

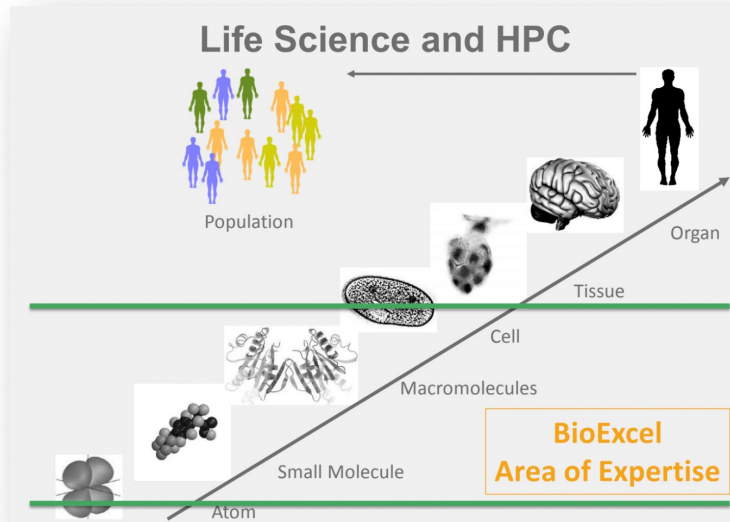
# BioExcel HPC Workflows: predictive power and its applications in pharmacology

**BioExcel Webinar, 2022-04-26**

Adam Hospital, Miłosz Wieczór, Federica Battistini

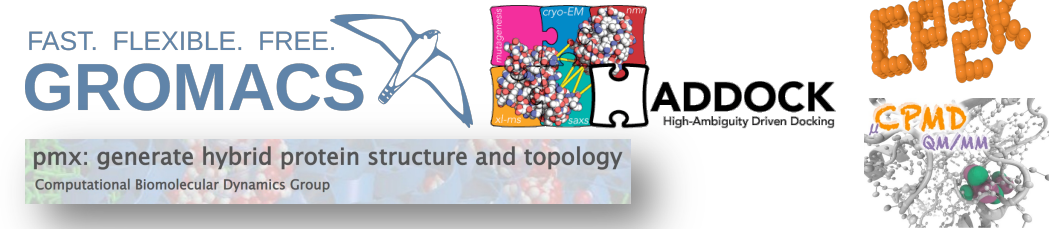
Molecular Modeling and Bioinformatics, IRB Barcelona

## A central hub for biomolecular modelling and simulations



## Enabling **better science** by:

- Improving the **performance** and **functionality** of key applications



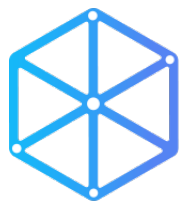
- Developing **user-friendly computational workflows**



Universiteit Utrecht







# Data-Driven Science



Simulation



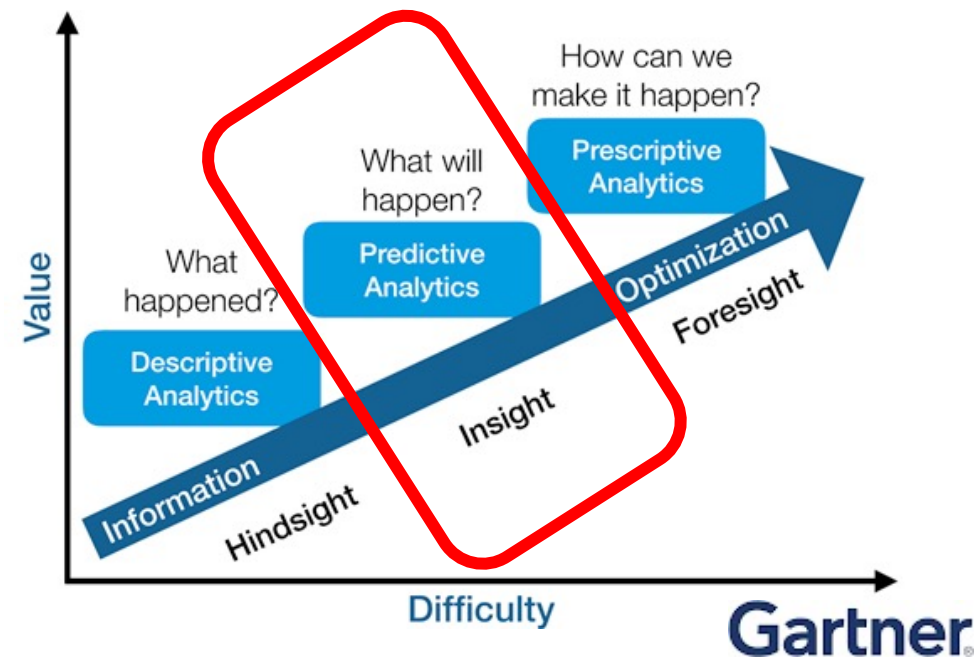
Data



Prediction



Experiments

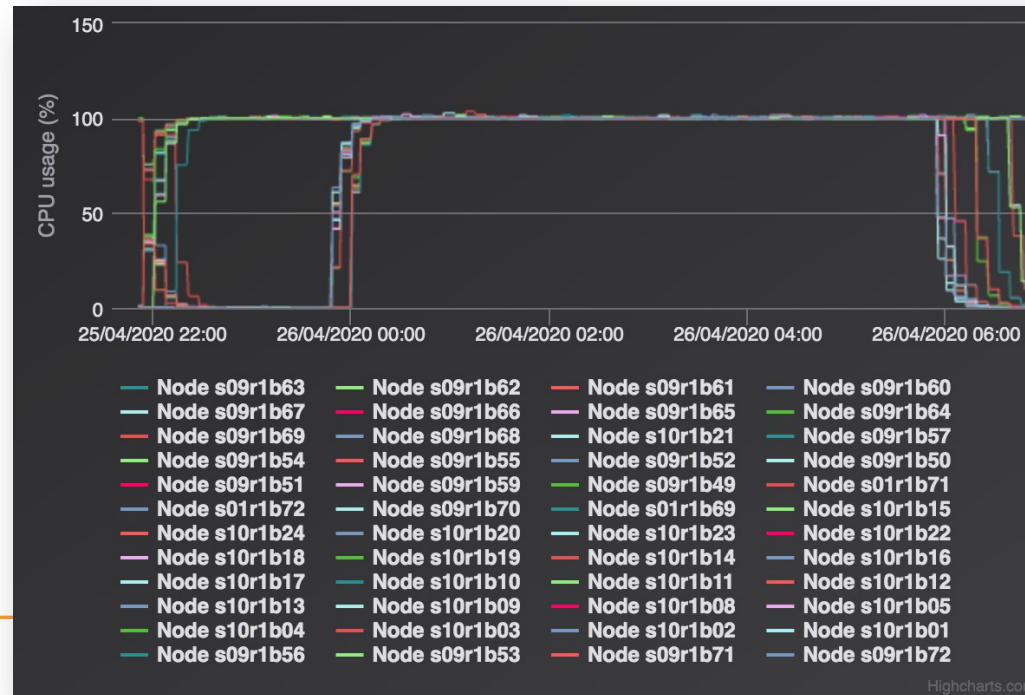


FAST. FLEXIBLE. FREE.  
**GROMACS**



**BSC** **Barcelona Supercomputing Center**  
Centro Nacional de Supercomputación

## Mutation Modeling + MD Setup + MD Run



Highcharts.com

**48 MareNostrum nodes**  
**2,304 cores → 1 job**

**12 mutations**  
**10ns-length MDs**  
**GROMACS 4 nodes MPI**

**Time: 8h**

PDB Code

Protein Variants List

No  
More variants?

Yes

Model Mutated Protein

Create GROMACS topology

Create Simulation Box

Fill Box with Solvent

Neutralizing the system & Adding ionic concentration

Create Restraint Index & topology

System Setup (10 steps)

Free Molecular Dynamics

End

Mutated Residue  
Energy minimization

System  
Energy minimization  
Steepest Descent

System Equilibration, step 1:  
Simulated Annealing

System Equilibration, step 2:  
Heavy Atoms restraints  
 $1,000 \text{ KJ mol}^{-1} \text{ nm}^{-2}$

System Equilibration, step 3:  
Heavy Atoms restraints  
 $800 \text{ KJ mol}^{-1} \text{ nm}^{-2}$

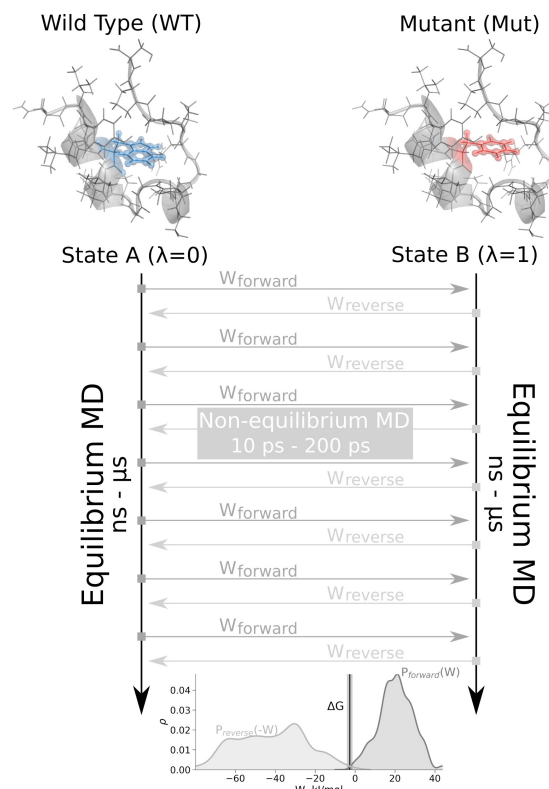
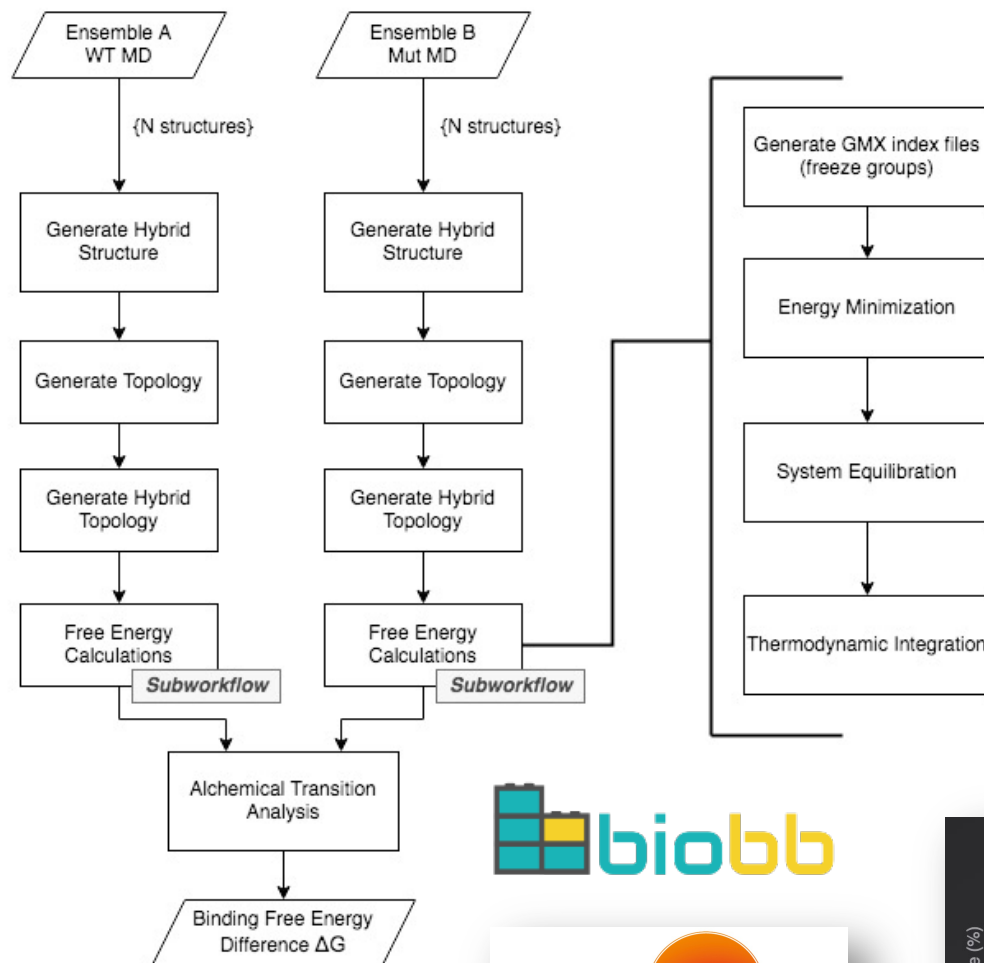
System Equilibration, step 4:  
Heavy Atoms restraints  
 $500 \text{ KJ mol}^{-1} \text{ nm}^{-2}$

System Equilibration, step 5:  
Heavy Atoms restraints  
 $300 \text{ KJ mol}^{-1} \text{ nm}^{-2}$

System Equilibration, step 6:  
Backbone Atoms restraints  $200 \text{ KJ mol}^{-1} \text{ nm}^{-2}$

System Equilibration, step 7:  
Backbone Atoms restraints  $100 \text{ KJ mol}^{-1} \text{ nm}^{-2}$

System Equilibration, step 8:  
No Restraints



## Non-equilibrium free energy calculation

> J Comput Chem. 2015 Feb 15;36(5):348-54. doi: 10.1002/jcc.23804. Epub 2014 Dec 8.

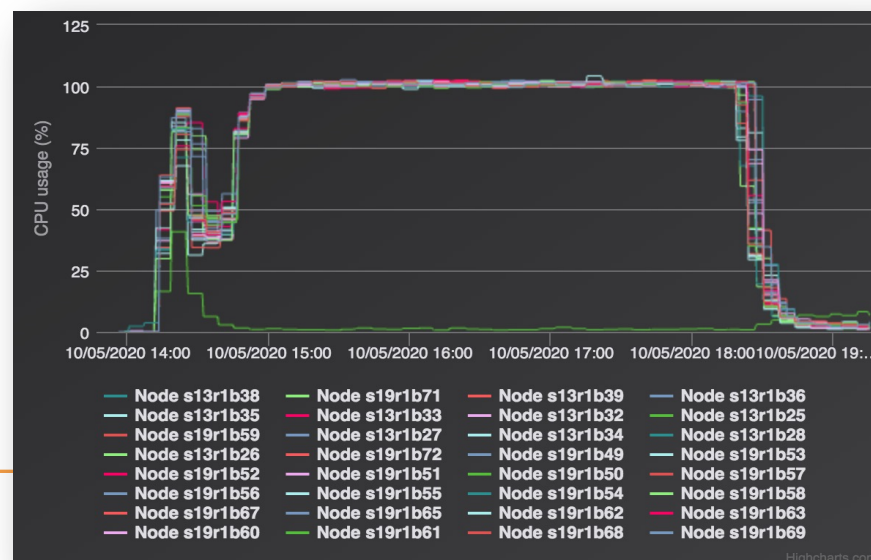
**pmx: Automated protein structure and topology generation for alchemical perturbations**

Vytautas Gapsys<sup>1</sup>, Servaas Michielssens, Daniel Seeliger, Bert L de Groot



FAST. FLEXIBLE. FREE.  
**GROMACS**

pmx: generate hybrid protein structure and topology  
Computational Biomolecular Dynamics Group



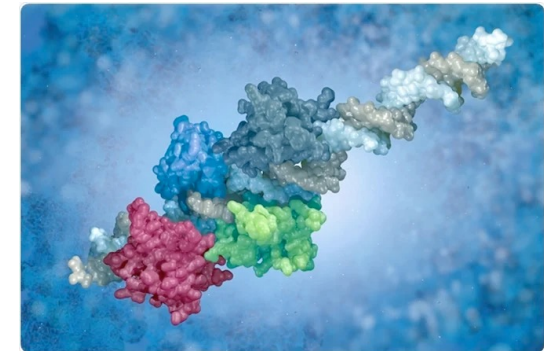
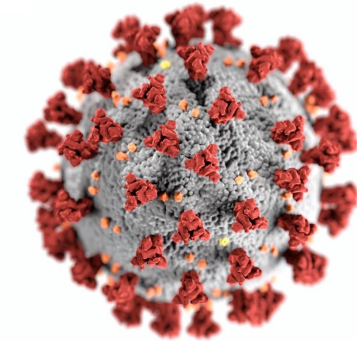
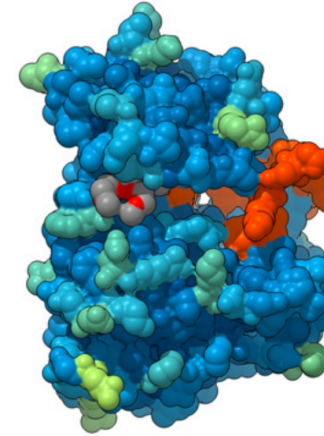
32 MareNostrum nodes  
1,536 cores → 1 job

1000 short TI MDs (50ps)  
500 forward  
+  
500 reverse

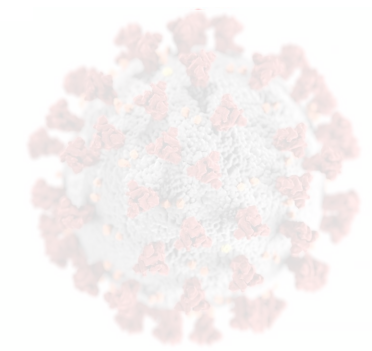
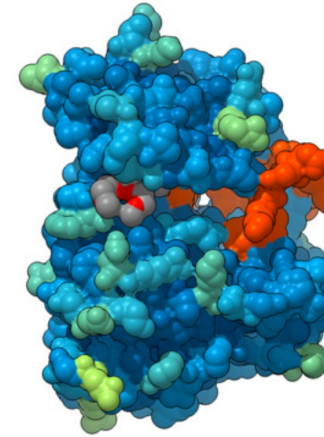
Time: 5h



- High-throughput **prediction** of the **impact** of **genetic variability** on **drug sensitivity** and **resistance patterns** for clinically relevant **EGFR mutations** from atomistic simulations.
- Large-scale **SARS-CoV2 mutation** analysis, including a study on the **evolutionary path** and **host-selection mechanism** of **SARS-CoV-2**.
- **DNAffinity**: A **Machine-Learning** approach to **predict DNA Binding affinities** of **Transcription Factors**.

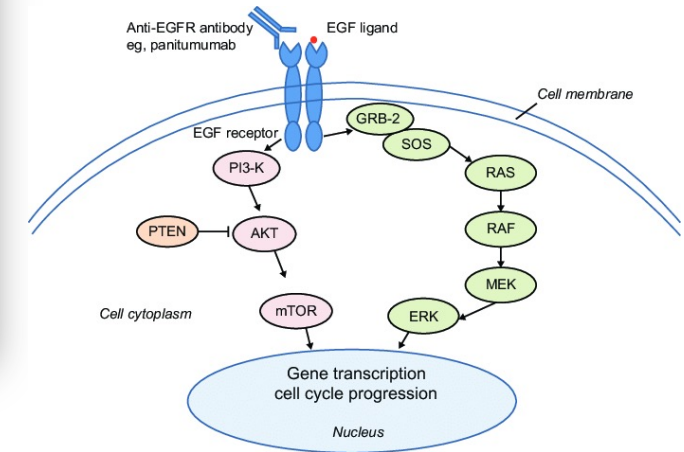
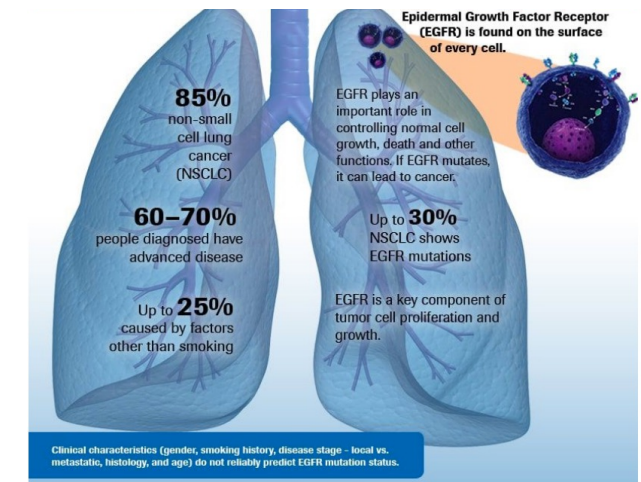
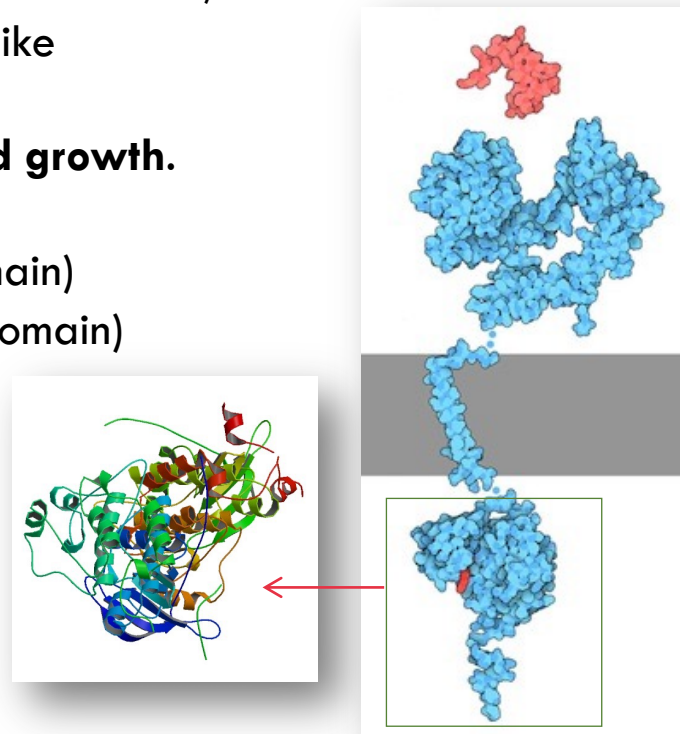


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- **DNAffinity**: A **Machine-Learning** approach to **predict DNA Binding affinities** of **Transcription Factors**.



- ❑ **Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR)** - (Kinase Domain)
- ❑ **EGFR mutations** drive some types of cancers, like **carcinoma, glioblastoma or NSCLC**.
- ❑ **Key component of tumor cell proliferation and growth.**
- ❑ **Two therapeutic approaches:**
  - ❑ **Monoclonal antibodies** (extracellular domain)
  - ❑ **ATP competitive inhibitors** (intracellular domain)

- ❑ **Selected mutations from literature:**
  - **T790M (gatekeeper)** confers resistance to **Erlotinib** and **Gefitinib** by increasing ATP binding.
  - L718Q, L747F, L747H kill **Osimertinib**
  - G719S, S768I, L833V enhances **Gefitinib**



**Could we predict the effect of the mutations?**

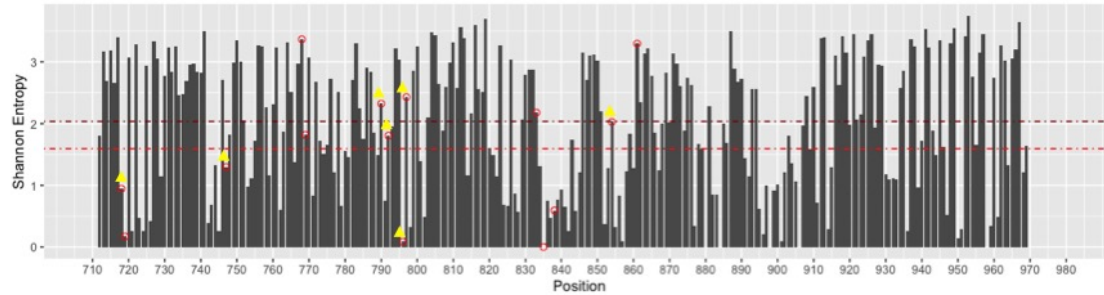


## Sequence

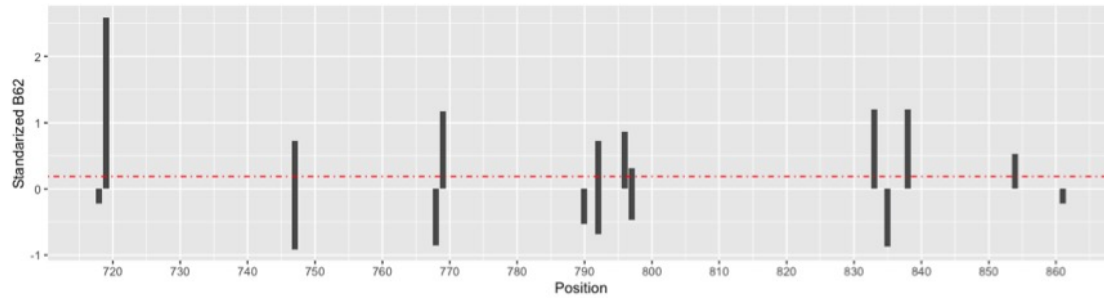
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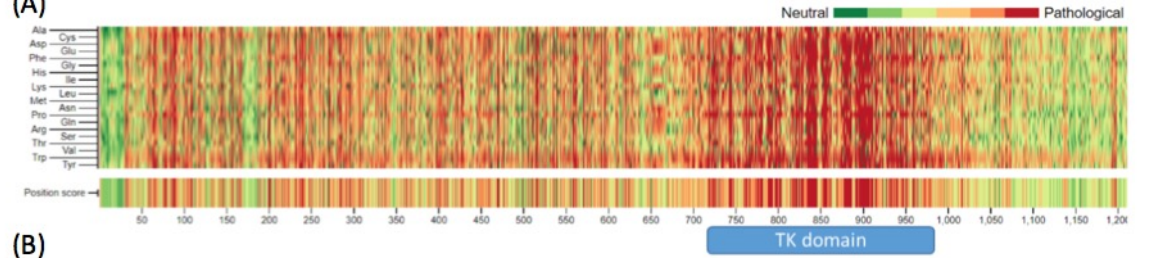
(A)



