Structure analysis of macromolecular solutions with small-angle X-ray scattering

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Major tasks:

Biological SAXS @ EMBL-HH



Development of data analysis methods

- □ Running and developing SAXS beamlines
- □ User support and collaborative projects
- □ Interactions, education and training



Small-angle scattering: solvent



- To obtain scattering from the particles, matrix scattering must be subtracted, which also permits to significantly reduce contribution from parasitic background (slits, sample holder etc)
- Contrast Δρ = <ρ(r) ρ_s>, where ρ_s is the scattering density of the matrix, may be very small for biological samples







solution



 In solution, no crystallographic packing forces are present For SAXS solution studies, one does not need to grow crystals

- SAXS is not limited by molecular mass and is applicable under nearly physiological conditions
- Using solution SAXS, one can more easily observe responses to changes in conditions
- SAXS permits for quantitative analysis of complex systems and processes

Small-angle scattering in structural biology



Scattering from dilute macromolecular solutions (monodisperse systems)



The scattering is proportional to that of a single particle averaged over all orientations, which allows one to determine size, shape and internal structure of the particle at low (1-10 *nm*) resolution.







Overall parameters





Low resolution structures of macromolecules in solution

Shape and conformational changes of macromolecules and complexes





Validation of high resolution models and oligomeric organization

Rigid body models of complexes using high resolution structures





Addition of missing fragments to high resolution models

The scattering is related to the shape (or low resolution structure)





Long rod







Flat disc

How to reconstruct 3D from 1D





DAMMIN: uses beads packed on a regular grid and simulated annealing to generate a (most possible) compact model fitting the experimental data



DAMMIF, a fast DAMMIN



DAMMIF is a completely reimplemented DAMMIN written in object-oriented code

- About 25-40 times faster than DAMMIN (in fast mode, takes about 1-2 min on a PC)
- Employs adaptive search volume
- Makes use of multiple CPUs

Franke, D. & Svergun, D. I. (2009) *J. Appl. Cryst.* **42**, 342–346

Ab initio dummy residues model

Proteins typically consist of folded polypeptide chains composed of amino acid residues

At a resolution of 0.5 nm a protein can be represented by an ensemble of *K* dummy residues centered at the C α positions with coordinates $\{r_i\}$



Scattering from such a model is computed using the Debye (1915) formula.

Starting from a random model, simulated annealing is employed similar to DAMMIN

GASBOR run on C subunit of V-ATPase



Starting from a random "gas" of 401 dummy residues, fits the data by a locally chaincompatible model

GASBOR run on C subunit of V-ATPase



Beads: Ambruster *et al.* (2004, June) *FEBS Lett.* 570, 119
C_α trace: Drory *et al.* (2004, November), *EMBO reports*, 5, 1148

Some words of caution



Or Always remember about ambiguity!

Shape determination of 5S RNA: a variety of DAMMIN models yielding identical fits



Funari, S., Rapp, G., Perbandt, M., Dierks, K., Vallazza, M., Betzel, Ch., Erdmann, V. A. & Svergun, D. I. (2000) *J. Biol. Chem.* **275**, 31283-31288.

Program SUPCOMB – a tool to align and conquer

Aligns heterogeneous high- and low-resolution models and provides a dissimilarity measure (NSD). For every point in the first model, the minimum value among the distances between this point and ALL points in the second model is found; the same is done for the second model. These distances are added and normalized against the average distances between the neighbouring points for the two models (computation time ~ N1*N2).



Kozin, M.B. & Svergun, D.I. (2001) J. Appl. Crystallogr. 34, 33-41

5S RNA: ten shapes superimposed



Most populated volume

Automated analysis of multiple models

- 1. Find a set of solutions starting from random initial seeds and superimpose all pairs of models with SUPCOMB.
- 2. Find the most probable model (which is on average least different from all the others) and align all the other models with this reference one.
- 3. Remap all models onto a common grid to obtain the solution spread region and compute the spatial occupancy density of the grid points.
- 4. Reduce the spread region by rejecting knots with lowest occupancy to find the most populated volume
- 5. These steps are automatically done by a package called DAMAVER if you just put all multiple solutions in one directory

Program DAMAVER, Volkov & Svergun (2003) J. Appl. Crystallogr. 36, 860

5S RNA: final solution



The final model obtained within the solution spread region

When biologists go for SAXS

SAXSMAN © A.Kikhney

This is just trivial case: SAS yields much more

Care for a

shape?



