

**Humans, aliens, and eHarmony
or
why there is no such thing as a free lunch in protein
structure determination from sparse experimental data**



Mark Berjanskii, July 27th, 2012

**... dedicated to all experimentalists
who lost their way**



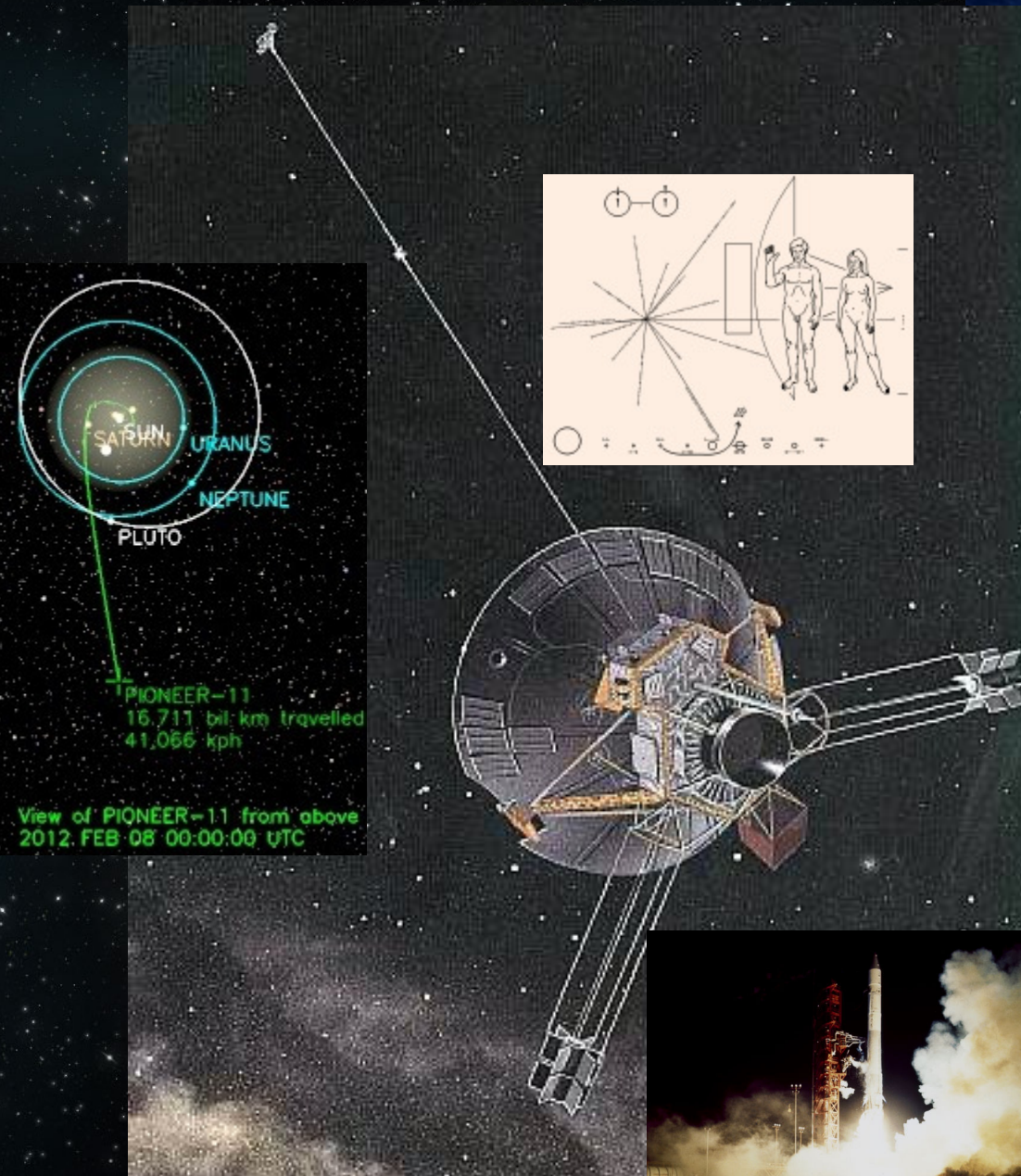
Outline

- ▶ **Purposes and origins of protein structural models**
- ▶ **Theoretical models of protein structure**
- ▶ **Models from non-sparse experimental data**
- ▶ **Models from sparse experimental data**
- ▶ **Recent developments**

The background is a dark blue-grey color. It features a faint, light-grey graphic on the left side that includes a compass rose with a needle pointing towards the top-left, and several concentric, irregular lines resembling a topographic map. The text is centered in a white rectangular box.

Humans, aliens, and eHarmony®

Humans, aliens, and eHarmony



Humans, aliens, and eHarmony

Typical human face
by David Tood



<http://www.tood.dk/blog/the-face-of-humanity/>

What is enough for aliens, not enough for eHarmony

Typical ≠ Accurate

Typical human face
by David Tood

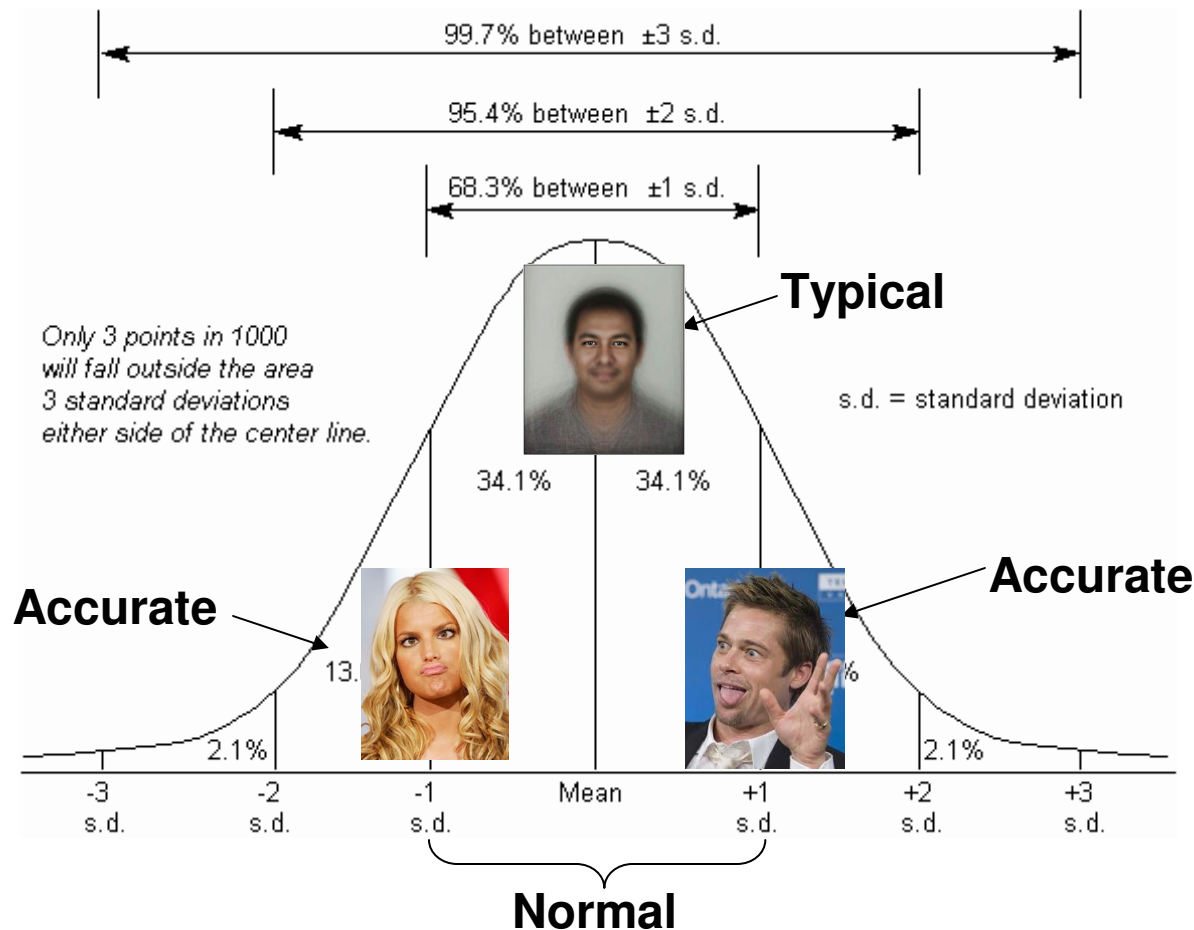


“Accurate” human faces

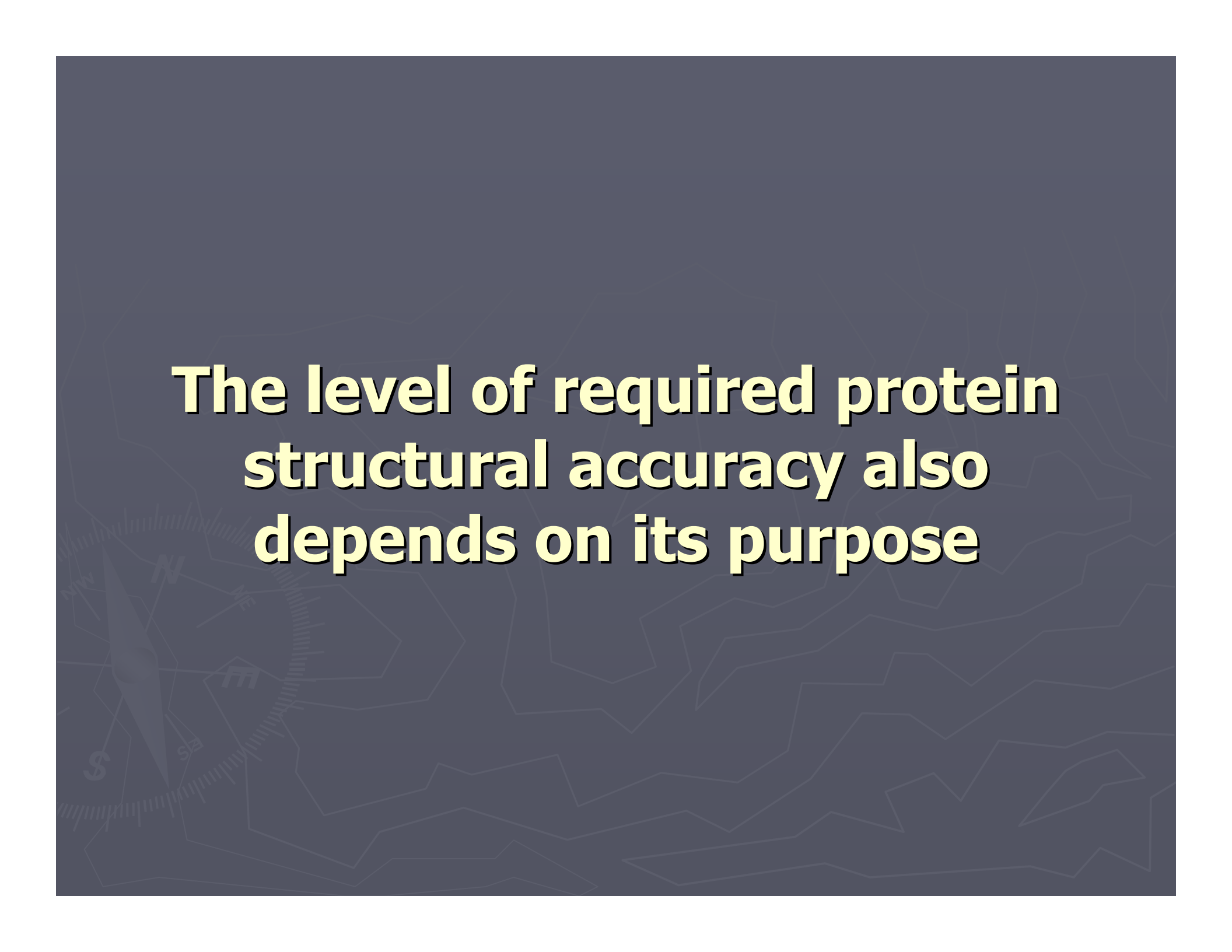


Take-home message

Typical \neq Accurate



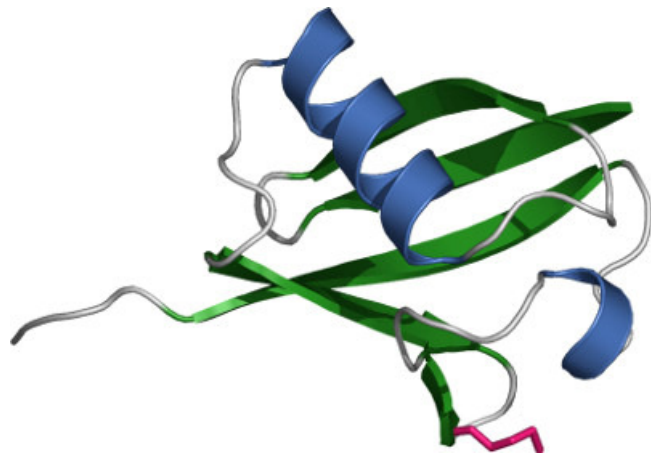
Warning!!! Most protein structure validation tools check how typical or normal your protein model is, not how accurate your protein model is.

The background is a dark blue-grey color. It features a faint, light-grey graphic on the left side that includes a compass rose with a needle pointing towards the top-left, and several concentric, irregular lines resembling a topographic map. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

**The level of required protein
structural accuracy also
depends on its purpose**

Why do we need to know protein structures?

- 1) Prediction of protein function from 3D structure (e.g. fold, motifs, active site prediction)



1) Ubiquitin

- degradation by the proteasome,

2) Ubiquitin-like modifiers

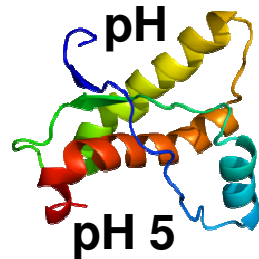
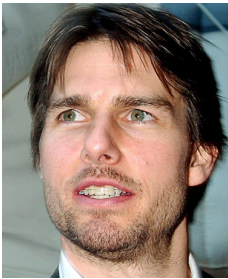
- function regulation by post-translation modification

- 2) Sequence-to-function prediction
- 3) Mechanism of protein function (e.g. enzyme catalysis, structural effect of known mutations).
- 4) Rational drug design and structure design
- 5) Design of novel proteins with novel function

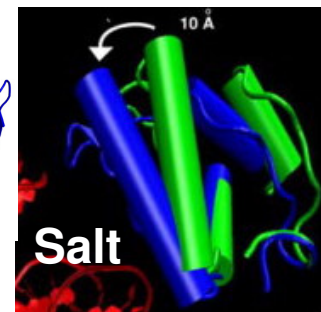
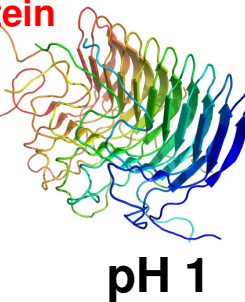
When do we need to do a structural experiment?