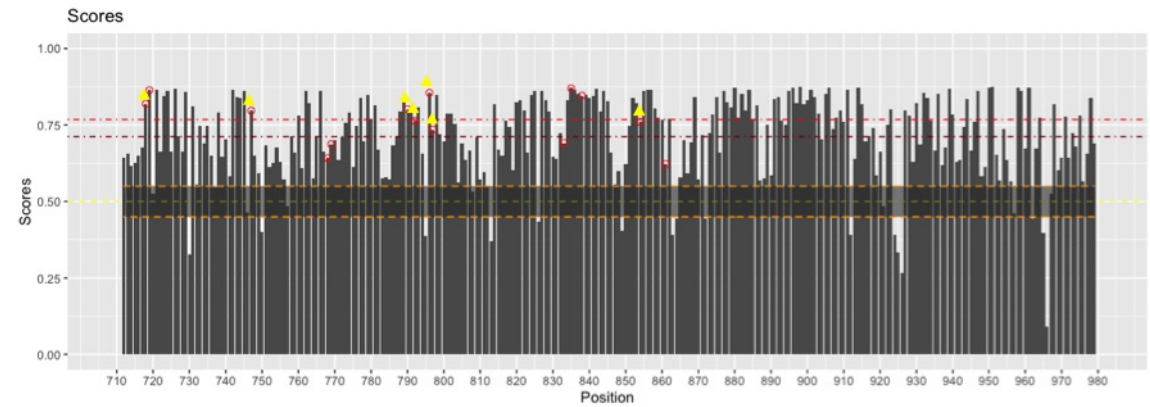
(B)



(A)



(B)

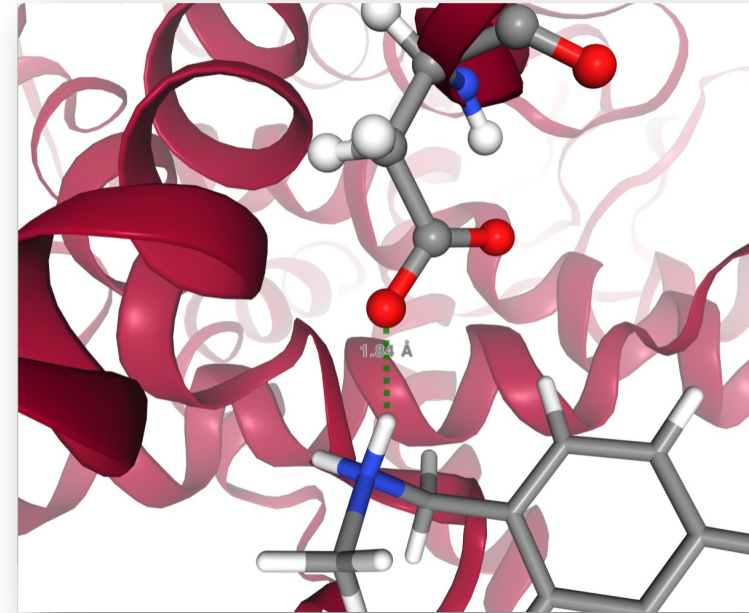
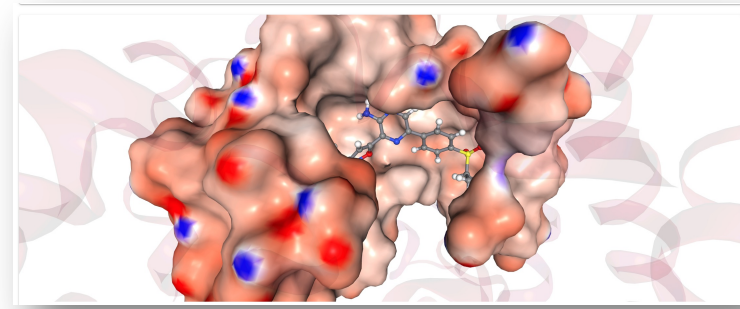
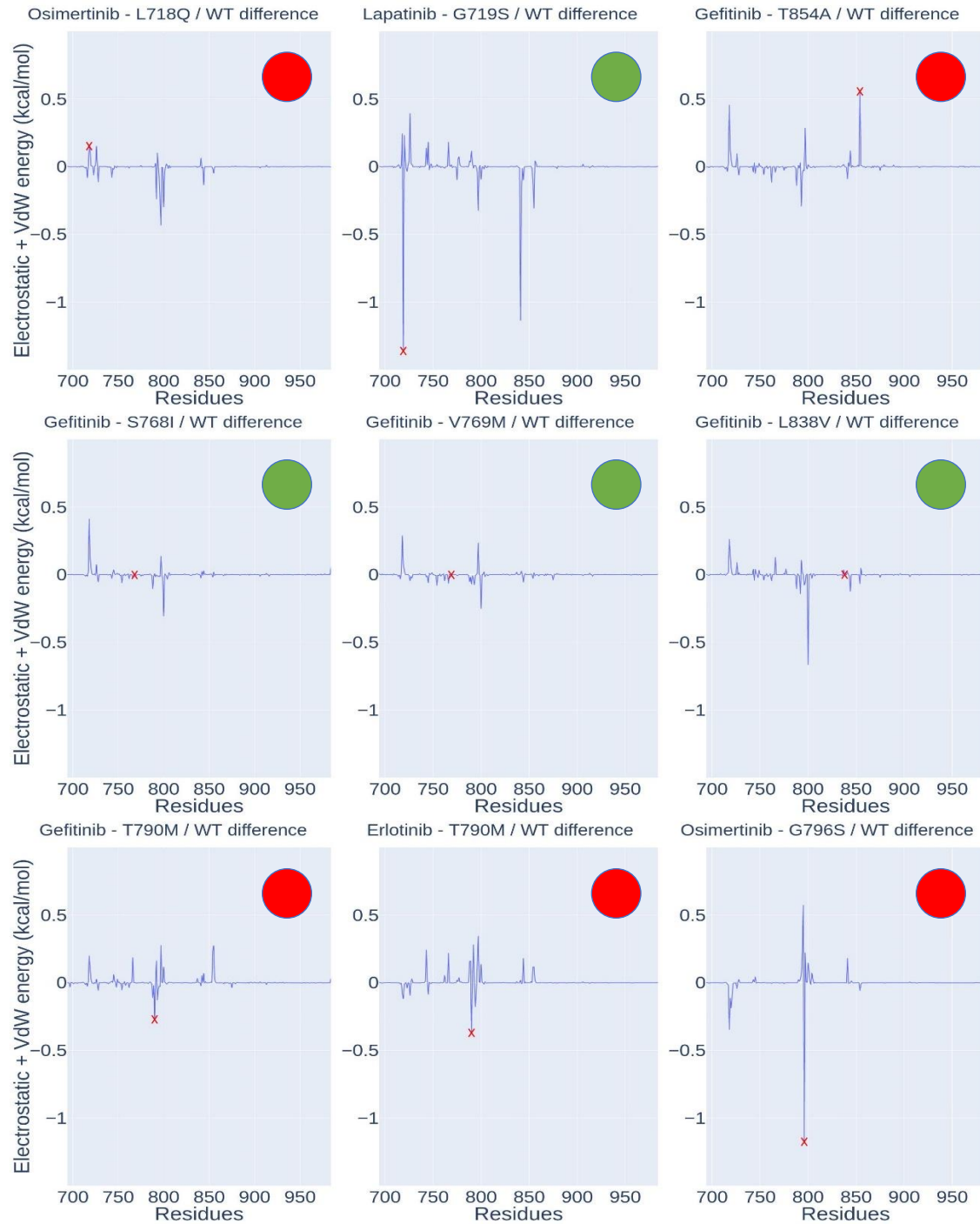


**PMut: a web-based tool for the annotation of pathological variants on proteins, 2017 update**



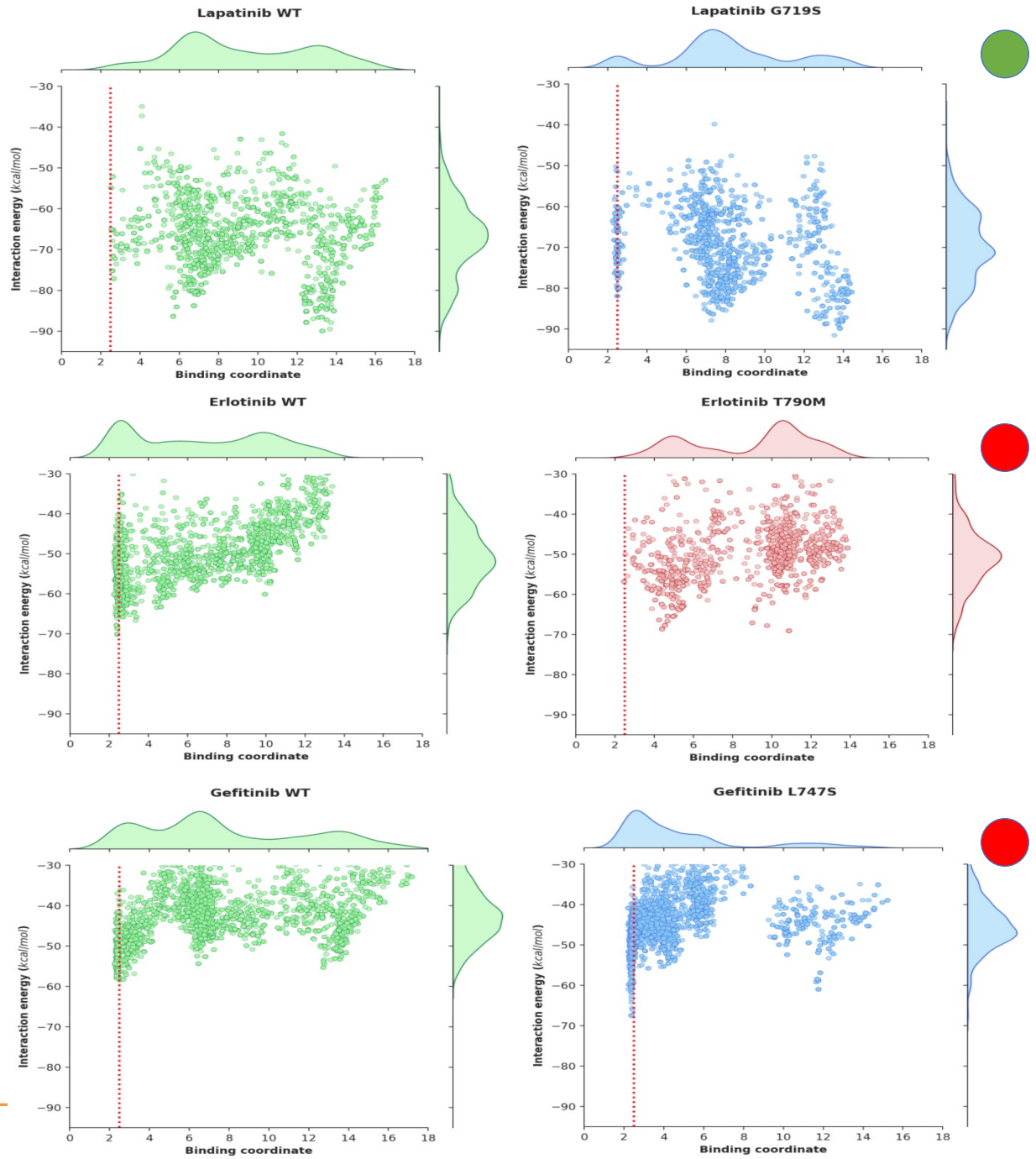
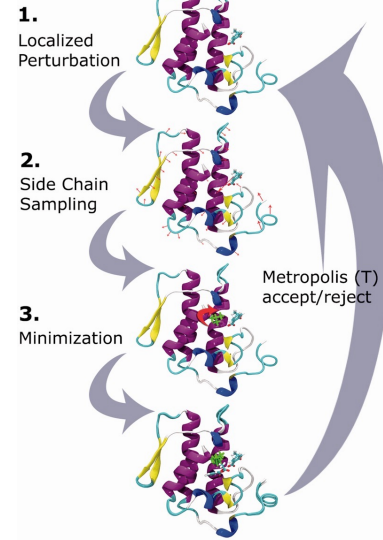
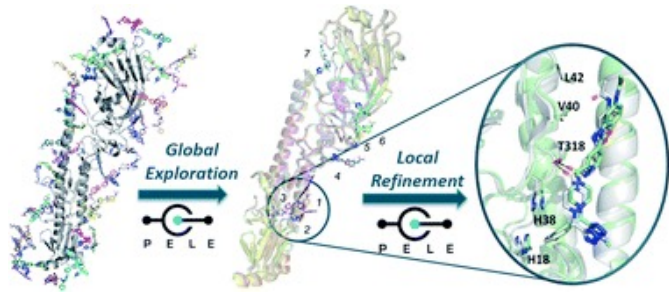
Víctor López-Ferrando, Andrea Gazzo, Xavier de la Cruz, Modesto Orozco ✉, Josep Ll Gelpí ✉

*Nucleic Acids Research*, Volume 45, Issue W1, 3 July 2017, Pages W222–W228,  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkx313>



**Classical molecular interaction potentials: improved setup procedure in molecular dynamics simulations of proteins**

J L Gelpí<sup>1</sup>, S G Kalko, X Barril, J Cirera, X de La Cruz, F J Luque, M Orozco



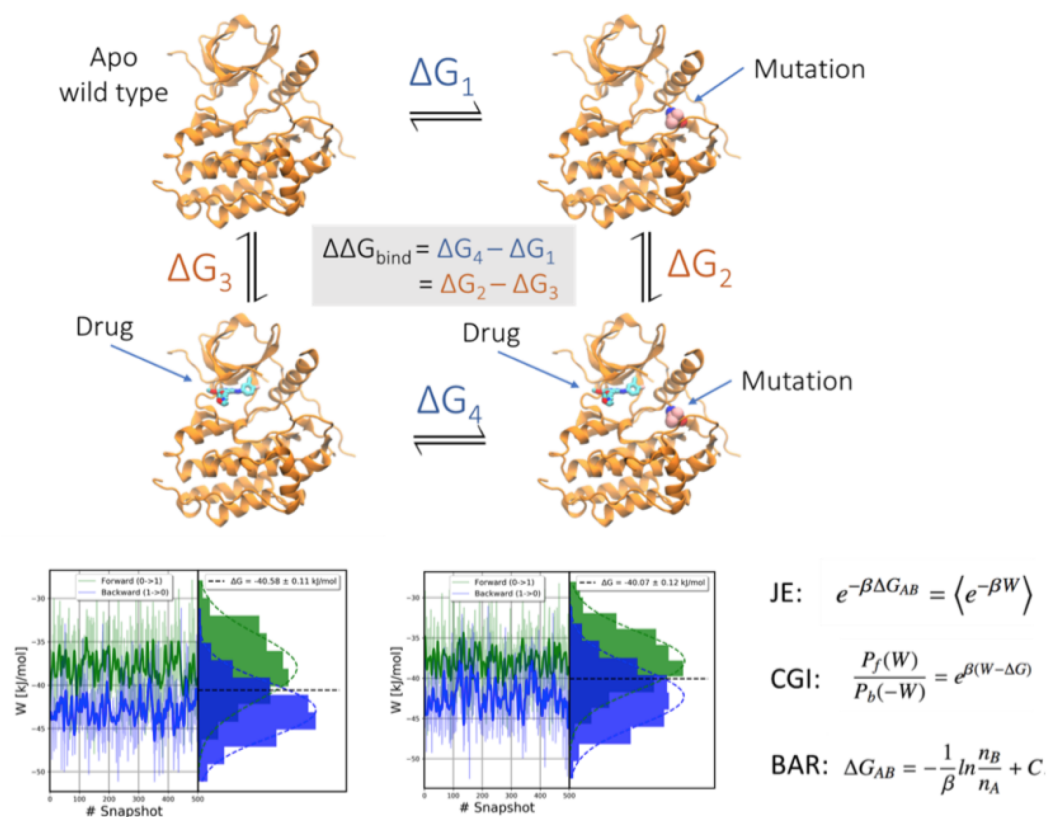
> *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2013 Jul;41(Web Server issue):W322-8. doi: 10.1093/nar/gkt454.  
Epub 2013 May 31.

## PELE web server: atomistic study of biomolecular systems at your fingertips

Armin Madadkar-Sobhani<sup>1</sup>, Victor Guallar



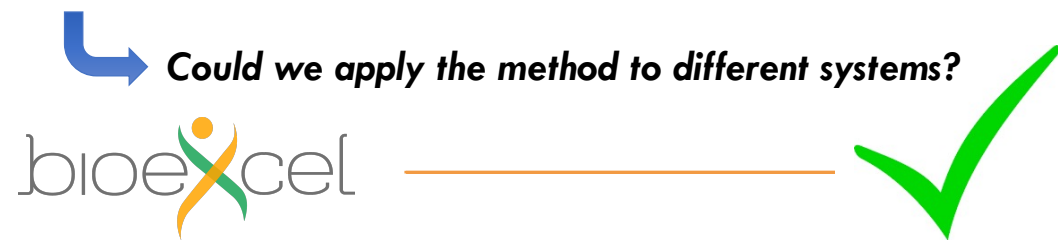




## Prediction Of The Impact Of Genetic Variability On Drug Sensitivity For Clinically Relevant EGFR Mutations

Aristarc Suriñach, Adam Hospital, Yvonne Westermaier, Luis Jordà, Sergi Orozco-Ruiz, Daniel Beltrán, Francesco Colizzi, Pau Andrio, Robert Soliva, Martí Municoy, Josep Ll. Gelpi, Modesto Orozco

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.04.25.489389>

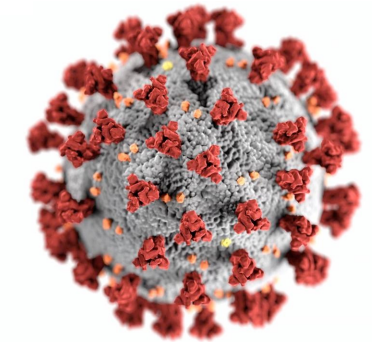
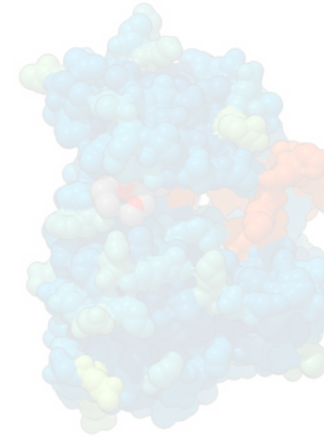


Mutation	Drug	Eprof (pred)	PELE* (pred)
L718Q	Osimertinib	R	-
G719S	Gefitinib	S	S
G719S	Icotinib	S	-
G719S	Erlotinib	S	S
G719S	Lapatinib	S	S
L747S	Gefitinib	S	S
L747F	Osimertinib	S	-
L747H	Osimertinib	S	-
S768I	Gefitinib	S	R
V769M	Gefitinib	S	S
T790M	Gefitinib	S	S
T790M	Erlotinib	S	R
T790M	Lapatinib	S	R
T790M	Osimertinib	S	-
T790M	Icotinib	S	-
L792F	Osimertinib	S	-
L792H	Osimertinib	R	-
G796S	Osimertinib	S	-
C797G <sup>&amp;</sup>	Osimertinib	R	R
C797S <sup>&amp;</sup>	Osimertinib	R	R
L833V	Gefitinib	S	S
H835L	Gefitinib	S	S
L838V	Gefitinib	S	S
T854A	Gefitinib	R	S
L861Q	Gefitinib	S	S
T790M/C797S	Erlotinib	R	R

Exp. Impact <sup>Δ</sup>
Resistance <sup>1</sup>
Sensitive <sup>2</sup>
Sensitive <sup>2</sup>
Sensitive <sup>3</sup>
Sensitive <sup>4</sup>
Resistance <sup>5</sup>
Resistance <sup>6</sup>
Resistance <sup>6</sup>
Sensitive <sup>7</sup>
Sensitive <sup>8</sup>
Resistance <sup>9</sup>
Resistance <sup>9</sup>
Resistance <sup>10</sup>
Sensitive <sup>11</sup>
Resistance <sup>12</sup>
Resistance <sup>13</sup>
Resistance <sup>13</sup>
Resistance <sup>14</sup>
Resistance <sup>15</sup>
Resistance <sup>16</sup>
Sensitive <sup>17</sup>
Sensitive <sup>17</sup>
Sensitive <sup>18</sup>
Resistance <sup>5</sup>
Sensitive <sup>19</sup>
Resistance <sup>20</sup>

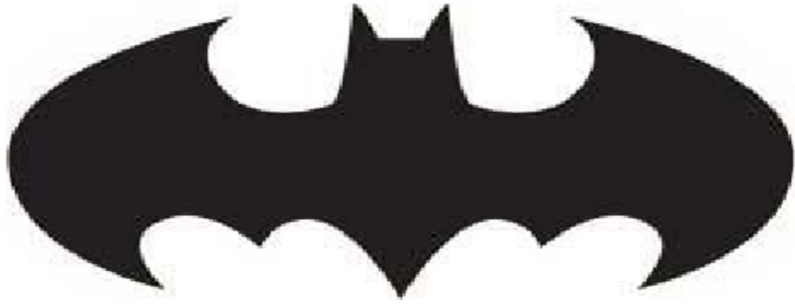
# Projects

- High-throughput **prediction** of the **impact** of **genetic variability** on **drug sensitivity** and **resistance patterns** for clinically relevant **EGFR mutations** from atomistic simulations.
- Large-scale **SARS-CoV2 mutation** analysis, including a study on the **evolutionary path** and **host-selection mechanism** of **SARS-CoV-2**.
- **DNAffinity**: A **Machine-Learning** approach to **predict DNA Binding affinities** of **Transcription Factors**.



# Overview:

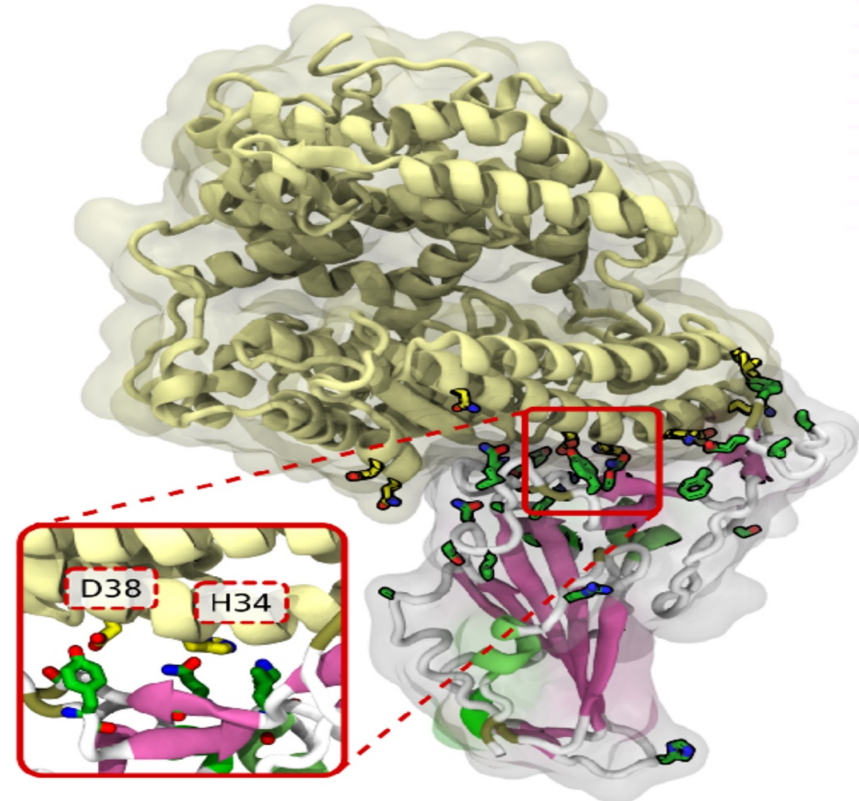
- The bat-to-human zoonotic transition
- "Humanized" bat polymorphism
- The "Spanish mutant" or A222V





# Overview:

- The bat-to-human zoonotic transition
- "Humanized" bat polymorphism
- The "Spanish mutant" or A222V

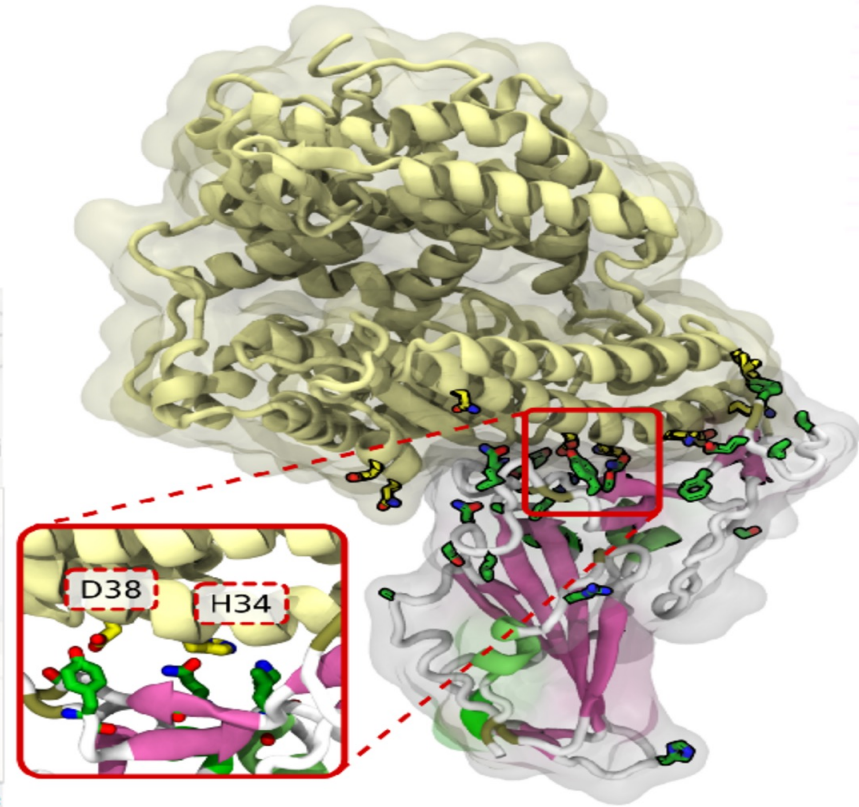
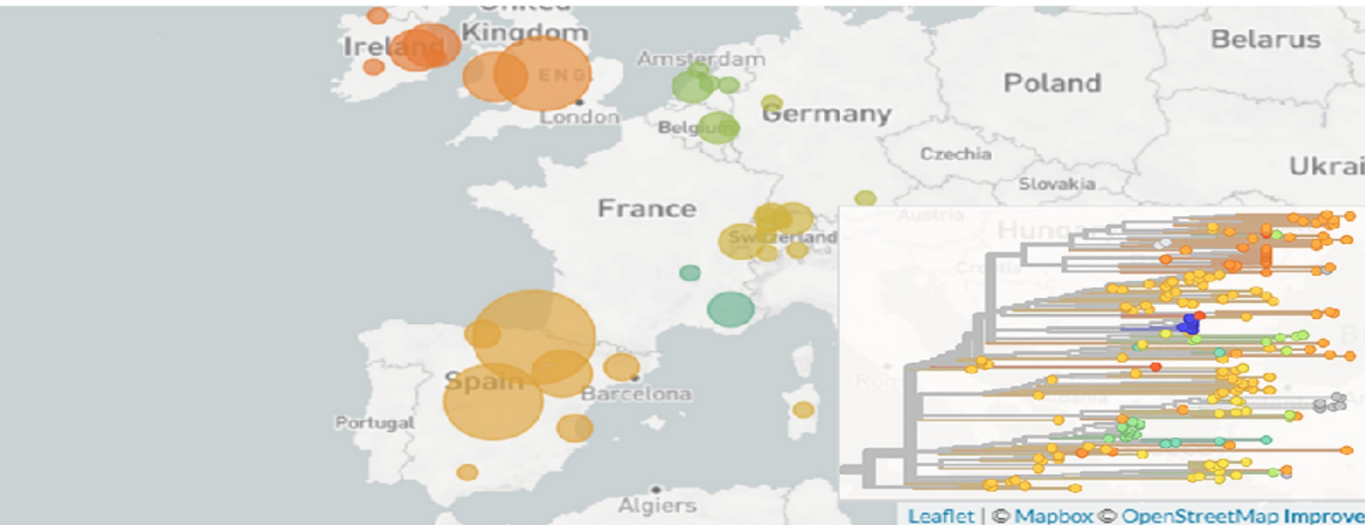
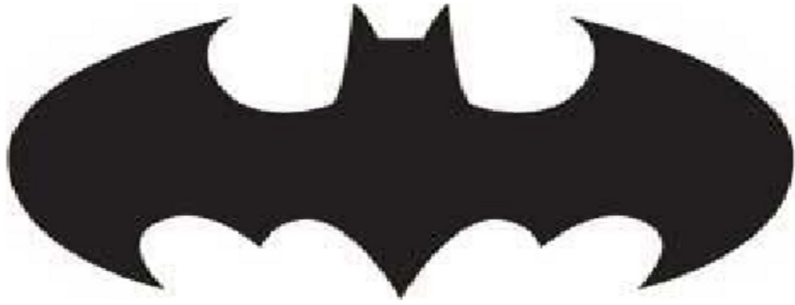


