

Structural Data: X-ray Crystallography & Cryo-EM & AI

Jesse Rinehart, PhD

Biomedical Data Science: Mining & Modeling

CBB 752, Spring 2023



**Cellular & Molecular Physiology
Yale University School of Medicine**



Yale Structure Courses:

MB&B529b / PHAR529b, Structural Biology and Drug Discovery

MB&B711b / C&MP711b, Practical cryo-EM Workshop

MB&B720a, Macromolecular Structure and Biophysical Analysis

C&MP 710b/MB&B 710b4, Electron Cryo-Microscopy for Protein Structure Determination

MB&B635a / ENAS518a, Quantitative Approaches in Biophysics and Biochemistry

Additional Resources:

“Crystallography Made Crystal Clear: A Guide for Users of Macromolecular Models”
Gale Rhodes (Third Edition, 2006 Elsevier/Academic Press)

“Crystallography 101” <http://www.ruppweb.org/Xray/101index.html>

“Single particle electron cryomicroscopy: trends, issues and future perspective.”
Vinothkumar KR, Henderson R. Q Rev Biophys. 2016 pubmed:27658821

“Cryo-EM: A Unique Tool for the Visualization of Macromolecular Complexity”
Eva Nogales & Sjors HW Scheres, Mol. Cell 015 May PMID: 26000851

Thank you to **Yong Xiong** and **Fred Sigworth** for contributions to this lecture

“Just as we see objects around us by interpreting the light reflected from them, x-ray crystallographers "see" molecules by interpreting x-rays diffracted from them.”

- Gale Rhodes

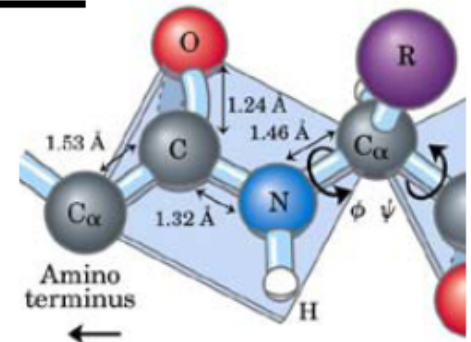
- There's a limit to how small an object can be seen under a light microscope.
- The diffraction limit: you can not image things that are much smaller than the wavelength of the light you are using.
- The wavelength for visible light is measured in hundreds of nanometers, while atoms are separated by distances of the order of 0.1nm, or 1Å.

We need to use x-rays to resolve atomic features.

Distances between atoms are small:

Lab x-ray sources use $\text{CuK}\alpha$ radiation. Wavelength = 1.54 Å.

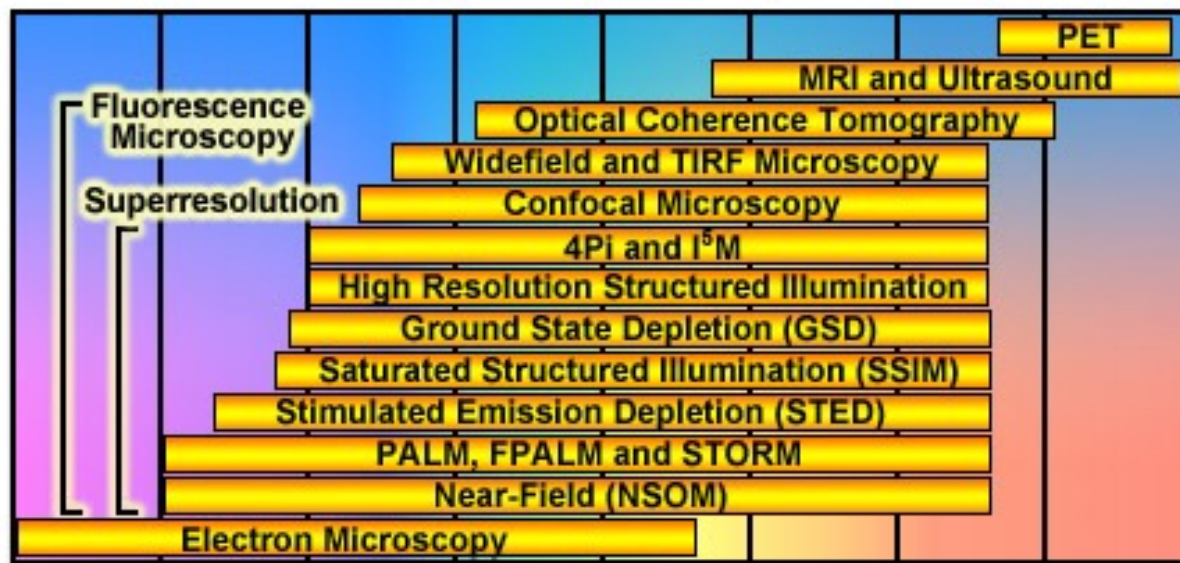
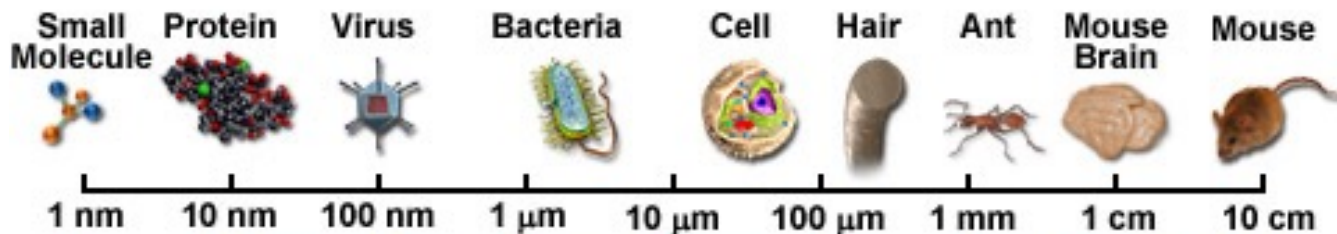
Synchrotron radiation wavelengths in the range 0.5 Å - 2.5 Å.



Yong Xiong

The 2014 Nobel Prize in Chemistry: Eric Betzig, W.E. Moerner, and Stefan Hell "The development of super-resolved fluorescence microscopy"

Spatial Resolution of Biological Imaging Techniques



1 Å = 0.1 nm

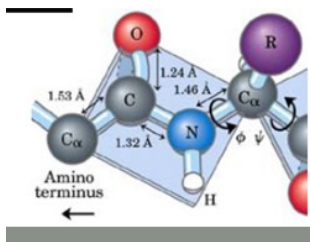
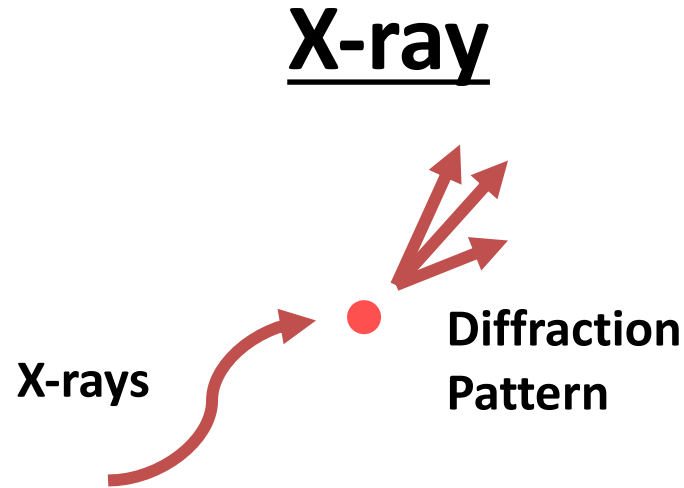


