



JOHANNES GUTENBERG  
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ

# Protein structure prediction

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Johannes Gutenberg University

Mainz, Germany

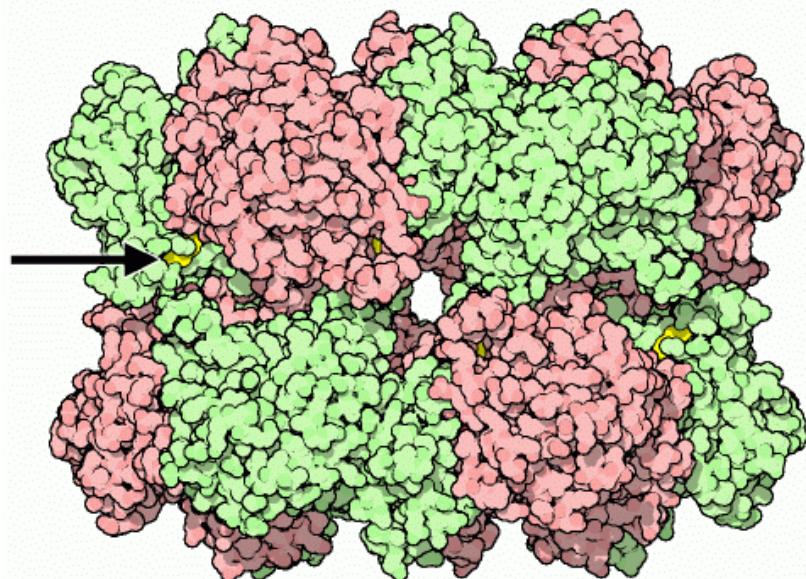
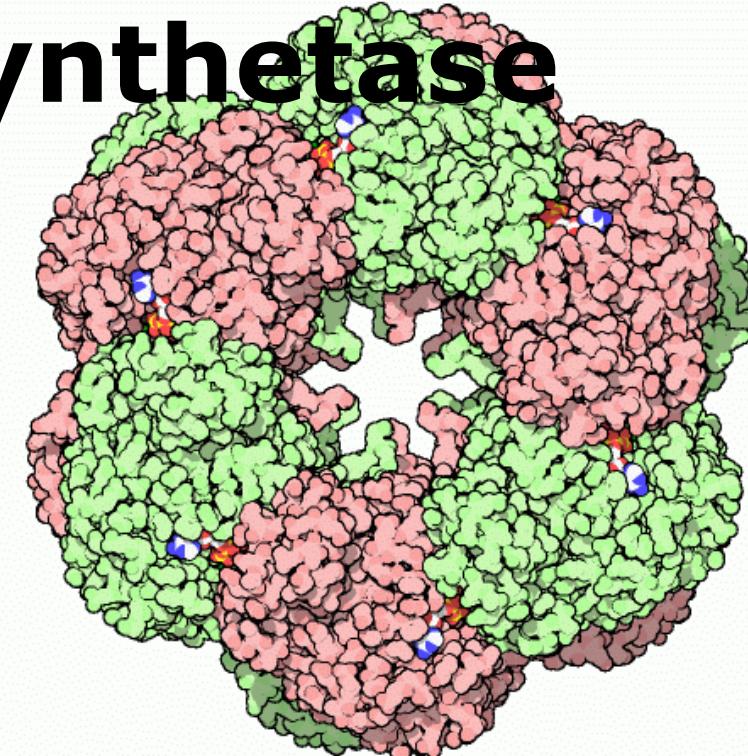
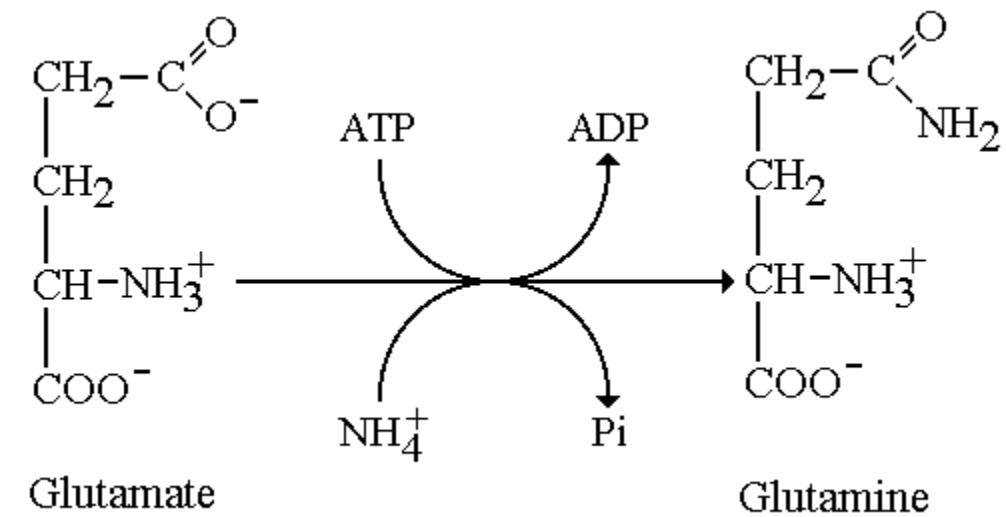
[andrade@uni-mainz.de](mailto:andrade@uni-mainz.de)