Position	affiACE2	hACE2
21	T	I
24	R	Q
27	I	T
31	N	K
34	R/H	H
38	E/D	D
49	E	N
82	N	M
325	E	Q
329	N	E

Position	RaTG13	SC2
346	T	R
372	T	A
403	T	R
439	K	N
440	H	N
441	I	L
443	A	S
445	E	V
449	F	Y
459	A	S
478	K	T
483	Q	V
484	T	E
486	L	F
490	Y	F
493	Y	Q
494	R	S
498	Y	Q
501	D	N
505	H	Y

# Overview:

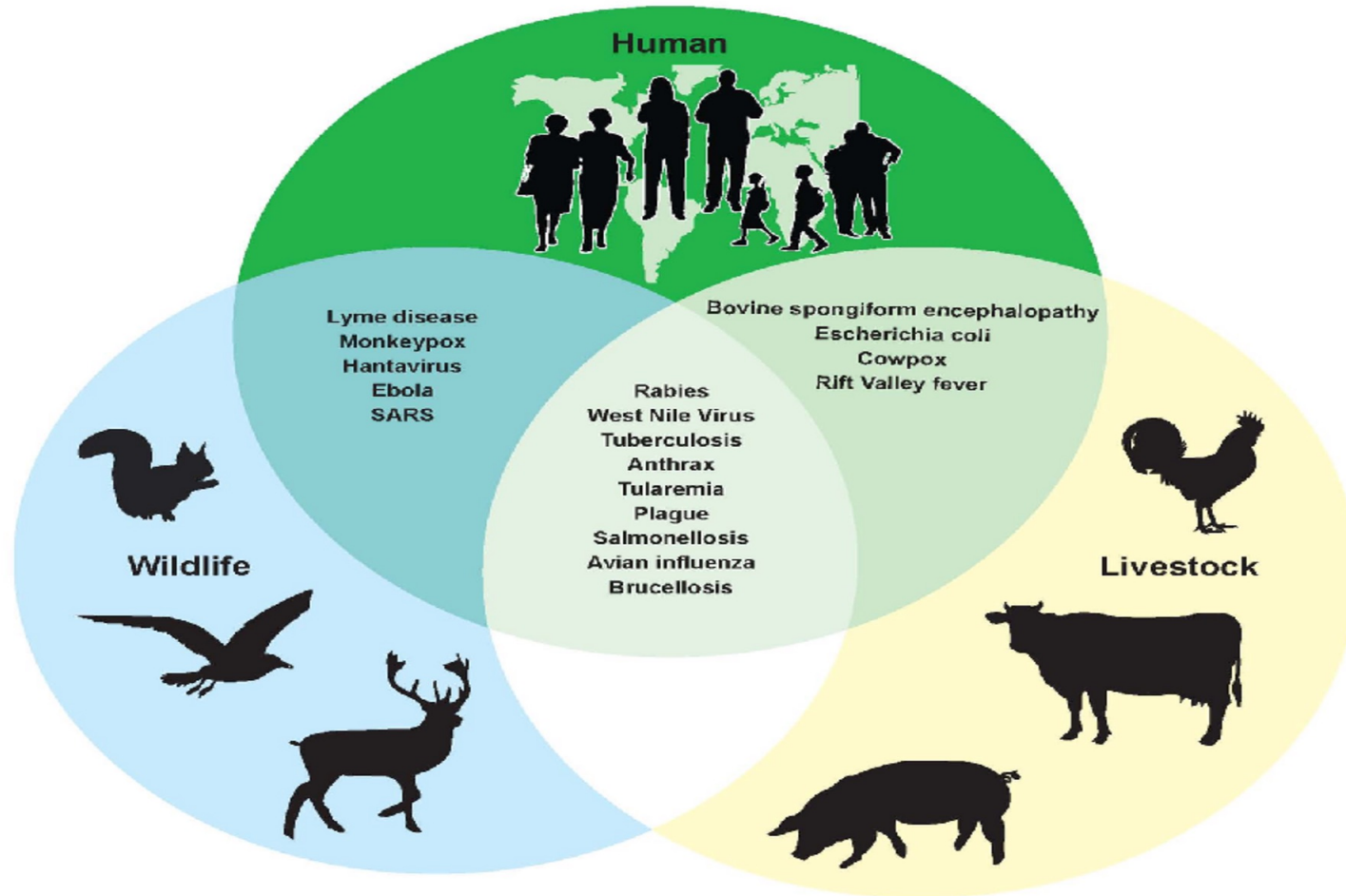
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441	I	L
443	A	S
445	E	V
449	F	Y
459	A	S
478	K	T
483	Q	V
484	T	E
486	L	F
490	Y	F
493	Y	Q
494	R	S
498	Y	Q
501	D	N
505	H	Y

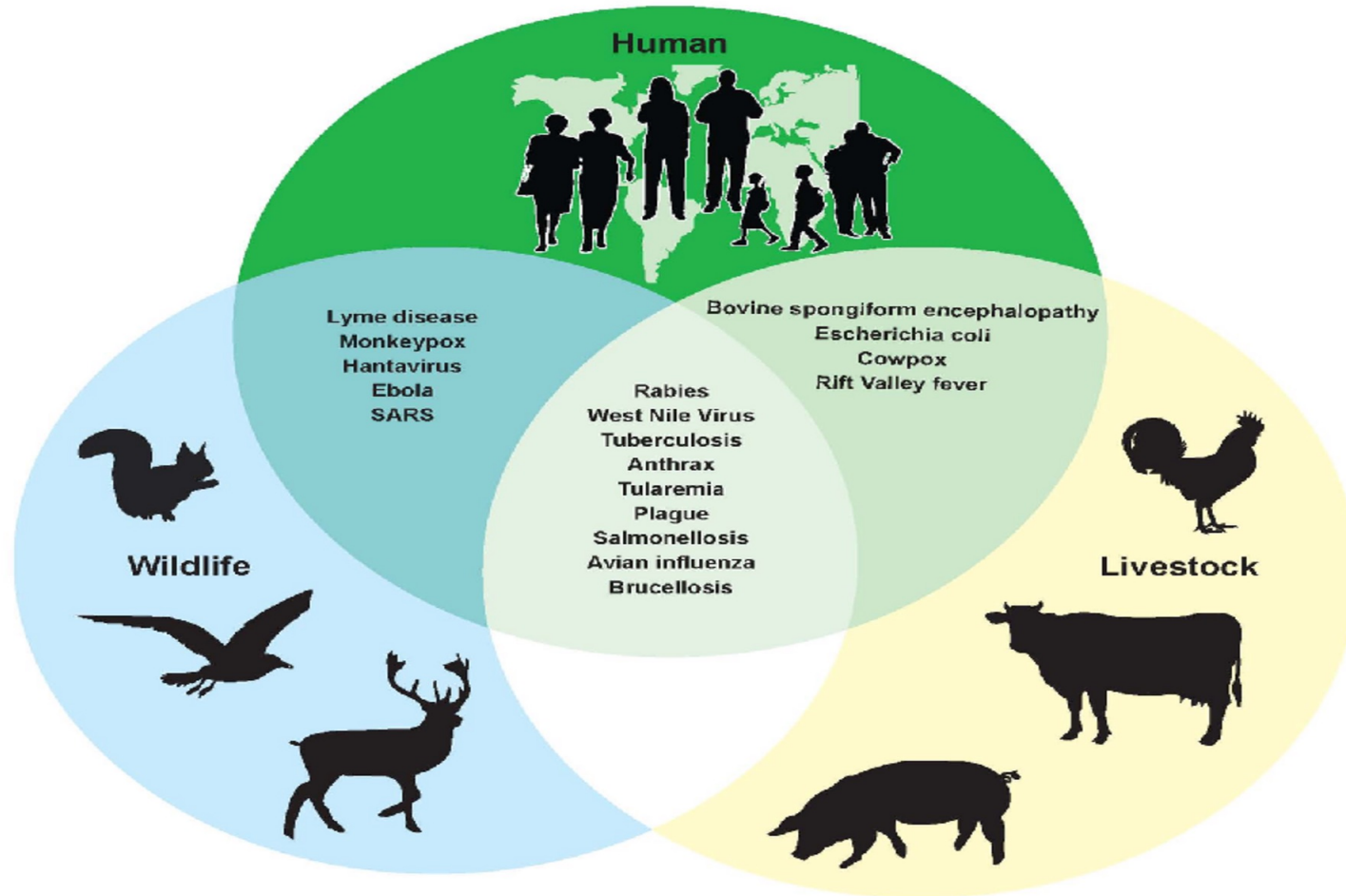
# From bats to humans



- Thanks to deforestation and agriculture, more and more pathogens cross the interspecies barrier



# From bats to humans

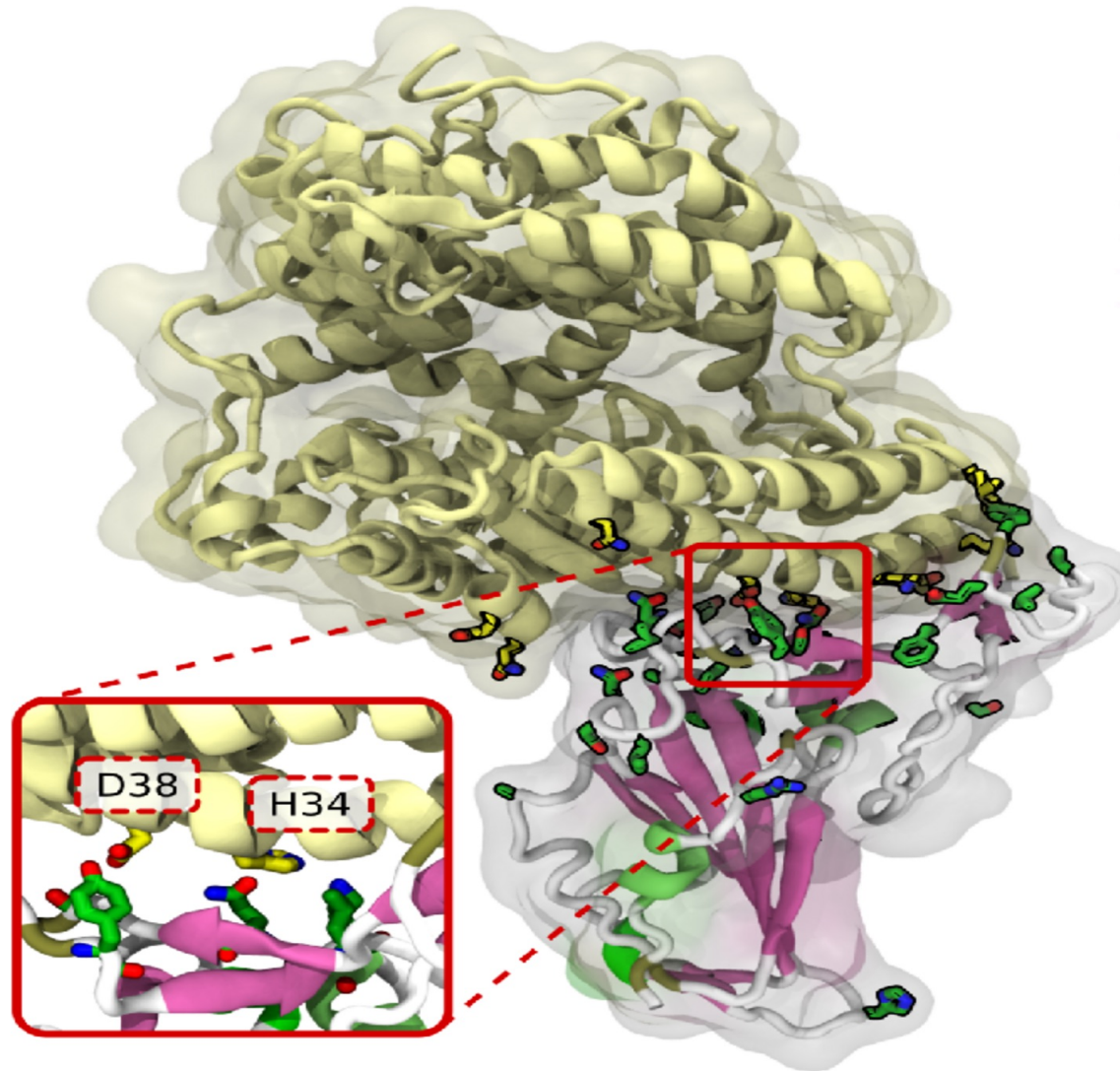


- Thanks to deforestation and agriculture, more and more pathogens cross the interspecies barrier
- For SARS-CoV-2, the closest known relative was RaTG13, a virus isolated from *Rhinolophus affinis* in 2013 (a new one found recently!)



# From bats to humans

- The receptor-binding domains (RBDs) of both viruses differ by 21 amino acids

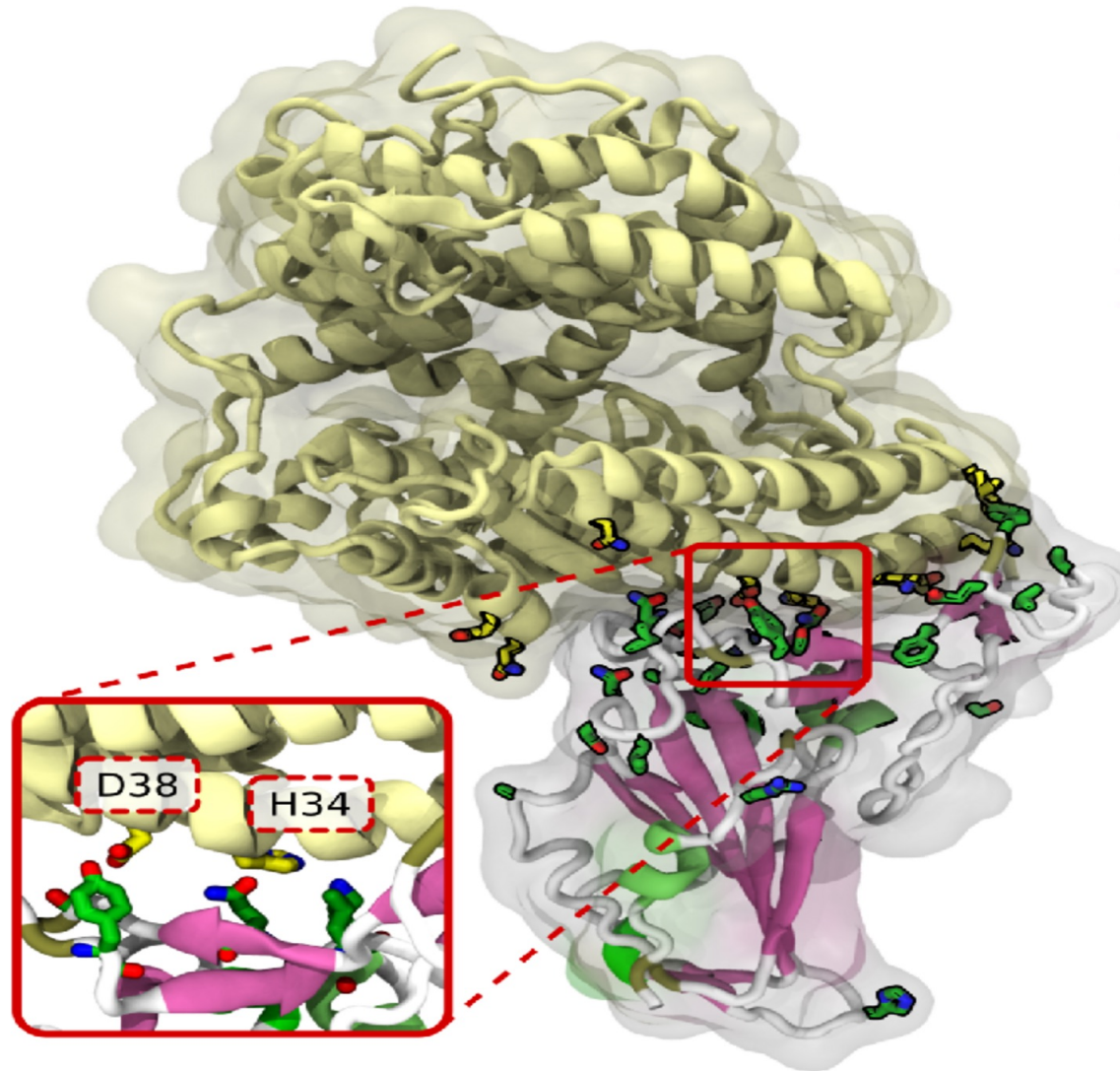


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459	A	S
478	K	T
483	Q	V
484	T	E
486	L	F
490	Y	F
493	Y	Q
494	R	S
498	Y	Q
501	D	N
505	H	Y

# From bats to humans

- The receptor-binding domains (RBDs) of both viruses differ by 21 amino acids
- **Challenge:** identify the most important mutations that enabled infecting a new host



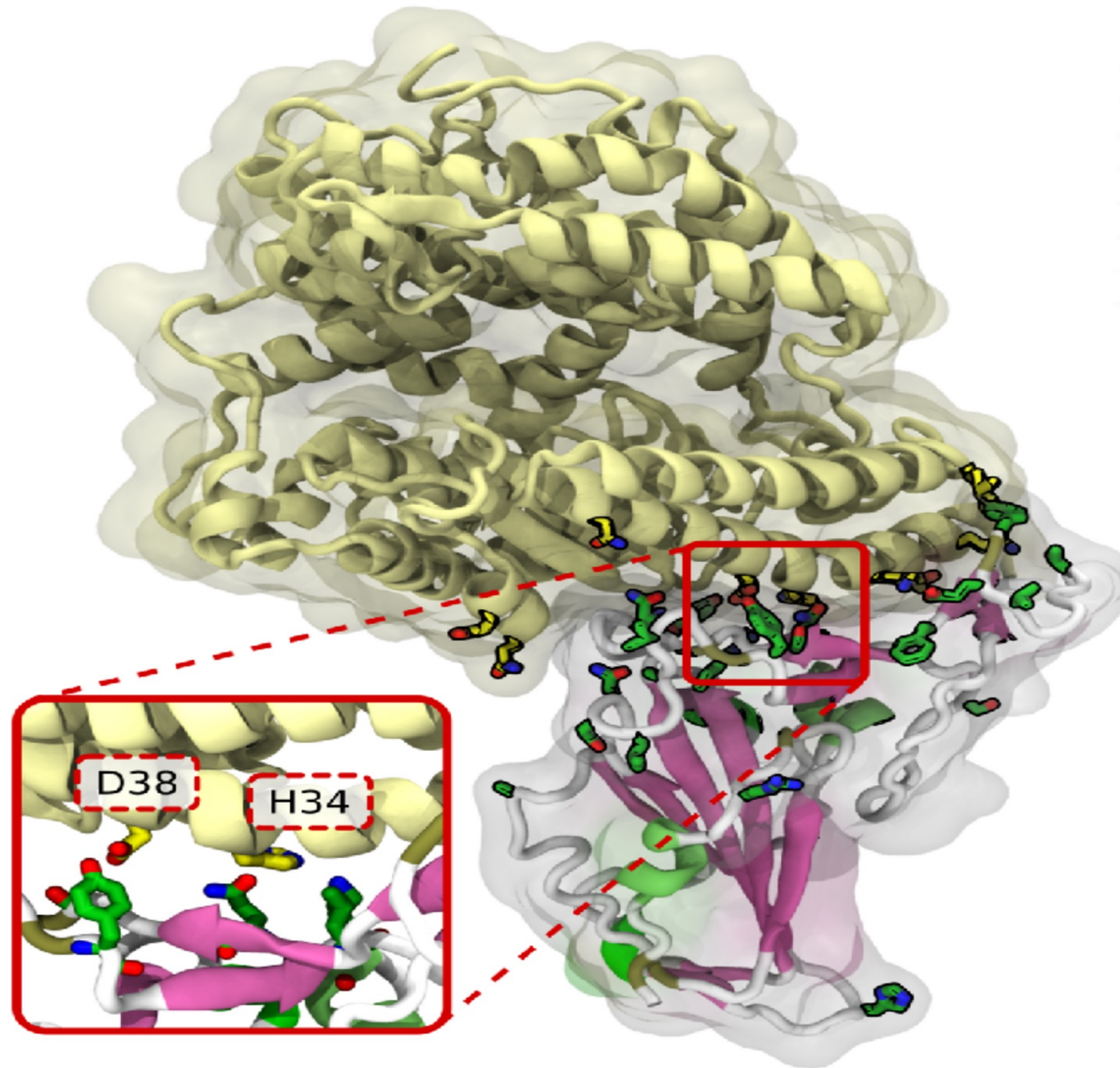
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372	T	A
403	T	R
439	K	N
440	H	N
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443	A	S
445	E	V
449	F	Y
459	A	S
478	K	T
483	Q	V
484	T	E
486	L	F
490	Y	F
493	Y	Q
494	R	S
498	Y	Q
501	D	N
505	H	Y



# From bats to humans

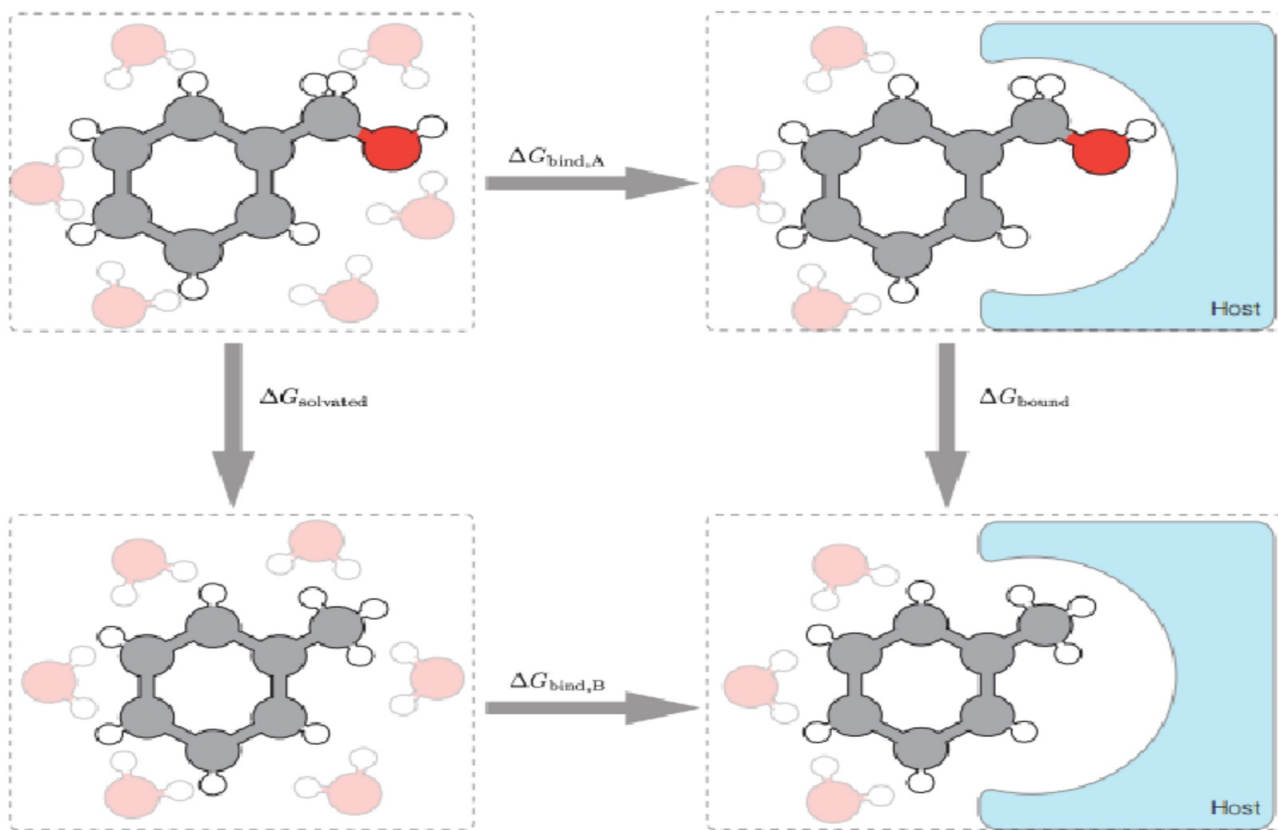
- The receptor-binding domains (RBDs) of both viruses differ by 21 amino acids
- **Challenge:** identify the most important mutations that enabled infecting a new host
- **Constraint:** hACE2 shows experimentally a preference for SARS-CoV-2 of ca. 3 kcal/mol



