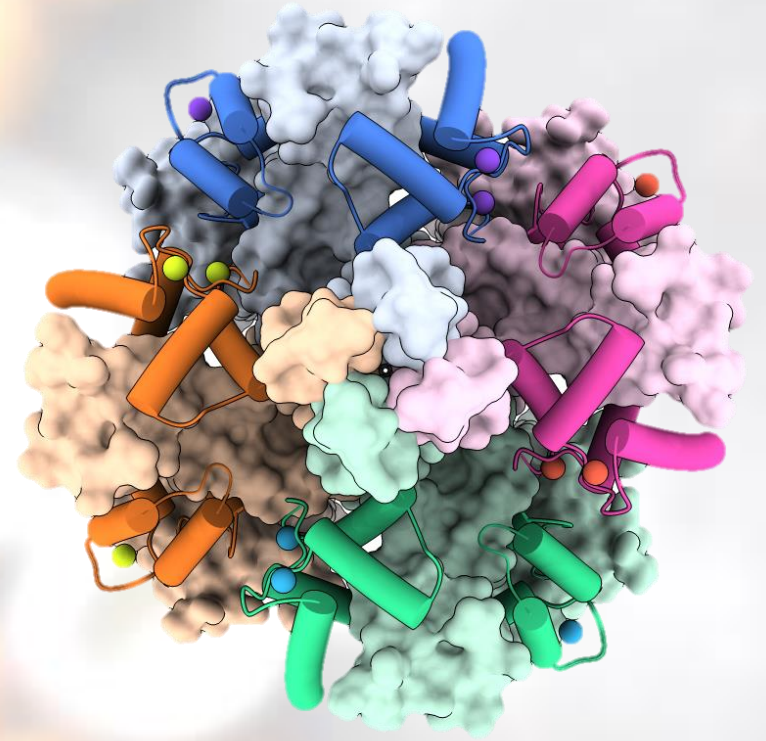


# Chemistry of amino acids and proteins



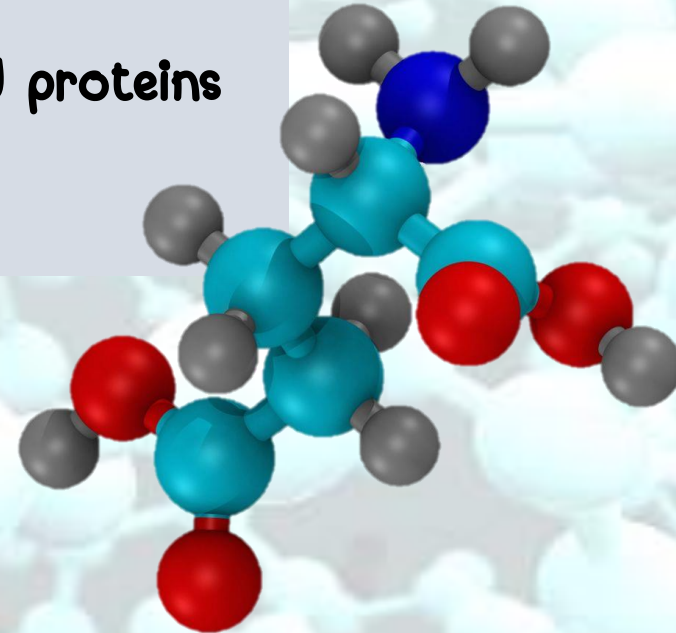
**Asst. Prof. Panupong Mahalapbutr, Ph.D.**

Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University

E-mail: [panupma@kku.ac.th](mailto:panupma@kku.ac.th)

# Objectives.....

1. Explain the structure and chemical properties of amino acids, peptides, and proteins
2. Classify amino acids according to their R group properties
3. Describe the 4 levels of protein structure, including the bonds and interactions involved in each level.
4. Describe the biological functions of amino acids, peptides, and proteins
5. State the factors that affect the denaturation of proteins



