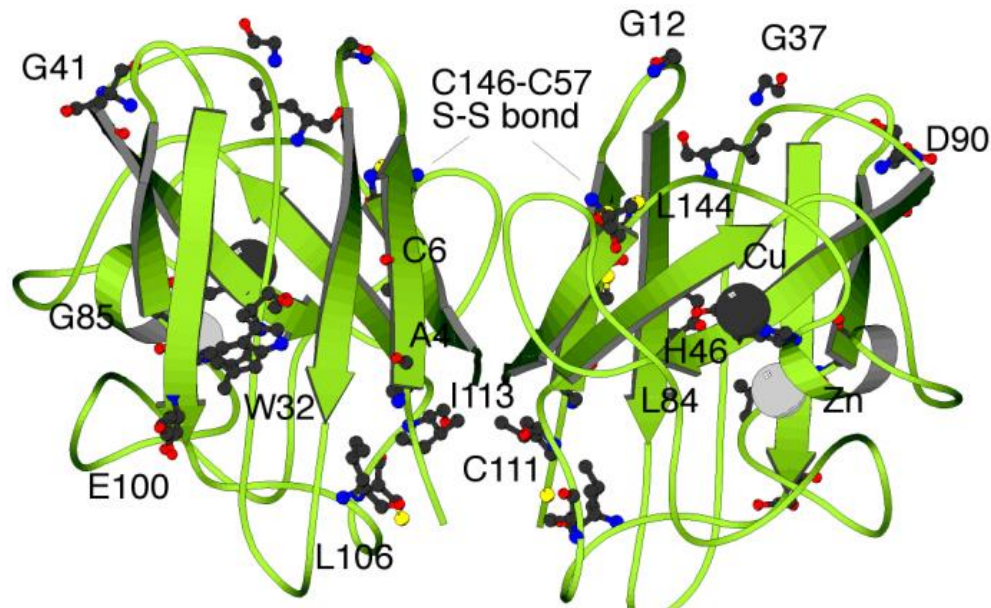


# Chemistry of Amino acids, Peptides and Proteins (3 hr)



Model illustrating the formation of a misfolded species (M) from a folding intermediate (I). The region of the protein that misfolds is shown in red. The misfolded protein itself, or a self-assembled form, may be toxic to cells, leading to disease. The black arrows represent the relative rates of the various conformational events under native physiological conditions in the absence of mutation. The blue dash arrows represent the possible effects of mutation.

Watcharin Loilome, Ph.D  
([watclo@kku.ac.th](mailto:watclo@kku.ac.th))

# Objectives

## 1. Amino acid

1.1 Definition

1.2 Structure of  $\alpha$  amino acid

1.3 Standard amino acids

1.4 Essential amino acid

1.5 Physical and chemical properties of amino acids

1.6 Biological role of amino acid

## 2. Peptide

2.1 Definition

2.2 Peptide bond is covalent bond

2.3 Buffer property

## 3. Protein

3.1 Definition

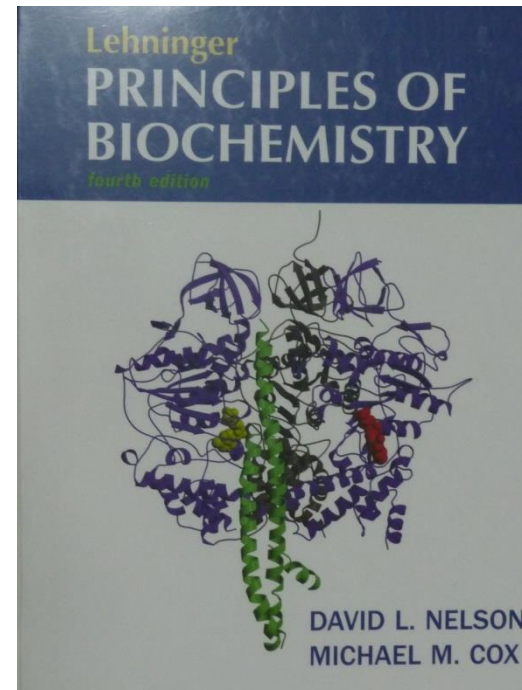
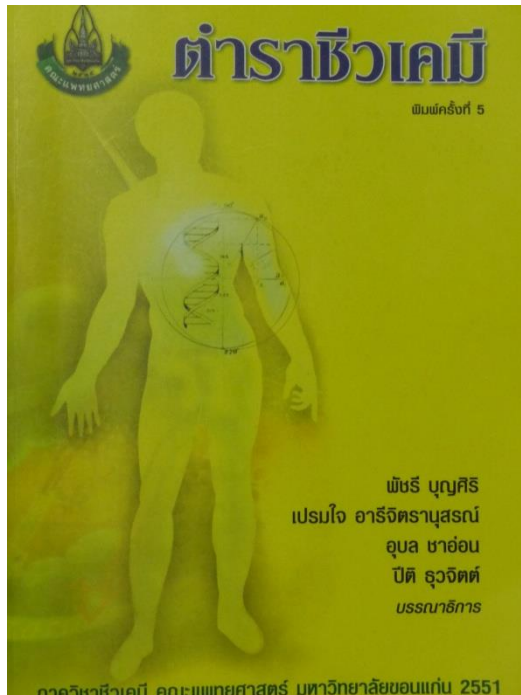
3.2 Protein structure

3.3 protein denaturation/renaturation

3.4 Functional roles of proteins

## References:

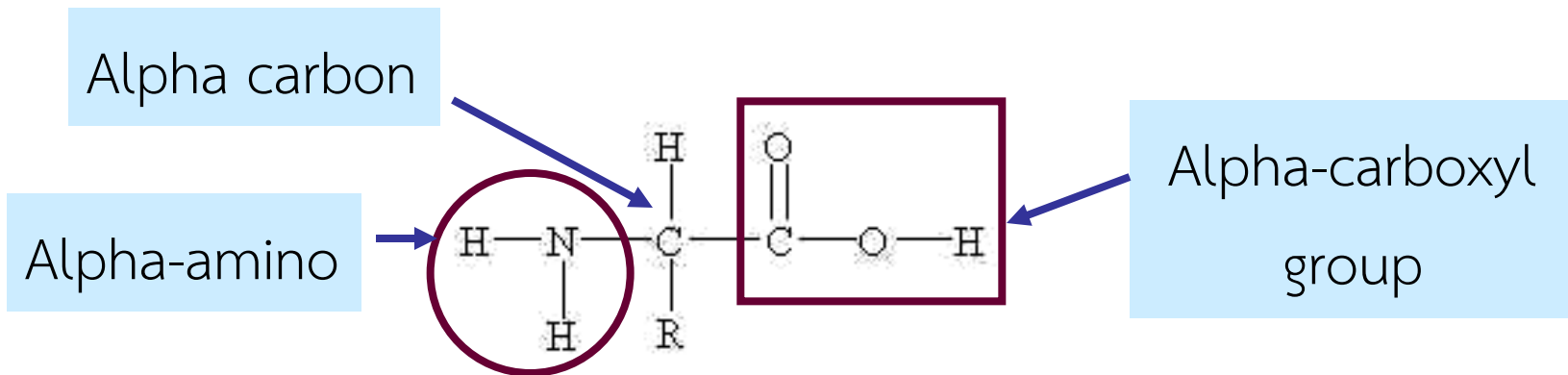
1. ตำราชีวเคมี, พิชรี บุญศิริและคณะ (บรรณาธิการ) ภาควิชาชีวเคมี คณะแพทยศาสตร์ มหาวิทยาลัยขอนแก่น พิมพ์ครั้งที่ 5 (2551)
2. Principles of Biochemistry (Lehninger), David L. Nelson & Michael M. Cox (editors), W.H. Freeman and Company, New York, Forth edition (2005)



# Amino acids

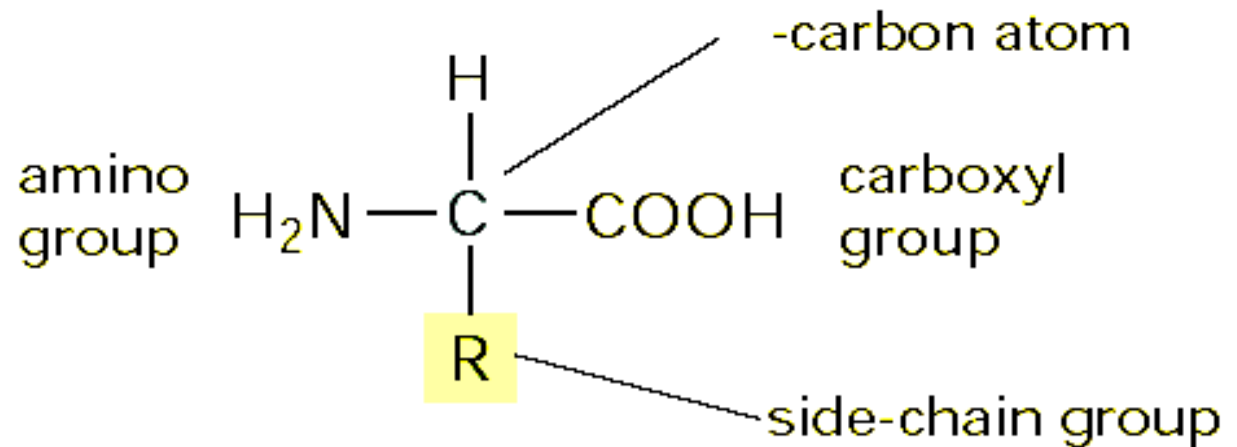
Amino acids are the monomer (**building block**) of proteins by which each amino acid residue joined to its neighbor by a specific type of covalent bond.

## Structure of amino acid

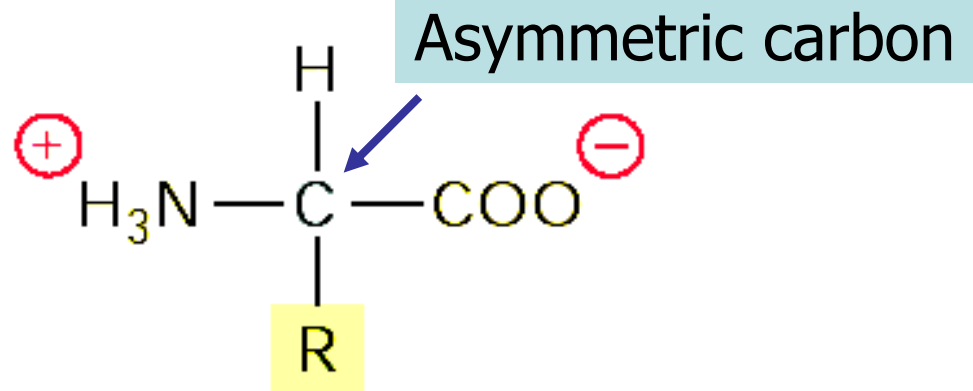


# Functional groups of amino acids

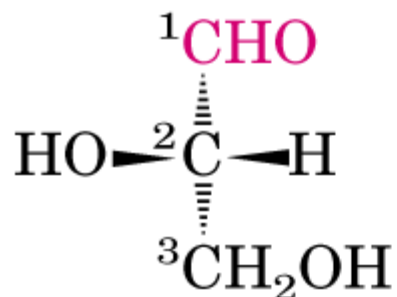
The general formula of an amino acid is



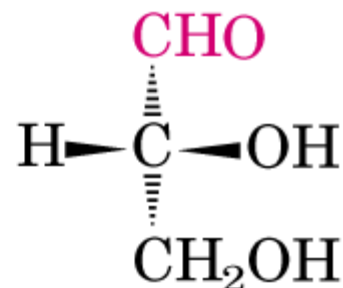
R is commonly one of 20 different side chains. At pH 7 both the amino and carboxyl groups are ionized.



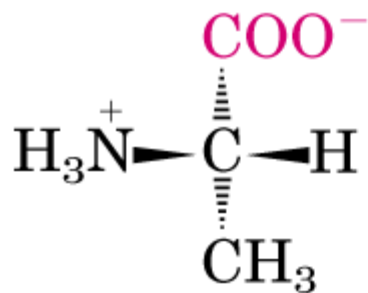
# The Amino Acid Residues in Proteins Are L Stereoisomers



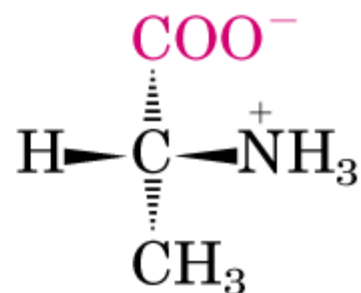
L-Glyceraldehyde



D-Glyceraldehyde



L-Alanine



D-Alanine

## Standard amino acids

Asparagine (Asn) (1806)

Alanine (Ala)

Arginine (Arg)

Aspartic acid (Asp)

Cysteine (Cys)

Glutamic acid (Glu)

Glutamine (Gln)

Glycine (Gly)

Histidine (His)

Isoleucine (Ile)

Leucine (Leu)

Lysine (Lys)

Methionine (Met)

Phenylalanine (Phe)

Proline (Pro)

Serine (Ser)

Threonine (Thr) (1938)

Tryptophan (Trp)

Tyrosine (Tyr)

Valine (Val)

# Essential amino acids

Amino acids that are not able to be synthesized so need to get from food.

Histidine

Isoleucine

Leucine

Lysine

Methionine

Phenylalanine

Threonine

Tryptophan

Valine

Arginine (small amount can be synthesized from urea cycle)



# Amino Acids Can Be Classified by R Group

The common amino acids are grouped according to whether their side chains are

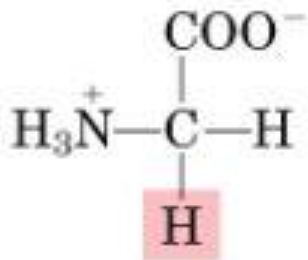
- **Nonpolar, aliphatic R groups**
- **Polar, uncharged R groups**
- **Aromatic R groups**
- **Positive charged R groups**
- **Negative charged R groups**

These 20 amino acids are given both three-letter and one-letter abbreviations.

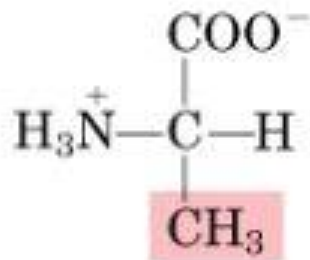
Thus: alanine = Ala = A

# Nonpolar, aliphatic R groups

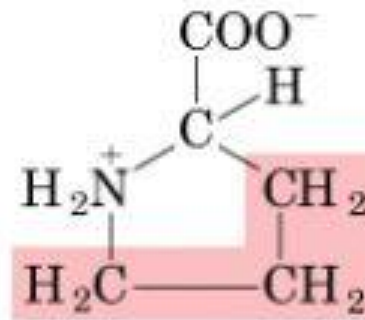
## Nonpolar, aliphatic R groups



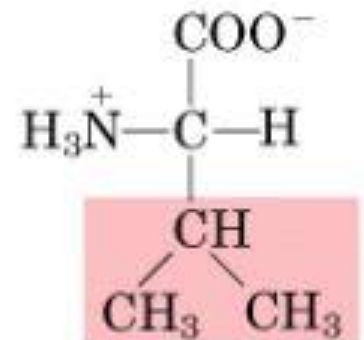
Glycine (**Gly, G**)



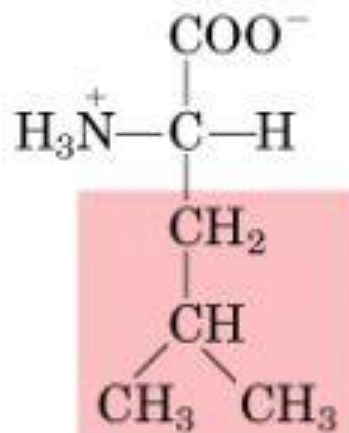
Alanine (**Ala, A**)



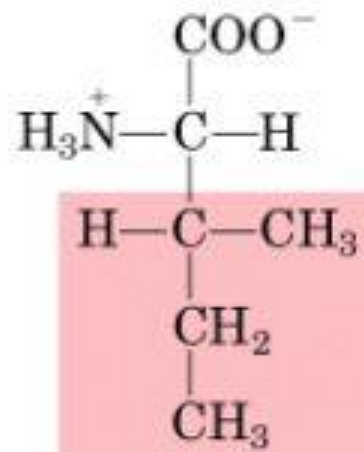
Proline (**Pro, P**)



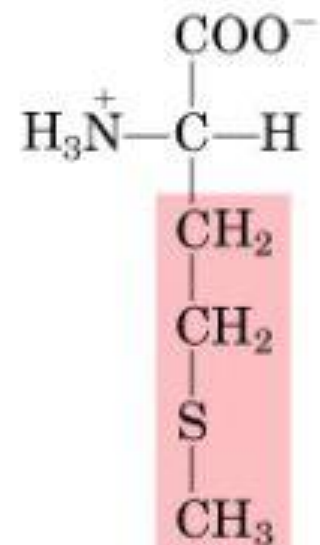
Valine (**Val, V**)



Leucine (**Leu, L**)



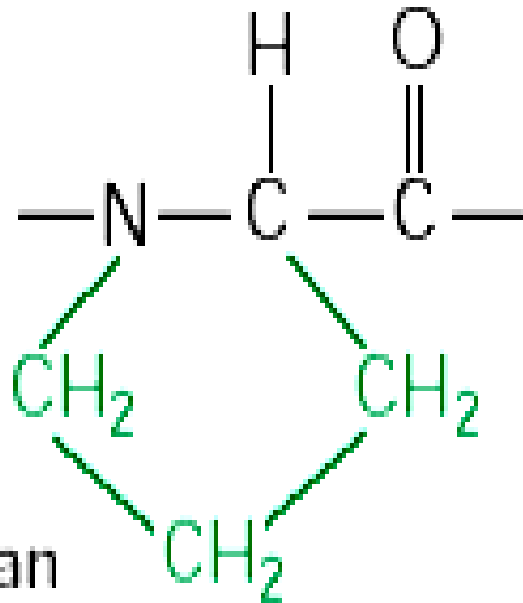
Isoleucine (**Ile, I**)



Methionine (**Met, M**)

# proline

(Pro, or P)

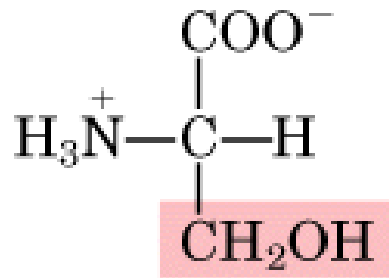


(actually an  
imino acid)

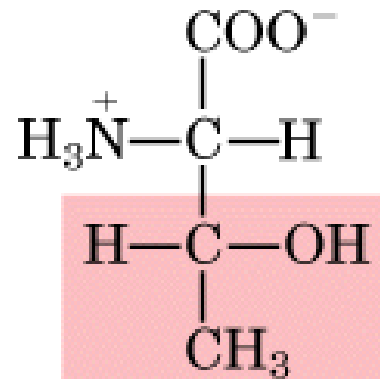
Proline has an aliphatic side chain with a distinctive cyclic structure which held in a rigid conformation that reduces the structural flexibility of polypeptide regions containing proline.

