

# Protein Molecules A Kinematics Perspective

Kazem Kazerounian & Horea Ilies

*Mechanical Engineering  
University of Connecticut  
Storrs, CT 06269-3139*

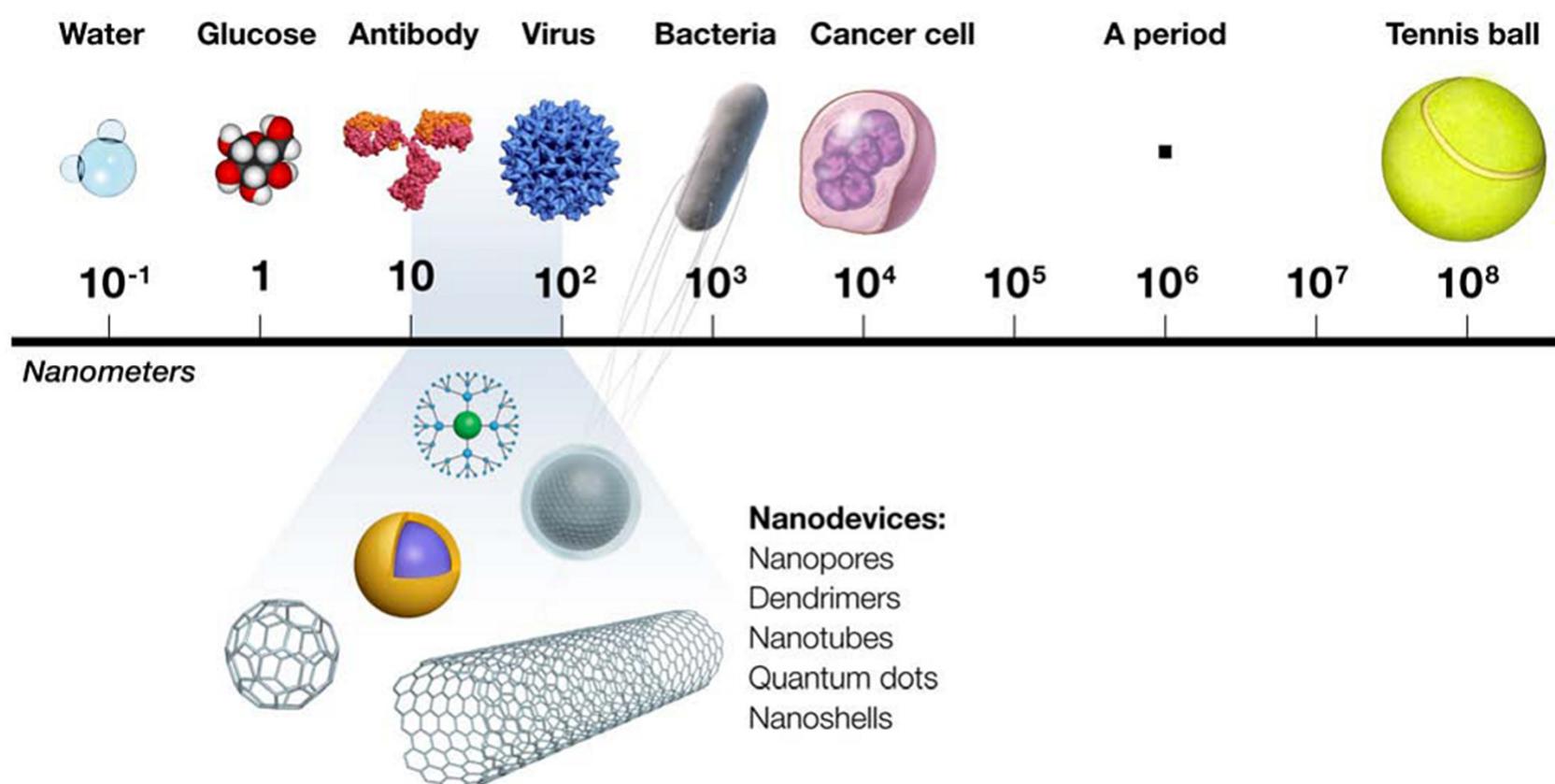
Acknowledgements:  
NSF SGER 0733107  
NSF CMMI 0856401

## National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)

- ... the ability to create, control and manipulate organized matter at nanoscales will lead to an industrial and technological revolution.
- ... one of the *strategic national priorities* identified in the NSTC report is the development of “new mathematical and simulation capabilities and tools with high spatial and temporal resolution to guide experimental investigations” at nanoscale.

# Nano Mechanisms and Sensors

Devices that are in size in billionth of meters ( $10^{-9}$  m) and therefore are built necessarily from atoms.



# Nano Mechanisms and Sensors

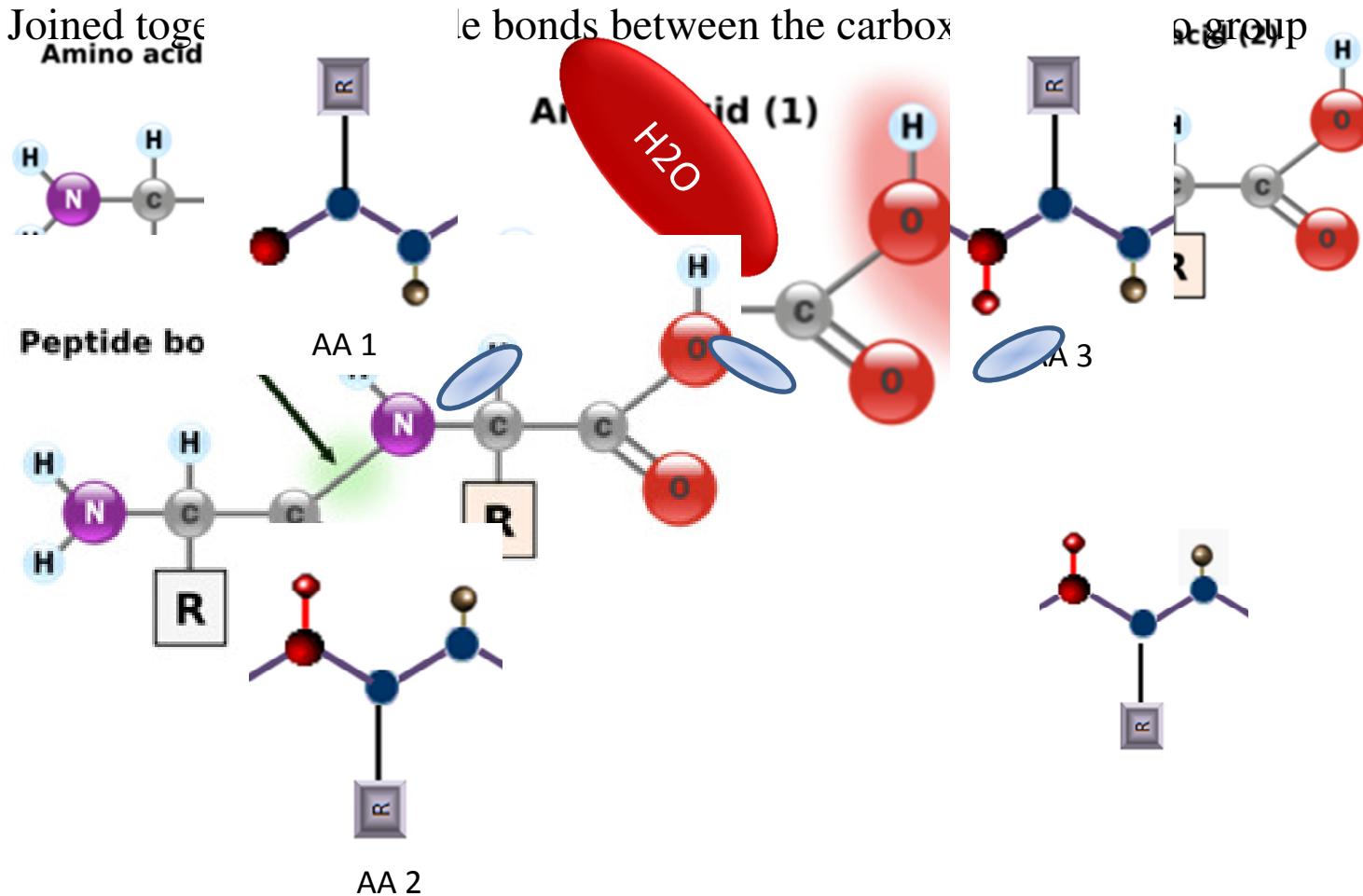
- These devices will have intrinsic mobility that results in their geometry change and hence enable them to perform specific functions.
- Proteins are the nano machines of choice for evolution.

# Introduction to Protein Structures

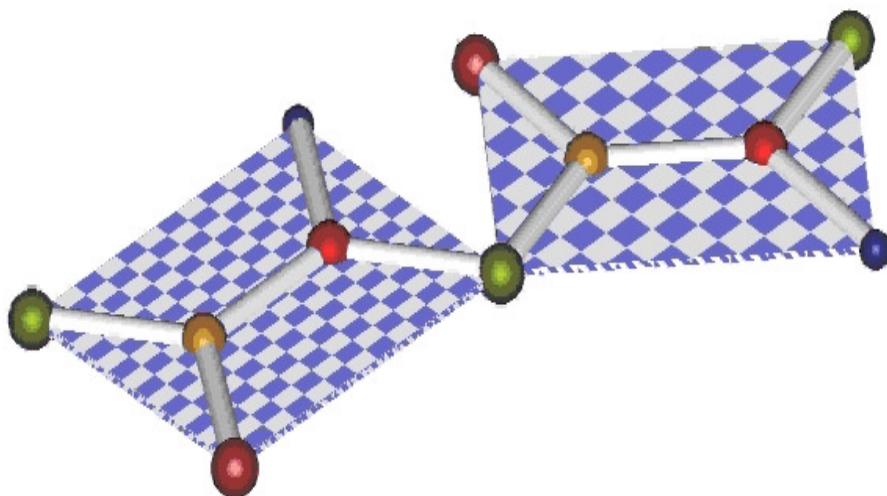
LEARN MORE AT:  
<http://protofold.engr.uconn.edu>

# Introduction - Protein Structures

- Large Organic Molecules
- Made of Amino Acids arranged in a linear chain
- Joined together by peptide bonds between the carboxyl groups

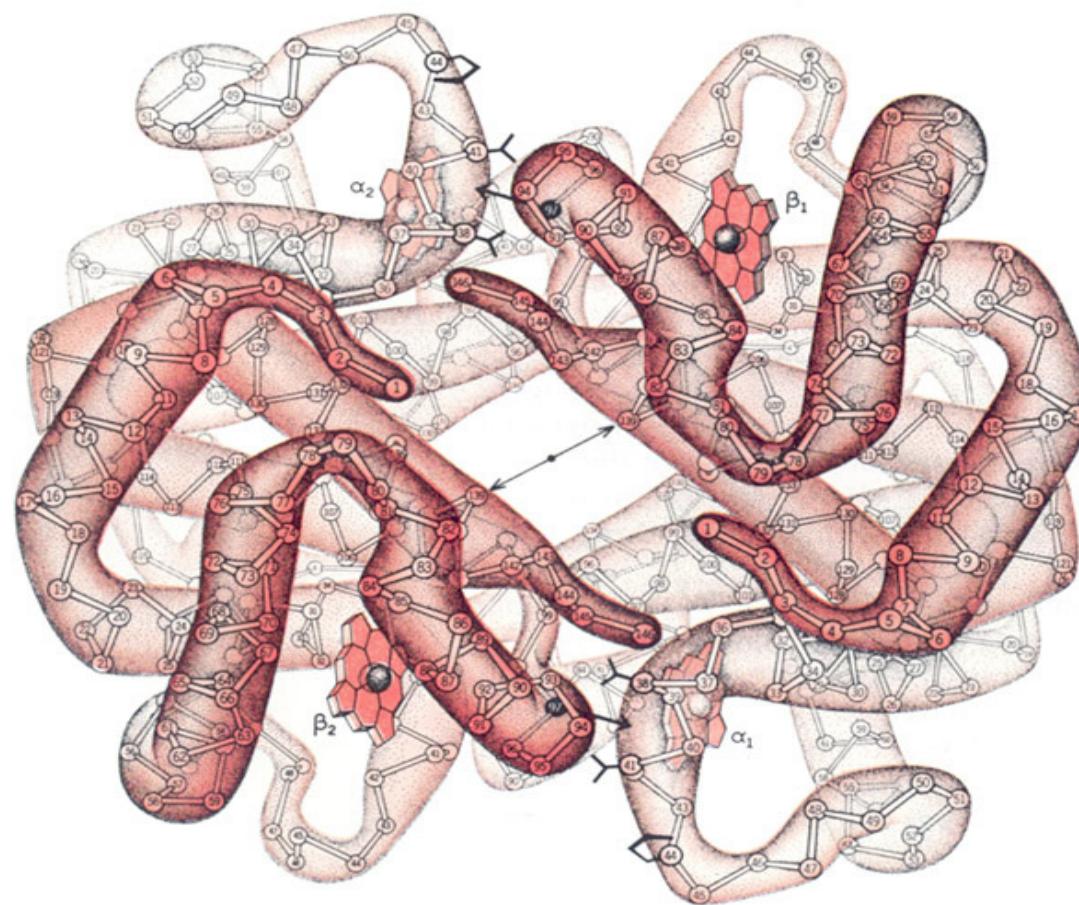


# Amino Acids DOF



# Example of a protein structure

## *hemoglobin*

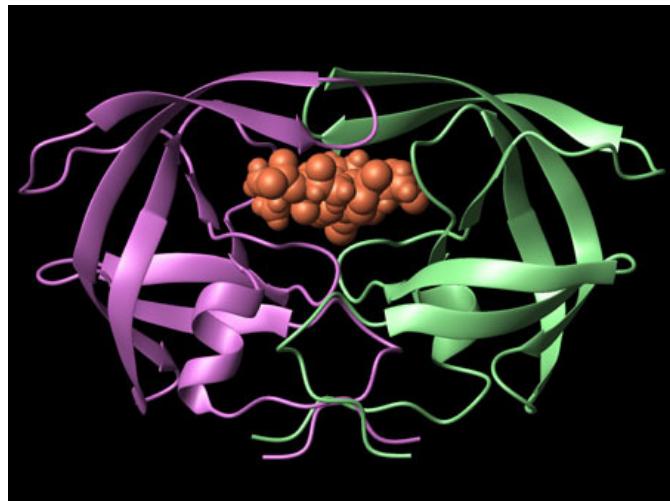


(From Campbell M. 1991)

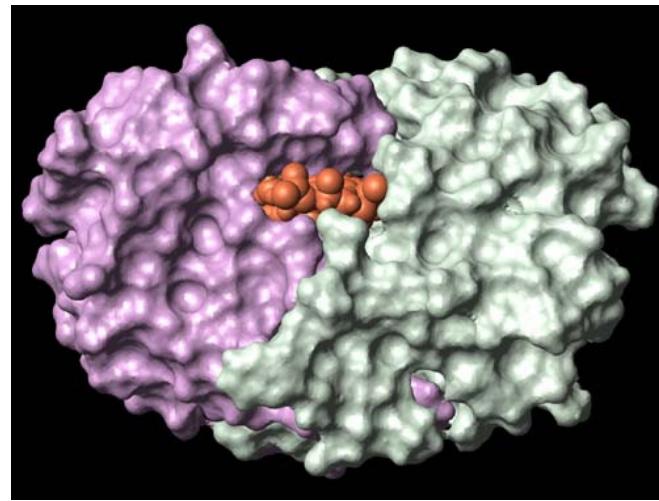
# Protein Function

*(protein docking) → key and lock*

HIV-1 protease bound to an inhibitor



Cartoon representation



Surface representation

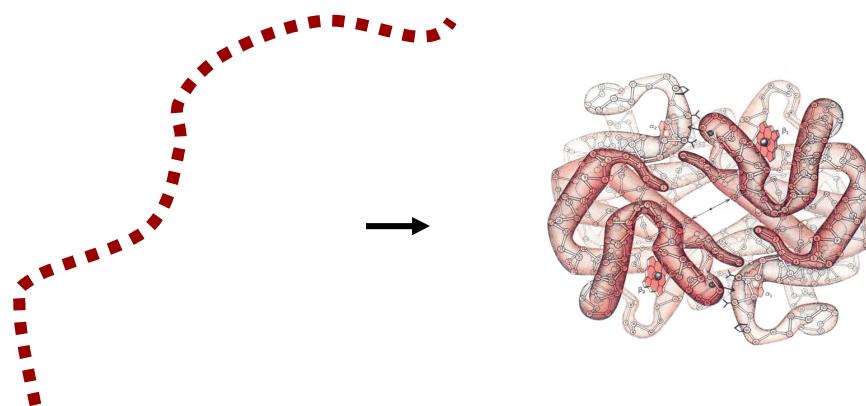
# Protein Function

## Induced fit:

Sometimes a small flexibility and compliance is needed in both the lock and the key (*receptor* and the *ligand*) for the protein *docking* to take place.

# Protein Folding (Conformation)

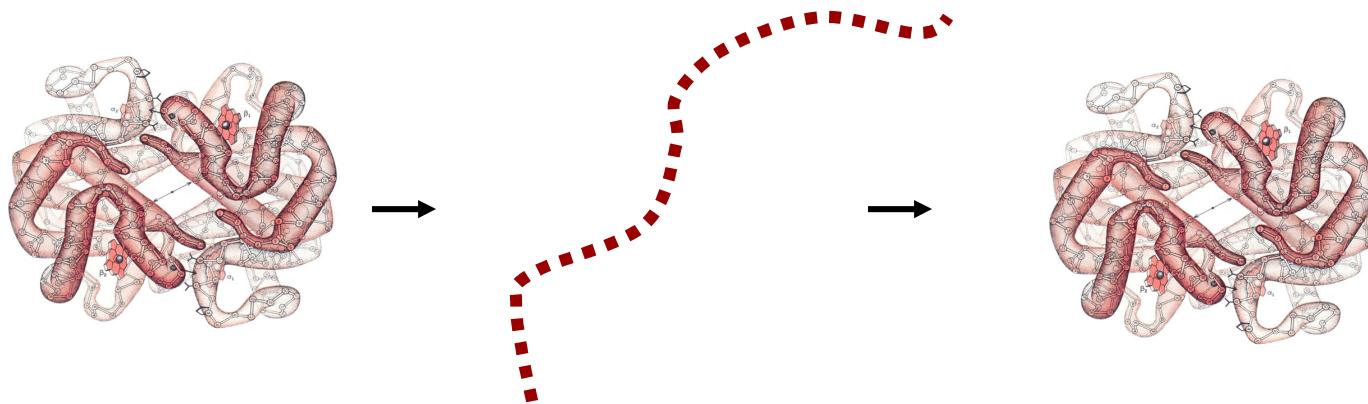
- *The folding occurs under the effect of nuclear forces (among protein atoms as well as between protein atoms and the solvent's atoms).*
- *The final conformation is a relatively stable configuration for which the total potential energy is globally minimized.*



# Protein Folding (Conformation)

The final three dimensional structure (*secondary structure*) of the protein is intrinsic to its *primary structure*

*Native state → Denatured state → native state*



# Prediction of Protein Fold

- To date, the structure of about 70,000 proteins are experimentally observed (either through x-ray crystallography or Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) technologies.
- There are an estimated 200,000 proteins in the human body. Many of these, due to their complicated structure or denaturing tendencies in crystallization, will not be accurately determined with current technologies.

# Prediction of Protein Fold

3 major categories of methods for predicting protein folding:

1. Comparative modeling,

- significant similarity between the primary structure (sequence) of protein of interest and a protein of already known structure : predicted structure is assumed to have significant similarities to the know structure.

2. Fold recognition

- no significant sequence similarity, but the target proteins structure turns out to have similar structural aspects to a known protein

3. *ab initio* methods.

- does not assume a priori knowledge of the structure, and attempts to predict the final fold based on the principles of physics in conjunction with various optimization and computational techniques.

