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Exploring the limits of sequence and structure in a variant $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin domain of the protein absent in melanoma-1 (AIM1)

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Abstract

$\beta\gamma$ -Crystallins belong to a superfamily of proteins in prokaryotes and eukaryotes that are based on duplications of a characteristic, highly conserved Greek Key motif. Most members of the superfamily in vertebrates are structural proteins of the eye lens that contain four motifs arranged as two structural domains. Absent in melanoma-1 (AIM1), an unusual member of the superfamily whose expression is associated with suppression of malignancy in melanoma, contains 12 $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin motifs in six domains. Some of these motifs diverge considerably from the canonical motif sequence. AIM1g1, the first $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin domain of AIM1, is the most variant of $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin domains currently known. In order to understand the limits of sequence variation on the structure, we report the crystal structure of AIM1g1 at 1.9Å resolution. In spite of having changes in key residues, the domain retains the overall $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin fold. The domain also contains an unusual extended surface loop that significantly alters the shape of the domain and its charge profile. This structure illustrates the resilience of the $\beta\gamma$ fold to considerable sequence changes and its remarkable ability to adapt for novel functions.

Keywords

$\beta\gamma$ -crystallin; Greek key motif; AIM1g1; Tyr-corner; Trp-corner; Multiple isomorphous replacement using Anomalous scattering (MIRAS)

β - and γ -crystallins are major components of the vertebrate eye lens.¹ They share a common all- β fold and form part of a wider $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin superfamily.² They accumulate at very high concentrations in the lens where they contribute to the refractive properties of this transparent tissue. They are highly stable and are among a few proteins having the longest life in the body. Related proteins have been identified in both eukaryotes and prokaryotes and some of these are involved in stress responses or in changes in cell morphology.³

The β - and γ -crystallins are two-domain proteins. Each domain consists of an 8-stranded β -sandwich made up of two variant Greek key motifs with each motif swapping its third strand with the opposite motif thereby rendering the domain more stable.^{1,4,5} A key feature of the fold is a characteristic β -hairpin motif, which forms a loop between the first two strands of

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Data Deposition: Coordinates and structure factors are deposited in the protein data bank with an identity code 3CW3.

each motif and has a highly conserved signature sequence -Y/FXXXXY/FXG- which interacts with other conserved residues, particularly a serine at the beginning of the fourth strand in each motif.⁶ This structure is seen in members of the superfamily from Protein S of *Myxococcus xanthus* to lens crystallins.^{6, 7} While similar strand topologies have been observed in *Williopsis mrakii* yeast killer toxin (WmKT) and *Streptomyces* killer toxin like protein (SKLP),^{8,9} these proteins lack the conserved motifs and are stabilized by extensive disulfide bridge formation. They are most likely products of convergent evolution with no ancestral link to the $\beta\gamma$ -crystallins.¹⁰

Reflecting a history of tandem gene duplication, the four motifs of β - and γ -crystallins follow an ABAB pattern with each B type motif containing a conserved Tyrosine corner, a structure believed to play the role of a folding nucleus.^{11–13} Similar motifs are seen in the microbial Protein S, but arranged in a BABA pattern suggesting that lineages of vertebrate and microbial members of the superfamily may have followed independent evolutionary paths of gene duplication and fusion after diverging from single motif ancestors.¹² Other members of the superfamily in micro-organisms, spherulin 3a, *Vibrio* crystallin and *Yersinia* crystallin, have motifs that retain the hairpin structure but lack Tyr-corners.^{12,14} Members of the superfamily also have conserved tryptophan residues that form Trp-corners and make major contributions to the packing of the hydrophobic core of the $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin domain.

Absent in melanoma 1 (AIM1) was discovered as a transcript that was absent in malignant melanoma cells but was highly expressed in cells in which malignancy was suppressed.¹⁵ It is a large protein of over 1700 residues with a poorly defined, possibly filament-like, N-terminal region and a C-terminal Ricin-type beta-trefoil domain. In between is a region containing twelve $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin motifs, predicted to form six β -crystallin-like domains.¹⁵ Among the six domains of AIM1, the first domain (referred to as AIM1g1) is the most divergent among vertebrate $\beta\gamma$ -crystallins.¹⁶ In the first motif, it lacks the -YXXXXFXG- signature, replacing the final glycine that is critical for formation of a bend with peptide backbone dihedral angles disallowed for residues with R-groups, with a glutamate (Glu13). In addition, a highly conserved serine is non-conservatively replaced by Leu35. The second motif is more conventional with a typical hairpin motif and a conserved serine but lacks the tyrosine corner. It also has a ten-residue insertion in the loop between third and fourth strands, much longer than in other $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin-like domains characterized till date (Fig. 1). The other $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin domains of AIM1 (g2–g6) also have some variations and are related amongst themselves and with known $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin domains with 24–30% sequence identity. Some of them possess variations like the absence of tyrosine corner (domain g6), presence of an insertion in the domain loop (domain g3) and loss of conserved glycine in the hairpin motif (domain g4), but AIM1g1 is the only domain in which all these variations are collectively incorporated. Such divergence from the template that is so well conserved elsewhere may reflect a specific functional adaptation in this domain of AIM1.¹⁵

