

Ab initio Protein Structure Prediction

Protein Structure Prediction

- Secondary Structure Prediction
- Ab initio Structure prediction

Secondary Structure Prediction

- *Given a protein sequence $a_1a_2\dots a_N$, secondary structure prediction aims at defining the state of each amino acid a_i as being either H (helix), E (extended=strand), or O (other) (Some methods have 4 states: H, E, T for turns, and O for other).*
- *The quality of secondary structure prediction is measured with a “3-state accuracy” score, or Q_3 . Q_3 is the percent of residues that match “reality” (X-ray structure).*

Quality of Secondary Structure Prediction

Determine Secondary Structure positions in known protein structures using DSSP or STRIDE:

1. Kabsch and Sander. Dictionary of Secondary Structure in Proteins: pattern recognition of hydrogen-bonded and geometrical features. Biopolymer 22: 2571-2637 (1983) (DSSP)
2. Frischman and Argos. Knowledge-based secondary structure assignments. Proteins, 23:566-571 (1995) (STRIDE)

Limitations of Q_3

ALHEASGPSVILFGSDVTVPASPNAEQAK

Amino acid sequence

hhhhhooooeeeeeooooeeeooooohhhhh

Actual Secondary Structure

ohhhooooeeeeeooooooooeeeoohhhhhh
(useful prediction)

$Q_3 = 22/29 = 76\%$

hhhhhoooohhhhhooohhhooooohhhhhh
(terrible prediction)

$Q_3 = 22/29 = 76\%$

● Q_3 for random prediction is 33%

● Secondary structure assignment in real proteins is uncertain to about 10%;
Therefore, a “perfect” prediction would have $Q_3 = 90\%$.

Early methods for Secondary Structure Prediction

- *Chou and Fasman*

(Chou and Fasman. Prediction of protein conformation. Biochemistry, 13: 211-245, 1974)

- *GOR*

(Garnier, Osguthorpe and Robson. Analysis of the accuracy and implications of simple methods for predicting the secondary structure of globular proteins. J. Mol. Biol., 120:97- 120, 1978)

Chou and Fasman

- *Start by computing amino acids propensities to belong to a given type of secondary structure:*

$$\frac{P(i / Helix)}{P(i)}$$

$$\frac{P(i / Beta)}{P(i)}$$

$$\frac{P(i / Turn)}{P(i)}$$

Propensities > 1 mean that the residue type i is likely to be found in the Corresponding secondary structure type.

Chou and Fasman

<u>Amino Acid</u>	<u>α-Helix</u>	<u>β-Sheet</u>	<u>Turn</u>	
Ala	1.29	0.90	0.78	Favors α -Helix
Cys	1.11	0.74	0.80	
Leu	1.30	1.02	0.59	
Met	1.47	0.97	0.39	
Glu	1.44	0.75	1.00	
Gln	1.27	0.80	0.97	
His	1.22	1.08	0.69	
Lys	1.23	0.77	0.96	
Val	0.91	1.49	0.47	Favors β -strand
Ile	0.97	1.45	0.51	
Phe	1.07	1.32	0.58	
Tyr	0.72	1.25	1.05	
Trp	0.99	1.14	0.75	
Thr	0.82	1.21	1.03	
Gly	0.56	0.92	1.64	Favors turn
Ser	0.82	0.95	1.33	
Asp	1.04	0.72	1.41	
Asn	0.90	0.76	1.23	
Pro	0.52	0.64	1.91	
Arg	0.96	0.99	0.88	

Chou and Fasman

Predicting helices:

- find nucleation site: 4 out of 6 contiguous residues with $P(\alpha) > 1$
- extension: extend helix in both directions until a set of 4 contiguous residues has an average $P(\alpha) < 1$ (breaker)
- if average $P(\alpha)$ over whole region is > 1 , it is predicted to be helical

Predicting strands:

- find nucleation site: 3 out of 5 contiguous residues with $P(\beta) > 1$
- extension: extend strand in both directions until a set of 4 contiguous residues has an average $P(\beta) < 1$ (breaker)
- if average $P(\beta)$ over whole region is > 1 , it is predicted to be a strand

Chou and Fasman

Position-specific parameters for turn:

Each position has distinct amino acid preferences.

Examples:

-At position 2, Pro is highly preferred; Trp is disfavored

-At position 3, Asp, Asn and Gly are preferred

-At position 4, Trp, Gly and Cys preferred

	$f(i)$	$f(i+1)$	$f(i+2)$	$f(i+3)$
Ala	0.060	0.076	0.035	0.058
Arg	0.070	0.106	0.099	0.085
Asp	0.147	0.110	0.179	0.081
Asn	0.161	0.083	0.191	0.091
Cys	0.149	0.050	0.117	0.128
Glu	0.056	0.060	0.077	0.064
Gln	0.074	0.098	0.037	0.098
Gly	0.102	0.085	0.190	0.152
His	0.140	0.047	0.093	0.054
Ile	0.043	0.034	0.013	0.056
Leu	0.061	0.025	0.036	0.070
Lys	0.055	0.115	0.072	0.095
Met	0.068	0.082	0.014	0.055
Phe	0.059	0.041	0.065	0.065
Pro	0.102	0.301	0.034	0.068
Ser	0.120	0.139	0.125	0.106
Thr	0.086	0.108	0.065	0.079
Trp	0.077	0.013	0.064	0.167
Tyr	0.082	0.065	0.114	0.125
Val	0.062	0.048	0.028	0.053

Chou and Fasman

Predicting turns:

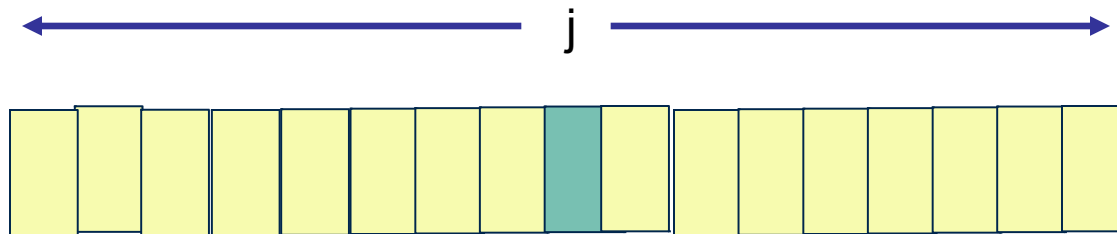
- for each tetrapeptide starting at residue i , compute:
 - P_{Turn} (average propensity over all 4 residues)
 - $F = f(i) \cdot f(i+1) \cdot f(i+2) \cdot f(i+3)$
- if $P_{\text{Turn}} > P_{\alpha}$ and $P_{\text{Turn}} > P_{\beta}$ and $P_{\text{Turn}} > 1$ and $F > 0.000075$
tetrapeptide is considered a turn.

Chou and Fasman prediction:

http://fasta.bioch.virginia.edu/fasta_www/chofas.htm

The GOR method

Position-dependent propensities for helix, sheet or turn is calculated for each amino acid. For each position j in the sequence, eight residues on either side are considered.



A helix propensity table contains information about propensity for residues at 17 positions when the conformation of residue j is helical. The helix propensity tables have 20×17 entries.

