The mechanism of complex formation between calmodulin and voltage gated calcium channels revealed by molecular dynamics

Shivani Yaduvanshi, Rya Ero, Veerendra Kumar

1 Amity Institute of Molecular Medicine and Stem Cell Research (AIMMSCR), Amity University Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India, 2 Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia

Abstract

Calmodulin, a ubiquitous eukaryotic calcium sensor responsible for the regulation of many fundamental cellular processes, is a highly flexible protein and exhibits an unusually wide range of conformations. Furthermore, CaM is known to interact with more than 300 cellular targets. Molecular dynamics (MD) simulation trajectories suggest that EF-hand loops show different magnitudes of flexibility. Therefore, the four EF-hand motifs have different affinities for Ca\(^{2+}\) ions, which enables CaM to function on wide range of Ca\(^{2+}\) ion concentrations. EF-hand loops are 2–3 times more flexible in apo CaM whereas least flexible in Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM-IQ motif complexes. We report a unique intermediate conformation of Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM while transitioning from extended to compact form. We also report the complex formation process between Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM and IQ CaM-binding motifs. Our results showed how IQ motif recognise its binding site on the CaM and how CaM transforms from extended to compact form upon binding to IQ motif.

Introduction

Calmodulin (Calcium-modulated protein, a.k.a. CaM) is a “dumbbell” shaped protein ubiquitously present in eukaryotes that mediates calcium-dependent signalling. CaM can bind four calcium ions (Ca\(^{2+}\)) in its N- and C-lobes (two ions per lobe) and thereby regulate numerous Ca\(^{2+}\)-dependent pathways [1–3]. Both N- and C-lobes consist of two highly conserved canonical EF-hand motifs [4]. In each EF-hand, two \(\alpha\) helices are connected by a 12-residue long acidic loop (helix-turn-helix). Ca\(^{2+}\) binding rearranges the helices in EF-hand and exposes large phenylalanine (Phe) and methionine (Met) rich hydrophobic clefts for target binding [5–7]. In the absence of Ca\(^{2+}\), the \(\alpha\)-helices are parallel to one another (called “closed conformation”), whereas in the presence of Ca\(^{2+}\), the \(\alpha\)-helices are perpendicular to one another (called “open conformation”) [8, 9]. Interestingly, the two lobes have different affinities for Ca\(^{2+}\) and therefore also for target binding [10]. Previous studies have revealed that the four Ca\(^{2+}\)-binding sites (EF- hands) differ in their ability to bind Ca\(^{2+}\) ions. For example, Ca\(^{2+}\) ions bind the
C-lobe ($K_d \sim 10^{-6} \text{ M}$) with 10-fold higher affinity than the N-lobe ($K_d \sim 10^{-5} \text{ M}$) [11, 12]. Therefore, CaM can sense a broad range of Ca$^{2+}$ signals and convert Ca$^{2+}$ influx into cellular signals by binding to more than 300 partners.

The two lobes of CaM are connected by a highly flexible central helix in a trans orientation [13–15]. The linker is largely exposed to the solvent and is involved in target binding [7, 9]. A fragment of the linker (from arginine-74 to glutamate-83) can unwind to various degrees so that the two lobes of CaM can re-orient and wrap around the target peptide [14, 16]. Alternatively, target can bind to one of the lobes with no bending taking place in the central helix [17].

Voltage gated calcium channels (VGCC) are multimeric proteins found in the membrane of excitable cells [18–22]. In response to membrane depolarization, VGCCs mediate Ca$^{2+}$ influx that initiates several physiological events. There are 10 subfamilies of VGCCs critically important for brain, heart, and muscle functions [23–25]. VGCCs are divided into L-type (CaV1.1, CaV1.2, CaV1.3, and CaV1.4), P/Q-type (CaV2.1), N-type (CaV2.2), and R-type (CaV2.3) [13, 26]. VGCCs are regulated by CaM through their C-terminal IQ motifs (I/L/V) QXXXRXXXX(R/K) [27–30]. CaM controls the calcium influx by calcium-dependent inactivation (CDI) and calcium-dependent facilitation (CDF) [31]. Numerous studies suggest that IQ domain mutations in full-length channels can eliminate CDI and CDF [32–34]. Thus, it will be interesting to know how CaM regulates various ion channels through interaction with their IQ motifs.

Despite extensive studies, many details about CaM are still not fully understood. For example, how CaM can sense a broad range of Ca$^{2+}$ concentrations and adopt a multitude of conformations? It will be interesting to find out how the IQ motifs interact with the CaM molecule. In this study, we carried out classical molecular dynamic simulations of various Ca$^{2+}$/CaM and VGCC IQ motif complexes. We analyse the trajectory to understand the dynamics of EF-hand helices and the central helix of CaM. We also report the conformational landscape of CaM transforming from extended to compact conformations during complex formation.

Materials and methods

Molecular dynamics (MD) simulations were performed for apo CaM (Protein Data Bank ID: 1CFD), Ca$^{2+}$/CaM (PDB ID: 1CLL), Ca$^{2+}$/CaM (PDB ID: 1PRW), and Ca$^{2+}$/CaM-IQ motif complexes. The following structures of CaM and IQ motifs from VGCC complexes were used for MD simulations: CaV1.2 IQ (2BE6), CaV1.1 IQ (2VAY), CaV2.3 IQ (3BXL), CaV2.2 IQ (3DVJ), and CaV2.1 IQ (3DVM). All simulations were performed using Gromacs 2020.2 for 50 nanoseconds (ns) using CHARMM36 force field [35]. Simulation inputs were built using CHARMM-GUI web [36, 37]. Protein molecules were placed in a cubic box located 10 Å (10$^{-10}$ meter) from box boundaries. Solvent water was filled with tip3p model around the protein molecules [38]. Four Ca$^{2+}$ ions were present in CaM for all MD simulations except for apo CaM. The simulation time was selected based on previous literature [39] and observing the RMSD profile. As shown in Fig 2, RMSD stabilizes after around 45 sec and no significant changes occur after that. While longer MD simulations have been reported [40, 41], we observed that the dynamic behaviour of CaM occurred within 50 ns. Therefore, to optimize the computing, we limited the simulation to 50 ns for all complexes. Protein molecules were neutralized with 0.15M NaCl. Simulations were performed with periodic boundary conditions. The energy minimization steps comprising gradual reduction of side chain and backbone restraints were carried out for 250 picoseconds (ps). Water equilibration around the protein molecule was performed under NVT for 125 ps followed by 125 ps NPT ensembles at 303 K. The production run was performed at 303 K in the NPT ensemble for 50 ns. The time step was 2 femtosecond (fs) and the trajectory was saved every 10 ps. Temperature was maintained.
Results

Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM adopts either extended or compact form in the solution. In all known Ca\textsuperscript{2+}-CaM/VGCC IQ complexes, CaM is found in compact conformation (Fig 1). However, in all these compact CaM structures relative position of the two lobes varies. CaM central helix is observed to bend to varying degrees in the reported CaM/VGCC IQ complexes placing the two lobes in different positions. C-lobes rotate between 140–150\degree to adopt compact form in various Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/VGCC IQ complexes. Least rotation occurs (133.85\degree) in Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM-IQCav1.1 complex.

