

Variations on denaturation and coagulation

## **Cooking Eggs Part 2**







Heating expands the air bubbles in the foam which **causes considerable rise**, and it also dries out the foam as water molecules evaporate. *When the proteins finally set enough from the heat* – the gas bubbles are trapped and can't expand anymore. The result is a **puffy/tall, hardened yet airy solid**.



These vanilla soufflés were made first by beating egg white into a stiff, glossy foam, then *folding* in a "base" to add flavor to the whites, then baked. The base contained egg yolks, milk, butter, flour, sugar and vanilla bean



## What makes the foam?

Does not denature much with whipping/beating, but does denature with heat. This stabilizes the foam structure once cooked



Table 9- Proteins in Egg White Albumen [1]		
Protein	% of total	Natural Function
Ovalbumin	54	Nourishment for chick, may block digestive enzymes. Contains six
		cysteine residues. Two are engaged in a disulfide (-S-S-) bond.
Ovotransferrin	12	Binds iron
Ovomucoid	11	Blocks digestive enzymes
Globulins	8	Plug defects in membranes and shell
Lysozyme	3.5	Enzyme that digests bacterial cell walls
Ovomucin	1.5	Thickens albumen, inhibits viruses
Avidin	0.09	Binds the vitamin biotin
Others	10	Bind vitamins; block digestive enzymes



The denatured protein preferentially clusters around the fat molecules (since fats are very hydrophobic) and the air bubbles escape or never form in the first place.



## Perfecting egg white foams

Getting more elastic and puffier egg white foams

- Copper bowl
- Cream of tartar (tartaric acid)
- Aging egg whites

Egg White Foams can get <u>"overwhipped"</u> and become grainy...this happens when the proteins denature and coagulate too tightly





