LECTURE 8: INTRODUCTION TO INTRA- AND INTERMOLECULAR FORCES

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Objectives: To explore the qualitative origins of intra- and intermolecular forces

Readings: Course Reader documents 16-19

Multimedia: Protein folding demo on Bonding and protein structure (California Lutheran University)

SINGLE CELL MECHANICS

-single cell AFM imaging

-motivation (musculoskeletal tissue, circulatory system, brain)

-experimental methods 1) localized area of the cell is deformed AFM, magnetic bead, 2) mechanical loading of an entire cell micropipette aspiration, optical trap, 3) simultaneous mechanical loading of a population of cells (shear flow, cell force monitor)

-cell modeling (Dao, et al 2003 J. Mech. Phys. Solids.)

• The composite is modeled as an isotropic, elastic, continuum, incompressible (constant volume), constant surface area **Constitutive Law** : stress vs. strain relationship that describes a particular material



CLASSIFICATION OF INTRA- AND INTERMOLECULAR FORCES

(within individual molecules) (between individual molecules)

-Definitions : Interaction (more general), force (push or pull), bond (the attraction between atoms in a molecule or crystalline structure) \rightarrow all intra- and intermolecular forces are electrostatic in origin \rightarrow key to life on earth (e.g. water, cell membranes, protein folding, etc.)

-strength measured relative to the thermal energy (room temperature) : k_BT= 4.1 • 10⁻²¹ J : "ruler" noncovalent



- Biological systems and bottom-up self-assembly is based on the balance and interplay of intra- and intermolecular forces.

-Noncovalent interactions allow for dynamic systems, i.e. breaking reversible reforming bonds doesn't require much energy)/individually weak, forces are cumulative \rightarrow stable in parallel.

SPECIFIC TYPES OF INTRA- AND INTERMOLECULAR FORCES



HYDROPHOBIC ("WATER FEARING") INTERACTIONS



• attraction and association between nonpolar molecules in aqueous solution caused by their inability to form Hbonds with water so as to minimize disruption of Hbonds in water (nondirectional, entropy driven since water has a more ordered structure around nonpolar molecules)

Figure by MIT OCW.

 $\bullet e.g.$ alkanes, hydrocarbons, fluorocarbons, inert atoms

•can be long range

•Conversely **hydrophilic** interactions result in repulsion in order to maximize their interaction with water, **amphiphile**- having both hydrophilic and hydrophobic chemical constituents, **solvophobic** (fearing other solvents)

 $\bullet{\rightarrow}$ important for fouling/biocompatibility of implanted devices, protein folding



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Dew_2.jpg Courtesy of Michael Apel.

3.052 Nanomechanics of Materials and Biomaterials Tuesday 03/06/07

NONCOVALENT INTERACTIONS IN FOLDED PROTEINS



Human Serum Albumin



Hierachical levels :

 Chemical : peptide bonds)
Primary : sequence of amino acids
Secondary : local chain configuration (α-helix, βsheet), loops
Tertiary : additional chain folding over longer distances
Quaternary : globular domains
Modular : linear array of

covalently attached domains in series

Adapted from Grosberg and Khokhlov, Giant Molecules



→DEMO : Noncovalent interactions in proteins, chymotrypsin (digestive proteolytic enzyme, catalyzes chemical reactions to break down proteins into amino acids)

SELF-ASSEMBLING PEPTIDE AMPHIPHILES FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Hartgerink, et al. Science, 2001 "Self-assembly and mineralization of peptide-amphiphile nanofibers"

 alkyl tail = hydrophobic promotes self-organization
cysteines used for polymerization of sulfides
flexible linker to give some molecular mobility
phosphorylated serine interacts with calcium ions and promotes mineralization
cell adhesion ligand RGD

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