Position	affiACE2	hACE2
21	T	I
24	R	Q
27	I	T
31	N	K
34	R/H	H
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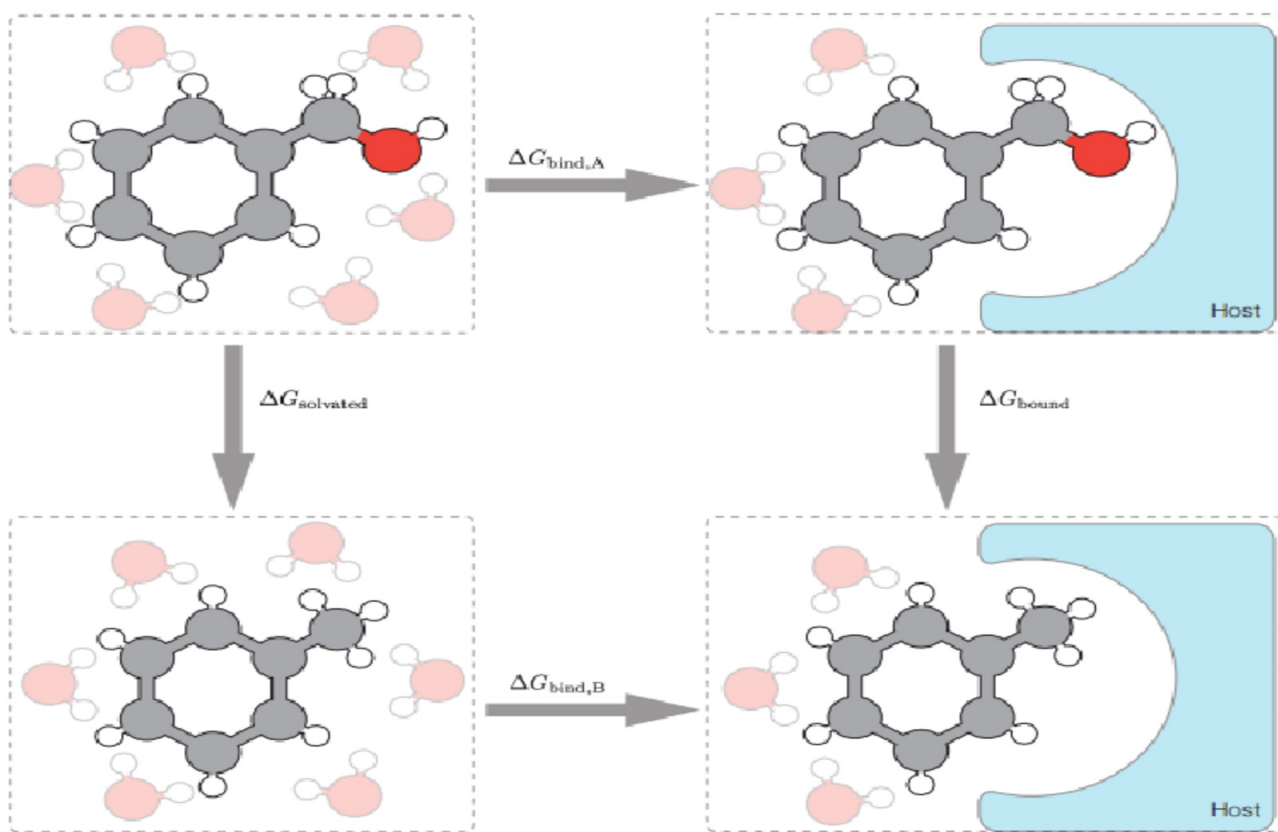
# Mutations through alchemistry



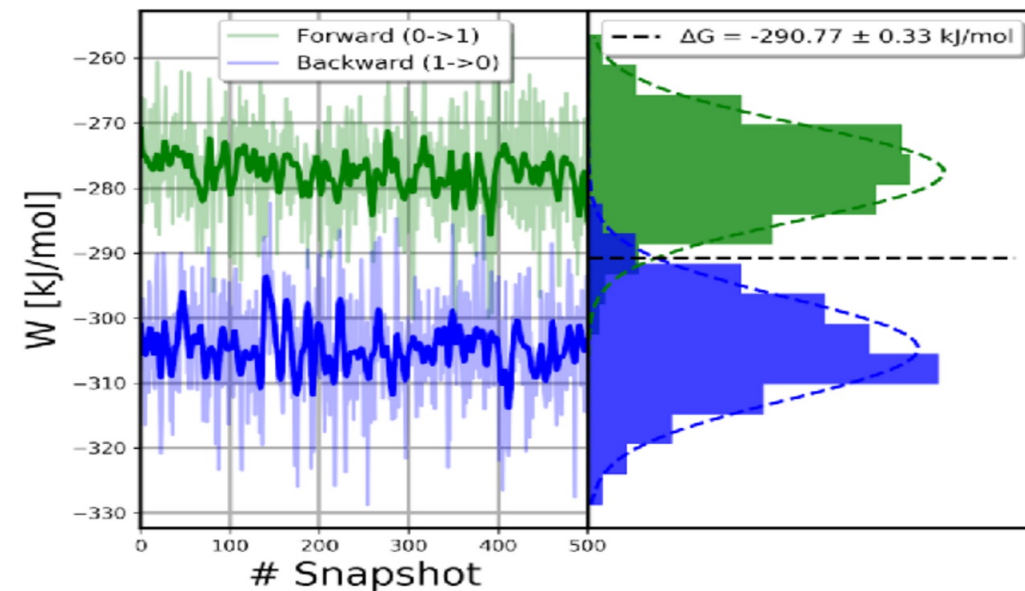
Principle of alchemical simulations:  
calculate the chemical change  
(vertical) to obtain the difference in  
binding energies (horizontal)



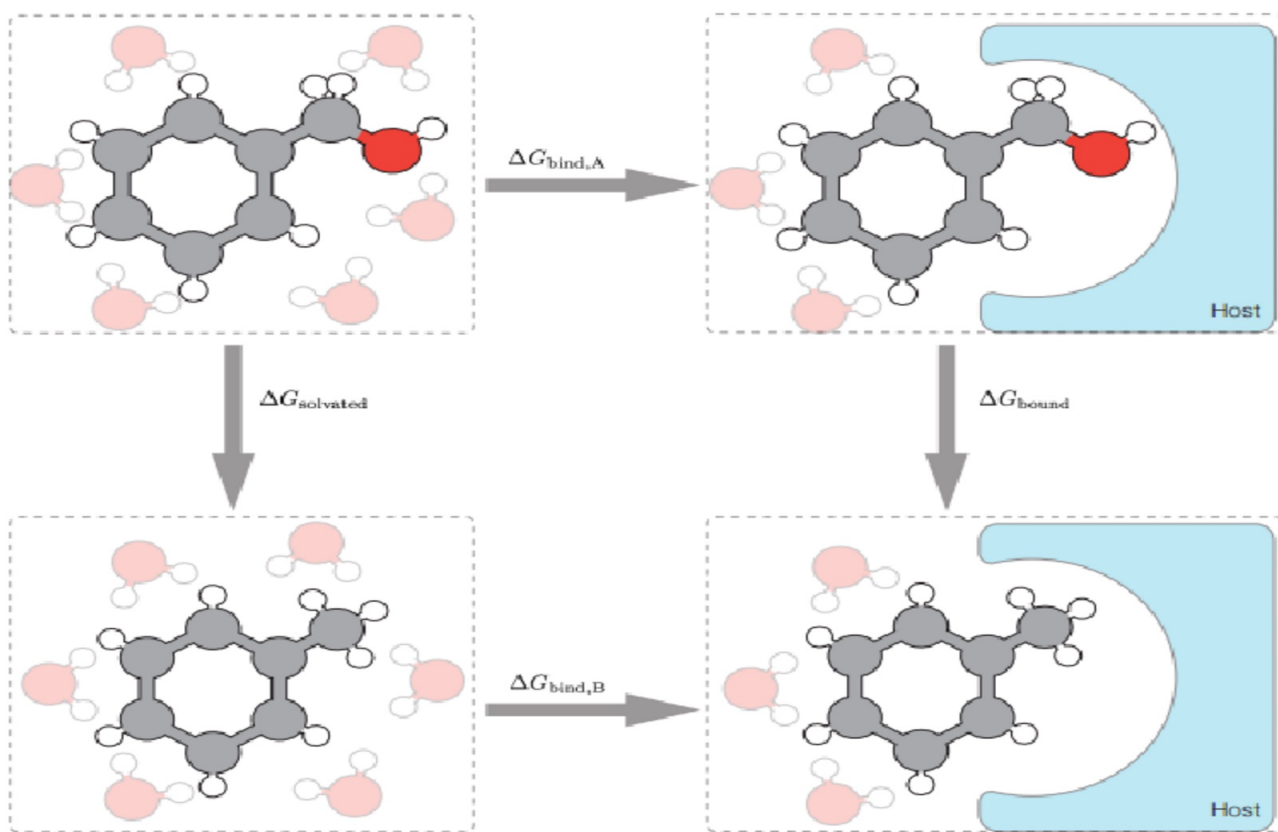
# Mutations through alchemistry



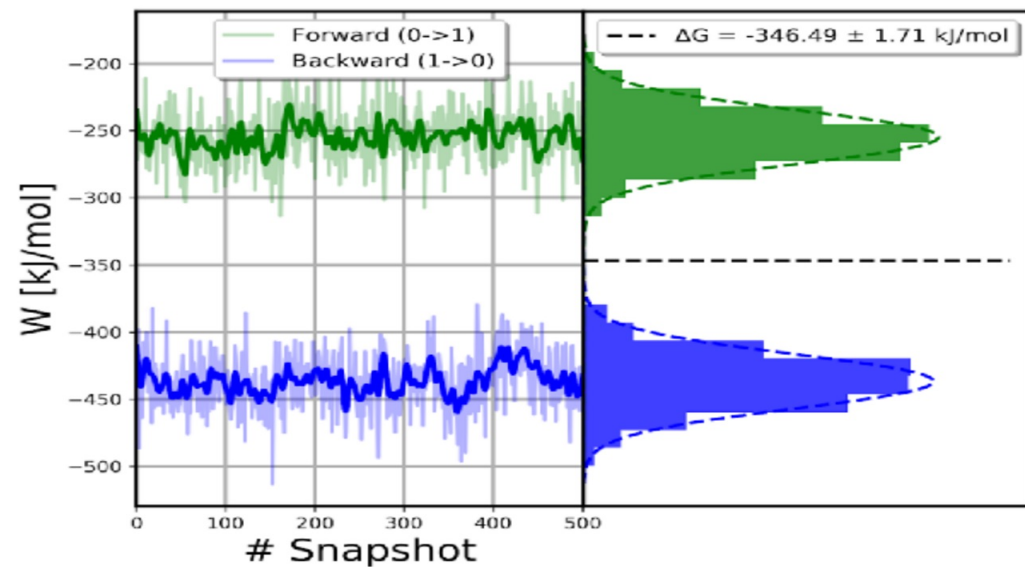
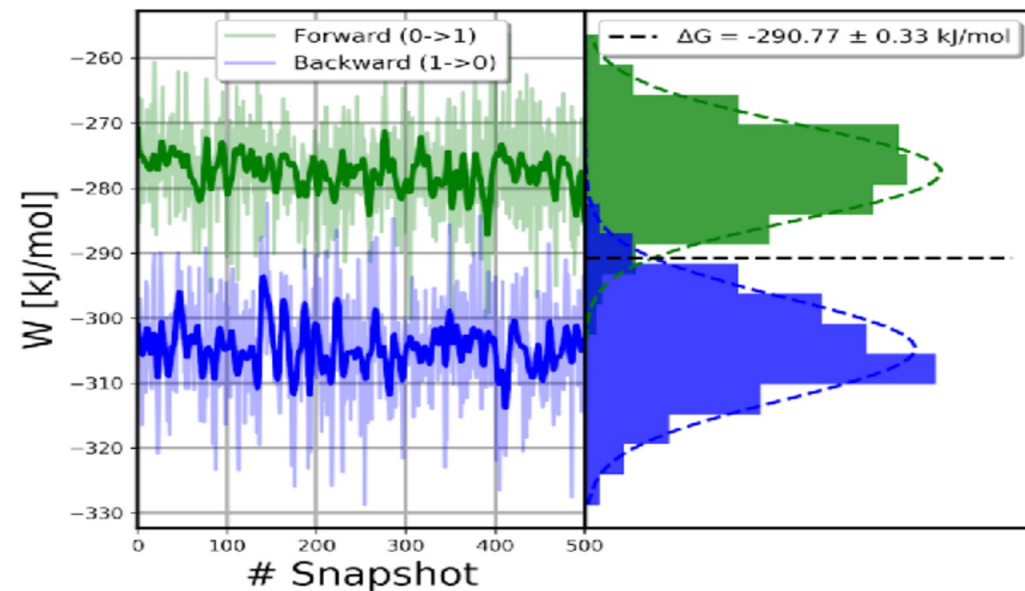
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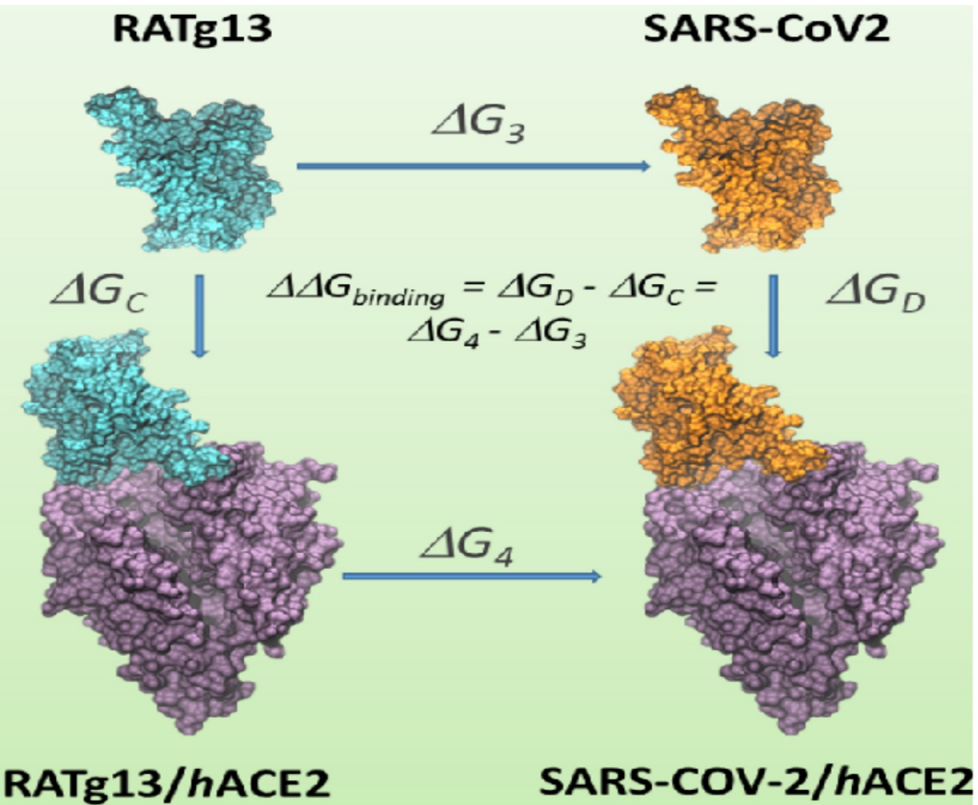
# Mutations through alchemistry



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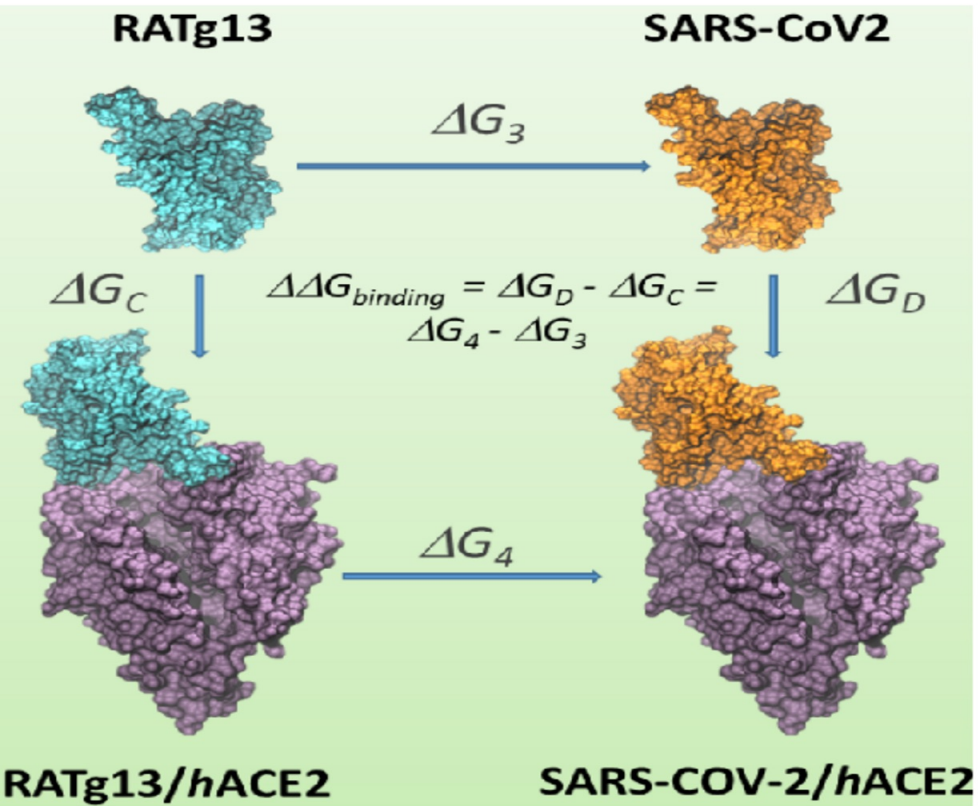
# Mutations through alchemy



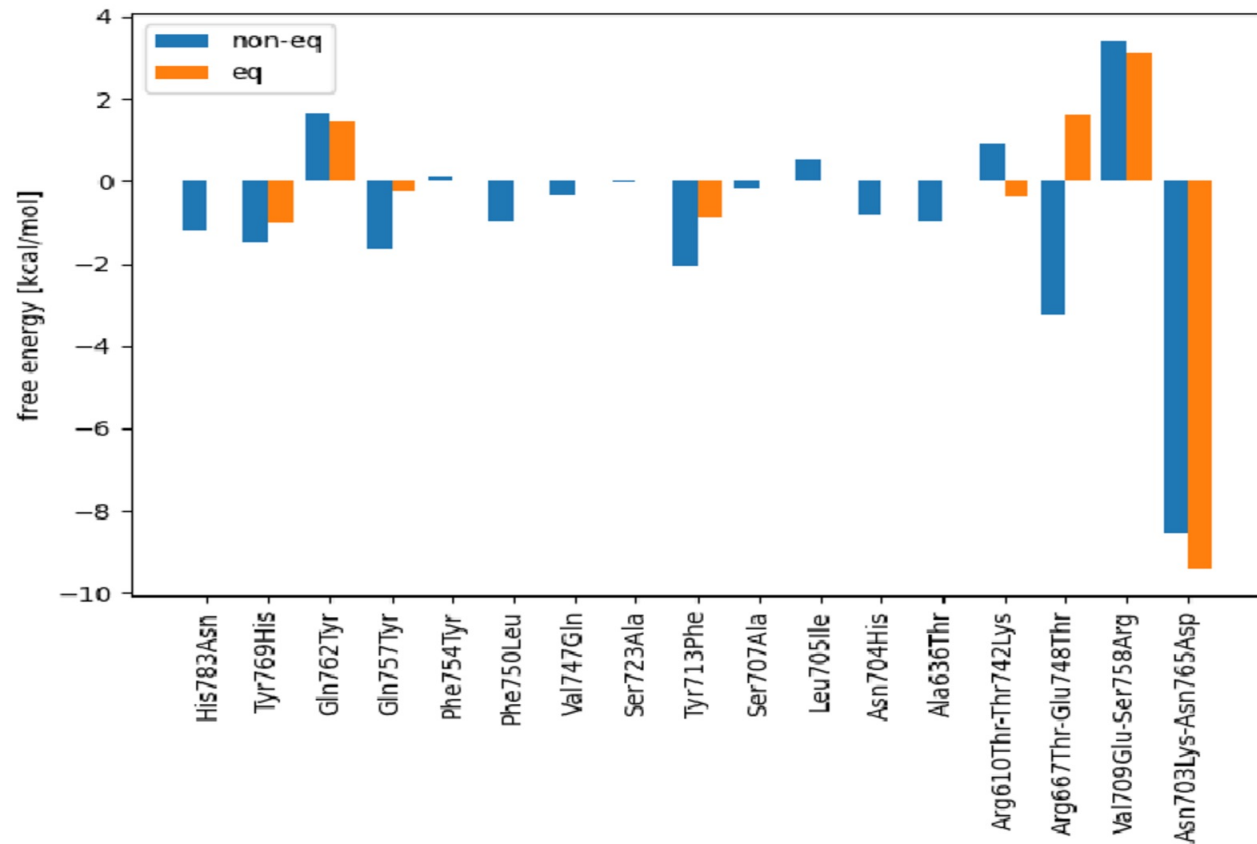
- Strategy: start with "cheap" non-eq, validate selected with expensive equilibrium protocol if numbers don't match up



# Mutations through alchemistry

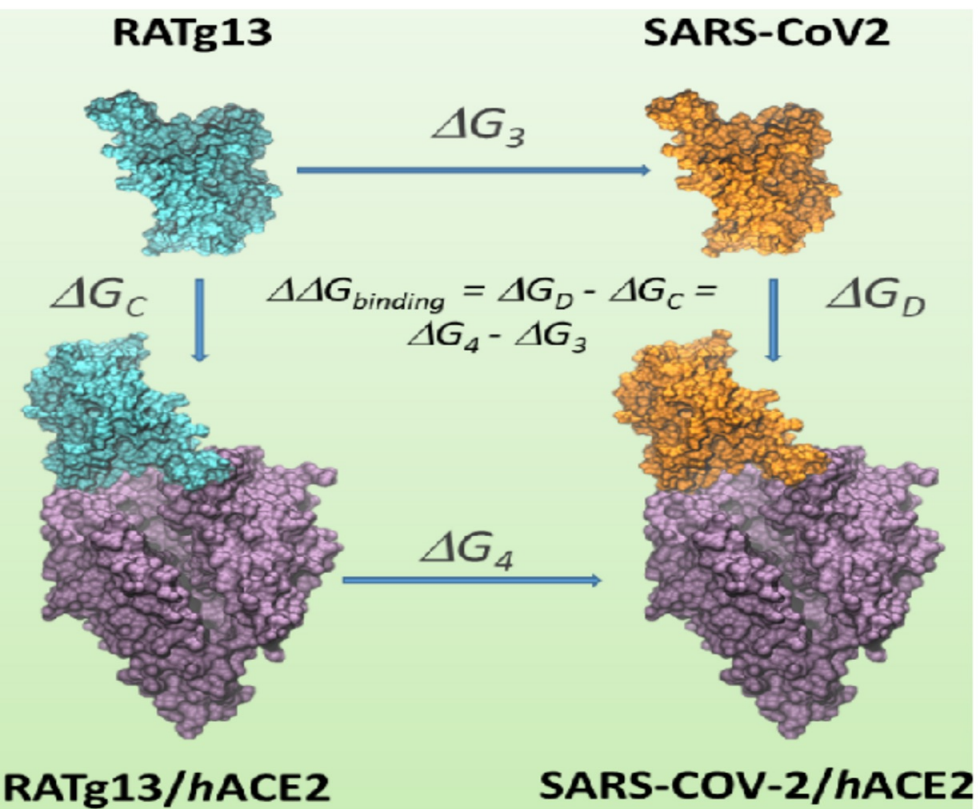


- All contributions sum up to -9.5 kcal/mol (expt ca. -3.0) - failure?

