

**Structural Biology**  
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**Lecture – 32**  
**UV-Vis and CD Spectroscopy**

Hi everyone, welcome again to the course of structural biology. We are continuing with structural Biology techniques. Currently we are in the module of Spectroscopy. Today it is the second class of Spectroscopy we have talked about the general principles of Spectroscopy, how different parts of spectrophotometer work? What are the general principles? In today's talk we will concentrate on electronic transition with two techniques one is UV-visible and another is circular dichroism.

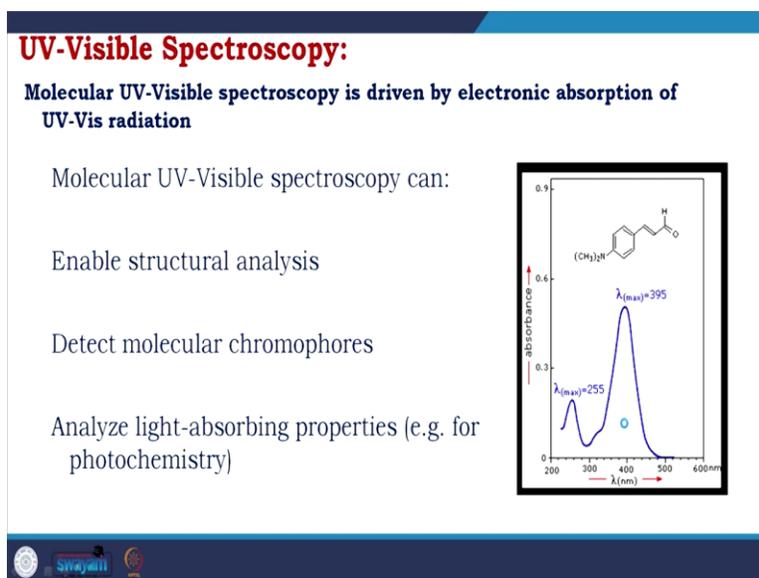
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**UV-Visible Spectroscopy:**

**Molecular UV-Visible spectroscopy is driven by electronic absorption of UV-Vis radiation**

Molecular UV-Visible spectroscopy can:

- Enable structural analysis
- Detect molecular chromophores
- Analyze light-absorbing properties (e.g. for photochemistry)

The slide features a blue header with the title 'UV-Visible Spectroscopy:'. Below the title, a bolded sentence states 'Molecular UV-Visible spectroscopy is driven by electronic absorption of UV-Vis radiation'. A list of three bullet points follows: 'Molecular UV-Visible spectroscopy can:', 'Enable structural analysis', 'Detect molecular chromophores', and 'Analyze light-absorbing properties (e.g. for photochemistry)'. To the right of the text is a graph showing absorbance on the y-axis (ranging from 0 to 0.5) and wavelength in nm on the x-axis (ranging from 200 to 600). The graph shows a blue curve with two peaks: a smaller one at 255 nm labeled  $\lambda_{(max)}=255$  and a larger one at 395 nm labeled  $\lambda_{(max)}=395$ . Above the graph is the chemical structure of a substituted benzaldehyde, Cc1ccc(C=O)cc1, with a methyl group at the para position and an aldehyde group at the other para position. At the bottom of the slide, there are logos for IIT Roorkee and Swayam.

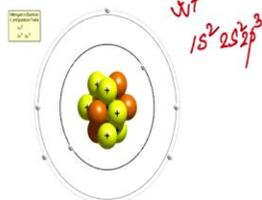
Start with UV visible spectroscopy: Molecular UV visible spectroscopy is driven by electronic absorption of UV radiations. Here the excitations affect the electronic level. Molecular UV visible spectroscopy can enable the structural analysis, detect molecular chromophores. The compounds which are specially showing difference, analyze light absorbing properties specially applicable for photo chemistry.

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## UV-Vis Spectroscopy:

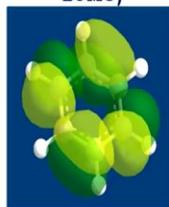
Spectroscopy of the electrons surrounding an atom or a molecule: electron energy-level transitions

**Atoms: electrons are in hydrogen-like orbitals (s, p, d, f)**



(The Bohr model for nitrogen)

**Molecules: electrons are in molecular orbitals (HOMO, LUMO)**



(The LUMO of benzene)

Spectroscopy of electrons surrounding an atom or molecule is the electron energy level transition. So atoms, electrons are in hydrogen like orbitals like s, p, d, f. In molecule electron are in molecular orbital HOMO, which is Highest Occupied Molecular Orbital, LUMO, Lowest Unoccupied Molecular Orbital. So this is the aspect the Bohr model of Nitrogen. Nitrogen have 7 electrons as you see and with electron distribution of  $1S^2 2S^2 2P^3$ . This is the lowest unoccupied orbital picture of benzene.

You see the delocalized electrons of the Pi system. So these types of systems are actually good and we will see the transitions which are allowed.

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## Major classes of electron transitions:

HOMO: highest occupied molecular orbital

LUMO: lowest unoccupied molecular orbital

### Types of electron transitions:

$\sigma$ ,  $\pi$  and n electrons (mostly organics)

d and f electrons (inorganics/organometallics)

As I have told HOMO, the highest occupied molecular orbital, LUMO the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital. The type of electronic transition happened Sigma, Pi and n electrons. So, Sigma, Pi, n electrons are mostly apply to organics, d and f electrons are inorganic and organ metallic charge transfer for complexes.

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**Spectroscopy: Possible electronic transitions**

- 1 •  $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma^*$  transition
- 2 •  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  transition
- 3 •  $n \rightarrow \sigma^*$  transition
- 4 •  $n \rightarrow \pi^*$  transition
- 5 •  $\sigma \rightarrow \pi^*$  transition
- 6 •  $\pi \rightarrow \sigma^*$  transition

So possible electronic transition apply to any type of any form of Spectroscopy,  $\sigma$  to  $\sigma^*$ ,  $\pi$  to  $\pi^*$ ,  $n$  to  $\sigma^*$  transition,  $n$  to  $\pi^*$  transition,  $\sigma$  to  $\pi^*$  transition and  $\pi$  to  $\sigma^*$  transition.

