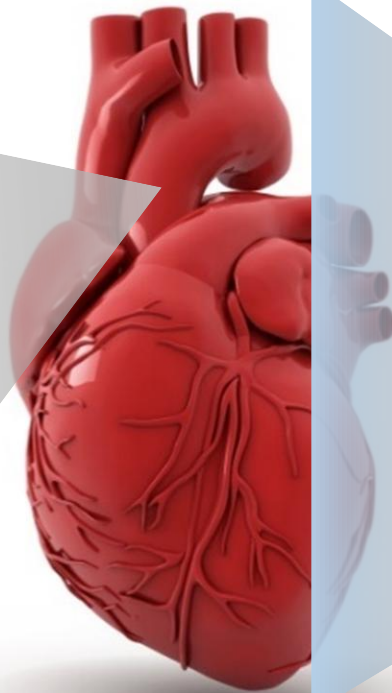
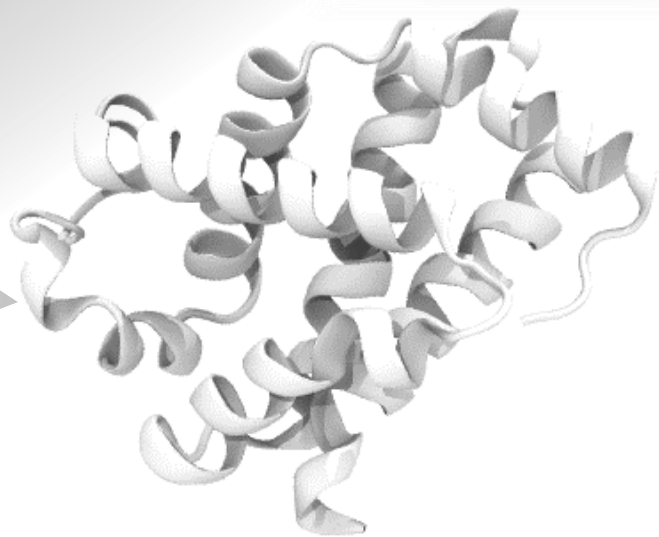
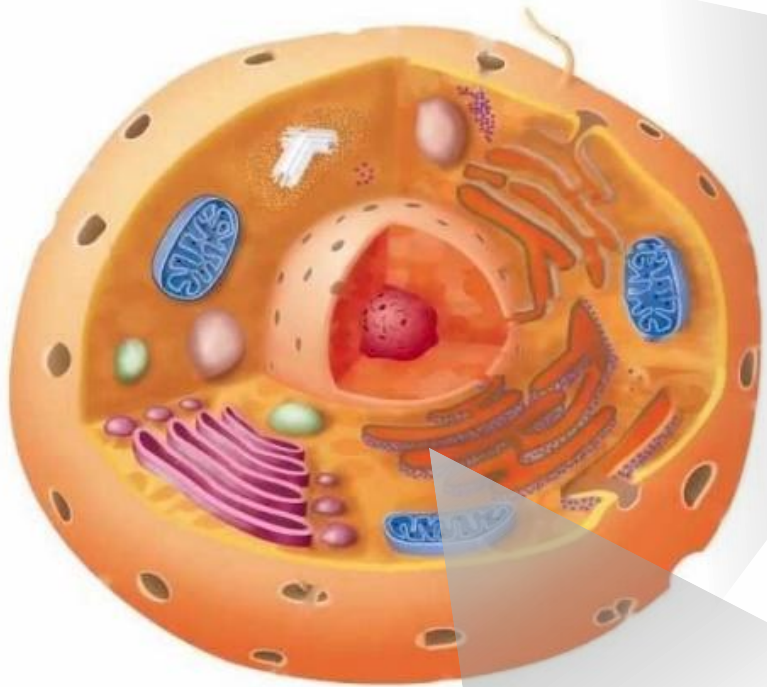
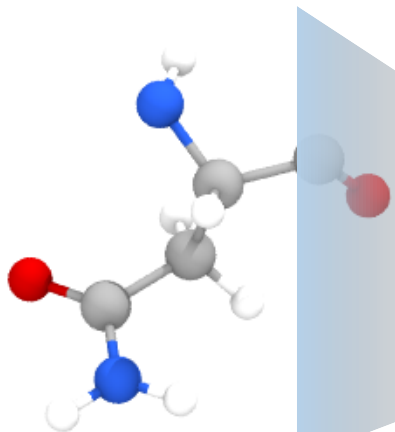


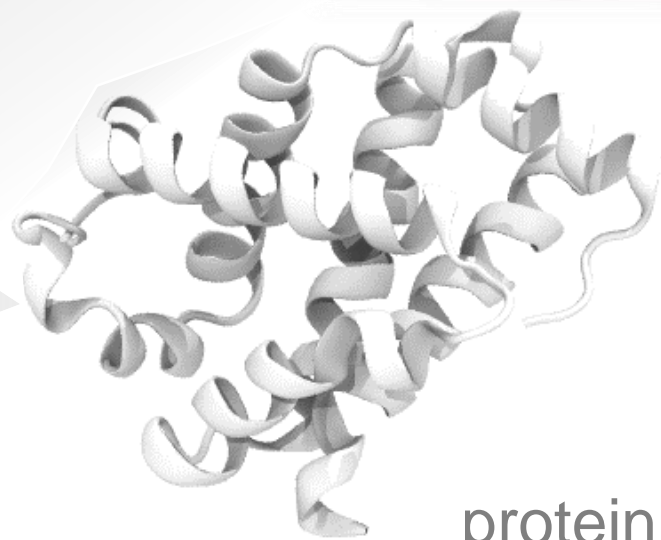
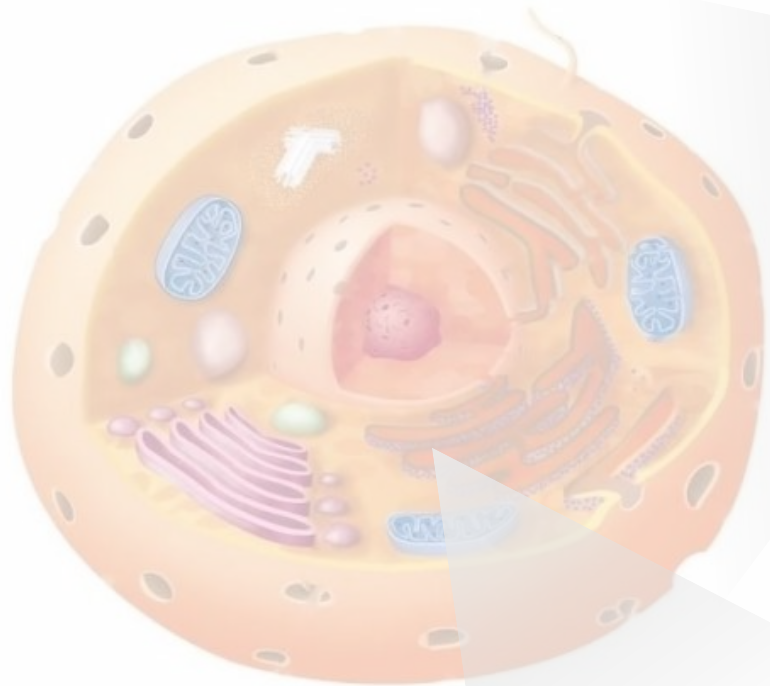
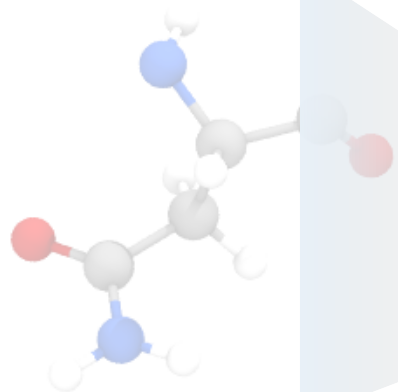
# Learning (from) protein dynamics

Matteo Degiacomi

[matteo.degiacomini@ed.ac.uk](mailto:matteo.degiacomini@ed.ac.uk)

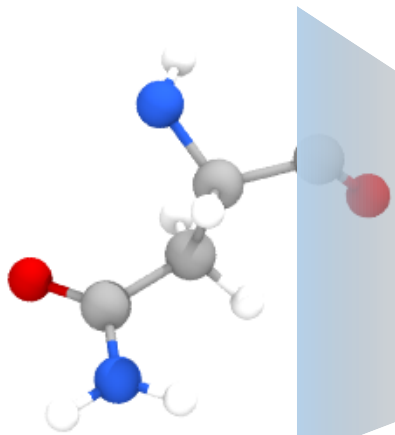




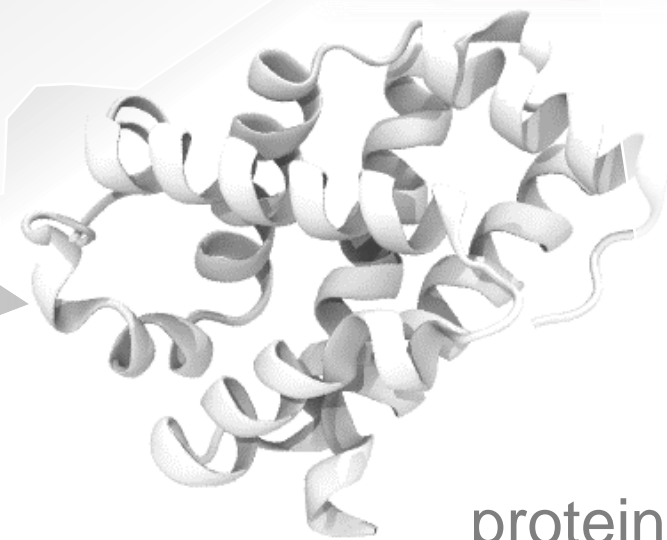
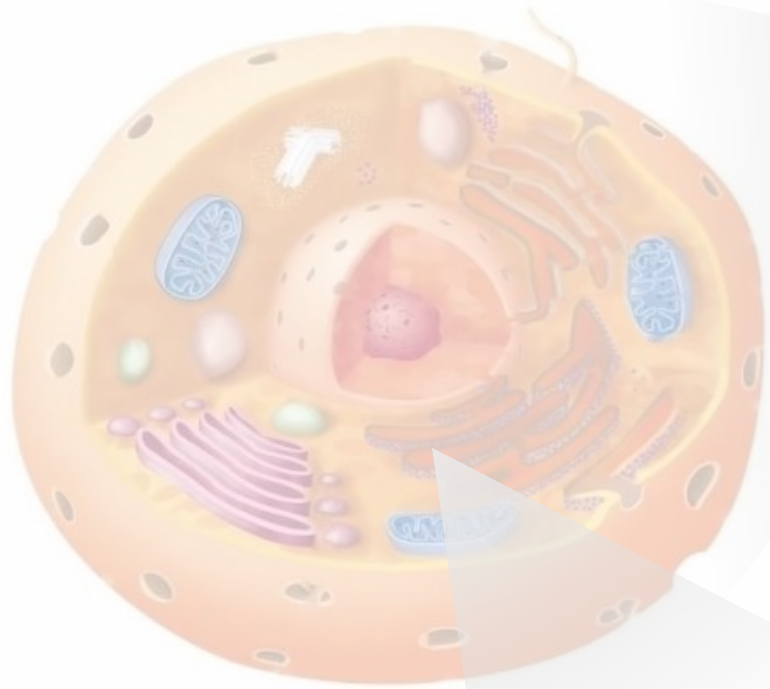


