



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

... A hybrid of biology and computer science

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**Bioinformatics is computer aided biology!**

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**Goal: Data to Knowledge**

So what is **structural bioinformatics**?

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

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

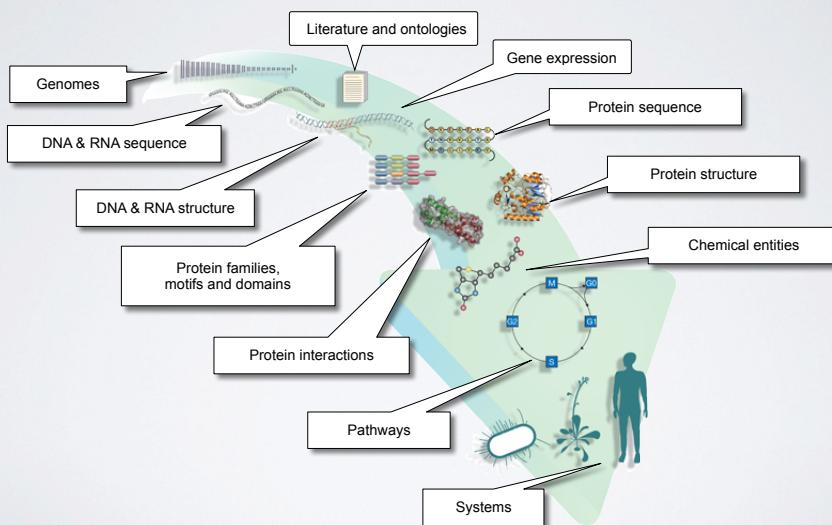
**Why should we care?**

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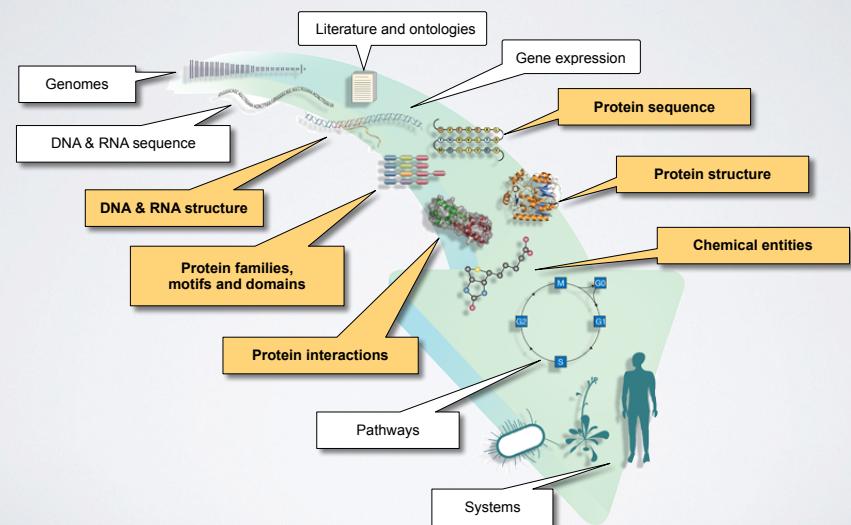
Because biomolecules are “nature’s robots”

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

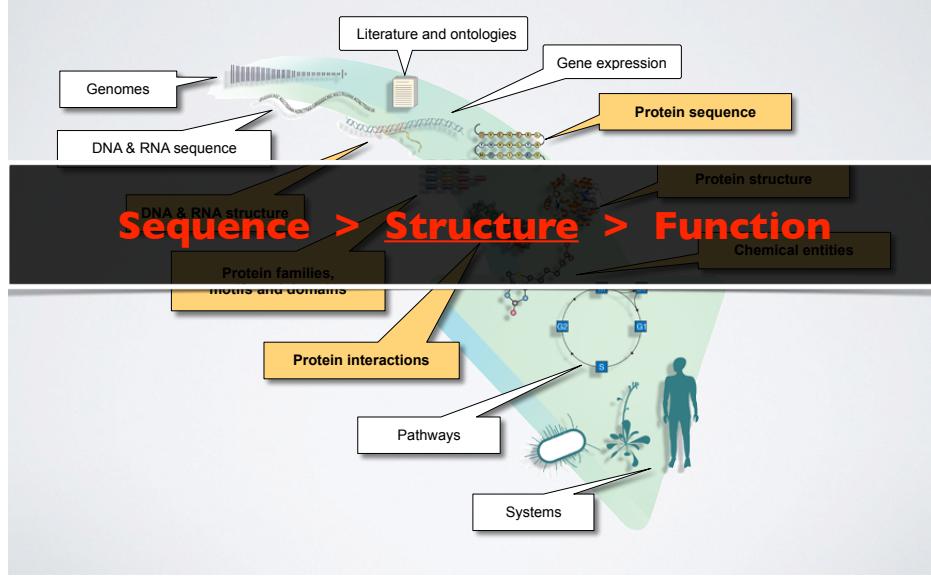
## BIOINFORMATICS DATA



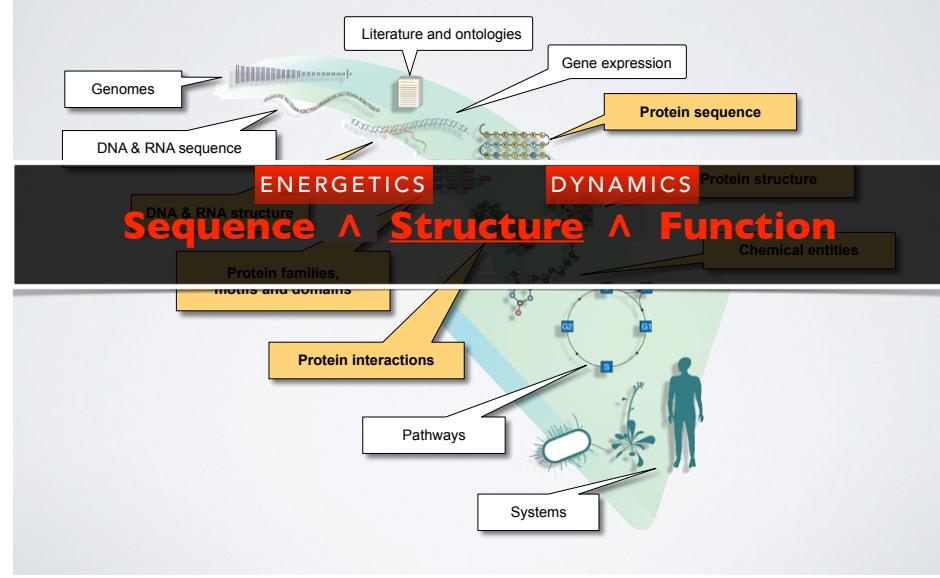
## STRUCTURAL DATA IS CENTRAL

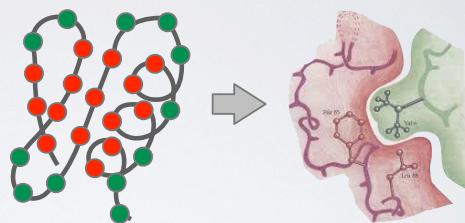
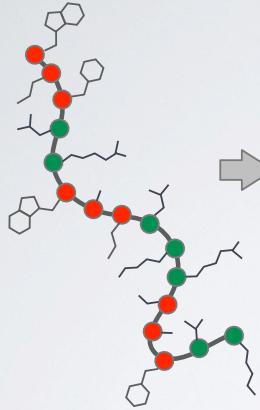


