

Architecture of large projects in bioinformatics (ADP)

AlphaFold 3

Łukasz P. Kozłowski

Warsaw, 2025

Accurate structure prediction of biomolecular interactions with AlphaFold 3

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-024-07487-w>

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Open access

 Check for updates

Josh Abramson^{1,7}, Jonas Adler^{1,7}, Jack Dunger^{1,7}, Richard Evans^{1,7}, Tim Green^{1,7}, Alexander Pritzel^{1,7}, Olaf Ronneberger^{1,7}, Lindsay Willmore^{1,7}, Andrew J. Ballard¹, Joshua Bambrick², Sebastian W. Bodenstein¹, David A. Evans¹, Chia-Chun Hung², Michael O'Neill¹, David Reiman¹, Kathryn Tunyasuvunakool¹, Zachary Wu¹, Akvilė Žemgulytė¹, Eirini Arvaniti³, Charles Beattie³, Ottavia Bertolli³, Alex Bridgland³, Alexey Cherepanov⁴, Miles Congreve⁴, Alexander I. Cowen-Rivers³, Andrew Cowie³, Michael Figurnov³, Fabian B. Fuchs³, Hannah Gladman³, Rishub Jain³, Yousuf A. Khan^{3,5}, Caroline M. R. Low⁴, Kuba Perlin³, Anna Potapenko³, Pascal Savy⁴, Sukhdeep Singh³, Adrian Stecula⁴, Ashok Thillaisundaram³, Catherine Tong⁴, Sergei Yakneen⁴, Ellen D. Zhong^{3,6}, Michal Zielinski³, Augustin Židek³, Victor Bapst^{1,8}, Pushmeet Kohli^{1,8}, Max Jaderberg^{2,8}, Demis Hassabis^{1,2,8} & John M. Jumper^{1,8}



```
cgaaccactc agggtcctgt ggacagctca
cctagctgca atggctacag gctcccggac
gtccctgctc ctggcttttg gcctgctctg
