

Organic Chemistry In Biology And Drug Development
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Lecture - 43
Combinatorial Chemistry

Welcome back to this course on Organic Chemistry in Biology and Drug Development. In the last session, we were discussing about combinatorial chemistry which is a technology that has been developed to produce a large library of compounds and then testing it through high throughput screening.

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Deprotection of the amino acid

(a) The placement of the first building blocks, the Boc protected amino acids X1 to X12 and their attachment to the resin

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8
2	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8
3	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8
4	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8
5	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8
6	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8
7	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8
8	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8
9	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8
10	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8
11	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8
12	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8

(b) The placement of the isocyanate building blocks Y1 to Y8

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	X1Y1	X2Y1	X3Y1	X4Y1	X5Y1	X6Y1	X7Y1	X8Y1
2	X1Y2	X2Y2	X3Y2	X4Y2	X5Y2	X6Y2	X7Y2	X8Y2
3	X1Y3	X2Y3	X3Y3	X4Y3	X5Y3	X6Y3	X7Y3	X8Y3
4	X1Y4	X2Y4	X3Y4	X4Y4	X5Y4	X6Y4	X7Y4	X8Y4
5	X1Y5	X2Y5	X3Y5	X4Y5	X5Y5	X6Y5	X7Y5	X8Y5
6	X1Y6	X2Y6	X3Y6	X4Y6	X5Y6	X6Y6	X7Y6	X8Y6
7	X1Y7	X2Y7	X3Y7	X4Y7	X5Y7	X6Y7	X7Y7	X8Y7
8	X1Y8	X2Y8	X3Y8	X4Y8	X5Y8	X6Y8	X7Y8	X8Y8
9	X1Y9	X2Y9	X3Y9	X4Y9	X5Y9	X6Y9	X7Y9	X8Y9
10	X1Y10	X2Y10	X3Y10	X4Y10	X5Y10	X6Y10	X7Y10	X8Y10
11	X1Y11	X2Y11	X3Y11	X4Y11	X5Y11	X6Y11	X7Y11	X8Y11
12	X1Y12	X2Y12	X3Y12	X4Y12	X5Y12	X6Y12	X7Y12	X8Y12

(c) Reaction, by placing the array in a suitable reaction environment, to form the substituted urea and subsequent treatment with hot 6M hydrochloric acid to form the hydantoin building blocks Z1 to Z96

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Z1	Z2	Z3	Z4	Z5	Z6	Z7	Z8
2	Z9	Z10	Z11	Z12	Z13	Z14	Z15	Z16
3	Z17	Z18	Z19	Z20	Z21	Z22	Z23	Z24
4	Z25	Z26	Z27	Z28	Z29	Z30	Z31	Z32
5	Z33	Z34	Z35	Z36	Z37	Z38	Z39	Z40
6	Z41	Z42	Z43	Z44	Z45	Z46	Z47	Z48
7	Z49	Z50	Z51	Z52	Z53	Z54	Z55	Z56
8	Z57	Z58	Z59	Z60	Z61	Z62	Z63	Z64
9	Z65	Z66	Z67	Z68	Z69	Z70	Z71	Z72
10	Z73	Z74	Z75	Z76	Z77	Z78	Z79	Z80
11	Z81	Z82	Z83	Z84	Z85	Z86	Z87	Z88
12	Z89	Z90	Z91	Z92	Z93	Z94	Z95	Z96

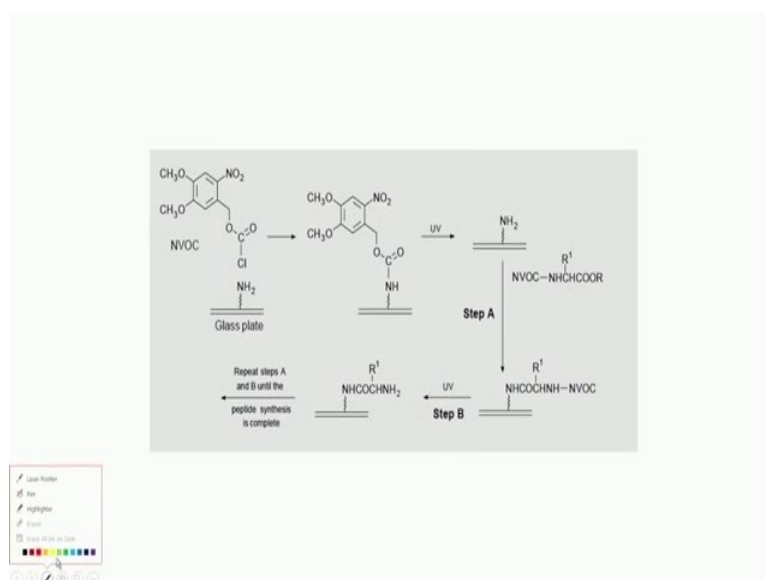
And the whole exercise is done to have a quick access to the hit compound, so that the hit compound can be found, which would pave the way for finding the lead compound; and ultimately lead optimization. This process, usually in earlier days, it was taking lot of time because the biological screening was taking a lot of time. So, even if you make few compounds per day or per week that would have been sufficient for a testing within the time framed by the biologist.