## Polar, uncharged R groups

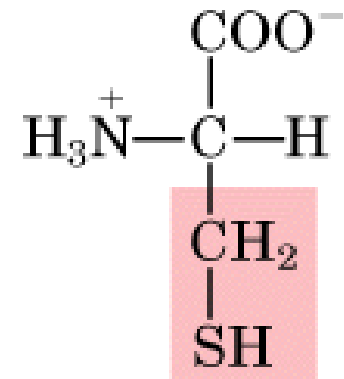
### Polar, uncharged R groups



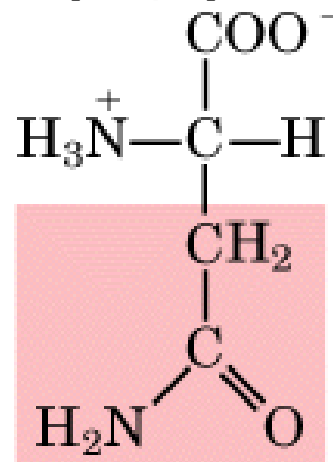
Serine  
(Ser, S)



Threonine  
(Thr, T)

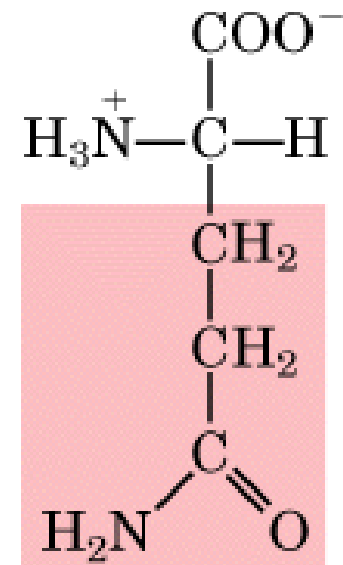


Cysteine (Cys, C)

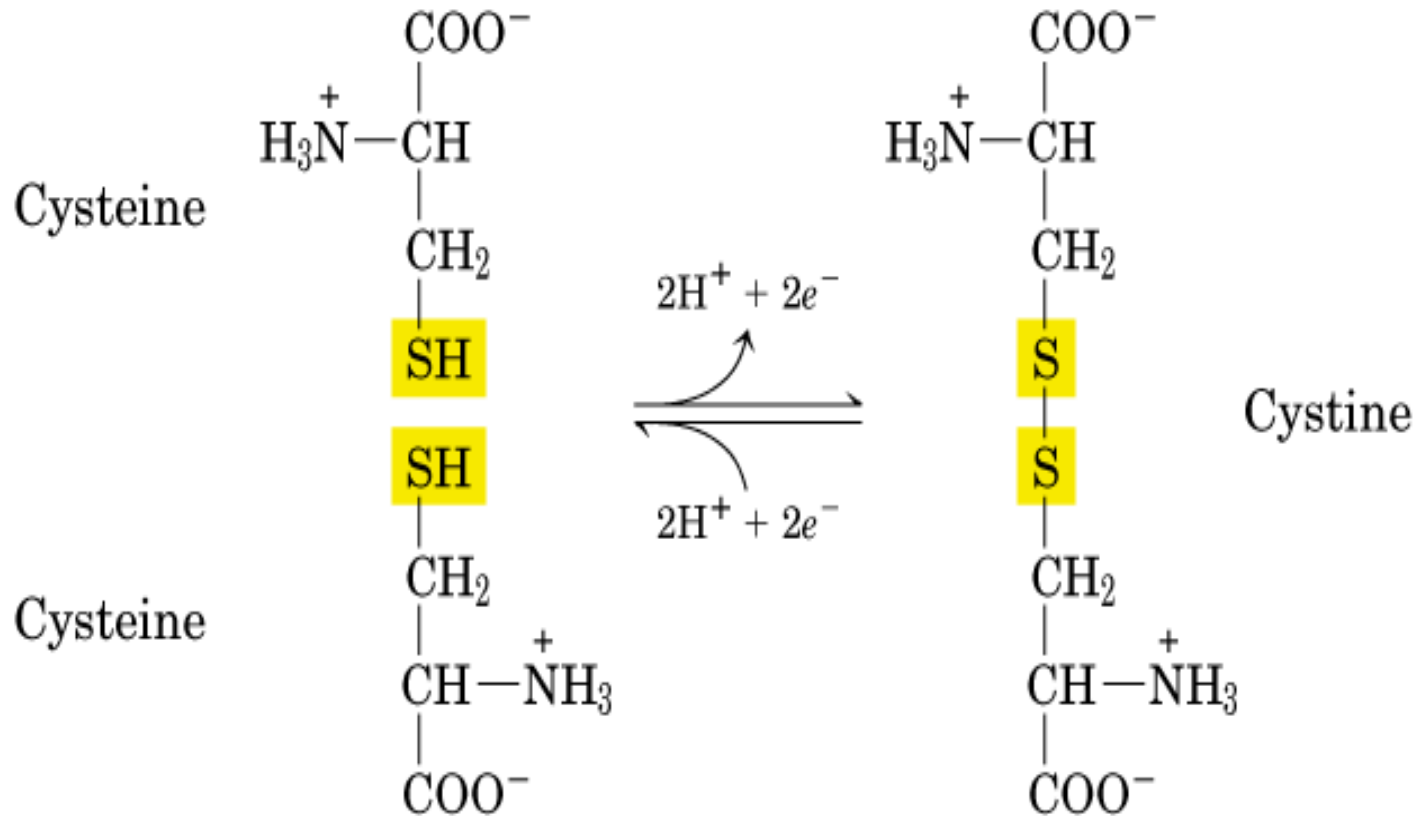


(Asn, N)

Asparagine



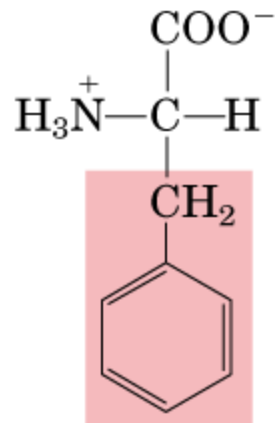
Glutamine (Gln, Q)



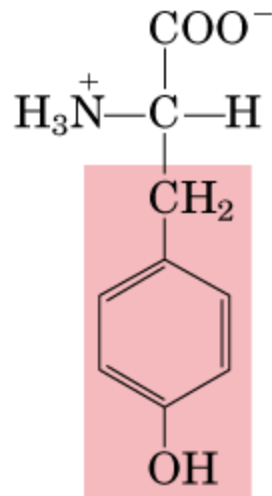
Reversible formation of a disulfide bond by the oxidation of two molecules of cysteine which stabilize the structures of many proteins

# Aromatic R groups

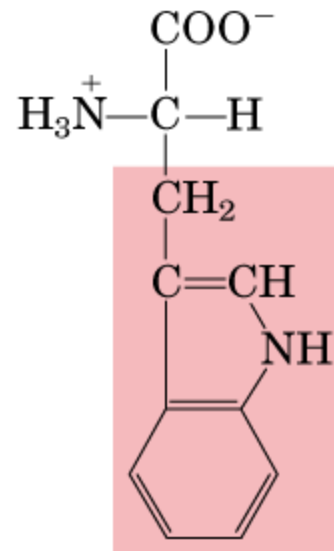
## Aromatic R groups



Phenylalanine  
(Phe, F)



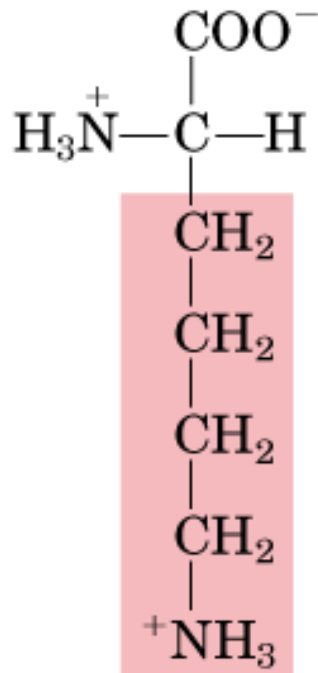
Tyrosine  
(Tyr, Y)



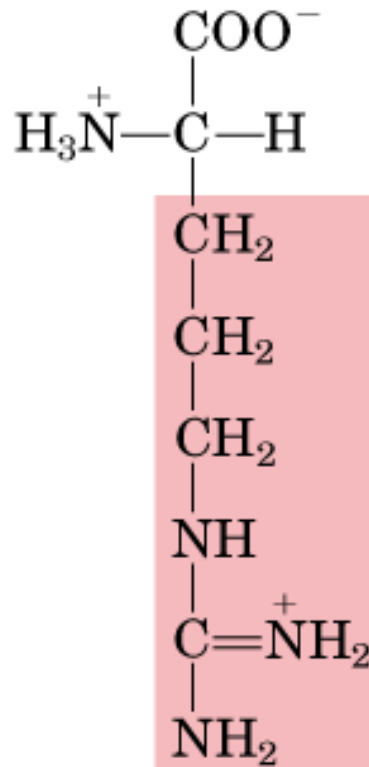
Tryptophan  
(Trp, W)

## Positively charged R groups

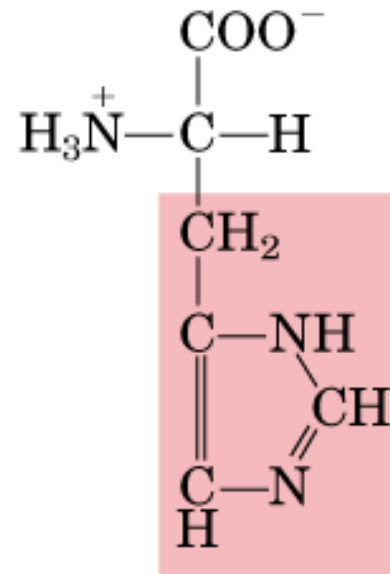
### Positively charged R groups



Lysine  
(Lys, K)



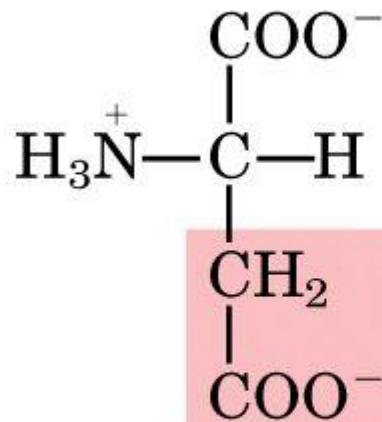
Arginine  
(Arg, R)



Histidine  
(His, H)

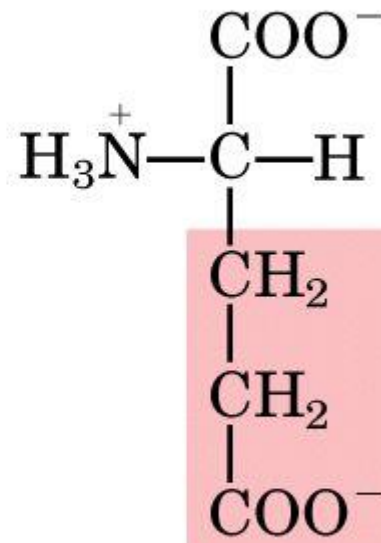
## Negatively charged R groups

### Negatively charged R groups



Aspartate

(Asp, D)

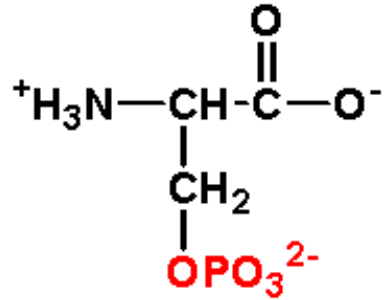


Glutamate

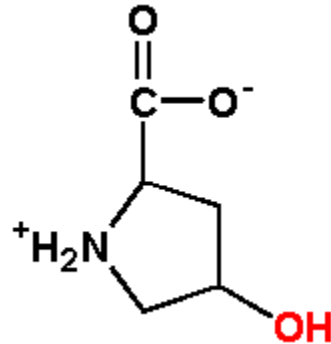
(Glu, E)



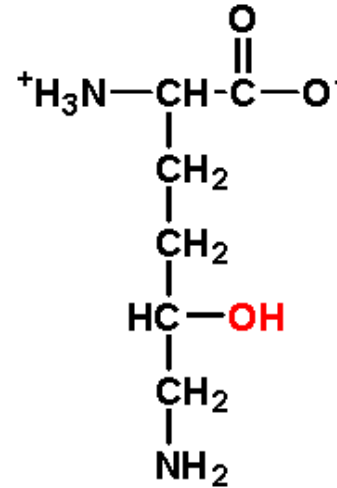
# Uncommon amino acids



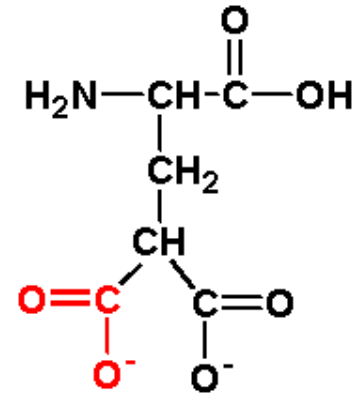
**Phosphoserine**



**4-Hydroxyproline**



**5-Hydroxylysine**



**γ-carboxyglutamate**

- 1) reversible phosphorylation and dephosphorylation of Ser, Thr, and Tyr residues very important in covalent regulation of activity of some enzymes and many biosignalling proteins, including some hormone receptors and transcription factors
- 2) 4-hydroxyproline & 5-hydroxylysine important in structure of collagen (fibrous protein in connective tissue)
- 3) γ-carboxyglutamate important in a number of proteins whose function involves  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding, including several proteins involved in blood clotting

# Physical properties of amino acids

## 1. Water solubility

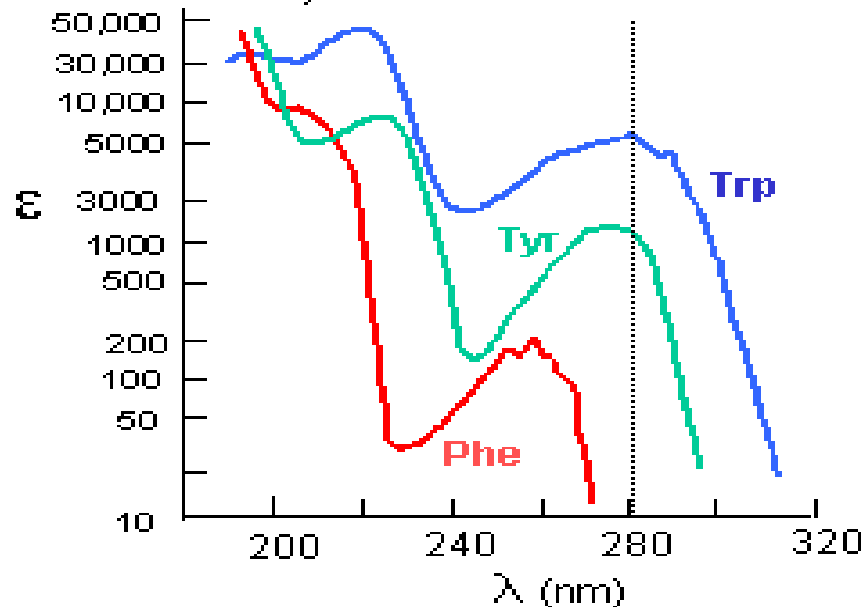
Hydrophilic amino acids: Asn, Gln, Cys, Ser, Thr, Tyr, Asp, Glu, Lys, Arg, His

Hydrophobic amino acids: Gly, Ala, Val, Leu, Ile, Met, Pro, Phe

## 2. Absorption spectrum of aromatic amino acids

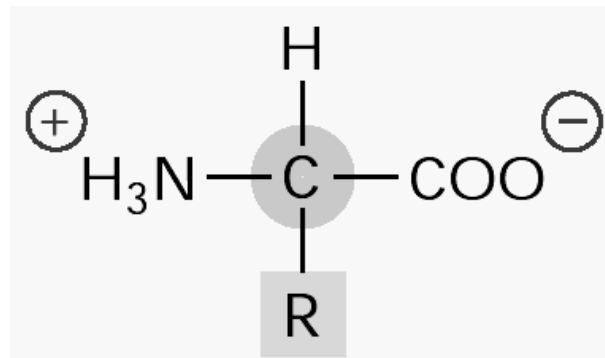
Trp and Tyr can absorb UV light at 280 nm  
(maximum wavelength)

after Wetlaufer, Ad. Prot. Chem. 17:303 (1962)



### 3. Amino Acids Can Act as Acid, Bases and Buffer

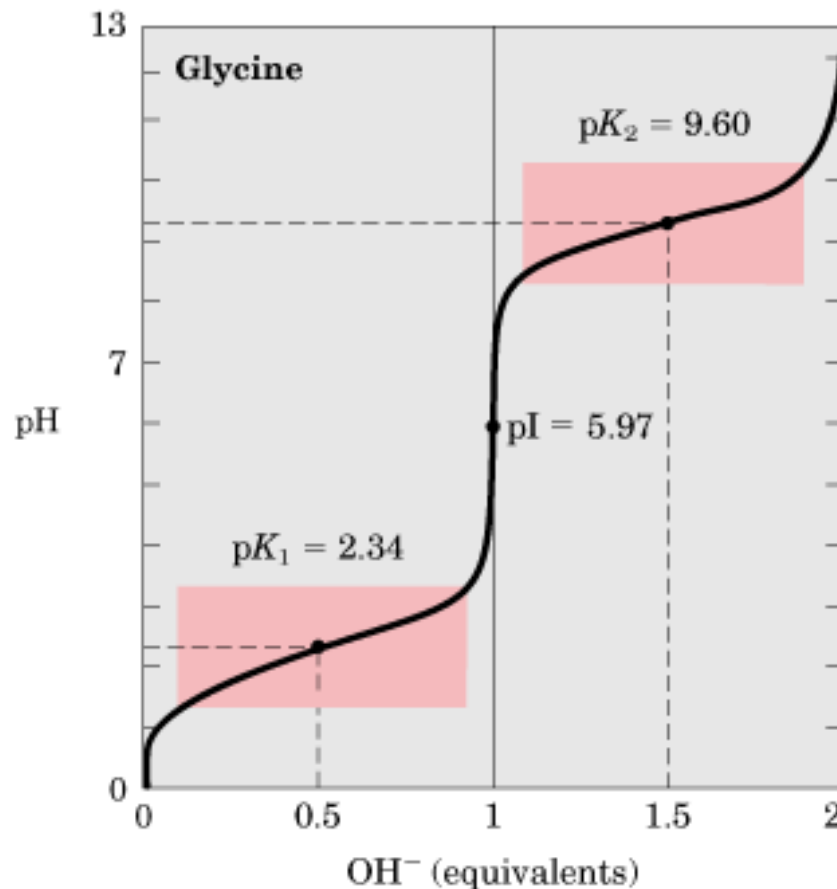
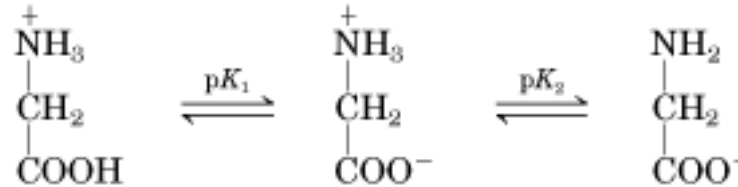
When an amino acid is dissolved in water, it exists in solution as the dipolar ion, or zwitterion (hybrid ion).



