



# BGGN 213

## Structural Bioinformatics

Lecture 11

Barry Grant  
UC San Diego

<http://thegrantlab.org/bggn213>

<http://www.ks.uiuc.edu/Development/Download/download.cgi>

*“Bioinformatics is the application of computers to the collection, archiving, organization, and analysis of biological data.”*

... A hybrid of biology and computer science

*“Bioinformatics is the application of computers to the collection, archiving, organization, and analysis of biological data.”*

**Bioinformatics is computer aided biology!**

*“Bioinformatics is the application of computers to the collection, archiving, organization, and analysis of biological data.”*

**Bioinformatics is computer aided biology!**

**Goal: Data to Knowledge**

So what is **structural bioinformatics**?

So what is **structural bioinformatics**?

**... computer aided structural biology!**

Aims to characterize and interpret biomolecules and their assemblies at the molecular & atomic level

**Why should we care?**

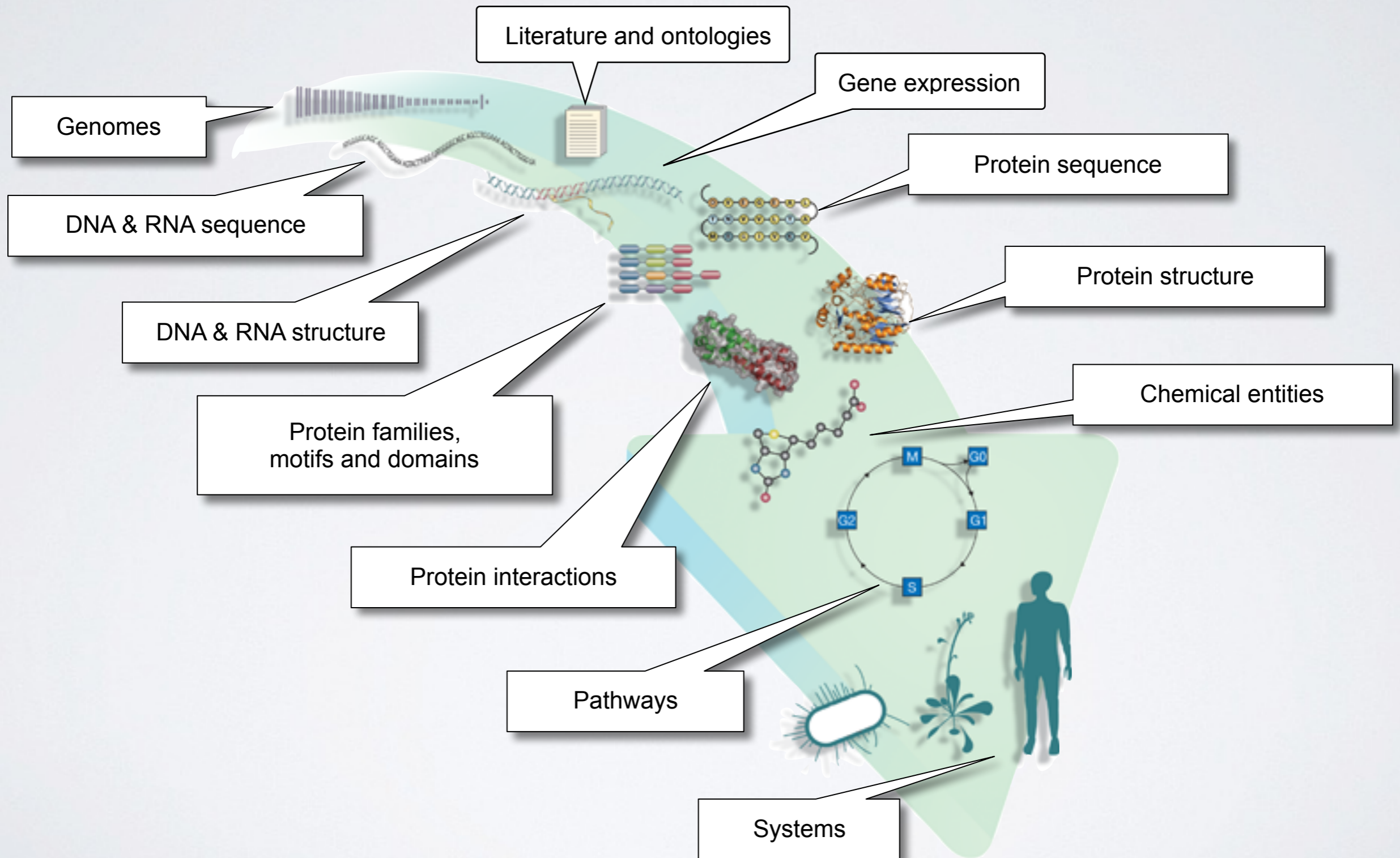
# Why should we care?

Because biomolecules are “nature’s robots”

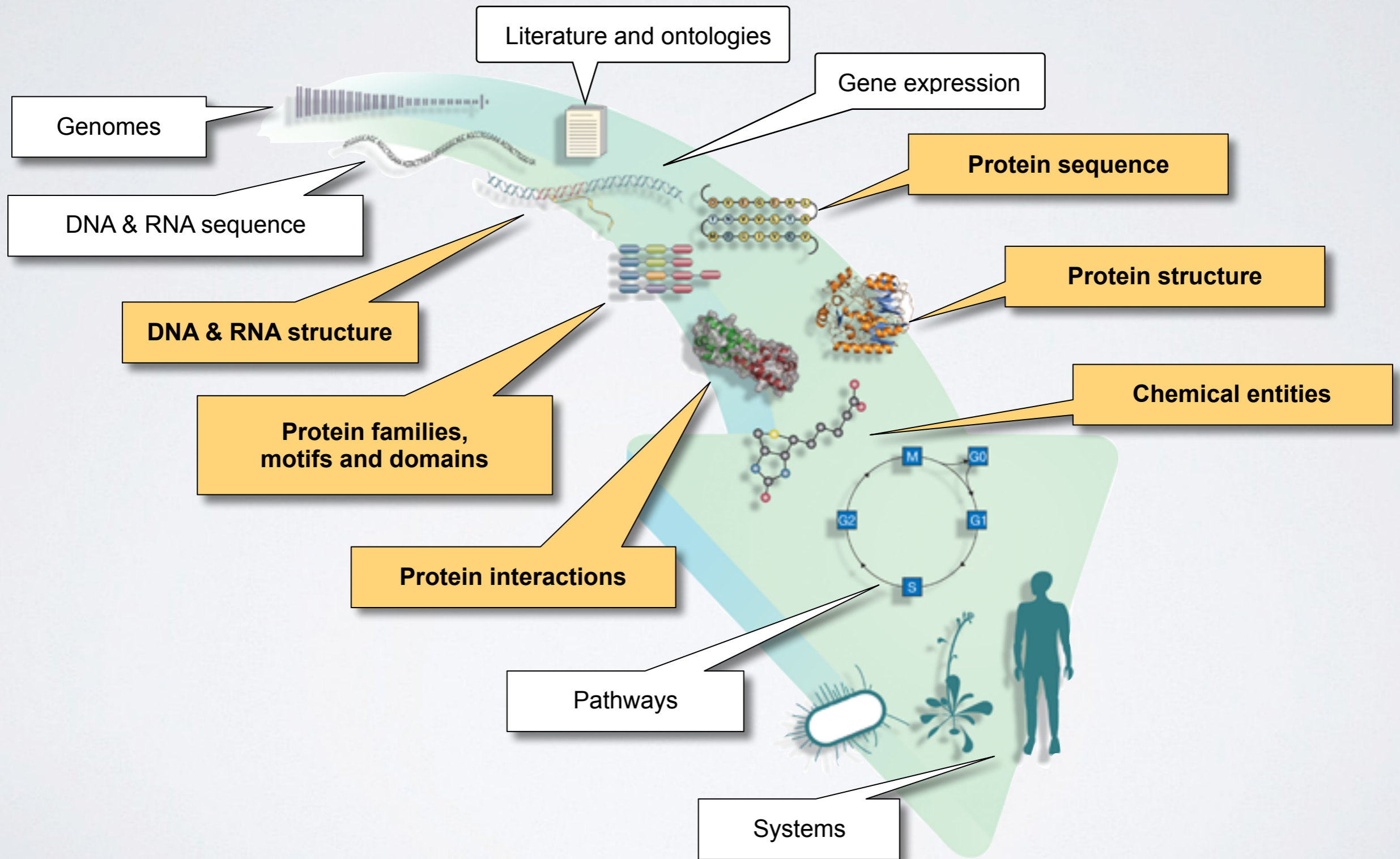
... and because it is only by coiling into **specific 3D structures** that they are able to perform their functions



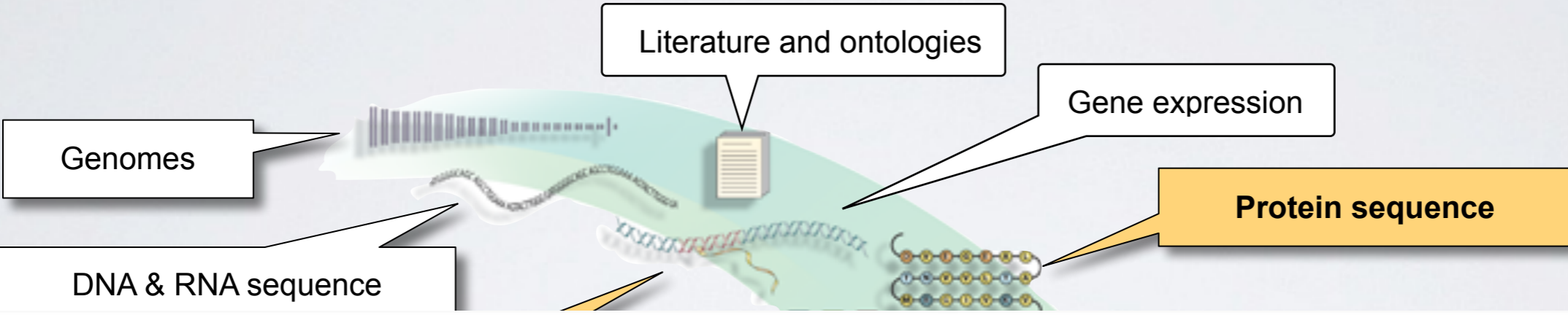
# BIOINFORMATICS DATA



# STRUCTURAL DATA IS CENTRAL



# STRUCTURAL DATA IS CENTRAL



**Sequence > Structure > Function**

DNA & RNA structure

Protein structure

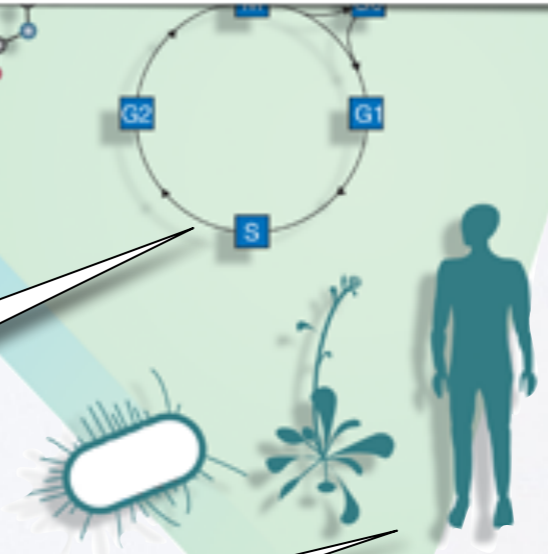
Protein families, motifs and domains

Chemical entities

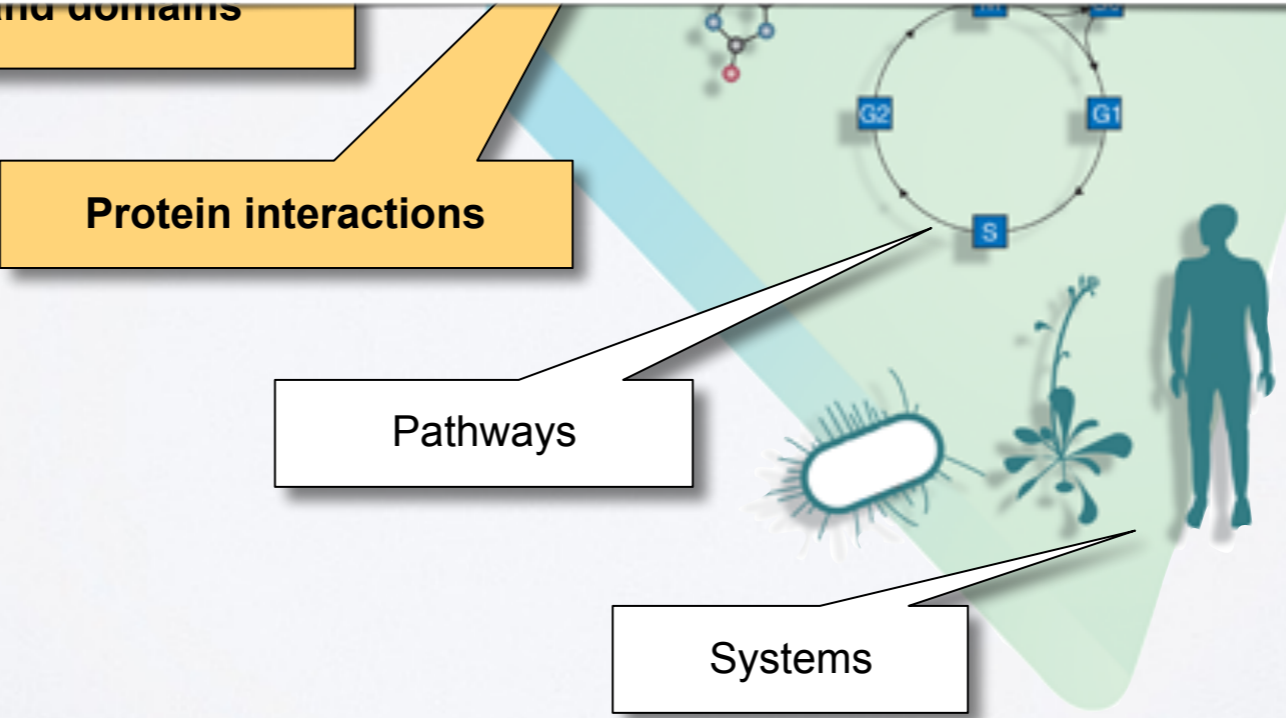
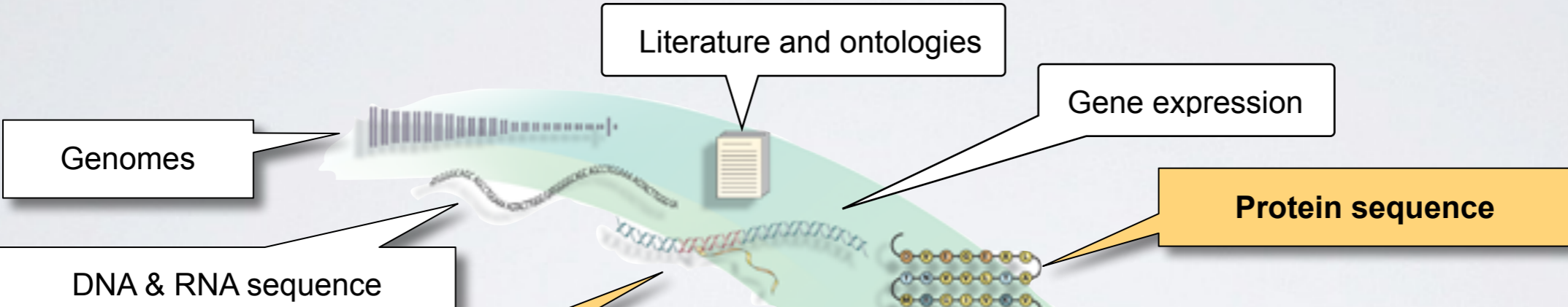
Protein interactions

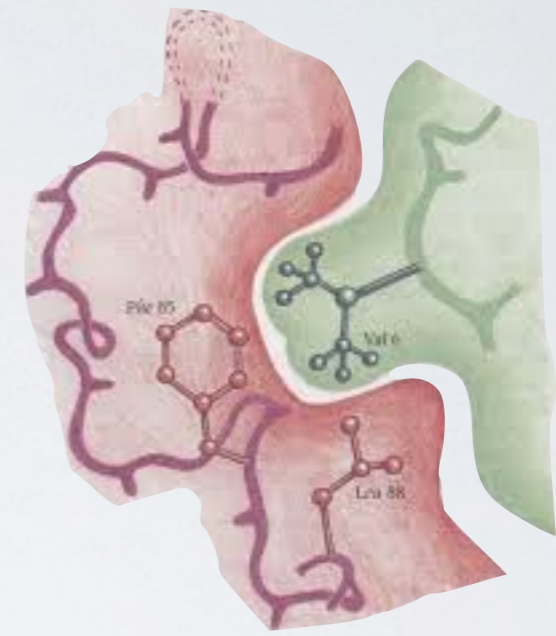
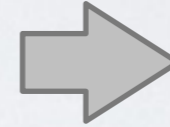
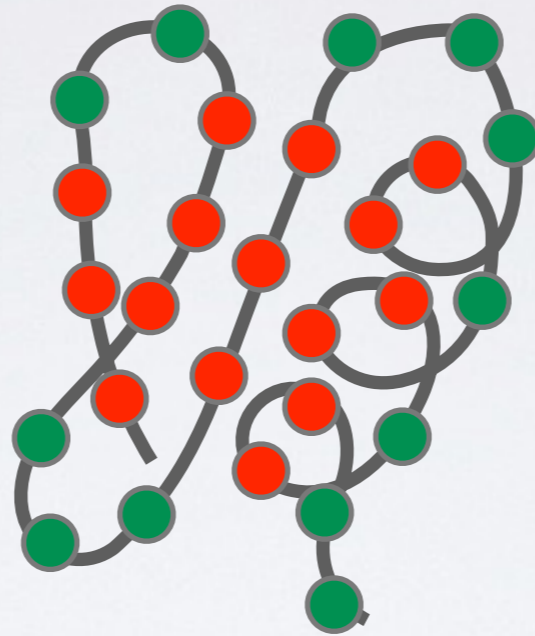
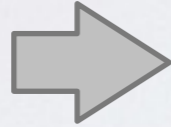
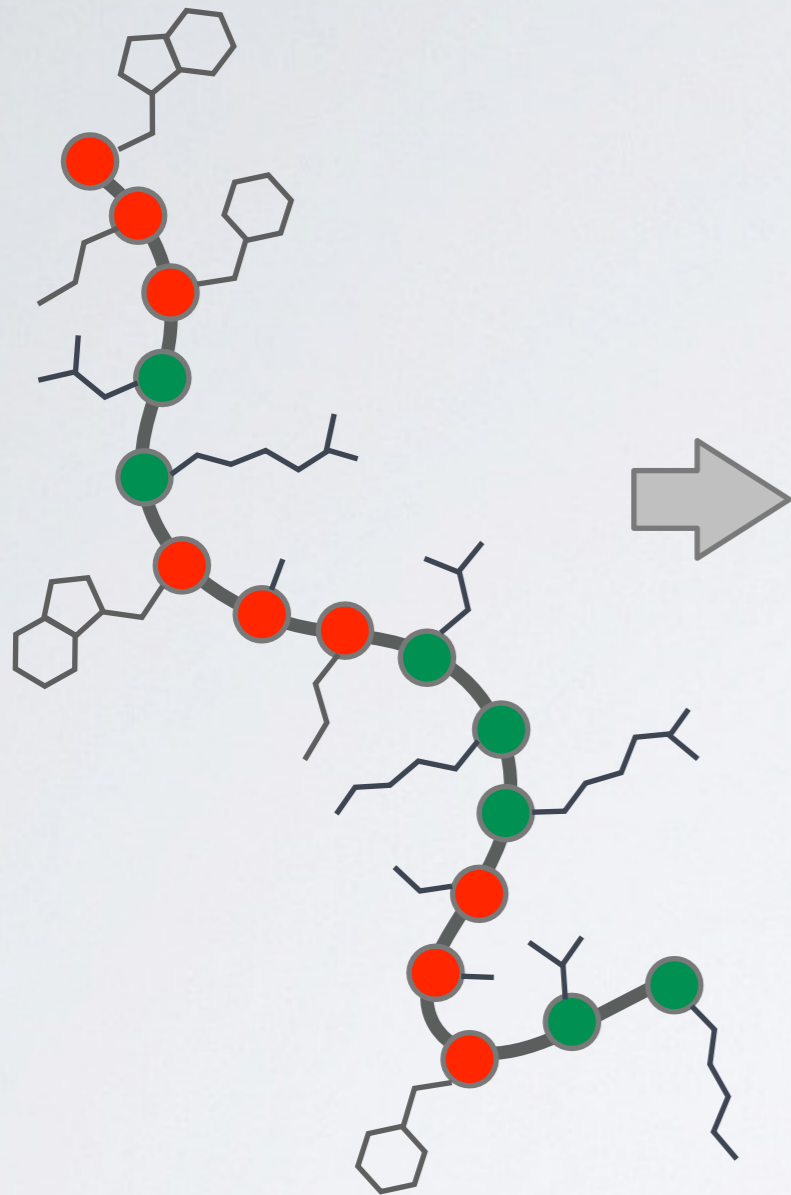
Pathways

Systems



# STRUCTURAL DATA IS CENTRAL





## Sequence

- Unfolded chain of amino acid chain
- Highly mobile
- Inactive

## Structure

- Ordered in a precise 3D arrangement
- Stable but dynamic

## Function

- Active in specific "conformations"
- Specific associations & precise reactions

In daily life, we use machines with functional *structure* and *moving parts*



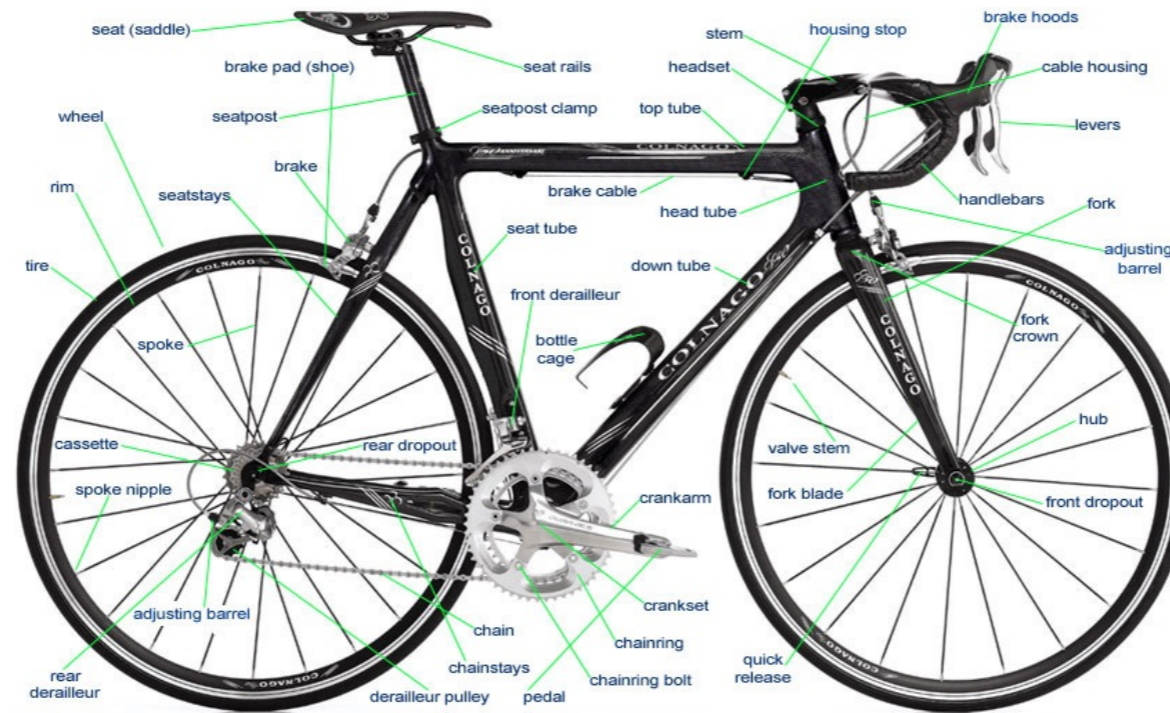
# Genomics is a great start ....