Modern life sciences widely employ hybrid methods



The most known and popular tool is, of course, Photoshop

SAXS also allows for a very effective hybrid model building where high resolution portions are positioned to fit the low resolution scattering data

Scattering from a macromolecule in solution

$$\mathbf{I}(\mathbf{s}) = \left\langle \left| \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{s}) \right|^2 \right\rangle_{\Omega} = \left\langle \left| \mathbf{A}_{a}(\mathbf{s}) - \rho_{s} \mathbf{A}_{s}(\mathbf{s}) + \delta \rho_{b} \mathbf{A}_{b}(\mathbf{s}) \right|^2 \right\rangle_{\Omega}$$

A_a(s): atomic scattering in vacuum

A_s(s): scattering from the excluded volume



CRYSOL (X-rays): Svergun et al. (1995). J. Appl. Cryst. **28**, 768 **CRYSON (neutrons):** Svergun et al. (1998) *P.N.A.S. USA*, **95**, 2267

Catalytic core of E2 multienzyme complex is an irregular 42-mer assembly



The E2 cores of the dihydrolipoyl acyltransferase (E2) enzyme family form either octahedral (24-mer) or icosahedral (60-mer) assemblies. The E2 core from Thermoplasma acidophilum assembles into a unique 42-meric oblate spheroid. SAXS proves that this catalytically active 1.08 MDa unusually irregular protein shell does exists in this form in solution.



Marrott NL, Marshall JJ, Svergun DI, Crennell SJ, Hough DW, Danson MJ & van den Elsen JM. (2012) *FEBS J.* **279**, 713-23

FEBS/EMBO Women in Science Lecture Mass spectrometry of protein complexes Review Articles Computational disease-gene prediction Yeast as a cancer-related model system

Principle of rigid body modelling



Using spherical harmonics, the amplitude(s) of arbitrarily rotated and displaced subunit(s) are analytically expressed *via* the initial amplitude and the six positional parameters: $C_{lm}(s) = C_{lm}(B_{lm}, \alpha, \beta, \gamma, x, y, z)$.

The scattering from the complex is then rapidly calculated as

$$I(s) = I_A(s) + I_B(s) + 4\pi^2 \sum_{0}^{\infty} \sum_{-l}^{l} \operatorname{Re}\left[A_{lm}(s)C_{lm}^*(s)\right]$$

Svergun, D.I. (1991). J. Appl. Cryst. 24, 485-492

A global refinement run with distance constraints A tyrosine kinase MET (118 kDa) consisting of five domains



Gherardi, E., Sandin, S., Petoukhov, M.V., Finch, J., Youles, M.E., Ofverstedt, L.G., Miguel, R.N., Blundell, T.L., Vande Woude, G.F., Skoglund, U. & Svergun, D.I. (2006) *PNAS USA*, **103**, 4046.

Addition of missing fragments



- Flexible loops or domains are often not resolved in high resolution models
- Their tentative configuration can be reconstructed by fixing the known portion and adding the missing parts to fit the scattering from the full-length macromolecule.

Moreover, addition of missing fragments can be combined with rigid body refinement (programs BUNCH and CORAL)

Petoukhov, M. V. & Svergun, D. I. (2005). *Biophys. J.* **89**, 1237-1250



Building native-like folds of missing fragments

Using DR-type models and protein-specific penalty functions



Petoukhov, M.V., Eady, N.A.J., Brown, K.A. & Svergun, D.I. (2002) Biophys. J. 83, 3113

Dynamics and function of the C-terminus of the *E. coli* RNA chaperone Hfq





The hexameric Hfq (HfqEc) is involved in riboregulation of target mRNAs by small trans-encoded RNAs. Hfq proteins of different bacteria comprise an evolutionarily conserved core, whereas the Cterminus is variable in length.

By bioinfomatics, NMR, synchrotron CD and SAXS the C-termini are demonstrated to be flexible and to extend laterally away from the hexameric core. The flexible Cterminal moiety is capable of tethering long and structurally diverse RNA molecules.

