

Winter School AEBB

9 – 11 Février 2021

Apport de la modélisation moléculaire  
et des simulations numériques dans la compréhension  
des mécanismes d'actions de molécules biologiques

Pr Manuel Dauchez

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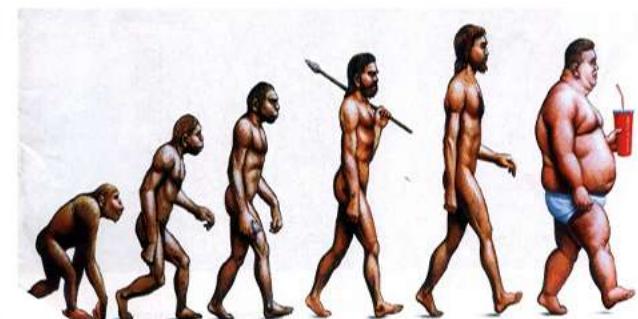
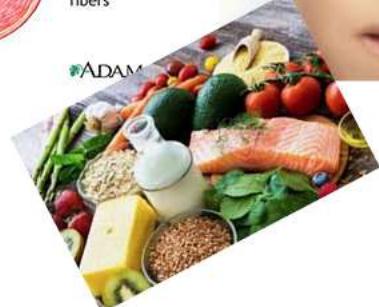
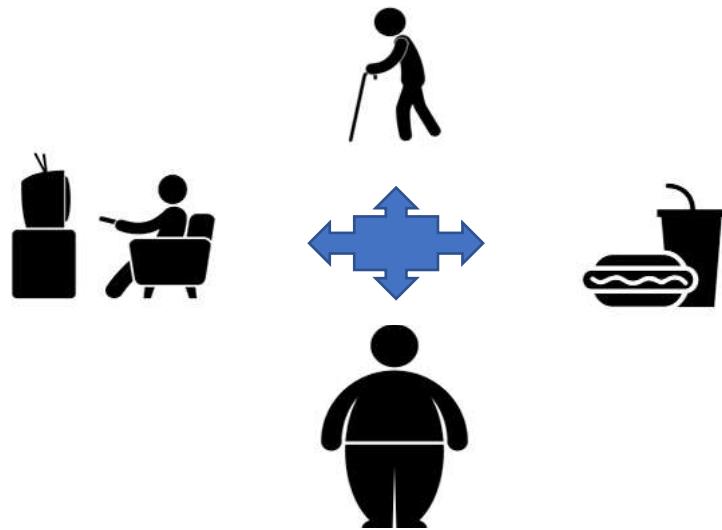
CNRS UMR 7369 MEDyC,

Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne

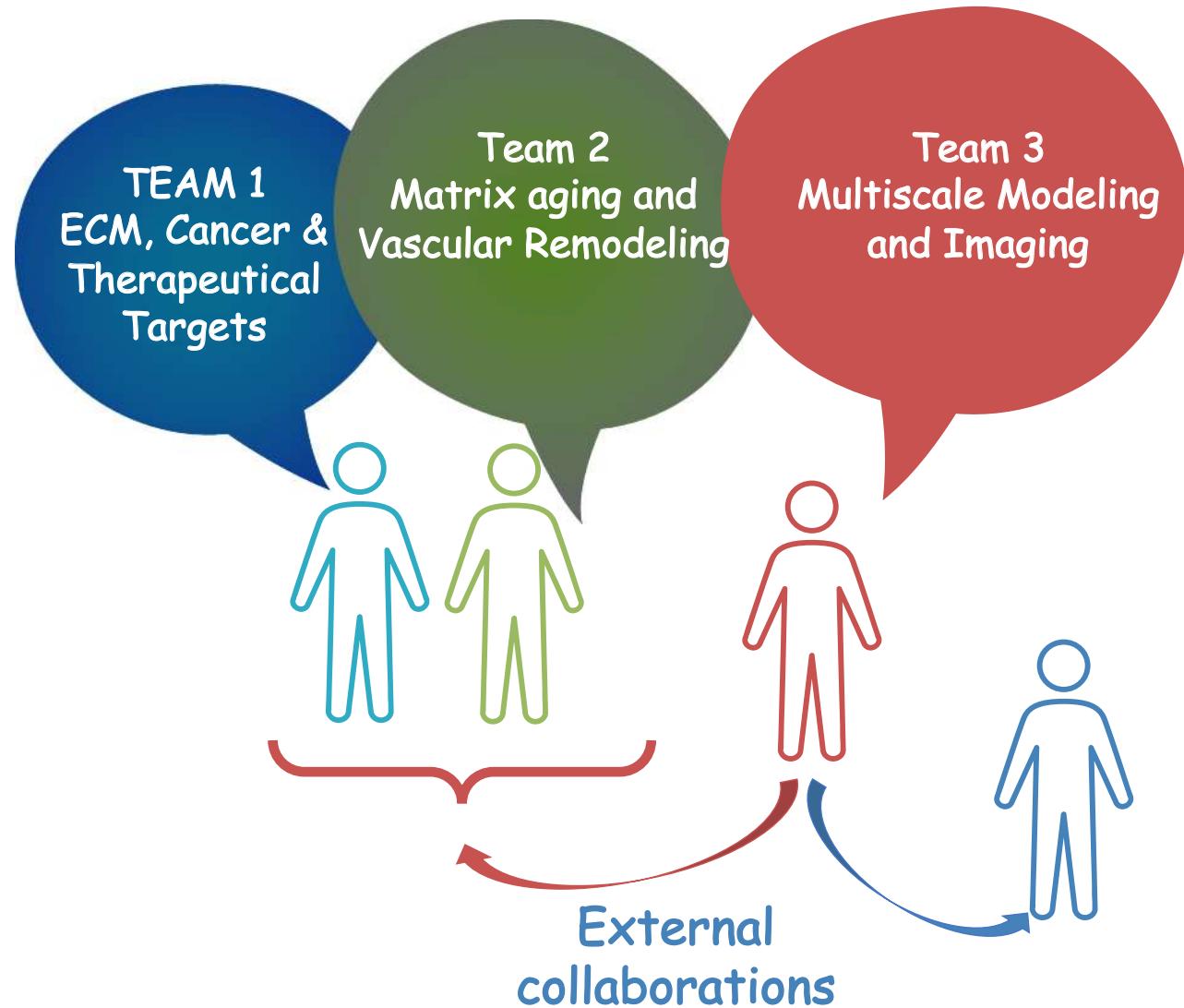


# The biological context

# Extracellular Matrix and Cellular Dynamics



# Extracellular Matrix and Cellular Dynamics



# Multiscale Modeling and Imaging « MIME »

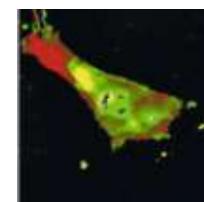
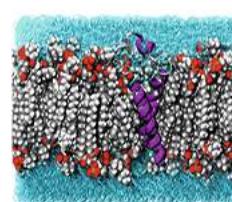
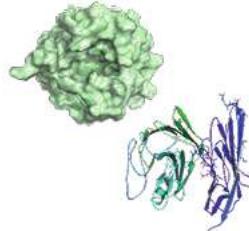
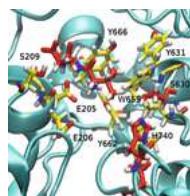
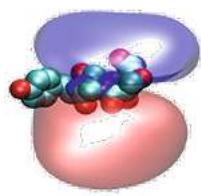
## “Bottom-up approach”

