

# RNA dynamics using molecular modeling and experimental data

Giovanni Bussi

Molecular and Statistical Biophysics

SISSA, Trieste, Italy

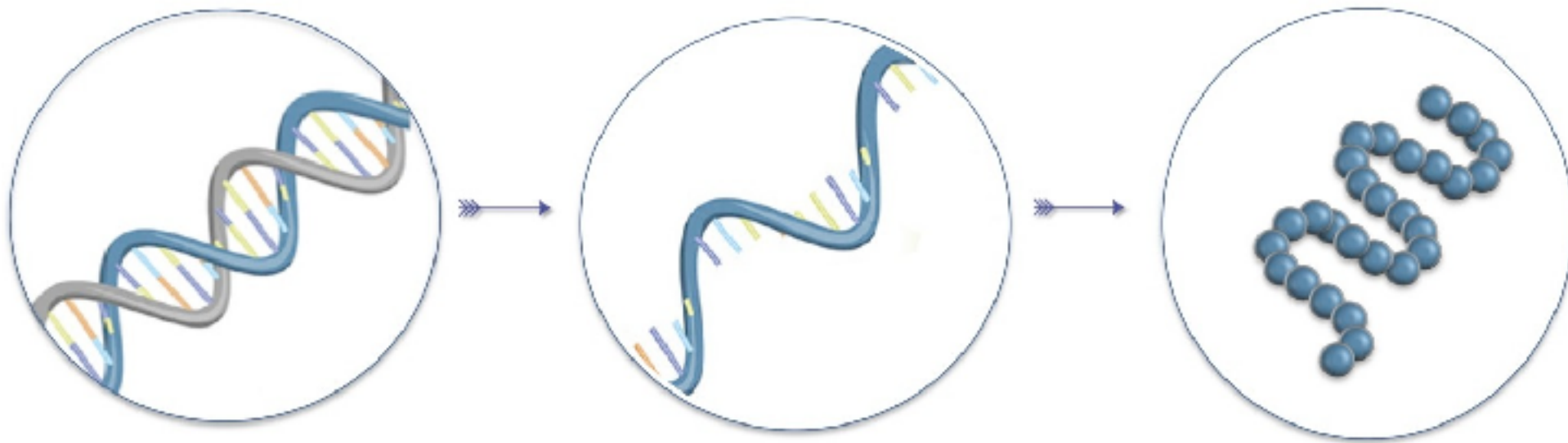
[bussi@sissa.it](mailto:bussi@sissa.it)

<http://people.sissa.it/~bussi>

<http://srnas.sissa.it>



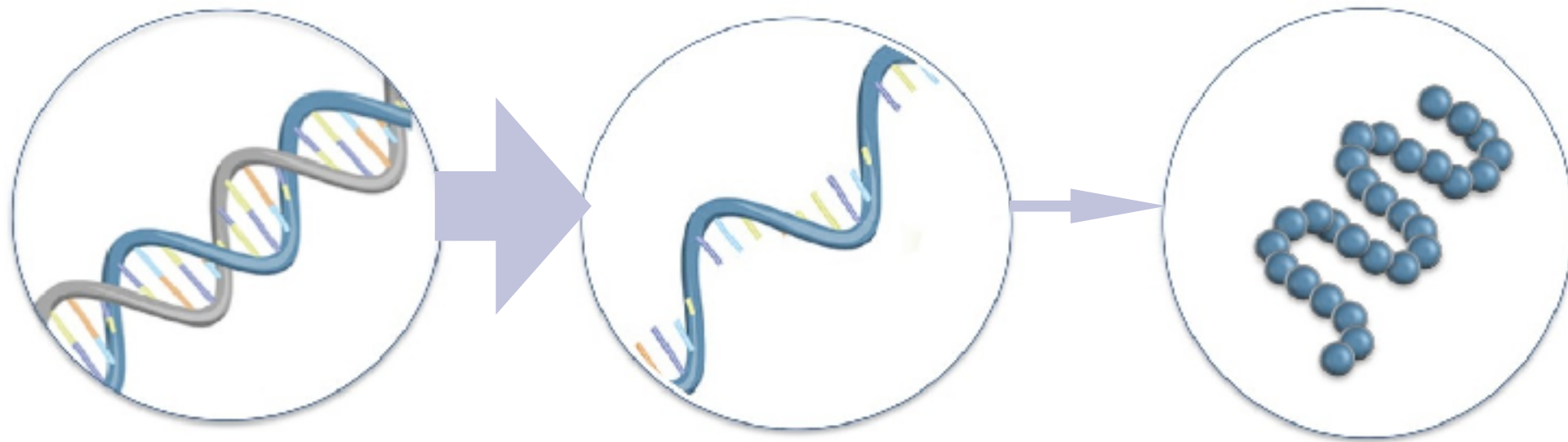
# RNA



DNA → RNA → proteins

(central dogma of molecular biology)

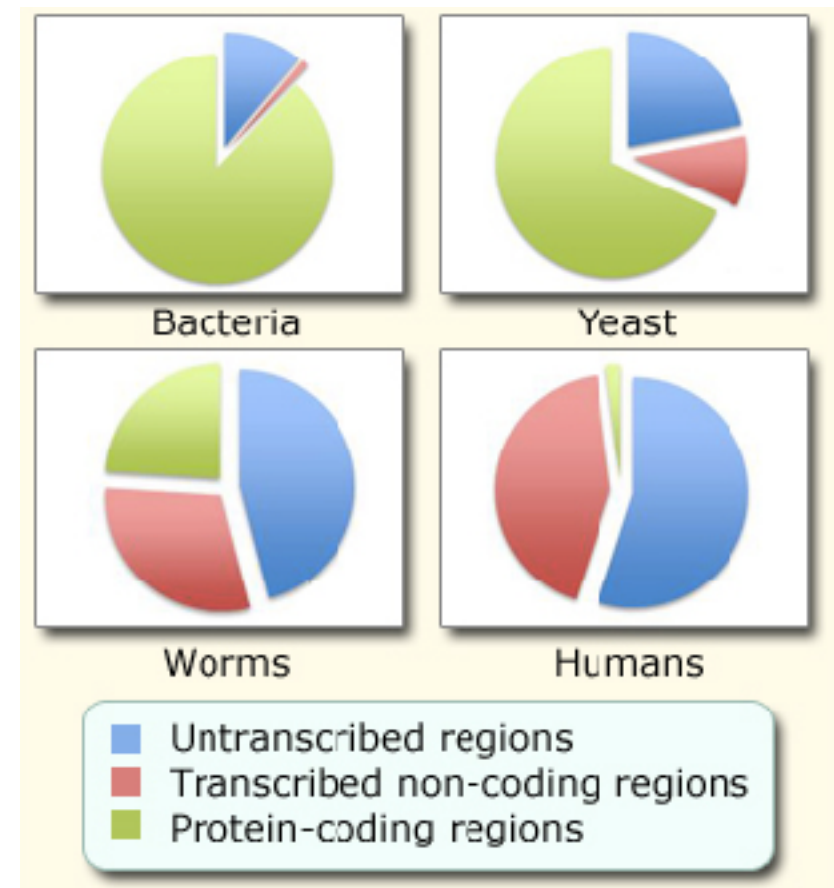
# RNA



DNA

DNA → RNA

DNA → RNA → proteins

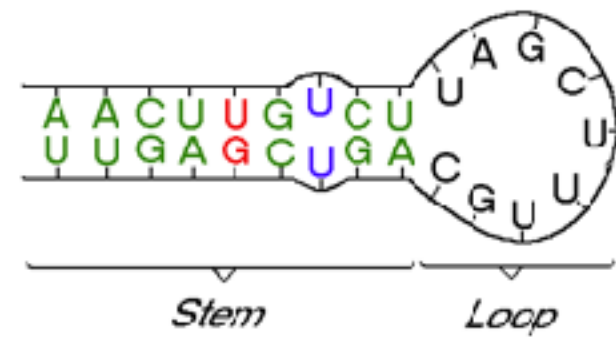


# RNA Structure ...

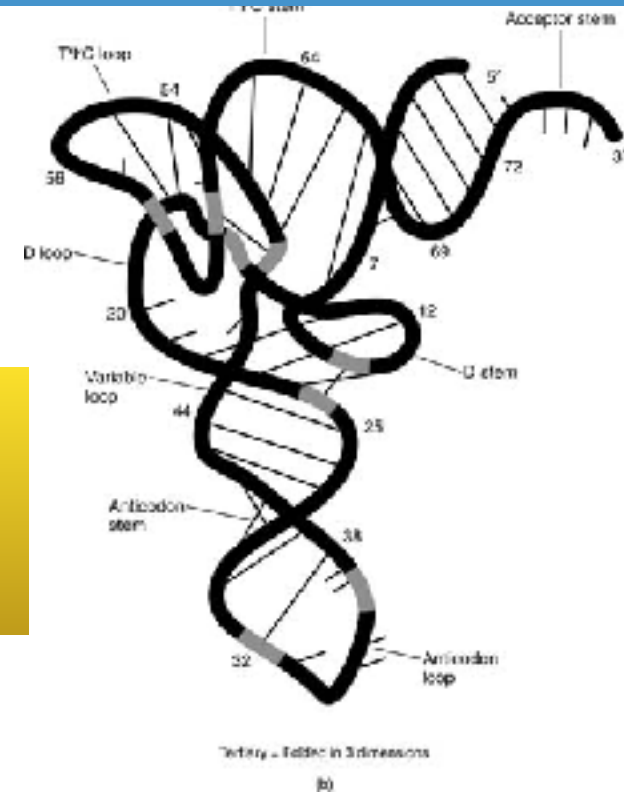
primary  
(1D)

...AUUCGGGCUUCUAUUC...

secondary  
(2D)



tertiary  
(3D)



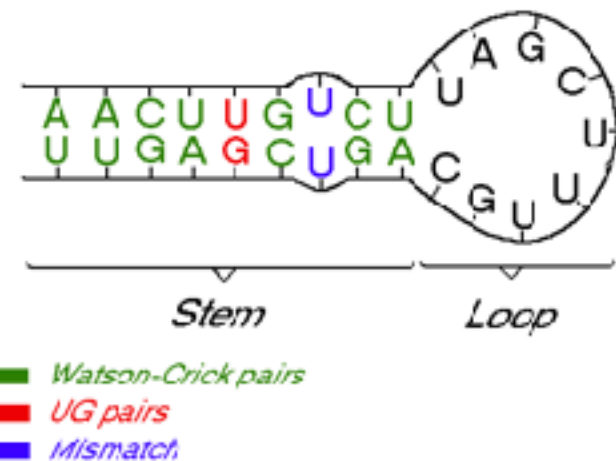


# RNA Structure ...

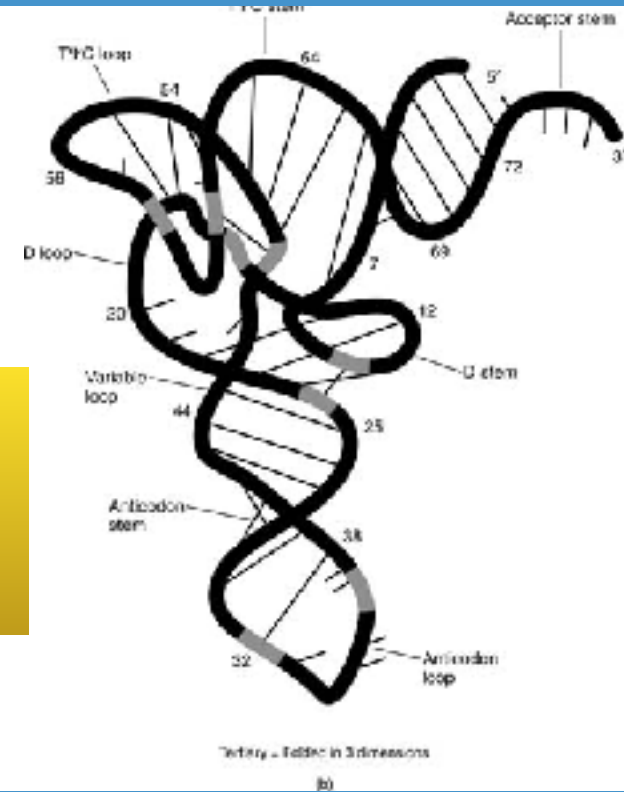
primary  
(1D)

...AUUCGGGCUUCUAUUC...

secondary  
(2D)



tertiary  
(3D)



## ... and function

Coding RNAs: function depends mostly on 1D\*

Non-coding RNAs: function depends on 1D, 2D, and 3D%

Dynamics is often fundamental\$

\*and at least partly on 2D, Faure et al, NAR (2016); Langdon et al, Science (2018)

%ribosomes, ribozymes, riboswitches,...

\$binding with proteins/ligands/ions, catalysis, etc

# Molecular dynamics

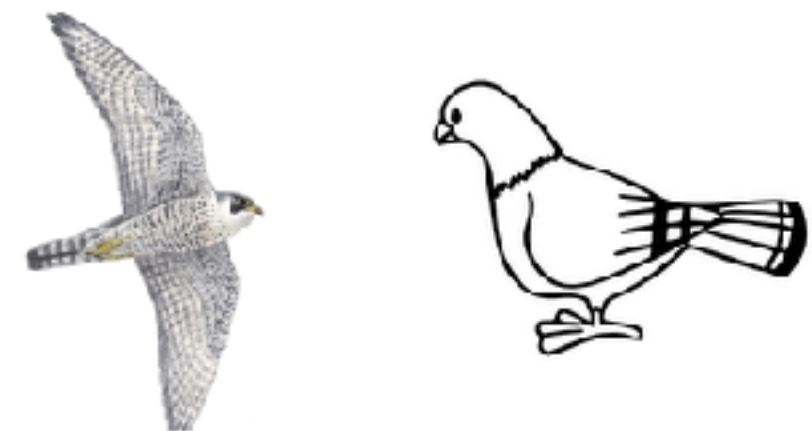
$$E_{\text{total}} = \sum_{\text{bonds}} k_b (\ell - \ell_0)^2 + \sum_{\text{angles}} k_a (\theta - \theta_0)^2 \\ + \sum_{\text{torsions}} \frac{1}{2} V_n [1 + \cos(n\omega - \gamma)]^2 \\ + \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} \sum_{i=j+1}^N \left\{ \epsilon_{i,j} \left[ \left( \frac{r_{0ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - 2 \left( \frac{r_{0ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right] + \frac{q_i q_j}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_{ij}} \right\}$$

Empirical force field\*:

- Chemically motivated interactions
- Atomistic details
- Explicit water and ions
- No polarization
- No chemical reactivity

Approx ~20-200 ns/day

\*AMBER (ff99+parmbsc0+ChiOL3+TIP3P)



[gromacs.org](http://gromacs.org) + [plumed.org](http://plumed.org)

# Molecular dynamics

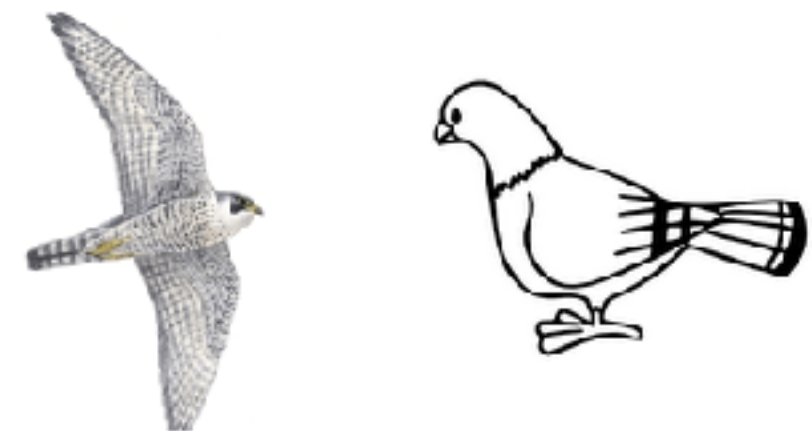
$$E_{\text{total}} = \sum_{\text{bonds}} k_b (\ell - \ell_0)^2 + \sum_{\text{angles}} k_a (\theta - \theta_0)^2 \\ + \sum_{\text{torsions}} \frac{1}{2} V_n [1 + \cos(n\omega - \gamma)]^2 \\ + \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} \sum_{i=j+1}^N \left\{ \epsilon_{i,j} \left[ \left( \frac{r_{0ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - 2 \left( \frac{r_{0ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right] + \frac{q_i q_j}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_{ij}} \right\}$$

Empirical force field\*:

- Chemically motivated interactions
- Atomistic details
- Explicit water and ions
- No polarization
- No chemical reactivity

Approx ~20-200 ns/day

\*AMBER (ff99+parmbsc0+ChiOL3+TIP3P)



[gromacs.org](http://gromacs.org) + [plumed.org](http://plumed.org)

# Pros vs Cons

High (unlimited) time  
and space resolution

Access to dynamics

(Relatively) cheap 😊



# Pros vs Cons

High (unlimited) time  
and space resolution

Access to dynamics

(Relatively) cheap 😊





# Pros vs Cons

High (unlimited) time  
and space resolution

Access to dynamics

(Relatively) cheap 😊



Short timescales

Force-field inaccuracies

It's just a model 😞



# Pros vs Cons

High (unlimited) time  
and space resolution

Access to dynamics

(Relatively) cheap 😊



Short timescales

Force-field inaccuracies

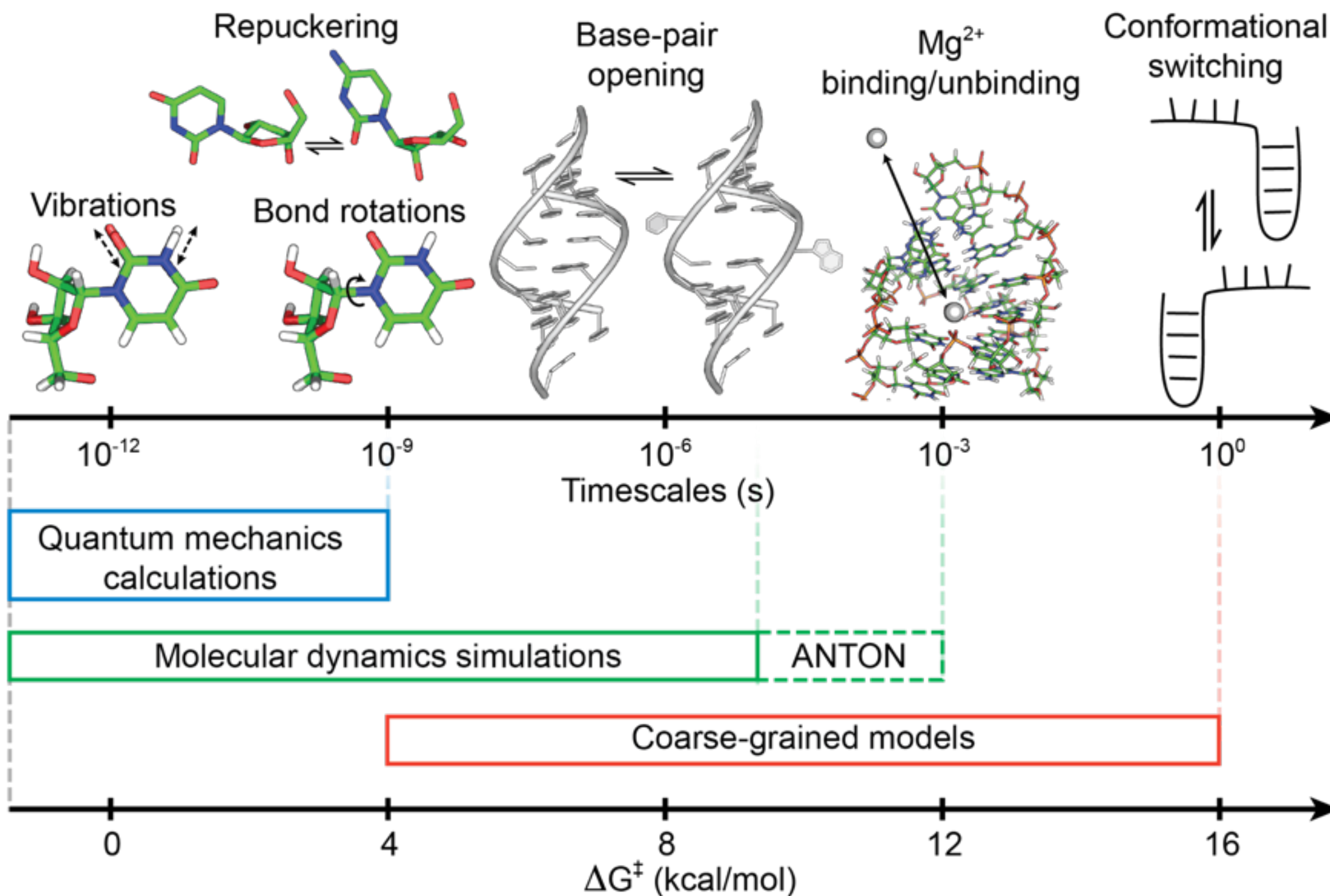
It's just a model 😞

*In science, as in life, it is  
very dangerous  
to fall in love with  
beautiful models*