# **Prediction of Protein Fold**

## **“The Grand Challenge”**

**Despite more than 50 years of intense work on this subject, the protein prediction problem remains largely unsolved.**





- Model
- Notation
- Direct Kinematics
- Inverse Kinematics
- Geometry agents
- Conformation prediction
- Force field model

- Benchmarking
- Parametric Calibrations
- Mobility Analysis
- Workspace analysis
- Mechanical Compliance
- Computer Aided Design (CAD)
- Energy maps

**<http://protofold.engr.uconn.edu>**

http://protofold.engr.uconn.edu

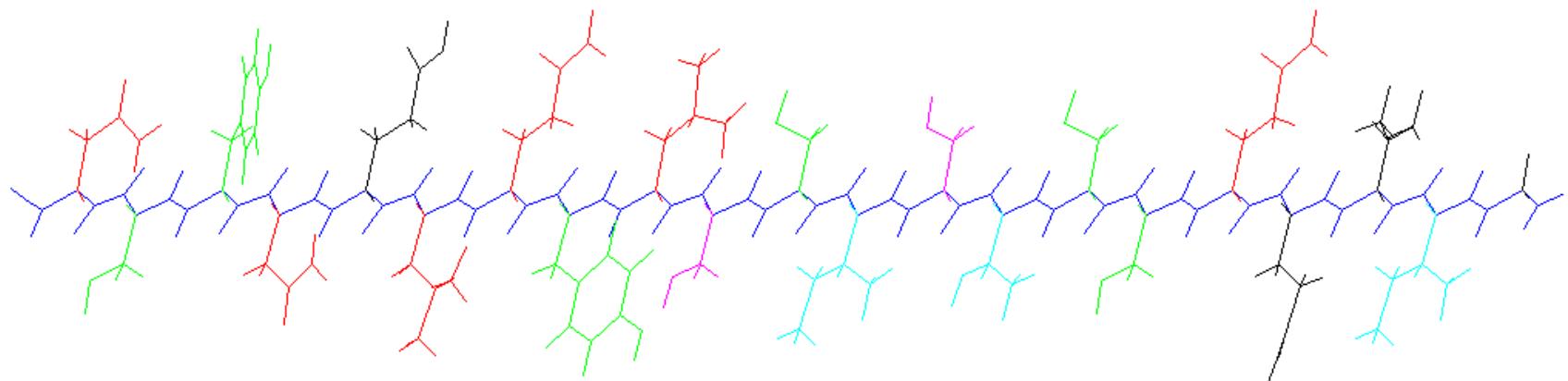
# **Kinematic Model**

***notation and formulation***

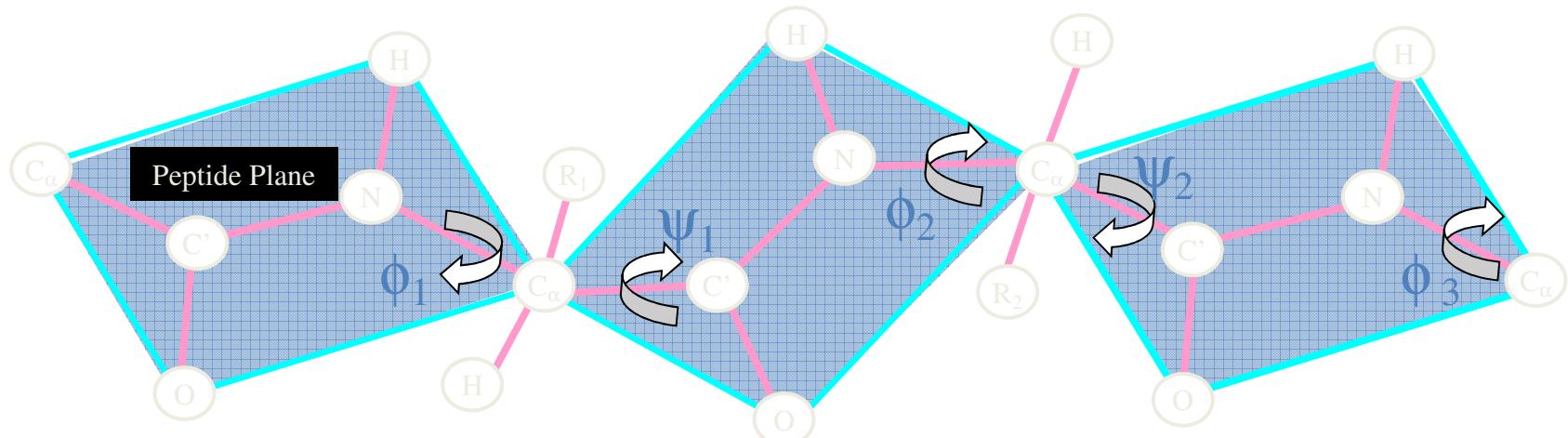
LEARN MORE AT:  
<http://protofold.engr.uconn.edu>

# Protein Kinematic Model

Multi branch serial linkage of many nano rigid bodies connected by revolute joints



- protein in *denatured state*:  
serial linkage with  $N+1$  solid links connected by  $N$  revolute joints.
- The side chains are shorter serial linkages with anywhere between zero to a few revolute joints connected to the main links of the serial linkage (back bone).



# Notation

- **Commonly used method:** Cartesians coordinates of the atoms
- **Potentially useful methods:**
  - Denavit-Hartenberg notation (1955),
  - Vector notation and analysis (Chase, M. 1964),
  - Tensor methods (Kislitsin A. P.1954; Osman & Mansour1971),
  - Screw coordinates (Yuan and Freudenstein, 1971),
  - Dual numbers (Yang and Freudenstien, 964),
  - Quaternion operators (Sandor, 1968),
  - Constant distance equation method (Osman and Sergev, 1972),
  - Spherical trigonometry method (Duffy, 1980),
  - Zero Position Method (Gupta, 1984) and
  - Train components method (Osman *et al*, 1981).

# Notation

- Computational Cost Comparison of Rotation Operators
  - 1) Rotation Matrix

$$\vec{b}_j = R_{1-N} * \vec{b}_{0j}$$

- 2) Quaternions

$$\vec{b}_j = q_{1-N} * \vec{b}_{0j} * {q_{1-N}}^{-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{b}_j = Q_{1-N} * \vec{b}_{0j}$$

- 3) Rodrigues

$$\vec{r}_j = \vec{r}_{0j} \cos(\phi_j) + \vec{u}_j \times \vec{r}_{0j} \sin(\phi_j) + (\vec{r}_{0j} \bullet \vec{u}_j) \vec{u}_j (1 - \cos(\phi_j))$$

- Direct Kinematics of a Protein molecule
- Dynamic Simulation of Protein Folding

# Results of Computational Cost Comparison of Rotation Operators

Rotation Matrix ( $N$ =number of joints,  $M_j$ =number of atoms in side chain  $j$ )

$$\sum_{i=1}^N 25 + \sum_{i=2}^N 45 + \sum_{j=1}^M 15M_j$$

or  $70N - 45 + \sum_{j=1}^M 15M_j$

Quaternions

$$\sum_{i=1}^N 6 + \sum_{i=2}^N 28 + \sum_{j=1}^M 41M_j$$

or  $34N - 28 + \sum_{j=1}^M 15M_j$

Quaternion Matrix

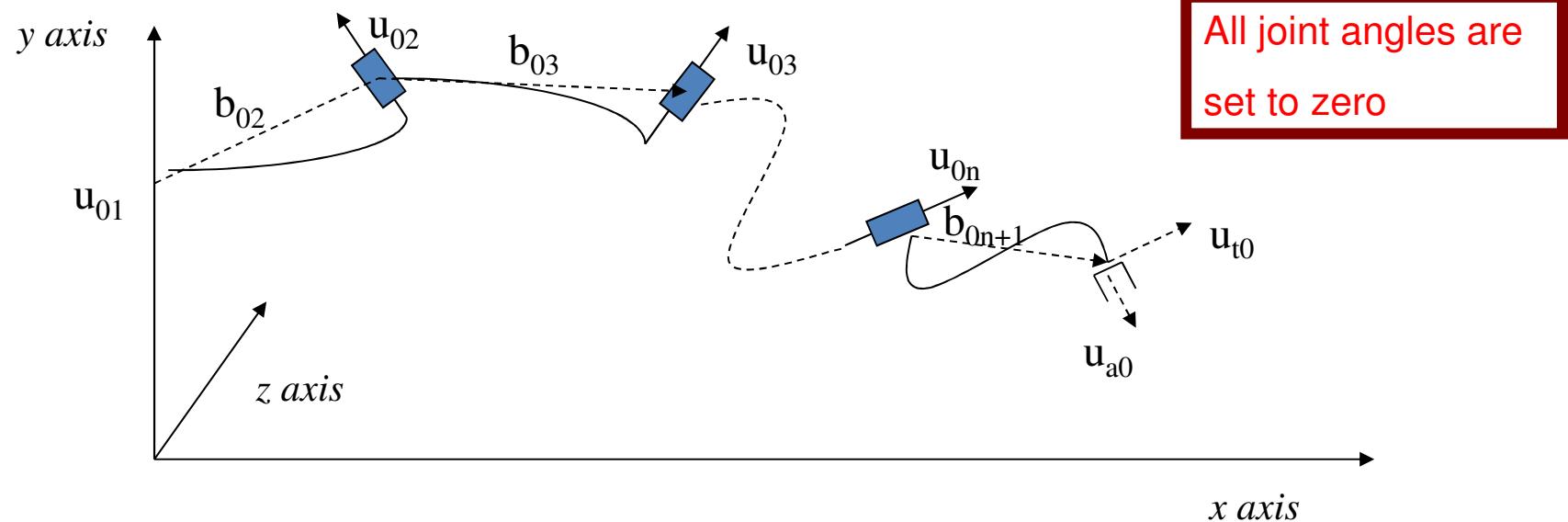
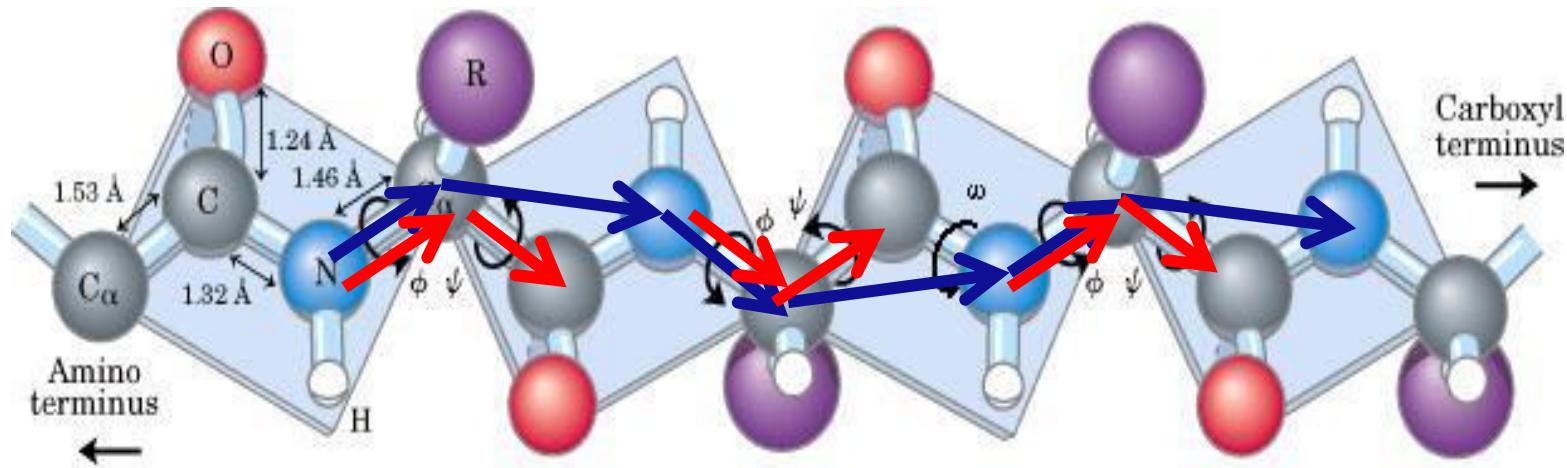
$$\sum_{i=1}^N 29 + \sum_{i=2}^N 45 + \sum_{j=1}^M 15M_j$$

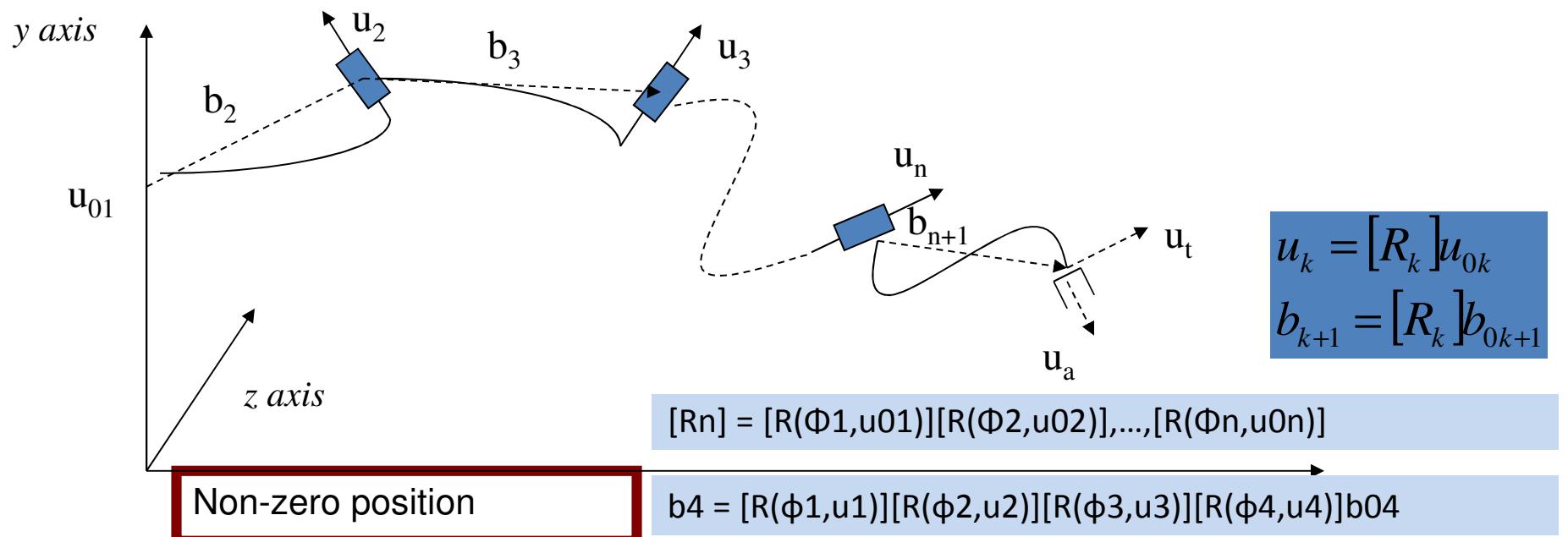
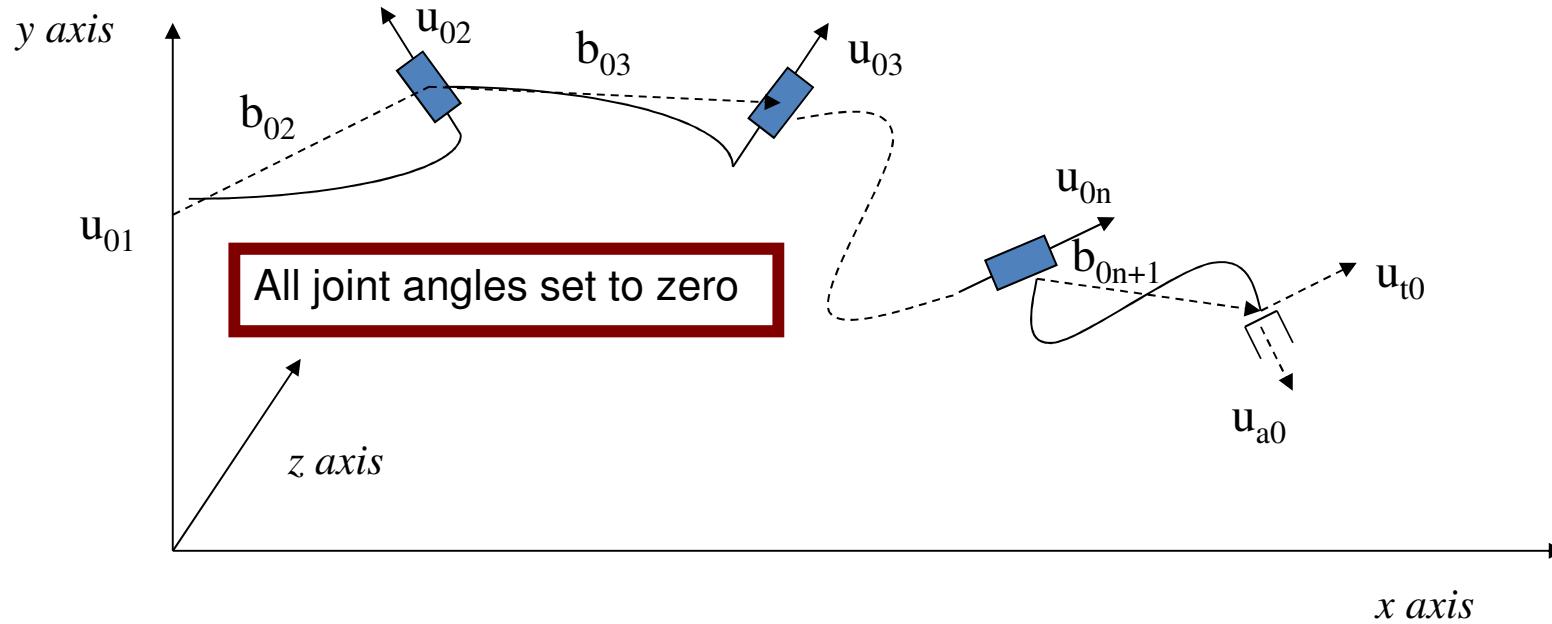
Rodrigues

$$\sum_{i=1}^N 33i - \sum_{j=1}^M 26 + \sum_{j=1}^M 26M_j$$

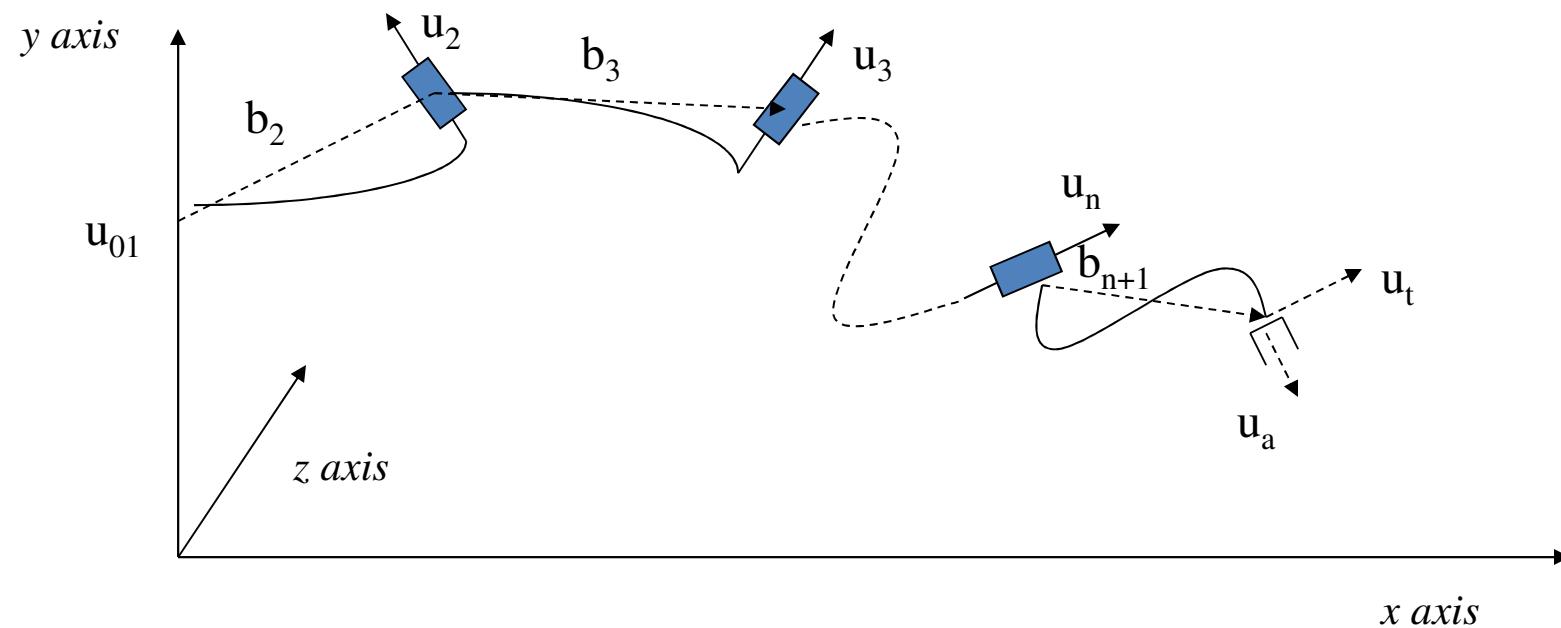
Note: Assuming addition and multiplication Operation costs to be the same.

