#### **1. 1. Overview of Bioorganic Chemistry**

#### 1.1.1.What is Biological Chemistry? Chemical Biology? And Bio-Organic Chemistry?

#### Definition of Biological Chemistry:

Biological Chemistry is the understanding how biological processes are controlled by underlying chemical principles.

#### Definition of Chemical Biology:

Chemical Biology is defined as the development and use of techniques of chemistry for the study of biological phenomena.

#### Definition of Bioorganic Chemistry:

Bioorganic Chemistry can be defined as a branch of chemistry or broadly speaking a branch of science which utilizes the principles, tools and techniques of organic chemistry to the understanding of biochemical/biophysical process.

As for example, the classical chemistry of natural products with its characteristic triad of isolation, structural proof and total synthesis is an evident, but purely organic ancestor. Likewise, inquiry into the biosynthetic pathways for the same natural products is plain biochemistry. But when the total synthesis of a neutral product explicitly is based upon the known route of biosynthesis or if the biosynthesis has been translated into structural and mechanistic organic chemical language, one is clearly dealing with bioorganic chemistry.

Organic chemistry deals with:-Structure Design, synthesis, and kinetics (physical organic).

- **1. Structure Design**: It guides us of how potential the interaction between structures and the biological partners.
- **2. Synthesis**: Synthesis provides us with compounds which might be the analogue or the mimic of natural species and may not have created in sufficient quantity for investigation by nature.
- **3. Kinetics**: Physical organic chemistry and analytical methodology provide quantitative measures and intimate details of reaction pathways.

Biochemistry deals with study of life processes by means of biochemical methodology.

# 1.1.2.What's the Difference between Biological Chemistry and Bio-Organic Chemistry?

All deal with interface of biology and chemistry, exchange of knowledge and solution of problems.



Figure 1.1: Representation of ideas exchange between chemistry and biology.

#### Organic Chemistry:

• Explains the events of biology:- mechanisms, rationalization, kinetics

**Biological Chemistry:** 

- **Provides challenges to chemistry:-** Design, synthesis, structure determination
- Inspires chemists: *Biomimetics* → improved chemistry by understanding of biology.

#### 1.1.3. Why the term Bio-organic Chemistry

As we discussed earlier, that the organic chemistry is related to the development of methodology to synthesize organic molecules of biological importance/analogues. However, not all the analogues are potent to have response to/or with biological molecules. So, modification of synthesis is necessary which is only possible from a thorough study of biological process, a part of biochemistry.

On the other hand, knowledge of biochemistry gives the idea of what would be useful to synthesis for a fruitful response which can only be possible via organic chemistry.

Therefore, the need for the multidisciplinary approach become obvious and there must have to have two laboratories-i) one for the synthesis and ii) another for the biological study. Thus, knowledge of organic chemistry give rise to the concept of building of organic models chemically synthesized in the laboratory to study the complex biological processes.

Bioorganic chemistry is thus, a young and rapidly growing science arising from the overlap of biochemistry and organic chemistry.

#### 1.1.4.Bio-organic Chemistry-A Borderline Science-Its Multiple Origin:

 Enzyme Chemistry: For some hydrolytic enzymes the catalyzed reaction has been translated already into a series of normal organic reaction steps. At the same time organic chemists are mimicking the characteristics of enzyme catalysis in model organic reactions dealing with both the rate of reaction and specificity.

Investigations, involving metalloenzymes and cofactors, the contiguous areas of bioorganic and bioinorganic chemistry also merge.

- 2. Nutritional Research: Knowledge of biochemistry enables us to recognize the factors essential in the human diet, and their structures and syntheses with the help of organic chemistry led to the recognition of the modes of action of the so-called vitamins and related cofactors, or coenzymes.
- **3. Hormone Research:** Secreted factors that exert a stimulatory effect on cellular activity, the hormones, could be better understood at the molecular level once their structure determinations and syntheses made them available in reasonable amounts with the help of organic chemists.
- 4. Natural Products Chemistry: Concepts of the biogenesis of natural products played, and continues to play, a major role in the development of bioorganic chemistry. The classical chemistry of natural products with its characteristic triad of isolation, structural proof and total synthesis is an evident, but is a purely organic ancestor. Likewise, inquiry into the biosynthetic pathways for the same natural products is plain biochemistry. But when the total synthesis of a natural product explicitly is based upon the known route of biosynthesis or if the biosynthesis has been translated into structural and mechanistic organic chemical language, one is clearly dealing with bioorganic chemistry.
- 5. Molecular Recognition: The term molecular recognition refers to the specific interaction between two or more molecules through non-covalent bonding such as hydrogen bonding, metal coordination, hydrophobic forces, van deer Waals forces, pi-pi interactions, electrostatic and/or electromagnetic effects and is purely physical organic chemistry origin. The host and guest involved in molecular recognition exhibit molecular complementarities. Molecular recognition plays an important role in biological systems and is observed in between receptor-ligand, antigenantibody, DNA-protein, sugar-lectin, RNA-ribosome, etc. An important example of molecular recognition is the antibiotic vancomycin that selectively binds with the peptides with terminal D-alanyl-D-alanine in

bacterial cells through five hydrogen bonds. The vancomycin is lethal to the bacteria since once it has bound to these particular peptides they are unable to be used to construct the bacteria's cell wall. Therefore, the composite term, biophysical organic chemistry, has been used as a detailed descriptor in molecular recognition.

- 6. Protein Chemistry (sequencing) vs. Application of Reagents: A simple chemical applied according to a well recognized concept can be responsible for a great advance in biological chemistry. Thus, through the reaction of cyanogens bromide, Bernhard Witkop translated neighbouring group participation into selective, limited, non-enzymatic cleavage at methionine in a peptide chain.
- **7. Reagents vs. Modern Biotechnology:** Application of the reagent has aided not only the correct sequencing of peptide segments of many proteins but also the production, through genetic engineering, of human insulin by means of a methionyl-containing precursor version at each step provides the basis of modern biotechnology: the, automated synthesis of polypeptide and polynucleotide chains and the sequencing of DNA and RNA.

Therefore, as organic chemists, we use chemically-based biotechnology and continue to add other techniques that are not only applicable but in some cases requisite: fluorescence sorting and probing; recombinant DNA technology; cloning; plasmid construction. Organic chemistry approaching 100% concombinatory procedures; the polymerase chain reaction (PCR); all of the latest separation and spectroscopic methodology with computer analysis; and the generous use -- as reagents -- of bacteria, fungi, enzymes, whole cells, and ground liver microsomes, inter alia.

#### 1.1.5. Inter-Disciplinary Area between Chemistry and Biology

#### 1.1.5.1. Biologically Relevant Small Molecules:

One such example is caffeine: Caffeine's principal mode of action is as an antagonist of adenosine receptors in the brain: related to bases.



Figure 1.2: Chemical Structure of Caffeine and Adenosine

[Antagonist:- An antagonist is a character, group of characters, or an institution, which represents the opposition against which the protagonist must contend. In other words, 'A person, or a group of people who oppose the main character, or the main characters. In the classic style of story where in the action consists of a hero fighting a villain, the two can be regarded as protagonist and antagonist, respectively. The antagonist may also represent a major threat or obstacle to the main character by their very existence, without necessarily actively targeting him or her.

The stimulation of A1 adenosine receptors inhibits adenylcyclase and decreases intracellular cyclic AMP. The inhibition of these receptors leads to the opposite effect, i.e. an increase in adenylcyclase activity. Caffeine has the selective ability to antagonize the actions of adenosine.]



#### 1.1.5.2. Cofactor Chemistry – Pyridinium Ions (e.g. NADH):

Figure 1.3: Chemical Structure of NAD and NADH

#### 1.1.5.3. Biomimetic Chemistry (e.g. Simplified Model of NADH): Inspiration from Biology:

#### 1.1.5.3.1. Introduction

The inspiration from the flow of information from biology into chemistry give rise to a new chemistry based on the principles used by Nature is defined by Ronald Breslow as "biomimetic chemistry". According to his definition: "In biomimetic chemistry, we take what we have observed in nature and apply its principles to the invention of novel synthetic compounds that can achieve the same goals ... As an analogy, we did not simply make larger versions of birds when we invented airplanes, but we did take the idea of the wing from nature, and then used the aerodynamic principles in our own way to build a jumbo jet."

# 1.1.5.3.2. Lession from Biological Action of Coenzyme Thiamine Unit:

**1.1.5.3.2.1. Biological role of coenzyme thiamine diphosphate:** Coenzyme thiamine diphosphate catalyzes the reactions such as that in pyruvate decarboxylase, a process for which very unusual catalysis would be needed.

**Mechanistic insights from Chemistry:** It was discovered that the unsuspected chemistry associated with thiazolium ring is responsible for such type of catalysis. The proton on carbon **2** of the thiazolium ring can be fairly readily removed to generate a zwitterion that is the catalytic species derived from thiamine diphosphate (Fig. 4). It was shown that this was the species that catalyzed model reactions for the enzymatic process, in what was the likely process by which thiamine diphosphate operated biologically.



Figure 1.4: The thiazolium ion loses a proton at C-2 to form a zwitterion that has a carbene resonance form. This resonance hybrid species is the catalytic form in biochemical reactions catalyzed by thiamine diphosphate.

The stability of this species was explained in terms of a second resonance form, a carbene, and that many other heterocyclic cationic systems could also form a related species.

Application to Chemical World: Carbenes and Metathesis: In the 50 years since that time, many others have used such zwitterion/carbene

species to catalyze chemical reactions and also to serve as ligands for metal ions in important catalytic processes. For example, such a species is the preferred ligand in the metathesis catalyst that was part of the work winning Robert Grubbs a recent Nobel Prize in chemistry. Thus, we saw information transfer in both directions. The work by Ronald Breslow with a chemical model system made it clear how a thiazolium salt such as thiamine could catalyze the biological reactions, and indeed, this turned out to be the correct mechanism for the biochemical process. At the same time, the discovery of this hitherto unsuspected species led to unprecedented chemistry and new and useful catalytic reactions.

### 1.1.5.3.2.2. Why Nature had selected the normal DNA structure?

**Background from Biology:** A study of cleavage of RNA by enzyme models, showed that the cleavage was accompanied by simultaneous isomerization of the natural 3',5'-linked RNA to its 2',5'-linked isomer. It is also established that ribonucleosides are converted to deoxyribonucleosides by a biochemical process that removes the 2'-hydroxyl group, and that could have removed the 3'-hydroxyl group instead with a different enzymatic preference. These observations raised the question of whether there is some intrinsic chemical preference for the natural structure of DNA, with its phosphate links joining the 3' and 5' positions of adjacent bases. Is the current preference simply an accident of evolution, or is there an intrinsic disadvantage to the use of a 3'-deoxy 2',5'-linked analog of natural DNA?

**Application of Chemical synthesis to Answer:** Professor Breslow and his group in 1990's have prepared DNA isomers in which they have used 3'-deoxynucleosides, and which have the unnatural 2',5'-links, called *iso*-DNA. However, they observed that *iso*-DNA makes a much weaker double helix with its conjugate, or with the conjugate based on normal DNA, because the helix has more hydrophobic surface exposed to solvent. Thus, it is not a suitable substitute for normal DNA as a genetic material, and organisms that may have tried it would not be competitive. However, *iso*-DNA does make a strong heteroduplex with normal RNA, reflecting the conformation of the ribose ring relative to that in deoxyribose.



