The background features a large, light green arrow pointing downwards. Inside and around the arrow are various icons: a barcode at the top left, a DNA double helix, a server rack, a protein structure, a cell cycle diagram with phases G0, G1, S, G2, and M, a human silhouette, a plant, and a microorganism.

STRUCTURAL BIOINFORMATICS

Barry Grant
University of Michigan

<http://tinyurl.com/bioinf17>

MODULE OVERVIEW

Objective: Provide an introduction to the practice of bioinformatics as well as a practical guide to using common bioinformatics databases and algorithms

1.1. ▶ *Introduction to Bioinformatics*

1.2. ▶ *Sequence Alignment and Database Searching*

1.3 ▶ *Structural Bioinformatics*

1.4 ▶ *Genome Informatics: High Throughput Sequencing Applications and Analytical Methods*

WEEK TWO REVIEW

Answers to last weeks homework:

[Answers week 2](#)

Muddy Point Assessment (Only 25 responses):

[Responses](#)

- *“More time to finish the assignment”*
- *“The [NCBI] sites were so slow”*
- *“More time with HMMER would be helpful”*
- *“Very nice lab”*

Q18: NW DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING

Match: +2

Mismatch: -1

Gap: -2

A	T	T	G	C
A	G	T	T	C

A	-	T	T	G	C
A	G	T	T	-	C

		A	G	T	T	C
	0	-2	-4	-6	-8	-10
A	-2	+2	0	-2	-4	-6
T	-4	0	+1	+2	0	-2
T	-6	-2	-1	+3	+4	+2
G	-8	-4	0	+1	+2	+3
C	-10	-6	-2	-1	0	+4

THIS WEEK'S HOMEWORK

- Check out the “**Background Reading**” material online:
 - ▶ [Achievements & Challenges in Structural Bioinformatics](#)
 - ▶ [Protein Structure Prediction](#)
 - ▶ [Biomolecular Simulation](#)
 - ▶ [Computational Drug Discovery](#)

- Complete the **lecture 1.3 homework questions**:
<http://tinyurl.com/bioinf525-quiz3>

“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

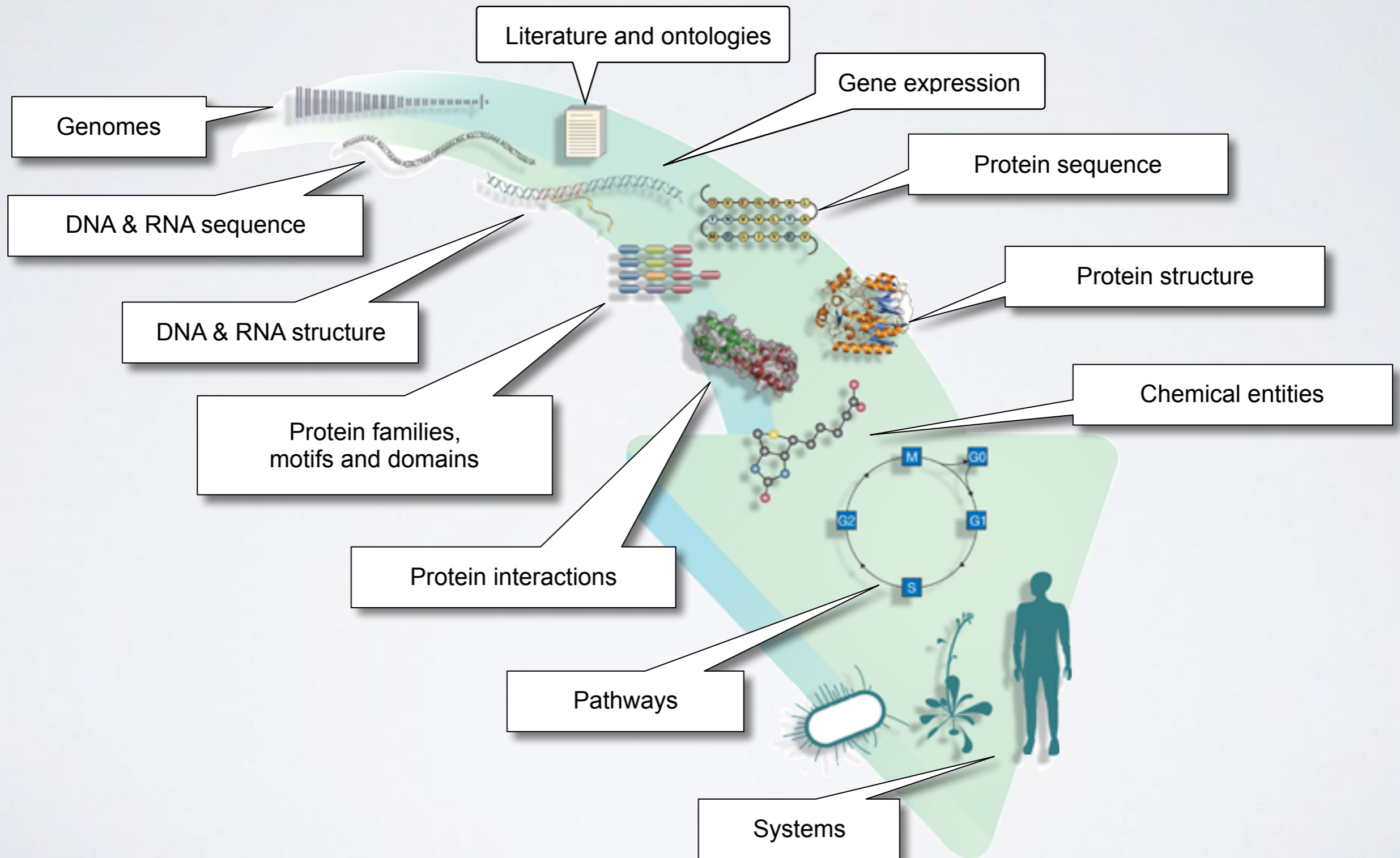
Why should we care?

Why should we care?

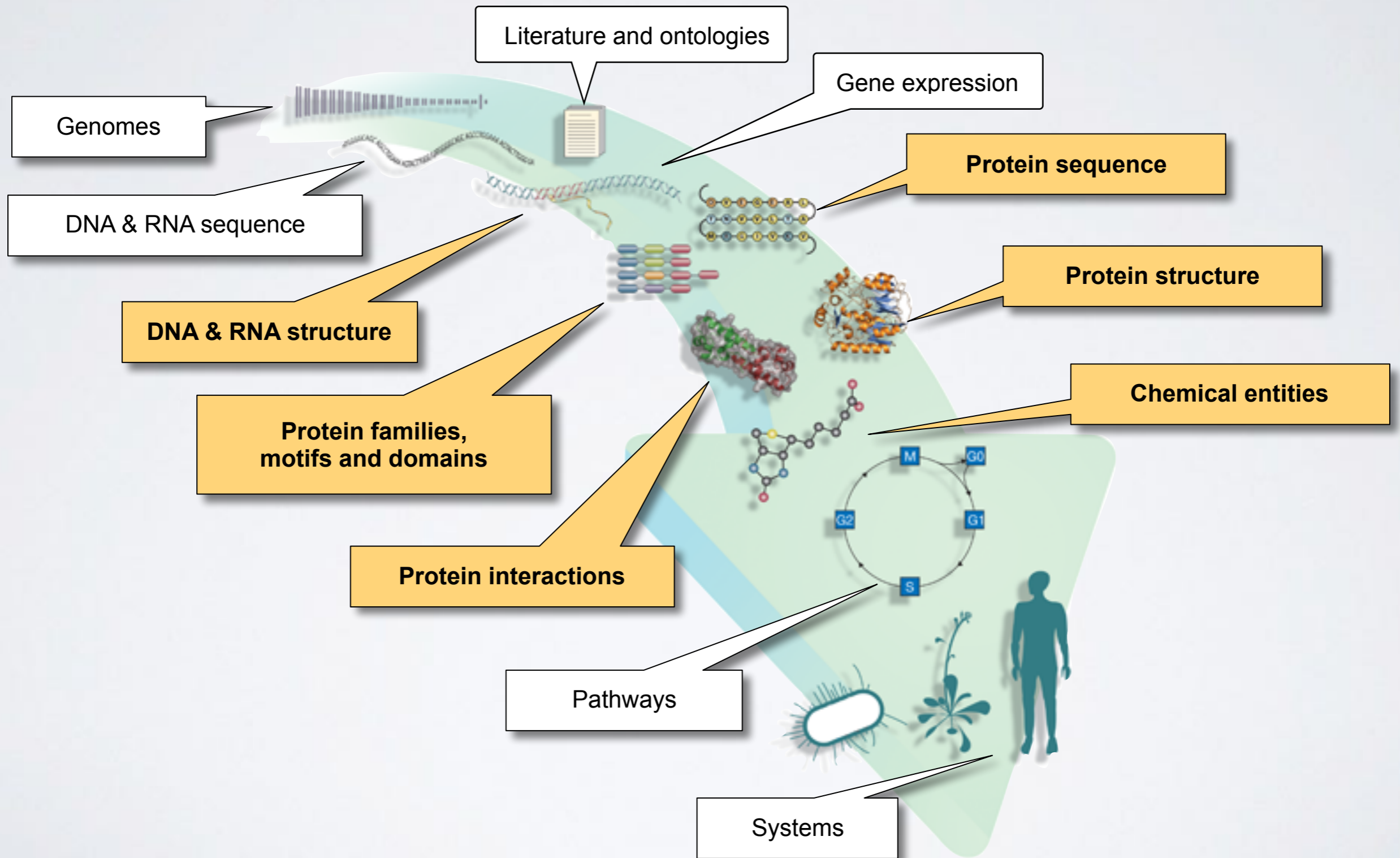
Because biomolecules are “nature’s robots”

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

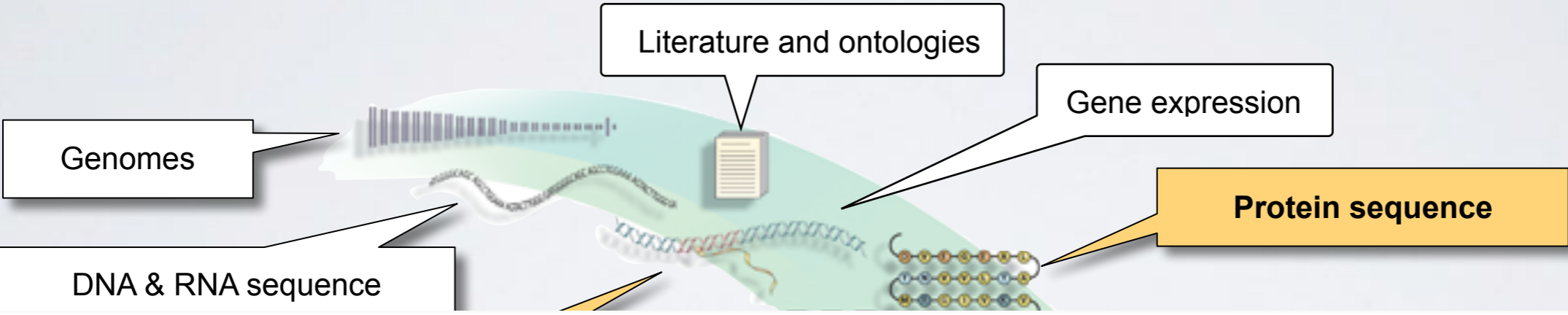
BIOINFORMATICS DATA



STRUCTURAL DATA IS CENTRAL



STRUCTURAL DATA IS CENTRAL



Sequence > Structure > Function

DNA & RNA structure

Protein structure

Protein families,
motifs and domains

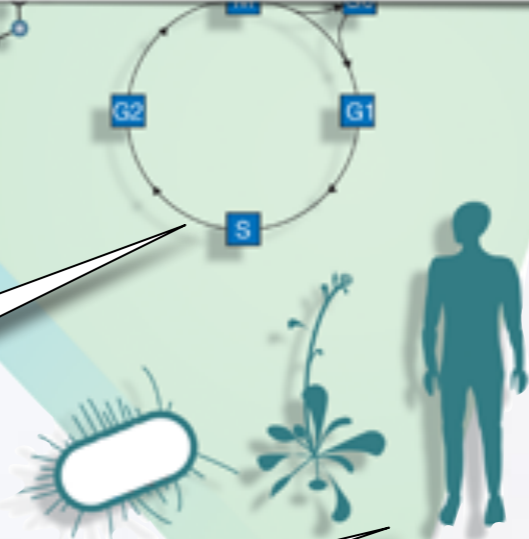
Chemical entities

Protein interactions

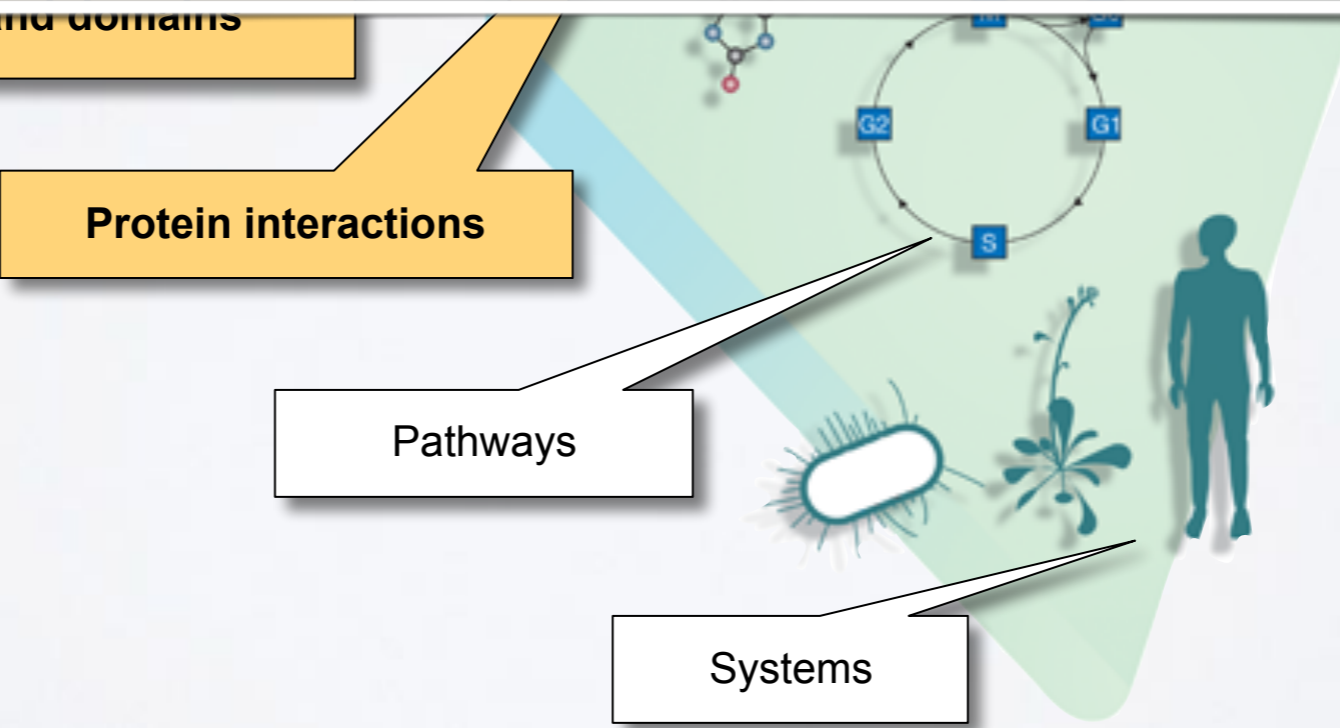
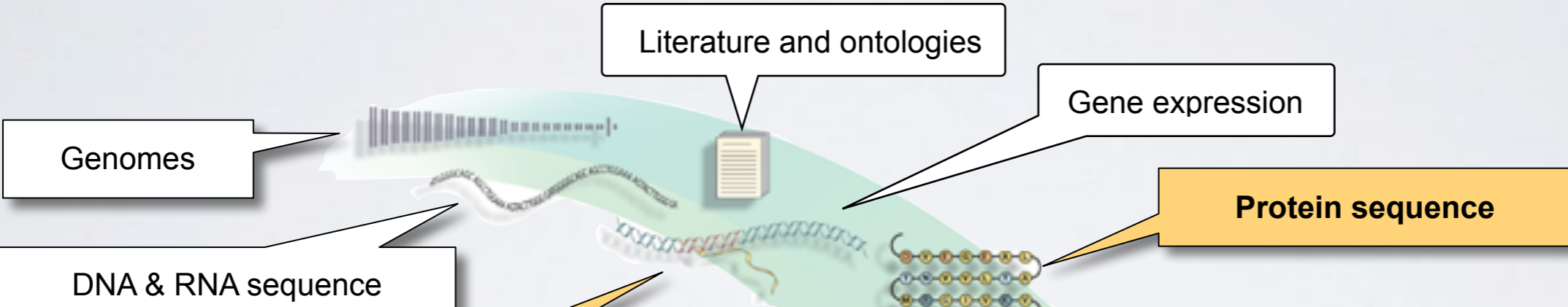
Pathways

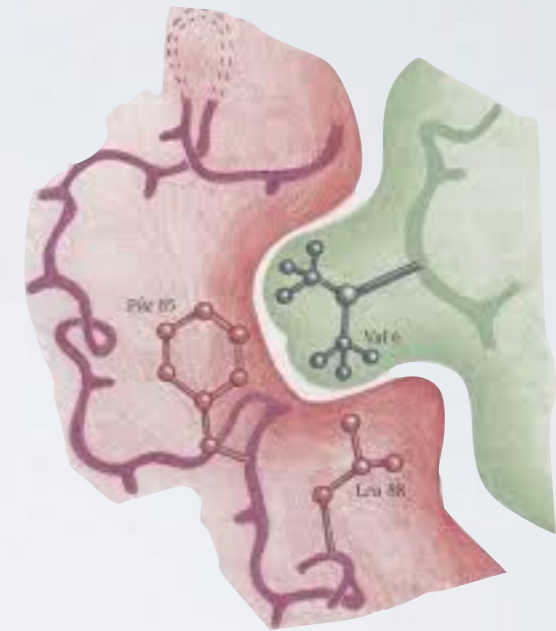
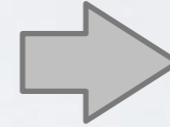
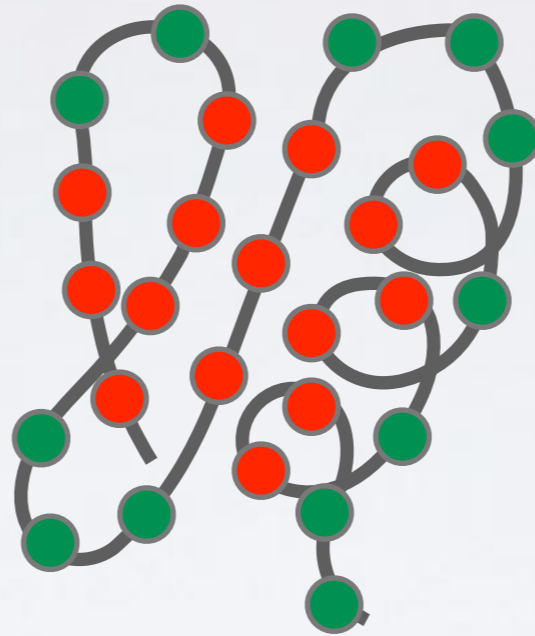
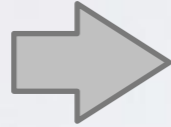
Systems

change color to gray and yellow from black and red?



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*



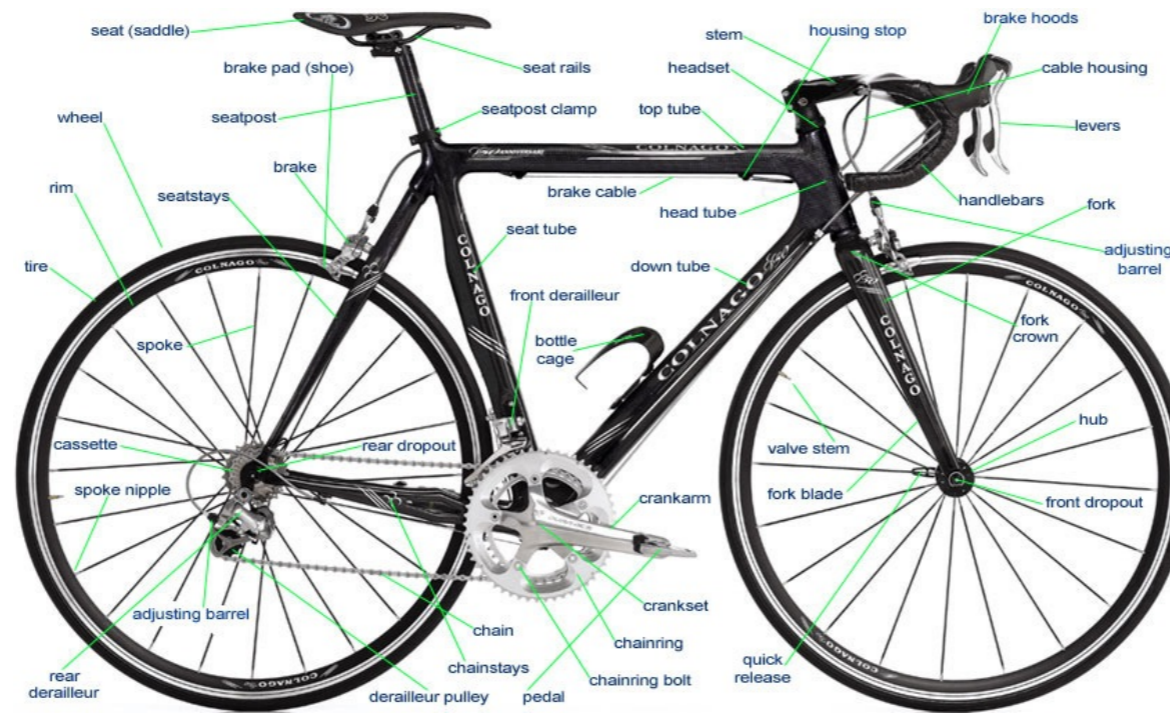
Genomics is a great start

Track Bike – DL 175

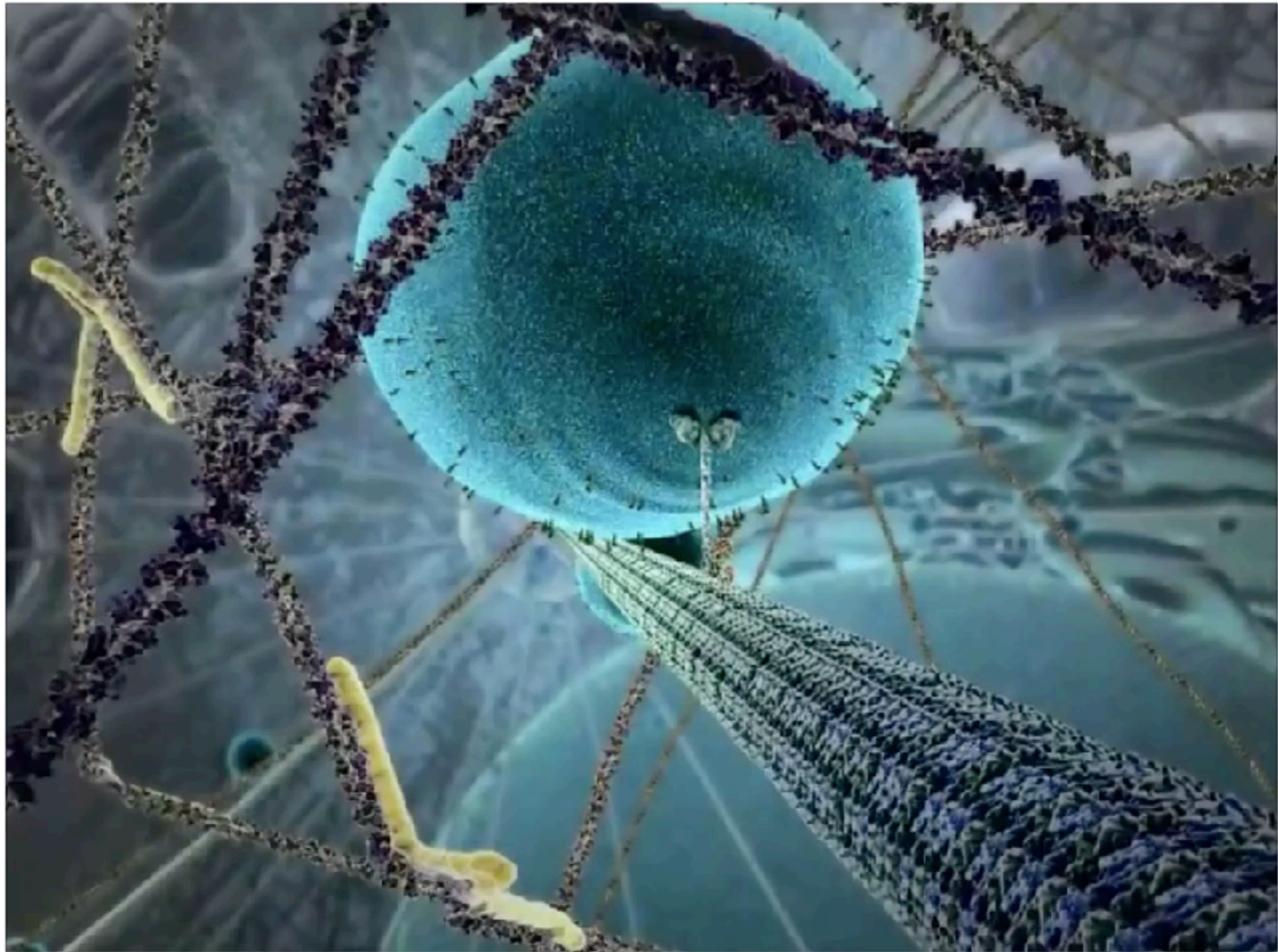
REF. NO.	IBM NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	156011	Track Frame 21", 22", 23", 24", Team Red
2	157040	Fork for 21" Frame
2	157039	Fork for 22" Frame
2	157038	Fork for 23" Frame
2	157037	Fork for 24" Frame
3	191202	Handlebar TTT Competition Track Alloy 15/16"
4		Handlebar Stem, TTT, Specify extension
5	191278	Expander 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

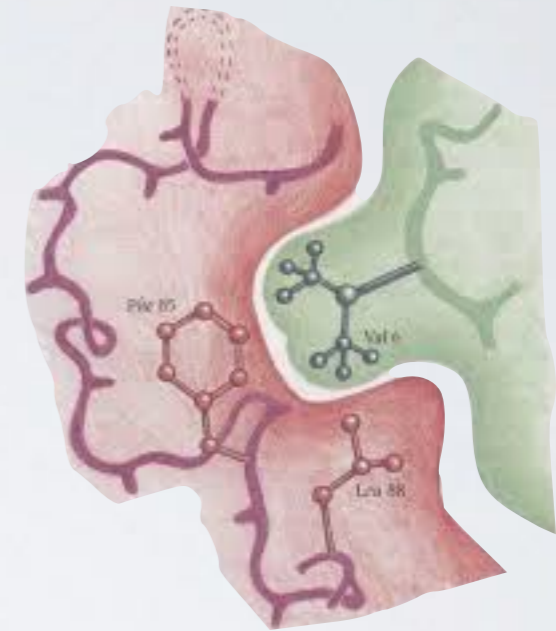
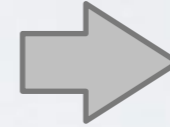
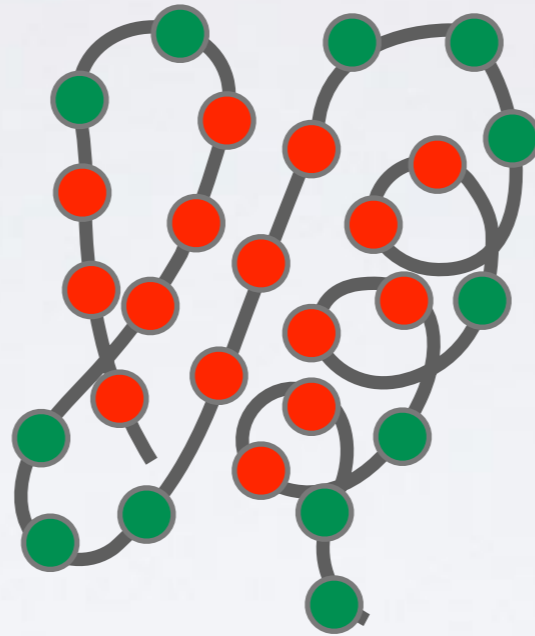
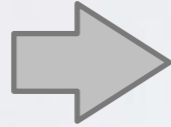
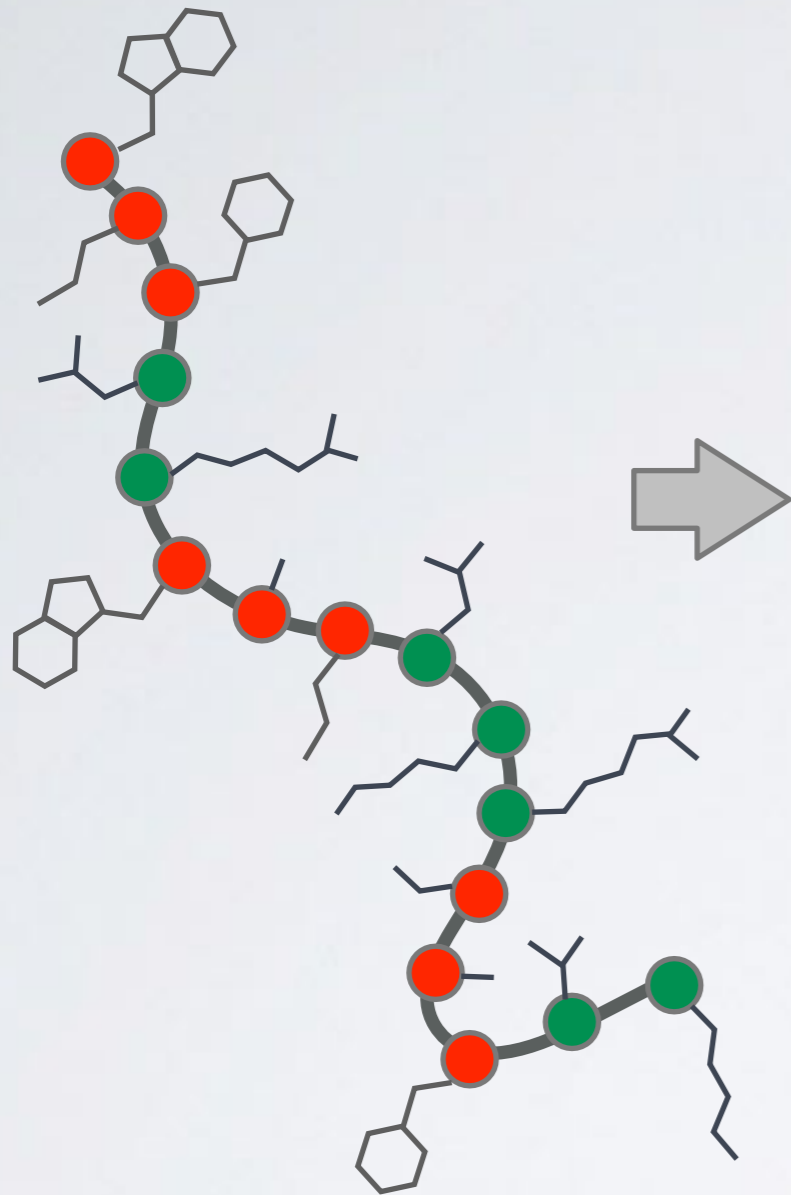
... but not the end



- 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

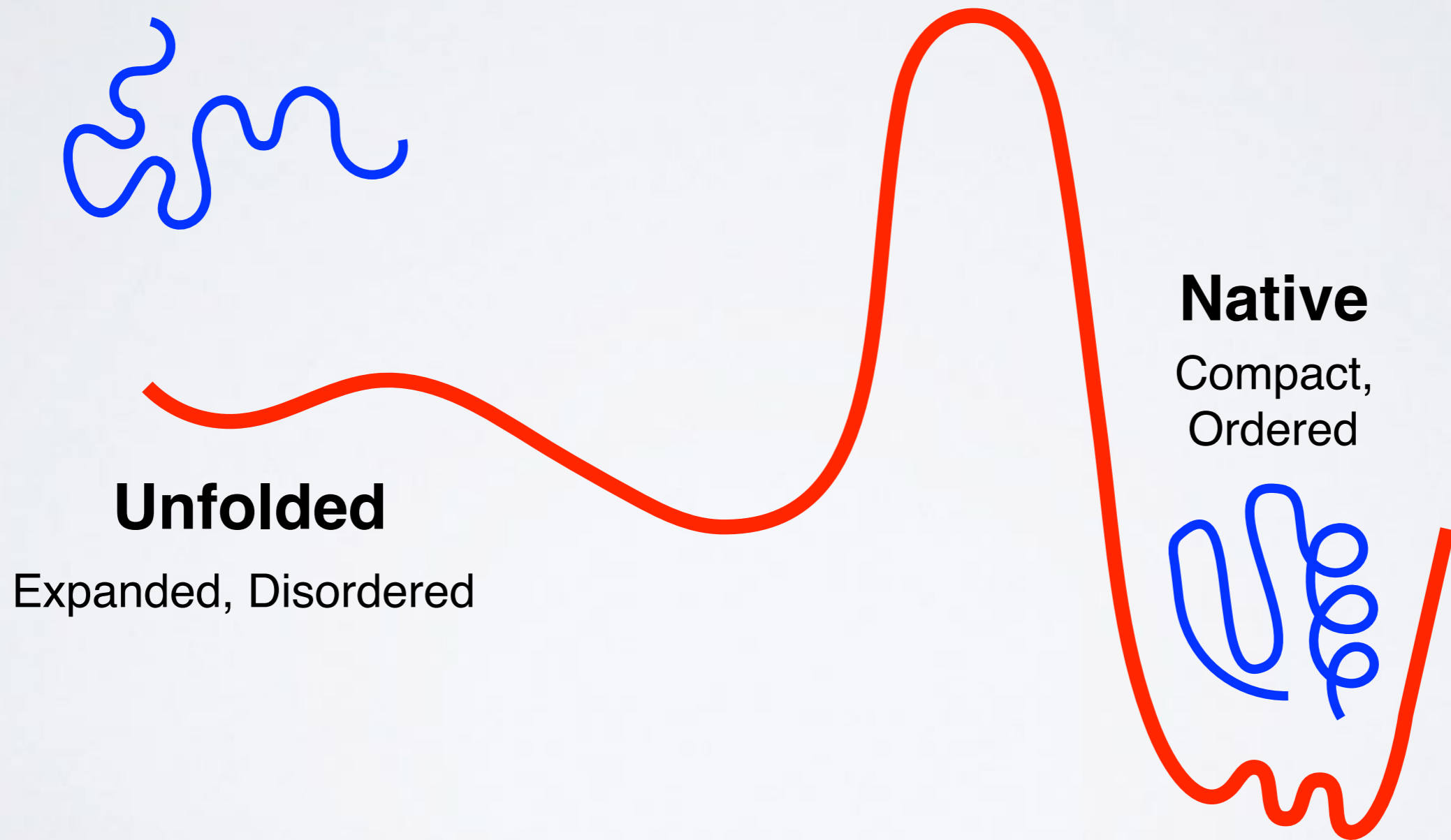
Structure

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

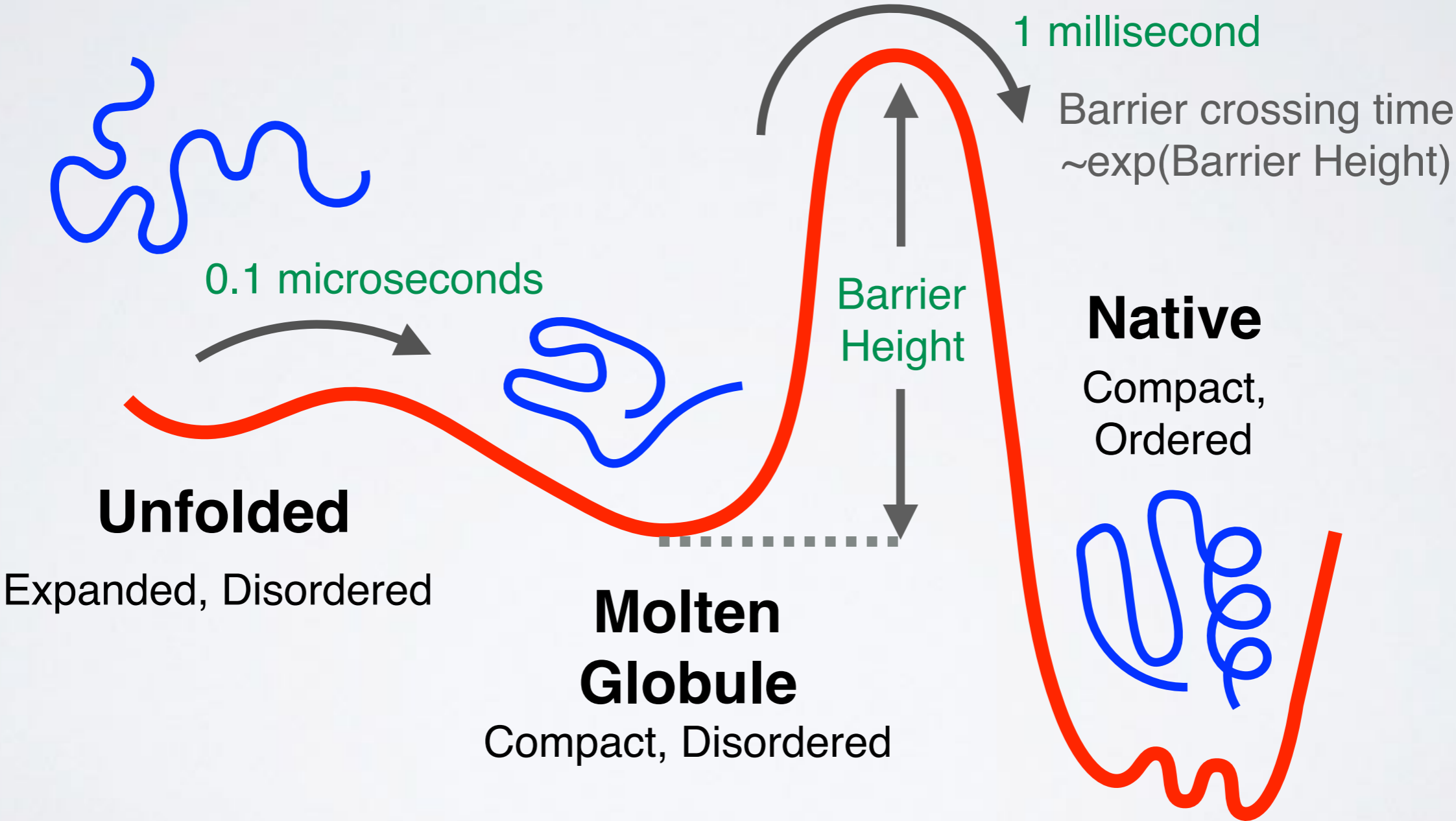
Function

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

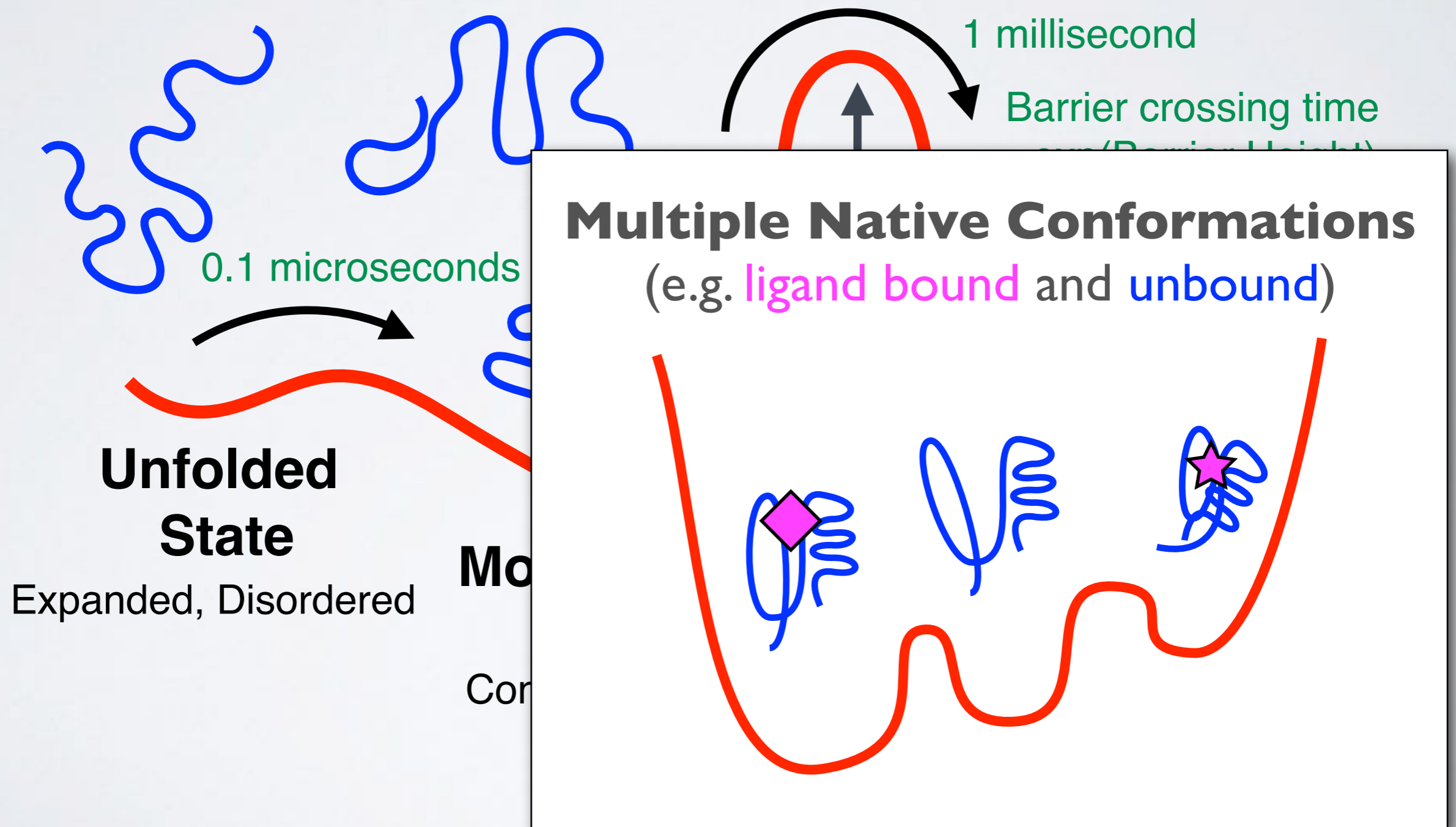
KEY CONCEPT: ENERGY LANDSCAPE



KEY CONCEPT: ENERGY LANDSCAPE



KEY CONCEPT: ENERGY LANDSCAPE



OUTLINE:

- ▶ **Overview of structural bioinformatics**
 - Major motivations, goals and challenges
- ▶ **Fundamentals of protein structure**
 - Composition, form, forces and dynamics
- ▶ **Representing and interpreting protein structure**
 - Modeling energy as a function of structure
- ▶ **Example application areas**
 - Predicting functional dynamics & drug discovery

OUTLINE:

- ▶ **Overview of structural bioinformatics**

- Major motivations, goals and challenges

- ▶ **Fundamentals of protein structure**

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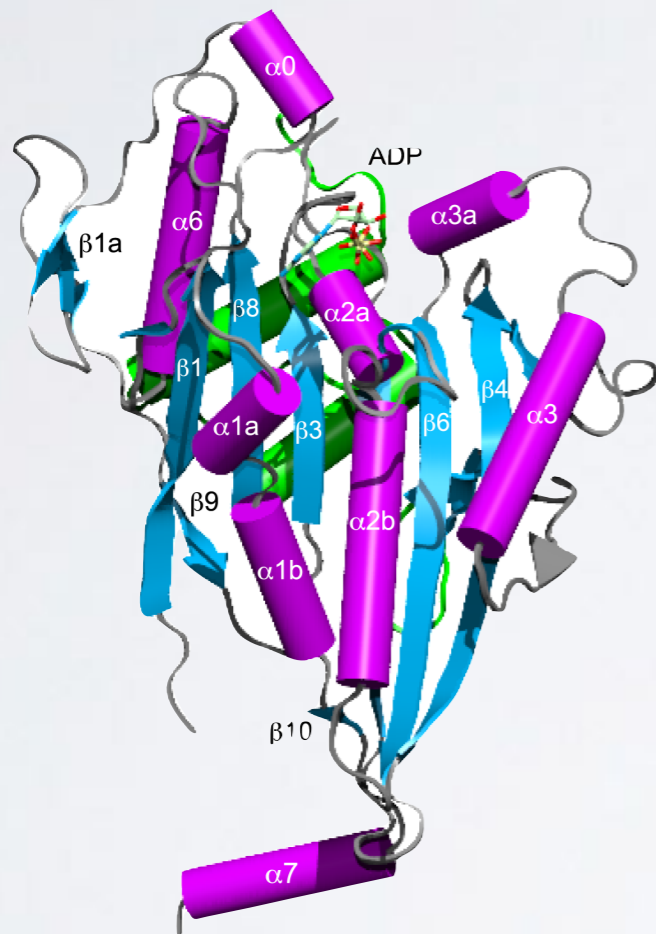
- ▶ **Representing and interpreting protein structure**

- Modeling energy as a function of structure

- ▶ **Example application areas**

- Predicting functional dynamics & drug discovery

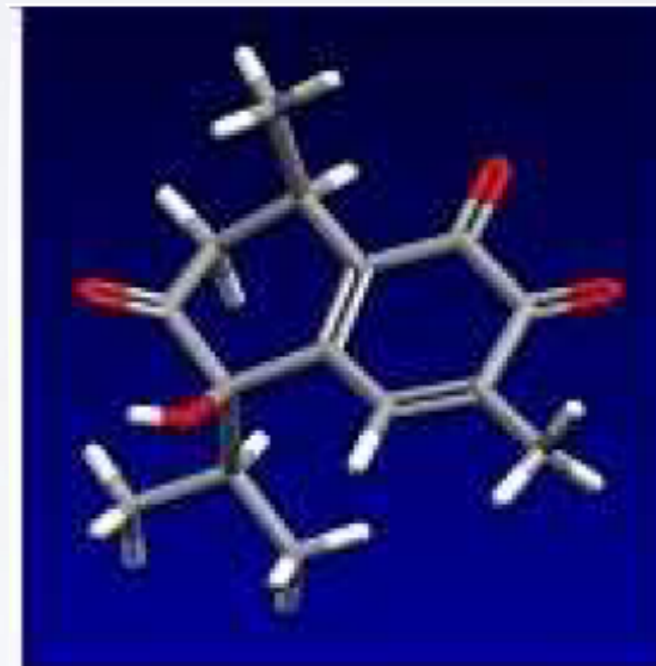
TRADITIONAL FOCUS **PROTEIN, DNA**
AND **SMALL MOLECULE** DATA SETS
WITH **MOLECULAR STRUCTURE**



Protein
(PDB)



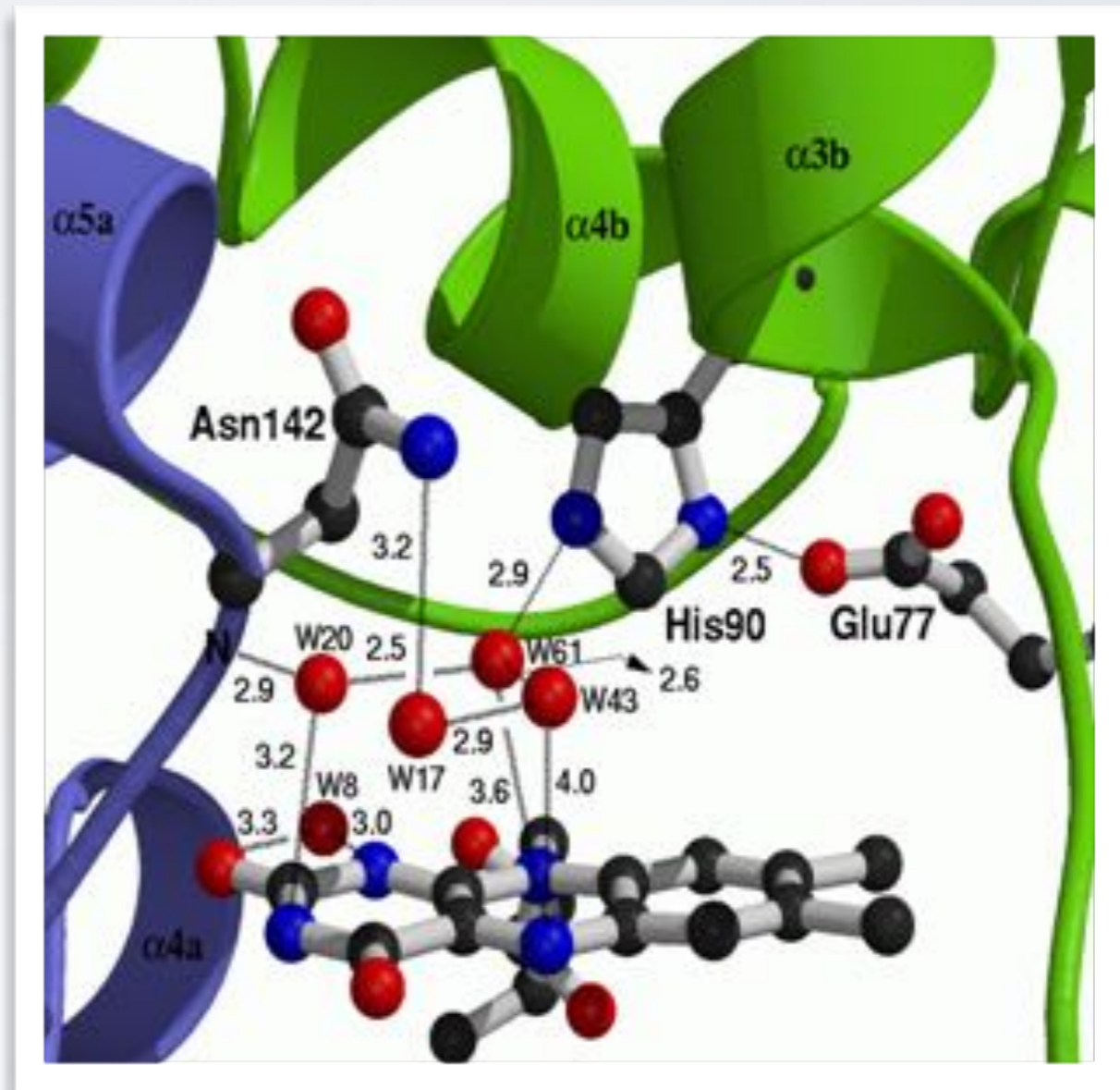
DNA
(NDB)



Small Molecules
(CCDB)

Motivation 1: Detailed understanding of molecular interactions

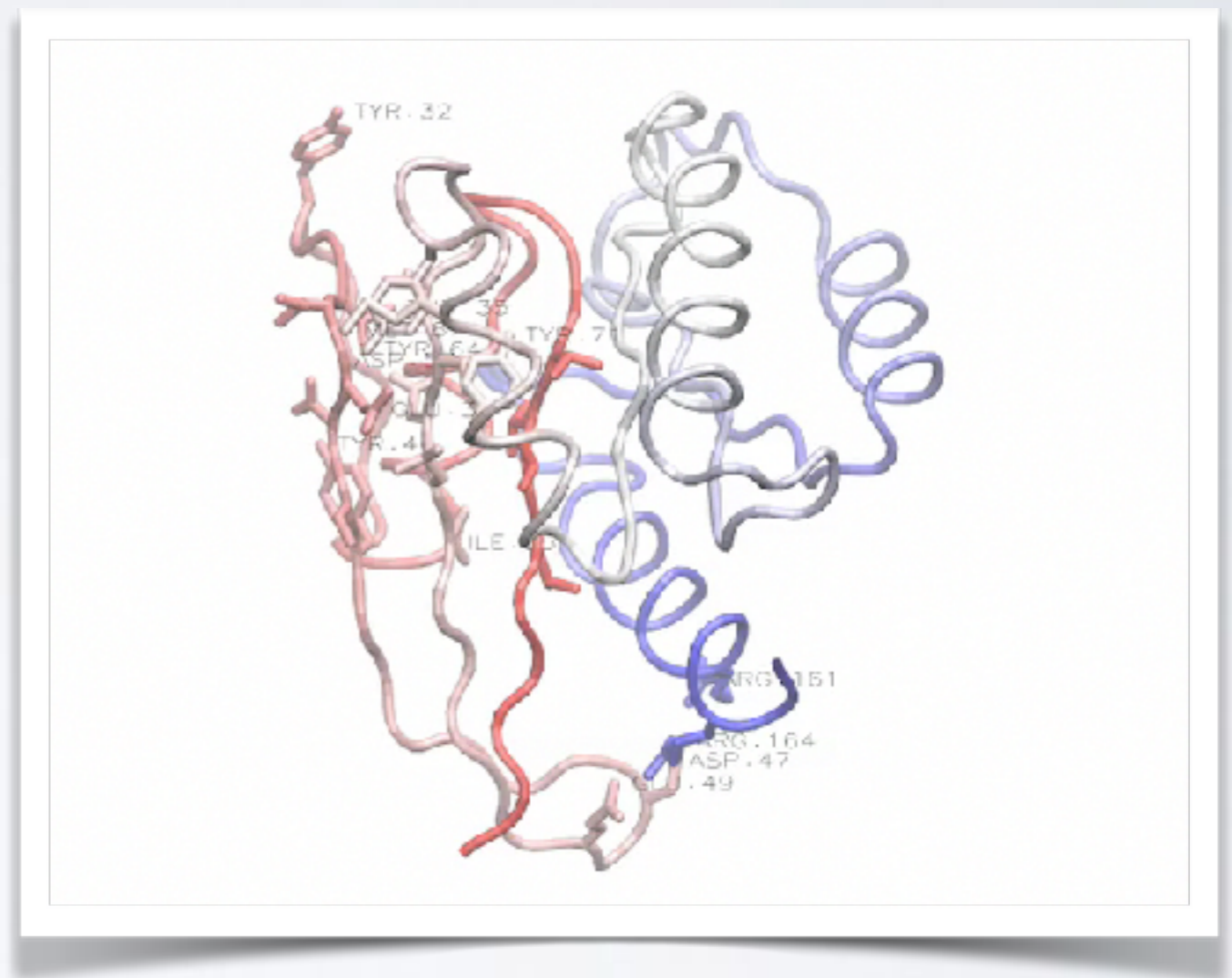
Provides an invaluable structural
context for conservation and
mechanistic analysis leading to
functional insight.



Motivation 1:

Detailed understanding of molecular interactions

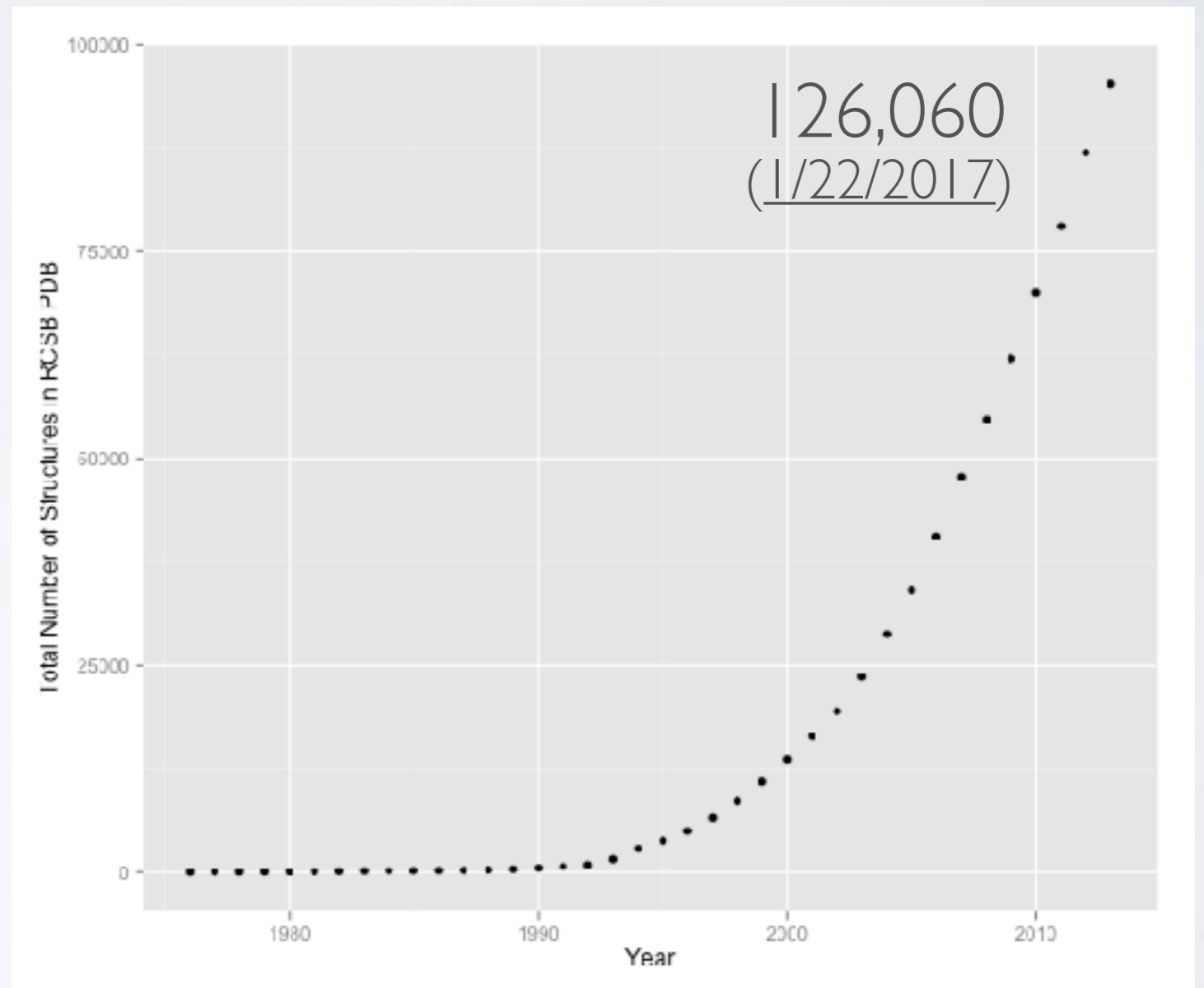
Computational modeling can provide detailed insight into functional interactions, their regulation and potential consequences of perturbation.



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: <http://www.rcsb.org/pdb/statistics/>

Motivation 2:
Lots of structural data is becoming available

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

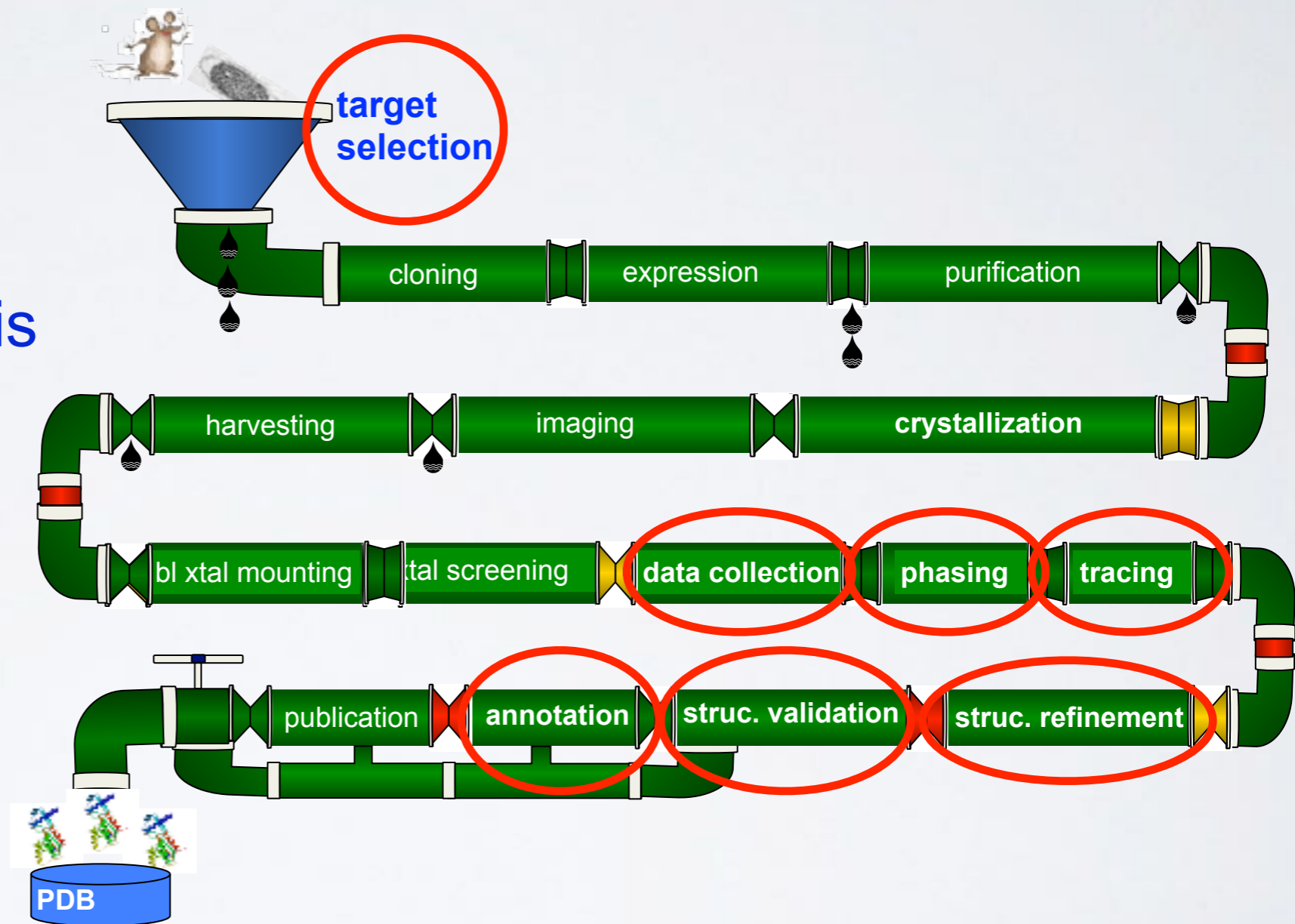
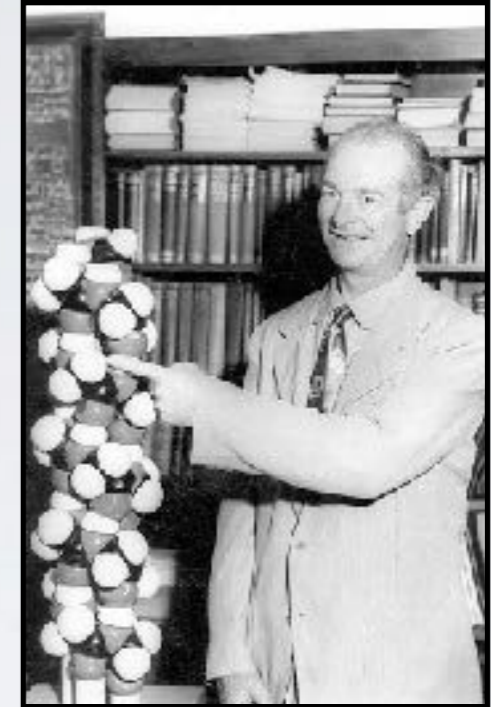
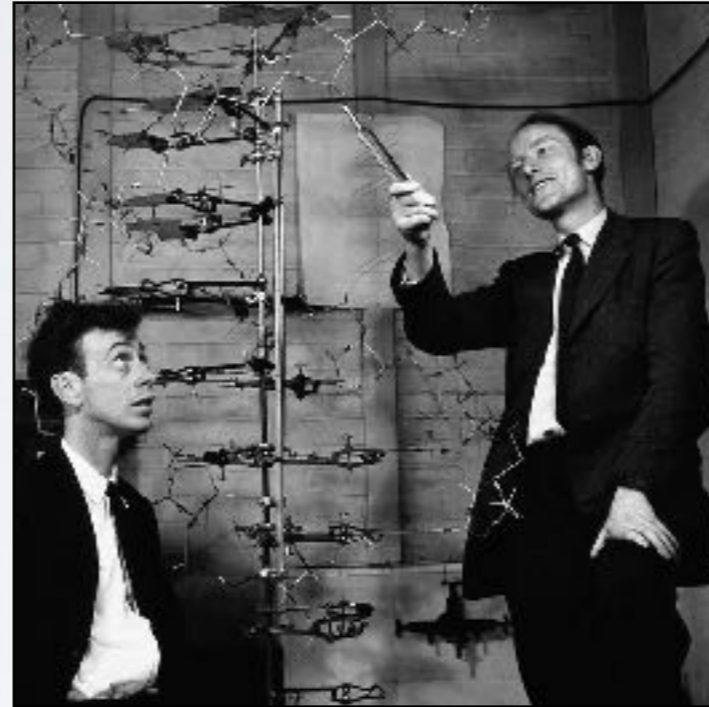


Image Credit: "Structure determination assembly line" Adam Godzik



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

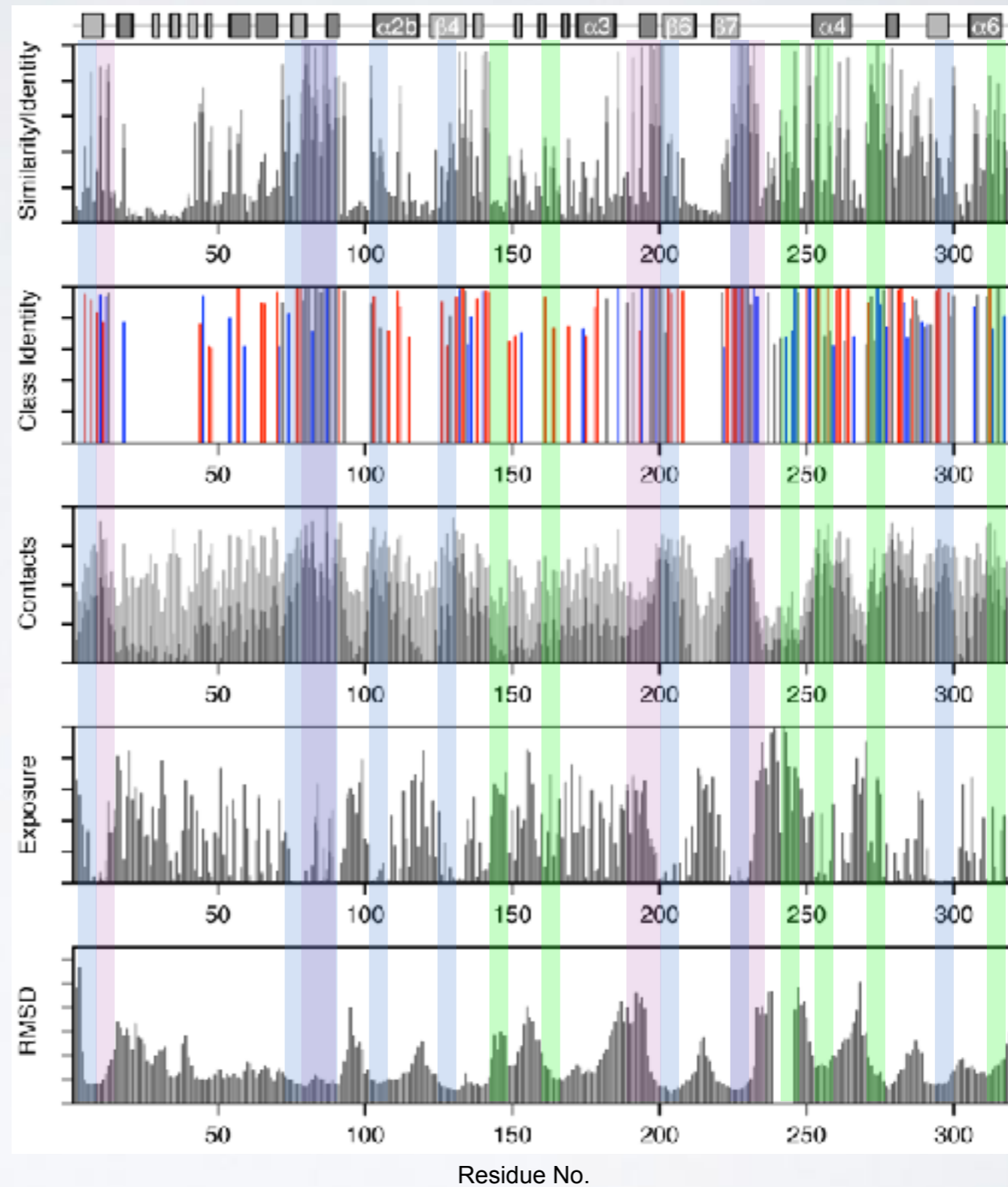
- Structure allows identification of more distant evolutionary relationships

Structure is encoded in sequence

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

Goals:

- Analysis
- Visualization
- Comparison
- Prediction
- Design



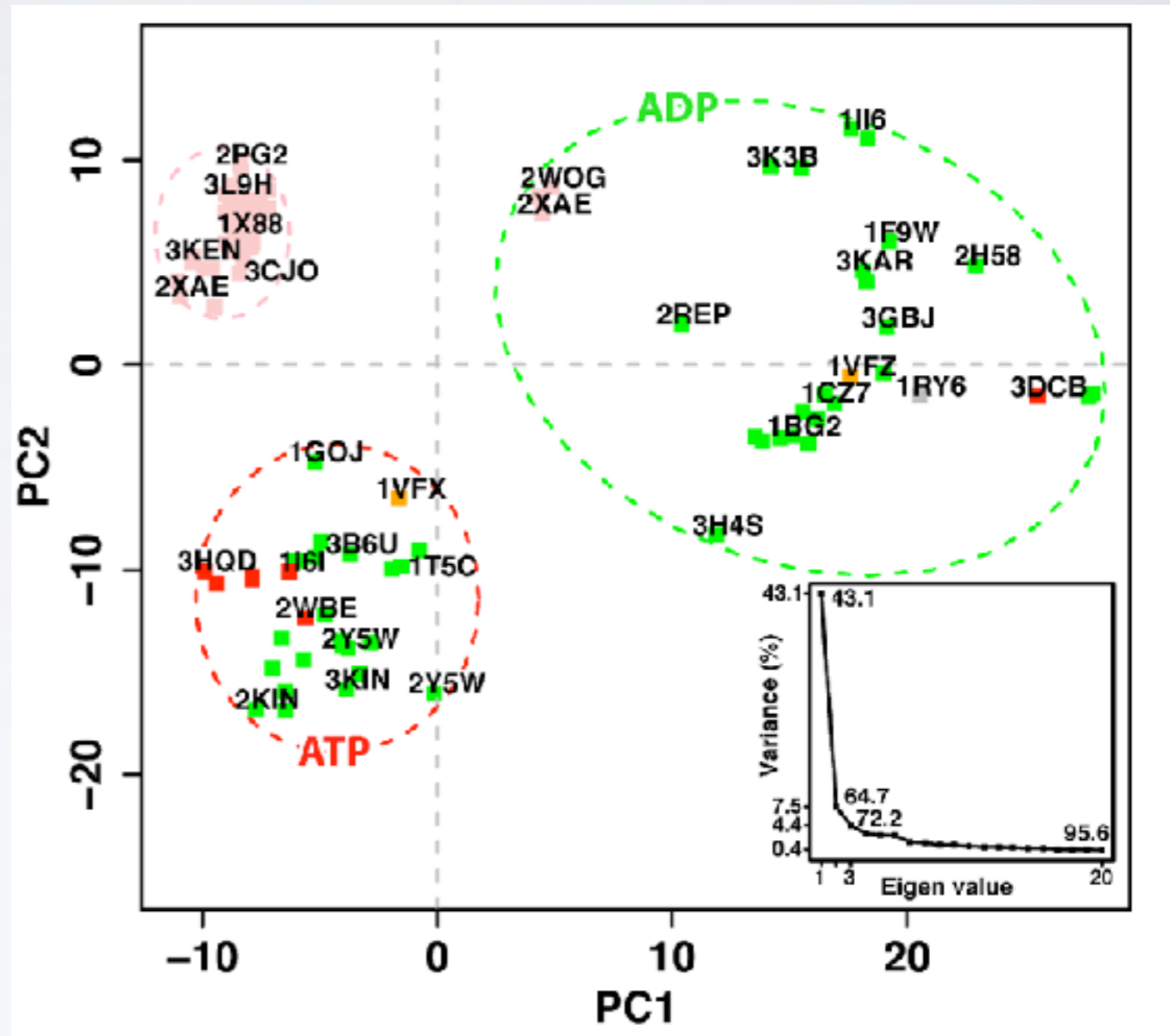
Goals:

- Analysis
- **Visualization**
- Comparison
- Prediction
- Design



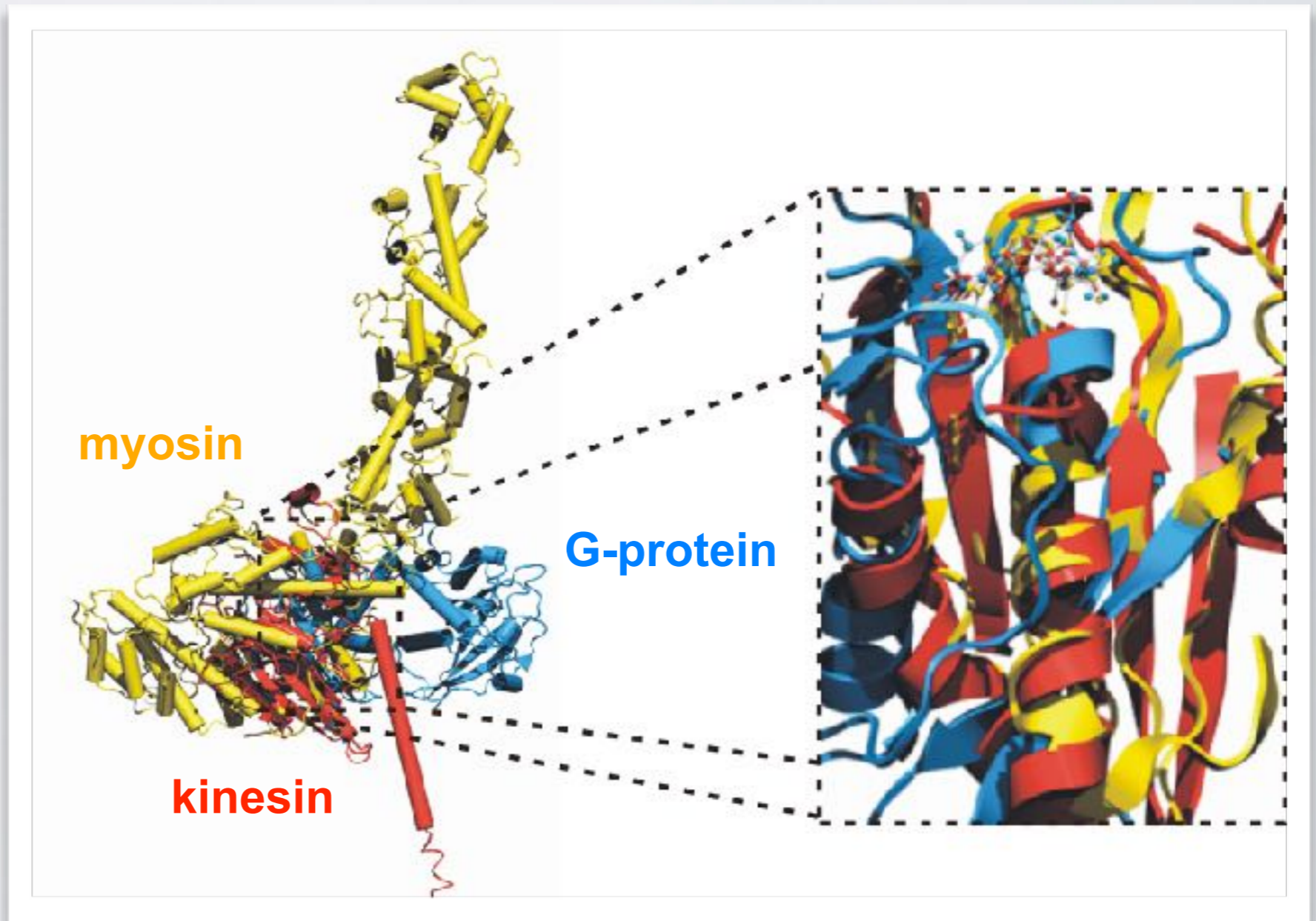
Goals:

- Analysis
- Visualization
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- Prediction
- Design



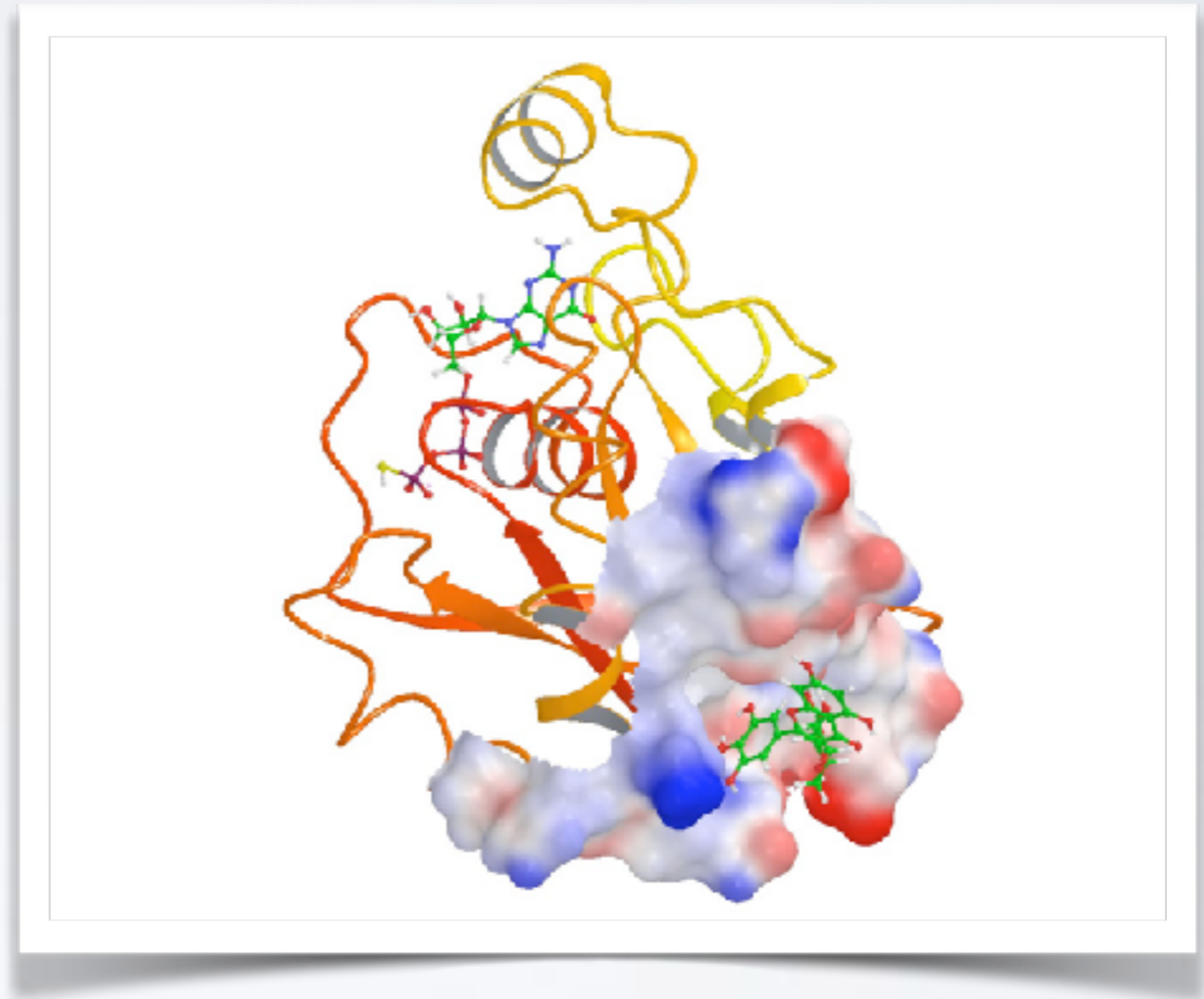
Goals:

- Analysis
- Visualization
- **Comparison**
- Prediction
- Design



Goals:

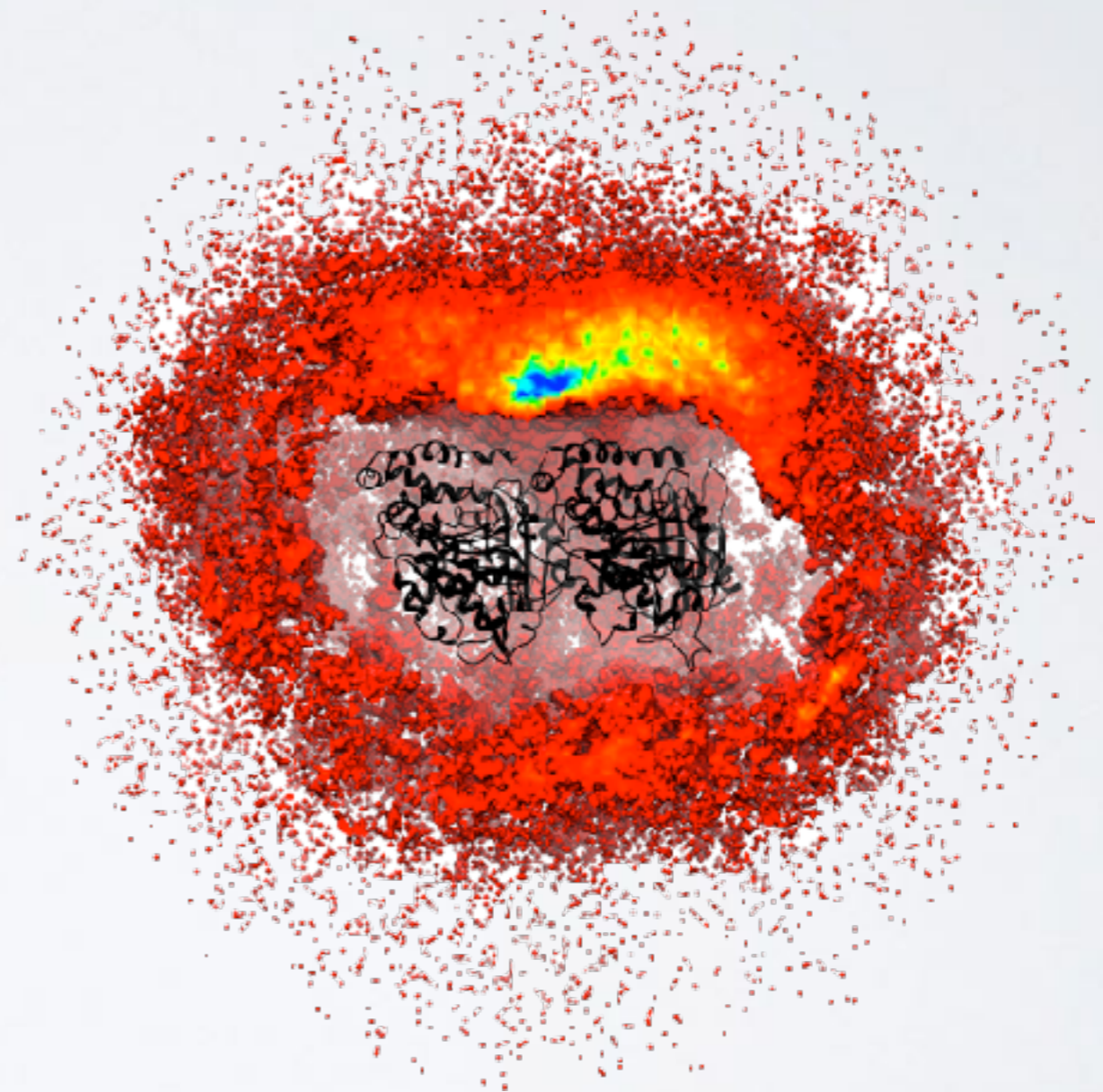
- Analysis
- Visualization
- Comparison
- Prediction
- Design



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

Goals:

- Analysis
- Visualization
- 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

NEXT UP:

- ▶ **Overview of structural bioinformatics**
 - Major motivations, goals and challenges

- ▶ **Fundamentals of protein structure**
 - Composition, form, forces and dynamics

- ▶ **Representing and interpreting protein structure**

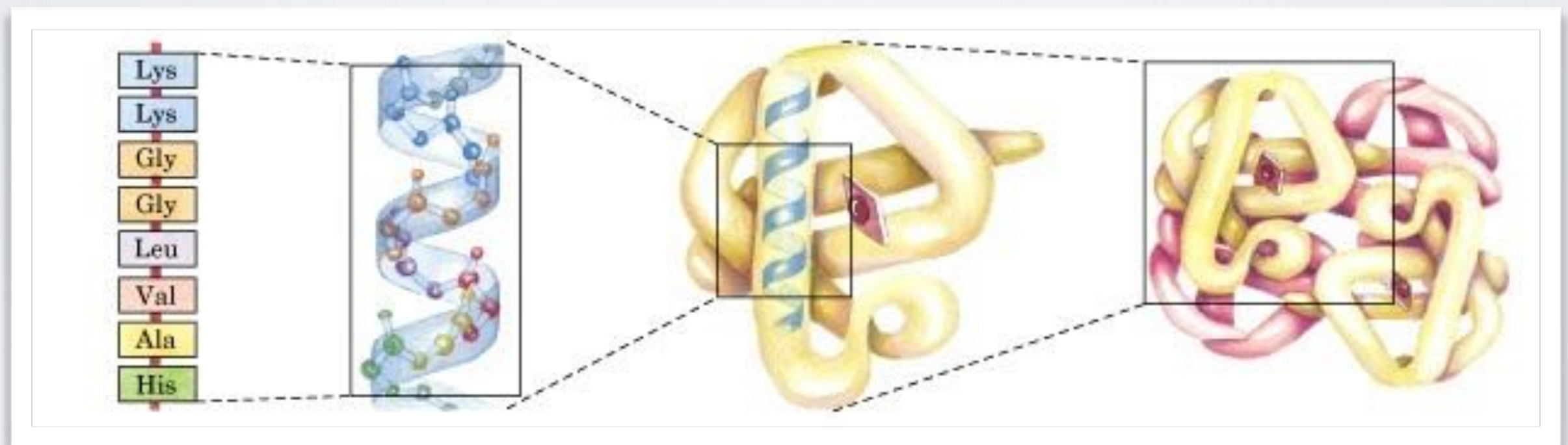
- Modeling energy as a function of structure

- ▶ **Example application areas**

- Predicting functional dynamics & drug discovery

HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE OF PROTEINS

Primary > Secondary > Tertiary > Quaternary



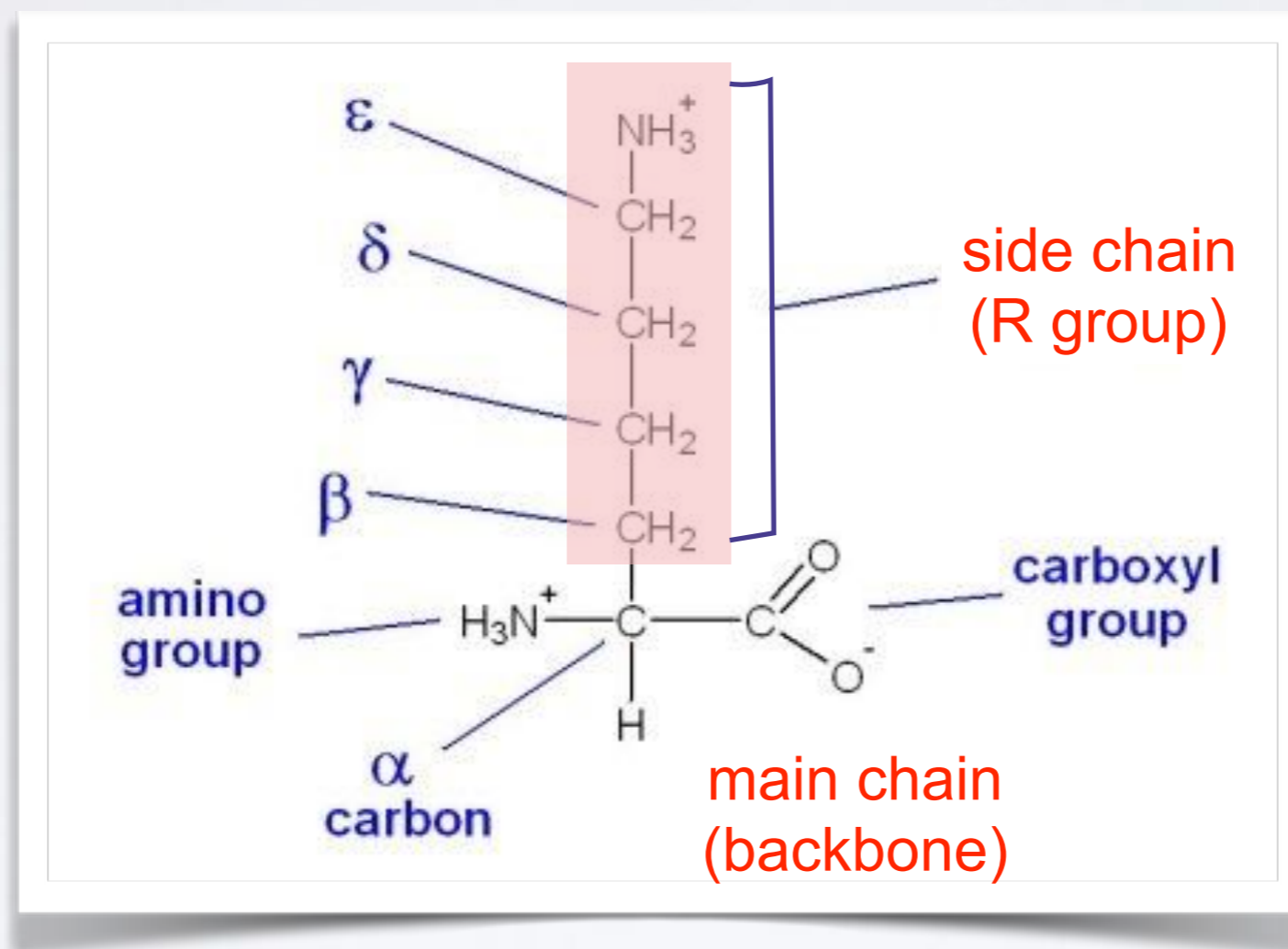
amino acid
residues

Alpha
helix

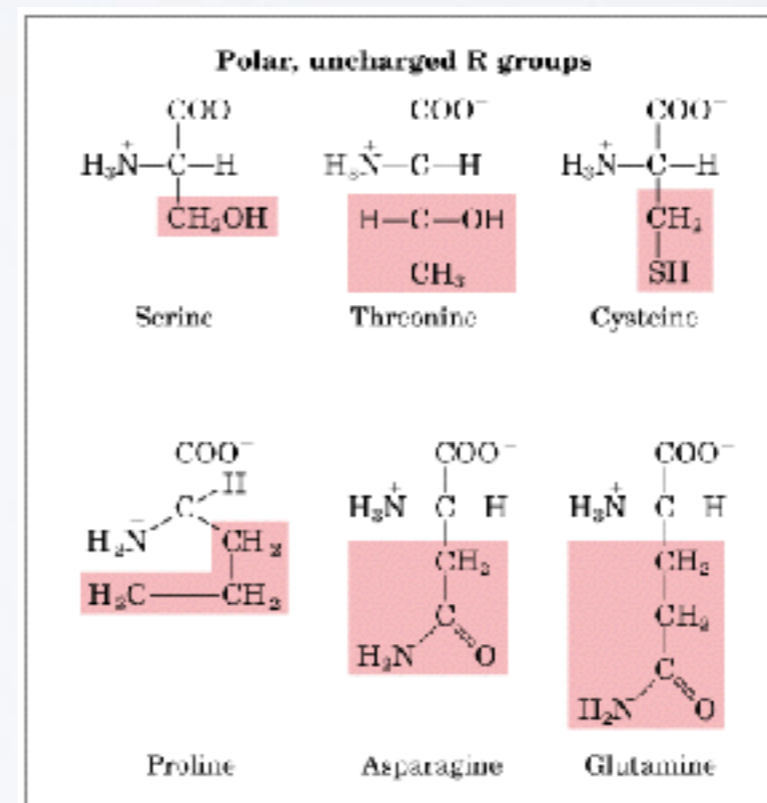
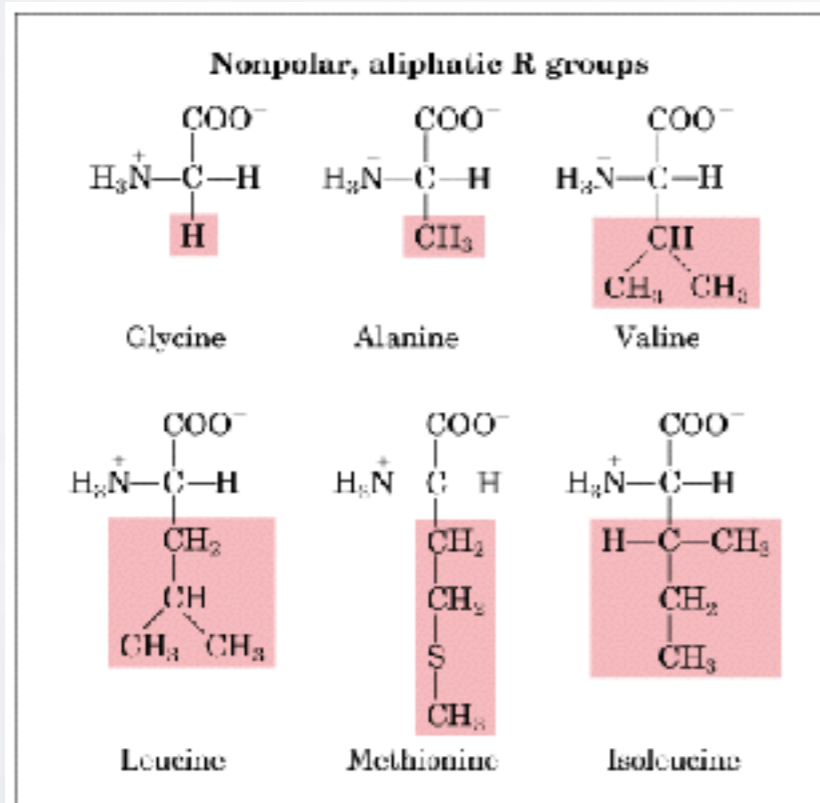
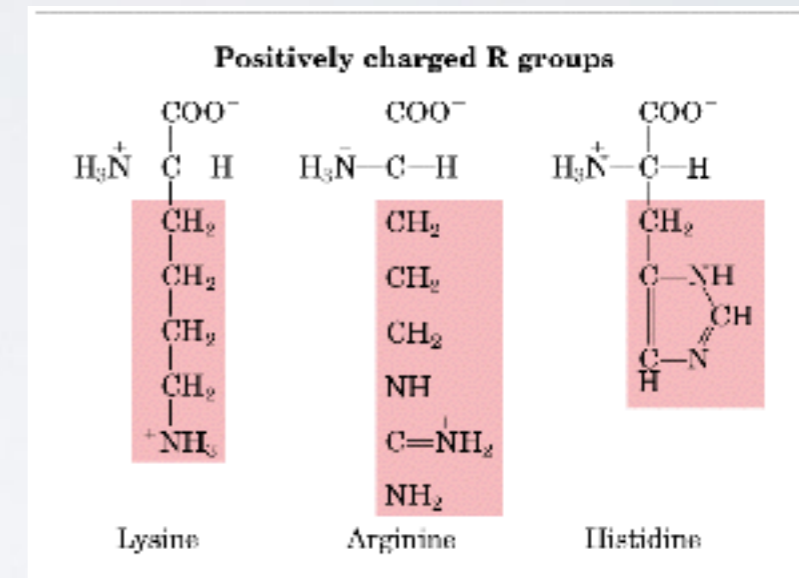
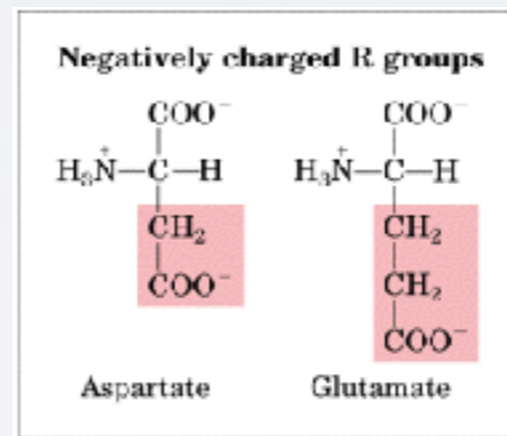
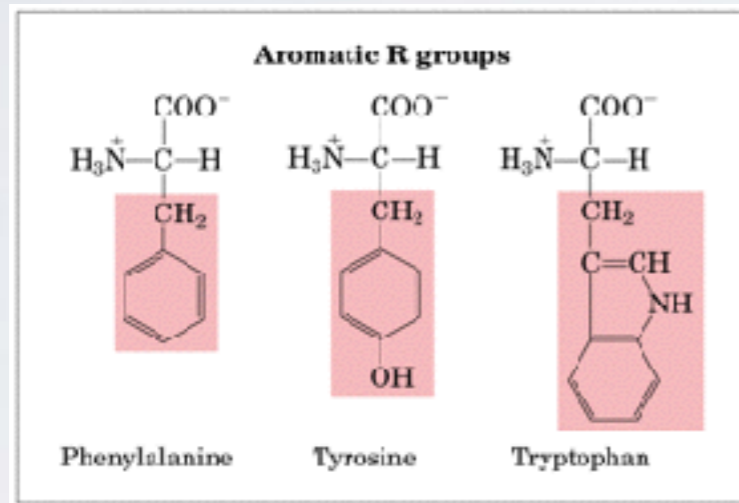
Polypeptide
chain

Assembled
subunits

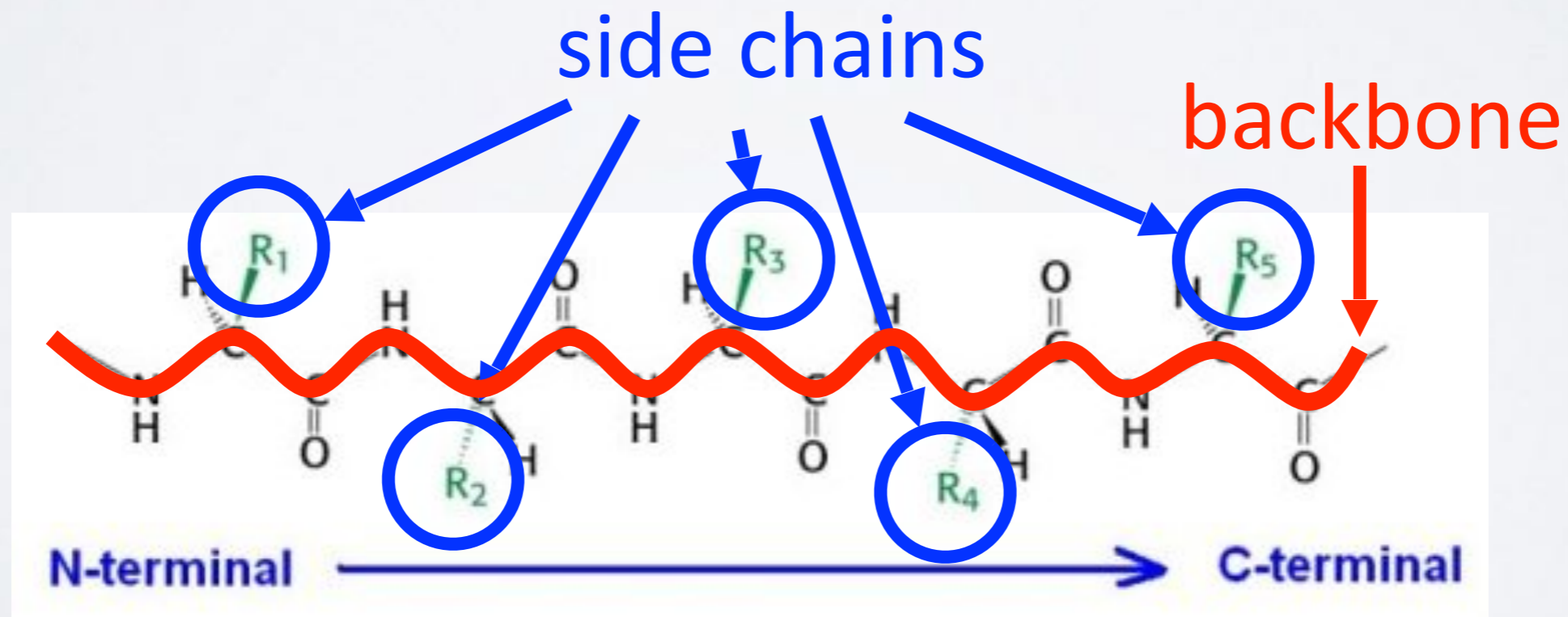
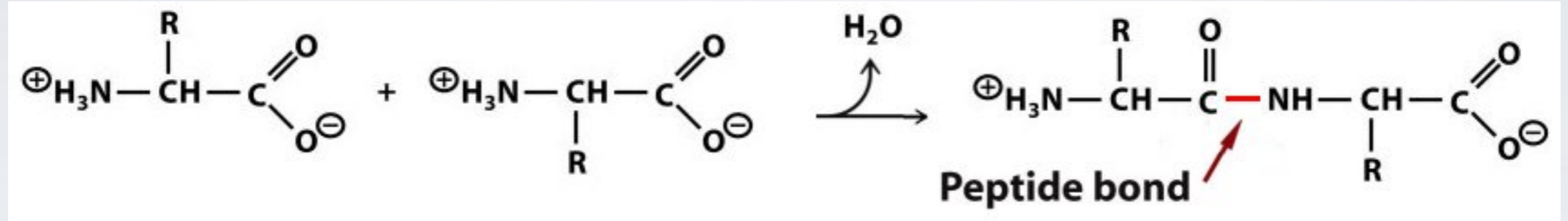
RECAP: AMINO ACID NOMENCLATURE



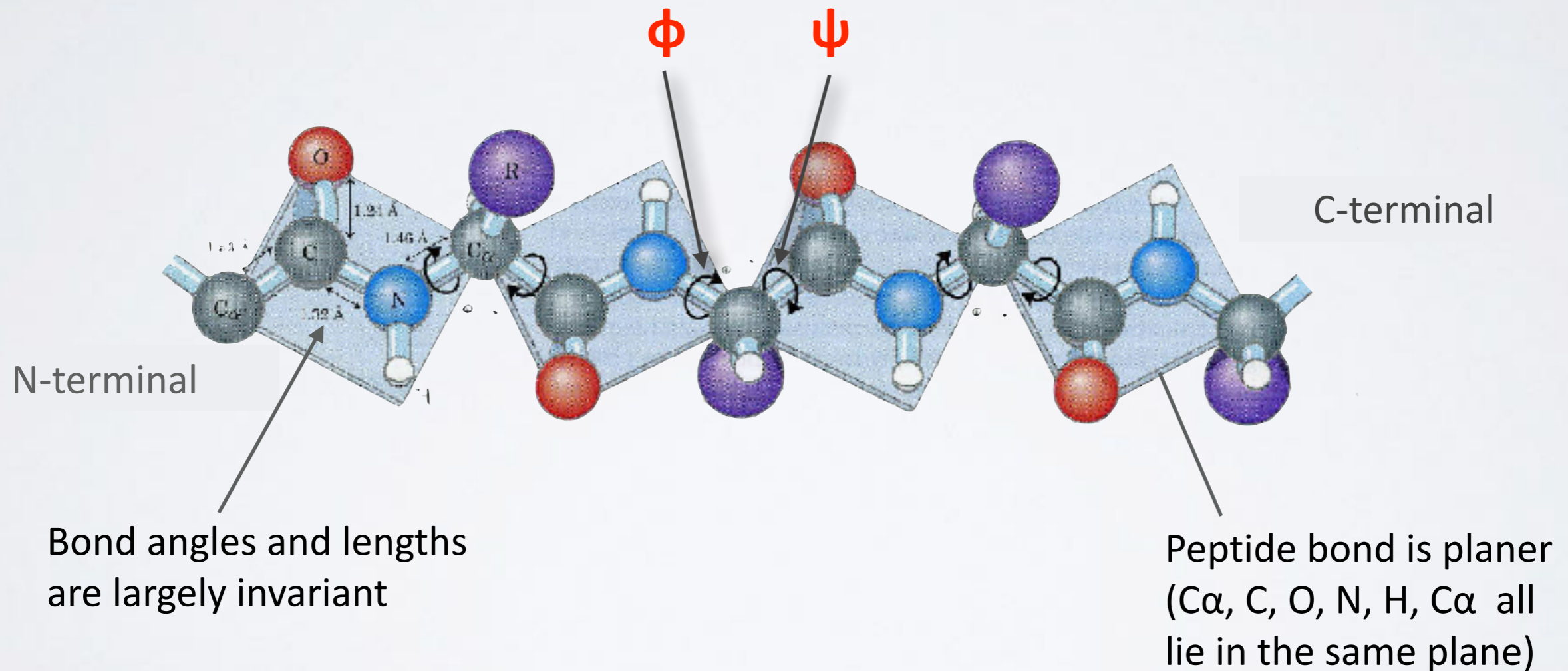
AMINO ACIDS CAN BE GROUPED BY THE PHYSIOCHEMICAL PROPERTIES



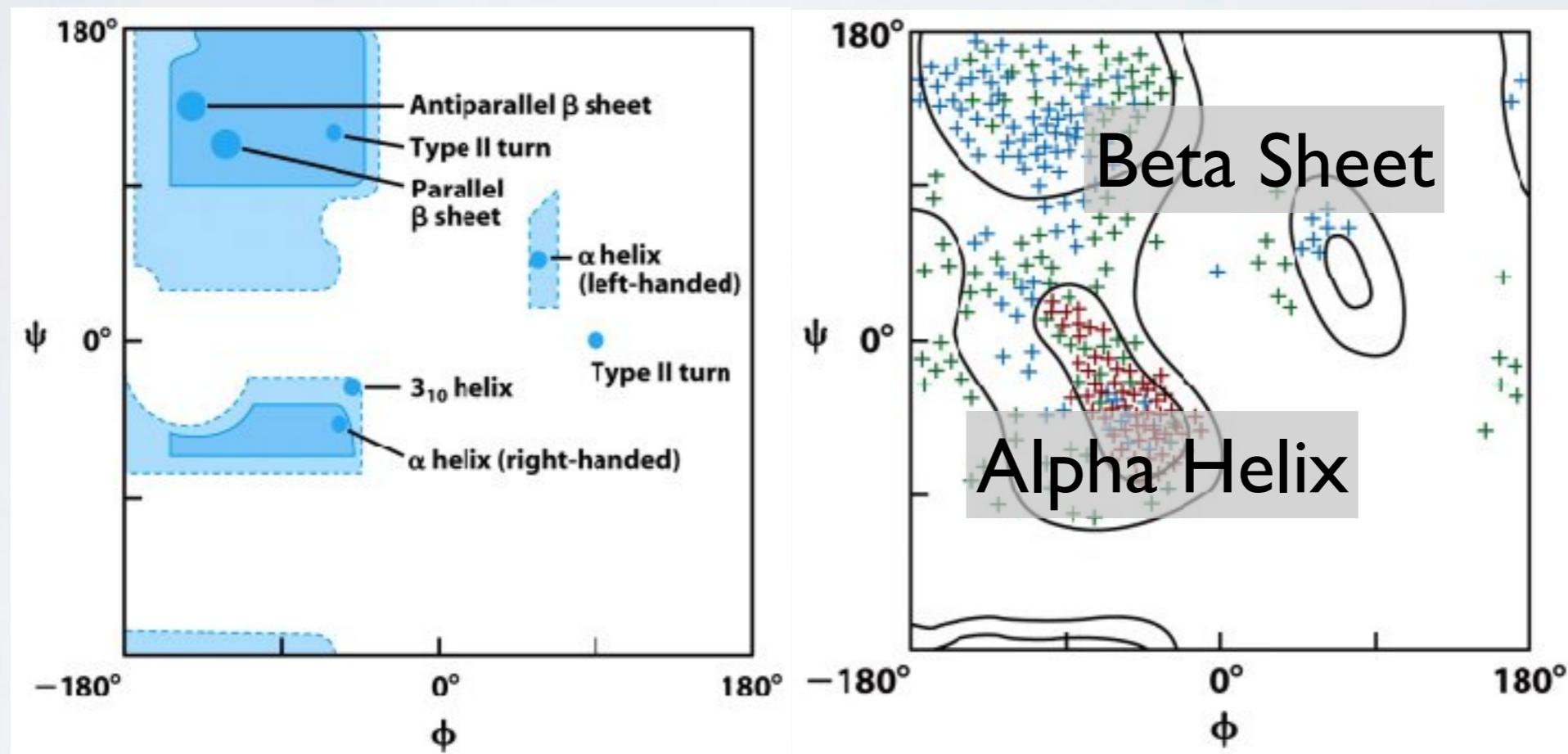
AMINO ACIDS POLYMERIZE THROUGH **PEPTIDE BOND** FORMATION



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



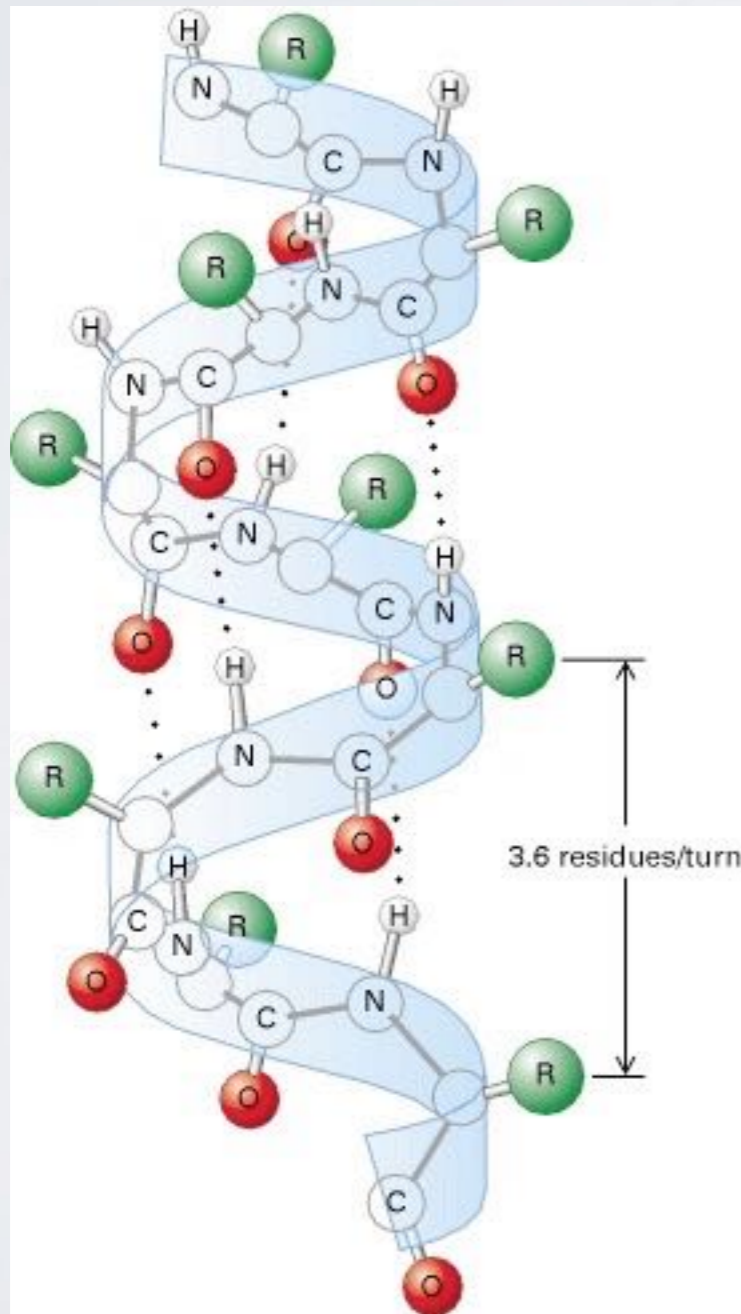
PHI vs PSI PLOTS ARE KNOWN AS **RAMACHANDRAN DIAGRAMS**



