

STUDY OF DYNAMIC REACTION OF TUBULINS IN MICROTUBULES. A QM/MM SIMULATION

ESTUDIO DE LA REACCIÓN DINÁMICA DE TUBILINA EN MICROTUBULOS. UNA SIMULACIÓN QM/AM

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ABSTRACT

In this model one-dimensional microtubule is fixed at one of the two and simulated while the opposite end is allowed for growing in random situation. By this study at each step one tubulin has been added to the length for growing microtubule length. Computationally this can be done through generating a uniform random number between (0, 1). Microtubules are demonstrated as straight macromolecules consist of the linear chains of tubulin subunits in the length. QM/MM simulation has been applied to study dynamic instability of the microtubule length. It has been calculated a correct dimension around 10^{-6} meter of microtubules length consist of around 1650 tubulin dimers. Microtubule growth rate is related to the soluble tubulin dimer concentration and for all results shown here, simulation of any single condition was run 5–10 times.

Keywords: Tubulin, Microtubules, Monte Carlo Simulation.

RESUMEN

En este modelo, los microtúbulos unidimensionales se fijan en uno de los dos y se simulan mientras se permite que el extremo opuesto crezca en una situación aleatoria. En este estudio, en cada paso, se ha agregado una tubulina a la longitud para aumentar la longitud de los microtúbulos. Computacionalmente, esto se puede hacer generando un número aleatorio uniforme entre (0, 1). Los microtúbulos se demuestran como macromoléculas rectas que consisten en cadenas lineales de subunidades de tubulina en la longitud. La simulación QM / MM se ha aplicado para estudiar la inestabilidad dinámica de la longitud de los microtúbulos. Se ha calculado una dimensión correcta de alrededor de 10-6 metros de longitud de microtúbulos consiste en alrededor de 1650 dímeros de tubulina. La tasa de crecimiento de los microtúbulos está relacionada con la concentración de dímero de tubulina soluble y para todos los resultados mostrados aquí, la simulación de cualquier condición individual se realizó de 5 a 10 veces.

Palabras clave: Tubulina, Microtúbulos, Simulación Monte Carlo.

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1. INTRODUCTIÓN

Since Stathmin is a disordered protein, and their activities are down-regulated by multiple phosphorylations, therefore in complex of the T_2S tubulin becomes non-polymerizable (Ringhoff, 2009; Guesdon, 2016).

Since the stathmin is a soluble cytoplasmic protein, is used in regulating rapid microtubule remaking of the cytoskeleton in response to the cell's requirements (Chen, 2015). Since microtubule assemblies determined through the concentration of free <u>tubulins</u> in the <u>cytoplasm</u>, at low concentrations the growth rate at the microtubule ends is languid and results in an increased rate of disassembly (de-polymerization) (Garvalov, 2006).

Recently, especial particles have been discovered inside the microtubules which the particles' existence varied between cell types while the neuronal cells have the most particles (Brouhard, 2014). The stathmin family proteins carry out a major function in regulating rapid microtubule remodeling of the cytoskeleton and also increase microtubule turnover in response to the cell's needs such as extracellular signals (Clément, 2005; Hepler, 2016)

One molecule stathmin interacts with two subunits tubulins " $\alpha\beta$ -tubulin" dimers" for building a tight ternary complex (is known as T₂S complex) which decrease microtubule destabilizing activity near microtubule polymer (Sahu et al, 2013). One of the important stathmin category proteins is RB₃ which shares (88%) with other members the stathmin-like domain (SLD) through translated amino-acid identity with that of XB3 (Fig.1) (Akhmanova, 2015; Gupta, 2014)



Figure 1. stathmin-like domain (SLD) binding to two $\alpha\beta$ -tubulin

In 1984, Burton introduces those particles that could be voided via lumen quickly through reassembly or disassembly of microtubules (Zakharov, 2015).

