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The mechanisms of substrates interaction with the active site of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase studied by molecular dynamics simulations

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Aim. To study the mechanisms of substrates interaction with the active site of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase (*MtTyrRS*). **Methods.** Complexes of *MtTyrRS* with tyrosine, ATP and tyrosyl adenylate were constructed by superposition of the *MtTyrRS* structure and crystallographic structures of bacterial *TyrRS*. All complexes of *MtTyrRS* with substrates were investigated by molecular dynamics (MD) simulations in solution. **Results.** It was shown the formation of network of hydrogen bonds between substrates and the *MtTyrRS* active center, which were stable in the course of MD simulations. ATP binds in the active site both by hydrogen bonds and via electrostatic interactions with Lys231 and Lys234 of catalytic KFGKS motif. **Conclusions.** The L-tyrosine binding site in the enzyme active site is negatively charged, whereas the ATP binding site contains positive Lys231 and Lys234 residues of catalytic KFGKS motif. The occupancy of H-bonds between substrates and the enzyme evidences a significant conformational mobility of the active site.

Keywords: tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, substrate, hydrogen bond, molecular dynamics, grid.

Introduction. Tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase from *M. tuberculosis* (*MtTyrRS*) belongs to a class I of aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases (aaRSes) that catalyze the attachment of tyrosine to its cognate tRNA^{Tyr} at the preribosomal protein synthesis step.

The catalytic domain of *MtTyrRS* has the Rossmann fold and the active center has the HIGH and KMSKS (KFGKS in *MtTyrRS*) motifs that catalyze the amino acid activation with ATP [1–3]. *MtTyrRS* is a promising antibiotic target for discovering and developing new selective inhibitors [4–7]. In general, the aminoacylation reaction has two steps: L-tyrosine is activated by ATP, forming the enzyme-bound tyrosyl-adenylate intermediate, and at the second step of the re-

action, the activated tyrosine transfers to tRNA^{Tyr} to form the tyrosyl-tRNA^{Tyr} complex [1–3].

The inhibitor SB-219383 and its analogues are a class of specific inhibitors of bacterial *TyrRS*, but their polarity prevents the transport across the bacterial cell wall. SB-219383 shows the competitive inhibitory activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* *TyrRS* ($K_i = IC_{50} = 0.6$ nM for *S. aureus* *TyrRS*; $IC_{50} = 22$ μ M for mammalian *TyrRS*) and a weak anti-bacterial activity against some *Streptococcal* strains *in vitro* (MIC = 32 μ g/ml) [8, 9]. Other pyranosyl and carbocyclic analogues of SB-219383 have been synthesized to reduce its overall polarity and thus improve its penetration through the bacterial cell wall, although only one compound exhibits a weak antimicrobial activity against *Streptococcus pyogenes* (MIC 8 mg/ml) [10].

The active sites of bacterial aaRSes have been studied for years. The 3D structures of TyrRS from *E. coli* (1VBM, 1VBN, 1WQ3, 1WQ4, 1X8X) [11, 12], *Thermus thermophilus* (1H3E, 1H3F) [13], *S. aureus* (1JII, 1JII, 1JIK, 1JIL) [14], *Bacillus stearothermophilus* (1TYD, 2TS1, 3TS1, 4TS1) [15], and *M. tuberculosis* (2JAN) [16] were solved by X-ray crystallography. TyrRS [17–20, 26], MetRS [21], AspRS [22, 23], LysRS [24] and TrpRS [25] were studied by the MD simulations. The structure of full-length *Bos taurus* TyrRS was modeled and analyzed [26]. Mammalian TyrRS was studied by fluorescence spectroscopy [27].

Since the different bacterial TyrRSes have homologous catalytic domains, their active sites are similar [4]. According to the data of the Protein database of NCBI, the *Mt*TyrRS active center (H37Rv strain) is formed by following 20 residues: Tyr36, Gly38, Phe39, Asp40, His47, Gly49, His50, Tyr171, Gln175, Asp178, Gln191, Gly193, Gly194, Gln197, Leu223, Val224, Lys231, Phe232, Gly233, Lys234.

In this paper, we have investigated the mechanisms of the substrates interaction with the *Mt*TyrRS active site. Specifically, we have studied *Mt*TyrRS in the complexes with L-tyrosine, ATP and tyrosyl-adenylate by 100 ns MD simulations. The data on dynamic binding of the substrates in the active center are important to design new inhibitors. The search for and development of inhibitors based on dynamic pharmacophores may help to find a new specific inhibitor of *Mt*TyrRS, non-toxic to humans.