## STRUCTURAL DATA IS CENTRAL



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



### 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

## Genomics is a great start ....

**Track Bike – DL 175**

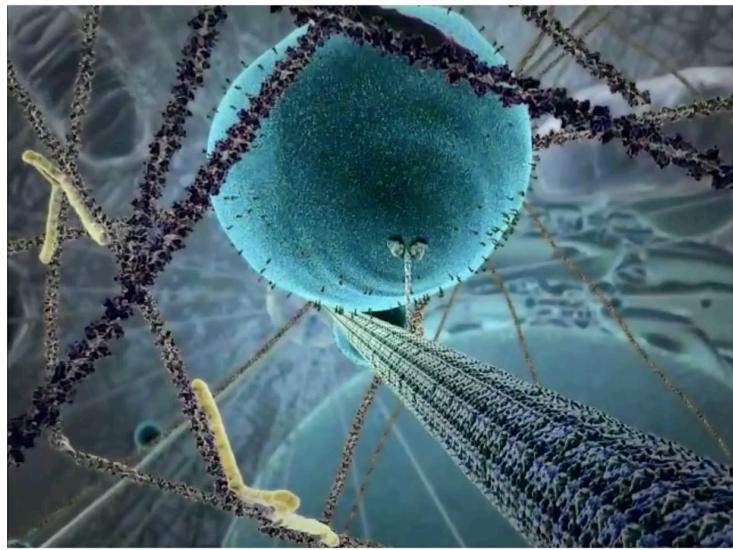
REF. NO.	IBM NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	156011	Track Frame 21", 22", 23", 24", Team Red
2	157040	Fork for 21" Frame
2	157039	Fork for 22" Frame
2	157038	Fork for 23" Frame
2	157037	Fork for 24" Frame
3	191202	Handlebar TTT Competition Track Alloy 15/16" Headset Stem, TTT, Specify extension
4	145278	Examiner Bolt
5	191272	Clamp Bolt
6	145841	Headset Complete 1 x 24 BSC
8	145842	Ball Bearings
9	190420	175 Raleigh Pistard Seta Tubular Prestavalue 27"
10	190233	Rim, 27" AVA Competition (36H) Alloy Prestavalue
11	145973	Hub, Large Flange Campagnolo Pista Track Alloy (pairs)
12	145974	Sprocket, 11 5/8"
13	145937	Sleeve
14	145636	Ball Bearings
15	145170	Bottom Bracket Axle
16	145836	Cone for Sleeve
17	146473	L.H. Adjustable Cup
18	145833	Lockring
19	145834	Straps or Toe Clips
20	145834	Fixed Belt
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	167002	Seat Post Bolt and Nut
30	145933	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

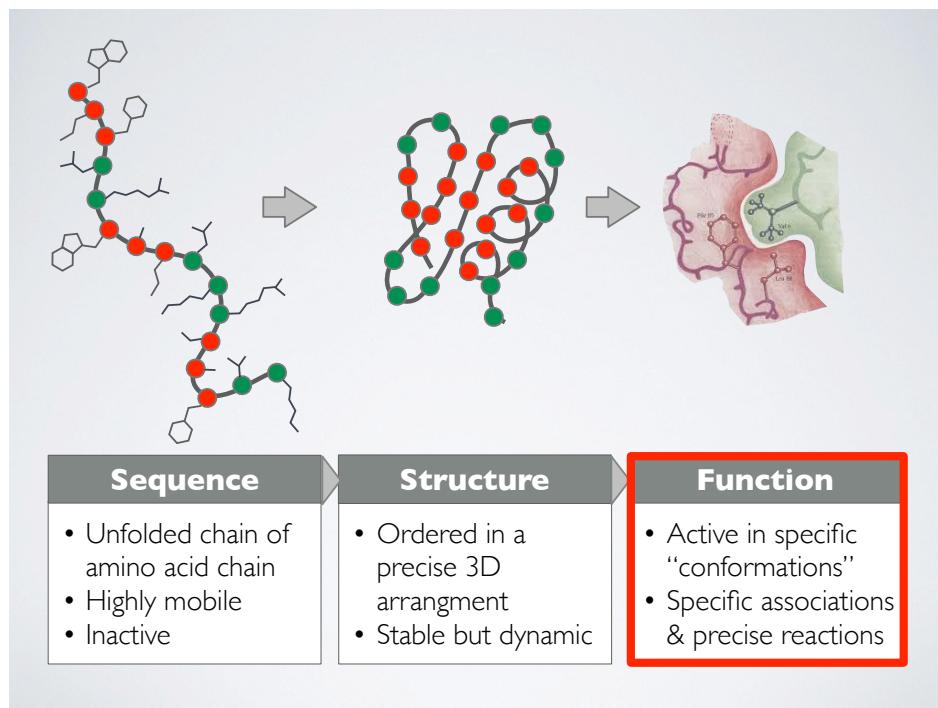
## ... but not the end



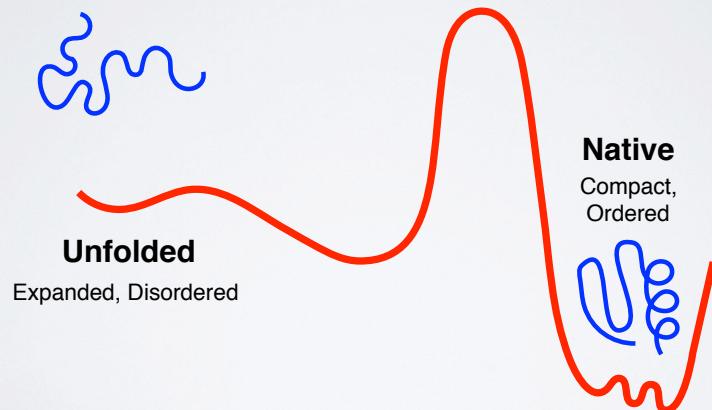
- We want the full spatiotemporal picture, and an ability to control it
- Broad applications, including drug design, medical diagnostics, chemical manufacturing, and energy



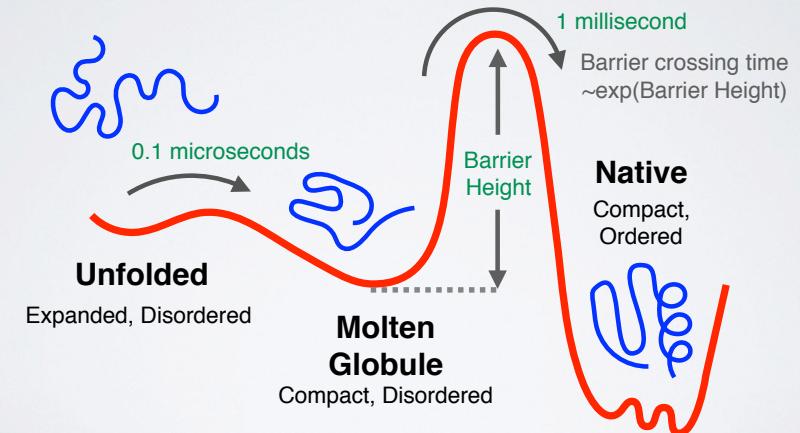
Extracted from The Inner Life of a Cell by Cellular Visions and Harvard  
[YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-uuk4Pr2i8> ]