Figure 1.5: Chemical Structures of (a) natural 3', 5'-linked DNA and (b) unnatural 2', 5'-linked iso-DNA.

#### 1.1.5.3.2.3. Lesson from Enzyme biology

Many inspiring principles were received from enzyme biology. As for an example geometry can dominate chemical reactivity. A good example is the conversion of lanosterol to cholesterol, in which three inactivated methyl groups are oxidatively degraded by enzymes of the class cytochrome P-450 while the much more reactive double bonds of lanosterol are left untouched until later (Fig. 6).



Figure 1.6: Conversion of lanosterol to cholesterol, showing oxidative degradation of three inactivated methyl groups by enzyme, cytochrome P-450.

#### 1.1.5.3.2.3.1. Development of Remote Oxidation in Chemistry

The oxidation by cytochrome P-450 inspired chemists to develop processes called remote oxidation, in which the reagents and templates are attached to substrates that could reach far from their attachment point (from ring A of the steroid all the way to ring D at the other end) and perform selective reactions on particular spots because of the geometry imposed by the attached reagent or template. In the enzyme mimic, Breslow and his group have synthesized a metalloporphyrin carrying cyclodextrin groups that would reversibly bind substrates such as steroids. These mimics of cytochrome P-450 performed selective oxidations that are of practical interest, with thousands of turnovers. The result was selective oxidation of particular C–H bonds that was possible only with natural biological enzymes.

### Characteristic features and results of reactions done by the enzyme P450 mimic:

- 1. Metalloporphyrins with attached cyclodextrin groups can bind various steroid derivatives and catalyze their selective hydroxylations.
- 2. The selectivity observed are consistent with molecular and computer models of the complexes.
- 3. In the best cases, hundreds and even thousands of catalytic turnovers of the selective reactions can be achieved.
- 4. The geometries of the complexes override intrinsic reactivities preventing oxidation of an otherwise reactive secondary carbinol or of a carbon-carbon double bond. This mimics selectivity effects typically seen only in enzymatic reactions.
- 5. The catalytic selective hydroxylation at carbon 9 in an androstane derivative provides entry into potential corticosteroid precursors.



Figure 1.7: An artificial cytochrome P450 that hydroxylates inactivated carbons with regio- and stereoselectivity and useful catalytic turnovers.



Figure 1.8: Hydroxylation of inactivated carbons with regio- and stereoselectivity and useful catalytic turnovers by an artificial cytochrome P450.

# 1.1.5.3.2.3.2. Selective Oxygenation of Saturated C-H Bonds by a Dimanganese Catalyst:

Although enzymes often incorporate molecular recognition elements to orient substrates selectively, such strategies are rarely achieved by synthetic catalysts. Robert H. Crabtree, Gary W. Brudvig, *et. al.* combined molecular recognition through hydrogen bonding with C-H activation to obtain high-turnover catalytic regioselective functionalization of sp3 C-H bonds remote from the –COOH recognition group. The catalyst contains a Mn(m-O)2Mn reactive center and a ligand based on Kemp's triacid that directs a –COOH group to anchor the carboxylic acid group of the substrate and thus modify the usual selectivity for oxidation. Control experiments supported the role of hydrogen bonding in orienting the substrate to achieve high selectivity.



Figure 1.9: The intermediate, resulting from H-atom abstraction from C6 of 3 in a distorted chair conformation with its Manganese complex (Gray: C, blue: N, magenta: H, red: O, purple: Mn)

#### 1.1.5.3.2.3.3. Enzyme Models for Transamination

#### 1.1.5.3.2.3.3.A. Introduction: Transamination

- Interchange of the functional groups between a α-keto acid and one amino acid.
- ENZYMES THAT CATALYZE THESE REACTIONS:
  - Aminotransferases or transaminases
- REQUIRED COFACTOR
  - Pyridoxal Phosphate: Pyridoxal Phosphate is the active form of Vitamin B-6. This vitamin has three active forms: pyridoxal, pyridoxine (or piridoxol) and pyridoxamine. Sometimes pyridoxine is used as synonym of Vitamin B6.

#### 1.1.5.3.2.3.3.B. The Mechanism of Transamination



Figure 1.10: Mechanism of Transamination reaction.

# **1.1.5.3.2.3.3.C.** Participation of Pyridoxal Phosphate in the Mechanism of Transamination

Pyridoxal Phosphate acts as intermediary in the reaction:

- a) First, it takes the amino group of the original amino acid (amino acid 1), and gives the oxygen to the carbon skeleton of the amino acid, yielding a α-ketoacid (α-ketoacid 1). Pyridoxal Phosphate becomes Pyridoxamine Phosphate in the process.
- b) In the second part of the reaction, the Pyridoxamine Phosphate gives the amino group to a ketoacid (ketoacid 2), yielding a new amino acid (amino acid 2) while the pirydoxal phosphate is regenerated.

Amino Acid-1 + Pyridoxal Phosphate <--> Ketoacid-1 + Pyridoxamine Phosphate

#### **1.1.5.3.2.3.3.D.** Important couples in Transamination reactions:

- When the amino acid transaminated is Alanine it yields the ketoacid Pyruvate (and vice-versa)
- When the amino acid transaminated is Aspartate, the reaction yields the ketoacid Oxalacetate (and vice-versa)
- When the amino acid transaminated is Glutamate, the reaction yields the ketoacid α-ketoglutarate

#### 1.1.5.3.2.3.3.E. Importance of Transamination

- Funneling the a-amino group of amino acids to α-keto glutarate to get glutamate (glutamate plays a central role in Nitrogen metabolism).
- Synthesis of non essential amino acids
- Interconnection between amino acid metabolism and Krebs Cycle.

The following reaction is a very good example of these three former observations:

 $\alpha$ -Amino Acid +  $\alpha$ -Ketoglutarate  $\iff \alpha$ -Ketoacid + Glutamate

# 1.1.5.3.2.3.3.F. Clinical Importance of Transaminases (Aminotransferases) study:

 Since amino transferases are intracellular enzymes, abundant in hepatic and cardiac tissues, serum aminotransferases such as serum glutamateoxaloacetate-aminotransferase (SGOT) (also called aspartate aminotransferase, AST) and serum glutamate-pyruvate aminotransferase (SGPT) (also called alanine transaminase, ALT) classically have been used as clinical markers of these tissue damages, with increasing serum levels indicating an increased extent of damage.



Figure 1.11: Nature's strategy to synthesize amino acids by using pyridoxamine phosphate coenzyme to perform a transamination with a keto acid.

#### 1.1.5.3.2.3.3.G. Artificial Enzyme for Transamination

Nature taught us how to synthesize amino acids by using pyridoxamine phosphate coenzyme to perform a transamination with a keto acid. Therefore, R. Breslow and others have studied models for such reactions. Thus, they have constructed a model enzyme system for the process by using a hydrophobic derivative of pyridoxamine as the coenzyme mimic and a polyamine with an added hydrophobic core as the enzyme mimic. The coenzyme bound into this nonpolar region, and the substrates as well bound into it, especially if they carried hydrophobic groups, as in the keto acid that formed DL-alanine/phenylalanine and other enantiomerically pure L-aminoacids. (Lei Liu and Ronald Breslow J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2002, 124 (18), pp 4978–4979).



Figure 1.12: Polyethyleneimine linked pyridoxamine as artificial transaminase enzyme mimic

The amination of ketoacids to amino acids by pyridoxamine is greatly accelerated when the pyridoxamine is covalently linked to polyethylenimine carrying *N*-methyl and *N*-lauryl groups. The polyamine catalyzes the reaction using acid and base groups, the lauryl groups increase  $k_2$  by producing a nonpolar medium in which the reaction occurs, and the lauryl groups promote binding of hydrophobic substrates. The result is that the amination of indolepyruvic acid to produce tryptophan is accelerated by 240000-fold. (Lei Liu, Mary Rozenman, and Ronald Breslow *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2002, 124 (43), pp 12660–12661).



Figure 1.13: Polyethyleneimine carrying N-methyl and N-lauryl groups linked pyridoxamine as artificial transaminase enzyme mimic.

PAMAM dendrimers from generations 1–6 were synthesized with pyridoxamine in their core. They transaminated pyruvic and phenylpyruvic acids in water to alanine and phenylalanine, respectively, with Michaelis–Menten kinetics and high effectiveness compared with simple pyridoxamine. The largest

dendrimers – similar in size to some globular proteins – were comparable in effectiveness to a previous polyethylenimine (PEI)–pyridoxamine catalyst, and to a protein–pyridoxamine catalyst, but not as effective as a previous PEI–pyridoxamine carrying lauryl hydrophobic groups. The new catalysts showed both general acid/base catalysis by their amino groups and hydrophobic binding of the phenylpyruvate substrate.



Figure 1.14: PAMAM dendrimers linked pyridoxamine catalyst as artificial transaminase enzyme mimic.

Isotactic polyethylenimines with (S)-benzyl side chains were synthesized from 4-(S)-4-benzyl-2-oxazolines. When  $\alpha$ -keto acids were subjected to transamination in the presence of this polymer, and a pyridoxamine coenzyme modified with hydrophobic chains, enantioselectivity toward the natural isomer (I > d) was observed, followed by racemization of the amino acid products. However, the racemization did not occur when the coenzyme was covalently attached to the polymer. **(Subhajit Bandyopadhyay, Wenjun Zhou, and Ronald Breslow** *Org. Lett.*, **2007**, *9* (6), pp 1009–1012)



Figure 1.15: Isotactic polyethylenimines induce formation of L-Amino Acids in transamination.

Natural enzymes are macromolecules, but most enzyme models are small molecules. To mimic the role of the macromolecular character of enzymes in catalysis, we have recently studied some polymeric and dendrimeric enzyme models. We found a great increase of transamination rate for the pyridoxamine/ketoacid system when we covalently linked pyridoxamine to polyethylenimine (PEI) carrying some attached lauryl groups, or covalently

located one pyridoxamine unit at the core of poly(amidoamine) (PAMAM) dendrimers.



Figure 1.16: Noncovalent polymer-pyridoxamine systems as better transaminase mimics

In our polymeric and dendrimeric mimics the pyridoxamine cofactor was *covalently* attached to PEI or PAMAM. However, in the real transaminases the pyridoxamine cofactor forms a noncovalent complex with the enzyme protein matrix. Thus we have now developed some noncovalent polymer-pyridoxamine systems as better transaminase mimics, in which the coenzyme reversibly binds into the polymer. We find that they are even more potent than the covalently linked analogues, since they bind into the hydrophobic region of the polymer. Furthermore, we have now developed a novel catalytic cycle that recycles the pyridoxal cofactor to the pyridoxamine, and for the first time achieves high turnovers in transamination in such enzyme mimics.

The transaminase activity of two new semi-synthetic RNase-S proteins incorporating a pyridoxamine moiety at the active site has been evaluated. A chemically competent derivative of pyridoxamine phosphate was incorporated into the C-peptide fragments of these non-covalent protein complexes in the form of an unnatural coenzyme-amino acid chimera, 'Pam'. The chimeric Pam residue integrates the heterocyclic functionality of pyridoxamine phosphate into the side chain of an alpha-amino acid and was introduced instead of Phe8 into the C-peptide sequence via standard solid phase methodology. The two semi-synthetic Pam-RNase constructs were designed to probe whether the native ribonuclease catalytic machinery could be enlisted to modulate a pyridoxamine-dependent

transamination reaction. Both RNase complexes, H1SP and S1SP, exhibited modest rate enhancements in the Cu(II)-assisted transamination of pyruvate to alanine under single turnover conditions, relative to 5'-deoxypyridoxamine and the uncomplexed C-peptide fragments. Furthermore, multiple turnovers of substrates were achieved in the presence of added L-phenylalanine due to recycling of the pyridoxamine moiety. The modest chiral inductions observed in the catalytic production of alanine and the differences in reactivity between the two proteins could be rationalized by the participation of a general base (His12) in complex H1SP, and by the increased tolerance for large amino acid substrates by complex S1SP, which contains serine at this position. The pyridoxamine-amino acid chimera will be useful in the future for examining the coenzyme structure/ function relationships in a native-like peptidyl architecture.



