



Macromolecules and Interactions

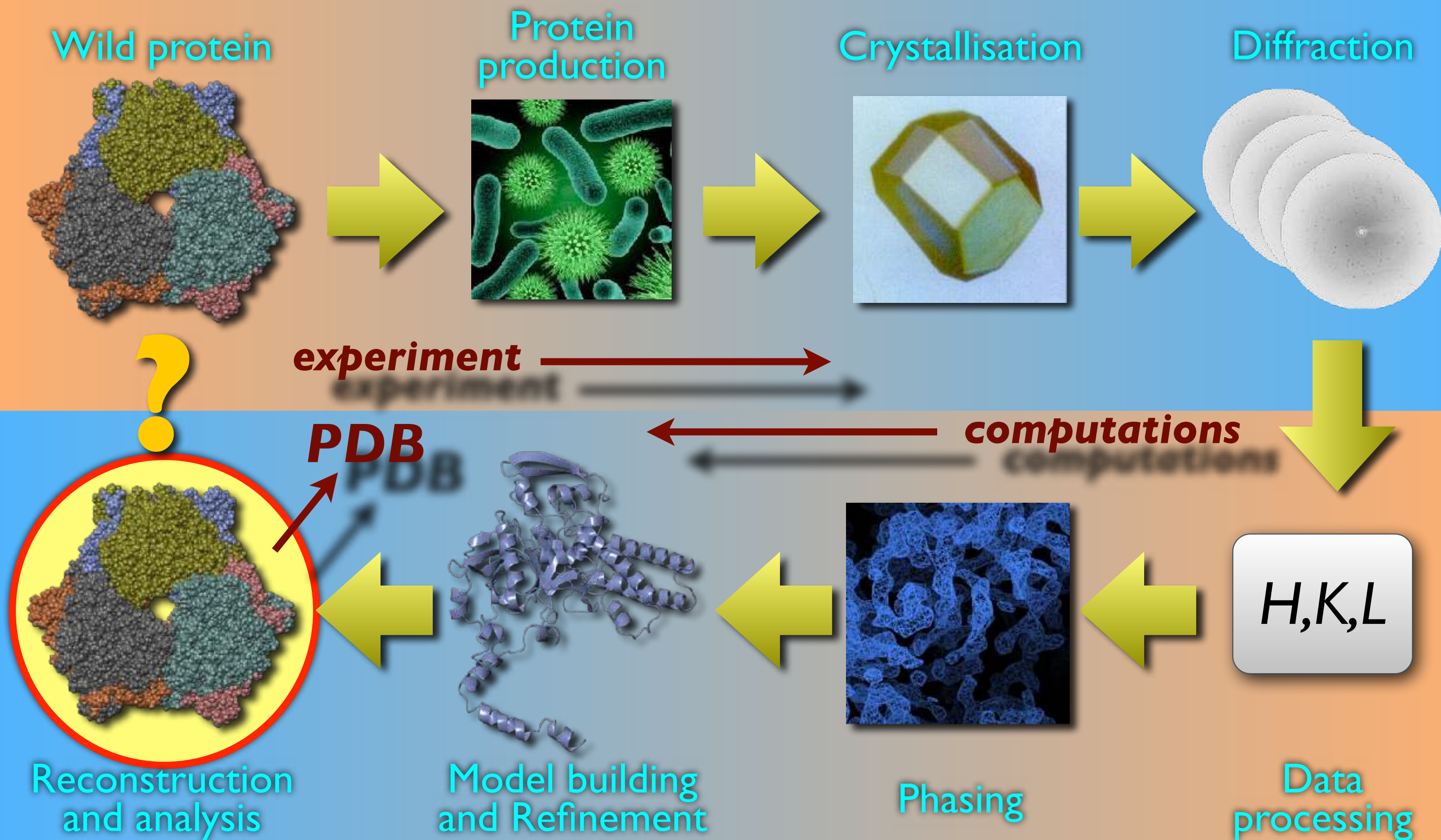
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CCP4/DLS Data Collection and Analysis Workshop
DLS, Harwell, United Kingdom, 27 Nov - 5 Dec 2023

MX Schematic Loop



What do we solve structures for?

★ In general, for learning about interaction between biomolecules:

- *enzyme functioning*
- *transport mechanisms*
- *chemical signalling*
-

★ Why structure? There are better methods to study interactions.

- *hope to understand important interaction in fine details*
- *hope to learn key features and optimise experimentation*
- *hope to learn how to predict interactions*
- *hope to learn how to control interactions (drugs, medicine)*

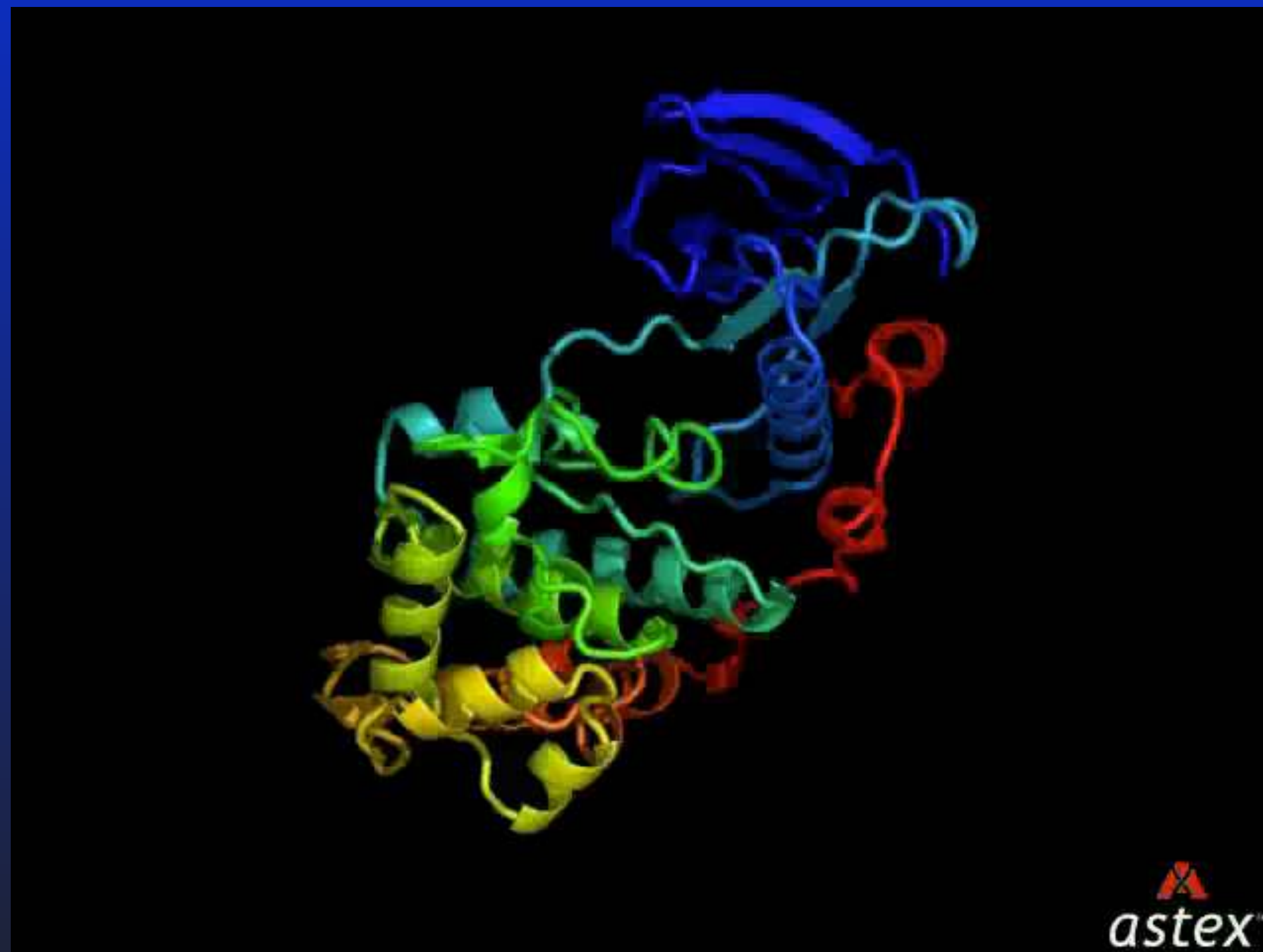
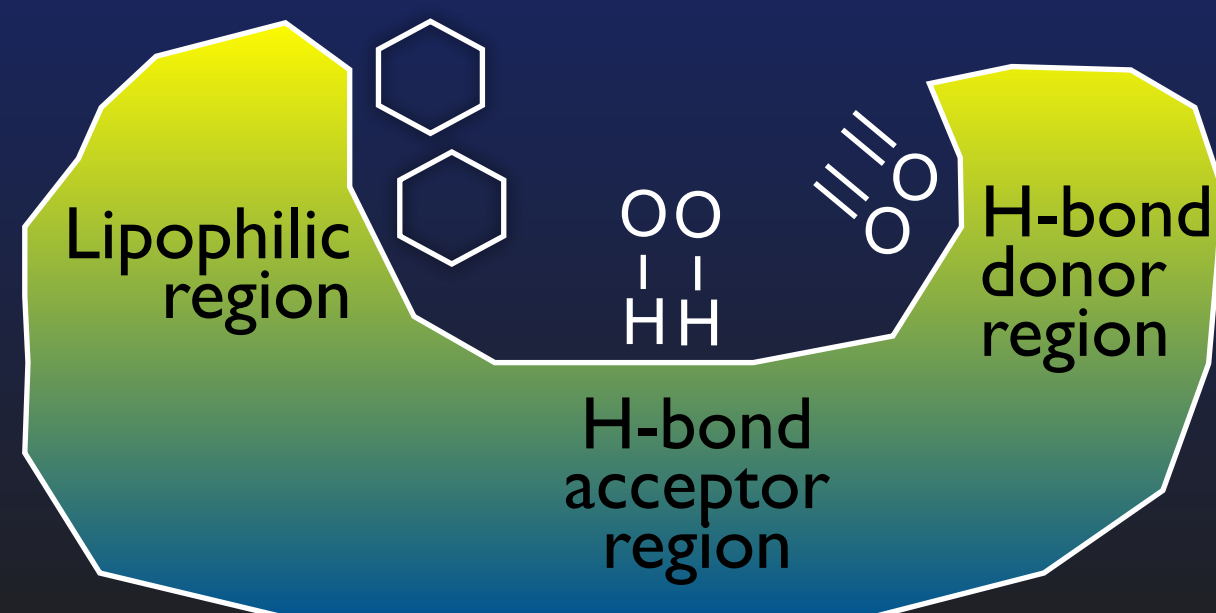


Intelligent Drug Design

★ A generic name for many methods aimed to discover new drugs by means better than at random

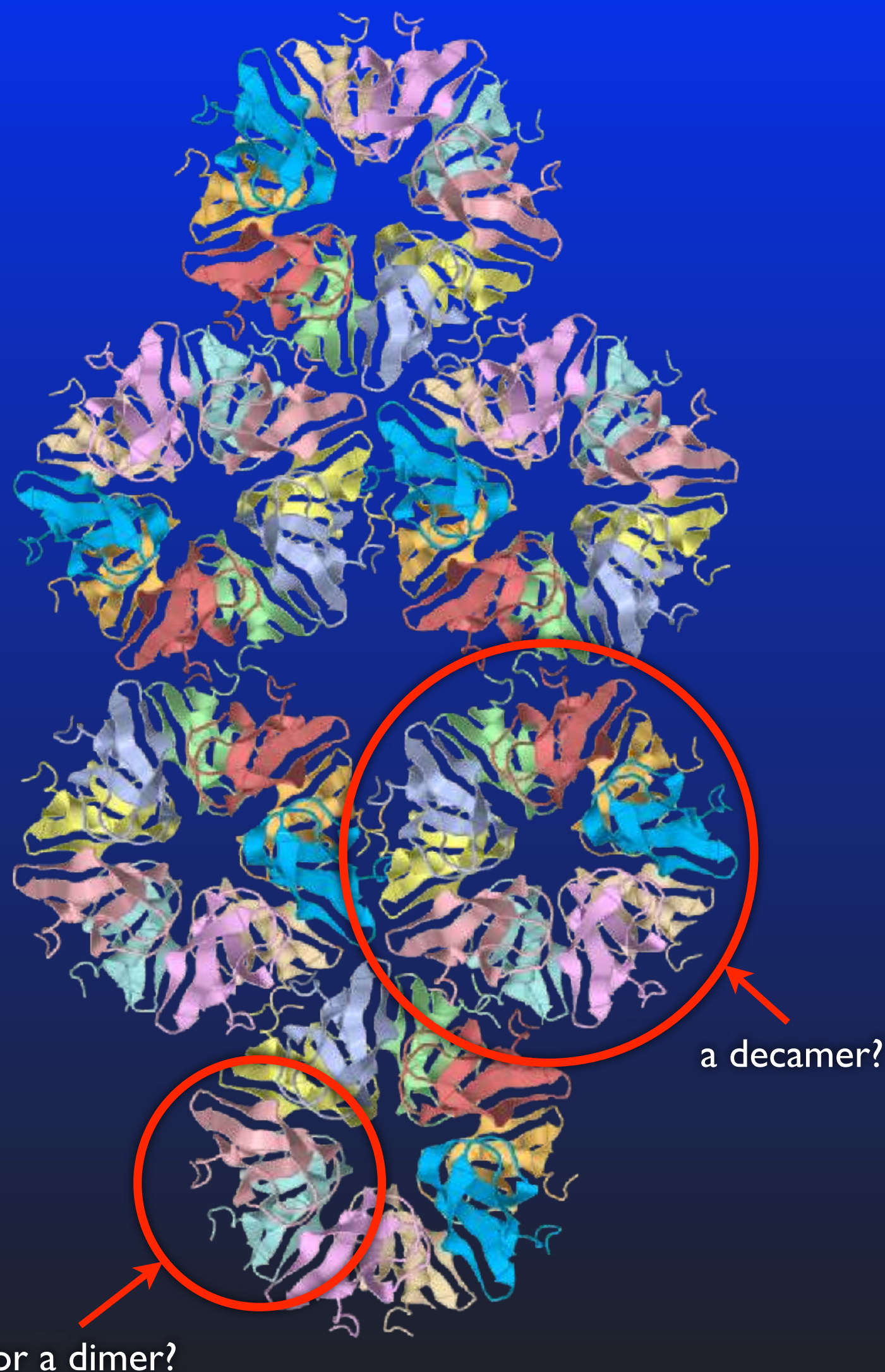
- *Bioinformatics*
- *Directed Combinatorial Chemistry*
- *Computer-Assisted Drug Design*
- *Structure-Based Drug Design*
- *Fragment-Based Drug Design*

★ Basic idea: find a molecule that blocks the “right” protein’s active site, or suggest how such a molecule should look like



astex™

From web-site of ASTEX Pharmaceutical



★ Macromolecular crystals present us with **models** of biological structures and interactions between them

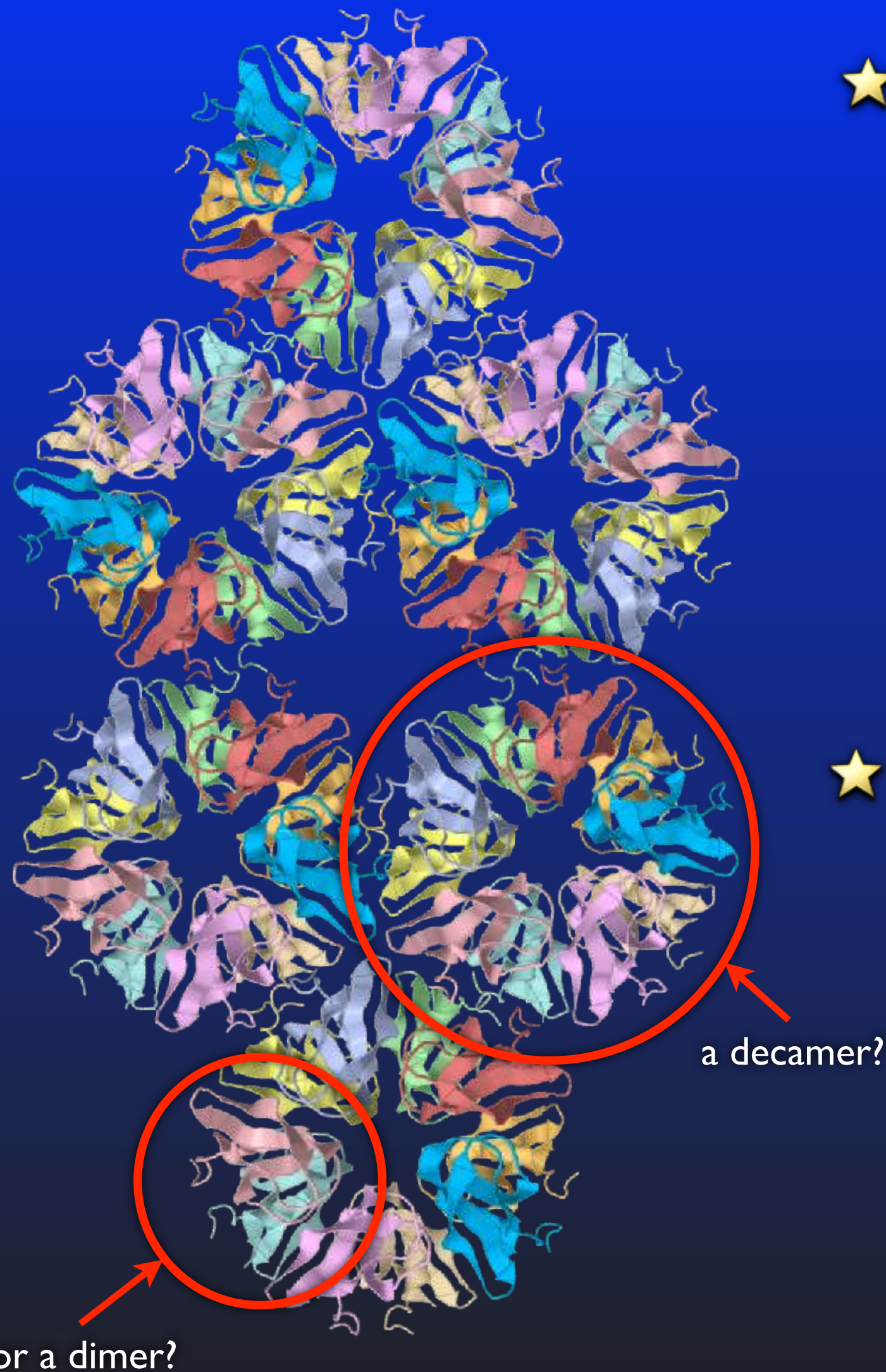
➡ “if you want to know how A interacts with B - crystallise them together!” (crystallographer’s sweet dream, *but does this always work?*)

➡ interactions make complexes

➡ complexes make biology

➡ biology tells which drug





- ★ Crystals present us with both real (“significant”) and artifactual interactions, which may be difficult to differentiate. Frequently used techniques:

Rules of thumb: e.g. manifestation in different crystal forms

Experimental: complementing studies (MS, EM, NMR, scattering)

Bioinformatical: homology and interface similarity analysis

Computational: energy estimates and modelling

- ★ PISA software infers significant interactions and macromolecular assemblies from crystal data by evaluating their free Gibbs energy:

$$\Delta G_0 = - \Delta G_{\text{int}} - T \Delta S > 0$$

<http://www.ccp4.ac.uk/pisa>



$$\Delta G_0 = -\Delta G_{\text{int}} - T\Delta S > 0$$



The PDB does indeed contain a wealth of experimental data on macromolecular complexes

More than 80% of macromolecular structures are solved by means of X-ray diffraction on crystals.