Nano

# Multiscale

## Macro

## “Upside-down approach”

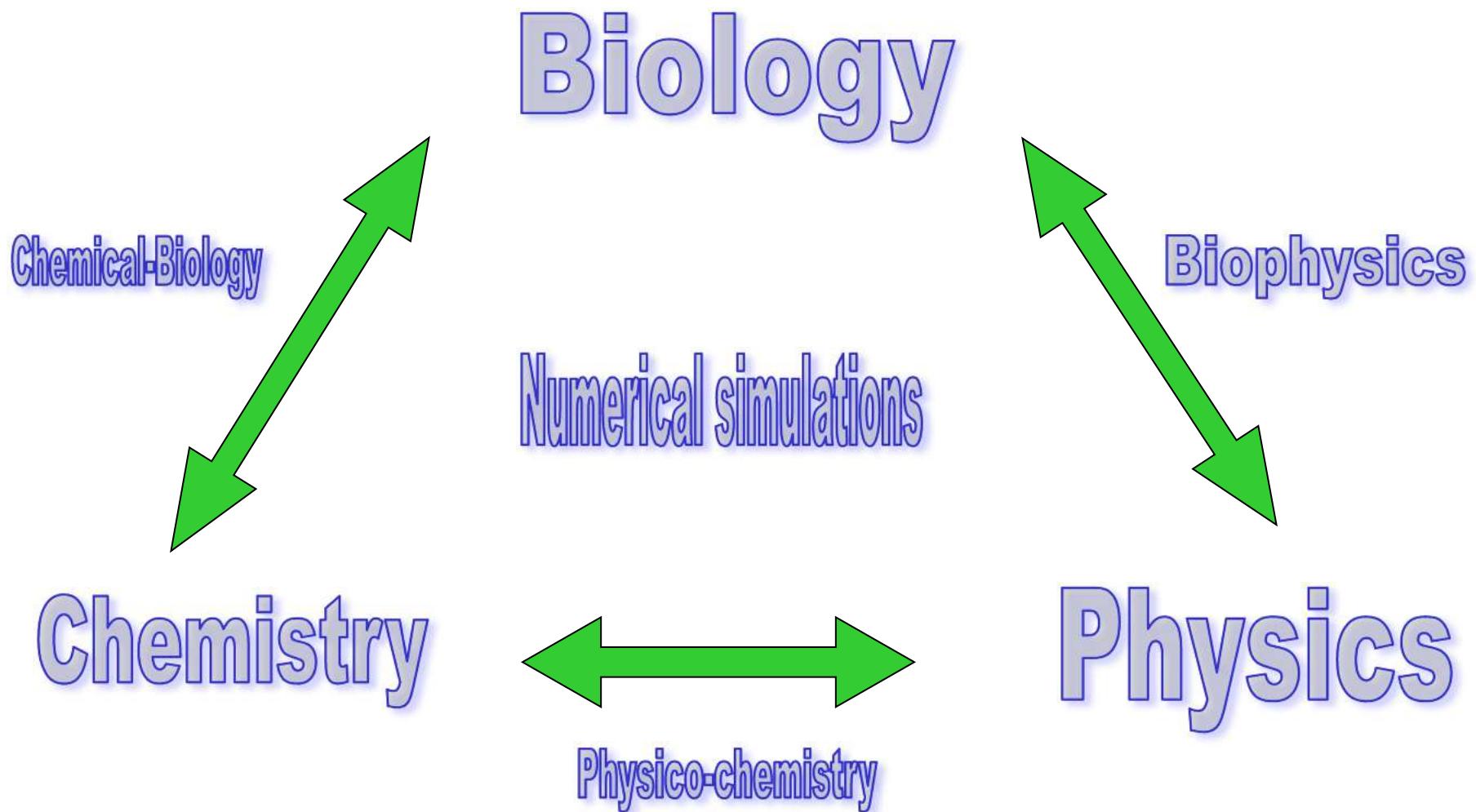


## Observe

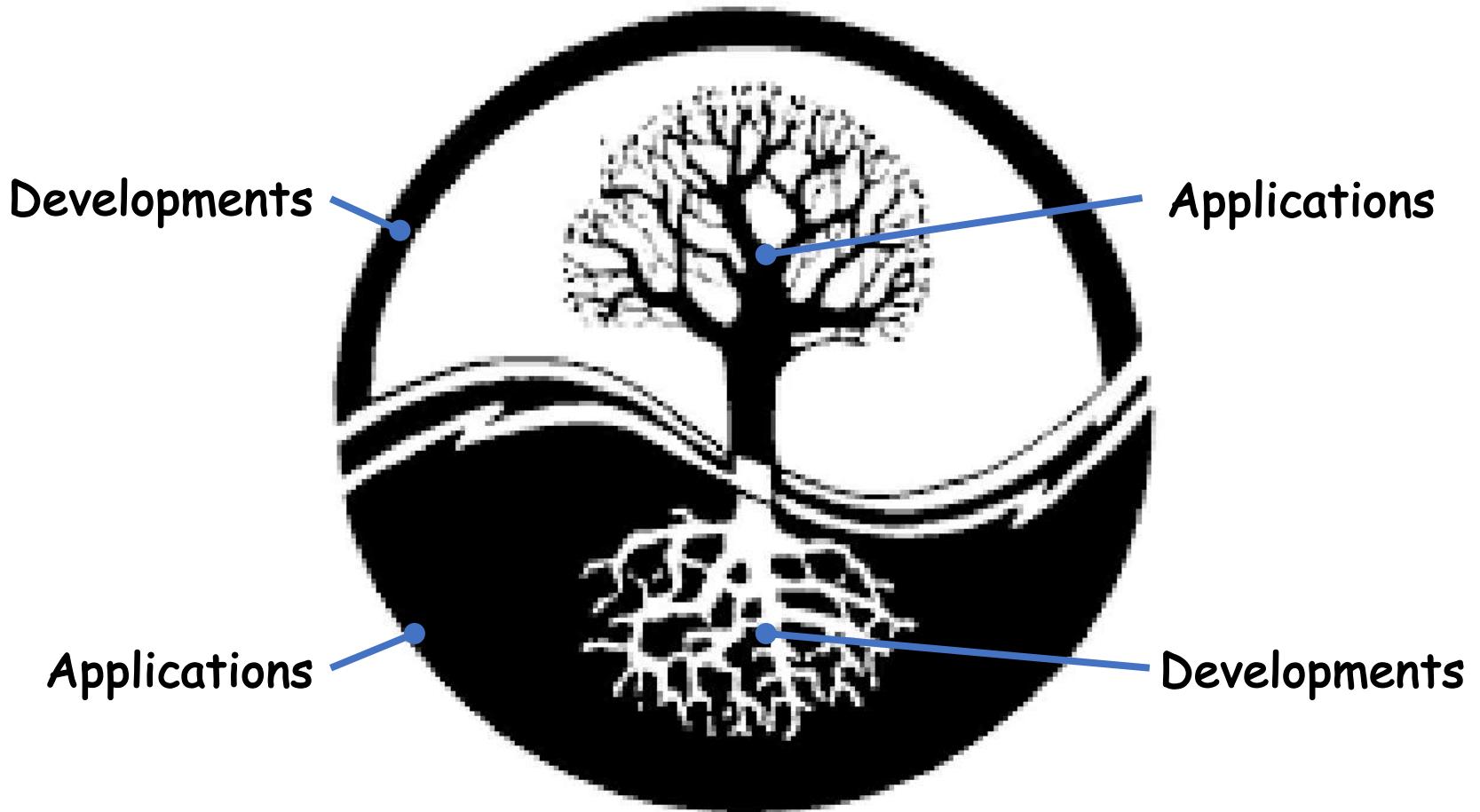
## Understand

# HPC as a computational microscope!

# Structural biochemistry *in silico*



# MultiScale Modeling and Imaging - MSMI



# Molecular Modelling: Why?

# Numerical Simulations



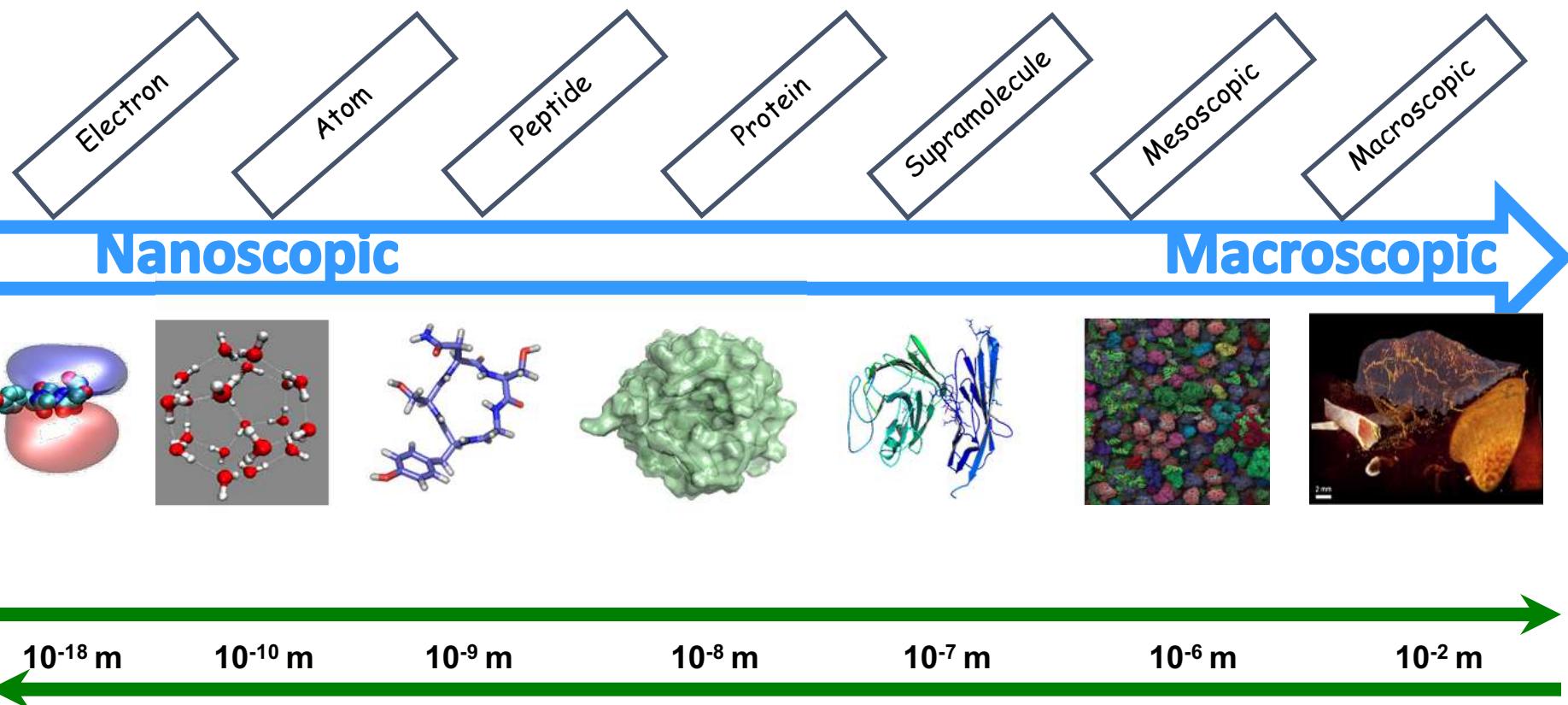
**Experiment**

- explain experiment,
- provoke experiment,
- replace experiment,
- aid in establishing intellectual property...

**«*in silico veritas?*»**

- Predictions, Homologies, Numerical Simulations,  
    → **3D structures**,
- Determination of functionnal conformations,  
    → **structural adaptability**,
- Determination of active sites, mutations, docking...  
    → **functional prediction ...**

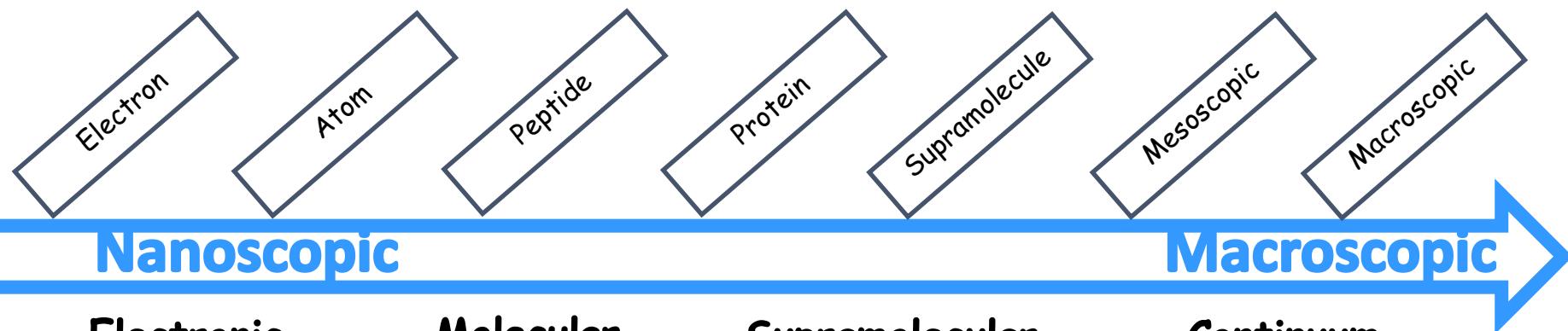
# Multiscale problem



HPC, a Computational Microscope: a way to study molecular machines of living cell !

# Multiscale problem

Multiscale problems → Multiphysics



Nanoscopic

Macroscopic

**Electronic level**

- 1-2 peptides
- 1 association
- $<10^2$  atoms
- « 50 ns »

Quantum Dynamics

**Molecular level**

- 2-10 proteins
- 1 complex
- $10^5$  atoms
- 500 ns

Molecular Dynamics  
Normal Modes

**Supramolecular level**

- 5-20 proteins
- 10 complexes
- $10^6$  atoms
- 5  $\mu$ s

Coarse Grained or  
Langevin Dynamics

**Continuum level**

- $>1000$  proteins
- $>100$  complexes
- $>10^6$  atoms
- $>1$  ms

Mesoscopic Dynamics

# Molecular Modelling: How it works?

# Molecular Dynamics

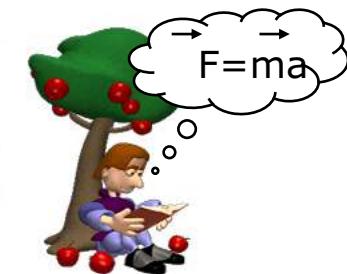
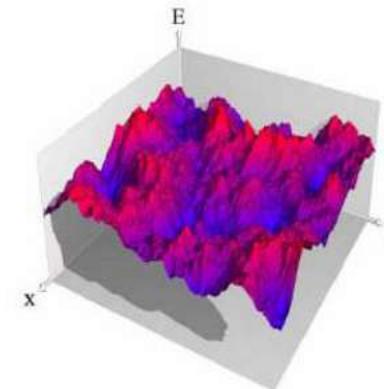
$$E_T = E_c + V = \text{cste}$$

$$E_c = \frac{3}{2} NkT = \frac{1}{2} mv^2$$



**Empirical Force Fields & programs**  
(Gromos, NAMD, Amber, Charmm...)

$$\begin{aligned} V = & \sum_{\text{bonds}} k_b (b - b_0)^2 + \sum_{\text{angles}} k_\theta (\theta - \theta_0)^2 + \sum_{\text{dihedrals}} k_\phi [1 + \cos(n\phi - \delta)] \\ & + \sum_{\text{impropers}} k_\omega (\omega - \omega_0)^2 + \sum_{\text{Urey-Bradley}} k_u (u - u_0)^2 \\ & + \sum_{\text{nonbonded}} \epsilon \left[ \left( \frac{R_{\min_{ij}}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - \left( \frac{R_{\min_{ij}}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right] + \frac{q_i q_j}{\epsilon r_{ij}} \end{aligned}$$

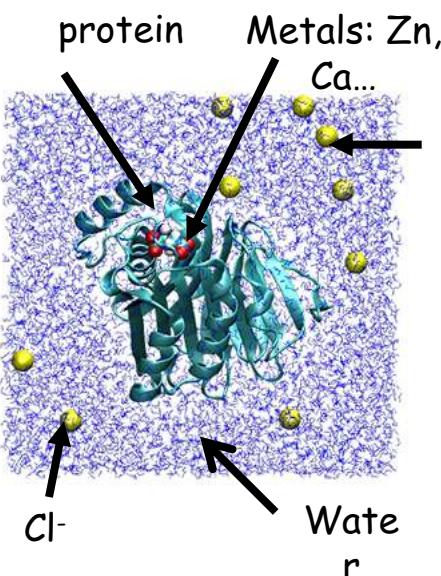


$$\mathbf{r}_i(t) \rightarrow \mathbf{r}_i(t + \delta t)$$

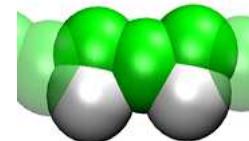
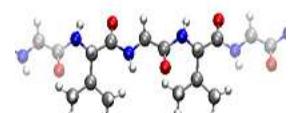
$10^{-15}\text{s} \rightarrow 7\text{-}10 \text{ orders of magnitude}$

$\rightarrow N \text{ atoms}, N^2 \text{ Memory}, N^3 \text{ time} \rightarrow \text{CPU \& GPU}$

➤ Local motion of peptides and proteins

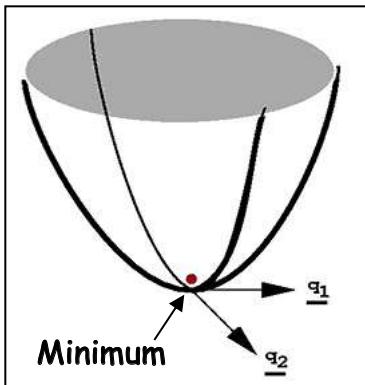


Coarse-grained  
OPEP, Martini



➤ Longer simulations and larger systems, but simplified !

# Some other methodologies...



$$H = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x_1 \partial x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2} & \cdots & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x_1 \partial x_n} \\ \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x_2 \partial x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x_2 \partial x_2} & \cdots & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x_2 \partial x_n} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x_n \partial x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x_n \partial x_2} & \cdots & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x_n \partial x_n} \end{pmatrix}$$

→ CPU & GPU

## Normal Modes Analysis

Analytical solving of  
the equations of motion  
eigenvalues = frequencies  
eigenvectors = modes

Global motions of proteins

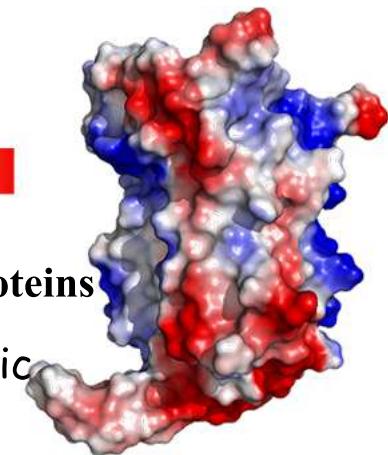
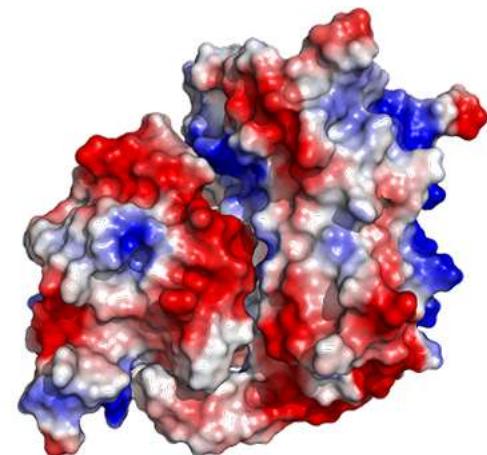
➤ Functional motions

## Docking

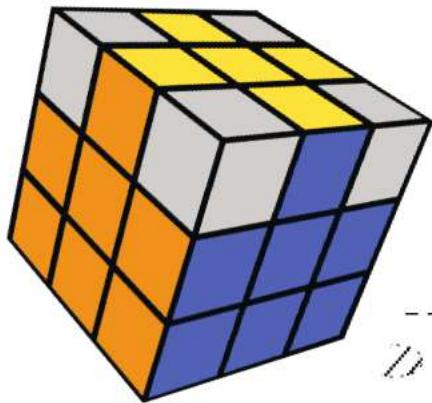


➤ Interactions ligands/proteins & proteins/proteins

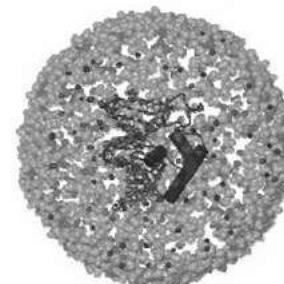
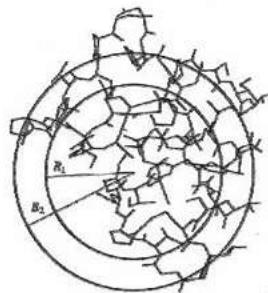
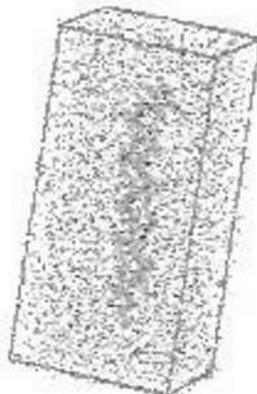
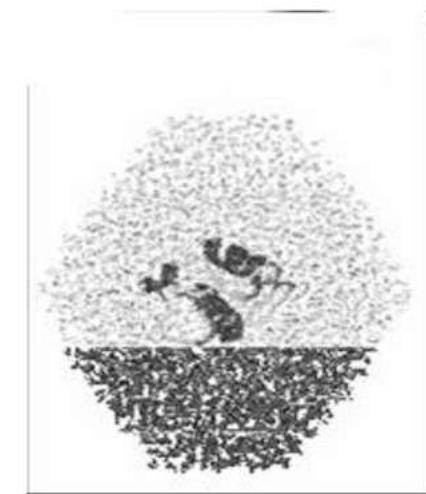
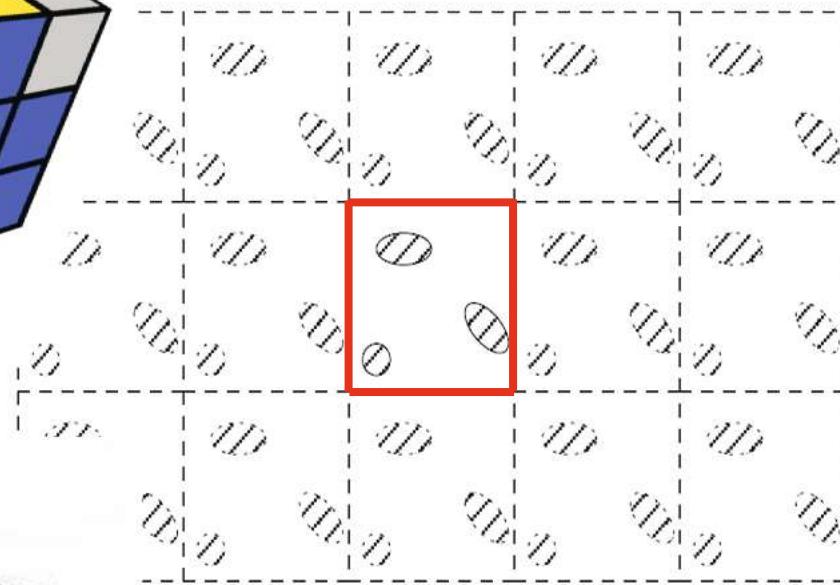
Surfaces + Electrostatic + Hydrophobic  
Complementarities



# Molecular Modeling and Numerical Simulations



→ Simulation of Avogadro number



# Tools to reach our goals...

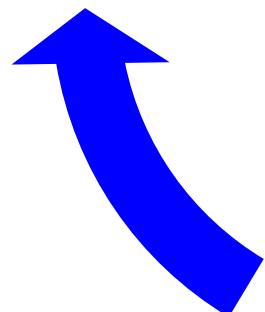
- Pymol
- VMD
- Chimera
- Yasara...

to  
visualize



to  
model

- Schrödinger
- MOE
- OneAngström
- Modeller
- iTasser...



to  
calculate



- NAMD
- CHARMM
- GROMOS
- AMBER
- Thinker...

