Structures of outer-arm dynein array on microtubule doublet reveal a motor coordination mechanism

Qinhui Rao^{1,*}, Yue Wang^{1,*}, Pengxin Chai^{1,*}, Long Han^{1,*}, Yin-Wei Kuo¹, Renbin Yang¹, Yuchen Yang¹, Fangheng Hu¹, Jonathon Howard¹, and Kai Zhang^{1,**}

¹Department of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, Yale University, New Haven, CT, 06511, USA

*These authors contributed equally to this work.

**Correspondence author. Email: jack.zhang@yale.edu

Thousands of outer-arm dyneins (OADs) are arrayed in the axoneme to drive a rhythmic ciliary beat. Coordination among multiple OADs is essential for generating mechanical forces to bend microtubule doublets (MTDs). Using electron microscopy, we determined high-resolution structures of OAD arrays bound to MTD in two different states. OAD preferentially binds to MTD protofilaments with a pattern resembling the native tracks for its distinct microtubule-binding domains. Upon MTD binding, free OADs are induced to adopt a stable parallel conformation, primed for array formation. Extensive tail-to-head (TTH) interactions between OADs are observed, which need to be broken for ATP turnover by the dynein motor. We propose that OADs in an array sequentially hydrolyze ATP to slide MTDs. ATP-hydrolysis in turn relaxes the TTH interfaces to effectuate free nucleotide cycles of downstream OADs. These findings lead to a model explaining how conformational changes in the axoneme produce coordinated action of dyneins.

Eukaryotic cilia and flagella are evolutionarily conserved organelles that are responsible for cellular motility (1), sensory reception (2), embryonic development (3) and intercellular communication (4). Defects in structures and functions of cilia lead to numerous diseases termed ciliopathies, such as left-right asymmetry in early development, congenital heart defects, hydrocephalus, infertility and Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia (PCD) (5). Motile cilia are the main drivers for the movement of individual cells and transport of extracellular fluids through periodic ciliary beating. A typical motile cilium is characterized by its '9 + 2' scaffold (Fig. 1a), composed of nine microtubule doublets (MTDs) and a central pair complex (CPC) (6). Two rows of axonemal dyneins, the outer-arm dyneins (OADs) and inner-arm dyneins (IADs), power the ciliary beating by sliding the adjacent MTDs. OAD is the key motor protein that generates the majority of mechanical forces required for this fundamental cellular process (7).

A complete OAD is ~1.5-2 megadalton in size and contains two or three (in ciliates and algae) heavy chains (HCs), two intermediate chains (ICs), and a variety of light chains (LCs). Each OAD is divided into two regions, a head that contains AAA+ rings (Rings) for ATP hydrolysis and a tail that holds together the whole complex. The tail is permanently attached to MTD A-tubule, while the head region of

each HC contains a microtubule-binding domain (MTBD) which binds and releases MTD B-tubule depending on the nucleotide states (Fig. 1a) (8–12). In motile cilia, several thousand OADs are assembled longitudinally along the MTDs as ordered arrays (13–15). Cryo-electron tomography (cryo-ET) studies suggest that adjacent OADs are indirectly connected to each other via a series of linker structures (13, 14). However, it remains unclear how OAD arrays are formed and why they are important for ciliary beat.

To ensure a rhythmic and energy-efficient beat, OAD molecules need to locally synchronize their conformations and coordinate with each other along the axoneme (16–19). The coordinated OAD actions are regulated by multiple factors: (i) other axonemal components, such as IADs, nexin-dynein regulatory proteins (N-DRC), radial spokes (RS), and CPC1, (ii) posttranslational modification, such as phosphorylation (20), (iii) extracellular signals, e.g., Ca²⁺ concentration (21) and redox states (22), and (iv) local curvatures of the axoneme (23). In some cases, cilia without IAD, RS, or CPC are also capable of producing a rhythmic beat, implying the existence of a dedicated sensory system among OAD molecules themselves to accomplish motor coordination (24). However, the mechanism underlying motor coordination remains elusive. Here, we set out to study how conformations of OAD are correlated to its microtubule-binding state (MTBS) alteration and how conformational changes of each OAD unit along the array affect its downstream neighbors by cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM).

We use the model system *T. thermophila* for biochemical and cryo-EM analysis in this study. Its OAD contains three HCs (α -, β - and γ -HC), two ICs (IC2 and IC3) and a set of indefinite LCs. We reconstituted the purified OADs onto MTD to mimic native arrays and determined the structures of free OAD and OAD arrays bound to MTDs (OAD-MTD) in two different microtubule-binding states (MTBS) by cryo-EM. We show that microtubule binding induces free OADs to spontaneously adopt a parallel conformation, which is primed for array formation in a tail-to-head (TTH) manner. The conformations of arrayed OADs are synchronized in either microtubule-binding state. The array involves an extensive network of interactions and is coordinately remod-

eled when OADs take one step forward. The TTH interactions remain nearly unchanged in both states but need to be broken to allow MTBS alteration during the mechanochemical cycle. Nucleotide treatment on the OAD-MTD array reveals that the TTH interactions between neighboring OADs gate the ATP hydrolysis of downstream motors. Opening the gate requires the release of their upstream neighbors from microtubules by ATP hydrolysis. In combination with previously reported cryo-ET structures, we propose a model for how OADs coordinate with each other to move one step on MTD and how ciliary beat is propagated.

Results

Cryo-EM reveals two microtubule-binding states and a parallel architecture of arrayed OADs

Native OAD and MTD were extracted from the isolated cilia of *T. thermophila*. After demembration and high salt treatment on the purified axoneme, MTD was enriched by centrifugation, and OAD was purified by sucrose-gradient ultracentrifugation followed by ion exchange for all subsequent biochemical and structural analyses (Fig. 1b and 1c, and Extended Data Fig. 1). To assemble the OAD-MTD complex in vitro, we incubated the freshly purified native OAD (not cross-linked) and MTD in the reconstitution buffer on ice and optimized the molar ratio by negative-stain screening (Extended Data Fig. 1c). Microtubule-gliding assays indicated that the isolated OADs are active in vitro. The gliding velocity is positively correlated with the OAD concentration as well as microtubule length (Fig. 1c and Extended Data Fig. 1a and 1b) (25, 26). Early evidence showed that the microtubule sliding is strikingly fast if OADs are aligned in bundles (27). Studies also revealed that the sliding could be ceased by blockage of several adjacent OADs, suggesting OADs are successively activated along an MTD (19). Besides, our in-vitro reconstitution assay indicates that ordered OAD arrays can be spontaneously formed in the presence of MTD (Extended Data Fig. 1c), in line with previous findings (16). These together suggest that multiple OADs tend to unify their forces to slide microtubules. Therefore, direct coordination between OADs is very likely to occur during beating.

To elucidate the structural basis for how OADs coordinate their actions, we performed cryo-EM analysis on the reconstituted OAD-MTD arrays (Extended Data Figs. 1d to 1f, 2, and 3, and Table 1). Two-dimensional (2D) analysis indicates that the reconstituted OAD-MTD is mediated by the MTBDs rather than the tail of OADs in the absence of docking complex. Cryo-EM classification reveals that the OAD arrays adopt two distinct microtubule-binding states, MTBS-1 and MTBS-2 (Extended Data Fig. 1e and 1f). In both states, the relative axial positions for α - and γ -MTBD are fixed on MTD (γ -MTBD is always 8 nm ahead), while β -MTBD position is equivalent to either α -MTBD in MTBS-1 or γ -MTBD in MTBS-2 (Extended Data Fig. 1e and 1f). OAD unit together with the four binding protofilaments (OAD-PF) was locally refined to ~ 2.8 - 3.8 Å resolutions for most structured regions in MTBS-1 and ~ 3.8 - 6 Å in MTBS-2 (Fig. 1d and

1e, Extended Data Fig. 3). By combining mass spectrometry and a genome-wide pattern search, eighteen unique subunits of OAD, including three HCs (α -, β -, and γ -HC), two ICs (IC2 and IC3) and thirteen different LCs (LC7-a/b, LC8-1a/b, -2a/b, -3a/b, Tctex-a/b, LC4A, LC3BL and LC1), were unambiguously identified, built, and refined (Fig. 1f and Extended Data Table 1).

The head of each HC comprises an AAA+ ring (AAA1-AAA6) for ATP hydrolysis, a six-helix (H1-H6) MTBD that binds microtubule, a coiled-coil stalk (helices CC1 and CC2) that connects the Ring to MTBD, and a linker (Linker) (Extended Data Fig. 4a) which links the Ring to tail (Fig. 1f) (28). The tail region of α -HC and β -HC (Extended Data Fig. 4b) has a similar topology to that of cytoplasmic dyneins and consists of nine helical bundles (HB1-9) (25), while γ -HC has a special tail (Extended Data Fig. 4c). The arrayed OADs adopt a fully parallel conformation in which the three AAA+ rings are stacked together via Linker-Ring (LR) interactions (Fig. 1d and 1e, and Extended Data Fig. 4d). The OAD arrays fit well into previously reported in-situ cryo-ET maps (Extended Data Fig. 4e) (9–11, 17), indicating that our reconstituted OAD arrays reflect the native structures in cilia in apo state (Extended Data Fig. 4f). Our structure shows that α -HC, β -HC, IC2 and IC3 form the core structure of OAD (core-OAD) (Fig. 1f). The core-OAD is conserved across species and all the four subunits are critical for OAD assembly (1). They together serve as a scaffold for binding all other chains and mediate nearly all interactions between two adjacent OADs.