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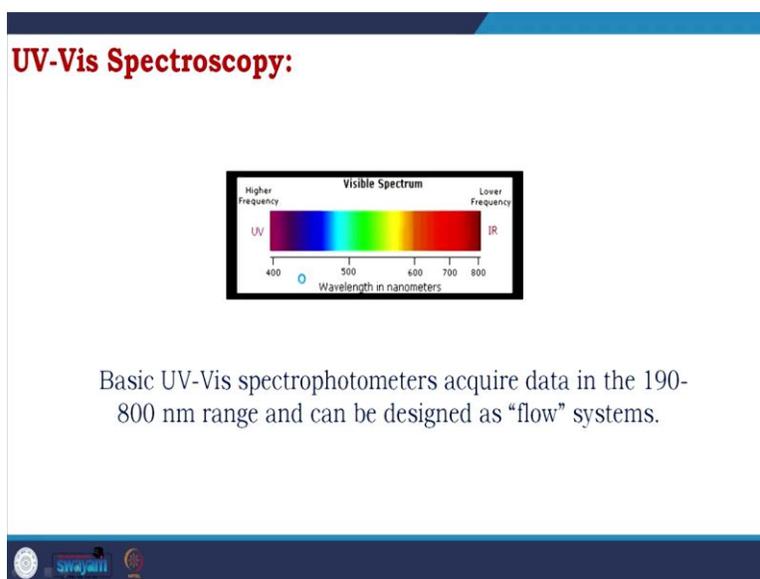
**UV-Vis Spectroscopy:**  
 $n \rightarrow \pi^*$  and  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  transitions: most common transitions observed in organic molecular UV-Vis, observed in compounds with lone pairs and multiple bonds with  $\lambda_{\max} = 200-600$  nm.

$\sigma$  is for bonding,  $\pi$  is for bonding,  $n$  is for non bonding,  $\pi^*$  star is for anti bonding and  $\sigma^*$  is for anti bonding. Sigma is the most stable and sigma star is the most unstable. Pi is second stable Pi

star is the second most unstable, and in between there is nonbonding. These are the five layers. So as I told there are so many transitions possible from Sigma to Sigma star.

Sigma to Pi star these are allowable but then there is other one as I told Pi to Sigma star and then Pi to Pi star, n to Pi star, n to Sigma star. So n to Pi star and Pi to Pi star transition are most common transition of the organic molecule. UV-rays observed in compound with lone pairs and multiple bonds with Lambda Max within 200 to 600 nanometer or common or fragile for those electronic transition to be happened.

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So we know that the three regions UV, then visible then IR. So UV visible spectroscopy is visible and UV. For basic UV visible spectrophotometer acquire data in the 192-800 nm which is covering even these range and can be designed as a flow system.

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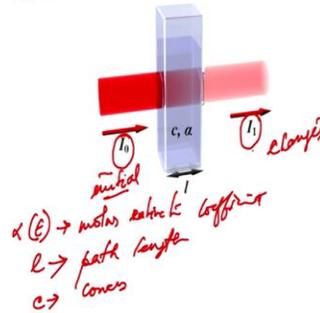
## Absorbance (and transmittance): Beer-Lambert's law

$$T = \frac{I_1}{I_0} = 10^{-A} = 10^{-\alpha l c}$$

$$A = \log_{10} \left( \frac{I_0}{I_1} \right)$$

$$A = \alpha l c$$

$$\alpha = \frac{4\pi k}{\lambda}$$



How it work? We have discussed about Beer-Lambert law, it is the main principle by which absorbance principle works.

So

$$\text{Transmittance (T)} = I_1 / I_0$$

$I_0$  is the initial intensity, and  $I_1$  is the changed intensity. So this is equal to

$$\text{Transmittance (T)} = I_1 / I_0 = 10^{-A}$$

A is the absorbance

$$\text{Transmittance (T)} = I_1 / I_0 = 10^{-A} = 10^{-\alpha l c}$$

where  $\alpha$  is the molar extinction coefficient,  $l$  is the path length and  $c$  is the concentration.

So this is the sample, the cuvette with the path length  $l$ , the concentration of the sample which you are putting here and using that we could have calculate all the possible parameters.

$$\alpha = 4\pi k / \lambda$$

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**Chromophores in proteins:**

- Peptidic bond (UV-CD and FTIR)
- Aromatic amino acids (260-300 nm)
- Attached probe (varies, mostly vis)
- Colorimetric Assays
- UV active assays

**Chromophores in protein**

Number one is the peptide bond; it could be the applied bond (amide bond). We know that amide bond has a lone pair because nitrogen is  $1S^2 2S^2 2P^3$ . So if you look at, in excited state it forms the  $SP^3$  orbital where there is one lone pair, this lone pair is contributed and get a partial double bond in the amide of the peptide bond. This peptide bond is the basic unit of protein.

So we will discuss FTIR- Raman you will get specific amide band. In UV, it is also sensible we will talk about at giving characteristics spectra at 280 nm.

Aromatic amino acid give spectra at 260 to 300 nm, and then there are attached probes which are varies according to their property, and according to their binding. There are probes used for colorimetric analysis. When we say colorimetric analysis, then let us say you have an enzyme, and the enzyme could break a bond. If there is a compound which produce color when the bond breaks, then the compound would use for colorimetric analysis as a probe. Then there is a UV active assay, like a substrate having an A-B bond, and the bond breaks and this is UV active, specific spectral shift. These types of compounds are used as UV active or differentiative probe.

An example, we generally used is Nitrocefin. Nitrocefin is a compound which change colour when it is attacked by the enzyme called beta lactamase, the pale yellow colour change to bright red. So these could be used as a colorimetric probe in the visible range.

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Although nucleic acid contamination can interfere with measuring protein concentration at 280 nm, a more accurate measure can be taken by measuring the absorbance of the sample at both 260 and 280 nm and using the following calculations.

So, protein concentration =  $1.55 \cdot A_{280} - 0.76 \cdot A_{260}$ .

This factor A minus factor B is very accurate calculation, that is usually used in laboratory condition.

One of the very good applications of Spectroscopy is enzyme kinetics. I was talking about the visible colour probes and UV based probes in the reaction, where there is a change in the spectral property. They are called direct probes.

But there are indirect probes, where you have one enzyme of interest, it makes a change to compound A, that leads to change of ATP to ADP (this is not colorimetric).

But this ATP changing can take part in a reaction with enzyme B which is making colour. Then this is used as a secondary enzyme in the assay and this is called indirect probe.

How the enzyme catalysis is measured? Change of spectra would be calculated with time. So now you have Spectral change, let us say per second with a certain concentration of the enzyme. In saturation kinetics, from there, you could measure kcat; you could also measure kcat / km, which is the measure of the efficiency of the enzyme.

You could also assay the inhibitors measuring  $k_i$ . You could measure the effect of reversible inhibitors by different type of assays like competitive, non-competitive, and uncompetitive inhibition assay.

So UV-Vis Spectroscopy in a general set up; you have a sample holder and reference holder. But in the Spectroscopy instrument, which is used for Kinetic measurement there are multiple cuvette holders to fix with different concentration of substrate keeping enzyme concentration and other things fixed, and from the rate you could calculate kcat, km. Also, if you want to inhibit you could calculate in that way. UV visible spectroscopy is playing major role in enzyme kinetics, small molecule kinetics, photochemistry and many other things.

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## Introduction:

Circular Dichroism (CD) is a type of absorption spectroscopy that can provide information on the structures of many types of biological Macromolecules

It measures the difference between the absorption of left and right handed circularly-polarized light by proteins

### Application of CD in Biology:

Protein structure determination.

Induced structural changes, i.e. pH, heat & solvent.