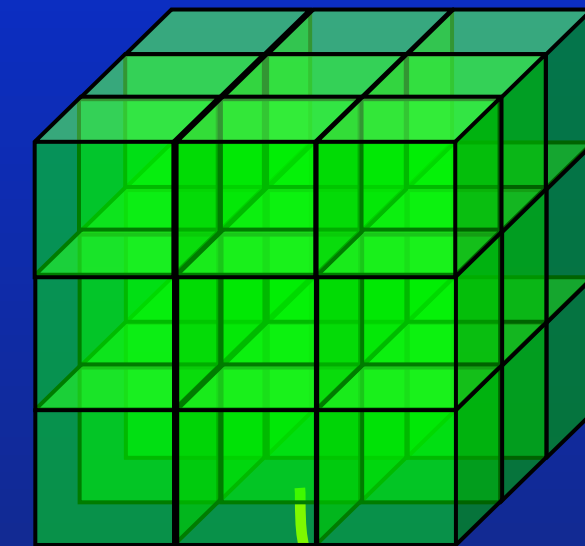
Any crystal represents macromolecular interactions and associations through inter-molecular interfaces

An X-ray diffraction experiment produces atomic coordinates of the Asymmetric Unit (ASU), which is stored as a PDB file.

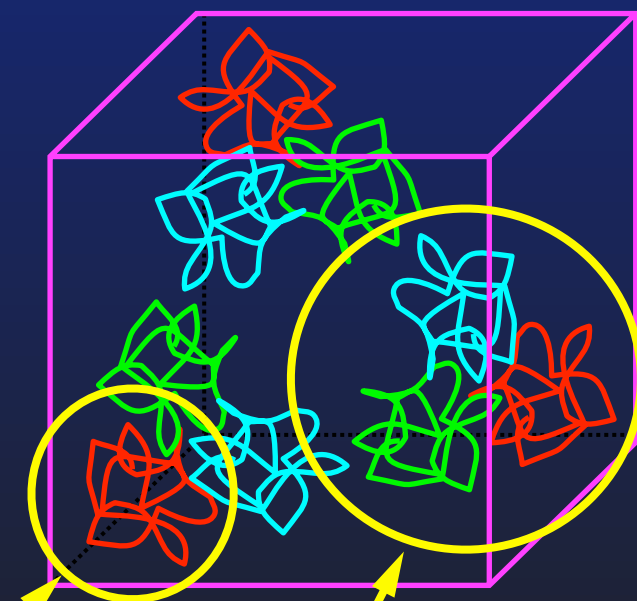
In general, neither ASU nor Unit Cell has any direct relation to a biologically-relevant complex. The complex may be made of

- a single ASU
- a part of ASU
- several ASU
- several ASU parts

Crystal = translated Unit Cells



Unit Cell = all space symmetry group mates of ASU



PDB file
(ASU)

Biological
Unit



Detection of Biological Units in Crystals: PISA summary

1. Enumerate all possible multimeric assemblies in crystal packing, subject to crystal properties: space symmetry group, geometry and composition of the Asymmetric Unit

- Achieved with graph-theoretical techniques, by representing crystal as an infinite periodic graph of connected macromolecules
- Equivalent to splitting the crystal in all possible ways over groups of chemically equivalent interfaces, by considering each group to be engaged or disengaged

2. Evaluate all candidate assemblies for chemical stability:

$$\Delta G_0 = - \Delta G_{\text{int}} - T \Delta S > 0$$

3. Leave only sets of stable assemblies in the list, and range them by chances to be a biological unit:

- Larger assemblies take preference
- Single-assembly sets take preference
- Otherwise, assemblies with higher ΔG_0 take preference



Contents

- Data
- Monomers
- Interfaces
- Assembly stock
- Crystal splits
 - Stable splits
 - Metastable splits
 - Unstable splits
 - Unsplitted

File: /Users/Eugen

Title: HSLV-HSLU FR

Space group: P 63 2 2

Resolution: 2.8

Cell: 172.022 172.022 172.022

Cell volume [Å³]: 7.088e+06

ASU (File) contents:

- Protein chains: 6 (6)
- DNA/RNA chains: 0 (0)
- Ligands: 2 (2)
- NCS-mates: 0

CCP4MG version 2.7.3

Excluded ligands: None

Contents

- Data
- ▶ Monomers
- ▶ Interfaces
- Assembly stock
- ▼ Crystal splits

	Split No.	Size	Type	ASA	BSA	dG_diss
1	1	12	1	77218.4	25619.7	31.6
2		12	1	77204.3	25139.2	22.4
3	6	2	104504.1	32216.1	69.2	
4		12	1	77218.4	25619.7	31.6
5		12	1	77204.3	25139.2	22.4

CCP4MG version 2.7.3

CCP4MG version 2.7.3

jsPISA 2.0.3 [PDB 1e94]

www.ccp4.ac.uk/pisa/sessions/LQ-821-SI/index.html

Search



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Input

Monomers

Interfaces

Stock

Crystal Splits

Log file

Interfaces

▼ List of interfaces

▼ 1. F || E

Bonds

Residues

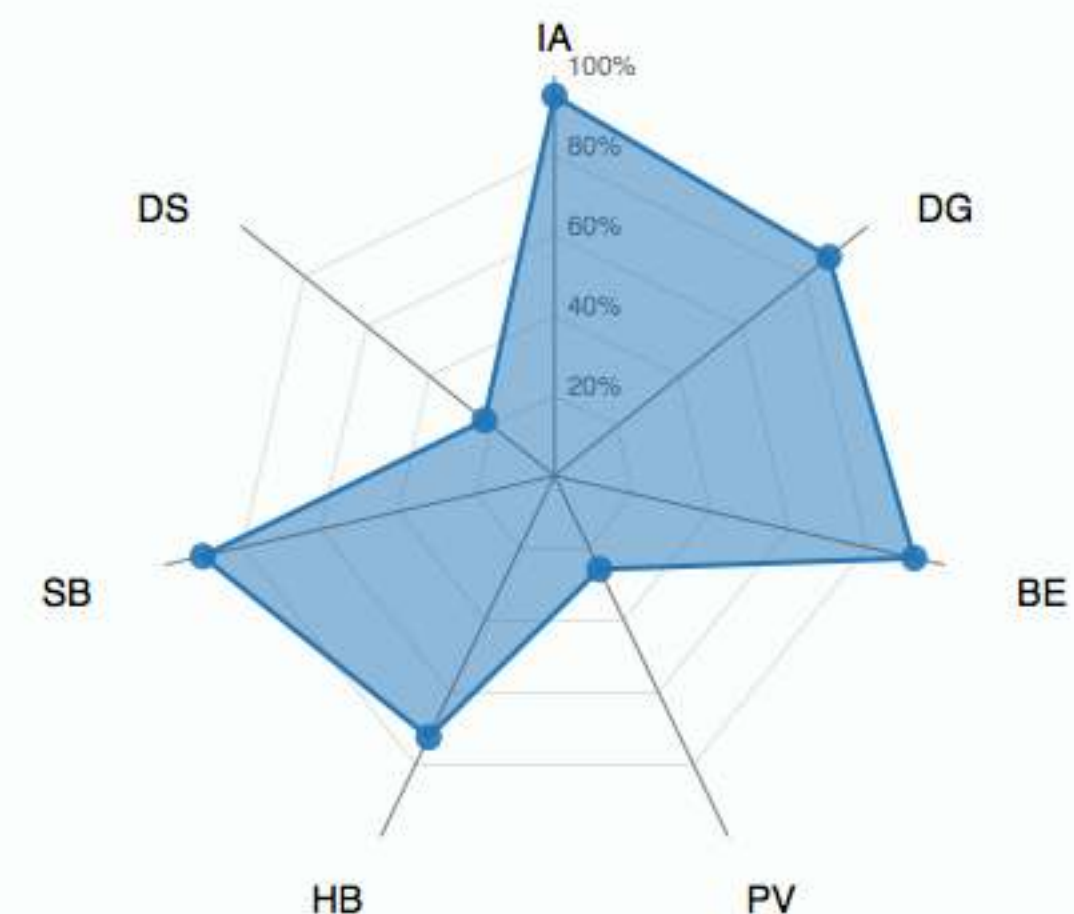
- ▶ 2. E || F
- ▶ 3. E || E
- ▶ 4. A || B
- ▶ 5. B || A
- ▶ 6. D || C
- ▶ 7. D || C
- ▶ 8. B || A
- ▶ 9. D || C
- ▶ 10. C || C
- ▶ 11. A || A
- ▶ 12. B || B
- ▶ 13. D || D
- ▶ 14. [ANP]E:500 || E
- ▶ 15. [ANP]F:501 || F
- ▶ 16. F || B
- ▶ 17. E || A
- ▶ 18. C || F
- ▶ 19. E || A
- ▶ 20. [ANP]E:500 || F
- ▶ 21. E || [ANP]F:501
- ▶ 22. F || E
- ▶ 23. E || E
- ▶ 24. F || F

Interface F || E

Summary

	Monomer 1		Monomer 2	
Monomer ID	F		E	
Class	Protein		Protein	
Symmetry operation	X,Y,Z		X,Y,Z	
Symmetry ID	1_555		1_555	
Interface atoms	232	7.3%	221	6.9%
Surface atoms	1925	60.5%	1921	60.4%
Total atoms	3184	100.0%	3183	100.0%
Interface residues	66	16.1%	65	15.9%
Surface residues	380	92.9%	385	94.4%
Total residues	409	100.0%	408	100.0%
BSA, Å ²	2146.6	9.6%	2345.5	10.6%
ASA, Å ²	22253.4	100.0%	22072.6	100.0%
Solvation energy, kcal/mol	-331.9		-334.3	
SE gain, kcal/mol	-7.5		-5.0	

Interaction radar



Interface parameters

IA	: Interface area, Å ²	2246
DG	: Solvation Energy, kcal/mol	-12.46
BE	: Total Binding Energy, kcal/mol	-26.65
PV	: Hydrophobic P-value	0.3542
HB	: Number of Hydrogen Bonds	11
SB	: Number of Salt Bridges	25
DS	: Number of Disulphide Bonds	0

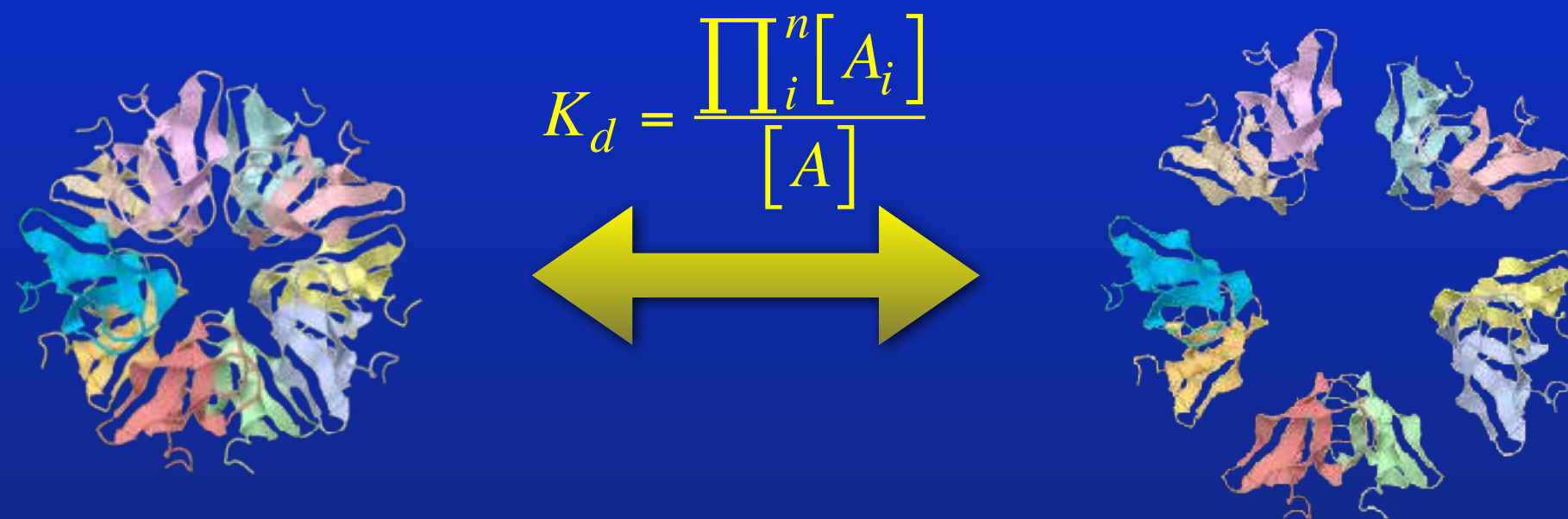
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View in JSMol

What is “A Stable Complex?”

- ★ Chemical systems always move towards equilibrium:



- ★ PISA reports the Free Gibbs Energy, $\Delta G_0 = -RT \log K_d$, how to interpret?

♦ *In general, if the equilibrium is shifted to the left ($K_d < 1$), the complex is stable.*

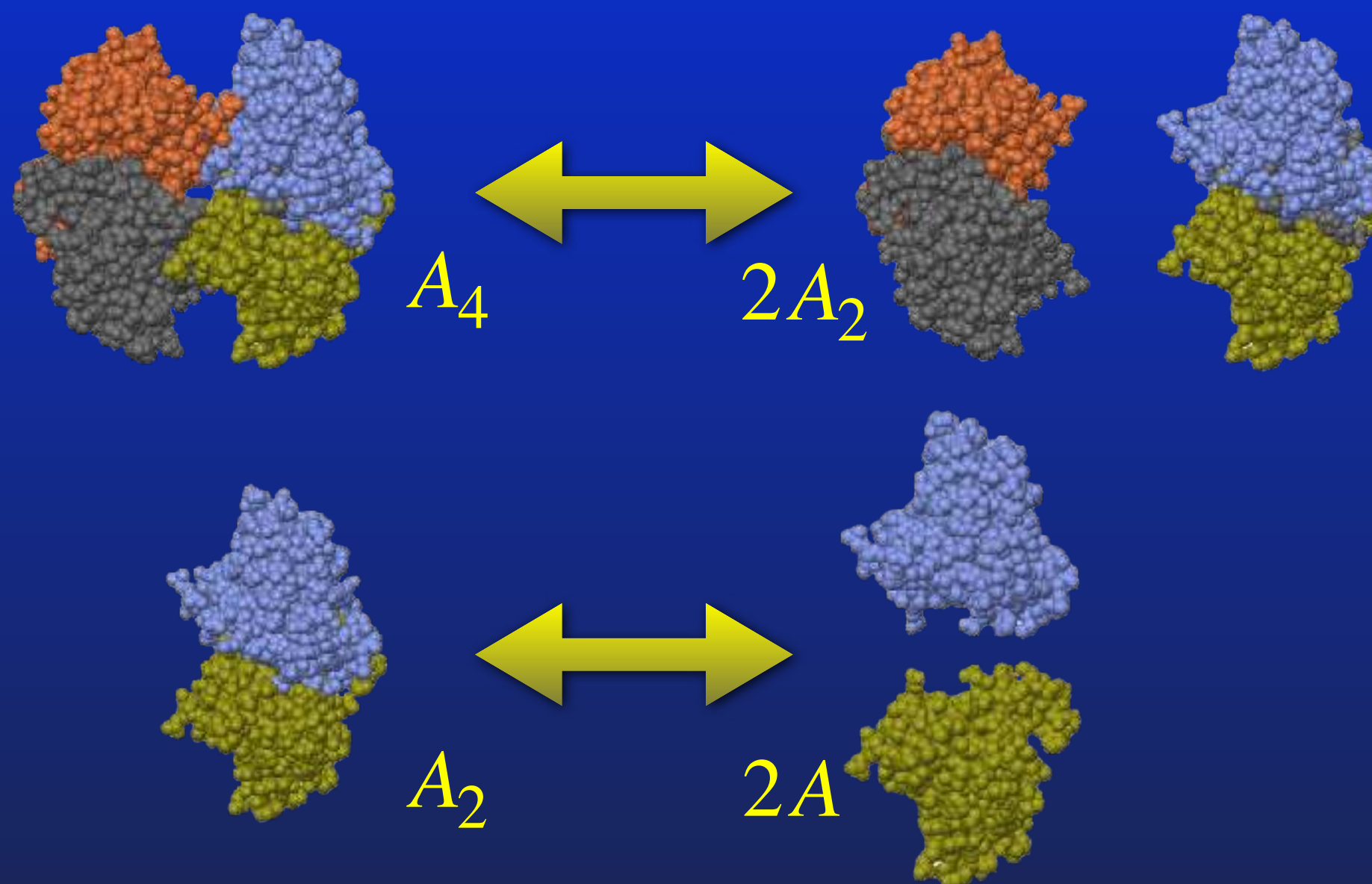
- But does this always mean that stable complex has higher concentration than the dissociates? - no it does not
- And this depends on the concentration anyway? - yes it does
- And it also depends on the dissociation pattern (dissociation into monomers, dimers, trimers etc.)? How to identify the pattern?

- *the pattern is, in essence, the minimum free energy route of dissociation*
 - *is the minimum free energy route always unique?*
 - *does it not depend on concentration (temperature, pH, etc.), too?*



Is ΔG_0 Sufficient as an Indicator?

★ Consider PDB entry 3LT5:



$$\Delta G_0 = 3 \text{ kcal} / M$$

$$\Delta G_0 = 10 \text{ kcal} / M$$

The tetramer is weaker than the dimer, so one may think that the structure is dimeric

But the tetramer is equilibrated with the dimer, so that their concentrations can be comparable

What is the correct answer?