# Mount Everest



**Age: 60M years**

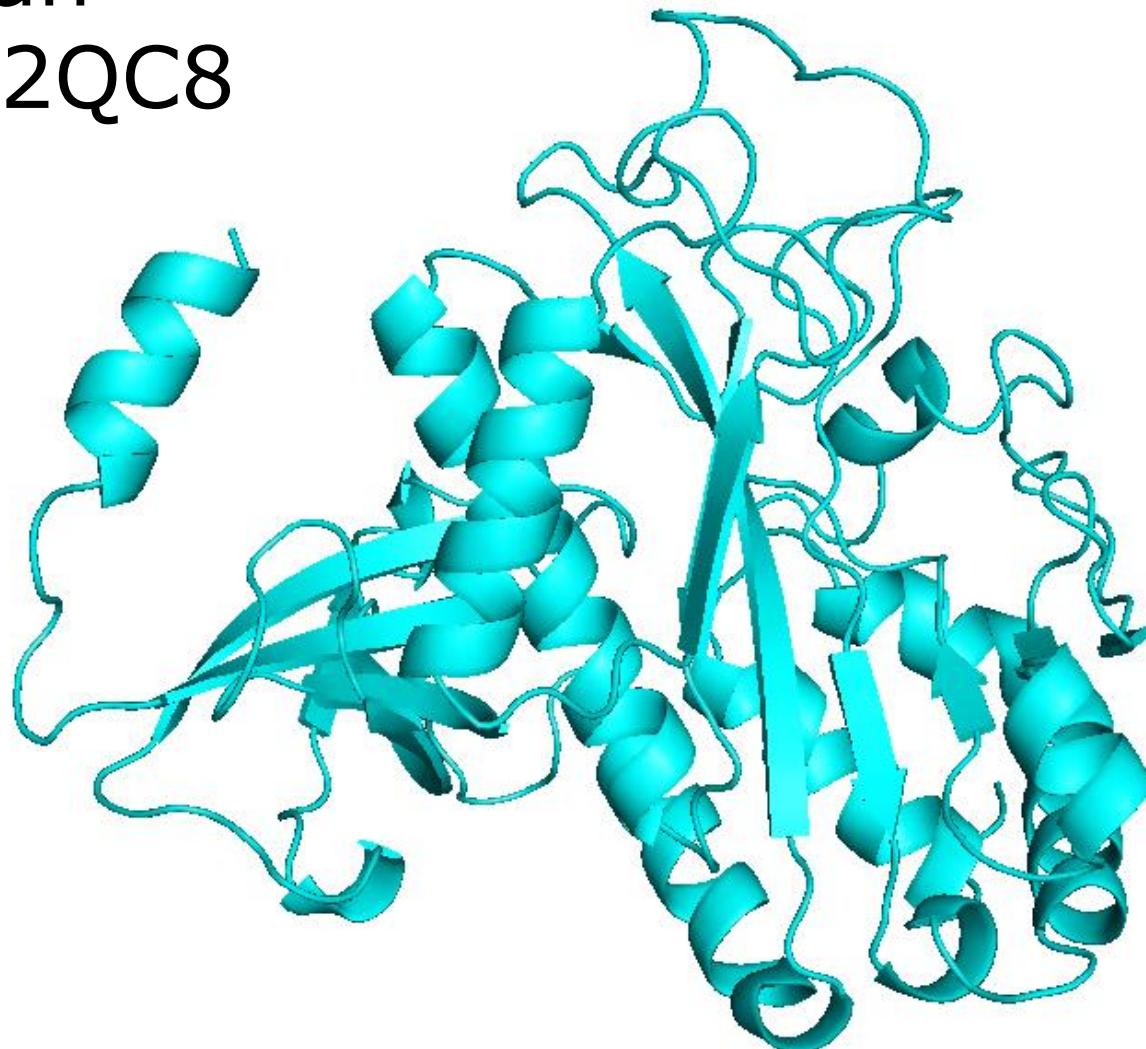
# Glutamine synthetase



**Age: +3500M years**

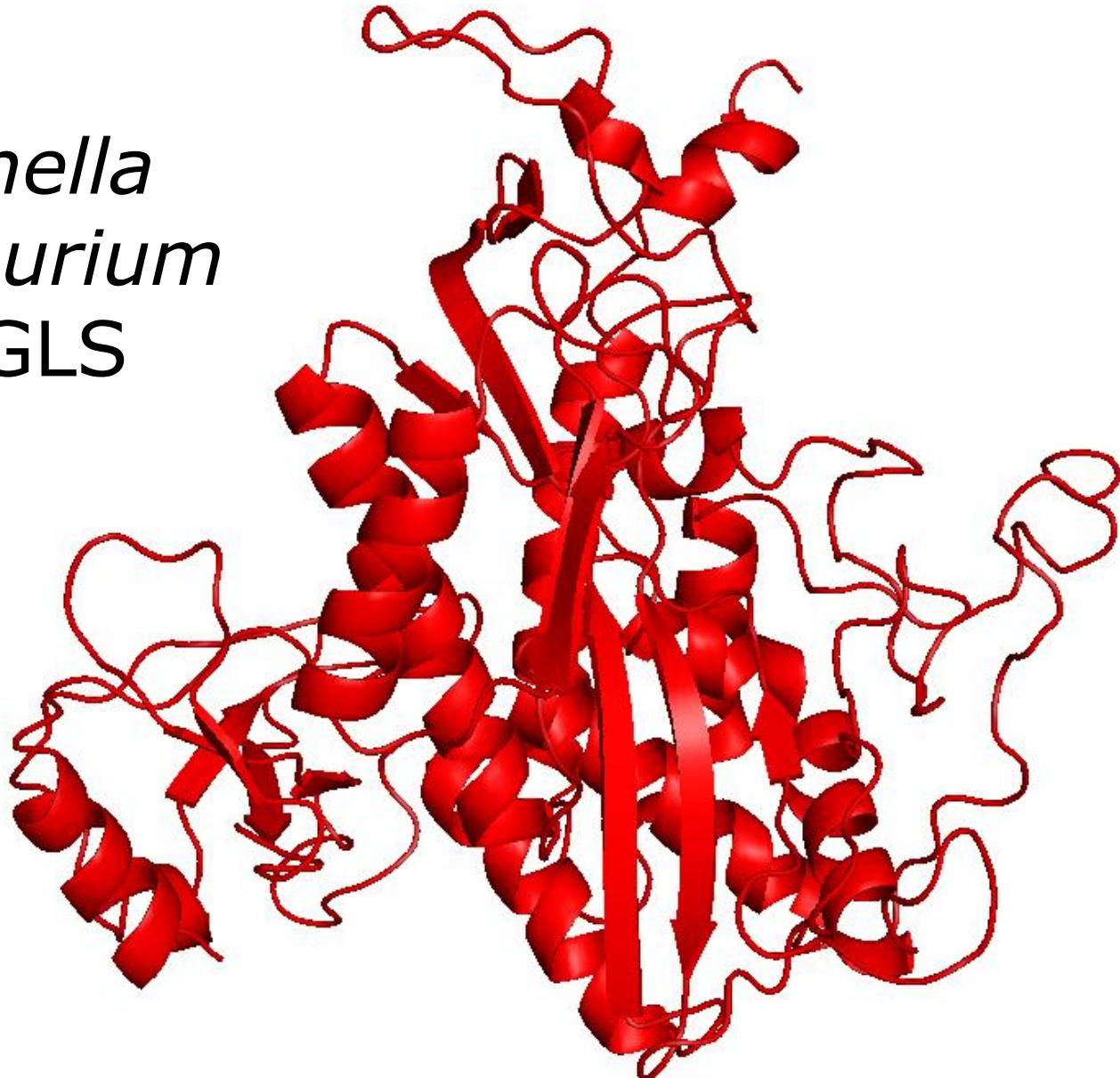
# Glutamine synthetase

Human  
PDB:2QC8

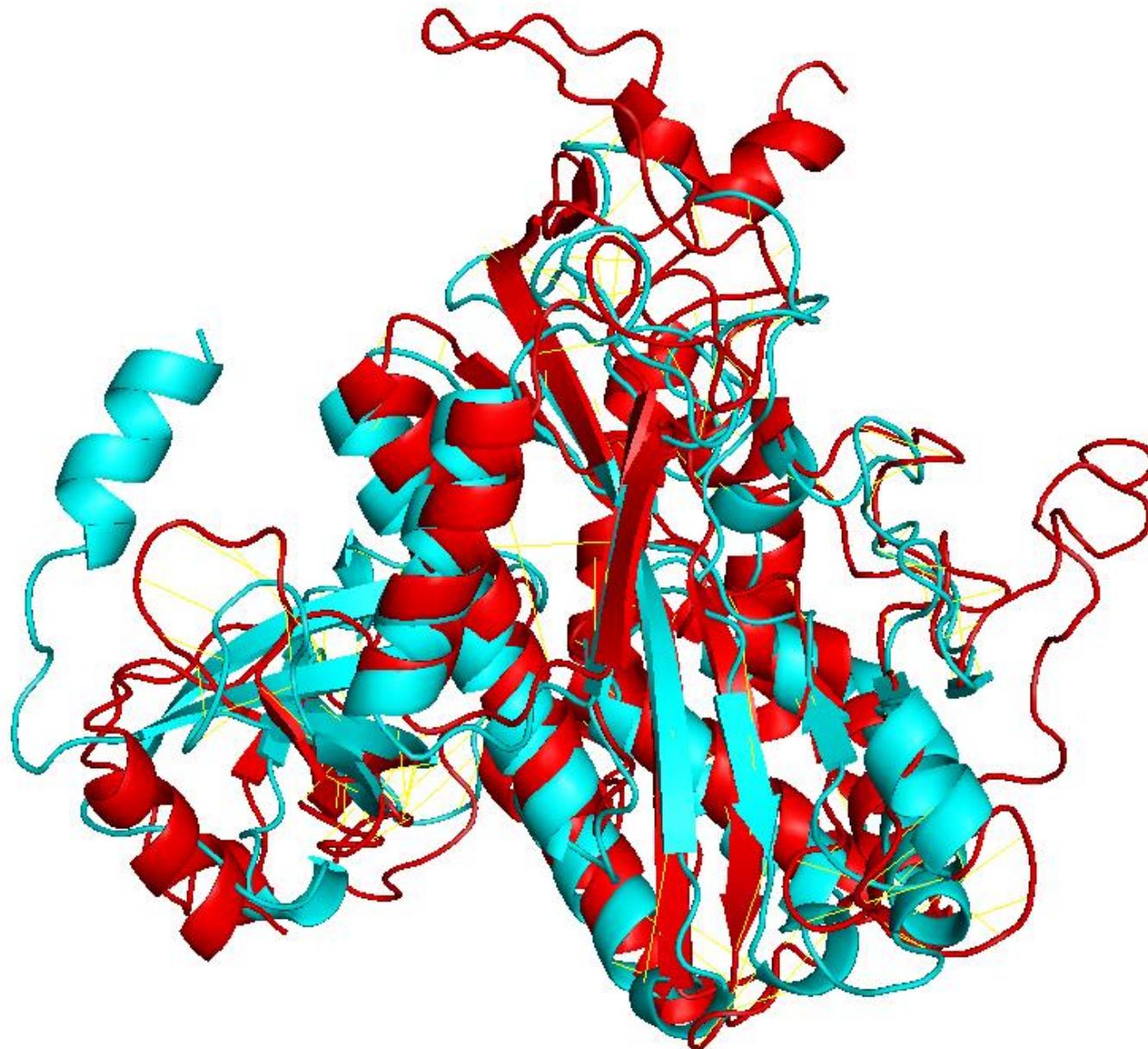


# Glutamine synthetase

*Salmonella  
typhimurium*  
PDB:2GLS



# Glutamine synthetase



# Time line

Earth: 4.6 By

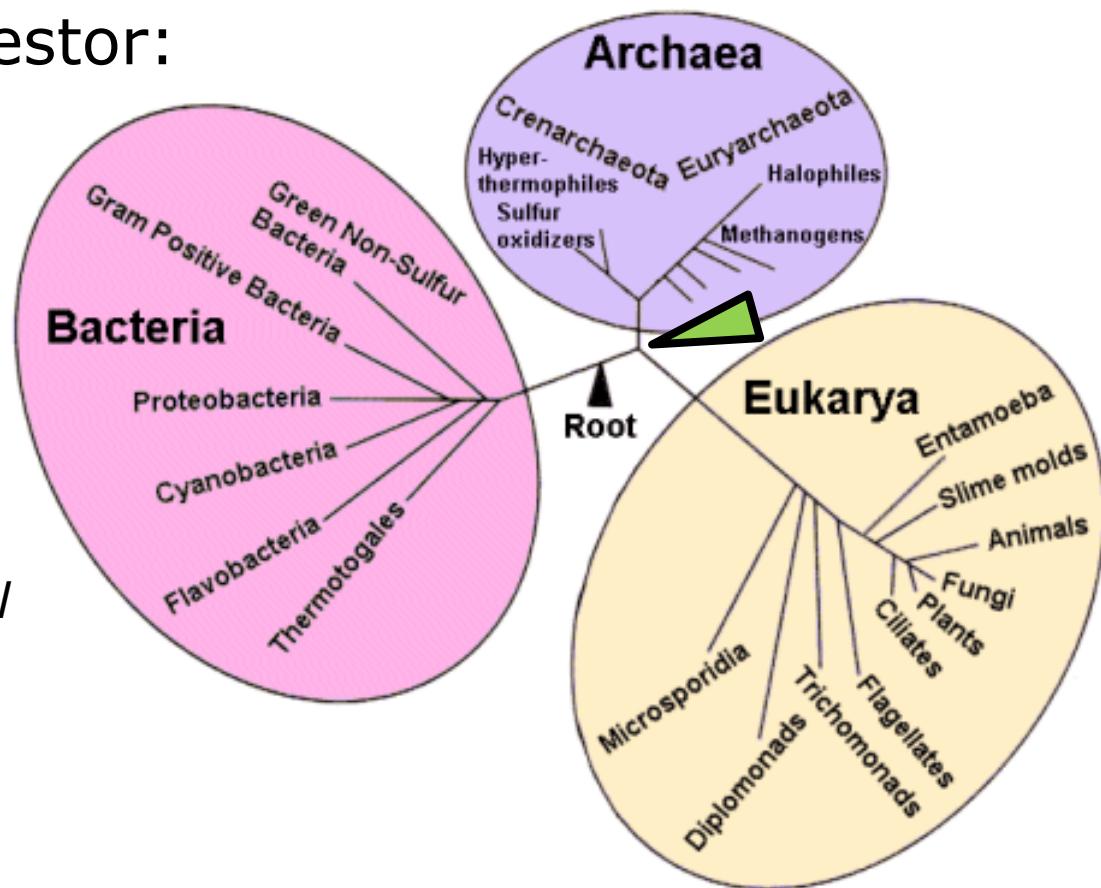
Origin of life: 3.9 By – 3.5 By

Last Common Ancestor:  
3.5 – 3.8 By

Glansdorff & Labedan  
(2008) *Biology Direct*

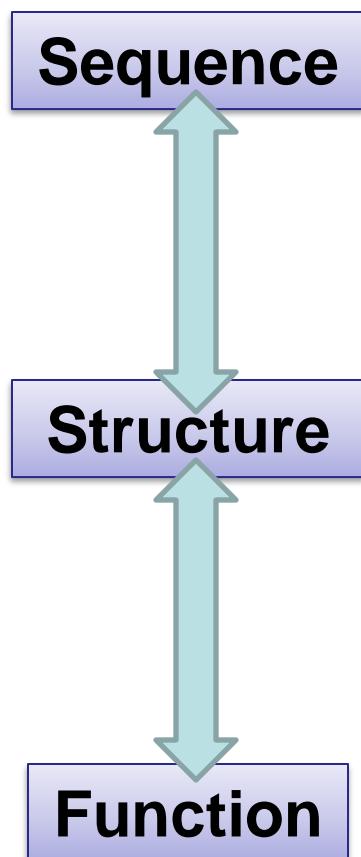
4.29 By

Sheridan et al. (2003)  
*Geomicrobiology Journal*



# Sequence and function

Evolutionary constraints



MTQDELKKAVGWAALQYVQ

PG

LG

EK



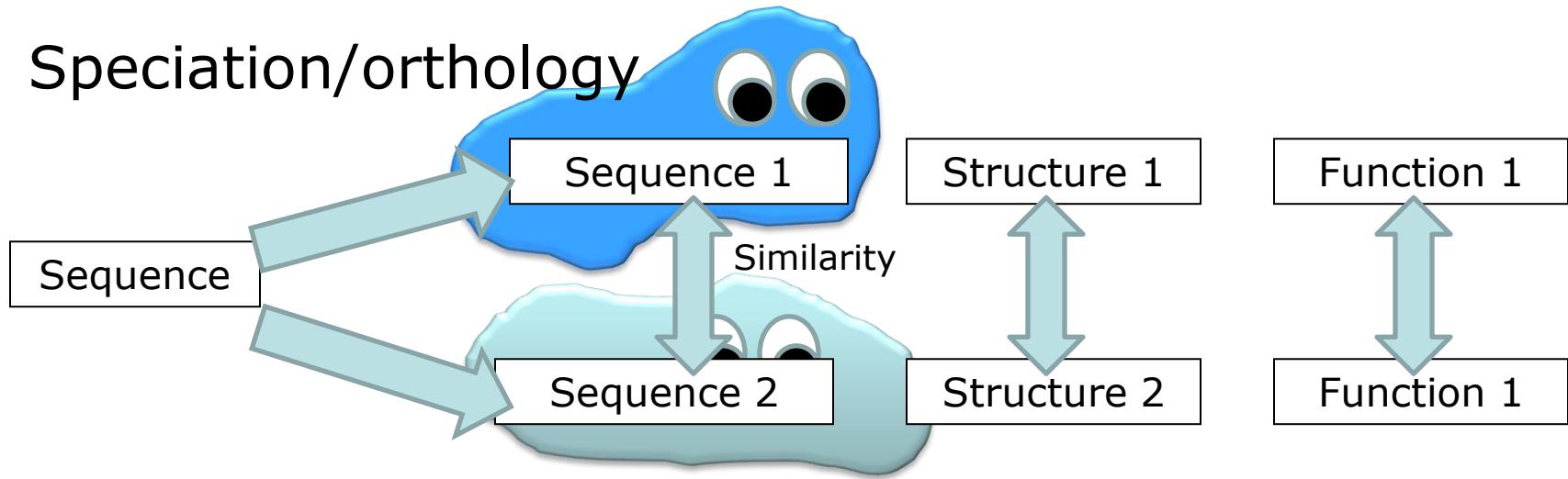
DA

ST

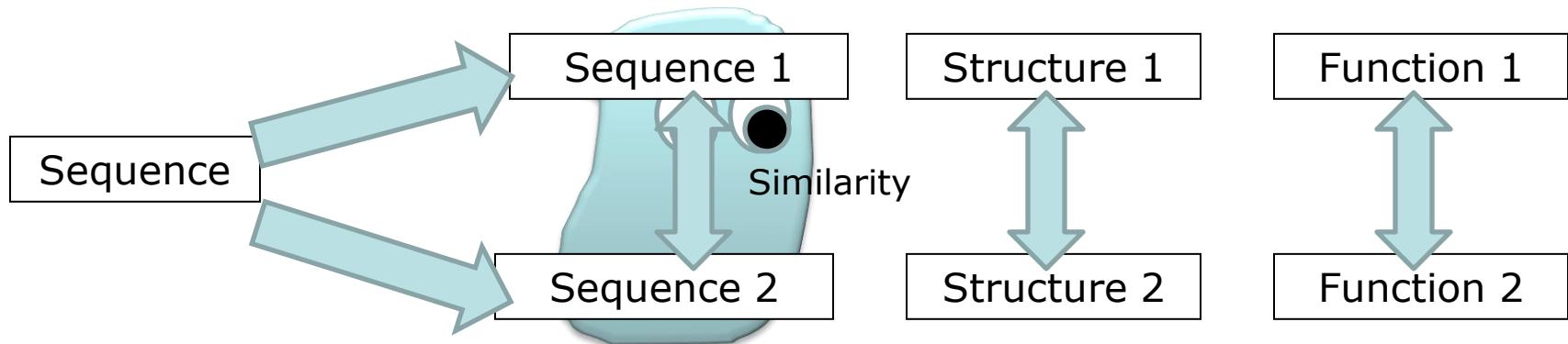
# Sequence and function

## Evolutionary constraints

### Speciation/orthology



### Gene duplication/paralogy



# Sequence pairwise alignment

```
>gs_human gi|74271837|ref|NP_001028216.1| glutamine synthetase [Homo sapiens]