# Outline

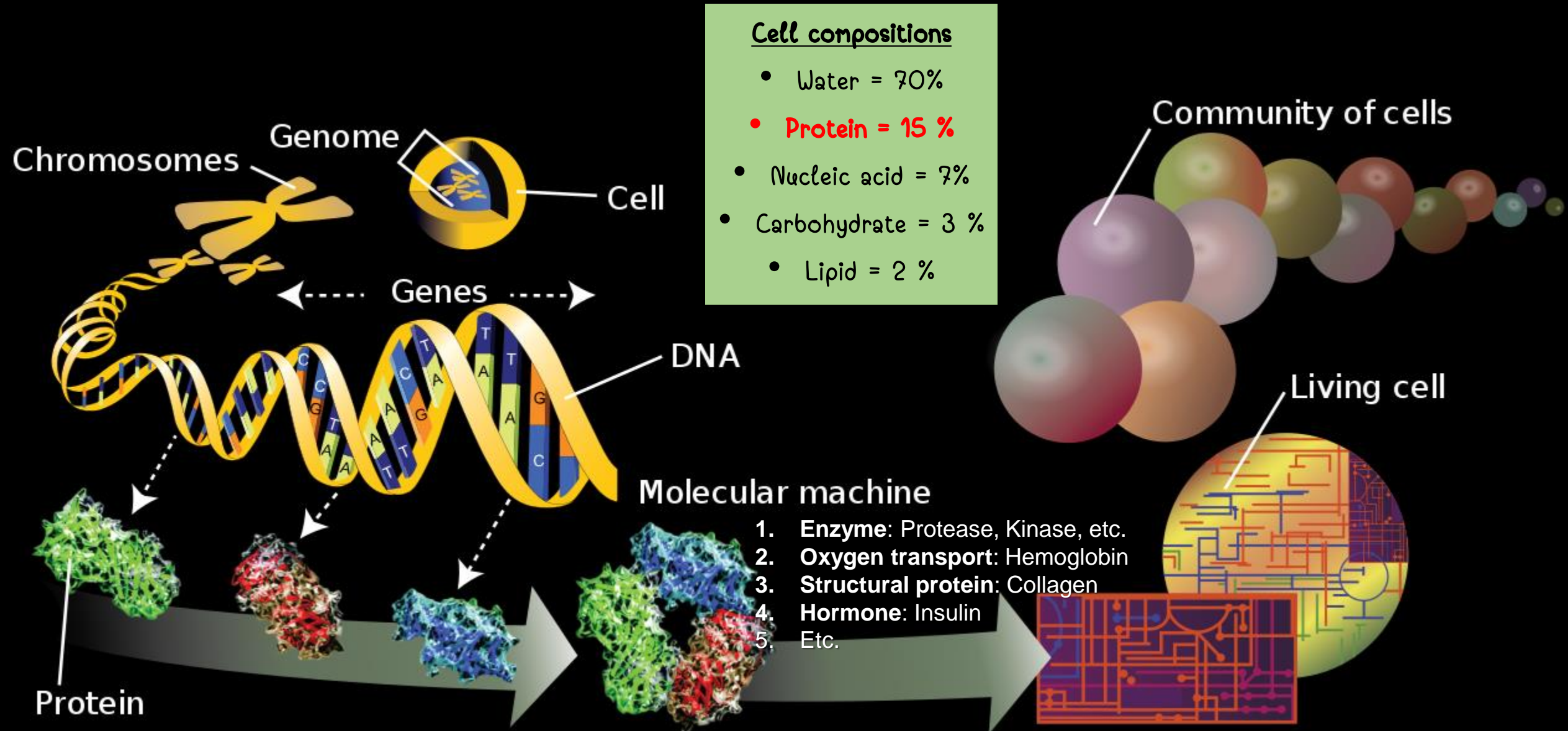
1. Chemical structure of amino acids
2. Classification of amino acids according to "R group"
3. Chemical properties of amino acids
4. Peptides
  - Definition
  - Reaction, chemical properties, and benefits
  - Nomenclature
  - Biological roles of peptides
5. Levels of protein structure
6. Conjugated proteins
7. Functions of proteins
8. Protein denaturation
9. Protein structure determination