The sequence of AIM1g1 is an extreme evolutionary test of the limits of sequence divergence in the $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin fold. To determine how the structure is affected by these multiple changes and to classify whether AIM1g1 is indeed a divergent member of $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin fold, we solved the crystal structure of AIM1g1 by multiple isomorphous replacement combined with anomalous scattering. The structure shows remarkable conservation of the β -sandwich while the insertion in the second motif produces a large electronegative loop stabilized by a network of water molecules and lattice interactions. In addition to being an extreme variant, this domain structure is the first to be solved for a non-lens vertebrate $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin superfamily member.

Domain structure

The first $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin domain of AIM1 extends from residues 1022 to 1118 (Fig. 1). The sequence details of the domain and its spectral features are described elsewhere.^{15,16} In the electron density map, 93 residues out of 96 residues could be modeled except residues 10 to 12 and the structure was refined to an R_{factor} of 18.14 % and R_{free} of 23.2 % (Table 1). Overall, the crystal structure shows a β -sandwich arrangement and a Greek key topology that is similar to other $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin domains despite a very low sequence identity and the absence of several key conserved features (Fig. 2a and b).

Comparison with other $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin domain structures

When superimposed on other $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin domains, AIM1g1 domain shows close overlap in the β -sheet regions. However, it has distinct differences from the other structures (Fig. 2c). While all other vertebrate domains are related with RMS deviations in the range of 0.6 to 1.5 Å, AIM1g1 is more divergent and shows RMS deviation of 2.0 Å to 2.5 Å for 70–75 C α residues with conventional $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin domains (Table 2). In particular, the β 1 and β 2 strands are partly splayed apart due to lack of formation of a regular β -hairpin loop while the insertion in the second motif leads to formation of a large loop between strands β 7 and β 8. The orientation of this loop has very little similarity among the other loops in similar position found in these domains (Fig. 2c).

Cysteines

The domain has a total of three cysteines (Cys15, 25 and 42), which like all other vertebrate $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin domains, remain free and are not involved in formation of any disulfide linkages although intra-chain disulfides can form upon oxidation of some γ -crystallins.^{17,18} The first two cysteines (Cys15 and 25) are in close proximity to aromatic groups Tyr6 and Trp28 respectively. Proximities between polarizable groups are implicated in providing stability to domains¹⁹ and similar interactions were found in the structure of γ -crystallin.⁵ Interaction between Cys15 and Tyr6 would attain significance in providing local stability in motif A of AIM1g1, where the hairpin is disordered due to mutations in crucial residues as described above. However, these free cysteines do not contribute to the secondary structure and fold stabilization by forming disulfide bridges as seen in the cases of SKLP, WmKT and Streptomyces Metalloproteinase Inhibitor (SMPI).^{8,9,20}

Hairpin Disorder

The first hairpin motif, usually a well defined structure in this fold, is disordered and three residues (from 10 to 12) could not be modeled in the region due to lack of electron density (Fig. 2a). This could be the result of the replacement of two key residues. The tight bend glycine residue is replaced by glutamate, which cannot adopt the characteristic backbone conformation of the hairpin. The fourth strand serine, which in other examples of the fold, forms side chain H-bonds with backbone thus stabilizing the hairpin, is replaced by Leu35. The second motif of the domain forms a conventional hairpin loop with conserved glycine and serine residues and is well defined in the electron density map.

Lack of Tyr corner

The domain lacks a tyrosine corner, a common feature of β -sandwich domains,¹³ which is known to be well conserved in B-type motifs of $\beta\gamma$ -crystallins.^{5,12} In this feature, a tyrosine makes a H-bond with the main chain carbonyl four residues ahead (Fig. 3a), and may act as a nucleus during the initial folding of the Greek key motifs. The presence of tyrosine not only shields the domain core from hydrophobic exposure but also renders the domain flank

hydrophilic due to its -OH group. AIM1g1 has Leu63 in place of Tyr in that position. This may create a hydrophobic interaction patch. Interestingly, AIM1g1 and AIM1g6 (the sixth crystallin domain of AIM1) both lack this tyrosine corner (Fig. 1) and one model of possible domain arrangements in AIM1 suggests an interaction between these two domains.¹⁵ Although the tyrosine corner is missing, AIM1g1 folds into a typical β -sandwich, showing that in vertebrates, as in some microbial members of the superfamily, this feature is not as essential as it was believed to be.

