

The interest of High-Performance Computing in Molecular Modelling and Structural Bioinformatics:

How molecular simulations and IA have become a key player
in biology and chemistry: Some success stories.

A revolution in Biology: Omics technologies

- Genomics: Genome* sequencing, quantification of expression of genes, identification of variants
 - Proteomics : Identification, quantification of proteins* within a cell, tissue, organ etc
 - Metabolomics: Identification and quantification of metabolites
- etc...

A HUGE AMOUNT OF DATA ORGANIZED or NOT in DATABASES

- * Genome : All the genetic material of an organism, composed of DNA. A gene codes for a specific protein.
- * Protein: Amino acid polymers **folded in a 3D structure** that supports the function*
- * Protein Functions: Catalyze biochemical reactions, transport molecules, synthesize and repair DNA, receive and send chemical signals, respond to stimuli, provide structural support

What to do with this data?

- Machine Learning- Deep Learning Approaches to:
 - Predict the 3D structure of proteins from amino acid sequence (\Leftrightarrow Fonction)
 - Understand and Predict the impact of mutations in relation with a disease
 - ⇒ DeepMind Successes (Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2024)), Fair Meta AI
 - Design new proteins (D. Baker, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2024),
To name a few.... ∴

Article

Highly accurate protein structure prediction with AlphaFold

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-021-03819-2>

Received: 11 May 2021

Accepted: 12 July 2021

Published online: 15 July 2021

Open access

 Check for updates

John Jumper^{1,2,3}, Richard Evans^{1,4}, Alexander Pritzel^{1,4}, Tim Green^{1,4}, Michael Figurnov^{1,4},
Olaf Ronneberger^{1,4}, Kathryn Tunyasuvunakool^{1,4}, Russ Bates^{1,4}, Augustin Židek^{1,4},
Anna Potapenko^{1,4}, Alex Bridgland^{1,4}, Clemens Meyer^{1,4}, Simon A. A. Kohl^{1,4},
Andrew J. Ballard^{1,4}, Andrew Cowie^{1,4}, Bernardino Romera-Paredes^{1,4}, Stanislav Nikolov^{1,4},
Rishub Jain^{1,4}, Jonas Adler¹, Trevor Back¹, Stig Petersen¹, David Reiman¹, Ellen Clancy¹,
Michal Zielinski¹, Martin Steinegger^{2,3}, Michalina Pacholska¹, Tamas Berghammer¹,
Sebastian Bodenstein¹, David Silver¹, Oriol Vinyals¹, Andrew W. Senior¹, Koray Kavukcuoglu¹,
Pushmeet Kohli¹ & Demis Hassabis^{1,2,3}

Proteins are essential to life, and understanding their structure can facilitate a

Nature, 596, 583-589-(2021)

RESEARCH ARTICLE

MACHINE LEARNING

Accurate proteome-wide missense variant effect prediction with AlphaMissense

Jun Cheng^{*}, Guido Novati, Joshua Pan[†], Clare Bycroft[†], Akvilė Žemgulytė[†], Taylor Applebaum[†],
Alexander Pritzel, Lai Hong Wong, Michal Zielinski, Tobias Sargeant, Rosalia G. Schneider,
Andrew W. Senior, John Jumper, Demis Hassabis, Pushmeet Kohli^{*}, Žiga Avsec^{*}

Science, 381, 1303 (2023)

Successes but ... High Computational Cost and High Memory Resources

RESEARCH

STRUCTURE PREDICTION

Evolutionary-scale prediction of atomic-level protein structure with a language model

Zeming Lin^{1,2†}, Halil Akin^{1†}, Roshan Rao^{1†}, Brian Hie^{1,3†}, Zhongkai Zhu¹, Wenting Lu¹, Nikita Smetanin¹, Robert Verkuil¹, Ori Kabeli¹, Yaniv Shmueli¹, Allan dos Santos Costa⁴, Maryam Fazel-Zarandi¹, Tom Sercu¹, Salvatore Candido¹, Alexander Rives^{1,2*}

Recent advances in machine learning have leveraged evolutionary information in multiple sequence alignments to predict protein structure. We demonstrate direct inference of full atomic-level protein structure from primary sequence using a large language model. As language models of protein sequences are scaled up to 15 billion parameters, an atomic-resolution picture of protein structure emerges in the learned representations. This results in an order-of-magnitude acceleration of high-resolution structure prediction, which enables large-scale structural characterization of metagenomic proteins. We apply this capability to construct the ESM Metagenomic Atlas by predicting structures for >617 million metagenomic protein sequences, including >225 million that are predicted with high confidence, which gives a view into the vast breadth and diversity of natural proteins.

“We present an evolutionary-scale structural characterization of metagenomic proteins that folds practically all sequences in MGnify90 (32), >617 million proteins. We were able to complete this characterization in 2 weeks on a heterogeneous cluster of 2000 graphics processing units (GPUs), which demonstrates scalability to far larger databases”

27/03/2025

nature communications



Article

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-024-51844-2>

Fine-tuning protein language models boosts predictions across diverse tasks

Received: 25 January 2024

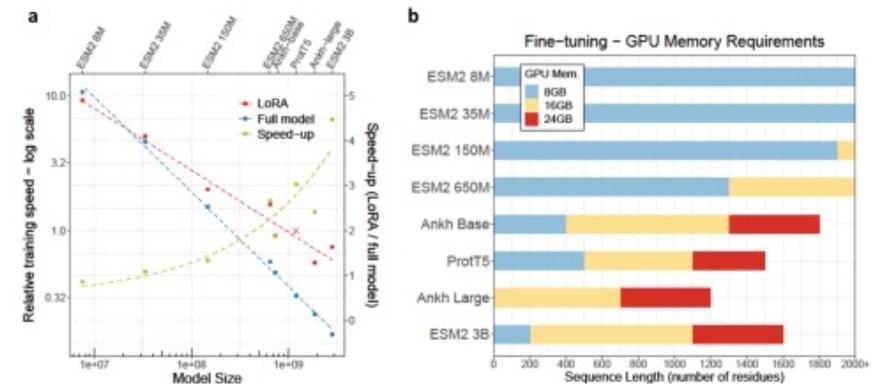
Robert Schirler^{1,2,3}, Michael Heinzinger¹ & Burkhard Rost^{1,4,5}

Accepted: 15 August 2024

Published online: 28 August 2024

Check for updates

Prediction methods inputting embeddings from protein language models have reached or even surpassed state-of-the-art performance on many protein prediction tasks. In natural language processing fine-tuning large language models has become the de facto standard. In contrast, most protein language model-based protein predictions do not back-propagate to the language model. Here, we compare the fine-tuning of three state-of-the-art models (ESM2, ProtT5, Ankh) on eight different tasks. Two results stand out. Firstly, task-specific supervised fine-tuning almost always improves downstream predictions. Secondly, parameter-efficient fine-tuning can reach similar improvements consuming substantially fewer resources at up to 4.5-fold acceleration of training over fine-tuning full models. Our results suggest to always try fine-tuning, in particular for problems with small datasets, such as for fitness landscape predictions of a single protein. For ease of adaptability, we provide easy-to-use notebooks to fine-tune all models used during this work for per-protein (po



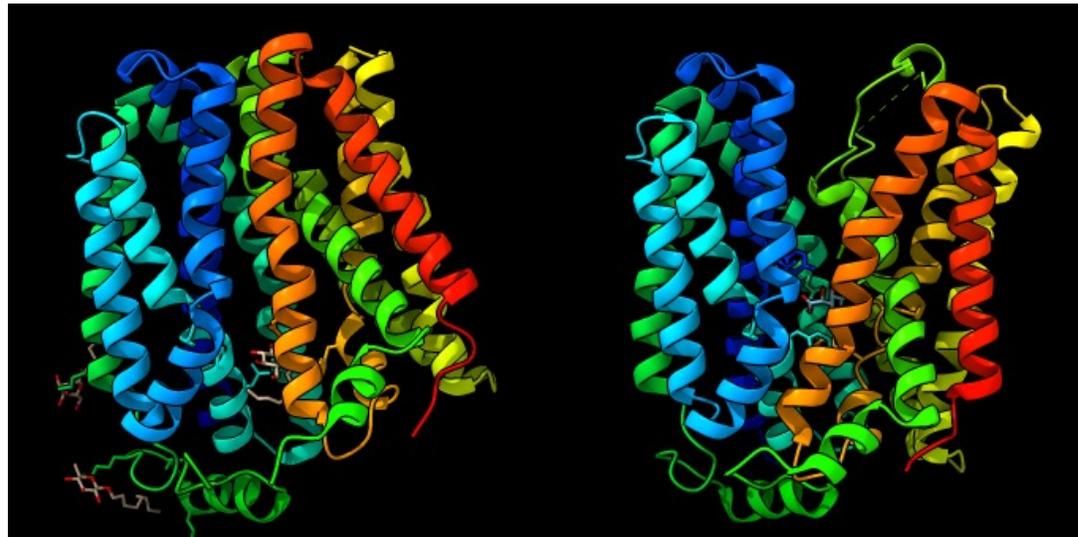
Successes and Limits:

- AlphaFold's Family: can predict the 3D structures of proteins and complexes (Protein-Protein, Protein-DNA and Protein-ligands) harbouring known folds but also novel protein folds
- AlphaFold's Family: can't predict neither the impact of mutation on the 3D structure nor ***alternative conformations*** resulting from the dynamics of the proteins, which is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR THE BIOLOGICAL FUNCTION
(ACTUALLY, it is possible with AlphaFold by manipulating and guiding the search but with very limited success)

Limits: Case of Conformational Changes

Example : The Major Facilitator Family (MFS) Transporters

E. coli D-galactonate:proton symporter



⇒ ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO ACCESS THIS CONFORMATIONAL LANDSCAPE:
MOLECULAR DYNAMICS SIMULATIONS

EXPLORING THE CONFORMATIONAL LANDSCAPE OF A BIOLOGICAL MACROMOLECULE

- “Ingredients” of Molecular Dynamics Simulations:

- Based on the solution of the Newton’s Equations (Second Law)

- The force acting on a particle* is equal to the mass*acceleration :

$$\frac{d^2 x_i}{dt^2} = \frac{F_{x_i}}{m_i}$$

- The force is the equal to the opposite of the gradient of the energy V of this particle interacting with the other particles:

$$F_{x_i} = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x_i}$$

- ↳ An algorithm able to integrate efficiently motion equations:

- ↳ A model to describe the physical interactions.