The structure of γ -HC and its special Linker docking mode

Cryo-EM reconstruction reveals that the γ -tail comprises a six-bladed kelch domain (γ -kelch), followed by two immunoglobulin folds (Ig-PT and Ig-Fln) (1, 29) (Extended Data Fig. 4c). The special γ -HC (Fig. 2a and 2b) and ten IC-bound light chains (Fig. 2c and 2d) flank the core-OAD and play essential roles in regulating OAD activity (8, 30–34). γ -HC extends out from the core-OAD array with its γ -kelch tightly bound to HB6 of β -tail (β -HB6) via a snug insertion of two consecutive helical segments (residues P952-T973) into the γ -kelch groove (Extended Data Fig. 5a). The following Ig-fold region joins to the neck region (equivalent to HB8-9 of α - or β -HC), which is further connected to the γ -Ring by γ -Linker (Fig. 2a). The γ -Ring is pinched between its own Linker and the adjacent β -Linker (Extended Data Fig. 5b).

Compared to the unprimed cytoplasmic dyneins, or α - and β -HC of OAD in MTBS-1, which all adopt the classical post-powerstroke state (35), defined as Post-1, γ -HC adopts a distinct powerstroke state, defined as Post-2, in which its Linker is upraised toward AAA3-4 (Fig. 2b). This leads to a relative slide between the γ -Linker subdomain 0/1 (γ -LS0/1) and helix H2 in the PS-I region of γ -AAA5 large subunit (AAA5L). The interaction interfaces between γ -Linker and AAA5L are thus changed, and two additional docking sites on γ -Ring are introduced. One is the γ -AAA2L H2 insert which contacts the start of the helix H7 in γ -LS1 (Fig. 2b). The other site is the AAA3 extension (AAA3E), which interacts with γ -LS0 (Fig. 2b).

Fig. 1. Overall structure of OAD array bound to MTD. (a) Diagrams of the *T. thermophila* cilium and OAD bound to two adjacent MTDs. (b) SDS-PAGE of free OAD stained by SYPRO Ruby. (c) The mean velocities of microtubule gliding measured by different concentrations of free OAD. (d) Side view of the cryo-EM structure of OAD array bound to two adjacent MTDs. The map is generated by fitting single particle cryo-EM maps of OAD array and MTDs into our cryo-ET map and a previously reported reconstruction (EMD-7805) (9). The docking complex model was based on *C. reinhardtii* homologue (PDB-6U42) (15). (e) Density map of one OAD-PF unit in MTBS-1. The map is a combination of 31 locally refined regions. (f) A molecular model of the OAD-PF structure built from the map in (e). Suffixes of LC7, LC8 and Tctex are based on their relative positions, 'b' for those to the microtubule minus-end and 'a' for the opposite position.

The structures of light chains and their roles in regulating OAD activity

Among all the thirteen light chains, ten of them (LC7, LC8 and Tctex families) are clustered by the IC2/3 N-terminal extensions (NTEs) (Extended Data Fig. 5c). They together form a tower-like structure (IC/LC-tower) (Fig. 2c) and attach to α -tail *en bloc* (Fig. 1f). Each LC occupies a unique position of the tower surrounded by specific interfaces with others (Fig. 2c and 2d, and Extended Data Fig. 5d). Compared to cytoplasmic dyneins which have linear

organizations of homodimeric light chains, OAD has a heterodimeric Tctex which is folded back and pinned to LC8s, attributed to a special helical bar (residues N121-E147) and a beta-hairpin (residues N85-E100) of IC2 (Fig. 2c). We fitted our OAD structure into a previously reported cryo-ET structure of axoneme, which shows that the back-folded Tctex region links the IC/LC-tower to either N-DRC or IADf (Extended Data Fig. 5e). With more than ten different proteins interwoven, this local region is tightly attached to the HB8 of α -neck and is likely to mediate the communication

Fig. 2. Structures of the γ -HC and IC/LC-tower. (a) The overall architecture of γ -HC, which has a special tail and is distinct from the classical heavy chain. (b) The γ -Linker docks on γ -Ring in a new mode (Post-2) which has three distinct Linker-Ring interaction sites indicated by colored pentagrams (blue, AAA2L H2-insert/LS1; purple, AAA5 PS-I/LS0-1; and orange-red, AAA3E/LS0). (c) The overall architecture of IC/LC-tower. The tower consists of two ICs and five heterodimers of LCs, the IC2/3, LC7-a/b, LC8-1a/b, LC8-2a/b, LC8-3a/b and Tctex-a/b. In addition to the two crossovers and five contact sites between IC2/3 NTEs, a helical bar (residues N121-E147) and a beta-hairpin (residues N85-E100) of IC2 force the Tctex-a/b dimer to fold back and attach to the side of LC8-2a/b and LC8-3a/b, facing towards the inner side of the OAD array. (d) A schematic of the interaction interface between ICs and LCs.

between N-DRC (or IADf) and OAD arrays.

The other three LCs, including an LC3B-like subunit (LC3BL), LC4A and LC1, are separately located in different regions of OAD. LC3BL belongs to the thioredoxin family and is involved in redox-based control of OAD activities (33). It binds to the joint region between β -LS0 and β -HB9 and contacts γ -Ig-PT, linking the γ -tail to β -Linker (Extended Data Fig. 5b). These multi-domain contacts together form a local network and potentially regulate the activity of β - and γ -HC. The calmodulin LC4A regulates OAD activity in a calcium-dependent manner (32). In the current OAD structure, it adopts a typical calcium-free state, binds to α -HB6 and links α -tail to IC/LC-tower (Extended Data Fig. 5f). LC1 is the only known dynein light chain that binds to α -MTBD for OAD activity regulation and was previously proposed to be a potential mechanical sensor for curvature response during ciliary beating (8, 34) (Fig. 1e and 1f).

The three distinctive MTBDs recognize an inter-PF pattern resembling their native tracks

Different from cytoplasmic dynein-1 which requires dynactin to align the two motor domains for activation (25), OADs spontaneously form a parallel conformation upon microtubule binding (Extended Data Fig. 1c and 1d). OAD units along each array are locally synchronized (Extended Data Fig. 6a). However, the inter-PF angles (defined as the relative rotation between two adjacent protofilaments (36)) vary significantly among all pairs of MTD protofilaments (Extended Data Fig. 6b and 6c). To preserve a stable parallel architecture, the OAD stalks need to rotate with respect to the MTBD regions to compensate for the inter-PF angles. This is enabled by the hinges between stalk CC1 and MTBD helix H1 (Fig. 3a). We compared the inter-PF angles from our OAD-PF reconstruction with that of the native MTD protofilaments B5-B8. The overall patterns strikingly match each other (a drop of inter-PF angle in B6-B7 and an increase in B7-B8) (Fig. 3b) (15, 36), implying a preferred inter-PF pattern for binding the three MTBDs together. This is likely to be a result of the distinctive structures of the three MTBDs. The α -MTBD specifically binds the conserved LC1 with its helix H5 (Fig. 3a and 3c), in line with a recent crystal structure (34). The α -MTBD/LC1 complex requires a wider inter-PF space (similar to that between B7 and B8) to properly interact with adjacent tubulins (Fig. 3b). This interaction is mediated by a cluster of positively charged residues (37) on the LC1 surface that attracts the negatively charged C-terminal tail of β -tubulin (β -CTT) from an adjacent PF (Fig. 3c, and Extended Data Fig. 6d). Meanwhile, LC1-binding forces the α -flap (a variable loop between MTBD H2 and H3) to fit a conformation without contacting β -CTT (Fig. 3c). By contrast, the γ -flap directly contacts β -CTT with a similar charge-charge interaction (Fig. 3d and Extended Data Fig. 6e). The additional charge-charge interactions between LC1 and β -CTT may enhance the microtubule-binding affinity of OAD. This contrasts with the interaction between the flap of inner-arm dyneins DNAH7 and its adjacent protofilament, which generates distortion of microtubule singlet (38) (Fig. 3e). The β -MTBD has a much shorter flap (Fig. 3e)

and lacks density connection with β -CTT, similar to that in dynein-1 (39). These distinct features of the three MTBDs collectively facilitate the landing of OADs onto MTD with a local inter-PF angle pattern similar to that of native binding sites.

