# Ensembler: Enabling high-throughput molecular simulations at the superfamily scale

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The rapidly expanding body of available genomic and protein structural data provides a rich resource for understanding protein dynamics with biomolecular simulation. While computational infrastructure has grown rapidly, simulations on an omics scale are not yet widespread, primarily because software infrastructure to enable simulations at this scale has not kept pace. It should now be possible to study protein dynamics across entire (super)families, exploiting both available structural biology data and conformational similarities across homologous proteins. Here, we present a new tool for enabling high-throughput simulation in the genomics era. Ensembler takes any set of sequences—from a single sequence to an entire superfamily and shepherds them through various stages of modeling and refinement to produce simulation-ready structures. This includes comparative modeling to all relevant PDB structures (which may span multiple conformational states of interest), reconstruction of missing loops, addition of missing atoms, culling of nearly identical structures, assignment of appropriate protonation states, solvation in explicit solvent, and refinement and filtering with molecular simulation to ensure stable simulation. The output of this pipeline is an ensemble of structures ready for subsequent molecular simulations using computer clusters, supercomputers, or distributed computing projects like Folding@home. Ensembler thus automates much of the timeconsuming process of preparing protein models suitable for simulation, while allowing scalability up to entire superfamilies. A particular advantage of this approach can be found in the construction of kinetic models of conformational dynamics—such as Markov state models (MSMs)—which benefit from a diverse array of initial configurations that span the accessible conformational states to aid sampling. We demonstrate the power of this approach by constructing models for all catalytic domains in the human tyrosine kinase family, using all available kinase catalytic domain structures from any organism as structural templates.

**Ensembler** is free and open source software licensed under the GNU General Public License (GPL) v2. It is compatible with Linux and OS X. The latest release can be installed via the conda package manager, and the latest source can be downloaded from https://github.com/choderalab/ensembler.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Recent advances in genomics and structural biology have helped generate an enormous wealth of protein data at the level of amino-acid sequence and three-dimensional structure. However, proteins typically exist as an ensemble of thermally accessible conformational states, and static structures provide only a snapshot of their rich dynamical behavior. Many functional properties—such as the ability to bind small molecules or interact with signaling partners—require transitions between states, encompassing anything from reorganization of sidechains at binding interfaces to domain motions to large scale folding-unfolding events. Drug discovery could also benefit from a more extensive consideration of protein dynamics, whereby small molecules might be selected based on their predicted ability to bind and trap a protein target in an inactive state [1].

Molecular dynamics (MD) simulations have the capabilMolecular dynamics (MD) simulations have the capabilJity, in principle, to describe the time evolution of a protein in atomistic detail, and have proven themselves to be
Jis a useful tool in the study of protein dynamics. A number
of mature software packages and forcefields are now availJis able, and much recent progress has been driven by adJis vances in computing architecture. For example, many MD

However, it remains difficult for researchers to exploit the full variety of available protein sequence data (in simulating groups of related proteins) and structural data (exploiting multiple structures for each protein and its homologs/orthologs) in simulation studies in molecular simulations, largely due to limitations in software architecture.
For example, the preparation of a biomolecular simulation is typically performed manually, encompassing a series of fairly standard (yet time-consuming) steps such as
the choice of protein sequence construct and starting structure(s), addition of missing residues and atoms, solvation
with explicit water and counterions (and potentially buffer

<sup>29</sup> packages are now able to exploit GPUs [2, 3], which pro-30 vide greatly improved simulation efficiency per unit cost rel-31 ative to CPUs, while distributed computing platforms such as Folding@home [4], Copernicus [5, 6], and GPUGrid [7], al-33 low scalability on an unprecedented level. In parallel, meth-34 ods for building human-understandable models of protein 35 dynamics from noisy simulation data, such as Markov state modeling (MSM) approaches, are now reaching maturity [8– <sub>37</sub> 10]. MSM methods in particular have the advantage of be-38 ing able to aggregate data from multiple independent MD 39 trajectories, facilitating parallelization of production simu-40 lations and thus greatly alleviating overall computational 41 cost. There also exist a number of mature software packages 42 for comparative modeling of protein structures, in which a 43 target protein sequence is modeled using one or more struc-44 tures as templates [11-14].

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parameters do not yet exist), system relaxation with energy minimization, and one or more short preparatory MD simcell. Due to the laborious and manual nature of this process, simulation studies typically consider only one or a few 121 in sampling of more distant regions of accessible phase proteins and starting configurations, though notable exceptions exist, such as the Dynameomics effort of Daggett and coworkers in which over 100 proteins have been simulated so far using a single initial configuration for each [15]. Worse still, studies (or collections of studies) that do consider multiple proteins often suffer from the lack of consistent best 127 tions, and which would thus be unconnected with the phase practices in this preparation process, making comparisons between related proteins unnecessarily difficult.

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The ability to fully exploit the large quantity of available protein sequence and structural data in biomolecular simulation studies could open up many interesting avenues for esearch, enabling the study of entire protein families or superfamilies within a single organism or across multiple oranisms. The similarity between members of a given protein amily could be exploited to generate arrays of conformational models for related sequences, which could be used as tarting configurations to aid sampling in MD simulations. he conformations captured in structures of related members has been shown to provide useful information about the conformations accessible to all members of the family [16, 17], though energetic differences between individuals will modify the populations and dynamics of individual onformational states. This approach would be highly benficial for many MD methods, such as MSM construction, which require global coverage of the conformational landscape to realize their full potential, and would also be particularly useful in cases where structural data is present for only a subset of the members of a protein family. It would llso aid in studying protein families known to have multiole metastable conformations—such as kinases—for which the combined body of structural data for the family may cover a large range of these conformations, while the available structures for any individual member might encompass only one or two distinct conformations.

Here, we present the first steps toward bridging the gap between biomolecular simulation software and omicsscale sequence and structural data: a fully automated open source framework for building simulation-ready protein models in multiple conformational substates scalable from single sequences to entire superfamilies. Ensembler proides functions for selecting target sequences and homologous template structures, and (by interfacing with a number of external packages) performs pairwise alignments, omparative modeling of target-template pairs, and several have constructed models for the entire set of human tyrosine kinase (TK) catalytic domains, using all available struc-

57 components and cosolvents), choice of simulation param- 115 ing these models as starting configurations for highly pareters (or parameterization schemes for components where 116 allel MD simulations, we expect their structural diversity to greatly aid in sampling of conformational space. We further 118 suggest that models with high target-template sequence lations to equilibrate the system and relax the simulation in identity are the most likely to represent native metastable 120 states, while lower sequence identity models would aid 122 space. It is also important to note that some models (especially low sequence identity models) may not represent 124 natively accessible conformations. However, MSM methods benefit from the ability to remove outlier MD trajectories which start from non-natively accessible conformaspace sampled in other trajectories. These methods essen-129 tially identify the largest subset of Markov nodes which constitute an ergodic network [18, 19].

> We anticipate that **Ensembler** will prove to be useful in a number of other ways. For example, the generated models could represent valuable data sets even without subse-134 quent production simulation, allowing exploration of the conformational diversity present within the available structural data for a given protein family. Furthermore, automation of simulation preparation provides an excellent opportunity to make concrete certain "best practices", such as the choice of simulation parameters, approach to the treatment of protonation states, treatment of cofactors and structural ions, and pre-simulation refinement and equilibration pro-142 cedures. While the current version of **Ensembler** only codi-143 fies some of these choices as default parameters, its modular nature allows additional stages to be easily added in the

#### **DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION**

**Ensembler** is written in Python, and can be used via a 148 command-line tool (ensembler) or via a flexible Python 149 API to allow integration of its components into other <sub>150</sub> applications. All command-line and API information in this article refers to the version 1.0.2 release of Ensembler. Up-to-date documentation can be found at ensembler.readthedocs.org.

The **Ensembler** modeling pipeline comprises a series of stages which are performed in a defined order. A visual overview of the pipeline is shown in Fig. 1. The various stages of this pipeline are described in detail below.