## Track Bike – DL 175

REF. NO.	IBM NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	156011	Track Frame 21", 22", 23", 24", Team Red
2	157040	Fork for 21" Frame
2	157039	Fork for 22" Frame
2	157038	Fork for 23" Frame
2	157037	Fork for 24" Frame
3	191202	Handlebar TTT Competition Track Alloy 15/16"
4		Handlebar Stem, TTT, Specify extension
5	191278	Expander Bolt
6	191272	Clamp Bolt
7	145841	Headset Complete 1 x 24 BSC
8	145842	Ball Bearings
9	190420	175 Raleigh Pistard Seta Tubular Prestavalve 27"
10	190233	Rim, 27" AVA Competition (36H) Alloy Prestavalve
11	145973	Hub, Large Flange Campagnolo Pista Track Alloy (pairs)
12	190014	Spokes, 11 5/8"
13	145837	Sleeve
14	145636	Ball Bearings
15	145170	Bottom Bracket Axle
16	145838	Cone for Sleeve
17	146473	L.H. Adjustable Cup
18	145833	Lockring
19	145239	Straps for Toe Clips
20	145834	Fixing Bolt
21	145835	Fixing Washer
22	145822	Dustcap
23	145823	R.H. and L.H. Crankset with Chainwheel
24	146472	Fixed Cup
25	145235	Toe Clips, Christophe, Chrome (Medium)
26	145684	Pedals, Extra Light, Pairs
27	123021	Chain
28	145980	Seat Post
29		Seat Post Bolt and Nut
30	167002	Saddle, Brooks
31	145933	Track Sprocket, Specify 12, 13, 14, 15, or 16 T.

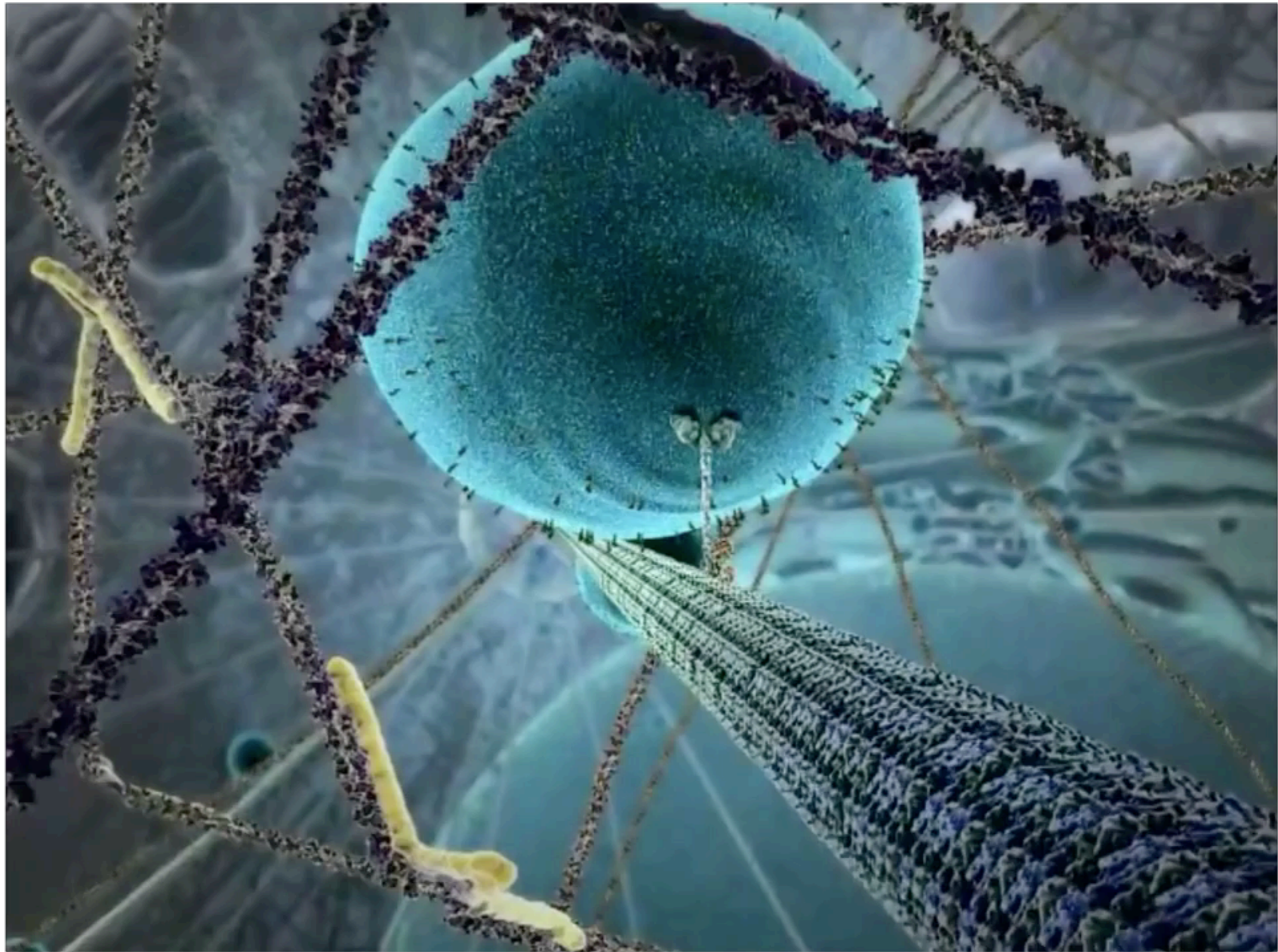
- But a parts list is not enough to understand how a bicycle works

# ... but not the end

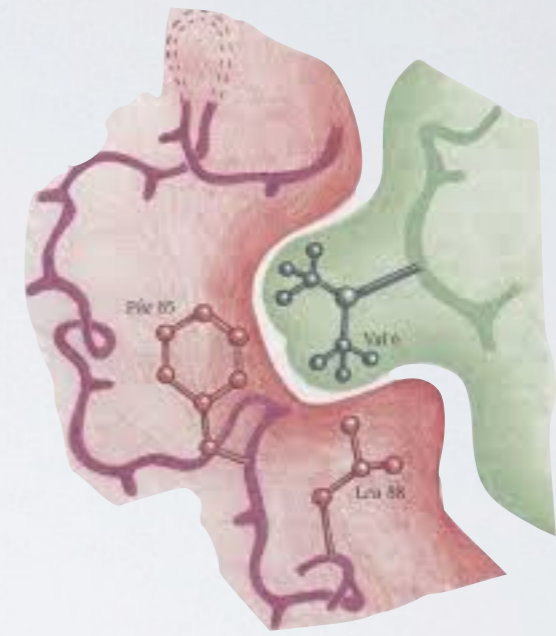
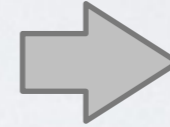
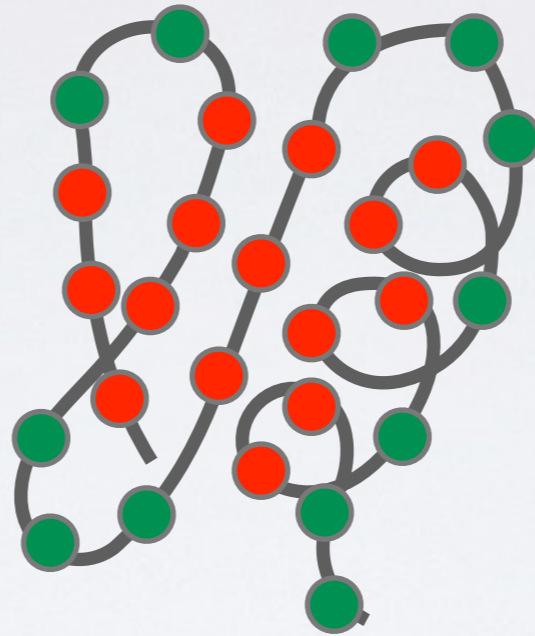
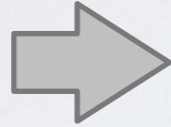
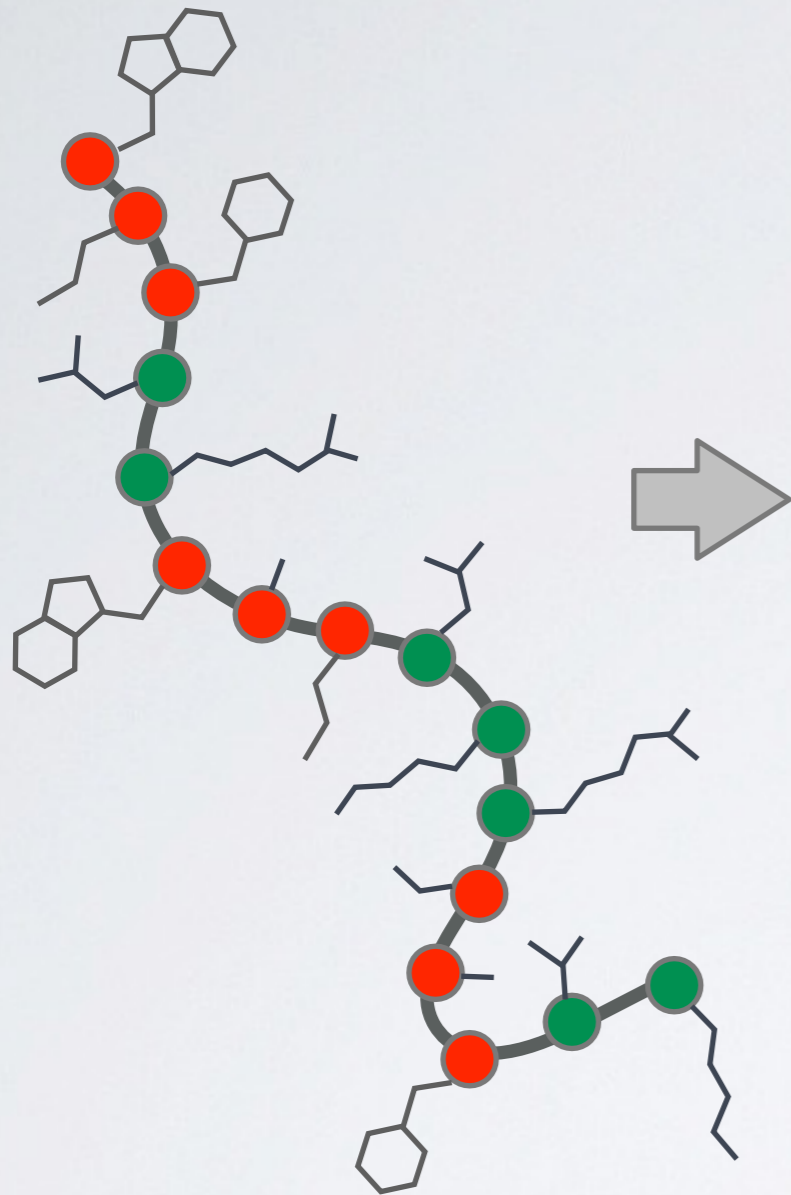


- We want the full spatiotemporal picture, and an ability to control it
- Broad applications, including drug design, medical diagnostics, chemical manufacturing, and energy





Extracted from The Inner Life of a Cell by Cellular Visions and Harvard  
[YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-uuk4Pr2i8> ]



