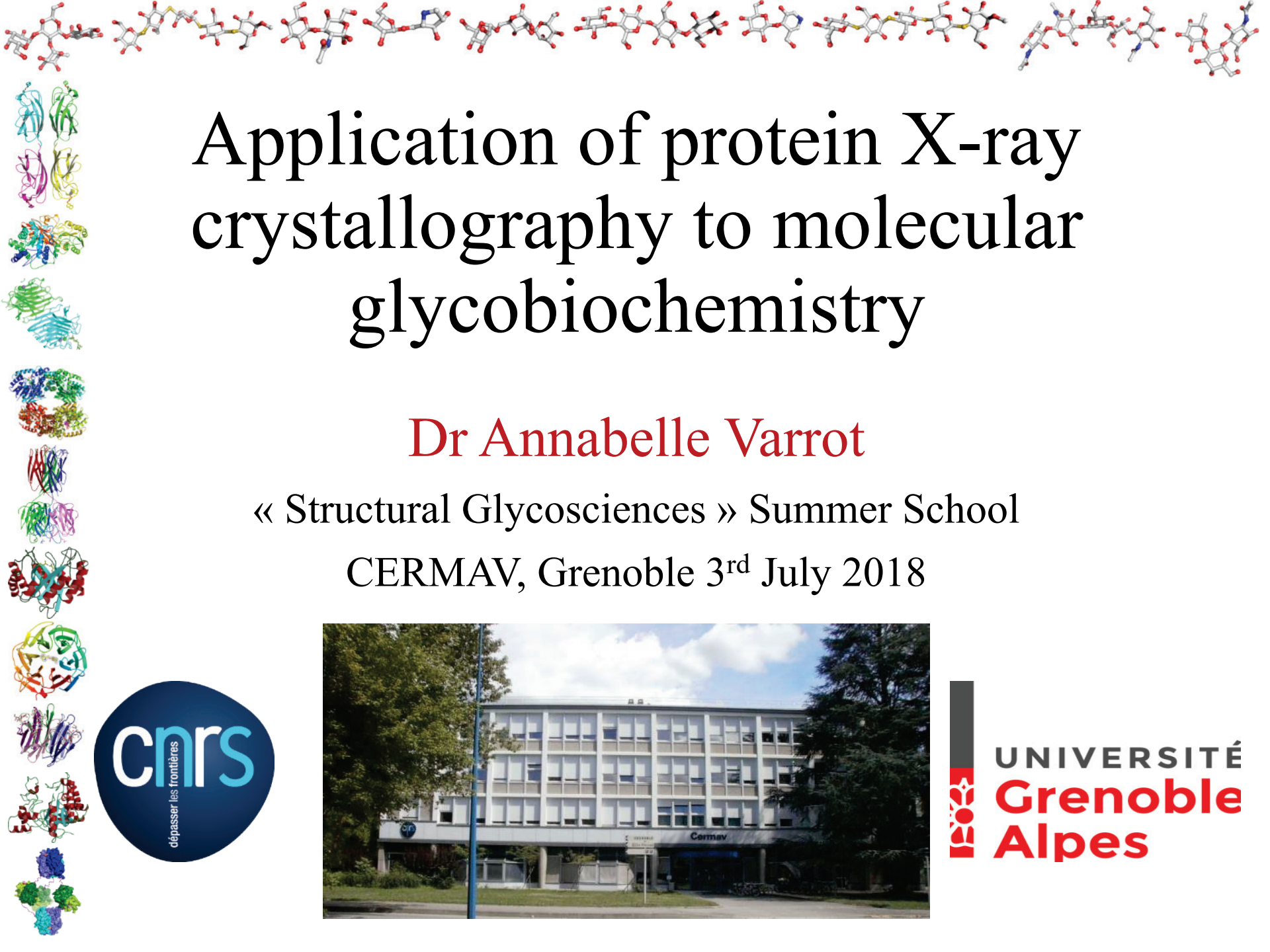




# Application of protein X-ray crystallography to molecular glycobiochemistry

Dr Annabelle Varrot

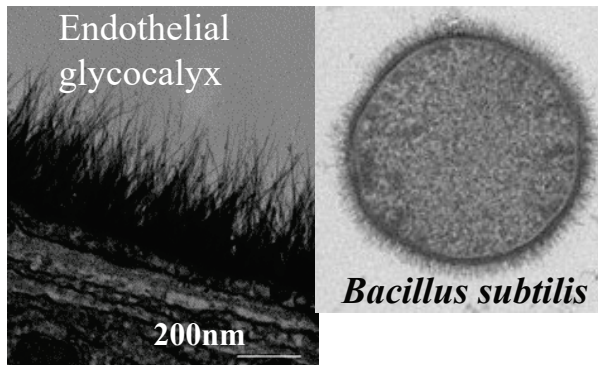
« Structural Glycosciences » Summer School

CERMAV, Grenoble 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018

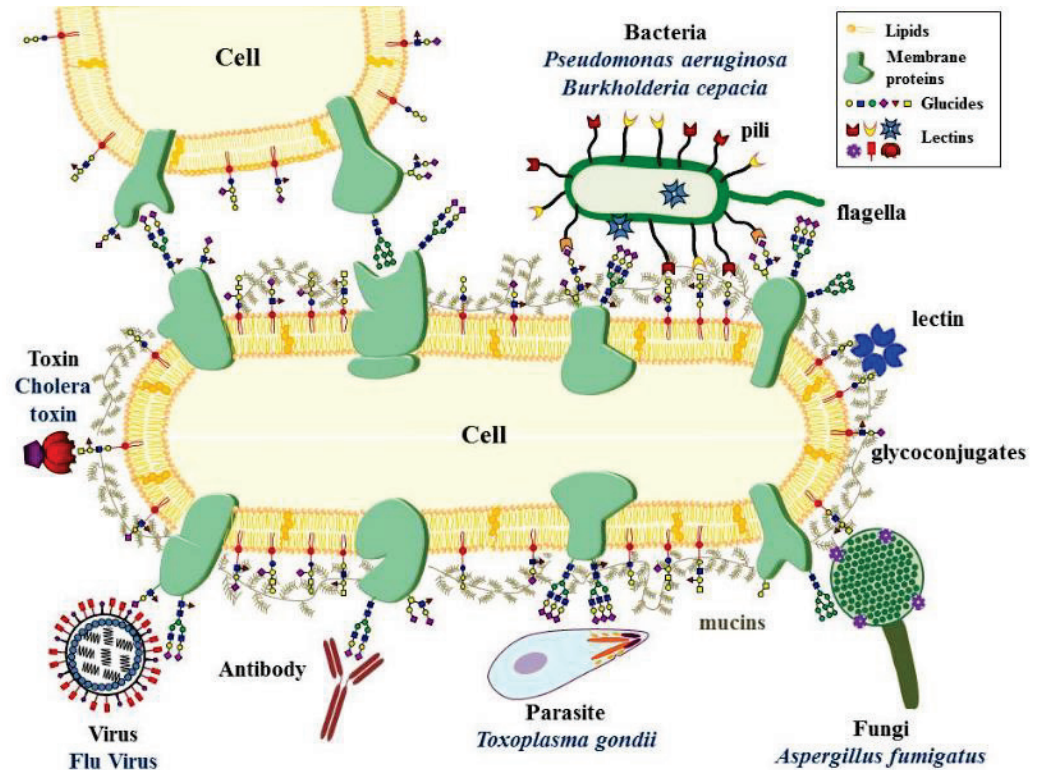
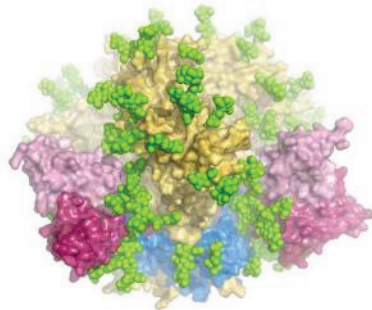


# The “sweet side” of the cell surface

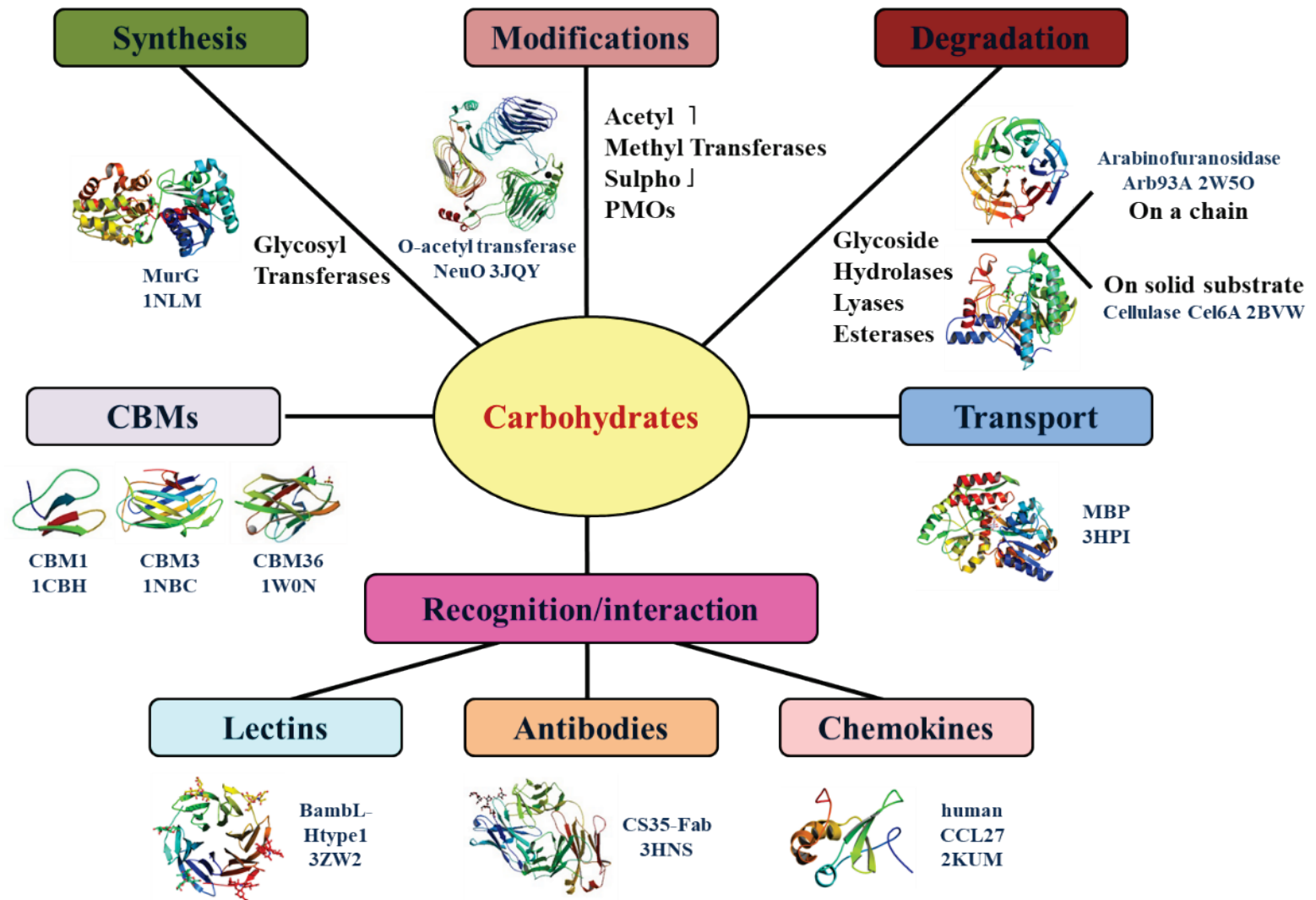
- Every cell surface is covered by **glycoconjugates**
- 1<sup>st</sup> cell information received and sent: **glyocode**
  - Essentials in cell identity, recognition and signaling



CryoEM, HIV GP120 glycan shield

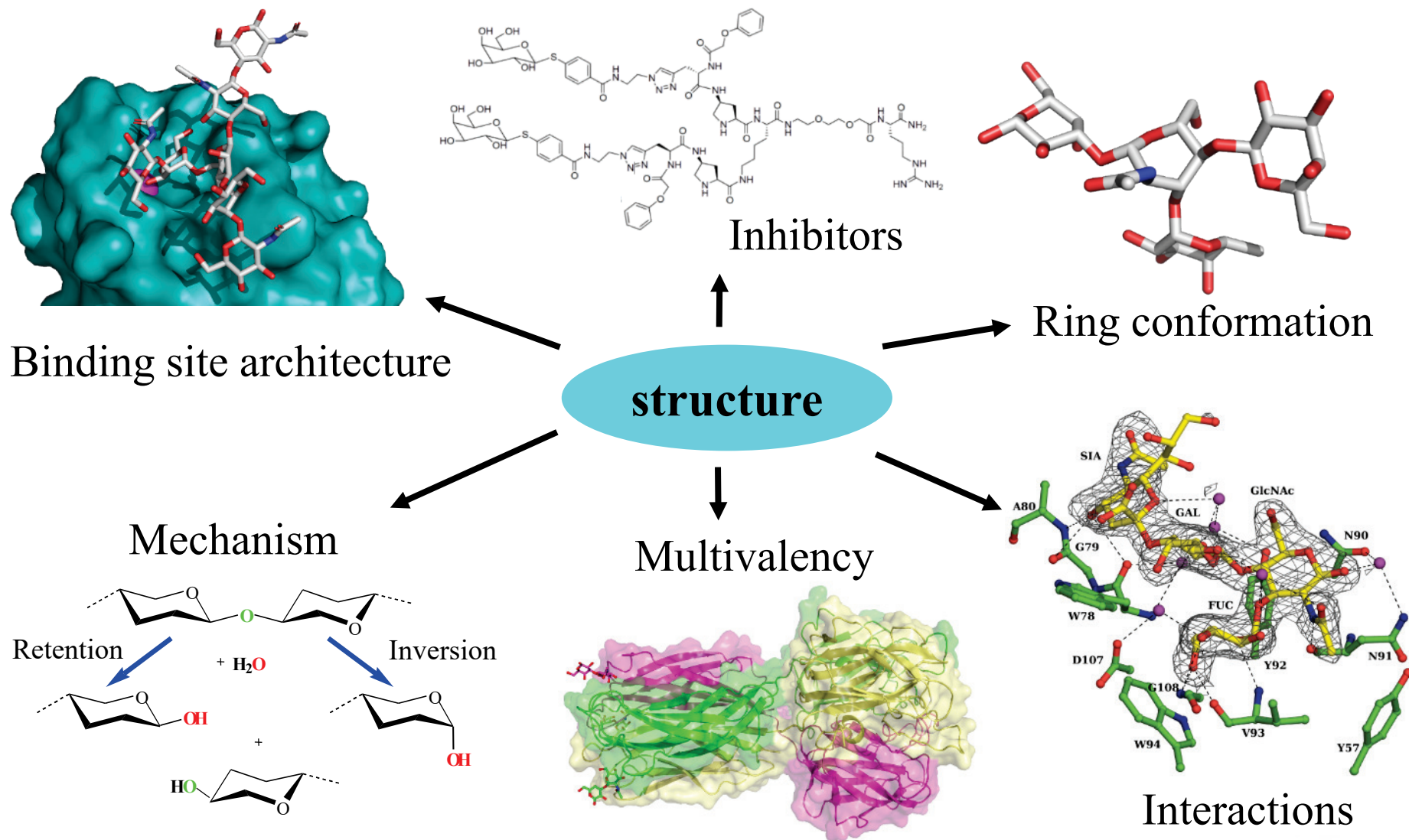


# Protein-sugar interactions



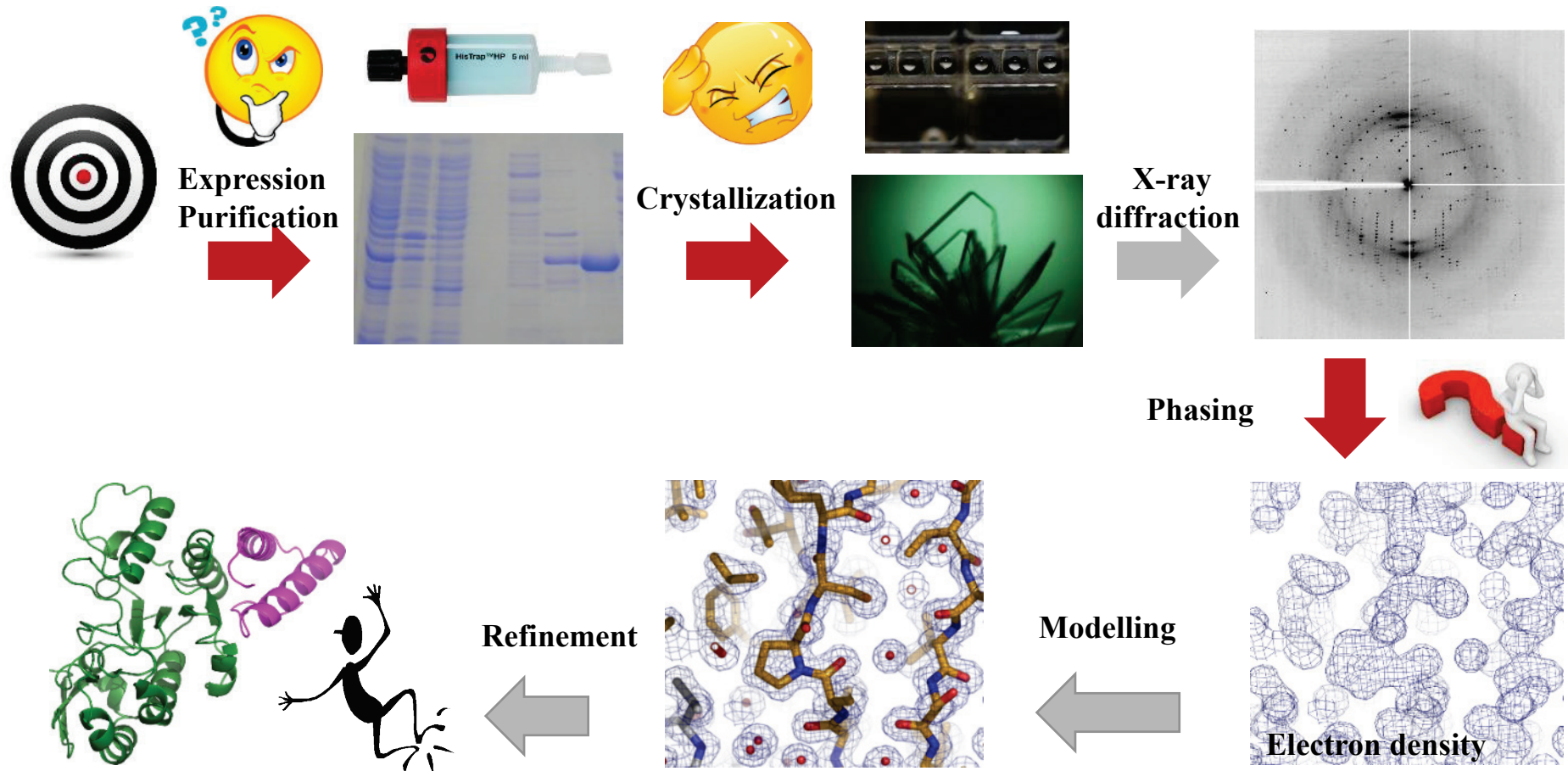


# Which info do you get from crystallography?





# Protein X-ray crystallography



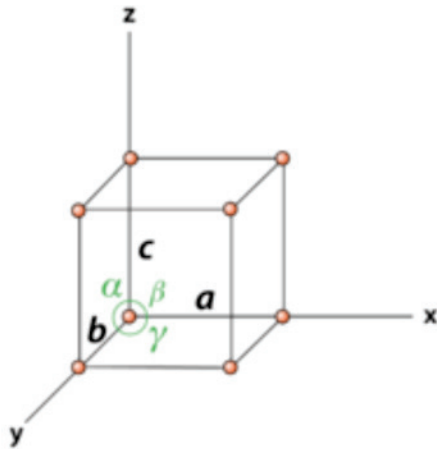
## ➤ Advantages

- High resolution structure
- Study of complex at the atomic level

## ➤ Disadvantages

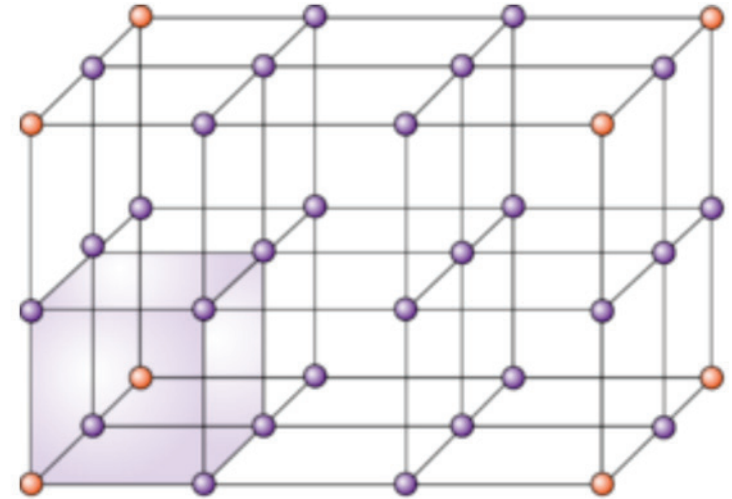
- Molecules in solid-state environment
- Require crystals

# What is a crystal?



Unit cell

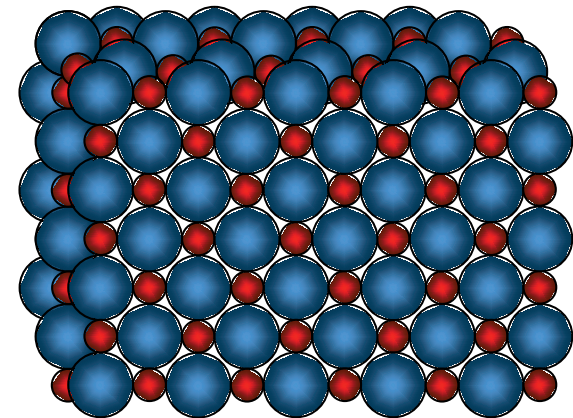
translation  
→



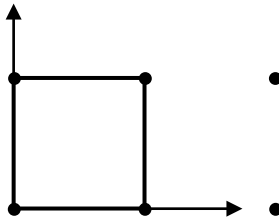
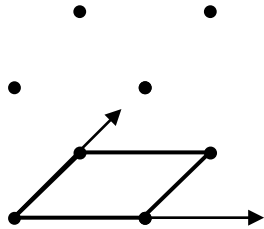
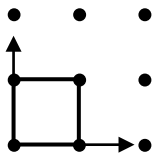
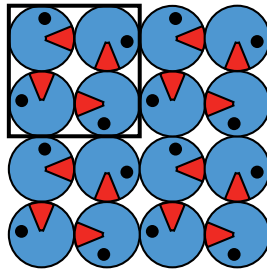
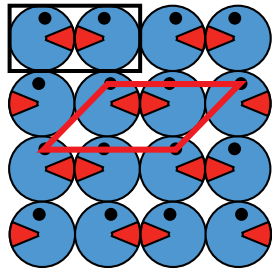
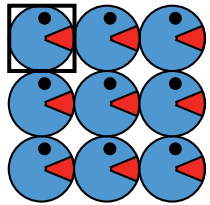
Crystal lattice



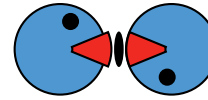
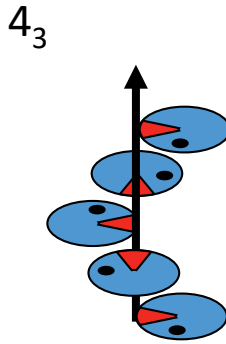
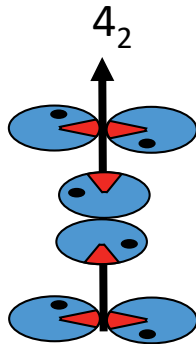
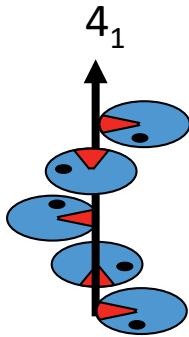
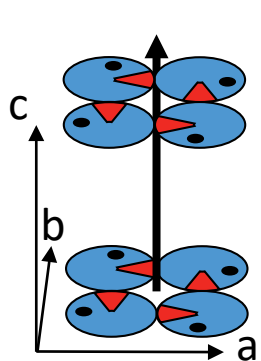
NaCl  
←



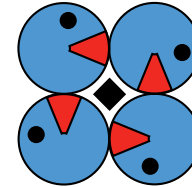
# Crystal packing



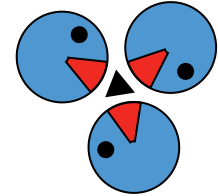
Screw axis



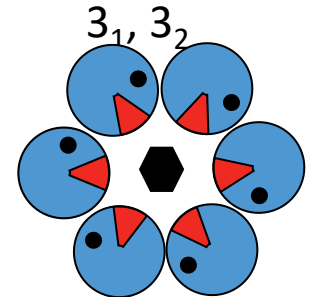
2 fold axis  
 $2_1$



4 fold Axis  
 $4_1, 4_2, 4_3$



3 fold axis



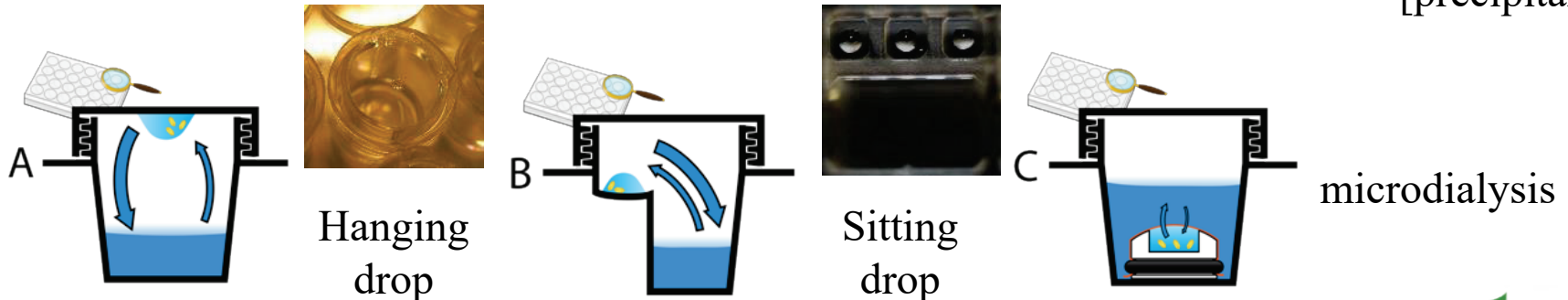
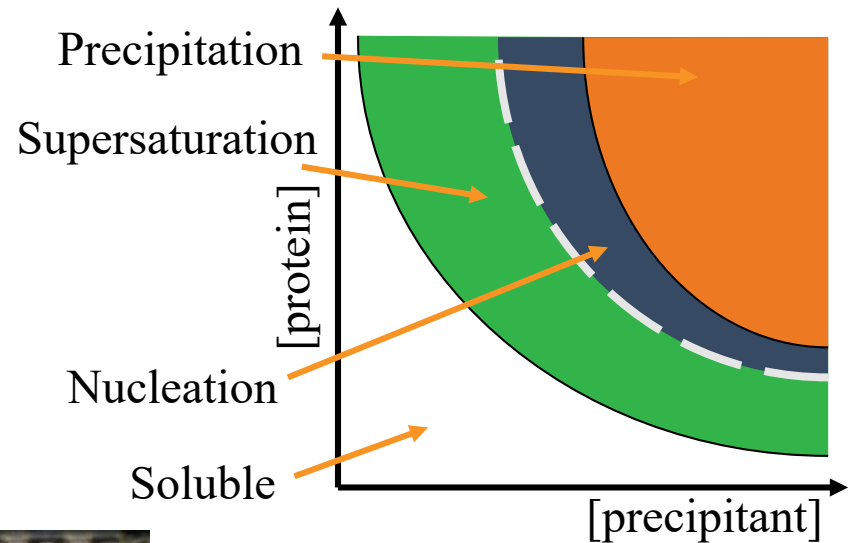
6 fold axis  
 $6_1, 6_2, 6_3, 6_4, 6_5$