#### Target selection and retrieval

The first stage entails the selection of a set of target prostages of model refinement. As an example application, we 160 tein sequences—the sequences for which the user is interested in generating simulation-ready structural models. This may be a single sequence—such as a full-length protures of protein kinase domains (from any species) as tem- 163 tein or a construct representing a single domain—or a colplates. This results in a total of almost 400,000 models, 164 lection of sequences, such as a particular domain from an and we demonstrate that these provide wide-ranging cov- 165 entire family of proteins. The output of this stage is a FASTA-114 erage of known functionally relevant conformations. By us- 166 formatted text file containing the desired target sequences

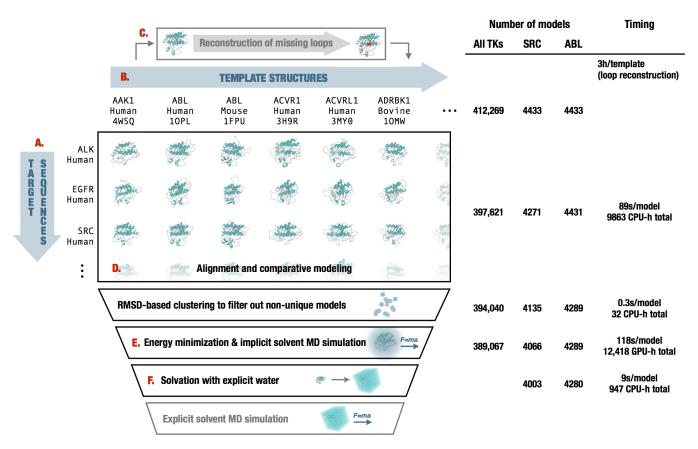


FIG. 1. Diagrammatic representation of the stages of the Ensembler pipeline and illustrative statistics for modeling all human tyrosine kinase catalytic domains. On the left, the various stages of the Ensembler pipeline are shown. The red labels indicate the corresponding text description provided for each stage in the Design and Implementation section. On the right, the number of viable models surviving each stage of the pipeline is shown for the 93 target TK domains and for two representative individual TK domains (SRC and ABL). Typical timings on a computer cluster (containing Intel Xeon E5-2665 2.4GHz hyperthreaded processors and NVIDIA GTX-680 or GTX-Titan GPUs) is reported to illustrate resource requirements per model for modeling the entire set of tyrosine kinases. Note that CPU-h denotes the number of hours consumed by the equivalent of a single CPU hyperthread and GPU-h on a single GPU—parallel execution via MPI reduces wall clock time nearly linearly.

with corresponding arbitrary identifiers.

be selected from UniProt—a freely accessible resource for 190 man protein kinases returns UniProt entries with domain protein sequence and functional data (uniprot.org) [20] via a UniProt search query. To retrieve target sequences from UniProt, the subcommand gather\_targets is used with the --query flag followed by a UniProt query string conforming to the same syntax as the search function 195 If the --uniprot\_domain\_regex flag is used, target identiavailable on the UniProt website. For example, --query mnemonic:SRC\_HUMAN' would select the full-length human Src sequence, while the guery shown in Box 1 would select all human tyrosine protein kinases which have been 199 contain multiple domains of interest (e.g. JAK1\_HUMAN\_DO, reviewed by a human curator. In this way, the user may se- 200 JAK1\_HUMAN\_D1). lect a single protein, many proteins, or an entire superfamily from UniProt. The program outputs a FASTA file, setting the UniProt mnemonic (e.g. SRC\_HUMAN) as the identifier for each target protein.

In many cases, it will be desirable to build models of an 201 domains to be selected from UniProt data by passing a regu- 204 arbitrary identifiers.

lar expression string to the --uniprot\_domain\_regex flag. The ensembler command-line tool allows targets to 189 For example, the above --query flag for selecting all huannotations including "Protein kinase", "Protein kinase 1", "Protein kinase 2", "Protein kinase; truncated", "Protein ki-192 193 nase; inactive", "SH2", "SH3", etc. The regular expression shown in Box 1 selects only domains of the first three types. 196 fiers are set with the form [UniProt mnemonic]\_D[domain index], where the latter part represents a 0-based index for the domain—necessary because a single target protein may

Target sequences can also be defined manually (or from isolated protein domain, rather than the full-length pro- 202 another program) by providing a FASTA-formatted text file tein. The gather\_targets subcommand allows protein 203 containing the desired target sequences with corresponding

### B. Template selection and retrieval

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**Ensembler** uses comparative modeling to build models, and as such requires a set of structures to be used as templates. The second stage thus entails the selection of templates and storage of associated sequences, structures, and dentifiers. These templates can be specified manually, or using the ensembler gather\_templates subcommand to automatically select templates based on a search of the 268 Protein Data Bank (PDB) or UniProt. A recommended approach is to select templates from UniProt which belong to 269 and templates.

The ensembler gather\_templates subcommand pro- 273 vides methods for selecting template structures from either 274 UniProt or the PDB (http://www.rcsb.org/pdb), specified by the --gather\_from flag. Both methods select templates at the level of PDB chains—a PDB structure containng multiple chains with identical sequence spans (e.g. for independent conformations of the protein within the asym- 280 metric unit) would thus give rise to multiple template struc-227

Selection of templates from the PDB simply requires 283 residue spans are modeled in the subsequent stage. 229 passing a list of PDB IDs as a comma-separated string, e.g. --query 2H8H,1Y57. Specific PDB chain IDs can optionally also be selected via the --chainids flag. 284 The program retrieves structures from the PDB server, as well as associated data from the SIFTS service 285 retaining only residues which are resolved and match 289 rium conditions. the equivalent residue in the UniProt sequence—non- 290 domain index]\_[PDB ID]\_[PDB chain ID], PDB-format coordinate files.

Selection of templates from UniProt proceeds in a similar 300 261 sequence.

Templates can also be defined manually. Manual speci-263 fication of templates simply requires storing the sequences <sup>264</sup> and arbitrary identifiers in a FASTA file, and the structures as PDB-format coordinate files with filenames matching the identifiers in the sequence file. The structure residues must also match those in the sequence file.

#### Template refinement

Unresolved template residues can optionally be modeled the same protein family as the targets, guaranteeing homol- 270 into template structures with the loopmodel subcommand, ogy and some degree of sequence identity between targets 271 which employs a kinematic closure algorithm provided via 272 the loopmodel tool of the Rosetta software suite [22, 23]. We expect that in certain cases, pre-building template loops with Rosetta loopmodel prior to the main modeling stage (with MODELLER) may result in improved model quality. Loop remodeling may fail for a small proportion of templates due to spatial constraints imposed by the original structure; the subsequent modeling step thus automaticrystals with non-crystallographic symmetry giving rise to 279 cally uses the remodeled version of a template if available, but otherwise falls back to using the non-remodeled ver-281 sion. Furthermore, the Rosetta loopmodel program will not 282 model missing residues at the termini of a structure—such

#### Alignment and comparative modeling

In the modeling stage, structural models of the target se-(www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/docs/sifts) [21], which provides 286 quence are generated from the template structures, with residue-level mappings between PDB and UniProt entries. 287 the goal of modeling the target in a variety of conforma-The SIFTS data is used to extract template sequences, 288 tions that could be significantly populated under equilib-

Modeling is performed using the automodel function of wildtype residues are thus removed from the template 291 the MODELLER software package [24, 25] to rapidly gener-240 structures. Furthermore, PDB chains with less than a 292 ate a single model of the target sequence from each temgiven percentage of resolved residues (default: 70%) are 293 plate structure. MODELLER uses simulated annealing cyfiltered out. Sequences are stored in a FASTA file, with iden- 294 cles along with a minimal forcefield and spatial restraints tifiers of the form [UniProt mnemonic]\_D[UniProt 295 generally Gaussian interatomic probability densities exe.g. 296 tracted from the template structure with database-derived SRC\_HUMAN\_DO\_2H8H\_A. Matching residues then ex- 297 statistics determining the distribution width—to rapidly tracted from the original coordinate files and stored as 298 generate candidate structures of the target sequence from the provided template sequence [24, 25].

