

# From fibers to brain diseases

## POLIMI

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May, 2022



**L A M A**

Laboratoire de Mathématiques  
Université de Savoie



UMR 5127



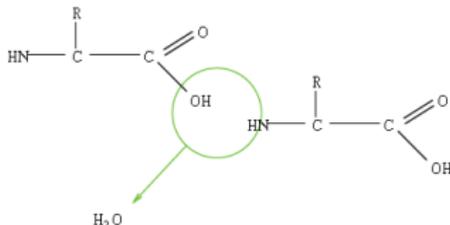
# Outline

- 1 Proteins
- 2 Tilings of the plane
- 3 Fibers
- 4 Coarse-grain simulations



# Proteins

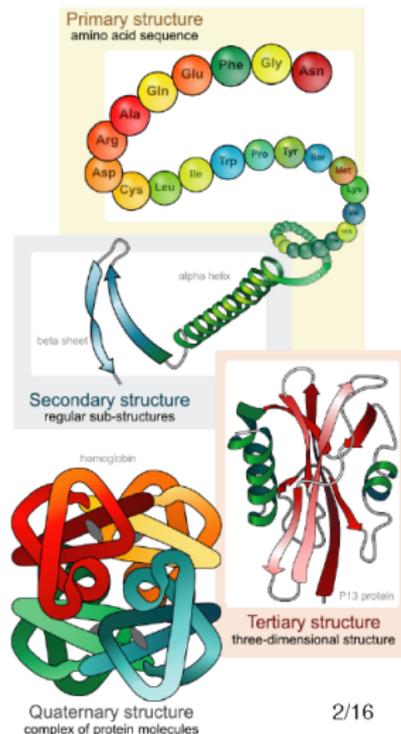
**PROTEIN:** sequence of amino acids that folds and realises a biological function



R: 20 standard amino acids = protein building blocks

Main chain (backbone), side chain

Information flow: 1D  $\rightarrow$  3D

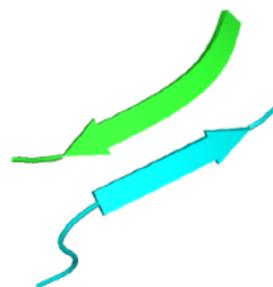
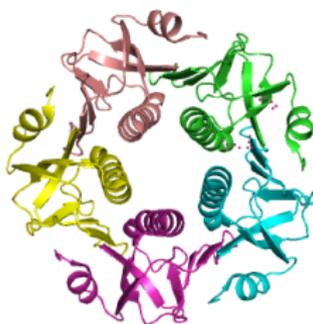


2/16





## Focus on one interface geometry: two aligned $\beta$ -strands



D: 96-103, E: 23-31

- ★ less understood than  $\alpha$ -coil; "planar" geometry: much less constrained than  $\alpha$
- ★ many pathologies (Alzheimer, Parkinson, cholera, ...)

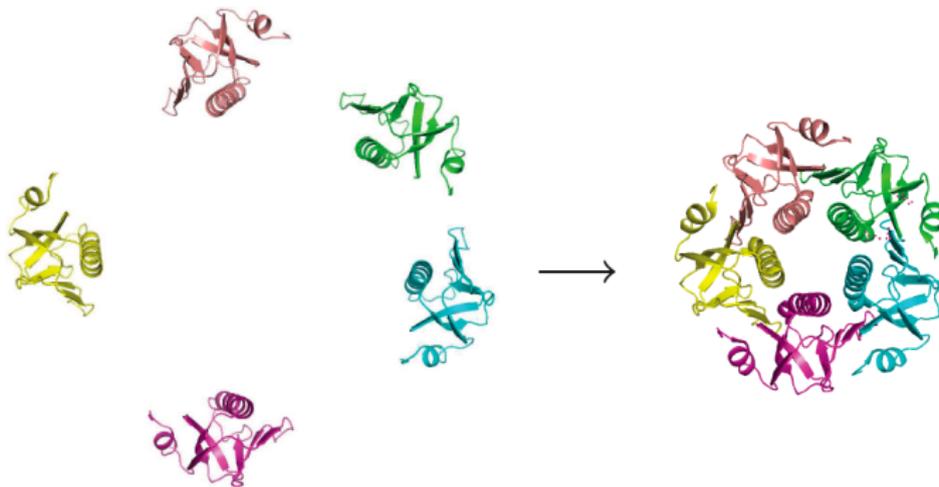
classes: continuous  $\beta$ -sheet,  $\beta$ -sandwich