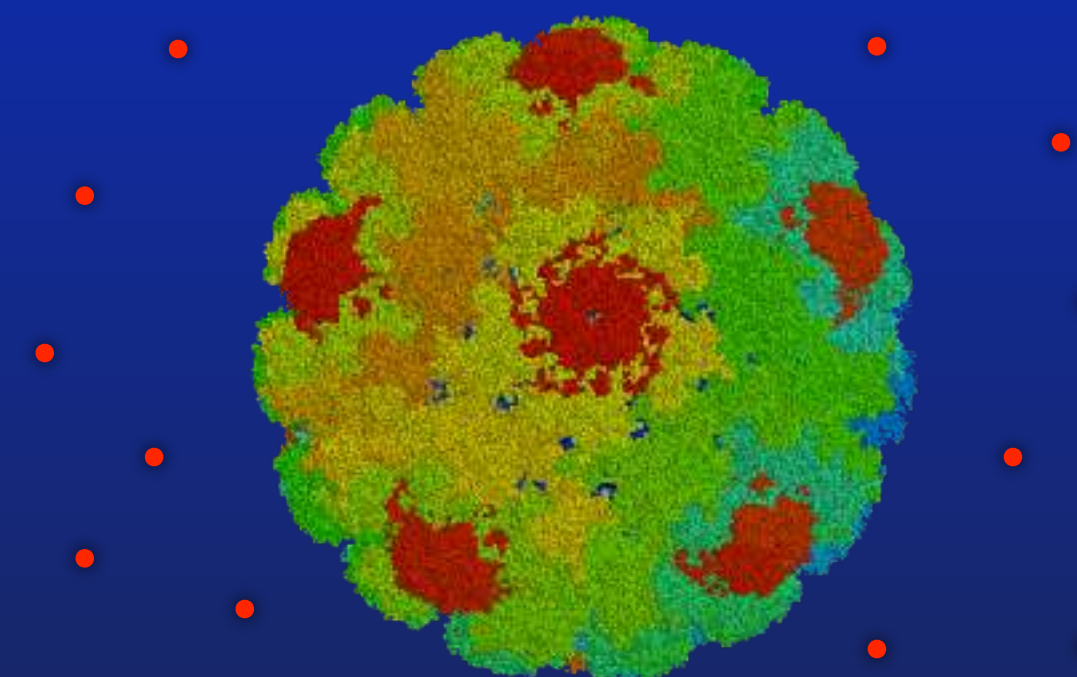
The Stock

- ★ All possible complexes co-exist in dynamic equilibrium and form a “stock”
- *PISA's Stock is limited to complexes formed by crystal interfaces*
- ★ Their stock concentrations do vary
- ★ Concentrations depend on free energy of dissociation *and stock composition*
- ★ Concentration-based analysis is not very indicative:

for the equilibrium between large complex and its monomeric units on the right,

$$[A_{360}] \ll [A]$$

*from which one could conclude that the complex is unstable;
but obviously, the protein is highly aggregated*



- ★ Aggregated states are better indicated by the aggregation index:

$$A_i = \frac{m_i}{\sum_j m_j}$$

m_i mass of i th species in the Stock

$$0 < A_i < 1$$

fully dissolved

fully aggregated





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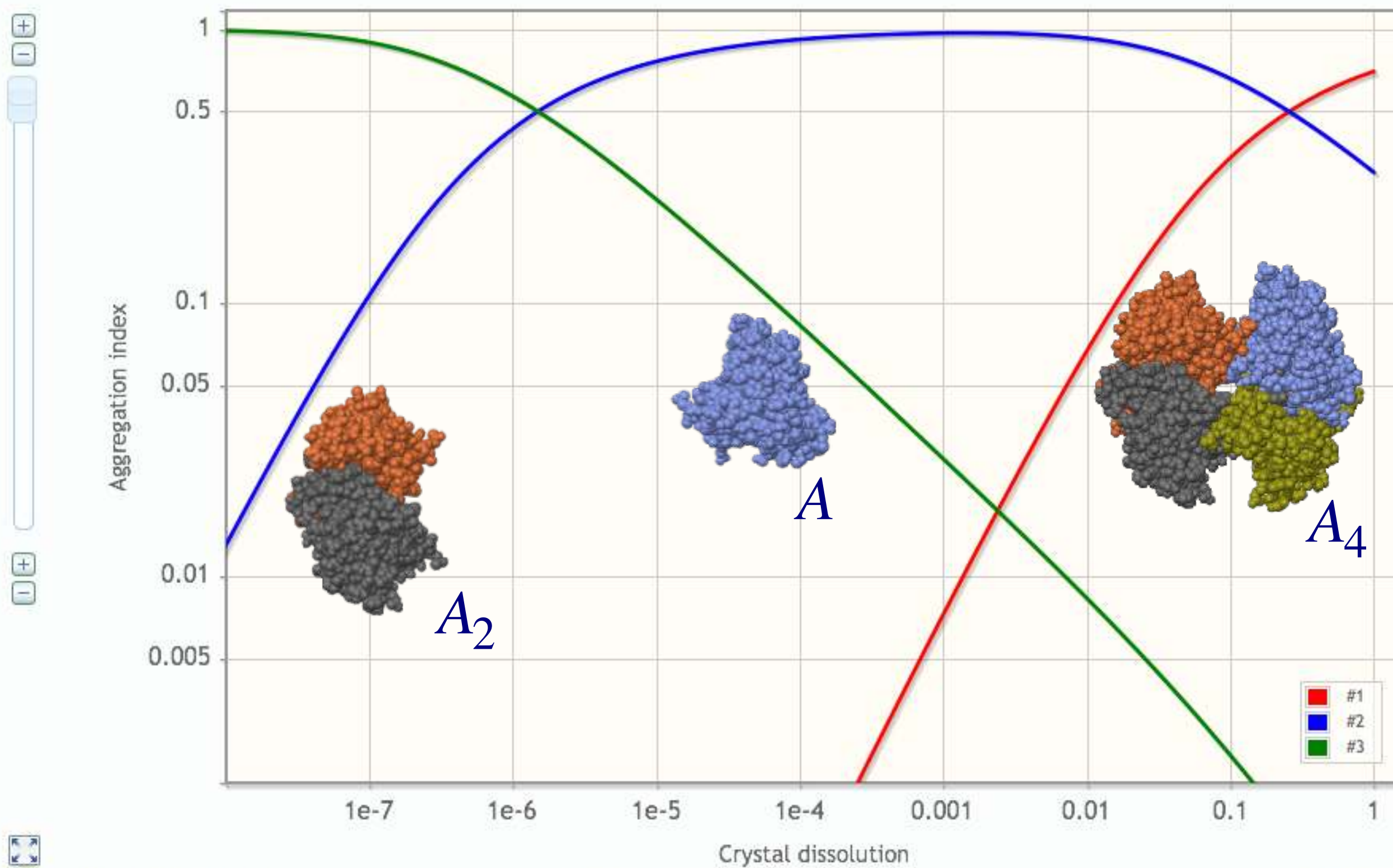
Monomers

Interfaces

Stock

Crystal Splits

Log file



aggregation index



Crystal dissolution



Stock components

##	Plot	Size	Type	ASA	BSA	dG_diss	dG0	Formula	Composition
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	1	32286.1	12422.8	3.3	23.4	A_4a_4	$A_2B_2[FMN]_4$
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	2	17385.7	4968.7	10.1	10.1	A_2a_2	$AB[FMN]_2$
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	3	10722.4	726.1	0.0	0.0	Aa	$A[FMN]$

Stock-Based Analysis Makes a Difference

★ Example of PDB entry **3IMP**

- “standard” PISA analysis suggests that the structure can be dodecameric
- dodecamers are weak, but still marginally stronger than the tetramers
- not completely clear which dodecamer to choose

CCP4 on-line

jsPISA 2.0.3 [PDB 3imp]

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Input Monomers Interfaces Stock **Crystal Splits** Log file

Crystal Splits

▼ Stable splits

- 1-1. A(12)
- 2-2. A(12)
- 3-3. A(4)
- 3-4. A(4)
- 3-5. A(4)

► Metastable splits

Unstable splits

► No-crystal analysis

Crystal splits in Stable Assemblies

The following quaternary structures appear to be stable in solution

##	Split No.	Size	Type	ASA	BSA	dG_diss	dG0	Formula	Composition
1	1	12	1	69248.0	21061.4	9.9	9.9	A ₁₂	ABCDEFGHIJKL
2	2	12	2	69695.5	20613.9	6.9	6.9	A ₁₂	ABCDEFGHIJKL
3	3	4	3	24107.1	5972.3	5.9	5.9	A ₄	AFGH
4		4	3	24124.9	5941.7	4.5	6.8	A ₄	IJKL
5		4	3	24243.1	5920.2	3.9	3.9	A ₄	BCDE

Input

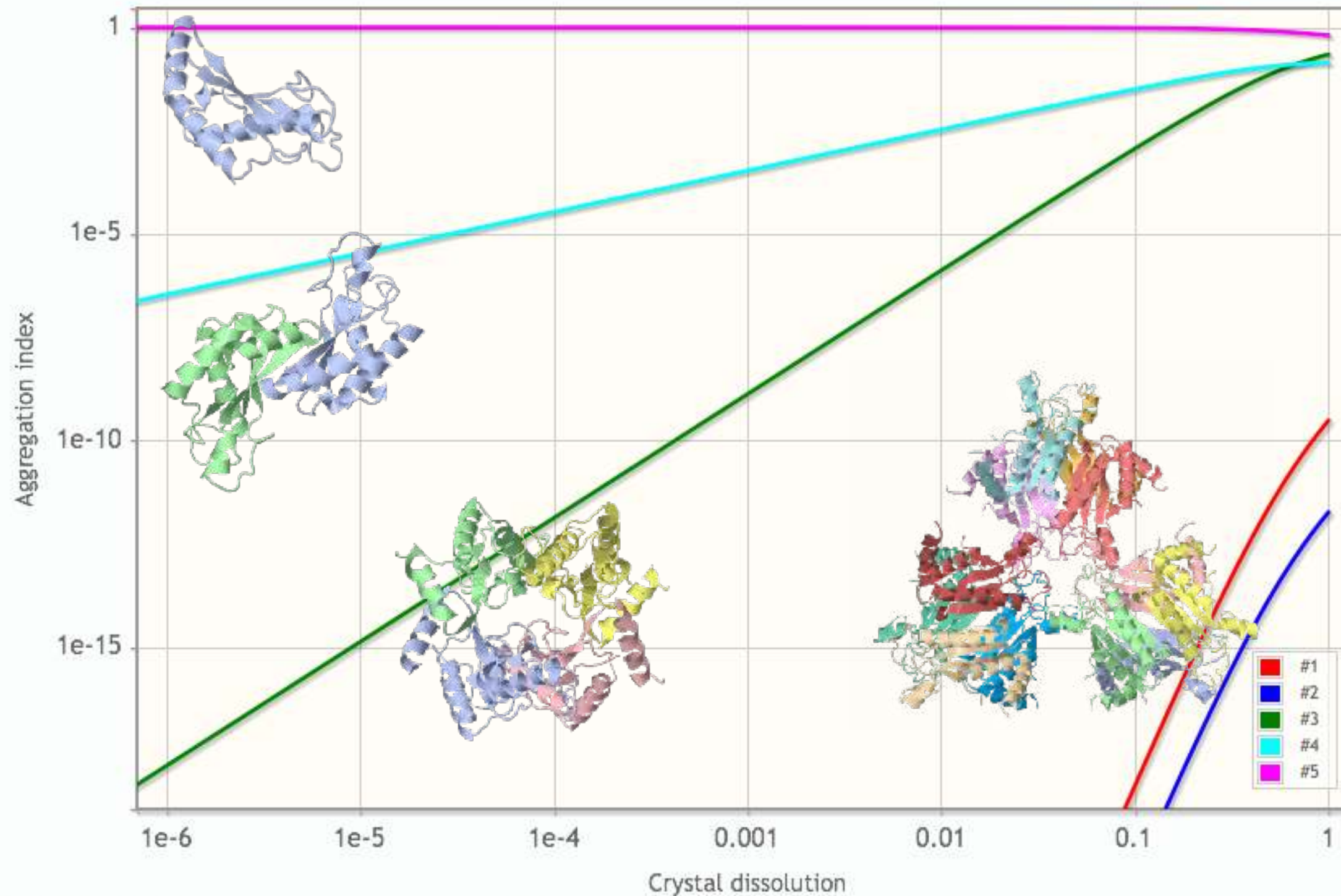
Monomers

Interfaces

Stock

Crystal Splits

Log file



aggregation index



Crystal dissolution



Stock components

##	Plot	Size	Type	ASA	BSA	dG_diss	dG0	Formula	Composition
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12	1	69248.0	21061.4	9.9	9.9	A ₁₂	ABCDEFGHIJKL
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12	2	69695.5	20613.9	6.9	6.9	A ₁₂	ABCDEFGHIJKL
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	3	24179.6	5938.6	4.6	5.1	A ₄	AFGH
4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	4	13426.6	1648.3	0.9	0.9	A ₂	AH
5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	5	7525.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	A	A

★ However, in the stock, concentration of dodecamers appears to be negligible comparing to that of lower-multiplicity complexes

- Reason: given complexes dissociate to the ground state (monomers). Their equilibrium concentrations are:

$$C_{A_{12}} \sim K_{eq} (C_A)^{12}$$

$$C_{A_4} \sim K_{eq} (C_A)^4$$

therefore, at similar equilibrium constants,

$$C_{A_{12}} \ll C_{A_4}$$

★ Stock analysis results:

- primarily monomeric
- co-existence of dimers and tetramers at high concentrations

How does One Infer on the Dissociation Pattern?

- ★ Calculated by PISA automatically as the most optimal dissociation pathway
- ★ Presented in PISA detailed reports on individual assemblies

jsPISA 2.0.3 [PDB 3imp]

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Input Monomers Interfaces Stock **Crystal Splits** Log file

Crystal Splits

- ▼ Stable splits
 - 1-1. A(12)
 - 2-2. A(12)
 - 3-3. A(4)
 - 3-4. A(4)
 - 3-5. A(4)
- Metastable splits
- Unstable splits
- No-crystal analysis

Split 2, Assembly 2: ABCDEFGHIJKL

Summary

Multimeric state	12	Surface area, Å ²	69695.5	Free energy of dissociation, kcal/mol	6.9
Copies in Unit Cell	2	Buried area, Å ²	20613.9	Entropy of dissociation, kcal/mol	138.0
Symmetry number	2				
Composition	ABCDEFGHIJKL				
Formula	A ₁₂				
Dissociation pattern	A + H + F + G + B + E + C + D + I + L + J + K				

Download PDB Download PDBx View in JSMol View dissociated

☒ **Engaged Interfaces**

##	Type	Monomer 1	Monomer 2	Occ.	Symmetry operation	Sym. ID	Area	Delta G	P-value	N _{hb}	N _{sb}	N _{ds}
1	1	G	F	1*	X,Y,Z	1_555	865.2	-5.7	0.390	11	3	0
2	1	D	C	1*	X,Y,Z	1_555	819.5	-6.9	0.319	9	3	0
3	1	E	B	1*	X,Y,Z	1_555	816.3	-7.6	0.300	9	3	0
4	1	K	J	1*	X,Y,Z	1_555	812.8	-8.1	0.244	10	2	0

Input

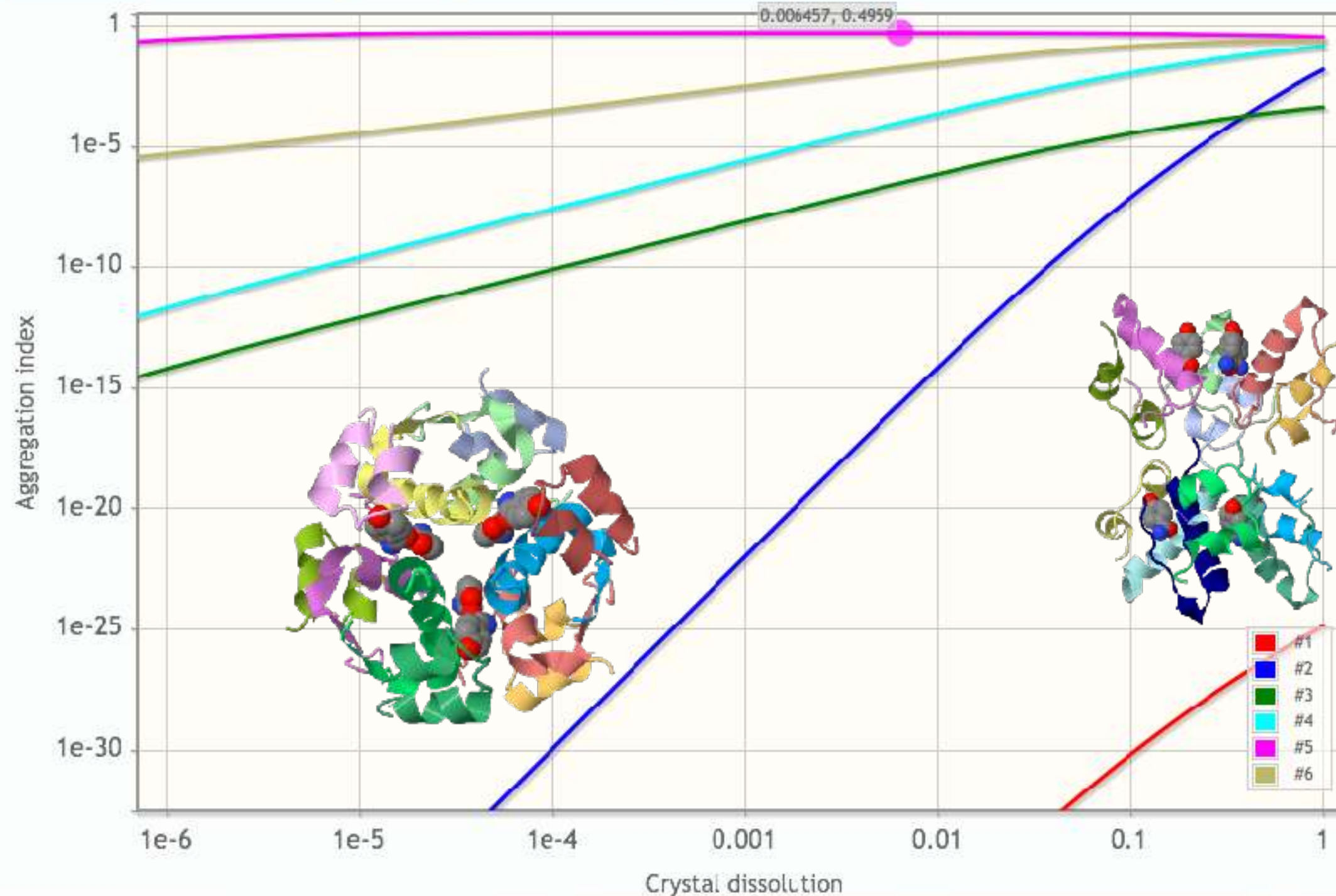
Monomers

Interfaces

Stock

Crystal Splits

Log file



aggregation index



Crystal dissolution



Stock components

##	Plot	Size	Type	ASA	BSA	dG_diss	dG0	Formula	Composition
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12	1	18849.1	13007.7	3.8	11.7	$A_6B_3C_3b_6$	$A_3C_3B_3D_3[HBD]_6$
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12	2	12160.3	19696.5	3.6	43.4	$A_6B_3C_3b_6$	$A_3C_3B_3D_3[HBD]_6$
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	3	6672.2	3946.7	7.2	9.8	A_2BCb_2	$ACBD[HBD]_2$
4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	4	5901.7	4717.3	2.0	13.3	A_2BCb_2	$ACBD[HBD]_2$
5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	5	3677.3	1669.7	9.6	9.6	$A3b$	$AB[EBD]$
6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	6	3932.6	1339.4	2.6	2.6	ACb	$CD[EBD]$

An Example of the Opposite

★ Dodecamers in insulin 1BEN appear to have similar dissociation free energies but drastically different stock concentration profiles

- Reason: dodecamer #1 dissociates into monomers, while dodecamer #2 dissociates into tetramers

★ Stock analysis results:

- primarily dimeric
- co-existence of dimers, tetramers and dodecamer #2 at high concentrations

Classification of Protein Assemblies

Assembly classification on the benchmark set of 218 protein structures published in

Ponstingl, H., Kabir, T. and Thornton, J. (2003) Automatic inference of protein quaternary structures from crystals. J. Appl. Cryst. 36, 1116-1122.

	1mer	2mer	3mer	4mer	6mer	Other	Sum	Correct
1mer	49	3	0	1	1	1	55	89%
2mer	3	71+11	0	2+1	0	0	76+12	93%
3mer	1	0	22	0	1	0	24	92%
4mer	2	2+1	0	26+6	0	1	31+7	84%
6mer	0	0	0	1	10+2	0	10+3	92%
196+22 ⇔ 196 homomers and 22 heteromers							Total: 196+22	90%

Classification error in ΔG_0 : ± 5 kcal/mol



Classification of Protein-DNA Complexes

Assembly classification on the benchmark set of 212 protein-DNA complexes published in

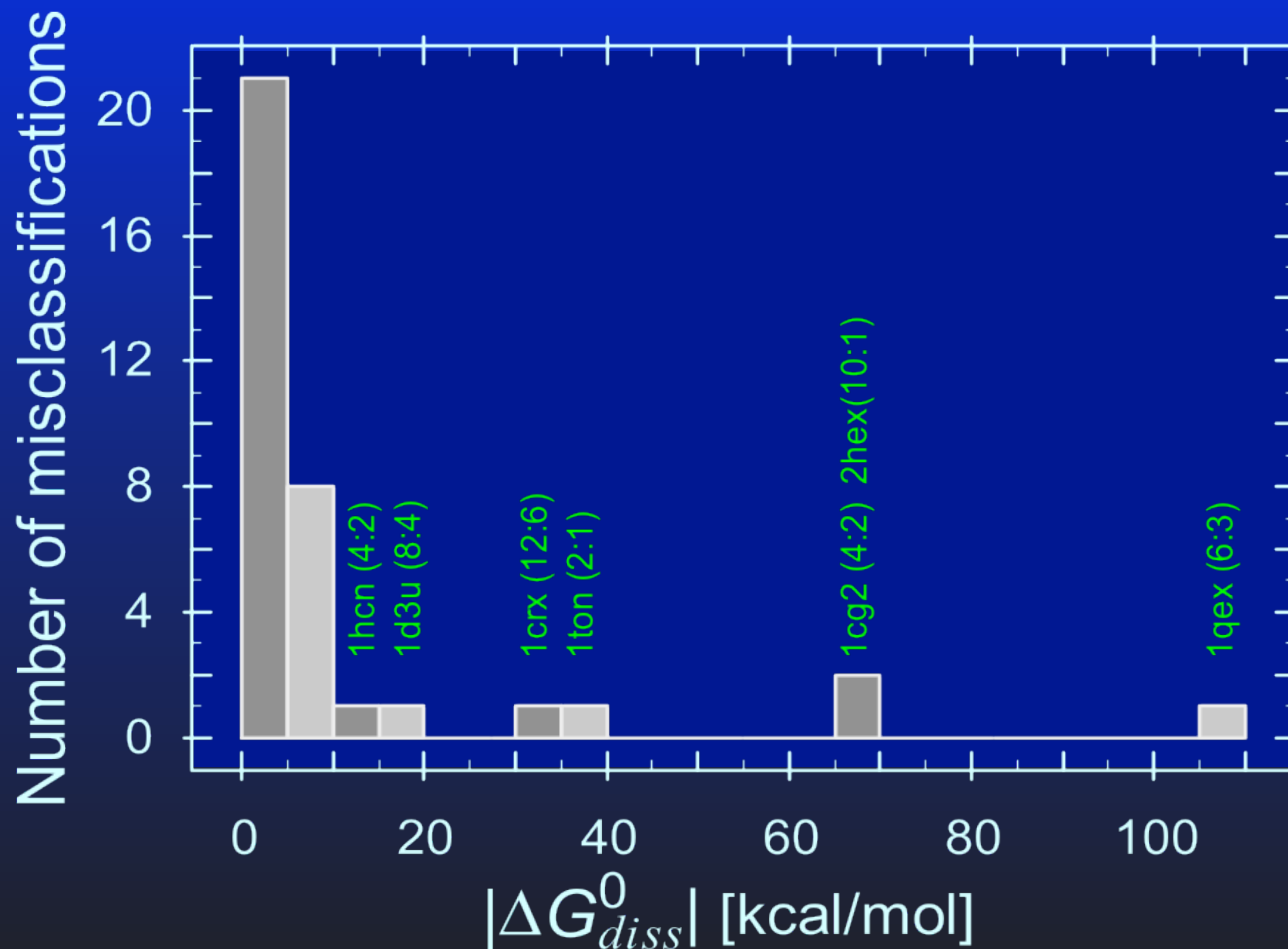
Luscombe, N.M., Austin, S.E., Berman, H.M. and Thornton, J. (2000) An overview of the structures of protein-DNA complexes. Genome Biol. 1, 1-37.