![Fig 1. Comparison of the compact and the extended conformations of CaM.](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0258112.g001)
structure (2VAY) (Fig 1 and Table 1). Whereas in apo and extended Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM, the two lobes are in *trans* conformations, but in all compact CaM, lobes are in *cis* conformation because of the bending of central helix (Fig 1).

### Dynamic behaviour of Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM-IQ complexes

To assess the dynamic behaviour of the complexes, the time dependent RMSD of all protein atoms was calculated using original complexes as reference. The apo CaM (without Ca\textsuperscript{2+}) showed RMSD between 0.5–1.0 nm for up to 45 ns of simulation and thereafter it becomes constant at ~0.6 nm (Fig 2A). The higher RMSD is mainly due to the central linker (Fig 2A). The N- and C-lobes exhibit relatively low RMSD (~0.3 nm). The extended Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM (1CLL) exhibited the highest RMSD value (Fig 2B). RMSD increases close to 1.0 nm at the beginning up to 10 ns. Thereafter, RMSD decreases slowly and stabilizes at ~ 0.5 nm for rest of the simulation period. The increase followed by the decrease in RMSD of the extended Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM indicates cracking or a local unfolding of the molecule \[42\]. As discussed below, it is probably due to the unfolding of the linker fragment \[43\]. The free-Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM (1PRW) can also adopt the compact conformation \[44\]. The RMSD of the free compact CaM is slightly lower (0.2–0.8 nm) than observed for the extended CaM conformation (Fig 2C). Thus, free CaM (apo as well Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM) are highly flexible in solution.

The RMSD curves of all analysed Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM-IQ complexes are unique (Fig 2D–2H). In contrast to the apo and free Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM, most of the Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM-IQ complexes are very stable (RMSD 0.2–0.3 nm) in solution. Thus, RMSD analysis corroborates earlier finding that Ca\textsuperscript{2+} and IQ motifs stabilize the CaM in solution \[45–47\]. The RMSDs of N- and C-lobes of Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM-IQ complexes are between 0.1–0.2 nm; and the central helix RMSDs are 0.2–0.35 nm (Fig 2D–2H). In the Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM-IQ complexes, the central helix is involved in IQ motif binding and therefore very less flexible in solution compared to free CaM. Curiously, CaM/Cav1.1IQ (2VAY) RMSD curve is slightly different (Fig 2D). Its RMSD increases until 30 ns and then remains constant at 0.4 nm. However, its N-, C-lobes, and linker exhibit similar RMSD (~0.2–0.25 nm) as observed for other Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM-IQ complexes. Biochemical studies suggest that CaM interacts with the “pre-IQ” regions of the Cav1.1 IQ motif \[48\]. Histidine 1532 of IQ motif will increase the flexibility of a loop of CaM resulting in fewer stabilizing interactions. Three out of the four unique residues in Cav1.1 IQ motif do not directly interact with CaM \[49\]. Thus, the unique interaction behaviour of Cav1.1 IQ motif creates a flexible region in CaM resulting in higher RMSD.

### Dynamic behaviour of calcium binding loops

The dynamic behaviour at residue level was estimated by RMSF calculations. RMSF represents the positions of the residues across the simulation trajectory. In apo and extended CaM, the acidic loop I (D20-T28) is flexible in solution (RMSF ~0.45 nm). In contrast, restricted
Fig 2. Root-mean-square deviation (RMSD) of CaM complexes. (A) apo CaM (1CFD), (B) extended Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM (1CLL), (C) compact Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM (1PRW), (D) Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM-Cav1.1IQ (2VAY), (E) Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM-Cav1.2IQ (2B66), (F) Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM-Cav2.1IQ (3DVM), (G) Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM-Cav2.2IQ (3DVJ), and (H) Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM-Cav2.3IQ (3BXL). The RMSD curve of the whole complex (black), N-lobe (red), C-lobe (green), and central helix (blue) are shown.

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0258112.g002
fluctuation is observed in compact CaM (RMSF ~0.25 nm). This loop is involved in Ca$^{2+}$ binding at EF1. In compact Ca$^{2+}$/CaM, K21 is trapped between helix $\alpha_2$ (EF1) and helix $\alpha_2$ (EF3) (Fig 4A) explaining the restricted fluctuation revealed by RMSF (Fig 3A). Also, K30 fluctuates (RMSF ~0.3–0.45 nm) in apo as well as in Ca$^{2+}$/CaM (both compact and extended) because it

![Root-mean-square fluctuations (RMSF) of CaM complexes.](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0258112.g003)
remains free in all CaM structures (Fig 3A and 3B). Loop1/2 (L39-E47) that connects EF1 and EF2 is on the surface in the extended Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM and is highly flexible (RMSF ~ 0.50 nm). However, in compact Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM structure, α\textsubscript{2} (EF2) and α\textsubscript{1} (EF3) position close to this loop restricting its flexibility (RMSF ~0.26 nm) (Figs 3A and 4B). In apo CaM, only α\textsubscript{2} (EF2) limits the movement of loop 1/2 (Fig 4B). The EF2 loop II (D56-P66) is less flexible (RMSD 0.2–0.3 nm) compared to EF1 loop in extended conformation. It exhibits even lower RMSD (0.15–
0.25 nm) in the compact form. However, this loop is highly flexible in apo CaM (Fig 3A) in agreement with previous studies [42, 50].

The linker residue P66-R74 constitute the α2 helix of EF2 as well as the linker helix. These residues are trapped between N-lobe helices as well as are in proximity to α1 (EF3). Thereby explaining the moderate flexibility (RMSF ~0.23 nm) of this region in all 3 forms of CaM (Fig 3A). Specifically, the residue F68 exhibits the lowest RMSF (~0.15 nm) in both conformation because it is buried deep in the N-lobe (Fig 3A). F68 is involved in the hydrophobic interactions with various targets [51, 52] and F68A mutation is lethal for the cells [53, 54]. Linker residues (K77-E87) are highly flexible (RMSF ~ 0.50 nm) in apo CaM and extended Ca^{2+}/CaM. CaM adopts various conformations arising from varying degrees of bending observed in this region (Fig 1 and Table 1). In apo CaM and extended Ca^{2+}/CaM, the linker residues form an elongated helix. In the compact form, however, region K77-E87 is sandwiched between the N- and C-lobes (Fig 4C). Furthermore, target peptides bind between the linker regions (P66-R74) and K77-E87 region (discussed below). Therefore, not surprisingly, the region K77-E87 is the least flexible (RMSF ~ 0.20 nm) in the compact form of CaM (Fig 3A).

