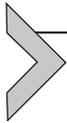




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Intrinsically disordered proteins of viruses: Involvement in the mechanism of cell regulation and pathogenesis

Pushendra Mani Mishra^a, Navneet Chandra Verma^a, Chethana Rao^a, Vladimir N. Uversky^{b,c,*}, Chayan Kanti Nandi^{a,*}

^aSchool of Basic Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, Mandi, India

^bDepartment of Molecular Medicine and Byrd Alzheimer's Research Institute, Morsani College of Medicine, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, United States

^cLaboratory of New Methods in Biology, Institute for Biological Instrumentation of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Federal Research Center "Pushchino Scientific Center for Biological Research of the Russian Academy of Sciences", Pushchino, Moscow Region, Russia

*Corresponding authors: e-mail address: vuvversky@health.usf.edu; chayan@iitmandi.ac.in

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Abstract

Intrinsically disordered proteins (IDPs) possess the property of inherent flexibility and can be distinguished from other proteins in terms of lack of any fixed structure. Such dynamic behavior of IDPs earned the name "*Dancing Proteins.*" The exploration of these dancing proteins in viruses has just started and crucial details such as correlation of rapid evolution, high rate of mutation and accumulation of disordered contents in viral proteome at least understood partially. In order to gain a complete understanding of this correlation, there is a need to decipher the complexity of viral mediated cell hijacking and pathogenesis in the host organism. Further there is necessity to identify the specific patterns within viral and host IDPs such as aggregation; Molecular recognition features (MoRFs) and their association to virulence, host range and rate of evolution of viruses in order to tackle the viral-mediated diseases. The current book chapter summarizes the aforementioned details and suggests the novel opportunities for further research of IDPs senses in viruses.

Abbreviations

AFV1	acidianus filamentous virus 1
APC/C	anaphase-promoting complex/cyclosome
APMV	<i>Acanthamoeba polyphaga</i> mimivirus
ATL	adult T-cell leukemia
CBP	CREB-binding protein
CDKs	cyclin-dependent kinases

CypA	cyclophilin A
DENV	dengue virus
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
DSC	differential scanning spectroscopy
E1B	early transcription unit 1B
EIAV	equine Infectious anemia Virus
EMI-1	early mitotic inhibitor protein-1
EPR	electron paramagnetic resonance
EV-71	enterovirus-71
FMDV	foot-and-mouth disease virus
FRET	fluorescence resonance energy transfer
HA	hemagglutinin
HDAg	hepatitis delta antigen
HDV	hepatitis delta virus
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HIV-1	human immunodeficiency virus-1
HPV	human papillomavirus
HS-AFM	high-speed atomic force microscope
HTLV-1	human T-cell lymphotropic virus type 1
IDP	intrinsically disordered protein
IDR	intrinsically disordered region
IRF3	interferon regulatory factor 3
JEV	Japanese encephalitis
KID	kinase-inducible domain
KIX	kinase-inducible domain (KID) interacting domain
LMV	lettuce mosaic virus
MAP 2	microtubule-associated protein 2
Mdm2	mouse double minute 2
MeV	measles virus
MG	molten globule
MHC	major histocompatibility complex
MoRF	molecular recognition feature
MPs	movement proteins
MVM	minute virus of mice
NCBD	nuclear-receptor co-activator binding domain
NEP	non-structural protein 2
NLP	nucleocapsid like particle
NLS	nuclear localization signal
NMR	nuclear Magnetic Resonance
NTAIL	C-terminal domain of nucleoprotein
ORF	open reading frame
PACS	phosphofurin acidic cluster sorting protein
PI	isoelectric point
PKB	protein kinase B
PMG	pre-molten globule
PNT	N-terminal region of P
PP2A	protein phosphatase 2A
PPI	protein-protein interaction

PPID	predicted percentage of intrinsic disorder
PTM	posttranslational modification
PVA	potato virus A
PVS	papillomavirus
PVY	potato virus Y
RC	random coil
RDRP	RNA dependent RNA polymerase
RNA	ribonucleic acid
RRE	rev. response element
RYMV	rice yellow mottle virus
SARS-CoA	severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus
SAXS	small-angle X-ray scattering
SDS	sodium dodecyl sulfate
SDS-PAGE	SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
SFV	Semliki forest virus
SIFV	<i>Sulfolobus islandicus</i> filamentous virus
SLiM	short linear motif
SM	single-molecule
SM-FRET	single-molecule fluorescence resonance energy transfer
SeMV	sesbania mosaic virus
SeV	Sendai virus
SRC1	steroid receptor coactivator 1
TAD	transactivation domain
TAR	transactivation response region
TGB	triple gene black
TMV	tobacco mosaic virus
URR	upstream regulatory region
VPg	viral genome-linked protein
VSV	vesicular stomatitis virus
WNV	West Nile virus
XD	C-terminal X domain
dsDNA	double-stranded DNA
dsRNA	double-stranded RNA
pRb	retinoblastoma protein
ssDNA	single-stranded DNA
ssRNA	single-stranded RNA
ZIKV	Zika virus

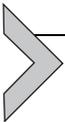
Rationale and importance of the book chapter

This book chapter entitled “Intrinsically disordered proteins of viruses: involvement in the mechanism of cell regulation and pathogenesis” discusses extensively the intrinsically disordered protein (IDP)-mediated functional mechanisms, pathogenesis, structural regulation and cellular regulation of host cell by complex viral proteome. For a complete

understanding of IDPs and their role in Viruses, this chapter starts with the brief introduction of IDPs and their associated atypical properties and different instrumental and computational techniques to characterize IDPs. Next, chapter describes the IDP-related aspect of viruses. Different possible modes of viral IDP molecular mimicry and host IDP-mediated regulation of host cells have been discussed and a diagrammatic model is proposed. Subsequently, the origin of viruses and their special properties have been described. Further, the importance of viral structural, non-structural and other proteins is emphasized. Furthermore, the IDP prevalence in viruses and their comparison to three distinct domains of life (Archaea, Bacteria, and Eukarya) are discussed in detail. The last portion of this book chapter explains various IDP-associated patterns in viruses and their relation to the host range, pathogenicity, and protein aggregation. Next, the structural and functional importance of IDPs in different viruses (Bacteriophage, Plant and Animal virus) is discussed. The examples of the aforementioned viruses and description of their IDP-associated mechanisms have been taken from the different referenced publications. Lastly, this chapter summarizes the conversed contents and further discusses the future outlook for the purpose of studying IDP prevalence, distribution, and disorder-related mechanisms in the proteomes of viruses.

We hope that this chapter will help in grasping the concept of IDPs and IDPs' perspective of viruses and spawning many novel ideas in relation to deciphering the complexity of viral pathogenesis and drug discovery. For instance, the prevalence of IDPs and patterns of pathogenesis and host range have been explored and proven in a few viruses; however other related patterns have not been explored completely. Additionally, the mechanisms of cell regulation via disordered viral proteome have not been completely understood. The proposed model will form the basis for further research and understanding.

By authors.



1. A general introduction to intrinsically disordered proteins (IDPs) and their major properties

1.1 Intrinsically disordered proteins (IDPs)

The concept of structure–function paradigm that was widely accepted for more than a century tells us that the biological functions of proteins are linked to their rigid three-dimensional (3D) structures.¹

The normal functioning of most of the globular proteins (e.g. enzymes) requires the orderly arrangement of various functional groups of amino acids in protein's unique 3D structure to facilitate the catalysis of chemical reactions or other related functions. However, recent research demonstrated that the large fraction of genome-encoded proteins of many organisms lack the well-defined 3D structures, but still play various important roles in cellular functionality. The group of such proteins is generally known as intrinsically disordered proteins (IDPs).²⁻⁴ However, they have multiple alternative names, such as natively denatured,⁵ natively unfolded,⁶ intrinsically unstructured,⁷ natively disordered,⁸ dancing proteins,⁹ protein clouds,^{10,11} 4D,¹² malleable,¹³⁻¹⁵ chameleon,¹⁶ vulnerable,¹⁷ intrinsically disordered,¹⁸ intrinsically unfolded, intrinsically denatured, flexible,¹⁹ mobile,²⁰ pliable,²¹ rheomorphic,²² and partially folded proteins.²³ The different name identities of IDPs are based on their properties observed in different experiments conducted at a different time. The computational analysis reveals that greater than one-third of eukaryotic proteins harbor the intrinsically disordered regions (IDRs) of greater than 30 residues in length.²⁴⁻³¹ In solution, when IDPs are kept alone, they lack a unique 3D structure either in parts or completely.³²

The high abundance of IDPs is associated with their functional importance for many crucial cellular processes, such as signaling, recognition, and regulation by means of high specificity and low-affinity interaction and binding to multiple partners. The disorder-based signaling interaction can be mediated as many to one and one to many interactions. The functional tuning of IDPs induced by various post-translational modifications (PTMs), Alternative splicing and induced folding. The high prevalence of IDPs in various diseases suggests the root cause is not only the protein misfolding but beyond it and also caused by mis-signaling and misidentification. The peculiar behavior of IDPs draws attention to drug targets, which temper the protein-protein interactions.⁸

1.2 Properties of IDPs

1.2.1 Sequence of amino acid define disorderliness

Although the IDPs are biologically active molecules, they tend to adopt an extended mobile dynamic or collapsed conformational ensemble either at the tertiary or secondary structure. A comparative analysis of amino acid sequence of IDPs with respect to those of ordered proteins demonstrate the noticeable enrichment in the content of disorder-promoting amino acids, such as Ala, Arg, Gly, Gln, Ser, Glu, Lys, and Pro, paralleled by

the significant depletion in the content of order-promoting amino acids, Ile, Leu, Val, Trp, Tyr, Phe, Cys, and Asn. In addition to the above-observed criteria, several other disorder-promoting factors are involved that are; 14 Å contact numbers, coordination number, hydrophathy, Cys + Phe + Tyr + Trp, volume, Arg + Glu + Ser + Pro, bulkiness, net charge and β -sheet propensity that provide the reliable basis for differentiating disorder and other proteins.^{18,33–36}

1.2.2 Intrinsic disorder and binding promiscuity

One of the important properties of IDPs is being promiscuous in nature. This involves interaction with multiple partners and ability to act as highly connected nodes, or hubs, most frequently within the protein-protein interaction (PPI) networks. Hubs are vital for the normal functioning and stability of PPI networks in any organism. It has been shown that the deletion of hub protein could be lethal for that organism.^{37–45} The illustrative examples of disordered hub proteins that bind to around 10–100 binding partners are p21, p27, p53, BRCA1, XPA, α -synuclein, estrogen receptor,⁴⁶ etc. IDRs within disordered hub protein present in at least one of the two functional forms; the one functional form defines the ability of the disordered binding site to interact with specific partner and, upon interaction, to adopt an ordered conformation, another functional form is a flexible linker that connects two ordered domain and allows their unrestricted movement.⁴⁷

1.2.3 Properties of charge

The presence of charge in amino acid residues helps in establishing the structure and function of proteins. The high content of charged residue in the highly disordered proteins (native pre-molten globules (PMG) and native coils) is an important, conspicuous feature.⁴⁸ The high net charge is important for extended conformation of IDPs,⁴⁹ because it has been observed repeatedly for proteins in aqueous environment, that the sequences lacking in certain hydrophobic residues and rich in polar uncharged amino acids form the heterogeneous ensemble of collapsed structures.^{50–56} Analysis of the number of highly charged polypeptides revealed that the intrinsic preference of a polypeptide backbone for the formation of collapsed structure depends on charge content.⁴⁹

1.2.4 Human disease association

The analysis of various protein databases of human diseases and other observations determine the contribution of IDPs to the pathogenesis of many

human ailments and their role as common player in between the diseases.^{8,57} Few examples of diseases, where IDPs/IDRs are involved are listed below. Cancer: Intrinsic disorder has been observed in many cancer-associated proteins, such as p53,⁵⁸ p57kip2,⁵⁹ c-Fos,⁶⁰ Bcl-2 and Bcl-XL,⁶¹ thyroid cancer-associated protein TC-1,⁶² and protein components of cancer-causing viruses.¹ Down's syndrome: Non-filamentous deposits of intrinsically disordered amyloid- β (A β).⁶³ Alzheimer's disease: IDPs associated with this disease are depositions of A β , Tau, and α -synuclein NAC fragment.⁶⁴⁻⁶⁷ Other diseases, where intrinsic disorder in protein components was reported are family of polyQ diseases⁶⁸; variant of Alzheimer's disease, dementia with Lewy body, diffuse Lewy body disease, Parkinson's disease, Hallervorden-Spatz disease and multiple system atrophy⁶⁹; prion disease⁷⁰; argyrophilic grain disease, myotonic dystrophy, and motor neuron disease with neurofibrillary tangles, subacute sclerosing panencephalitis, Niemann-Pick disease type C.⁶⁶ Intrinsic disorder is also reported in protein components of viruses causing various human diseases, such as AIDS and Cutaneous diseases.⁷¹

1.2.5 Ensemble structures of IDPs

IDPs do not have specific fixed structures, hence they exist as dynamic ensembles, quite similar to the clouds of proteins. In these protein cloud structures, the atomic position and the backbone Ramachandran angle does not have the fixed value and vary significantly over time. Despite being dynamic in nature, these protein clouds could be represented by a fairly limited number of low-energy conformations (but still significantly more than one low-energy state typical for ordered proteins).^{10,72,73} To understand the regulatory mechanism and cellular functions involvement, structural details of IDPs are necessary. Various methods have been developed to construct the ensemble modeling of IDPs.⁷⁴⁻⁷⁶

1.2.6 Hydration property

Due to the difference in structure and structure-associated properties, ordered and disordered proteins possess different hydration degrees. The degree of hydration is significantly higher for the IDPs in comparison to the similar size globular proteins. Furthermore, the hydration degree also varies for the partially and fully intrinsically disordered proteins.⁷⁷⁻⁷⁹ In addition to retaining a high amount of water content, IDPs also possess a high propensity of binding to charged solute ions. Both properties play an important protective role in biological systems. For example, under the adverse water-stressed conditions, *D. radiodurans* is able to protect its enzyme nudix hydrolase from denaturation

due to the aforementioned properties of the IDRs of this protein.⁸⁰ Several plants and free-living insect species also protect themselves by using the ability of IDPs and IDRs for excessive hydration and absorption of solute ion.⁴⁶

1.2.7 Property of induced folding

Many IDPs can undergo (at least partial) disorder-to-order transitions upon binding to the specific partners. The free energy required for the transition comes from the interface contacts, which results in the formation of low net free energy association for the high specific interaction combination.^{18,38,39,81,82} In IDPs/IDRs, coupled properties of high specificity and low affinity seems to ensure specific binding and reversibility to complete the signaling cascade.⁴⁶ IDPs/IDRs can change their shapes to readily bind multiple different partners. Also, it has been shown that in their unbound conformational ensembles, IDPs/IDRs have a preference for the structure they most likely to adopt after binding.^{81,83,84}

