# Approaches and challenges for quantifying multi-body interactions as higher-order structure for predicting product attributes

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### SAVE THE DATE: May 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 NIIMBL National Meeting

http://www.niimbl.us/2018NationalMeeting/index.php

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### SAVE THE DATE: January 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Inaugural GRC-Biotherapeutics and Vaccines Development



#### **Application Information**

Applications for this meeting must be submitted by **December 9, 2018**. Please apply early, as some meetings become oversubscribed (full) before this deadline. If the meeting is oversubscribed, it will be stated here. *Note*: Applications for oversubscribed meetings will only be considered by the conference chair if more seats become available due to cancellations.

**Conference Description** 

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### Context: Protein formulation, delivery, & selection



#### Protein-protein interactions and phase behavior

$$B_{22} = -\frac{1}{2} \int 4\pi r^2 \int [e^{-W_{22}(r,\Omega)/kT} - 1] d\Omega dr$$
$$B_{22} = -\frac{1}{2} \int 4\pi r^2 [g(r) - 1] dr$$





http://www.bayertechnology.com/typo3temp/ fl\_realurl\_image/proteinkristallisation-bieten-01-pr.jpg



Dumetz et al., Biophys. Journal (2008)

## Protein-Protein Interactions (PPI) influence a number of stages in aggregation pathways



Roberts CJ, Curr. Opin. Biotech. (2014).

### Viscosity and "weak" interactions / "cluster" formation



Connolly, B.; *et. al. Biophys. J.* **2012**, *103*, 69–78. Sharma, V. K.; *et. al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **2014**, *111*, 18601–18606.

## B<sub>22</sub> and k<sub>D</sub> are often used "interchangeably" to capture "colloidal" interactions



If one is in the dilute limit, theoretically  $k_D = h_0 + 2B_{22}$ 

Electrostatic interactions can be repulsive or attractive, but it is difficult to actually predict when this will occur

Roberts D, Keeling R, Tracka M, van der Walle C, Uddin S, Warwicker J, Curtis R. Mol. Pharm. 2014

1-1 Interactions: Spanning the scales from "weak" to "strong" interactions...

 K<sub>D</sub> ~ nanomolar spanning to Kd ~ mM or higher conc

- For strongly attractive conditions, Kd values scale ~ -1/B<sub>22</sub>
- $K_D \sim \text{micromolar} \rightarrow "B_{22}" \text{ or } k_D \sim 1000 \text{ mL/g}$
- At low conc,  $G_{22} = -2B_{22}$  (See next few slides)

## Multi-body interactions: G<sub>22</sub> vs. B<sub>22</sub>..."weak" interactions & concentration effects



Kirkwood-Buff Solution Theory...EXACT, but not originally developed for proteins.

## At low concentrations, these are "equivalent" measures

Dynamic Light Scattering

$$D_{c}(q \to 0, c_{2}) = D_{0} \frac{H(q \to 0, c_{2})}{1 + c_{2}G_{22}}$$

Equilibrium AUC

$$\left(\frac{\partial \mu_2}{\partial c_2}\right)_{T,V,\mu_{j\neq 2}} = \frac{kT}{c_2(1 + c_2G_{22})}$$

Neutron / x-ray small-angle scattering

$$I(q \to 0) \sim c_2(1 + c_2 G_{22})$$

Do not need to be in the dilute limit... $G_{22}$  is valid at any  $c_2$  (for a 1-phase system)

 $S_0 = 1 + C_2 G_{22}$ 

# Experimental protein aggregation (SEC) from low to high concentration



 $k_{obs}$  = rate coeff. for monomer loss via SEC

Ghosh, R., et. al. J. Pharm. Sci. 2016





# Protein-Protein "weak" interactions quantified with Rayleigh scattering

 $c_2$  = protein concentration

 $B_{22}$  = protein-protein osmotic 2<sup>nd</sup> coefficient (independent of c<sub>2</sub>)

 $G_{22}$  = protein-protein KB integral (depends on  $c_2$ )



Ghosh, R., *et. al. J. Pharm. Sci.* **2016** Blanco, M., *et. al. J. Chem. Phys.* **2011**, *134*(22), 225103

