

MS97.30.3*Acta Cryst.* (2005). A61, C123**The Activation Process of *D.desulfuricans* ATCC 27774 [NiFe] Hydrogenase**Pedro M. Matias, *ITQB-UNL, Oeiras, Portugal*. E-mail: matias@itqb.unl.pt

In recent years, we have determined the 3-D structure of [NiFe] hydrogenase from the sulphate- and nitrate-respiring bacteria *D.desulfuricans* ATCC 27774. The active site of this enzyme, which catalyses the reversible reaction $H_2 \leftrightarrow 2H^+ + e^-$ is constituted of a Ni Fe heteronuclear diatomic metal core bonded to the protein chain by four cysteine residues, two of which bridge the metal atoms. The Fe atom is further coordinated by two CO and one CN ligands.

In the simplest description, three states are usually considered for the active site: unready, ready and active. These states have been characterised by EPR spectroscopy for several hydrogenases from different organisms.

Our crystallographic studies allowed us to obtain structural details of the active site in each one of the three states. A key result that emerged from this study was evidence for the coupling between Cys 536, Glu 24 (a highly conserved residue in [NiFe] hydrogenases from *Desulfovibrio* and related organisms) in proton transport off the active site. Cys 536 may even be implicated in the activation of the H-H bond prior to its heterolytic cleavage.

These results have in turn led to a proposed mechanism for the activation process of this enzyme, supported by DFT calculations.

Keywords: hydrogenase, active-site structure, activity and mechanism of enzymes

MS97.30.4*Acta Cryst.* (2005). A61, C123**Time- and Position-resolved X-ray Scattering of Bone and Cartilage**Peter Fratzl^a, Himadri S. Gupta^a, Wolfgang Wagermaier^a, Paul Roschger^b, Aurélien Gourrier^a, Oskar Paris^a, ^aMax Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces, Department of Biomaterials, Potsdam, Germany. ^bLudwig Boltzmann Institute of Osteology, Wien, Austria. E-mail: fratzl@mpikg.mpg.de

Most biological tissues including bone and cartilage are hierarchically structured and dynamically remodelled, and as a consequence, are heterogeneous in space and time. For a better understanding of the mechanical properties of these tissues, as well as for the characterization of bone diseases, it is essential to cover many length scales in structural investigation. X-ray diffraction and/or small angle scattering can be used to study the orientation and size of mineral particles as well as the spacing and orientation of collagen fibrils. When the specimen is scanned across a narrow X-ray beam, the micron and the nanometer scales are covered simultaneously, by the scanning procedure and the analysis of diffraction patterns, respectively. We have used this scanning technology to characterize individual trabeculae or osteons in intact macroscopic bone sections, as well as the bone cartilage interface and the dentin-enamel junction. One of the great advantages of the scanning diffraction approach is that the same specimens can be used for additional characterisation with other imaging techniques, such as electron, infrared or Raman imaging, as well as nanoindentation. Complementary to the scanning approach, *in-situ* methods utilize the high brilliance of synchrotron radiation to carry out time-resolved measurements at the fibrillar and molecular level to study deformation mechanisms in bone and biomineralized tissues.

Keywords: biomineralization, microbeam analysis, SAXS

MS97.30.5*Acta Cryst.* (2005). A61, C123**A Mesoporous Pattern Created by Nature in Siliceous Spicules from Marine Sponges**Gianluca Croce^a, Marco Milanese^a, Davide Viterbo^a, Heinz Amenitsch^b, ^aDISTA, Università del Piemonte Orientale, Alessandria, Italy. ^bIBR, Austrian Academy of Science, Graz, Austria. E-mail: gianluca.croce@mf.n.unipmn.it

Marine sponges deposit hydrated silica in needle-like objects called spicules. These spicules also contain a protein axial filament which functions as template for silica deposition.

This presentation deals with the fiber diffraction structural study of the organization of the axial filaments in spicules from different sponges, carried out using a SAXS setup with synchrotron radiation. The collected images show diffraction spots sharper than what can be expected from a regular polymeric fiber, indicating that the protein units in the spicule axial filaments must form highly ordered patterns. The analysis of the position and distribution of the spots reveals a hexagonal arrangement with different possible bi- and tri-dimensional dispositions of the units along the main axis of the spicules. Analysis after thermal treatments reveals a structural ordering accompanying the thermal degradation of the organic material. This confirms our hypothesis that the protein units act as template in the formation of an inorganic mesoporous structure.

