



**Universidad  
Andrés Bello**

Protein folding/unfolding  
phenomenon is originated by  
synchronization/desynchronization  
of oscillatory phases of the van der  
Waals dispersion interaction.  
A hypothesis.

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# Protein Folding Cooperativity.

- ▶ Cooperativity in protein folding is generated by an immense set of small interactions, operating in consort, so if one or a small group of those interactions is perturbed the whole network is affected.
- ▶ Nowadays the precise object underpinning this cooperativity remains unidentified.
- ▶ In this work: **A general mechanism is hypothesized proposed in which two opposed operative actions - synchronization/desynchronization- acts to modulate the state -folded/unfolded- of the same object, a protein.**
- ▶ This mechanism operate by changes in van der Waals interaction regime.

# Suggestive evidence :

*Perspectives in Biochemistry*

## Dominant Forces in Protein Folding

Ken A. Dill

Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, University of California, San Francisco, California 94143-1204  
Received April 3, 1990; Revised Manuscript Received May 2, 1990

In proteins the main stabilization comes from hydrophobic aromatic *alkylic* interactivos ILE, VAL & LEU

THE PROTEIN SOCIETY

## Clusters of isoleucine, leucine, and valine side chains define cores of stability in high-energy states of globular proteins: Sequence determinants of structure and stability

Sagar V. Kathuria, Yvonne H. Chan, R. Paul Nobrega, Ayşegül Özen, and C. Robert Matthews\*

At the same time → Dihydrogen Bond *in alkyls* act as "Sticky Fingers"

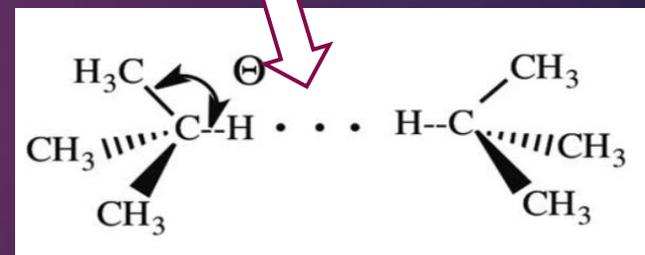
JCTC  
Journal of Chemical Theory and Computation

Article

pubs.acs.org/JCTC

## Understanding the Nature of the CH...HC Interactions in Alkanes

David Danovich,<sup>†</sup> Sason Shaik,<sup>\*,†</sup> Frank Neese,<sup>‡</sup> Jorge Echeverría,<sup>§</sup> Gabriel Aullón,<sup>§</sup> and Santiago Alvarez<sup>\*,§</sup>



By an alternanting charge  $C^+H \cdots H^+C^- / C^-H^+ \cdots H^-C^+$  mechanisms that gives rise to the London dispersion interactions (Danovich 2013)

Also...



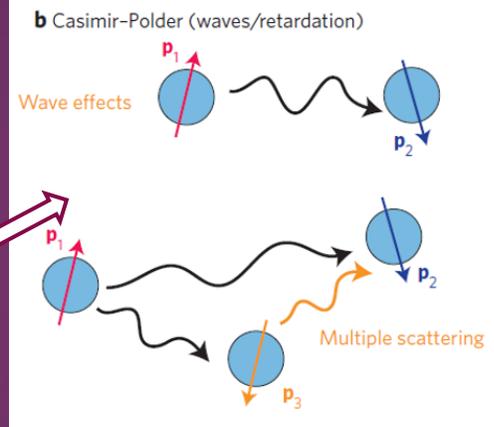
More evidence ....