Figure 1

Experimental Determination of Atomic Resolution Structures

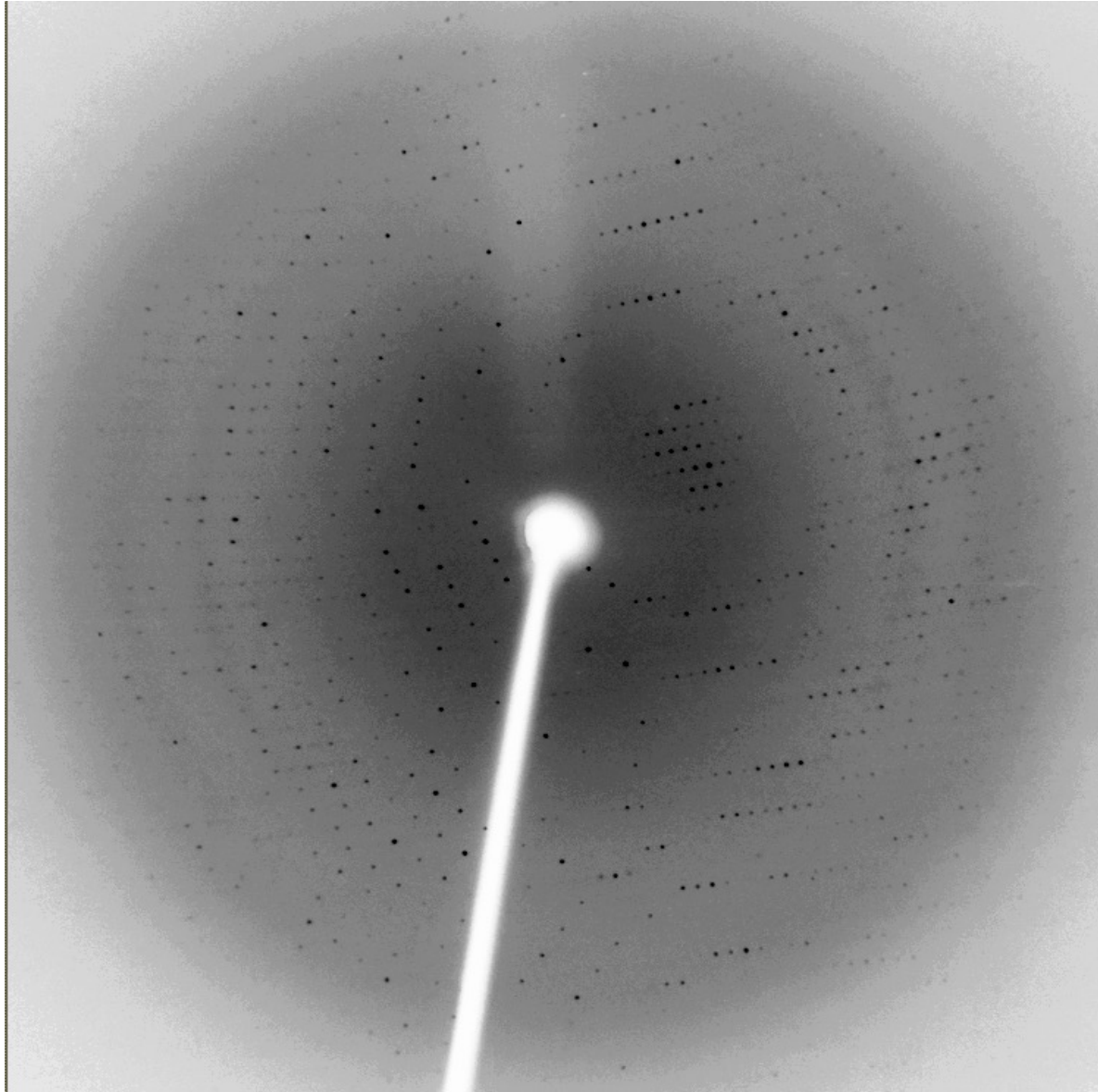


- **Direct detection of atom positions**
- **Crystals required**

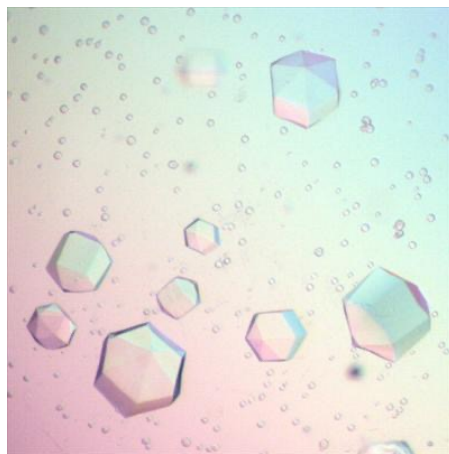
Other methods for determining protein structures:

-EM (Electron Microscopy), **Cryo-EM, ESR/Fluorescence**

Image of X-ray diffraction of a protein crystal

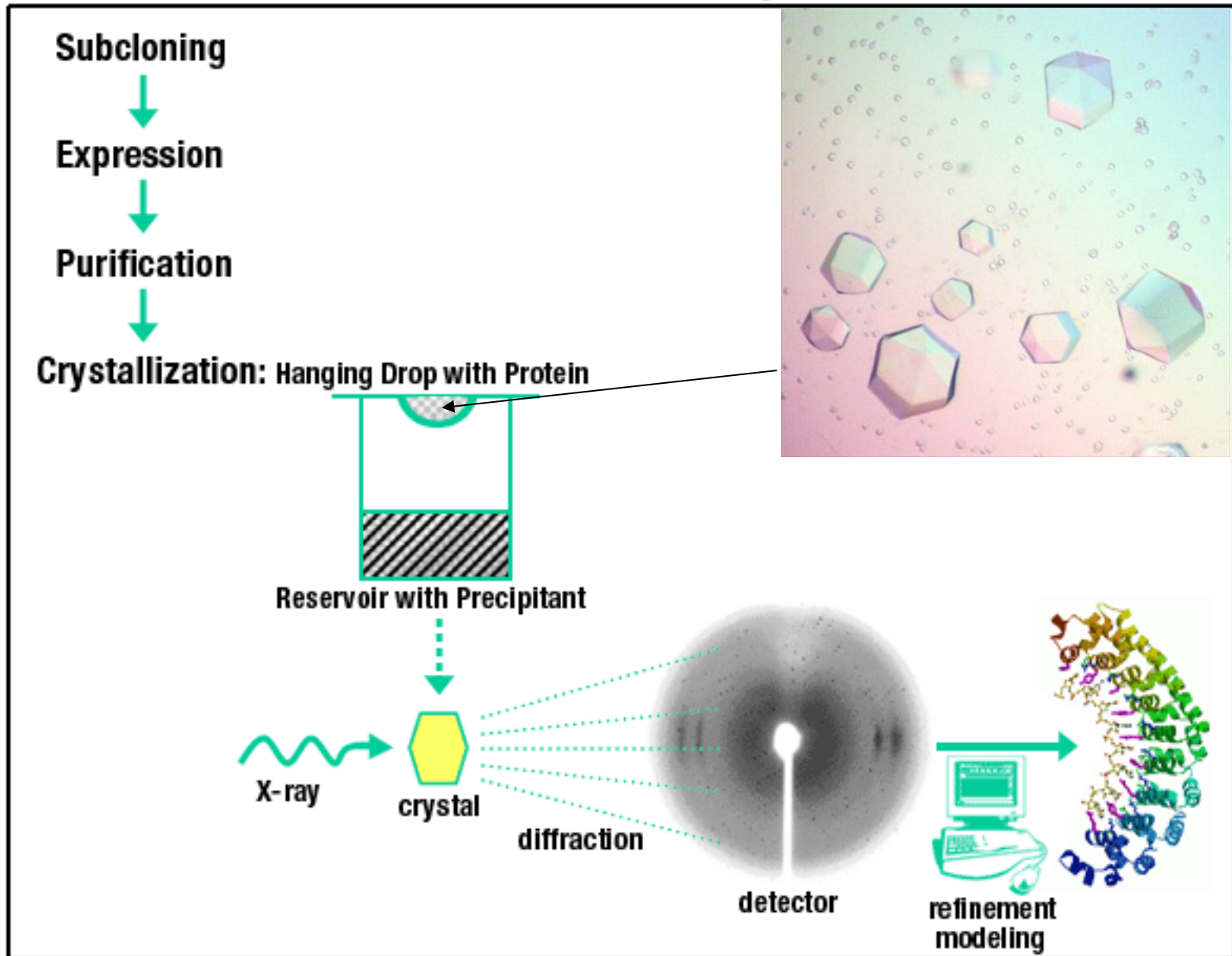


Why Crystals?