Proteins that destabilize or destabilized microtubules have been distinguished recently (such as stathmin family proteins and Colchicine) and the protein related to stathmin is expressed in the nervous systems which are known as SCLIP, SCG10, RB3 (and two its splice variants RB3' & RB3") (Rowlands, 2013)

Via electron microscopy (EM) it can be seen that each proto-filament consists of globular 4nm subunits and it is possible for refined tubulin to assemble with a range of diameters containing between 9 and16 proto-filaments Fig.2 (Ozon, 1997).



Figure 2. the schematic images of various microtubules including "12-16" proto-filaments (pf)

Two major structures of $\alpha\beta$ -tubulin are known that the first one is GDP-tubulin in straight antiparallel proto-filaments stabilized by "Taxol" and the second is the curved structure of two head to tail GDP-tubulin dimers in complex with the stathmin-like domain (RB3-SLD) (Fig.3). (Charbaut, 2001; Curmi, 2000).

The structures of tubulins in microtubules are related to the straight zinc-sheet structures. Monomers in adjacent proto-filaments serialize a set of shallow helices that for 13-protofilament microtubules three shallows run in parallel. This situation causes a suitable flexibility in the bonds between adjacent hetero-dimers (Hanash, 1998; Price, 2000).

The microtubules -associated motor proteins, such as dynein and kinesin can be run for long distances along a microtubule when there are 14 proto-filamentsn (Belmont, 1996). In more or fewer than 14 proto-filaments, the structure might be rotate somewhat, so that the proto-filaments twisted slowly around the microtubule axis (Hirokawa, 1996).



Figure 3. The structure designed by electron crystallography in complex with Taxol. The guanosine triphosphate "GTPase" domain, the activation domains and the core helix connected to two globular domains in each monomer on the external surfaces are shown. GTP is sandwiched between α and β tubulin subunits of each heterodimer and in \Box -tubulin, this pocket are occupied by the extended L-loop.

Ravelli et al. (Ravelli, 2003) exhibited some important data about the conformational changing of microtubules structures through X-ray crystallography (Nogales, 1998). The monomers have a pair of spherical domains which the larger domain, containing the N-terminal half of the polypeptide (Vale, 2003) A binding site for "Taxol" is located on the second domain of $\alpha\beta$ -tubulins, which has sufficient contact with the core helix and also on the opposite side has contact with a nucleotide base. The C-terminal end of each tubulin polypeptide makes two long helices and these residues are suitable for isoform recognition through tubulin binding proteins. As it has been shown in Fig.3, the long coil loop of globular domain is attached in lateral contact to the proto-filament inside the microtubule. In addition there is common agreement that the "M-loop" of one proto-filament make contact with the GTPase domain. In some location the proto-filament makes a ring through bending at all of the interfaces between monomers (Castle, 2017).

Stathmin interacts with α , β -tubulin for forming a ternary complex which tubulins are able to switch between a curved structure of this complex including RB3 protein and a straight microtubule-like structure. By this study the kinetic, potential, total and thermodynamic assemblies and dis-assemblies have been done by GTP hydrolysis in view point of Monte Carlo simulation. The microtubule-associated proteins (MAPs) of tubulin-GDP proto-filament helixes have been indicated with dimer curvatures. This phenomenon indicates a proposition that the free GTP- tubulin dimers are curved similarly to tubulin rings and is driven into the straight conformation through the microtubule. So the GTP γ -phosphate only lowers the unfavorable free energies differences between the curved and the straight form. Consequently, in the allosteric model GTP binding would induce a straighter conformation pre-structured in solution for lateral interactions whereas in the lattice model $\alpha\beta$ -tubulin adopts a microtubule incompatible, curved conformation independent of the nucleotide state (Piehl, 2004).

