The Linear Behavior of the Human Hemoglobin in Water, Ethanol and Methanol solvents

B. Jalilian¹,², M. Zakerhamidi², R. Kheradmand³

¹- Aras International Campus, University of Tabriz, Tabriz, Iran. bjalilian445@gmail.com
²- Associate Professor, Photonics department, Research Institute for Applied physics & Astronomy (RIAPA), University of Tabriz, Tabriz, Iran. zakerhamidi@tabrizu.ac.ir
³- Associate Professor, Photonics department, Research Institute for Applied physics & Astronomy (RIAPA), University of Tabriz, Tabriz, Iran. r_kheradmand@tabrizu.ac.ir

Abstract
In this work has investigated the linear behavior of the Human hemoglobin with using UV-V is spectroscopy and fluorescence in several solvents (1.0 × 10⁻⁵ M) where prepared in 5ml from water, ethanol and methanol solvents and After storing at 4°C for at least 24hr. The absorption spectra and Fluorescence results showed that electron transition and change in the initial nature of hemoglobin is due to solvent. Also the fluorescence spectrum of human hemoglobin sample in methanol shows a higher redshift than two other solvents.

Keywords: absorption, Fluorescence, hemoglobin, linear, solvent
1. Introduction

Hemoglobin is one of the most important proteins in vivo of the human. It carries oxygen from lungs to peripheral tissues and hydrogen ions from capillaries to lungs in the vascular system. It can also transport carbon dioxide and adjust the pH, which is closely connected with the health of the organism. Hb is composed of two same α-chains and two same β-chains. Four heme groups locate in the crevices near the surface of the hemoglobin, each attached to one polypeptide chain [1]. The quaternary structure of hemoglobin consists of a globular structure with four α-β sub-units. Each sub-unit has α- or β-polypeptide chain attached to a heme component. Heme consists of an iron ion held in heterocyclic porphyrinring [2]. The number of amino acids varies slightly among species. In human Hb, the α chain has 141 amino acids, and the β chain has 146 amino acids. In carp, the numbers are 142 and 147, respectively [3]. Hb is a type of allosteric protein that can regulate its biological activity through interactions between subunits, making binding easier when oxygen molecules have already combined [4]. In this current work, we investigated the linear behavior of hemoglobin in several solvents using UV-Vis spectroscopy.

2. Experimental

2.1. Materials

Human hemoglobin (Hb) was purchased from Sigma Chemical Company. Hb solutions (1.0 × 10⁻³ M) were prepared in 5ml from water, ethanol and methanol solvents and after storing at 4°C for at least 24hr.

2.2. Apparatus and methods

The UV–vis absorption spectra were collected at room temperature on a UV-vis-2450 spectrophotometer (Shimadzu, Japan) equipped with 10 mm quartz cells in the wavelength range from 200 to 900 nm. The fluorescence spectra was recorded on an F-4600 fluorescence spectrophotometer (Hitachi, Japan). The excitation and emission slit widths were set at 5.0 nm. The scanning speed was 8000 nm/min.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. UV–visible absorption spectra

UV–vis absorption spectroscopy technique can be used to explore the structural changes of protein [5]. From Fig. 1, it can be seen that Hb has five absorption peaks in water solvent. The absorption peak at 272 nm was related to Trp, Tyr and Phe and absorption peak at 405 nm correspond to porphyrin-Soret band and weak absorption peaks at 535, 575 and 630 were related to Q band [6], which is due to the π→π electron transition [7]. Because heme belongs to the group of porphyrin complexes, the absorption spectrum of a typical porphyrin complex consists of a strong transition to the second singlet-excited state (S0 to S2) at about 400 nm (the Soret band) and a weak transition to the first singlet-excited state (S0 to S1) at about 550 nm (the Q-band). The Soret- and Q-band absorptions both arise from π→π transitions [8]. The Soret band of Hb can provide rich information of the change of Hb conformation [6].

![Figure 1: absorption spectrum of Hb in water solvent.](image)

From Figures 2 and 3 it can be seen that Hb has three and four absorption peaks in ethanol and methanol respectively. The experimental results showed that methanol and ethanol have toxic effects on Hb. The effects increased along with the increasing concentration of alcohols. The results of UV–vis spectra revealed that alcohols led to conformational changes of Hb, including the loosening of the skeleton structure and the decreasing of α - helix in the second structure [5]. The UV–vis absorption spectra reflect the conformational changes of proteins. Moreover, the peak shape and peak position of protein could indicate the important changes of structure such as...
unfolding and denaturation [9]. The strong absorption peaks of HHb at 206 and 208 nm in methanol and ethanol reflect the framework conformation of protein respectively. It also corresponds to the peptide bond, which is due to the π→π electron transition [10]. The absorption peak at 222 nm was related to α–helix structure [7]. From Figures 2 and 3, it can be seen that HHb in methanol and ethanol solvents has absorption peaks at 274 nm and 400 nm, which correspond to the aromatic ring amino acid, and porphyrin-Soret band, respectively [6].

wavelength for human hemoglobin is 310 and 462 nm. Therefore, the emission wavelength at 310 nm in this sample is due to intrinsic hemoglobin fluorescence due to tryptophan and the emission wavelength at 462 nm is related to heme. Therefore Hemoglobin mainly emitted intrinsic fluorescence due to residue tryptophan and tyrosine [10].

3.2. Fluorescence investigation

The fluorescence intensity and the location of fluorescence peak reflect the microenvironment of the chromophore group of protein [5]. Considering the absorption wavelength for human hemoglobin in water is 272 and 405 nm, therefore the excitation wavelength for human hemoglobin considered 260 and 385 nm, which is clearly seen from the following diagrams. The emission wavelength for human hemoglobin in ethanol is 274 and 400 nm, the excitation wavelength was 270 and 370 nm for this sample, which is visible from the below figures, and according to the excitation wavelengths selected, the emission wavelength for human hemoglobin is 336 and 468 nm. Also, due to the absorption wavelength of human hemoglobin in methanol is 274 and 400 nm, the excitation wavelength was 390 nm for human hemoglobin and based on this excitation wavelength, the emission wavelength for human hemoglobin is 477 nm, which as previously mentioned, it is mentioned that the emission wavelength is related to the fluorescence of porphyrin-heme (sourt
The intrinsic fluorescence of proteins due to the amino acids tryptophan, tyrosine and phenylalanine, changes in response to structural changes due to the small ligand / molecule binding [4]. Also, the fluorescence intensity and peak position can reflect the polarity surrounding the fluorophore molecule and the small medium of amino acid residues [10].

4. Conclusion

The figure clearly indicates that hemoglobin in methanol has a redshift relative to the two other solvents, indicating that the molecular levels of hemoglobin are closer to each other in this case. Also, the broadening caused by the influence of ethanol and methanol alcohols on hemoglobin represents a change in the initial nature of hemoglobin.

References