1.2.8 Interactability of IDPs

Interactions of IDPs with their partners are characterized by a diverse range of binding modes, due to which the formation of many unusually shaped complexes takes place, with some of these complexes being relatively static hence their structure could be determined by the x-ray crystallography method.¹¹ The most common binding modes of IDPs that have been studied extensively relative to others are *Molecular Recognition Features (MoRFs)*. MoRFs are intrinsically disordered protein segments, which are short and interaction-prone. These regions also have intrinsic propensity for order, which is not strong enough to ensure their folding in the unbound state. However, upon binding to specific partners, MoRFs undergo disorder-to-order transition. Such regions are chiefly involved in molecular recognition. The classification of MoRFs is based on their structures in the bound state. As a result, they are classified into α -helix-forming α -MoRFs, β -strand forming β -MoRFs, ordered regions without any regular structure or irregular ι -MoRFs, and complex MoRF that contain two or more types of secondary structure.^{85,86} In addition to MoRFs, other known binding modes are Pullers,⁸⁷ Penetrators,⁸⁸ Flexible Wrapper,^{89–92} Connectors and Armature,^{93–97} Huggers,^{98–100} Stackers or β -Arcs,¹⁰¹ Intertwined Strings,^{102–104} Long Cylindrical Containers,¹⁰⁵ Tweezers and a Forceps,¹⁰⁶ Grabbers,¹⁰⁷ Tentacles,¹⁰⁸ and Chameleons.^{16,109–112}

1.3 Roles of IDPs in protein interaction and PPI networks

IDP/IDR can play its roles by contributing to the binding diversity in three different ways, as it may serve as the structural basis for hub protein promiscuity, secondly, it may bind to structured hub proteins, and thirdly, IDR can act as a flexible linker between the functional domains and facilitate the binding diversity through the linker-enabling mechanism.³⁸

A vast range of functional importance of IDPs/IDRs has been found by the researchers. Few examples are given here to illustrate the type of biological activities carried by the IDPs/IDRs. (1) IDPs contain sites for various posttranslational modifications (PTMs), such as phosphorylation, methylation, glycosylation, ADP-ribosylation or acetylation; (2) Entropic spring (rubber-like) property can be provided by IDRs; (3) IDPs contain auto-inhibitory domains; (4) IDPs/IDRs possess binding sites for DNA, rRNA, mRNA, tRNA, metal ions, and other proteins; (5) IDRs include regulatory protease digestion site; (6) Signal for the nuclear localization is located within IDRs; (7) IDRs provide flexible linkers between structured domains¹¹²; and (8) IDPs, such as p21 and p27, mediate cell regulation.¹¹³

Fig. 1 provides details of the involvement of IDPs in crucial cellular functions and processes.

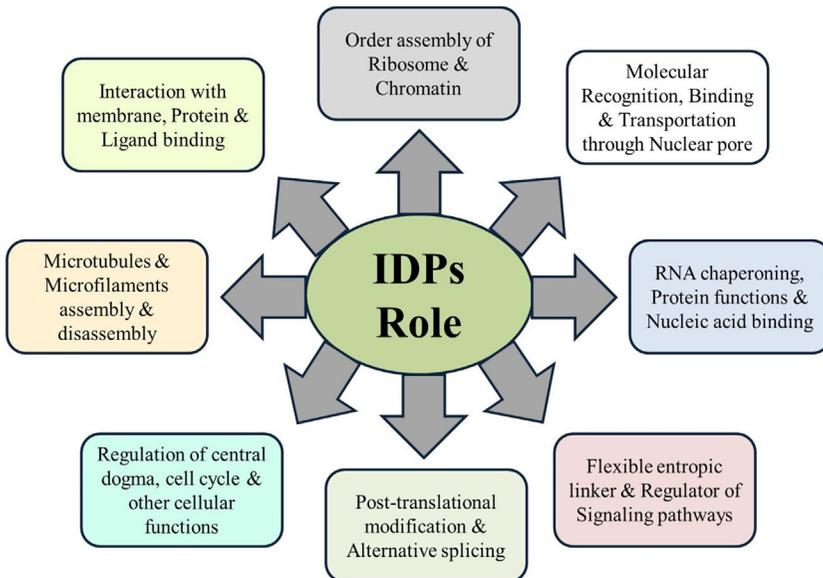


Fig. 1 IDPs involvement in various cellular processes.^{114,115}

1.4 Predictors of intrinsic disorder

The compositional differences between ordered proteins and IDPs facilitated the development of various disorder predictors. These predictors were initially elaborated based on amino acid composition. Later, the predictors were developed on the basis of some basic physical principles and machine learning algorithms, which use the characteristic features of IDPs/IDRs, such as net charge, hydrophobicity, and other sequence features. As of 2009, more than 50 predictors for intrinsic disorder prediction have been developed and published,¹¹⁶ and currently, this list is likely to be doubled. There are the good chances for the development of improved predictors for intrinsic disorder, if the proper sequence information is encoded into the prediction algorithm. The example of few common predictors are as follows: various members of PONDR family,³⁴ DISOPRED,¹¹⁷ FoldIndex,¹¹⁸ IUPRED,¹¹⁹ DisEMBL,¹²⁰ DISOPRED2,¹¹⁷ and RONN^{121,122} to name a few.

1.5 Structural assessment of IDPs through biophysical techniques

There are three functional conformational states, in which IDPs could globally exist, depending upon the environment and content of residual structure. These are, in a range of the increasing depth of disorder, molten globule (MG), pre-molten globule (PMG), and random-coil-like (RC-like) states. Therefore, IDPs could adopt either extended conformations (RC and PMG) or remain globally collapsed (MG).¹²³

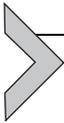
So far, the conformational and spectroscopic study of IDPs confirmed the important notion that the IDPs could not be represented by a homogeneous structural class, but it would be in the range of fully extended (RC-like) to compact (MG-like) conformations. Protein trinity hypothesis given by the Keith Dunker to accommodate three most known conformations of a protein molecule in a functional framework, which postulated that there a biologically active protein molecule can exist in three conformationally different native states, an ordered form, a state with collapsed-disorder (molten globule, MG) and a state with extended disorder (RC). Functional form is represented by any of the three conformations or transitions between them. Subsequently, this model was extended to accommodate an extra conformation that is the PMG, which is an intermediate conformation between MG and RC.¹⁸

Many biophysical techniques can be applied for the conformational analysis and structure determination of IDPs. Some of these techniques provide

outputs in an indirect way, while others are useful in providing more quantitative structural data. Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) is one of the most powerful techniques for deriving quantitative structural information.¹²⁴ A wide line NMR relaxation experiment characterizes the IDPs and provides details about the presence of the hydrated layer in the vicinity of disordered regions in the extended and open state. Additionally, the diffusion coefficient of protein can be measured by the pulse field gradient NMR, from which the hydrodynamic parameters could be derived.⁴ Structural transition in IDPs can be mapped and documented by the electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectroscopy. The introduction of new generation spin-labels EPR that target the residues other than the cysteine expanded the approach of this technique.^{125–129} Small-angle X-ray scattering (SAXS) and small-angle neutron scattering (SANS), which are the experimental techniques for the extraction of quantitative information, lead to an investigation of transient intermediates and provide detailed information about the nature of IDPs. The techniques of a single-molecule approach such as fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET),^{130–132} High-Speed Atomic Force Microscope (HS-AFM),^{133,134} and AFM-based force spectroscopy (FS)¹³⁵ are the tools to explore the dynamics and structure of IDPs. The change in distance between two residues and study of conformational equilibria in time length of less than a second based on the intramolecular distance distribution is done by the Single-molecule fluorescence resonance energy transfer (SM-FRET). Formation of secondary structures and probing of time scales from milliseconds to seconds is particularly sensed by AFM-based SM-FS. HS-AFM is used for the direct observation of dynamic processes and structural dynamics of biological molecules, with the temporal resolution of subsecond to sub-100 ms.^{134,136} To date, the various dynamic processes have been visualized successfully by using this approach. HS-AFM is applicable to both IDPs and well-structured protein.

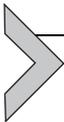
Various other complementary methods that can be used to study protein disorder are sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE), gel filtration or size exclusion chromatography-based analysis, and specific behavior analysis in acidic and high-temperature environments. In the SDS-PAGE analysis, the observed mobility of IDPs appears to be anomalous. This phenomenon is explained by the less efficient binding of SDS molecules to highly charged IDPs in comparison to the globular proteins of similar molecular masses. The apparent molecular mass determined by this method is up to 1.2- to 1.8-fold higher than the molecular mass determined from the protein sequences or by mass spectrometry.¹³⁷

The unusually high apparent molecular mass of IDPs is also observed by gel filtration or size exclusion chromatography techniques.¹²³ The specific behavior of IDPs in different sets of environmental conditions, such as their stability in an acidic environment and insensitivity to high temperature, has been described for several IDPs, such as caldesmon,¹³⁸ microtubule-associated protein-2 MAP2,¹³⁹ involucrin,¹⁴⁰ and α -synuclein⁶ to name a few. These environmental conditions usually cause the denaturation or/and precipitation of globular proteins out of solution. This difference in the behavior of IDPs and globular protein in the various sets of environmental condition form the basis of purification of IDPs.^{141–144} This uniqueness of IDPs provides the first clue of their unusual structural conformation.¹⁴⁵



2. The dark proteomes of viruses

IDPs offer high flexibility to viral proteins¹⁴⁶ either in the wholly or partially disordered form. This provides viral proteins with the capability for quick adaption in the changing environment, survival in host body environments, and invasion of the defense mechanism of the host. To accomplish aforementioned tasks, a high mutation rate is exhibited by the viral genomes. For example, the rate of nucleotide exchange per position per generation exhibited by ribonucleic acid (RNA) viruses fall in the range of 10^{-5} to 10^{-3} , for deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) viruses it is 10^{-8} to 10^{-5} , while eukaryotes and bacteria demonstrate mutation rate of 10^{-9} .¹⁴⁷ Even a single mutation has high potency to affect more than one viral protein, due to high compactness of viral genomes and the existence of the overlapping reading frames, which often is observed in the viral system. Throughout the life cycle of the virus, many interactions are made to various components of the host cell. It begins with the attachment, entry, and proceeding for the hijacking of the cellular machinery and further viral components synthesis, viral particle assembly, and end by exiting the host cell in the form of new infectious particles.¹⁴⁸ And all these stages are heavily relying on the intrinsic disorder of viral proteins.¹⁴⁸



3. Involvement of IDPs in the pathogen-host mediated regulation of cell cycle

There are numerous pathways in host cells, where IDPs are involved in the controlling of the cell cycle. Several illustrative examples are discussed here and shown in Fig. 2. (1) Preformed helical portion of the

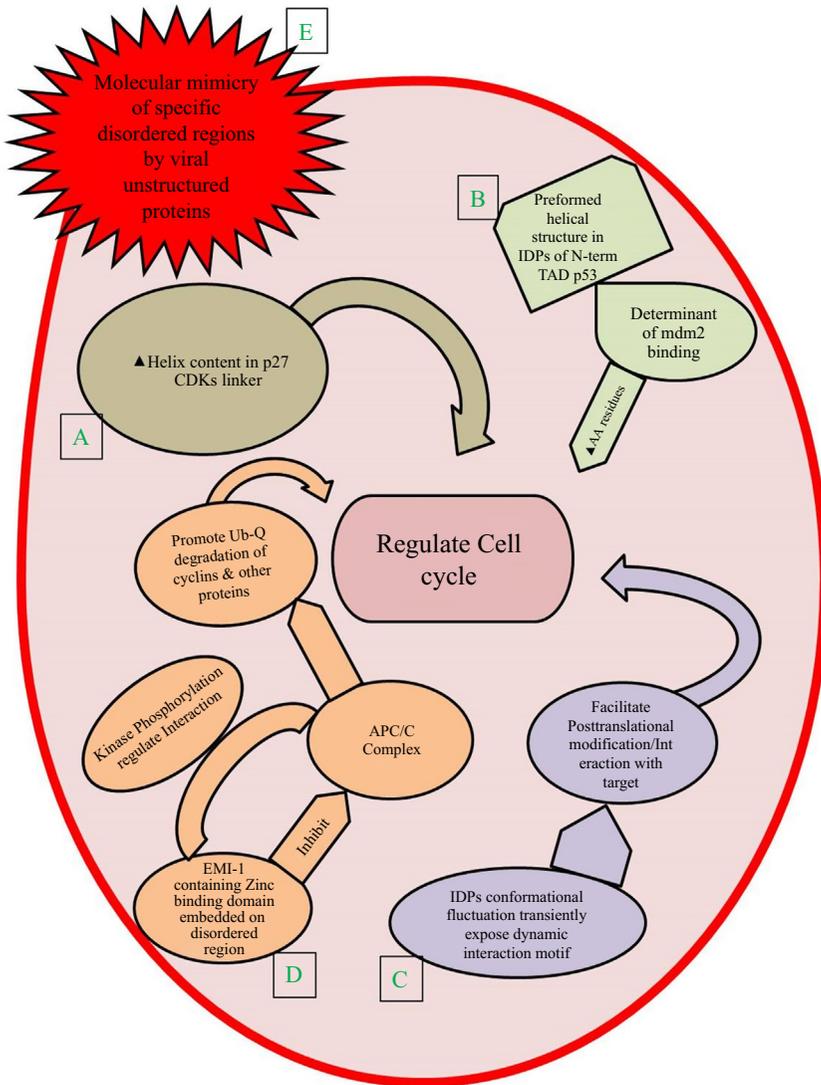


Fig. 2 Intrinsic disorder controlled (A) a structural change in the cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 1B ($p27^{Kip1}$); (B) TADp53-mediated Mdm2 binding have an association with the cell cycle regulation and apoptosis. (C) Conformational fluctuation and transient exposure of interaction motif lead to PTM that subsequently controls the target binding and ultimately regulation of cell cycle. (D) IDRs control zinc-binding domain of EMI-1 that upon interaction with APC/C complex controls UBQ-mediated degradation of cyclins and other proteins that are related to the cell cycle regulation. (E) Viruses hijack the cellular machinery using one or more cell regulation pathways by using their proteins to mimic the host IDPs/IDRs in cell cycle pathways.

cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 1B (p27^{Kip1}) protein is associated with positive and negative regulation of cell cycle.¹⁴⁹ (2) Preformed helical structure in disordered N-terminal transactivation domain (TAD) of p53 determines interaction of this protein with Mouse double minute 2 homolog (Mdm2), any change in amino acid residues in the molecular determinant region affects the binding of Mdm2 and subsequently cell regulation and apoptosis. (3) Conformational fluctuation in the intrinsically disordered cell proteins transiently exposes dynamic interaction motif that leads to post-translational modifications (PTMs) and interaction with various target protein that affects cell cycle control. (4) Early mitotic inhibitor protein-1 (EMI-1) containing zinc-binding domain embedded on IDPs inhibits anaphase-promoting complex/cyclosome (APC/C) that controls cell division by promoting ubiquitin-mediated degradation of cyclins and other proteins involved in the regulation of the cell cycle. Kinase phosphorylations regulate the interaction between EMI-1 and APC/C.¹¹⁴ Intrinsically Unstructured viral protein components, through molecular mimicry, could invade the host IDPs position involved in various cell regulatory processes (few of them as discussed above) and hijack host cell machinery.^{114,149–152}

In addition to the aforementioned pathways, viruses through histone mimicry can control the expression of the gene and ultimately cell cycle regulations network of host cells.¹⁵³ Many unconventional RNA binding proteins containing IDRs can also play an important role in the control of cellular machinery by viruses in the battlefield of host and pathogens.¹⁵⁴ Besides mimicking the function of host cells, viral protein complex directly attacks the cellular components and disrupt their normal functions, for instance, the disordered viral oncoproteins of many cancer-causing viruses attack the Retinoblastoma protein (pRb) and E2F complex and affect the normal cell regulation mechanism as shown in Fig. 3.