While MODELLER's automodel function can generate its fashion as for target selection; the --query flag is used to 301 own alignments automatically, a standalone function was 250 select full-length proteins from UniProt, while the optional 302 preferable for reasons of programming convenience. As -uniprot\_domain\_regex flag allows selection of individ- 👊 such, we implemented pairwise alignment functionality usual domains with a regular expression string (Box 1). The 304 ing the BioPython pairwise2 module [26]—which uses a returned UniProt data for each protein includes a list of as- 305 dynamic programming algorithm—with the PAM 250 scorsociated PDB chains and their residue spans, and this infor- wife ing matrix of Gonnet et al. [27], though other choices of scormation is used to select template structures, using the same 307 ing matrices available within the module can be selected. method as for template selection from the PDB. Only struc- 308 The alignments are carried out with the align subcomtures solved by X-ray crystallography or NMR are selected, 309 mand, prior to the modeling step which is carried out with thus excluding computer-generated models available from 310 the build\_models subcommand. The align subcommand the PDB. If the --uniprot\_domain\_regex flag is used, then an also writes a list of the sequence identities for each template 260 templates are truncated at the start and end of the domain 312 to a text file, and this can be used to select models from a desired range of sequence identities. The build\_models 314 subcommand and all subsequent pipeline functions have a 366 -template\_seqid\_cutoff flag which can be used to select only models with sequence identities greater than the given value. We also note that alternative approaches could be used for the alignment stage. For example, multiple sequence alignment algorithms [28], allow alignments to be guided using sequence data from across the entire protein family of interest, while (multiple) structural alignment algorithms such as MODELLER's salign routine [24, 25], PRO-MALS3D [29], and Expresso and 3DCoffee [30, 31], can additionally exploit structural data. **Ensembler's** modular architecture facilitates the implementation of alternative alignment approaches, and we plan to implement some of these in future versions, to allow exploration of the influence of different alignment methods on model quality.

minimize file storage requirements, Ensembler uses the Python gzip library to apply compression to all sizeable text files from the modeling stage onwards. The restraints used by MODELLER could potentially be used in alternative ada flag (--write\_modeller\_restraints\_file) for option- 386 aggregate dynamics [8, 10]. ally saving these restraints to file. This option is turned off by default, as the restraint files are relatively large (e.g.  $\sim$ 400 expected to be used by the majority of users.

At this time, the alignment and modeling functions cannot be used to model non-standard amino acids, though we plan to be able to provide this functionality in future ersions. Note that the Ensembler functions for target and template selection only include standard amino acids which match the UniProt canonical isoform sequence, and thus any set of targets and templates selected this way should be compatible with the Ensembler alignment and modeling 348 functions.

### Filtering of nearly identical models

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Because Ensembler treats individual chains from source 407 the vast majority failed within the first 1 ps of simulation. PDB structures as individual templates, a number of mod- 408 subcommand can thus be used to identify models which dif- 414 as implemented in the OpenMM package [2]. tain only a single model per cluster.

## Refinement of models and filtering of poor models by simulation

A number of refinement methods have been developed to 369 help guide comparative modeling techniques toward more "native-like" and physically consistent conformations [36, 37]. Both short [37] and long [38] molecular dynamics simu-372 lations have been employed for this purpose. Here, we uti-373 lize short molecular dynamic simulations for two purposes: 374 both to slightly relax the initial comparative models and to eliminate those comparative models that result in highly implausible conformations. This is especially critical here due to the inclusion of even very low sequence identity template 378 structures. We stress that the limited refinement by molec-379 ular simulation here is primarily intended as initial relax-Models are output as PDB-format coordinate files. To 380 ation and filtering stages, where implausible models might cause simulations to immediately fail, crash, or generate im-<sub>382</sub> plausibly high energies or unstable dynamics. Exploration 383 of conformational dynamics to derive MSMs, for example, will inevitably require orders of magnitude more simulation ditional refinement schemes, and Ensembler thus provides 385 effort—very likely tens of microseconds to milliseconds of

Ensembler thus includes a refinement module, which 388 uses short molecular dynamics simulations to refine the kB per model for protein kinase domain targets), and are not see models built in the previous step. As well as improving 390 model quality, this also prepares models for subsequent production MD simulation, including solvation with explicit water molecules, if desired.

> Models are first subjected to energy minimization (using the L-BFGS algorithm [39], followed by a short molecular 395 dynamics (MD) simulation with an implicit solvent representation. This is implemented using the OpenMM molecu-<sup>397</sup> lar simulation toolkit [2], chosen for its flexible Python API, and high performance GPU-acclerated simulation code. The simulation is run for a default of 100 ps, which in our example applications has been sufficient to filter out poor models (i.e. those with atomic overlaps unresolved by energy minimization, which result in an unstable simulation), as well as helping to relax model conformations. As discussed in the Results section, our example application of the **Ensembler** pipeline to the human tyrosine kinase family indicated that of the models which failed implicit solvent MD refinement,

The simulation protocol and default parameter values els may be generated with very similar structures if these 409 have been chosen to represent current "best practices" individual chains are nearly identical in conformation. For 410 for the refinement simulations carried out here. As such, this reason, and also to allow users to select for high di- 411 the simulation is performed using Langevin dynamics, ersity if they so choose, **Ensembler** provides a way to fil-412 with a default force field choice of Amber99SB-ILDN [40], ter out models that are very similar in RMSD. The cluster 413 along with a modified generalized Born solvent model [41] fer from other models in terms of RMSD distance by a user-  $_{ ext{ iny 415}}$  the  $\,$  other force fields or implicit water models implespecified cutoff. Clustering is performed using the regular 416 mented in OpenMM can be specified using the --ff and spatial clustering algorithm [9], as implemented in the MSM-  $_{\scriptscriptstyle 417}$  --water\_mode1 flags respectively. The simulation length Builder Python library [18], which uses mdtraj [32] to calcu-  $_{418}$  can also be controlled via the --simlength flag, and many late RMSD (for  $C_{\alpha}$  atoms only) with a fast quaternion char- 419 other important simulation parameters can be controlled acteristic polynomial (QCP) [33-35] implementation. A min- 420 from either the API or CLI (via the --api\_params flag). The imum distance cutoff (which defaults to 0.6 Å) is used to re- 421 default values are set as follows—timestep: 2 fs; temperature: 300 K; Langevin collision rate: 20 ps $^{-1}$ ; pH (used 423 by OpenMM for protonation state assignment): 7. We also 478 plemented in OpenMM, with a default pressure of 1 atm and ploration [42].

For some studies, it may be useful to specify the protonation states of individual amino acids, rather than rely only on automatic protonation state assignment by 482 OpenMM. The user can do this by listing the residue numbers and their protonation states in a configuration file (manual\_overrides.yaml). The necessary formatting for the configuration file is specified in the software documentation, and a template file is written when initializing an Ensembler project. Protonation states are specified by naming the appropriate residue variant type in the force field, e.g. 'ASH' for an aspartic acid residue, as opposed to the aspartate base 'ASP'. Any residues which do not have specific protonation states listed in the configuration file will have protonation states assigned automatically by OpenMM. Note that **Ensembler** currently only supports residue definitions provided by the forcefield definition files—it does not yet have the ability to derive new forcefield parameters for uncommon amino acids, cofactors, or ions in a consistent way.

## Solvation and NPT equilibration

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While protein-only models may be sufficient for struc-448 tural analysis or implicit solvent simulations, Ensembler also provides a stage for solvating models with explicit water and performing a round of explicit-solvent MD refinement/equilibration under isothermal-isobaric (NPT) conditions. The solvation step solvates each model for a given target with the same number of waters to facilitate the in- 505 ceeded, then finally deleting sufficient waters to match the 521 icated GPU-equipped computers. target value. The explicit solvent MD simulation is also im- 522 476 trolled via the API or via the CLI --api\_params flag. Pres- 528 with a target-template sequence identity above the speci-477 sure control is performed with a Monte Carlo barostat as im- 529 fied percentage are chosen), a MolProbity validation score

draw attention to a recent paper which indicates that lower 479 a period of 50 timesteps. The remaining simulation param-Langevin collision rates may result in faster phase space ex- 400 eters have default values set to the same as for the implicit solvent MD refinement.