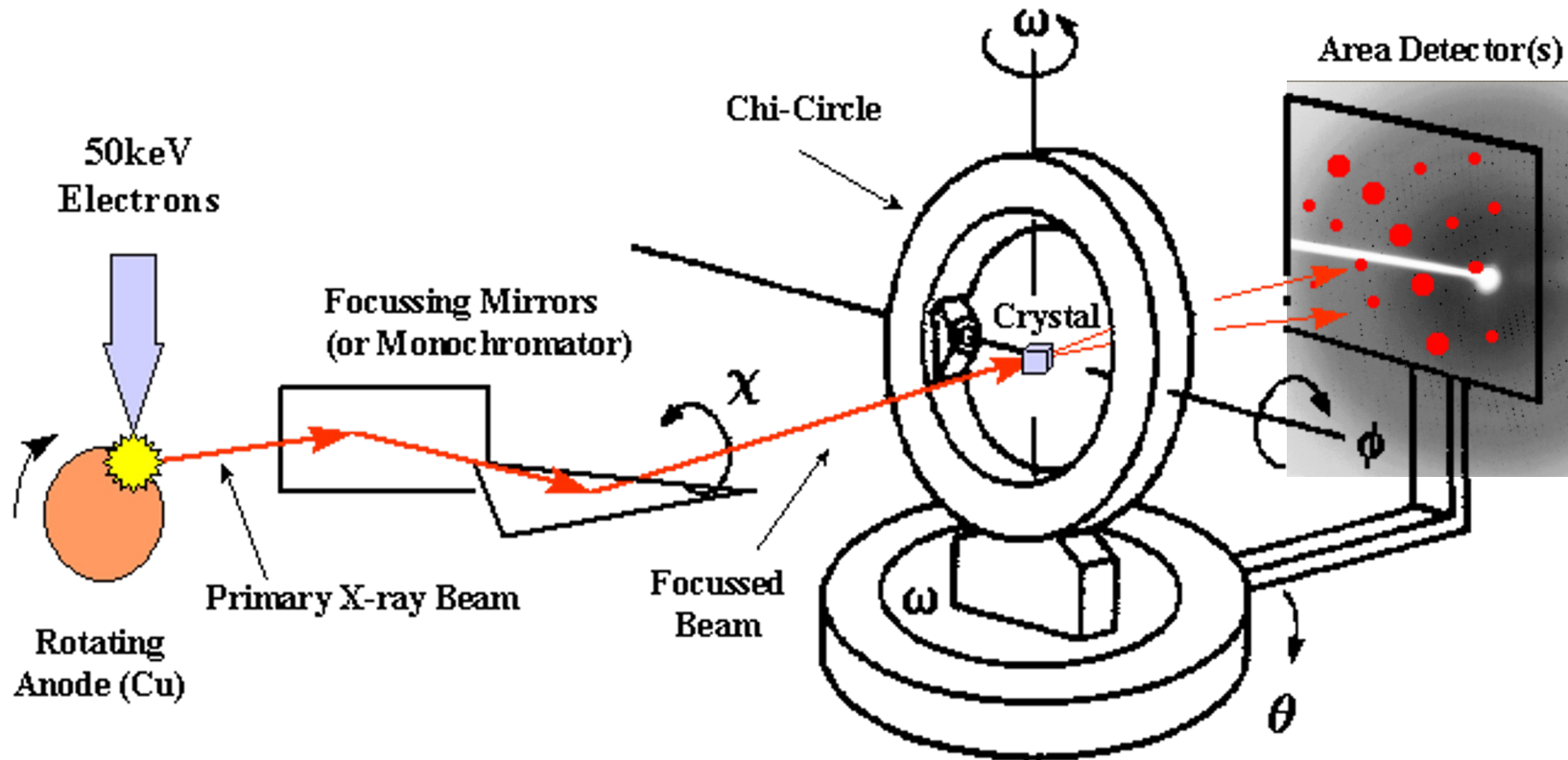


X-rays are scattered by electrons, too weak to record scattering from a single molecule. Crystals are therefore used because they present many molecules (N) in exactly the same orientation. The scattering from each of the N molecules interferes constructively to give a measurable diffraction pattern (enhanced $\sim N^2$ fold).

Determination of Protein Crystal Structure



Data Collection



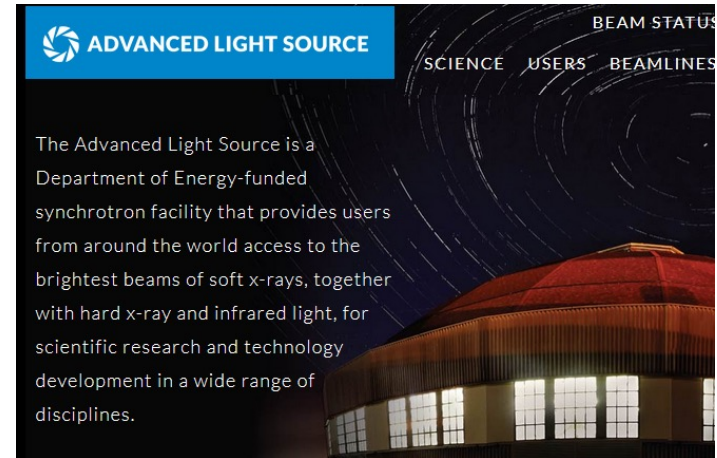
4-Circle Goniometer (Eulerian or Kappa Geometry)

Synchrotron X-ray Sources are the method of choice

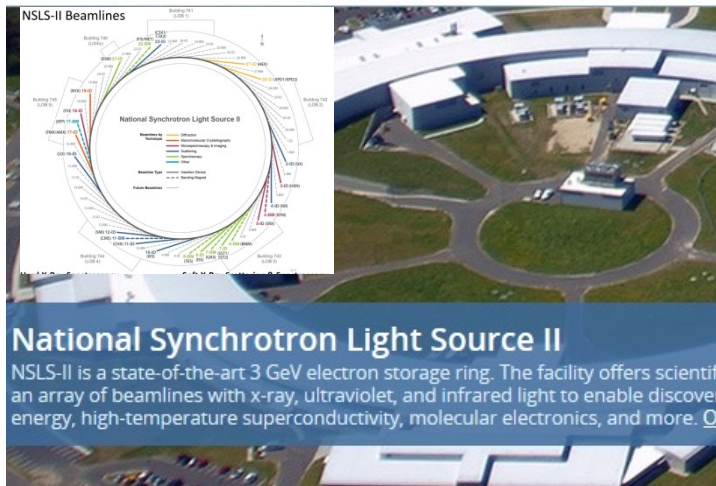
Lab x-ray sources @ 1.54 Å compared to Synchrotron X-ray @ 0.5 Å - 2.5 Å.



APS Chicago



ALS Berkeley

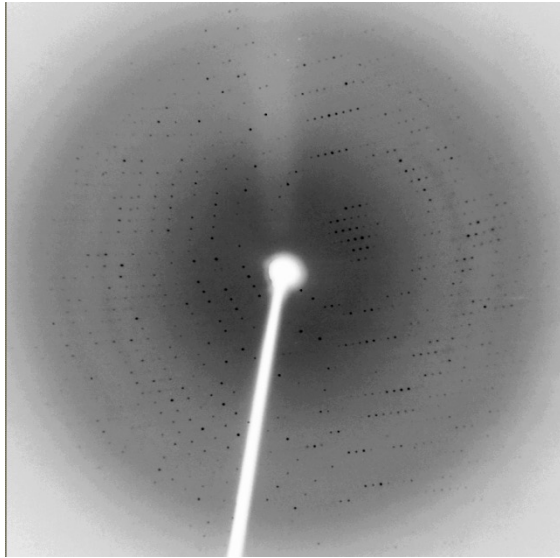


NSLS-II Brookhaven



CHESS Ithaca

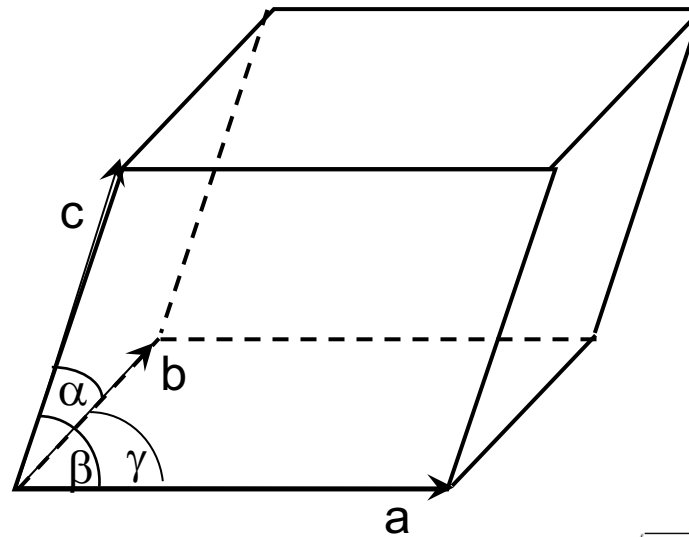
The information we get from a single diffraction experiment



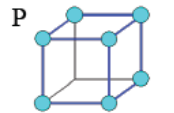
Analyze the pattern
of the reflections



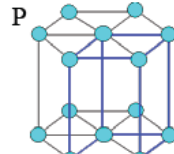
- (a) space group of the crystal
- (b) unit cell dimensions



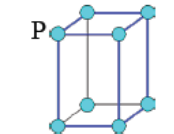
Cubic
 $a = b = c$,
 $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^\circ$



Hexagonal
 $a = b \neq c$,
 $\alpha = \beta = 90^\circ, \gamma = 120^\circ$



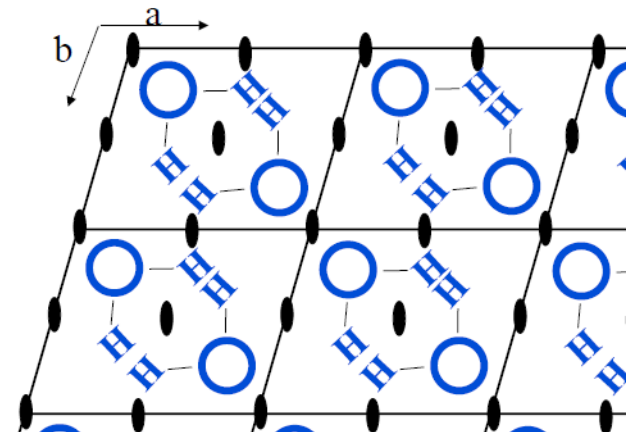
Trigonal
 $a = b \neq c$,
 $\alpha = \beta = 90^\circ, \gamma = 120^\circ$