Now, because of the advent of high throughput screening, there is a demand that you produce lot of compounds in a particular day or two. And then get it tested as quickly as possible, because the whole idea of medicinal chemistry or drug development is that one should really very quickly know what are the failure compounds which are going to fail

or which are failing in the high throughput screening and try to pick out the lead compounds or the hit compounds as early as possible without wasting much time and energy.

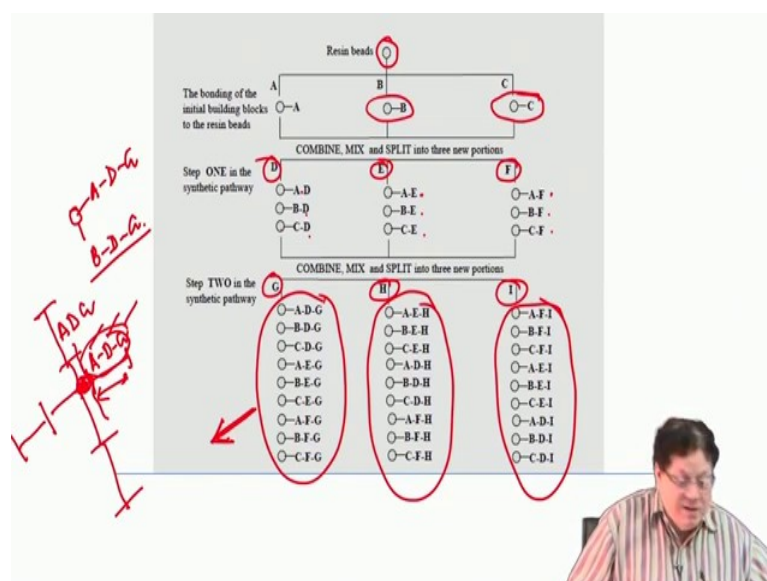
So, towards that end, this combinatorial chemistry was developed. This is basically a synthetic technology in which a large library of compounds are made. Basically there are two techniques, one is called parallel synthesis and the other is mix and split method. In parallel synthesis, this is basically a 96 well plate, in each well there is a bead, there are few beads, and then you have produced a particular type of compound, it's not that in a particular well you have a mixture of compounds. There are several beads.

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Suppose if I take this groove, this groove will have ultimately in the final product which is represented by Z1, but Z1 is basically a combination of X1-Y1, and then you are adding this making the hydantoins, basically it is a two-step process. The first step is that adding the Y1 to the X1 and then you did some reaction; you apply some reaction condition like heating with hot 6M HCl, so that this is a particular type of combinatorial chemistry where you are making hydantoins. And what I am trying to say that each well has only a defined compound and you know what is the structure of that compound.

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On the other hand, if you go to the other technology which is called mix and split, in this case you get a much larger library of compounds, but the problem is that in a particular well or if you are doing it in test tubes or your container, we will have beads where each bead is connected to a particular compound, but you do not know the identity of the compound. It is a collection of beads of different compounds. But only one thing you know that each bead is only connected to one particular type of compound, but you do not know which bead it is.

So, let us start from there where we ended. So, in this mix and split, you take the resin bead attached with the functionality. And then you attach; you divided into three pots. And in this pot, you add A; and in the other pot, you add B and in the third pot, you add C. So, you have resin bead here attached to a resin bead B, and here resin bead is attached to C.

But then you mix these two, take all of them together and then split. So, what will happen? Each of these beads in a particular well or test tube, will have A, will have attachment to B and it will have also attachment with C. So, that means, there are beads which are attached to A, there are beads which are attached to B, there are beads which are attached to C. Now, you basically you have distributed into 3 pots or 3 wells and your adding D in the first pot, E in the second and F in the third.