* Particle: atom, residue, group of residues => different resolution scales

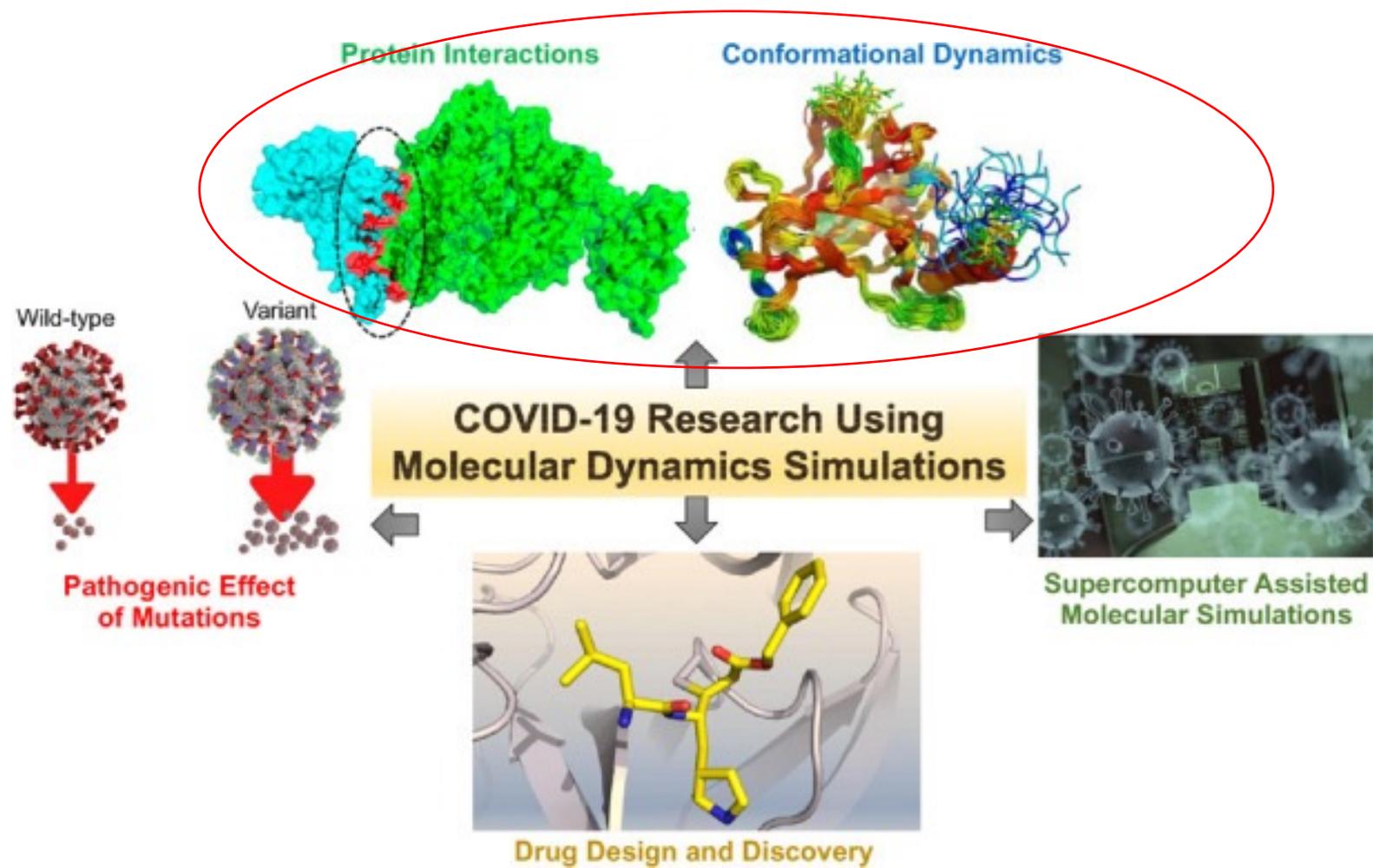
A few examples of applications:

“PRACE support to mitigate impact of COVID-19 pandemic”

- Biomolecular research to understand the mechanisms of the virus infection
- Bioinformatics research to understand mutations, evolution, etc.
- Bio-simulations to develop therapeutics and/or vaccines
- Epidemiologic analysis to understand and forecast the spread of the disease
- Other analyses to understand and mitigate the impact of the pandemic

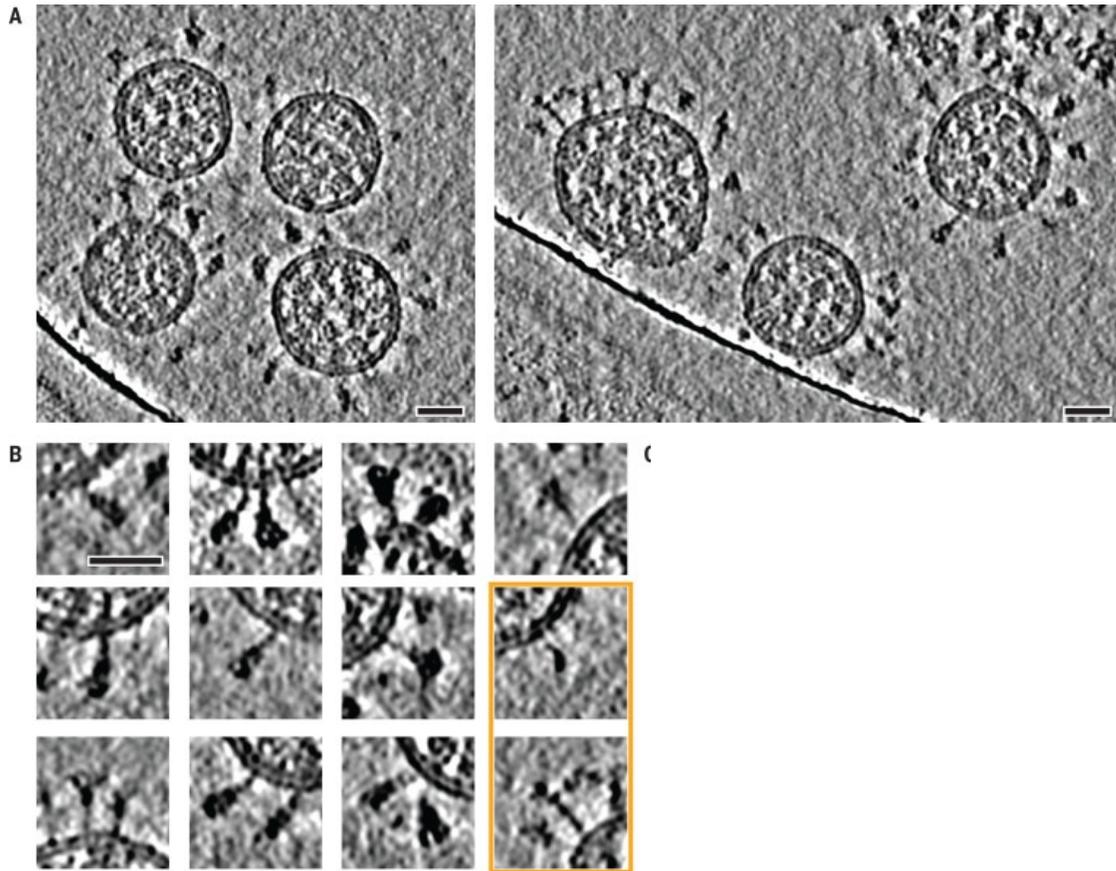
Covid19 Spike2 Protein & Theoretical approaches

Accelerating COVID-19 Research Using Molecular Dynamics Simulation, Aditya K. Padhi, Soumya Lipsa Rath, and Timir Tripathi, The Journal of Physical Chemistry B 2021 125 (32), 9078-9091



An Emblematic Case: Covid19 Spike2 Protein

Cryo-electron tomography of SARS-CoV-2 virions.



In situ structural analysis of SARS-CoV-2 spike reveals **flexibility** mediated by three hinges

Science

Current Issue First release papers Archive About

HOME > SCIENCE > VOL. 370, NO. 6513 > IN SITU STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF SARS-COV-2 SPIKE REVEALS FLEXIBILITY MEDIATED BY THREE HINGES