## Zero-Position Notation (from Robot Kinematics)





# Direct Kinematics



$$u_k = [R_k] u_{0k}$$
$$b_{k+1} = [R_k] b_{0k+1}$$

$$[R_n] = [R(\Phi_1, u_{01})][R(\Phi_2, u_{02})], \dots, [R(\Phi_n, u_{0n})]$$

$$b_4 = [R(\phi_1, u_1)][R(\phi_2, u_2)][R(\phi_3, u_3)][R(\phi_4, u_4)]b_04$$

# Questions on Kinematic Model?

LEARN MORE AT:  
<http://protofold.engr.uconn.edu>

# Force Field Model and Conformation Change

LEARN MORE AT:  
<http://protofold.engr.uconn.edu>

# Amber Potential Field Model:

$$E_{\text{total}} = E_{\text{bond-length}} + E_{\text{bond-angle}} + E_{\text{torsion}} + E_{\text{van der Waals}} + E_{\text{Electrostatic}}$$

$E_{\text{bond-length}}$  = Bond energy calculated by Hook's law =  $\sum k_b (l-l_0)^2$  where  $k_b$  is experimentally known and  $l$  and  $l_0$  are actual and ideal bond lengths.

$E_{\text{bond-angle}}$  = Bond angle (bending) energy calculated by Hook's law =  $\sum k_\theta (\theta-\theta_0)^2$  where  $k_\theta$  (angular stiffness of the bond) is experimentally known and  $\theta$  and  $\theta_0$  are actual and ideal bond angles.

$E_{\text{torsion}} = \sum A (1 + \cos(n\phi - \phi_0))$  = where  $A$  is an experimentally determined constant and  $\phi$  is the torsion angle (the rotation angle around the bond between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> atom in any serially connected four atoms). The torsion energy is mainly used to correct the bond and bending energies to make the results agree with experimental results.

$E_{\text{van der Waals}} =$  The energy due to non-bonded forces between two atoms  $i$  and  $j$  =  
$$\sum \sum (-a_{ij} / r_{ij}^6 + b_{ij} / r_{ij}^{12})$$
 where  $a$  and  $b$  are experimentally known and  $r$  is the distance between the two atoms.

$E_{\text{Electrostatic}} =$  Electrostatic energy between two atoms =  $\sum \sum q_i q_j / r_{ij}$  where  $q$  and  $s$  are known and  $r$  is the distance between the two atoms.

# *ab initio* Prediction Methods

(computational complexity)

- Computation procedure of the potential energy or forces: **straight forward**
- computational complexity: **mind boggling**
- **Example:**
  - protein molecule with 100 residues (200 revolute joints).
  - If samples on the joint angles @ 36 degrees (10 per joint)
  - Energy calculations  $10^{-20}$  seconds ( using many parallel super computers)

Computation time=  $(360 / 36)^{200} * 10^{-20} = 10^{180}$  seconds = 3.16  
 $*10^{172}$  years

# Conformation Prediction

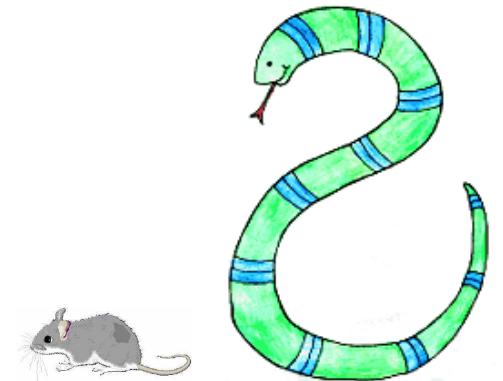
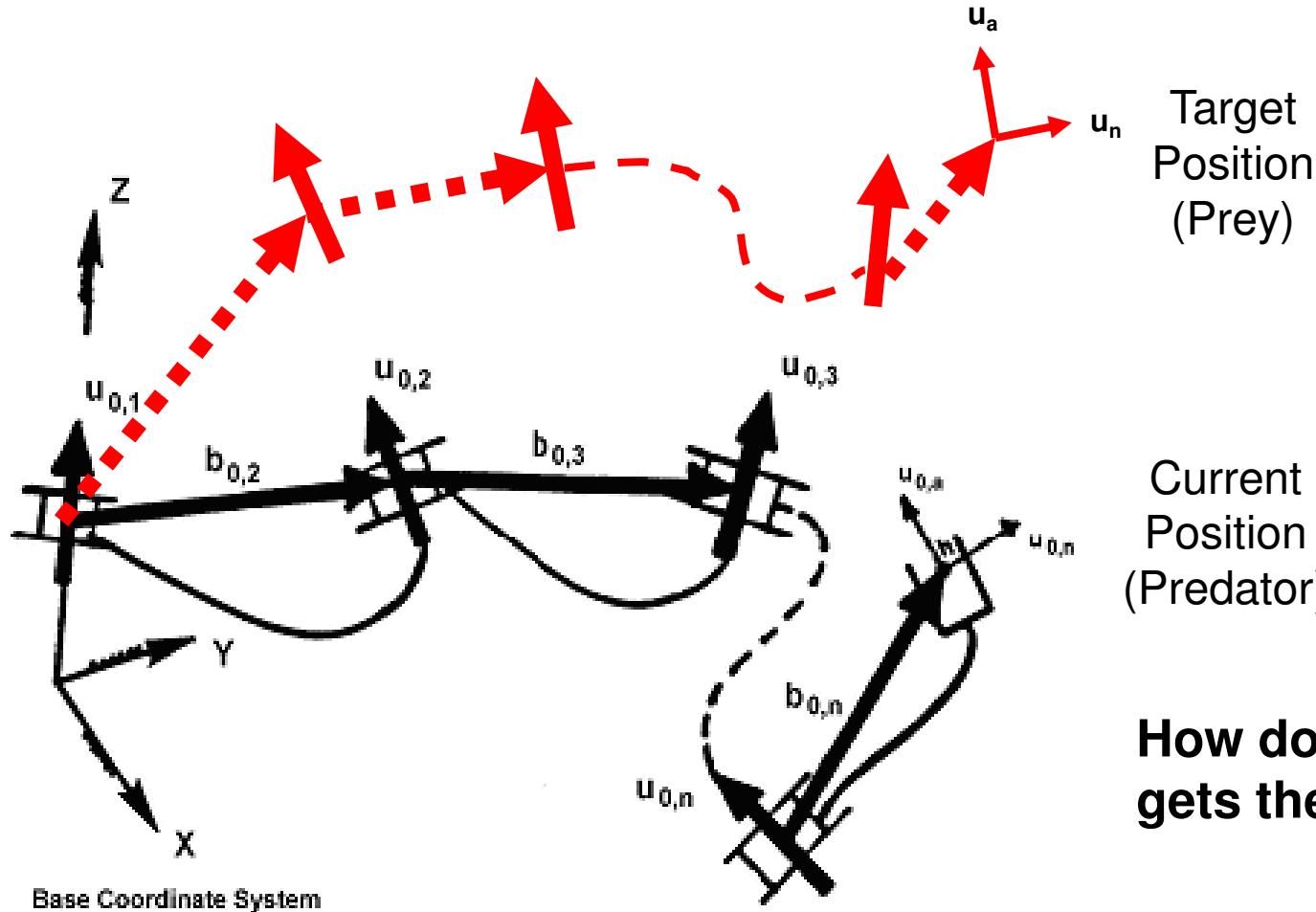
Successive Kinetostatic Compliance Method

Question:

Under the effect of the force field, what is the conformation change of the protein molecule?

# Conformation Prediction

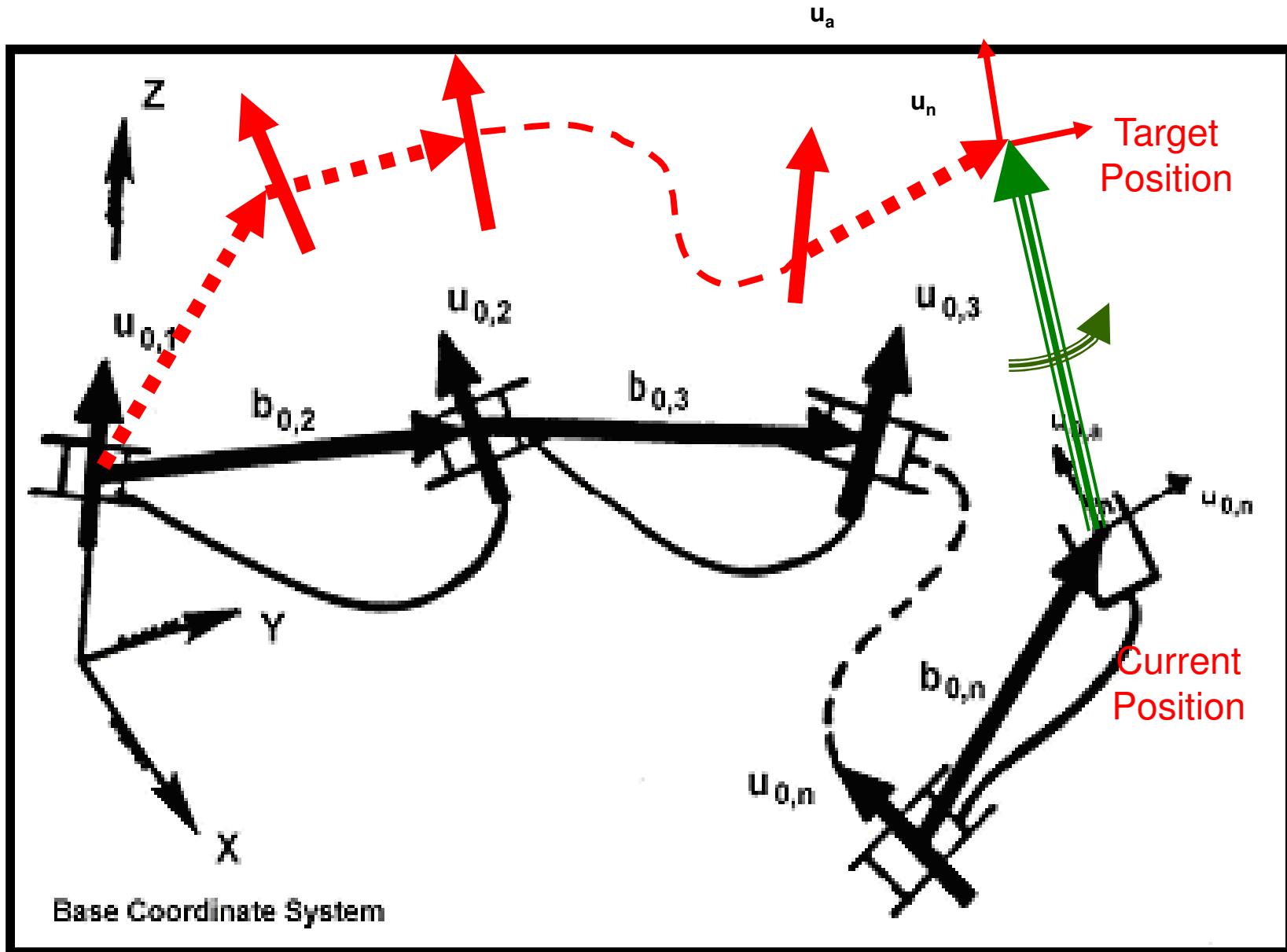
Target Tracking = Successive Kinetostatic  
Compliance Method



Current Position (Predator)

Target Position (Prey)

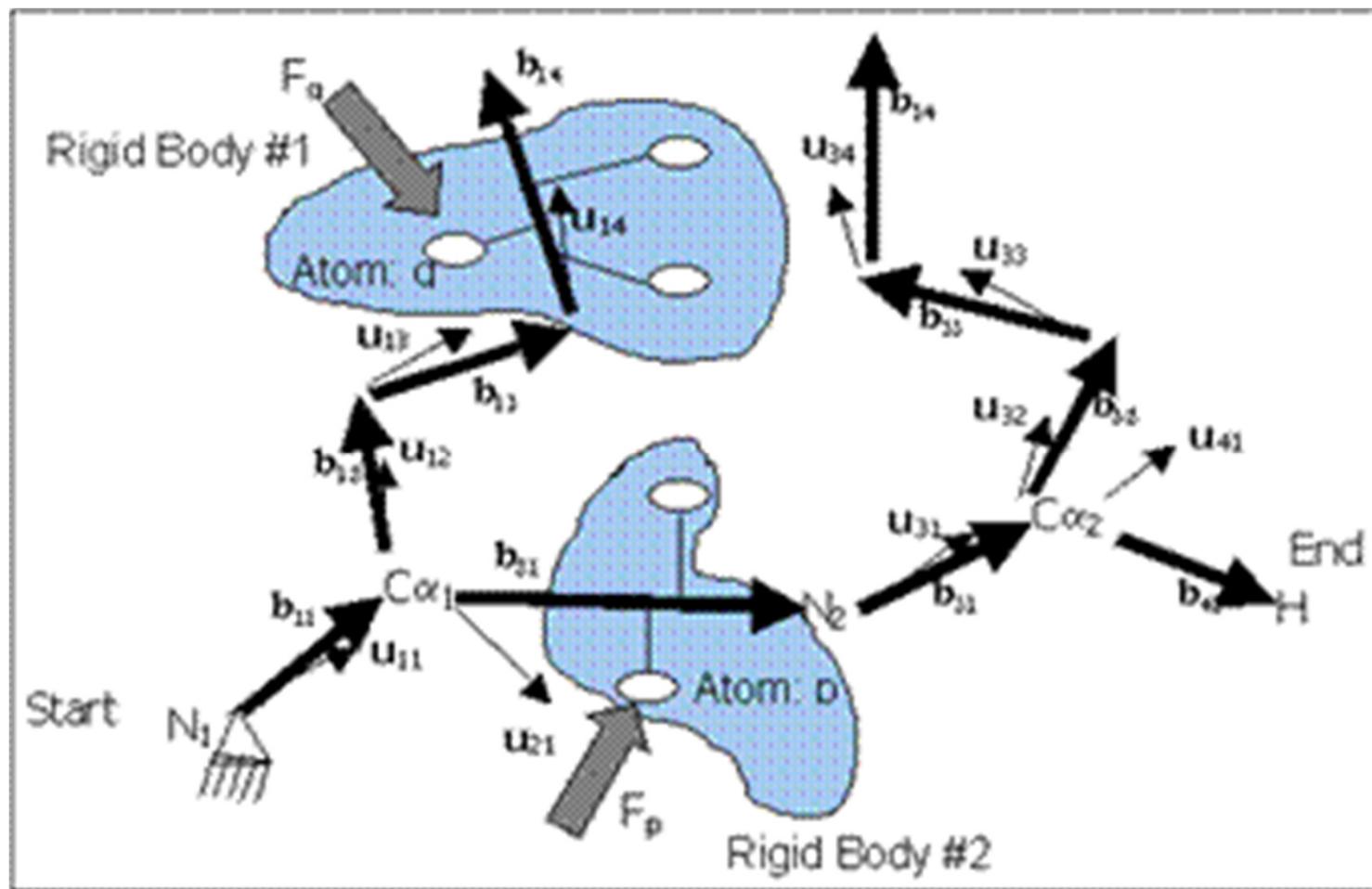
**How does the Predator gets the Prey?**



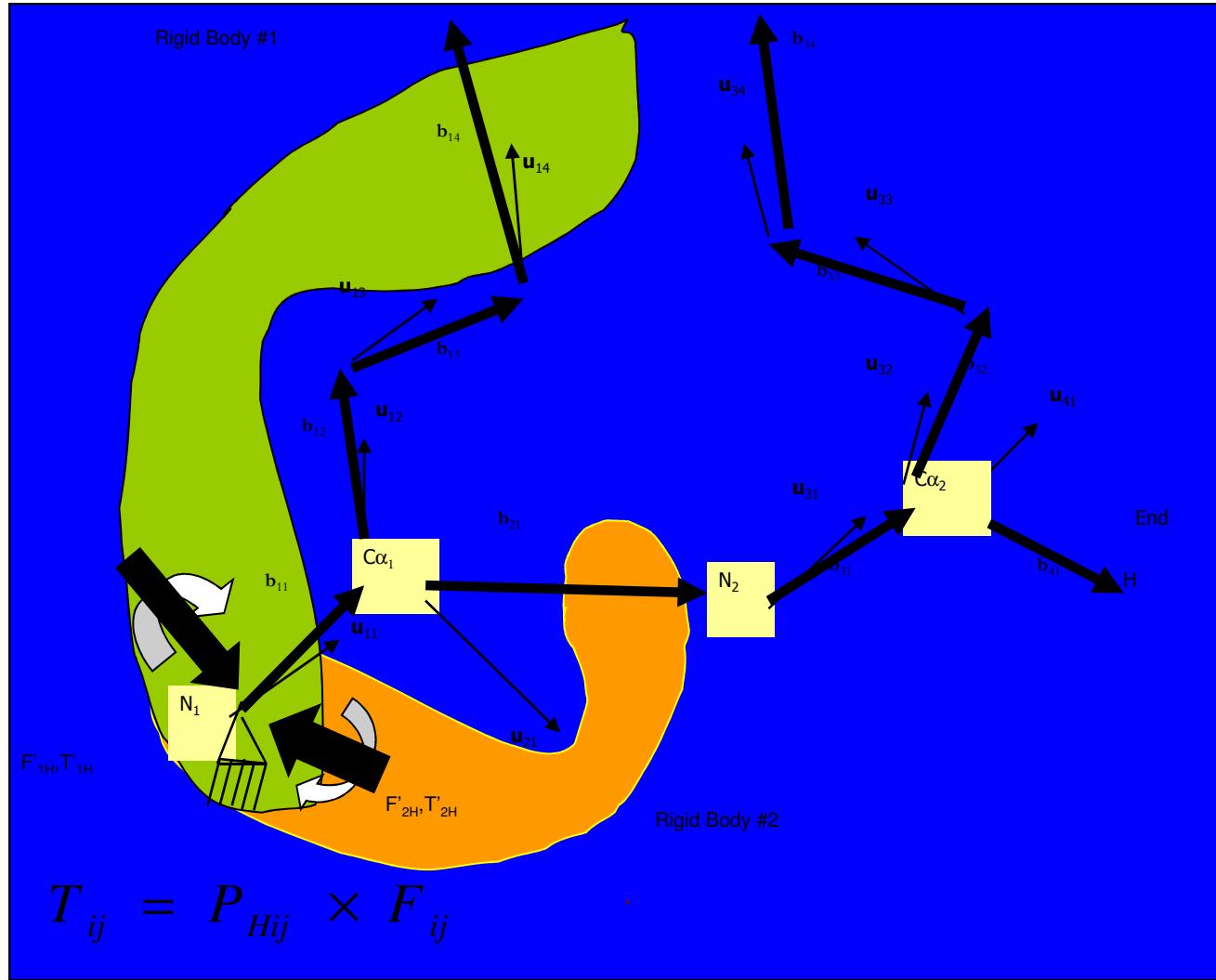
Joint motion:

$$\vec{\tau} = J^T \begin{Bmatrix} \vec{T}_H \\ \vec{F}_H \end{Bmatrix}$$

$$\Delta\theta = k * J^T \tau$$



Resultant Forces  $F_p$  and  $F_q$  are shown on atoms (points)  $p$  and  $q$  on two Rigid Bodies of the Kinematic Chain.



