
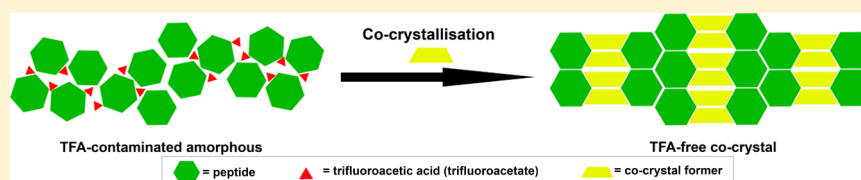


1 First Steps for the Direct Purification of L-Leu-L-Leu Dipeptide 2 through Co-Crystallization

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6  Supporting Information



7 **ABSTRACT:** Trifluoroacetate salt contamination of peptides represents a challenging issue related to solid phase peptide
8 synthesis and purification because it affects the chemical and biological properties of peptides. Purification of such materials is
9 typically performed through a two-step post-synthetic procedure based on chromatography followed by ion exchange. For the
10 first time, co-crystallization is presented in this study as a possible alternative and advantageous single-step method for the
11 obtaining of TFA-free crystals of a dipeptide. A trifluoroacetate-contaminated L-Leu-L-Leu dipeptide has been used for co-
12 crystallization experiments along with different solid coformers. New multicomponent crystals containing only the title
13 compound and the second co-crystal formers are described in this work. Such results represent a novelty in the field of peptide
14 chemistry and a valid proof for the use of crystal engineering-based method for a combined purification and crystallization
15 strategy.

16 ■ INTRODUCTION

17 Biologics might represent the only efficient way to treat some
18 specific diseases but, in many cases, the solid-state form of these
19 entities cannot be easily used in a dosage form due to their
20 questionable physiochemical properties (e.g., stability). Bio-
21 logics typically exist in the amorphous state with consequent
22 disadvantageous therapeutic and preformulation properties. A
23 possible contemporary solution to this crystallizability issue is
24 the preparation of crystal forms of these molecules using and
25 applying the concepts of crystal engineering and molecular
26 complexes.¹ Hydrophobic peptides can be considered as small
27 prototypes of biologics with a nontoxic, biocompatible, and
28 ecological profile. From a chemical and crystal engineering
29 point of view, their hydrophobic and hydrophilic moieties are
30 very attractive because of the possibility to generate both
31 hydrogen bonded and van der Waals interactions leading to
32 different types of crystal packing landscapes.

33 An innovative aspect presented in this work is the use of co-
34 crystallization as an alternative method to overcome the
35 problematic removal of unwanted trifluoroacetic acid (TFA)
36 from a synthesized peptide. The presence of such chemical is a
37 common challenge when peptides are synthesized through solid
38 or solution phase peptide synthesis. For example, the final step
39 in the solid phase peptide synthesis (SPPS)² is represented by
40 the detachment of the peptide from the resin: this operation is
41 performed using a cleavage cocktail containing a large excess of
42 trifluoroacetic acid, a harmful and polluting strong acid, ($pK_a =$
43 0.23), able to cleave the product from the support. TFA binds
44 to the free amino terminal as well as to any positively charged

functionality on the side chains of the peptide generating a 45
strong ion pair. Trifluoroacetate salts negatively affect both the 46
physiochemical³ and the biological^{4–6} properties of the 47
product. For this reason, additional purification steps through 48
chromatographic techniques followed by ionic exchange 49
reactions are routinely used to remove this contaminant. A 50
disadvantageous loss in the yield of the peptidic material is 51
unavoidable. 52

To investigate the possible outcome of purification through 53
co-crystallization, a L-Leu-L-Leu dipeptide was not completely 54
purified after the Fmoc SPPS: the synthesis liquor (containing 55
both the product and the TFA) has been simply evaporated 56
and the recovered material has been lyophilized to obtain a 57
dehydrated peptide. Slow solvent evaporation experiments 58
conducted by using several co-crystal formers along with the 59
dipeptide product show that there is a wide range of possible 60
outcomes (Figure 1): this is due to the establishment of 61
differential crystallization processes involving different chemical 62
species and leading to the formation of adducts with distinct 63
compositions and solubilities. The novel TFA-free multi- 64
component crystals presented in this paper have been obtained 65
using the nonpurified Leu-Leu dipeptide and 3-amino- 66
benzamide (LL:3-ABA), 1H-Pyrazole (LL:1H-Pyz), and 67
methanol (LL:MeOH) confirming the hypothesis of co- 68
crystallization as an alternative protocol for the removal of 69

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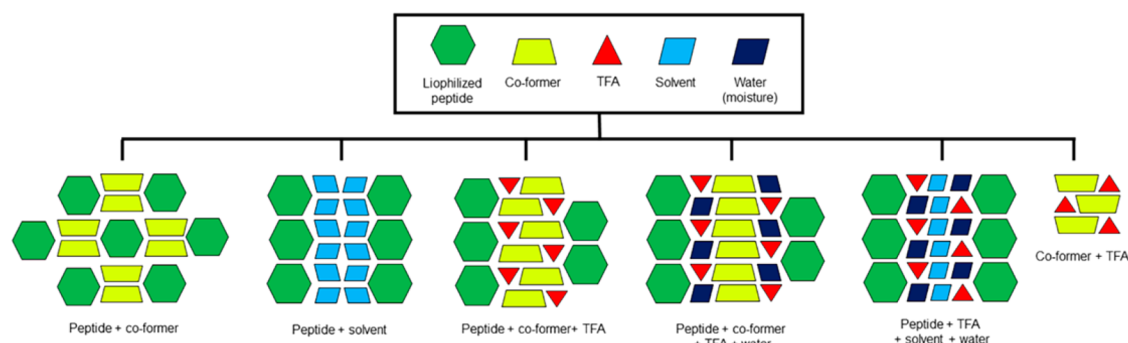


Figure 1. Different multicomponent systems obtained during the co-crystallization screening experiments using the TFA-contaminated L-Leu-L-Leu dipeptide.