Phosphofurin acidic cluster sorting protein (PACS) acting as a traffic modulator first appeared in lower metazoans. Later evolution of this protein in vertebrate makes integration of cytoplasmic trafficking and inter-organelle communication with nuclear gene expression. In due course of evolution, PACS functional diversity increases in the vertebrate by acquiring the phosphorylation sites and nuclear trafficking signals within its disordered regions. PACS proteins variants PACS-1 and PACS-2 mediated protein trafficking pathways hijacked by viruses for immune evasion, multiplication, and pathogenesis. However, the complete mechanism is yet to decipher.¹⁵⁶

To accomplish all the above functions, viral proteins made interactions with many cellular components, with few of them being Nucleic acids,

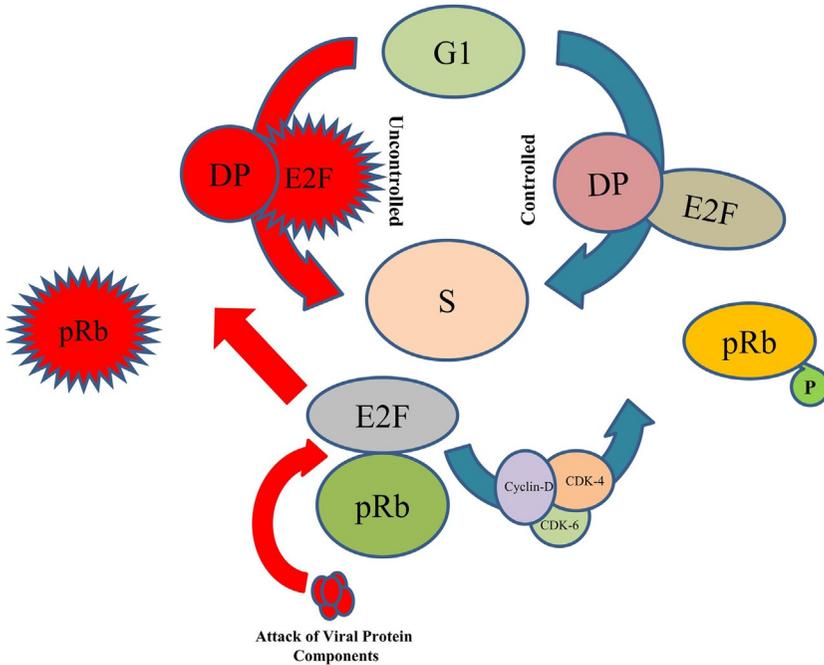
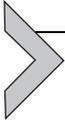


Fig. 3 Host cell cycle regulation influenced by the attack of viral protein components on pRb and E2F complex. Viral protein complex forcibly releases the E2F from pRb and E2F complex and abruptly increases the cell cycle progression in an uncontrolled way. The blue color shows the normal pathway of G1 to S progression, while red color shows virus-induced uncontrolled cell progression from G1 to S.¹⁵⁵

Proteins, and Membranes. The presence of intrinsic disorder in viral proteins is advantageous for their interactions with the host cell components. The easiness of said interactions could be explained on the basis of the lack of rigid 3D structure and the presence of high structural flexibility in these viral IDPs or proteins containing IDRs to allow their interaction with many binding partners at a time. Linking of functional domains and their promiscuity is achieved by interaction with partner IDRs, where the flexibility plays a major role in bringing two or more domains in proximity in order to perform a particular function. Flexible linker functions of IDRs in viral protein confer the advantage of escaping the recognition by the host immune system; the viral protein interacts with host protein in such a way that the recognition of viral epitope becomes difficult to be recognized by the components of the host immune system. A mutation rate that is typically high in the viral system could be tolerated by the presence of these flexible regions in viral proteins that forbid the structural constraints, hence

avoid the susceptibility to mutation. The expected explanation behind all these incidents points toward the involvement of IDPs. The first and pivotal observation of an abundance of intrinsic disorder in the replicative complex of paramyxoviruses had been confirmed.^{157–159} Availability and use of bioinformatics tools in the last decades and their continuous growth and the development of sensitive biophysical experimental techniques lead to the identification of an abundance of IDPs in Viruses.^{31,160–163}



4. Origin of viruses and their exclusive properties

Among all replicating organisms, the highest number is demonstrated by the viruses, which, therefore, are considered as the most abundant biological entities on the Earth,¹⁶⁴ For instance, if we compare the count of cells of all living creature present on the earth to number of the viral particles, it will be less than at least an order of magnitude.^{165,166} The number of viruses can be estimated by counting the number of virus-like particles in the environment. For example, 1 mL of natural water contains as many as 2.5×10^8 viral particles.¹⁶⁷ Viruses are parasitic in nature, and in high abundance could be found in infected cells of Bacteria, Archaea, and Eukarya or even in other viruses.^{164,166,168} The discovery of a small icosahedral virophage named Sputnik established the concept of infection of the virus by another virus¹⁶⁹ Sputnik virus infects the *Acanthamoeba polyphaga* Mimivirus (APMV) that in turn infects amoeba. APMV is a member of the Megaviridae family.^{170–172} Infection of APMV by Sputnik virus is damaging and produces many deleterious effects in APMV, e.g., the assembly of capsid becomes abnormal and abortive viral forms appear.¹⁶⁹ This breach in the normal morphogenesis of APMV is explained on the basis of cytoplasm-independent replication center of APMV, where final morphogenesis normally takes place. However infection with Sputnik and multiplication of this virus at this center hinder its normal function.¹⁷³

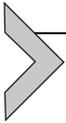
From the structural perspective, viruses demonstrate very simple structural organization. However, they display various shapes and strictly do not possess a unique common morphology. The genome of all viruses either made up of double or single-stranded DNA or RNA. It is encapsulated within a protective protein coat known as the capsid. An additional lipid envelope contains a number of membrane proteins found in Enveloped viruses. The position of the envelope is above the matrix protein, which is an additional proteinaceous coat. Some complex viruses in addition to the non-structural proteins contain numerous accessory and regulatory

proteins all that help in the assembly of the viral capsid. Viruses in reference to the structure of their genome, mechanism of replication, and transcription display a wide array of diversity. The viral genome could be of single or double-stranded DNA or single or double-stranded RNA and transcribed via a negative sense, positive sense, or ambisense mechanism. The diversity of the viruses either in genomic structure or mechanism of function leads to their classification in seven major classes.¹⁷⁴ Following this classification, all DNA based viruses kept in class I, II, and VII that contain dsDNA viruses, ssDNA viruses and dsDNA viruses that replicate via an intermediate single-stranded RNA (ssRNA) respectively. The remaining four classes, that is III, IV, V and VI, contain various RNA viruses, such as double-stranded RNA viruses (dsRNA), ssRNA viruses of positive (+) sense, ssRNA virus of negative (−) sense, and ssRNA virus of positive (+) sense that replicate via DNA intermediate, respectively. The certain features of viruses that typically oppose them to the living organisms are the absence of cell-like defined structure and inability of maintaining homeostasis and reproduce outside of the cellular environment due to the absence of their own metabolism and essential dependence on the host cell to make new products. The other features, such as the presence of a genome, replication ability and self-assembling creation of their own copies, and continuous evolution by natural selection make viruses similar to other living organisms.¹⁷⁵

The presence of unusual properties makes it difficult to agree on the common view on the viruses. It is difficult to elaborate on whether viruses are some organisms at the edge of life, different and special with respect to other living cellular organisms, or nonliving organic structures that have a self-driven property to interact with living organisms.¹⁷⁶ The recent discovery of the presence of the metabolic protein-encoding genes in giant viruses challenged the previous view of the lack of these genes in viruses.¹⁷⁷ Certain bacterial species, such as *Mycoplasma*, *Rickettsia*, and *Chlamydia* are obligate intracellular parasites exactly as viruses. All this approves the reconsideration of criteria describing the living organisms.

There is an incomplete understanding of virus origin, three chief hypotheses have put forth to explain the understanding of their beginning.¹⁷⁸ The first hypothesis is the coevolution theory, according to which viruses and cells appeared simultaneously in the early history of the Earth. Since their emergence, viruses have a dependency on cellular life. The second hypothesis is known as the cellular origin hypothesis or the vagrancy. According to this hypothesis it is assumed that the evolution of viruses occurs from the DNA or RNA pieces that escaped from the genes of the larger

organisms. Examples of potential candidates for this escaped genetic material are (1) physically separated chromosomal DNA that is naked and can replicate independently called plasmid, (2) DNA pieces that have the ability to move from one place to other within the gene and replicate, termed transposon. Last, the third hypothesis of virus origin is a regressive or degeneracy hypothesis that proposes the origin of viruses take place from a parasitic cell that sheds all genes that were not required for the support of parasitism. The root of viral origin also traced from the nucleoprotein world that transiently existed during the transition of the RNA world to the modern DNA-RNA-Protein world according to different hypotheses. The appearance of RNA viruses took place either due to reduction or escape from the RNA containing primitive cells. These RNA viruses are also considered as the evolutionary starting point for some of the DNA viruses.¹⁷⁸ The origin of viruses considered to be in the early phase of the evolution of life,¹⁷⁹ when the living cells first evolved. Since then the existence of viruses has been proposed. This could be a reason why viruses have the ability to affect the cells from all three kingdoms of life that are Eukarya, Archaea, and Bacteria. The primitive viruses and their quick evolution propose a possible explanation for the lack of homology among the major viral proteins and proteins of cellular organisms.¹⁷⁸



5. Classification of viral protein and their functions

Viruses contribute to the evolution of life through their ability to promote horizontal gene transfer and discovering DNA and its mechanism of replication among different life forms. The amalgamation of foreign genes often from unrelated organisms and modification in replication machinery leads to continuous evolution and genetic diversity.¹⁸⁰ The contribution of virally originated DNA fragments in the genetic material of humans is between 3% and 8%. Origin of few DNA replicating proteins through viral sources and their successive transfer in the cellular organisms advocate the key role of viruses in the formation of DNA and subsequent development of replication mechanism. These viral-mediated developmental processes were essential for the evolution of the eukaryotic nucleus and potentially the development of three domains of life.¹⁷⁸ A new classification for the life forms present on the Earth has been proposed. According to this classification all ribosome encoding organisms that include Archaea, Bacteria and Eukaryotes are kept in one class and all viruses are included in separate class of capsid encoding organisms that dependent on ribosome-encoding host

for completion of their life cycle and contain nucleic acids and proteins and also possess the ability of self-assembly into nucleocapsids.¹⁸¹

5.1 Viral structural proteins

The viral capsid is the protective coat surrounding the viral genome. Protein monomeric subunits termed as capsomers or protomers combine together to build the shell structure of the capsid. A tight association of RNA or DNA based genome to capsid protein results in the formation of a nucleoprotein complex. Nucleoprotein complex of viruses has the capability to interact with both nucleic acids and proteins, thereby possessing multifunctionality. Capsid structure is determined by the arrangement of capsomers. On this basis capsid could be of helical, icosahedral, or complex in shape. Highly ordered helical structure is a property of the capsids of helical, rod-shaped and filamentous viruses that are generally formed around a central axis with a single type of capsomer packaging. The genetic material of viruses made of RNA or DNA occupies the central cavity of the capsid, the positive charge of capsid protein and negative charge of viral genome maintain an electrostatic interaction between them. There is a variation in the size of helical viruses, which could be very long and flexible or very short and rigid. Capsid length of the helical viruses is defined by their genome size, whereas their diameter is defined by the size and arrangement of capsomers. Well-known illustrative examples among filamentous viruses are *Sulfolobus islandicus* filamentous virus (SIFV), Tobacco mosaic virus (TMV), Acidianus filamentous virus 1 (AFV1), and bacteriophage fd. In icosahedral viruses, the capsids are either icosahedral or nearly spherical with icosahedral symmetry. Although the number of capsomers required in the formation of such an icosahedral structure theoretically is calculated to be 60, in reality, in the majority of icosahedral viruses it is above the 60.¹⁴⁸

Viral capsids are often made up of more than one capsid protein. For instance, capsid of Human papillomavirus (HPV) is made of major (L1) and minor (L2) capsid proteins. In the case of icosahedral viruses, the capsid is made up of more than 60 identical subunits. To develop the icosahedral shape, the same protein in different sites shows different symmetries. This intriguing puzzle has been the topic of long-lasting debates on how the identical subunits with identical unique 3D structures fit into different symmetries in different environments.¹⁸²

Few viruses have complex capsid structures that are neither completely helical nor icosahedral and contain some extra structures, such as protein tails

or complex outer walls. The example of one of the best-studied complex viruses is T4 bacteriophage. The characteristic feature of this virus is an icosahedral head on the top of the helical tail. A structure of a hexagonal base plate with extended and protruding proteinaceous fibers occurs at the end of its tail. T4 virus attains the ability to bind host bacterium and successfully transfer its genome into it due to this tail structure that acts as a molecular syringe.¹⁸³

Lipid membrane of viral capsid is acquired from the host by certain viruses. The membrane-coated capsid of these viruses is known as the viral envelope that might also contain the viral glycoprotein, for example, gp160 in Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that contains transmembrane subunit gp41 and structural subunit gp120, proton-selective ion channel and M2 protein of influenza virus and Hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase in other enveloped viruses. The functional role of these surface-incorporated viral glycoproteins is rather diverse. Few among these glycoprotein that protrudes from the lipid bilayer of the virus, for example, neuraminidase (NA), HA and gp120, play a number of important roles in early-stage viral infection typically associated with attachment and penetration of the viruses into the host cells.¹⁸⁴

As stated earlier, viral glycoprotein performs diverse functions related to the life cycle of enveloped viruses. For instance, the M2 proton channel of influenza A virus has a crucial role in the early and late replication cycle of influenza. The exposure of viral content to host cytoplasm requires hydrogen ion to lower the pH. At lower pH, M1 dissociate from the ribonucleoprotein and initiate viral uncoating. The supply of hydrogen ion into the viral particle from endosomes is mediated through the integral homotetrameric membrane protein (M2 proton channel), situated in the viral envelope. This ion channel is proton-selective and is gated by low pH conditions.¹⁸⁵ In enveloped viruses, the viral envelope is attached to their core via matrix proteins. Matrix protein plays their role once the virus enters into the host cell. In addition to expelling the genetic material from the viral core, matrix proteins have various regulatory roles via interacting with host components. For instance, influenza virus matrix protein M1 controls inhibition of viral transcription, its ribonucleoprotein export from nucleus and budding.^{186,187}

5.2 Viral non-structural proteins

Non-structural proteins do not form the capsid structure. Instead, they participate in viral multiplication and have multiple regulatory functions.