OAD array formation via the tail-to-head interaction

We then sought to elucidate the structural basis for how the OAD array is formed. In the parallel OAD, the two ICs directly contact and cross over each other at multiple sites (Extended Data Fig. 5c), which facilitates core-OAD to locally form a tight hetero-tetrameric architecture around the WD domains (Fig. 4a). The two ICs and N-terminal dimerization domain (NDD) of α/β -HCs (IC-NDD region) together enclose and position the tail region of one OAD (OAD₀), which is primed to interact with the motor domains of another OAD to the microtubule plus end (OAD₊₁) (Fig. 4a). More OADs are subsequently induced to associate with each other in a tail-to-head (TTH) manner (Figs. 1d and 4a). We re-analyzed previously reported cryo-ET maps of axonemes and found all apo OAD arrays are assembled in the same manner (Extended Data Fig. 7a) (9, 10, 12, 13, 40). The TTH interfaces involve IC3, NDD and α/β -HB1-3 of (OAD₀) tail region, and α/β -Linkers, AAA2 small subunit of β -HC (β -AAA2S), β -AAA6S and C-terminal cap of β -HC (β -CT-cap) of (OAD₊₁) head region (Fig. 4b and Extended Data Fig. 7b and 7c). Notably, the tail0 calipers the β +1-motor and potentially hinders its allosteric response to nucleotides (Fig. 4b).

To further understand why microtubule-binding is critical for the TTH interactions, we performed cryo-EM on free OADs. In the absence of MTD, most free OADs are too flexible to support a stable interaction between OADs (Extended Data Fig. 8a to 8d). However, there exists a notable pre-parallel conformation (Extended Data Fig. 8b), in which the motor domains are stacked next to each other. We obtained a free OAD structure in that state at 5-12 Å resolutions for different regions (Extended Data Fig. 5e and 5f). This transiently adopted pre-parallel conformation is different from the fully parallel structure of arrayed OAD. It is characterized by the relative rotations among the three motors, along with the OAD stalks converging toward the MTBD region (Extended Data Fig. 5e). This conformation is likely to facilitate a proper landing of OADs onto microtubules, but not yet ready for binding another OAD. It is the MTD binding that finally aligns the three motor domains, induces the Linker-Ring interaction to stabilize a fully parallel architecture (Fig. 1e and Extended Data Fig. 4d), and triggers multiple OADs to cooperatively associate with each other (Figs. 1d and 4c). It is worth noting that even though OAD arrays can spontaneously form in the presence of MTD in vitro, docking complexes are essential and play a critical role in anchoring OADs to the right location in the axoneme (41), which reinforces MTD protofilament recognition by the MTBDs.

Coordinated conformational changes of the OAD array from MTBS-1 to MTBS-2 for TTH preservation

OAD array is dramatically remodeled when β -HC moves one step ahead from MTBS-1 to MTBS-2, coupled with five major structural changes throughout the entire OAD-MTD

Fig. 3. Structures of the three distinctive MTBDs and their interactions with MTD. (a) A structural comparison among α -, β - and γ -MTBD together with the stalks. Structures are aligned by superimposition of the three MTBD-bound protofilaments. A detailed comparison between α - and γ -MTBD is shown in the lower left inset. The relative rotations between adjacent protofilaments are illustrated with a model in the upper right. The four protofilaments in the reconstituted OAD-PF may not necessarily be the native B5-B8 (*) (b) The inter-PF angle pattern in the OAD-PF reconstruction is similar to that in native B5-B8 PFs from three independent MTD studies. (c) The negatively charged CTT (red sphere) of the adjacent β -tubulin is attracted to the positively charged (blue sphere) surface of LC1. (d) The interaction between γ -flap and β -CTT. (e) A comparison among the five flaps, including the three from our OAD structure, a low-affinity cytoplasmic dynein-1 MTBD (PDB: 3ERR, white) (39), and the recently published MTBD structure of DNAH7. A cartoon model is attached at the upper right.

complex. First, an 18-degree rotation between the β -stalk and β -MTBD is required for microtubule-binding state alteration (Fig. 5a and 5b), whereas β -MTBD remains in the high microtubule-affinity state (42) (Fig. 5a and 5c). Second, a gear-shift-like switch of the Linker-Ring interactions among the three motor domains is involved. In MTBS-1, β -HC adopts Post-1 Linker docking mode (Fig. 5d), which is precisely switched to Post-2 along with β -MTBD stepping forward (Fig. 5e). On the other hand, α -Linker fits well into a groove (Groove-1) formed by AAA3S, AAA5E and β -CT-cap in MTBS-1 (Extended Data Fig. 9a), while β -Linker matches another groove (Groove-2) between γ -AAA2S and γ -AAA3S (Extended Data Fig. 9b). From MTBS-1 to MTBS-2, the α -Linker docking groove on β -Ring is also switched from Groove-1 to Groove-2 (Extended Data Fig. 9c). Third, the local network among β -tail, γ -tail and LC3BL is remodeled. In brief, γ -Ig-PT contacts β -AAA4L PS-I with the help of γ -Kelch in MTBS-1 (Fig. 5f), while the contact site is switched to the H2- β 3 loop of β -AAA3L in MTBS-2

(Fig. 5g). From MTBS-1 to MTBS-2, LC3BL takes over γ -Ig-PT to contact β -AAA4L. Fourth, the tail of OAD is rotated downward with respect to the head from MTBS-1 to MTBS-2. Finally, in contrast to the nearly straight PFs in MTBS-1, they are coordinately bent by OAD array in MTBS-2 (Extended Data Fig. 9d).

Comparing with previously reported dynein structures reveals that the ADP-bound state (43) has a similar Linker docking mode to Post-2 of β -HC. The ADP-bound state is thought to represent the rebinding of dynein MTBD to the microtubule after one step (44). Therefore, the β -HC in Post-2 likely mimics the state after one complete nucleotide cycle. After ATP treatment on the native *T. thermophila* axonemes and reverting to ATP-free solution, we could observe both Post-1 and Post-2 states of OAD arrays on the same cryo-ET data (Extended Data Fig. 9e and 9f). Despite the remodeling of the OAD array from MTBS-1 to MTBS-2, the TTH interactions remain nearly unchanged (Extended Data Fig. 9g and 9h). In either MTBS, the core-OAD conformations

Fig. 4. OAD array formation via the tail-to-head (TTH) interaction. (a) The IC-HC forms a compact claw-like conformation in the tail region and grasps the head region (mainly β-Ring) of an adjacent OAD unit. Top view of the OAD array clearly shows the tail-to-head interaction. Details are enlarged at the lower right panel. A schematic representation of tail region of (OAD₀) is attached at lower left. (b) A close-up view of the tail-to-head region. The schematic shows how tail0 region calipers β₊₁-Ring and restrains its free allosteric response. (c) A model for OAD array formation mechanism. The γ-HC and LCs are not included in the model as they do not contribute to the critical interactions between adjacent OADs.

are synchronized along the same array (Extended Data Fig. 9e and 9f). However, the conformations in the two states are not compatible. Sterical clashes are unavoidable by swapping their OAD units (Extended Data Fig. 9i and 9j). Therefore, the TTH interfaces need to be temporarily disrupted to complete the MTBS alteration. Most importantly, this is unlikely to occur within a locally synchronized OAD array except the ends or a transition point where the TTH is temporarily relaxed.

Changes of TTH interfaces deliver allosteric signals for motor coordination

We then ask what are the key factors that potentially

affect the TTH interfaces. We propose two possibilities, nucleotide- and geometry-control. First, we re-analyzed previously reported cryo-ET structures of core-OADs by fitting our atomic coordinates into the density maps. Interestingly, TTH interactions in the pre-powerstroke state are quite different compared to the post-powerstroke states, as the β-motor+1 is thoroughly released from the IC-NDD₀ region along with a clockwise and downward rotation. This conclusion is consistent across species (Fig. 6a and Extended Data Fig. 10) (12, 17, 40). We then tested how the reconstituted OAD-MTD arrays respond to different nucleotides. Briefly, the OAD arrays could still be observed after incubation with

Fig. 5. Coordinated conformational changes of the OAD array from MTBS-1 to MTBS-2 for TTH preservation. (a) A comparison of β -HC structures in MTBS-1 and MTBS-2 by superimposition of the MTD protofilaments. (b) The β -MTBD in MTBS-2 adopts the same conformation as that in MTBS-1 (upper left), while its stalk orients differently (18 degree). (c) The β -HC in MTBS-2 combines the low-affinity stalk conformation (black arrow) and the high-affinity state of MTBD as indicated by the helix H1 (enlarged square at upper left). (d-e) The gear-shift-like switch of Linker-Ring interactions. β -Linker (blue) adopts Post-1 (classical, same as α -HC) and Post-2 (novel, same as γ -HC) docking modes in MTBS-1 (d) and MTBS-2 (e), respectively. (f-g) Remodeling of the local interaction network around LC3BL. The AAA4 PS-I region switches its interaction with γ -Ig-PT/Kelch region in MTBS-1 (f) to LC3BL in MTBS-2, along with formation of a new contact between AAA3 and Ig-PT (g).

either AMP-PNP or ADP but fell off the MTDs in the presence of ATP, ADP-Vi or ATP γ S (Fig. 6b). Therefore, it is the ATP hydrolysis that releases the MTBDs from MTD and subsequently breaks the TTH interfaces along the array. Using a titration of ATP γ S, we were able to gradually shorten OAD arrays in vitro owing to the low hydrolysis rate (Fig. 6c). Increasing the ATP γ S does not cut the array into many shorter segments randomly, but rather sequentially shortens the arrays, suggesting ATP hydrolysis is more likely to take place at the ends of an ordered array and is inhibited for the

rest of OADs. We simulated the process under two different assumptions, random break and sequential fall-off. The simulation results indicate that it is more likely to be a sequential process. This is because the tail region from (OAD₀) hinders the ATP-dependent allosteric response of (OAD₊₁) (Fig. 4a and 4b). Therefore, the TTH interfaces between two adjacent OADs play a key role in delivering allosteric signals to allow motor coordination.