The temperature factor analysis suggests that the N-lobe is more flexible than the C-lobe, especially in apo CaM (without Ca^{2+}) [42]. In the C-lobe, loop III (D93-Y99) is highly flexible in both the apo CaM and the extended Ca^{2+}/CaM (RMSF ~0.50 nm) (Fig 3A). This loop is involved in Ca^{2+} coordination at EF3. As in EF1 loop, equivalent lysine (K94) is present in the EF3 loop as well (Fig 4D). Residue K94 anchors the EF3 loop between helices α1 (EF3) and α2 (EF3) in the compact CaM [55, 56]. Therefore, in the compact CaM, this loop shows limited fluctuations in solutions (RMSF 0.20 nm) (Fig 3A). In apo CaM and the extended Ca^{2+}/CaM, the loop 3/4 (N111-E120) between EF3 and EF4 is highly flexible (RMSF ~0.57 nm) (Fig 3A). However, in the compact CaM, the flexibility in this region is reduced due to its closeness to α1 (EF1) (Fig 4E). In apo CaM and the extended Ca^{2+}/CaM, α1 (EF1) is too far to make any contacts (S1 Fig). Also, the loop IV (I130-E140) is flexible in the extended CaM (RMSF 0.5 nm) but is more rigid in the compact CaM (RMSF 0.22 nm). As with loop II, the loop IV (I130-E140) also shows the highest degree of flexibility in apo CaM (Fig 3A). Interestingly, whereas in extended Ca^{2+}/CaM and compact Ca^{2+}/CaM, loop IV adopts similar conformation but in apo CaM, loop IV is in totally different conformation (Fig 4F).

Overall, the compact CaM residues are less flexible than apo CaM and the extended CaM. Apo CaM and the extended CaM have similar flexible in region. Notable difference is observed in the region between L39-P66, which contains the EF2-hand motif (Fig 3A). EF-hand motif residues in apo CaM and the extended Ca^{2+}/CaM reveal RMSF ~0.35 nm, whereas in compact Ca^{2+}/CaM, RMSF is ~0.2 nm (Fig 3A). The loops involved in Ca^{2+} coordination in the four EF-hand motifs, exhibit different extent of flexibility (Table 2). Thus, the four EF-hands are non-identical and have therefore different degrees of affinities for Ca^{2+} which agrees to previous studies [18, 19, 21, 22]. Therefore, CaM can sense a broad range of Ca^{2+} concentration [18, 19, 21, 22]. Further, their flexibility decreases in following order: apo CaM > extended CaM.

| Loop I (D20-T28) | Apo CaM (nm) | Extended Ca^{2+}/CaM (nm) | compact Ca^{2+}/CaM (nm) |
|------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0.45             | 0.45         | 0.25                       |
| Loop II (D56-P66) | 0.53         | 0.25                       | 0.2                      |
| Loop III (D93-Y99) | 0.51         | 0.5                        | 0.2                      |
| Loop IV (I130-E140) | 0.67        | 0.55                       | 0.22                     |
| Loop 1/2 (L39-E47) | 0.3          | 0.5                        | 0.3                      |
| Loop 2/3 (K77-E87) | 0.4          | 0.5                        | 0.24                     |
| Loop 3/4 (N111-E120) | 0.6         | 0.6                        | 0.4                      |

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0258112.t002
Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM > compact Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM (Table 2). Thus, Ca\(^{2+}\) binding stabilizes the EF-hand motifs [42]. Comparison of flexibility of loops that connect the EF-hand motifs suggest that EF connecting loops are the least flexible in compact Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM (Table 2). It is also worth to note that many residues come close to each other by flexible motions of central helix [57]. Hence, the flexibility of individual residues varies during simulation. As discussed below, further reduction in flexibility is observed when compact Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM interacts with IQ peptides.

Dynamic behaviour of calcium binding loops of CaM-VGCC IQ complexes

CaM adopts compact conformation upon binding to the IQ motifs of VGCCs [33]. The flexible regions of extended Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM become rigid in CaM-IQ complexes. Overall, the residues show very low magnitudes of fluctuation (RMSF < 0.2 nm) (Fig 3B). Particularly, the EF motif residues exhibit very low RMSF (~0.1 nm) because of their involvement in IQ motif binding and Ca\(^{2+}\) coordination [58]. Most of the hydrophobic residues are involved in either target or intra-molecular interactions. The linker region R74-D80 reveals higher flexibility (RMSF ~0.35 nm). This region unwinds and bends to make CaM more compact for complex formation. Due to the complete unwinding of linker region, CaM can adopt a variety of conformations guided by targets [58]. The bound IQ peptides lock the two lobes in a specific conformations. Also, the negatively charged residues in Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM make strong electrostatic interactions with the positively charged IQ motif residues [59]. Consequently, the N- and C-lobes exhibit very low RMSF values. Taken together, the above analysis revealed that the flexibility of the Ca\(^{2+}\) binding loop and the central helix decreases from apo to compact Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM.

Principal component analysis (PCA) is a standard procedure to analyse the variable correlations from a MD trajectory. PCA can reveal the most important motions in a system. In brief, PCA technique is applied to systematically reduce the number of dimensions so that protein dynamic motions can be filtered from the largest to the smallest spatial scales [58]. We performed PCA to understand the motion of the different lobes of CaM, its linker region, and IQ motifs (S2 Fig). PCA analysis suggests that Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM IQ motif complexes are relatively stable and do not undergo significant movement. It seems that in the compact Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM IQ complex, the linker has undergone maximum bending. Further bending of the linker is not energetically favourable. However, the degree of bending depends on the target peptide as different orientations are observed in different CaM-IQ complexes [33]. The IQ peptides bind CaM in the most stable way. Only the terminal residue of CaM and IQ motifs exhibited slight movement (S2 Fig). Noticeable movement was observed in CaM/Cav1.1IQ (2VAY). The C-lobe showed highest degree of movement (in anti-clockwise manner) in respect to the N-lobe (Fig 5A). The linker residues (77–82) also showed slight movement.

As mentioned above, bending of the linker depends on the target and the orientation of the two lobes is locked by IQ peptides. Hence, in a particular Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM IQ complex, the position of the lobes is fixed in the most stable orientation, and further movement is restricted. Therefore, PCA analysis do not show any domain specific movement despite that the lobes orientation is different in various Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM IQ complexes. Whereas target free extended and compact CaM shows flexible lobes and linker region, the target bound Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM IQ motif complexes do not undergo any significant movement.