Trp corner

The Trp corner in the B-Type Greek key motif is a typical feature that is retained in the AIM1g1 domain. Trp43 is located at the beginning of the 2nd Greek key motif between the third and fourth strand (Fig. 3b). The indole -NH- forms a H-bond with a conserved main chain carbonyl (residue 40) and can form strong hydrophobic interactions in the domain core. The Trp-corner seems to make an important contribution to the folding and stability of the domain, but like the Tyr-corner this feature also may not be essential, since it is absent from the microbial *Yersinia* crystallin.¹⁴

Unique surface loop

$\beta\gamma$ -crystallin domains contain two long loops that bridge the β -sheets that form the wedge-like sandwich. In AIM1g1, the first loop that connects β 3 and β 4 appears conventional, similar in length to that of other domains. It possesses Trp28 whose indole ring helps in preventing the exposure of the hydrophobic core at the domain flank. The loop undergoes stabilizing interactions with the loop that connects strands β 7 and β 8. These include water mediated interactions between main chain carbonyls of Cys25, Trp28 of loop 1 and Val87 and Ile89 of loop 2. H-bond formation takes place between main chain carbonyl of Ser31 and main amide of Val87. The loop 1 ends in a Pro32 that helps the chain reorient to form β 4.

In contrast, the second loop is characterized by the presence of a 10-residue insertion that creates a strikingly novel feature in this domain of AIM1 (Fig. 2c, Fig 3c and 3d). The loop connects strands β 7 and β 8 and extends from residue 66 to 90. It has an unusual conformation, stabilized by several interactions. The N-terminal part of the loop undergoes a single twist with the C-terminal part of the loop. This is brought about by a strong H-bond between the indole NH of Trp69 and main chain CO of Val88 (fig 3d). As a result, the N-terminal part of the loop faces the second hairpin whereas the C-terminal part of the loop faces the first hairpin of the domain. The C-terminal part of the loop is stabilized by formation of a H-bond between the main chain -NH- of Val87 and the main chain -CO- of Pro31. A short 3_{10} helix observed from residues 73 to 75 is the only secondary structural element found in this extensive loop. This loop has an accessible surface area of $\sim 1200\text{\AA}^2$ which is 20% of the total 6009\AA^2 accessible surface area of the domain.

A surface charge representation shows that the loop 2 forms a predominantly electronegative region (Fig. 3c), which could play a role in binding cations or interacting partners within the cell. The strong electronegative region is formed due to the presence of carbonyl oxygens 68 and 70 and carboxyl side chains of Glu76 and Glu80 create a spherical region of radius 2.25\AA that could potentially bind divalent cations like calcium, which have an average coordination sphere of radius 2.4\AA .²¹ AIM1g1 and lens $\beta\gamma$ -crystallins have earlier been shown to bind Ca^{2+} .^{16,22,23} Although Ca^{2+} was present in the crystallization buffer (2–5mM), no bound Ca^{2+} was observed, perhaps due to the low affinity for Ca^{2+} -binding and presence of high concentrations of sodium citrate (1.3–1.5M) at a pH of 7.5, used as a precipitant during crystallization.

A number of water molecules are bound in this region along with a glycerol molecule in close proximity with the loop. These water molecules form an exquisite network of strong H-bonds along with the glycerol molecule and stabilize this region (Fig. 3d). H-bonded networks mediated through water are known to stabilize charged regions of the protein surfaces and help in improving thermostability. Stabilization through ion-pairs and H-bond networks is a common mechanism for protein stability in thermophilic bacteria, which acts by compensating the loss in entropy incurred during the transition from a disordered to an ordered state.²⁴ The presence of water network in loop 2 could hence be used to maintain the stability of the loop.^{25, 26}

The strong ion-pair formation between Glu76 and 80 with Lys2' and Arg 40' of a symmetry related partner leads to a distortion of the main chain dihedral angles ($\phi/\psi=79^\circ/-69^\circ$) of His78, which is the only residue that falls outside the Ramachandran plot. Pro86 is involved in reorienting the loop2 at the roof of the wedge-like domain. In spite of the long loop on one side of the domain, that face of the domain is not hidden from solvent and interacts with a symmetry related molecule in the crystal lattice.

Packing analysis

Hexagonal crystal packing is brought about by interactions of the novel surface loop with different regions of the symmetry related partners. The interactions are predominantly electrostatic and water mediated, but some of them are hydrophobic (Table 3). A total of eight symmetry related molecules with four unique interfaces envelop each protomer. All interactions take place in a head to tail fashion so that the lattice is formed by predominantly linear arrangements of these domains. The variant loop is the major component having the lattice forming interactions, summarized in Table 3.