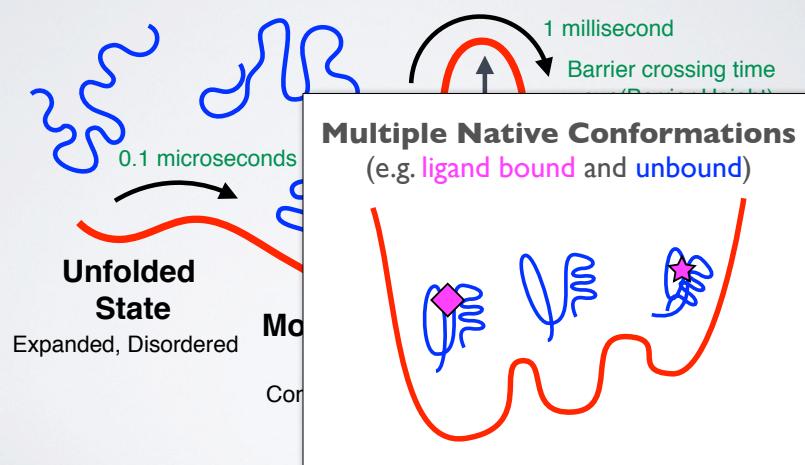
## KEY CONCEPT: ENERGY LANDSCAPE



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## Today's Menu

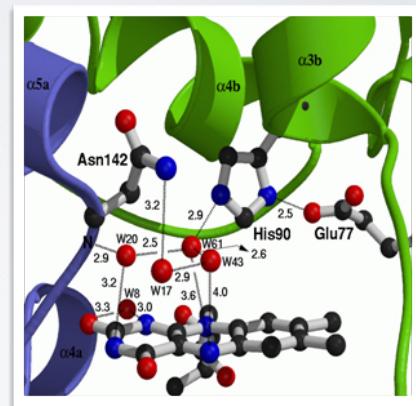
- Overview of structural bioinformatics
  - Motivations, goals and challenges
- Fundamentals of protein structure
  - Structure composition, form and forces
- Representing, interpreting & modeling protein structure
  - Visualizing & interpreting protein structures
  - Analyzing protein structures
  -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

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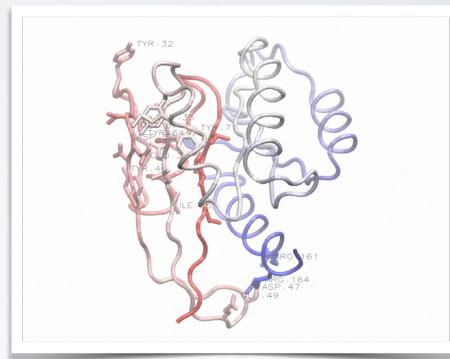
### Motivation 1: Detailed understanding of molecular interactions

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



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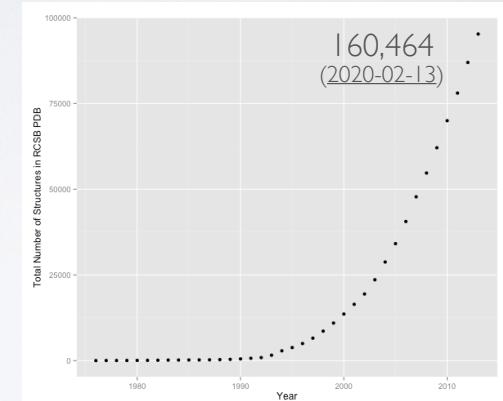
Computational modeling can provide detailed insight into functional interactions, their regulation and potential consequences of perturbation.



Grant et al. PLoS. Comp. Biol. (2010)

### 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/>

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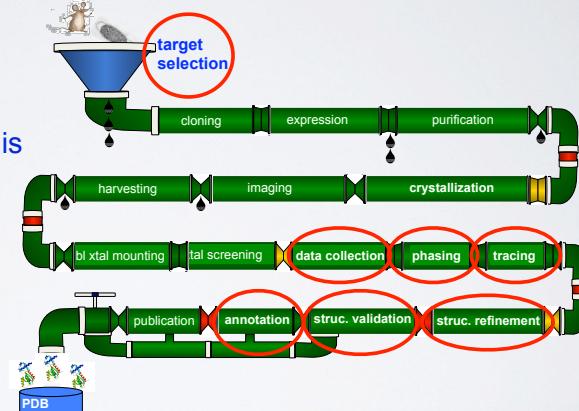
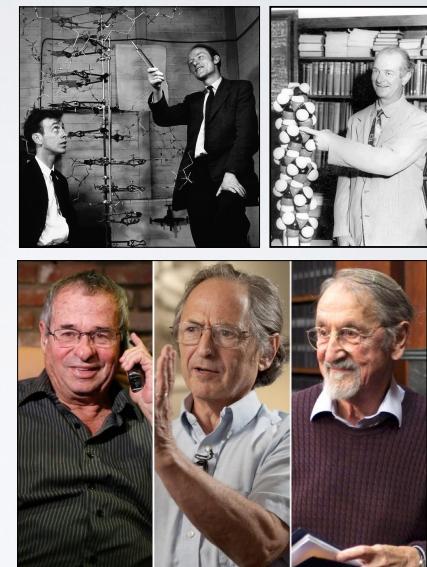


Image Credit: "Structure determination assembly line" Adam Godzik

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



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



- Goals:
- Visualization
  - Analysis
  - Comparison
  - Prediction
  - Design



Scarabelli and Grant. PLoS. Comp. Biol. (2013)

## SUMMARY OF KEY **MOTIVATIONS**

### Sequence > Structure > Function

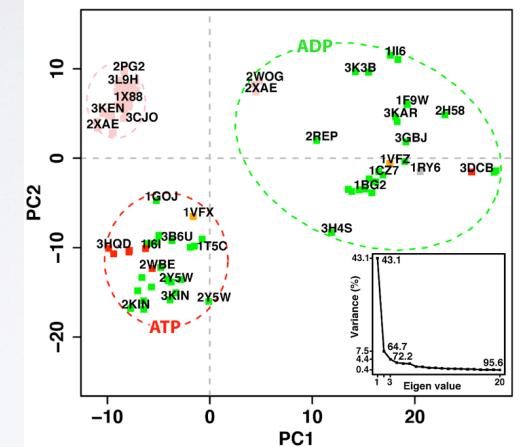
- Structure determines function, so understanding structure helps our understanding of function

### Structure is more conserved than sequence

- Structure allows identification of more distant evolutionary relationships

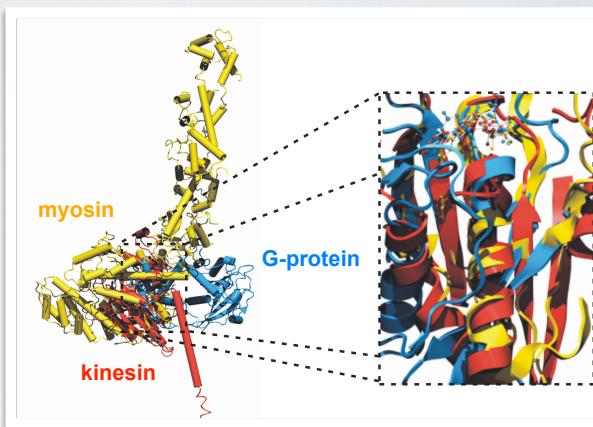
### Structure is encoded in sequence

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



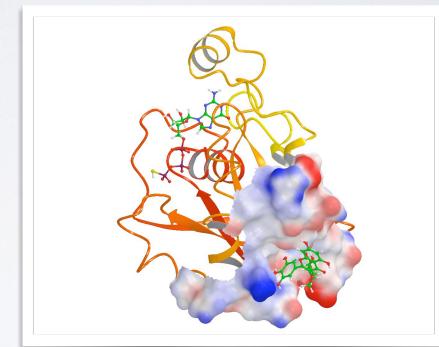
Scarabelli and Grant. PLoS. Comp. Biol. (2013)

- Goals:
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Grant et al. unpublished

- Goals:
- Visualization
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Grant et al. PLoS One (2011, 2012)

- Goals:
- Visualization
  - Analysis
  - Comparison
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  - 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

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## HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE OF PROTEINS

