chain of lysine
- enhancement of electroosmotic flow by the positive charges of lysine
- introduction of an extra potential fluctuation region inside the T232K aerolysin

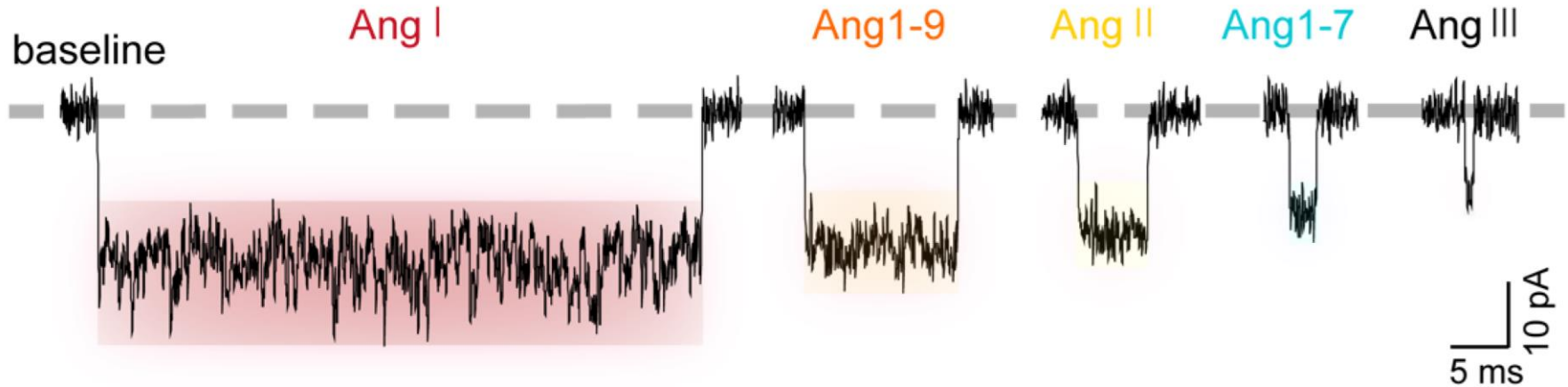
**T232K aerolysin exhibited the longest duration and highest capture efficiency for Ang I**

1. Wang, Y.-Q.; Cao, C.; Ying, Y.-L.; Li, S.; Wang, M.-B.; Huang, J.; Long, Y.-T. *ACS Sens.* **2018**, 3, 779.
2. Wu, X.-Y.; Wang, M.-B.; Wang, Y.-Q.; Li, M.-Y.; Ying, Y.-L.; Huang, J.; Long, Y.-T. *CCS Chem.* **2019**, 1, 304.

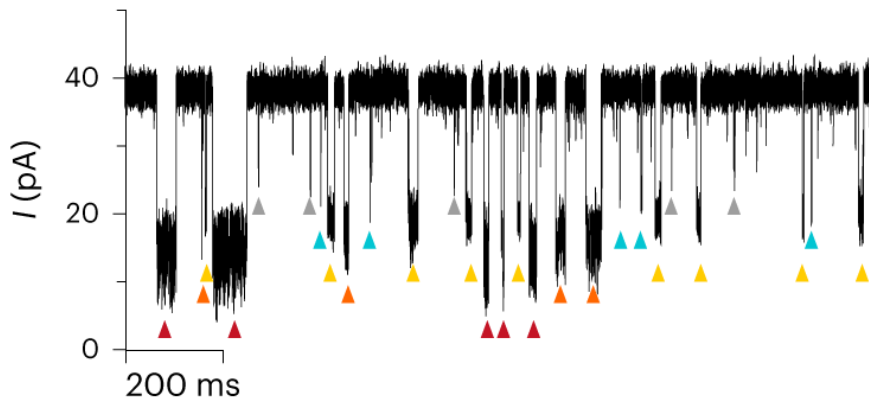
# Distinguishing Ang Peptides in the Mixture

15

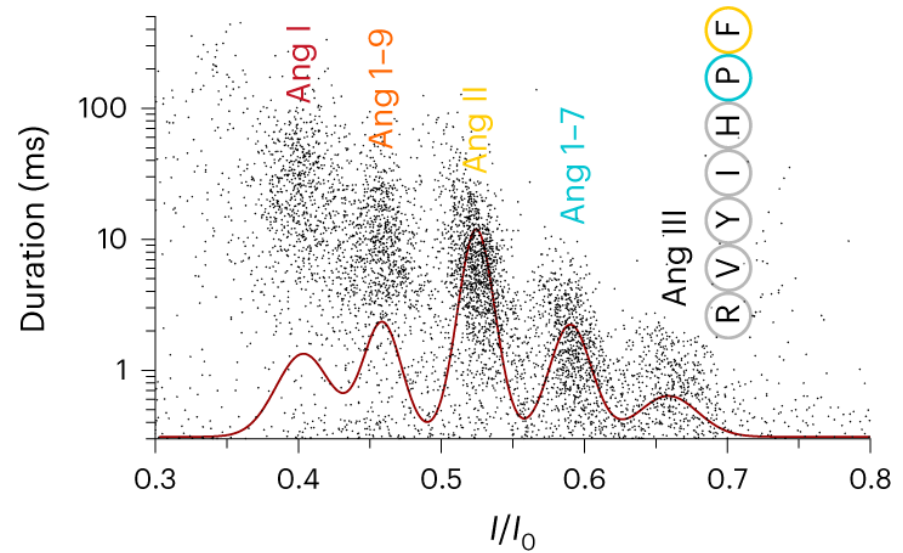
Current fluctuation corresponding to each Ang peptide



Raw current traces for Ang peptides mixture



Scatter plots and gaussian fitting of  $I/I_0$  histogram



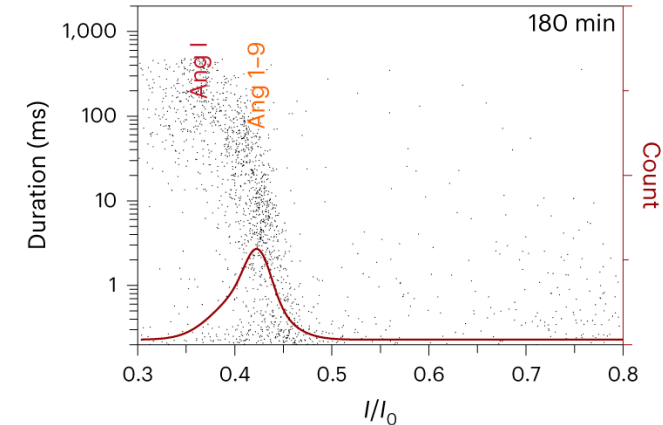
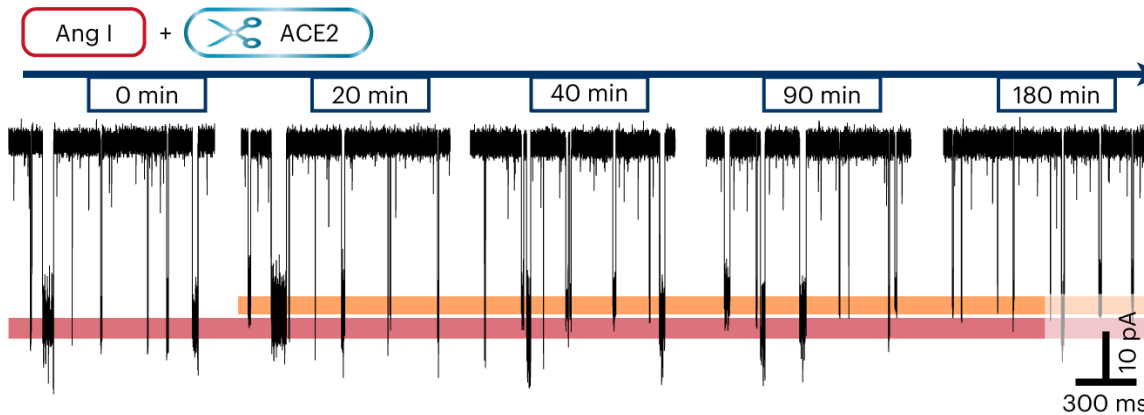
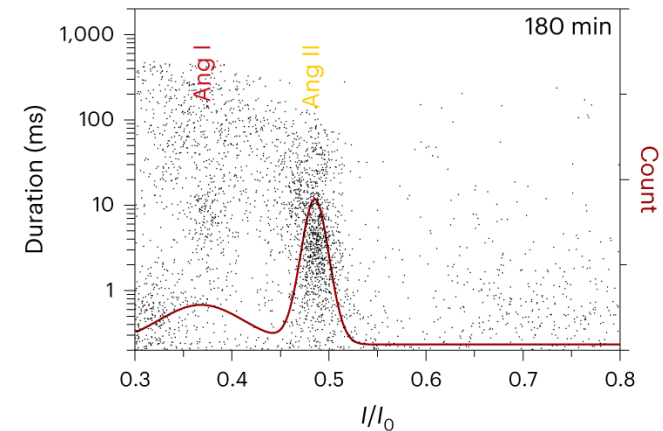
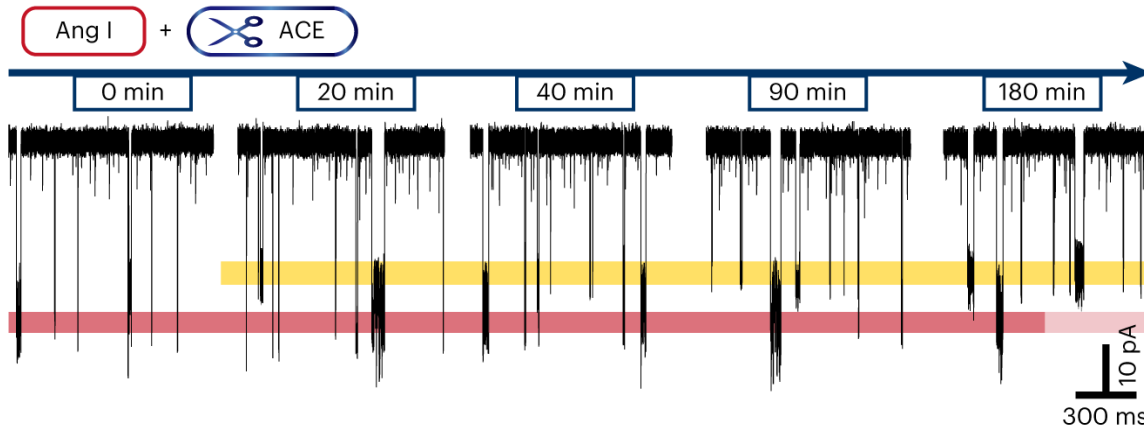
T232K aerolysin could identify all the five Ang peptides in the mixture in single-amino acid resolution.