In our earlier work, it was reported that AIM1g1 forms a dimeric molecule in solution at a physiological ionic strength.¹⁶ Interdomain interactions in lens $\beta\gamma$ -crystallins are well documented.^{5,27} γ -Crystallins which are monomeric 2-domain proteins have their both domains related by a pseudo dyad.⁵ The interdomain associations formed by H-bonding and hydrophobic interactions are mediated by complimentary residues in strands 5, 6, 8, hairpin 2 and loop2 of both the crystallin domains. This interface formation is facilitated by a short linker, which connects domains 1 and 2 in γ -crystallins. This interface shows a remarkable conservation in domain swapped dimers of β -crystallins wherein the dimer forms through interactions between the N-terminal domain of one protomer and the C-terminal domain of the dimeric partner. Truncated N-terminal domain of β B2-crystallin also dimerizes in a similar fashion and this phenomenon is proposed to be replicative of formation of ancestral homodimers.²⁸ AIM1g1 domain was overlapped onto this homodimeric N-terminal domain of β B2-crystallin. Interestingly, the interface formed did not show any steric clashes, unlike ciona crystallin, which is a monomeric single domain urochordate crystallin.²⁹ Though some of the possible dimeric interactions are distorted by loop 2 in AIM1g1, the residues in the two interfaces (strands 5, 6 and 8) exhibit a lot of similarity with the β B2 N-terminal domain dimers. This could be indicative of the mode of AIM1g1 dimerization in solutions of physiological ionic strength.

However, none of the interactions in the crystal lattice are indicative of a dimeric AIM1g1, although this may be a result of the high ionic strength used for crystal formation. Since the unique surface loop is extensively involved in lattice contacts, its structure in solution may be more dynamic from that seen in the crystal. To our knowledge none of the other $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin crystal lattices are formed by head to tail juxtaposition of domains. This is a unique case in AIM1g1 lattice which leads to linear agglomerates of domains making up the crystalline lattice. It could, in part, be a result of the open flanks of the domain unlike the other crystallins whose

hydrophobic cores are protected by tyrosine corners and interactions mediated by the loops found on the wedge like domains.

Conclusions

The structure of AIM1g1 illustrates how the $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin fold can accommodate significant variations in its sequence signature. In spite of non-conservative changes in key residues and the addition of a large insertion, the basic shape of the ancestral fold is retained. In particular, the residues of the characteristic hairpin structure are missing from the first motif and yet the motif follows the familiar topology, albeit with some deviations. It is possible that the retention of the correctly folded hairpin in the second motif allows that motif to form a template that helps to direct the folding of the more variant first motif.

Insertions and deletions that take place during evolution allow domains to evolve new functions while maintaining a basic structural scaffold.³⁰ The insertion in AIM1g1, forming an extensive novel loop, shows how variations can be engineered by nature into the template of a conserved protein fold. Such changes could give rise to new functional roles while maintaining at least some of the basic stability of the ancestral fold. This structure suggests that AIM1 has indeed acquired a new role distinct from that of the well characterized $\beta\gamma$ -crystallins of the eye-lens. Thus, the work provides a structural frame work for one of the domains (AIM1g1) of AIM1 protein to further explore not only the $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin fold in detail but also the role of the other domains in AIM1 protein.

Abbreviations used

AIM1, Absent in Melanoma-1; AIM1g1, First crystallin domain of AIM1; SKLP, Streptomyces killer toxin like protein; WmKT, *Williopsis mrakii* yeast killer toxin.