Our results suggest the following possible mechanism for the biosilification process in spicules. The initial step consists in the formation of a very ordered disposition of the protein units, forming a regular mesoporous arrangement in a silica matrix, similar to that found in synthetic materials. In a second step the biosilification process continues with a deposition of amorphous silica on the outer walls of the mesoporous core.

Keywords: biomineralization, SAXS, porous materials

MS98 ANALYSIS OF ANISOTROPIC MATERIALS*Chairpersons:* Yoshiyuki Amemiya, Iris Torriani**MS98.30.1***Acta Cryst.* (2005). A61, C123**Polymer and Biopolymer Microstructure Analysis by Scanning SAXS/WAXS**Christian Riekel, *European Synchrotron Radiation Facility, B.P.220, F-38043 Grenoble Cedex, France*. E-mail: riekkel@esrf.fr

Scanning SAXS/WAXS using a 2D-detector provides an "images" of a bulk structure with each "pixel" of the image containing information from the unit-cell to morphological scales. Source and instrumental developments at 3rd generation synchrotron radiation sources allow routine use of micron- and submicron-sized X-ray beams extending currently to about 100 nm. The choice of beam size requires, however, usually a compromise on the low-angle resolution. For X-ray microbeams, polymers and biopolymer fibres often show lateral heterogeneities such as skin-core structures. Although such heterogeneities have already been known from electron microscopy/diffraction studies, the interest in scanning SAXS/WAXS is the possibility of performing *in-situ* studies during deformation of bulk samples. A number of examples from high performance polymer fibres will be reviewed. *In-situ* experiments are usually performed at room temperature, which poses particular problems due to radiation damage as will be shown for the hydration of starch granules.

Keywords: X-ray microdiffraction, synchrotron radiation, polymers

MS98.30.2*Acta Cryst.* (2005). A61, C123-C124**Small-angle X-ray Scattering Analysis of Anisotropic Block Copolymer Microdomains**Takeji Hashimoto, *Department of Polymer Chemistry, Kyoto University, Katsura, Kyoto 615-8510, and Advanced Science Research Center, JAERI, Tokai-mura, Ibaraki Pref. 319-1195, Japan*. E-mail: hashimoto@alloy.polym.kyoto-u.ac.jp

We present small-angle x-ray scattering (SAXS) analysis of anisotropic block copolymer materials of polystyrene-*block*-polyisoprene-*block*-polystyrene (SIS) as a fundamental statistical mechanical problem for open nonequilibrium systems. In order to develop the anisotropy we applied a large amplitude oscillatory shear strain to the system. We analyzed, at *real-time* and *in-situ*, time-evolution of the anisotropic spatial arrangement of microdomains by using time (strain-phase) resolved SAXS. We shall first discuss the

shear-induced orientation of bcc-spheres such as described below, at temperatures well above OOT temperature where bcc-spheres are thermodynamically stable: twinned bcc-spheres with the twinning plane parallel to the shear plane, and with their $\langle 111 \rangle$ axes parallel to the shear direction. We shall then discuss shear-induced OOT from the oriented bcc-spheres described above to the oriented hex-cylinders, such as described below at a temperature slightly above OOT temperature where bcc-spheres are still stable thermodynamically in quiescent state: the cylinders orienting with its axis parallel to the shear direction and its $\{110\}$ plane parallel to the shear plane.

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Keywords: block copolymers, microdomains, time(phase)-resolved small-angle X-ray scattering

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Supramolecular Structures Via Self-assembly of A β Congeners

Pappannan Thiyagarajan¹, K. Lu², J. Dong², L. Guo¹, V. P. Conticello², D.G. Lynn², ¹IPNS, Argonne National Lab, Argonne, IL, ²Emory University, Atlanta, GA. E-mail: thiyaga@anl.gov

One pathological manifestation of Alzheimer's patients is the deposits of amyloid plaques in the brain. The primary component in the plaques is a peptide (A β) consisting of 39-43 amino acid residues. Due to its unique amphiphilic character, the peptide self-assembles in aqueous media leading to the formation of well-organized fibrillar structures. Understanding the detailed mechanism of self-assembly of A β variants solution and the structure of these resulting assemblies have been useful for the development of methods for altering or preventing the process of fibrillogenesis. By using solid-state NMR, CD, EM, AFM, biochemical assays and SANS/SAXS, a detailed atomic scale structure of the fibrils formed by A β_{10-35} has been developed. Using the detailed framework of the fibril structure, further insight on the role of metal ions in the nucleation and growth of the fibrils has been achieved. The formation of extremely large tubular structures by the self-assembly of smaller variants of the A β peptide (A β_{16-22}) sheds light on the relationship between the length of the peptide and the extent of lamination of the β -sheets. These unique supramolecular self-assemblies formed by the variants of A β peptide may have interesting and useful applications in nanotechnology.