Structural rearrangements in CaM undergoing transition from extended to compact form

Proteins are highly dynamic in aqueous solution and can adopt multiple conformations required for functioning. CaM is a great example with the ability to assume multiple
PCA extracted trajectory was analysed to understand how CaM transitions to the compact form. The extended CaM (1CLL) undergoes a wide range of conformations in order to reach the compact form (Fig 5B). This starts with the unwinding of the central helix region. The central helix bends by ~84° and adopts a compact form. (C) Intermediate states of the N-lobes during structural transition of the linker region. The helix α1 (EF1) is seen 2 Å away from its initial position. (D) Similarly, region T29-P43 is observed in an intermediate position (orange) during the course of simulation. This fragment attains final stable position at the end of simulation (green). (E) C-lobe is similar to the original structure except for the α2 helix region of EF4 (inset).

Fig 5. Principal component study of CaM. (A) Among various Ca²⁺/CaM-IQ motif complexes, only the Ca²⁺/CaM-Cav1.1IQ structure (2VAY) reveals slight movements in the C-lobe and the IQ peptide. Modevector (red arrow) represent the flexible region. (B) Extended Ca²⁺/CaM shows significant conformational change in the central helix region. The central helix bends by ~84° and adopts a compact form. (C) Intermediate states of the N-lobes during structural transition of the linker region. The helix α1 (EF1) is seen 2 Å away from its initial position. (D) Similarly, region T29-P43 is observed in an intermediate position (orange) during the course of simulation. This fragment attains final stable position at the end of simulation (green). (E) C-lobe is similar to the original structure except for the α2 helix region of EF4 (inset).

conformations [60] (Fig 1). PCA extracted trajectory was analysed to understand how CaM transitions to the compact form. The extended CaM (1CLL) undergoes a wide range of conformations in order to reach the compact form (Fig 5B). This starts with the unwinding of the
Unwinding favours linker bending and that in turn allows the lobes to come closer resulting in the compact form (Fig 5B and S1 Movie). The whole structure transition occurs in a nanosecond [40]. Then, as seen in the S1 Movie and in Fig 5B, both lobes move from their initial positions to adopt the compact form. The central helix bends by ~84˚ (Fig 5B). We used the coordinates of the final simulated structure and performed DALI server [61] search to find structural homologs. However, no matches to CaM conformations deposited in Protein Data Bank were obtained. The most similar PDB deposited structure was 6OS4 (Z score 12.9 and RMSD 2.7 Å) which is CaM complexed with prenyl moiety of GTPase KRAS4b involved several signal transduction pathways [62]. Thus, the simulation reveals that CaM adopts a unique conformation.

In the N-lobe, the gap between α1 (EF1) helix and the central helix increases (Fig 5C). This likely represents an intermediate state. During the transitioning from the extended to the compact form, the EF-hand helices also transiently rearrange to facilitate the linker bending [39, 40]. After CaM has adopted the compact form, EF-hand helices regain their original positions. It seems that in the current simulated structure, the central linker is bent to the compact form, however, helix α1 (EF1) is yet to reach its final state. Similarly, the region T29-P43 is observed in the transient intermediate state during simulation but attains the final state at the end of the simulation period (Fig 5D). However, no significant structural differences were observed in the C-lobe. Only the terminal residues (140–147) were slightly shifted (Fig 5E). It seems that the C-lobe has already undergone the structural arrangement required for the formation of the compact structure. As discussed earlier, the N- and C-lobes are not identical as they differ in Ca²⁺ affinities and other biophysical properties [63, 64]. Therefore, their folding pathways are not coherent, probably structural rearrangement in C-lobe finishes earlier than N-lobe.

We also analysed PCA extracted trajectory of compact Ca²⁺/CaM (1PRW). Both the N- and C-lobes move towards each other resulting in a more compact form. However, no apparent differences were observed within the lobes. The EF-hand motifs did not show any movement. Only the N-terminal α1 helix shifted slightly (Fig 6A). However, the linker region deviated significantly from its original positions causing the C-lobe to reorient into a new position (Fig 6B). No conformational changes occurred in the linker and the bending of the linker was similar to the one observed in the crystal structure. However, the N- and C-lobes moved slightly further apart due to the new position of the C-lobe (Fig 6B). Thus, the compact CaM fluctuates in solution and an intermediate state was captured in this study. The C-lobe does not undergo any significant conformational change. Dal server search suggested that the closest structural homologue to the simulated structure is CaM complexed with inhibitor sphingosylphosphorylcholine (PDB ID: 3IF7, Z score 20.1 and RMSD 2.0). Sphingolipid binds in the IQ motif binding site and CaM is in the compact form (S3 Fig).

Conformational landscape during complex formation

To understand the interaction mechanism between, we prepared an artificial system between extended Ca²⁺/CaM (1CLL) and the IQ motifs (3DVM CaV2.1IQ). The IQ motifs were placed randomly near the residue D80 (CaM) and 15Å (10⁻¹⁰ meter) away from the linker without making any contacts with CaM (Fig 6C). MD simulation was carried out with similar biophysical conditions as before. The CaV2.1IQ motif travels towards CaM, finds its binding site, and binds CaM in antiparallel orientation at the same site as in the crystal structure (Fig 6C). Thus, the target peptide can locate its binding site on CaM in the solution. After peptide binding, the central linker starts to bend pivoted at T79 (Fig 6D). Bending of the linker brings the C-lobe close to the peptide and, eventually, the compact form CaM forms. We could see that the linker was starting to bend in our final simulated structure, though it had not yet reached the full
extension of the bend (Fig 6D). This finding indicates that during complex formation, first the IQ peptide binds to CaM followed by peptide induced bending of the central helix. It is the target peptide that induces the various degrees of bending of the central helix.

**Discussion**

Many enzymes and proteins undergo conformational changes for their activity and adopt multiple conformations. The protein folding, ligand interaction, and protein-protein interactions are very intricate processes that cannot be fully explained by experimental observations. However, the advent of supercomputers and improved MD simulation algorithms enable the visualization of putative folding pathways [65]. MD simulations provide detailed atomic level description of protein dynamics using empirical force fields [66]. MD simulations are uniquely suited for examining the dynamics of protein–protein complexes with atomistic detail. While X-ray crystallography and solution nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy structures do not address the dynamic interactions between the protein complexes, the fluctuations and conformational changes within biological macromolecules can be studied using MD simulations.
simulations. Atomic-level MD simulations allow to characterize the dynamics of protein-protein complexes computationally.