	2mer	3mer	4mer	5mer	6mer	10mer	Other	Sum	Correct
2mer	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100%
3mer	6	96	0	0	1	0	2	105	91%
4mer	0	2	83	0	0	0	0	85	98%
5mer	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	5	60%
6mer	1	0	0	0	13	0	1	15	87%
10mer	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100%
Total:								212	93%

Classification error in ΔG_0 : ± 5 kcal/mol

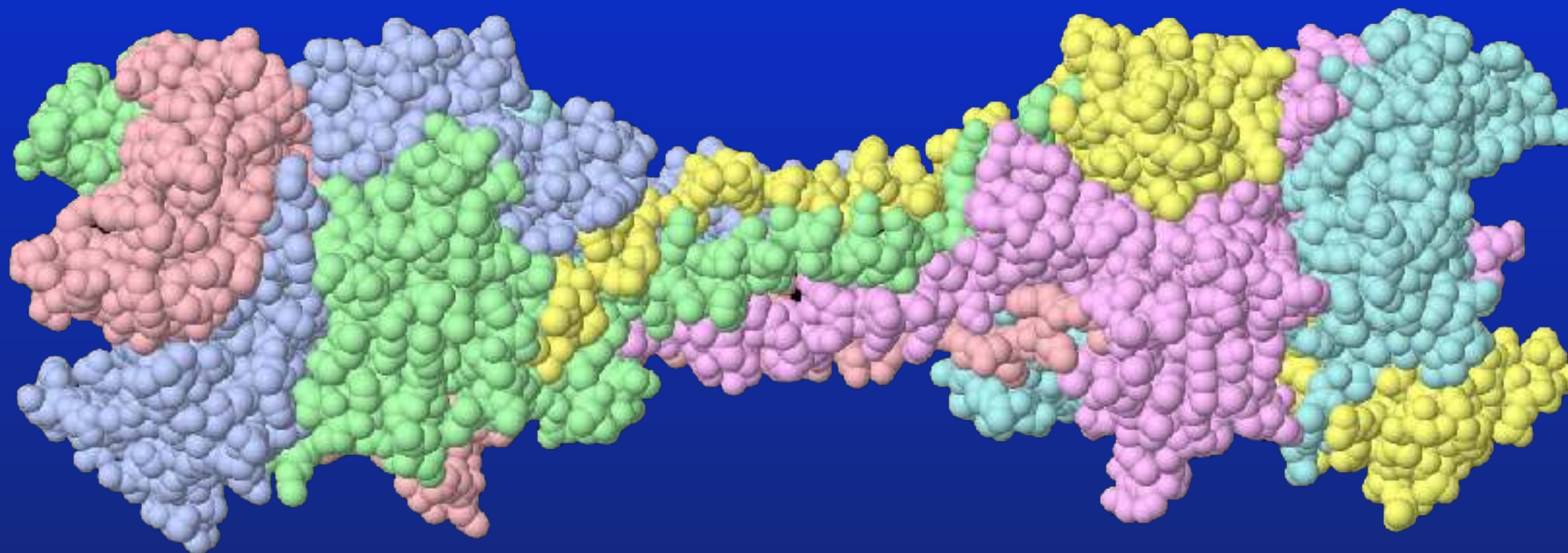


Free Energy Distribution of Misclassifications

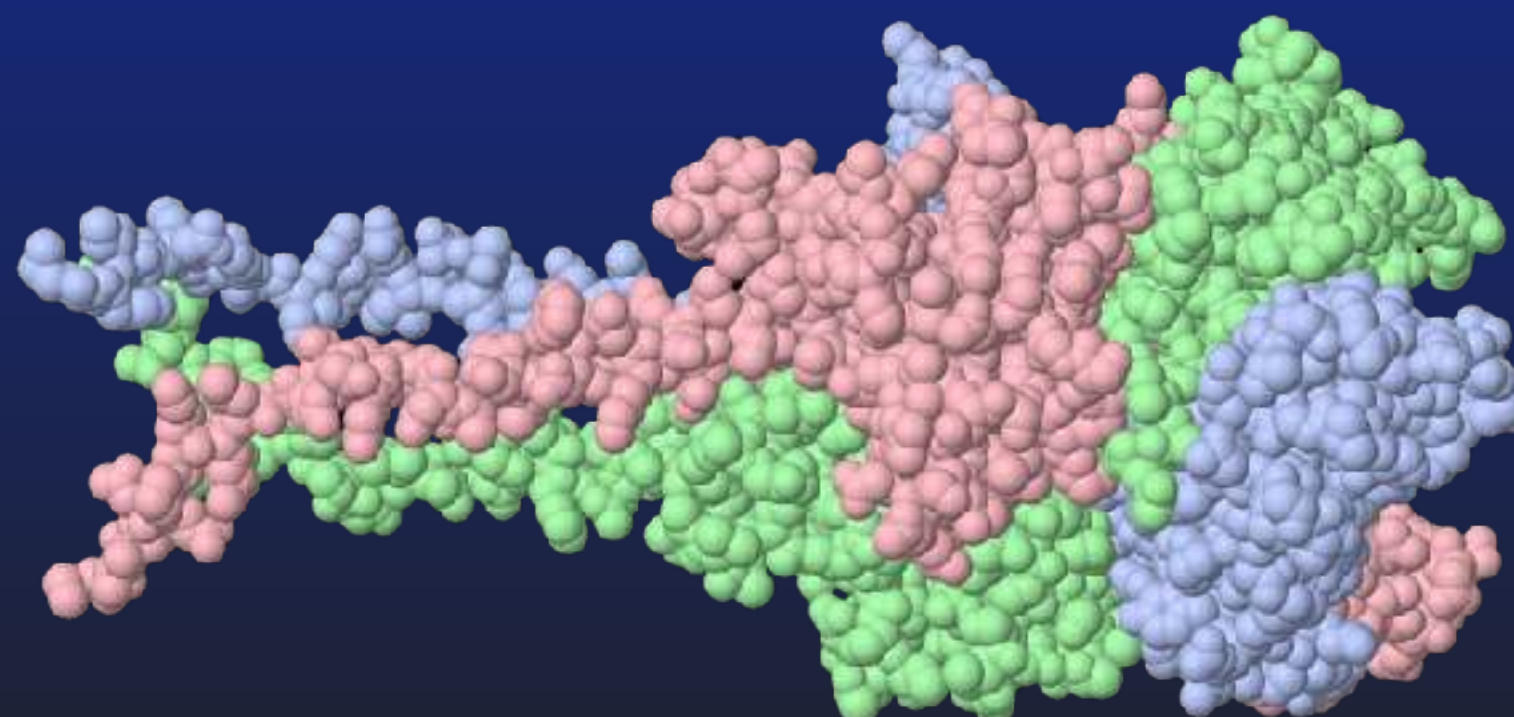


Example of misclassification: 1QEX

BACTERIOPHAGE T4 GENE PRODUCT 9 (GP9), THE TRIGGER OF TAIL CONTRACTION AND THE LONG TAIL FIBERS CONNECTOR



Predicted: homohexamer
Dissociates into 2 trimers
 $\Delta G_0 \approx 106$ kcal/mol

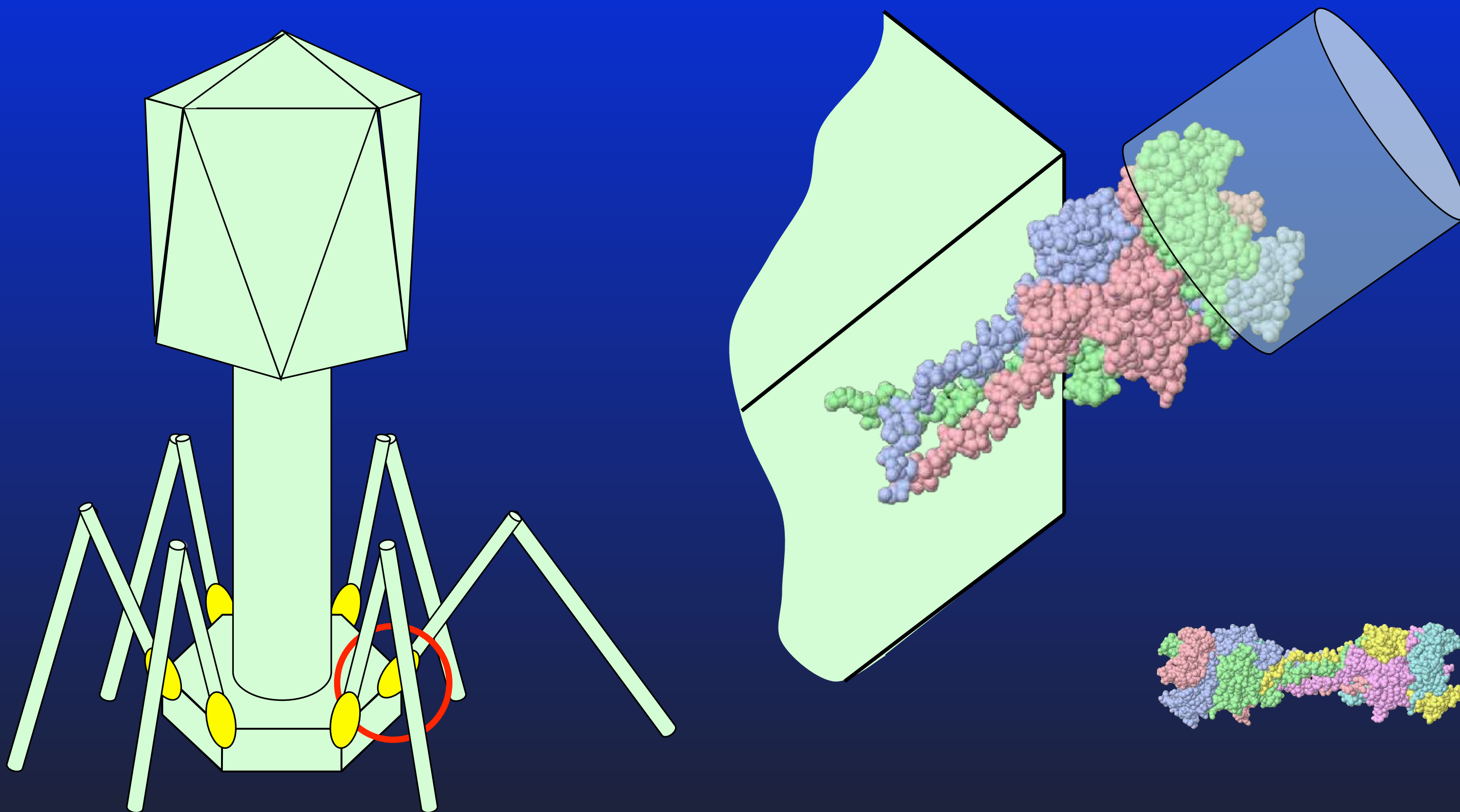


Biological unit: homotrimer
Dissociates into 3 monomers
 $\Delta G_0 \approx 90$ kcal/mol



Example of misclassification: 1QEX

BACTERIOPHAGE T4 GENE PRODUCT 9 (GP9), THE TRIGGER OF TAIL CONTRACTION AND THE LONG TAIL FIBERS CONNECTOR

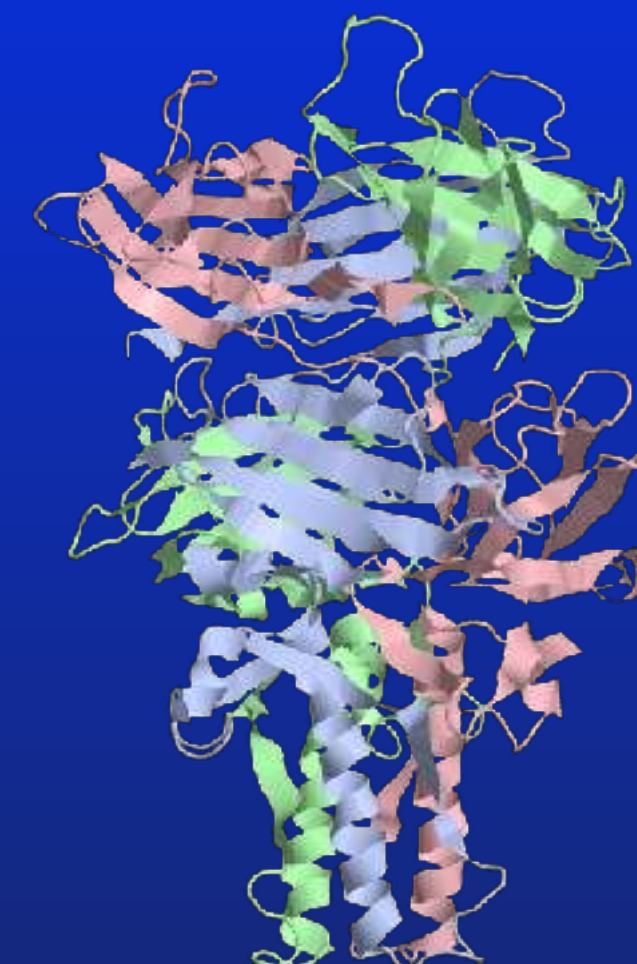
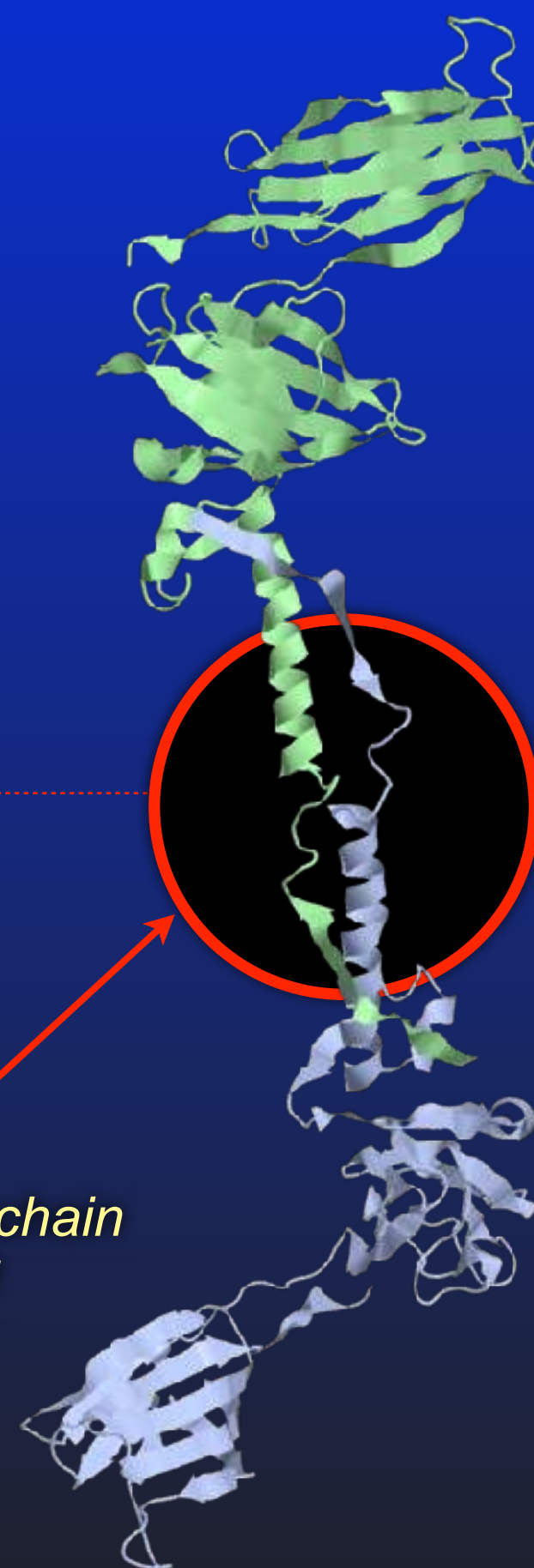
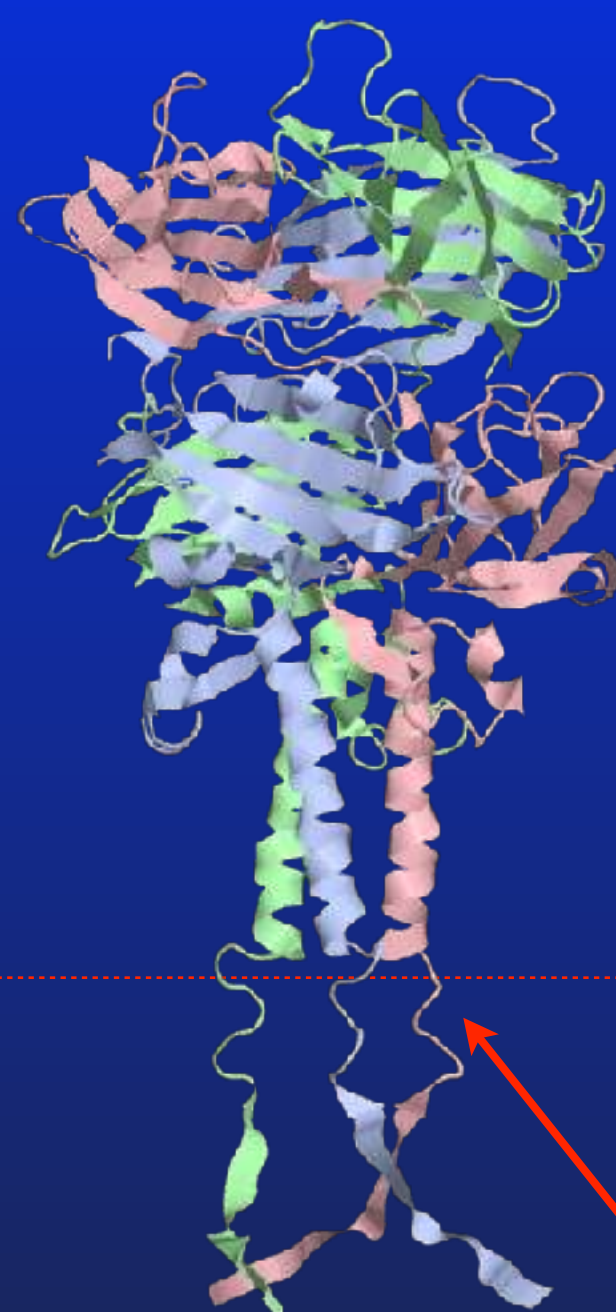
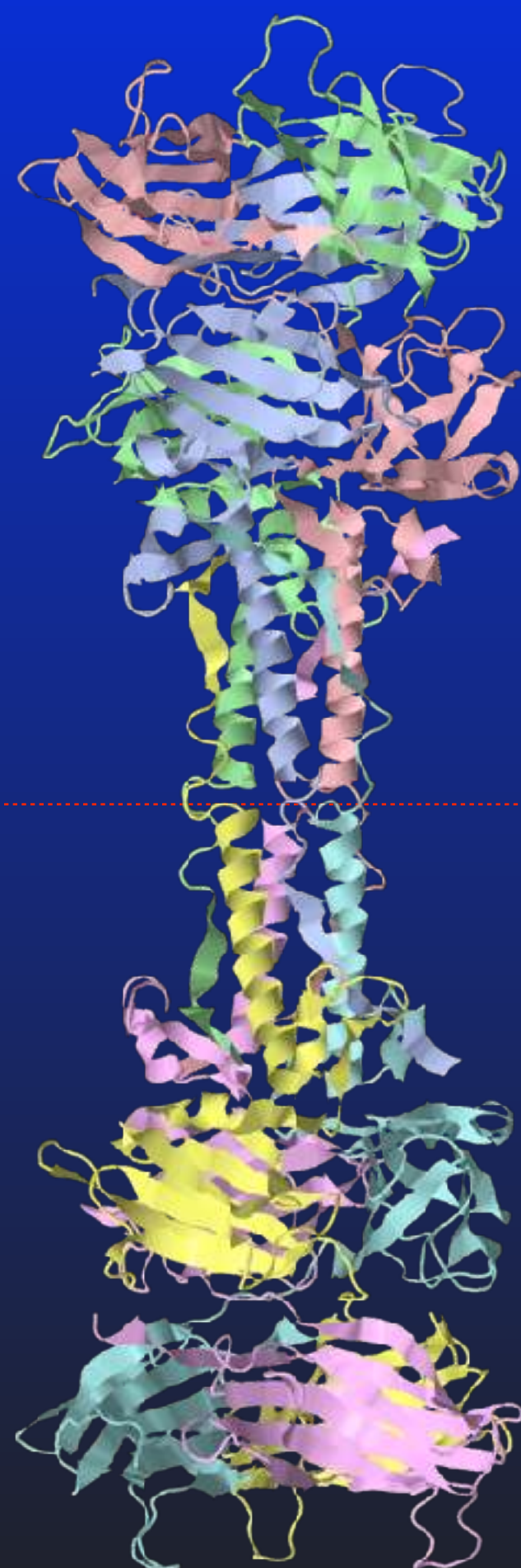