## Sequence

- Unfolded chain of amino acid chain
- Highly mobile
- Inactive

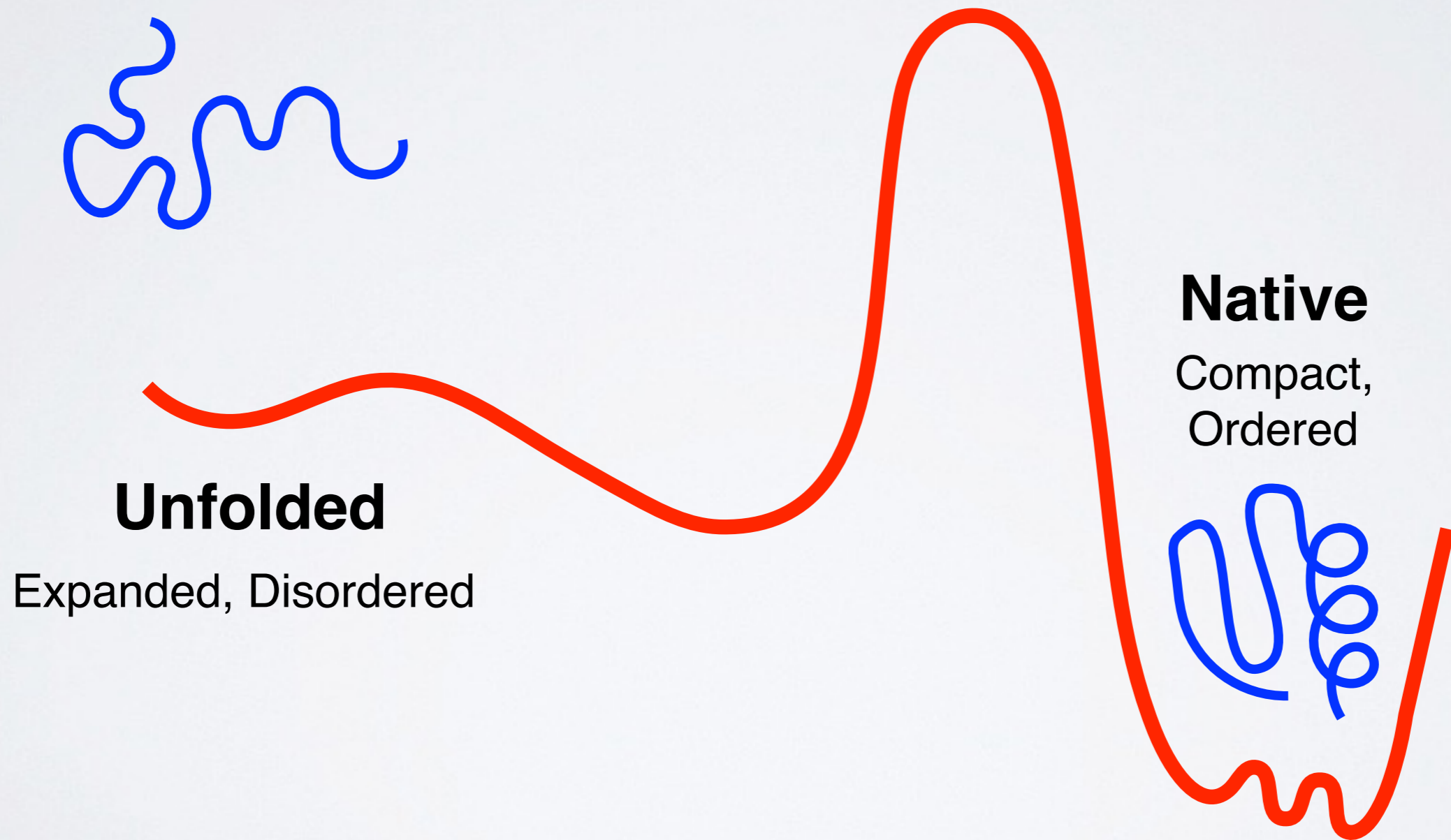
## Structure

- Ordered in a precise 3D arrangement
- Stable but dynamic

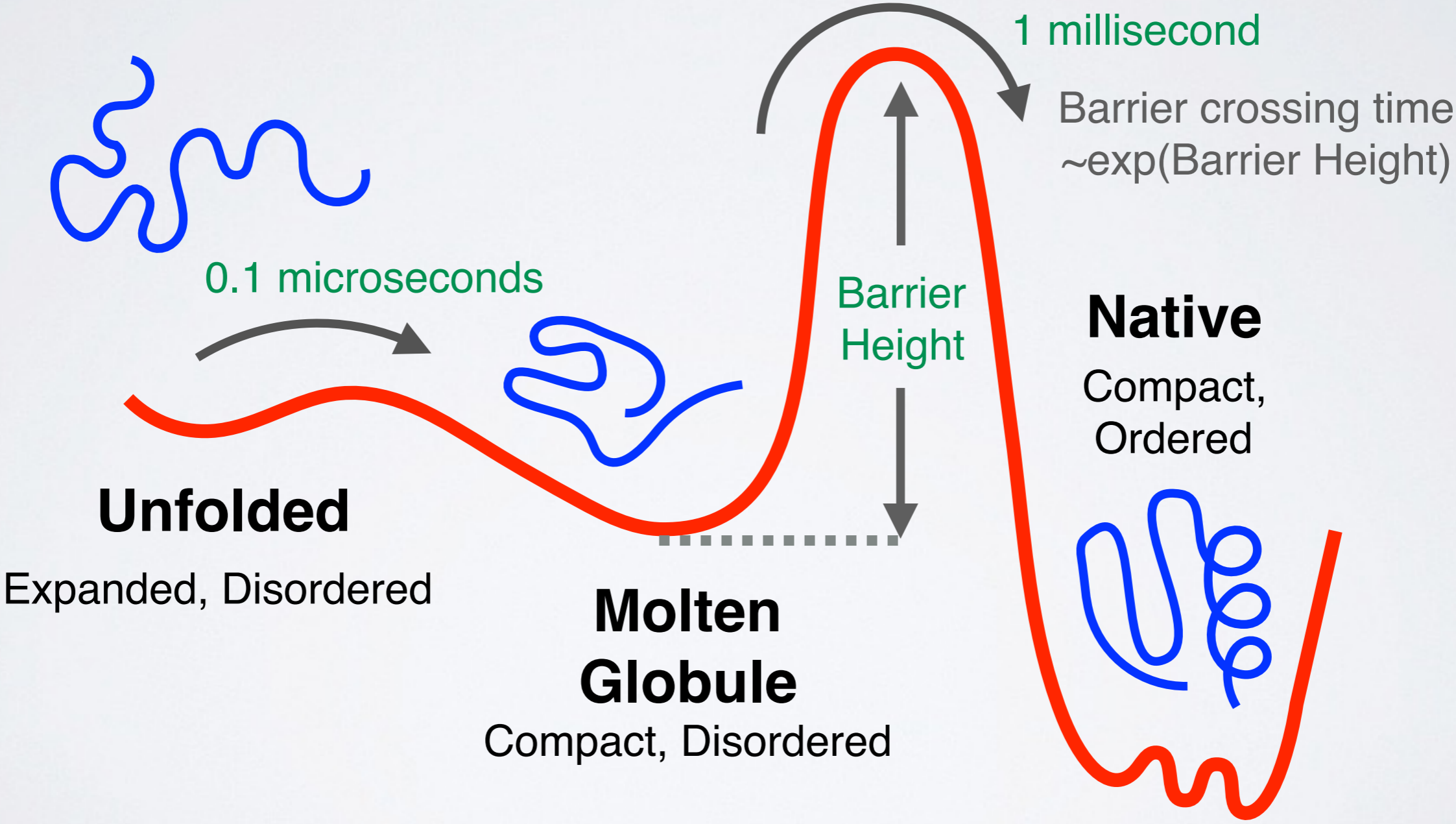
## Function

- Active in specific "conformations"
- Specific associations & precise reactions

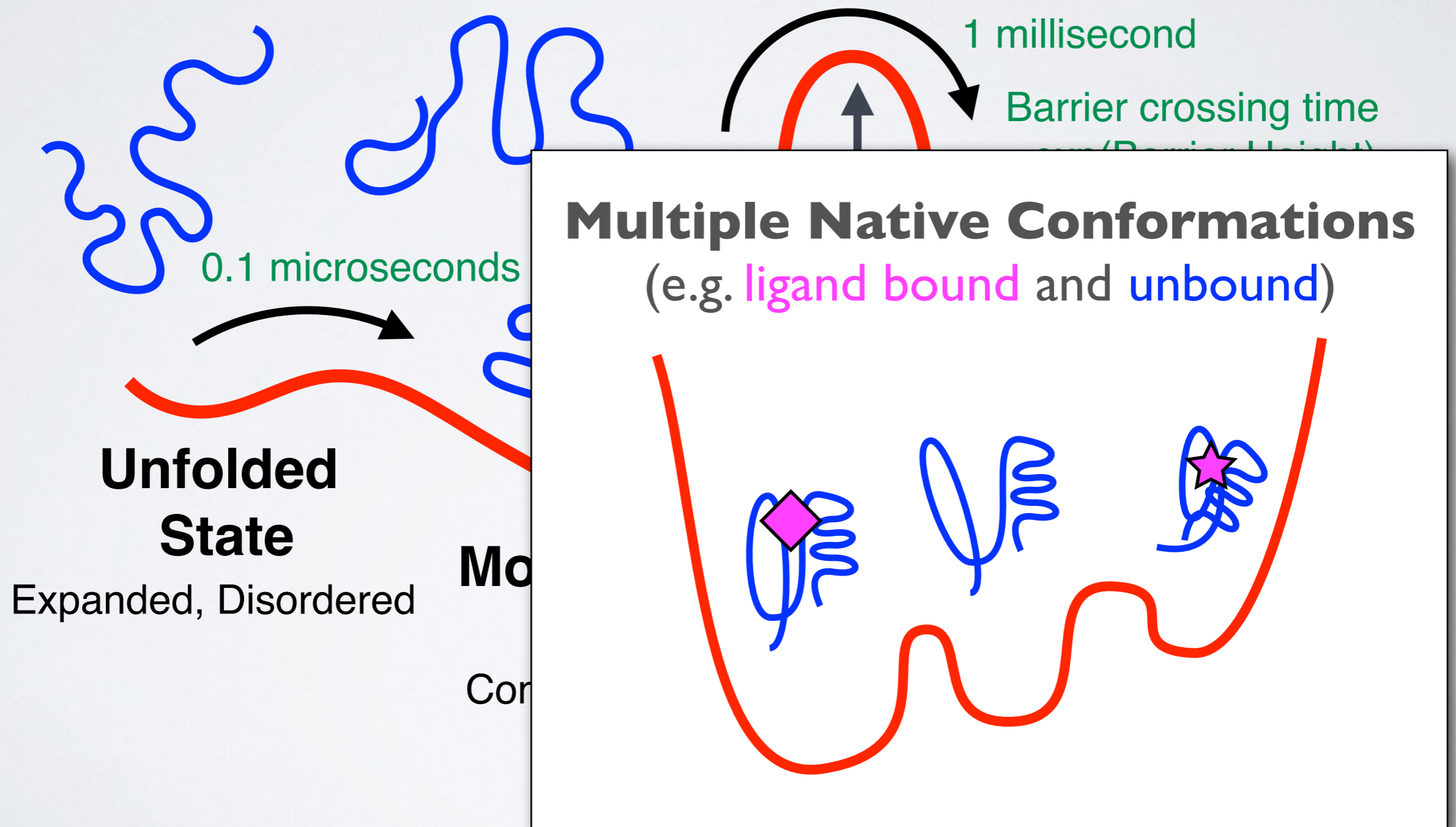
# KEY CONCEPT: ENERGY LANDSCAPE



# KEY CONCEPT: ENERGY LANDSCAPE



# KEY CONCEPT: ENERGY LANDSCAPE



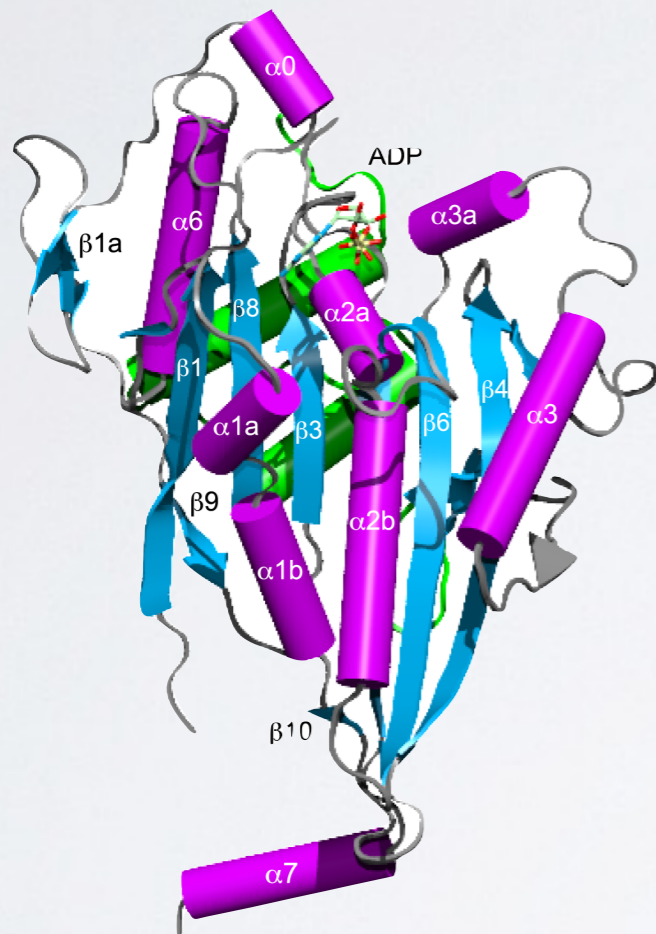
# Today's Menu

- **Overview of structural bioinformatics**
  - Motivations, goals and challenges
- **Fundamentals of protein structure**
  - Structure composition, form and forces
- **Representing, interpreting & modeling protein structure**
  - Visualizing & interpreting protein structures
  - Analyzing protein structures
  - Modeling energy as a function of structure

# Today's Menu

- **Overview of structural bioinformatics**
  - Motivations, goals and challenges
- **Fundamentals of protein structure**
  - Structure composition, form and forces
- **Representing, interpreting & modeling protein structure**
  - Visualizing & interpreting protein structures
  - Analyzing protein structures
  - Modeling energy as a function of structure

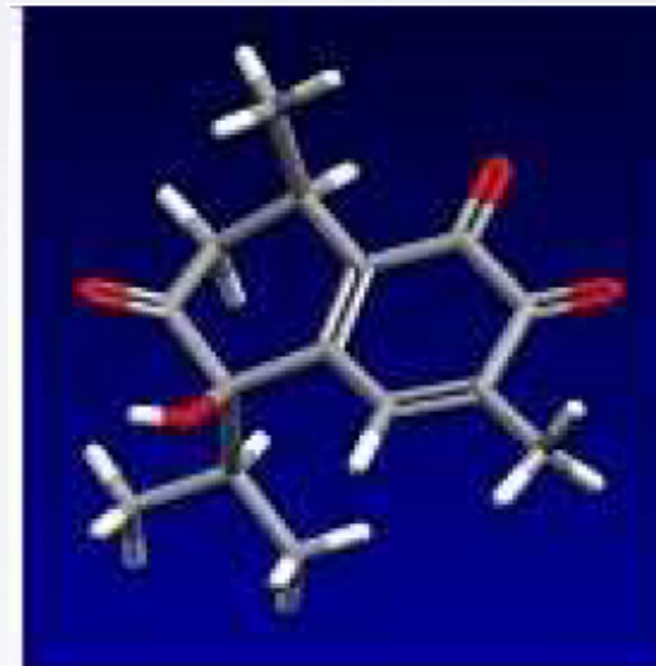
TRADITIONAL FOCUS **PROTEIN, DNA**  
AND **SMALL MOLECULE** DATA SETS  
WITH **MOLECULAR STRUCTURE**



Protein  
(PDB)



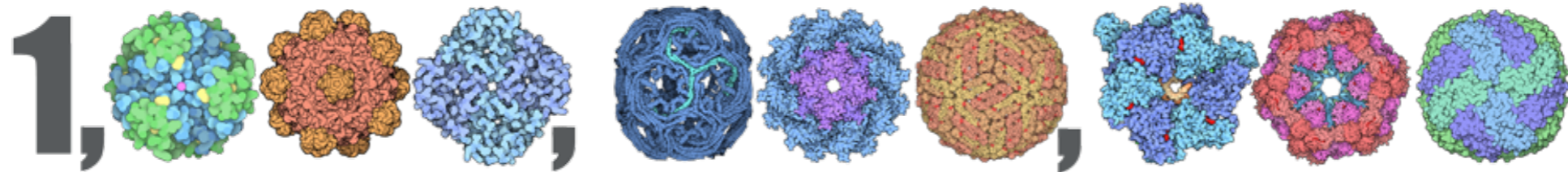
DNA  
(NDB)



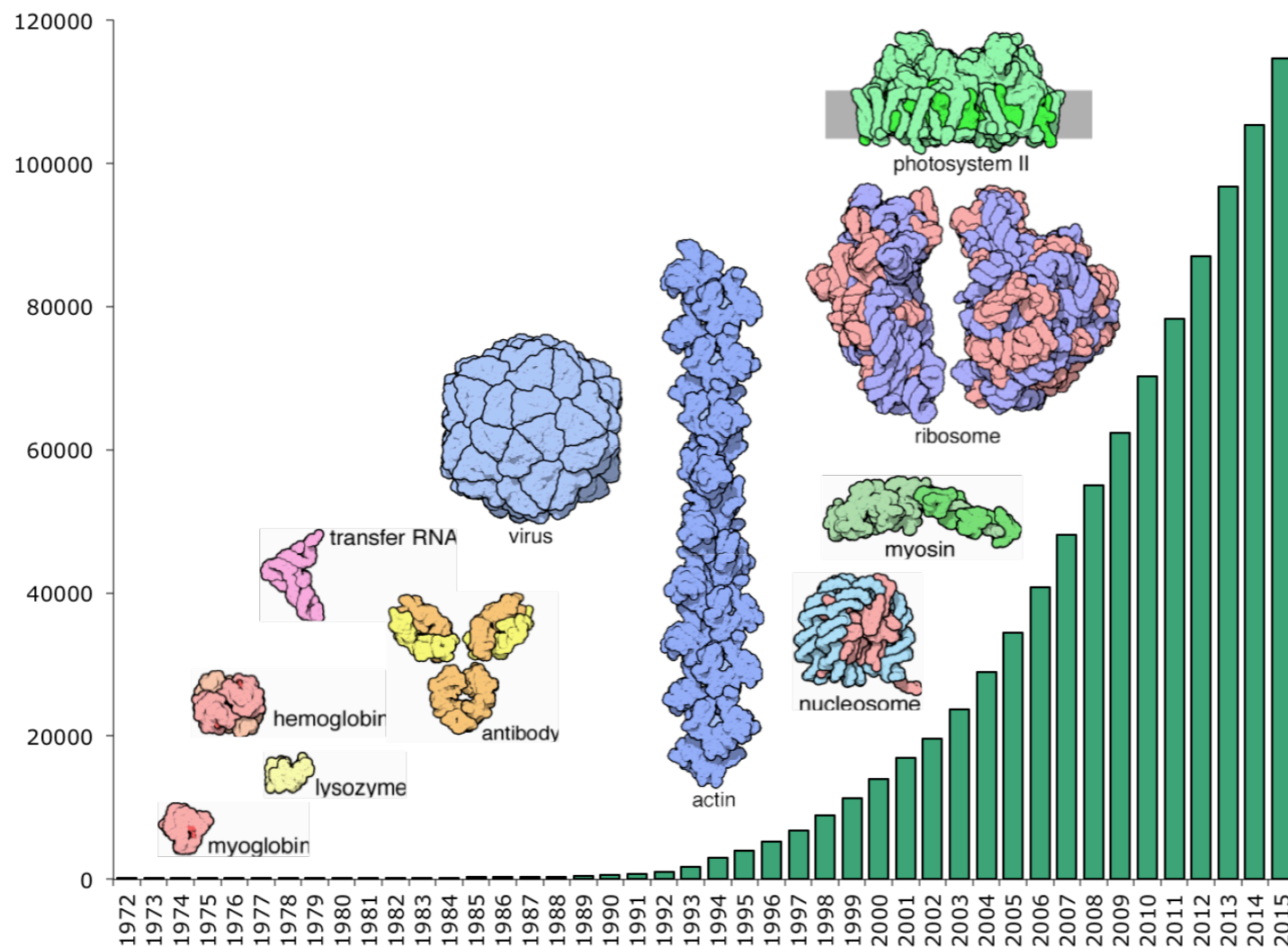
Small Molecules  
(CCDB)



# PDB – A Billion Atom Archive



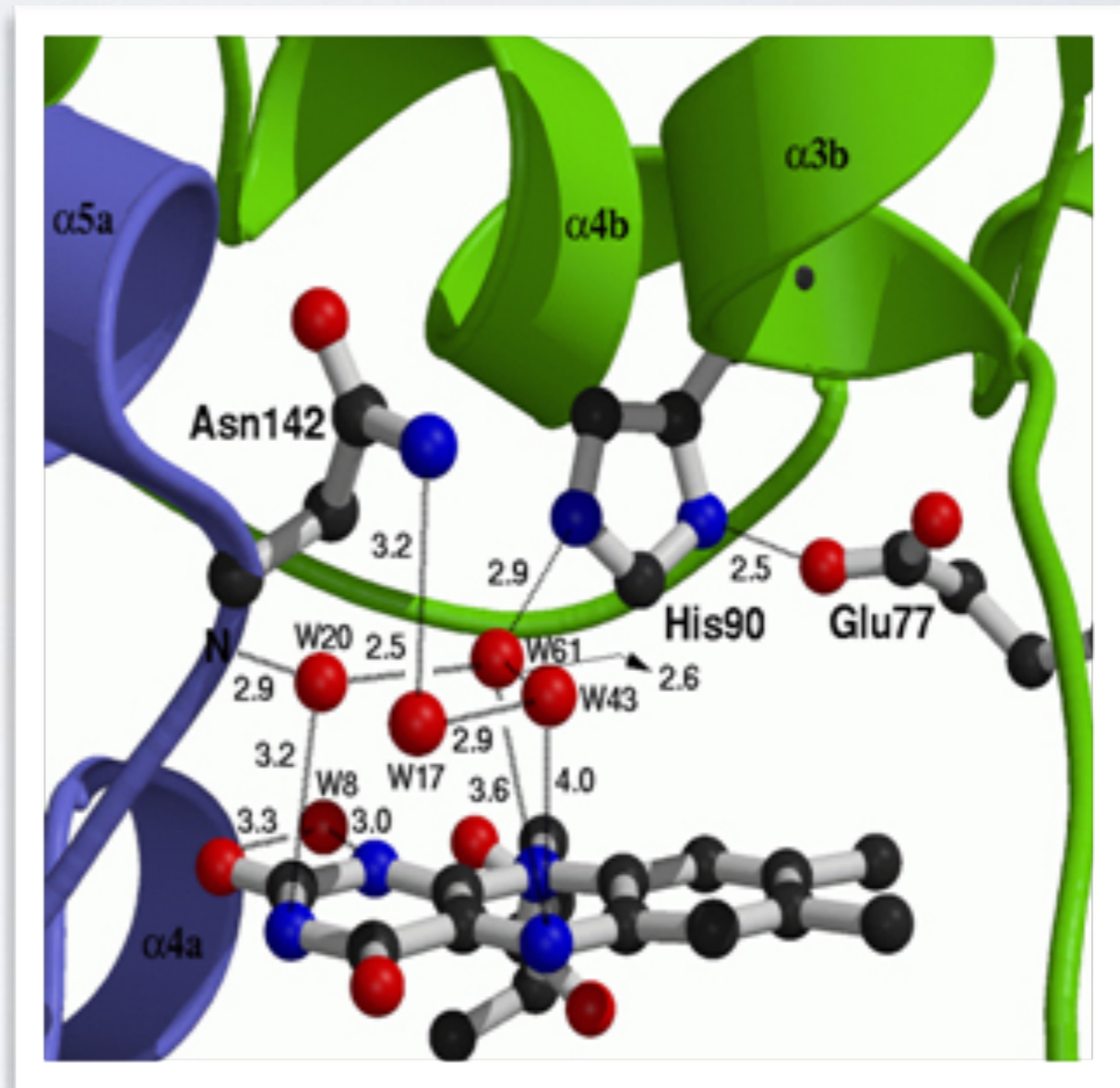
*> 1 billion atoms in the asymmetric units*



~146,000  
Structures as  
of Nov 2018

**Motivation 1:**  
Detailed understanding of  
molecular interactions

Provides an invaluable structural  
context for conservation and  
mechanistic analysis leading to  
functional insight.



**Motivation 1:**  
Detailed understanding of  
molecular interactions

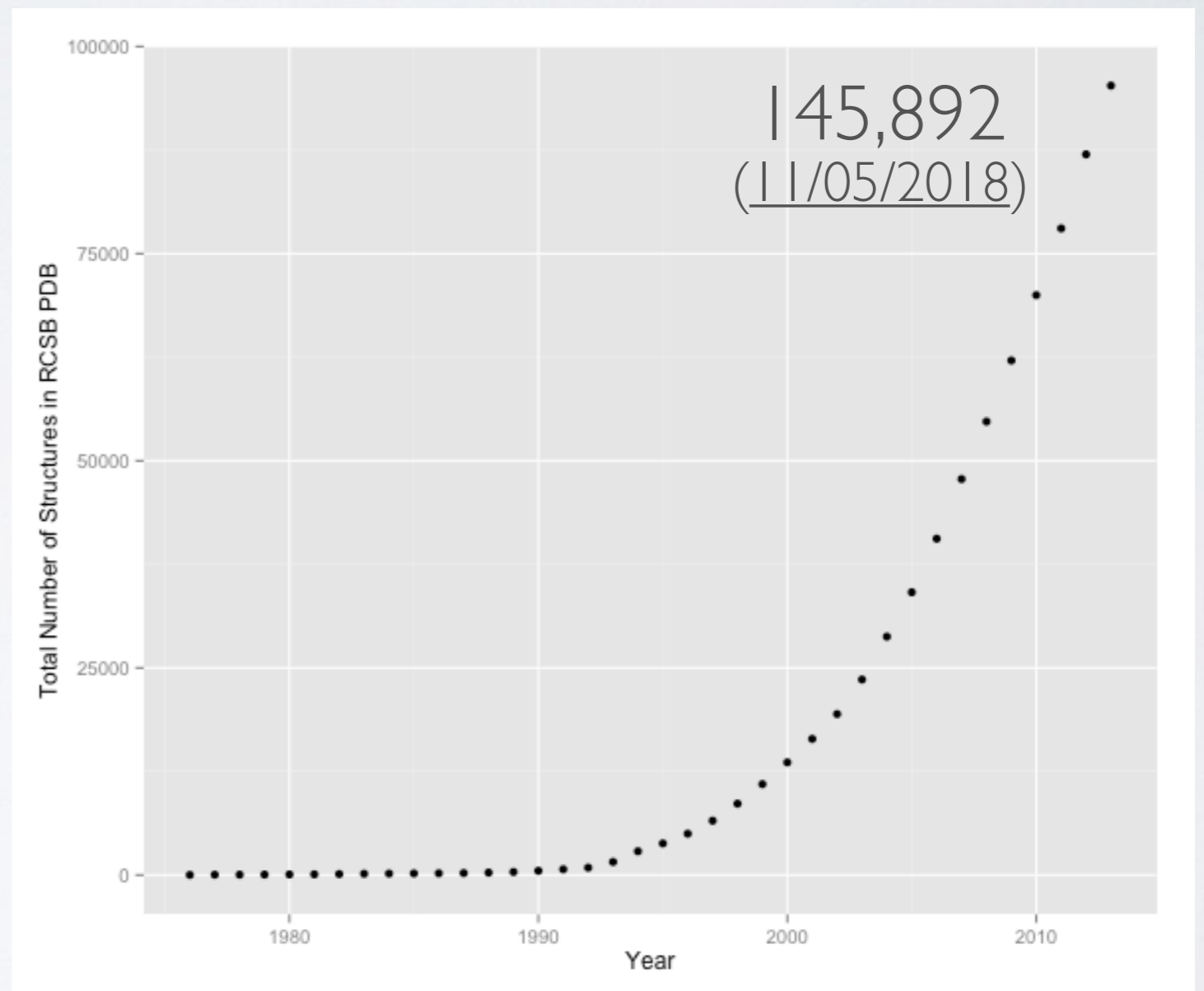
Computational modeling can  
provide detailed insight into  
functional interactions, their  
regulation and potential  
consequences of perturbation.



## Motivation 2:

Lots of structural data is becoming available

Structural Genomics has contributed to driving down the cost and time required for structural determination



Data from: <https://www.rcsb.org/stats/>

## Motivation 2:

Lots of structural data is becoming available

Structural Genomics has contributed to driving down the cost and time required for structural determination

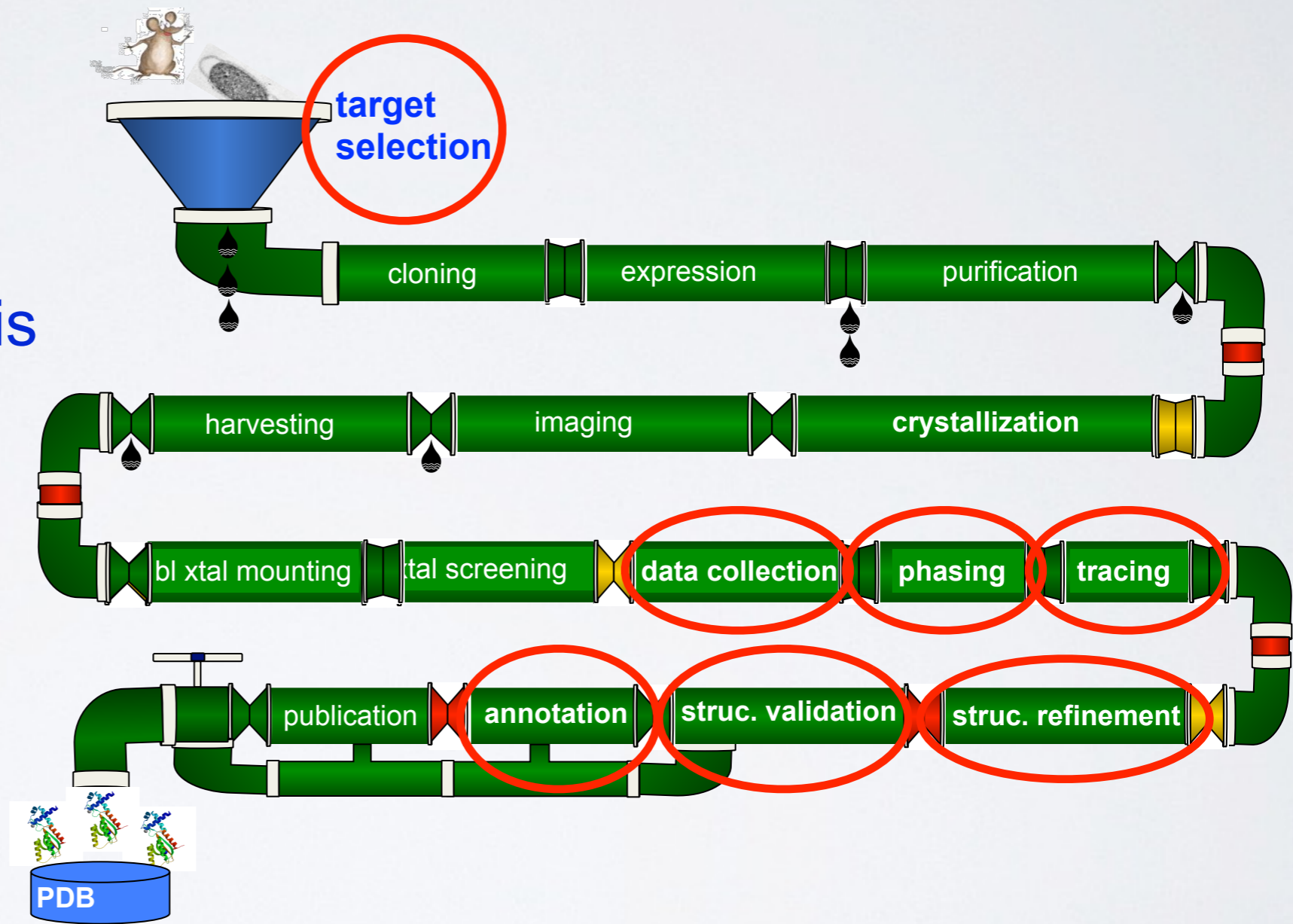
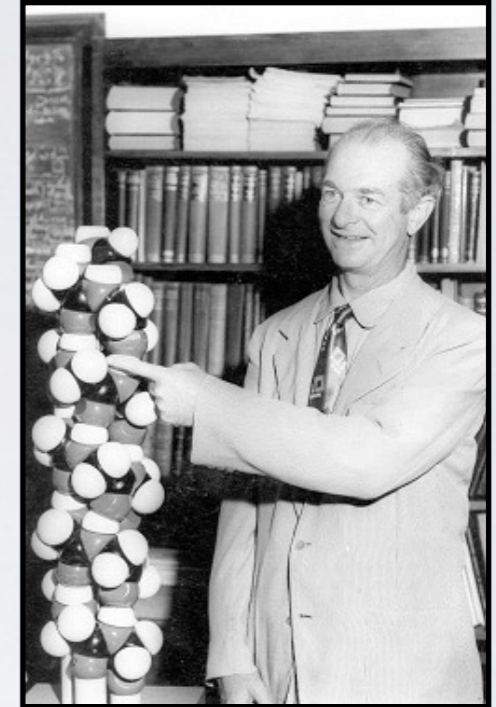
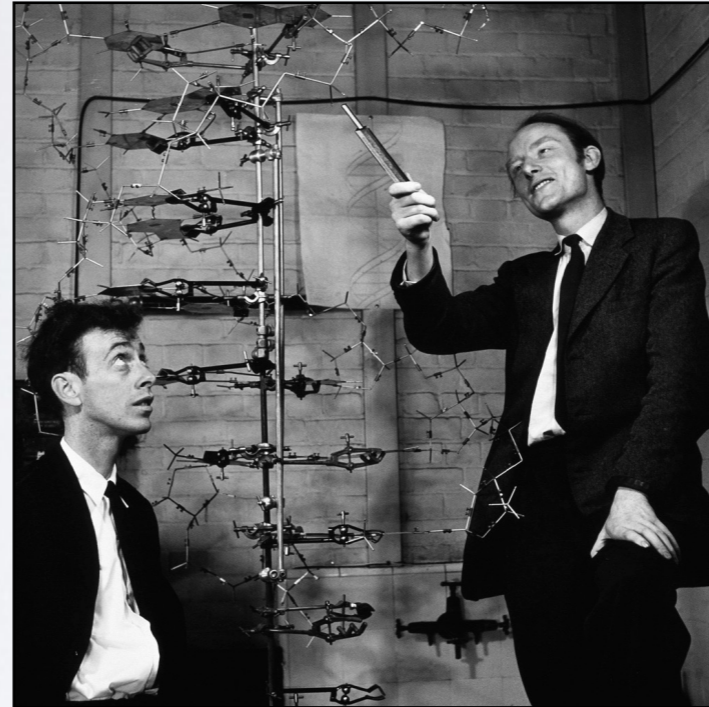


Image Credit: "Structure determination assembly line" Adam Godzik



**Motivation 3:**  
Theoretical and  
computational predictions  
have been, and continue  
to be, enormously  
valuable and influential!