protein

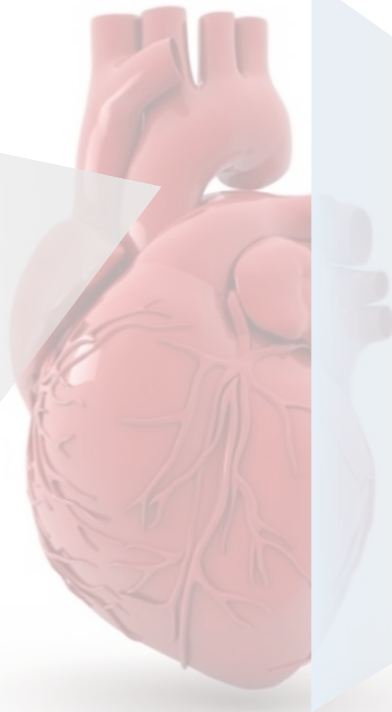




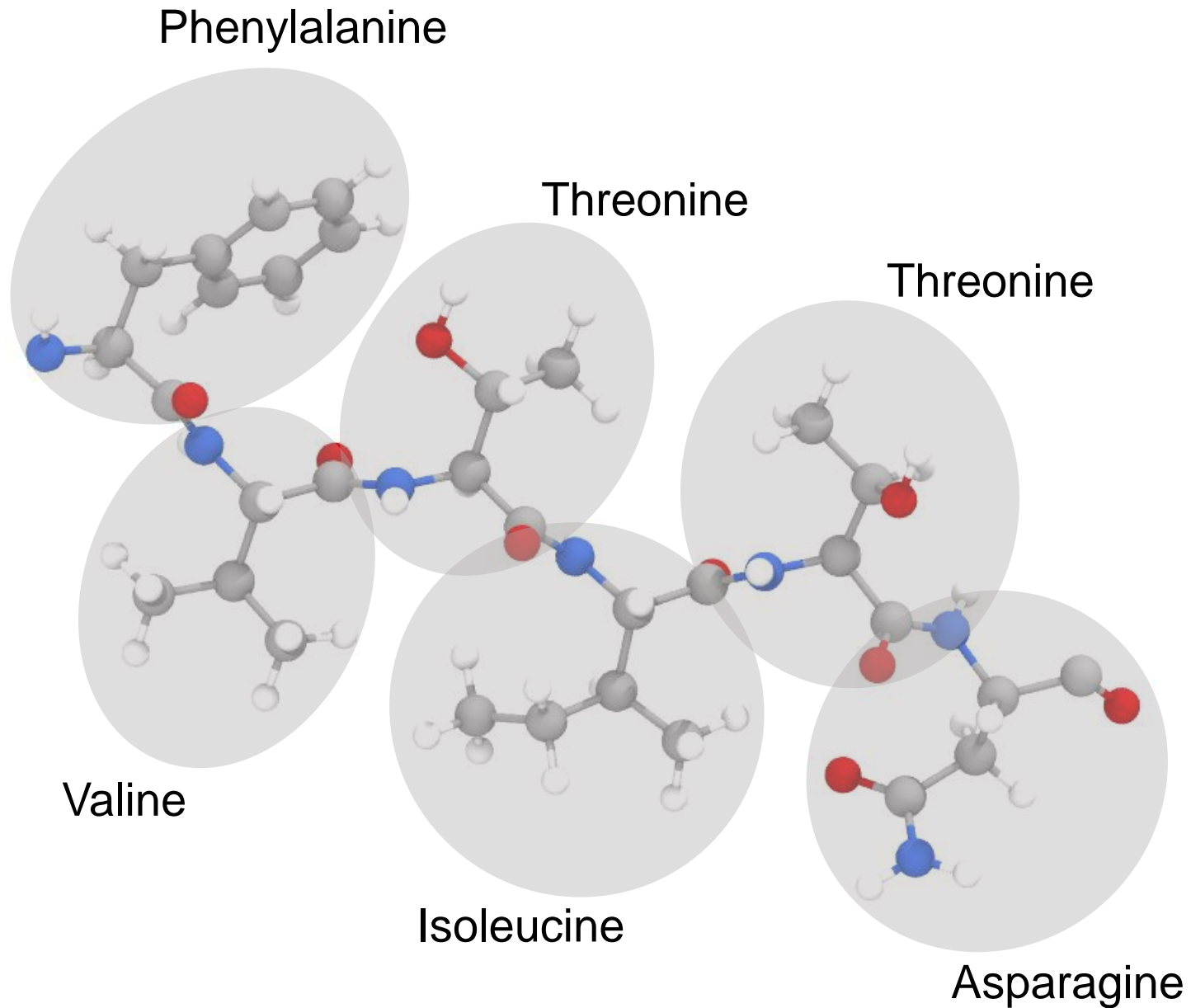
amino acid



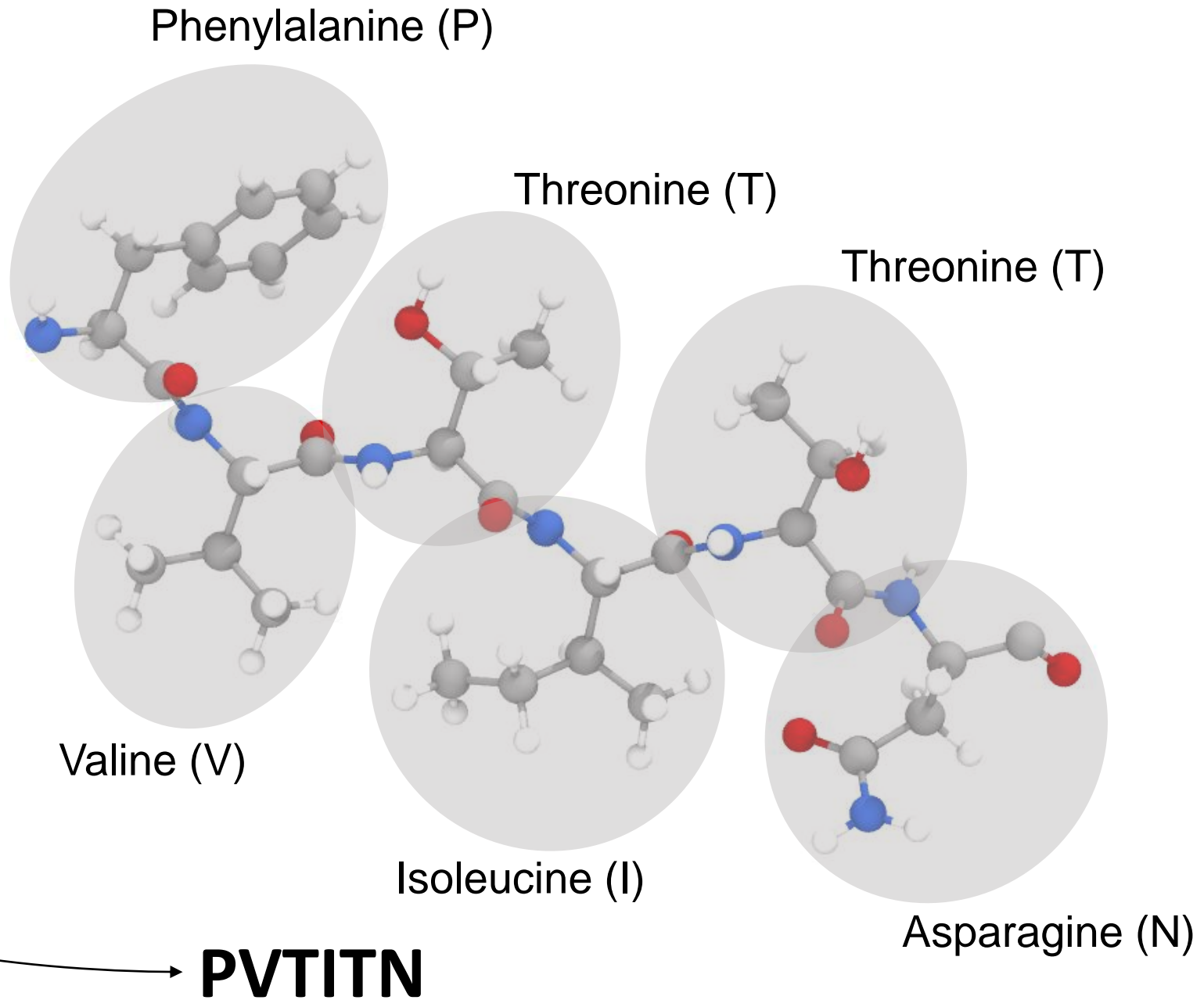
protein



Amino acids form linear chains by connecting to each other via their backbone (*polymerise*)



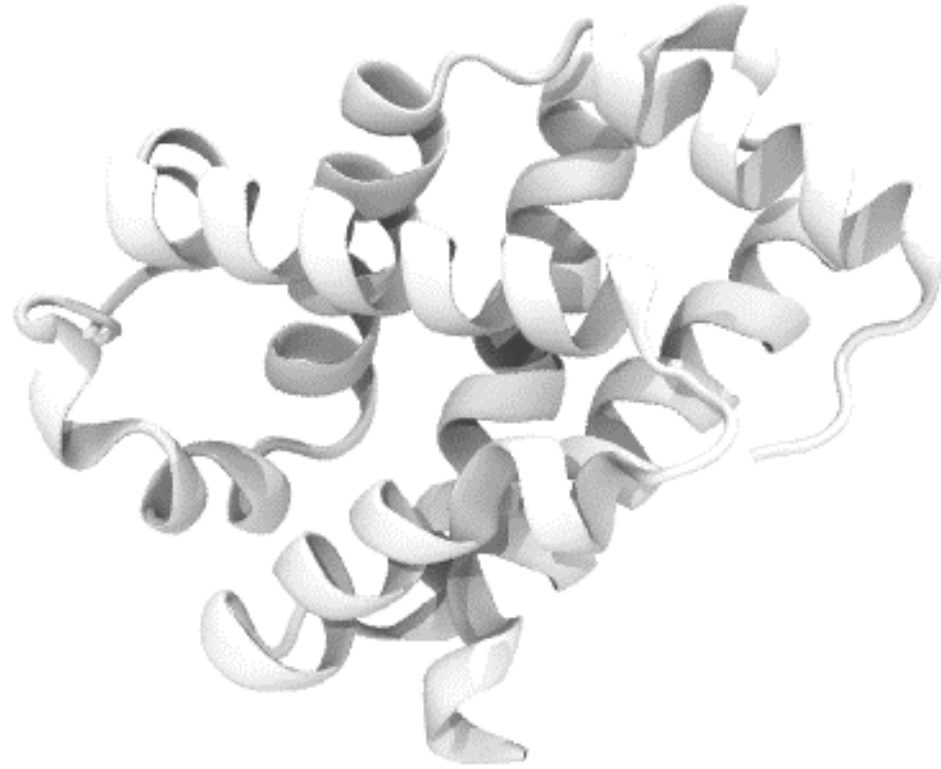
Amino acids form linear chains by connecting to each other via their backbone (*polymerise*)



Proteins: ~300  
amino acids on  
average

Similar sequence,  
similar fold  
(usually)

folding



**AILGPATTLKMRSGGA...**

Anfinsen's dogma

The three-dimensional  
structure of a protein in its  
native environment is solely  
determined by its amino acid  
sequence.



Christian Anfinsen. Principles  
that govern the folding of  
protein chains. *Science*, 1973



Scientific Background to the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2024

# COMPUTATIONAL PROTEIN DESIGN AND PROTEIN STRUCTURE PREDICTION

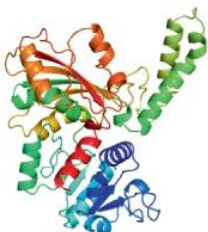
training



NITPLAKRTYNYRAVL...



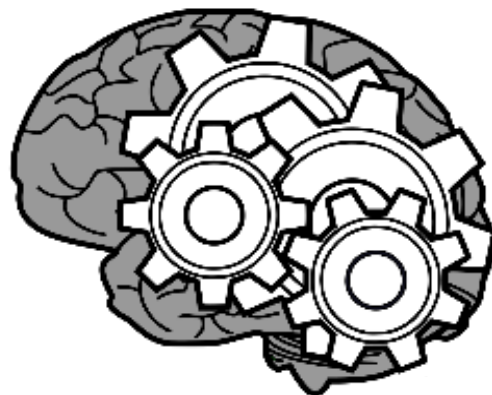
HTIWKLSRLWSLQ...



ALRIKAIIVPRILGPQ...



LIYRICMPGILCYEND...

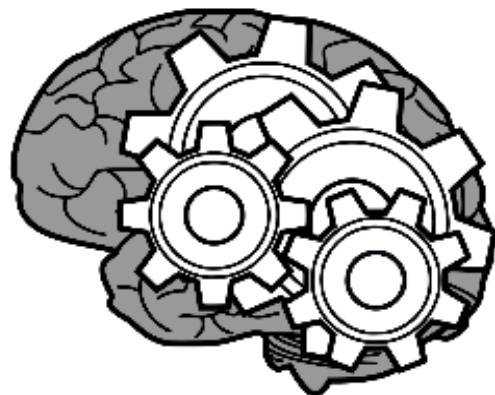




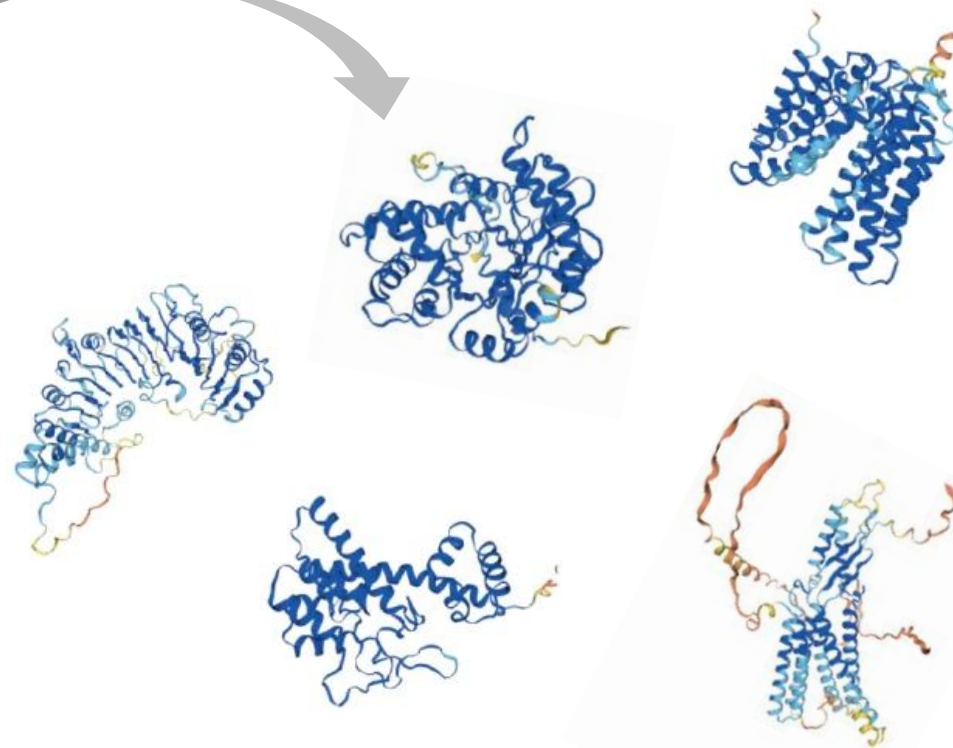
Scientific Background to the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2024

# COMPUTATIONAL PROTEIN DESIGN AND PROTEIN STRUCTURE PREDICTION

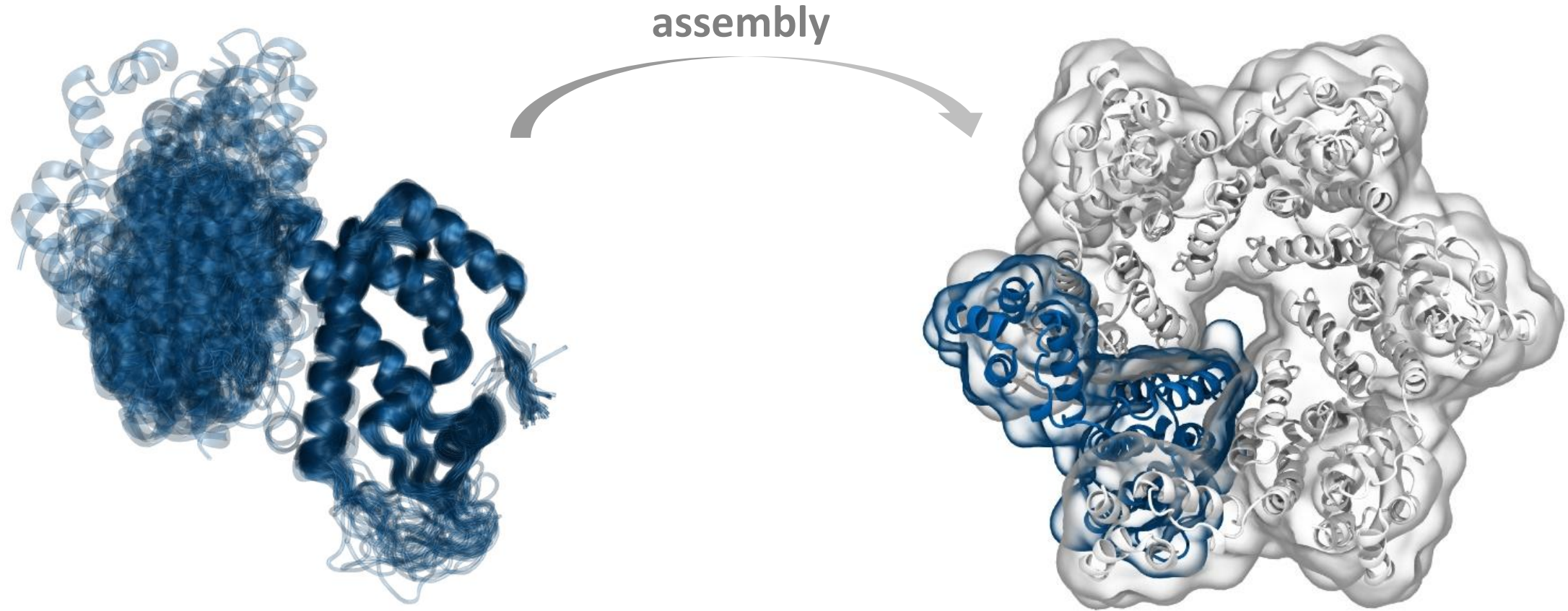
MAPVYEGMAS...  
HVQVFSPHTL...  
QSSAFCSVKK...  
LKIEPSSNWD...  
MTGYGSHSKV...  
...