# Application to Elastin peptides: Elastokins

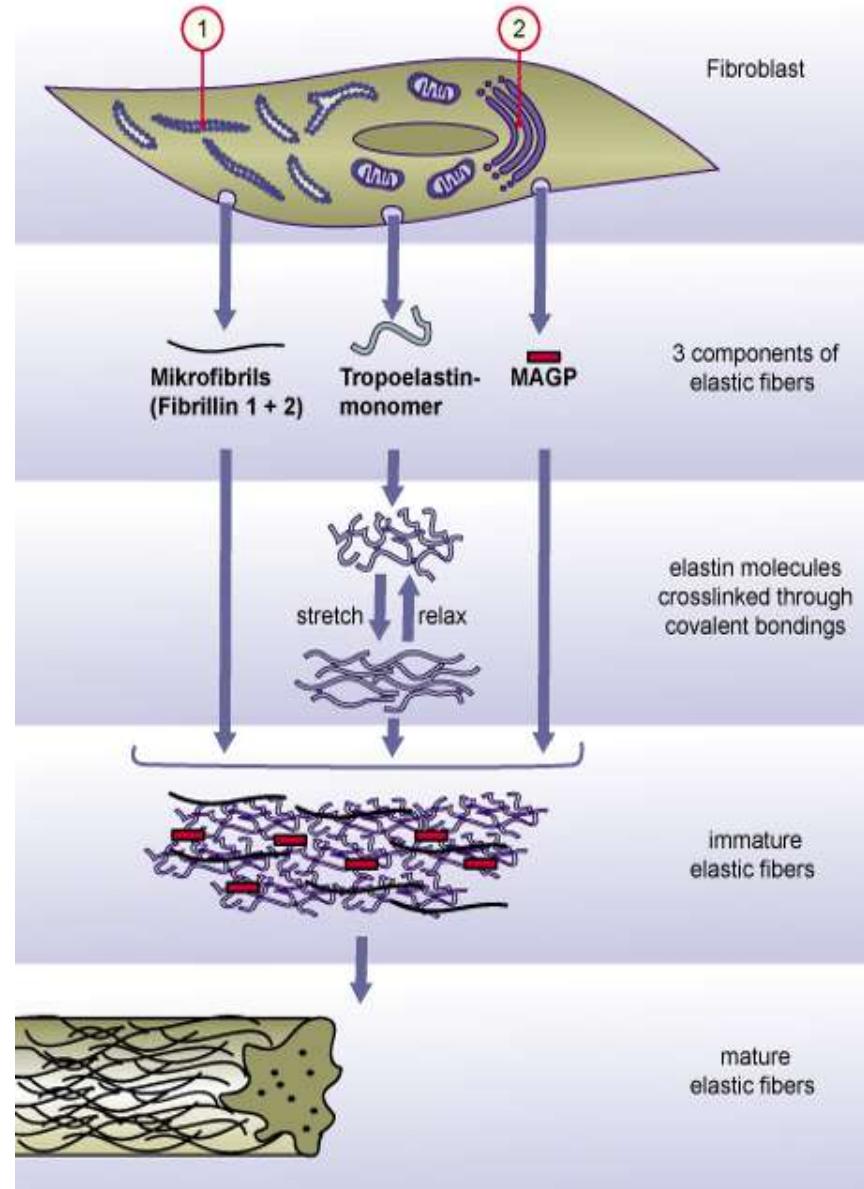
# Elastin

- The elastic fibers

- Endow elasticity to tissues
- Insoluble elastin (> 90 %),
- microfibrils (Fibrillins, MAGPs, ...)

- Elastogenesis

- Important during the development and growth of elastic tissues
- Very limited otherwise
- Lack of elastin repair



# Human Tropoelastin

- 762 AA, 35 exons, 2.4 kb cDNA

- alternative splicing ⇒ various isoforms

221 G
164 A
98 V
96 P
45 L
35 K
16 I
16 F
15 Y
14 S

82%

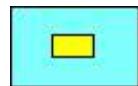
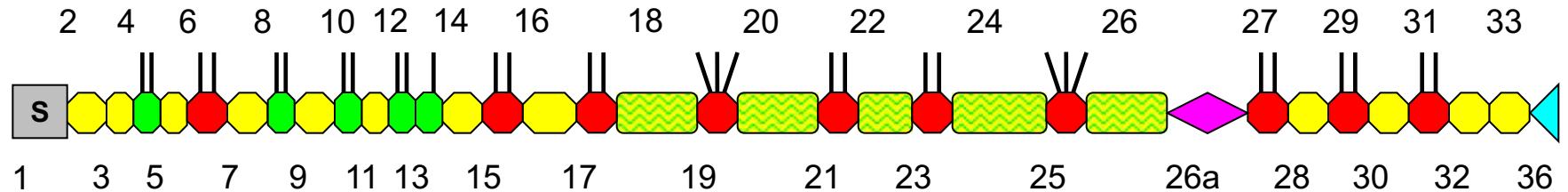
11 T
10 Q
10 R
5 E
3 D
2 C
1 H
0 W
0 M
0 N

Repetitive sequences  
of elastin

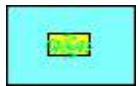
XPG  
VPG  
VPGG  
VPGVG  
VGVAPG  
PGVGVAPGV

XGG  
LGGVL  
VGGLG  
VGGVG

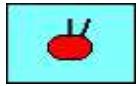
# Structural Domains of Elastin



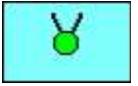
**Hydrophobic Domain - Glycine rich**



**Hydrophobic Domain - Proline rich**



**Crossing Domain KA (Lys-Ala)**



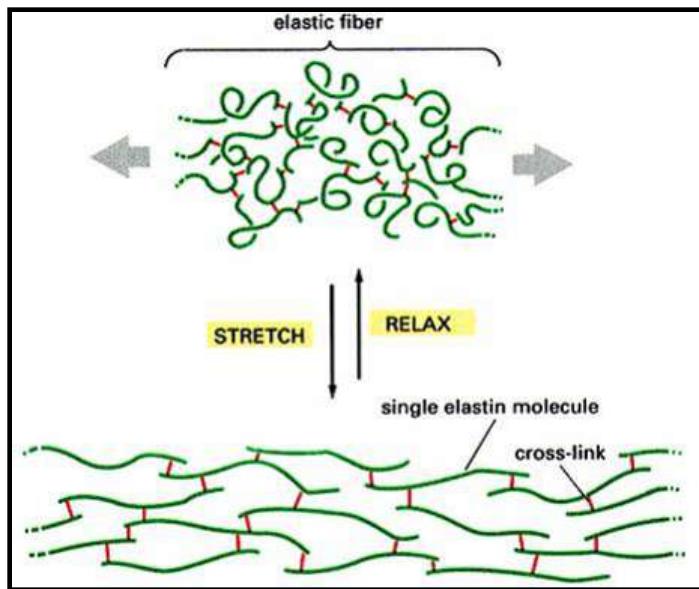
**Crossing Domain KP (Lys-Pro)**



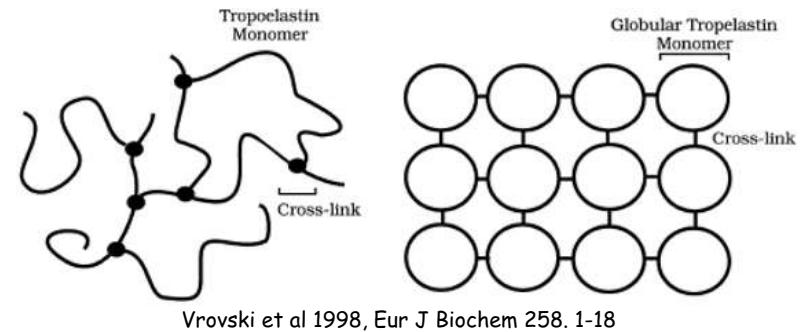
**C-terminal Domain**

# How does elastin work ?

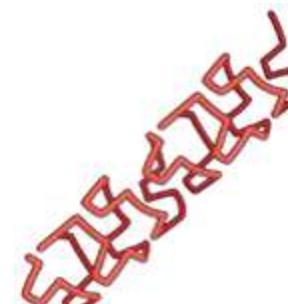
## Proposed models of the structure



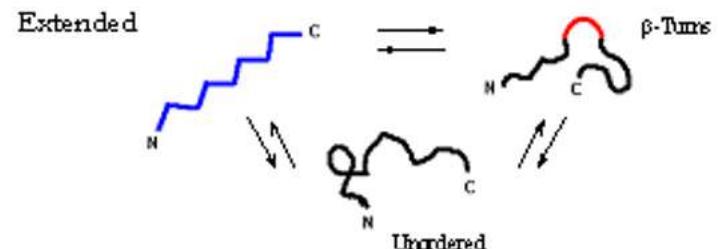
[www.cellatlas.net/book/10/images/image011.jpg](http://www.cellatlas.net/book/10/images/image011.jpg)



Vrovska et al 1998, Eur J Biochem 258. 1-18

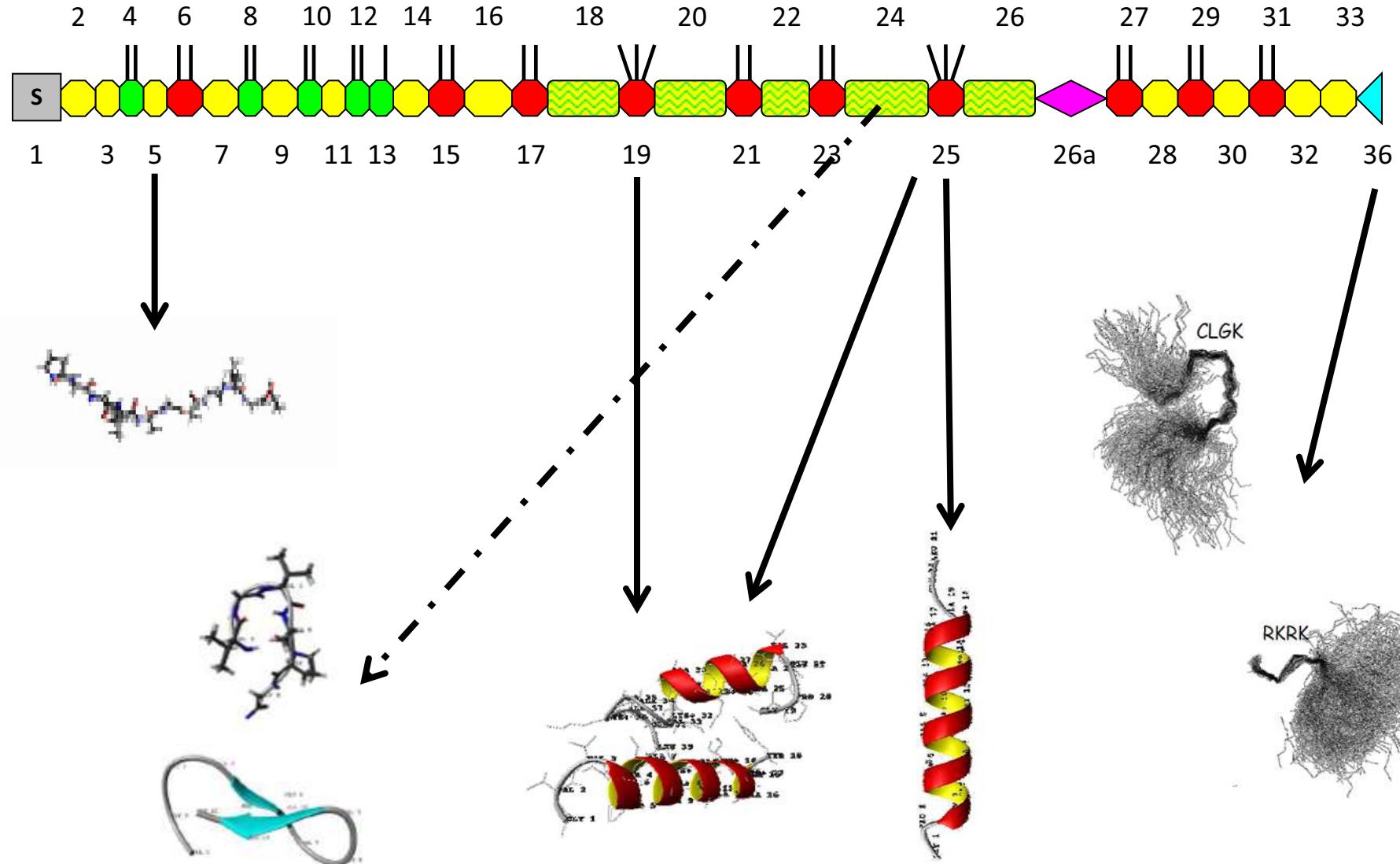


Pr D Urry's model



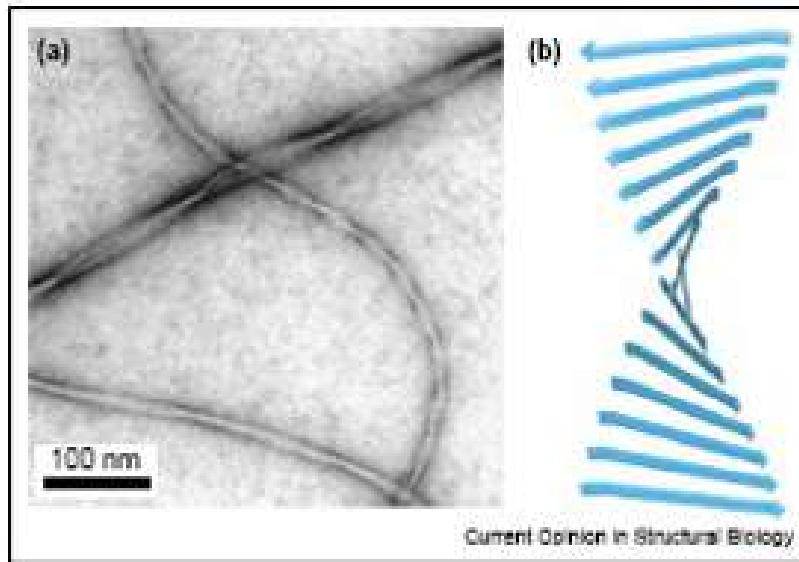
Tamburro, Bocchicchio, Pepe, Université de Potenza,  
Italie

# Structural Domains of Elastin

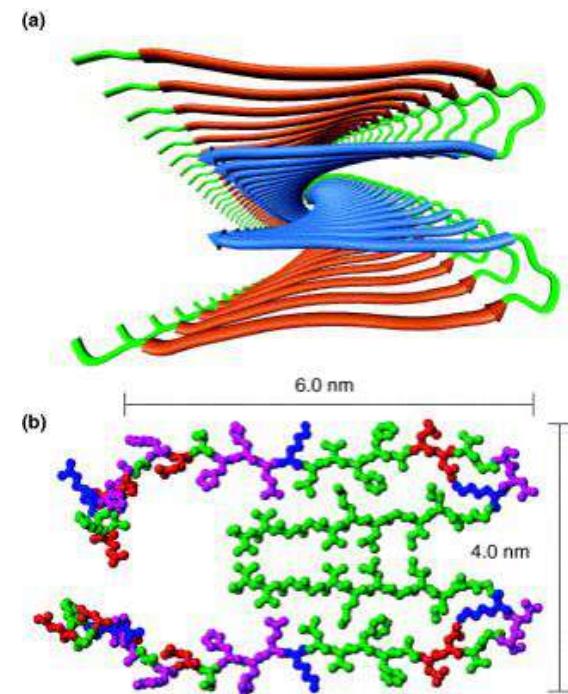


# Amyloid

Amyloid fibrils are a pathogenic state of proteins associated with tissue degeneration in numerous debilitating diseases, including Alzheimer's disease, transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, and type II diabetes.



