





Ingrid Martins



Rafael Viegas



Juliana Camargo



Antonio

Oliveira

Exploring the Energy Landscapes of Intrinsically Disordered Proteins

Vitor Leite

Departamento de Física São Paulo State University São José do Rio Preto, SP - Brasil



Murilo

Sanches

Larissa Adolfo



Current Topics in Molecular Biophysics (CTMB3) Instituto Principia – SP – 7/10/2024

Protein Folding Energy Landscape – General Picture



JN Onuchic & PG Wolynes, Curr. Opin. Struct. Bio. 2004



Energy Landscape Visualization Method (ELVIM)

Multidimensional Projection

A.Oliveira Jr., V. Leite, et al JCTC (2019), PLOS One (2014)

> Viegas, Leite, *et al* JCIM (2024)



 $f: X \to Y \iff |\delta_{ij} - d_{ij}| \approx 0$ for all (*i*,*j*) pairs



- Effective distance between any two configurations
- Based in internal distances between its elements (C- α)



$$q_w^{k,l} = \frac{1}{N_p} \sum_{i,j \in pairs} \exp\left[\frac{-(r_{i,j}^k - r_{i,j}^l)^2}{2\sigma_{i,j}^2}\right]$$

$$\sigma_{i,j} = \sigma_0 |i - j|^\epsilon$$

$$\bullet \quad \delta_{k,l} = 1 - q_w^{k,l}$$

Wolynes & Papoian, JACS 2003, PNAS 2004





Viegas, Leite, et al, JCIM (2024)

ELVIM: Density of States, Transition State Ensembles, Folding Routes, Meta Stable States...



Viegas, Leite, et al, JCIM (2024)

GRB2 - Growth-fator receptor-bound protein 2







60 120 180 240 300 360 420 480 540 QGRB2



R. Dias, V. Leite et. al., JCIM 2023

GRB2 - Growth-fator receptor-bound protein 2



Resolving the fine structure in the energy landscapes of repeat proteins

Murilo N. Sanches¹, R. Gonzalo Parra², Rafael G. Viegas^{1,3}, Antonio B. Oliveira Jr.⁴, Peter G. Wolynes⁴, Diego U. Ferreiro⁵ and Vitor B.P. Leite¹

QRB Discovery 2022

3ANK





4ANK



6ANK



Characterizing the Energy Landscape of an RNA Tetraloop

Rafael Viegas, Angel E. Garcia, VBPL, et. al.

JCIM 2023



gcGCAAgc







Probing Mastoparan-like Antimicrobial Peptides Interaction with Model Membrane Through Energy Landscape Analysis

Ingrid B. S. Martins,[§] Rafael G. Viegas,[§] Murilo N. Sanches, Alexandre S. de Araujo, and Vitor B. P. Leite*

MP1 & HMP1









Intrinsically Disordered Proteins (IDPs)



Schuler et al., Curr. Opin. Struct. Biol. 60, 66-76 (2020)

IDP: Prostate-associated gene 4 (PAGE4)

Oliveira, V. Leite, JCTC (2021)

102 AA Different phosphoforms: (AWSEM Simulation)



No trivial reaction coordinate

- 10k conformations of each phosphoform (all together)





Density of States



Experimental data

• Thr51 \Leftrightarrow C-jun binding site

Conformation \Leftrightarrow Function

Туре	C-Jun (in vitro)	
WT	Binds ++	Γ
HIPK1	Binds +	
CLK2	No bind	



Functional Mechanisms

• Fly-casting mechanism

(Wolynes et al, PNAS 2000, PNAS 2010)





ATP



HIPK1 no Fly-casting



Protein Ensemble Database

proteinensemble.org

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Lazar, et al. NAR, 2020

- PED is an open-access database for the deposition of structural ensembles, including *intrinsically disordered proteins (IDPs)*.
- "Manually curated data of structural ensembles measured with nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, small-angle X-ray scattering, fluorescence resonance energy transfer..."
- Proof of concept: Can we make sense out of these ensembles?
- Fragment of the nuclear pore complex protein (Nup)153 NUS (1313-1390). Fuertes, et al. PNAS, 2017

- NUL (884-993).