Build similar tables for strands and turns.

GOR simplification:

The predicted state of AA_j is calculated as the sum of the position-dependent propensities of all residues around AA_j .

GOR can be used at : <http://abs.cit.nih.gov/gor/> (current version is GOR IV)

Accuracy

- Both Chou and Fasman and GOR have been assessed and their accuracy is estimated to be Q3=60-65%.

(initially, higher scores were reported, but the experiments set to measure Q3 were flawed, as the test cases included proteins used to derive the propensities!)

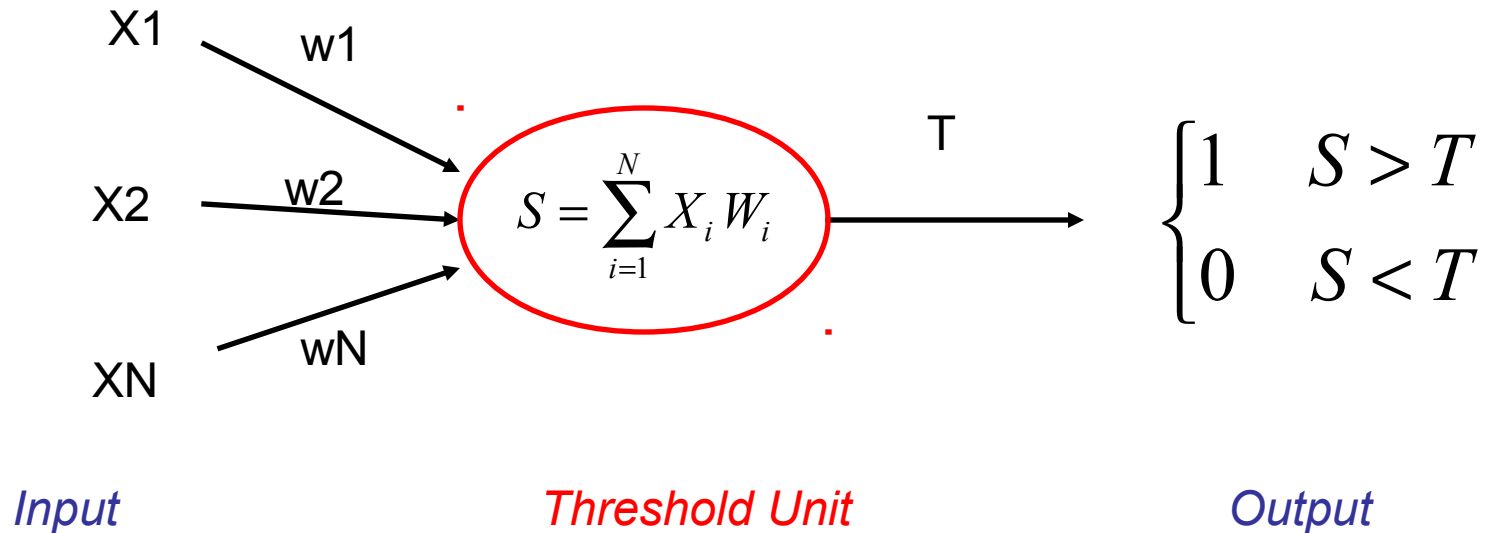
Neural networks

The most successful methods for predicting secondary structure are based on neural networks. The overall idea is that neural networks can be trained to recognize amino acid patterns in known secondary structure units, and to use these patterns to distinguish between the different types of secondary structure.

Neural networks classify “input vectors” or “examples” into categories (2 or more).

They are loosely based on biological neurons.

The perceptron



The **perceptron** classifies the input vector X into two categories.

If the weights and threshold T are not known in advance, the perceptron must be **trained**. Ideally, the perceptron must be trained to return the correct answer on all training examples, and perform well on examples it has never seen.

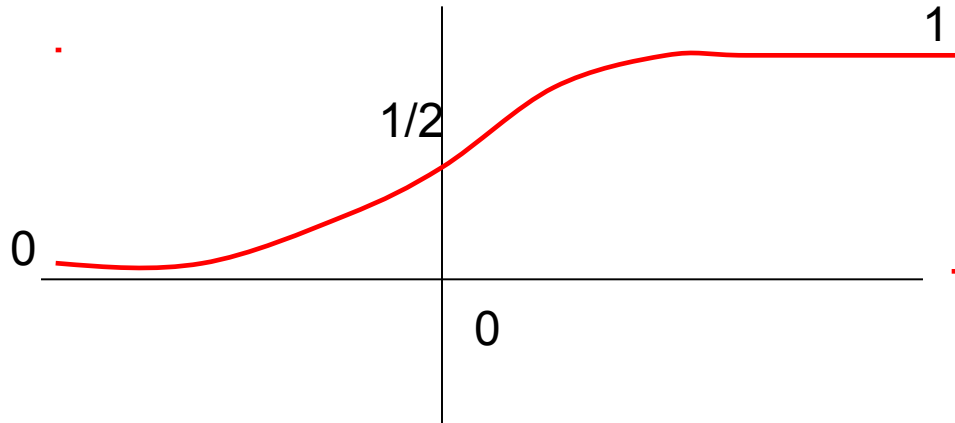
The training set must contain both type of data (i.e. with “1” and “0” output).

The perceptron

Notes:

- The input is a vector X and the weights can be stored in another vector W .
- the perceptron computes the dot product $S = X.W$
- the output F is a function of S : it is often set discrete (i.e. 1 or 0), in which case the function is the step function.
For continuous output, often use a sigmoid:

$$F(X) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-X}}$$



- Not all perceptrons can be trained ! (famous example: XOR)

The perceptron

Training a perceptron:

Find the weights W that minimizes the error function:

$$E = \sum_{i=1}^P \left(F(X^i \cdot W) - t(X^i) \right)^2$$

P : number of training data

X^i : training vectors

$F(W \cdot X^i)$: output of the perceptron

$t(X^i)$: target value for X^i

Use steepest descent:

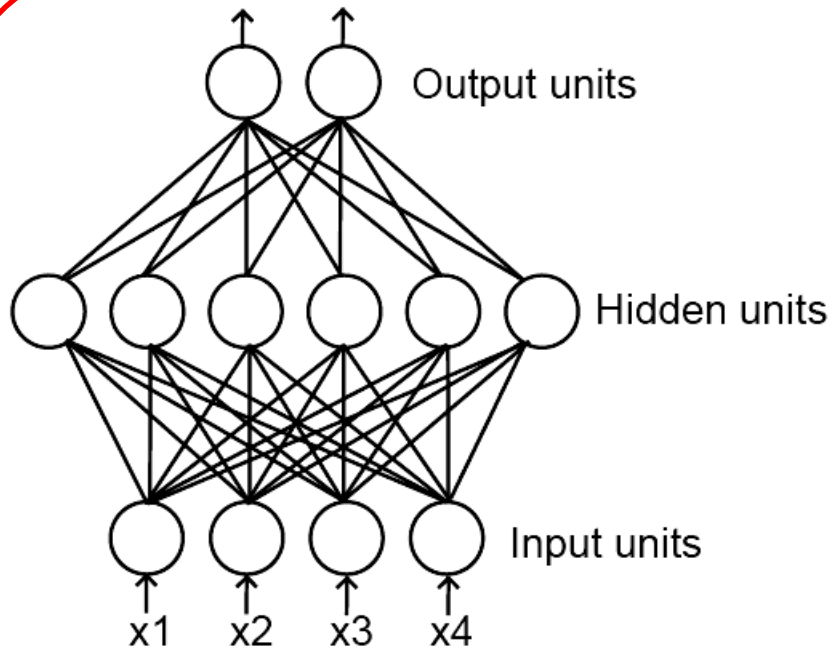
- compute gradient:
- update weight vector:
- iterate

$$\nabla E = \left(\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_1}, \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_2}, \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_3}, \dots, \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_N} \right)$$

$$W_{new} = W_{old} - \epsilon \nabla E$$

(ϵ : learning rate)

Neural Network



A complete neural network is a set of perceptrons interconnected such that the outputs of some units becomes the inputs of other units. Many topologies are possible!