- 1) Structure is not known
- 2) Structure is known but can not be used to answer your scientific question
 - a) structure is incomplete
 - b) structure was determined at different conditions

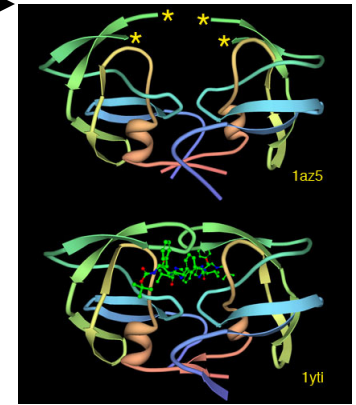
Tom Cruise under stress conditions



Prion protein

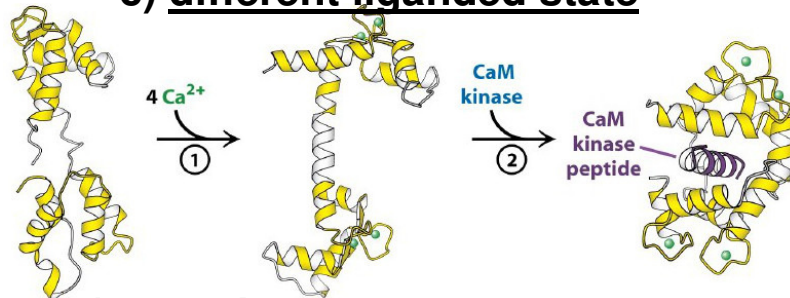


SIV protease

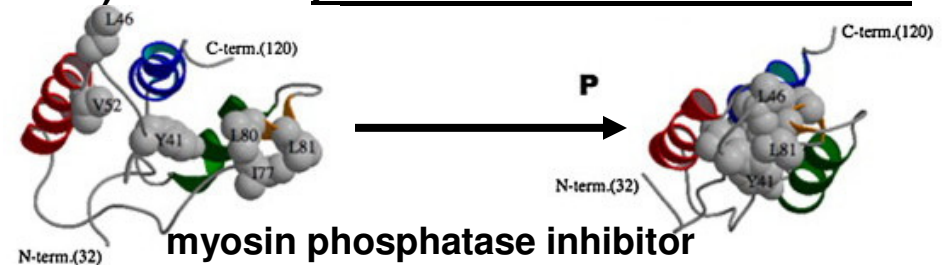


African swine fever virus DNA polymerase X
50mM salt vs 500 mM salt

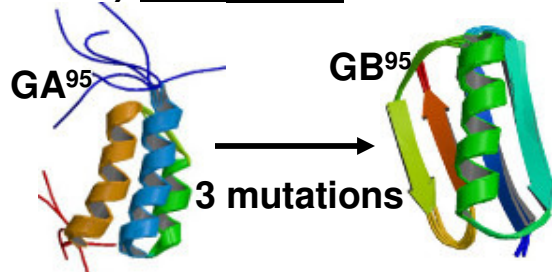
c) different liganded state



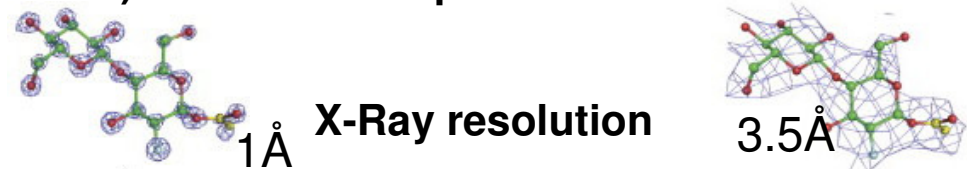
d) different post-tranlational modification



e) mutations

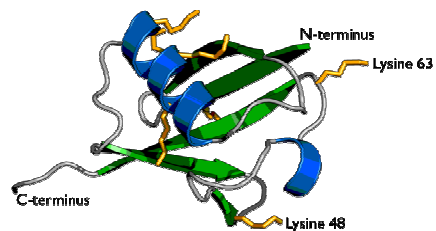


f) Insufficient experimental data



Why use incomplete experimental data for protein structure determination?

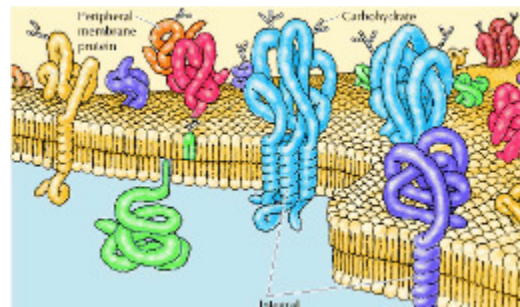
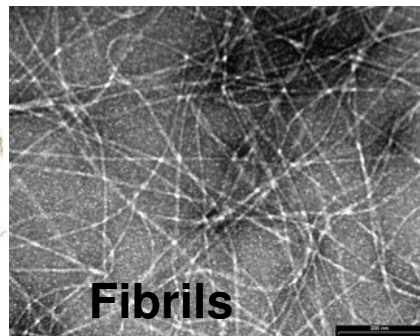
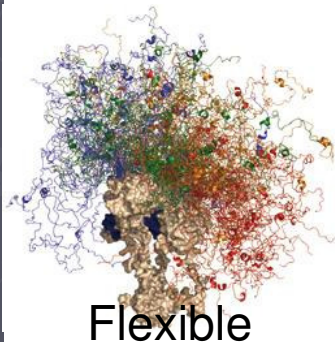
1) Some biological questions (e.g. prediction of function from protein fold) may not require high structural accuracy



Ubiquitin

2) Some biologically interesting proteins are too difficult to study by any high-res method:

- proteins with extended flexible regions
- large proteins
- fibrillar and membrane proteins

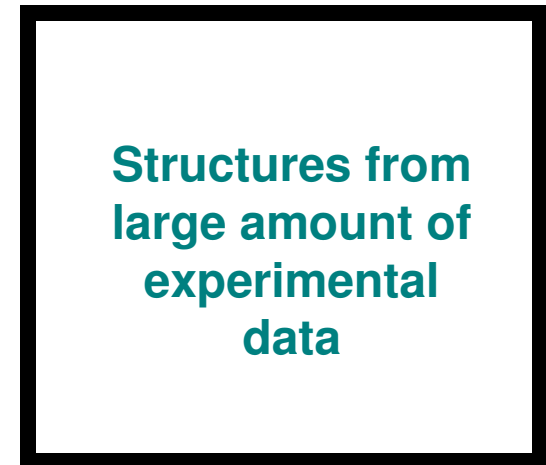
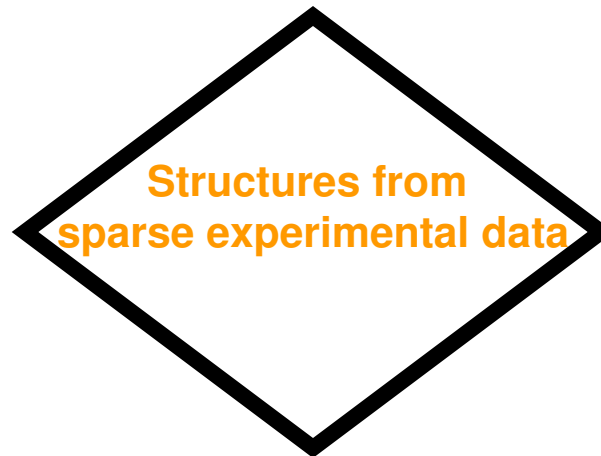
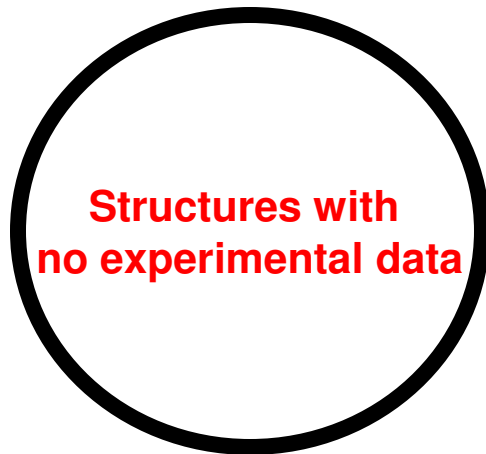


Membrane proteins



Large proteins

Protein structures from the point of view of an experimentalist



Do not trust

Not sure

Trust

What is expert's opinion?



A database of



Analysis of a



Enzyme Struc



Sequence An



Database of d



Interactive gra

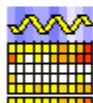


Atlas of sidec



ENCODE protein analysis

Software



PROCHECK

Program to check stereochemical quality of protein structures



LigPlot+

GUI version of LIGPLOT, including superposition of related plots



LIGPLOT

Program to plot schematic diagrams of protein-ligand interactions



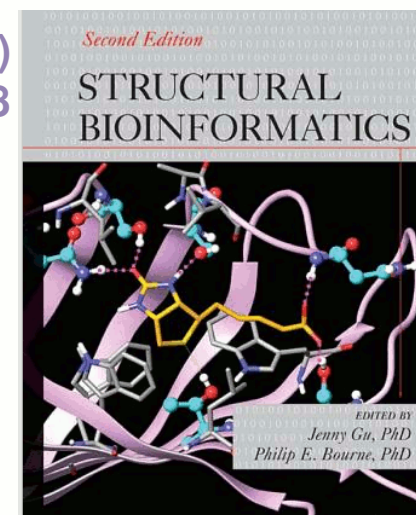
Roman Laskowski

Research Scientist at European Bioinformatics Institute

STRUCTURAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

Roman A. Laskowski

**Jenny Gu (Editor),
Philip E. Bourne (Editor)**
ISBN: 978-0-470-18105-8
Hardcover
1067 pages
John Wiley & Sons, Inc.



Non-experimental structures



Protein structures from the point of view of an experimentalist



Structures with
no experimental data

Do not trust

Not sure

Trust

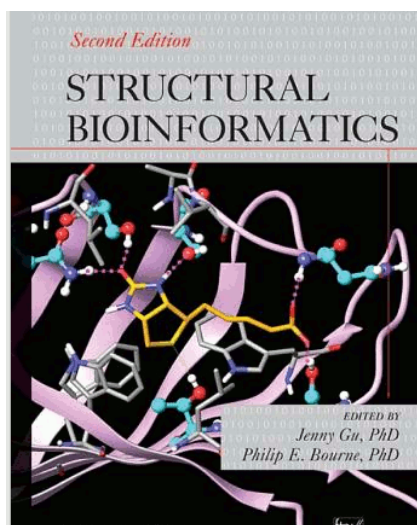
What does Roman Laskowski write about theoretical structures?



Roman Laskowski

Research Scientist at European Bioinformatics Institute

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STRUCTURAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

Roman A. Laskowski

Theoretical Models

Particular skepticism should be reserved for models that are not directly based on any experimental measurement. These are the so-called “theoretical models” and are obtained either by homology modeling or “threading” techniques. Homology

What are the criteria of success in protein structure determination?

1) In method development tests:

- Global accuracy: RMSD, TM-score
- Agreement with experimental data (when available)
- Agreement with protein quality metrics

2) In real-life research:

- Global accuracy
- Agreement with experimental data (when available)
- Agreement with protein quality metrics

Ab-Initio structures by molecular dynamics

SuperComputer "Anton" for MD simulations



D.E. Shaw Research

Dihydrofolate reductase:

Anton 512 cores: 15 μ s/day

Desmond 512 cores: 0.5 μ s/day

Amber-GPU 64 cores: 80 ns/day

Amber 48 cores: 20ns/day

Gromacs 8 cores: ~5-10ns/day

MD force-field

$$V(\vec{r}) = \sum_{\text{bonds}} K_b (b - b_0)^2 + \sum_{\text{angles}} K_\theta (\theta - \theta_0)^2 + \sum_{\text{dihedrals}} K_\chi (1 + \cos(n\chi - \delta)) + \sum_{\text{nonbonded-pairs}, i, j} \left[\frac{q_i q_j}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_{ij}} - \epsilon_{ij} \left\{ \left(\frac{R_{\text{min}, ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - 2 \left(\frac{R_{\text{min}, ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right\} \right]$$

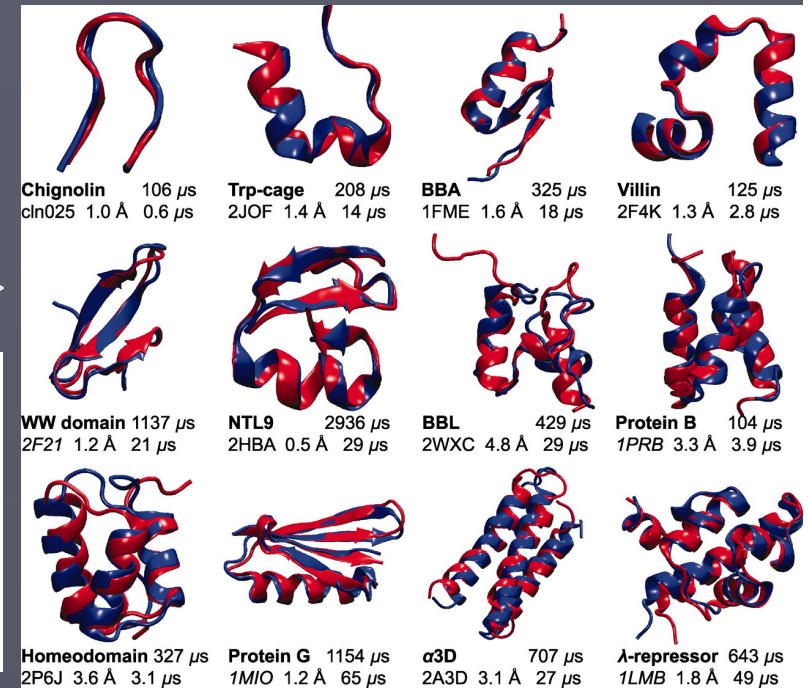
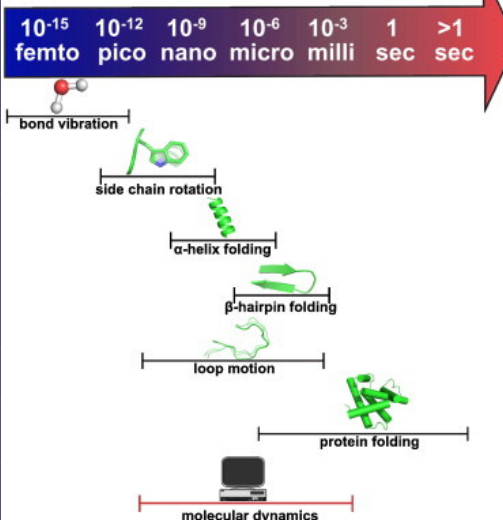
Energy dependencies on:

1. Bond length
2. Bond valence angle
3. Bond dihedral angle
4. Non-bonded electrostatic interactions
5. Non-bonded van-der Waals interactions

Newton equation of motion

$$\vec{f}_i = m_i \vec{a}_i$$

Folding time-scales:



How Fast-Folding Proteins Fold

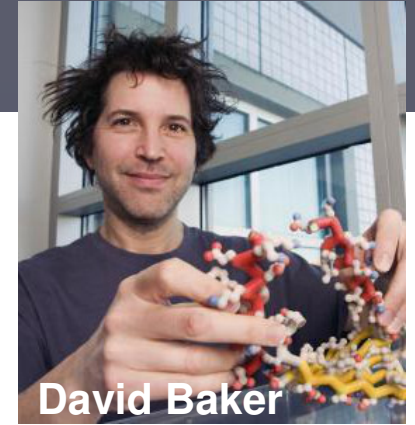
Kresten Lindorff-Larsen, Stefano Piana, Ron O. Dror, David E. Shaw;
Science 28 October 2011: Vol. 334 no. 6055 pp. 517-520

Limitations:

- 1) Requires powerful hardware or computing time
- 2) Limited to small/simple proteins
- 3) Can not take into account chaperone action
- 4) Criteria for success???

