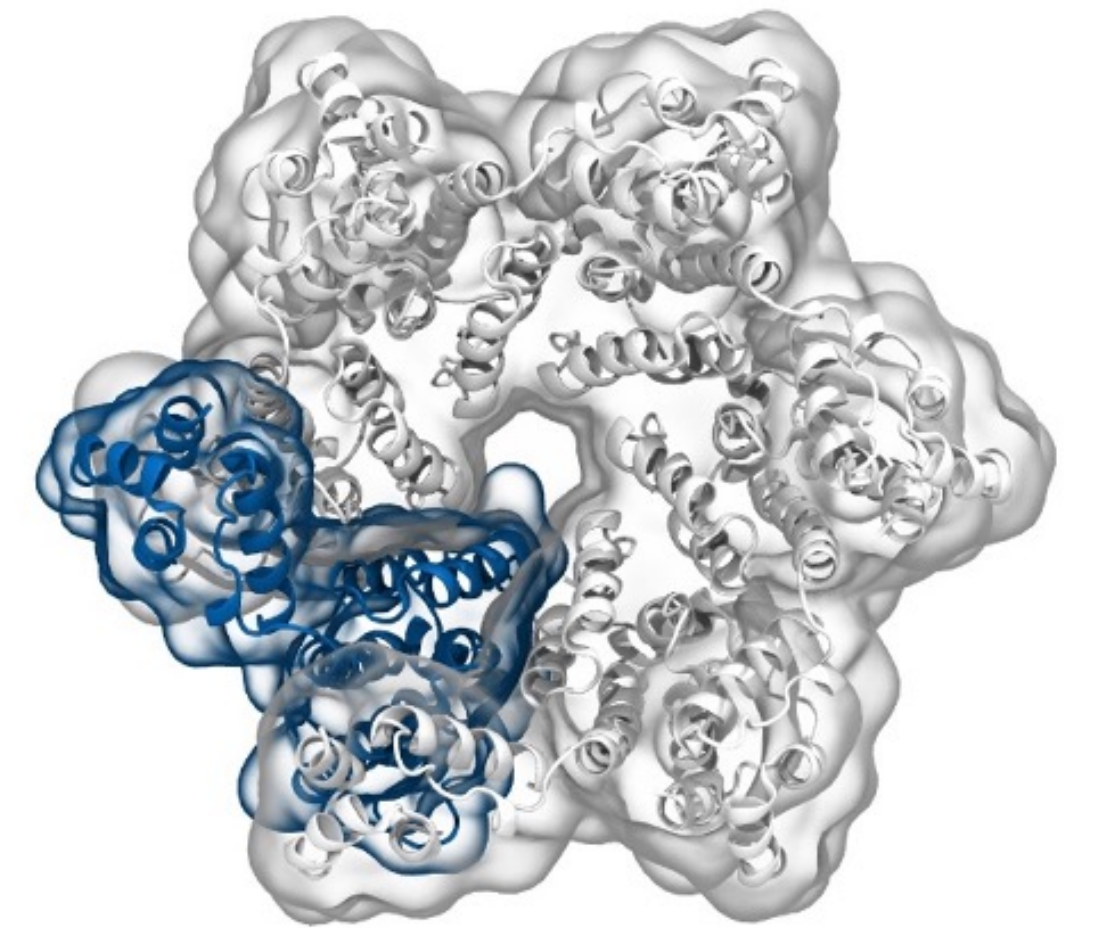
