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Chaperones, protein folding and unexpected accidents

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Colloqui interdisciplinari sulla biologia, Università di Roma Tor Vergata, 15 marzo 2017







- Protein Folding: why it is so appealing for physicists
- Misfolding and Amyloid fibrils
- Chaperons and Chaperonins
- Chaperonins toward amyoid fibril aggregation



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- Native structure is compact and stabilized by multiple hydrophobic contacts and hydrogen bonds
- In a folding reaction, the native state has the lowest free energy protein folding is spontaneous *in principle* in practice, impractically slow
- Folding intermediates are flexible, less compact, with exposed hydrophobicity



Model of folding reaction Daggett and Fersht



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Anfinsen's Dogma

- Native structure is the thermodynamically most stable (favored) state for most proteins.
- Native tertiary structure is determined by the primary structure (amino acid sequence) of a protein

The three-dimensional structure of a native protein in its normal physiological milieu (solvent, pH, ionic strength, presence of other components such as metal ions or prosthetic groups, temperature, etc.) is the one in which the Gibbs free energy of the whole system is lowest; that is, that the native conformation is determined by the totality of interatomic interactions and hence by the amino acid sequence, in a given environment.



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Synthetic folding predicted using FRAGFOLD software. The basic idea of fragment assembly is to take fragments of already known protein structures and to recombine them randomly to create possible new protein folds

Each frame of the animation was generated by linearly interpolating the coordinates from "snapshots" taken during the protein folding simulation, and so is not intended to be physically realistic.

porcine NK-lysin

Jones, D.T. (1997) Successful ab initio prediction of the tertiary structure of NK-Lysin using multiple sequences and recognized supersecondary structural motifs. PROTEINS.1, 185-191.



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Synthetic folding trajectory for a protein of unknown function from T. thermophiles which in this case incorporates a small betasheet. This protein was predicted using FRAGFOLD3 -able to model all of the details of the protein structure, including all of the side chain atom positions- and the prediction had an RMSD of only 2.4 Å from the experimental structure.

By looking at such simulations we can make some educated guesses as to how proteins might fold in nature.



Jones D.T., Bryson K., Coleman A., McGuffin L.J., Sadowski M.I., Sodhi J.S., Ward J.J. (2005) Prediction of novel and analogous folds using fragment assembly and fold recognition. Proteins. 61 Suppl 7:143-51.



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A protein's native structure is determined solely by the protein's amino acid sequence components and the environmental conditions in which the folding occurs, such that the native structure is a unique, stable, and kinetically accessible state corresponding to a Gibbs free energy minimum.

Many different unfolded and partially folded states different folding pathways lead to one native state intermediates can persist in local free energy minima "kinetically trapped", requires energy to escape minimum







□ Multiple intermolecular contacts in

aggregates can make them more

stable than individual native state

Amyloid aggregates are the most

stable







"The amyloid state is more like the default state of a protein, and in the absence of specific protective mechanisms, many of our proteins could fall into it."

Christopher Dobson, Annu. Rev. Biochemistry, 2006

"effectively all complex proteins have these short segments that, if exposed and flexible enough, are capable of triggering amyloid formation"

David Eisenberg, PNAS, 2010



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Small Angle X-ray Scattering (SAXS)



*From "Course on SAXS from Biological Material" at SYBILS beamline, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory



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AMYLOID AGGREGATION



- To study proteins in solution (in condition similar to those occurring in vivo)
- To be able to measure just low amount of sample
- To provide information on a wide dimension range
- To simultaneously describe structure and interaction



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Sirangelo, I. et al., *J. Biol. Chem*. (2002) 48:45887-45891. Sirangelo, I. et al., *J. Biol. Chem*. (2004) 279:13183-13189.





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AMYLOID AGGREGATION





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Amount of monomers in the particles

- After a few ten of ms, ≈ 50% of W7FW14F are in the large aggregates, whose concentration remains rather costant with time.
- 2. The first aggregates are cylindrically shaped
- 3. A large amount of monomeric, wormlike protein is still present in solution.



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MG. Ortore et al. Phys Rev E 84, 061904 (2011)









The initial acceleration is probably due to the addition of monomers on the seeds rapidly formed after the pH jump.