Substances having this dual nature are amphoteric and are often call ampholytes (amphoteric electrolytes).

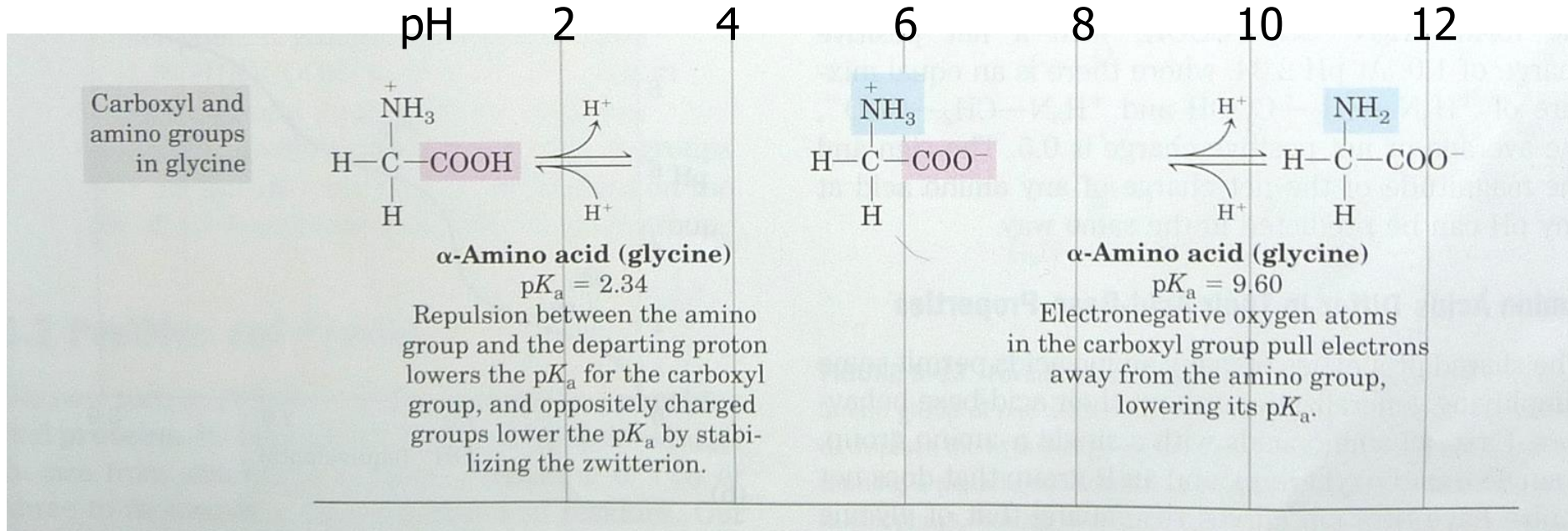
# Amino acid is a buffer

Amino acids have characteristic Titration curve



Titration curve  
of Glycine

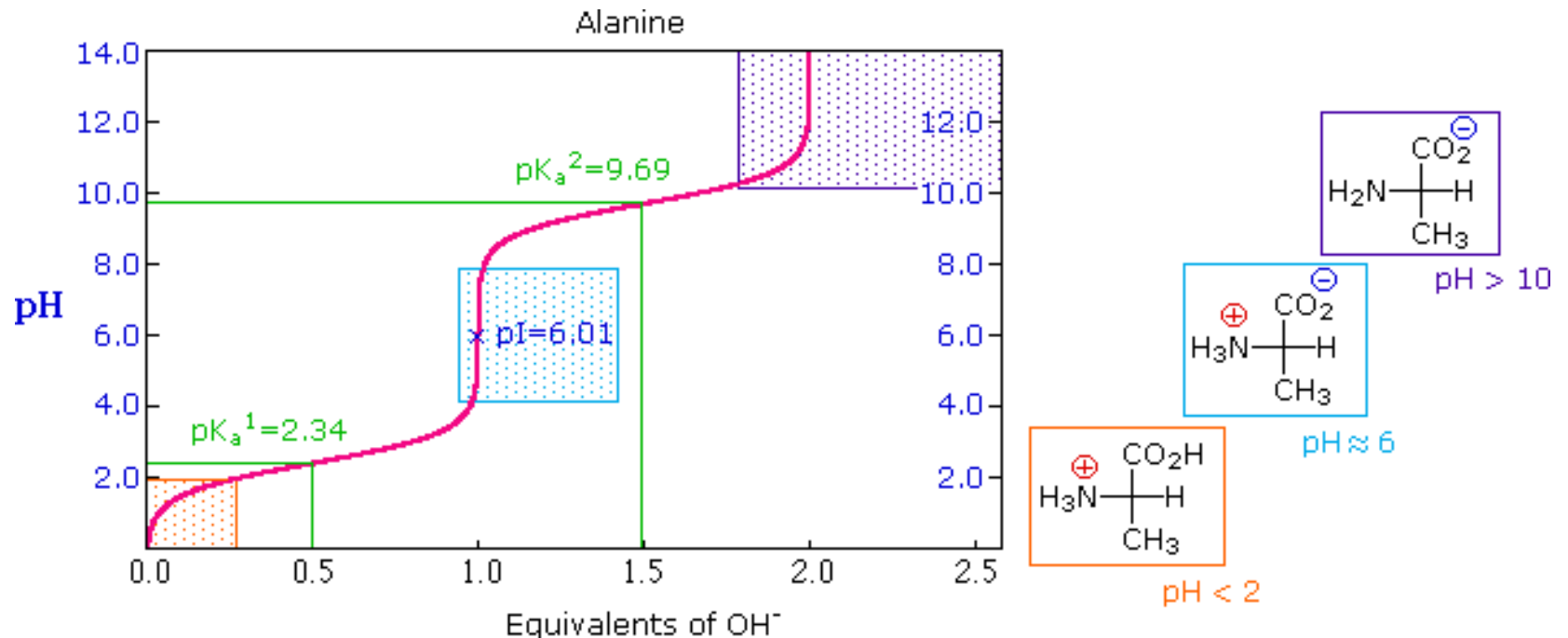
# Titration Curves Predict the Electric Charge of Amino Acids



pH < pKa    Protonation ( $\text{NH}_2 \rightarrow \text{NH}_3^+$  or  $\text{COO}^- \rightarrow \text{COOH}$ )

pH > pKa    Ionization ( $\text{COOH} \rightarrow \text{COO}^-$  or  $\text{NH}_3^+ \rightarrow \text{NH}_2$ )

The characteristic pH at which the net electric charge is zero is called the **isoelectric point** or **isoelectric pH**, designated **pI**.

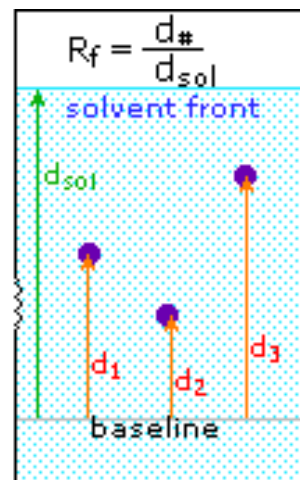
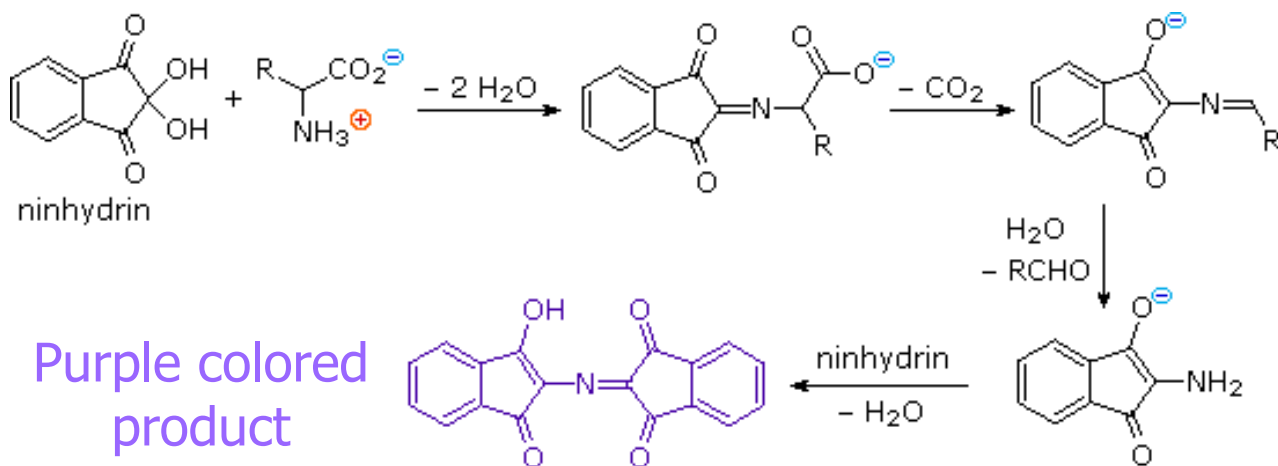


# Chemical properties of amino acids

Chemical reactions of amino acids depend on the reaction of amino, carboxylic and R group.

## Chemical reactions of amino group

### Ninhydrin reaction



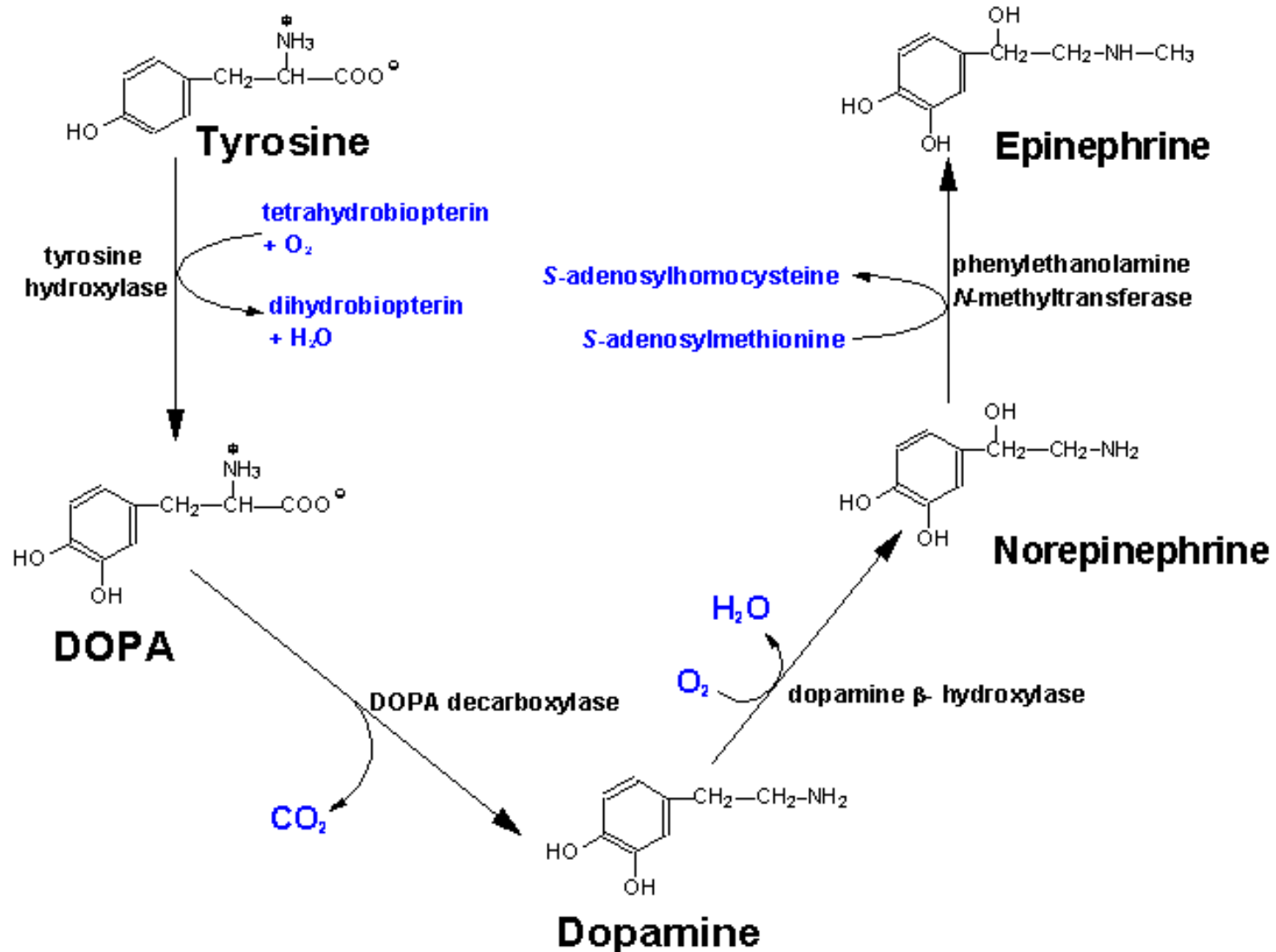
Paper Chromatography

# Biological function of amino acids

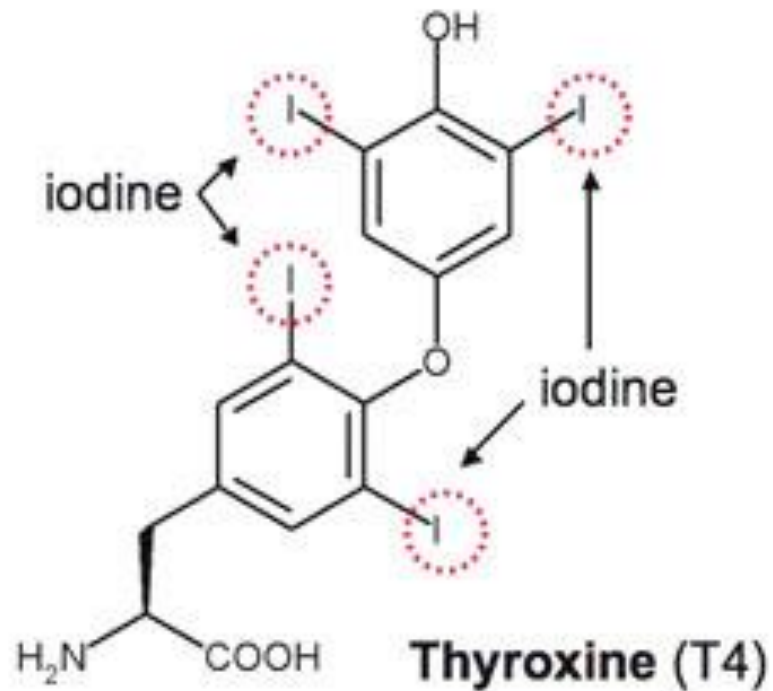
- **Building block of proteins**
- Spared energy source
- Substrates for the synthesis of biomolecules



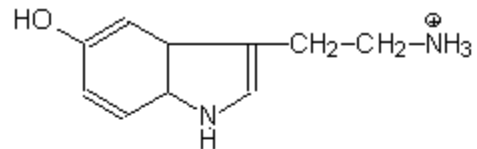
# Tyrosine-derived neurotransmitters



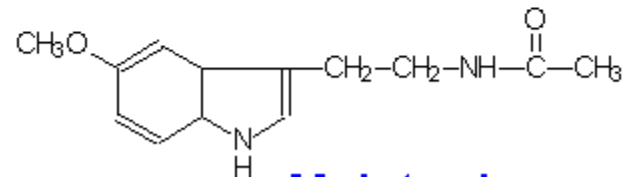
# Thyroxine, the tyrosine derived thyroid hormone



# Tryptophan-derived neurotransmitters



**Serotonin**  
(5-hydroxytryptamine)

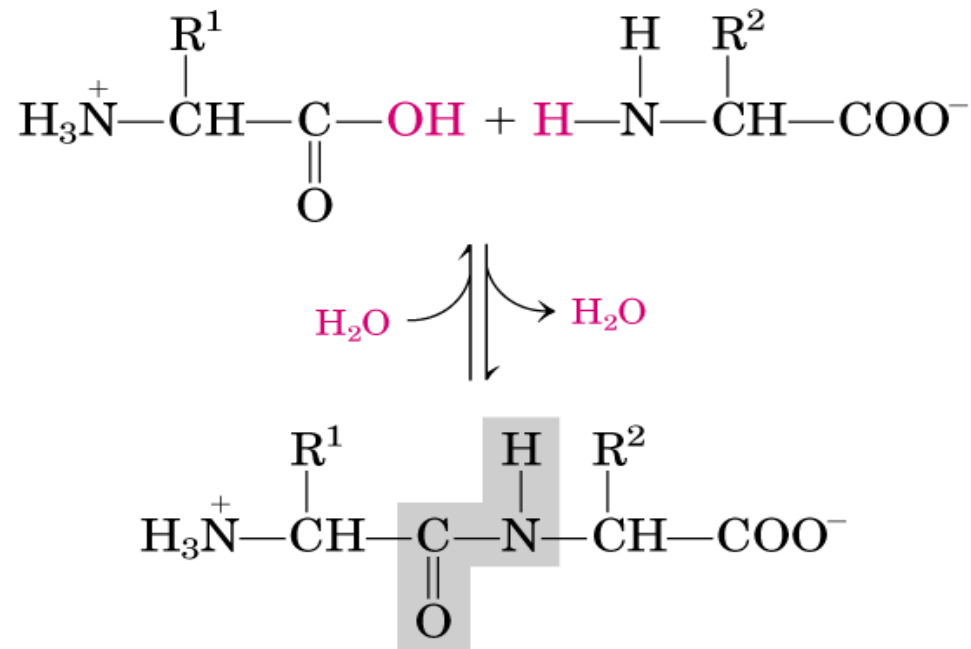


**Melatonin**

## PEPTIDES

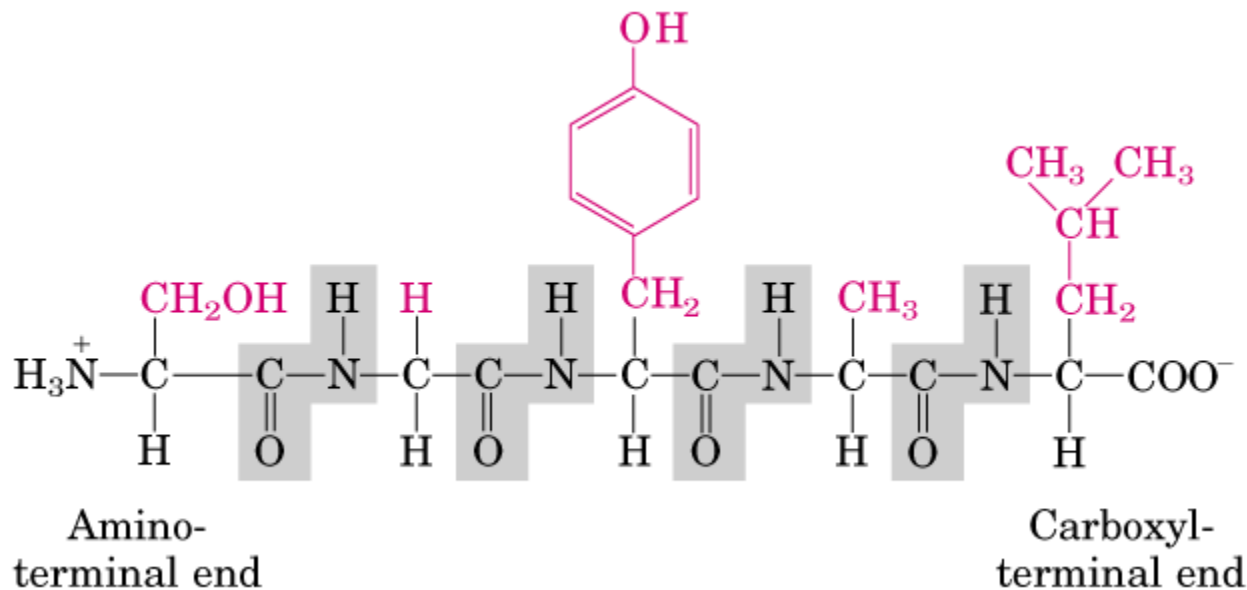
# The Peptide Bond

- Peptides and proteins: polymers of amino acids joined by peptide bonds.
- **Amide** linkages from condensation of  $\alpha$ -**carboxyl group** of one amino acid with  $\alpha$  -**amino group** of another amino acid.
- Covalent bond (amide bond)