Neural networks are trained just like perceptron, by minimizing an error function:

$$E = \sum_{i=1}^{Ndata} \left(NN(X^i) - t(X^i) \right)^2$$

Neural networks and Secondary Structure prediction

Experience from Chou and Fasman and GOR has shown that:

- In predicting the conformation of a residue, it is important to consider a window around it.
- Helices and strands occur in stretches
- It is important to consider multiple sequences

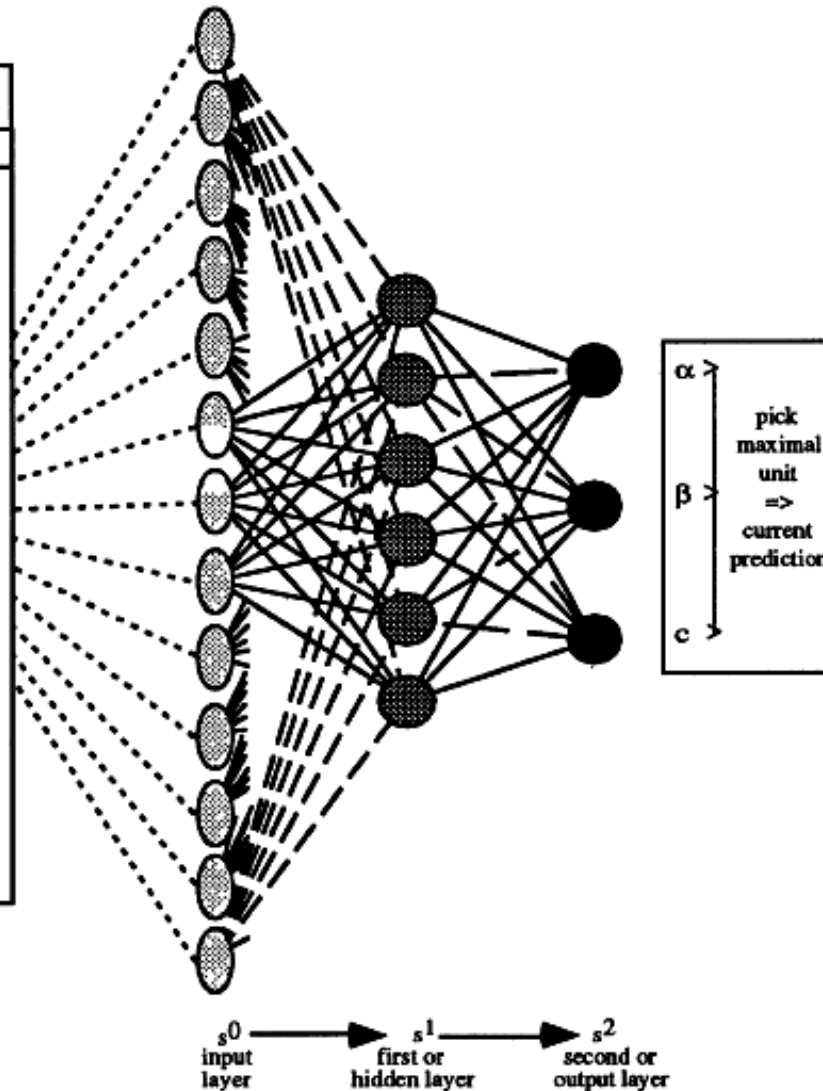
PHD: Secondary structure prediction using NN

Biophysics: Rost and Sander

Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 90 (1993)

7559

Protein	Alignments	profile table
		GSAPD NT EKQ C VH I R L M Y F W
:	: : : :	
G	GG GG	5
Y	YY YY	. . . . . 5 .
I	II EE	. . . . . 2 . . . 3 .
Y	YY YY	. . . . . 5 .
D	DD DD	. . . . 5
P	PP PP	. . . 5
E	AE AA	. . 3 . . . 2
D	VV EE	. . . 1 . . 2 . . 2
G	GG GG	5
D	DD DD	. . . 5
P	PP PP	. . . 5
D	DT DD	. . . 4 . 1
D	NQ NN	. . . 1 3 . . 1
G	GN GG	4 1
V	VI VV	. . . . . . . . 4 . 1 .
N	EP KK	. . . 1 . 1 . 1 2
P	PP PP	. . . 5
G	GG GG	5
T	TT TT	. . . . . 5
D	EK S A	. 1 1 . 1 . . 1 1
F	FF FF	. . . . . . . . . . 5 .
:	: : : :	



PHD: Input

For each residue, consider a window of size 13:

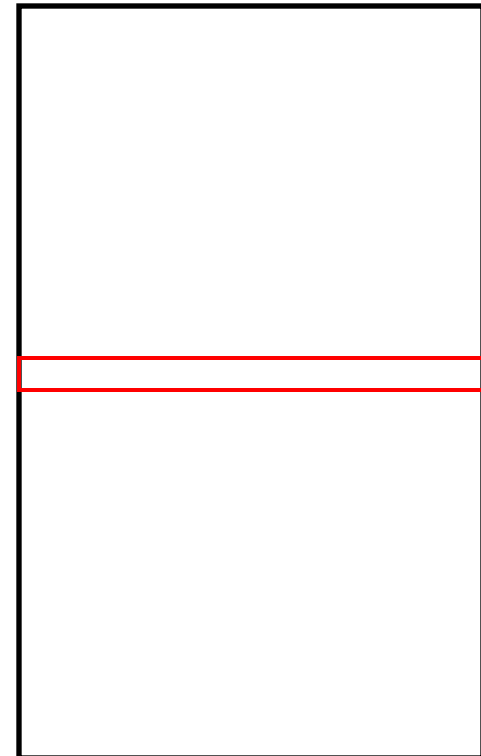
13x20=260 values

Protein	Alignments	profile table
:	:	GSAPD NT EKQ C VH I R L M Y F W
G	GG GG	5.....
Y	YY YY	.....5..
I	II EE	.....2..3..
Y	YY YY	.....5..
D	DD DD	....5.....
P	PP PP	...5.....
E	AE AA	..3...2.....
D	VV EE	...1..2...2.....
G	GG GG	5.....
D	DD DD	....5.....
P	PP PP	...5.....
D	DT DD	....4..1.....
D	NQ NN	....1..3...1.....
G	GN GG	4.....1.....
V	VI VV	.....4..1.....
N	EP KK	...1..1.12.....
P	PP PP	...5.....
G	GG GG	5.....
T	TT TT	.....5.....
D	EK S A	.11.1..11.....
F	FF FF	.....5..
:	:	