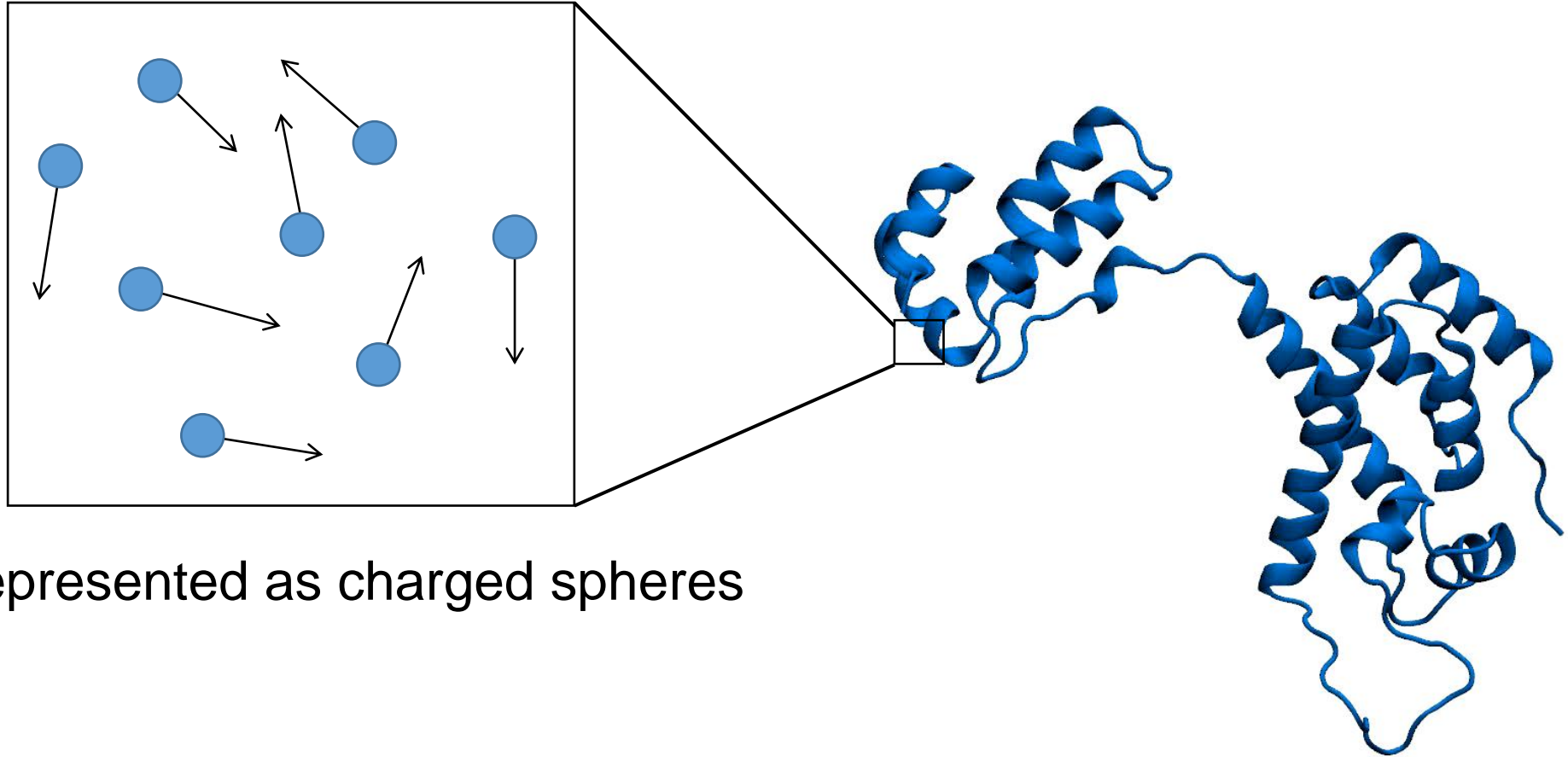
**prediction**



# Structure *and dynamics* determine the function

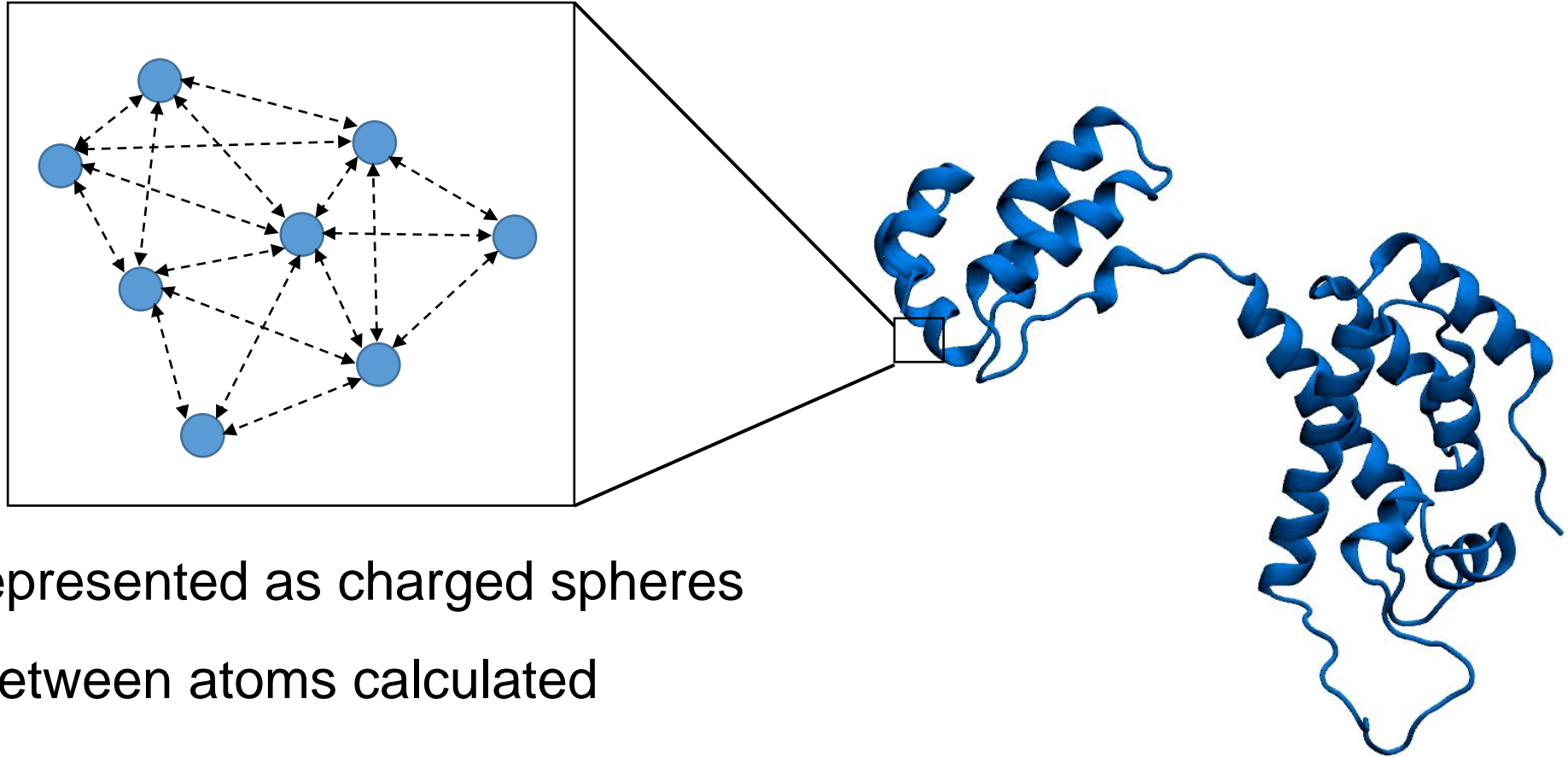


# Molecular Dynamics (MD) simulations



**Atoms** represented as charged spheres

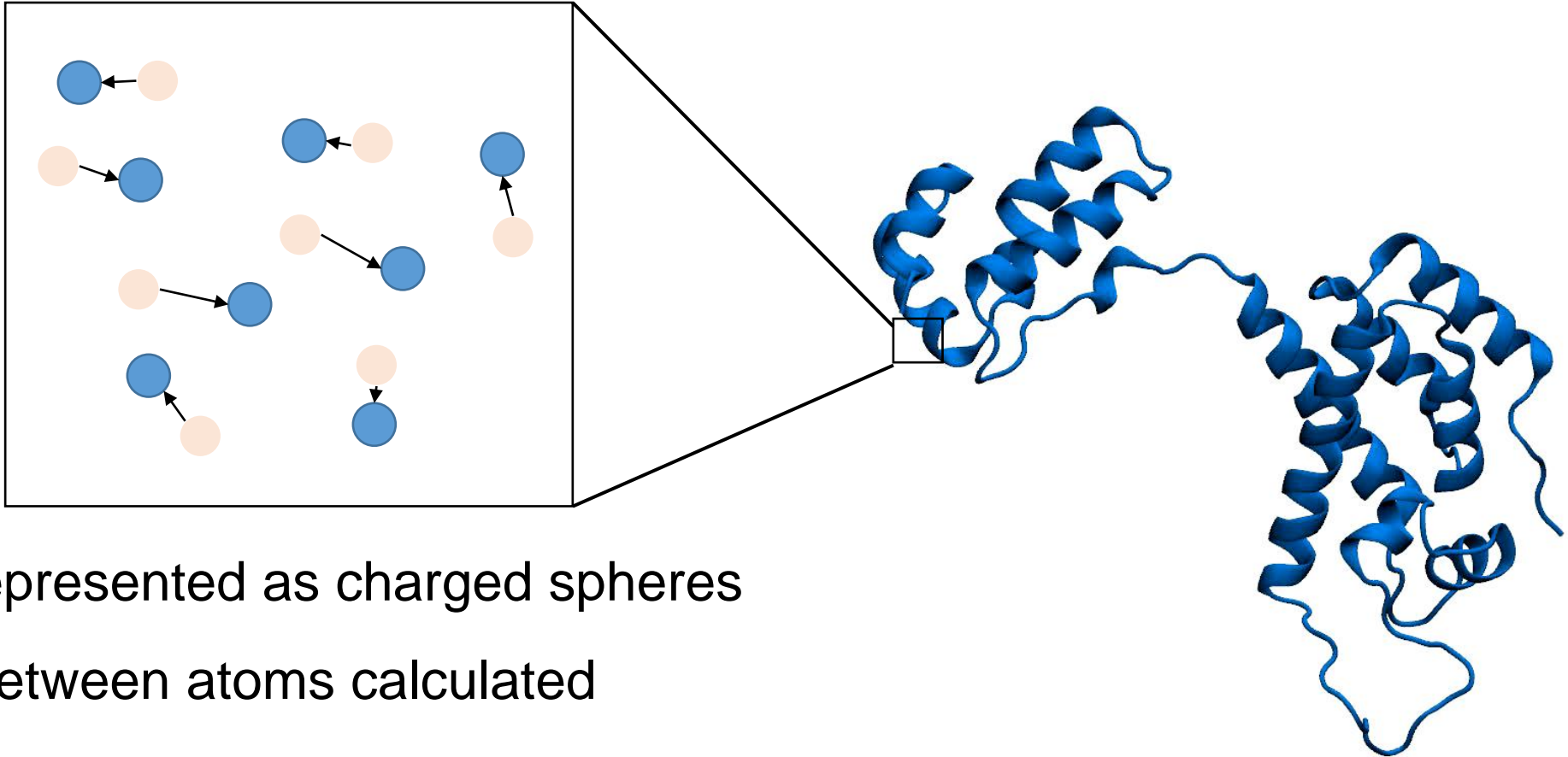
# Molecular Dynamics (MD) simulations



**Atoms** represented as charged spheres

**Forces** between atoms calculated

# Molecular Dynamics (MD) simulations



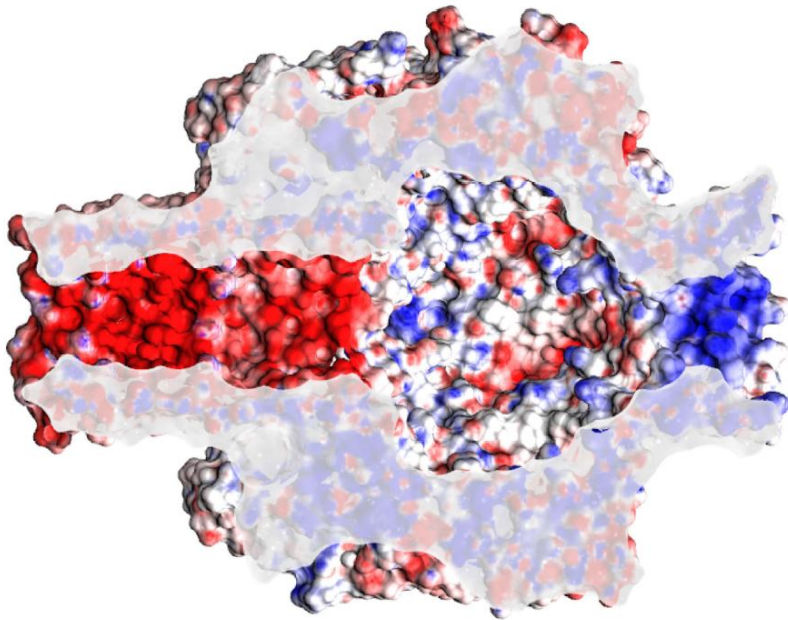
**Atoms** represented as charged spheres

**Forces** between atoms calculated

Atom positions updated via **Newton's 2nd law** (1 – 4 fs timestep)

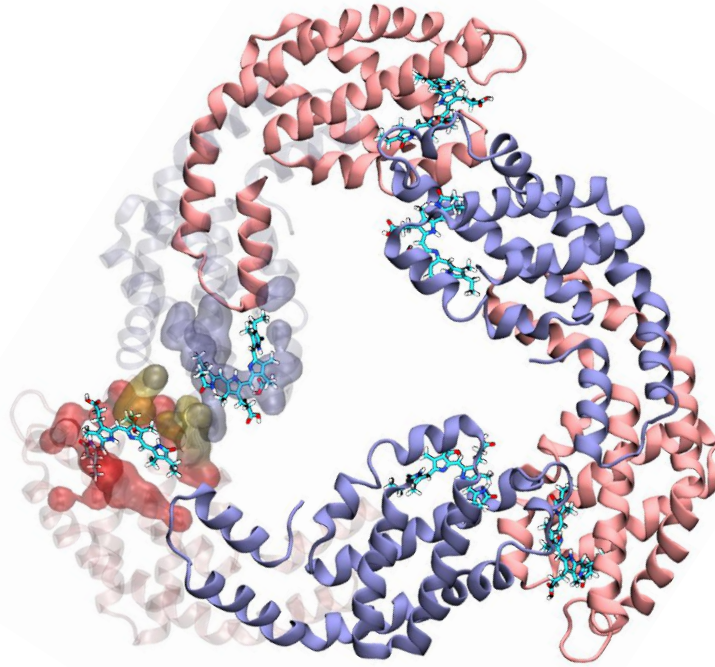
# Understanding protein function via simulations