Rossmann M.G., Mesyanzhinov V.V., Arisaka F and Leiman P.G. (2004) *The bacteriophage T4 DNA injection machine*.
Curr. Opin Struct. Biol. 14:171-180.



Example of misclassification: 1QEX

BACTERIOPHAGE T4 GENE PRODUCT 9 (GP9), THE TRIGGER OF TAIL CONTRACTION AND THE LONG TAIL FIBERS CONNECTOR



Correct mainchain tracing
Identified correctly

*Wrong mainchain
tracing!*



Example of misclassification: 1D3U

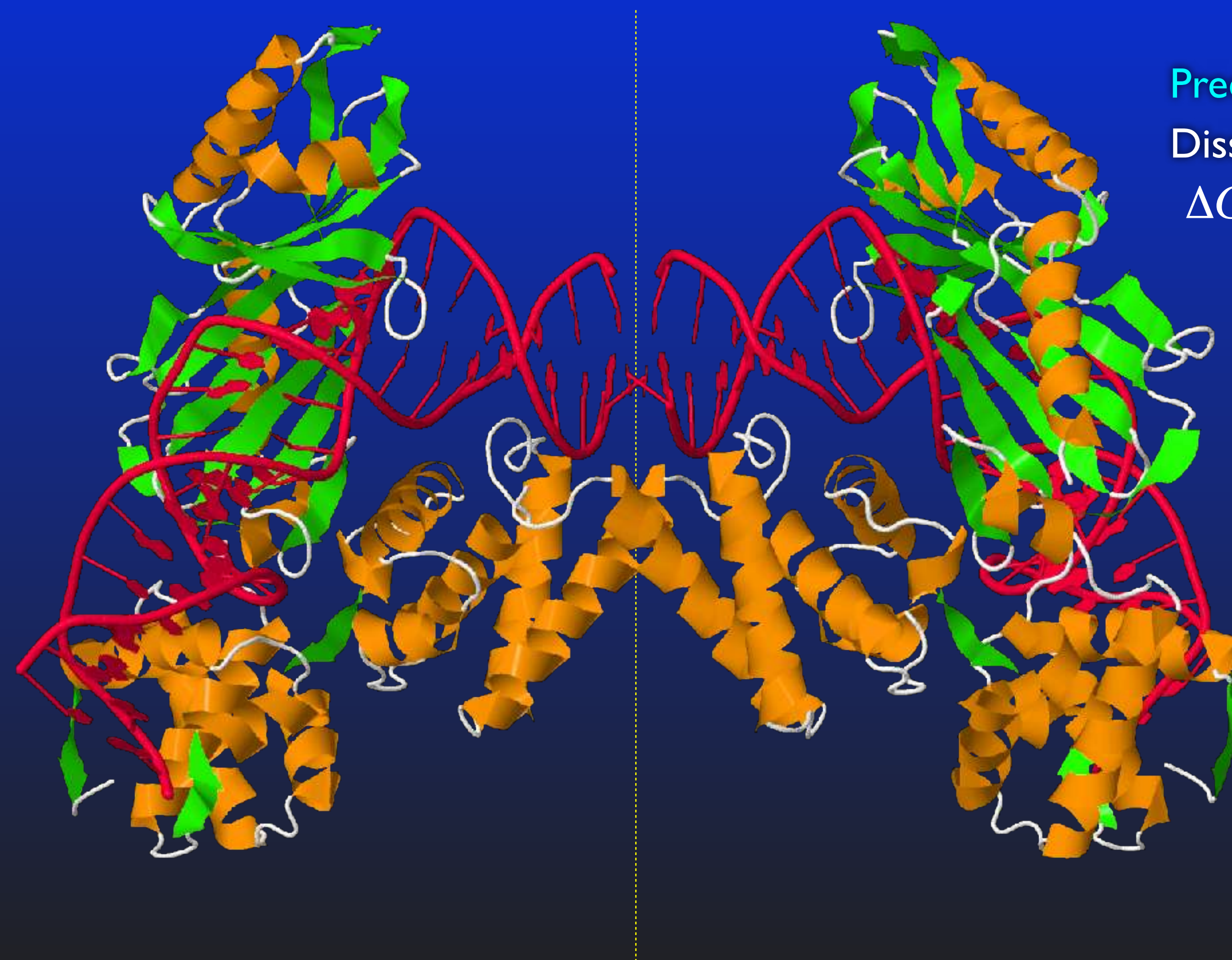
TATA-BINDING PROTEIN / TRANSCRIPTION FACTOR

Predicted: octamer

Dissociates into 2 tetramers

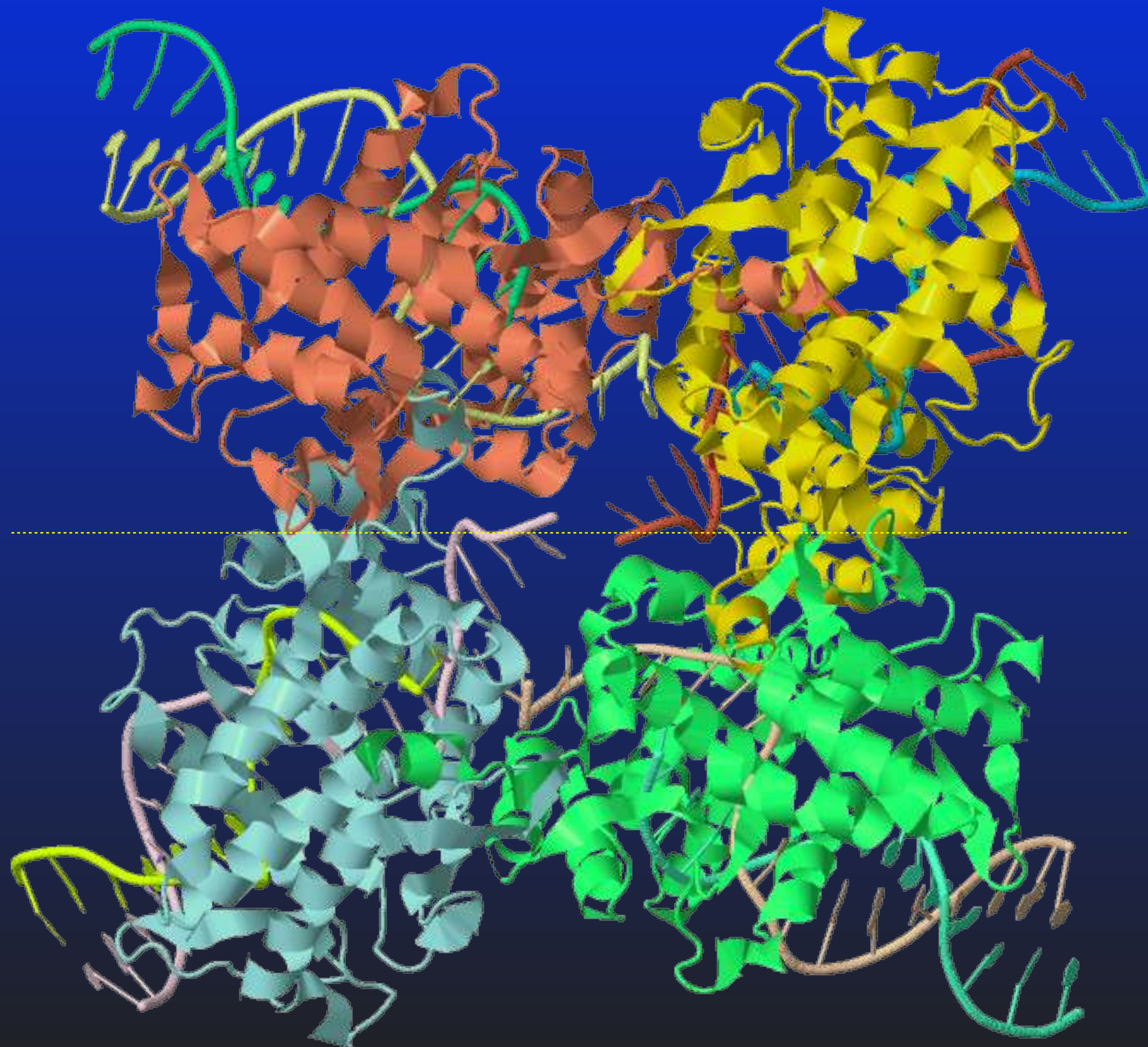
$$\Delta G_0 \approx 20 \text{ kcal/mol}$$

Functional unit:
tetramer



Example of misclassification: 1CRX

CRE RECOMBINASE / DNA COMPLEX REACTION INTERMEDIATE



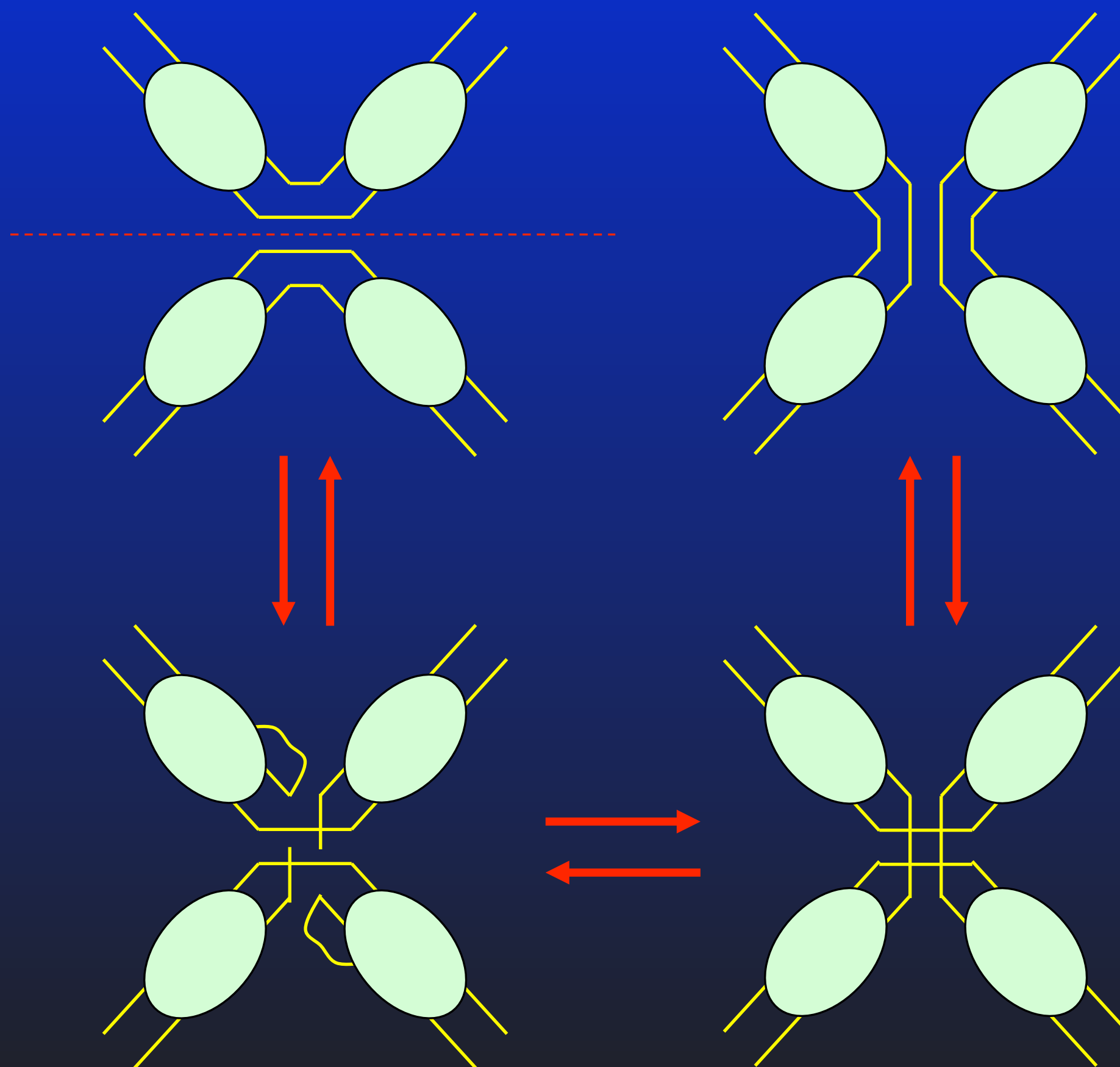
Predicted: dodecamer
Dissociates into 2 hexamers
 $\Delta G_0 \approx 28$ kcal/mol

Functional unit: trimer



Example of misclassification: 1CRX

CRE RECOMBINASE / DNA COMPLEX REACTION INTERMEDIATE



Guo F., Gopaul D.N. and van
Duyne G.D. (1997)

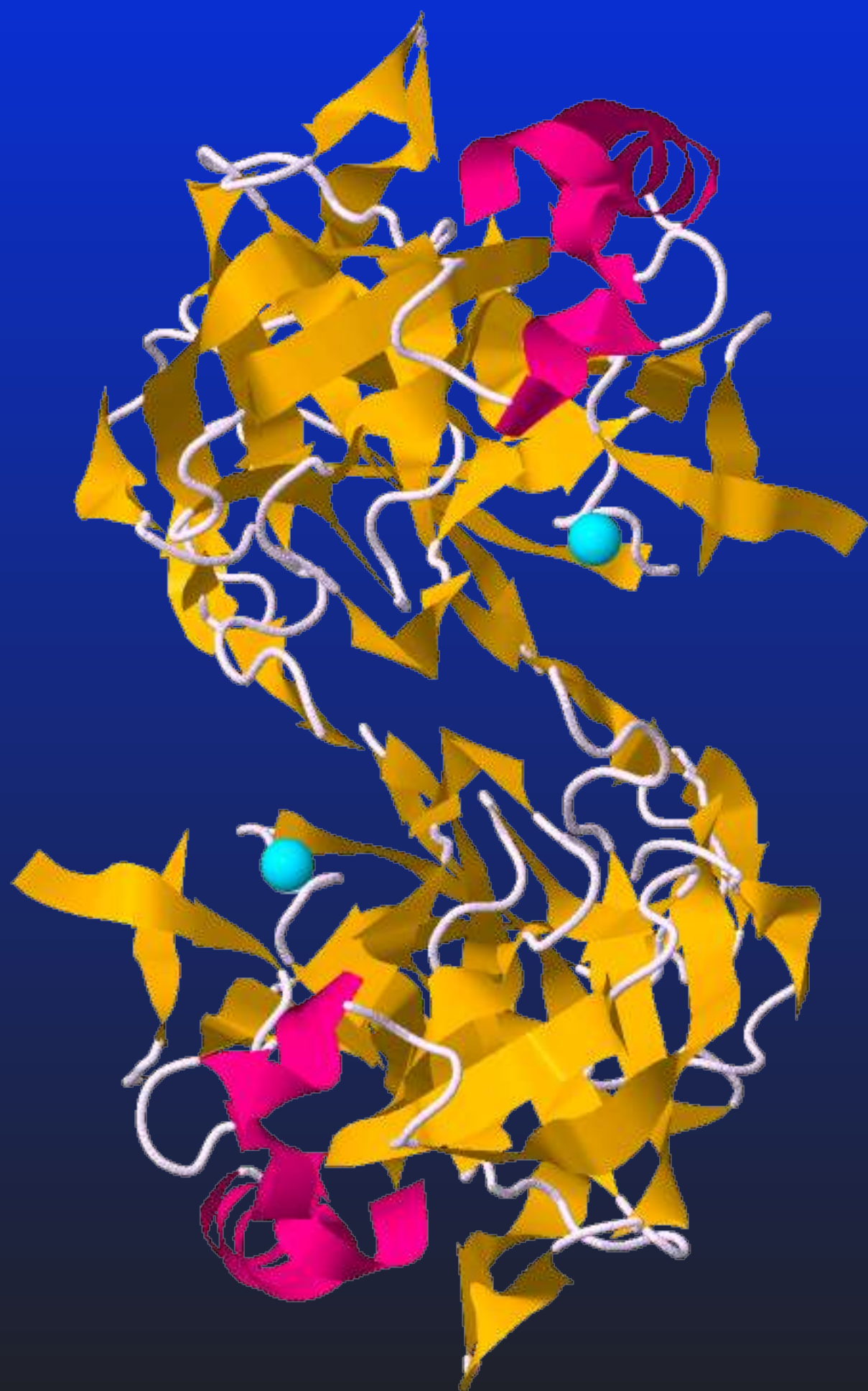
*Structure of Cre recombinase
complexed with DNA in a site-
specific recombination
synapse.*

Nature 389:40-46.