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Keywords: amyloid peptides, nanotubes, SANS/SAXS

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Real-time Observation of Anisotropic Structure of Aggregates in Stretched Rubber by 2D-USAXS

Yuya Shinohara^a, Hiroyuki Kishimoto^b, Yasuo Ogawa^a, Yoshio Suzuki^c, Kentaro Uesugi^c, Naoto Yagi^c, Tetsuro Mizoguchi^b, and Yoshiyuki Amemiya^a, ^aDepartment of Advanced Materials Science, The University of Tokyo, Kashiwa, Chiba, Japan. ^bSRI Research & Development Ltd., Kobe, Hyogo, Japan. ^cJASRI, 1-1-1 Kouto Mikazuki-cho Sayo-gun Hyogo 679-5198, Japan. E-mail: shinohara@x-ray.k.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Addition of filler such as carbon black and silica to an elastomer shows the reinforcement effects [1]. The mechanism of the reinforcement has not yet been clarified in spite of numerous studies. Two-dimensional Ultra-Small-Angle X-ray Scattering (2D-USAXS) has a large potential as a tool for the observation of structural change in a size scale of 100 nm - 10 μ m. In the present study, we have performed the 2D-USAXS of filled rubber under elongation and investigated structural changes of the filler aggregation.

Experiments were performed at BL20XU, SPring-8 (Hyogo, Japan). The camera length was 160.5 m and an X-ray CCD detector coupled with X-ray Image Intensifier [2] was used as the detector. The combination of the high-brilliance X-ray source, the sensitive 2D-

detector, and the long camera length enables us to observe 2D-USAXS patterns in a real-time mode. Samples used were Styrene-Butadiene Rubber filled with silica particles. The 2D-USAXS images showed corresponding hysteresis to that of stress-strain curve, which suggest the morphology of the aggregate affects the viscoelasticity of rubber. The 2D-USAXS clarified the aggregate structure in stretched rubber for the first time, which had been only speculated based on viscoelastic experiments.

[1] Ferry J.D., *Viscoelastic Properties of Polymers*, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1980. [2] Amemiya Y., et al., *Rev. Sci. Instrum.*, 1995, **66**, 2290-2294.

Keywords: 2D-USAXS, anisotropic structure, filled rubber

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Spherulites for Polar Dye Organization

Jason B. Benedict, Charles Branham, Matt Nichols, Scott Randall, Phil Reid, Bart Kahr, Department of Chemistry, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA. E-mail: jxenon54@u.washington.edu

Melts of D-sorbitol form remarkably transmissive, radially-symmetric, polycrystalline spherulites. Recent reports by Yu suggest that these structures arise from concomitant crystallization of two polymorphs at room temperature.^[1] Spherulites grown at higher temperatures consist of a single polymorph. There is considerable interest in the material science community to generate polar order in achiral optically responsive molecules for use in high-speed electrooptic modulators. As the propagating crystal interface of the spherulites invariably orients dyes dissolved in the melt, we seized upon the opportunity to utilize these structures as an entirely new method for generating polar media.

DAST, a well known non-linear optical dye, is highly soluble in the sorbitol melt and readily oriented by the spherulite matrix. Characterization of the linear and non-linear optical properties of these materials includes linear birefringence and dichroism imaging, polarized absorption, and second harmonic generation microscopy. Dyed spherulites exhibit pronounced absorption anisotropies (dichroic ratios > 3), as well as second harmonic generation nearly 70 times that of the undyed samples. Effects of polymorph fractionation on growth and optical properties will also be discussed.

[1] Yu L., *Cryst. Growth Des.*, 2003, 967.

Keywords: nonlinear optical materials, noncrystallographic symmetry, dye compounds