Fig. 6. Changes of TTH interfaces deliver the allosteric signal for motor coordination. (a) Different conformations of OAD array during ATP cycle. The models (tomato and teal surfaces) were built based on previously reported cryo-ET maps (11, 17) (transparent grey) and our OAD coordinates. The TTH interfaces in different nucleotide states are highlighted in the black squares, each illustrated with a cartoon model. (b) The effects of different nucleotides on the reconstituted OAD-MTD arrays in vitro. ATPγS, ATP, and ADP-Vi disrupt almost all arrays, but AMP-PNP and ADP do not. The models illustrate how different nucleotides affect the TTH interfaces. Total OAD unit number of all arrays in the apo state was used as a reference and normalized as 100% for subsequent comparison. The percentages represent the relative OAD coverage (including individually bound OADs) on MTDs in different nucleotide conditions compared to the apo state. (c) The effects of ATPγS on the length of OAD array at different concentrations. Number of OADs on each continuous array from negative-stain images was manually counted and showed as a single black dot (left) at each condition. Grey circles (middle) and black triangles (right) in each column represent computationally simulated distribution of the array lengths by end-release (middle) or stochastic disruption (right) of OADs from the arrays to the same coverage ratio as that of the experimental observation. Starts of both simulations are identical to that of the experimental data (0 μM ATPγS).

Discussion

Cilia-driven movement of cells is among the most fundamental cellular activities during evolution. The rhythm of ciliary beat is defined by coordinated actions among OADs (19). In this study, we focus on exploring the motor coordination between adjacent OADs of the array. Based on our high-resolution cryo-EM structures and previous cryo-ET studies (9, 12, 13, 17, 40), we propose the following model to explain how arrayed OADs coordinate with each other to take one step (Fig. 7).

In Post-1, OADs are attached to B-tubules and form ordered arrays (Fig. 7a). The TTH interactions between (OAD₀) and (OAD₊₁) sterically restrain nucleotide-induced allosteric response of (OAD₊₁) and its downstream neighbors (Fig. 7b). Various mechanochemical factors may contribute to the initiation of local TTH interface relaxation. It is possible that local curvature changes may be involved in the regulation of dynein-MTD affinity. After initial relaxation of

the TTH interfaces, (OAD₀) is free for its nucleotide cycle and the energy from ATP-hydrolysis is consumed to release (OAD₀) from B-tubule, rotate the motor domain and move it one step forward (Fig. 7c). Due to the forward movement, this in turn relaxes the TTH interfaces between currently active (OAD₊₁) and its downstream neighbors (Fig. 7d to 7f). The process is rapidly propagated to the plus end of MTD, consistent with observed powerstroke rate of dynein (45) and the fact that most OADs adopt the pre-powerstroke state in cilia in the presence of ATP (18). Meanwhile, the release of phosphate groups and ADPs from upstream OADs will lead to rebinding of those motors to B-tubules and re-formation of TTH interactions between adjacent OADs in Post-2 (Fig. 7g). Since the distances between the tail and MTBD regions are changed from Post-1 to Post-2 and the tail region is permanently anchored to MTD A-tubule, preservation of the TTH interactions between the two states will subsequently impose tension between two adjacent MTDs. The tension is converted into the local bending of MTD (Fig. 7h), which is

Fig. 7. A proposed model for the allosteric switch role of TTH interfaces in motor coordination. (a) An OAD-MTD array adopts Post-1 in apo state. (b) In the ATP-bound state, the OAD unit that has relaxed motor domains is active (yellow), while the rest (magenta) are restrained by TTH interactions (c-f) Once the TTH interfaces are disrupted by ATP hydrolysis of the active OAD, it will sequentially relax downstream OAD units along the array. (g) A putative model of OAD-MTD array in ADP-bound state, which is presumed to be 8 nm forward. (h) After ADP release, the OAD array adopts Post-2 state and bends local MTD. The models of the OAD array in ADP-Pi and ADP states were built by fitting our atomic coordinates into previously reported cryo-ET maps (EMD-5758, EMD-5619) (12, 17)

propagated towards the plus end along with the nucleotide cycle propagation. Our current cryo-EM structures and the proposed model potentially explains how a rhythmic ciliary beat is generated through phased propagation of OAD nucleotide states and microtubule-binding states.

It was previously proposed that dynein rebinds to microtubule in a hypothesized pre-powerstroke II (pre-II) state and reverts to the post-powerstroke state (Post-1) along with an 8-nm movement of the whole motor after release of ADP and phosphate groups to generate a sliding (12). Our cryo-EM structures strongly suggest it is more likely to be the Post-2 that represents the MTD-rebound state immediately after one complete nucleotide cycle. It is possible that the Post-2 state observed in our study occurs after the previously pro-

posed Pre-II state (12). However, our assays on the effects of nucleotides suggest this is unlikely due to the low affinity between MTD and OAD with ATP bound. The final conformational changes of the motor domain from Post-1 to Post-2 are produced by a relative rotation between the AAA+ ring and Linker (Fig. 5d and 5e), while the OAD motors remain in the same position without moving forward (Fig. 5a and Extended Data Fig. 9e to 9h). Cytoplasmic dyneins (46) and OADs seem to share a universal mechanism for tension generation to this step. However, in cytoplasmic dyneins, the tension is eventually consumed to move the cargo forward (46). By contrast, OADs utilize the tension for MTD sliding (Extended Data Fig. 9d) as the tails are permanently anchored to A-tubule. The anchored tail region in turn helps the mo-

tor domain maintain its original position after rebinding to MTD. This is critical for the preservation of the TTH interactions between the two states (Extended Data Fig. 9g and 9h) because large movement of the motor domains will otherwise lead to a conformation mismatch in the TTH interfaces. On the other hand, free nucleotide cycle of a downstream OAD requires temporal disruption of TTH interfaces, which can be achieved by ATP hydrolysis. Therefore, alternation between the disruption and re-formation of TTH interactions is a key process to ensure the motor coordination and MTD bending during the mechanochemical cycle of an OAD array.

Our work also provides key structural information of several light chains which are important for sensing different signals (32, 33, 37, 47–50). For example, the LC4A equivalent in *C. reinhardtii* regulates the microtubule binding of OAD in an ATP-sensitive manner (32) and alters conformation of γ -tail (equivalent to α -tail in *T. thermophila*). We speculate that the regulation is achieved through Ca^{2+} -induced conformational change of LC4A. Our current structure represents the typical Ca^{2+} -free state of calmodulin, in which the two EF-hand pairs are joined by the loose central linker (Extended Data Fig. 5f). Upon an influx of Ca^{2+} , this joint linker of LC4A will be induced to form a helix (51), which is likely to impose tension between α -tail and IC/LC-tower and affects the allosteric response of α -HC. Our structure also reveals that LC1 contributes to the MTD protofilament recognition via its interaction with adjacent β -CTT (Fig. 3a and 3c). It was previously suggested that β -CTT directly interacts with dynein, and antibody-binding decreases the flagellar beat frequency in sea urchin spermatozoa (52). Mutations of the positively charged residues on LC1 surface also lead to a disruption of microtubule binding in *C. reinhardtii* (37). On the other hand, posttranslational modification of the β -CTT is critically important for cilium assembly and beating regulation (53). All these imply that interaction between β -CTT and LC1 is important for regulating OAD activity. During ciliary beating, the orientations of the charged surface of LC1 vary along with MTD bending, which will likely affect interactions between LC1 and β -CTT. Therefore, our structural observation supports the previous hypothesis that the affinity between MTD and α -MTBD is regulated in a curvature-dependent manner (34, 54). Considering LC1 and β -CTT are conserved across species, beating regulation through their interaction is likely to be a universal mechanism. The thioredoxin LC3BL is localized in an intricate local network formed among β -motor, β -neck and γ -tail (Extended Data Fig. 5b). We show that LC3BL switches its contacts with β -HC and γ -HC during MTDB alteration (Fig. 5f and 5g) and potentially coordinates the conformational changes between the two heavy chains. Our work demonstrates that it is now possible to understand such an intricate sub-cellular system of the OAD arrays on MTD in near-atomic details. In future, it will be interesting to clarify how IADs, N-DRCs, RSs and CPC interplay and collectively regulate OAD array to accomplish a rhythmic beat.

