











Protein Stability, Folding, and Dynamics

How Can Proteins Fold So Fast?

- Proteins fold to the lowest-energy state in the microsecond to second time scales. How can they find the right fold so fast?
- It is mathematically impossible for protein folding to occur by randomly trying every conformation until the lowest-energy one is found (Levinthal's paradox).
- Search for the minimum is therefore not random; there must be a PATHWAY toward the native structure, which is thermodynamically most favorable.























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Protein Stability, Folding, and Dynamics Protein Prediction

If the 1° structure is known, but only the 3° structure of a <u>related</u> homologous protein is known, a prediction of your protein can be done by "homology modeling" (threading). BUT, WHAT IF NO STRUCTURE?

- Given all the known 3D structures, predictions of propensities to find residues and/or sequences of residues in certain structures have been effective.
 - e.g., already discussed propensities of residues to be in $\alpha\text{-helices},\,\beta\text{-}$ sheets, and $\beta\text{-turns}.$
- Computer programs can now predict to about 80% certainty where these 2° structures will be in a given 1° sequence.
- But, the overall-fold prediction is not as good.
- As computers are getting better, the *ab initio* calculation of the lowest energy conformations are getting more reliable. e.g., <u>C</u>ritical <u>A</u>ssessment of protein <u>S</u>tructure <u>P</u>rediction (CASP) competition in 2018 gave about 31% correct predictions.

Computational protein design http://www.predictioncenter.org/



Protein Stability

Key Concepts

• Protein stability depends primarily on hydrophobic effects and secondarily on electrostatic interactions.

• A protein that has been denatured may undergo renaturation.

• Protein structures are flexible and dynamic; may include unfolded regions.

Protein Folding

Key Concepts

• A folding protein follows a pathway from high energy and high entropy to low energy and low entropy.

• Protein disulfide isomerase catalyzes disulfide bond formation.

• A variety of molecular chaperones assist protein folding via an ATP-dependent bind-and-release mechanism.

• Amyloid diseases result from protein misfolding, with many misfolded proteins forming fibrils with extensive β structure.

Checkpoint Protein Stability

• Describe the hydropathic index plot for a fibrous protein such as collagen or keratin.

• Describe the forces that stabilize proteins, and rank their relative importance.

Checkpoint

Protein Folding

• Summarize the results of Anfinsen's experiment with RNase A.

• Describe the energy and entropy changes that occur during protein folding.

• Explain why it is important for protein disulfide isomerase to catalyze both the breaking and formation of disulfide bonds.

• How does protein renaturation in vitro differ from protein folding in vivo?

• Explain why a protein such as RNase A can be easily denatured and renatured in vitro, whereas most proteins that are denatured do not refold property in vitro.

• Explain the role of ATP in the action of Hsp70 and GroEL/ES.

- Why would cells need more than one type of chaperone?
- Why do proteins vary in their need for chaperones?
- What are amyloid fibrils, what is their origin, and why are they harmful?