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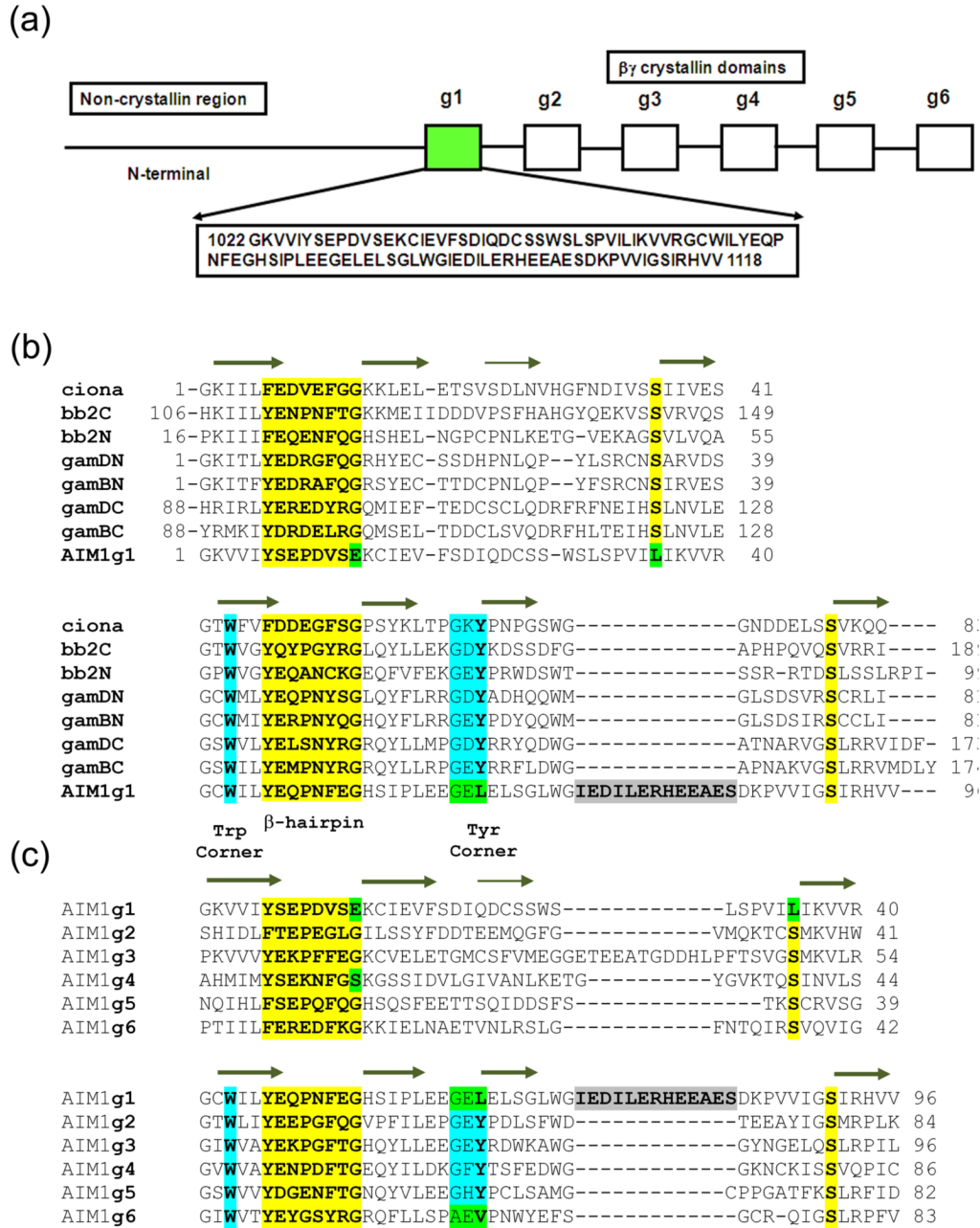


Figure 1. (a) $\beta\gamma$ -Crystallin domain organization in AIM1 with sequence of AIM1g1. (b) Multiple sequence alignment between AIM1g1 and other vertebrate and urochordate lens $\beta\gamma$ -crystallins are shown. g1–g6 represents the six crystallin domains of AIM1. (c) Second panel shows alignment of other $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin domains of AIM1 protein. An insertion similar to the 10-residue insertion present in motif B of AIM1g1 is present in the A-motif of the AIM1g3. The first and the last domains lack a Tyr-corner. All crucial structural features of the domains are explicitly identified. Mutations at highly invariant residues are marked in green.