Materials and methods. *Initial structures.* Structure of the *Mt*TyrRS dimer in free state was prepared according to the scheme described in our previous work [28]. The crystallographic structures of complexes of bacterial TyrRSes were used to build the *Mt*TyrRS structure in the complexes with substrates. To construct the complexes we superimposed the atomic coordinates of the protein – 2JAN [16] and ligand (Tyr) – 1X8X (*E. coli* TyrRS) [11], keeping the protein structure and Tyr invariable. The same strategy was applied to generate the complex of *Mt*TyrRS with ATP (1H3E – *T. thermophilus* TyrRS) [13], and with the tyrosyl-adenylate intermediate (1VBM – *E. coli* TyrRS) [11]. In the latter case we replaced the atom S by P, to obtain the tyrosyl-adenylate but not its analogue.

Molecular dynamics. MD simulations were performed using the GROMACS 4.5 package [29]. Each system was simulated for 100 ns with the Amber ff99SB-ILDN force field [30] and three times with the CHARMM27 force field [31]. The ligand topologies for the Amber ff99SB-ILDN force field were prepared by using the acpype (AnteChamber PYthon Parser interface) scripts [32], based on the antechamber suite. The ligand topologies for the CHARMM27 force field were prepared by using the SwissParam web-service [33]. The protein was placed in a triclinic water box with the minimum distance between *Mt*TyrRS and the box wall of 1 nm. The explicit TIP3P water molecules were used. All simulations were performed under periodic boundary conditions. Na⁺ and Cl⁻ counterions were added to neutralize completely the system at 150 mM NaCl salt concentration. Each system was energy-minimized and then equilibrated with positioning restraints on heavy atoms of the protein before the simulations were initiated. The leap-frog integration algorithm was used, with a 2 fs timestep. All bond lengths were constrained using the LINCS algorithm. Unless otherwise stated, the long-range electrostatic interactions were computed using the fourth-order particle mesh Ewald (PME) method with a Fourier spacing of 0.16 nm. The real space coulombic interactions and the pair-list calculations were set to 1.0 nm. A twin-range cutoff of 1 nm was used for the Van der Waals interactions. The temperature and pressure were maintained by coupling the temperature and pressure baths using the *V*-rescale and Parrinello-Rahman methods with relaxation times of 0.1 and 0.5 ps, respectively. A temperature of 310 K and pressure of 1 atm were used. All MD simulations were performed using the services of the MolDynGrid virtual laboratory (<http://moldyngrid.org>), at the ICYB and ISMA clusters of the Ukrainian National Grid environment [34–36].

Graphical and structural analysis. The PyMOL program was used for the visualization and graphical structure analysis [37]. The Root Mean Square Deviations (RMSD) and Root Mean Square Fluctuations (RMSF) were calculated using the *g_rms* and *g_rmsf* programs of GROMACS, respectively. Hydrogen bonds were calculated with *g_hbond* program. The LigPlot+ program was used for schematic visualization of the hydro-

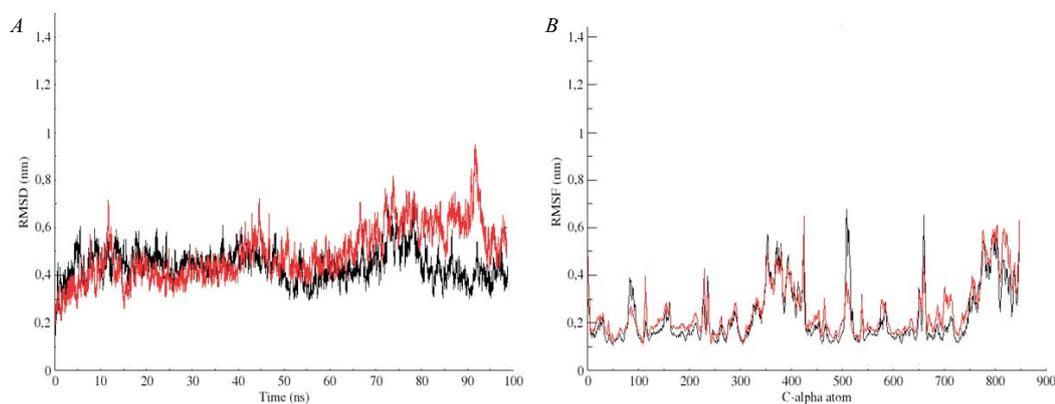


Fig. 1. RMSD (A) and RMSF (B) of C $_{\alpha}$ atoms from the initial structure of MtTyrRS in the complex with tyrosyl-adenylate intermediate during 100 ns MD simulations