Fragment-based *ab initio* structures

(Non-experimental structures)

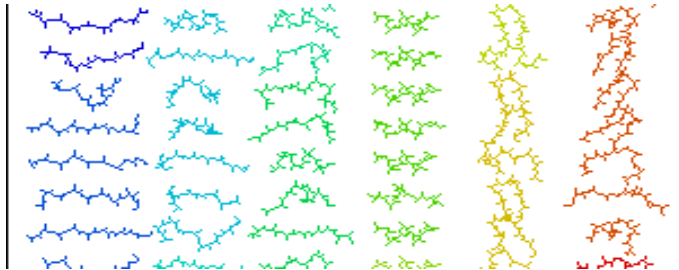


Rosetta

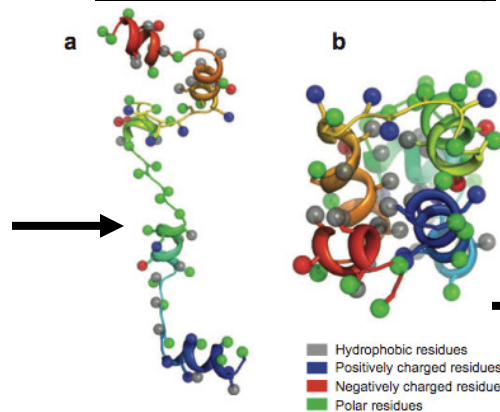
Developed by 12 labs
50 people

Sequence Secondary Structure

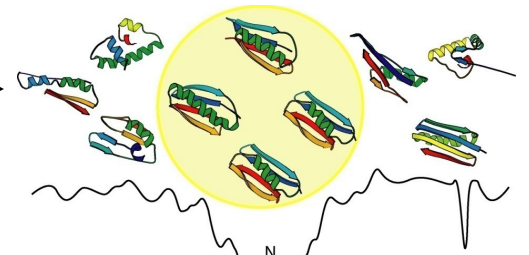
3- and 9-residue fragments



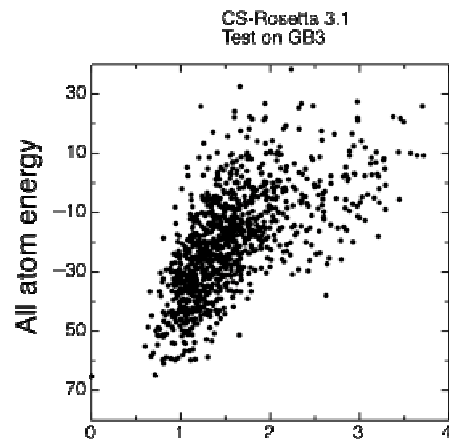
Low-resolution folding



Best low-res decoy selection



Model quality evaluation



Full-atom refinement

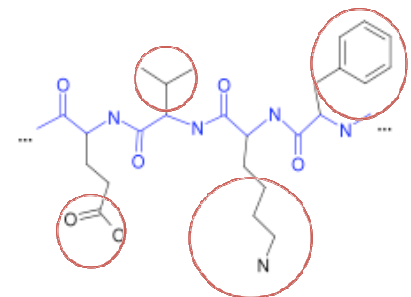


Small backbone moves

Side chain
optimization

Backbone
optimization

Full-atom side-chain restoration

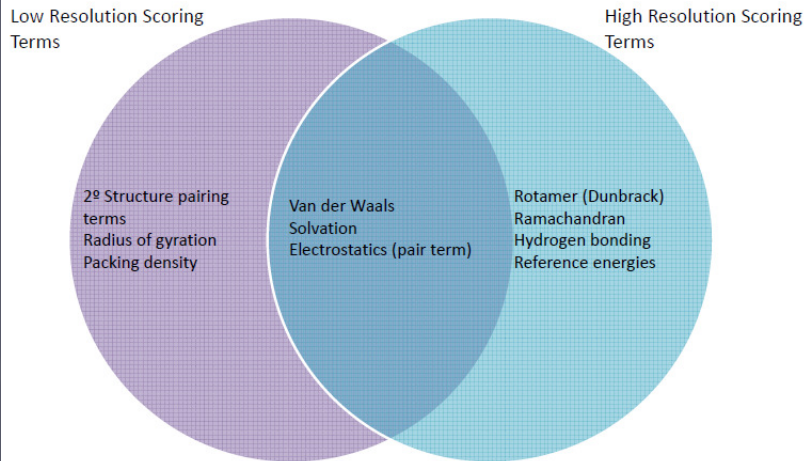


Fragment-based *ab initio* structures

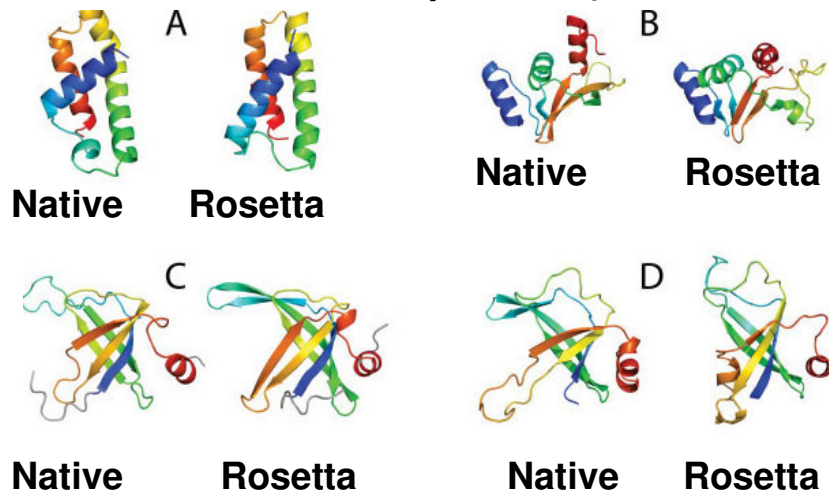
(Non-experimental structures)

Rosetta

Scoring function



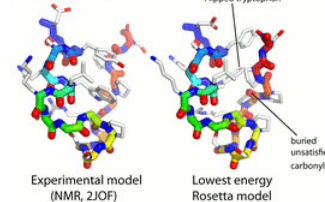
Rosetta can fold small proteins (<100 residues)



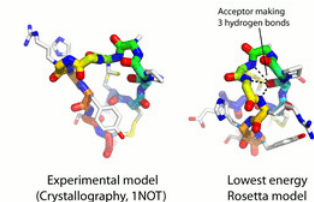
Rosetta limitations

- 1) Does not fold well proteins above 100 residues (sampling problem)
- 2) Biased by fragment structure
- 3) Implicit solvation score is too simplistic and only weakly disfavors buried unsatisfied polar groups.
- 4) Hydrogen bond potential neglects the effects of charged atoms, (anti-) cooperativity within H-bond networks .
- 5) Ignores electrostatic interactions (besides H-bonds) and their screening,
- 6) Does not permit rigorous estimation of a model's free energy.
- 7) Does not fold properly some very small proteins and RNA

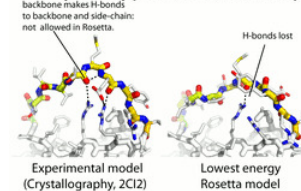
A. Trp cage



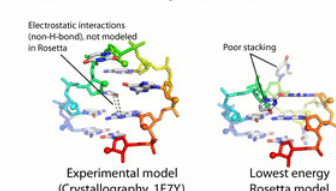
B. α -conotoxin GI



C. Chymotrypsin inhibitor loop



D. RNA tetraloop (UUCG)



Rosetta forces protein normality

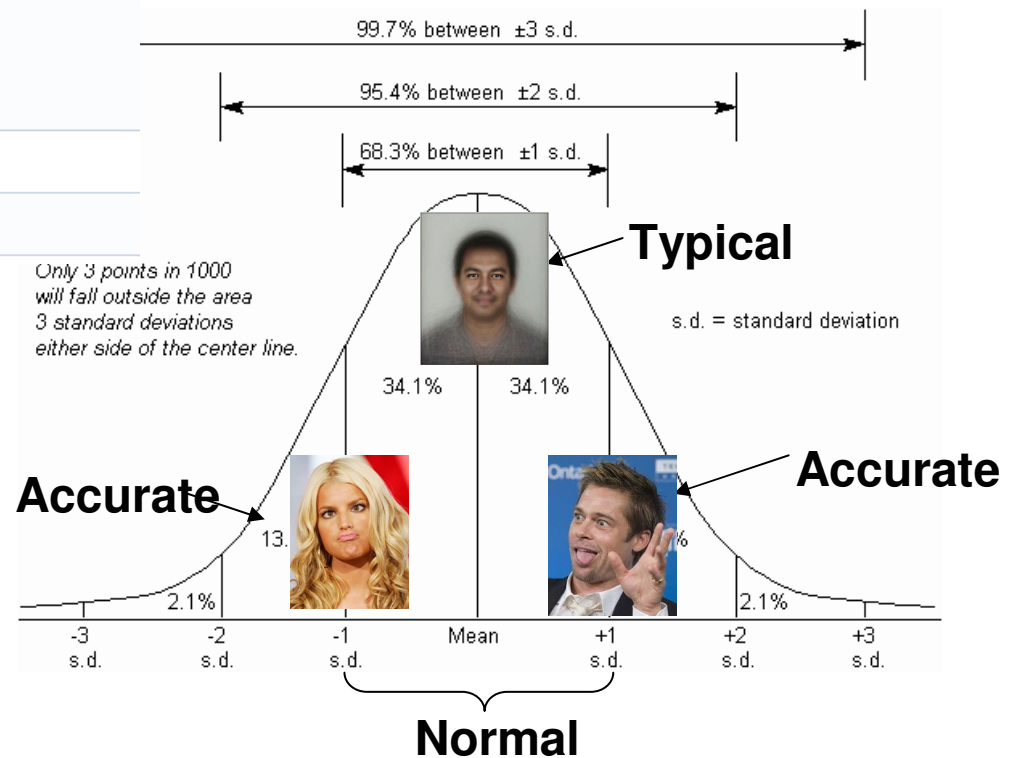
Rosetta scoring function

lennard-jones attractive
lennard-jones repulsive
lazaridis-jarplus solvation energy
lennard-jones repulsive between atoms in the same residue
statistics based pair term, favors salt bridges
pi-pi interaction between aromatic groups, by default = 0
internal energy of sidechain rotamers as derived from Dunbrack's statistics
reference energy for each amino acid
backbone-backbone hbonds distant in primary sequence
backbone-backbone hbonds close in primary sequence
sidechain-backbone hydrogen bond energy
sidechain-sidechain hydrogen bond energy
Probability of amino acid at pipsi
distance score in current disulfide
csangles score in current disulfide
dihedral score in current disulfide
ca dihedral score in current disulfide
proline ring closure energy

ramachandran preferences
omega dihedral in the backbone

Fragment idealization

Typical \neq Accurate



Comparative or template-based modeling

Threading

Homology modeling

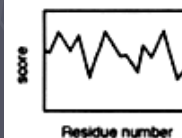
Template database

Alignment score based statistical properties:

mutation potential,
environment fitness potential,
pairwise potential,
secondary structure compatibilities

**Alignment score based on
residue identity or
similarity**

```
3412222222 1272334479 3263323232 3132224132 6344322616 7362611122
YHET  AWSNPAAQ  HKPRLVVFHG  LEGSLNSPYA  HGLVEDAQKR  GWLGVMHFR  GCSGEPNRMH
1broA YYEDH----G  TGQPVVLIHG  F--PLSGHSW  ERQSALLLDA  GYRVITYDRR  GF-GQSSQPT
```



Model
evaluation



Model
optimization



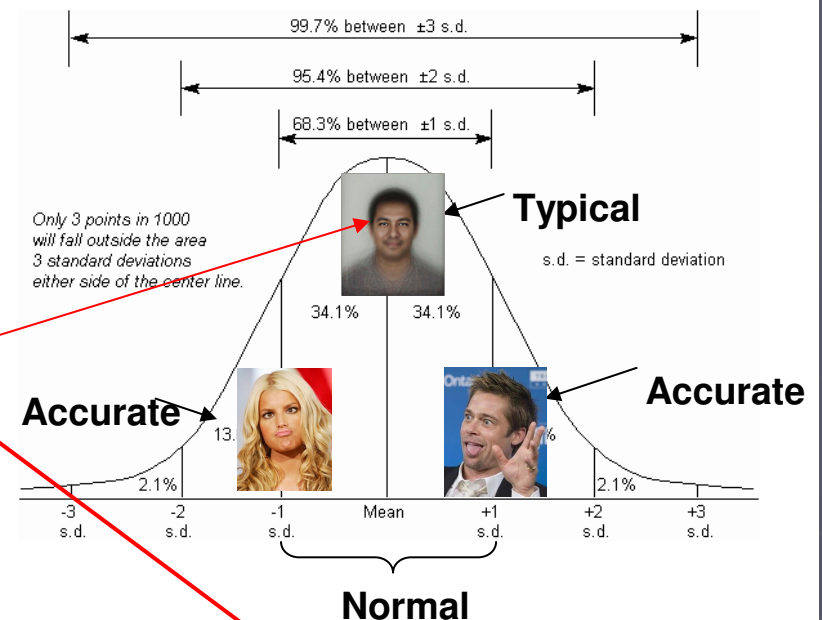
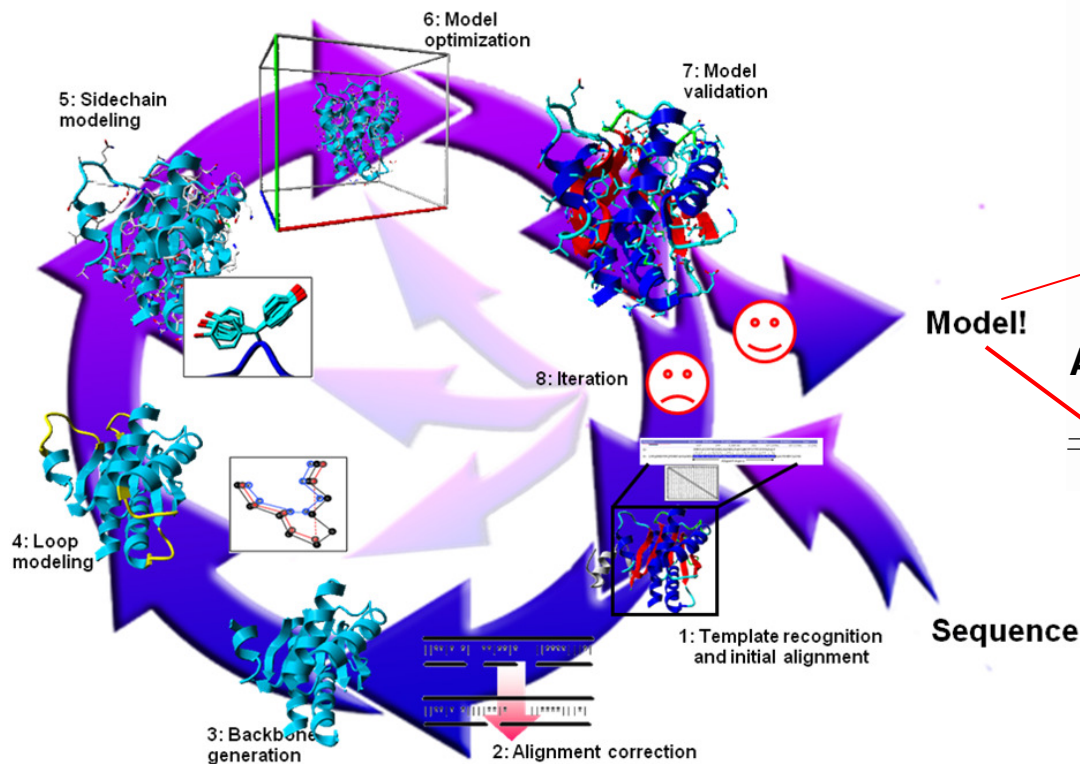
Adding loops
and sidechains



Building model
framework

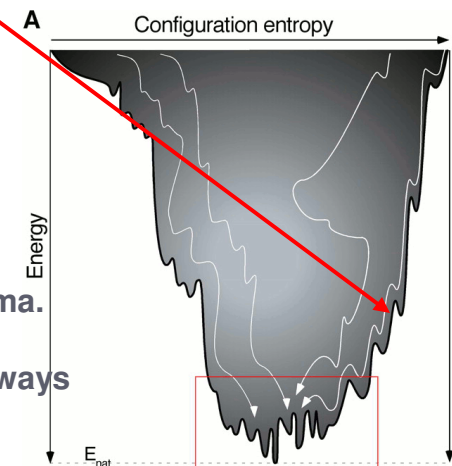
In a real-life scenario, success of homology modeling is judged based on model normality, not model accuracy.