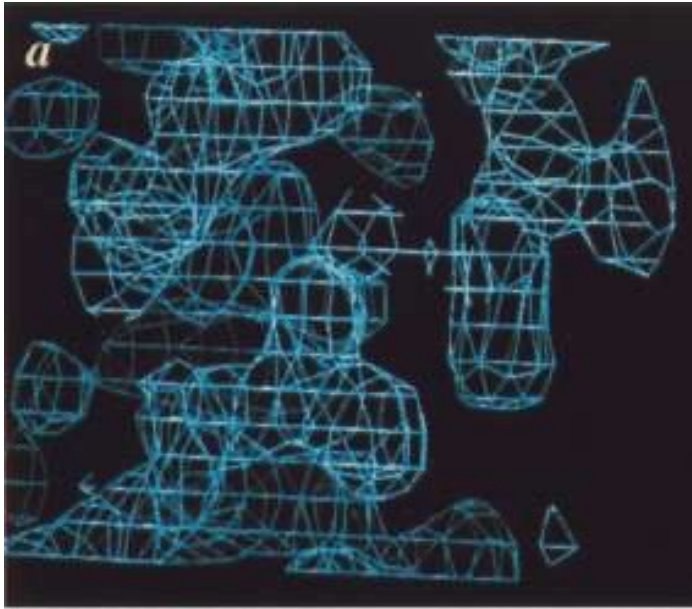


Tetragonal
 $a = b \neq c$,
 $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^\circ$

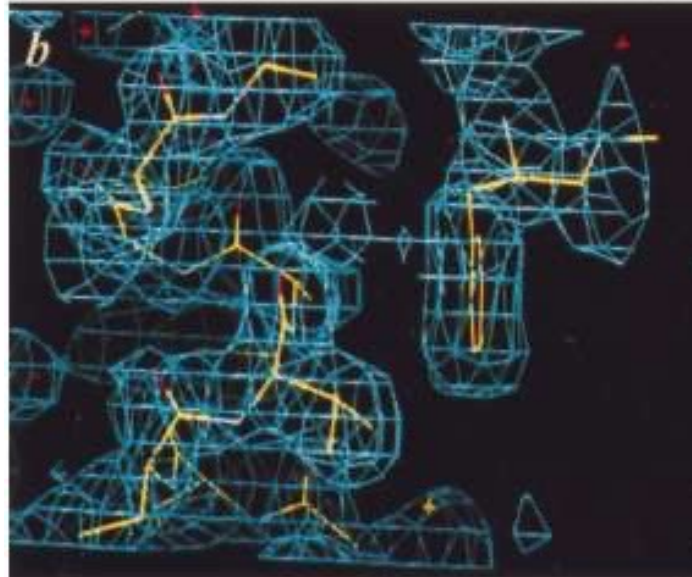
How to understand symmetry?

Crystal = lattice + unit cell content
 (asymmetric units (asu) content)





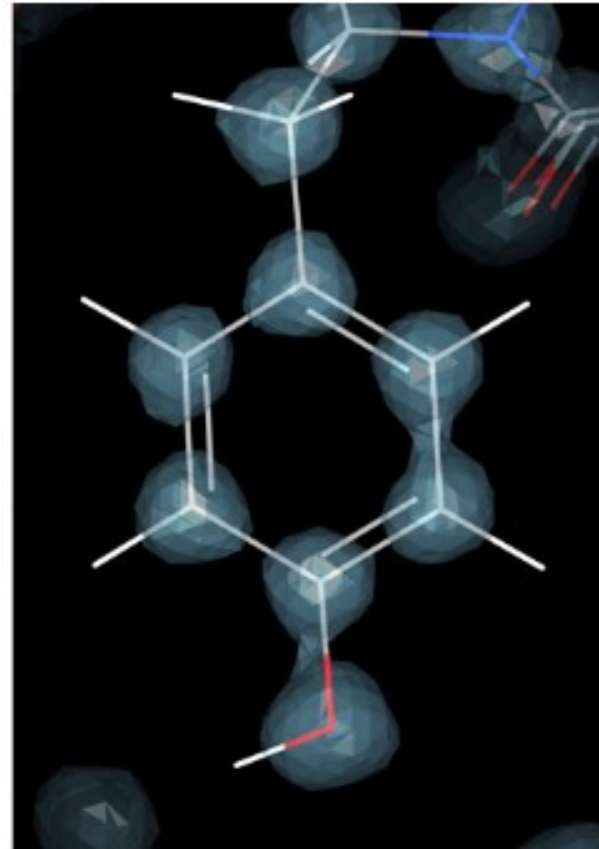
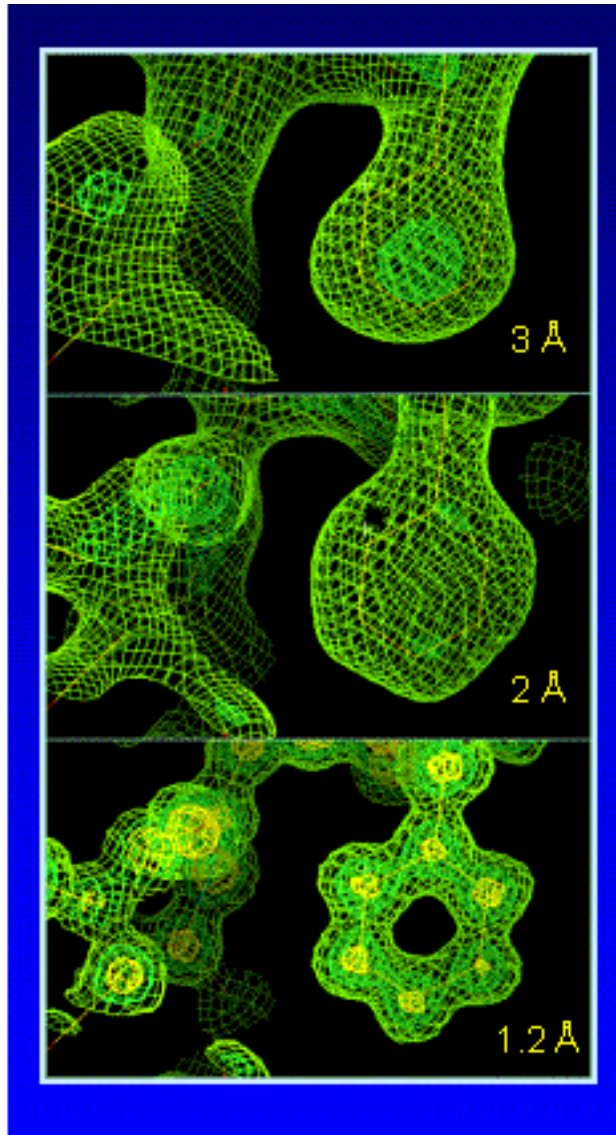
Electron density map



Building a structure model

- © 2006
- Academic Press

The importance of resolution



Crystal structure of small protein crambin at 0.48 Å resolution
Schmidt, A., et al (2011) Acta Crystallography 67: 424-429

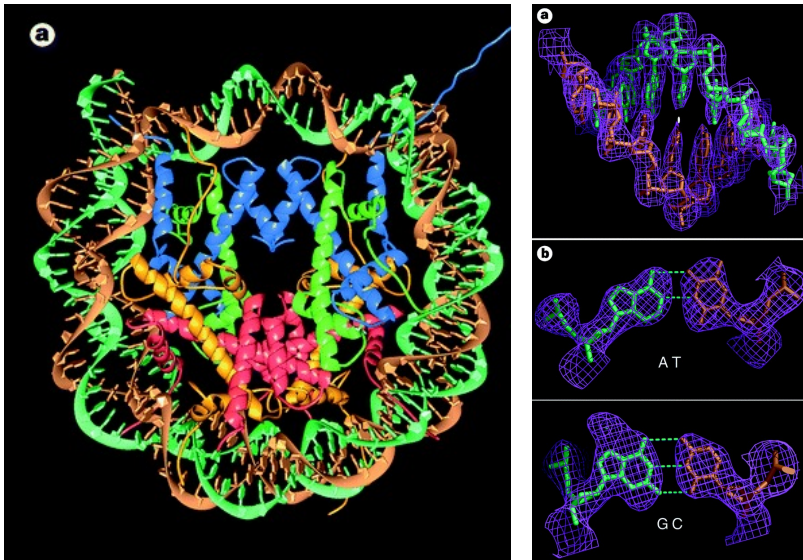
<https://www.rcsb.org/structure/3nir>

Crystal structure of the nucleosome core particle at 2.8 Å resolution

Karolin Luger, Armin W. Mäder, Robin K. Richmond, David F. Sargent & Timothy J. Richmond

