CONTENTS

Preface xi

1 Statistical Thermodynamics of Biological Molecules 1

1.1 BIOLOGICAL MOLECULES HAVE SPECIAL CHEMICAL PROPERTIES 1

1.2 STATISTICAL THERMODYNAMICS RELATES MICROSCOPIC INTERACTIONS TO MACROSCOPIC PROPERTIES 4

1.3 THE ENERGY OF AN ISOLATED SYSTEM IS CONSTANT; THE ENTROPY INCREASES TOWARD A MAXIMUM 8

1.4 THE GIBBS ENERGY IS A MINIMUM AT EQUILIBRIUM 12

1.5 THE GIBBS ENERGY DETERMINES THE CONCENTRATIONS AT EQUILIBRIUM 16

1.6 THE PARTITION FUNCTION IS A POWERFUL TOOL TO STUDY DISTRIBUTIONS OF MOLECULES 20

1.7 TWO-STATE SYSTEMS ARE COMMON IN CHEMISTRY 23

1.8 SUMMARY 27

1.9 PROBLEMS 28

2 Protein Structure 31

2.1 PROTEINS ARE POLYMERS OF A SPECIAL KIND 31

2.2 FLUORESCENCE SPECTROSCOPY IS A USEFUL TECHNIQUE TO MONITOR PROTEIN STRUCTURE AND INTERACTIONS 37

2.3 CHARGES IN A PROTEIN ARE DETERMINED BY THE IONIZATION OF ITS AMINO ACIDS 39

2.4 THE SECONDARY STRUCTURE IS THE LOCAL SPATIAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE POLYPEPTIDE CHAIN 46

2.5 MOST OF THE SECONDARY STRUCTURE IN PROTEINS CONSISTS OF α-HELICES AND β-STRANDS 54

2.6 THE PROTEIN TERTIARY STRUCTURE IS THE GLOBAL ARRANGEMENT OF ITS POLYPEPTIDE CHAIN 61

2.7 PROTEIN STRUCTURES CAN BE DETERMINED BY X-RAY CRYSTALLOGRAPHY, NUCLEAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE, AND CRYO-ELECTRON MICROSCOPY 63

2.8 PROTEIN STRUCTURES BELONG TO A FEW TYPES OF FOLDS 71

2.9 SUMMARY 82

2.10 PROBLEMS 83

3 Evolution of Protein Sequence and Structure 87

3.1 NOTHING IN BIOLOGY MAKES SENSE EXCEPT IN THE LIGHT OF EVOLUTION 87

3.2 THE TREE OF LIFE SHOWS EVOLUTIONARY RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SPECIES 87

3.3 MUTATIONS IN PROTEINS ARISE FROM MUTATIONS IN DNA 88

3.4 EVOLUTION OCCURS BECAUSE OF MUTATIONS IN DNA 95

3.5 HOMOLOGOUS PROTEINS EVOLVED FROM A COMMON ANCESTOR 97

3.6 PROTEIN SEQUENCES DIVERGE EXPONENTIALLY IN TIME 98

3.7 PROTEIN SEQUENCE COMPARISON IS A POWERFUL METHOD TO ESTABLISH EVOLUTIONARY RELATIONSHIP 100

3.8 EVOLUTIONARY TREES TRACE THE HISTORY OF HOMOLOGOUS PROTEINS 106

3.9 ORTHOLOGOUS PROTEINS DIVERGE WITH THE SPECIES THAT CARRY THEM 108

3.10 PARALOGOUS PROTEINS DIVERGE FOLLOWING GENE DUPLICATIONS 110

3.11 PROTEIN SEQUENCES DO NOT CHANGE UNIFORMLY IN THE COURSE OF EVOLUTION 112

3.12 PROTEIN SEQUENCES CHANGE MAINLY BECAUSE OF NEUTRAL MUTATIONS 116

3.13 THE PROTEIN STRUCTURE ENCODES A MOLECULAR CLOCK 120

3.14 ANCIENT PROTEINS FROM EXTINCT ORGANISMS CAN BE RESURRECTED IN THE LABORATORY 122
3.15 EVOLUTION OF COLOR VISION DEPENDS ON A FEW MUTATIONS IN MEMBRANE PROTEIN RECEPTORS 123
3.16 STEROIDS ACQUIRED NEW FUNCTIONS THROUGH THE EVOLUTION OF THEIR RECEPTORS 130
3.17 GENE DUPLICATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL IN THE EVOLUTION OF METABOLIC PATHWAYS 134
3.18 SUMMARY 138
3.19 PROBLEMS 139