**65 spacegroups  
for protein  
crystals**



# Protein crystallogenesis

- Need pure and homogenous protein
- Empirical
  - pH, buffer, temperature, [salt], [precipitant] dependant
- Precipitants
  - High salt concentration
  - Alcohols or volatil compounds
  - Organic polymers
- Manual or robotized
- Vapor diffusion mostly used



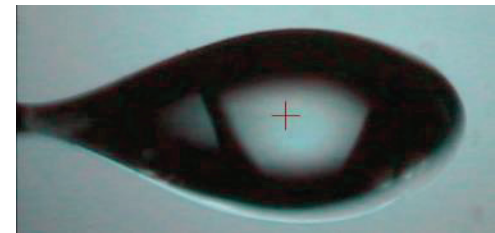
# CERMAV protein crystals



# How to obtain crystals of protein complexes with ligand

# Soaking

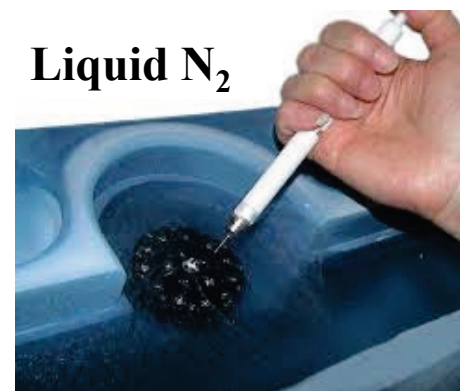
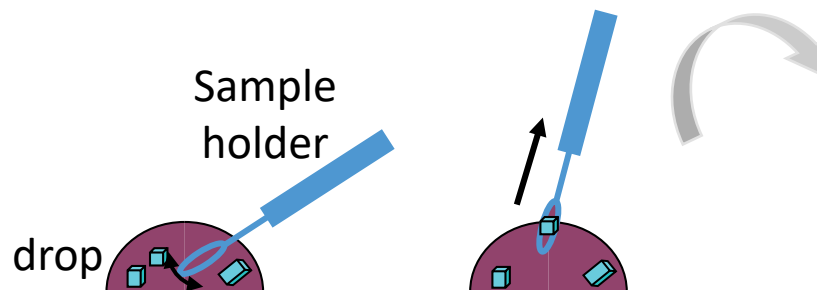
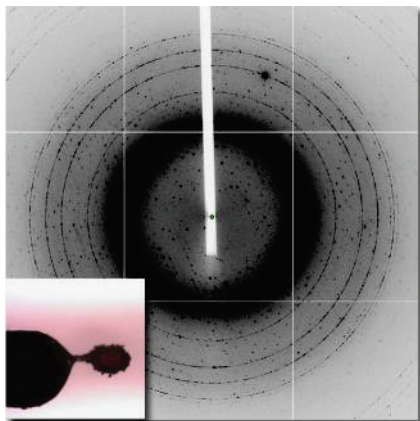
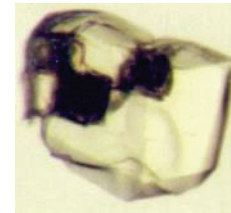
- Add the ligand to the reservoir solution
  - Add concentrated solution to limit dilution
  - Transfer the crystal in solution with ligand
  - Add bit of powder
- Try different concentrations and soaking time
- Can soak the crystal after data collection
  - For resistant crystals diffracting well
  - BambL: lectin from *Burkholderia ambifaria*
    - Soaking with 2 mM methyl- $\alpha$ -L-fucopyranoside (MFU)
      - Data collected at 1.3 Å BM14, ESRF: empty
    - Resoaked with 20mM
      - Data collected at 1.3 Å BM14: still empty





# Soaking while freezing

- Freezing limits radiation damages
- Add ligand to the cryoprotectant solution
  - Less chance of replacement by glycerol, ethylene glycol and MPD



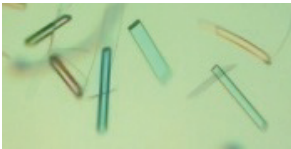
**Hampton    Litholoop   Molecular Dimensions   Mitigen**



# Cocrystallization

- Excess of pure ligand  $> 2X K_D$
- Put the ligand in reservoir
- Or preincubation with the protein
  - Limit protein dilution:  $> 1/10$
  - Set duration and temperature
  - Easily reproducible
  - Require little ligand
- Can have to screen for each complex: LecA

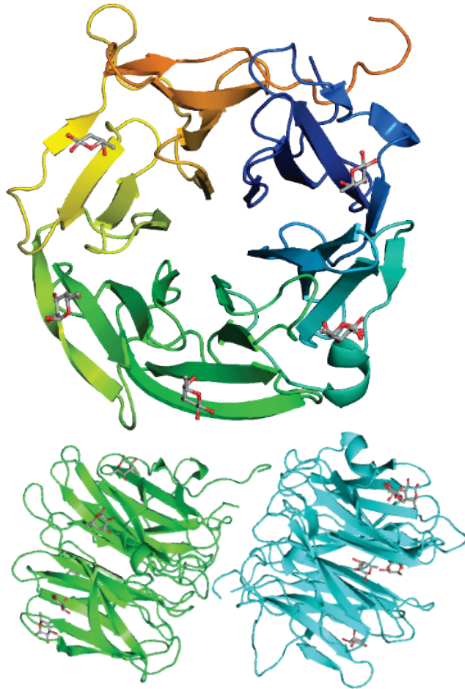


| Gal                                                                                     | Gal $\alpha$ 1-2Gal $\beta$ -O-Me                                                   | Gal $\alpha$ 1-3Gal $\beta$ 1-4Glc                                                   | Gal $\alpha$ 1-6Glc                                                                   | Inhibitor                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.5 M (NH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub><br>pH 4.7, 5% MPD,<br>2% glycerol | 20% PEG6K<br>1 M LiCl<br>0.1 M NaAc pH 4                                            | 10% PEG 5K <sub>mme</sub><br>25 mM KSCN<br>0.1 M NaAc pH 4.6                         | 20% PEG 2K <sub>mme</sub> ,<br>0.2 M KBr<br>0.1 M NaAc pH 4.6                         | 0.8 M Li <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub><br>pH 4.5                                       |
|                                                                                         |  |  |  |  |

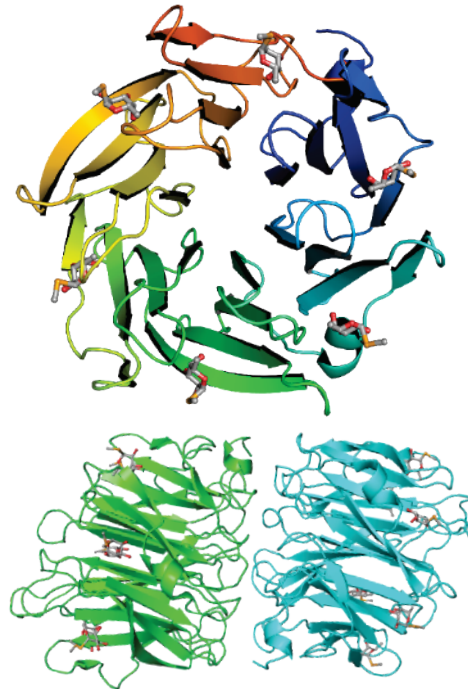
# Phasing: molecular replacement

- Have a good model from homologous protein
  - Sequence identity > 25%
  - Good conservation secondary structure: difficult for  $\beta$ -sheets

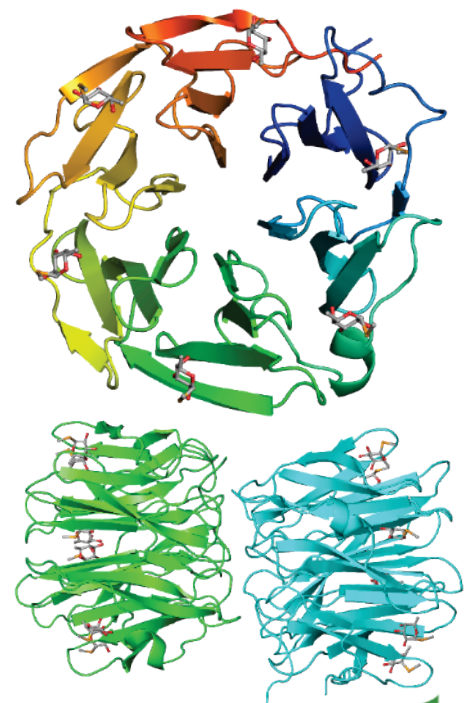
AAL/1OFZ/Hg  
*Aleuria aurantia*



AFL/4AGI/SFU (35%)  
*Aspergillus fumigatus*



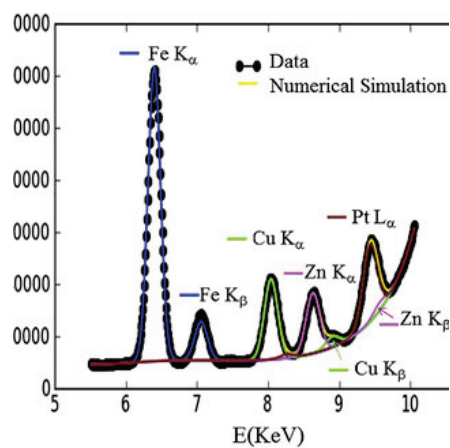
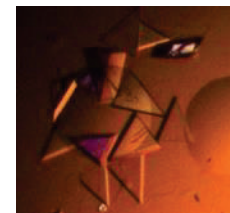
Trfbl1/not deposited/SFU (32/43%)  
*Terfezia boudieri*



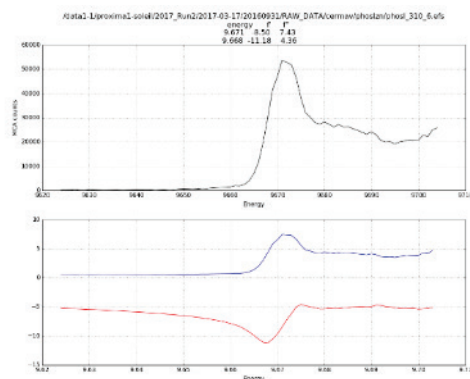
# Phasing: isomorphous or anomalous

## ➤ Look in your crystallization conditions

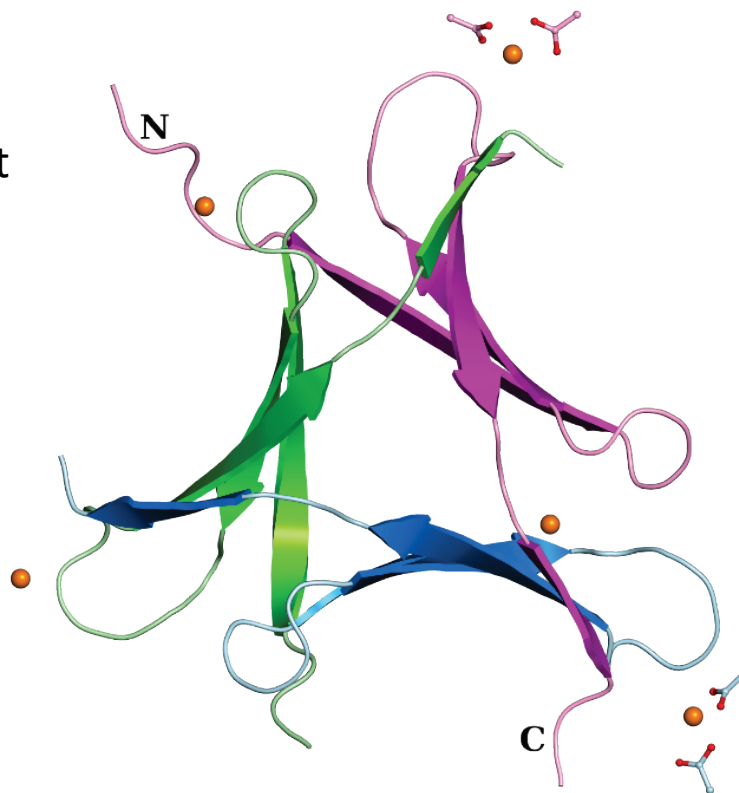
- PhoSL from *Pholiota squarrosa*
  - 300 mM Zinc acetate, 0.1 M Imidazole-HCl pH 6-7



X-ray fluorescent  
XRF scan



Absorption  
scan



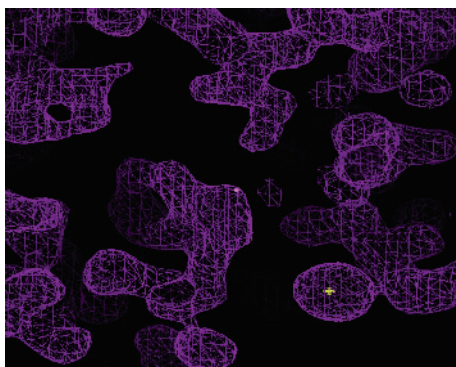


# Phasing: isomorphous or anomalous-2

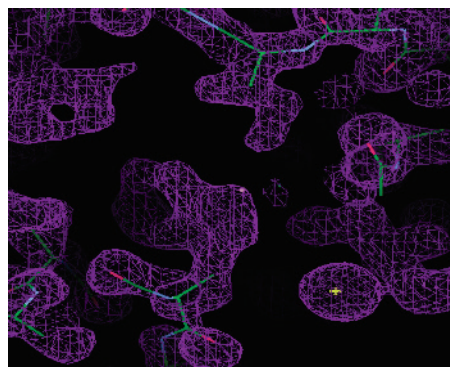
- Use selenomethionin protein, heavy metals
- Use ligand with heavy atoms (Se, Br, S, F)