The polymerization reaction gives rise to two different aggregates (at least!), the protofibrils, rather compact and fast growing, and the soluble oligomers, loosely packed and rather unstable.









Mostowy, S. & Cossart, P. Autophagy 7, 780–782 (2011).

Human Septin 3-GC

Form factors of SEPT3-GC1 monomers (red curves) and SEPT3-GC2 dimers (cyan curves) corresponding to 100 conformations of each species obtained by using the 3SOP crystallographic structure as template, including the construct primary amino-acid sequence (59-350 aa), the HisTag linked with the N-terminal domain and other missing residues.

Three representative conformations (blue, green, and red) of monomers and dimers are shown.

Septins build 'cages' around bacterial pathogens, immobilizing the harmful microbes and preventing them from invading other healthy cells. Septins are GTP binding proteins and are involved in leukaemia, colon cancer, Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease.





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MG. Ortore et al. Biophysical J. 108, 2896. (2015)



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AMYLOID AGGREGATION



Amyloid B peptide (AB42) experiment performed at ID2, ESRF, Grenoble, France



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The simplest model...to have the minimum parameters number





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AMYLOID AGGREGATION



BACK to PROTEIN FOLDING



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MOLECULAR CHAPERONES

- promote the folding of newly synthesized proteins,
- function in conformational maintenance,
- prevent potentially toxic off-pathway aggregation,
- cooperate with other components of the proteostasis network, such as the proteasome system and autophagy, in the removal of terminally misfolded and aggregated proteins through proteolytic degradation.



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 Chaperonines are a class of chaperones that assist in folding of (largely) newly synthesized proteins with the help of ATP

(all chaperonines can be referred to as chaperones, but all chaperones need not be chaperonins)

- Chaperonines have a more specific function.
- They are usually barrel shaped and have a hydrophobic chamber to facilitate folding without the effects of crowding.



Figure 3-17 Molecular Cell Biology, Sixth Edition © 2008 W. H. Freeman and Company









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GroEL (MW=840,000)

- is a bacterial chaperonine
- assists client protein's folding by forming a tetradecameric structure with a barrel shape obtained by two heptameric rings
- is one of the most deeply and widely studied Heat shock proteins



1KP8 Method: ELECTRON MICROSCOPY Resolution: 8.0 Å



10EL Method: X-RAY DIFFRACTION Resolution: 2.8 Å



1KP8 Method: X-RAY DIFFRACTION Resolution: 2.0 Å



SAXS experimental profiles of GroEL (c=3 gL-1) with tentative fitting curves obtained from the crystallographic structures indicated in the legend (left), and from a combination (right) of tetradecamers and heptamers



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A. Spinello, M.G. Ortore, F. Spinozzi et al. *RSC Advances*, 5, 49871-49879. (2015)



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*S. Vilasi et al. PLoS One 9(5): e97657 (2014)

A. Spinello, M.G. Ortore, F. Spinozzi et al. RSC Advances, 5, 49871-49879 (2015)

Human homolog Hsp60 was structurally resolved...

...confirming previous experimental evidences*



BN (kDa)

IN THE ABSENCE OF HSP60



Aß initial sample

IN THE PRESENCE OF HSP60



Aß initial sample

M. R. Mangione, S. Vilasi et al. BBA Gen. Subject, 2016.



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Kratky plots evidences that both with and without Hsp60 the final product of aggregation is mainly compact.

The average dimension of the final aggregation is ≈30% greater in absence of Hsp60





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Αβ⁴² 200 μ**Μ**

Aβ⁴² 200 μM + Hsp60 8 μM

Hsp60 seems to interact with monomers, seizing them and inhibiting their aggregation, slowing the fibril formation.



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IN PROGRESS ...



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SEVERAL PARAMETERS NEED TO BE FURTHER INVESTIGATED

- Crowding
- Co-aggregation phenomena
- Ionic strenght and salts specificity
- Specific elements influence (Cu!)
 AND MANY OTHERS

The Scientist must set in order. Science is built up with facts, as a house is with stones. But a collection of facts is no more a science than a heap of stones is a house. Henri Poincaré



BioMed Research International 2014(1):495091 DOI: 10.1155/2014/495091 ·

Thank you for paying attention!



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