2.STATHMIN-MICROTUBULES INTERACTIONS

Stathmin interacts with two molecules of dimeric α , β -tubulin to form a tight ternary complex which one mole of stathmin binds to two moles of tubulin dimers through the SLD. Tubulin is able to switch between a curved structure in complex with the stathmin-like domain of the RB3 protein and a straight microtubulelike structure. The proto-filament curvature and disassembly has done via GTP hydrolysis. The first opinion for GTP was thought that it would allosterically induce a straight conformation of tubulin subunits thorough-paced of microtubule assembly while the GDP would induce a curved conformation approving disassembly. The microtubule-associated proteins (MAPs) of tubulin-GDP proto-filament spirals have indicated different intra- and inter-dimer curvatures. However, this type of allosteric mechanism is challenged by the findings of curved structures of GTP-bound γ -tubulin . This evidence led to a proposition that the free GTP-tubulin dimer is curved similarly to tubulin rings and is driven into the straight conformation by the microtubule (opposed to what was previously thought). So the GTP γ -phosphate only lowers the unfavorable free energy difference between the curved and the straight form. Consequently, in the allosteric model GTP binding would induce a straighter conformation pre-structured in solution for lateral interactions whereas in the lattice model $\alpha\beta$ -tubulin adopts a microtubule incompatible, curved conformation independent of the nucleotide state(Naghsh, 2018).

It should me important to discuss of the GTP hydrolysis mechanism for destabilizing the microtubule lattice. To provide some answers to this question, Alushin et al., exhibited a structural study for comparing high-resolution cryo-EM reconstructions of GMPCPP microtubules and GDP microtubules (Andersen, 1997).

It shows that GTP hydrolysis induces a compression at the linear interface between dimers, immediately over the exchangeable nucleotide-binding site. This compression is amalgamated by conformational changes in α -tubulin. In contrast, lateral contacts between $\alpha \& \beta$ tubulins were basically unchanged in the different nucleotide states. These understanding suggest that GTP hydrolysis introduces strain into the

lattice, but how this strain affects the strength of longitudinal and lateral bonds to destabilize the microtubule remains unknown (Rusan, 2002).

In this works 16 main sections have considered for investigation of bonded and non-bonded interaction between Stathmin with microtubules (Belmont, 1996). Although the bonded situations and the GTP hydrolysis essentially are important for the proto-filament curvature and disassembly, the no bonded interaction helps to this processing in other side. More over this kind of non-bonded interaction provides the dynamic behavior for this phenomenon. It now seems clear that changes in the curvature of $\alpha\beta$ -tubulin are fundamental to microtubule dynamics and the regulatory activities of microtubule-associated proteins (MAPs) during microtubule polymerization (Odde, 1995).

3. QM/MM SIMULATION

A model of Tubulins –stathmin-like domain complex whit a radius of $20\mu m$ and a height of $0.4\mu m$ for a volume of approximately 900 μm^3 has been simulated where MTs are nucleated from a defined number of sites located in the center of a cylinder (Jalilian, 2015).

The simple structure emulators the basic area of a generic cell binding for the minimum slip where MTs and Tubulins -stathmin-like domain complex (T-SLD) are dynamically measured. The concentrations of total tubulins were basically set between 30-35 µM. For increasing the efficiency of simulations the number of nucleation site were modeled to 400, which also collected the maximum number of T-SLD. Additional presumptions have been considered as : (1) Tubulins -complete T-SLD de-polymerization immediately opens up that nucleation site for a new nucleation event (Leibler, 1993). (2) all T-SLD remain associated with their nucleation site until they completely de-polymerize and do not bend during confliction with the cell margin; (3) T-SLD de-stabilization is dependent on free tubulin concentration; (4) any T-SLD de-stabilization reaching the cell boundary undergoes a catastrophe. Simulations, with time step=1s obeyed the general sequences as: (1) available places are checked for nucleation based on the given probability, (2)T-SLD with a velocity determined by free tubulin concentration, (3) stabilization /destabilization of T-SLD can remain in a catastrophe, thereby switching to a shortening state. T-SLD that achieves the cell boundary will move to a shortening state. (4) Shortening T-SLD can continue to shorten or undergo a liberation phenomenon. Output from this modeling are including, number and lengths, free tubulin concentration, the length of a single T-SLD during the simulation and thermodynamic parameters. Common data and values applied for simulating the interphase T-SLD array. Nucleation rate were estimated based on previous work from the centrosome divided by the 450-500 potential sections. Total tubulin concentrations were calculated as described previously (Niethmmer, 2006) . The clear measure constants, Kon and Koff, were applied for calculating assembling and de-assembling measuring as a function of free tubulin concentration. The initial parameters tested based on interphase LLCPK1 cells. In addition end dynamic instability based on Monte Carlo method is listed in Table 1. Fig.2.