#### Model validation with MolProbity score

**Ensembler** provides a function for validating model qual-484 ity using MolProbity [45, 46]—a widely used tool for validation of protein models, which provides a numerical score de-486 rived from features such as steric clashes between atoms, 487 bond geometry, Ramachandran angles, sidechain rotamer 488 outliers, backbone deviations, and the presence of cis-489 peptides. This function is accessed via the validate sub-490 command, which for a given target will output a text file 491 containing a list of model IDs sorted by validation score. The optional --modeling\_stage flag specifies which of the three main Ensembler modeling stages to validate—the ini-494 tial comparative modeling stage, the implicit MD refinement stage, or the explicit MD refinement stage. If this flag is not 496 used, Ensembler defaults to selecting the latest stage for which models have been generated. The output text file can be used to filter models based on validation score, for example by using the package\_models subcommand. Protein model validation is a challenging problem and an ac-501 tive area of research for many groups, including the developers of **Ensembler**. We plan to implement further validation methods in future versions of Ensembler.

## **Packaging**

**Ensembler** provides a packaging module which can tegration of data from multiple simulations, which is impor- 506 be used to prepare models for subsequent downstream tant for methods such as the construction of MSMs. The sor use, such as the use of distributed or cluster computtarget number of waters is selected by first solvating each 508 ing resources for the generation of MSMs [8-10]. The model with a specified padding distance (default: 10 Å), 509 package\_models subcommand currently provides functhen taking a percentile value from the distribution (default: 50 tions (specified via the --package\_for flag) for compress-68th percentile). This helps to prevent models with par- 511 ing models in preparation for data transfer, or for organizing ticularly long, extended loops—such as those arising from 512 them with the appropriate directory and file structure for template structures with unresolved termini—from impos- 513 production simulation on the distributed computing plating very large box sizes on the entire set of models. The 514 form Folding@home [4]. The module could easily be ex-TIP3P water model [43] is used by default, but any of the 515 tended to add methods for preparing models for other purother explicit water models available in OpenMM, such as 516 poses. For example, production simulations could alterna-TIP4P-Ew [44], can be specified using the --water\_model str tively be run using Copernicus [5, 6]—a framework for perflag. Models are resolvated with the target number of wa- 518 forming parallel adaptive MD simulations—or GPUGrid [7] ters by first solvating with zero padding, then incrementally 59 a distributing computing platform which relies on computaincreasing the box size and resolvating until the target is ex- 520 tional power voluntarily donated by the owners of nonded-

An important use of the packaging stage is to filter modplemented using OpenMM, using the Amber99SB-ILDN force 523 els based on model quality. At the current time, the availfield [40] and TIP3P water [43] by default. The force field, 524 able filtering options are based on either target-template water model, and simulation length can again be specified 525 sequence identity or MolProbity validation score. The using the --ff, --water\_model, and --simlength flags 526 package\_models subcommand includes optional flags for respectively. Further simulation parameters can be con- 527 specifying a sequence identity cutoff (so that only models 530 cutoff (to choose only models with lower validation scores, 580 which indicate better model quality), or a MolProbity validation score percentile (to choose only models with validation scores lower than the value at the given percentile).

Models can also be exported into trajectory files for the purpose of performing structural analyses across model en-535 sembles using tools like MDTraj [32]. This is done using the mktraj subcommand, which writes model coordinates for given target to a Gromacs [47, 48] XTC format trajectory chosen for its wide usage and data compression). Each rame in the trajectory represents a single model, and models are sorted in descending order of target-template sequence identity. Also output for each target are a PDB coordinate file (for use as a topology input file) and a CSV file containing model IDs (in the same order as the frames in the trajectory file) and other data such as target-template sequence identity. Using the --modeling\_stage flag, models can be selected from any of three Ensembler modeling stages - after the initial comparative modeling stage, after implicit MD refinement, or after explicit MD refinement. If this flag is not used, Ensembler defaults to selecting the latst stage for which models have been generated.

We stress that, despite evidence suggesting that there a correspondence between solution-state dynamics and structural diversity of related template proteins [16], all nodels—especially those derived from low sequence identity templates—are not necessarily representative of conformations thermally accessible to the template proteins of interest. Care must be exercised in the use and analysis of these models.

### Other features

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# Tracking provenance information

To aid the user in tracking the provenance of each model, 562 each pipeline function also outputs a metadata file, which helps to link data to the software version used to generate it (both **Ensembler** and its dependencies), and also provides timing and performance information, and other data such as hostname.

# Rapidly modeling a single template

performs the entire pipeline for a single target with a small <sub>579</sub> number of models generated.

#### III. RESULTS

## Modeling of all human tyrosine kinase catalytic domains

As a first application of **Ensembler**, we have built mod-583 els for the human TK family. TKs (and protein kinases in 584 general) play important roles in many cellular processes and <sup>585</sup> are involved in a number of types of cancer [49]. For example, a translocation between the TK Abl1 and the pseudok-587 inase Bcr is closely associated with chronic myelogenous see leukemia [50], while mutations of Src are associated with colon, breast, prostate, lung, and pancreatic cancers [51]. Protein kinase domains are thought to have multiple accessible metastable conformation states, and much effort is directed at developing kinase inhibitor drugs which bind to <sup>593</sup> and stabilize inactive conformations [52]. Kinases are thus a particularly interesting subject for study with MSM methods [53], and this approach stands to benefit greatly from the ability to exploit the full body of available genomic and structural data within the kinase family, e.g. by generating <sup>598</sup> large numbers of starting configurations to be used in highly parallel MD simulation.

We selected all human TK domains annotated in UniProt as targets, and all available structures of protein kinase domains (of any species) as templates, using the commands shown in Box 1. This returned 93 target sequences and 4433 template structures, giving a total of 412,269 targettemplate pairs. The templates were derived from 3028 individual PDB entries and encompassed 23 different species, with 3634 template structures from human kinase con-608 structs.

The resultant models are available as part of a supplementary dataset which can be downloaded from the Dryad Digital Repository (DOI: 10.5061/dryad.7fg32).

Figure 2 shows the number of PDB structures available for each of the 93 target TK domains. This illustrates how a wide range of structural data is available for certain TK domains, while for others there is none. **Ensembler** thus helps to overcome this unequal distribution of structural information when building protein models for simulation by exploiting homologous structural data from a wider range of protein kinase domains and species.

# **Ensembler modeling statistics**

Crystallographic structures of kinase catalytic domains For users interested in simply using **Ensembler** to rapidly 622 generally contain a significant number of missing residues generate a set of models for a single template sequence, En- 623 (median 11, mean 14, standard deviation 13, max 102) due to sembler provides a command-line tool quickmode1, which 624 the high mobility of several loops (Fig. 3, top), with a number of these missing spans being significant in length (median 5, umber of templates. For larger numbers of models (such as 626 mean 7, standard deviation 6, max 82; Fig. 3, bottom). To reentire protein families), modeling time is greatly reduced by 627 duce the reliance on the MODELLER rapid model construcusing the main modeling pipeline, which is parallelized via  $_{628}$  tion stage to reconstruct very long unresolved loops, un-MPI, distributing computation across each model (or across 629 resolved template residues were first remodeled using the each template, in the case of the loop reconstruction code), 630 loopmodel subcommand. Out of 3666 templates with one and scaling (in a "pleasantly parallel" manner) up to the 631 or more missing residues, 3134 were successfully remodeled by the Rosetta loop modeling stage (with success de-