4 Protein Stability 143

4.1 WHY DO PROTEINS FOLD? 143
4.2 PROTEIN DENATURATION IS DESCRIBED BY EQUILIBRIUM THERMODYNAMICS 144
4.3 THE ENTROPY OF THE UNFOLDED POLYPEPTIDE IS LARGE BECAUSE OF ITS HUGE NUMBER OF CONFORMATIONS 152
4.4 ELECTROSTATIC INTERACTIONS IN PROTEINS ARE WEAK 153
4.5 VAN DER WAALS INTERACTIONS ARE WEAK BUT THEIR TOTAL CONTRIBUTION IN THE PROTEIN CORE IS SUBSTANTIAL 159
4.6 HYDROGEN BONDS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR PROTEIN STABILITY 161
4.7 THE HYDROPHOBIC EFFECT IS THE REASON WHY PROTEINS FOLD TO GLOBULAR STRUCTURES IN WATER 164
4.8 DISULFIDE BONDS DESTABILIZE THE UNFOLDED STATE 173
4.9 COSOLVENTS CHANGE PROTEIN STABILITY AND SOLUBILITY 173
4.10 MARGINAL STABILITY IS SUFFICIENT FOR FUNCTION 184
4.11 SUMMARY 185
4.12 PROBLEMS 185

5 Protein Folding 191

5.1 PROTEIN FOLDING—WHAT'S THE QUESTION? 191
5.2 PROTEINS FOLD TO UNIQUE STRUCTURES 192
5.3 THE COIL–HELIX TRANSITION IS A SIMPLE CASE OF COOPERATIVE FOLDING 193
5.4 SEQUENCE SPECIFIES STRUCTURE, BUT HOW? 203
5.5 COMPUTATIONAL METHODS CAN PREDICT PROTEIN STRUCTURES AND SIMULATE FOLDING 209
5.6 THE KINETIC MECHANISM DESCRIBES HOW THE PROTEIN FOLDS 218
5.7 THE STRUCTURE OF THE TRANSITION STATE CAN BE PROBED BY EXPERIMENT AND SIMULATION 231
5.8 COMBINING EXPERIMENT AND COMPUTER SIMULATIONS IS THE MOST POWERFUL WAY TO UNDERSTAND PROTEIN FOLDING 235
5.9 SUMMARY 241
5.10 PROBLEMS 241

6 Binding, Allostery, and Cooperativity 247

6.1 BINDING OF A LIGAND TO A PROTEIN IS DESCRIBED BY A BINDING ISOTHERM 247
6.2 MOST PROTEINS BIND MORE THAN ONE LIGAND 262
6.3 LIGANDS WITH MULTIPLE CONTACTS REDUCE THE UNFAVORABLE ENTROPY LOSS UPON BINDING 267
6.4 COOPERATIVE BINDING IS A CONSEQUENCE OF INTERACTING SITES 274
6.5 MACROSCOPIC BINDING CONSTANTS ARE COMBINATIONS OF MICROSCOPIC CONSTANTS AND COOPERATIVITY FACTORS 280
6.6 NEGATIVE COOPERATIVITY OCCURS WHEN BINDING OF THE FIRST LIGAND IMPAIRS BINDING OF THE SECOND 282
6.7 HEMOGLOBIN BINDS OXYGEN COOPERATIVELY 283
6.8 LIGAND BINDING CHANGES PROTEIN STABILITY 297
6.9 SUMMARY 300
6.10 PROBLEMS 301

7 Enzyme Catalysis 307

7.1 THE FIRST STEP IN ENZYME CATALYSIS IS THE FORMATION OF AN ENZYME–SUBSTRATE COMPLEX 307

7.2 THERE ARE THREE MAIN TYPES OF ENZYME INHIBITORS 317

7.3 SERINE PROTEASES USE ACID–BASE CATALYSIS TO HYDROLYZE PEPTIDE BONDS 322

7.4 THE ACTIVITY OF ENZYMES DEPENDS ON pH 329

7.5 TRANSIENT KINETICS ARE REQUIRED TO DETERMINE MOLECULAR RATE CONSTANTS 336

7.6 ENZYME CATALYSIS HAS BEEN UNDERSTOOD IN TERMS OF THERMODYNAMICS 340

7.7 CONFORMATIONAL DYNAMICS ARE ESSENTIAL IN ENZYME CATALYSIS 345

7.8 SUMMARY 361

7.9 PROBLEMS 362

Appendices

A Calculation of the Excess Heat Capacity Curve of Protein Thermal Denaturation 371

B Calculation of the Average Helicity from the Partition Function 373

C Solution of Rate Equations for a Two-State System 375

D Steady-State Rates of Complex Enzyme Reactions 379

Index 385