RESEARCH ARTICLE

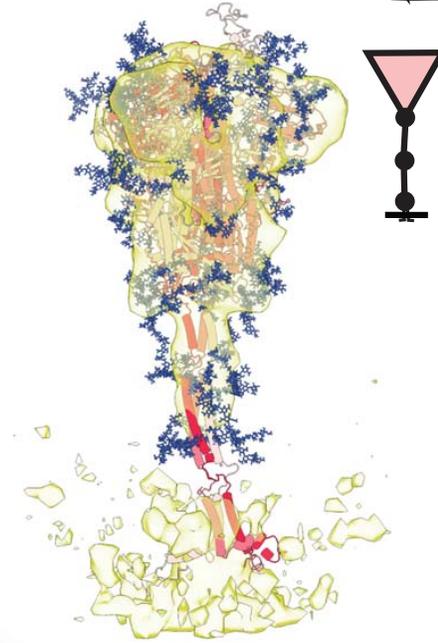
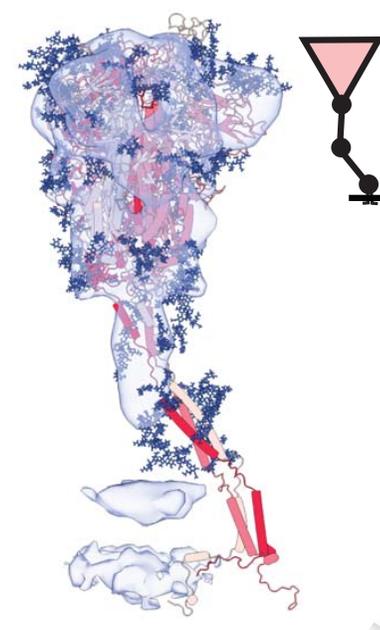
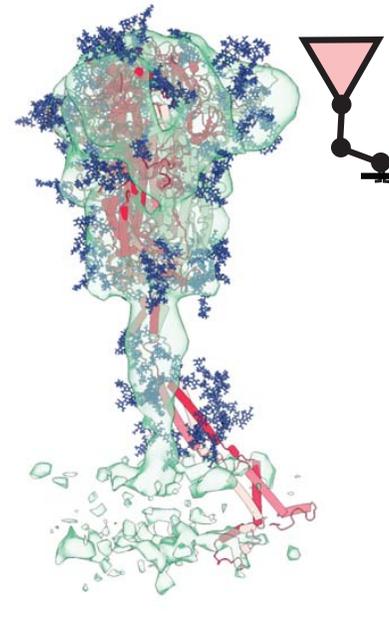
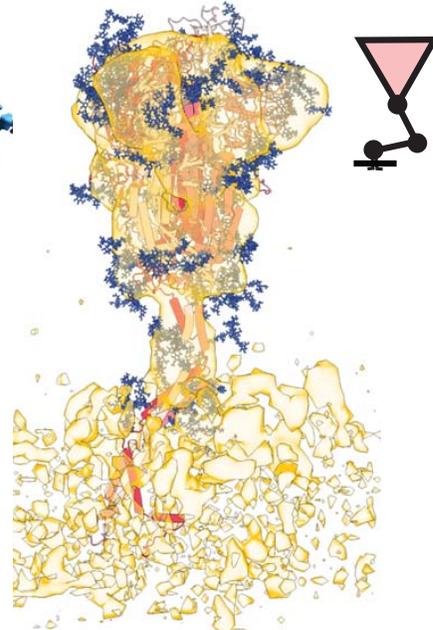
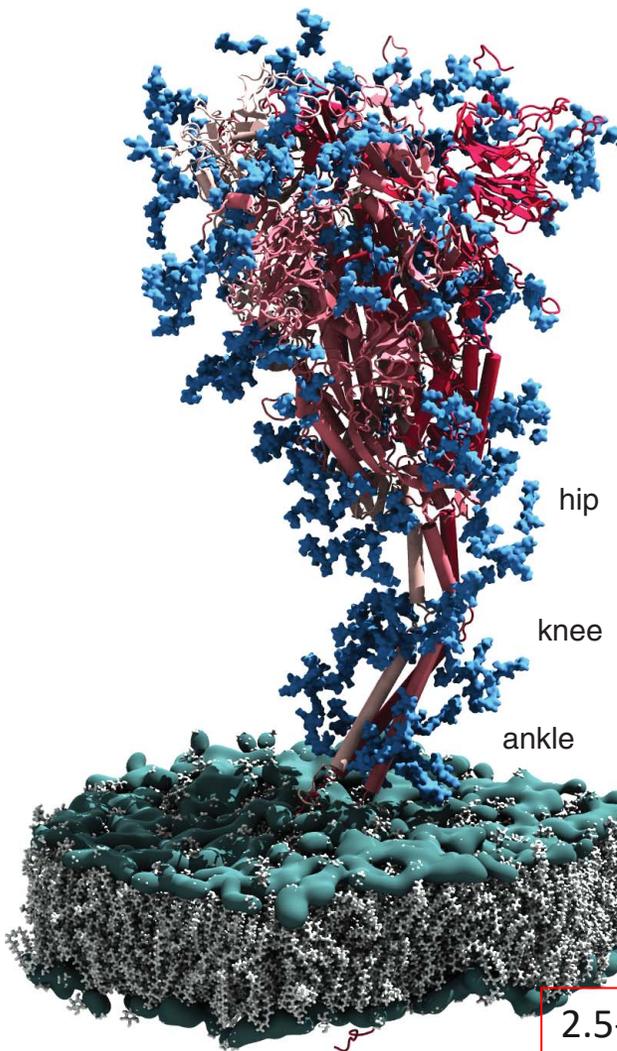


In situ structural analysis of SARS-CoV-2 spike reveals flexibility mediated by three hinges

BEATA TUROŇOVÁ , MATEUSZ SIKORA , CHRISTOPH SCHÜRMAN , WIM J. H. HAGEN , SONJA WELSCH , FLORIAN E. C. BLANC , SÖREN VON BÜLOW , MICHAEL GECHT , KATRIN BAGOLA , [...], AND MARTIN BECK

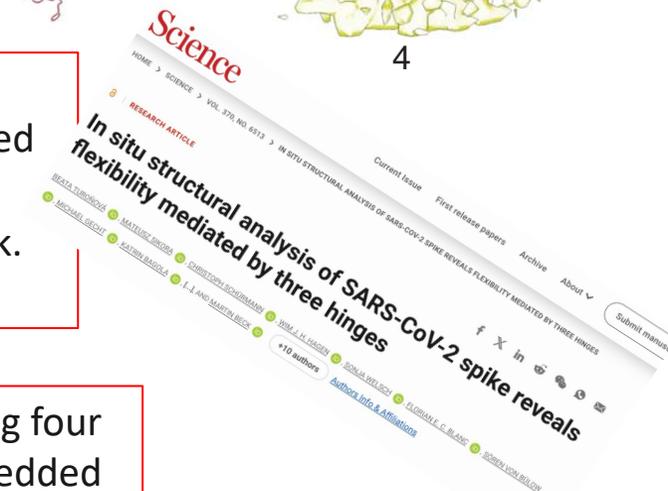
+10 authors [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

Molecular dynamics simulations coupled to experiments.

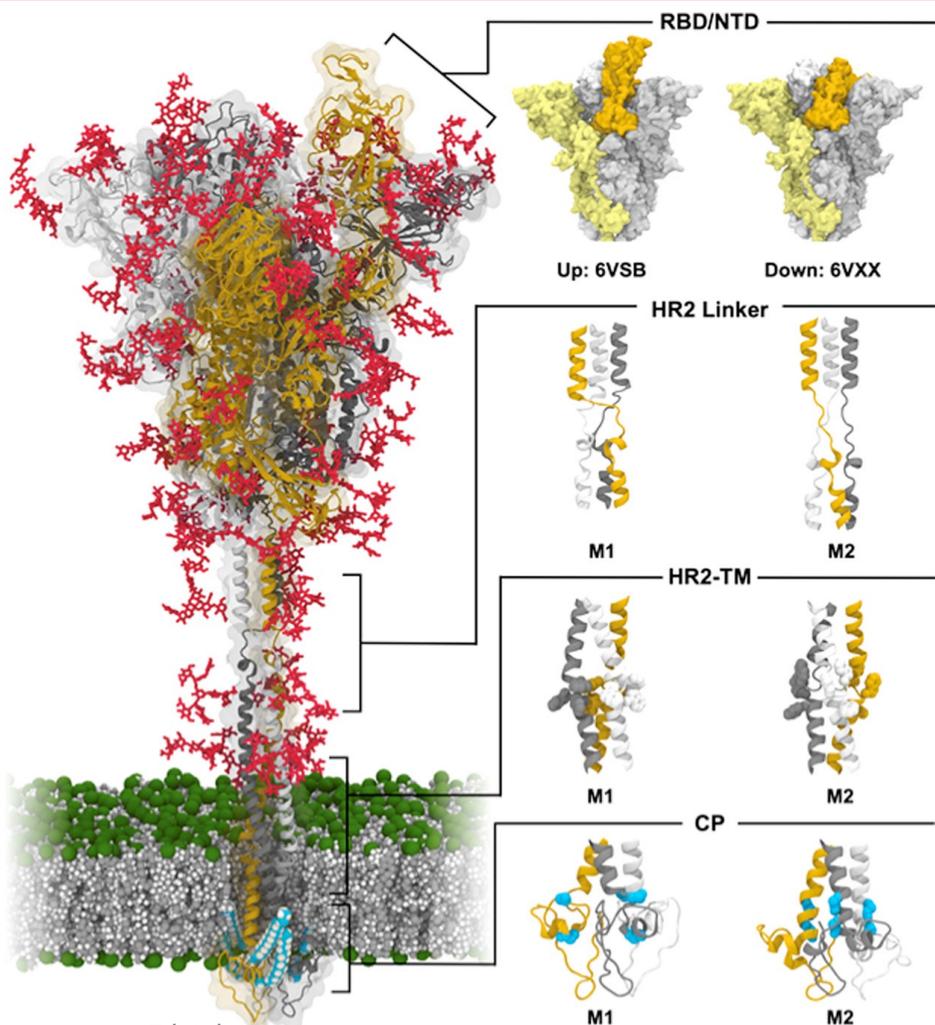


Fit of snapshots of MD simulations into the classes obtained for different distances of the head from the membrane (1 to 4), calculated from different tomograms. Shorter distances are concomitant with a stronger bending of the hinges and a lateral displacement of the stalk. (Fig. 4 from *Science* 2020, 370(6513): 203–208.)

2.5- μ s-long all-atom MD simulation of a 4.1 million atom system containing four glycosylated S proteins anchored into a patch of viral membrane and embedded in aqueous solvent (Fig. 3 from *Science* 2020, 370(6513): 203–208.



Fully Glycosylated Full-Length SARS-CoV-2 Spike Protein in a Viral Membrane



27/03/2025

JCTC
Journal of Chemical Theory and Computation

pubs.acs.org/JCTC



Article

Structure, Dynamics, Receptor Binding, and Antibody Binding of the Fully Glycosylated Full-Length SARS-CoV-2 Spike Protein in a Viral Membrane

Yeol Kyo Choi,[#] Yiwei Cao,[#] Martin Frank,[#] Hyeonuk Woo, Sang-Jun Park, Min Sun Yeom, Tristan I. Croll, Chaok Seok, and Wonpil Im*