The interaction of Ca\(^{2+}\) ion with CaM causes significant structural rearrangements. On the other hand, Ca\(^{2+}\) ions removal from CaM causes reduced stability \([45, 67, 68]\). How target protein reduces the binding of Ca\(^{2+}\) ions? In apo CaM, EF-hand loop residues are very flexible and can therefore easily coordinate free Ca\(^{2+}\) ions. When the target protein binds the CaM, it restricts the flexibility of the EF-hand loop residues thereby reduces the affinity for Ca\(^{2+}\) ions. In this work, we show that the flexibility of EF-hand residues directly affects the binding of Ca\(^{2+}\) ions. The more flexible EF-hand residue binds Ca\(^{2+}\) more strongly (Fig 3). The target proteins regulate the CaM affinity for Ca\(^{2+}\) ions and can alter the CaM conformations \([69]\). Therefore, CaM can sense a broad range of Ca\(^{2+}\) concentrations depending on the target it binds. For instance, in the CaM-CaMBD2-b complex, Ca\(^{2+}\) binds more stably in N-lobe compared to C-lobe \([69]\).

Furthermore, the binding of target brings the lobes from trans to cis orientation. In cis conformation, linker is more stable, and the two lobes have fixed positions. This is corroborated by lower RMSD values of compact Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM and Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM/IQ motif complexes (Fig 2). However, the relative orientation of N- and C-lobes also depends on ionic distribution in the aqueous solution. At lower ionic strength, nonspecific ions accumulate near linker. The changes in ion concentration near the protein surface allows N- and C-lobes to sample multiple orientations. The CaM protein is stable at physiological ionic strength. However, decrease in ionic strength or pH favours the compact form \([40]\).

Cooperative conformational changes are seen in many enzymatic reactions. To understand how CaM forms a complex with its target, structural and dynamic information is required at single molecule level. Single-molecule methods (e.g. Single-molecule fluorescence resonance energy transfer (smFRET) and single-molecule force spectroscopy) offer a possibility to track the time dependent conformations of proteins \([70, 71]\). MD simulation can be also used to study the association and dissociation of two proteins during a single trajectory. Our MD simulations successfully reproduced the Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM transition pathway from extended to compact form. Residue E31 is a charged polar amino acid that regulates the CaM transition from extended to compact form. Its ionization state is highly sensitive to pH of the environment. Wild type CaM undergoes transition from extended to compact form in microseconds. However, amino acid mutation E31A results in extended to compact transition within tens of nanoseconds \([40]\). The VGCC IQ motifs bind CaM in parallel and antiparallel orientation. In the parallel orientation, the N-lobe and the C-lobe interact with the N-terminal and C-terminal of IQ motifs, respectively, whereas in the antiparallel binding vice versa interactions occur. In our simulation, the IQ motif binds CaM in the antiparallel orientation (Fig 6C). Antiparallel binding is reported for CaV2.1IQ motif (aa 1961–1982) in the crystal structure \([72]\). Interestingly, a slightly shorter CaV2.1IQ motif (1960–1976) binds Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM in the parallel orientation \([73]\). The CaV1.2IQ motif also interacts with Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM in parallel orientation \([74, 75]\). However, most of the single helix peptides bind Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM in antiparallel orientation \([76]\). In parallel orientation, majority of the residues involved in CDF (calcium-dependent facilitation) do not contact the Ca\(^{2+}\)/C-lobe, which is responsible for CDF \([75, 77]\). Instead, they interact with Ca\(^{2+}\)/N-lobe, which is responsible for CDI (calcium-dependent inactivation) \([75, 77]\). Therefore, the antiparallel orientation of CaV1.2IQ motif complies with the functional data.

**Conclusion**

In this study, we report the dynamic states of Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM in extended and compact forms. EF-hand helices are highly dynamic in solution in both the apo CaM and the extended Ca\(^{2+}\)/CaM.
In compact Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM, many of these helices become stabilized due to structural rearrangements. However, Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM and VGCC IQ motif complexes are highly stable in solution with RMSD less than 0.15 nm. We also report the process of the formation of the complex between the Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM and the IQ motif. Cav2.1 IQ motif was placed far from CaM in solution, however, it moved towards CaM and forms complex with it. We captured the conformational landscape of CaM undergoing extended to compact form upon binding the IQ peptide.

**Supporting information**

S1 Fig. In apo CaM and extended Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM, the loop 3/4 (N111-E120) between EF3 and EF4 is highly flexible (RMSF ~0.57 nm) (Fig 3A). In apo CaM and extended Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM, α1 (EF1) is positioned too far to make any contacts.

(TIF)

S2 Fig. The complexes (A) Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM-Cav1.2IQ, (B) Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM-Cav2.1IQ, (C) Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM-Cav2.2IQ, and (D) Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM-Cav2.3IQ do not show significant movement in solution. Only the central helix reveals a slight shift.

(TIF)

S3 Fig. The final simulated compact CaM form reveals structural homology with CaM bound to inhibitor sphingosylphosphorylcholine (SPU). The inhibitor binds to CaM at the conventional IQ motif binding site.

(TIF)

S1 Movie. Dominant motion of the extended Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM during transitioning from extended to compact form.

(AVI)

S2 Movie. Dominant motion of the artificial complex between Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/CaM and IQ peptide. The peptide moves towards CaM and its lobes start to come closer to one another.

(AVI)

**Acknowledgments**

Authors would like to thank Sun Jialin (Harvard Medical School, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute) for proofreading the manuscript.

**Author Contributions**

**Conceptualization:** Veerendra Kumar.

**Data curation:** Veerendra Kumar.

**Formal analysis:** Veerendra Kumar.

**Funding acquisition:** Veerendra Kumar.

**Investigation:** Shivani Yaduvanshi.

**Validation:** Veerendra Kumar.

**Writing – original draft:** Shivani Yaduvanshi, Rya Ero, Veerendra Kumar.

**Writing – review & editing:** Shivani Yaduvanshi, Rya Ero, Veerendra Kumar.
References

1. Fok AK, Aihara MS, Ishida M, Allen RD. Calmodulin localization and its effects on endocytic and phago-cytic membrane trafficking in Paramecium multimicronucleatum. Journal of Eukaryotic Microbiology. 2008. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1550-7408.2008.00347.x PMID: 19120793

2. Geiser JR, van Tuinen D, Brockerhoff SE, Neff MM, Davis TN. Can calmodulin function without binding calcium? Cell. 1991. https://doi.org/10.1016/0092-8674(91)90547-c PMID: 2044154

3. Murtaugh TJ, Rowe PM, Vincent PL, Wright LS, Siegel FL. Posttranslational Modification of Calmodulin. Methods in Enzymology. 1983. https://doi.org/10.1016/s0076-6879(83)02017-0 PMID: 6685812