70 trifluoroacetic acid. Crystal products containing TFA will be
71 described in a following paper⁷ to highlight the variety of
72 outcomes.

73 With regard to the crystal science of dipeptides, they typically
74 crystallize in multilayered structures with alternating hydro-
75 phobic and hydrophilic layers:⁸ the latter are represented by
76 two-dimensional sheets generated through head-to-tail hydro-
77 gen bonds involving two of the three amino H atoms and the
78 carboxylate functionality at the other terminal,⁹ while the third
79 one is generally involved in an interaction with an acceptor
80 contained in one of the side chains of a peptide of an adjacent
81 layer.^{10,11} A crystal packing problem arises when dipeptides are
82 constituted of two hydrophobic residues: from a crystallo-
83 graphic point of view, amino acids are considered hydrophobic
84 when they have no chemical functionalities involved in strong
85 hydrogen bond interactions except for the amino and in strong
86 carboxylate groups in the polar head.¹² In this case, the side-
87 chains do not contain any H-bond acceptor able to accept the
88 third H atom on the amino-terminal of the dipeptide. With the
89 exception of the L-Met-L-Met peptide (in which the third amino
90 H atom is not used for the crystal structure construction),¹³ the
91 hydrogen not involved in the creation of the planar sheet is
92 usually accepted by a molecule of crystallization solvent
93 included in the crystal packing.¹⁴

94 The crystal structures of L-Leu-L-Val and L-Leu-L-Leu
95 peptides represent significant examples of such arrangements:
96 differently from other hydrophobic dipeptides, these com-
97 pounds can generate good quality large crystals (instead of thin
98 needles or plates) that can be easily analyzed. Solvates of both
99 L-Leu-L-Val with methanol (CSD refcode:¹⁵ SUWLIF), ethanol
100 (SWLOL), 2-propanol (JUCSEF01)¹⁶ and L-Leu-L-Leu with
101 isopropanol (HIQWAF),¹⁷ ethanol (JUQQIV), propanol
102 (JUQQUB), 2-propanol (JUQQUM), a 1-propanol:2-propanol
103 mixture (JUQRAO),¹⁸ and DMSO (YORPEA)¹⁹ have already
104 been reported in the literature. The inclusion of such organic
105 solvent molecules in the crystal packing is fundamental for two
106 reasons: first, the hydroxyl groups are involved in the hydrogen
107 bonded networks and represent a valid solution for the problem
108 related with the third amino H atom. On the other hand, these
109 solvents are contained inside channels running in the
110 hydrophobic layers: structures with such empty spaces would
111 not be stable²⁰ and the presence of a second compound is
112 needed to fill this voids, creating solid architectures. Inclusion
113 compounds of water²¹ (RELWIO), pyridine (YIMWOH), and
114 three different methylpyridines²² (YIMWUN, YIMXAU,
115 YIMXEI) displaying a similar layered structure have been
116 obtained using the L-leucine tripeptide: this results confirm that
117 the presence of solvents is fundamental for the crystal packing.

Despite the importance of their role, the presence of a
second component that is liquid at room temperature is usually
considered a source of practical problems (e.g., molecular
disorder, characterization issues, polymorphism). An additional
disadvantage is the questionable stability of solvate forms. This
aspect is vital when biological molecules are used for the
formulation of pharmaceutical products that must maintain the
same properties under different environmental factors such as
temperature, pressure, humidity, etc. Co-crystallization experi-
ments using various solid cofomers at room temperature have
been performed to investigate the possibility to obtain similar
stable crystal structures and to analyze the influence of these
molecules in the packing architectures.

Interesting cases of hydrophobic dipeptides crystallized
without solvent or as hydrates are represented by nanotube
formations with different space groups and with hydro-
phobic^{23–25} or hydrophilic^{26,27} channels. A novel structure
(LLhex) belonging to the latter type has been obtained while
trying to co-crystallize the title compound with 4-dimethyl-
amino pyridine (DMAP) and will be discussed in this article.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Dipeptide Synthesis. The L-Leu-L-Leu dipeptide (Figure S1) was
synthesized through manual Fmoc solid phase peptide synthesis using
Fmoc-NH Leu-OH protected amino acid (Merck Millipore) and 2-
chlorotriethyl chloride resin (Iris Biotech GmbH). The initial
manufacturer loading was 1.60 mmol/g. The resin initial loading has
been carried out using 4 equiv of protected amino acid and 8 equiv of
N,N-diisopropylethylamine (DIPEA) in dichloromethane. The Fmoc
deprotection steps were performed using a 20% solution of piperidine
in dimethylformamide (DMF) while protected amino acid (4 equiv),
HATU (4 equiv), and N,N-diisopropylethylamine (8 equiv) have been
used for the coupling reactions in DMF; a 20:5:75 mixture of
trifluoroacetic acid, triisopropylsilane, and DCM was the cleavage
cocktail (evaporated with a rotavapor). The final product was
lyophilized to eliminate and avoid any possible moisture. These
treatments lead to the elimination of most of the excess of TFA
(boiling point: 72.4 °C) although it is still present in the final
compound.