MTTSASSHLNKGIKVYMSLPQGEKVQAMYIWIDGTGEGLRCKTRTLDSEPKCVEELPEWNFDGSSTLQS
EGSNSDMYLVPAAMFRDPFRKDPNKLVLCEVFKNRRPAETNLRHTCKRIMDMVSNQHPWFGMEQEYTL
GTDGHPGWPSNGFPGPQGPYYCGVGADRAYGRDIVEAHYRACLYAGVKIAGTNAEVMPAQWEFQIGPCE
GISMGDHlwvarfilhrvcEDFGVIATFDPKPIPGNWNGAGCHTNFSTKAMREENGLKYIEEAIEKLSKR
HQYHIRAYDPKGGLDNARRLTGFHETSNIDFSAGVANRSASIRIPRTVGQEKKGYFEDRRPSANCDPFS
VTEALIRTCLLNETGDEPFQYKN
```

```
>gs_salmonella gi|16767272|ref|NP_462887.1| glutamine synthetase [Salmonella
enterica subsp. enterica serovar Typhimurium str. LT2]
MSAEHVLTMLNEHEVKFVDLRFTDTKGKEQHVTIPAHQVNAEFFEEGKMFDGSSIGGWKGINESDMVLMP
DASTAVIDPFFADSTLIIRC DILEPGTLQGYDRDPRSIAKRAEDYL RATGIADTVLFGPEPEFFLFDDIR
FGASISGSHVAIDDIEGAWNSSTKYEGGNKGHRPGVKGGYFPVPPVDSAQDIRSEMCLVMEQMGLVVEAH
HHEVATAGQNEVATRFNTMTKADEIQIYKVVHNVAH RFGKTATFMPKPMFGDNGSGMHCHMSIAKNGT
NLFGDKYAGLSEQALYYIGGVIKHAKAINALANPTTNSYKRLVPGYEAPVMLAYSARNRSASIRIPVVA
SPKARRIEVRFPDPAANPYLCFAALLMAGLDGIKNKIHPGEAMDKNLYDLPEEAKEIPQVAGSLEEALN
ALLDLDREFLKAGGVFTDEAIDAYIALRREEDRVRMTPHPVEFELYYSV
```