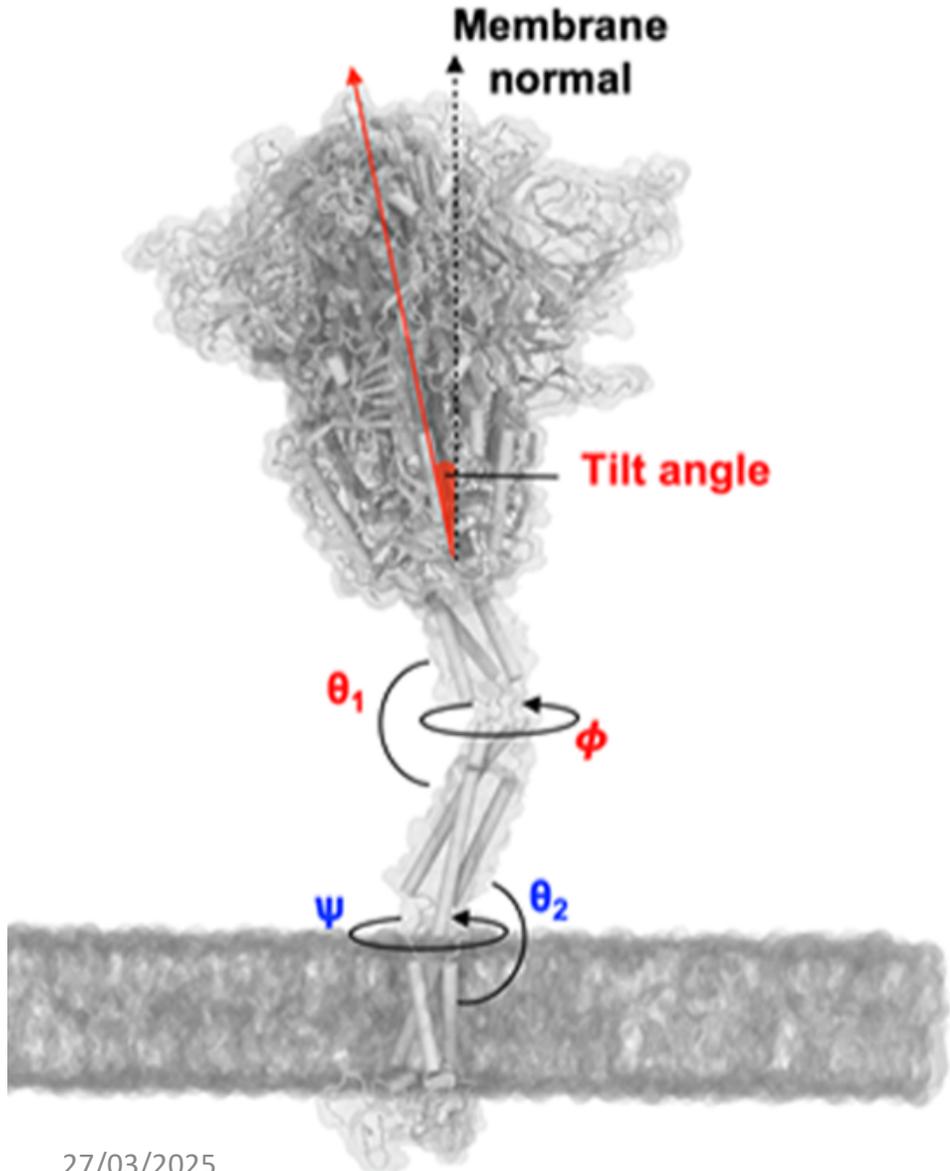
Cite This: *J. Chem. Theory Comput.* 2021, 17, 2479–2487

Read Online

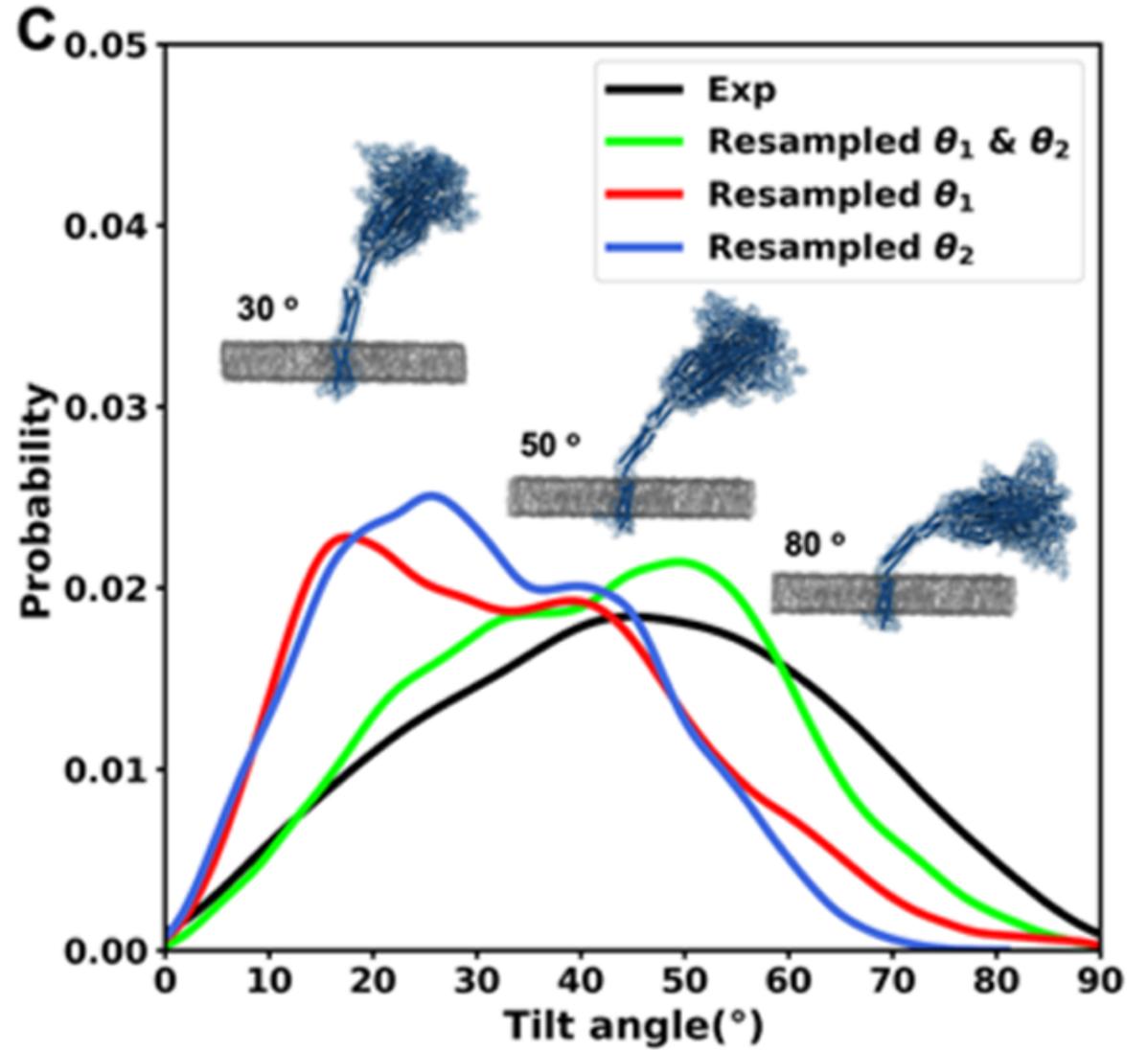
Three monomers composed of 2 subunits S1 (Responsible of Receptor Binding) & S2 (membrane fusion) separated by a cleavage site.

S1: Signal Peptide, two models (Up & Down) for Receptor Binding Domain (RBD)/Nter Domain (NTD),
S2: Fusion Peptide, HR2 (Heptad repeat) linker, HR2-TM (Transmembrane Region), and Cytoplasmic (CP)

All-atom MD simulations of the fully glycosylated full-length S protein in a viral bilayer, multiple μ s-long trajectories: RBD in open and closed states, Different models of S stalk (16 models), Glycosylated and non-glycosylated S head-only systems. 13