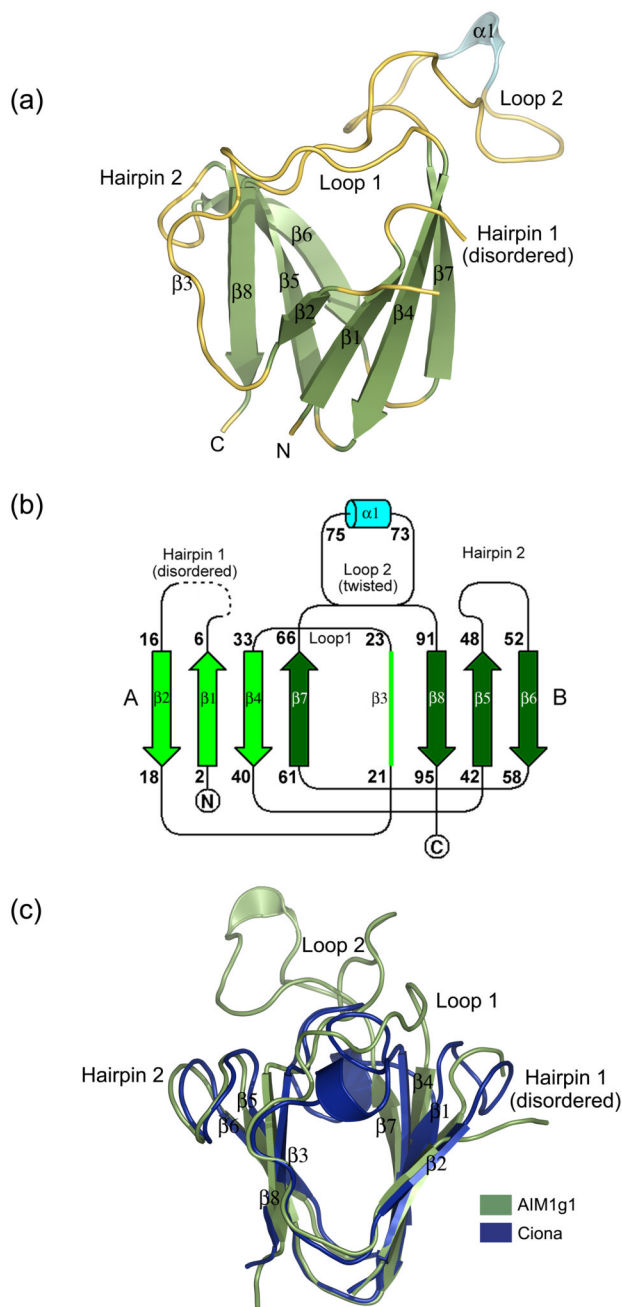


Figure 2.

(a) 3D-structure of the AIM1g1 domain. The secondary structural elements have been marked. The third strand ($\beta 3$) is marked in spite its loop like appearance for greater clarity as it deviates only partly from the strand architecture and is a conserved feature among all vertebrate $\beta\gamma$ -crystallins. (b) Topology of AIM1g1 is depicted which shows the presence of the twin Greek key motifs (A & B) with the large twisted loop 2 connecting $\beta 7$ and $\beta 8$. (c) Overlap of γB crystallin and $\beta B2$ crystallin N-terminal domains with AIM1g1. Grey indicates the backbone of AIM1g1, cyan represents γB crystallin and magenta represents $\beta B2$ -crystallin domain. The first hairpin of AIM1g1 is splayed due to disorder. Loop 2 clearly shows completely different orientation as compared to the lens $\beta\gamma$ -crystallin domains. Extent of overlap is as per values

given in Table 2 for structural relatedness which was analyzed by DaliLite program of EBI.³¹ The purified protein was crystallized using a 2 μ l + 2 μ l mixture of protein and a reservoir solution containing 1.3–1.4 M Na citrate, 0.1 M HEPES, pH 7.3–7.5 with non-polar solvents like isopropanol (1–3%), DMSO (2%) and salts like ammonium sulphate (0.06 M), sodium chloride (0.4 M) as additives.³² Different heavy atom compounds like thiomersal, cadmium chloride and sodium iodide were initially attempted by soaking crystals in high concentrations (10–50 mM) of these solutions and observing the crystals for morphological changes. Both time of soak and concentration of the soak were altered to get well diffracting isomorphous derivatives. All derivatized crystals were transferred to 15% glycerol solution containing the heavy atom, before being flash frozen at 100K. Data were collected over large sectors to collect the anomalous signal for the heavy atom especially for iodide derivative, as Iodine is known to have high anomalous signal when CuK α X-rays are used.³³ Good derivatives and native data were then scaled together and phasing was performed using the program SOLVE. Solve picked up six sites, three each for Iodine derivative and Cadmium derivative, and yielded a Mean figure of merit ($\langle m \rangle$) of 0.51 up to a resolution of 2.1 Å with good electron density maps depicting clear β -strands in the map built without density modification. Density modification and automated model building was done by Resolve which built up to ~80% of the main chain with ~60 % of the side chains. Manual model building was performed using the program 'O'.