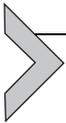
Below are some illustrative examples of the non-structural proteins of a few viruses and their involvement in crucial viral functions. HPV open reading frames (ORFs) are classified in early (E) and late (L) types on the basis of location within the viral genome. HPV early ORFs code for non-structural proteins. Both E1 and E2 proteins participate in viral replication and regulation of transcription at an early stage. E1 binds to the origin of replication and unveil helicase and ATPase activity,^{188,189} while E2 facilitates E1 binding to the origin of replication by forming the complex with it.^{189–191} E2 also plays a role of a transcription factor by regulating (both positively and negatively) early gene expression by attaching to the specific recognition sites within the upstream regulatory region (URR).^{192,193} A differentiation-dependent productive phase of the viral life cycle is promoted by the highly expressed protein E4 that is involved in a number of important functions.^{194–196} In vitro studies found that E5 has weak transforming capabilities.^{197,198} It disrupts the MHC class II maturation¹⁹⁹ and is involved in the HPV late functions.^{200,201} E6 and E7 proteins are primarily involved in the progression of HPV-mediated malignant cells that ultimately cause invasive carcinoma. Their role in high-risk HPVs is to act as partial oncoproteins at least by targeting the cell cycle regulator/tumor suppressor p53 and Rb. Another example that demonstrates the diversity of functional roles attributed to the non-structural proteins is given by Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), where the interaction of non-structural protein with the hVAP-33 (VAMP-Associated Protein A), which is a human cellular vesicle membrane transport protein, lipid raft membranes, and with each other leads to the formation of the HCV RNA replication complex also called HCV replicon.²⁰²

In the diversity of their functional roles, immunomodulation is also demonstrated by non-structural proteins. The non-structural protein NS1 of West Nile virus (WNV) has displayed its presence in the immunomodulation, as concluded by experimental finding that both cell-surface associated, as well as soluble NS1 was able to bind and recruit the complement regulatory protein factor H. Due to this activity, there is a decrease in the complement activation that minimizes the targeting of WNV by immune system via decrease in the infected cells complement recognition.²⁰³ The immune modulation role is also exhibited by rinderpest virus non-structural C protein, but via a different mechanism. In rinderpest virus action of type 1 and type 2, interferons, which are responsible for the induction of innate immune response, are specifically blocked by non-structural C protein.²⁰⁴ It has been determined that many non-structural V proteins of paramyxovirus have shown their roles in countering the response of

antivirals.²⁰⁵ At last, gene transactivation may require viral non-structural proteins. For instance, the autonomous parvovirus minute virus of mice (MVM) non-structural protein NS1 is required the activation of p39 promoter that controls the transcription of a gene that encodes capsid protein. Gene that code for NS-1 also codes NS-2 due to overlapping transcription unit in MVM virus. This gene is transcribed by a P04 promoter.²⁰⁶

5.3 Viral accessory and regulatory proteins

Many of the crucial functions of viruses are performed by various accessory and regulatory proteins through their involvement in an indirect functional role that ranges from transcription rate regulation of viral gene encoding structural proteins to modification of host cell functions. For instance, the replication of HIV-1 is actively controlled by the production of several accessory (Nef, Vpu, Vif, and Vpr) and two regulatory proteins (Rev and Tat). These regulatory and accessory proteins control the various aspects of the viral life cycle, in addition to regulating the host cell functions, such as gene regulation and apoptosis.²⁰⁷ A number of accessory proteins are, in fact, responsible for in vivo infection. For instance, Vif protein overcomes the host defense mechanism, while Nef increases the viral pathogenesis by targeting the bystander cells.²⁰⁷

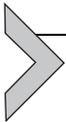


6. Role of bioinformatics in divulging the dark proteome of viruses

Viral proteins contain many unusual features that are lacking in the cellular proteins of other organisms.^{160,179} The presence of a specific feature in a viral proteome helps them to adopt to a hostile environment quickly, while providing means for controlling the cellular machinery easily.²⁰⁸ The absence of corresponding features in the proteome of other organisms might reflect the ancient origin of viruses and their genome from the cellular lineage that is extinct now.²⁰⁹ In addition to demonstrating various peculiar features, as enlisted in,¹⁶⁰ viral proteome contains frequent short disordered regions that generally lack the hydrophobic residues and lysine, while containing the polar residues and residues that are not involved in the regular secondary structure formation.^{148,160} The polar residues are required for the specific recognition and stabilizing the interaction with partner molecule through hydrogen bonding in a bound state and maintain randomness in an isolated state.²¹⁰ The loosely packed and disorder-enriched viral proteome resists the negative effect of mutations that is a quite common event in

viruses.¹⁴⁸ In order to evaluate the correlation of structure, function, and extent of disorder in the proteome of viruses, Pfam database analysis was carried out.¹⁶² The disordered regions of viruses are mainly attributed to the protein-protein interaction, recognition, signal transduction, and regulation.¹⁴⁸ Viruses hijack the host cell machinery and use it for their specific functions on the basis of their ability to mimic the host protein short linear motif (SLIMs).¹⁵² SLIMs are embedded in disordered regions and play a great number of diverse roles, such as directing proteins to the correct subcellular localization, targeting host proteins for proteasomal degradation, cell signaling, deregulating cell cycle checkpoints, and altering transcription of host proteins.²¹¹ Based on the requirements, the proportion of SLIMs varies; hence the number of disordered regions could vary from one viral family to other. Recent studies also determined that there is no specific correlation in the genome size and disordered content in viruses.²¹²

Bioinformatics plays an important role in divulging the Intrinsic disorderiness of small biological machinery owning the replication ability in the host, and establishing the structural, functional and regulation networking as discussed and referenced in the aforementioned paragraph.



7. Prevalence of IDPs in viruses in context to three distinct domains of life

Many different studies and evaluations of IDPs fraction in evolutionarily distant species were conducted in the last decade.^{24–29,213} Based on the major outcomes, in general, it was concluded that in comparison to prokaryotic proteomes, proteomes of Eukaryotic species have a higher portion of IDPs and IDRs. The basis for the justification of these observations was the repertoire of the specific function of IDPs/IDRs which are mainly involved in the events of recognition, regulation, and signaling. The regulatory network of eukaryotic organisms, especially those who are multicellular, is explicitly depend on the ability of IDPs/IDRs to perform multiple vital functions.^{2,38,39} Although, as much as the functional basis considered as an important component that acts as a driving force for evolutionary changes, the change of proteome by itself cannot be ignored. The assumption to establish the relationship between morphological complexity and proteome size of the organism is alluring. Although this trend is valid in the case of establishing the difference between eukaryotes and prokaryotes, but cannot be implemented among species of eukaryotes, where the wide variations in nuclear genome size have been reported and termed as the C-value paradox. C-value, which is simply described as the amount of haploid DNA present in the cells of an organism, was described as a significant

quantity that could be used to estimate and look into the nature of the gene.^{214–216} In comparison to the human genome. The genome size of a plant *Paris japonica* is nearly 50 times greater; genome sizes of some unicellular Protista are much larger than the human genome. For instance, *Polychaos dubium* genome is 210 times of human genome and is the largest known genome.²¹⁷ Cells of some salamanders contain 40 times more DNA than cells of humans.²¹⁸ The mystery of complexity of the relation of eukaryotic genome size and gene number is solved with the discovery of non-coding DNA revealing that the most of the DNA of eukaryotes is non-coding in nature hence cannot be incorporated in genes. This discovery also proposed that the description of organisms should not be solely based on a total number of protein-encoding genes, but the number of encoded proteins should be taken into account. However, the recent finding evidenced the poor correlation between the complexity of a given organism and its proteome size for instance number of proteins in the whole proteome of Nematode, *Caenorhabditis elegans* is $\sim 20,000$ ²¹⁹ and is similar to the number of proteins encoded by the human genome. A study focused on the analysis of predicted intrinsic disorder in the proteome of 3484 organisms including viruses conducted in 2012 revealed the number of significant details of the proteomes of various organisms.³¹ Table 1 lists the details of the prevalence of intrinsic Disorder in protein contents of different viruses deposited into the DisProt database.²²⁰

7.1 Continuous spectrum of the proteome size space

Analysis of IDPs of the 3484 proteomes of different species resulted in the observation of the continuous spectrum of the proteome size space among the proteomes of eukaryotes, bacteria, archaea, and viruses, as wonderfully depicted in Fig. 1A.³¹ Eukaryotes demonstrate wide-scale variations in the size of their proteome that form proteins whose number ranges from 4000 for unicellular species to $\sim 20,000$ for multicellular species. Bacterial proteomes have a number of proteins in the range of 500–8000, with only a small portion of bacterial species having proteome size less than 1500 proteins. The archaeal proteomes are condensed to the much narrow range of 1500–3000 proteins. Proteomes of viruses are very compact, being limited to less than 1000 proteins. Log-based plot analysis (Fig. 1B of³¹) determines that the only one polyprotein is possessed by the greater than 200 viruses and the number of viruses whose genome encode proteins between 15 and 30 is limited in comparison to the viruses with other sizes of the proteome.³¹ So far, nine large mimiviruses are known, each containing more than 500 proteins. The size of the proteome of these mimiviruses is so large, that

Table 1 Details the DisProt ID, Uniprot ID, protein name, source organism and identified disordered content.

No.	DisProt ID	UniProt accession	Protein name	Organism	Disorder content (%)
1	DP00003	P03265	DNA-binding protein	Human adenovirus C serotype 5	9.83
2	DP00005	P03045	Antitermination protein N	Escherichia phage lambda	100.00
3	DP00024	P03129	Protein E7	Human papillomavirus type 16	100.00
4	DP00034	P03661	Attachment protein G3P	Enterobacteria phage fd	5.66
5	DP00048	P03406	Protein Nef	Human immunodeficiency virus type 1 group M subtype B (isolate BRU/LAI)	59.22
6	DP00064	P03607	Capsid protein	Southern cowpea mosaic virus	22.94
7	DP00066	P27285	Structural polyprotein	Sindbis virus subtype Ockelbo (strain Edsbyn 82-5)	9.08
8	DP00087	P68336	Tegument protein VP16	Human herpesvirus 2 (strain HG52)	27.14
9	DP00101	P12493	Gag polyprotein	Human immunodeficiency virus type 1 group M subtype B (isolate NY5)	5.60
10	DP00133	P03422	Phosphoprotein	Measles virus (strain Edmonston)	62.72
11	DP00148	P03347	Gag polyprotein	Human immunodeficiency virus type 1 group M subtype B (isolate BH10)	10.74
12	DP00160	P04851	Nucleoprotein	Measles virus (strain Edmonston)	23.71
13	DP00182	P03087	Major capsid protein VP1	Simian virus 40	14.09

14	DP00189	P04324	Protein Nef	Human immunodeficiency virus type 1 group M subtype B (isolate PCV12)	21.84
15	DP00284	P16009	Baseplate central spike complex protein gp5	Enterobacteria phage T4	17.74
16	DP00288	Q06253	Antitoxin phd	Escherichia phage P1	100.00
17	DP00410	P12497	Gag-Pol polyprotein	Human immunodeficiency virus type 1 group M subtype B (isolate NY5)	6.41
18	DP00419	P03176	Thymidine kinase	Human herpesvirus 1 (strain 17)	15.69
19	DP00424	P04325	Protein Rev	Human immunodeficiency virus type 1 group M subtype B (isolate PCV12)	62.07
20	DP00447	P12579	Phosphoprotein	Human respiratory syncytial virus A (strain Long)	100.00
21	DP00566	P13102	Hemagglutinin	Influenza A virus (strain A/Whale/Maine/328/1984 H13N2)	6.18
22	DP00573	P03305	Genome polyprotein	Foot-and-mouth disease virus (isolate Bovine/Germany/O1Kaufbeuren/1966 serotype O)	1.67
23	DP00583	P16006	Deoxycytidylate deaminase	Enterobacteria phage T4	10.88
24	DP00588	P27958	Genome polyprotein	Hepatitis C virus genotype 1a (isolate H)	2.72
25	DP00615	Q9WMX2	Genome polyprotein	Hepatitis C virus genotype 1b (isolate Con1)	3.39
26	DP00627	Q05323	Hexameric zinc-finger protein VP30	Zaire ebolavirus (strain Mayinga-76)	4.86

Continued

Table 1 Details the DisProt ID, Uniprot ID, protein name, source organism and identified disordered content.—cont'd

No.	DisProt ID	UniProt accession	Protein name	Organism	Disorder content (%)
27	DP00629	Q07097	Nucleoprotein	Sendai virus (strain Fushimi)	23.66
28	DP00640	Q89933	Nucleoprotein	Measles virus (strain Edmonston B)	24.00
29	DP00673	P06935	Genome polyprotein	West Nile virus	3.06
30	DP00674	Q69422	Genome polyprotein	Hepatitis GB virus B	5.38
31	DP00675	P19711	Genome polyprotein	Bovine viral diarrhea virus (isolate NADL)	2.56
32	DP00685	Q98157	Viral macrophage inflammatory protein 2	Human herpesvirus 8 type P (isolate GK18)	25.53
33	DP00686	Q9IH62	Glycoprotein G	Nipah virus	3.65
34	DP00697	Q9IK92	Nucleoprotein	Nipah virus	25.00
35	DP00698	O89339	Nucleoprotein	Hendra virus (isolate Horse/Australia/Hendra/1994)	25.00
36	DP00699	Q9IK91	Phosphoprotein	Nipah virus	57.26
37	DP00700	O55778	Phosphoprotein	Hendra virus (isolate Horse/Australia/Hendra/1994)	57.14
38	DP00726	Q5UPJ7	Tyrosine—tRNA ligase	<i>Acanthamoeba polyphaga</i> mimivirus	6.07
39	DP00741	P03040	Regulatory protein cro	Escherichia phage lambda	16.67
40	DP00750	Q38151	39 protein	Bacillus phage SPP1	46.83

41	DP00764	O89467	Protein Tat	Equine infectious anemia virus	69.23
42	DP00808	P24937	Pre-protein VI	Human adenovirus C serotype 5	57.60
43	DP00820	O73557	RING finger protein Z	Lassa virus (strain Mouse/Sierra Leone/Josiah/1976)	58.59
44	DP00842	P12506	Protein Tat	Human immunodeficiency virus type 1 group M subtype D (isolate Z2/CDC-Z34)	100.00
45	DP00847	P20220	Protein F-112	Sulfolobus spindle-shape virus 1	34.82
46	DP00849	Q9Q8E9	M156R	Myxoma virus (strain Lausanne)	43.14
47	DP00850	P36932	Integrase	Escherichia phage P2	34.42
48	DP00871	A4ZNR2	Nuclear export protein	Influenza A virus	100.00
49	DP00875	P69723	Virion infectivity factor	Human immunodeficiency virus type 1 group M subtype B (isolate HXB2)	27.08
50	DP00876	P14340	Genome polyprotein	Dengue virus type 2 (strain Thailand/NGS-C/1944)	2.95
51	DP00895	P03421	Phosphoprotein	Human respiratory syncytial virus A (strain A2)	42.32
52	DP00898	P13338	RNA polymerase-associated protein Gp33	Enterobacteria phage T4	36.61
53	DP00919	C6KEI3	Protein Nef	Human immunodeficiency virus 1	50.00