## Membrane pore ion selectivity



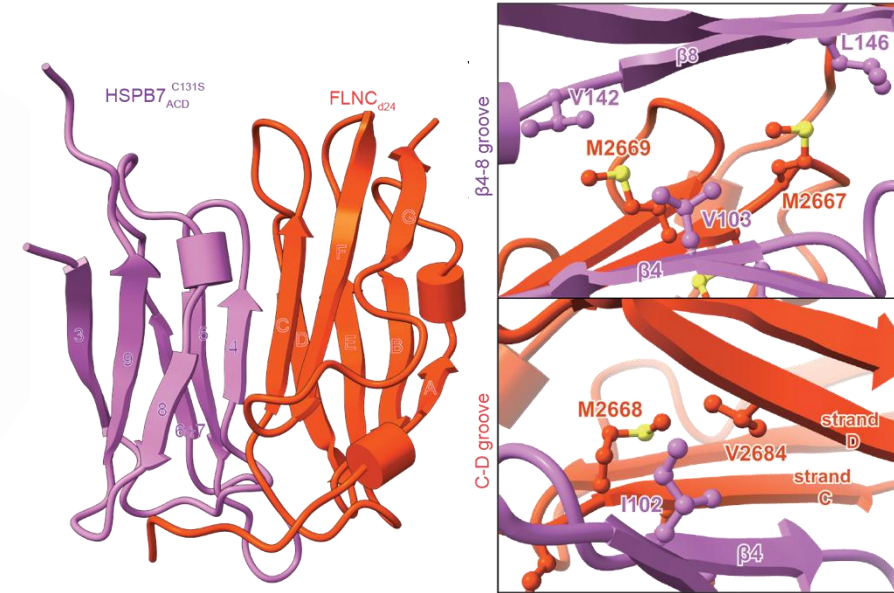
*J. Bruggisser et al.,  
EMBO Reports, 2022*

## Light harvesting mechanics



*A. Guillén-García et al.,  
Nature Comms., 2022*

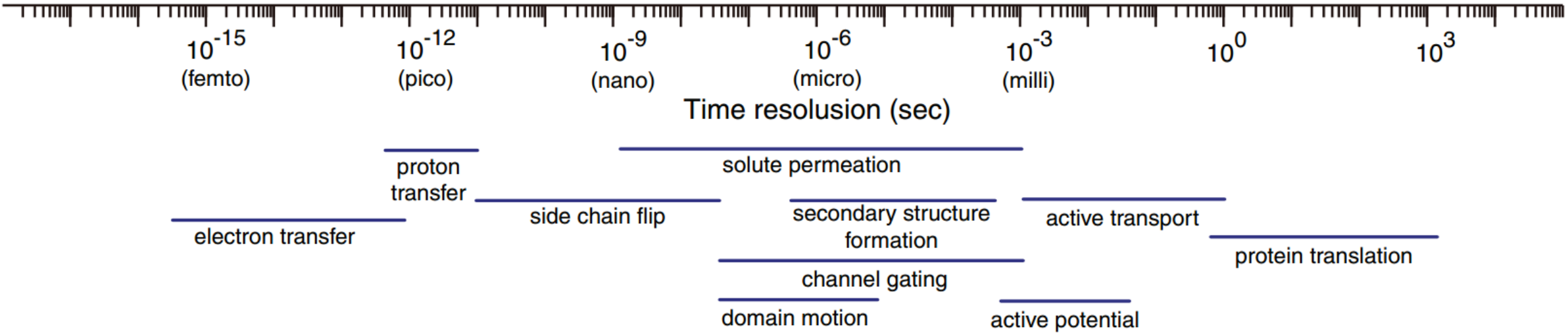
## Post-translational modifications



*Z. Wang et al.,  
Nature Comms., 2025*

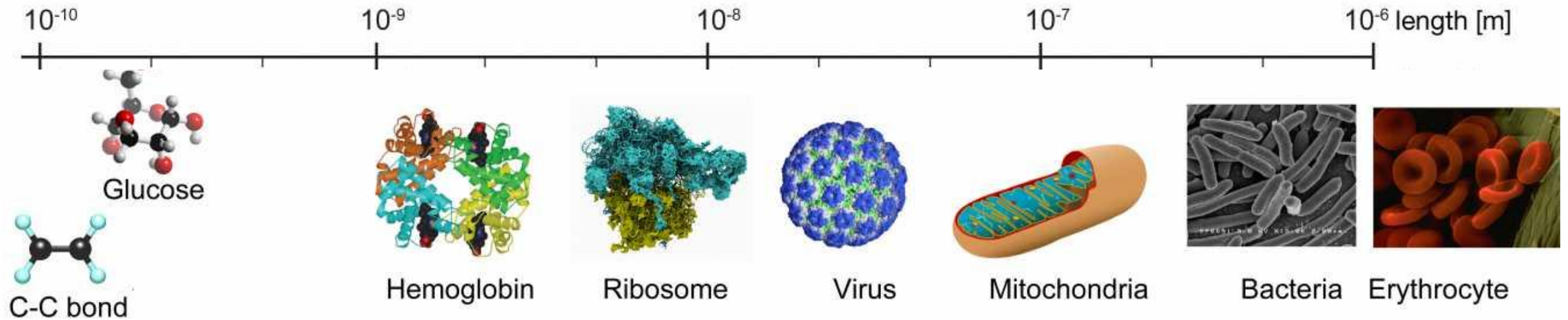
# Timescales in biology

## Molecular Dynamics simulations



# Sizes in biology

## Molecular Dynamics simulations



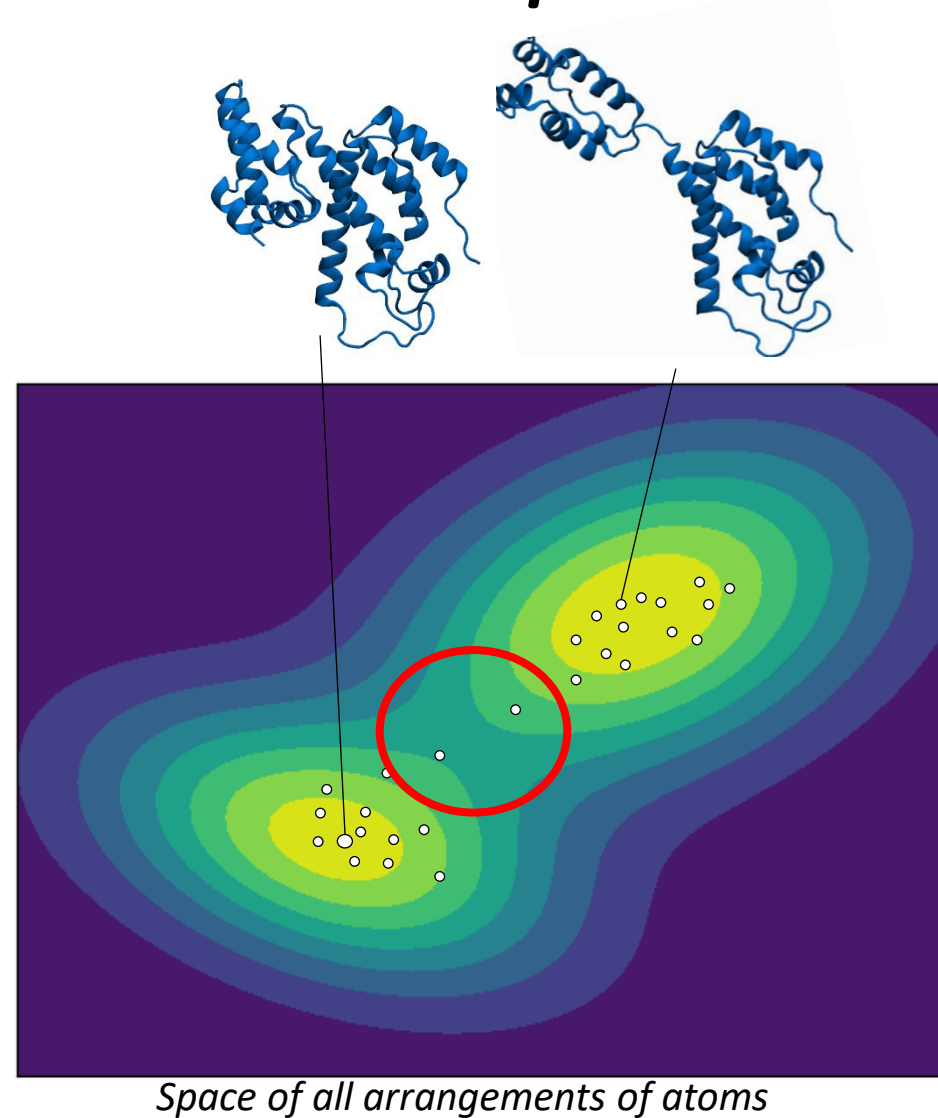
# Proteins sample a *conformational space*

## Question:

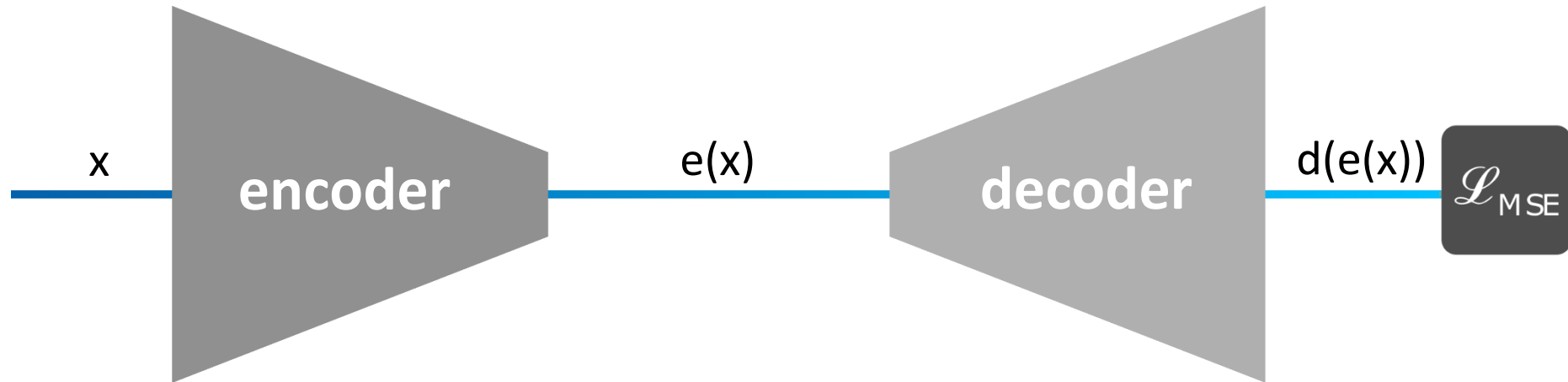
can we overcome MD sampling limitations using generative ML models?

## Hurdles:

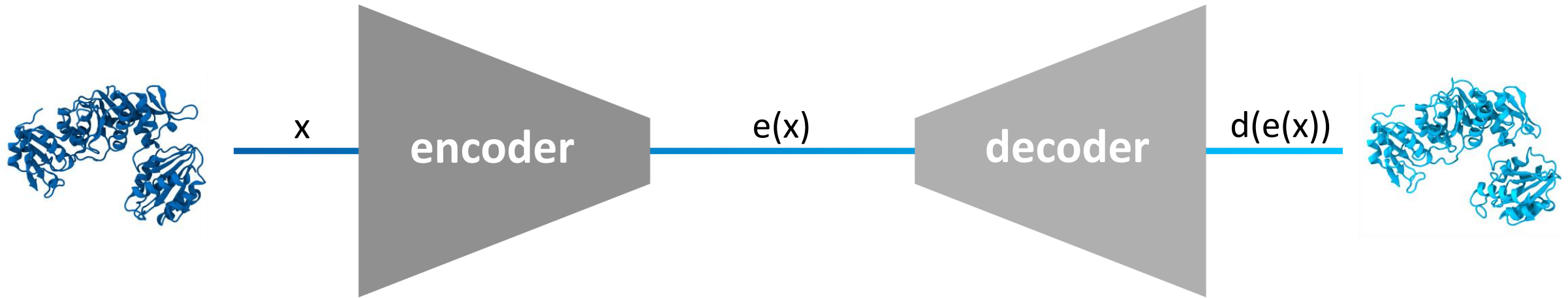
- High-dimensional space (>1000D)
- Sparse and biased sampling
- **Outliers** matter
- Ground truth paucity



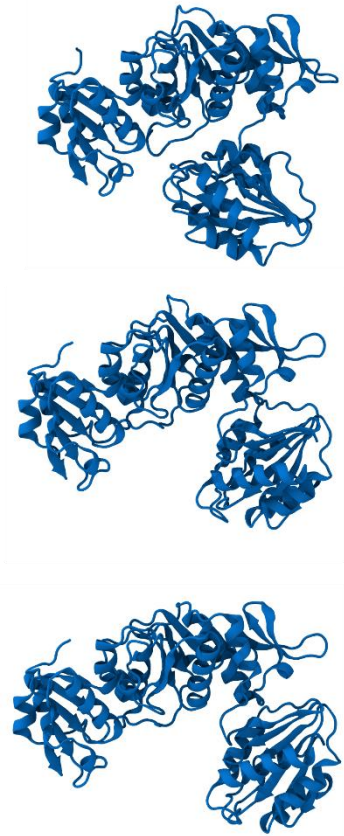
# Can a generative model learn a protein conformational space?