# Sequence pairwise alignment

## BLAST (Altschul et al, 1990)

>lcl|39919 unnamed protein product

Length=469

Score = 70.5 bits (171), Expect = 1e-17, Method: Compositional matrix adjust.  
Identities = 102/363 (28%), Positives = 138/363 (38%), Gaps = 96/363 (26%)

Query	62	FDGSSTLQSEGSN-SDMYLVPA--MFRDPFRKDPNKLVLCEVFK-----YNRRP----	108
		FDGSS +G N SDM L+P A DPF D ++ C++ + Y+R P	
Sbjct	50	FDGSSIGGWKGINESDMVMPDASTAVIDPFFADSTLIIRCDILEPGTLQGYDRDPRSIA	109
Query	109	--AETNLRHTCKRIMDMVSNQHPWFGMEQEYTLMGTDGHPPFGWPSNGF-----	154
		AE LR T I D V FG E E+ L D FG +G	
Sbjct	110	KRAEDYLRATG--IADTV---LFGPEPEFFLF--DDIRFGASISGSHVAIDDIEGAWN	160
Query	155	-----PGPQGPYYCGVGADRAYGRDI-----VEAHYRACLYAG	187
		PG +G Y+ D A +DI VEAH+ AG	
Sbjct	161	SSTKYEGGNKGHRPGVKGGYFPVPPVDSA--QDIRSEMCLVMEQMGLVVEAHHEVATAG	218
Query	188	VKIAGTNAEVMPAQWEFQIGPCEGIISMGDHILWVARFILHRVCEDFGVIATFDPKPIPG-N	246
		T M + D + + ++++H V FG ATF PKP+ G N	
Sbjct	219	QNEVATRFNTMTKK-----ADEIQIYKVHHNVAHRGKTATFMPKPMFGDN	265
Query	247	WNGAGCHTNFSTKAMREENGLKYIEEAIKEKLSKRHQYHIRAYDPKGGLDNA-----	297
		+G CH + + +G KY LS++ Y+I NA	
Sbjct	266	GSGMHCHMSLAKNGTNLFSGDKY----AGLSEQALYYIGGVIKHAKAINALANPTTNSY	320
Query	298	RRLTGFHETSNIIDFSAGVANRSASIRIPRTVGQEKKGYFEDRRPSANCDFPSVTEALIR	357
		+RL +E + +SA NRSASIRIP V K E R P +P+ AL+	
Sbjct	321	KRLVPGYEAPVMLAYSA--RNRSASIRIP-VVASPKARRIEVRFPDPAANPYLCFAALLM	377
Query	358	TCL 360	
		L	
Sbjct	378	AGL 380	

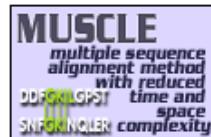
# Multiple sequence alignment

```
>gs_human gi|74271837|ref|NP_001028216.1| glutamine synthetase [Homo sapiens]
MTSASSHLNKGKQVYMSLPQGEKVQAMYIWIDGTGEGLRCRTLSEPKVEELPEWNFDGSSTLQS
EGSNSDMLVPAAMFRDPFRKDPNKLVLCEVFKNRRPAETNLRHTCKRIMDMVSNQHPWFGMEQEYTL
GTDGHPFGWPSNGFPGPQGPYYCGVGADRAYGRDIVEAHYRACLYAGVKIAGTNAEVMPAQWEFQIGPCE
GISMGDHLWVARFILHRVCEDFGVIATFDPKPIPGNWNGAGCHTNFSTKAMREENGLKYIEEAIEKLSKR
HQYHIRAYDPKGGLDNARRLTGFHETSNINDFSAGVANRSASIRIPRTVGQEKKGYFEDRRPSANCDPFS
VTEALIRTCLLNGETGDEPFQYKN

>gs_vulca gi|307594850|ref|YP_003901167.1| glutamine synthetase [Vulcanisaeta
distributa DSM 14429]
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DFVAYVDPRAVYVEYWQDGKVADVFTMVDIAKPSPLDPRRVLNDALEQARSKGYEFLMGVEVEFFVIK
EDGGKPVADPGIYFDGWNVTVQSQFMKELITAIADAGINYTKTHEVAPSQYEVNIGATDPLRLADQIV
YFKIMAKDIARKYGLVATFMPKPFWGVNGSGAHTHISVWKDGKNLFQSSTGKITEECGYAISAILSARA
LSSFVAPLVNSYKRLVPHYEAPTRIVWGYANRSAMIRIPQYKMRINRIEYRHPDPSMNPYLAFTAIIKTM
IRGLEEKKEPPPTEEVAYELANALETPATLEDTLKELSKSFLATELPSSELVNAYIKIKQNEWEDYLTV
GPWEKTWNIIITQWEYNKYLVT

>gs_salmonella gi|16767272|ref|NP_462887.1| glutamine synthetase [Salmonella
enterica subsp. enterica serovar Typhimurium str. LT2]
MSAEHVLTMLNEHEVKFVDLRFTDTKGKEQHVTIPAHQVNAEFFEEGKMF DGSIGGWKGGINESDMVLMP
DASTAVIDPFFADSTLIIRCDSLEPGTLQGYDRDPRSIAKRAEDYL RATGIADTVLFGPEPEFFLFDDIR
FGASISGSHVAIDDIEGAWNSSTKYEGGNKGHRPGVGGYFPVPPVDSAQDIRSEMCLVMEQMGLVVEAH
HHEVATAGQNEVATRFNTMTKKADEIQIYKVHHNVHNRFGKTATFMPKPMFGDNGSGMHCHMSLAKNGT
NLFGSGDKYAGLSEQALYYIGGVIKHAKAINALANPTTNSYKRLVPGYEAPVMLAYSARNRSASIRIPVVA
SPKARRIEVRFPDPAANPYLCFAALLMAGLDGIKNKIHPGEAMDKNLYDLPPEEAKEIPQVAGSLEEALN
ALLDLDREFLKAGGVFTDEAIDAYIALRREDDRVRMTPHPVEFELYYSV

>gs_yeast gi|330443748|ref|NP_015360.2| Gln1p [Saccharomyces cerevisiae S288c]
MAEASIEKTQILQKYLELDQRGRIIAEYVWIDGTGNLRSKGRTLKKRITSIDQLPEWNFDGSSTNQAPGH
DSDIYLKPVAYYPDPFRRGDNIVVLAACYNNDGTPNKFNHRHEAAKLFAAHKDEEIWFGLEQEYTLFDMY
DDVYGPWKGGYPAPQGPYYCGVGAGKVYARDMIEAHYRACLYAGLEISGINAEVMPSQWEFQVGPCTGID
MGDQLWMARYFLHRVAEEFGIKISFHPKPLKGDWNGAGCHTNVSTKEMRQPQGMKYIEQAIEKLSKRHAE
HIKLYGSDNDMRLTGRHETASMTAFSSGVANRGSSIRIPRSVAKEGYGYFEDRRPASNIDPYLVTGIMCE
TVCGAIDNADMTKEFERESS
```



EBI &gt; Tools &gt; Multiple Sequence Alignment &gt; MUSCLE

## MUSCLE - Multiple Sequence Alignment

MUSCLE stands for MULTiple Sequence Comparison by Log-Expectation. MUSCLE is claimed to achieve both better average accuracy and better speed than ClustalW2 or T-Coffee, depending on the chosen options.

**Internet Explorer users:** If button presses (including copy/paste operations) don't appear to work please try enabling Compatibility View.