- Sic1 N-terminal targeting domain (1-90). Gomes, JACS, 2020
- N-terminal SH3 domain of Drk protein (1-59). Lincoff,. Comm. Chem. 2020

Nuclear pore complex protein Nup153 fragment - NUS (1313-1390)

Fuertes, et al. PNAS, 2017

78 residues.

Total of 28,078 structures

PED00149: denatured conditions

- e001: 9482 models, R_g = 23.38
- e002: 9405 models, R_g = 23.78
- e003: 9473 models, R_g = 23.51

PED00150: native conditions

- e001: 9255 models, R_g = 21.45
- e002: 9248 models, R_g = 21.72
- e003: 9277 models, R_g = 21.69





Viegas, Martins & Leite, JCIM 2024



Viegas, Martins & Leite, JCIM 2024

Nup153 fragment NUS (1313-1390)

ELViM Reproducibility



Viegas, Martins & Leite, JCIM 2024

N-terminal SH3 Domain of Drk protein

Lincoff, et. al., Comm. Chem. 2020

Consistent with NMR, SAXS and smFRET data.

59 residues Total of 288 conformations





ELViM



Viegas et. al., JCIM 2024

GitHub: https://github.com/VLeiteGroup/ELViM



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Sanches



@ IBILCE-UNESP

The Group

Larissa

Adolfo

Lucas

Juliana Camargo



Trevejo

Gustavo Catanoce





Vicente Rosseti Christiano



Antonio Oliveira (@Rice Univ)

@DF-IBILCE:

- Alexandre Suman
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- Victor Tsai, CCU, Taiwan







Ingrid

Martins

(@EMS)





vitor.leite@unesp.br

Thank you!

Obrigado!

vitor.leite@unesp.br

Na+/H+ exchanger 1 (NHE1)

R. Hendus-Altenburger K. Lindorff-Larsen, B.B. Kragelund *Cellular Signalling 37 (2017) 40–51*



The disordered distal tail of NHE1 is six-times phosphorylated by the mitogen activated protein kinase 2 (MAPK1, ERK2). Using NMR, they found that two out of those six phosphorylation sites had a stabilizing effect on transient helices.

Molecular Dynamics

- Residues 755 796 (TH3 and TH4)
- Phosphorilations (S771, T779, S785)
- Amber03ws force field GROMACS 2020
- 1 microsecond of simulation
- Phosphorilation parameters added
- 5 replicas for WT & Phosphorilated

ELViM

- 12500 structures 5 replicas of WT
- 12500 structures 5 replicas of Phosphorilated

Transient Helix populations

TH3



TH4









Phosphorylated





MD/ELViM

- WT, WT phosphorilated
- R790V, R790V phosphorilated

Transient Helix 4











- 12





48

- 42

- 36

Density of states

- 12



Helicity of Transient Helix 4



Phospho

R790V Phospho

Tau Fragments Energy Landscape

Tau protein \rightarrow assembly and stabilization of microtubules \rightarrow

aggregates \rightarrow accumulation of Tau protein \rightarrow Alzheimer's disease

- Fragment: 295 313 (18 AAs) → Seeds the fibrillization of the full protein
- Mutant P301L → More prone to aggregate
- Amber99sb Simulations
- WT: monomers, dimers & tetramers
- P301L: monomers, dimers & tetramers

→ ELViM analysis

w/ **Joan-Emma Shea** UC Santa Barbara

ELViM Projection

WT & P301L data:

monomers, dimers & tetramers



5000 points in each ensemble



Density of States





WT dimers



- 4

- 3

- 2

-1

L 0

- 12

- 10

- 8

- 6

- 4

- 2

L 0





P301L dimers







Conclusion

"Progress in science depends on new techniques, new discoveries and new ideas, probably in that order." — Sydney Brenner

Energy Landscape Visualization Method (ELViM):

- Reaction-Coordinate free
- Can be used with other sampling methods
- Conformation dependent only
- Can be used for any resolution

(C_alpha, All-atom, large units)

• Different systems (e.g. RNA, DNA,

biomolecular assemblies, chromatin)

Code available and soon available as a web-server!!!!!

IDPs:

• Single chain (under different conditions)

- differential analysis

- Functional mechanisms
- Effective metric complex systems
 - e.g. aggregation
- Oligomers and fiber formation

- Amyloid- β , Tau, etc

 ~ 30% of proteome are IDPs or IDRs proteinensemble.org