# SUMMARY OF KEY **MOTIVATIONS**

## **Sequence > Structure > Function**

- Structure determines function, so understanding structure helps our understanding of function

## **Structure is more conserved than sequence**

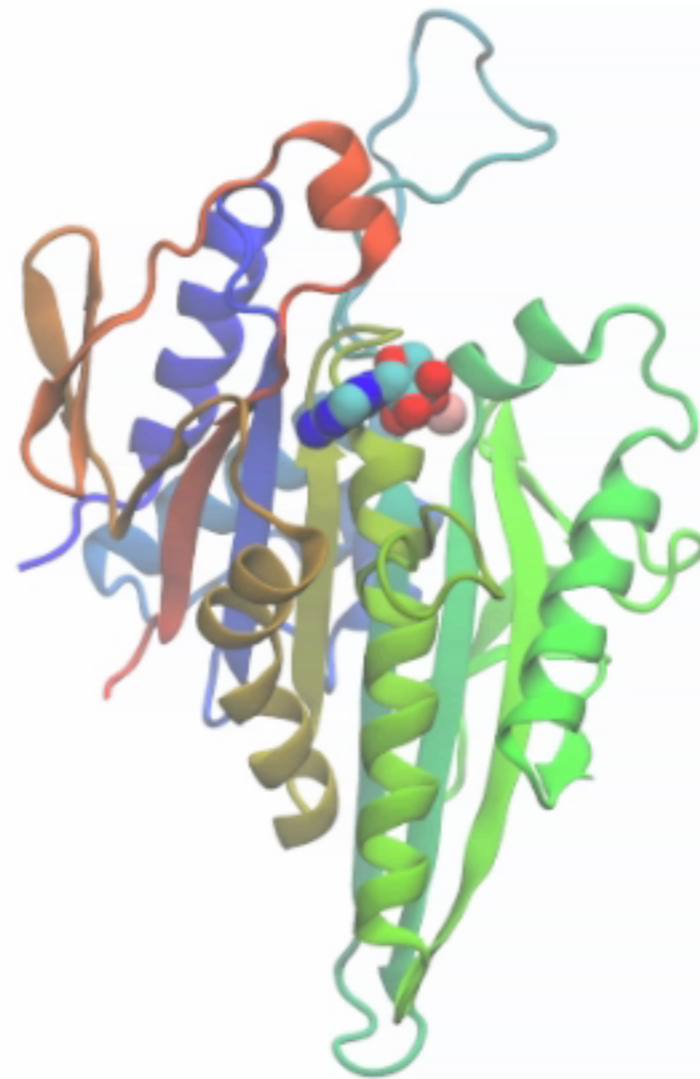
- Structure allows identification of more distant evolutionary relationships

## **Structure is encoded in sequence**

- Understanding the determinants of structure allows design and manipulation of proteins for industrial and medical advantage

## Goals:

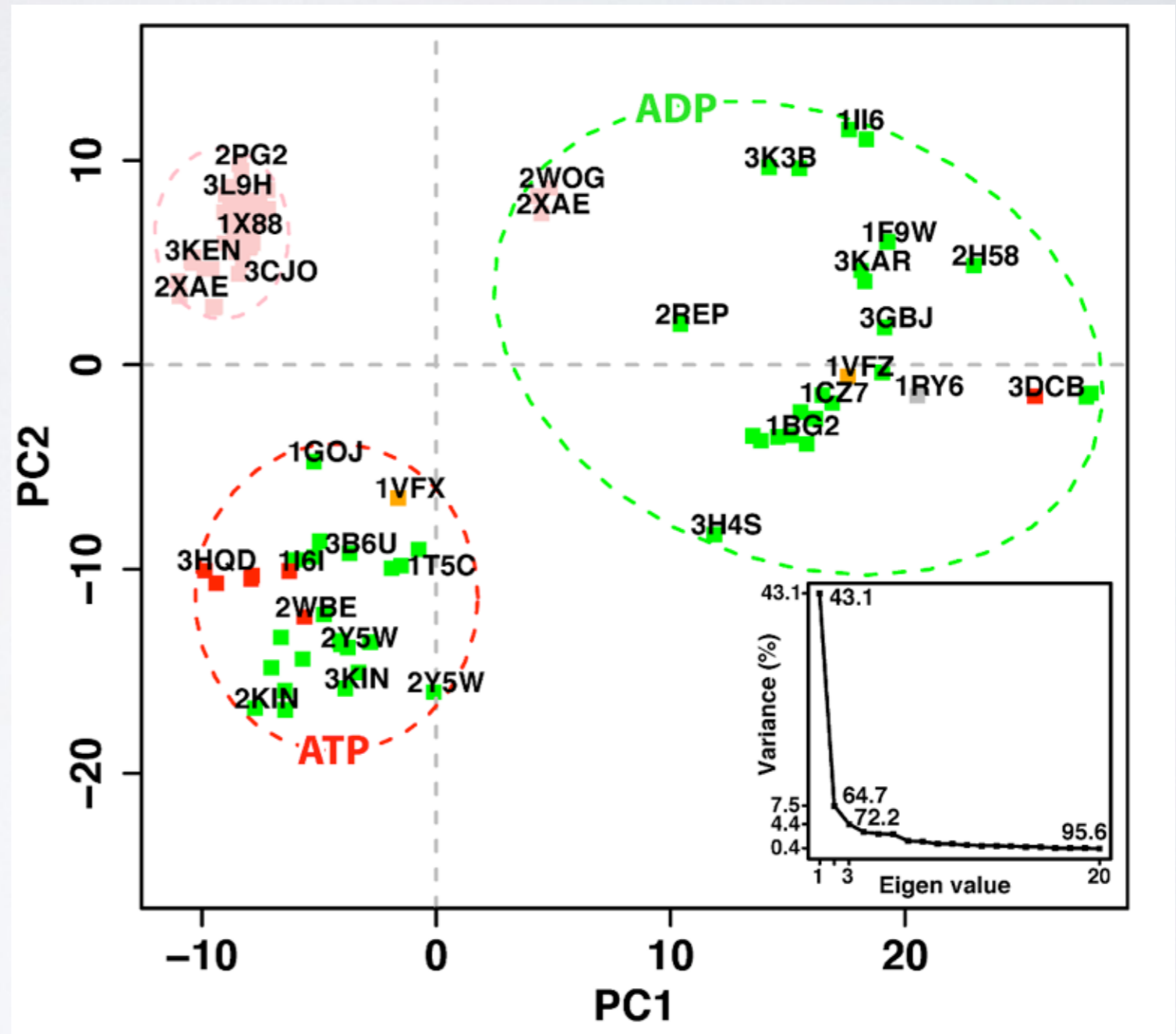
- Visualization
- Analysis
- Comparison
- Prediction
- Design





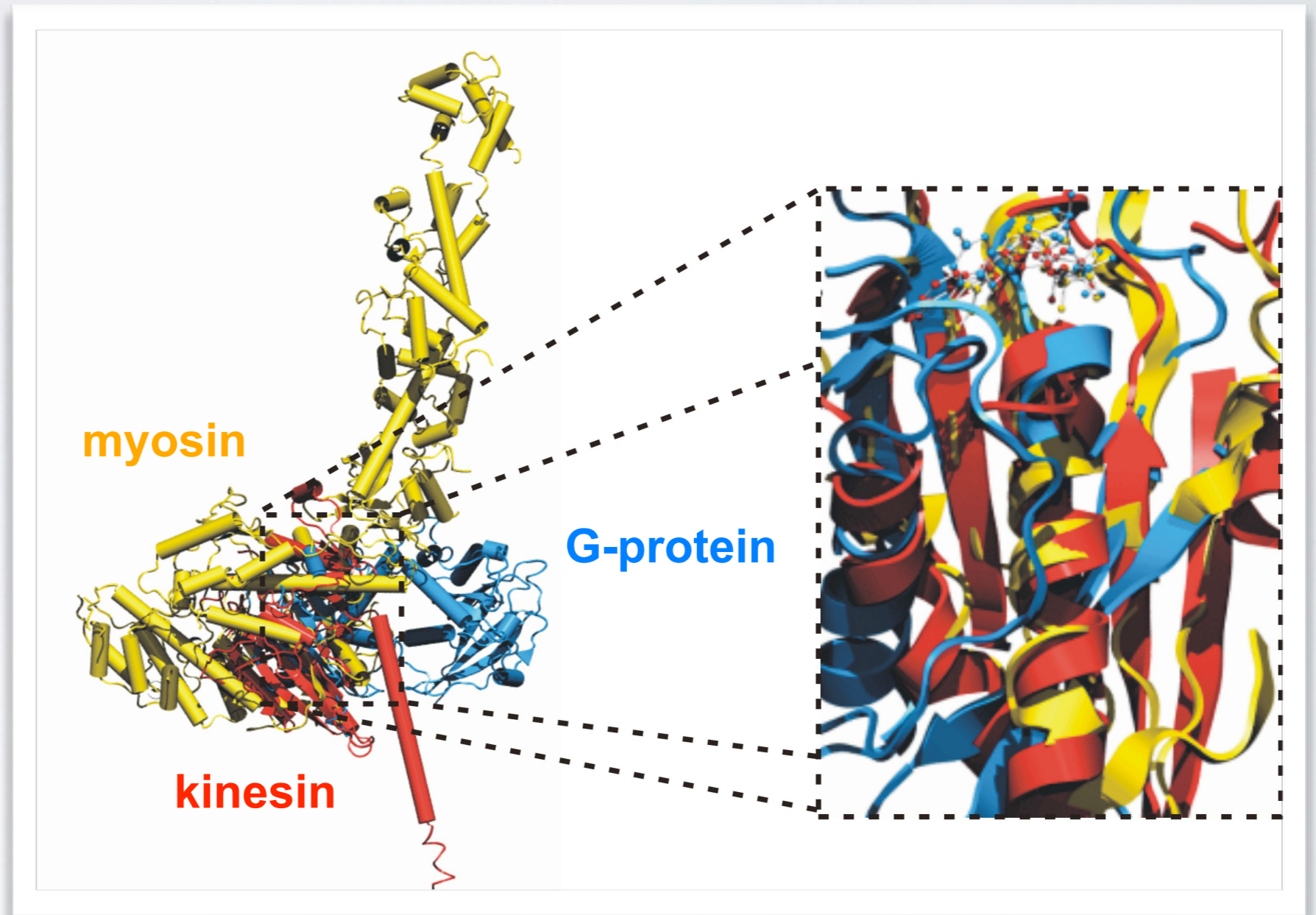
Goals:

- Visualization
- Analysis
- Comparison
- Prediction
- Design



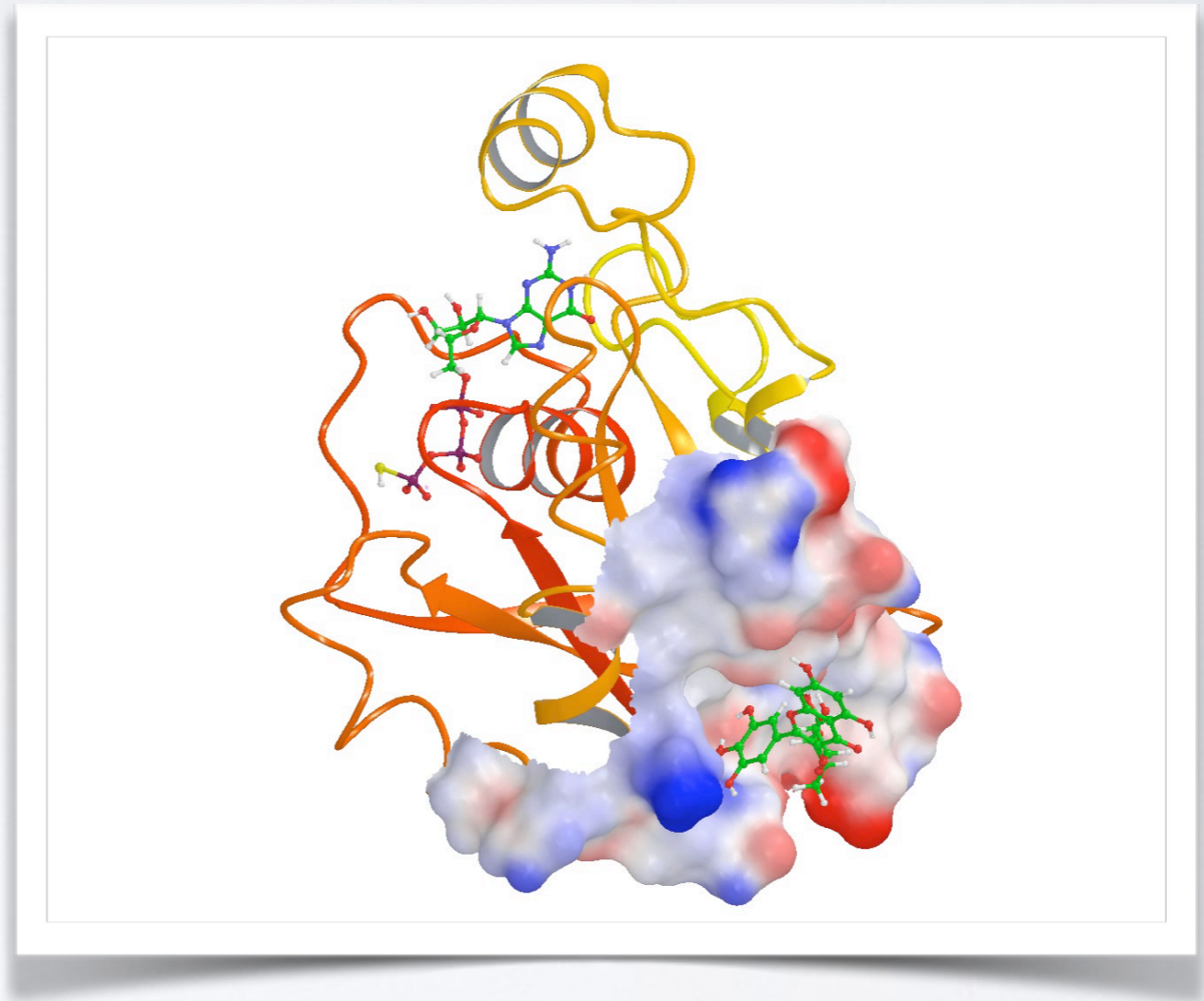
Goals:

- Visualization
- Analysis
- Comparison
- Prediction
- Design



## Goals:

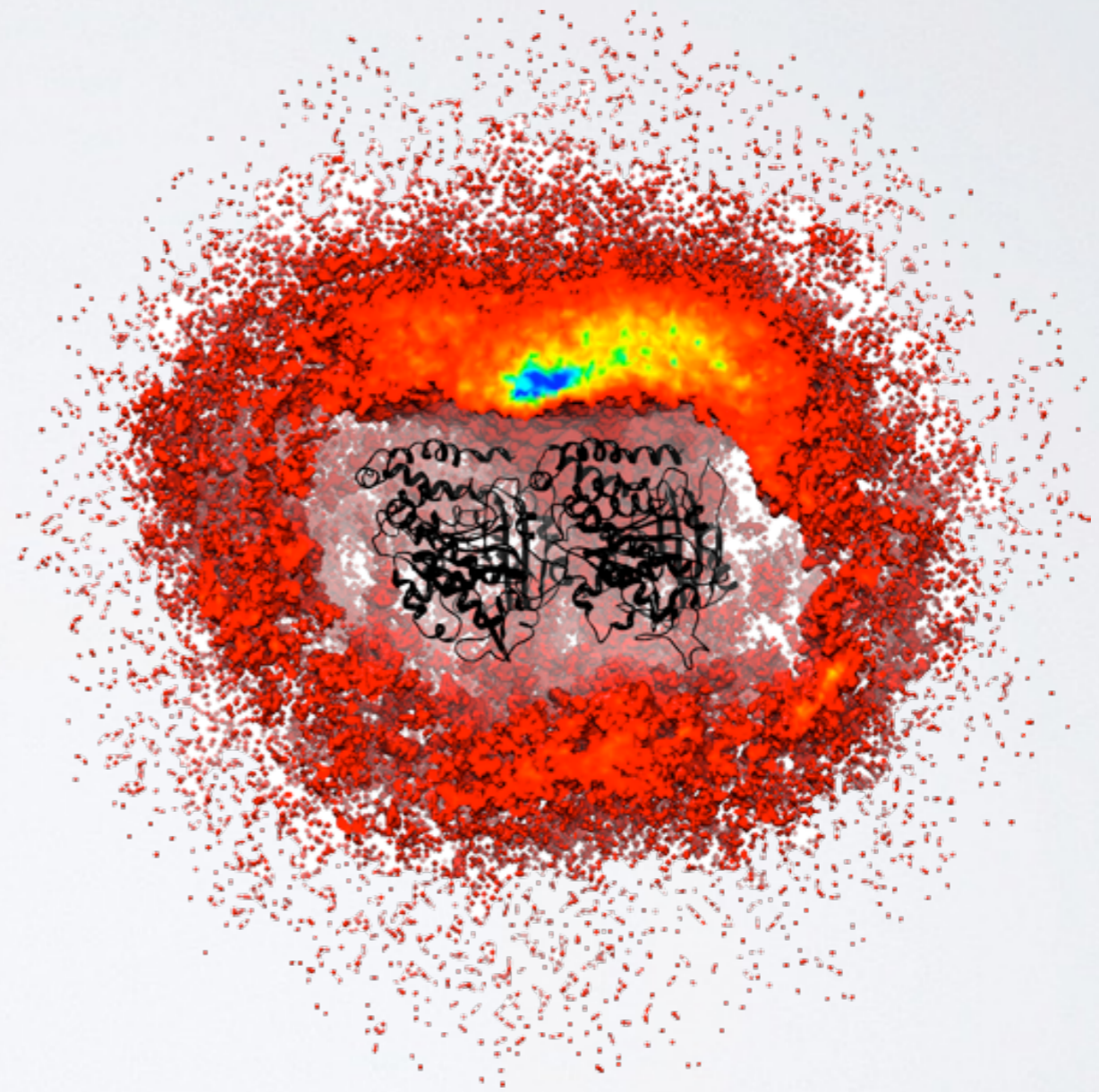
- Visualization
- Analysis
- Comparison
- Prediction
- Design



Grant *et al.* PLoS One (2011, 2012)

## Goals:

- Visualization
- Analysis
- Comparison
- Prediction
- Design



Grant *et al.* PLoS Biology (2011)

# MAJOR RESEARCH AREAS AND CHALLENGES

Include but are not limited to:

- Protein classification
- Structure prediction from sequence
- Binding site detection
- Binding prediction and drug design
- Modeling molecular motions
- Predicting physical properties (stability, binding affinities)
- Design of structure and function
- etc...