Continued

Table 1 Details the DisProt ID, Uniprot ID, protein name, source organism and identified disordered content.—cont'd

No.	DisProt ID	UniProt accession	Protein name	Organism	Disorder content (%)
54	DP00929	P04608	Protein Tat	Human immunodeficiency virus type 1 group M subtype B (isolate HXB2)	100.00
55	DP00932	P35926	Recombination enhancement function protein	Escherichia phage P1	40.86
56	DP00939	P04859	Phosphoprotein	Sendai virus (strain Harris)	7.57
57	DP00947	O10609	Protein E7	Human papillomavirus type 45	71.70
58	DP00948	P59595	Nucleoprotein	Human SARS coronavirus	42.42
59	DP00965	P0C6L3	Small delta antigen	Hepatitis delta virus genotype I (isolate D380)	75.90
60	DP00976	P04578	Envelope glycoprotein gp160	Human immunodeficiency virus type 1 group M subtype B (isolate HXB2)	12.27
61	DP00978	P35961	Envelope glycoprotein gp160	Human immunodeficiency virus type 1 group M subtype B (isolate YU-2)	55.28
62	DP00986	Q8QWD4	VP4	Enterovirus D68	40.58
63	DP00998	Q05127	Polymerase cofactor VP35	Zaire ebolavirus (strain Mayinga-76)	8.53
64	DP00999	P03315	Structural polyprotein	Semliki forest virus	11.33
65	DP01012	P27392	Protein P16	Enterobacteria phage PRD1	31.62
66	DP01013	P68927	Excisionase	Escherichia phage HK022	30.56

67	DP01016	Q20MD5	Matrix protein 2	Influenza A virus (strain A/Udorn/1972 H3N2)	21.88
68	DP01031	Q99IB8	Genome polyprotein	Hepatitis C virus genotype 2a (isolate JFH-1)	3.10
69	DP01039	Q85258	Polyprotein	Potato virus Y	31.65
70	DP01043	Q80FJ1	Membrane fusion protein p14	Reptilian orthoreovirus	24.00
71	DP01059	Q71FK2	Coat protein	Pepino mosaic virus	8.44
72	DP01060	A8CDV5	Latent membrane protein 2A	Epstein-Barr virus (strain GD1)	100.00
73	DP01087	Q1PAB4	Protein Tat	Human immunodeficiency virus 1	100.00
74	DP01129	P12296	Genome polyprotein	Mengo encephalomyocarditis virus	0.61
75	DP01142	O92972	Genome polyprotein	Hepatitis C virus genotype 1b (strain HC-J4)	8.54
76	DP01150	P03255	Early E1A protein	Human adenovirus C serotype 5	48.10
77	DP01151	P03259	Early E1A protein	Human adenovirus A serotype 12	100.00
78	DP01186	P03086	Agnoprotein	JC polyomavirus	43.66
79	DP01188	Q5XXP4	Polyprotein P1234	Chikungunya virus (strain 37997)	0.69
80	DP01245	P12823	Genome polyprotein	Dengue virus type 2 (strain Puerto Rico/ PR159-S1/1969)	0.59
81	DP01256	Q32ZE1	Genome polyprotein	Zika virus	2.22
82	DP01295	Q98XH7	Protein Tat	Human immunodeficiency virus 1	100.00
83	DP01305	P08392	Major viral transcription factor ICP4	Human herpesvirus 1 (strain 17)	2.23

Continued

Table 1 Details the DisProt ID, Uniprot ID, protein name, source organism and identified disordered content.—cont'd

No.	DisProt ID	UniProt accession	Protein name	Organism	Disorder content (%)
84	DP01336	P03709	DNA-packaging protein FI	Escherichia phage lambda	29.55
85	DP01391	P03520	Phosphoprotein	Vesicular stomatitis Indiana virus (strain San Juan)	22.64
86	DP01393	P04880	Phosphoprotein	Vesicular stomatitis Indiana virus (strain Mudd-Summers)	22.64
87	DP01394	P04879	Phosphoprotein	Vesicular stomatitis Indiana virus (strain Glasgow)	22.64
88	DP01395	Q8B0H3	Phosphoprotein	Vesicular stomatitis Indiana virus (strain94GUB Central America)	22.64
89	DP01405	Q5V913	Nucleoprotein	Influenza B virus	12.50
90	DP01428	P03120	Regulatory protein E2	Human papillomavirus type 16	21.92
91	DP01466	A4L7I2	Non-structural polyprotein	Chikungunya virus	8.04
92	DP01468	A3RMR8	Non-structural polyprotein	Chikungunya virus	8.04
93	DP01469	A4L7I4	Non-structural polyprotein	Chikungunya virus	8.04
94	DP01481	Q5UPT2	Probable uracil-DNA glycosylase	Acanthamoeba polyphaga mimivirus	25.41
95	DP01512	P03050	Transcriptional repressor arc	Salmonella phage P22	100.00
96	DP01539	O57173	Protein F1	Vaccinia virus (strain Ankara)	22.52

97	DP01615	P03126	Protein E6	Human papillomavirus type 16	13.29
98	DP01616	P10104	Fibritin	Enterobacteria phage T4	23.20
99	DP01618	P03070	Large T antigen	Simian virus 40	11.72
100	DP01621	E5LC01	LANA	Human herpesvirus 8	4.74
101	DP01625	P07567	Gag polyprotein	Mason-Pfizer monkey virus	3.04
102	DP01642	P06492	Tegument protein VP16	Human herpesvirus 1 (strain 17)	27.14
103	DP01759	Q0GBY3	Phosphoprotein	Rabies virus (strain China/MRV)	22.90
104	DP01762	P03714	Head-tail connector protein FII	Escherichia phage lambda	35.04
105	DP01780	P21736	Protein E7	Human papillomavirus type 45	50.94
106	DP01806	Q67953	Large envelope protein	Hepatitis B virus	24.27
107	DP01843	P03404	Protein Nef	Human immunodeficiency virus type 1 group M subtype B (isolate BH10)	12.14
108	DP01928	P03254	Early E1A protein	Human adenovirus C serotype 2	81.66
109	DP01929	P17763	Genome polyprotein	Dengue virus type 1 (strain Nauru/West Pac/1974)	0.29
110	DP01930	P29990	Genome polyprotein	Dengue virus type 2 (strain Thailand/16681/1984)	0.62
111	DP01931	Q2YHF0	Genome polyprotein	Dengue virus type 4 (strain Thailand/0348/1991)	0.86
112	DP01983	Q9Q8N4	Probable host range protein 2-3	Myxoma virus (strain Lausanne)	26.11

Continued

Table 1 Details the DisProt ID, Uniprot ID, protein name, source organism and identified disordered content.—cont'd

No.	DisProt ID	UniProt accession	Protein name	Organism	Disorder content (%)
113	DP01984	B4Y891	Capsid protein VP1	Adeno-associated virus	29.06
114	DP02042	Q98325	Viral CASP8 and FADD-like apoptosis regulator	Molluscum contagiosum virus subtype 1	22.41
115	DP02051	P14335	Genome polyprotein	Kunjin virus (strain MRM61C)	0.52
116	DP02071	P04383	Capsid protein	Carnation mottle virus	23.28
117	DP02128	P06437	Envelope glycoprotein B	Human herpesvirus 1 (strain KOS)	12.39
118	DP02194	P68466	Protein K7	Vaccinia virus (strain Western Reserve)	16.78
119	DP02203	Q9Q6P4	Genome polyprotein	West Nile virus (strain NY-99)	0.61
120	DP02204	Q5UB51	Genome polyprotein	Dengue virus type 3 (strain Singapore/8120/1995)	0.77
121	DP02208	A0A140GKJ0	TAP transporter inhibitor ICP47	Human herpesvirus 1	37.50
122	DP02212	P05769	Genome polyprotein	Murray valley encephalitis virus (strain MVE-1-51)	0.70
123	DP02256	P26554	Protein E6	Human papillomavirus type 51	7.28
124	DP02261	P13848	Capsid assembly scaffolding protein	Bacillus phage phi29	20.41
125	DP02291	P04486	Tegument protein VP16	Human herpesvirus 1 (strain F)	16.12
126	DP02334	Q98148	Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpes-like virus ORF73 homolog	Human herpesvirus 8	4.56

The table details have been obtained from the DisProt database at <https://www.disprot.org/browse>.

we can say that it is of nearly equal size to the proteome size of some small bacteria. Therefore, the continuous spectrum of a size of proteome arrange in the order of viruses to archaea, to unicellular eukaryotes and lastly to multicellular eukaryotes. The proteome of bacterial species overlapped with the proteome of viruses, archaea, and unicellular eukaryotes.³¹

7.2 Disordered residues fraction in various proteomes

7.2.1 *Bacteria*

Disorder protein content in the majority of bacterial species is estimated to be between 18% to 28%, which is quite low. Although the small number of bacteria shows disorder content as high as 35%, this value represents the lower boundary of the fraction of disordered residues predicted for both unicellular and multicellular eukaryotic organisms (Figs. 1 and 2 of ³¹).

7.2.2 *Archaea*

Based on the estimated disordered content in Archaea, this kingdom can be split into three classes. Class one consists of the organism whose proteomic disordered content range from 12% to 21%, and 61 organisms such have been analyzed. Class two consists of 4 organisms whose disordered content varies from 21% to 32%. The last class has the 8 organisms with the estimated variation in their disordered content being reported to range from 32% to 38%. The comparatively higher percentage of disorder in the class three species is attributed to the peculiarities of their habitats. As confirmed by the studies, the high disordered bearing archaeal species are halophiles and methanophiles.²⁹ Generally, the global disorder predictors are developed on the basis of the training set of non-halophilic proteins under the normal physiological conditions of 100–150 mM NaCl. The accuracy of determined IDRs for the proteins of the extremophilic microorganisms surviving under the hypersaline conditions with the help of such predictors might vary. Actually, since halophilic microorganisms are the salt-loving extremophilic organism, their optimum growth occurs in the salt-rich environment. A strategy used by these microorganisms to maintain an appropriate osmotic environment in their cytoplasm is “salting-in”. Through this, they accumulate molar concentration of chloride and potassium.²²¹ Extensive adaptation in the intracellular proteins is required for this strategy to tackle the presence of excessive salt concentration, as at near saturating salt concentration they should maintain proper conformation and activity. The proteomes of these “salting-in” organisms are highly acidic in nature and corresponding proteins possess remarkable structural instability in low salt

conditions, while possessing soluble and active conformations in a hyper-saline (Salt rich) condition that are usually detrimental to proteins of non-halophilic organisms. Furthermore, a salt-rich environment determines the structure to function capability. In similarity to their physiological environment, excessive salts and water bind to proteins of these organisms in solvent conditions that depend upon the acidic amino acid residues present on the protein surface.^{222–230} Considering the aforementioned reasons, it could be suggested that prediction of high disorder in these organisms may simply represents prediction error.³¹

7.2.3 Eukaryotes

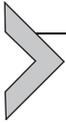
The analyzed disorder levels among non-viral proteomes revealed that unicellular and multicellular eukaryotes generally have the highest amount of IDPs/IDRs in their proteomes. Comparative fractional analysis of disorder for them range between 35% and 45%. However, a group of unicellular eukaryotes has levels of disordered residues in the range of 45–50%. The organisms included in this group are *Cryptococcus neoformans* (CRYNE, DISORDER%, 47.1), *Neurospora crassa* (NEUCR, DISORDER%, 48.2), *Plasmodium falciparum* (PLAF7, DISORDER%, 49.5), *Plasmodium yoelii* (PLAYO, 46.0%), and *Ustilago maydis* (USTMA, 49.9%). The observed high variability and high levels of predicted disorder are in line with the earlier study that revealed enrichment of predicted disorder in early-branching protein, while comparing it to typical eukaryotic proteins structure submitted in Swiss-Prot database and ordered proteins from PDB.²³¹ As much as twice the fraction of IDRs with ≥ 30 disordered residues is found in some protozoa, in comparison to Swiss-Prot database-based representative set of proteins. If it will be compared with similar regions from a PDB select 25 set of proteins, it would be sevenfold increase.²³¹ It is noteworthy that more disordered proteins were found in parasitic protozoa than in non-parasitic protists.²³¹ For instance, 35% proteins encoded by genes present on the chromosomes 2 and 3 of *P. falciparum* were predicted to contain long IDRs (i.e., longer than 40 residues).²⁴ Although more recent study revealed that the data on the amount of disorder in *P. falciparum* was underestimated, proposing that 52–67% proteins of this organism contain long disorder regions.²³² The latest study examines the prevalence of disorder in the proteome of many apicomplexan parasites, the obtained result demonstrated that the primate malaria parasite (*P. knowlesi*) and human malaria parasites (*P. falciparum* and *P. vivax*) contain more disordered regions in comparison to rodent malaria parasite.²⁵ Additionally, more disorder was reported in the

proteins expressed at a sporozite stage of *P. falciparum* in comparison to those expressed in the other stages of their life cycle.²⁵ It has been proposed that a high abundance of disorder in the proteome of this unicellular organism is related to its adaptation to changing environment during its whole life-cycle, as it is able to affect many different hosts.²³¹ In simple words, we may say that the abundance of intrinsic disorder in the apicomplexan parasite evolves as a way to adopt a parasitic life style.²³¹ Overall observance of various proteomes of different life forms and their disorder contents revealed that with the increase in the proteome size, the lower bound fractions of disordered content appear to increase continuously, whereas the upper bound fractions of disordered residues decrease in viruses and increase among the bacteria, archaea, and eukaryote. Therefore, the species whose proteome size falls between 1000 and 2000 proteins have the least variance of the fraction of disordered residues. Nevertheless, if the variance of a fraction of disordered residues is measured by different domains of life, the largest variance comes to 70% and it would be for viruses, whereas for multicellular eukaryotes variance comes to 12% which is smallest.³¹

7.2.4 Viruses

There is a variation in the fraction of disordered protein residues among viral proteomes as shown in Fig. 1 of reference .³¹ For example, avian carcinoma virus proteome has the highest fraction of disordered residues (77.3%), while human coronavirus NL63 has very low fraction of disordered residues (7.3%). Few species of viruses are highly rich in disordered residues. There are 20 small viruses that encode ≤ 5 proteins in their proteomes and that have disorder content 50% or greater. In viruses, it appears that with increasing proteome size, the disorder content converges in the range of 20–40%. The prediction of the high content of intrinsically disordered residues in viruses found to be in great agreement with a study showing that many proteins of bacteriophage, viruses, bacteria, and archaea are significantly depleted in the hydrophobic residues and enriched in polar (hydrophilic) residues in their sequences.²¹⁰ A portion of IDRs in viruses is likely to evolve to support their ability to deal with their hostile habitat, in addition to be profoundly involved in functioning of their proteins. Still, other IDRs have evolved to deal with the alternative splicing, antisense transcription, and gene overlapping in a way that makes more efficient use of genetic material.¹⁶² Polar residues have the ability of specific recognition and could establish a strong hydrogen bond with partner molecules contrary to the non-specific hydrophobic interactions. An increased amount of polar

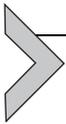
residues in viral proteins could be linked to increasing demand for disorder in the unbound state and specific recognition and stabilization inbound states.^{31,210}



8. Predicted IDPs pattern relation to viral transmission and host tropism

A model has been proposed to categorize the different coronaviruses on the basis of the distribution patterns of IDPs within their Nucleocapsid (N) and Membrane (M) proteins. This categorization allows the quick determination of transmission behaviors (Route, mode, and mechanisms) of various coronaviruses regardless of their genetic proximity. For instance, the shell rigidity has been reported in the viruses transmitted by the oral-fecal route because rigidity in shell protein protects the virions from damage, rigidity in shell protein is directly linked to intrinsic disorder of N and M protein.²³³

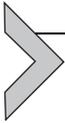
Envelope protein gp120 of HIV-1 contains both ordered and disordered regions. V3 loop represents a disordered region that is important for controlling the immune cell receptor chemokines co-receptor mediated entry. Chemokines co-receptors CCR5 (R5), CXCR4 (X4) or Both (R5X4) used by the viruses are known as R5, X4, and dual tropic respectively. HIV-1 variant, while infecting the host, uses the different chemokine receptors. Switch from R5 to X4 is related to disease progression and pathogenesis, however, the reason for switching is majorly unknown. Xiaowei Jiang et al. hypothesized that this change is associated with sequence variation and intrinsic disorder. Detailed analysis by the same group using the nonparametric statistical approach determined that there is an increased disordered propensity in the V3 domain, while switching from the dual/R5 tropic to the X4 tropic virus. This increased structural disorder of the V3 domain is associated with HIV-1 cell tropism.²³⁴ The aforementioned study forms the basis for the identification of different hidden patterns with respect to IDPs and their association with viral distinguished characteristics.