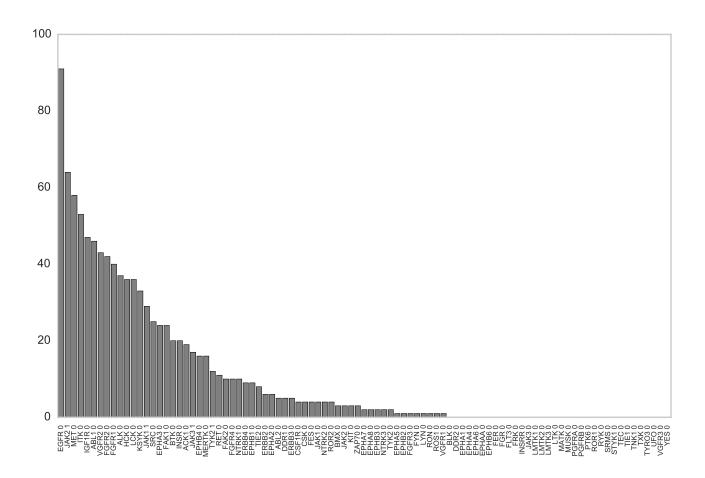


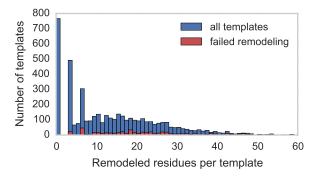
FIG. 2. Number of PDB structures available for each TK target. Data is shown for each of the 93 TK kinase domains. The labels indicate the UniProt name for the target protein plus an index for the kinase domain (three of the selected proteins have two kinase domains). Each PDB chain is counted individually, and only chains which contain the target domain are counted.

```
ensembler gather_targets --query 'family: "tyr protein kinase family" AND organism: "homo sapiens" AND reviewed: yes'
                         --uniprot_domain_regex '^Protein kinase(?!; truncated)(?!; inactive)'
ensembler gather_templates --gather_from uniprot --query 'domain: "Protein kinase" AND reviewed: yes
                           --uniprot_domain_regex '^Protein kinase(?!; truncated)(?!; inactive)'
```

Box 1. Ensembler command-line functions used to select targets and templates. The commands retrieve target and template data by querying UniProt. The query string provided to the gather\_targets command selects all human tyrosine protein kinases which have been reviewed by a curator, while the query string provided to the gather\_templates command selects all reviewed protein kinases of any species. The --uniprot\_domain\_regex flag is used to select a subset of the domains belonging to the returned UniProt protein entries, by matching the domain annotations against a given regular expression. In this example, domains of type "Protein kinase", "Protein kinase 1", and "Protein kinase 2" were selected, while excluding many other domain types such as "Protein kinase; truncated", "Protein kinase; inactive", "SH2", "SH3", etc. Target selection simply entails the selection of sequences corresponding to each matching UniProt domain. Template selection entails the selection of the sequences and structures of any PDB entries corresponding to the matching UniProt domains.

fined simply as program termination without error); most 641 cluding templates with no missing residues). remodeling failures were attributable to unsatisfiable spatial constraints imposed by the original template structure. There was some correlation between remodeling failures and the number of missing residues (Fig. 3, top); templates for which remodeling failed had a median of 20 missing residues, compared to a median of 14 missing residues for 640 templates for which remodeling was successful (when ex-

Following loop remodeling, the **Ensembler** pipeline was 643 performed up to and including the implicit solvent MD refinement stage, which completed with 389,067 (94%) surviving models across all TKs. To obtain statistics for the solvation stage without generating a sizeable amount of coor-647 dinate data (with solvated PDB coordinate files taking up about 0.9 MB each), the solvate subcommand was per-



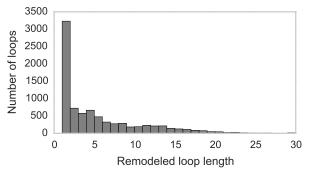


FIG. 3. Distributions for the number of missing residues in the TK templates. Upper: The number of missing residues per template, for all templates (blue) and for only those templates for which template remodeling with the loopmodel subcommand 667 failed (red). Templates for which remodeling failed had a median of 20 missing residues, compared to a median of 14 missing residues for templates for which remodeling was successful. Lower: The number of residues in each missing loop, for all templates.

649 formed for two representative individual kinases (Src and 650 Abl1).

The number of models which survived each stage are 652 shown in Fig. 1, indicating that the greatest attrition occurred during the modeling stage. The number of refined models for each target ranged from 4046 to 4289, with a median of 4185, mean of 4184, and standard deviation of 57. Fig. 1 also indicates the typical timing achieved on a cluster for each stage, showing that the build\_models and refine\_implicit\_md stages are by far the most compute-659 intensive.

The files generated for each model (up to and including 688 the implicit solvent MD refinement stage) totaled ~116 kB in 689 subject the refined models to analysis with MolProbity [45, size, totalling 0.5 GB per TK target or 42 GB for all 93 targets. 690 46]. The MolProbity scores varied from 0.92 to 4.80, with The data generated per model breaks down as 39 kB for the on a median of 3.84, a mean of 3.22, and a standard deviaoutput from the modeling stage (without saving MODELLER 692 tion of 1.07. Lower numbers represent better quality modrestraints files, which are about 397 kB per model) and 77 kB 693 els. When stratified by the same sequence identity ranges for the implicit solvent MD refinement stage.

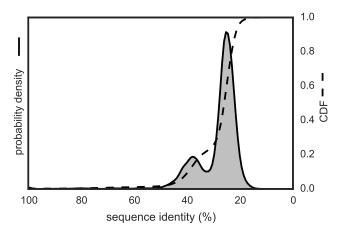


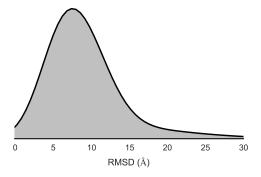
FIG. 4. Template-target sequence identity distribution for human tyrosine kinase catalytic domains. Sequence identities are calculated from all pairwise target-template alignments, where targets are human kinase catalytic domain sequences and templates are all kinase catalytic domains from any organism with structures in the PDB, as described in the text. A kernel density estimate of the target-template sequence identity probability density function is shown as a solid line with shaded region, while the corresponding cumulative distribution function is shown as a dashed

#### Evaluation of model quality and utility

#### All tyrosine kinases

To evaluate the variety of template sequence similarities relative to each target sequence, we calculated sequence identity distributions, as shown in Fig. 4. This suggests an intuitive division into three categories, with 355,712 models in the 0-35% sequence identity range, 51,330 models in the 35–55% range, and 5227 models in the 55–100% range. We then computed the RMSD distributions for the models created for each target (relative to the model derived from the template with highest sequence identity) Fig. 5, to assess the diversity of conformations captured by the mod-679 eling pipeline. Furthermore, to understand the influence of sequence identity on the conformational similarities of the resulting models, the RMSD distributions were stratified based on the three sequence identity categories described above. This analysis indicates that higher sequence identity templates result in models with lower RMSDs, while templates with remote sequence identities result in larger 686 RMSDs on average, recapitulating the observation made 987 years ago by Chothia and Lesk [54].

We also used the ensembler validate subcommand to as above, the mean scores were as follows: 2.96 (55–100%



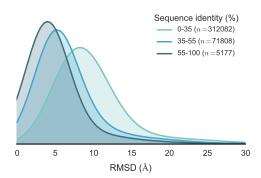


FIG. 5. Distribution of RMSDs to all TK catalytic domain models relative to the model derived from the highest sequence identity template. Distributions are built from data from all 93 TK domain targets. To better illustrate how conformational similarity depends on sequence identity, the lower plot illustrates the distributions as stratified into three sequence identity classes: high identity (55-100%), moderate identity (35-55%), and remote identity (0-35%). The plotted distributions have been smoothed using kernel density estimation.

sequence identity), 3.13 (35-55% sequence identity), 3.24 (0–35% sequence identity). This indicates that models with lower target-template sequence identities tend to be lower pected.