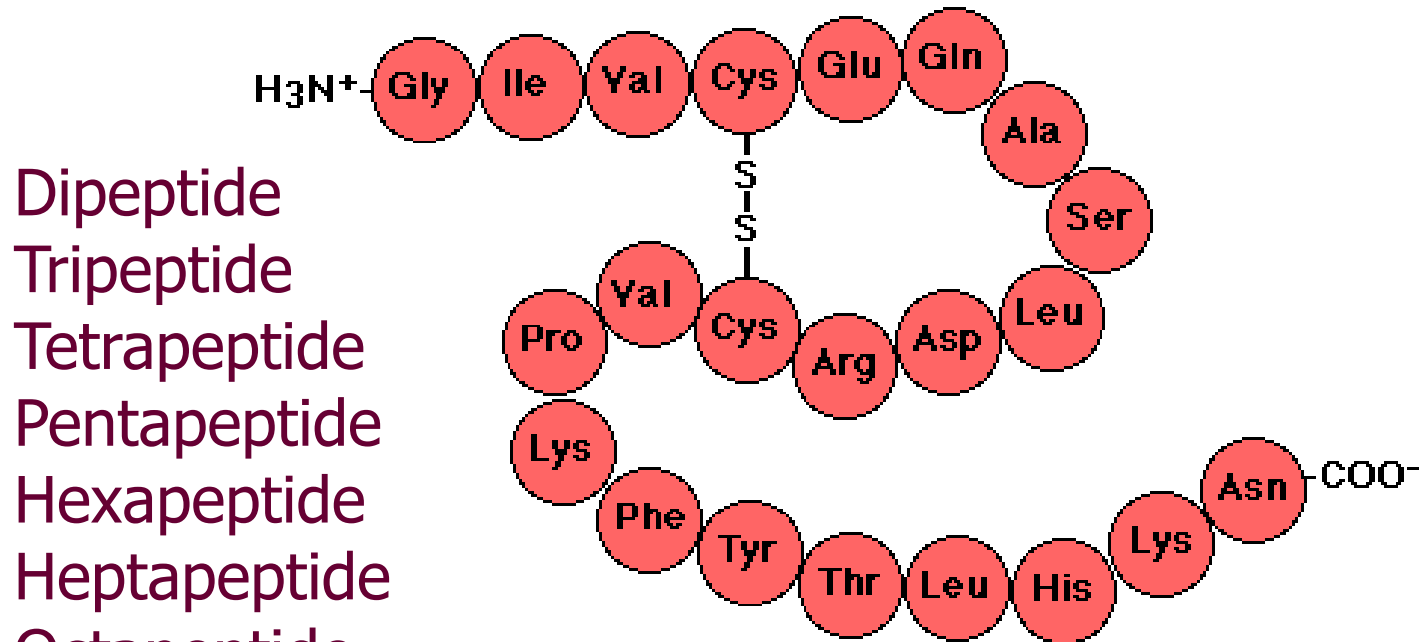
# PEPTIDE

- process repeated many times --> linear chain of amino acids, a **polypeptide chain**
- convention: sequence written from left to right starting with **residue** with free  $\alpha$ -amino group (the **N-terminal** or amino terminal amino acid residue) and ending with the residue containing the free  $\alpha$ -carboxyl group (the **C-terminal** or carboxyl terminal amino acid residue)



- small peptides (a "few" amino acid residues) = ***oligopeptides***

# PEPTIDE



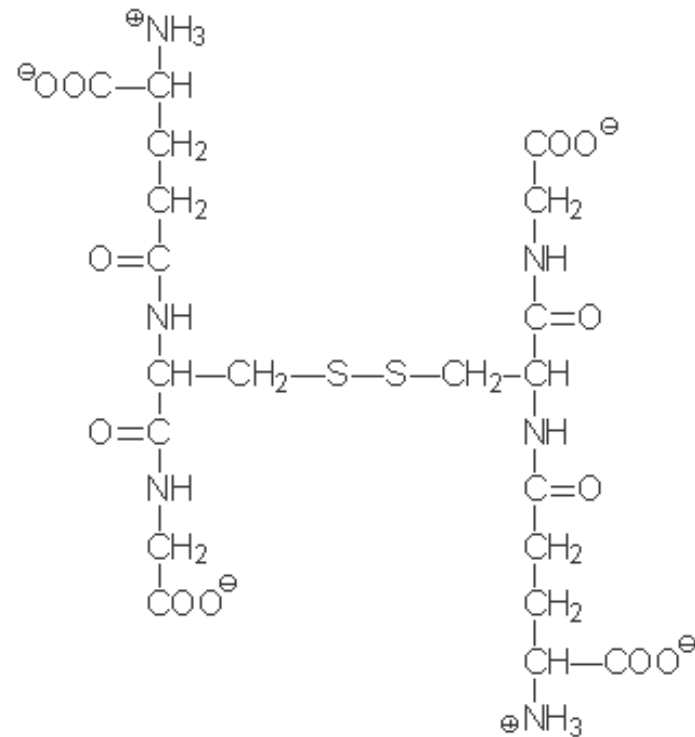
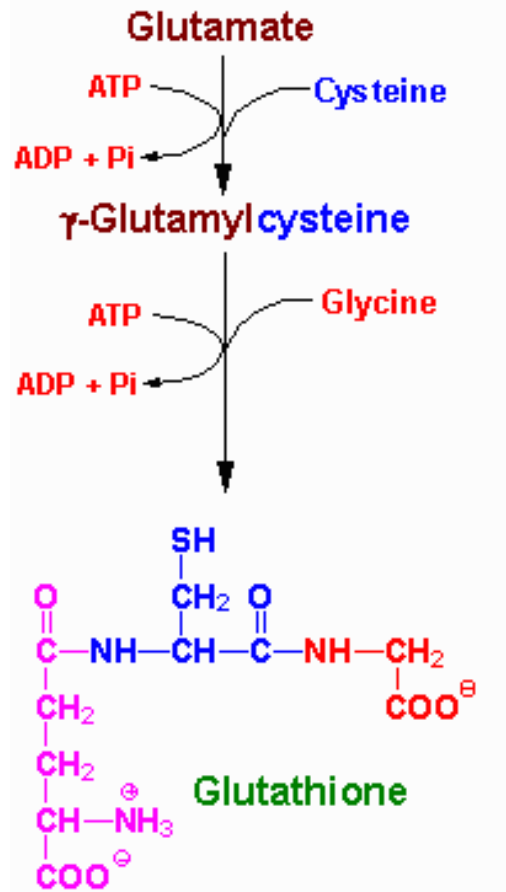
Dipeptide  
Tripeptide  
Tetrapeptide  
Pentapeptide  
Hexapeptide  
Heptapeptide  
Octapeptide  
Nonapeptide  
Decapeptide

Peptide: < 40 amino acids residues  
Protein: > 50 amino acids residues

# **Peptides in biological system**

# Glutathione : Anti-oxidant for Red Blood Cell

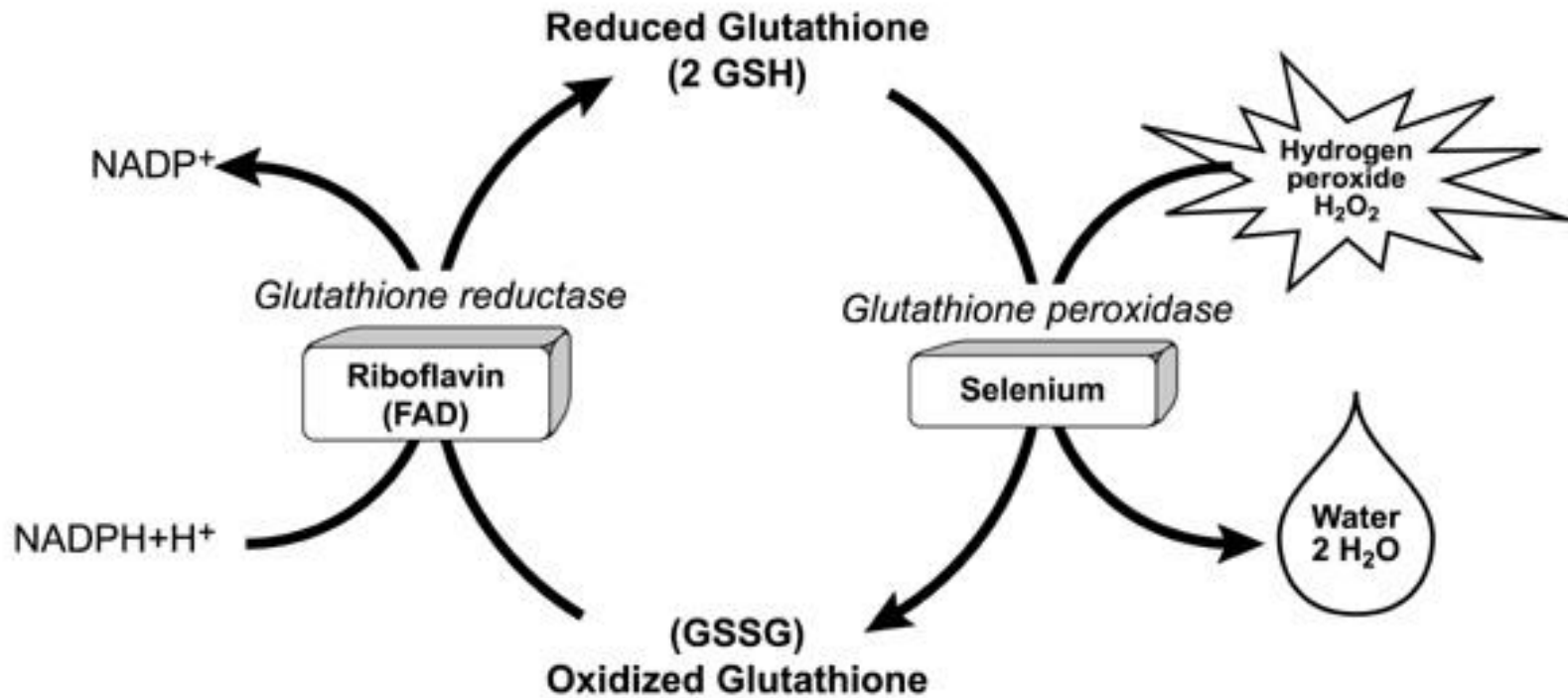
## Gamma glutamyl cysteineyl glycine



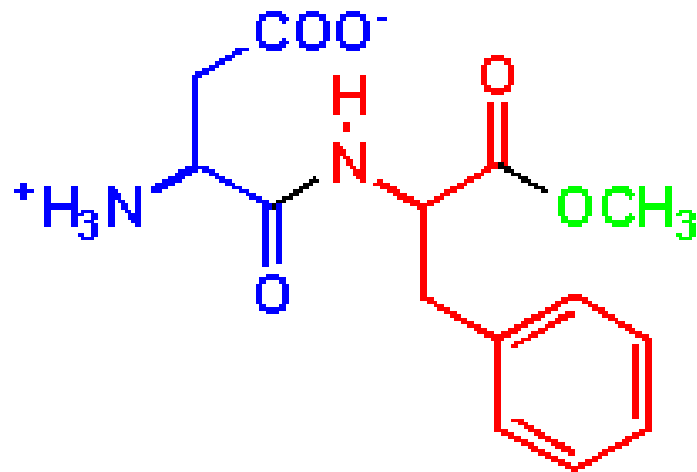
Glutathione disulfide (GSSG)



## Glutathione is an antioxidant in red blood cells



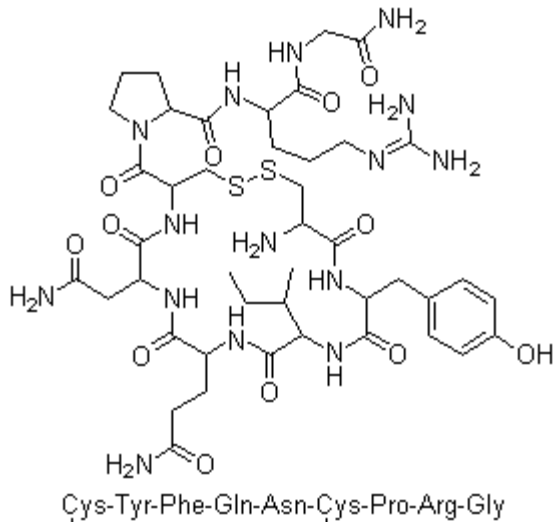
# Aspartame sweet-tasting dipeptide



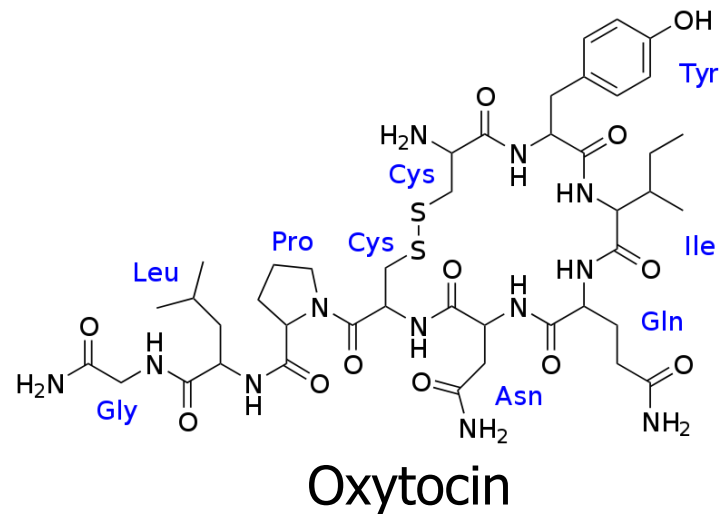
Aspartyl-phenylalanine methyl ester

# PEPTIDE HORMONE

Nonapeptides: single intramolecular disulfide; cyclic peptide		
Hormone	Target	Major physical roles
Antidiuretic hormone Vasopressin Oxytocin	Kidney Myoepithelial cells Uterine smooth muscle	Promote water retention Milk Promotes contraction



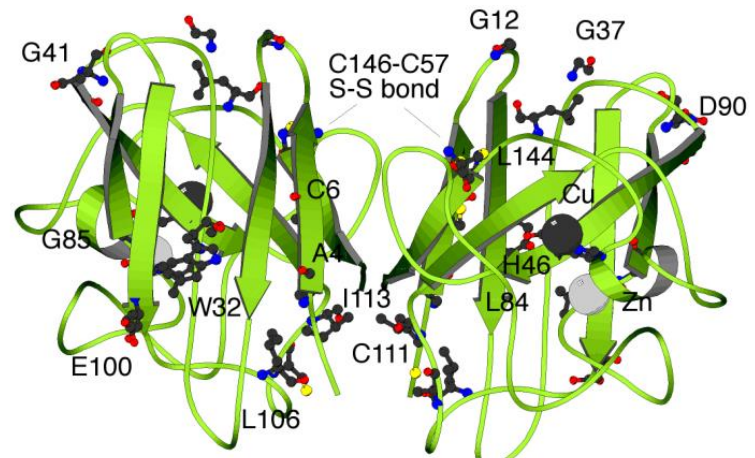
Vasopressin



Oxytocin

# Protein

**Proteins** (also known as **polypeptides**) are organic compounds made of amino acids arranged in a linear chain polymer and joined together by peptide bonds between the carboxyl and amino groups of adjacent amino acid residues. It consists of 20 types of L-alpha amino acids. It contains buffer properties. Maximum absorption at 280 nm

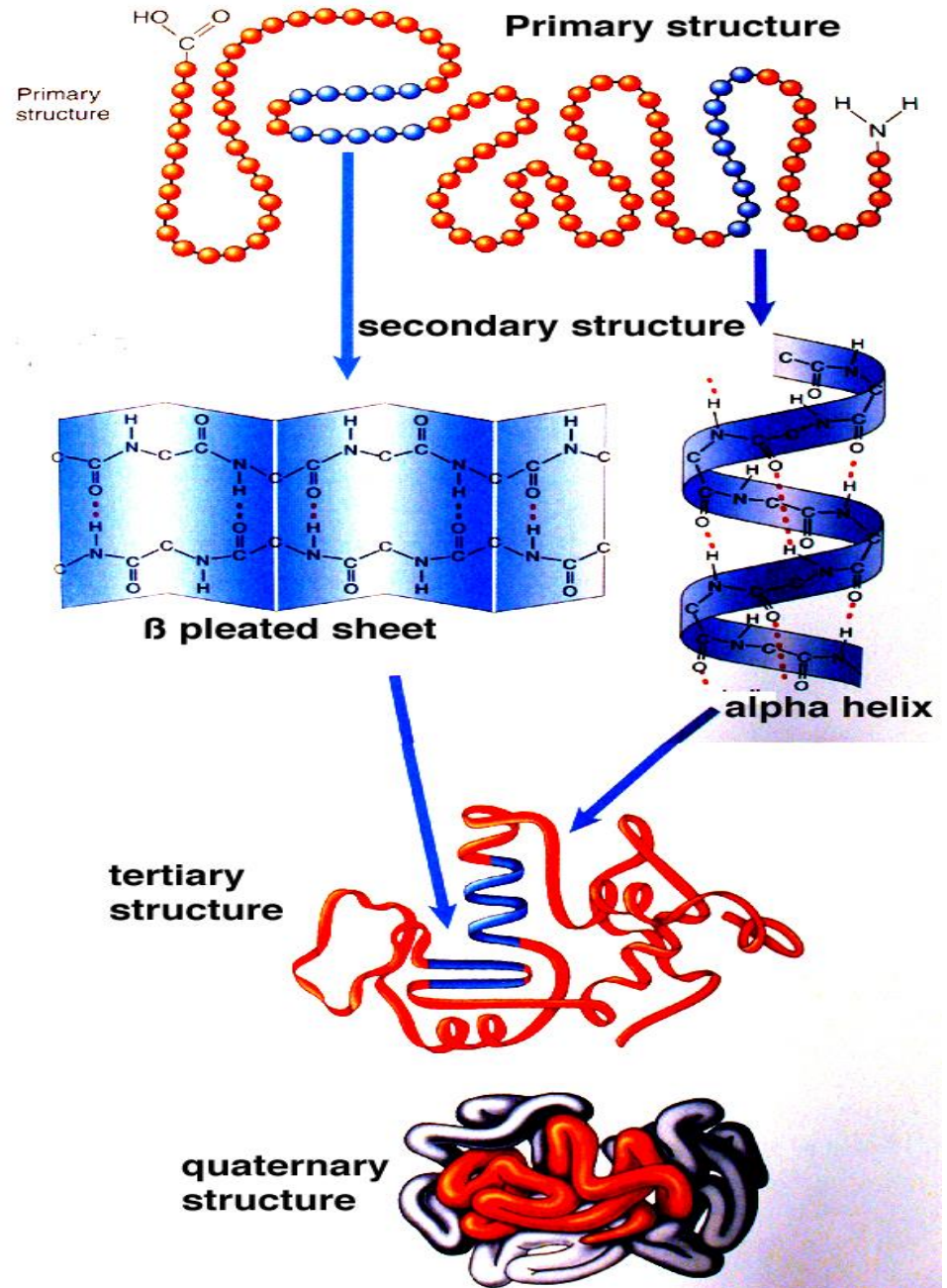


Model illustrating the formation of a misfolded species (M) from a folding intermediate (I). The region of the protein that misfolds is shown in red. The misfolded protein itself, or a self-assembled form, may be toxic to cells, leading to disease. The black arrows represent the relative rates of the various conformational events under native physiological conditions in the absence of mutation. The blue dash arrows represent the possible effects of mutation.