:
G
Y
I
Y

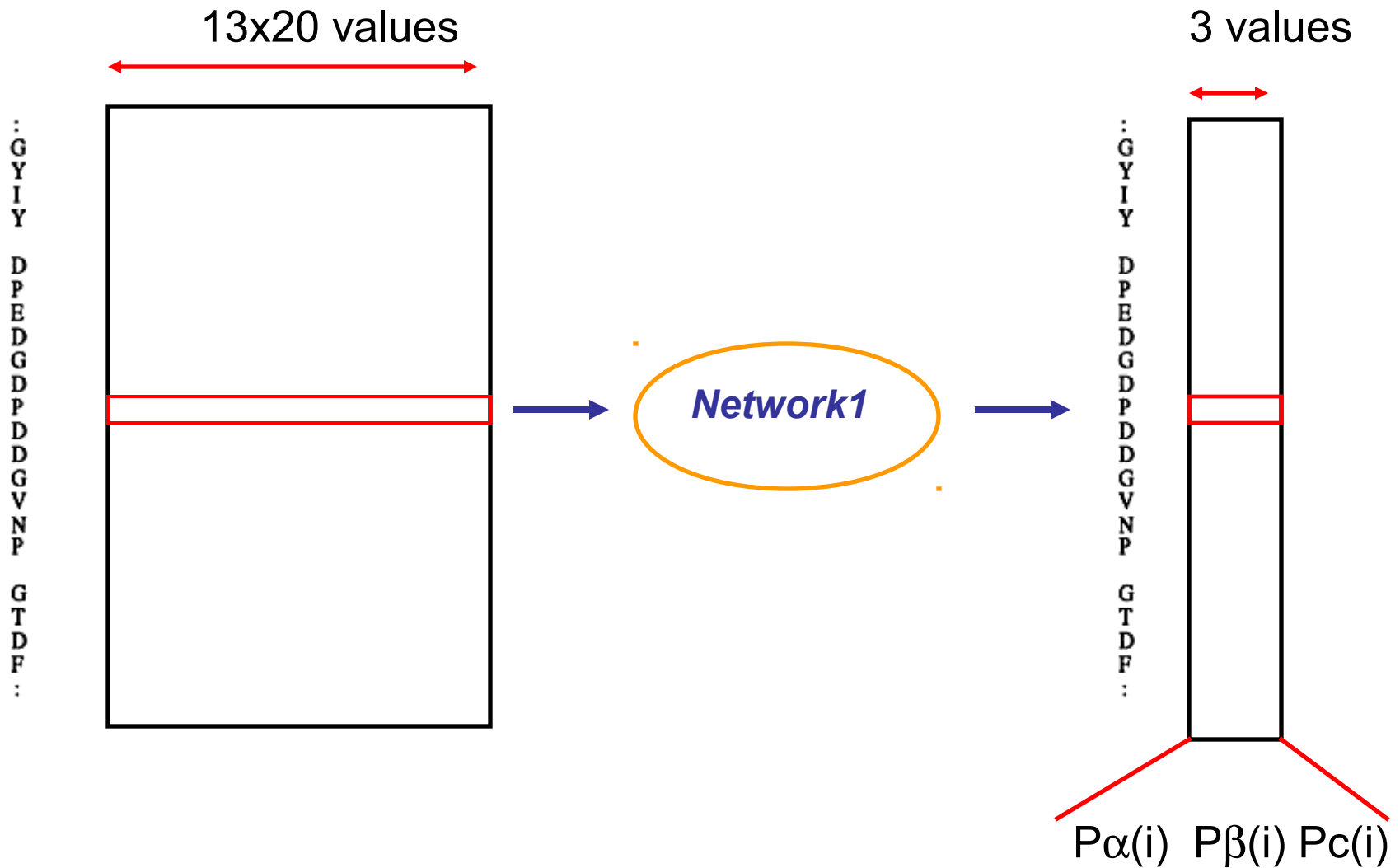
D
P
E
D
G
D
P
D
D
G
V
N
P

G
T
D
F
:



PHD: Network 1

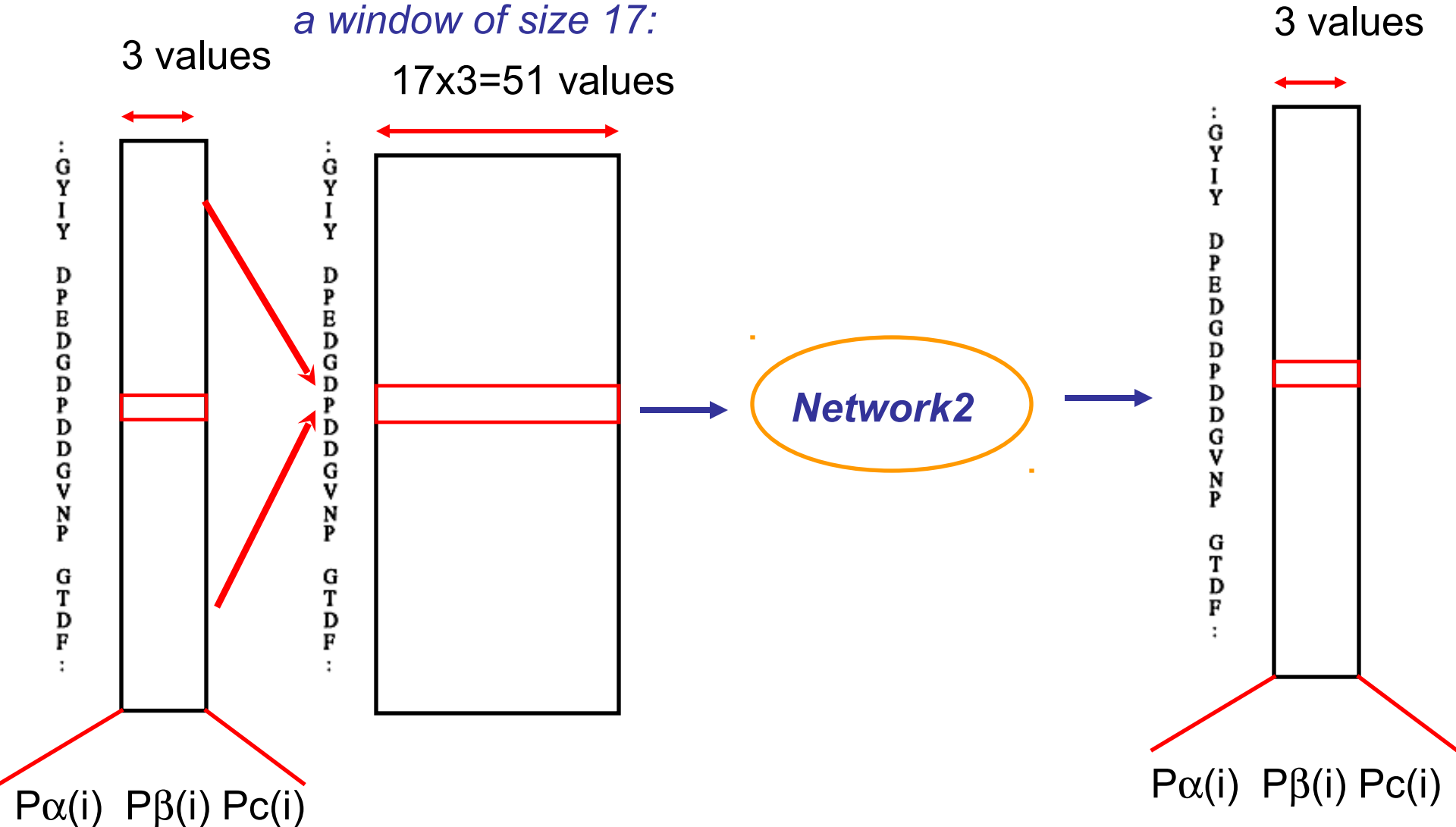
Sequence \rightarrow Structure



PHD: Network 2

Structure \rightarrow Structure

*For each residue, consider
a window of size 17:*



PHD

- **Sequence-Structure network**: for each amino acid a_j , a window of 13 residues $a_{j-6} \dots a_j \dots a_{j+6}$ is considered. The corresponding rows of the sequence profile are fed into the neural network, and the output is 3 probabilities for a_j : $P(a_j, \alpha)$, $P(a_j, \beta)$ and $P(a_j, \text{other})$
- **Structure-Structure network**: For each a_j , PHD considers now a window of 17 residues; the probabilities $P(a_k, \alpha)$, $P(a_k, \beta)$ and $P(a_k, \text{other})$ for k in $[j-8, j+8]$ are fed into the second layer neural network, which again produces probabilities that residue a_j is in each of the 3 possible conformation
- **Jury system**: PHD has trained several neural networks with different training sets; all neural networks are applied to the test sequence, and results are averaged
- **Prediction**: For each position, the secondary structure with the highest average score is output as the prediction

PSIPRED

Raw profile from PSI-BLAST Log File

Position-based scoring matrix used

A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G	H	I	L	K	M	F	P	S	T	W	Y	V
-3	-4	-4	-4	-3	-4	-4	-4	-2	-1	-1	-4	-1	8	-5	-3	-3	0	2	-2
0	-1	-1	3	-4	3	4	1	-1	-4	-4	0	-3	-4	-2	-1	-2	-4	-3	-3
0	-1	2	1	-3	4	0	-1	-2	-4	-3	1	-2	-4	-2	2	0	-4	-3	-3
-2	-3	-4	-5	-2	-3	-4	-6	-4	0	6	0	0	-1	-4	-3	-2	-4	-2	0
0	-3	-1	-2	-3	0	-2	4	-3	-3	0	-2	-2	-4	-3	3	1	-4	-4	-3
0	2	0	4	-4	1	2	1	-2	-4	-4	0	-3	-4	-3	1	-2	-5	-4	-4
-1	5	3	-2	-4	-1	-1	1	-2	-1	-4	1	-3	-4	-3	1	-2	-5	-4	-4
-2	-3	-4	-5	-3	-3	-4	-5	-4	3	4	-1	1	2	-4	-3	-2	-3	-1	0
-2	3	2	-2	-4	2	1	-3	-2	-3	-3	1	1	-4	-3	2	1	-4	-3	-1
0	2	3	1	-4	0	0	0	-2	-4	-4	1	-3	-4	-3	2	0	-5	-4	-4
5	-3	-3	-3	-2	-3	-3	-2	-3	1	-2	-3	-2	1	-3	0	1	-4	-2	0
-1	-4	-5	-5	-3	-4	-4	-5	-4	3	3	-4	2	3	-5	-3	-2	5	-1	2
0	3	3	0	-4	3	0	1	-2	-4	-4	1	-3	-4	-3	1	-1	-4	-3	-4
-1	0	1	0	-4	1	-1	-1	-2	-4	-3	5	-2	0	-3	0	-2	-4	0	-3
-2	-3	-1	-5	-3	-3	-4	-5	-4	3	4	0	4	2	-4	-3	-2	-3	-2	0
0	3	0	-2	-3	-1	0	0	-2	0	0	1	0	-1	-3	2	0	-4	-3	0
-1	1	3	-2	-4	0	-2	4	-2	-4	-4	0	-3	0	-3	0	0	-3	0	-4

Window of
15 rows

Convert to [0-1]
Using:

$$\frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$$

A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G	H	I	L	K	M	F	P	S	T	W	Y	V
0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.9	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4
0.3	0.2	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.2
0.1	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.6
0.6	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.9	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.4
.

15 x 20 scaled inputs
to 1st network

Add one value per row
to indicate if Nter of Cter

1st Network
315 inputs
75 hidden units
3 outputs

Window of 15 x 3
outputs fed to 2nd
network

2nd Network
60 inputs
60 hidden units
3 outputs

Final 3-state
Prediction

Performances (monitored at CASP)

CASP	YEAR	# of Targets	<Q3>	Group
CASP1	1994	6	63	Rost and Sander
CASP2	1996	24	70	Rost
CASP3	1998	18	75	Jones
CASP4	2000	28	80	Jones

Secondary Structure Prediction

-Available servers:

- **JPRED** : <http://www.compbio.dundee.ac.uk/~www-jpred/>
- **PHD**: <http://cubic.bioc.columbia.edu/predictprotein/>
- **PSIPRED**: <http://bioinf.cs.ucl.ac.uk/psipred/>
- **NNPREDICT**: <http://www.cmpharm.ucsf.edu/~nomi/nnpredict.html>
- **Chou and Fassman**: http://fasta.bioch.virginia.edu/fasta_www/chofas.htm

-Interesting paper:

- *Rost and Eyrich. EVA: Large-scale analysis of secondary structure prediction. Proteins 5:192-199 (2001)*

Protein Structure Prediction

- *One popular model for protein folding assumes a sequence of events:*
 - Hydrophobic collapse
 - Local interactions stabilize secondary structures
 - Secondary structures interact to form motifs
 - Motifs aggregate to form tertiary structure

Protein Structure Prediction

A physics-based approach:

- find conformation of protein corresponding to a thermodynamics minimum (free energy minimum)
- cannot minimize internal energy alone!
Needs to include solvent
- simulate folding...a very long process!

Folding time are in the **ms to second** time range

Folding simulations at best run **1 ns** in one day...