Figure 1.17: (a) Structures of intermediates in the Cu(II)-assisted transamination of pyruvate to alanine by Pamcontaining peptides; (b)Structures of the pyridoxal (Pal) and pyridoxamine (Pam) coenzyme-amino acid chimeras, and deoxypyridoxamine (DPam); (c)Enantioselective production of alanine in the transamination of pyruvate, due to selective protonation of a particular face of the Pam-aldimine carbanion intermediate.

#### 1.1.5.3.2.3.4. Models for Nicotinamide Dehydrogenase Reactions

**Introduction:** Although enzymatic dehydrogenation reactions involving nicotinamide coenzymes have been studied extensively, there remains considerable controversy as to the molecular mechanism of hydrogen transfer in these reactions. The overall reaction accomplishes direct hydrogen transfer between the substrate and the 4-position of the coenzyme's nicotinamide ring (**Figure 1.18**).



Figure 1.18: Nicotinamide coenzymes mediated H-transfer reaction

Nicotinamide coenzymes are involved in enzymatic reactions that interconvert alcohols, amines or activated methylene compounds with ketones, imines or olefins respectively. The chemistry of these interconversions tends to be very rapid. In fact, in some cases the rates of hydrogen transfer surpass those of product release from the enzyme. Thus far, three types of mechanisms have been proposed for hydrogen transfer in these reactions:

- 1. Direct bimolecular hydride transfer, in which the hydrogen nucleus and both electrons are transferred as a single unit.
- 2. Free radical mechanisms in which the hydrogen is transferred as two hydrogen atoms or as electrons and protons in separate steps.
- 3. Mechanisms involving covalent intermediates in which the coenzyme and substrate become covalently linked and the electrons are transferred through the covalent bonds while the hydrogen is transferred as a proton.

Each of these mechanisms has its proponents, however, none is generally accepted. The hydride and radical mechanisms can be ruled out on the basis of the facility of enzyme reactions. Pathways involving covalent intermediates solve the problem of high activation energies by employing equilibrium controlled addition-elimination and proton transfer reactions. The mechanism proposed by Hamilton is shown in **Figure 19**. The proposed mechanism is very similar to retro-ene reactions that are known to occur with allyl ethers.



Figure 1.19: Proton transfer and oxidation of alcohol to ketone by Nicotinium ion.

# 1.1.5.3.3.2.3.5. Bioreductants and their inspired organoreductants: Chemical mechanisms relevant to catalysis (e.g. NADH)

#### Some Examples of Bioreductant:



Figure 1.20: Some examples of bioreductants.

# 1.1.5.3.3.2.3.5. A. Hantzsch Ester (Hantzsch dihydropyridine)- a NADH Model:

- 1. Hantzsch esters reduce imine derivatives.
- 2. Hantzsch esters effectively reduce electrophilic olefins.
- 3. Nitro- and carbonyl alkene reductions
  - (a). β-nitroalkene derivatives
  - (b).  $\alpha$ - $\beta$ -Unsaturated aldehydes and ketones
- 4. Lewis acid catalyzed Hantzsch reactions
  - (a). Olefin reduction with SiO2
  - (b).Reductive amination using Sc(OTf)3 and LiCIO4



Figure 1.21: Hantzsch ester (Hantzsch dihydropyridine)- a NADH Model and its reactions.



Figure 1.22: (a) Conformational analysis of the amide group in the coenzyme and biomimetic approach in the design of new chiral NADH models; (b) Proposed ternary complex (model/Mg2+/substrate) of models bearing aminoalcohol as chiral auxiliary; (c) enantioselectivity during the reduction of methyl benzoylformate with model 1 and 2; (d) asymmetric reduction of methyl benzoylformate with model 3 and 4.

#### 1.1.5.3.3.2.3.5.B. Biomimetic NADH Models: "Nucleophile-Transferring Agents"

Biomimetic NADH models have been almost exclusively explored to develop redox processes. To extent the potential of these biomimetic tools, Vincent Levacher et al. probed their aptitude for transferring groups other than "hydride". A first original application made use of biomimetic NAD+ models as "chiral amide-transferring agent" and assessed in "atropenantioselective amidification" of benzamides. (*Tetrahedron asymmetry*, **2004**, *15*, 3919).



Figure 1.23: NAD<sup>+</sup> models as "chiral amide-transferring agent"

Unprecedented development of quinoliniun salts, structurally related to NAD<sup>+</sup> models are currently exploited in peptide bond formation. In 2005, Vincent Levacher *et al.* demonstrated that quinolinium thioester salts-type **2** display an attractive potential in peptide synthesis. Interestingly, a number of experimental observations lend to the belief that a sequential mechanism related to a prior amine capture strategy is involved. The "*latent reactivity*" of the nonquaternized quinoline **1** renders this precursor an appealing synthetic tool in view of developing a new safety-catch linker (Figure X). These preliminary results laid down the basis of future developments in SPPS. (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, *127*, 15668).



Figure 1.24: Amine capture strategy and peptide bond formation by means of a quinolinium thioester salt.

- 1.1.5.3. Structural principles and characterization (e.g. sugars: anomers of glucose, anomeric effect, diastereomers, NMR).
- 1.1.5.4. Application of biology to stereoselective chemical synthesis (e.g. yeast)



- 1.1.5.5. Synthesis of small molecules (e.g. peptides, drugs, dilantin, esters).
- 1.1.5.6. Chemical catalysis (e.g. protection & activation strategies relevant to peptide synthesis in vivo and in vitro).
- 1.1.5.7. Comparison of organic and biological reactions.
- 1.1.5.8. Enzyme mechanisms and active sites



# **1.2. Example of Biochemical Knowledge Applied to Organic Chemistry:**

- **1. Natural Product Chemistry:** Synthesis of natural products like terpenoids, alkaloids can better be done from inquiry into the biosynthetic pathways of such natural products.
- 2. Biomimetic chemistry: It is a branch of organic chemistry wherein the object is to mimic natural reactions and enzymatic processes in order to get a better organic synthesis.
- **3. Pharmacology:** designing drugs that inhibit a simple enzyme specifically, an example being the transition state analogs.
- **4. Enzyme Technology:** A third example of biochemistry, applied to organic synthesis can be found in the growing field of *enzyme technology*.

# **1.3. Properties of Biological Molecules that Inspire Chemists:**

**1.** Large  $\rightarrow$  challenges: (a) for synthesis,

(b) for structural prediction (e.g. protein folding)

- Size → multiple Functional Groups (active site) aligned to achieve a goal (e.g. enzyme active site, bases in Nucleic Acids)
- **2.** Multiple non-covalent weak interactions → strong, stable binding non-covalent complexes (e.g. substrate, inhibitor, DNA)
- **3.** Specificity  $\rightarrow$  specific interactions between 2 molecules in an ensemble within the cell
- **4.** Regulated  $\rightarrow$  switchable, allows control of cell  $\rightarrow$  activation/inhibition
- **5.** Catalysis  $\rightarrow$  groups work in concert
- Replication → turnover (e.g. an enzyme has many turnovers, nucleic acids replicate)

# 1.4. Example of Organic Chemical Knowledge for Understanding the Chemical Aspects of Life and its Origin:

#### 1.4.1 Metabolism

It presents in all cells, which includes:-

- (a) Heredity: It means storage, transfer and expression of genetic *information,* with the underlying principle of *paired* organic bases, and
- (b) Storage, production and use of *energy*, with the possible underlying principle of paired moving charges.

Both processes together form metabolism, an *intricate and strongly ordered* system of chemical reactions, regulated by their catalysts, which are *intricate and* 

strongly ordered amino acid polymers. This central position of the enzymes in the living cell makes it understandable that research on the mechanisms of the enzymatic reactions presently takes a central place in this bioorganic chemistry.

#### 1.6. Key Processes of Metabolism

1. Bases + sugars — nucleosides — nucleic acids

2. Sugars (monosaccharides) — polysaccharides

3. Amino acids \_\_\_\_\_ proteins

**4**. Polymerization reactions; cell also needs the reverse process

If we want to look at each of these processes, forwards and backwards, by comparing and contrasting the reactions, we should raise questions:-

- a) How do chemists synthesize these structures?
- b) How might these structures have formed in the pre-biotic world, and have led to life on earth?
- c) How are they made in vivo?
- **d)** Can we design improved chemistry by understanding the biology: biomimetic synthesis?

It becomes steadily more customary to analyze possible mechanisms on the basis of fairly simple organic chemical models that combine only the more fundamental factors of the enzymatic catalysis. Starting from established reaction theories from both biochemistry and organic chemistry one tries to reconcile two ways of thinking in order to get new insight into what life is. The method itself, this roundabout way via relatively simple models, often leads to the surprising consequence that the problem of the origin of life emerges. The border between organic chemistry and biochemistry is man-made and systematic. This border is related closely to the historical transition between non-living and living. Some initial remarks concerning recent developments in the thinking about the origin of life, the "bioorganic era", therefore, are in order.

#### 1.5. Evolution of Life

- Life did not suddenly crop up in its current form of complex structures (DNA, proteins) in one sudden reaction from mono-functional simple molecules
- In this course, we will follow some of the ideas of how life may have evolved:





#### 1.6. Historical Connection Biological Chemistry:

between Organic and





#### **1.7.** Weak Interactions in Organic and Biological World

"Apart from consideration of the hydrogen bond, we organic chemists have really paid little attention to linkages other than the purely covalent. I believe that it will be the duty of organic chemists in the future to study the weak non-bonding interactions which are of enormous importance in the large natural macromolecules. Such studies will lead to a new blossoming of organic chemistry in the future."

-----Lord Alexander R. Todd "Chemie in Vergangenheit und Gegenwart" Lecture, on the occasion of the presentation of the "Goldenes Doktordiplom", Universität Frankfrut October 16, **1981**.

#### 1.7.1. Non-covalent Interactions: Chemical origin

The attractions of molecules for each other are called intermolecular interactions to distinguish them from covalent and ionic bonding, forms of intramolecular interactions.

Intermolecular interactions are most significant in liquid and solid phases where molecules are very close together. In fact, even in liquids and solids intermolecular interactions are only strong for molecules that are next to each other. The interactions of molecules in the liquid and solid states have significant consequences that are readily observable. The strength of intermolecular interactions affects numerous properties, including boiling points, miscibility, and solubility.

van der Waals interactions: All molecules interact with other molecules through London dispersion forces, also called van der Waals interactions. London dispersion forces are the attractive forces of one transient dipole for another. As for example in the case of an argon atom in liquid argon, for example, the argon atoms next to the one with temporary dipole would feel the effect of the dipole. Thus the temporary dipoles are propagated through a liquid or solid. The larger the size of atoms and the more electrons they possess, the greater the probability of forming substantial transient dipole interactions. Molecules which are non-polar and non-polar functional groups of molecules only experience London dispersion or van der Waals interactions with other molecules or functional groups.