Co-Crystallization Experiments. 3-Aminobenzamide, 1H-Pyrazole,
Pyrazine and 4-dimethylamino pyridine were obtained from Alfa
Aesar and used to prepare equimolar solution of dipeptide and
coformer, using methanol (HPLC purity) as solvent. Thirty different
coformers have been used for a complete screening. Such molecules
have been chosen among the most common cofomers widely
encountered, and have a wide variety of structural features (e.g., linear,
aromatic, heterocyclic), chemical functionalities (i.e., hydrogen bond
donors and acceptor), and chemical properties (i.e., acids and bases).
The vials containing the filtered solutions were capped with perforated
parafilm to allow slow solvent evaporation at a controlled temperature

Table 1. Experimental Details

	(LL:3-ABA)	(LL:1H-Pyz)	(LL:MeOH)	(LLhex)
chemical formula	C ₁₂ H ₂₄ N ₂ O ₃ ·C ₇ H ₈ N ₂ O	C ₁₂ H ₂₄ N ₂ O ₃ ·C ₃ H ₄ N ₂	C ₁₂ H ₂₄ N ₂ O ₃ ·1.5(CH ₄ O)	C ₁₂ H ₂₄ N ₂ O ₃ [+solvent]
M _r	380.48	312.41	292.39	244.33
crystal system, space group	Monoclinic, P2 ₁	Monoclinic, P2 ₁	Monoclinic, P2 ₁	Hexagonal, P6 ₁
a (Å)	5.5139 (3)	5.3441 (2)	10.5689 (5)	23.2661 (13)
b (Å)	22.4965 (13)	13.8666 (6)	13.6495 (6)	23.2661 (13)
c (Å)	16.3133 (9)	12.1977 (5)	12.4721 (5)	5.3295 (3)
α (deg)	90	90	90	90
β (deg)	92.344 (4)	90.514 (2)	107.003 (2)	90
γ (deg)	90	90	90	120
V (Å ³)	2021.9 (2)	903.87 (6)	1720.58 (13)	2498.4 (3)
Z	4	2	4	6
m (mm ⁻¹)	0.72	0.66	0.69	0.56
Crystal size (mm)	0.14 × 0.04 × 0.04	0.49 × 0.27 × 0.08	0.36 × 0.19 × 0.11	0.61 × 0.10 × 0.06
T _{min} , T _{max}	0.676, 0.753	0.542, 0.754	0.606, 0.753	0.531, 0.753
No. of measured reflections	14809	26545	17122	11658
No. of independent reflections	7019	3559	3395	2942
No. with [I > 2σ(I)]	5347	3395	6054	2109
R _{int}	0.058	0.054	0.039	0.081
(sin q/l) _{max} (Å ⁻¹)	0.596	0.617	0.603	0.603
R[F ² > 2σ(F ²)]	0.050	0.032	0.045	0.071
wR(F ²)	0.106	0.079	0.122	0.187
S	1.03	1.05	1.07	1.10
No. of reflections	7019	3559	6185	2942
No. of parameters	559	245	422	170
No. of restraints	17	6	11	5
Dρ _{max} , Dρ _{min} (e Å ⁻³)	0.17, -0.19	0.13, -0.16	0.27, -0.21	0.15, -0.19
Absolute structure parameter	-0.06 (19)	-0.07 (8)	0.10 (6)	0.1 (3)

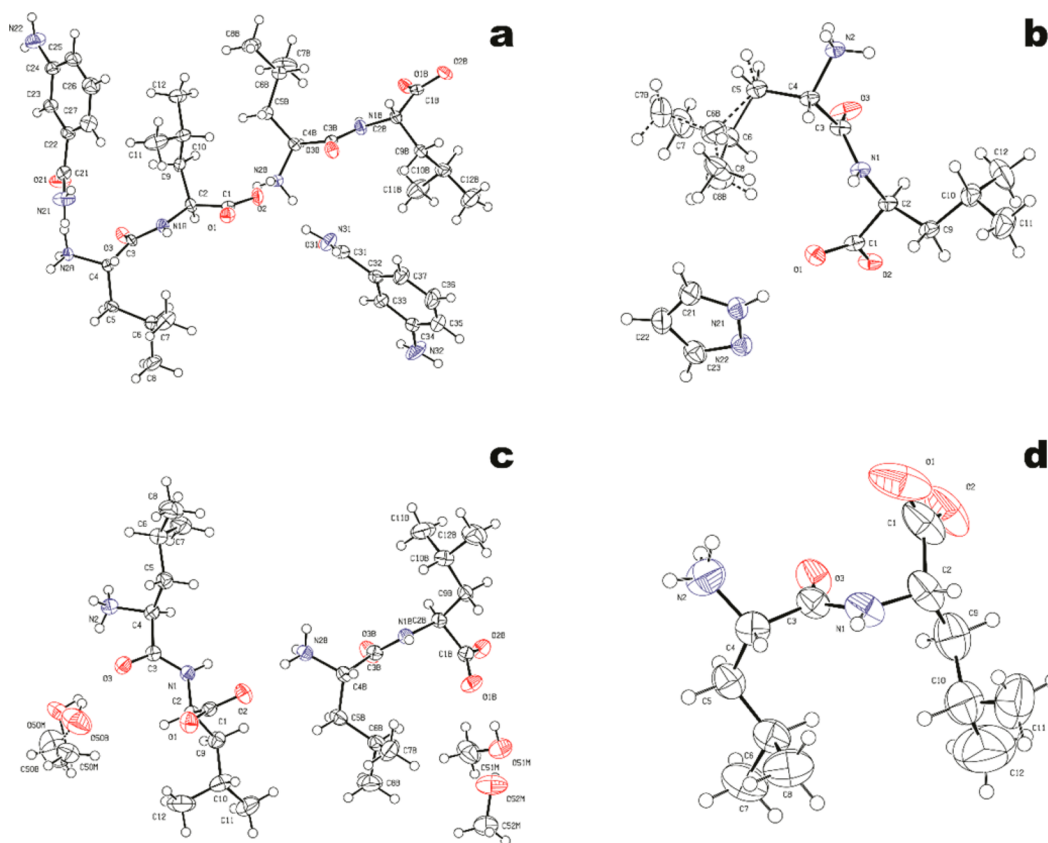


Figure 2. Asymmetric unit of LL:3-ABA (a), LL:1h-Py (b), LL:MeOH (3), and LLhex (d).