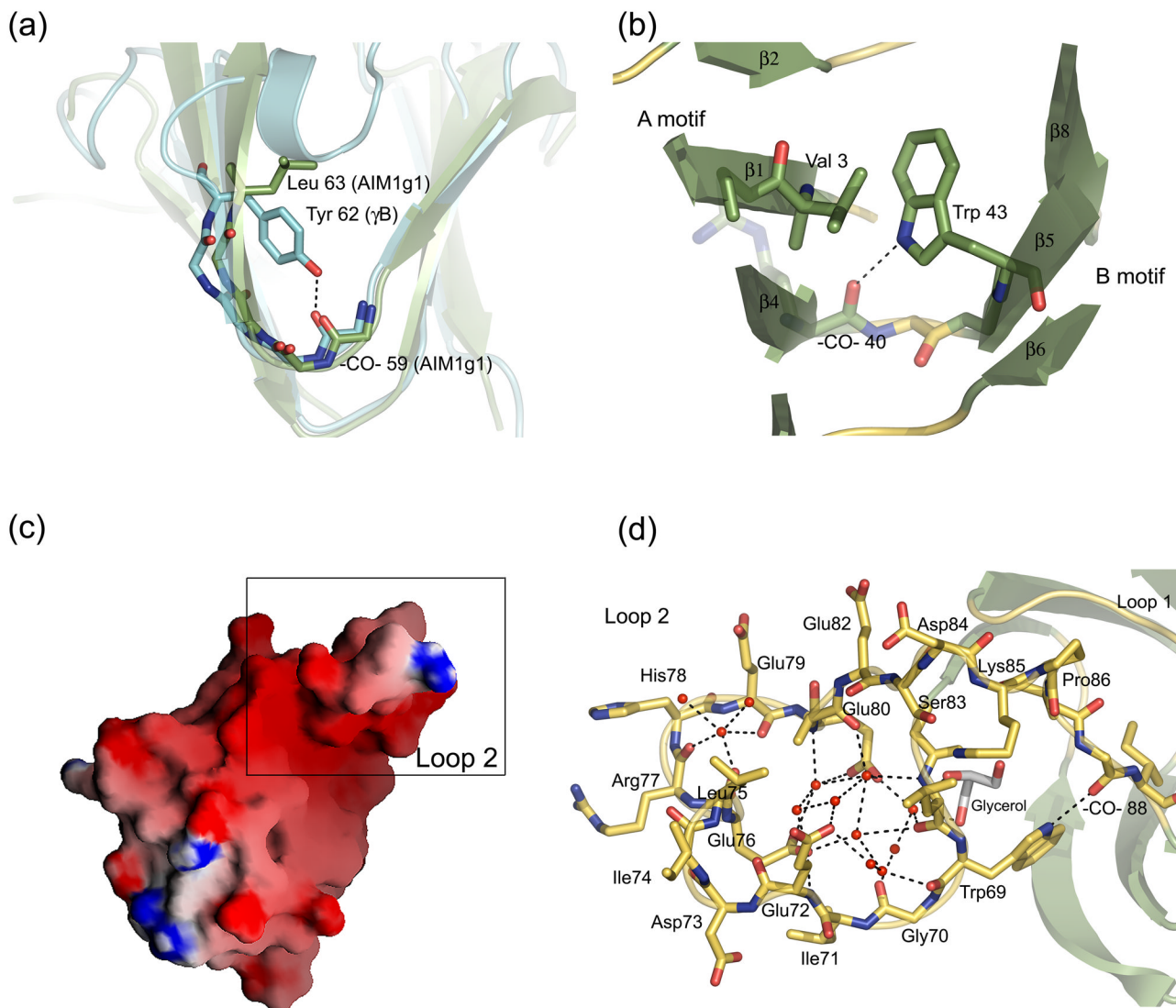


Figure 3.

(a) The Tyr-corner, which is an important feature in other domains, is replaced to Leu63 in AIM1g1. There are no major effects on the fold of the molecule in spite of this mutation. (b) The Trp-corner, one of the features conserved among AIM1g1 and lens crystallins, and its interactions in the hydrophobic core. It acts as a bridge between A and B-motifs. (c) Surface representation of AIM1g1 showing strong electronegative charge distribution in the loop region of the domain. Surface representation was done using GRASP.³⁴ (d) Extensive water networking is observed in the loop region. Water molecules involved in formation of H-bond connectivities are w118, w126, w128, w147, w151, w157, w161, w171, w181, w190, w212 and w216 along with a glycerol molecule found in the vicinity of the loop. These waters bridge the side chains, main chain atoms and help in stabilization. These interactions are in addition to the electrostatic interactions that hold crystal lattice intact.