**Polar-polar interaction:** Some molecules and functional groups have permanent dipoles that result from a non-symmetric geometric arrangement of atoms of different electronegativity. The portion of a molecule with a permanent dipole will be attracted to the portion of a neighboring molecule with its own permanent dipole. A polar-polar interaction is stronger than a van der Waals interaction.

**Hydrogen bond**: The hydrogen bond is a specific and very important type of intermolecular interaction. A hydrogen bond occurs when the electrons forming

the covalent bond between the hydrogen atom and the oxygen, nitrogen, or fluorine atom are pulled toward the electronegative atom. Hydrogen bond present in water. As such, it is the strongest of the intermolecular interactive forces.



In summary, weak non-covalent interactions play an important role in many chemical processes. In chemistry, these forces play a crucial role in controlling the shape, selectivity and reactivity. As a matter of fact, the phenomenon of "Molecular Recognition" is dominated by weak forces, which include the H-bonding, electrostatic, stereo-electronic,  $\pi$ -stacking interactions as well as hydrophobic and steric interactions.

These weak non-covalent forces can broadly be grouped into five categories all of which plays an important role in Organic chemistry.

- **1. Electrostatic interactions:** Strongest interaction between dipolar and charged molecules.
- 2. H-bonds: A hydrogen bond is the attractive interaction of a hydrogen atom with an electronegative atom, like nitrogen, oxygen or fluorine (thus the name "hydrogen bond", which must not be confused with a covalent bond to hydrogen). The hydrogen must be covalently bonded to another electronegative atom to create the bond. These bonds can occur between molecules (*intermolecularly*), or within different parts of a single molecule (*intramolecularly*). The hydrogen bond (5 to 30 kJ/mole) is stronger than a van der Waals interaction, but weaker than covalent or ionic bonds. This type of bond occurs in both inorganic molecules such as water and organic molecules.
- 3. Charge transfer complexes: A charge-transfer complex (CT complex) or electron-donor-acceptor complex is a chemical association of two or more molecules, or of different parts of one very large molecule, in which the attraction between the molecules (or parts) is created by an electronic transition into an excited electronic state, such that a fraction of electronic charge is transferred between the molecular entities. The resulting electrostatic attraction provides a stabilizing force for the molecular complex. The source molecule from which the charge is transferred is called the electron donor and the receiving molecule is called the electron acceptor. It is found frequently in flavine chemistry.

- 4. Van der Waals forces: Influenced by polarizability and structure of the molecule. The van der Waals force (or van der Waals interaction) is the attractive or repulsive force between molecules (or between parts of the same molecule) other than those due to covalent bonds or to the electrostatic interaction of ions with one another or with neutral molecules. It includes: (a) force between permanent dipole and a corresponding induced dipole and (b) instantaneous induced dipole-dipole forces (London dispersion force).
- 5. Hydrophobic interactions: The tendency of hydrocarbons (or of lipophilic hydrocarbon-like groups in solutes) to form intermolecular aggregates in an aqueous medium, and analogous intramolecular interactions.
- 6.  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interaction: Stacking refers to a stacked arrangement of often aromatic molecules, which is adopted due to interatomic interactions. Stacking is often referred to as  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interaction, though effects due to the presence of a  $\pi$ -orbital are only one source of such interactions, and in many common cases appear not to be the dominant contributors.

Besides the fact that the origin of the intermolecular forces is purely chemical, all of them play a crucial role in biological world. Weak interactions are, in biochemistry, one of the keys to understanding pressure effects on biomaterials. The main reason is because weak interactions are strongly involved in the structure of biomolecules and in the functions of many bioprocesses. Noncovalent forces are actively taking part in (a) chemical and biological molecular recognition world, (b) catalysis in chemical synthesis, prebiotic world, in vivo (how the cell is controlled?) and in (c) chemical models

Native structure of biological compounds, i.e. the conformation that displays biological activity, is the result of a delicate balance between stabilizing and destabilizing interactions (strong or weak) within the polypeptide chains for proteins and with the solvent. Native biocompounds are stable in a narrowphysical–chemical zone depending both on the nature of the biomaterials itself and on the environmental conditions (such as other proteins, nucleic acids, membranes, lipids, solutes, solvents, salts, pH, temperature).

#### Hydrogen bonds in polymers: structure of Para-aramid:



**Hydrogen bonds in Sugar:** A strand of cellulose (conformation  $I_{\alpha}$ ), showing the hydrogen bonds (dashed) within and between cellulose molecules.



**H-bond in small organic molecules:** An example of **intermolecular** hydrogen bonding in a self-assembled dimer complex of a Donor-Acceptor molecules.



**Intramolecular** hydrogen bonding in acetylacetone helps stabilize the enol tautomer

#### **Base Pairs in DNA: H-bonding:**



DNA Double helix: H-bonding,  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interaction, Hydrophobic interactions, Electrostatic interactions:



**Lipid Bilayer:** Induced Dipole – Induced Dipole Interaction for Hydrocarbon Chains



**Proteins structure:** Hydrophobic interactions, hydrogen bonds and salt bridges though are all relatively weak interactions but the large number in a protein combine to give the overall stability of the structure.



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#### Diagram of $\beta$ -pleated sheet with H-bonding between protein strands

In addition to these numerous forces, the role of solvation is important and so, consequently, is the relationship between the biocompounds studied and their environments, relationships driven by weak interactions. For example, native globular proteins are mainly constituted of amino acids, some of them buried inside the structure with a low solvent accessibility. In contrast, other amino acids could be at the surface of the protein. The latter are solvated and they play an important role in the intermolecular interactions. Proteins are tightly packed. They have a compact structure with ample intra-globular voids. The voids are small cavities subjected to dynamic fluctuations which can govern conformational dynamics, one source of protein activity. Both voids and weak interactions allow protein fluctuations which can be large, such as rotation of side chains and small protein inducing subcon formations. A protein in solution is in a dynamic and thermodynamic equilibrium of various conformers. The multiple conformations depend also on the nature of the interactions involved. To understand these molecular fluctuations, one way involves perturbing them. This is why it is important to carry out both pressure and temperature experiments on these systems to separate thermal and volume effects.

However, weak interactions are not typical for just bios stems. They are also involved in understanding the pressure effects on many inorganic or bioinorganic reactions: synthesis, solvent exchange, legend substitution, addition, elimination, electron transfer and radiation induced reactions.

#### **1.8. Proximity Effect in Organic Chemistry**

#### 1.8.1. Introduction

Proximity of reactive functional groups in a chemical transformation allows bond polarization, resulting generally in an acceleration of rate of the reaction. In nature

#### **Proximity and Orientation Effects**

- This increases the rate of the reaction as enzyme-substrate interactions align reactive chemical groups and hold them close together. This reduces the entropy of the reactants and thus makes reactions such as ligations or addition reactions more favorable, there is a reduction in the overall loss of entropy when two reactants become a single product.
- This effect is analogous to an effective increase in concentration of the reagents. The binding of the reagents to the enzyme gives the reaction intramolecular character, which gives a massive rate increase.

#### Rate of a reaction depends on

- Number of collisions
- Energy of molecules
- Orientation of molecules
- Reaction pathway (transition state)

#### **Proximity:**

- Similar reactions will occur far faster if the reaction is intramolecular.
- Enezyme brings the two or more reactant closer in proximity to react.
- Brings substrate with their catalytic groups closer.
- Electrostatic catalysis:
  - transition state stabilization the charge distribution around the active sites guide polar substrates toward their binding site.
- Freezing out the molecular motions:transition state stabilization:
  - translational and rotational motions of their substrates and catalytic groups rate enhancement up to  ${\sim}10^7$

#### Orientation:

• Enzymes not only bring substrates and catalytic groups close together, they orient them in a manner suitable for catalysis as well. Comparison of the rates of reaction of the molecules shown makes it clear that the bulky methyl groups force an orientation on the alkyl carboxylate and the aromatic hydroxyl groups that makes them approximately 250 billion times more likely to react. Enzymes function similarly by placing catalytically functional groups (from the protein side chains or from another substrate) in the proper position for reaction.







Figure 1.25: Examples depict proximity effects.
# **1.9. Molecular Recognition**

### 1.9.1. Introduction

Molecular recognition is the specific interaction between two or more molecules through no covalent bonding such as hydrogen bonding, metal coordination, hydrophobic forces, van deer Waals forces, pi-pi interactions, electrostatic and/or electromagnetic effects. The host and guest involved in molecular recognition exhibit molecular complementarities.

"Molecular recognition" covers a set of phenomena controlled by specific noncovalent interactions. Such phenomena are crucial in biological systems, and much modern chemical research. "Molecular recognition", which may be both inter- and intramolecular phenomena, is also encompasses the "host-guest chemistry", "supramolecular chemistry", and "self-assembly", though these are limited to intermolecular processes. Protein folding is a classic example of intramolecular recognition. It is the Host-Guest Interactions and in enzymology lock and key interaction.



Figure 1.26: Schematic presentation of "Lock and key" interaction in enzymology and the "host-guest chemistry".

### 1.9.2. Types of Molecular Recognition: Static vs. Dynamic

Molecular recognition can be subdivided into static molecular recognition and dynamic molecular recognition. Static molecular recognition is likened to the interaction between a key and a keyhole; it is a 1:1 type complexation reaction between a host molecule and a guest molecule to form a host-guest complex. To achieve advanced static molecular recognition, it is necessary to make recognition sites that are specific for guest molecules.



Figure 1.27: Static recognition between a single guest and a single host binding site. In dynamic recognition binding the first guest at the first binding site induces a conformation change that affects the association constant of the second guest at the second binding site, a positive allosteric site.

In the case of dynamic molecular recognition the binding of the first guest to the first binding site of a host affects the association constant of a second guest with a second binding site. In the case of positive allosteric systems the binding of the first guest increases the association constant of the second guest. While for negative allosteric systems the binding of the first guest decreases the association constant with the second. The dynamic nature of this type of molecular recognition is particularly important since it provides a mechanism to regulate binding in biological systems. Dynamic molecular recognition is also being studied for application in highly functional chemical sensors and molecular devices.

### 1.9.3. Molecular Recognition in Supramolecular Systems

Chemists have demonstrated that artificial supramolecular systems can be designed that exhibit molecular recognition. One of the earliest examples of such a system is crown ethers which are capable of selectively binding specific cations. However, a number of artificial systems have since been established. "For their development and use of molecules with structure-specific interactions of high selectivity," Charles Pedersen, Jean-Marie Lehn, and Donald Cram have received the 1987 Nobel prize in chemistry.



Figure 1.28: Pedersen's synthesis of crown ether and the discovery of Molecular recognition.

#### **Properties of Crown Ethers**

- Study of cation complexation properties reaveld the following optimum ring size.
- Complexation with Crown ether is an important area for investigating the function of certain antibiotics on ion channels within the cell membrane.



Int. Ed., 1972, 11, 16. (c) Christensen, J. et al. Science 1969, 164, 443.

- Crystal structures of the crown ethers and cryptands show that they do not contain either cavities or convergently arranged binding sites in their uncomplexed states.
- These host-guest complexes are not planar, but exist in any of the following conformations, depending on the host and guests involved.



Figure 1.29: Properties of crown ethers.

