

Exp 6: Surface Analysis

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Introduction

Here, we will study the surface of Human hemoglobin, including hydrophobicity, conservation and electrostatic potential.

Methods

1. Load human hemoglobin structure (PDB id: 4HHB) in PyMOL

```
PyMOL> fetch 4HHB
```

2. Create new objects containing beta-subunit.

```
PyMOL> select beta, chain B
```

3. Separate human hemoglobin and hemo group into two objects

4. Generate the surfaces to display the two different properties of the protein

- Hydrophobicity

```
PyMOL> set surface_color, white, beta,
```

```
PyMOL> show surface, beta
```

```
PyMOL> select hydrophobicity, resn Ala+Val+Ile+Leu+Met+Phe+Tyr+Trp in  
beta
```

```
PyMOL> remove backbone in hydrophobicity
```

```
PyMOL> set surface_color, blue, hydrophobicity
```

```
PyMOL> show surface, hydrophobicity
```

```
PyMOL> set transparency, 0.2
```

- Conservation

5. Generate the electrostatic potential surfaces for the tetrameric hemoglobin

Action → generate → vacuum electrostatics → protein contact potential (local)

- 6.

```
select hydrophobicity, resn Ala+Val+Ile+Leu+Met+PheTyr+Trp
```

```
set surface_color, green, phobic
```

set transparency, 0.2

Results

1.

2.

3.

4. Hydrophobicity

Save the result in Hydrophobicity.pse since 003. The hole which heme insert is hydrophobic, in order to keep heme inside hemoglobin.(Figure 1) Many sunken surface is hydrophobic(Figure 2), which suggests show the folding occur to decrease system energy. However, here are raised surface is hydrophobic.(Figure 3) The hydrophobic environment between subunit interact edge may explain this exception.

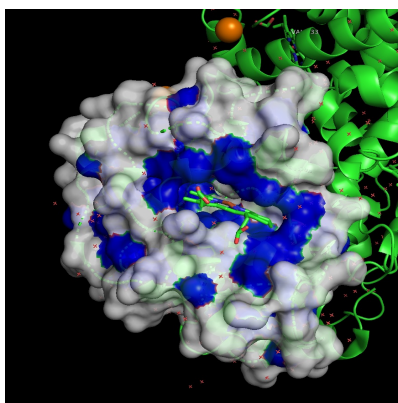


Figure 1. Heme insert to a hydrophobic hole

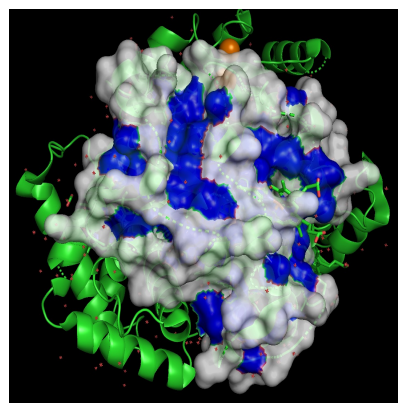


Figure 2. Much sunken surface is hydrophobic

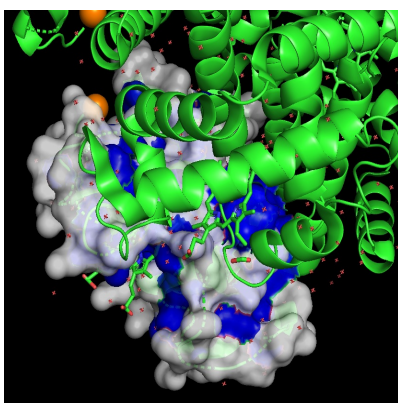


Figure 3. Subunit interact surface is more hydrophobic

5. Convserion

6. Electrostatic in vacuum

Because 2,3-BPG is negative charge, I find a positive charged surface between two β subunits.(Figure 4)(Reference 4)(electrostatic.pse since 3). I find that four Heme interactional surface on hemoglobin are positive charged (electrostatic.pse since 4). However, Heme doesn't show much negative feature.

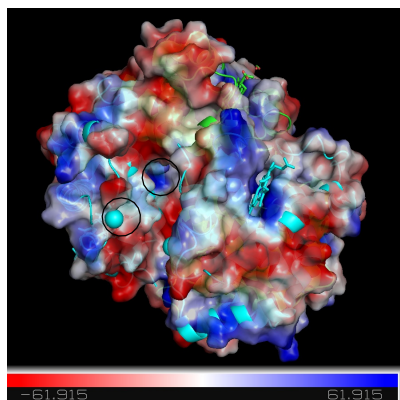


Figure 4. The positive charged pocket for 2,3-BPG binding. Bottom black circle is a PO_4^{4-} , and top black circle is responding positive surface to hold PO_4^{4-} . (Two β subunits are colored by cyans).

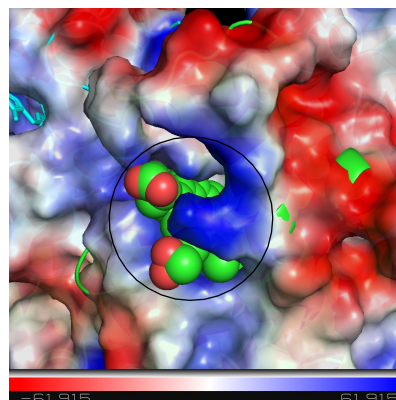


Figure 5. Here are positive charged surface on hemoglobin around a Heme (Black circle).

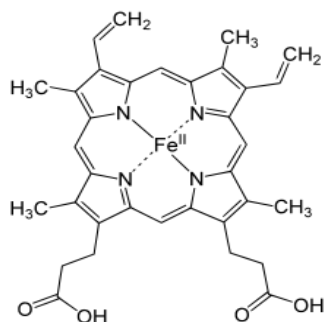


Figure 6. Heme b group (Ref 2)

Conclusions

References

1. https://pymolwiki.org/index.php/Property_Selectors
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heme>
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2,3-Bisphosphoglyceric_acid
4. http://cbc.chem.arizona.edu/classes/bioc462/462a/NOTES/hemoglobin/hemoglobin_function.htm
5. <https://www.rcsb.org/structure/4HHB>