So, in the process, you are getting here A-D, B-D and C-D. Here you will get A-E, B-E, C-E and so on. So, in the third one, since you are adding F, so A-F, B-F and C-F; then you again mix it and split. So, when you split your each well will have beads which are connected to A-D, B-D, C-D, A-E, B-E, C-E as well as A-F, B-F and C-F. Now, what you are doing you have again split it into 3, 3 pots and then add G. So, when in one pot you are adding G, in the other pot you are adding H and in the third one you are adding I.

So, there will be 9 different compounds attached to the beads, attached to separate beads; you must understand this that a particular bead will not have say A-D-G and also attached to B-D-G, that will not happen; because you are covering the functionality (whatever number of functional groups attached to the bead) as they are all attached to either A or B or C, when you started the synthesis. So, each bead is connected to one type of compound not a mixture of compounds.

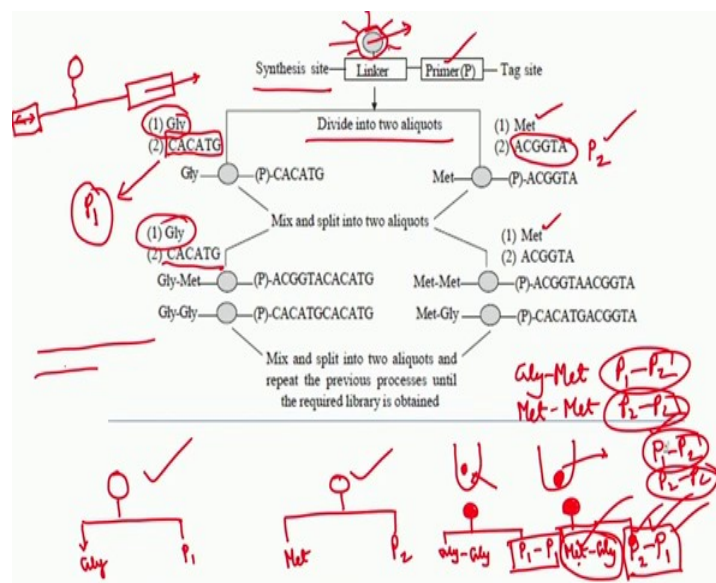
So, now you have 9 compounds here attached to the beads; here also 9 compounds; and here also 9 compounds. Now, you test these beads containing the compounds and see if there is any bioactivity in any one of these wells or pots, wherever you are doing the reaction. Suppose there is some activity shown by this cluster, the next thing is that you do not know actually know which bead is connected to what, but what you know is that out of these beads, at least some compounds are bioactive. So, the problem now is to basically know what is the compound attached to a particular bead; see you can individually separate these beads and also test its bioactivity.

And then suppose I get a bead which shows bioactivity, but I do not know what is attached here, whether it is A-D-G or B-D-G or C-D-G; so, how to do that? Now, you can say that I will take the bead, and then detach whatever compounds are there; remember one bead does not have only one valency, they are polyvalent beads that means, from one bead you can get several molecules of these, but all are same compound; if it is A-D-G, then all are A-D-G here. So, there is no scrambling of the structure of the compound that is attached to a particular bead. But the big question is how to know, what is the compound that is attached to a particular bead; because these beads are not colored, it is not that blue beads are always having ADG, red beads are having other compounds, and each bead is of same colour and everything.

Now, we have to basically deconvolute; you have a bead, which is attached to a compound and that is showing some bioactivity. Now, the task is how to know what compound is attached to the bead? One way is that you break this bond between the bead and the terminal end and see the sequence of these different entities A-D-G or it is B-D-G, you can check that.

But if these are some compounds which are not very easy to do the sequencing; you know sequencing can be done usually on peptides and as well as for nucleic acids, these are easier ones that you can do using Edman degradation or Sangers method as needed. For other compounds, if it has different types of entities A, B, C are different entities, then it will be very difficult to really know what is the structure of the compound that is attached to a particular bead. So, how to know the structure of the compound attached to a bead? There is a technique which is called tagging technique, I will show you what is that.

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This is the bead to start with, I said that these are polyvalent that means, there are lot of binding sites here, where I can add A, B or C that is my reacting partner. So, when I have this bead, I have the bead attached to a linker and that linker is distributed in two channels, at one site, you can do one type of reaction and in the other site, you can do the synthesis that you are interested in.

