## Proteins



Linus Pauling (1901-1994) Double Nobel Laureat

## The father of "Structural Chemistry"

## **Proteins**

Structurally complex functionally sophisticated long repeats of individual monomers (amino acid's) 15% of cell's dry mass









## **Complex Proteins**

*nucleoproteins* - ribosomes & organelles *glycoproteins* - antibodies, cell surface proteins *lipoproteins* - blood, membrane, & transport proteins

## Protein Sorting

- No signal sequence  $\Rightarrow$  protein stays in cell
- Signal sequence ⇒ protein destined for translocation into organelles or for export



For "export proteins": Signal sequence leads growing polypeptide chain across ER membrane into ER lumen

### Modifications in ER

Transition vesicles to

#### Golgi apparatus for further modifications

### Transport vesicles to cell membrane



## The Hierarchal Structure of Proteins

#### • Primary Structure:

- Amino acid sequence from N- to C-terminus
- Ultimately determines all higher order structure and function
- Driven and stabilized by covalent bonds

#### • Secondary Structure:

- Local, spatial interactions between functional groups of the protein backbone
- Driven and stabilized by the hydrogen bond
- Not usually a determinant of function

#### • Tertiary Structure:

- Three-dimensional folding of a polypeptide
- Driven and stabilized largely by weak, hydrophobic interactions
- Often dictates biological activity

#### • Quaternary Structure:

- Specific interactions between two or more proteins
- Can be driven and stabilized by any combination of bond types



#### Hierarchy

Folding order

Q

(e)

000

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)



Figure 3-2 *Molecular Cell Biology, Sixth Edition* © 2008 W.H. Freeman and Company Figure 3-15 Molecular Cell Biology, Sixth Edition © 2008 W.H.Freeman and Company

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## Primary structure





**Polypeptide** – condensation Reaction



Peptide bond lifetime – 7 years.  $(pH = 7, T= 25 \ ^{0}C)$ 

*Polypeptides are customarily written with the N-terminal residue to the left* 





#### **Potential function of macromolecules** U = Bond + Angle + Dihedral + van der Waals + Electrostatic



#### **Potential function of macromolecules**

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U = Bond + Angle + Dihedral + van der Waals + Electrostatic



#### **Potential function of macromolecules**

U = Bond + Angle + Dihedral + van der Waals + Electrostatic



### Non-bonded components of potential function

 $U_{nb}$  = van der Waals + Electrostatic



To a large degree, macromolecule structure is dependent on non-bonded atomic interactions

#### Non-bonded components of potential function

 $U_{nb}$  = van der Waals + Electrostatic



#### • Non-bonded components of potential function

 $U_{nb}$  = van der Waals + Electrostatic



#### • Non-bonded components of potential function

 $U_{nb}$  = van der Waals + Electrostatic



#### • Non-bonded components of potential function

 $U_{nb}$  = van der Waals + Electrostatics



## **Molecular Dynamics**

• Non-bonded components of potential function



THAT IS A LOT OF POSSIBLE PAIRS!

## **Molecular Dynamics**

#### **Potential functions**



1. Levitt M. Hirshberg M. Sharon R. Daggett V. Comp. Phys. Comm. (1995) 91: 215-231

2. Levitt M. et al. J. Phys. Chem. B (1997) 101: 5051-5061





## **Dipole moment**

-0.42



The **dipole moment** of the peptide bond = **3.5 D** (D = Debye units, two charges separated by 1 Angstrom = 4.8 D)

The diploe moment of water is 1.85 D.

The peptide backbone is usually not ionized!

Polar – can form at least two hydrogen bonds.





There are 20 possible AAs and if there are 100 AAs in the protein, this gives  $(20)^{100} = 1.27 \times 10^{130}$  different protein of this length possible.

### Noncovalent Forces in Protein Structure



Ionic interactions are often called *salt bridges* and occur between carboxylate groups and lysines and arginines.



The potential energy of two charges separated by 4 Å is ≈1 kcal / mole in water ≈20 kcal / mole inside the protein.

If a charge is buried in the core of a protein, there is a large energetic advantage in burying a group of opposite charge nearby.



Titration curve for alanine

 $pK_1 = 2.4; pK_2 = 9.9$ 

 $pI_{Ala}$  = isoelectric point – it is the pH at which net charge is zero.

Titration curve of histidine



## Typical ranges of pK<sub>a</sub> values for ionizable groups *in proteins*

#### Ionizable group

pK<sub>a</sub> range

of histidine side chain

| α-carboxyl (any amino acid)    | 3.5 - 4.0   |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| side-chain carboxyl (Asp. Glu) | 4.0 - 4.8   |
| α-amino (any amino acid)       | 8.0 - 9.0   |
| side-chain amino (Lys)         | 9.8 - 10.4  |
| sulfhydryl, -SH (Cys)          | 8.5 - 9.0   |
| phenol, -OH (Tyr)              | 9.5 - 10.5  |
| imidazole, -NH (His)           | 6.5 - 6.8   |
| guanidinium (Arg)              | 12.0 - 12.5 |
|                                |             |

$$pK_{1} = 1.8; pK_{2} = 6.0; pK_{3} = 9.3$$

$$\stackrel{\bigcirc}{H_{3}N} \stackrel{\frown}{-C-H} \stackrel{\bigoplus}{+K_{a} = 6.0} \stackrel$$

of histidine side chain

## **Protein hydration**

#### Water properties are different from that of the bulk.

□ It is ordered

□ It has high proton transfer rates

□ The density is 10-20 % higher than bulk water

□ It has a 15% greater heat capacity than bulk water.