4. Yap KL, Ames JB, Swindells MB, Ikura M. Diversity of conformational states and changes within the EF-hand protein superfamily. Proteins: Structure, Function and Genetics. 1999. https://doi.org/10.1002/ (sici)1097-0134(19991115)37:3<499::aid-prot17>3.0.co;2-y PMID: 10591109

5. Chou JJ, Li S, Klee CB, Bax A. Solution structure of Ca2+-calmodulin reveals flexible hand-like properties of its domains. Nature Structural Biology. 2001. https://doi.org/10.1038/nsha1101-990 PMID: 11685248

6. Yuan T, Walsh MP, Sutherland C, Fabian H, Vogel HJ. Calcium-dependent and -independent interactions of the calmodulin-binding domain of cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase with calmodulin. Biochemistry. 1999. https://doi.org/10.1021/bi9816453 PMID: 9931009

7. Wilson MA, Brunger AT. The 1.0 Å crystal structure of Ca2+-bound calmodulin: An analysis of disorder and implications for functionality relevant plasticity. Journal of Molecular Biology. 2000. https://doi.org/10.1006/jmbi.2000.4029 PMID: 10966818

8. Babu YS, Sack JS, Greenhough TJ, Bugg CE, Means AR, Cook WJ. Three-dimensional structure of calmodulin. Nature. 1985. https://doi.org/10.1038/315037a0 PMID: 3990807

9. Babu YS, Bugg CE, Cook WJ. Structure of calmodulin refined at 2.2 Å resolution. Journal of Molecular Biology. 1988. https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-2836(88)90608-0 PMID: 3145979

10. Halling DB, Liebeskind BJ, Hall AW, Aldrich RW. Conserved properties of individual Ca2+-binding sites in calmodulin. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. 2016; 113: E1216–E1225. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1603851113 PMID: 26884197

11. Forsén S, Linse S, Drakenberg T, Kördel J, Akke M, Sellers P, et al. Ca2+ binding in proteins of the calmodulin superfamily: cooperativity, electrostatic contributions and molecular mechanisms. Ciba Foundation Symposium. 1991; 161: 222–236. https://doi.org/10.1002/9780470514146.ch14 PMID: 1667634

12. Linse S, Forsén S. Determinants that govern high-affinity calcium binding. Advances in Second Messenger and Phosphoprotein Research. 1995; 30: 89–151. https://doi.org/10.1016/s1040-7952(05)80005-9 PMID: 7695999

13. Catterall WA. Voltage-gated calcium channels. Cold Spring Harbor Perspectives in Biology. 2011. https://doi.org/10.1101/cshperspect.a003947 PMID: 21746798

14. Spera S, Ikura M, Bax A. Measurement of the exchange rates of rapidly exchanging amide protons: Application to the study of calmodulin and its complex with a myosin light chain kinase fragment. Journal of Biomolecular Nmr. 1991. https://doi.org/10.1007/BF01877227 PMID: 1668721

15. Barbato G, Ikura M, Kay LE, Bax A, Pastor RW. Backbone Dynamics of Calmodulin Studied by 15N Relaxation Using Inverse Detected Two-Dimensional NMR Spectroscopy: The Central Helix Is Flexible. Biochemistry. 1992. https://doi.org/10.1021/bi00138a005 PMID: 1606151

16. Kumar V, Chichili VPR, Tang X, Sivaraman J. A Novel Trans Conformation of Ligand-Free Calmodulin. PLoS ONE. 2013; 8. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0054834 PMID: 23832892

17. Kumar V, Chichili VPR, Zhong L, Tang X, Velazquez-Campoy A, Sheu FS, et al. Structural basis for the interaction of unstructured neuron specific substrates neuromodulin and neurogranin with calmodulin. Scientific Reports. 2013. https://doi.org/10.1038/srep01392 PMID: 23462742

18. Mesirca P, Torrente AG, Mangoni ME. Functional role of voltage gated Ca2+ channels in heart automatically. Frontiers in Physiology. 2015. https://doi.org/10.3389/fphys.2015.00019 PMID: 25698974

19. Das A, Pushparaj C, Bahni N, Sorolla A, Herreros J, Pamplona R, et al. Functional expression of voltage-gated calcium channels in human melanoma. Pigment Cell and Melanoma Research. 2012. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1755-148X.2012.00978.x PMID: 22260517

20. Perez-Reyes E. Molecular physiology of low-voltage-activated T-type calcium channels. Physiological Reviews. 2003. https://doi.org/10.1152/physrev.00018.2002 PMID: 12506128

21. Zamponi GW. Calmodulin lobotomized: Novel insights into calcium regulation of voltage-gated calcium channels. Neuron. 2003. https://doi.org/10.1016/s0896-6273(03)00564-6 PMID: 12971887

22. Perez-Reyes E, Cribs LL, Daud A, Laerda AE, Barclays J, Williamson MP, et al. Molecular characterization of a neuronal low-voltage-activated T-type calcium channel. Nature. 1998. https://doi.org/10.1038/36110 PMID: 9495342
23. Zamponi GW. Targeting voltage-gated calcium channels in neurological and psychiatric diseases. Nature Reviews Drug Discovery. 2016. https://doi.org/10.1038/nrd.2015.5 PMID: 26542451

24. Garcia-Caballer A, Gadotti VM, Sternkowsk P, Weiss N, Souza IA, Hodgkinson V, et al. The Deubiquitinating Enzyme USP5 Modulates Neuropathic and Inflammatory Pain by Enhancing Ca v3.2 Channel Activity. Neuron. 2014. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuron.2014.07.036 PMID: 25189210

25. Lory P, Mezghrani A. Calcium channelopathies in inherited neurological disorders: Relevance to drug screening for acquired channel disorders. iDrugs. 2010. PMID: 20582871

26. Catterall WA. Structure and Regulation of Voltage-Gated Ca2+ Channels. Annual Review of Cell and Developmental Biology. 2000. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.cellbio.16.1.521 PMID: 11031246

27. Lee N, Jeong S, Kim KC, Kim JA, Park JY, Kang HW, et al. Ca2+ regulation of Cav3.3 T-type Ca2+ channel is mediated by calmodulin. Molecular Pharmacology. 2017. https://doi.org/10.1124/mol.117.108530 PMID: 28696213

28. Chemin J, Taiaikina V, Monteil A, Piazza M, Guan W, Stephens RF, et al. Calmodulin regulates Cav3 T-type channels at their gating brake. Journal of Biological Chemistry. 2017. https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M117.807925 PMID: 28972185

29. Bähler M, Rhoads A. Calmodulin signaling via the IQ motif. FEBS Letters. No longer published by Elsevier; 2002. pp. 107–113. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0014-5793(01)03239-2