# Protein structure)

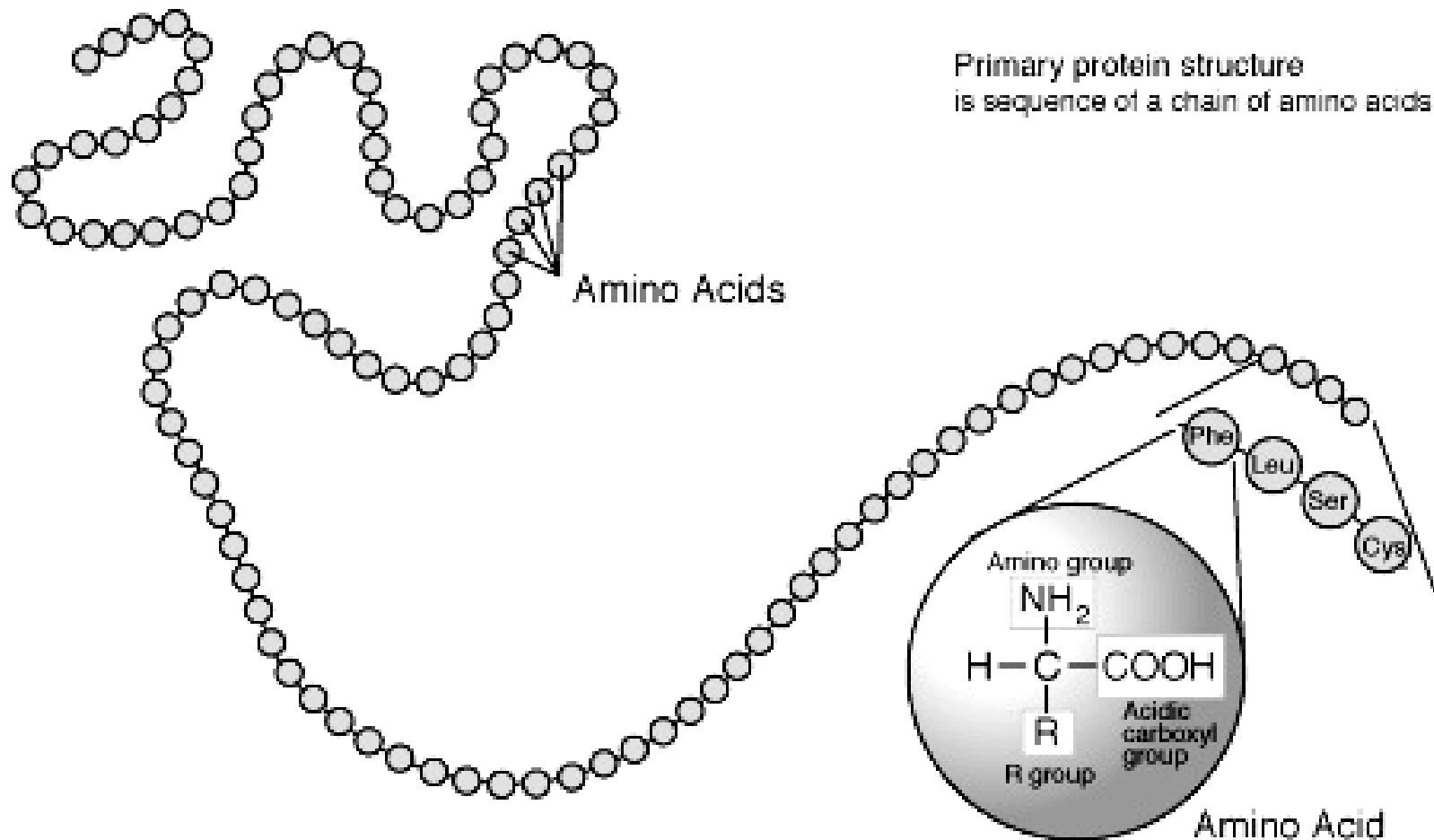
There are 4 levels of protein structure:

1. Primary structure
2. Secondary structure
3. Tertiary structure
4. Quaternary structure



# Primary structure

Primary protein structure  
is sequence of a chain of amino acids

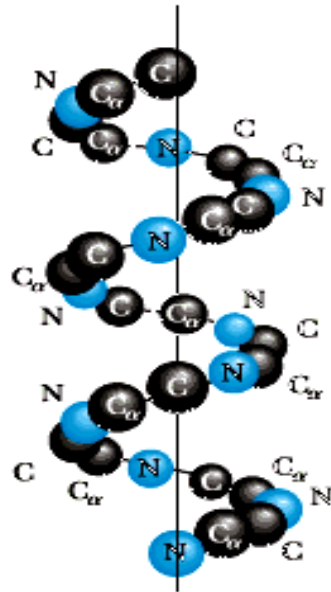


Amino acid sequence - no protein folding

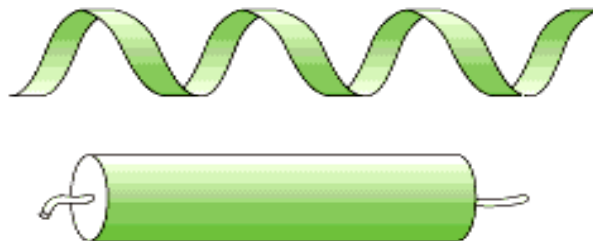
# Secondary structure

## $\alpha$ - Helix

Only the  $\text{N}-\text{C}_\alpha-\text{C}$  backbone is represented. The vertical line is the helix axis.

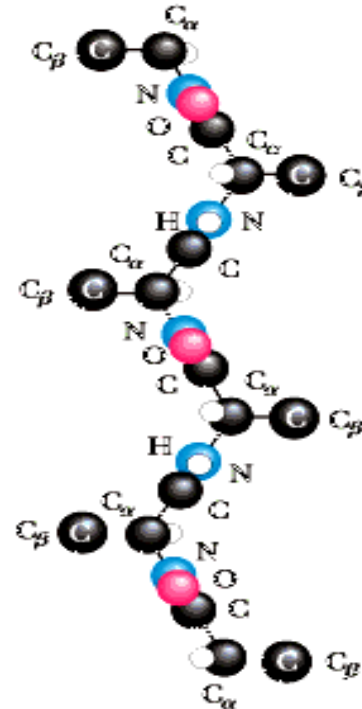


"Shorthand"  $\alpha$ -helix

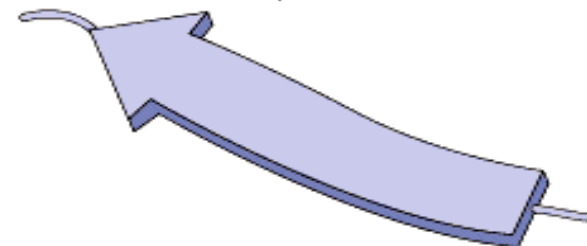


## $\beta$ - Strand

The  $\text{N}-\text{C}_\alpha-\text{C}$  backbone as well as the  $\text{C}_\beta$  of R groups are represented here. Note that the amide planes are perpendicular to the image.



"Shorthand"  $\beta$ -strand



# Hydrogen bond

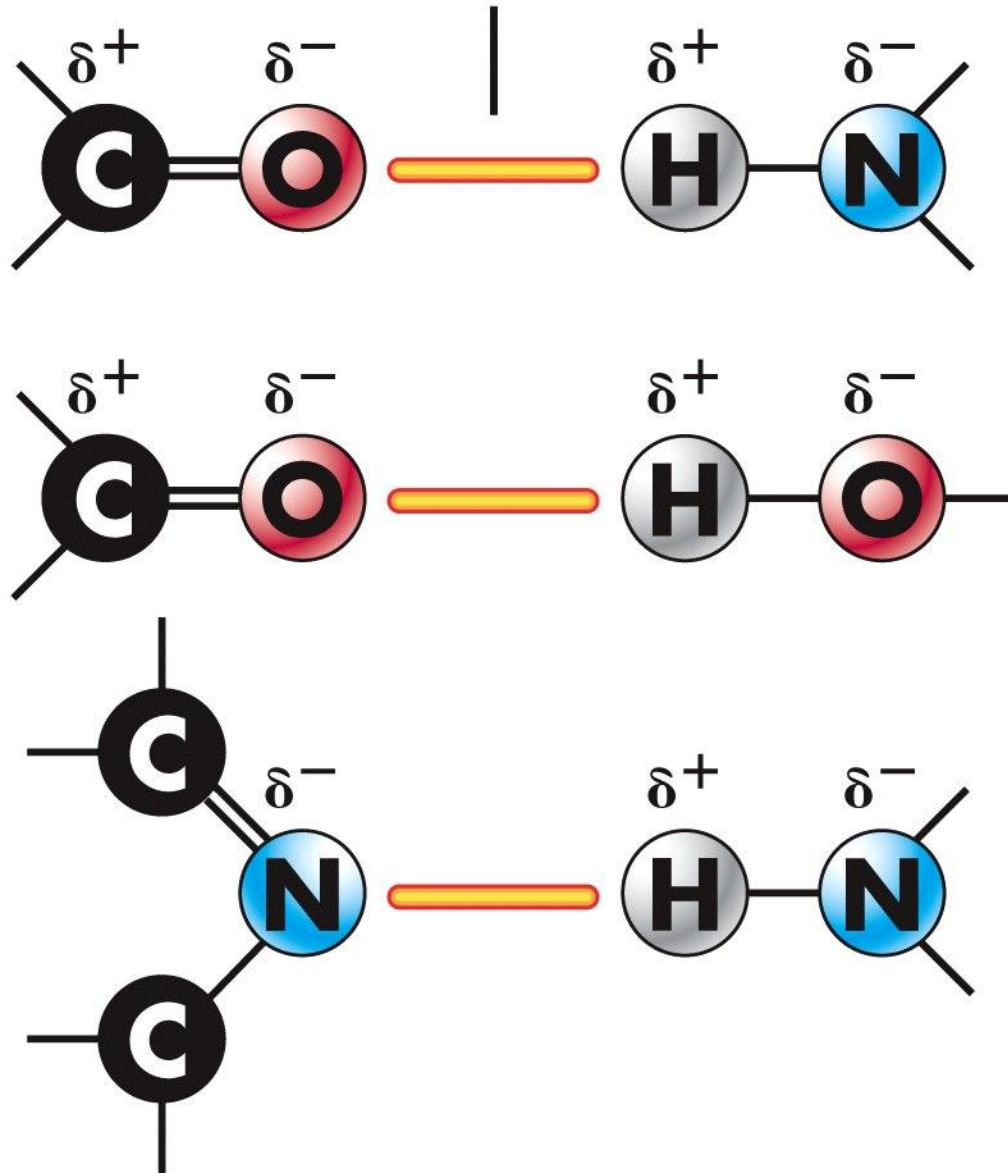
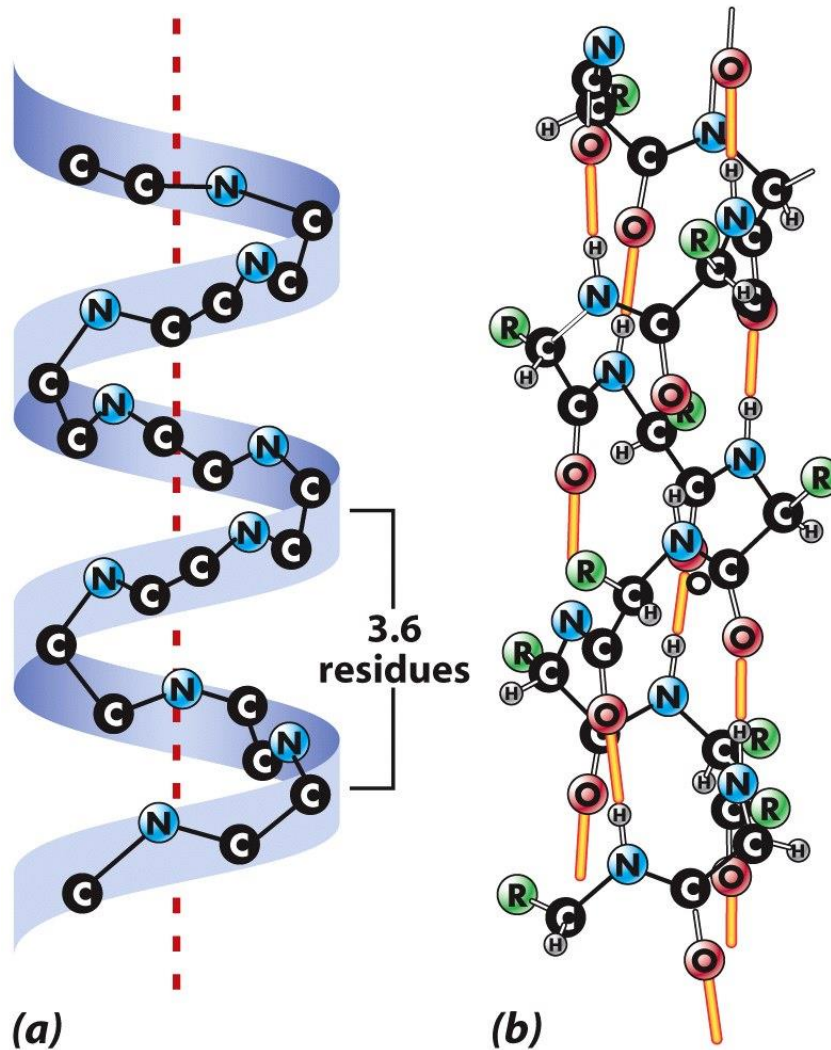


Figure 2-4 Cell and Molecular Biology, 5/e (© 2008 John Wiley & Sons)



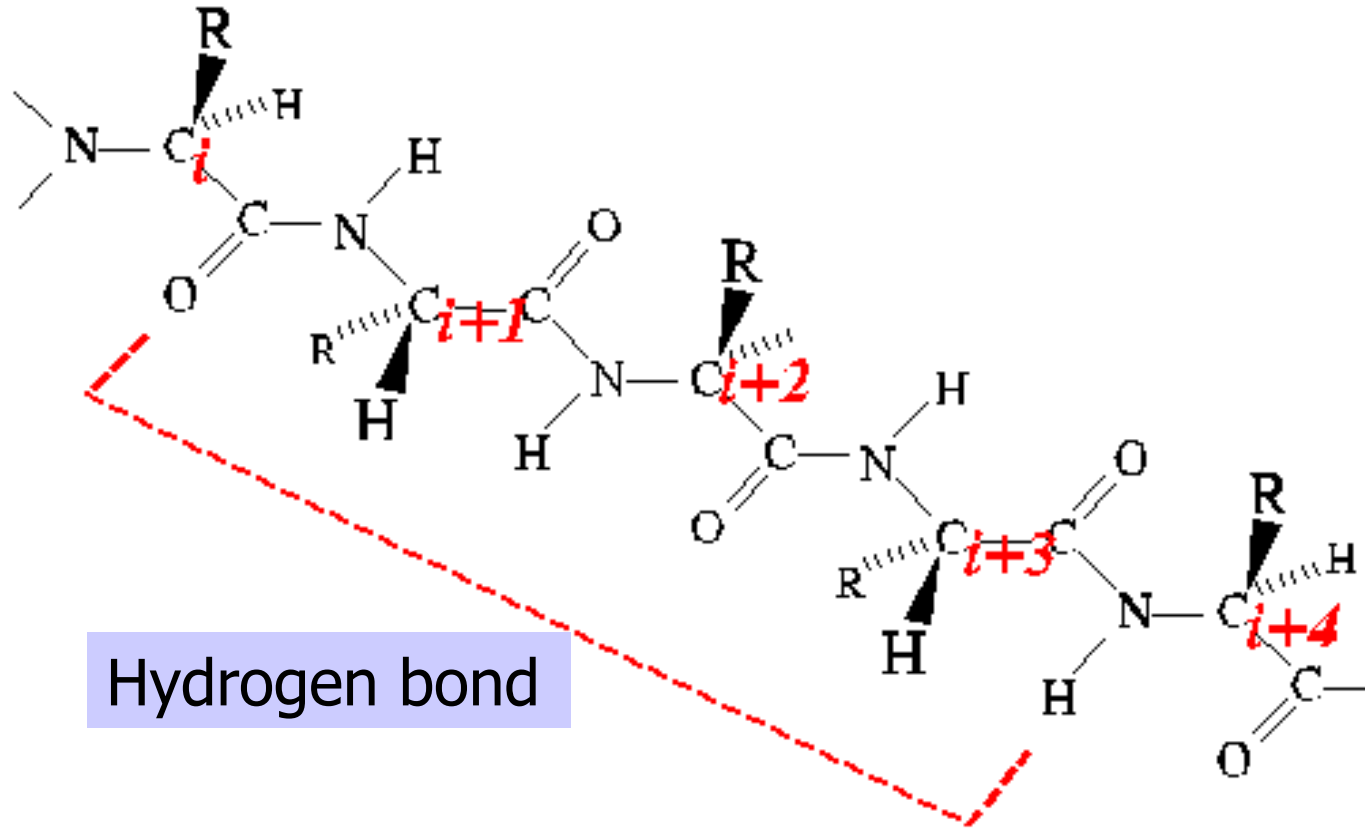
# Secondary structure



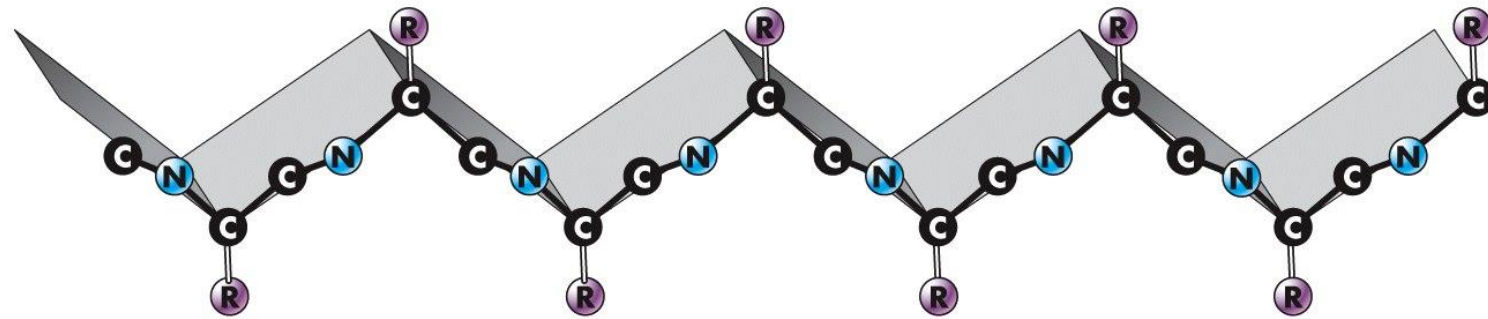
**“Alpha helix”**  
Hydrogen bond

Figure 2-30b,c Cell and Molecular Biology, 5/e (© 2008 John Wiley & Sons)