Primary > Secondary > Tertiary > Quaternary

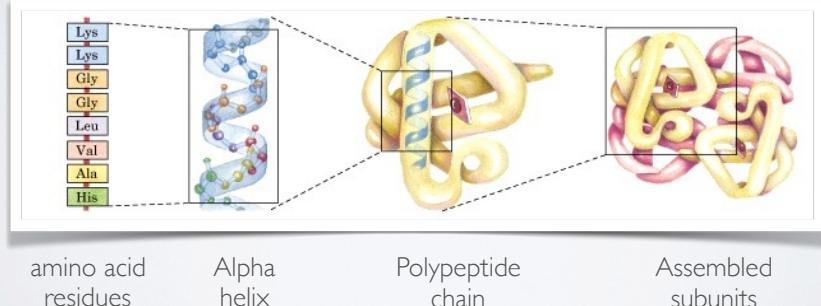


Image from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK21581/>

## RECAP: AMINO ACID NOMENCLATURE

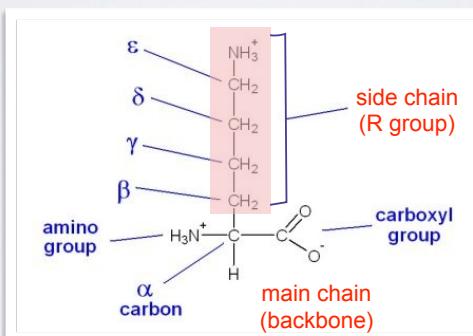


Image from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK21581/>

## AMINO ACIDS CAN BE GROUPED BY THE PHYSIOCHEMICAL PROPERTIES

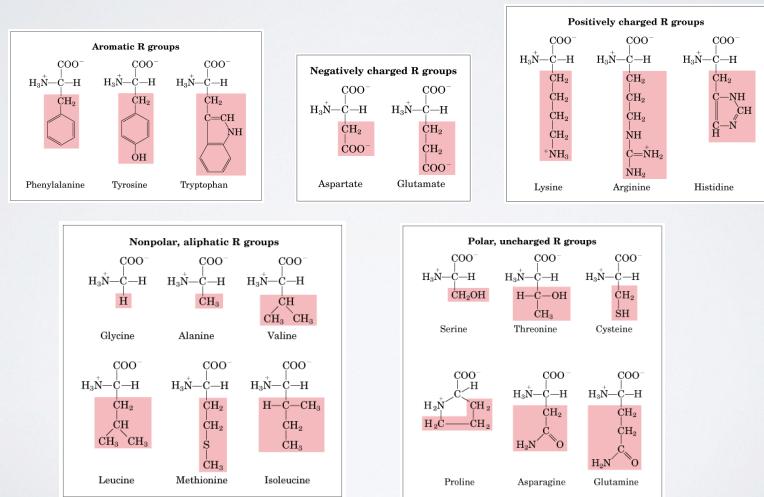


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## AMINO ACIDS POLYMERIZE THROUGH PEPTIDE BOND FORMATION

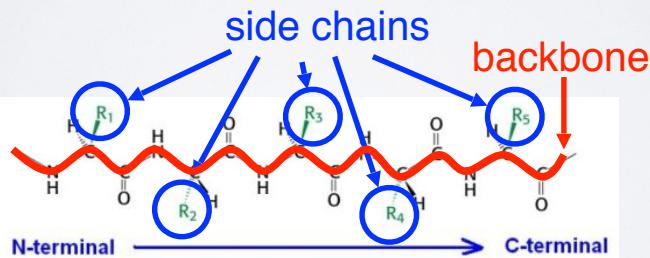
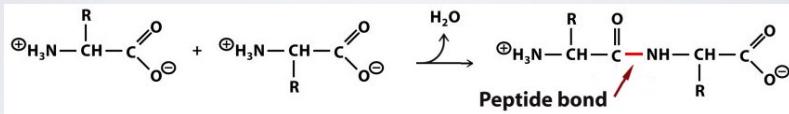


Image from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK21581/>

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

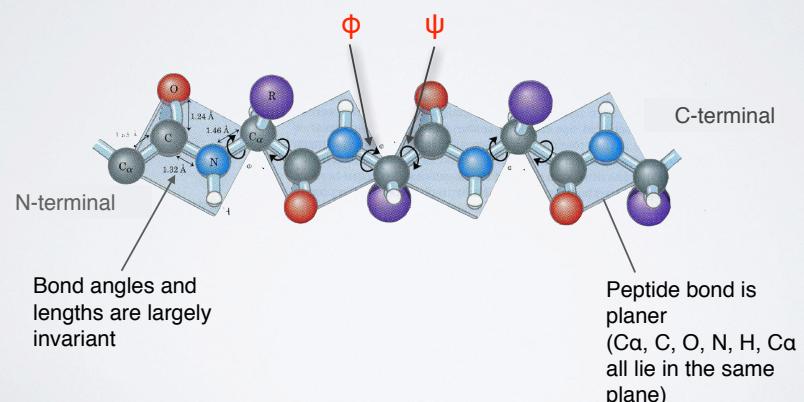
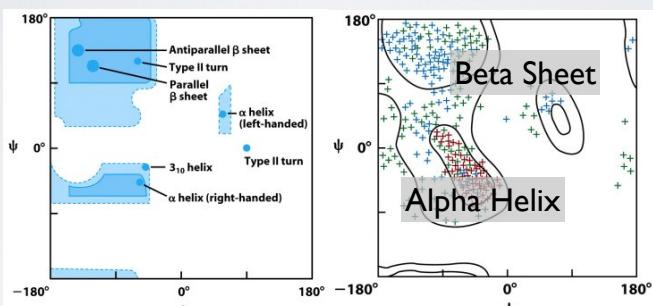


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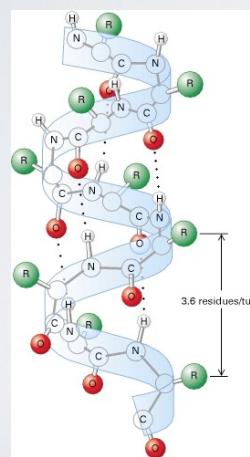
## PHI vs PSI PLOTS ARE KNOWN AS RAMACHANDRAN DIAGRAMS



- 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

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

## MAJOR SECONDARY STRUCTURE TYPES ALPHA HELIX & BETA SHEET

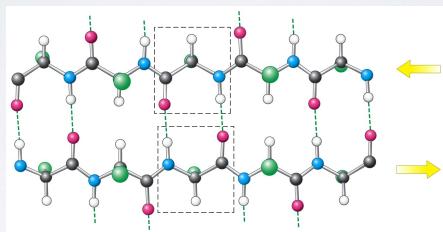


### α-helix

- 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

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

## MAJOR SECONDARY STRUCTURE TYPES ALPHA HELIX & **BETA SHEET**

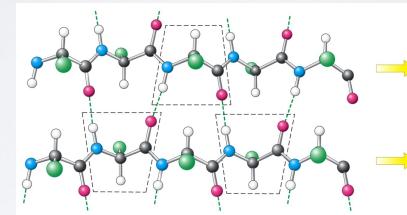


In antiparallel  $\beta$ -sheets

- 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**



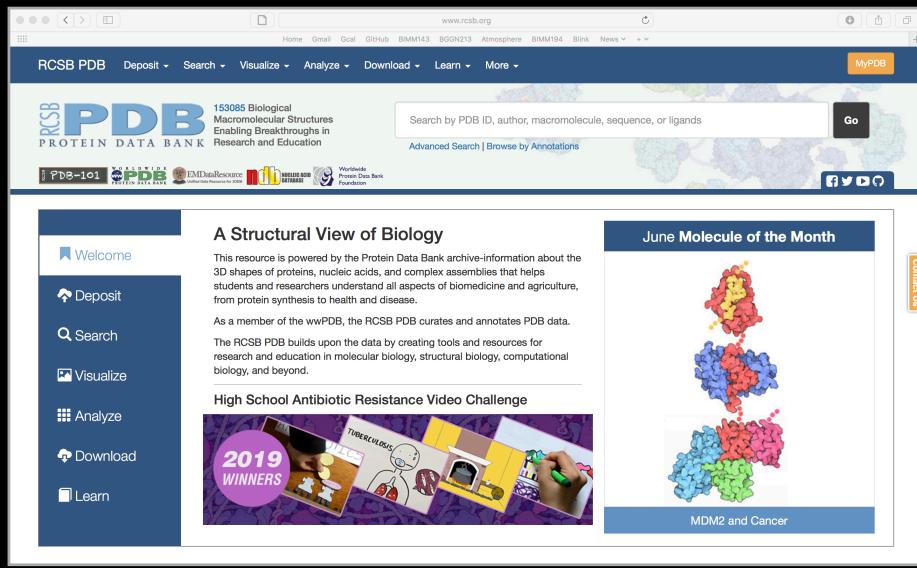
In parallel  $\beta$ -sheets

- Adjacent  $\beta$ -strands run in same direction
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Image from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK21581/>