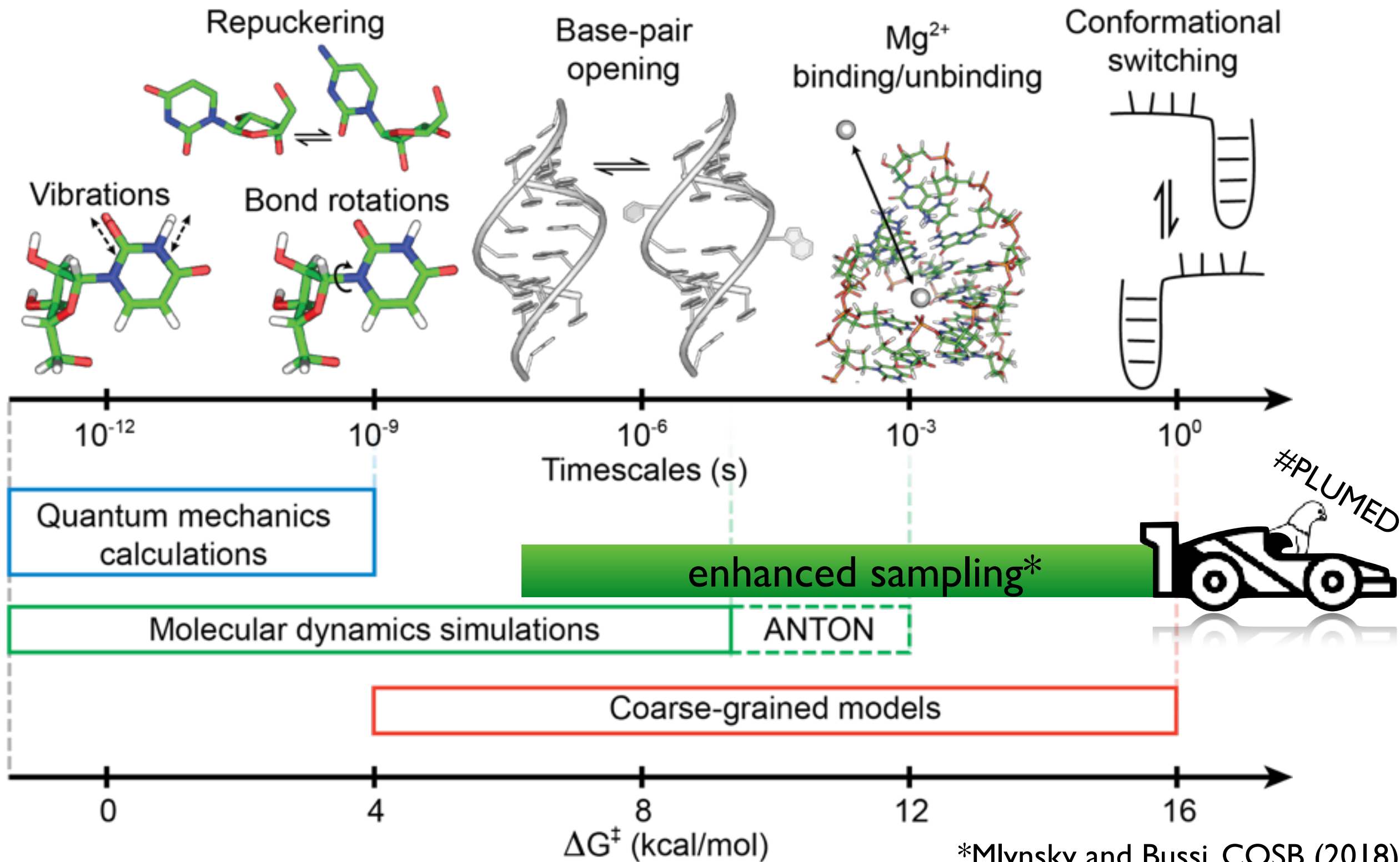
*V. J. Pande*



# RNA timescales

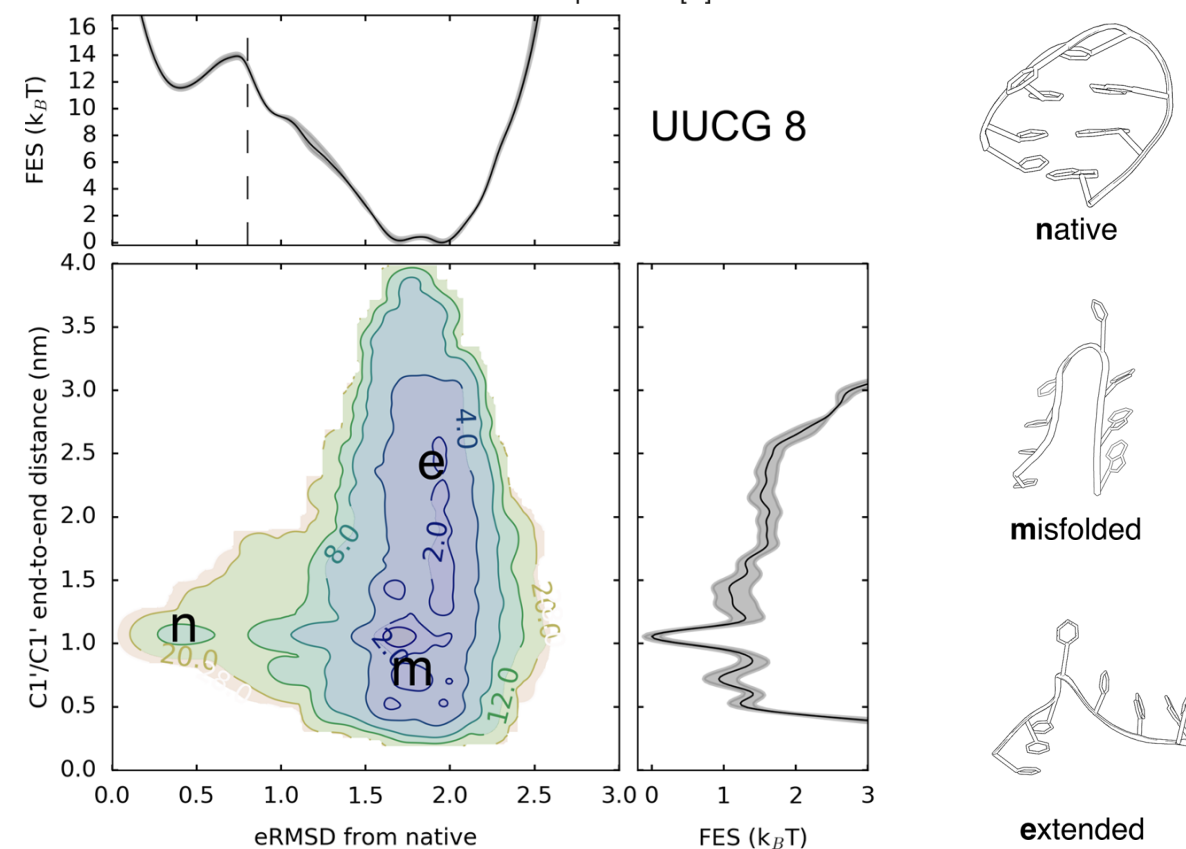
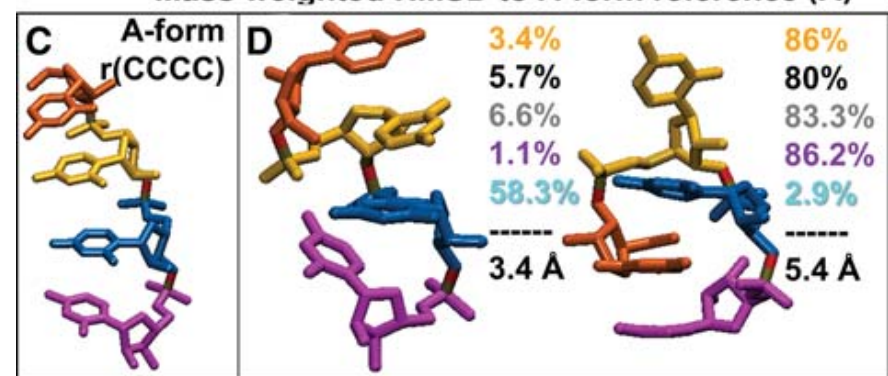
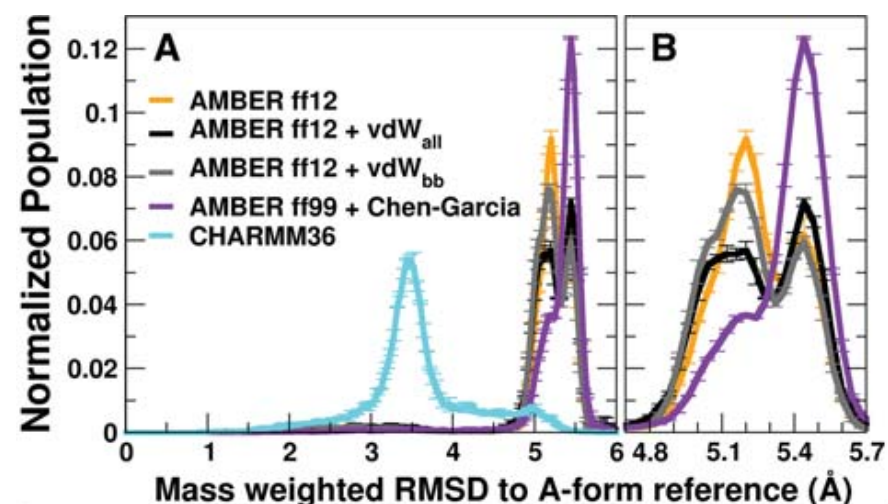
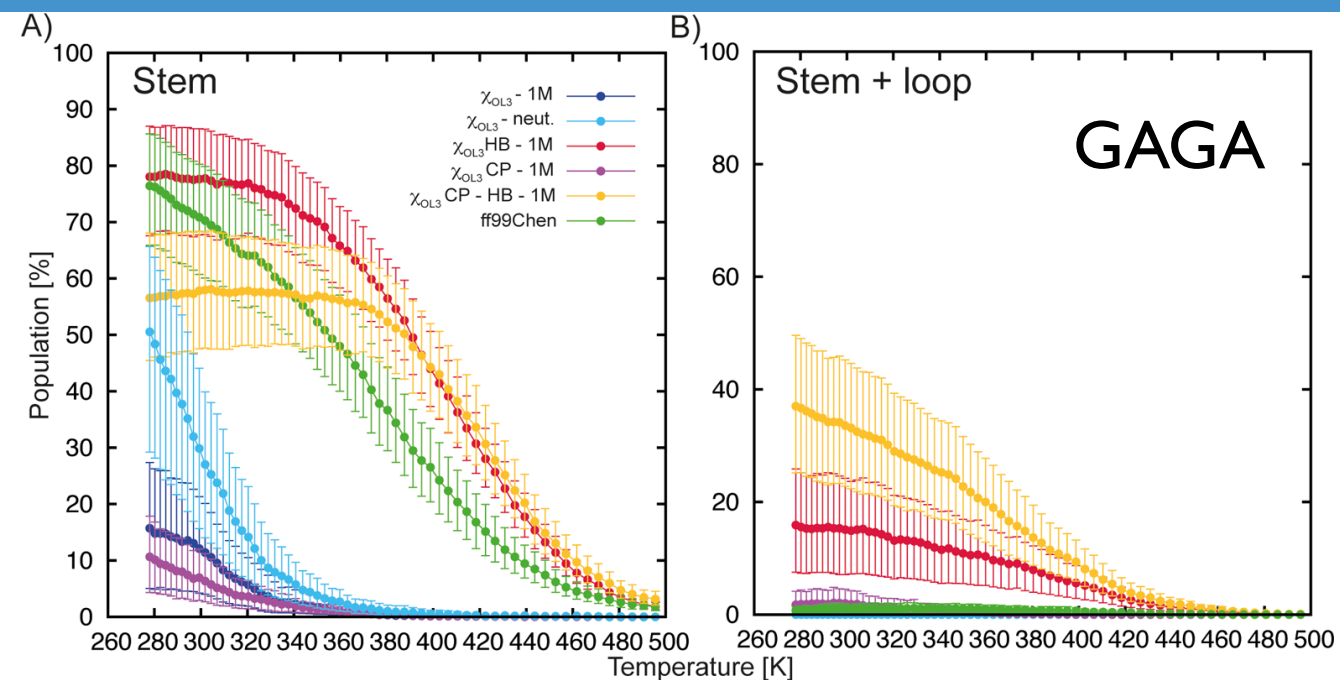
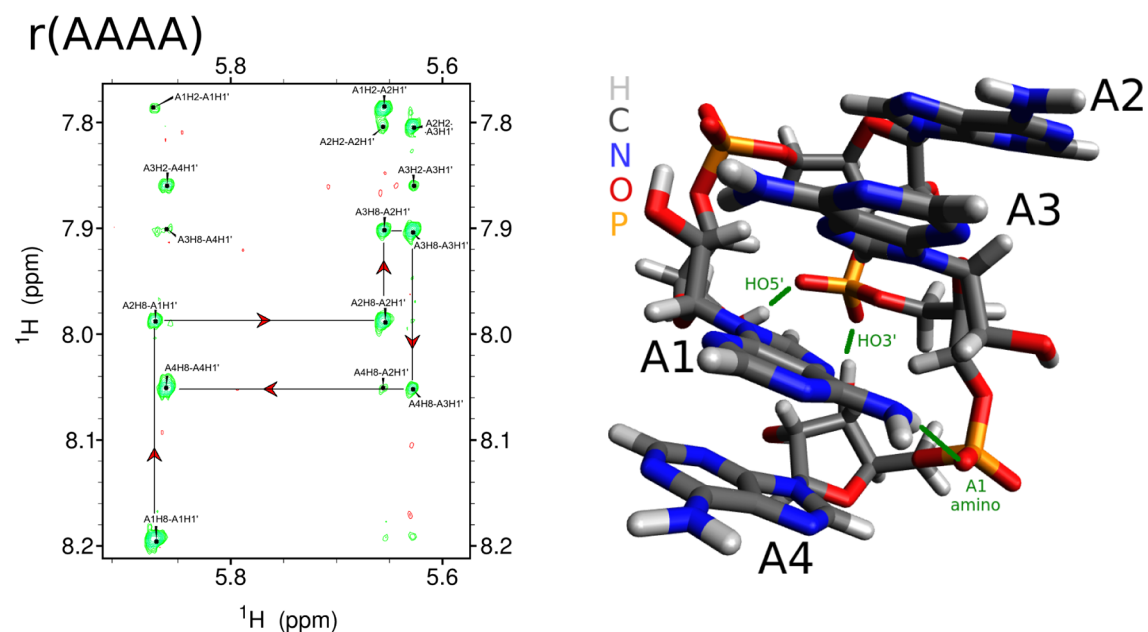


# RNA timescales



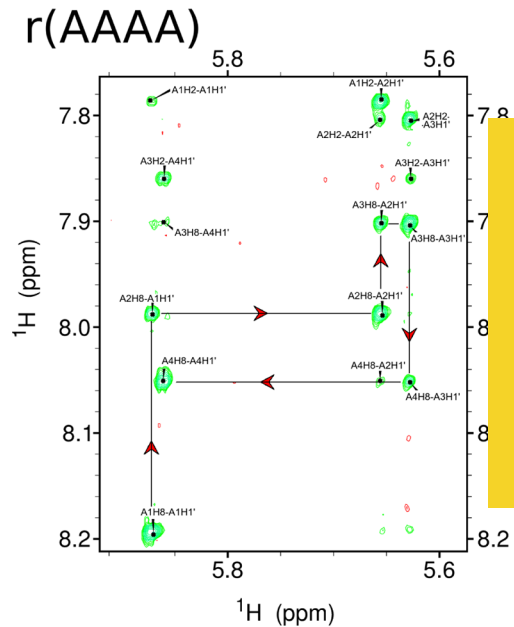
\*Mlynsky and Bussi, COSB (2018)  
Sponer, Bussi, et al, Chem Rev (2018)

# Issues with force fields

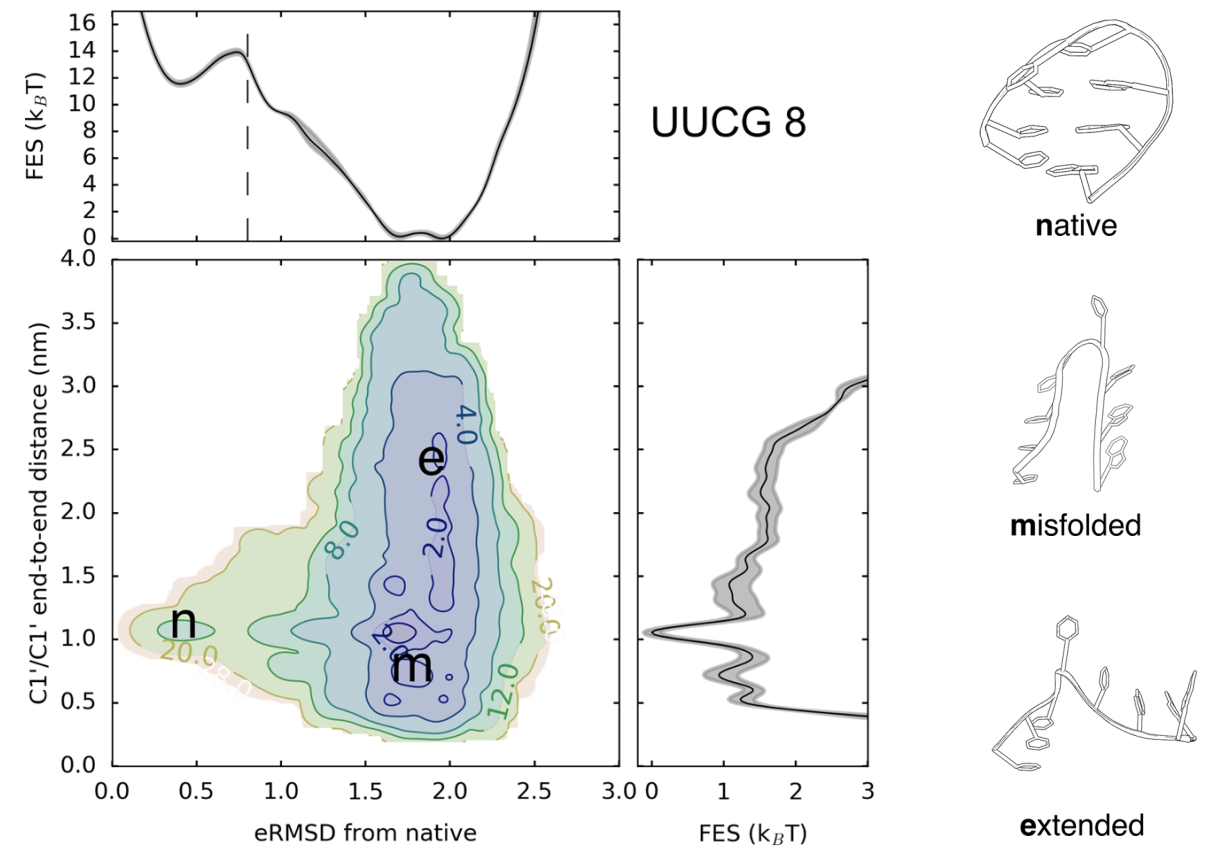
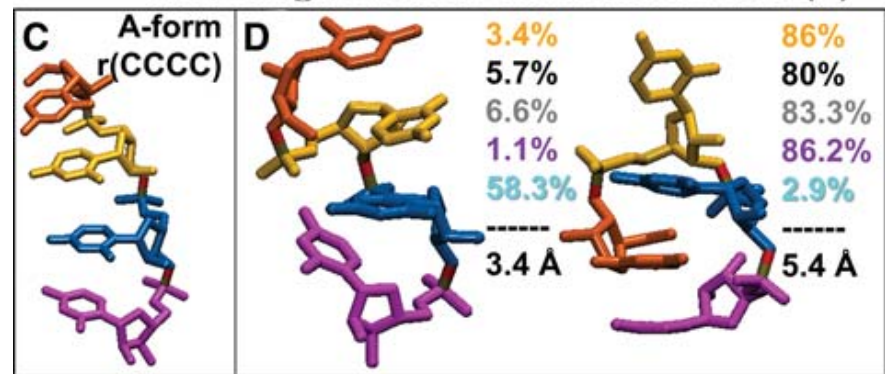
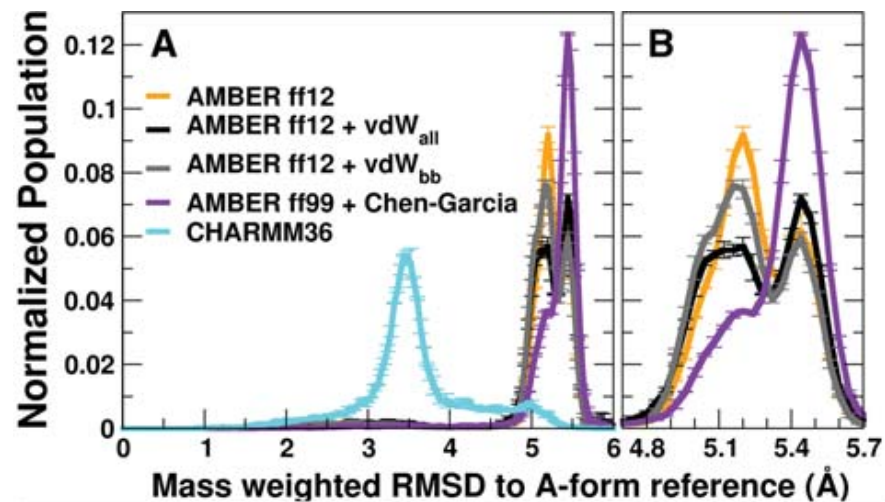
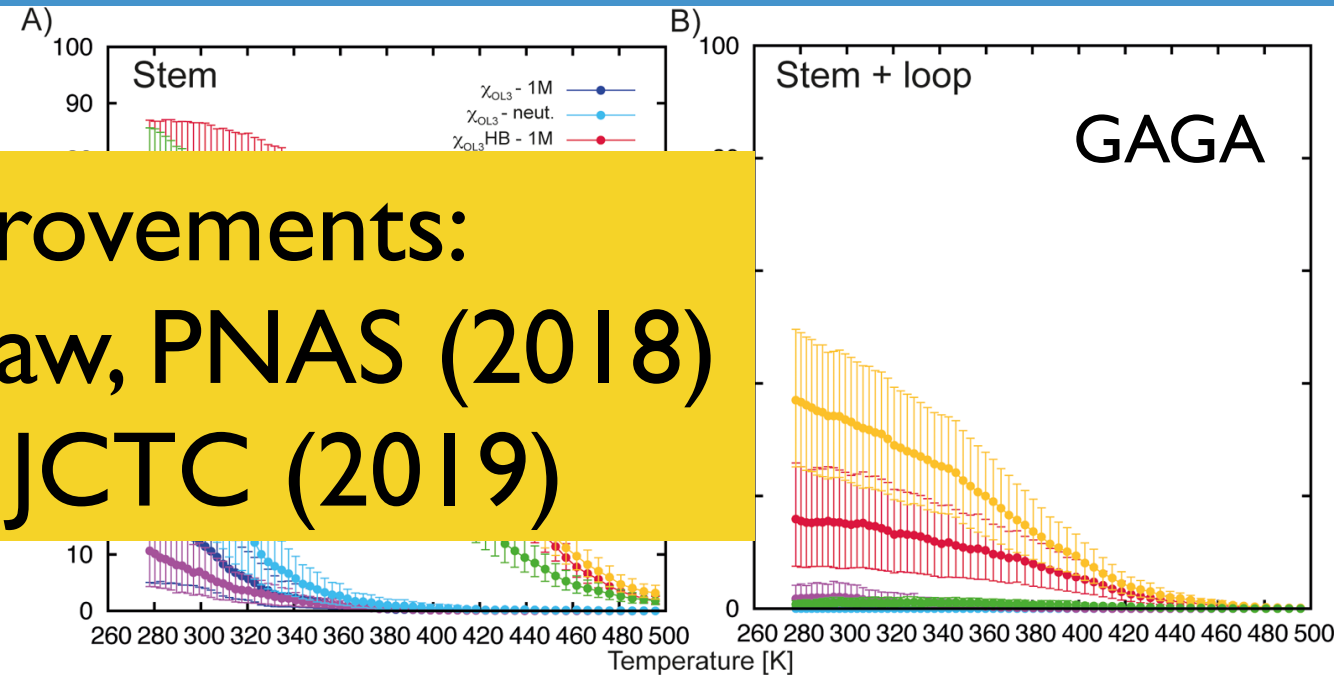




# Issues with force fields



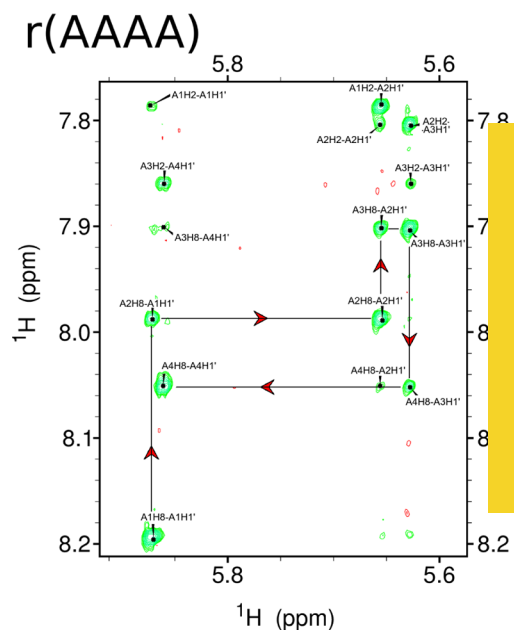
Recent improvements:  
Tan, Piana, and Shaw, PNAS (2018)  
Kuhrova et al JCTC (2019)



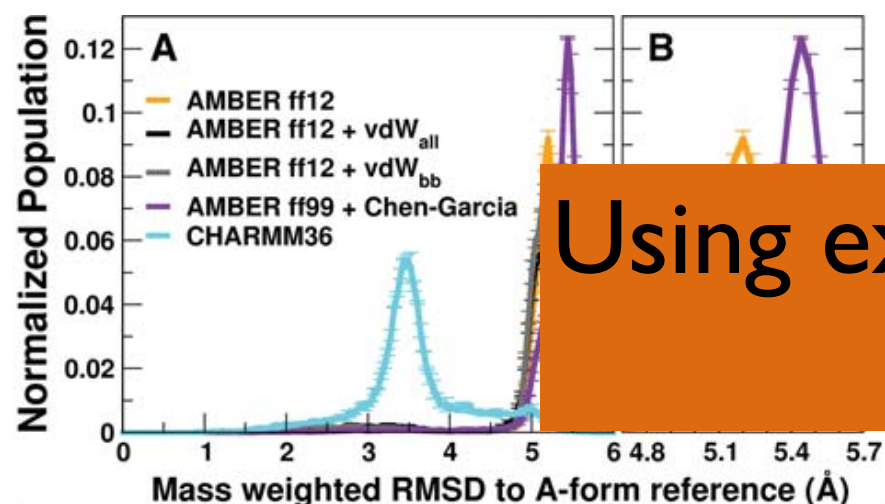
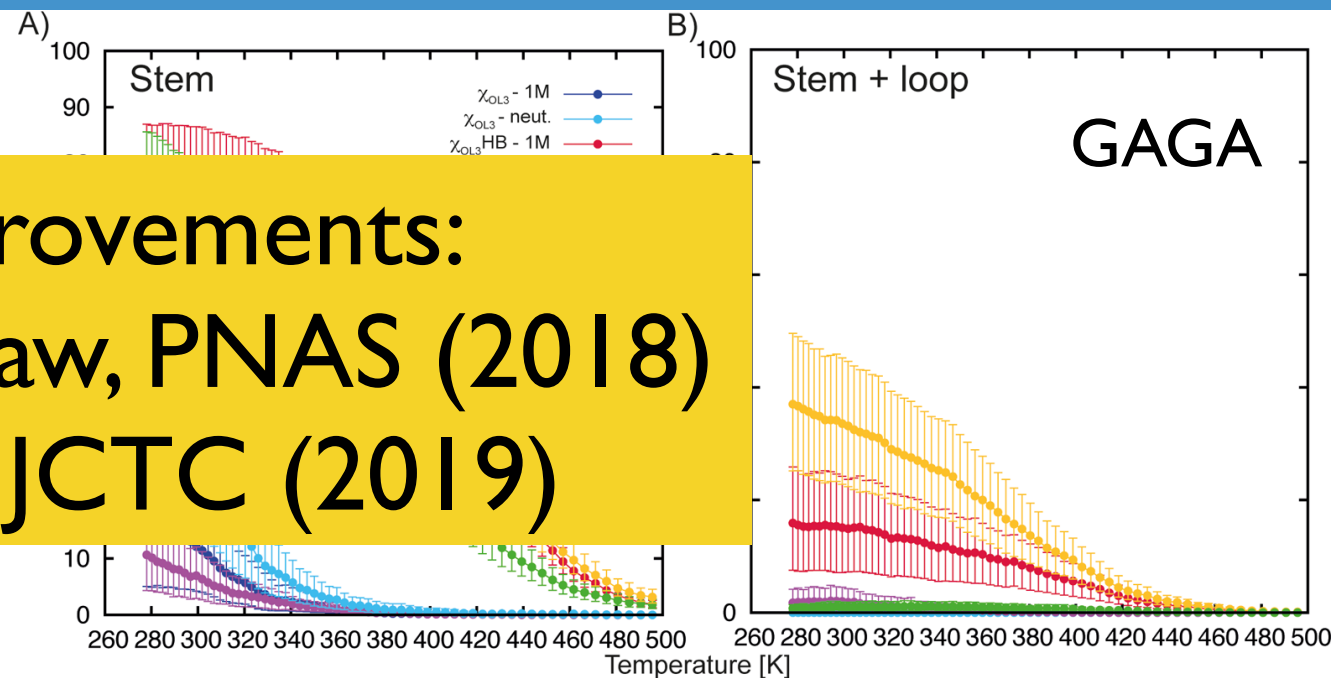
Condon et al, JCTC (2015)  
Bergonzo et al, RNA (2015)

Kuhrova et al, JCTC (2016)  
Bottaro et al, JPCL (2016)

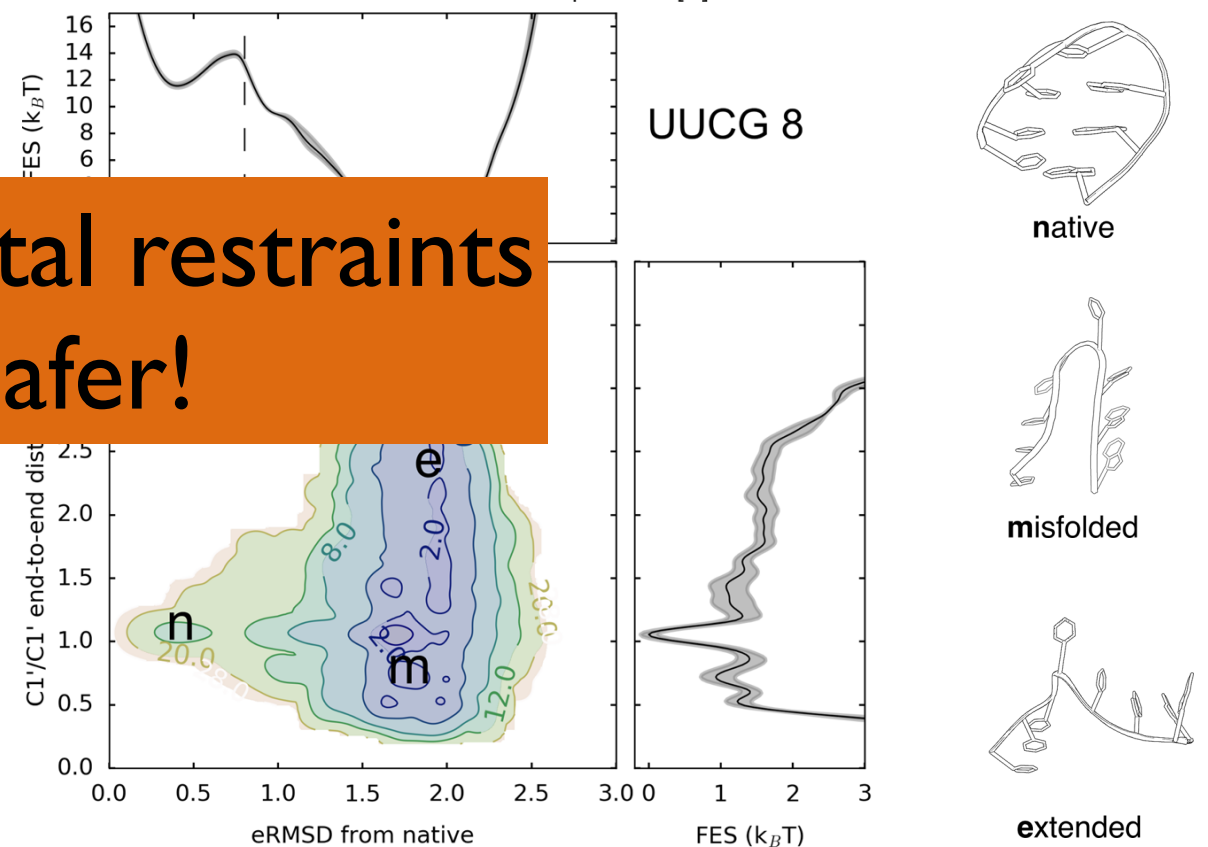
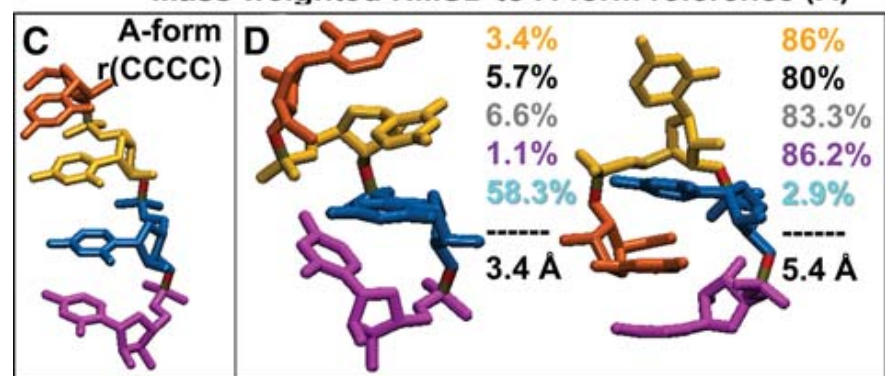
# Issues with force fields



Recent improvements:  
Tan, Piana, and Shaw, PNAS (2018)  
Kuhrova et al JCTC (2019)



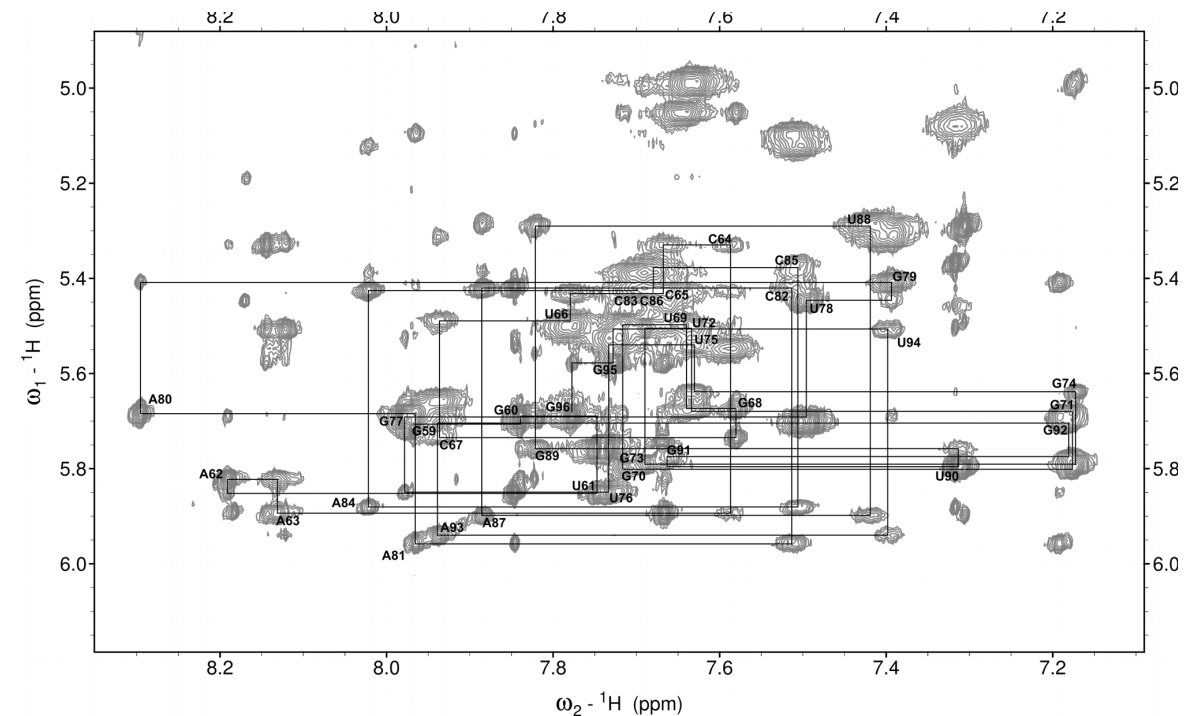
Using experimental restraints  
is much safer!



