

# **PROTEIN DYNAMICS IN CROWDED SCENARIO: A SOLVATION APPROACH**

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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI  
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# **PROTEIN DYNAMICS IN CROWDED SCENARIO: A SOLVATION APPROACH**

by

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**Submitted**

**in fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

**to the**



**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI**

**OCTOBER 2018**

*Dedicated to*

*My*

*Parents*

# CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis titled “**Protein Dynamics in Crowded Scenario: A Solvation Approach**” being submitted by **Mr. Sanjib Kumar Mukherjee** to the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, for the award of degree of **Doctor of Philosophy** is a record of bonafide research work carried out by him.

**Mr. Sanjib Kumar Mukherjee** has worked under my guidance and supervision and has fulfilled the requirements for the submission of this thesis, which to my knowledge has reached the requisite standard.

The results contained in this thesis are original and have not been submitted, in part or full, to any other University or Institute for the award of any other degree or diploma.

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## Abstract

This thesis entitled '**Protein Dynamics in Crowded Scenario: A Solvation Approach**' focuses on the study of the effect of macromolecular crowding on the dynamics of two serum albumin proteins, bovine serum albumin (BSA) and human serum albumin (HSA), both in their native and denatured states primarily through solvation studies.

**Chapter 1** entitled '**Introduction**' describes dynamics of the biomolecules in detail with numerous examples. It also includes relevant details on the phenomenon of macromolecular crowding and its influence on protein structure and dynamics. This chapter ends with a brief overview of structural and functional aspects of HSA.

**Chapter 2** entitled '**Materials and Methods**' describes chemical procurement, purification and storage along with techniques used during the investigation. Specifically, UV-VIS spectroscopy, Steady-state and Time-resolved fluorescence, Rotational Anisotropy, Circular Dichroism (CD), were used to carry out the requisite characterization.

**Chapter 3** entitled '**Do macromolecular crowding agents exert only excluded volume effect? A protein solvation study**' describes the solvation of serum proteins in presence of increasing concentrations of synthetic and protein based crowding agents. We have observed that the synthetic crowders such as dextran and PEG of varying molecular weights at very low concentrations can have an appreciable effect on the extent of protein solvation thereby implying the presence of soft interactions that were initially very hard to detect. Since under such conditions the effect of excluded volume is appreciably low, this gives a direct evidence of soft interactions between the macromolecular crowding agents used and the serum proteins. Moreover, our data reveal, that since at these low crowder concentrations major perturbations to the protein structure are unlikely to take place while minor perturbations might not be readily visible, protein solvation provides a unique spectral signature of capturing such local dynamics, thereby allowing one to decouple hard sphere interactions from soft sphere ones. In other words our data reveal negligible changes at the equilibrium level but dramatic modulations in dynamics, implying therefore that the crowders show substantial transient/weak non-specific interactions with the proteins.

**Chapter 4** entitled '**pH Dependent Domain Dynamics of HSA Controlled by Protein Based Crowding Agents**' describes the dynamics of domain I of human serum albumin

(HSA) in presence of bovine serum albumin and lysozyme as crowders. 6-bromoacetyl-2-dimethylaminonaphthalene (BADAN) covalently attached to cysteine-34 of HSA was used as the solvation probe and changes in its solvation pattern in presence of the protein-based crowders were monitored as a function of pH. Lysozyme induced increased retardation of solvation while BSA brought about faster dynamics. Our observations re-emphasize the importance of soft interactions even under conditions where repulsive charge-charge interactions dominate, thus reminding us of the enhanced level of complexity that the crowded milieu can possess.

**Chapter 5** entitled ‘**Investigating the Solvent Characteristics of Macromolecular Crowders using Fluorescent Probes**’ describes the solvation characteristics of the medium in presence of various crowding agents. Microenvironment studies by using suitable fluorophores revealed that the microenvironment undergoes some drastic changes in presence of crowding agents. Also self aggregation processes like the formation of micelles, excimers and J-aggregates are significantly affected in a crowder dependent manner. Moreover, PEG8000 behaves quite differently from all the crowding agents, implying that the microstructure of these crowding agents is different in the solution medium. Diffusion studies enable us to distinguish different concentration regimes of the polymer mesh which provide insights into the nature of the entanglement of the crowding agents. Therefore the molecular level picture of these crowding agents thus help us obtained understand in some detail, the characteristics of the medium, with these playing a significant role in various biological phenomenon.

**Chapter 6** entitled ‘**Influence of Crowding Agents on the Dynamics of a Multidomain Protein in its Denatured State: A Solvation Approach**’ describes the dynamics of BADAN attached to domain I of HSA in presence of different concentrations of various crowding agents at different urea concentrations. In absence of the macromolecular crowders, solvation time decreases as a function of urea concentration due to progressive unfolding of the protein. However, in presence of crowding agents, at low urea concentrations an initial drop followed by retardation in the solvation time was observed which we propose, implies the crossover between soft to hard sphere interactions between the protein and crowder molecules.