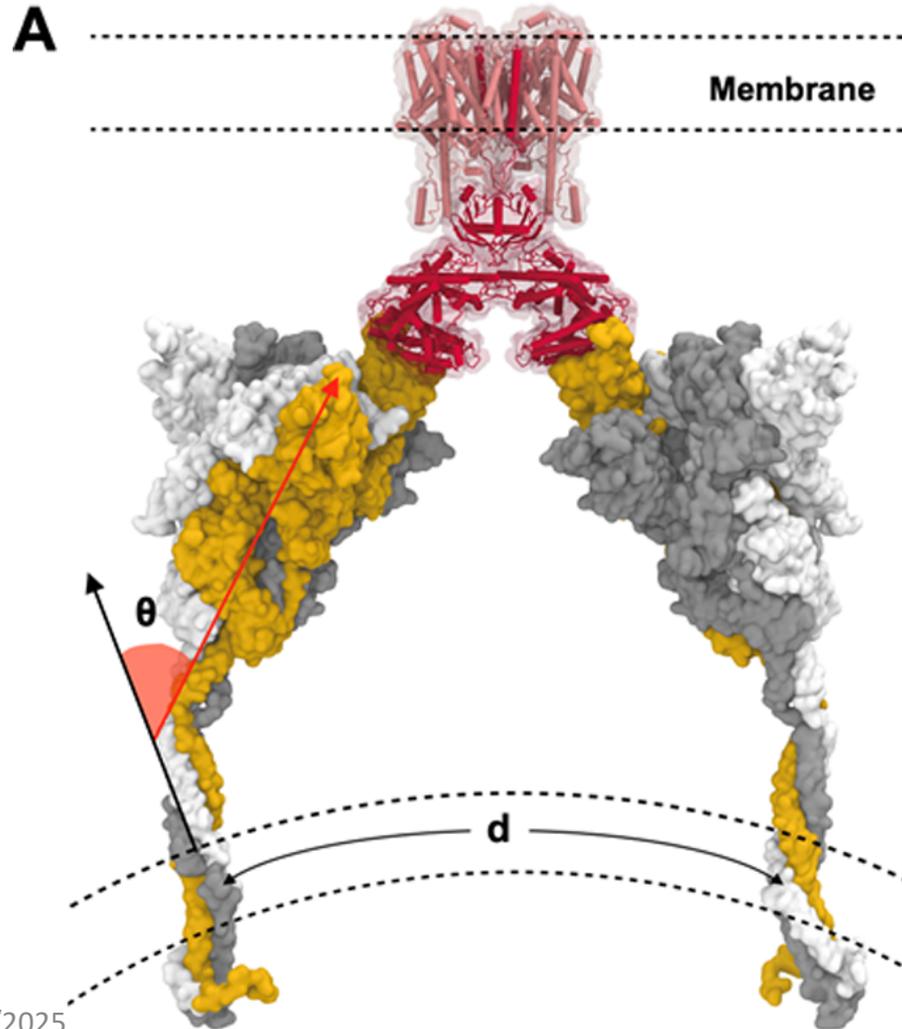
27/03/2025



Catedras Program

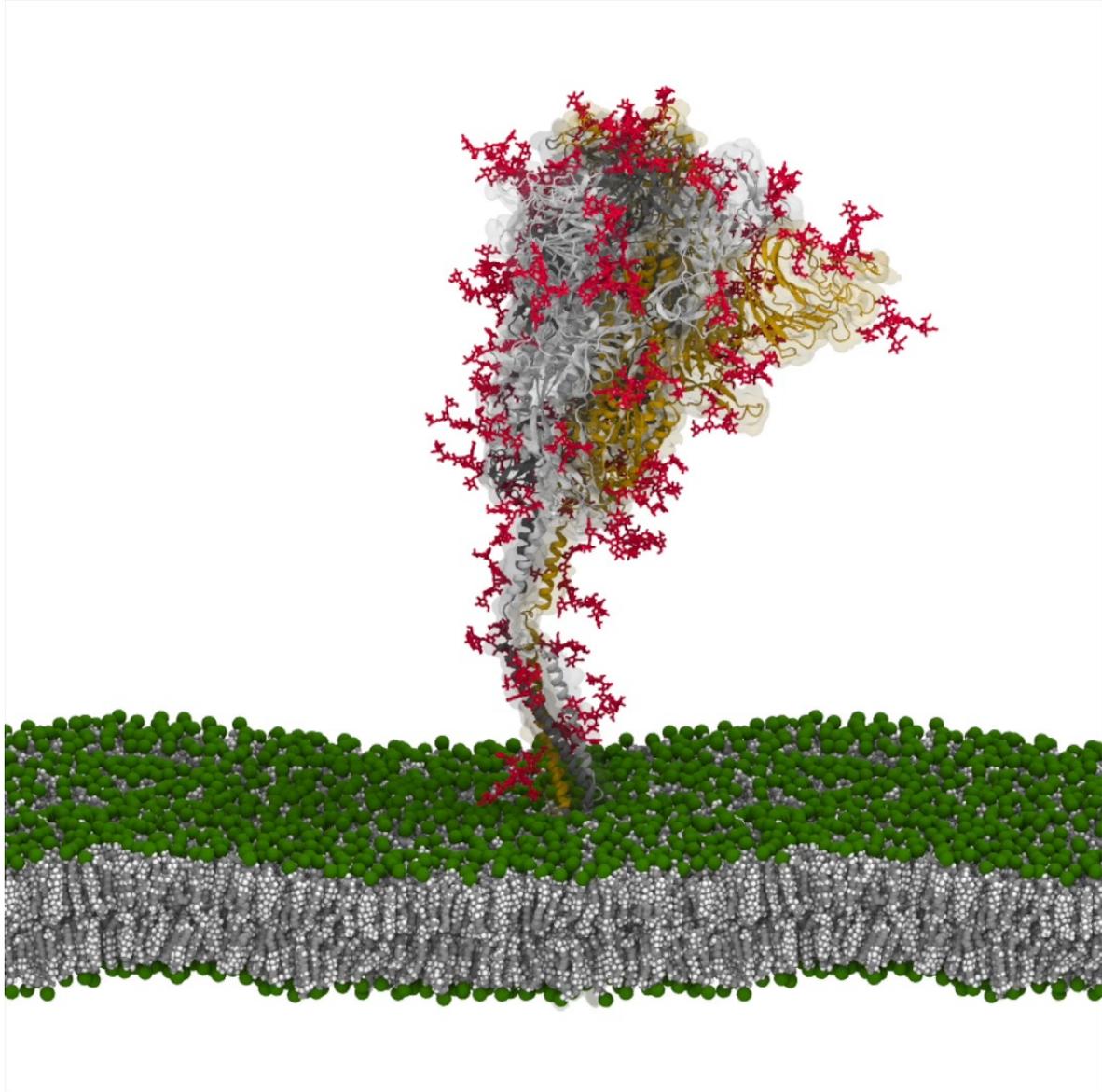
14

A putative model of Spike with ACE2 receptor

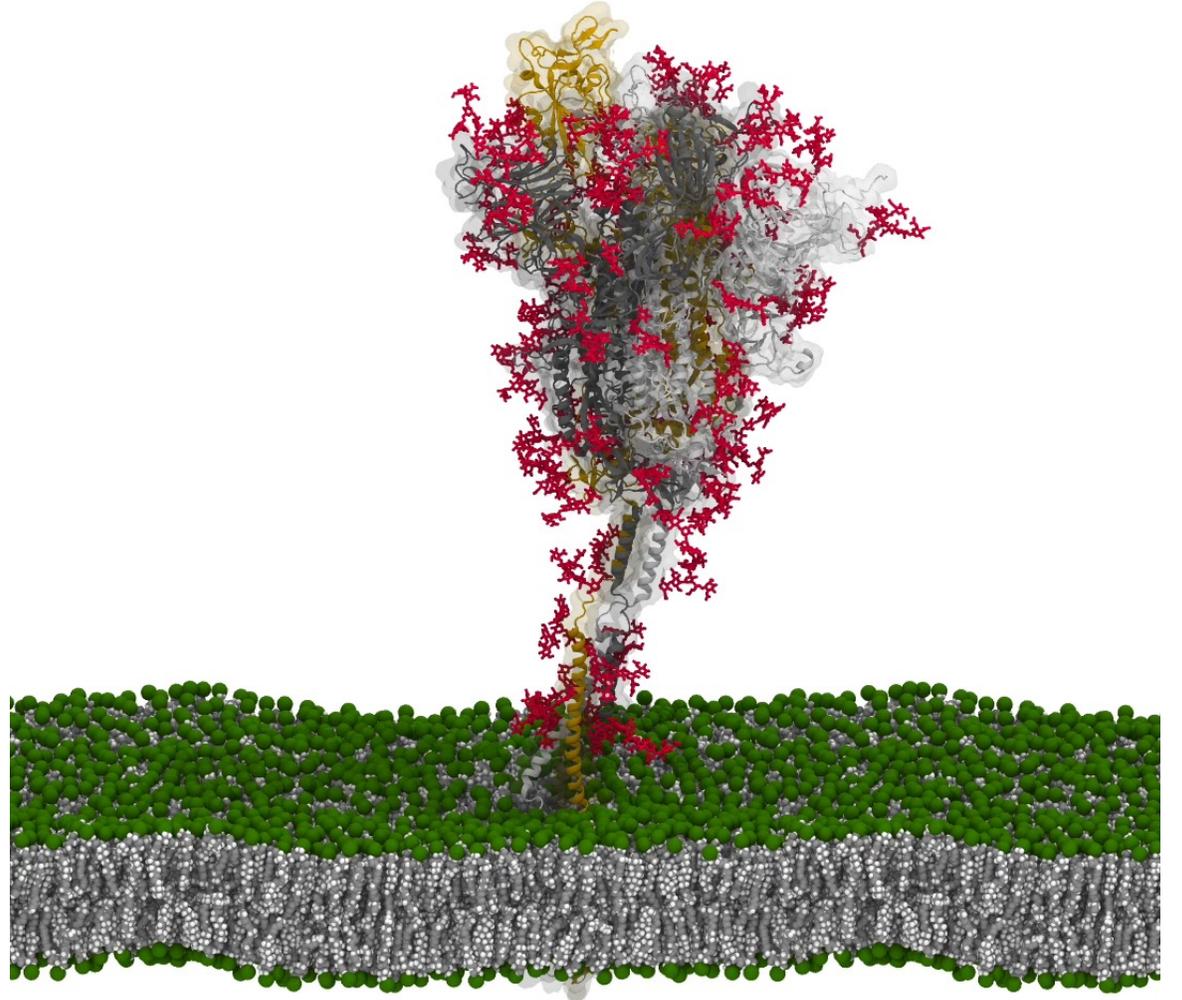


Important Results

- Glycan Impact:
 - (some) on RBD and NTD Motions => S Trimer Stability
 - Shields for immune evasion
 - Contribution to antibody binding.



27/03/2025



16



A Granted PRACE Project:

“Conformational spaces of SARS-CoV-2 drug targets”

J.P Piquemal, Sorbonne University

Main features:

- The use of a polarizable force field, which is supposed to overcome current force field limitations
- A density-driven unsupervised adaptive sampling method that **exploits pre-exascale machine and 100 GPUs**

Main Results

- Efficient Sampling
- Role of water molecules
- Validation of some results with experimental data
- Identification of a new druggable pocket.

Computer Resources: HPE Jean Zay Supercomputer (IDRIS, GENCI, France): 15.14 μ s in two weeks.

Beyond Covid :

JOURNAL ARTICLE

ATLAS: protein flexibility description from atomistic molecular dynamics simulations

Yann Vander Meersche, Gabriel Cretin, Aria Gheeraert, Jean-Christophe Gelly ,
Tatiana Galochkina 

Nucleic Acids Research, Volume 52, Issue D1, 5 January 2024, Pages D384–D392,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkad1084>

ATLAS: A database collecting protein MD dynamics simulations:

~2000 proteins, 100 ns x 3 replicates

10 M Hours-Cpu GENCI Juliot-Curie's Irene Rome supercomputer (TGCC/CEA), utilising dual-processor compute nodes running at 2.6 GHz with 64 cores per processor.



Home Search Browse About Example Download API Contact

Welcome to the ATLAS database

Atlas of proTein moLecular dynAmicS

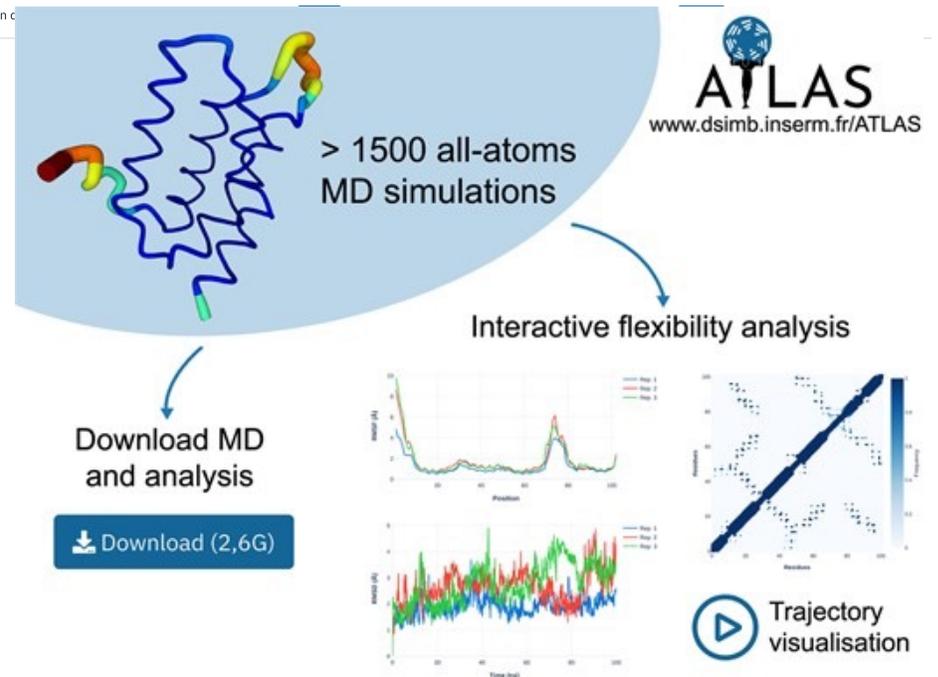
ATLAS gathers standardized molecular dynamics simulations of protein structures accompanied by their analysis in the form of interactive diagrams and trajectory visualisation. All the raw trajectories as well as the results of analysis are available for download.