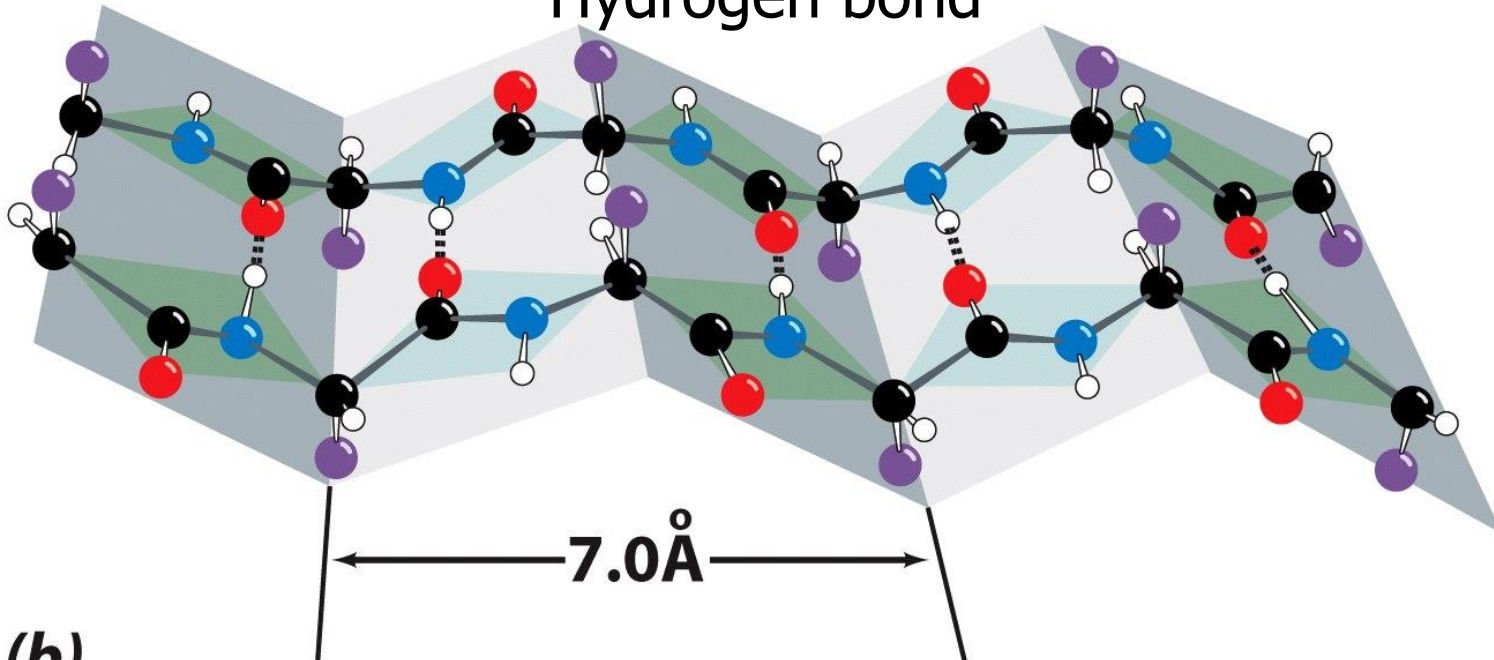
**In alpha helices, the CO of residue  $i$  is hydrogen-bonded to the NH of residue  $i+4$ .**



# Secondary structure

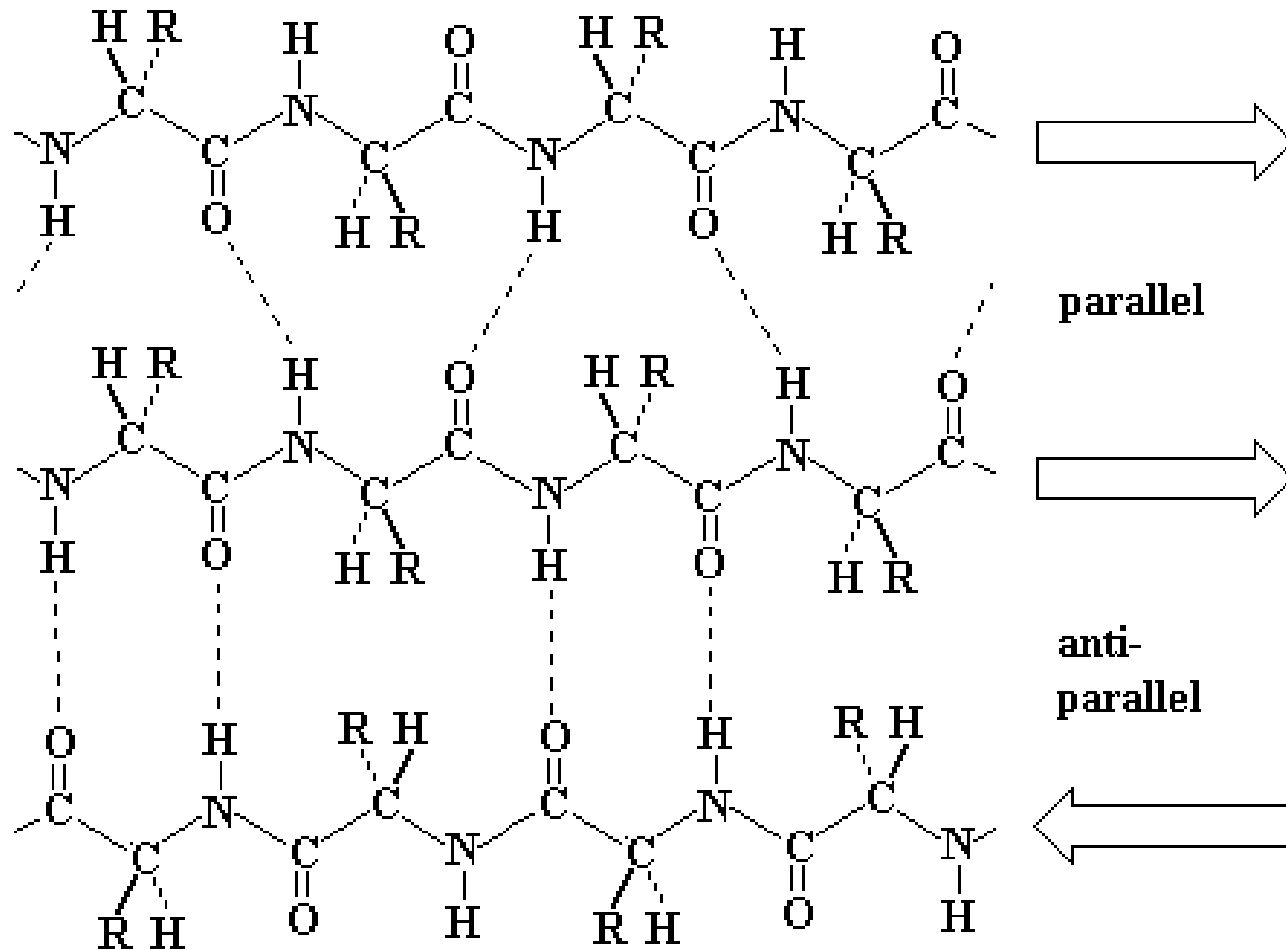


(a)  
"Beta sheet"  
Hydrogen bond



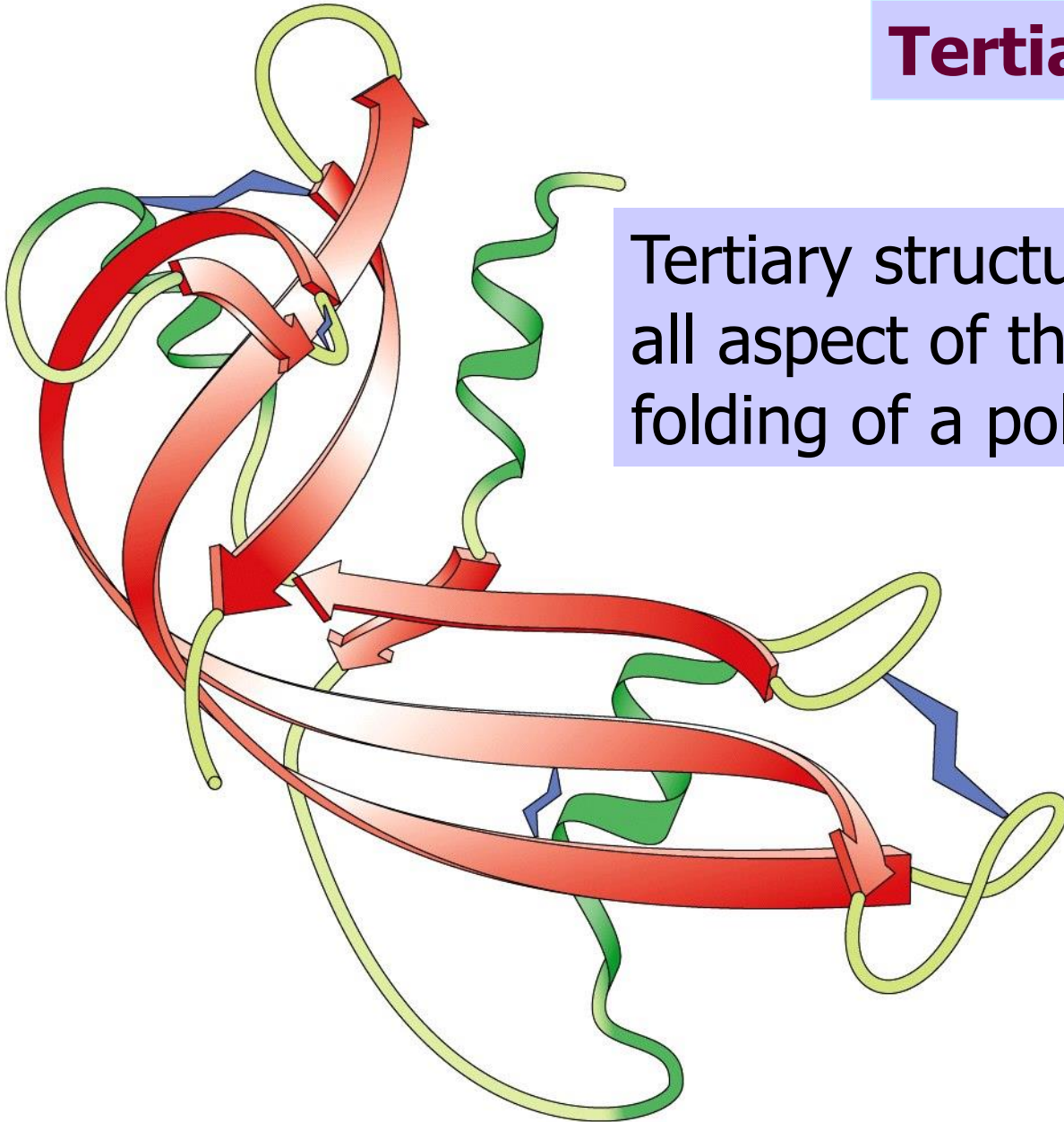
(b)

## Types of $\beta$ -sheet

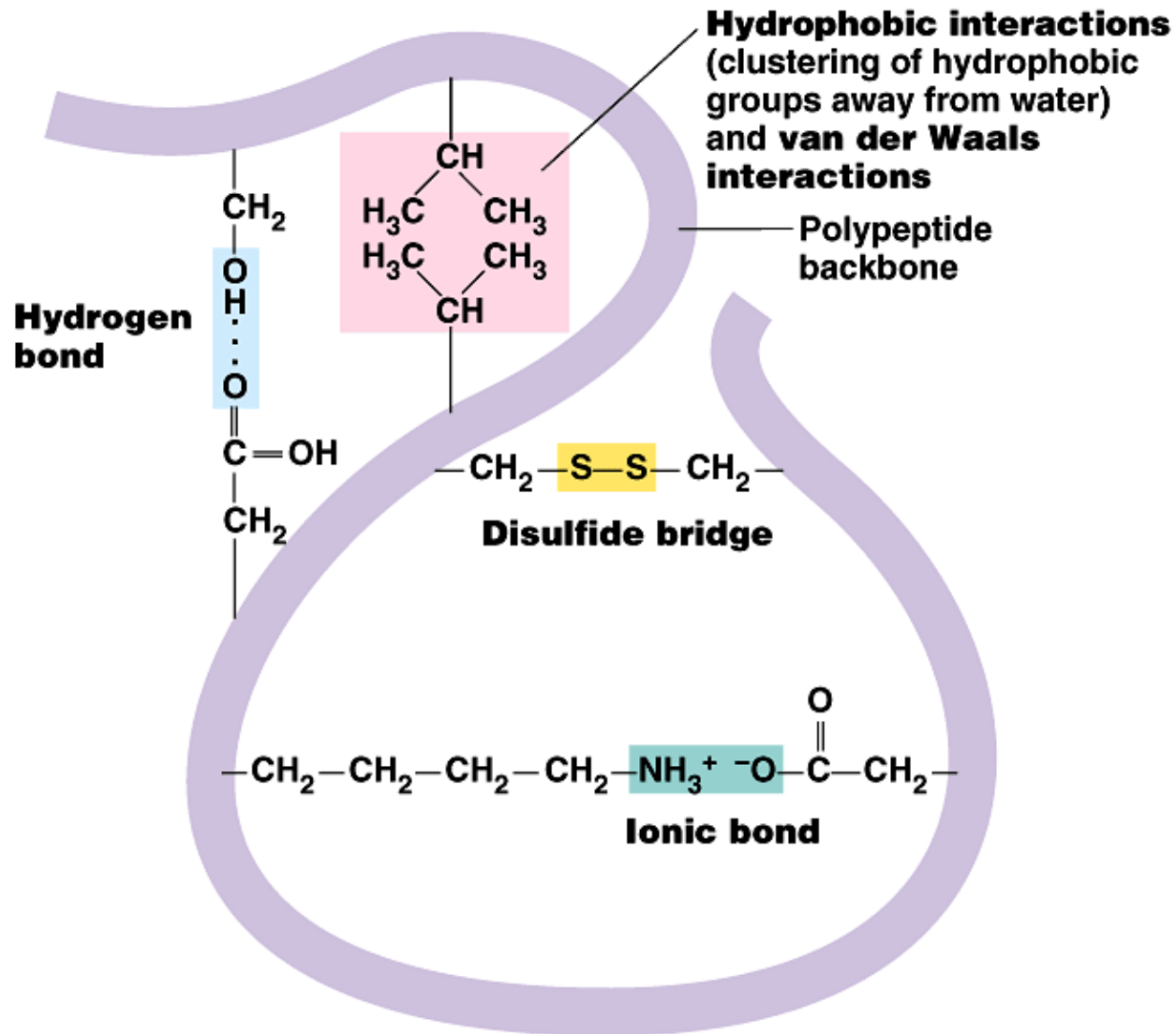


# Tertiary structure

Tertiary structure describe all aspect of the three-dimensional folding of a polypeptide



# Hydrophobic interaction in tertiary structure



## Hydrophobic interaction in tertiary structure

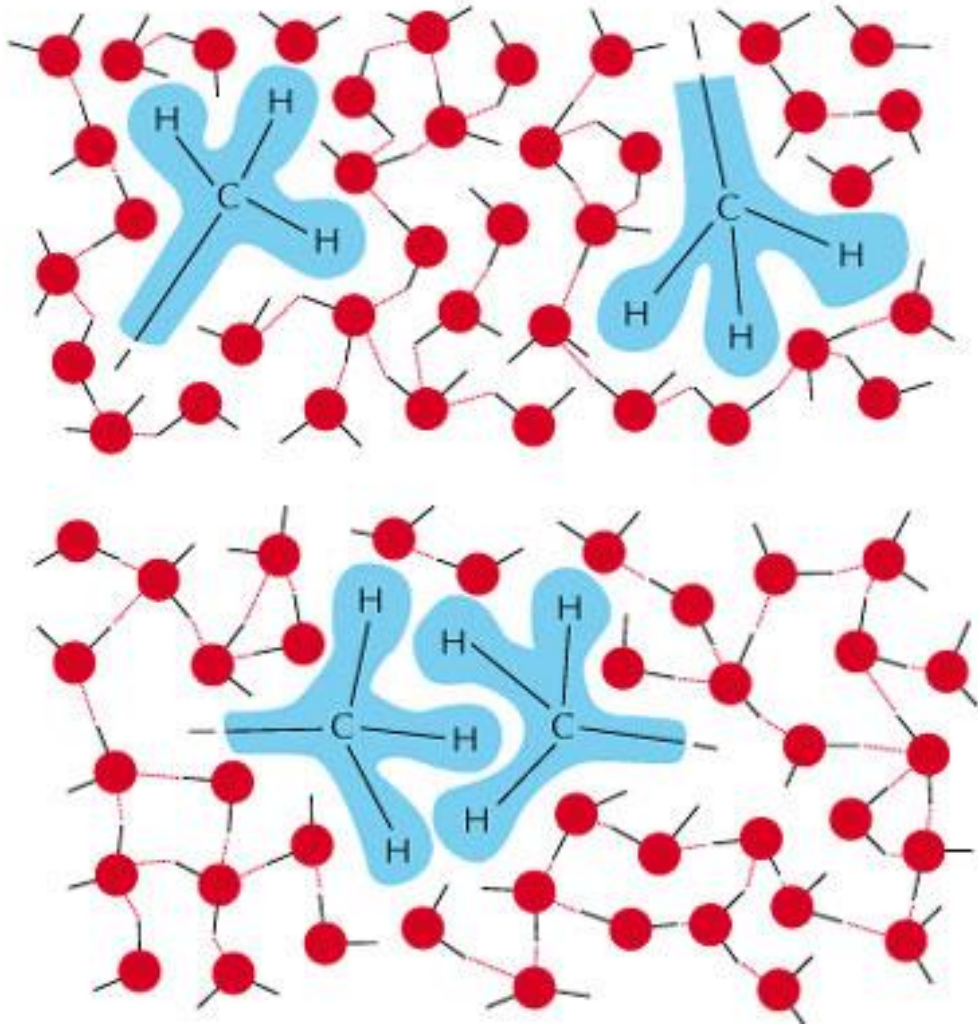
*Hydrophobic interactions involve the side chains of Non-Polar amino acids:*