Guharoy, Chakrabarti 2007

10/16

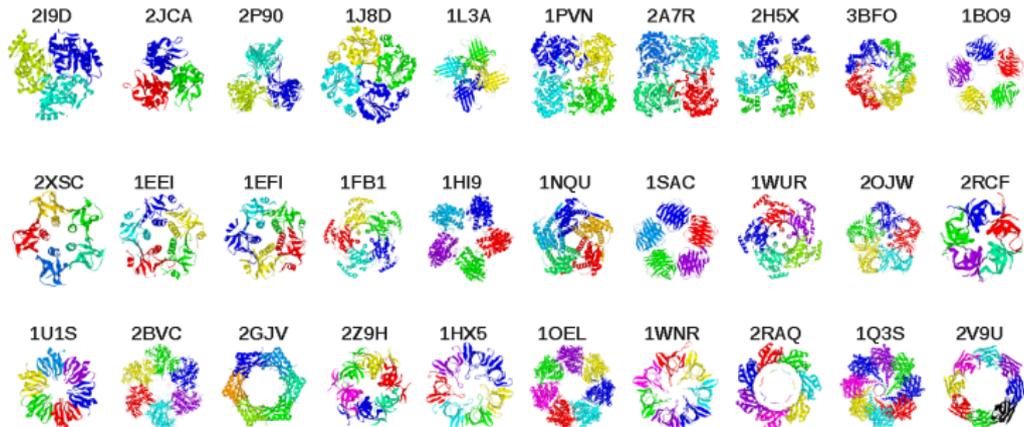


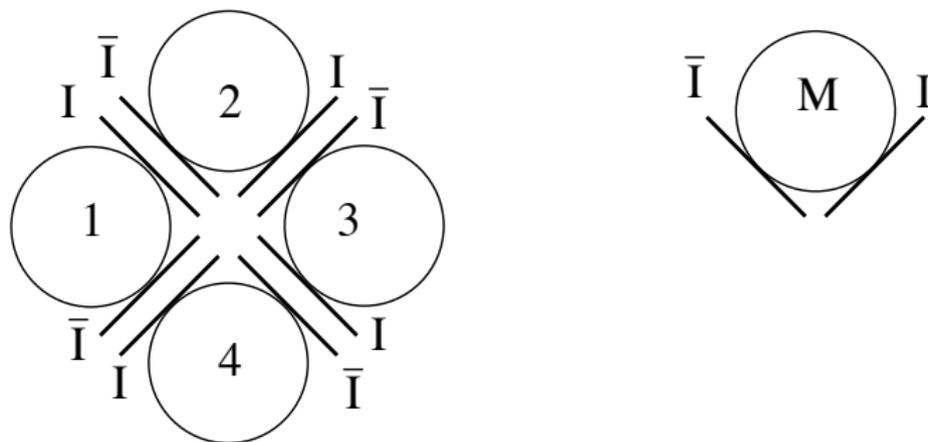
# Cyclic





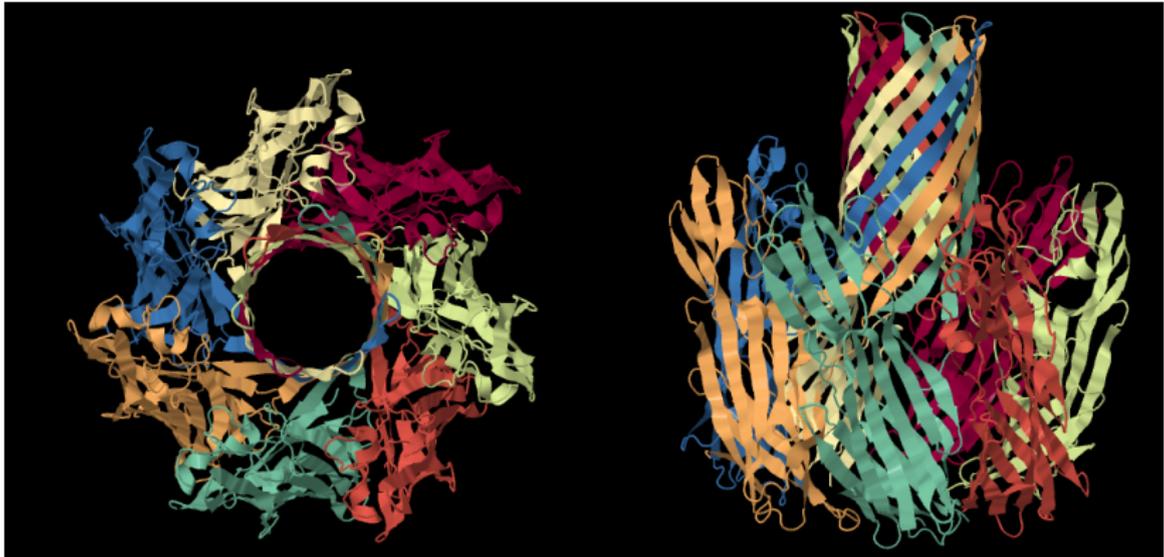
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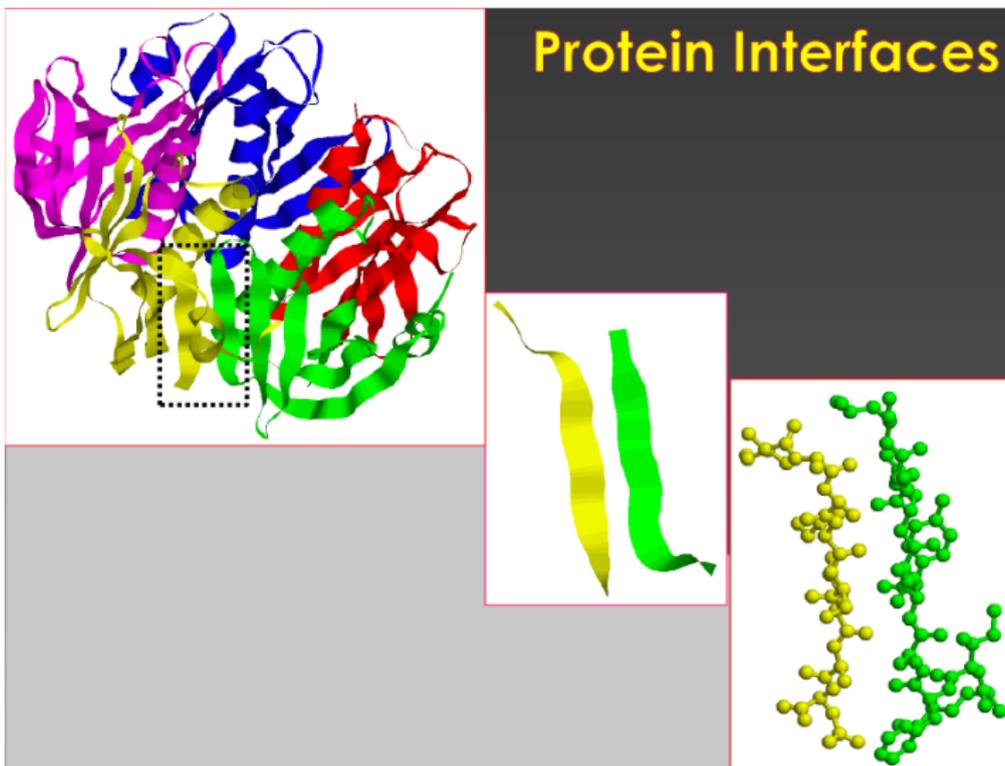


**FIGURE – Abstract view of  $C_4$  symmetry.** A tetramer formed by a single interface between the part  $I$  and  $\bar{I}$ . Each chain is adjacent via the interface to exactly 2 other chains

# Lethal



**FIGURE – Heptamer 4H56 in the PDB with each chain adjacent to 2 other chains.** Remark that in the beta barrel the adjacency between pairs of chains is the same as in the other part of the heptamer. This implies an oligomerization with exactly 1 interface.





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## CHOLERA TOXIN B-PENTAMER COMPLEXED WITH METANITROPHENYL-ALPHA-D-GALACTOSE

1EE1

[Display Files -](#)  
[Download Files -](#)

DOI:10.2210/pdb1ee1/pdb

### Primary Citation

Exploration of the GM1 receptor-binding site of heat-labile enterotoxin and cholera toxin by phenyl-ring-containing galactose derivatives.

Fan, E.<sup>1</sup>, Merritt, E.A.<sup>2</sup>, Zhang, Z.<sup>3</sup>, Pickens, J.C.<sup>3</sup>, Roach, C.<sup>3</sup>, Ahn, M.<sup>3</sup>, Hol, W.G.<sup>3</sup>

Journal: (2001) Acta Crystallogr., Sect. D 57: 201-212

PubMed: 11173465

[Search Related Articles in PubMed](#)

### PubMed Abstract:

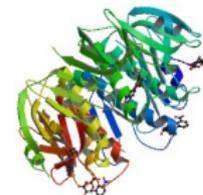
Cholera toxin (CT) and the closely related heat-labile enterotoxin of *Escherichia coli* (LT) are responsible for numerous cases of diarrhea worldwide, leading to considerable morbidity and mortality. The B subunits of these heterohexameric AB(5) toxins form a pentameric arrangement which... [ [Read More & Search PubMed Abstracts](#) ]

### Molecular Description

Hide

Classification: Toxin

### Biological Assembly



3D View

[More Images...](#)



### CHOLERA TOXIN B-PENTAMER COMPLEXED WITH METANITROPHENYL-ALPHA-D-GALACTOSE

1EEI

Display Files -  
Download Files -

NOTE: Use your mouse to drag, rotate, and zoom in and out of the structure. ?



#### Structure Details ?

Structure

Symmetry Type

Symmetry CS

Stoichiometry A5

#### Select Orientation

#### Select Display Mode ?

Secondary Structure

Subunit

Symmetry

Custom View

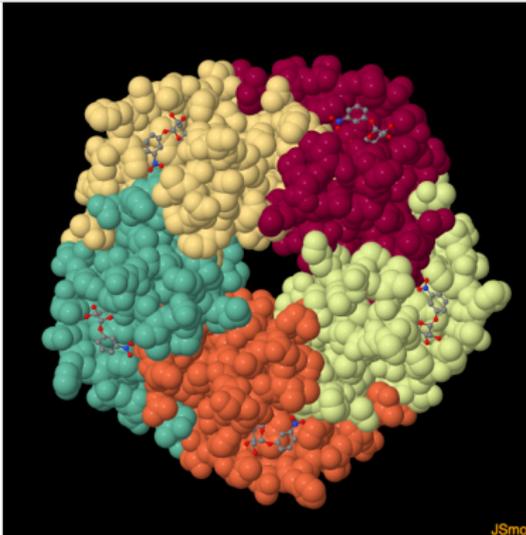


### CHOLERA TOXIN B-PENTAMER COMPLEXED WITH METANITROPHENYL-ALPHA-D-GALACTOSE

1EE1

Display Files ▾  
Download Files ▾

NOTE: Use your mouse to drag, rotate, and zoom in and out of the structure. ?



Biological assembly 1 assigned by authors and generated by PISA ?

#### Structure Details ?

Structure: Biological Assembly 1 ▾  
Symmetry Type: Global Symmetry ▾  
Symmetry: C5  
Stoichiometry: A5

#### Select Orientation

Front C5 axis

#### Select Display Mode ?

Secondary Structure

Subunit

Symmetry

Custom View

#### Custom View options

Style: Space Fill ▾  
Color: Subunit ▾  
Surface: None ▾  
Jmol mode: HTML5 (beta) ▾