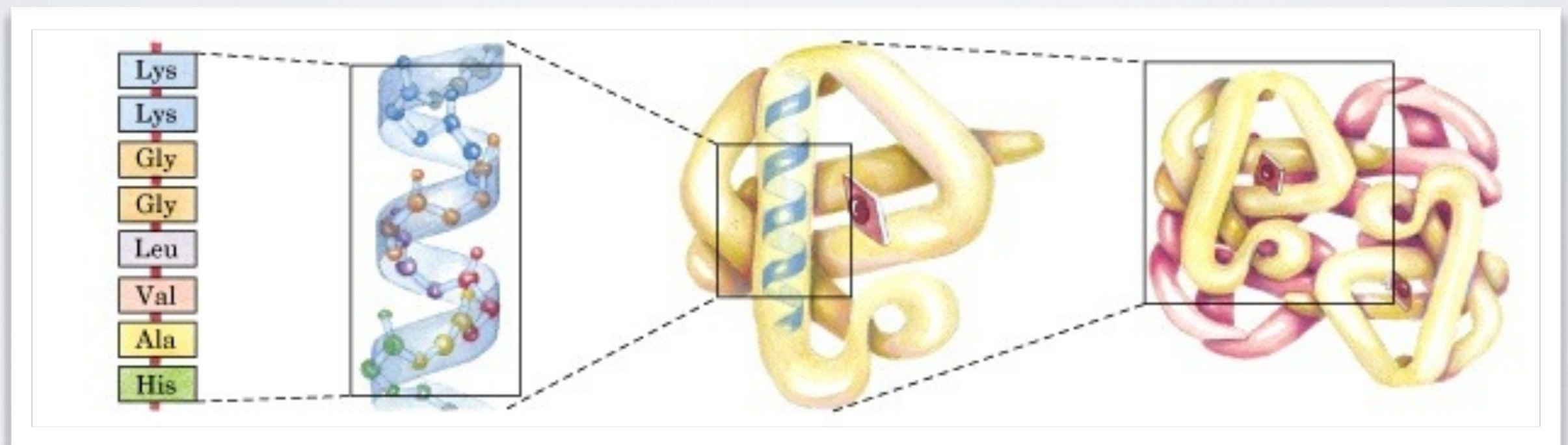
With applications to Biology, Medicine, Agriculture and Industry

# Today's Menu

- **Overview of structural bioinformatics**
  - Motivations, goals and challenges
- **Fundamentals of protein structure**
  - Structure composition, form and forces
- **Representing, interpreting & modeling protein structure**
  - Visualizing & interpreting protein structures
  - Analyzing protein structures
  - Modeling energy as a function of structure

# HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE OF PROTEINS

Primary > Secondary > Tertiary > Quaternary



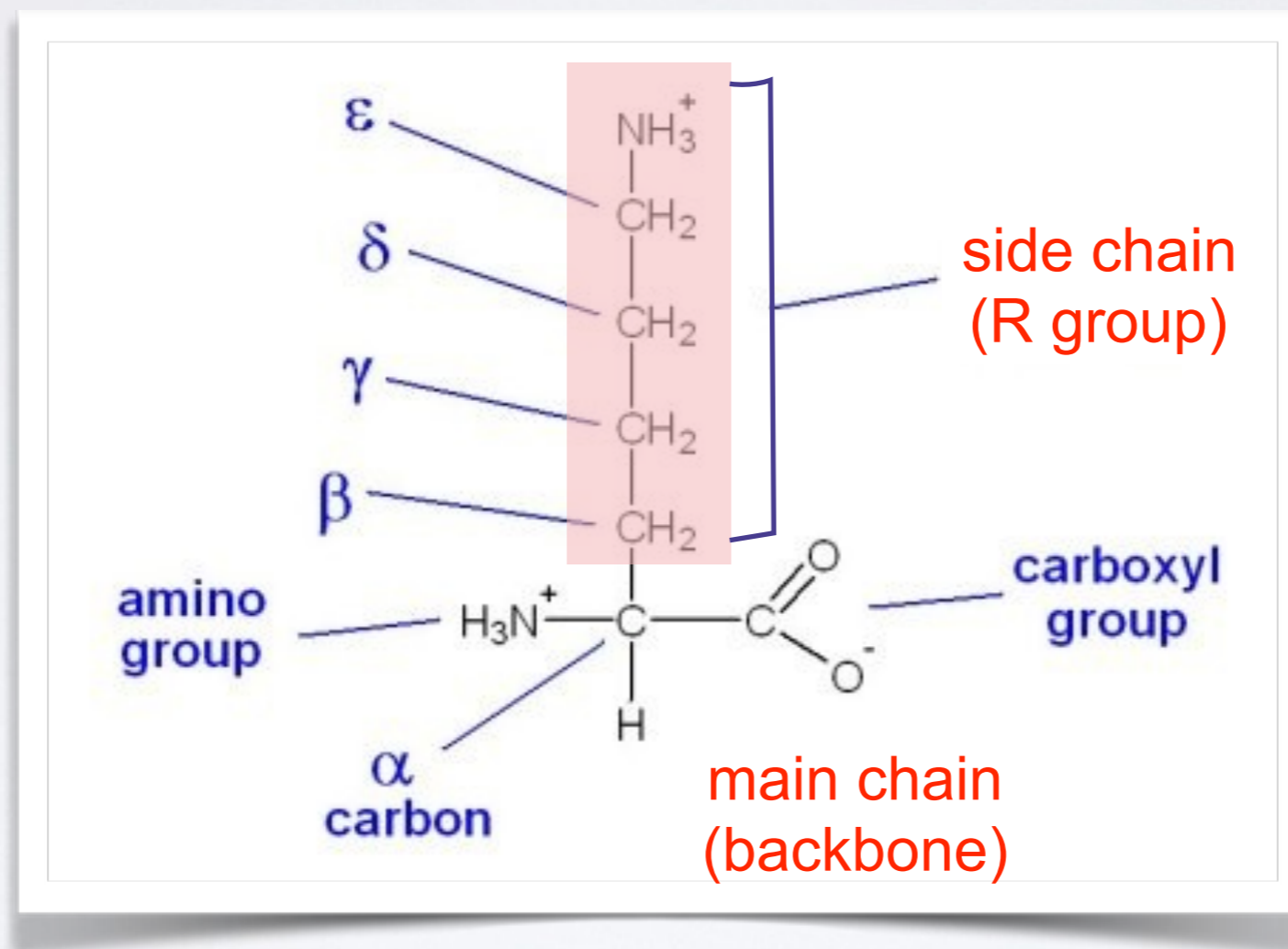
amino acid  
residues

Alpha  
helix

Polypeptide  
chain

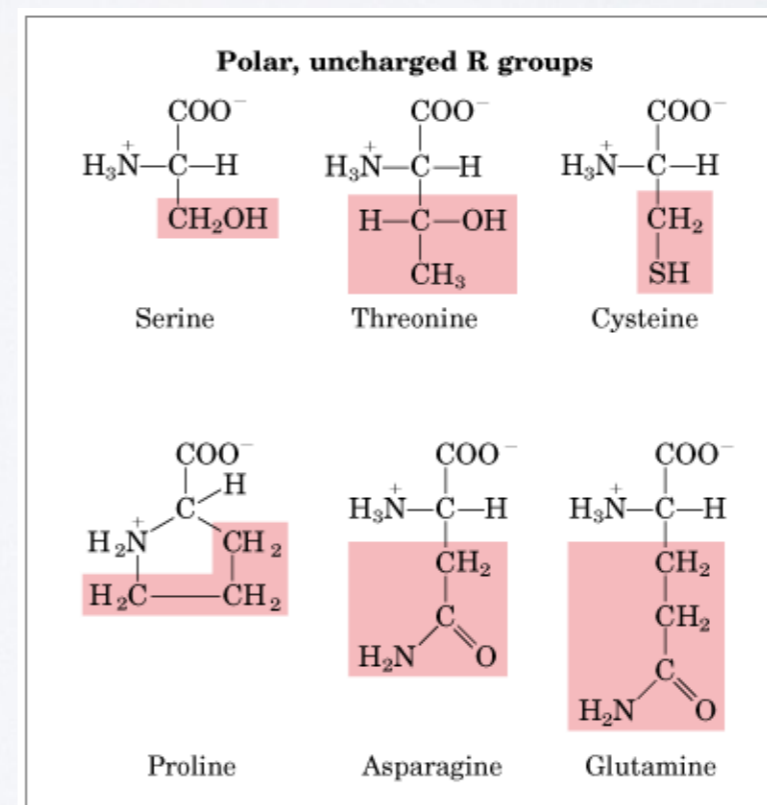
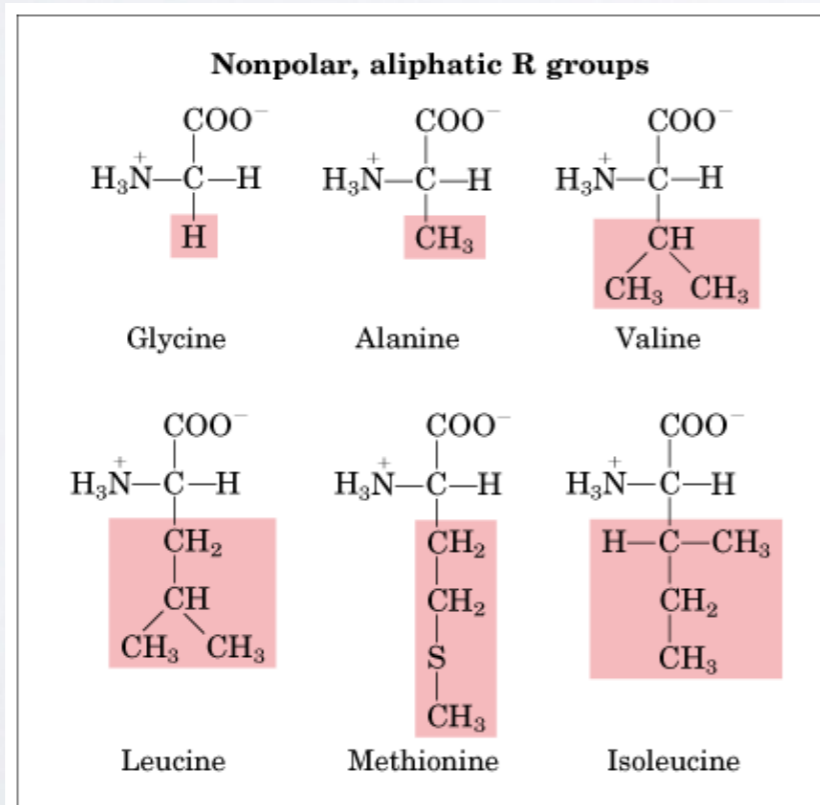
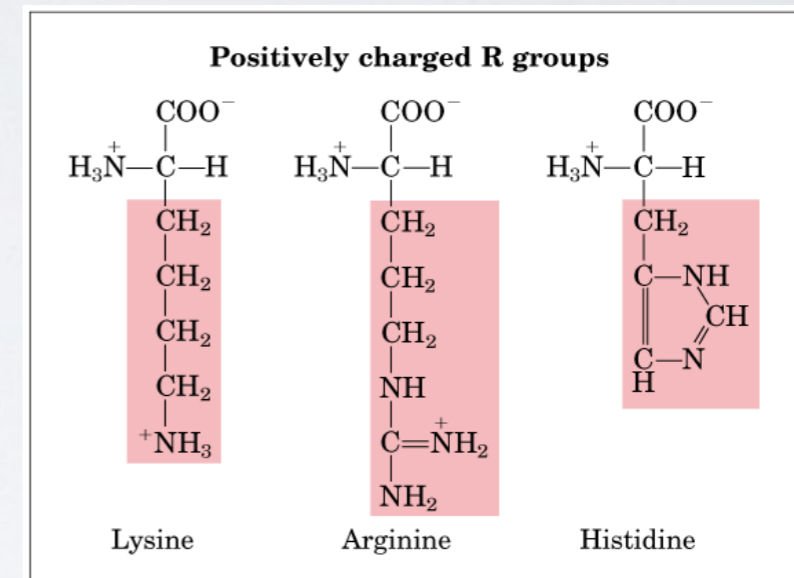
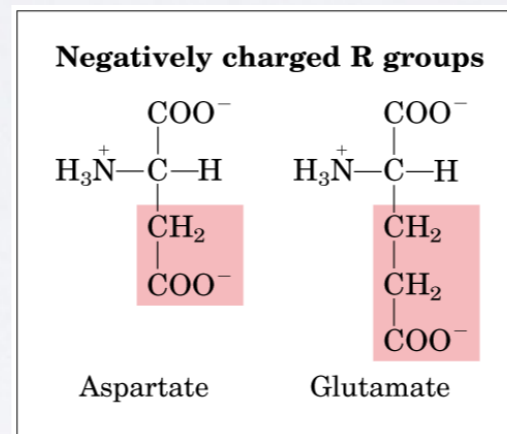
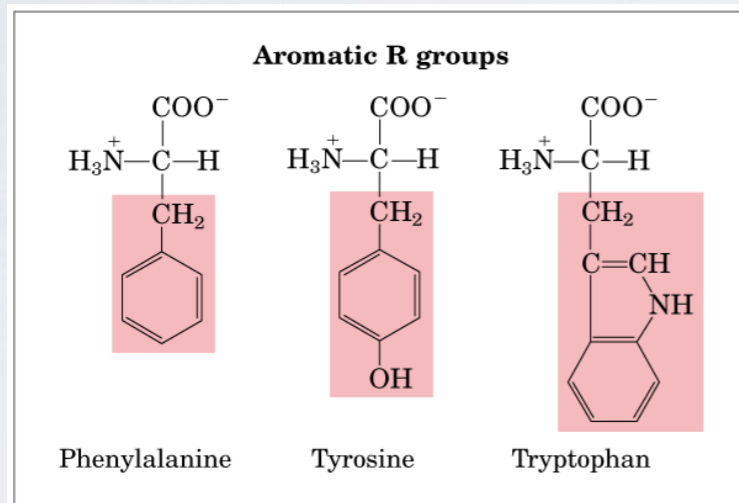
Assembled  
subunits

# RECAP: AMINO ACID NOMENCLATURE

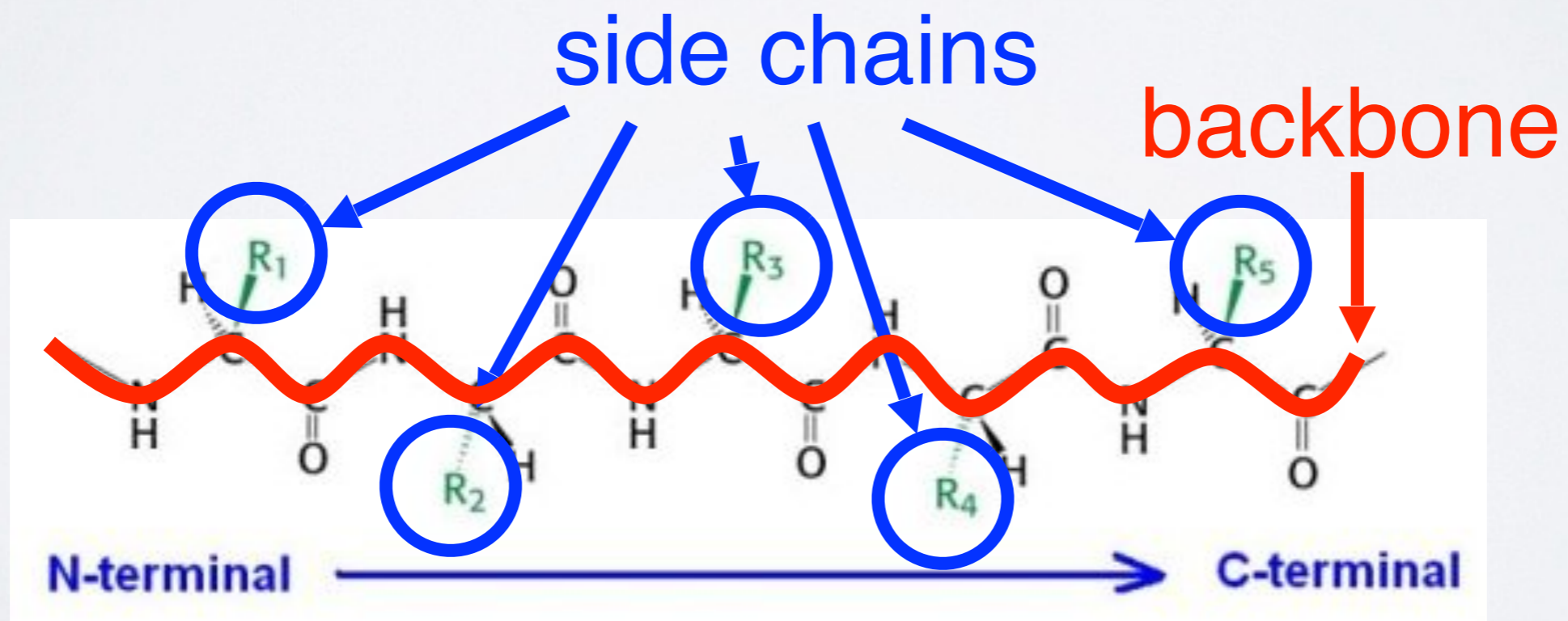
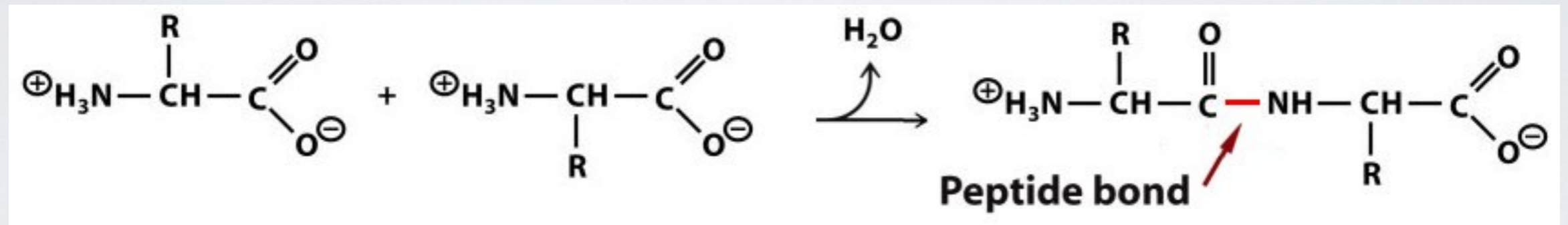




# AMINO ACIDS CAN BE GROUPED BY THE PHYSIOCHEMICAL PROPERTIES



# AMINO ACIDS POLYMERIZE THROUGH **PEPTIDE BOND** FORMATION



# PEPTIDES CAN ADOPT DIFFERENT CONFORMATIONS BY VARYING THEIR **PHI & PSI BACKBONE TORSIONS**

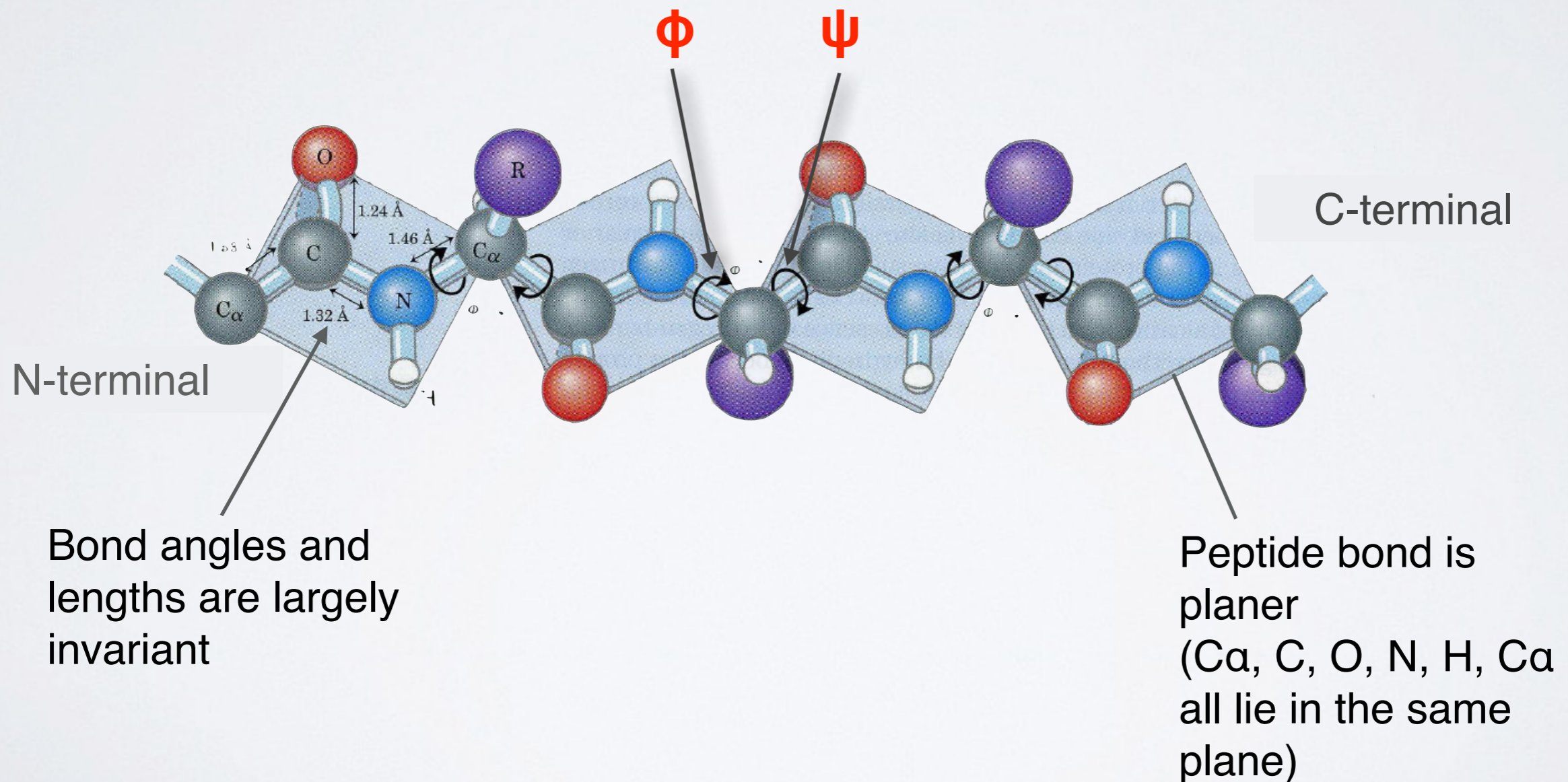
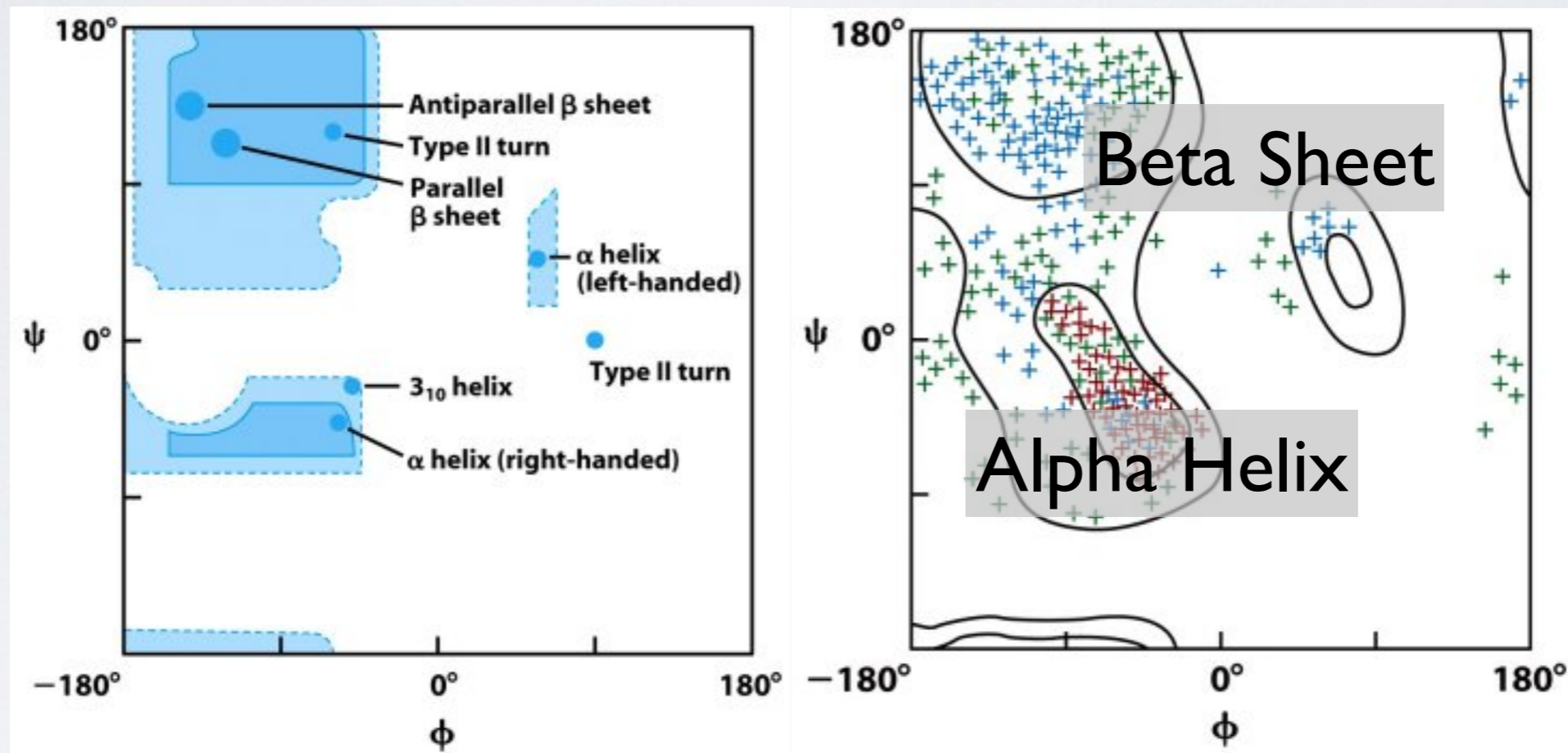