cctgccctgg cttcaagagg gcagtgcctt
cccaaccatt cccttatcca ggccttttga
caacgctatg ctccgcgccc atcgtctgca
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tgaagaagcc tatatcccaa aggaacagaa
gtattcattc ctgcagaacc cccagacctc
```

DNA sequence

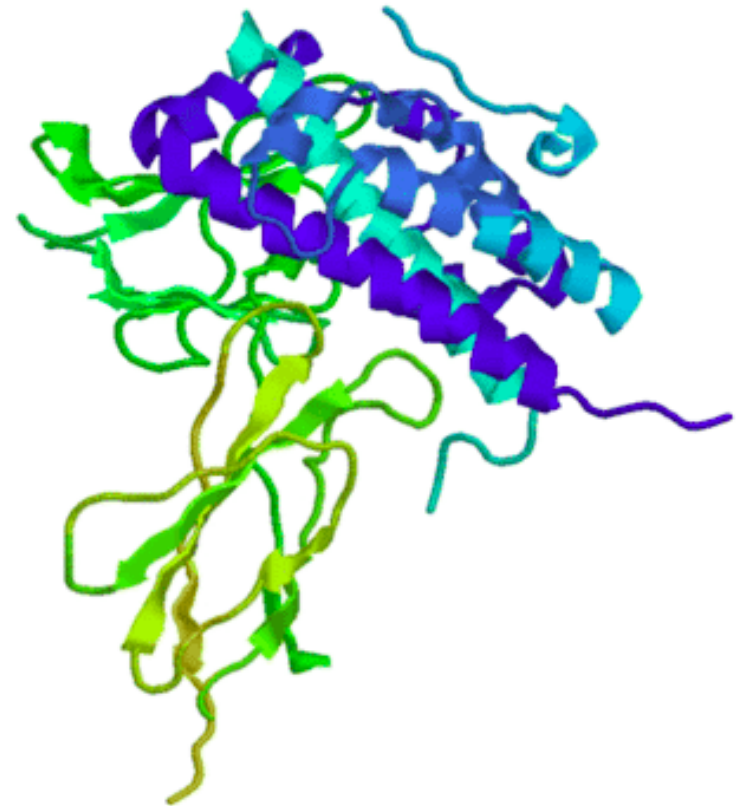
transcription & translation

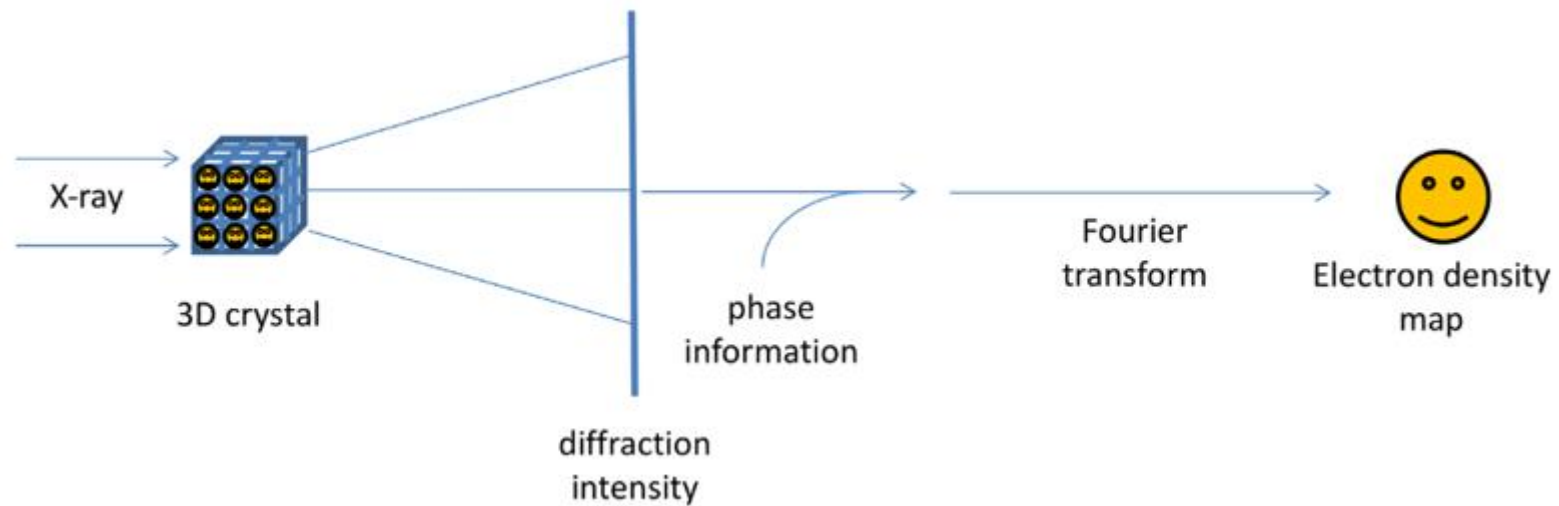
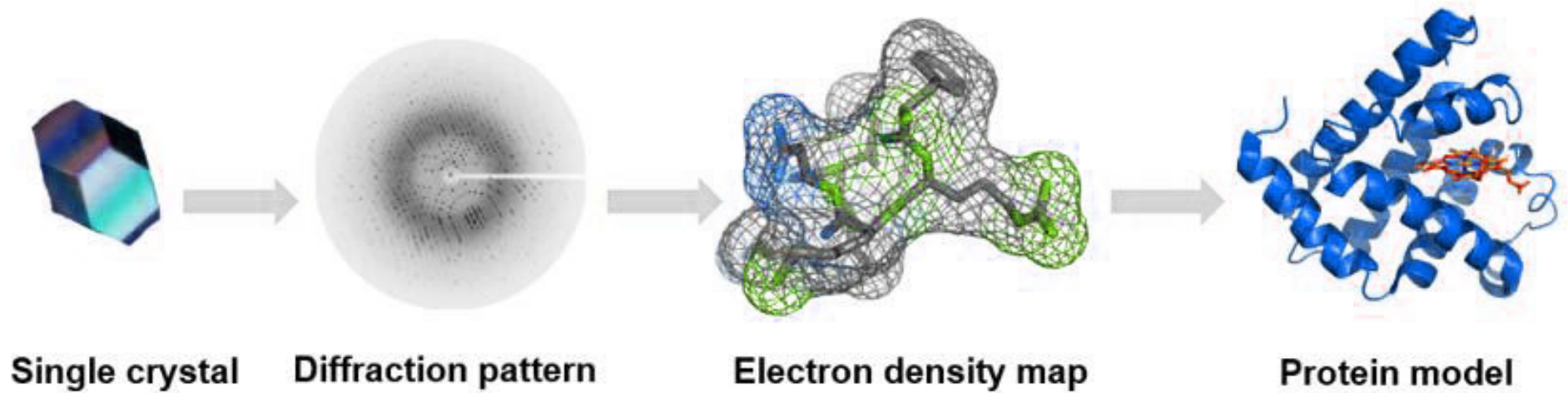
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SRPFDNAMLRAHRLHQLAFDTYQEFEEAYIPK
EQKYSFLQNPQTSLCFSESIPTPSNREETQOK
SNLELLRISLLLIQSWLEPVQFLRSVFANSLV
YGASDSNVYDLLKDLEEGIQTLMGRLEDGSPR
TGQIFKQTYSKFDTNSHNDDALLKNYGLLYCF
RKDMDKVETFLRIVQCRSVEGSCGF
```

protein amino acid sequence

folding

3D protein structure





**European XFEL
Schenefeld / Schleswig-Holstein**

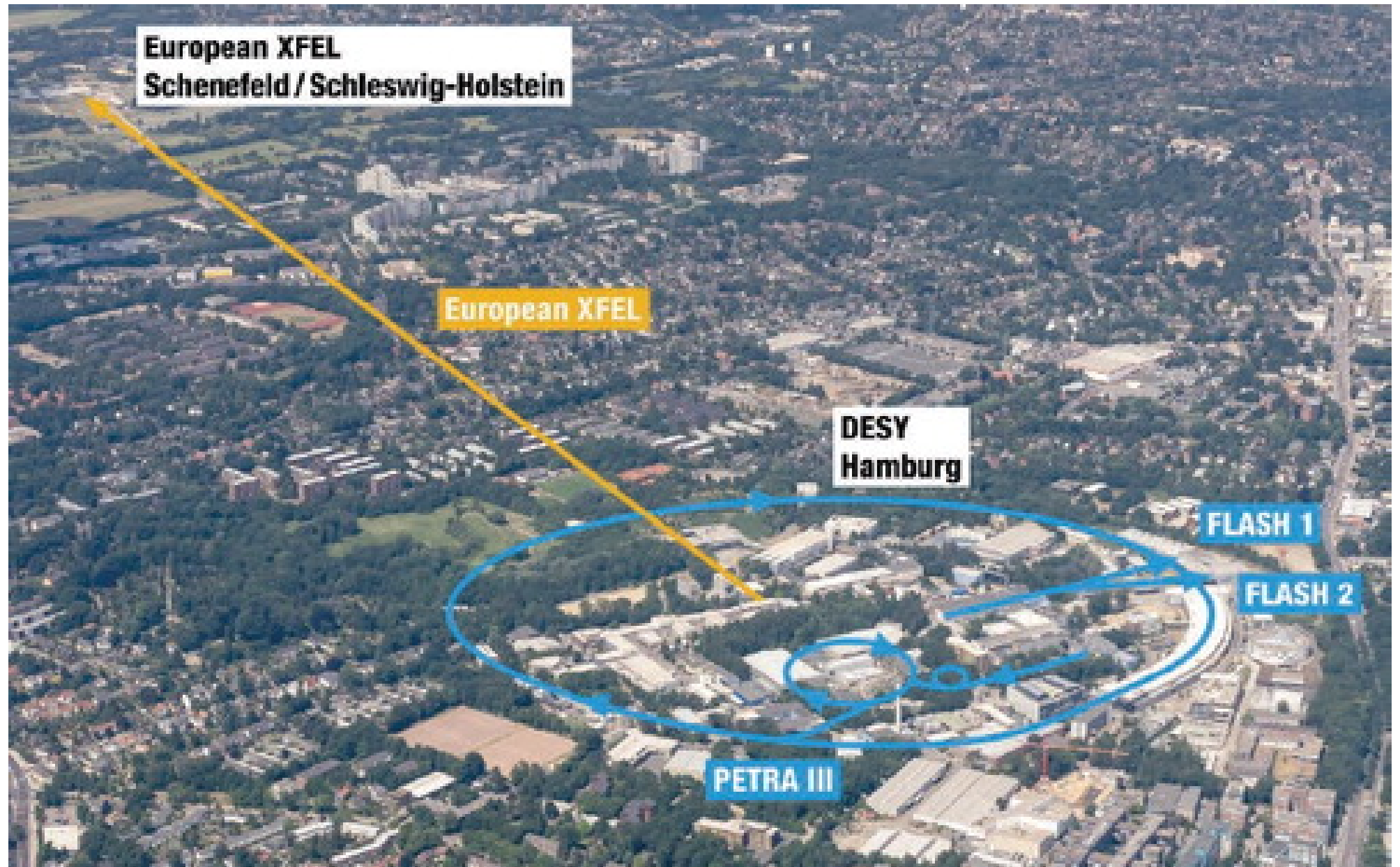
European XFEL

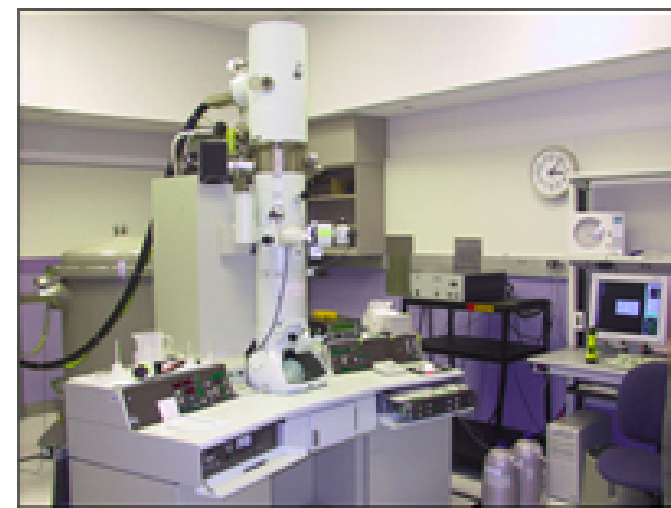
**DESY
Hamburg**

FLASH 1

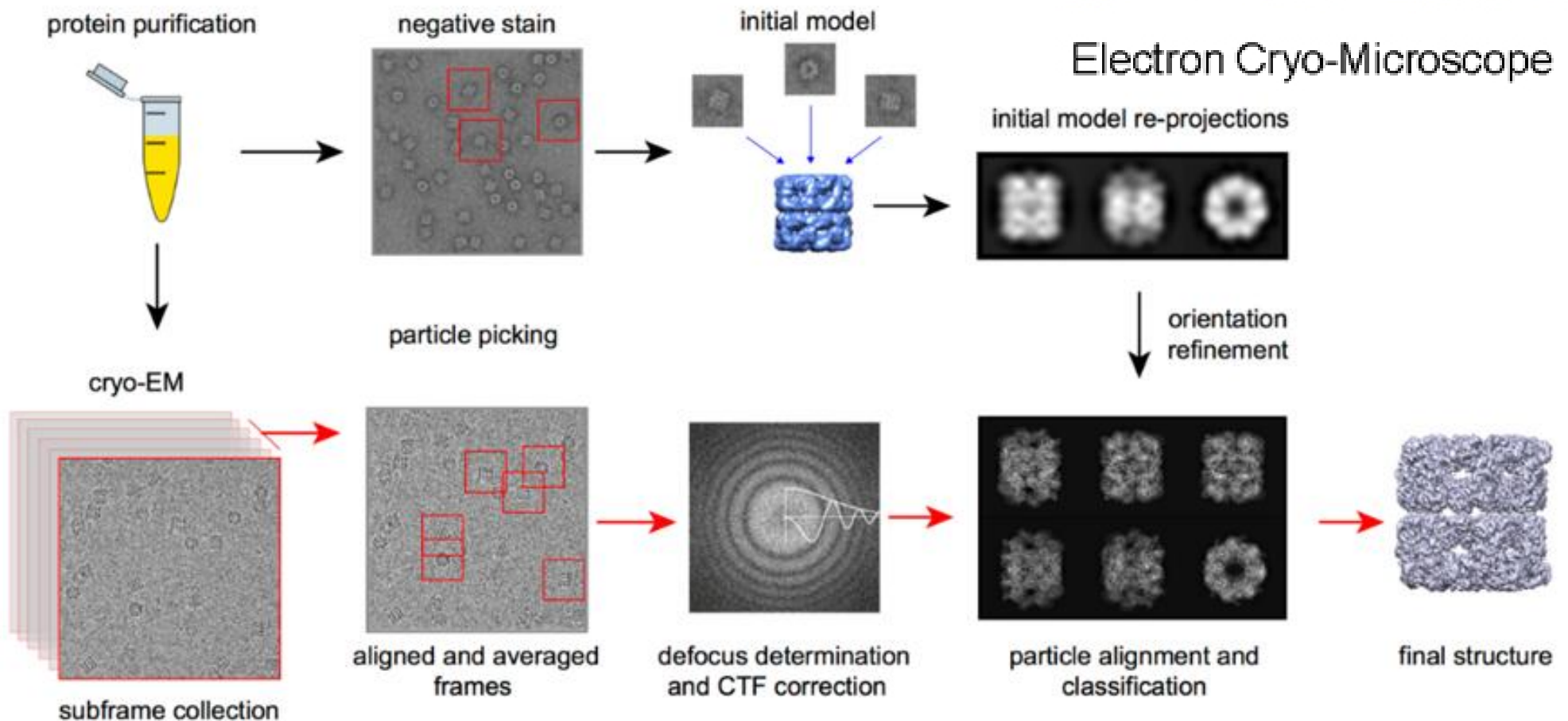
FLASH 2

PETRA III



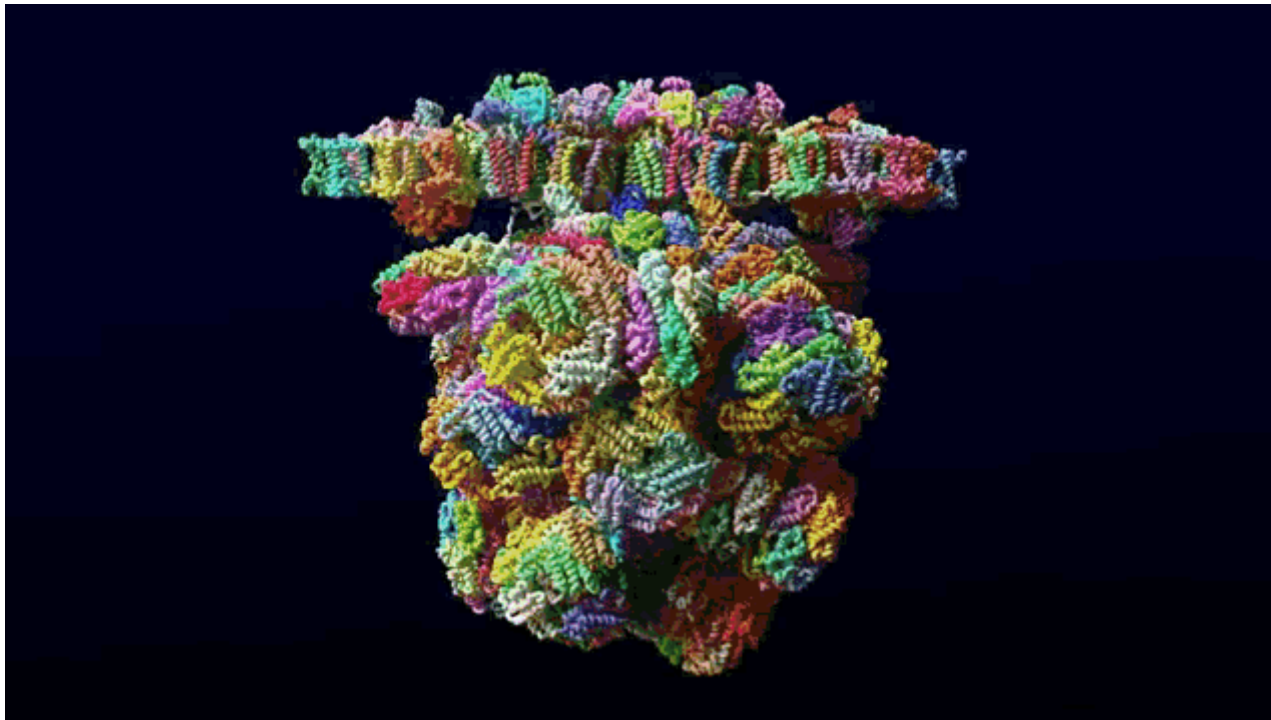
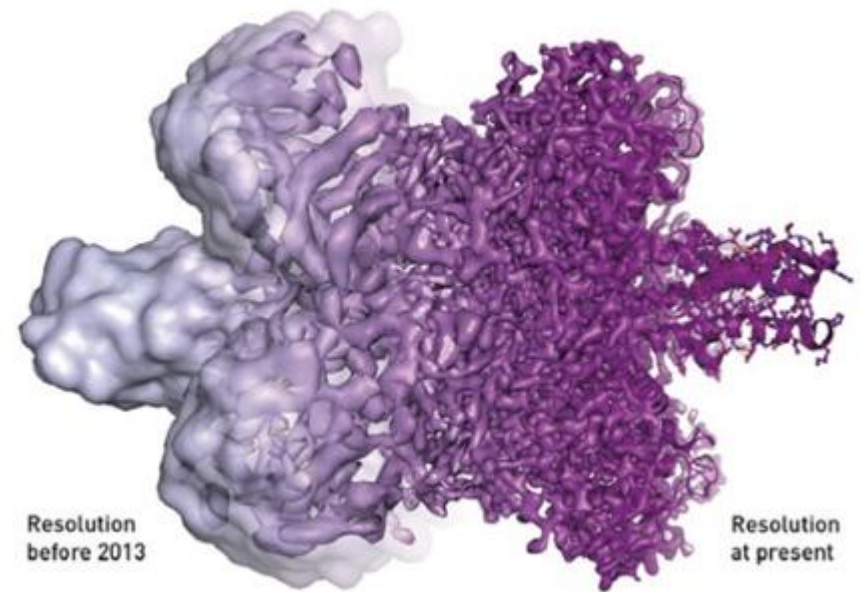
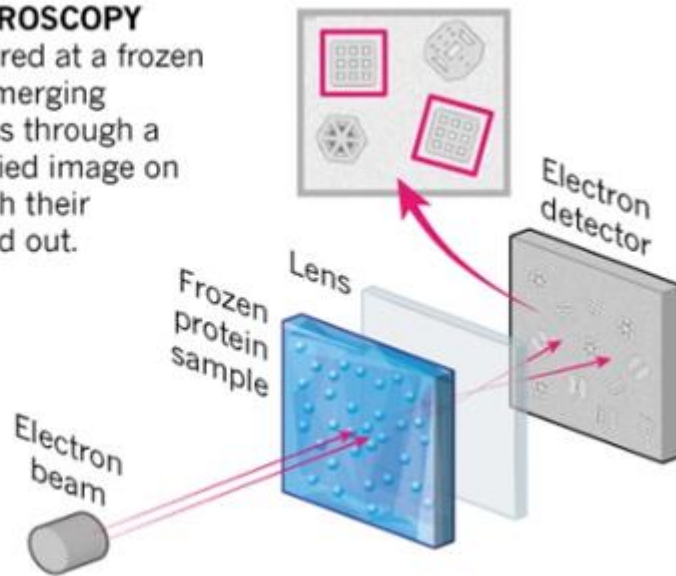


Electron Cryo-Microscope



CRYO-ELECTRON MICROSCOPY

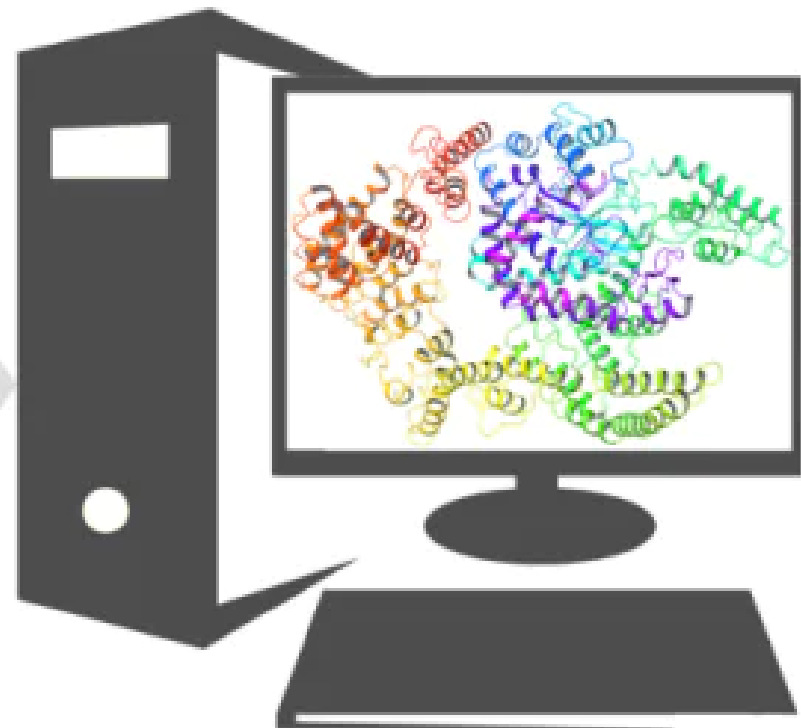
A beam of electron is fired at a frozen protein solution. The emerging scattered electrons pass through a lens to create a magnified image on the detector, from which their structure can be worked out.