# Ang I Cleavage Recording by Nanopore

16

Raw current traces for Ang I cleaved by ACE or ACE2

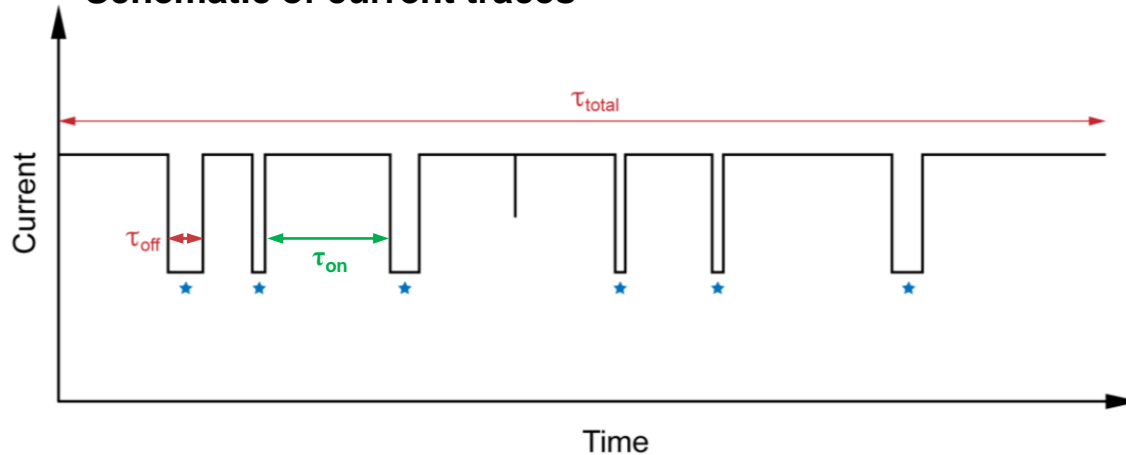
Scatter plots and gaussian fitting of  $I/I_0$  histogram



Enzymatic reactions of ACE and ACE2 were observed by nanopore sensing.

# Redefinition of Capture Efficiency

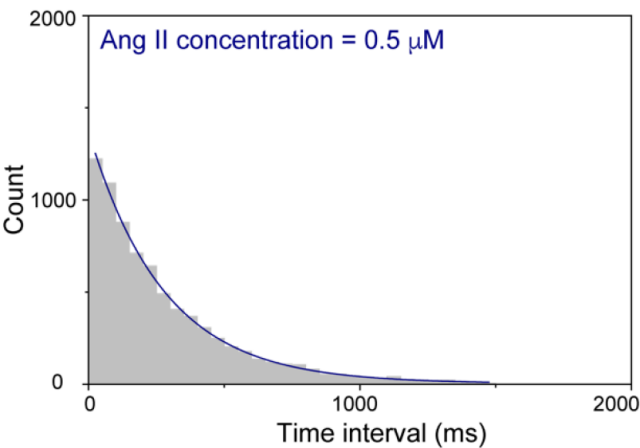
Schematic of current traces



$\tau_{on}$  : inter-event interval  
 $\tau_{off}$  : dwell time of a peptide  
 $\tau_{total}$  : current recording time

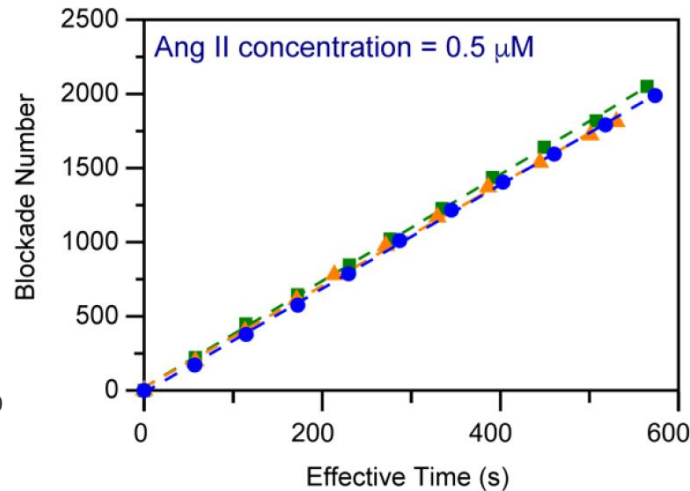
Capture efficiency of a peptide

$$f = 1/\tau_{on}$$



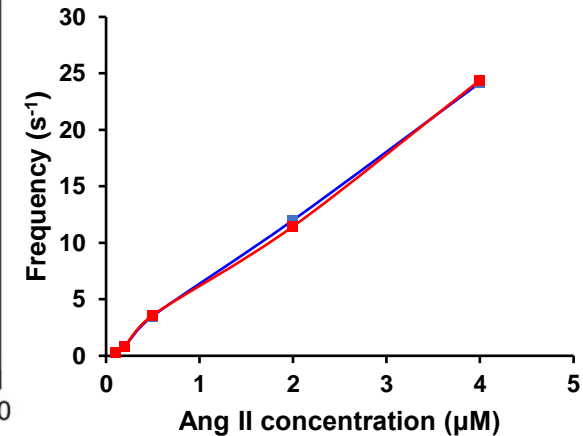
$$f = n_{\text{peptide}}/\tau_{\text{effective}}$$

$$(\tau_{\text{effective}} = \tau_{\text{total}} - \sum \tau_{\text{off}})$$



Detection of Ang II

—  $f = 1/\tau_{on}$   
 —  $f = n_{\text{peptide}}/\tau_{\text{effective}}$



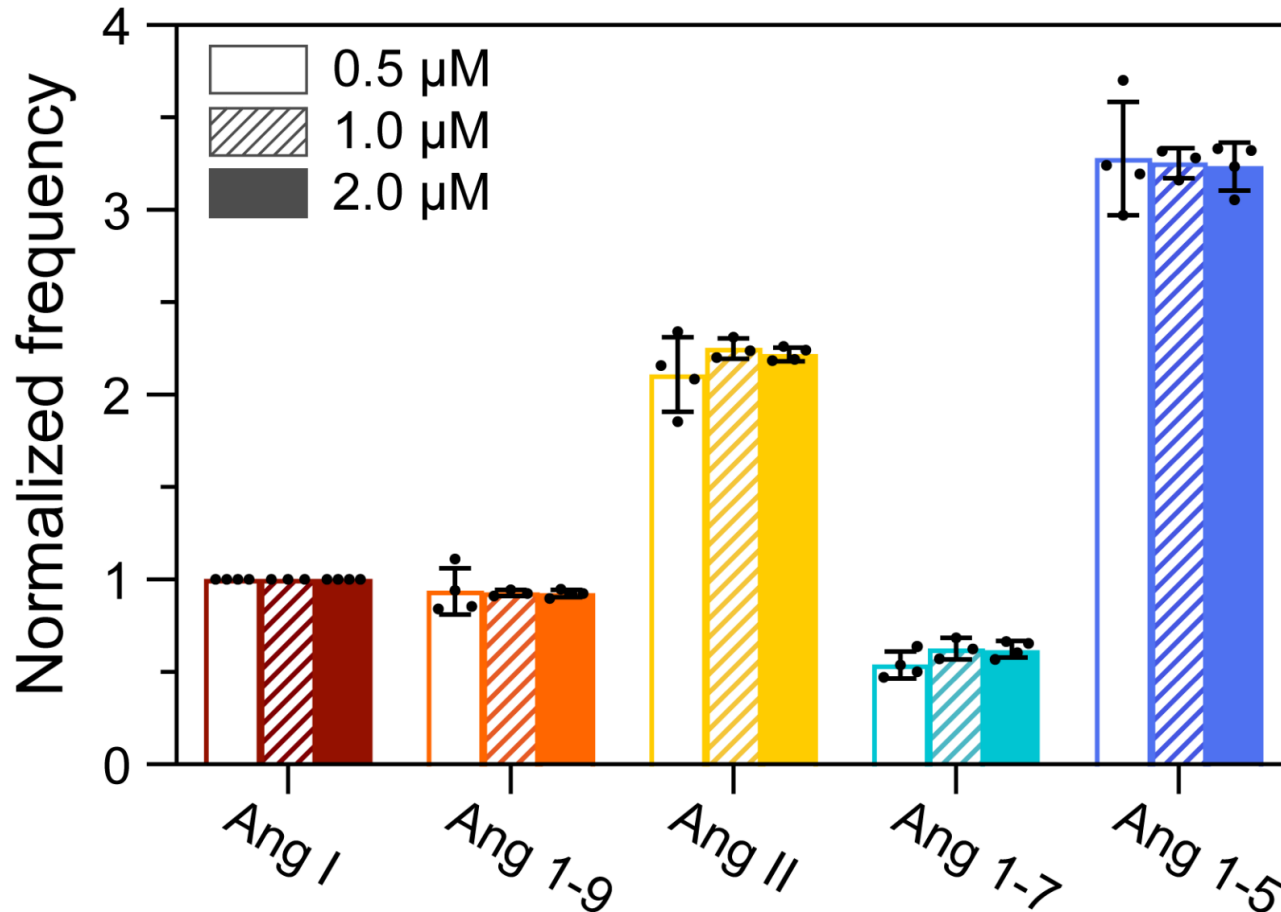
long recording time required  
 (> 500 counts)

derivable in real-time analysis

$n_{\text{peptide}}/\tau_{\text{effective}}$  is a comparative index for capture efficiency applicable in real-time analysis.