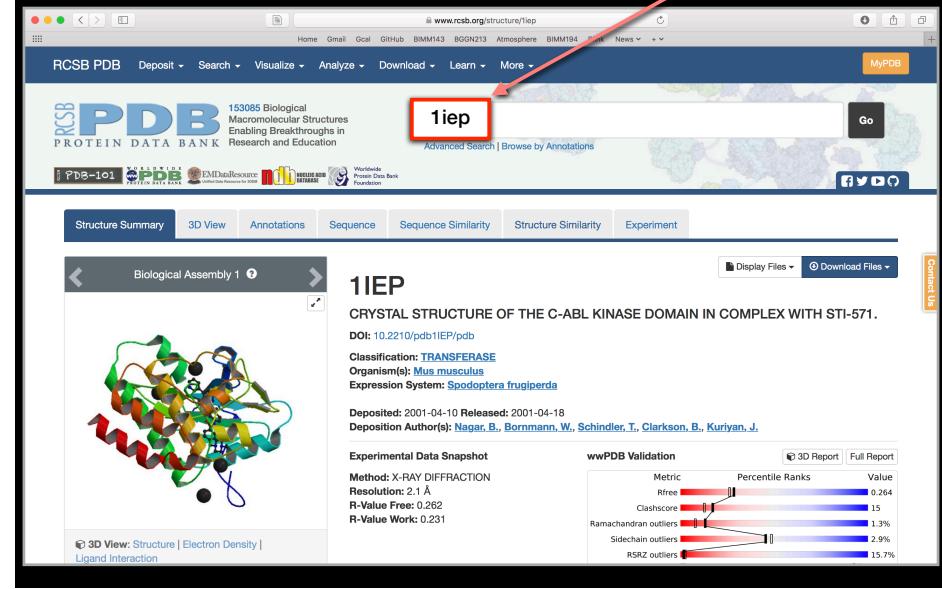
**Protein Data Bank (PDB)** is the main repository for Biomolecular structure data

<http://www.rcsb.org>



The screenshot shows the RCSB PDB homepage. At the top, there's a search bar with the placeholder "Search by PDB ID, author, macromolecule, sequence, or ligands" and a "Go" button. Below the search bar, there are links for "Deposit", "Search", "Visualize", "Analyze", "Download", "Learn", and "More". The main content area features the RCSB PDB logo and a map of the world. On the left sidebar, there are links for "Welcome", "Deposit", "Search", "Visualize", "Analyze", "Download", and "Learn". A "2019 WINNERS" banner is visible at the bottom left. In the center, there's a "Structural View of Biology" section with text about the archive and a "June Molecule of the Month" section featuring a 3D ribbon model of the MDM2 protein.

You can search by text (e.g. "**ABL kinase**"), PDB code (e.g. "**1iep**") or sequence  
<http://www.rcsb.org>



The screenshot shows a search result for the PDB code "1iep". The URL "1iep" is highlighted in a red box. The page displays the title "1IEP CRYSTAL STRUCTURE OF THE C-ABL KINASE DOMAIN IN COMPLEX WITH STI-571.", the DOI "10.2210/pdb1IEP/pdb", and the classification "TRANSFERASE". It also lists the organism "Mus musculus" and expression system "Spodoptera frugiperda". The deposition date is "2001-04-10" and the release date is "2001-04-18". The deposition author is "Nagar, B., Bornmann, W., Schindler, T., Clarkson, B., Kurian, J.". The "Experimental Data Snapshot" section includes a table of wwPDB Validation metrics:

Metric	Rfree	Percentile Ranks	Value
Resolution	2.1 Å		0.264
R-Value Free	0.262		15
R-Value Work	0.231		1.3%
Clashscore			2.9%
Ramachandran outliers			15.7%
Sidechain outliers			RSR outliers

You can get a **3D View** of and read details about the experiment and molecule

<http://www.rcsb.org>

The screenshot shows the RCSB PDB interface for structure 1IEP. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Gmail, Gcal, GitHub, BIMM143, BGN213, Atmosphere, BIMM194, Blink, and News. The main menu has options like Deposit, Search, Visualize, Analyze, Download, Learn, and More. A red box highlights the "3D View" button. Below the header is a sub-menu with "Structure Summary", "3D View" (highlighted), "Annotations", "Sequence", "Sequence Similarity", "Structure Similarity", and "Experiment". The main content area displays the title "1IEP CRYSTAL STRUCTURE OF THE C-ABL KINASE DOMAIN IN COMPLEX WITH STI-571." and a note: "Note: Use your mouse to drag, rotate, and zoom in and out of the structure. Mouse-over to identify atoms and bonds. [Mouse controls documentation.](#)". To the right is a ribbon diagram of the protein-ligand complex, colored by residue type. On the far right is a detailed "Structure View" panel with tabs for Structure View, Electron Density Maps, and Ligand View, along with various filter and display options.

You can **display or download PDB format files** for a particular entry

<http://www.rcsb.org>

This screenshot is identical to the one above, showing the RCSB PDB interface for structure 1IEP. However, a red box highlights the "Display Files" and "Download Files" buttons in the top right corner of the main content area, indicating where to click to access the PDB file format options.

## Side-Note: PDB File Format

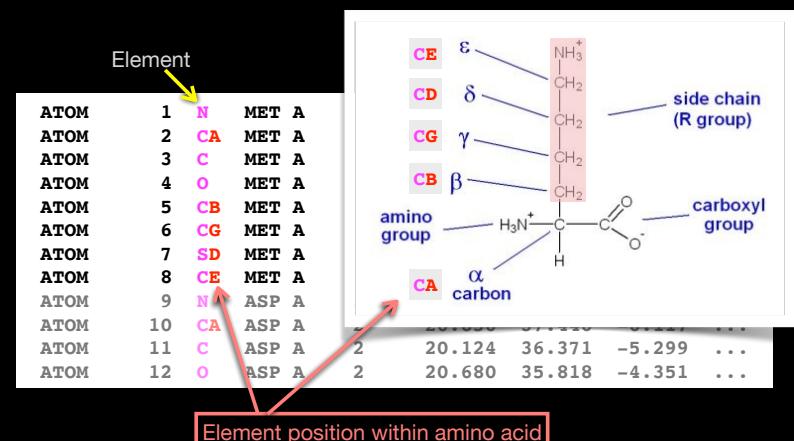
- PDB files contain atomic **coordinates** and associated information.