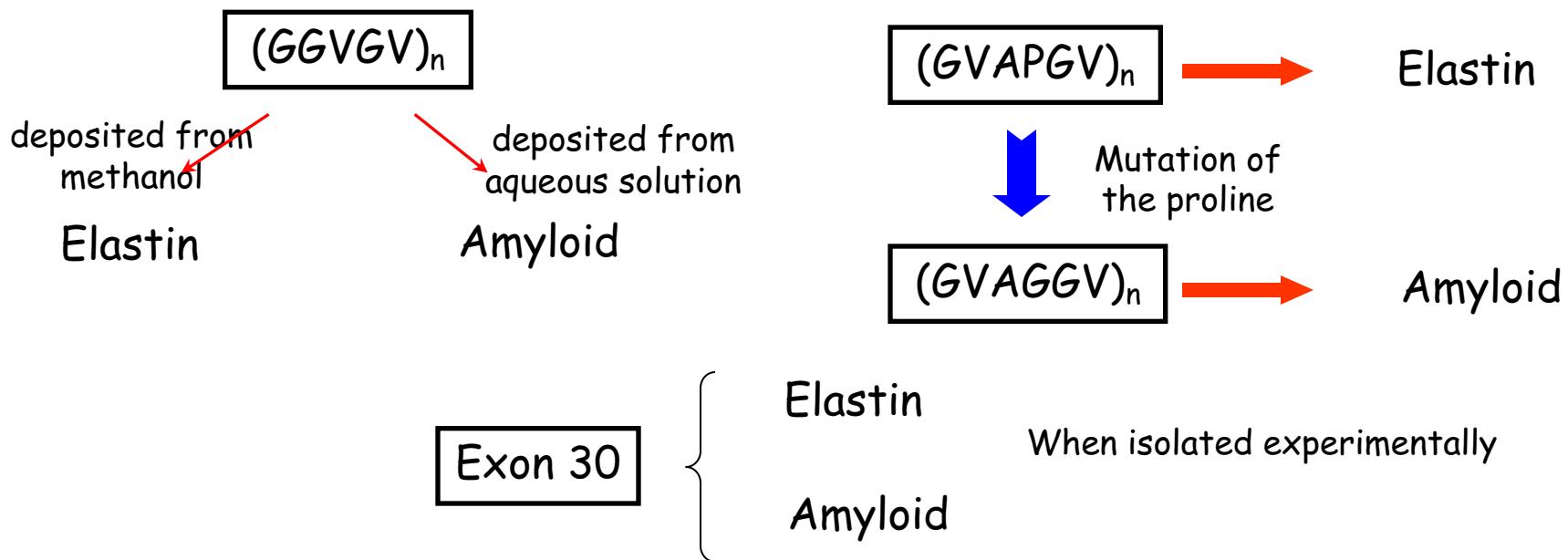
Tycko R. Current Opinion in Structural Biology 14, 2004, 96-103



- Proposed structure → Cross Beta Structure
- beta strands perpendicular to the long axis of the fiber
  - hydrogen bond of the backbone parallel to the long axis.

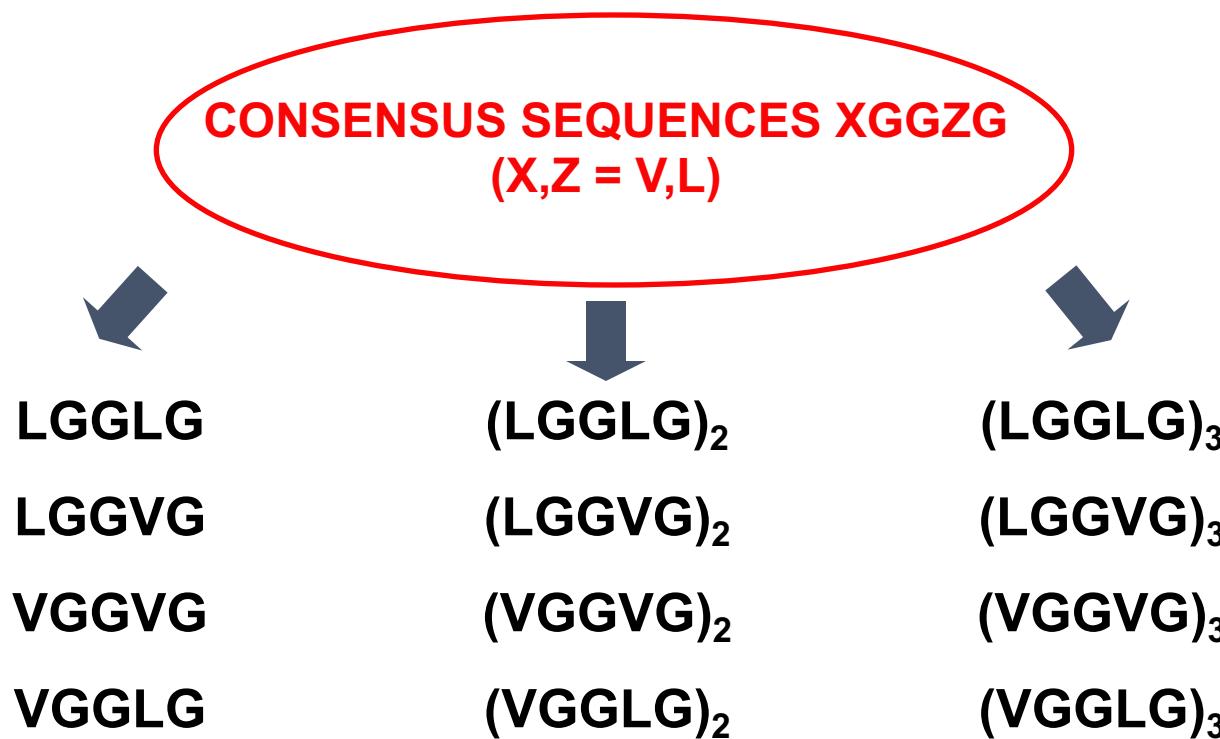
# Why Study Elastin and Amyloid ?

- Despite the importance of elastin as a structural biopolymer, the molecular basis underlying its distinct attributes remains poorly understood.
- The hydrophobic domain → give rise to self organization and to an intriguing high-temperature of coacervation.



➤ Where is the separation between elastin and amyloid ?

# Single chain simulations



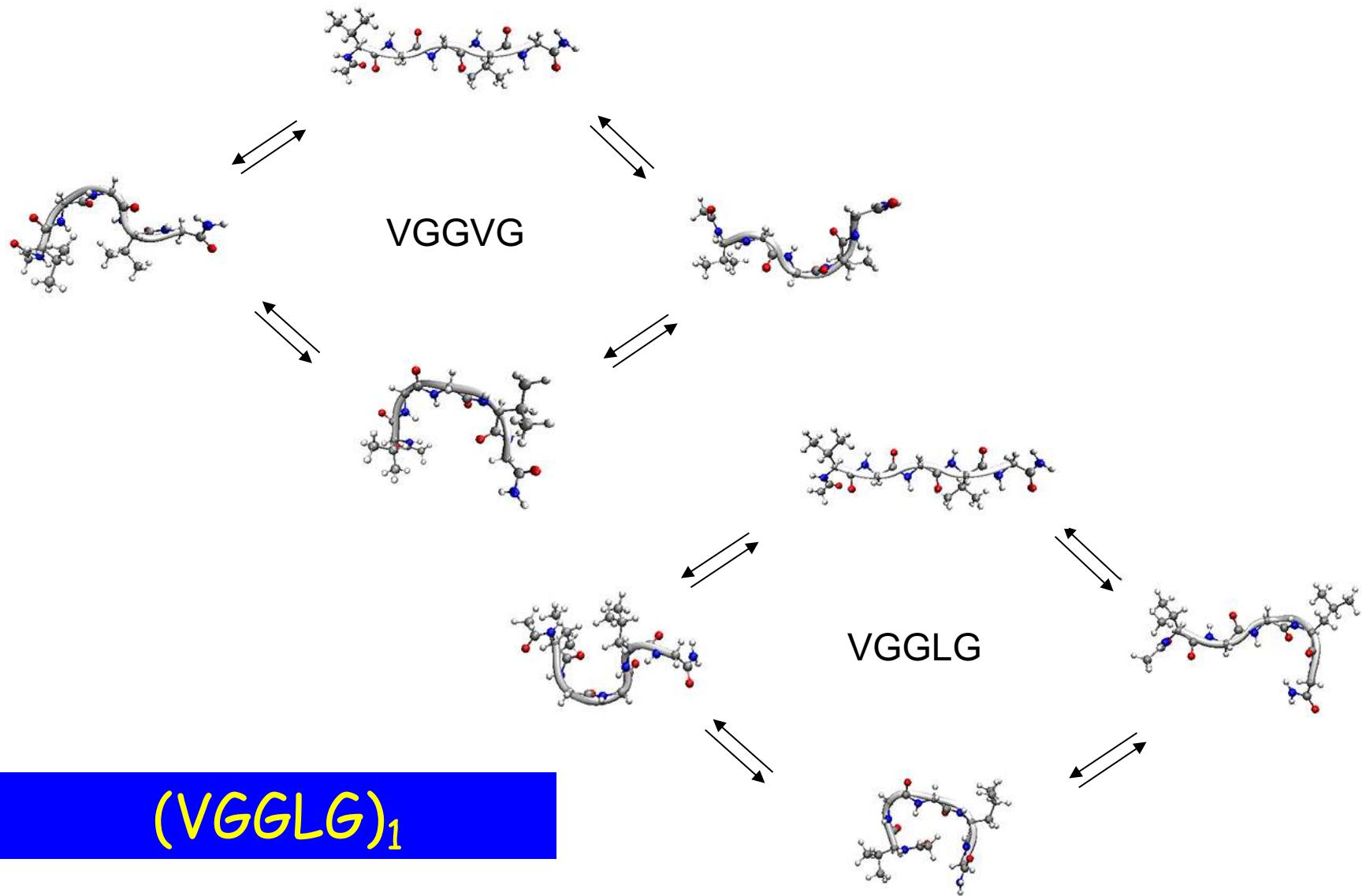
Solvatation de 13 Å (xyz) : 10000-50000 atomes,

Conditions périodiques aux limites,

Simulations dans l'ensemble NPT à 298K,

50 ns de simulation - 10000 structures.