### Molecular simulations for protein interactions – low protein concentrations

#### Mayer Sampling with Overlap Sampling (MSOS): $B_{22}$

- > Open 2-particle system (N=2, V→∞, T)
- Mayer functions integrated with respect to a known reference:

$$B_{22} = B_{22,ref} \left[ \frac{\left\langle \gamma_{22} / \pi \right\rangle_{\pi} / \left\langle \gamma_{22}^{over} / \pi \right\rangle_{\pi}}{\left\langle \gamma_{22}^{ref} / \pi \right\rangle_{\pi,ref} / \left\langle \gamma_{22}^{over} / \pi \right\rangle_{\pi,ref}} \right]$$



Rubio, C.C. et al. *J. Phys. Chem B* Shaul, K.R.S., *et. al. J. Chem. Phys.* Errington, J.R. *J. Chem. Phys.* Ben-Naim, A. Statisitical Thermodynamics for Chemist and Biochemists *Plenum Press.*

# Molecular simulations for protein interactions – High concentrations

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#### Transition matrix Monte Carlo (TMMC): G<sub>22</sub>

- Grand-canonical ensemble
- **Pr(N | μVT)** is reconstructed and reweighted

$$\left(\frac{\partial \mu_2}{\partial \langle N_2 \rangle}\right)_{T,V,\mu'} = \frac{kT}{\langle N_2 \rangle \left(1 + \langle N_2 \rangle G_{22}^{(m)} / V\right)}$$
  
S<sub>q=0</sub> = f(protein conc.



Rubio, C.C. et al. *J. Phys. Chem B* Shaul, K.R.S., *et. al. J. Chem. Phys.* Errington, J.R. *J. Chem. Phys.* Ben-Naim, A. Statisitical Thermodynamics for Chemist and Biochemists *Plenum Press.*

### Different ranges of CG models



# Coarse-graining: balancing computational cost & accuracy



# Overview of interaction model (illustrated with HEXA example)



### Selecting physically realistic parameters



- $\sigma_{sT}$ : matching B<sub>22,ST</sub> from all-atom simulations
- Charges (Q<sub>i</sub>): theoretical charge (sequence + pH)
- Flexibility: rigid molecule (speed reasons)
- Ionic strength: experimentally determined
  - Bead-bead distances: crystal structure

#### This leaves two parameters to tune:

- 1. Bead hydrophobicity / van der Waals attractions: "well depth",  $\epsilon_{\mbox{\tiny SR}}$
- 2. Effective charge/Theoretical charge:  $\varepsilon_{cc}$

### Training the model: B<sub>22</sub> vs total ionic strength (TIS)



pH 5.0





### Training the model: B<sub>22</sub> vs total ionic strength (TIS)



pH 6.5



# Predicting high c<sub>2</sub> with only low-c<sub>2</sub> data pH 5.0



# Predicting high c<sub>2</sub> with only low-c<sub>2</sub> data pH 6.5



**Repulsive conditions:** easier to model, more accurate (faster convergence) **Attractive conditions:** required more configurations (slower to converge)

# What about when electrostatic interactions are strongly attractive?

Surface charge distributions – attractive dipole and higher multi-pole contributions can dominate

# Predictions of high concentration interactions from B<sub>22</sub> and MC simulations

### What about higher resolution CG models?



#### B<sub>22</sub> response surfaces: potential "developability" index

### Single Chain Variable Fragments (scFv) can pose a different challenge



LS and AUC data to show dimerization at typical formulation pH / ionic strength; but reverts to monomer at higher TIS

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LS and AUC data to show dimerization at typical formulation pH / ionic strength; but reverts to monomer at higher TIS

scFv has a net neutral but charged linker, with multiple possible configurations



The flexible linker is able to cause strong electrostatically driven attractions between the linker and the VH and VL domains









### Viscosity and "weak" interactions



Connolly, B.; *et. al. Biophys. J.* **2012**, *103* (1), 69–78. Sharma, V. K.; *et. al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **2014**, *111* (52), 18601–18606.

How predictive are these experimental or simulated interactions of potential problems with high viscosity?

Current practice = assumeB22 (~ kD) correlates with highviscosityProtein

Protein Conc'n ~ 10<sup>2</sup> g/L



http://img.en.china.cn/0 /0,0,171,20469,640,433,83b95ef1.jpg

### IgG candidates can display a wide range of electrostatic attractive / repulsive behavior

Manuscript under review; please contact C. Roberts (<u>cjr@udel.edu</u>) for requests for preprints once they have been approved by the journal

Woldeyes, Razinkov, Qi, Battistoni, Furst, Roberts under review









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