Element	Amino Acid	Sequence/Residue Number	Coordinates			(etc.)
			X	Y	Z	
ATOM	1 N	MET A	1	19.353	41.547	-3.887
ATOM	2 CA	MET A	1	20.513	40.939	-4.592
ATOM	3 C	MET A	1	20.150	39.658	-5.355
ATOM	4 O	MET A	1	19.053	39.551	-5.903
ATOM	5 CB	MET A	1	21.642	40.678	-3.592
ATOM	6 CG	MET A	1	21.233	39.903	-2.360
ATOM	7 SD	MET A	1	22.533	39.928	-1.113
ATOM	8 CE	MET A	1	23.771	38.881	-1.885
ATOM	9 N	ASP A	2	21.068	38.694	-5.390
ATOM	10 CA	ASP A	2	20.856	37.440	-6.117
ATOM	11 C	ASP A	2	20.124	36.371	-5.299
ATOM	12 O	ASP A	2	20.680	35.818	-4.351

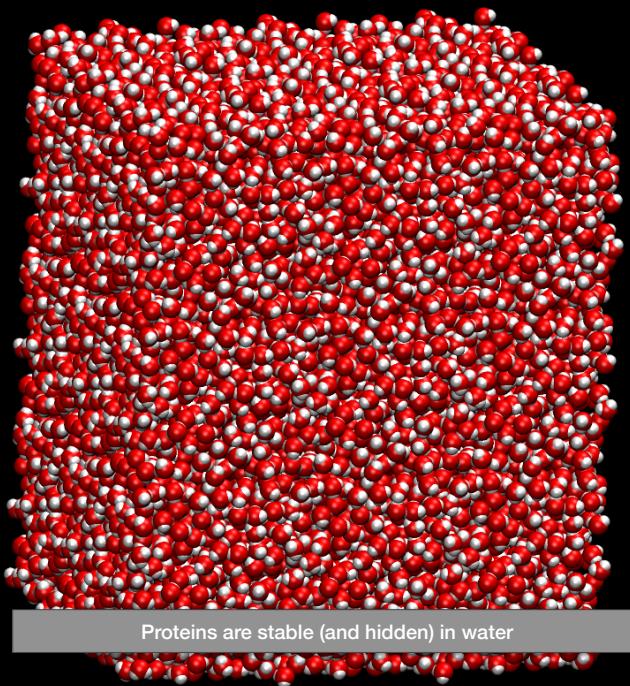
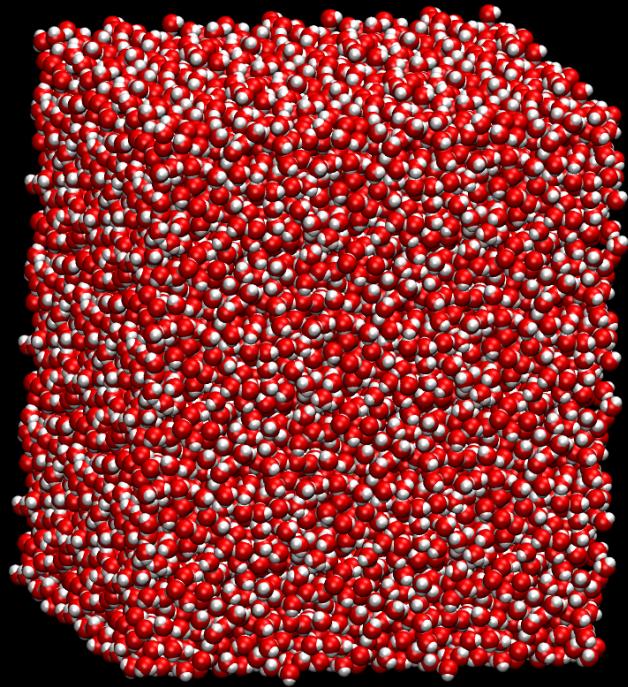
Element position within amino acid

## Side-Note: PDB File Format

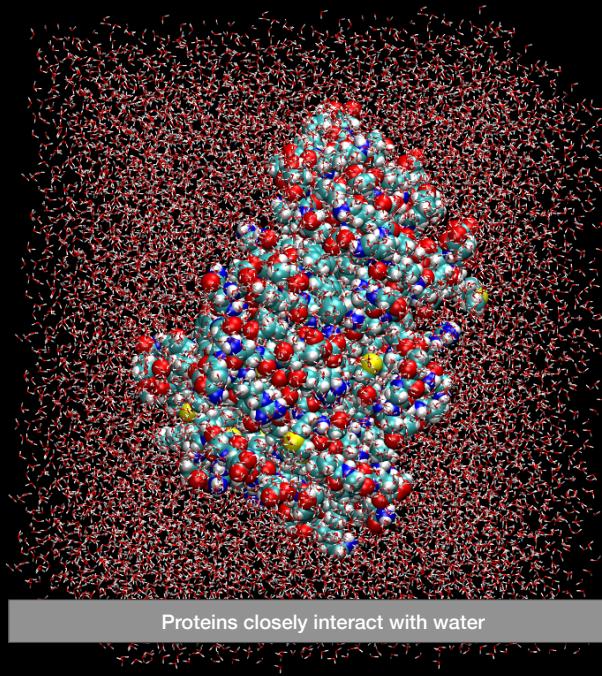
- PDB files contain atomic **coordinates** and associated information.



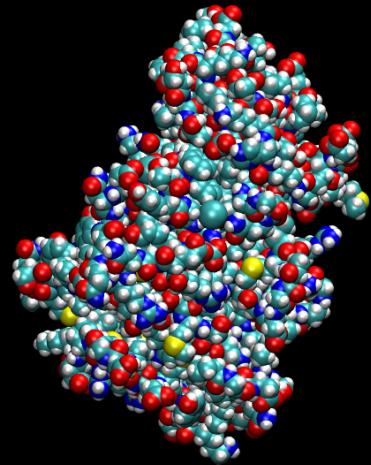
## What Does a Protein Look like?



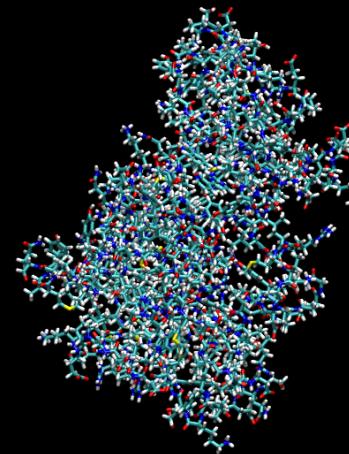
Proteins are stable (and hidden) in water



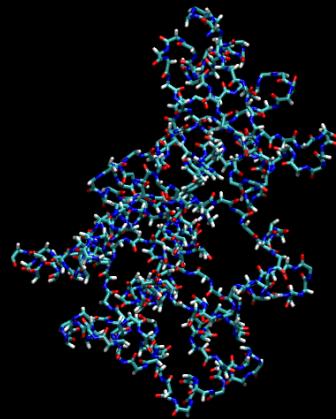
Proteins closely interact with water



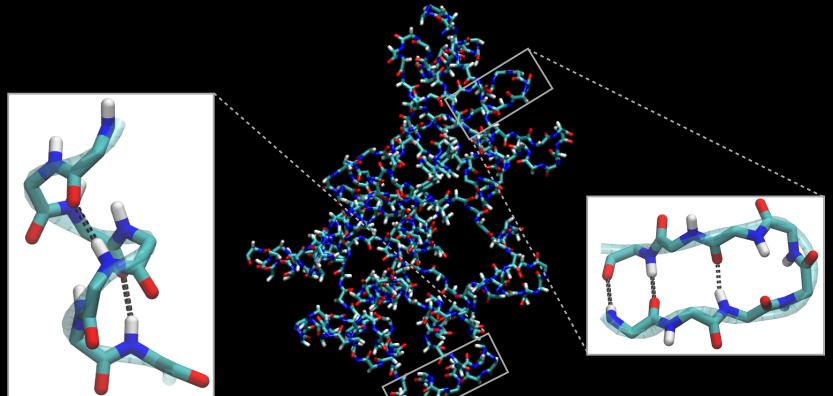
Proteins are close packed solid but flexible objects (globular)



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



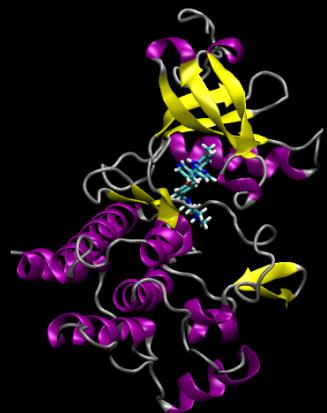
Backbone or main-chain representation can help trace chain topology & reveal secondary structure



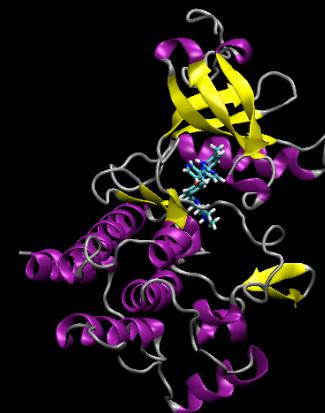
Tube or trace representation is one of the simplest views