Beich-Frandsen M, Vecerek B, Konarev PV, Sjöblom B, Kloiber K, Hämmerle H, Rajkowitsch L, Miles AJ, Kontaxis G, Wallace BA, Svergun DI, Konrat R, Bläsi U and Jjinovic-Carugo K. (2011) Nucleic Acids Res. **39**, 4900-15

Addition of missing fragments: CORAL



A merger of SASREF and BUNCH: advanced methods to account for missing loops in multi-subunit protein structures (RANLOGS, CORAL)

M.V. Petoukhov, D. Franke, A. Shkumatov, G. Tria, A.G. Kikhney, M. Gajda, C. Gorba, H.D.T. Mertens, P.V. Konarev, D.I. Svergun (2012). *J. Appl. Cryst.* **45**, 342-350.

C-terminal domain of WbdD as a molecular ruler

In Escherichia coli O9a, a large extracellular carbohydrate with a narrow size distribution is polymerized from monosaccharides by a complex of two proteins, WbdA (polymerase) and WbdD (terminating protein).





A truncated construct WbdD¹⁻⁴⁵⁹ is monomeric. For the construct WbdD¹⁻⁵⁵⁶ MX yields an active trimer but AAs 505-556 are not seen in the crystal.

SAXS *ab initio* shape reveals that the C-terminal is further extended. A rigid body model was constructed using coiled-coil C-terminal and refining the position of the catalytic domains.

In vivo analysis of insertions and deletions in the coiled-coil region revealed that polymer size is controlled by varying the length of the coiled-coil domain.



Hagelueken G., Clarke B. R., Huang H., Tuukkanen A. T., Danciu I., Svergun D. I., Hussain R., Liu H., Whitfield C. & Naismith, J. H. (2015) *Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol.*, **22**, 50-56.

Scattering from mixtures

The scattering is proportional to that of a single particle averaged over all For equilibrium and non-equilibrium orientations, which allows one to mixtures, solution scattering permits to determine size, shape and internal determine the number of components structure of the particle at low (7-70 and given their scattering intensities nm) resolution. "I'k(s), also the volume fractions

 $I(s) = \sum v_k I_k(s)$

k





Flexible systems, interactions, mixtures and processes

Equilibrium oligomeric mixtures

Stoichiometry and complex formation



Natively unfolded proteins and multidomain proteins with flexible linkers

Protein folding/unfolding kinetics Assembly/disassembly processes



Crystal structures of substrate-bound chitinase from Moritella marina and its structure in solution

Chitinases break down glycosidic bonds in chitin and only few crystal structures are reported because of the flexibility of these enzymes.

The dimeric crystal structure (at BESSY) of chitinase 60 from M. marina (MmChi60) contains four domains: catalytic, two Ig-like, and chitin-binding (ChBD). SAXS (at EMBL) demonstrates that MmChi60 is monomeric and flexible in solution. The flexibly hinged Iglike domains may thus allow the catalytic domain to probe the surface of chitin.





P. H. Malecki, C. E. Vorgias, M. V. Petoukhov, D. I. Svergun and W. Rypniewski. *Acta Cryst.* (2014) **D70**, 676-684

Quantitative assessment of flexibility



EOM, Bernadó et al. (2007) J. Am. Chem. Soc. 129, 5656. Automated classification (folded, partially or completely unfolded) is available DATCLASS

D.Franke



- In ensemble methods, one generates a large pool covering the conformational space and selects sub-ensemble(s) fitting the available experimental data
- EOM 2.0 (G.Tria, 2015): advanced pool generation, e.g. use of (partial) point symmetry
- Quantification of flexibility using enthropy and variation

ATSAS (All That SAS) roadmap

High resolution models





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Recent ATSAS methods developments



<u>Correlation Map: quantification of data fitting and an alternative to</u> <u>χ² when the experimenrtal error estimates are not available</u> D.Franke, C.Jeffries & D. Svergun (2015) *Nat. Methods*, **12**, 419-422

Automated determination of the useful data range by finding the <u>number of reliable Shannon channels</u> P.Konarev & D.Svergun, (2015). *IUCrJ*, **2**, 352-360

Advanced ensemble analysis of flexibility: EOM version 2.0 including symmetry and quantitative characterization of the results G.Tria, H.Mertens, M.Kachala & D.Svergun (2015) *IUCrJ*, 2, 207-217