Typical \neq Accurate

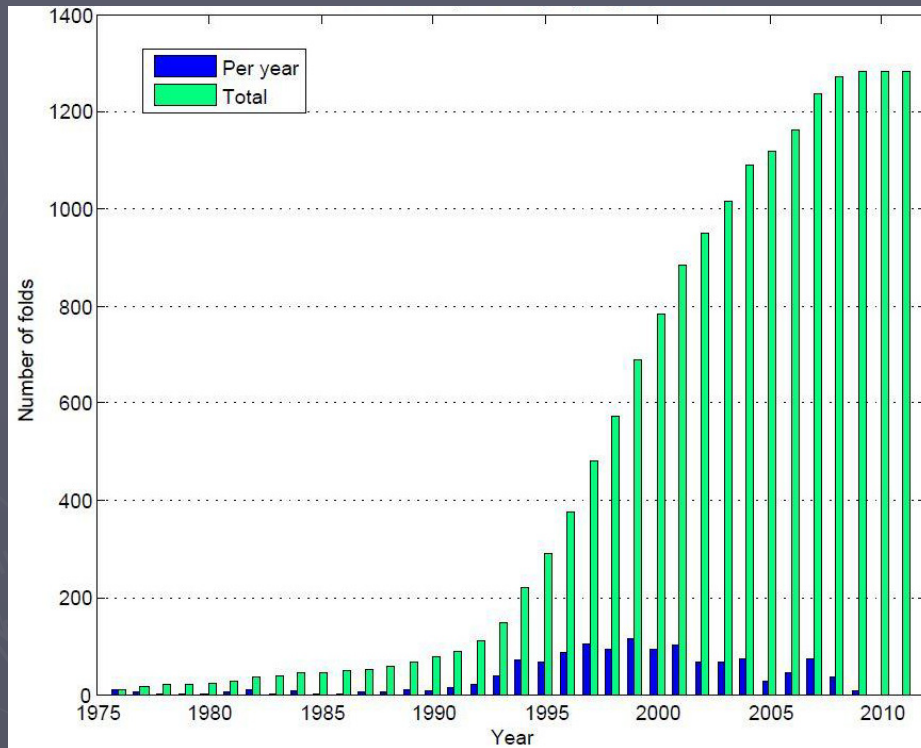


Theoretical scores for protein quality assessment may have wrong energetic minima.

Limited conformational sampling may not always yield the native conformation

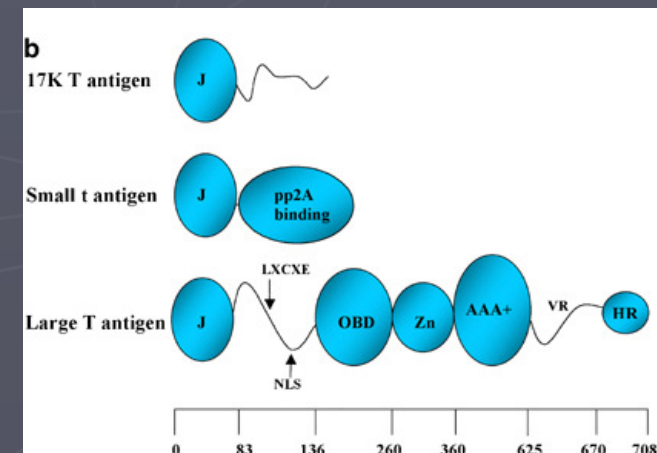


Some people may think that any structure can be determined via homology modeling because “all” folds of NMRable and XRAYable proteins are “known”



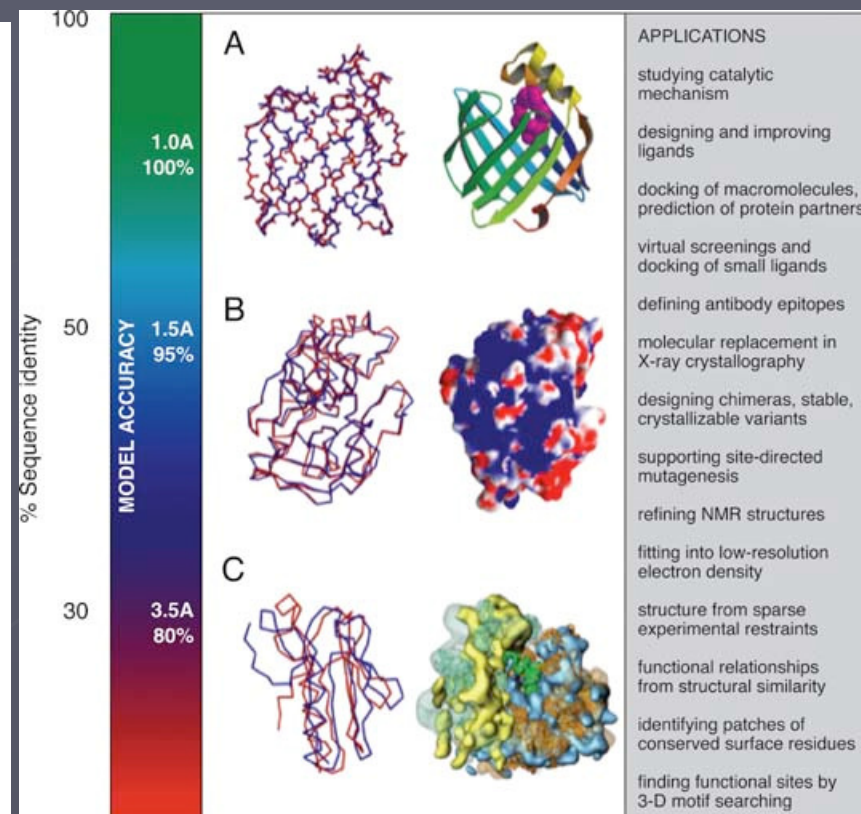
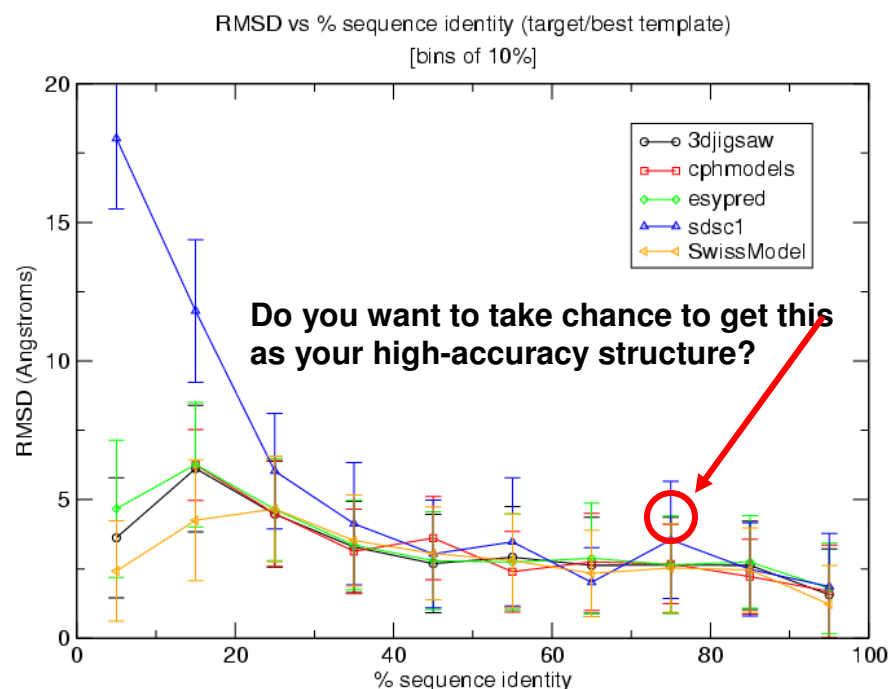
But can simple folds provide all necessary information to define domain orientation in and overall structure of complex proteins?

SV40 T-antigen



NO!

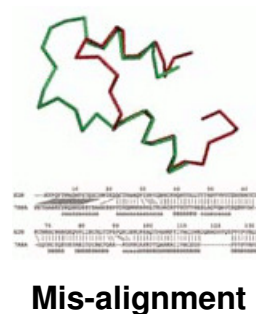
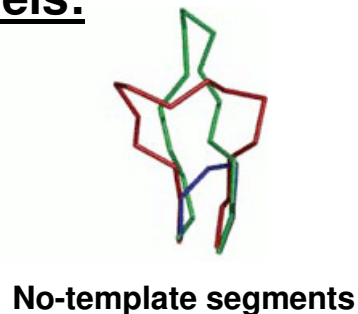
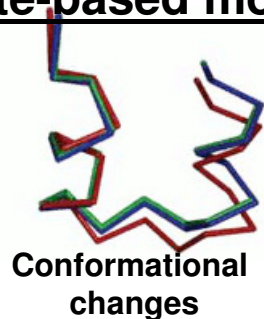
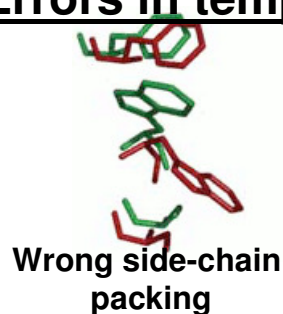
Accuracy of template-based modeling



<http://swissmodel.expasy.org/workspace/tutorial/eva.html>

Curr Protoc Bioinformatics. 2006 Oct;Chapter 5:Unit 5.6.
Comparative protein structure modeling using Modeller.
Eswar N, Webb B, Marti-Renom MA, Madhusudhan MS, Eramian D, Shen MY, Pieper U, Sali A.

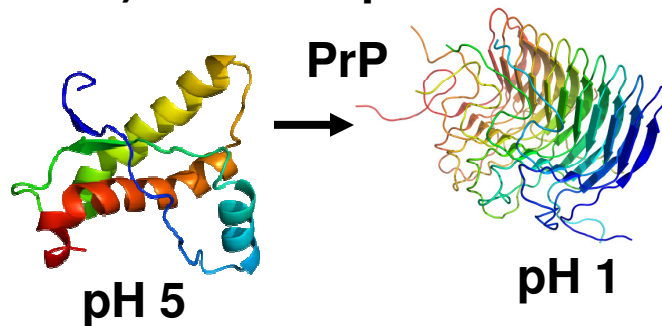
Errors in template-based models:



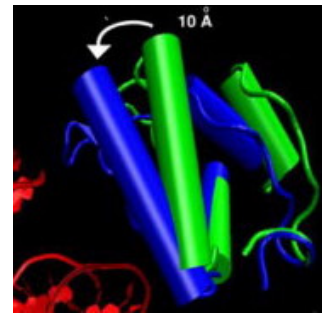
Template-based models have strong 3D bias to the template

Even 100% identical proteins may have very different structures due to:

1) Different pHs

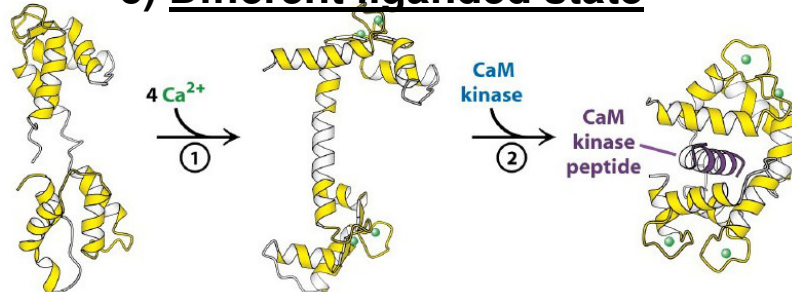


2) Different ionic strength

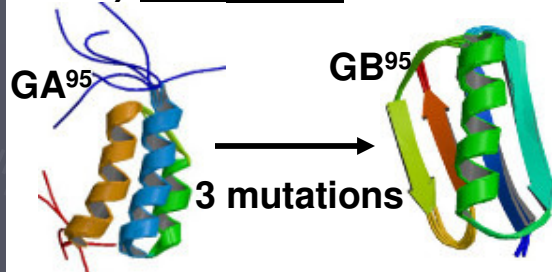


African swine fever virus DNA polymerase X
50mM salt vs 500 mM salt

c) Different liganded state



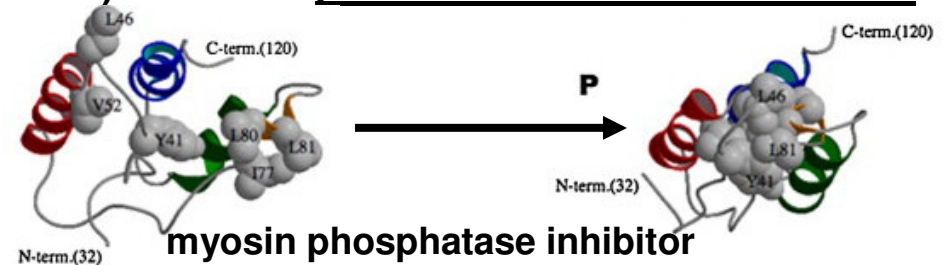
e) mutations



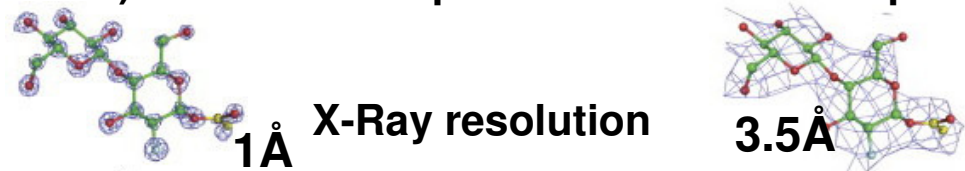
Ad Bax homology-modeled from a George Clooney template