9. Aggregation in viral protein and its relation to intrinsic disorderness

Host cellular machinery hijacking and modulation of regulation network/components often results in the formation of insoluble inclusions/aggregates that usually contains the viral structural components. These

viral-mediated aggregates utilize the viruses to build the large complex containing both viral and host protein assembly for promoting viral replication, transcription, and translation and Intra/Intercellular transport. The aggregated structure housing the viral-host assembled complex protects it from cellular degradation mainly. Although the complete role and mechanism of function of these aggregates with respect to specific viruses are not completely understood,²³⁵ however, in most cases, the pattern of aggregates and their associated characteristics helps in unraveling the behavior, quantification, and identification of viruses.²³⁶ However, deep understanding and establishing an association between aggregation behavior and intrinsic disorder might provide the surplus information pertaining to the viral infection. Fig. 4 demonstrates the analysis of intrinsic disorder predisposition and intrinsic propensity for aggregation (and intrinsic solubility) in Japanese encephalitis (JEV), Enterovirus-71 (EV-71) and ZIKV genome polyproteins.



10. Functional prominences of disordered viral proteins: Examples from bacteriophages, plant, and animal viruses

Viral proteins are atypical in nature due to their poor homology to the proteins of modern cells, which proposed viruses are very primitive.¹⁷⁹ While evading the defense mechanisms of the host, it is compulsory for the viruses that they are able to survive outside and inside the host and also be able to quickly adapt to fast-changing surroundings. In order to keep the pact of quick adaptation with the fast-changing environment, viruses undergo a very high mutation (for RNA viruses it is 10^{-5} to 10^{-3} nucleotide exchange per generation and for DNA viruses it is in the range of 10^{-8} to 10^{-5}).¹⁴⁷ This much higher rate of mutation in viruses is due to the lack of RNA repair mechanisms. On average, mutation rate in Bacteria and eukaryotes is 10^{-9} nucleotide exchange per generation, which is comparatively low.¹⁴⁷ The viral genome is quite compact, and there is an overlap of many reading frames, a single mutation might affect more than one viral protein.²⁴⁰ During various stages of their life cycle, viral proteins usually interact with multiple components of the host cells, starting from the early entry to formation and exit of new infectious viral particles. In order to perform crucial functions associated with their life cycle events, viruses interact with host nucleic acid and proteins, even though the large gaps exist in between viral and host protein.^{178,240} The aforementioned features incite curiosity to look

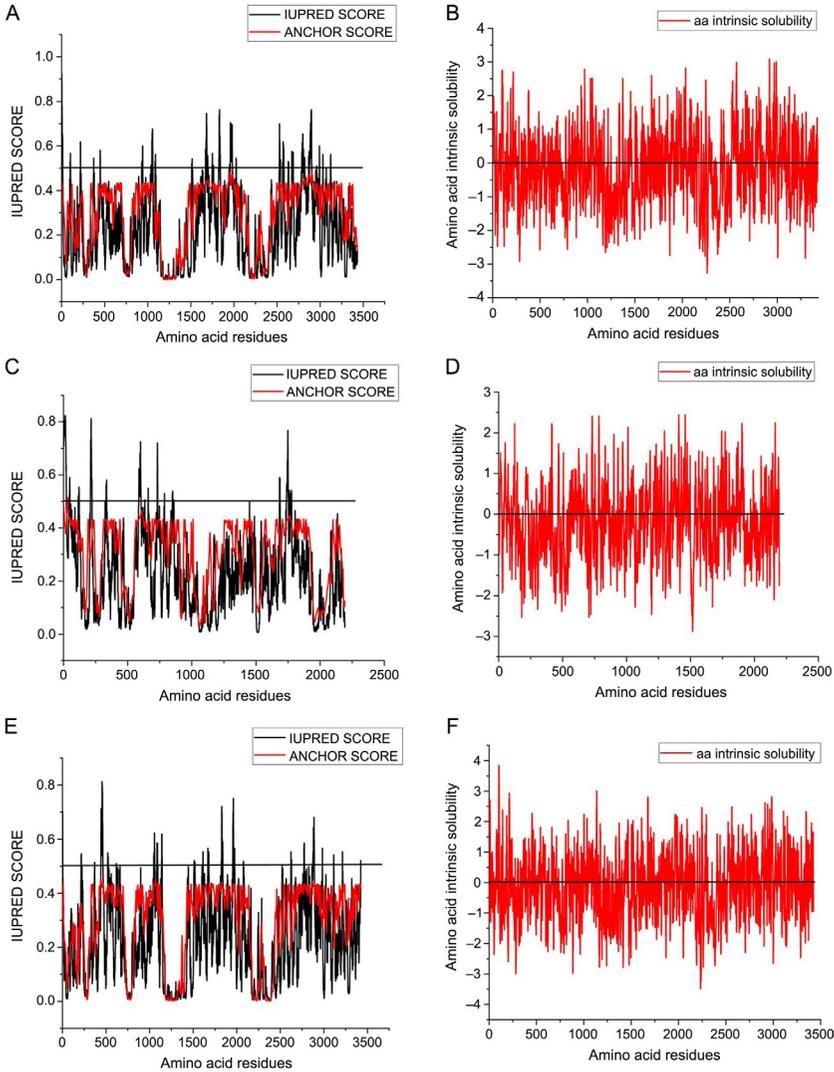


Fig. 4 Comparative analysis of IDPs contents to intrinsic aggregation (and Intrinsic solubility) propensity in three viruses genome polyprotein; JEV (UniProt id: [P27395](#)), EV-71 (UniProt id: [Q66478](#)) and ZIKV (UniProt id: [A0A024B7W1](#)) that impacted India. A, C, E represents IDPs content (and MoRF) propensity in JEV, EV-71, and ZIKV respectively determined by IUPred2A²³⁷ while B, D, F show Aggregation propensity (and Intrinsic solubility) in JEV, EV-71 and ZIKV respectively determined by CamSol method Vendruscolo lab software.^{238,239} A relation between IDPs content and aggregation propensity and viral infection pattern could be established.

into more details of their unique characteristics from the biophysical perspectives. The extent of the presence of intrinsic disorder in the viral proteome provides the corresponding plasticity that confers numerous functional advantages. The flexibility of an IDP/IDR and the lack of compact rigid structure enable it for multiple interactions. IDR binding promiscuity is facilitated by various mechanisms, with the operability of these mechanisms depending upon its extent of the flexible linking property. This property of flexible linking provides an additional advantage to the viral proteins for eluding the host immune system and making it difficult for the host immune system to properly recognize the epitope. High disorder in viral proteome can be a way to deal with high frequency of mutations. Deleterious effects of mutation buffered by the high adaptability and low interaction between amino acids (flexibility) of IDPs. This is because the unstructured IDPs has less to lose when substitution takes place than a highly ordered structure that might have more impact on substitution. It is clearly evident that viral proteins can be benefited from flexibility garnered by disordered residues but not all the viral proteins have IDRs nor they are IDPs.

There is a relation between disorder content and location of a protein within the virion, and a comparative analysis of disorder predictors used in the analysis of viral proteins confirms it.²⁴¹ Such a study has begun with the construction of a database including viral proteins from HIV and Influenza-related viruses that followed by the protein sequence comparison, structure prediction, as well as function and location within the virion. The outcomes (particularly for influenza virus) demonstrated a correlation between the proximity to the RNA core of the virion and the levels of disorder in protein, where the closer protein is located to core the higher disordered percentage it would have. This finding of a relation between disorder and proximity to the core could be explained on the basis of more interactions with viral RNA. It has been found that nucleic acid-binding proteins are commonly disordered or at least have disordered regions at the site of nucleic acid binding.²⁴² In the case of the HIV, the correlation between proximity to the core and high disorder content has not to be observed possibly due to the presence of enzymes around the core region that are predominantly structured proteins.^{243–245} The matrix protein of both HIV and influenza A viruses have rather different disorder contents. The HIV matrix protein is predicted to be highly disordered, while Influenza A virus protein is less disordered or somewhat ordered.²⁴¹ Concerning the Surface protein disorder, it was found that the surface protein gp120 of HIV has less disorder content across all analyzed strains, while

gp41 found to be highly disordered.²⁴¹ Surface proteins of Influenza A virus NA and HA are predicted to be mostly disordered.²⁴¹ However, the subsequent studies revealed that predicted disordered content vary among subtypes and suggested that this variability could have a link to the virulence level.^{241,246}

10.1 Flexible promiscuity of viral proteins

IDPs can make interaction with several distinct partners due to their conformational flexibility and property of interaction adaptability. When a single IDR binds to many partners, then it converts themselves in many different structural forms.¹¹⁰ IDPs demonstrate different interaction modes, either being able to form a very stable complex structure or transiting between the interacting partner as dynamic bound and unbound state acting as an on-off switch in signaling pathways.¹¹ Depending upon the surrounding environment, IDPs adopt different conformations and functions accordingly. Binding promiscuity is an important characteristic and required feature of the for viral proteomes, since despite encoding many proteins, viruses explicitly require host cell machinery to complete their life cycle, and in doing so, binding promiscuity is helping them to fulfill this role. The binding promiscuity and interaction types have well explained in the earlier paragraphs of this chapter. The compact genomes of viruses restrict them to encoding fewer proteins, but the presence of IDRs or global disorder allowed proteins to be involved in different tasks by interacting with various partners. With a few given examples, it would be easy to understand how the binding promiscuity of viruses is related to their intrinsic disorder. The replication of the RNA genome of hepatitis delta virus (HDV) requires the translation of a single basic protein known as the delta antigen (δ Ag). δ Ag is a small protein containing 195 amino acid residues and has no known enzymatic activity, although being essential for the replication of viral genome.²⁴⁷ Experimental CD measurement and computational research via disordered protein meta-predictors have proven this protein to be an IDP.²⁴⁸ Completion of the HDV replication cycle of the depends on this protein and various components of the host cell. Therefore, it is easy to understand the importance of binding promiscuity of δ Ag, that interact with multiple components in the host cell for various reasons and through a different approach, although the exact purpose of these interactions is still unclear and studied widely.^{249,250} In an in vitro analysis, it was found that δ Ag binds to RNAs and even dsDNA in addition to binding to HDV RNAs that shows a lack of specificity in δ Ag protein.²⁴⁸

HCV NS5A protein that is involved in viral replication and viral particle assembly makes another example.^{110,251} NS5A is a membrane-associated protein that has both disordered and ordered regions, an anchor attaches its N-terminal region to the membrane, but its cytoplasmic regions are mostly disordered and contain three domains. Among these three domains, domain I (D1) is highly conserved and has ordered sequence,²⁵² while domain II (D2) and III (D3) are highly disordered and less conserved.^{253,254} Promiscuity of NS5A is well studied, and some of the interactions that involve its disordered domain have been identified.²⁵⁵ D2-associated binding motifs that appear to affect the host regulation pathways, such as apoptosis and signaling demonstrate distinct interaction patterns described in detail.²⁵⁶

A third example of binding promiscuity was described for the Measles virus (MeV) Nucleoprotein (N) that forms the nucleocapsid of the virus. Intrinsically disordered regions are located at the C-terminal of N-protein,¹⁵⁹ that make interaction with phosphoprotein of the viral polymerase complex and perform functions required in replication and transcription.²⁵⁷ Besides interacting with phosphoprotein for crucial processes, N-protein interacts with several host components, including cellular receptor and cellular cytoskeleton through its C-terminal tail.²⁵⁸ Phosphoprotein of MeV is an important cofactor of polymerase complex and requires for recruitment of transcriptional machinery through its long disordered regions that it contained.²⁵⁸ It has been observed that when IDRs of both phosphoprotein and N-protein binds, the major extent of flexibility disappeared, although some flexibility still presents that represent remaining disorder within the complex.²⁵⁹ This finding in N-protein suggests that its IDRs act as a platform for the interaction with various protein partners for the completion of cellular processes.²⁵⁹ The common feature of the structural disorder has successively shown in the nucleoprotein of Paramyxoviruses.²⁵⁹ Disordered (Intrinsically unstructured) components were found together with structural components in proteins like nucleoprotein and phosphoprotein of Hendra and Nipah viruses.²⁵⁹

10.2 Intrinsic disorder in viral proteome regions affected by alternative splicing and overlapping reading frames

In due course of evolution to maximize the use of the limited genome in regulatory and structural protein, viruses adapted sophisticated genetic organization and mechanisms such as alternative splicing of polycistronic RNA which are necessary for the expression of the regulatory viral proteins in controlled manners. Viruses also evolve their genetic constitution, genomic

structure and mechanism of transcription and replication to efficiently use both positive and negative and even ambisense transcription. Among examples of such viruses are human T-cell lymphotropic virus type 1 (HTLV-1), a delta-retrovirus that causes HTLV-1-associated myelopathy, adult T-cell leukemia (ATL), and *Strongyloides stercoralis* hyperinfection. Economic usage of the genetic material of HTLV-1 is due to the wide accumulation of intrinsically disordered proteins in its proteome. This is paralleled to the occurrences of intrinsic disorder in HIV-1 protein, where intrinsic disorder was observed in post-translational cleavage sites leading to the production of Gag, Pro and Pol from Gag-pro and Gag-pro-pol grand polyproteins and cleavage sites of polyproteins that yield MA, NC, CA, RT, TM, IN, and SU proteins.¹⁴⁸