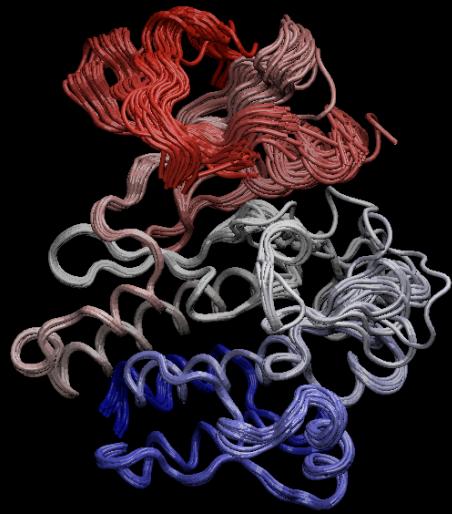
Tube with added colors to highlight **secondary structure**



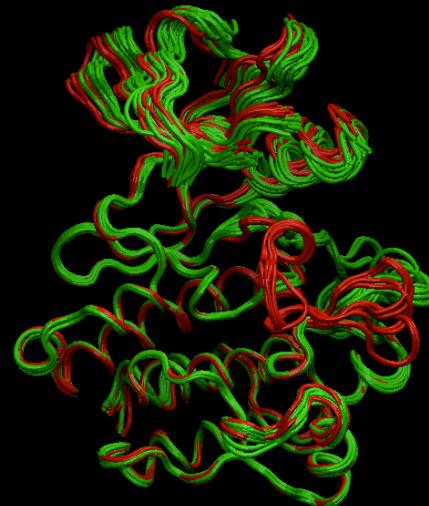
Simplified "cartoon" secondary structure representations are commonly used to communicate structural details



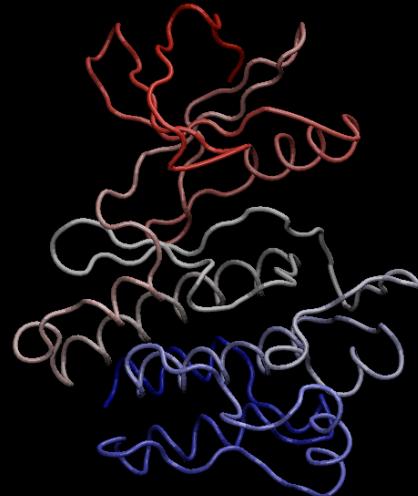
Viewing in 3D is often essential for interpretation.  
Now we can clearly see 2° and 3° structure - the coiled chain of connected secondary structures



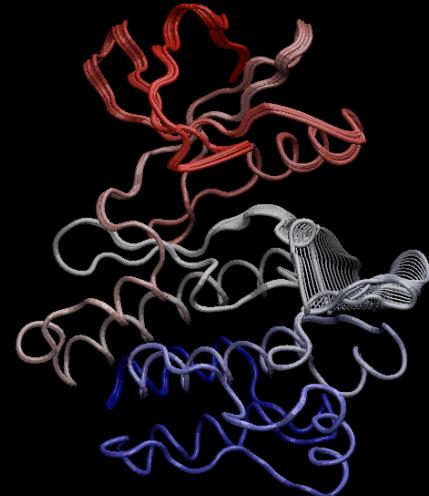
Viewing multiple superposed structures solved under different conditions can highlight **flexible regions**



Viewing multiple superposed structures solved under different conditions can highlight **distinct conformations**



Analyzing these multiple structures can reveal **functional motions**  
- i.e. displacements that are essential for regulating function

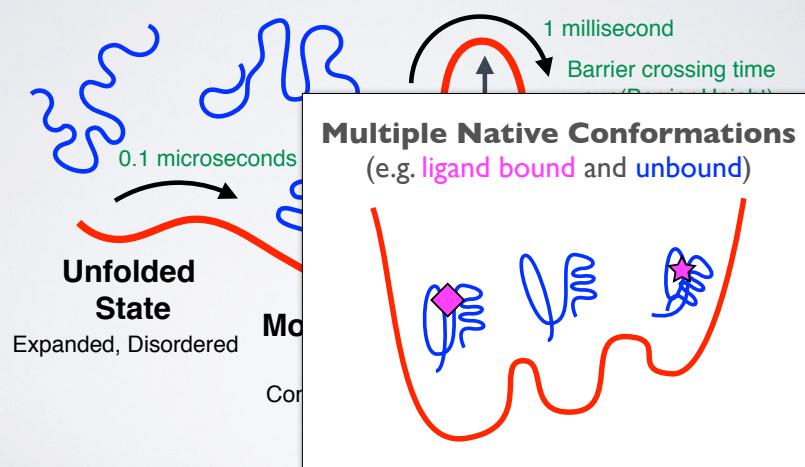


Analyzing these multiple structures can reveal **functional motions**  
- i.e. displacements that are essential for regulating function

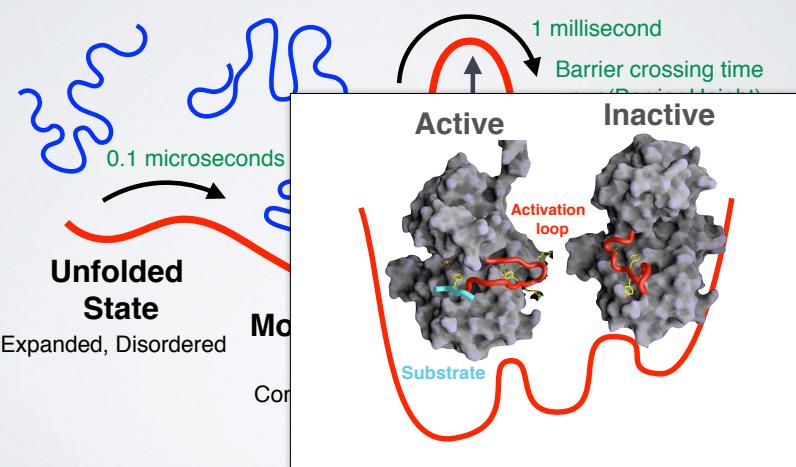
**Active**  
**Inactive**

"Activation loop"

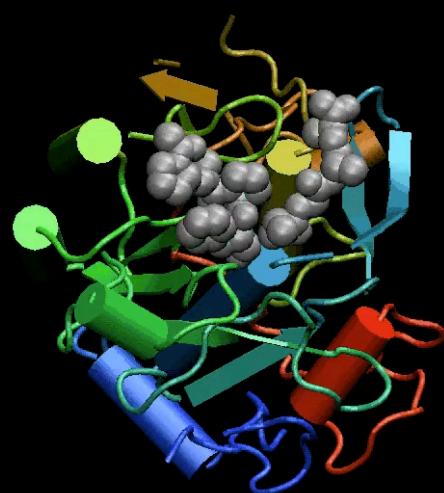
## KEY CONCEPT: ENERGY LANDSCAPE



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

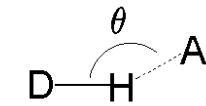
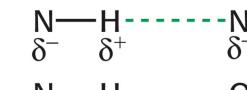


NMA is a bioinformatics method to predict the intrinsic dynamics of biomolecules

## Key forces affecting structure:

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

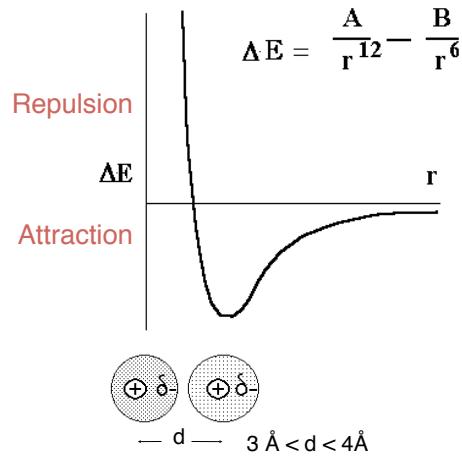
Hydrogen-bond donor      Hydrogen-bond acceptor