- H-Bonds  
 Rotation  
 Polyhedron  
 SS Bonds  
 Black Background  
 Axes



```

HEADER TOXIN 31-JAN-00 1EEI
TITLE CHOLERA TOXIN B-PENTAMER COMPLEXED WITH METANITROPHENYL-
TITLE 2 ALPHA-D-GALACTOSE
COMPND MOL_ID: 1;
COMPND 2 MOLECULE: PROTEIN (CHOLERA TOXIN B);
COMPND 3 CHAIN: D, E, F, G, H;
COMPND 4 ENGINEERED: YES;
COMPND 5 OTHER_DETAILS: RECEPTOR BINDING SITE ON EACH MONOMER
COMPND 6 OCCUPIED BY METANITROPHENYL-ALPHA-D-GALACTOSIDE
SOURCE MOL_ID: 1;
SOURCE 2 ORGANISM_SCIENTIFIC: VIBRIO CHOLERAEE;
SOURCE 3 ORGANISM_TAXID: 666;
SOURCE 4 STRAIN: OGAWA 41 (CLASSICAL BIOTYPE);
SOURCE 5 EXPRESSION_SYSTEM: ESCHERICHIA COLI;
SOURCE 6 EXPRESSION_SYSTEM_TAXID: 562
KEYWDS TOXIN,ENTEROTOXIN
EXPDTA X-RAY DIFFRACTION
AUTHOR E.A.MERRITT,W.G.J.HOL
REVDAT 4 24-FEB-09 1EEI 1 VERSN
REVDAT 3 01-APR-03 1EEI 1 JRNL
REVDAT 2 07-FEB-01 1EEI 1 JRNL
REVDAT 1 16-FEB-00 1EEI 0
JRNL AUTH E.FAN,E.A.MERRITT,Z.ZHANG,J.C.PICKENS,C.ROACH,
JRNL AUTH 2 M.AHN,W.G.HOL
JRNL TITL EXPLORATION OF THE GM1 RECEPTOR-BINDING SITE OF
JRNL TITL 2 HEAT-LABILE ENTEROTOXIN AND CHOLERA TOXIN BY
JRNL TITL 3 PHENYL-RING-CONTAINING GALACTOSE DERIVATIVES.
JRNL REF ACTA CRYSTALLOGR.,SECT.D V. 57 201 2001
JRNL REFN ISSN 0907-4449
JRNL PMID 11173465
JRNL DOI 10.1107/S0907444900016814
  
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SEQRES 1 D 103 THR PRO GLN ASN ILE THR ASP LEU CYS ALA GLU TYR HIS
SEQRES 2 D 103 ASN THR GLN ILE HIS THR LEU ASN ASP LYS ILE PHE SER
SEQRES 3 D 103 TYR THR GLU SER LEU ALA GLY LYS ARG GLU MET ALA ILE
SEQRES 4 D 103 ILE THR PHE LYS ASN GLY ALA THR PHE GLN VAL GLU VAL
SEQRES 5 D 103 PRO GLY SER GLN HIS ILE ASP SER GLN LYS LYS ALA ILE
SEQRES 6 D 103 GLU ARG MET LYS ASP THR LEU ARG ILE ALA TYR LEU THR
SEQRES 7 D 103 GLU ALA LYS VAL GLU LYS LEU CYS VAL TRP ASN ASN LYS
SEQRES 8 D 103 THR PRO HIS ALA ILE ALA ALA ILE SER MET ALA ASN
SEQRES 1 E 103 THR PRO GLN ASN ILE THR ASP LEU CYS ALA GLU TYR HIS
SEQRES 2 E 103 ASN THR GLN ILE HIS THR LEU ASN ASP LYS ILE PHE SER
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SEQRES 4 E 103 ILE THR PHE LYS ASN GLY ALA THR PHE GLN VAL GLU VAL
SEQRES 5 E 103 PRO GLY SER GLN HIS ILE ASP SER GLN LYS LYS ALA ILE
SEQRES 6 E 103 GLU ARG MET LYS ASP THR LEU ARG ILE ALA TYR LEU THR
SEQRES 7 E 103 GLU ALA LYS VAL GLU LYS LEU CYS VAL TRP ASN ASN LYS
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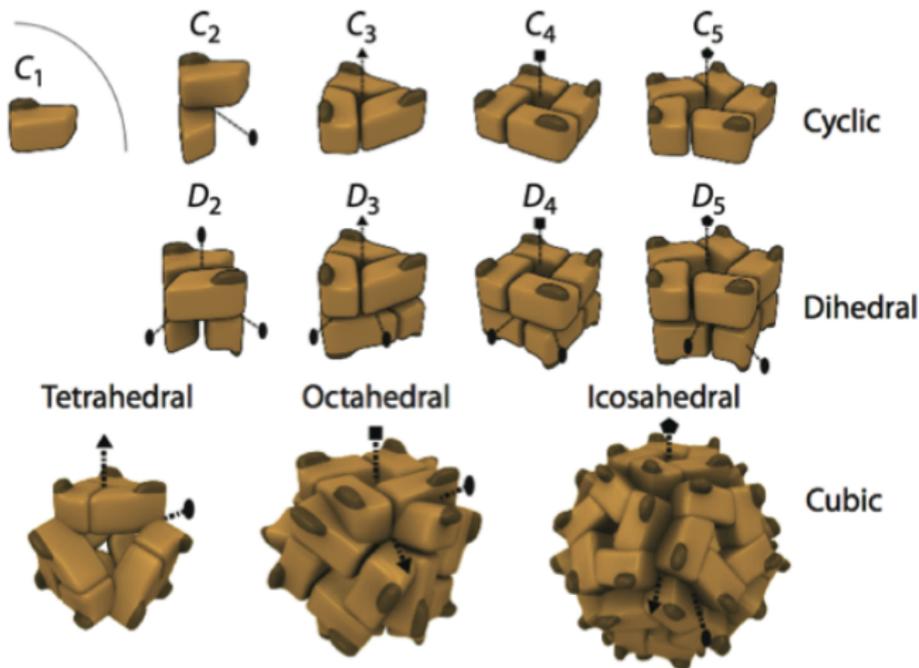
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ATOM	7	CG2	THR	D	1	34.687	31.426	31.763	1.00	33.50	C
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ATOM	9	CA	PRO	D	2	34.031	31.737	27.351	1.00	34.14	C
ATOM	10	C	PRO	D	2	33.093	32.795	27.950	1.00	31.05	C
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ATOM	16	CA	GLN	D	3	31.830	34.806	27.619	1.00	30.28	C
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ATOM	18	O	GLN	D	3	29.554	35.366	27.398	1.00	25.73	O
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ATOM	20	CG	GLN	D	3	33.767	36.404	28.018	1.00	48.24	C
ATOM	21	CD	GLN	D	3	33.898	37.791	28.618	1.00	51.86	C
ATOM	22	OE1	GLN	D	3	32.950	38.339	29.188	1.00	54.42	O
ATOM	23	NE2	GLN	D	3	35.083	38.370	28.499	1.00	53.78	N
ATOM	24	N	ASN	D	4	30.283	33.673	26.156	1.00	24.18	N
ATOM	25	CA	ASN	D	4	29.007	33.476	25.504	1.00	23.35	C
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ATOM	29	CG	ASN	D	4	30.015	34.307	23.351	1.00	26.76	C