## सार

'थियेटेड परिदृश्य में प्रोटीन डाइनेमिक्स: ए सोलवेशन दृष्टिकोण' नामक इस थीसिस में दो सीरम एल्बिनिन प्रोटीन, बोवाइन सीरम एल्बिनिन (बीएसए) और मानव सीरम एल्बमिन (एचएसए) की गतिशीलता पर मैक्रोमोल्यूलर भीड़ के प्रभाव के अध्ययन पर केंद्रित है, दोनों मुख्य रूप से उत्थान अध्ययन के माध्यम से देशी और विकृत राज्यों।

'परिचय' शीर्षक वाला अध्याय एक कई उदाहरणों के साथ जैव-अणुओं की गतिशीलता का वर्णन करता है। इसमें मैक्रोमोल्यूलर भीड़ की घटना और प्रोटीन संरचना और गतिशीलता पर इसके प्रभाव पर प्रासंगिक विवरण शामिल हैं। यह अध्याय एचएसए के संरचनात्मक और कार्यात्मक पहलुओं के संक्षिप्त विवरण के साथ समाप्त होता है।

'सामग्री और तरीके' नामक अध्याय दो जांच के दौरान उपयोग की जाने वाली तकनीकों के साथ रासायनिक खरीद, शुद्धिकरण और भंडारण का वर्णन करता है। विशेष रूप से, यूवी-वीआईएस स्पेक्ट्रोस्कोपी, स्थिर-राज्य और समय-संकल्प प्रतिदीप्ति, घूर्णन एनीसोट्रॉपी, सर्कुलर डिच्रोइज्म (सीडी) का उपयोग आवश्यक विशेषता को पूरा करने के लिए किया जाता था।

अध्याय तीन का शीर्षक है 'क्या मैक्रोमोल्यूलर भीड़ एजेंट केवल वॉल्यूम प्रभाव को छोड़ देते हैं? प्रोटीन सॉल्वेशन स्टडी 'सिंथेटिक और प्रोटीन आधारित भीड़ एजेंटों की बढ़ती सांद्रता की उपस्थिति में सीरम प्रोटीन के उद्घोषणा का वर्णन करती है। हमने देखा है कि बहु तकम सांद्रता पर भिन्न आणविक भारों के डेक्स्ट्रान और पीईजी जैसे कृत्रिम भीड़ प्रोटीन संवहन की सीमा पर एक सराहनीय प्रभाव डाल सकते हैं जिससे मुलायम बातचीत की उपस्थिति का अर्थ हो रहा है जो शुरू में बहु तमुश्किल था। चूंकि ऐसी परिस्थितियों में बहिष्कृत मात्रा का प्रभाव काफी कम है, यह मैक्रोमोल्यूलर भीड़ एजेंटों और सीरम प्रोटीन के बीच मुलायम बातचीत का प्रत्यक्ष सबूत देता है। इसके अलावा, हमारे आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि चूंकि इन कम क्रॉडर सांद्रता प्रोटीन संरचना में प्रमुख परेशानी होने की संभावना नहीं है, जबकि मामूली परेशानी आसानी से दिखाई नहीं दे सकती है, प्रोटीन एकजुटता ऐसी स्थानीय गतिशीलता को पकड़ने का एक अद्वितीय वर्णक्रमीय हस्ताक्षर प्रदान करती है, जिससे एक को नरम क्षेत्र से हार्ड क्षेत्र इंटरैक्शन को कम करें। दूसरे शब्दों में, हमारे डेटा संतुलन स्तर पर नगण्य परिवर्तनों को प्रकट करते हैं लेकिन गतिशीलता में नाटकीय मॉड्यूलेशन, इसलिए यह दर्शाता है कि भीड़ प्रोटीन के साथ पर्याप्त क्षणिक / कमजोर गैर-विशिष्ट इंटरैक्शन दिखाते हैं।

अध्याय चार जिसका अर्थ है प्रोटीन आधारित भीड़ एजेंटों द्वारा नियंत्रित एचएसए की पीएच निर्भर डोमेन गतिशीलता 'मानव सीरम एल्बमिन (एचएसए) के डोमेन। की गतिशीलता का वर्णन करता है जो बोवाइन सीरम

एल्बिनिन और लाइसोइज्म की भीड़ में मौजूद है। 6-ब्रोमोसिटाइल-2-डायमेथिलामिनोफेथेलिन (बादान) को एचएसए के सिस्टीन -34 से सहसंयोजक रूप से जुड़ा हुआ था, जिसे प्रोटीन-आधारित भीड़ की उपस्थिति में इसके उत्थान पैटर्न में परिवर्तन की पीएच के एक समारोह के रूप में निगरानी की गई थी। Lysozyme प्रेरित उत्तेजना में वृद्धि में वृद्धि हुई जबकि बीएसए तेजी से गतिशीलता लाया। हमारे अवलोकन उन स्थितियों के तहत भी नरम अंतःक्रियाओं के महत्व पर दोबारा जोर देते हैं जहां प्रतिकूल चार्ज-चार्ज इंटरैक्शन पर हावी है, इस प्रकार हमें भीड़ की बढ़ी हुई स्तर की याद दिलाती है जो भीड़ वाले मिलियु के पास हो सकती है।