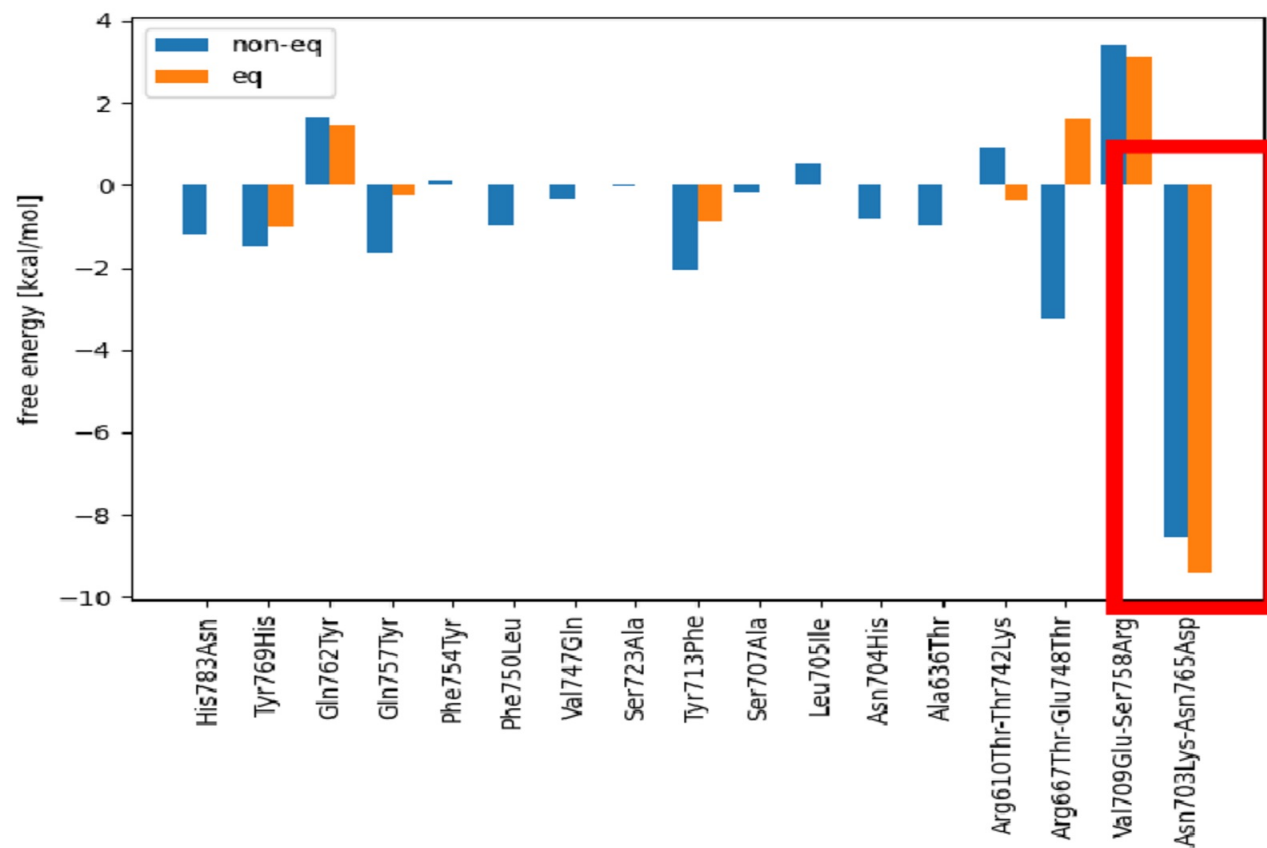


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# Mutations through alchemistry

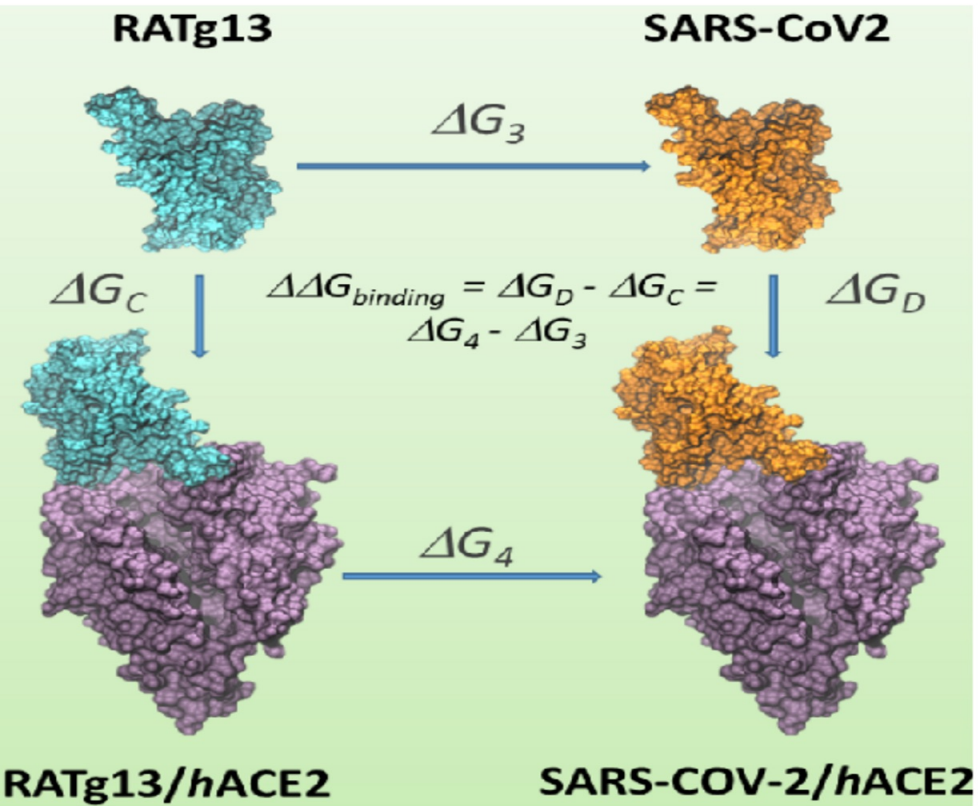


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Article | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 11 March 2021](#)

**Bat and pangolin coronavirus spike glycoprotein structures provide insights into SARS-CoV-2 evolution**



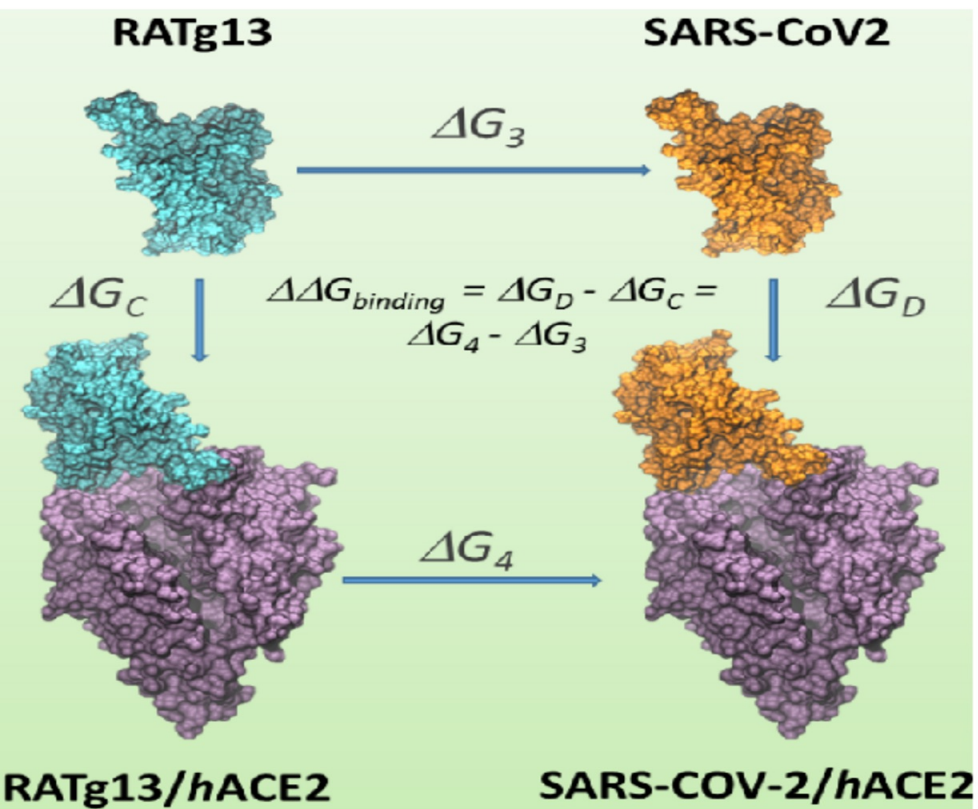
RESEARCH ARTICLE

The SARS-CoV-2 Spike protein has a broad tropism for mammalian ACE2 proteins

Arg610Trp  
Arg667Trp  
Val709Glu  
Asn703Lys



# Mutations through alchemy



- All contributions sum up to -9.5 kcal/mol (expt ca. -3.0) - failure?
- BUT the whole error in one mutant

So... back to the conceptual side:

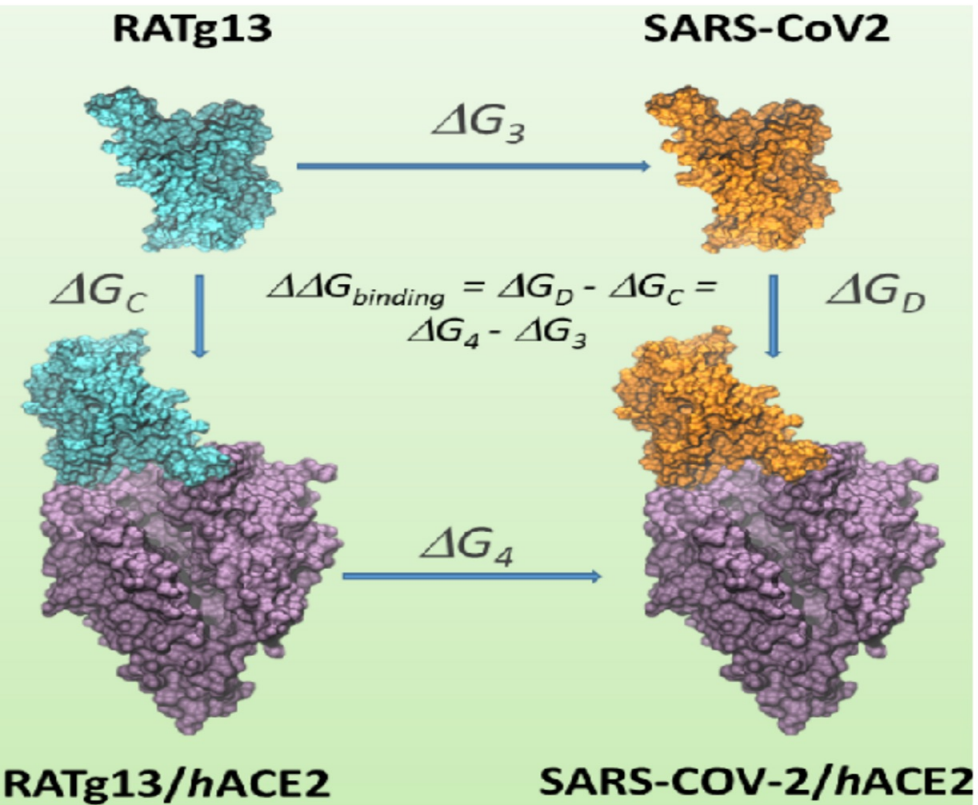
... propka says:

ASP	706	B	4.68	3.80
ASP	731	B	3.50	3.80
<b>ASP</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>7.53</b>	<b>3.80</b>

...

- Strategy: start with "cheap" non-eq, validate selected with expensive equilibrium protocol if numbers don't match up

# Mutations through alchemistry



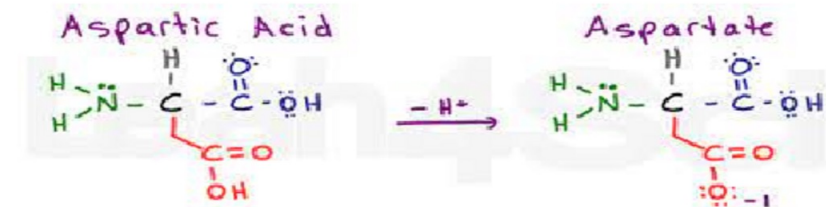
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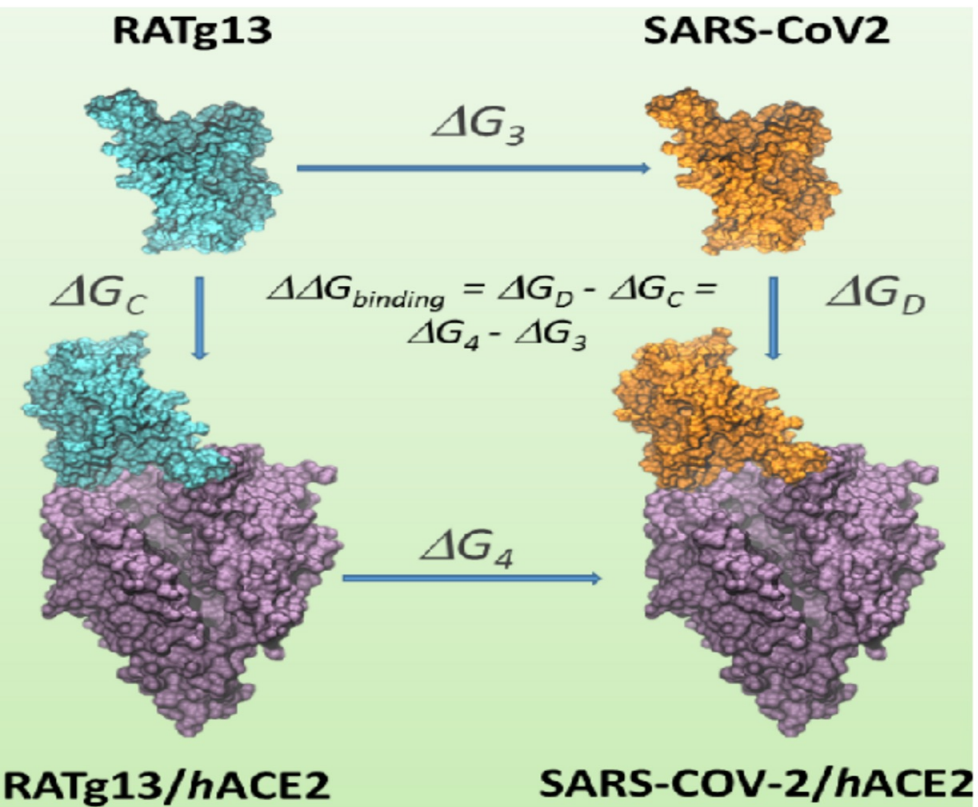
...



- Strategy: start with "cheap" non-eq, validate selected with expensive equilibrium protocol if numbers don't match up

What if we have been simulating the wrong protonation state?

# Mutations through alchemistry



- All contributions sum up to -9.5 kcal/mol (expt ca. **-3.0**) - failure?
- BUT the whole error in one mutant

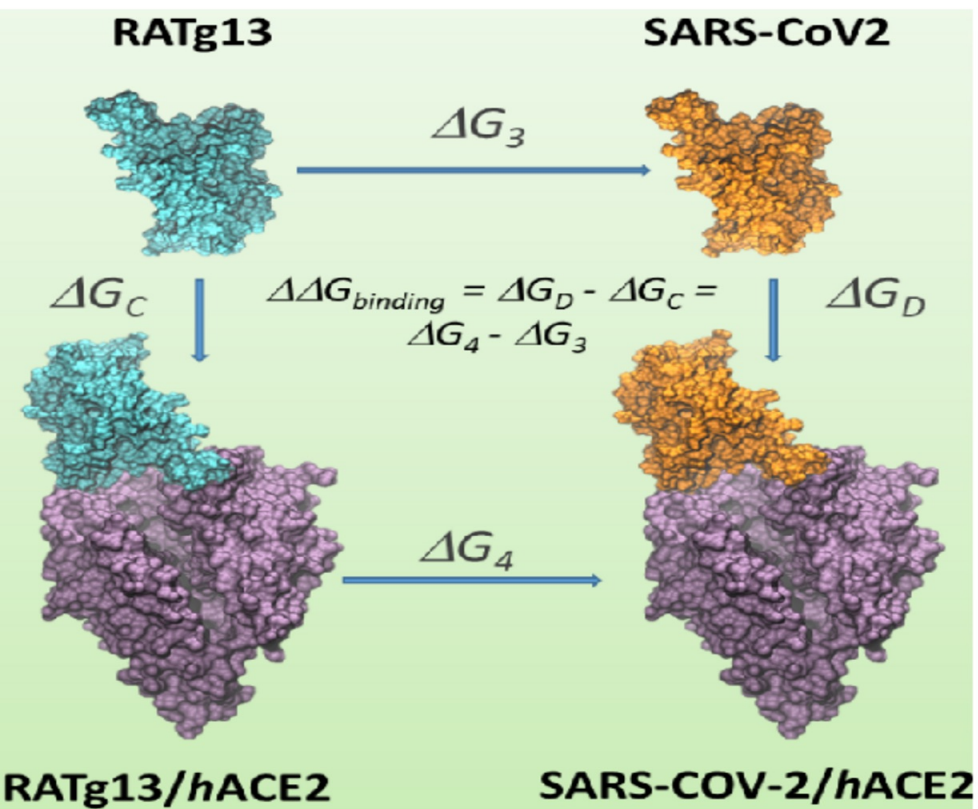
Corrected:

- +1.5 kcal/mol Asn > Arg
- -4.9 kcal/mol Asn > AspH
- **-3.6 kcal/mol** entire dataset

- Strategy: start with "cheap" non-eq, validate selected with expensive equilibrium protocol if numbers don't match up



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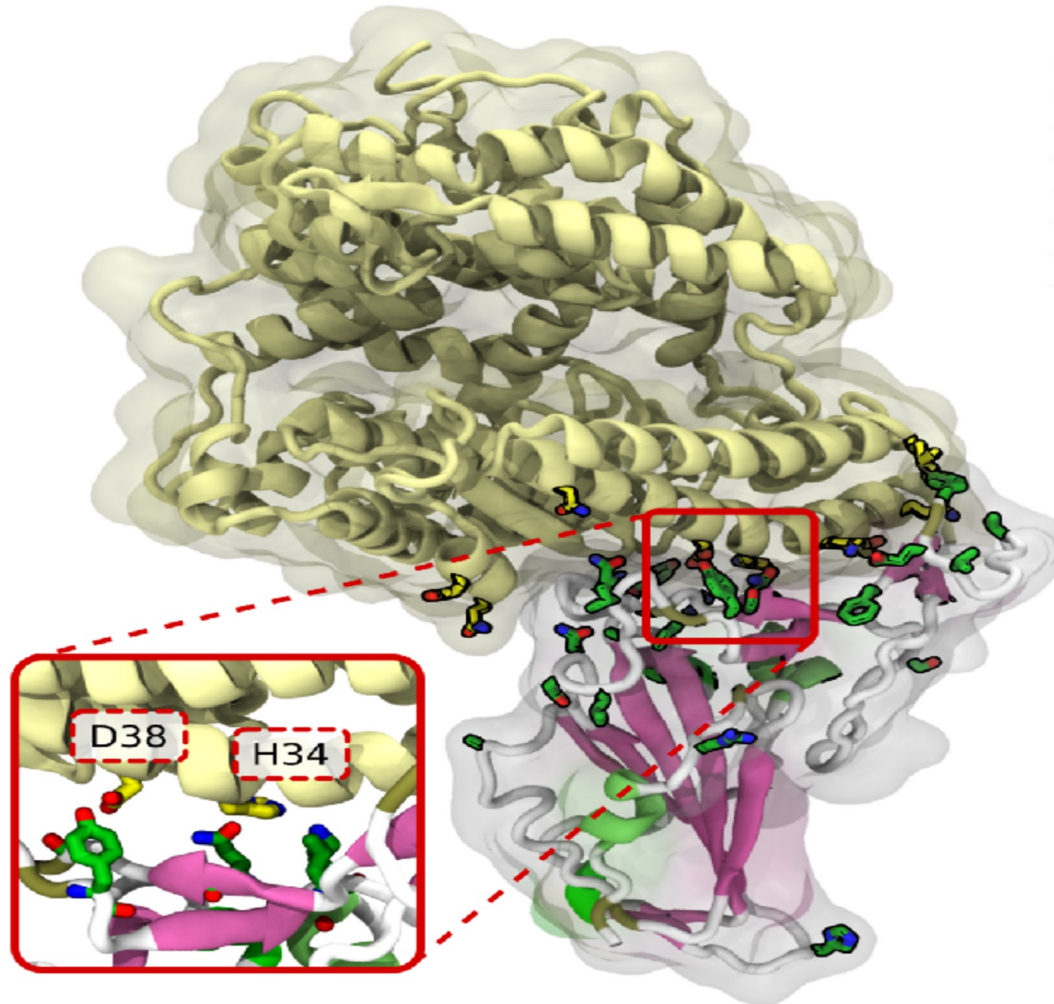
- Strategy: start with "cheap" non-eq, validate selected with expensive equilibrium protocol if numbers don't match up



We're done here!

# From bats to humans

- The receptor-binding domains (RBDs) of both viruses differ by 21 amino acids
- **Challenge:** identify the most important mutations that enabled infecting a new host
- **Curiosity:** there is a subspecies of *R. affinis* that is closer to humans by 2 residues of the receptor



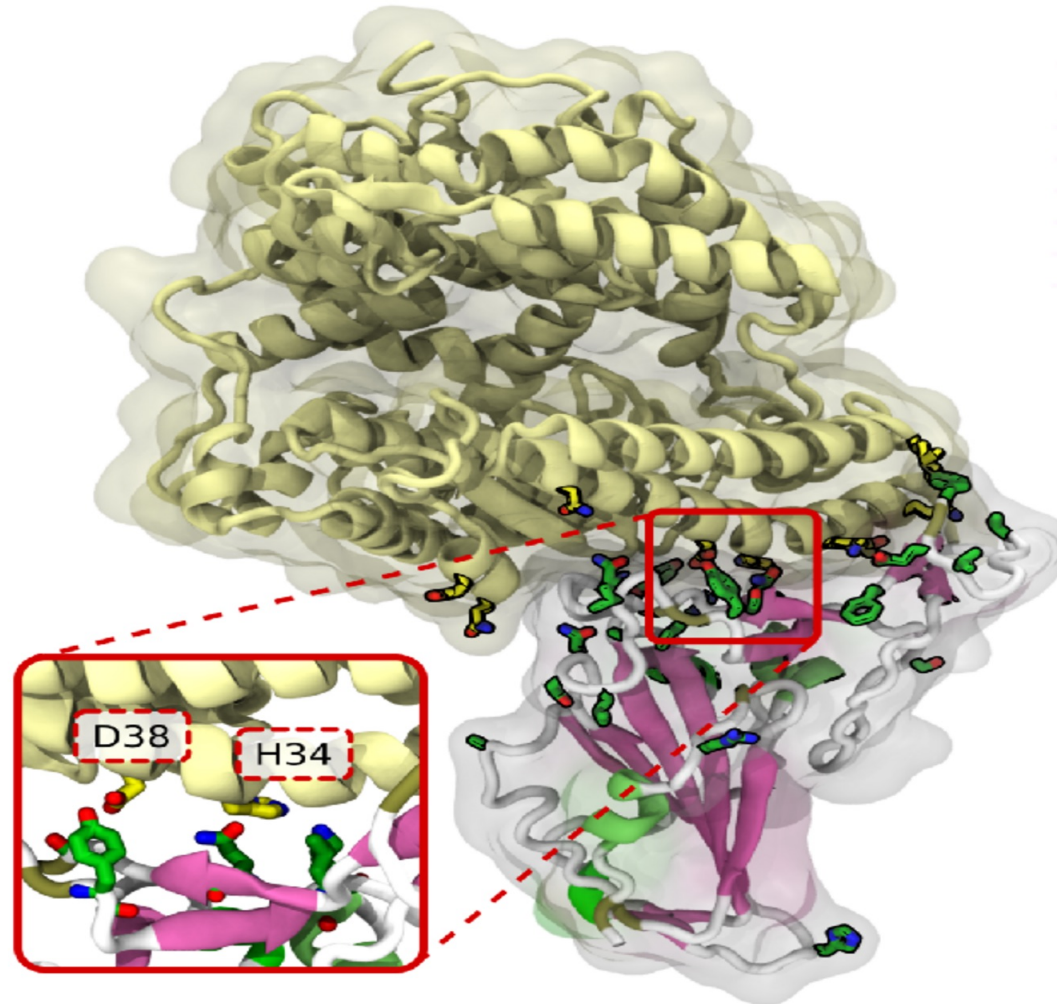
Position	affiACE2	hACE2
21	T	I
24	R	Q
27	I	T
31	N	K
34	R/H	H
38	E/D	D
49	E	N
82	N	M
325	E	Q
329	N	E

Position	RaTG13	SC2
346	T	R
372	T	A
403	T	R
439	K	N
440	H	N
441	I	L
443	A	S
445	E	V
449	F	Y
459	A	S
478	K	T
483	Q	V
484	T	E
486	L	F
490	Y	F
493	Y	Q
494	R	S
498	Y	Q
501	D	N
505	H	Y



# Curiosity: bat polymorphism

- The double mutant (RE/HD) lowers the affinity of the bat virus by 1.4 kcal/mol



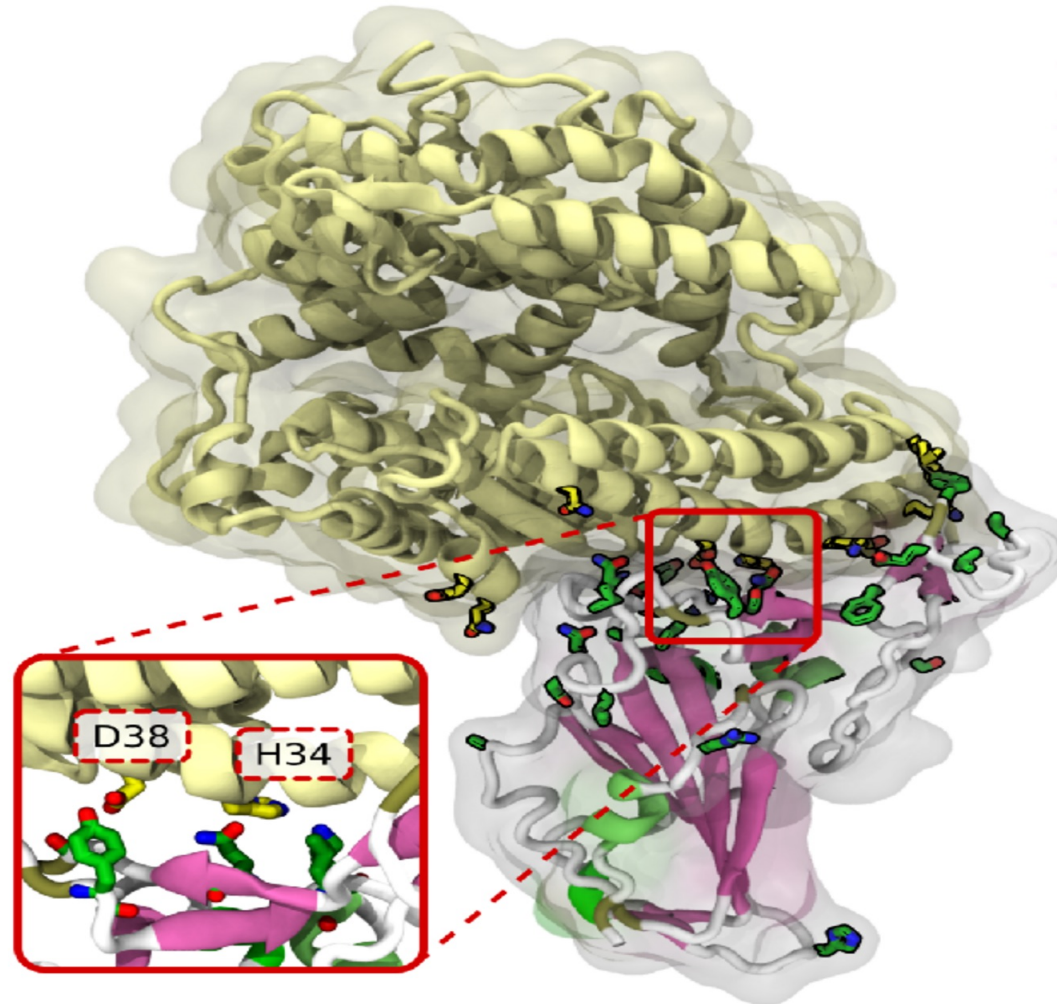
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445	E	V
449	F	Y
459	A	S
478	K	T
483	Q	V
484	T	E
486	L	F
490	Y	F
493	Y	Q
494	R	S
498	Y	Q
501	D	N
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# Curiosity: bat polymorphism

- The double mutant (RE/HD) lowers the affinity of the bat virus by 1.4 kcal/mol
- In turn, the human virus (SARS-CoV-2) prefers the HD pair by 0.7 kcal/mol

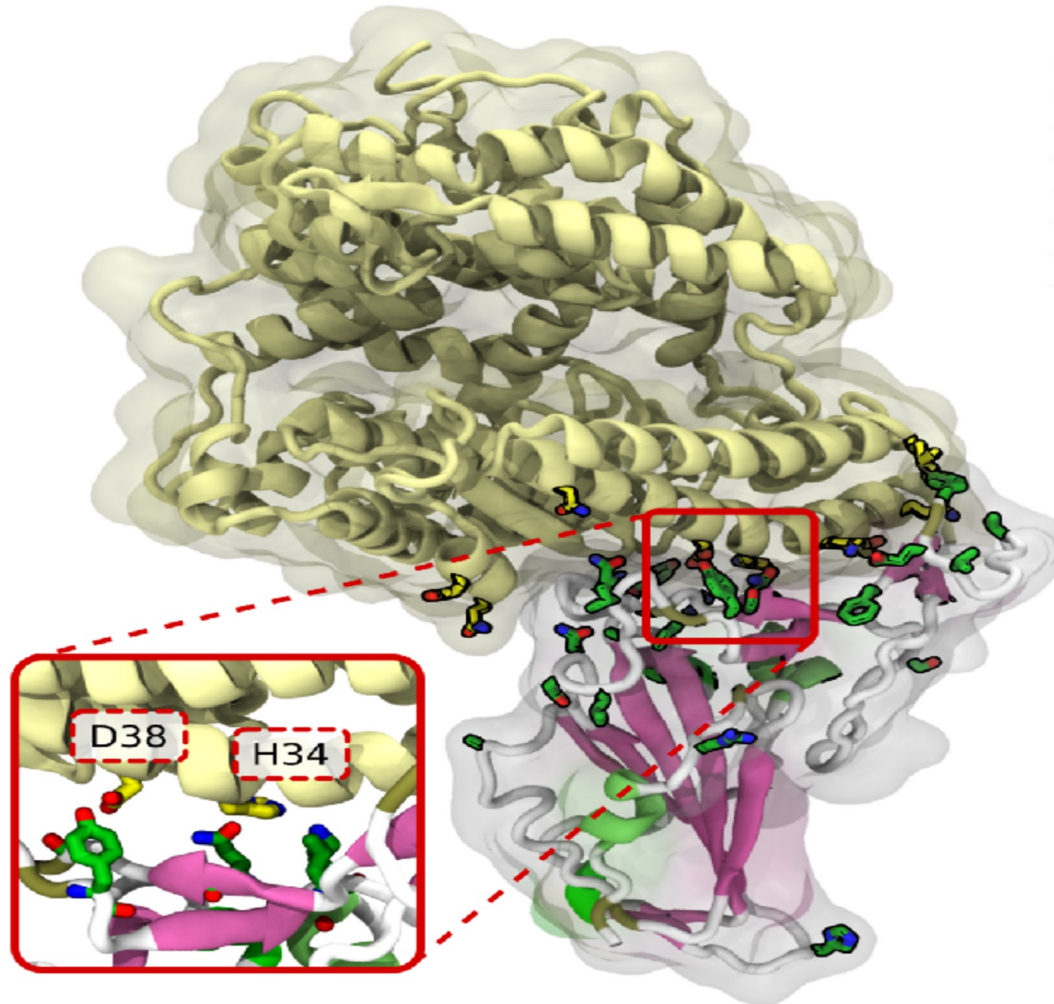


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# Curiosity: bat polymorphism

- The double mutant (RE/HD) lowers the affinity of the bat virus by 1.4 kcal/mol
- In turn, the human virus (SARS-CoV-2) prefers the HD pair by 0.7 kcal/mol
- Possible evolutionary driving force for optimization of the local interface?
- Speculative but not improbable (hopefully!)