ATOM	30	OD1	ASN	D	4	30.162	33.270	22.716	1.00	28.05	O
ATOM	31	ND2	ASN	D	4	30.851	35.332	23.235	1.00	28.85	N



# Symmetry





# Dihedral

## Atomic Model of Mm-cpn in the Closed State

DOI:10.2210/pdb3los/pdb

EMDataBank :5137

# 3LOS

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## ENTRY 3LOS SUPERSEDES 3IYE

### Primary Citation

Mechanism of folding chamber closure in a group II chaperonin.

Zhang, J.<sup>1</sup>, Baker, M.L.<sup>2</sup>, Schroder, G.F.<sup>3</sup>, Douglas, N.R.<sup>4</sup>, Reissmann, S.<sup>5</sup>, Jakana, J.<sup>6</sup>, Dougherty, M.<sup>7</sup>, Fu, C.J.<sup>8</sup>, Levitt, M.<sup>9</sup>, Ludtke, S.J.<sup>10</sup>, Frydman, J.<sup>11</sup>, Chiu, W.<sup>12</sup>

Journal: (2010) Nature **463**: 379-383

PubMed: 20090755

PubMedCentral: PMC2834796

DOI: 10.1038/nature08701

Search Related Articles in PubMed

### PubMed Abstract:

Group II chaperonins are essential mediators of cellular protein folding in eukaryotes and archaea. These oligomeric protein machines, approximately 1 megadalton, consist of two back-to-back rings encompassing a central cavity that accommodates polypeptide substrates. Chaperonin-mediated protein folding is critically dependent... [ [Read More & Search PubMed Abstracts](#) ]

### † Molecular Description

Hide

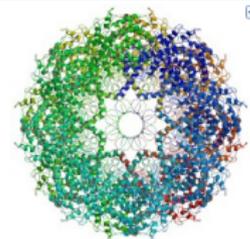
Classification: Chaperone

Structure Weight: 932652.81

Molecule: Chaperonin

Polymer: 1      Type: protein      Length: 543

### Biological Assembly ?



3D View

[More Images...](#)

Symmetry: **D8** view

Stoichiometry: **Homo 16-mer - A16**

Biological assembly 1 assigned by authors

### Downloadable viewers:

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[Protein Workshop](#)
[Kiosk Viewer](#)



# Dihedral

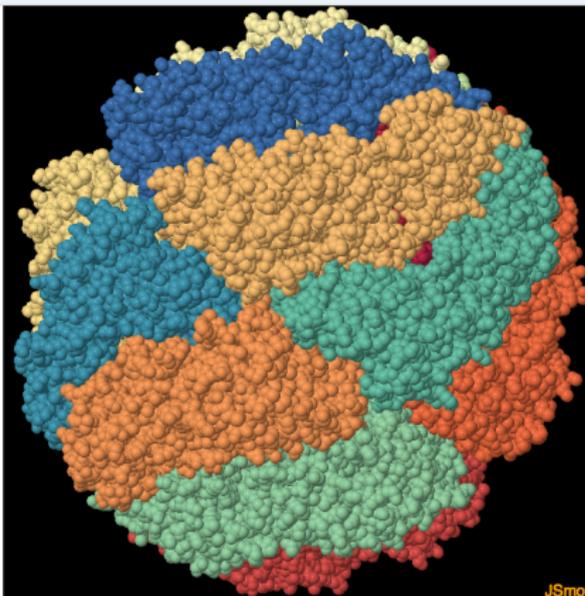
## Atomic Model of Mm-cpn in the Closed State

# 3LOS

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Only CA atoms are being shown in order to display this large structure in Jmol.

NOTE: Use your mouse to drag, rotate, and zoom in and out of the structure. ?



### Structure Details ?

Structure

Symmetry Type

Symmetry D8

Stoichiometry A16

### Select Orientation

*Front CB axis*

### Select Display Mode ?





#### Custom View options

Style

Color

Surface

Jmol mode



# Tetrahedral

## Crystal Structure of an archaeal aminopeptidase

DOI:10.2210/pdb1xfo/pdb

### Primary Citation

**Crystal structure of a dodecameric tetrahedral-shaped aminopeptidase.**

Russo, S., Baumann, U.

Journal: (2004) J.Biol.Chem. **279**: 51275-51281

PubMed: [15375159](#)

DOI: [10.1074/jbc.M409455200](#)

[Search Related Articles in PubMed](#)

### PubMed Abstract:

Protein turnover is an essential process in living cells. The degradation of cytosolic polypeptides is mainly carried out by the proteasome, resulting in 7-9-amino acid long peptides. Further degradation is usually carried out by energy-independent proteases like the tricorn protease... [ [Read More & Search PubMed Abstracts](#) ]

### Molecular Description

Hide

**Classification:** Hydrolase

**Structure Weight:** 158566.63

**Molecule:** Frv operon protein FrvX

**Polymer:** 1 **Type:** protein **Length:** 357

**Chains:** A, B, C, D

**EC#:** [3.4.11](#)

**Organism:** [Pyrococcus horikoshii](#)

**Gene Names:** frvX PH1527

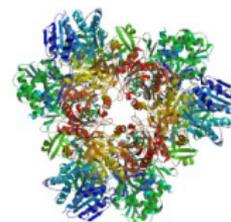
