Data Article

X-ray diffraction and electron microscopy data for amyloid formation of Aβ40 and Aβ42

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A B S T R A C T

The data presented in this article are related to the research article entitled “One of the possible mechanisms of amyloid fibrils formation based on the sizes of primary and secondary folding nuclei of Aβ40 and Aβ42” (Dovidchenko et al., 2016) [1]. Aβ peptide is one of the most intensively studied amyloidogenic peptides. Despite the huge number of articles devoted to studying different fragments of Aβ peptide there are only several papers with correct kinetics data, also there are a few papers with X-ray data, especially for Aβ42. Our data present X-ray diffraction patterns both for Aβ40 and Aβ42 as well for Tris–HCl and wax. Moreover, our data provide kinetics of amyloid formation by recombinant Aβ40 and synthetic Aβ42 peptides by using electron microscopy.

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Specifications Table

| Subject area          | Biophysics            |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| More specific subject area | Amyloid formation |
| Type of data         | Table, Figures        |

DOI of original article: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jsb.2016.03.020

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http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jsb.2016.03.020

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How data was acquired
JEM-1200EX transmission electron microscope at the accelerating voltage of 80 kV, Microstar X-ray generator with HELIOX optics

Data format
Analyzed

Experimental factors
Samples were incubated to obtain amyloid fibrils

Temperature of incubation 37 °C, pH 7.5, Tris–HCl buffer, dissolution in DMSO

Experimental features

Data source location
Institute of Protein Research, Russian Academy of Sciences, 142290 Pushchino, Moscow Region, Russian Federation

Data accessibility
Data is within this article

Value of the data

- X-ray diffraction patterns of Tris–HCl and wax are important for scientists because they give additional diffraction patterns resulting in difficult interpretation of data.
- Aβ peptide exhibits polymorphism. The morphologies of our samples may be interesting and useful in terms of collecting different examples of polymorphic fibrils and comparing them with the ones obtained by the other researchers.
- These data are valuable to researchers interested in studying amyloid formation of proteins and peptides.

1. Data

X-ray diffraction patterns of synthetic and recombinant Aβ40 and synthetic Aβ42 fibrils (Figs. 1 and 2, Table 1).

Kinetics of amyloid formation by recombinant Aβ40 peptide and synthetic Aβ42 peptide by using electron microscopy (Tables 2 and 3).

2. Experimental design, materials and methods

2.1. X-ray diffraction analysis

The recombinant Aβ40 and Aβ42 and synthetic Aβ42 (Sigma) peptides in 50 mM Tris–HCl (pH 7.0–7.2) for X-ray diffraction analysis were prepared after 7–14-day incubation at 37 °C [1]. The samples

![Fig. 1. X-ray diffraction patterns of synthetic (Sigma) Aβ peptide fibrils: (A) Aβ40 peptide; (B) Aβ42 peptide; (C) 0.5 M Tris–HCl (pH 7.5).](image)
were concentrated down to 5–10 mg/ml at room temperature using an Eppendorf 5301 vacuum concentrator. Then the preparation droplets (~5 μL) were placed within the space (about 1.5 mm) between the ends of glass tubes (about 1 mm in diameter) coated with wax. After drying for 24 h, rod specimens 1–1.5 mm long and about 0.1 mm in diameter were obtained.

The fiber diffraction images were collected using a Microstar X-ray generator with HELIOX optics, equipped with a Platinun135 CCD detector (X8 Proteum system, Bruker AXS) at the Institute of Protein Research, RAS, Pushchino. Cu Kα radiation (λ = 1.54 Å) was used. The samples were positioned at the right angle to the X-ray beam using a 4-axis kappa goniometer. With such technique of specimen concentration, the Tris–HCl concentration can reach 1 M that interferes greatly with the interpretation of the obtained X-ray diffraction patterns. Fig. 1 shows the data evidencing that Aβ40 and Aβ42 synthetic peptides and Aβ40 recombinant peptide have reflections (see Table 1), coinciding with reflections from 0.5 M Tris–HCl (pH 7.5), in addition to the characteristic reflection for the cross-β structure (4.8 Å and 8.1 Å). One should take notice of the method of preparation of specimens for X-ray diffraction analysis and, if a sufficient amount of Aβ peptides is available, avoid its strong concentration as in our case. Researchers should also pay attention to the length of the preparation (dried rod) ready for X-ray analysis. It should be no less than 0.5 mm, otherwise X-ray diffraction can be obtained not of the preparation itself, but of wax (Fig. 2).