30. Rhoads AR, Friedberg F. Sequence motifs for calmodulin recognition. The FASEB Journal. 1997; 11: 331–340. https://doi.org/10.1096/fasebj.11.5.9141498 PMID: 9141499

31. Liu Z, Vogel Hans J. Structural basis for the regulation of L-type voltage-gated calcium channels: interactions between the N-terminal cytoplasmic domain and Ca2+-calmodulin. Frontiers in Molecular Neuroscience. 2012; 0: 38. https://doi.org/10.3389/FNMOL.2012.00038 PMID: 22518098

32. Peterson BZ, DeMaria CD, Yue DT. Calmodulin is the Ca2+ sensor for Ca2+-dependent inactivation of L-type calcium channels. Neuron. 1999; 22: 549–558. https://doi.org/10.1016/s0896-6273(99)80709-6 PMID: 10197534

33. van Petegem F, Chatelain FC, Minor DL. Insights into voltage-gated calcium channel regulation from the structure of the CaV1.2 IQ domain-Ca2+/calmodulin complex. Nature Structural and Molecular Biology. 2005; 12: 1108–1115. https://doi.org/10.1038/nsmb1027 PMID: 16299511

34. Zühlke RD, Pittt GS, Deisseroth K, Tsien RW, Reuter H. Calmodulin supports both inactivation and facilitation of L-type calcium channels. Neuron. 2009; 62: 425–439. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuron.2009.02.003 PMID: 19330370

35. Lee J, Cheng X, Swails JM, Yeom MS, Eastman PK, Lemkul JA, et al. CHARMM-GUI Input Generator for NAMD, GROMACS, AMBER, OpenMM, and CHARMM/OpenMM Simulations Using the CHARMM36 Additive Force Field. Journal of Chemical Theory and Computation. 2016; 12: 405–413. https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jctc.5b00935 PMID: 26631602

36. Jo S, Kim T, Iyer VG, Im W. CHARMM-GUI: A web-based graphical user interface for CHARMM. Journal of Computational Chemistry. 2008. https://doi.org/10.1002/jcc.20945 PMID: 18351591

37. Mark P, Nilsson L. Structure and Dynamics of the TIP3P, SPC, and SPC/E Water Models at 298 K. Journal of Physical Chemistry A. 2001; 105: 9954–9960. https://doi.org/10.1021/JP010302W

38. Kawasaki H, Soma N, Kretsinger RH. Molecular Dynamics Study of the Changes in Conformation of Calmodulin with Calcium Binding and/or Target Recognition. Scientific Reports. 2019; 9: 1–10. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-37186-2 PMID: 30626917

39. Aykut AO, Atilgan AR, Atilgan C. Designing Molecular Dynamics Simulations to Shift Populations of the Conformational States of Calmodulin, Livesay DR, editor. PLoS Computational Biology. 2013; 9: 1–100. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003366

40. Lai M, Brun D, Edelstein SJ, le Noère N. Modulation of Calmodulin Lobes by Different Targets: An Allosteric Model with Hemicconcetrted Conformational Transitions. PLoS Computational Biology. 2015. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1004063 PMID: 25611683

41. Tripathi S, Portman JJ. Inherent flexibility determines the transition mechanisms of the EF-hands of calmodulin. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. 2009; 106: 2104–2109. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0806872106 PMID: 19190183

42. Shepherd CM, Vogel HJ. A molecular dynamics study of Ca2+-calmodulin: Evidence of interdomain coupling and structural collapse on the nanosecond timescale. Biophysical Journal. 2004; 87: 780–791. https://doi.org/10.1529/biophysj.103.033266 PMID: 15298887

43. Fallon JL, Quirocho FA. A closed compact structure of native Ca2+-calmodulin. Structure. 2003; 11: 1303–1307. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0969-2126(03)00076-6 PMID: 14927397
45. Komeiji Y, Ueno Y, Ueyabas i M. Molecular dynamics simulation s revealed Ca2+-depen- 
tional change of Calmodulin. FEBS Letters. 2002; 521: 133–139. https://doi.org/10.1016/s0014-5793 (02)02853-3 PMID: 12607741
46. Panjkovich A, Svergun DI. Decipheri ng conformatio nal transitio ns of proteins by small angle X-ray scat- 
tering and normal mode analysis. Physical Chemis try Chemical Physics. 2016; 18: 5707–5719. https:// 
doi.org/10.1039/c5cp04540a PMID: 26611321
47. Hye YP, Kim SA, Korfach J, Rhoades E, Kwok LW, Zipfel WR, et al. Conformational changes of calmod- 
ulin upon Ca2+ binding studied with a microfluidic mixer. Procee dings of the National Academy of Sci- 
ences of the United States of America. 2008; 105: 542–547. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0710810105 
PMID: 18178620
48. Ohrtman J, Ritter B, Polster A, Beam KG, Papadopoulos S. Sequence differences in the IQ motifs 
of CaV1.1 and Ca V1.2 strongly impact calmodulin binding and calcium-dependent inactivation. Journal of 
Biological Chemistry. 2008; 283: 29301–29305. https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M805152200 PMID: 
18718913
49. HALLING DB, GEORGIOU DK, BLACK DJ, YANG G, FAILON JL, QUIOCHO FA, et al. Determinants of 
CaV1 channels that regulate the Ca2+ sensitivity of bound calmodulin. Journal of Biological Chemistry. 
2008; 283: 29301–29305. https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M805152200 PMID: 18718913
50. Likić VA, STREHIER EE, GOOLEY PR. Dynamics of Ca2+-saturated calmodulin D129N mutant studied by 
multiple molecular dynamics simulations. Protein Science. 2009; 12: 2215–2229. https://doi.org/10.1110/ps.0377803 PMID: 14500879
51. HOFMANN T ENG S, LILJA H, DRAKEN BERG T, VO GEL HJ, FORSÉN S. Site-site interacti ons in EF-
hand calcium-binding proteins: Laser-excited europium luminescence studies of 9-kDa calbindin, the 
pig intestinal calcium-binding protein. European Journal of Biochemistry. 1988; 172: 307–313. https:// 
doi.org/10.1111/j.1432-1033.1988.tb13888.x PMID: 3349999
52. Kretsinger RH, NOCKOLDS CE, COFFEE CJ, BRADSHAW RA. The structure of a calcium-binding protein from 
carp muscle. Cold Spring Harbor symposia on quantitat ive biology. 1972; 36: 217–220. https://doi. 
org/10.1101/sqb.1972.036.01.029 PMID: 4508136
53. Yamada Y, Matsu o T, IWAMOTO H, YAGI N. A compact intermediate state of calmodulin in the process of 
target binding. Biochemistry. 2012. https://doi.org/10.1021/bi3002192 PMID: 22548417
54. Anthis NJ, Doucleff M, Marius Clore GM. Transient, sparsely populated compact states of apo and cal-
caium-loaded calmodulin probed by paramagnetic relaxation enhancement: Interplay of conformational 
selection and induced fit. Journal of the American Chemical Society. 2011. https://doi.org/10.1021/ 
ja2082813 PMID: 21999413
55. Beccia MR, Sauge-Merle S, Lemaire D, BREMOND N, PARDOUX R, Blangy S, et al. Thermodynamics of 
Calcium binding to the Calmodulin N-terminal domain to evaluate site-specific affinity constants and 
cooperativity. Journal of Biological Inorganic Chemistry. 2015; 20: 905–919. https://doi.org/10.1007/ 
s00775-015-1275-1 PMID: 26070361
56. Moncrief ND, Kre tsginger RH, Goodman M. Evolution of EF-hand calcium-modulated proteins. I. Rela-
tionships based on amino acid sequences. Journal of Molecular Evolution. 1990; 30: 522–562. https:// 
doi.org/10.1007/BF02101108 PMID: 2115931
57. LI H, WELLS SA, Jimenez-Roldan JE, RÖMER RA, Zhao Y, SADLER PJ, et al. Protein flexibility is key to cis-
platin crosslinking in calmodulin. Protein Science. 2012; 21: 1269–1279. https://doi.org/10.1002/pro. 
2111 PMID: 22736664
58. David CC, Jacobs DJ. Principal component analysis: A method for determining the essential dynamics 
of proteins. Methods in Molecular Biology. 2014; 1084: 193–226. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-62703- 
658-0_11 PMID: 2406923
59. Vetter S, Leclerc C. Novel aspects of calmodulin target recognition and activation. European Journal of 
Biochemistry. 2003;270. https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1432-1033.2003.03385.x PMID: 12605678
60. Anthis N, Clore G. The Length of the Calmo dulin Linker Determines the Extent of Transien t Interdoma in 
Association and Target Affinity. Journal of American Chem ical Soceity. 2013; 135. https://d oi.org/10.1021/ja4051422 PMID: 23782151
61. Holm L, LAASKO LM. Dali server update. Nucleic acids research. 2016. https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/ 
gkw357 PMID: 27131377
62. Grant BMM, Enomoto M, Back SI, Lee KY, Gebregiorgis T, Ishiyama N, et al. Calmodulin disrupts 
plasma membrane localization of farnesylated KRAS4b by sequestering its lipid moiety. Science Signali-
g. 2020; 13. https://doi.org/10.1126/scisigna1.aaaz0344 PMID: 32234958
63. Forest A, Swulius MT, Tse JKY, Bradshaw JM, Gaertner T, Waxham MN. Role of the N- and C-lobes of 
calmodulin in the activation of Ca 2+/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II. Biochemistry. 2008; 47: 
10587–10599. https://doi.org/10.1021/bi8007033 PMID: 18795794
64. Gifford JL, Jamshidiha M, Mo J, Ishida H, Vogel HJ. Comparing the Calcium Binding Abilities of Two Soybean Calmodulins: Towards Understanding the Divergent Nature of Plant Calmodulins W. [cited 11 Mar 2021]. https://doi.org/10.1105/tpc.113.113183 PMID: 24254124