**UniProtKB:** [Protein Feature View](#) | [Search PDB](#) | [O59196](#)

# 1XFO

[Display Files](#)

[Download Files](#)

### Biological Assembly



[3D View](#)

[More Images...](#)

Symmetry: **T** view

Stoichiometry: **Homo 12-mer - A12**

Biological assembly 1 assigned by authors and generated by PISA, PQS (software)

### Downloadable viewers:

[Simple Viewer](#)

[Protein Workshop](#)

[Kiosk Viewer](#)



# Tetrahedral

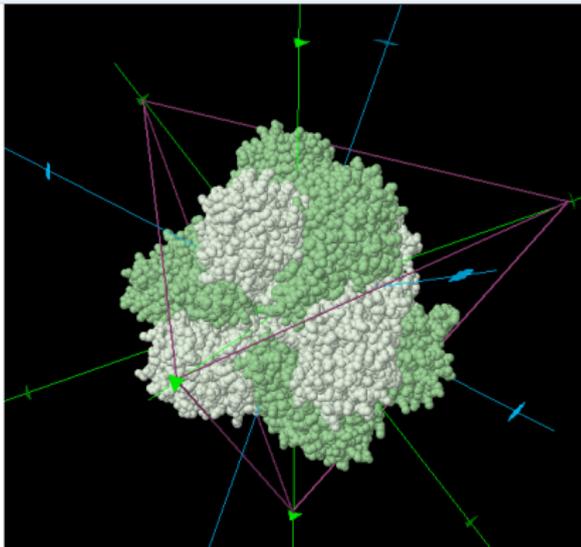
## Crystal Structure of an archaeal aminopeptidase

# 1XFO

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Only CA atoms are being shown in order to display this large structure in 3mol.

NOTE: Use your mouse to drag, rotate, and zoom in and out of the structure. ?



### Structure Details ?

Structure    
 Symmetry Type    
 Symmetry T  
 Stoichiometry A12

### Select Orientation

Front 3-fold axis vertex-centered

### Select Display Mode ?

Secondary Structure

Subunit

Symmetry

#### Symmetry View options

Polyhedron

Axes

Custom View



# Octahedral

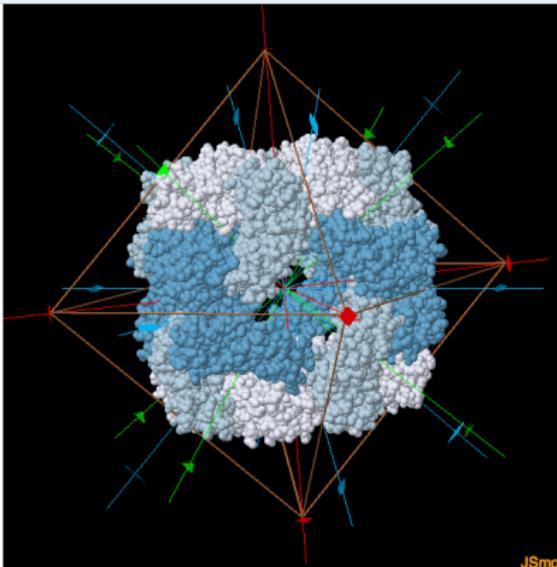
**Computationally Designed Self-assembling Octahedral Cage protein, O333,  
Crystallized in space group P4**

**4DDF**

Display Files -  
Download Files -

Only CA atoms are being shown in order to display this large structure in Jmol.

NOTE: Use your mouse to drag, rotate, and zoom in and out of the structure. ?



## Structure Details ?

Structure

Symmetry Type

Symmetry

Stoichiometry

## Select Orientation

4-fold axis vertex-centered

## Select Display Mode ?

Secondary Structure

Subunit

Symmetry

### Symmetry View options

Polyhedron

Axes

Custom View



# Icosahedral

## Life in the extremes: atomic structure of Sulfolobus Turreted Icosahedral Virus

### 3J31

Display Files ▾  
 Download Files ▾

DOI:10.2210/pdb3j31/pdb

EMDataBank :5584

#### Primary Citation

Atomic structure of the 75 MDa extremophile Sulfolobus turreted icosahedral virus determined by CryoEM and X-ray crystallography.

Veesler, D.,<sup>1</sup> Ng, T.S.,<sup>2</sup> Sendamarai, A.K.,<sup>3</sup> Eilers, B.J.,<sup>4</sup> Lawrence, C.M.,<sup>5</sup> Lok, S.M.,<sup>6</sup> Young, M.J.,<sup>7</sup> Johnson, J.E.,<sup>8</sup> Fu, C.Y.,<sup>9</sup>

Journal: (2013) Proc.Natl.Acad.Sci.USA **110**: 5504-5509

PubMed: [23520050](#)

PubMedCentral: [PMC3619359](#)

DOI: [10.1073/pnas.1300601110](#)

[Search Related Articles in PubMed](#)

#### PubMed Abstract:

Sulfolobus turreted icosahedral virus (STIV) was isolated in acidic hot springs where it infects the archeon Sulfolobus solfataricus. We determined the STIV structure using near-atomic resolution electron microscopy and X-ray crystallography allowing tracing of structural polypeptide chains and visualization of... [ [Read More & Search PubMed Abstracts](#) ]

#### ↓ Molecular Description

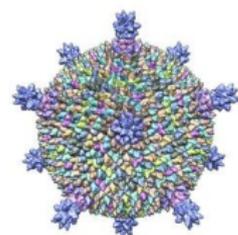
[Hide](#)

**Classification:** Virus [ [VIPERdb](#) ]

**Structure Weight:** 635329.60

<b>Molecule:</b>	A223 penton base				
<b>Polymer:</b>	1	<b>Type:</b>	protein	<b>Length:</b>	223
<b>Chains:</b>	Q				
<b>Organism:</b>	Sulfolobus turreted icosahedral virus 1				
<b>Gene Name:</b>	A223				

#### ← Biological Assembly ?



3D View

