



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

Monodisperse systems

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









The use of multipole expansion

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

If the intensity of each contribution is represented using spherical harmonics

$$I(s) = 2\pi^{2} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^{l} |A_{lm}(s)|^{2}$$

the average is performed analytically:

$$I(s) = 2\pi^{2} \sum_{l=0}^{L} \sum_{m=-l}^{l} |A_{lm}(s) - \rho_{0} E_{lm}(s) + \delta \rho B_{lm}(s)|$$

This approach permits to further use rapid algorithms for rigid body refinement

CRYSOL and **CRYSON**: X-ray and neutron scattering from macromolecules

$$I(s) = 2\pi^{2} \sum_{l=0}^{L} \sum_{m=-l}^{l} |A_{lm}(s) - \rho_{0}E_{lm}(s) + \delta\rho B_{lm}(s)|$$

The programs:

- either fit the experimental data by varying the density of the hydration layer $\delta \rho$ (affects the third term) and the total excluded volume (affects the second term)
- or predict the scattering from the atomic structure using default parameters (theoretical excluded volume and bound solvent density of 1.1 g/cm³)
- provide output files (scattering amplitudes) for rigid body refinement routines
- compute particle envelope function F(ω)





Other approaches/programs I

The 'cube method' (Luzzati et al, 1972; Fedorov and Pavlov, 1983; Müller, 1983) ensures uniform filling of the excluded volume. Could/should/must be superior over the effective atomic factors method at higher angles.

CRYDAM (unpublished)

- Represents hydration shell by dummy water atoms
- Handles proteins, carbohydrates, nucleic acids and their complexes
- Is applicable for wide angle scattering range

Malfois, M. & Svergun, D.I. (2001), to be submitted

CRYSOL 3.0 (is coming)



Other approaches/programs II

- J. Bardhan, S. Park and L. Makowski (2009) SoftWAXS: a computational tool for modeling wide-angle X-ray solution scattering from biomolecules *J. Appl. Cryst.* 42, 932-943 - *A program to compute WAXS*
- Schneidman-Duhovny D, Hammel M, Sali A. (2010) FoXS: a web server for rapid computation and fitting of SAXS profiles. Nucleic Acids Res. 38 Suppl:W540-4. - *Debye-like computations, Web server*
- Grishaev A, Guo L, Irving T, Bax A. (2010) Improved Fitting of Solution X-ray Scattering Data to Macromolecular Structures and Structural Ensembles by Explicit Water Modeling. *J Am Chem Soc.* 132, 15484-6. *Generate bulk and bound waters with MD, do fit the data to the model* Poitevin F, Orland H, Doniach S, Koehl P, Delarue M (2011).
- Poitevin F, Orland H, Doniach S, Koehl P, Delarue M (2011). AquaSAXS: a web server for computation and fitting of SAXS profiles with non-uniformally hydrated atomic models. Nucleic Acids. Res. 39, W184-W189 - Generate waters around proteins using MD (AquaSol program)
- Virtanen JJ, Makowski L, Sosnick TR, Freed KF. (2011) Modeling the hydration layer around proteins: applications to small- and wide-angle x-ray scattering. *Biophys J.* 101, 2061-9. - Use a "HyPred solvation" model to generate the shell, geared towards WAXS.

DARA, a database for rapid characterization of proteins



Sokolova, A.V., Volkov, V.V. & Svergun, D.I. (2003) *J. Appl. <u>Crystallogr</u>*, **36**, 865-868

http://dara.embl-hamburg.de/

About 20000 atomic models of biologically active molecules are generated from the entries in Protein Data Bank and the scattering patterns computed by CRYSOL

Rapidly identifies proteins with similar shape (from low resolution data) and neighbors in structural organization (from higher resolution data)

Recent developments: recalculation of the curves, new interface, new search (A.Kikhney, A.Panjkovich)





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The idea of rigid body modeling

•The structures of two subunits in reference positions are known.

•Arbitrary complex can be constructed by moving and rotating the second subunit.

•This operation depends on three Euler rotation angles and three Cartesian shifts.





Constraints for rigid body modelling











Addition of missing fragments



- Flexible loops or domains are often not resolved in high resolution models or genetically removed to facilitate crystallization
- Tentative configuration of such fragments are reconstructed by fixing the known portion and adding the missing parts to fit the scattering from the fulllength macromolecule.