*Van der Waals dispersion is not constant !*

## The Casimir effect in microstructured geometries

Alejandro W. Rodriguez<sup>1,2</sup>, Federico Capasso<sup>1\*</sup> and Steven G. Johnson<sup>2</sup>

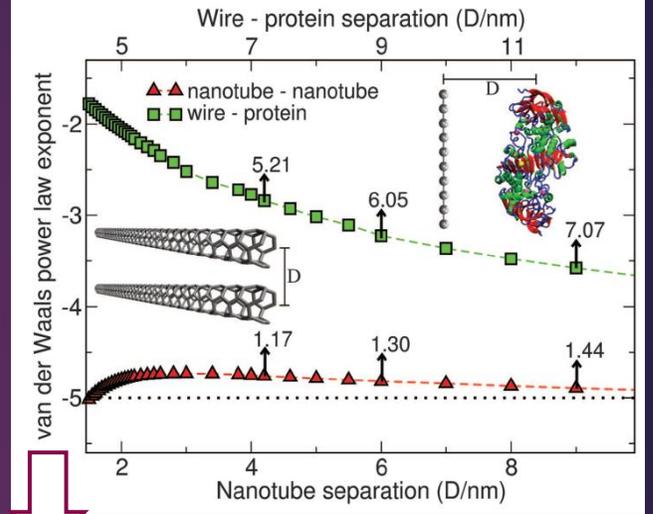
The exchange between  $D^{-6}$  and  $D^{-7}$  regimes of the van der Waals dispersion interaction makes microelectromechanical systems Sticky (dephasing due relativistic signal retardation in the  $D^{-7}$  regime).



CHEMICAL PHYSICS

## Wavelike charge density fluctuations and van der Waals interactions at the nanoscale

Alberto Ambrosetti,<sup>1,2</sup> Nicola Ferri,<sup>1</sup> Robert A. DiStasio Jr.,<sup>3\*</sup> Alexandre Tkatchenko<sup>1,4\*</sup>



Distance dependence of the van der Waals dispersion interaction regime

Thus...

As dispersion interaction permeates the whole structure of proteins... it is possible to hypothesize that...

Langmuir 2008, 24, 2274–2276

## Superlubricity Using Repulsive van der Waals Forces

Adam A. Feiler,<sup>†,‡</sup> Lennart Bergström,<sup>\*†§</sup> and Mark W. Rutland<sup>\*†‡</sup>

*Repulsive version of the van del Waals interaction !*



# The Hyphotesis

1.1) When the oscillation of the induced dipoles is **synchronized** an enhanced interacting  $D^{-6}$  regime is triggered and the protein structure start to fold

2.1) If a strong enough perturbation is introduced in the cooperative synchronized network a weakened  $D^{-7}$  or even a **repulsive regime** starts to dominate in the molecular protein structure

1.2) The propagation of this regime throughout the molecular structure complete the folding process.

2.2) This weakened or repulsive regime is associated to the **desynchronization** of the oscillating network and triggers a phase transition that finally unfolds the protein.

So...

**Cooperativity is originated by synchronization/desynchronization of the oscillatory phases of van der Waals interaction**

PHYSICAL REVIEW B 87, 144103 (2013)

**Quantum Drude oscillator model of atoms and molecules: Many-body polarization and dispersion interactions for atomistic simulation**

Andrew P. Jones and Jason Crain

*School of Physics, The University of Edinburgh, Mayfield Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JZ, United Kingdom*



Review

**UV-Denaturation Assay to Assess Protein Photostability and Ligand-Binding Interactions Using the High Photon Flux of Diamond B23 Beamline for SRCD**

Rohanah Hussain \*, Edoardo Longo and Giuliano Siligardi \*

▶ Theoretical models indicate that the van der Waals dispersion interaction has its origin at the UV range

Thus a mechanism of modulable frequency of oscillatory dipoles may underpin Protein folding/unfolding phenomenology

Experimental results shows that UV light denature proteins.

**A general mechanism is proposed in which two opposed operative actions - synchronization/desynchronization- acts to modulate the state -folded/unfolded- of the same object, a protein.**

# Further information

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2009.02107>



arXiv.org > q-bio > arXiv:2009.02107

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Quantitative Biology > Biomolecules

*[Submitted on 4 Sep 2020]*

## **Protein Folding/Unfolding Phenomenon is originated by Synchronization/Desynchronization of Instantaneously Induced Oscillating Dipoles. A Hypothesis**

[German Mino-Galaz](#)

### Acknowledgements

The author thanks partial funding from Fondecyt Grants N° 1180999, 1171013, 1170733.