### Use this tool

#### STEP 1 - Enter your input sequences

Enter or paste a set of sequences in any supported format:

Or upload a file:  No file chosen

#### STEP 2 - Set your Parameters

OUTPUT FORMAT:

*The default settings will fulfill the needs of most users and, for that reason, are not visible.*

*(Click here, if you want to view or change the default settings.)*

#### STEP 3 - Submit your job

Be notified by email *(Tick this box if you want to be notified by email when the results are available)*

<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/msa/muscle/>

>gs\_human gi|74271837|ref|NP\_001028216.1| glutamine synthetase [Homo sapiens]  
MTTSASSHLNKGKQVYMSLPQGEKVQAMYIWIDGTGEGLRCKTRTLDSEPKCVELPEW  
N-FDGSSLQSEGSNSD---MYLVPAAMFRDPFRKDPNKVLCEVFKYNRPA-ETNLRH  
TCKRIMDMVSNQH---PWFGMEQEYTLMGT-----DGHPFGW-----  
-PSNGFPGPQGP--YYCGVGADRAYGRDIVEAHYRACLYAGVKIAGTNAEVMPA-QWEFQ  
IGPCEGISMGDHLWVARFIHRVCEDFGVIATFDPKPIPENGNAGCHTNFKAMREEN  
GLKYIEEAIKEKLSKRHQYHIRAYDPKGG-----LDNARRLTGFHETSNIINDSAGV  
ANRSASIRIPRTVGQEKKGYFEDRRPSANCDFPSVTEALIRT-CLLNETGDEP-----  
-----  
-----FQYKN-----

>gs\_yeast gi|330443748|ref|NP\_015360.2| Gln1p [Saccharomyces cerevisiae S288c]  
--MAEASIEKTQILQKYLELDQRGRIIAEYVWIDGTGN-LRSKGRTLKKRITSIDQLPEW  
N-FDGSSTNQAPGHDS---IYLKPVAYYPDPFRRGDNIVVLAACYNNNDGTPN-KFNHRH  
EAALKFAAHKDEE---IWFGLEQEYTLFDM-----YDDVYGW-----  
-PKGGYPAPQGP--YYCGVGAGKVYARDMIEAHYRACLYAGLEISGINAEVMPA-QWEFQ  
VGPCTGIDMGDQLWMARYFLHRVAEEFGIKISFHPKPLKGDWNGAGCHTNVSTKEMRQPG  
GMKYIEQAAIEKLSSKRHAEHIKLYG-----SDNDMRLTGRHETASMTAFSSGV  
ANRGSSIRIPRSVAKEGYGYFEDRRPASNIDPYLVTGIMCETVCGAIDNADM-----  
-----  
-----KEFERESS-----

>gs\_vulca gi|307594850|ref|YP\_003901167.1| glutamine synthetase [Vulcanisaeta distributa DSM 14429]  
MPTRNLEIEPADLWRI---LKASGIKYVKFIIVDINGA---PRSEIVPIDMAK-DLFIDG  
MPFDASSIPSYSTVNKSDFVAYVDPRAVYVEWQDGKVADVFTMVSDIADKPS-PLDPRR  
VLNDALEQARSKGYE--FLMGVEVEFFVIKE-----  
--DGGKPVFADPGIYFDGWNVTV--QSQFMKELITAIADAGINYTKTHEVAPS-QYEVN  
IGATDPLRLADQIVYFKIMAKDIARKYGLVATFMPKPFWGV-NGSGAHTHIS---VWKDG  
KNLF-QSSTGKITEECGYAISAILSARALSSFVAPLVNSYKRLVPHYEAPTRIVW--GY  
ANRSAMIRIPQ--YKMRINRIEYRHDPDSMNPyLAFTAIIKTMIRGLEEKKEPPPTEEV  
AYELA--NALETP---ATLEDTLK--ELSKSFLATE--LPSELVNAYIKIKQNEWEDYLT  
NVGPWEKTWNIIITQWEYNKYLVT

>gs\_salmonella gi|16767272|ref|NP\_462887.1| glutamine synthetase [Salmonella enterica  
-----MSAEHVLTM---LNEHEVKFVDLRFTDTKGK---EQHVTIPAHQVNAEFFEEG  
KMFDGSSIGGWKGINESDMVLMRMPDASTAVIDPFFADSTLIIRCDILEPGTLQGYDRDPRS  
IAKRAEDYLRATGIADTVLFGPEPEFFLFDDIRFGASISGSHVAIDDIEGAWNSSTKYEG  
GNKGHRPGVKGG--YFPVPPVDS--AQDIRSEMCLVMEQMGLVVEAHHEVATAGQNEVA  
TRFNTMTKKADEIQIYKYVHNVAHRFGKTATFMPKPMFGD-NGSGMHCHMS---LAKNG  
TNLFGSGDKYAGLSEQALYYIGGVIKHAKAINALANPTTNSYKRLVPGYEAPVMLAY--SA  
RNRSASIRIPV-VASPKARRIEVRFPDPAANPYLCFAALLMAGLDGIKNKIHPGEAMDKN  
LYDLPPEEAKEIPQVAGSLEEALNALLDREFLKAGGVFTDEAIDAYIALRREEDDRVRM  
TPHP-----VEFELYYSV-



ClustalW, JalView

# Determination of protein structure

X-ray crystallography (179K in PDB)

- need crystals

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR)  
(14K)

- proteins in solution
- lower size limit (600 aa)

Electron microscopy (17K)

- Recently resolution improving a lot!

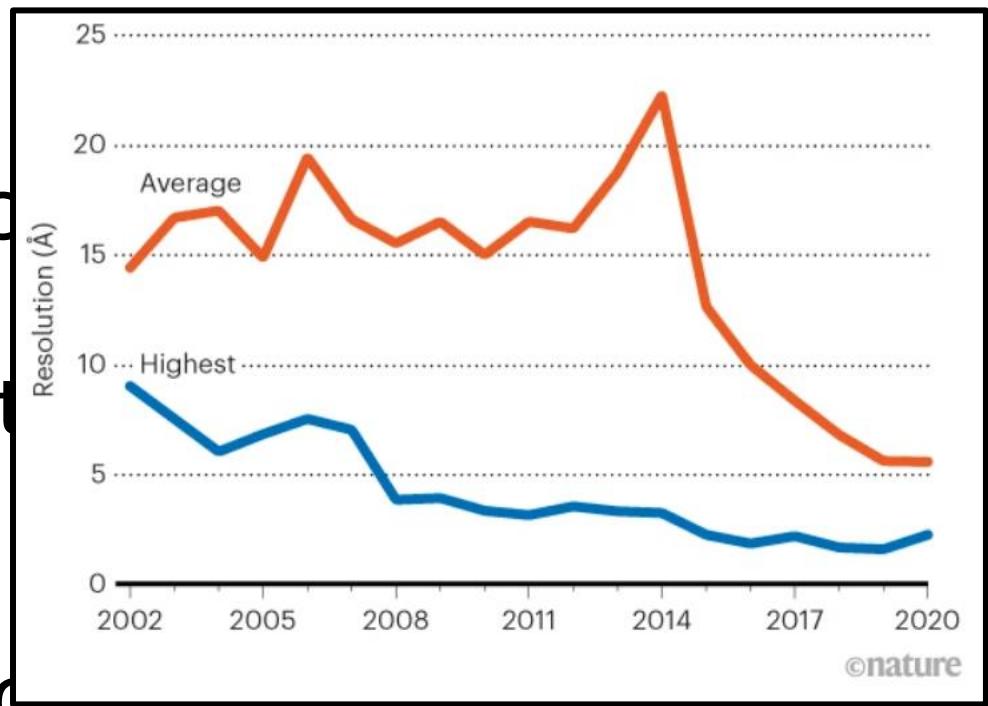
# Determination of protein structure

X-ray crystallography (179K in PDB)

- need crystals

Nuclear Magnetic  
(14K)

- proteins in solution
- lower size limit



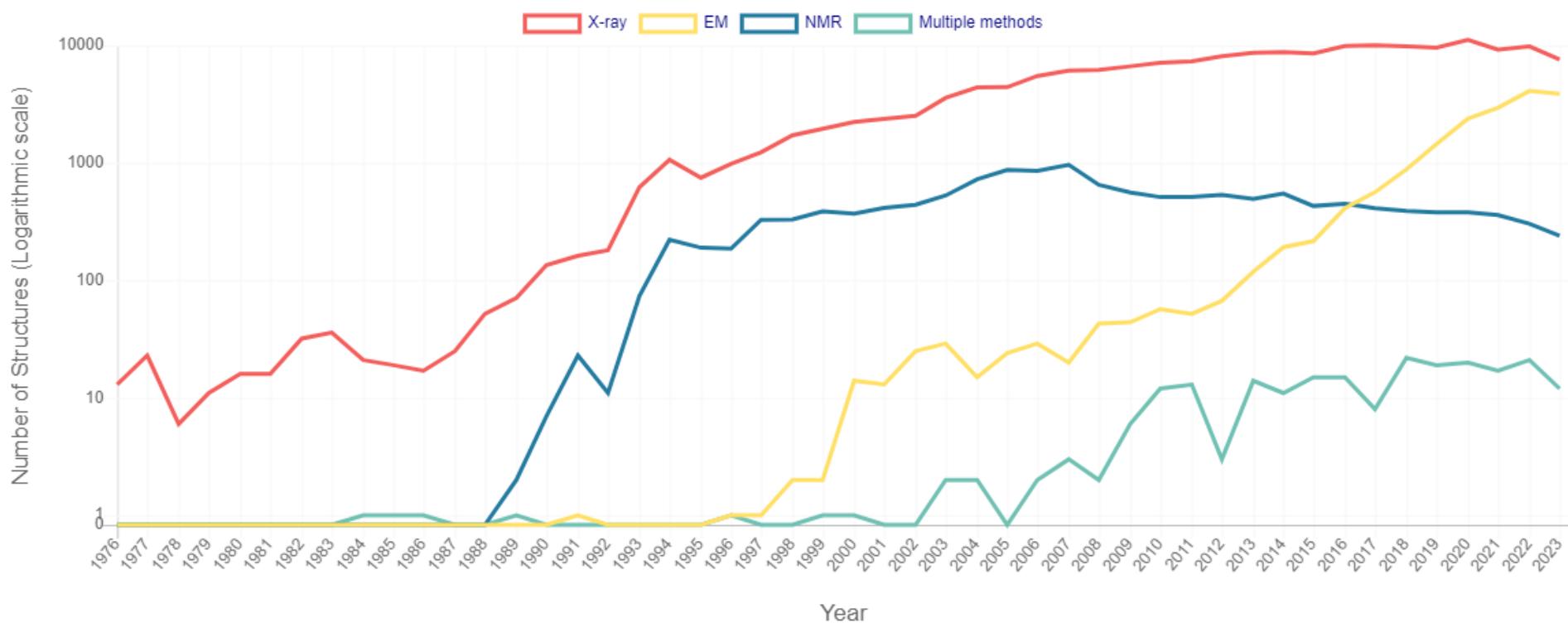
Electron microscopy (17K)

- Recently resolution improving a lot!

