

Multiple states of a chaperonin and a method for analyzing heterogeneous conformations in cryo-EM

Junjie Zhang Department of Structural Biology, Stanford EMAN Workshop, Mar. 2011

Major research goals

- Solve chaperonin structures at different nucleotide states
- Develop new algorithm to model all the dynamics of chaperonins with experimental data



Mm-cpn Chaperonin

- From Methanococcus maripaludis
- Molecular mass ~1 MDa
- Consists of 16 identical subunits
- Arranged in 2 rings (8 subunits per ring)
- Open and close by a built-in lid (Group II)
- Folds proteins in an ATP-dependent manner
- Has similar allosteric regulation properties of mammalian chaperonins (TRiC)



http://www.bact.wisc.edu/Bact 303/Methanococcus.jpeg



Structures of Mm-cpn under two nucleotide states



closed state ATP/AIFx open state ATP-free Morphing between them

Zhang et. al., Nature 2010

Cryo-EM structures suggest possible engineering site for affecting ATP activity in Mm-cpn





Zhang et. al., Nature 2010

Lidless D386A Mm-cpn variant



Zhang et. al., Structure 2011, accepted

Building Models for ATP-free and ATPhydrolysis States







Local conformational changes



ATP-binding

ATP-hydrolysis

Changes around ATP-binding pocket



ATP-binding

ATP-hydrolysis

Stem-loop

 \supset

Morphing between ATP-free, ATP-bound and ATP-hydrolysis states



Overall Structural Change

Morphing between ATP-free, ATP-bound and ATP-hydrolysis states



Subunit Movement and Interactions

Morphing between ATP-free, ATP-bound and ATP-hydrolysis states



Nucleotide Interactions

Different Behavior in Group I Chaperonins



Overlay of Mm-cpn (cyan) and GroEL(red) subunits in the ATP-free state Morphing between ATPfree and ATP-bound Gro-EL two subunits

Quaternary structural difference leads to different mechanisms



Group II















Group I



Summary

- ATP binding causes counter-clockwise rotation of the Mm-cpn apical domains and shrinkage of the folding-chamber entrance
- ATP hydrolysis causes the rocking of the Mmcpn subunit and completely close the folding chamber
- Different ways of assembly of similar parts lead to different mechanisms

Model Validation for Lidless Mm-cpn in the open state at 8Å resolution

Overal C α RMSD: 2.8Å

API Cα RMSD: 4.3Å

INT Cα RMSD: 2.3Å

EQU Cα RMSD:1.7Å







Direx-built Model

Model Validation for Lidless Mm-cpn in the closed state at 4.8Å resolution





EM model PDB: 3J03



X-ray structure PDB: 3KFE