167 (20 °C) in an incubator. Crystals with dimensions suitable for single
168 crystal X-ray diffraction were collected from the solution (when
169 possible) or recovered from the dry material. The methanol solvate
170 (LL:MeOH) has been obtained when trying to co-crystallize the
171 dipeptide with pyrazine as a cofomer while the hexagonal nanotube
172 structure LLhex was crystallized using a 1:1 solution with 4-
173 dimethylaminopyridine.

174 **X-ray Diffraction.** Single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction
175 measurements were mounted on MiTeGen Dual-Thickness Micro-
176 Mounts and analyzed using a Bruker D8 Venture diffractometer with a
177 Photon detection system. Unit cell measurements and data collections
178 were performed at 173 K using a Cu K α radiation ($\lambda = 1.54056 \text{ \AA}$).
179 Crystal data and refinement parameters are presented in Table 1.
180 Structure solutions were carried out by direct methods and refinement
181 with SHELXL²⁸ was finished using the ShelXle²⁹ software. All non-
182 hydrogen atoms were found from electron density map and refined
183 with fixed bond distances and thermal parameter riding on the parent
184 atom. Highly disordered electron density inside the channel of LLhex
185 was processed using Platon Squeeze.³⁰

186 **Asymmetric Units.** The asymmetric units of the four multi-
187 component systems are shown in Figure 2. LL:3-ABA, LL:1H-Py, and
188 LL:MeOH crystallize in the $P2_1$ space group with a variable number of
189 components. Structures containing 3-aminobenzamide (Figure 2a)
190 and methanol (Figure 2b) are composed of two independent
191 molecules of dipeptide along with two and three molecules of co-
192 crystal former, respectively. The dipeptide molecule in LL:1H-Py
193 shows one disordered isobutyl side chain with partial occupancies of
194 83:17%; disorder has also been found in one of the methanol in
195 LL:MeOH (occupancies: 65:35%). LL:(DMAP) crystallizes in the
196 hexagonal crystal system with a $P6_1$ space group. The asymmetric unit
197 shown in the present work (Figure 2d) contains just one molecule of
198 dipeptide although additional electron density has been found inside
199 the channel: the structure was squeezed during the refinement process
200 to improve the quality of the final result.

201 The molecular conformation of the dipeptide molecules in the
202 different structures can be described using the $\theta = C_1^\beta-C_1^\alpha \dots C_2^\alpha-C_2^\beta$
203 torsion angle (Figure 3). This parameter is a useful descriptor of the

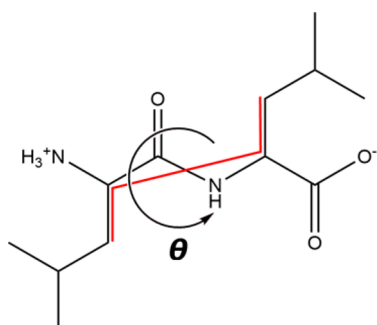


Figure 3. Graphical illustration of θ torsion angle in a dipeptide molecule.

204 relative position of the side chains with respect to the plane generated
205 by the peptide bond in the molecule backbone. As reported by
206 Görbitz,²⁷ most of the dipeptides contained in the Cambridge
207 Structural Database are characterized by a $|\theta| > 90^\circ$: this means that
208 the side chains are usually pointing in almost opposite directions. A
209 comparison of $|\theta|$ (Figure 4) of the title compounds reveal a significant
210 difference between the here reported structures: molecules in LL:3-
211 ABA, LL:1H-Py, and LL:MeOH show values that are consistent with
212 the general tendency, while LL:(DMAP) stands out for a remarkably
213 lower angle: this represent a completely different conformation of the
214 dipeptide with the two isobutyl chains positioned on the same side of
215 the peptide bond plane.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

216

Multilayered Structures. The dipeptides molecules in the
217 structures LL:3-ABA, LL:1H-Pyz, and LL:MeOH self-
218 assemble in the *ac*- or *ab*-plane to generate two-dimensional
219 sheets with varying features that are related to the specific
220 hydrogen bonded networks created in each structure. The two
221 isobutyl side chains of each leucine residue extend in opposite
222 directions above and below the plane. Neighboring sheets stack
223 on top of each other creating multilayered architectures in
224 which there is an alternation of hydrophilic layers represented
225 by the dipeptide backbones and hydrophobic regions formed
226 by the side chains of two flanking sheets. The above-described
227 orientation of the nonpolar side chains creates channels of
228 different sizes on both sides of each sheet: these empty spaces
229 host a variable number of cofomer (or solvent) molecules
230 (Figure 5).

Two-Dimensional Sheets. The two-dimensional sheet of
232 LL:3-ABA in the *ac*-plane is generated exclusively via head-to-
233 tail interactions between the amino and the carboxylate groups
234 of the two independent dipeptide molecules: the internal
235 amidic groups of the peptide bonds are not involved in
236 conventional hydrogen bonds. Only two of the three amino H
237 atoms are involved in the contacts between the neighboring
238 peptide molecules: the first one creates a single H-bond with
239 one of the carboxylic oxygens of a adjacent dipeptide while the
240 second one forms a bifurcated contact with the COO⁻ group of
241 a third molecule (Figure 6a).

The self-assembly of the dipeptide molecules for the LL:1H-
243 Pyz structure is different in that the functionalities of the
244 internal peptide bonds are involved in the formation of the
245 sheet. Two of the three amino H atoms generate strong head-
246 to-tail hydrogen bonds by interacting with the O⁻ atoms of the
247 C-termini of two neighboring peptides (red in Figure 6b). The
248 internal peptide bond functional groups hydrogen bond with
249 the charged terminals: the N-H group generates a N-H \cdots O⁻
250 H-bond with a carboxylate O atom (blue in Figure 6b), while
251 the carbonyl acts as an acceptor for an amino H atom of a
252 adjacent amino-terminal (orange in Figure 6b).

Figure 6c shows the sheet of the LL:MeOH structure
254 generated through a hydrogen bonded network that is an
255 intermediate between the previous two. The amino terminals of
256 the two independent dipeptide molecules in the asymmetric
257 unit act as hydrogen bond donors for head-to-tail charge-
258 assisted H-bonds with the carboxylate groups of the
259 neighboring molecules (red contacts in Figure 6c). One of
260 the two dipeptides (yellow in Figure 6c) generates the same
261 interactions described for the LL:3-ABA, while the other one
262 (magenta in Figure 3c) uses the N-terminus to create two
263 single N-H \cdots O⁻ interactions with the C-terminals of two
264 adjacent dipeptides. In this case just the N-H group of the
265 internal peptide bond of each dipeptide participates in a N-
266 H \cdots O⁻ hydrogen bond (blue in Figure 6c) with one of the
267 carboxylate O atoms of a subsequent molecule.

Three-Dimensional Stacking of Sheets. The channels of
269 LL:3-ABA can host 2 parallel chains of cofomer molecules
270 (Figure 7c), each one composed of only one type of the two
271 molecules of cofomer in the asymmetric unit: these strands are
272 generated through a C=O \cdots H-N interaction between the
273 amide functional groups (magenta in Figure 7c). The two
274 parallel chains are connected through a weak (bond angle =
275 119.30°) N-H \cdots O hydrogen bond between the amino group
276 of just one type of 3-aminobenzamide molecule and the
277

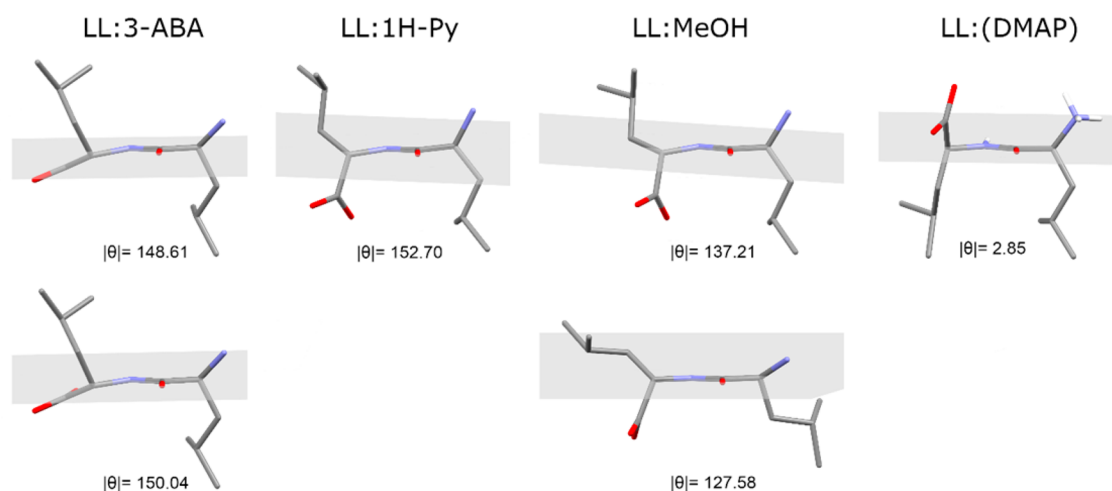


Figure 4. $|\theta|$ torsion angle values [$^{\circ}$] of the different dipeptide molecules in the asymmetric units. The gray plane is the one generated by the amidic peptide bond.

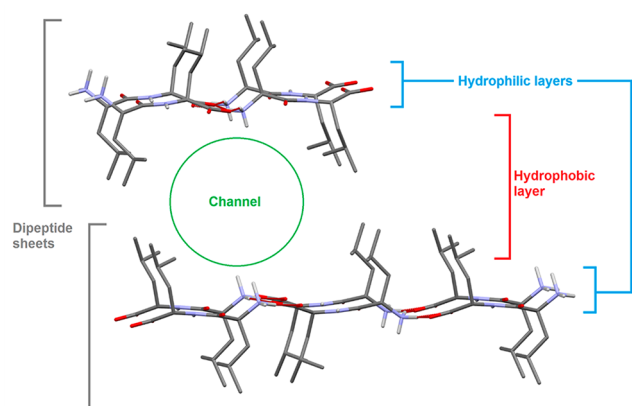


Figure 5. General packing scheme for LL:3-ABA, LL:1H-Pyz, and LL:MeOH.

278 carbonyl O atom of the amidic groups on the flanking row
279 (orange in Figure 7c). The meta-position of the chemical
280 functionalities allows the cofomers to act as cross-linkers
281 between two adjacent sheets (Figure 7b). The amino group
282 generate a $\text{NH}\cdots\text{O}^-$ with one of the oxygen atoms of the
283 carboxylic terminal of a dipeptide molecule of one sheet, while
284 on the other side, the amidic functionality generates two
285 different hydrogen bonds: the NH_2 is involved in a $\text{NH}\cdots\text{O}^-$
286 contact with one of the carboxylic O atoms of a peptide C-

terminus and the $\text{C}=\text{O}$ acts as a hydrogen bond acceptor for
the third amino H atom of a peptide N-terminus (the only one
not used to generate the sheet).

Because of the different orientation of the dipeptide
molecules in the sheet, the hydrophobic isobutyl chains are
closer in LL:1H-Pyz: this generates channels of smaller size
(Figure 8a) that can host just one single row of 1H-Pyrazole
molecules (not interacting between each other). The cofomer
contains both an acceptor (N atom) and a donor (N–H
group) in its molecule and both are involved in the formation
of hydrogen bonds: the acceptor generates a $\text{N}\cdots\text{H}-\text{N}^+$
interaction with the amino H atom not included in the H-
bonded network creating the sheet; the N–H functionality
interact via single hydrogen bond with one of the O atoms of
the C-terminus of a second adjacent dipeptide molecule

The particular arrangement of the dipeptide molecules and
the complex hydrogen bonded network in LL:MeOH implicate
a wavy conformation of the two-dimensional sheets
with a consequent closer approach between the isobutyl side
chains. This feature causes a reduction of the channels in the
hydrophobic layers that, in this case, only contain few small
molecules of crystallization solvent. Three different molecules
of methanol interact with the hydrophilic layers, acting as
bridges between adjacent molecules: the disordered one (blue
acts as both an acceptor (for a $\text{N}^+-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$ H-bond
with the amino terminal of a dipeptide) and a donor (for a O–

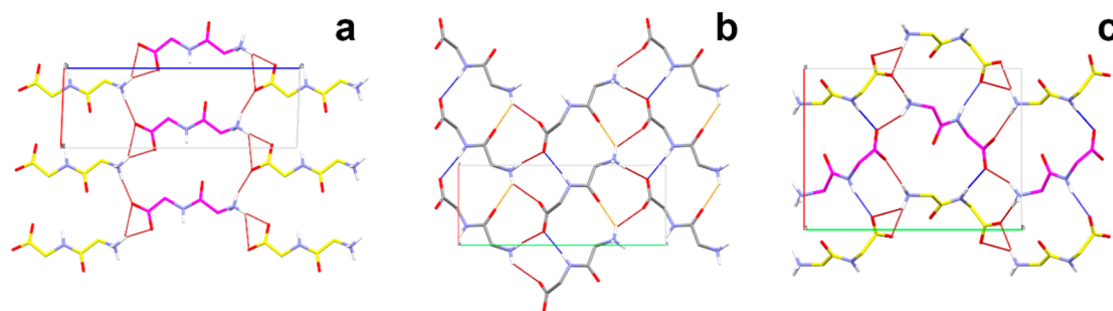


Figure 6. (a) Two-dimensional sheet of LL:3-ABA on the ac -plane. (b) Hydrogen bonded network generating the LL:1-Pyz sheet. (c) Hydrogen bonded network generating the sheet of LL:MeOH on the ab -plane. The two independent dipeptide molecules of the asymmetric unit are shown in different colors. Isobutyl side chains are not shown for clarity.

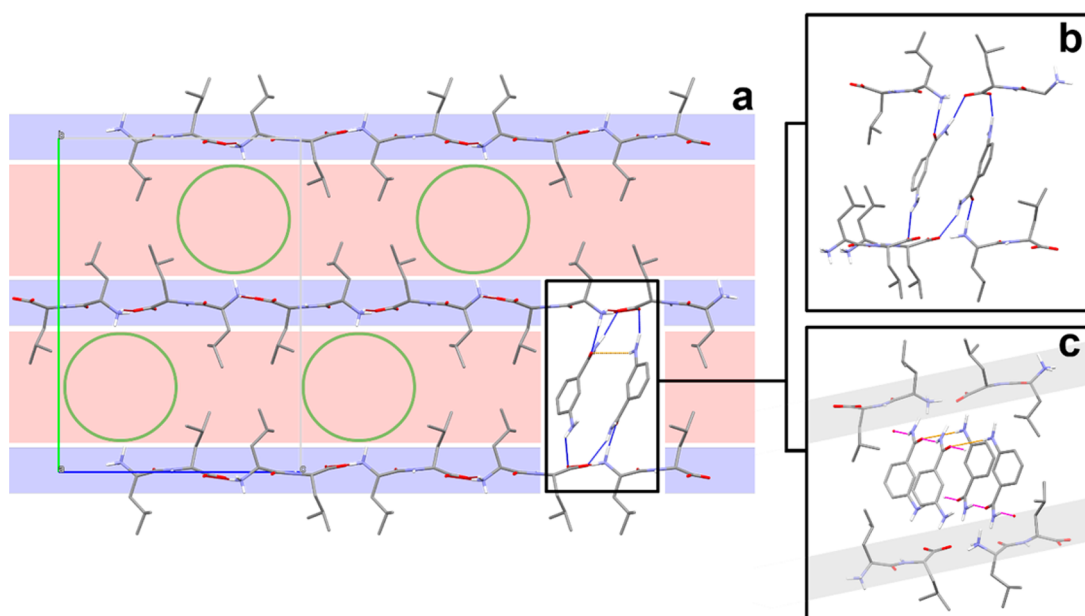


Figure 7. (a) Multilayered structure generated by stacks of dipeptides sheets along the *b*-axis. Each channel (green) can host two coformer molecules that act as cross-linkers between two parallel sheets (b and c).