Institut für Molekularbiologie und Biophysik ETHZ, ETH-Hönggerberg, CH-8093 Zürich, Switzerland

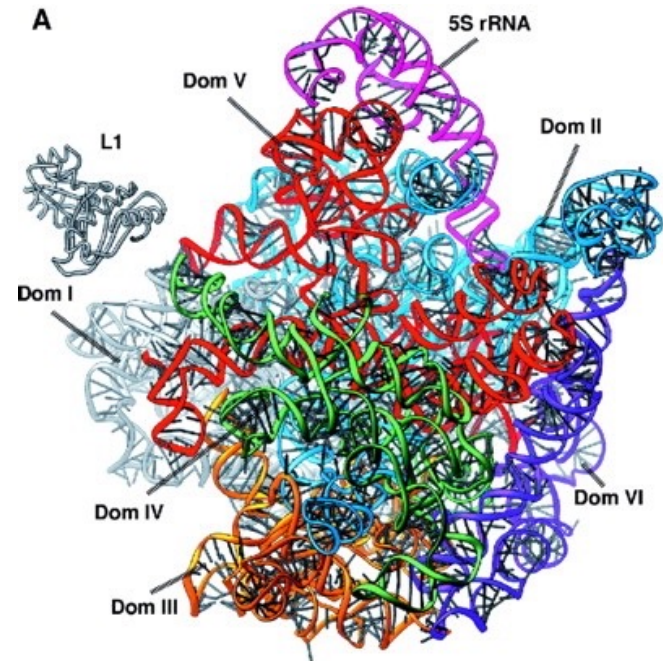
The X-ray crystal structure of the nucleosome core particle of chromatin shows in atomic detail how the histone protein octamer is assembled and how 146 base pairs of DNA are organized into a superhelix around it. Both histone/histone and histone/DNA interactions depend on the histone fold domains and additional, well ordered structure elements extending from this motif. Histone amino-terminal tails pass over and between the gyres of the DNA superhelix to contact neighbouring particles. The lack of uniformity between multiple histone/DNA-binding sites causes the DNA to deviate from ideal superhelix geometry.



•PMID: 9305837

The Complete Atomic Structure of the Large Ribosomal Subunit at 2.4 Å Resolution

Nenad Ban,^{1*} Poul Nissen,^{1*} Jeffrey Hansen,¹ Peter B. Moore,^{1,2} Thomas A. Steitz^{1,2,3,†}



Thomas Steitz shared 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for this structure

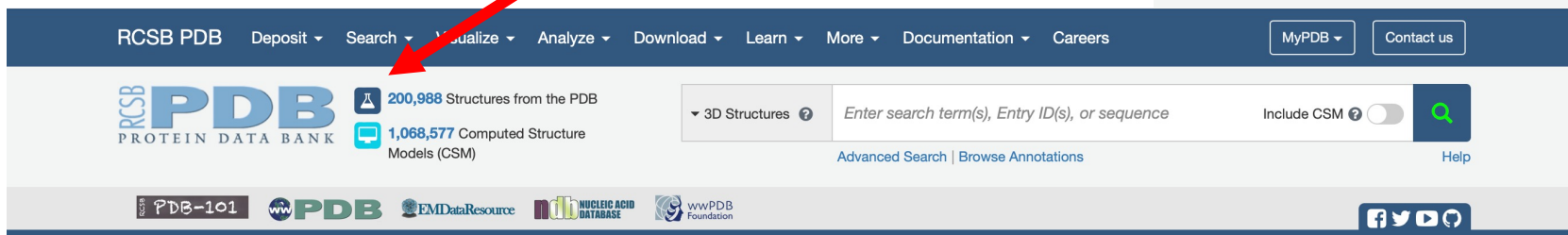
Structure Databases

- Where does protein structural information reside?

- PDB:
 - <http://www.rcsb.org/pdb/>
- MMDB:
 - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Structure/>
- FSSP:
 - <http://www.ebi.ac.uk/dali/fssp/>
- SCOP:
 - <http://scop.mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk/scop/>
- CATH:
 - http://www.biochem.ucl.ac.uk/bsm/cath_new/



of PDB structures
2020: 159,670
2023: 200,988

 200,988 Structures from the PDB
 1,068,577 Computed Structure Models (CSM) *



RCSB PDB Deposit Search Visualize Analyze Download Learn More Documentation Careers MyPDB Contact us

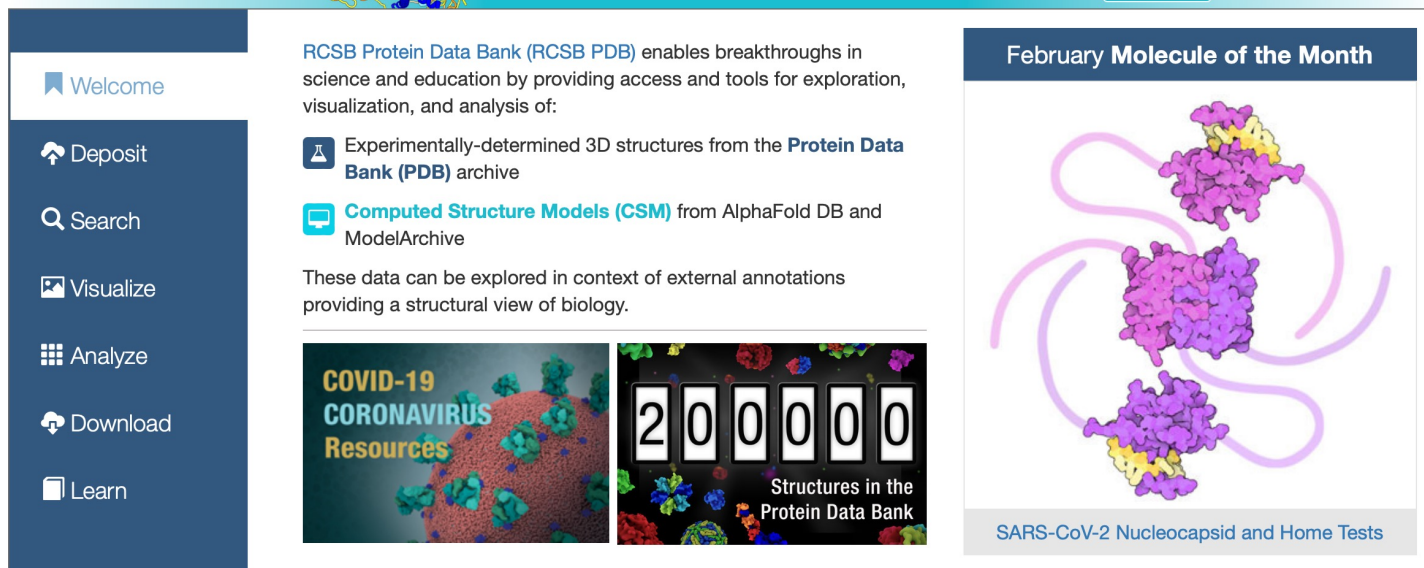
RCSB PDB PROTEIN DATA BANK

 200,988 Structures from the PDB
 1,068,577 Computed Structure Models (CSM)

3D Structures Enter search term(s), Entry ID(s), or sequence Include CSM Help

Advanced Search | Browse Annotations



PDB-101 PDB EMDataResource NUCLEIC ACID DATABASE wwPDB Foundation



Welcome

Deposit Search Visualize Analyze Download Learn

RCSB Protein Data Bank (RCSB PDB) enables breakthroughs in science and education by providing access and tools for exploration, visualization, and analysis of:

-  Experimentally-determined 3D structures from the **Protein Data Bank (PDB)** archive
-  **Computed Structure Models (CSM)** from AlphaFold DB and ModelArchive

These data can be explored in context of external annotations providing a structural view of biology.

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS Resources

200000 Structures in the Protein Data Bank

February Molecule of the Month

SARS-CoV-2 Nucleocapsid and Home Tests

<https://pdb101.rcsb.org/learn/videos/what-is-a-protein-video>

PDB: What species are the structures from?

human 

ORGANISM

Homo sapiens (42668)
Escherichia coli (9294)
Mus musculus (6313)
Saccharomyces cerevisiae (4133)
synthetic construct (3707)
Rattus norvegicus (2988)
Bos taurus (2852)
Other (77188)

Which methods?