Methods

Purification of OAD and MTD

Mucocyst-deficient strain *T. thermophila* SB715 and wild type (CU428) were purchased from Tetrahymena Stock Center (Cornell University, <https://tetrahymena.vet.cornell.edu/>). The cell lines were cultured in SSP medium and maintained at 130rpm, 30°C. The axoneme was purified by using a modified dibucaine method from 4 liters of culture for each sample preparation. In brief, the pellet from every one-liter fresh cell culture was de-ciliated with 3 mM dibucaine (Sigma-Aldrich) in 150 mL fresh SSP medium, and centrifuged at 2,000 $\times g$ for 10 min to remove the cell body. The cilia were spun down from the supernatant at 12,000 $\times g$ for 10 min, resuspended by axoneme buffer (20 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 100 mM NaCl, 2 mM MgCl_2 , 1 mM DTT), and further demembranated with 1.0% TritonX-100 in axoneme buffer. The axoneme was then pre-treated with buffer containing high potassium acetate (HPA buffer: 50 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 600 mM CH_3COOK , 5 mM MgSO_4 , 0.5 mM EGTA, 1 mM PMSF, 1 mM DTT) for 30 min. Subsequently, the purified axonemes were treated in different conditions for different assays. For OAD purification, the axoneme was treated with high-salt buffer (HSC buffer 50 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 600 mM NaCl, 5 mM MgSO_4 , 0.5 mM EGTA, 1 mM PMSF, 1 mM DTT), and incubated on ice for 30 min. MTD and the majority of axonemal dyneins were separated by centrifugation at 21,000 $\times g$ for 10 min for further purification. To obtain high-quality OAD complexes from the supernatant, we used an OAD extraction protocol and optimized the parameters in our own experiments. The supernatant was laid over 5–25% (w/v) linear sucrose gradients in OAD buffer (50 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM DTT) and centrifuged at 153,000 $\times g$ for 16 h at 4°C. The gradient was fractionated into 0.2 mL aliquots. Fractions containing IADs and OAD were determined by SDS-PAGE (4–20% Mini-PROTEAN TGX pre-cast protein gels run in SDS buffer (Bio-Rad)), stained by SYPRO Ruby or Page-Blue staining solution. The pooled fractions containing the OAD were dialyzed (REPLIGEN dialysis membranes) against the OAD buffer for 6 h at 4°C to remove the sucrose and then loaded on an EnrichQ 5/50 column (Bio-Rad) equilibrated with the ion-exchange buffer A (50 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 50 mM KCl, 1 mM DTT). The OAD was eluted with a linear salt gradient: 0–50% buffer B (with 1 M KCl) in 8 mL. The fractions containing OAD were determined by SDS-PAGE (Bio-Rad), pooled together, and adjusted to a final concentration of 0.3 mg/mL for reconstitution assay. The MTD pellet was resuspended in a high salt buffer and dialyzed against the low salt buffer (50 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 0.5 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT) overnight at 4°C (55). The MTD was then pelleted and resuspended with the fresh low salt buffer. The final concentration was adjusted to ~0.6 mg/mL for the subsequent reconstitution assay. Grafix method (56) was used to improve the quality of free OAD samples for EM analysis. Briefly, the OAD fractions from the linear sucrose gradient were collected, dialyzed against the OAD buffer, concentrated to 1 mL and applied to Grafix

(0-0.0125% (v/v) linear glutaraldehyde (Sigma-Aldrich) gradients along with a 5-25% (w/v) linear sucrose gradient in the OAD buffer). The gradient was fractionated into 0.2 mL aliquots. The crosslinking was quenched by adding 10 μ L Tris-HCl (1 M, pH 8.0) to each aliquot. The fractions containing the cross-linked OAD were determined by SDS-PAGE (Bio-Rad) and evaluated by ns-EM. The fractions containing properly cross-linked OAD were dialyzed against the OAD buffer for 6h, concentrated to 50 μ L and loaded to the TSKgel G4000SWXL column (TOSOH Bioscience) equilibrated with the gel filtration buffer (20 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 100 mM KCl, 1 mM DTT, 2 mM MgSO₄). The peak fractions were pooled for subsequent negative-stain analysis. Protein concentrations were measured by using BioSpectrometer (Eppendorf).

Mass spectrometry

Mass spectrometry (MS) on the isolated OAD sample was performed at Keck Biotechnology Resource Laboratory, Yale University. The OAD subunits identified from the MS data are summarized in Extended Data Table 2.

Microtubule gliding assay and analysis

Dynein gliding assay was adapted from a previously published protocol (57). In brief, HMDE buffer (30 mM HEPES-KOH, 5 mM MgSO₄, 1 mM EGTP, 1 mM DTT, pH 7.4) was first introduced into the flow channel, followed by a 5-min incubation of 10 μ L, 0.1 mg/mL purified outer arm dynein at room temperature to allow adsorption of dynein to the cover glass surface. Unbound dynein was then washed with HMDE buffer, followed by a 5-min incubation of 0.4 mg/mL casein. The channel was again washed by HMDE buffer. GMPCPP-stabilized microtubules were prepared as previously described (58) using bovine brain tubulin purified in-house. 10 μ L of microtubule solution ($\sim$ 0.15 μ M tubulin dimer in HMDE + 1 mM ADP) was perfused in to bind to the motors with a subsequent wash by HMDE + 1 mM ADP. 10 μ L motility solution (HMDE + 1 mM ATP + 1 mM ADP) was then flowed in to initiate the microtubule gliding, imaged by interference reflection microscopy (IRM) with a frame rate of 13.5 Hz. Lengths and positions along the gliding paths of individual microtubules were tracked with tracking software FIESTA (59) after background subtraction. Tracking results were manually inspected to exclude immobile filaments, surface dirt particles, tracks less than 1 second, and tracking errors due to filament collisions. Position of individual microtubule filament was averaged over three frames (0.22 s interval) to reduce the experimental noise. Time-weighted average velocity and displacement-weighted average velocity were calculated with the bin width of 0.4 μ m/s. The standard error of the mean (SEM) of the displacement-weighted average velocity is equal to the standard deviation (SD) divided by $\sqrt{N}$, where N is the number of microtubules in each condition (N=51, 75, 65, 78 MTs for 100, 50, 20, 10 μ g/mL of OAD with wildtype GMPCPP-microtubule, and N=51 for 100 μ g/mL OAD with subtilisin-treated GMPCPP microtubule). P-value was calculated using Welch's t-test.

OAD-MTD array reconstitution and nucleotide treatment

The reconstitution condition was optimized from our cryo-EM analysis based on a previously published protocol (16). To assemble the OAD-MTD complex, the freshly purified native OAD (not cross-linked) and MTD samples were mixed at a series of molar ratios (tubulin dimer/OAD from 10 to 100) in the reconstitution buffer (20 mM Hepes pH 7.4, 100 mM KCl, 5 mM MgSO₄, 1 mM DTT) and incubated on ice for 45 min. The reconstituted samples were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and negative-stain electron microscopy to screen out the optimal molar ratio. The concentration of the OAD-MTD complex was optimized by centrifugation and resuspension for subsequent experiments and checked by cryo-EM. All protein samples were verified by 4-20% Mini-PROTEAN TGX precast protein gel stained with Page-Blue solution. The OAD array for nucleotide treatment was formed using excessive amount of OADs at a final concentration of 45 nM. Different nucleotides at a final concentration of 1 mM or a titration of ATP γ S at different concentrations were added to the reconstitution tubes. 4 μ L solution in each reaction condition was immediately transferred to a glow-discharged continuous carbon grid (Electron Microscopy Sciences) for 15 seconds before blotting and staining. The grid was stained with 2% uranyl acetate and air-dried before loading to a Talos L120C microscope (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The length of the array was directly measured in the ImageJ and converted to the equivalent number of OADs for subsequent quantitative analysis.

Simulation of OAD fall-off

We used the experimental data from OAD-MTD arrays in the apo state as the starting point for simulating the process for both end-release and stochastic fall-off. In the stochastic model, we regard that all OADs in an array can equally access nucleotides at the same hydrolysis rate. In the end-release model, we assume that OADs at the ends of longer arrays may have equal or higher rates to fall off the microtubules. This assumption makes sense because a few OADs may simultaneously fall off, which occurs more frequently on longer arrays. To include all possibilities, we introduce a coefficient α and apply the following transform to the length of the i th array: $L_i = 1 + \alpha(N_i - 1)$, where N_i is the OAD number of an array and α ranges from 0 to 1. The probability that an end OAD of the i th array will fall off next is estimated as $L_i / \sum(L_i)$. When $\alpha = 0$, L_i is constantly 1, which means all arrays with different lengths have the same probability to release OADs. When $\alpha = 1$, the probability that the next released OAD will appear on the i th array is proportional to its array length. We estimated the α by minimizing the discrepancies between experimental data and simulated results. The best estimation of α is $\sim$ 0.1, which is quite close to zero, suggesting that the fall-off rate is weakly affected by the array length and a longer array has only a slightly higher rate. We thus used $\alpha = 0.1$ for the final simulation of the end-release model.