Example of misclassification: 1TON

TONIN



Predicted: dimer

Dissociates at

$$\Delta G_0 \simeq 37 \text{ kcal/mol}$$

Biological unit: monomer

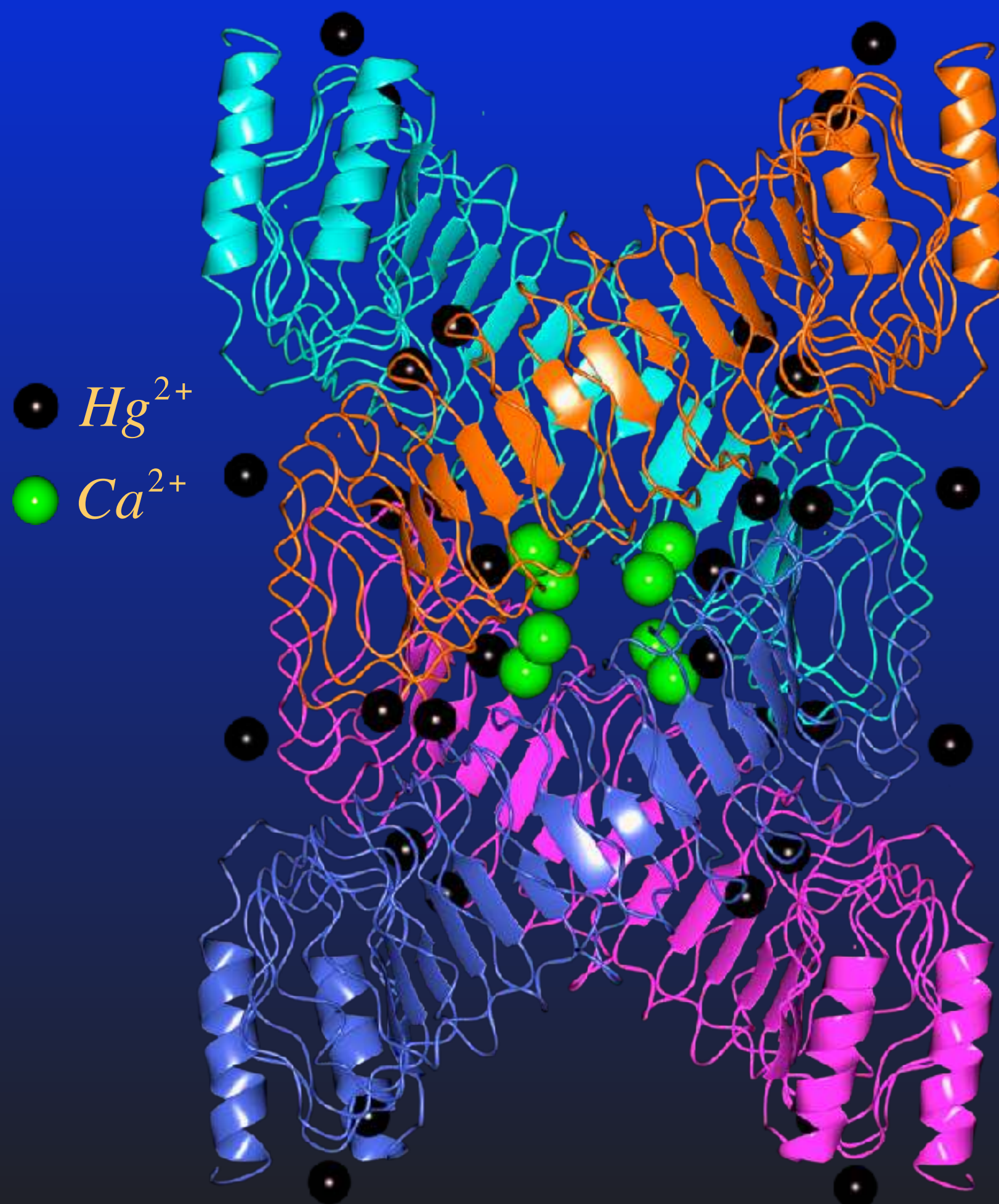
Apparent dimerization is an artefact due to the presence of Zn^{+2} ions added to the buffer to aid crystallization. Removal of Zn from the file results in $\Delta G_0 \simeq 3 \text{ kcal/mol}$

Fujinaga M., James M.N.G. (1997) *Rat submaxillary gland serine protease, tonin structure solution and refinement at 1.8 Å resolution.* J.Mol.Biol. 195:373-396.



Example of ion effect: 1G9U vs 1JL5

Y. PESTIS CYTOXIN YopM



Predicted: homotetramer in form of a superhelix featuring a hollow cylinder with an inner diameter of ~ 35 Å.

	1G9U	1JL5
Space Group	$P4_222$	$I4_122$
ΔG_0 , kcal/mol	37	3
Number of ions	40	16

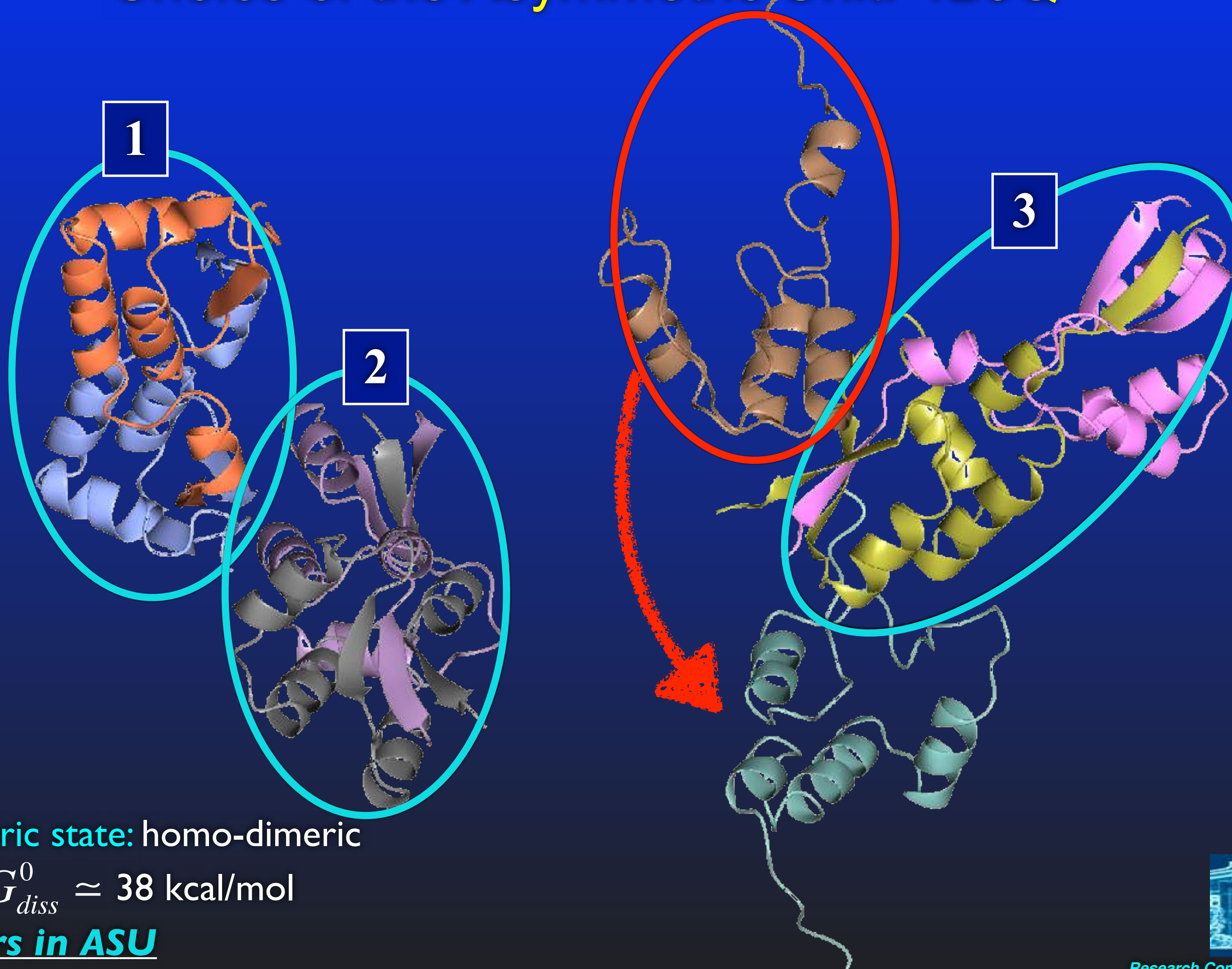
Biological unit: monomer

Evdokimov, A. G., Anderson, D. E., Routzahn, K. M. & Waugh, D. S. (2001). J. Mol. Biol. 312, 807–821

Removal of ions makes the structure monomeric in PISA estimates



Choice of the Asymmetric Unit: 4BJQ



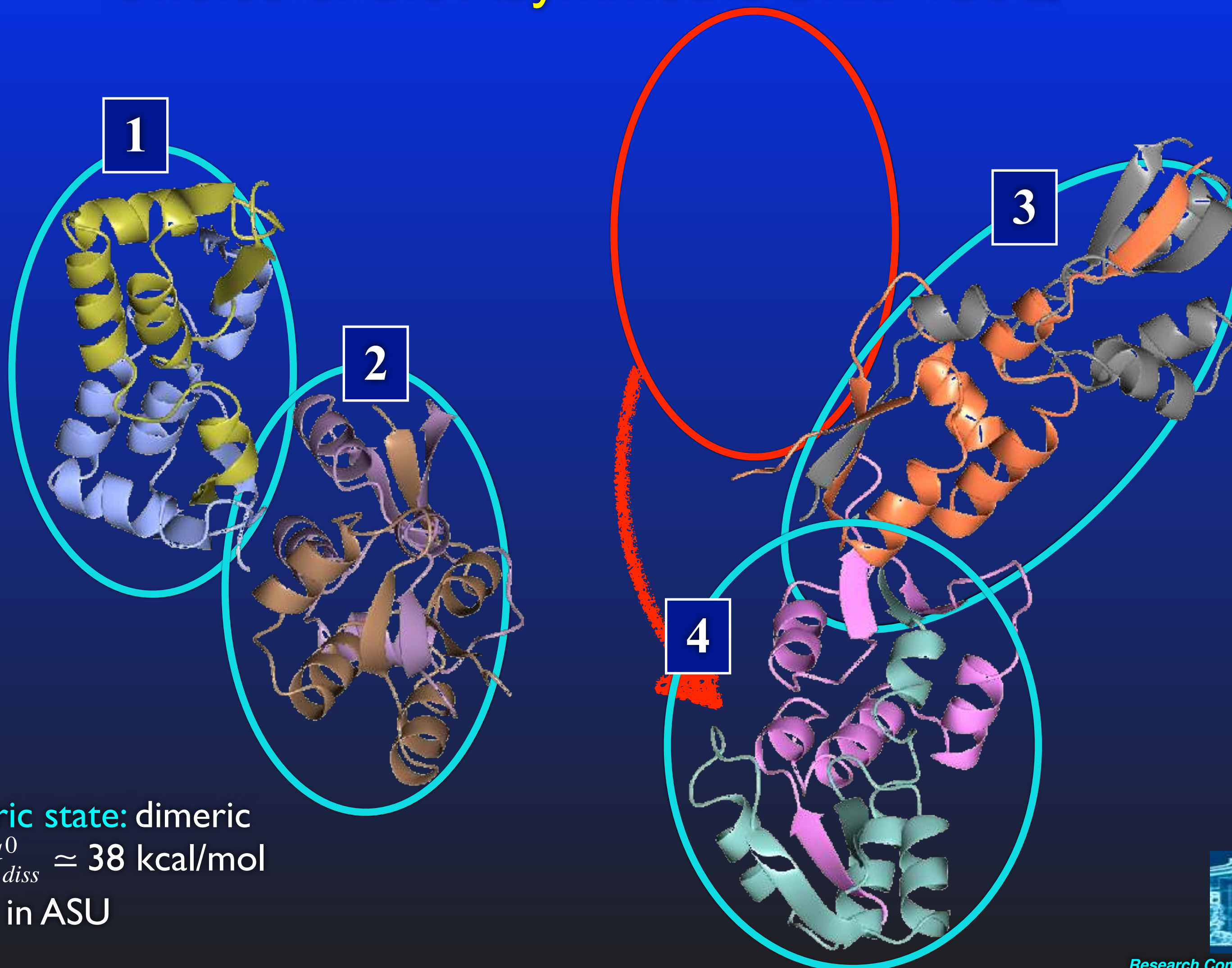
Oligomeric state: homo-dimeric

with $\Delta G_{diss}^0 \simeq 38$ kcal/mol

4 dimers in ASU



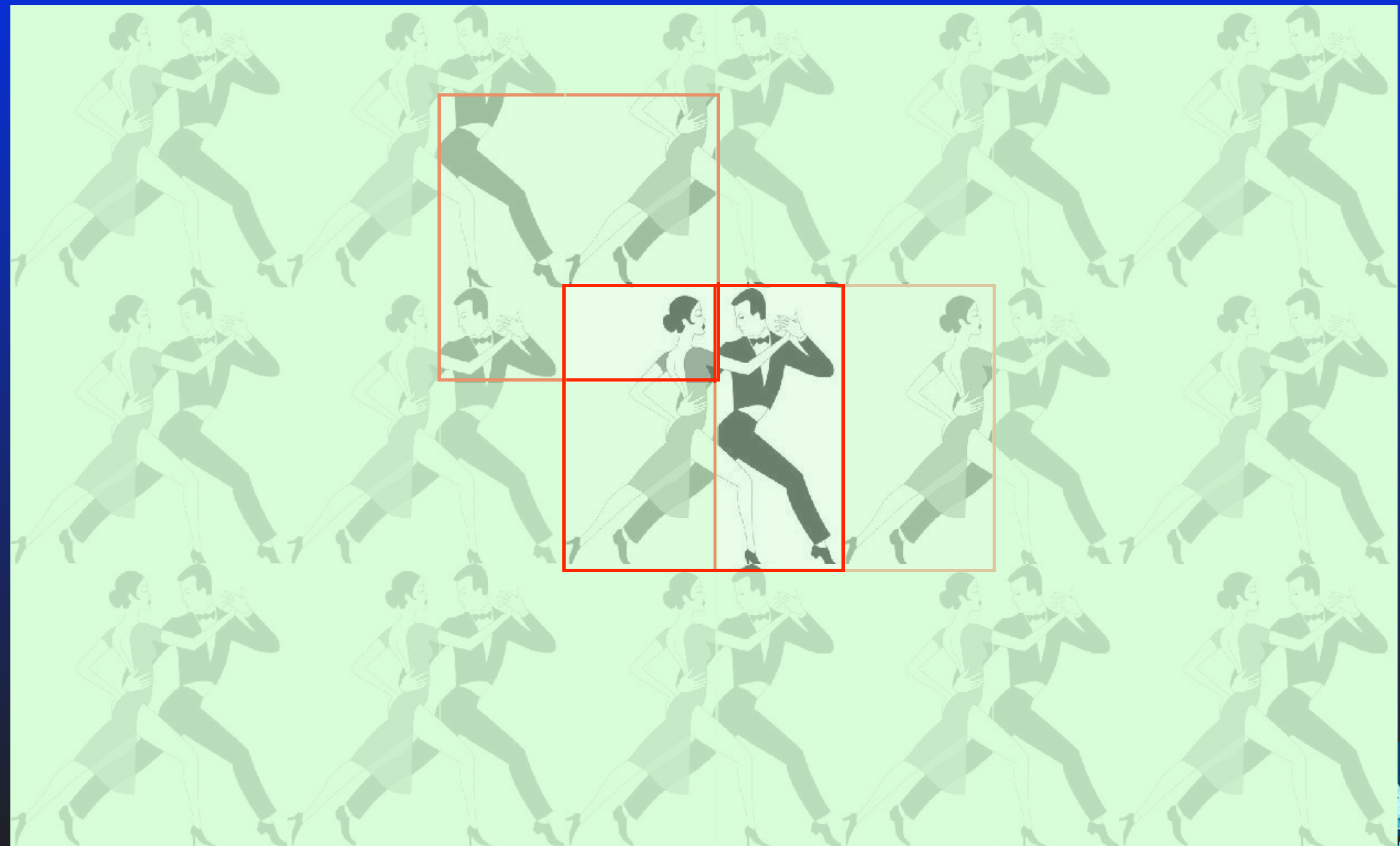
Choice of the Asymmetric Unit: 4BJQ



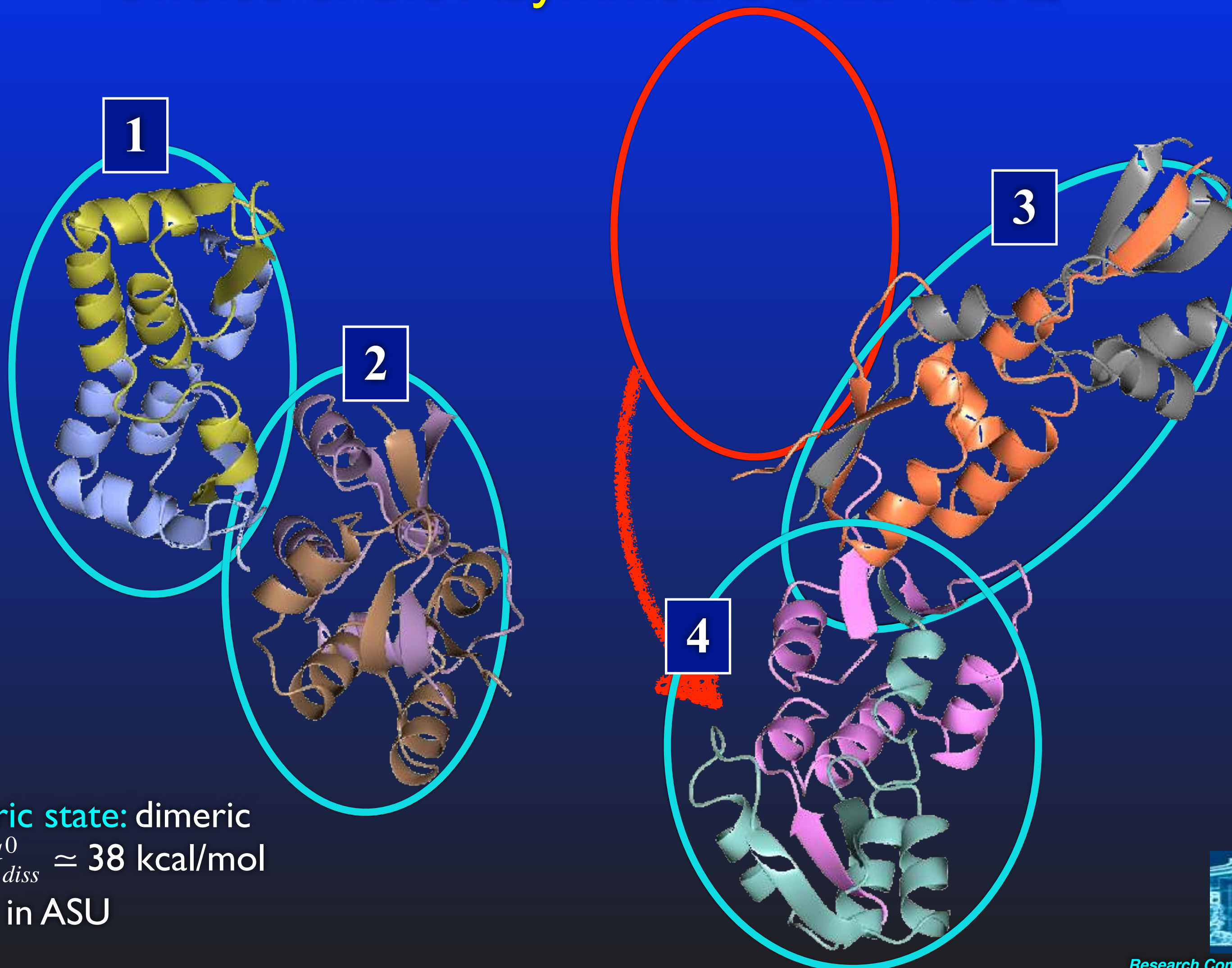
Oligomeric state: dimeric
with $\Delta G_{diss}^0 \approx 38$ kcal/mol
4 dimers in ASU