X-ray 

EXPERIMENTAL METHOD

X-ray (132583) Resolution range 15 - 0.48 Å
Solution NMR (12391)
Electron Microscopy (2783) Resolution range 70 - 1.8 Å
Hybrid (138)
Electron Crystallography (112)
Solid-State NMR (101)
Neutron Diffraction (66)
Fiber Diffraction (38)
Solution Scattering (32)
Other (24)

PDB X-ray Structures:

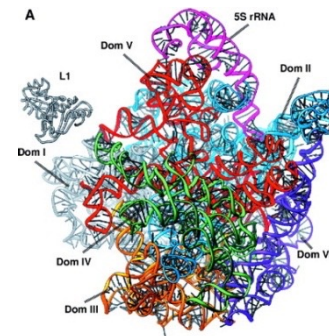
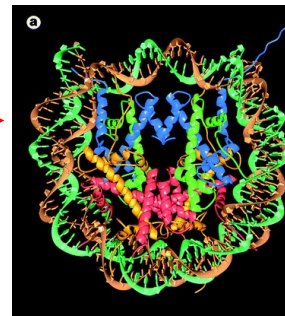
<http://www.rcsb.org/pdb/results/results.do?outformat=&qrid=1B04C26E&tabtoshow=Current>

ORGANISM

Homo sapiens (37692)
Escherichia coli (8330)
Mus musculus (5352)
Saccharomyces cerevisiae (3437)
synthetic construct (3305)
Rattus norvegicus (2623)
Bos taurus (2570)
Other (reached drill-down ... (71122)

POLYMER TYPE

Protein (124178)
Mixed (6508)
DNA (1074)
RNA (819)



MEMBRANE PROTEINS

ALPHA-HELICAL (3071)
BETA-BARREL (914)
MONOTOPIC MEMBRANE PROTEINS
(486)

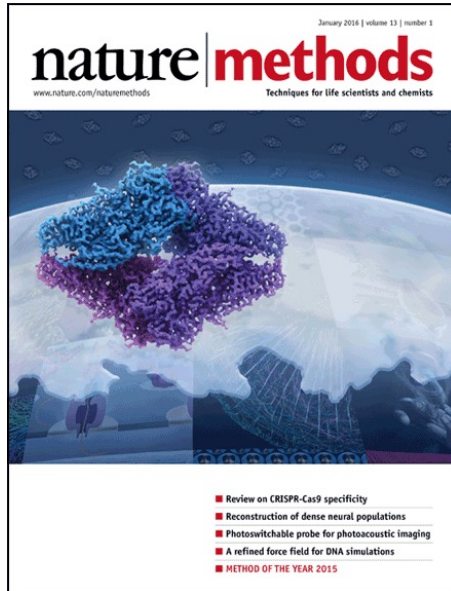
Small % of the total x-ray data

Tools for Viewing Structures

- **Jmol**
 - <http://jmol.sourceforge.net>
- **PyMOL**
 - <http://pymol.sourceforge.net>
- **Swiss PDB viewer**
 - <http://www.expasy.ch/spdbv>
- **Mage/KiNG**
 - <http://kinemage.biochem.duke.edu/software/mage.php>
 - <http://kinemage.biochem.duke.edu/software/king.php>
- **Rasmol**
 - <http://www.umass.edu/microbio/rasmol/>

Cryo-EM for biomolecular structures

2015 Method of the Year: Single-particle Cryo-EM



METHOD OF THE YEAR 2015

At *Nature Methods* we are ringing in a new year with our celebration of single-particle cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) as our Method of the Year 2015. Cryo-EM has its roots in work first performed in the 1960s. It has steadily progressed over the past few decades as a medium-resolution structural technique for obtaining information about macromolecular samples that resist analysis by X-ray crystallography. But very recent technical advances, especially the development of direct-detection cameras, have enabled the field to achieve impressive leaps in resolution—even reaching the near-atomic realm of X-ray crystallography—and, by extension, biological applicability. An Editorial, News Feature, Primer, Historical Commentary and Commentary discuss how cryo-EM works, what it is used for, how the field began, why now is such an exhilarating time, and where the field is going in the future. We also cast our predictions about methods with exciting potential in our Methods to Watch section.

Special feature starts on p19

2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

"for developing cryo-electron microscopy for the high-resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution"

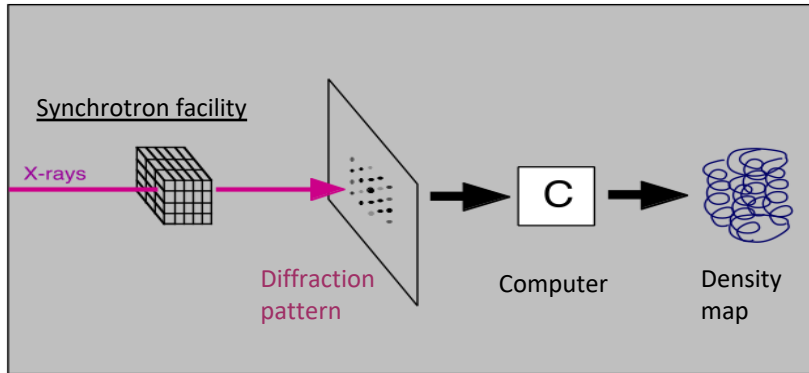


Jacques Dubochet (University of Lausanne, Switzerland)

Joachim Frank (Columbia University, New York, USA)

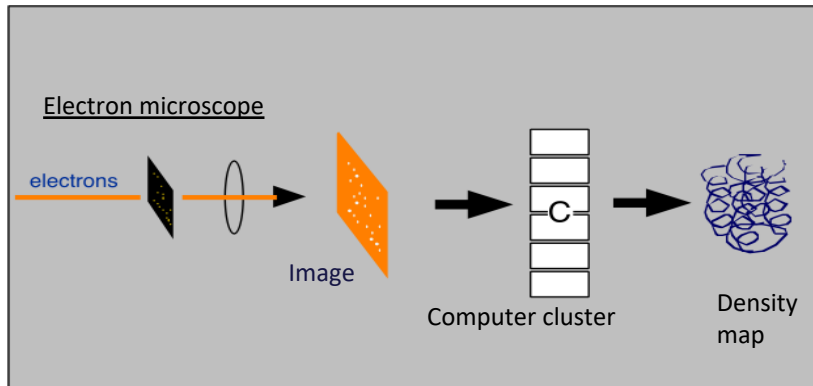
Richard Henderson (MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, UK)

Two methods for structure determination



X-ray crystallography

Well-established (since 1960s)
Requires well-ordered crystals
>10¹² copies of protein



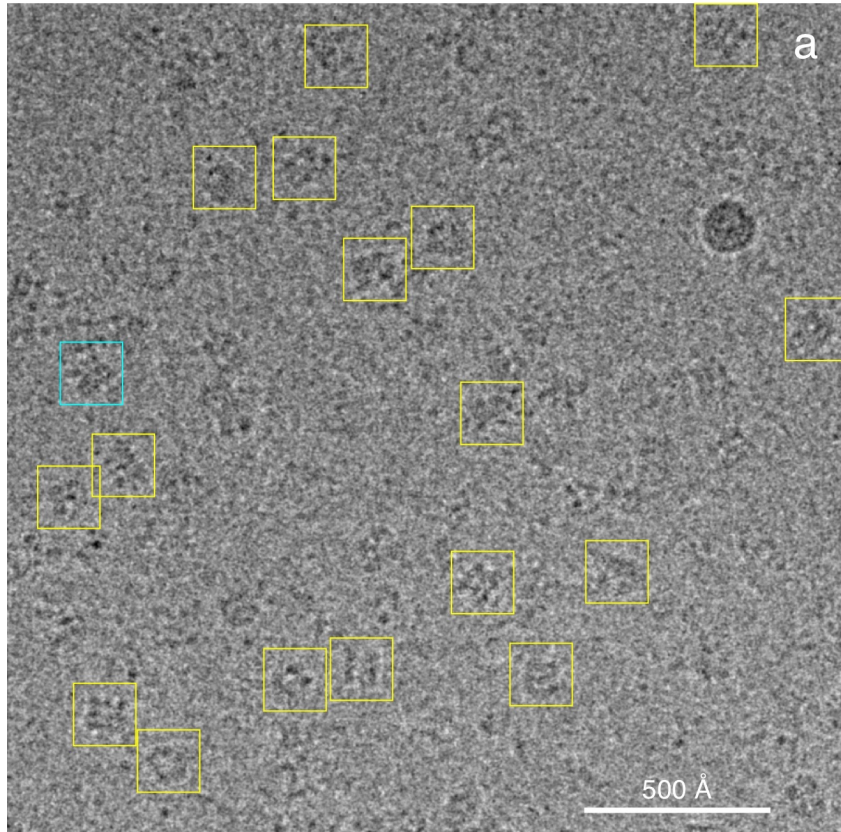
Single-particle cryo-EM

Recent (1990s-present)
No crystals required!
~10⁵ copies of protein

The Cryo-EM specimen gives only a phase contrast image

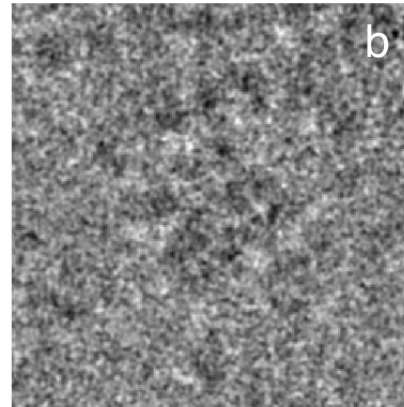
- A constellation of images and data processing are essential.

