Annual Research Highlights

(1) Molecular Level Pursuit of a Spontaneous Cell Death Process by Time-resolved Raman Mapping

It is known that a particle called dancing body (DB) occasionally appears and moves vigorously in a vacuole of a budding yeast (S. cerevisiae) cell. We found that once a DB was formed, the vacuole was eventually lost and the cell died subsequently. This spontaneous death process of a budding yeast cell was studied at the molecular level by time-resolved Raman mapping experiments (Fig. 1). Between 0 min and 5h 50 min, the cell was in the normal state. The "Raman spectroscopic signature of life" at 1602 cm⁻¹ showed high metabolic activity in mitochondria, and phosphlipids (1440 cm⁻¹) and proteins (1002 cm⁻¹) were localized in the outside of the vacuole. At 6 h, a dancing body suddenly appeared and, at the same time, the "Raman spectroscopic signature of life" became very weak, indicating the concomitant lowering of the metabolic activity. At 8 hr 41 min, the metabolic activity entirely stopped but the distribution of phospholipids and proteins still remained unchanged. At 9 hr and 31 min and later, the vacuole was lost and the molecular distribution became random, indicating that the cell was not living any more. In this way, the spontaneous cell death process following the DB formation was traced successfully by time-resolved Raman mapping. This result is of great interest regarding the definition of cell death at the molecular level.



Fig. 1 Time-resolved microscopic images (right, green) and Raman mapping images of a budding yeast cell.

1.(1)-4) J. Raman Spectrosc., 36, 837-839 (2005).

(2) Ultrafast Association/Dissociation Dynamics of Magnesium Sulfate in Water

Our understanding of thermal reactions is much less advanced compared with photochemical reactions. For photochemical reactions, various ultrafast time-resolved spectroscopies are available and they provide detailed information on their reaction mechanism. This is not the case with thermal reactions, which can not be triggered by light. As an alternative to the time domain approach using time-resolved spectroscooies, we have been developing a frequency domain approach based on vibrational band shape analysis. We derived a formula from the Kubo-Anderson theory that describes the band shapes under the asymmetric limit of the two frequency exchange model. According to this formula, the vibrational band shape is a Lorentzian with a peak shift $\Delta \omega$ and a band width increase $\Delta \Gamma$, which are the functions of the exchange rates between the two frequencies. From the concentration dependence of the totally symmetric SO₄ stretch band of magnesium sulfate in water (Fig. 2), we were able to determine the association/dissociation dynamics as shown in Fig. 3.



Fig. 2 Concentration dependence of the SO_4 symmetric stretch Raman band of magnesium sulfate in water.



Fig. 3 Association/dissociation dynamics of magnesium sulfate in water.

1.(1)-6) J. Chem. Phys. 123, 34508 (2005).

構造化学研究室

研究ハイライト

(1)時間分解ラマンマッピングによる出芽酵母自然死 過程の分子レベル追跡

出芽酵母(Saccharomyces cerevisiae)の液胞には、 Dancing Body (DB)と呼ばれる顆粒が時折出現し、 激しく動き回ることが知られている。我々は、DB が出現するとその後液胞が潰れ細胞内が無秩序にな り、最終的に細胞死に至ることを見出した。この細 胞死過程を、時間分解ラマンイメージングにより分 子レベルで追跡した(図1)。波数1602 cm⁻¹の"生 命のラマン分光指標"のイメージから、0分から5 時間 50 分の間では、ミトコンドリアが活発に代謝 活動を行っており、リン脂質とタンパク質は液胞外 に局在していることがわかる。6 時間後、DB が突 如出現し、それと共にミトコンドリアの代謝活性が 著しく低下する。8時間41分後にはミトコンドリア の代謝活性が完全に消失し、分子レベルでは細胞が 死んでいるとみなせるが、その他の物質分布は依然 変化しない。9時間 31 分以後には、物質分布が乱雑 になり、細胞がもはや生きていないことが明らかで ある。このようにして、ラマン分光により DB の出 現、それと同期したミトコンドリア代謝活性の消失、 液胞の構造崩壊など一連の細胞自然死過程を時々 刻々追跡することができた。この実験結果は、分子 レベルで細胞死をどのように定義するかを考えるう えで大変興味深い。



図1. 出芽酵母の時間分解顕微鏡像およびラマンマッピング像 1.(1)-4) J. Raman Spectrosc., 36, 837-839 (2005).

(2) 水溶液中の硫酸マグネシウムの超高速会合/解 離ダイナミクス

熱反応に対する我々の理解は、光化学反応に比べて 進んでいない。光化学反応は、種々の超高速時間分 解分光法によって調べることが可能で、その機構に 関して詳細な情報を得ることができる。しかし、光 による同期が不可能である熱反応には、この手法を 適用することができない。時間分解分光を用いた時 間領域のアプローチに代わるものとして、我々は振 動バンド形の解析に基づく振動数領域のアプローチ を追及してきた。Kubo-Andersonの理論を、2振動数 交換モデルの非対称極限に適用し、振動バンド形の 表式を導出した。この式に従えば、バンド形は振動 数シフトΔω とバンド幅の増加ΔΓで表されるローレ ンツ関数であり、これらの量は交換する2振動数間 のダイナミクスと関係づけられる。この式に基づい て硫酸マグネシウム水溶液のSO4全対称伸縮ラマン バンドの濃度依存性(図2)を解析することにより、 **超高速会合/解離ダイナミクス**に関する定量的情報を 得ることができた(図3)。



図2. 硫酸マグネシウム水溶液の.SO4全対称伸縮振動ラマンバンドの濃度依存性



図3. 水溶液中の硫酸マグネシウムの超高速会合/解離ダイ ナミクス

1.(1)-6) J. Chem. Phys. 123, 34508 (2005).

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2. 総説·解説

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