Hydrocarbon -- Ala Val Leu Ile Pro Met

Aromatics ----- Phe Trp (Tyr)



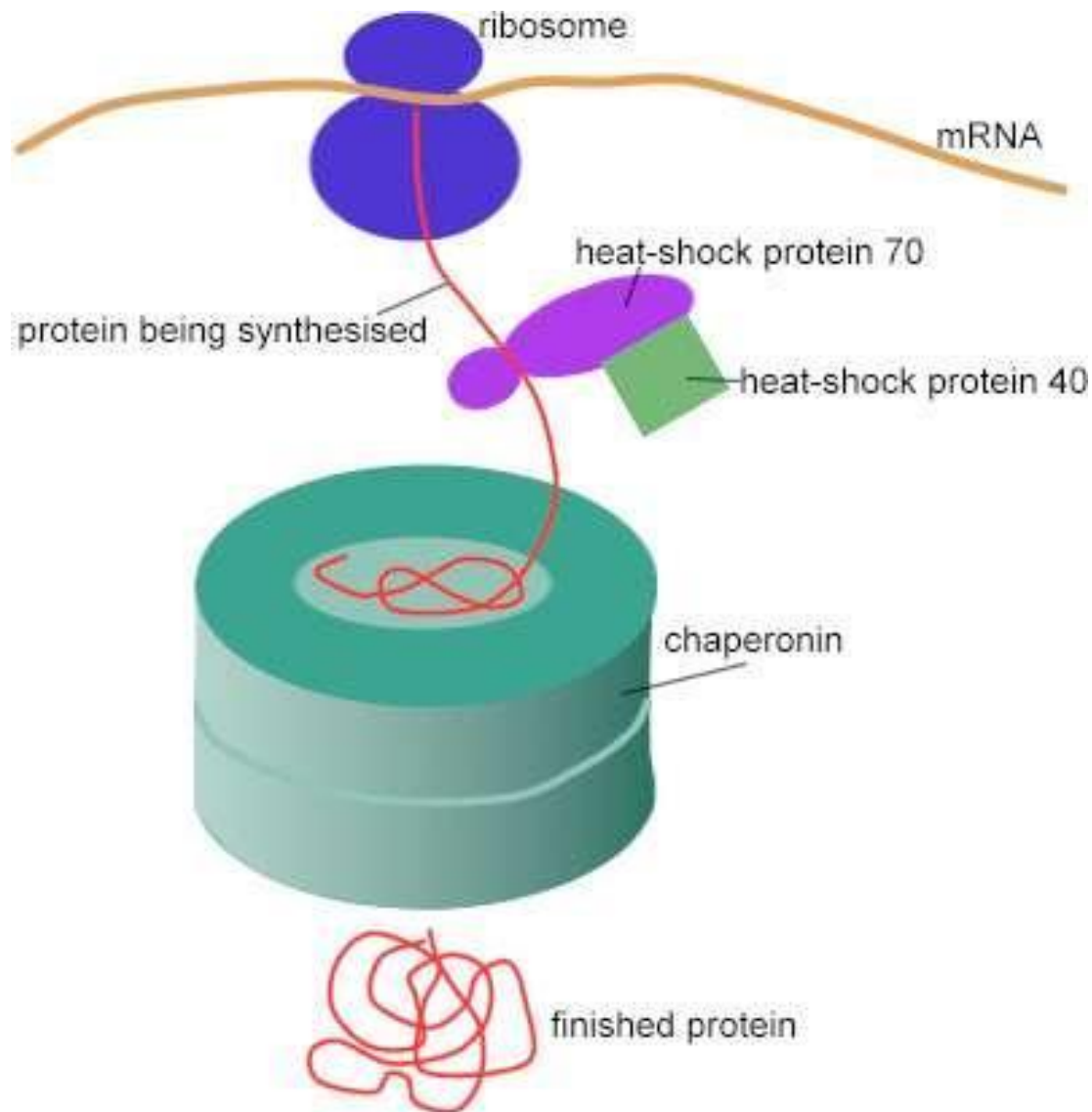
# Hydrophobic interaction



Water forces hydrophobic groups together in order to minimize their disruptive effects on the hydrogen-bonded water network. Hydrophobic groups held together in this way are sometimes said to be held together by “hydrophobic bonds,” even though the attraction is actually caused by a repulsion from the water.



# Protein Folding is not a random process



# Quaternary structure

Collagens & elastins of connective tissue, keratins (hair, skin, fingernails), silk



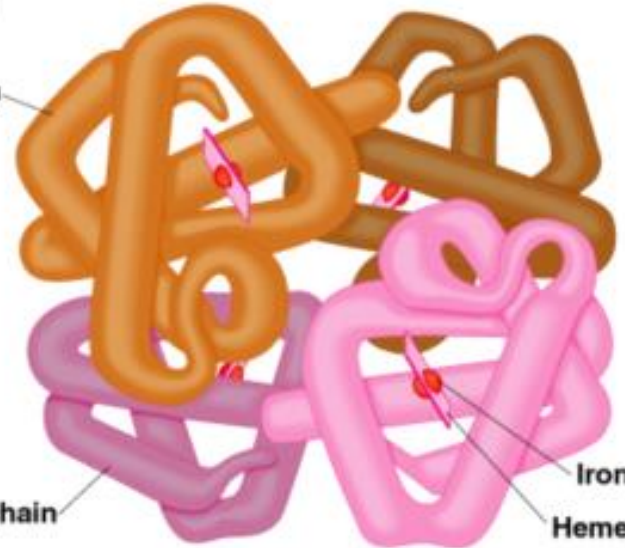
(a) Collagen

©1999 Addison Wesley Longman, Inc.

