

Bioscience Division

A brief introduction to X-ray crystallography

Growing protein crystals

Looking at crystals with Xrays

Getting pictures of proteins from diffraction spots



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1.5 mm



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Mounting crystals in nylon loops and cryo-cooling them

Liquid nitrogen

Loop holder

Nylon Loop

Innovation for Health and Security

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Advanced Light Source, Berkeley, CA



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Getting pictures of proteins from diffraction spots





Diffraction pattern

Analysis of diffraction spots



Picture and model of macromolecule

The intensities of X-ray diffraction spots depend on what is in the crystal







Electrons in a protein crystal (p is high where there are many electrons)



Diffraction pattern $(I_h \text{ is intensity of spot "h"})$

$$\rho(x) = \sum_{h} F_{h} e^{i\phi_{h}} e^{-2\pi i hx}$$

$$F_h e^{i\phi_h} = \int \rho(x) e^{2\pi i h x} dx \qquad I_h = F_h^2$$

We can almost calculate a picture of where the atoms are from the diffraction pattern (but are missing the phases of diffraction spots)





ho(x) (Where the atoms are)

 F_h is square root of measured intensity of spot *h*

$$\rho(x) = \sum_{h} F_{h} e^{i\phi_{h}} e^{-2\pi i hx}$$

We do not know the phase (ϕ_h)



Estimating crystallographic phases: example with multiwavelength X-ray data

•Measure diffraction (I_h , I'_h) at two X-ray wavelengths near absorption edge of selenium

-Differences in diffraction are due to changes in scattering from the Se atoms (ΔF_h)

First figure out where the Se atoms are located

Then use the Se atoms and the diffraction intensities to draw a picture of all the atoms



Estimating crystallographic phases with multiwavelength X-ray data

•Measure diffraction (I_h , I'_h) at two X-ray wavelengths near absorption edge of selenium

-Differences in diffraction are due to changes in scattering from the Se atoms (ΔF_h)

<u>Wavelength</u>

λ

Scattering density

ρ

<u>Structure Factor</u>

Intensity o<u>f</u> diffraction spot

$$\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{h}} = F_h e^{i\phi_h} = \int \rho(x) e^{2\pi i h x} dx$$

 $\boldsymbol{I}_{h} = \left| \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{h}} \right|^{2}$



Estimating crystallographic phases with multiwavelength X-ray data

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-Differences in diffraction are due to changes in scattering from the Se atoms (ΔF_h)

<u>Waveleng</u>	th Scattering density	<u>Structure Factor</u>	Intensity o <u>f</u> <u>diffraction spot</u>
λ_1	$\rho(x)$	$\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{h}} = F_h e^{i\phi_h} = \int \rho(x) e^{2\pi i h x} dx$	$\boldsymbol{I_h} = \left \mathbf{F_h} \right ^2$
λ_2	$\rho'(x) = \rho(x) + \Delta \rho(x)$	$\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{h}}' = \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{h}} + \Delta \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{h}}$	$I_h' = \left \mathbf{F_h} + \Delta \mathbf{F_h} \right ^2$



Estimating crystallographic phases with multiwavelength X-ray data

•Measure diffraction (I_h , I'_h) at two X-ray wavelengths near absorption edge of selenium

-Differences in diffraction are due to changes in scattering from the Se atoms (ΔF_h)

How to figure out where the Se atoms are:

Assume that structure factors for Se are similar to changes between wavelengths:

 $\left| \Delta \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{h}} \right| \approx \left| F_{h}' - F_{h} \right|$

Then use techniques from small-molecule crystallography to find the Se atoms (guess locations, compare calculated and observed ΔF_h , update guess)



Wavelength

Estimating crystallographic phases with multiwavelength X-ray data

•Measure diffraction (I_h , I'_h) at two X-ray wavelengths near absorption edge of selenium

-Differences in diffraction are due to changes in scattering from the Se atoms (ΔF_h)

Structure Factor

Intensity o<u>f</u> diffraction spot

$$\lambda_1 \qquad \rho(x) \qquad \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{h}} = F_h e^{i\phi_h} = \int \rho(x) e^{2\pi i h x} dx \qquad \mathbf{I}_h = |\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{h}}|^2$$

 $\lambda_2 \quad \rho'(x) = \rho(x) + \Delta \rho(x) \qquad \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{h}}' = \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{h}} + \Delta \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{h}} \qquad \mathbf{I}_h' = \left| \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{h}} + \Delta \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{h}} \right|^2$

If we know where the Se atoms are ...

<u>Scattering density</u>

we know:
$$\Delta \rho(x)$$

...so we can calculate: $\Delta \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{h}}$
and the phase (ϕ_h) must satisfy: $I'_h = \left| I_h^{1/2} e^{i\phi_h} + \Delta \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{h}} \right|^2$

Many ways to find the phases





Method	Source of phasing information
SIR – single isomorphous replacement	A few heavy atoms (e.g., Hg, Au) in "derivative" contribute to differences from "native"
SAD – single-wavelength anomalous diffraction	A few atoms (e.g., Se, I, Hg atoms) contribute to "anomalous" differences in diffraction between spot <i>h</i> and spot <i>-h</i>
MAD – multiple-wavelength anomalous diffraction	A few atoms contribute to anomalous and wavelength-dependent "dispersive" differences
SIRAS, MIR	Combinations of SIR and SAD
Molecular replacement	Molecular location and phases are found using a related molecule as a template
Direct methods	Guess where atoms are, good guesses match the measured structure factors

The PHENIX Project

Phenix

Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory