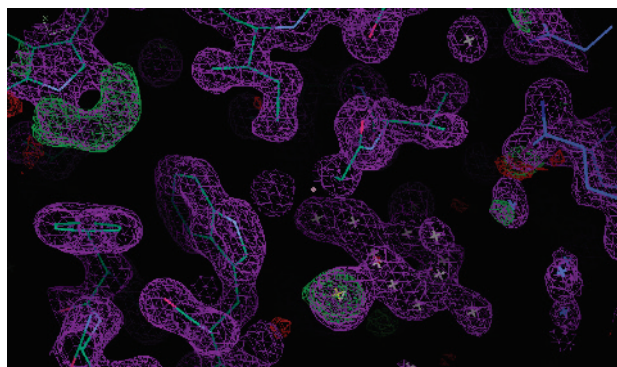
Se peaks



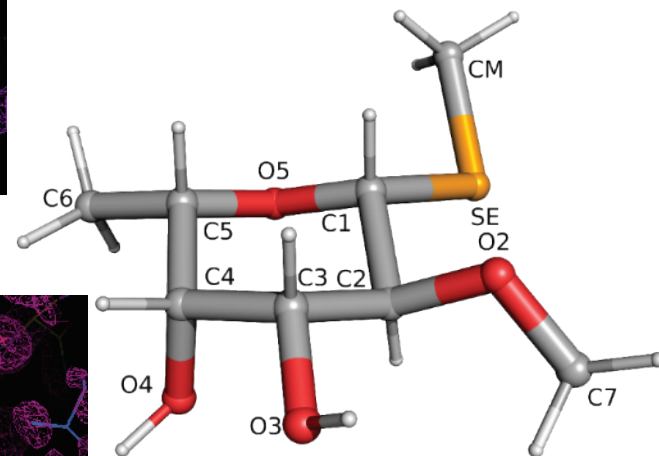
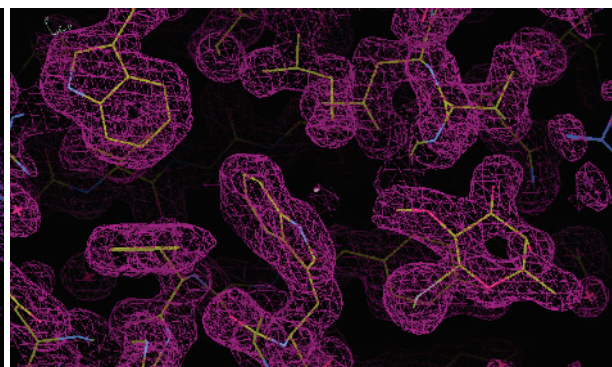
PolyAla building



Sequence assigned



Final



2-O-Methyl- $\beta$ -methyl-L-selenofucoside  
2MeSeFuc

# Refinement

- 3-letter code for each monosaccharide and protein residues
  - Check ligand database
    - HIC-Up: <http://xray.bmc.uu.se/hicup/>
    - PDB: <http://www.pdb.org/pdb/home/home.do>

The image shows the PDB Protein Data Bank homepage with a search bar and various logos. Below it is a screenshot of the 'Advanced Search Interface' where a search for 'glucose' has been performed. The search results show 1618 PDB Entries (Structures) and 48 Ligands.

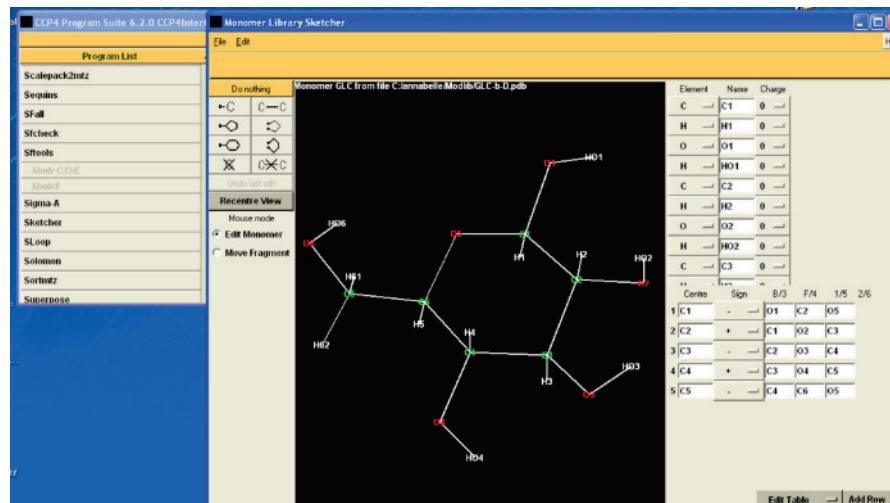
| Ligand Structure | ID / Formula / Name                                    | Structures with Specific Ligands                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
|                  | GLC<br>C6 H12 O6<br>ALPHA-D-GLUCOSE                    | 686 PDB Structures contains GLC (1A47,1AC0,1ACZ ... ) |
|                  | GLD<br>C6 H12 O4<br>4,6-DIDEOXYGLUCOSE                 | 9 PDB Structures contains GLD (1E3Z,1UA7,1UH3 ... )   |
|                  | GLF<br>C6 H11 F O5<br>1-FLUORO-ALPHA-1-DEOXY-D-GLUCOSE | 6 PDB Structures contains GLF (1CXL,3IJ7,3SCO ... )   |
|                  | GLO<br>C6 H12 O6<br>D-GLUCOSE IN LINEAR FORM           | 16 PDB Structures contains GLO (1AC0,1EZ9,1FBO ... )  |

- Main monosaccharide have same code than common name
- 1 code for each anomer
  - $\alpha$ -D-Glucose: GLC
  - $\beta$ -D-Glucose: BGC

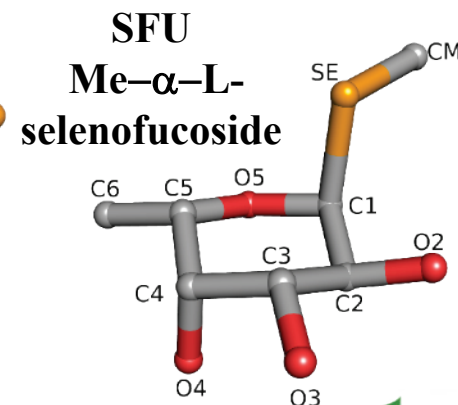
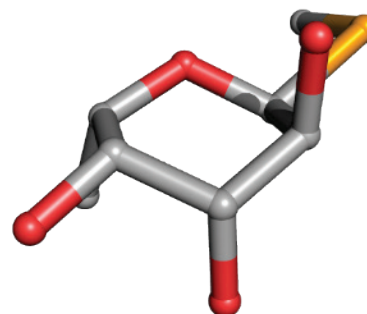
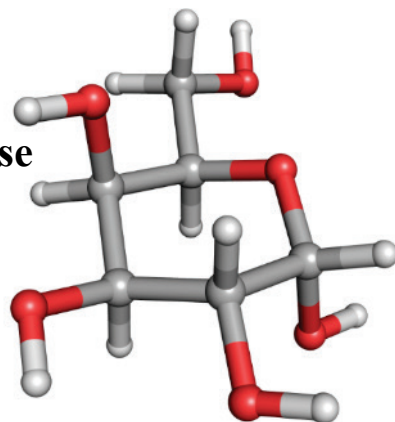
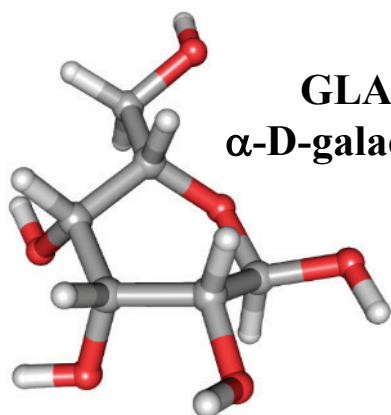


# Refinement : ligand library

- Contains atom type and name, tree, distances, angles, torsions, chiral center, planes
- Creating new ligand
  - Old: Jligand or Sketcher
  - New: Acedrg

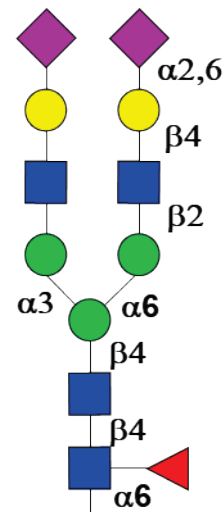
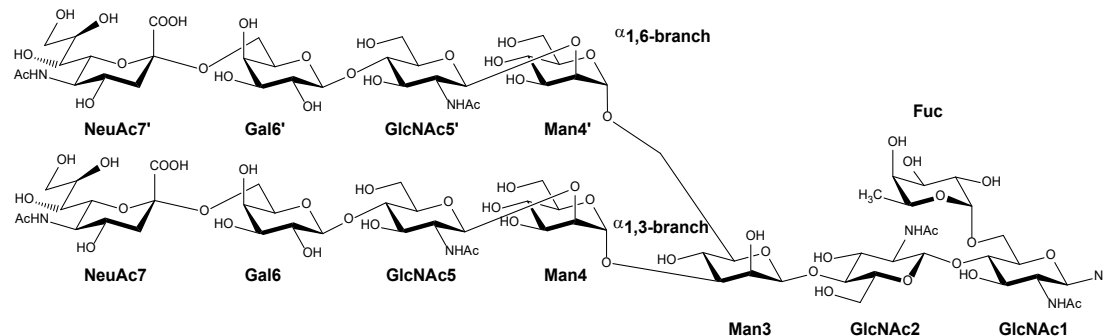


Check library is  
correct: no distortion



# Refinement

- Add description of the linkages
  - code could depend on program



|       |    |     |   |     |    |     |   |     |          |
|-------|----|-----|---|-----|----|-----|---|-----|----------|
| LINKR | O6 | LOG | A | 102 | C1 | FUC | A | 101 | BETA1-6  |
| LINKR | O4 | LOG | A | 102 | C1 | NAG | A | 103 | BETA1-4  |
| LINKR | O4 | NAG | A | 103 | C1 | BMA | A | 104 | BETA1-4  |
| LINKR | O6 | BMA | A | 104 | C1 | MAN | A | 105 | ALPHA1-6 |
| LINKR | O2 | MAN | A | 105 | C1 | NAG | A | 106 | BETA1-2  |
| LINKR | O4 | NAG | A | 106 | C1 | GAL | A | 107 | BETA1-4  |
| LINKR | C2 | SIA | A | 108 | O6 | GAL | A | 107 | SIA-GAL  |
| LINKR | O3 | BMA | A | 104 | C1 | MAN | A | 109 | ALPHA1-3 |
| LINKR | O2 | MAN | A | 109 | C1 | NAG | A | 110 | BETA1-2  |

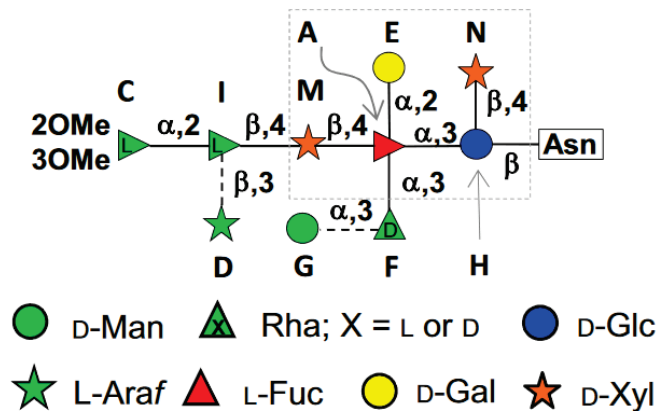
- Programmers do not know how to deal with L-sugars



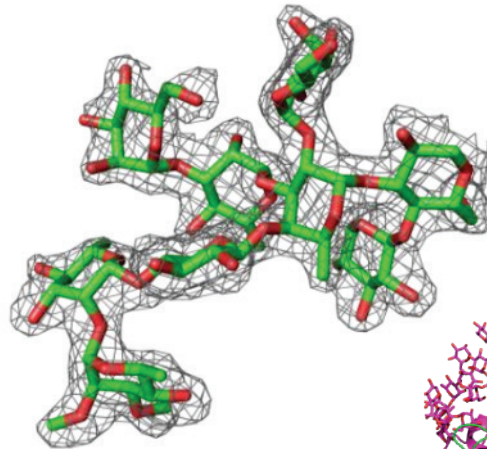
Can be tricky for non glycobio

➤ Major capsid protein (Vp54) of chlorovirus PBCV-1

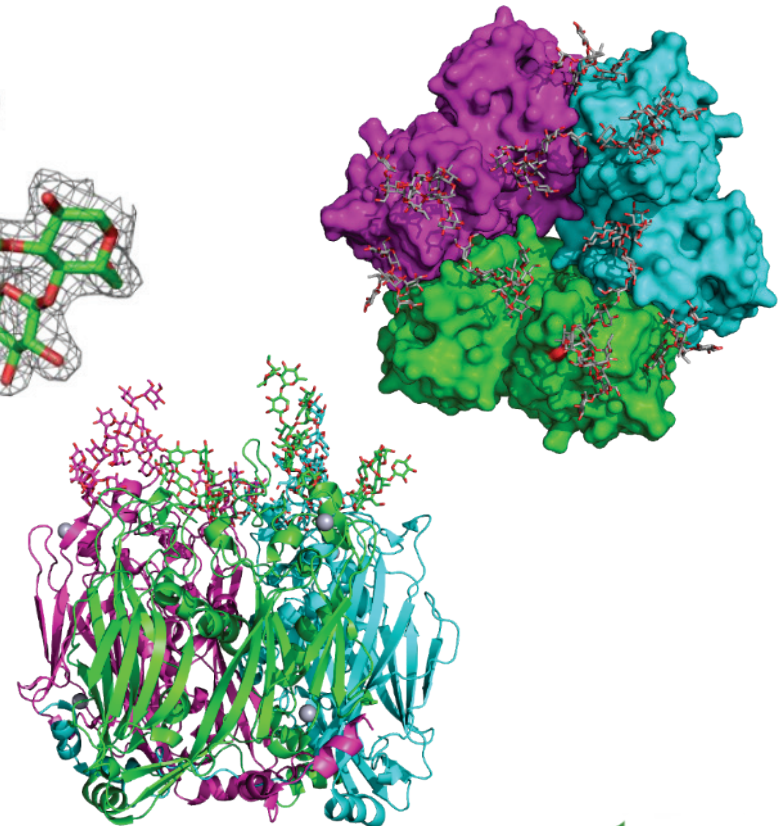
- X-ray 2002: try to fit classical N-glycan
- Sugar NMR 2013: highly complex N-glycosylation
- X-ray revised in 2017 + modelling



|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| <b>H</b> = BGC   | <b>A</b> = FUC |
| <b>N/M</b> = XYP | <b>E</b> = GLA |
| <b>F</b> = XXR   | <b>G</b> = MAN |
| <b>I</b> = RM4   | <b>C</b> = 7CV |