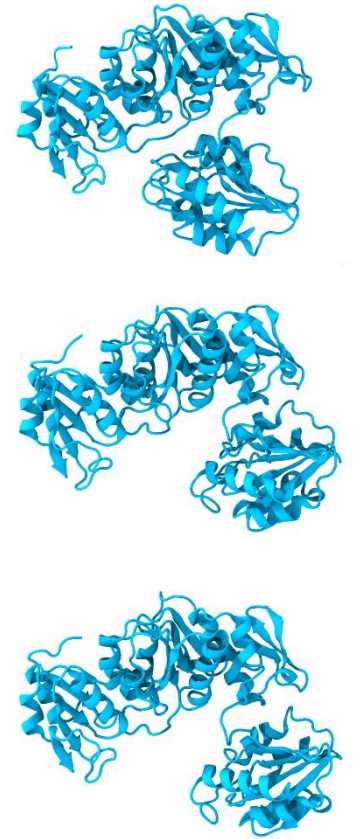
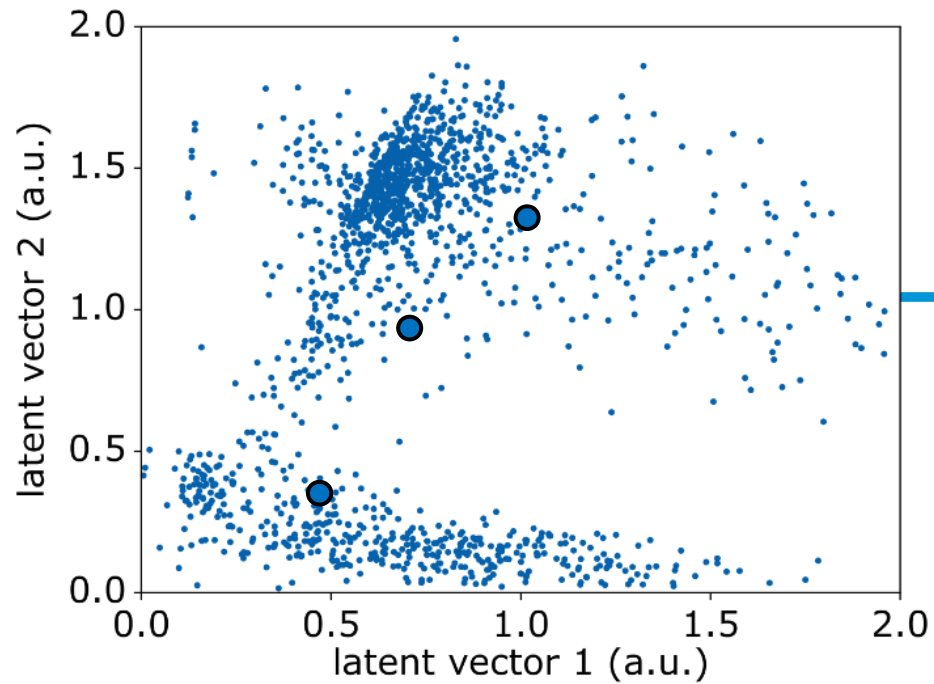
# Can a generative model learn a protein conformational space?



# Can a generative model learn a protein conformational space?

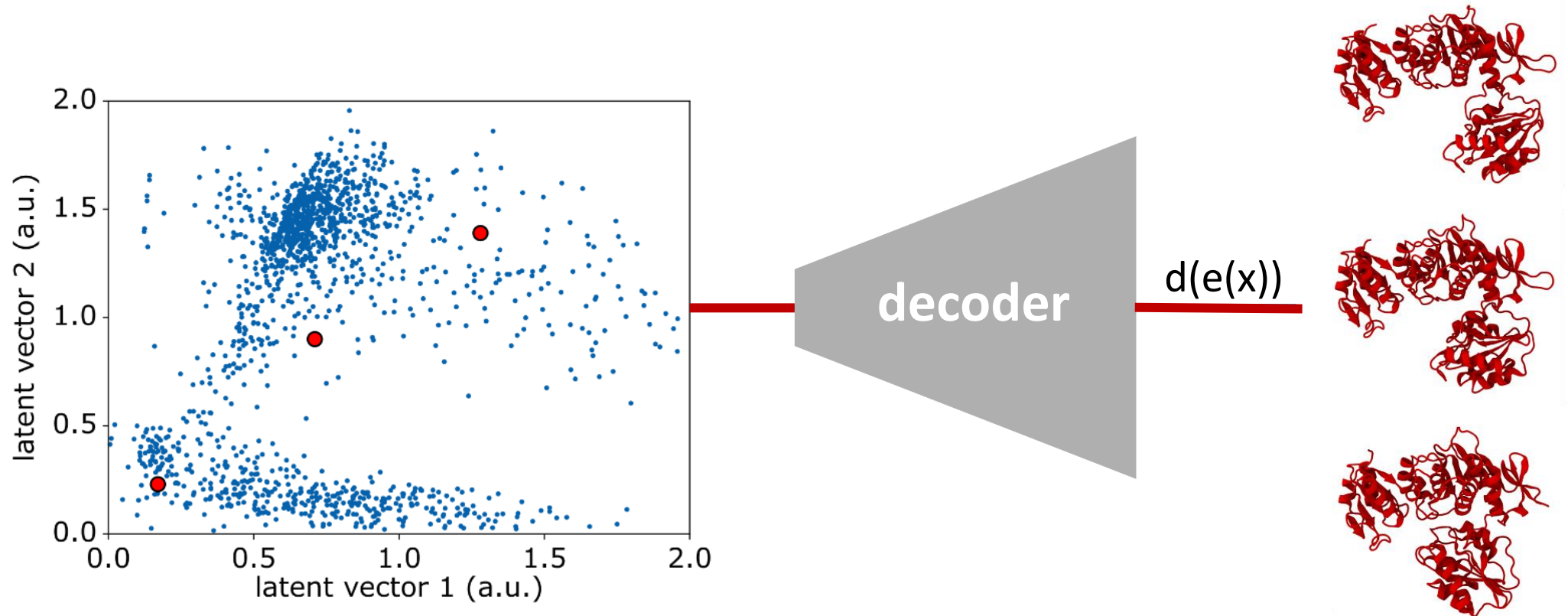


...



...

# Can a generative model learn a protein conformational space?



# Integrating physical and topological knowledge into learning



Chris Willcocks

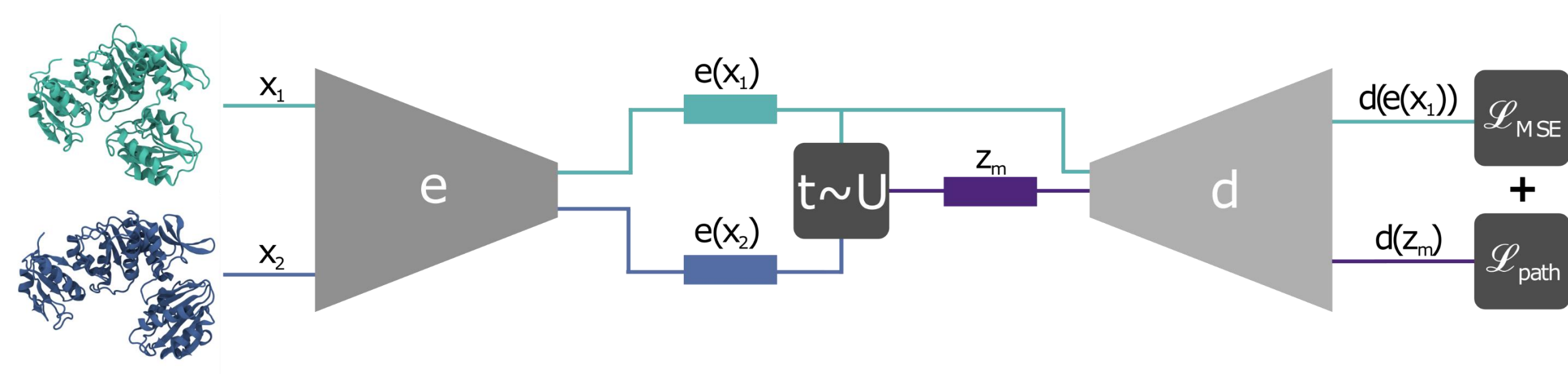


Venkata Ramaswamy



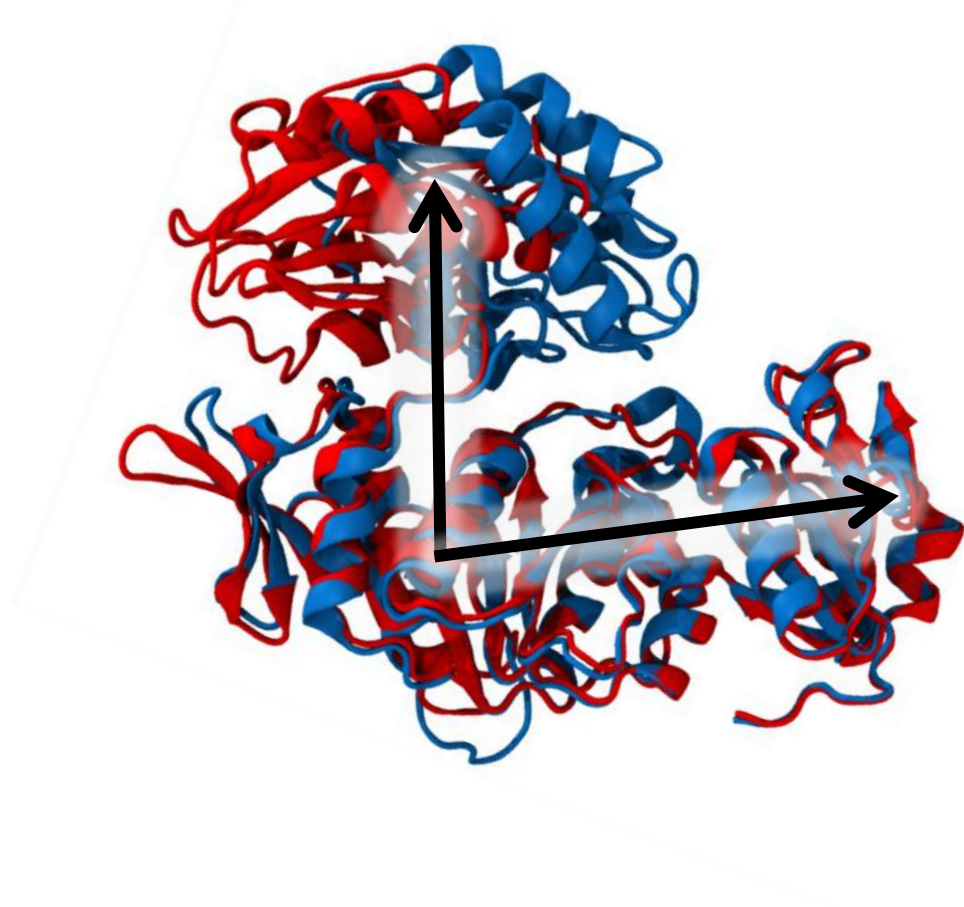
Samuel Musson

- Use an architecture inspired by image processing
- Training method encouraging model generalisation