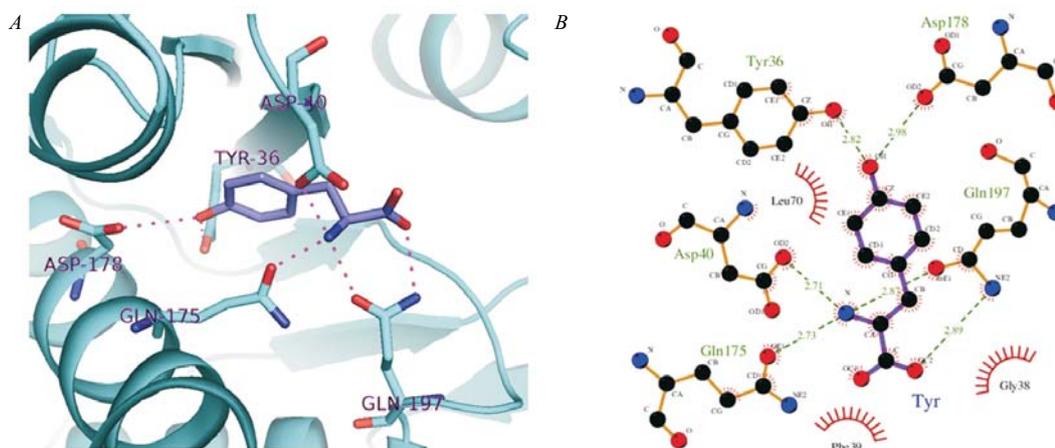


Fig. 2. Hydrogen bonds between the tyrosine and residues of the MtTyrRS active center (A) and schematic representation of H-bonds between the tyrosine and residues of the active center (B)

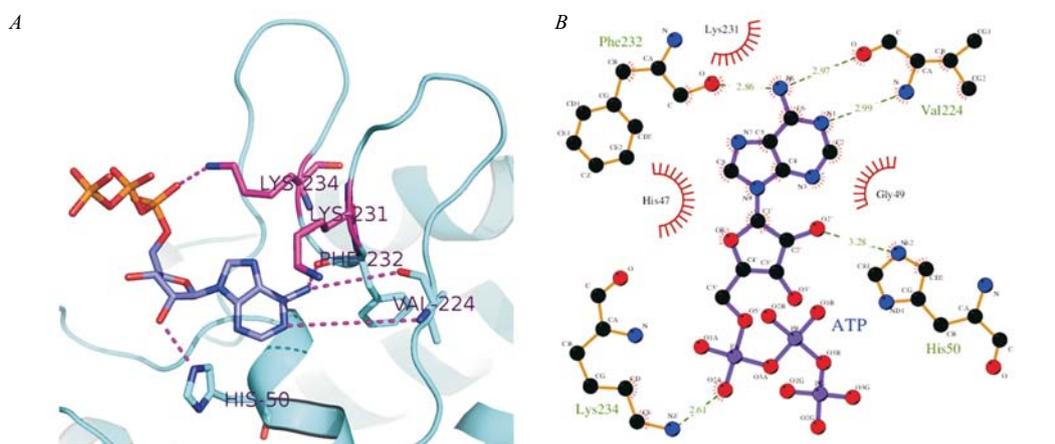


Fig. 3. ATP and residues of the active center that form H-bonds. Lys231 and Lys 234 (magenta) of the catalytic KFGKS motif (A) and schematic representation of H-bonds between the ATP and residues of the active center (B)

gen bonds between the substrate and the residues of the active center [38].

Results and discussion. To check the global structural stability in the course of MD simulations the RMSD and RMSF of C-alpha atoms of MtTyrRS in complex with tyrosyl-adenylate were monitored (Fig. 1). RMSD increase up to ~ 10 ns, and then become more stable (~ 3–7 C). After ~70 ns of simulations RMSD increase again up to ~ 9.3 C. This is due to high mobility of the C-termi-

nal domains [20]. RMSF show that besides the C-modules, the catalytic KMSKS loops are also highly mobile elements of the protein [28].