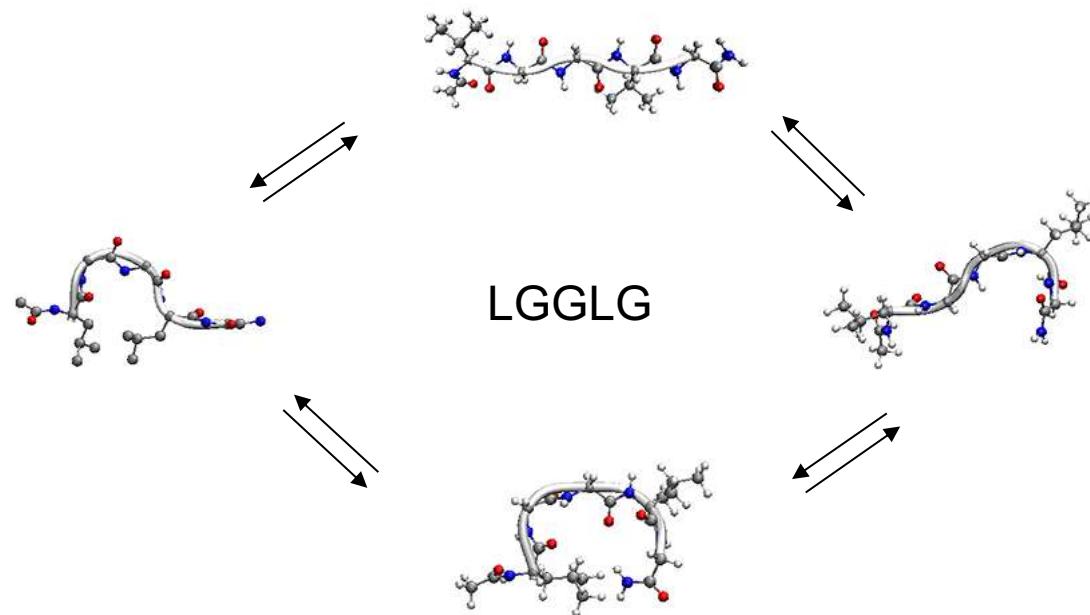
$(VGGVG)_1$



# $(LGGLG)_1$

~25% of the structures display turns

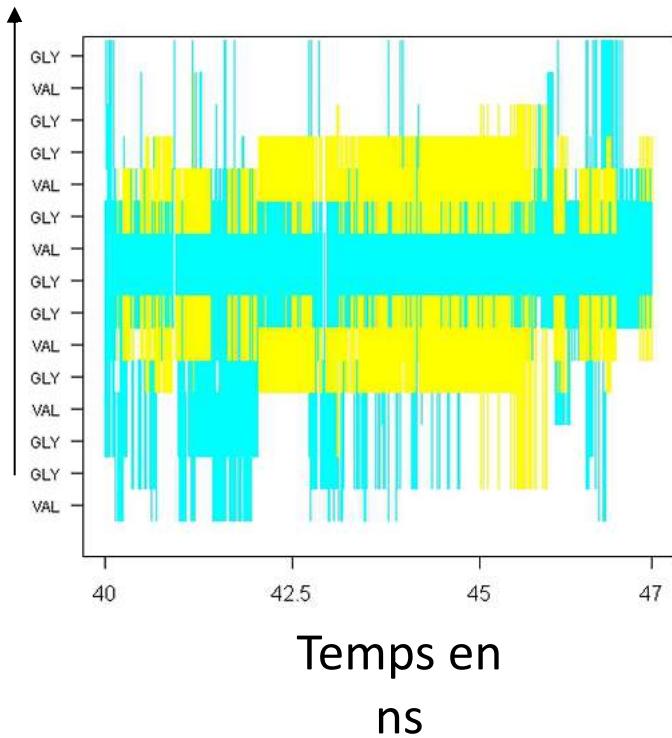
Evidence of sliding turns



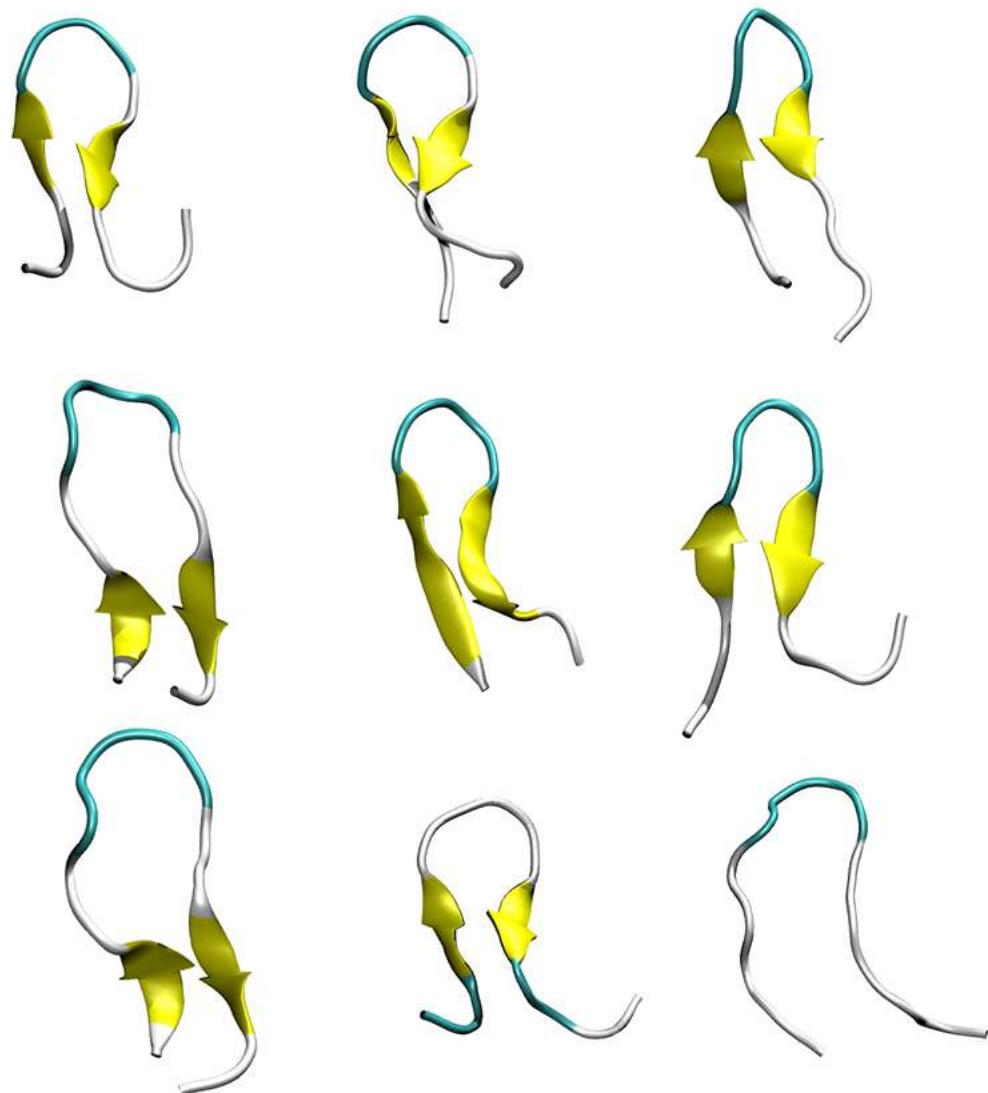
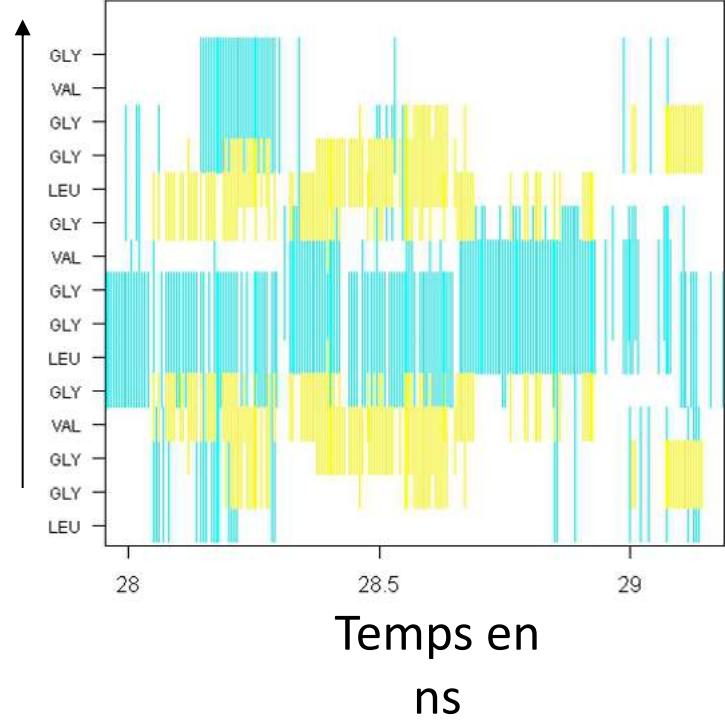
High flexibility due to the glycines

Equilibrium between extended and close conformations.