Cryo-EM sample preparation and data collection

4 μ L free OAD or OAD-MTD samples were applied to each Quantifoil R2/2 or C-flat R1.2/1.3 gold grid (for free OAD, the grids were coated with a carbon layer), incubated

in a Vitrobot Mark IV (Thermo Fisher Scientific) for 4 seconds, blotted for 2 seconds at 4 °C and 100% humidity, and then plunged into liquid ethane near melting point. Three cryo-EM datasets of OAD-MTD arrays in the apo state were collected on a 300 keV Titan Krios microscope (Thermo Fisher Scientific) equipped with a Bioquantum Energy Filter and a K2 Summit direct electron detector (Gatan) at Yale CCMi Electron Microscopy Facility. Data collection was automated by Serial EM software (60) and all micrographs were recorded in a super-resolution mode. The first two datasets were collected using the following parameters: 0.822 Å/pixel, 50 µm C2 aperture, 32 frames, 53.3 e-/Å², 8 s exposure, -0.8 to -2.0 µm defocus range. Based on the results of these two data sets, the third data acquisition was optimized with a reasonable parameter set as follows: 1.333 Å/pixel, 50 µm C2 aperture, 40 frames, 53.3 e-/Å², 12 s exposure, -1.2 to -3.0 µm defocus range. Three non-overlapping micrographs per hole were recorded in all the three datasets. Detailed data collection parameters are summarized in Supplementary Table 1. The motion correction, particle picking, and CTF estimation were streamlined to evaluate the micrograph quality in real time during the data collection using a modified pre-processing script (<https://www2.mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk/research/locally-developed-software/zhang-software>).

Cryo-ET data collection and reconstruction

Purified axonemes were treated with ATP at a final concentration of 1 mM for 5 minutes and reverted to nucleotide-free solution before freezing for cryo-ET. In total, 50 tomographic datasets were collected on the 300kV Titan Krios equipped with a K2 detector. The software SerialEM (60) was used for automatic data collection under the bidirectional scheme at a 3° interval and tilt angles ranging from -51° and +51°. Each of the final tilt series contains 35 movies with a pixel size of 2.8 Å at an average defocus of ~5 µm and a total dose of ~70 e-/Å². Individual movies were aligned by MotionCor2 (61). Motion-corrected images of each tilt series were aligned by using the patch-alignment approach in the IMOD software (62). Sub-volume average was performed using PEET (14).

Pre-processing of cryo-EM data

Beam-induced drift was corrected using MotionCor2 (61) for all images. CTF parameters for each motion-corrected micrograph were estimated using Gctf (63). All particles were automatically picked using Gautomatch, extracted in RELION v3.0 (64) and imported to cryoSPARC v2.12 (65) for all subsequent processing, if not explicitly stated otherwise.

The MTD structure determination

To obtain and analyze the structure of MTD, we first manually picked a small dataset (100 micrographs) at 4-nm intervals from Dataset 1 (Table S1). These particles were analyzed in Cryosparc v2.12 to generate 20 good MTD 2D averages and used by Gautomatch for template-based particle picking. This generated 444, 603 raw particles from Datasets 1 and 2, and 680, 495 raw particles from Dataset 3 using a

4-nm distance cutoff (if the distance between two particles is less than 4 nm, the one with lower cross-correlation coefficient is removed). All the particles were extracted with a box size of 512 × 512. The micrographs from Dataset 1 and Dataset 2 were both scaled to a pixel size of 1.333 Å to match the Dataset 3 during the particle extraction. After 3-5 cycles of 2D classification to remove those particles that generated bad 2D averages, the high-quality images were selected and filtered by a 6-nm distance cutoff. This reduced the sampling of MTD to ~8 nm and yielded 358, 116 good particles for subsequent 3D analysis. A previous MTD map from *T. thermophila* (EMD-8532) (55) was low-passed to 100 Å as an initial model. The 8-nm repeats were successfully separated into two classes of 16-nm repeats with comparable particle numbers after 3D classification in cryoSPARC v2.12 (65). The two 16-nm repeating maps were essentially the same except that they were shifted 8 nm with respect to each other. 196,740 good particles with 16-nm periodicity were selected for subsequent analysis. By restricting the refinement to each local region with 3 × 4 tubulins, we were able to improve the local tubulins at an average resolution of 3.1 Å. A de novo model of the tubulin dimer was built on the best region and then expanded to all regions for manual refinement in Coot (66) and automatic refinement by Refmac5 (67). The tubulins from 16-nm MTD repeat were used to estimate inter-PF distribution.

The OAD-PF structure determination

To eliminate the interference of microtubules in OAD structure determination, we linearly weakened the microtubule signals to improve the alignment of OAD. In brief, the coordinates of all good particles we selected during the MTD reconstruction were split and backtracked to their original micrographs. We manually checked all micrographs one by one to make sure they are centered and evenly spaced in each MTD. If not, we then manually adjusted the uncentered, added the missing particles, or deleted the undesirable ones. The MTD signal was weakened by removing the weighted average within a rectangle mask slightly wider than the MTD. The OAD particles from the MTD-weakened micrographs were picked by Gautomatch using the 20 best templates generated from a negative-stain dataset of free OAD. After 2D classification, we selected the fifty best 2D averages for another cycle of automatic particle picking. Due to the severe orientation preference, we used a very low cross-correlation (CC) cutoff (0.08) and also a very small distance cutoff (150 Å) for automatic picking by Gautomatch. The purpose was to include as many views as possible at the beginning even if there were some false pickings. This generated 824, 659 particles from Dataset 1 and 2, and 2, 022, 385 particles from Dataset 3. Cycles of 2D and 3D classification (for screening purpose) were performed on the 8 times shrunk images to remove MTDs and low-quality particles. In total, 346, 320 good particles were selected for subsequent 2D and 3D analysis.

All particles from the above processing were re-extracted with a box size of 510 × 510 at 1.333 Å pixel size (Dataset 1 and 2 were re-scaled to this pixel size) and merged

for subsequent processing. To further remove particles that were less consistent with the major classes, we performed iterative 2D and 3D classification. Briefly, all the particles were separated into four subsets to accelerate the processing. Each cycle of 2D classification was followed by two cycles of 3D classification. 58,096 particles were further excluded via this 2D and 3D classification. All the subsets were merged again that yielded 288,244 good particles for a final cycle of 3D classification. This generated nine good classes and one bad class. Six of the nine classes were categorized to microtubule-binding state 1 (MTBS-1), while the rest three were in MTBS-2. At this stage, we had 191,776 particles in MTBS-1 and 76,936 particles in MTBS-2 for subsequent local refinement.

A multi-level masking scheme was applied to the local refinement. Briefly, we gradually decreased the size of the mask applied to a certain region to ensure a stable local refinement. We divided each of the OAD-PF class into five major parts: (a) MTBD-tubulin region, (b) α -motor domain, (c) β -motor domain, (d) γ -motor domain, (e) tail region. The α -motor domain in MTBS-1 was straightforwardly improved from 10.1 Å to 4.5 Å after one cycle of local refinement. At such resolution, we were able to build backbones, but *ab initio* assignment of the side chains was very challenging. The map was further improved by optimizing the following aspects: (i) more cycle of local classification, (ii) refinement of the particle centers, (iii) manual optimization of the local mask, (iv) 2D classification based on 3D alignment parameters, (v) local CTF refinement, (vi) non-uniform refinement (68). By combining these approaches in an iterative way, the map of α -motor domain was finally improved to an average resolution of 3.19 Å resolution for final model building. We applied the same strategy to improve the β -motor domain which finally generated a map at 3.3 Å resolution overall. Focusing on the AAA2-4 subdomains allowed us to slightly improve this region which helped with the model building a bit. The γ -motor domain, MTBD region and tail region are much more complicated than the other two. We were able to overcome the issue by more levels of local refinement. To ensure that the maps from two adjacent regions can be smoothly combined, we applied a third mask that fully covered the boundary between each pair of adjacent masks. Finally, we integrated all 31 locally refined parts into an entire unit of OAD-PF array in Chimera (69). The structures of free OAD and OAD-PF in the AMP-PNP bound state were determined using the same approach.

Identification of the light chains

We built the atomic model of all the ten IC-binding light chains *de novo* in combination with our mass spectrometry data. First, each of the ten LCs was manually built as a poly-Ala model. All side chains were tentatively assigned to several groups: (1) large (Trp, Try, Arg, Phe, His), (2) middle (Leu, Gln, Asn, Ile, Met, Lys), (3) small (Pro, Val, Ser, Thr, Cys, Glu, Asp, Ala), and (5) Gly. Here we categorized Glu and Asp into the group ‘small’ because the side chain densities of negatively charged residues are typically weak in cryo-EM reconstruction. We then performed two

parallel approaches to identify all the light chains: (a) pattern recognition and (b) penalty function. The approach (a) is based on regular expression match using the ‘gawk’ command on a CentOS 7.5 Linux system. In the second approach, we tried to fit all predicted homologs into a certain position, e.g., the LC8-2b position and assigned the residues. All the residues that did not match the side-chain density were manually counted. The counts were regarded as penalty scores for all LC homologs. We then compared the final scores and selected the best one for subsequent model building and refinement. A protein was regarded as ‘identified’ only if it meets the following requirements: (i) it exists as a significant hit from the mass spectrometry data; (ii) its side chains simultaneously match the cryo-EM density map; (iii) no other homologs have better results of (i) or (ii).

We identified IC2, IC3, γ -Kelch, all the ten IC-binding light chains. The LC7-a/b is not the standard LC7A/B heterodimer, but a heterodimer comprising LC7B (LC7-b) and an unnamed LC7A homolog (THERM_00348650). The full-length protein is 159 residues long (XP_976918.2) while the truncated one is 103 residues long (XP_976918.1). We unambiguously assigned the residues from S58 to G152. The extra density that links γ -HB6 to LC7-b was tentatively assigned as the N-terminus of LC7-b.