Equivalent force/torque couples at the base

$$J_i = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} u_i \\ u_i \times P_i P_H \end{array} \right\}$$

$P_H$  is now the origin of the coordinate system for all atoms

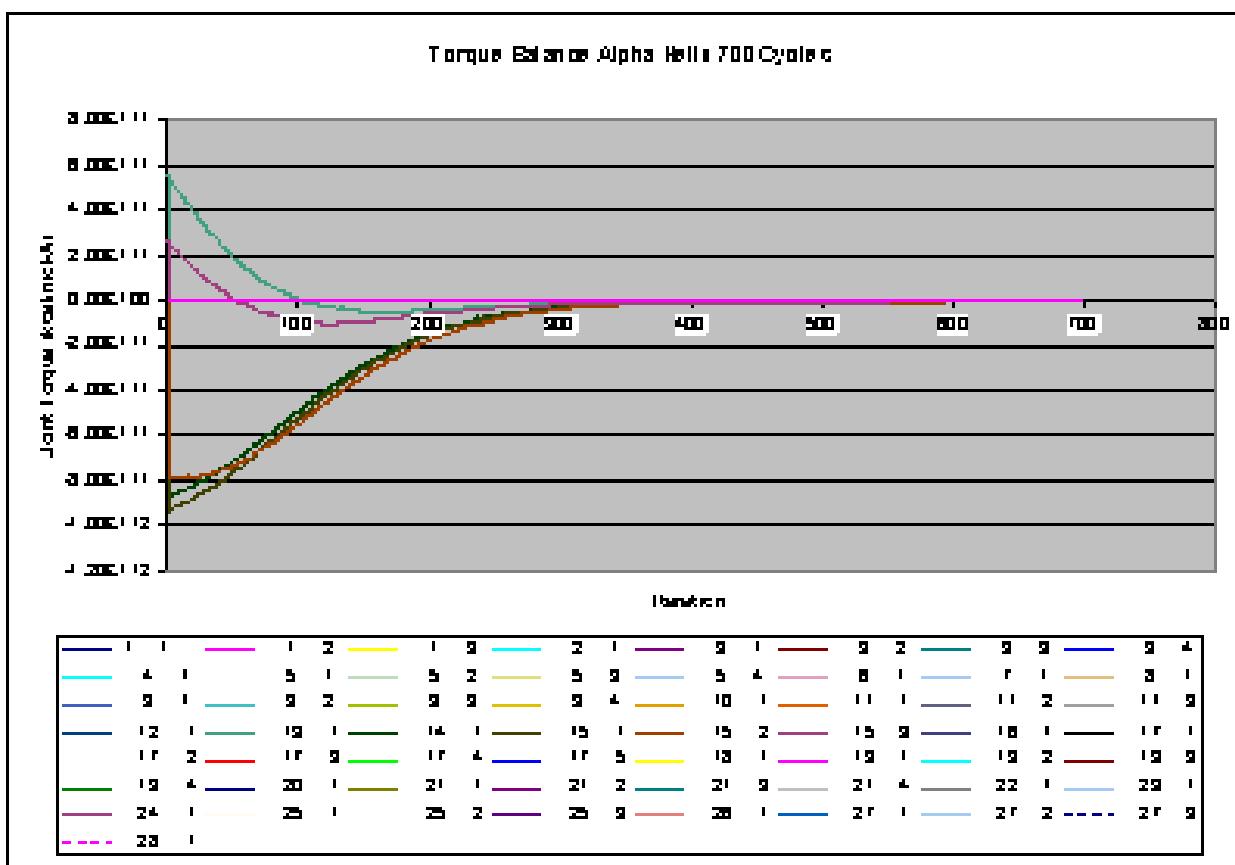
For every link, the contribution of the forces acting on the atoms of that link to the equivalent joint torques on all of the joints preceding that link are:

$$\tau_i = \begin{bmatrix} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & u_k & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & -u_k \times P_k & \cdot \end{bmatrix}^t \begin{Bmatrix} T_i \\ F_i \end{Bmatrix}$$

These contributions are then combined to calculate the overall equivalent joint torques  $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ .

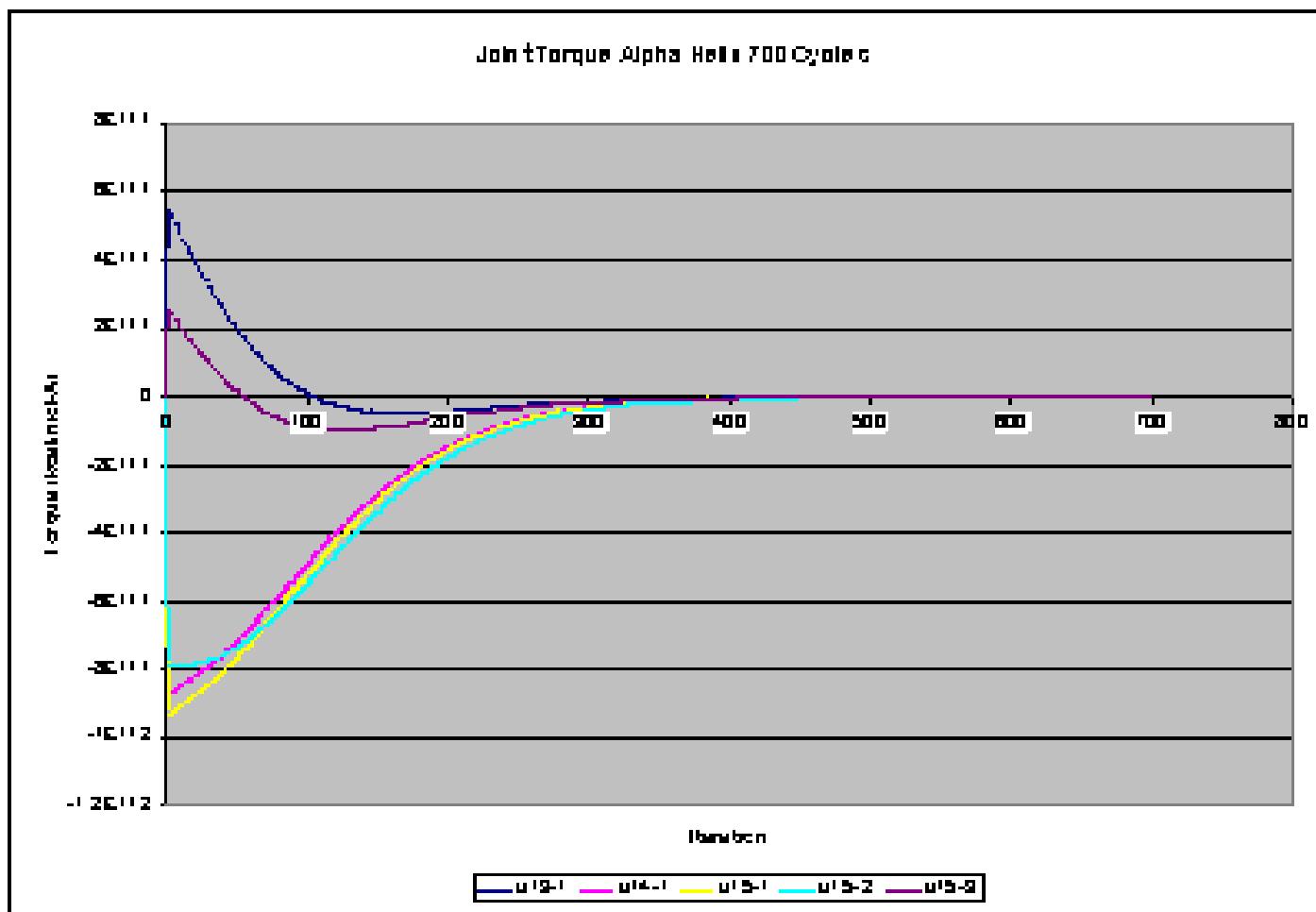
# Numerical Experiments

## LMEAQHALKMEAH (Alpha Helix)



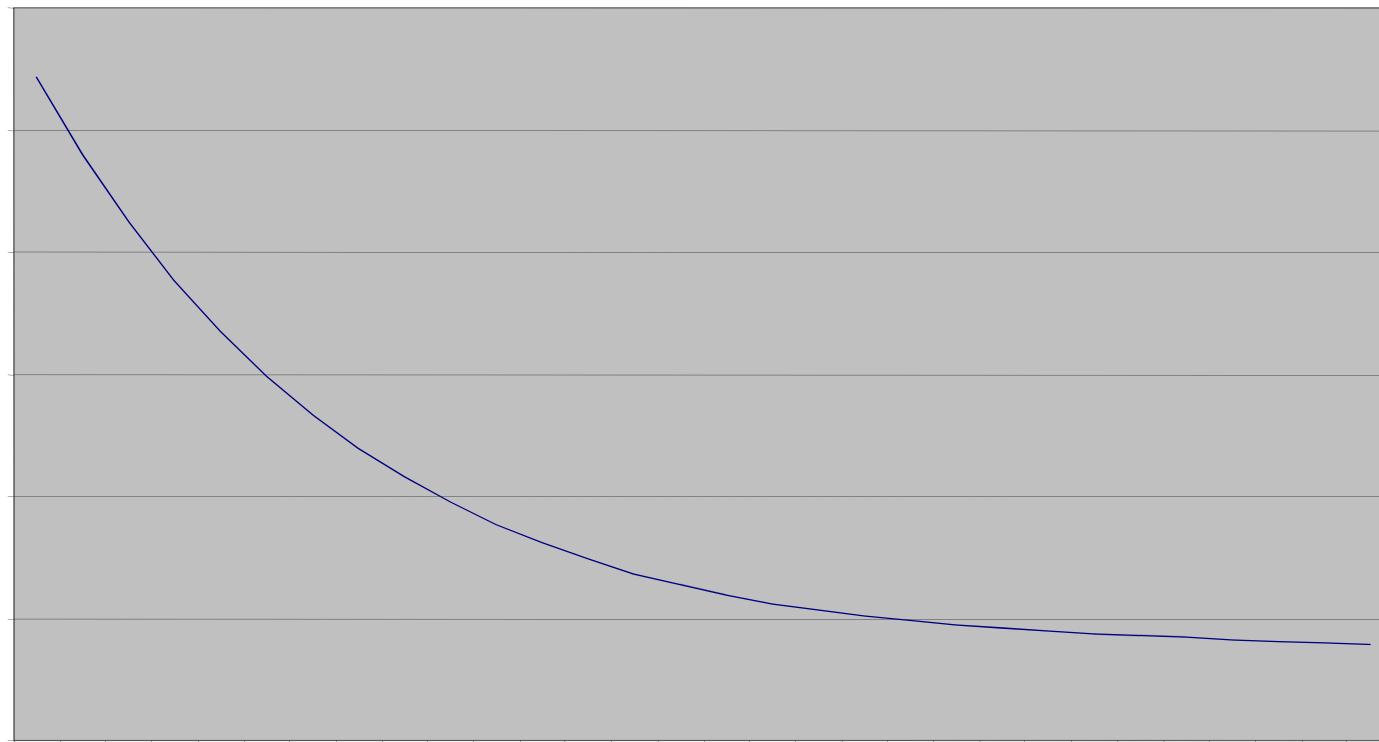
# Numerical Experiments

## LMEAQHALKMEAHL (Cont.)



# Numerical Experiments

## Potential Energy



# **Questions on Force Field Model and Conformation Change?**

LEARN MORE AT:  
<http://protofold.engr.uconn.edu>

# Mobility Analysis

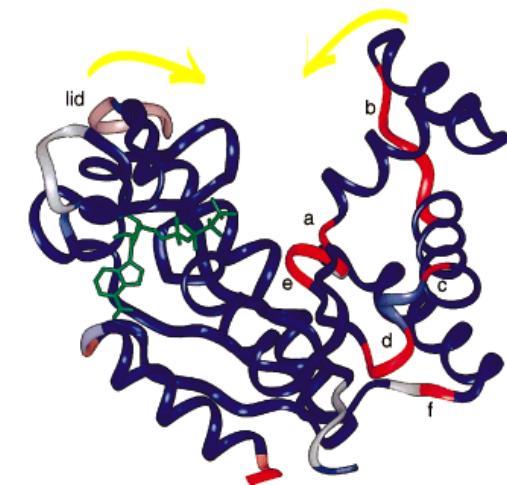
## *Identification of Rigid and Flexible domains*



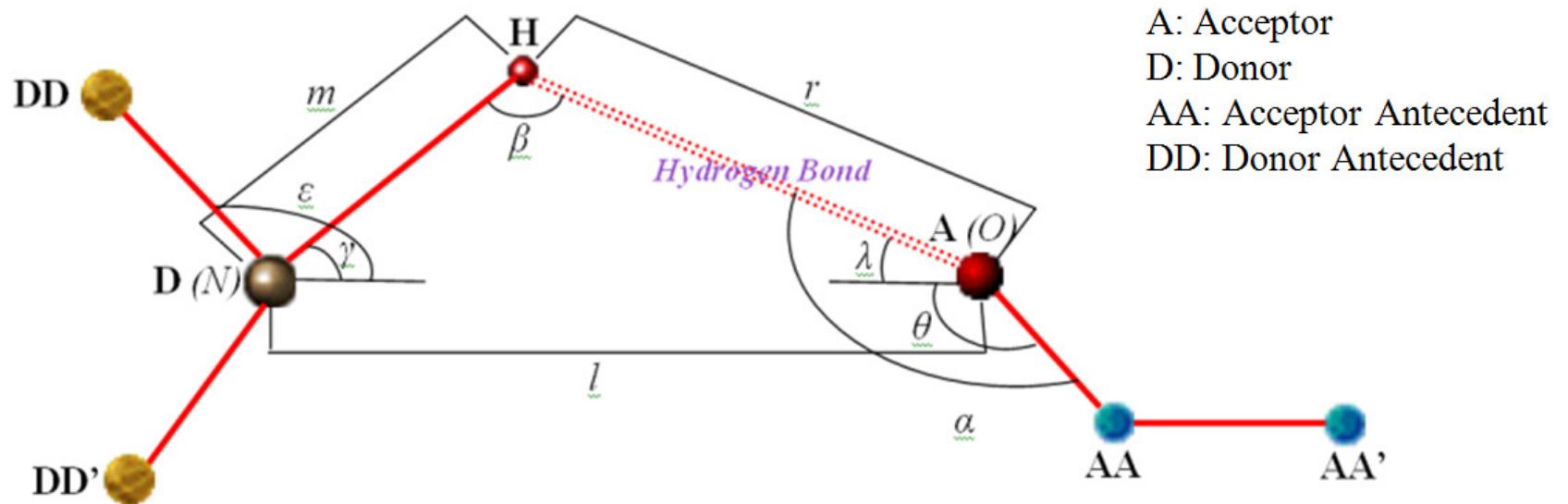
LEARN MORE AT:

<http://protofold.engr.uconn.edu>

- **Hydrogen Bonds:** Interaction between a Hydrogen atom and an electro-negative atom (such as oxygen or nitrogen)
  - Establish rigidity
  - Improve faithfulness
  - Reduce DOF of the protein



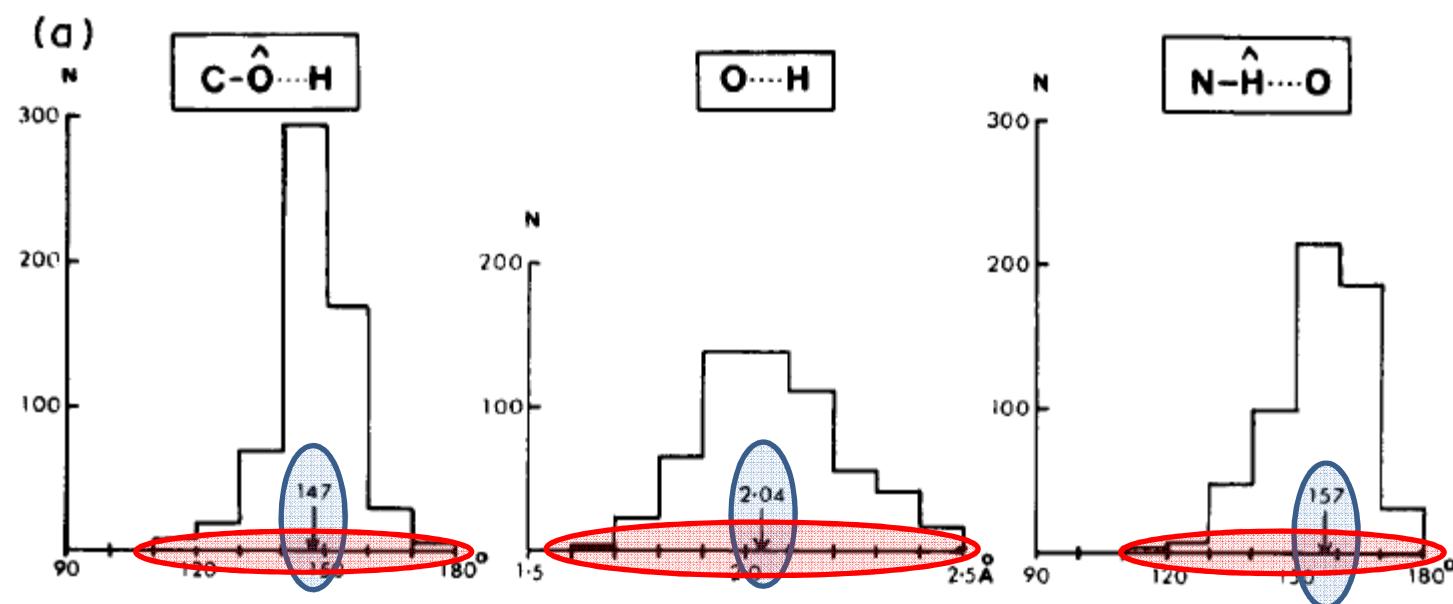
# Hydrogen Bonds



# Hydrogen Bonds Geometric Criteria

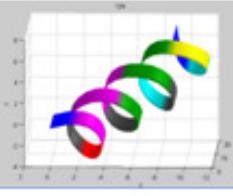
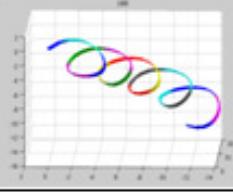
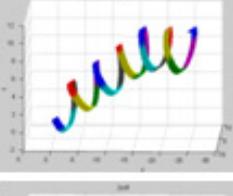
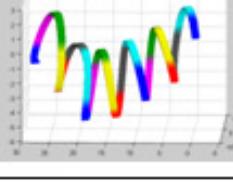
	$\alpha^\circ$	$\beta^\circ$	$\theta^\circ$	$\gamma^\circ$	$r \text{ \AA}$	$l \text{ \AA}$
E.N. Baker <i>et al.</i> [36]	$147 \pm 9$	$155 \pm 11$	$153 \pm 8$	$17 \pm 8$	$2.06 \pm 0.16$	$2.99 \pm 0.14$
Ian K.McDonald <i>et al.</i> [48]	$>90$	$>90$	$>90$		$<2.5$	$<3.9$
D. Xu <i>et al.</i> [51]	$140 \pm 19.3$	$151.5 \pm 16.3$	$146.2 \pm 18$		$2.06 \pm 0.22$	$2.95 \pm 0.21$
T. Kortemme <i>et al.</i> [38]	$85 <, <180$	$105 <, <180$			$<2.6 \text{ \AA}$	
Fleming <i>et al.</i> [46]	$>90$	$>110$				$<4.5$
Langkilde <i>et al.</i> [56]		$>120$				$<3.07$
Alexandescu <i>et al.</i> [40]		$120 <, <180$			$<2.5$	
Artymiuk <i>et al.</i> [57]				$18.5 \pm 9.$ 6	$2.05 \pm 0.18$	$2.96 \pm 0.17$
<b>Our Suggested criteria</b>	$110 <, <180$	$110 <, <180$			$<2.5$	

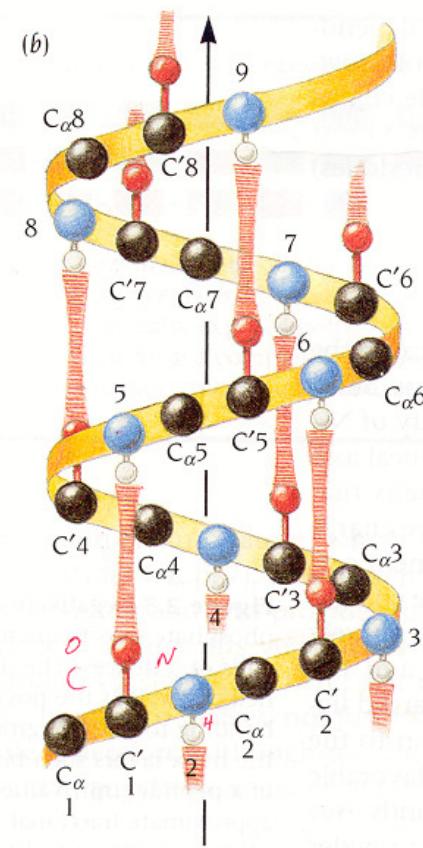
# Baker Experimental Results



Baker, E. N., and Hubbard, R. E., 1984. "Hydrogen bonding in globular proteins".  
Prog Biophys Mol Biol, 44(2), pp. 97–179