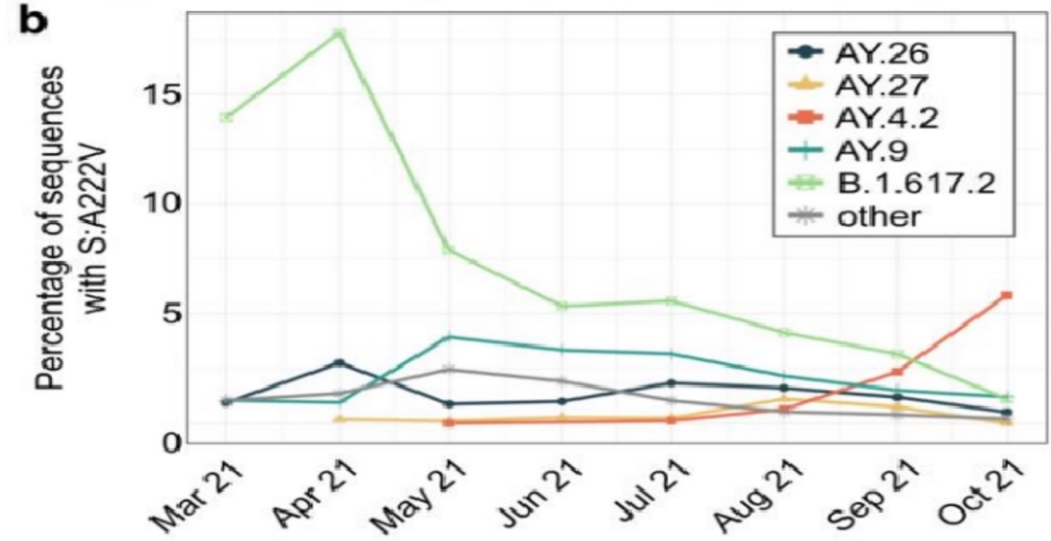
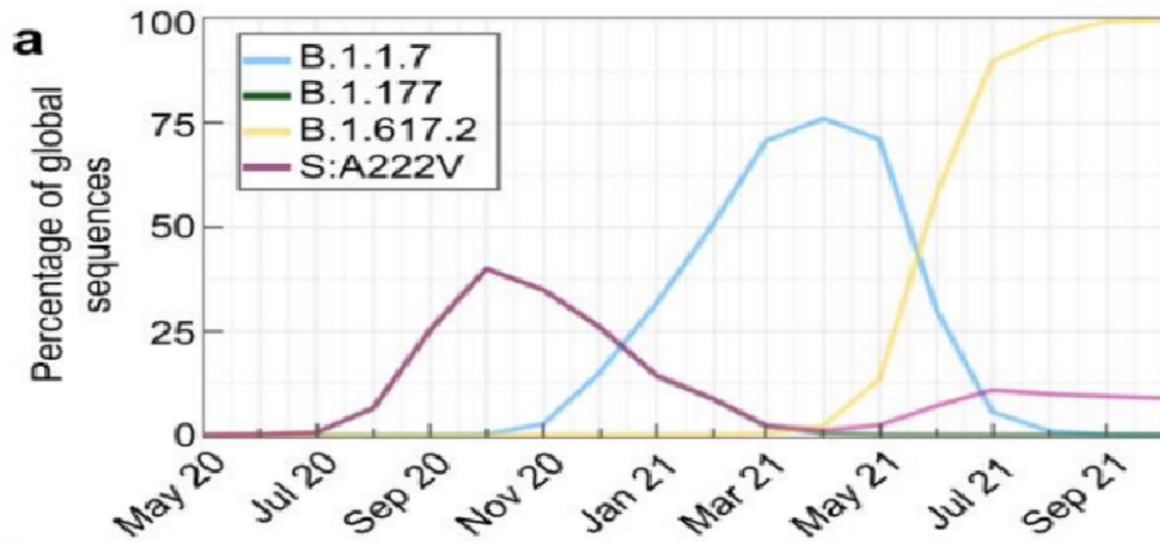


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494	R	S
498	Y	Q
501	D	N
505	H	Y



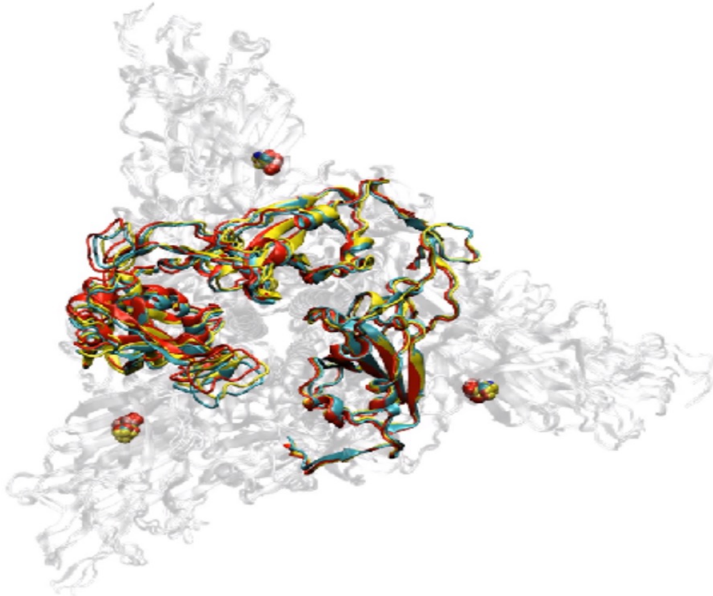
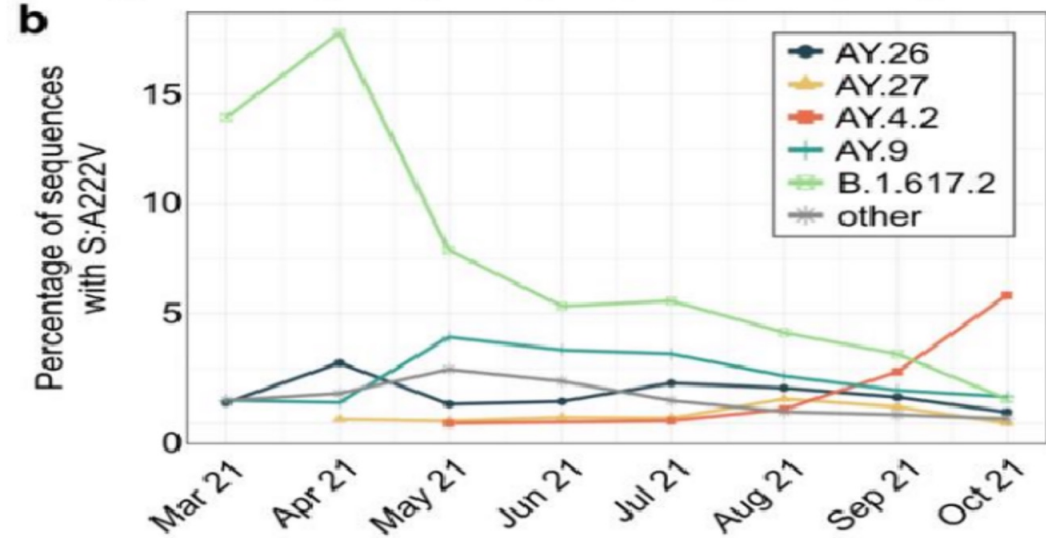
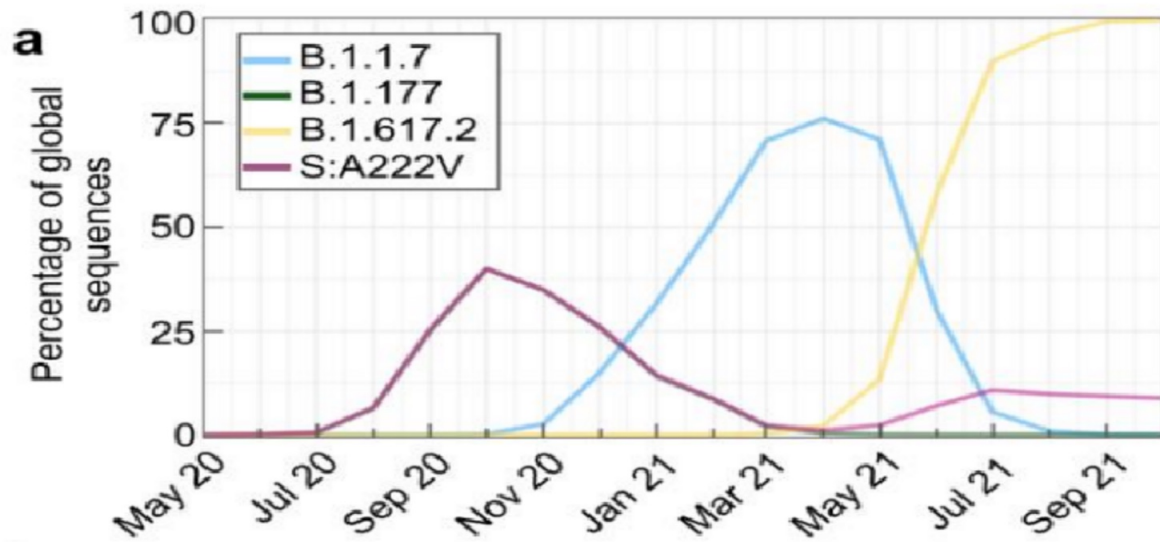
# A222V: the "Spanish" mutant



- First appeared in Spain in summer 2020
- Reappeared in "Delta+" (AY.4.2) in late summer 2021, suggesting an advantage



# A222V: the "Spanish" mutant



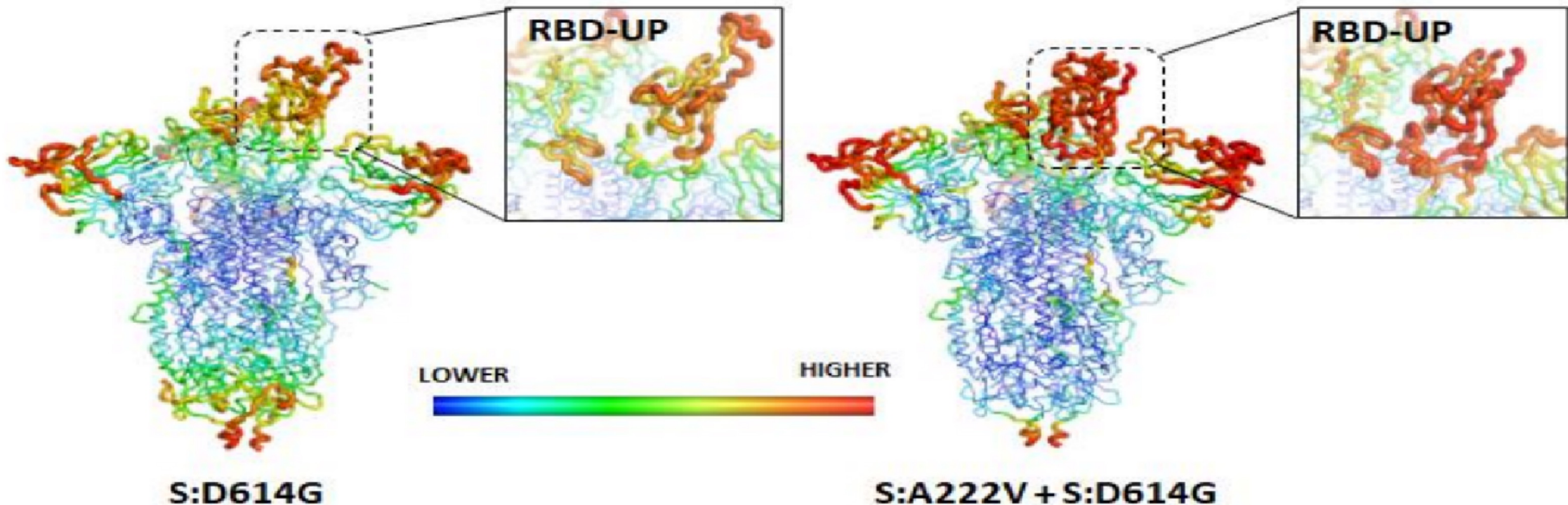
- First appeared in Spain in summer 2020
- Reappeared in "Delta+" (AY.4.2) in late summer 2021, suggesting an advantage
- Located in the N-terminal domain (NTD)
- No obvious functional role (glycosylation, antibody binding, receptor binding, ...) from structure alone

# A222V: the "Spanish" mutant

- Alchemical simulations (mutating in open vs closed chain) show no alterations in the preference for opening

# A222V: the "Spanish" mutant

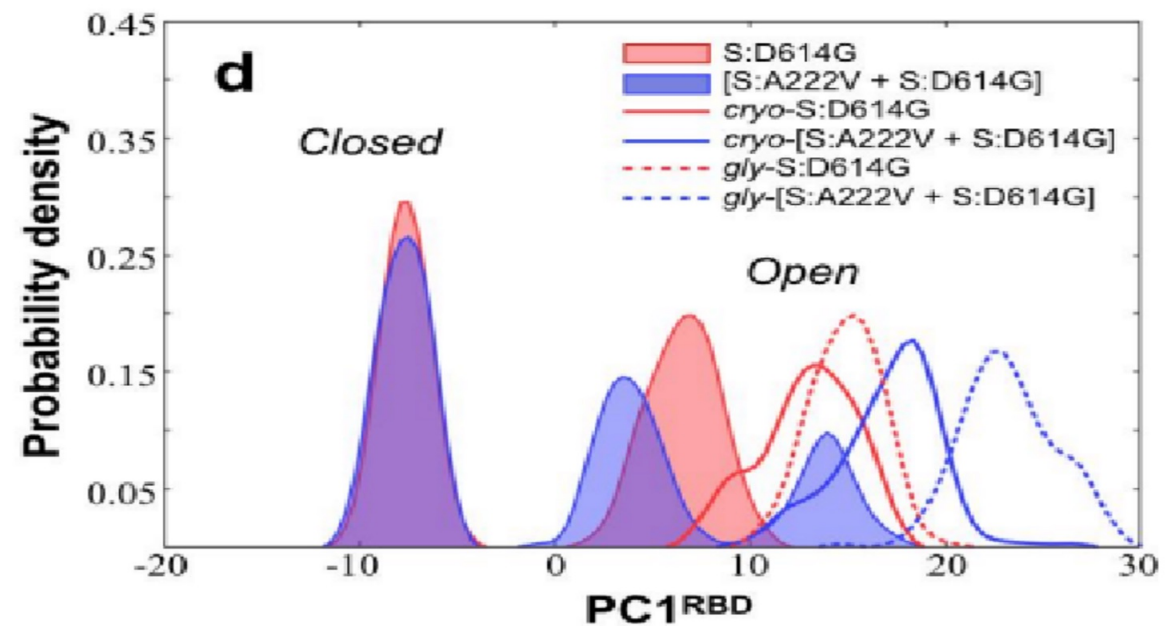
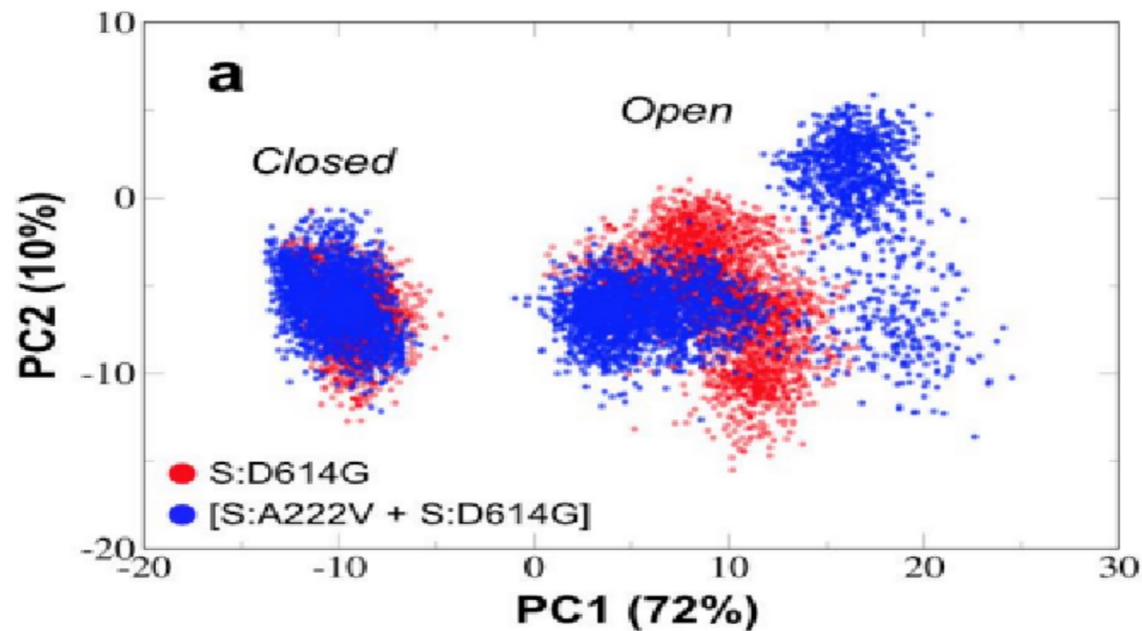
- Alchemical simulations (mutating in open vs closed chain) show no alterations in the preference for opening
- Hints from cryo-EM B-factors:





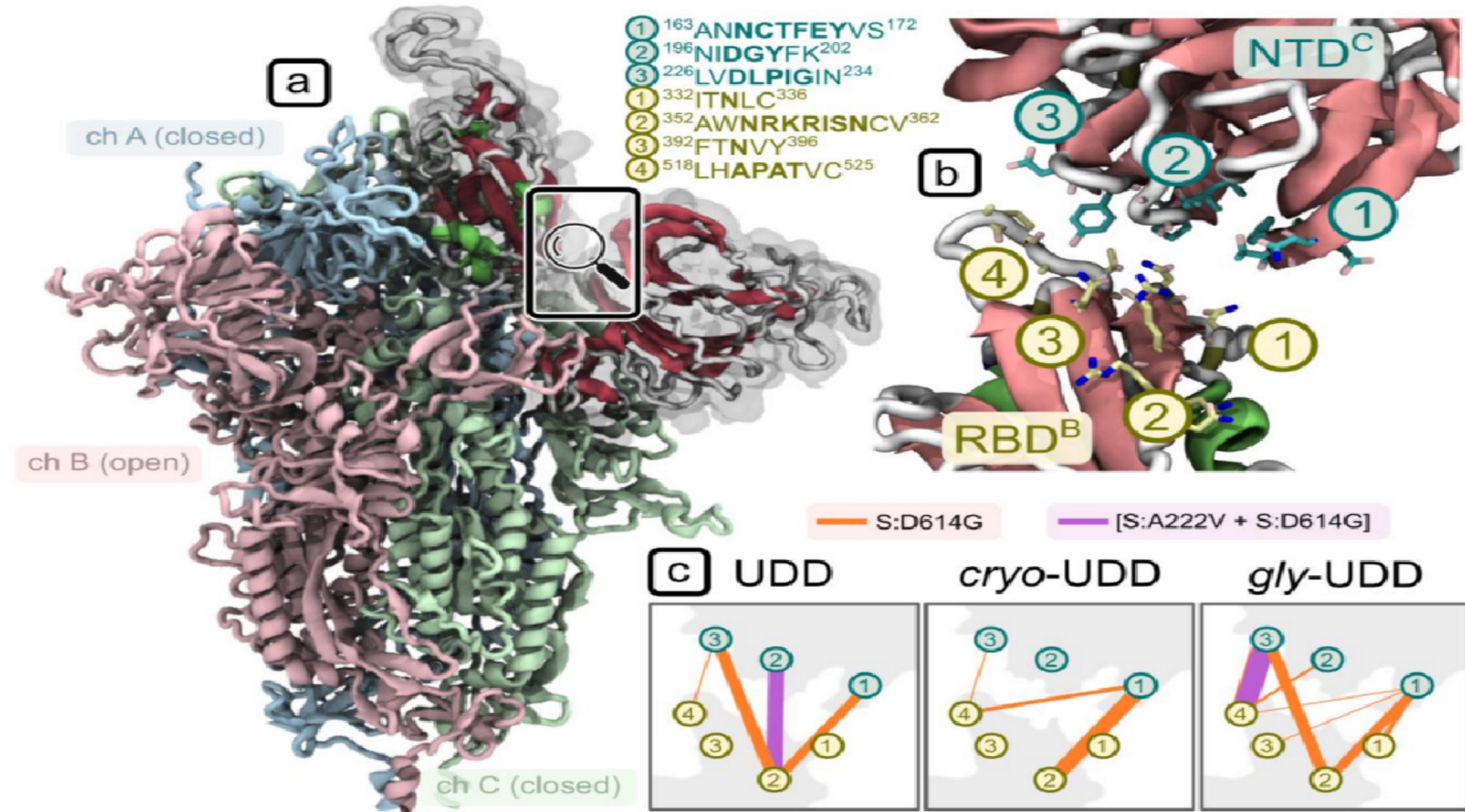
# Can simulations reproduce it?