Choice of the Asymmetric Unit



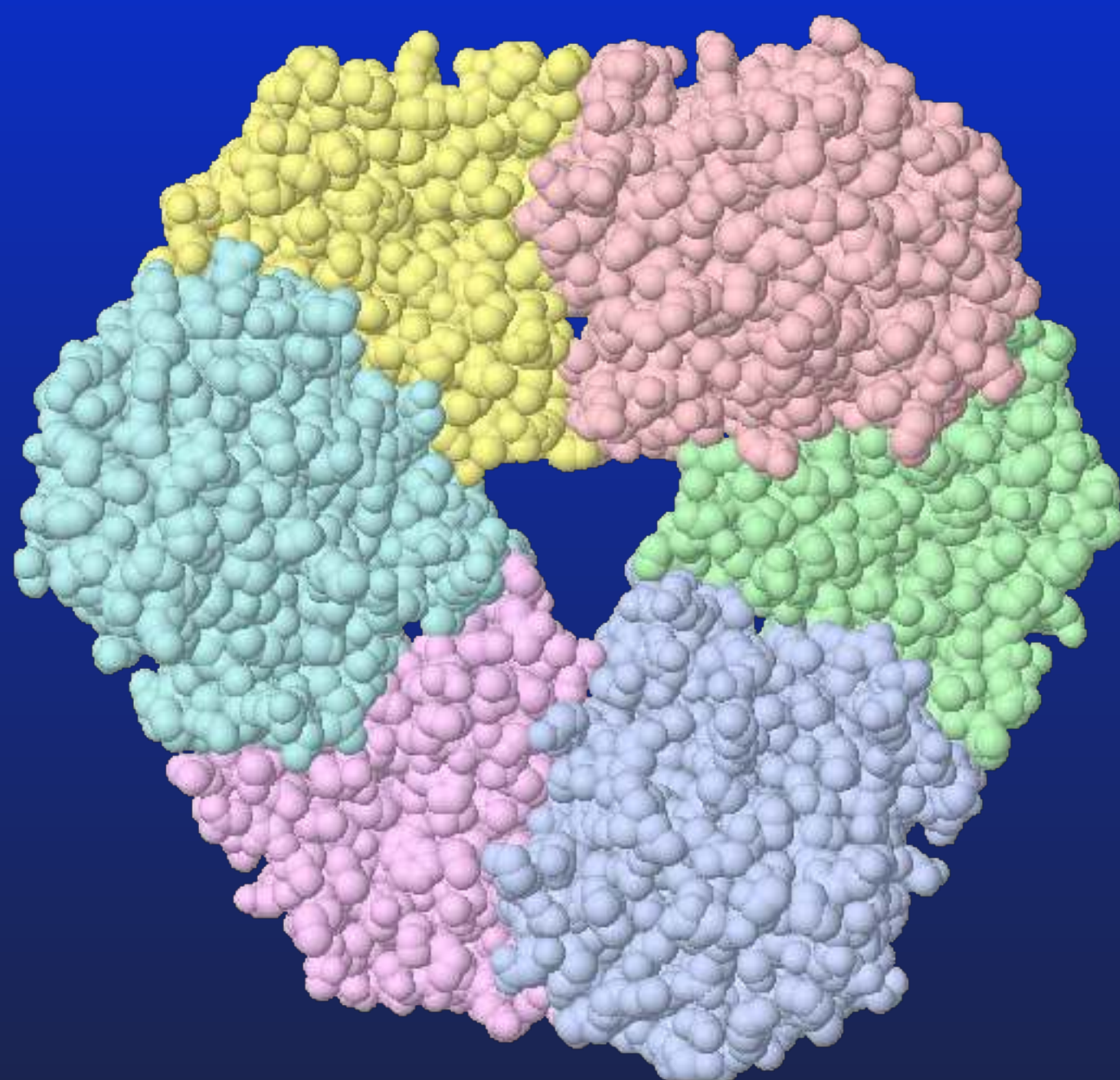
Choice of the Asymmetric Unit: 4BJQ



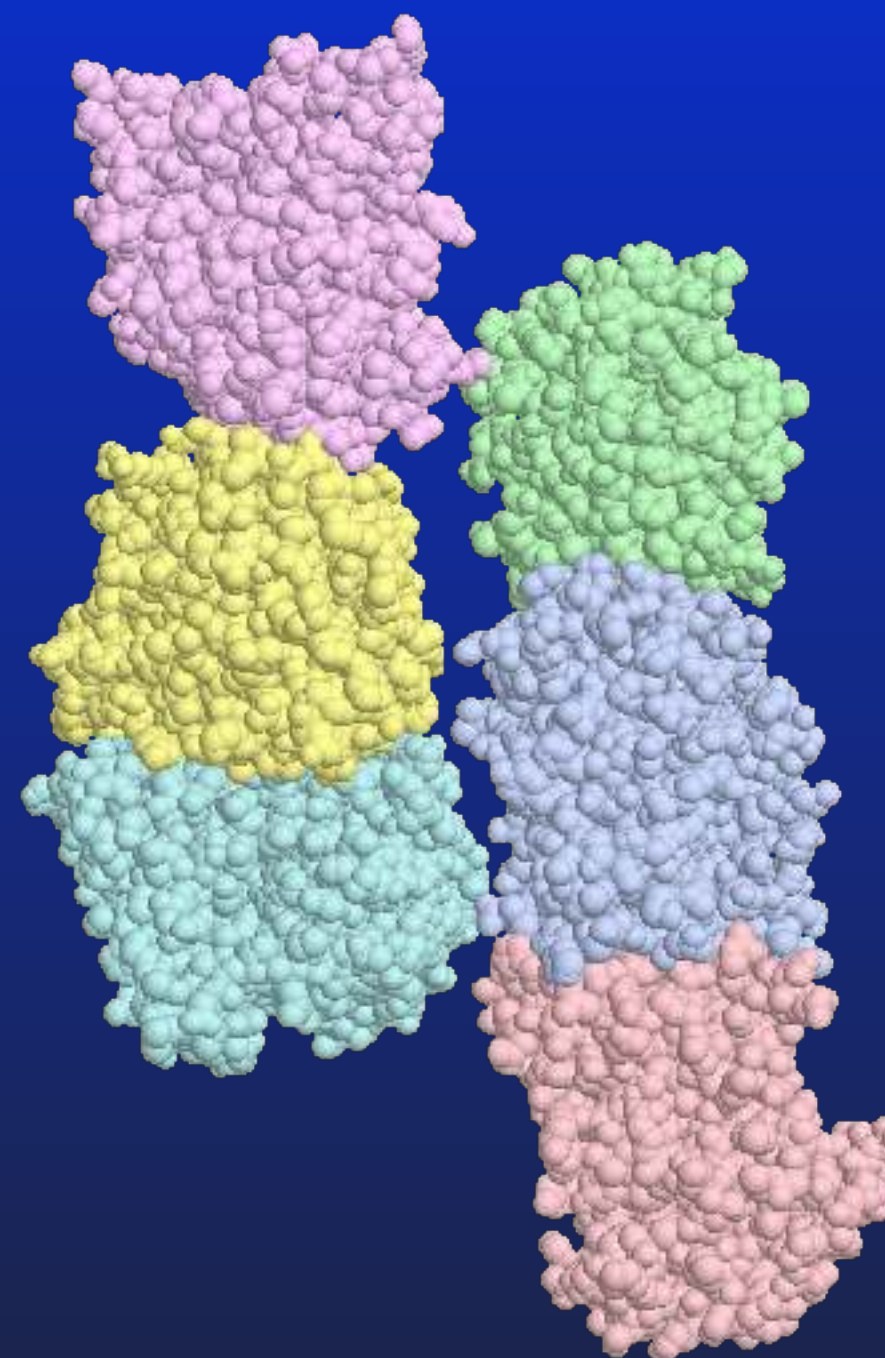
Oligomeric state: dimeric
with $\Delta G_{diss}^0 \approx 38$ kcal/mol
4 dimers in ASU



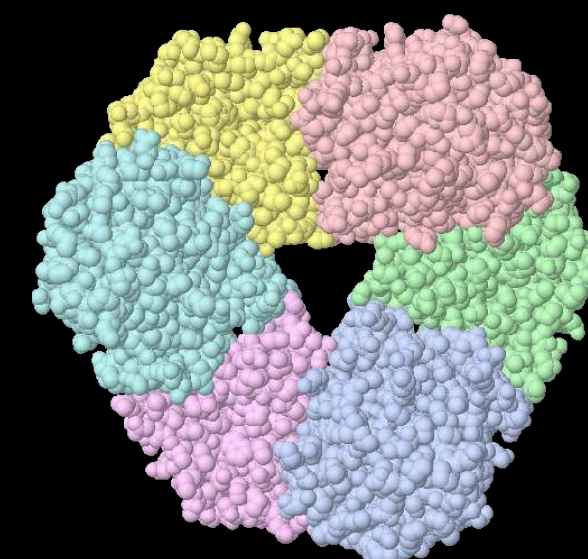
Example of misclassification: 1YWK



Predicted: homohexameric
Dissociates into 3 dimers at
 $\Delta G_0 \simeq 4.4$ kcal/mol



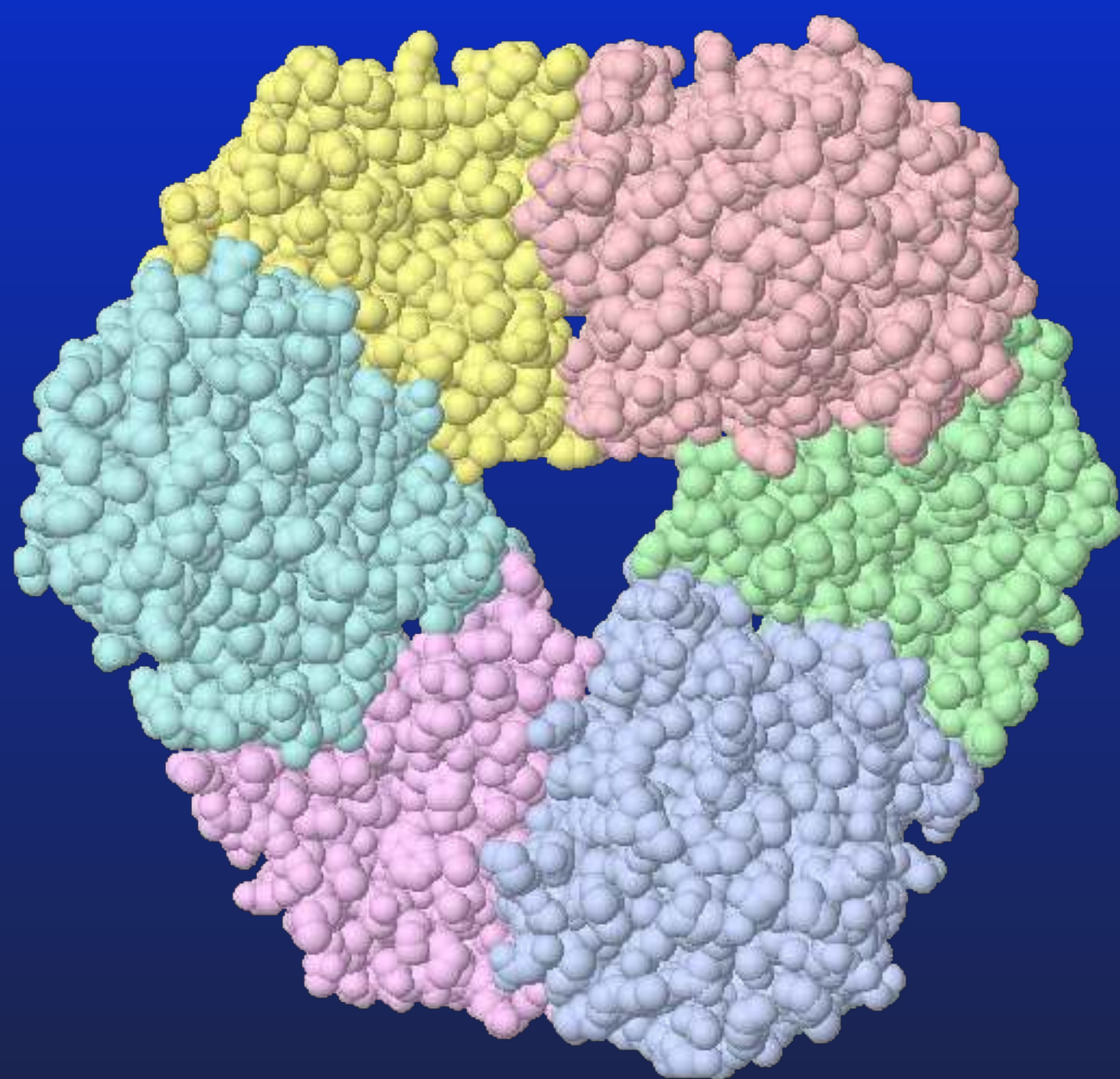
Believed to be:
monomeric,
6 units in ASU



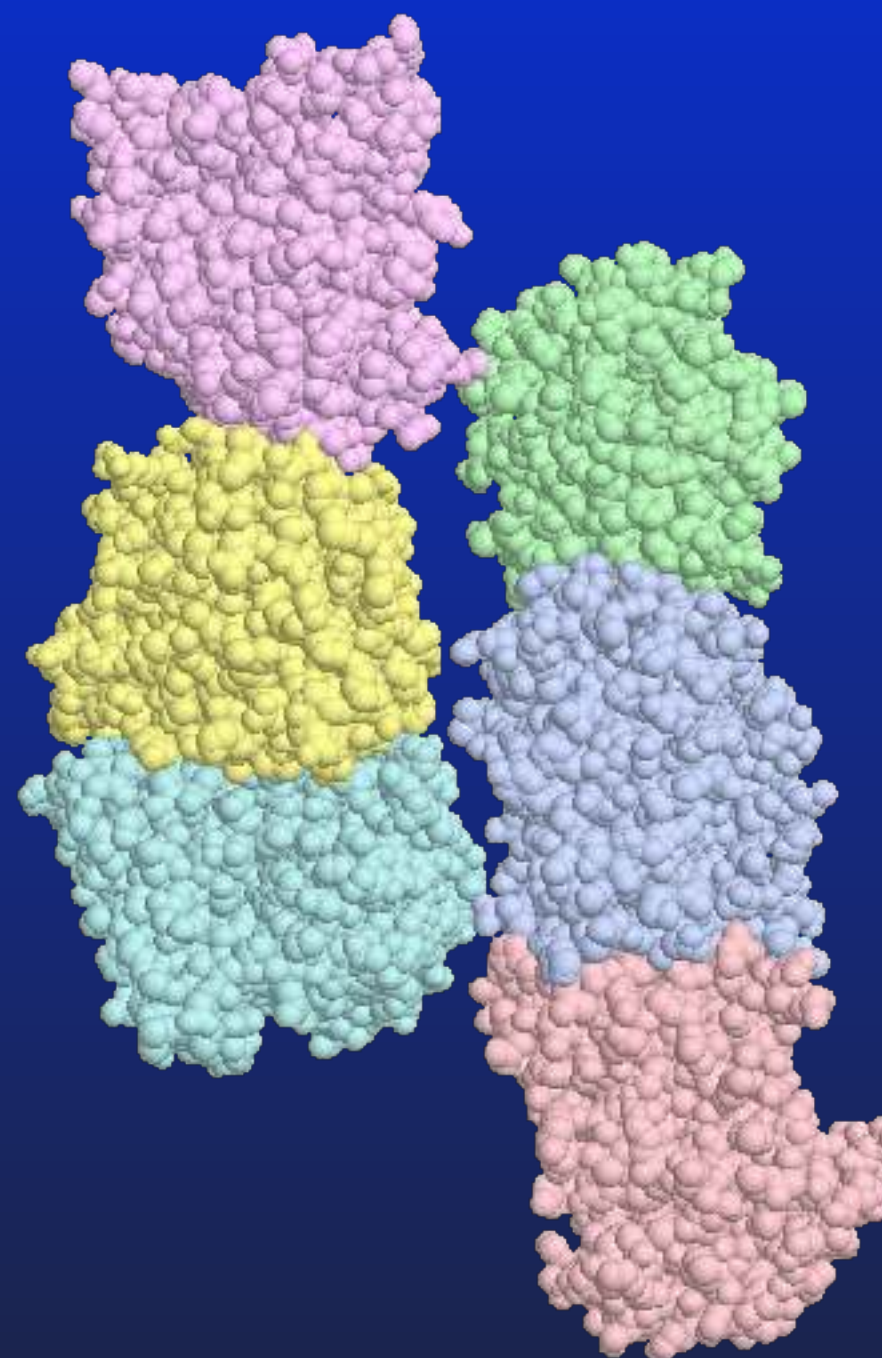
Structural homologue
1XRU:
RMSD = 0.9 Å
Seq.Id = 50%
Homohexameric with
 $\Delta G_0 \simeq 20$ kcal/mol



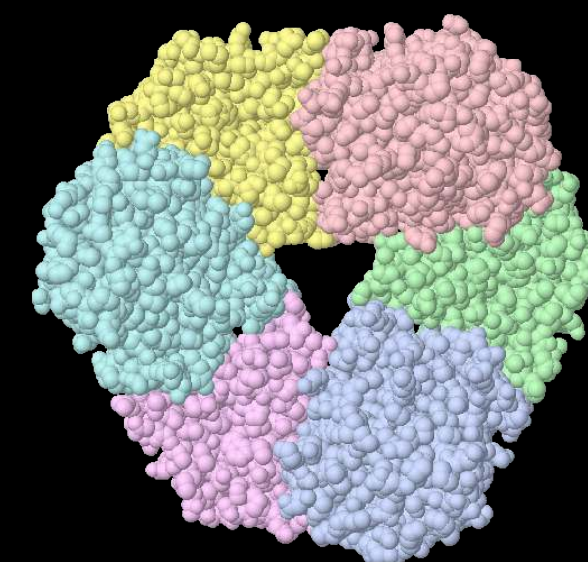
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Structural homologue
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Homohexameric with
 $\Delta G_0 \simeq 20$ kcal/mol



Does it really work?

- ★ PISA appears to work quite well, which seems to be a “problem”
 - ➔ 90% success rate achieved on the benchmark set
 - ➔ in 2007, wwPDB adopted PISA as a mandatory processing tool for all depositions
 - ➔ since that, feedback from wwPDB curators suggests that up to 95% of classifications made by PISA agree with experimental data on oligomeric state, where available, and with intuitive and common-sense considerations where experimental evidence is not given

- ★ Why it might work well? Two reasons:

Energy models and calculations are quite accurate

PISA relies on geometry of interactions given by crystal packing. PISA does not dock monomeric units; rather, it uses crystal contacts as “nature’s dockings” assuming that they are correct.