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the end of the implicit solvent MD refinement stage. These ranged from -14180 kT to -3160 kT, with a median of -9501 kT, mean of -9418 kT, and a standard deviation of 1198 kT (with a simulation temperature of 300 K). The distributions stratified using the same sequence identity ranges again are plotted in Fig. 6, indicating that higher sequence identity templates tend to result in slightly lower energy models. 737 tion in loops or changes in domain orientation. Of the 4973 models which failed to complete the implicit resimulation.

Src and Abl1

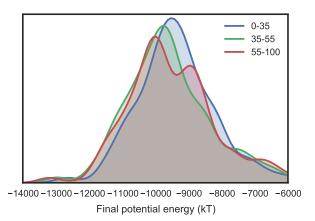


FIG. 6. Distribution of final energies from implicit solvent MD refinement of TK catalytic domain models. To illustrate how the energies are affected by sequence identity, the models are separated into three sequence identity classes: high identity (55–100%). moderate identity (35-55%), and remote identity (0-35%). The plotted distributions have been smoothed using kernel density estimation. Refinement simulations were carried out at the default temperature of 300 K.

TKs (Src and Abl1) in depth. Due to their importance in cancer, these kinases have been the subject of numerous detailed structural and simulation studies. In terms of struc-117 tural data, a large number of crystal structures have been 718 solved (with or without ligands such as nucleotide substrate mimetics or small-molecule inhibitors), revealing a variety 720 of conformations accessible to these kinases. A recent large-721 scale MSM study has also studied the activation pathway of 722 Src [53], while a separate study employed biased sampling 123 techniques to dissect the role of conformational changes in selectivity and affinity of imatinib recognition of Abl [55].

Visualizing model structural diversity. Fig. 7 shows a superposition of a set of representative models of Src and Abl1. Models were first stratified into three ranges, based on quality according to MolProbity analysis, as would be ex- 728 the structure of the sequence identity distribution (Fig. 4),  $_{729}$  then subjected to RMSD-based k-medoids clustering (using We also analyzed the potential energies of the models at 730 the msmbuilder clustering package [18]) to pick three repre-<sub>731</sub> sentative models from each sequence identity range. Each model is colored and given a transparency based on the seguence identity between the target and template sequence. The figure gives an idea of the variance present in the genrase erated models. High sequence identity models (in opaque blue) tend to be quite structurally similar, with some varia-

The Abl1 renderings in Fig. 7 indicate one high sequence finement MD stage, all except 9 failed within the first 1 ps of 739 identity model with a long unstructured region at one of the termini, which was unresolved in the original template 741 structure. While such models are not necessarily incorrect or undesirable, it is important to be aware of the effects they may have on production simulations performed under periodic boundary conditions, as long unstructured termini can To provide a more detailed evaluation of the variety and 745 be prone to interact with a protein's periodic image. Lower 713 utility of generated models, we have analyzed two specific 746 sequence identity models (in transparent white or red) in-

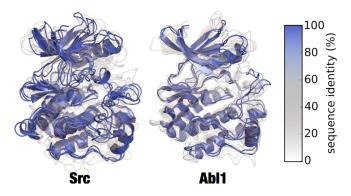


FIG. 7. Superposition of clustered models of Src and Abl1. Superposed renderings of nine models each for Src and Abl1, giving some indication the diversity of conformations generated by Ensembler. The models for each target were divided into three sequence identity ranges (as in Fig. 5), and RMSD-based k-medoids clustering was performed (using the msmbuilder clustering package [18]) to select three clusters from each. The models shown are the centroids of each cluster. Models are colored and given transparency based on their sequence identity, so that high sequence identity models are blue and opaque, while lower sequence identity models are transparent and red.

dicate much greater variation in all parts of the structure. We believe the mix of high and low sequence identity models to be particularly useful for methods such as MSM building, which require thorough sampling of the conformational landscape. The high sequence identity models could be considered to be the most likely to accurately represent true metastable states. Conversely, the lower sequence identity models could be expected to help push a simulation into regions of conformation space which might take intractably long to reach if starting a single metastable conformation.

Comparison with known biochemically relevant conformations. To evaluate the models of Src and Abl1 in the context of the published structural biology literature on functionally relevant conformations, we have focused on two residue pair distances thought to be important order arameters for the regulation of protein kinase domain activity. We use the residue numbering schemes for chicken Src (commonly employed in the literature even in reference to human Src) [56, 57] and human Abl1 isoform A [58–60] respectively; the exact numbering schemes are provided in 795 Appendix 1.

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Fig. 8 shows two structures of Src believed to represent inactive (PDB code: 2SRC) [56] and active (PDB code: 1Y57) [57] states. One notable feature which distinguishes 797 a number of experimental and simulation studies have sug- 802 Box 2. 779 between these two residue pairs for the **Ensembler** mod- 806 from the GitHub repository, which also contains up-to-date

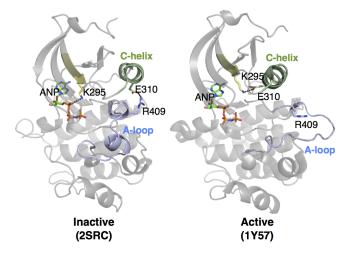


FIG. 8. Two structures of Src, indicating certain residues involved in activation. In the inactive state, E310 forms a salt bridge with R409. During activation, the  $\alpha$ C-helix (green) moves and rotates, orienting E310 towards the ATP-binding site and allowing it to instead form a salt bridge with K295. This positions K295 in the appropriate position for catalysis. Note that ANP (phosphoaminophosphonic acid-adenylate ester; an analog of ATP) is only physically present in the 2SRC structure. To aid visualization of the active site in 1Y57, it has been included in the rendering by structurally aligning the surrounding homologous protein residues.

781 show strong coverage of regions in which either of the elec-182 trostatic interactions is fully formed (for models across all levels of target-template sequence identity), as well as a wide range of regions in-between (mainly models with low sequence identity). We thus expect that such a set of models, if used as starting configurations for highly parallel MD 787 simulation, could greatly aid in sampling of functionally rel-788 evant conformational states. The Flt4 models are of particular note, as there are no available crystal structures of the kinase domain of this TK protein (which is involved in 791 tumor angiogenesis and lymphangiogenesis [64]), yet the models generated here include structural motifs which are conserved and of known importance to other proteins of the 794 same family.

# **AVAILABILITY AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

# **Availability**

The code for **Ensembler** is hosted on the collaborathe two structures is the transfer of an electrostatic inter- 798 tive open source software development platform GitHub action of E310 from R409 (in the inactive state) to K295 (in 799 (github.com/choderalab/ensembler). The latest release can the active state), brought about by a rotation of the lphaC-  $_{ text{800}}$  be installed via the conda package manager for Python helix. These three residues are also well conserved [61], and soi (conda.pydata.org), using the two commands shown in This will install all dependencies except for gested that this electrostatic switching process plays a role 803 MODELLER and Rosetta, which are not available through the in a regulatory mechanism shared across the protein kinase 804 conda package manager, and thus must be installed sepfamily [53, 62, 63]. As such, we have plotted the distance 805 arately by the user. The latest source can be downloaded 780 els for Src and Abl1, as well as Flt4 (Fig. 9). The models all 807 instructions for building and installing the code. Documen-

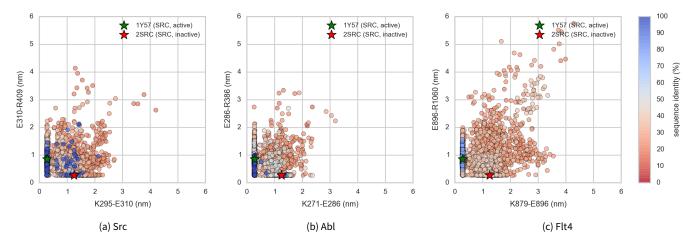


FIG. 9. Src, Abl1, and Flt4 models projected onto the distances between two conserved residue pairs, colored by sequence identity. Two Src structures (PDB entries 1Y57 [57] and 2SRC [56]) are projected onto the plots for reference, representing active and inactive states respectively. These structures and the residue pairs analyzed here are depicted in Fig. 8. Distances are measured between the center of masses of the three terminal sidechain heavy atoms of each residue. The atom names for these atoms, according to the PDB coordinate files for both reference structures, are—Lys: NZ, CD, CE (ethylamine); Glu: OE1, CD, OE2 (carboxylate); Arg: NH1, CZ, NH2 (part of guanidine).

conda config -add channels https://conda.binstar.org/omnia conda install ensembler

#### Box 2. Ensembler installation using conda.

tation can be found at ensembler.readthedocs.org.