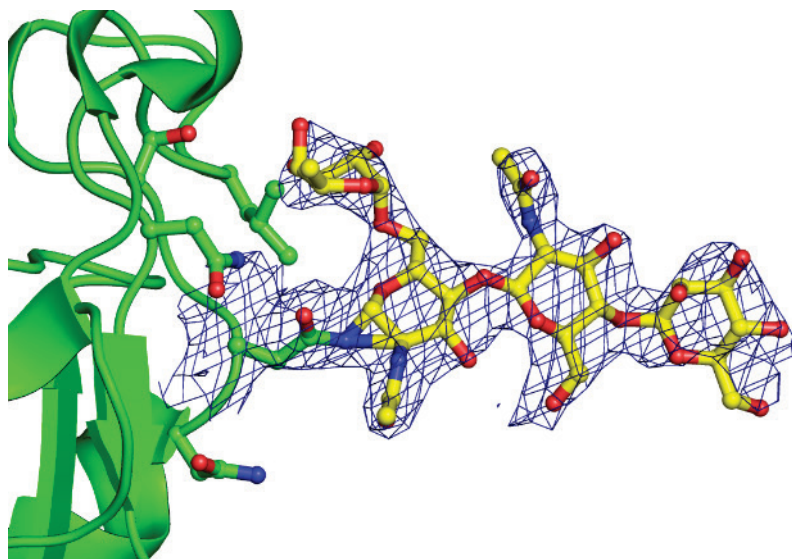


**4  
glycosylation  
sites**

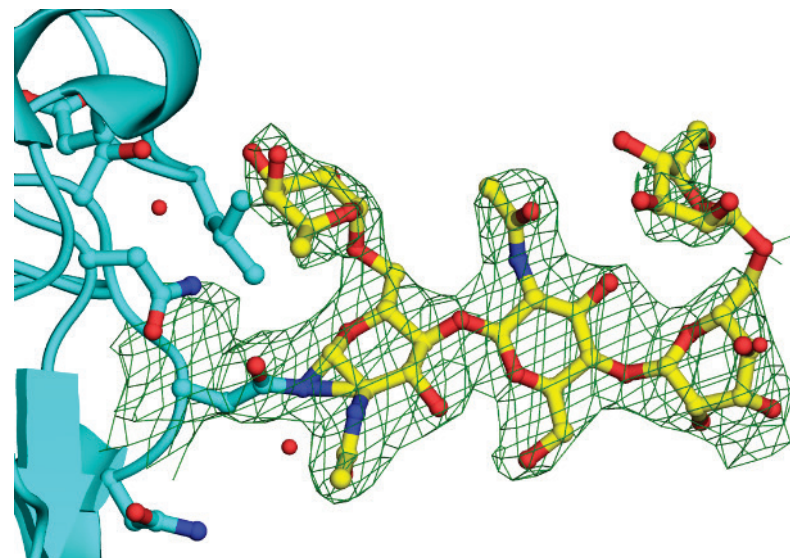


# Carbohydrate validation

- Do not overfit at low resolution

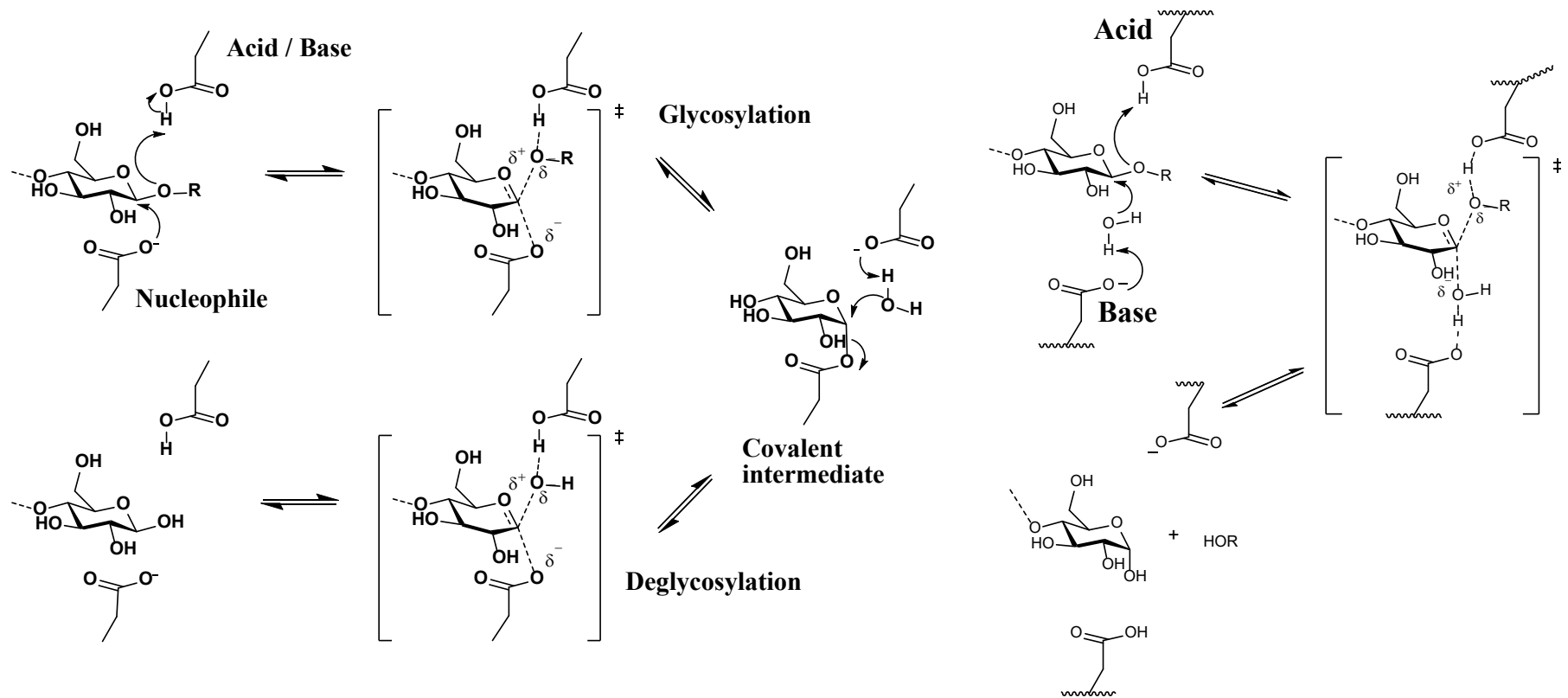


2.8 Å



- Check nomenclature and ring conformation
  - PDB-care
  - Privateer: ccp4

# Glycoside hydrolases mechanism

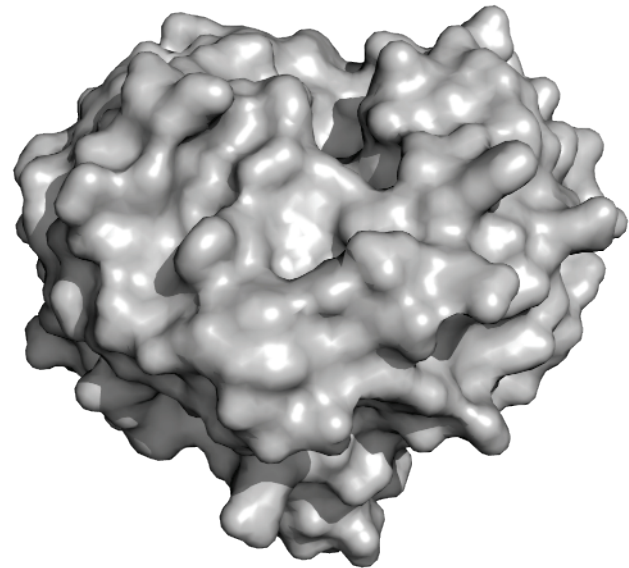
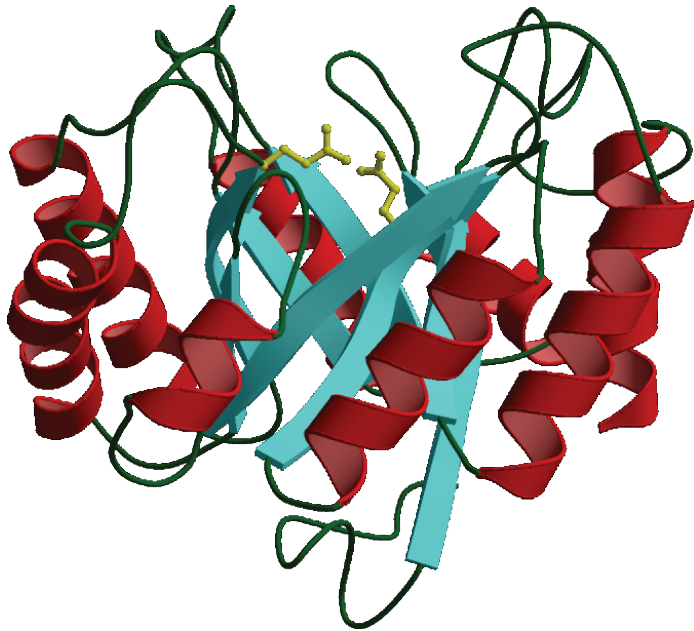


- Try to trap each step by X-ray crystallography
  - Use specific ligand, mutated protein, inactive pH

# Retaining mechanism

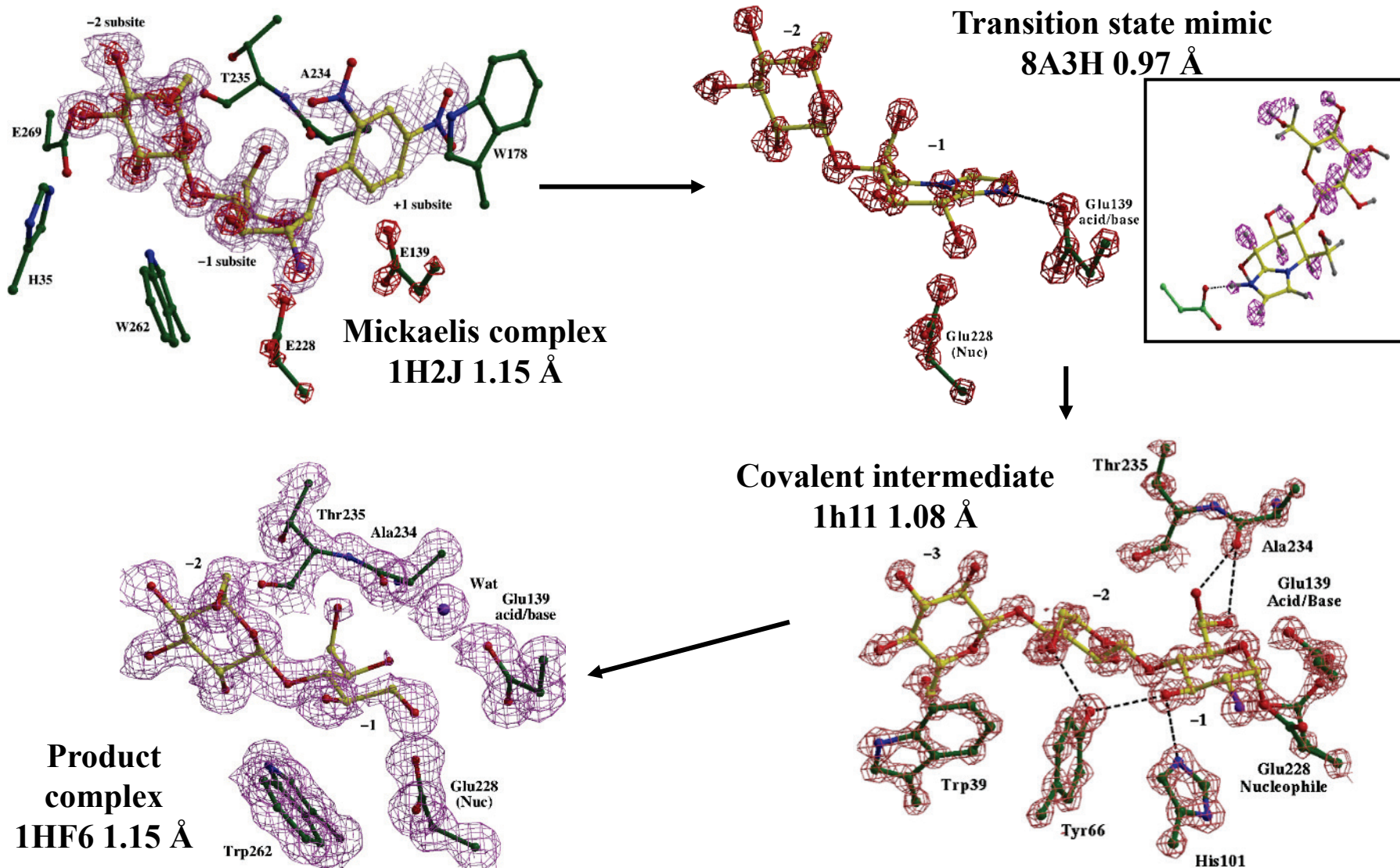
## ➤ Cellulase Cel5A from *Bacillus agaradhaerens*

- Modular endoglucanase
- Active pH range 5.0-13.0
- Glu139 (acid/base) and Glu228 (nuc)
- Shallow active site cleft with 5 subsites