Protein folding/unfolding

Ligand binding

Structural aspects of nucleic acids, polysaccharides, peptides, hormones & other small molecules



Coming to the Technique Circular Dichroism: To introduce Circular Dichroism, Circular Dichroism is a type of absorption spectroscopy that can provide information on the structure of much type of biological macromolecules. It generally measure the difference between the absorption of left and light handed circularly polarized light by protein. So this is a new thing because we had talked about change of intensity directly in a linearly polarized light.

We are introducing a concept which is called circularly polarized light and from there the technique is called circular dichroism.

Application of CD in Biology:

Protein structure determination; it is very good in determining the secondary structure of protein and associated changes. Changes are important because, high-resolution structures generally do not give you a lot of experiment with changes.

In the structure change associated with pH, with heat, with solvent, with denaturing agent, anything any changes you could trap in CD.

Protein folding and unfolding; Ligand binding; if there are induced changes after binding to the ligand then you could see that. Structural aspects of nucleic acids, polysaccharide, peptides, hormones and other small molecules are the applications of CD.

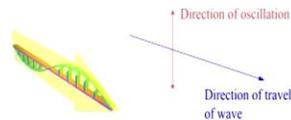
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## Polarization of EM radiation:

**Unpolarized EM radiation:** Light or other electromagnetic radiation from many sources, such as the sun, flames, and incandescent lamps, consists of short wave trains with an equal mixture of polarizations; this is called unpolarized light

Oscillation which take places in a transverse wave in many different directions is said to be unpolarized

Polarization: If the oscillation does take place in only one direction then the wave is said to be linearly polarized (or plane polarized) in that direction



So we are talking about circularly polarized light. Let us start with unpolarized EM radiation. Light or other electromagnetic radiation from many sources such as Sun, flames and incandescent lamps, consists of short wave trains with an equal mixture of polarization. They have light going in all different direction is called unpolarized light. Oscillation which takes place in transverse wave in many different directions is said to be unpolarized.

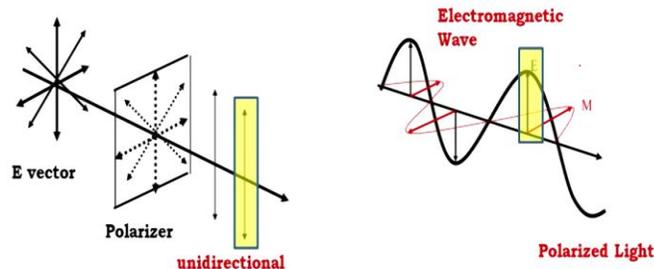
Now if the oscillation does take place in only one direction, then the wave is said to be linearly polarized or plane polarized in that direction.

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## Polarization of EM radiation:

A light source usually consists of a collection of randomly orientated emitters, the emitted light is a collection of waves with all possible orientations of the E vectors

Plane polarized light/EMR is obtained by passing light/EMR through a polarizer that transmits light/EMR with only a single plane of polarization. i.e. it passes only those components of the E vector that are parallel to the axis of the polarizer



What is polarization? A light source usually consists of a collection of randomly oriented emitters in different direction. The emitted light is the collection of waves with all possible orientation of the E vectors.

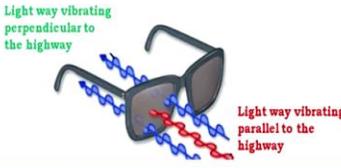
Plane polarized light or electromagnetic radiation is obtained by passing that through a polarizer. So you are passing the light through an instrumental setup called polarizer that transmits with only a single plane of planation.

So you see, this is the E vector they are going into many direction and polarizer takes them and convert them to travel in only one direction.

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**Polarizer:**

A polarizer is an optical filter that lets light waves of a specific polarization pass through while blocking light waves of other polarizations. It can filter a beam of light of undefined or mixed polarization into a beam of well-defined polarization, that is polarized light. The common types of polarizers are linear polarizers and circular polarizers. Polarizers are used in many optical techniques and instruments, and polarizing filters find applications in photography and LCD technology. Polarizers can also be made for other types of electromagnetic waves besides visible light, such as radio waves, microwaves, and X-rays.



Light way vibrating perpendicular to the highway

Light way vibrating parallel to the highway

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Polarizer is an optical filter that lets light wave of a specific polarization pass through while blocking light waves of the other polarization. It can filter a beam of light of undefined or mixed polarization into a beam of well-defined polarization and that is called polarized light. The common types of polarization are linear polarizer and circular polarizer. Polarizers are used in many optical techniques and instrument, and polarizing filters, and application in photography.

Polarizer can also be made for other type of electromagnetic wave besides visible waves such as radio wave, X-rays.

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## Polarization of Electromagnetic Waves:

Any electromagnetic wave consists of an electric field component and a magnetic field component

The electric field component is used to define the plane of polarization

Because many common electromagnetic wave detectors respond to the electric forces on electrons in materials, not the magnetic forces

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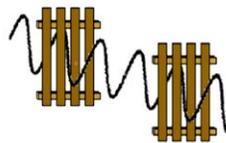
An electromagnetic wave consists of an electric field component and magnetic field component. The electric field component is used to define the plane of polarization. Because many common electromagnetic wave detector respond to electric forces on electron in material not the magnetic forces. So, generally we look at the electronic vector.

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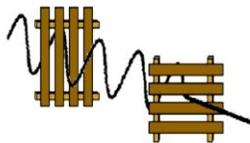
## Polarization by selective absorption:

Polarization of light by selective absorption is analogous to that shown in the diagrams

### Picket fence analogy:



When the pickets of both fences are aligned in the vertical direction, a vertical vibration can make through both the fences



When the pickets of second fences are in horizontal direction, a vertical vibration can make through the first phase will be blocked in the second one



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Polarization of light by selective absorption is analogous to the shown diagram which is Picket fence analogy diagram. When the pickets of both fences are aligned in the vertical direction, a vertical vibration can make through both the fences but in this case when picket of second fences are in horizontal direction a vertical vibration can make to the first phase and will be blocked in the second one.

So that is how you could have blocked some specific waves or in other word, you could have allow some specific waves to go and when you have blocked almost all the waves and allow one single this is called plane polarized light.

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**Elliptical, Linear and Circular polarization:**

In electrodynamics, **elliptical polarization** is the polarization of the electromagnetic radiation such that the tip of the electric field vector describes an ellipse in any fixed plane intersecting, and normal to, the direction of propagation

Linear and Circular polarization, can be considered to be special cases of elliptical polarization

**Linear polarization** or **plane polarization** of electromagnetic radiation is a confinement of the electric field vector or magnetic field vector to a given plane along the direction of propagation

Circular polarization of an electromagnetic wave is a polarization state in which, at each point, the electromagnetic field of the wave has a constant magnitude and is rotating at a constant rate in a plane perpendicular to the direction of the wave

Elliptical, linear and circular polarization: Elliptical polarization is the polarization of the electromagnetic radiation such that the tips of the electric field vector describe an ellipse in any fixed plane intersecting and normal to the direction of the propagation. In elliptical polarization there are two special cases one is linear polarization and another is circular polarization.