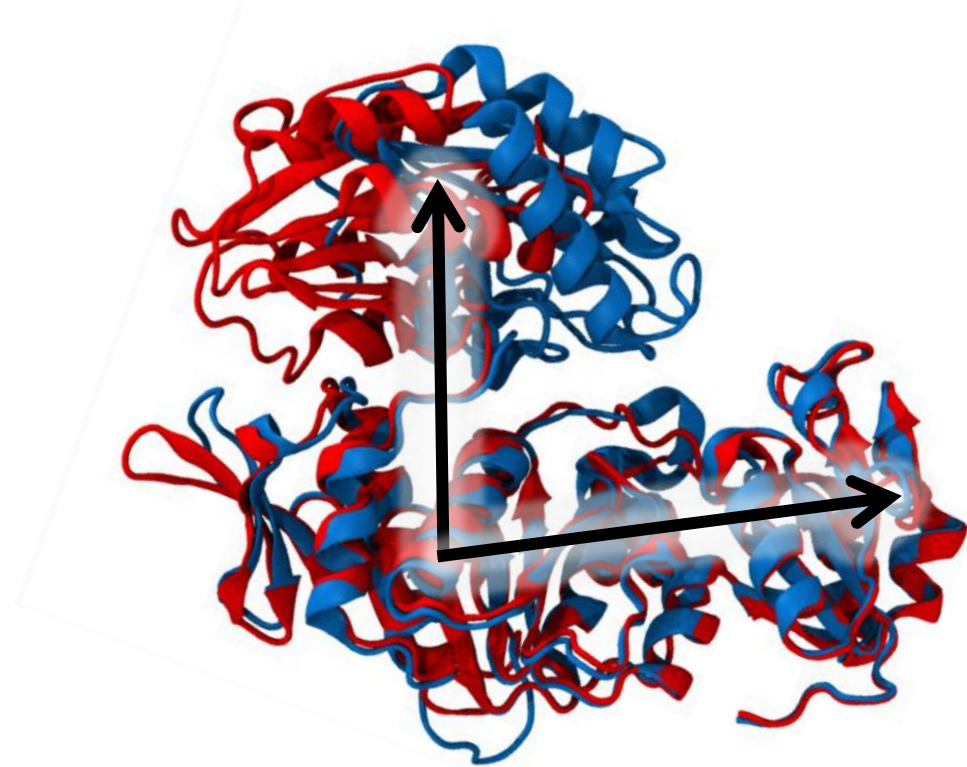
# Predicting transition paths

**MurD** features known **closed** (ligand bound) and **open** (unbound) states

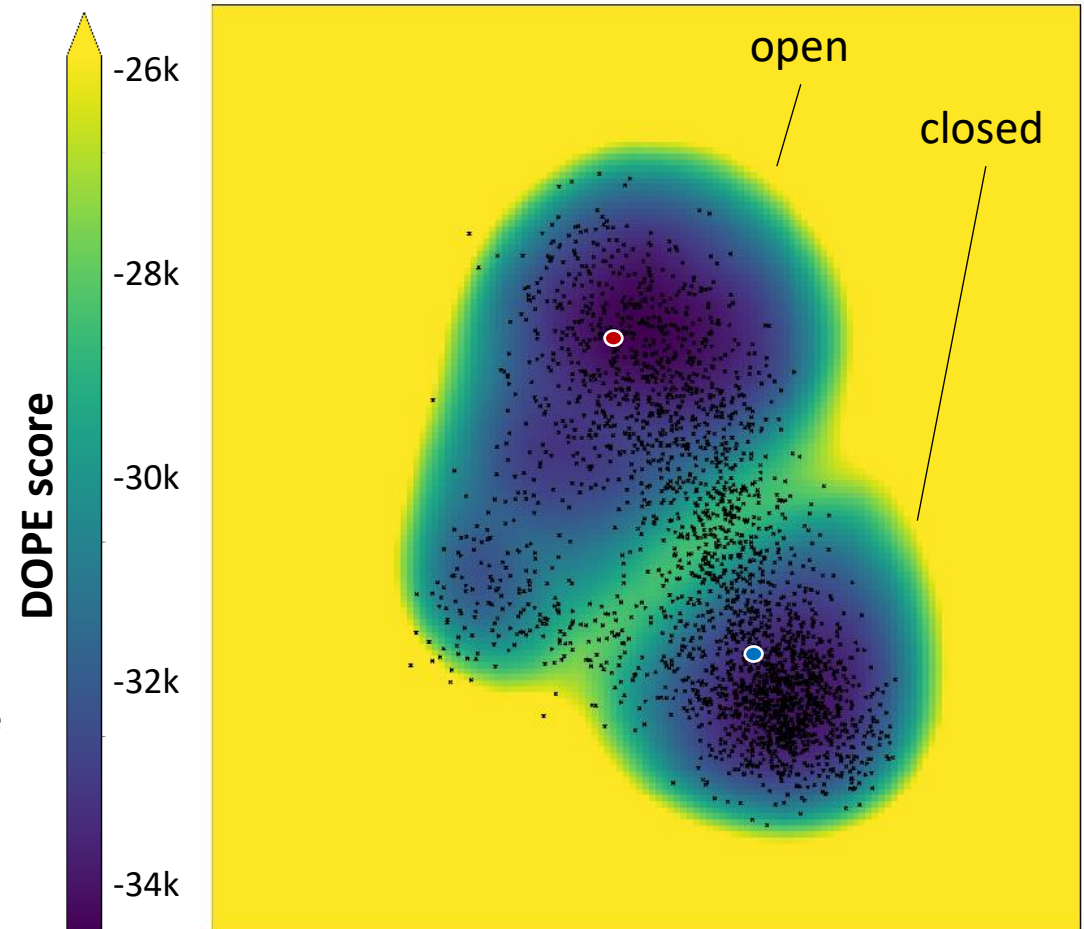


# Predicting transition paths

MurD features known **closed** (ligand bound) and **open** (unbound) states

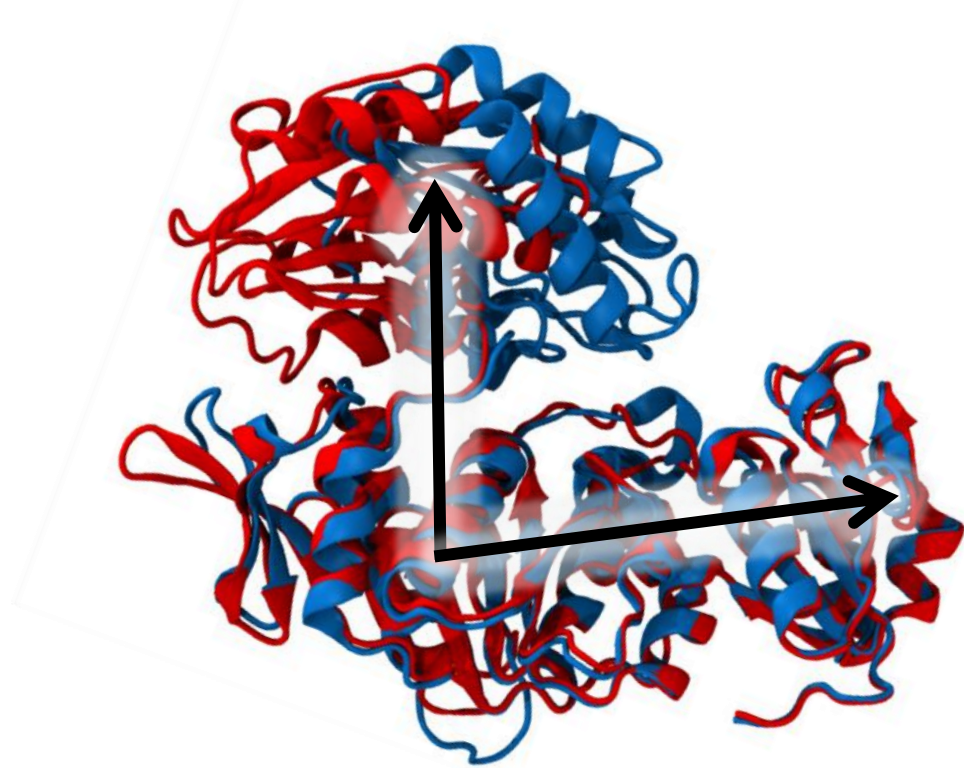


- Train *molearn* with simulation of each state

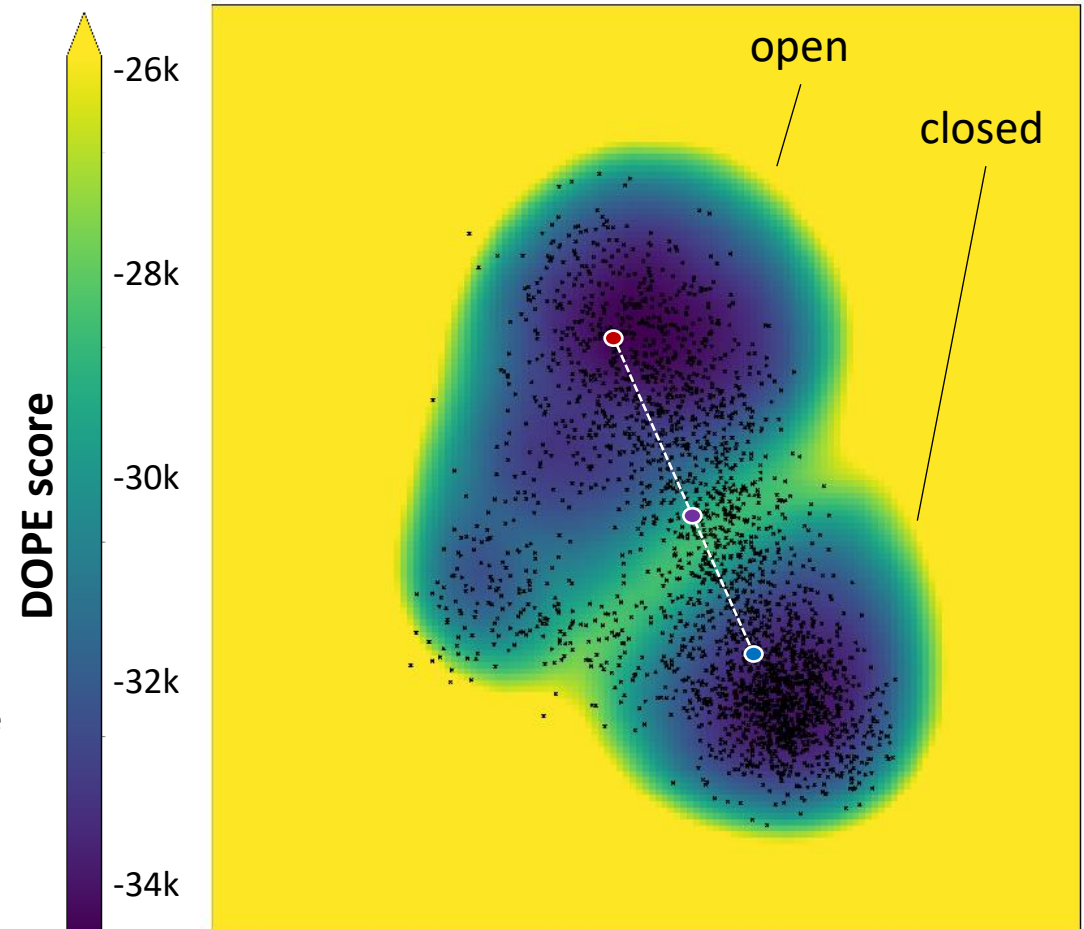


# Predicting transition paths

MurD features known **closed** (ligand bound) and **open** (unbound) states

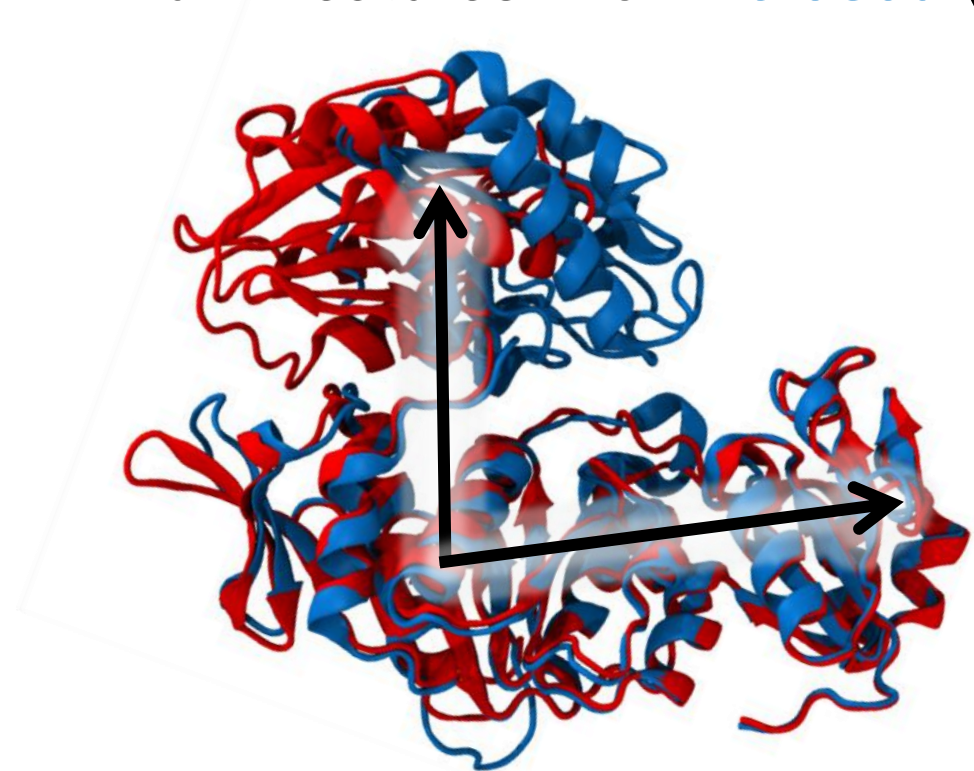


- Train *molearn* with simulation of each state
- Predict transition between two states