In order to evaluate the substrate binding in the MtTyrRS active center the H-bonds were calculated with their occupancy over the entire 100 ns of MD simulations (Table). L-tyrosine in the active site forms H-bonds to Tyr36, Asp40, Gln175, Asp178 and two H-bonds with Gln197 (Fig. 2). Occupancy of these H-

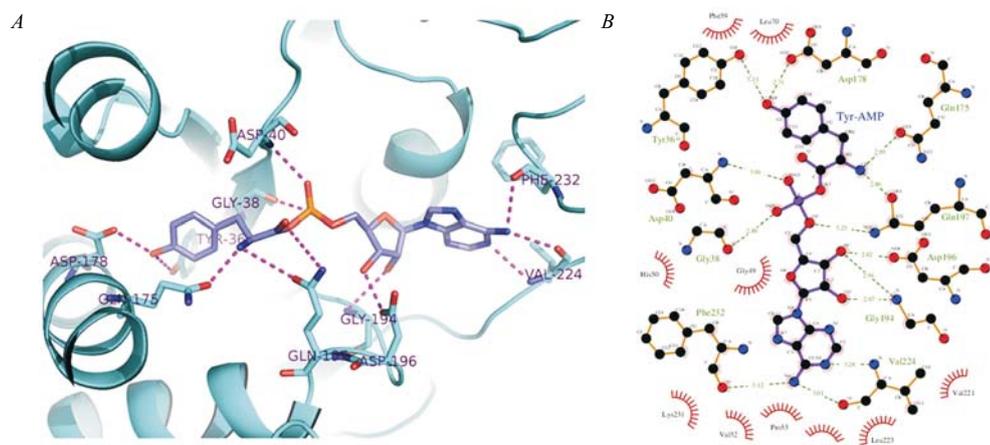


Fig. 4. Hydrogen bonds between the tyrosyl-adenylate and residues of the MtTyrRS active center (A) and schematic representation of H-bonds between the tyrosyl-adenylate and residues of the active center (B)

bonds is about ~ 30–40 % of 100 ns of MD simulations for residues of loops, and up to 99 % of 100 ns of MD simulations for residues of α -helices and β -strand of the enzyme active center. It is worth to note, that the L-tyrosine binding pocket is negatively charged because of Asp40 and Asp178.

For the binding of ATP in the active center, Lys 231, Phe232 and Lys234 of the catalytic KFGKS sequence are important. The positively charged Lys231 and Lys234 interact with the negative phosphate groups of ATP. Phe232 and Lys234 have H-bonds with ATP. Besides, one H-bond with ATP is formed by His50, and two bonds – by Val224 (Fig. 3). Due to the high mobility of the catalytic loop, the occupancy of each H-bond to ATP is not more than ~ 50 % of 100 ns of MD simulations (Table). The catalytic loop catalyzes the formation of the tyrosyl-adenylate intermediate by interacting with the pyrophosphate moiety of ATP [39].

The tyrosyl-adenylate intermediate occupies entire pocket of the active site interacting with the catalytic

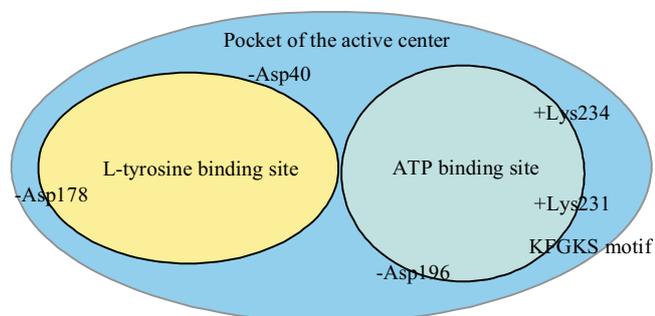


Fig. 5. Schematic representation of the MtTyrRS active center. The L-tyrosine binding site has negatively charged Asp40 and Asp178. The ATP binding site has negatively charged Asp196 and positively charged Lys231 and Lys234 of the catalytic sequence

Hydrogen bonds between substrates and the MtTyrRS active center

Hydrogen bonds	Distance, C	Occupancy, %
<i>MtTyrRS</i> –Tyr		
Tyr36-OH–OH	2.82	75.41
Asp40-OD2–H1N	2.71	30.42
Gln175-OE1–H2N	2.73	47.56
Asp178-OD2–HO	2.98	99.21
Gln197-NE2H–OC2	2.89	37.74
Gln197-OE1–H3N	2.87	39.56
<i>MtTyrRS</i> –ATP		
His50-NE2H–O2'	3.28	20.00
Val224-O–H20N6	2.81	47.47
Val224-NH–N1	3.03	49.71
Phe232-O–H1N6	2.86	18.70
Lys234-NZH2–O2A	2.61	43.68
<i>MtTyrRS</i> –Tyr–AMP		
Tyr36-OH–OH	3.11	33.44
Gly38-O–H24OAE	2.89	20.01
Asp40-NH–OAD	3.04	88.37
Gln175-OE1–H1N	2.69	89.49
Asp178-OD2–HO	2.71	99.07
Gly194-NH–O2'	2.67	26.89
Asp196-OD1–HO3'	2.62	52.80
Gln197-NE2H–O5'	3.23	21.87
Gln197-OE1–H2N	2.86	37.08
Val224-O–H1N6	3.01	60.70
Val224-NH–N1	3.28	66.12
Phe232-O–H2N6	3.12	52.38

