Design of self-assembling two-component protein nanomaterials



Self-assembling proteins have evolved to perform many extraordinary functions



http://pdbbeta.rcsb.org/pdb/education_discussion/molecule_of_the_month/poster_quickref.pdf

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Many approaches have been taken to engineer novel selfassembling protein structures

Coiled-coil assembly





Nanomaterial-templated assembly





Metal-Directed Assembly





Lanci CJ, et al. (2012) PNAS 109:7304-9. Lai YT, et al. (2012) Science 336:1129. Grigoryan G, et al. (2011) Science 332:1071-6. Brodin JD, et al. (2012) Nat. Chem. 4:375-82. We developed a general method for designing assemblies composed of multiple copies of a single protein building block



Our method was validated by designing two novel protein cages with atomic-level accuracy



EM: Iadanza/Gonen (Janelia) Xtal: Sawaya/Yeates (UCLA) King NP, et al. (2012) *Science* **336**:1171-4.

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EM & Xtal: Vollmar/Gonen (Janelia) Sawaya/Yeates (UCLA)

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One-Component Octahedron



One-Component Octahedron



One-Component Octahedron





Two-component nanomaterials offer many advantages over onecomponent systems

- Many more potential materials due to the many combinations of building blocks
 - 542 one-component cages docked
 - 992,824 two-component cages docked
- Each component could be independently functionalized and characterized
- Initiation of assembly could be controlled by mixing independently purified building blocks

Controlled Assembly



<u>Combinatorial</u> <u>Functionalities</u>





We have now developed a general method for the design of two-component symmetric protein assemblies



New docking code developed to sample additonal degrees of freedom and provide improved scoring metrics

- Enumeratively sample rigid body DOFs: rotation of each component about its symmetry axis and radial displacement along its symmetry axis
 - Search space reduced by sliding components into contact



- Score each configuration for "designability":
 - Sum of Cβ-Cβ contacts within 10 Å, weighted by secondary structure and average degree
 - Normalized by number of residues at interface

RosettaScripts movers, filters, and task operations developed/modified for two-component design and optimization

- Filter top-docked configurations by number of residues at interface
- Design (nstruct=50-100):
 - Randomly perturb 4 RB DOFs
 - Clash check filter
 - Fixbb soft rep design (reduced AA set + natives), hard min (chi + rb)
 - SASA filter
 - Fixxbb hard rep design (reduced AA set + natives), hard min (chi + rb)
 - Filter by shape complementarity, ddG, interface size, number of mutations, and number of buried unsatisfied polars
- Optimize shape complementarity using the GreedyOptMover
- Perform automated reversion to native using the GreedyOptMover
- Manually inspect and guide resfile based redesign

We chose T32 and T33 as our first targets and selected 60 designs for experimental characterization

- 252,100 pairs of building blocks were docked
- 1000 docked configurations for each architecture were sent through design
- Designs were filtered on ddG, sc, interface size, buried polars, etc.
- Greedy optimization of sc and governed aggressive reversion improved designs and reduced manual refinement

T32: Results from optimization

| | Δ ddG | Δ uhb | Δ sc | Δ mutations |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------|
| sc opt. | -1.326 | -0.401 | 0.047 | -2.75 |
| Reversion | 1.197 | -0.005 | -0.005 | -7.7382 |





Designs were co-expressed in *E. coli* and analyzed for selfassembly to the intended architectures





Size-exclusion Chromatrography



Five out of 57 designs assemble to the target architecture

Negative Stain TEM



The designed interfaces resemble natural interfaces and reside mostly on elements of secondary structure



Preliminary crystal structures suggest the materials were designed with high accuracy





| Structure | Resolution (Å) | R / R _{free} | RMSD (backbone, 24 chains) |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| T33-15 | 2.7 | 0.205/0.250 | 1.4 |
| T33-21 | 2.6 | 0.232/0.242 | 1.5 |
| T33-28 | 4.5 | 0.341/0.344 | 0.7 |
| T32-28 | 4.0 | 0.274/0.301 | 2.5 |

McNamara/Yeates (UCLA)

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McNamara/Yeates (UCLA)

Preliminary experiments suggest efficient *in vitro* assembly may be relatively straightforward



Conclusions and next steps

- Protein-protein interface design makes highly accurate nanomaterials design possible
- Two-component nanocage design may be a good system for testing new protein-protein interface design methods
 - Relatively high success rate with relatively simple design approach
 - One of few successful examples of simultaneous two-sided interface design
 - Designs are relatively simple to screen and highly crystallizable
- The method could represent a platform technology
- Next steps:
 - Design other two-component architectures: icosahedra, layers, etc.
 - Continue to refine methods to improve success rates
 - Develop general methods for designing regulatory mechanisms into the materials
 - Develop experimental methods for step-wise assembly
 - Design materials custom-tailored to particular applications

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