# Capture Efficiency Normalization

Capture efficiency of T232K mutant aerolysin for Ang peptides in their mixture



No detectable concentration dependency was confirmed in frequency (capture efficiency).

Quantification is possible by combining the number of detected signals and the capture efficiency.

# Real-Time Analysis of Enzymatic Reactions

19

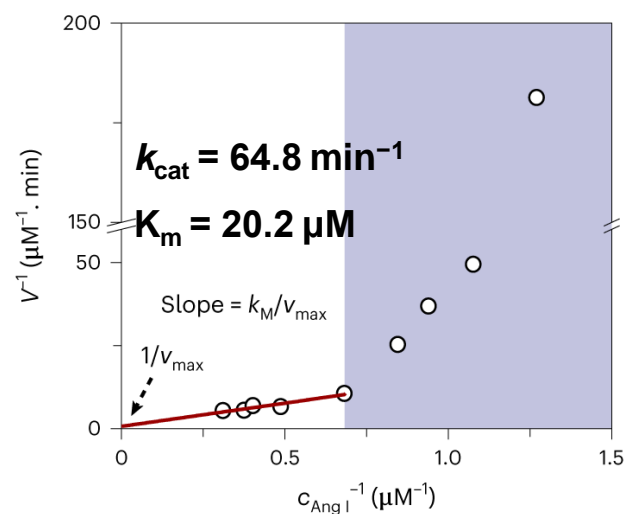
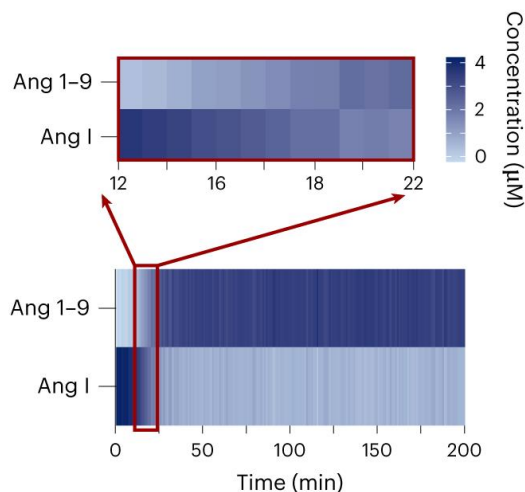
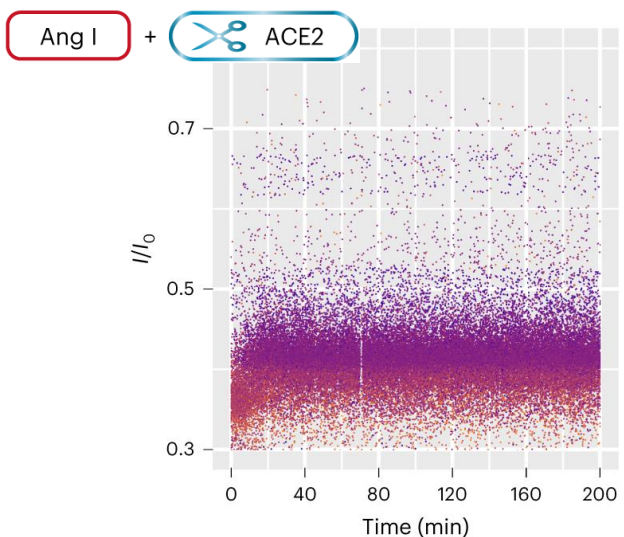
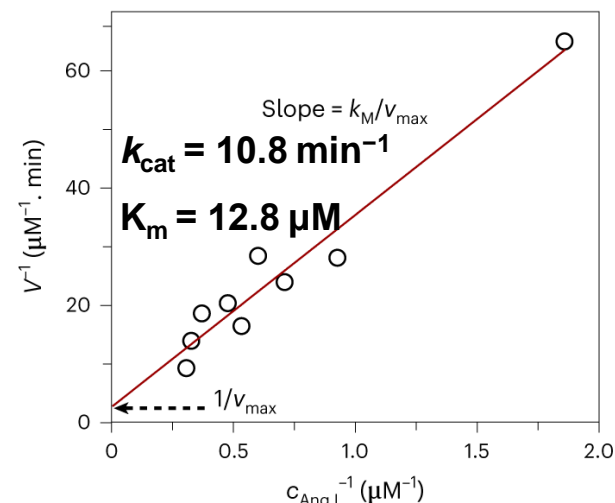
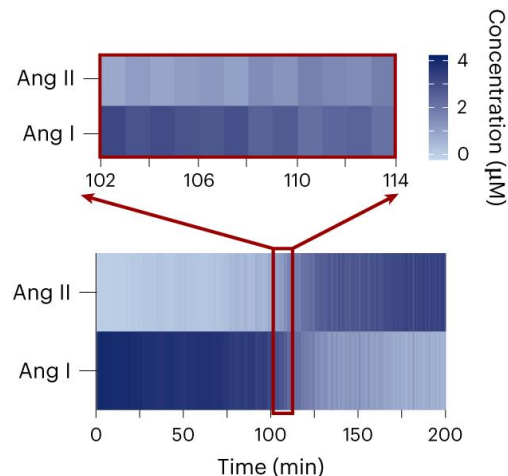
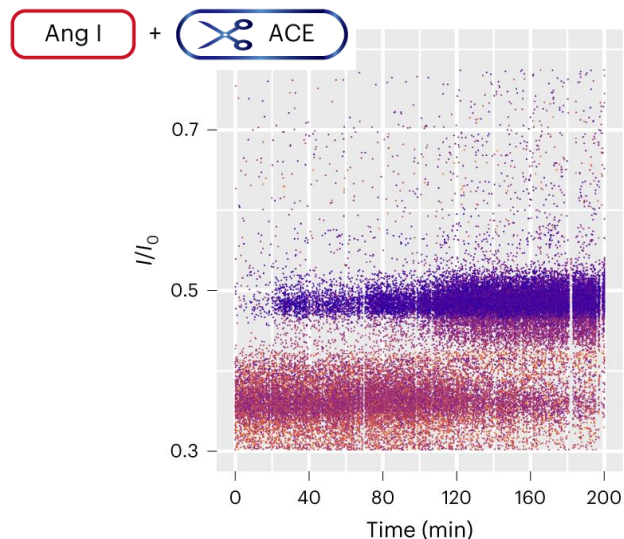
capture efficiency  
normalization

Michaelis-Menten equation  
 $v = k_{\text{cat}}[E]_0[S]/(K_m + [S])$

$I/I_0$  versus reaction time

Evolution of Ang peptides

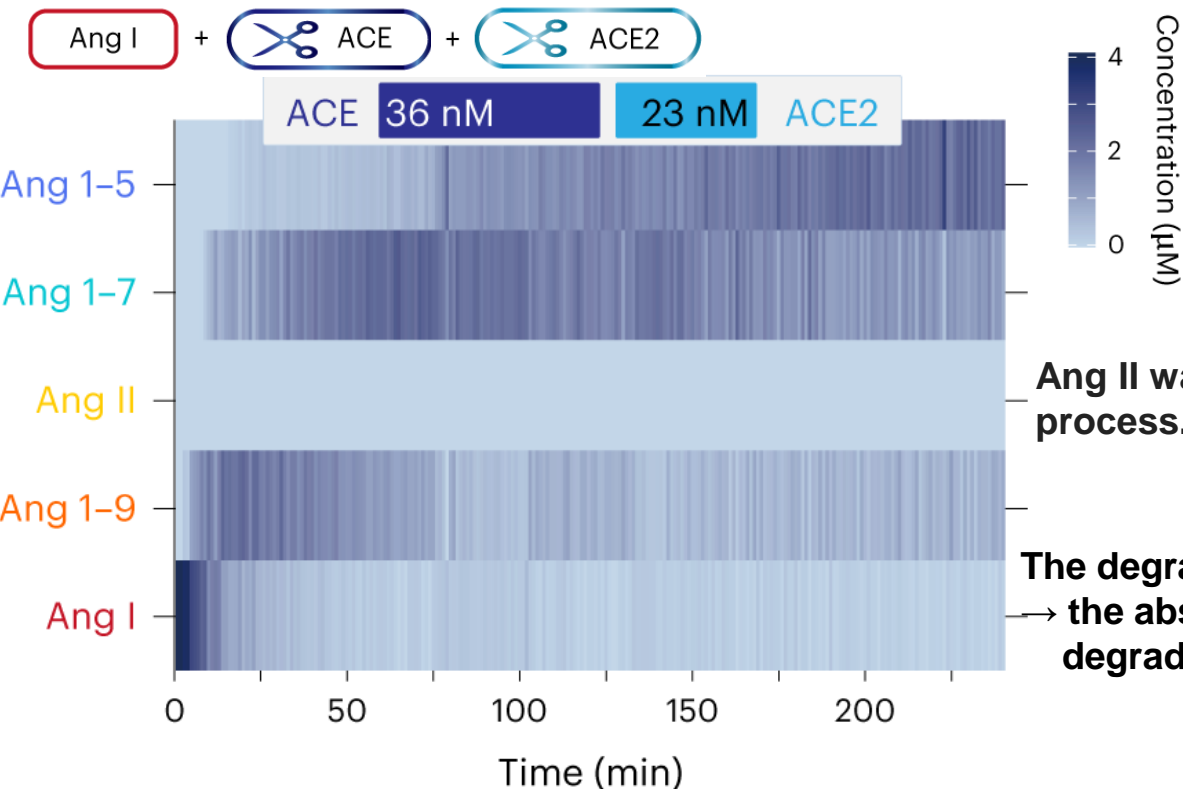
Lineweaver-Burk plot



Nanopore sensing achieved real-time monitoring of the evolution processes.