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

MAJOR SECONDARY STRUCTURE TYPES

ALPHA HELIX & BETA SHEET



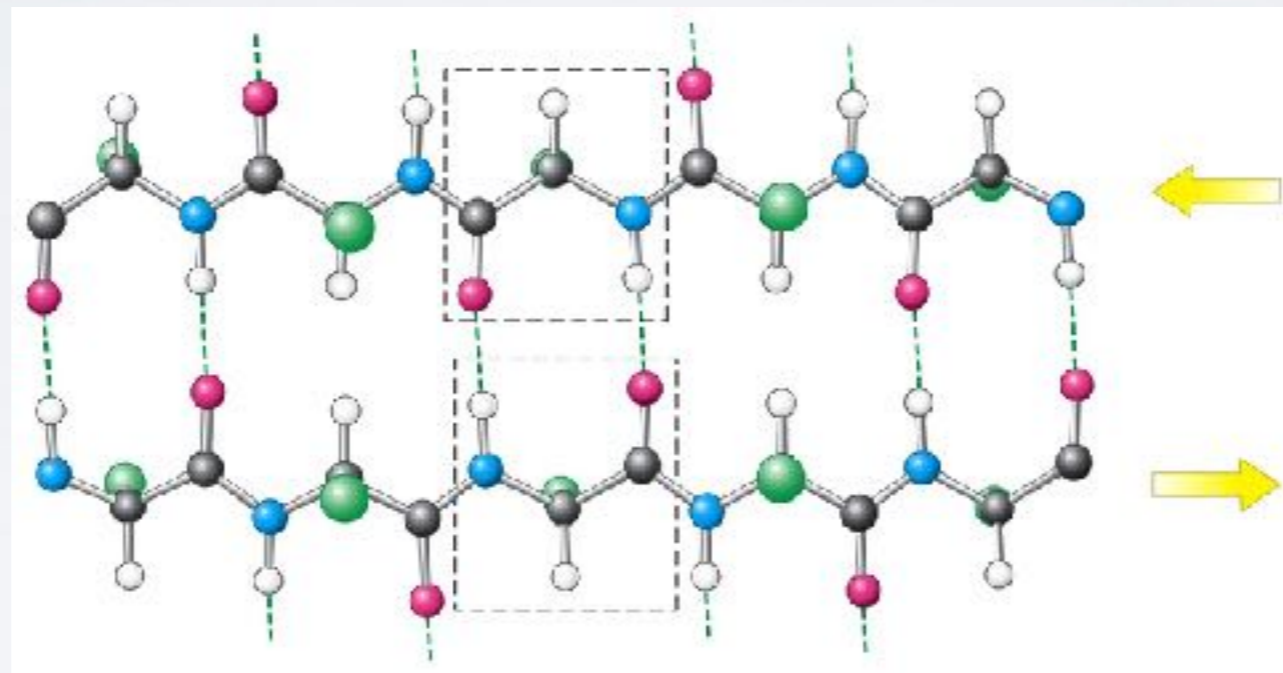
α -helix

- 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 π -helix forms are less common

Hydrogen bond: **$i \rightarrow i+4$**

MAJOR SECONDARY STRUCTURE TYPES

ALPHA HELIX & **BETA SHEET**



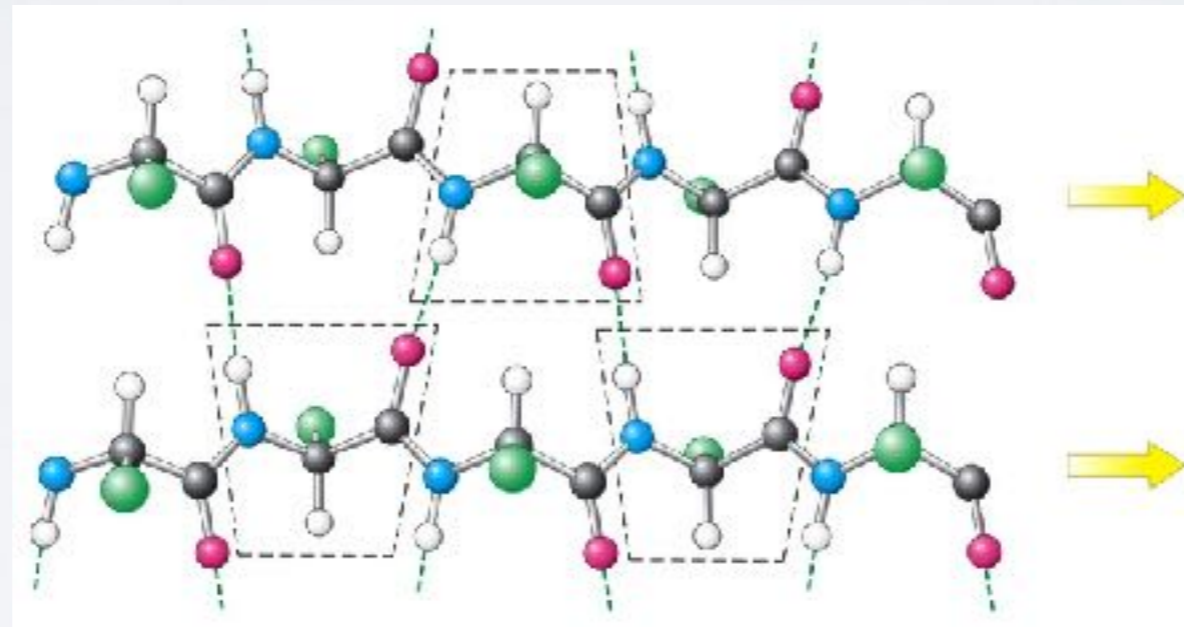
In antiparallel β -sheets

- Adjacent β -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**

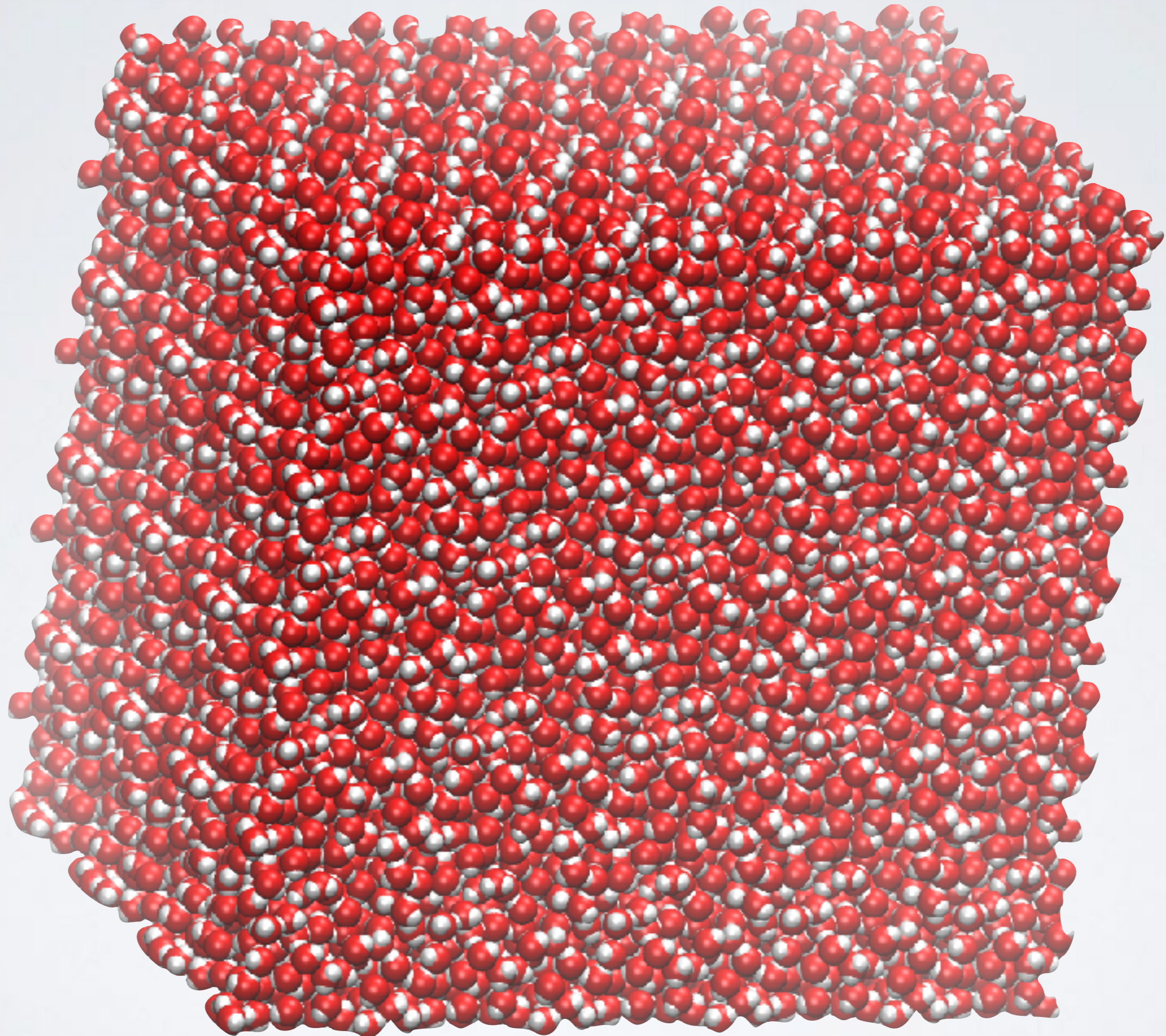


In parallel β -sheets

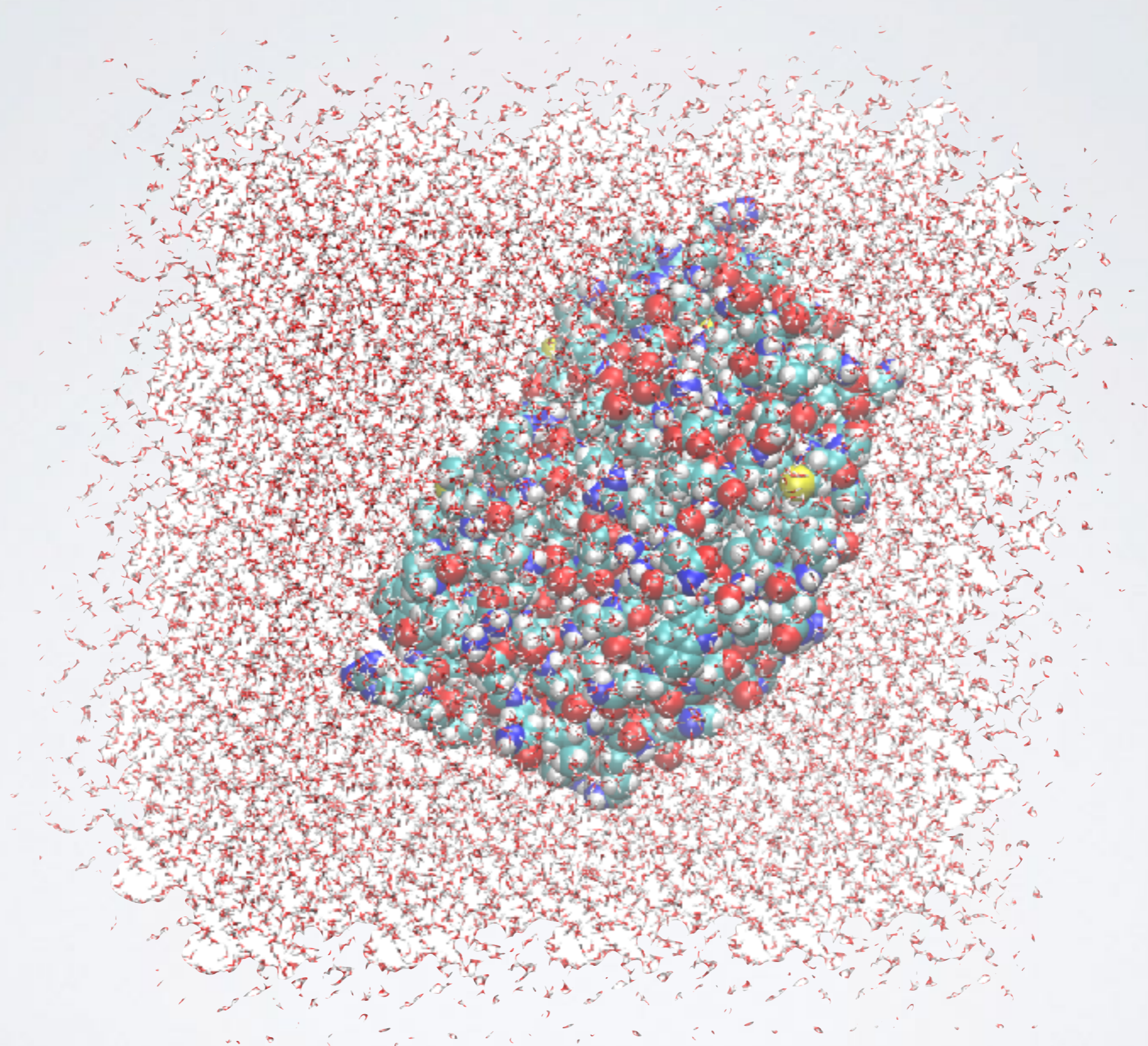
- Adjacent β -strands run in same direction
- Hydrogen bonds (dashed lines) between NH and CO stabilize the structure
- The side chains (in green) are above and below the sheet

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

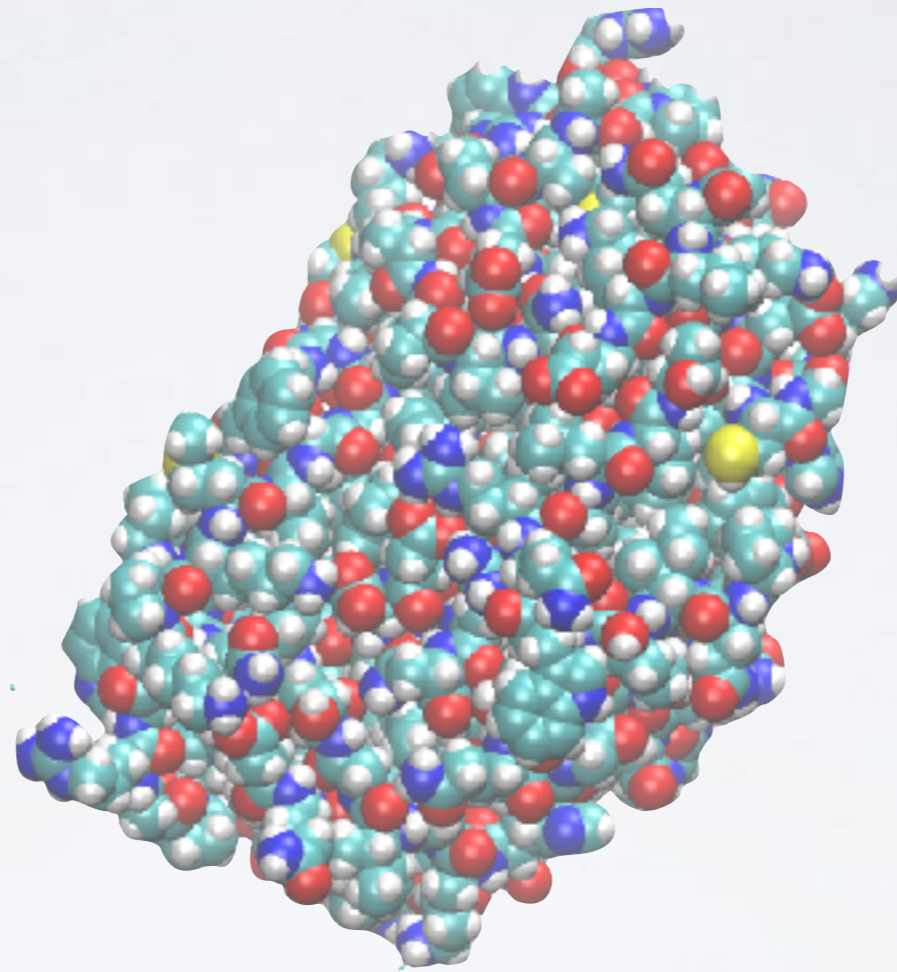
What Does a Protein Look like?



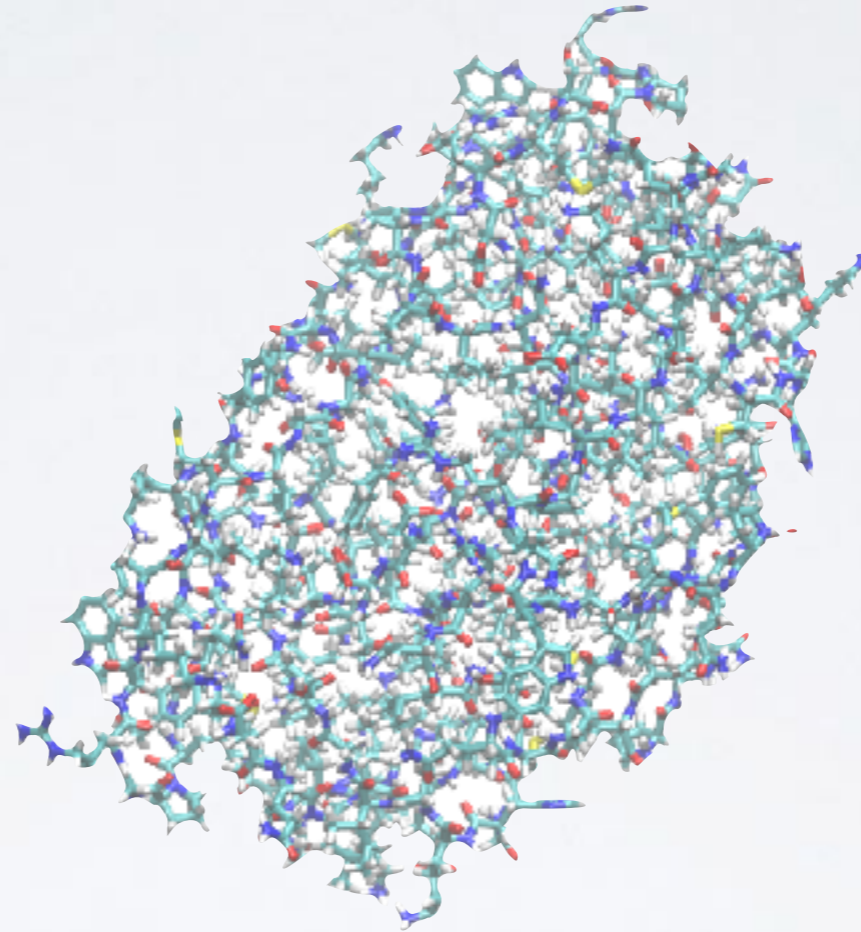
- Proteins are stable (and hidden) in water



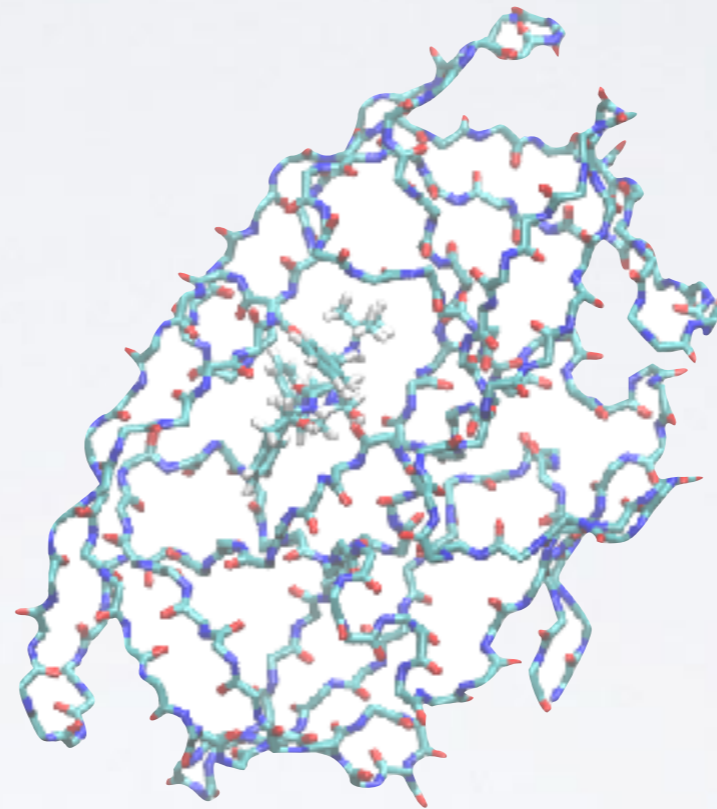
- Proteins closely interact with water



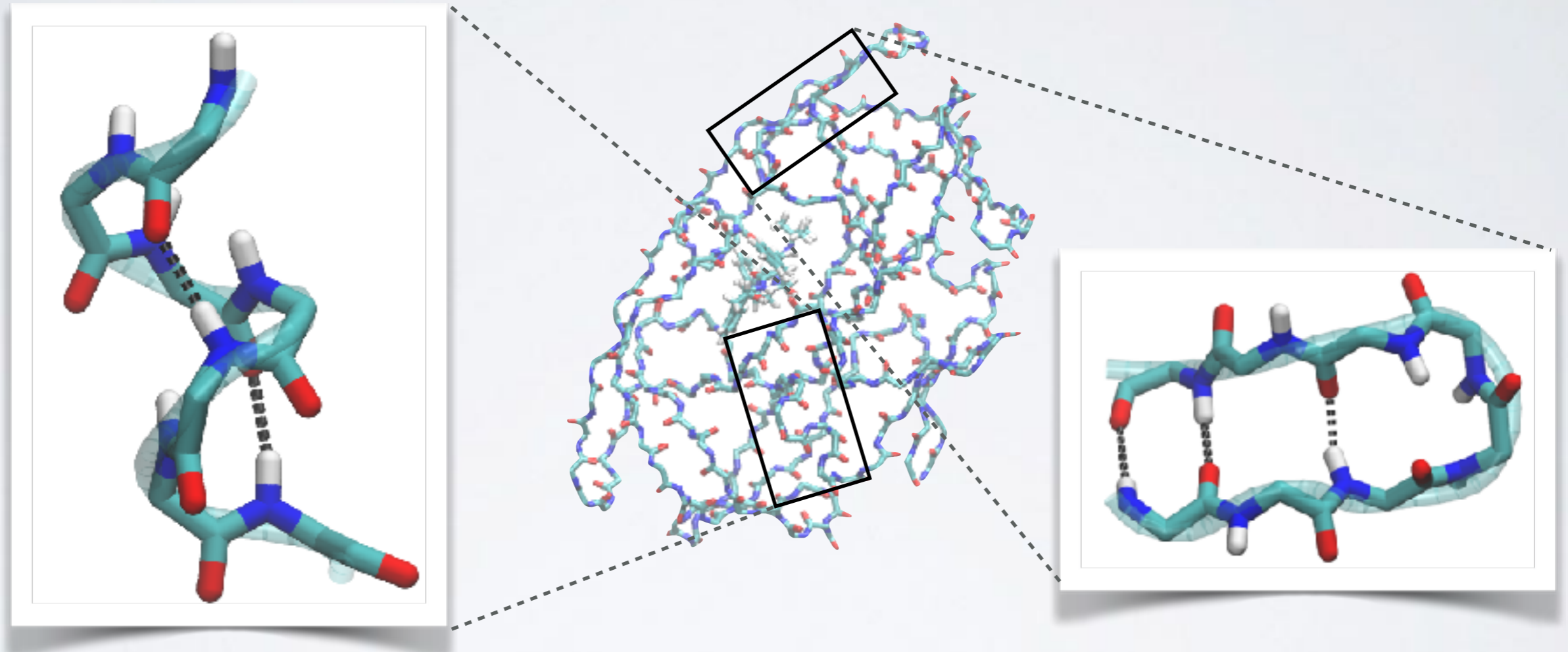
- Proteins are close packed solid but flexible objects (globular)



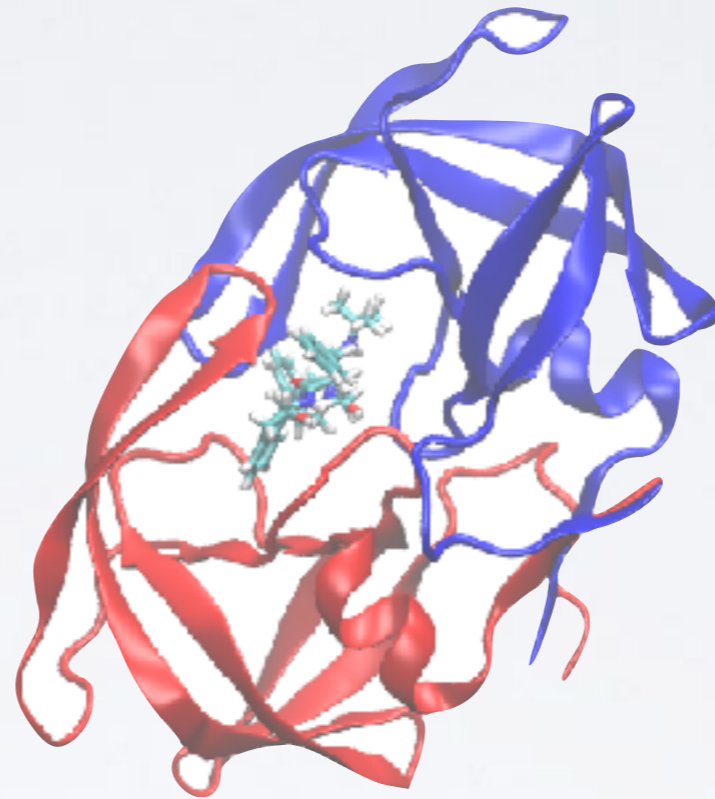
- Due to their large size and complexity it is often hard to see what's important in the structure



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

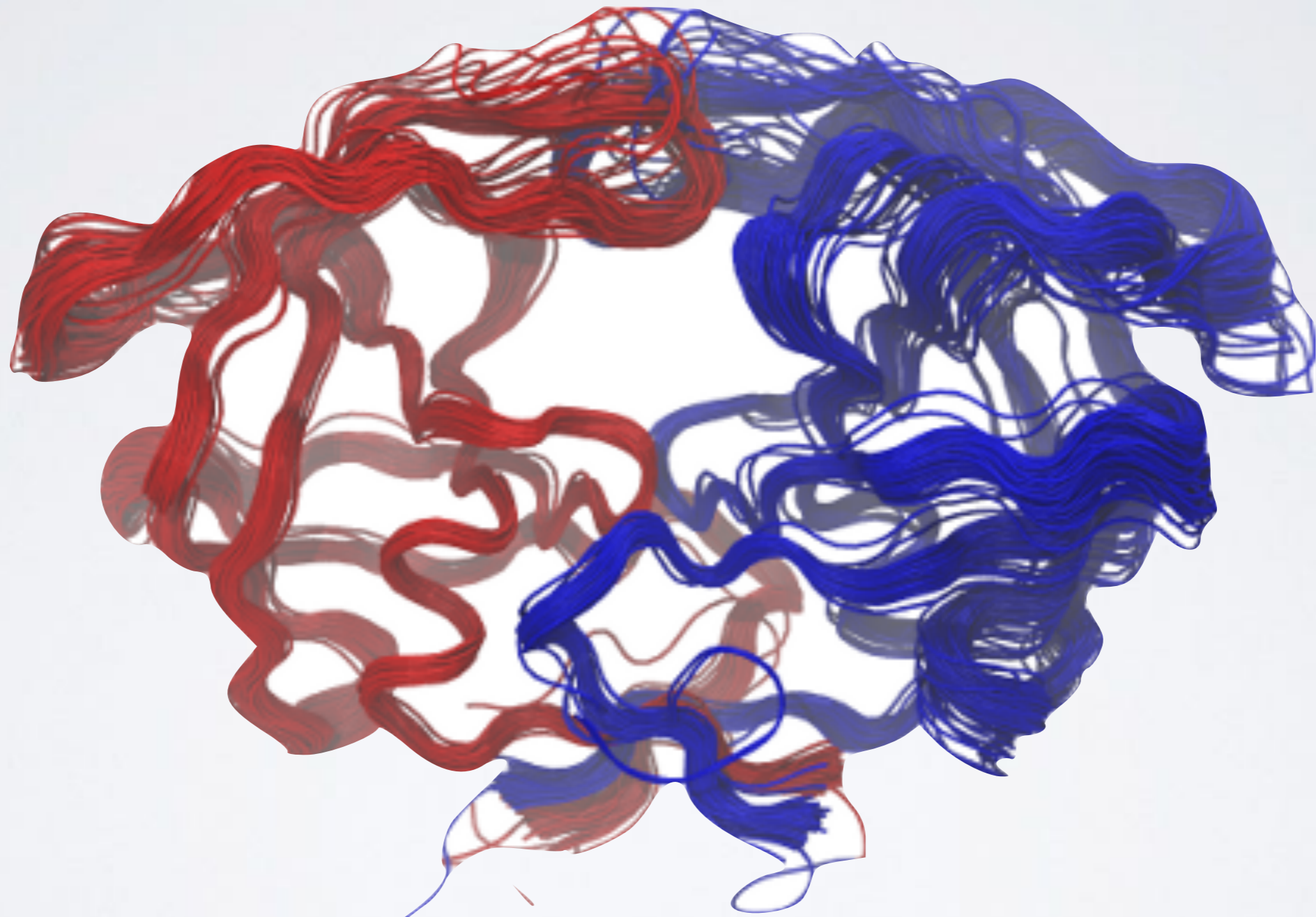


- Backbone or main-chain representation can help trace chain topology & reveal secondary structure



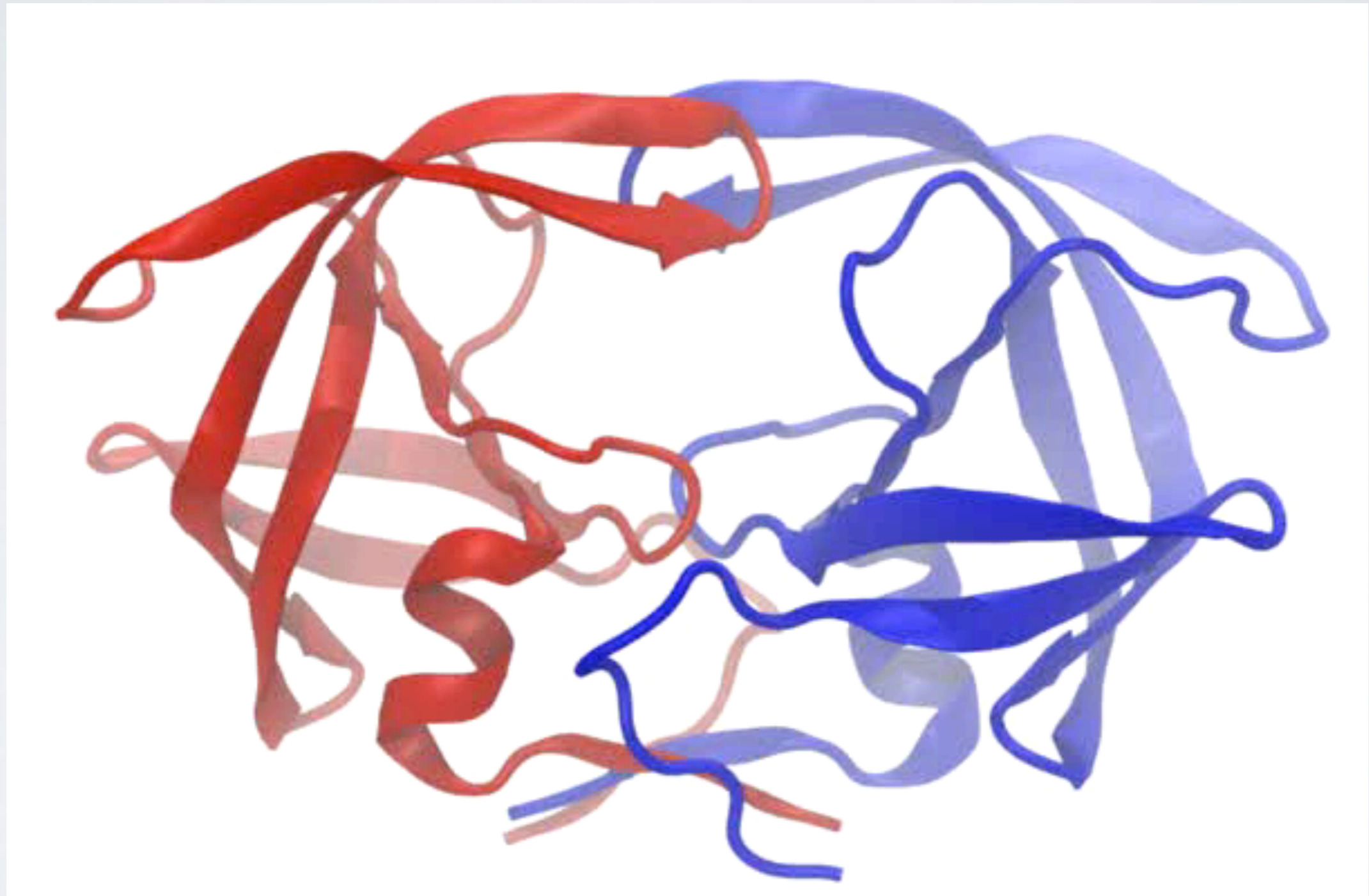
- Simplified secondary structure representations are commonly used to communicate structural details
- Now we can clearly see 2^o, 3^o and 4^o structure
- Coiled chain of connected secondary structures

DISPLACEMENTS REFLECT INTRINSIC FLEXIBILITY



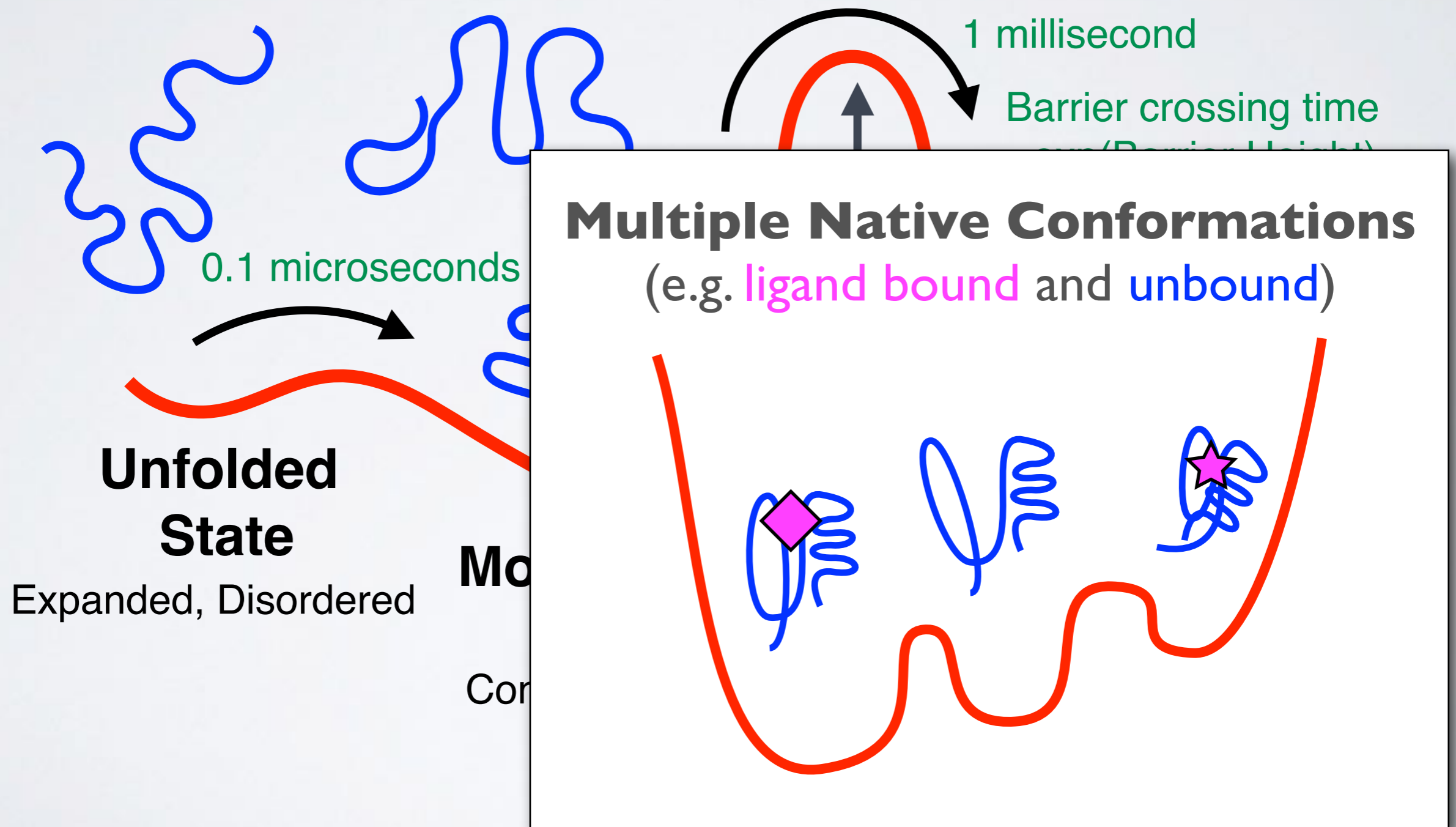
Superposition of all 482 structures in RCSB PDB
(23/09/2015)

DISPLACEMENTS REFLECT INTRINSIC FLEXIBILITY



Principal component analysis (PCA) of experimental structures

KEY CONCEPT: ENERGY LANDSCAPE



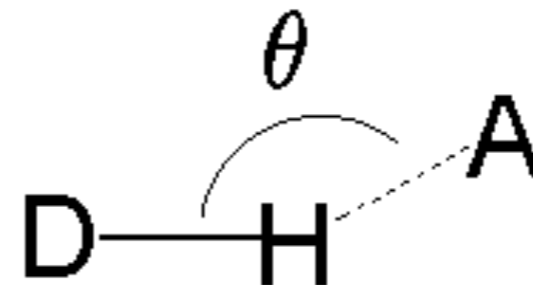
Key forces affecting structure:

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

Hydrogen-bond donor Hydrogen-bond acceptor



← d →

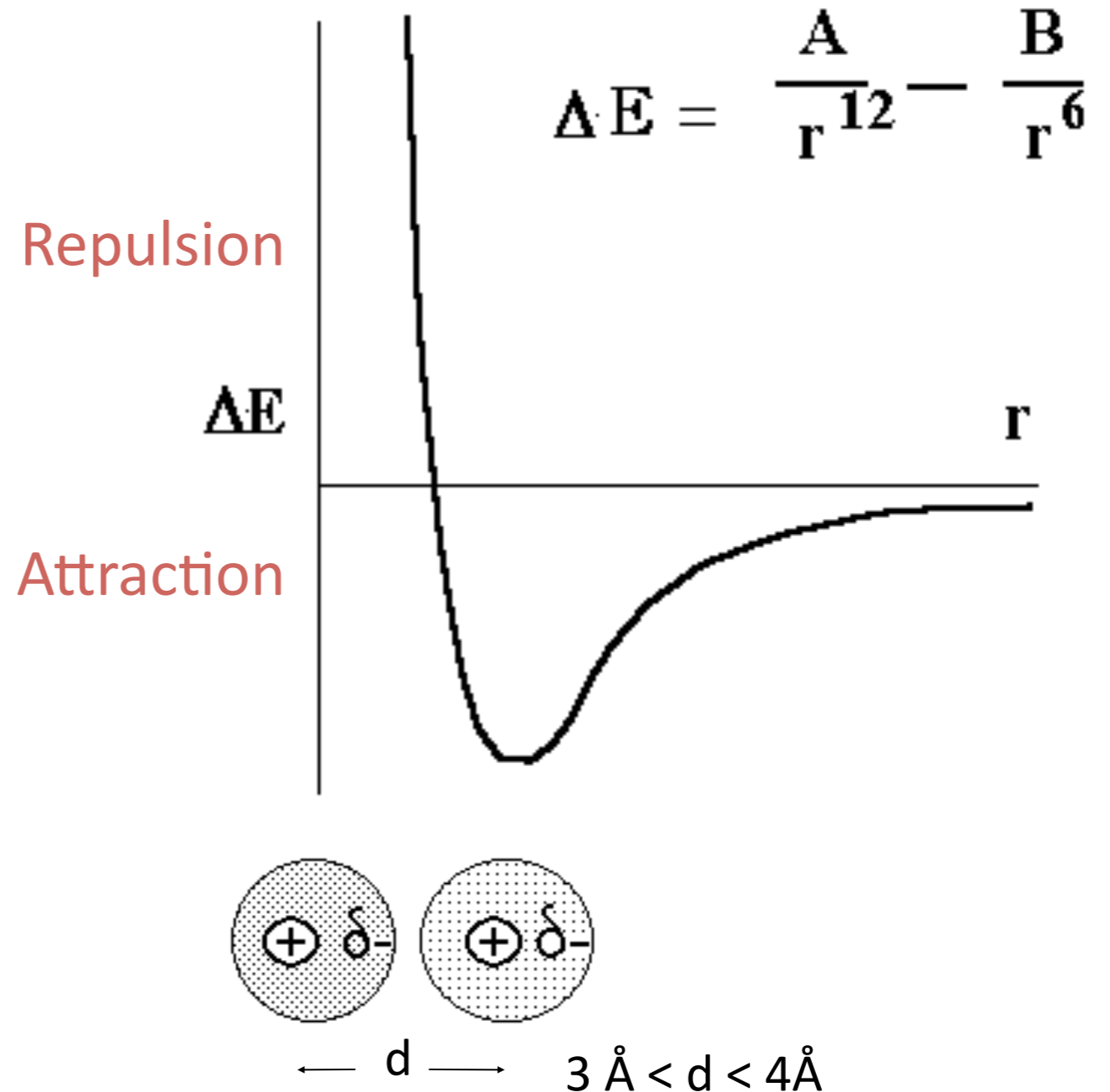


$$2.6 \text{ \AA} < d < 3.1 \text{ \AA}$$

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

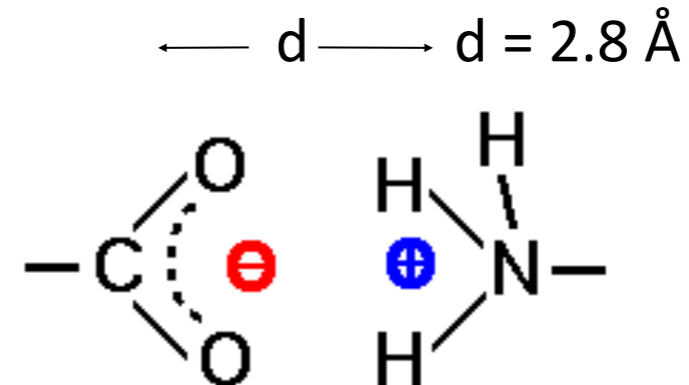
Key forces affecting structure:

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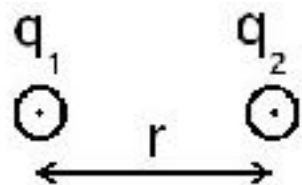
Key forces affecting structure:

- 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

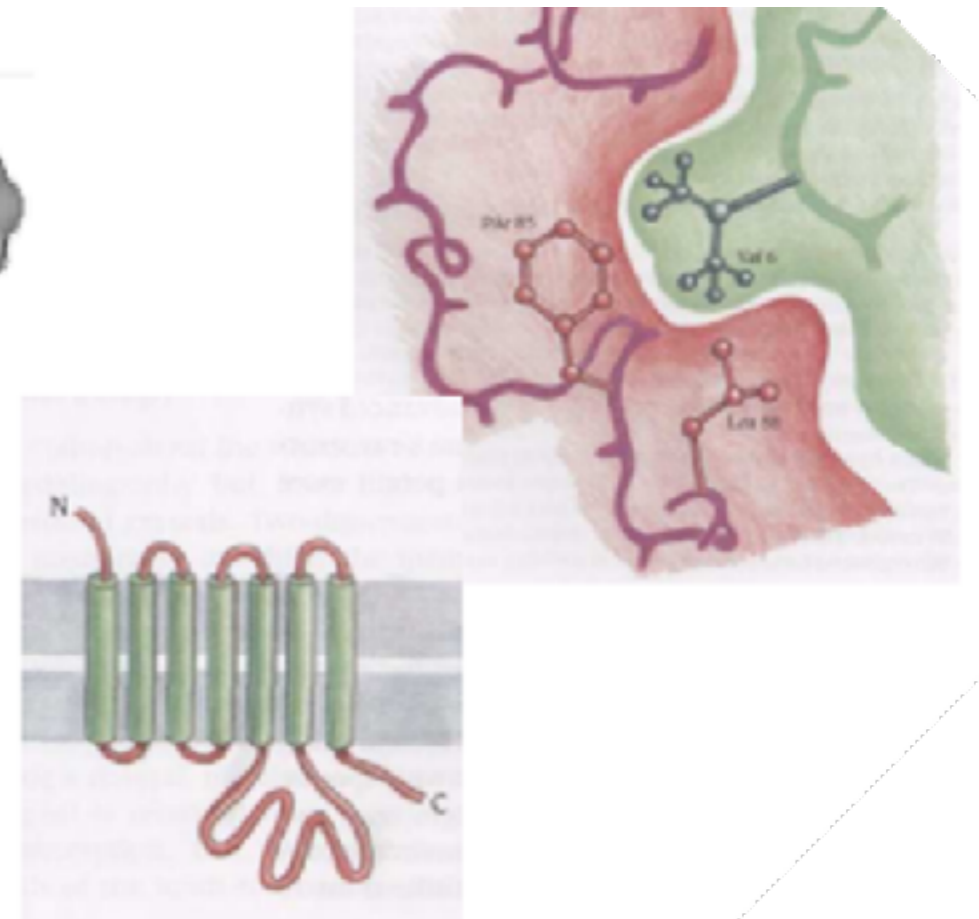
D = Dielectric constant (vacuum = 1; H₂O = 80)

q₁ & q₂ = 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.

NEXT UP:

- ▶ **Overview of structural bioinformatics**

- Major motivations, goals and challenges

- ▶ **Fundamentals of protein structure**

- Composition, form, forces and dynamics

- ▶ **Representing and interpreting protein structure**

- Modeling energy as a function of structure

- ▶ **Example application areas**

- Predicting functional dynamics & drug discovery

KEY CONCEPT: POTENTIAL FUNCTIONS
DESCRIBE A SYSTEMS **ENERGY** AS A FUNCTION
OF ITS **STRUCTURE**

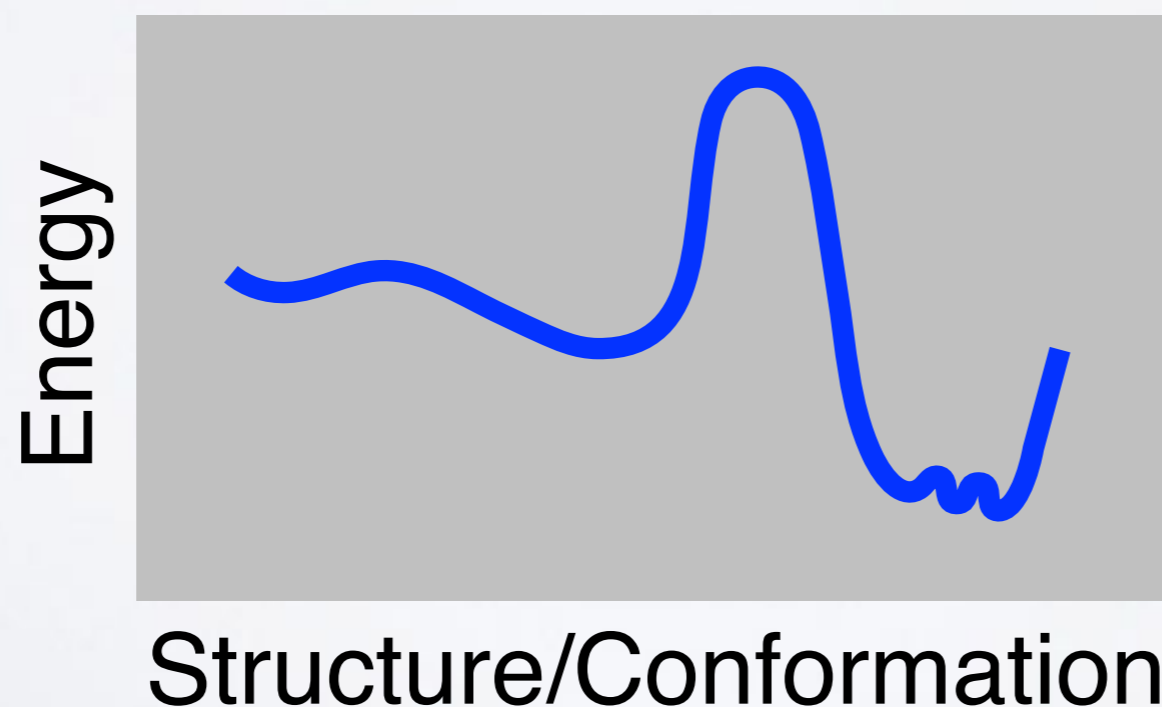
Two main approaches:

- (1). **Physics-Based**
- (2). **Knowledge-Based**

KEY CONCEPT: POTENTIAL FUNCTIONS
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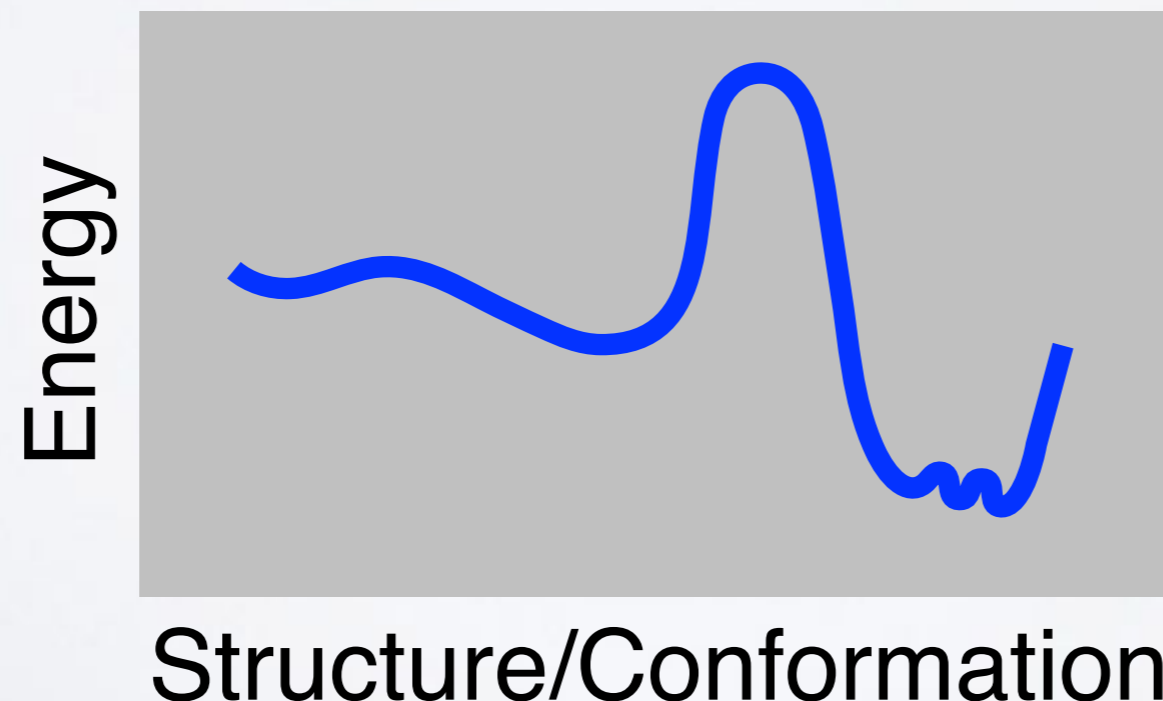


KEY CONCEPT: POTENTIAL FUNCTIONS
DESCRIBE A SYSTEMS **ENERGY** AS A FUNCTION
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Two main approaches:

(1). Physics-Based

(2). Knowledge-Based



PHYSICS-BASED POTENTIALS

ENERGY TERMS FROM PHYSICAL THEORY

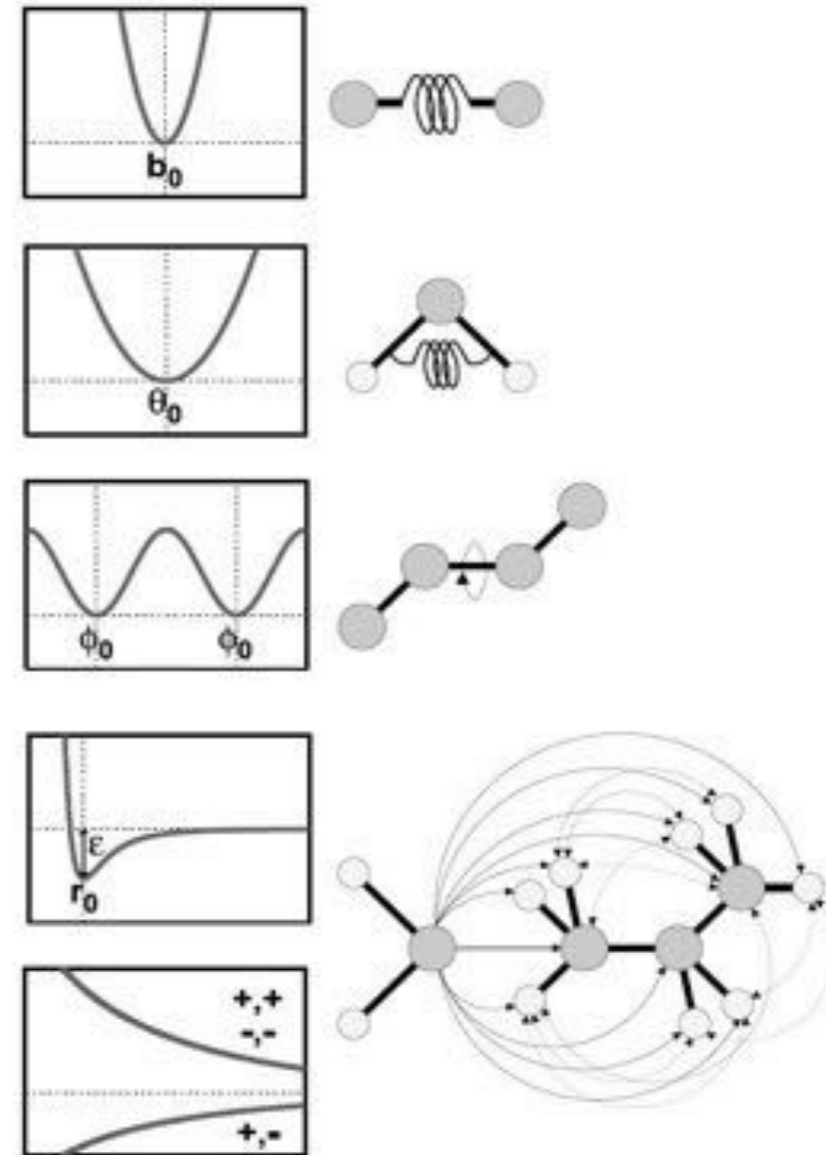
$$\begin{aligned}
 U(\vec{R}) = & \underbrace{\sum_{\text{bonds}} k_i^{\text{bond}} (r_i - r_0)^2}_{U_{\text{bond}}} + \underbrace{\sum_{\text{angles}} k_i^{\text{angle}} (\theta_i - \theta_0)^2}_{U_{\text{angle}}} + \\
 & \underbrace{\sum_{\text{dihedrals}} k_i^{\text{dihe}} [1 + \cos(n_i \phi_i + \delta_i)]}_{U_{\text{dihedral}}} + \\
 & \underbrace{\sum_i \sum_{j \neq i} 4\epsilon_{ij} \left[\left(\frac{\sigma_{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - \left(\frac{\sigma_{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right]}_{U_{\text{nonbond}}} + \sum_i \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{q_i q_j}{\epsilon r_{ij}}
 \end{aligned}$$

U_{bond} = oscillations about the equilibrium bond length

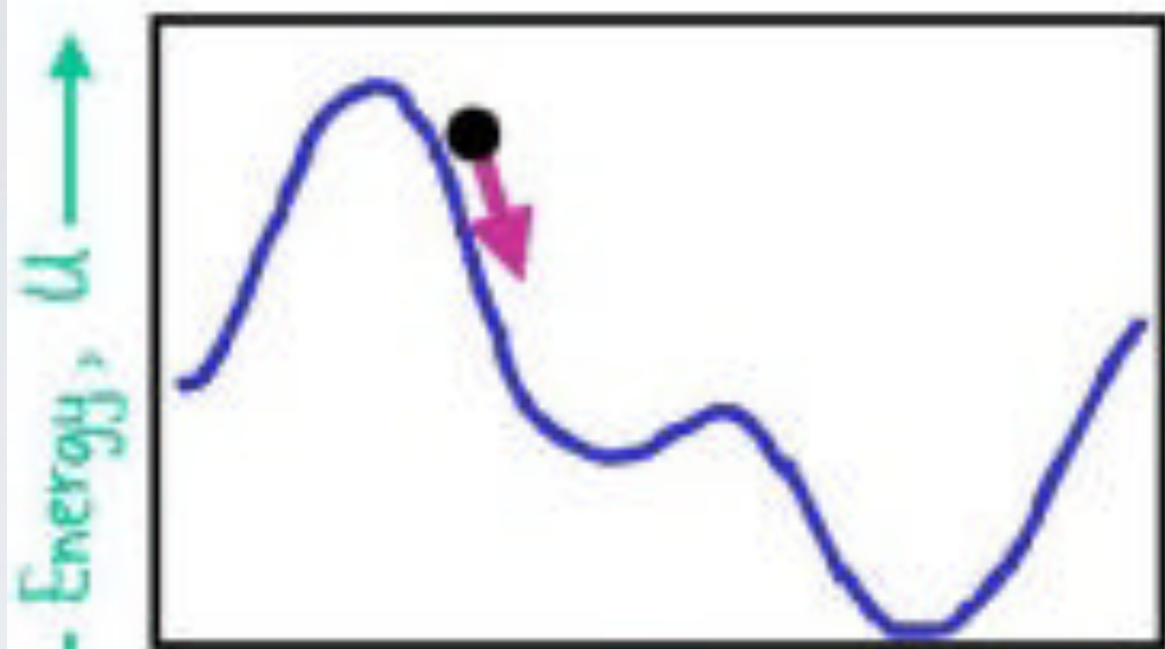
U_{angle} = oscillations of 3 atoms about an equilibrium bond angle

U_{dihedral} = torsional rotation of 4 atoms about a central bond

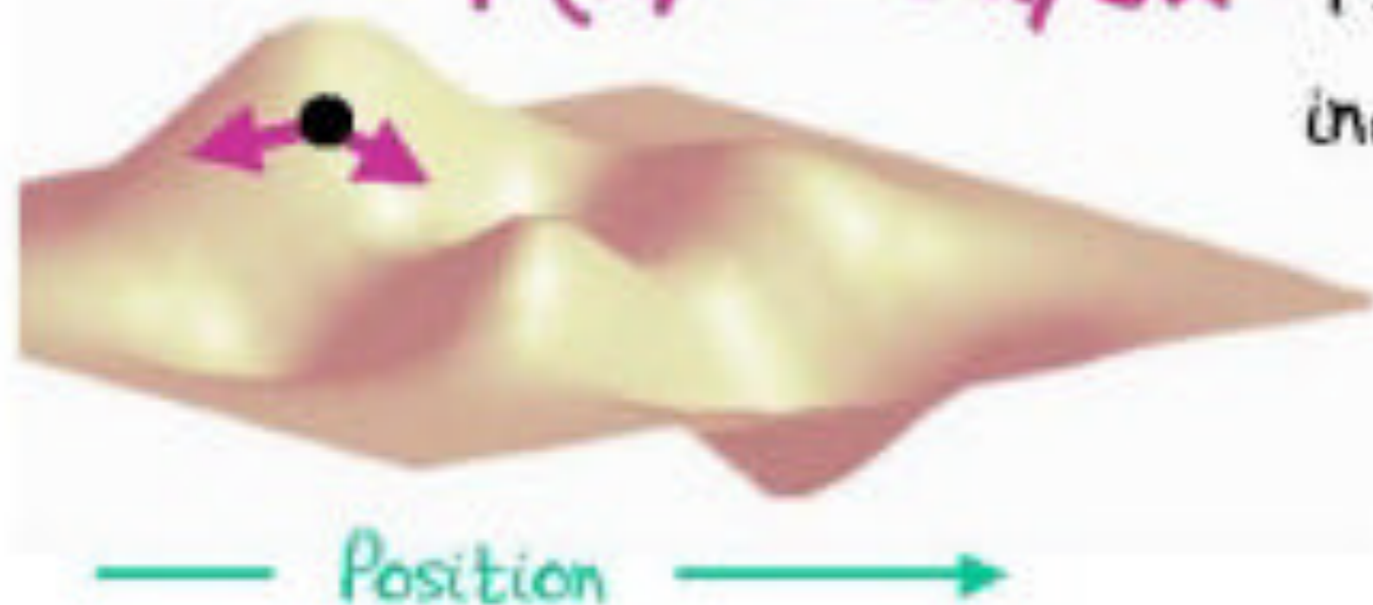
U_{nonbond} = non-bonded energy terms (electrostatics and Lenard-Jones)



TOTAL POTENTIAL ENERGY

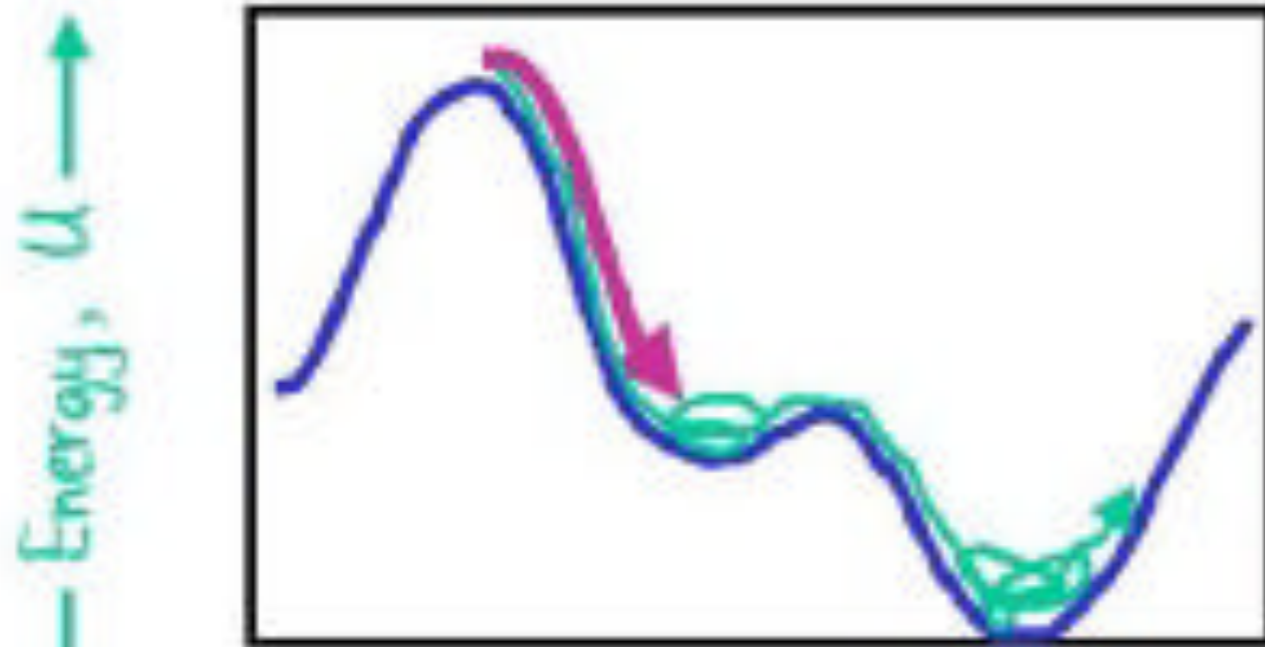


$$F(x) = -dU/dx$$



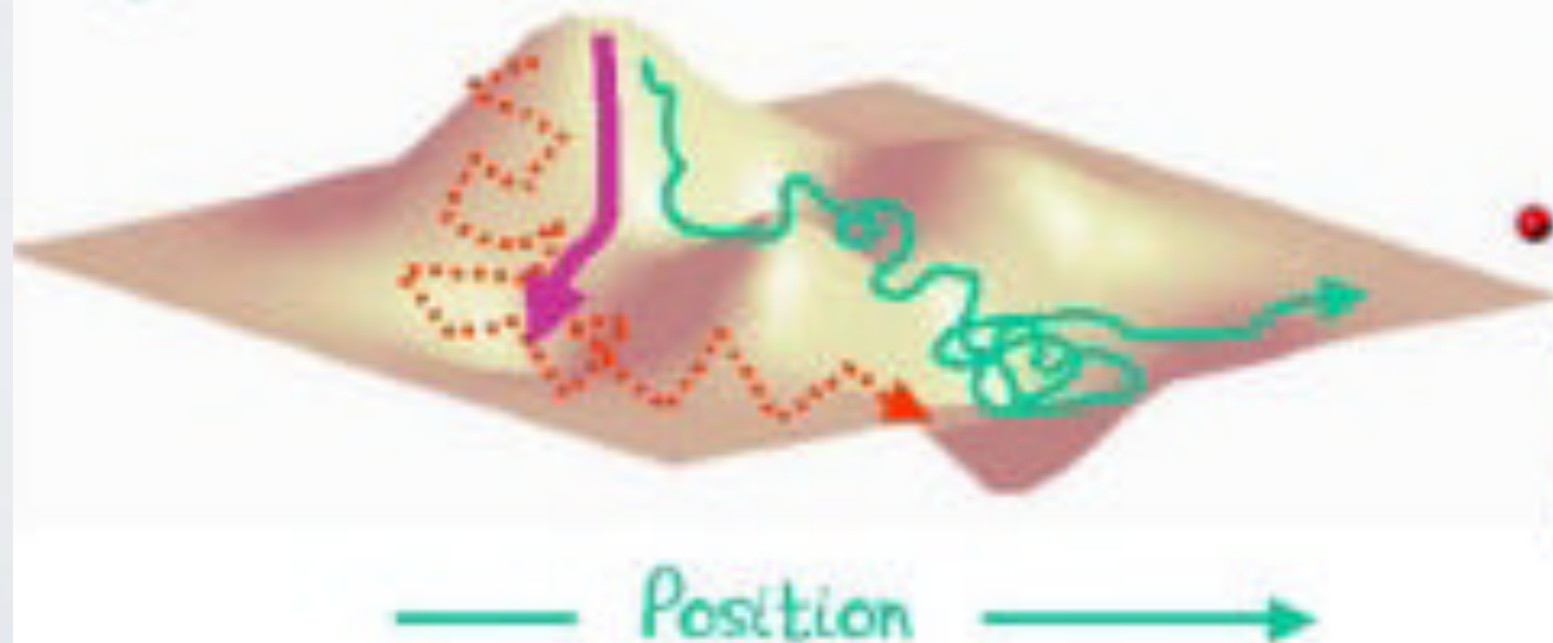
- The total potential energy or enthalpy fully defines the system, U .
- The forces are the gradients of the energy.
- The energy is a sum of independent terms for:
Bond, Bond angles, Torsion angles and non-bonded atom pairs.

MOVING OVER THE ENERGY SURFACE



- Energy Minimization drops into local minimum.

- Molecular Dynamics uses thermal energy to move smoothly over surface.



- Monte Carlo Moves are random. Accept with probability $\exp(-\Delta U/kT)$.

PHYSICS-ORIENTED APPROACHES

Weaknesses

Fully physical detail becomes computationally intractable

Approximations are unavoidable

(Quantum effects approximated classically, water may be treated crudely)

Parameterization still required

Strengths

Interpretable, provides guides to design

Broadly applicable, in principle at least

Clear pathways to improving accuracy

Status

Useful, widely adopted but far from perfect

Multiple groups working on fewer, better approxs

Force fields, quantum

entropy, water effects

Moore's law: hardware improving

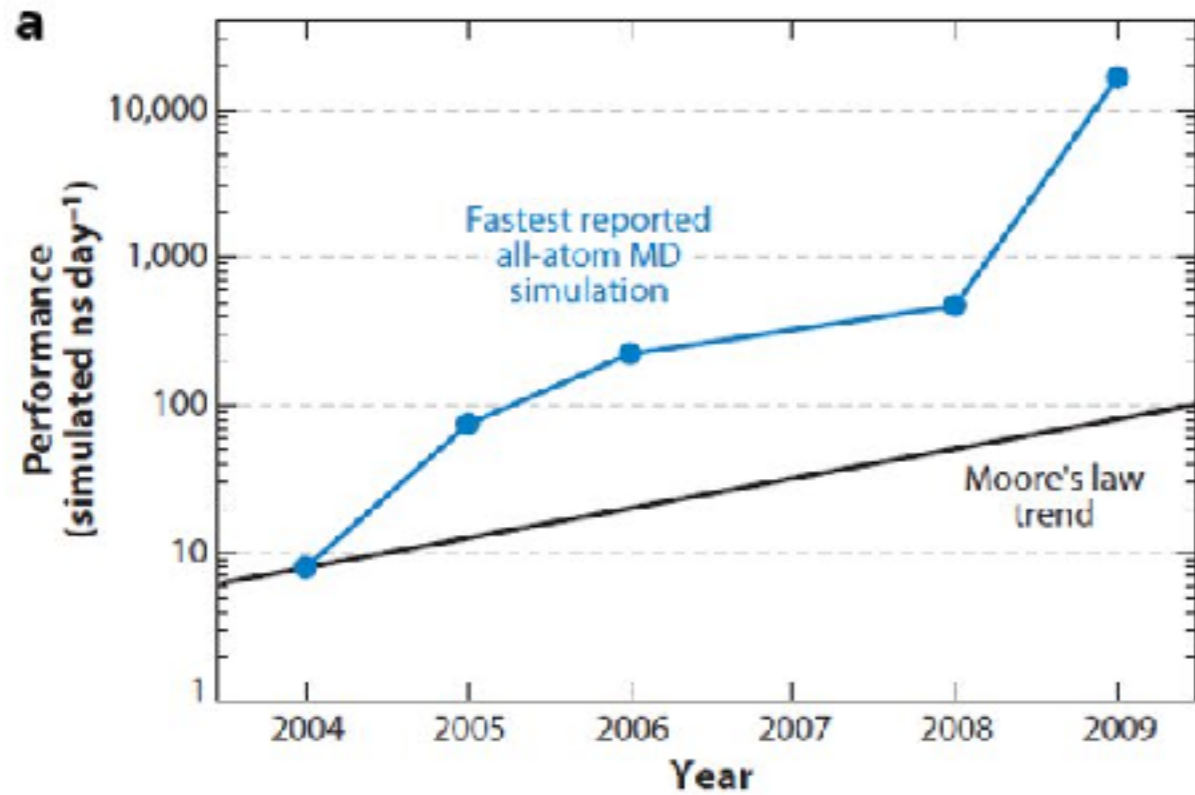
HOW COMPUTERS HAVE CHANGED

DATE	COST	SPEED	MEMORY	SIZE
1967	\$40M	0.1 MHz	1 MB	WALL
2013	\$4,000	1 GHz	10 GB	LAPTOP
CHANGE	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000

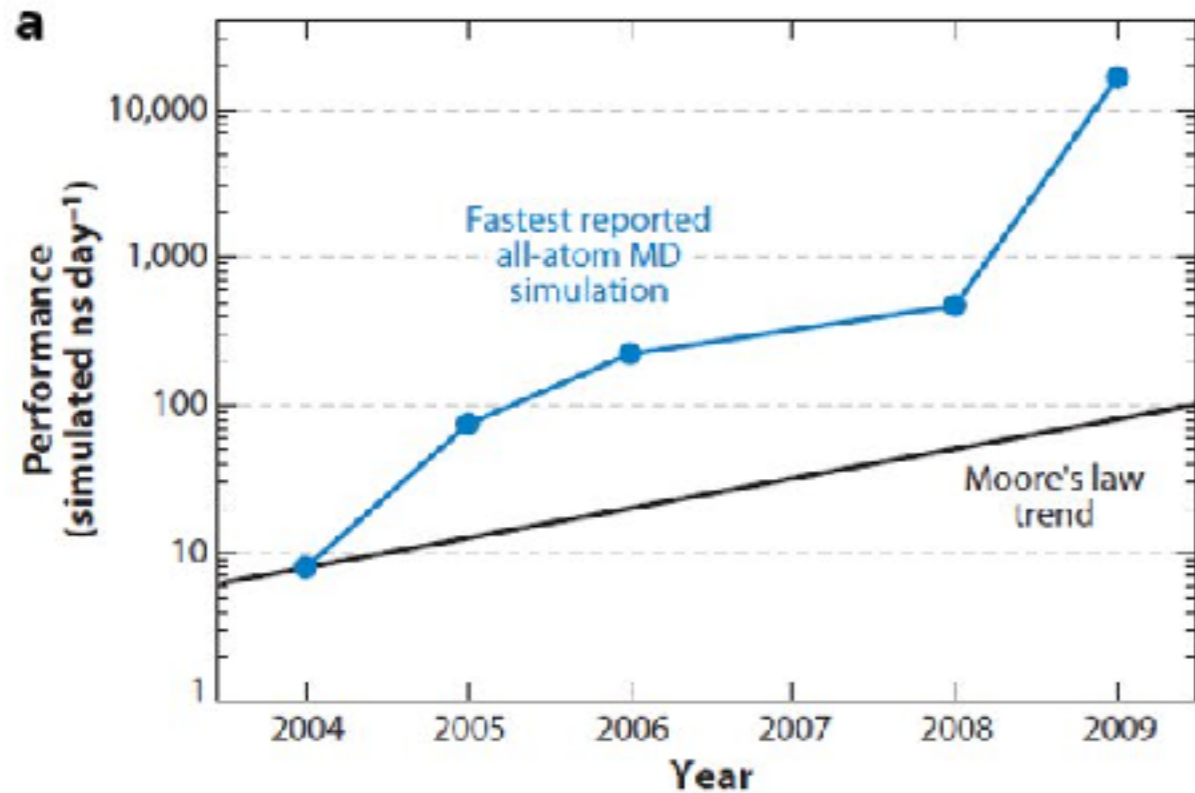
If cars were like computers then a new Volvo would cost \$3, would have a top speed of 1,000,000 km/hr, would carry 50,000 adults and would park in a shedbox