10.3 Intrinsic disorders in viral genome-linked proteins

In few viruses, a protein named viral genome-linked protein (VPg) is bound to 5' end of their RNA genome through a phosphodiester bond formed between the hydroxyl group of Thr/Ser/Tyr residues and 5' phosphate group of RNA.^{260–262} VPg's are highly diverse in terms of their size and sequence. For example, in Comoviridae and Picornaviridae members it is 2–4 kDa, Caliciviridae, Sobemoviruses, and Potyviridae members it is 10–26 kDa, while it is up to 90 kDa in Birnaviridae members.²⁶³ VPg plays a key role in major steps of the viral life cycle, such as cell-cell movement, replication, and translation. Since VPg performs these crucial functions either in its mature or precursor form, VPg precursor processing represents one of the regulatory mechanisms of its multi-functionality.²⁶² The multitude of interactions with different viral and host proteins define VPg multifunctional role. The different interactions made by VPgs are: VPg to itself, cylindrical inclusion helicase, cylindrical inclusion protein, nuclear inclusion protein b, helper component protease, coat protein or eukaryotic translation initiation factors eIF4A, eIF4E, eIF3, and eIF4G, and the poly(A)-binding protein.^{262,264–272} Poly-functionality and binding promiscuity of VPs' at least to some extent is due to its intrinsically disordered nature. Intrinsically disordered nature of VPg was reported for many viruses through their individual protein characterization. These viruses are: rice yellow mottle virus (RYMV), Sesbania mosaic virus (SeMV), potato virus Y (PVY), potato virus A (PVA), and lettuce mosaic virus (LMV).^{262,273–276} The computational analysis showed that functionally important disordered VPg representative of viral diversity includes four members of the

Caliciviridae family, six potyviruses and six sobemoviruses.²⁷⁶ The disordered VPg components associated with the regulation of enzymatic activity in different viruses^{273,277} in addition to performing specific regulation and transportation of viral RNA from one cell to another.²⁷⁸

10.4 Intrinsic disorder in matrix proteins and nucleocapsid of HIV-related viruses

In order to determine the intrinsic disorder content in viral proteins, bioinformatic studies were carried on a few viruses matrix proteins.^{241,279} This study revealed that matrix proteins p17 of SIVmac and HIV-I possess high disorder content, while low disorder was observed in the matrix protein of equine infectious anemia virus (EIAV).²⁷⁹ Matrix protein p17 of HIV-I, also known as MA protein, is 132 amino acid long polypeptide that lines the inner surface of the virion membrane and holds the RNA containing viral core at its place. The N-terminal part of the p17 matrix protein is myristylated.^{280,281} p17 associated with the inner leaflet of the viral membrane and form the protective shell and participate in virion assembly.²⁸² A targeting signal for the Gag polyprotein transport to plasma membrane is provided by co-translational myristylation of p17 N terminus.^{280,281} A specific feature; i.e., the presence of a set of basic residues within the first 50 amino acid residues of p17, enable its involvement in membrane targeting.²⁸³ In addition to performing the number of functions in the viral replication cycle, it could be involved in nuclear import possibly through its specific nuclear localization sequence.²⁸⁴

HIV-I nucleocapsid protein is 55 residues long protein that contains two zinc finger domains flanked by linker comprised of basic amino acids, which is required for nucleic acid interaction.^{285,286} This nucleocapsid covers the genomic RNA inside the virion core. The important function of nucleocapsid is in viral genomic RNA assembly; it binds to the signal sequence of full-length RNAs and transports them into the assembling virion.²⁸³ Within the virion, nucleocapsid binds to ssRNA non-specifically due to its highly charged basic regions and protects it from nuclease besides compacting it. Nucleocapsid also acts as a chaperone for viral RNA and facilitates the several steps of the viral life cycle associated with a nucleic acid, such as the melting of secondary structure within RNA, annealing of t-RNA primer, stimulating integration²⁸⁷ and promoting the DNA exchange reactions during reverse transcription.^{157–159} Computational prediction reveals that p7 is a highly disordered protein except for a few regions that are corresponding to the zinc finger domain and possess ordered structure identified as

α -MoRFs.²³ Flexible nature of p7 (NC) explains its multiple functional roles, such as participation in RNA chaperoning and viral replication.²⁸⁸

10.5 Replicative complex of Paramyxoviridae and Rhabdoviridae members: Intrinsic disorder and disorder-to-order transitions

Paramyxoviridae and Rhabdoviridae are the members of the mononegavirales order consisting of viruses with non-segmented ssRNA genome of negative polarity.²⁸⁹ In mononegavirales, genome is tightly encapsidated by the nucleoprotein within a helical nucleocapsid. The viral nucleocapsid serves as a substrate for both replication and transcription. Both replication and transcription are performed by the viral RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RDRP) that consists of complex formed between the viral large protein (L) and phosphoprotein (P). P protein acts as an essential polymerase cofactor and recruits the L-protein onto the nucleocapsid template. Beyond its role as a polymerase cofactor, it also acts as chaperone for the N-protein in a way that it prevents their illegitimate self-assembly when genomic RNA synthesis does not occur and maintain them in a soluble form (N^o) within a complex (N^o-P) and used for the encapsidation of Nascent RNA chain during replication.²⁹⁰ The significant functional importance of N and P protein appears due to their involvement in numerous protein-protein interactions within the internal (viral) and external (Host) PPI networks. Multiple biological functions occur due to this interactability. Including modulation of both acquired and innate immunity. Experiments have proven the abundance of disorder in the N and P protein of these viruses. The persistence of disorder in the C-terminal domain of nucleoprotein (N_{TAIL}), even after complex formation, indicates potential role of this region in binding,^{259,291,292} as described in case of MeV NTAIL, whose first 20 amino acids interacts with cellular nucleoprotein receptor^{293,294} and C-terminal region interact with the major inducible heat shock protein Hsp 70 that leads to both viral replication and transcription.²⁹⁵ The disordered nature of N_{TAIL} in measles and Hendra viruses has also confirmed in the context of full-length N protein that formed Nucleocapsid like particle (NLP) when expressed in the heterologous system.²⁹⁶⁻²⁹⁸ Initially, it was thought that the C-terminal X domain (XD) of the phosphoprotein triggers major conformational rearrangement within nucleocapsid, and this leads to the access of the viral polymerase to RNA genome.^{259,292,299} However recent NMR studies rule out these possibilities and provide the first direct observation of the interaction between XD and intact

nucleocapsid in the Paramyxoviridae. The disordered N_{TAIL} region is partially exposed at the surface of the nucleocapsid and provides a way for interaction with numerous protein partners. Indeed, MeV N_{TAIL} interacts with various viral protein partners, such as P, P-L complex, and matrix protein.³⁰⁰ Besides interaction with viral components, it also interacts with host cellular components, such as Interferon regulatory factor 3 (IRF3),³⁰¹ hsp70,²⁹⁵ peroxiredoxin 1,³⁰² casein kinase II,³⁰³ the cell protein responsible for the nuclear export of N,³⁰⁴ and possibly the components of the cell cytoskeleton.^{305,306} Additionally, the N_{TAIL} of MeV nucleocapsid released from infected cells binds to the cell receptors involved in MeV-induced immunosuppression.^{293,294} The P protein disorder was reported in both Paramyxoviridae^{157,158,307–311} and Rhabdoviridae.^{312–314} P protein in the members of these families possesses a very high modular organization that consists of alternate ordered and disordered regions. In Paramyxoviridae, P protein possesses a large disordered region (4000 residues) at its N terminal (PNT) domain. Several interactions made by the PNT domain of MeV and Sendai virus (SeV) have been reported, such as the PNT domain of MeV interactions with N and cellular protein,^{315,316} SeV interacts with an unassembled form of N (N^o) and L protein.^{317,318} While the C-terminus nucleocapsid binding region of P adopts compact folded stable conformations in members of Rhabdoviridae and majority of Paramyxovirinae, it remains disordered in the respiratory syncytial virus which is a member of Pneumovirinae subfamily.^{311,319} The N-terminal region of P protein from Rhabdoviridae and Paramyxoviridae that is involved in binding to N^o has been reported to contain the α -MoRF.^{158,312,313,320} This induced folding upon the binding effect in a form of the α -MoRF is limited to vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV), a rhabdovirus. The structure of VSV N^o-P complex was solved and verified that although the binding region adopts an α -helical configuration, the flanking regions remain flexible. P protein α -MoRF binding occurs at the same site that is responsible for RNA and different N protein binding, thereby preventing the polymerization of N protein. These results provide a link between different processes and possibly explain the mechanism of initiation for viral RNA synthesis.³²¹ In MeV, limited proteolysis study carried out in secondary structure stabilizer (TFE) provided evidence for the disorder to order transition of disordered N-terminal region of P (PNT).¹⁵⁷ The presence of disordered domains in both P and N proteins leads to the controlled dynamic interactions in a coordinated manner between template nucleocapsid surface and polymerase complex that could extend further over the successive turns of the helix. The long

disordered regions in viral proteins enable them to act as a potential linker between the binding partner and participate in large macromolecular assembly acting as a scaffolding engine.^{322,323}

10.6 Intrinsic disorder in capsid proteins

IDRs provide more flexibility, hence help in the quick conformational changes of proteins required for the capsid assembly of viruses. For instance, the VP-4 protein of the Foot-and-mouth disease virus (FMDV) contains low structure content however plays a crucial role in capsid assembly.¹⁴⁸ As most viral proteins have synthesized in the form of the polyprotein, the presence of IDRs at the proteolytic sites make digestion easy and faster and generate independent functional chains.^{324,325} The presence of IDRs in viral proteins provides a self-driven mechanism of self-assembly due to the aforementioned property.

10.6.1 *Intrinsic disorder in Flaviviridae core proteins*

Flaviviridae family members are non-segmented single-stranded positive-sense viruses, whose genome size varies between 9.6 and 12.3 kb. Viral genera Flavivirus, Hepacivirus, and Pestivirus come under the family of Flaviviridae.³²⁶ N-terminal region of viral core protein is highly basic and makes interaction in a sequence-specific manner with RNA to accomplish the various functions. The core protein is released from the rest of the polyprotein to initiate the functions required for further maturation and multiplication of viruses. RNA chaperoning activity of core protein is confirmed in in vitro assays, additionally it is responsible for packaging and condensation of viral genomic RNA during viral morphogenesis. Core protein mediates several interactions with host proteins for viral persistence and pathogenicity and simultaneously involves itself in functions related to viral replication.³²⁷ Biophysical and biochemical studies done so far on the Flaviviridae family confirmed the widespread use of core protein IDRs in its member viruses despite having the low sequence similarity and other pronounced differences in their modular organization.¹⁴⁸

10.6.2 *Disordered capsid protein of ZIKV and DENV*

Capsid protein of DENV and ZIKV are found to be highly disordered with respect to other proteins encoded by their genome. The disorder content is found to be 33.3% and 36% in ZIKV¹⁴⁶ and DENV, respectively.³²⁸ This high amount of disorder suggests the exclusive involvement of these regions in the mechanism of viral-mediated functions at the battlefield

of host and pathogens. The ZIKV capsid major functions are nucleocapsid assembly and involvement in the viral infection processes by interacting with cellular proteins, modulating cellular metabolism, apoptosis, and immune response.³²⁹ Major functions of the Capsid protein of DENV are RNA binding and RNA chaperone activity, nucleocapsid assembly, lipid droplet accumulation and interaction with host components.³³⁰ Despite major knowledge on the functions and disorder status of capsid proteins of DENV and ZIKV, the exact mechanism of IDR-mediated control of various functions of this protein is yet to be discovered. Fig. 5 demonstrates the MoRF position of (A) ZIKV and (B) DENV capsid proteins predicted by the MoRFchibi SYSTEM HTML server.³³¹ A pattern of position and number of MoRFs could be analyzed in detail in the capsid proteins of these viruses to identify the factors associated with their specific functions.

10.6.3 The fd phage coat protein pVIII undergoes transitions from order to disorder form

Fd bacteriophage, filamentous in shape, belongs to the Inovirus genus and infects enterobacteria, such as *E. coli*.^{332,333} The coat protein of Fd phage undergoes the transition from the state of disordered to ordered and ordered to disordered to regulate the molecular mechanism of its penetration and assembly.¹⁴⁸ The structural transition in FdpVIII coat protein indicates that there is involvement of MG (partial disorder) intermediate in the process of macromolecular assembly and disassembly.³³⁴

10.6.4 Capsid protease: An illustrative example of an intrinsically disordered enzyme in Semliki forest virus

The IDRs play their role in the activation and deactivation of the enzymatic property of viral proteins, as in the case of the Semliki forest virus (SFV). SFV belongs to the Alphavirus genus that has enveloped positive-strand RNA with an icosahedral nucleocapsid and spherical morphology.^{335,336} The N-terminal region of SFV polyprotein (residues 1–267) is an intramolecular serine protease that cleaves itself off after the Trp267 from the rest of the polyprotein segment and provides a mature capsid protein. After this auto cleavage process, the free carboxyl group of Trp267 interacts with catalytic triad consisting of amino acid His145, Asp167, and Ser219 and leads to inactivation of the enzyme.³³⁷

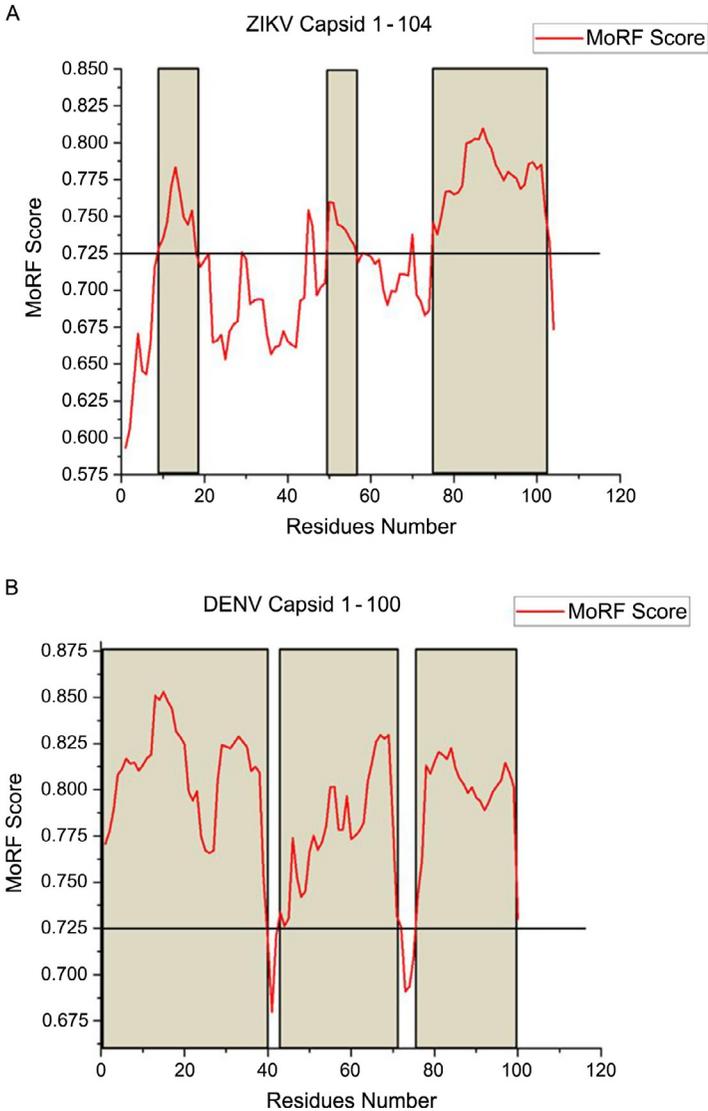


Fig. 5 The capsid protein MoRF position (toggled gray bars) predicted by the MoRFchibi system for (A) ZIKV (UniProt id: [Q32ZE1](#)|1-104); (B) DENV (UniProt id: [P33478](#)|1-100). Three MoRF regions of different lengths have observed in the capsid protein of both viruses, located within disordered areas, these MoRF regions play a crucial role by recognizing, interacting and inducing a conformational change to viral as well as host proteins.