# Sample Proteins

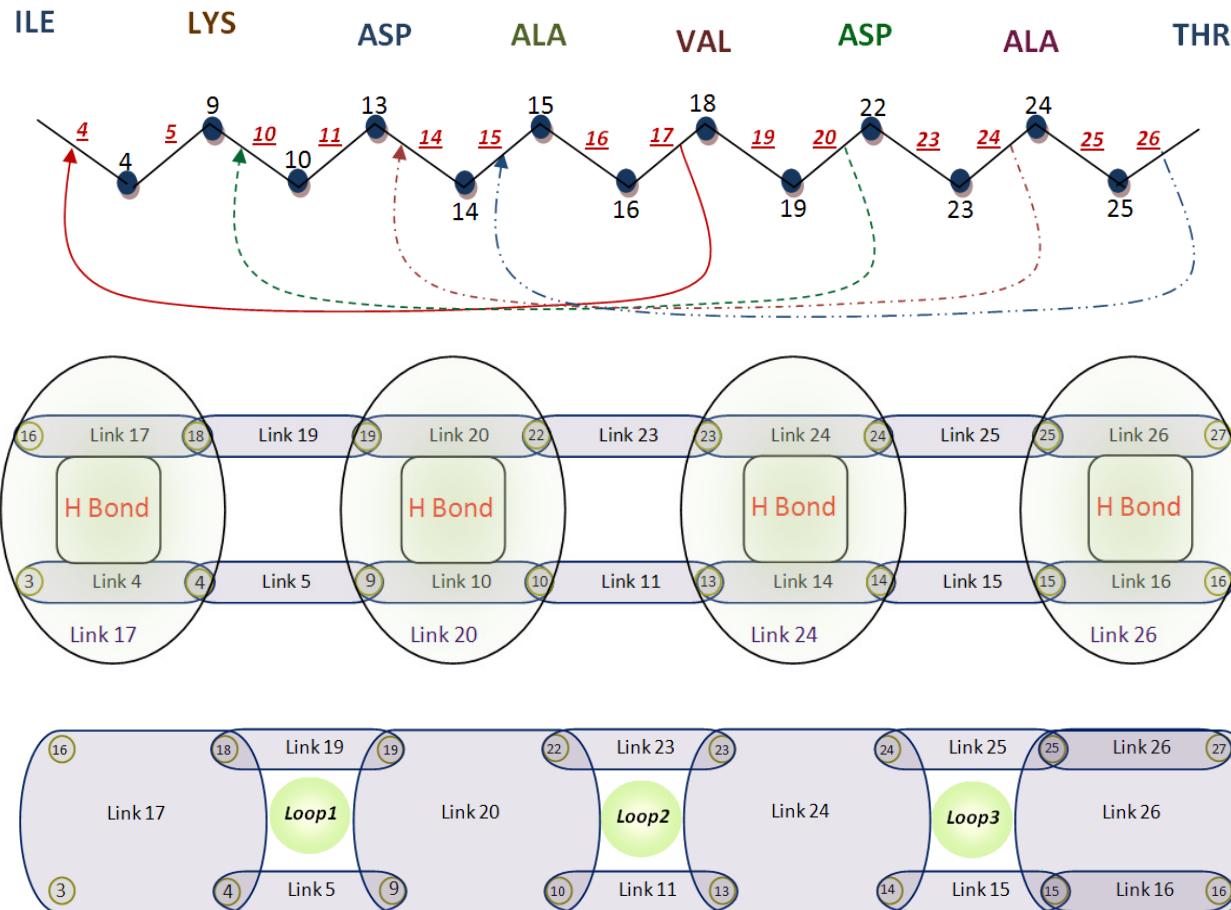
Protein (PDB code)	Amino Acids	Figure	Number of Amino Acids	Number of turns	Confirmed number of Hydrogen bonds in biology
1JILE	REAQKTLA EVTKFIH		15	4.16	11
2I88	IKDAVDAT VIFYLTLL K		18	5	14
2IC8	SLMHILFNL LWWWYLG GAVEKR		22	6.11	18
2NR9	SNLHILFNL SWFFIFGG MIERT		22	6.11	18



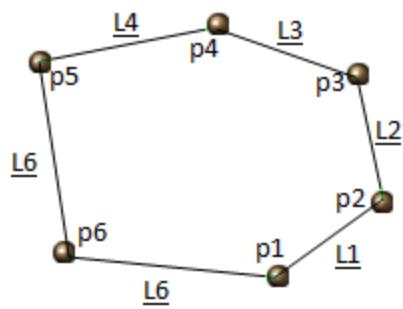
Criteria for Hydrogen bonds Proposed by:	Protein Name			
	1jile	2i88	2ic8	2nr9
	Number of Hydrogen bonds predicted by the criteria			
<b>E.N. Baker <i>et al.</i></b>	7	6	9	6
<b>Ian K.McDonald <i>et al.</i></b>	11	16	19	17
<b>D. Xu <i>et al.</i></b>	10	8	14	8
<b>T. Kortemme <i>et al.</i></b>	12	19	20	16
<b>Fleming <i>et al.</i></b>	14	18	22	22
<b>Langkilde <i>et al.</i></b>	11	11	17	14
<b>Alexandescu <i>et al.</i></b>	11	15	18	16
<b>Artymiuk <i>et al.</i></b>	9	8	14	9
<b>T. Ackbarow <i>et al.</i></b>	15	18	22	22
<b>Our Suggested criteria</b>	11	14	17	15
<b>Confirmed Observations</b>	11	14	18	18

Zahra Shahbazi, Horea Ilies, Kazem Kazerounian, “Hydrogen Bonds and Kinematic Mobility of Protein Molecules”, Journal of Mechanisms and Robotics, 2009.

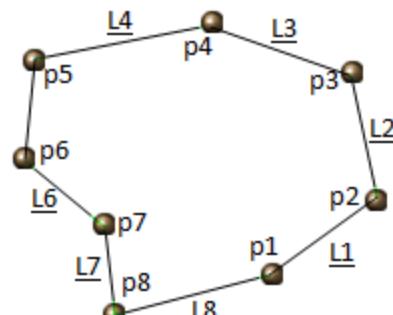
# Hydrogen Bonds form Closed Loops



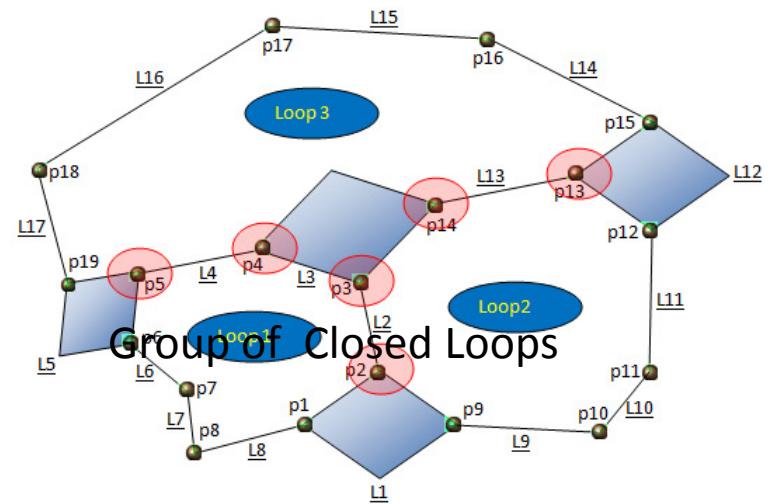
# Closed Loops



Rigid Single  
Closed Loop



Non-rigid Single  
Closed Loop

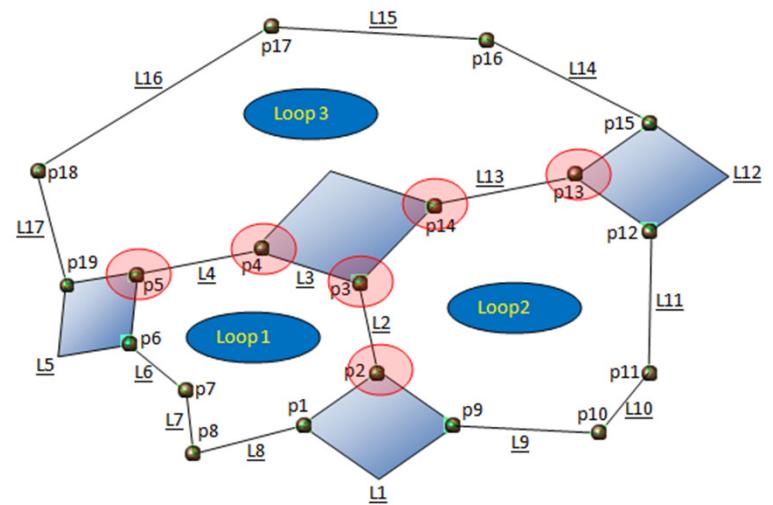


# Grubler-Kutzbach criterion

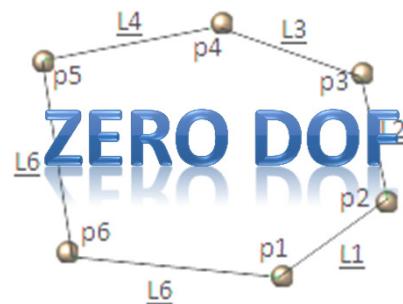
$$DOF = 6(L - 1) - 5J_1 - 4J_2 - 3J_3 - 2J_4 - J_5$$

- L: number of links
- $J_i$ =number of joints with  $i$  degrees of freedom

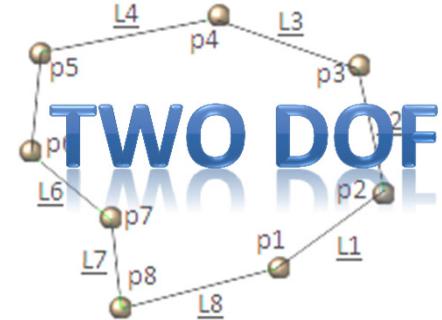
$$DOF = \sum_{i=1}^m (DOF)_i - \sum_{j=1}^n P_j$$



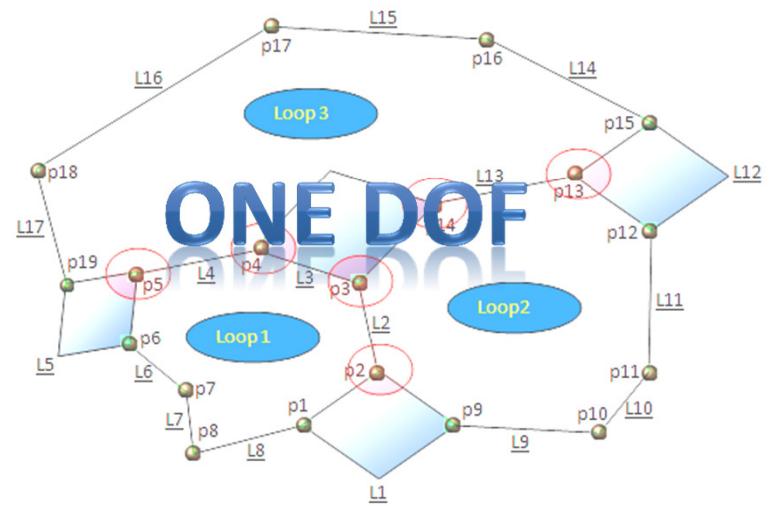
# Closed Loops



Rigid Single  
Closed Loop

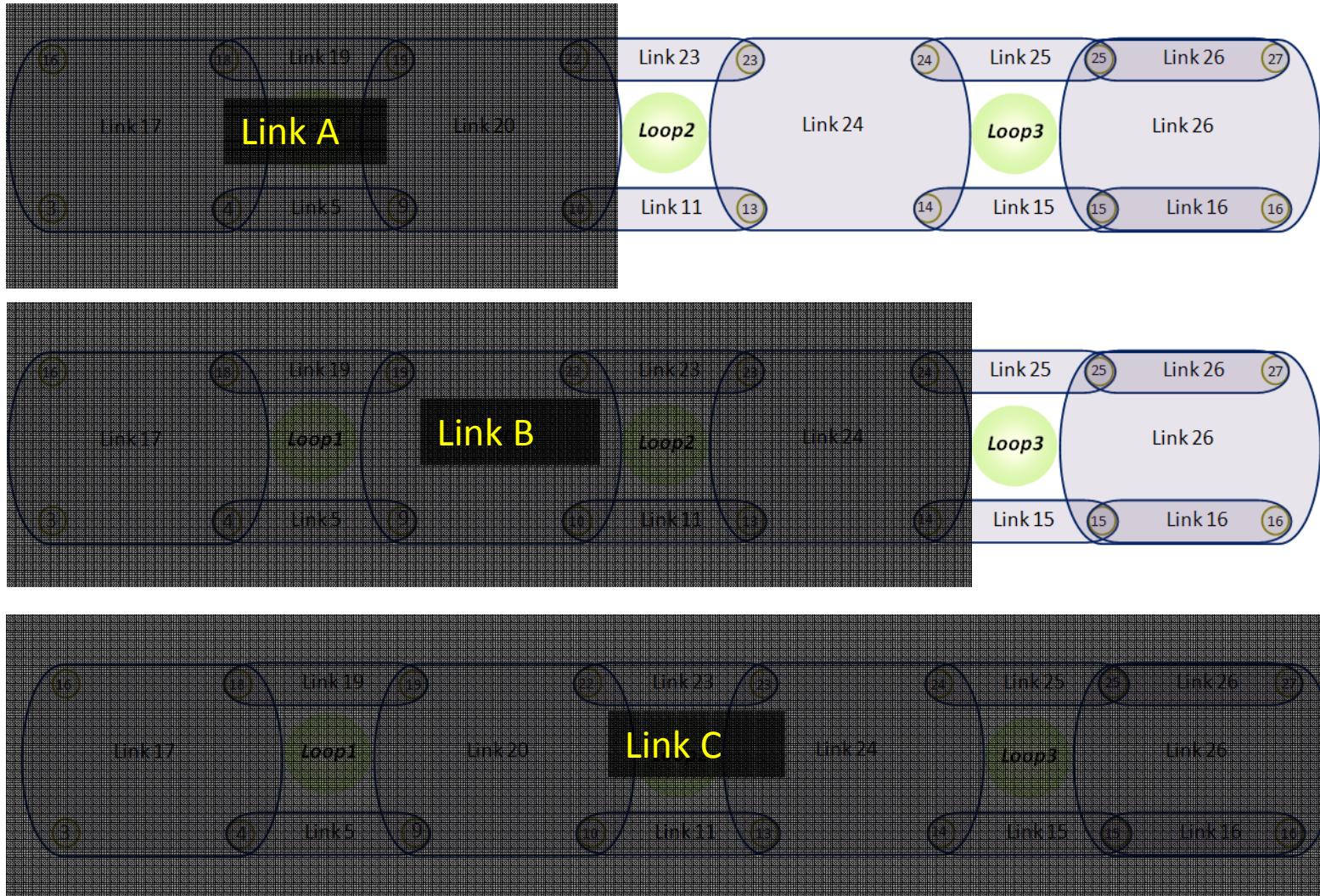


Non-rigid Single  
Closed Loop

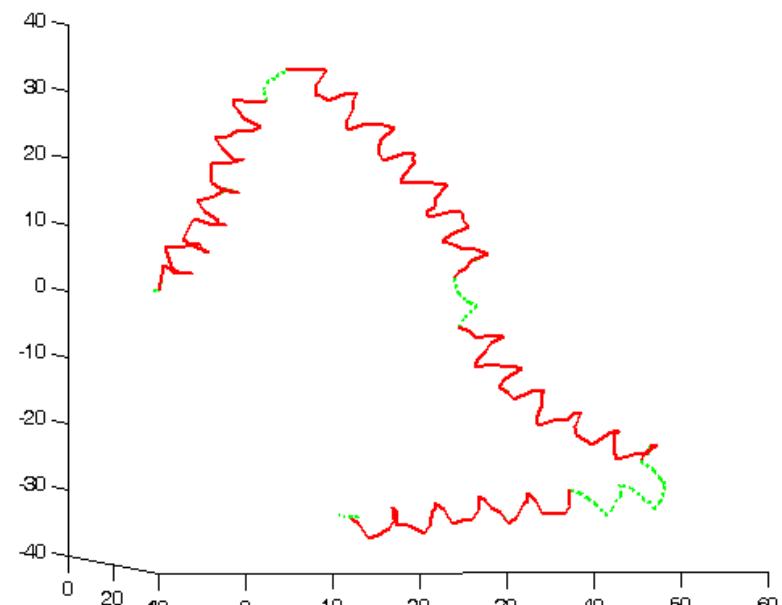
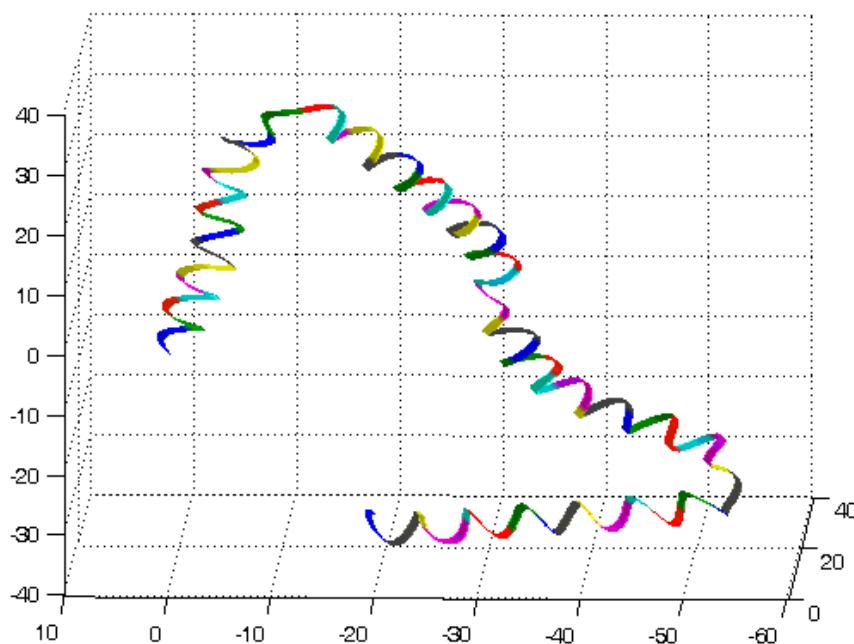


Group of Closed Loops

# Rigid loops



# Rigid and flexible regions for 1U7M

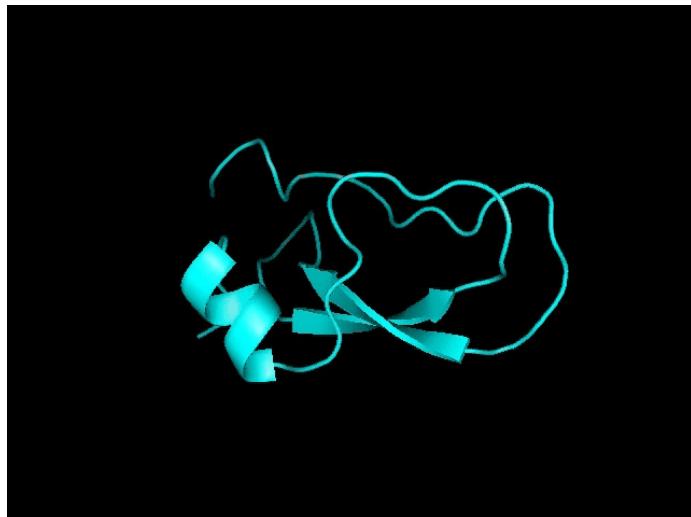


Red: Rigid regions  
Green: Flexible region

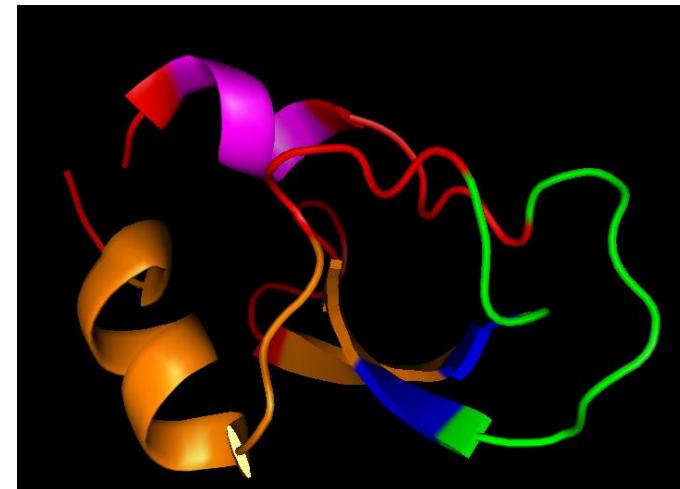
Zahra Shahbazi, Horea Ilies, Kazem Kazerounian, “Hydrogen Bonds and Kinematic Mobility of Protein Molecules”, Journal of Mechanisms and Robotics, 2009.