- Turns out they can: multiple simulations show enhanced flexibility of the RBD (sampling more conformational states)
- Apparent bimodal behavior



# Can simulations explain it?

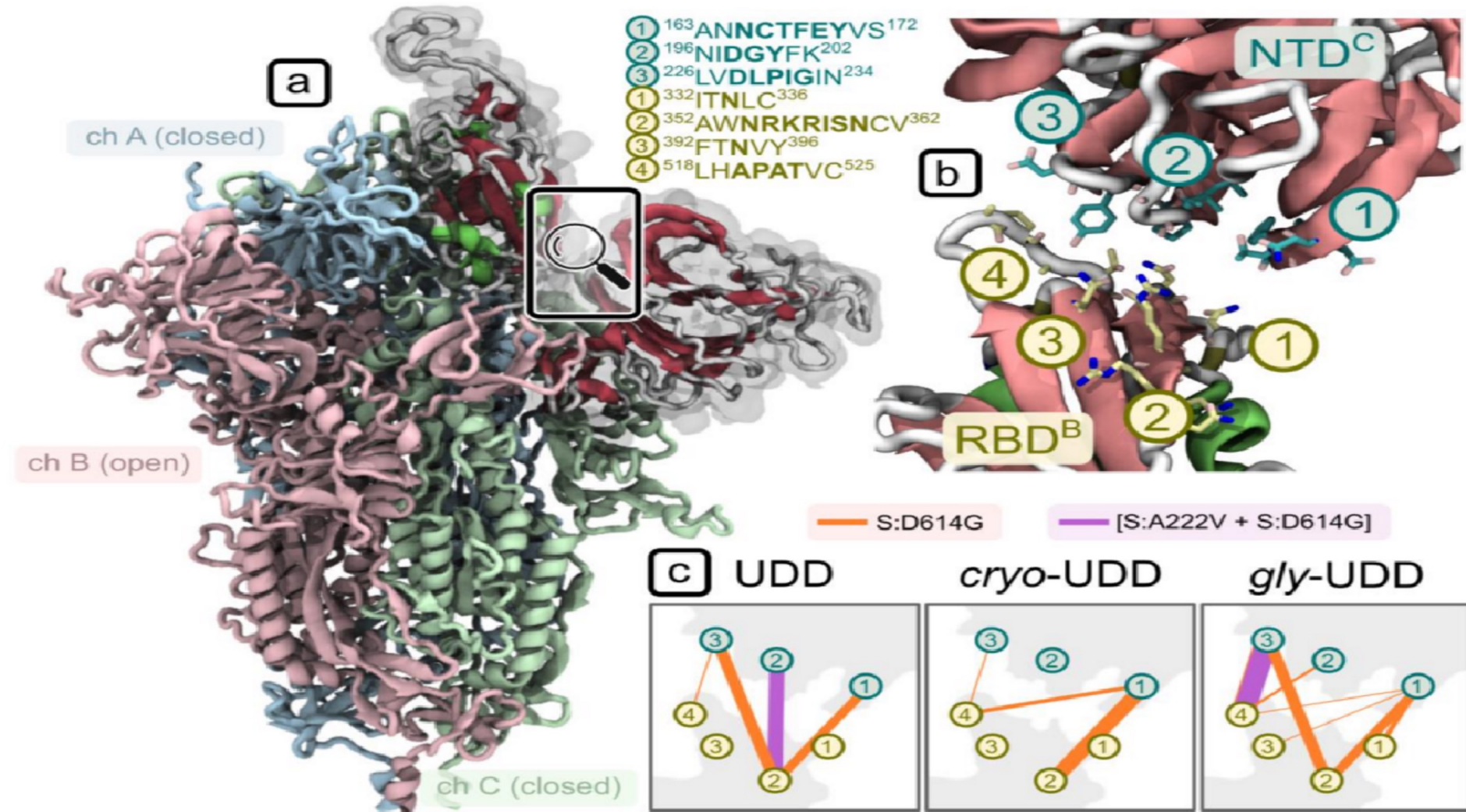
- Dynamic connectivities from network analysis show disruption of NTD-RBD contacts





# Can simulations explain it?

- Dynamic connectivities from network analysis show disruption of NTD-RBD contacts
- Possible synergistic effects with other mutations (epistasis)





# To wrap up:

- We are working to design robust strategies to rapidly calculate mutational free energy changes, and identify mutations crucial to crossing the zoonotic barrier
- Combining bioinformatics (polymorphism analysis) with alchemical free energies can be a powerful method for generating new testable hypotheses
- Multiple equilibrium simulations, alchemical free energies and allosteric analyses can provide a multi-angle characterization of single-residue mutants in Spike

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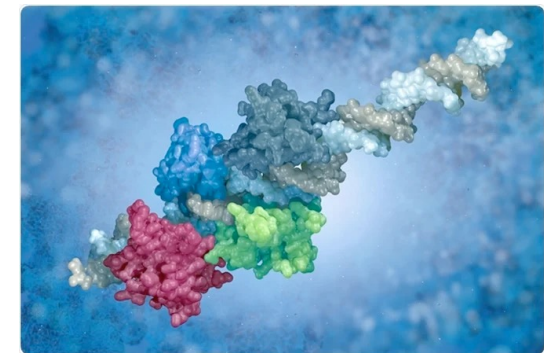
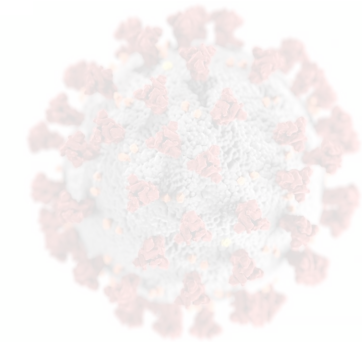
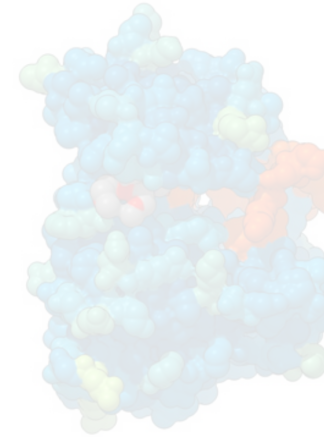
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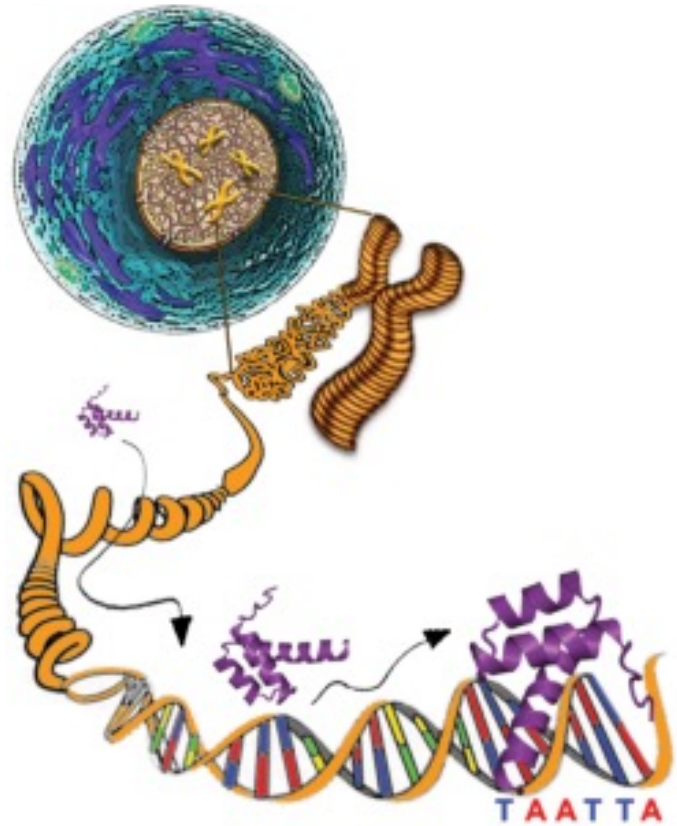
# Projects

- High-throughput **prediction** of the **impact** of **genetic variability** on **drug sensitivity** and **resistance patterns** for clinically relevant **EGFR mutations** from atomistic simulations.
- Large-scale **SARS-CoV2 mutation** analysis, including a study on the **evolutionary path** and **host-selection mechanism** of SARS-CoV-2.
- **DNAffinity: A Machine-Learning approach to predict DNA Binding affinities of Transcription Factors.**



# Aim

Prediction of the most likely binding sites for different TFs along a given DNA sequence

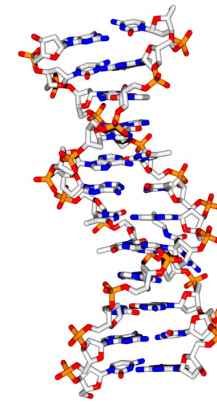
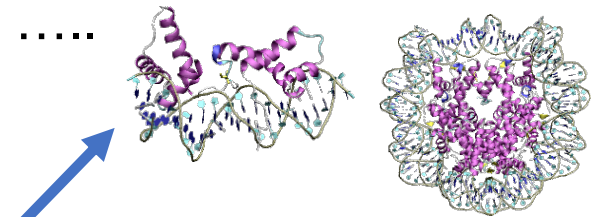


DNA SEQUENCE



FUNCTION

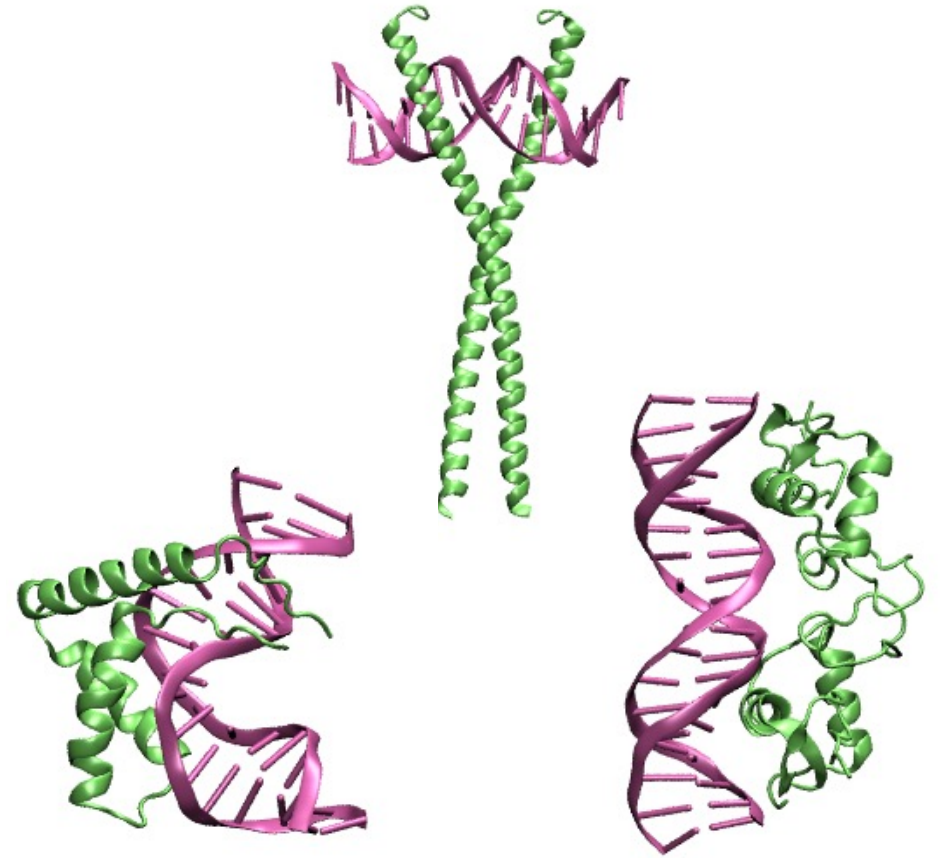
Protein Recognition  
Protein-DNA binding  
Genome organization  
Expression control



STRUCTURE

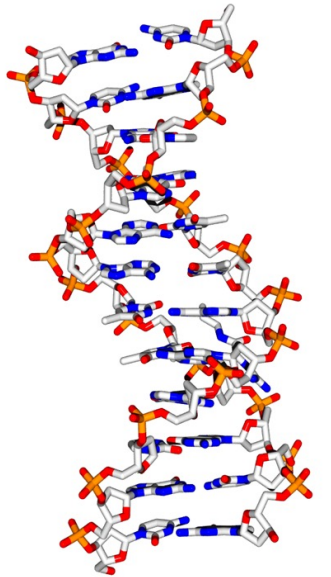
# Methods: Machine learning workflow

- The model takes into account
  - Experimental data
  - Computationally derived structural DNA properties (including neighboring effect)

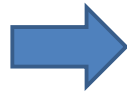




# Scheme ML



DNA sequences



Labels

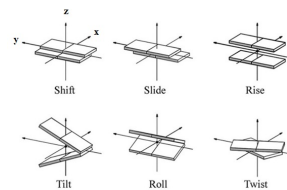
AFFINITIES

In vitro experiments

Features

DNA PROPERTIES (at tetramer level)

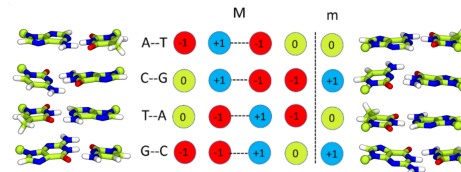
Base pair parameters (AVG) and stiffness (DIAG)



$$\Xi_h = k_B T C_h^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} k_{\text{twist}} & k_{l-r} & k_{l-l} & k_{l-i} & k_{l-s} & k_{l-d} \\ k_{l-r} & k_{r\text{roll}} & k_{r-l} & k_{r-i} & k_{r-s} & k_{r-d} \\ k_{l-l} & k_{r-l} & k_{l\text{tilt}} & k_{l-i} & k_{l-s} & k_{l-d} \\ k_{l-i} & k_{r-i} & k_{l-i} & k_{i\text{rise}} & k_{i-s} & k_{i-d} \\ k_{l-s} & k_{r-s} & k_{l-s} & k_{i-s} & k_{s\text{shift}} & k_{s-d} \\ k_{l-d} & k_{r-d} & k_{l-d} & k_{i-d} & k_{s-d} & k_{s\text{slide}} \end{bmatrix}$$

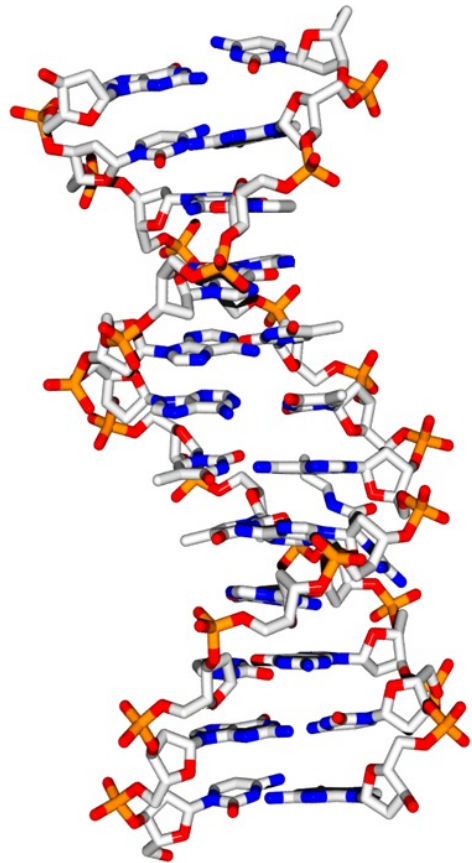
Sequence Pattern (PRESENCE probability)

Electrostatics



RANDOM  
FOREST  
REGRESSOR:  
Train the  
method over  
80% of the data  
and test the  
remaining 20%  
(R<sup>2</sup>)

# Features



## DNA CONFORMATION AT TETRAMER LEVEL (ParmBSC1):

Base pair parameters and stiffness: (INDIRECT READOUT)

Shift

Slide

Rise

Tilt

Roll

Twist

$$\Xi_h = k_B T C_h^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} k_{\text{twist}} & k_{t-r} & k_{t-l} & k_{t-i} & k_{t-s} & k_{t-d} \\ k_{t-r} & k_{\text{roll}} & k_{r-l} & k_{r-i} & k_{r-s} & k_{r-d} \\ k_{t-l} & k_{r-l} & k_{\text{tilt}} & k_{l-i} & k_{l-s} & k_{l-d} \\ k_{t-i} & k_{r-i} & k_{l-i} & k_{\text{rise}} & k_{i-s} & k_{i-d} \\ k_{t-s} & k_{r-s} & k_{l-s} & k_{i-s} & k_{\text{shift}} & k_{s-d} \\ k_{t-d} & k_{r-d} & k_{l-d} & k_{i-d} & k_{s-d} & k_{\text{slide}} \end{bmatrix}$$

Sequence Pattern (PRESENCE probability)

Electrostatic potential at base pair level (DIRECT READOUT)

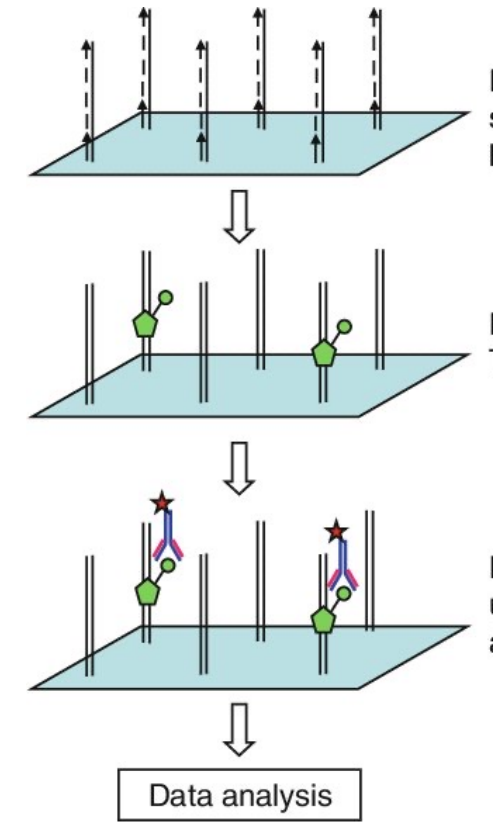
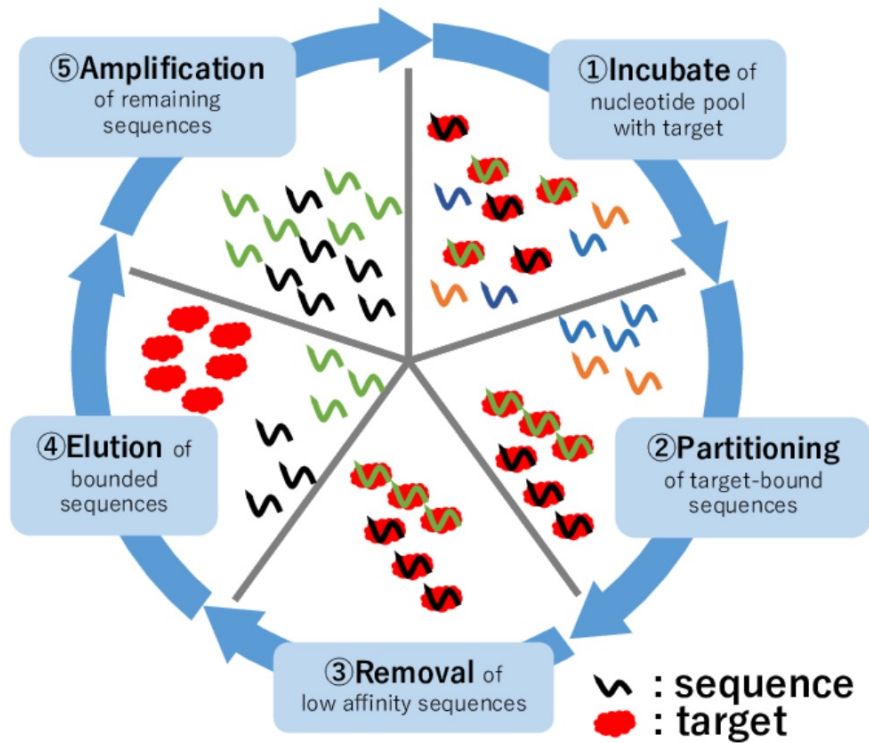
	M					m
	A-T	-1	+1	-1	0	
	C-G	0	+1	-1	-1	+1
	T-A	0	-1	+1	-1	0
	G-C	-1	-1	+1	0	+1

# Labels

## IN VITRO EXPERIMENTS

Binding affinity  
from HT-selex  
experiments  
for each TF

Binding affinity  
Protein Binding  
Microarray (PBM)  
Data for each TF





# Methods- Preprocessing Data

- uPBM (*universal PBM*, 36mers) cut and aligned based on position-weight-matrix (PWM) of the highest affinity sequences

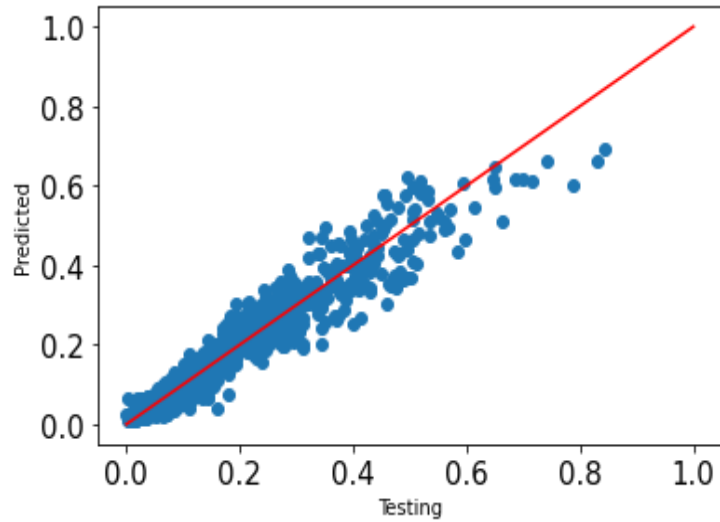
Noisy and overrepresentation of low affinity binding sites: Undersampling (removing noise - *uPBM*)

- gcPBM (*genomic PBM*) already centered, removal of sequences with multiple binding site (gcPBM)

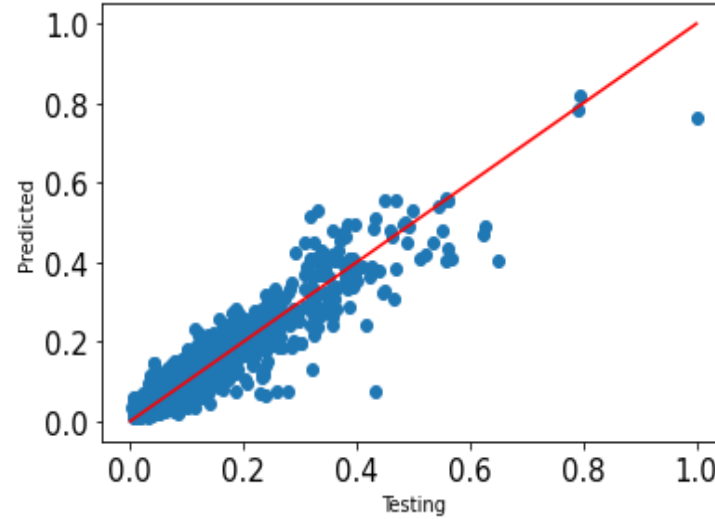
- HT-SELEX data quality assessment: Removing data with low P-value (not reliable) and filtering cases using the correlation between the counts across the different cycles.

# Results (gcPBM)

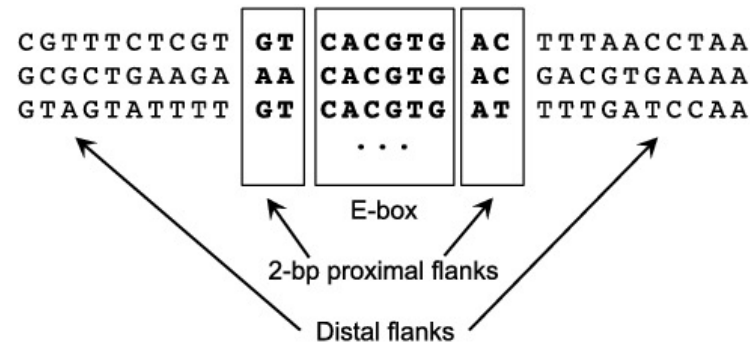
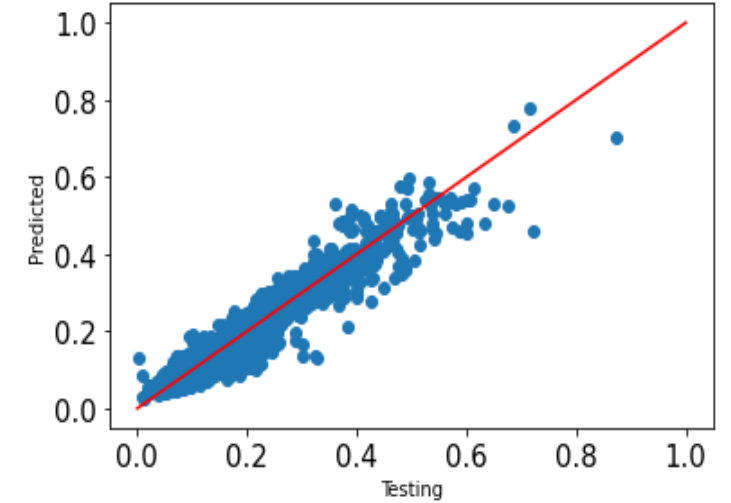
MAD1 ( $R^2=0.951$ )



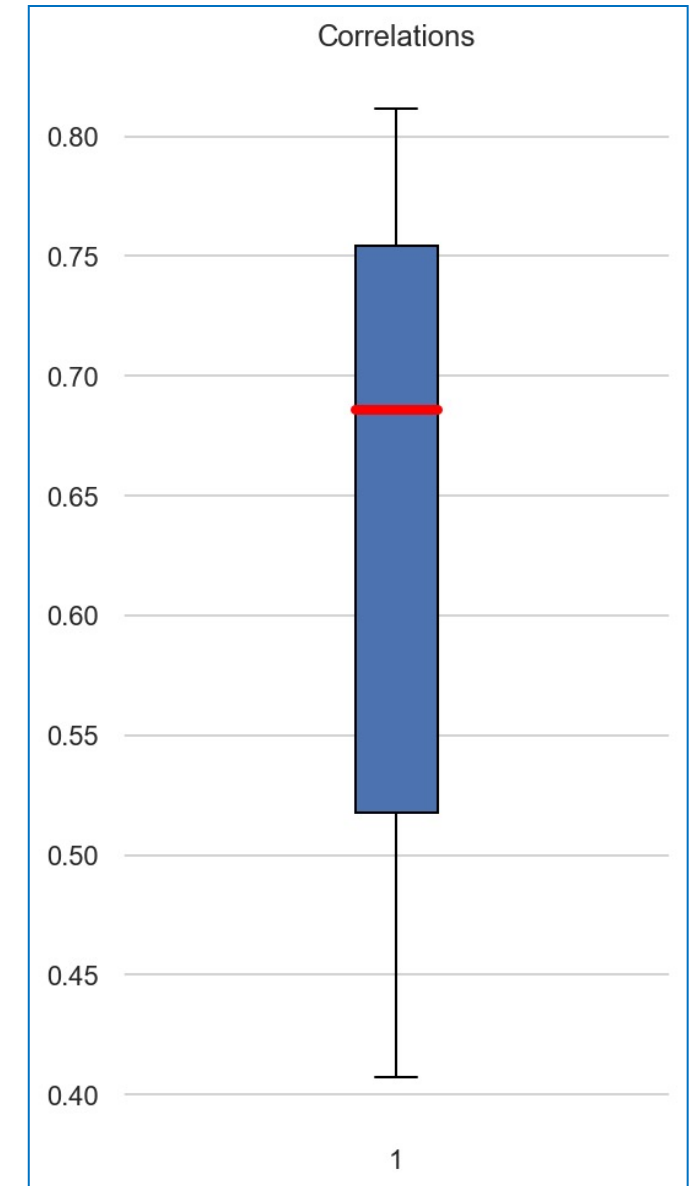
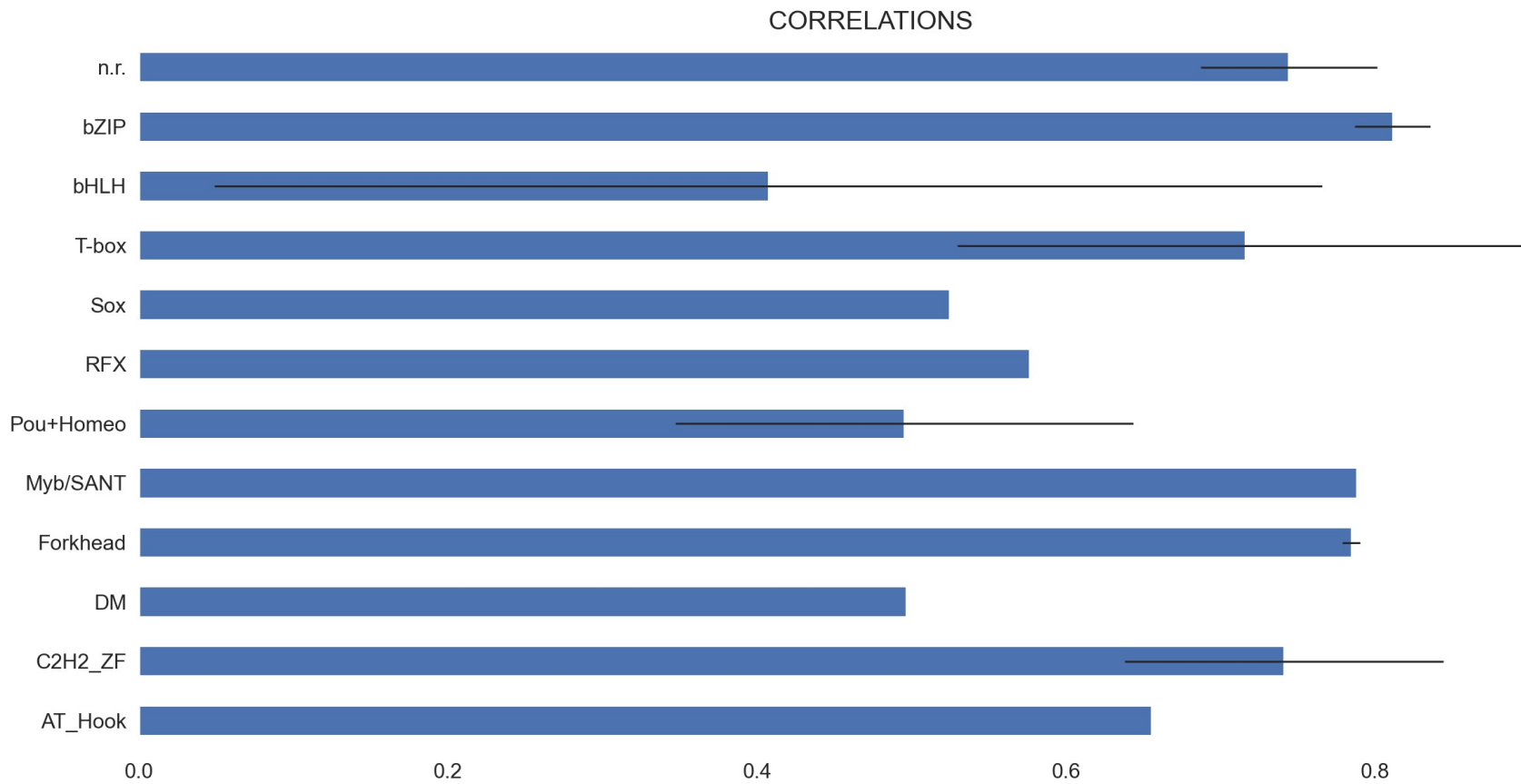
MYC ( $R^2=0.905$ )