Despite the similar core structures, each of the six LC8-like proteins (LC8s) are clearly different from any other five by its characteristic side chain densities and loops, which allowed us to distinguish them unambiguously. The positions of 1a, 1b, and 2a are taken by LC10, DLC82 and LC8E, respectively. The rest three (2b, 3a, 3b) were simply predicted to be LC8 homologs without standard names in TGD (THERM_00023950 for LC8-2b, THERM_01079060 for LC8-3a and THERM_000442909 for LC8-3b) (Figure S4). Neither TCT1A nor TCT1B matched the key features of our cryo-EM maps. The Tctex-a position was identified as a hypothetical homolog (THERM_00392979) while the best hit for Tctex-b is LC2A49.

Model Building and Refinement

We used different model building approaches for different regions. Most of the regions were refined at better than 3.5 Å resolution, which allowed us to build them in Coot (66, 70) with side chains assigned and refined *ab initio*. For the regions that were slightly worse, we were able to build backbone models with the residues assigned based on the relative positions among the large residues (such as Try and Arg) of each domain. For the regions that show clear backbone density with low-quality sidechain density, we coarsely assign the residues using previously published homologous structures as references or predicted model from Phyre2 web server (71). For those regions that were solved at a resolution with helices clearly separated, we fitted the predicted models into the density as rigid bodies in Chimera (69). If the predicted model contained more than one subdomain (e.g. LC4A), we then refined the fitting of each subdomain as a rigid body in Coot (70). All models at better than 4 Å resolution were automatically refined by Refmac5 (67), followed by manual check in Coot (70). The process was repeated until

all parameters were reasonably refined.

Inter-PF rotation angle measurement

The inter-PF angle is defined as the lateral rotation angles between a pair of adjacent microtubule protofilaments, as described in a previous publication (36). To estimate the inter-PF angles of MTD, we fitted individual tubulin dimers built from the 16-nm MTD reconstruction into the 48-nm MTD map as rigid bodies. We calculated the inter-PF angle between each pair of tubulin dimers from adjacent protofilaments using the “angle_between_domains” command from PyMOL. The averaged value and standard deviation were estimated from the three measurements in three representative regions of the MTD lattice, two regions close to the edges and one region in the middle.

Visualization

The figures and movies were created by Chimera (69), ChimeraX (72) and PyMOL (<http://pymol.org/2/>). Other tools used in this research include FIJI and EMAN2.

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Author contributions

Q.R. prepared all samples and performed biochemical characterization; Q.R., K.Z., P.C., Y.W., L.H., R.Y., and Y.Y. determined the apo OAD-PF structures; P.C., K.Z. and Q.R. determined all other structures in this work; Q.R. and Y.W.K. performed motility assays; Q.R., Y.W., P.C., L.H. and F.H. performed other assays and analyses; all involved in analyzing the results; K.Z., Q.R., and Y.W. prepared the manuscript with the help from other co-authors.

Competing interests statement

The authors declare no competing interests.

Data availability

Cryo-EM maps and atomic coordinates have been deposited in the Electron Microscopy Data Bank under accession codes EMD-22677, EMD-22679, EMD-22840, EMD-24066 and in the Protein Data Bank under accession 7K58, 7N32, 7K5B, 7KEK, 7MWG.

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Extended data figures and figure legends

Extended Data Fig. 1: Biochemical characterization and structure determination of OAD-MTD array. (a-b) The gliding velocity of the free OAD on different lengths of microtubule. **(c-d)** The representative negative-stain **(c)** and cryo-EM **(d)** micrograph of the reconstituted OAD-MTD sample show that the highly ordered OAD arrays with 24-nm periodicity are formed in the absence of nucleotides and docking complex, in line with previous findings¹⁶. The OAD arrays and MTDs are indicated by sky blue and blue arrows (upper), respectively. The excessive free OADs are marked by yellow circles in the background (before centrifugation). Scale bar, 100 nm. **(e-f)** The OAD arrays decorate MTD in two microtubule-binding states (MTBS-1 and MTBS-2). Representative 2D classes (left) and cryo-EM maps of the OAD-PF unit (right) in MTBS-1 **(e)** and MTBS-2 **(f)**. The arrows indicate differences of the stalk orientations in MTBS-1 and MTBS-2 **(e, f, lower middle)**.

Extended Data Fig. 2: Flow chart of the OAD structure determination. The 3D classification identified two major microtubule-binding states (MTBS-1 and MTBS-2). The six good classes enclosed in the green rectangle are categorized into MTBS-1. The class in the red square was removed from the dataset for all following data processing. Three classes enclosed in sky blue rectangle are categorized into MTBS-2. Multiple levels of masks were implemented in the local refinement to improve the resolution of OAD-PF structure. The box size (~680 nm) was optimized to cover at least two adjacent OADs and the four PFs they bind to. The attached images represent typical local densities of the 3D volumes generated from cryoSPARC 2.12.

Extended Data Fig. 3: Local resolution maps, FSC curves, orientational distribution and representative regions with the atomic model fitted into the local density for each mask from MTBS-1 (a) and MTBS-2 (b).

Extended Data Fig. 4: The parallel conformation of arrayed OAD in apo state. (a) Detailed index models of the subdomains in the β -Linker region, motor domains AAA extensions (only the extensions used in this study are shown here), and CT-cap region. The subdomain of Linker and CT-cap of α -, γ -HC are the same as that of β -HC. The Linker helix H12 is the hinge helix⁴³ for the

Linker and AAA+ ring swing. LS, Linker subdomain. **(b-c)** Detailed index models of the subdomains of the tail region of β -HC **(b)** and γ -HC **(c)**. The subdomain of α -tail is the same as that of β -tail. **(d)** Top view of the cryo-EM structure of OAD-PF unit shows that the three motor domains are organized in a nearly parallel architecture (the three pink lines). The relative positions of the α - and β -motor domains are aligned with the tubulin lattice. The center of the γ -motor domain is slightly ahead of the lattice line defined by connecting the centers of the other two (cyan polyline) in both MTBS-1 and MTBS-2. The OAD appears as a triangle shape from top view, with the β - and γ -tail twisting toward the α -tail with respect to the motor domains. **(e)** Rigid body fitting of our OAD array into cryo-ET maps of axonemes from *T. thermophila* (EMD-7805)⁹. The four OAD units were fitted into the cryo-ET density *en bloc* rather than individually which verified the TTH interaction. The N-terminal regions of the tails are also close to the docking complex and they are bridged by clear density connections. **(f)** Local densities of the nucleotides in AAA1-AAA4 of β -motor domain. Nucleotide density does not appear in β -AAA1. ATP in β -AAA2 and ADP in β -AAA3/AAA4 were unambiguously identified from the density. Other motor domains have the same nucleotide binding states.

Extended Data Fig. 5: The structure of γ -HC and IC/LC-tower. (a) The γ -Kelch and β -tail are tightly bound together via a snug insertion of a 'V-shaped region' of β -tail into the γ -Kelch groove. (b) The γ -Ring is pinched between β - and γ -Linker. LC3BL resides at the joint region of β -Linker and β -neck. It links the β -Linker/neck region to γ -tail to form a locally remodelable interaction network. (c) IC2 and IC3 interact with each other to form an assembly scaffold. The right panel shows that the charge-charge interaction occurs between the positively charged groove (surface-charge rendering) of the IC2-WD40 domain and the negatively charged loop of IC3-NTE (residues Q125-N144), of which the negatively charged residues are shown as red sphere (upper right). In addition, two aromatic residues, Y132 and F133 (yellow sphere) of IC3-NTE insert into the small pits on the surface of IC2-WD40 (lower right). (d) The detailed interaction interfaces between IC2/3 and LC8s. (e) The Tctex-a/b and IC2/3 NTEs of the IC/LC-tower are connected to the IC-LC complex of IADf (purple volume) and N-DRC (orange volume). The enlarged view of this linking region shows that the Tctex heterodimer is backfolded with a beta-hairpin of IC2-NTE specifically snug into the groove formed by LC8-2a/b and LC8-3a (lower right inset). The IC2-NTE (residues L61-W117), IC3-NTE (residues K12-K67), LC8-2a/b and LC8-3a/b, and Tctex-a/b formed the bottom region of the IC/LC-tower, tightly bind to α -neck. The close-up view of the closely packed interactions between the bottom region of the IC/LC-tower and α -neck (left inset). The interacting residues are shown as sticks. The cyan dashed line indicates the untraced residues of the IC2. (f) A complete cartoon model of IC/LC-tower and α -tail, including the LC7-b-NTE and LC4A. The N-terminal EF-hand pair of LC4A binds to HB6 of the α -tail, which agrees very well with the IQ binding site⁷³. The C-terminal EF-hand pair of LC4A interacts with LC8-1b.