अध्याय पंज शीर्षक 'फ्लोरोसेंट जांच का उपयोग कर मैक्रोमोल्यूलर क्रॉडर के सॉल्वेंट लक्षणों की जांच करना' विभिन्न भीड़ एजेंटों की उपस्थिति में माध्यम की स्वीकृति विशेषताओं का वर्णन करता है। उपयुक्त फ्लोरोफोर्स का उपयोग करके सूक्ष्म पर्यावरण अध्ययन से पता चला कि सूक्ष्म पर्यावरण को भीड़ एजेंटों की उपस्थिति में कुछ कठोर परिवर्तन हुए हैं। इसके अलावा स्वयं एकत्रीकरण प्रक्रिया जैसे कि माइक्रेल, एक्सीमर और जे-एग्रीगेट्स के गठन की तरह क्रॉडर आश्रित तरीके से काफी प्रभावित होते हैं। इसके अलावा, पीईजी 8000 सभी भीड़ एजेंटों से काफी अलग व्यवहार करता है, जिसका अर्थ यह है कि इन भीड़ एजेंटों का सूक्ष्म संरचना समाधान माध्यम में अलग है। डिफ्यूजन अध्ययन हमें बहुलक जाल के विभिन्न एकाग्रता शासनों को अलग करने में सक्षम बनाता है जो भीड़ एजेंटों के विघटन की प्रकृति में अंतर्दृष्टि प्रदान करता है। इसलिए इन भीड़ वाले एजेंटों की आणविक स्तर की तस्वीर इस प्रकार हमें कुछ विवरण, माध्यम की विशेषताओं में समझने में मदद करती है, इन विभिन्न जैविक घटनाओं में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।

अध्याय छह का शीर्षक 'बहु संख्यक प्रोटीन की गतिशीलता पर भीड़ एजेंटों का प्रभाव, इसके डेनेचरड राज्य: ए सोलवेशन दृष्टिकोण' विभिन्न यूरिया सांद्रता पर विभिन्न भीड़ एजेंटों की विभिन्न सांद्रता की उपस्थिति में एचएसए के डोमेन। से जुड़े बादान की गतिशीलता का वर्णन करता है। मैक्रोमोल्यूलर भीड़ की अनुपस्थिति में, प्रोटीन के प्रगतिशील प्रकट होने के कारण, यूरिया एकाग्रता के एक समारोह के रूप में सॉलवेशन समय कम हो जाता है। हालांकि, कम यूरिया सांद्रता पर भीड़ वाले एजेंटों की उपस्थिति में, प्रारंभिक बूंद के बाद हलचल समय में मंदता के बाद देखा गया था, जिसे हम प्रस्तावित करते हैं, प्रोटीन और क्रॉडर अणुओं के बीच नरम से कठिन क्षेत्र के बीच पारस्परिक क्रिया के बीच क्रॉसओवर का तात्पर्य है।

## Table of Contents

<b>Title</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
Certificate	i
Acknowledgements	ii
Abstract	iv
Table of Contents	viii
List of Figures	xii
List of tables	xix

### Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Protein Overview	1
1.2 Protein Domains	2
1.3 Solvation Dynamics	4
1.4 Solvation dynamics in different systems	6
1.4.1 Solvation in confined systems	6
1.4.2 Dynamics in DNA	8
1.5 Protein Dynamics	11
1.5.1 Classification of water in proteins	12
1.5.2 Dynamics of Water at the Protein-Solvent Interface	13
1.5.3 Water in the Interior of Globular Proteins	18
1.5.4 Theoretical and simulation studies of protein solvation	20
1.6 Biomolecular hydration studies by Terahertz Spectroscopy	22
1.7 Macromolecular Crowding	23
1.8 Crowding and Hydration	27
1.9 Serum Albumin Proteins	29
1.10 Thesis outline	32
1.11 References	35

## Chapter 2: Materials and methods

2.1 Materials and methods	61
2.1.1 Materials	61
2.1.2 Sample Preparation	61
2.1.3 Protein Labeling and purification	62
2.2 Spectroscopic measurements	63
2.2.1 Absorption spectroscopy	63
2.2.2 Fluorescence Spectroscopy	64
2.2.2.1 Steady-state fluorescence measurements	67
2.2.2.2 ANS binding measurements using fluorescence spectroscopy	68
2.2.3 Time Resolved Fluorescence Spectroscopy	69
2.2.3.1 Light Source	72
2.2.3.2 Sample Chamber	72
2.2.3.3 Detector	73
2.2.3.4 Discriminator	75
2.2.3.5 Time to Amplitude Converter (TAC)	77
2.2.3.6 Data Analysis	78
2.2.4 Time-Resolved Emission Spectra (TRES)	80
2.2.5 Solvation Correlation Function	83
2.2.6 Time-Resolved Fluorescence Anisotropy	84
2.2.7 Circular Dichroism measurements	87
2.3 References	89

## Chapter 3: Do macromolecular crowding agents exert only excluded volume effect? A protein solvation study

3.1 Introduction	93
3.2 Results	95
3.3 Discussion	106

3.4 References	116
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**Chapter 4: pH Dependent Domain Dynamics of HSA Controlled by  
Protein Based Crowding Agents**

4.1 Introduction	122
4.2 Results	123
4.3 Discussion	133
4.4 Conclusion	139
4.5 References	140

**Chapter 5: Investigating the Solvent Characteristics of Macromolecular  
Crowders using Fluorescent Probes**

5.1 Introduction	146
5.2 Results	147
5.2.1 Fluorescence Measurements	147
5.2.2 Quenching Studies	152
5.2.3 Effects of crowding agents on self-assembly	154
5.2.3.1 Micellisation	154
5.2.3.2 Excimer formation	156
5.2.3.3 Effect on Rhodamine 6G (R6G) J aggregates	157
5.3 Discussion	159
5.4 Conclusion	170
5.5 References	171

**Chapter 6: Influence of Crowding Agents on the Dynamics of a  
Multidomain Protein in its Denatured State: A Solvation Approach**