# Crosstalk Between ACE and ACE2

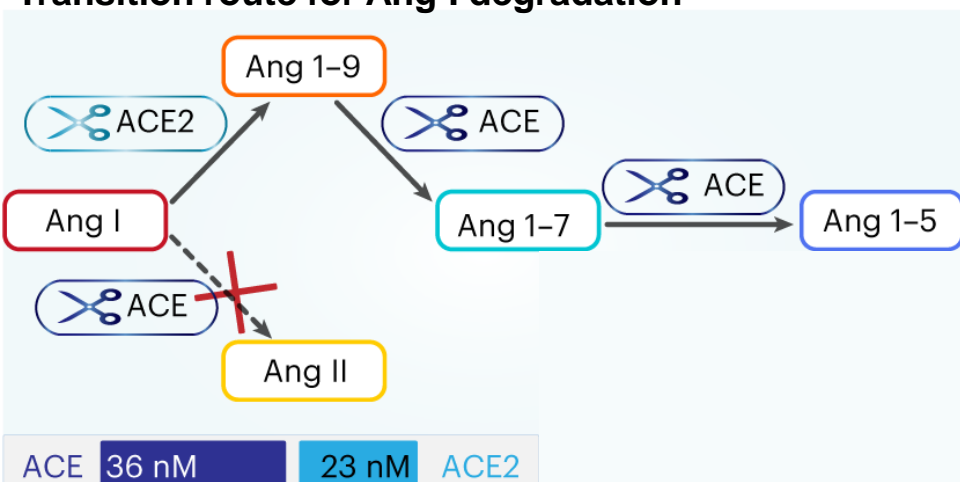
## Real-time monitoring of the enzymatic degradation of Ang I



Ang II was not observed at all throughout the process.

The degradation velocity of Ang I was unchanged. → the absence of Ang II was not caused by rapid degradation by ACE2.

## Transition route for Ang I degradation

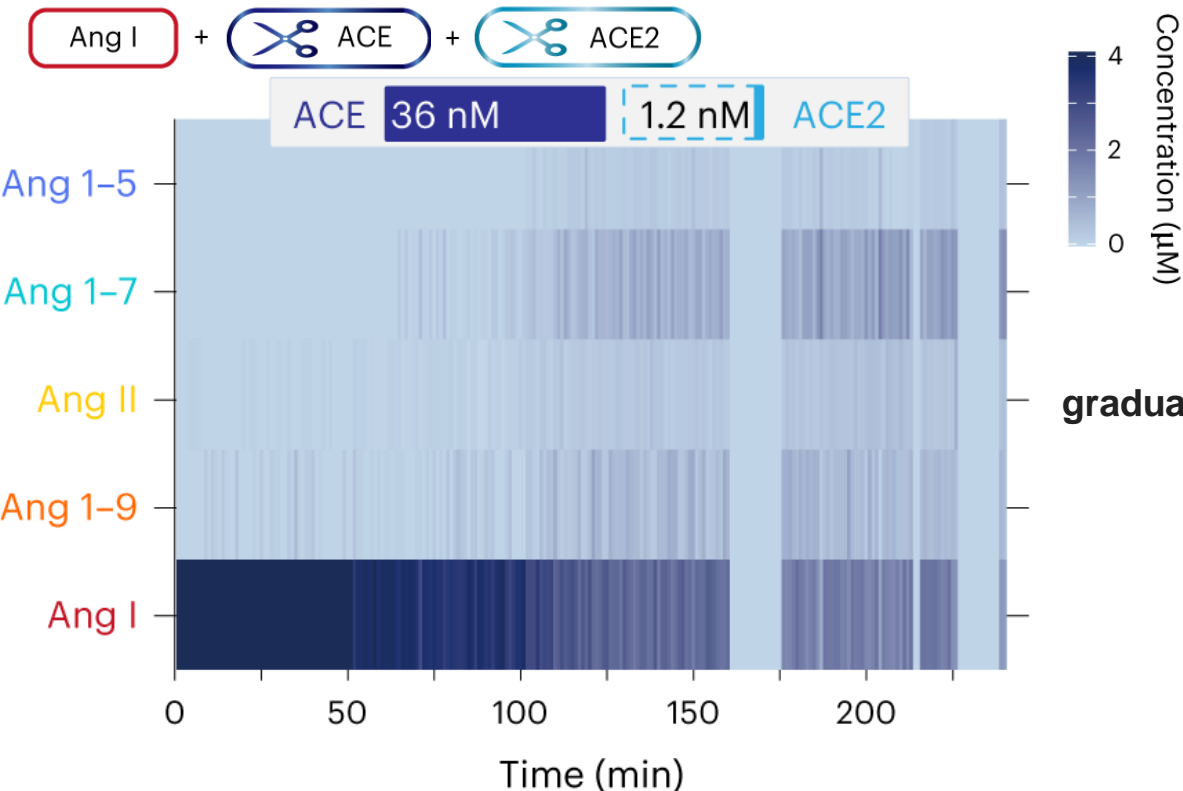


ACE is severely and selectively suppressed by ACE2 only on the production of Ang II.

# Effect of the Ratio of ACE/ACE2 to the Crosstalk

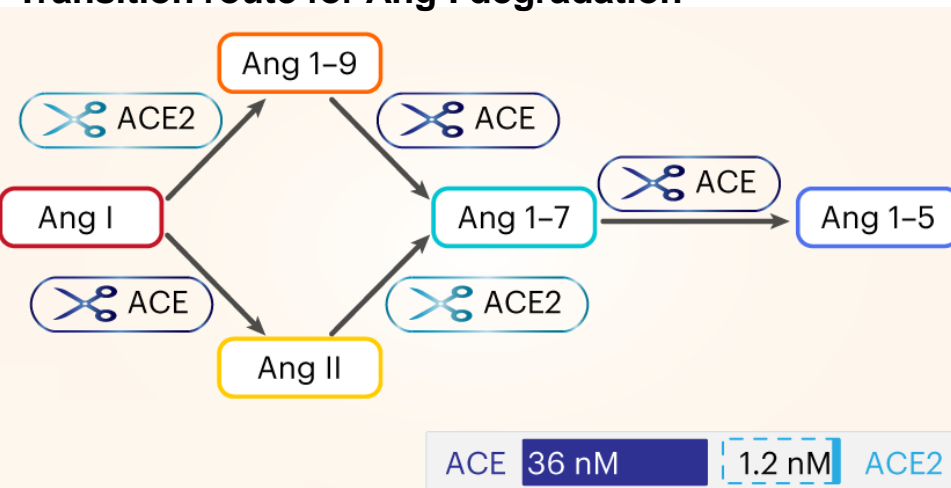
21

Real-time monitoring of the enzymatic degradation of Ang I



gradual generation of Ang II was observed.

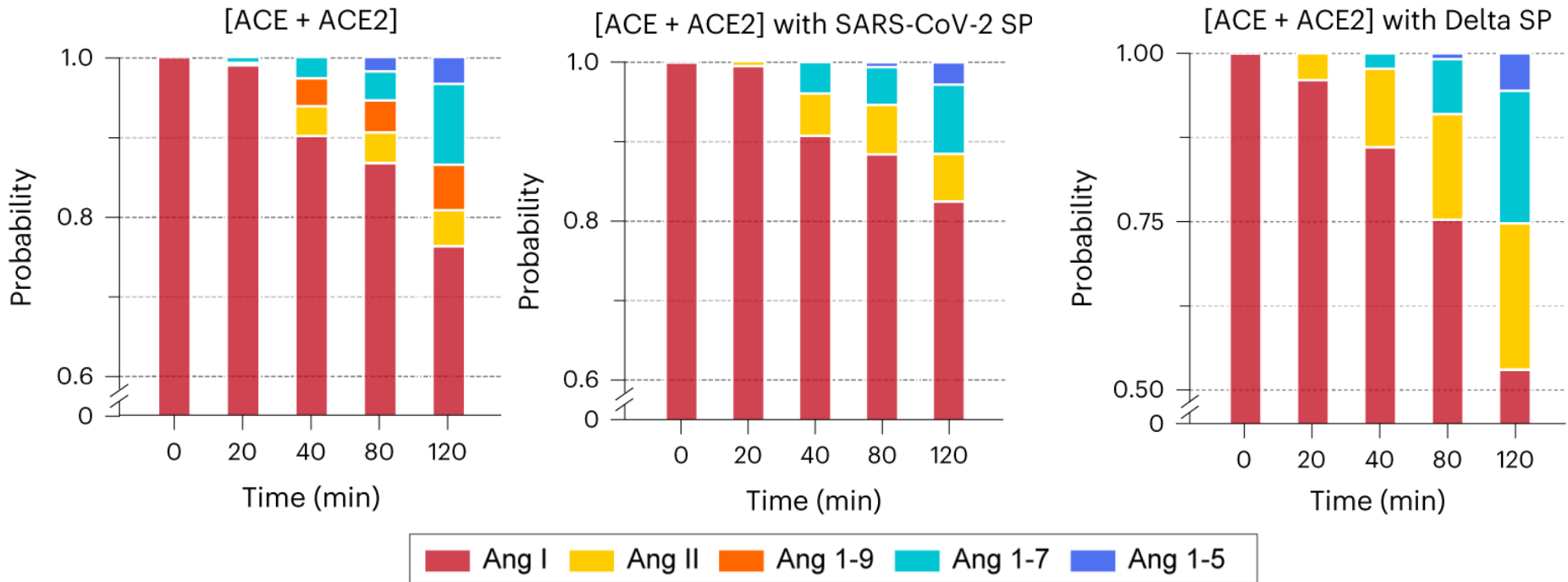
Transition route for Ang I degradation



Crosstalk between ACE and ACE2 was alleviated by reducing ACE2.