d) Different post-tranlational modification

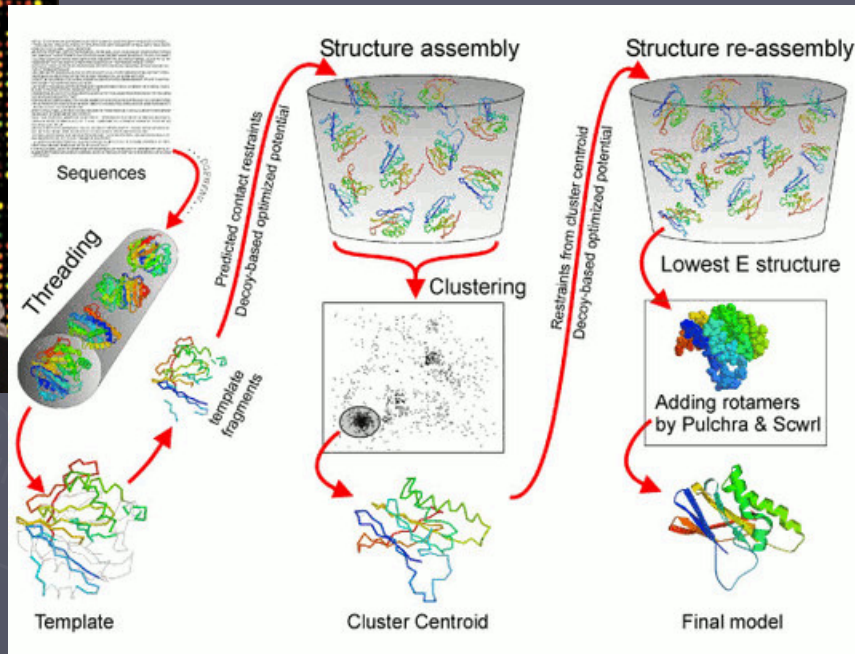


f) Insufficient experimental data of template



Dealing with 3D bias

TASSER



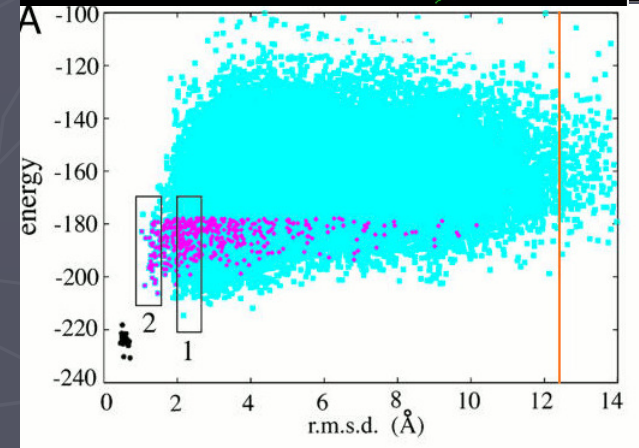
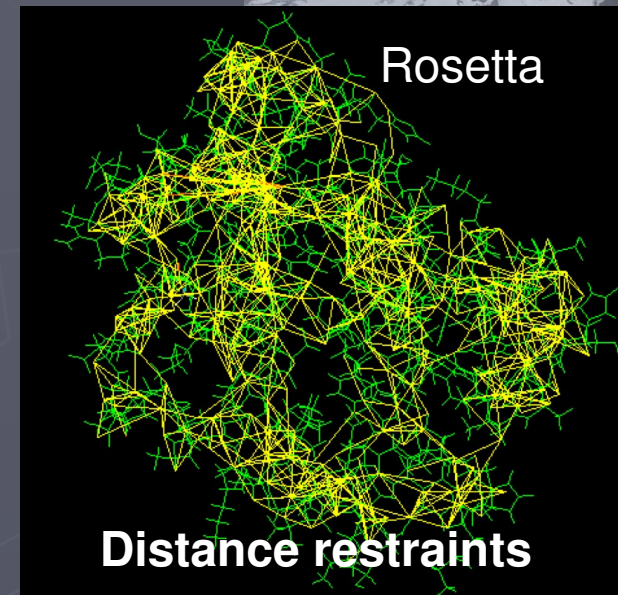
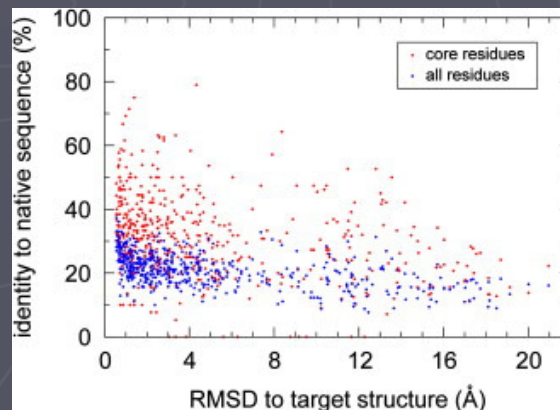
Jeffrey Skolnick

Pros:

- Models are less biased by template

Cons:

- Models are more dependent on imperfect folding scores



David Baker

Protein structures from the point of view of an experimentalist

Structures with
no experimental data:
Homology Modeling,
Threading,
Fragment-based,
Ab Initio

Structures from
large amount of
experimental
data

Do not trust

Not sure

Trust



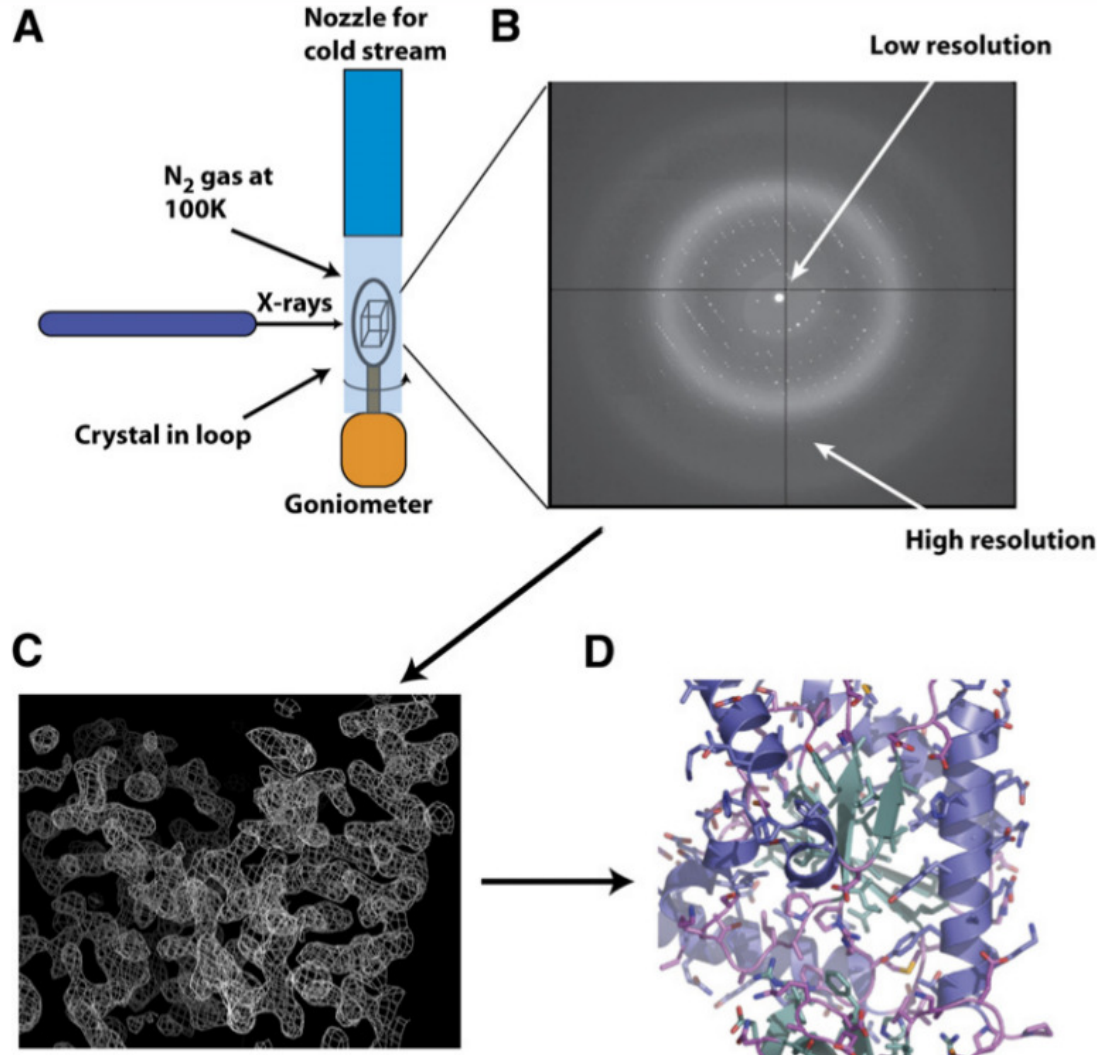
Experimental methods of high-resolution structure determination



X-ray crystallography



X-Ray crystallography



Quality metrics:

1) Experimental data:

- Number of reflections
- Signal to noise ratio

2) Model-to-experiment agreement:

- R factor
- R free factor

$$R = \frac{\sum |F_{obs} - F_{calc}|}{\sum |F_{obs}|}$$

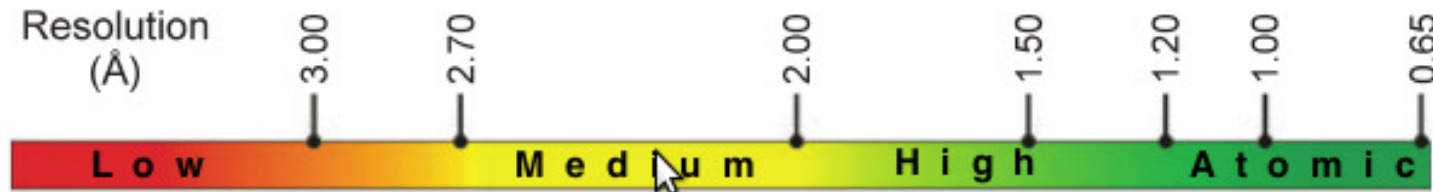
3) Coordinate uncertainty:

- B-factor

4) Stereo-chemical normality:

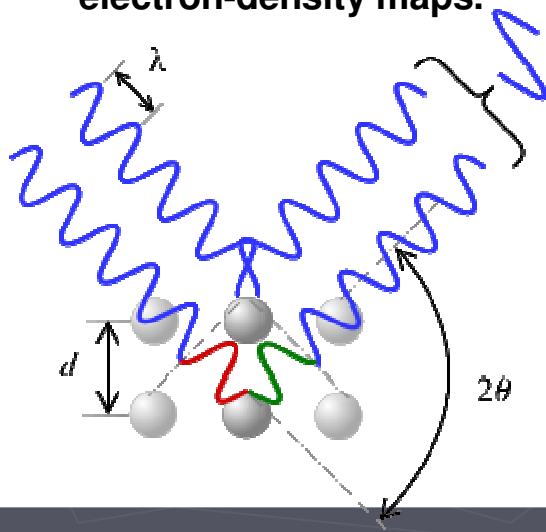
- backbone torsion angles (Ramachandran plot)
- bond length, angles
- side-chain torsion angles

X-Ray Resolution

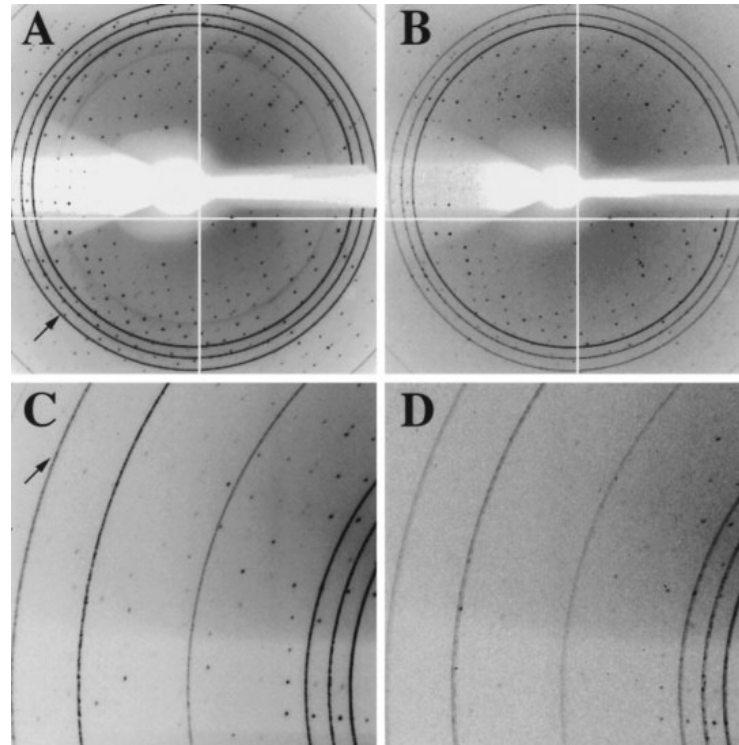


Minimum spacing (d) of crystal lattice planes that still provide measurable diffraction of X-rays.

Minimum distance between structural features that can be distinguished in the electron-density maps.

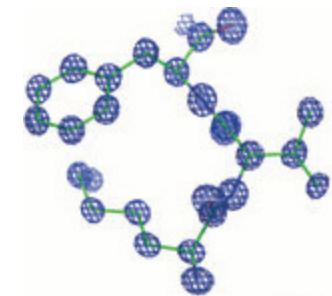


High resolution Low resolution



Many reflections Few reflections

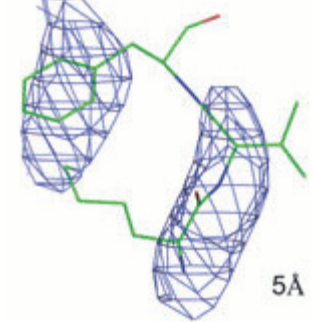
High resolution



0.65Å

200,000 reflections

Low resolution



5Å

500 reflections

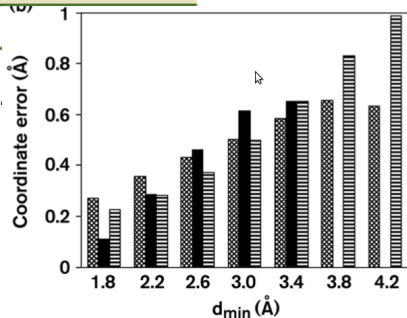
Resolution and protein quality

Table 3. Rough Guide to the Resolution Required for Identifying Features of Different Types in a Well-Phased Electron Density Map of a Protein

Type of feature	Approximate resolution
α helix	9 Å
β sheet	4 Å
"random" main chain (i.e. no regular secondary structure)	3.7 Å
Aromatic side chains	3.5 Å
Shaped bulbs of density for small side chains	3.2 Å
Interpretable conformations for side chains	2.9 Å
Density for main-chain carbonyl groups, identifying plane of peptide bond	2.7 Å
Ordered water molecules	2.7 Å
Resolving individual atoms	1.5 Å

Table is taken from Blow (2002).