Figure 4. Monte Carlo & Molecular dynamic simulation of T-SLD in 6 stages

Simulation	Potential	Kinetic	Total	Various
Temperature	kcal/mol	kcal/mol	kcal/mol	Stets
300	13075.1	626.7	13701.8	А
305	75340.7	216.1	75340.7	В
307	9569.5	313.3	9569.5	С
310	5717.1	216.1	5717.1	D
311	5378.2	216.1	5378.3	Е
312	5341.1	324.1	5341.1	F

Table 1. Energies sets for T-SLD end dynamic instability

As shown in Fig.2A, the distributions of T-SLD lengths forms a tightly exponential, where T-SLD ends is limited to an area near the edges, based on defined by the cell radius. The length of one molecule T-SLD is exhibited in Fig. 2B. Consistent with the distribution of all T-SLD ends, the end of this single T-SLD spends maximum of its time close the cell boundary. Fig. 2C exhibits a simulation run for fewer steps to show the early steps in T-SLD assembly for a single T-SLD. Slower speed, as tubulins are combined into T-SLD, were trivial through changes in the slope on the first growth section. Medium T-SLD quickly reached about $20\mu m$ (Fig 2D). The total number of T-SLD increased for 4500 microtubules via around 4,000 s. We applied the simulations of free tubulin concentration in a steady state amounts through the Fig 2E and the standard deviations of those values also in Fig.2F.

4. STATHMIN AND MICROTUBULE DYNAMICS

Microtubules exist in a situation of continuous transition between two phases of polymerization and depolymerization which is based on dynamic instabilities with a stochastic mechanism which this phenomenon is known as catastrophe (Fig.5).

In intermediate structure, microtubule is long and stable with its dynamic relatively slow. Belmont [29] supposed a model to exhibited stathmin exerts effects via increasing the rate of catastrophe and consequently an explanation in which the microtubule-depolymerized .The mechanism is based on stathmin binds two un-polymerized tubulins in ternary stathmin–tubulin complexes (Fig.5).

The tubulin-sequestering activities of the stathmin prevent any growth of microtubule through tubulin polymerization. The catastrophe-promoting activities are confirmed for occurring at the ends of polymerization and also exhibit how does stathmin binds tubulin heterodimers at the microtubule ends for increasing catastrophe via a GTP hydrolysis-dependent mechanism structure of the complex of tubulin and also the stathmin-like domain (SLD) of RB3.

The tubulins subunits in the complex are associated head-to-tail in a curved conformation. The same group recently extended these observations by showing that the curved complex is capped by the amino-terminal region of the SLD domain.

This prevents the incorporation of the complex into polymerized microtubules. These investigations exhibit that stathmin are able to bind both polymerized and un-polymerized tubulins and is able to exclude the polymerization towards a stable microtubule.