## Surface water molecules exchange with the bulk solvent on the $10^{-9}$ s timescale.



 $\Box$  There are differences in the directional rates of water diffusion perpendicular and parallel to the protein surface (maximal at about 6 Å).

Porcine pancreatic elastase showing the first hydration shell of Porcine pancreatic elastase.



## Hydrophobicity scales

It is composed of experimentally determined transfer free energies for each amino acid.

Two scales are needed:

The transfer of unfolded chains from water to bilayer interface

The transfer of folded chains into the hydrocarbon interior.



### Hydrophobic residues - clathrate



Clathrate forms over hydrophobic areas maximizing non-bonded interactions without loss of H-bonds.

Clathrate shells contain loosely held water with greater rotational freedom than in the bulk.



Hydrogen bonds

1 - 7 kcal/mole

δ– δ+ δ- $Donor-H + Acceptor \longleftrightarrow Donor-H - Acceptor$ 

 $\Box$  A H-bond requires interatomic distances of < 3.5 Å, and should be linear.

The hydrogen-bonding groups form hydrogen bonds to water which are energetically similar to those formed within the protein. The hydrogen bonds in proteins are thermodynamically neutral.

**The donor** – an oxygen or nitrogen atom with a covalently attached hydrogen atom.

**The acceptor** – either oxygen or nitrogen with partial negative charge.

| Hydrogen Bonds in Biolog      | gical Molecules   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Hydrogen donor • • • acceptor | Comments  |
| о-но́н<br>н                   | major factor in the<br>structural stability<br>of water |
| о–н…о=с №-н…о <sup>н</sup>    | bonding of water  |
| н                             | to other molecules                                      |
| N-Hо=с о-но=с                 | very important in                                       |
| R                             | structural stability of                                 |
| N-H N N-H O R                 | proteins and nucleic<br>acids                           |
| )N-H ••• SСH ••••0=с          | weaker bonds;<br>relatively rare                        |

## Aromatic amino acids



| Chromophore   | <b>A</b> max | Molar extinction |
|---------------|--------------|------------------|
|               |              | coefficient (s)  |
| Tryptophan    | 280          | 5600             |
|               | 219          | 47000            |
| Tyrosine      | 274          | 1400             |
|               | 222          | 8000             |
|               | 193          | 48000            |
| Phenylalanine | 257          | 200              |
|               | 206          | 9300             |
|               | 188          | 60000            |
| Histidine     | 211          | 5900             |
| Cysteine      | 250          | 300              |

Delocalized electrons in aromatic side chains can participate in weak electrostatic interactions

About 60% of the aromatic side chains (Phe, Tyr, and Trp), found in proteins are involved in aromatic pairings.





Studies with model compounds suggest that the optimal geometry is perpendicular.

#### **Secondary Structures**







## Secondary structure is stabilized by hydrogen bond.

#### Helices - Types





#### The *a*-helix





#### Horse liver alcohol dehydrogenase

*Hydrophobic residues (blue)* directed inward, hydrophilic (red) outward.

 $\mathbf{R}_2$  $\bar{\mathbf{R}}_{2}$ Every main-chain C=O and N-H group is 5.4 Å hydrogen-bonded to a peptide bond 4 residues away (O(i) to N(i+4)).

**Dipole moment** 

"+" charge at N-terminii, "-" charge at COOH
 Negative molecules (PO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> groups) bind at N-terminii

![](_page_37_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Figure_3.jpeg)

## The $\beta$ - strand and $\beta$ - sheet

 $\beta$ -strands are usually 5-10 residues long and are in a fully extended conformation.

![](_page_38_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Figure_3.jpeg)

Residues are 7.0 Å apart along a strand but 4.5 Å apart between adjacent strands. *Parallel – not stable* Rise per residue: 3.25 Å

![](_page_39_Figure_1.jpeg)

The dipole moments of the strands are also aligned in a  $\beta$ -sheet.  $\beta$ -sheets of less than 5 strands are rare.

*AntiParallel – stable* Rise per residue: 3.47 Å

## Turns

- Peptide fragments that connect regular secondary structure elements.
- Found often at the surface of globular proteins.
- Form hydrogen bonds with water.
- Are in general very flexible.
- Have a length of 2-16 residues.
- Very compact and well ordered.
- Glycine and Proline are common.