6.1 Introduction	176
6.2 Results	177
6.3 Discussion	184
6.4 Conclusion	193
6.5 References	194

## **Chapter 7: Conclusion and Future Aspects**

Conclusion and Future Aspects	199
<b>ANNEXURE I:</b> Supplementary Information for Chapter 3	208
<b>ANNEXURE II:</b> Supplementary Information for Chapter 4	219
<b>ANNEXURE III:</b> Supplementary Information for Chapter 5	230
<b>ANNEXURE IV:</b> Supplementary Information for Chapter 6	232
<b>BIODATA</b>	253

## List of Figures

Figure No.	Figure Title	Page No.
<b>Figure 1.1</b>	Levels of protein structure	1
<b>Figure 1.2</b>	Potential energy surfaces involved in solvation dynamics. Inset showing the change in the potential energy along the intra-molecular nuclear coordinate.	5
<b>Figure 1.3</b>	Application of solvation dynamics in different systems (A) in DNA (B) in confinement (nano-confinement and microemulsions) (C) in proteins.	8
<b>Figure 1.4</b>	Hydration dynamics of DNA in buffer and in complex with a drug molecule. Where the time scales given represents the BW (bulk water), DOW (dynamically ordered water), CC (conformational change water), and SW (structural water)	9
<b>Figure 1.5</b>	Schematic diagram of different types of water present in the proteins. Where $\tau_f$ and $\tau_s$ denotes the faster and slower residence times respectively, and k is the rate constant which represents the exchange between two kinds of water.	14
<b>Figure 1.6</b>	Some fluorophores which are commonly used to probe the dynamics of the biomolecules (A) 2'-(N,N-dimethylamino)-6-naphthoyl-4-trans-cyclohexanoic acid (DANCA) (B) 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) (C) Aladan (D) 7-diethylamino-3-(4'-maleimidylphenyl)-4-methylcoumarin (CPM) (E) 4-(dicyanomethylene)-2-methyl-6-(p-dimethylaminostyryl)-4H-pyran (DCM) (F) 6-acryloyl-2-dimethylaminonaphthalene (G) Coumarin-153 (H) 6-Bromoacetyl-2-Dimethylaminonaphthalene (BADAN)	16
<b>Figure 1.7</b>	Consequences of macromolecular crowding on proteins (A) amyloid formation, (B) increased protein-protein interaction, (C) enhances oligomer assembly, (D) compact the native state and (E) aggregate formation.	24
<b>Figure 1.8</b>	Structure of different macromolecular crowders	27
<b>Figure 1.9</b>	Different domains of HSA showing extraordinary ligand binding property of different domains.	31
<b>Figure 2.1</b>	Jablonski diagram and spectra, illustrating the processes involved on the creation of an excited state by optical absorption and subsequent emission of fluorescence.	65
<b>Figure 2.2</b>	Schematic representation of TCSPC instrument	70
<b>Figure 2.3</b>	The different components of TCSPC instrument; CFD (constant fraction discriminator), TAC (Time to Amplitude Converter), ADC (Analogue to Digital Converter)	77
<b>Figure 2.4</b>	Solvation dynamics: (A) decrease in the energy of the excited state; (B) time-resolved emission spectra (TRES); (C) wavelength dependent fluorescence decays.	82

<b>Figure 2.5</b>	Sketch of the rotational anisotropy instrumentation.	85
<b>Figure 2.6</b>	Origin of the CD effect. (A) The left (L) and right (R) circularly polarised components of plane polarised radiation: the two components have the same amplitude and when combined generate plane polarised radiation. (B) The components are of different magnitude and the resultant (dashed line) is elliptically polarised	88
<b>Figure 3.1</b>	Normalized time resolved fluorescence decays of ANS (15 $\mu\text{M}$ ) bound to HSA (15 $\mu\text{M}$ ) (A) and BSA (15 $\mu\text{M}$ ) (B) in as a function of the emission wavelength. In panels (C) and (D) are displayed the time resolved emission spectra (TRES) for ANS bound to HSA in buffer and in PEG8000 (2g/L) respectively. ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 375 \text{ nm}$ )	97
<b>Figure 3.2</b>	Comparison of the decays of the solvent response function $C(t)$ of ANS (15 $\mu\text{M}$ ) bound to HSA (15 $\mu\text{M}$ ) in varying concentrations (A) Dextran of different molecular weights and (B) PEG of different molecular weights.	99
<b>Figure 3.3</b>	$C(t)$ decays of ANS (15 $\mu\text{M}$ ) in varying concentrations of $\alpha$ -synuclein for (A) BSA (15 $\mu\text{M}$ ) and (B) HSA (15 $\mu\text{M}$ )	99
<b>Figure 3.4</b>	(A) Overlap of the absorption spectrum of Myoglobin with fluorescence spectrum of ANS of the sample BSA-ANS in buffer (B) Emission spectra of ANS in 15 $\mu\text{M}$ BSA at varying concentrations of Myoglobin excited at 325 nm. (C) Efficiency of energy transfer between protein bound ANS and Mb. (D) Variation of donor-acceptor distance as a function of the concentration of Mb.	103
<b>Figure 3.5</b>	(A) Elution profiles of BSA obtained by SEC analysis with different crowding agents. (B) Elution profiles of: (i) BSA with myoglobin, (ii) HSA with myoglobin, (iii) BSA with $\alpha$ -synuclein and (iv) HSA with $\alpha$ -synuclein. Red circle [in figures (iii) & (iv)] shows the peak(s) arising due to the complexation of $\alpha$ -synuclein with the individual serum proteins.	105
<b>Figure 3.6</b>	Variation of the average solvation time $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ at varying concentration of crowding agents.	107
<b>Figure 3.7</b>	Comparison of the average solvation time $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ between the two serum proteins in presence of the different crowding agents.	110
<b>Figure 3.8</b>	Chemical Structures of (A) Dextran based and (B) PEG based macromolecular crowders	111
<b>Figure 4.1</b>	(A) Average solvation time, $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ (ns) of BADAN-HSA as a function of BSA as the crowder under different pH conditions. (B) Time taken for unit change in the dynamic Stokes shift ( $\text{ps}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).	124
<b>Figure 4.2</b>	(A) Average solvation time, $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ (ns) of BADAN-HSA as a	125