AI-based 3D protein structure prediction

Amino Acid Sequence

```
AGGTAGCTGCGTGGCTAAC  
GCTGCAGCCACCGCCGCGG  
CAGCGGCTTCTGCGCTGGG  
ATGCACCCTCCAGAGTGG
```



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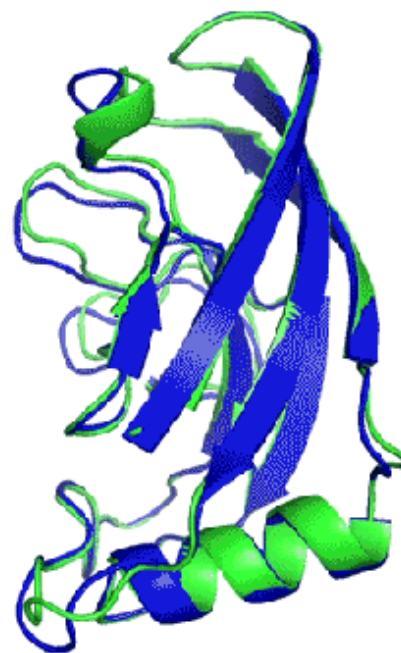
Check for updates

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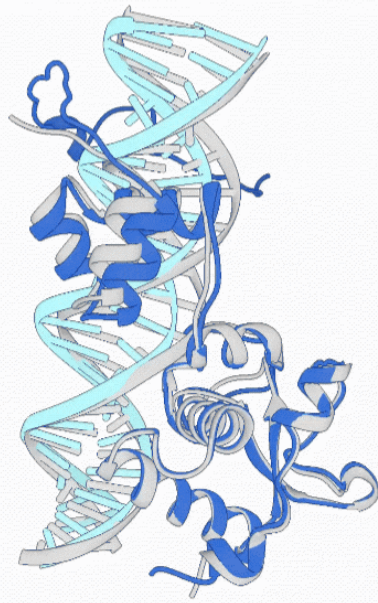


T1037 / 6vr4
90.7 GDT
(RNA polymerase domain)

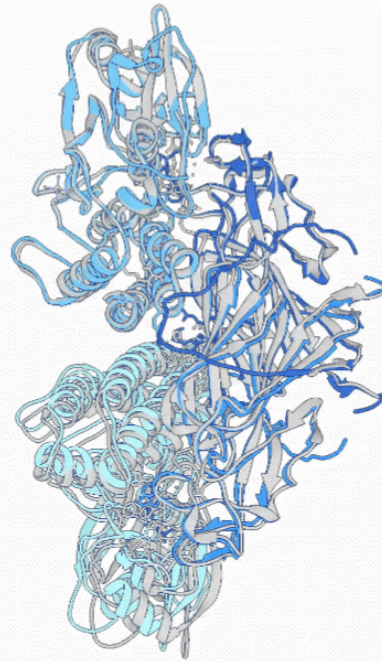


T1049 / 6y4f
93.3 GDT
(adhesin tip)

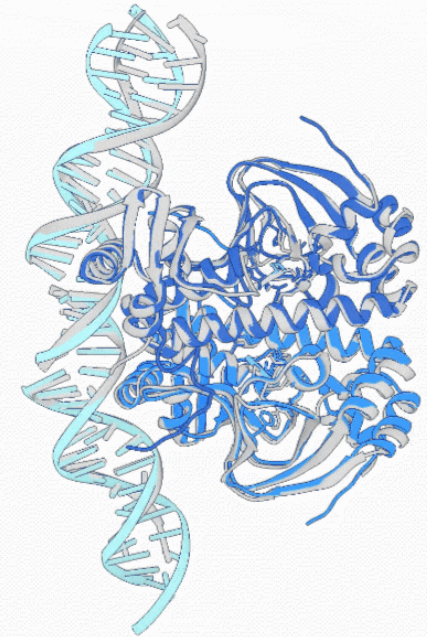
- Experimental result
- Computational prediction



PDB ID: 7r6r
(mycobacteriophage immunity
repressor-DNA complex)



PDB ID: 7wux
(AziU3/U2 complexed with
(5S,6S)-O7-sulfo DADH)



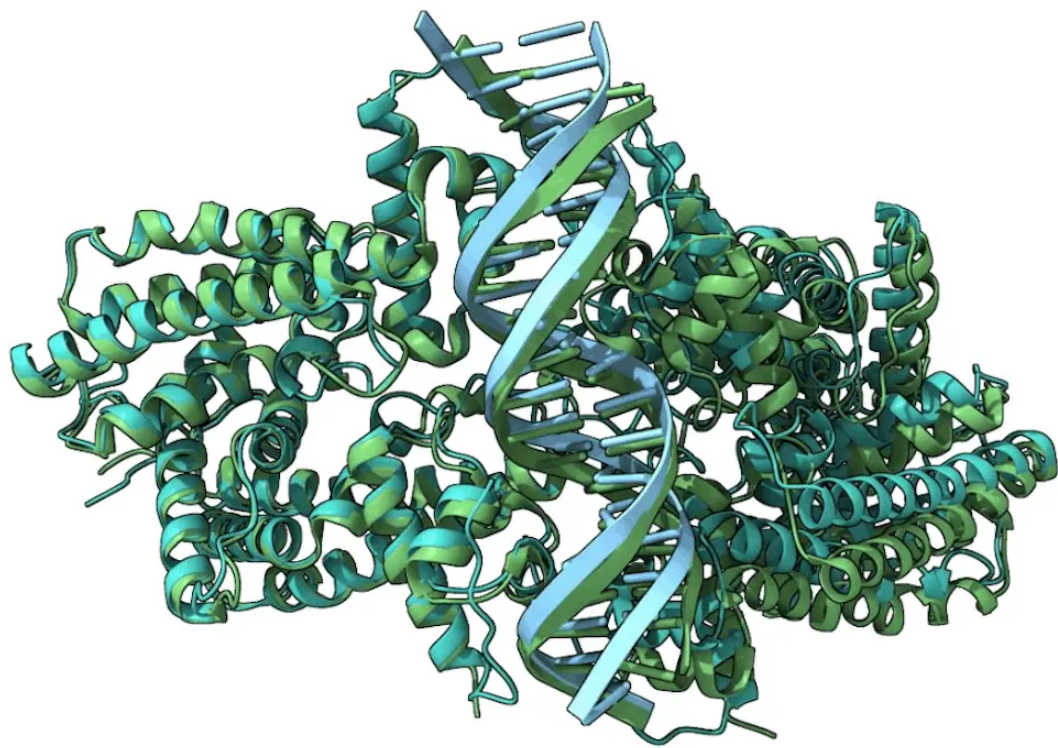
PDB ID: 7pzb
(Clr-cAMP-DNA complex)



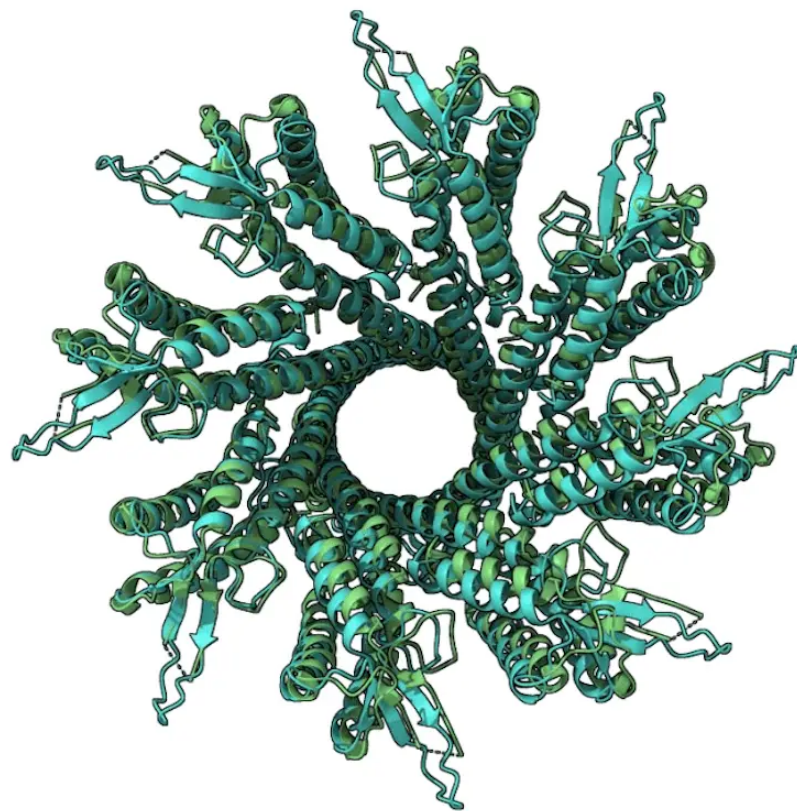
Protenix prediction



Experimental result



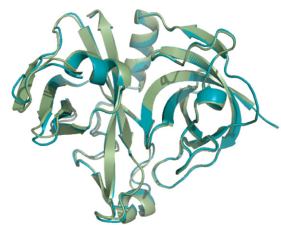
BOLTZ-1 prediction on PDB structure 8SVA
TM-score: 0.95



BOLTZ-1 prediction on PDB structure 8IG1
TM-score: 0.95

A

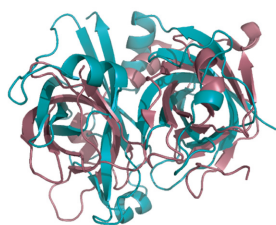
MGYP000279975524



ESMFold / AlphaFold2

RMSD: 0.59 Å

TM-score: 0.99

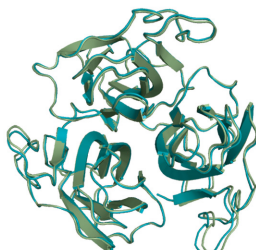


ESMFold / PDB 4L5S_B

RMSD: 5.4 Å

TM-score: 0.49

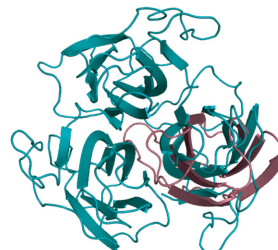
MGYP000712274586



ESMFold / AlphaFold2

RMSD: 0.49 Å

TM-score: 1.0

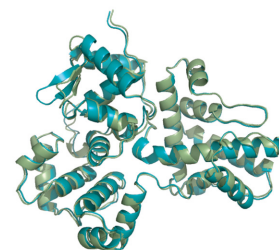


ESMFold / PDB 1TTG_A

RMSD: 5.0 Å

TM-score: 0.45

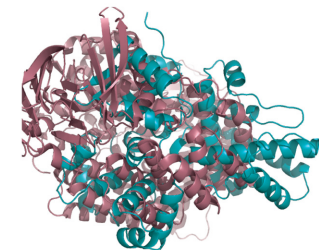
MGYP001220175542



ESMFold / AlphaFold2

RMSD: 1.0 Å

TM-score: 0.98

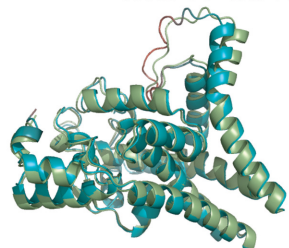


ESMFold / PDB 5Y1X_A

RMSD: 6.4 Å

TM-score: 0.38

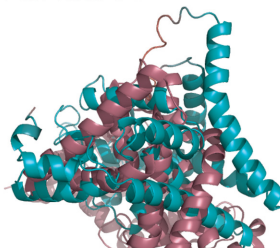
MGYP001812528822



ESMFold / AlphaFold2

RMSD: 1.1 Å

TM-score: 0.98

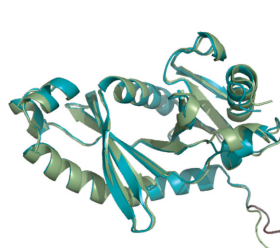


ESMFold / PDB 5HH3_C

RMSD: 11 Å

TM-score: 0.39

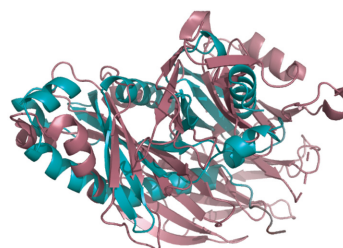
MGYP000706186022



ESMFold / AlphaFold2

RMSD: 0.85 Å

TM-score: 0.96

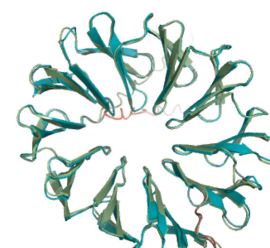


ESMFold / PDB 1XKS_A

RMSD: 5.8 Å

TM-score: 0.47

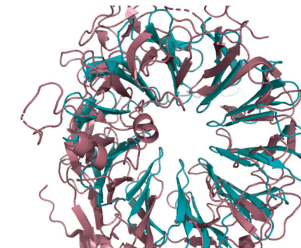
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ESMFold / AlphaFold2

RMSD: 1.2 Å

TM-score: 0.94



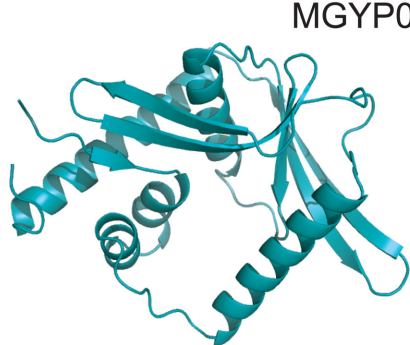
ESMFold / PDB 5NNI_A

RMSD: 5.8 Å

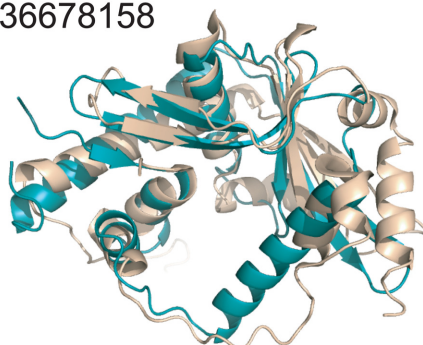
TM-score: 0.67

B

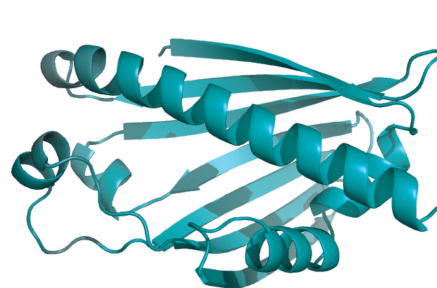
MGYP000936678158



No UniRef90 matches

Closest PDB TM-score:
0.67 (3H4R_A)**C**