# Solution-phase experiments

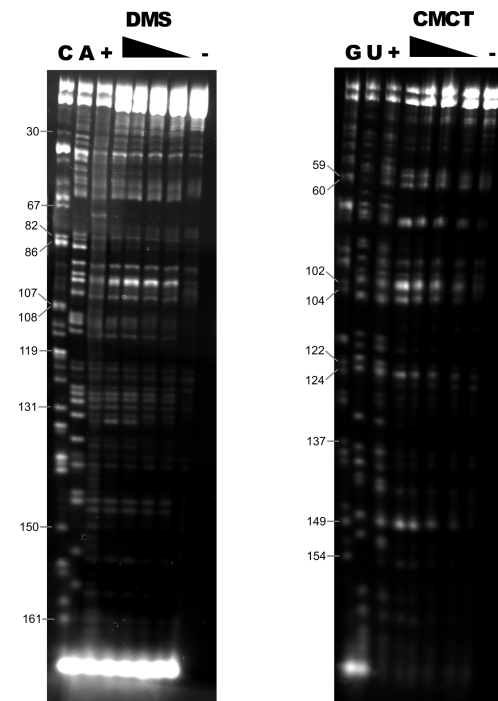
## NMR

- Proton distances, angles, etc
- Many different techniques
- Standard *forward models*\*



## Chemical probing

- Identify reactive nucleotides
- Different probes (e.g. DMS/CMCT/SHAPE)
- Non-standard *forward models*\*\*



\*i.e. “formula to compute experiment from structure” (e.g. Karplus formulas for  $J_c$ )

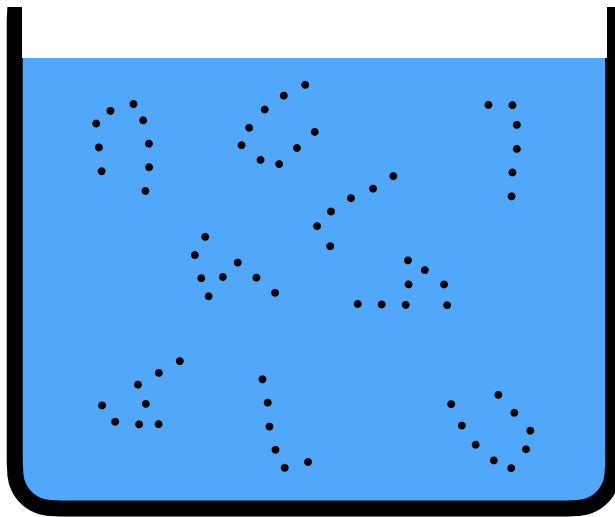
\*\*usually reactive nucleotides are interpreted as “non VWC paired”  
(pictures from Podbevsek et al, Sci Rep 2018)



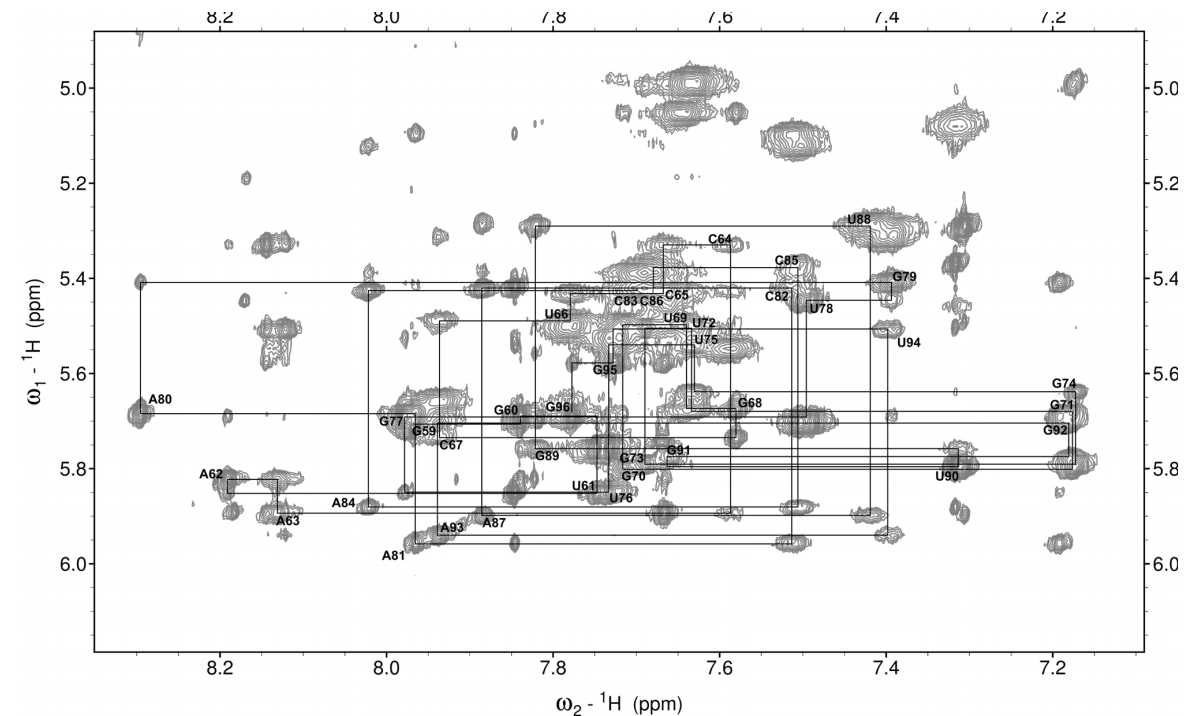
# Solution-phase experiments

## NMR

- Proton distances, angles, etc
- Many different techniques
- Standard *forward models*\*

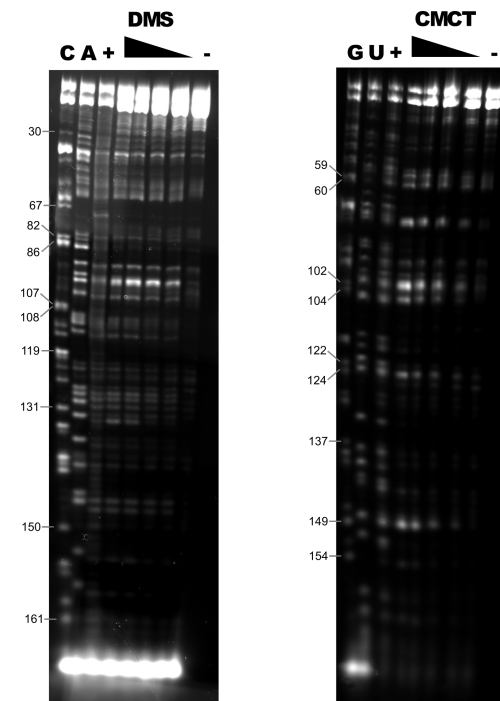


average



## Chemical probing

- Identify reactive nucleotides
- Different probes (e.g. DMS/CMCT/SHAPE)
- Non-standard *forward models*\*\*



\*i.e. “formula to compute experiment from structure” (e.g. Karplus formulas for  $J_c$ )

\*\*usually reactive nucleotides are interpreted as “non VWC paired”  
(pictures from Podbevsek et al, Sci Rep 2018)

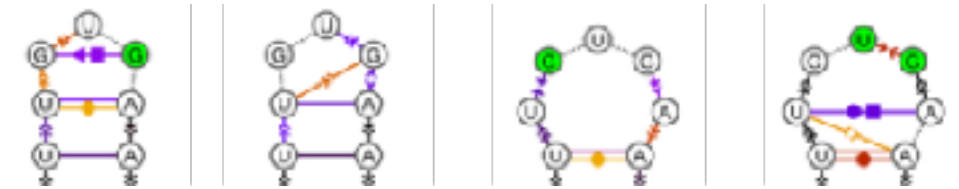


# Agenda

## Combine experiment (NMR) and MD

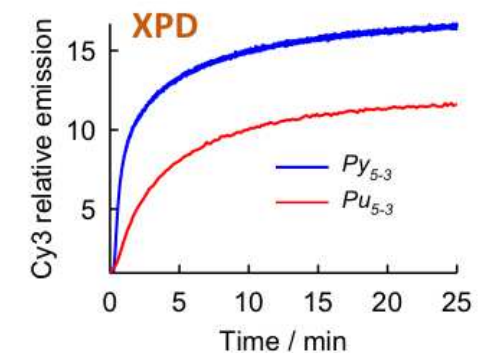
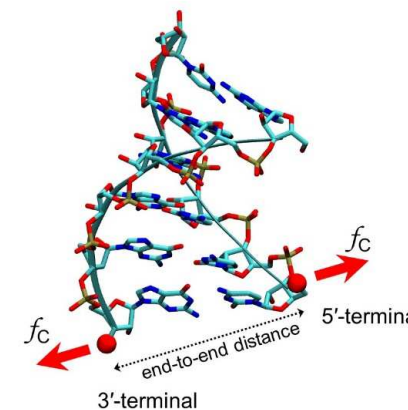
- enforce averages\*
- dynamics of a RNA hairpin%

$$S[P] = - \sum_x P(x) \log \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$$



## RNA (and DNA) unzipping dynamics&

- Go model
- Helicase mediated unwinding
- Experimental validation



\*Cesari, Reisser, and Bussi, Computation (2018)

%Podbevsek et al, Sci. Rep. (2018); Reisser et al, NAR (2020)

&Colizzi et al, PNAS (2019)

# Enforcing averages using MaxEnt

Enforce expected value  
(underdetermined)

$$\langle f \rangle = \sum_x P(x) f(x) = f_{data}$$

# Enforcing averages using MaxEnt

Enforce expected value  
(underdetermined)

$$\langle f \rangle = \sum_x P(x) f(x) = f_{data}$$

Entropy\*

$$S[P] = - \sum_x P(x) \log \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$$

P=posterior  
Q=prior

Jaynes Proc IEEE (1982)

Chodera and Pitera, JCTC (2014)

Cesari, Reisser, Bussi, Computation (2018)

\*Entropy measures “how much extra information is needed” besides  $Q(x)$

# Enforcing averages using MaxEnt

Enforce expected value  
(underdetermined)

$$\langle f \rangle = \sum_x P(x) f(x) = f_{data}$$

Entropy\*

$$S[P] = - \sum_x P(x) \log \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$$

P=posterior  
Q=prior

MaxEnt

$$\frac{\delta S}{\delta P(x)} = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{aligned} P(x) &\propto Q(x) e^{-\lambda f(x)} \\ U' &= U + \lambda k_B T f(x) \end{aligned}$$

Jaynes Proc IEEE (1982)

Chodera and Pitera, JCTC (2014)

Cesari, Reisser, Bussi, Computation (2018)

\*Entropy measures “how much extra information is needed” besides  $Q(x)$

# Enforcing averages using MaxEnt

Enforce expected value  
(underdetermined)

$$\langle f \rangle = \sum_x P(x) f(x) = f_{data}$$

Entropy\*

$$S[P] = - \sum_x P(x) \log \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} \quad \begin{array}{l} P=\text{posterior} \\ Q=\text{prior} \end{array}$$

MaxEnt

$$\frac{\delta S}{\delta P(x)} = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{array}{l} P(x) \propto Q(x) e^{-\lambda f(x)} \\ U' = U + \lambda k_B T f(x) \end{array}$$

$\lambda$  to be chosen such that  
average on  $P$  agrees with exp.

$$\frac{\sum_x Q(x) e^{-\lambda f(x)} f(x)}{\sum_x Q(x) e^{-\lambda f(x)}} = f_{data}$$

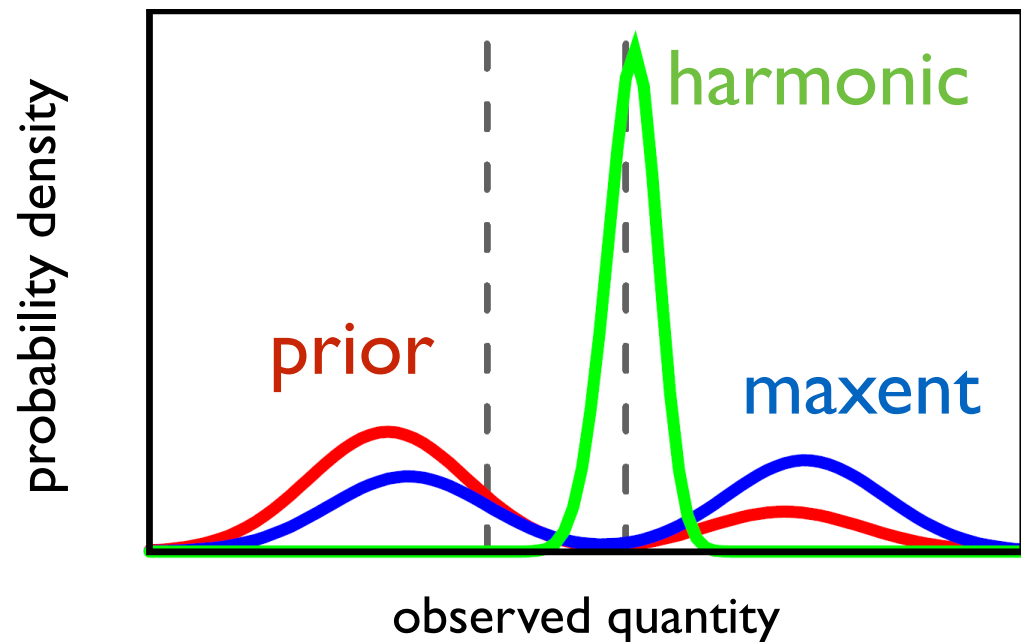
Jaynes Proc IEEE (1982)

Chodera and Pitera, JCTC (2014)

Cesari, Reisser, Bussi, Computation (2018)

\*Entropy measures “how much extra information is needed” besides  $Q(x)$

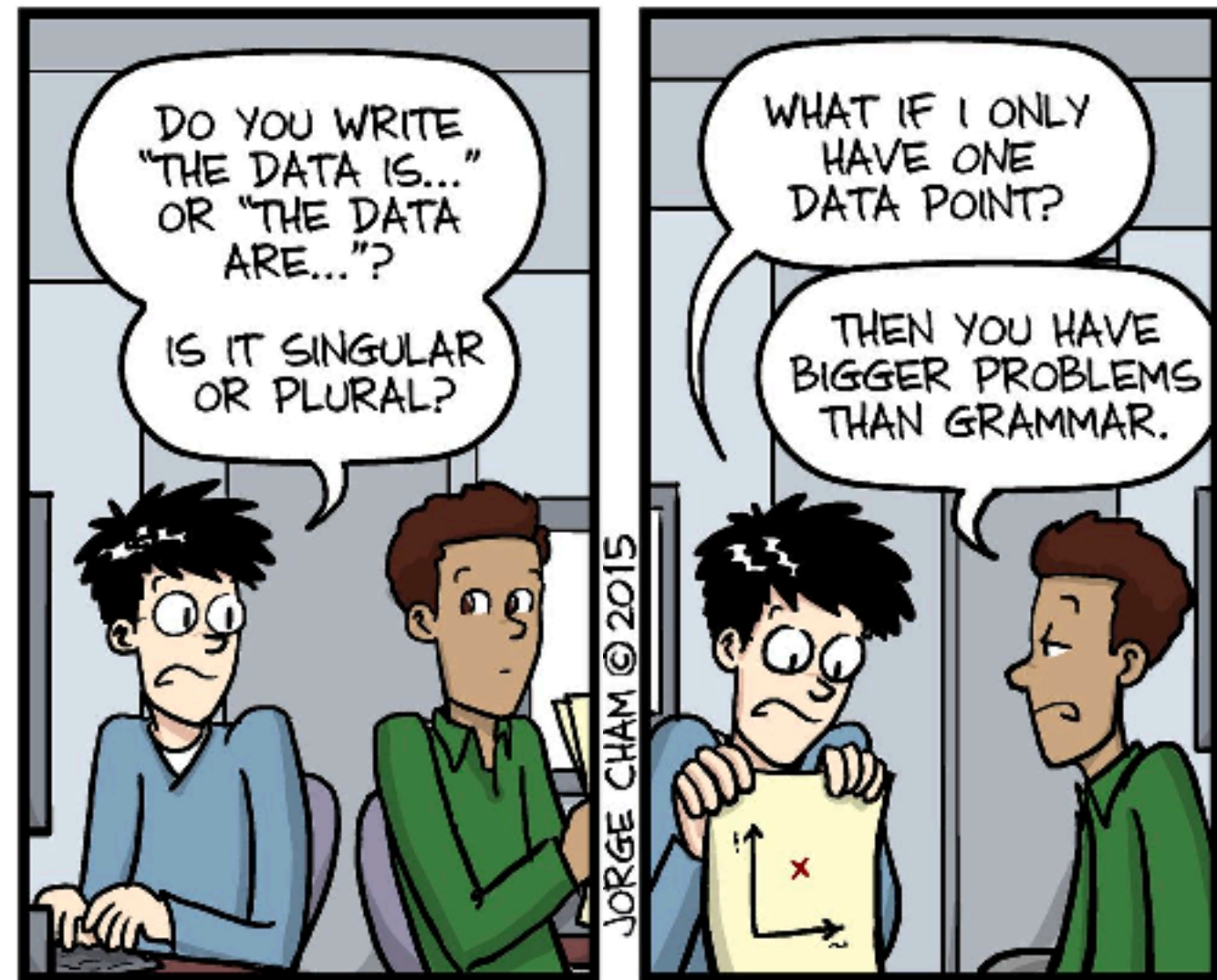
# Comments on MaxEnt



Much information from prior is retained



Very good prior required  
(when compared with harmonic restraint)

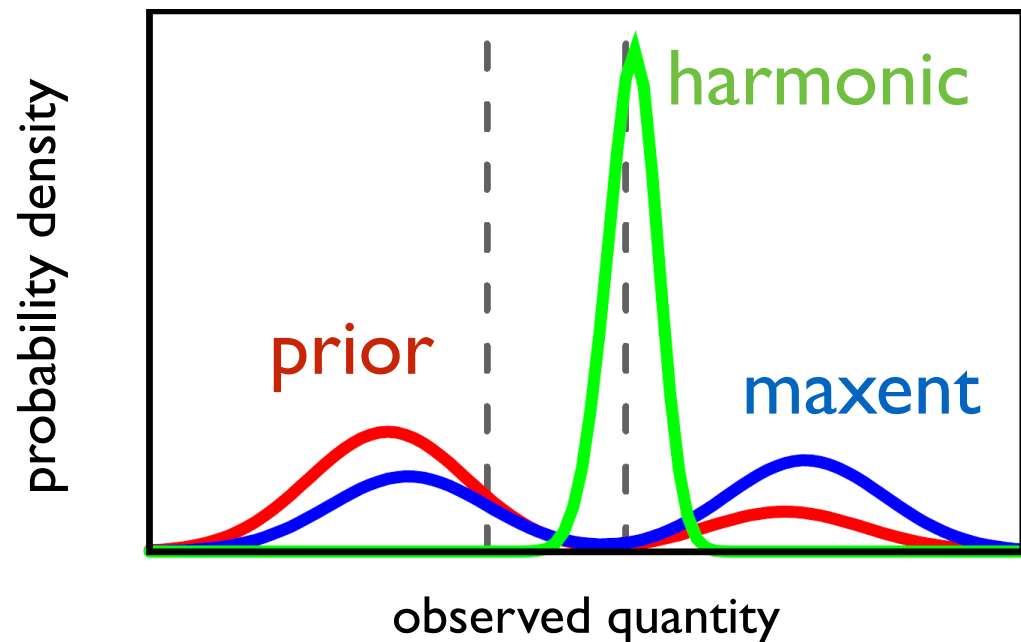


WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

see Bonomi et al COSB (2017) for a review on “MaxEnt” and “Maximum Parsimony” methods



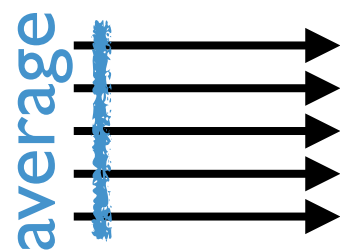
# Comments on MaxEnt



Much information from prior is retained

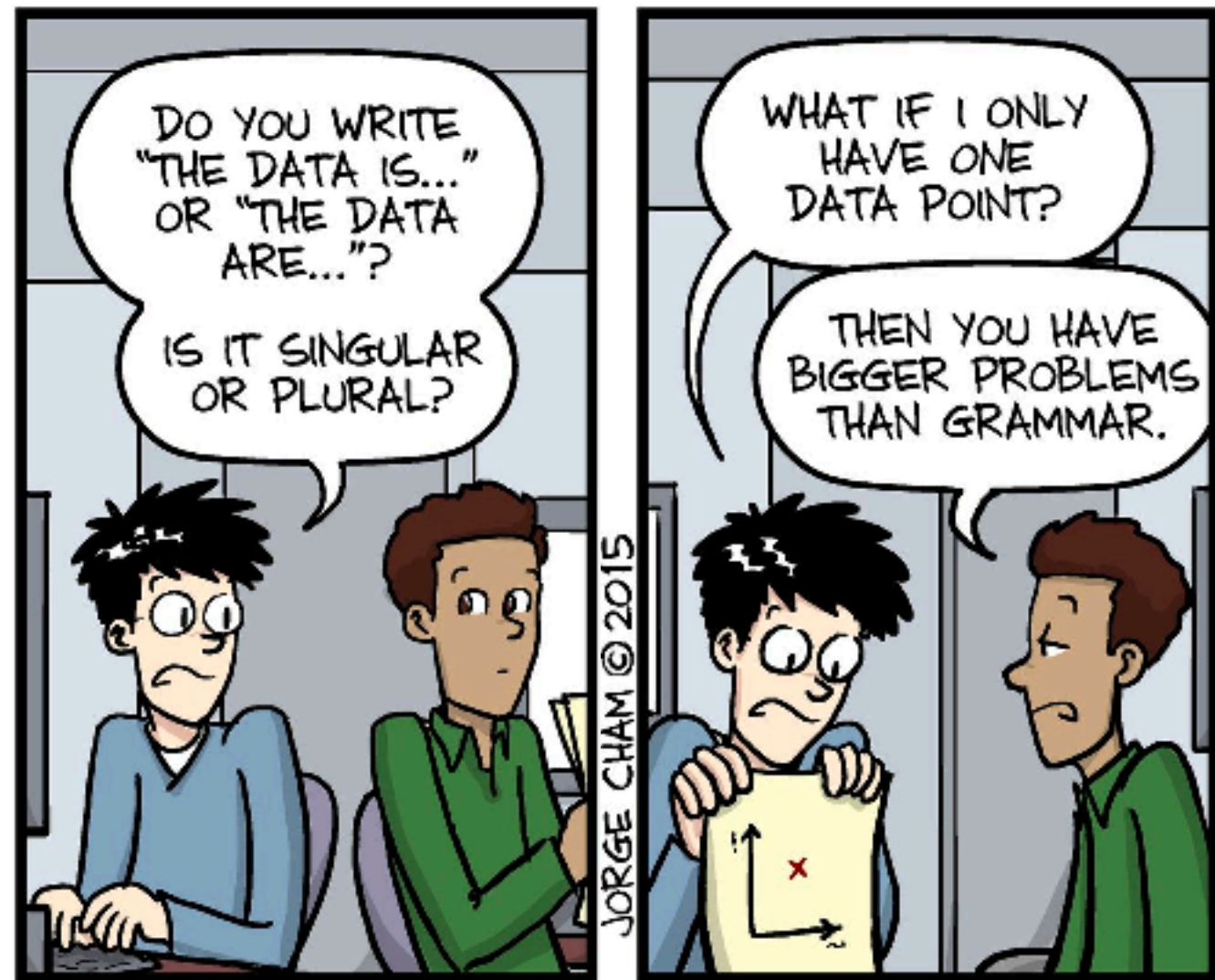
Very good prior required  
(when compared with harmonic restraint)

Equivalent to  
multi-replica approaches  
(e.g. Vendruscolo group)



Closely related to VES\*  
(Valsson & Parrinello)

Equivalent to EDS\*  
(White, Hocky, and Voth)



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

\*see our review on Cesari, Reisser, and Bussi, Computation (2018) for a detailed comparison  
see Bonomi et al COSB (2017) for a review on “MaxEnt” and “Maximum Parsimony” methods



# Comments on MaxEnt

Two possible routes:

Enforce

run MD subject to (average) restraints

Reweighting

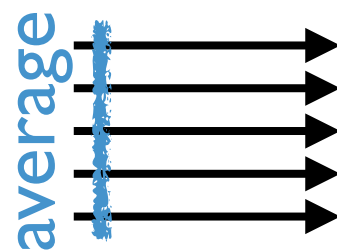
*a posteriori* assign weights to simulated snapshots