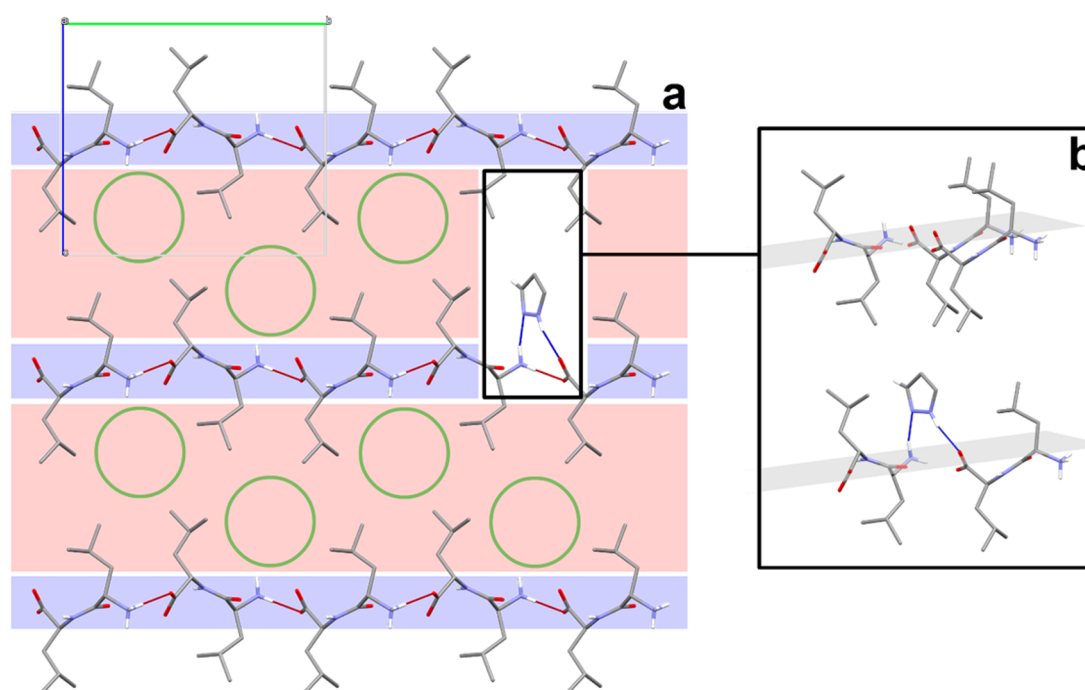


Figure 8. (a) Stacking of sheets for LL:1H-Pyz and (b) interactions involving the coformer.

314 $\text{H}\cdots\text{O}=\text{C}$ interaction with the carbonyl of the peptide bond of
 315 a flanking molecule). The other two molecules of solvent
 316 cooperate tighter to create a “bridge effect” between two facing
 317 L-leucine-L-leucine: also in this case one of them (magenta in
 318 Figure 9b) acts as both an acceptor (giving the same interaction
 319 of the disordered one) and a donor ($\text{O}-\text{H}\cdots\text{H}$ hydrogen bond
 320 with the third molecule of MeOH, green in Figure 9b), while
 321 the other one (green in Figure 9b) is involved in a bifurcated
 322 $\text{H}\cdots\text{O}^-$ contact with the carboxy-terminal of a dipeptide.

323 **Nanotube Structure.** The crystal packing of LL:hex can be
 324 included in the reported cases of nanotubes obtained using
 325 hydrophobic dipeptides.²⁷ This structure crystallizes in $P6_1$.

The dipeptides are connected into chains by strong bifurcated
 326 head to tail hydrogen bonds ($\text{N}^+-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}^--\text{C}$, red in Figure 10b)
 327 resulting in helices contain six molecules per turn (Figure 10a).
 328 Each carboxy-terminal act as a bridge connecting flanking
 329 parallel spirals generating two interactions: a strong charge-
 330 assisted H-bond with the N-terminus (orange in Figure 10b),
 331 and another with the N-H group of the internal peptide bond
 332 (blue in Figure 10b). The hydrophilic channel runs along the *c*
 333 axis surrounded by hydrophobic regions represented by the
 334 isobutyl chains.
 335

A L-Leu-L-Leu dipeptide nanotube formation has already
 336 been reported (CSD refcode: IDUZOW)²⁷ but this structure
 337