# Mobility Analysis

Identification of Rigid and Flexible domains



**Movie:** 1K6U Protein for Visual check



Red Portions are flexible. Other colors are all Rigid Domains

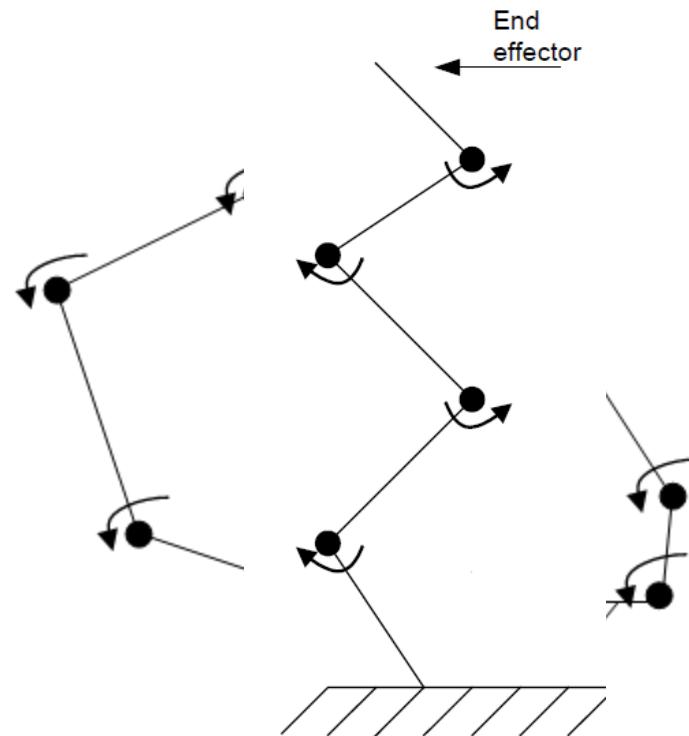
# Non-Rigid Loops

$$\dot{\mathbf{X}} = J\dot{\mathbf{q}}$$

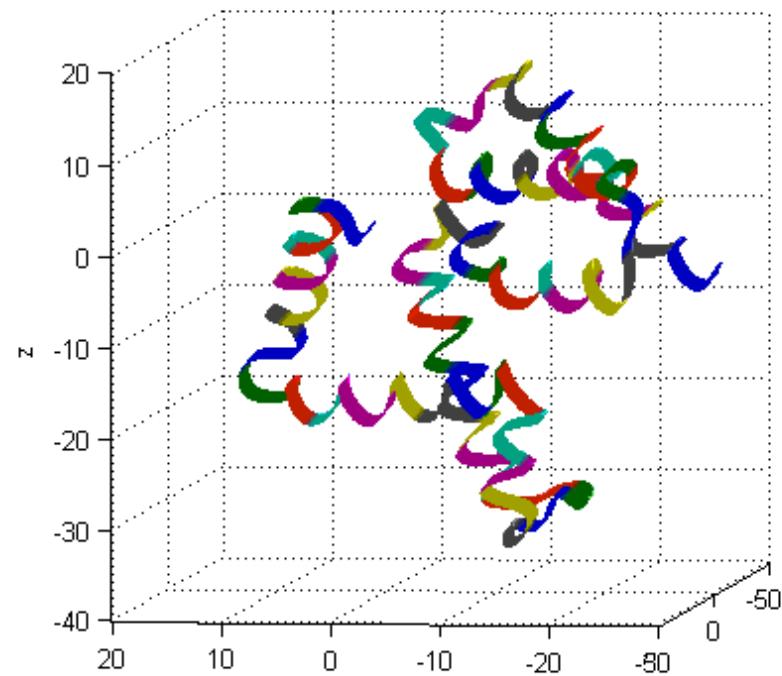
$$J = \begin{pmatrix} u_i \\ u_i * P_i P_H \end{pmatrix}$$

$J\dot{\mathbf{q}} = 0$       Closed loop

$J(\Delta\theta) = 0$       Small Displacement

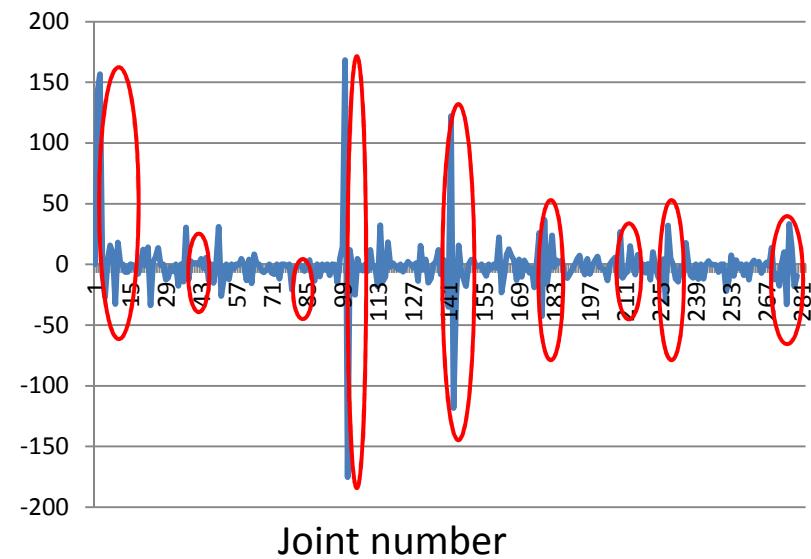


# Results



2HHB, 141 AA, 282 DOF  
95 Hbond, 59 DOF (79% Reduction)

Angle change



Zahra Shahbazi, Horea Ilies, Kazem Kazerounian, "Kinematic Motion Constraints of the Protein Molecule Chains", submitted to Journal of Mechanisms and Robotics, 2011.

# DOF

		Protein Name			
		1YVQ	2I88	1Z15	2HKB
I	No. of amino acids	141	176	342	141
II	Total No. of DOF	282	352	684	282
III	No. of MC-MC Hbonds	90	98	140	82
IV	No. of DOF considering just MC-MC Hbonds	52	79	303	64
V	No. of all types of Hbonds	106	110	191	95
VI	No. of DOF considering all types of Hbonds using new mobility analysis	39 (86%)	37 (89%)	254 (62%)	59 (79%)

Average of 80%

# Questions on Mobility Analysis?



LEARN MORE AT:

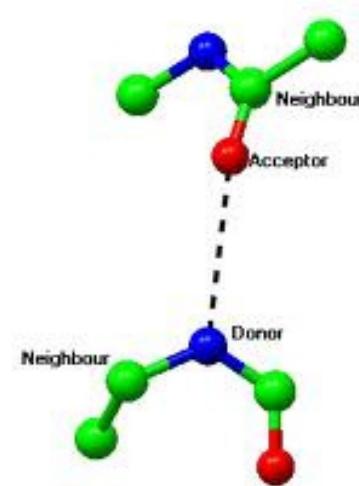
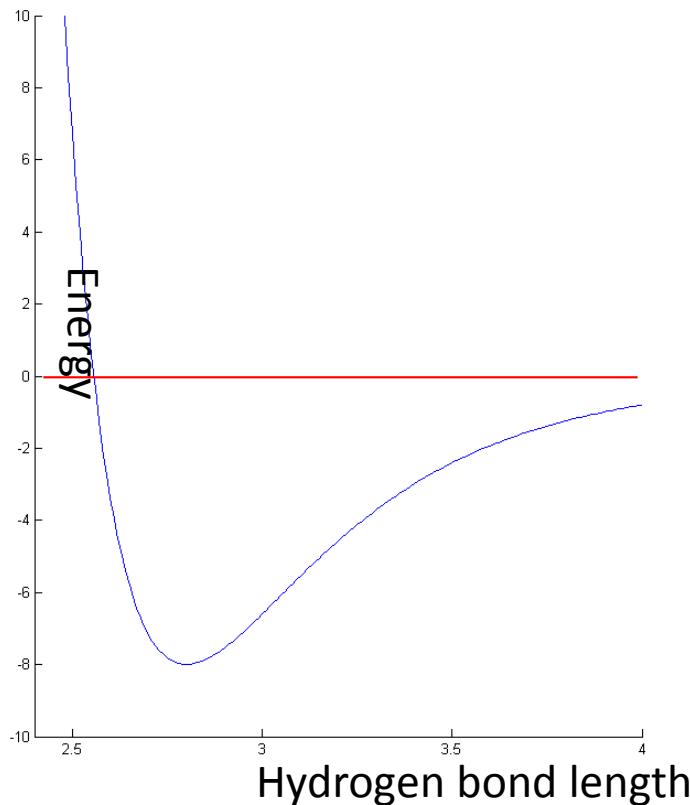
<http://protofold.engr.uconn.edu>

# Stiffness Analysis

LEARN MORE AT:  
<http://protofold.engr.uconn.edu>

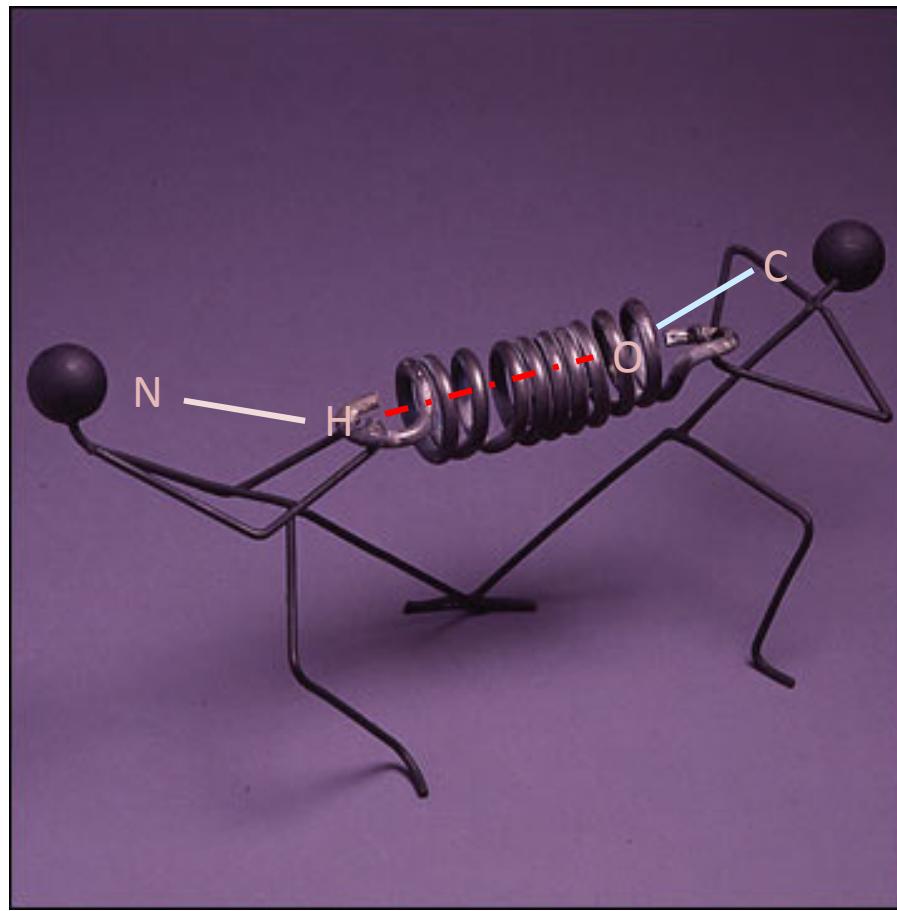
# Energy of hydrogen bonds

$$E_{HB} = v_0 [5(d_0/d)^{12} - 6(d_0/d)^{10}] g(\theta, \phi, \Phi)$$



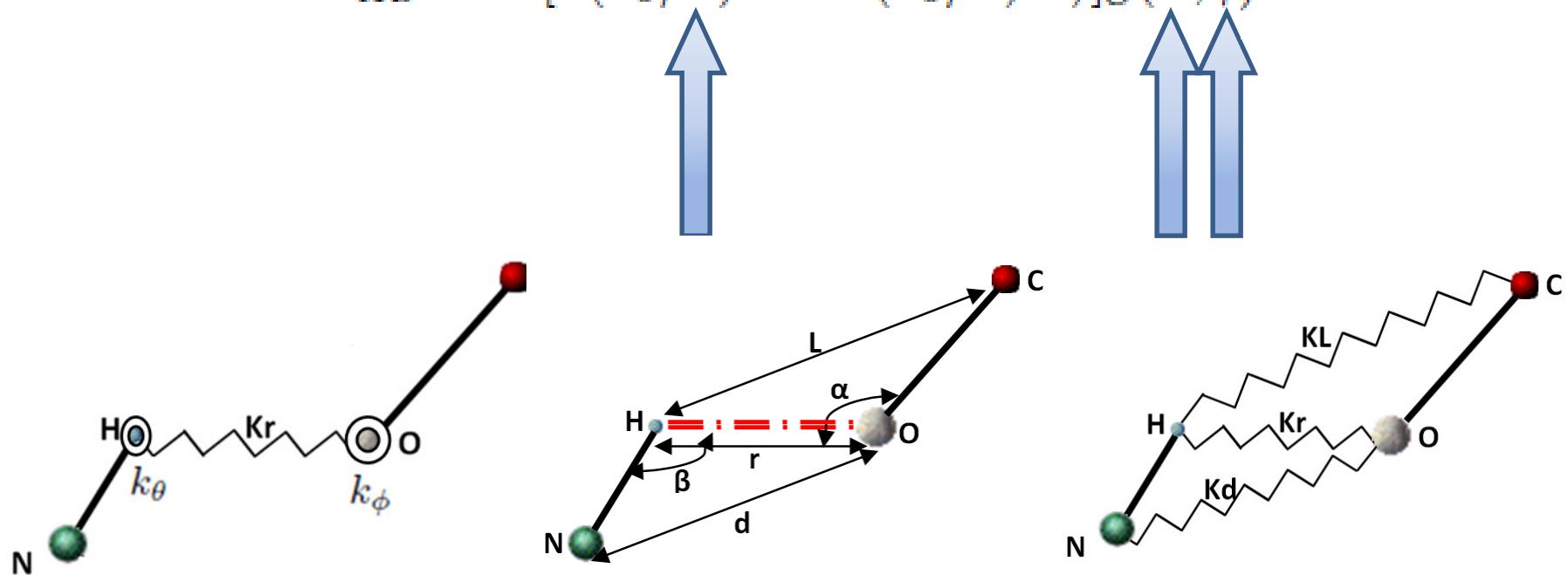
Dahiyat, B. I., Gordon, B., and Mayo, S. L., 1997. "automated design of the surface positions of protein helices". Protein Science, 6, pp. 1333–1337.

# Spring Model of Hydrogen Bonds



# Energy Function of Hydrogen bonds

$$E_{HB} = v_0 [5(d_0/d)^{12} - 6(d_0/d)^{10}] g(\theta, \phi)$$



$$E_{HB}(d, \theta, \phi) = 0.5k_l(l_1 - l_0)^2 + 0.5k_r(r_1 - r_0)^2 + 0.5k_d(d_1 - d_0)^2.$$

# Optimization Problem

$$M = 0.5k_l(l_2 - l_0)^2 + 0.5k_r(r_2 - r_0)^2 + 0.5k_d(d_2 - d_0)^2 - E(d2, \alpha2, \beta2)$$

$$H1 = 0.5k_l(l_1 - l_0)^2 + 0.5k_r(r_1 - r_0)^2 + 0.5k_d(d_1 - d_0)^2 - E(d1, \alpha1, \beta1)$$

$$H2 = k_l - dE_l/(l_1 - l_0) \quad -k_d + p^2 \leq 0$$

$$H2 = k_l - dE_l/(l_1 - l_0) \quad -k_l + q^2 \leq 0$$

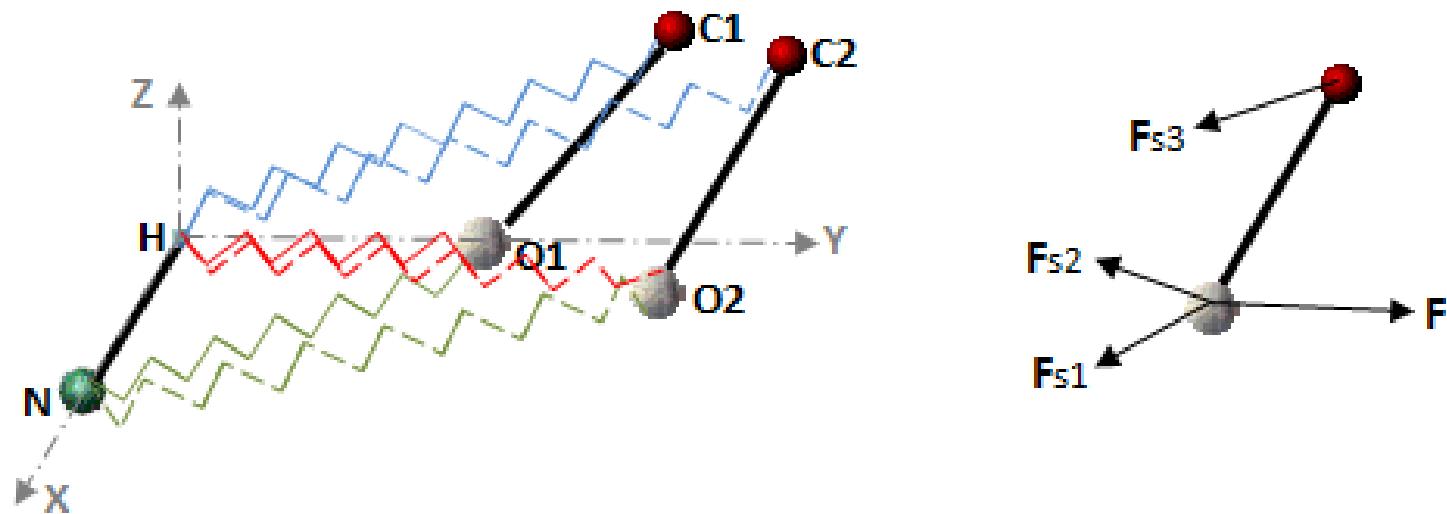
$$H3 = k_r - dE_r/(r_1 - r_0) \quad -l_0 + m^2 \leq 0$$

$$H4 = k_d - dE_d/(d_1 - d_0) \quad -r_0 + n^2 \leq 0$$

$$-k_d + s^2 \leq 0 \quad -d_0 + o^2 \leq 0$$

$$-k_d + s^2 \leq 0$$

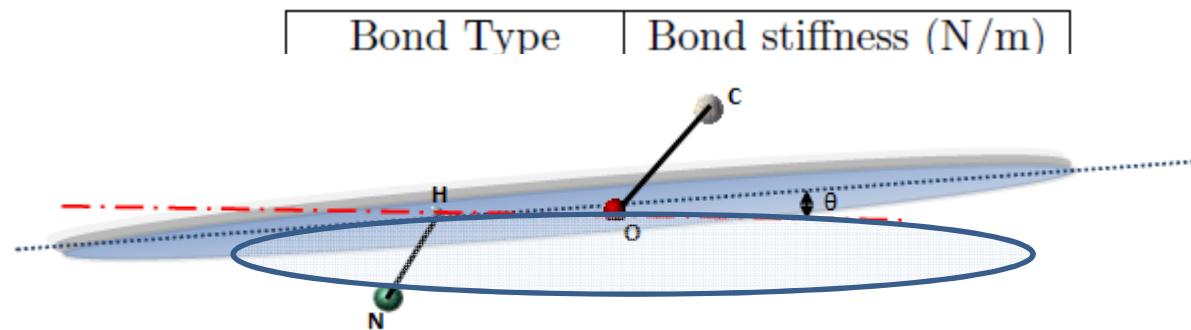
# Small Displacement



$$\begin{pmatrix} F_x \\ F_y \\ F_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} k_{11} & k_{12} & k_{13} & k_{14} & k_{15} & k_{16} \\ k_{21} & k_{22} & k_{23} & k_{24} & k_{25} & k_{26} \\ k_{31} & k_{32} & k_{33} & k_{34} & k_{35} & k_{36} \end{pmatrix} * \begin{pmatrix} dx_o \\ dy_o \\ dz_o \\ dx_c \\ dy_c \\ dz_c \end{pmatrix}$$