(VGGVG)<sub>3</sub>

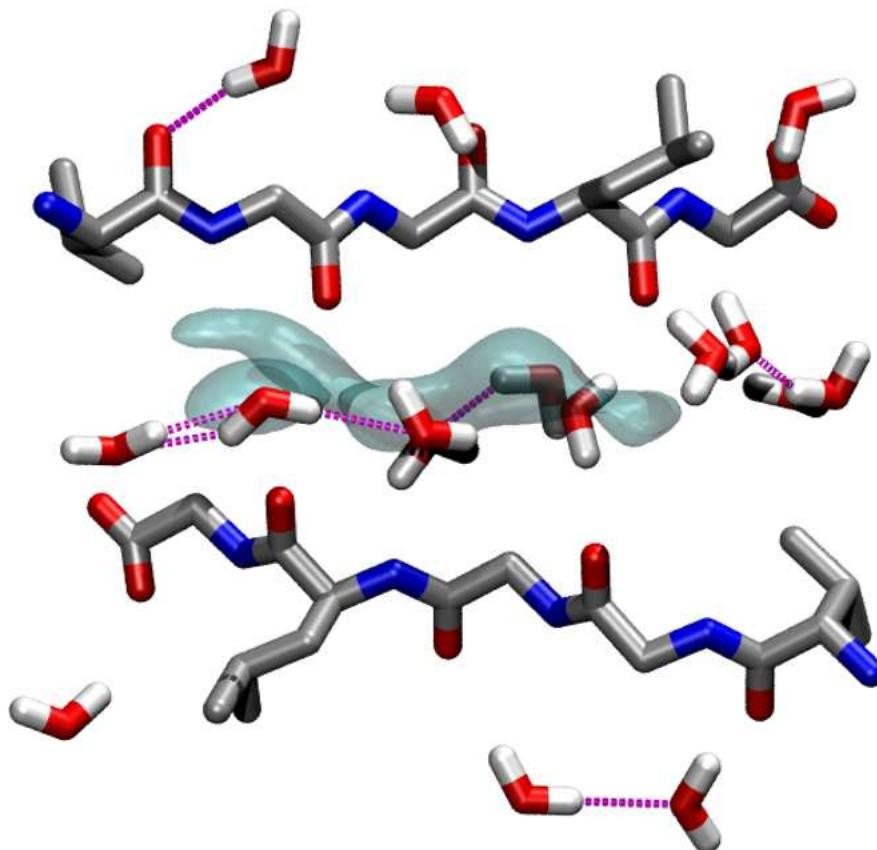


# (LGGVG)<sub>3</sub>



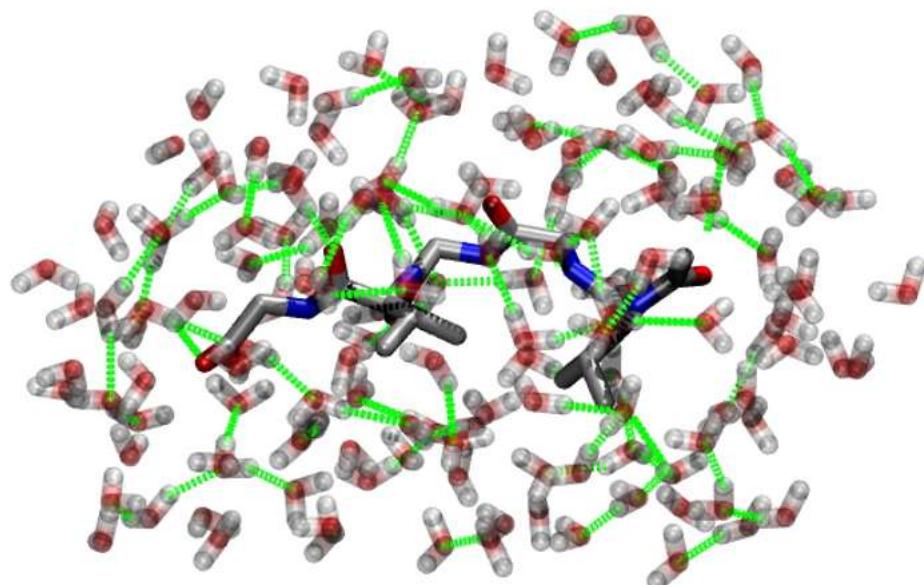
# ELP Solvation

2 peptides VGGLG

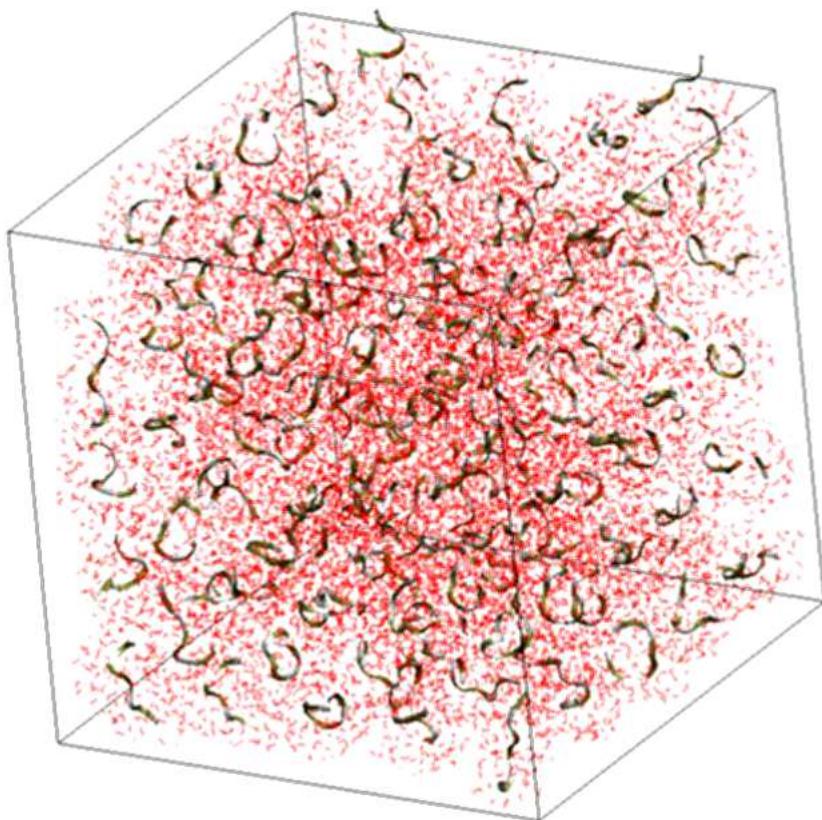


# ELP Solvation

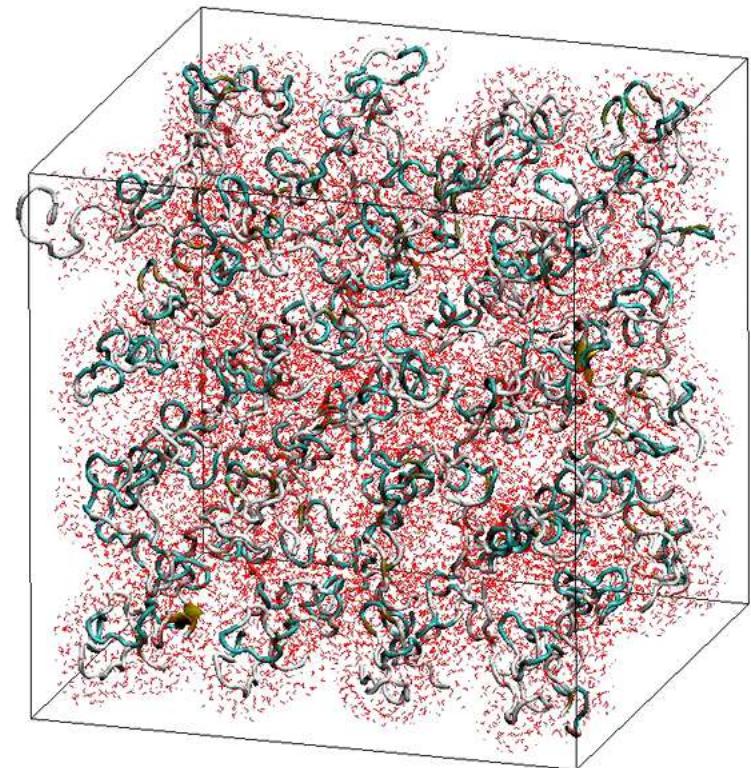
2 peptides VGGVG



# Multichain simulations



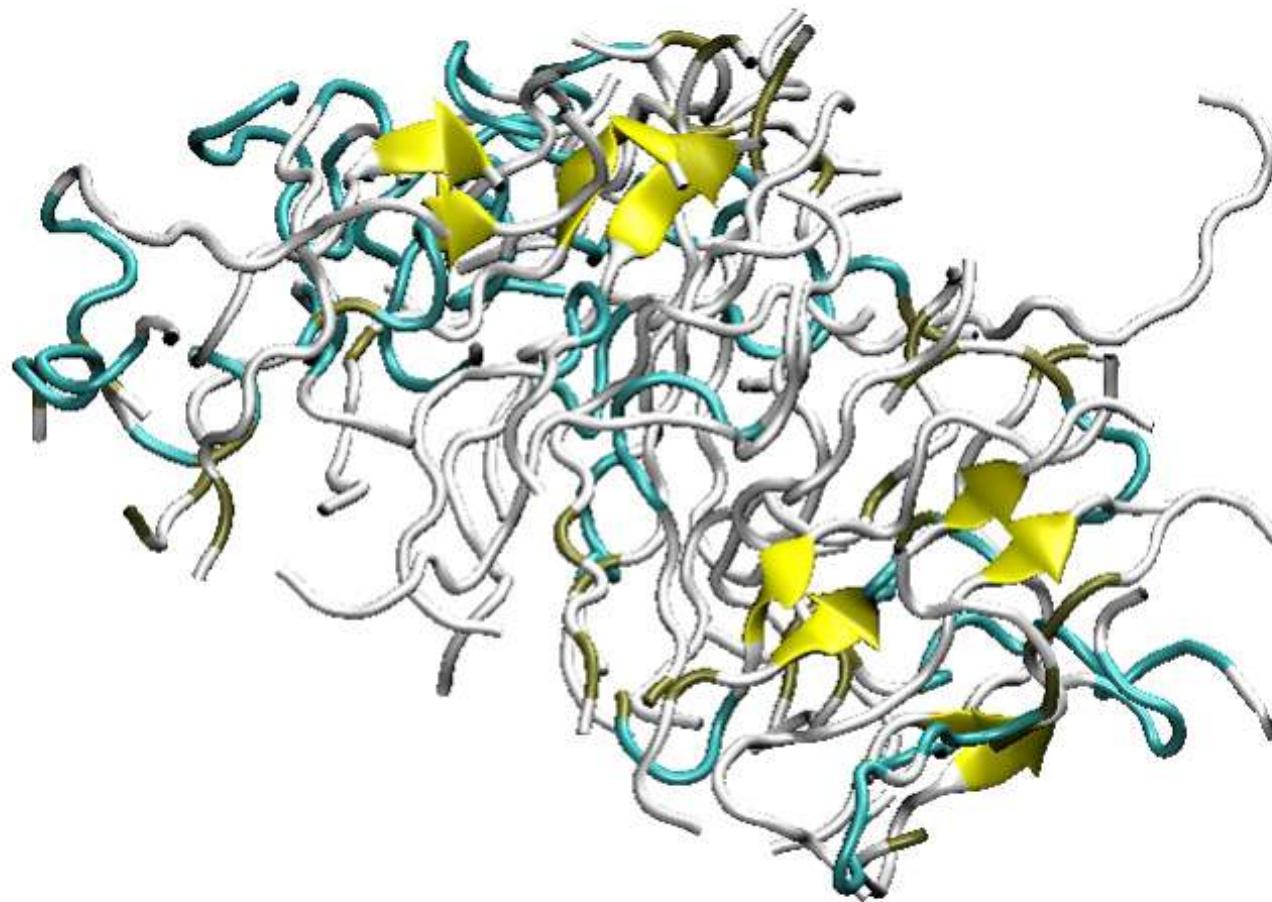
125 *GVGVPGVG*



64  $(GVPGV)_7$

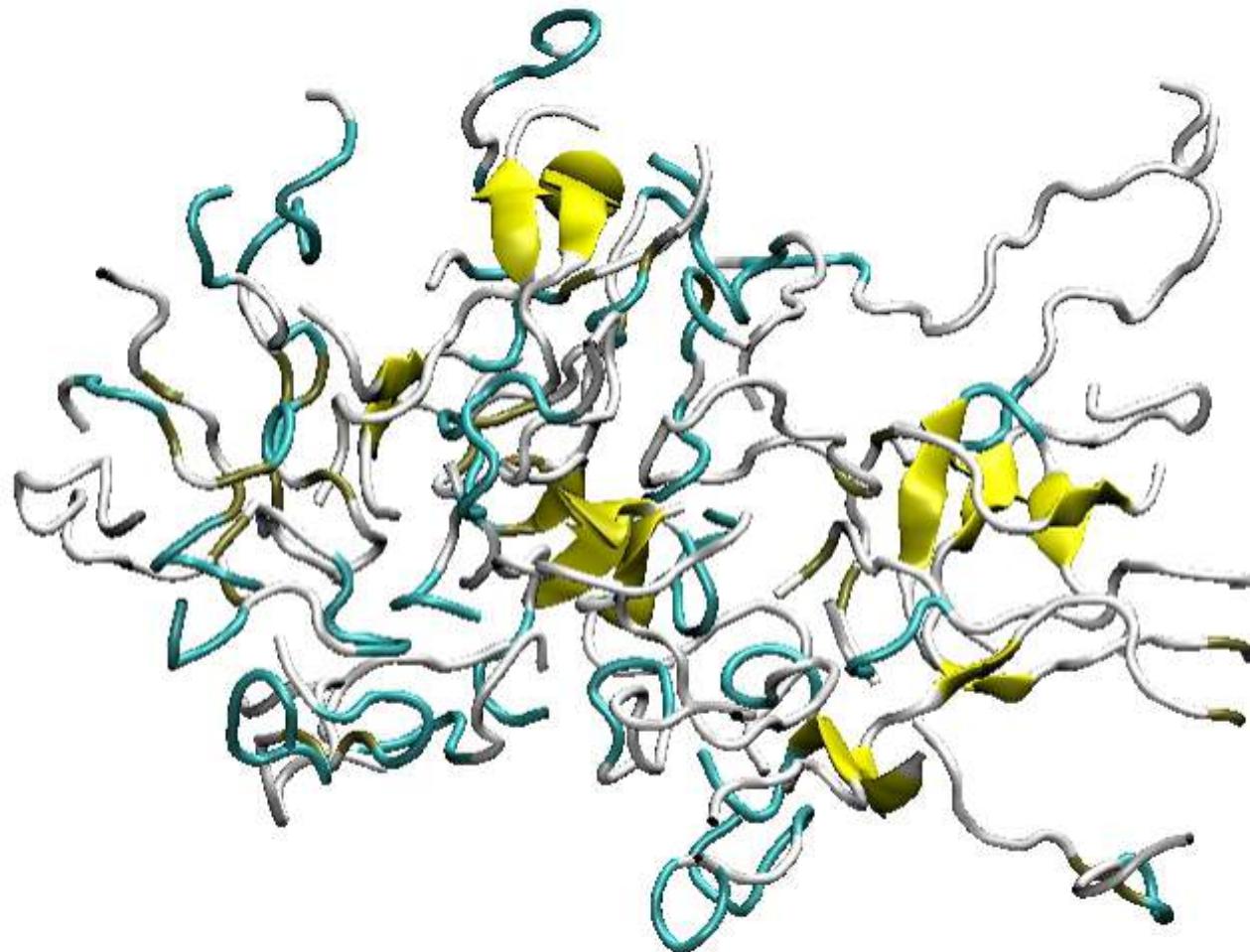
# Multichain simulations

$(VGGLG)_3$



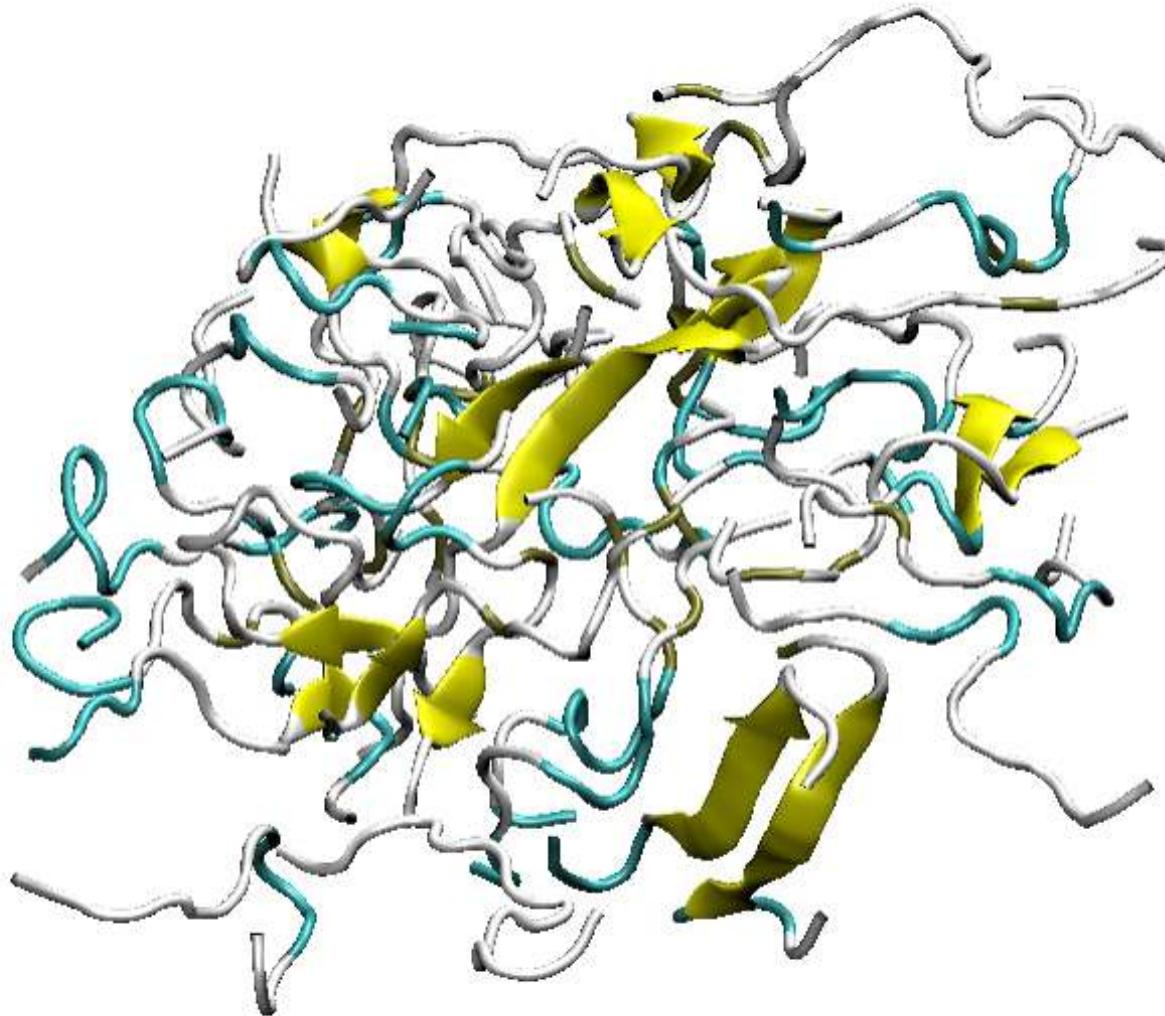
# Multichain simulations

$(VGGVG)_3$



# Multichain simulations

$(VGGVG)_3$  - antiparallel starting point



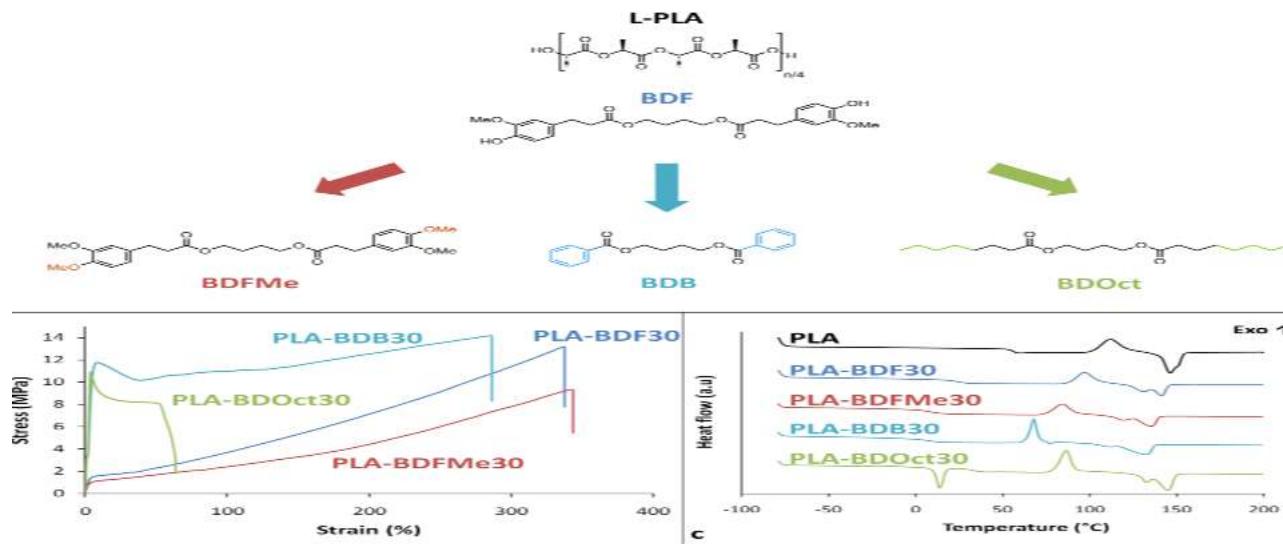
# Interaction of PLA with a biosourced additive

Collaboration Pr Florent Allais & Antoine Gallois, ABI Chair

# PLA + derivatives of Ferulic Acid

- Poly-L-L-lactic acid (PLA) is a recognized bioplastic but it has a low flexibility and a poor toughness, restricting its use
- A ferulic acid-based biosourced additive blended with polylactic acid leads to a transparent elastomeric material with shape-memory behavior, self-assembles during a simple and non-reactive hot-melt process
- BDF design allow weak interactions and molecular flexibility

BDF Bis-O-feruloyl-1,4-butanediol

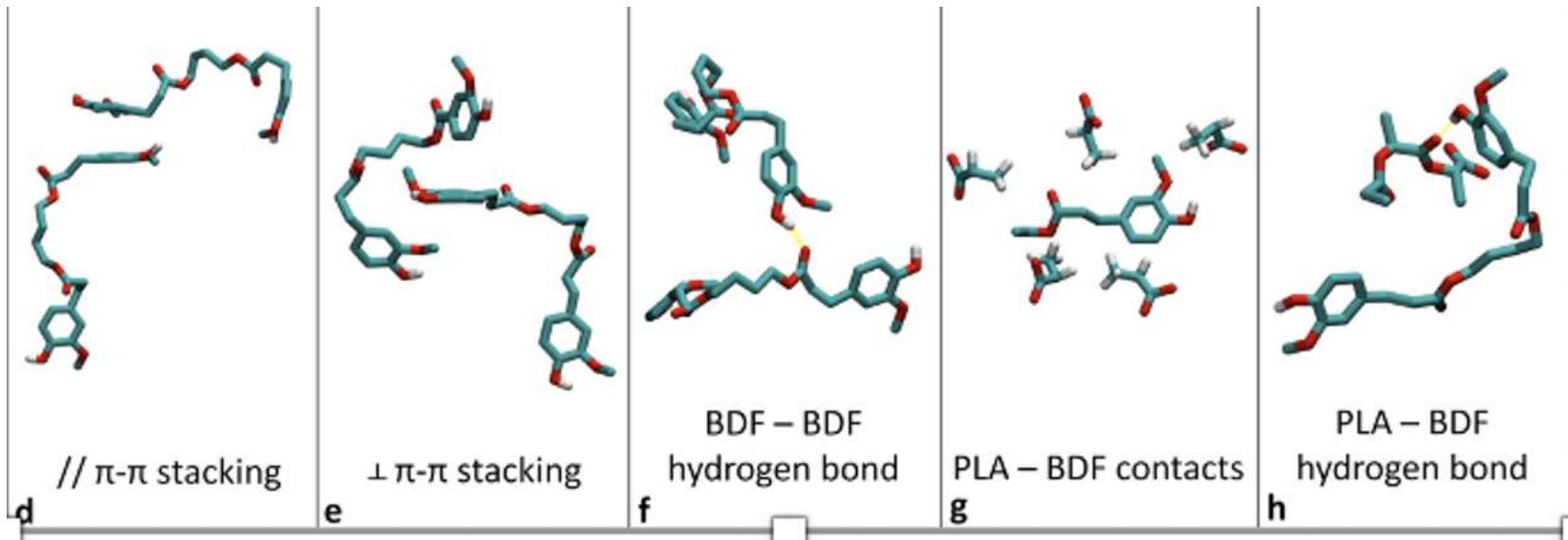


# PLA + derivatives of Ferulic Acid

Elastomeric properties are reached when there is at least 30% of BDF

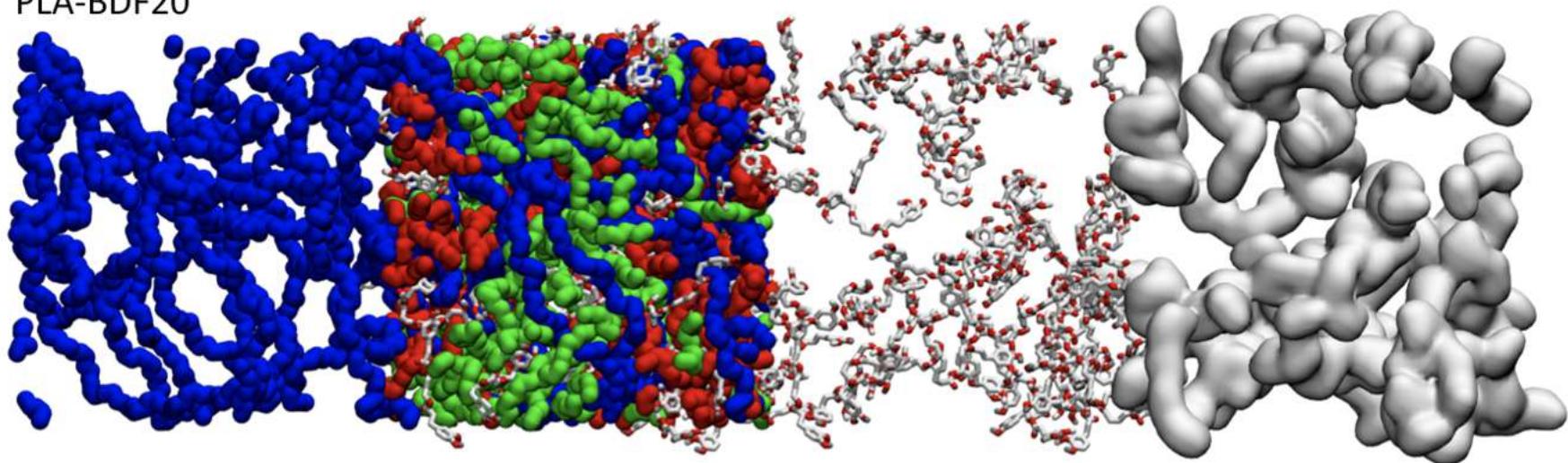
MD simulations 0, 20 and 30 % BDF

		PLA-BDF20	PLA-BDF30
Number of $\pi$ - $\pi$ stacking per BDF	//	0.19	0.27
	$\perp$	0.41	0.58
Number of hydrogen bonds in BDF – BDF interactions		0.14	0.19
Number of hydrogen bonds in BDF – PLA interactions		0.43	0.36
Average BDF – BDF contacts		3.2	4.7
Average PLA – BDF contacts		15.8	13.1
Average PLA – PLA contacts		3.4	3.0

