

Amino Acid Writeup

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1 Aspartic Acid

Aspartic Acid (standar codons **GAC** and **GAU**) is a non-essential amino acid [2].¹ It is polar, which means it is hydrophobic and generally ends up on the surface of proteins. Aspartic Acid is small compared to other amino acids.

It is one of two negatively charged amino acids, so its use in protein structure stems from the ability of the carboxylate (RCOO^-) to bind with positively charged amino acids. This particular binding forms hydrogen bonds and keeps the protein's structure stable.

GAC and **GAU**

2 Phenylalanine

The chemical formula for Phenylalanine is $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}_2$. standard codons are **UUC** and **UUU** [1]. It is extremely hydrophobic, with

is an essential amino acid [2], meaning it is not synthesized internally and must be consumed.

References

- [1] BETTS, M. J., AND RUSSELL, R. B. Amino acid properties and consequences of substitutions.
- [2] YOUNG, V. R. Adult amino acid requirements: the case for a major revision in current recommendations. *The Journal of nutrition* 124, 8 Suppl (1994), 1517S–1523S.

¹A highly misleading attribute name.