## 1.9.4. Applications of Molecular Recognition



### **1.9.4.1. Enantiomer differentiation and the Crown Ether**



• As for example, by employing C2 symmetric binapthyls, Cram was able to develop classes of crown ether hosts that could resolve racemic ammonium salts and amino acids.



• Amino acids could then be resolved within these meso-hosts by means of a defined sense of stereoinduction. For their selectivity, the scope of these processes could include a wide variety of amino acids.

### Immediate Practical Applications:

Cram, D.; Cram, J. Science 1974, 183, 803.

• The ability to efficiently resolve amino acid enantiomers quickly led to the invention of numerous applications, like "chiral column".





## **1.9.4.2. Molecular Recognition of Ammonium Ions**



# 1.9.4.3. Some More Examples of Molecular Recognition

## **1.9.4.4. Molecular Recognition in Chiral Host**



## **1.9.4.4. Molecular Recognition-The Self Organization**



## **1.9.4.5. Molecular Recognition-The Encapsulation Chemistry**

### **1.9.4.5.1.** Introduction of Encapsulation Era

The research in molecular recognition has progressed far beyond the sequestration of ions by macrocyclic polyether like crown ethers during the past two decades. Therefore, many Hosts have been designed and synthesized with a variety of shapes for binding charged or neutral Guests. All of these Hosts share a common feature of having concave surfaces to accommodate convex guests. The next generation of hosts was designed to encounter all possible guests' surfaces with high selectivity. Recently, superstructure generated by multiple copies of small molecules through self-recognition via weak intermolecular forces surrounding a target was also developed which is called a reversible encapsulation.

### **1.9.4.5.2.** Characteristics of Encapsulation Complexes

- a. They are synthetic, self-assembled hosts that surround their guest molecules.
- b. They are dynamic and form reversibly in solution with varying range of lifetimes.
- c. The capsules isolate molecules from the bulk solution.
- d. They self-assemble only in the presence of suitable guests to give encapsulation complexes.

### **1.9.4.5.3. Uses of Encapsulation Complexes**

- e. as a reaction chamber for different guests inside the capsules
- f. Capsule for a chiral receptor.
- g. Cavity for single-molecule solvation can be observed
- h. used to stabilize reactive intermediates and transition states
- i. Used to alter the course of reactions.

For the capsule formed by the molecule X in figure Y exists as two complexes in presence of benzene and *p*-ethyl toluene. The two molecules are too large to slip past each other, and the *p*-ethyl toluene is too long to tumble freely while inside the capsule. Two benzene molecules as guests can gather the capsule and filled 41% of the space. With *p*-ethyl toluene, one molecule fills only 33% of the space, but two molecules are too long to be accommodated in the cavity. However maximum space filling (53% of the space) is observed in a combination of benzene/*p*-ethyl toluene which the author says as "optimal filling of the capsule's space". This matching of host space and guest size drives much encapsulation and is especially good for arranging bimolecular reactions inside.



Figure 1.30: Cavitant and the capsule formation.

## 1.9.4.5.4. Frontires of Encapsulation Era

#### Frontiers of Encapsulation Era:

- Advances in predictive modeling technology as well as 2D NMR techniques have propelled progress in this area far beyond the days of mere molecular recognition
- By employing arrays of purposefully positioned H-bond donors and acceptors, researchers have been able to "synthesize" the large, self-assembling structures (>400 Å)
- These self-assembling capsules employ the same non-covalent interactions to bring together multiple guest molecules within these hosts.
- These self-assembling capsules employ the same non-covalent interactions to bring together multiple guest molecules within these hosts.



When complementary guests assemble together within a capsule, accellerated reactivity can occurr in a similar manner to the induced proximity effect created within an enzyme.



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# *1.9.5. Molecular Recognition in Biological Systems* 1.9.5. 1. Introduction

Molecular recognition plays an important role in biological systems and is observed in between receptor-ligand, antigen-antibody, DNA-protein, sugarlectin, RNA-ribosome, etc. An important example of molecular recognition is the antibiotic vancomycin that selectively binds with the peptides with terminal Dalanyl-D-alanine in bacterial cells through five hydrogen bonds. The vancomycin is lethal to the bacteria since once it has bound to these particular peptides they are unable to be used to construct the bacteria's cell wall.



Figure 1.31: Various molecules exist upon molecular recognition in a cell.

#### **Molecular Recognition in Biological Systems**

- Non covalent interactions between different sets of macromolecules leads to supramolecular assembiles that serve specific subcellular functions in biology.
- For example, ribosomes are supramolecular assemblies of proteins and RNA.



- Packing of supramolecular assemblies into cellular inclusions surrounded by membranes, called organelles. Organelles are dedicated to specific cellular tasks. Organelles are present only in higher organisms (eukaryotes).
- Membranes are complexes of proteins and lipid molecules maintained by *non covalent forces*.
- Hydrophobic interactions are particularly important in maintaining membrane structure.
- The spontaneous assembly of membranes in an aqueous environment is the result of hydrophobicity of the membrane lipids and proteins.

Figure 1.32: Interactions and recognition of various molecules in a cell.

## **1.9.5.2.** Protein-Ligand Complexation-A Molecular Recognition

#### Molecular Recognition in Biological Systems: Protein-Ligand Complexation

- Changing structure of ligand leads to changes in binding affinity.
- ligand preorganization, hydrophobicity, hydrogen bonding capability,  $\pi$ -cation stabilizing ability, etc. affect energetics in protein-ligand interactions



• Optimizing protein binding affiniity is critical first step in drug discovery.

#### **General Features of Protein-Ligand Interactions**

- Changes in rotational and translational degrees of freedom.
- Shape complementarity of binding surfaces, but conformational changes occur.
- Hydrating water molecules around protein and ligand reorganize and some are released to bulk water desolvation.
- Formation of non-bonded interactions i.e. protein-ligand complex.





- There are various benefits of preorganization in protein-ligand interactions-like ligand binding is strong.
- $\Delta G'$  should be more negative than  $\Delta G$  because  $\Delta S'$  less negative (more positive) than  $\Delta S$  in this types of reactions inside the proteins.

# 1.9.5.3. Protein-Small Molecule Interaction-A Molecular Recognition

Molecular Recognition in Biology: Protein-Small Molecule Interaction

- The biological function of many proteins is triggered and modulated by the binding of ligands/ small molecules.
- So, an understanding of the mechanism of protein-ligand interactions is essential for a detailed knowledge of protein function at the molecular level.
- Ligand binding, in most cases, involves the molecular recognition, recognition of guest (ligand) by a Host (Protein/DNA/other biomolecules) via the utilisation of noncovalent bonds at specific interacting surfaces.
- The binding of a ligand can be accompanied by conformational changes at the protein site that sometimes are propagated throughout the entire protein.



- Monitoring these structural changes can give information about any new properties acquired by the complex.
- Biotin, also known as Vitamin H or Coenzyme R, is a coenzyme in the metabolism of fatty acids, isoleucine, and valine, and it plays a role in gluconeogenesis. Biotin has the high affinity to interact with biomolecules strongly which helps in studying biomolecular process at molecular levels.
- **Example:** Biotin-streptavidin binding is an attractive model for studying protein-ligand interactions.

## **1.9.5.4. Protein-DNA Interaction-A Molecular Recognition**

#### Molecular Recognition in Biology: Protein-DNA Interaction

• Protein–DNA interactions are important to regulate the biological function of DNA, usually the expression of a gene. Among the proteins that bind to DNA are transcription factors that activate or repress gene expression by binding to DNA motifs and histones that form part of the structure of DNA and bind to it less specifically.



- In general, proteins bind to DNA in the major groove, though there exists few exceptions. Examples of some known minor groove DNA-binding ligands includes Netropsin, Distamycin, Hoechst 33258, Pentamidine etc.
- Chromatin Immunoprecipitation (ChIP) is a type of immunoprecipitation experimental technique used to investigate the interaction between proteins and DNA in the cell. The aim of this study is to determine whether specific proteins are associated with specific genomic regions, such as transcription factors on promoters or other DNA binding sites, and possibly defining cistromes. To determine the specific location in the genome that various histone modifications are associated with, indicating the target of the histone modifiers, is also the aim of this study.

## **1.9.5.5. Protein-Protein Interaction-A Molecular Recognition**

#### Molecular Recognition in Biology: Protein-Protein Interaction

- Protein-protein interaction is a molecular recognition of a protein by another protein. It occurs often to carry out their biological function. Many of the most important molecular processes in the cell such as DNA replication are carried out by large molecular machines that are built from a large number of protein components organised by their protein-protein interactions. Thus, protein-protein interactions are at the core of the entire interactomics system of any living cell.
- Interactions between proteins are important for the majority of biological functions. For example, signals from the exterior of a cell are conveyed to the inside of that cell by protein–protein interactions of the signaling molecules. This process is called signal transduction which plays a fundamental role in many biological processes and in many diseases.



Ribonuclease inhibitor (wireframe) interact with the ribonuclease protein via noncovalent interactions.

- Proteins might interact for a long time to form part of a protein complex. A protein may be carrying another protein as for example, from cytoplasm to nucleus or vice versa. Also, a protein may interact shortly with another protein just to modify it as for example, a protein kinase may add a phosphate to a target protein. This modification of proteins can itself change protein–protein interactions and also function. For example, some proteins with SH2 domains only bind to other proteins when they are phosphorylated on the amino acid tyrosine while bromodomains specifically recognise acetylated lysines.
- Therefore, protein–protein interactions are of central importance for virtually every process in a living cell. Information about these interactions improves our understanding of diseases and can provide the basis for new therapeutic approaches.

# **1.10. Chemistry of the Living Cells**

### 1.10.1. Cell-The Basic Unit of Life

A cell is a microscopic, structural and functional unit of all living organisms capable of independent existence. Some functioning cells come together to form a tissue and tissues collectively form organs. In more complex living organisms, organs work together for the purpose of survival as system. However, in all living organisms, the cell is a functional unit and all of biology revolves around the activity of the cell.

The word 'cell' was first coined by **Robert Hooke** in 1665 to designate the empty honey-comb like structures viewed in a thin section of bottle cork, which he examined. In 1838, the German botanist **Matthias Schleiden** proposed that all the plants are made up of plant cells. Then in 1839, his colleague, the anatomist **Theodore Schwann** studied and concluded that all animals are also composed of animal cells. But still the real nature of a cell was in doubt. Cell theory was again rewritten by **Rudolf Virchow** in 1858.

In his theory he said that all living things are made up of cells and that all cells arise from pre-existing cells. It was German biologist **Schulze** who found in 1861 that the cells are not empty as were seen by Hooke but contain a 'stuff' of life called **protoplasm**.

During the 1950s scientists developed the concept that all organisms may be classified as prokaryotes or eukaryotes. For example, in prokaryotic cells, there is no nucleus; eukaryotic cells have a nucleus. Another important difference between prokaryotes and eukaryotes is that the prokaryotic cell does not have any intracellular components. Bacteria and blue- green algae come under the prokaryotic group, and protozoa, fungi, animals, and plants come under the eukaryotic group.



Figure 1.33: The structure of Prokaryotic and Eukaryotic Cells.

### 1.10.2. Modern Cell Theory

Modern biologists have made certain additions to the original cell theory, which now states that:

- All organisms are made up of cells.
- New cells are always produced from pre-existing cells.
- The cell is a structural and functional unit of all living things.
- The cell contains hereditary information which is passed on from cell to cell during cell division.
- All cells are basically the same in chemical composition and metabolic activities.