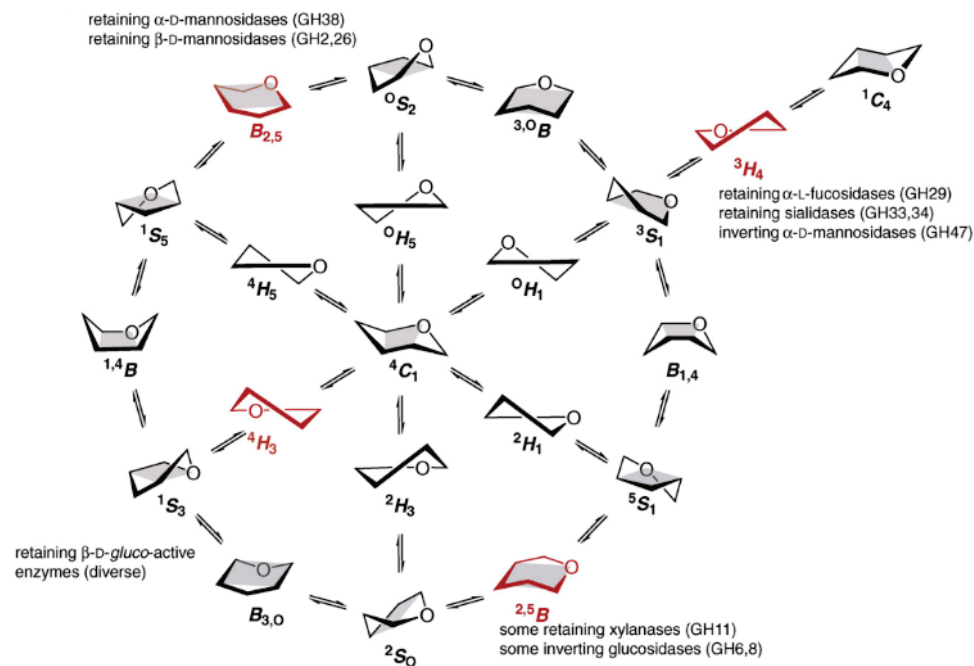
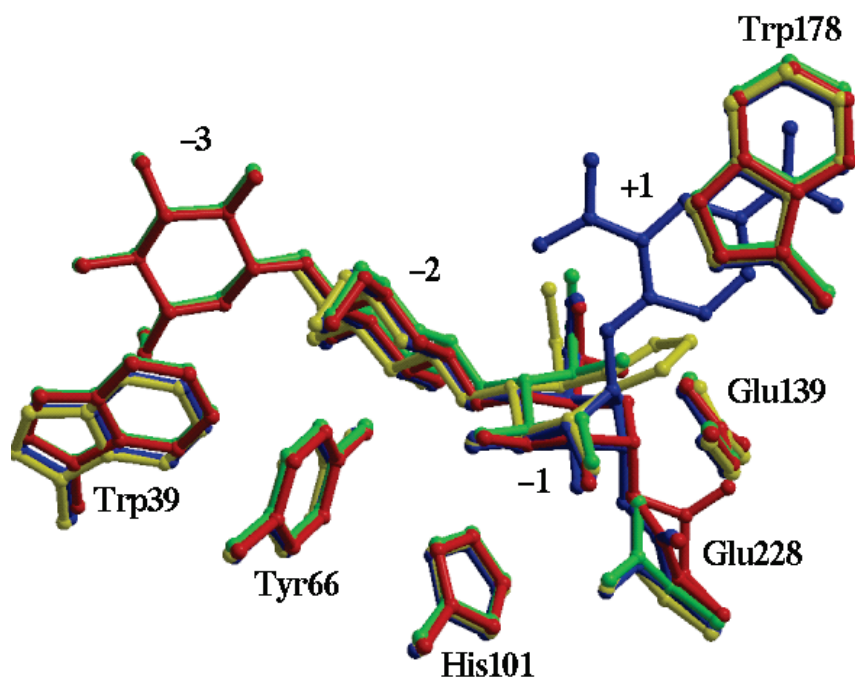
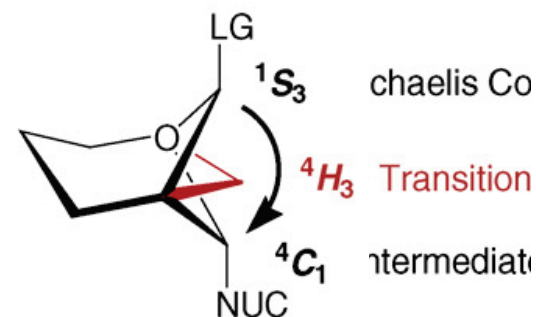


# Cel5A snapshot at atomic resolution



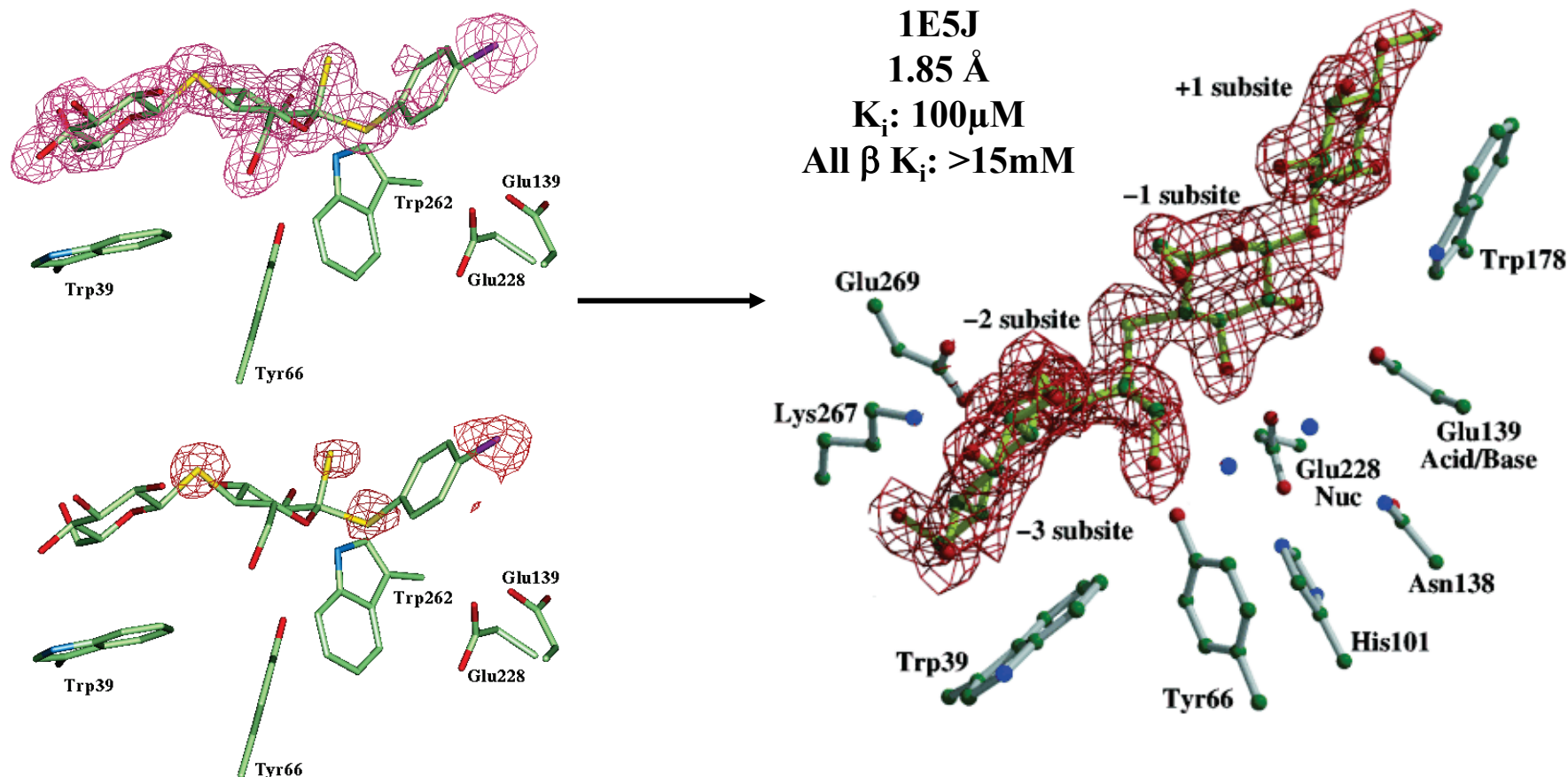
# Importance of ring distortion

- Protein quite static
- Nucleophilic migration



# Serendipiry

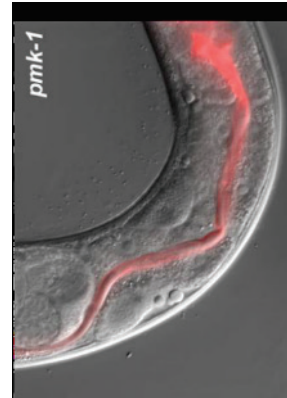
- Strange density with TBR 1.68 Å on home source
  - New inhibitor class



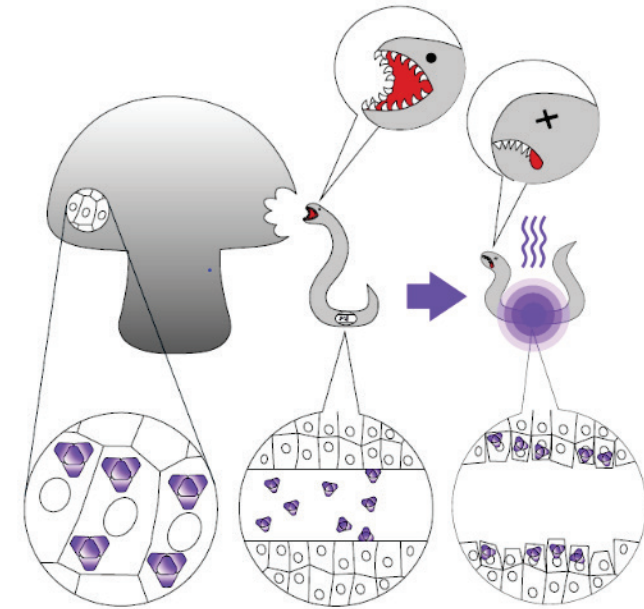
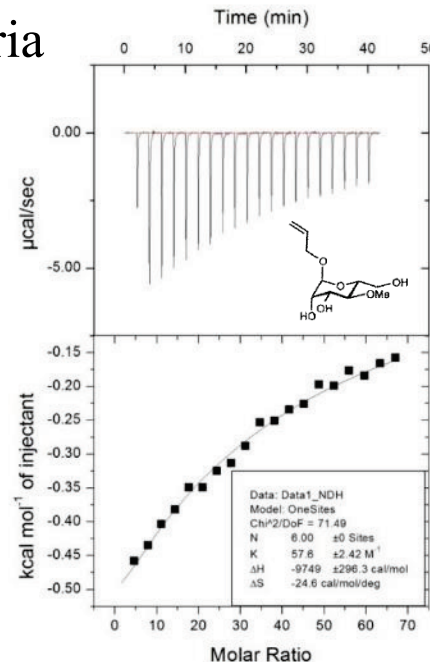
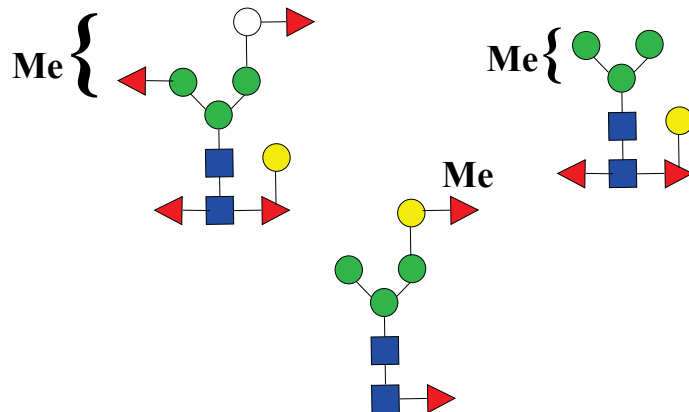
# Lb-Tec2 from *Laccaria bicolor*



- Defense protein
  - Agglutinates Gram- bacteria
  - Nematotoxic
    - Binds to the worm gut



- Recognize O-methylated sugars
  - On worms, LPS bacteria
  - None in mammals

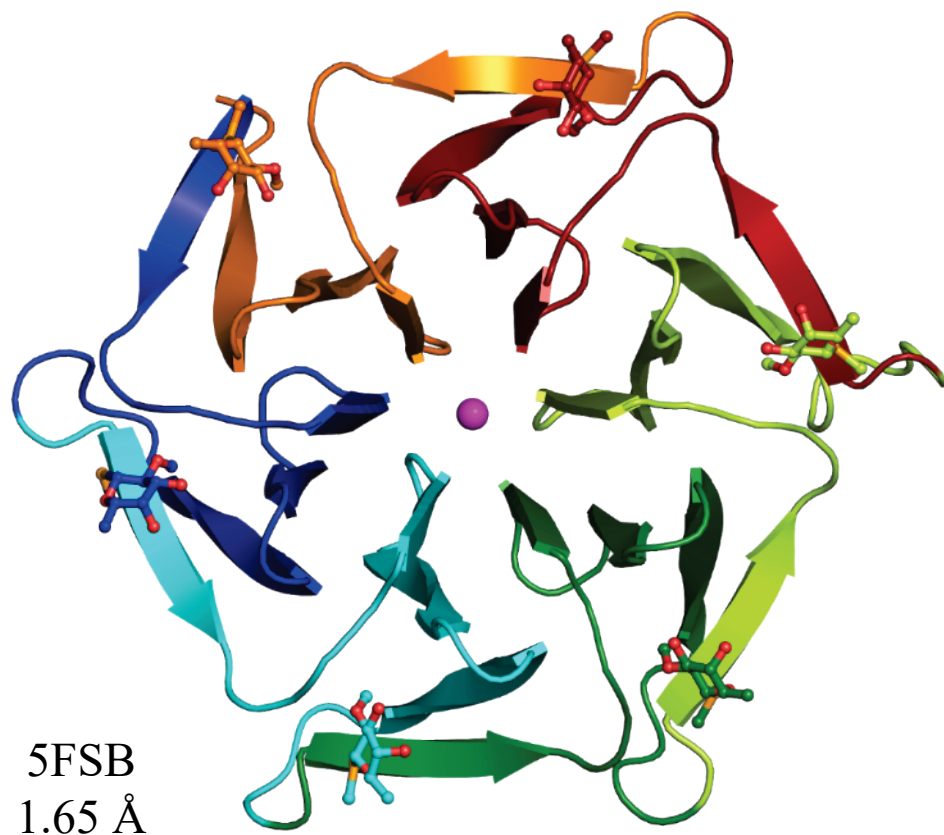


| Sugar        | K <sub>d</sub> (mM) |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Fuc          | 75                  |
| Allyl-2MeFuc | 4                   |
| Allyl-3MeMan | 20                  |
| Allyl-4MeMan | 16                  |