The Folding @ Home initiative

(Vijay Pande, Stanford University)



Folding@home

distributed computing



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Spanish (Español)

French (Français)

Persian (فارسی)

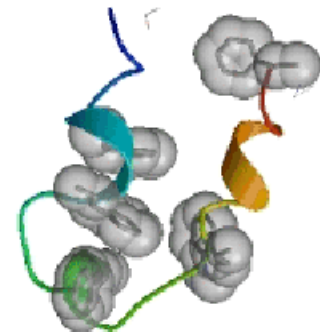
Vietnamese (Tiếng Việt)

German (Deutsch)

Portuguese (Português)

Our goal: to understand protein folding, protein aggregation, and related diseases

What are proteins and why do they "fold"? **Proteins** are biology's workhorses -- its "**nanomachines**." Before proteins can carry out their biochemical function, they remarkably assemble themselves, or "**fold**." The process of protein folding, while critical and fundamental to virtually all of biology, remains a mystery. Moreover, perhaps not surprisingly, when proteins do not fold correctly (i.e. "misfold"), there can be serious effects, including many well known **diseases**, such as Alzheimer's, Mad Cow (BSE), CJD, ALS, Huntington's, and Parkinson's disease.



Results from Folding@Home

<http://folding.stanford.edu/>

The Folding @ Home initiative

What does Folding@Home do? Folding@Home is a distributed computing project which studies **protein folding**, misfolding, aggregation, and **related diseases**.

We use novel computational methods and large scale distributed computing, to simulate timescales thousands to millions of times longer than previously achieved. This has allowed us to simulate folding for the first time, and to now direct our approach to examine folding related disease.

F@H exhibit

exploratorium

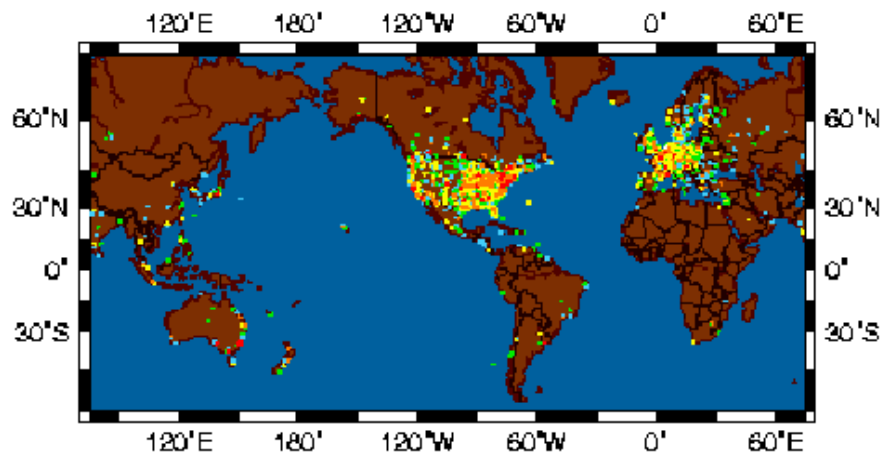
See Prof. Pande's
lecture on F@H at
Xerox PARC



How can you help? You can help our project by **downloading** and running our client software. Our algorithms are designed such that for every computer that joins the project, we get a commensurate increase in simulation speed.

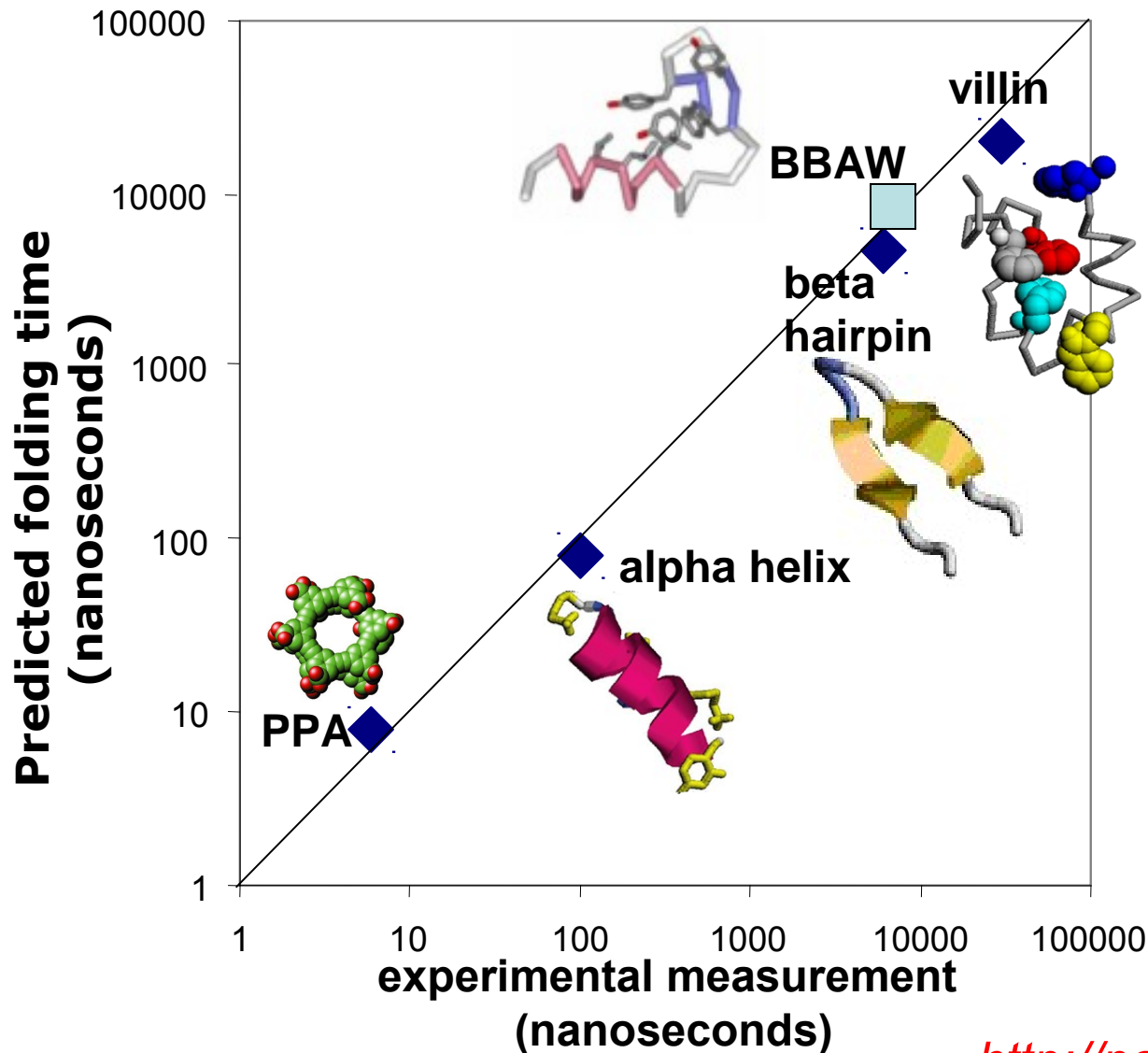
One can also help by **donating funds** to the project, via Stanford University.

What have we done so far? We have had several successes. You can read about them on our **Science page**, **Results section**, or go directly to our **press and papers page**.