ACE2 has been regarded as the cellular receptor of SARS-CoV-2.<sup>1</sup>

Time-dependent probability during the cleavage of Ang I by ACE and ACE2 (ACE:ACE2 = 1:0.03)



- decrease in Ang 1-9
- increase in Ang II



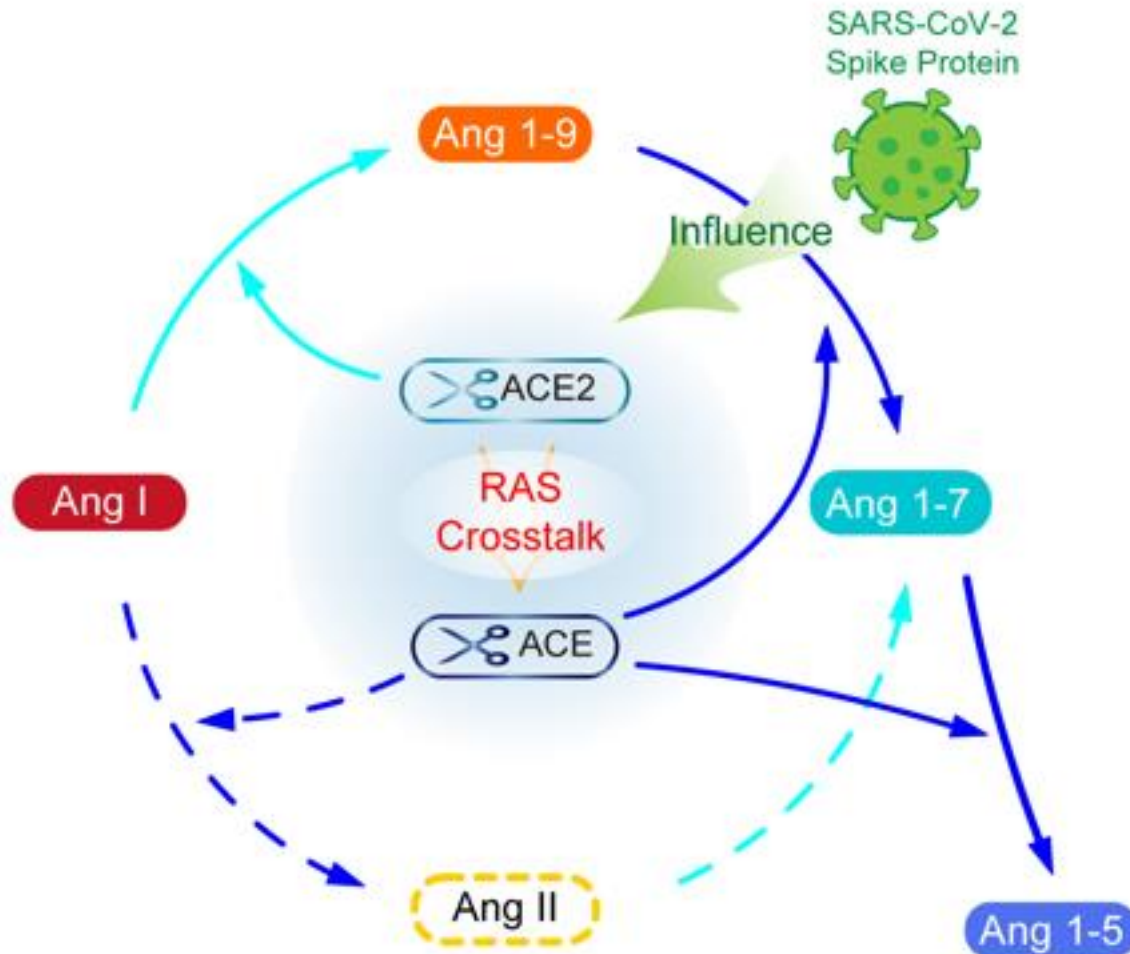
- inhibition of ACE2 by the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2
- disappearance of inhibition of ACE2 to ACE for Ang I cleavage

- escalation in Delta variant



- Over-accumulation of Ang II<sup>2</sup> could be associated with aggravation risk.

1. Walls, A. C.; Park, Y.-J.; Tortorici, M. A.; Wall, A.; McGuire, A. T.; Velesler, D. *Cell* **2020**, 181, 281.
2. Ocaranza, M. P.; Riquelme, J. A.; Garcia, L.; Jalil, J. E.; Choing, M; Santos, R. A.; Lavandero, S. *Nat. Rev. Cardiol.* **2019**, 17, 116.



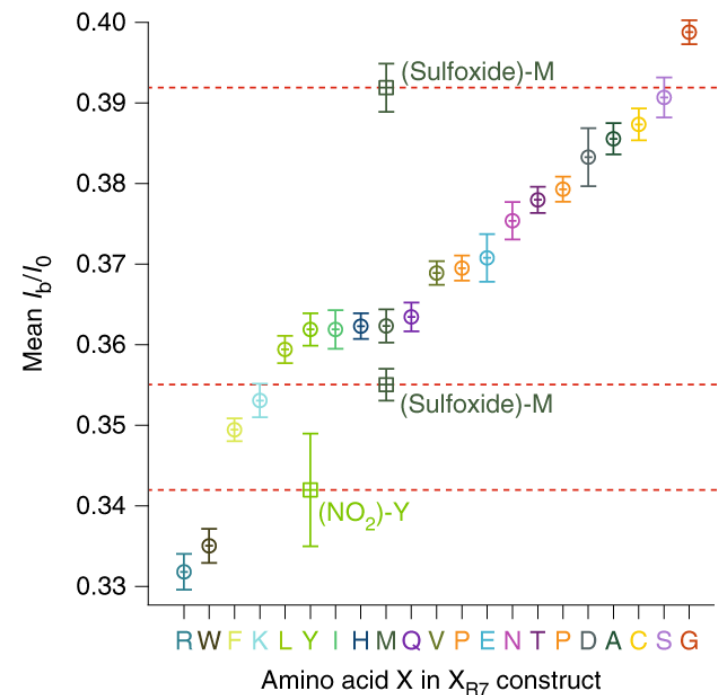
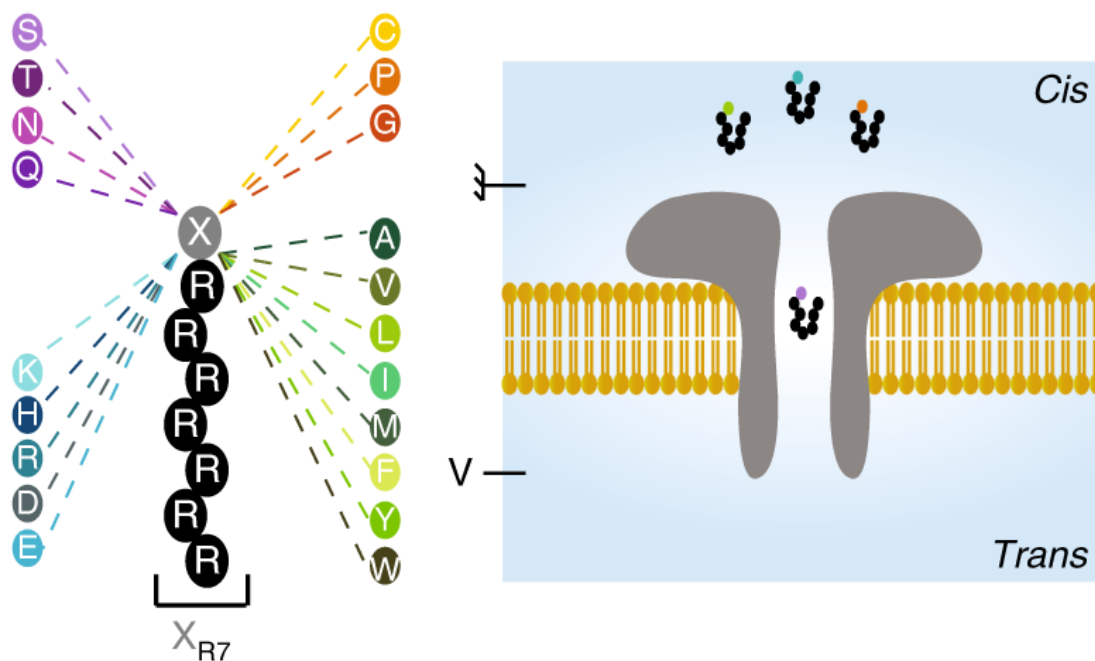
A nanopore-based method was provided to

- identify and quantify a series of angiotensins with one unit difference in real time.
- reveal crosstalk effects between ACE and ACE2 in a mixed enzyme reaction system.
- evaluate the effects of SARS-CoV-2 SP in renin-angiotensin system.