### 1.10.3. Chemistry of Living Organisms

So we knew that all living things are composed of one or more cells and the products of those cells. The chemical compounds that make up the structures in cells are a mixture of organic compounds and inorganic compounds. Organic compounds always contain carbon and hydrogen (and maybe some other elements), inorganic compounds do not contain carbon and hydrogen together. Simply, *Organic* refers to life and inorganic compounds make up non-living substances. Organic compounds are found in living things, their wastes, and their remains. Examples of organic compounds that are basic to life includes: carbohydrates (sugars, starches), lipids (fats & waxes), proteins, enzymes, nucleic acids (DNA & RNA). Examples of inorganic compounds are held together by covalent bonds, which form as a result of the sharing of two electrons between two atoms.

# 1.10.4. The Composition of Living Cell

### All living organism contains the following organic molecules for their lives:



Figure 1.34: The composition of mammalian Cell

# **1.10.4.1.** Carbohydrates as One of the Major Components of Living Organism:

- Main source of energy for living organisms: sugar and starch.
- Sugar is broken down inside the body into glucose, which is used for energy.
- Excess sugar is stored as starch.



- Chitin and cellulose are examples of carbohydrates with structural functions. Chitin is the material that makes up the exoskeletons of all arthropods (insects, spiders, lobsters, etc.). Cellulose is what the cell wall in plant cells is made of.
- Starch is the form by which plants store extra carbohydrates. Glycogen, sometimes referred to as animal starch, is the form by which animals store extra carbohydrates. We store glycogen in our livers.

## 1.10.4.2. Proteins are the Major Components of Living Organism

- amino acids are the building blocks of proteins
- growth and repair
- build body parts
- provide energy
- carry oxygen in blood
- fight germs
- make hormones
- **Enzymes:** special type of protein that regulates chemical activities in the body.

• There is an "N" in the word proteiN. The element nitrogen is always present in proteiNs.

Elements Present	Used by organisms for	Related Terms & Info		
carbon	structure & movement	peptide bond = the bond that		
hydrogen	(muscles)	holds amino acids together in		
oxygen		protein molecules		
NIIROGEN	enzymes	dinentiale two connected emine		
	antibadiaa	<u>aipeptide</u> = two connected amino		
(always those 4)	anupoules	acius		
	hormones	polypeptide = $3 \text{ or more}$		
phosphorus	nonnonoo	connected amino acids		
sulfur	pigments			
(possibly)				
Building	General Str	ucture of Amino Acids		
Block	Side C	Chains		
of Proteins:				
	H Carboxyl (Acid) Grou			
	Amino Group	ОН;		

- By what process are individual amino acids combined to from larger proteiNs? It is the dehydration synthesis. This is the process by which any small organic molecules are combined to form big organic molecules. The dehydration synthesis of a protein is typically illustrated as:
- Dipeptide is just a bonding between two amino acids. If we continued to add more and more amino acids to the dipeptide we would then call the molecule a Polypeptide and then we would end up with large protein molecules.
- Dipeptide, polypeptide, peptide bonds are all protein stuff.
- The hydrolysis (breakdown) of a dipeptide/polypeptide can be summarized as:

### Dipeptide/Polypeptide + Water → Amino acids + Amino acids

• On hydrolysis, water is *added* at the *beginning* and the products are *smaller* than the molecule we start with.



# **1.10.4.3.** Lipids (Fats, Oils, and Waxes) are another Component of Living Organisms:

- Lipids are third group of organic compounds present in cell of all living organisms. Lipids contain C, H, and O, and that's it. No other elements in lipid molecules are present.
- Carbohydrates always have twice as many hydrogen atoms as oxygen atoms (H:O ratio = 2:1). Lipids never do. Also, the structural formulas of carbohydrates have the ring while lipids do not.
- Lipids are energy rich compounds.
- A fatty acid is nothing more than a long C-H chain with a carboxyl group (COOH) on the end.
- The carboxyl group gives a molecule an acidic property. Both of the organic acids fatty Acids and amino Acids have carboxyl groups.
- Glycerol is classified as an alcohol (due to the OH's). It always looks the same: Three C's with Three -OH's and everything else H's.

Elements Present	Used by Organisms for	Related Terms & Info
Carbon Hydrogen	Stored Energy	saturated fat = C-C bonds are all single bonds
Oxygen ONLY !	Structure (important part of cell membranes)	unsaturated fat = contain at least one double or triple C-C bond
There is no specific H:O ratio.		
Building Blocks of Lipids	H H H H H H H H H H H H H H H H H H H	OH OH OH H H H H OH Glycerol

• Combining three fatty acids with one glycerol by the process of DEHYDRATION SYNTHESIS give fatty acids.



- There is no Nitrogen anywhere, so this is definitely not a proteiN reaction.
- Also there are no ring-shaped molecules, so one is not dealing with carbohydrates.
- The hydrolysis (digestion) of a lipid is similar in living organism as is the case of Carbohydrate/proteins and can be summarized as below:

### Lipid + Water → 3 Fatty Acids + 1 Glycerol

# 1.10.4.3. Nucleic Acids-DNA and RNA: 5% of the Total Components in Mammalian Cell

- "Blueprints" of life
- Store information that the body needs to build proteins
- DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid)
- Stores information; delivers.
- DNA & RNA (like proteins, carbohydrates, and lipids) are polymers--- long chains of smaller repeating units. The repeating unit in nucleic acids is called a Nucleotide.
- Every nucleotide has the same basic structure as below:



• Comparison of DNA and RNA:

	DNA	RNA	
Full Name	Deoxyribonucleic acid	Ribonucleic acid	
Basic Structure	Two long twisting strands of nucleotides in the form of a "double helix"	One single strand of nucleotides	
Nucleotide Sugar	2'-Deoxyribose	Ribose	
Nitrogenous Bases	Guanine (G) Cytosine (C) Adenine (A) Thymine (T)	Guanine (G) Cytosine (C) Adenine (A) Uracil (U)	

Location in a Cell	Nucleus (the Chromosomes)			Nucleus, in the Cytoplasm, and at the Ribosomes		
Function	The of a Cell, Activities	Hereditary Directs and	Material Controls Cell	Involved Synthesis	in S	Protein

- So, DNA & RNA are alike in that they are both nucleic acids composed of nucleotides.
- Their differences lie in their functions and structure.
- The main structural differences are the number of strands in the molecule, the sugar structure, and one of the N-bases (thymine in DNA, uracil in RNA).

### 1.10.5. Chemical Reaction in Living Cell

Therefore, these four major types of macromolecules found in living cells carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, and nucleic acids--are made of small, repeating subunits called monomers. The monomers are not always identical but they always have similar chemical structures. They are joined together by a series of chemical bond formed via the reactions called polymerisation to form large, complex molecules called polymers.

The Four Major Types of Macromolecules Found in Living Cells				
Macromolec	Element	Monomer	Polymer	example
ule	S			
Carbohydrate	С, Н, О	Simple	Polysaccha	Starch
		sugars	ride	
Lipids	С, Н, О	Fatty acids	Lipid	Fats, oils,
		and glycerol		waxes
Proteins	C, H, O, N,	Amino acids	Polypeptide	Insulin
	S		S	
Nucleic acids	C, H, O, P	Nucleotides	Nucleic	DNA
			acids	

Macromolecular functions are directly related to their structures, shapes and to the chemical properties which is similar to their monomers. The way the monomers are arranged in the macromolecule determines its shape and function in the similar way that the arrangement of the letters in a word determine its sound and meaning.

Much of a cell's activities involve the proper organization and bonding of macromolecules and their inter/intra-molecular interactions with other macromolecules. It is the job of DNA both directly and indirectly to coordinate and direct these activities. An understanding of the structure and functions of carbohydrates and lipids is not particularly key to the understanding of molecular

family; however, they play a crucial role in maintaining the cell structure and functions.

# 1.10.5.1 Chemical Reaction in Living Cell: Dehydration Synthesis *vs.* Hydrolysis

The chemical process that connects the smaller subunits to form large organic macromolecules is called *dehydration synthesis*. *Hydrolysis* is the process that breaks large organic macromolecules into their smaller subunits. It is the opposite of dehydration synthesis. In hydrolysis, water is added and the large compounds are split into small fragments. In living system, the process of hydrolysis is involved in digestion --- when food is broken down into nutrients.

Process	Start with	Ends with	Example
Dehydration Synthesis	small molecules (subunits/monomers)	large molecules and water	
		(macromolecules)	
Hydrolysis	water and large molecules (macromolecules)	small molecules (subunits/monomers)	Digestion

### 1.10.6. How to Visualize Biomolecules in Living Cells?

### 1.10.6.1. Introduction

As was discussed earlier, Living systems are composed of networks of several interacting biopolymers, ions and metabolites. These cellular components drive a complex array of cellular processes, many of which cannot be observed when the biomolecules are examined in their purified, isolated forms. Therefore, researchers have begun to study biological processes in living cells and in whole organisms instead of testing in laboratory in test tubes. To do so tracking the molecules is necessary within the cell's native environments. Direct detection of few biomolecules in complex biomolecular environment is possible but for all other cases we have to depend on indirect detection techniques. Thus, several methods have been developed to equip cellular components with reporter tags for visualization and isolation from biological samples.

The most popular strategy for cellular imaging involves tagging of the green fluorescent protein (GFP) and its related variants to a biomolecule of interest. Tagging of these fluorescent probes to a target protein enables visualization by fluorescence microscopy. GFP tags can also be used to analyze whole organisms focusing the proteins. Almost every cellular process related to proteins has been studied using GFP like tags.

However, GFP tagging suffers from several short comings such as-(a) tagging causes structural perturbation which in turn influence the protein

expression, localization or function; (b) visualized is possible only by optical methods; (c) GFP tagging only be applied to proteneceous materials and cannot be applied to visualize non-proteinaceous components (a significant fraction of cellular biomass) of cell like glycans, lipids, nucleic acids or the thousands of small organic metabolites. Therefore, methods to visualize both proteins, their modifiers, and other non-proteinaceous components would enable us understanding of the whole organism proteome.

To track biomolecules in living cells and whole organisms, Antibody conjugates have been widely used. However, because of the large size and physical properties, access of these reagents to antigens within cells and outside of the vasculature in living animals is a problem.

Therefore, we see that a large molecule tag is not suitable to meet all research need without hampering the cellular activity. Thus, a small molecular fluorescent tagging approach (like tagging of biotin, fluorophores and numerous other small-molecule reporters) has been developed and utilized owing to the availability of reacting centre/functionality within a biomolecule. However, the site-specific chemical modification of biomolecules remains a very difficult task.



Figure 1.35: Schematic of bioorthogonal chemical reporters' strategy to visualize cell's biomolecules.

Needs for tagging biomolecules uncovered the bioorthogonal chemical reporters strategy to tag biomolecules. Incorporation of unique chemical functionality (a bioorthogonal chemical reporter) into a target biomolecule using the cell's own biosynthetic machinery is the main part of this strategy. Therefore, using this techniques, proteins, glycans and lipids have all been tagged/labeled with chemical reporters in living cells and then ligated with reactive probes. This strategy has also been applied in monitoring enzyme activities and tagging cell surface glycans in whole organisms.