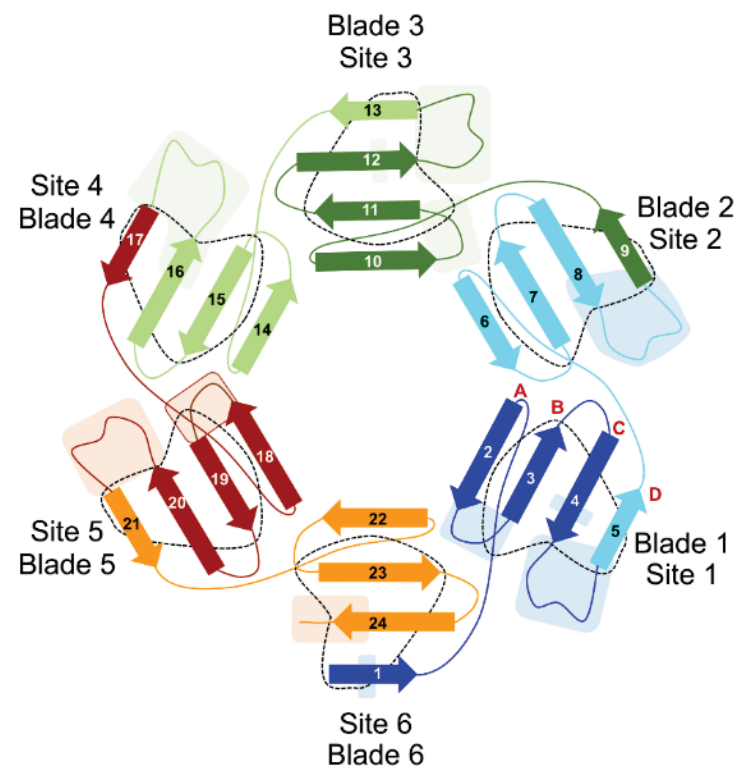


# Lb-Tec2 structure

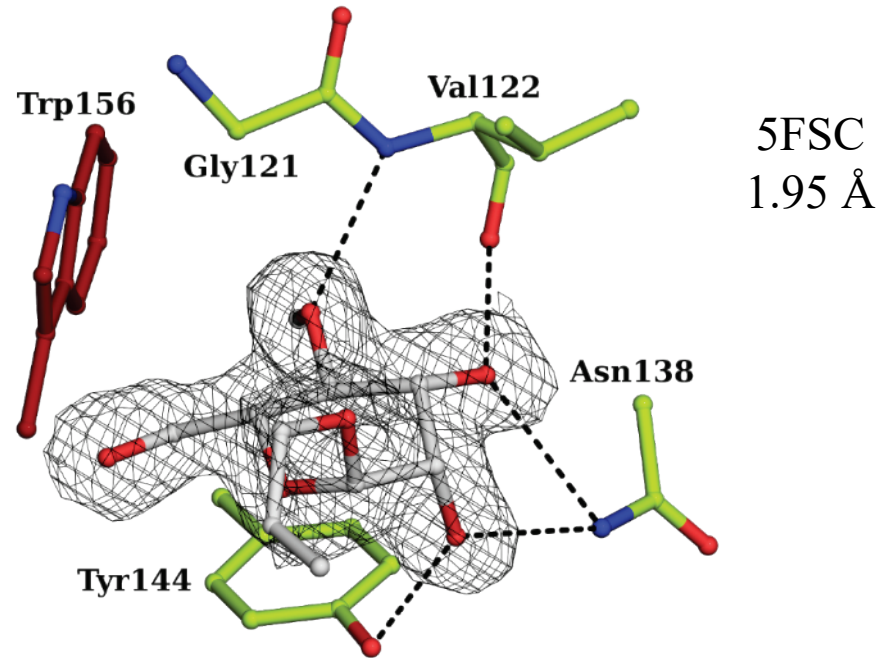
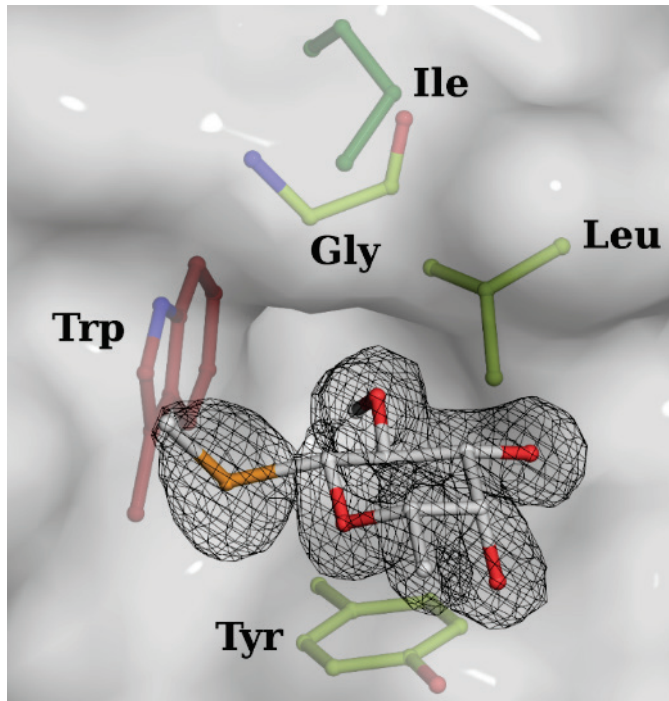
- 4-6 months to grow crystals
- Solved by MAD with soaked 2MeSeFuc



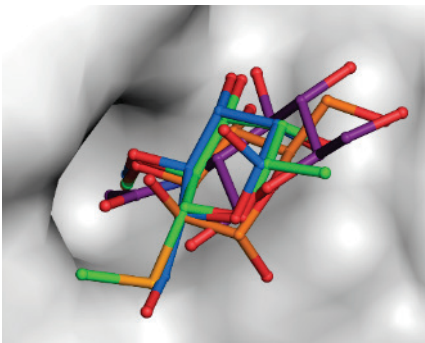
5FSB  
1.65 Å



# Methyl recognition pocket

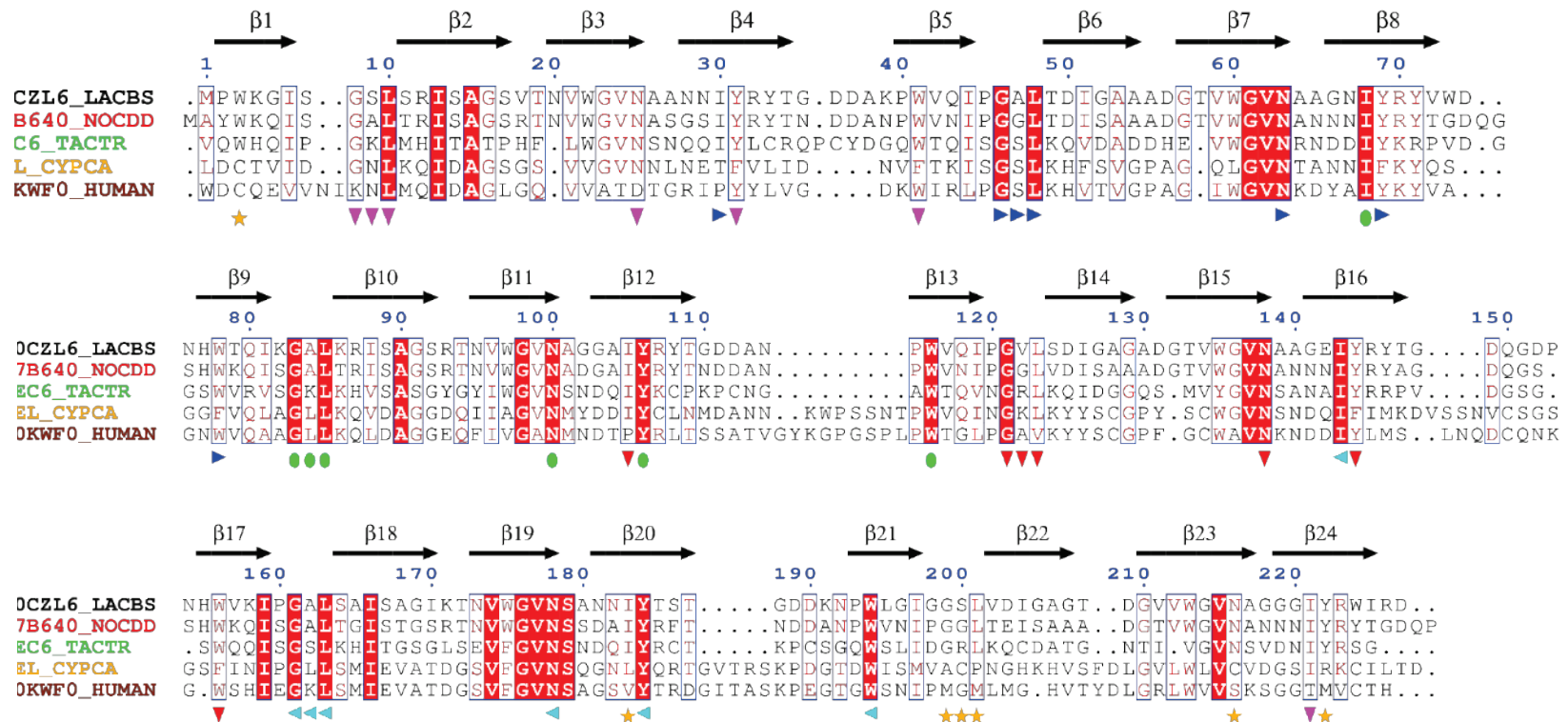


Highly conserved residues



# Binding site formation

## ➤ Requires 3 TECPR repeats



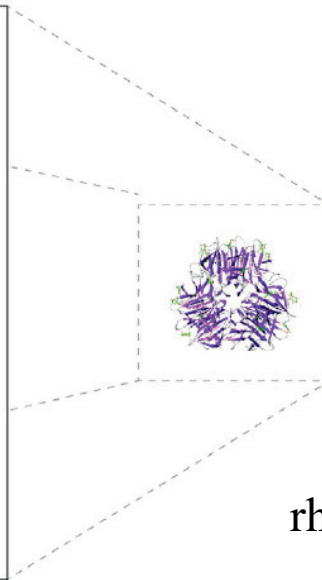
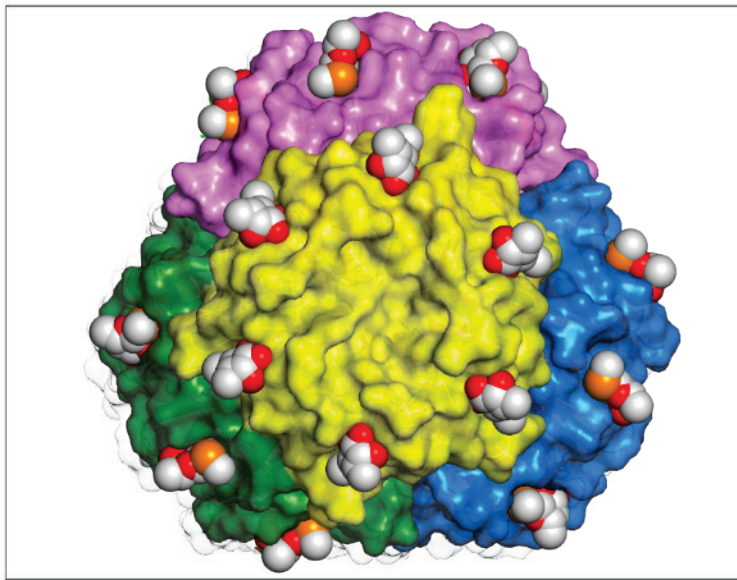
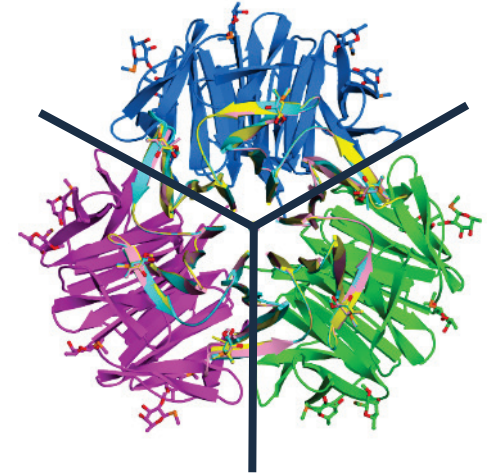
## ➤ Specificity conserved through evolution

- Importance in innate immunity

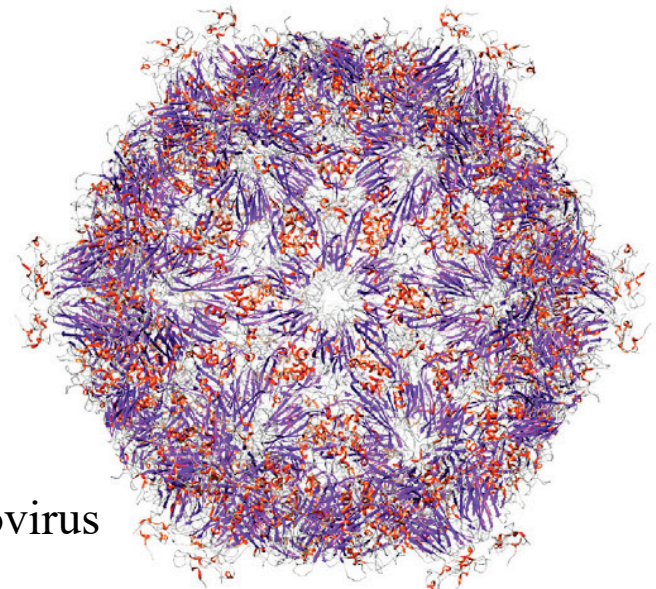


# Unique quaternary structure

- Ball-shaped tetramer:
  - Unique with three fold axis in the PDB
  - Confirmed by SAXS
- 24 sites distributed on the surface
- Resembles mini viral capsid