(see Rangan et al, JCTC 2018 for a comparison)

from prior is retained

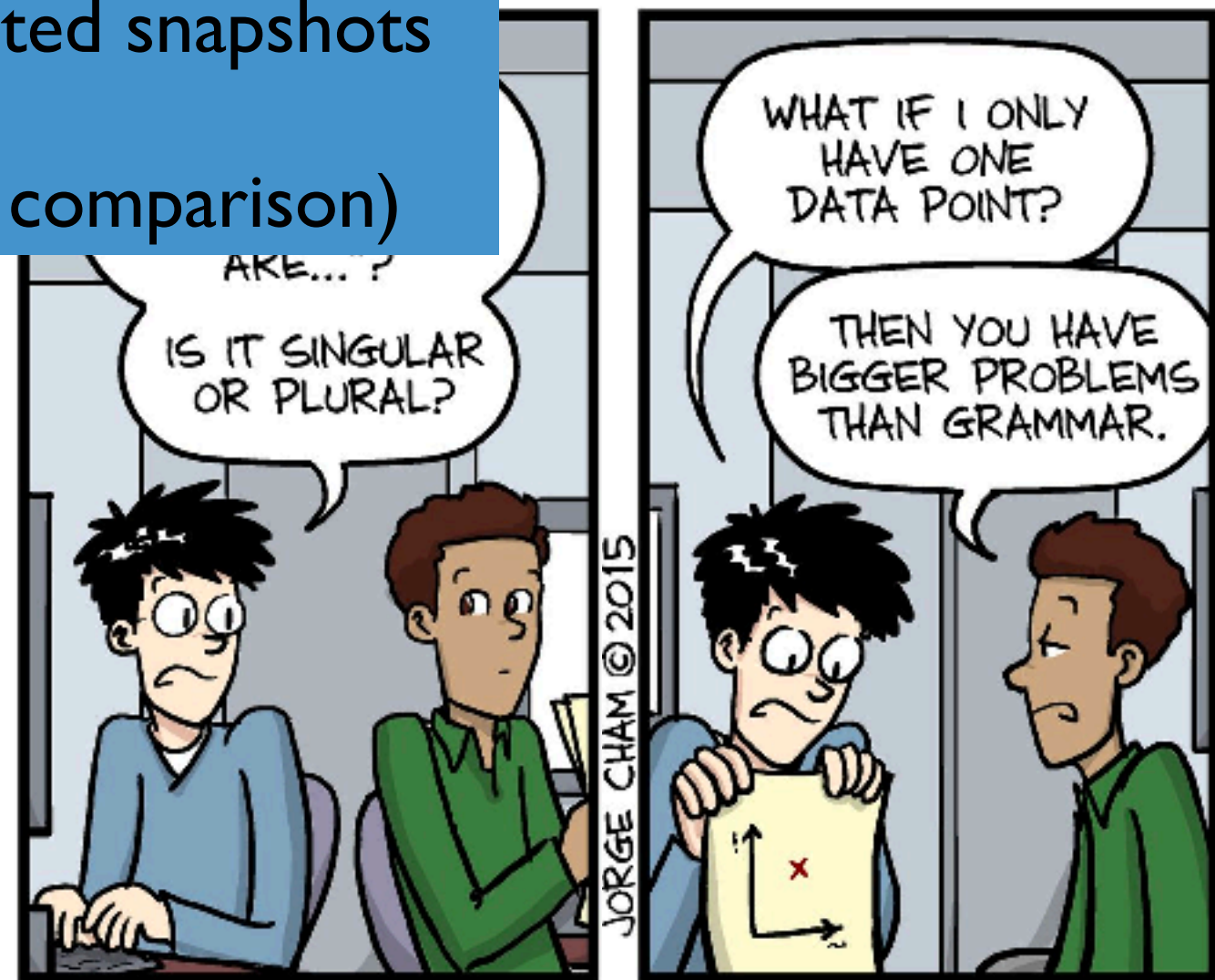
prior required  
(with harmonic restraint)

Equivalent to  
multi-replica approaches  
(e.g. Vendruscolo group)



Closely related to VES\*  
(Valsson & Parrinello)

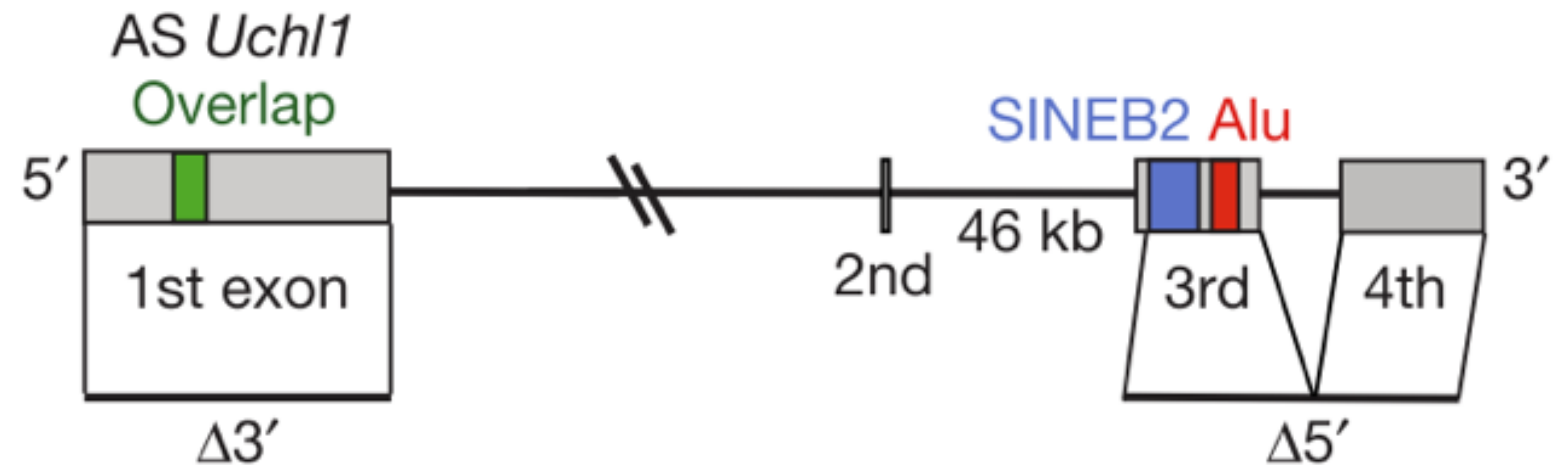
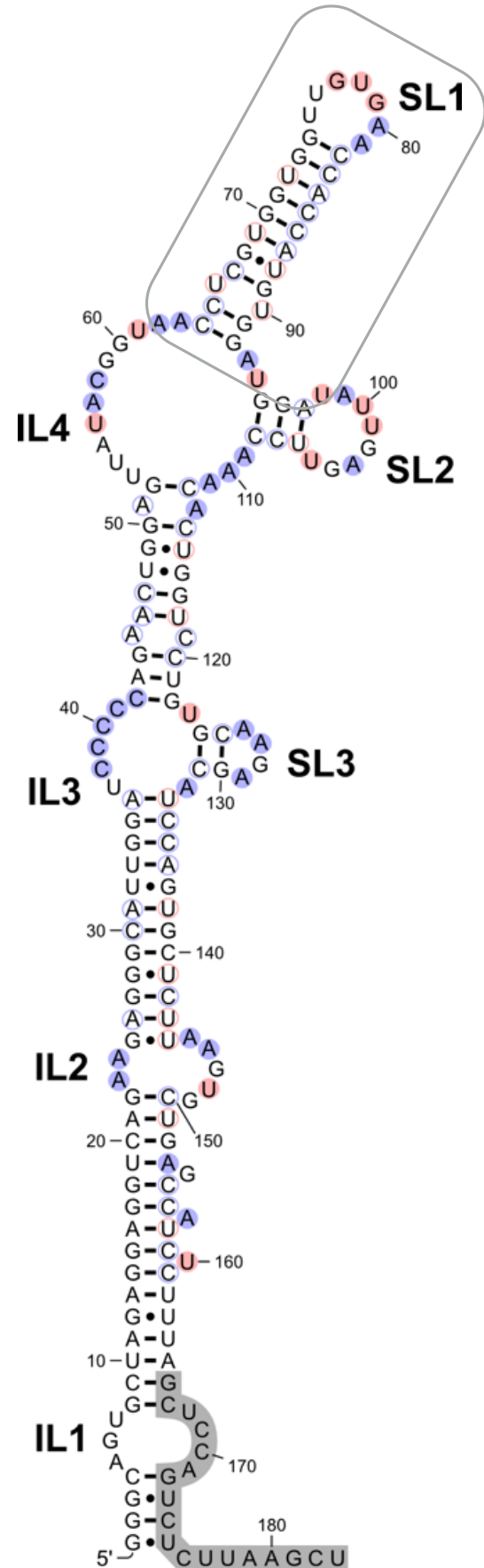
Equivalent to EDS\*  
(White, Hocky, and Voth)



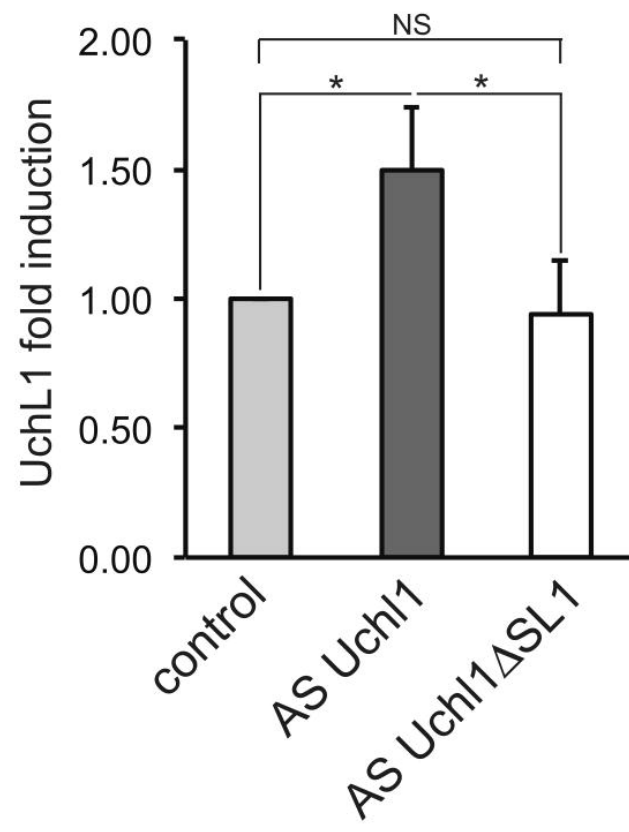
WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

\*see our review on Cesari, Reisser, and Bussi, Computation (2018) for a detailed comparison  
see Bonomi et al COSB (2017) for a review on “MaxEnt” and “Maximum Parsimony” methods

# SINE B2 elements



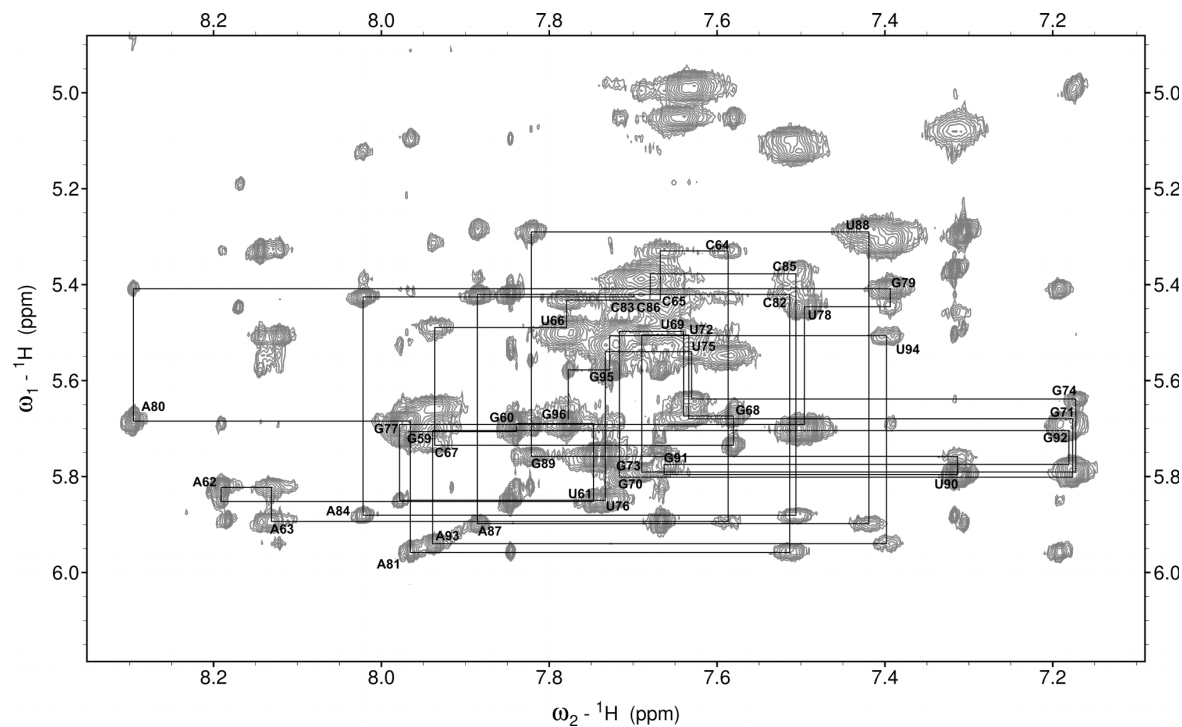
Inverted SINEB2 element enhances protein translation\*



Deletion studies identified the 29-nt terminal hairpin SL1 as essential for protein synthesis enhancing%

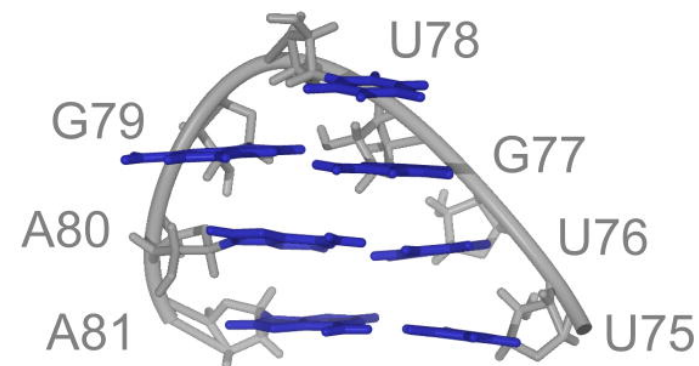
\*Carrieri et al, Nature (2014)  
%Podbevsek, et al Sci. Rep. (2018)

# Solution data (hairpin)

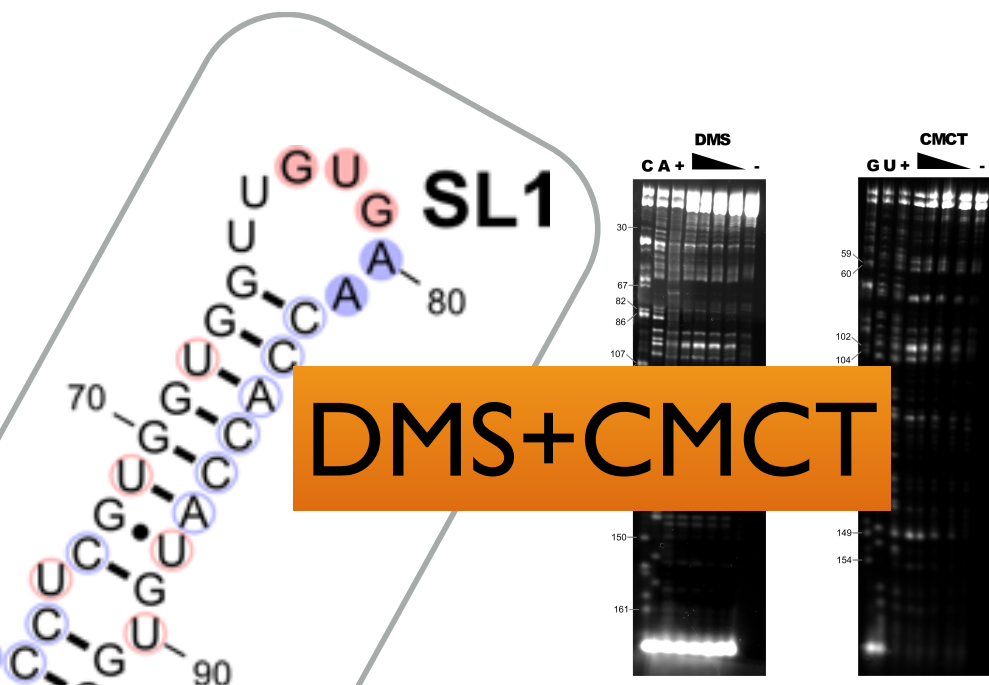
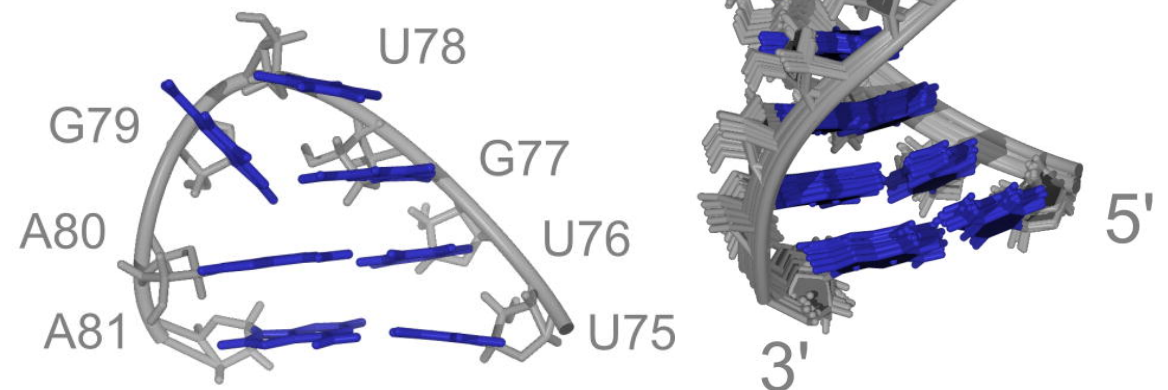


$$\begin{aligned}
 d_{NOE_{i,exp}}(\text{strong}) &= 3.6\text{\AA} \rightarrow \langle 1/d_{H-H}^6 \rangle^{-1/6} < 3.6\text{\AA} \\
 d_{NOE_{i,exp}}(\text{medium}) &= 5.0\text{\AA} \rightarrow \langle 1/d_{H-H}^6 \rangle^{-1/6} < 5.0\text{\AA} \\
 d_{NOE_{i,exp}}(\text{weak}) &= 6.5\text{\AA} \rightarrow \langle 1/d_{H-H}^6 \rangle^{-1/6} < 6.5\text{\AA}
 \end{aligned}$$

**2D NOESY**  
125 signals  
(strong/medium/weak)



2 similar models  
resolved PDB: 5LSN%



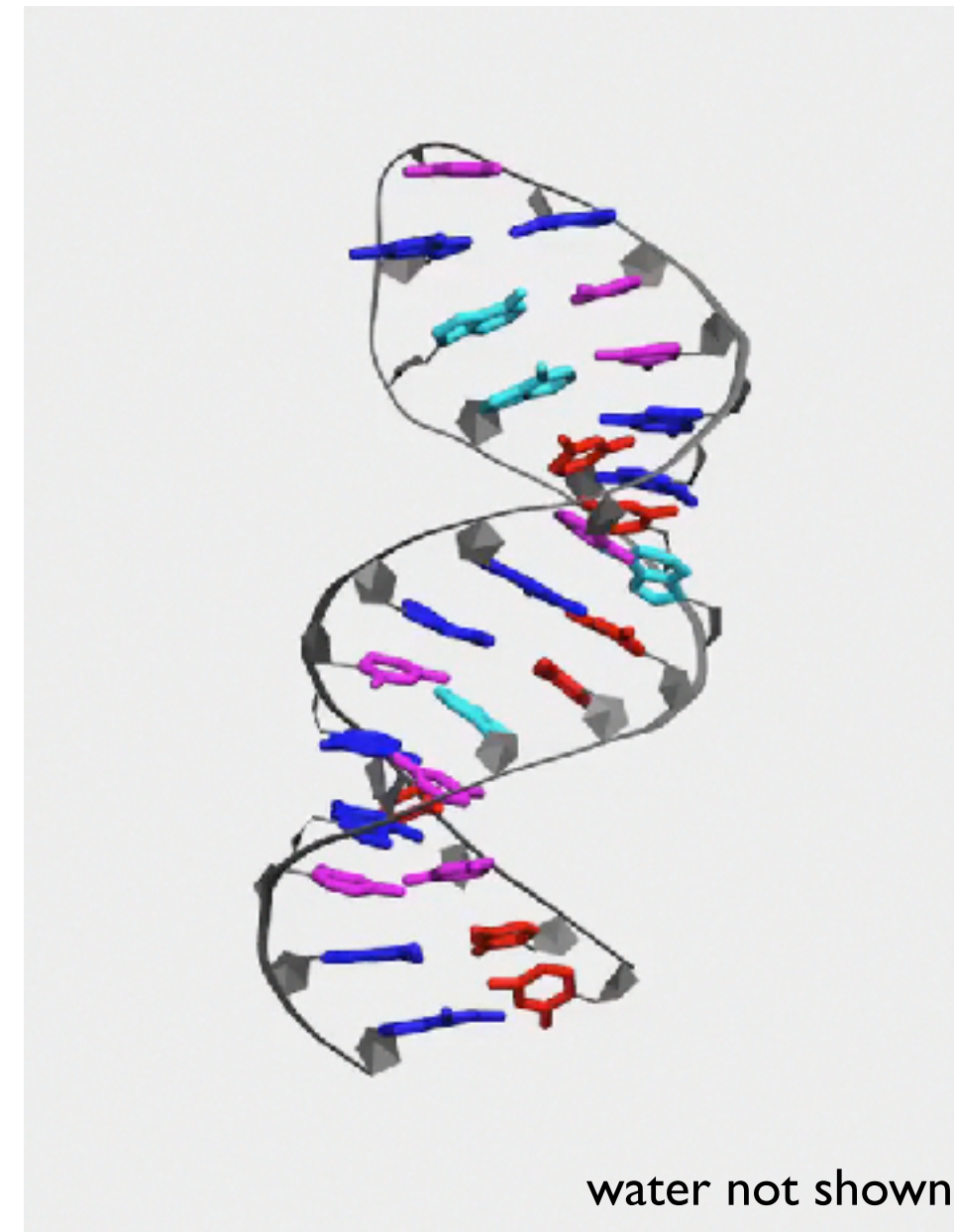


# A posteriori reweighting

Run a long MD from NMR structure  
(just dynamics close to native)

Several NOEs are violated

Reweight to enforce NOE signals

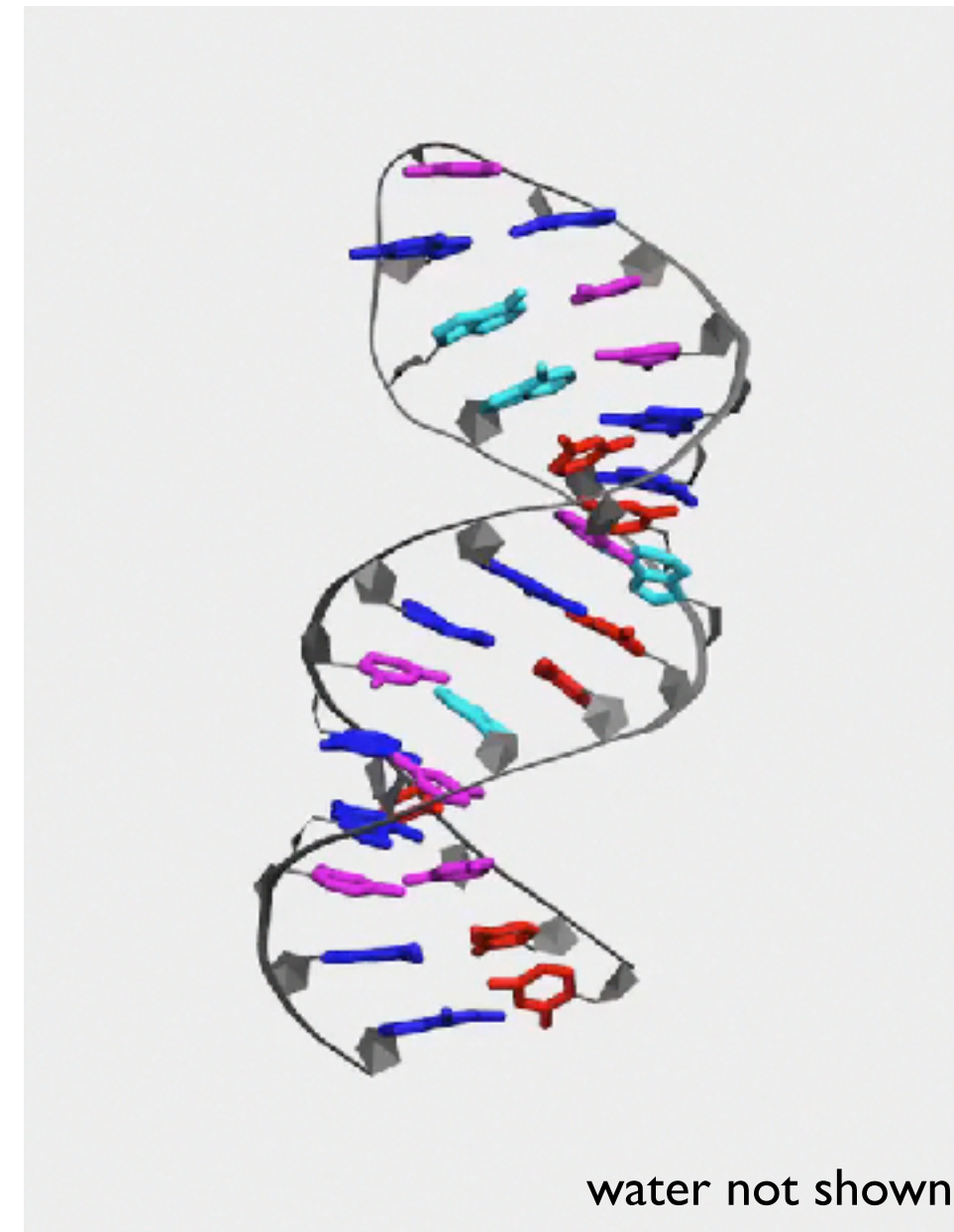


# A posteriori reweighting

Run a long MD from NMR structure  
(just dynamics close to native)