	function of lysozyme as the crowder under different pH conditions. (B) Time taken for unit change in the dynamic Stokes shift ( $\text{ps}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).	
<b>Figure 4.3</b>	Change in $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ of BADAN-HSA as a function of (A) BSA and (B) Lysozyme under different pH conditions as mentioned in the legend.	126
<b>Figure 4.4</b>	Thioflavin-T assay showing the extent of oligomerization at different pH values for the crowder proteins (A) BSA and (B) Lysozyme.	127
<b>Figure 4.5</b>	(A) Size distribution of the oligomers of BSA as a function of protein concentration at various pH. (B) Variation of $I_1/I_3$ as a function of BSA concentration at various pH (as mentioned in the legend).	128
<b>Figure 4.6</b>	Ratio of global rotational motion ( $\tau_{r2}/\tau_{r2-0g/L}$ ), where $\tau_{r2-0g/L}$ is the global rotational time when there is no crowder protein present) as a function of pH of the medium (as mentioned in the legend)	130
<b>Figure 4.7</b>	Solvent correlation functions of BADAN in BADAN-HSA at various pH values for the different combinations of the binary mixtures of BSA and lysozyme as mentioned in the figure legend.	132
<b>Figure 4.8</b>	A schematic portrayal of the summary of the effects that the two protein crowders, BSA and lysozyme, have had, on the dynamics of domain I of HSA, under different pH conditions.	136
<b>Figure 5.1</b>	Structures of pyrene and coumarin 153 drew using CHEMDRAW.	147
<b>Figure 5.2</b>	(A) Emission spectra of pyrene ( $2\mu\text{M}$ ) in phosphate buffer (pH 7) as a function of PEG8000. (B) $I_1/I_3$ ratio of pyrene plotted for different macromolecular crowders (see legend) as a function of the crowder concentration. The solid lines through the data points should be treated as visual aids for a better understanding of the respective trends.	148
<b>Figure 5.3</b>	(A) Plot of $F/F_0$ of C153 in presence of varying concentrations of crowding agents. (B) Plot of $F/F_0$ of C343 in presence of varying concentrations of crowding agents. Where $F_0$ is the fluorescence intensity of C153 and C343 in absence of crowding agents and $F$ is the fluorescence intensity in presence of crowding agents. The solid lines through the data points should be treated as visual aids for a better understanding of the respective trends.	149
<b>Figure 5.4</b>	(A) Variation of microviscosity (as obtained from the rotational correlation times of C153) as a function of crowder concentration for different crowding agents. (B) Bulk viscosity plot as obtained from the viscometer for the crowding agents.	152

<b>Figure 5.5</b>	Stern–Volmer plots for R6G in Buffer and in presence of Different Crowding Agents at Crowder Concentrations of (A) 100 g/L and (B) 200 g/L.	153
<b>Figure 5.6</b>	$I_1/I_3$ Ratio for Pyrene with Varying Concentrations of SDS in Presence of 200 g/L of the Crowders as Mentioned in the Figure Legend.	155
<b>Figure 5.7</b>	(A) Emission spectra of pyrene (100 $\mu$ M) in buffer showing the presence of excimer in presence of different concentrations of Dextran 70. (B) Plot of $I_M/I_E$ ratio of pyrene fluorescence intensity changes with varying crowder concentration. The solid lines through the data points in panel (B) should be treated as visual aids for a better understanding of the respective trends.	156
<b>Figure 5.8</b>	(A) Emission spectra of R6G (100 $\mu$ M) in presence of varying concentrations of PEG8000. (B) $F/F_0$ plot of R6G with varying concentration of different crowding agents, where $F_0$ is the fluorescence intensity of R6G in absence of crowding agents and $F$ is the fluorescence intensity in presence of crowding agents. $\lambda_{em} = 556$ nm. (C) Emission spectra of R6G in PEG8000 and (D) $F/F_0$ plot of R6G for different crowders as mentioned as a function of temperature. The solid lines through the data points in panels (B) and (D) should be treated as visual aids for a better understanding of the respective trends.	158
<b>Figure 5.9</b>	(A) FCS Traces of FITC in Presence of Varying Concentrations of Ficoll 70. (B) Variation of translational diffusion time ( $\tau_D$ ) with respect to $\tau_0$ (translational diffusion time in buffer only) for different crowding agents as obtained from fitting the FCS traces.	163
<b>Figure 5.10</b>	(A) Fitted plot of the ratio of translational diffusion coefficients $D_t$ and $D_0$ , where $D_t$ is the diffusion coefficient in presence of the crowding agents while $D_0$ is that in buffer only (in absence of the crowders) as a function of the crowder concentration. (B) Fitted plot of the ratio of the rotational diffusion coefficients $D_r$ and $D_0$ , where $D_r$ is the rotational diffusion coefficient in presence of the crowding agents while $D_0$ is that in buffer only (in absence of the crowders) as a function of the crowder concentration.	164
<b>Figure 6.1</b>	(A) Plot of the solvent response function $C(t)$ of domain I (BADAN-HSA) in presence of different concentrations of urea. (B) Plot of the average solvation time, $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ (ns) as a function of the urea.	179
<b>Figure 6.2</b>	Plot of the average solvation time, $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ (ns) as a function of the concentration of the different crowding agents (as mentioned in the legend) in presence of (A) 2 M urea (B) 4	181