1/4 of a micrograph, showing some particles

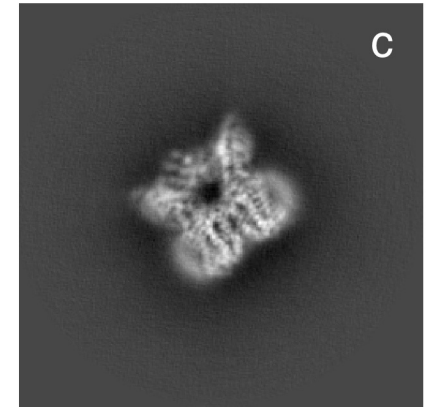


Y. Cheng and D. Julius lab. Nature 2013

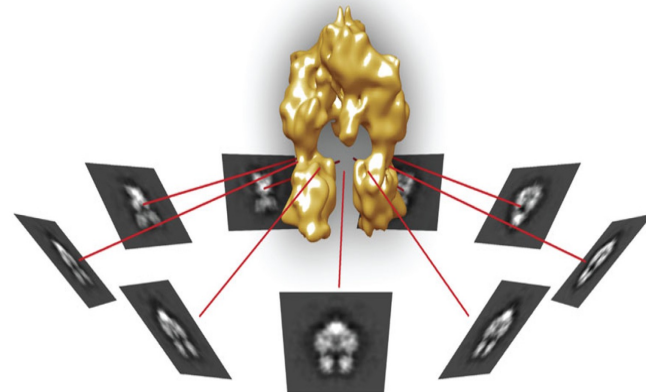
Image



Projection



- orientation assignment and averaging
- 3D reconstruction



Fred Sigworth

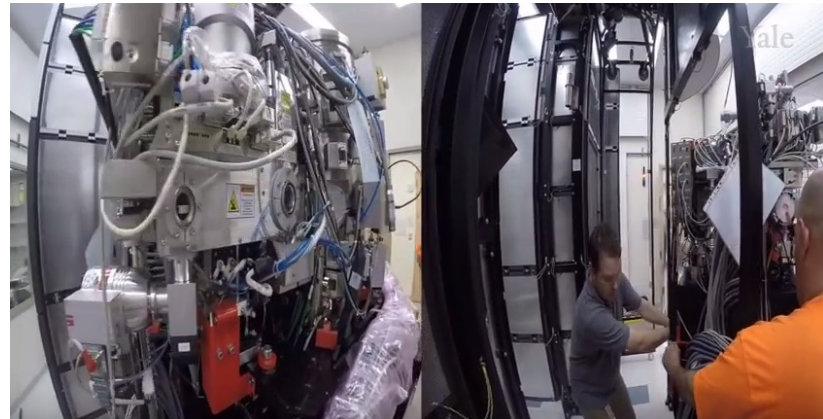
New Technologies, Automation, & Computation are accelerating the field



Krios at National University of Singapore



Control room at Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla



Krios TEM installation on Yale's West Campus.



EMDB

Electron Microscopy Data Bank

Search EMDb...

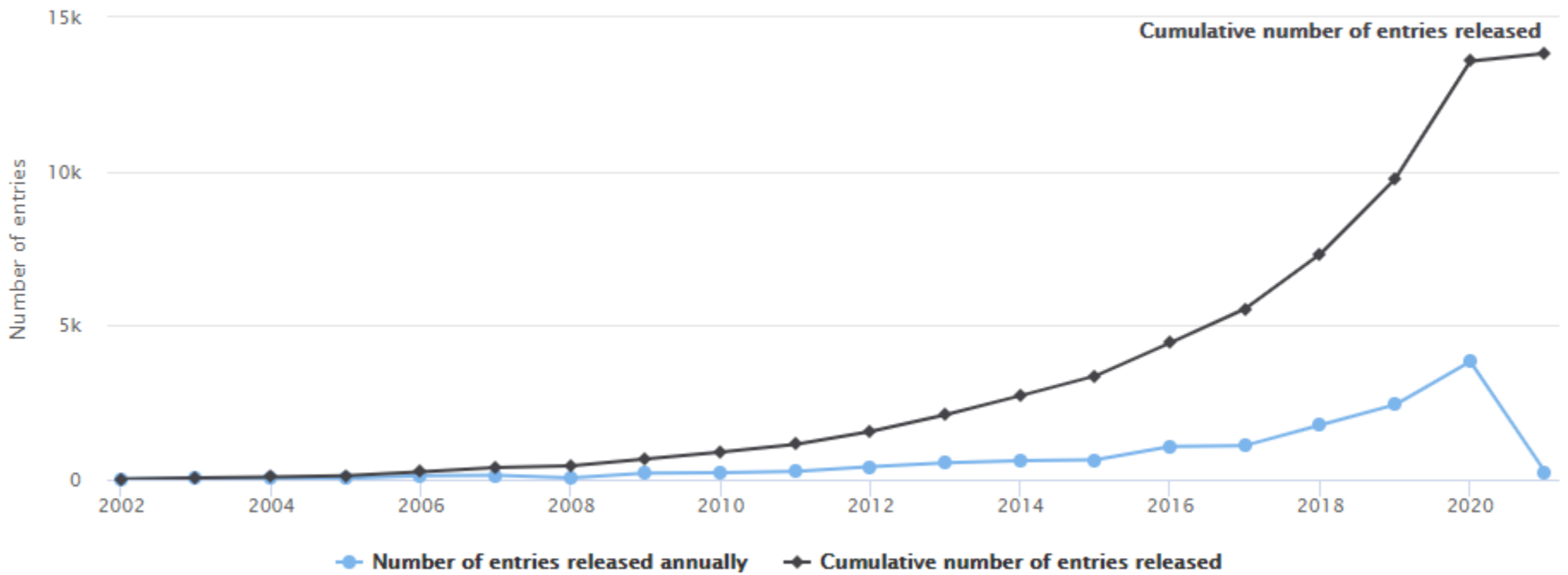


Examples: 1001, Apoferritin, Tomography, Rossmann MG, 5A1A

advanced search

EMDB Released entries by year

Full Screen Logarithmic



<https://wwwdev.ebi.ac.uk/emdb/statistics>

Cryo-EM: membrane proteins, protein complexes, proteins difficult to crystalize

Science

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Cite as: E. C. Twomey *et al.*, *Science* 10.1126/science.aax1033 (2019).

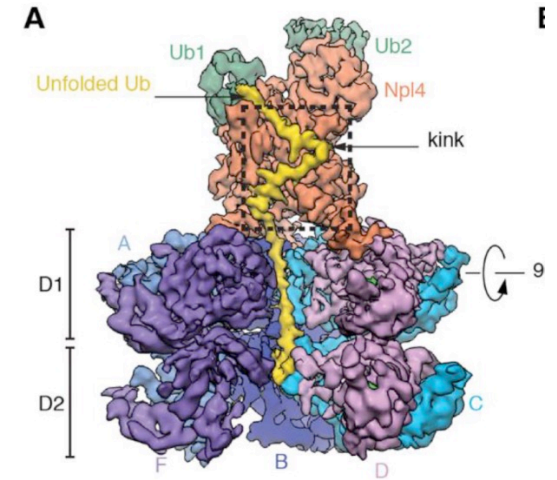
Substrate processing by the Cdc48 ATPase complex is initiated by ubiquitin unfolding

Edward C. Twomey^{1*}, Zhejian Ji^{1*}, Thomas E. Wales², Nicholas O. Bodnar¹, Scott B. Ficarro^{3,4}, Jarrod A. Marto^{3,4}, John R. Engen², Tom A. Rapoport^{1†}

¹Department of Cell Biology, Harvard Medical School, and Howard Hughes Medical Institute, 240 Longwood Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA. ²Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Northeastern University, Boston, MA, USA. ³Department of Cancer Biology, Department of Oncologic Pathology, and Blais Proteomics Center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA 02115, USA. ⁴Department of Pathology, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02115, USA.

*These authors contributed equally to this work.