MGYP004000959047



No UniRef90 matches


Closest PDB TM-score:
0.80 (6BYM_A)

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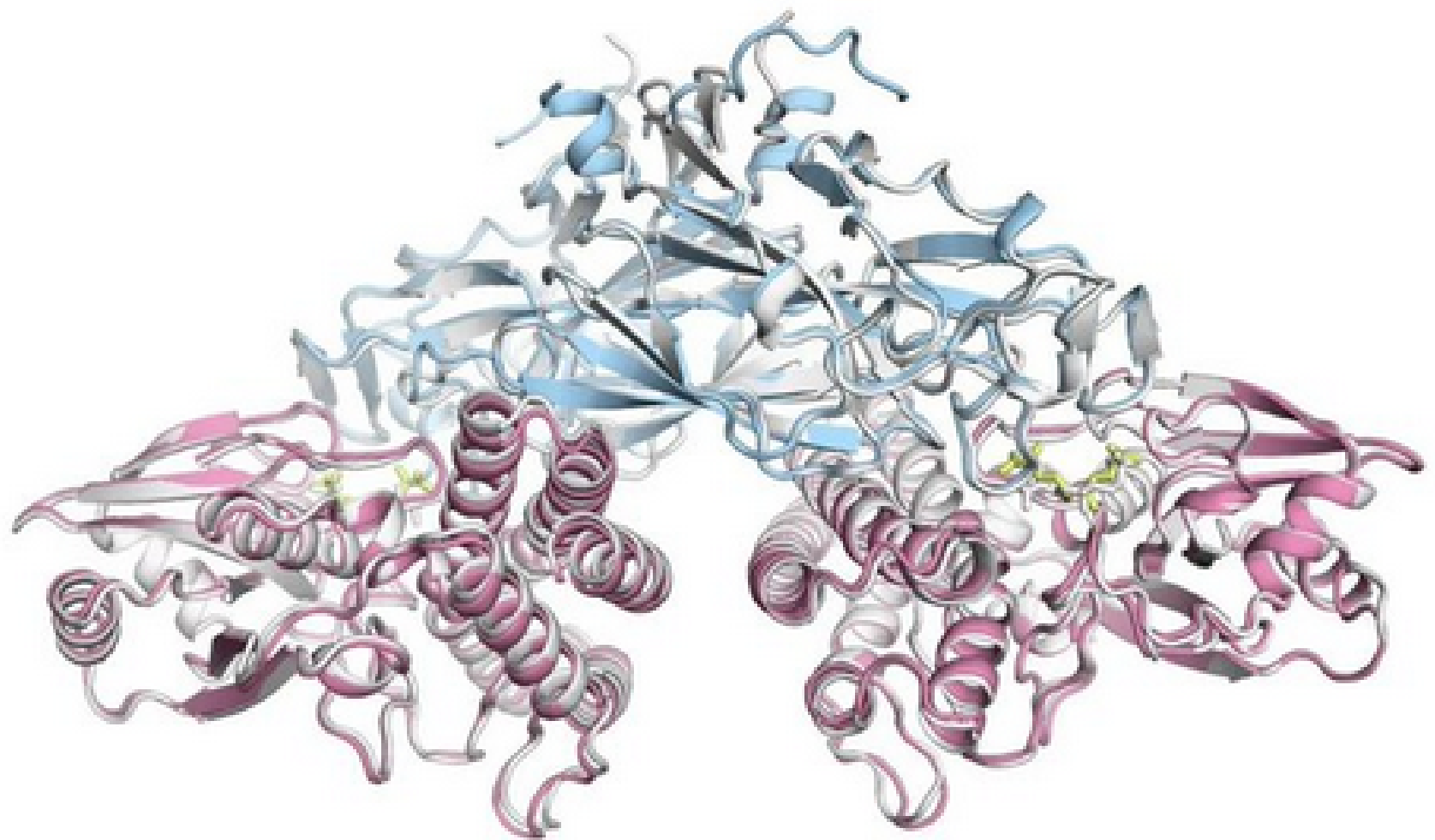
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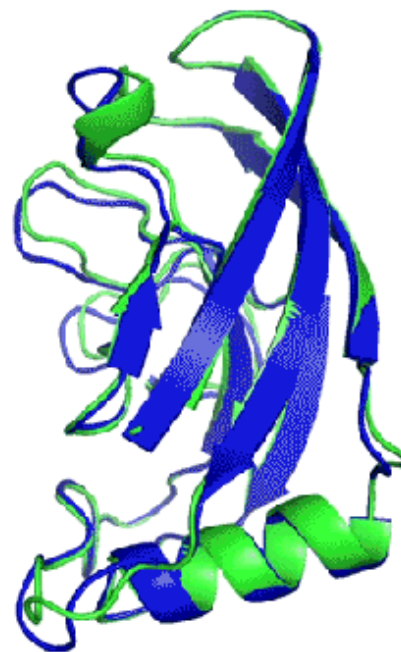
Unlike AF2, which focused on individual proteins, **AF3** embraces complexity of biomolecular interactions. It models diverse entities within a unified framework, highlighting interactions that are crucial for understanding cellular functions, moving toward realistic simulations.



A protein folding prediction in response to a small molecule generated by AlphaFold 3. ISOMORPHIC LABS

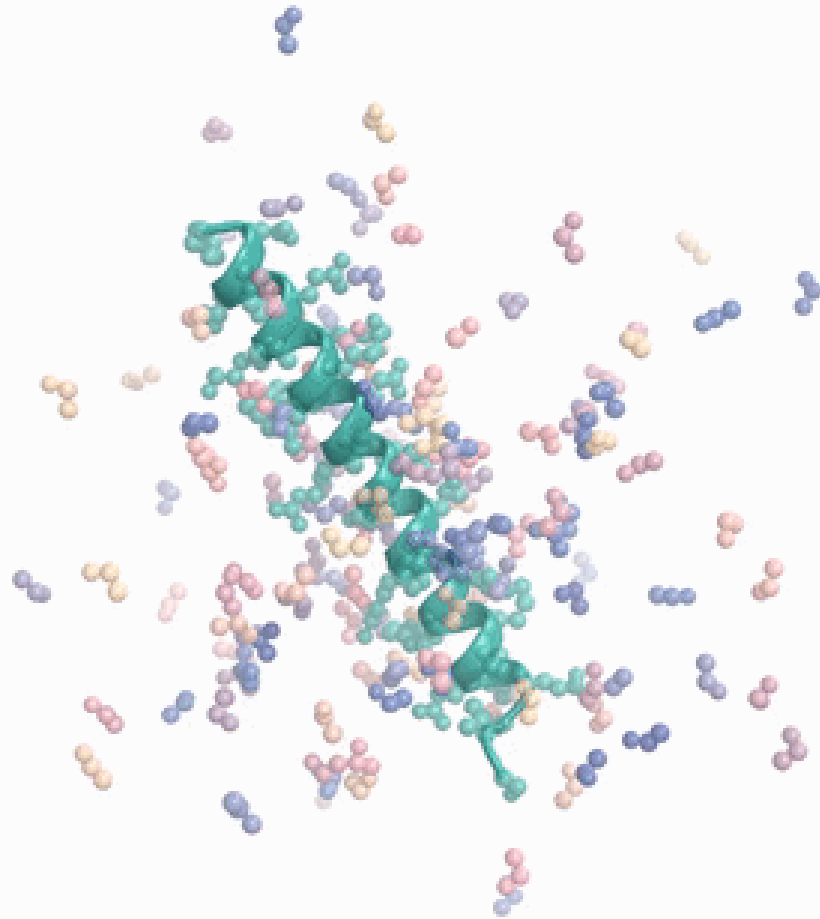


T1037 / 6vr4
90.7 GDT
(RNA polymerase domain)



T1049 / 6y4f
93.3 GDT
(adhesin tip)

- Experimental result
- Computational prediction



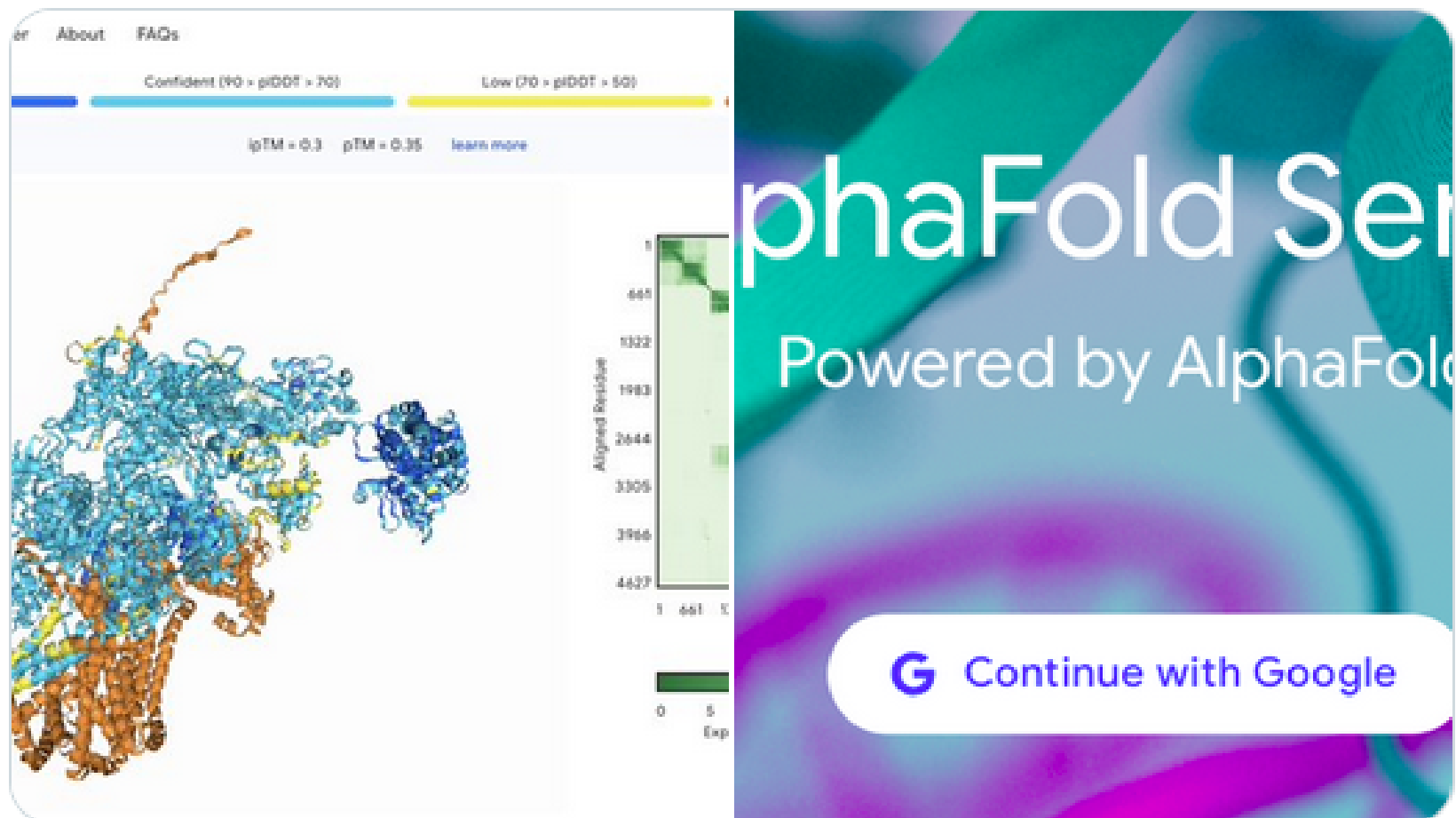


Sergey Ovchinnikov @sokrypton · 16 g.

...

AF3 server is LIVE! Just tried predicting complex with almost 5K amino acids.

TIP: you need to click "continue with google" to access the server (otherwise the "server" is grayed out). alphafoldserver.com



7

77

324

23 tys.

Bookmark and Share icons

<https://alphafoldserver.com>

Use of AlphaFold Server is subject to the [Google Terms of Service](#); and [AlphaFold Server Additional Terms of Service](#)

Key things to know

1. AlphaFold Server is **only** available for non-commercial use by individuals and non-commercial organizations (universities, non-profit organizations and research institutes, educational and government bodies), or for journalism.
2. You **must not** use AlphaFold Server or its outputs:
 - a. in connection with **any commercial activities, including research on behalf of commercial organizations;**
 - b. in **any automated system that predicts the binding or interaction of the protein with ligands or peptides**, such as Glide or AutoDock; or
 - c. to **train machine learning models** or related technology for **biomolecular structure prediction** similar to AlphaFold Server.
3. You **can publish, share and adapt** AlphaFold Server output in accordance with our terms, including the requirement to provide clear notice that ongoing use is subject to [AlphaFold Server Output Terms of Use](#) and of any modifications you make.



Ajasja    @AjasjaLjubetic · 18 g.

...

This is super exciting! Although it's a bit sad to see that the source code and weights are not available, even for academic use.

