Proteins, sand-piles, and complexity

Understanding how proteins fold is one of the most pressing problems in science today. What drives protein folding and what role does it play in disease? Pursuing these answers requires complex, interdisciplinary approaches. Self-organized criticality (SOC) is a model capable of generating the complexity seen in many natural systems, with the sand-pile as the canonical example. This talk will explore the connections between simple models of protein folding and SOC as well as explore the ways an SOC framework might be used to further our understanding of protein folding.