Obviously wrong

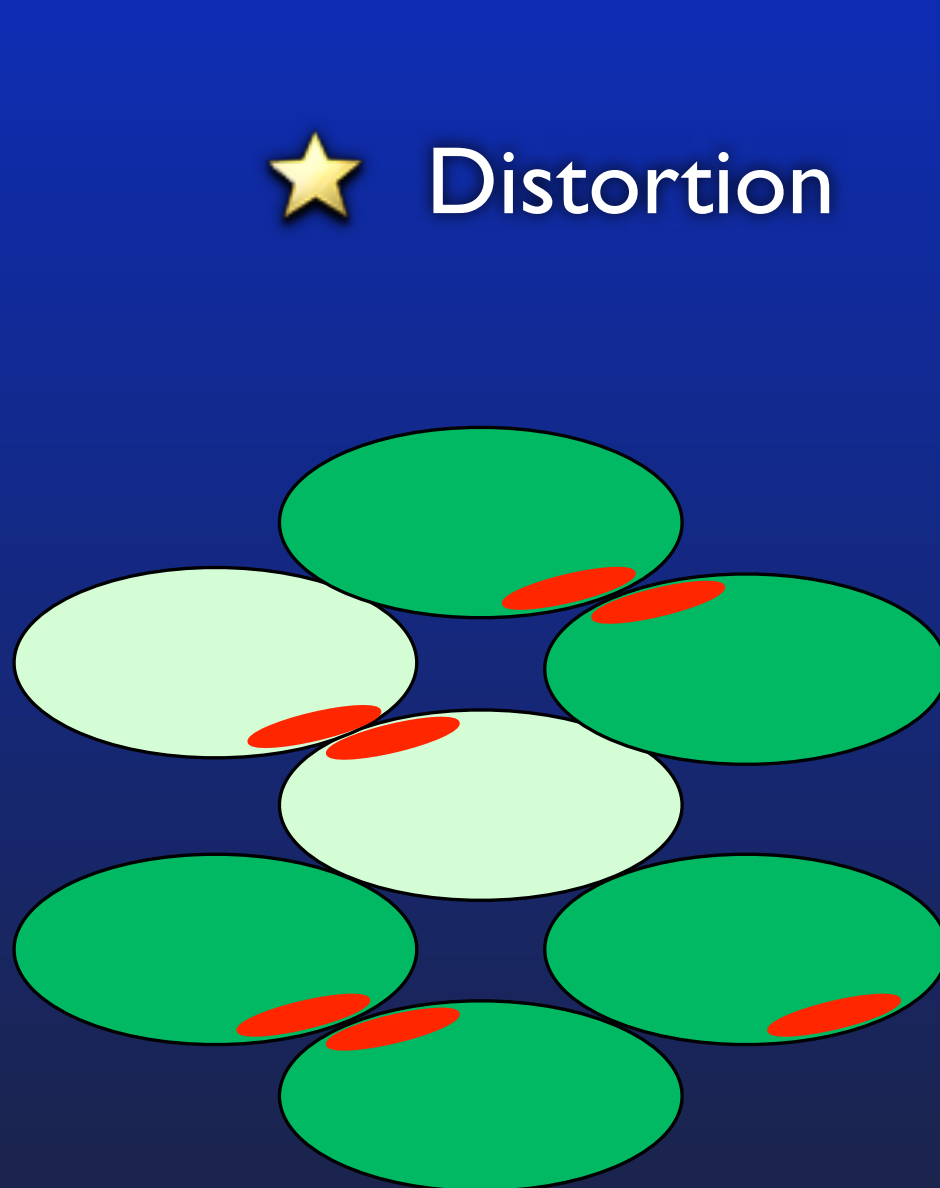
Probably correct



Distortions and Re-assembly

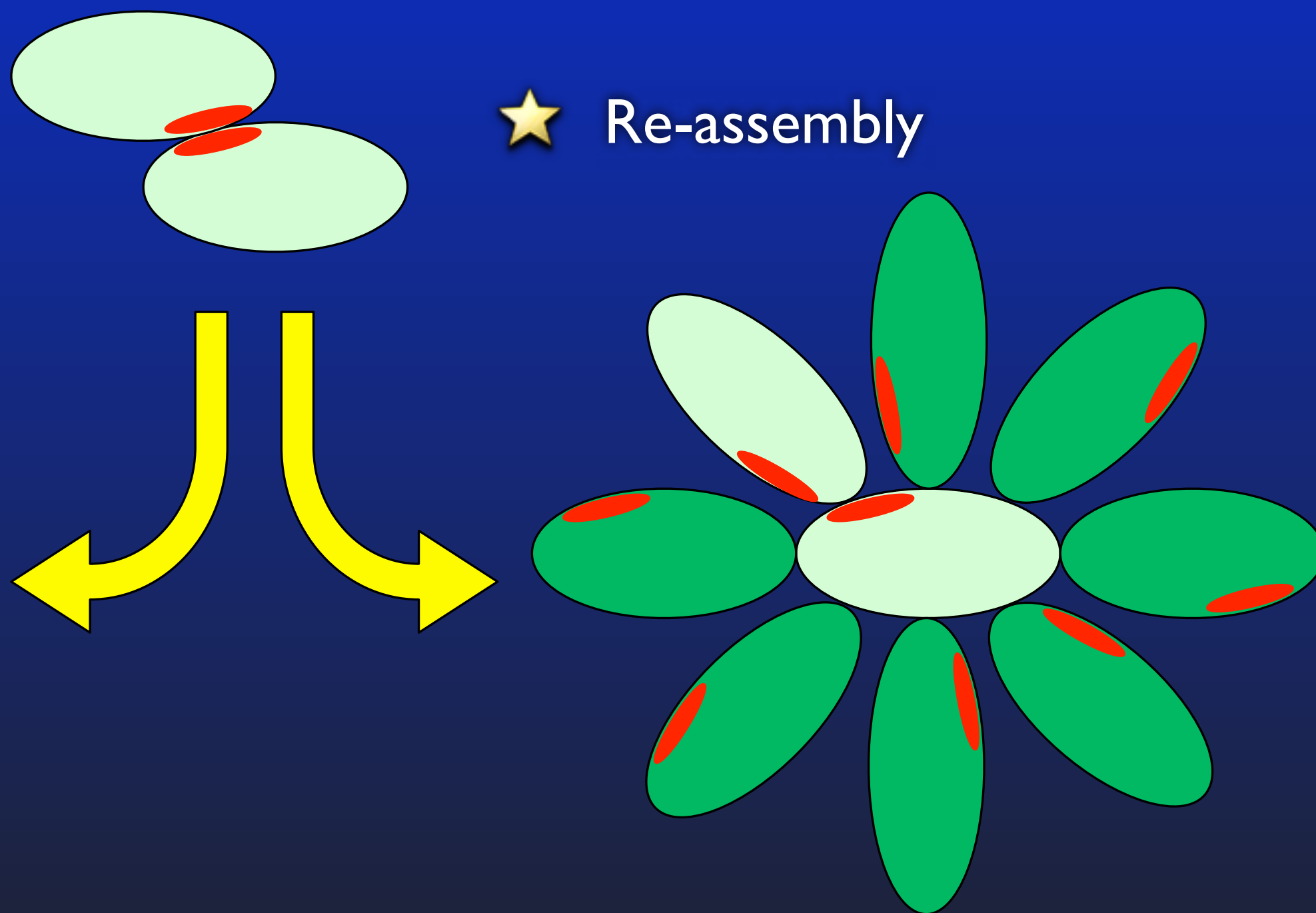
- ★ Crystal optimizes energy globally, therefore it may sacrifice biologically relevant interaction in favour of unspecific crystal contacts

★ Distortion



Probably, distortions are
always there

★ Re-assembly

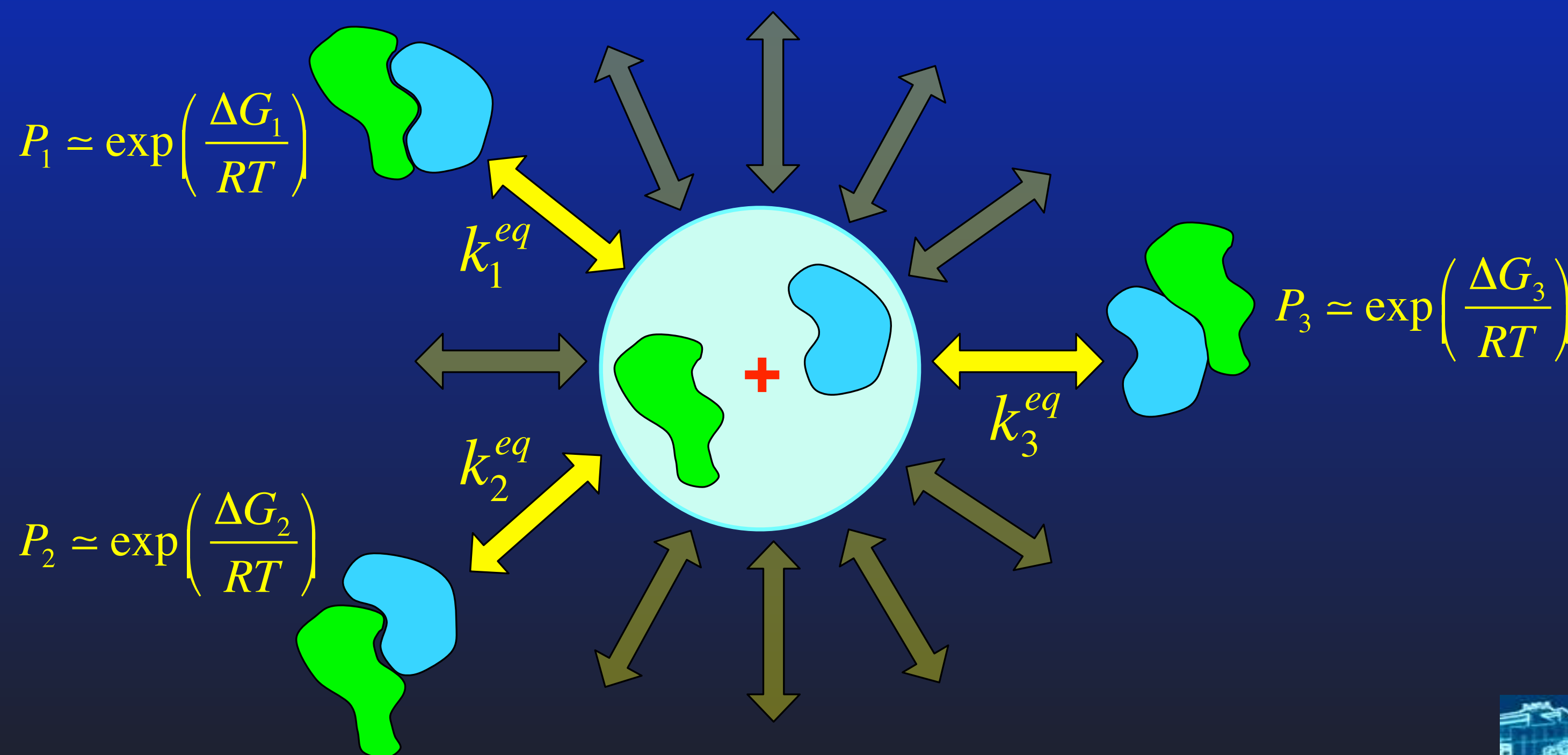


There is a chance for re-assembly
if interaction is weak



Alternative assemblies

- ★ All complexes (assemblies) have right to exist in solvent, however with different occurrence probabilities. These probabilities may differ of those in crystal environment, e.g., in case of substantially assisted crystallisation.



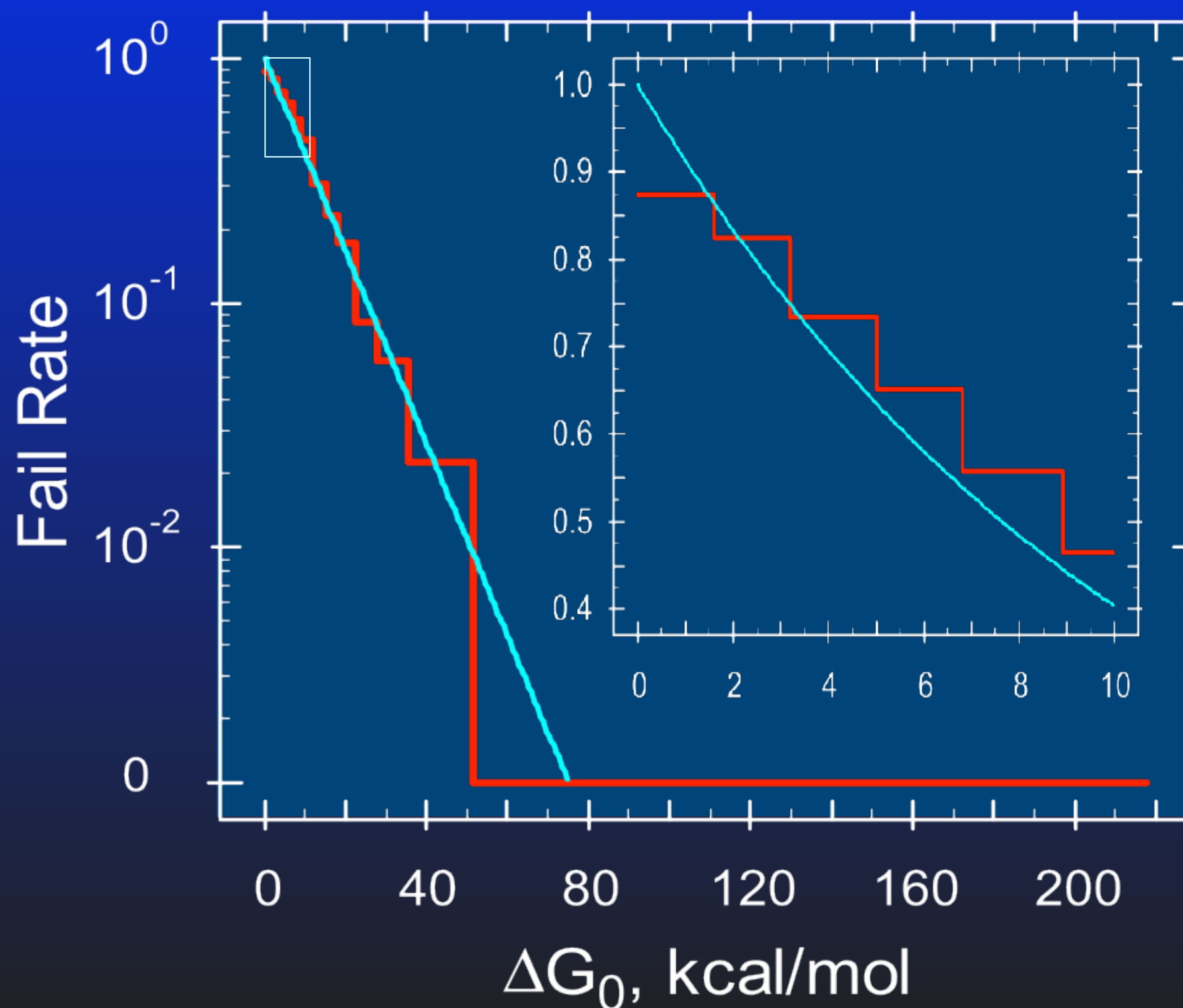
Real and superficial crystal contacts

- ★ If a crystal contact remains thermodynamically preferential in solution, the chances are that it represents a biochemically relevant interaction
- ★ Experimental (not crystallographic) data on structure of complexes in solutions is **very** sparse
- ★ One can hope to get some clues using computational docking, assuming that docking approximates in-solvent situation
- ★ Being applied to 4065 non-redundant dimers from the PDB, docking **fails** to arrive at crystal interface in **38%** of instances

E. Krissinel (2010) J. Comp. Chem. 31, 133-143



Fail rate of docking



The plot shows the probability of docking not to arrive at crystal interface, as a function of interface free energy.

The probabilities are calculated using equipopulated bins.

Overall, 38% of failures.

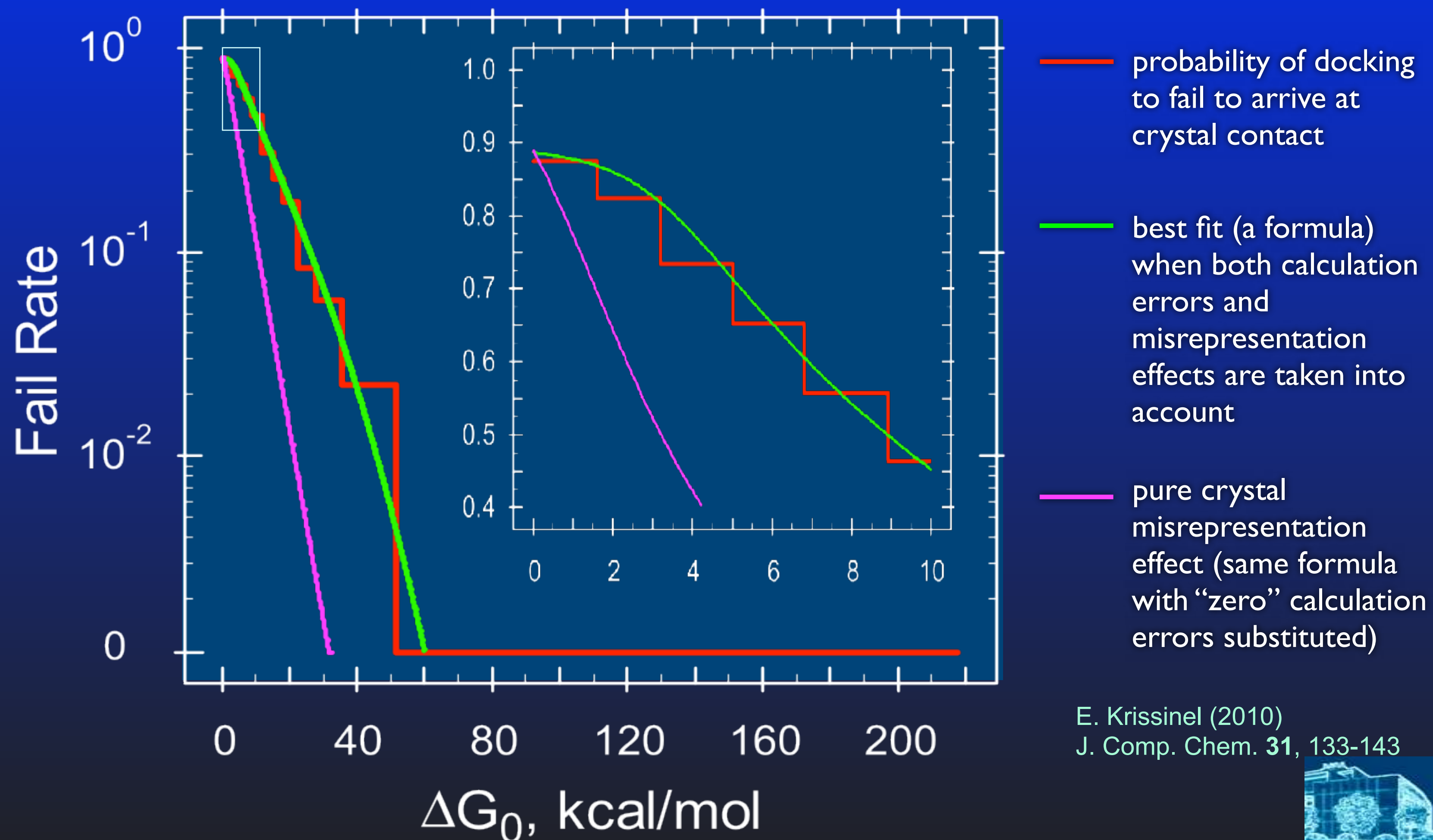
Good news: at high ΔG_{diss}^0 errors disappear

Bad news: biologically interesting interactions are normally weak

E. Krissinel (2010) J. Comp. Chem. 31, 133-143



Calculation errors and crystal misrepresentation effects



So what is the practicality of all this?

- ★ PISA *is not* a substitution for experiments on the identification of protein's oligomeric state
 - both the software and (much less likely) experiment may give wrong results
 - in difference of experimental results, calculations do not make a scientific evidence!
- ★ PISA may be used for choosing complex models for molecular replacement
 - already done in BALBES automatic molecular replacement pipeline
- ★ PISA may be used for interpretation of experimental results when evidence is not sufficient for a definite answer
 - which dimer?
 - inconclusive evidence (e.g. oligomeric state highly dependent on concentration/temperature/ion presence etc.)
- ★ PISA may be used for sanity checks, comparative analysis and flag raising
 - is proposed complex structure compatible with crystal packing?
 - is proposed complex different from close homologs?
 - is there a strong disagreement with biological/biochemical expectations?



Acknowledgements

Kim Henrick <i>European Bioinformatics Institute</i>	General introduction and PQS expertise
Mark Shenderovich <i>Structural Bioinformatics Inc.</i>	Helpful discussion
Hannes Ponstingl <i>Sanger Centre</i>	Sharing expertise and benchmark data
Sergei Strelkov <i>University of Leuven</i>	“Mystery” of bacteriophage T4
MSD & PDB teams <i>EBI & Rutgers</i>	Everyday use of PISA, examples, verification and feedback
CCP4 <i>Daresbury-York-Oxford</i>	Encouragement, support and publicity
~10,000 PISA users <i>Worldwide</i>	Using PISA and feedback
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council <i>(BBSRC) UK</i>	Research grant No. 721/B19544