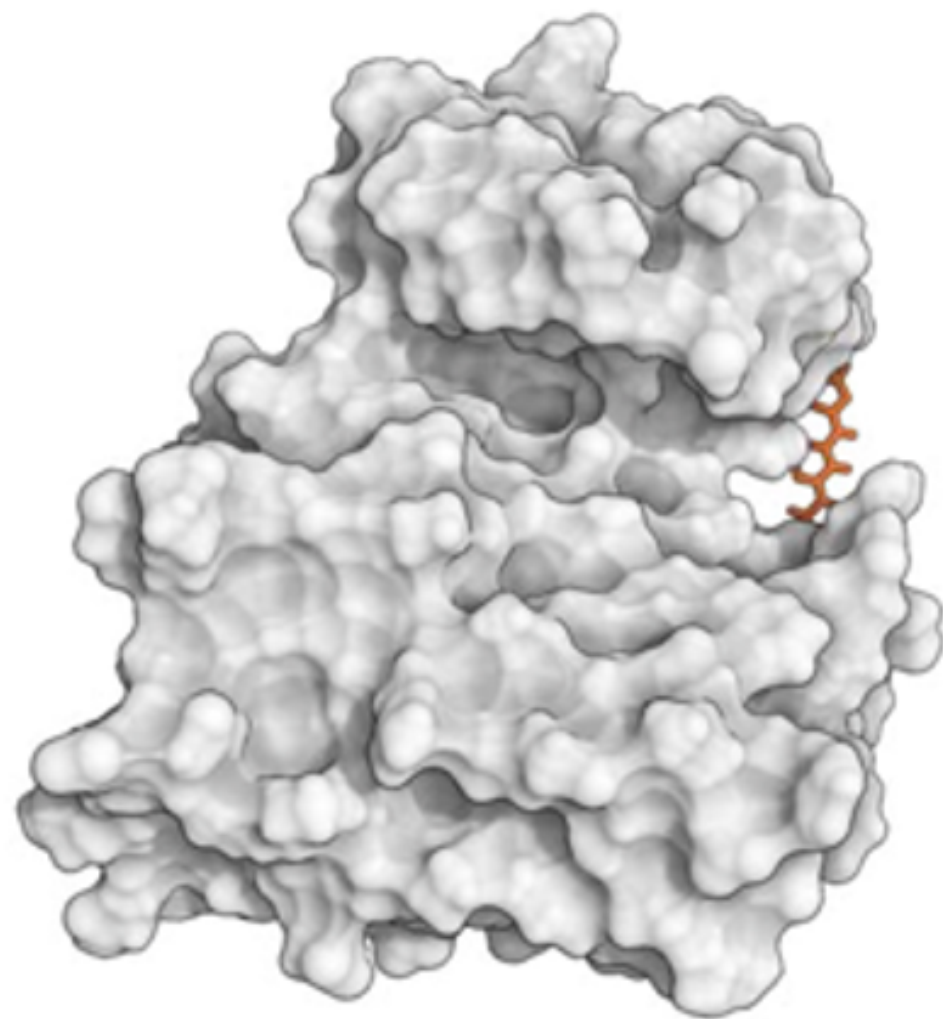