	M urea (C) 6 M urea (D) 8 M urea. The dotted line represents the proposed crowder concentration where the cross-over happens from soft interactions to those dominated by excluded volume.	
<b>Figure 6.3</b>	Plot of the emission maxima of BADAN-HSA ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 375 \text{ nm}$ ) as a function of the concentration of the different crowding agents (as mentioned in the legend) at (A) 2 M urea (B) 4 M urea (C) 6 M urea (D) 8 M urea.	182
<b>Figure 6.4</b>	Plot of the average solvation time, $\langle \tau_s \rangle$ (ns) as a function of the concentration of the urea (as mentioned in the legend) in presence of (A) Dextran 6 (B) Dextran 40 (C) Dextran 70 (D) PEG8000 and (E) Ficoll 70.	183
<b>Figure 6.5</b>	CD spectra of HSA (3 $\mu\text{M}$ ) in different concentrations of urea.	190
<b>SI Figure 3.1</b>	Measurement of BSA-ANS and HSA-ANS binding stoichiometry by the Job's plot method in buffer and in 10 g/L Dextran 6.	210
<b>SI Figure 3.2</b>	Time-resolved fluorescence decays at a series of wavelengths for the BSA-ANS complex in (A) Buffer (B) 1 g/L $\alpha$ -synuclein (C) 5 g/L $\alpha$ -synuclein (D) 2 g/L Dextran 40 (E) 5 g/L Dextran 40 and HSA-ANS complex in (F) 1 g/L $\alpha$ -synuclein (G) 5 g/L $\alpha$ -synuclein (H) 2 g/L Dextran 40 (I) 5 g/L Dextran 40.	212
<b>SI Figure 3.3</b>	Time-resolved emission spectra (TRES) of ANS (15 $\mu\text{M}$ ) in 15 $\mu\text{M}$ BSA in buffer and in different crowding agents at varying concentrations.	213
<b>SI Figure 3.4</b>	Time-resolved emission spectra (TRES) of ANS (15 $\mu\text{M}$ ) in 15 $\mu\text{M}$ HSA in different crowding agents at varying concentrations.	214
<b>SI Figure 3.5</b>	Comparison of the decays of the solvent response function $C(t)$ of ANS (15 $\mu\text{M}$ ) bound to BSA (15 $\mu\text{M}$ ) in varying concentrations (A) Dextran of different molecular weights and (B) PEG of different molecular weights.	215
<b>SI Figure 3.6</b>	Decay of solvent response function $C(t)$ of ANS in 15 $\mu\text{M}$ HSA and BSA in varying concentrations of crowding agents.	217
<b>SI Figure 3.7</b>	Representative Benesi-Hildebrand's plots for BSA-ANS and for HSA-ANS complexes in buffer and in 10 g/L Dextran 6.	218
<b>SI Figure 4.1</b>	Representative normalized TRES of BADAN-labeled HSA in (A) pH 7.4 0g/L BSA, (B) pH 7.4 100 g/L BSA and (C) pH 7.4 200 g/L BSA (as mentioned in the legend). A few representative time-resolved decays as a function of the emission wavelengths have also been provided above the respective panels. $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 375 \text{ nm}$	226
<b>SI Figure 4.2</b>	Solvent correlation functions of BADAN-HSA as a function of pH for increasing concentrations of BSA (as mentioned in	227