So, linear polarization or plane polarization of electromagnetic radiation is the confinement of the electric field vector and magnetic field vector to a given plane along the direction of the propagation. We have already talked about this circular polarization of the electromagnetic wave. It is a polarization state in which at each point, the electromagnetic field of the wave has a constant magnitude and is rotating at a constant rate in a plane perpendicular to the direction of wave.

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**Rotation of circularly polarized wave:**  
 In electrodynamics, the strength and direction of an electric field is defined by its electric field vector

In the case of a circularly polarized wave, the tip of the electric field vector, at a given point in space, relates to the phase of the light as it travels through time and space

At any instant of time, the electric field vector of the wave indicates a point on a helix oriented along the direction of propagation

**A circularly polarized wave can rotate in one of two possible senses:**  
 Clockwise or *right-handed circular polarization (RHCP)* in which the electric field vector rotates in a right-hand sense with respect to the direction of propagation

Counter-clockwise or *left-handed circular polarization (LHCP)* in which the vector rotates in a left-hand sense

The diagram shows a helix oriented along the direction of propagation. The tip of the electric field vector traces a helix. Two senses are shown: Right-Handed Circular Polarization (RHCP) and Left-Handed Circular Polarization (LHCP).

So, rotation, here you see the rotation in electrodynamics the strength and direction of an electric field is defined by its electric field vector. In the case of circularly polarized wave, the tip of the electric field vector, at a given point in space, relates to the phase of the light as it travels through time and space. At any instant of time the electric field vector of the wave indicates a point on a helix oriented along the direction of the propagation.

If you see here, it shows the development of a helix. A circularly polarized wave can rotate in one of the two possible senses. Clockwise or right handed circular polarization (RHCP), in which the electric field vector rotate in a right hand sense with respect to the direction of the propagation. Counterclockwise or left handed circular polarization (LHCP) in which the vector rotates in a left-handed sense.

If you look at this point, you could understand that they are working in two different directions. And the interesting point here if you apply the rotation and you get a differentiation between the right-handed circular polarization and the left and right circular polarization. You will get it for optically active molecule. Optically inactive molecule is called a Chiral molecule.

Now if you understand protein, you know that protein have 20 amino acids among this 20 amino acid 19 amino acids are chiral. So that is what circular dichroism in becoming so popular and so interesting TO study of protein molecule.

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### Plane and circular polarized light:

Plane polarized light is obtained by passing light through a polarizer that transmits light with only a single plane of polarization

wavelength out of phase & are perpendicular.

The vector that is the sum of the E vectors of the two components rotates so that its tip follows a helical path (dotted line).



So the plane polarized light is obtained by passing light through a polarizer that transmits light with only a single plane of polarization. It passes only those components of the E vector that are parallel to the axis. Circularly polarized light: the E vector of electromagnetic wavelength out of phase and are perpendicular. The vector that is the sum of the E vector of the two-component rotates so that its tip follows a helical path. You will see that in the dotted line.

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### Circularly polarized light:

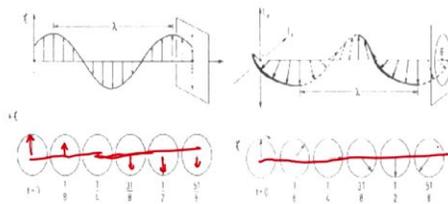
Electric vector direction varies -  
magnitude constant  
So its in two forms: left and right  
handed

#### Linearly polarized light:

Electric vector direction constant -  
magnitude varies

#### Circularly polarized light:

Electric vector direction varies -  
magnitude constant



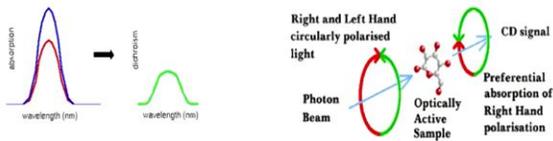
And coming to the linearly and circularly polarized light comparison: For the linearly polarized light the electric vector direction constant and magnitude varies. For Circularly polarized light the electric factor direction varies and magnitude constant. So here you see this is the rotating around.

So the electric vector direction varies, the magnitude is constant, so it is in two form left and right handed.

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**Circular Dichroism:**

CD measures the difference between the absorption of left and right handed circularly-polarized light



Right and Left Hand circularly polarised light

Photon Beam

Optically Active Sample

Preferential absorption of Right Hand polarisation

CD signal

This is measured as a function of wavelength, & the difference is always very small ( $\ll 1/10000$  of total)

After passing through the sample, the L & R beams have different amplitudes

Also, the combination of the two unequal beams gives elliptically polarized light

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The CD measures the difference between the absorption of left and right handed circularly polarized light. This is the photon beam when you put the optically active compound you get the CD signal where the preferential absorption of the right hand polarization and left hand polarization which would be different.

One of the problem with this technique is, this is measured as a function of wavelength and the difference of the wavelength between left and right is always very small one by 10,000 ( $1 / 10000$ ) of the total. After passing through the sample the left and right beam are of different amplitudes. Also the combination of the two unequal beams gives elliptical polarized light, which we talked about. Hence CD measures the ellipticity of the transmitted light. The light that remains not absorbed.

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### CD Measurement:

CD measures the **difference** between the absorption of left and right handed circularly-polarized light:

$$\Delta A(\lambda) = A_R(\lambda) - A_L(\lambda) = [\epsilon_R(\lambda) - \epsilon_L(\lambda)]lc$$

or

$$\Delta A(\lambda) = \Delta\epsilon(\lambda)lc$$

$\Delta\epsilon$  is the difference in the extinction coefficients

typically  $< 10 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$

typical  $\epsilon$  around  $20\,000 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$

**The CD signal is a very small difference between two large originals**



So again, the measurement here is also absorption spectroscopy, though CD could operate in other region too. The measure the proportion absorbed as a function of wavelength equal to  $\log I_0$  by  $I$ .  $I_0$  is the initial intensity and  $I$  is after the absorbents. So the Beer-Lambert law is applicable here.  $A$  equal to  $\epsilon$  of  $\alpha lc$ .  $E$  equal to extinction coefficient observance is directly proportional to concentration  $c$  of absorbing species in the sample and path length of the light  $l$  though the sample. The longer the path or more concentrated the sample the higher the observance with the same principle we are talking about in UV. So, CD measures the difference between the absorption of left and right handed circularly polarized light. So

$$\Delta A(\lambda) = A_R(\lambda) - A_L(\lambda) = [\epsilon_R(\lambda) - \epsilon_L(\lambda)] / lc$$

Or you could also said

$$\Delta A(\lambda) = \Delta\epsilon(\lambda)lc$$

$\Delta\epsilon$  is the difference in the extinction coefficient typically less than  $10 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