SIDE-NOTE: GPUS AND ANTON SUPERCOMPUTER



SIDE-NOTE: GPUS AND ANTON SUPERCOMPUTER



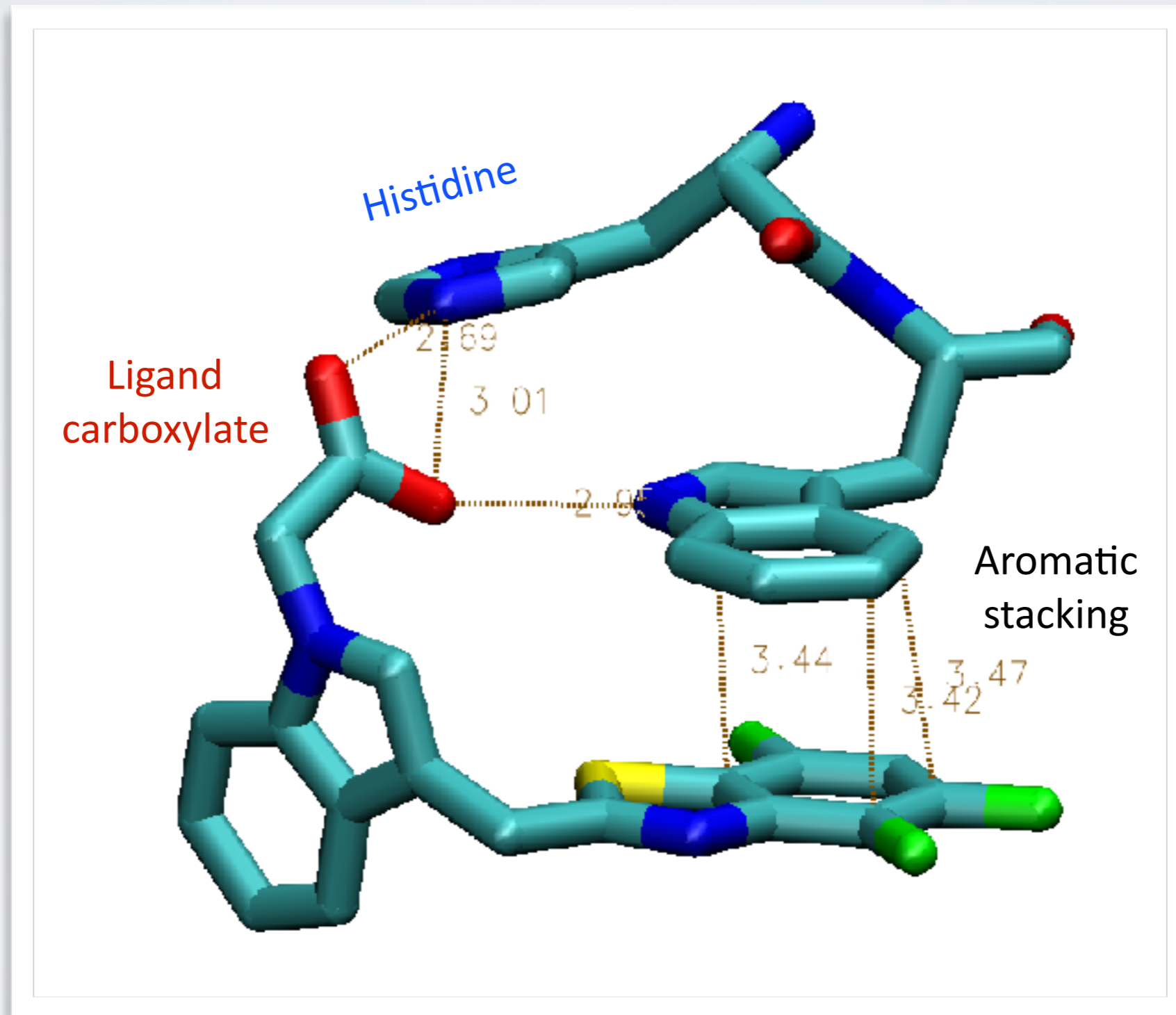
KEY CONCEPT: POTENTIAL FUNCTIONS
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Two main approaches:

(1). **Physics-Based**

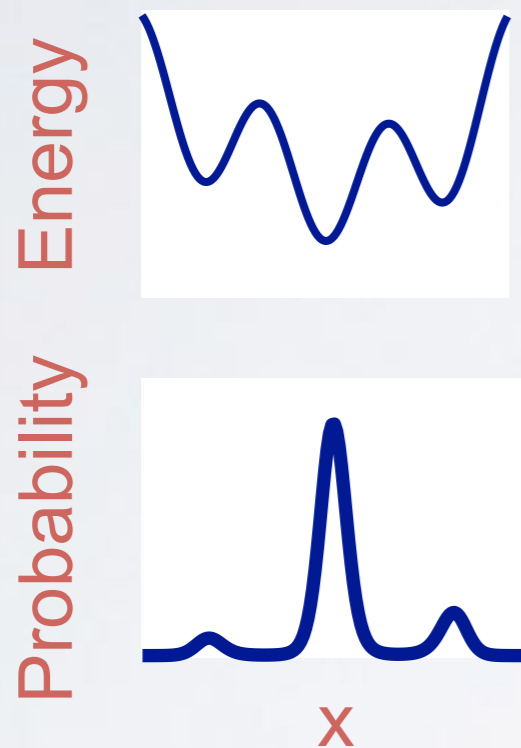
(2). **Knowledge-Based**

KNOWLEDGE-BASED DOCKING POTENTIALS



ENERGY DETERMINES **PROBABILITY** (STABILITY)

Basic idea: Use probability as a proxy for energy



Boltzmann:

$$p(r) \propto e^{-E(r)/RT}$$

Inverse Boltzmann:

$$E(r) = -RT \ln [p(r)]$$

Example: ligand **carboxylate O** to protein **histidine N**

Find all protein-ligand structures in the PDB with a ligand carboxylate **O**

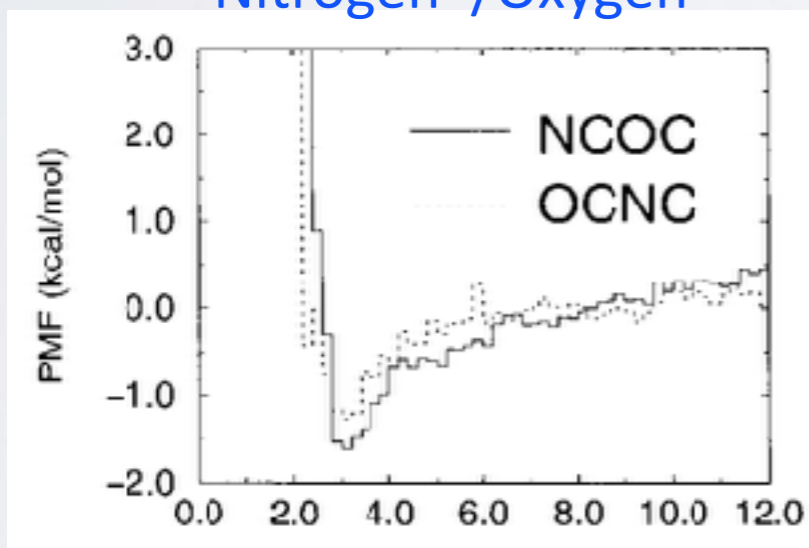
1. For each structure, histogram the distances from **O** to every histidine **N**
2. Sum the histograms over all structures to obtain $p(r_{O-N})$
3. Compute $E(r_{O-N})$ from $p(r_{O-N})$

KNOWLEDGE-BASED DOCKING POTENTIALS

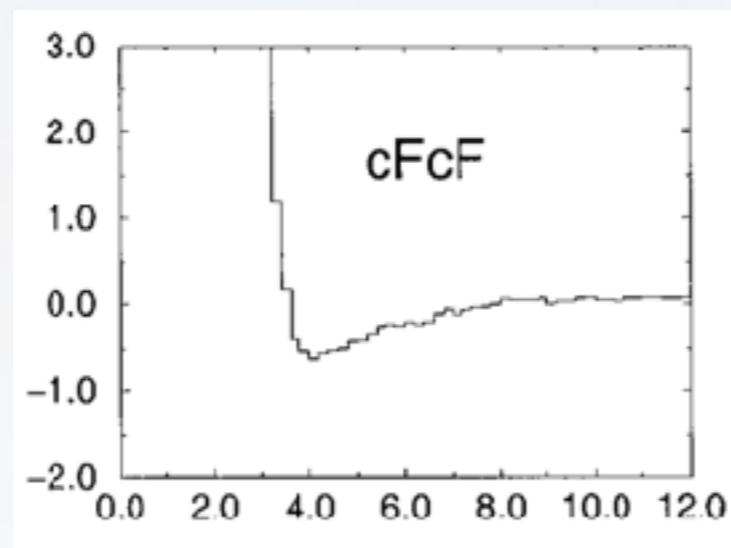
“PMF”, Muegge & Martin, J. Med. Chem. (1999) 42:791

A few types of atom pairs, out of several hundred total

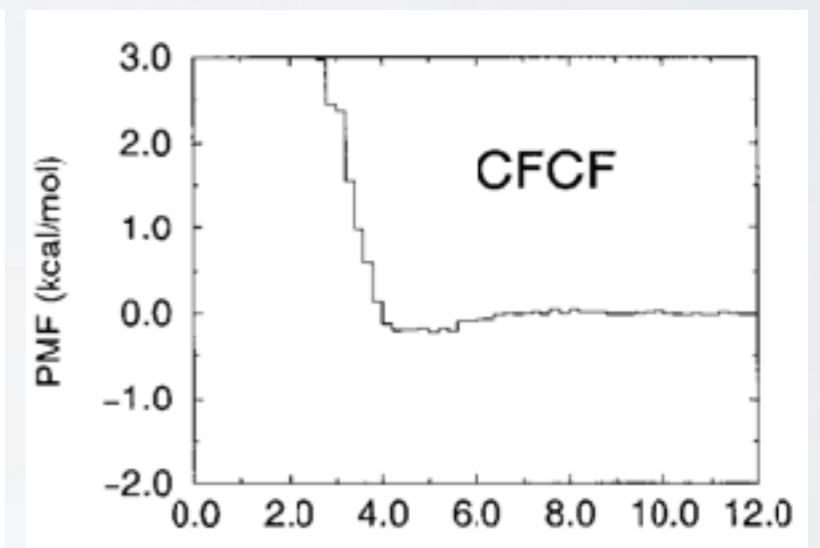
Nitrogen⁺/Oxygen⁻



Aromatic carbons



Aliphatic carbons



Atom-atom distance (Angstroms)

$$E_{prot-lig} = E_{vdw} + \sum_{pairs (ij)} E_{type(ij)}(r_{ij})$$

KNOWLEDGE-BASED POTENTIALS

Weaknesses

Accuracy limited by availability of data

Strengths

Relatively easy to implement

Computationally fast

Status

Useful, far from perfect

May be at point of diminishing returns

(not always clear how to make improvements)

NEXT UP:

- ▶ **Overview of structural bioinformatics**

- Major motivations, goals and challenges

- ▶ **Fundamentals of protein structure**

- Composition, form, forces and dynamics

- ▶ **Representing and interpreting protein structure**

- Modeling energy as a function of structure

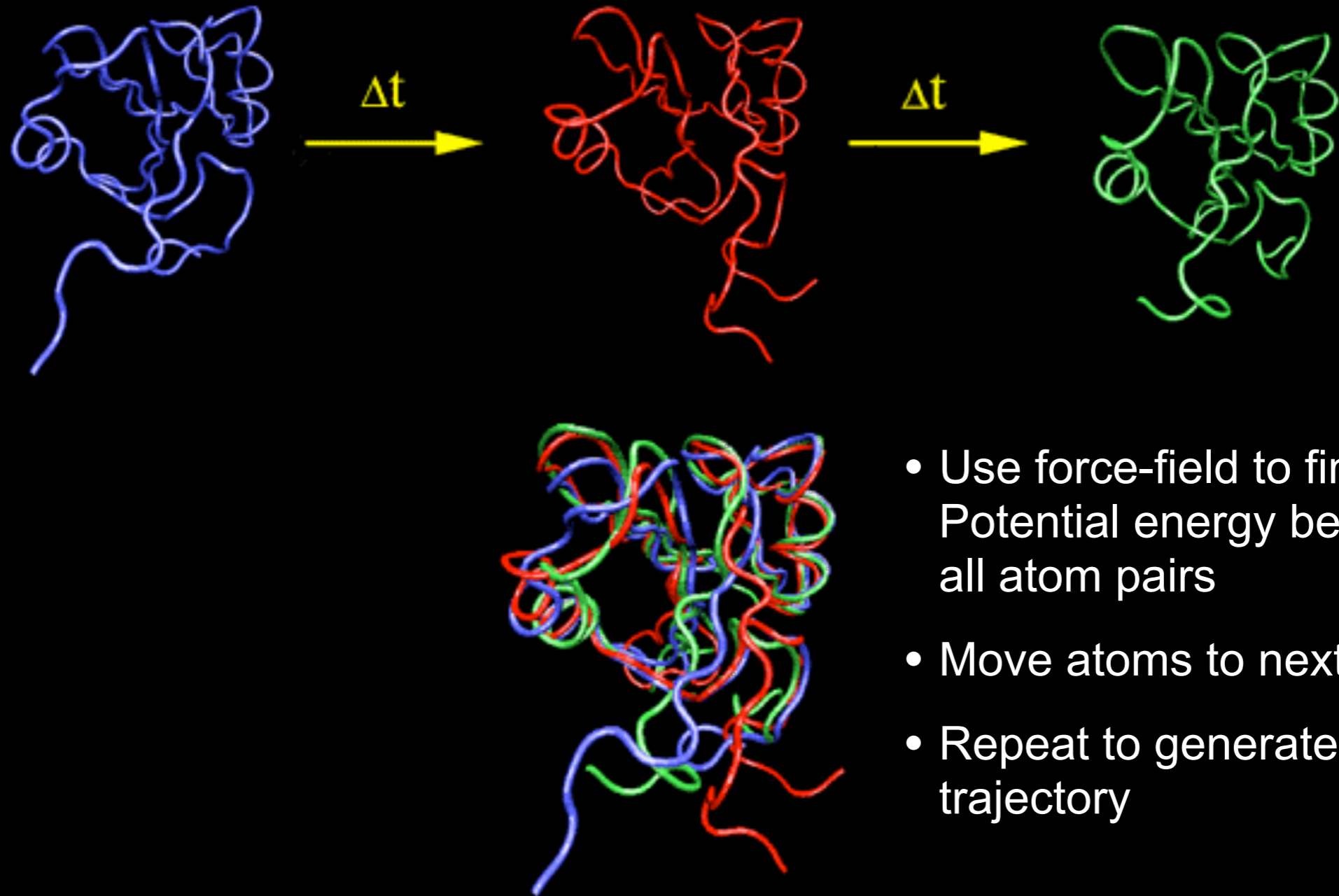
- ▶ **Example application areas**

- Predicting functional dynamics & drug discovery

PREDICTING FUNCTIONAL DYNAMICS

- Proteins are intrinsically flexible molecules with internal motions that are often intimately coupled to their biochemical function
 - E.g. ligand and substrate binding, conformational activation, allosteric regulation, etc.
- Thus knowledge of dynamics can provide a deeper understanding of the mapping of structure to function
 - Molecular dynamics (MD) and normal mode analysis (NMA) are two major methods for predicting and characterizing molecular motions and their properties

MOLECULAR DYNAMICS SIMULATION



McCammon, Gelin & Karplus, *Nature* (1977)

[See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ui1ZysMFcKk>]

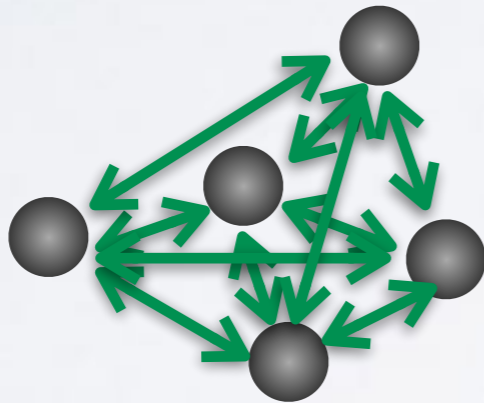
- ▶ Divide **time** into discrete ($\sim 1\text{fs}$) **time steps** (Δt)
(for integrating equations of motion, see below)



- ▶ Divide **time** into discrete ($\sim 1\text{fs}$) **time steps** (Δt)
(for integrating equations of motion, see below)



- ▶ At each time step calculate pair-wise atomic **forces** ($F(t)$)
(by evaluating **force-field** gradient)



Nucleic motion described classically

$$m_i \frac{d^2 \vec{R}_i}{dt^2} = -\vec{\nabla}_i E(\vec{R})$$

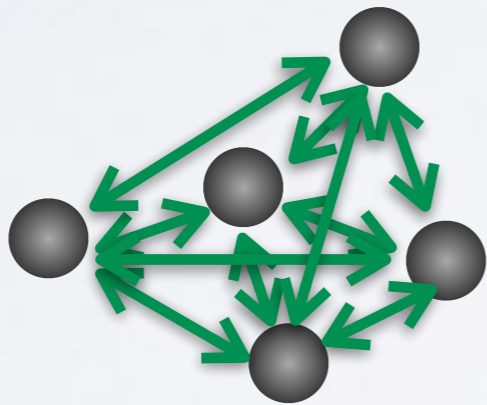
Empirical force field

$$E(\vec{R}) = \sum_{\text{bonded}} E_i(\vec{R}) + \sum_{\text{non-bonded}} E_i(\vec{R})$$

- ▶ Divide **time** into discrete ($\sim 1\text{fs}$) **time steps** (Δt)
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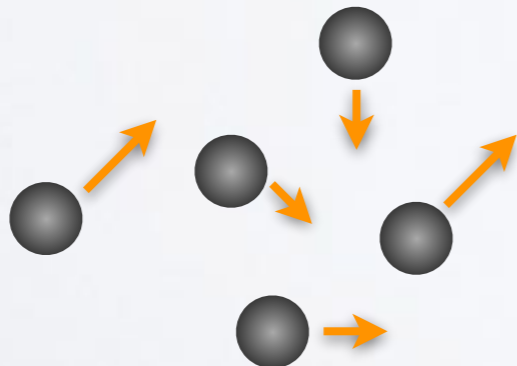
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Empirical force field

$$E(\vec{R}) = \sum_{\text{bonded}} E_i(\vec{R}) + \sum_{\text{non-bonded}} E_i(\vec{R})$$

- ▶ Use the forces to calculate **velocities** and move atoms to new **positions**
(by integrating numerically via the “leapfrog” scheme)



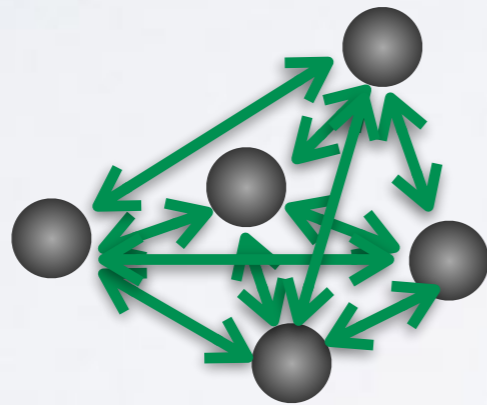
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v}\left(t + \frac{\Delta t}{2}\right) &= \mathbf{v}\left(t - \frac{\Delta t}{2}\right) + \frac{\mathbf{F}(t)}{m} \Delta t \\ \mathbf{r}(t + \Delta t) &= \mathbf{r}(t) + \mathbf{v}\left(t + \frac{\Delta t}{2}\right) \Delta t \end{aligned}$$

BASIC ANATOMY OF A MD SIMULATION

- ▶ Divide **time** into discrete (~1fs) **time steps** (Δt)
(for integrating equations of motion, see below)



- ▶ At each time step calculate pair-wise atomic **forces** ($F(t)$)
(by evaluating **force-field** gradient)



Nucleic motion described classically

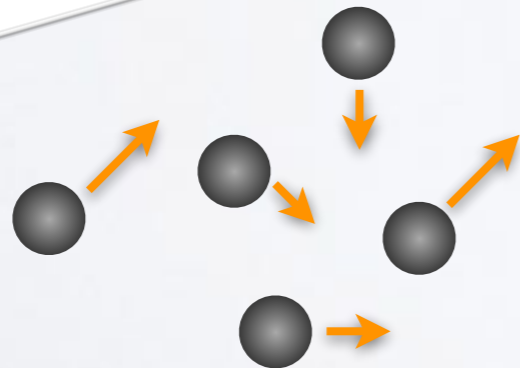
$$m_i \frac{d^2 \vec{R}_i}{dt^2} = -\vec{\nabla}_i E(\vec{R})$$

Empirical force field

$$E(\vec{R}) = \sum_{\text{non-bonded}} E_i(\vec{R})$$

- ▶ Use the forces to calculate **velocities** and move atoms to new **positions**
(integrating numerically via the “leapfrog” scheme)

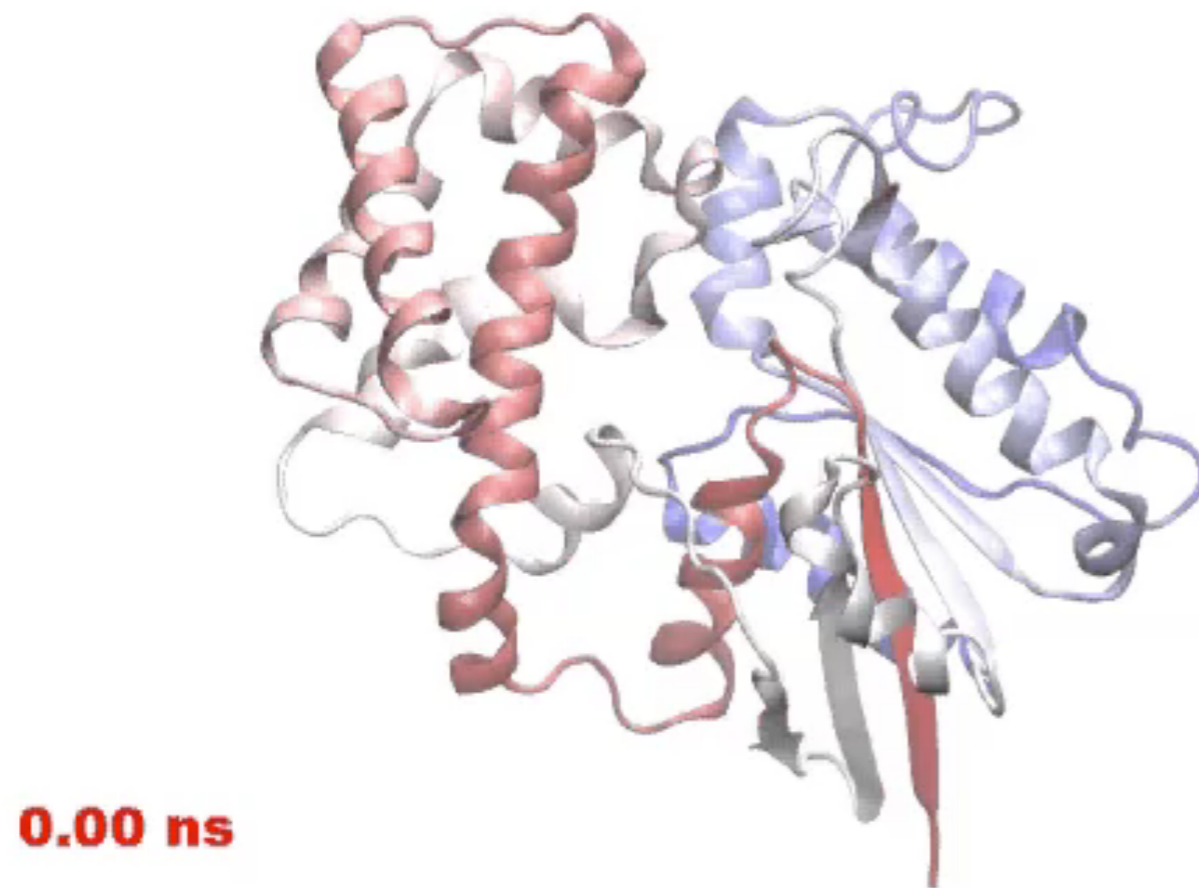
REPEAT, (iterate many, many times... 1ms = 10¹² time steps)



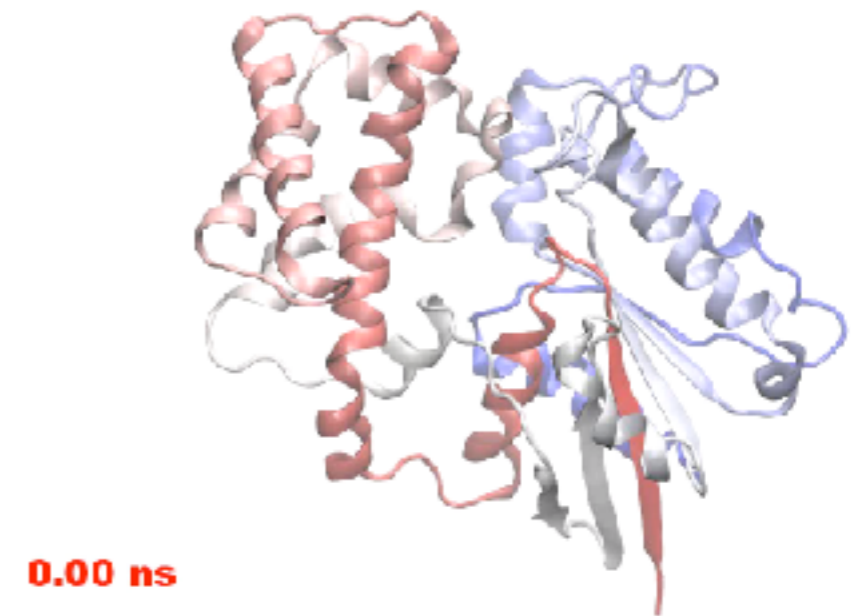
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v}(t + \frac{\Delta t}{2}) &= \mathbf{v}(t - \frac{\Delta t}{2}) + \frac{\mathbf{F}(t)}{m} \Delta t \\ \mathbf{r}(t + \Delta t) &= \mathbf{r}(t) + \mathbf{v}(t + \frac{\Delta t}{2}) \Delta t \end{aligned}$$

MD Prediction of Functional Motions

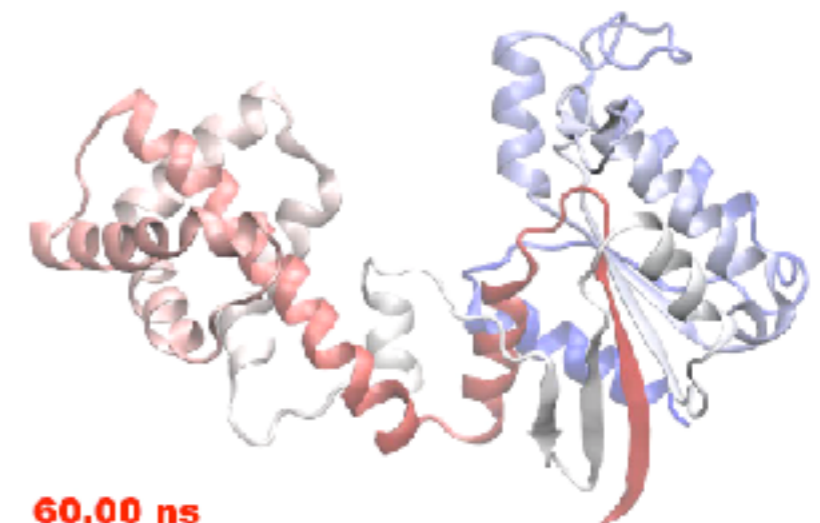
Accelerated MD simulation of
nucleotide-free transducin alpha subunit



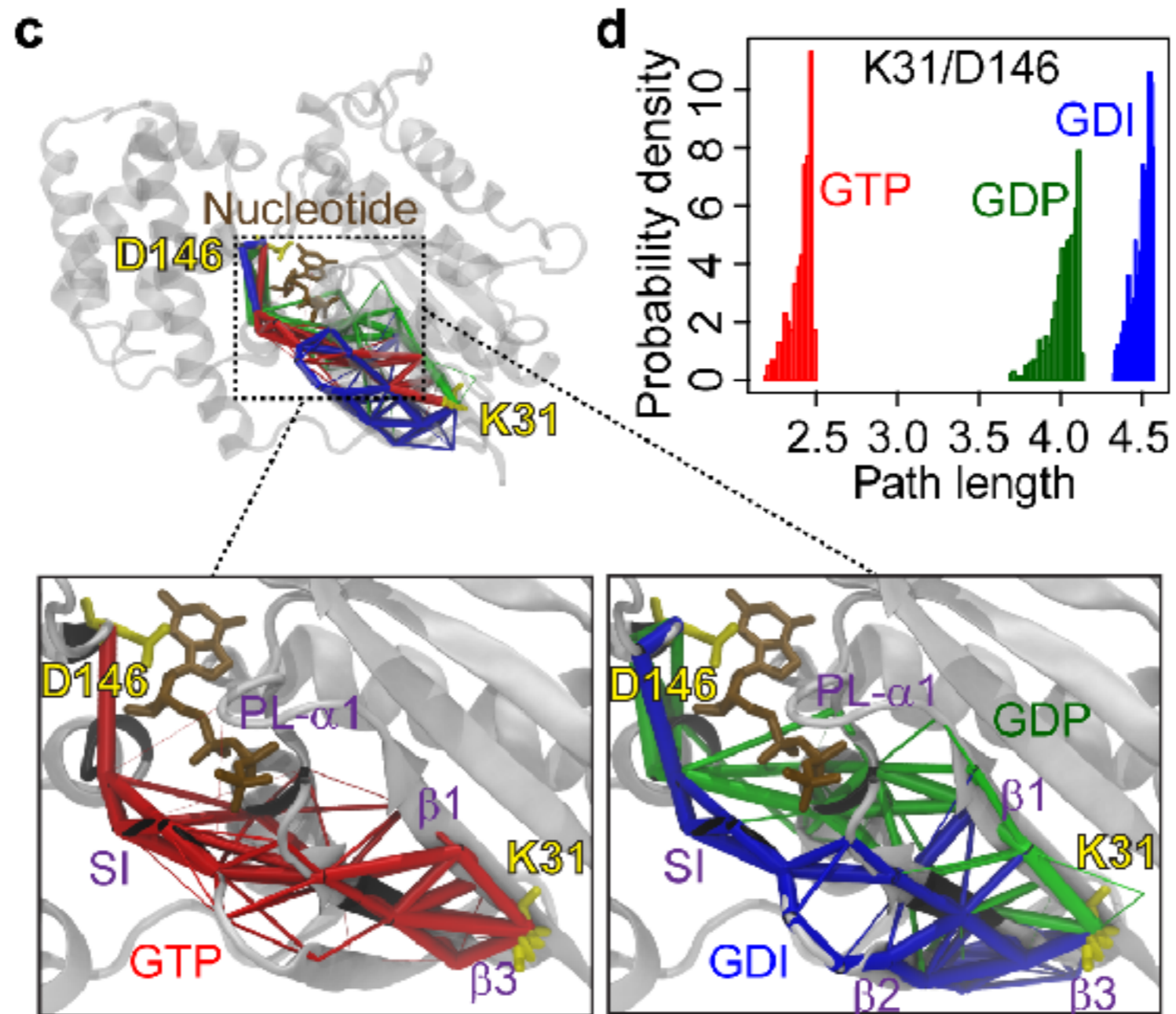
“close”



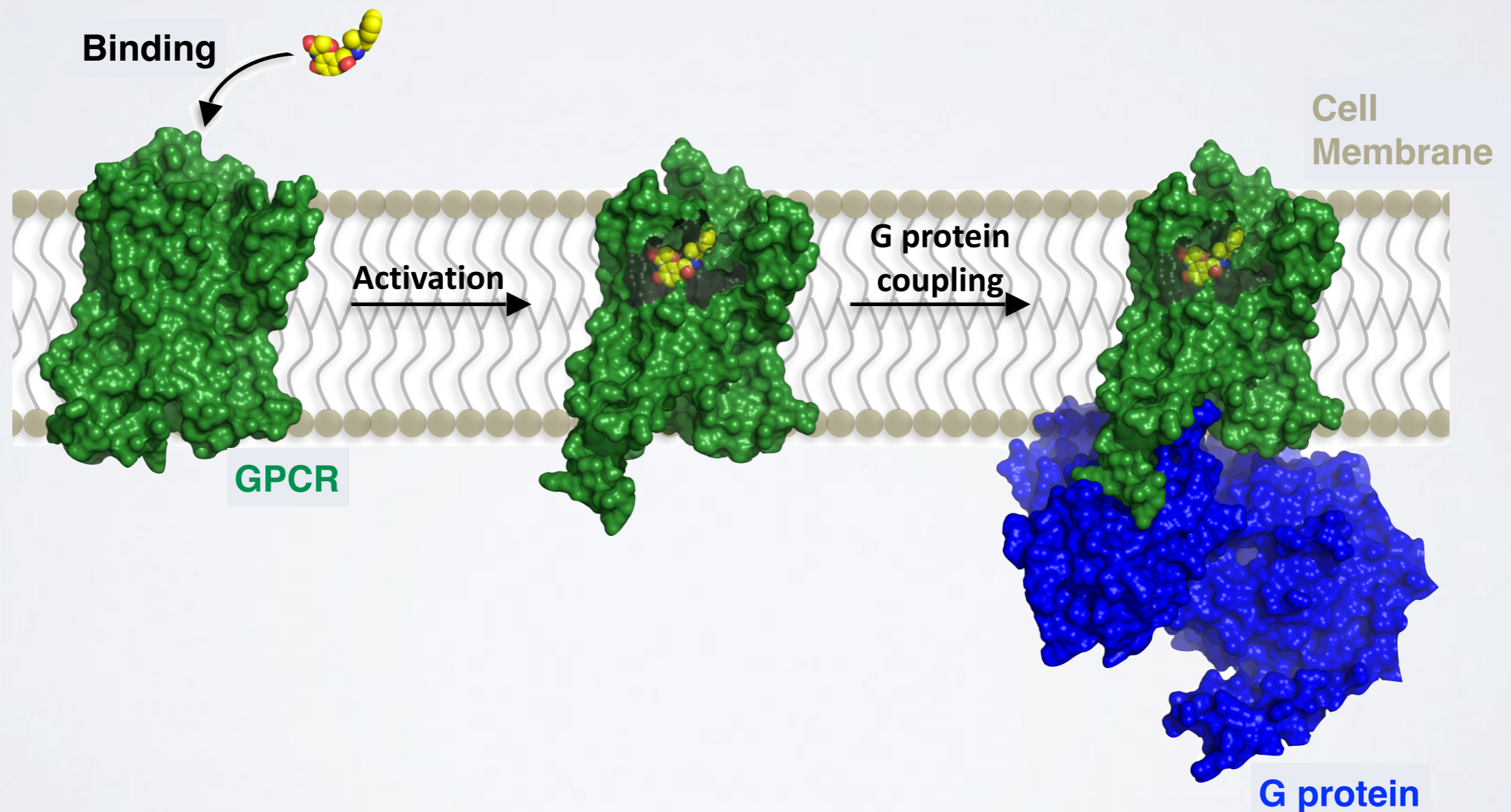
“open”



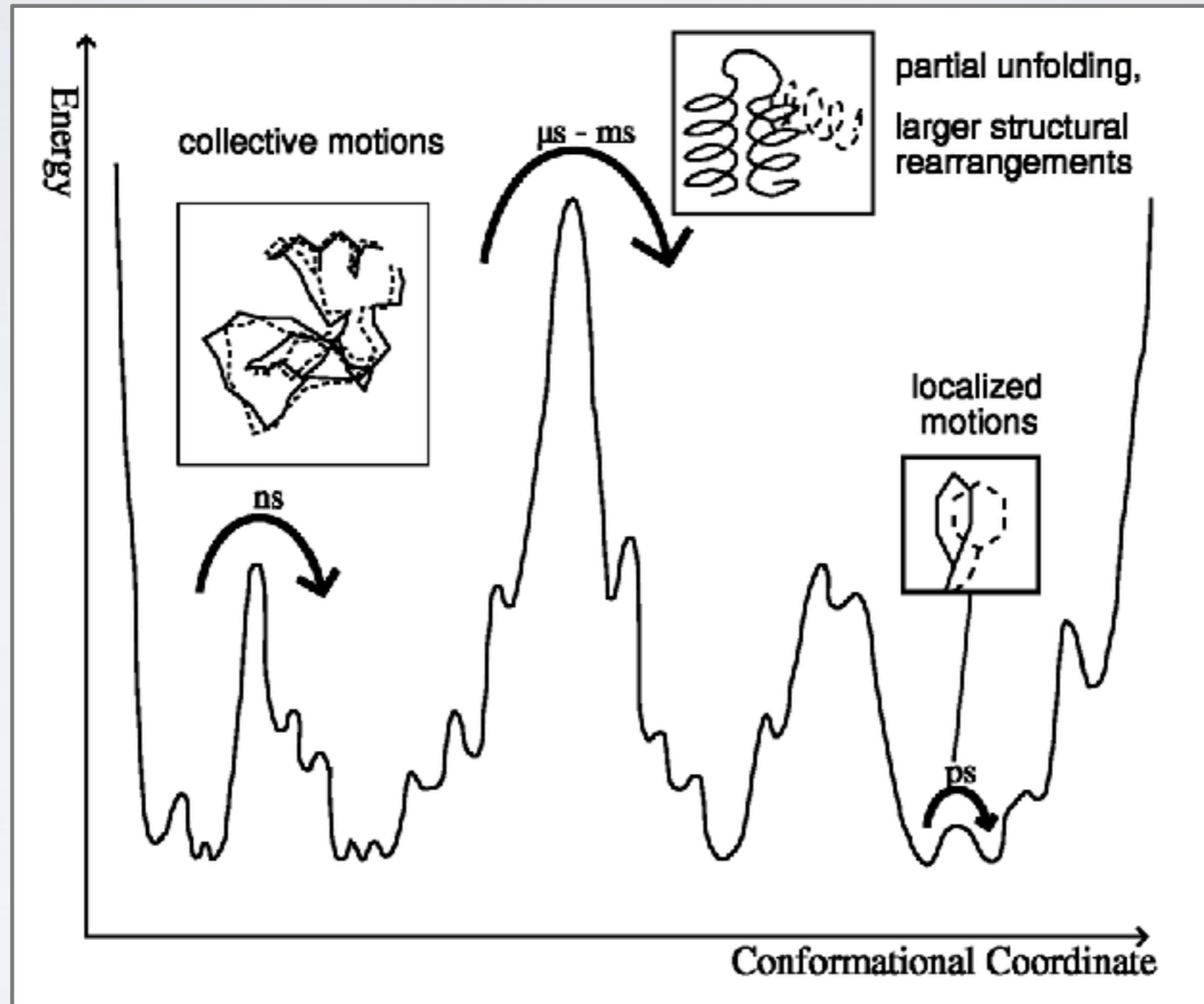
Simulations Identify Key Residues Mediating Dynamic Activation



EXAMPLE APPLICATION OF MOLECULAR SIMULATIONS TO GPCRS



PROTEINS JUMP BETWEEN MANY, HIERARCHICALLY ORDERED “CONFORMATIONAL SUBSTATES”



H. Frauenfelder et al., *Science* **229** (1985) 337

MOLECULAR DYNAMICS IS VERY

Example: F₁-ATPase in water (183,674 atoms) for 1 nanosecond:

=> 10⁶ integration steps

=> 8.4 * 10¹¹ floating point operations/step

[n(n-1)/2 interactions]

Total: 8.4 * 10¹⁷ flop

(on a 100 Gflop/s cpu: **ca 25 years!**)

... but performance has been improved by use of:

multiple time stepping ca. 2.5 years

fast multipole methods ca. 1 year

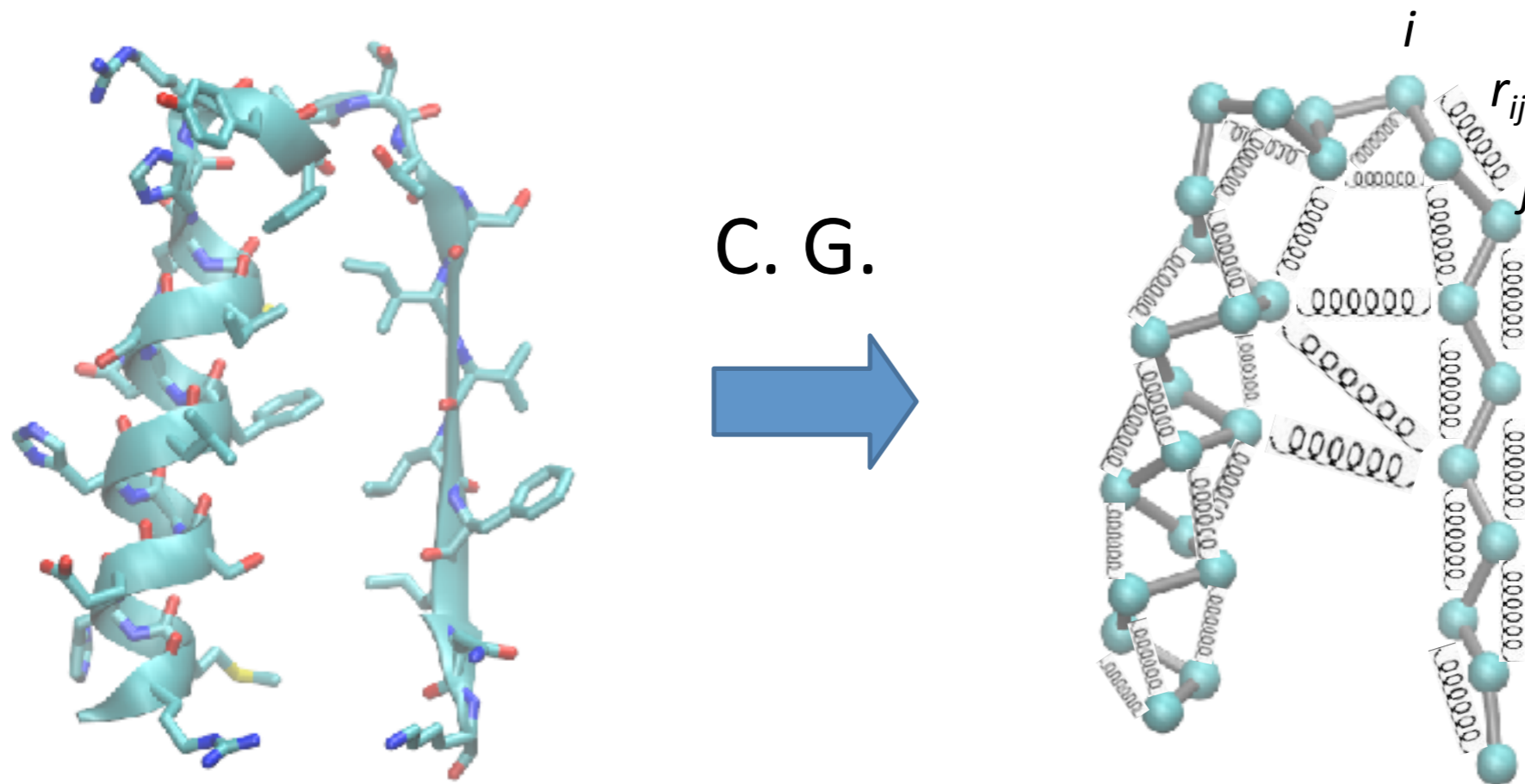
parallel computers ca. 5 days

modern GPUs **ca. 1 day**

(Anton supercomputer ca. minutes)

COARSE GRAINING: **NORMAL MODE ANALYSIS** (NMA)

- MD is still time-consuming for large systems
- Elastic network model NMA (ENM-NMA) is an example of a lower resolution approach that finishes in seconds even for large systems.