Intrinsic ambiguity of SAXS data: calculation of a propensity that a given scattering pattern yields ambiguous shape reconstruction M.Petoukhov & D.Svergun, (2015) *Acta Cryst.* D71, 1051–1058

Correlation map (CM)

Lysozyme shape determination shown as signs of residuals

Parametric distribution for the probability of having the longest stretch of constant sign of the deviation (expressed analytically)

With this distribution, CM provides a p-value saying whether the fit is statistically acceptable. Numerous simulations demonstrated that CM has essentially the same statistical power as χ^2 , but without the need of knowing the associated errors in the data

D.Franke, **C.Jeffries**





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Variability and resolution of *ab initio* models



Analysis of the Fourier shell correlation functions between the multiple aligned models allows one (like in cryo-EM) to assess the resolution of the ensemble by identifying the point where the averaged correlation drops below 0.5. The approach is tested and validated in hundreds of model and real examples.

A.Tuukkanen, G.Kleywegt & D.Svergun, (2016), submitted. Program SASRES, available online and for download in ATSAS 2.8

Standardization, databases, web servers

Report of the wwPDB Small-Angle Scattering Task Force http://www.wwpdb.org/task/sas_Trewhella J. et al., (2013) Structure, 21, 875

sasCIF format http://www.wwpdb.org/task/sas_Kachala M., Westbrook J., Svergun D. (2016) J Appl Crystallogr. 49, 302-310.

pE-DB: a database of intrinsically disordered and unfolded proteins http://pedb.vib.be Varad M. et al., (2014) Nucleic Acids Res., 42, 326)

SASBDB, a Web repository of biological SAS data and models, www.sasbdb.org Valentini E, Kikhney AG, Previtali G, Jeffries CM, Svergun DI (2015) Nucleic Acids Res. 43, 357-363

DARA, a Web server for rapid structural search using SAXS (http://dara.emblhamburg.de) A.G. Kikhney, A. Panjkovich, A.V. Sokolova, D.I. Svergun (2016) Bioinformatics, **32**, 616-8.

DANESSA, an expert system for automated interpretation of a SAXS experiment given the data and available a priori information http://www.emblhamburg.de/biosaxs/atsas-online/danessa.php (M. Petoukhov, in preparation) "Table 1" and other publication rules for SAS

Recommenddations of the SAS Task Force of the IUCr commission Table 2. SAXS Data collection and derived parameters for CD27L.

	CD27L (wild-type)	CD27L (C238R)	
Data collection parameters			
Instrument	EMBL X33 beam line (DORIS-II Hamburg)	DESY, EMBL P12 beam line (PE DESY, Hamburg)	TRA-III,
Beam geometry	2.0×0.6 mm ²	0.2×0.12 mm ²	
Wavelength (Å)	1.54	1.24	
s range (Å ⁻¹) ^a	0.01-0.6	0.01-0.46	
Exposure time (s)	8×15	1 (20×0.05 s)	
Concentration range (mg/mL)	0.9-4.0	1.0-8.5	
Temperature (K)	283	283	
Structural parameters ^b			
<i>l(0)</i> (relative) [from <i>p(r)</i>]	44±2	3653±14	
R_g (Å) [from $p(r)$]	.33±1	43±2	
I(0) (cm ⁻¹) (from Guinier)	45.6±0.5	3664±14	
R _g (Å) (from Guinier)	33±1	42±1	
D _{max} (Å)	106	147	
Porod volume estimate (Å ³)	72151±10000	91690±10000	
Excluded volume estimate (Å ³)	94000±10000	123000±10000	
Dry volume calculated from sequence (Å ³)	39121/78219 (mon/dim)		
Molecular-mass determination			
1(0) (cm ⁻¹) BSA (66,000 Da)	71.4±0.4	3791±10	
Molecular mass Mr (Da) [from I(0)]	42150±5000	63780±5000	
Molecular mass M, (Da) [from Porod volume (Vp/1.6)]	45094±5000	57306±5000	
Molecular mass M_r (Da) [from excluded volume ($V_{or}/2$)]	47000±5000	61500±5000	
Calculated monomeric M _r from sequence	3	335	
Software employed			
Primary data reduction	RAI	AVER	
Data processing	PRI	MUS/Qt	
Ab initio analysis	DAI	MIF	
Validation and averaging	DAI	AVER	
Rigid-body modeling	COL	AL	
Equilibrium analysis	OL	OMER	
Computation of model intensities	CRY	SOL	
3D graphics representations	PyM	OL, UCSF Chimera	

Abbreviations: $M_{e^{i}}$ molecular mass; $R_{g^{i}}$ radius of gyration; $D_{max^{i}}$ maximal particle dimension; $V_{p^{i}}$: Porod volume; V_{ex} : Particle excluded volume. ^aMomentum transfer $|s| = 4\pi \sin(\theta)/\lambda$.