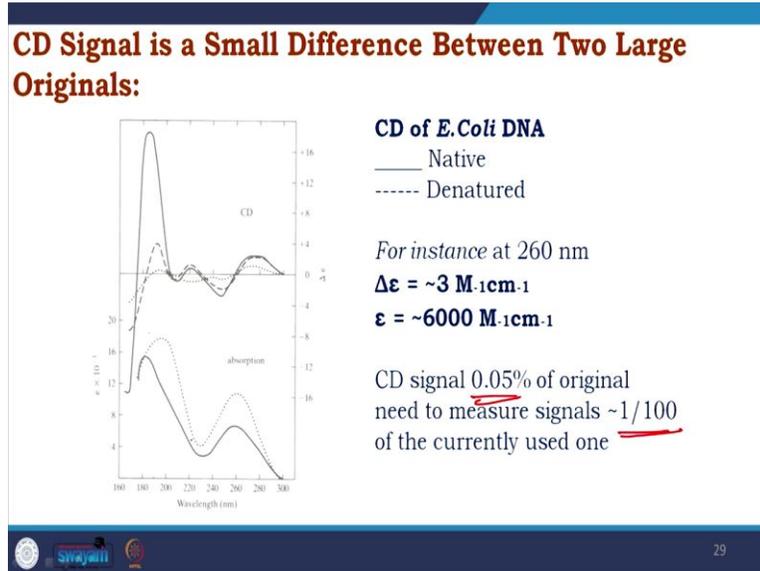
Typically  $\epsilon$  is around  $20,000 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The CD signal as we have discussed earlier also is a very small difference between two large originals.

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We can also do CD in near UV to look at trp side chains visible (for the cofactor) and higher regions. The peptide bond is inherently asymmetric and always optically active. Any optically active from side chain chromophores is induced and results from the interaction with asymmetrical neighboring groups.

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Coming to some examples, CD signal is small difference between two large original:

This is the circular dichroism of *E. coli* DNA. The bold one is for native DNA and dotted one is for denatured DNA. So as we told in case of nucleic acid at 260 nm

$$\Delta\epsilon = 3 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1} \text{ whereas}$$

$$\epsilon = 6000 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$$

So, CD signal is 0.05% original need to measure signals at 1 / 100 of the currently used one. If you see that, here the absorption is high, whereas when you are doing the CD, the difference is not at all high ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) and that is why we need different setup.

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## Different types of CD:

Circular Dichroism (CD) is an absorption spectroscopy method based on the differential absorption of left and right circularly polarized light

Optically active chiral molecules will preferentially absorb one direction of the circularly polarized light

The difference in absorption of the left and right circularly polarized light can be measured and quantified

UV CD is used to determine aspects of protein secondary structure

Vibrational CD, IR CD, is used to study the structure of small organic molecules, proteins and DNA ◦

UV/Vis CD investigates charge transfer transitions in metal-protein complexes



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There are different types of (CD) circular dichroism. CD is an absorption spectroscopy method based on the differential absorption of left and right circularly polarized light. Optically active chiral molecules will preferably absorb one direction of the circular polarized light. The difference in absorption of the left and right circularly polarized light can be measured and also could be quantified.

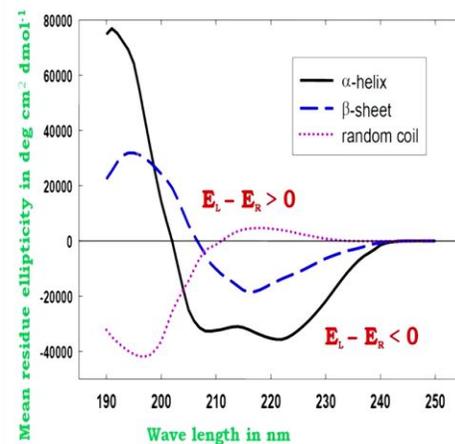
UV CD used to determine aspect of protein secondary structure.

Vibrational CD, IR CD is used to study structure of small organic molecules, proteins and DNA.

UV Vis CD investigates charge transfer transitions in metal protein complexes.

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## CD Signals for Different Secondary Structures:



ftp://jgicq.iiit.gov



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So, looking at CD signals of different secondary structure, so this is a graph, the x-axis is wavelength in nanometer and the y-axis is mean residue ellipticity in degree  $\text{cm}^2 \text{mole}^{-1}$ . In the plot you see two part, when  $E_L - E_R$  is less than 0 and  $E_L - E_R$  is greater than 0. So, black bold is alpha helix, the blue dotted a beta sheet and the dotted line is random coil.

These are the Fasman standard curves for polylysine in different environment.

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**CD Spectra of Protein Secondary Structures:**

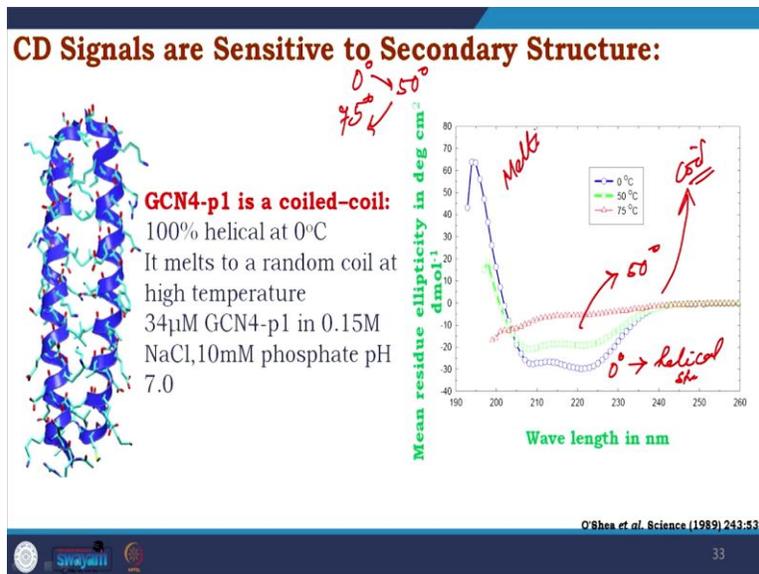
	-ve band (nm)	+ve band (nm)
$\alpha$ -helix	222 208	192
$\beta$ -sheet	216	195
$\beta$ -turn	220-230 (weak) 180-190 (strong)	205
L.H polypro II helix	190	210-230 weak
Random coil	200	

*Handwritten notes on the right side of the table:*  
 - A vertical line with a circle at the top and a cross at the bottom, labeled "Protein structure".  
 - A horizontal line with a circle at the left and a cross at the right, labeled "Relative change".  
 - A curved arrow pointing downwards, labeled " $\alpha$ -helix" and "Loop".

If you see there are two types of bands negative band and positive band. For Alpha helix, 222 nm and 208 nm as negative band. 192 nm is positive band. For beta sheet 216 nm is negative band, 195 nm is positive band. For beta turn 220 to 230 is the negative band (that is weak) 180 to 190 (is strong) and positive band is at 205. So for poly Pro II helix special type of polypropylene type helix, 190 negative band 220 to 230 weak positive. For random coil in negative band at 200 nm, so these are Fingerprint characteristic bands for different secondary structures.