Image from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK21581/>

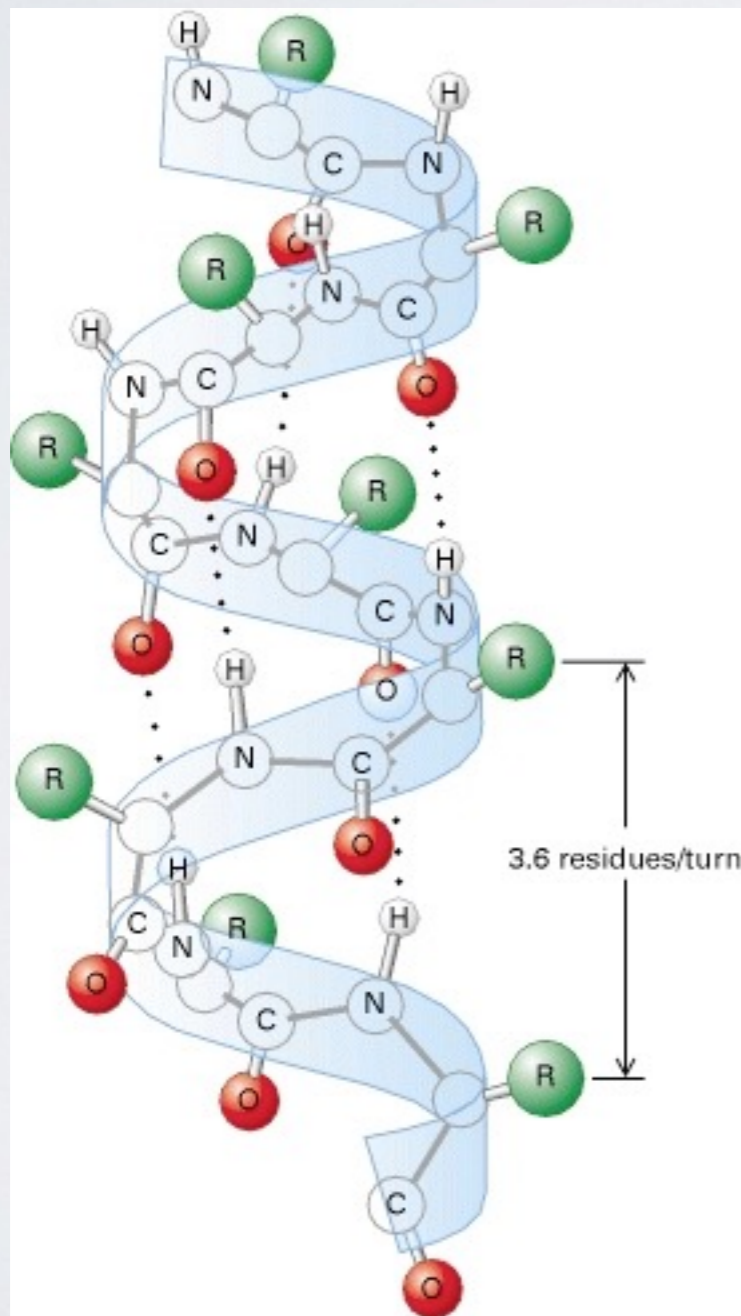
# PHI vs PSI PLOTS ARE KNOWN AS **RAMACHANDRAN DIAGRAMS**



- Steric hindrance dictates torsion angle preference
- Ramachandran plot show preferred regions of  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  dihedral angles which correspond to major forms of **secondary structure**

# MAJOR SECONDARY STRUCTURE TYPES

## **ALPHA HELIX** & BETA SHEET

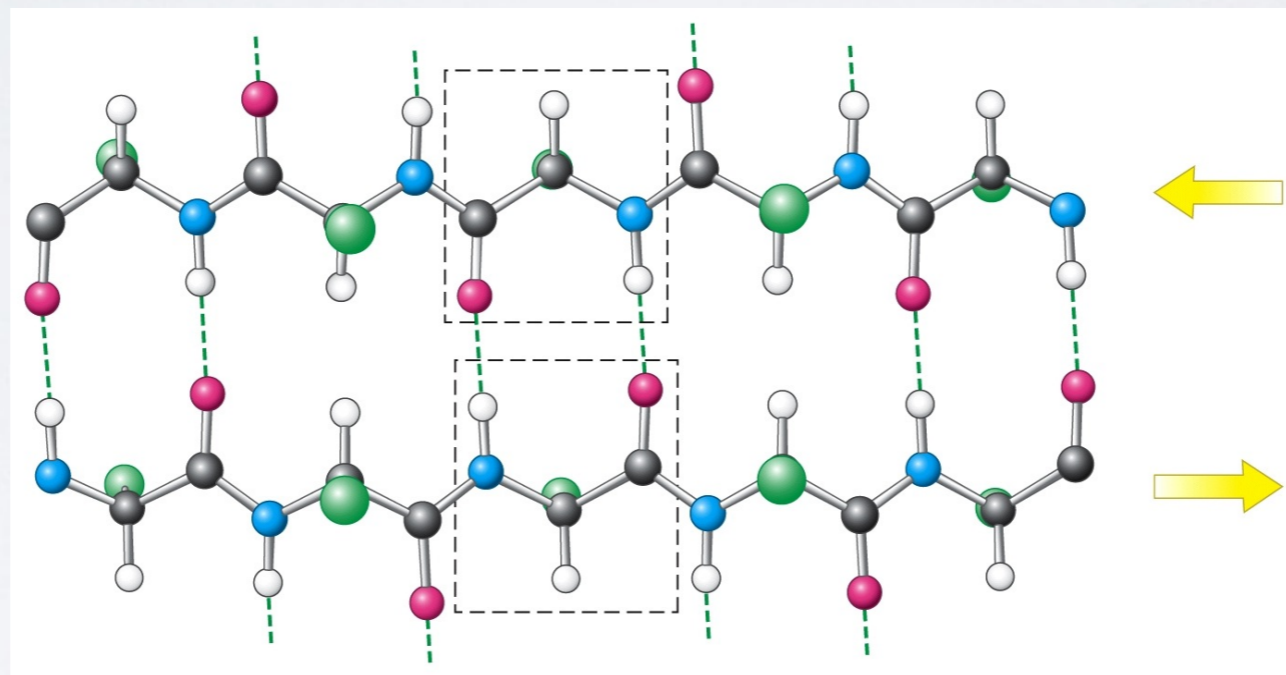


### **$\alpha$ -helix**

- Most common form has 3.6 residues per turn (number of residues in one full rotation)
- Hydrogen bonds (dashed lines) between residue  $i$  and  $i+4$  stabilize the structure
- The side chains (in green) protrude outward
- **$3_{10}$ -helix** and  **$\pi$ -helix** forms are less common

# MAJOR SECONDARY STRUCTURE TYPES

## ALPHA HELIX & **BETA SHEET**



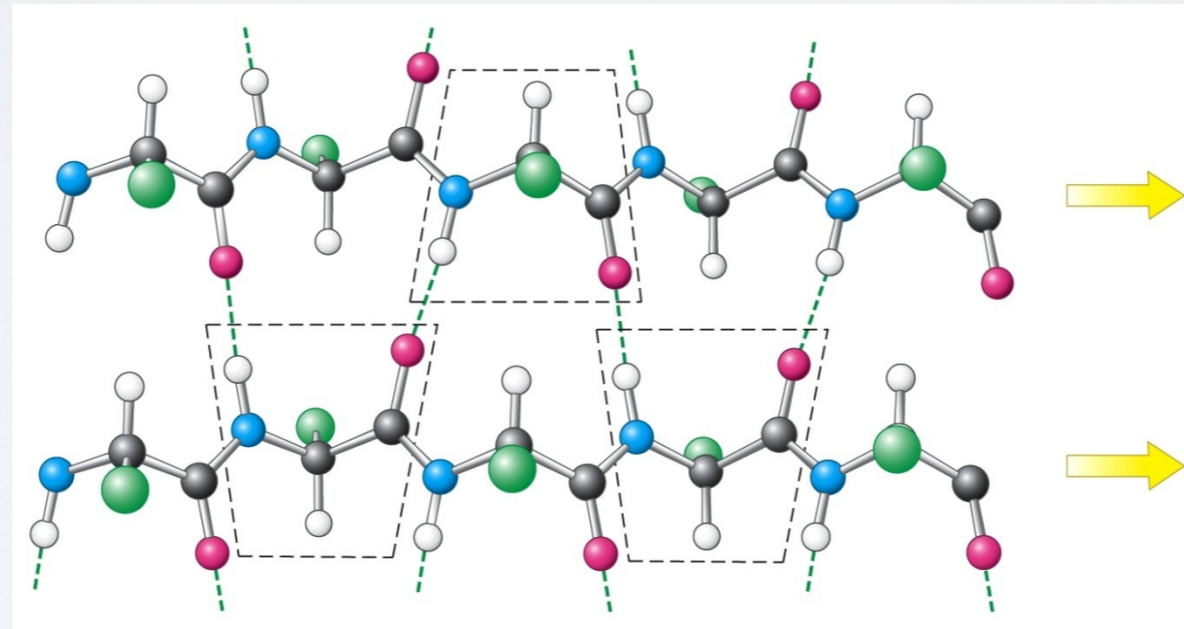
### In antiparallel $\beta$ -sheets

- Adjacent  $\beta$ -strands run in opposite directions
- Hydrogen bonds (dashed lines) between NH and CO stabilize the structure
- The side chains (in green) are above and below the sheet

Image from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK21581/>

# MAJOR SECONDARY STRUCTURE TYPES

## ALPHA HELIX & **BETA SHEET**



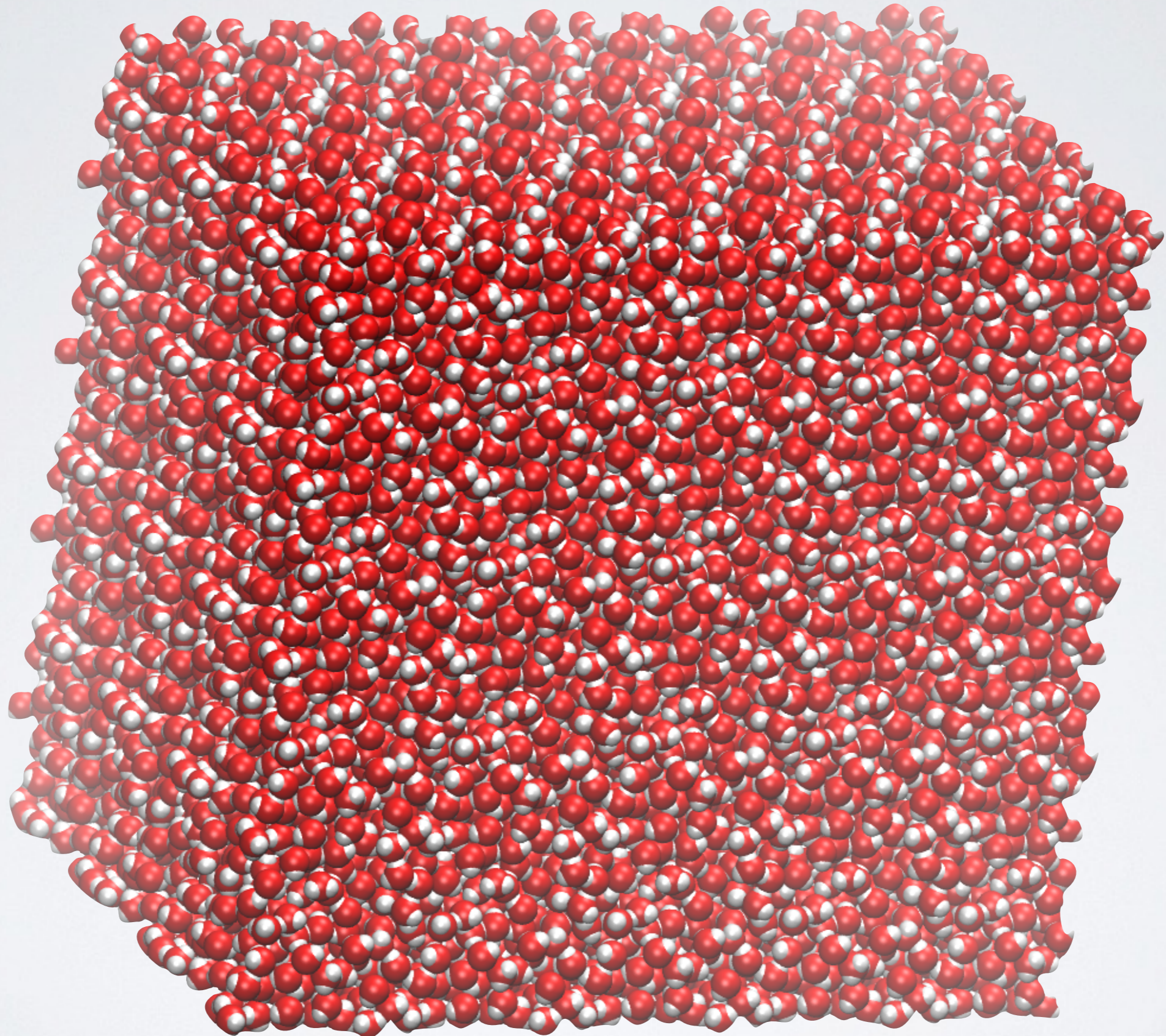
### In parallel $\beta$ -sheets

- Adjacent  $\beta$ -strands run in same direction
- Hydrogen bonds (dashed lines) between NH and CO stabilize the structure
- The side chains (in green) are above and below the sheet

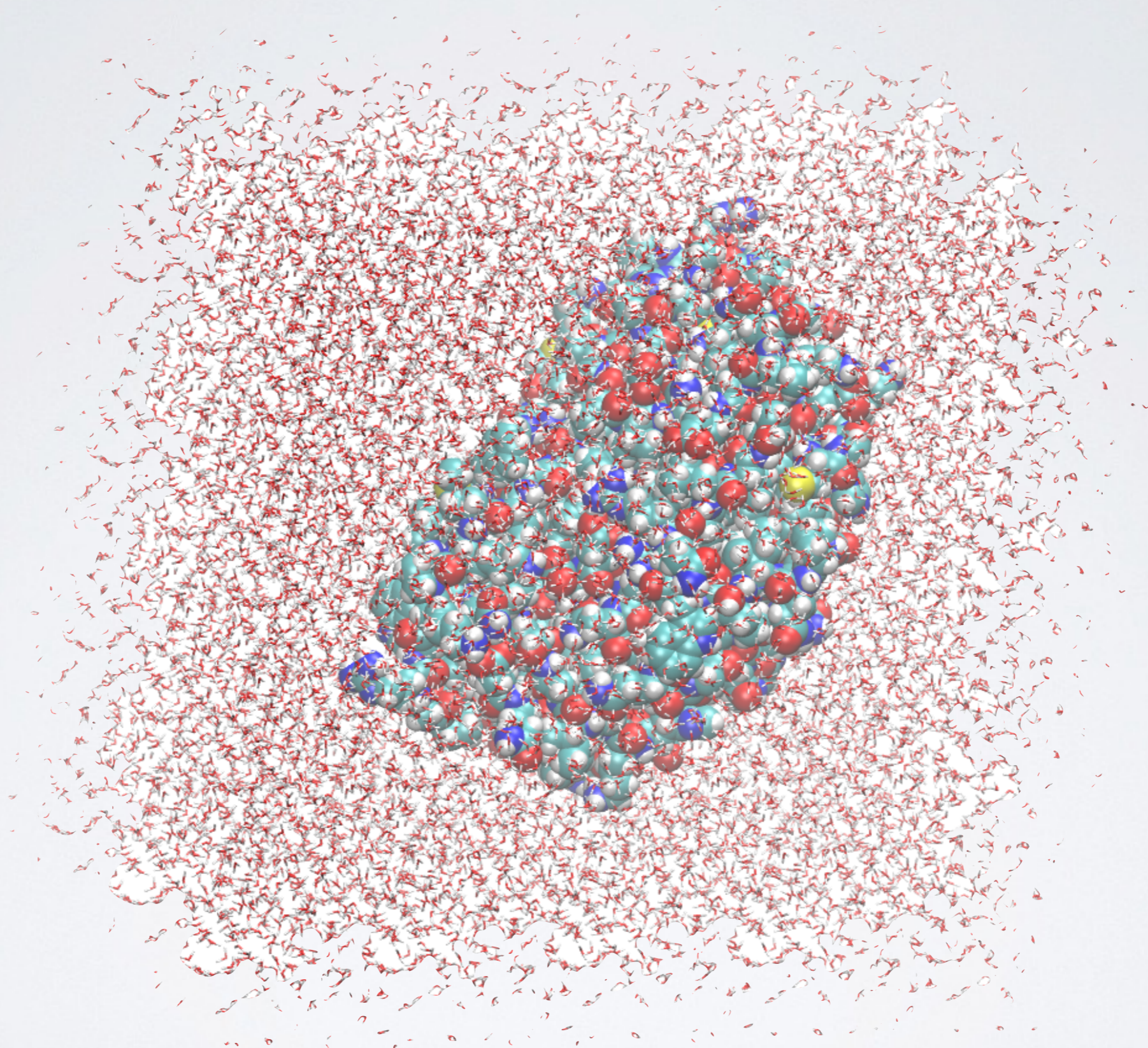
Image from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK21581/>

**What Does a Protein Look like?**

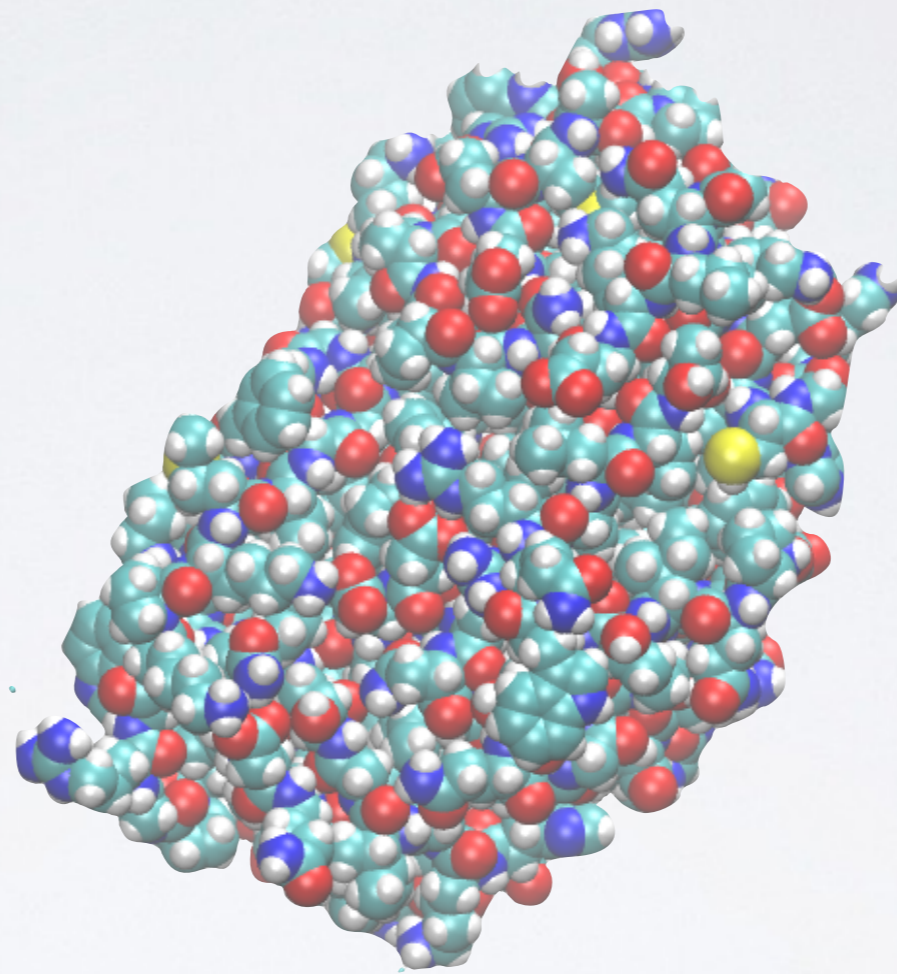




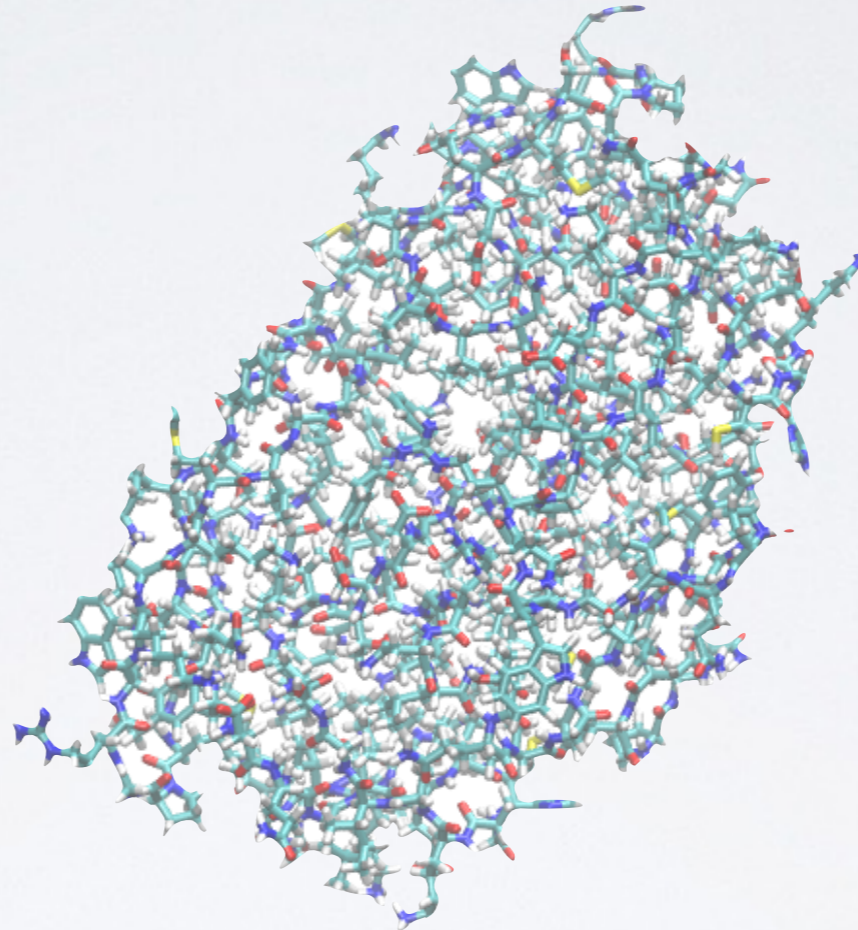
- Proteins are stable (and hidden) in water