Several NOEs are violated

Reweight to enforce NOE signals

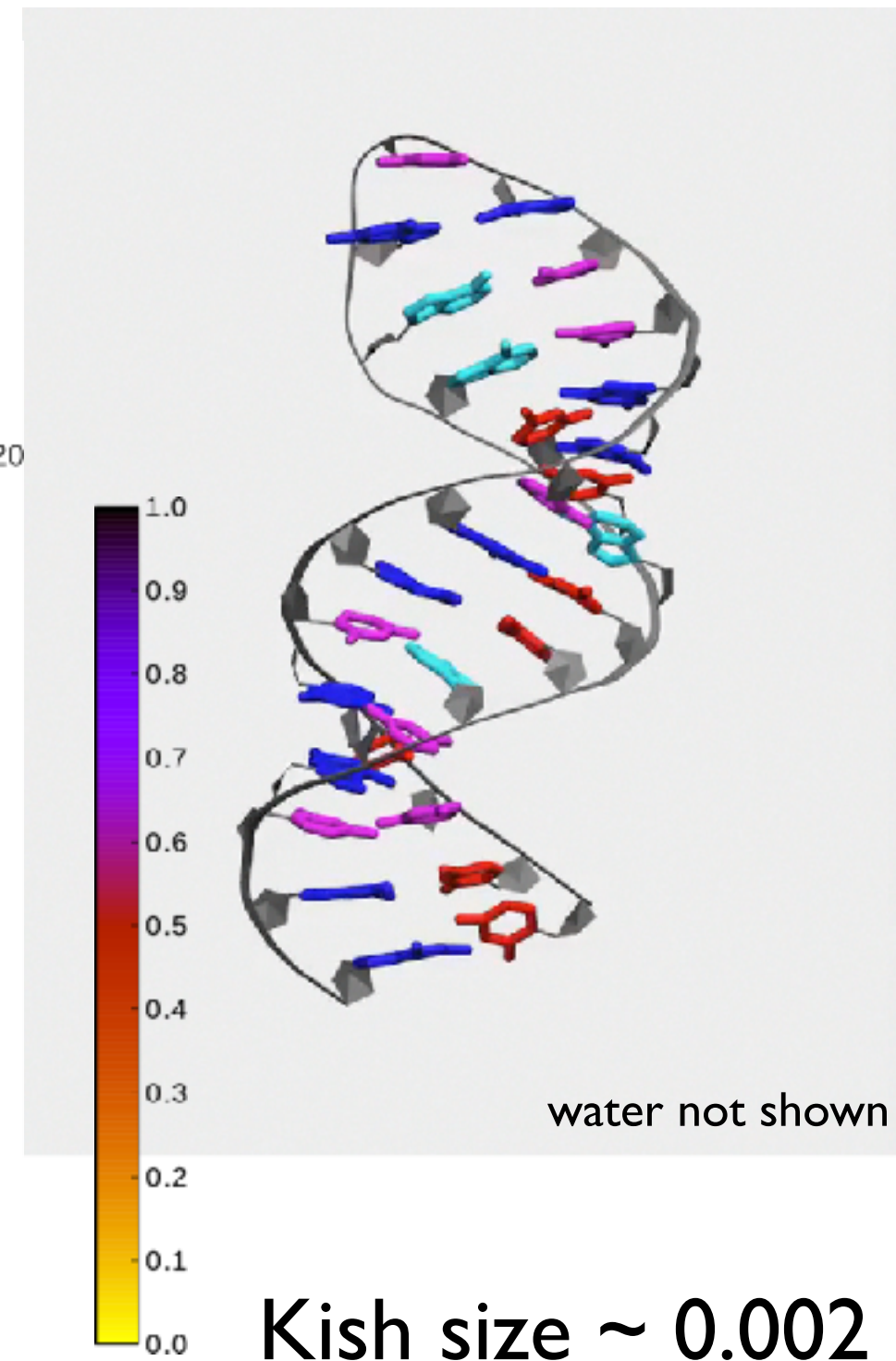
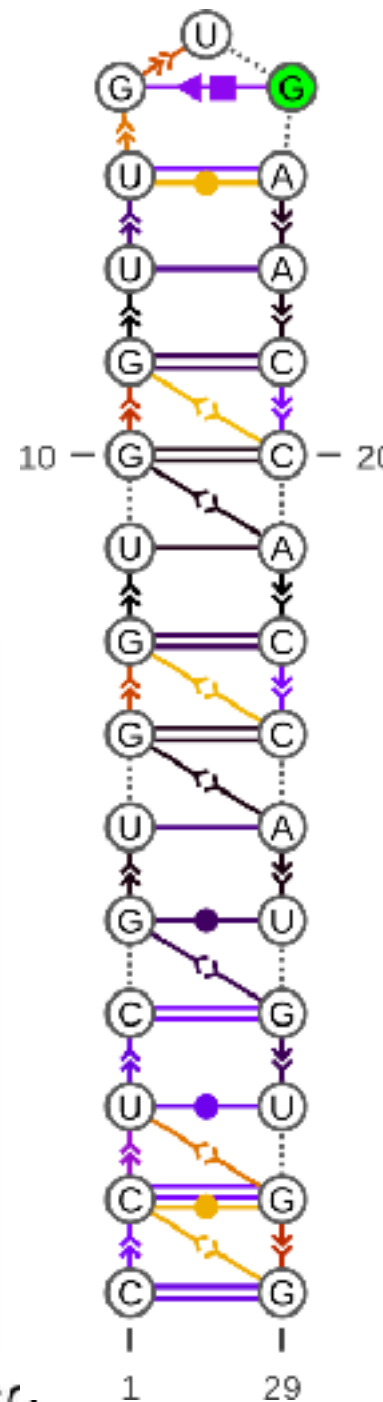
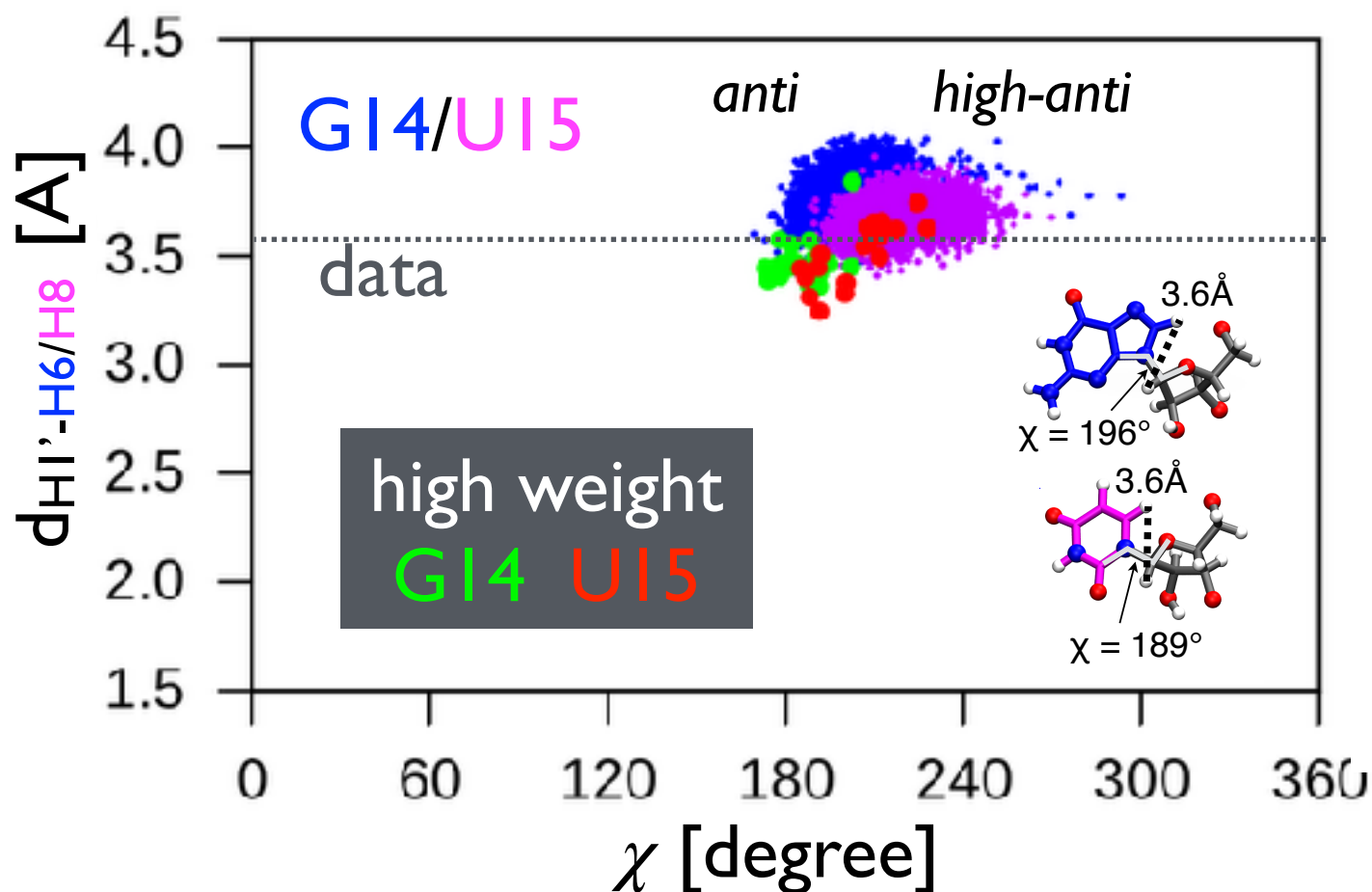


# A posteriori reweighting

Run a long MD from NMR structure  
(just dynamics close to native)

Several NOEs are violated

Reweight to enforce NOE signals



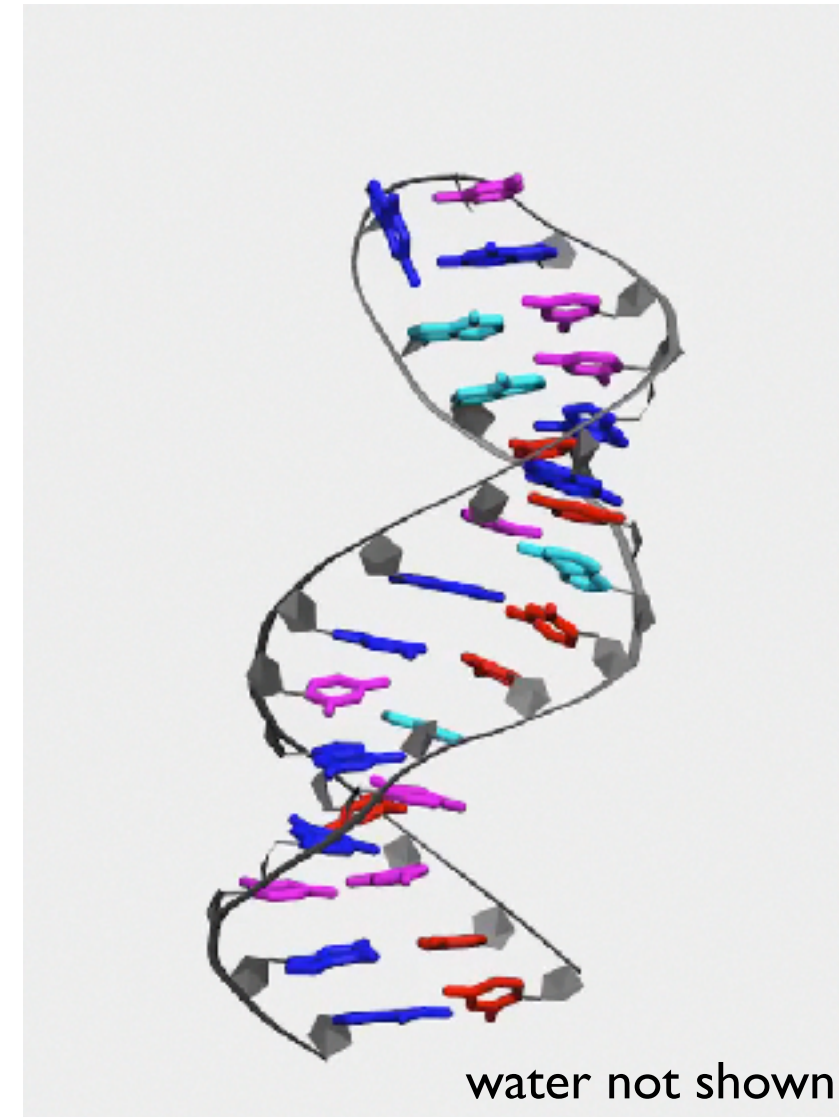
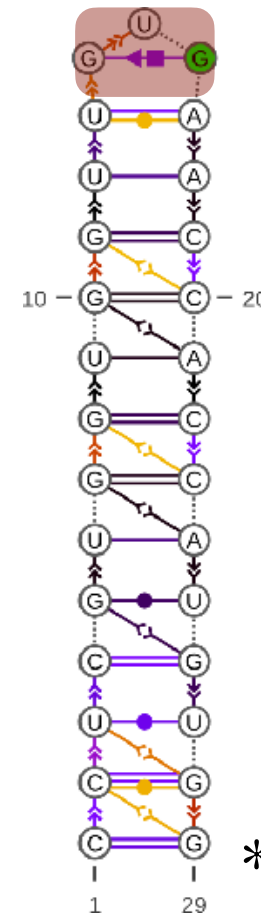


# Enhanced sampling on SINE hairpin

8 Replicas (RECT\*)

Accelerated degrees of freedom:  
 $\chi_{14-16}$  and coordination numbers 14-16

MaxEnt for 125 NOEs throughout the whole hairpin



Kish's sample size  $\sim 0.7$

\*Gil-Ley and Bussi, JCTC (2015)  
Reisser et al, NAR (2020)

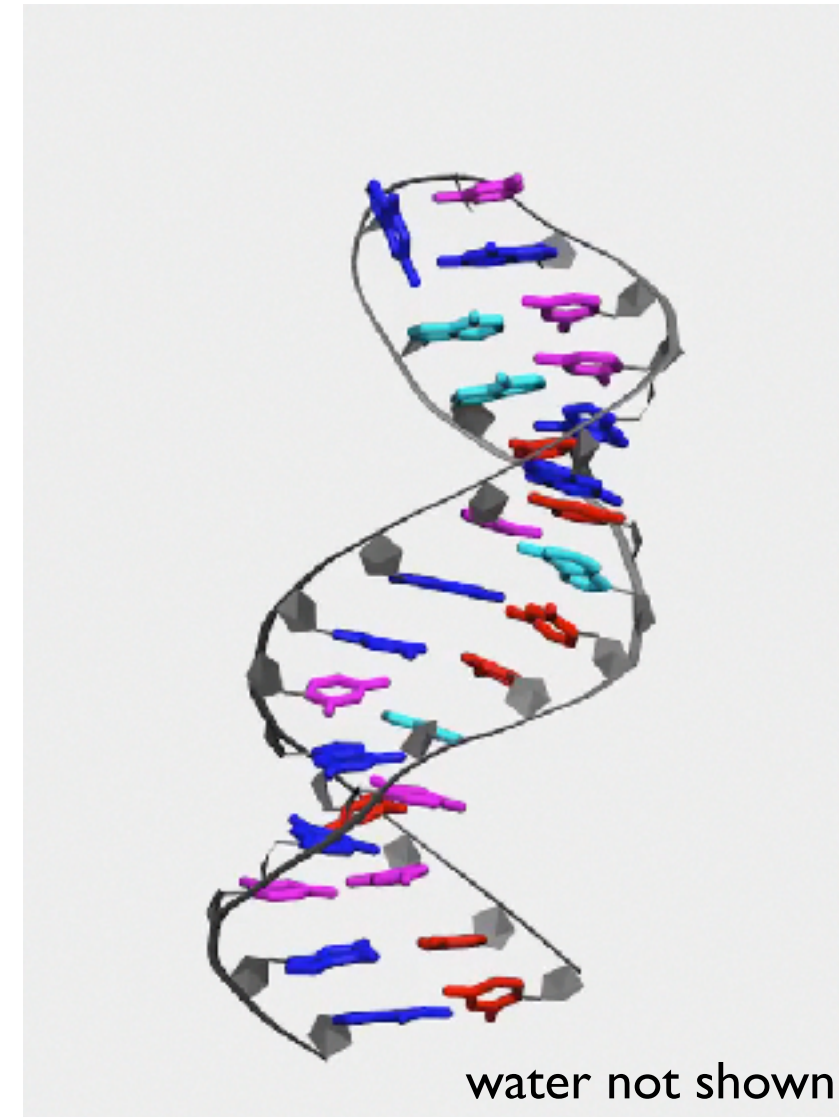
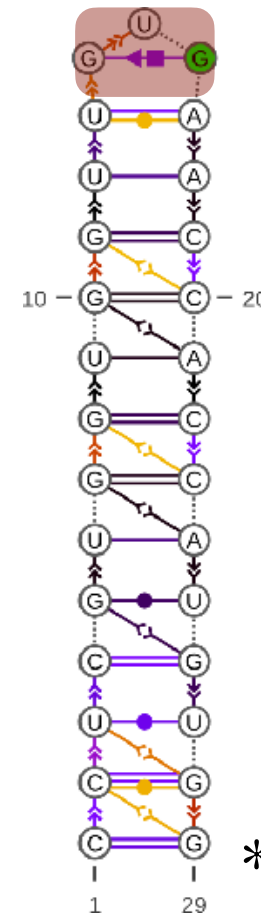


# Enhanced sampling on SINE hairpin

8 Replicas (RECT\*)

Accelerated degrees of freedom:  
 $\chi_{14-16}$  and coordination numbers 14-16

MaxEnt for 125 NOEs throughout the whole hairpin



Kish's sample size  $\sim 0.7$

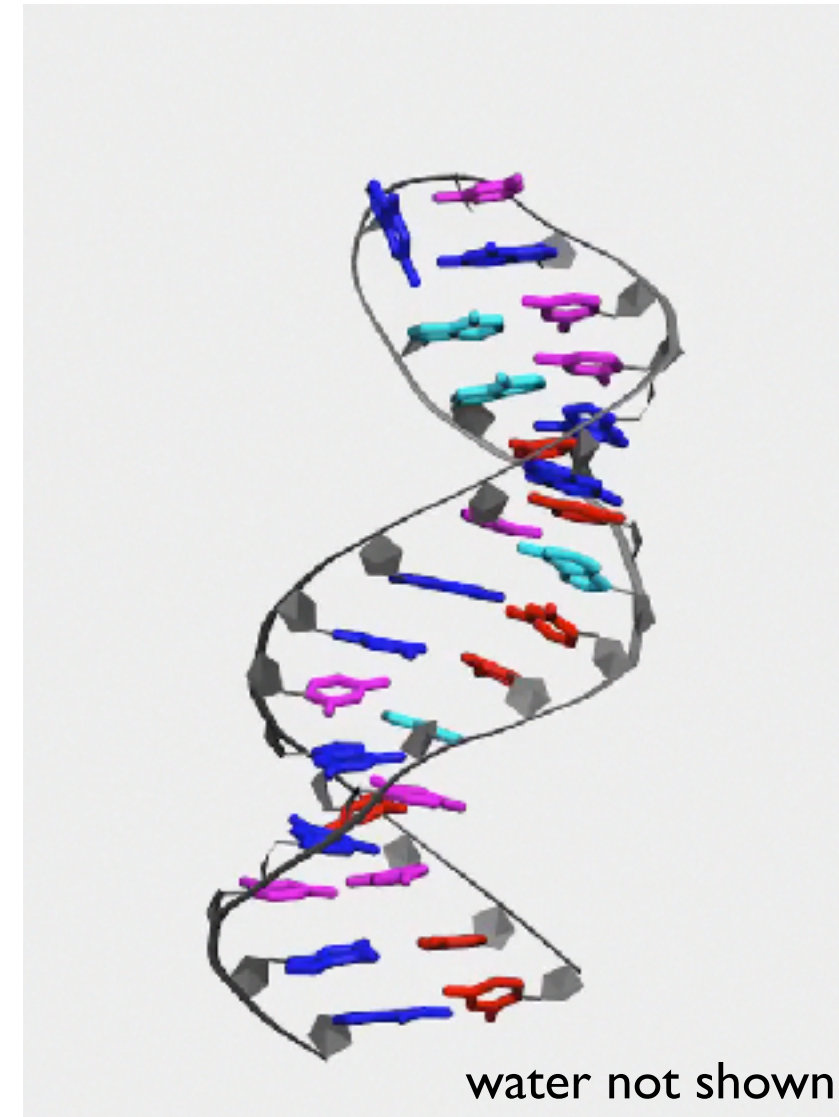
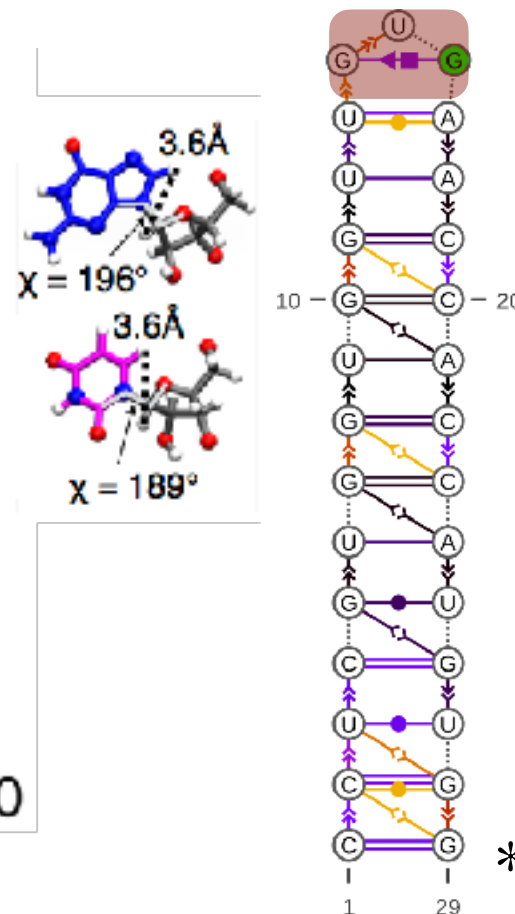
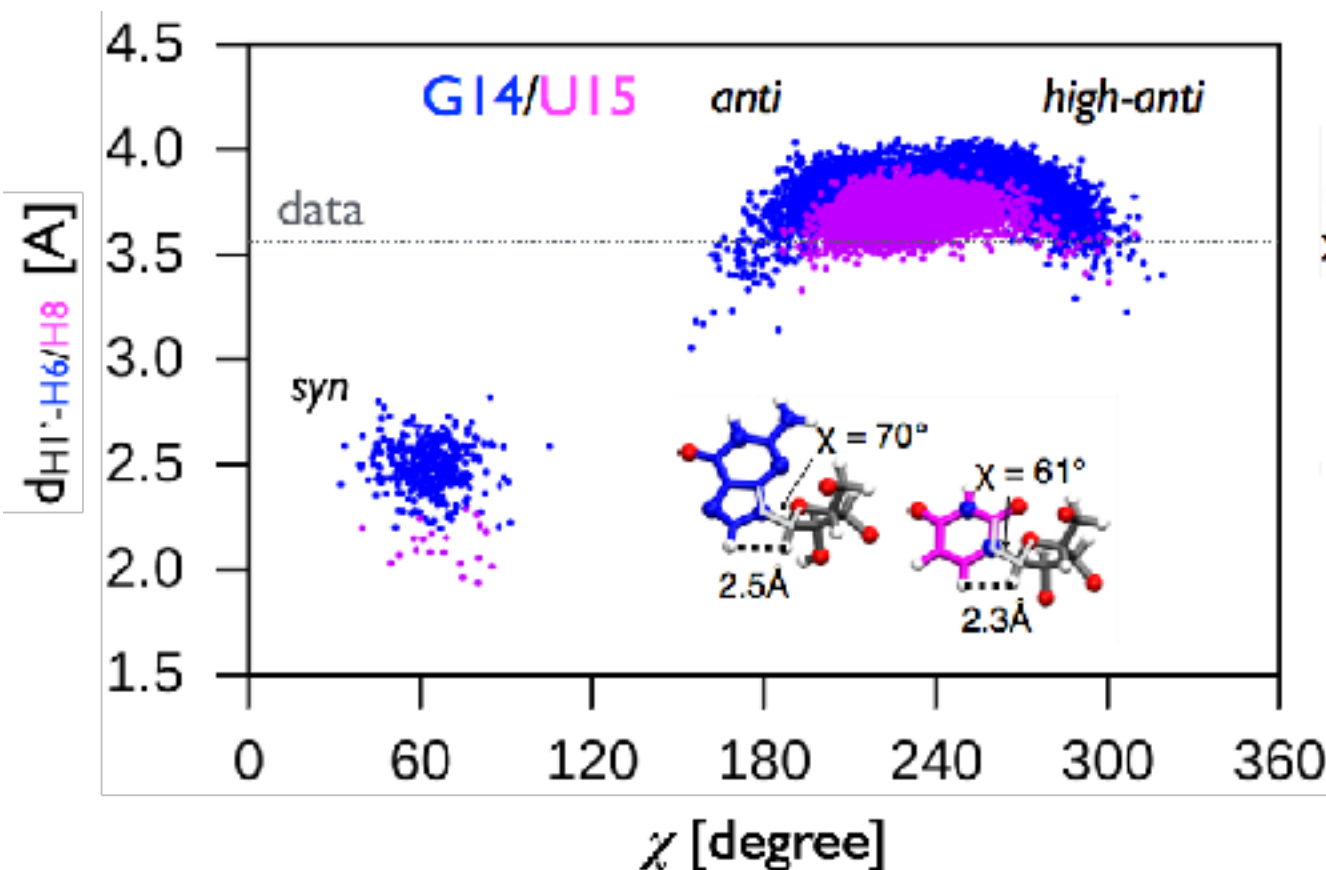
\*Gil-Ley and Bussi, JCTC (2015)  
Reisser et al, NAR (2020)

# Enhanced sampling on SINE hairpin

8 Replicas (RECT\*)

Accelerated degrees of freedom:  
 $\chi$ 14-16 and coordination numbers 14-16

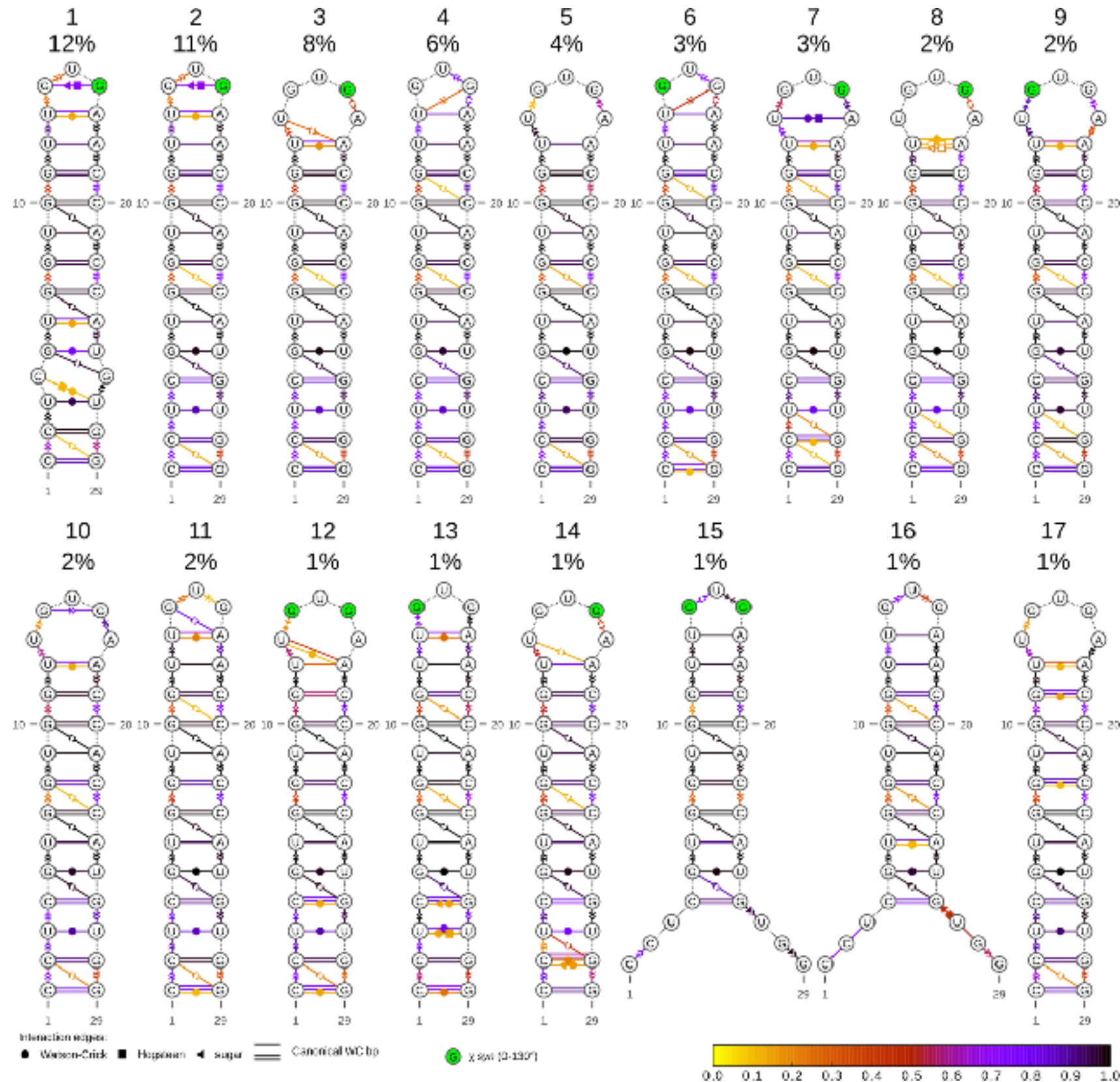
MaxEnt for 125 NOEs throughout the whole hairpin



Kish's sample size  $\sim 0.7$

\*Gil-Ley and Bussi, JCTC (2015)  
Reisser et al, NAR (2020)

# Clustering



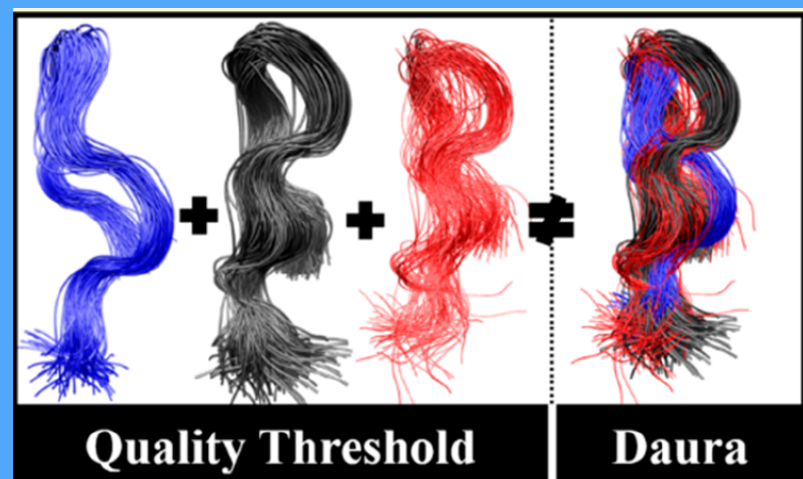
Annotated and plotted with Barnaba, Bottaro et al, RNA (2019) (pip install barnaba)



# Clustering

Clusters are homogeneous (low eRMSD\* and same  $\chi$ -pattern) thanks to an ad-hoc (expensive) clustering method based on maximum cliques@

See González-Alemán et al, JCIM (2020) for a quality-threshold clustering& with similar properties and for a comparison with the popular “GROMOS” method\$



\*Bottaro et al, NAR (2014)

@Reisser et al, NAR (2020)

&Heyer et al, Genome Res (1999)

\$Daura et al, ACIE (1999)

# Maximum parsimony

Select the smallest number of conformational clusters that can explain exp data

$$\langle f_{NOE}(d_i) \rangle_{\text{set}} = \sum_{y \in \text{set}} w'_y \langle f_{NOE}(d_i) \rangle_y$$

$$D_{KL}(w'_y || P_y) = \sum_{y \in \text{set}} w'_y \ln \frac{w'_y}{P_y}$$



OCCAM'S RAZOR

"WHEN FACED WITH TWO POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS, THE SIMPLER OF THE TWO IS THE ONE MOST LIKELY TO BE TRUE."