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A supplementary dataset can also be downloaded from 810 the Dryad Digital Repository (DOI: 10.5061/dryad.7fg32). This contains the TK models described in the III section, general information on the targets and templates, plus a script and instructions for regenerating the same dataset.

#### **Future Directions**

We recognize that the current version of **Ensembler** has number of limitations that bound its domain of applicability: support for nonnatural amino acids is currently rudimentary and confined to those already appearing in the forcefield; cofactors cannot currently be automatically modeled in; ligands, cofactors, and nonnatural amino acids cannot yet be automatically parameterized; protonation state assignment is limited to selection of the most populated state based on the intrinsic p $K_a$  or user-specified over-824 rides; the modeling of missing loops is rudimentary, relyng on the subsequent dynamics for relaxation; there is not et support for modeling of distinct domains from different 832 ditions and improvements which we plan to implement in 867 important regulatory mechanism [65]—is controlled by pro-833 future versions of **Ensembler**.

**Template remodeling.** The lack of crystallographicallyresolved regions of template structures presents a challenge to deriving structures from these templates by comparative modeling, especially in kinases, where loops are frequently unresolved. Improvements over the Rosettabased strategy described here are likely possible, especially given the number of modeling failures observed in the template refinement stage (Fig. 3). An alternative approach could be to re-refine complete-chain template structures to the experimentally-derived electron density or scatter-844 ing data deposited in the RCSB using methods capable of exploiting the scattering data and crystallographic symme-846 try [? ]. Even if definitive placement of these unresolved 847 regions is impossible, plausible locations constrained by 848 weak scattering data and strong steric exclusion of crystal-849 lographic neighbors may provide a great deal of useful infor-850 mation, especially when combined with forcefield priors [?

**Comparative modeling.** Comparative protein modeling sss can be approached in a number of different ways, with varying degrees of complexity. The comparative modeling stage 855 of **Ensembler** currently uses MODELLER, but a number of 856 excellent alternatives—such as RosettaCM [13] and the I-857 TASSER Suite [14]—can be added as user-selectable alter-858 native choices. Additional options could be added to allow more expensive loop-modeling approaches to be employed to handle long insertions.

**Protonation states.** Some amino acids can exist in diftemplates, or the use of multiple templates to model a sin- 862 ferent protonation states, depending on pH and on their gle domain. Nevertheless, there are a great number of use sea local environment. These protonation states can have imcases for this first version of an automated tool for simula- 864 portant effects on biological processes. For example, long tion preparation at the superfamily scale. To expand this 855 timescale MD simulations have suggested that the confordomain of applicability, there are a number of obvious ad- 866 mation of the DFG motif of the TK Abl1—believed to be an tonation of the aspartate [66]. Currently, protonation states 869 are assigned simply based on pH (a user-controllable pa- 927 sertions or deletions. For example, the set of all human prorameter). At neutral pH, histidines have two protonation 928 tein kinase domains listed in UniProt have a median length states which are approximately equally likely, and in this sit- 929 of 265 residues (mean 277) and a standard deviation of 45, uation the selection is therefore made based on which state 930 yet the minimum and maximum lengths are 102 and 801 reresults in a better hydrogen bond. It would be highly de- 931 spectively. The latter value corresponds to the protein kisirable to instead use a method which assigns amino acid 932 nase domain of serine/threonine-kinase greatwall, which protonation states based on a rigorous assessment of the 933 includes a long insertion between the two main lobes of local environment. We thus plan to implement an inter- 934 the catalytic domain. In principle, such insertions could be face and command-line function for assigning protonation 935 excluded from the generated models, though a number of states with MCCE2 [67–69], which uses electrostatics calcu- 936 questions would arise as to how best to approach this. lations combined with Monte Carlo sampling of side chain 937 conformers to calculate pKa values.

teins require the presence of various types of non-protein 940 els (MSMs) [8, 10]. While the observation that high seatoms and molecules for proper function, such as metal ions 941 quence identity templates are likely to reflect accessible (e.g. Mg<sup>+2</sup>), cofactors (e.g. ATP) or post-translational modi- 942 solution-phase conformations suggests that a number of fications (e.g. phosphorylation, methylation, glycosylation, 943 these models occupy thermally accessible regions of conetc.), and we thus plan for Ensembler to eventually have 944 figuration space [16], many models—especially those dethe capability to include such entities in the generated mod- 945 rived from very low sequence identity templates—are likely els. Binding sites for metal ions are frequently found in pro- 946 to be highly unrepresentative of conformations populated teins, often playing a role in catalysis. For example, pro- 947 at equilibrium by the target protein. It is likely that even tein kinase domains contain two binding sites for divalent 948 with hundreds of microseconds to milliseconds of aggremetal cations, and display significantly increased activity in 949 gated dynamics, many of these poor quality models will rethe presence of Mg<sup>2+</sup> [70], the divalent cation with highest 950 main trapped in inaccessible and irrelevant regions of conconcentration in mammalian cells. Metal ions are often not 951 figuration space. Standard approaches to MSM construction ing into account the full range of available structural data, 896 it should be possible in many cases to include metal ions 954 step is expected to be essential in the successful construcbased on the structures of homologous proteins. We are 955 tion of MSMs using **Ensembler**-derived models. ses careful to point out, however, that metal ion parameters in classical MD force fields have significant limitations, particılarly in their interactions with proteins [71]. Cofactors and 956 post-translational modifications are also often not fully resolved in experimental structures, and endogenous cofactors are frequently substituted with other molecules to facilitate experimental structural analysis. Future extensions 959 to **Ensembler** could transfer cofactor and ion coordinates from homologous proteins in which these components are

nolecules without forcefield parameters. A major challenge in the preparation of simulations of proteins of interest is the wide variety of post-translational modifications possible that are often functionally or structurally relevant. Often, forcefields lack parameters for these residues, or for other cofactors or ligands that might be vital to probing the relevant structural dynamics of these systems. While tools such as Antechamber [72, 73] can rapidly generate small molecule parameters in an automated manner, the parameterization of polymeric residues or covalently attached cofactors is much more challenging. In addition, small molecule forcefields are generally tied to specific coresponding protein and nucleic acid forcefields, meaning that different procedures may be needed to generate consistent parameters.

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the present version of **Ensembler** involves the treatment of 977 sistance with MCCE2, as well as the anonymous referees for 926 members of a protein family with especially long residue in- 978 constructive feedback on this manuscript. All authors ac-

Markov state model (MSM) construction and model 938 utility. We are actively utilizing Ensembler-generated Cofactors, structural ions, and ligands. Many pro- 939 models to seed the construction of Markov state modresolved in experimental structures of proteins, but by tak- 952 now employ an ergodic trimming step [18, 19] to prune away 953 disconnected minor regions of configuration space, and this

#### Conclusion

We believe **Ensembler** to be an important first step to-958 ward enabling computational modeling and simulation of proteins on the scale of entire protein families, and suggest that it could likely prove useful for tasks beyond its original aim of providing diverse starting configurations for MD sim-<sub>962</sub> ulations. The code is open source and has been developed Post-translationally modified amino acids and other saw with extensibility in mind, in order to facilitate its customiza-1964 tion for a wide range of potential uses by the wider scientific 965 community.

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# Appendix 1: Sequences and residue numbering schemes for Src and Abl1

Kinase catalytic domains are highlighted in red, and the conserved residues analyzed in the main text (Figs. 8 and 9) are highlighted with yellow background.