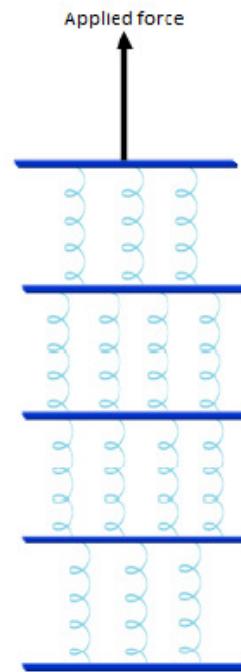
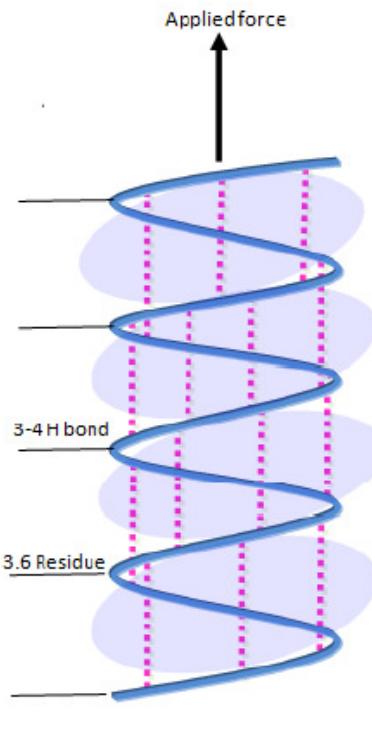
Table 1: Hydrogen bond stiffness for some sample bonds

E(energy)	$k_l$	$k_r$	$k_d$	$l_0$	$r_0$	$d_0$	max k	mean k	min k	$\theta^*$	$k^{**}$
-2.303	51	26.3	4.8	2.9	2.2	3	54.53	1.82	0.14	6.9	3.36
-2.29	40.9	8	1.7	2.8	2	2.9	34.16	0.49	0.07	10	1.19
-3.576	68.3	23.6	3	2.8	2	2.9	64.68	1.61	0.07	5.4	2.1
-3.232	111.2	37.9	6.9	2.8	1.9	2.8	104.51	2.03	0.14	7.9	4.83
-4.791	87.9	26.6	3.3	2.8	2	3	80.43	1.19	0.14	5.5	2.31
-4.843	127.7	28.8	3.9	2.8	1.8	2.9	109.69	1.26	0.21	6.4	2.73
-3.676	69.6	22.7	3.5	2.8	2	3	64.82	1.19	0.14	6.8	2.45
-2.238	57.1	41.9	6.5	2.9	2.2	3	70.56	3.15	0.14	5.1	4.55
-2.043	45.3	22.1	4.6	2.9	2.2	3	47.39	1.33	0.14	8.2	3.22
-3.04	62.1	26.4	4.4	2.9	2.1	3	62.23	1.61	0.21	6.7	3.08
-1.37	46.9	49.6	8.2	3.1	2.4	3.1	69.51	4.2	0.14	4.6	5.74
-2.856	60.1	27.7	4.8	2.9	2.1	3	61.81	1.61	0.14	6.9	3.36
-3.765	109.3	29.8	5.3	2.8	1.9	2.8	97.44	1.33	0.14	8	3.71
-1.172	39	37.3	7.7	3	2.4	3.1	54.53	2.87	0.28	6.1	5.39

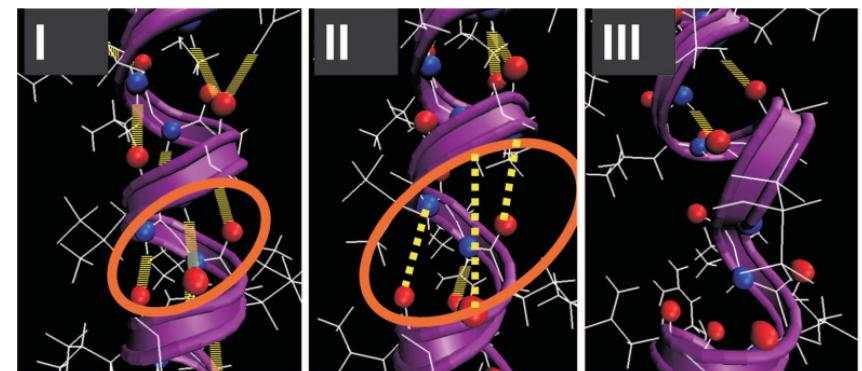


Ashby, M., Shercliff, H., and Cebon, D., 2007. Materials: engineering, science, processing and design. Butterworth-Heinemann.

# Calculating the stiffness of protein molecules



A: Schematic Biological System



$$K_{eq} = 1/(1/k_{turn1} + 1/k_{turn2} + \dots + 1/k_{turn-end})$$

$$(1/2)K_{eq}(d_l)^2 = \Sigma(1/2)k_i(d_x)^2$$

PDB code	K from method # 1	K from method # 2	k reported in literature
Synthetic peptide	380	384	300-400 [3]
1gk6	520	524	571 [7]
1nkn	83	66	60-80 [6]

# Questions on Stiffness Analysis?



LEARN MORE AT:

<http://protofold.engr.uconn.edu>

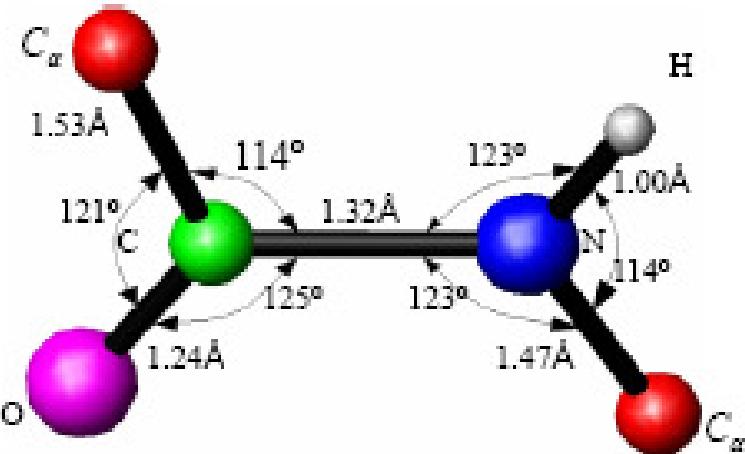
# Parameter Calibrations

The background of the slide features a light blue gradient at the top transitioning into a darker blue at the bottom. Overlaid on this is a stylized, glowing wavy pattern in shades of white and yellow. Small, bright white dots of varying sizes are scattered across the background, some aligned with the wavy lines.

LEARN MORE AT:

<http://protofold.engr.uconn.edu>

# Parametric Calibration of the Geometric Features of a Peptide Plane



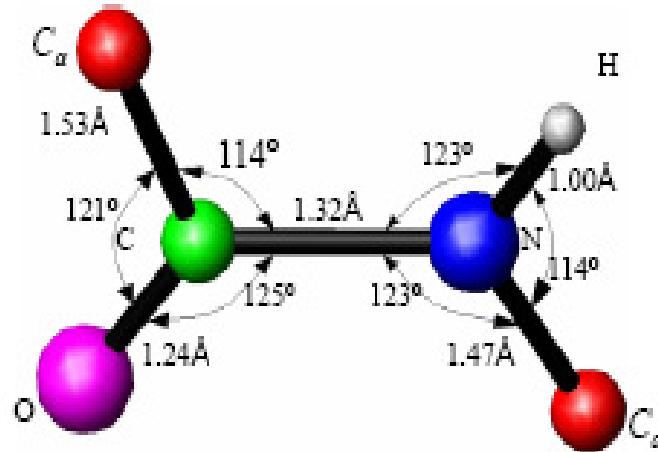
The geometric model of a Peptide plane with standard dimensions reported by Pauling and Corey (1951)

In search of the best values of the bond lengths and bond bending angles in a Peptide plane that offers a better structural definition of the proteins in terms of their Dihedral angles

# Parametric Calibration of the Geometric Features of a Peptide Plane

Bond Lengths:

N-C(A): 1.3841Å,  
C(A)-C: 1.4544Å,  
C-N: 1.1893Å,  
C=O: 1.0714Å  
N-H: 0.8686Å



Bond Bending Angles:

N-C(A)-C: 111.164 degrees  
C(A)-C=O: 107.4012 degrees  
C(A)-C-N: 120.2981 degrees  
O=C-N: 132.2735 degrees  
C-N-H: 121.3974 degrees  
C-N-C(A): 127.3087 degrees  
C(A)-N-H: 111.2785 degrees

Peptide bond torsion angle:  
179.128 degrees

- A systematic optimization approach
- Minor changes (0.5% to 13.5%) in the bond length and bond angles to the standard form reported by Pauling and Corey leads to significant reduction in the Euclidian norm error (3.5% to 64.5%).

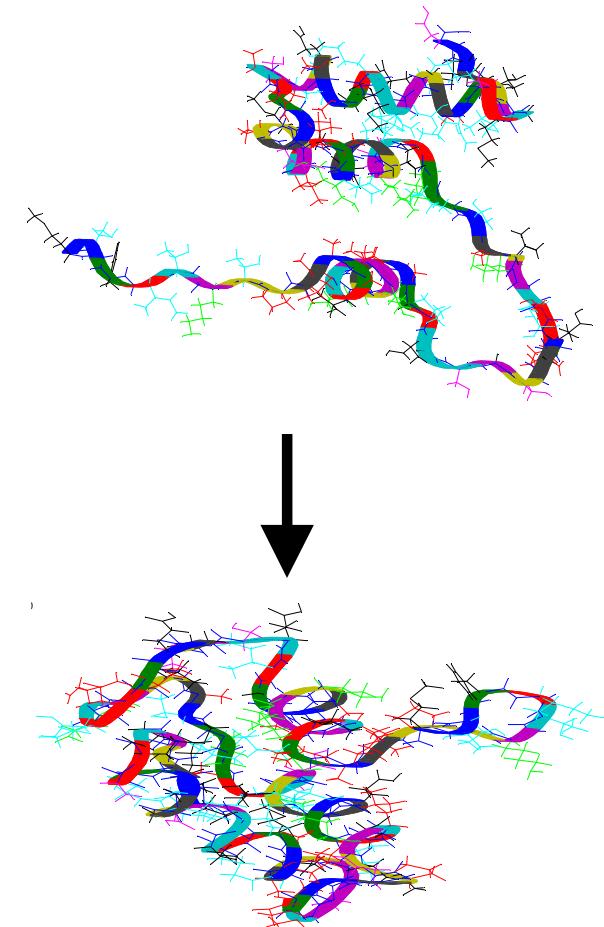
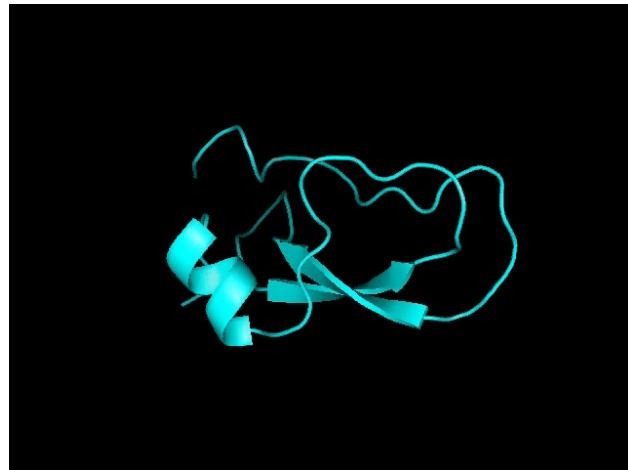
# Conformation Pathways

LEARN MORE AT:  
<http://protofold.engr.uconn.edu>

# Understanding Pathways

Graduate Student: Peter Bohnenkamp

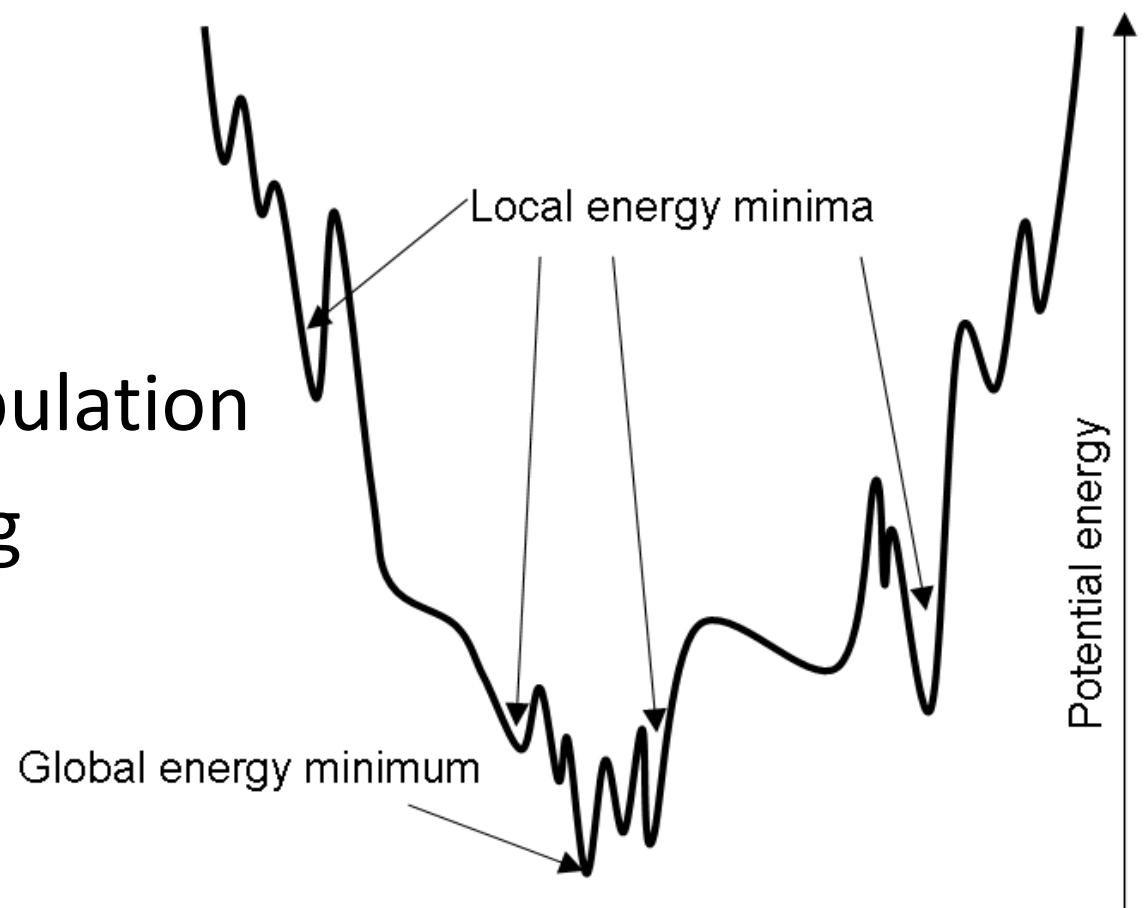
- Single protein – multiple conformations; depend on environment
- What are intermediate steps (pathway) in transition between conformations?