[More Images...](#)

Symmetry: **I** view

Stoichiometry: **Hetero 1020-mer - A90B60C60**

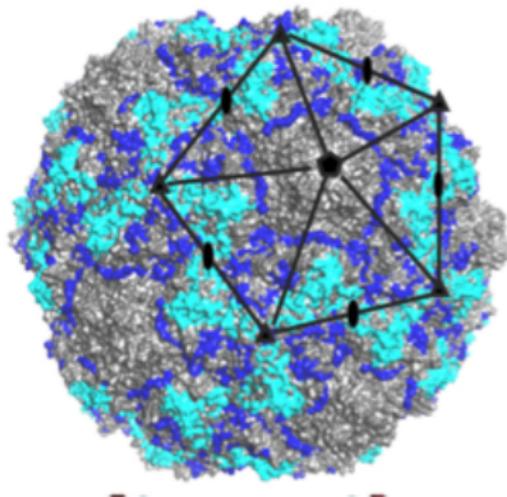
No info available for origin of biological assembly

#### Downloadable viewers:

[Simple Viewer](#)     [Protein Workshop](#)  
[Kiosk Viewer](#)



# Icosahedral





# Amyloid



Cell

## Molecular Structure of $\beta$ -Amyloid Fibrils in Alzheimer's Disease Brain Tissue

Jun-Xia Lu,<sup>1</sup> Wei Qiang,<sup>1</sup> Wai-Ming Yau,<sup>1</sup> Charles D. Schwieters,<sup>2</sup> Stephen C. Meredith,<sup>3</sup> and Robert Tycko<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Laboratory of Chemical Physics, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892-0520, USA

<sup>2</sup>Division of Computational Bioscience, Center for Information Technology, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892-5624, USA

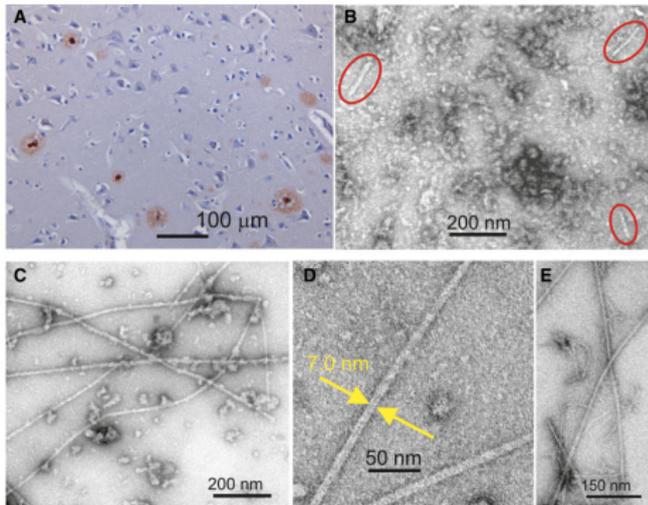
<sup>3</sup>Department of Pathology and Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 60637, USA

\*Correspondence: [robertty@mail.nih.gov](mailto:robertty@mail.nih.gov)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2013.08.035>



# Fibers in brain tissue



**Figure 1. Evidence for a Single Predominant A $\beta$ 40 Fibril Structure in Brain Tissue of Patient I**

(A) Light microscope image of cortical tissue from patient I, with immunohistochemical staining for  $\beta$ -amyloid using monoclonal antibody 6E10. Amyloid deposits are red or pink.

(B) Negatively stained TEM image of extract from occipital lobe tissue before addition of monomeric A $\beta$ 40. Fibril fragments are circled in red.

(C and D) TEM images of isotopically labeled A $\beta$ 40 fibrils, recorded 24 hr after addition of monomeric A $\beta$ 40 to sonicated extract from occipital lobe tissue. A $\beta$ 40 was uniformly  $^{15}\text{N}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ -labeled at F19, V24, G25, A30, I31, L34, and M35.

(E) TEM image of fibrils prepared by seeding with sonicated extract from temporal/parietal lobe tissue.

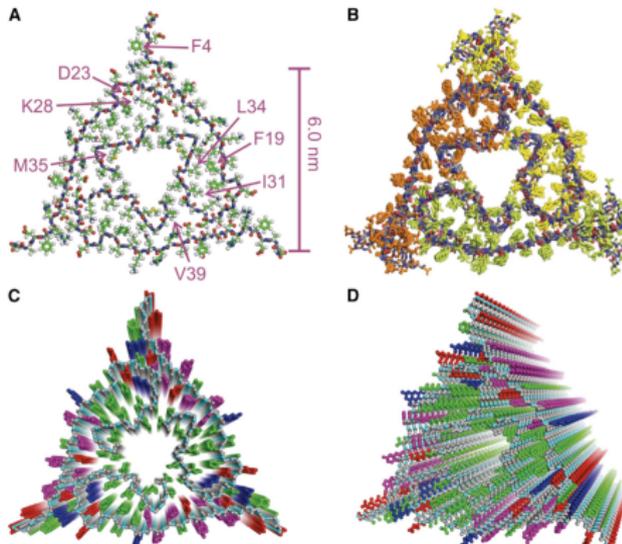
(F and G) 2D  $^{13}\text{C}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^{15}\text{N}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  solid-state NMR spectra of A $\beta$ 40 fibrils, seeded with extract from occipital lobe tissue. Black lines and labels show site-specific cross-peak assignments.

(H and I) 2D  $^{13}\text{C}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^{15}\text{N}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  solid-state NMR spectra of A $\beta$ 40 fibrils, seeded with extract from temporal/parietal lobe tissue, with the same black lines as in (F) and (H).

See also [Figures S1 and S2](#).



# Amyloid fiber model



**Figure 5. Molecular Structure of A $\beta$ 40 Fibrils from Patient I**

(A) Structure with the lowest total experimental restraint energy with Xplor-NIH calculations. The 3-fold-symmetric repeat unit is shown, as viewed along the fibril growth axis. Backbone and sidechain carbon atoms are gray and green, respectively.

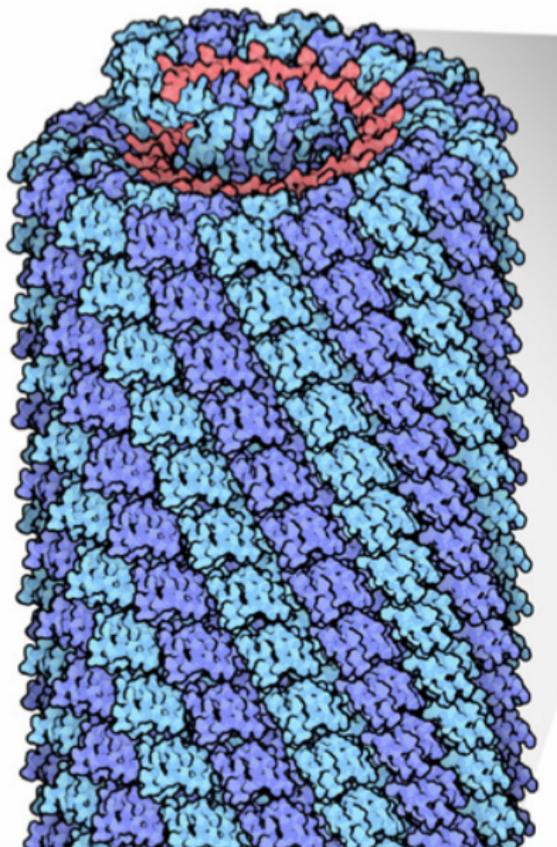
(B) Superposition of 20 structures that are consistent with experimental restraints (PDB code 2M4J). Sidechains of the three A $\beta$ 40 molecules in the repeat unit are yellow, green, or orange.