# Maximum parsimony

Select the smallest number of conformational clusters that can explain exp data

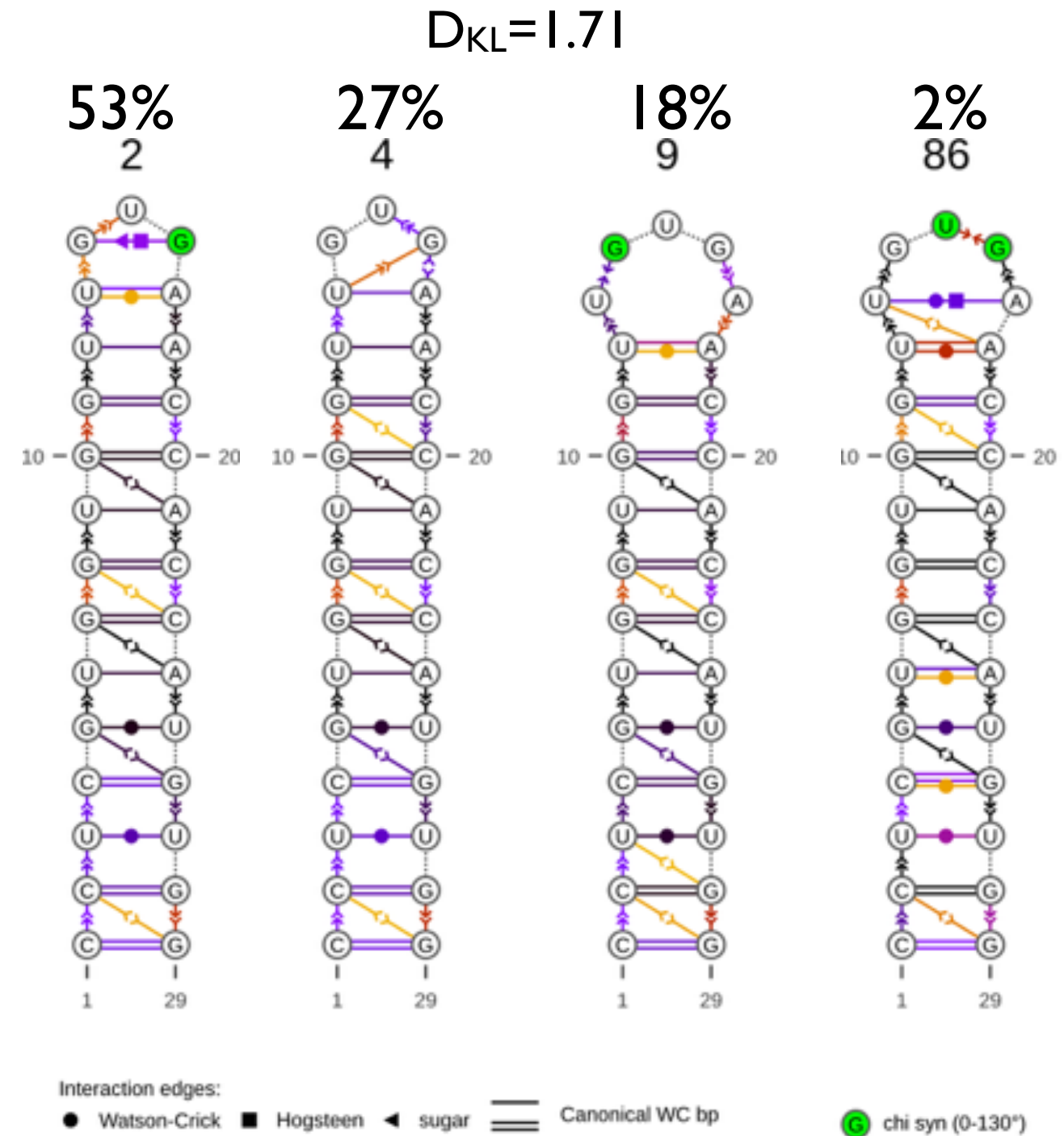
$$\langle f_{NOE}(d_i) \rangle_{\text{set}} = \sum_{y \in \text{set}} w'_y \langle f_{NOE}(d_i) \rangle_y$$

$$D_{KL}(w'_y || P_y) = \sum_{y \in \text{set}} w'_y \ln \frac{w'_y}{P_y}$$



OCCAM'S RAZOR

"WHEN FACED WITH TWO POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS, THE SIMPLER OF THE TWO IS THE ONE MOST LIKELY TO BE TRUE."



%Podbevsek, et al Sci. Rep. (2018)  
 Reisser et al, NAR (2020)



# Maximum parsimony

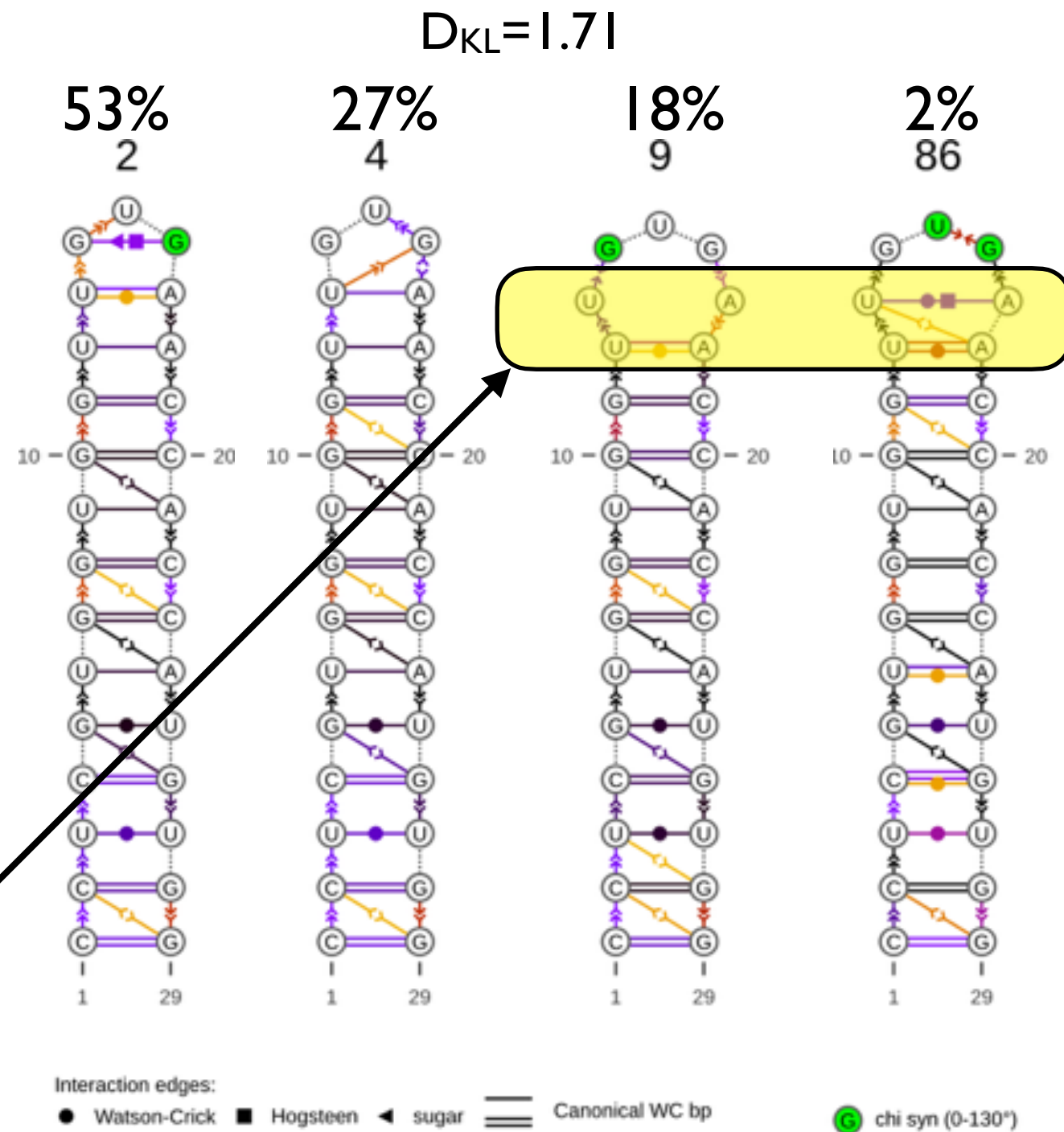
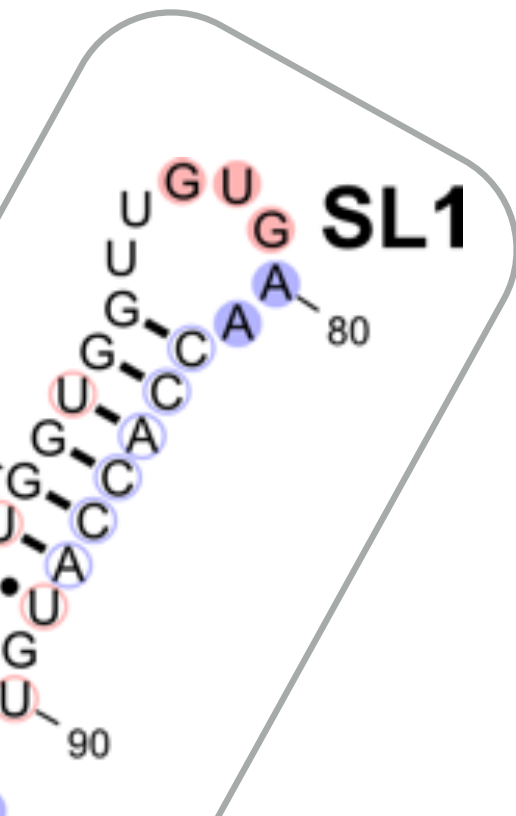
Select the smallest number of conformational clusters that can explain exp data

$$\langle f_{NOE}(d_i) \rangle_{\text{set}} = \sum_{y \in \text{set}} w'_y \langle f_{NOE}(d_i) \rangle_y$$

$$D_{KL}(w'_y || P_y) = \sum_{y \in \text{set}} w'_y \ln \frac{w'_y}{P_y}$$



Consistent with  
DMS reactivity%  
(validation)



%Podbevsek, et al Sci. Rep. (2018)  
Reisser et al, NAR (2020)

# Maximum parsimony

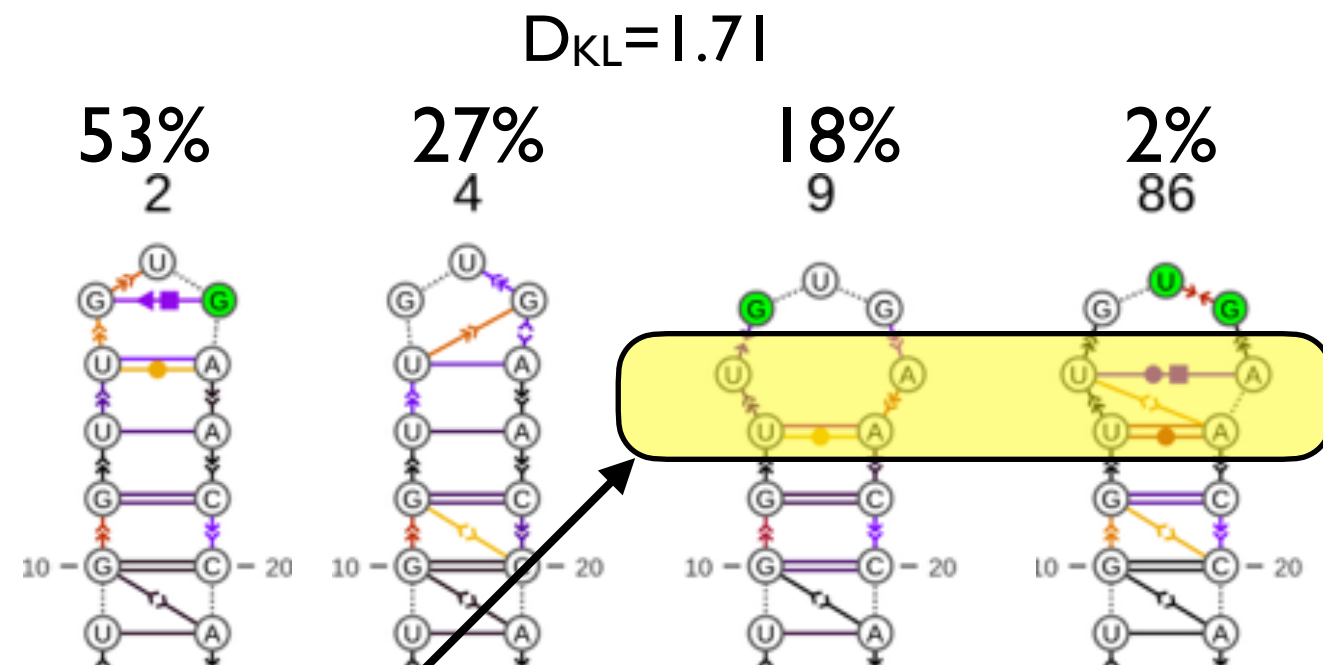
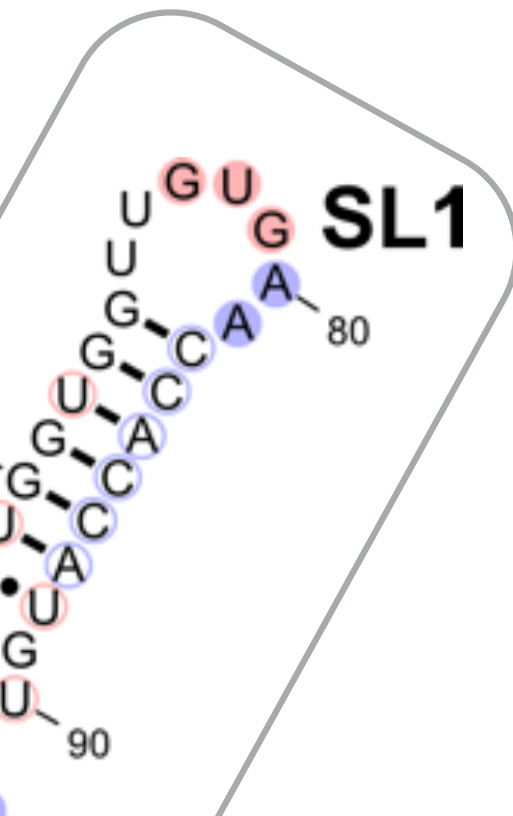
Select the smallest number of conformational clusters that can explain exp data

$$\langle f_{NOE}(d_i) \rangle_{\text{set}} = \sum_{y \in \text{set}} w'_y \langle f_{NOE}(d_i) \rangle_y$$

$$D_{KL}(w'_y || P_y) = \sum_{y \in \text{set}} w'_y \ln \frac{w'_y}{P_y}$$

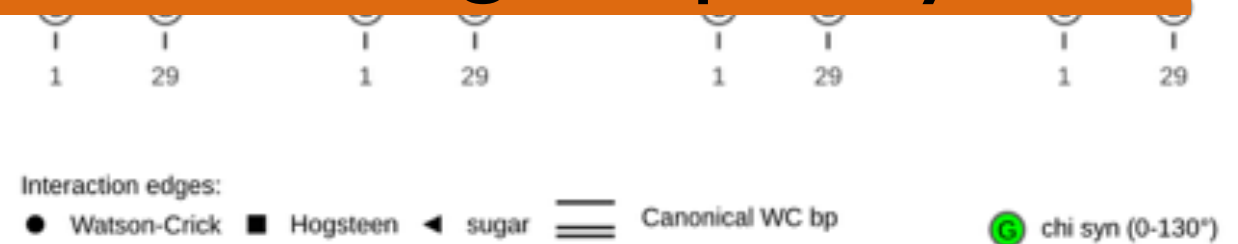


Consistent with  
DMS reactivity%  
(validation)



## Summary

Combining MD and experiment,  
difficult-to-detect low-population  
states emerge implicitly



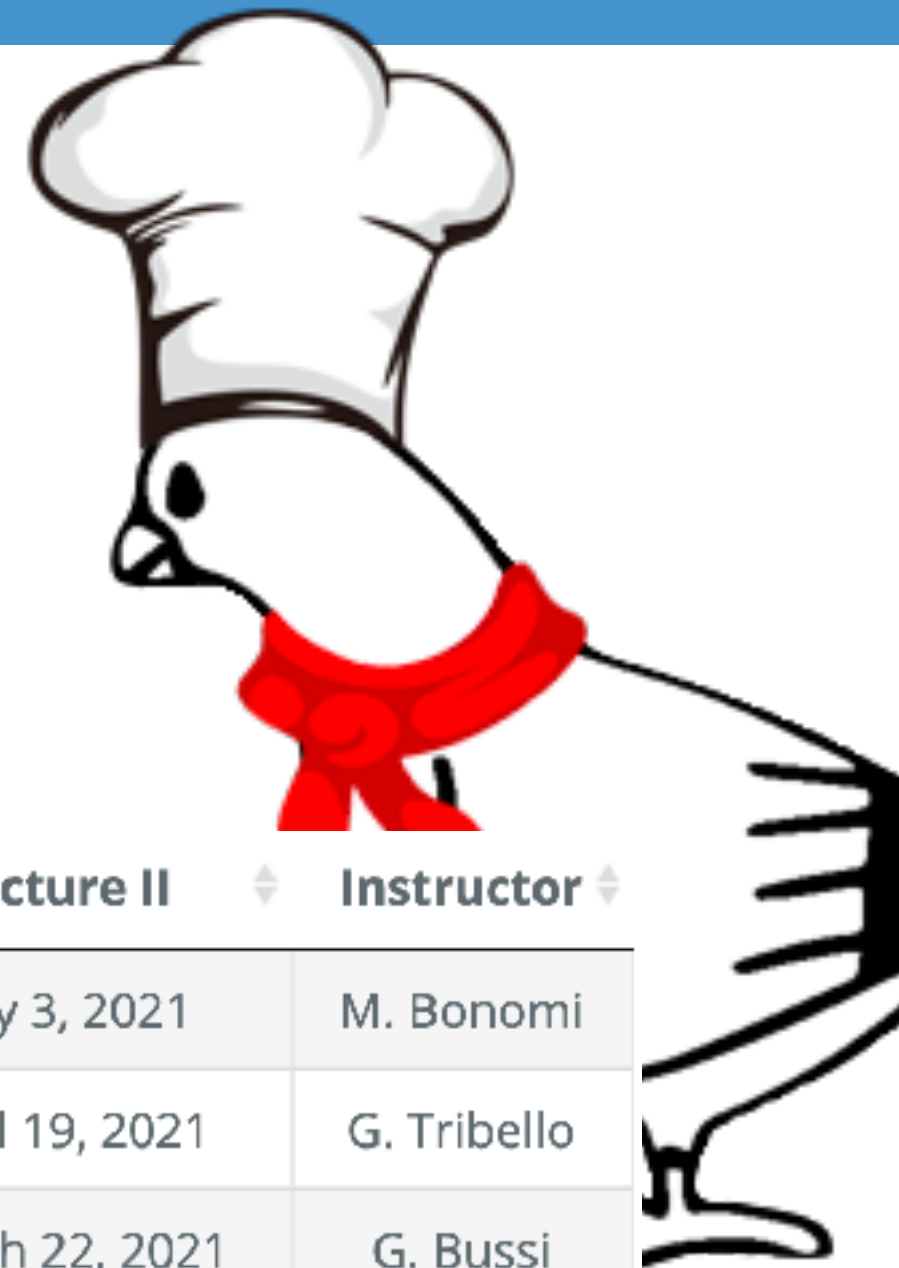
%Podbevsek, et al Sci. Rep. (2018)  
Reisser et al, NAR (2020)

# [plumed.org/masterclass](https://plumed.org/masterclass)

Zoom lectures with a limited number of participants

Dedicated Slack workspace

Deadline Nov 18, 2020



Class ▼	Topic	Lecture I	Lecture II	Instructor
21.VII	Performance optimization	April 26, 2021	May 3, 2021	M. Bonomi
21.VI	Dimensionality reduction	April 12, 2021	April 19, 2021	G. Tribello
21.V	Replica exchange methods	March 15, 2021	March 22, 2021	G. Bussi
21.IV	Metadynamics	March 1, 2021	March 8, 2021	M. Bonomi
21.III	Umbrella sampling	February 15, 2021	February 22, 2021	G. Bussi
21.II	Statistical errors in MD	February 1, 2021	February 8, 2021	G. Tribello
21.I	PLUMED syntax and analysis	January 18, 2021	January 25, 2021	M. Bonomi

[www.plumed-nest.org](http://www.plumed-nest.org)



# PLUMED-NEST

The public repository of the PLUMED consortium

[Home](#)[News](#)[PLUMED](#)[Consortium](#)[Contribute](#)[Cite](#)[Browse](#)

- Repository of the data needed to reproduce PLUMED-enhanced simulations
- PLUMED input files tested for compatibility with current version of the code
- Hyperlinks to PLUMED documentation to learn from real-life examples
- Promote scientific reproducibility - create educational material
- 110 eggs in the nest as of today

Bonomi, Bussi, Camilloni, Tribello, et al, Nature Methods (2019)



[www.plumed-nest.org](http://www.plumed-nest.org)



# PLUMED-NEST

The public repository of the PLUMED consortium

[Home](#)[News](#)[PLUMED](#)[Consortium](#)[Contribute](#)[Cite](#)[Browse](#)

- Repository of the data needed to reproduce PLUMED-enhanced simulations
- PLUMED input files tested for compatibility with current version of the code
- Hyperlinks to PLUMED documentation to learn from real-life examples
- Promote scientific reproducibility - create educational material
- 110 eggs in the nest as of today



**Project ID:** plumID:19.072

**Name:** SINE hairpin MD+NMR

**Archive:** <https://github.com/bussilab/plumed-nest-sine/archive/4c288794ee470cd694231ff2976607991df11649.zip> (browse)

**Checksum (md5):** 67f64ac04c91977cfacfd1579c4539bf

**Category:** bio

**Keywords:** metadynamics, RNA, NMR

**PLUMED version:** 2.4

**Contributor:** Giovanni Bussi

**Submitted on:** 26 Sep 2019

**Publication:** unpublished

#### PLUMED input files

File	Compatible with
<a href="#">plumed.0.dat</a>	v2.6 <span>passing</span> master <span>passing</span>
<a href="#">plumed.1.dat</a>	v2.6 <span>passing</span> master <span>passing</span>

- Repository of the
- PLUMED input files
- Hyperlinks to PLUMED documentation to learn from real-life examples
- Promote scientific reproducibility - create educational material
- 110 eggs in the nest as of today





**Project ID:** plumID:19.072

**Source:** plumed.0.dat

**Originally used with PLUMED version:** 2.4

**Stable:** raw zipped stdout - stderr

**Master:** raw zipped stdout - stderr

RESTART

INCLUDE FILE=cv.dat

INCLUDE FILE=plu\_maxent\_NOE\_RECT.dat

#####

#### Metadynamics

#####

METAD ARG=c77 SIGMA=0.25 HEIGHT=0 PACE=500 BIASFACTOR=1.001 TEMP=300 GRID\_MIN=-pi GRID\_MAX=pi

METAD ARG=c78 SIGMA=0.25 HEIGHT=0 PACE=500 BIASFACTOR=1.001 TEMP=300 GRID\_MIN=-pi GRID\_MAX=pi

METAD ARG=c79 SIGMA=0.25 HEIGHT=0 PACE=500 BIASFACTOR=1.001 TEMP=300 GRID\_MIN=-pi GRID\_MAX=pi

METAD ARG=co77 SIGMA=0.05 HEIGHT=0 PACE=500 BIASFACTOR=1.001 TEMP=300 GRID\_MIN=0 GRID\_MAX=30 F

METAD ARG=co78 SIGMA=0.05 HEIGHT=0 PACE=500 BIASFACTOR=1.001 TEMP=300 GRID\_MIN=0 GRID\_MAX=30 F

METAD ARG=co79 SIGMA=0.05 HEIGHT=0 PACE=500 BIASFACTOR=1.001 TEMP=300 GRID\_MIN=0 GRID\_MAX=30 F

- Repository
- PLUMED
- Hyperlink
- Promote scientific reproducibility - create educational material
- 110 eggs in the nest as of today



Project ID: plumID:19.072

## METAD

This is part of the bias **module**

Used to performed metadynamics on one or more collective variables.