# Outline

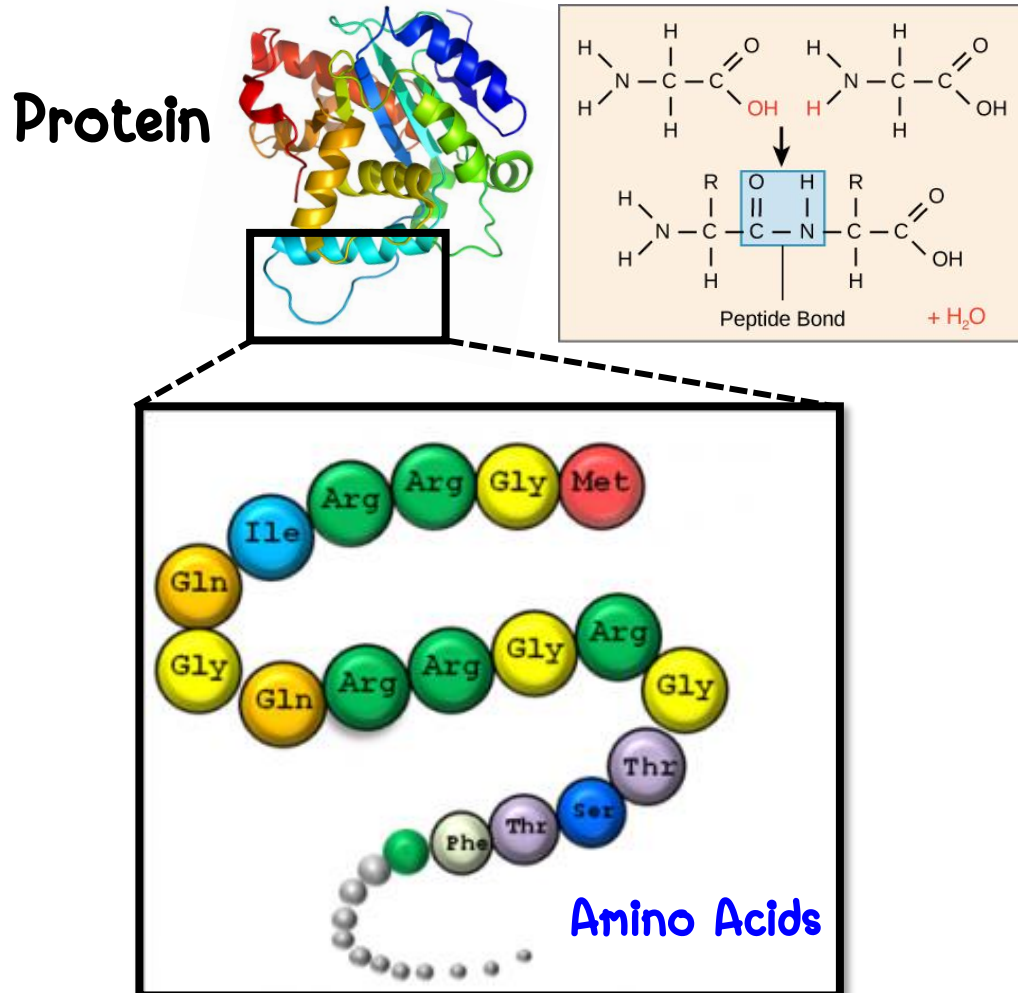
1. Chemical structure of amino acids
2. Classification of amino acids according to "R group"
3. Chemical properties of amino acids
4. Peptides
  - Definition
  - Reaction, chemical properties, and benefits
  - Nomenclature
  - Biological roles of peptides
5. Levels of protein structure
6. Conjugated proteins
7. Functions of proteins
8. Protein denaturation
9. Protein structure determination

# Proteins are one of **the most abundant** organic molecules in living systems



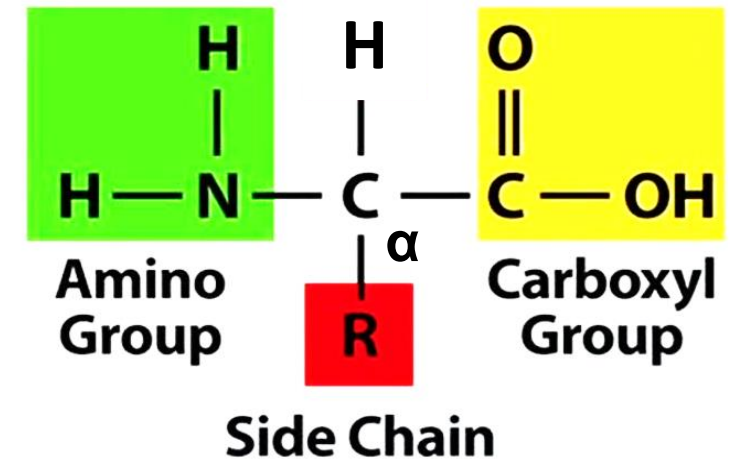
# The smallest units of protein are amino acids