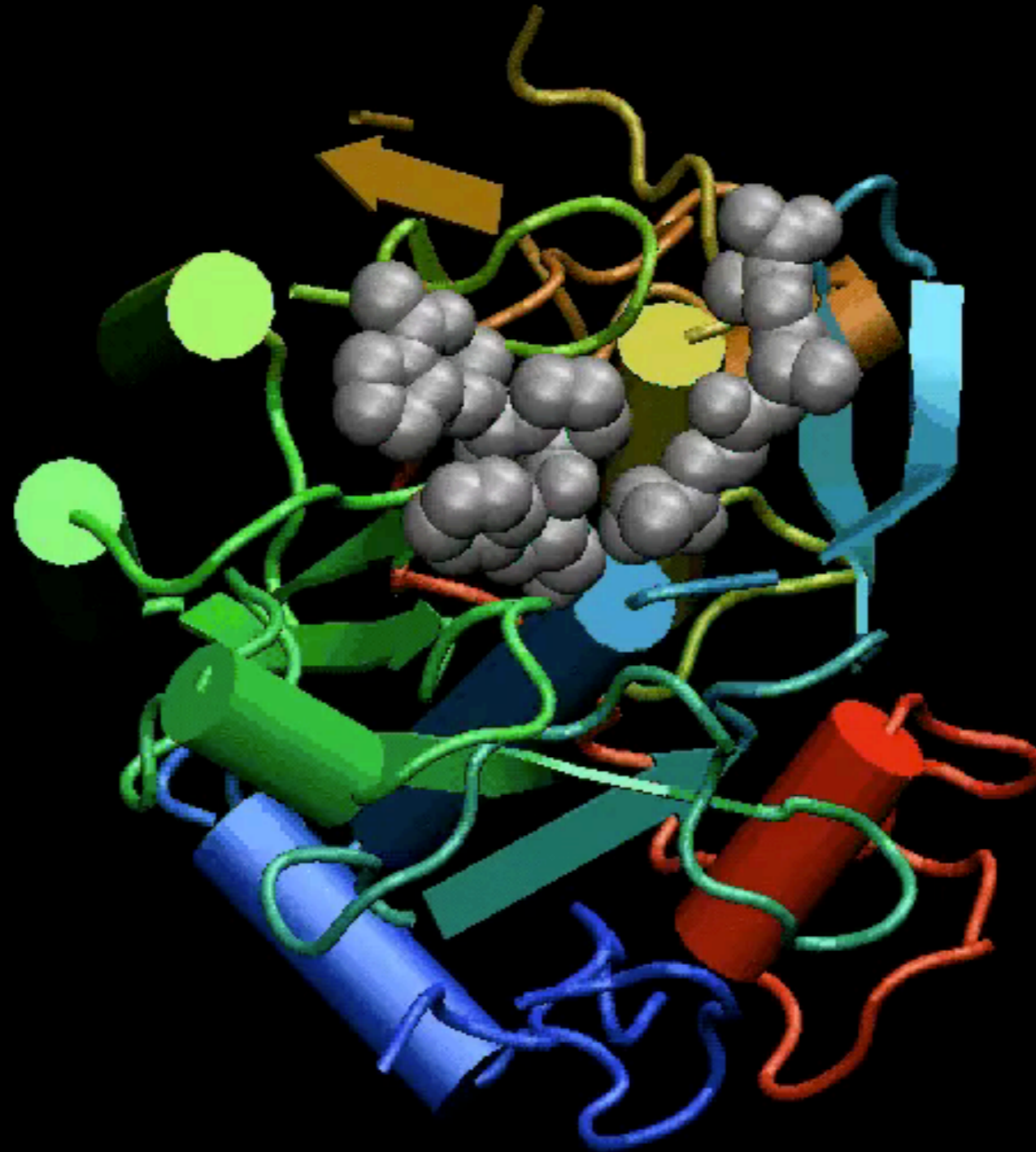


Atomistic

Coarse Grained

- 1 bead /
1 amino acid
- Connected by
springs

NMA models the protein as a network of elastic strings

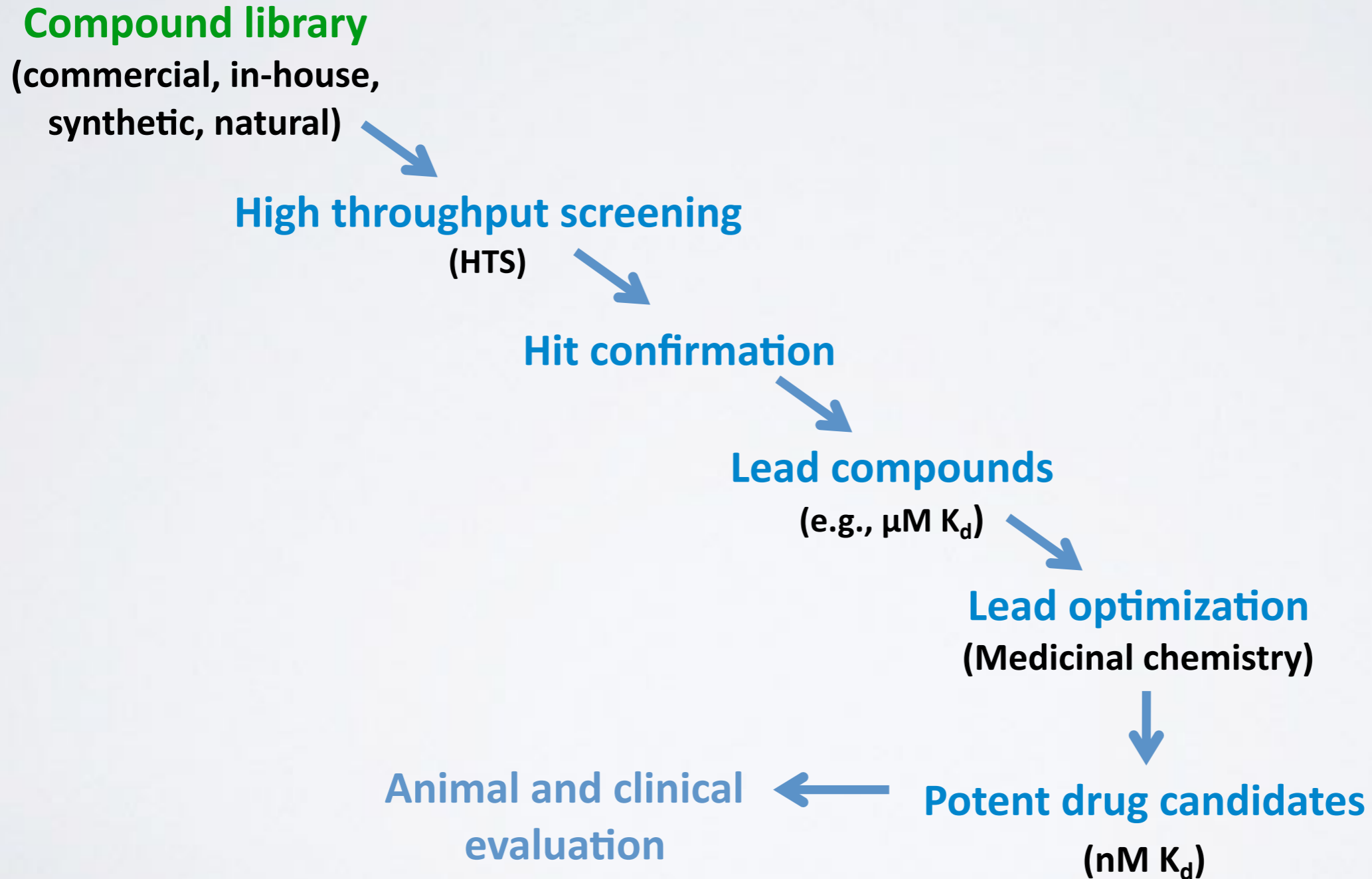


Proteinase K

NEXT UP:

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 - Major motivations, goals and challenges
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- ▶ **Representing and interpreting protein structure**
 - Modeling energy as a function of structure
- ▶ **Example application areas**
 - Predicting functional dynamics & drug discovery

THE TRADITIONAL EMPIRICAL PATH TO DRUG DISCOVERY



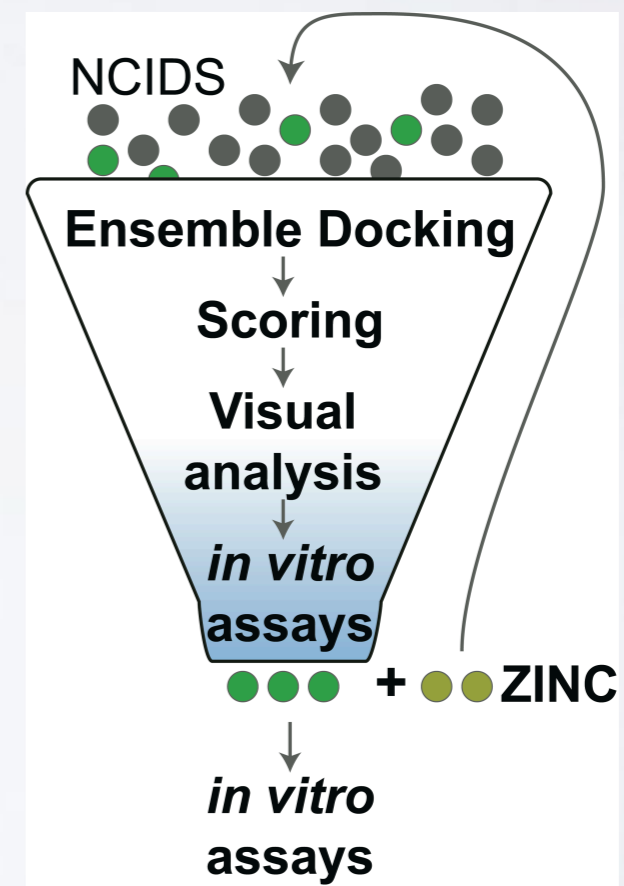
COMPUTER-AIDED LIGAND DESIGN

Aims to reduce number of compounds synthesized and assayed

Lower costs

Reduce chemical waste

Facilitate faster progress



Two main approaches:

(1). Receptor/Target-Based

(2). Ligand/Drug-Based

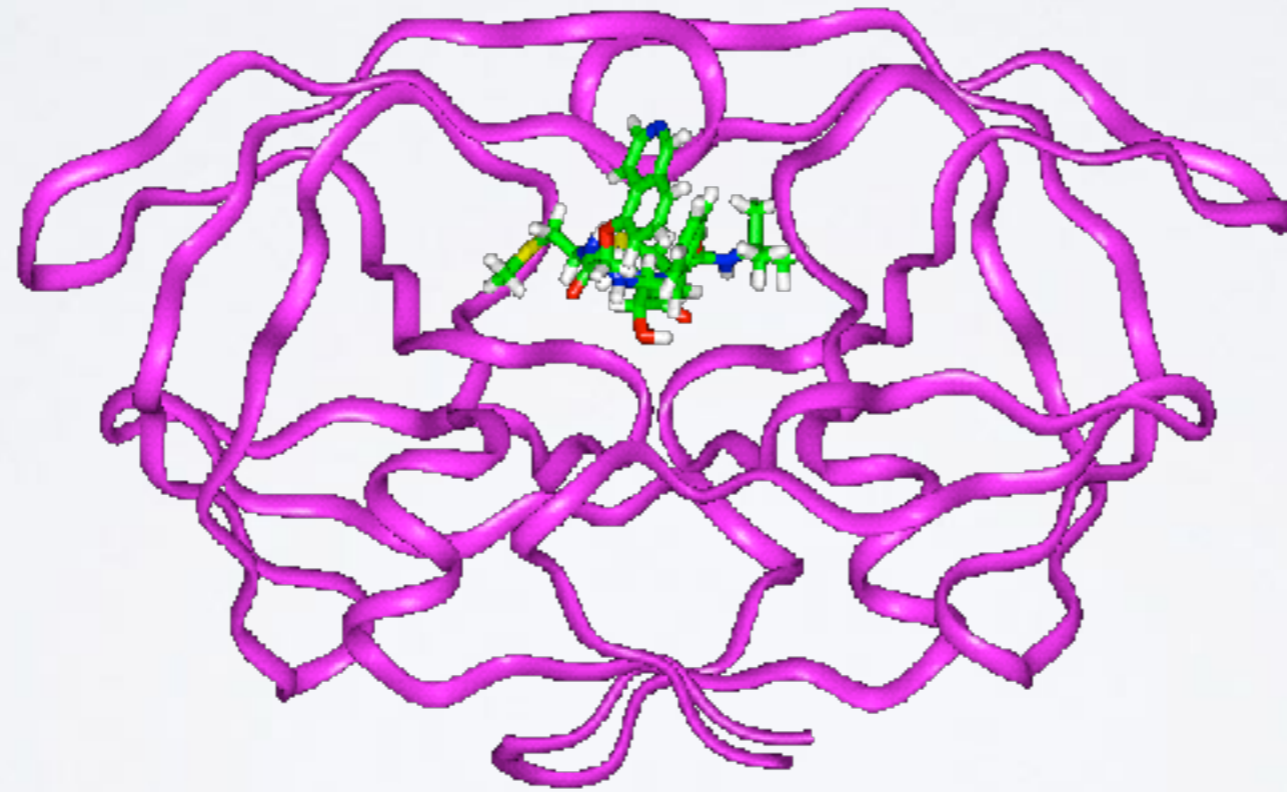
Two main approaches:

(1). Receptor/Target-Based

(2). Ligand/Drug-Based

SCENARIO I: RECEPTOR-BASED DRUG DISCOVERY

Structure of Targeted Protein Known: **Structure-Based Drug Discovery**



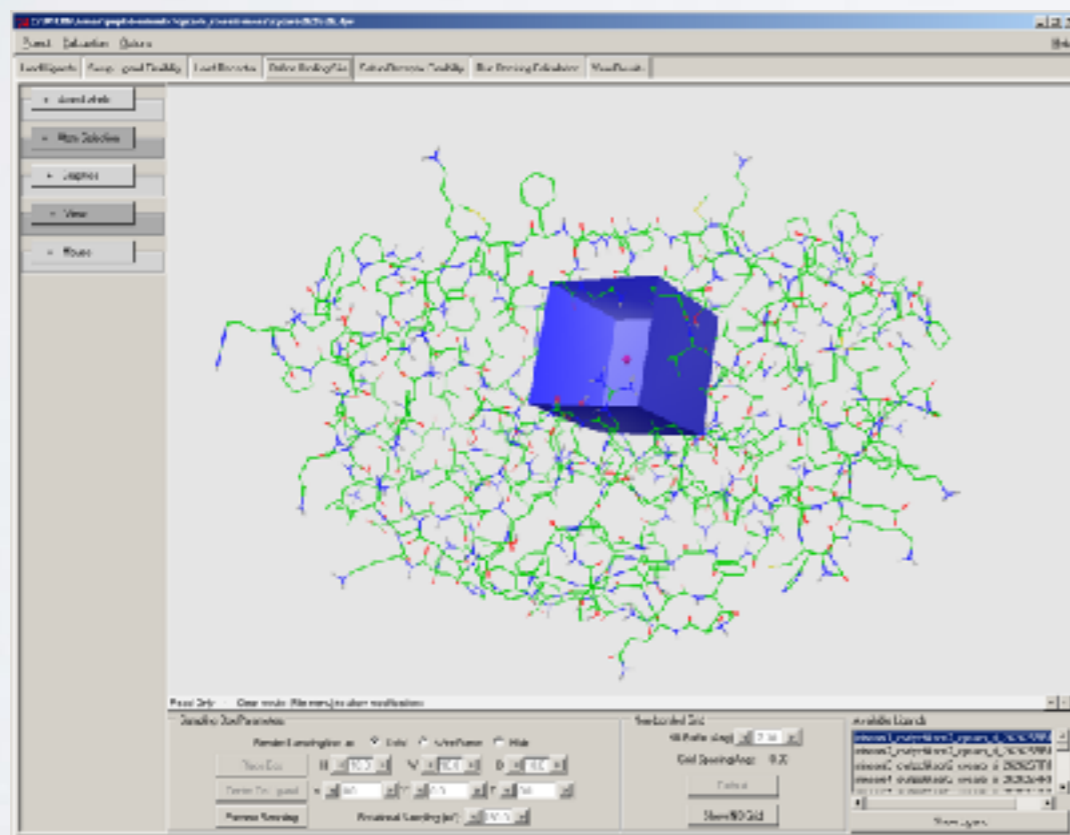
HIV Protease/KNI-272 complex

PROTEIN-LIGAND DOCKING

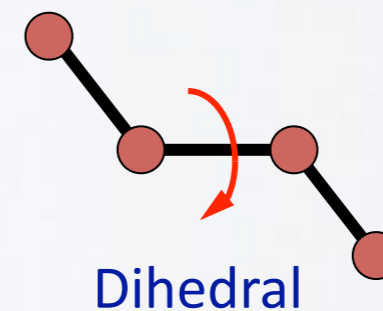
Structure-Based Ligand Design

Docking software

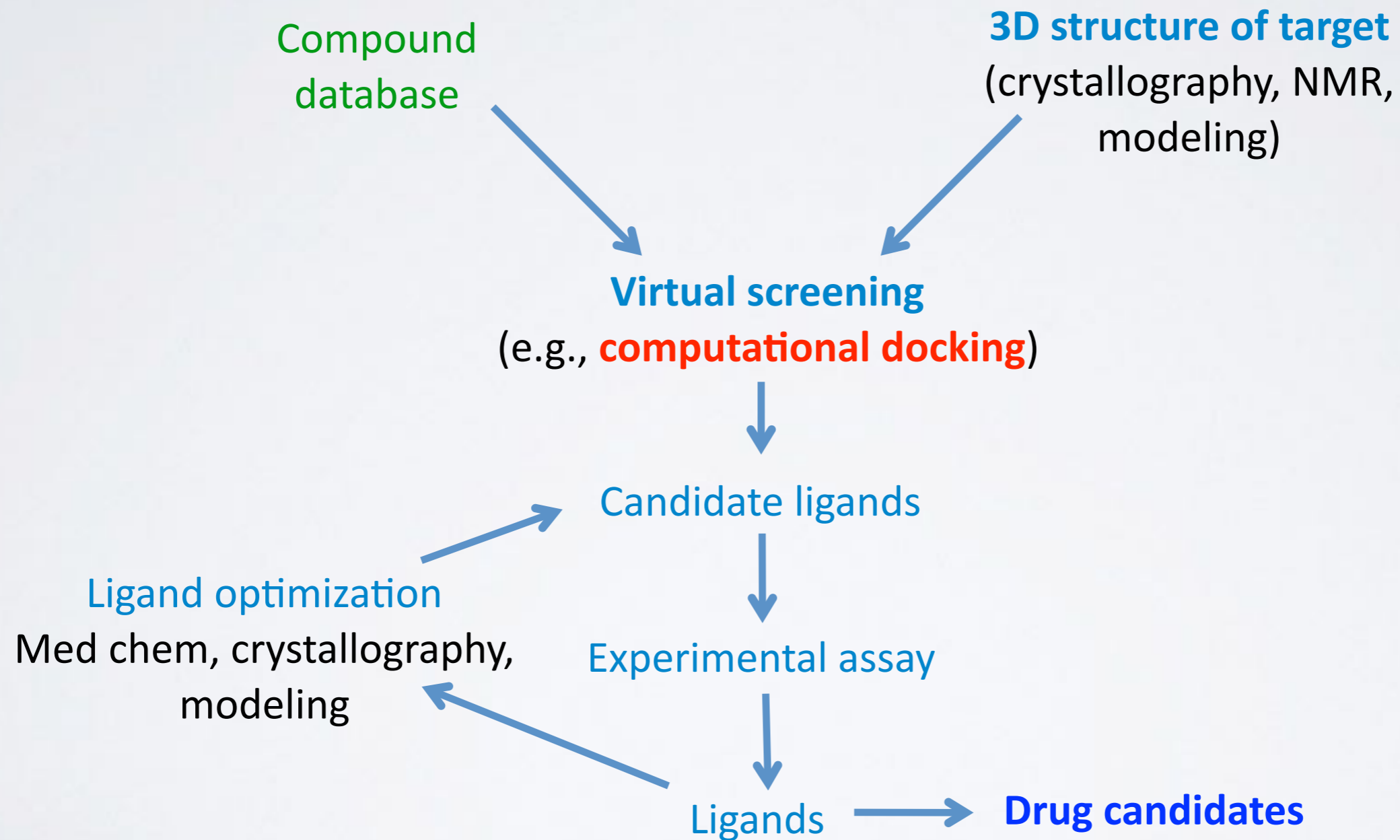
Search for structure of lowest energy



Potential function
Energy as function of structure



STRUCTURE-BASED VIRTUAL SCREENING



COMPOUND LIBRARIES

The screenshot shows the Maybridge HiPlex website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'HOME', 'ABOUT US', 'SERVICES', 'CONTACT', and 'FAQ'. Below that, a search bar is visible. The main content area features a large image of a coastline and a headline: 'Maybridge HiPlex™'. The text below the headline states: 'This is a curated diverse screening library with high quality, potent, and diverse compounds, universal and well tolerated.' It also mentions 'Maximum quality and more your screens' and lists several bullet points about the library's features, such as 'The HiPlex™ collection comprises 1M+ high quality compounds representing the drug like diversity of the Maybridge screening collections' and 'All screening compounds fit specific guidelines for high throughput screening, and all have purity greater than 99%'. There are also links for 'Request a sample' and 'Request a quote'.

Commercial
(in-house pharma)

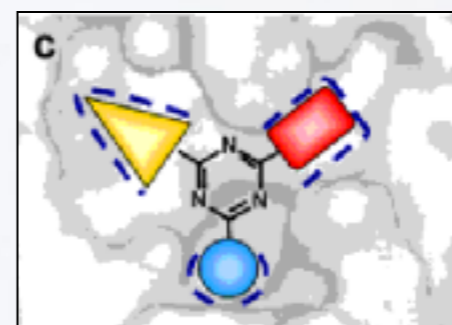
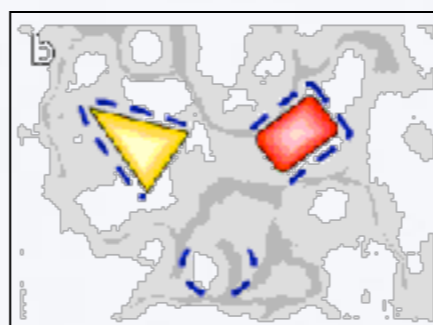
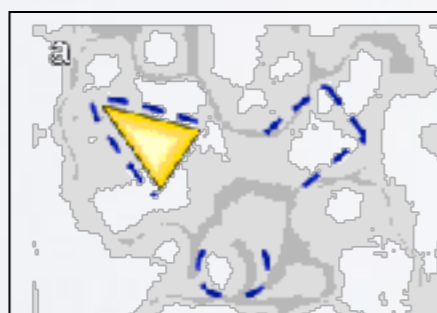
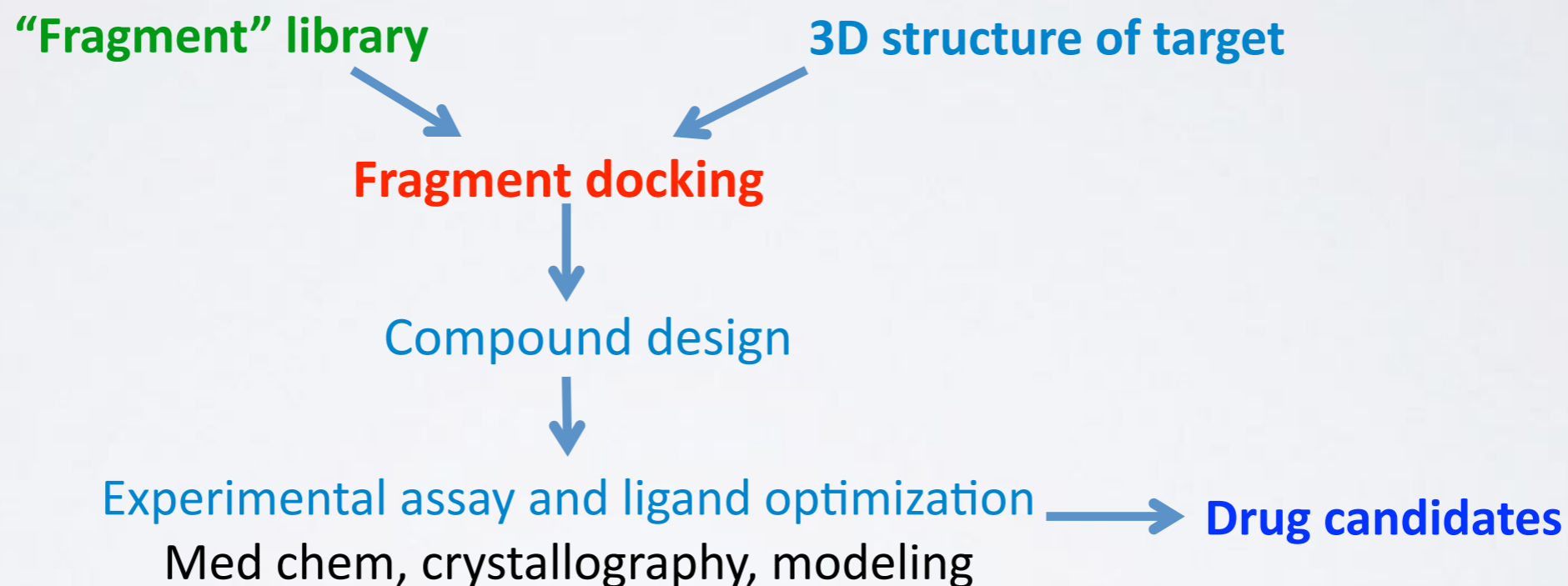
The screenshot shows the NIH Molecular Libraries Small Molecule Repository website. The header includes 'NIH MOLECULAR LIBRARIES SMALL MOLECULE REPOSITORY' and the 'BioFocus' logo, a Galapagos Company. A navigation menu on the left lists 'Home', 'MSEB Project', 'Compound Identification', 'Quality Control', 'Sample Storage', 'Sample Access', 'Information', 'MSEB Contact', 'MSEB Contact', and 'Submit Compound'. The main content area has a 'Welcome' section with the text: 'NIH Molecular Libraries Small Molecule Repository collects samples for high throughput biological screening and distributes them to the NIH Molecular Libraries Probe Production Centers Network. Learn More.' It also mentions 'MSEB is a key component of the Molecular Libraries Initiative, an NIH Roadmap project supporting the Pathways to Discovery in the 21st Century. The project is funded in whole with Federal funds from the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, under Contract No. HHS-N-279-2204-41001C.' There is a photo of a scientist in a lab coat working with equipment. At the bottom, it says 'Copyright © 2007 Galapagos NV' and 'BioFocus, a Galapagos company operates MLCMR in South San Francisco.'

Government (NIH)

The screenshot shows the University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh Molecular Libraries Screening Center website. The header includes the University of Pittsburgh logo and 'Pittsburgh Molecular Libraries Screening Center'. A navigation menu on the left lists 'HOME', 'ABOUT', 'PURSUES', 'SCREENING TECHNOLOGY', 'COMPARABLES', 'RESOURCES & INFORMATION', 'ITS SERVICES', 'APPROVED PUBLIC ASSEY PROTOCOLS', 'PMLSC PROC REPORTS', 'FORBIDDING', 'DATA ANALYSIS/INFORMATION', 'EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES', 'PMLSC EVENTS', 'LINKS', and 'CONTACTS'. The main content area features a large image with the text 'PMLSC BIG DISCOVERIES SMALL MOLECULES' and a globe. Below the image, it says 'Welcome' and 'The Pittsburgh Molecular Library Screening Center (PMLSC) comprises investigators at the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. The mission is to assist scientists and the National Institutes of Health to thoughtfully interrogate small molecule libraries using state-of-the-art High Throughput and High Content assays.' At the bottom, there are links for 'Health Sciences @ Pitt', 'UPMC', 'P.S.L.', 'School of Medicine', 'Health Sciences Calendar', and 'Our News & Events'. There is also a 'Search' button and a 'Go' button.