10.7 Intrinsic disorder in the nucleocapsid protein of SARS-CoA

Nucleocapsid protein (N) of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (SARS-CoA) plays a crucial role in its viability and packaging of its genomic RNA. However, the exact mechanism of binding of N protein to genomic RNA is not completely understood. Two domains present in N protein NTD and CTD are flanked by long stretches of disordered regions that counts for almost half of the entire length. Both domains through their flanking disordered regions bind to RNA. Although low sequence homology reported in different coronavirus N protein through bioinformatics study, flexible linker region of N protein of all coronaviruses started with SR-rich region and end with region enriched with basic residues. These features are the hallmarks of the protein disorder. The overall isoelectric point (pI) of these flexible linkers is high, which is self-explanatory for their RNA binding abilities. The aforementioned findings suggest that the physiochemical features are likely to be conserved across different groups of Coronaviridae. This observation highlights the role of intrinsic disorder in N protein whether it be multisite nucleic acid binding or RNP packaging.³³⁸

10.8 Intrinsic disorder in influenza virus surface glycoproteins

Surface glycoprotein is required for the fusion of viral membrane with host membrane, hence mediating the way of entrance to the target cell.^{339–341} One of the best examples of the most studied membrane fusion proteins is the influenza virus HA. HA is homotrimeric type I transmembrane surface glycoprotein responsible for the binding of viruses to the host receptor, their internalization and subsequent membrane fusion events within the endosome of the infected cell. Presence of HA at the viral surface in high numbers make it the most abundant antigen that contains primary neutralizing epitopes for antibodies.³⁴² Recent bioinformatics study revealed that although many viral membrane proteins are universally ordered, intrinsic disorder is still present in these proteins pointing out that IDRs might have crucial functions. For instance, influenza A virus virulent strain 1918 H1N1 and H5N1 differ from less virulent or nonvirulent strain H3N2 and 1930 H1N1 in their disordered content of the HA protein.¹⁴⁸

10.9 Intrinsic disorder influenza virus non-structural protein 2

It has been observed that during viral replication, non-structural protein 2 of the influenza virus interacts with nuclear export machinery. It behaves as an

adaptor molecule between viral ribonucleoprotein complex and the viral nuclear export machinery. Various techniques such as differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), hydrodynamic techniques, and limited proteolysis demonstrated the presence of high levels of disorder in this protein.³⁴³

10.10 Intrinsic disorder in human adenovirus type 5 early transcription unit 1B

A set of proteins comprises early transcription unit 1B (E1B) encoded by human adenovirus type 5. These proteins participate in several important viral functions, such as viral replication and adenoviral-mediated cell transformation.^{344,345} An interesting feature demonstrated by this set of proteins is that they are expressed from the overlapping reading frames of the 2.28 kb E1B-mRNA through alternative splicing that takes place between common splice donor and one splice acceptor site among three possible sites. This results in the encoding of proteins from mRNAs having common N-terminus and different C-terminus.^{346,347} This feature determines one of the names of these proteins, E1BN proteins. Computational analysis along with NMR and CD determines that E1B-93R is a typical IDP, and the N-terminal region within E1B and other E1BN proteins is likely to be intrinsically disordered.³⁴⁵

10.11 Intrinsic disorder in non-structural HCV proteins

HCV NS5A, a key protein involved viral replication that plays a role in viral particle assembly.²⁵¹ Numerous interactions made by NS5A with viral and host proteins have been reported.³⁴⁸ NS5A is a membrane associated protein that possesses an anchor at its N-terminal region with C-terminal region being divided into three different domains, D1, D2, and D3. D1 is highly conserved and is less disordered, while D2 and D3 are less conserved and are highly disordered.^{252-254,349} High disorder content defines the dynamic behavior of D2 and D3 that makes them a hub-like a center for multiple interactions. NS5A-D2 is important for NS5A function and is involved in molecular interaction with RDRP (NS5B) and PKR. The interaction established by NS5A-D2 interferes with host signaling pathways and apoptosis.²⁵⁶ Although NS5A-D3 is mostly disordered, it contains short ordered elements at its N-terminus. In a recent study, NS5A-D3 proteins from two HCV strains were found to exhibit a propensity to partial folding into an α -helix.³⁵⁰ NMR analysis revealed two putative α -helices for that a

molecular model could be proposed. The first α -helix conservation in all genotypes and its amphipathic character suggest that it could be corresponding to MoRE and hence promote the interaction with a suitable biological partner(s). One such partner is Cyclophilin A (CypA). Cyclophilins are cell factors crucial in HCV replication. Interestingly, Cyclosporin completely abrogates the interaction between HCV NS5A-D3 and CypA. CypA together with NS5A and NS5B forms the crucial component of multi-protein complex and supports RNA transcription and replication.³⁵⁰

10.12 Intrinsic disorder in the HDV basic protein δ Ag

Among many animal viruses known so far, HDV has the smallest RNA genome that codes for a single protein known as δ -antigen (δ Ag).³⁵¹ From a structural perspective, this protein comprises of the coiled-coil domain, a nuclear localization signal (NLS) and RNA binding domain.³⁵² δ Ag is self-oligomerized to yield dodecamer structure associated with HDV genomic RNA.^{248,353} Computational and experimental analysis of eight clades of HDV shows the high disorder of this protein.²⁴⁸

10.13 Intrinsic disorder in HIV-1 accessory and regulatory proteins

Tat protein of HIV-1 is an important factor in viral pathogenesis that serves as a transactivator of viral transcription. The activity of Tat is dependent on its interaction with the Transactivation response region (TAR), whose example is a short nascent stem bulge loop leader RNA. TAR present at 5' extreme of all viral transcripts. Tat protein displays typical characteristics of IDPs that include the high net charge to low global hydrophobicity.¹⁴⁸ Intrinsic disorder of Tat is also proven by CD and NMR studies.³⁵⁴ Rev. protein also plays a regulatory role in HIV-1. This is a basic protein of 116 residues in length that belongs to the ARM family of RNA-binding proteins. Rev. binds to the Rev. Response element (RRE) of viral mRNA in the cytoplasm of the host cell, and, therefore, Rev. is essential for viral replication.³⁵⁵ Monomeric Rev. adopts MG state as confirmed by Hydrodynamic and Spectroscopic studies.³⁵⁶ Recent biophysical studies of Rev. ARM associated with RNA binding suggest it is intrinsically disordered not only in the isolated state but also when embedded into oligomerization deficient Rev. Mutant.³⁵⁷

10.14 Intrinsic disorder in non-structural HPV E6 and E7 proteins

The large family of papillomavirus (PV) includes small DNA viruses infecting mammals, reptile, and birds. At least 100 different types of HPV are reported to date that act as a cofactor in the development of carcinoma of head, neck, genital tract and epidermis and also cause the papillomas and benign wart. HPV classified into two classes on the basis of its association with cancer. The first category includes low-risk viruses (HPV-6, HPV-11), and the second category contains high-risk viruses (HPV-16, HPV-18, and HPV-45) types. Similar to all DNA tumor viruses, HPV hijacks the replication machinery and forces the infected cell to enter into the S phase of the cell cycle. The transforming activity of high-risk HPVs is mainly exerted through their E7, which is one of their two oncoproteins. E7 is responsible for pathogenesis and maintenance of human cervical cancer and has been determined to participate in numerous cellular processes including DNA synthesis, transcription, transformation, cell growth, and apoptosis.³⁵⁸ E7 interacts with Rb, which is a tumor suppressor protein, and interferes with its tumor suppression activity. Rb acts as guardian of the cell cycle due to its involvement into the control of G1/S transition.³⁵⁹ Therefore, Rb is critical for determining the progression of the cell into the normal phase or transformation. Besides interacting with proteins of Rb family, E7 also interacts with histone deacetylase,³⁶⁰ kinase p33CDK2 and cyclin A,³⁶¹ protein phosphatase 2A (PP2A),³⁶² and the cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor p21cip1 protein.³⁶³ PP2A is sequestered and excluded from its interaction with protein kinase B (PKB) or Akt due to its involvement in the formation of a complex with E7.³⁶⁴ PKB is one of several second messenger kinases that is activated via cell attachment and growth factor signaling and that sends a signal to the cell nucleus to prevent apoptosis, thus leading the way toward cell survival during proliferation. The interaction between PP2A and E7 leads to the inhibition of PKB/Akt dephosphorylation that keeps the PKB/Akt signaling activated. E7 protein broad range molecular interactions depend on the flexible disordered region present within the E7. Previous studies performed on recombinant E7 reveal that its structure can be described as the elongated dimer that changes conformation upon a small change in pH, while gaining α -helicity by exposure to solvents.³⁶⁵ Biophysical characterization of E7 from HPV-45 with far-UV CD and NMR revealed that its N-terminal region (E7N, amino acids 1–40) is disordered, while its C-terminal domain is well structured (41–98)

with a unique zinc-binding fold. The Intrinsically unstructured N-terminal region of E7 contains binding and Casein kinase II phosphorylation sites.^{292,366,367} The CD spectra recorded for the different conformations as a function of temperature and pH indicated a polyproline II-like structure.³⁶⁶ The structural stability is maintained by phosphorylation that results in increased transformation activity in the cell. Transforming protein E6 and E7 of high-risk HPVs incorporate high amounts of intrinsic disorder.³⁶⁸

10.15 Intrinsically unstructured N protein of λ bacteriophage

In λ bacteriophage, its N protein (λ N) plays an important role in the transcription of the gene. The absence of this protein leads to the reduction in the phage genome transcription to 2% with the only transcription of the early gene.³⁶⁹ λ N protein positively regulates the transcription of λ bacteriophage and promotes the expression of a gene located downstream to the termination signal. λ N acts as an anti-terminator transcription factor and in doing so, it binds to an RNA sequence (the box B segment) and multiple proteins in the transcription complex, where it serves as an important regulator of anti-terminator complex that allows transcription through termination sites during phage gene expression. The interaction between host bacteria RNA polymerase and factor NusA to λ N has been also observed.¹⁶¹ λ N demonstrate all features of unstructured flexible protein that are typical to IDPs. These features include high net charge and low hydrophobicity,¹⁶¹ as well as structural asymmetry determined through various experiments.^{370–374}

10.16 Intrinsic disorder in the Hordeivirus movement TGBp1 protein

Plant viral infection spreads from one infected position to another through special proteins known as movement proteins (MPs) that facilitate the movement of viruses within the plant body. These MPs possess a wide range of functions. They interact with the viral proteins and RNA to form ribonucleoprotein complex that facilitates cell to cell and long-distance movement of the viral genome in the plant and helps in the interaction with cytoskeleton components and endoplasmic reticulum.¹⁶¹ Three types of movement protein that are TGBp1 (528 residues), TGBp2 (204 residues), and TGBp3 (155 residues), encoded by “triple gene black” (TGB) are reported in hordeiviruses.³⁷⁵ The N-terminal region of TGB1 of *Barley stripe mosaic virus* (residues 1–180) are predicted to be highly disordered, whereas C-terminal is not as shown in Fig. 6.

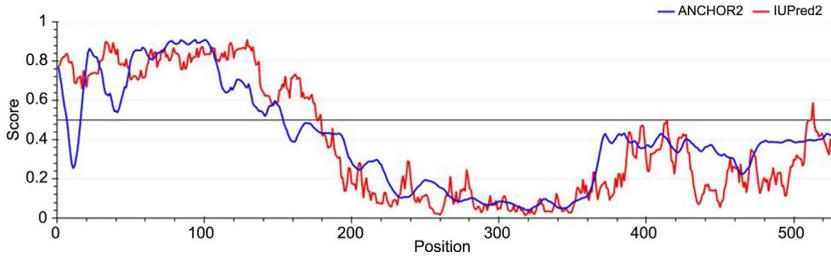
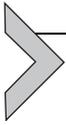


Fig. 6 Intrinsic disorder prediction in TGB1 protein (Uniprot Id: [P04867](#)) of *Barley stripe mosaic virus* by IUPred2A server.²³⁷



11. Summary and outlook

This chapter summarizes the current knowledge on the protein intrinsic disorder phenomenon, discusses various peculiar features of IDPs, including their involvement in PPI networks, other biological roles and introduces different disorder predictors. It also discusses some details of the intrinsic disorder perspective of viruses, the role of IDPs and IDRs in the virus-facilitated host mechanisms, prevalence of the intrinsic disorder in viral proteomes, and functional prominence of disordered viral proteins. The role of IDRs in various structural and non-structural proteins of viruses, such as capsid, nucleocapsid, genome-linked surface glycoproteins, matrix and accessory, and regulatory proteins have been summarized. IDPs/IDRs role in specific function-oriented proteins in different viruses have been elaborated, such as membrane-binding protein λ N of bacteriophage, hordeivirus movement protein TGBp1, influenza virus non-structural protein 2, bBasic protein δ Ag of HDV, and Human adenovirus type 5 early transcription unit 1B. Also, the importance of intrinsic disorder for the alternative splicing and overlapping reading frames of viral proteome is discussed. Viruses mainly cause pathogenesis by hijacking the cell machinery and modulating its functions, e.g., by altering IDP components involved in the host cell cycle control mechanism. Viral IDPs mediate successful infection and regulate pathogenesis at multiple levels. Therefore, the knowledge of intrinsic disorder and structural flexibility in processes of virus–host interaction and associated functions is crucial for better understanding of viral pathogenesis. The involvement of IDPs/IDRs in the mechanism of viral infection is not completely understood. Therefore, this chapter would allow readers to get better understanding of the importance of IDPs/IDRs in various functional mechanisms/viral components, which are essential for the

completion of crucial phases of the viral life cycle. Finally, the IDPs/IDPRs of viruses are considered as potential drug targets, due to their high prevalence in viral proteomes and ubiquitous involvement in host-pathogen mediated regulations. In conclusion, the involvement of IDPs in viral pathogenesis should be solemnly considered for unlocking the complex riddles of viral infection and associated patterns, their cellular control, and exploitation strategies, and drug development approach in near future by targeting their disordered regions.

Acknowledgments

The authors acknowledge the funding support from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India. The file no. for the same is 09/1058(0013)/2019-EMR-I. The authors also acknowledge the host support and facilities provided by the Indian Institute of Technology Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, India. PMM acknowledge the cooperation of Mr. Kundlik while preparing the list of abbreviation and citing the part of the manuscript.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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