# Simulation of Biomolecules

## Lecture 5: Introduction to MDAnalysis

**2023 CCP5 Summer School**



Dr Matteo Degiacomi  
Durham University  
[matteo.t.degiacomini@durham.ac.uk](mailto:matteo.t.degiacomini@durham.ac.uk)

Dr Antonia Mey  
University of Edinburgh  
[antoniamey@ed.ac.uk](mailto:antoniamey@ed.ac.uk)

# General information on MDAnalysis



Lecture material adapted from: Dr Micaela Matta, King's College London,

**Email:** [micaela.matta@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:micaela.matta@kcl.ac.uk)

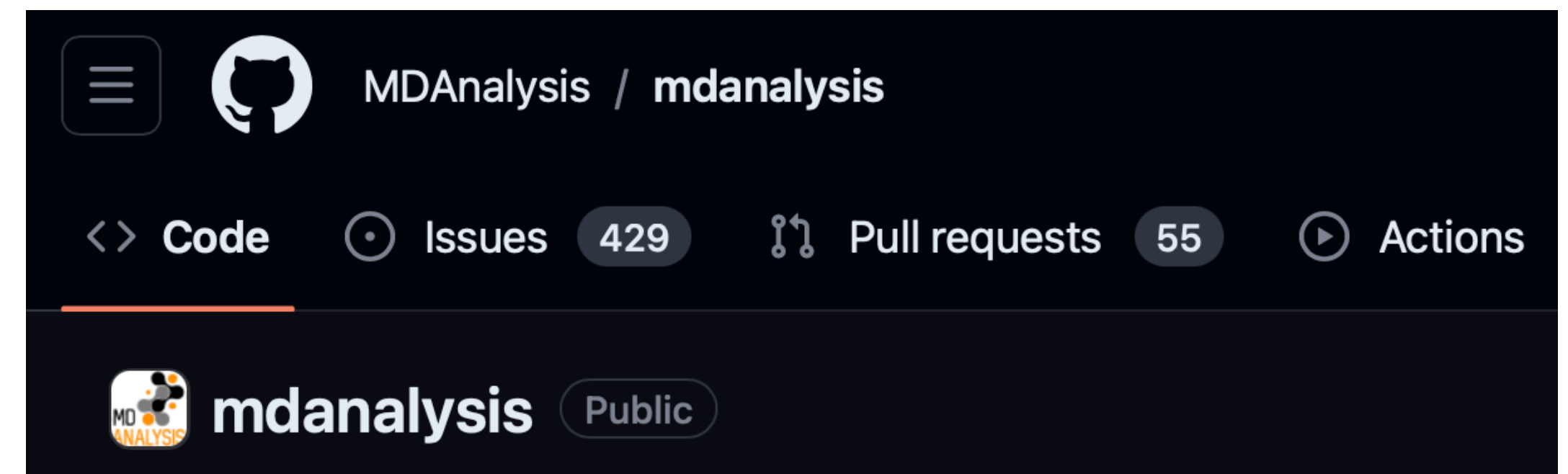


## MDAnalysis Tutorial

MDAnalysis version:  $\geq$  0.18.0  
Tutorial release: 3.0.0  
Last updated: Aug 19, 2020

<https://www.mdanalysis.org/MDAnalysisTutorial/>

Join the active community with requests and issues



<https://github.com/MDAnalysis/mdanalysis>

# Session schedule

The session will be split into two sections:

- **Section 1: Basics of MDAnalysis**
  - Fundamental MDAnalysis objects
  - Atom selections
  - Visualising systems
  - Accessing bond, angle, and dihedral information

For now



Extra material



- **Section 2: Positions, distances, and trajectory**
  - Using position data
  - Calculating distances, bonds and angles
  - Accessing trajectory data



# Getting started with MDAnalysis

## Installing MDAnalysis

A conda environment containing all the dependencies you will need for this workshop is provided under `environment.yml`.

Should you want to install MDAnalysis under a separate environment, you can find the installation instructions here: [https://www.mdanalysis.org/pages/installation\\_quick\\_start/](https://www.mdanalysis.org/pages/installation_quick_start/). Installation is normally done through **pip** or **conda**.

```
pip install MDAnalysis
```

If you want to use the example data used here, you'll also need MDAnalysisTests:

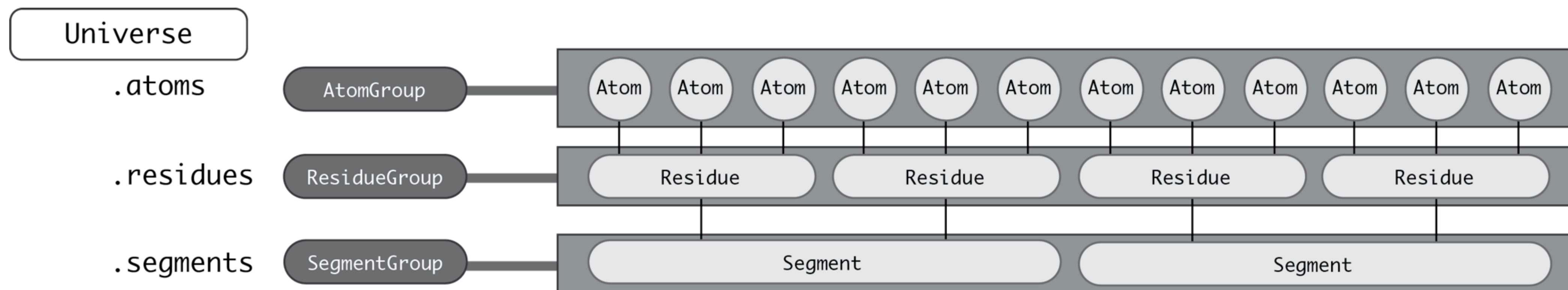
```
pip install MDAnalysisTests
```

MDAnalysis also has a repository of large example data files under MDAnalysisData:

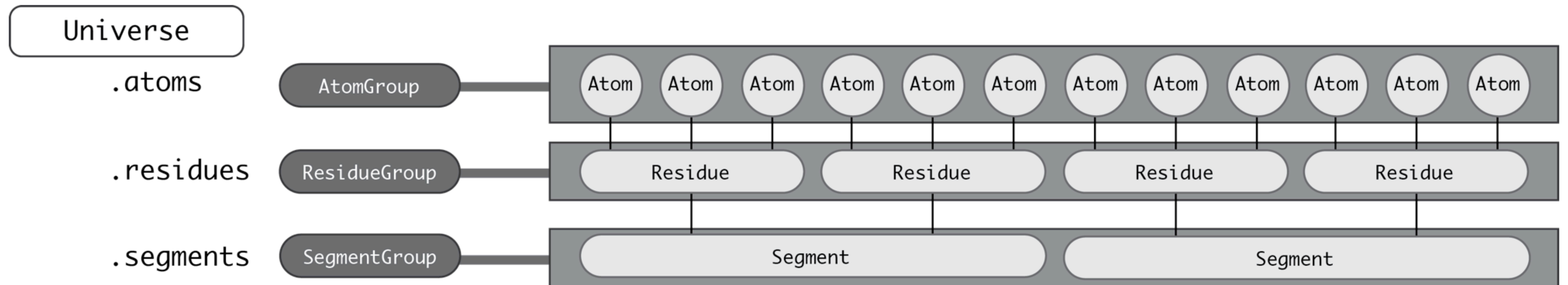
```
pip install MDAnalysisData
```

# The general object structure of MDAnalysis

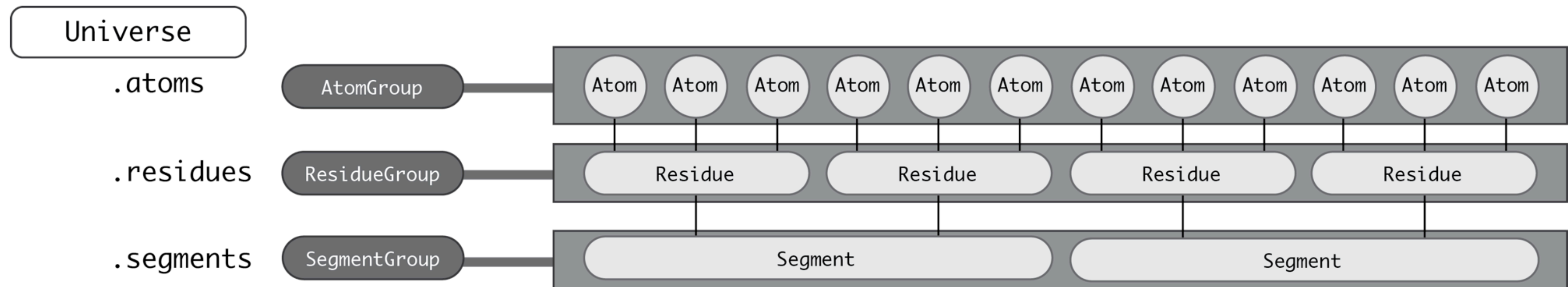
The two fundamental classes of MDAnalysis are the `Universe` and the `AtomGroup`.