For example, we know that for alpha-helix. We have negative Banda 222 and 208 and positive band at 192. So let this positive band is here. Now if and temperature there would be denaturation. By denaturation the Alpha helix would be converted to more or less random coil. So there would be change. And the relative change could be plotted to get a curve like that and the middle would be melting temperature. So in that way the fingerprints could be used for other work.

**(Refer Slide Time: 45:53)**



Let us take an example where CD signals are sensitive to secondary structures. So this is GCN4p1 it is a coiled coil. It is 100% helical at 0 degree centigrade (maintained that secondary structure). It melts to random coil at high temperature. So, this Alpha helical structure is converted to random coil when you provide temperature.

For doing this experiment this 34 μM of GCNP1 in 0.15 molar NaCl in 10 mM phosphate and 7 pH is being maintained. It kept at zero degrees centigrade; it is heated at 75 degree centigrade and 50 degree centigrade. So, 0, 50, 75 and when it was plot against wavelength and mean ellipticity, you can see that at 0 degree it maintained the helical structure. Whereas at 50 degree it deviated, and at 70 it is mostly random coil. So by this if you take more points you could actually calculate the melting temperature which I am talking about. So this is a very important experiment because this is not only for this protein. It could be done in any protein and because this is based on the fingerprint. So you could have very accurately calculated them.

Same experiment can be performed with pH or anything that could deviate the structure that could defeat the confirmation.

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## Applications of CD in Structural Biology:

- Determination of secondary structure of proteins that cannot be crystallized
- Investigation of the effect of e.g. drug binding on protein secondary structure
- Dynamic processes, e.g. protein folding
- Studies of the effects of environment on protein structure
- Secondary structure and super-secondary structure of membrane proteins
- Study of ligand-induced conformational changes
- Carbohydrate conformation
- Investigations of protein-protein and protein-nucleic acid interactions



So, application of CD in structural Biology, it is helping in determination of the secondary structure of the protein that cannot be crystallized or you do not get NMR structure. Investigation of the effects of drug binding on protein as drug binding change the confirmation, so you could study that. Dynamic process of protein folding with increase in temperature and pH. Similarly you have an unfolded protein and you are kind of removing the condition which is causing the unfolding then it would start refolding and you will get to see the change in the confirmation. Studies on the effect of environment of protein structure. Secondary structures, super secondary structure of membrane proteins. Studies of ligand induce conformational change of the protein. Carbohydrate conformations, carbohydrate because of their forming of straight chain bond, branch chain bond. So straight chain, branch chain and when they form the folded structure, it could be of any combination and permutation. So is very difficult to detect or predict it. The investigation of protein-protein and protein-nucleic acid interaction, interaction makes changes, especially when macromolecules are interacting they make changes in the confirmation that change is reflected on the CD spectra.

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## Why use CD?

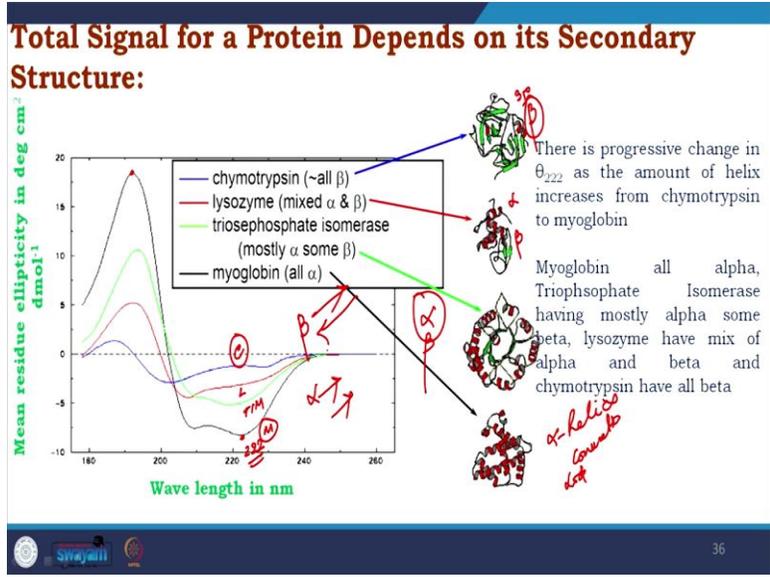
- Simple and quick experiments
- No extensive preparation
- Measurements on solution phase
- Relatively low concentrations/amounts of sample
- Microsecond time resolution

Why use CD? First very simple very quick experiments. No extensive preparation. You just have a pure protein you put in proper buffer and do the experiment. Measurement of solution phase throughout the experiment was at the course, when you are getting a protein at a specific state like a crystal that is not giving you the information which is biologically relevant. Crystallography definitely gives the co-ordinate of a protein, its best thermodynamics form, but it is not as good as solution structure.

CD could be stored in solution phase, so that is another advantage. Relatively low concentrations, microsecond time resolution, any sizes of macromolecules (size-independent) can be evaluated.

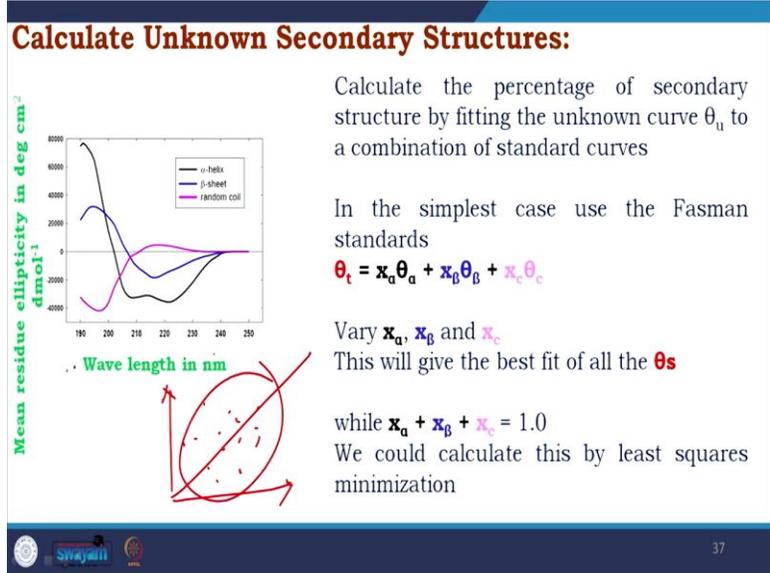
However electron microscope you are going to study will not work with smaller molecules. X-ray cannot work if crystallization does not happen, CD anything and everything.

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This is where we are shifting from a particular secondary structure to a proper protein. So four proteins are taken. What are the four proteins? One is myoglobin which you see is all Alpha, you could see here only Alpha helices connected to loop. Triophosphate isomerase having mostly alpha and some beta. Lysozyme has mix of alpha and beta, chymotrypsin has all beta. So when you plot them you see a characteristic for all alphas. So there is progressive change in molar ellipticity at 222 nm when amount of helix increases from chymotrypsin into myoglobin.

