EXAFS : Application to Biological Systems

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Outline

- Application of EXAFS to Metals in Biology
- Modern Approach to Biological XAS
- Single Crystal XAS
- Oxyhemoglobin
- DypB



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Ordered Systems





Interatomic Distance (Å)

Ordered Systems





- EXAFS more ordered (data to high k)
- Shell by Shell analysis is popular and FT based fitting is helpful.
- Rigid structure similarity between related systems.















- EXAFS are more disordered (data to k=11-15 Å).
- Complete EXAFS analysis necessary for meaningful interpretation.
- Confidence mostly in first shell & second shell metal coordination.

Experimental Considerations

Sample Requirement

- ~1 mM in metal, 100 uL in volume, 20-30% glycerol/glassing agent.
- 0.1-1 mM for heavy metals Z > Cu, ~2mM for Z < Fe.
- Duplicates for photoreducing systems.

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Beamline Specification

- Liq He cryostat (10-15K) : must
- 30+ element Ge Detector: critical
- BL equipped with fast shutters, beam filters, ease of detuning: critical
- Automated data measurement: required

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Measurement Time

- Time : 5-15 hours (per-sample, excluding duplicates)
- Reproducibility : At least once



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Electronic information: covalency, bond strength, type of ligands

XAS pre- & near-edge

Structure: Information on Ligands How many, What type, How far.

EXAFS

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Theoretical Correlation

XAS pre- & near-edge

Structure: Information on Ligands *How* many, *What* type, *How* far.

EXAFS

Detailed Electronic Information

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Theoretical Correlation

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Energy

TS

ΙK

EXAFS

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Structure Function Correlation

0-0 (Å)



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SSRL Beamline 9-3





- Sequential measurement of X-ray diffraction and X-ray absorption is possible.
- Sample requirements: Single crystals for polarized measurements : ~100 μm.
- Smaller proteins with heavier transition metals (higher than Ni) \sim 50 μ m.
- Multiple crystals for standard XAS measurements.

Small Sample Requirement

• Multiple crystals from small starting volume (~5 uL): solution XAS ~100 uL (~ 1mM).

Applicable to Imperfect Crystals

 Twins, multiples, poorly diffracting, cracked etc. several crystals on loop to increase signal

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Direct Comparison to Crystallography

- Solution EXAFS may vary from crystallography due to changes in H-bonding or due
- to crystal packing effects. Singe crystal XAS is a direct in-state comparison.
- Monitor photoreduction in single crystals and correlate to photo-damage in crystallography.

Oxyhemoglobin



Human interaction with O₂ Mediated by Hemoglobin (Hb)



- Fe containing O₂ transport protein
- Contains an Fe-porphyrin (heme)

- Present in all vertebrates
- Binds upto 4 O₂ molecule per Hb

Oxyhemoglobin

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 $Fe^{2+}(Protoporphyrin IX)(His) + O_2$

Fe-O₂ (Protoporphyrin IX) (His)



Fe²⁺ + O₂ (S=2, 4 unpaired e⁻) + $({}^{3}\Sigma_{g} - S = 1, 2 \text{ unpaired e}^{-})$ Fe-O₂ (Protoporphyrin IX) (His) (S=0, 0 unpaired e⁻)

24 electrons undergo spin-pairing in the 4 subunits to form oxyhemoglobin!!

Electronic Structure



Electronic Structure



Is the metal center Reduced (Ferrous) or Oxidized (Ferric)?

Crystallography



- O-O Bond Distance indicates Reduced (Ferrous).
- Why is there a large spread in Fe-O ?

Solution Spectroscopy



• O-O Bond Distance derived from spectroscopy (rRaman) indicates Oxidized (Ferric).

Discrepancy between solution spectroscopy and x-ray crystallography??

Solution & Crystal XAS



- Crystal near-edge similar to solution.
- Structure analysis shows very similar O₂ bound geometry.
- Fe K-edge and pre-edge distinctly different from starting material - deoxyHb
- Curiously Fe K-pre-edge for oxyHb in solution and crystalline forms are different.
- Since geometric structure is similar, does this point to electronic changes?

Model Comparison

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What do small molecule models with $Fe^{3+}O_2^{-}$ and $Fe^{2+}O_2$ look like?



Solution & Crystal Pre-edge







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Solution EXAFS and DFT



DFT reproduces EXAFS distances and the differences in pre-edge.

Electronic Structure Interpretation



- Differences in Crystallography and Solution Spectroscopy Real.
- Electronic structure of oxyhemoglobin consists of both the ferrous and ferric components.
- Ferric dominates in solution and Ferrous dominates in crystal form.



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Dye-decolorizing Peroxidase B (DypB)



- Recently discovered heme protein with peroxidase-like activity.
- Capable of oxidizing anthraquinone dyes, lignin and even Mn²⁺.
- Remarkable specificity for a wide range of reductive substrates.

SLAO

Peroxidase Catalytic Cycle

























Expected Spectral Change

- > 1 eV shift in rising edge
- > intensity & energy of pre-edge

Solution XAS & EXAFS on DypB









Optimizing Crystallization Conditions



Optimizing Crystallization Conditions





Optimizing Crystallization Conditions



Electronic structure validation for crystallography.

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Ongoing Work: Electronic Structure of DypB





Ongoing Work: Electronic Structure of DypB



Ongoing Work: Electronic Structure of DypB



- Why are the ferric forms of CcP and DypB different?
- What are the differences in ligand field that lead to differences in the pre-edges?
- Is it a first sphere or second sphere effect?

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- Biological EXAFS is a powerful technique that furnishes *atomic* resolution local structures of metalloprotein active site.
- XAS is a powerful technique to obtain valuable insights into the electronic structures of metalloproteins
- Solution and crystalline structures of metalloproteins may vary *intrinsically*.
- Researchers should feel encouraged to combine XAS and Crystallography, routinely.

Contributors



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