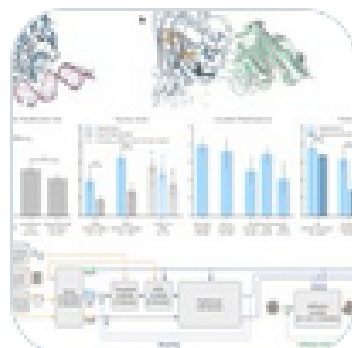
Time will tell if **AF3** will be as widely used and universal as AF2 currently is. Can't wait for this year's CASP :)

Code availability

AlphaFold 3 will be available as a non-commercial usage only server at <https://www.alphafoldserver.com>, with restrictions on allowed ligands and covalent modifications. Pseudocode describing the algorithms is available in the Supplementary Information. Code is not provided.



Max Jaderberg  @maxjaderberg · 19 g.



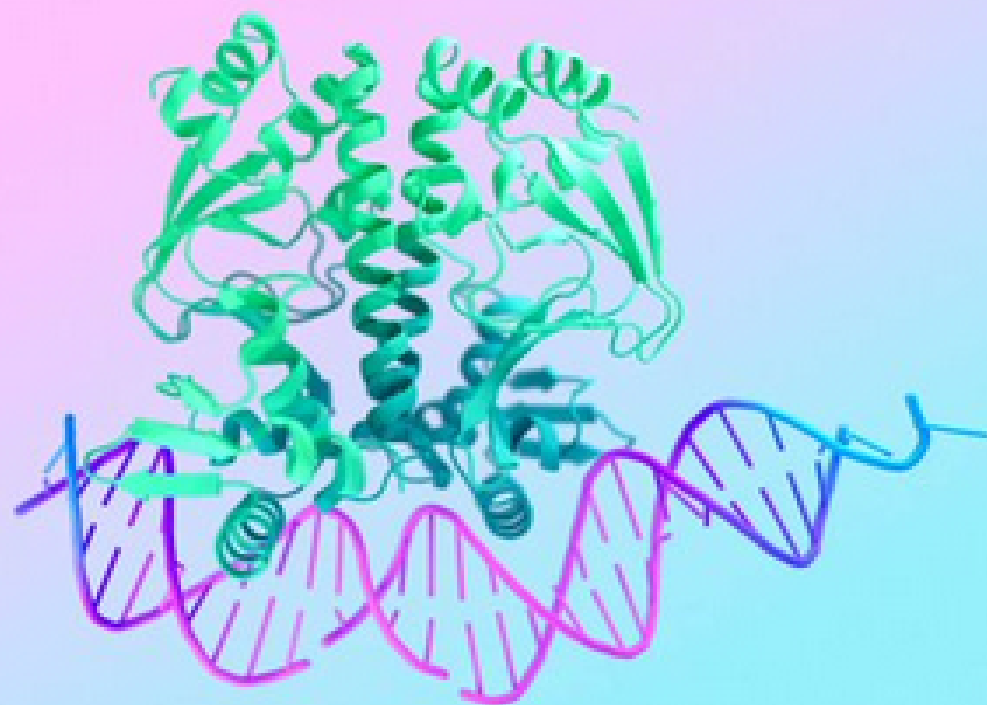
Super excited to be releasing AlphaFold 3 today, developed by @IsomorphicLabs and @GoogleDeepMind: our next generation AI model for predicting the biomolecular structures and interactions of proteins, DNA, RNA, small molecules, and more: [bit.ly/44yfaCw...](https://bit.ly/44yfaCw)





Demis Hassabis ✓ @demishassabis · 18 g.

Thrilled to announce AlphaFold 3 which can predict the structures and interactions of nearly all of life's molecules with state-of-the-art accuracy including proteins, DNA and RNA. Biology is a complex dynamical system so modeling interactions is crucial [blog.google/technology/ai/...](https://blog.google/technology/ai/)



21

312

1 tys.

371 tys.





Roland Dunbrack 🏳️‍🌈 @rolanddunbrack.bsky.social @RolandDunbrack · 16 g. ...

Demis -- I think AlphaFold3 is really exciting. As Reviewer #3, I got great results from the server. I tried hard to get @Nature to urge you to release the code but was unsuccessful. I did not get it for re-review so I don't know if you responded. So why no code? @GoogleDeepMind



Demis Hassabis ✓ @demishassabis · 18 g.

Thrilled to announce AlphaFold 3 which can predict the structures and interactions of nearly all of life's molecules with state-of-the-art accuracy including proteins, DNA and RNA. Biology is a complex dynamical system so modeling interactions is crucial [blog.google/technology/ai/...](https://blog.google/technology/ai/)





Roland Dunbrack 🏳️‍🌈 @rolanddunbrack.bsky.socia @RolandDunbrack · 4 g. ...

Neither @Magda_Skipper (editor of @Nature) nor the handling editor would answer my emails about my concerns. I was not allowed to see any response to the reviews by the AlphaFold3 authors, so I don't know what they think either. Extremely unusual and very disappointing



Stephen Curry @Stephen_Curry · 5 g.

I'd be interested to hear @Nature's and @GoogleDeepMind's responses to this. x.com/rolanddunbrack...



↻ 12

♡ 79

📊 7 tys.





Roland Dunbrack 🏳️‍🌈 @rolanddunbrack.bsky.socia @RolandDunbrack · 4 g. ...

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Stephen Curry @Stephen_Curry · 5 g.

I'd be interested to hear @Nature's and @GoogleDeepMind's responses to this. x.com/rolanddunbrack...



Altuna Akalin @AltunaAkalin · 1 g. ...

Reviewer asked @Nature and authors to release **alphafold3** code with no success. Dangerous trend for journals acting as marketing avenues for new tech without reproducibility or code review



Roland Dunbrack 🏳️‍🌈 @rolanddunbrack.bsky.so @RolandDunbrack · 17 g.

Demis -- I think AlphaFold3 is really exciting. As Reviewer #3, I got great results from the server. I tried hard to get @Nature to urge you to release the code but was unsuccessful. I did not get it for re-review so I don't know if you responded. So why no code? @GoogleDeepMind x.com/demishassabis/...



Pratyush Tiwary

@tiwarylalab

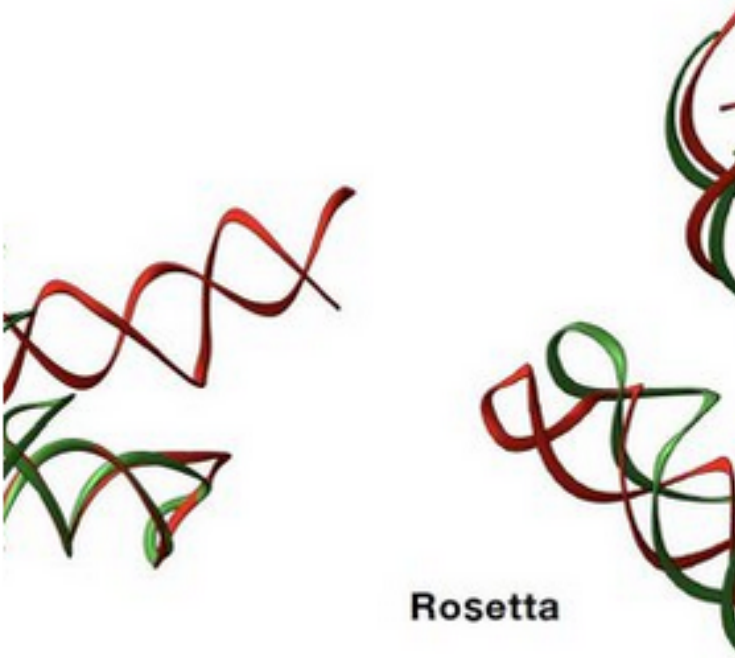
...

It seems rather convenient that two of the structures* left out in the @Nature paper for AlphaFold3 on RNA by @GoogleDeepMind are ones where it does not well (multiple trials on web server)

* R1149 and R1156 predictioncenter.org/casp15/results...

[Przetlumacz wpis](#)

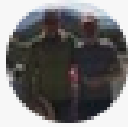
R1107*	R1117	R1111
6.513	2.645	15.
9.762	5.102	1.
-	0.2225	0.5
-	0.1351	0.2



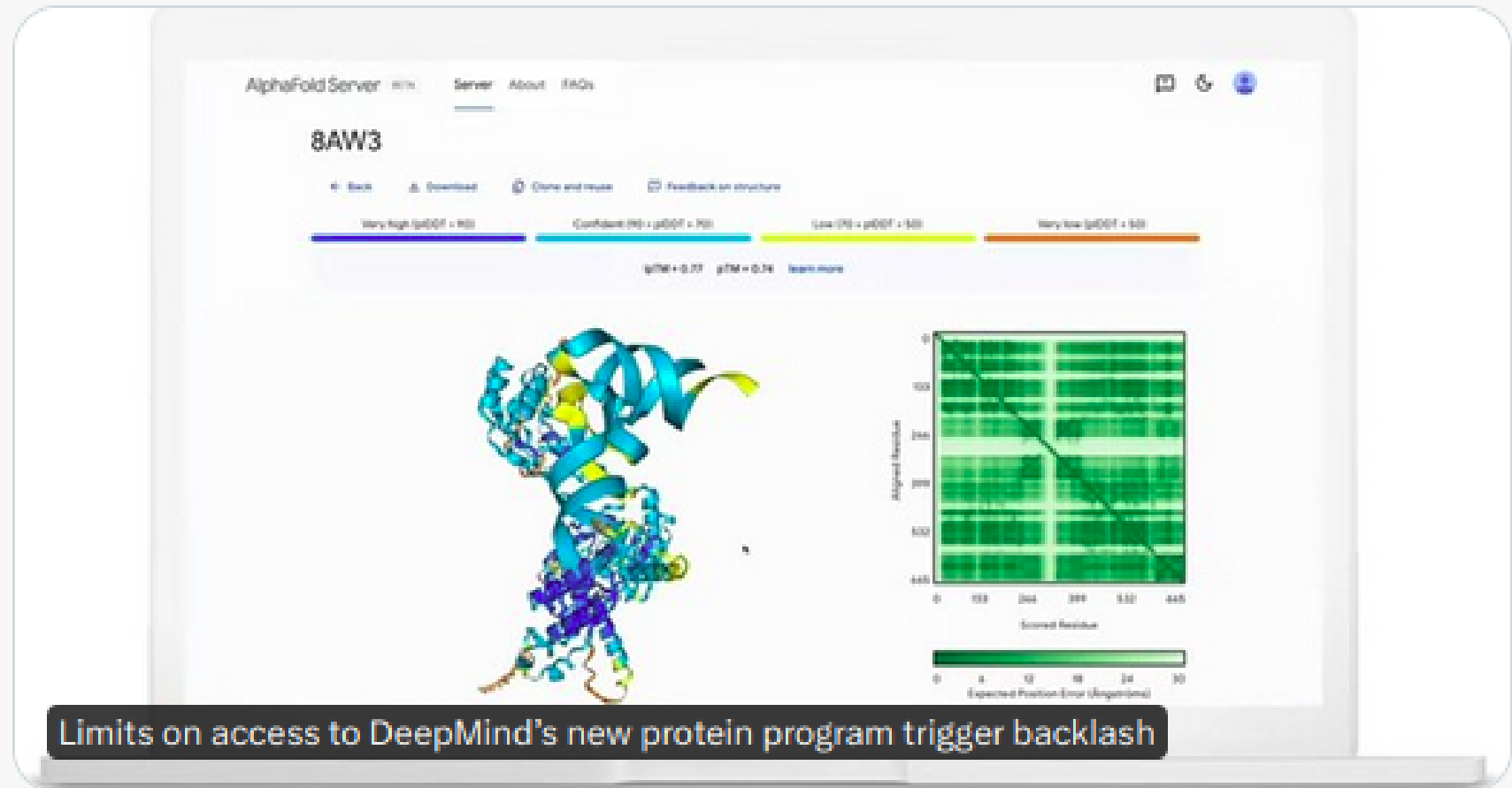
Rosetta

RMSD: 10.129

er form and bound to a protein.



Roland Dunbrack 🏳️‍🌈 @rolanddunbrack.bsky.social @RolandDunbrack · 19 g. ...
 Got interviewed for this article in Science on the release of alphafoldserver.com.



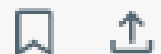
Ze strony science.org

5

29

166

14 tys.



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Limits on access to DeepMind's new protein program trigger backlash

Critics accuse *Nature*, which published the research, of failing to meet its own transparency standards

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AlphaFold 3's code wasn't available during the review process for the *Nature* paper, either. Roland Dunbrack, a computational structural biologist at the Fox Chase Cancer Center and letter co-author, [says he received the manuscript](#) without any way to test the program. After contacting the journal, he got access to an early version of the web server, but repeated requests for code in the leadup to publication went unanswered, he says. "I don't understand why [*Nature's* editors] sent it out for review under those conditions."

The paper doesn't provide a justification, simply noting, "Code is not provided"—an omission that appears to "flagrantly violate" *Nature's* policies, says James Fraser, a structural biologist at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) and one of the letter's organizers. *Nature's* [submission guidelines](#) state that custom code supporting a paper's main claims must be made available to referees upon request, and its [editorial policies](#) specify that "authors are required to make [code] promptly available to readers without undue qualifications."

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Regardless, since the open letter was posted, DeepMind researchers have indicated that more information on AlphaFold 3 is on the way. A DeepMind media representative pointed *Science* to [a 13 May social media post](#) in which Kohli, another co-author, announced the increase in the web server's daily request limit to 20. The team is also “working on releasing the AF3 model” for academic use within 6 months, Kohli wrote, a move welcomed by researchers who spoke to *Science*.