See an example of the database pages [here](#).

Please use the following reference when citing the ATLAS database:

Vander Meersche, Y., Cretin, G., Gheeraert A., Gelly, J. C., & Galochkina, T. (2023). ATLAS: protein flexibility description from atomistic molecular dynamics simulations. *Nucleic Acids Research*, gkad1084. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkad1084>

The user can c



A few other important biological questions:

Identification of the ion pathway through the Glycine Receptor

SCIENCE ADVANCES | RESEARCH ARTICLE

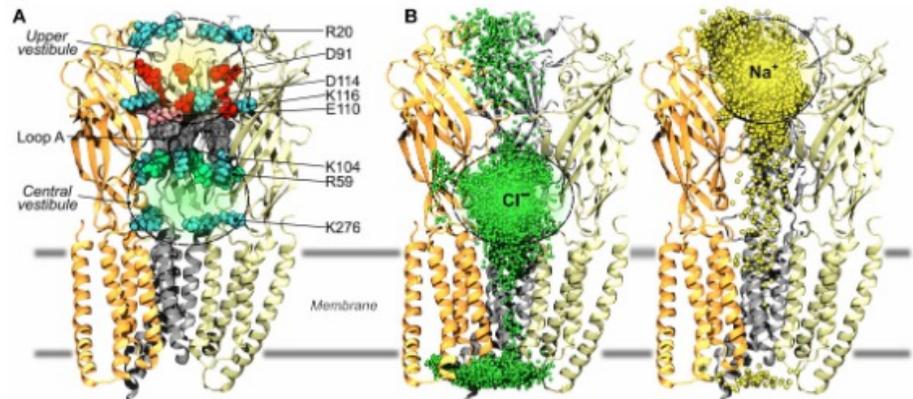
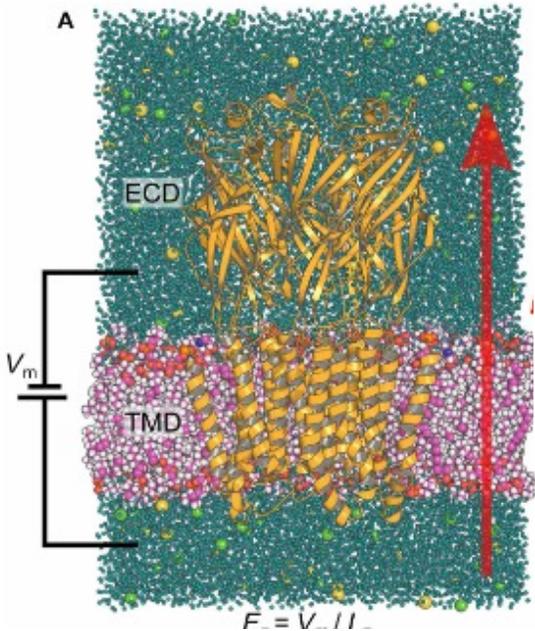
NEUROPHYSIOLOGY

Lateral fenestrations in the extracellular domain of the glycine receptor contribute to the main chloride permeation pathway

Adrien H. Cerdan^{1,2†}, Laurie Peverini^{2†}, Jean-Pierre Changeux^{2,3,4}, Pierre-Jean Corringer^{2*}, Marco Cecchini^{1*}

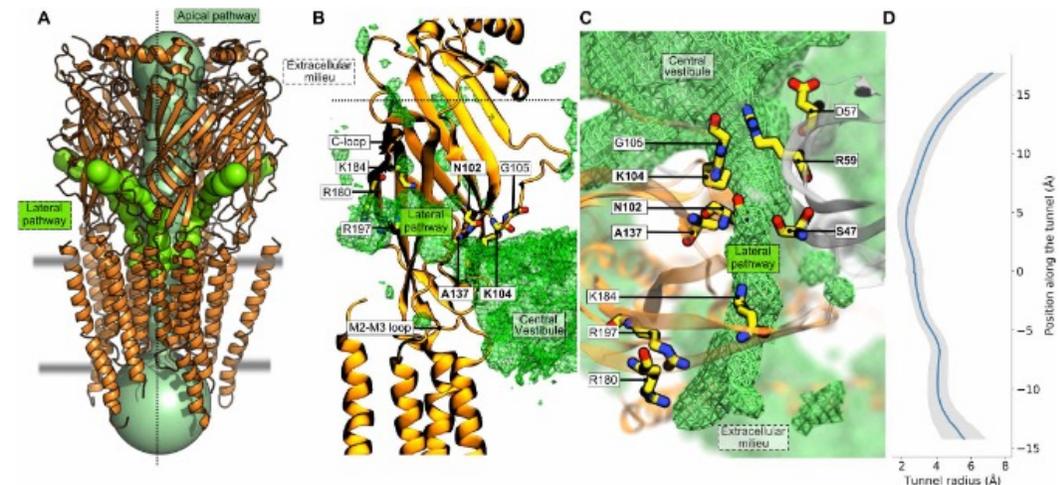
Table 1. Computational electrophysiology. The experiments carried out on the GlyR- $\alpha 1$ cryo-EM construct (i.e., devoid of ICD) in the WT and the K104E mutant are presented. Numerical results on the ion translocating current, which correspond to the number of chloride permeation events cumulated over multiple simulation runs, are given in table S1. All MD simulations were produced in the presence of a 150 mM symmetrical concentration of NaCl.

Voltage (mV)	-250	-200	-150	-80	80	150	200	250	-250 K104E	250 K104E	Total
Cumulative simulation time (ns)	2045	1215	2520	926	2077	1663	2058	1442	1168	804	15,918
No. of independent	10	10	6	4	10	6	6	10	6	6	74

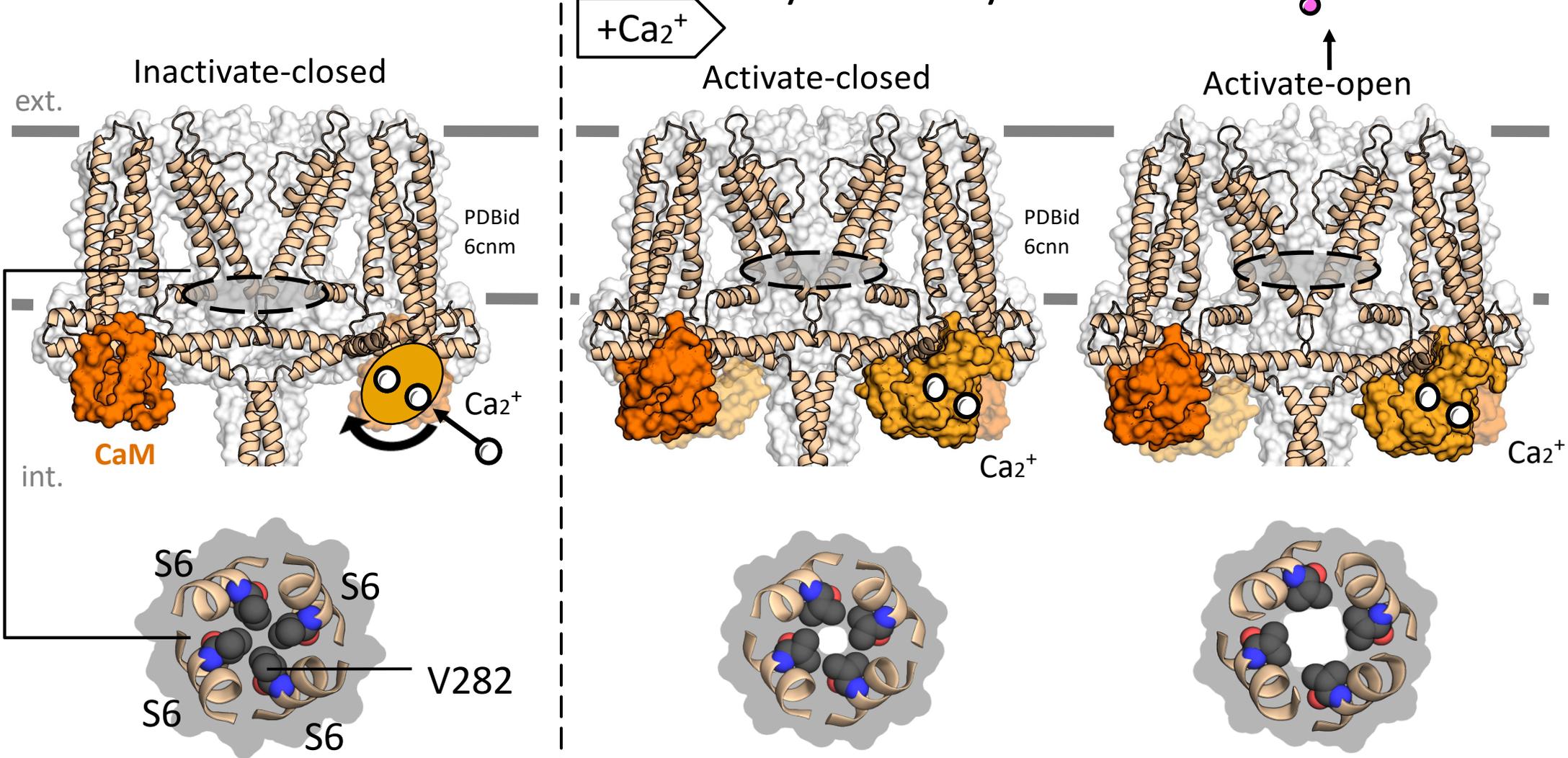


Identification of a central vestibular cavity in the ECD of GlyR that concentrates chloride at the entrance of the ion-transmembrane pore

Lateral fenestrations connect the extracellular milieu with the central vestibule for chloride translocation in GlyR