Polypeptide chain

$\beta$  chain

$\alpha$  chain



(b) Hemoglobin

Hemoglobin

Iron  
Heme

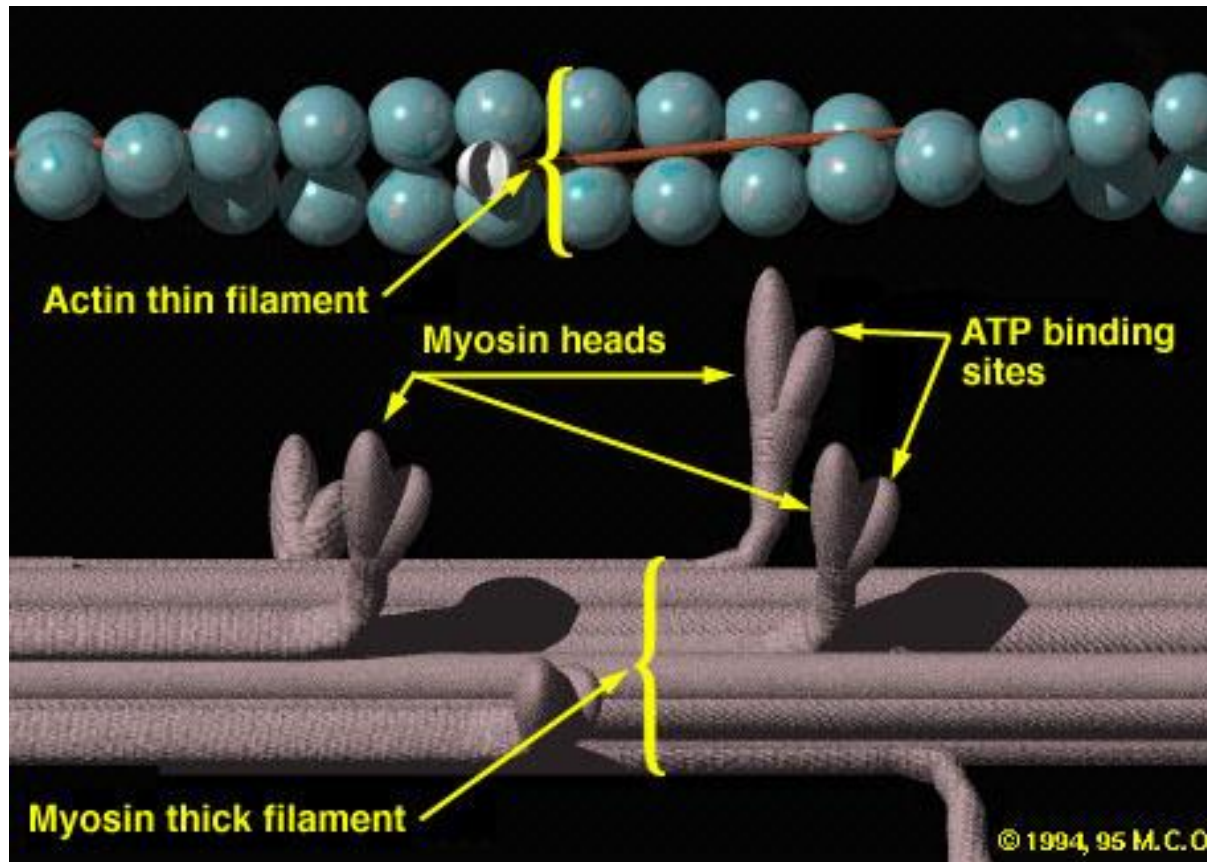
Fibrous protein

Globular protein

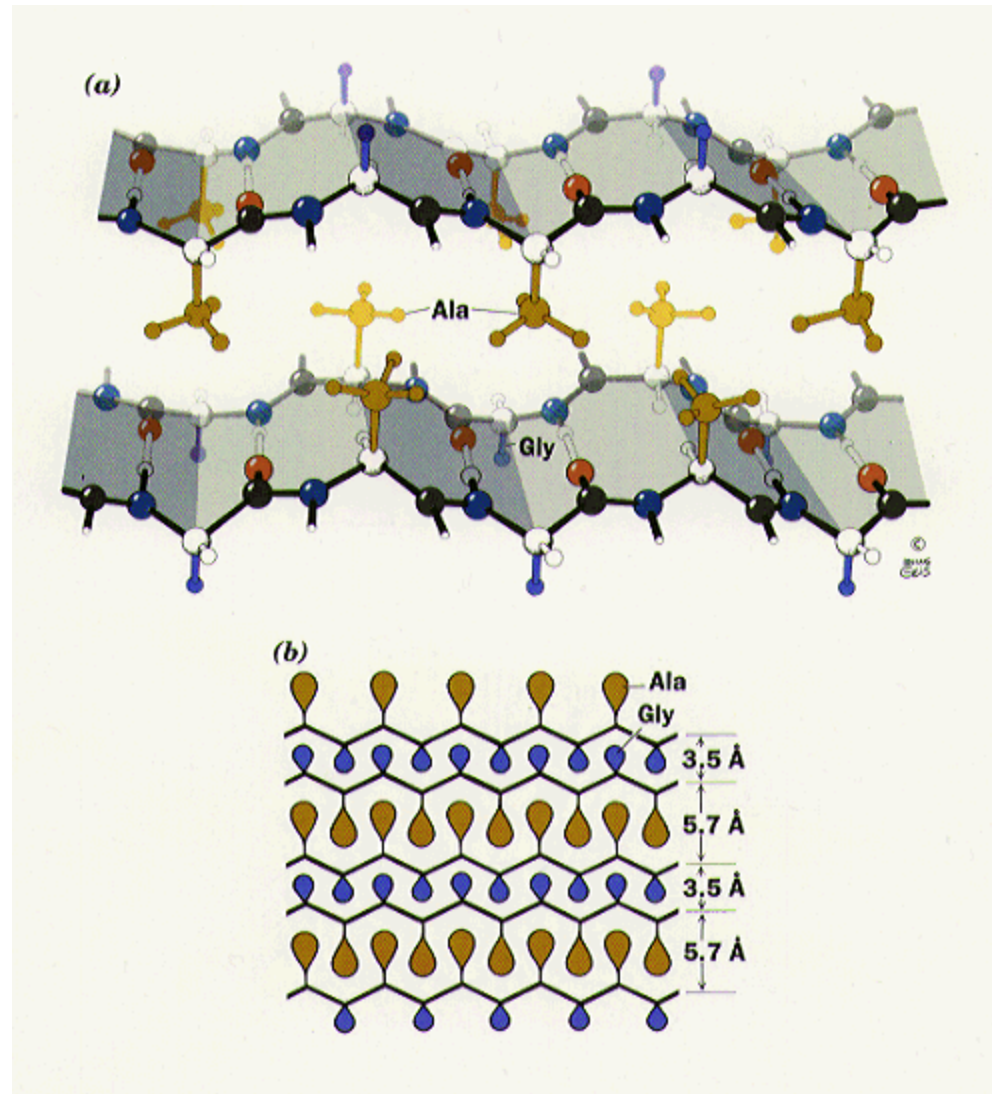
Contains more than 1 polypeptides

# Fibrous protein

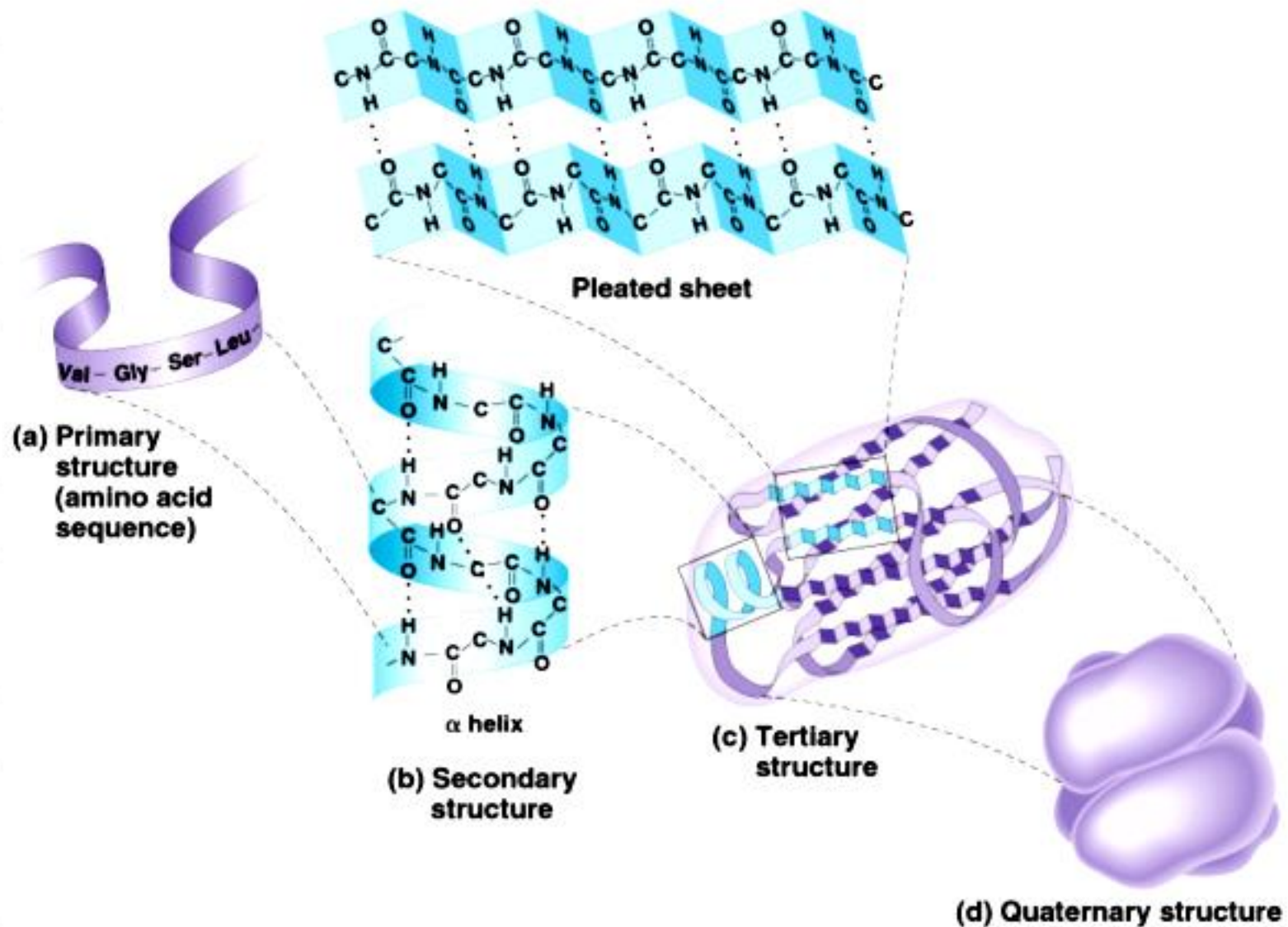
## Actin, Myosin: Movement



# Quaternary structure of silk fibroin (beta-sheet)

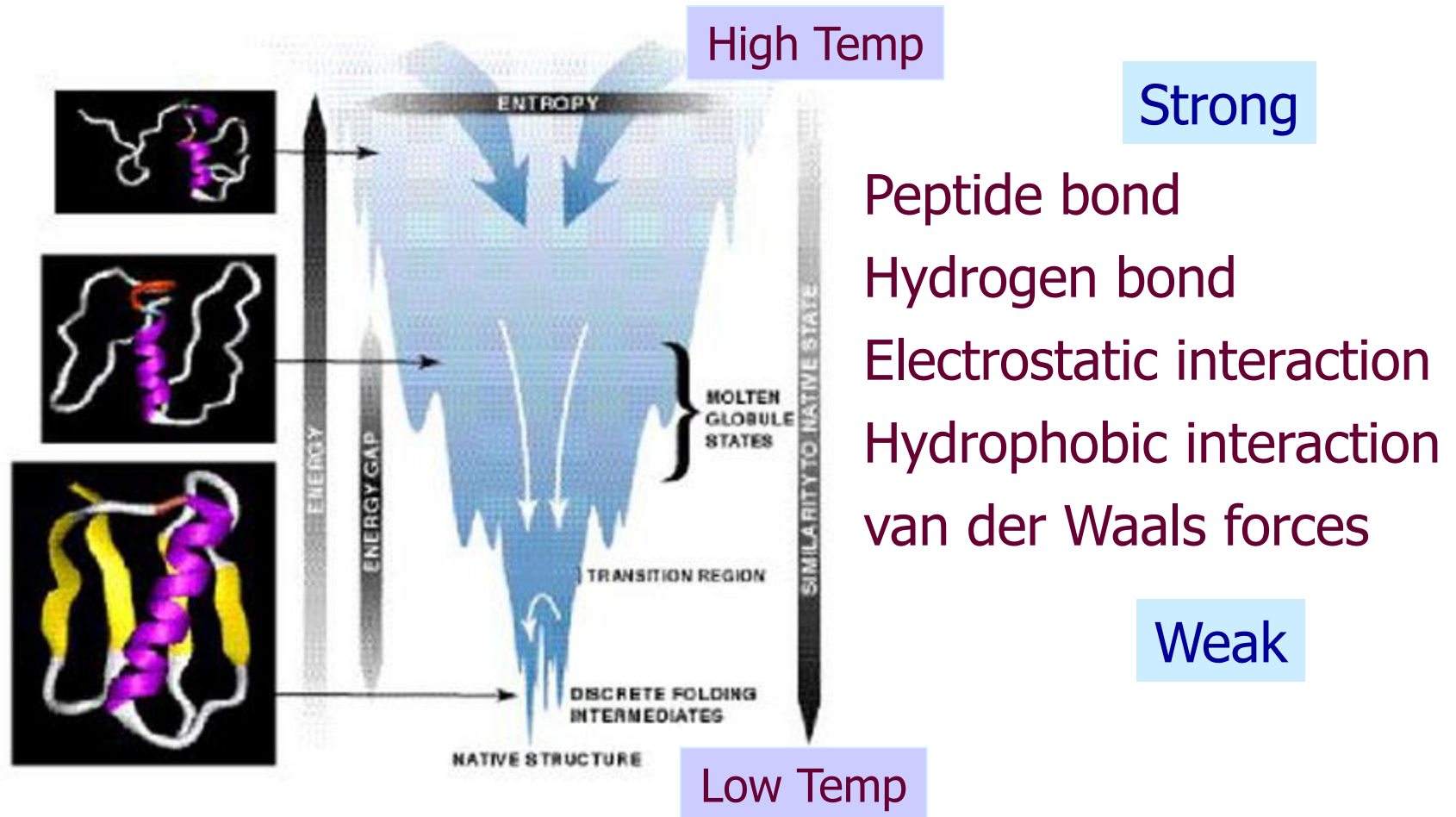


## ■ *Review of protein structure*



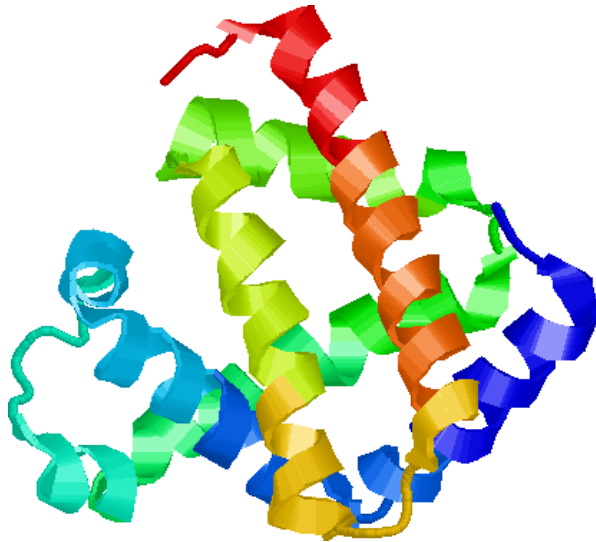


# Thermodynamic stability

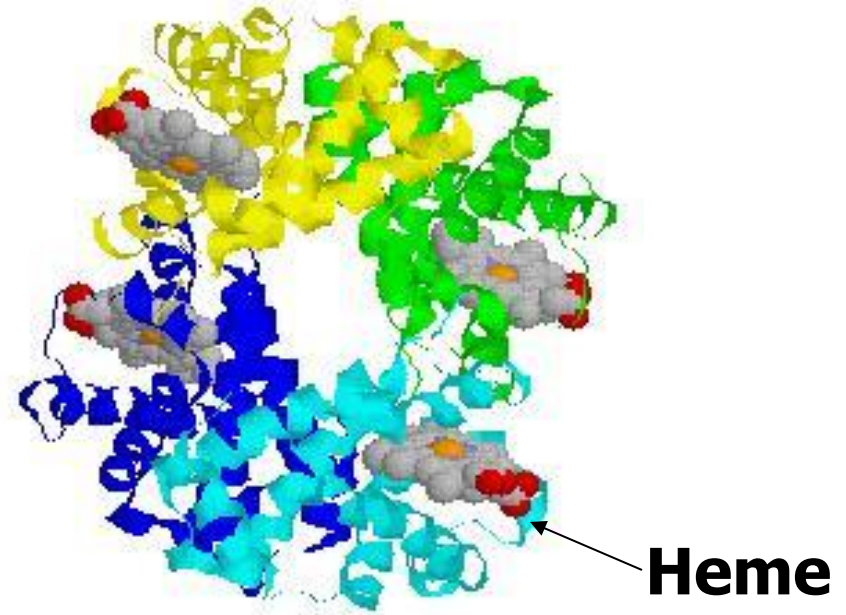


# Types of protein

Simple protein

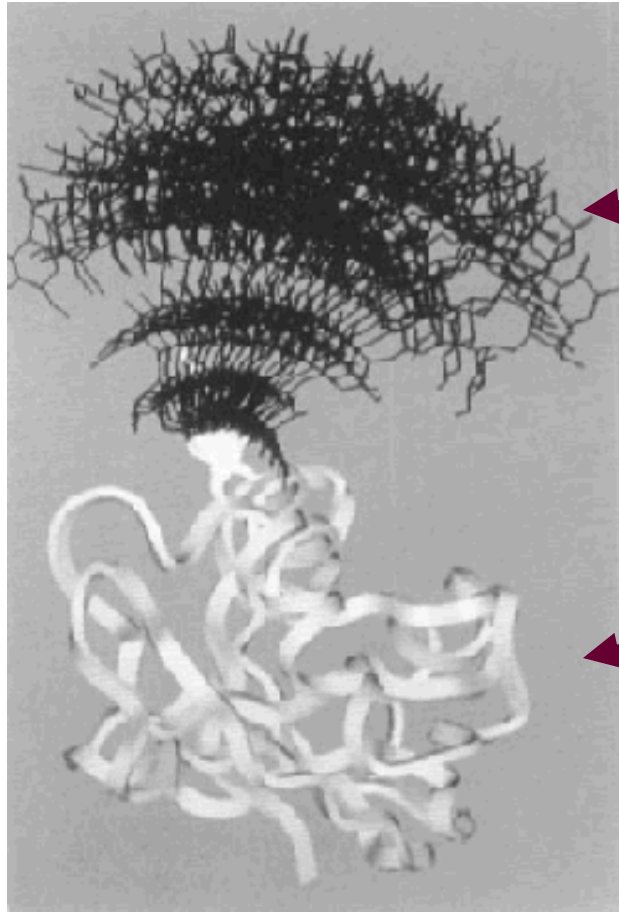


Conjugated protein



Hemoglobin

# Glycoprotein

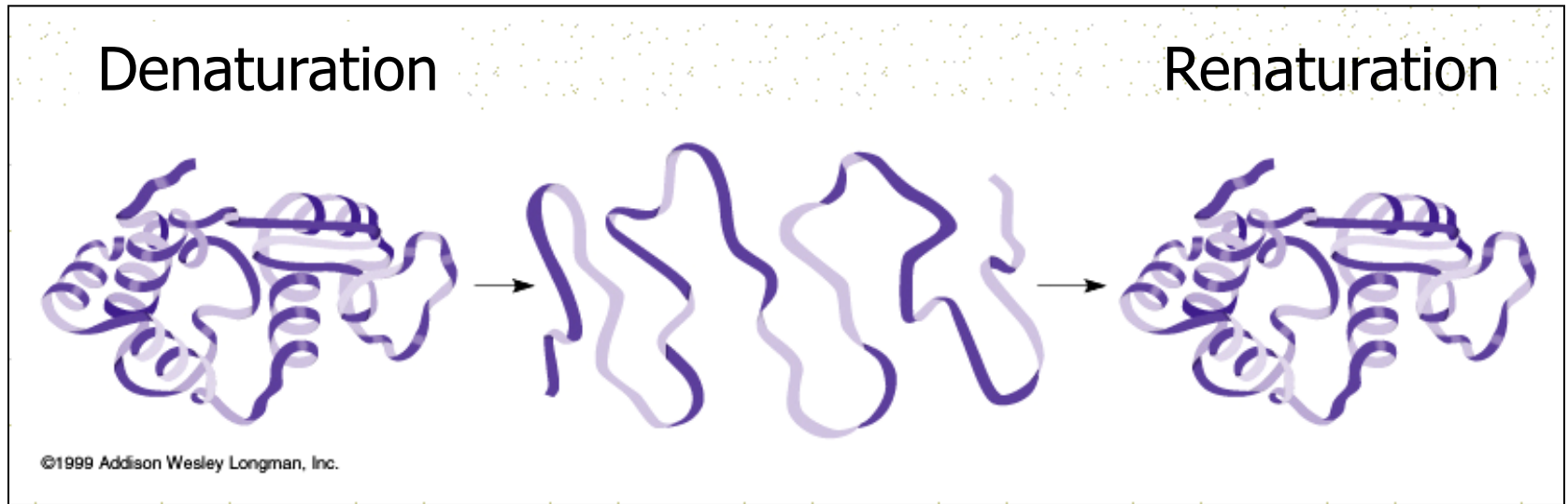


Carbohydrate

Polypeptide



# Protein denaturation



## Factors involved:

Heat : increase molecular vibration, disrupt structure

Freeze-thaw: denature structure

Detergents: disrupt hydrophobic interaction, electrostatic (SDS)

High salts: urea, guanidine: disrupt hydrogen bonding

pH: change net charge : disrupt structure

Mercaptoethanol, hair perm: disrupt disulfide bond



# The effect of Detergents on denaturation

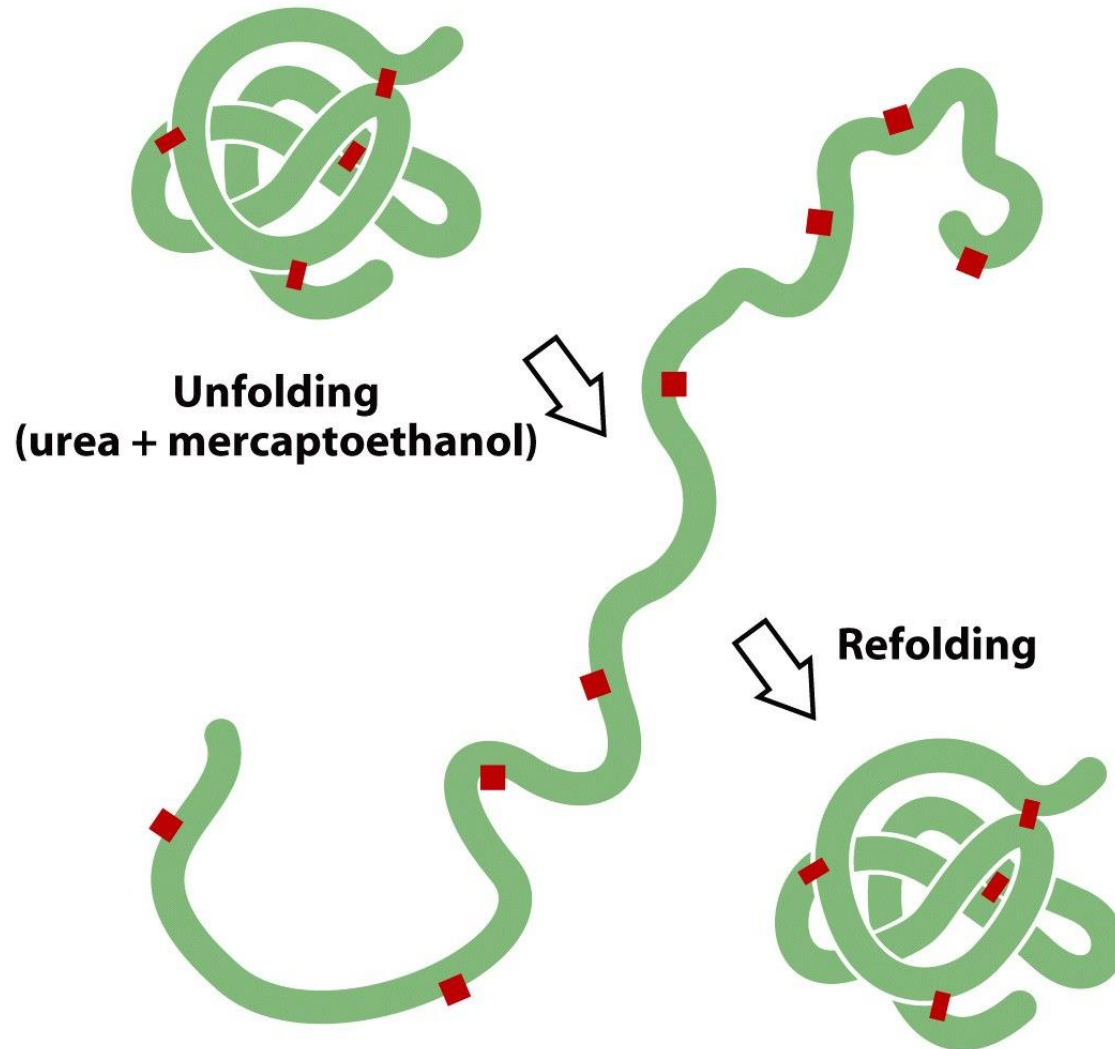


Figure 2-42 Cell and Molecular Biology, 5/e (© 2008 John Wiley & Sons)

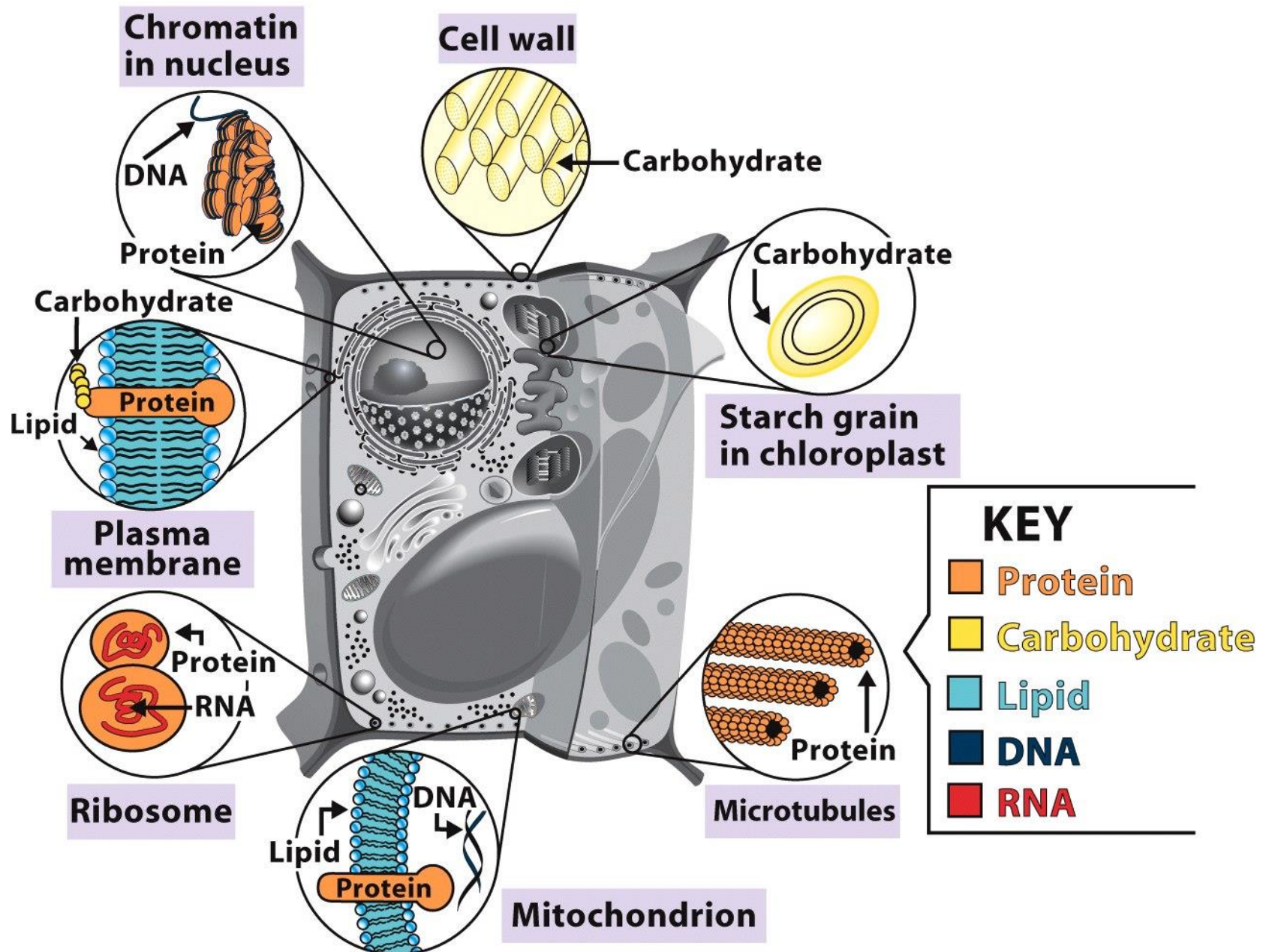


Figure 2-11 Cell and Molecular Biology, 5/e (© 2008 John Wiley & Sons)

# Biological functions of protein in body system

1. **Enzyme:** Apart from a few catalytically active RNA molecules, all enzymes are proteins.
2. **Signaling:** Receptor protein in cell membrane can bind ligands (e.g. hormones) cause the responses of cell to that ligands.  
Some hormones are themselves small proteins, such as insulin and growth hormone
3. **Transport and storage:**
  - Hemoglobin transports oxygen in the RBC
  - Transferrin transports iron to the liver
  - Ferritin binds with iron and stores in the liver
  - Dietary fats are carried in the blood by lipoproteins

# Biological functions of protein in body system

## 4. **Structure and movement:**

- Collagen is the major protein in skin, bone and connective tissues
- Keratin is a major component of hair
- Actin and myosin are the basis of muscle contraction

**5. Nutrition:** Casein and ovalbumin are the major proteins of milk and eggs, respectively

**6. Immunity:** Antibodies, which recognize and bind to bacteria, viruses and other foreign materials (the antigen) are proteins.

**7. Regulation:** Transcriptional factors bind to and modulate the function of DNA.