Blow, D. (2002). *Outline of Crystallography for Biologists* (New York: Oxford University Press).



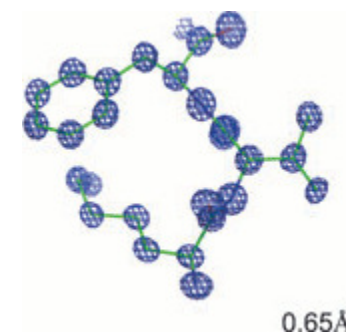
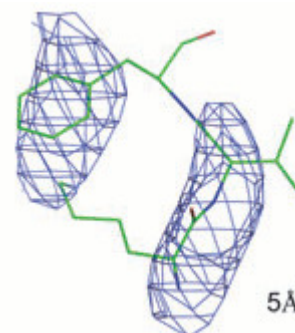
When X-ray data is incomplete, you have to rely on other sources of structural information: knowledge-based parameters. Imagination, etc.

Checking your imagination: applications of the free R value
Gerard J Kleywegt¹ and Axel T Brünger^{2*}

Low resolution



High resolution



Rules of Thumb for Selecting X-Ray Crystal Structures

Many analyses in Structural Bioinformatics require the selection of a dataset of 3D structures on which analysis can be performed. A commonly used rule of thumb for selecting reliable structures for such analyses, where reasonably accurate models are required, is to choose those models that have a quoted resolution of 2.0 Å or better, and an *R*-factor of 0.20 or lower. These criteria will give structures that are

NMR spectroscopy

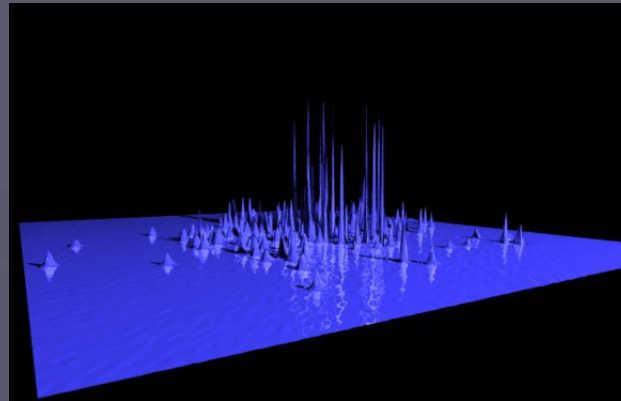


Protein NMR spectroscopy

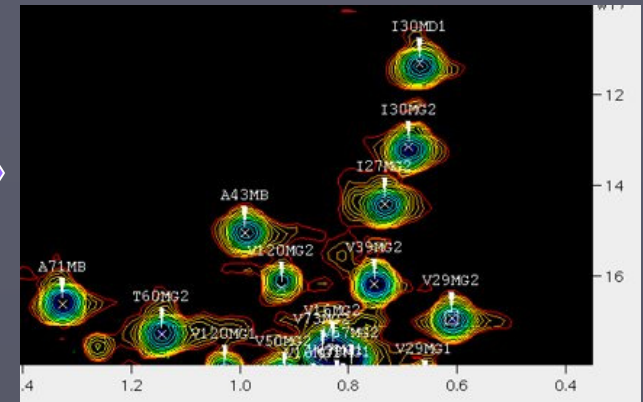
Experiment



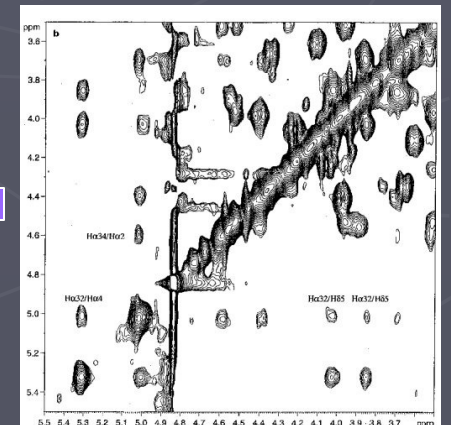
Spectra processing



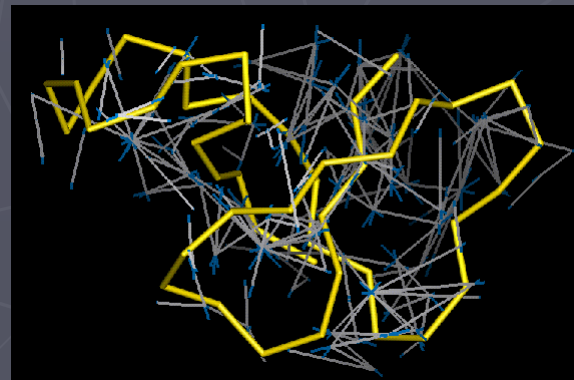
Spectra assignment



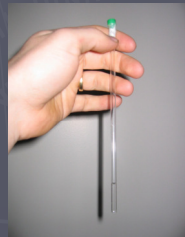
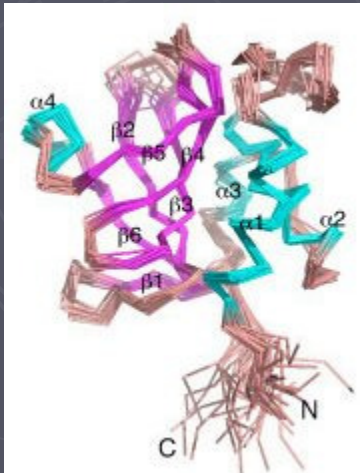
NOE assignment



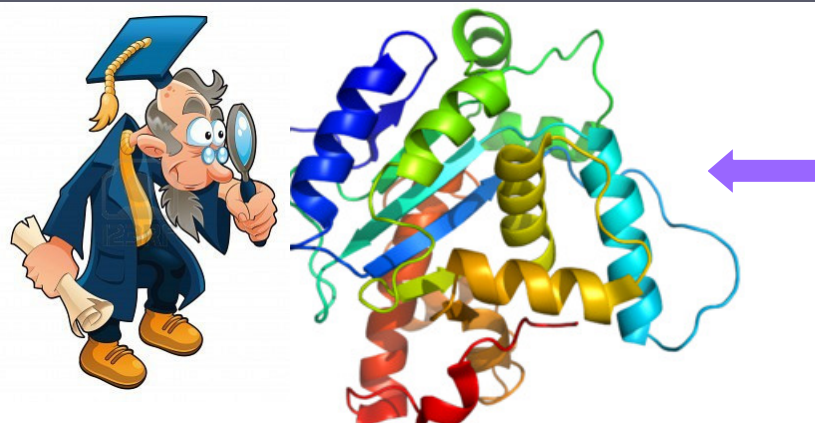
Distance restraints



Model generation



What is typical NMR experimental data?



Groups of protein quality parameters:

1) Quality of experimental observables that were used in structure determination*

2) Agreement between the structure and experimental observables*

3) Agreement between local geometry of the new structure and parameters of existing high-quality structures

4) Structural uncertainty*

* Method-dependent



NMR restraints in the structure calculation

Intraresidue	333
Sequential ($ i - j = 1$)	447
Medium-range ($ i - j < 5$)	252
Long-range ($ i - j \geq 5$)	369
Hydrogen bonds	66
Total distance restraints	1580
Dihedral angle restraints	113

Residual violations

CYANA target functions, Å	1.43±0.24
NOE upper distance constrain violation	
Maximum, Å	0.20±0.04
Number >0.2 Å	0±1
Dihedral angle constrain violations	
Maximum, °	3.23±0.72
Number >5°	0±0

Vander Waals violations

Maximum, Å	0.30±0.00
Number >0.2 Å	3±1

Average structural rmsd to the mean coordinates, Å

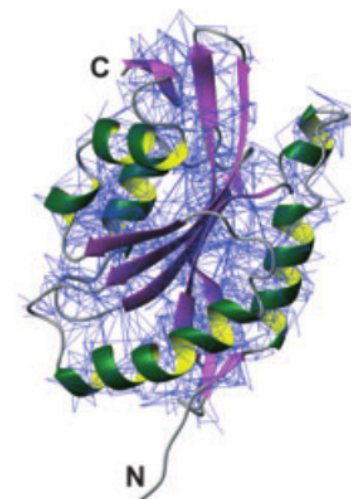
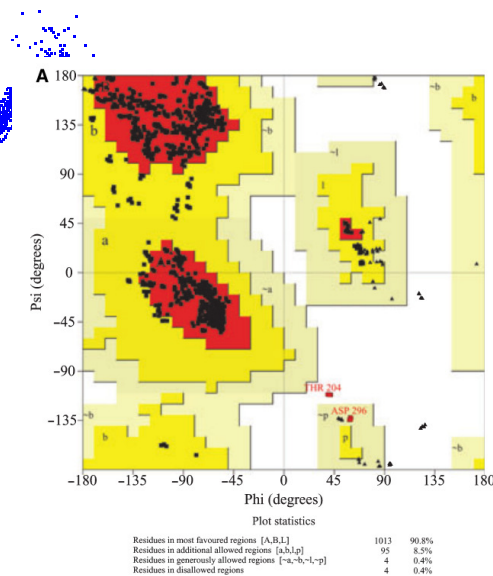
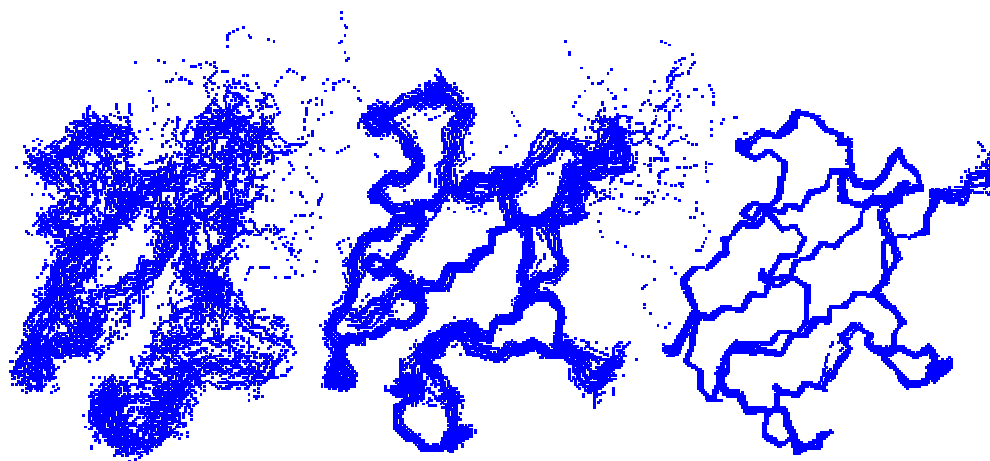
Secondary structure backbone ^a	0.31
Secondary structure heavy atoms ^a	0.80
All backbone atoms ^b	1.30
All heavy atoms ^b	1.79

Ramachandran statistics, % of all residues

Most favored regions	81.5
Additional allowed regions	18.5
Generously allowed regions	0
Disallowed regions	0

What is non-sparse NMR data?

Assessment criterion	Very high resolution	High resolution	Medium resolution	Low resolution
Restraints per residue ^a	> 18	14–18	10–15	< 10
Backbone rmsd (Å) ^b	< 0.3	0.3–0.5	0.5–0.8	> 0.8
Heavy-atom rmsd (Å) ^b	< 0.75	0.75–1.0	1.0–1.5	> 1.5
Ramachandran				
Plot quality (%) ^c	> 95	85–95	75–85	< 75



Macromolecular NMR spectroscopy for the non-spectroscopist. Kwan AH, Mobli M, Gooley PR, King GF, Mackay JP. FEBS J. 2011 Mar;278(5):687-703

Protein structures from the point of view of an experimentalist

Structures with no experimental data:
Homology Modeling,
Threading,
Fragment-based,
Ab Initio

Structures from large
amount of
experimental data

NMR

XRAY

Do not trust

Not sure

Trust

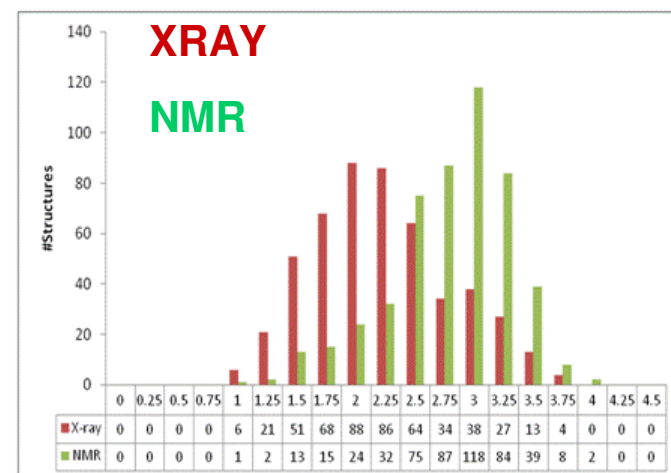


Rules of Thumb for Selecting NMR Structures

Historically, the rule of thumb for selecting NMR structures for inclusion in structural analyses has been the simple one of excluding them altogether! This early

Rules of Thumb for Selecting X-Ray Crystal Structures

Many analyses in Structural Bioinformatics require the selection of a dataset of 3D structures on which analysis can be performed. A commonly used rule of thumb for selecting reliable structures for such analyses, where reasonably accurate models are required, is to choose those models that have a quoted resolution of 2.0 Å or better, and an *R*-factor of 0.20 or lower. These criteria will give structures that are



[Equivalent] Resolution

Sparse experimental data



Protein structures from the point of view of an experimentalist

Structures with
no experimental data:
Homology Modeling,
Threading,
Fragment-based,
Ab Initio

Structures
from sparse
experimental data

Structures from large
amount of
experimental data

NMR

XRAY

Do not trust

Not sure

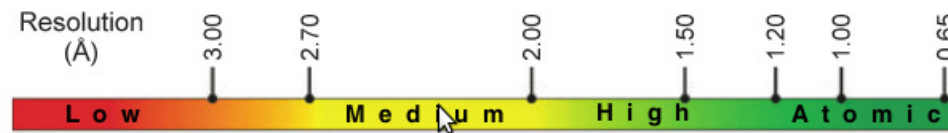
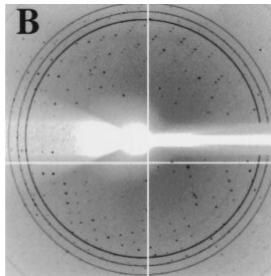
Trust



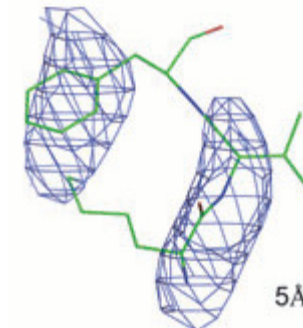
What is sparse experimental data?