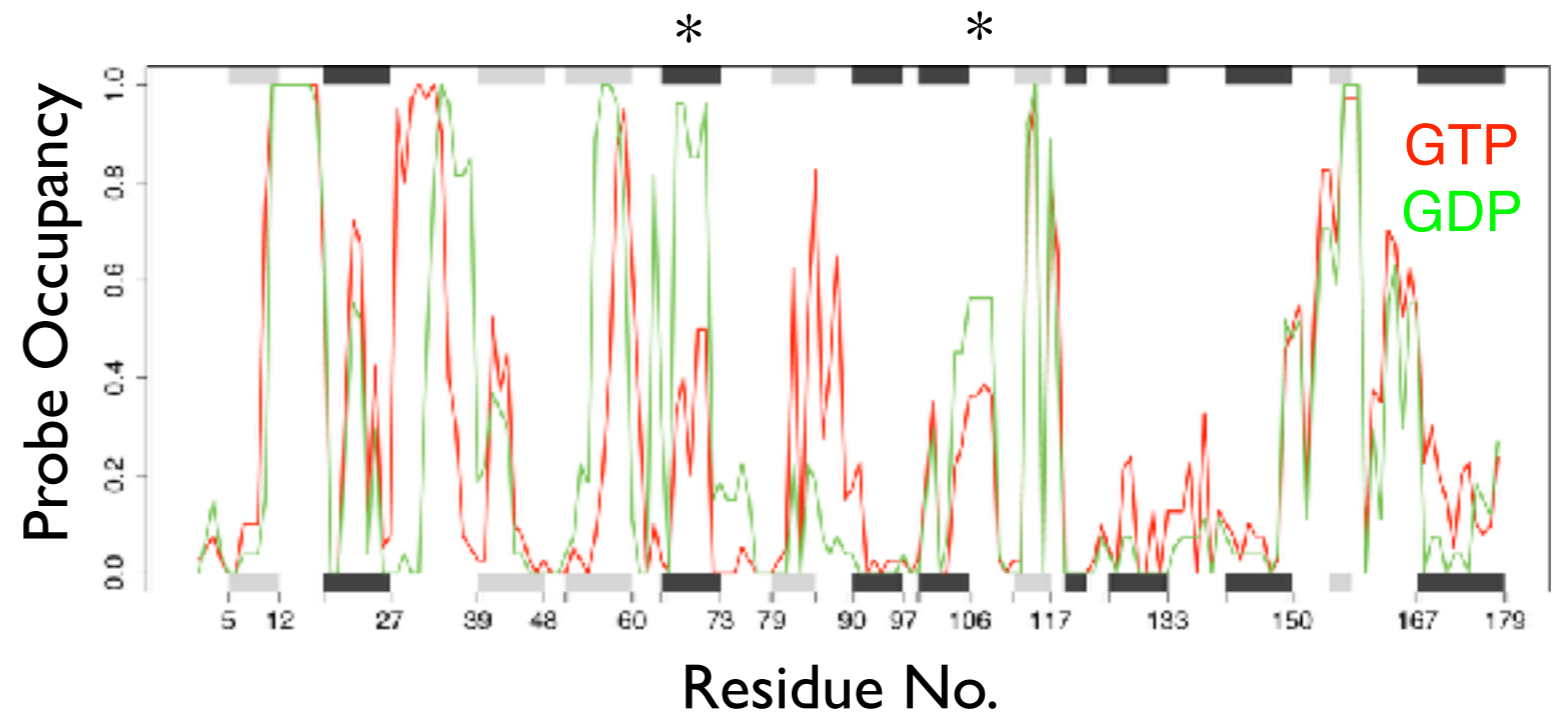
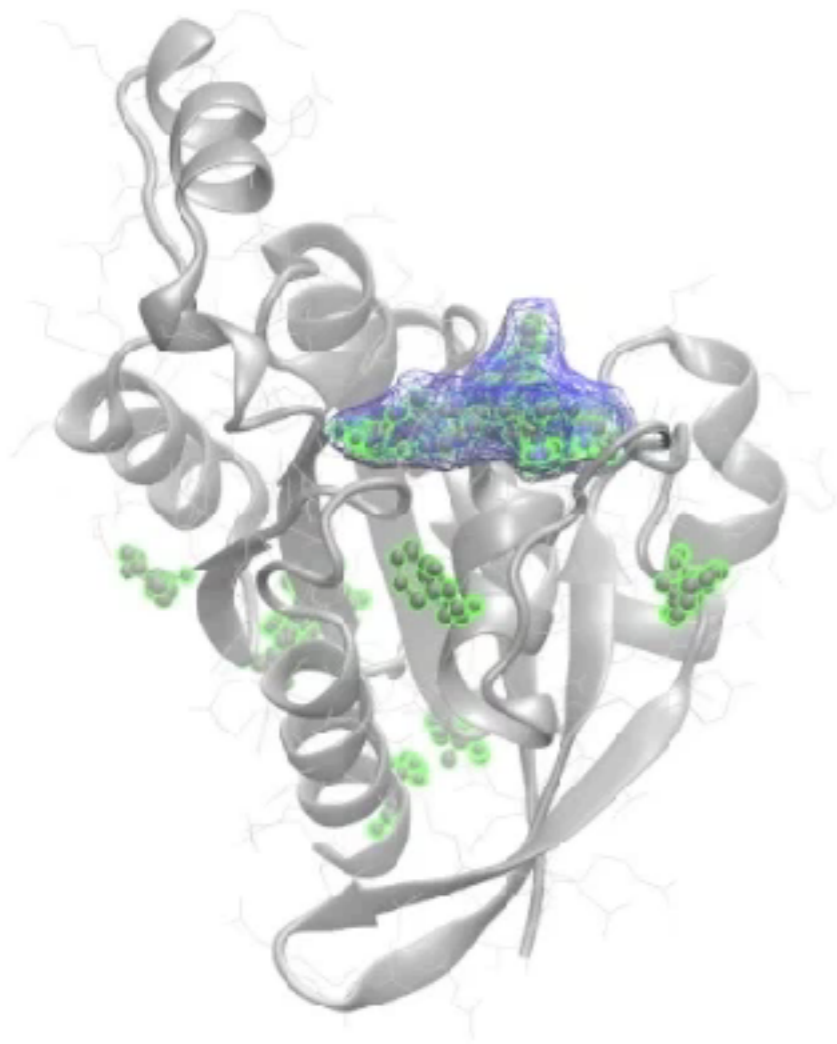
Academia

FRAGMENTAL STRUCTURE-BASED SCREENING



Multiple non active-site pockets identified

Small organic probe fragment affinities map multiple potential binding sites across the structural ensemble.



ethanol



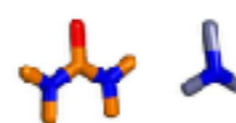
isopropanol

acetone



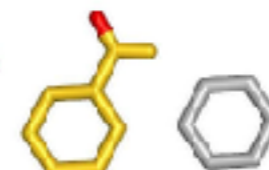
cyclohexane

methylamine



phenol

benzene

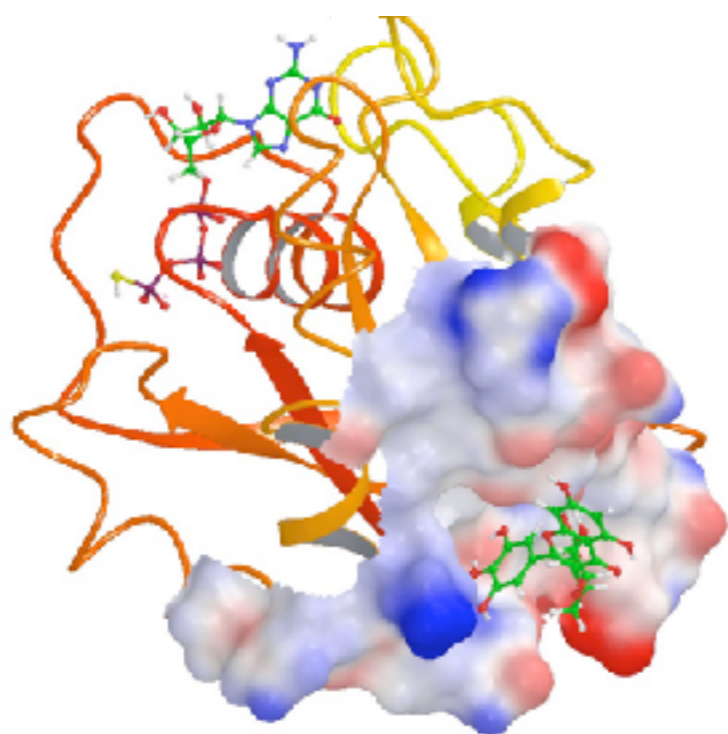


acetamide

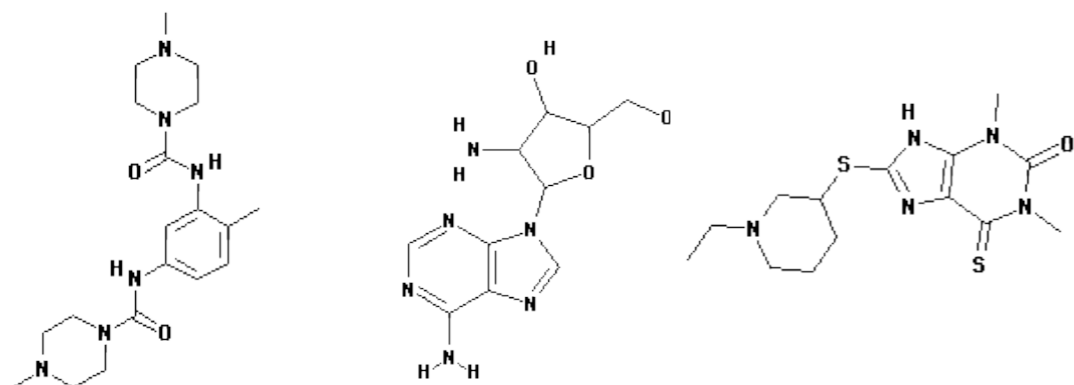
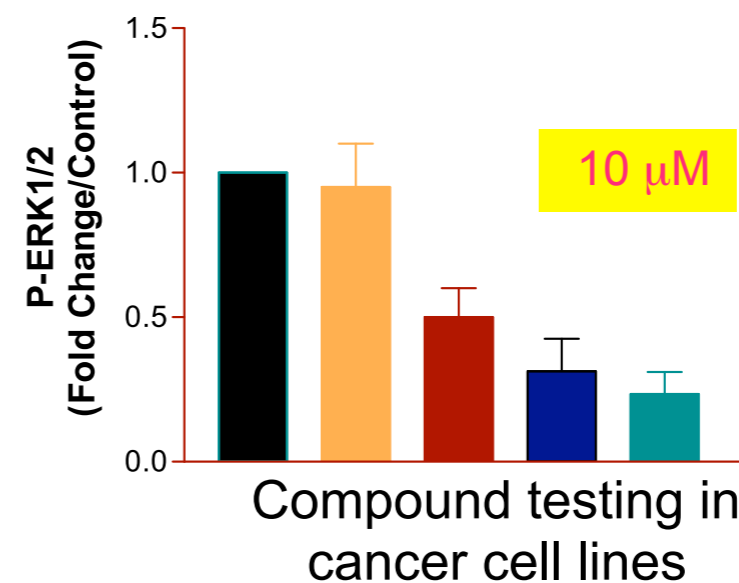
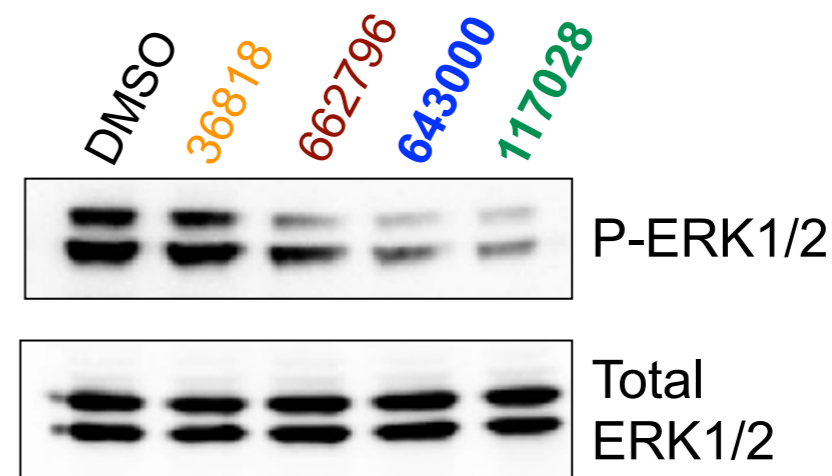
Ensemble docking & candidate inhibitor testing

Top hits from ensemble docking against distal pockets were tested for inhibitory effects on basal ERK activity in glioblastoma cell lines.

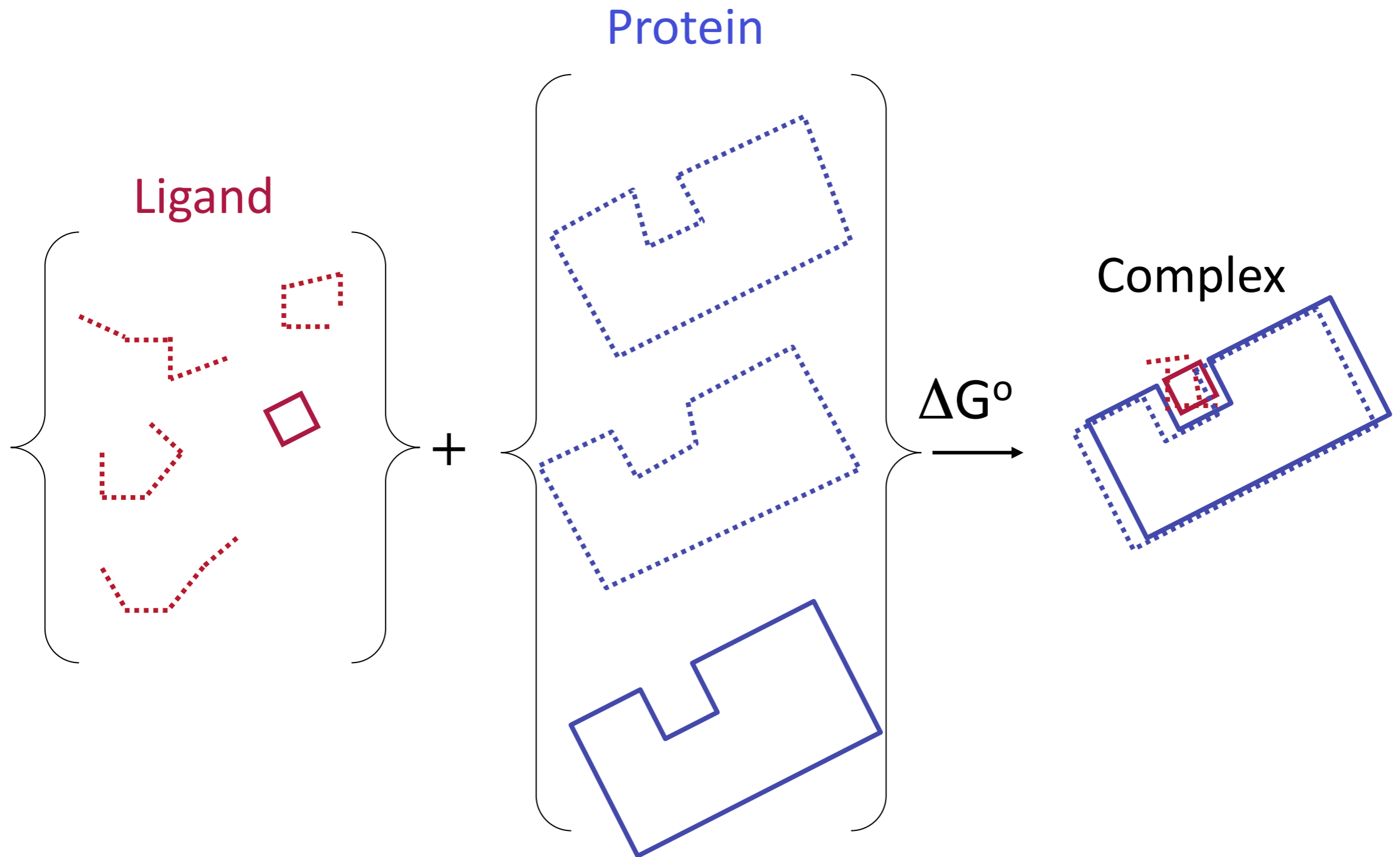
Ensemble computational docking



Compound effect on U251 cell line



Proteins and Ligand are Flexible



COMMON SIMPLIFICATIONS USED IN PHYSICS-BASED DOCKING

Quantum effects approximated classically

Protein often held rigid

Configurational entropy neglected

Influence of water treated crudely

Two main approaches:

(1). Receptor/Target-Based

(2). Ligand/Drug-Based

Experimental screening generated some ligands, but they don't bind tightly

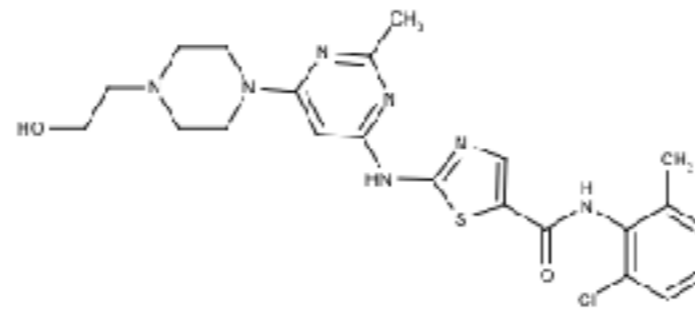
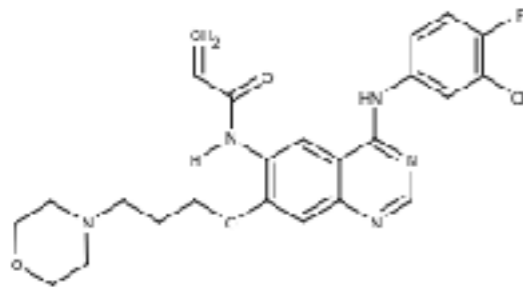
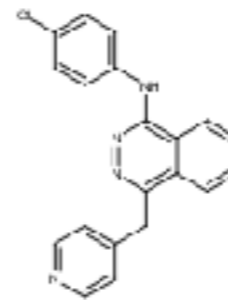
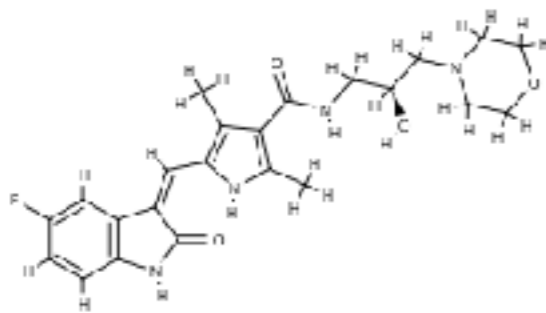
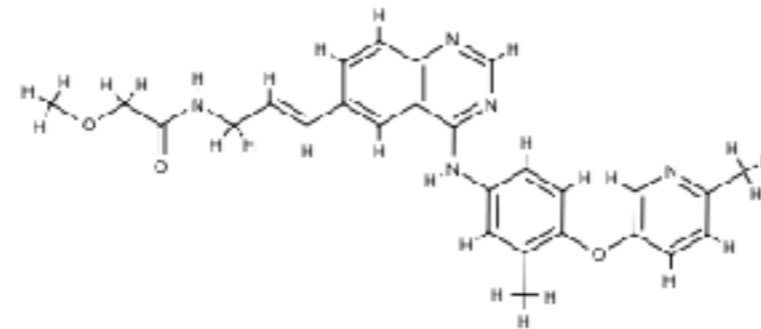
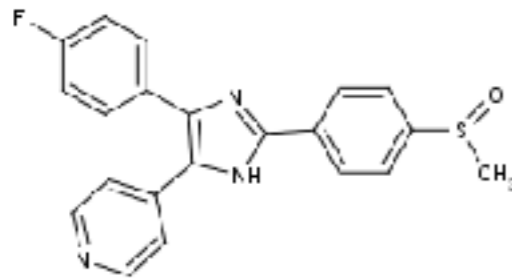
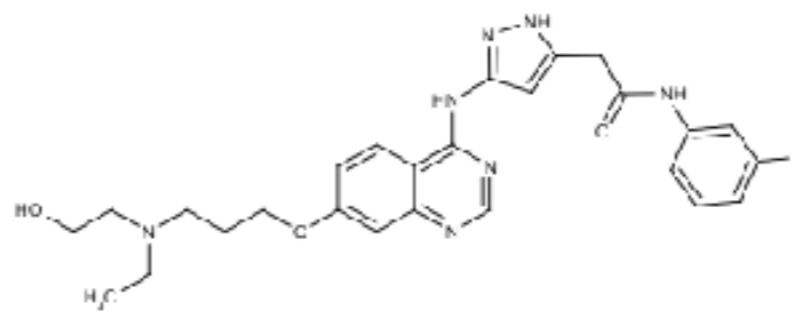
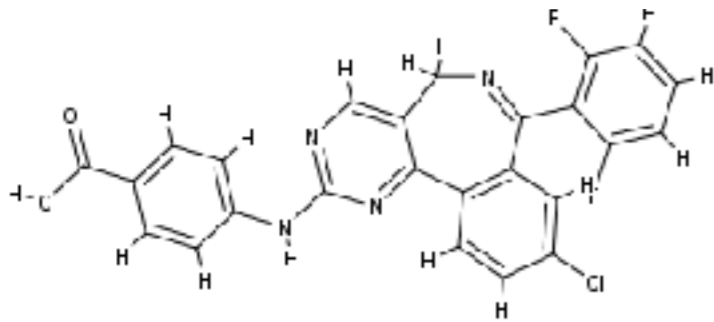
A company wants to work around another company's chemical patents

A high-affinity ligand is toxic, is not well-absorbed, etc.

Scenario 2

Structure of Targeted Protein Unknown: Ligand-Based Drug Discovery

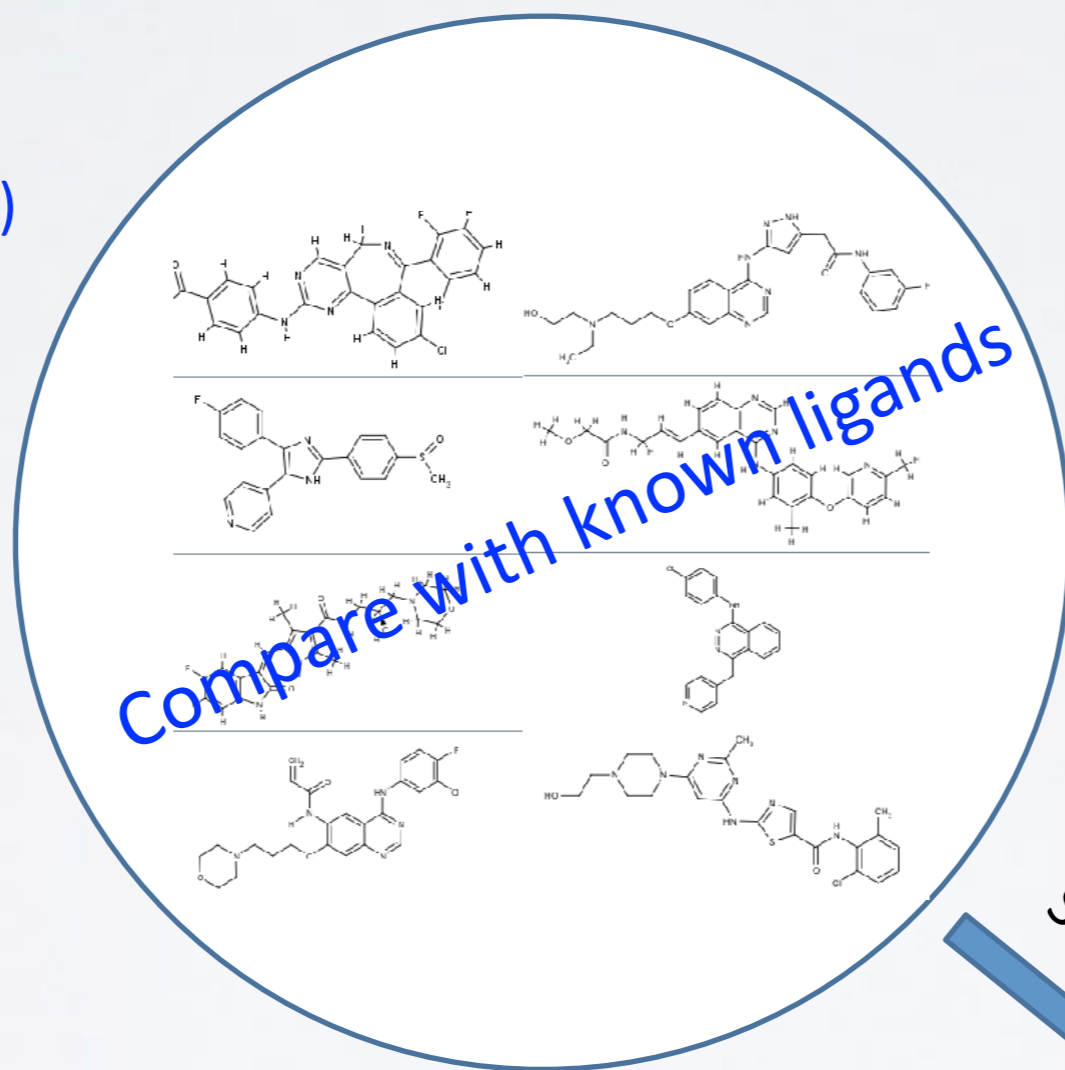
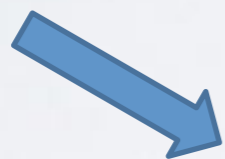
e.g. MAP Kinase Inhibitors



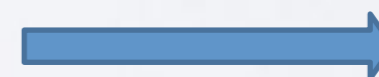
Using knowledge of existing inhibitors to discover more

CHEMICAL SIMILARITY LIGAND-BASED DRUG-DISCOVERY

Compounds
(available/synthesizable)

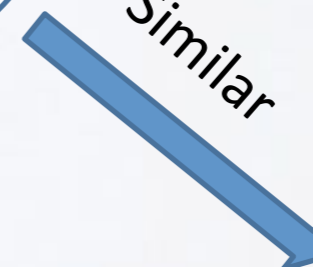


Different



Don't bother

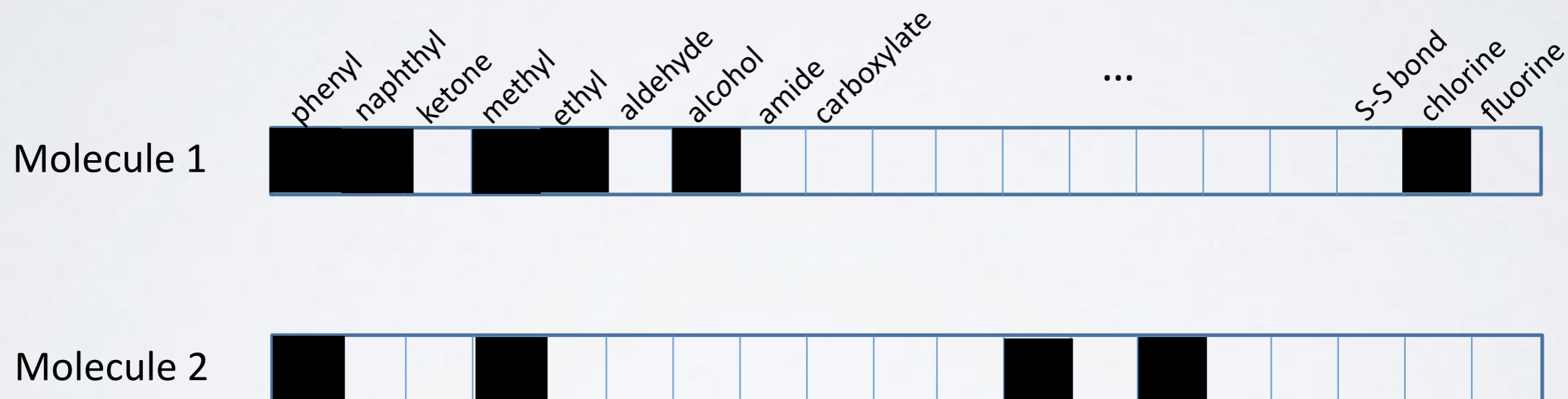
Similar



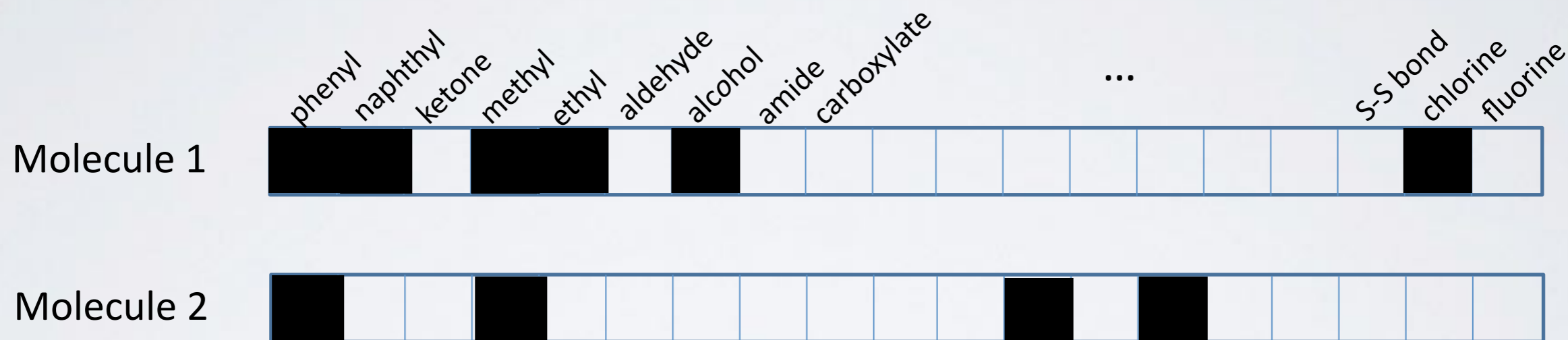
Test experimentally

CHEMICAL FINGERPRINTS

BINARY STRUCTURE KEYS



CHEMICAL SIMILARITY FROM FINGERPRINTS



Tanimoto Similarity
(or Jaccard Index), T

$$T \equiv \frac{N_I}{N_U} = 0.25$$

Intersection



$N_I=2$

Union

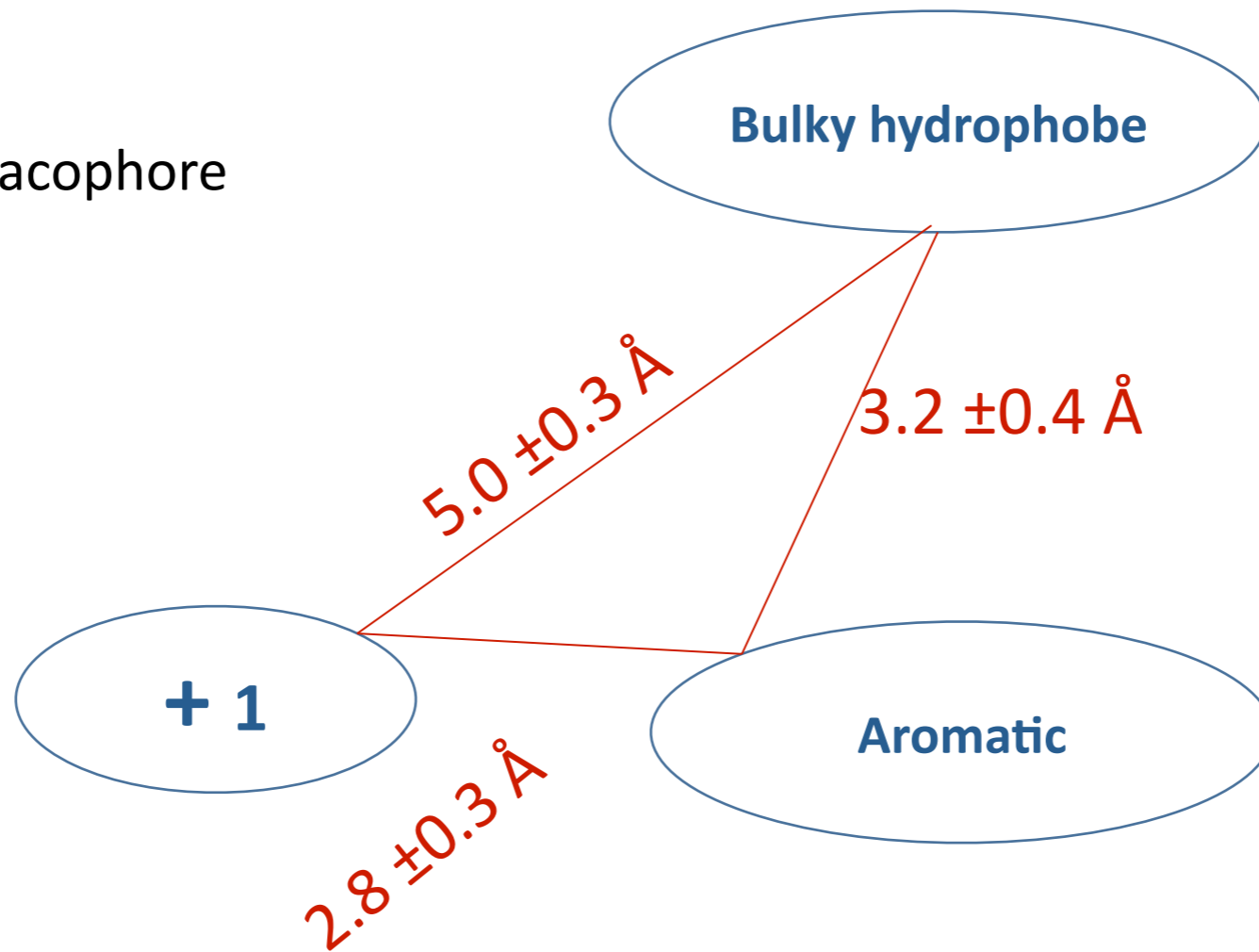


$N_U=8$

Pharmacophore Models

Φάρμακο (drug) + Φορά (carry)

A 3-point pharmacophore



Molecular Descriptors

More abstract than chemical fingerprints

Physical descriptors

molecular weight

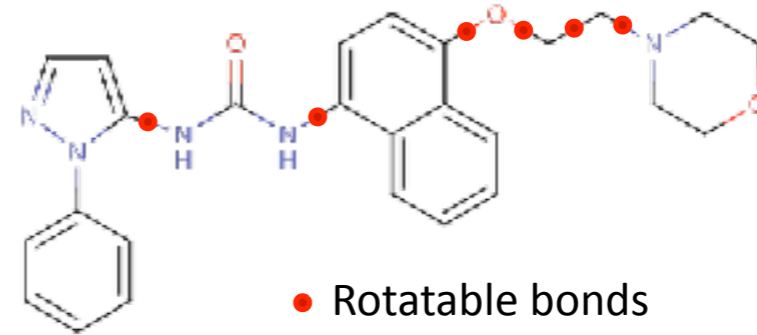
charge

dipole moment

number of H-bond donors/acceptors

number of rotatable bonds

hydrophobicity (log P and clogP)



Topological

branching index

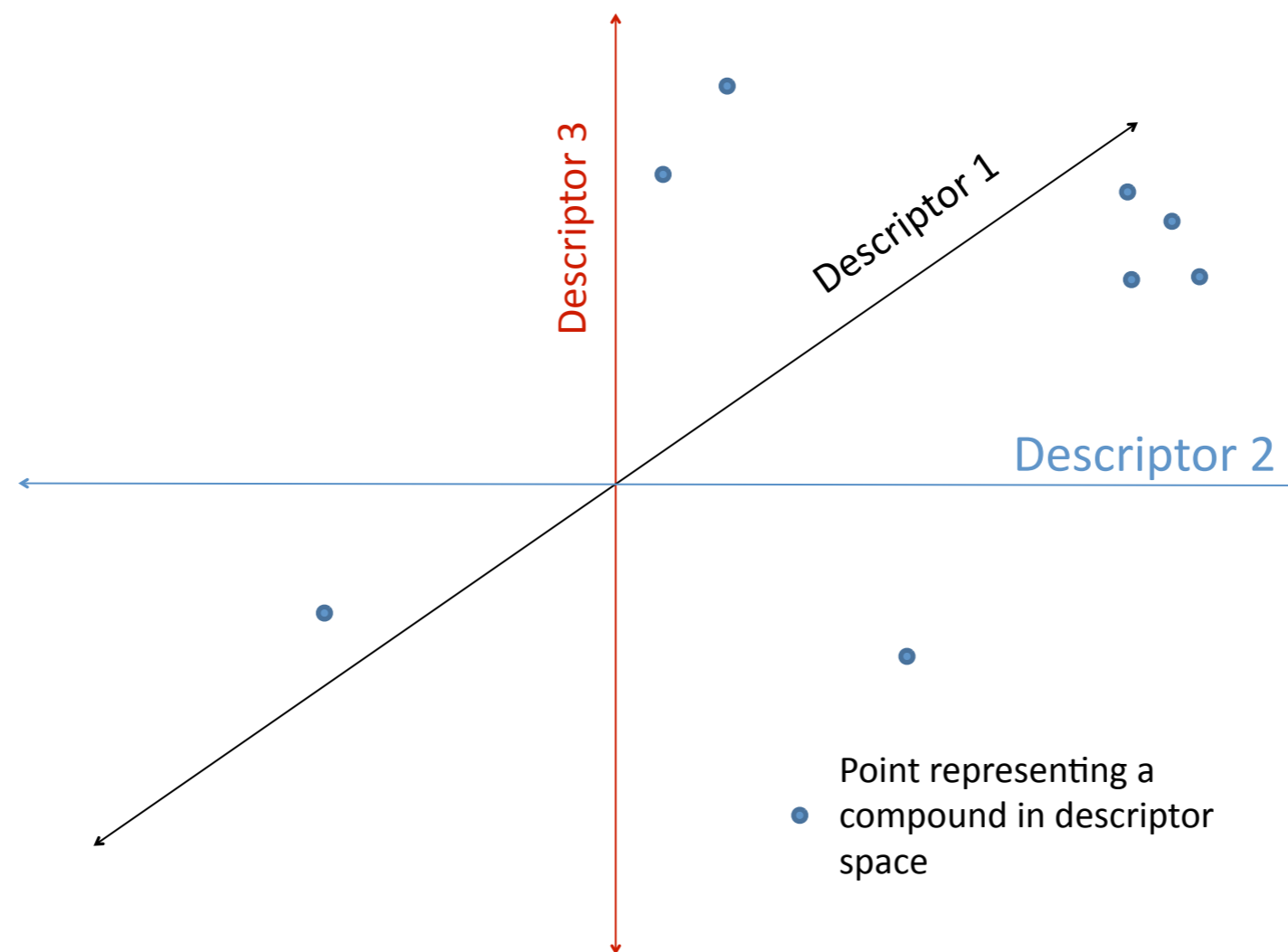
measures of linearity vs interconnectedness

Etc. etc.

A High-Dimensional “Chemical Space”

Each compound is at a point in an n-dimensional space

Compounds with similar properties are near each other



Apply **multivariate statistics** and **machine learning** for descriptor-selection.
(e.g. partial least squares, support vector machines, random forest, etc.)

CAUTIONARY NOTES

- **“Everything should be made as simple as it can be but not simpler”**
A model is **never perfect**. A model that is not quantitatively accurate in every respect does not preclude one from establishing results relevant to our understanding of biomolecules as long as the biophysics of the model are properly understood and explored.
- **Calibration of the parameters is an ongoing and imperfect process**
Questions and hypotheses should always be designed such that they do not depend crucially on the precise numbers used for the various parameters.
- **A computational model is rarely universally right or wrong**
A model may be accurate in some regards, inaccurate in others. These subtleties can only be uncovered by comparing to all available experimental data.

SUMMARY

- Structural bioinformatics is computer aided structural biology
- Described major motivations, goals and challenges of structural bioinformatics
- Reviewed the fundamentals of protein structure
- Introduced both physics and knowledge based modeling approaches for describing the structure, energetics and dynamics of proteins computationally

ACHIEVEMENTS

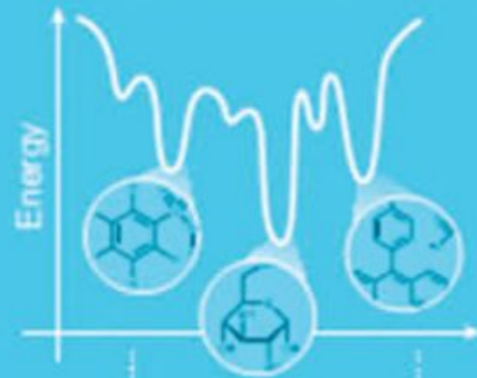
Computational power



Data coverage and community resources



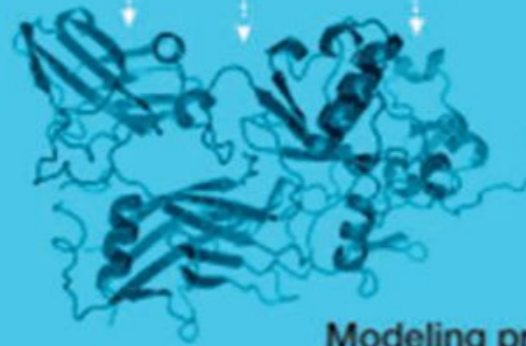
Chemical systems biology and small-molecule docking simulations



Objective method assessment



Correlated mutations



Modeling protein structure

CHALLENGES

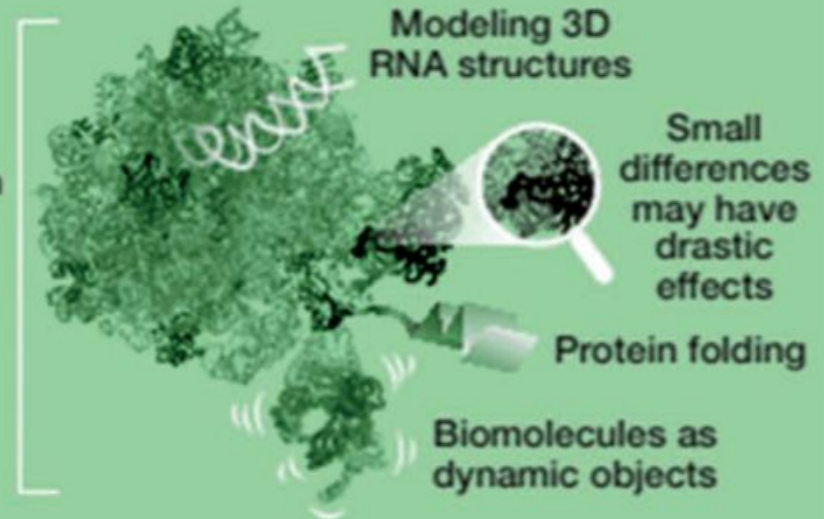
Accessibility and integration of data and methods



Protein engineering and synthetic biology



Modeling multi-domain proteins and large assemblies



Origins and evolution of protein structure



Integration with systems biology



INFORMING SYSTEMS BIOLOGY?

