













Materials Research

Crystallography underpins the development of practically all new materials, from everyday products like computer memory cards to flat television screens, cars and airplane components. Crystallographers not only study the structure of materials but can also use this knowledge to modify a structure to give it new properties or to make it behave differently. The crystallographer can also establish the new material's 'fingerprint'. A company can then use this 'fingerprint' to prove that the new substance is unique when applying for a patent.



Crystallography helps to determine the ideal **combination of aluminum and magnesium** in alloys used in airplane manufacture. Too much aluminum and the plane will be too heavy, too much magnesium and it will be more flammable. © Shutterstock/M_photo





Brief History of Penicillin

- Alexander Fleming (Scottish scientist) fought in World War I. His battlefront experience showed him how dangerous bacteria could be to human life. After the war he focused on finding a chemical that would stop bacterial infection.
- In the Fall of 1928, Fleming had prepared Staphylococcus on several plates and forgot to put them in the incubator before he went on vacation. When he returned from vacation, he discovered that one of the plates was contaminated with molds. This particular mold strain (later identified to be *Penicillium notatum*) was a good producer of penicillin.
- In 1935, Howard Florey working on penicillin. By May 1940, the team produced enough penicillin to test on infected animals for the first time. Eight mice were infected with a lethal dose of Staphylococcus. One hour later, four of them were injected with penicillin and the other four were left without treatment. All four mice that did not receive penicillin died in less than 24 h. All four mice treated with penicillin were health. Florey proclaimed, "it looks like a miracle".
- The first batches of this new wonder drug became available in 1943 and were reserved for military use. The government recruited 21 chemical companies to produce penicillin. From January to May 1943, only 400 million units of penicillin were made; by the time the war ended, US companies were making 650 <u>billion</u> units a month.
- Penicillin kills bacteria by interfering with aminopetidase, an enzyme responsible for making bacteria cell wall. Human and mammals do not have this enzyme.





Doug Mitchell, Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign











Crystallography in Drug Design Renin inhibitors: Chemists use the information from the X-ray structure to improve binding of the lead compound. Modeling suggests substituting the arylbenzamide with an aryl-sulfonamide to improve H-bonding to improve its fit on the target. Favorable in -TAS 10 due to conversion of 5 hydrophobic binding in S2 pocket to H-Kcal/mol bonds -5 -10 **Dramatic Increase** in ∆H is consistent -15 with increase in S2 pocket H-bonds -20 🗖 🛆 G 🔳 🛆 H 📕 - TAS



Space Exploration



The Curiosity rover used X-ray crystallography in October 2012 to analyze soil samples on the planet Mars!

NASA had equipped the rover with a diffractometer. The results suggested that the Martian soil sample was similar to the weathered basaltic soils of Hawaiian volcanoes.

Photo: NASA

Crystallography and Chocolate

Cocoa butter. the most important ingredient of chocolate, crystallizes in six different forms but only one (form V) melts pleasantly in the mouth and has the surface sheen and crisp hardness that make it so tasty.

Crystal form	Formation conditions	
1	rapid cooling of the melt	1
11	rapid cooling of the melt at 2 °C/min	2
Ш	crystallization of the melt at 5–10 °C, converts into II at 5–10 °C	2
IV	crystallization at 16–21 °C	2
V \star	slow crystallization of the melt	3
VI *	fromform V after several months at RT	3



Unfortunately, this 'tasty' crystal form is not very stable so it tends to convert into the more stable form (VI), which is dull, has a soft texture and melts only slowly in the mouth, producing a coarse and sandy sensation on the tongue. The conversion is slow, but if chocolate is stored for a long time or at a warm temperature, it can develop a 'bloom,' a white, filmy residue that results from recrystallization. Chocolate-makers thus have to use a sophisticated crystallization process to obtain the most desirable crystal form of cocoa butter in chocolate. Adding milk fat retards the conversion so that the V \rightarrow VI transition is less often observed in milk chocolate!

1. p. [°C]



























Crystallography Discovery Kit for K-12 teachers / children's museums i) Crystal Jars Kit



ii) Symmetry and Lattices









Explore UT 2014

es) Borax (con

oiling point of water, whereas the solu



























Variables that influence crystal growth

- 1. Nature of macromolecule Purity and concentration of macromolecule
- 2. Nature and concentration of precipitant
- 3. pH / Temperature / Pressure
- 4. Level of reducing agent or oxidant
- 5. Substrates, coenzymes, and ligands / Metal ions
- 6. Preparation and storage of macromolecule / Proteolysis and fragmentation
- 7. Age of macromolecule / Degree of denaturation
- 8. Vibration and sound
- 9. Volume of crystallization sample
- 10. Seeding
- 11. Amorphous precipitate
- 12. Buffers
- 13. Cleanliness
- 14. Organism or species from which the macromolecule was isolated
- 15. Gravity, gradients and convection

Common Compounds used in Crystallization

Ammonium sulfate / or sodium

- Sodium or ammonium citrate Sodium or ammonium acetate Magnesium sulfate Cetyltrimethyl ammonium salts
- Polyethylene glycol 400, 1000, 2000, 4000, 6000, 8000, 15,000 M

Methods for protein crystallization

Batch crystallization (simply dump reagents together) Liquid-liquid diffusion in a capillary tube Vapor diffusion-the most successful method (hanging drop, sitting drop), typically using a Limbro plate. Equilibration occurs between the liquid and vapor phase. Dialysis

Hanging Drop Method - Crystal Screening

The Experimental Setup

A the Exception sector of the protein with a first bridge on the sector of the protein with a first bridge on the sector of the sector of the protein with a first bridge of the sector of the sector of the protein with a first bridge of the sector of the



Hampton Crystal Screen Solutions

Tube #	SALT	BUFFER	Precipitant	Miniscreen	Tube #		
1	0.02M Calcium Chloride	0.1M Na Acetate pH 4.6	30% w/v 2-methyl-2,4-pentanediol	Y	1		
2	None	None	0.4M K,Na Tartrate tetrahydrate		2		
3	None	None	0.4M Ammonium dihydrogen phosphate		3		
4	None	0.1M Tris-HCI pH 8.5	2.0M Ammonium Sulfate	Y	4		
5	0.2M tri-sodium citrate	0.1M Na HEPES pH 7.5	30% w/v 2-methyl-2,4-pentanediol		5		
6	0.2M Magnesium chloride	0.1M Tris-HCl pH 8.5	30% w/v PEG 4000		6		
7	None	0.1 M Na Cacodylate pH 6.5	1.4M Sodium acetate trihydrate		7		
8	0.2M tri-sodium citrate	0.1 M Na Cacodylate pH 6.5	30% v/v 2-propanol		8		
9	0.2M Ammonium acetate	0.1 M Na Citrate pH 5.6	30% w/v PEG 4000	Y	9		
10	0.2M Ammonium acetate	0.1M Na Acetate pH 4.6	30% w/v PEG 4000	Y	10		

























