

Area Seminar

Title Simple models for structure, folding, and aggregation of proteins

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Area Theoretical Physics

Venue Room No. 469

Abstract The objective of statistical physics is to understand macroscopic behavior of a many-body system from the interactions of the constituents of that system. In the development of science, simple models have often been used to describe complex systems consisting of many components, e.g. the critical behavior of gas-liquid systems can be well described by the three dimensional Ising model and the Lennard-Jones system. In this talk, I briefly review some results from simple models for structures, folding, and aggregation of proteins. The last problem is related to neurodegenerative diseases. It is pointed out that in many cases, protein aggregation does not result from protein mis-folding. A potential drug from Chinese herb is found for Alzheimer's disease.