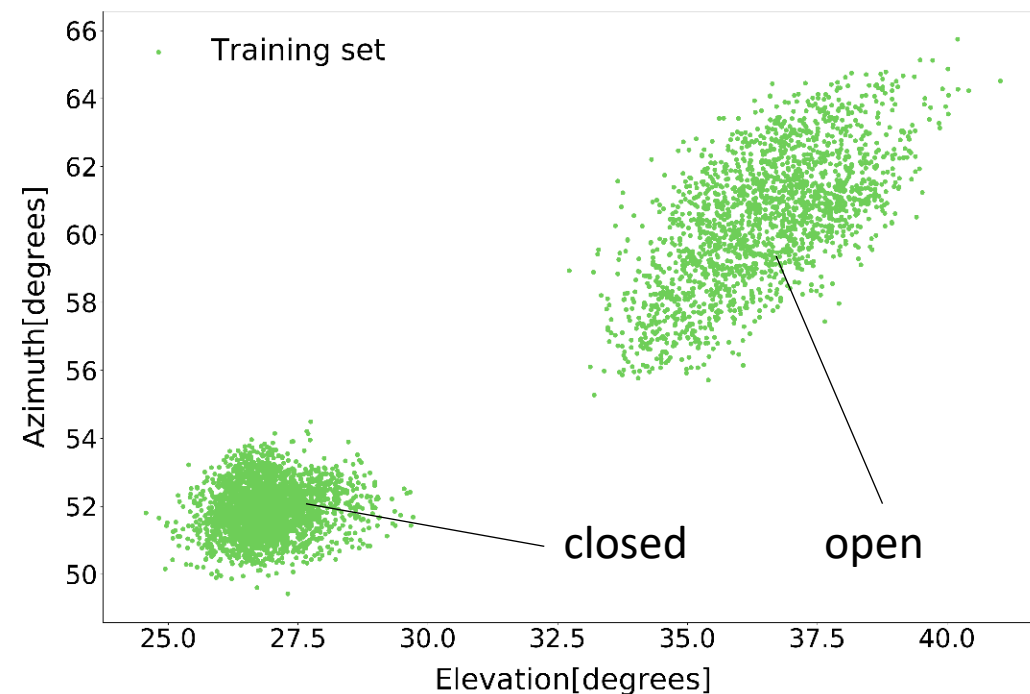


# Predicting transition paths

MurD features known **closed** (ligand bound) and **open** (unbound) states

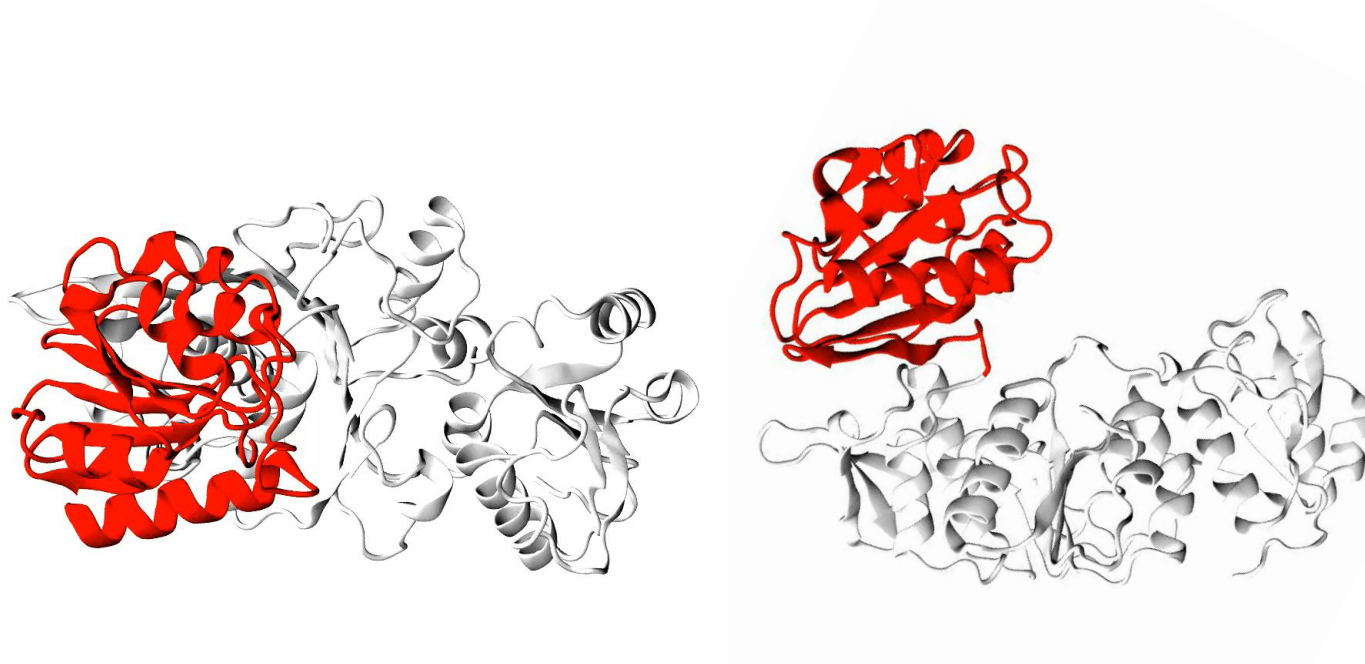


- Train *molearn* with MD of each state
- Predict transition between two states

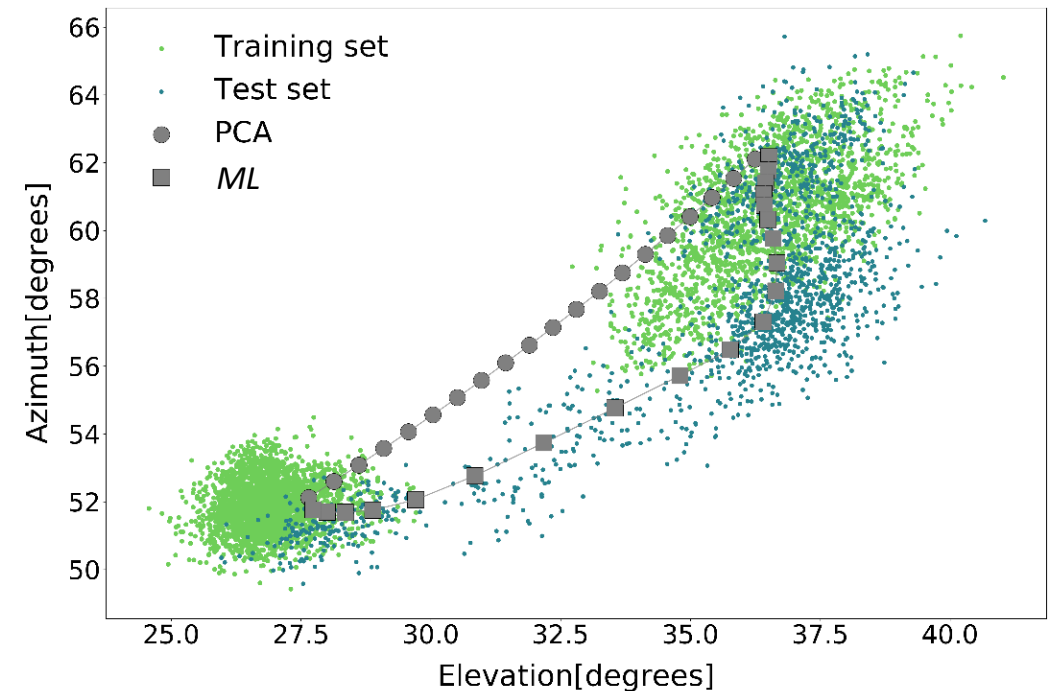


# Predicting transition paths

MurD features known **closed** (ligand bound) and **open** (unbound) states

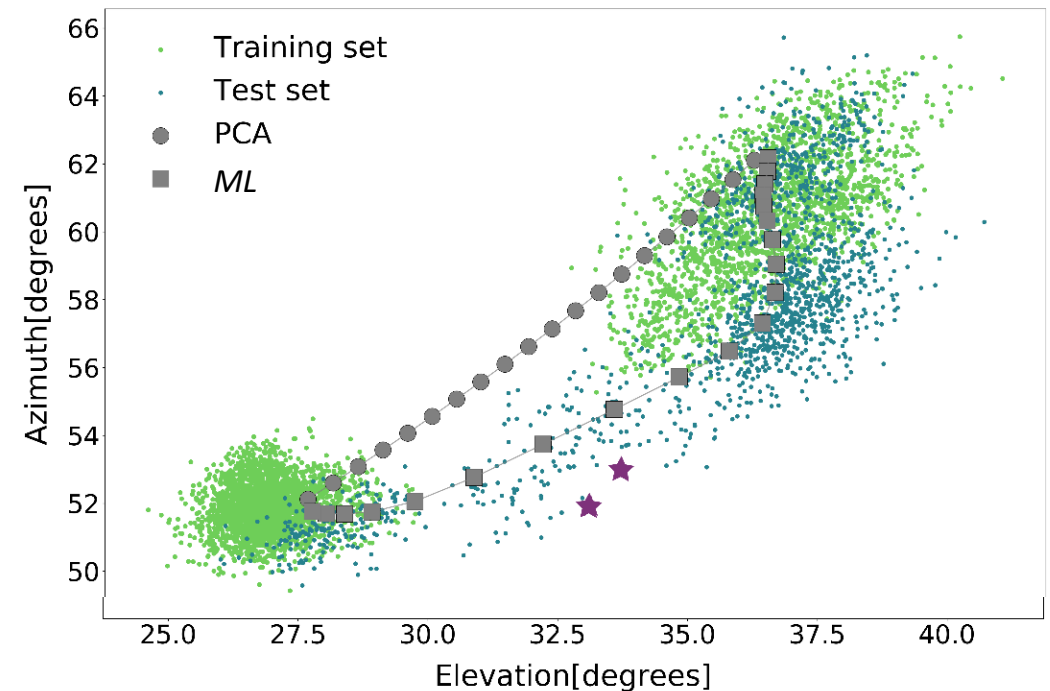
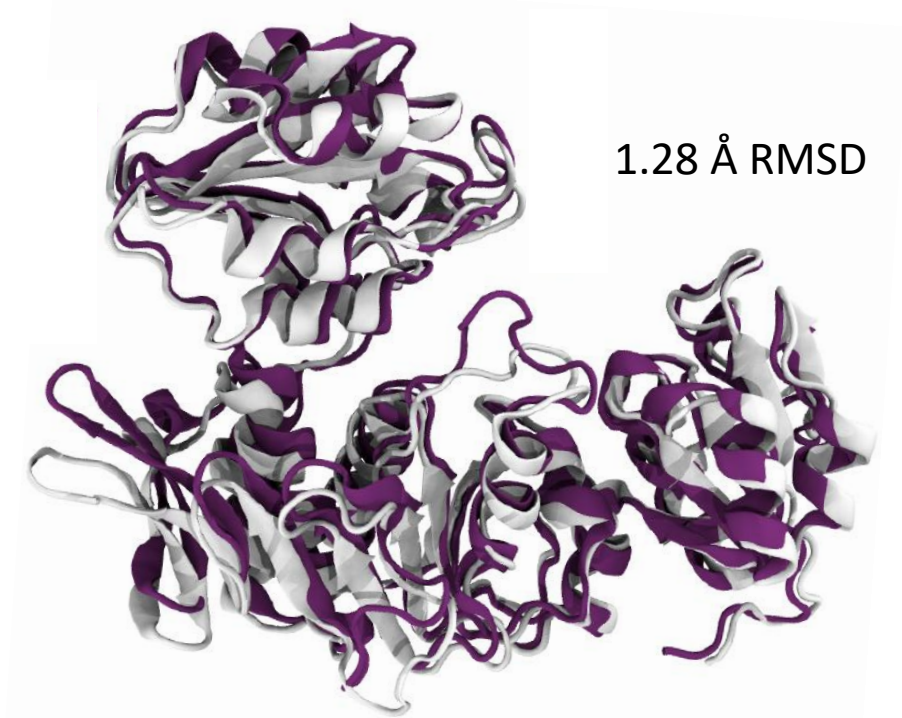


- Train *molearn* with MD of each state
- Predict transition between two states
- Prediction consistent with **closed apo** MD



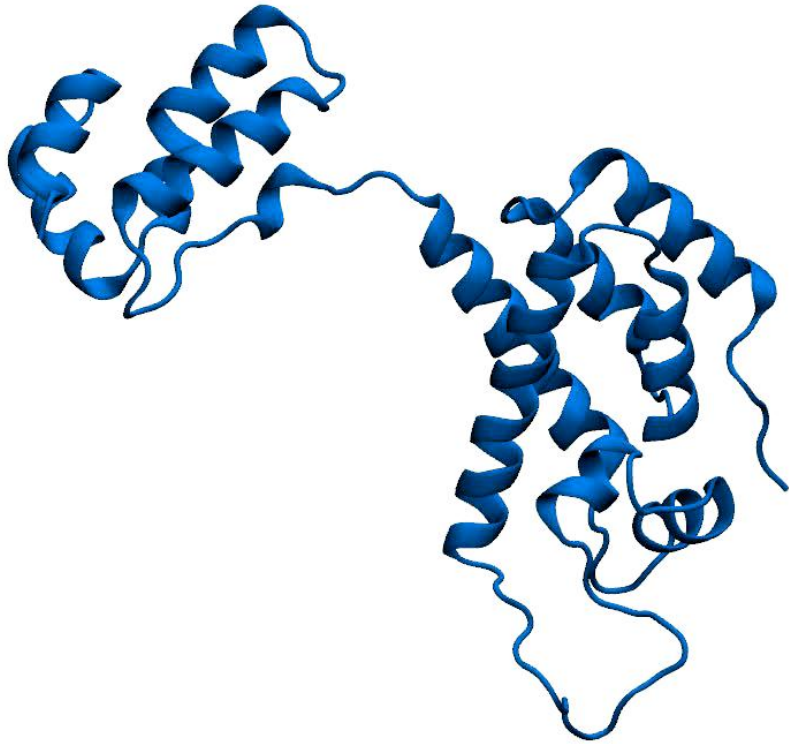
# Predicting transition paths

**MurD** features known **closed** (ligand bound) and **open** (unbound) states

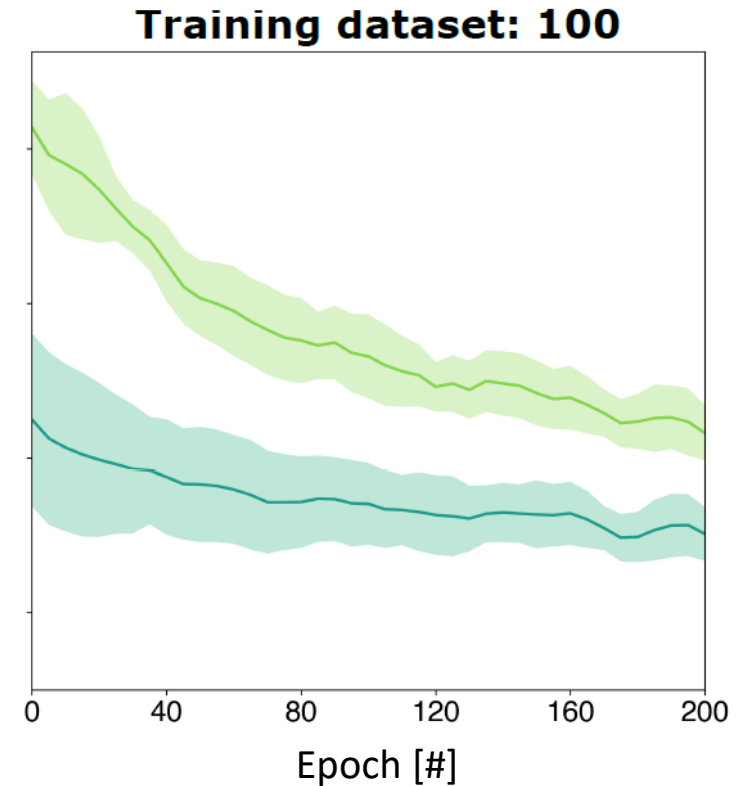
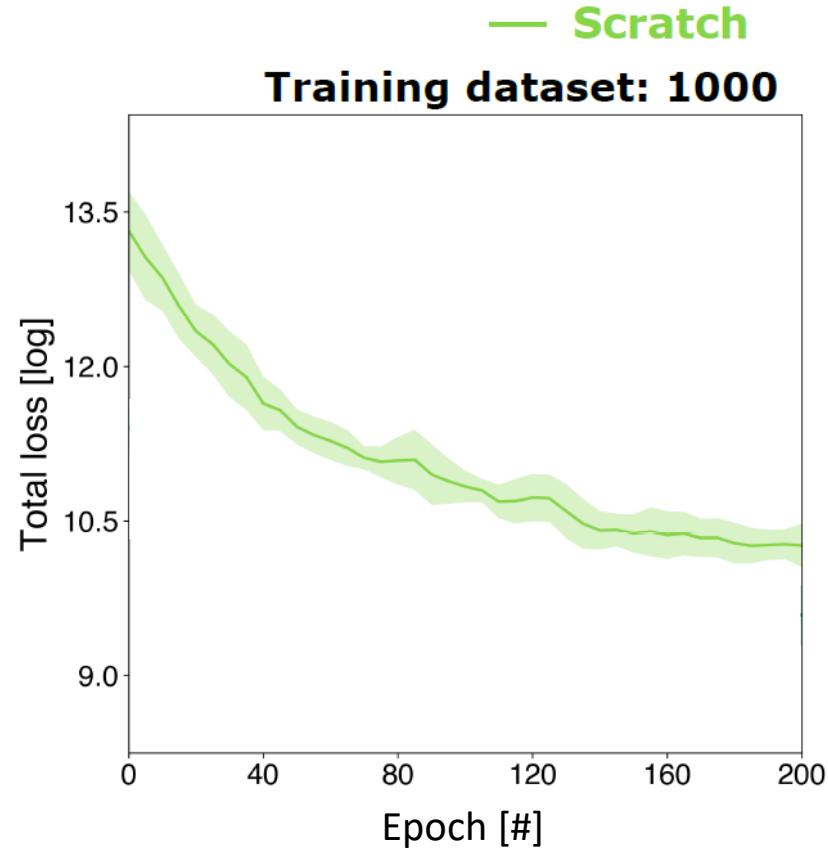


- Train *molearn* with MD of each state
- Predict transition between two states
- Prediction consistent with **closed apo** MD and intermediate **X-ray** structures