(C and D) Two views of the idealized fibril structure, created by repeating the trimeric unit 18 times with 0.48 nm displacements along the fibril axis.

(E and F) Structural models for A $\beta$ 40 fibril polymorphs with 3-fold and 2-fold symmetry about the fibril growth axis, developed previously from solid-state NMR and electron microscopy measurements on fibrils grown *in vitro*. Repeat units from these models are shown, calculated as regularized averages of structure bundles in PDB codes 2LMP and 2LMN, respectively.

See also Figures S4 and S6 and Tables S3 and S4.

# Fiber !

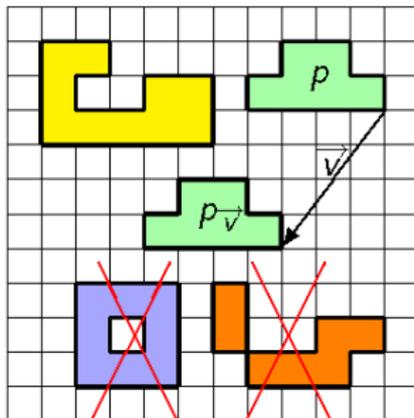




# Tilings of the plane

## Définition

A *polyomino* is the interior of a closed non intersecting path in a square lattice.

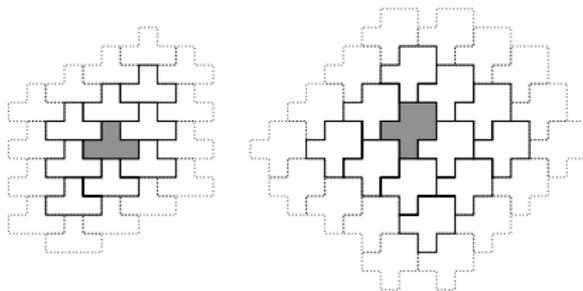




# Tilings of the plane

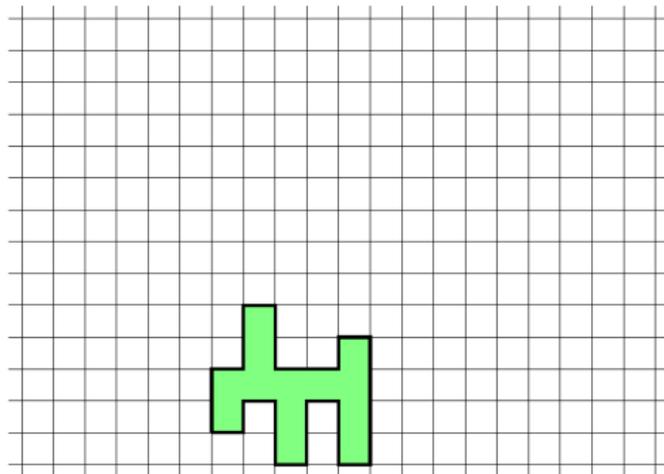
## Definitions

A *tiling by translation* of a polyomino  $P$  is a covering of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  by translation of copies of  $P$  without overlapping or hole.



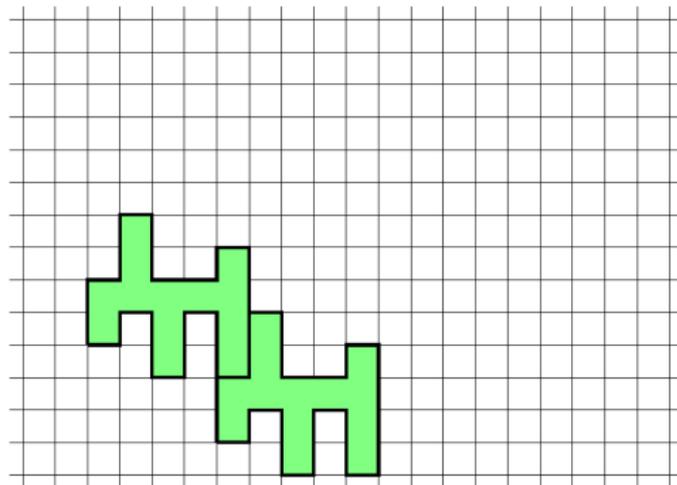


# Tilings by translation



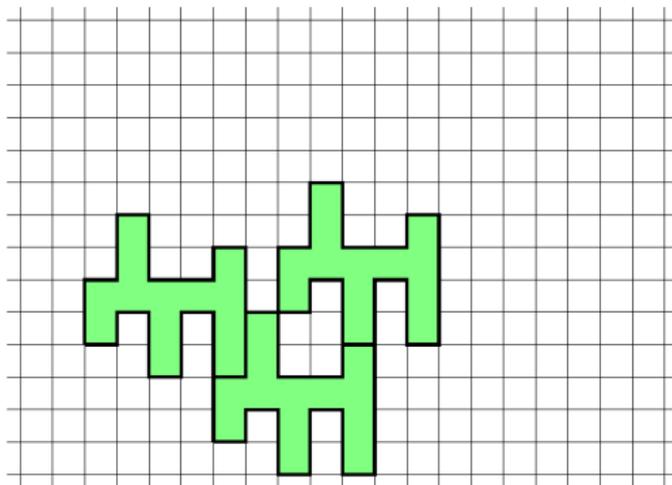


# Tilings by translation



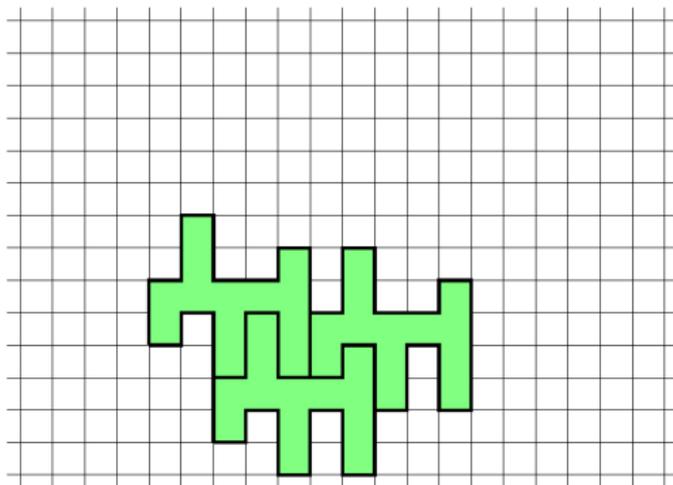


# Tilings by translation



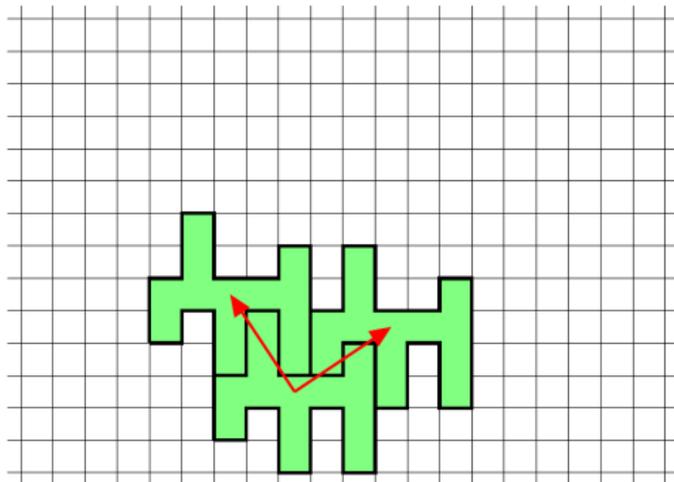


# Tilings by translation





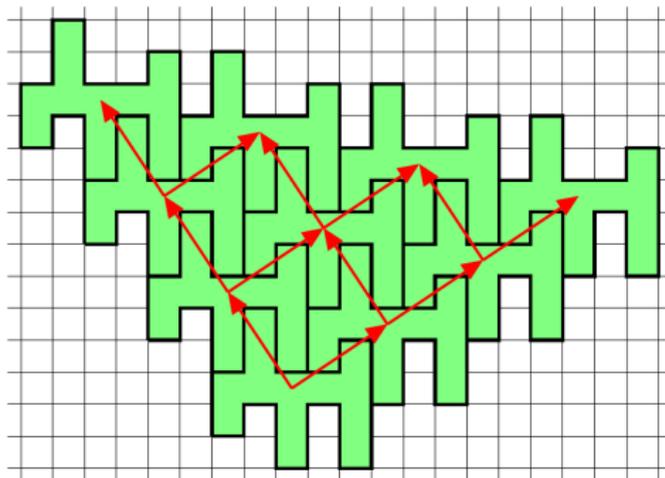
# Tilings by translation





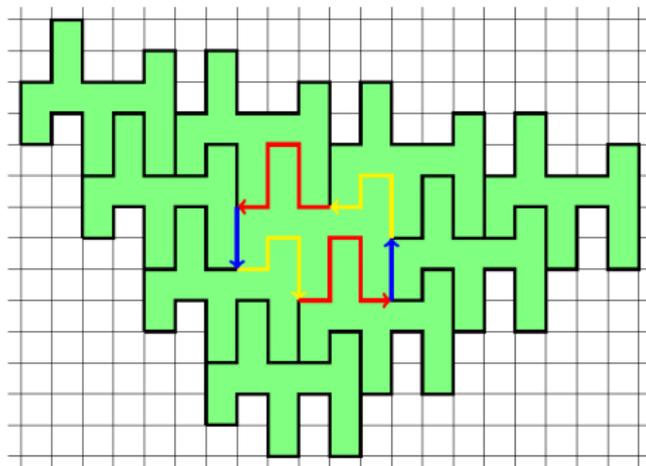


# Tilings by translation





# Tilings by translation





# Tilings of the plane

Isometries of the plane : translation, rotation, reflection and glide reflection.

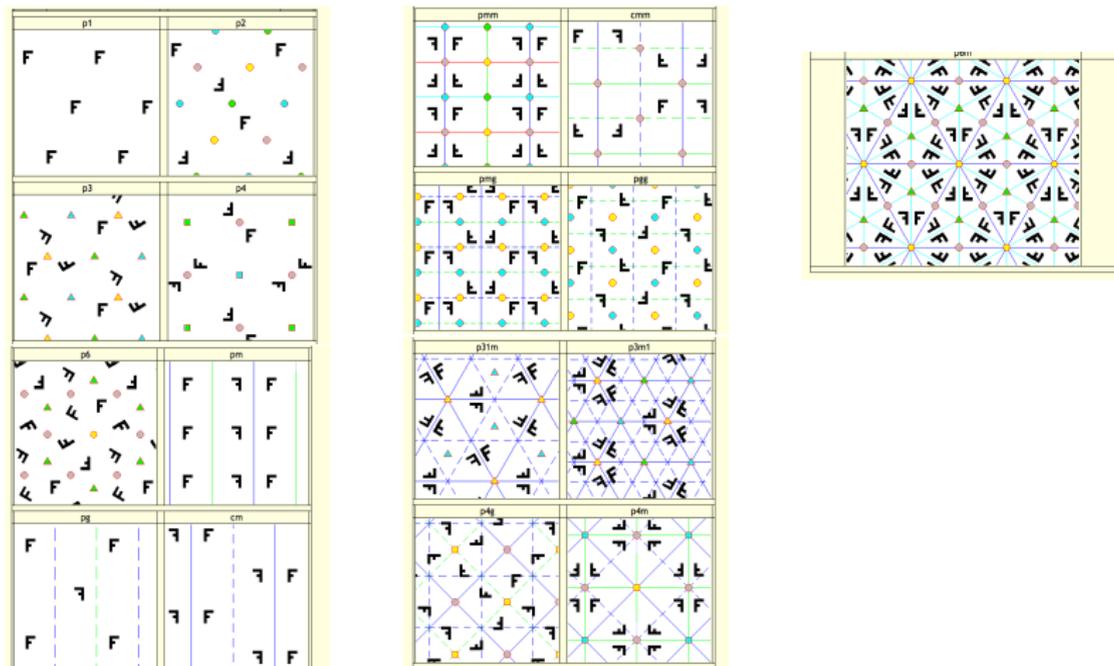
17 crystallographic groups for the plane (Bravais 1847).



The 17 crystallographic groups are represented at the Alhambra of Grenada (by artists around 1350).

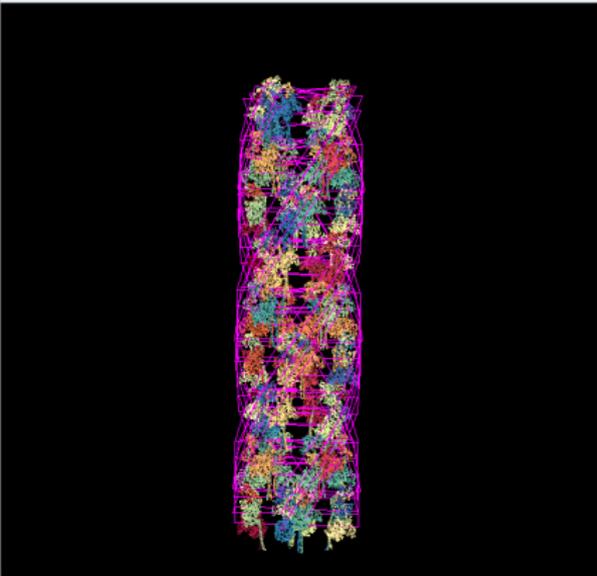


# Cristallographic groups





NOTE: Use your mouse to drag, rotate, and zoom in and out of the structure. ?



**Structure Details** ?

Structure

Symmetry Type

Symmetry H

Stoichiometry A72B72C36D36

**Select Orientation**

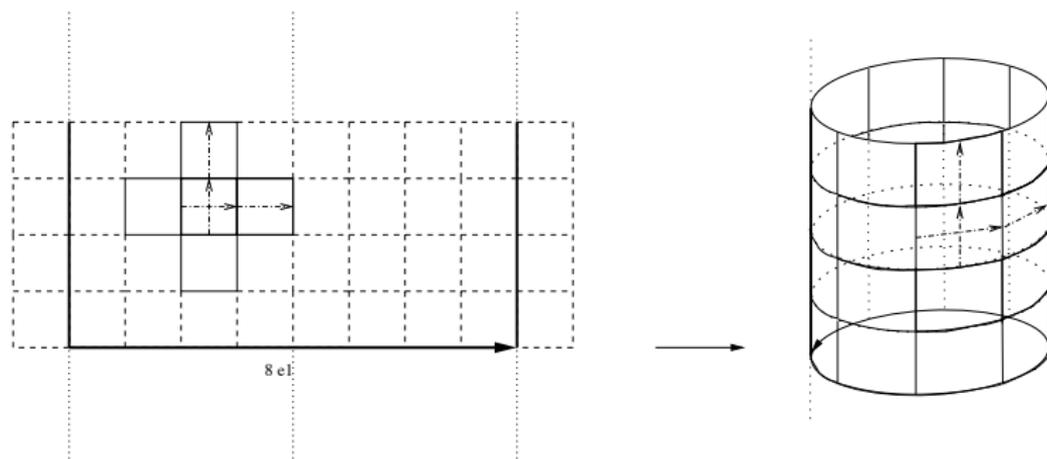
Side  Top

**Select Display Mode** ?

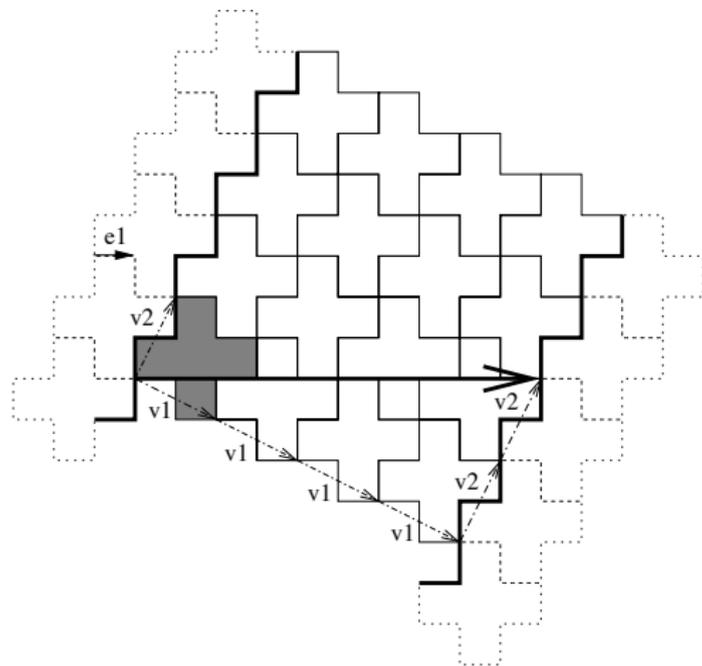
**FIGURE – Spider silk.**



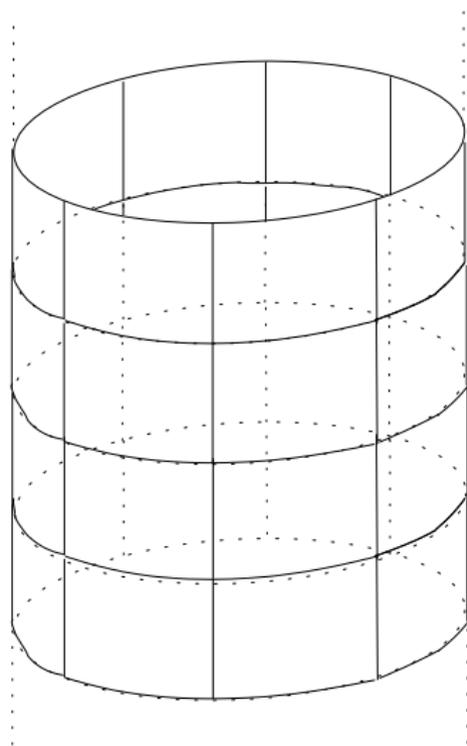
# From regular tilings of the plane to tilings of a fiber



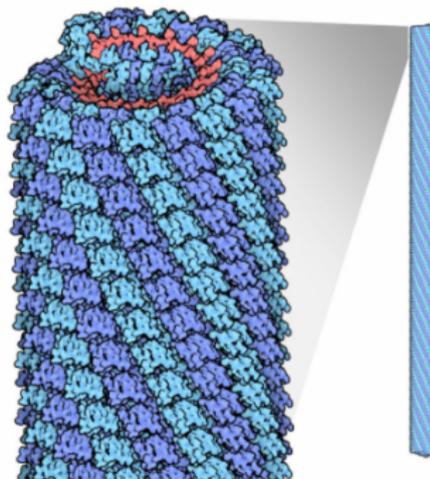
**FIGURE – From tiling to cylinder by using the translation of 8 times the vector  $\vec{e}_1$ .**



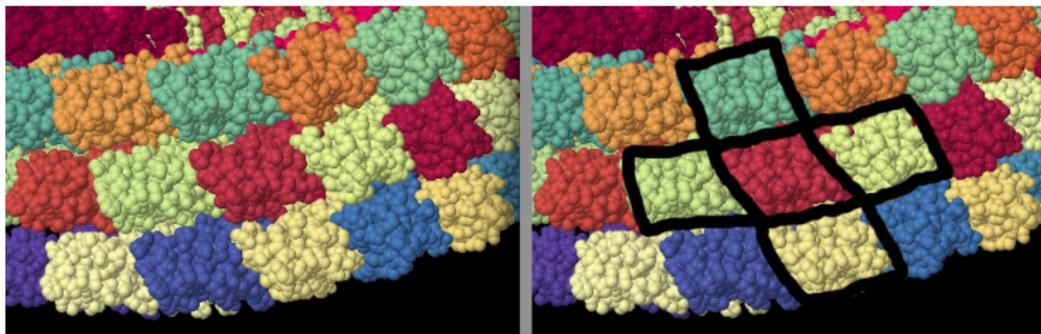
**FIGURE – Two boundaries in correspondence by the translation  $4\vec{v}_1 + 2\vec{v}_2$**



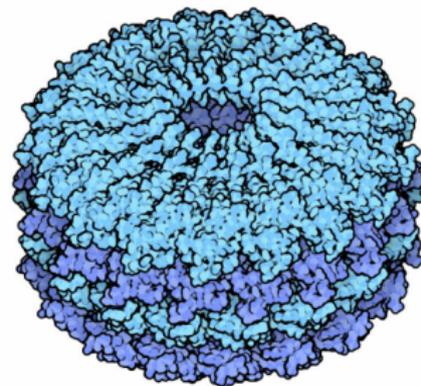
**FIGURE – Fiber with a pseudo square shape.** Each tile is surrounded by 4 tiles.



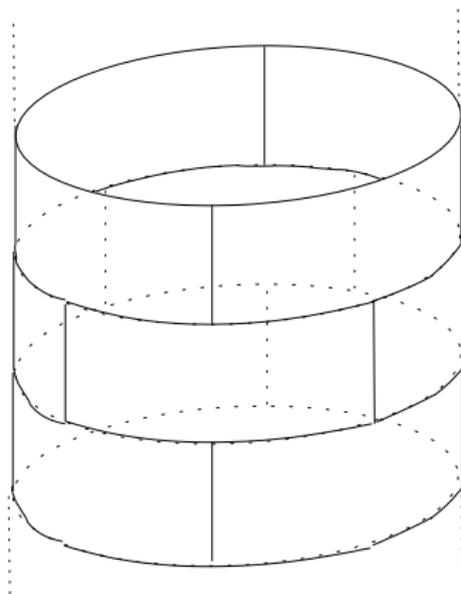
**FIGURE – Tobacco Mosaic Virus.**



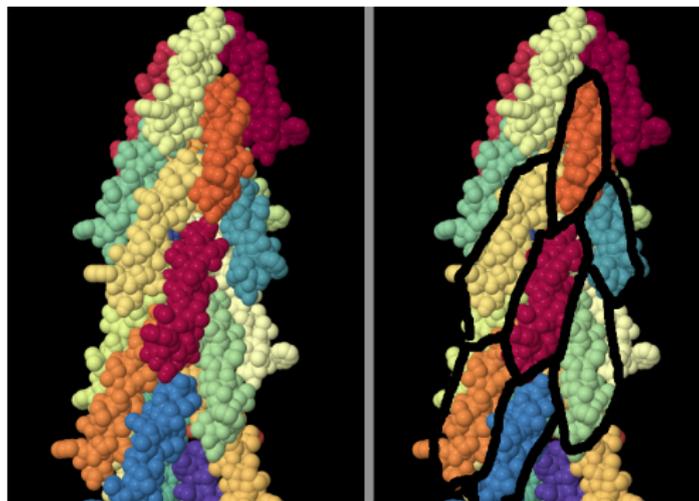
**FIGURE – Tobacco Mosaic Virus : an example of tiling of a fiber with 4 adjacent chains.**



**FIGURE – Tobacco Mosaic Virus : a 17-mer.**

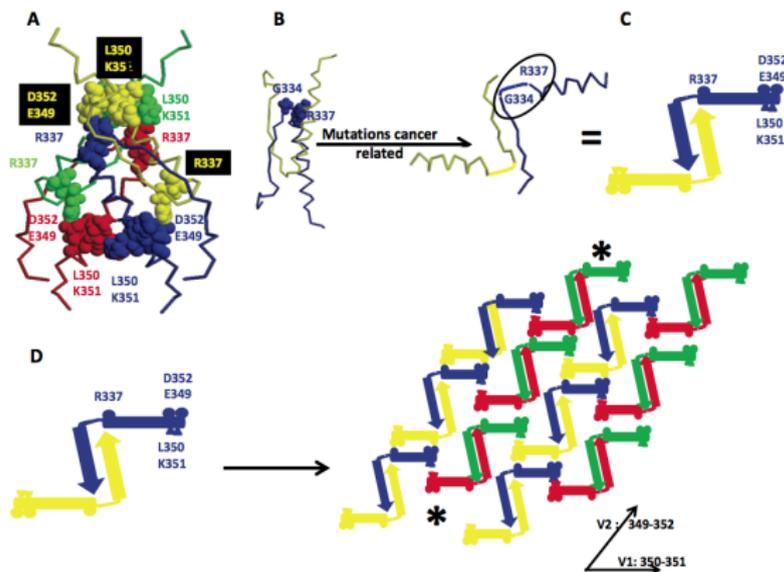