Stephanie Wankowicz, a computational structural biologist at UCSF and another of the letter's organizers, says she hopes the episode will encourage the computational biology community to set concrete standards for research communication, particularly given the increasing influence of for-profit companies in this field.

It's also an opportunity for journals to reflect on their role in upholding scientific standards, Fraser says. If they apply standards selectively, “it's like they're the traffic cops that are letting some people speed and pulling other people over for rolling through a stop sign. And that's not fair.”

Accurate structure prediction of biomolecular interactions with AlphaFold 3

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-024-07487-w>

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There is a minor controversy over AlphaFold3, DeepMind's latest protein structure prediction model: the paper was published in Nature with insufficient supplementary info to reproduce the results. Even the reviewer was ...see more

Letter to the Editor: AlphaFold3

We are submitting the follow as a Letter to the Editor and will post the text immediately on Zenodo. If you would like to endorse to this letter, please fill out the form below.

Authors:

Stephanie A. Wankowicz, UCSF

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Letter to the Editor: AlphaFold3

<https://github.com/google-deepmind/alphafold3>

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for `google-deepmind/alphafold3`. The repository is public and has 63 watchers, 813 forks, and 6.5k stars. The main branch is `main` with 1 branch and 2 tags. The repository description is "AlphaFold 3 inference pipeline." The repository contains two folders: `.github/workflows` and `docker`. The `.github/workflows` folder has a commit message "Do not test ref_pos which depends on a specific RDKit ve..." and was updated 4 months ago. The `docker` folder has a commit message "Add a comment that HMMER can also be installed using ..." and was updated 5 months ago. The repository is owned by `Augustin-Zidek` and `copybara-github`. The repository has 19 issues, 1 pull request, and 148 commits. The repository is licensed under the Apache License 2.0.

google-deepmind / alphafold3

Type / to search

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About

AlphaFold 3 inference pipeline.

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Augustin-Zidek and copybara-github Mention unresolved residues in tem... 7a4a2f7 · last month 148 Commits

.github/workflows Do not test ref_pos which depends on a specific RDKit ve... 4 months ago

docker Add a comment that HMMER can also be installed using ... 5 months ago

Obtaining Model Parameters