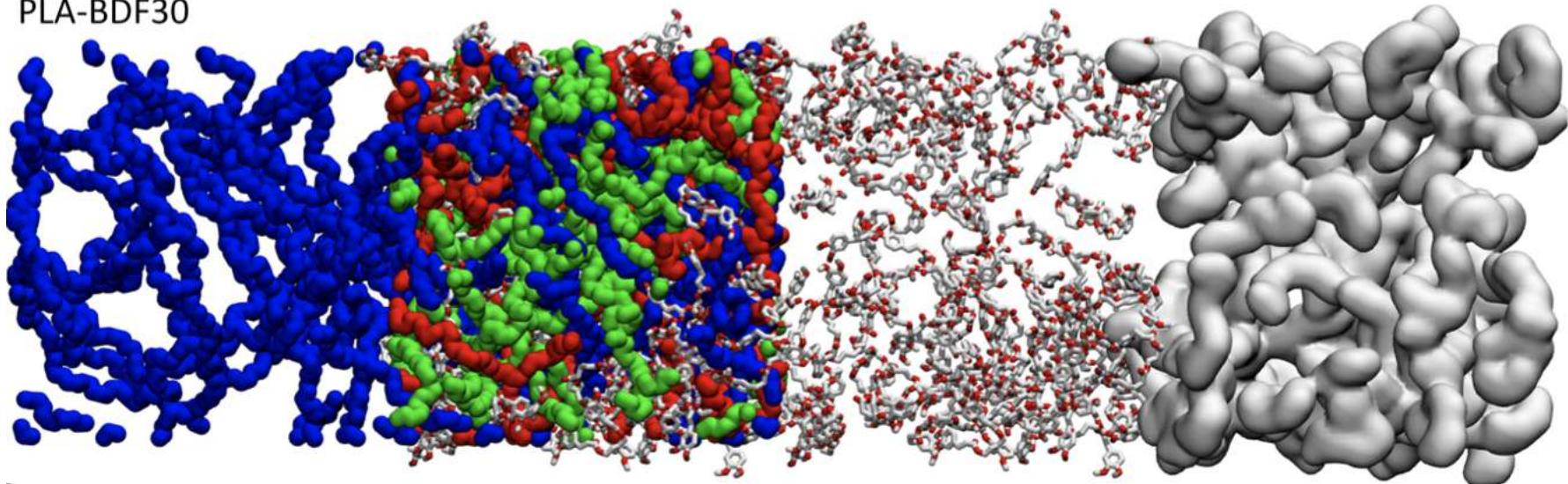


# PLA + derivatives of Ferulic Acid

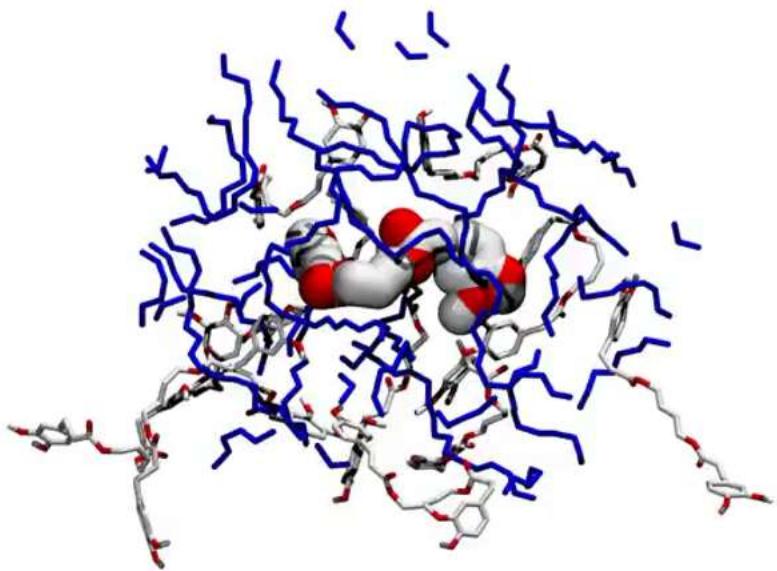
PLA-BDF20



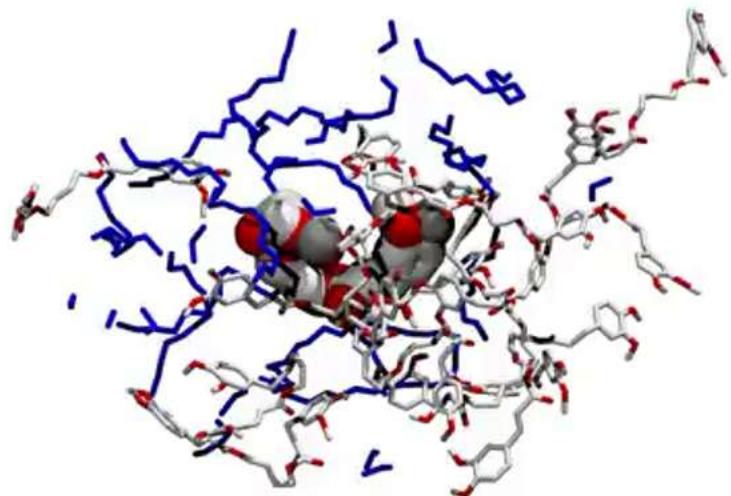
PLA-BDF30



# PLA + derivatives of Ferulic Acid

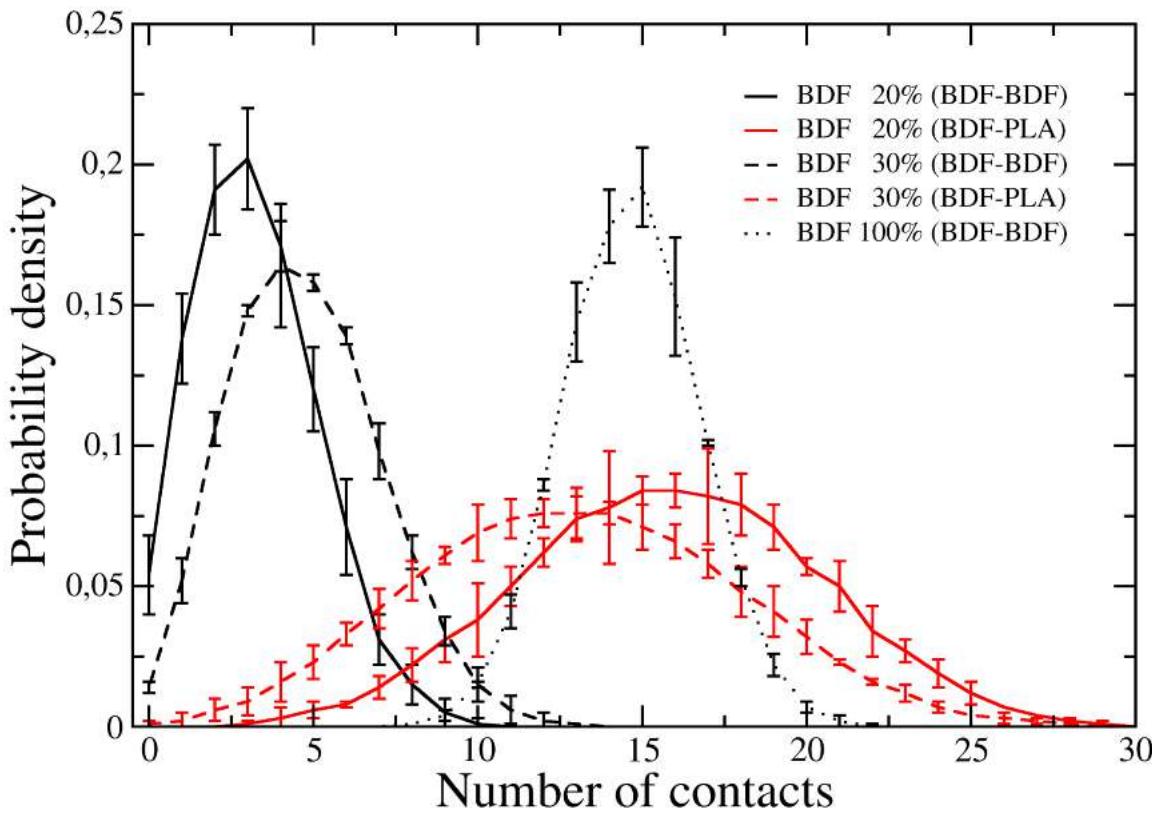


PLA-BDF20



PLA-BDF30

# PLA + derivatives of Ferulic Acid



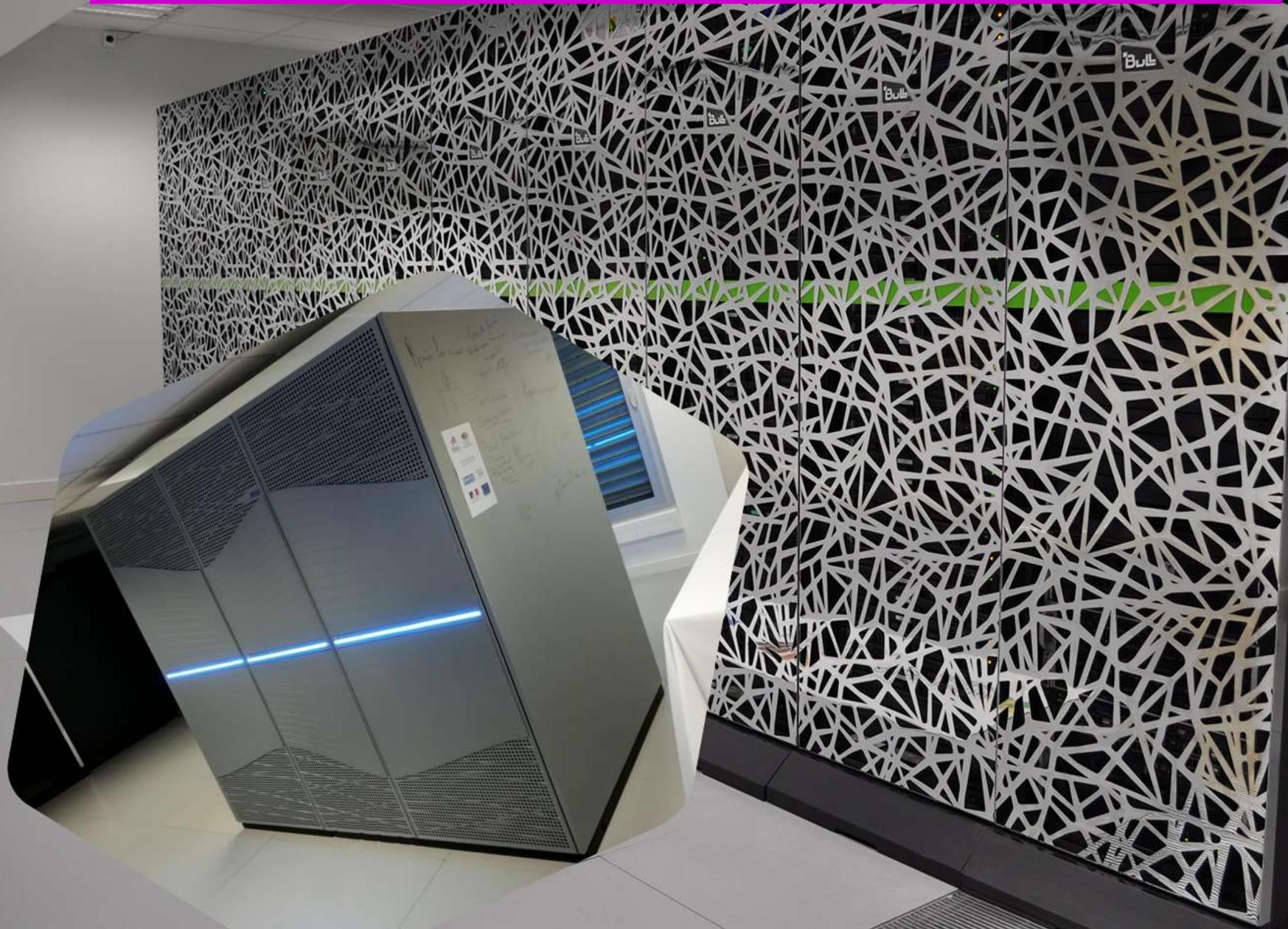
- BDF adopt a wide range of conformations, several BDF are isolated in PLA-BDF20
- while BDF clusters appears larger in PLA-BDF30

When the tension is released, the extended BDF molecules fold back to their original size and shape as well as PLA chains

What about the future...

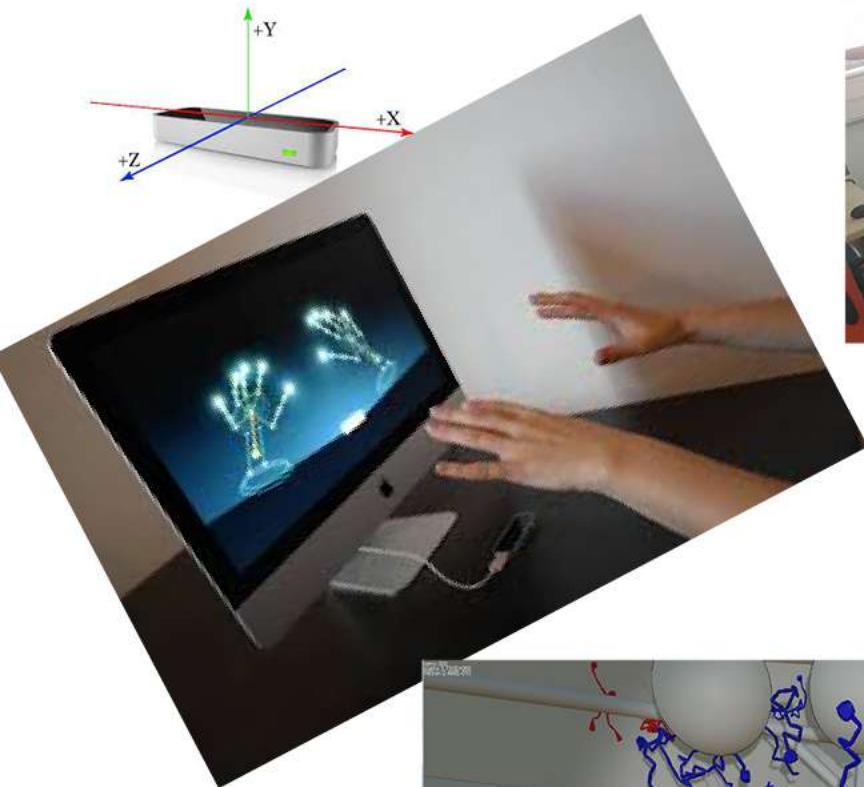
➔ Video games for the mesoscale?