Maybe an example will demonstrate it and it will be easier to understand what I am saying about the tagging method. So, you have a bead, you can forget about the linker for the time being. So, the bead has reactive sites in one reactive site, you are adding A, B, C, D, E, F and on the other site you are adding something which is easy to sequence.

Suppose, I have separated the beads into two aliquots; I am interested in making peptides. So, in one aliquot I added glycine; so, the glycine gets attached at the synthesis site. And at the same time I add some bases, in this case, it is CACATG. So, I add a base, but for understanding you can say that I add something which is denoted as P_1 , here. And here on the other aliquot, I add methionine, a different amino acid, and I add another set of bases, which is denoted by P_2 . So, what will happen that this bead which now can be represented that it has got glycine here and on the other side, because I am adding glycine and then also I am adding this P_1 , which is a combination of bases, the bases that are present in DNA.

So, glycine and on the other valent hand you are having this P_1 and in this other aliquot, you have methionine and here you are adding the P_2 (another collection of bases). So, then again you mix and split, if you mix and split and then suppose I add again glycine here, so, what I will get? I have two containers. So, when I mix and split, so here the beads will have both the characteristic this as well as that, because I have mixed it and then splitted it.

So, when I added glycine what I will get? Remember whenever I add glycine, I have the same set of bases P_1 . So, this bead will have glycine and then if I have added another glycine and on the other side at the same time, I add this P_1 ; so P_1 will be attached to P_1 . I also have methionine here so methionine and that will be attached to glycine and in the tagging site that is my P_2 , and then P_2 will be attached to P_1 , so this is the scenario. Now, suppose I stop at the dipeptide. I see that one bead is giving some activity, then I am interested what I have added here; whether it is methionine-glycine or it is glycine-glycine. I know that if it is methionine-glycine, I will have P_2 - P_1 ; and if it is glycine-glycine, I will have P_1 - P_1 .

So, I make the complementary base sequence and see which gets attached to this base sequence represented by P_2 and P_1 ; we call that primer. What is primer? Primer is that if you have a sequence of bases you already know that and if you give the complementary

base, then they are going to go and hybridize. So, if it is P_1-P_1 , you make a set of primer which is complementary to P_1-P_1 and another set of primer which is complementary to P_2-P_1 .

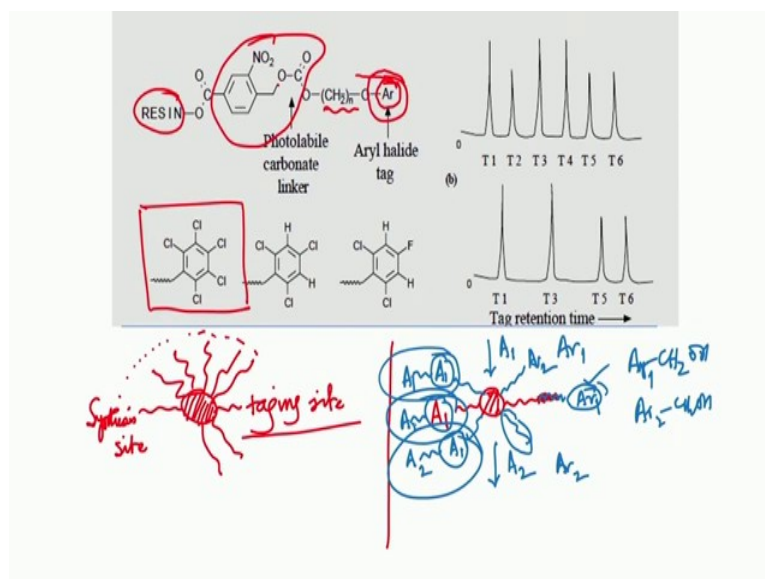
So, now you see that which primer is actually giving the hybridization and then if you see that they are complementary to P_2-P_1 and hybridizing with that bead tagging site, then you know that it must be having methionine glycine. And once you know that then you can separately make methionine glycine and do the bioassay. Now you know that the first amino acid has to be methionine, so you can take methionine and then other amino acids you can vary, and then optimize the hit.

So, basically you are synthesizing your compounds, at the same time you are adding a tagging entity. In this case, our example was a particular type of base sequence, because the base sequence is easy to detect by synthesis of the corresponding primers and see whether it is hybridizing or not.