$2.6 \text{ \AA} < d < 3.1 \text{ \AA}$   
 $150^\circ < \theta < 180^\circ$

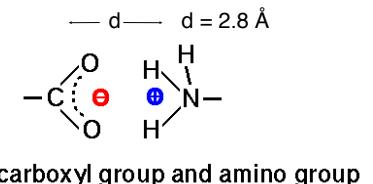
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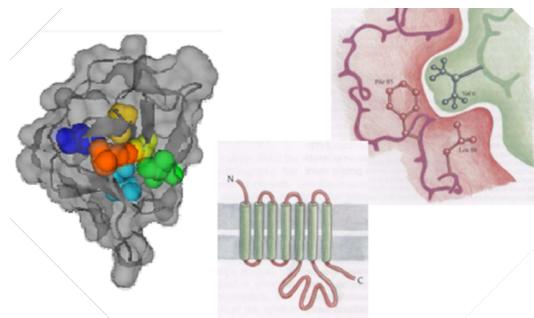


carboxyl group and amino group  
(some time called IONIC BONDS or SALT BRIDGES)

	<u>Coulomb's law</u> $E = \frac{K q_1 q_2}{D r}$	$E = \text{Energy}$ $K = \text{constant}$ $D = \text{Dielectric constant (vacuum} = 1; \text{H}_2\text{O} = 80)$ $q_1 \& q_2 = \text{electronic charges (Coulombs)}$ $r = \text{distance (\AA)}$
--	---	--

## 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

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Do it Yourself!

## Hand-on time!

Focus on **section 1** only please!

N.B. Remember to make your new `class12` RStudio project inside your GitHub tracked directory from last day and UNCHECK the "Create a Git repository" option...

## Side-Note: PDB File Format

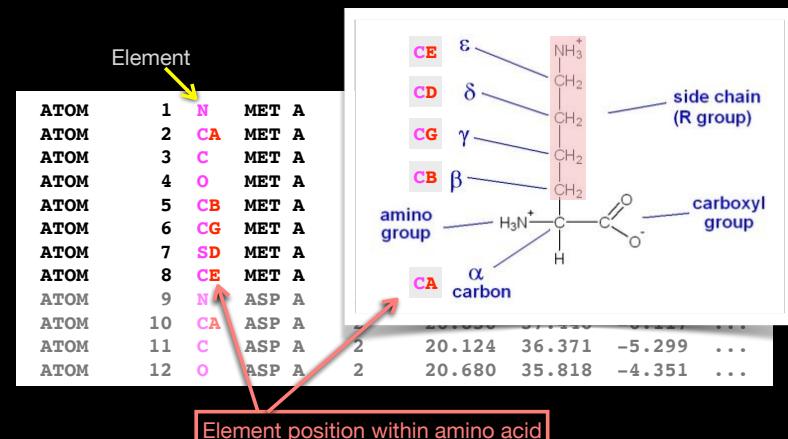
- PDB files contains atomic **coordinates** and associated information.

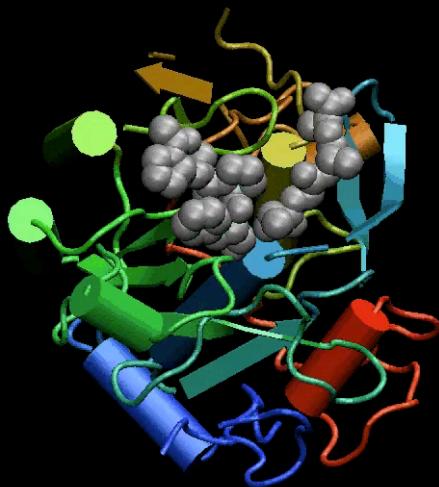
	Amino Acid	Element	Sequence/Residue Number	Coordinates			(etc.)	
				X	Y	Z		
ATOM		1 N	MET A	1	19.353	41.547	-3.887	...
ATOM		2 CA	MET A	1	20.513	40.939	-4.592	...
ATOM		3 C	MET A	1	20.150	39.658	-5.355	...
ATOM		4 O	MET A	1	19.053	39.551	-5.903	...
ATOM		5 CB	MET A	1	21.642	40.678	-3.592	...
ATOM		6 CG	MET A	1	21.233	39.903	-2.360	...
ATOM		7 SD	MET A	1	22.533	39.928	-1.113	...
ATOM		8 CE	MET A	1	23.771	38.881	-1.885	...
ATOM		9 N	ASP A	2	21.068	38.694	-5.390	...
ATOM		10 CA	ASP A	2	20.856	37.440	-6.117	...
ATOM		11 C	ASP A	2	20.124	36.371	-5.299	...
ATOM		12 O	ASP A	2	20.680	35.818	-4.351	...

Element position within amino acid

## Side-Note: PDB File Format

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





Download VMD

### Hands-on Time!

Focus on **section 2** of "Lab Sheet" (using VMD)

# Hand-on time!

Focus on **section 3** please

Do it Yourself!

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

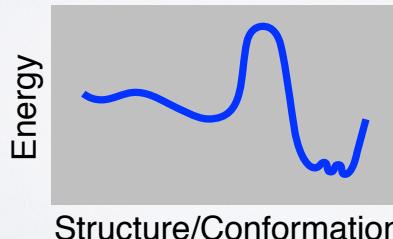
Two main approaches:

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

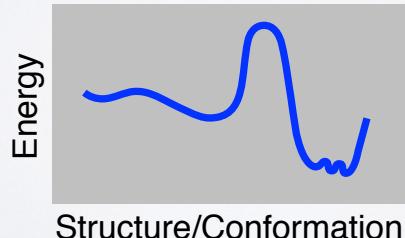
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Two main approaches:

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This will be the focus of the next class!



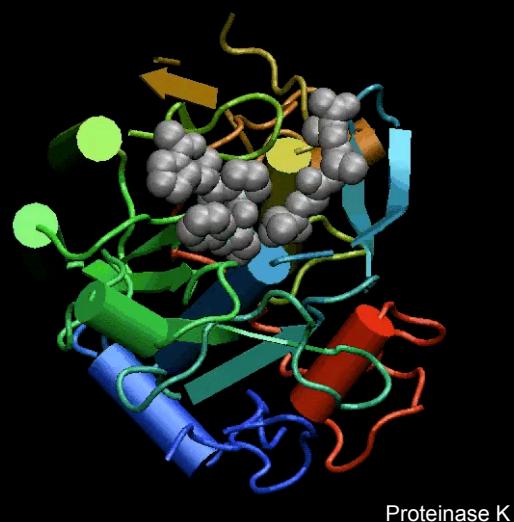
## SUMMARY

- 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 ]

# Reference Slides

NMA models the protein as a network of elastic strings



## Bio3D view()

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

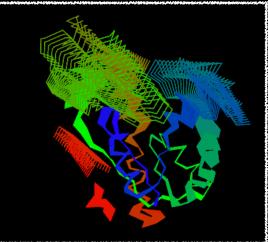
- In your R console:

```
> 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")
```



## NMA in Bio3D

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

```
```{r}
library(bio3d)
library(bio3d.view)
...```

```

```
```{r}
pdb <- read.pdb("1hel")
modes <- nma( pdb )
m7 <- mktrj(modes, mode=7, file="mode_7.pdb")

view(m7, col=vec2color(rmsf(m7)))
...```

```

# Bio3D view()

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

```
```{r}
library(bio3d.view)
library(rgl)
...```

```

```
```{r}
modes <- nma( read.pdb("1hel") )
m7 <- mktrj(modes, mode=7, file="mode_7.pdb")
view(m7, col=vec2color(rmsf(m7)))
rglwidget(width=500, height=500)
```

```