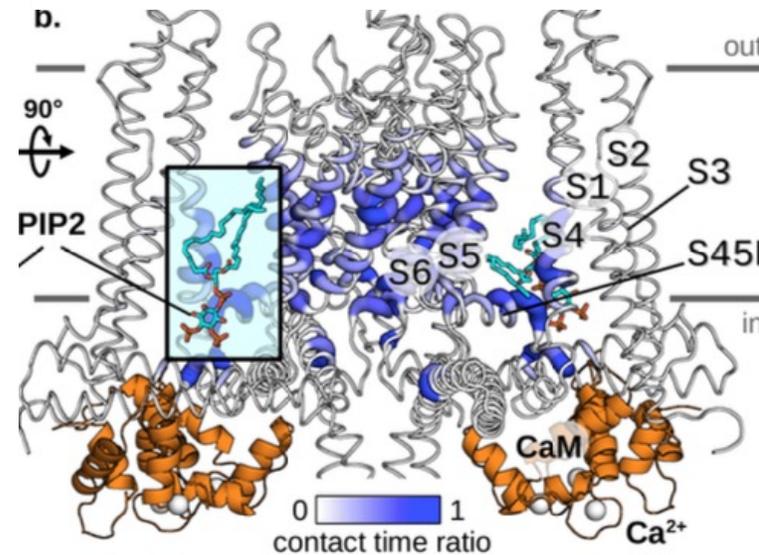
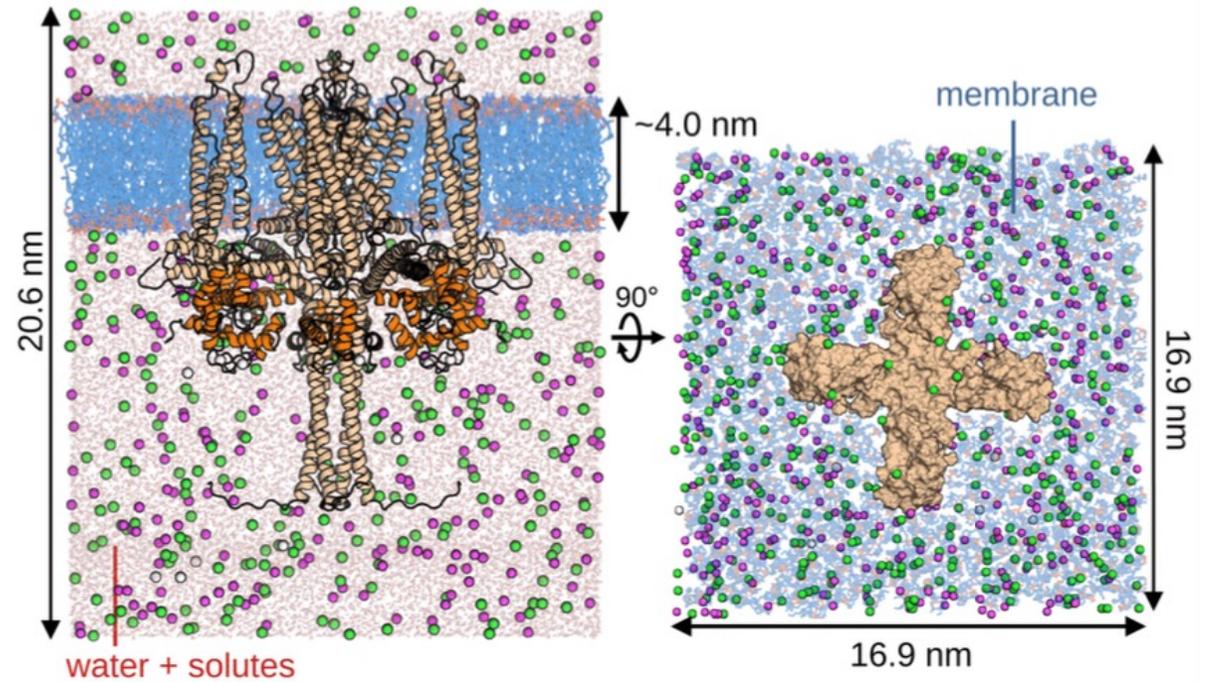


An hemolytic disease and the role of KCNN4: a potassium channel involved in Hereditary Xerocytosis



Question: What is the dynamics of the channel in the different states?

System	State	membrane	Time	rep.
I.	Pre-activate closed	POPC	2 μ s	2
I.RBC		RBC	2 μ s	1
I.PIP2		POPC + PIP2 (bound)	2 μ s	2
II.	Activate-closed	POPC	2 μ s	2
II.RBC		RBC	2 μ s	1
II.PIP2		POPC + PIP2 (bound)	2 μ s	2
III.	Activate-open	POPC	2 μ s	2
III.RBC		RBC	2 μ s	1

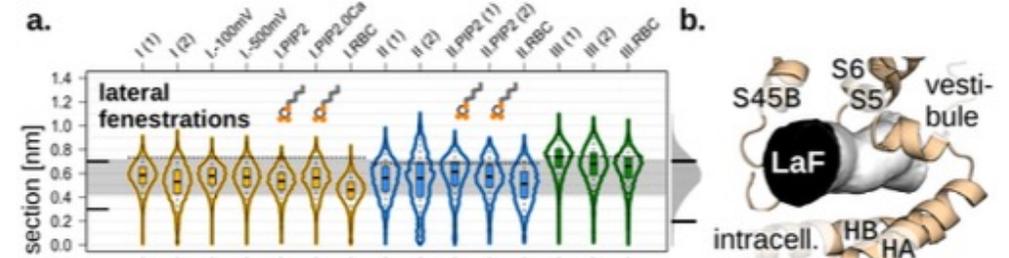
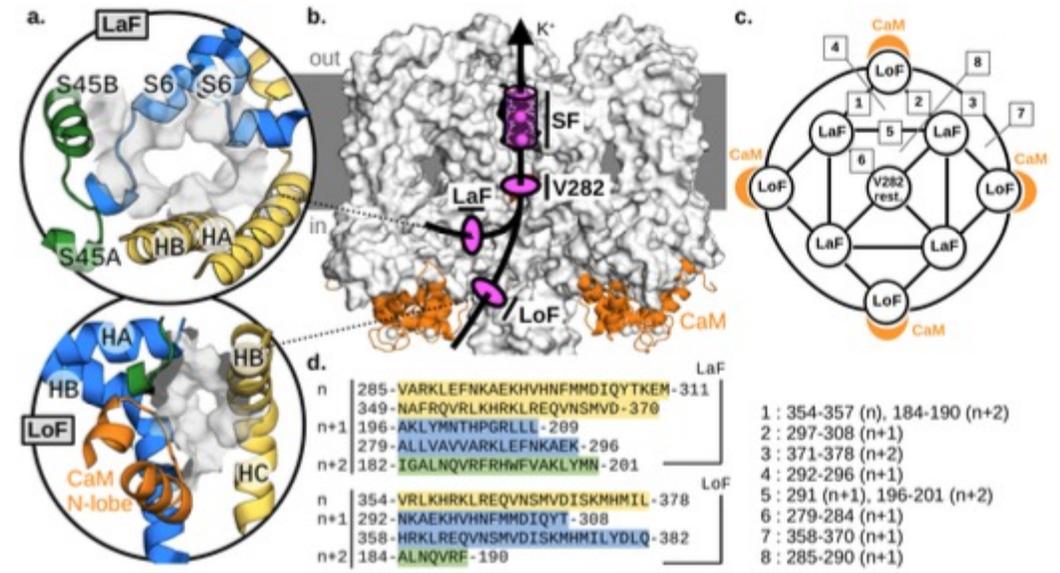
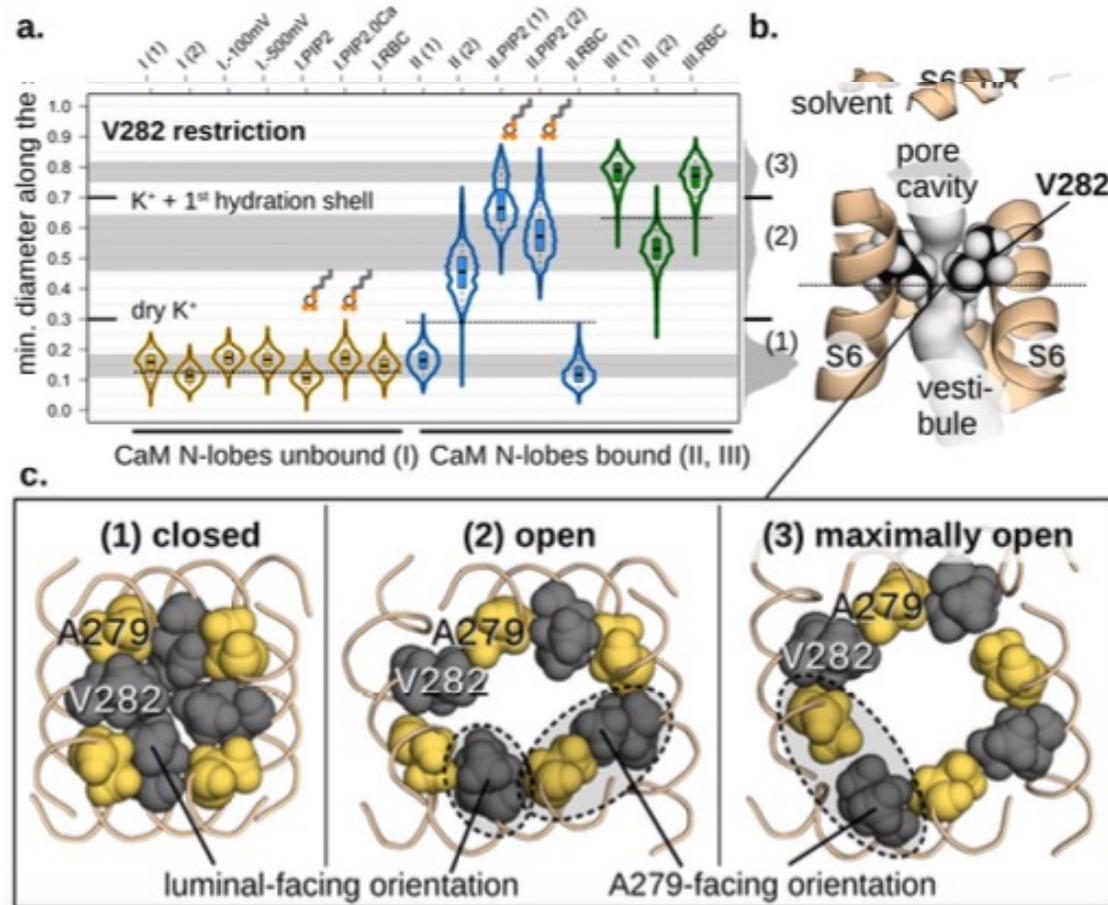


> 7. Millions CPU core Genci + 10 000 GPU

Main results

- Opening of the channel in the presence of PIP2

- Identification of Lateral Fenestrations



Cancer & Antibody Design

HUMAN VACCINES & IMMUNOTHERAPEUTICS
2023, VOL. 19, NO. 3, 2279867
<https://doi.org/10.1080/21645515.2023.2279867>