So, from that hybridization result, we can tell that what is the tagging code; it is $P_1 P_2-P_1$ or it is P_1-P_1 ; and then you can actually detect the contents of the other test tubes; you are adding again methionine. So, it will be here, it will be glycine and then methionine, so that will be P_1-P_2 and the other cases P_2-P_2 that means, when the bead is connected to glycine I know that the it is attached P_1 on the tagging site; and when I added the methionine, so that P_1 will be attached to P_2 , because with methionine I add P_2 .

And then whenever there is glycine-methionine, then the tagging sequence will be P_1-P_2 ; and whenever it is methionine-methionine, the tagging sequence will be P_2-P_2 . So, you can get four different tagging sequence attached to the bead, and from the tagging sequence you can tell what is the peptide sequence in the desired compound.

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There are different tagging techniques. I will not go into very details, but I will show another tagging technique. And instead of having this nucleotide bases, you can have other types of tagging systems. Like in this case it is said that resin bead.

In resin bead, you know that there is a synthesis site, where you do the synthesis and there is a tagging site, where you do the tagging. So, whenever you add one component, you have to add the corresponding tag. Now, this tag earlier I told you about the base nucleotide bases, someone has devised this that whenever there is a synthesis done, on the other tagging site, you are adding this nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl attached to a linker that is attached to a substituted aromatic moiety. Again I repeat, the bead has synthesis sites and bead has tagging sites.

One more important point is that the synthesis site is not just one, there may be several synthesis sites and there may be more tagging sites also. Basically when you do the synthesis, you maintain the concentration at such a level, so that the synthesis sites are more or less covered. Leaving the tagging sites, tagging sites are also reactive entities. So, we have to be careful that the tagging site are left free.

Suppose, I put A_1 in the tagging site, I put this *via ortho*-nitro benzyloxycarbonyl group. This *ortho*-nitro benzyloxycarbonyl is also photo labile. So, if you shine light here, this goes off and carbon dioxide is liberated, then you are generating aryl halide. So, this is

the mechanism that forms the aldehyde and this loses the carbon dioxide and finally, this aryl tag comes out as the benzyl system CH_2OH .

So, basically there is a linker which is photo labile group and then you have this aromatic ring Ar_1 . Now, there are other tagging sites here and there are also synthesis site here. So, you maintain it in such a way that all the synthesis sites are blocked with A_1 .

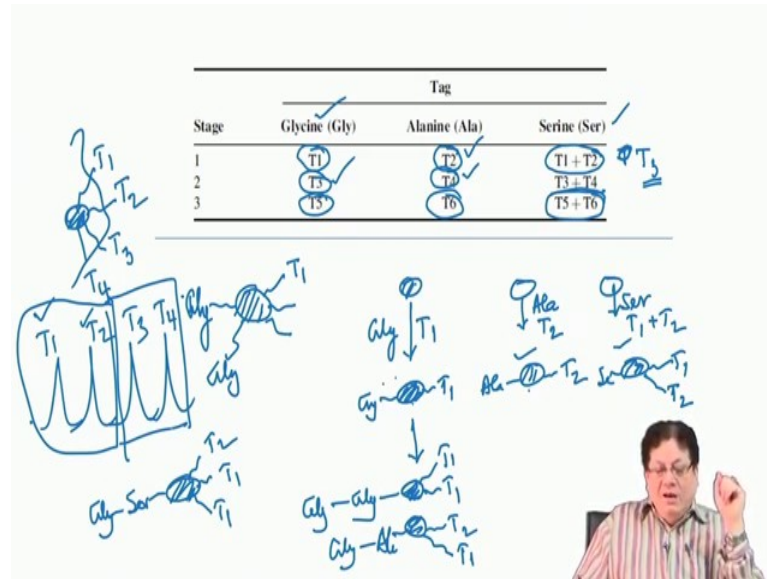
You maintain such a concentration that some of the tagging sites are still vacant. So, whenever you are adding A_1 , you are adding this benzyloxycarbonyl with Ar at the terminal end with a different Ar_1 aromatic aryl ring; some of the tagging sites still vacant. So, when you do the next reaction, which means, in the first reaction you are adding A_1 and you are also adding Ar_1 , Ar_1 means via this benzyloxycarbonyl.