# Attempts to Detect 20 Natural Amino Acids

24

A varied terminal “X” was chemically attached to an arginine heptapeptide, which acts as a polycationic carrier to ensure the unidirectional entry and travel of  $\text{XR}_7$  peptides

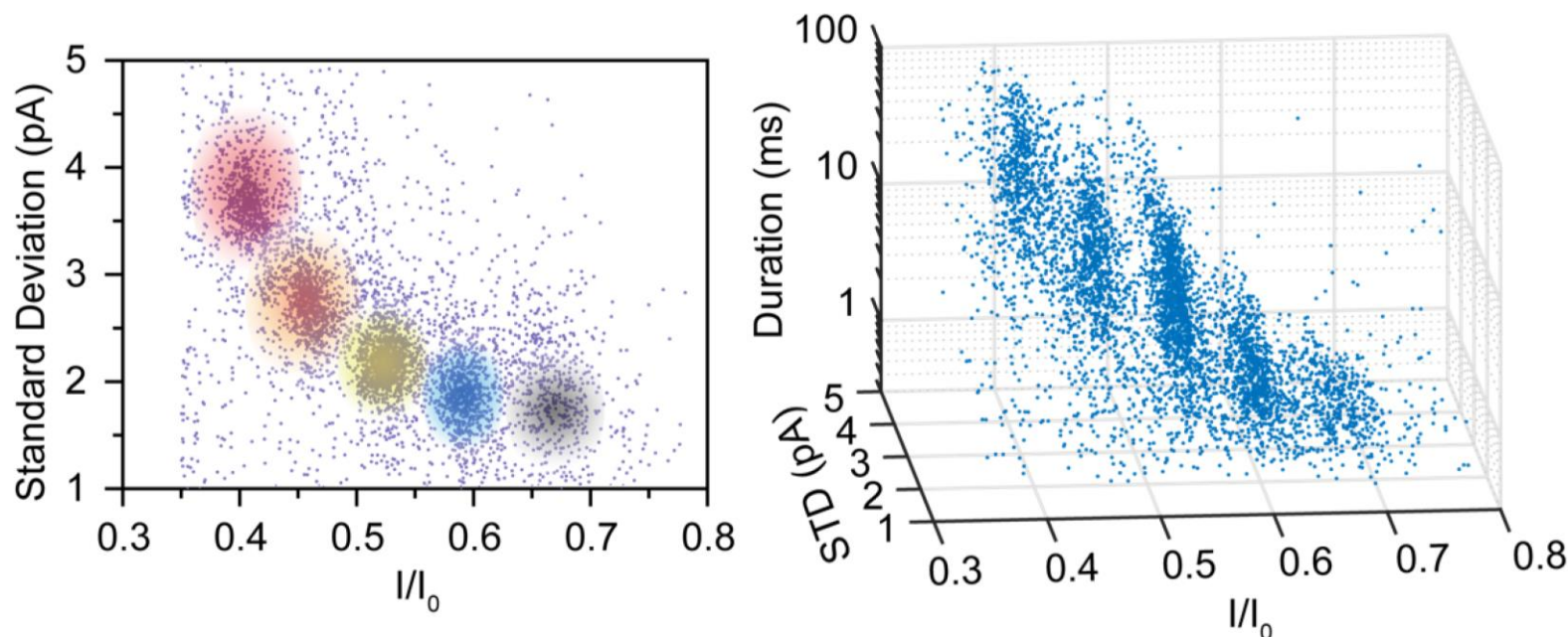
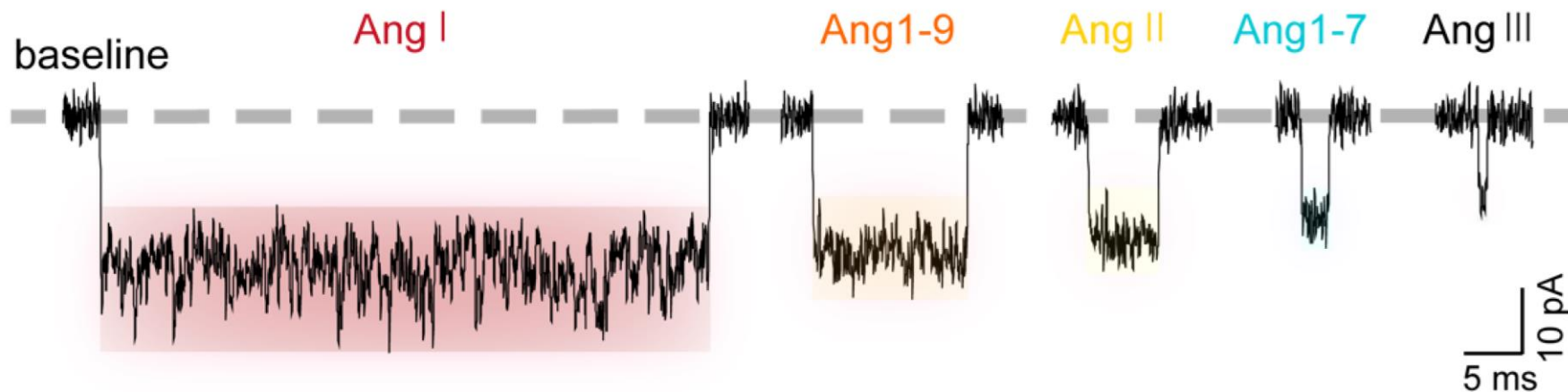


distinct current blockades in wild-type aerolysin can be used to identify 13 of the 20 natural amino acids.

H. Ouldali, K. Sarthak, T. Ensslen, F. Piguet, P. Manivet, J. Pelta, J. C. Behrends, A. Aksimentiev, A. Oukhaled, *Nat. Biotechnol.* **2020**, 38, 176.

# Distinguishing Ang Peptides in the Mixture

Current fluctuation corresponding to each Ang peptide

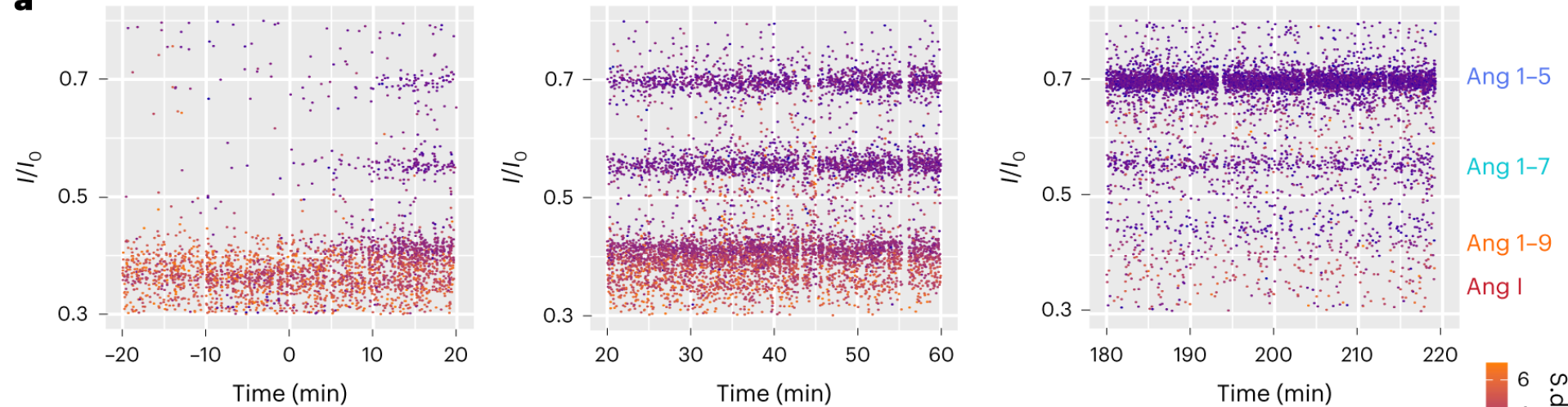
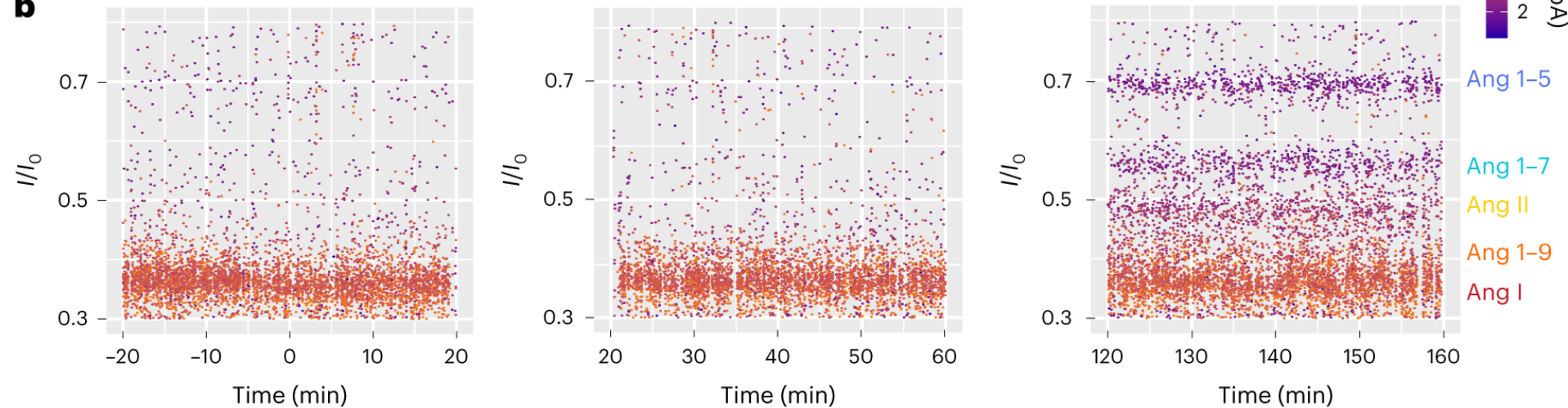