Extended Data Fig. 6: The structures of OAD MTBDs and their interactions with microtubule doublet. (a) Synchronized positions of the OAD MTBDs bound to four microtubule protofilaments in MTBS1 and MTBS-2 (upper). The corresponding protofilaments of the native MTD are labeled in the attached model (lower). (b) The structure of MTD tubulins (16-nm repeat) locally refined to 3.08 Å resolution. (c) The inter-PF angles of the MTD lattice in

this study show the same pattern as that of previously published ones in both *T. thermophila* (PDB: 6U0H)³⁶ and *C. reinhardtii* (PDB: 6U42)¹⁵. **(d-e)** The local density map of α -MTBD/LC1/tubulins complex was lowpass filtered to 6 Å to clearly show the density connection between β -CTT with LC1 **(d)** and γ -flap **(e)**.

Extended Data Fig. 7: The conserved TTH interactions in motile cilia across species for array formation. (a) The atomic model of our OAD array (γ -HC removed) fits well into previously reported cryo-ET maps of axoneme structures from four different organisms [human (*Homo sapiens*), mouse (*Mus. musculus*), zebra fish (*Danio. rerio*), and sea urchin (*Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*)]^{12,13,40,74}, whose OADs contain homologues of α - and β -heavy chains. (b) The top-view structure of the array networks formed by intra- (blue) and inter-ODA (red, yellow) interactions. (c) Enlarged views of the eight main TTH interaction sites. The regions of OAD₀ and OAD₊₁ involved in interactions are marked in yellow and purple, respectively.

Extended Data Fig. 8: The structure of free OAD in pre-parallel state. (a) The representative negative staining image of the free OADs. Scale bar, 100 nm **(b)** Representative two-dimensional

(2D) projection of the free OAD sample with a model attached for each row. The three motor domains and tail region have a wide range of dynamic conformations. Scale bar, 10 nm. (c) The representative cryo-EM image of the free OADs. Scale bar, 100 nm. (d) Representative 2D averages of the free OAD sample purified via Grafix⁵⁶. Scale bar, 10 nm. (e) The cryo-EM structure of pre-parallel OAD. The atomic model of parallel OAD is fitted into the density map of pre-parallel OAD (transparency grey, upper left) as a rigid body. The cryo-EM density map of pre-parallel OAD is presented at the right panel from two different views. The local density map of the β -HB4-9 is attached. (f) The local resolution, FSC curve, and orientational distribution for the representative region from the free OAD.

Extended Data Fig. 9: A comparison between OAD-PF structures in MTBS-1 and MTBS-2.

(a-c) The α -Linker moves its docking site on β -Ring from Groove-1 in MTBS-1 **(a)** to Groove-2 in MTBS-2 **(c)**, which is consistent with the groove where β -Linker docks on γ -Ring in MTBS-1 **(b)**. **(d)** A comparison between OAD-PF arrays in MTBS-1 and MTBS-2 from three different views. Each array is generated by elongating the identical 48-nm OAD-PF maps in the same MTBS. **(e-f)** Cryo-EM reconstruction of the reconstituted OAD arrays (left) and the corresponding states from our cryo-ET analysis (right). The slices are focused on β -HC to show the key difference between MTBS-1 **(e)** and MTBS-2 **(f)**. The single particle reconstructions were generated by joining two identical 48-nm OAD-PF maps. The cryo-ET maps were generated by sub-volume averaging from two representative tomograms. **(g-h)** The OAD arrays in MTBS-1 and MTBS-2 are assembled in the same TTH manner. The TTH interfaces are marked by the dashed black circles. **(i-j)** Substituting one OAD unit in MTBS-1 **(i)** with a unit in MTBS-2 **(j)** severely disrupts the interactions between the IC-NDD₀ and the α/β_{+1} -LR region **(j, right)**.

Extended Data Fig. 10: TTH interfaces of OAD arrays are disrupted by ATP hydrolysis. Conformational changes of OAD array in ATP state. The models (tomato and teal surfaces) were built based on previously reported cryo-ET maps^{12,40} (transparent grey) and our OAD coordinates. The TTH interfaces in ATP state are highlighted in the black squares, each illustrated with a cartoon model on the left.

Table 1: Cryo-EM data collection, refinement and validation statistics.

	OAD-MTD array (apo state)			Free OAD (apo state)
Data collection and processing	Dataset 1	Dataset 2	Dataset 3	Dataset 4
Magnification	165, 000	165, 000	105, 000	105, 000
Voltage (kV)	300	300	300	300
Electron exposure (e-/Å ²)	53.3	53.3	53.3	53.3
Defocus range (µm)	-1.0 to -2.0	-1.0 to -2.0	-1.5 to -2.5	-1.5 to -2.5
Pixel size (Å)	0.822	0.822	1.333	1.333
Symmetry imposed	C1	C1	C1	C1
Initial particle images (no.)	207, 795	616, 864	2, 022, 385	883, 738
Final particle images (no.)	6, 895	72, 88	188, 989	209, 656
Merged particles images (no.)		268, 712		209, 656
Final particles for refinement (no.)	191, 776		76, 936	209, 656
	#1 OAD-PF MTBS-1 (EMDB-22677) (PDB 7K58)	#2 OAD-PF MTBS-2 (EMDB-22679) (PDB 7K5B)		#3 pre-parallel OAD (EMD- 22840) (PDB- 7KEK)
Map resolution (Å)	3.5	4.5		8.0
FSC threshold	0.143	0.143		0.143
Map resolution range (Å)	2.8-10	3.8-6.0		5.0-12
Refinement				
Initial model used (PDB code)	Ab initio	Ab initio	Ab initio	Ab initio
Model resolution (Å)	3.5	3.96	3.82	3.83
FSC threshold	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.143
Model resolution range (Å)	3.5-7.0			
Map sharpening B factor (Å ²)	-80	-80	-80	-80
Model composition	entire	α-motor	β- motor	γ- motor
Non-hydrogen atoms	201509	21493	21535	23540
Protein residues	26111	2671	2661	2924
Ligands	ATP/ADP/ Mg ²⁺ (3/6/9); GTP/GDP/Mg ²⁺ (12/12/12).	ATP/ADP/ Mg ²⁺ (1/2/3).	ATP/ADP/ Mg ²⁺ (1/2/3).	ATP/ADP/ Mg ²⁺ (1/2/3).
B factors (Å ²)				
Protein	145.912	207.098	214.995	230.879
Ligand				
R.m.s. deviations				
Bond lengths (Å)	0.0030	0.0031	0.0027	0.0027
Bond angles (°)	1.3386	1.3286	1.2985	1.3010
Validation				
MolProbity score	2.00 (100 th)	1.90 (100 th)	1.87 (100 th)	1.71 (100 th)
Clashscore	4.68 (100 th)	4.56 (100 th)	4.75 (100 th)	3.92 (100 th)
Poor rotamers (%)	2.21%	2.57%	3.92%	2.58%
Ramachandran plot				
Favored (%)	91.78%	94.51%	95.54%	94.09%
Allowed (%)	7.31%	5.08%	4.20%	5.36%
Disallowed (%)	0.91%	0.41%	0.26%	0.55%

Extended Data Table 1: A summary of OAD subunits.

Subunit name (this paper)	Gene Model Identifier	TGD standard name	MW (KDa)	Uniprot ID	MS (significant matches)	Orthologues in <i>C.reinhardtii</i> (Uniprot ID)
α-HC	TTHERM_01276420	DYH3	534	Q22A67	1598	γ-HC (Q39575)
β-HC	TTHERM_00499300	DYH4	530	I7M9J2	1635	β-HC (Q39565)
γ-HC	TTHERM_00486600	DYH5	475	I7M6H4	1518	α-HC (Q39610)
IC2	TTHERM_00487150	DIC2	78	I7M008	280	IC1 (Q39578)
IC3	TTHERM_00079230	DIC3	77	Q23FU1	397	IC2 (P27766)
LC7-a	TTHERM_00348650	N/A	15	I7MHB1	72	LC7a (AAD45881)
LC7-b	TTHERM_00030210	LC7B	12	Q22MV2	73	LC7b (EDP03034)
LC8-1b	TTHERM_00716250	LC10	12	I7MCM8	25	LC10 (EDP00562)
LC8-1a	TTHERM_00449029	DLC82	11	A4VE64	37	LC8 (Q39580)
LC8-2b	TTHERM_00023950	N/A	12	Q22R86	29	
LC8-2a	TTHERM_00971840	LC8E	11	Q24DI9	15	
LC8-3b	TTHERM_000442909	N/A	13	W7XJB1	36	
LC8-3a	TTHERM_01079060	N/A	10	Q24CE5	39	
Tctex-a	TTHERM_00392979	N/A	13	A4VEB3	16	LC9 (DAAZ95589)
Tctex-b	N/A	N/A	14	Q1HGH8	22	
LC3BL	TTHERM_00149859	N/A	13	A4VD75	44	LC3 (Q39592)
LC1	TTHERM_00334290	LC1	22	I7M1N7	88	LC1 (AAD41040)
LC4A	TTHERM_01075620	LC4A	18	Q22C78	21	LC4 (Q39584)
α-tubulin	TTHERM_00558620	ATU1	49	I7M9N6	7	TUA1 (Q540H1)
β-tubulin	TTHERM_00836580	BTU2	49	Q24B92	11	TUB1 (A8IXZ0)