And then you are adding now A_2 ; so, when you add A_2 , you add Ar_2 . So, A_2 will be attached to A_1 and this Ar_1 actually ends there, because Ar does not react with another Ar. So, because of some of the tagging sites are now vacant, so now this will be connected to Ar_2 . Still some tagging sites are left vacant; it is just a calibration of the concentration that will work here, so this is a little tricky that you maintain the concentration in such a way that your synthesis sites are all or filled up, but the tagging reactive sites are still free.

So, one site is occupied by Ar_1 via this benzyloxycarbonyl, and then the next adjacent site you put a Ar_2 , when you do the second reaction. And if you do a third reaction you can consider Ar_3 , because still some tagging sites are left empty, so you can put Ar_3 . Now, after everything is done, you shine light and when you shine light your benzyloxycarbonyl falls off.

So, what you will get is the $\text{Ar}_1\text{-CH}_2\text{OH}$, $\text{Ar}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{OH}$, then you will get $\text{Ar}_3\text{-CH}_2\text{OH}$. Now, you do a HPLC, what will happen? Each tag is different, so each tag will show its profile in the chromatogram. And depending on the number of tags or number of peaks corresponding to different tags, you can identify what is the sequence of these entities A_1 , A_2 , A_3 .

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Whenever you add glycine, you have these tagging sites, so you add T_1 . So, basically you are adding glycine, so you are adding T_1 . These beads are distributed suppose in three pots. So, in the first bead you are adding glycine and you are adding a tag T_1 .

In the second container, you are adding alanine and you are adding the tag, tag means representing the aromatic ring, because *ortho*-nitro benzyloxycarbonyl is common and then the linker is also common. So, the substitution pattern is different in the aromatic ring, so you add T_2 . And then here you add suppose serine and when you add serine, you do not need to add another tag T_3 , but you can add T_1 and T_2 both.

So, what will happen here the bead will have glycine and then T_1 , and this bead will have alanine and T_2 , and in case of serine you have T_1 , T_2 .

Now, suppose I stop here, I mix the beads, and then I distribute. So, I can now mix it and then split it into 3, and then I add another glycine. So, in this pot, because I have mixed all these, so it will have glycine and whenever I add glycine, I add T_1 . So, whenever there is glycine, it will only have T_1 . I repeat, each pot now will have all the 3 components.

So, I will have alanine here and this alanine will be attached to glycine, but T_2 is already attached to the alanine bead. Whenever I add glycine I add T_1 , so that will have T_2 and T_1 . And then I have the third one that is serine. Serine already has T_1 as well as T_2 . Now, I have added glycine, I add only T_1 .

Now, if you stop at the stage one, we have mixed it and I want to know the compound attached to each bead; whether it is attached to glycine, whether it is attached to serine or whether it is attached to alanine. How do you decide? You separate the bead and then strip off this by shining light, so T_1 , T_2 s will fall off, containing different aromatic rings.

Now, you push it into the HPLC, you get a chromatogram and then you match with your reference one that where the retention times of each of these tags are there. Now suppose I stopped at the first stage; question is whether the bead is attached to glycine or it is attached to alanine or it attached to serine, how do I know? I just strip off this T_1 , T_2 all these tags and then push it into the HPLC or GC.

I will get the different peaks corresponding to this T_1 , T_2 , T_3 . And what happens that if the bead is attached to only glycine, I will see only T_1 , because whenever I added glycine I add only T_1 . If I see that there is T_2 coming out as demonstrated by HPLC, then I know that the bead is attached to alanine. If I see that both T_1 and T_2 are coming, then I know that it is serine.

So, basically this process allows you to combine these T_1 , T_2 and T_1 plus T_2 ; you are not adding another extra T_3 . So; that means if you want to discriminate between 3 substrates, in this case glycine, alanine and serine, you need two tags. One separate tag for glycine, a separate tag for alanine and a combined tag for the serine.