## **1.10.6.2.** Existing Bioorthogonal Chemical Reporter Systems:

A number of chemical motifs are reported which possess the required qualities of biocompatibility and selective reactivity. Thus they are today well known bioorthogonal chemical reporters in living cells. This group comprises (1) peptide sequences that can be ligated with small-molecule imaging probes, (2) cell surface electrophiles that can be tagged with hydrazide and aminooxy derivatives, (3) azides that can be selectively modified with phosphines or activated alkynes, and (4) terminal alkynes that can be ligated with azides (Table 1).

Chemical Reporter	Reactive Partner (R' = Probe)	Ligation Product	Target (R)
R HSH HSH SHSH Tetracysteine motif	$X = \text{FIASH}, \qquad \begin{array}{c} & & & \\ & & & \\ & &$	R S AS AS AS AS AS AS AS HO U C Tetracystein- biarsenyl	Protein
R <sup>C</sup> R"(H) Ketone/Aldehyde	H <sub>2</sub> N-NH <sup>R</sup> H <sub>2</sub> N-O-R'	$R^{H} R^{R'}$	Protein, Glycan
	Staudinger Ligation $H_3CO$ $Ph_2P$ $Ph_2P$ $Ph_2P$	R-N H Ph <sub>2</sub> P Ö Ö	
R−N <sub>3</sub>	<u>"Click" Chemistry</u> R', Cu(I), Ligand	R-N-R'	Protein, Glycan,

Table 1: Chemical reporters and bioorthogonal reactions used in living systems.



### 1.10.6.2.1. Bioorthogonal Peptide Sequences

The tetracysteine-biarsenical system affords a powerful alternative to GFP tagging for protein visualization.

### 1.10.6.2.2. Ketones and Aldehydes

Ketones, and aldehydes are bioorthogonal chemical reporters that can tag not only proteins, but also glycans and other secondary metabolites.

### 1.10.6.2.3. Azides

### The Staudinger Ligation

In contrast to aldehydes and ketones, azides are versatile chemical reporters for labeling all classes of biomolecules in any biological settings. The azides are good electrophiles subject to reaction with soft nucleophiles. This versatile functional group is absent in almost all naturally occurring species. Due to its wonderful bioorthogonality, recently the azide is being used as a chemical reporter in living systems. It is kinetically stable and contains large intrinsic energy. Thus, azides are prone to unique modes of reactivity. Therefore azide has been exploited for the development of bioorthogonal reactions, including the Staudinger ligation of azides with functionalized phosphines and the click reaction {[3+2] cycloaddition} with activated alkynes. These reactions can be used for the selective labeling of azide-functionalized biomolecules.



Figure 1.36: The Staudinger Ligation.

The Staudinger ligation has been used to modify glycans on living cells. Thus, glycoproteins are enriched with ligated components thereby, imparting new functionality to recombinant proteins.

### Copper-catalyzed [3+2] azide-alkyne cycloaddition

Azides are also 1,3-dipolar in nature, thus, can undergo reactions with dipolarophiles such as activated alkynes. These  $\pi$ -systems are both extremely rare and inert in biological systems, thus, further increasing the bioorthogonality of the azide along the reaction with alkynes. More than four decades ago, the [3+2] cycloaddition between azides and terminal alkynes to provide stable triazole adducts was first described by Huisgen. The reaction is thermodynamically favorable. Without alkyne activation, however, the process requires stringent reaction conditions (high temperatures or pressures) which are incompatible with living systems. Therefore to make the process facile and thus, compatible with living systems, the alkyne must be activated. One possible way of activating alkynes is to attach an electron withdrawing functional groups like an ester; however, the resulting  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl compounds can then act as Michael acceptors for a variety of biological nucleophiles. Therefore this is loosing bioorthogonality.

To make the azide-alkyne cycloaddition a bioorthogonal, one should activate alkyne via activating the terminal alkyne proton by using a catalyst like Cu (I). Thus, the Cu (I)-catalyzed azide-alkyne cycloaddition would be facile at biological temperature and also the rate of the reaction could be faster compared to uncatalysed Staudinger ligation.

### Strain-Promoted Cycloaddition

Use of ring strain is an alternative means of activating alkynes for a catalystfree [3+2] cycloaddition with azides. Constraining the alkyne within an eightmembered ring creates ~18 kcal/mol of strain. This strain energy is released in the transition state upon [3+2] cycloaddition with an azide. As a consequence, cyclooctynes react with azides at room temperature, without the need for a catalyst. Thus, this strain-promoted cycloaddition has been used to label biomolecules both in vitro and on cell surfaces without observable toxic effects. However, the reaction is limited by its slow rate.

# 1.10.7. How to Introduce Chemical Reporters in Cell's Biomolecules?

### In Proteins

To exploit the bioorthogonal chemistry of ketones, azides and alkynes (those functional groups are not present in any natural amino acids) for protein labeling we need using a cell's translational machinery in either a residue-specific or a site-specific manner. Some of the techniques will be found in Module 2.

### In Glycoconjugates

Azides can be incorporated into glycoconjugates using glycan biosynthetic pathways. Thus, as is shown in figure 34, azido analog of GlcNAc (GlcNAz) can be incorporated into cytosolic and nuclear glycoproteins.



Figure 1.37: Strategy to incorporate Azides into glycoconjugates.

# 1.10.8. How to Read Enzyme Function?- Chemical Reporters Can Read

Along with monitoring biomolecule expression and localization, chemical reporters can read enzyme function. Thus, the target protein is labeled with the chemical reporter by virtue of its catalytic activity on a modified substrate. Thus, the activity-based protein profiling approach has been used to monitor enzymatic functions. An alkyne reporter was found to give cleaner labeling than the corresponding azido analog for such purpose.

# 1.10.9. Example of Bioorthogonal Chemical Reporters in Living Organisms

GFP-protein fusions are widely used for noninvasive imaging of protein expression and localization in living organisms. In a similar manner, both proteins and glycans have been labeled with azides in laboratory mice can be utilized for non invasive imaging.

### 1.10.10. Summary of Chemistry of Living Cell

As is stated earlier, the bioorthogonal chemical reporter strategy offers a means to visualize many classes of biomolecules in living systems. Substrates linked to chemical reporters can be metabolized by cells and incorporated into proteins, glycans, lipids and other cellular species. After covalent reaction with complementary probes, these classes of biomolecules can be visualized in living cells/living organisms.

Thus, it is clear that chemical reporters and bioorthogonal reactions have a rich future in the field of chemical biology. However, there remains challenge with respect to both metabolic labeling and chemical tagging in biological systems.

## 1.11.Analogy Between Biochemical and Organic Reaction

### 1.11.1. Introduction

The nature's synthesis of complex biological molecules, like proteins, DNA with the help of several enzymes and coenzymes can be correlated with organic synthesis in laboratory. However, Nature's enzymatic synthesis is differed from simple organic chemistry by its degree of complexities and a higher degree of stereoregularity and stereospecificity. It is for that reason why some biological transformations are not easily carried out in test tube in chemistry laboratory. Coenzyme biochemistry often leads to unconventional organic chemistry. In this respect, coenzymes are nature's special reagents. Their well defined chemical structures make them ideal molecules to use for developing the concept of structure-function relationships by bioorganic chemistry approaches as is discussed earlier under biomimetic chemistry section.

### 1.11.1. Catabolic Processes-Analogy with Organic Chemistry

As an elaborative example, we discussed here the Metabolism reaction in biology and the analogous reactions in Organic Chemistry. In *catabolic* processes break down and oxidation of larger molecules to produce smaller molecules and energy is take place. The first, beta-oxidation, is a key part of the process by which fatty acids are broken down to acetate.



Figure 1.38: The catabolic process and the analogous organic reaction.

From this we can see that the outcome of a beta-oxidation event is that two carbon atoms are cleaved from a fatty acid. The bond broken is between the alpha and beta carbons. The gamma carbon shows up in the product as a carboxylic acid. This carboxylic acid, two carbons shorter than its parent, can be shortened by another trip through the beta-oxidation process, with the production of another molecule of acetate and a new fatty acid, again two carbons shorter.

Below is the full mechanistic path of the catabolism process. Thus, prior to the commencement of the actual beta-oxidation cycle, the carboxylic acid end of the fatty acid is esterified with the SH group of coenzyme-A.

The first reaction results in the removal of hydrogen atoms from the alpha and beta carbon atoms. Its effects are opposite to those of hydrogenation of a double bond. The removal of hydrogen atoms makes this reaction as an oxidation reaction similar to organic chemistry. The oxidizing agent here, in biology, is FAD (flavine adenine dinucleotide).

Next, water is added to the alkene Dond which results from the first reaction. *This is analogous to the addition of water to alkenes, a popular addition reaction in organic chemistry. Since we know that a carbon alpha to a carbonyl group is a rather nuclophilic place similar to the enolate organic chemistry, it makes sense that the electrophilic hydrogen from water would add there and the nucleophilic -OH would add at the beta carbon.* 



Figure 1.39: Full mechanism of catabolic process to show analogy with organic reaction.

*The third step is nothing but an oxidation of a secondary alcohol to a ketone.* This is a reaction for which we used chromium(VI) oxidizing reagents in organic chemistry, on the contrary, in biology, the oxidizing agent is NAD<sup>+</sup> (nicotine adenine dinucleotide cation). The hydrogen attached to the OH-bearing carbon is transferred to the NAD<sup>+</sup>, and the -OH hydrogen comes away as an H<sup>+</sup>.

In the final step actual cleavage of the C-C bond between the beta-carbon and the gamma carbonyl group takes place. If we think the final step in reverse

# way, we can see a pattern which is identical to the Claisen condensation reaction in organic chemistry.

Thus we can conclude that the final step in the beta-oxidation cycle is a reverse Claisen condensation. Like the Claisen condensation itself, this step is possible because the enolate ion obtained as a result of breakage of the acetate fragment which is **stabilized by resonance**. This enolate ion is neutralized by a proton source. The shortened fatty acid is released from the enzyme as CoASH replaces the sulfur of the enzyme. This last step goes through a tetrahedral intermediate similar to organic chemistry as we would expect for a reaction which converts one carboxylic acid derivative to another.

The acetyl-coenzyme-A formed in this cycle enters the tricarboxylic acid cycle where it is oxidized to two molecules of  $CO_2$ . The NADH and FADH<sub>2</sub> produced in beta-oxidation and the tricarboxylic acid cycle enter a process called oxidative phosphorylation which results in the formation of ATP (adenosine triphosphate) for use in providing energy within the cell.

At last we can conclude that, all the steps catalyzed by enzymes are similar what we can carry out in organic synthesis in laboratory. Overall, that the reactions all occur at the carboxylic acid end of the molecule rather than at the  $CH_3$  end is not surprising, since a fundamental idea of organic chemistry is that reactions occur at functional groups rather than elsewhere.

### 1.11.2. Glycolysis and Its' Analogy with Organic Chemistry

Glycolysis is the conversion of glucose to pyruvate. In the larger scheme of things the pyruvate produced is then converted to acetate, which like the acetate from beta-oxidation of fatty acids, enters the tricarboxylic acid cycle. In this biological process also one can find analogous reaction in organic chemistry. In schematic form the 10 steps of glycolysis are shown along with the analogy with organic chemistry has been elaborated.

**Step 1:** Glucose is phosphorylated by ATP to form a sugar phosphate. The negative charge of the phosphate prevents passage of the sugar phosphate through the plasma membrane, trapping glucose inside the cell.



**Analogy with Organic Chemistry:** Step 3 is similar to Step 1, the formation of a phosphate ester, called phosphorylation.
**Step 4**: The six carbon sugar is cleaved to produce two three-carbon molecules. Only the glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate can proceed immediately through glycolysis.