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And these types of data are actually calculated and now they are used for determining unknown secondary structure. This particular graph calculate the percentage of secondary structure by fitting the unknown curve  $\theta_u$  to a combination of standard curve. In the simplest case you use the

Fasman standard, you already know in Fasman standard, poly lysine curve and many other curves are actually used.

So the formula used

$$\theta_t = X\alpha \theta_\alpha + X\beta \theta_\beta + Xc\theta_c$$

Where,  $\alpha$  is the alpha helix contribution and  $\beta$  is beta sheet combination and  $c$  is the random coil.

Now there would be varying alpha, beta and coil and this will give the best fit of all the  $\theta$ .

And if you consider

$$X\alpha + X\beta + Xc = 1$$

we could calculate this by least square minimization.

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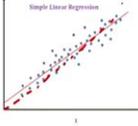
**Least squares method:**

The "least squares" method is a form of mathematical regression analysis used to determine the line of best fit for a set of data, providing a visual demonstration of the relationship between the data points

Each point of data represents the relationship between a known independent variable and an unknown dependent variable

The least squares method is a statistical procedure to find the best fit for a set of data points by minimizing the sum of the offsets or residuals of points from the plotted curve

Least squares regression is used to predict the behavior of dependent variables



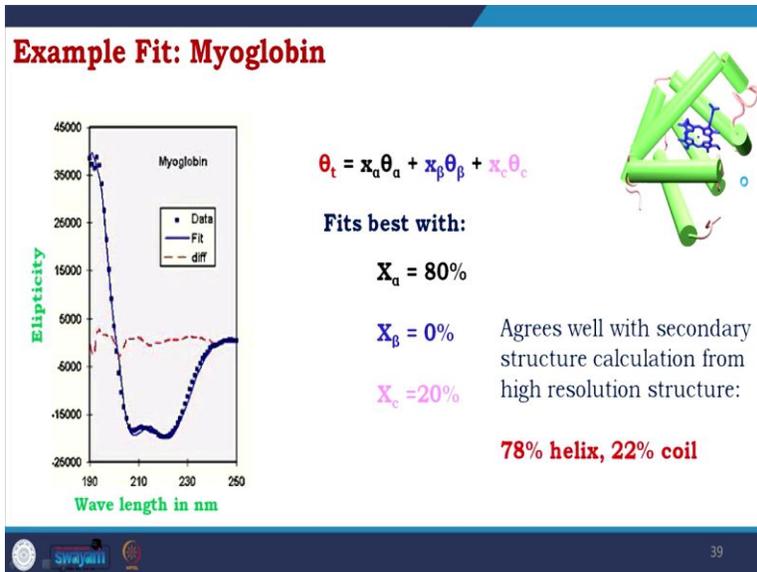
<http://www.structure.llnl.gov/Xray/comp/lsq.htm>

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The least square method is a form of mathematical regression analysis used to determine the line of best fit for set of data providing a visual demonstration of the relationship between the data points.

Each point of data represents the relationship between a known independent variable and an unknown dependable variable. The least square method is a statistical procedure to find the best fit for the state of data points by minimizing the sum of the offsets or residual of points from the plotted curve. Least square regression is used to predict the behaviour of dependent variable. So here we get a lot of standard data put them and then put our unknown and determine their.

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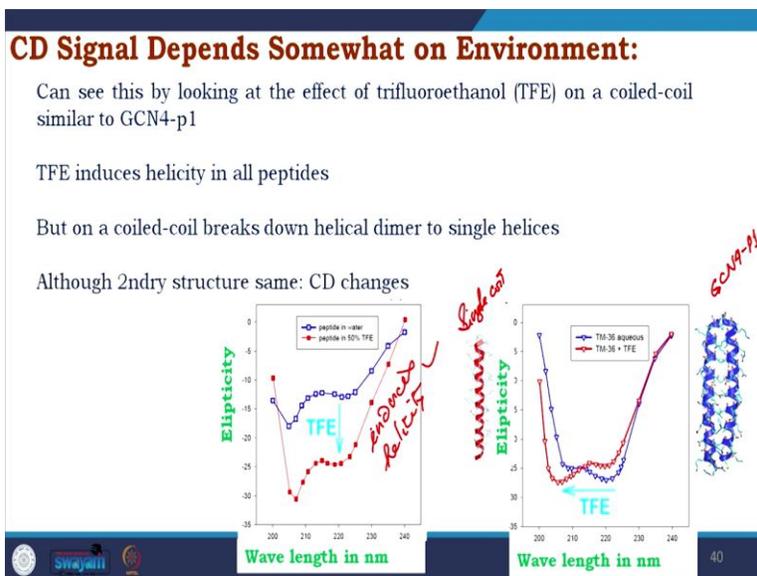
So, example we take myoglobin. The formula is

$$\theta_t = X_\alpha \theta_\alpha + X_\beta \theta_\beta + X_\gamma \theta_\gamma$$

The fit gives us best point where  $x_\alpha$  is equal to 80,  $x_\beta$  is equal to 0 and  $x_\gamma$  is equal to 20. So from the linear regression calculation this was found and this is myoglobin.

So let us see what is the actual prediction from the high-resolution structure? It agrees well with the secondary structure calculation from high-resolution structure. 78% helix and 22% coil so this  $x_\alpha$  80 is very close to 78 and 22 is also close to  $x_\gamma$  and there is no beta.

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CD signal depend somewhat on environment will discuss that point. We can see this by looking at the effect of trifluoroethanol TFE on a coiled-coil similar to GCN4-p1. TFE induces helicity in

all peptides. So if you take any peptide and you introduce 50% TFE, TFE is making a change from this peptide to more helical.

Though TFE induces helicity in peptides, at the same time coil-coil breaks down helical dimer to single helices, and major we have seen that they maintain same secondary structure.

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**Best Fitting Procedures Use Many Different Proteins For Standard Spectra:**

There are many different algorithms  
All rely on using up to 20 CD spectra of proteins of known structure  
By mixing these together a fit spectra is obtained for an Unknown

**For full details see**  
**Dichroweb: the online CD analysis tool**  
[www.cryst.bbk.ac.uk/cdweb/html/](http://www.cryst.bbk.ac.uk/cdweb/html/)

**Can generally get accuracies of**  
0.97 for helices  
0.75 for beta sheet  
0.50 for turns, and  
0.89 for other structure types

*Handwritten notes:*  
Turn / Coil  
Confidence 2-5%

Manavalan & Johnson, 1987, Anal. Biochem. 167, 76-85

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There are many different algorithms rely on using up to 20 CD spectra protein of known structure. By mixing those together a fit spectra is obtained for an unknown. So there are different software I recommend for these to go for Dichroweb the online CD analysis tool. The link is given here, one can generally get accuracy for 97% of helices. For helices calculation is always easy because of their stability. 75% for beta sheet, 50% for turn, and 89% for other structure type.

