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Inter-Domain Dynamics in a Two-Domain Protein Studied by NMR YAROSLAV RYABOV, University of Maryland at College Park, DAVID FUSHMAN — Domain orientation and dynamics often play an important role in regulation of multidomain proteins function. Here we consider a two-domain system, Lys48-linked di-ubiquitin (Ub₂), which is the simplest model of the polyubiquitin chain involved in the ubiquitin-proteasome pathway. Under physiological conditions Ub₂ adopts a compact conformation, in which the functionally important hydrophobic residues are sequestered at the interface between the two Ub₂ domains. Here we present a dynamic model that combines the anisotropic overall rotational diffusion with intra- and interdomain dynamics. This model describes the interdomain motion as a transition between two distinct conformational states. The model is applied to experimental ¹⁵N relaxation data for Lys48-linked Ub₂ acquired at neutral (pH 6.8) and acidic (pH 4.5) conditions. The model provides complete picture of Ub₂ domain mobility including domain orientations, time scales of domain motions, and occupation probabilities for both states of Ub₂. The obtained results are consistent with independent data on chemical shift perturbation mapping and spin labeling.

Yaroslav Ryabov University of Maryland at College Park

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