BRIEF REPORT

OPEN ACCESS

The functionality of a therapeutic antibody candidate restored by a single mutation from proline to threonine in the variable region

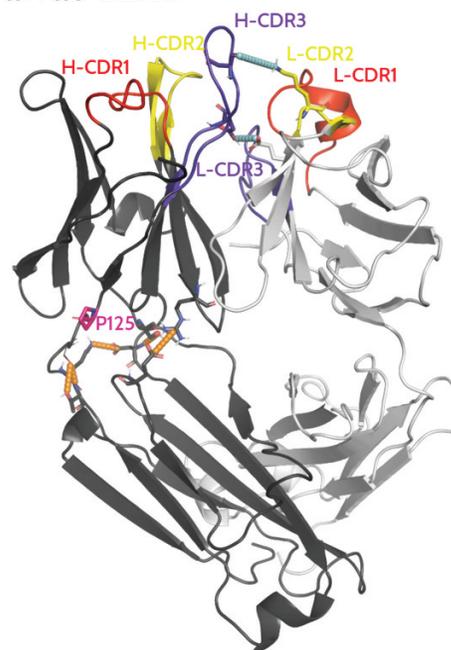
Marie Hautiere ^{a*}, Irene Maffucci ^{b,c*}, Narciso Costa ^a, Amaury Herbet ^a, Sosthene Essono ^d, Séverine Padiolleau-Lefevre ^{b,c}, and Didier Boquet ^a

^aDépartement Médicaments et Technologies pour la Santé (DMTS), SPI, Université Paris-Saclay, CEA, Gif-sur-Yvette, France; ^bCentre de Recherche de Royallieu, CNRS UMR 7025, Génie Enzymatique et Cellulaire, Compiègne Cedex, France; ^cCentre de Recherche de Royallieu, Sorbonne Universités, Université de Technologie de Compiègne, Génie Enzymatique et Cellulaire, Compiègne Cedex, France; ^dMedical Biotechnology Engineering LLC, Malden, MA, USA

RB49 is an antibody targeting the endothelin B receptor, a GPCR molecule that plays a role in tumour cancel progression. Modification (chimerization) is required to become a human therapeutic agent but this may alter the efficiency.

By combining experiments, molecular modelling and molecular dynamics simulations (μ s simulations), the authors identified the key role of a Proline residue in the loss of recognition. Mutation to Thr restores the function.

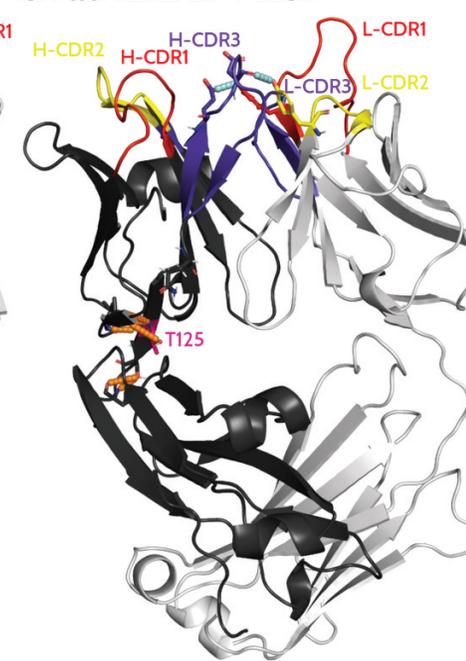
a. Fab-RB49



b. Fab-xiRB49



c. Fab-xiRB49-P125T



Representative structures of the most populated cluster of (a) Fab-RB49, (b) Fab-xiRB49, and (c) Fab-xiRB49-P125T. The heavy chain and the light chain are represented in dark and light gray, respectively. CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 are colored red, yellow, and purple, respectively. The residue in position 125 (either proline or threonine) is represented as ball and sticks and colored magenta. The hydrogen bond network within the region between the heavy chain variable and constant regions is indicated as dotted orange lines, while the interactions involving the H- and L-CDRs mentioned in the manuscript are indicated as dotted cyan lines. The indicated hydrogen bonds come from the analysis of the 3 simulations for each system.

Summary : Methods and Systems studied in the community

- Methods:
 - Molecular Dynamics Simulations (Classical and Enhanced Sampling),
 - Docking
 - now Large Scale 3D structure Prediction with AlphaFold, (AlphaFold)
- Systems :
 - Complexes and assemblies (protein/protein, peptide/protein, nucleic acid/protein)
 - Soluble & Membrane Proteins, Lipids, carbohydrates
 - Protein/Drug interaction (Drug Design)
- Force Fields: Classical or Polarizable, All-atom or Coarse Grained, QM/MM
- Free Energy calculations & now evaluation of Kinetics Constants;

Summary: Example of High Computational Needs

A summary of GENCI Committee “Dynamique moléculaire appliquée à la biologie »

- 49 applications assessed (calls A15 and A16) by 17 experts
- 160 Mh CPU allocated
- 9 Mh GPU allocated
- mainly academic laboratories but also start-ups (subject to publication)

Example of High Computational Needs in constant evolution

- A summary of GENCI Committee “**Dynamique moléculaire appliquée à la biologie** »

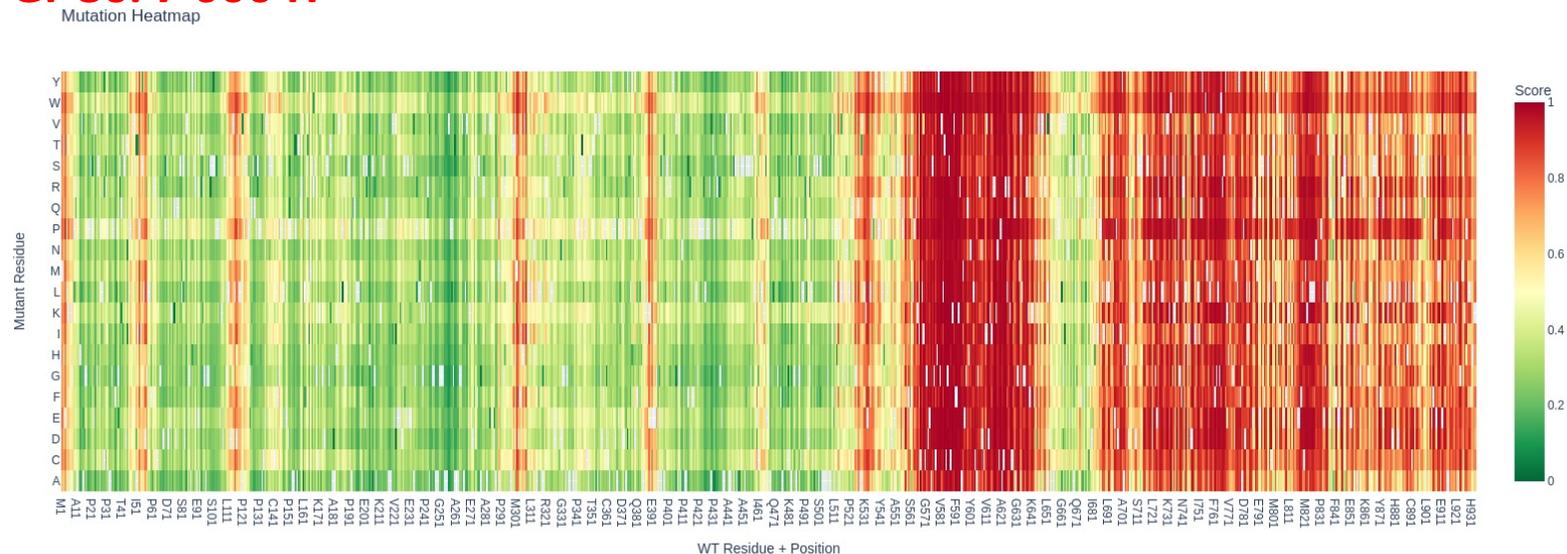
A17	JZV100	JZCSL	JZA100	JZH100	A14	JZV100	JZCSL	JZA100	
	0.72Mh	3.7Mh	0.50Mh	0.31Mh		1.8Mh	11.1Mh	0.88Mh	
	AdGenoa	AdMI250x	AdMi300			AdGenoa	AdMI200		
	17.8Mh	0.39Mh	0.063Mh			2.3Mh	0.31Mh		
	JCSKL	JCRome	JCV100			JCSKL	JCV100	JCRome	
A16	JZV100	JZCSL	JZA100	JZH100	A13	rien	0.25Mh	67.0Mh	
	0.65Mh	0.85Mh	0.34Mh	0.05Mh		JZV100	JZCSL	JZA100	
	AdGenoa	AdMI250x				3.24Mh	21.0Mh	1.21Mh	
	29.3Mh	1.75Mh					AdMI200		
	JCSKL	JCRome	JCV100				0.07Mh		
A15	rien	46.5Mh	0.41Mh		JCSKL	JCKNL	JCRome	JCV100	
	JZV100	JZCSL	JZA100		6.05Mh	3.0Mh	49.3Mh	0.35Mh	
	2.1Mh	16.6Mh	0.41Mh						
	AdGenoa	AdMI250x							
	2.6Mh	0.327Mh							
JCSKL	JCRome	JCV100							
4.9Mh	36.6Mh	0.65Mh							

Deep Learning, Structural Bioinformatics and Medical Applications:

- Example 1:
 - Aim: to speed up current applications in structural bioinformatics, i.e. homologous protein searches, secondary structure prediction, cell localisation prediction, prediction of different levels of protein structure (fold, superfamily, family), etc.
 - Strategy: Development of an auto-encoder to reduce the dimensionality of internal protein representations (embeddings) derived from the best protein language models (PLMs) The reduction in dimensionality must be achieved while maintaining the maximum possible information from the original embeddings.
 - => 25 000 GPU hours type A100 with 80 Gb Memory (ÒParallelized)

Deep Learning, Structural Bioinformatics and Medical Applications:

- Example 2:
 - Aim: to predict pathogenicity of mutations
 - Challenge: Protein of ~ 500 residues => 19x500 => For 10 000 proteins ~ 100 million variants
 - Strategy : Use three Protein Language Models (PLM), to generate the variant embeddings
=> 100 million embeddings per PLM.
 - **A100 GPU: [3000-7000] hours depending on the PLM => ~13 000 hours GPU**
 - ➔ **H100 GPUs: 7 000 H**



THANK YOU