Background

In this hands on session we will utilise AlphaFold to predict protein structure from sequence (Jumper et al. 2021)

Without the aid of such approaches, it can take years of expensive laboratory work to determine the structure of just one protein. With AlphaFold we can now accurately compute a typical protein structure in as little as ten minutes.

The PDB database (the main repository of experimental structures) only has ~**250 thousand** structures (we saw this in the last lab). The main protein sequence database has over **200 million** sequences! Only 0.125% of known sequences have a known structure - this is called the "structure knowledge gap".

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(250000 / 200000000)*100
```

```
[1] 0.125
```

Structures are much harder to determine than sequences. They are expensive (on average ~$1 million each). They take on average 3-5 years to solve!

EBI AlphaFold Database

The EBI has a database of pre-computed AlphaFold (AF) models called AFDB. This is growing all the time anad can be useful to check before running AF ourselves.