## Amino Acids

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studyaid

## General structure

* Backbone
- Amino group, a-carbon, carboxyl group, hydrogen
* Unique side chains
* Zwitterions = dipolar ions
- ion possessing both pos and neg electrical charges
- All free aa are water soluble at physiological pH



## L-a-amino acids

* chiral carbon $=4$ single bonds and 4 different groups attached to it
* amino group is attached to the a-carbon in the L-configuration
* L = left = life (except Glycine)




## Side Chain <br> Classification




Correct!
This is Cysteine. (Cys, C)


## Nonpolar aliphatic

* Hydrophobic = phobia of water
* Van der Waals forces
* Aliphatic = only H and C and single bonds
* Glycine
- Simplest aa
- Not asymmetric
* Alanine + BCAA
- High degree hydrophobicity
* Proline
- Side chain forms a ring that include its backbone $\rightarrow$ restrict the conformation of the protein



## Aromatic

* Aromatic = sixmembered carbon-hydrogen ring with three conjugated double bonds (benzene or phenyl)
* Absorbe UV-light

Phenylalanine

- Nonpolar
* Tyrosine
- OH - group on phenyl ring $\rightarrow$ form hydrogen bonds
- Polar

Tryptophan

- $N$ in the ring $\rightarrow$ form hydrogen bonds
- Polar

Aromatic


Phenylalanine (phe, F)

More Polar


Tyrosine (tyr, Y)


Tryptophan (trp, W)

## Polar, Uncharged

* Hydrophilic = O water
* Asparagine and Glutamine
- Amide group $\rightarrow$ hydrogen bonds
* Serine and Threonine
- Hydroxyl group $\rightarrow$ hydrogen bonds


## Sulfur containing

* Cysteine
- Sulfhydryl group $\rightarrow$ covalent disulfide bond with other cysteine
- Polar
* Methionine
- does not contain sulfhydryl group $\rightarrow$ cannot form disulfide bonds!
- nonpolar

Sulfur-Containing


Methionine (met, M)


Cysteine (cys, C)

## Charged

## Acidic

- Carboxylic acid group
- Negative charge at physiological pH
- Polar
- Ionic and hydrogen bonds, salt bridges


## Basic

- Nitrogen that can be pronated
- Positive charge at physiological pH
- Polar
- Ionic and hydrogen bonds, salt bridges



## Bonds from side chains

## Hydrogen bonds

- Polar
- Hydrogen with NOF
B. Hydrogen bonds


Disulfide bond

- Cys - Cys


Ionic

- Neg AA - pos AA


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## Peptide bond

## * CONH

* Condensation reaction
* $\rightarrow$ make polypeptides
* Always planar $\rightarrow$ very little rotation
$\rightarrow$ stabilize protein structure
* Usually trans configuration
* Always read from $\mathrm{N} \rightarrow \mathrm{C}$



## pKa

* pKa $=$ pH at which $50 \%$ of the protons have dissociated
* Each group that has a dissociable proton, have a pKa
- In polypeptides only the first amino group and the last carboxyl group + side chains have pKas




## Isoelectric point=pl/IEP

$\star=$ the pH at which the NET charge is 0

* If $3 \mathrm{pKa} \rightarrow$ use the ones on each side of net charge 0

$$
p l=\frac{p K a_{1}+p K a_{2}}{2}
$$

## 介Free H+

 $\downarrow$ Free H+Molecules wants to KEEP H for themself

Molecules wants to GIVE H away

## 今Free H+

Alanine in different pH
$p K a_{1}=2,3, \quad p K a_{2}=9,7$

## $\sqrt{5}$ Free H+


+1
2,3
9,7
$p I=\frac{2,3+9,7}{2}=6$
OIF $\begin{gathered}\text { Physiological } \mathrm{pH}: \\ \text { Charge }=0\end{gathered}$

Arginine shows 3 pKas at 1.8, 9.0 and 12.5. What is the charge at physiological pH (7.4) and the pl value?

## Arginine in different pH




Physiological pH:
Charge $=+1$ / Charge $=+1$
pH

$$
p I=\frac{9,0+12,5}{2}=10,75 \text { sfudyaid }
$$

Draw all possible ionic forms of dipeptide Ala-Cys and choose which form is predominant at:
a) $\mathrm{pH}=\mathrm{pl}$
b) $\mathrm{pH}>\mathrm{pl}$
c) $\mathrm{pH}<\mathrm{pl}$


Ala: $\mathrm{pKa}(\mathrm{COOH})=$ 亿, $\mathrm{pKa}(\mathrm{NH} 3+)=9,69$;
Cys: $\mathrm{pKa}(\mathrm{COOH})=2,0, \mathrm{pKa}(\mathrm{NH} 3+)=\mathrm{pKa}(\mathrm{SH})=10,3$

## ̂Free H+

## $\downarrow$ Free H+

Ala: $\mathrm{pKa}(\mathrm{NH} 3+)=9,69$; Cys: $\mathrm{pKa}(\mathrm{COOH})=2,0, \mathrm{pKa}(\mathrm{SH})=10,3$


pH<pl
2
$\mathrm{pH}=\mathrm{pl}$
9,69
$\mathrm{pH}>\mathrm{pl}$
10,3
pH $\gg$ pl

Physiological pH:
Charge $=0$
pH

$$
p I=\frac{2+9,69}{2}=5,845 \text { stuaid }
$$

## Electrophoretic separation

* Use electrical charge to separate AA and proteins
* If pH = pl the protein will stand still
* If pH < pl $\rightarrow$ move to cathode
* If pH > pI $\rightarrow$ move to anode


## Cathode


$\mathrm{pl}=$ the pH where net charge is 0!!!

$$
\star \mathrm{pl}=6, \mathrm{pl}=7, \mathrm{pl}=8
$$

Anode
$+$
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## Protein and enzymes

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## Peptides $\rightarrow$ Proteins

* Peptides = short polymers of amino acids
- Each unit (aa) is called a residue
- 2 residues - dipeptide
- 3 residues - tripeptide
- 12-20 residues - oligopeptide
- < 51 - polypeptide
- > 51 - protein
* Always $N \rightarrow$ C



## Levels of protein structure

- Primary -
- sequence of aa
- Secondary
- a-helix, b-sheets and turns
- stabilized by hydrogen bonds
- Tertiary
- 3D configuration
- Domains and folds
- Makes binding site for ligands
- Quaternary

- two or more subunits
- Binding site for ligands


## Enzymes

$\dot{*}=$ proteins that act as catalysts

* $\rightarrow$ increase the rate of chemical reactions
* Bind reactants (substrates)
$\rightarrow$ convert them to products
$\rightarrow$ release the products

* May be modified during their participation, but return to their original form
* Regulate the rate of metabolic pathways in the body ++


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