Note. For each hydrogen bond the percentage occupancy was calculated.

loop (Fig. 4). The substrate forms H-bonds with residues that interact with other substrates (tyrosine and ATP) and with Tyr38, Gly194 and Asp196 (Table). H-bonds occupancy reveals stability of the tyrosyl-adenylate in the enzyme active center. In general, the *Mt* TyrRS active center can be divided into two parts: the L-tyrosine binding site and the ATP binding site (Fig. 5). The L-tyrosine binding site involves the negatively charged Asp40 and Asp178. The ATP binding site contains the negative Asp196 as well as the positive Lys 231 and Lys234 of the universal catalytic KMSKS motif of the aaRS of class I. In bacterial TyrRS, the Lys 231 and Lys234 of the catalytic KMSKS sequence stabilize the intermediate state for the tyrosine activation by interaction with the pyrophosphate moiety of ATP substrate [39].

Conclusions. In this study, we have investigated the mechanisms of the substrates interaction with the active center of *Mt*TyrRS in solution. We have performed 100 ns MD simulations of the *Mt*TyrRS dimer in complexes with L-tyrosine, ATP and tyrosyl-adenylate intermediate. The L-tyrosine binding site is negatively charged, whereas the ATP binding site has the positively charged Lys231 and Lys234 of the catalytic sequence. The H-bonds occupancy reveals significant conformational mobility of the active center of *Mt*TyrRS in solution.

Механізм взаємодії субстратів з активним центром тирозил-тРНК синтетази *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* за даними молекулярної динаміки

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Резюме

Мета. Дослідити механізми взаємодії субстратів реакції аміноацилювання з активним центром тирозил-тРНК синтетази еубактерії *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mt*TyrRS). **Методи.** Суперпозицією *Mt*TyrRS з кристалографічними структурами бактерійних TyrRS побудовано комплекси з тирозином, тирозином, АТФ і тирозиладенілатом. Комплекси *Mt*TyrRS з субстратами вивчали методом моделювання молекулярної динаміки (МД) у розчині. **Результати.** Показано водневі зв'язки між субстратами і активним центром *Mt*TyrRS та їхню стабільність у процесі МД. Стабільність АТФ в активному центрі забезпечується водневими зв'язками, а також електростатичними взаємодіями з Lys231 та Lys 234 каталітичного мотиву KFGKS. **Висновки.** Ділянка зв'язування L-тирози́ну в активному центрі ферменту є негативно зарядженою, тоді як ділянка зв'язування АТФ має позитивно заряджені Lys231 і Lys234 каталітичної послідовності KFGKS. Процентне співвідношення тривалості існування водневих зв'язків, які формуються між субстратами та ферментом, до загального

часу моделювання МД свідчить про конформаційну рухливість активного центра.

Ключові слова: тирозил-тРНК синтетаза, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, субстрат, водневий зв'язок, молекулярна динаміка, грид.

Механизм взаимодействия субстратов с активным центром тирозил-тРНК синтетазы *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* по данным молекулярной динамики

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Резюме

Цель. Исследовать механизмы взаимодействия субстратов реакции аминoацилювания с активным центром тирозил-тРНК синтетазы эубактерии *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mt*TyrRS). **Методы.** Суперпозицией *Mt*TyrRS с кристаллографическими структурами бактериальных TyrRS построены комплексы с тирозином, тирозином и АТФ и тирозиладенілатом. Комплексы *Mt*TyrRS с субстратами изучали методом симуляции молекулярной динамики (МД) в растворе. **Результаты.** Показаны водородные связи между субстратами и активным центром *Mt*TyrRS и их стабильность в процессе МД. Стабильность АТФ в активном центре обеспечивается водородными связями, а также электростатическими взаимодействиями с Lys231 и Lys234 каталитического мотива KFGKS. **Выводы.** Сайт связывания L-тирози́на в активном центре фермента заряжен отрицательно, в то время как участок связывания АТФ имеет положительные Lys231 и Lys234 каталитической последовательности KFGKS. Процентное соотношение длительности существования водородных связей, формирующихся между субстратами и ферментом, к общему времени моделирования МД свидетельствует о конформационной подвижности активного центра.

Ключевые слова: тирозил-тРНК синтетаза, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, субстрат, водородная связь, молекулярная динамика, грид.

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