**FIGURE – Fiber with a pseudo hexagon shape.** Each tile is surrounded by 6 tiles. Remark that pseudo hexagon shapes appear in particular when there is a tilt on the fiber.



**FIGURE – 3J1R : an example of tiling of a fiber with 6 adjacent chains.**

# From fold plasticity to fibers : the P53 case



**FIGURE – A. The p53 tetrameric domain is made of 2 dimers.** Each monomer is made of a  $\beta$ -strand followed by a small helix ended by a long  $\alpha$ -helix parallel to the  $\beta$ -strand (1SAK). The residue R337 is sensitive to mutation.

# Parkinson disease

Model biomolecular condensates have heterogeneous structure quantitatively dependent on the interaction profile of their constituent macromolecules

Julian C. Shillcock<sup>1\*</sup>, Clément Lagisquet<sup>2</sup>, Jérémy Alexandre<sup>3,4</sup>, Laurent Vuillon<sup>2\*</sup>,  
John H. Ipsen<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Blue Brain Project and Laboratory of Molecular and Chemical Biology of Neurodegeneration, Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland

<sup>2</sup> LAMA, Univ. Savoie Mont Blanc, CNRS, LAMA, 73376 Le Bourget du Lac, France

<sup>3</sup> Brain Mind Institute, Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland

<sup>4</sup> Current address: Aktiia SA, Rue du Bassin 8a, 2000 Neuchâtel, Switzerland

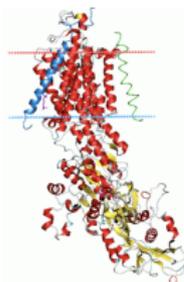
<sup>5</sup> Dept. of Physics, Chemistry and Pharmacy, University of Southern Denmark, Campusvej 55, DK-5230 Odense M, Denmark

# Intrinsically Disordered Proteins

## Liquid-liquid phase separation of proteins

### Folded proteins

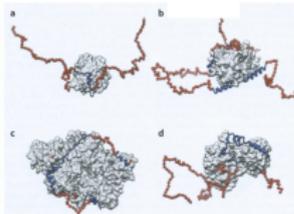
- Unique folded state
- Lowest energy (**energy dominated**)
- Precise shape
- Precise functions
- Disrupted by single aa mutation
- Enriched in catalysis, ion transport, binding



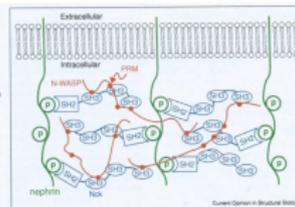
[wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org)

### Intrinsically Disordered Proteins

- No unique folded state
- Many conformations of similar energy (**entropy dominated**)
- Generic binding via multiple, weak sites
- Sequence not conserved but properties are
- Can fold/unfold on binding
- Enriched in signalling and regulation



Oldfield and Dunker  
Ann. Rev. Biochem. 83:553 (2014)



Chong and Forman-Kay,  
Curr. Op. Struct. Biol. 41:180 (2016)

# Semi flexible polymers

Reduce an IDP to its simplest form: a semi-flexible polymer with sticky end-caps (*telechelic*)



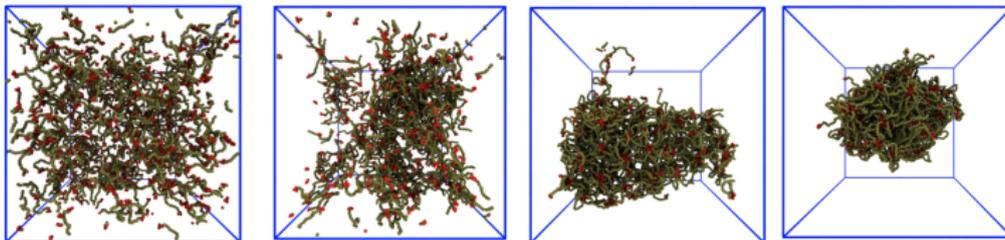
Still many parameters: molecular weight, backbone stiffness, end-cap affinity, concentration ...

## Choose two

A) Backbone length (molecular weight) = 16, 24, 32, ... beads

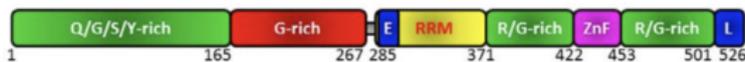
B) Dimensionless end-cap affinity =  $[0, 1]$ ; where 0 = no affinity and 1 = "very strong" affinity (defined in terms of the conservative interactions between end-caps and water)

N = 634 hydrophilic polymers with increasing affinity



# From fluid to solid aggregates

## Fused in Sarcoma (FUS)



Low complexity NTD

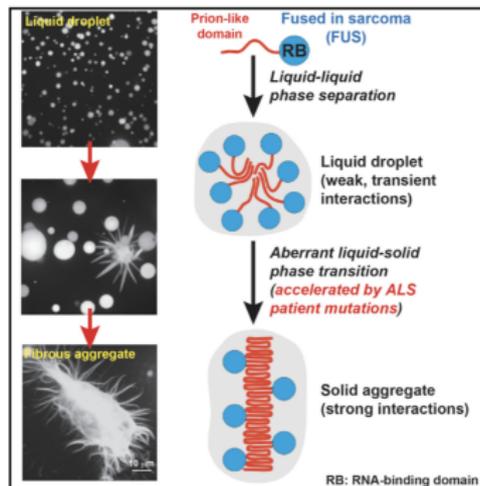
Full-length FUS phase separates

FUS LC phase separates

FUS \ LC does not separate

Soluble FUS undergoes LLPS into droplets

FUS droplets make pathological transitions to a rigid state in disease



A. Patel et al., Cell, 162:1066 (2015)



# Network theory

Fluid network  
of polymers with  
*multiple* weak  
binding sites



3D graph:  
vertices, edges



Apply graph  
theoretic analyses