![](_page_40_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Figure_9.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Picture_10.jpeg)

## *Tertiary Structure*

Tertiary structure is stabilized by hydrophobic effect, electrostatics, hydrogen bonds between polar side chains, and disulfide bonds.

Evolutionary, the 3D structure is more conserved than the sequence.

collagen triple helix 29 nm long α helix 45 nm long β sheet 7 x 7 x 0.8 nm sphere 4.3 nm in diameter extended chain ~ 100 nm long

A 300-residue

polypeptide

![](_page_41_Picture_4.jpeg)

## Protein 3D structure is critical for understanding its functioning

![](_page_42_Figure_1.jpeg)

*A domain* - packing of secondary structure elements into a compact independently-folding spatial and/or functional unit.

\*A region with a separate hydrophobic core.

✤ Typically 100-200 amino acids and an average diameter of 25 Å.

![](_page_43_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Figure_4.jpeg)

#### Human tissue plasminogen activator

*Sequence motif* – a particular amino-acid sequence that is characteristic of a specific biochemical function.

![](_page_44_Figure_1.jpeg)

*Structural Motif* – a set of contiguous secondary structure elements that either have a particular functional significance or define a portion of an independently folded domain.

## *Helix-turn-helix*

![](_page_45_Figure_2.jpeg)

- Certain hydrophilic residues at invariant positions in the loop,
- Ionic bonds,
- Called the EF hand
- Calcium binding proteins
- DNA binding proteins

![](_page_45_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Picture_9.jpeg)

The DNA-binding domain of the bacterial gene regulatory protein lambda repressor.

#### Silk - an all anti-parallel $\beta$ -sheet protein

![](_page_46_Picture_1.jpeg)

Polypeptide chain is fully extended and can't be stretched without breaking.

The silk is stronger weight for weight than steel!

Long stretches of silk are composed of the repeat

#### (- Gly-Ser-Gly-Ala-Gly-Ala-)<sub>n</sub>

The soft and flexible properties come from the  $\beta$ -structure.  $\Box$  the strength comes from the covalent and hydrogen bonds within each  $\beta$ -sheet;

the flexibility from the van der Waals interactions that hold the sheets together.

## Tertiary structure

Protein assumes its characteristic 3-D shape by the secondary structural elements folding on themselves.

## Quaternary structure

Refers to the <u>organization of</u> <u>subunits</u> in a protein with <u>multiple</u> subunits (an "oligomer")

![](_page_47_Figure_4.jpeg)

## Quaternary structure

> They are formed by non-covalent subunits interactions.

- > They may be stable (long-lived) or transitory
- > Quaternary structure allows nature to do more with less (viruses for example).
- ➤ The buried hydrophobic surface area *the selforganization*.
- > Provides a way for proteins to communicate.

The architecture of a polyomavirus VLP

![](_page_48_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Picture_10.jpeg)

### Advantages of quaternary structure

- Cooperativity and substrate feedback
- active site often located at subunit interface
- Evolution
- Mutations are amplified
- Bad mutations are hard to introduce
- Genetic economy
- Saves the need for long transcripts
- Reduces the error rate of synthesis
- If 1 error per 1000 residues: # correct copies
- Single chain (1000 residues) = 37%
- -Four chains (250 residues each) = 78%
- Reduce surface/volume
- buries portions of protein surface
- reduce # ions needed to neutralize exposed charges
- reduce # ordered waters for hydration

#### The monomer of chaperonin GroEl

![](_page_49_Picture_17.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Figure_18.jpeg)

The tetradecamer

## The layers of protein complexity.

The complete picture of a protein complex in action requires detailed information on;

its function, three dimensional

structure,

dynamics, cellular localization.

![](_page_50_Figure_5.jpeg)

### **Proteins are Amphiphilic Macro-Ions**

![](_page_51_Figure_1.jpeg)

The charged groups, hydrophobic regions, size, and solvation affect the biophysical properties of the protein and largely determine its purification behavior.

![](_page_52_Picture_0.jpeg)

## Functionally important residues and their stability

![](_page_52_Figure_2.jpeg)

### Natural proteins fold to a configuration in which they are soluble.

Natural protein, under abnormal conditions, form fibre-like insoluble aggregates (Sickle cell anaemia).

Glu 6 to Val mutation

□ Their synthesis would continue and, because the fibres are not in solution, they would not be eliminated by the usual protective mechanisms.

*These insoluble fibres form the basis of the protein-folding diseases.* 

Alzeimer's and Type II diabetes

![](_page_53_Figure_6.jpeg)

## A $\beta$ (21-30) and Alzheimer's Plaque

![](_page_54_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_55_Figure_0.jpeg)

## Insulin

![](_page_56_Picture_1.jpeg)

## *protein assembly with regulation*

*protein aggregation irreversible assembly without regulation* 

![](_page_56_Picture_4.jpeg)

# Protein activity may be regulated by multiple mechanisms

- 1. Phosphorylation
- 2. Binding to GTP
- 3. Allosteric regulation
- 4. Feedback inhibition

![](_page_57_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Figure_6.jpeg)