In a metadynamics simulations a history dependent bias composed of intermittently added Gaussian functions is added to the potential [64].

$$V(\vec{s}, t) = \sum_{k\tau < t} W(k\tau) \exp\left(-\sum_{i=1}^d \frac{(s_i - s_i^{(0)}(k\tau))^2}{2\sigma_i^2}\right).$$

This potential forces the system away from the kinetic traps in the potential energy surface and out into the unexplored parts of the energy landscape. Information on the Gaussian functions from which this potential is composed is output to a file called HILLS, which is used both

- PLUMED METAD ARG=co78 SIGMA=0.05 HEIGHT=0 PACE=500 BIASFACTOR=1.001 TEMP=300 GRID\_MIN=0 GRID\_MAX=30 F.
- Hyperlink METAD ARG=co79 SIGMA=0.05 HEIGHT=0 PACE=500 BIASFACTOR=1.001 TEMP=300 GRID\_MIN=0 GRID\_MAX=30 F.
- Promote scientific reproducibility - create educational material
- 110 eggs in the nest as of today

[www.plumed-nest.org](http://www.plumed-nest.org)



# PLUMED-NEST

The public repository of the PLUMED consortium

[Home](#)[News](#)[PLUMED](#)[Consortium](#)[Contribute](#)[Cite](#)[Browse](#)

- Repository of the data needed to reproduce PLUMED-enhanced simulations
- PLUMED input files tested for compatibility with current version of the code
- Hyperlinks to PLUMED documentation to learn from real-life examples
- Promote scientific reproducibility - create educational material
- 110 eggs in the nest as of today



[www.plumed-nest.org](http://www.plumed-nest.org)



# PLUMED-NEST

The public repository of the PLUMED consortium

Home

News

PLUMED

Consortium

Contribute

Cite

Browse

- Repository of the data needed to reproduce PLUMED-enhanced simulations
- PLUMED input files tested for compatibility with current version of the code
- Hyperlinks to PLUMED documentation to learn from real-life examples
- Promote scientific reproducibility - create educational material
- 110 eggs in the nest as of today

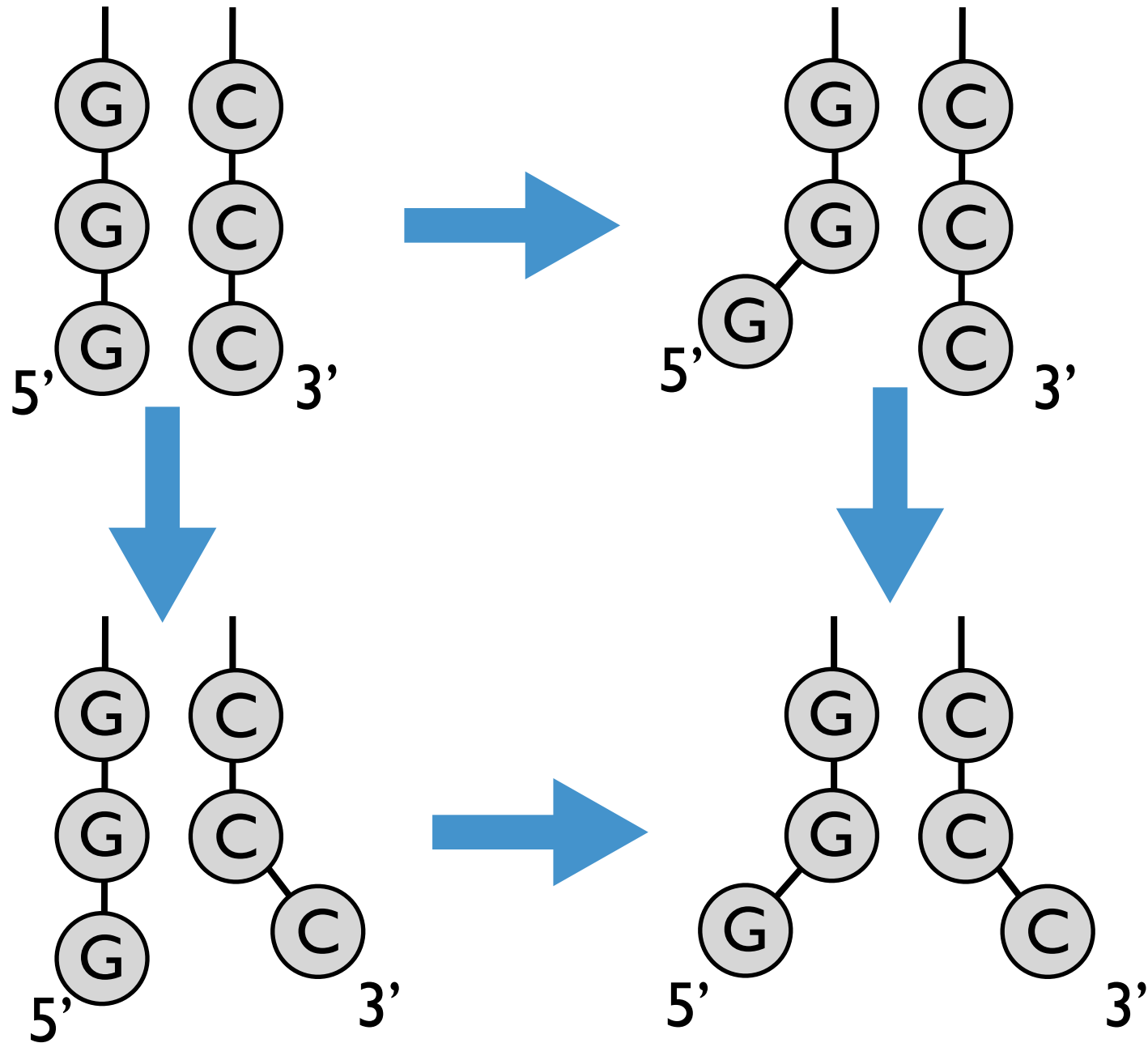
Fields marked with "\*" are optional

plumID	<input type="text" value="new (plumID to be assigned)"/>
Project name	<input type="text"/>
URL	<input type="text"/>
PLUMED input files*	<input type="text" value="examples: colvar.dat, bias.dat, ..."/>
Category	<input type="text" value="bio"/>
Keywords	<input type="text" value="examples: metadynamics, RNA, protein folding, small mo"/>
Instructions	<div>Please explain how to use the deposited input files and provide a list of other software used (i.e. GROMACS) along with the specific version (i.e. 2018.6)</div>
PLUMED version	<input type="text" value="examples: 2.4, 2.5-dev"/>
Contributor	<input type="text"/>
Publication	<input type="text" value="examples: 10.1016/j.cpc.2013.09.018, unpublished"/>
Contact	<input type="text"/>
Contact email	<input type="text"/>
Comments*	<input type="text"/>

[Home](#)



# RNA (and DNA) unzipping

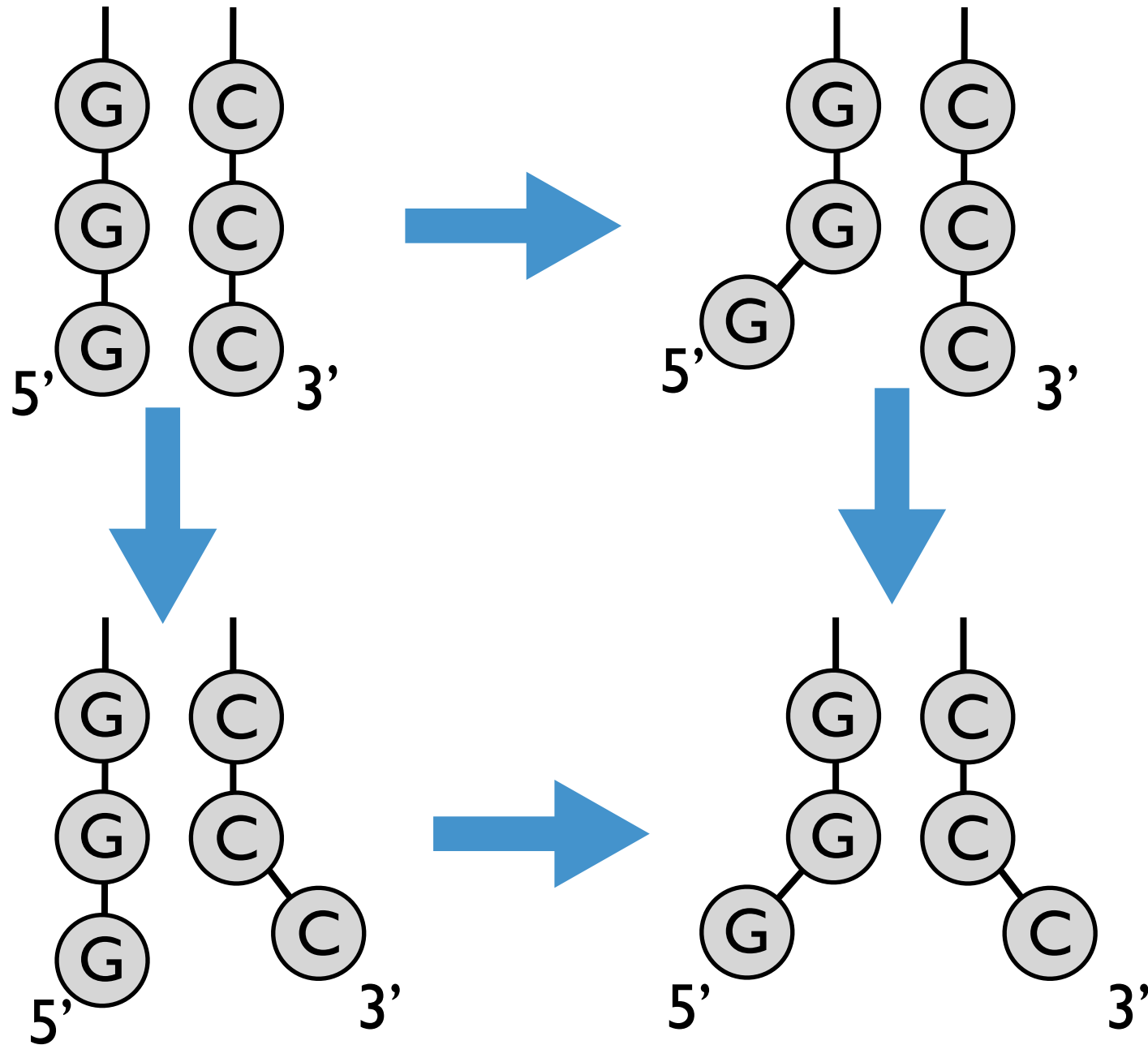


Preferential path?

Terminal  
asymmetry?  
(3'-5')

Sequence  
dependence?  
(GC-CG)

# RNA (and DNA) unzipping



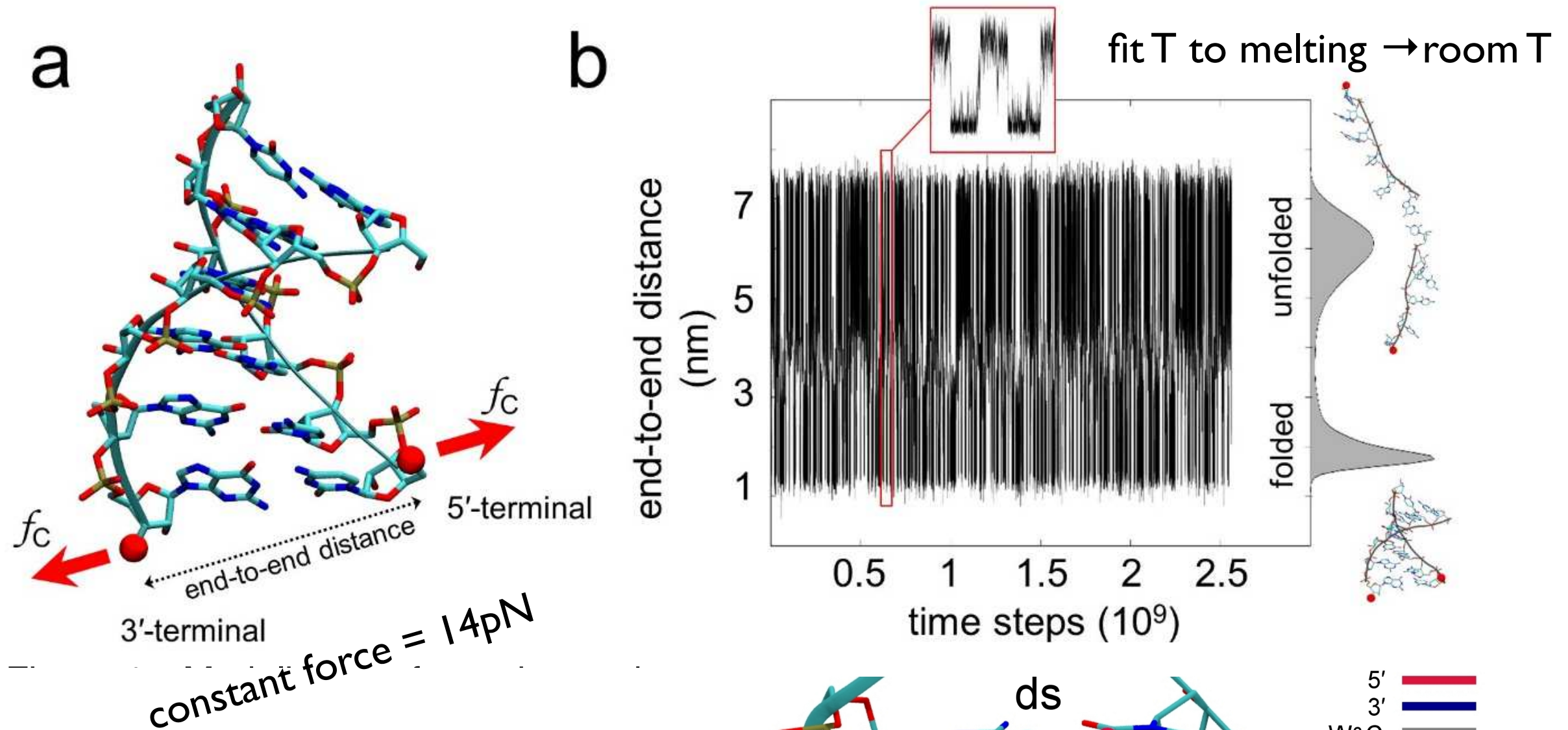
Preferential path?

Terminal  
asymmetry?  
(3'-5')

Sequence  
dependence?  
(GC-CG)

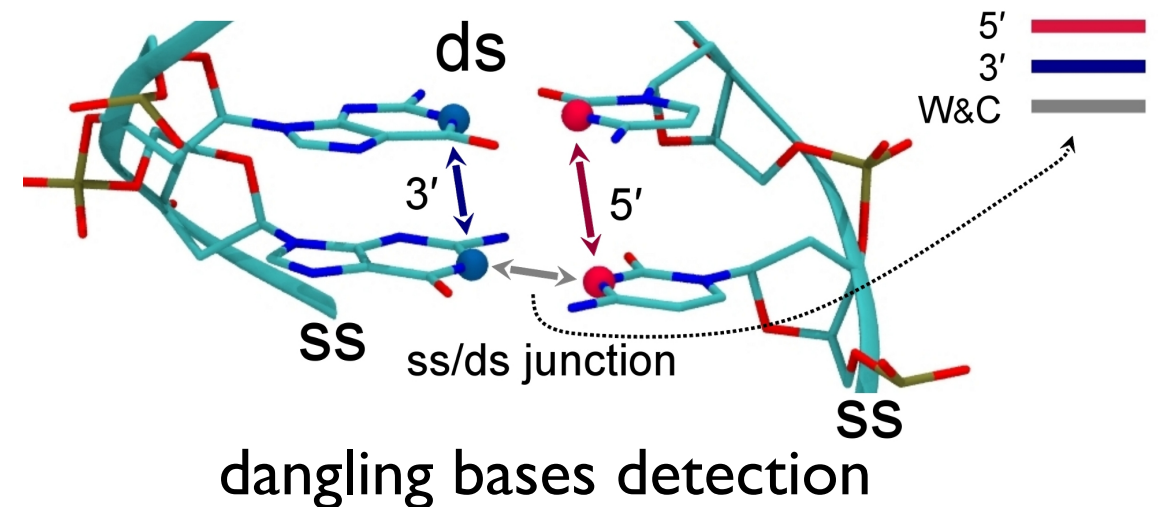
Unzipping is ubiquitously required in RNA metabolism (transcription, translation, etc)  
*In vivo*: helicases\*

# Structure-based model



water not there!

SMOG (atomistic Go model)<sup>#</sup>  
 6 sequences x 6 bp (all possible steps)  
 DNA (B-helix) vs RNA (A-helix)

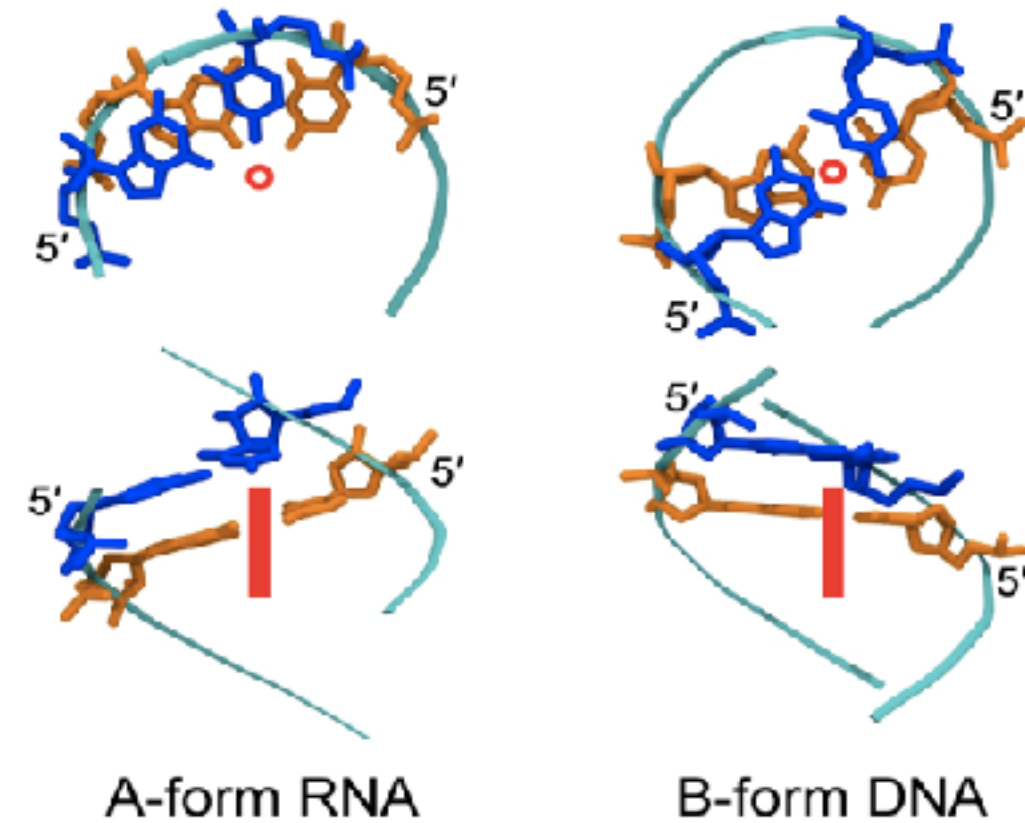
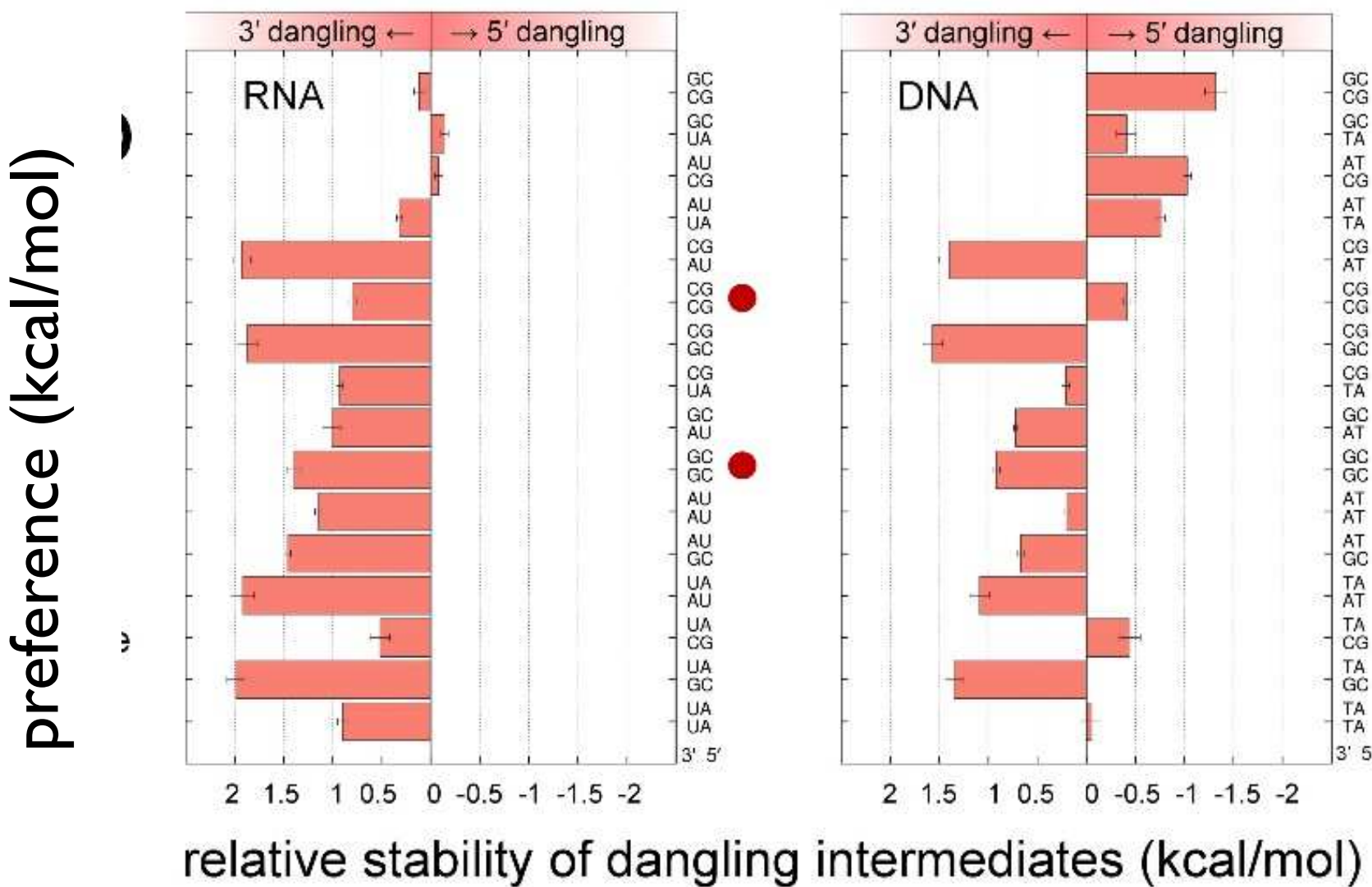


<sup>#</sup><http://smog-server.org/>

Colizzi et al, PNAS (2019)

MD results on a limited testset: Colizzi and Bussi, JACS (2012)

# RNA (A-helix) vs DNA (B-helix)

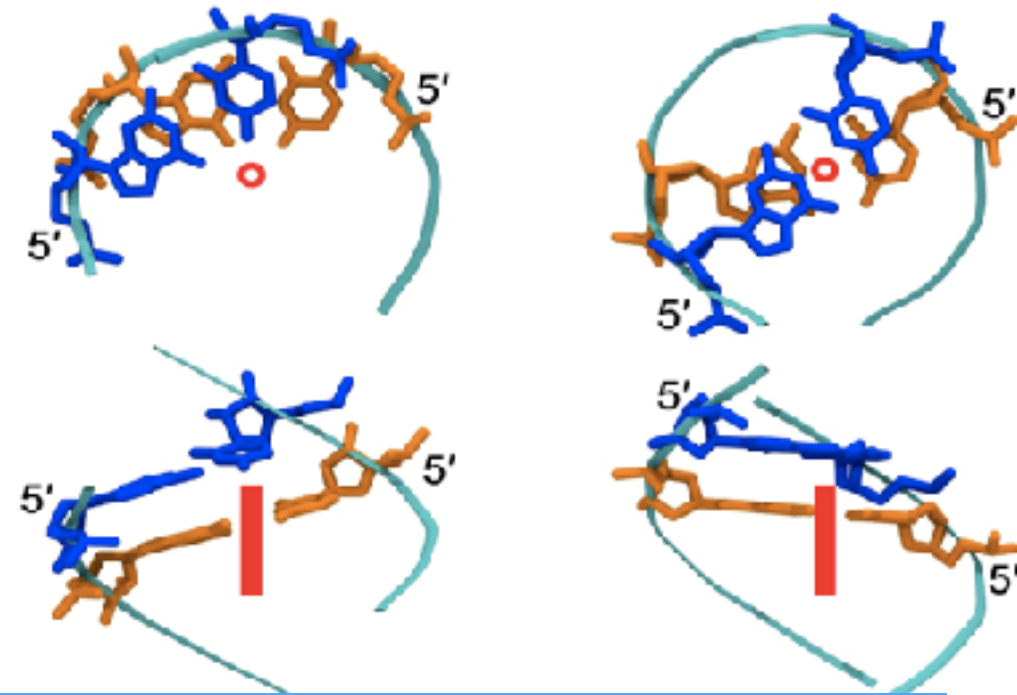


RNA: preference for 3' stacking (consistent with explicit solvent MD)  
DNA: sequence dependent

Colizzi et al, PNAS (2019)  
Results are consistent with atomistic MD, Colizzi and Bussi, JACS (2012)



# RNA (A-helix) vs DNA (B-helix)



How does this  
difference affect  
helicase-mediated  
unzipping?

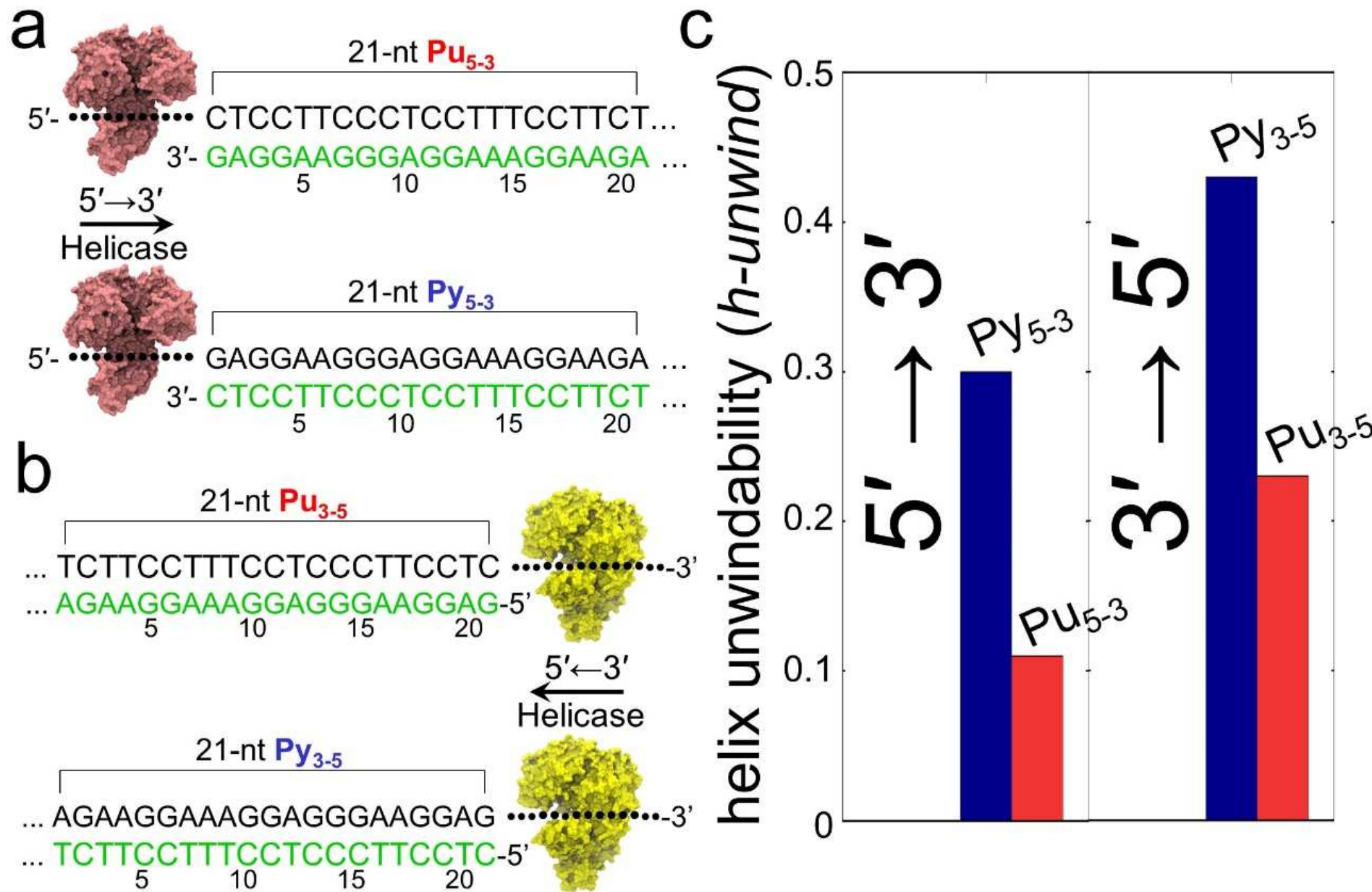
RNA: preference for 3' stacking (consistent with explicit solvent MD)

# DNA: sequence dependent

## Colizzi et al, PNAS (2019)

Results are consistent with atomistic MD, Colizzi and Bussi, JACS (2012)

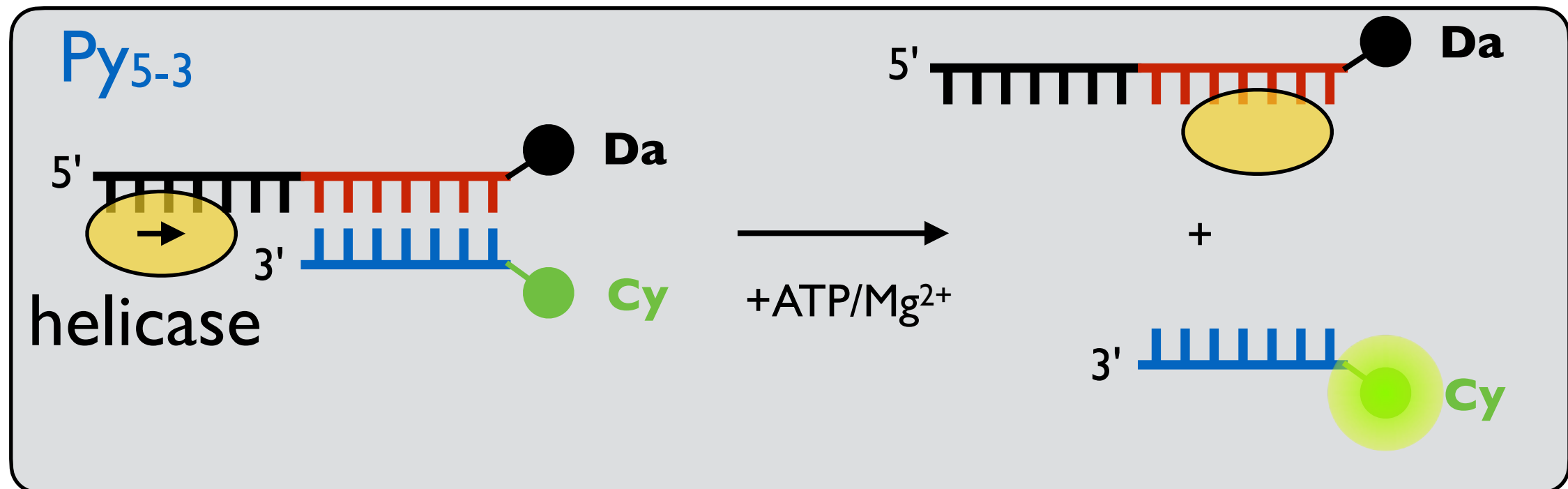
# Helix “unwindability”