65. Shaw DE, Maragakis P, Lindorff-Larsen K, Piana S, Dror RO, Eastwood MP, et al. Atomic-level characterization of the structural dynamics of proteins. Science. 2010; 330: 341–346. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1187409 PMID: 20927578

66. Karplus M, McCammon JA. Molecular dynamics simulations of biomolecules. Nature Structural Biology. Nature Publishing Group; 2002. pp. 646–652. https://doi.org/10.1038/nsb0902-646 PMID: 12198485

67. Ishida H, Nakashima K, Kumaki Y, Nakata M, Hikichi K. The solution structure of apocalmodulin from Saccharomyces cerevisiae implies a mechanism for its unique Ca2+ binding property. Biochemistry. 2002; 41. https://doi.org/10.1021/bi020330r PMID: 12501182

68. Project E, Friedman R, Nachlief E, Gutman M. A molecular dynamics study of the effect of Ca2+ removal on calmodulin structure. Biophysical Journal. 2006; 90. https://doi.org/10.1529/biophysj.105.077792 PMID: 16533845

69. Zhang M, Abrams C, Wang L, Gizzi A, He L, Lin R, et al. Structural basis for calmodulin as a dynamic calcium sensor. Structure. 2012; 20: 911–923. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.str.2012.03.019 PMID: 22579256

70. Stigler J, Ziegler F, Gieseke A, Gebhardt JCM, Rief M. The complex folding network of single calmodulin molecules. Science. 2011. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1207598 PMID: 22034433

71. Mazal H, Haran G. Single-molecule FRET methods to study the dynamics of proteins at work. Current Opinion in Biomedical Engineering. Elsevier B.V.; 2019. pp. 8–17. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cobme.2019.08.007 PMID: 31989063

72. Kim EY, Rumpf CH, Fujiwara Y, Cooley ES, van Petegem F, Minor DL. Structures of CaV2 Ca2+/CaM-IQ Domain Complexes Reveal Binding Modes that Underlie Calcium-Dependent Inactivation and Facilitation. Structure. 2008; 16: 1455–1467. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.str.2008.07.010 PMID: 18940602

73. Mori MX, vander Kooi CW, Leahy DJ, Yue DT. Crystal Structure of the CaV2 IQ Domain in Complex with Ca2+/Calmodulin: High-Resolution Mechanistic Implications for Channel Regulation by Ca2+. Structure. 2008; 16: 607–620. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.str.2008.01.011 PMID: 18400181

74. Fallon JL, Halling DB, Hamilton SL, Quirocho FA. Structure of calmodulin bound to the hydrophobic IQ domain of the cardiac Ca(v)1.2 calcium channel. Structure (London, England: 1993). 2005; 13: 1881–1886. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.str.2005.09.021 PMID: 16338416

75. Lee A, Zhou H, Scheuer T, Catterall WA. Molecular determinants of Ca(2+)/calmodulin-dependent regulation of Ca(v)2.1 channels. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. 2003; 100: 16059–16064. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2237001010 PMID: 14673106

76. Hoeftlisch KP and Ikura M. Calmodulin in action: diversity in target recognition and activation mechanisms. Cell. 2002; 108: 739–742. https://doi.org/10.1016/s0092-8674(02)00682-7 PMID: 11955428

77. DeMaria CD, Soong TW, Ateiekhian BA, Alvania RS, Yue DT. Calmodulin bifurcates the local Ca2+ signal that modulates P/Q-type Ca2+ channels. Nature. 2001; 411: 484–489. https://doi.org/10.1038/35078091 PMID: 11373682