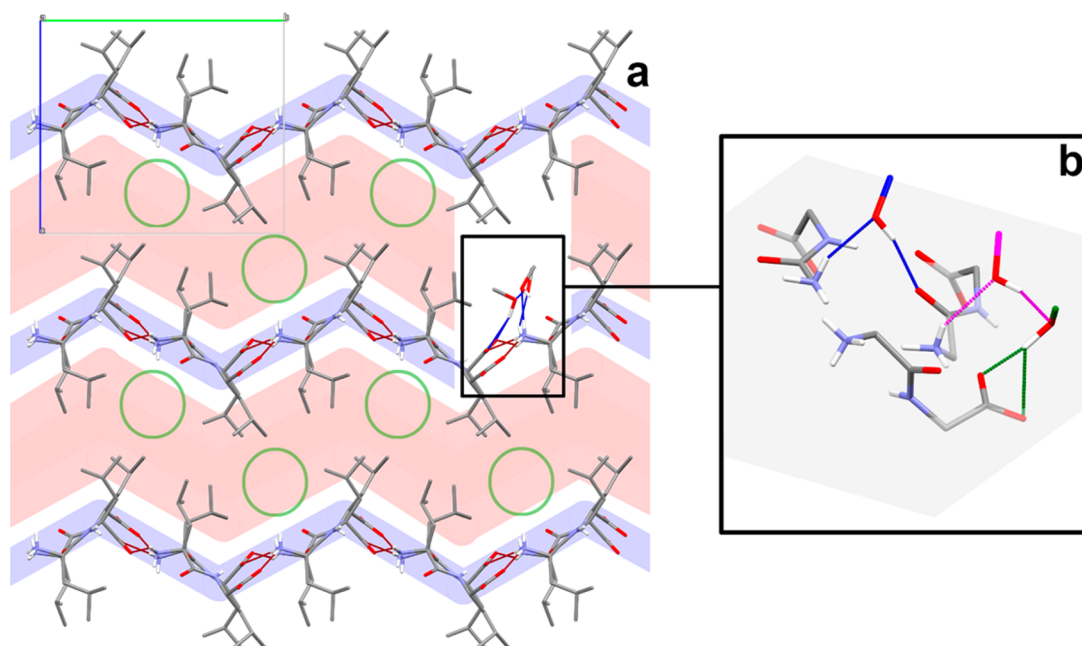


Figure 9. (a) Multilayered stacking of LL:MeOH with molecules of solvents (b).

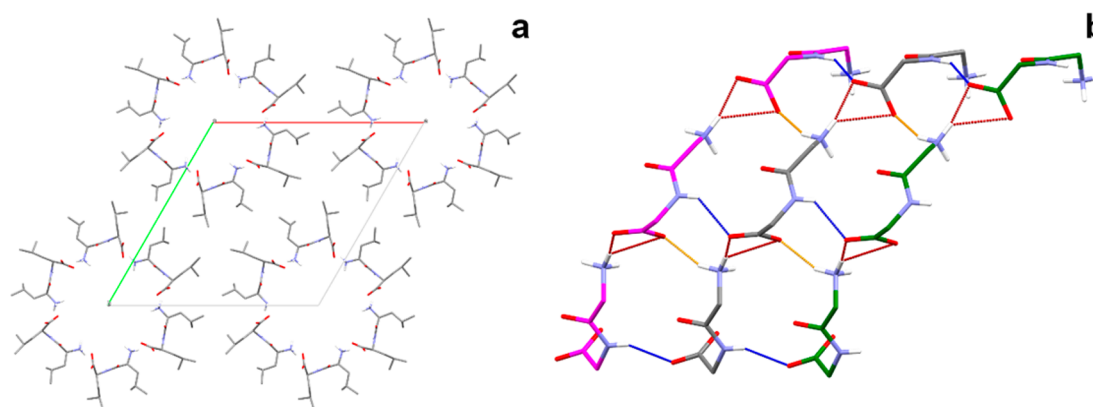


Figure 10. (a) Unit cell and molecular packing of LLhex. (b) Hydrogen bonded network: molecules of dipeptide belonging to the same spiral chain are shown in different colors. Isobutyl side chains are not shown for clarity.

338 crystallizes in $P2_12_12_1$ with four molecules per turn in the
 339 helices. The L-Phe-L-Phe hexagonal structure described by
 340 Görbitz in the same paper (IFABEW) is highly similar to
 341 LLhex (Figure S8). The hydrophilic channel is around 10 Å in
 342 diameter comprising 15% of the unit cell volume and it likely
 343 contains methanol and water (SI for details).

344 ■ CONCLUSION

345 The success in obtaining TFA-free multicomponent crystals
 346 represents a proof of concept for the use of crystal engineering
 347 as an alternative purification method for freshly synthesized
 348 peptides. Further studies aiming to probe the kinetics and
 349 thermodynamics behind the differential crystallization mecha-
 350 nisms are the next step. Such investigations will bring about the
 351 control of the process and allow a combined purification and
 352 crystallization of biologics in a single step, saving time and
 353 material.

354 In the previously reported case of studies on the
 355 crystallization of hydrophobic peptides, the impact of TFA
 356 was not investigated since the dimers used for the experiments
 357 were obtained commercially with a high grade of purity.

However, structures reported in the literature show the ability
 of such compounds to generate well-defined crystal packings in
 which molecules of different solvents play a fundamental role
 for the stability of the dipeptide scaffolding, leading to a crystal
 engineering solution.

The structures of the present study demonstrate that the use
 of solid (at room temperature) cofomers represents a valid
 alternative for the generation of crystal structures that are
 consistent with the already reported ones, in which the solvent
 molecules have been completely replaced. The comparison of
 the different multilayered packings shows the possibility to have
 channels of variable size according to the cofomers used in the
 co-crystallization experiments. In LL:3-ABA the meta-position
 of the two chemical functionalities in the 3-aminobenzamide
 molecule leads the cofomer to act as a bridge connecting two
 parallel sheets, introducing an additional anchoring point in the
 multilayered stacking. This leads to 3D H-bonded architecture
 that is more stable than an assembly of 2D-sheets interacting
 through weaker interactions.

LLhex can be included in the family of hydrophilic nanotube
 structures of hydrophobic dipeptides (also known as “the Phe-

379 Phe class³¹). Such self-assembling systems are considered
380 useful models from both a biological and chemical perspective.
381 On one side they can be seen as valid models for ion channels
382 or transmembrane pore assemblies.³² Also, similar microporous
383 materials attract attention and have been largely used to
384 investigate the relative sorption ability^{33–35} for gas storage and
385 other applications.

386 ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

387 ● Supporting Information

388 The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the
389 ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.cgd.7b01516.

390 Pictures showing the different possible outcomes of the
391 co-crystallization screening, hydrogen bonded networks
392 comparison between two-dimensional sheet of L-Leu-L-
393 Leu dipeptide and L-Leucine, crystal packing analysis of
394 LLhex, IFABEW, and IDUZOW nanotubes (PDF)

395 Accession Codes

396 CCDC 1579695–1579698 contain the supplementary crystal-
397 lographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of
398 charge via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif, or by email-
399 ing data_request@ccdc.cam.ac.uk, or by contacting The
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409 Notes

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