# Human Abl1 sequence

1161	1	${\tt MLEICLKLVG}$	CKSKKGLSSS	SSCYLEEALQ	RPVASDFEPQ	${\tt GLSEAARWNS}$	KENLLAGPSE	60
1162	61	${\tt NDPNLFVALY}$	${\tt DFVASGDNTL}$	SITKGEKLRV	LGYNHNGEWC	EAQTKNGQGW	VPSNYITPVN	120
1163	121	SLEKHSWYHG	${\tt PVSRNAAEYL}$	LSSGINGSFL	VRESESSPGQ	${\tt RSISLRYEGR}$	VYHYRINTAS	180
1164	181	DGKLYVSSES	${\tt RFNTLAELVH}$	${\tt HHSTVADGLI}$	TTLHYPAPKR	${\tt NKPTVYGVSP}$	NYDKWEMERT	240
1165	241	DITMKHKLGG	GQYGEVYEGV	WKKYSLTVAV	<b>K</b> TLKEDTMEV	$EEFLK_{E}AAVM$	KEIKHPNLVQ	300
1166	301	LLGVCTREPP	${\tt FYIITEFMTY}$	GNLLDYLREC	NRQEVNAVVL	LYMATQISSA	MEYLEKKNFI	360
1167	361	HRDLAARNCL	VGENHLVKVA	$\mathtt{DFGLS}^{\mathbf{R}}\mathtt{LMTG}$	DTYTAHAGAK	FPIKWTAPES	LAYNKFSIKS	420
1168	421	DVWAFGVLLW	EIATYGMSPY	PGIDLSQVYE	LLEKDYRMER	${\tt PEGCPEKVYE}$	LMRACWQWNP	480
1169	481	SDRPSFAEIH	<b>QAF</b> ETMFQES	SISDEVEKEL	GKQGVRGAVS	TLLQAPELPT	KTRTSRRAAE	540
1170	541	${\tt HRDTTDVPEM}$	${\tt PHSKGQGESD}$	${\tt PLDHEPAVSP}$	LLPRKERGPP	${\tt EGGLNEDERL}$	LPKDKKTNLF	600
1171	601	SALIKKKKKT	${\tt APTPPKRSSS}$	${\tt FREMDGQPER}$	${\tt RGAGEEEGRD}$	ISNGALAFTP	LDTADPAKSP	660
1172	661	KPSNGAGVPN	${\tt GALRESGGSG}$	${\tt FRSPHLWKKS}$	STLTSSRLAT	${\tt GEEEGGGSSS}$	KRFLRSCSAS	720
1173	721	${\tt CVPHGAKDTE}$	${\tt WRSVTLPRDL}$	QSTGRQFDSS	TFGGHKSEKP	${\tt ALPRKRAGEN}$	RSDQVTRGTV	780
1174	781	${\tt TPPPRLVKKN}$	${\tt EEAADEVFKD}$	IMESSPGSSP	${\tt PNLTPKPLRR}$	QVTVAPASGL	PHKEEAGKGS	840
1175	841	ALGTPAAAEP	VTPTSKAGSG	${\tt APGGTSKGPA}$	EESRVRRHKH	${\tt SSESPGRDKG}$	KLSRLKPAPP	900
1176	901	PPPAASAGKA	${\tt GGKPSQSPSQ}$	EAAGEAVLGA	KTKATSLVDA	${\tt VNSDAAKPSQ}$	PGEGLKKPVL	960
1177	961	${\tt PATPKPQSAK}$	${\tt PSGTPISPAP}$	VPSTLPSASS	ALAGDQPSST	${\tt AFIPLISTRV}$	SLRKTRQPPE	1020
1178	1021			•	ASHSAVLEAG		VDSIQQMRNK	1080
1179	1081	${\tt FAFREAINKL}$	ENNLRELQIC	${\tt PATAGSGPAA}$	TQDFSKLLSS	VKEISDIVQR		1130

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# Sequences for human and chicken Src, aligned using Clustal Omega

118	SRC_HUMAN	1	MGSNKSKPKD	ASQRRRSLEP	AENVHGAGGG	AFPASQTPSK	PASADGHRGP	SAAFAPAAAE	60
118	SRC_CHICK	1	${\tt MGSSKSKPKD}$	PSQRRRSLEP	PDSTHHG	GFPASQTPNK	${\tt TAAPDTHRTP}$	SRSFGTVATE	57
118	3		***.*****	******	:* *	.******	*: * ** *	* :**:*	
118	SRC_HUMAN	61	PKLFGGFNSS	DTVTSPQRAG	${\tt PLAGGVTTFV}$	ALYDYESRTE	TDLSFKKGER	LQIVNNTEGD	120
118	SRC_CHICK	58	PKLFGGFNTS	DTVTSPQRAG	ALAGGVTTFV	ALYDYESRTE	TDLSFKKGER	LQIVNNTEGD	117
118	ŝ		******	******	******	******	******	*****	
118	SRC_HUMAN	121	WWLAHSLSTG	QTGYIPSNYV	APSDSIQAEE	WYFGKITRRE	SERLLLNAEN	PRGTFLVRES	180
118	SRC_CHICK	118	WWLAHSLTTG	QTGYIPSNYV	APSDSIQAEE	WYFGKITRRE	SERLLLNPEN	PRGTFLVRES	177
118	)		******:**	******	******	******	***** **	*****	
119	SRC_HUMAN	181	ETTKGAYCLS	VSDFDNAKGL	NVKHYKIRKL	DSGGFYITSR	TQFNSLQQLV	AYYSKHADGL	240
119	SRC_CHICK	178	ETTKGAYCLS	VSDFDNAKGL	NVKHYKIRKL	DSGGFYITSR	TQFSSLQQLV	AYYSKHADGL	237
119	2		******	******	******	******	***.****	******	
119	SRC_HUMAN	241	CHRLTTVCPT	SKPQTQGLAK	DAWEIPRESL	RLEVKLGQGC	FGEVWMGTWN	GTTRVAIKTL	300
119	SRC_CHICK	238	CHRLTNVCPT	SKPQTQGLAK	DAWEIPRESL	RLEVKLGQGC	FGEVWMGTWN	GTTRVAIKTL	297
119	5		*****	*****	*****	******	*****	*****	
119	SRC_HUMAN	301	KPGTMSPEAF	LQEAQVMKKL	RHEKLVQLYA	VVSEEPIYIV	TEYMSKGSLL	DFLKGETGKY	360
119	SRC_CHICK	298	KPGTMSPEAF	LQEAQVMKKL	RHEKLVQLYA	VVSEEPIYIV	TEYMSKGSLL	DFLKGEMGKY	357
119	3		******	******	******	******	******	*****	
119	SRC_HUMAN	361	LRLPQLVDMA	AQIASGMAYV	ERMNYVHRDL	RAANILVGEN	LVCKVADFGL	<b>AR</b> LIEDNEYT	420
120	SRC_CHICK	358	LRLPQLVDMA	AQIASGMAYV	ERMNYVHRDL	RAANILVGEN	LVCKVADFGL	<b>AR</b> LIEDNEYT	417
120	1		******	******	******	******	******	******	
120	SRC_HUMAN	421	ARQGAKFPIK	WTAPEAALYG	RFTIKSDVWS	FGILLTELTT	KGRVPYPGMV	NREVLDQVER	480
120	SRC_CHICK	418	ARQGAKFPIK	WTAPEAALYG	RFTIKSDVWS	FGILLTELTT	KGRVPYPGMV	NREVLDQVER	477
120	1		******	******	******	******	******	******	
120	SRC_HUMAN	481	GYRMPCPPEC	PESLHDLMCQ	CWRKEPEERP	TFEYLQAFLE	DYFTSTEPQY	QPGENL	536
120	SRC_CHICK	478	GYRMPCPPEC	PESLHDLMCQ	CWRKDPEERP	TFEYLQAFLE	DYFTSTEPQY	QPGENL	533
120	7		******	******	****:****	******	******	*****	