^bValues reported for merged data sets (wild-type: 0.9 & 4.0 mg.mL⁻¹, C238R: 1 & 8.4 mg.mL⁻¹). doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1004228.t002

Search

SASB**B**

Small Angle Scattering Biological Data Bank

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Curated repository for small angle scattering data and models

Small angle scattering (SAS) of X-ray and neutrons provides structural information on biological macromolecules in solution at a resolution of 1-2 nm.

SASBDB is a fully searchable curated repository of freely accessible and downloadable experimental data, which are deposited together with the relevant experimental conditions, sample details, derived models and their fits to the data.

SASBDB currently contains: 249 experimental data sets 394 models 103 experimental data sets on hold

E.g. SASDBF4, Lyz, Nucleic Acids Res

153 models on hold

Recent depositions:

SASDBC4 - Plakin domain of Human plectin (spectrin repeats: SR3-SR9)



Advanced search

Database development and submission curation is done in Hamburg. Presently offers 249 data sets and 394 macromolecular models (world largest)

DARA, a rapidly searchable database of over 150,000 SAXS patterns from the entire PDB



A Brand New Method and Server

Volume 18 Number 8 28 February 2016 Pages 5663-6330



PCCP Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics



Themed issue: Exploring the conformational heterogeneity of biomolecules

ISSN 1463-9076



PAPER Alejandro Panjkovich and Dmitri I. Svergun Deciphering conformational transitions of proteins by small angle X-ray scattering and normal mode analysis



Deciphering conformational transitions of proteins by small angle X-ray scattering and normal mode analysis

A. Panjkovich, D.I. Svergun (2016) Phys Chem Chem Phys. 18, 5707-19

EMBL

Biological **Small Angle** Scattering



Home > Web services > ATSAS online > SREFLEX

SREFLEX online

Project description

SAXS data

No file selected. Browse...

Structure (.pdb or .zip)

Browse... No file selected.



The first 8 characters in the description will be used to generate the project identifier.

High brilliance EMBL SAXS beamline P12





Robotic EMBL/ESRF sample changer
Automated FPLC/HPLC in parallel with biophysical sample characterisation



- About 10¹³ ph/sec in 200*120 mm²
- Energy between 4 and 20 keV (3.0 to 0.6 Å)
- Divergence below 0.05*0.05 mrad²
- Multilayer monochromator mode: over 5×10¹⁴ ph/sec
- SASFLOW pipeline for on-line data processing and analysis
- Full automation, remote and mail-in access

Highlights of EMBL SAXS user publications



lock II

What does SAS tell about biological macromolecules

- Nothing known: *ab initio* low resolution structure
- Incomplete high resolution structure known: probable configuration of missing portions



- Complete high resolution structure known: validation in solution and biologically active oligomers
- High resolution structure of domains/subunits known: quaternary structure by rigid body refinement
- Mixtures/assemblies: volume fractions of components
- Flexible systems: quantitative analysis of configurational ensembles

What does SAS tell about biological macromolecules

Nothing known: *ab initio* low resolution structure

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Not just high throughput: important present and future applications of SAXS are functional complexes and processes (flexible, dynamic, transient, evolving), where SAXS is among the few methods providing quantitative structural information

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concentration from 0.5 mg/mi, exposure times: (sub)seconds

Some words of caution



Always check your samples BEFORE doing SAS!

- Use the other methods and NEVER trust them blindly!
- Always check integral parameters BEFORE 3D modelling!

iNEXT – Infrastructure for Structural Biology

infrastructure for NMR, EM & X-rays for Translational research





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All BioSAXS Group and especially C. Blanchet, C. Jeffries, D. Franke, A.Kikhney, H.Mertens, A.Panjkovich, M. Graewert, C.Kerr, A.Tuukkanen, N.Hajizadeh

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