Table 1

Parameter	Native	Iodide (NaI)	Cadmium (CdCl ₂)
Experimental Details			
X-ray source	CuK α	CuK α	CuK α
Heavy atom compound		Sodium iodide	Cadmium Chloride
Soak conc.		75 mM	50 mM
Soak duration		50–70 min	60–70 min
Crystallographic Data			
Space group	P6 ₅	P6 ₅	P6 ₅
Cell Dimensions (Å; °)	$a=b=55.0\text{Å}, c=59.6\text{Å}$ $\alpha=\beta=90^\circ; \gamma=120^\circ$	$a=b=55.2\text{Å}, c=59.7\text{Å}$ $\alpha=\beta=90^\circ; \gamma=120^\circ$	$a=b=55.0\text{Å}, c=59.5\text{Å}$ $\alpha=\beta=90^\circ; \gamma=120^\circ$
Unit cell volume (Å ³)	155874	157654	156204
Resolution range (Å) ^d	25.0–1.88 (1.95–1.88)	25.0–1.9 (1.97–1.9)	25.0–2.5 (25.0–2.5)
Observations	38569	69358	13916
Unique reflections	8382 (810)	8240 (811)	3545 (313)
Redundancy	4.6 (3.2)	8.4 (7.7)	3.9 (2.6)
Completion (%)	99.6 (96.8)	99.9 (99.8)	98.7 (91.8)
$I/\sigma(I)$	13.8 (1.9)	20.4 (4.4)	7.07 (1.78)
R_{sym} (%) ^b	9.7 (44.4)	9.3 (35.0)	13.7 (39.0)
Molecules/A.U	1	1	1
Refinement			
RMSD bonds (Å)	0.005		
RMSD angles (°)	1.27		
R_{cryst} (%) ^c	18.14		
R_{free} (%)	23.2		
No. of residues	93		
No. of atoms	859		
Protein	740		
Water	113		
Glycerol	6		
Ramachandran plot:			
Residues in:			
Most favored region	71 (90%)		
Addtl allowed regions	6 (7.6%)		
Generously allowed regions	1 (1.3%)		
Disallowed regions	1 (1.3%)		
Average B-factors (Å ²):			
Protein (overall)	20.38		
Solvent atoms	33.15		
Glycerol atoms	26.4		

^aValues in parentheses are for the highest resolution shell

^b $R_{\text{sym}} = \sum |I(h) - \langle I(h) \rangle| / \sum I(h)$, where $I(h)$ is the observed intensity and $\langle I(h) \rangle$ is the mean intensity of reflection h over all measurements of $I(h)$.

^c R_{Cryst} and $R_{\text{free}} = \sum |F(h)_{\text{obs}} - |F(h)_{\text{calc}}|| / \sum |F(h)_{\text{obs}}|$.

Throughout refinement, 5% of the total reflections were held aside for R_{free} . Refinement was carried out in repeated cycles using the CNS package. Stereochemical quality was assessed using Procheck.

Table 2

Vertebrate crystallins: Structural relatedness*

Rmsd (Å) (% Identity)	Ciona (2bv2)	γ D-N (1hk0)	γ D-C (1hk0)	γ B-N (4gcr)	γ B-C (4gcr)	β B2-N (1yfq)	β B2-C (1yfq)	AIM1g1 (3cw3)
Ciona	0	1.1/81 C α	1.0/82 C α	1.1/81 C α	1.0/82 C α	1.1/79 C α	1.0/82 C α	2.0/71 C α
γ D-N	31%	0	0.9/82 C α	0.5/83 C α	1.1/82 C α	1.2/81 C α	0.9/82 C α	2.3/72 C α
γ D-C	24%	37%	0	1.6/85 C α	0.6/87 C α	1.3/83 C α	1.5/86 C α	2.5/73 C α
γ B-N	32%	83%	36%	0	1.8/85 C α	1.2/81 C α	1.1/85 C α	2.2/73 C α
γ B-C	23%	37%	72%	17%	0	1.2/82 C α	1.7/87 C α	2.4/73 C α
β B2-N	32%	35%	29%	37%	30%	0	1.5/82 C α	2.6/75 C α
β B2-C	37%	40%	37%	35%	40%	35%	0	2.5/73 C α
AIM1g1	23%	31%	25%	34%	26%	21%	23%	0

* All information obtained by using pair-wise structural alignments of DaliLite.

Table 3

Packing analysis

Interface	Symmetry operator	Buried Surface area/monomer(\AA^2) (% Buried surface area)	Major interactions & Interacting residues
Interface 1	$-y, x-y+1, z-1/3$	740.4 (12.3)	Electrostatic: Arg 77- Glu 60 Glu80/Glu76- Lys 2 Glu 80/76(-CO-) – Arg 40 His54/70(-NH-) – Glu 17 Ser55(-NH-) – Cys15 (-CO-) Hydrophobic: Ile 71, Val 39, Phe 19
Interface 2	$x-y+1, x+1, z-1/6$	456.8 (7.5)	Electrostatic: Glu72/w46/81(-CO-)/82(-CO-) – Arg 93 Ser83(-NH-)84- Asp 21 Glu 72 – Tyr 46 Hydrophobic Leu 68, Leu 75, Ile 74 Phe 51, Ile 44
Interface 3	$-x, -y+1, z-1/2$	309.1 (5.14)	Electrostatic: 29 (-NH-) – 73 (-CO-), 27(-CO-) – 77 (-NH-) Ser 26 – His 78 26 (-CO-) – Arg 77
Interface 4	$x-v, x, z-1/6$	190.9 (3.17)	Water-mediated

Represents residues from symmetry related protomer; -CO- and -NH- represent main chain carbonyl and amide groups respectively.