	the legend)	
<b>SI Figure 4.3</b>	Solvent correlation functions of BADAN-HSA as a function of pH (as mentioned in the legend) for increasing concentrations of lysozyme.	228
<b>SI Figure 4.4</b>	Variation of the average solvation time $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ (ns) of BADAN-HSA as a function of pH at various concentrations of (A) BSA and (B) Lysozyme.	229
<b>SI Figure 4.5</b>	Average solvation time, $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ (ns) of BADAN-HSA as a function of BSA and HSA as crowders for pH 7.4 and pH 11.	229
<b>SI Figure 5.1</b>	Representative Anisotropy Decays of C153 in Presence of Different Concentrations of Ficoll 70.	230
<b>SI Figure 5.2</b>	(A) $I_1/I_3$ Ratio for Pyrene in presence of Varying Concentrations of Dextrose. (B) $I_1/I_3$ Ratio for Pyrene in Presence of Varying Concentrations of PEG200.	230
<b>SI Figure 5.3</b>	Dependence of Pore Size for the Different Crowding Agents as a Function of the Crowder Concentrations.	231
<b>SI Figure 6.1</b>	Representative normalized time-resolved emission spectra (TRES) of BADAN labelled HSA at different urea concentrations.	241
<b>SI Figure 6.2</b>	Representative normalized time-resolved emission spectra (TRES) of BADAN labelled HSA in Dextran 70 (50 g/L) at different urea concentrations.	242
<b>SI Figure 6.3</b>	Comparison of the decays of the solvent response function $C(t)$ of domain I (BADAN-HSA) as a function of the concentrations of Dextran 6 at (A) 2 M, (B) 4 M, (C) 6 M, (D) 8 M urea concentrations.	243
<b>SI Figure 6.4</b>	Comparison of the decays of the solvent response function $C(t)$ of domain I (BADAN-HSA) as a function of the concentrations of Dextran 40 at (A) 2 M, (B) 4 M, (C) 6 M, (D) 8 M urea concentrations.	244
<b>SI Figure 6.5</b>	Comparison of the decays of the solvent response function $C(t)$ of domain I (BADAN-HSA) as a function of the concentrations of Dextran 70 at (A) 2 M, (B) 4 M, (C) 6 M, (D) 8 M urea concentrations.	245
<b>SI Figure 6.6</b>	Comparison of the decays of the solvent response function $C(t)$ of domain I (BADAN-HSA) as a function of the concentrations of PEG8000 at (A) 2 M, (B) 4 M, (C) 6 M, (D) 8 M urea concentrations.	246
<b>SI Figure 6.7</b>	Comparison of the decays of the solvent response function $C(t)$ of domain I (BADAN-HSA) as a function of the concentrations of Ficoll 70 at (A) 2 M, (B) 4 M, (C) 6 M, (D) 8 M urea concentrations.	247
<b>SI Figure 6.8A</b>	Emission spectra of BADAN in HSA-BADAN as a function of the crowder PEG8000 for different urea concentrations (A) 2 M (B) 4 M (C) 6 M and (D) 8 M. The lowest and the	248

	highest emission maxima have been reported in the respective panels.	
<b>SI Figure 6.8B</b>	Emission spectra of BADAN in HSA-BADAN as a function of various crowder for different urea concentrations (A) Ficoll 70 at 2 M (B) Ficoll 70 at 4 M (C) Dextran 6 at 8 M (D) Dextran 40 at 8 M. The lowest and the highest emission maxima have been reported in the respective panels	249
<b>SI Figure 6.9</b>	CD spectra of HSA (3 $\mu$ M) in buffer as a function of different concentrations of various crowding agents.	250
<b>SI Figure 6.10</b>	CD spectra of HSA (3 $\mu$ M) at 2 M urea concentration as a function of different concentrations of various crowding agents.	251
<b>SI Figure 6.11</b>	CD spectra of HSA (3 $\mu$ M) at 4 M urea concentration as a function of different concentrations of various crowding agents.	252

## List of Tables

Table No.	Table Title	Page No.
<b>Table 3.1A</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift and solvation response time ( $\tau_s$ ) for ANS (15 $\mu$ M) in BSA (15 $\mu$ M) in presence of different concentrations of crowding agents.	98
<b>Table 3.1B</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift and solvation response time ( $\tau_s$ ) for ANS (15 $\mu$ M) in HSA (15 $\mu$ M) in presence of different concentrations of crowding agents.	100
<b>Table 3.2</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift and solvation response time ( $\tau_s$ ) for ANS (15 $\mu$ M) in BSA (15 $\mu$ M) and HSA (15 $\mu$ M) at different concentrations of $\alpha$ -synuclein.	102
<b>Table 4.1</b>	Comparison of the average solvation time ( $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ ) obtained for the binary mixtures and for the individual components	131
<b>Table 4.2</b>	Number density for the protein based crowders BSA and lysozyme, at their respective concentrations (g/L).	134
<b>Table 5.1</b>	Anisotropy decay parameters of C153 as a function of crowding agents.	150
<b>Table 5.2</b>	Stern-Volmer Constant $K_{sv}$ ( $M^{-1}$ ), and Volume of Sphere $V$ ( $M^{-1}$ ), of R6G in presence of Two Different Crowder Concentrations.	153
<b>Table 5.3</b>	Effect of the crowding agents on the CMC of SDS.	155
<b>Table 5.4</b>	Fitting Parameters Obtained from the $D/D_0$ Plots as a Function of Crowder Concentration	166
<b>Table 6.1</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift and solvation response time ( $\tau_s$ ) of domain I (BADAN-HSA) as a function of urea concentrations.	178
<b>Table 6.2</b>	Time-resolved Stokes shift and solvation response time ( $\tau_s$ ) of domain I (BADAN-HSA) in presence of 300 g/L of the various macromolecular crowding agents at different urea concentrations.	189
<b>SI Table 3.1</b>	Dissociation constants of BSA-ANS and HSA-ANS complexes for the different crowding agents at 10 g/L.	208
<b>SI Table 3.2</b>	Average Life time of BSA-ANS and HSA-ANS complexes at different concentrations of crowding agents. ( $\lambda_{exc} = 375$ nm; $\lambda_{em} = 475$ nm)	208
<b>SI Table 3.3</b>	Rotational anisotropy of ANS bound with BSA and HSA in different crowding agents at 10 g/L. ( $\lambda_{exc} = 375$ nm; $\lambda_{em} = 475$ nm)	209
<b>SI Table 4.1A</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift ( $\Delta\nu$ ) and average solvation response time ( $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ ) of domain I (BADAN-HSA) at pH 1.2 with increasing BSA concentration (g/L). $\langle\tau_s\rangle/\Delta\nu$ represents the time taken (ns) for unit Stokes shift.	219