rhinovirus





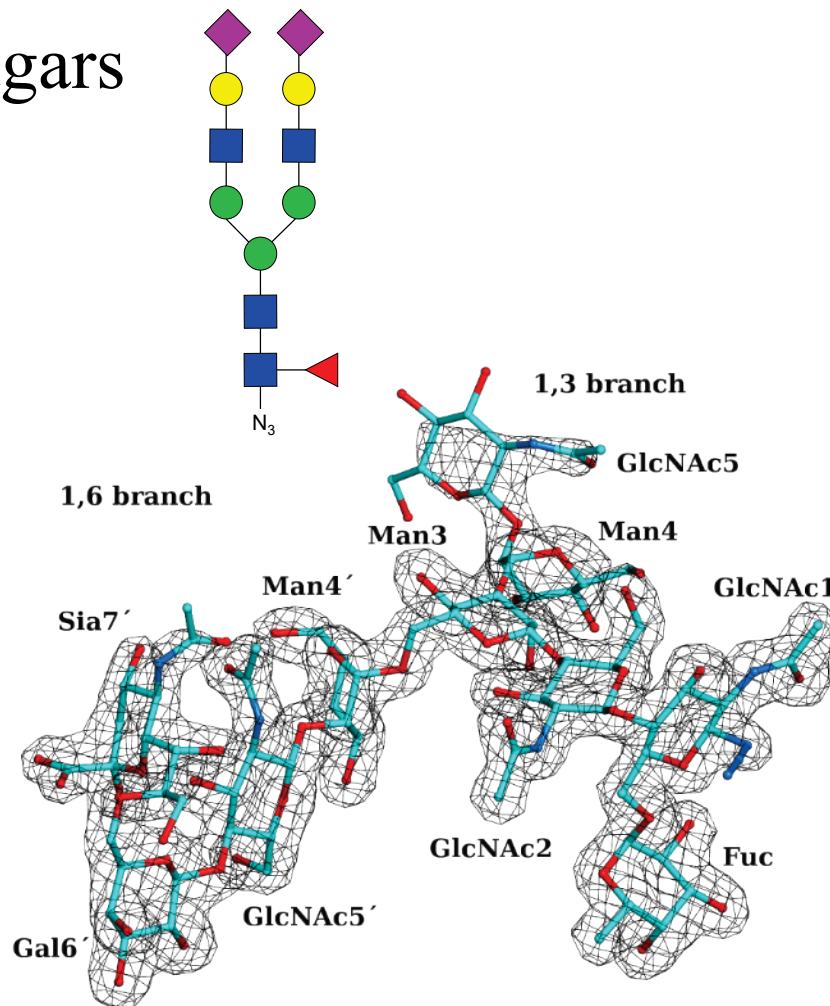
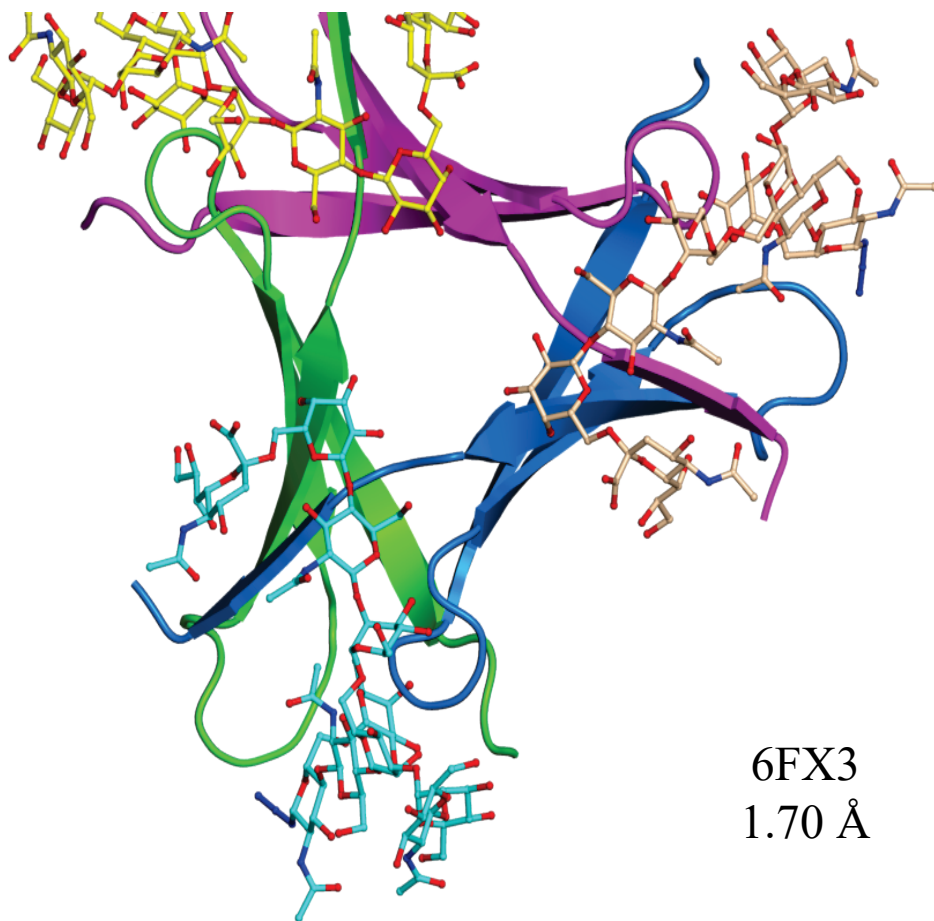
# Mini lectin rPhoSL

- 40 AA long
- Described as strictly specific for  $\alpha$ 1,6 core fucosylation
- Great potential as biomarker
  - Core fucose associated with cancer: hepatocarcinoma,
  - Diminish bioactivity of mAbs
    - See Tony's talk tomorrow
- Unknown fold
- Unknown recognition motif
- Produced recombinantly



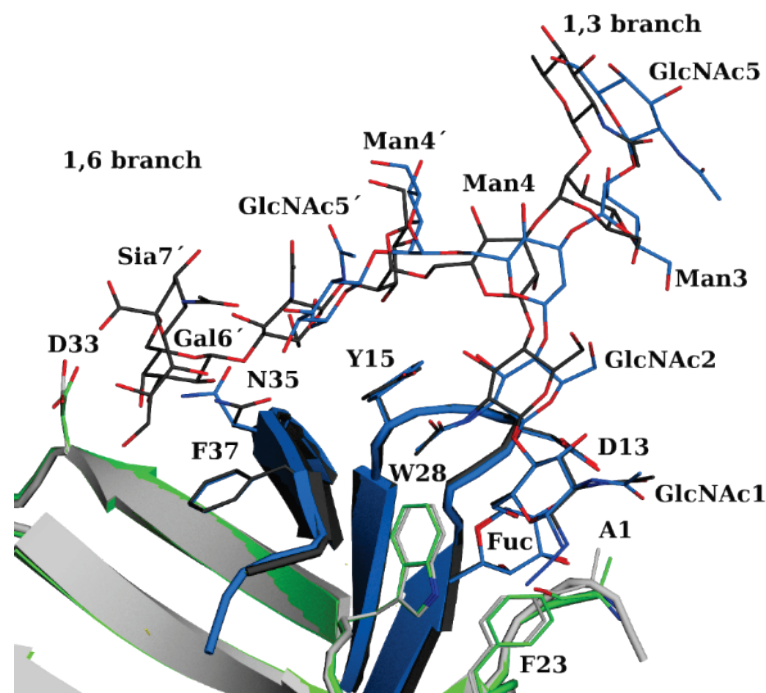
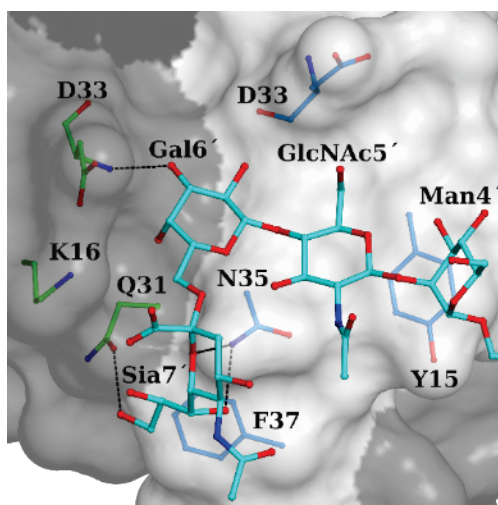
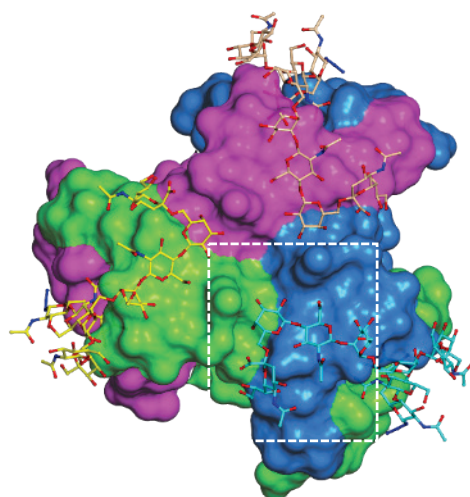
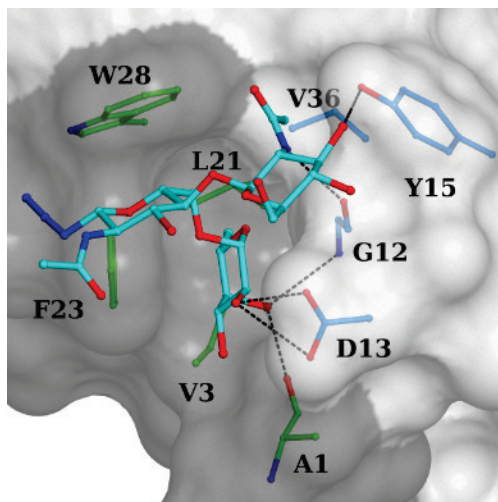
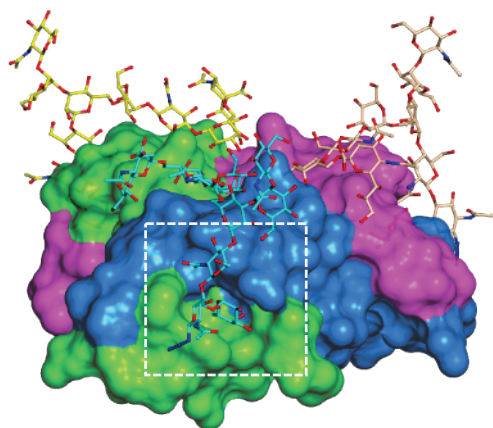
# Novel fold: $\beta$ -prism III

➤ 1/3 of the ASU occupy by sugars

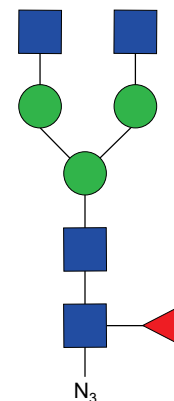
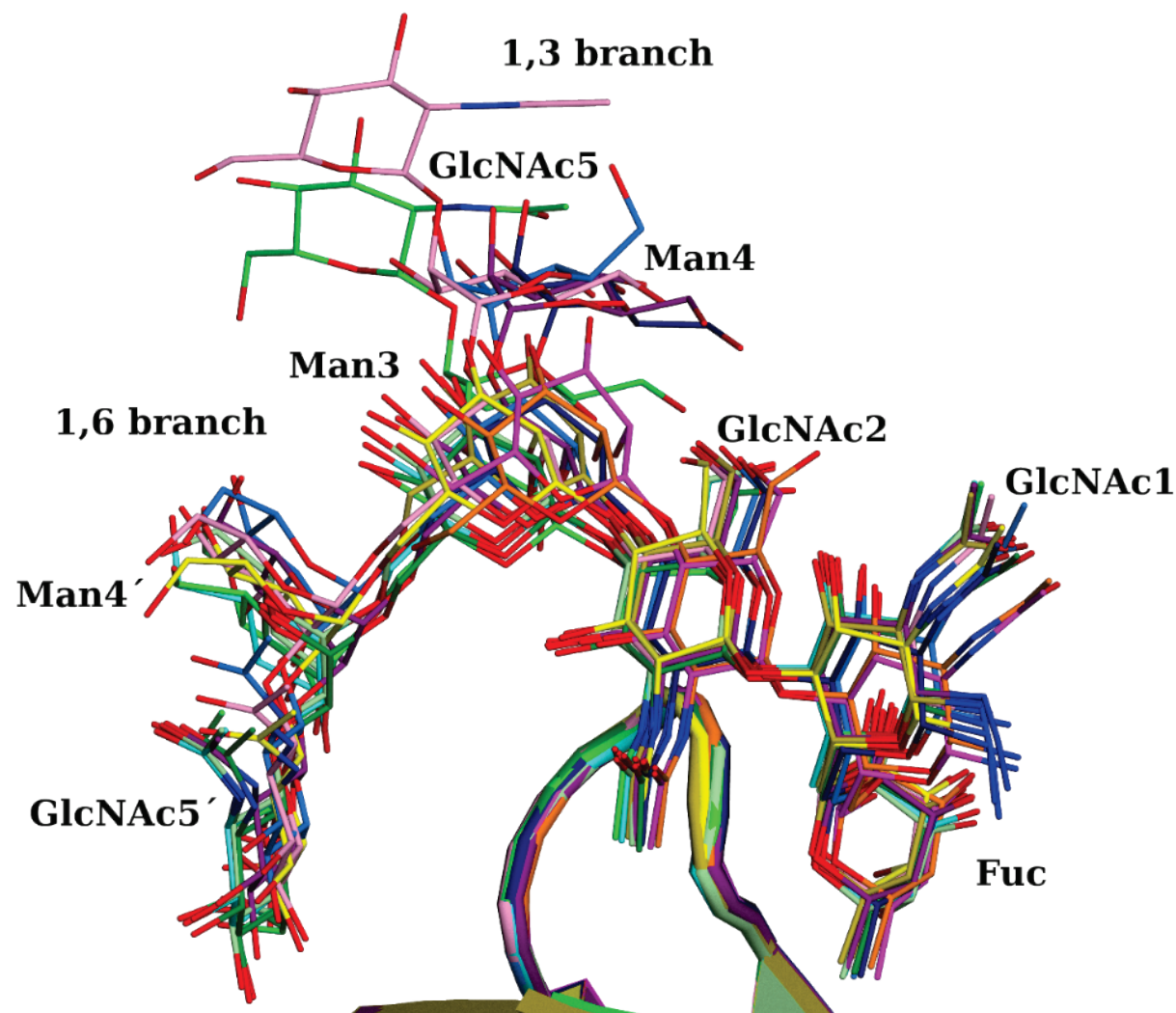


# Binding sites

- 2 binding pockets: Fuc: conserved / Gal: can vary



# Flexibility in crystal structures





# Conclusions

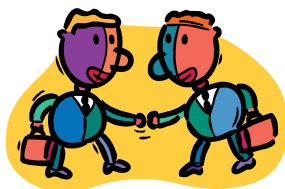
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- X-ray crystallography gave access to protein sugar interaction at the atomic level
  - Highest the resolution the better
  
- Could be tricky for non glycobioologists
  
- Distorsion
  - Real or artefact from user/program errors
  
- No « Structural glycobiology for dummies »
  - Do not hesitate to contact expert of CCP4bb

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Univ. Grenoble Alpes