In XRAY:

- When you do not have enough XRAY reflections



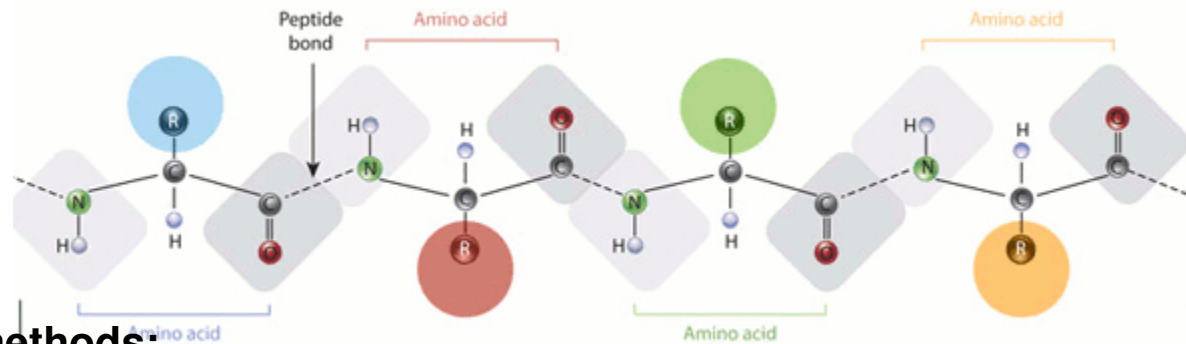
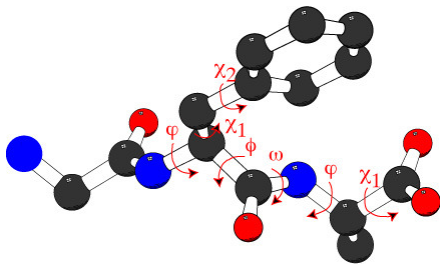
Low resolution



500 reflections

In NMR:

- When you do not have enough NOEs (e.g. no side-chain NOEs) or any NOEs

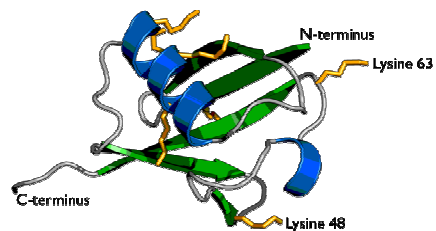


Sparse data from other methods:

- Distance restraints from cross-linking and mass-spectroscopy
- Distance restraints from spin-labeling and electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectroscopy
- Protein size, shape, radius of gyration from small angle Xray scattering (SAXS)

Why use incomplete experimental data for protein structure determination?

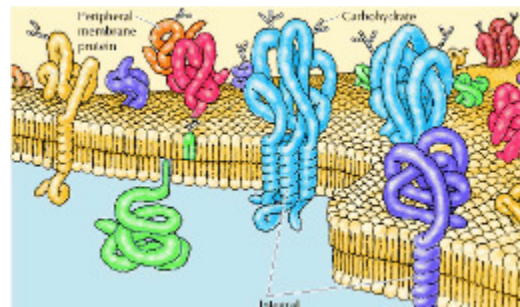
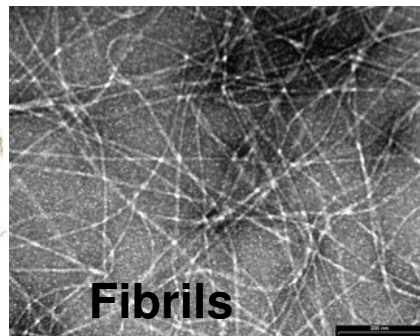
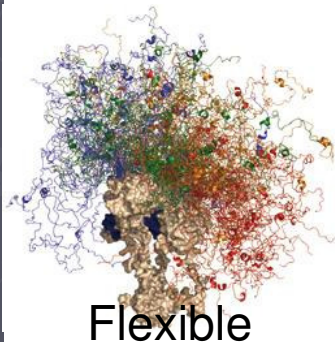
1) Some biological questions (e.g. prediction of function from protein fold) may not require high structural accuracy



Ubiquitin

2) Some biologically interesting proteins are too difficult to study by any high-res method:

- proteins with extended flexible regions
- large proteins
- fibrillar and membrane proteins

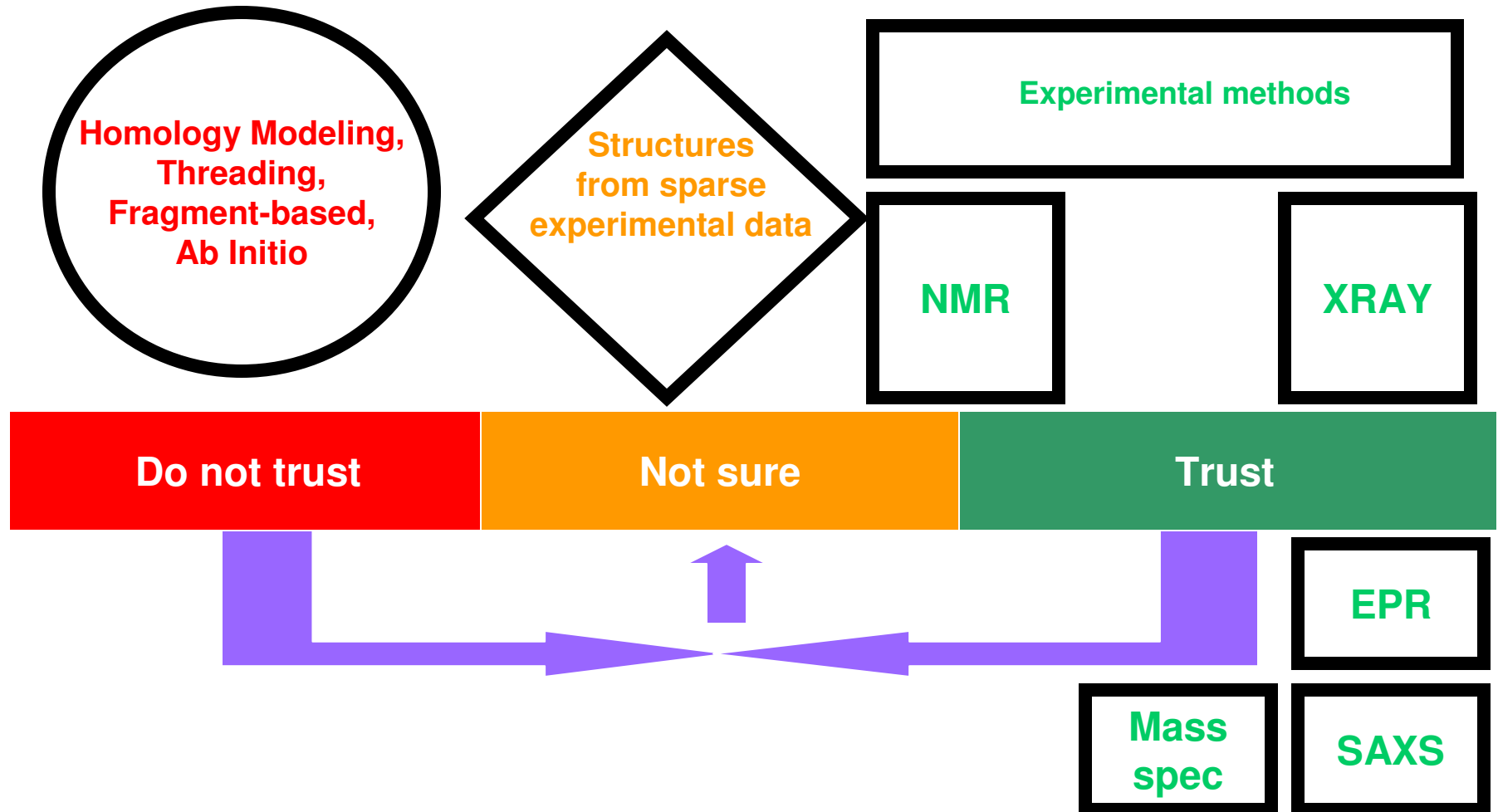


Membrane proteins

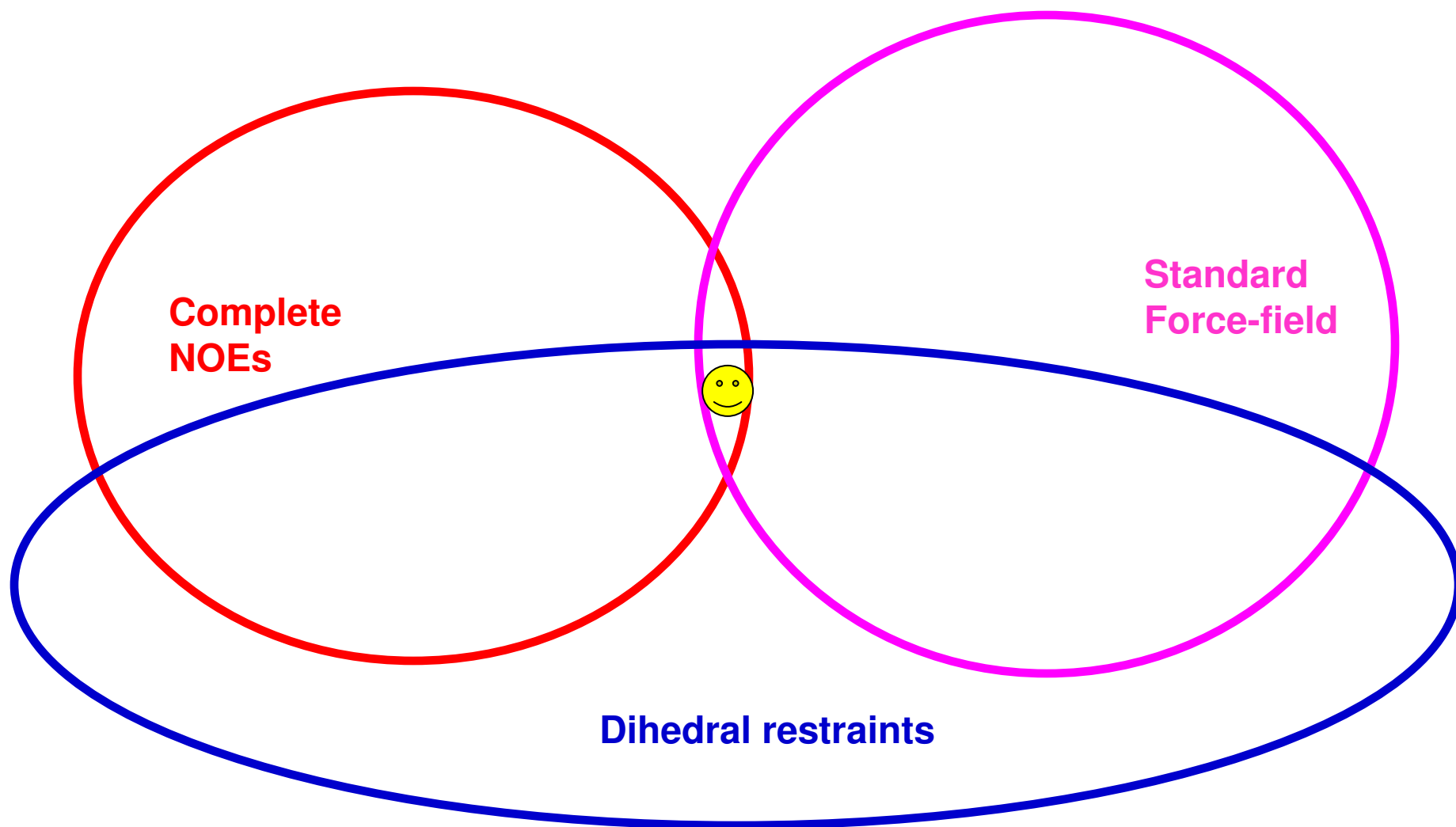


Large proteins

Protein structures from the point of view of an experimentalist



Regular NMR structure determination



Sparse NMR structure determination

Sparse
NOEs

Standard
Force-field

Dihedral restraints



Sparse NMR structure determination

Sparse
NOEs

Advanced
Force-field:
solvation term
full electrostatic

Dihedral restraints



Sparse NMR structure determination

Sparse
NOEs

Advanced
Force-field:
solvation term
full electrostatic
Knowledge-based
potentials

Fragment
information

Dihedral restraints



Sparse NMR structure determination

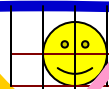
Sparse
NOEs

Homology
information

Advanced
Force-field:
solvation term
full electrostatic
knowledge-based
potentials