**Analogy with Organic Chemistry:** Step 4 involves cleavage of a carbon-carbon bond and is the reaction in which the carbon skeleton changes from a six carbon chain to two three carbon chains. Importantly one can notice that the bond, Ca-Cb, adjacent to the carbonyl group is broken. This suggests that enol and enolate reactivity is going to be important. Like we did with the beta-oxidation of fatty acids, we can see a familiar reaction if we think about this step in the reverse direction. If we look at it as a bond-making reaction instead of bond breaking, then it is easier to say that this step is nothing but analogous to a *reverse aldol addition*.

The sequence of mechanistic steps is:



Thus, the reverse aldol steps in this reaction are preceded by conversion of the carbonyl group of fructose 1,6-bisphosphate to an imine, and followed by the hydrolysis of that imine back to a carbonyl group and the amino group. The amino group is attached to the enzyme which catalyzes this reaction, and the formation of the imine helps anchoring the fructose 1,6-bisphosphate molecule to the enzyme in the proper position to bring the bases and acids on the enzyme to the right location for the mechanism to go forward.



**Step 7**: The transfer to ADP of the high energy phosphate group that was generated in **step 6** forms ATP.



**Step 9**: The removal of water from 2-phosphoglycerate creates a high-energy enol phosphate linkage.



**NET RESULT OF GLYCOLYSIS:** If we add up all the balanced reactions, we find that one glucose molecule, two ADP molecules, two NAD<sup>+</sup> molecules, and two hydrogen phosphate molecules have been converted to two pyruvates, two ATP's, two NADH's and two hydronium ions.



**FATE OF PYRUVATE:** Fate of pyruvate depends on the local conditions. In muscle tissue there may be a limited supply of oxygen due to exercise or hard work. This means that the NADH produced in glycolysis not oxidized fully back to NAD<sup>+</sup>. Glycolysis requires NAD<sup>+</sup>. So, it's production and the production of energy in the form of ATP, thus, is also stopped. This can be circumvented by lactate fermentation, which reduces pyrvate to lactate and oxidizes NADH to NAD<sup>+</sup>. Energy production can continue until the build-up of lactate and acid. As a result of this reaction muscle exhaustion takes place.

In yeasts, in the absence of oxygen, fermentation to alcohol occurs. This is the basis of the fermentation processes which produce beverage alcohol in beer and wine. The by product is  $CO_2$  which is responsible for the carbonation of beer and sparkling wines. If the yeast is used in baking, the  $CO_2$  expands the dough to produce the rise of bread dough. In this case the alcohol is the byproduct and it is largely driven off by the heat of baking. It is also responsible for much of the pleasant odour of baking bread.

If there is a good oxygen supply, pyruvate is oxidized to acetyl CoA and  $CO_2$ . As we have seen now several times, the oxidizing agent is NAD<sup>+</sup> which is reduced to NADH. This reaction is more complex than it looks at first glance.

## 1.11.3. Few More Biochemical Reactions and Their Analogy with Organic Chemistry (Ref. Bioorganic Chemistry by Hermann Dugas, Third Ed.)

Below in a tabular form are more representative examples to show the similarity between what a chemist can do in the organic laboratory as compared to what nature is performing inside the living cell.

Tarnsformations, enzyme cofactors	Structure	Comparable reactions in organic chemistry
Peptide synthesis on ribosomses, peptidyl transferase, activation via ATP and tNA.	aa O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O	Synthesis of an amide bond, formation of a C-N bond, solid phase synthesis, stereoregulating (template), Surface, activation <i>via</i> DCC.
Protease,hydrolysis of a peptide bond, α- chymotrypsin (charge rely <i>via</i> Asp-His-Ser), carboxypeptidase (Zn <sup>2+</sup> , Glu).		Cleavage of a C-N bond by a base, a nucleophile.
Hidrolysis of polysaccharides, lyzozyme (Asp, Glu).		Hydrolysis of an acetal in acidc Medium, cleavage of a C-O bond.
Hydrolysis of phosphodiester bond, RNase (2 His and Lys)		Cleavage of a P-O bond, pseudorotation.
Formationofaphosphodiesterbond,RNAandDNApolymerase,nucleotidetriphosphates.	R HO PP-PNy	Synthesis of a P-O bond, activation via DCC.
Redox reactions, alcohol dehydrogenase. NADH >>>> NAD <sup>+</sup>		Hydride transfer, BF4 <sup>-</sup> .
Sugar(ketoaldose)metabolism,glyoxolase,glutathionine(GSH)	$ \begin{array}{c} O \\ R \\ H \\ OH \end{array} \begin{array}{c} O \\ G \\ R \\ H \\ OH \end{array} \begin{array}{c} H \\ OH \\ OH \end{array} \begin{array}{c} O \\ R \\ OH \\ OH \end{array} \begin{array}{c} O \\ R \\ O \\ O \\ O \\ O \end{array} \right) $	Intramolecular Cannizzaro, transition state analog.

mediated, inactivated by vitamin C.		
Pyridoxal-phosphate- dependent transformations.		Formation of Schiff base, Decarboxylation, recemization.
$\begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	$ \bigcirc \overset{OH}{\longrightarrow} \bigcirc \overset{OH}{\longleftarrow} \overset{OH}{\bigcirc} $	Hydroxylation, insertion of oxygen, ozone like intermediate.
FAD-dependent ketone, Monooxygenase in certain bacteria.	$A \xrightarrow{O} R' \xrightarrow{O} R'$	Bayer-Villiger reaction, oxygen Insertion.
Biotin carboxylation (or dicarboxylation) dependent Enzyme, "activated CO <sub>2</sub> "	HN N O R S	Addition of CO <sub>2</sub> , formation of a C-C bond, DCC-like intermediate.
Decarboxylation of β- activated acids, Krebs cycle.	R O O	Decarboxylation of $\beta$ -keto and $\beta$ -hydroxy acids, cleavage of a C-C bond.
Thiamine-pyrophosphate – dependent decarboxylase, "biologically cyanide ion".	R'SCH <sub>3</sub> OH R O	Reductive decarboxylation of α-keto acids, benzoin condensation.
Aldolases in saccharides, nature's major way to make C-C bonds.		Aldol condensation, retro aldol, formation and cleavage of C-C bonds.
Synthesis of fatty acids, Krebs cycle, Acyl CoA Ligase, "activated acetate".	H <sub>3</sub> C S CoA R X	Claisen condensation, formation of a C-C bond.

Dehydrases, "suicide" Substrates.		Michael addition, irreversible formation of a covalent bond.
Terpenes synthesis	PPO H OPP	Formation of a C-C bond, $S_N 1$ (or $S_N 2$ ) addition of an olefin
Steriod biosynthesis, migration of H <sup>-</sup> and CH <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , ring rearrangement.	H H H S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S	Wagner-Meerwein rearrangement in acidic medium.
N.I.H shift, dependent on FAD and $O_2$	H <sub>-O</sub> Phenyl pyruvate	Migration of a C-C bond, formation of an arene oxide.
Biosynthesis of aromatic acids, chain migration, primary metabolism	Chorismate	Claisen rearrangement, sigmatropic [3,3], Woodward- Hoffman rules, transition state analog.
Coenzyme B12-dependent transformations		1,2-migrated of covalent bonds
Acetyl-CoA, thioester	H H H S CoA	Double role
Acyl phosphate		Anhydride like intermediate
ATP, amino acid activation to load tRNA	R O O AMP	Anhydride like intermediate for activation of an amino acid

Biotin phosphate intermediate	O O O-P-O N-H S	Anhydride like intermediate or carbodiimide-type chemistry
Thiamine pyrophosphate	R' N OPP	"electron sink"
Pyridoxal phosphate	PO PO H N H H	"electron sink"
S-adenosyl methionine (SAM)	R O Ad	Sulfonium ion intermediate,CH <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup> transfer
N <sup>5</sup> -methyl-THF,N <sup>5</sup> -formyl- THF,N <sup>5</sup> -hydroxymethyl- THF	H H-N OH Y=CH <sub>3</sub> , CHO,CH <sub>2</sub> OH	Methayl, formyl, hydroxymethyl, and methylene transfer agent

## 1.11.4. Parallelism between Chemical Synthesis and Enzymatic Reactions in the Cell (Ref. Bioorganic Chemistry by Hermann Dugas, Third Ed.)

Here, is a parallelism between chemical synthesis of polymer/solid phase synthesis of peptide and the synthesis of protein in cellular machinery. If we look at closely, it is then clear that the cellular synthesis is analogous to the chemical synthesis of polymer materials. Only special difference is that the molecular complexity increases as we move from left to right of the chart below. Thus, the complexity in cellular synthesis is more and stereoregularity is high compared to the similar synthesis in organic chemistry laboratory.

Ziegler-Natta catalyst	Merrifield solid phase peptide synthesis	Cellular protein synthesis
Heterogenous     stereoregular surface	Also heterogenous chemistry	Ribosome
• TiCl <sub>4</sub> +AlEt <sub>3</sub>	<ul> <li>polystyrene and divinylstyrene matrix</li> </ul>	• tRNA
Catalyst Initiator with a good Electronic structure	<ul> <li>the amino acid is first attached to the solid support</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>2 sites on the ribosomal surface</li> </ul>
• Ti atom has an empty orbital that again behaves like a cavity to make a $\sigma$ bond with C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> of Al(Et) <sub>3</sub> . Then, this is followed by a $\pi$ bond with an olefin substrate and finally a $\sigma$ with the substrate occurs and the polymer chain strats to grow.	<ul> <li>the process is automatized by sequential addition of other protected amino acid.</li> <li>DCC is used as activating agent (mix-anhydride chemistry)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>activation of each amino acid by ATP (mix anhydride chemistry) loading of aminoacyl NA on the ribosome and peptide bond formation</li> <li>Watson-Crick base pair recognition between tRNA and mRNA for coding the right amino acid sequence</li> </ul>

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## 1.13. Assignments

- 1. Define the followings: (a) Bioorganic Chemistry, (b) Organic Chemistry, (c) Biological Chemistry, (d) Biochemistry, (e) Biomimetic chemistry.
- **2.** "Bioorganic chemistry is a Boarder line science"-Explain.
- **3.** Why natural DNA is based on 2'-deoxyribose, with 3', 5'- phosphodiester links?
- **4.** How the remote oxidation in chemistry was developed from the knowledge of biology?
- **5.** What is the name of the enzyme which catalyse the transamination reaction? Write down the mechanism of transamination? Draw the structure and write the name of the cofactor essential for this transformation.
- **6.** What is the importance of transamination? Give an example of artificial enezyme which can do the similar job of transamination?
- 7. Give few examples of biochemical knowledge applied to organic chemistry
- 8. Name some of the properties of biological molecules that inspire chemists:
- **9.** Give some example of organic chemical knowledge for understanding the chemical aspects of life and its origin:
- **10.**Write the names of the non-covalent interactions presents in biological macromolecules?
- **11.** Proximity of reactive functional groups in a chemical transformation allows bond polarization, resulting generally in an acceleration of rate of the reaction. Explain the proximity effect with proper example.
- **12.**Who is the pioneer of molecular recognition? Give examples how crown ether can be utilized for enantiomer differentiation.
- 13. What is "Modern Cell Theory"
- 14. What are the major components of Cell?
- 15. How to Read Enzyme Function?
- **16.**Give any one example of biochemical reaction and explain it in terms of organic chemical reaction?