*Since October 1, 2000, over 1,000,000 CPUs **throughout the world** have participated in Folding@Home. Each additional CPU gives us an added boost in performance, allowing us to tackle more difficult problems or solve existing research faster or more accurately.*

Folding @ Home: Results



Experiments:

villin:

Raleigh, et al,
SUNY, Stony Brook

BBAW:

Gruebele, et al, UIUC

beta hairpin:

Eaton, et al, NIH

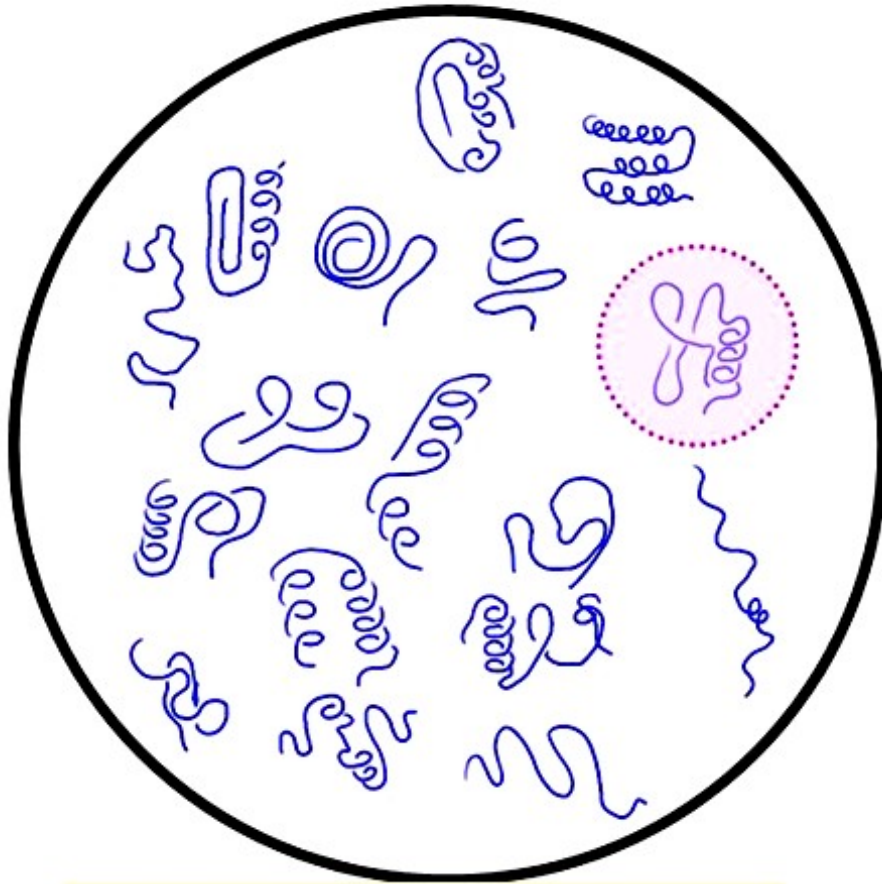
alpha helix:

Eaton, et al, NIH

PPA:

Gruebele, et al, UIUC

Protein Structure Prediction



Need good decoy structures

DECOYS:

Generate a large number
of possible shapes

DISCRIMINATION:

Select the correct, native-like
fold

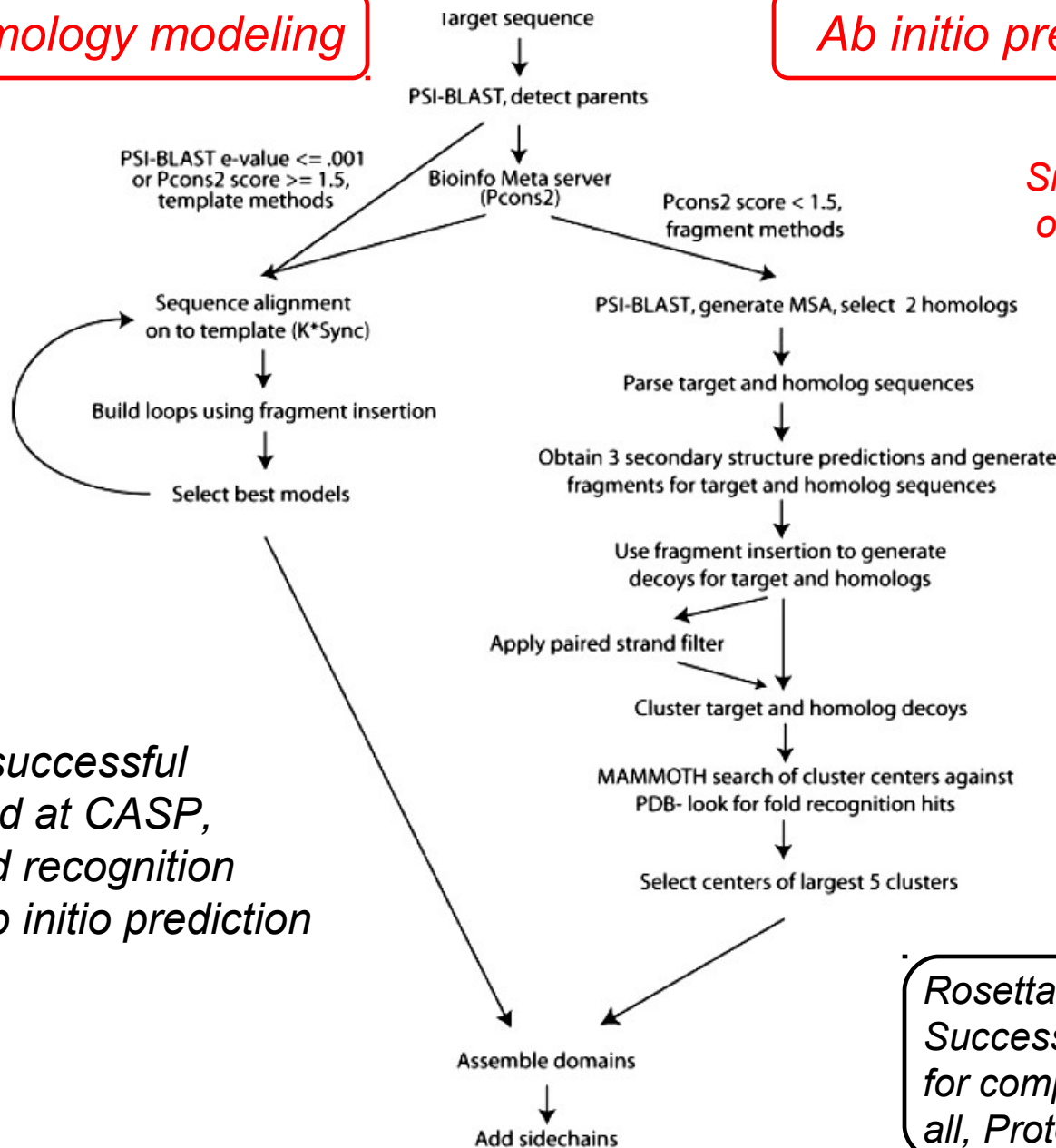


Need a good energy function

ROSETTA at CASP (David Baker)