MAX ( $R^2=0.922$ )

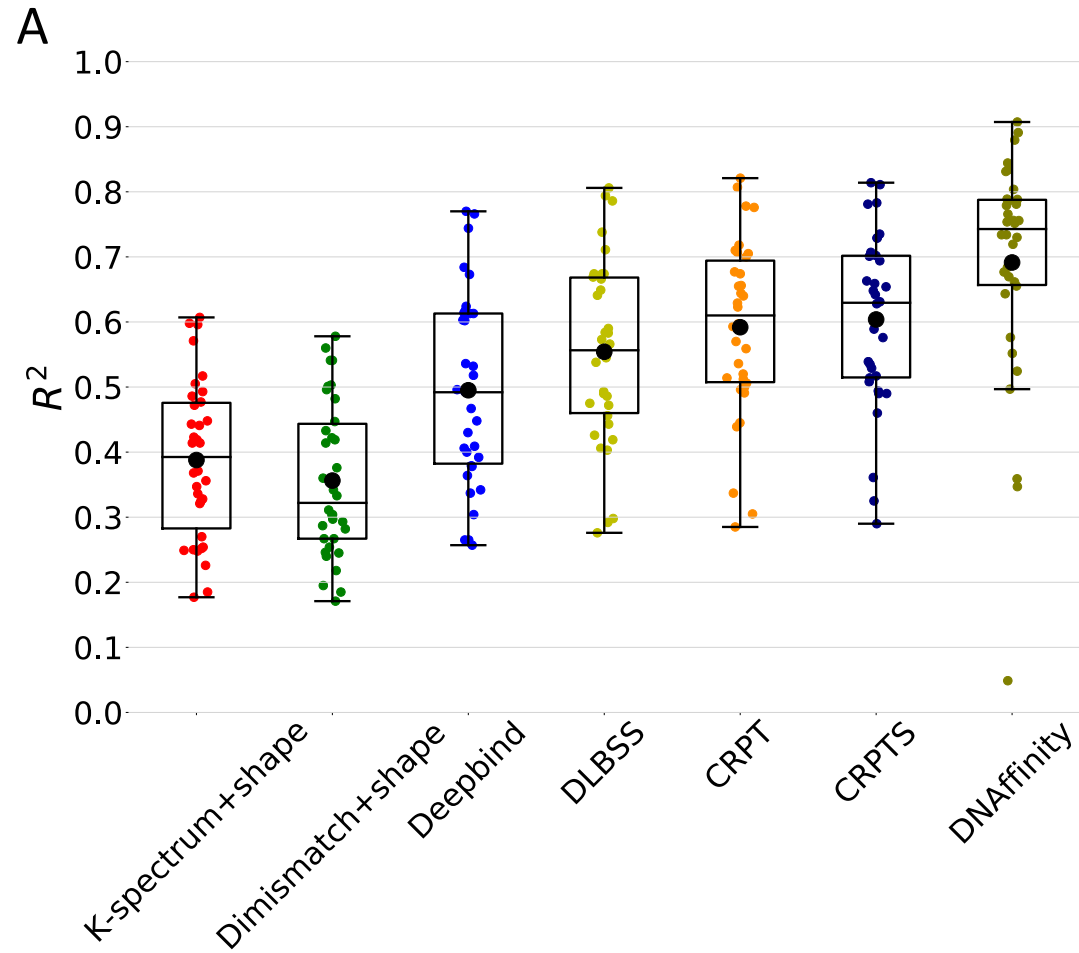


# Results (uPBM)

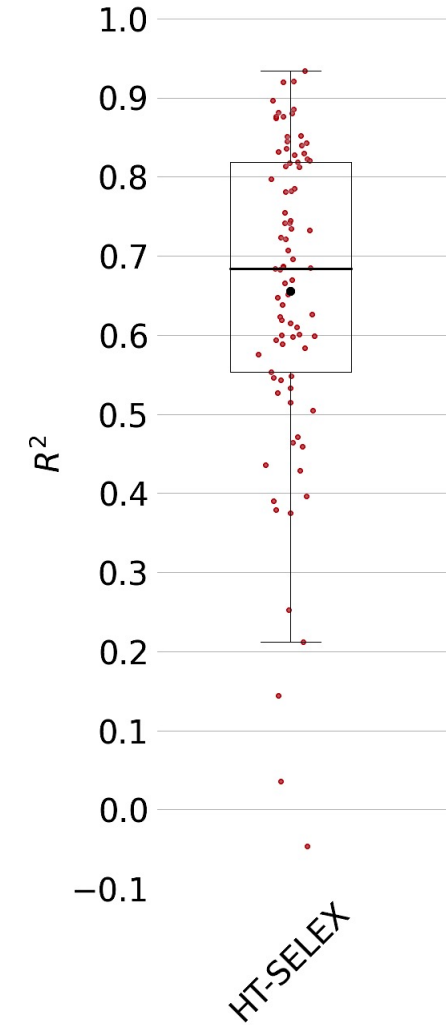
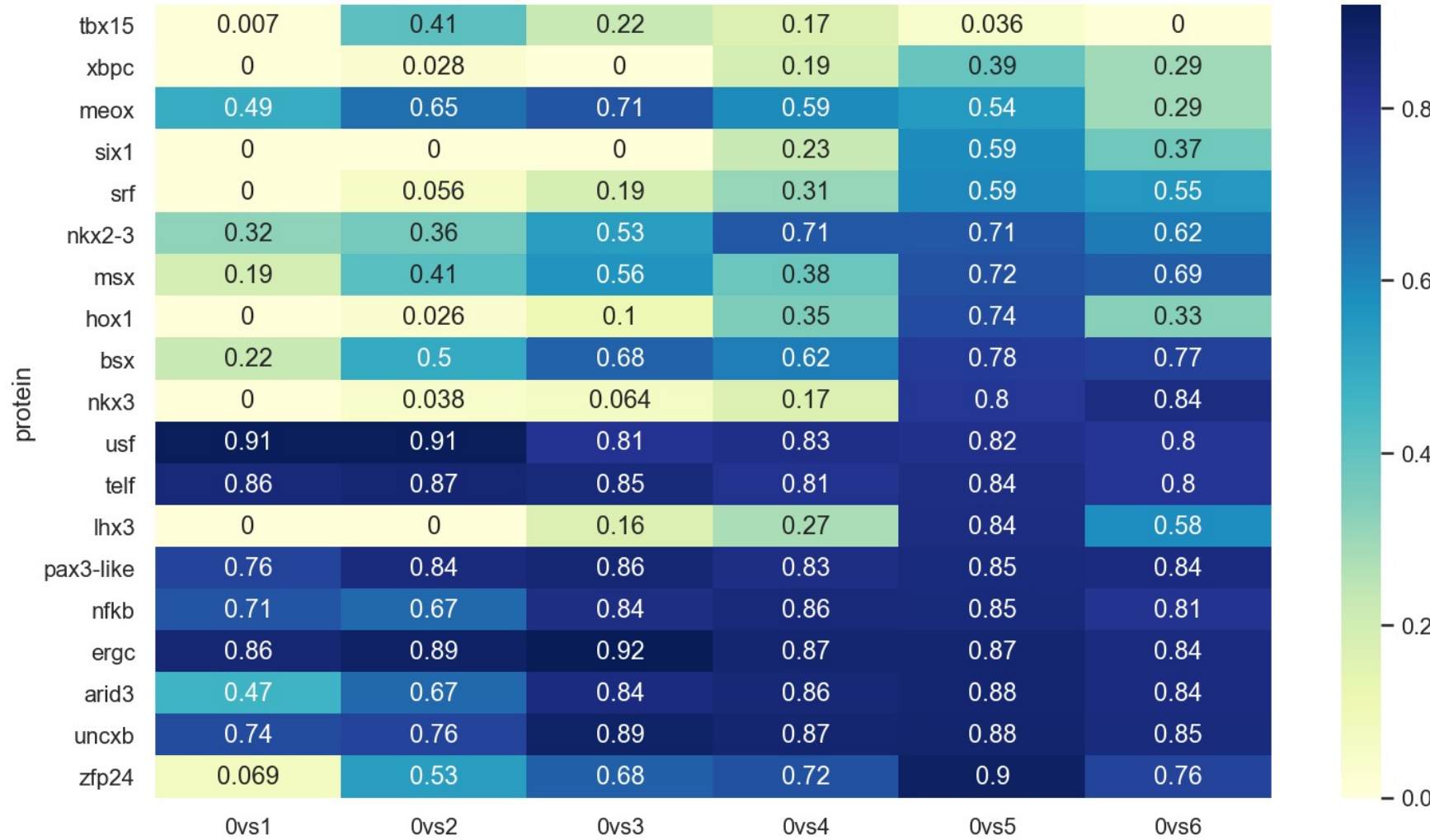




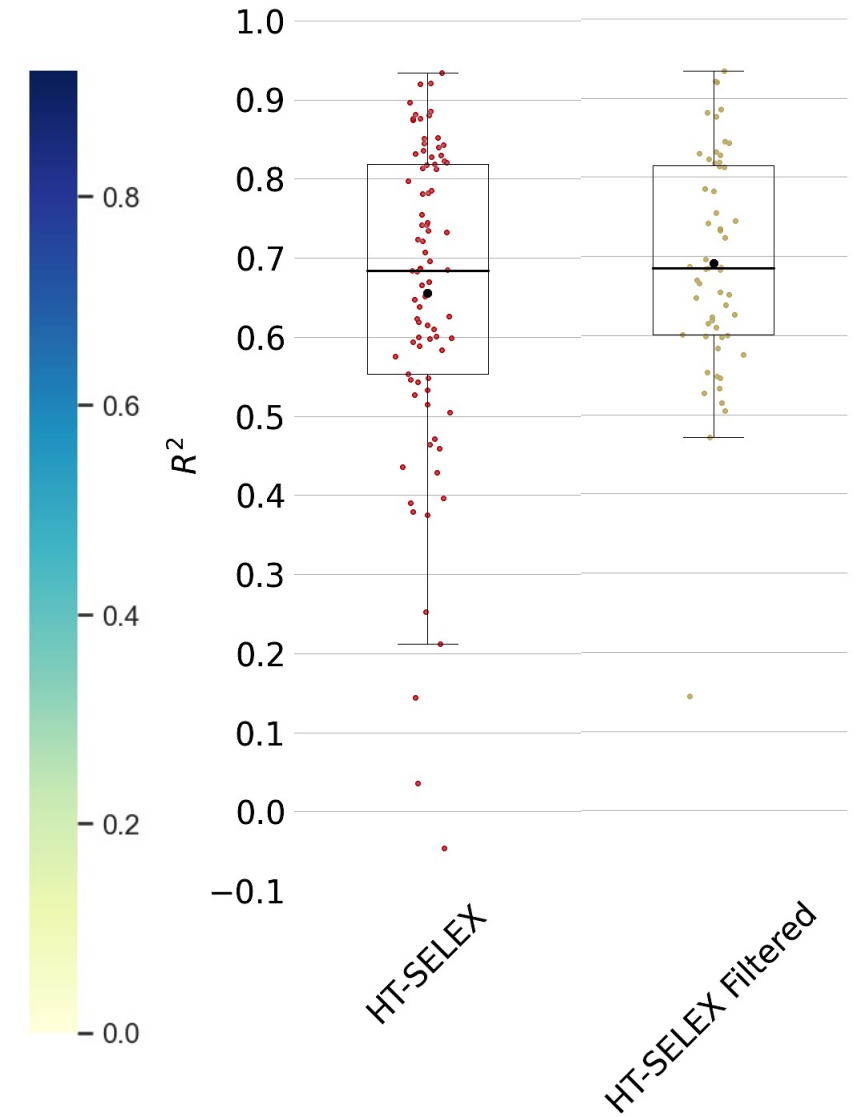
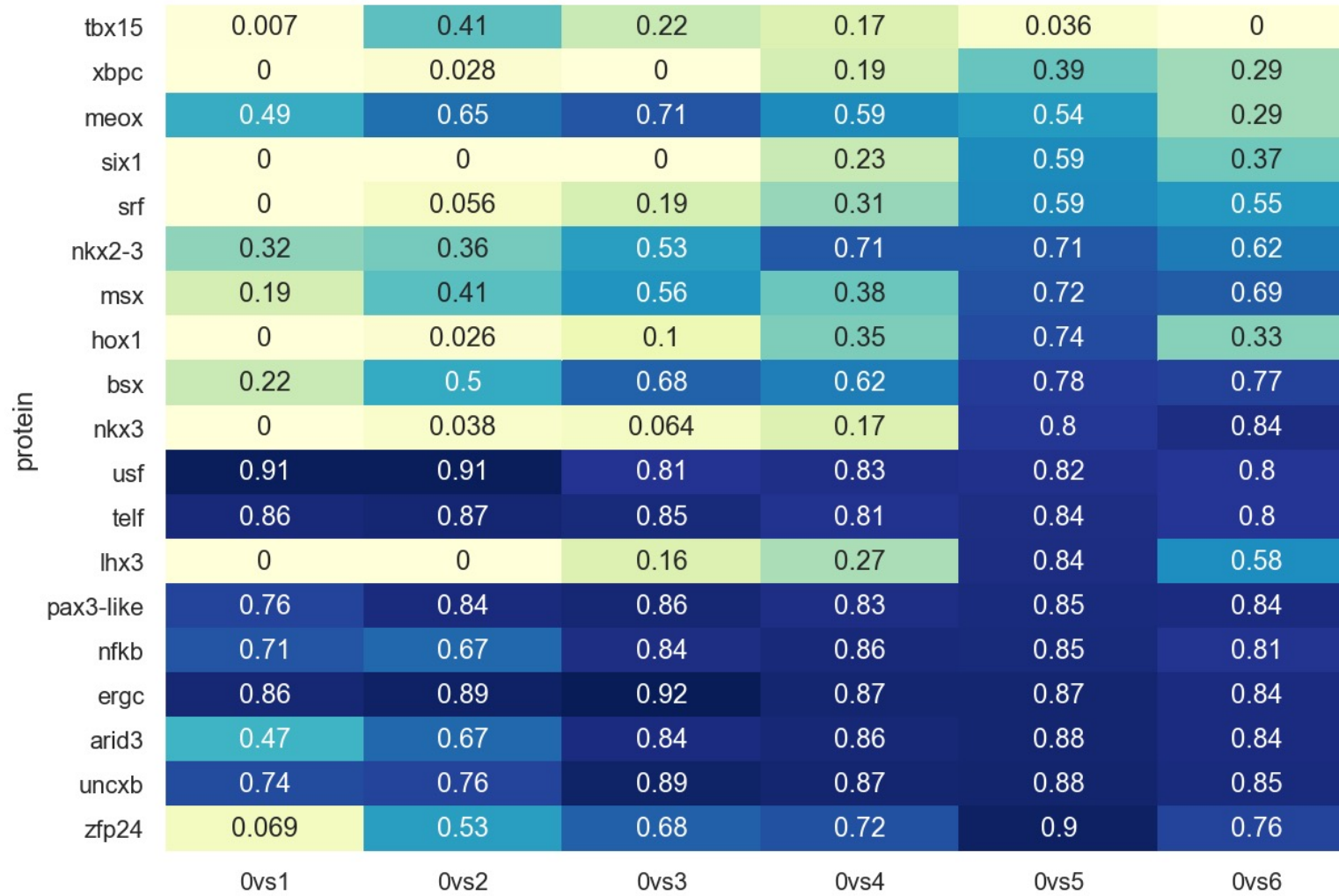
# Results (uPBM)-Comparisons



# Results (HT-Selex)

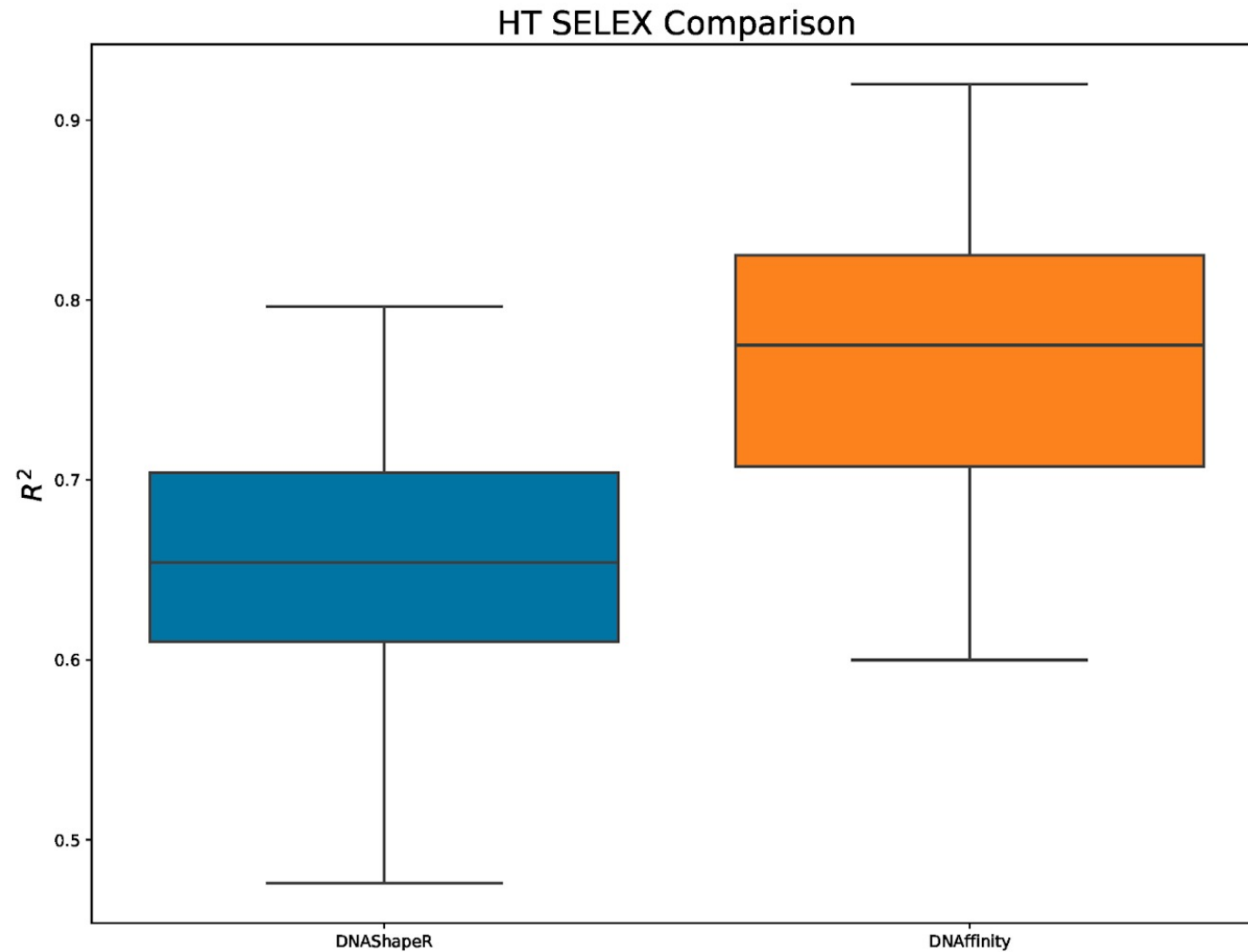


# Results (HT-Selex)

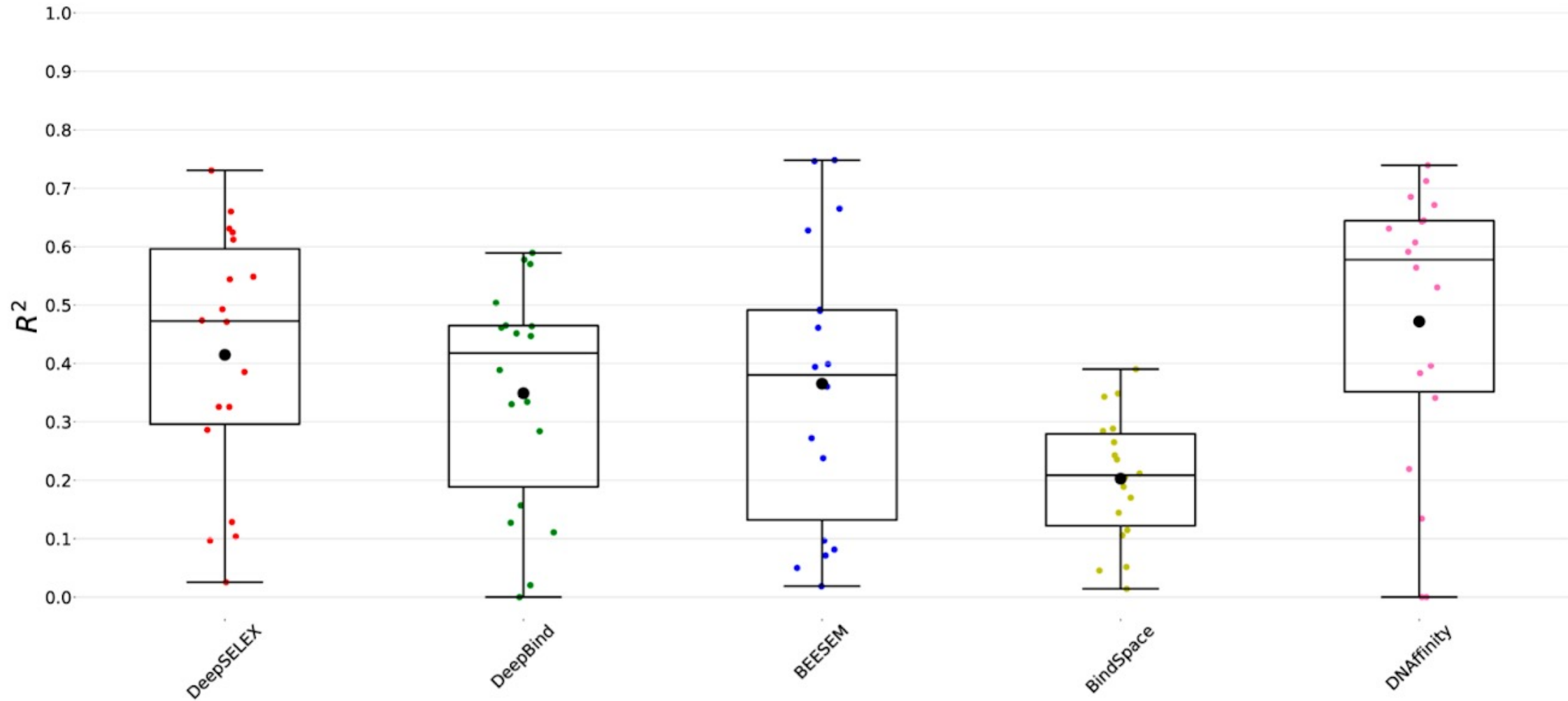




# Results (HT-Selex)-Comparison



# Results (HT-Selex → uPBM)



# Conclusions

- Using our machine learning algorithm, we were able to predict the experimental TF-DNA affinity with an average correlation of 70%.
- Our method can be applied to data from different experimental techniques.
- We can use our trained model to predict *in vivo* transcription factor binding sites -> to be extended to whole genome



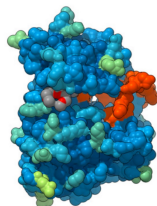
# Acknowledgements

## **Prof. Modesto Orozco**

Dr. Francesco Colizzi  
Daniel Beltrán

Dr. Robert Soliva  
Dr. Yvonne Westermaier  
Aristarc Suriñach  
Martí Municoy

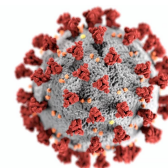
Prof. Josep Lluís Gelpí  
Lluís Jordà  
Sergi Orozco-Ruiz  
Pau Andrio



## **Prof. Modesto Orozco**

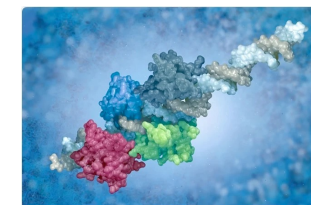
Dr. Vito Genna  
Dr. Adam Hospital

Jose Maria Carazo  
James Krieger  
Tiziana Ginex  
Clara Marco-Marín  
Carlos P. Mata  
Paula Ruiz-Rodriguez  
José Luis Llácer  
Mireia Coscolla  
Carmen Gil  
Iñaki Comas



## **Prof. Modesto Orozco**

Sandro Barissi  
Alba Sala  
Dr. Milosz Wieczor



# Acknowledgements







## BioExcel Partners 2019



Horizon 2020  
European Union Funding  
for Research & Innovation

BioExcel is funded by the European Union  
Horizon 2020 program under grant  
agreements 675728 and 823830.