

Figure 4–2 A protein is made of amino acids linked together into a polypeptide chain. The amino acids are linked by peptide bonds (see Figure 4–1) to form a polypeptide backbone of repeating structure (*gray boxes*), from which the side chain of each amino acid projects. The character and sequence of the chemically distinct side chains—for example, nonpolar (*green*), polar uncharged (*yellow*), and negative (*blue*) side chains—give each protein its distinct, individual properties. A small polypeptide of just four amino acids is shown here. Proteins are typically made up of chains of several hundred amino acids, whose sequence is always presented starting with the N-terminus reading from left to right.