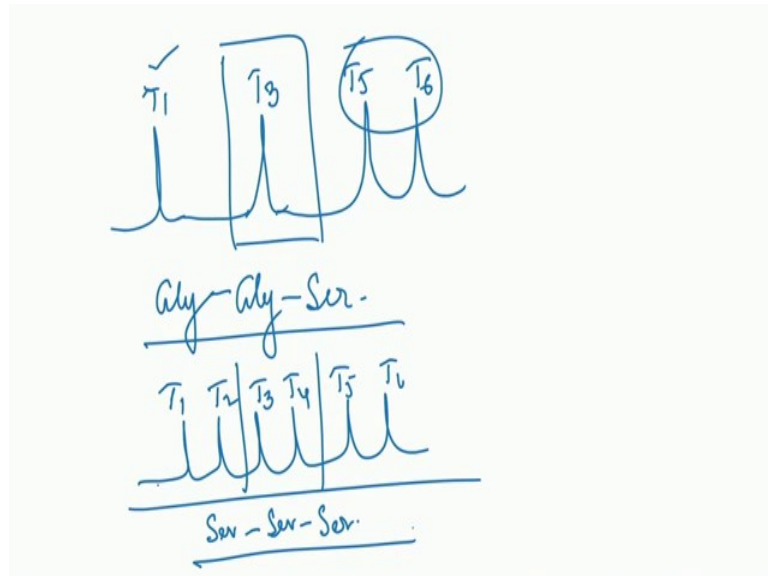
So, if you carry on the synthesis of glycine, you introduce T_3 another tag. So, whenever you are adding the second glycine you add T_3 , when you are adding the second alanine your adding T_4 , when you are adding the serine you are adding T_3 plus T_4 . And if you make a tripeptide, then when you add glycine you add T_5 , when you add alanine you get you add T_6 , and when you add serine, T_5 plus T_6 ok, so that means, you have made

9 compounds, but you have used only 6 tags; you are not using 9 tags; because you have a combination of tags. So, now suppose I see that in the bead I strip off, the tags attached are here T_1 , T_2 and suppose I also see T_3 and I also see T_4 . I stop at the T_3 and T_4 .

I take the HPLC chromatogram and what I see that I could see T_1 , I could see T_2 , I will see T_3 and I will see T_4 . So, if I see T_1 and both T_2 , because they are involved in only the first step of the synthesis that means, it must be serine as the first amino acid. Because, if the first amino acid had been glycine I would not have seen the T_2 . If I only see T_2 , then I

know that the first amino acid is alanine, but I am seeing T_1 plus T_2 if that be the case that means, the first amino acid is serine. What about the second amino acid, the second amino acid I will see what are by tags T_3 or T_4 or a both T_3 and T_4 . So, here I am seeing both T_3 and T_4 if that be the case that means, the second one is also serine, so that means I am having serine-serine linkage.

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And so now I can develop a problem like this, suppose I see T_1 I do not see T_2 , I see T_3 , I am making the tripeptide now; and then I see T_5 and T_6 . So, what is the sequence of the amino acids? In the first one I am seeing only the T_1 , now T_1 is given only when the glycine is there. And then T_3 second one, the possibilities are that I will see only T_3 or I will see only T_4 or I will see T_3 plus T_4 . Here I see only T_3 , so it must be glycine.

And then I see T_5 and T_6 together, if I see both together that is the third step that means, it is serine, so that is the sequence of the compound attached to a particular bead. So, this techniques actually simplifies if you increase the number of amino acids, but proportionately you are not increasing the number of tags. Basically it is like a binary system that if you have 0 and 1, you can get a combination out of only 0, 1.

On the other hand, suppose if you have $T_1, T_2, T_3, T_4, T_5, T_6$, then what will be the sequence of your peptide it will be T_4, T_5, T_6 . So, I get T_1 plus T_2 that means it is serine; I get T_3 plus T_4 that means this is also serine; and I get T_5 plus T_6 that means that is also serine so that is the peptide tripeptide.

There are other methods of doing this; I just mentioned two methods, one is this primer based method where you add the DNA base sequences attached as the tagging entity. And then finally, you add the primer and then see which primer is hybridizing with the nucleotide sequence that is attached to a bead as the tag.

And the second one you are taking a photo labile, *ortho*-nitro benzyloxycarbonyl attached through a linker to an aromatic ring, these aromatic rings are differently substituted. So, they will have different retention times, so that acts as T₁, T₂, T₃, T₄, T₅, T₆ and the trick is that you use a two tags for three components that reduces the number of tags, because after all that will be expensive. If you need the similar number of tags, so that will be economically more expensive than if you reduce the number of tags.

Next we will go to some medicinal aspects, but before that we have now discussed the drug discovery process, in general what is done, what are the different steps, how you do that; and the second thing that we did is the combinatorial chemistry that is the requirement for the day that how to get a large library of compounds, and then get it tested very quickly. And also how to know the structure of the compound that you are generating which is attached to a particular bead.

Thank you.