<b>SI Table 4.1B</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift ( $\Delta\nu$ ) and average solvation response time ( $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ ) of domain I (BADAN-HSA) at pH 3.6 with increasing BSA concentration (g/L). $\langle\tau_s\rangle/\Delta\nu$ represents the time taken (ns) for unit Stokes shift.	219
<b>SI Table 4.1C</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift ( $\Delta\nu$ ) and average solvation response time ( $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ ) of domain I (BADAN-HSA) at pH 7.4 with increasing BSA concentration (g/L). $\langle\tau_s\rangle/\Delta\nu$ represents the time taken (ns) for unit Stokes shift.	220
<b>SI Table 4.1D</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift ( $\Delta\nu$ ) and average solvation response time ( $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ ) of domain I (BADAN-HSA) at pH 9.2 with increasing BSA concentration (g/L). $\langle\tau_s\rangle/\Delta\nu$ represents the time taken (ns) for unit Stokes shift.	220
<b>SI Table 4.1E</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift ( $\Delta\nu$ ) and average solvation response time ( $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ ) of domain I (BADAN-HSA) at pH 11 with increasing BSA concentration (g/L). $\langle\tau_s\rangle/\Delta\nu$ represents the time taken (ns) for unit Stokes shift.	221
<b>SI Table 4.2A</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift ( $\Delta\nu$ ) and average solvation response time ( $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ ) of domain I (BADAN-HSA) at pH 1.2 with increasing Lysozyme concentration (g/L). $\langle\tau_s\rangle/\Delta\nu$ represents the time taken (ns) for unit Stokes shift.	221
<b>SI Table 4.2B</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift ( $\Delta\nu$ ) and average solvation response time ( $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ ) of domain I (BADAN-HSA) at pH 3.6 with increasing Lysozyme concentration (g/L). $\langle\tau_s\rangle/\Delta\nu$ represents the time taken (ns) for unit Stokes shift.	222
<b>SI Table 4.2C</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift ( $\Delta\nu$ ) and average solvation response time ( $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ ) of domain I (BADAN-HSA) at pH 7.4 with increasing Lysozyme concentration (g/L). $\langle\tau_s\rangle/\Delta\nu$ represents the time taken (ns) for unit Stokes shift.	222
<b>SI Table 4.3A</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift ( $\Delta\nu$ ) and average solvation response time ( $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ ) of domain I (BADAN-HSA) at pH 1.2 with increasing BSA concentration (g/L) in the Lysozyme-BSA binary mixtures. $\langle\tau_s\rangle/\Delta\nu$ represents the time taken (ns) for unit Stokes shift.	223
<b>SI Table 4.3B</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift ( $\Delta\nu$ ) and average solvation response time ( $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ ) of domain I (BADAN-HSA) at pH 3.6 with increasing BSA concentration (g/L) in the Lysozyme-BSA binary mixtures. $\langle\tau_s\rangle/\Delta\nu$ represents the time taken (ns) for unit Stokes shift.	223
<b>SI Table 4.3C</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift ( $\Delta\nu$ ) and average solvation response time ( $\langle\tau_s\rangle$ ) of domain I (BADAN-HSA) at pH 7.4 with increasing BSA concentration (g/L) in the Lysozyme-BSA binary mixtures. $\langle\tau_s\rangle/\Delta\nu$ represents the time taken (ns) for unit Stokes shift.	223
<b>SI Table 4.4</b>	Rotational anisotropy parameters of BADAN-HSA as a function of the concentration of BSA ( $\lambda_{exc} = 375$ nm, $\lambda_{em} =$	224

	490 nm) at different pH (1.2-11.0). (Standard error in rotational correlation time is in the range of $\pm 10\%$ )	
<b>SI Table 4.5</b>	Rotational anisotropy parameters of BADAN-HSA as a function of the concentration of lysozyme ( $\lambda_{exc} = 375$ nm, $\lambda_{em} = 490$ nm) at different pH (1.2-7.4). (Standard error in rotational correlation time is in the range of $\pm 10\%$ )	225
<b>SI Table 6.1</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift and solvation response time ( $\tau_s$ ) of domain I (BADAN-HSA) for different concentrations of various crowding agents at 2 M urea concentration.	232
<b>SI Table 6.2</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift and solvation response time ( $\tau_s$ ) of domain I (BADAN-HSA) for different concentrations of various crowding agents at 4 M urea concentration.	233
<b>SI Table 6.3</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift and solvation response time ( $\tau_s$ ) of domain I (BADAN-HSA) for different concentrations of various crowding agents at 6 M urea concentration.	234
<b>SI Table 6.4</b>	Time resolved Stokes shift and solvation response time ( $\tau_s$ ) of domain I (BADAN-HSA) for different concentrations of various crowding agents at 8 M urea concentration.	235
<b>SI Table 6.5</b>	Rotational anisotropy parameters of BADAN-HSA as a function of urea concentrations.	236
<b>SI Table 6.6</b>	Rotational anisotropy parameters of BADAN-HSA as a function of the concentrations of various crowding agents at 2 M urea concentration.	237
<b>SI Table 6.7</b>	Rotational anisotropy parameters of BADAN-HSA as a function of the concentrations of various crowding agents at 4 M urea concentration.	238
<b>SI Table 6.8</b>	Rotational anisotropy parameters of BADAN-HSA as a function of the concentrations of various crowding agents at 6 M urea concentration.	239
<b>SI Table 6.9</b>	Rotational anisotropy parameters of BADAN-HSA as a function of the concentrations of various crowding agents at 8 M urea concentration.	240