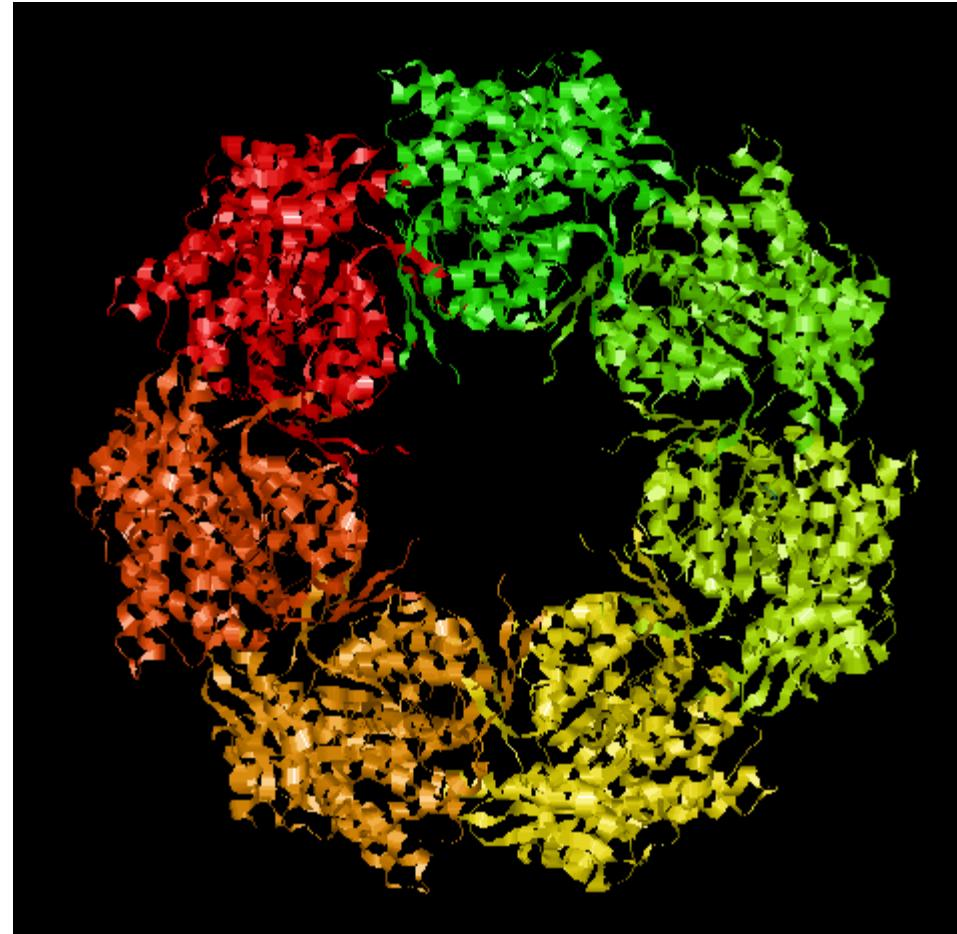
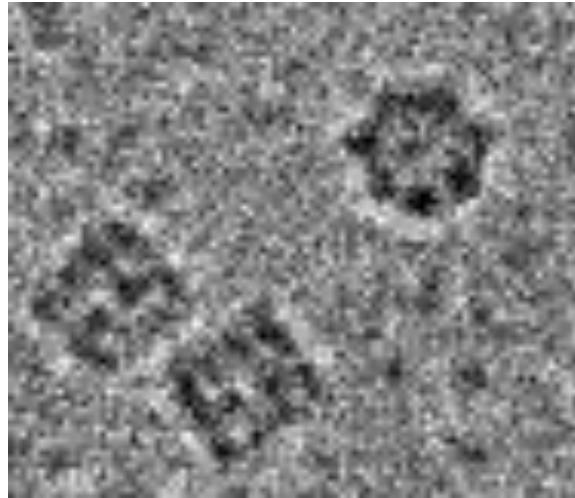
# Determination of protein structure

## X-ray crystallography (179K in PDB)

Number of Released PDB Structures per Year

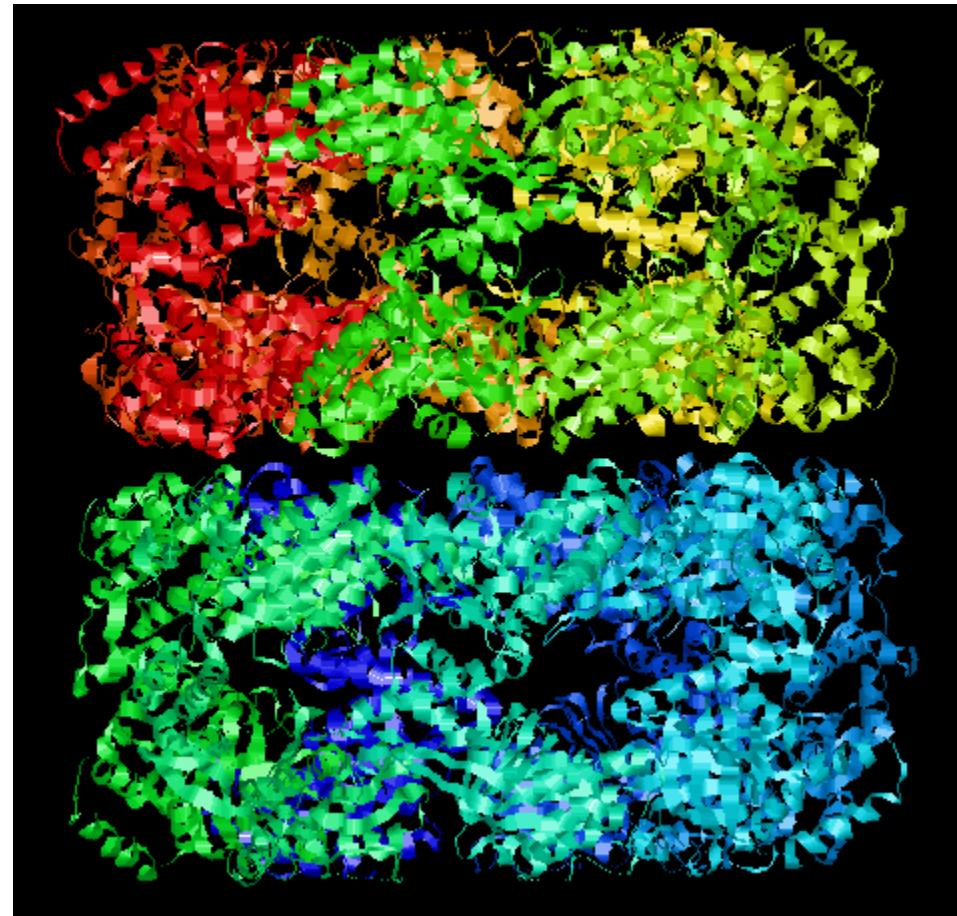
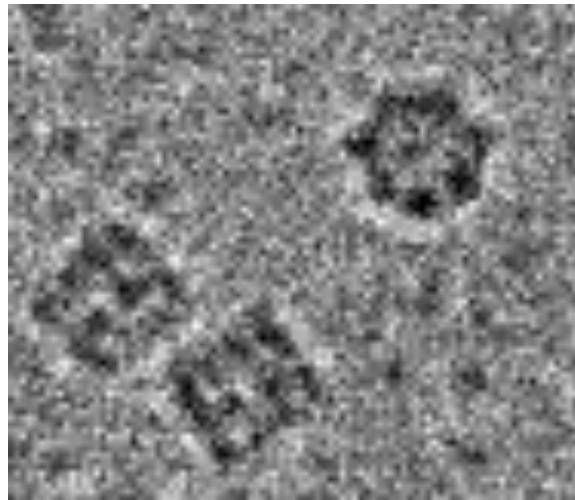