- The **Universe** contains everything about a molecular dynamics system
  - Static information: atoms and their connectivities
  - Dynamic information: The trajectory



- The atoms in a **Universe** can be accessed through a hierarchy of containers:
  - Atoms can be grouped together into an **AtomGroup**
    - *Residues* are made up of *atoms*. They can be grouped into **ResidueGroups**
    - *Segments* are made up of *residues*. They can be grouped into **SegmentGroups**.



# A (very) basic workflow for an analysis in MDAnalysis:

1. import MDAnalysis
2. create a `Universe`
3. define an `AtomGroup`
4. collect position data
5. analyse!



# The Universe

The basic command for loading a universe is:

```
u = mda.Universe(topology, trajectory)
```

- The *topology* file must contain the atom information
- The (optional) *trajectory* file(s) contains the positions of atoms with time.

Note that some files can double as both a *topology* and a *trajectory* (e.g. PDB files).

MDAnalysis supports over 40 input file types

```
In [ ]: # First we import MDAnalysis
import MDAnalysis as mda

# Let's get some example data
from MDAnalysis.tests.datafiles import PSF, DCD

# and now load our universe!
u = mda.Universe(PSF, DCD)
u
```

## Key properties of a **Universe**:

- `atoms`: an `AtomGroup` containing all of the system's atoms
  - similarly, `segments` and `residues`; a `SegmentGroup` and a `ResidueGroup`, respectively
- Various bond and angle information, as `TopologyGroups`: `bonds`, `angles`, `dihedrals`, `impropers` (if found in the topology file)
- `trajectory` (section 2): accessing time-dependent data structures

```
In [ ]: u.bonds
```

# AtomGroups

An **AtomGroup** is an "array" of atoms.

We can get various properties of each atom contained in an **AtomGroup** through attributes, e.g.:

- **names**
- **resnames**
- **resids**
- **charges**
- **masses**

Exactly which properties you can get depend on what is read from the topology (see the [documentation](#))

```
In [ ]: # Calling atoms creates an AtomGroup based
        # on all the atoms in the system
        ag = u.atoms
        print(type(ag))
        ag.names
```

# Atom selections

We don't usually want to work with the whole set of atoms in a trajectory. We need a way to create `AtomGroups` containing selected atoms.

## Selection strings and `select_atoms`

We can use the `select_atoms()` method of an `AtomGroup` or `Universe` to return an `AtomGroup` based on a selection string.

There's a lot of options for selection strings (see the [UserGuide](#)); including:

- selection by attribute (e.g. residue name ( `resname` )), including presets like `protein`
- wildcard matching (`*`)
- boolean operators (`and`, `or`, `not`)
- geometric (e.g. `around`, `sphzone`, ...)
- and more!

```
In [ ]: ag = u.select_atoms('protein')
        view_ag = nv.show_mdanalysis(ag)
        view_ag
```

```
In [ ]: view_ag.add_licorice()
```



# Working with coordinates

The most useful attribute of our atoms are their coordinates, available in the `positions` attribute of an `AtomGroup`

The positions are returned as a NumPy array, which we can then readily manipulate.

There are some built-in functions based on position data, e.g. `center_of_mass()`, `center_of_geometry()`

```
In [ ]: pos = u.atoms.positions  
        print(pos)
```

This is just data from one frame - in the next section we will cover how to work with trajectories to get data across a whole simulation.

# Built-in Analyses

- MDAAnalysis has plenty of built-in analysis methods (RMSD, RMSF, MSD, PCA, PSA, etc...)
- These use AnalysisBase objects and can be called via a `run ( )` method to get data over the length of a trajectory.
- We will touch upon these during the next few notebooks, but they won't be a primary focus of this workshop.

```
In [ ]: from matplotlib import pyplot as plt
        from MDAAnalysis.analysis.rms import RMSD
        %matplotlib inline

        u = mda.Universe(PSF, DCD)

        c_alphas = u.select_atoms('name CA')

        R = RMSD(c_alphas, c_alphas)
        R.run()
        plt.plot(R.results.rmsd.T[0], R.results.rmsd.T[2])
```