Figure 5. Model for the role of stathmin in the regulation of microtubule dynamics

5. ESTIMATION OF KINETIC AND FREE ENERGIES

In the kinetic reaction the rate constant of association and dissociation are as K_a and K_d , respectively. The free energy for the association reaction is $\Delta G_a = -RTLnK$ with the relation of $K = \frac{K_a}{K_d}$. For simplicity it can be supposed that the K_a , is equal for all sites, therefore a fixed-geometry binding site is applied due to highest affinity of tubulin-GTP interaction comprising to the isolated site. The $K = \frac{K_a}{K_d}$ values can be calculated using estimated free energies values of individual bonds with definition of association and dissociation sites. The affinities of the tubulins dimer for a microtubule end then depends upon the number of contacts formed. The free energies for the binding of one molecule of Tubulin-GTP at the especial sites may be obtained as the sum of the free energies for individual subunit-subunit interactions between tubulin monomers. The binding of a molecule of Tubulin-GTP to a typical site may be formally regarded as involving free energy terms (Fig. 1)

6. COMPUTATIONAL DETAILS

We have simulated a part of microtubule systems including $\alpha\beta$ -tubulin heterodimer and stathmin through QM/MM simulation using Monte Carlo method. Each system was composed of 16 sections of stathmin molecules including interaction with tubulin. Thermodynamic averages for molecular properties were determined from Monte Carlo methods, as can minimum-energy structures. At finite temperature, clusters have finite vapor pressures, and particular cluster sizes are typically unstable to evaporation. Introducing a constraining potential enables one to define clusters of desired sizes. Composed of 16 sections of stathmin molecules were carried out with the simulation microtubules. The pressure was maintained by a variant of the extended system formalism, the Langevin Piston algorithm, which reduces oscillations in the cell parameters. The temperature was maintained at 300 K, well is the body temperature and identical to the relevant experiments. Configurations of $\alpha\beta$ -tubulin heterodimer and stathmin consistent with a mean field were generated by Monte Carlo (MC) simulation, with field values adjusted to obtain agreement with experimental order parameters. In this investigation, differences in force field are illustrated by comparing the calculated energy by using force fields AMBER and OPLS. Furthermore Hyper-Chem professional release 7.01 is used for the calculations. The final parameterization of stathmin was computed using selfconsistent field calculations in order to find the optimal starting geometry, as well as the partial charges. We employed density functional theory with the van der Waals density functional to model the exchangecorrelation energies of $\alpha\beta$ -tubulin heterodimer. All optimization of 16 section of stathmin monomer were performed by Gauessian and GAMESS-US package. We have mainly focused on getting the results from DFT methods such as m062x, m06-L, and m06 for the $\alpha\beta$ -tubulin heterodimer. The m062x, m06-L and m06-HF are rather new DFT functional with a good correspondence in non-bonded calculations between tubulin heterodimer and are useful for the energies of distance between two fragments in phospholipids. For non-covalent interactions, the B3LYP method is unable to describe van der Waals microtubules

systems by medium-range interactions such as the interactions of two tubulins. So the ONIOM methods including 3 levels of 1-high calculation (H), 2-medium calculation (M), and 3-low calculation (L) have been performed in our study for calculating the non-bonded interactions between tubulins. The ab-initio and DFT methods are used for the model system of the ONIOM layers and the semi empirical methods of Pm6 (including pseudo=lanl2) and Pm3MM are used for the medium and low layers, respectively. The semi empirical methods have been used in order to treat the non-bonded interactions between two tubulins.B3LYP and the most other popular functional are insufficient to illustrate the exchange and correlation energy for distant non-bonded medium-range systems correctly. Moreover, some recent studies have shown that inaccuracy for the medium-range exchange energies leads to large systematic errors in the prediction of molecular properties Geometry optimizations and electronic structure calculations have been carried out using the m06 (DFT) functional(Dang, 2020). This approach is based on an iterative solution of the Kohn-Sham equation of the density functional theory in a plane-wave set with the projector-augmented wave pseudo-potentials. The Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE) exchange-correlation (XC) functional of the generalized gradient approximation (GGA) is adopted (Ardalan, 2014). The optimizations of the lattice constants and the atomic coordinates are made by the minimization of the total energy. The charge transfer and electrostatic potential-derived charge were also calculated using the Merz-Kollman-Singh, chelp, or chelpG (MONAJJEMI, 2010-2018)

7. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONR

Monte Carlo simulation has been applied to study dynamic instability of the microtubule length of our model based on the papers. In this method one-dimensional microtubule is fixed at one of the two and simulated while the opposite end is allowed for growing in random situation. In this model at each step one tubulin has been added to the length for growing microtubule length. Computationally this can be done through generating a uniform random number between (0, 1). Comparing the data for dynamical instabilities among parameter sets exhibited that rates of elongation and shortening varies to the small degrees. For testing how the differences data among the parameters contribute to the overall microtubule arrays, it can be simulated with those parameters from one set and basically switched that data at a time to that from the other set. It might be considered the effect of stathmin concentration gradient for formation of microtubule length. So the model of quasi-one-dimensional constriction of microtubules has been selected. In this model, the microtubule formation switches among assemblies states and dis-assemblies with the random variables of Monte Carlo approach (Le, 2019). A transition frequency f_t has been defined for assembly states to disassembly situation of catastrophe and $f_{t^{-1}}$ has been defined from dis-assemblies to assembly. Based on several parameters like formation and constriction velocities, tubulin concentration have to describe through the simplest stochastic model of field equations based on Leibler work to study this matter using Monte Carlo simulation of microtubule length. This model consist of a cell including free $\alpha\beta$ –tubulins and stathmin which are distributed uniformly. The accessibility of free $\alpha\beta$ –tubulins in the cell pertains on the concentration of the stathmin due to each stathmin binds to two $\alpha\beta$ -tubulins towards three-meric structure. However, these situations of stathmin proteins are weakened around mitotic chromosome because of stathmin's phosphorylation. It might be supposed that from the centrioles towards the chromatin position, the activities of stathmin are uniform till a certain distance, and then there is a gradual inhibition of stathmin activities which are approximately zero at the chromatin. As a result, one finds a gradient of stathmin-tubulin interaction as one move towards the chromatin as reported by Niethmmer experimentally. Based on our previous works we simulated these systems. At any immediate of time microtubules end are in one of the two situation, length and or simplifying. In this simulation a regular steps of time "t" it might be possible for adding or subtracting one tubulin length for growing or simplifying microtubules elongation. If f_t and $f_{t^{-1}}$ are the transitions frequencies for catastrophe and rescue, respectively then the normalized equations of those frequencies can be written as: $f_{\text{catastrophe}} =$ $\frac{f_t}{f_t + f_{t^{-1}}}$ and $f_{\text{rescue}} = \frac{f_{t^{-1}}}{f_t + f_{t^{-1}}}$. The microtubule elongation at a especially immediate of time will be in length situation or simplifying states if the random numbers are less than the normalized transition frequencies for catastrophe, f_t or rescue, f_{t-1} . Obviously, it must be supposed the transitions to be

instantaneous and with a definition of critical length, $L_{critical}$, $f_{catastrophe}$ and f_{rescue} (with an exponential function) are constant.

In this position the velocities of growth is V_{growth} and for shrinkage $V_{\text{shrinkage}}$ for the microtubules (Table.3).

No.	Vgrowth	$V_{ m shrinkage}$	Ka	K _d	k	ΔG
	$\mu m s^{-1}$	$\mu m s^{-1}$	s^{-1}	s ⁻¹		
1	0.223	0.155	0.055	0.067	0.82	-494.97
2	0.199	0.167	0.046	0.078	0.59	-1316.1
3	0.213	0.188	0.064	0.081	0.79	-587.94
4	0.191	0.149	0.057	0.066	0.86	-376.18

Table3. Parameter sets for MT plus end dynamic instability

8. CONCLUSION

Microtubules are demonstrated as straight macromolecules consist of the linear chains of tubulin subunits in the length without any incorporating molecular details of tubulin dimers, protofilament or other structures. It has been calculated a correct dimension around 10^{-6} meter of microtubules length consist of around 1650 tubulin dimers. Microtubule growth rate is related to the soluble tubulin dimer concentration and for all results shown here, simulation of any single condition was run 5–10 times. For each simulation it has been recorded values number, average length and free tubulin concentration

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