# Now & Future

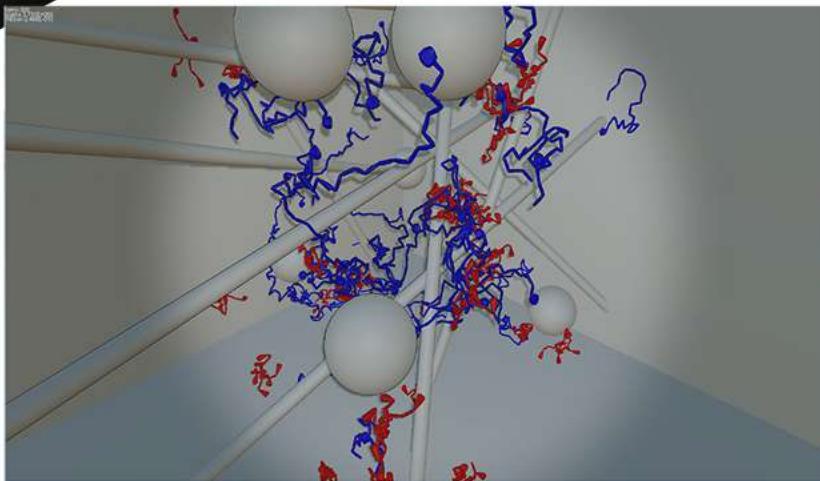


# Now & Future

## Augmented Reality



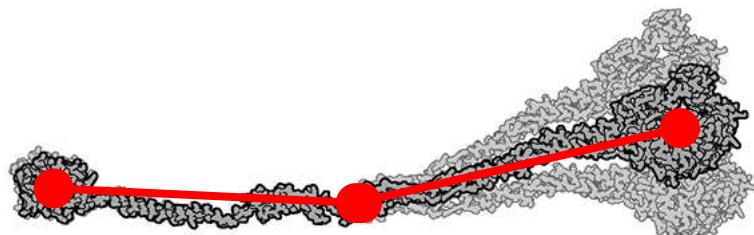
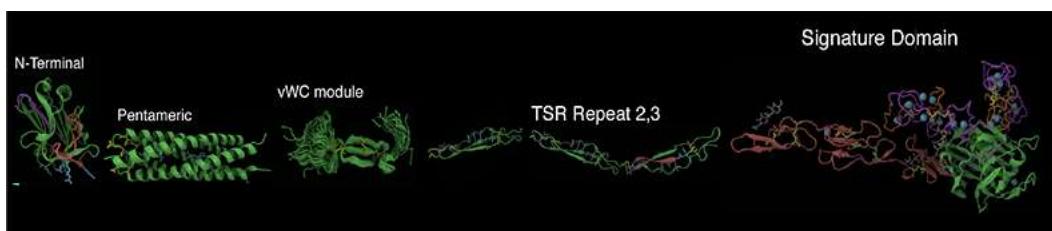
## Virtual Reality



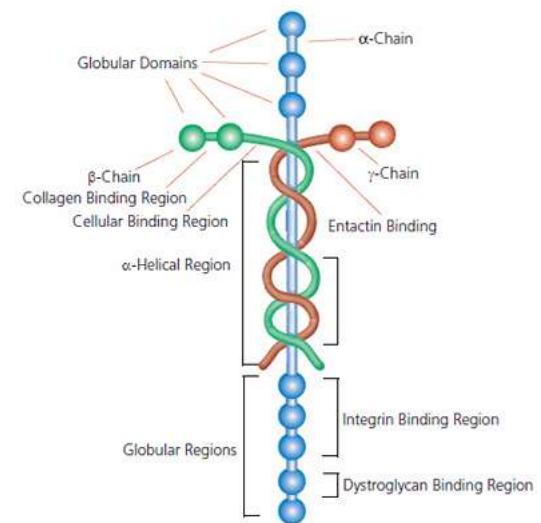
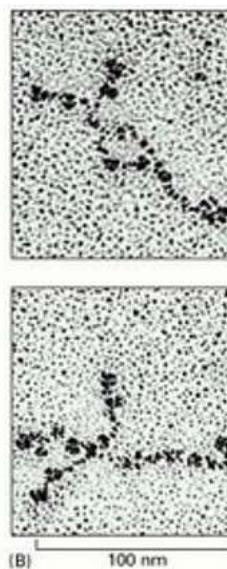
# Project of « mesoscope's tool »

Thrombospondin

Re-Building in a very simple way

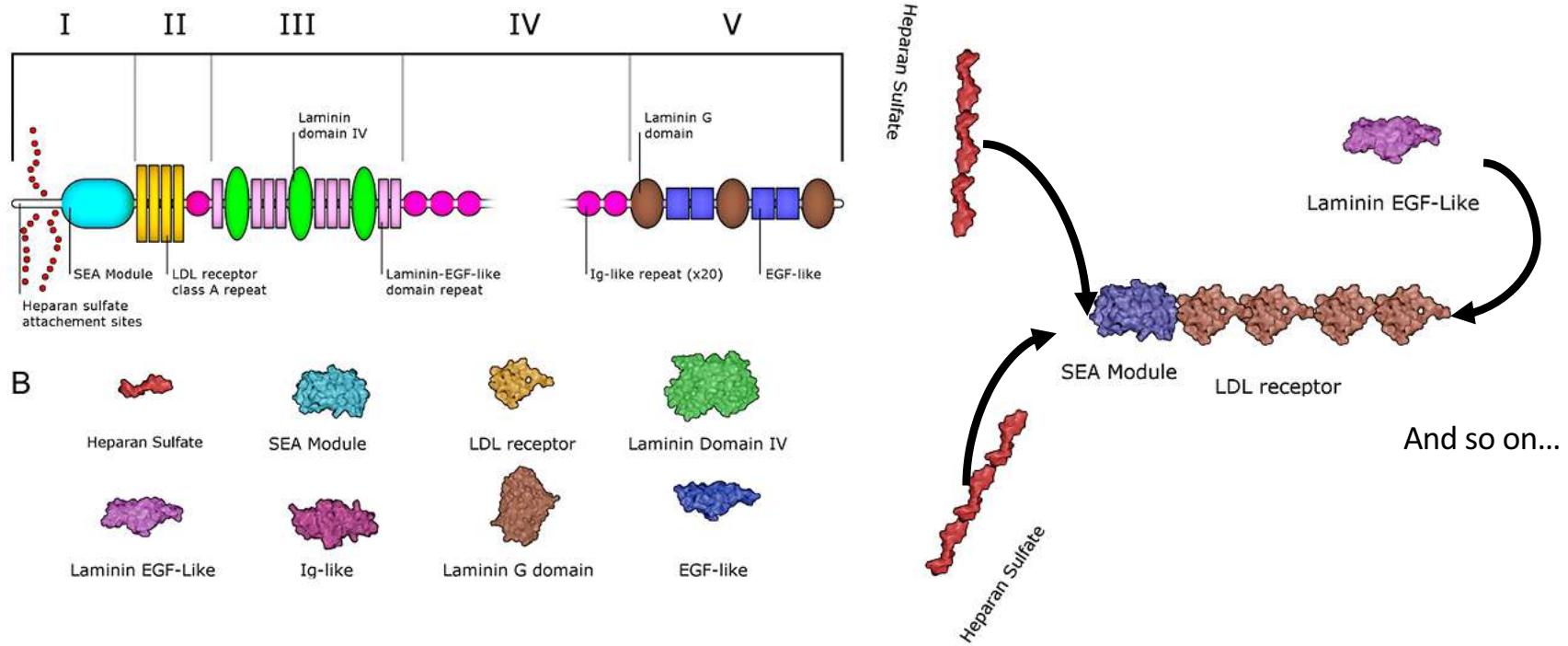


Laminin

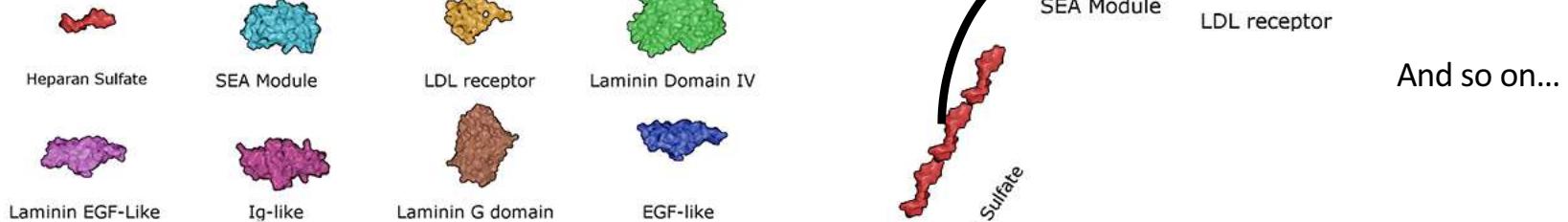


# Project of « mesoscope's tool »

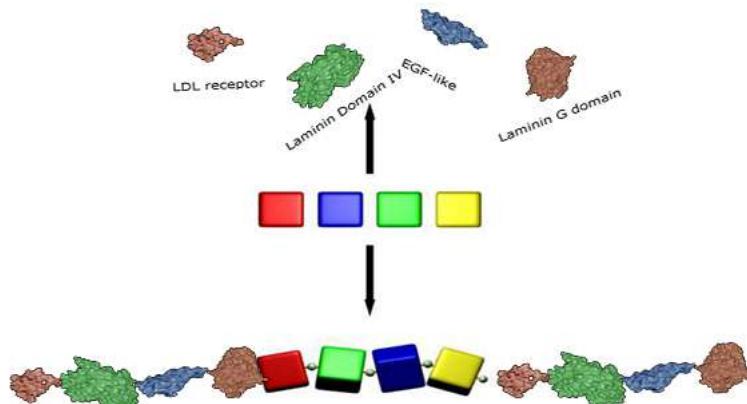
A



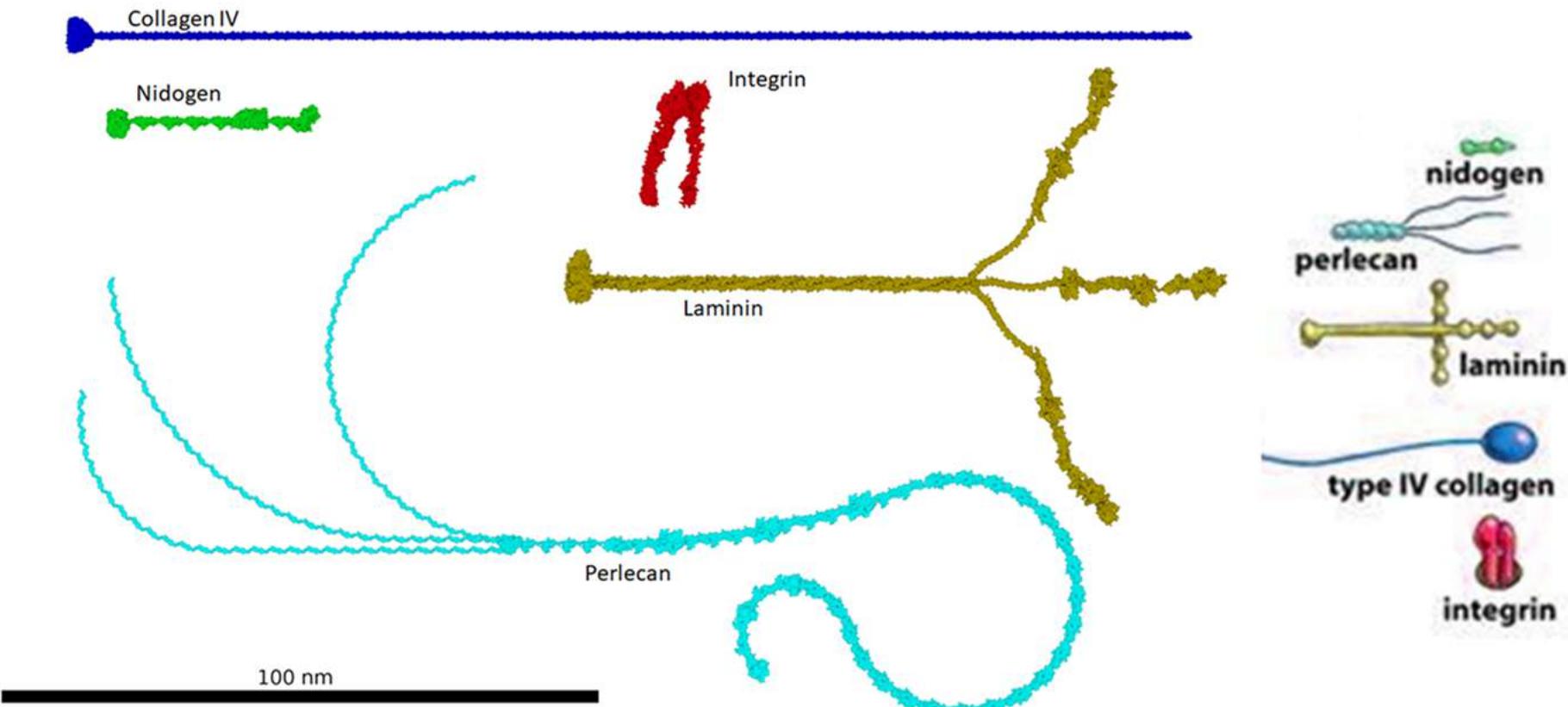
B



A rigid body approach...

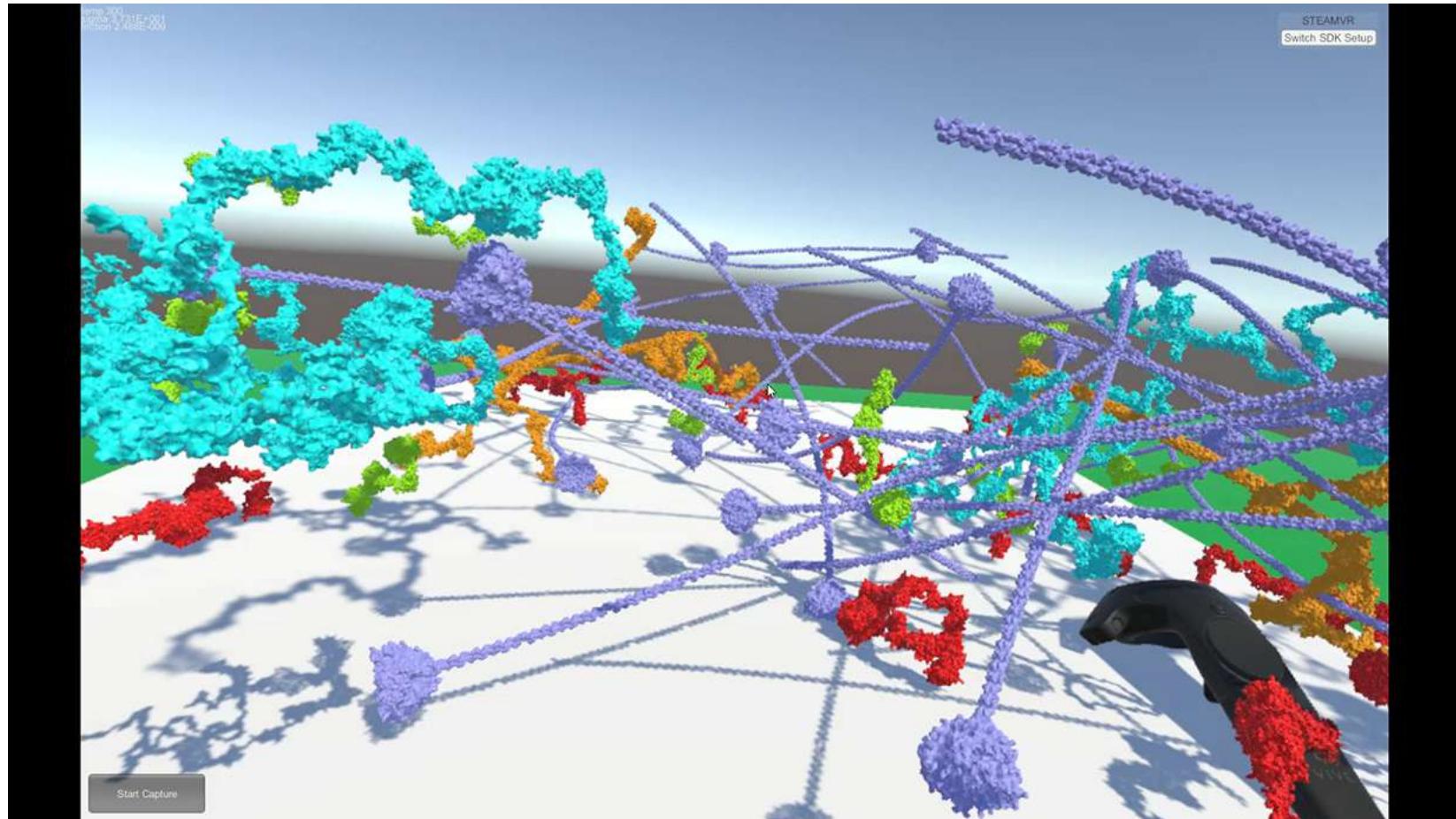


# Project of « mesoscope's tool »

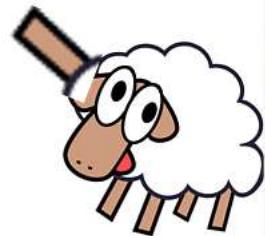


# Project of « mesoscope's tool »

The ECM's context...



# Some shortcuts!



... after

# Thanks to...

## MIME's team



**MEDyC CNRS unit  
SiRMa laboratory**



**Centre de Calcul régional  
Roméo**

<https://romeo.univ-reims.fr/>



**Centre Image**

<http://crestic.univ-reims.fr/centreimage/>

 **Plateforme de  
modélisation moléculaire**

<https://p3m.univ-reims.fr/>



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- Pr G Garnier, Melbourne, Australie
- Pr I Bochicchio, Pr A Pépé Potenza Italie
- Pr G Marletta Catane Italie