# Towards a transferable network

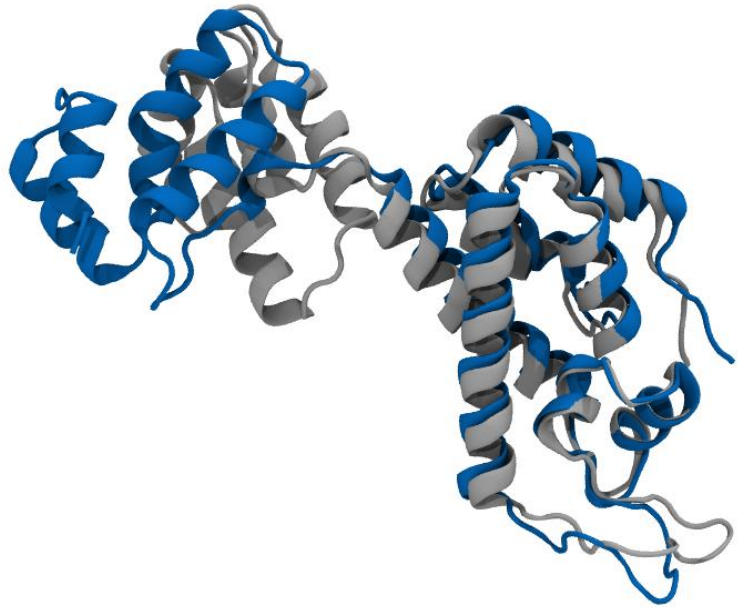


*HIV-1 capsomer protein (p24)*

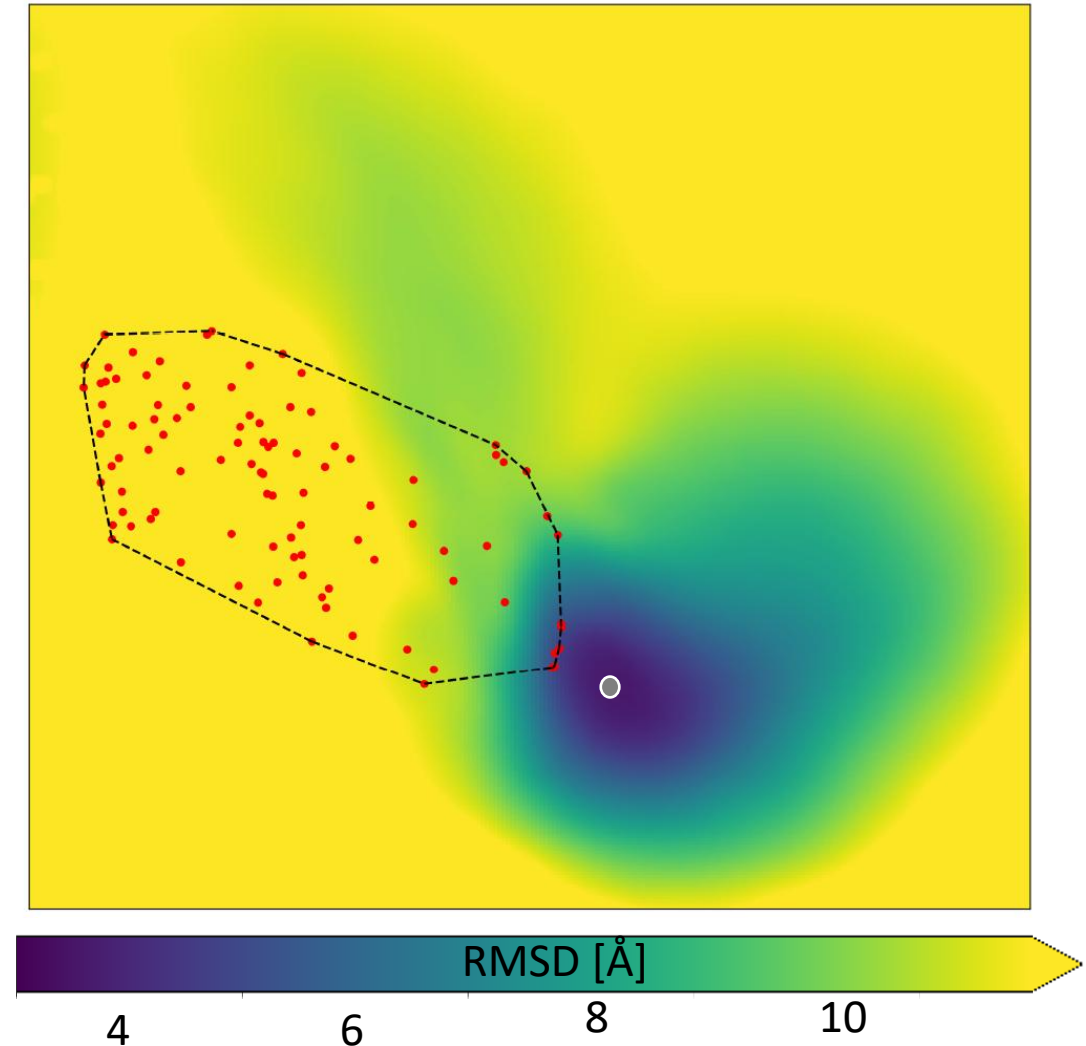


- A pre-trained network learns faster
- 100 protein structures are enough to train a network (4 test cases, 10 repeats)

# HIV-1 capsomer bound state discovery



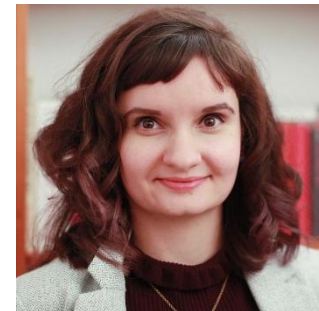
Best representative of bound state  
in ML model (RMSD = 2.7 Å)  
beyond the front of what sampled  
by **MD** (lowest RMSD=3.2 Å)



# Modelling kinases dynamics



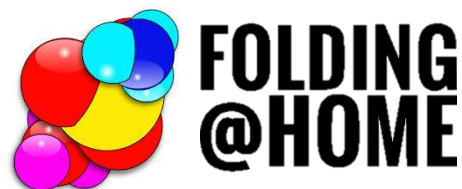
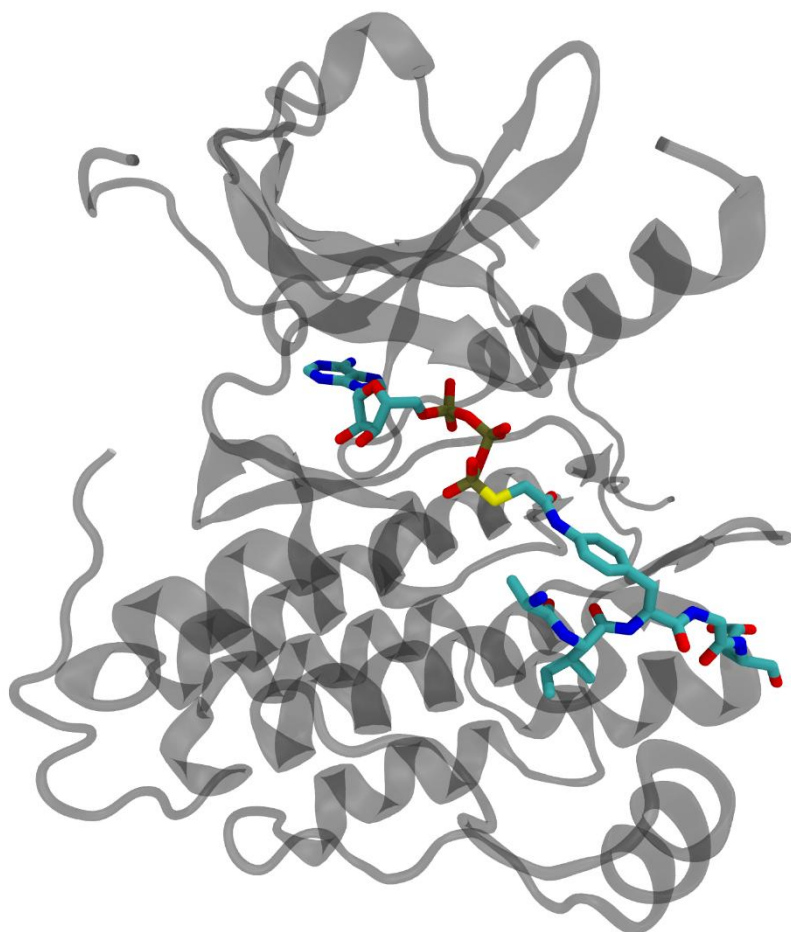
*Sukrit Singh*



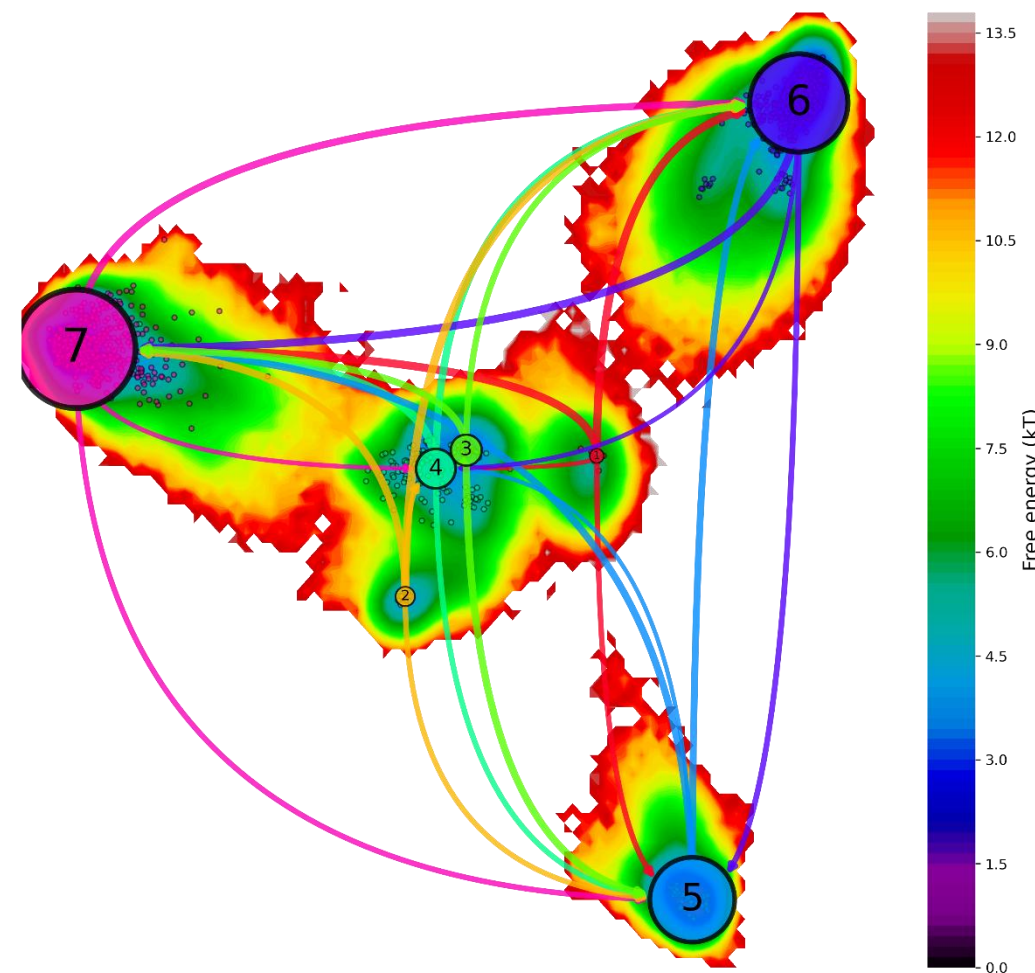
*Antonia Mey*



*Ryan Zhu*



EGFR: 1.836 ms  
Abl: 0.592 ms  
c-Met: 0.419 ms



Dataset: training

cmap range:  -

Surf.: DOPE\_unrefined

Path: A\*

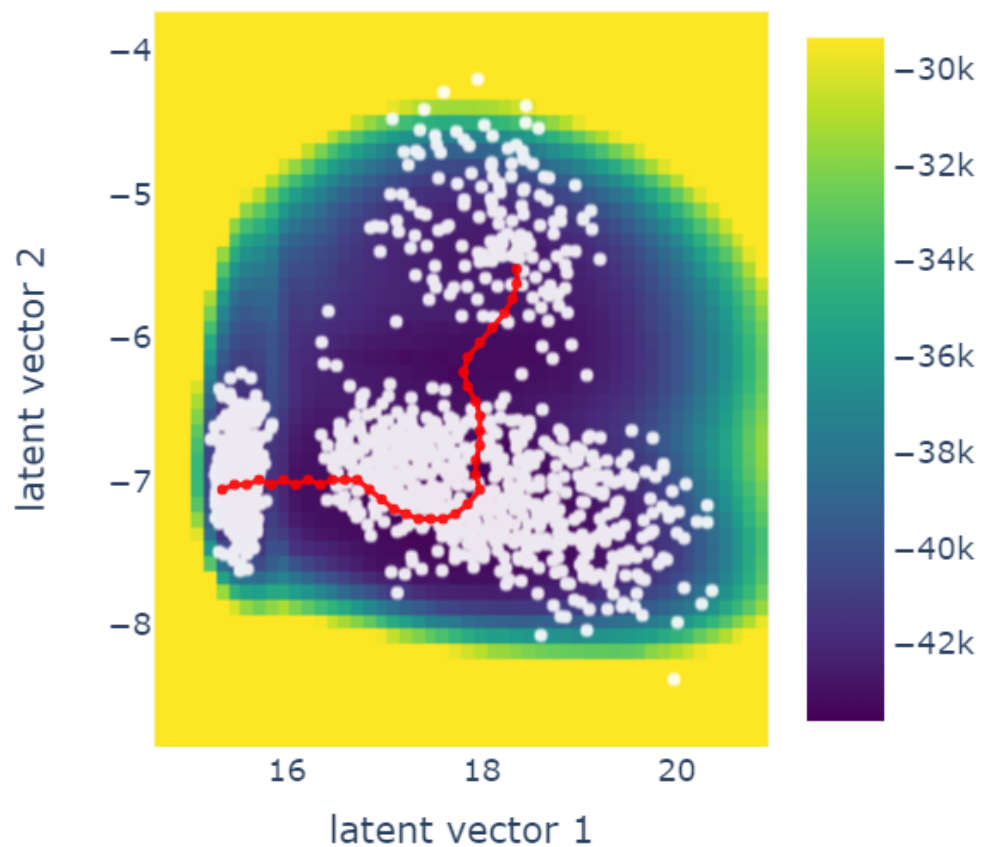
sampling: 10

crds:

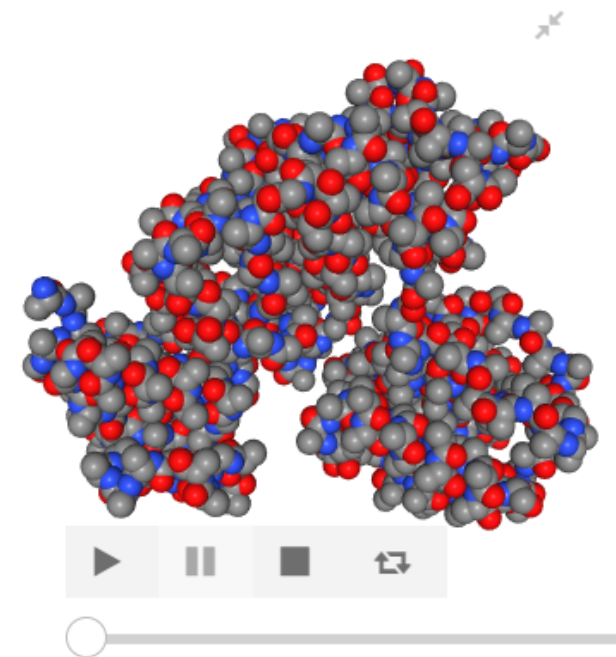
Save PDB

Save state

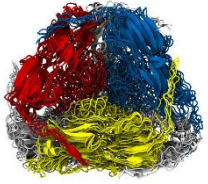
Load state



37 struct. in 4.4650 sec.



# Thank You!



Dr Venkata Ramaswamy

Dr Samuel Musson

Ryan Zhu

Josh McKeown

Alexandros Angeli

Asal Azar

Lucy Vost

Mateusz Wiszniovski



Dr Antonia Mey



Dr Chris Willcocks

Dr Chris Prior



Gregor Wirnsberger



Dr Sukrit Singh