**T232K aerolysin could identify all the five Ang peptides in the mixture.**

# Enzymatic degradation of Ang I by ACE2 and ACE

26

$I/I_0$  of the events versus reaction time while Ang I is cleaved by the enzyme mixture  
(a: 36 nM ACE and 23 nM ACE2, b: 36 nM ACE and 1.2 nM ACE2)

**a****b**

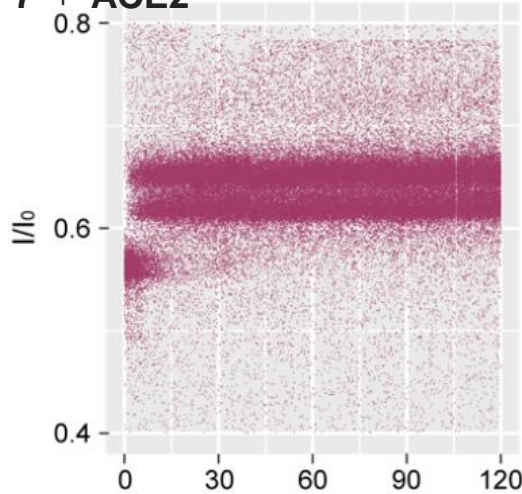
# Hydrolysis of Different Substrates by ACE2

capture efficiency  
normalization

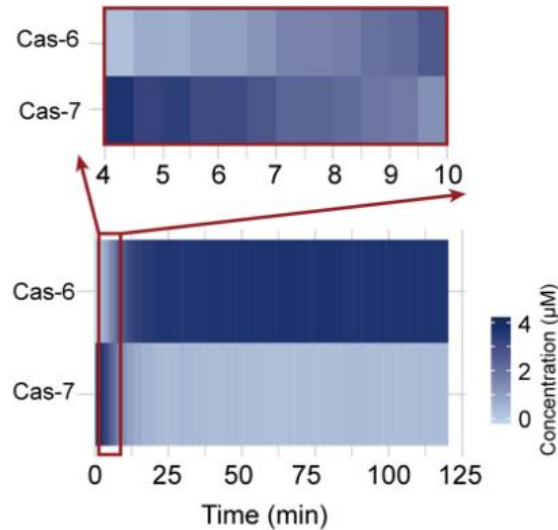
Michaelis-Menten equation  
 $v = k_{\text{cat}}[E]_0[S]/(K_m + [S])$

$I/I_0$  versus reaction time

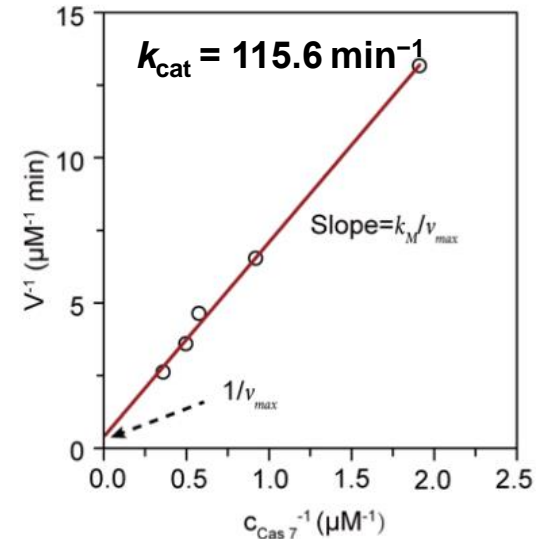
Cas-7 + ACE2



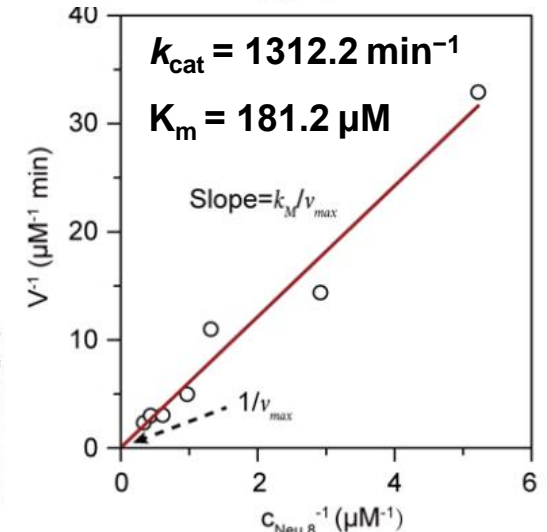
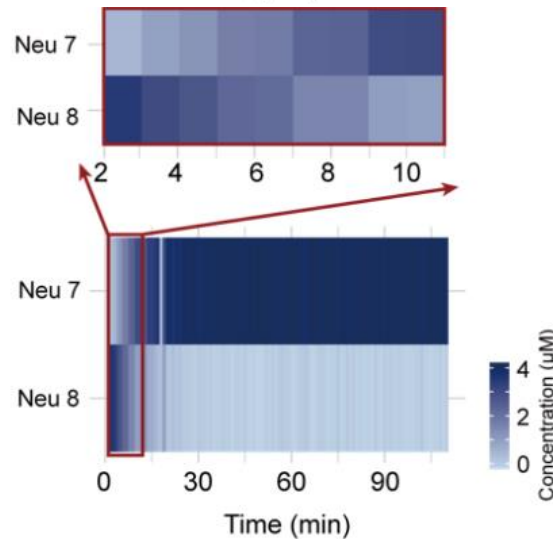
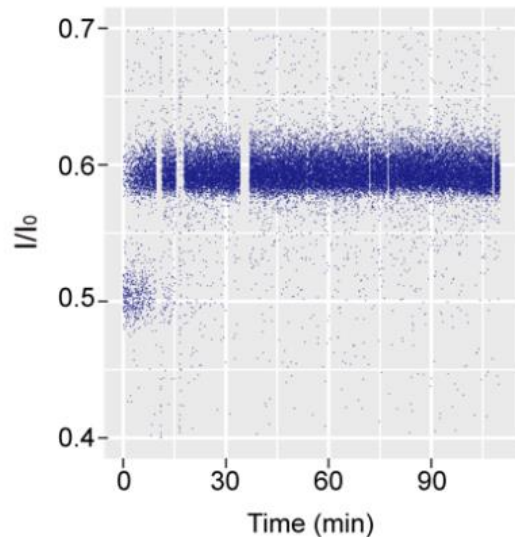
Evolution of Ang peptides



Lineweaver-Burk plot

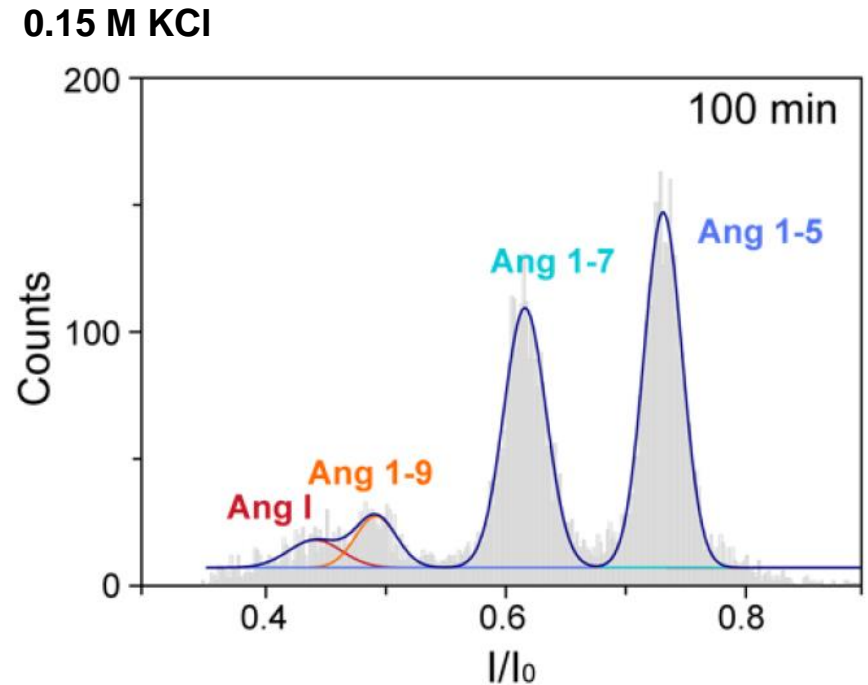
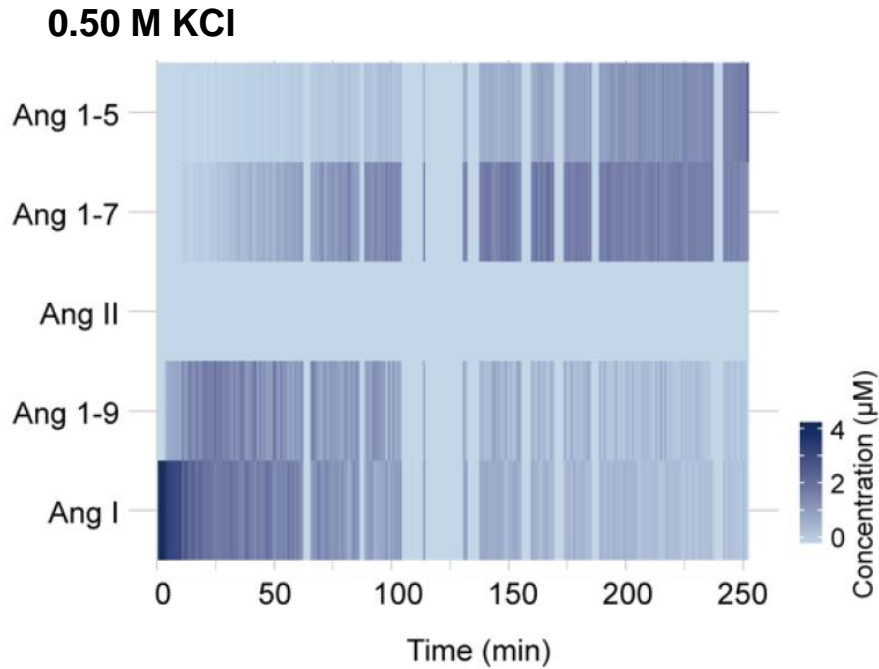