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## Software for the Analysis of Circular Dichroism Data:

### Tools for analyzing circular dichroism data :

**LINCOMB** and **MLR**( The method of least squares)

**CONTIN** (The ridge regression procedure of Provencher and Glöckner)

**VARSLC** (The Variable Selection Method of Johnson and Coworkers )

**SELCON** (The Self-Consistent Method of Sreerama and Woody )

**K2D**.(A neural net analysis program of Andrade et al)

**CCA** (The convex constraint algorithm of Fasman and coworkers )

**SVD** (Singular Value Decomposition )



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There are tools for analysing circular dichroism data. LINCOMB and MLR are the method of least squares. CONTIN the Ridge regression procedure of Provencher and Glockner. VARSLC the variable selection method of Johnson and Coworkers. SELCOM the self-consistent method of Sreerama and Woody. K2D dot neural network program of Andrade et al. CCA the convex constraint algorithm of Fasman and Coworker. SVD singular value decomposition.

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## Limitations of Secondary Structure Analysis:

The simple deconvolution of a CD spectrum into 4 or 5 components which do not vary from one protein to another is a gross oversimplification.

The reference CD spectra corresponding to 100% helix, sheet, turn etc are not directly applicable to proteins which contain short sections of the various structures

The CD of an  $\alpha$ -helix is known to increase with increasing helix length, CD of  $\beta$ -sheets are very sensitive to environment & geometry

Far UV curves ( $>275\text{nm}$ ) can contain contributions from aromatic amino-acids, in practice CD is measured at wavelengths below this

The shapes of far UV CD curves depend on tertiary as well as secondary structure



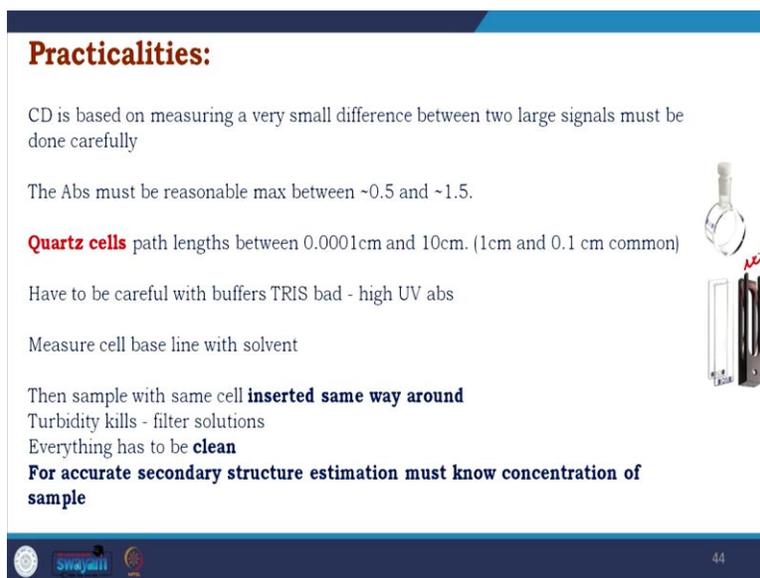
43

There are limitations of the CD method in Secondary Structure Analysis: The simple deconvolution of CD spectrum into four or five components which do not vary from one protein to another is a cross-over simplification. The reference CD spectra corresponding to 100% helix, sheet, turn etc are not directly applicable to protein which content short section of the various

structures. The CD of an Alpha helix is known to increase with increasing helix length. CD of beta sheet are very sensitive to environment and geometry and their CD spectra calculation never works.

For UV curves greater than 275 nanometer and content contribution from aromatic amino acid, and in practice CD is measured at wavelengths below this (near UV CD). The shapes of far UV CD curves depend on tertiary as well as secondary structure.

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**Practicalities:**

CD is based on measuring a very small difference between two large signals must be done carefully

The Abs must be reasonable max between ~0.5 and ~1.5.

**Quartz cells** path lengths between 0.0001cm and 10cm. (1cm and 0.1 cm common)

Have to be careful with buffers TRIS bad - high UV abs

Measure cell base line with solvent

Then sample with same cell **inserted same way around**

Turbidity kills - filter solutions

Everything has to be **clean**

**For accurate secondary structure estimation must know concentration of sample**



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Some practicalities to work CD is based on measuring a very small difference between two large signal must be done carefully. The absorbances must be reasonable Max between 0.5 to 1.5. Quartz cell which is shown here, path length between 0.0001 cm and 10cm (1cm and 0.1cm are common). Have to be careful with buffers (TRIS bad- high UV absorption). So TRIS buffer you cannot use in the CD Spectroscopy.

We generally used phosphate buffer, but you could you use other buffers too. Measures cell baseline with solvent is very critical. Then sample with same cell inserted same way around. Turbidity kills and filters the solution. Everything has to be very, very clean. For accurate secondary structure estimation must know the concentration of the sample.

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## Typical Conditions for CD

Protein Concentration: 0.25 mg/ml  
Cell Path Length: 1 mm  
Volume 400  $\mu$ l  
Need very little sample 0.1 mg  
Concentration reasonable  
Stabilizers (Metal ions, etc.): minimum  
Buffer Concentration : 5 mM or as low as possible while maintaining protein stability  
A structural biology method that can give real answers in a day.



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Some typical condition for getting good circular dichroism; Protein concentration 0.25 Milli gram per ml, cell path length 1 millimetre, volume 400 microlitre, but depending on the CD. Cuvette need very little sample 0.1 milligram concentrations are pretty reasonable, stabilizer metal ions etc should be used minimum, Buffer concentration 5 millimolar for as low as possible while maintaining protein stability. If you do not maintain the protein stability, your experiment is not going to work.

Protein stability is the most important thing, you have to maintain the protein stability. But while you are maintaining the protein should not forget that these other stabilizers have their own CD property, Structural Biology method that can give real answers in one day.

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## CD Summary:

CD is a useful method for looking at secondary structures of proteins and peptides  
It is an adaptation of standard absorption spectroscopy in which the difference in the abs between left and right hand circularly polarized light is measured.

CD can be measured under a wide range of conditions - e.g., good for membrane proteins.

CD can be used to measure change.

CD compliments other more detailed techniques such as crystallography



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Summarizing CD is a useful method for looking at secondary structures of proteins and peptides. It is an adaptation of standard absorption spectroscopy in which the difference in the absorption between left and right hand circularly polarized light is measured. CD can be measured under a wide range of conditions. It is very good for membrane proteins we did not discuss about membrane proteins in this module but CD is very differently applied and as membrane proteins are difficult to study. So this is one of the very interesting parts of CD.

CD can be used to measure change, CD complement other more detail techniques such as x-ray crystallography the findings in x-ray crystallography would be very well coordinated with the CD structure. So with this I have talked about UV absorption, UV visible absorption and CD. These are techniques which have taken a very important part in determining different properties of protein. As I told UV visible especially important for operating a regulating reactions in enzymes acid, enzyme catalysis.

CD is good because it different approaches taken here. Where all the Spectroscopy is best known linearly polarized light here, circularly polarized light and their difference is taken. So specially for protein CD is very critical and CD experiments are really informative. With that I would finish today's talk. As I told earlier keep listening to the classes and keep asking questions to us. Thank you very much.