![Fig. 2. X-ray diffraction pattern of wax.](image)

### Table 1

Comparison of X-ray diffraction patterns of amyloid fibrils of synthetic (Sigma) preparations Aβ40 and Aβ42 (concentrated from 0.05 M Tris–HCl, pH 7.5) and the preparation of 0.5 M Tris–HCl (pH 7.5). Reflections characteristic of cross-β structure are given in bold type.

| Preparation          | Reflections (Å) of synthetic (Sigma) Aβ40 and Aβ42 peptides, recombinant Aβ40, and preparation of 0.5 M Tris–HCl (pH 7.5) |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                      | Åβ1–40 Sigma                                                                                                     | Åβ1–42 Sigma                                                                                         | Åβ1–40 recomb.                                                                 | 0.5 M Tris–HCl, pH 7.5                                                                 |
|                      | 3.4 3.7 3.9 4.1 4.4 4.9 5.7 6.3 8.1                                                                               | 3.2 3.4 3.7 3.9 4.1 4.4 4.8 5.7 6.3 8.1                                                            | 3.2 3.4 3.7 3.9 4.1 5.7                                                                 | 3.2 3.4 3.7 3.9 4.1 5.7 8.1                                                                      |
Table 2
Kinetics of amyloid formation by recombinant Aβ40 peptide (50 mM Tris–HCl, pH 7.5, 25 °C, 5% DMSO, C=0.2 mg/ml).

| Time  | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | EM image |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| «0»   | Amorphous aggregates of various sizes. Filamentous species are present, possibly they are protofibrils covered with aggregates.                                                                                                                                                 | ![EM image](200 nm) |
| 8 hours | Amorphous aggregates are still present. Small fibrils of several nm in length emerge. They are covered with aggregates and, possibly, oligomers (such fibrils are seen to have a rough surface). The fibril diameter is 12-20 nm.                                                      | ![EM image](200 nm) |
| 27 hours | Mature fibrils of several nm in length are present. They are mostly covered with oligomers. Amorphous aggregates can still be found. The sample consists of oligomers; fibrils both with rough and relatively even surface are present. The fibril diameter is 11-14 nm. | ![EM image](200 nm) |
| 55 hours | Large clusters of mature fibrils. Amorphous aggregates and oligomers are almost absent. The clusters consist of relatively short (0.5 μm in length) fibrils; long fibrils (μm) are positioned outside the clusters. The fibril diameter is 10-11 nm. | ![EM image](200 nm) |
2.2. Electron microscopy

All the samples were initially dissolved in DMSO (the final concentration 5%), then the buffer (50 mM Tris–HCl, pH 7.5) was added. Prior to staining, the concentration of the samples was adjusted to 0.1 mg/ml. A copper grid (400 mesh) coated with a formvar film (0.2%) was mounted on a sample drop (10 µl). After 10 min absorption, the grid with the preparation was negatively stained for 1.5–2.0 min with 1% (weight/volume) aqueous solution of uranyl acetate. The excess of the staining agent was removed with filter paper. The preparations were analyzed using a JEM-1200 EX transmission electron microscope at the accelerating voltage of 80 kV. Images were recorded on the Kodak electron image film (SO-163) at nominal magnification of 40,000–60,000.

### Table 3

Kinetics of amyloid formation by synthetic Aβ42 peptide (Sigma, 50 mM Tris–HCl, pH 7.5, 37 °C, 5% DMSO, C = 0.1 mg/ml).

| Time | Description | EM image |
|------|-------------|----------|
| «0»  | Amorphous aggregates of various sizes | ![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150) |
| 8 h  | Aggregates of fibrils. Fibrils of different length and diameter. Both short (50-100 nm) and long fibrils (several micrometers) can be seen. Thick fibrils have a diameter of about 8 nm and width up to 15 and more. Branching of the fibrils is seen. | ![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150) |
| 24 h | Aggregates of different lengths are collected into large clusters. | ![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150) |
Acknowledgments

This study was supported by the Russian Science Foundation (14-14-00536).

Appendix A. Supporting information

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2016.05.020.

Reference

[1] N.V. Dovidchenko, A.V. Glyakina, O.M. Selivanova, E.I. Grigorashvili, M. Suvorina, Yu., U.F. Dzhus, A.O. Mikhailina, N.G. Shiliaev, V.V. Marchenkov, A.K. Surin, O.V. Galzitskaya, One of the possible mechanisms of amyloid fibrils formation based on the sizes of primary and secondary folding nuclei of Aβ40 and Aβ42, J. Struct. Biol. 194 (2016) 404–414.