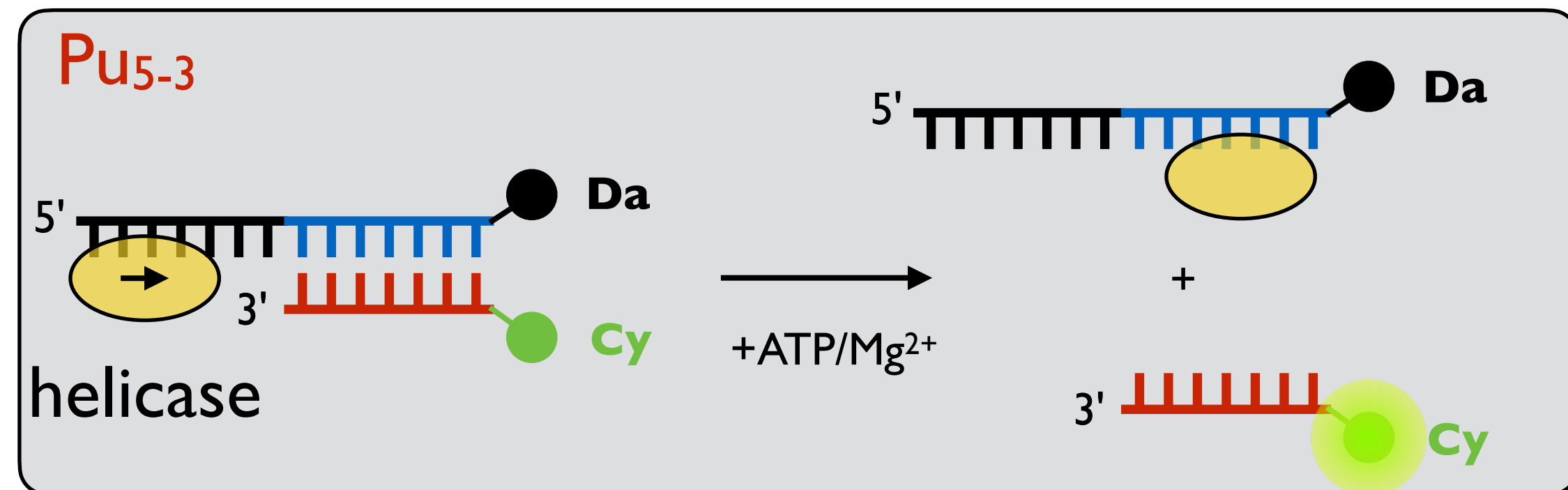
$$\frac{1}{\langle e^{-\frac{\Delta F}{k_B T}} \rangle}$$

- Proportional to “inverse of average waiting time”
- Depends on the unwinding direction

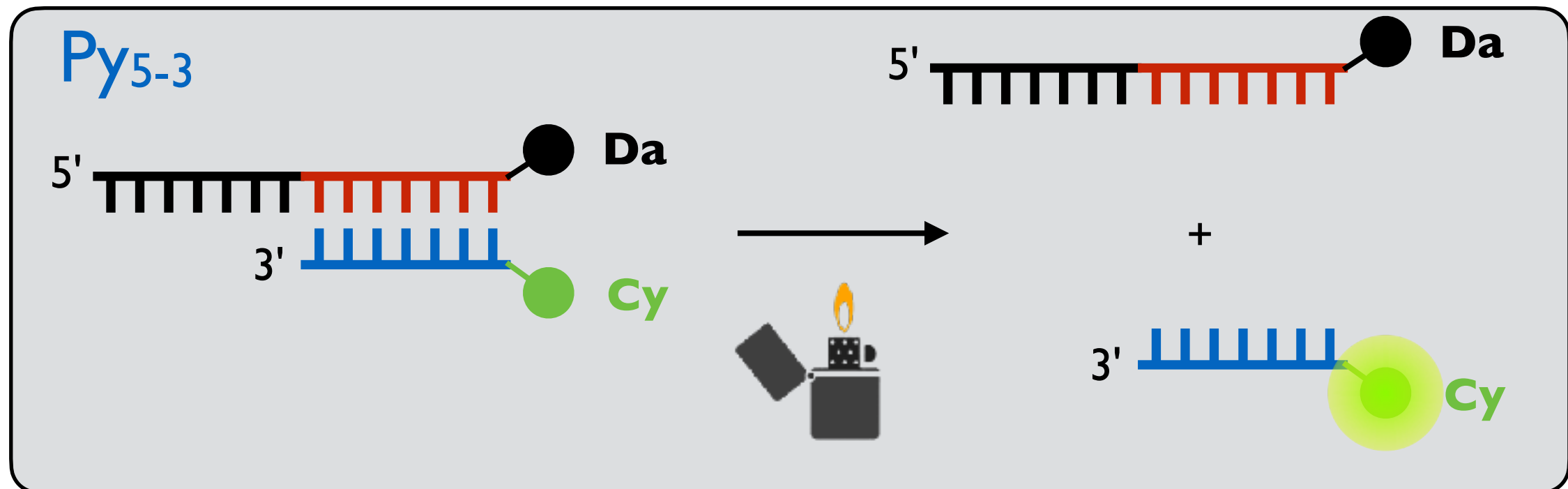
# Experimental validation on DNA



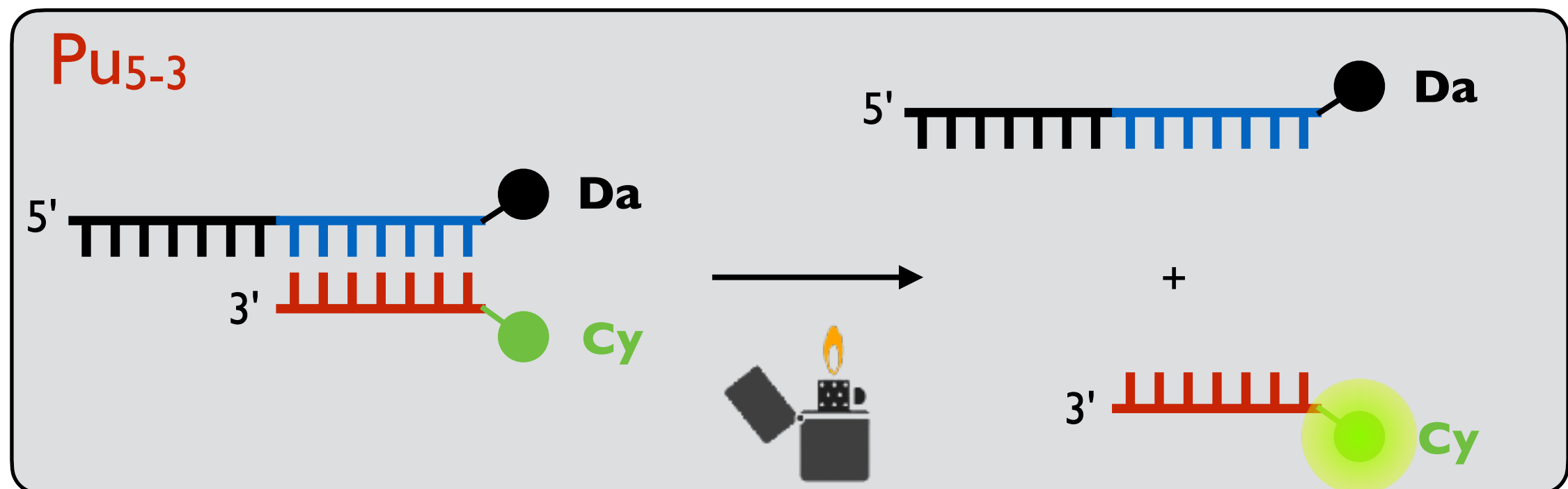
VS



# First check thermal stability



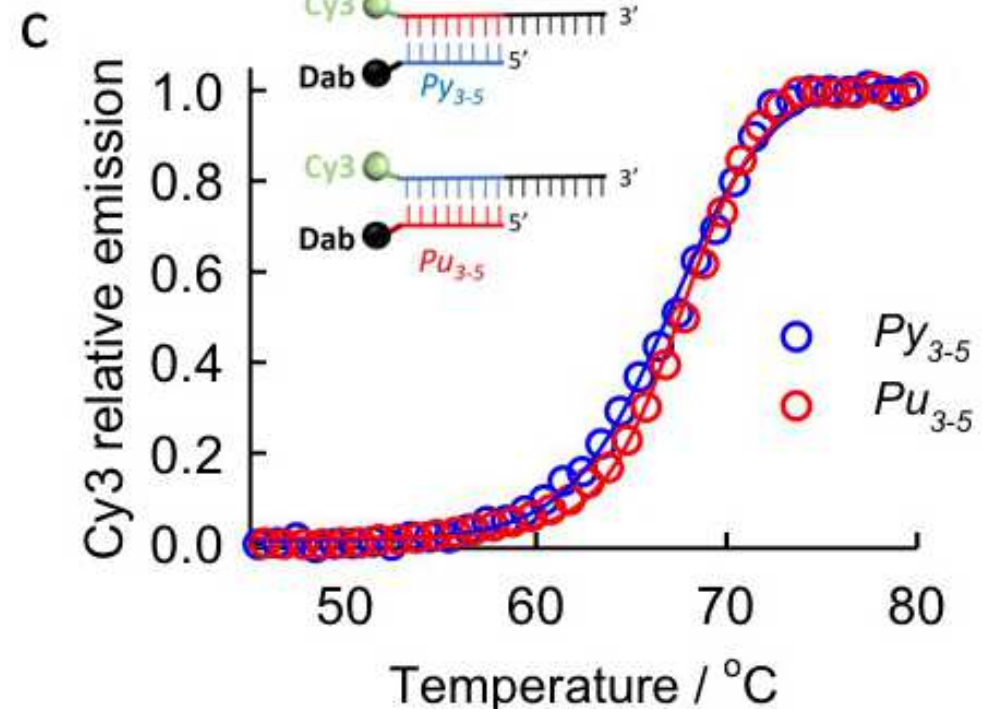
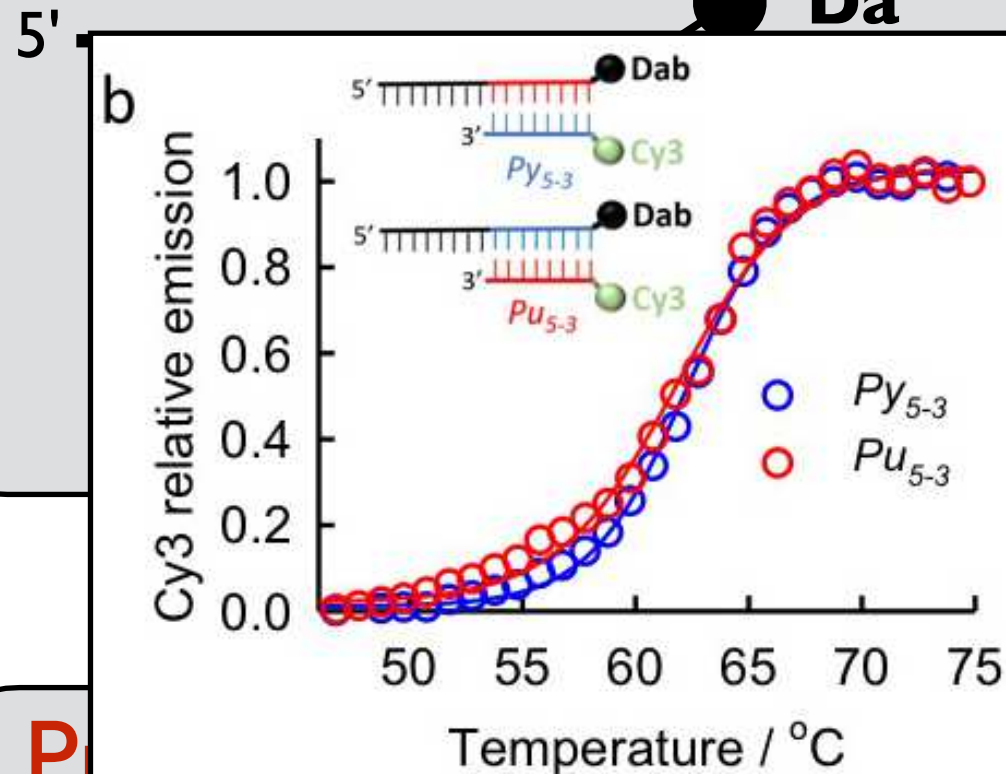
VS





# First check thermal stability

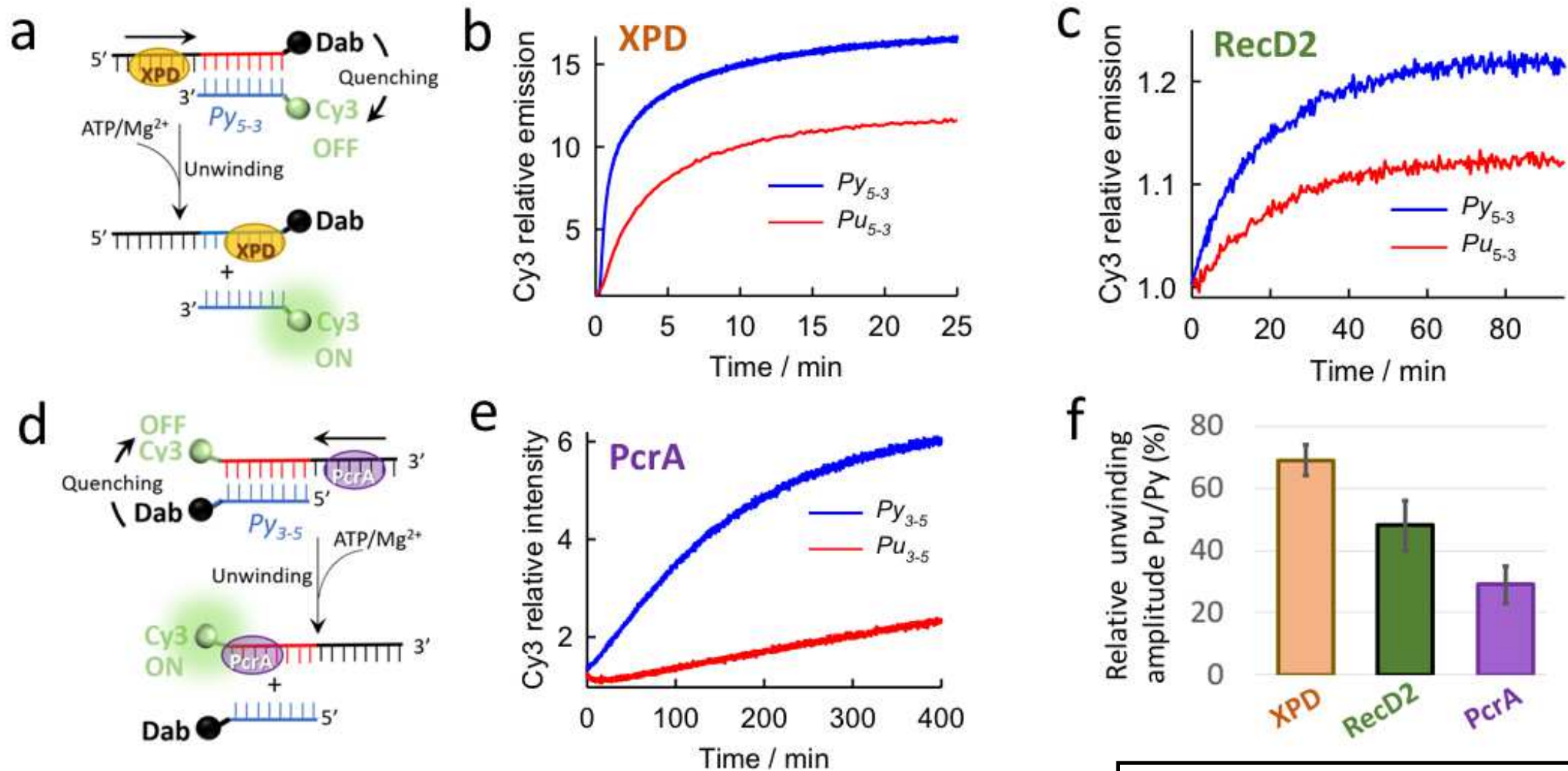
Py<sub>5-3</sub>



Same melting temperature



# Experiments: efficiency

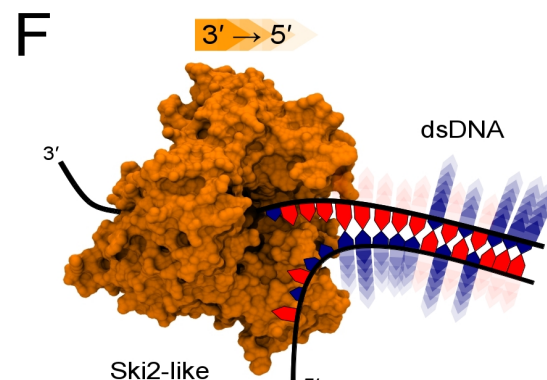
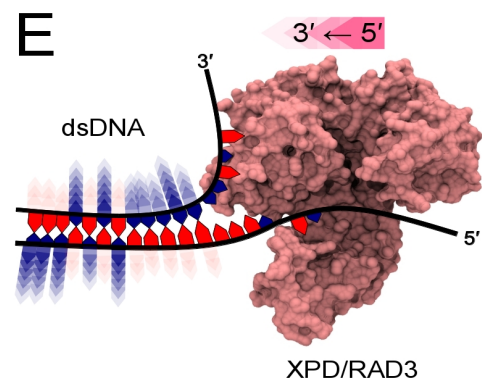
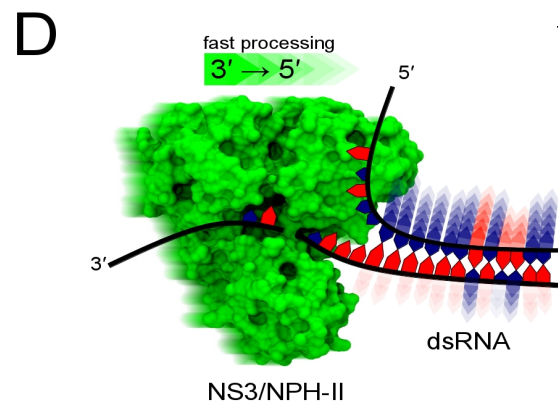
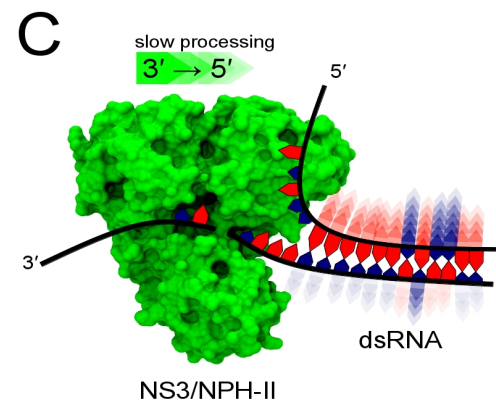
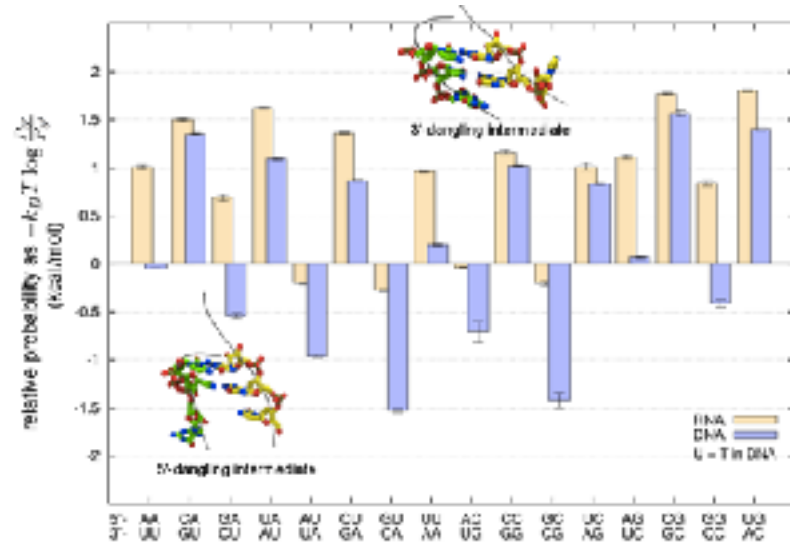


Processivity is higher when displaced strand is pyrimidine rich

Valid on the 3 tested helicases!  
*1/8 prob to get this by chance :-)*

Conditions (n=3 repetitions):  
 50nM dsDNA  
 500nM helicase  
 1mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>  
 0.1mg/mL BSA  
 Addition of 1mM ATP

# Speculation: helicase directionality



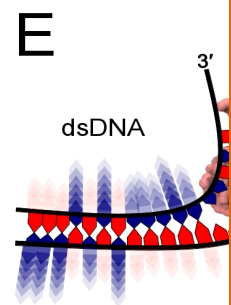
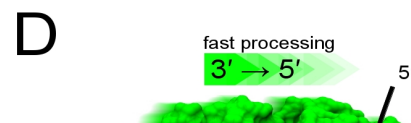
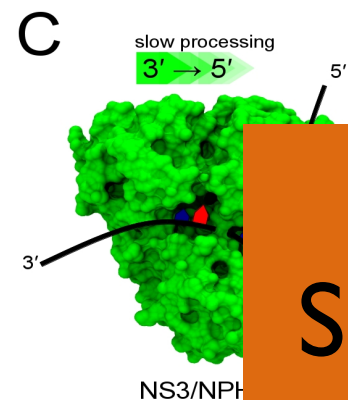
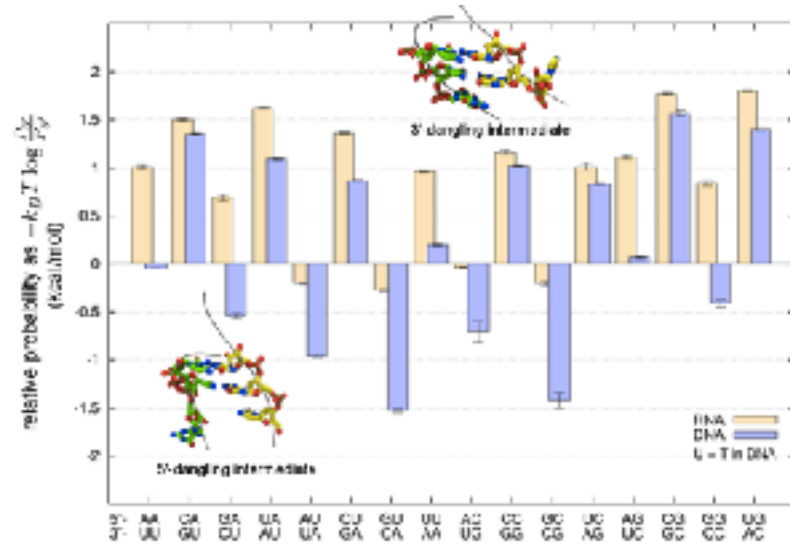
Family	processing DNA		processing RNA		Class
	5' → 3'	3' → 5'	5' → 3'	3' → 5'	
DEAH/RHA		x		x	SF2
NS3/NPH-II		x		x	SF2
XPD/RAD3	x				SF2
Ski2-like		x		x	SF2
Suv3(a)				x	SF2
RIG1-like		x		x	SF2
RecQ-like		x			SF2
RecG-like		x			SF2
UvrD/Rep/PcrA		x			SF1
Pif1-like	x				SF1
Upf1-like	x				SF1

exception  
(requires cofactors)

RNA helicases always process 3' → 5'

DNA helicases exist for both directions

# Speculation: helicase directionality



Family	processing DNA		processing RNA		Class
	5' → 3'	3' → 5'	5' → 3'	3' → 5'	
DEAH/RHA		x		x	SF2
NS3/NPH-II		x		x	SF2
XPD/RAD3		x			SF2
Ski2-like		x		x	SF2
Suv3(a)				x	SF2
RIG1-like		x		x	SF2
RecQ-like		x			SF2
RecG-like		x			SF2
UvrD/Rep/PcrA		x			SF1
Pif1-like		x			SF1
					SF1

## Summary

Simple (non-predictive?) simulations + intuition can lead to experimentally testable hypotheses

Intrinsic helix dynamics has an impact on the dynamics of nucleic acids processing machineries

RNA helicases always process 3' ⇒ 5'

DNA helicases exist for both directions

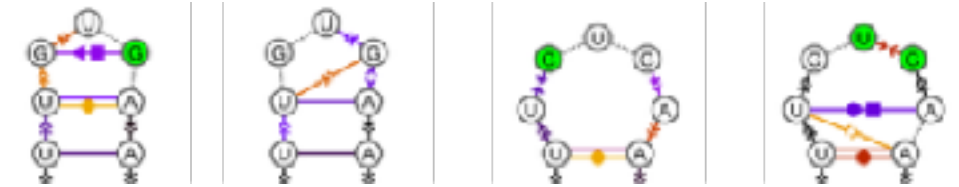


# Agenda

## Combine experiment (NMR) and MD

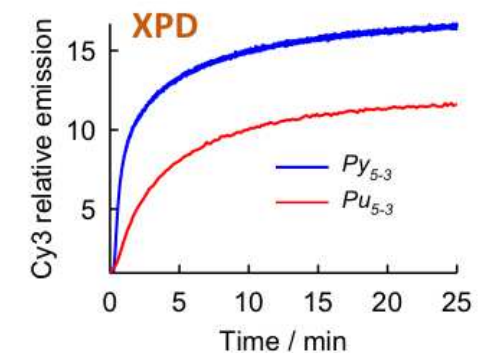
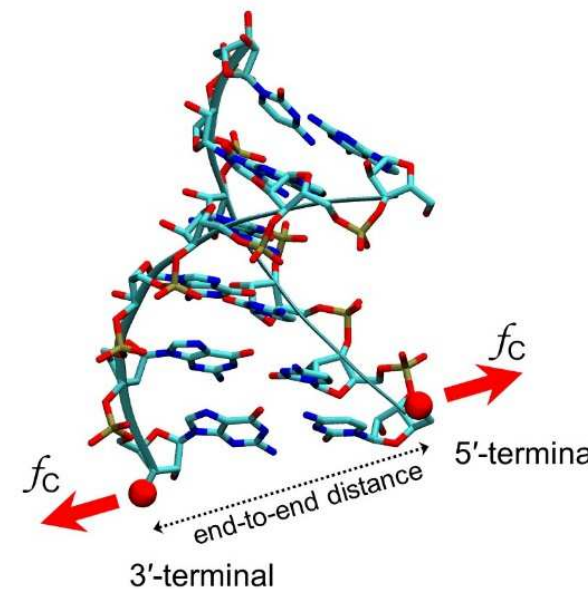
- enforce averages\*
- dynamics of a RNA hairpin%

$$S[P] = - \sum_x P(x) \log \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$$



## RNA unzipping dynamics&

- Go model
- Helicase mediated unwinding
- Experimental validation



\*Cesari, Reisser, and Bussi, Computation (2018)

%Podbevsek et al, Sci. Rep. (2018); Reisser et al, NAR (2020)

&Colizzi et al, PNAS (2019)



# Acknowledgements

Mattia Bernetti  
Nicola Calonaci  
Thorben Frohelking  
Valerio Piomponi

Sabine Reißer  
(now at MDC, Berlin)  
Francesco Colizzi  
(now at IRB, Barcelona)

Carlos Penedo  
C. Perez-Gonzalez  
Remi Fritzen  
Malcom F White  
(St Andrews, UK)

Koby Levy  
(Weizmann, Israel)



Silvia Zucchelli (SISSA+Uni Novara)<sup>†</sup>  
Stefano Gustincich (IIT Genova)