Fragment
information

Dihedral restraints



Pushing the boundaries of protein structure determination



David Baker
University of Washington

Rosetta



Ad Bax
NIH

CS-Rosetta



Gaetano Montelione
Rutgers University

CS-DP-Rosetta



Jens Meiler
Vanderbilt University

RosettaEPR



David Wishart
University of Alberta

CS23D



Michele Vendruscolo
University of Cambridge

CHESHIRE



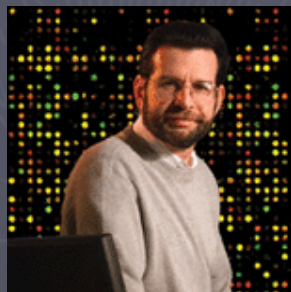
George Rose
Johns Hopkins University

LINUS



Klaus Schulten
University of Illinois

NAMD



Jeffrey Skolnick
Georgia Institute of Technology
TOUCHSTONEX

TASSER



Yang Zhang
University of Michigan
iTASSER



Andrzej Kolinski
Warsaw University

CABS-NMR



Hans Kalbitzer
Universität Regensburg

PERMOL



Lewis Kay
University of Toronto

CHESHIRE
Rosetta



Julia Forman-Kay
University of Toronto

ENSEMBLE



Charles L. Brooks III
University of Michigan

CHARMM

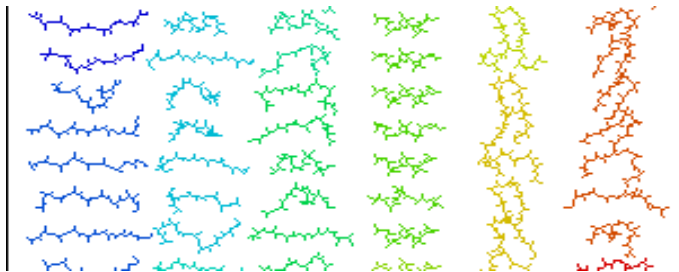
Rosetta-family methods



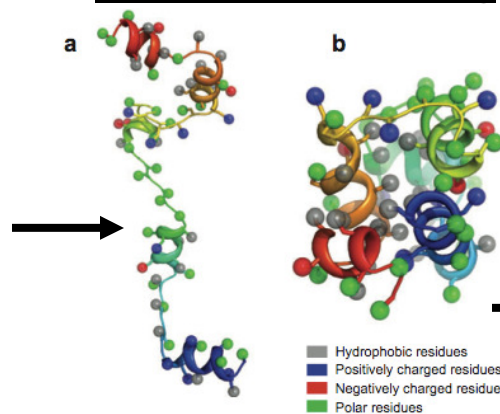
Developed by 12 labs
50 people

Sequence Secondary Structure

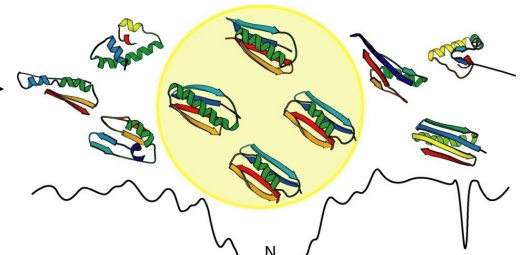
3- and 9-residue fragments



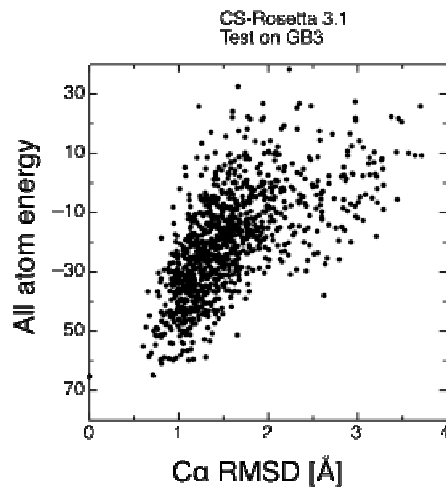
Low-resolution folding



Best low-res decoy selection



Model quality evaluation



Full-atom refinement

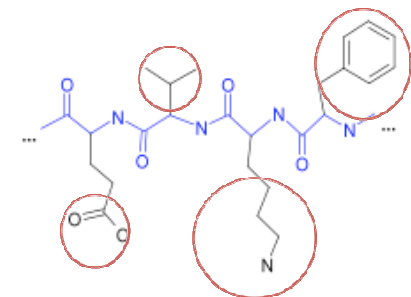


Small backbone moves

Side chain
optimization

Backbone
optimization

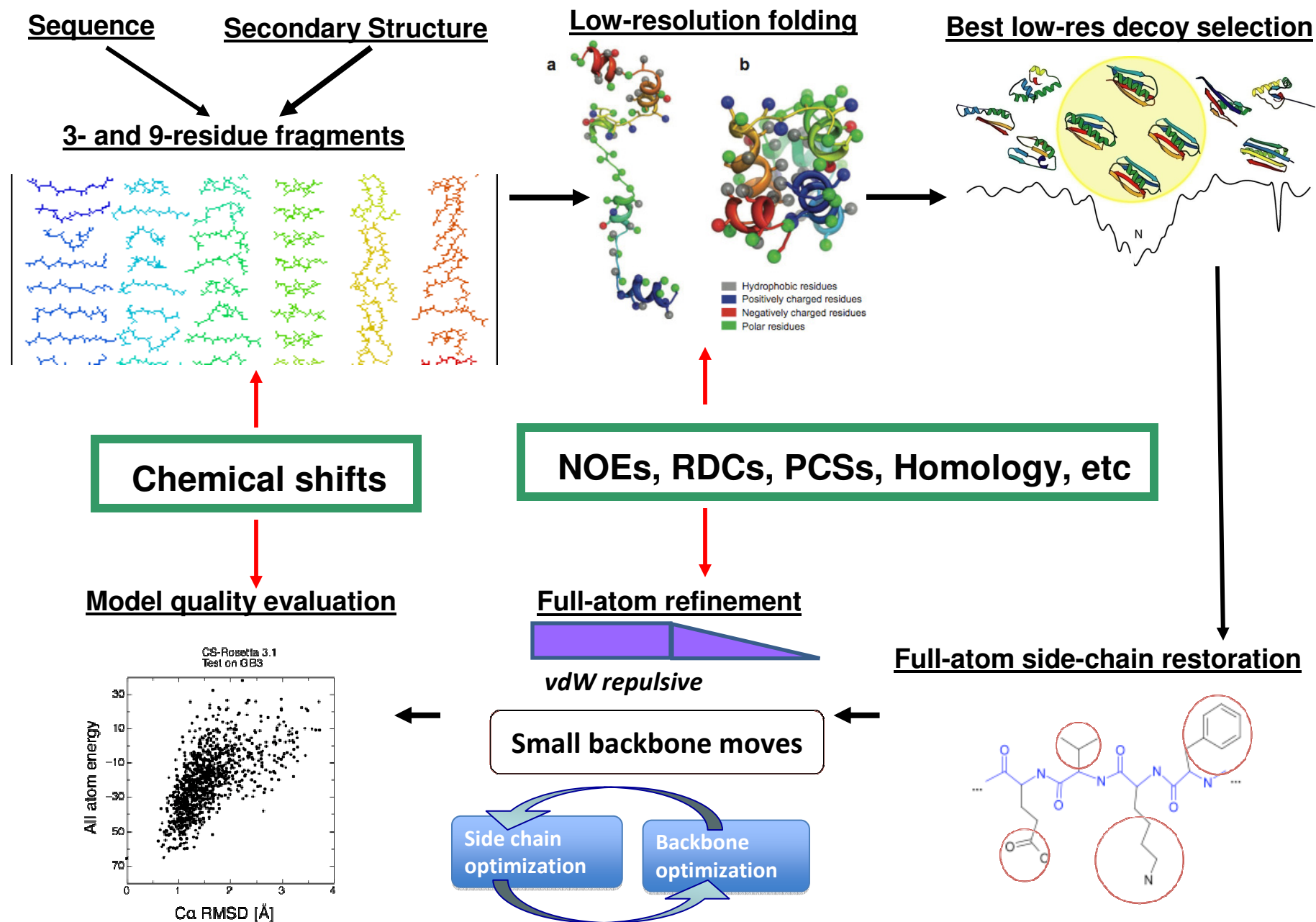
Full-atom side-chain restoration



Rosetta-family methods

Method	Year	Restrains
Rosetta	1996-1999	
Rosetta-NMR	2000	NOEs
Rosetta-NMR-RDC	2002	NOEs, RDCs
CS-Rosetta	2008	CS
CS-DP-Rosetta	2010	CS, unassigned NOEs
iterative-CS-RDC- NOE Rosetta	2010	CS, RDC, backbone NOEs
PCS-ROSETTA	2011	Pseudo-contact shifts
Rosetta-EPR	2011	EPR data
CS-HM Rosetta	2012	CS, homology
RASREC Rosetta	2011-2012	CS, methyl NOEs, RDCs

How is sparse data used in Rosetta-family methods?



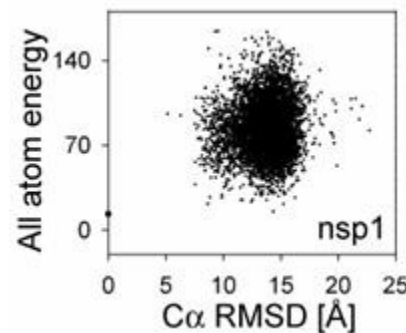
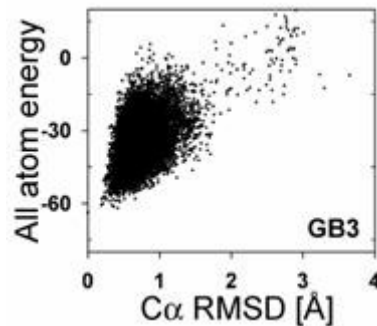
Performance of iterative Rosetta for backbone-only NMR data

	Protein Name ¹	Native PDB ID	Topology	Numbr of residues/Number of residues converged in computed structure	Median RMSD to native over converged region ² (Å)
Non-Iterative	GmR137 ^{r,-}	2k5p	a/b	62/47	2.6
	TR80 ^{r,-}	2jxt	a/b	78/73	1.5
	DvR115G ^{r,b}	2kot	B	86/66	1.4
	LkR15 ^{r,-}	2k3d	a/b	92/74	2.0
	BcR103A ^r	2kd1	B	100/65	3.4
	SrR115C ^{r,b,-}	2kcl	A	100/95	1.4
	MaR214A ^{r,b}	2kbn	B	102/96	2.1
	RrR43 ^r	2kom	a/b	104/82	2.1
	BcR268F ^{r,b,-}	2k5w	A	118/115	1.4
	ER553 ^r	2k1s	a/b	143/115	5.2
	ARF1 ^r	2k5u	a/b	166/141	2.6
Iterative	AtT7 ^{r,b}	2ki8	a/b	122/98	3.0
	ER541 ^s	2jyx	a/b	124/115	2.5
	X-ray ^s	1f21	a/b	142/122	9.4
	ER553 ^r	2k1s	a/b	143/136	1.9
	BtR324B ^s	2kd7	B	150/148	2.4
	X-ray ^s	1i1b	B	151/1115	2.5
	X-ray ^s	1i1b_2 ⁴	B	151/133 ⁵	1.7
	X-ray ^s	2rn2	a/b	155/76	3.1
	X-ray ^s	5pnt	a/b	157/134	3.0
	X-ray ^s	1sop	A	160/116	4.3
	ARF1 ^r	2k5u	a/b	166/122	2.5
	X-ray ^s	222i	a/b	179/143	1.8
	ALG13 ^r	2jzc	a/b	201/155 ⁶	3.4
	X-ray ^s	1sua	a/b	269/179	6.2

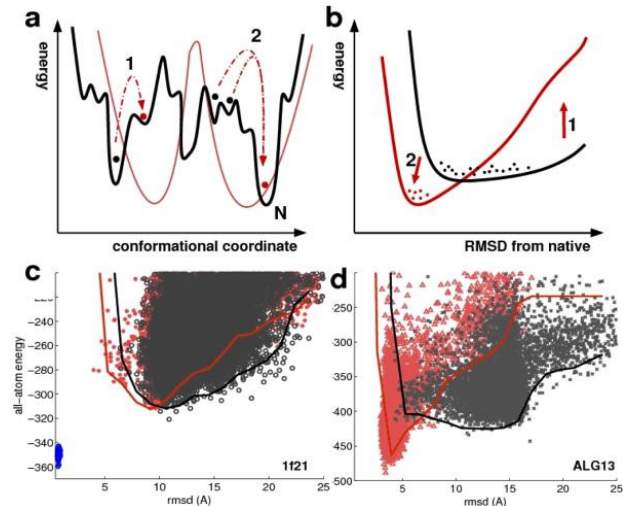
What are the criteria of Rosetta simulation success?

- 1) RMSD with respect to the lowest/best score model should be within 2Å for more than 60% of models

Successful simulation Failed simulation



Effect of experimental data



- 2) The converged structures should be clearly lower in energy than all significantly different (RMSD greater than 7 Å)
- 3) The structures generated with experimental data should be at least as low in energy as those generated without experimental data or even lower/better

Problems with validation of Rosetta models.

- 1) It is not clear if the Rosetta success criteria are universal for all scenarios**
- 2) Agreement with experimental data is not very meaningful because the data is sparse.**
- 3) Rfree like validation is difficult (and also not meaningful) because experimental data is sparse**
- 4) Independent experimental data for validation will likely be unavailable**
- 5) Normality-based scores for model validation (e.g. ResProx) will likely fail to detect inaccurate but highly-idealized Rosetta models**



Need for developing an independent model validation protocol

Problem with informational content of protein models from sparse data

The experimental data is over-powered by knowledge based information

Rosetta scoring function

lennard-jones attractive
lennard-jones repulsive
lazaridis-jarplus solvation energy
lennard-jones repulsive between atoms in the same residue
statistics based pair term, favors salt bridges
pi-pi interaction between aromatic groups, by default = 0
internal energy of sidechain rotamers as derived from Dunbrack's statistics
reference energy for each amino acid
backbone-backbone hbonds distant in primary sequence
backbone-backbone hbonds close in primary sequence
sidechain-backbone hydrogen bond energy
sidechain-sidechain hydrogen bond energy
Probability of amino acid at phipsi
distance score in current disulfide
csangles score in current disulfide
dihedral score in current disulfide
ca dihedral score in current disulfide
proline ring closure energy

Fragment idealization

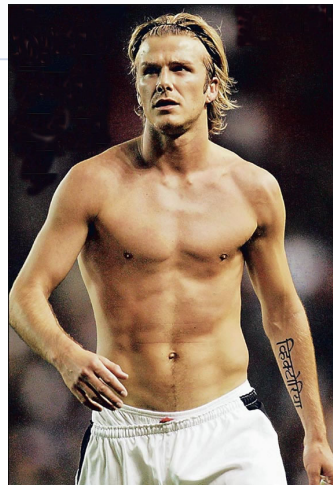
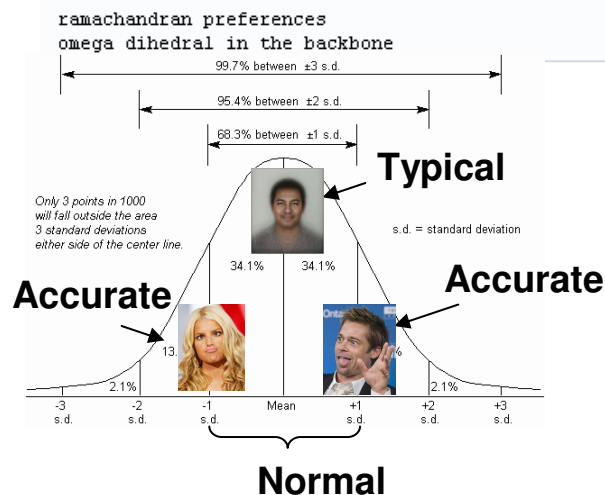
Bias by fragments from other proteins

Biased by restraints from homologous proteins

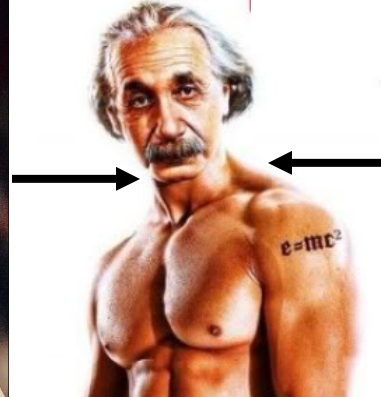
VS

Sparse experimental data

Typical male



Model



Sparse data



Protein structures from the point of view of an experimentalist

Structures with no experimental data:
Homology Modeling,
Threading,
Fragment-based,
Ab Initio

Structures
from sparse
experimental data
Rosetta, etc.

Structures from large
amount of
experimental data

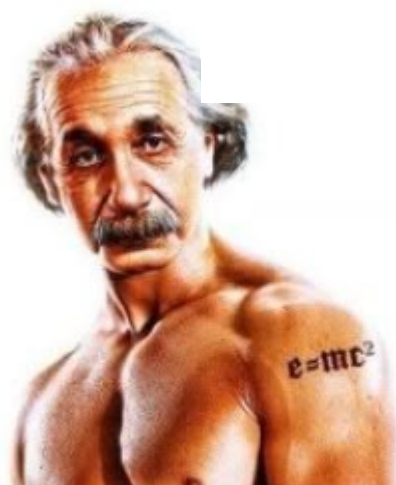
NMR

XRAY

Do not trust

Wait for scientific
community to validate

Trust



What's up with the "no free lunch" thing?



You can not build an accurate high-resolution model of protein structure without getting high-quality experimental data with your sweat and blood

- 1) There is no substitute for a large amount of experimental data. If you do not do experiment, you do not get the information relevant to your specific experimental conditions (e.g. protein construct, sample conditions, etc).

You can not get the same level of accuracy with sparse data or theoretical models

- 2) If you have an easy protein, do a full-blown structure determination
- 3) If you have no choice other than using sparse data, do not over-interpret your structure model.

This is not gonna happen any time soon



Success of theoretical methods is still limited to very small proteins.

Many theoretical models are biased, over-normalized, low-resolution, or simply inaccurate.

Accuracy and high-resolution of models from sparse data is questionable.