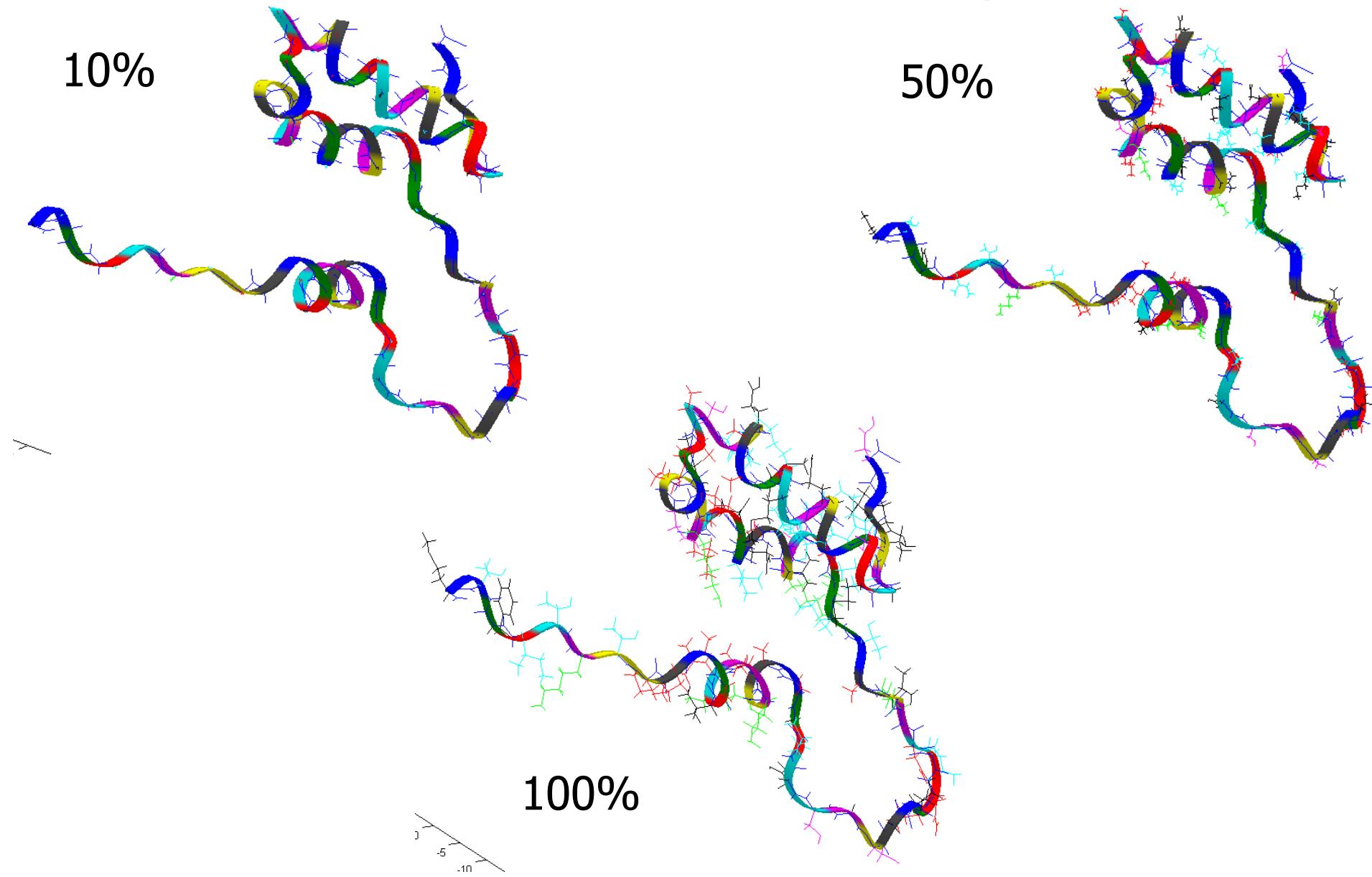
# Energy Landscape

- Folding funnel
- Avoid “traps” of local energy minima

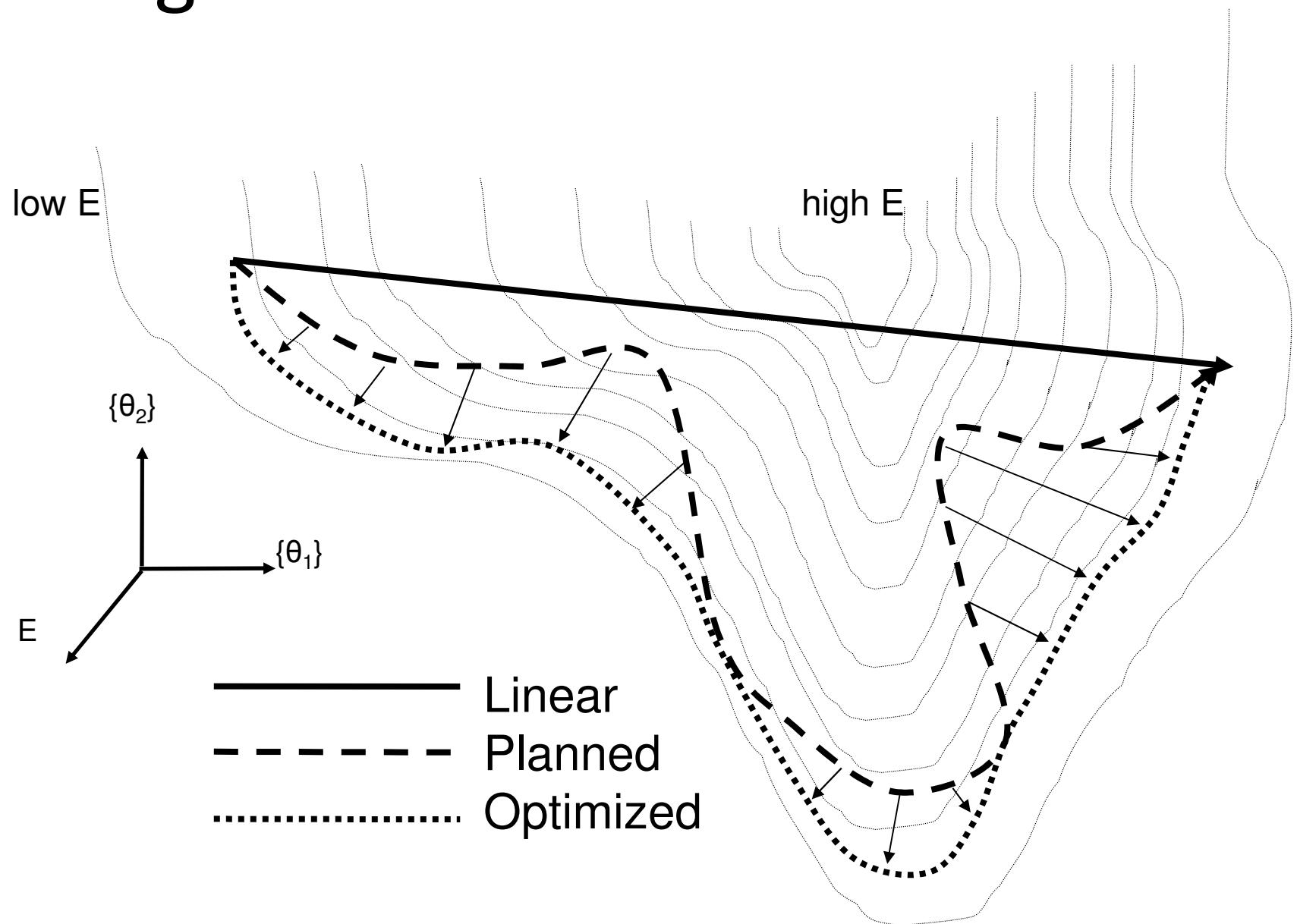
- Segmental Manipulation
- Side Chain Scaling



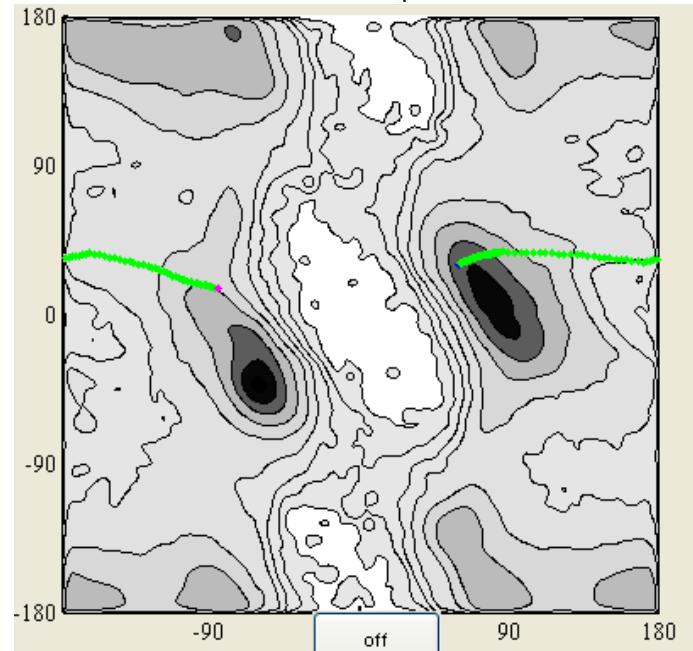
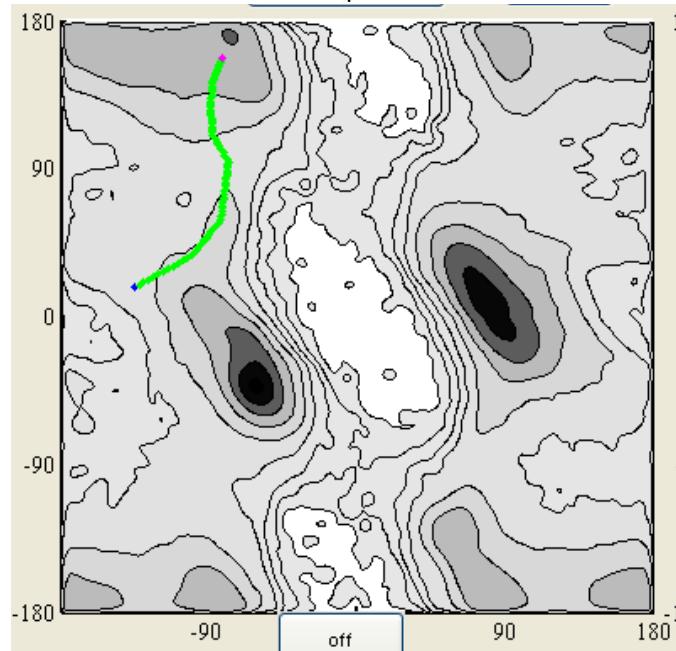
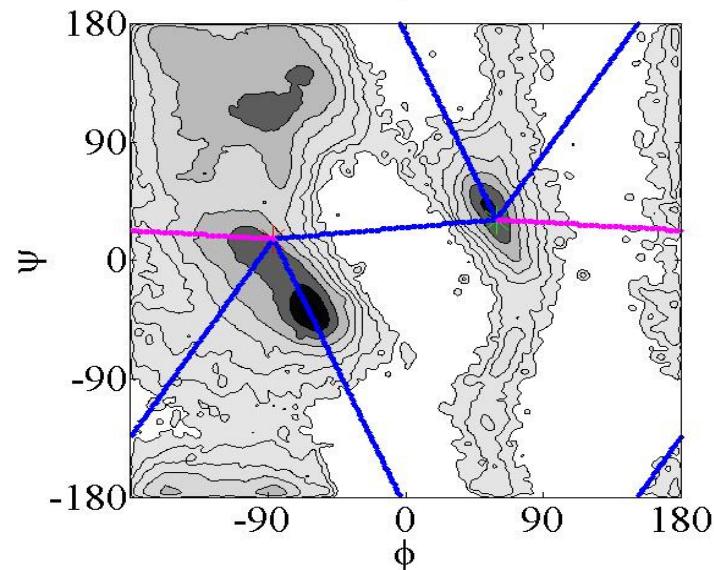
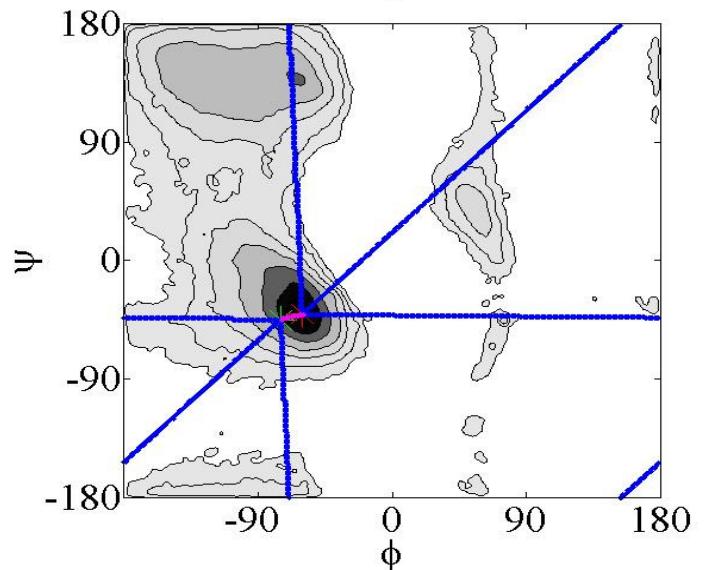
# Side Chain Scaling



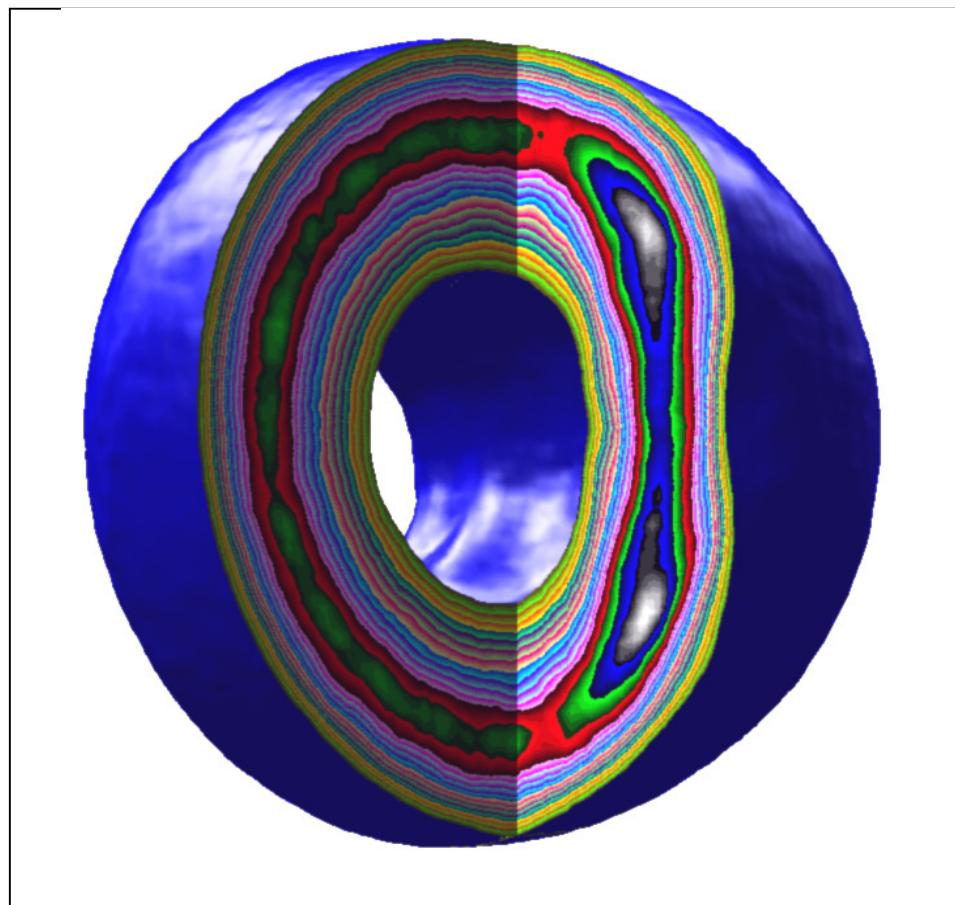
# Design of Feasible Conformations



# Path Planning

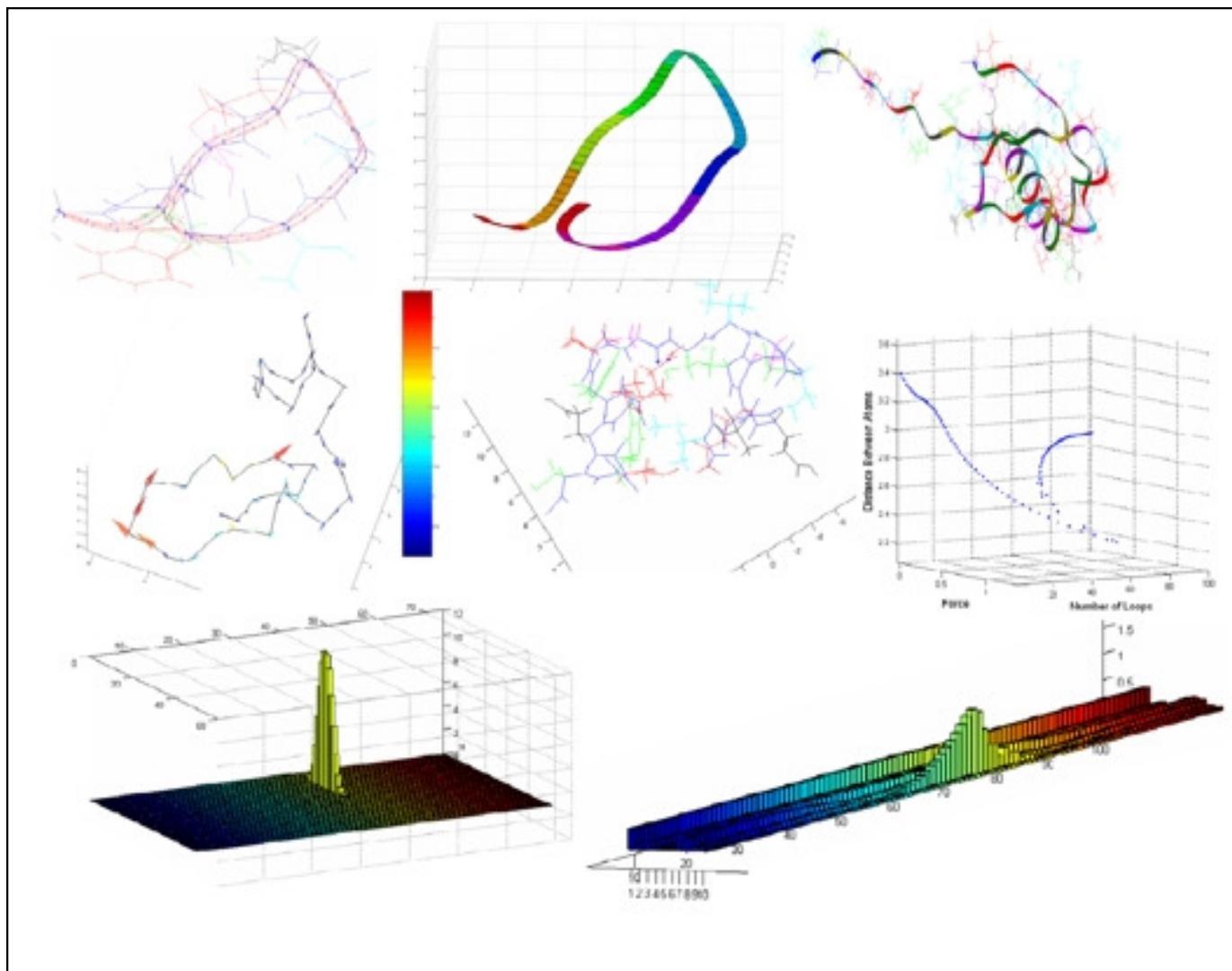


# Work Space Analysis

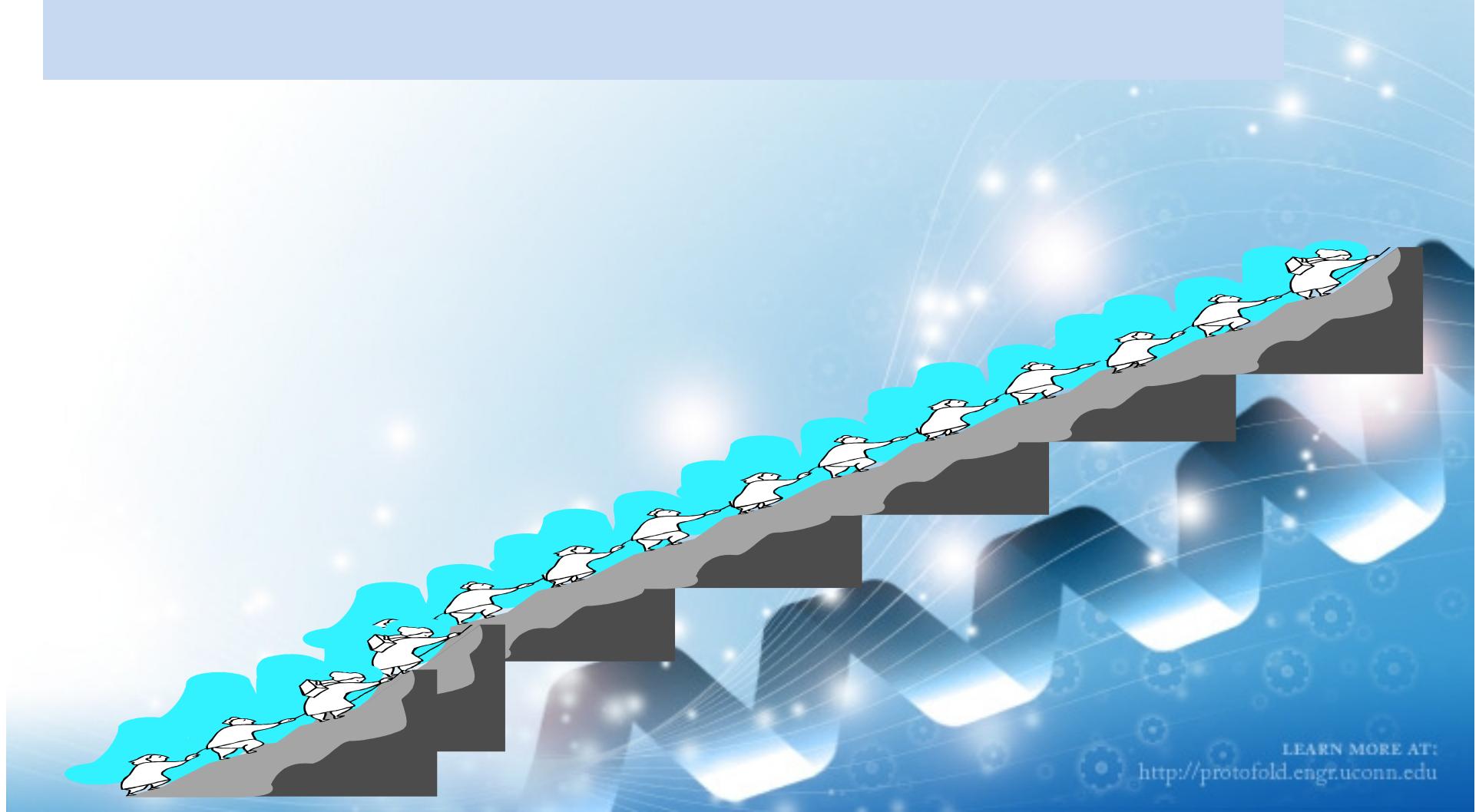


The workspace of the backbone of a three residue peptide chain

# CAD Kernel



# Concluding Thoughts



LEARN MORE AT:  
<http://protofold.engr.uconn.edu>

- Similarities of the protein folding in biological systems and the manipulation of mechanisms and robotics linkages
- Tremendous opportunities for contribution by kinematics
- Mind bugling analysis and computational complexities

- **Protofold:**

- A comprehensive model for fold and motion prediction of protein polypeptide chains
- Stable kinematic notation and analysis
- Efficient kineto-static force analysis
- Motion prediction without the need for molecular dynamics simulations

# Acknowledgements



LEARN MORE AT:  
<http://protofold.engr.uconn.edu>

## Work of Graduate Students:

- Carlos Alvarado
- Morad Behandish
- Peter Bohnenkamp
- Hima Khoshreza
- Khalid Latif
- Chris Madden
- Jessie Parker
- Karla Rodrigues
- Zahra Shahbazi
- Raghav Subramanian
- Pouya Tavousi

## Financial support:

- University of Connecticut
- NSF support acknowledged by K. Kazerounian
  - CMMI 0856401
  - CNS 0923158
  - CMMI 1053077
- NSF support acknowledged by H. Ilies
  - CMMI 0555937
  - CMMI 0644769
  - CMMI 0856401
  - CMMI 0927105