Homology modeling

Ab initio prediction



Simultaneous modeling of the target and 2 homologs

Secondary structure prediction

Fragment based approach to generate decoys

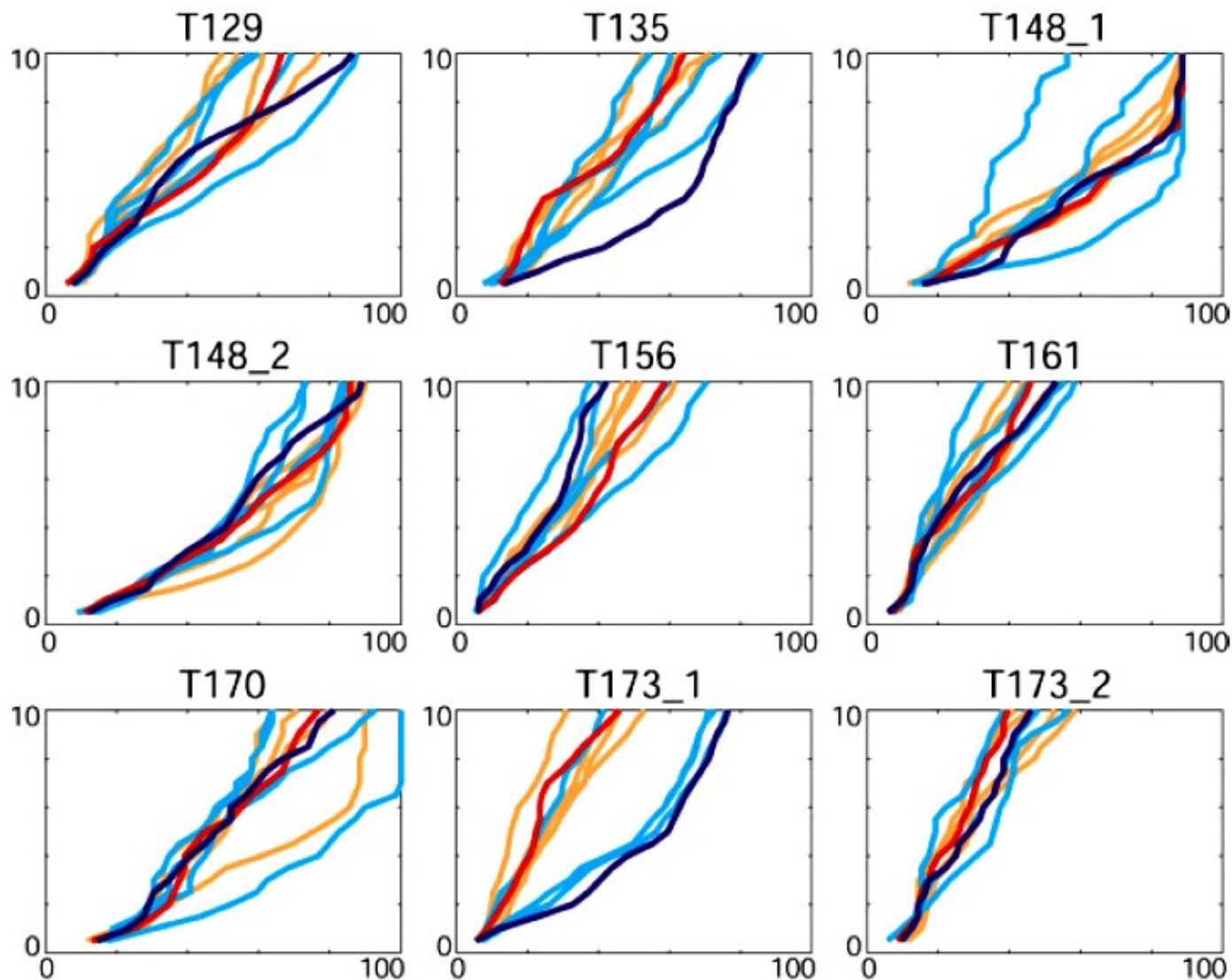
Select 5 decoys For prediction

Most successful Method at CASP, for fold recognition and ab initio prediction

Rosetta predictions in CASP5: Successes, failures, and prospect for complete automation. Baker et al, Proteins, 53:457-468 (2003)

ROSETTA results at CASP5

cRMS (model – experimental structure) cutoff (Å)

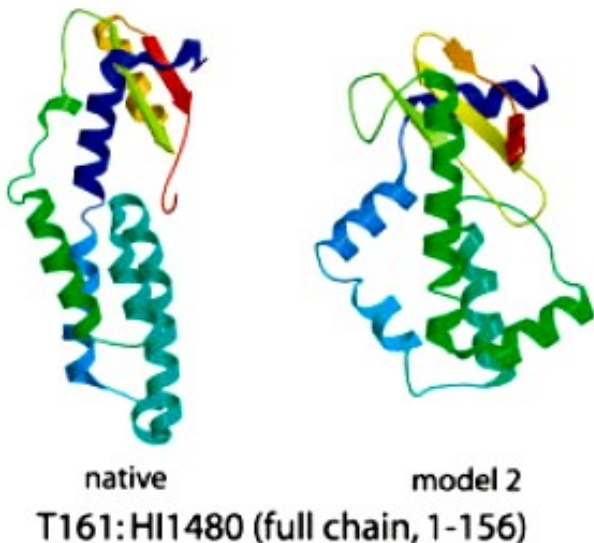
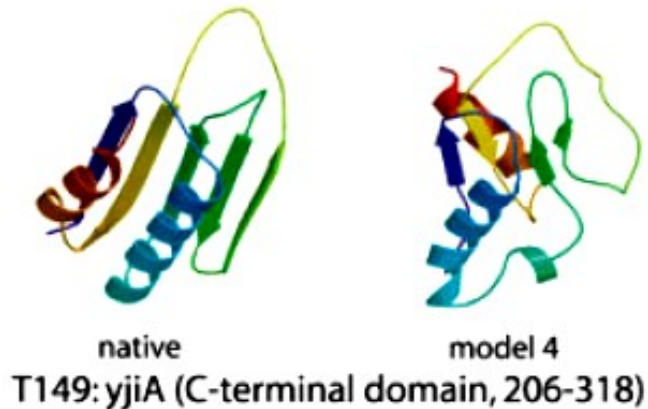
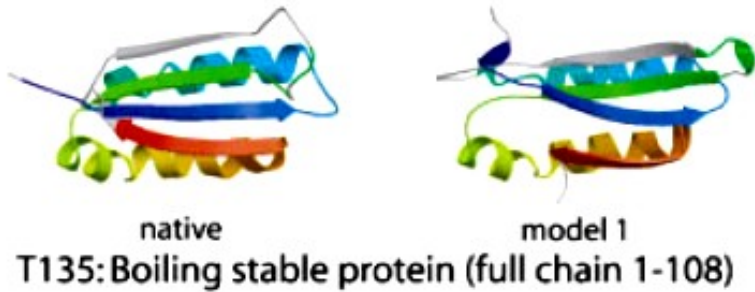


Blue:
“human”

Orange:
“automatic
Server”

% of the full target protein

ROSETTA results at CASP5



of residues with cRMS
below 4Å/6Å

Name	Length	human	Automatic	Best decoy
T135	106	83/98	54/64	94/105
T149	116	52/71	44/62	76/92
T161	154	45/83	57/79	55/95

*Rosetta predictions in CASP5:
Successes, failures, and prospect
for complete automation. Baker et
al, Proteins, 53:457-468 (2003)*