†Corresponding author. Email: tom_rapoport@hms.harvard.edu



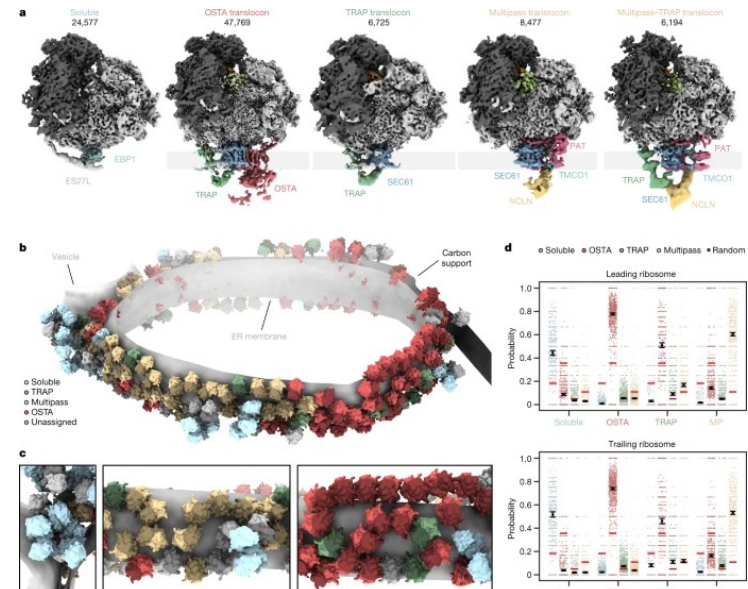
Article | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 25 January 2023](#)

Visualization of translation and protein biogenesis at the ER membrane

[Max Gemmer](#), [Marten L. Chaillet](#), [Joyce van Loenhout](#), [Rodrigo Cuevas Arenas](#), [Dimitrios Vismpas](#), [Mariska Gröllers-Mulderij](#), [Fujiet A. Koh](#), [Pascal Albanese](#), [Richard A. Scheltema](#), [Stuart C. Howes](#), [Abhay Kotecha](#), [Juliette Fedry](#) ✉ & [Friedrich Förster](#) ✉

[Nature](#) 614, 160–167 (2023) | [Cite this article](#)

16k Accesses | 225 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)



PMID: 30630874;30598546;25918421;31249135;36697828

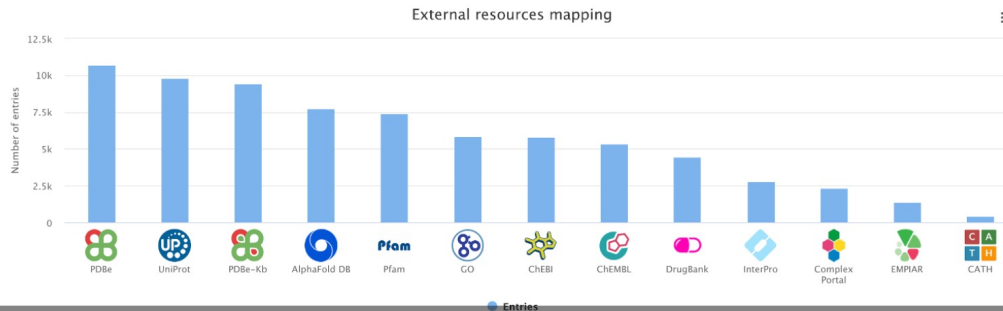
EMICSS (Launched Dec 2022)

EMDB Integration with Complexes, Structures and Sequences.

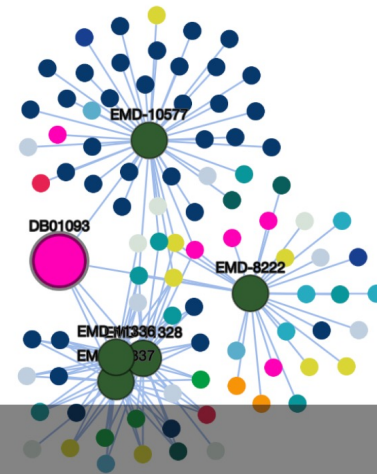
The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the EMDB website with links for Home, Deposition, Documentation, Resources, FTP Archive, REST API, About, Feedback, and Share. The main header area features the EMDB logo and a large banner for EMICSS: EMDb Integration with Complexes, Structures and Sequences.

EMICSS

Statistics



Structured EM annotations



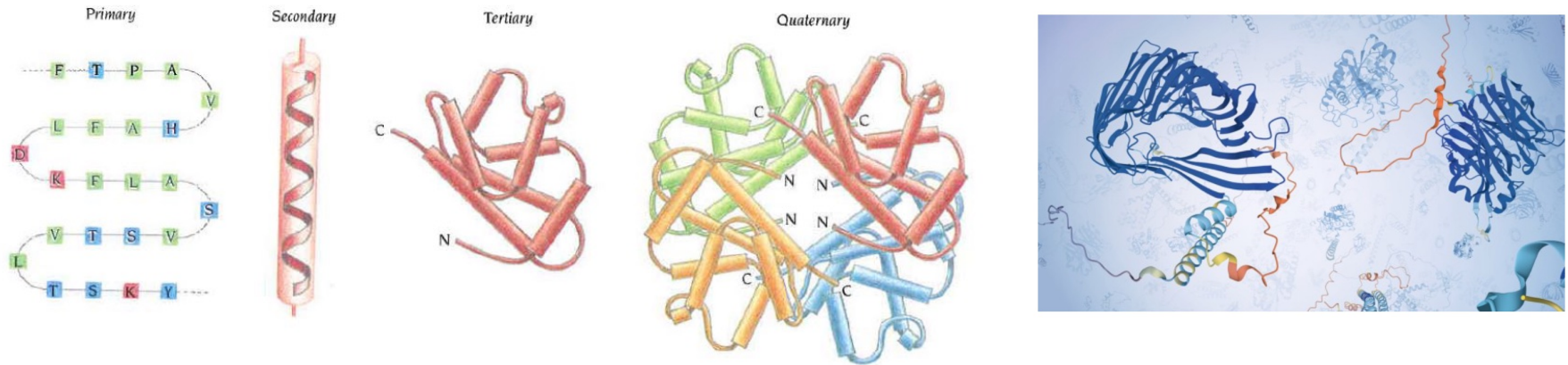
This service provides weekly updated cross-reference information for all EMDB entries, including both entry-level annotations (e.g., publication, corresponding PDB and EMPIAR entries, etc.) and sample-level (e.g., UniProt identifiers, AlphaFold DB models, etc.) annotations. The information from EMICSS is used on the EMDB website to provide relevant links and annotation for individual entries and sample components. The search system also takes advantage of this data to enable advanced queries not otherwise possible.

<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/emdb/emicss>

The protein-folding problem was first posed over 50 years ago:

What is the physical code by which an amino acid sequence dictates fold?

Can we devise a computer algorithm to predict protein structures from their sequences?



AI deep-learning-based methods solved the protein folding problem

FOCUS | 11 JANUARY 2022

Method of the Year 2021: Protein structure prediction

Protein structure prediction is our Method of the Year 2021, for the remarkable levels of accuracy achieved by deep learning-based methods in predicting the 3D structures of proteins and protein complexes, essentially solving this long-standing challenge.



Excellent perspective & overview:

“The impact of AlphaFold2 one year on.” Jones, D.T., Thornton, J.M.
Nature Methods **19**, 15–20 (2022). PMID: 35017725

Key literature:

(AlphaFold)

Senior, A. W. et al. *Nature* **577**, 706–710 (2020). PMID: 34293799.

Jumper, J. et al. *Nature* **596**, 583–589 (2021). PMID: 34265844.

Tunyasuvunakool, K. et al. *Nature* **596**, 590–596 (2021) PMID: 34293799.

(RoseTTA)

Baek, M. et al. *Science* **373**, (2021) PMID: 34282049

AI deep-learning-based methods have revealed a more complete picture of protein structure

X-ray

ORGANISM

Homo sapiens (37692)

Escherichia coli (8330)

Mus musculus (5352)

Saccharomyces cerevisiae (3437)

synthetic construct (3305)

Rattus norvegicus (2623)

Bos taurus (2570)

Other (reached drill-down ... (71122)

AI

Table 1. Structural predictions for complete proteomes in AlphaFold DB

Species	Common name	Reference proteome	Predicted structures
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	<i>Arabidopsis</i>	UP000006548	27 434
<i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i>	Nematode worm	UP000001940	19 694
<i>Candida albicans</i>	<i>C. albicans</i>	UP000000559	5974
<i>Danio rerio</i>	Zebrafish	UP000000437	24 664
<i>Dictyostelium discoideum</i>	<i>Dictyostelium</i>	UP000002195	12 622
<i>Drosophila melanogaster</i>	Fruit fly	UP000000803	13 458
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	UP000000625	4363
<i>Glycine max</i>	Soybean	UP000008827	55 799
<i>Homo sapiens</i>	Human	UP000005640	23 391
<i>Leishmania infantum</i>	<i>L. infantum</i>	UP000008153	7924
<i>Methanocaldococcus jannaschii</i>	<i>M. jannaschii</i>	UP000000805	1773
<i>Mus musculus</i>	Mouse	UP000000589	21 615
<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	<i>M. tuberculosis</i>	UP000001584	3988