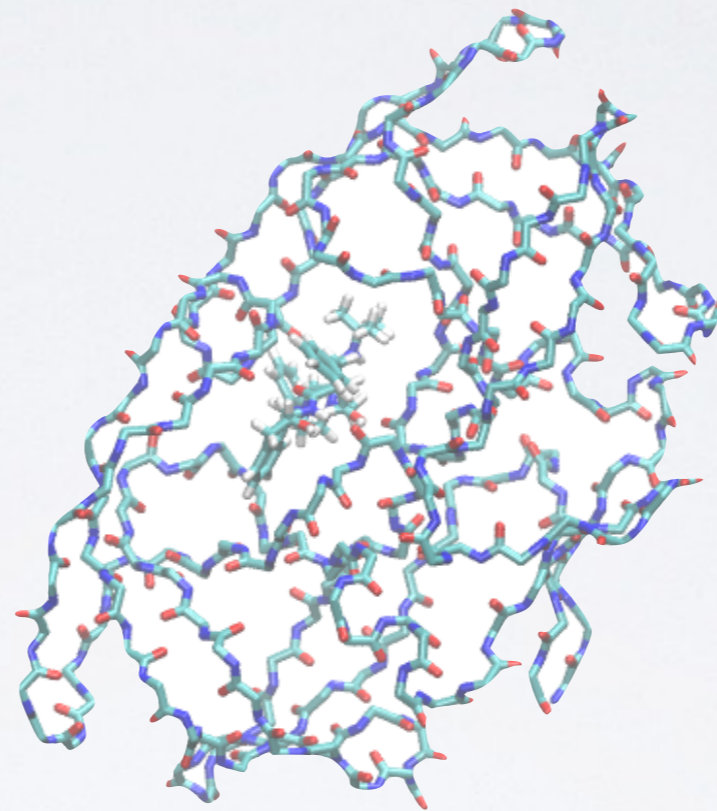
- Proteins closely interact with water



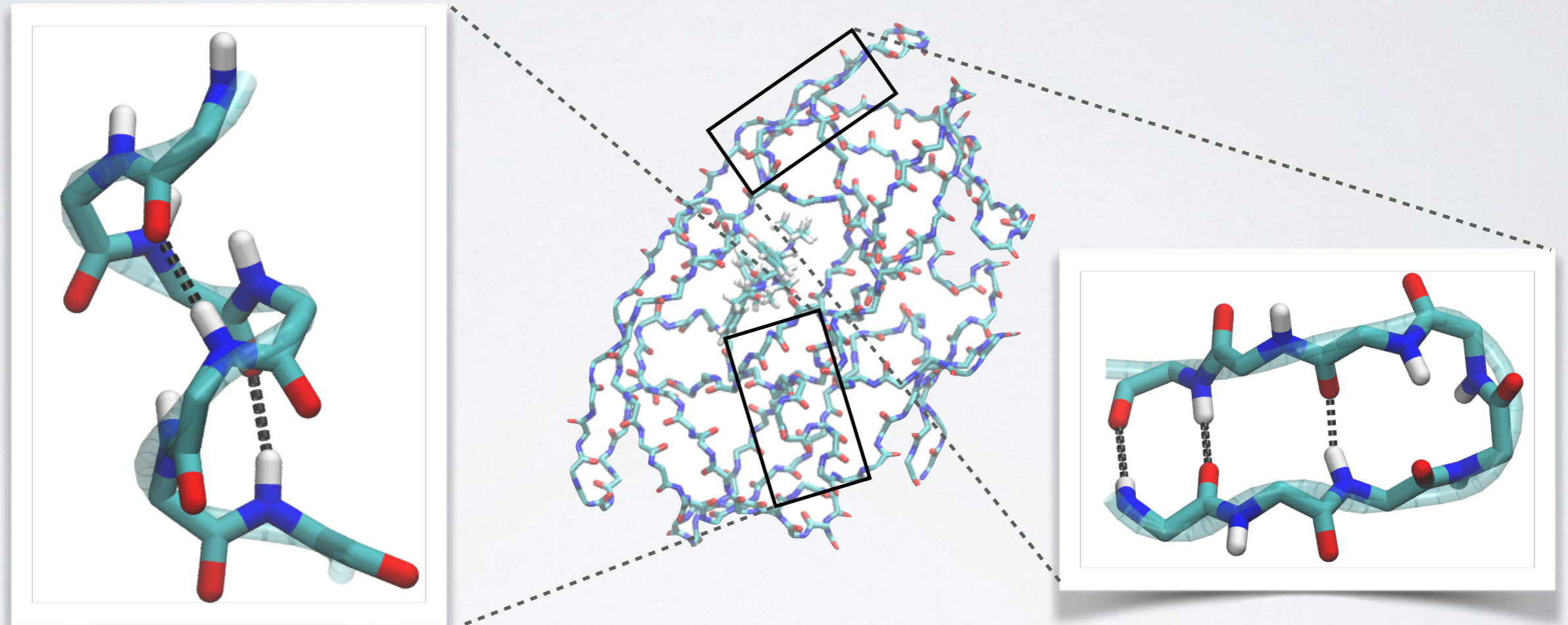
- Proteins are close packed solid but flexible objects (globular)



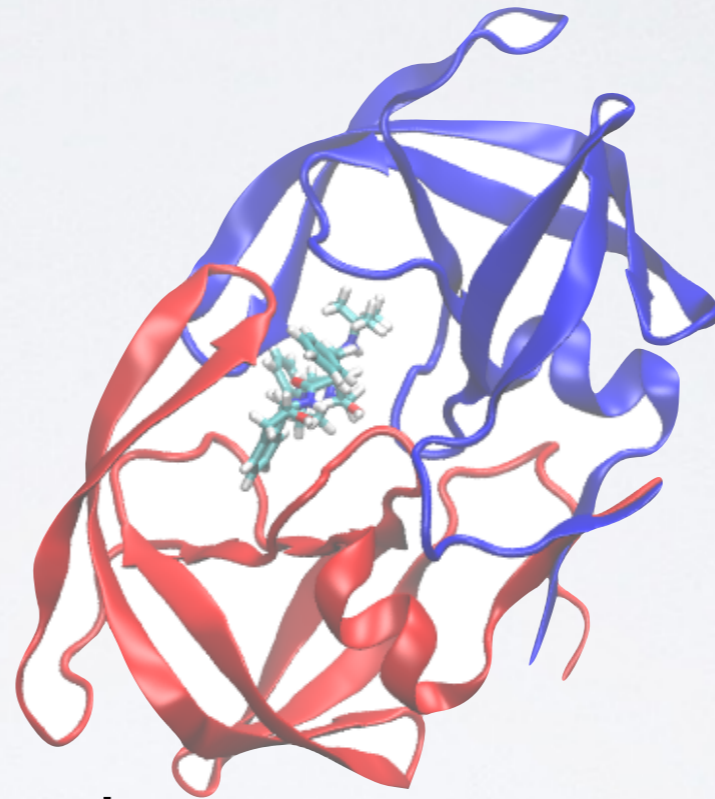
- Due to their large size and complexity it is often hard to see what's important in the structure



- Backbone or main-chain representation can help trace chain topology

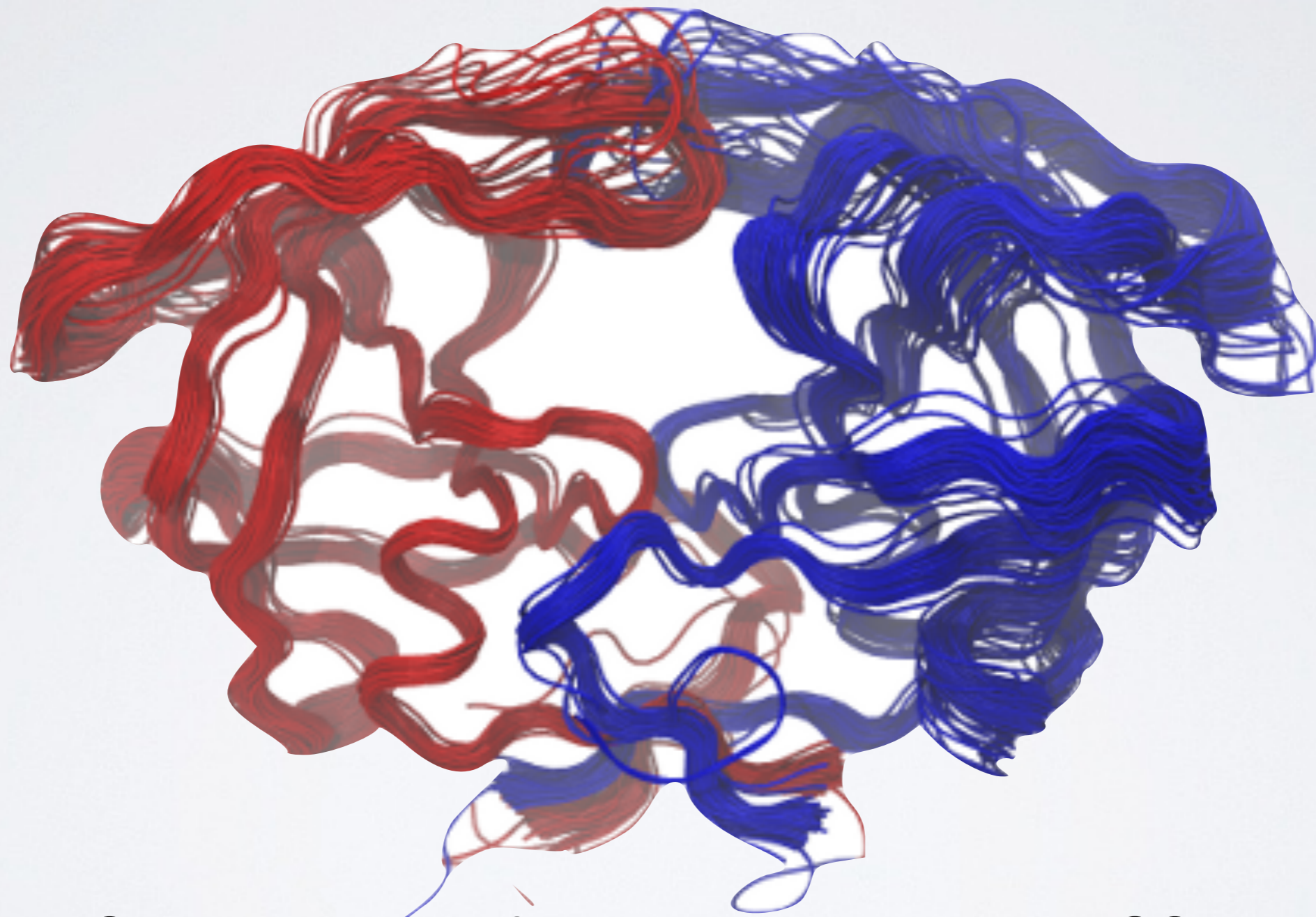


- Backbone or main-chain representation can help trace chain topology & reveal secondary structure



- Simplified secondary structure representations are commonly used to communicate structural details
- Now we can clearly see 2<sup>o</sup>, 3<sup>o</sup> and 4<sup>o</sup> structure
- Coiled chain of connected secondary structures

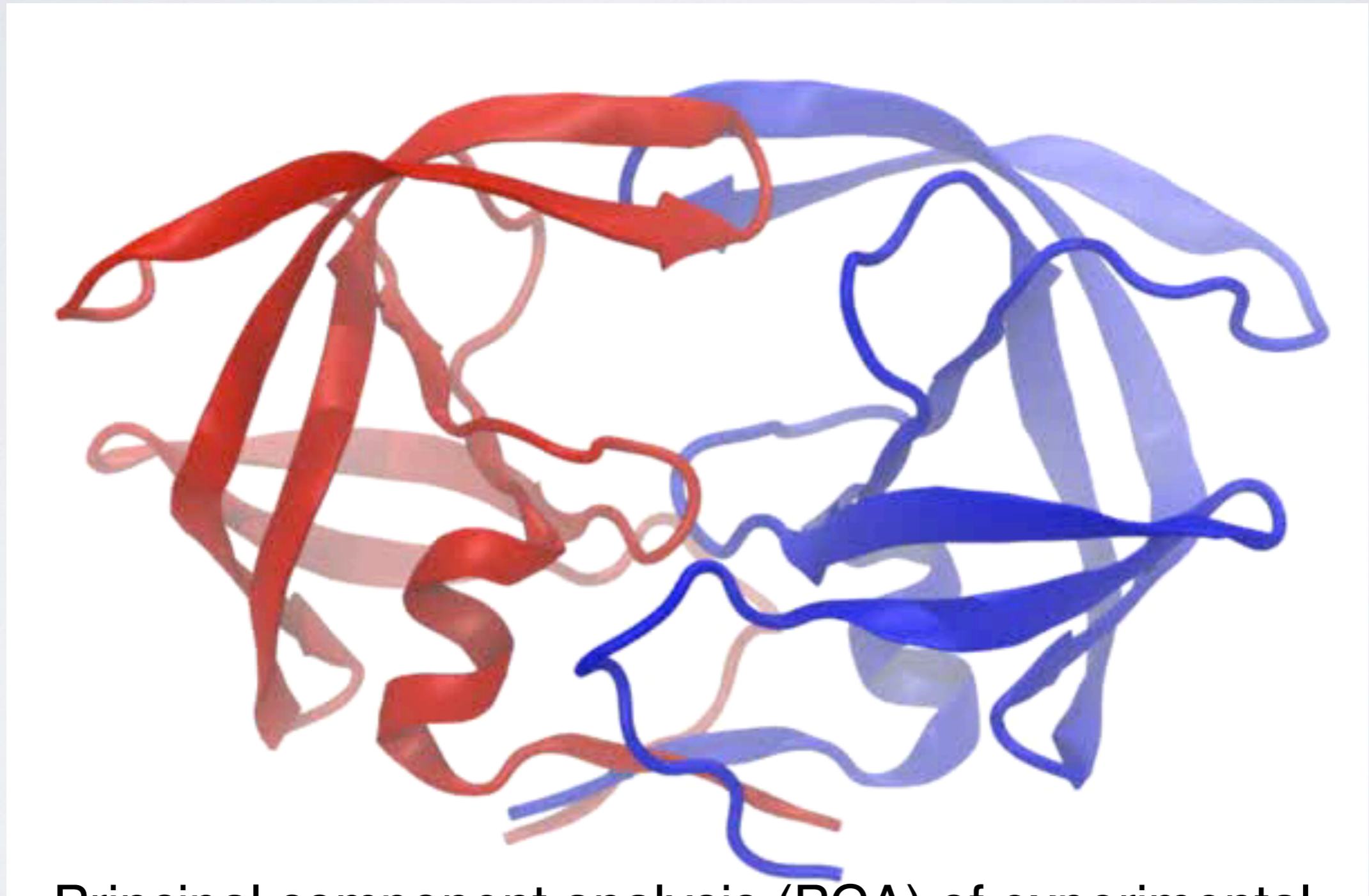
# DISPLACEMENTS REFLECT INTRINSIC FLEXIBILITY



Superposition of all 482 structures in RCSB  
PDB (23/09/2015)

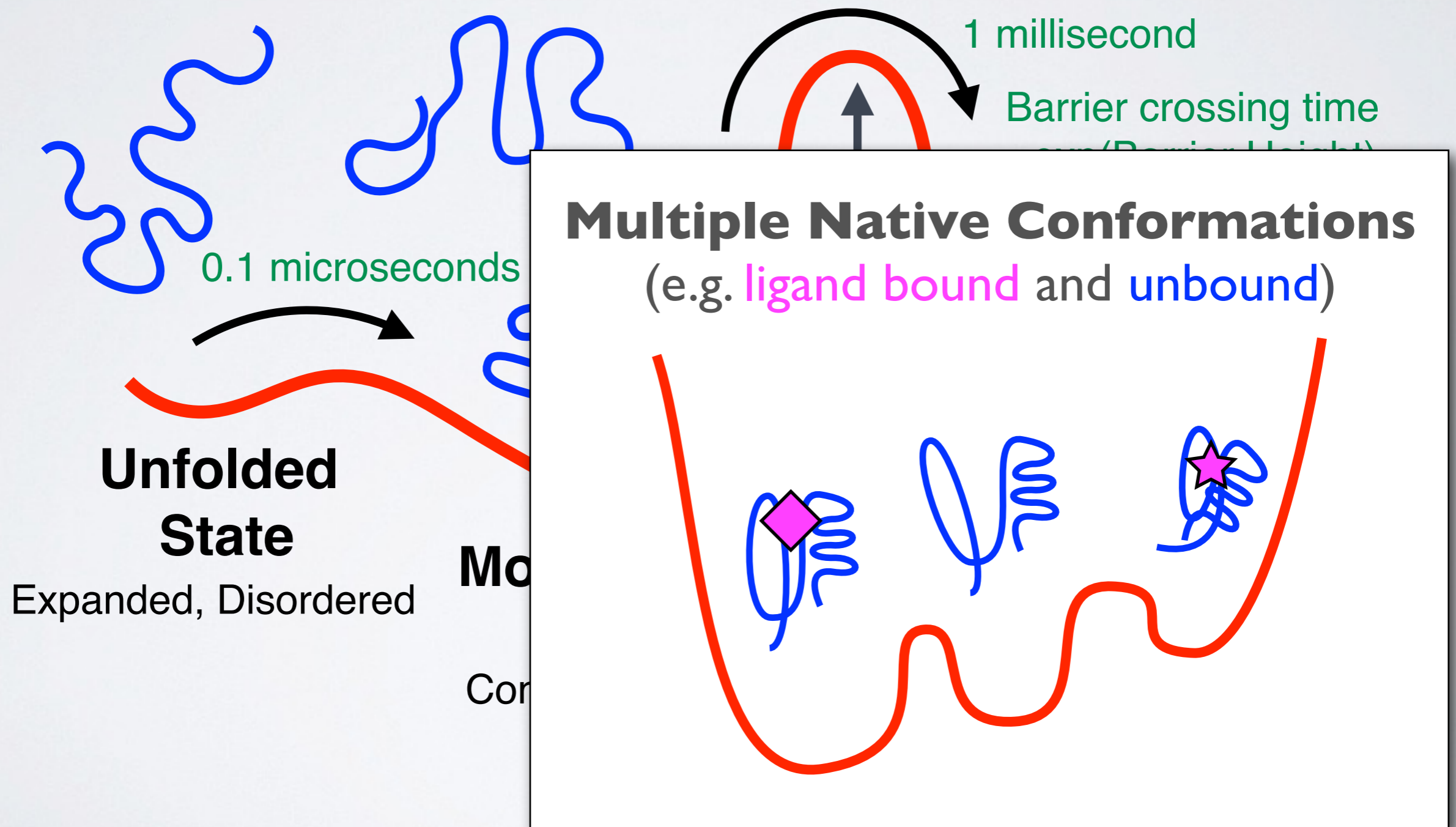


# DISPLACEMENTS REFLECT INTRINSIC FLEXIBILITY

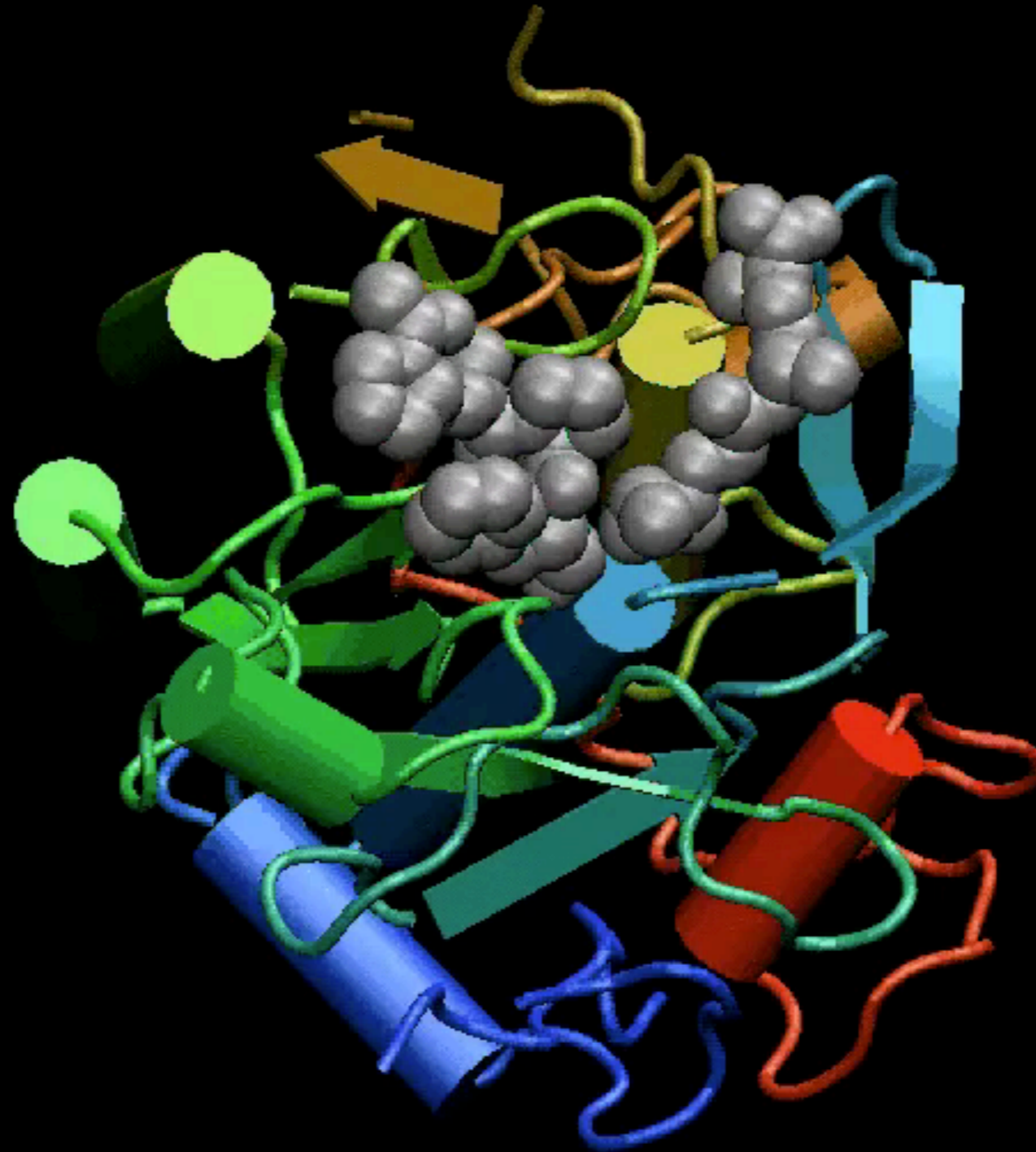


Principal component analysis (PCA) of experimental structures

# KEY CONCEPT: ENERGY LANDSCAPE



# Normal Mode Analysis (NMA) models the protein as a network of elastic strings



NMA is a bioinformatics method to predict the intrinsic dynamics of biomolecules

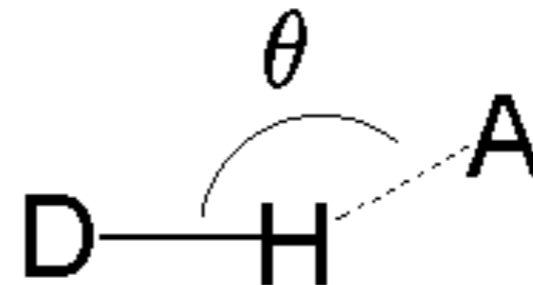
# Key forces affecting structure:

- H-bonding
- Van der Waals
- Electrostatics
- Hydrophobicity

Hydrogen-bond donor      Hydrogen-bond acceptor



← d →

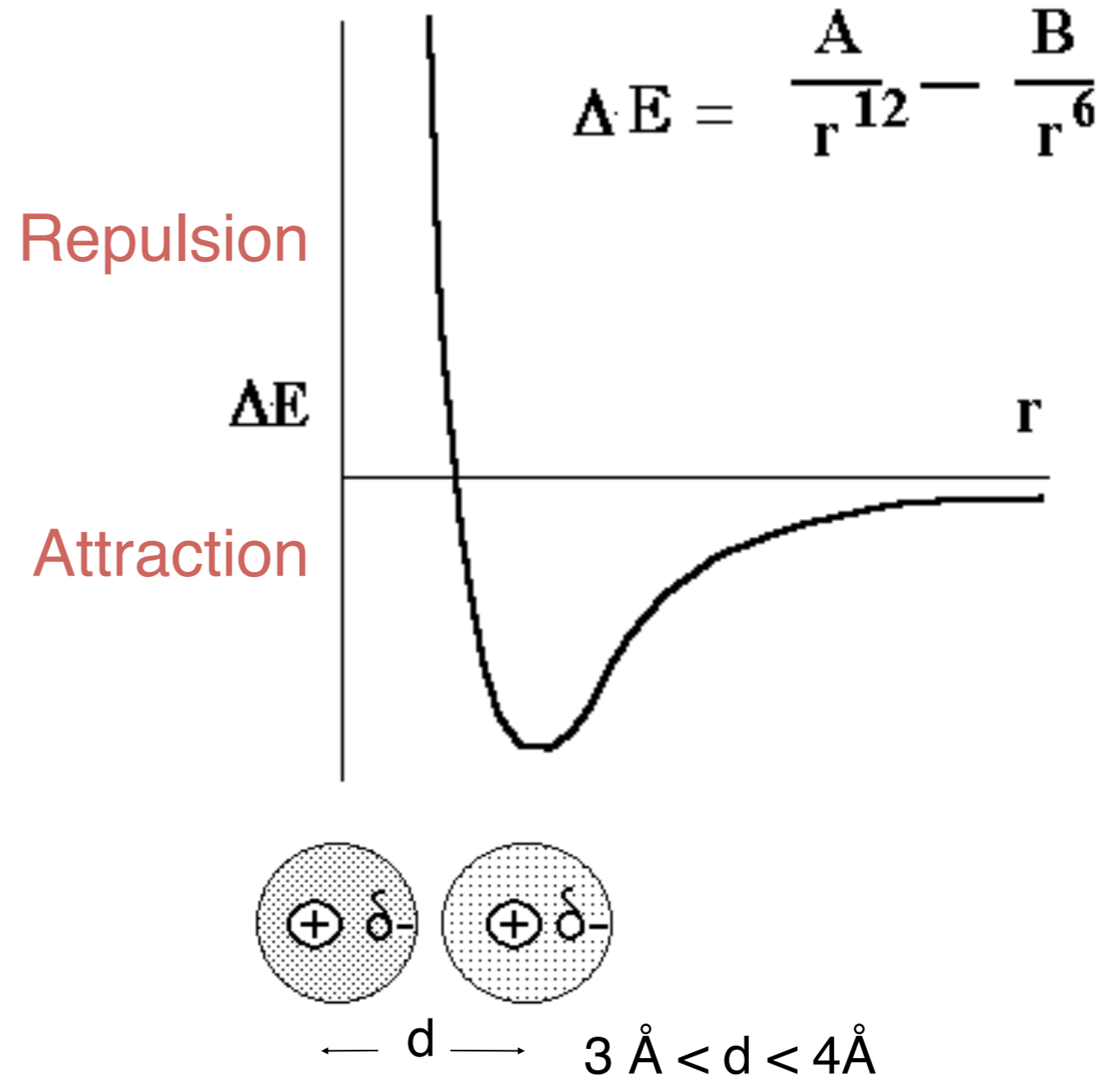


$$2.6 \text{ \AA} < d < 3.1 \text{ \AA}$$

$$150^\circ < \theta < 180^\circ$$

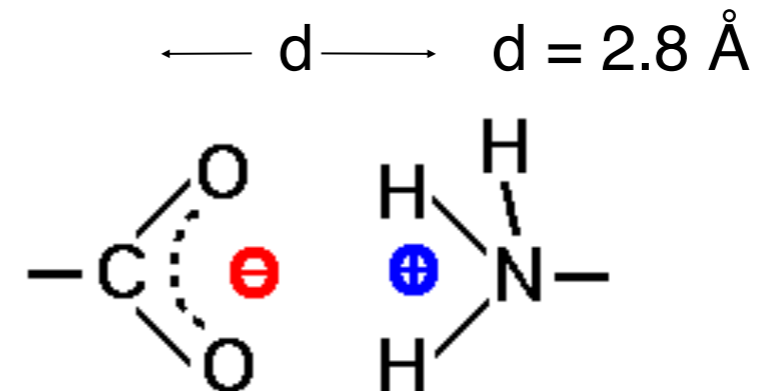
# Key forces affecting structure:

- H-bonding
- **Van der Waals**
- Electrostatics
- Hydrophobicity



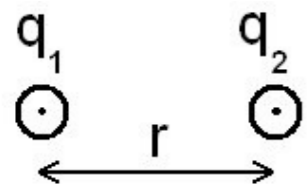
# Key forces affecting structure:

- H-bonding
- Van der Waals
- **Electrostatics**
- Hydrophobicity



carboxyl group and amino group

(some time called IONIC BONDS or SALT BRIDGES)



## Coulomb's law

$$E = \frac{K q_1 q_2}{D r}$$

E = Energy

k = constant

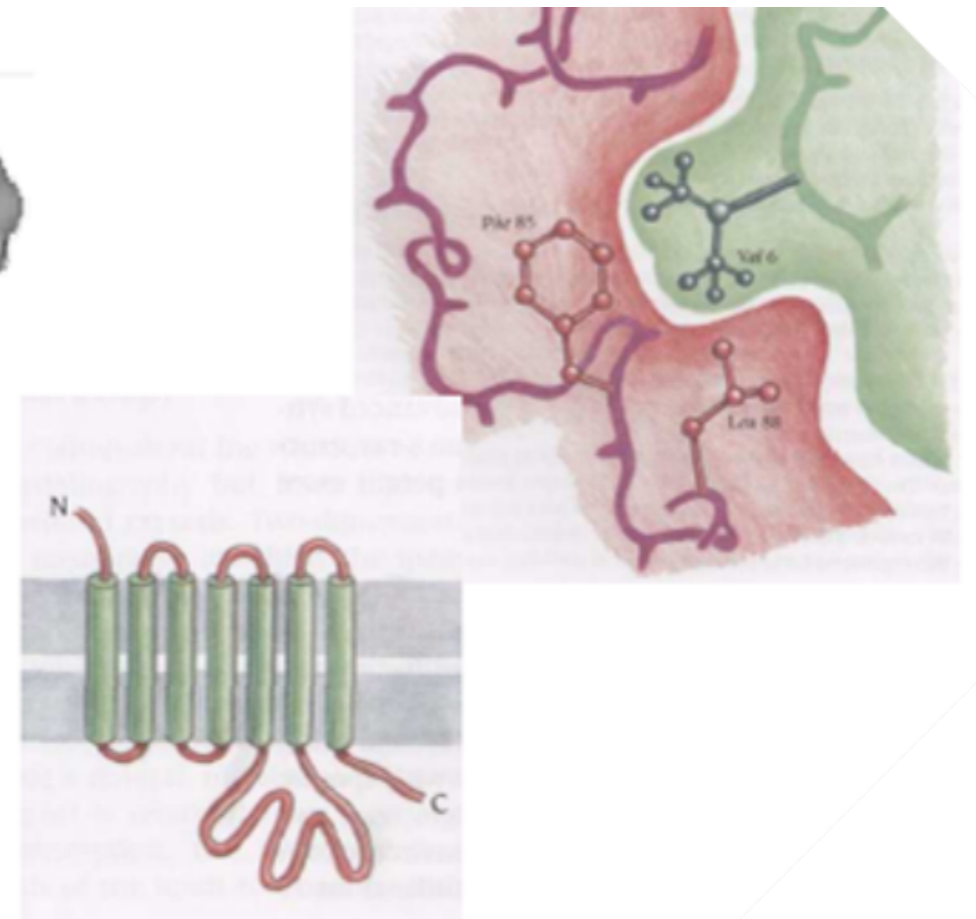
D = Dielectric constant (vacuum = 1; H<sub>2</sub>O = 80)

q<sub>1</sub> & q<sub>2</sub> = electronic charges (Coulombs)

r = distance (Å)

# Key forces affecting structure:

- H-bonding
- Van der Waals
- Electrostatics
- **Hydrophobicity**



The force that causes hydrophobic molecules or nonpolar portions of molecules to aggregate together rather than to dissolve in water is called Hydrophobicity (*Greek, "water fearing"*). This is not a separate bonding force; rather, it is the result of the energy required to insert a nonpolar molecule into water.

# Today's Menu

- **Overview of structural bioinformatics**
  - Motivations, goals and challenges
- **Fundamentals of protein structure**
  - Structure composition, form and forces
- **Representing, interpreting & modeling protein structure**
  - Visualizing & interpreting protein structures
  - Analyzing protein structures
  - Modeling energy as a function of structure



# Today's Menu

- **Overview of structural bioinformatics**
  - Motivations, goals and challenges
- **Fundamentals of protein structure**
  - Structure composition, form and forces
- **Representing, interpreting & modeling protein structure**
  - Visualizing & interpreting protein structures
  - Analyzing protein structures
  - Modeling energy as a function of structure

Do it Yourself!

# Hand-on time!

[https://bioboot.github.io/bgggn213\\_W19/lectures/#11](https://bioboot.github.io/bgggn213_W19/lectures/#11)

Focus on **section 1** only please!

**N.B.** Remember to make your new **class11** RStudio project inside your GitHub tracked directory from last day and **UNCHECK** the "Create a Git repository" option...

# SIDE-NOTE: PDB FILE FORMAT

		Amino Acid		Chain name	Sequence Number	-----Coordinates-----			
	Element					X	Y	Z	(etc.)
ATOM	1	N	ASP	L	1	4.060	7.307	5.186	...
ATOM	2	CA	ASP	L	1	4.042	7.776	6.553	...
ATOM	3	C	ASP	L	1	2.668	8.426	6.644	...
ATOM	4	O	ASP	L	1	1.987	8.438	5.606	...
ATOM	5	CB	ASP	L	1	5.090	8.827	6.797	...
ATOM	6	CG	ASP	L	1	6.338	8.761	5.929	...
ATOM	7	OD1	ASP	L	1	6.576	9.758	5.241	...
ATOM	8	OD2	ASP	L	1	7.065	7.759	5.948	...

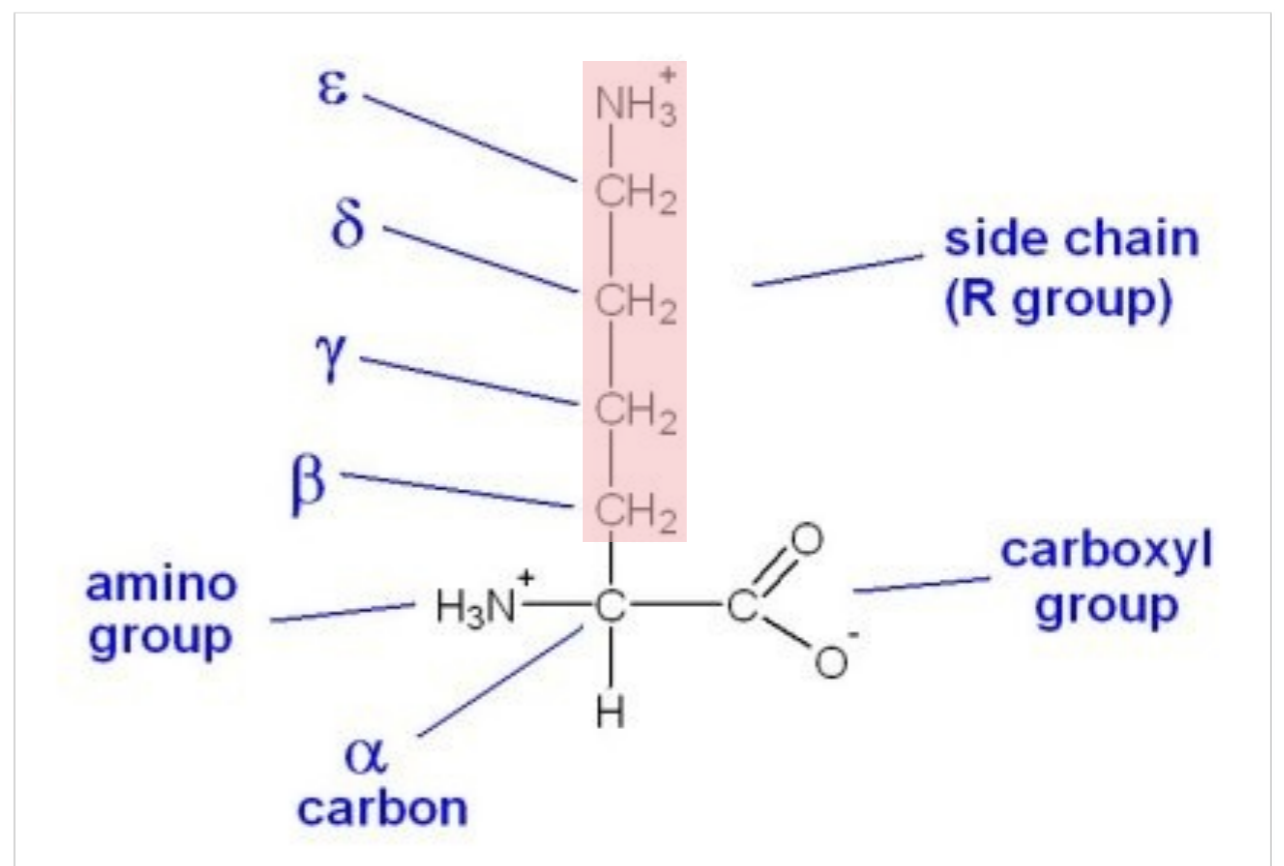
\\  
Element position within amino acid

- **PDB files** contains atomic coordinates and associated information.

# SIDE-NOTE: PDB FILE FORMAT

		Amino Acid			Chain
		Element			Se
ATOM	1	N	ASP	L	1
ATOM	2	CA	ASP	L	1
ATOM	3	C	ASP	L	1
ATOM	4	O	ASP	L	1
ATOM	5	CB	ASP	L	1
ATOM	6	CG	ASP	L	1
ATOM	7	OD1	ASP	L	1
ATOM	8	OD2	ASP	L	1

\\  
Element position within amino acid



- **PDB files** contains atomic coordinates and associated information.

Do it Yourself!

# Hand-on time!

[https://bioboot.github.io/bgggn213\\_W19/lectures/#11](https://bioboot.github.io/bgggn213_W19/lectures/#11)

Focus on **section 2** please!

**N.B.** You will need to have VMD installed on your computer  
(see class website and hands-on sheet for details)

# Today's Menu

- **Overview of structural bioinformatics**
  - Motivations, goals and challenges
- **Fundamentals of protein structure**
  - Structure composition, form and forces
- **Representing, interpreting & modeling protein structure**
  - Visualizing and interpreting protein structures
  - Analyzing protein structures
  - Modeling energy as a function of structure

Do it Yourself!

# Hand-on time!

[https://bioboot.github.io/bgggn213\\_W19/lectures/#11](https://bioboot.github.io/bgggn213_W19/lectures/#11)

Focus on **section 3** to **5**

# Side Note: Section 6.1

- Download MUSCLE for your OS from:

<https://www.drive5.com/muscle/downloads.htm>

- On **MAC** use your TERMINAL to enter the commands:

```
> tar -xvf ~/Downloads/muscle3.8.31_i86darwin32.tar  
> sudo mv muscle3.8.31_i86darwin32 /usr/local/bin/muscle
```

- On **Windows** use file explorer to:

- Move the downloaded **muscle3.8.31\_i86win32.exe** from your *Downloads* folder to your *Project* folder.
- Then right click to rename to **muscle.exe**

```
> ./muscle.exe -version
```



# Bio3D view()

- If you want the 3D viewer in your R markdown you can install the development version of **bio3d.view**
- In your R console:

```
> install.packages("devtools")
```

- ```
> devtools::install_bitbucket("Grantlab/bio3d-view")
```

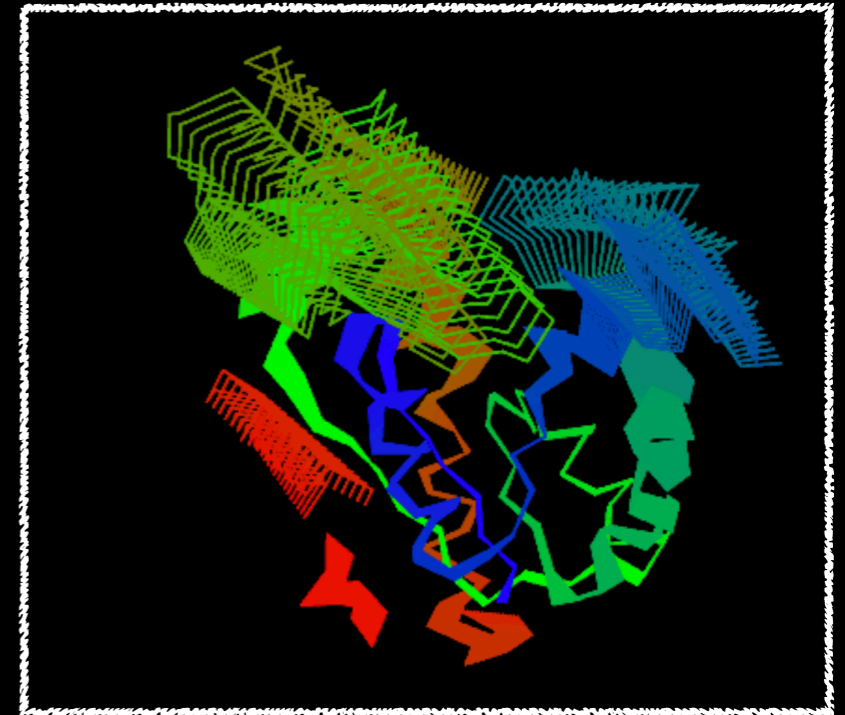
- To use in your R session:

```
> library("bio3d.view")
```

```
> pdb <- read.pdb("5p21")
```

```
> view(pdb)
```

```
> view(pdb, "overview", col="sse")
```



# Today's Menu

- **Overview of structural bioinformatics**
  - Motivations, goals and challenges
- **Fundamentals of protein structure**
  - Structure composition, form and forces
- **Representing, interpreting & modeling protein structure**
  - Visualizing and interpreting protein structures
  - Analyzing protein structures
  - Modeling energy as a function of structure

# NMA in Bio3D

- Normal Mode Analysis (NMA) is a bioinformatics method that can predict the major motions of biomolecules.

```
```\r\nlibrary(bio3d)\nlibrary(bio3d.view)\n```\n
```

```
```\r\npdb <- read.pdb("1hel")\nmodes <- nma( pdb )\nm7 <- mktrj(modes, mode=7, file="mode_7.pdb")\nview(m7, col=vec2color(rmsf(m7)))\n```\n
```

# SideNote: **view()**

- If you want the interactive 3D viewer in Rmd rendered to **output: html\_output** document:

```
```\r\nlibrary(bio3d.view)\nlibrary(rgl)\n```\n
```

```
```\r\nmodes <- nma( read.pdb("1hel") )\nm7 <- mktrj(modes, mode=7, file="mode_7.pdb")\nview(m7, col=vec2color(rmsf(m7)))\nrglwidget(width=500, height=500)\n```\n
```

**Optional:**  
Stop here for Today!

[ [Muddy Point Assessment](#) ]

# SUMMARY

- Structural bioinformatics is computer aided structural biology
  - Described major motivations, goals and challenges of structural bioinformatics
  - Reviewed the fundamentals of protein structure
  - Explored how to use R to perform advanced custom structural bioinformatics analysis!
- Introduced both physics and knowledge based modeling approaches for describing the structure, energetics and dynamics of proteins computationally

[ [Muddy Point Assessment](#) ]