# Determination of protein structure



resolution 2.4 Å

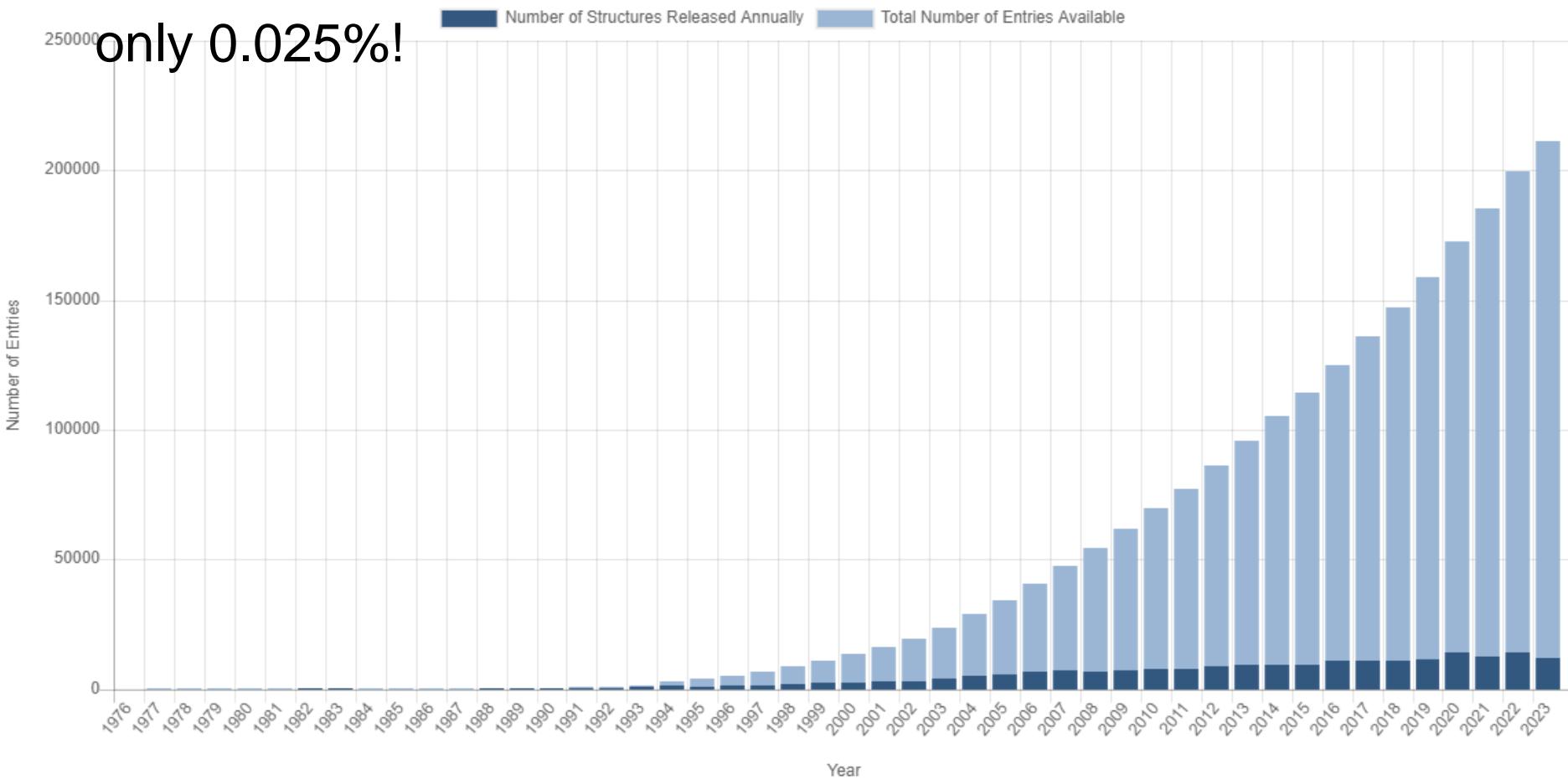
# Determination of protein structure



resolution 2.4 Å

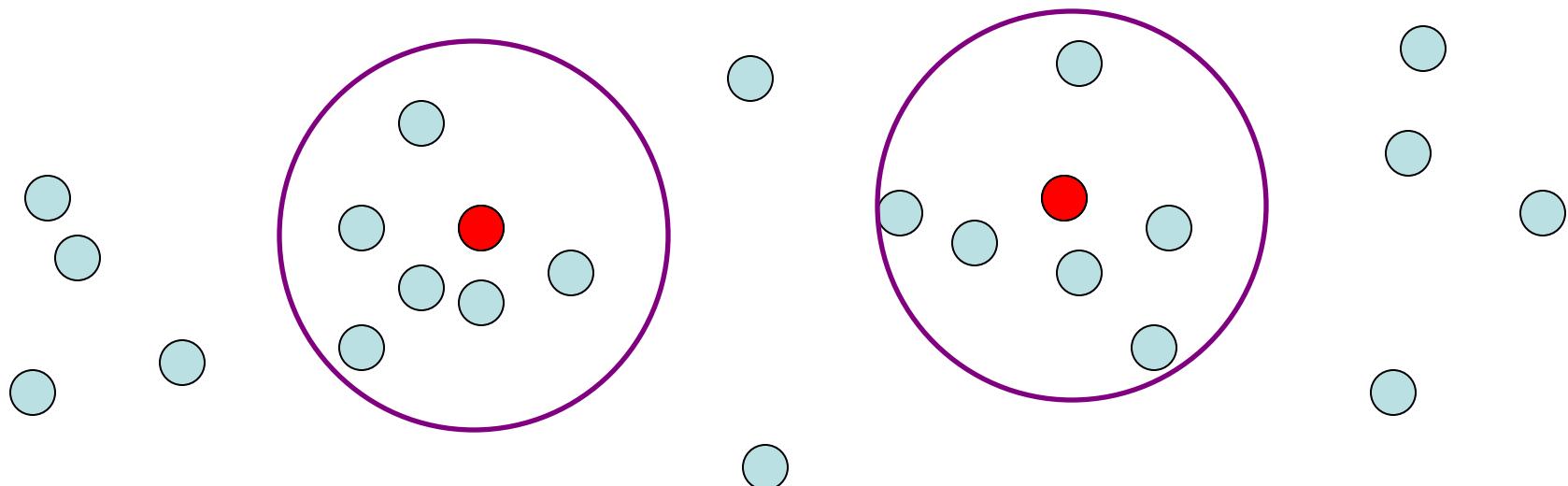
# Structural genomics

Currently: 211K protein 3D structures  
from around 62K sequences in UniProt (how do I know?)  
**252M sequences in UniProt**



# Structural genomics

Currently: 187K protein 3D structures  
from around 55K sequences in UniProt (how do I know?)  
**226M sequences in UniProt**  
only 0.024%!



50% sequences covered (25% in 1995)

# Protein structure prediction Ab initio

Explore conformational space

Limit the number of atoms

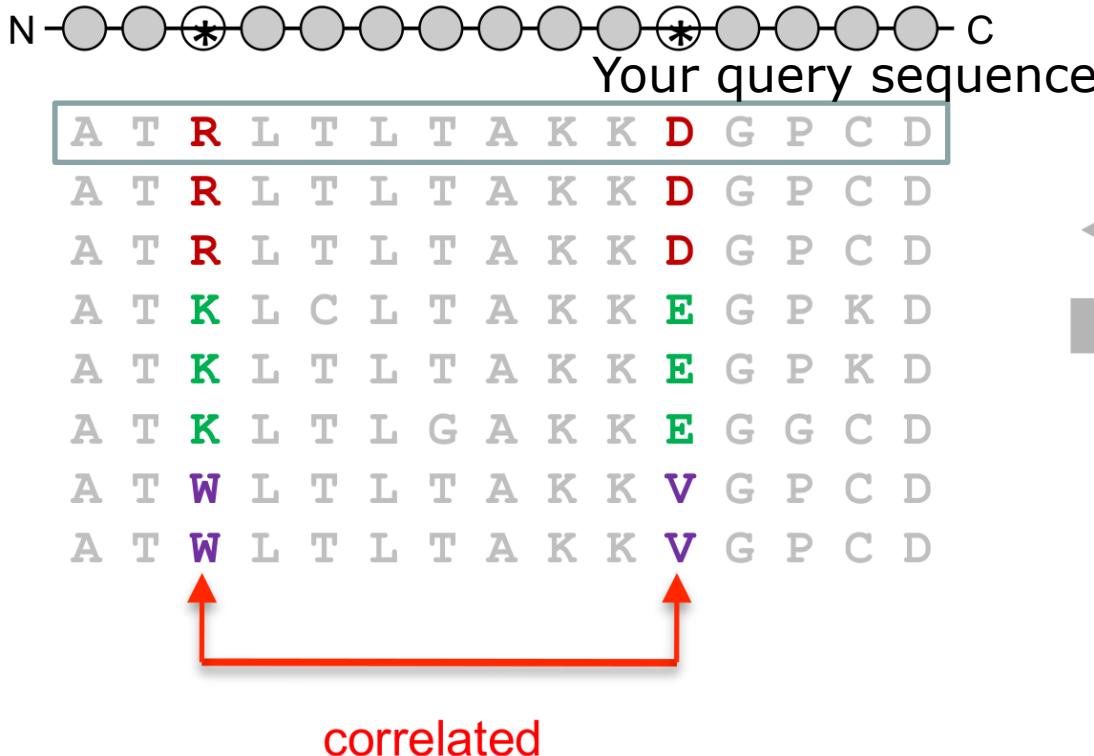
Break the problem into fragments of sequence

Optimize hydrophobic residue burial and pairing of beta-strands

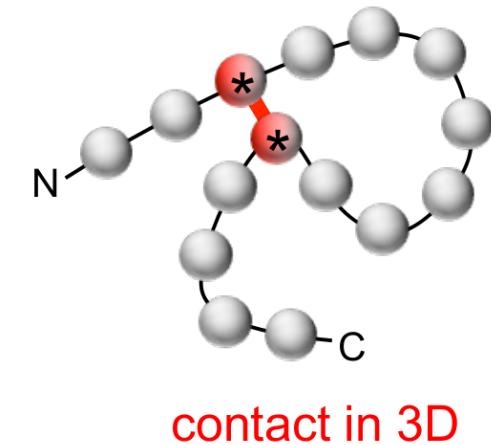
Limited success...