This repository contains all necessary code for AlphaFold 3 inference. To request access to the AlphaFold 3 model parameters, please complete [this form](#). Access will be granted at Google DeepMind's sole discretion. We will aim to respond to requests within 2–3 business days. You may only use AlphaFold 3 model parameters if received directly from Google. Use is subject to these [terms of use](#).

<https://github.com/google-deepmind/alphafold3>

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Key things to know when using the AlphaFold 3 model parameters and output

1. The AlphaFold 3 model parameters and output are **only** available for non-commercial use by, or on behalf of, non-commercial organizations (*i.e.*, universities, non-profit organizations and research institutes, educational, journalism and government bodies). If you are a researcher affiliated with a non-commercial organization, provided **you are not a commercial organisation or acting on behalf of a commercial organisation**, this means you can use these for your non-commercial affiliated research.
2. You **must not** use nor allow others to use:
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 - ii. AlphaFold 3 output to **train machine learning models** or related technology for **biomolecular structure prediction** similar to AlphaFold 3.
3. You **must not publish or share AlphaFold 3 model parameters**, except sharing these within your organization in accordance with these Terms.
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Accurate structure prediction of biomolecular interactions with AlphaFold 3

[Josh Abramson](#), [Jonas Adler](#), [Jack Dunger](#), [Richard Evans](#), [Tim Green](#), [Alexander Pritzel](#), [Olaf Ronneberger](#), [Lindsay Willmore](#), [Andrew J. Ballard](#), [Joshua Bambrick](#), [Sebastian W. Bodenstein](#), [David A. Evans](#), [Chia-Chun Hung](#), [Michael O'Neill](#), [David Reiman](#), [Kathryn Tunyasuvunakool](#), [Zachary Wu](#), [Akvilė Žemgulytė](#), [Eirini Arvaniti](#), [Charles Beattie](#), [Ottavia Bertolli](#), [Alex Bridgland](#), [Alexey Cherepanov](#), [Miles Congreve](#), ... [John M. Jumper](#)  [+ Show authors](#)

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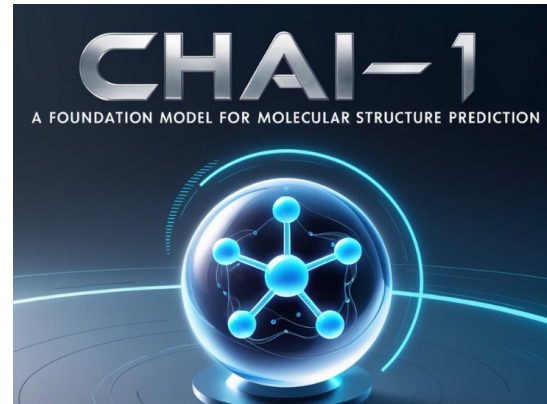


AlphaFold



AlphaFold

ESM3



Fold proteins with Boltz-1

HeliXonProtein/
OmegaFold

Protenix: Protein + X

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Chai-1

Chai-1 is a multi-modal foundation model for molecular structure prediction across a variety of benchmarks. Chai-1 enables unified prediction of protein structures, ligand binding, glycosylations, and more.

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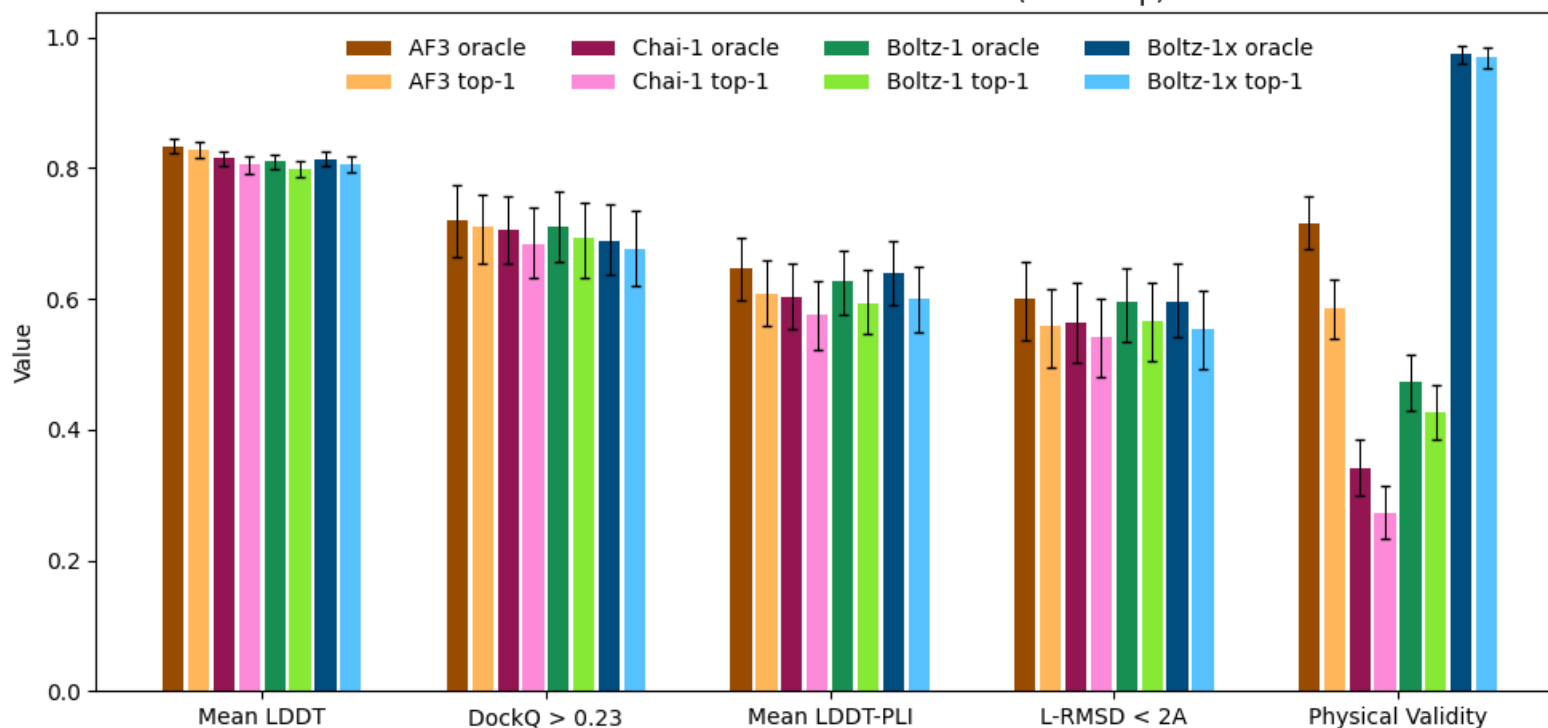
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Performances on PDB Test with 95% CI (Bootstrap)





Deep-learning-based single-domain and multidomain protein structure prediction with D-I-TASSER