Neu1-8 + ACE2

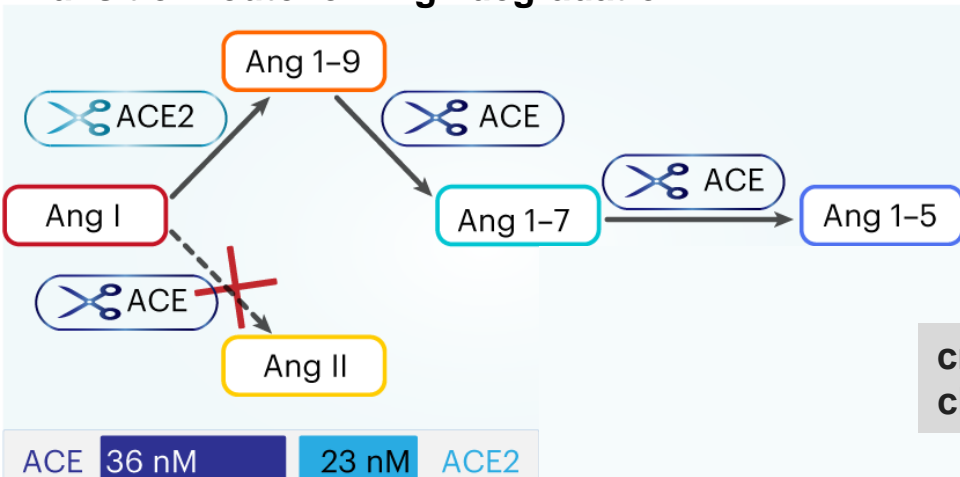


# Influence of Chloride Anion

28



## Transition route for Ang I degradation

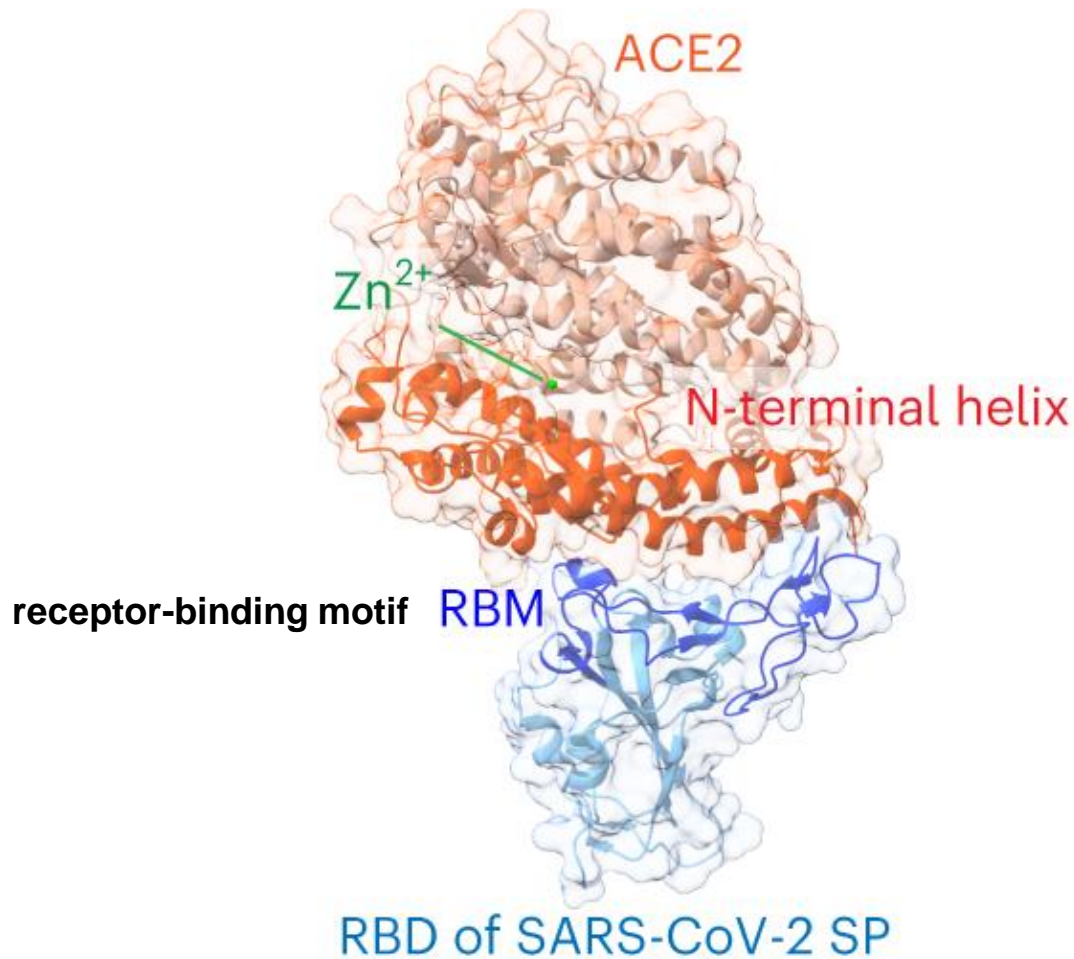


crosstalk between ACE and ACE2 was stable at chloride concentrations ranging from 0.15 M to 1.0 M.

# SARS-CoV-2 Spike Receptor-Binding Domain

29

Illustration of the binding between the SARS-CoV-2 SP and ACE2 (PDB 6M0J)<sup>1</sup>



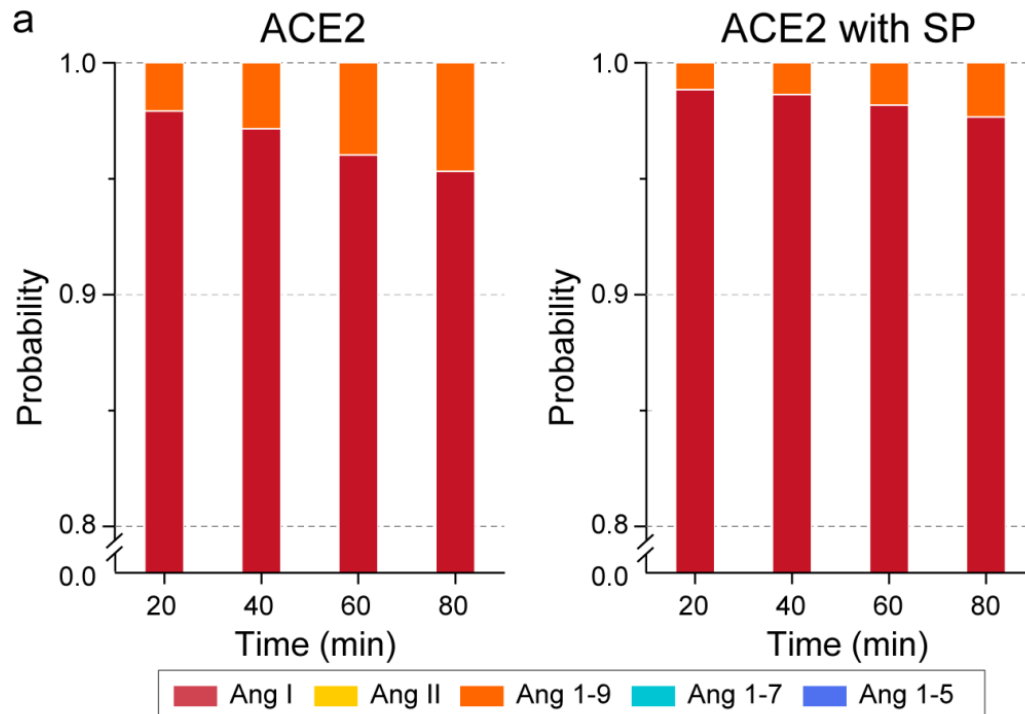
1. Lan, J.; Ge, J.; Yu, J.; Shan, S.; Zhou, H.; Fan, S.; Zhang, Q.; Shi, X.; Wang, Q.; Zhang, L.; Wang, X. *Nature* **2020**, *581*, 215.

# Influence of the SARS-CoV-2 Spike Protein

30

Time-dependent probability of Ang peptides

by ACE2 (ACE2:SP = 1.2 nM:17 nM)



by ACE and ACE2 (ACE:ACE2:SP = 1:X:0.74)