Addition of missing fragments: BUNCH

- BUNCH combines rigid body and *ab initio* modelling to find the positions and orientations of rigid domains and probable conformations of flexible linkers represented as "dummy residues" chains
- Multiple experimental scattering data sets from partial constructs (e.g. deletion mutants) can be fitted simultaneously with the data of the fulllength protein.
- BUNCH accounts for symmetry, allows one to fix some domains and to restrain the model by contacts between specific residues

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

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 Djinovic-Carugo K. (2011) Nucleic Acids Res. **39**, 4900-15





Sampling formalism

Shannon sampling theorem: the scattering intensity from a particle with the maximum size D is defined by its values on a grid $s_k = k\pi/D$ (Shannon channels):

$$sI(s) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} s_k a_k \left[\frac{\sin D(s-s_k)}{D(s-s_k)} - \frac{\sin D(s+s_k)}{D(s+s_k)} \right]$$



Shannon sampling was utilized by many authors (e.g. Moore, 1980). An estimate of the number of channels in the experimental data range ($N_s = s_{max}D/\pi$) is often used to assess the information content in the measured data.

Simple explanations do not work in SAS

- Shape determination: $M \approx 10^3$ variables (e.g. 0 or 1 bead assignments in DAMMIN
- Rigid body methods: $M \approx 10^1$ variables (positional and rotational parameters of the subunits)
- From the informational point of view, rigid body modeling should provide unique or at least much less ambiguous models than shape determination

NO WAY

As all the problems are non-linear, the number of Shannon channels does not give you exact number of parameters, which is possible to extract from the scattering data (depending on accuracy, this number varies between zero and infinity).

Further, uniqueness of reconstruction depends largely on the complexity of the function f(x) to be minimized



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Constraints and restrains used in global modelling procedures

- Information about contacting residues from other experiments (spin labelling, site-directed mutagenesis, FRET, chemical shifts etc)
- Information about symmetry
- Avoiding steric clashes
- For missing loops and linkers: contiguous chain, excluded volume, Ramachandran plot for Ca, knowledge-based potentials etc

AND STILL, one must always cross-validate SAS models against all available biochemical/biophysical information

Use of high resolution models

CRYSOL/CRYSON: computation of X-ray and neutron scattering from atomic models

Interactive and brute force programs

MASSHA/ASSA: interactive manipulations DIMFOM: homo/heterodimers GLOBSYMM: symmetric oligomers

Heuristic methods

SASREF: a universal rigid body program BUNCH, CORAL: allow addition of missing fragments

Recent EMBL SAXS collaborative projects			
Transcription factors	PDH complex E2 core	Human chromatin remodeler CHD4	SH2 domain of ABL kinase
De et al PNAS (2014)	EFEBS Journal		C Steam Activity Acti
Arc1p-aminoacyl-	BARF1/hCSF-1 complex	Human Muscle α-Actinin	Nanocomposites
	hCSF-1 BARF1 BARF1 BARF1	45 +	
Koehler <i>et al</i> NAR (2013)	Elegheert et al NSMB (2012)	de Almeida Ribeiro et al Cell (2014)	Shtykova <i>et al</i> JPC (2012)







The native complex strongly depends on the sample concentration and on the amount of NaCl in the buffer.

X. Xu, W. Reinle, F. Hannemann, P. V. Konarev, D. I. Svergun, R. Bernhardt & M. Ubbink (2008) JACS, 130, 6395-6403





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DsrA domain II bound to the RNA chaperone Hfq

A small regulatory RNA (DsrA) associates with the RNA chaperone Hfq and requires this protein for regulation of target *E.coli rpoS* mRNA, encoding the stationary phase sigma-factor. Previous studies revealed that the hexameric E. coli Hfq (HfqEc) binds sRNAs on the proximal site.



NMR data: superposition of the ¹H-¹⁵N HSQC spectra of Hfq_{EC65} RNA free form (blue) and in complex with DsrA₃₄ (red) and chemical shift differences. The residues with differences above the threshold are coded red in the Hfq_{Ec65} model

Almeida Ribeiro, E., Beich-Frandsen, M., Konarev, P. V., Shang, W., Vecerek, B., Kontaxis, G., Hammerle, H., Peterlik, H., Svergun, D. I., Blasi, U. & Djinovic-Carugo, K. (2012) *Nucleic Acids Res.* **40**, 8072-8.



Analysis of mixtures

SVDPOLT: singular value decomposition OLIGOMER: mixtures of components with known structure EOM: flexible systems and intrinsically unfolded proteins