Received: 13 April 2024

Accepted: 26 March 2025

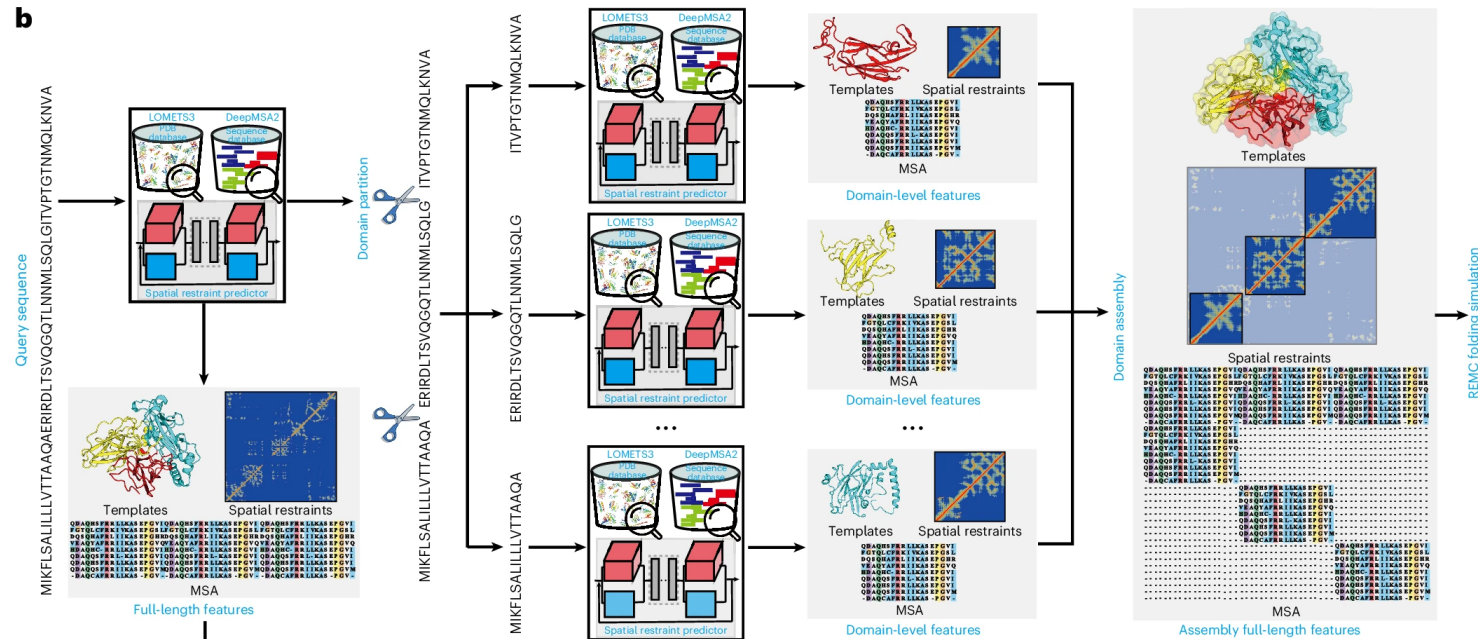
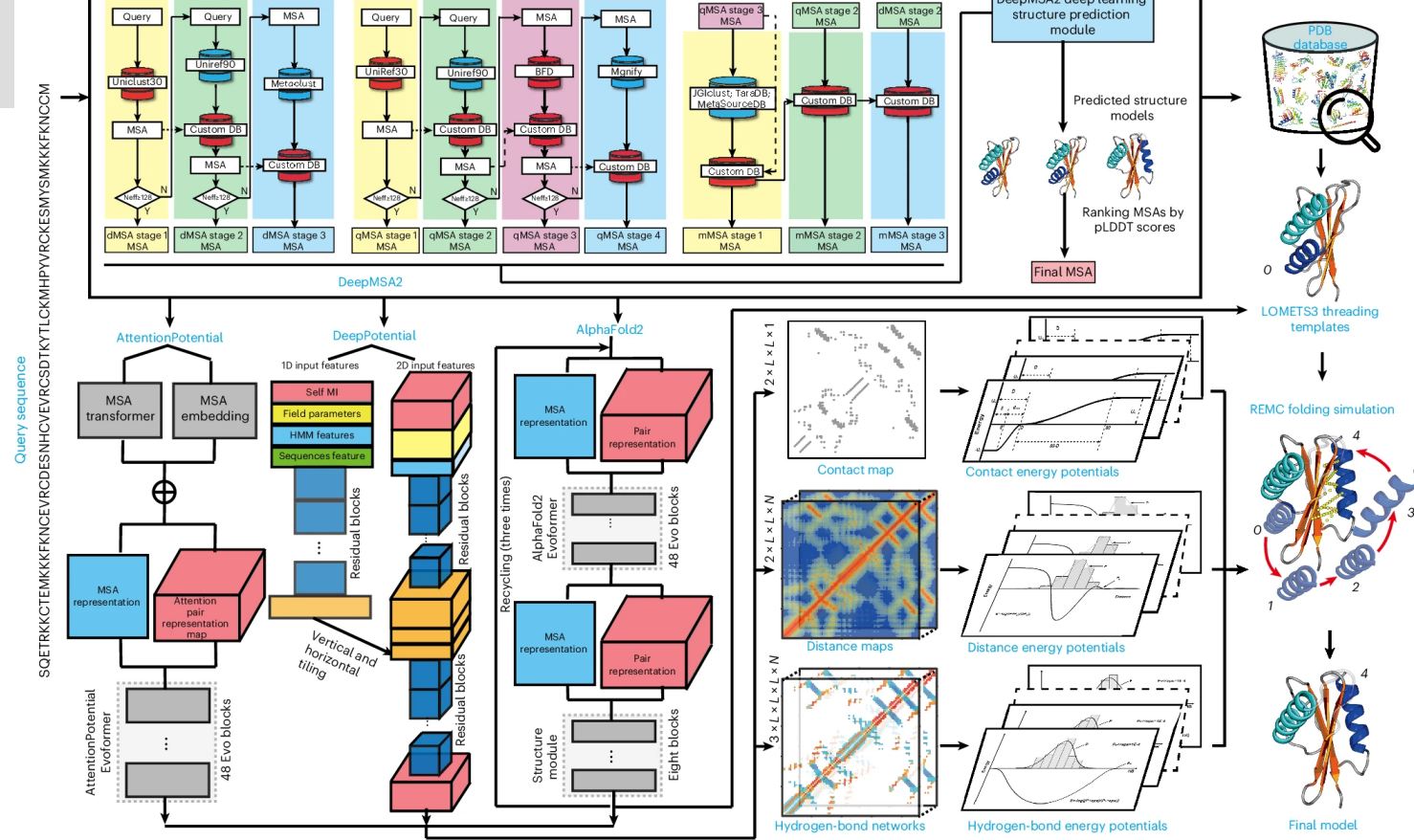
Published online: 23 May 2025

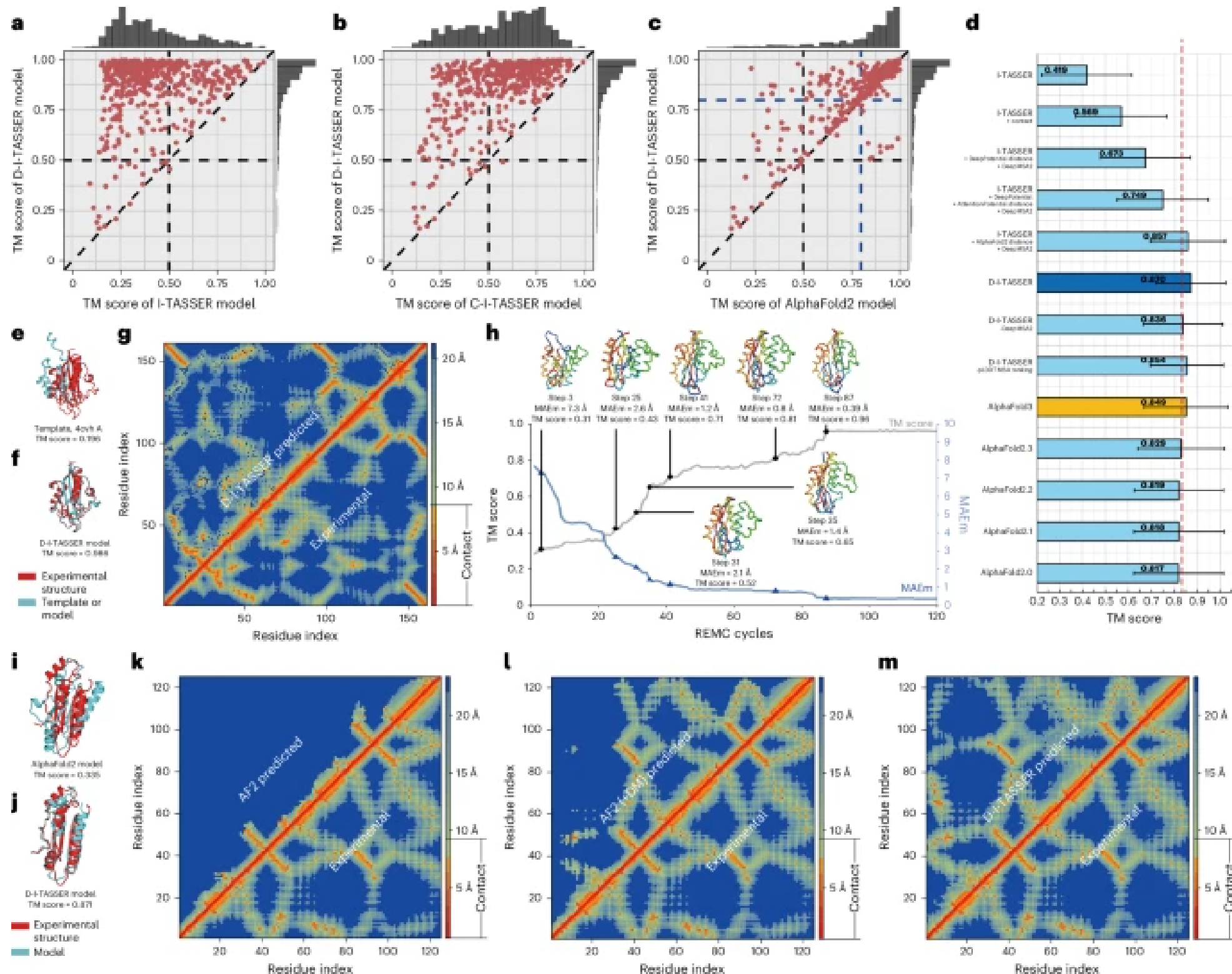


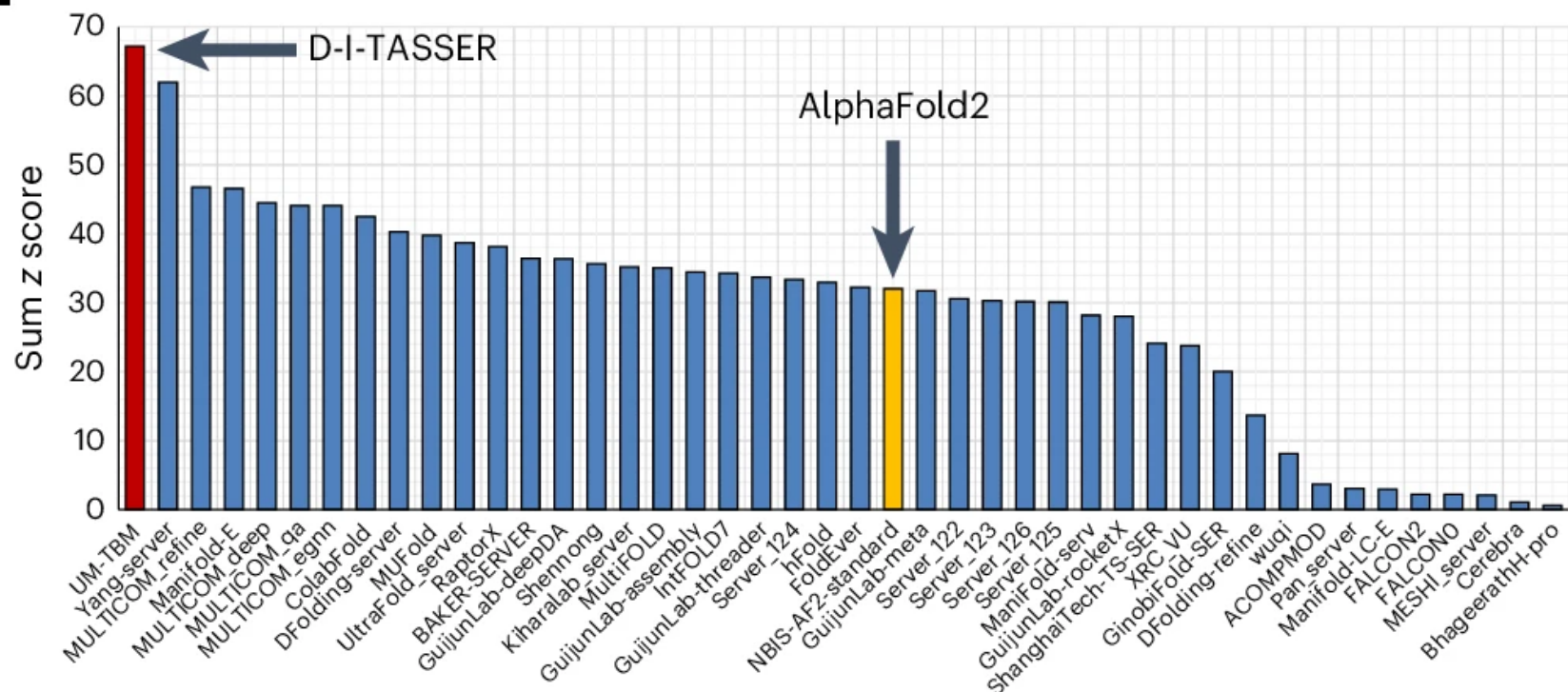
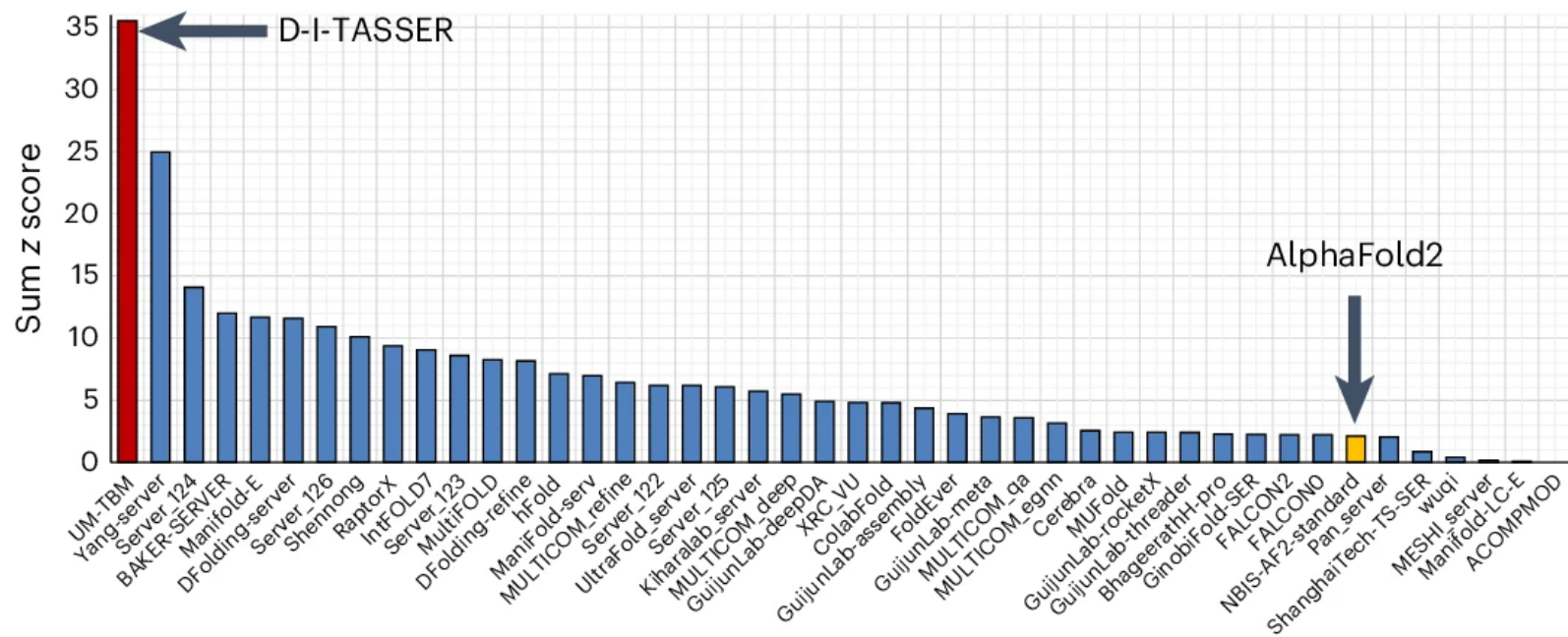
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Wei Zheng^{1,2,8}, Qiqige Wuyun^{3,8}, Yang Li^{4,8}, Quancheng Liu², Xiaogen Zhou², Chunxiang Peng^{2,5}, Yiheng Zhu², Lydia Freddolino^{2,5}✉ & Yang Zhang^{4,6,7}✉

The dominant success of deep learning techniques on protein structure prediction has challenged the necessity and usefulness of traditional force field-based folding simulations. We proposed a hybrid approach, deep-learning-based iterative threading assembly refinement (D-I-TASSER),





a**b**

'regular modeling' (a) and 'interdomain modeling' (b)

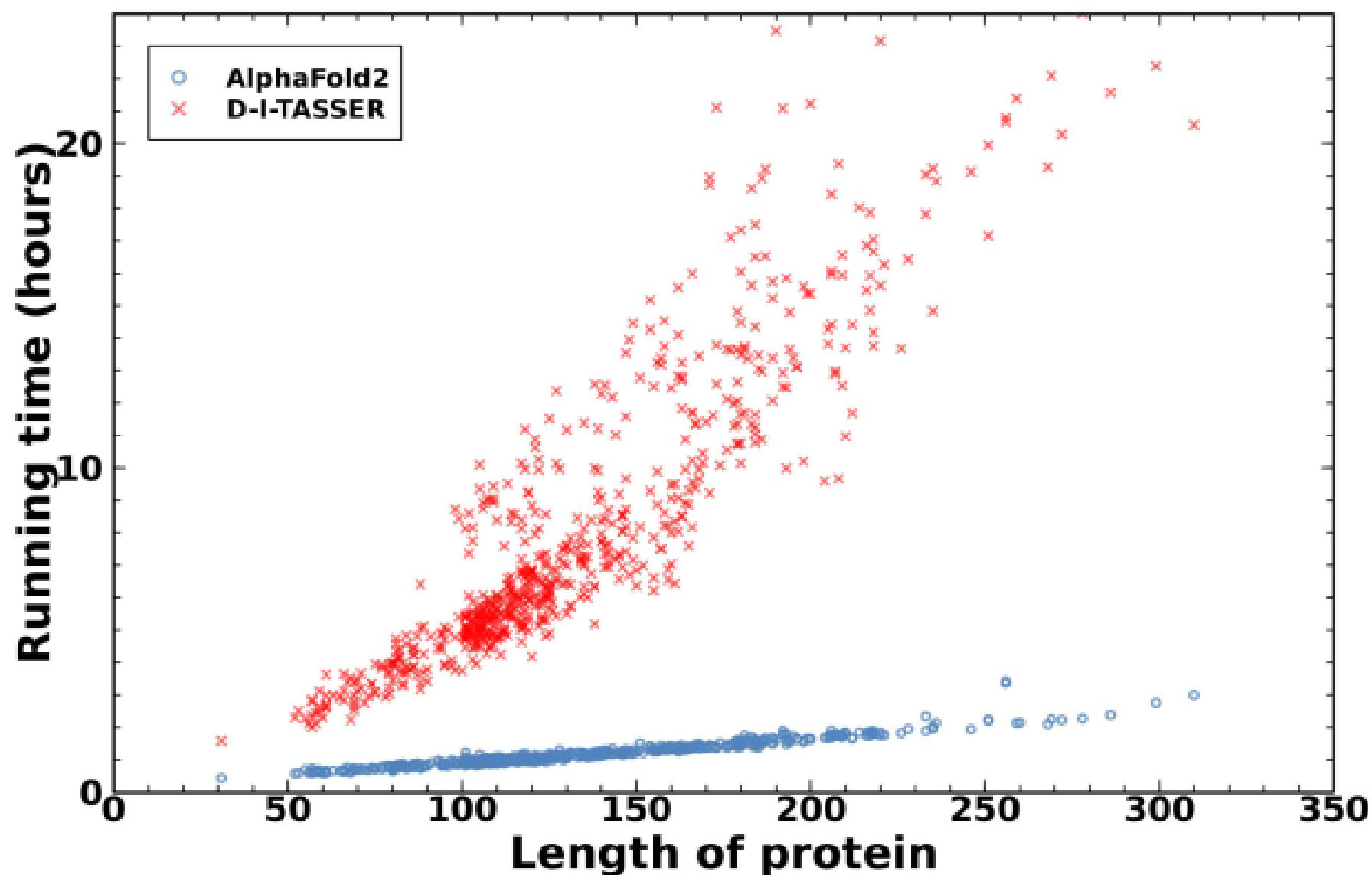
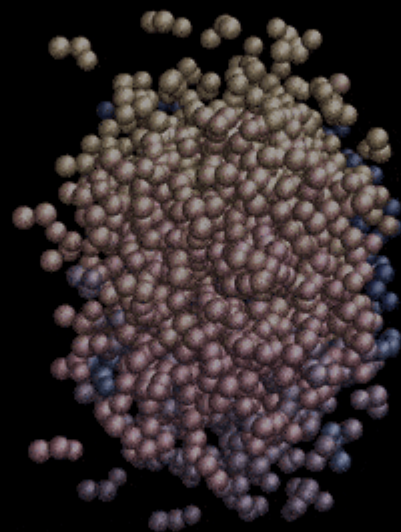
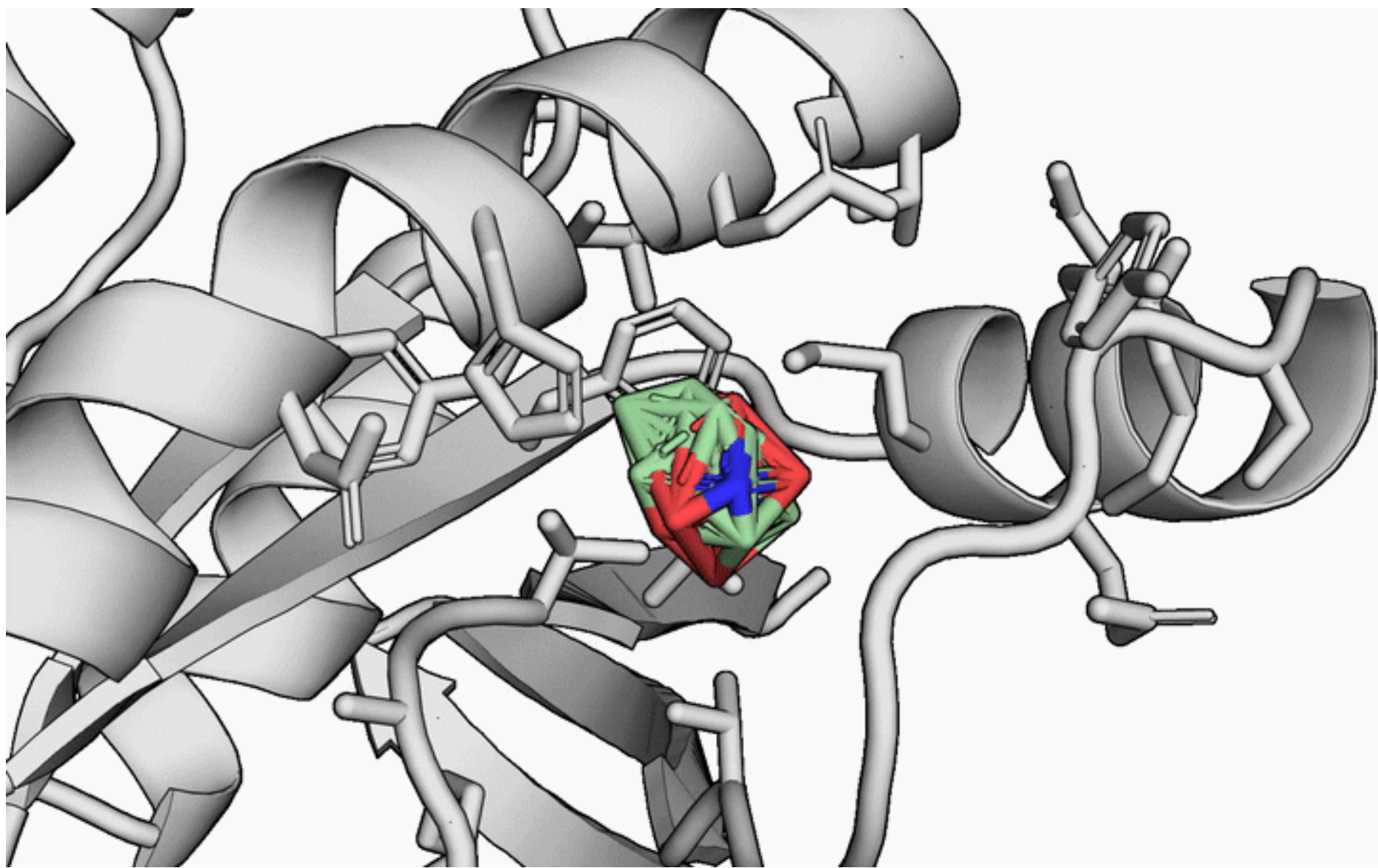


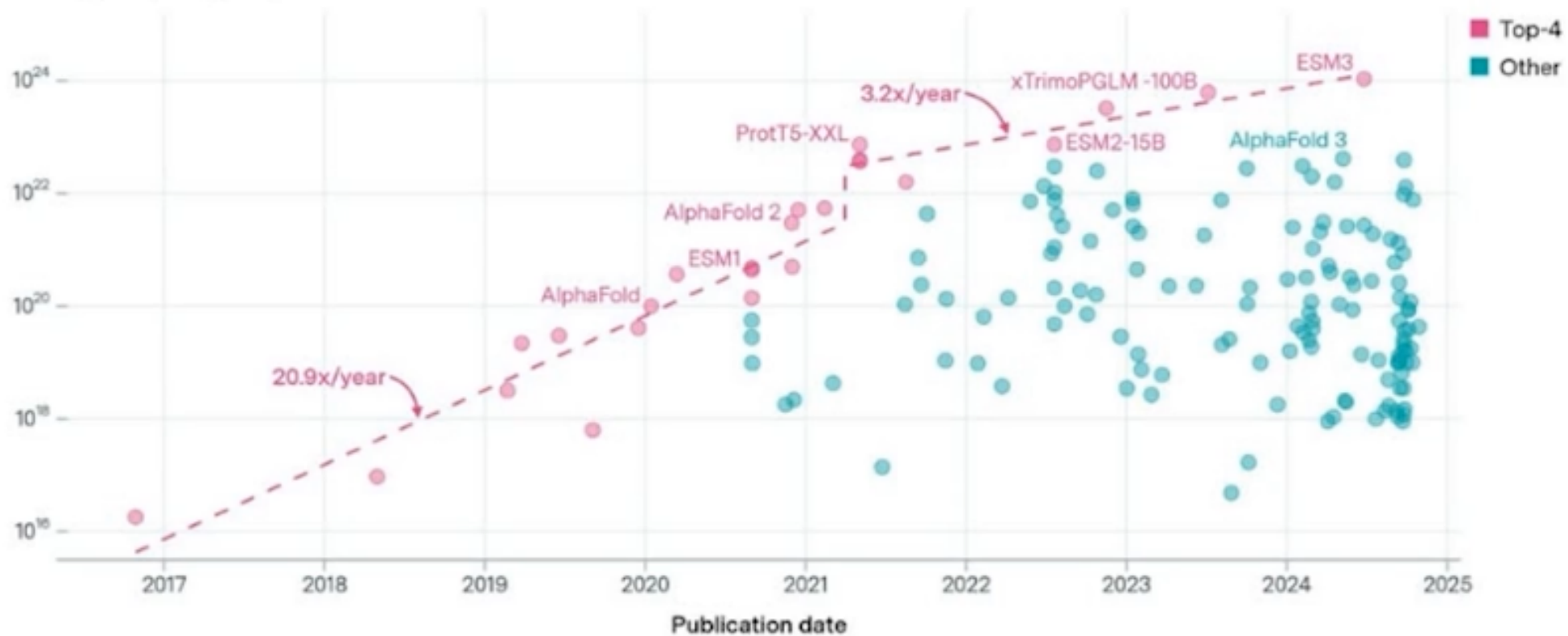
Fig. S13. Comparison of time requirements for D-I-TASSER and AlphaFold2 on different size proteins on a dataset of 645 proteins. Both programs were run using 10 CPUs with parallel processing, generating 5 models each. The AlphaFold2 program was executed with default settings, including 1 ensemble, full_dbs and monomer pipeline as implemented in AlphaFold version 2.2.0. The running time reported excludes the DeepMSA2 search time, as the speed of large database searches is largely influenced by I/O performance. For instance, storing databases on SSD or NVMe drives can significantly reduce search time.





Training compute of biological models

Training compute (FLOP)



Generative models

Model	Paradigm	Output	Training Data Sources					Postprocessing Required for All-Atom Designs			Ability for TEV protease conditional design
			RCSB PDB	SCOPe	CATH	UniRef	BFD	Backbone Refinement (RosettaMinMover)	Sequence Design (ProteinMPNN)	Structure Prediction (OmegaFold)	
RFdiffusion ¹¹	D(Str)	BC	✓						✓	✓	✓
Genie ¹²	D(Str)	BC (C α)		✓					✓	✓	
ProteinSGM ¹³	D(Str)	BC			✓			✓	✓	✓	
FoldingDiff ¹⁴	D(Str)	BC			✓				✓	✓	
FrameDiff ¹⁵	D(Str)	BC	✓						✓	✓	
Chroma ¹⁶	D(Str)	FTS	✓								✓
Protpardelle ¹⁷	D(Str)	FTS			✓				*		✓
ProteinGenerator ¹⁸	D(Seq)	FTS	✓							**	✓
EvoDiff ⁶	D(Seq)	Sequences				✓				✓	✓
RITA ⁷	APLM	Sequences				✓				✓	
ProGen2 ⁸	APLM	Sequences				✓	✓			✓	
ProtGPT2 ⁹	APLM	Sequences				✓				✓	
ESM-Design ¹⁰	MTPLM	Sequences				✓				✓	

Generate:Biomedicines

Generate:*Chroma*

A generative model
for protein design

Generate:Biomedicines

Generative Biology

<https://generatebiomedicines.com/chroma>

Thank you for your time
and
See you at the next lecture

Any other
questions & comments

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