# Protein structure prediction

## Correlated mutations



constraint  
inference



contact in 3D

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Correlated\\_mutation.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Correlated_mutation.png)

# Protein structure prediction Combined

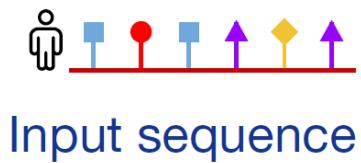
Homology to solved structures

Correlated sequence variation in homologs

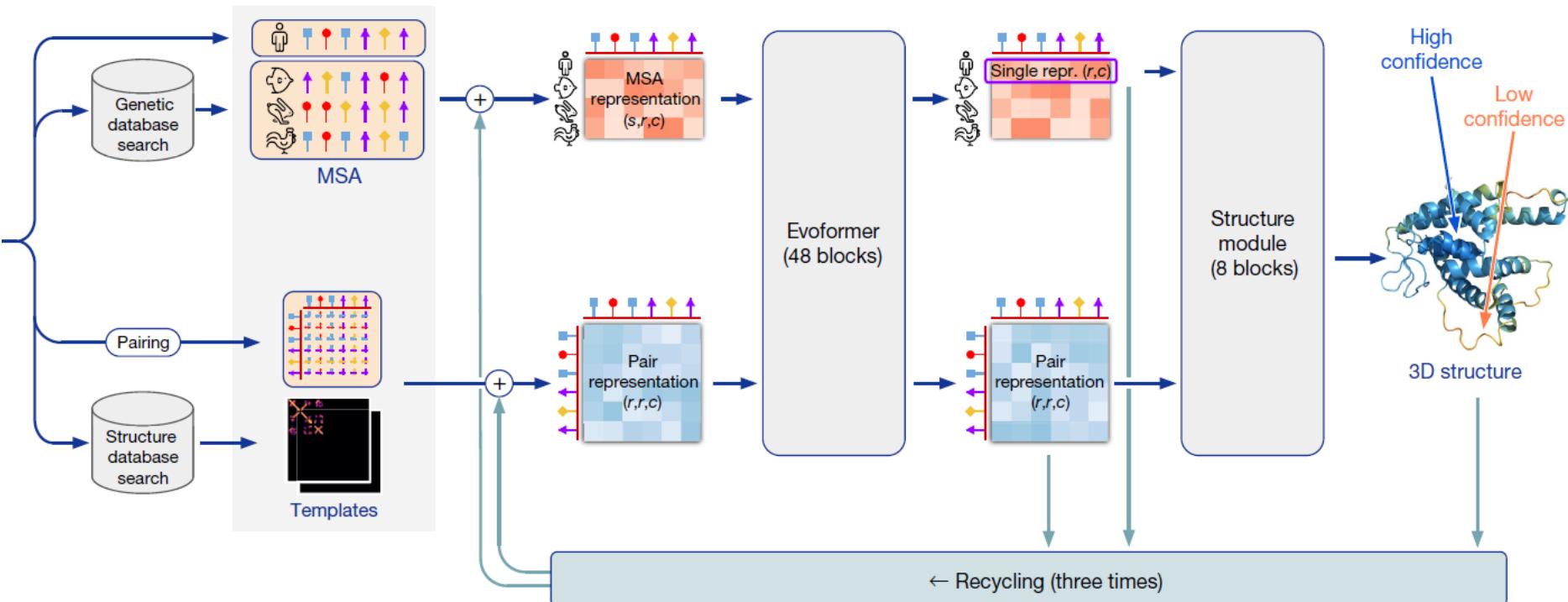
Generation of a structure following physical constraints

# Protein structure prediction

**AlphaFold:** DeepMind, Google



Demis  
Hassabis



Jumper et al (2021) Nature

# Protein structure prediction

## AlphaFold: DeepMind, Google

UniProtKB - P08235 (MCR\_HUMAN)

Display Help video BLAST Align Format Add to basket History

Entry

Protein Mineralocorticoid receptor

Publications

Gene NR3C2

Feature viewer

Organism Homo sapiens (Homo sapiens)

Feature table

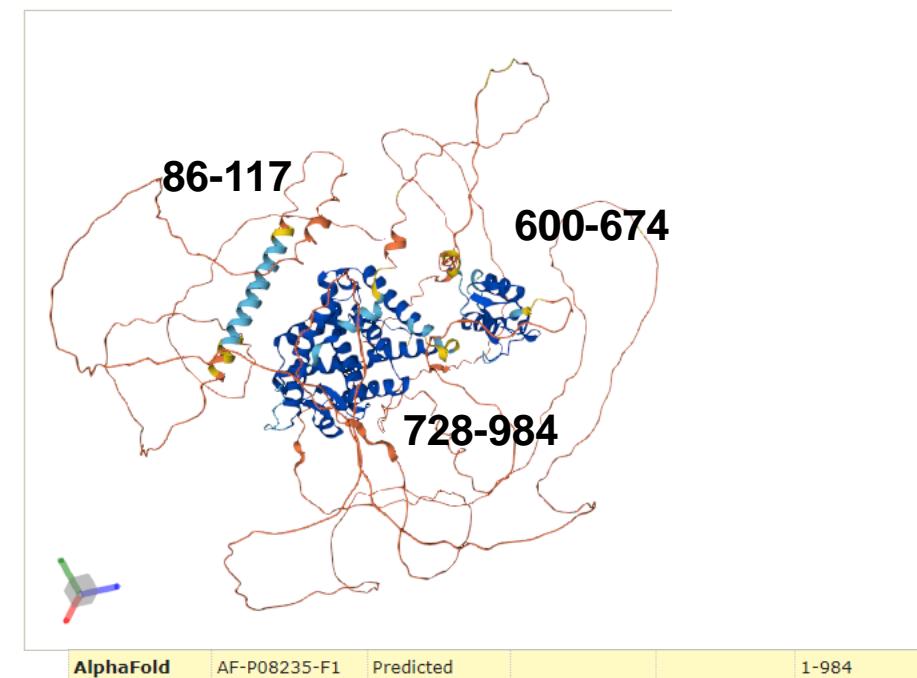
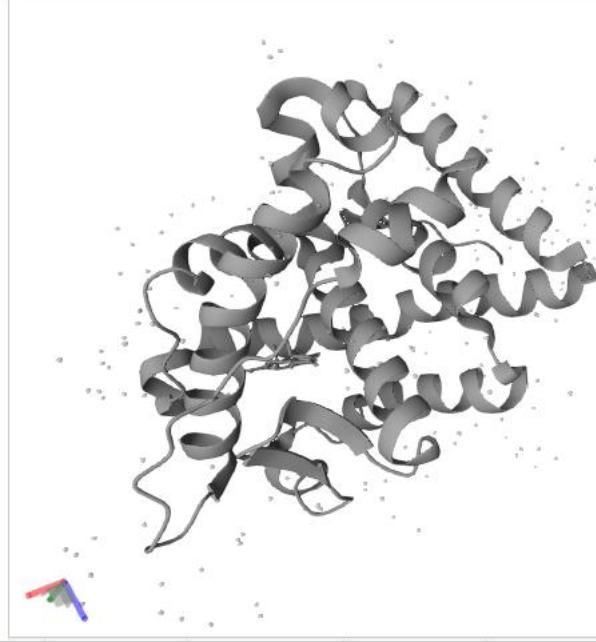
Status Reviewed - A

Structure

Model Confidence:

- Very high ( $p\text{LDDT} > 90$ )
- Confident ( $90 > p\text{LDDT} > 70$ )
- Low ( $70 > p\text{LDDT} > 50$ )
- Very low ( $p\text{LDDT} < 50$ )

AlphaFold produces a per-residue confidence score ( $p\text{LDDT}$ ) between 0 and 100. Some regions with low  $p\text{LDDT}$  may be unstructured in isolation.



# **Protein structure prediction**

**AlphaFold:** DeepMind, Google

## **Precomputed models:**

UniProt

<https://alphafold.ebi.ac.uk/>

(limited to model organisms)

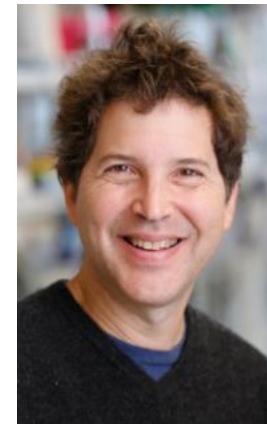
**Colab notebook** (simplified version / limited server / takes hours)

**Source code** (Needs 3 Tb disk space)

# Protein structure prediction

**trRosetta:** David Baker & Jianyi Yang

Needs large multiple sequence alignments to predict contacts



Predictions available for all PFAM domains

Example:

<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/interpro/entry/pfam/PF07887/rosettafold/>

Run online at

<https://yanglab.nankai.edu.cn/trRosetta/>

Du et al (2021) *Nature Protocols*

# Protein structure prediction

**C-I-Tasser:** Yang Zhang



Run online at  
<https://zhanggroup.org/C-I-TASSER/>

Zheng et al (2021) *Cell Reports Methods*