Protein = Polymer of amino acids linked together by peptide bonds



## Structure of amino acid

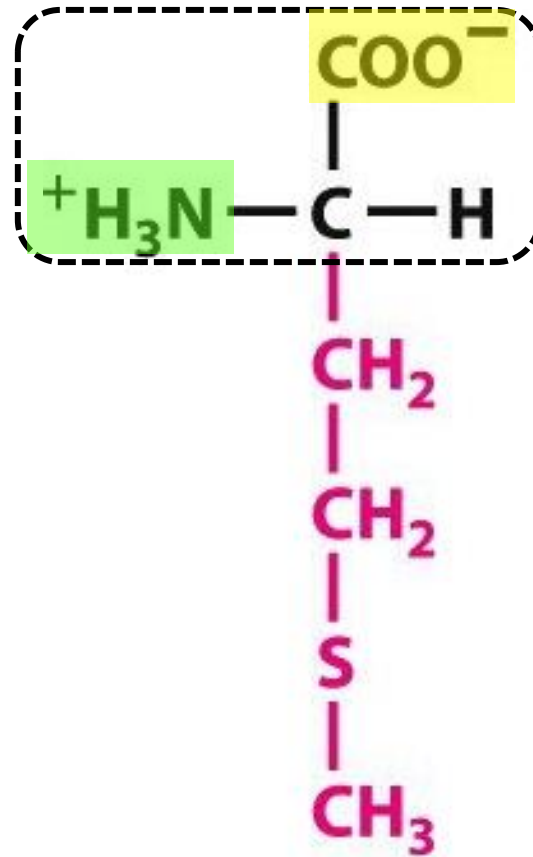
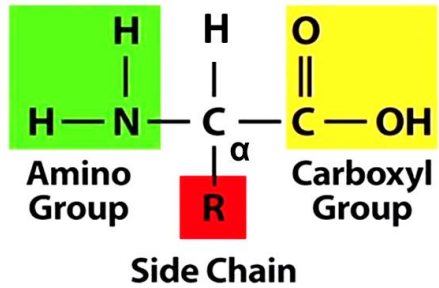
1. Alpha carbon (C<sub>α</sub>)
2. Amino group
3. Carboxyl (Acid) group
4. R group (side chain)



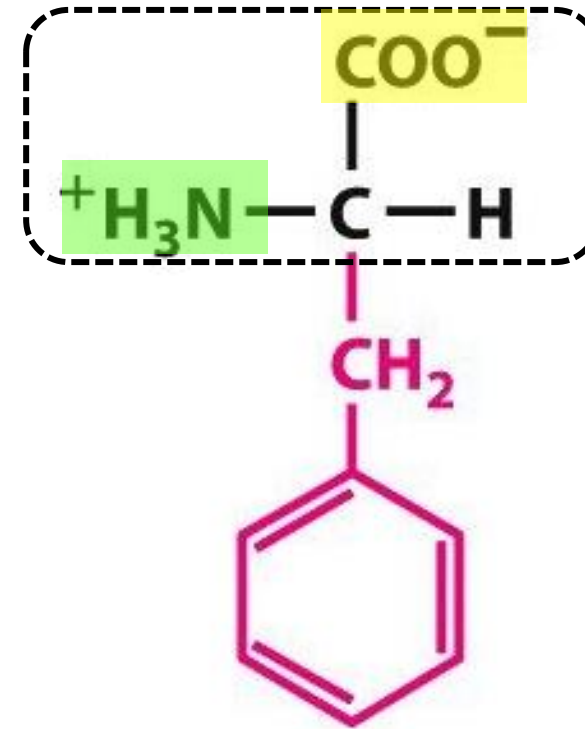
\*\*\*R group determines the differences in each amino acid



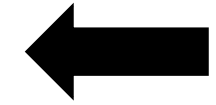
# The smallest units of protein are amino acids



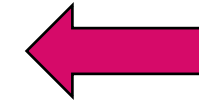
**Methionine**  
(Met or M)



**Phenylalanine**  
(Phe or F)



Same



R groups are  
different

There are more than 300 amino acids in nature, but only **20** are found as building blocks of proteins.

6

They are called **common amino acids** or **standard amino acids**.

Amino Acid	ABBREVIATION		Amino Acid	ABBREVIATION	
	3-Letter	1-Letter		3-Letter	1-Letter
There are 2 types of abbreviations for amino acids.					
Alanine	Ala	A	Leucine	Leu	L
Arginine	Arg	R	Lysine	Lys	K
Asparagine	Asn	N	Methionine	Met	M
Aspartic acid	Asp	D	Phenylalanine	Phe	F
Cysteine	Cys	C	Proline	Pro	P
Glutamic acid	Glu	E	Serine	Ser	S
Glutamine	Gln	Q	Threonine	Thr	T
Glycine	Gly	G	Tryptophan	Trp	W
Histidine	His	H	Tyrosine	Tyr	Y
Isoleucine	Ile	I	Valine	Val	V



<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/protein/CAA78815.1>

**NIH** National Library of Medicine  
National Center for Biotechnology Information

Protein   [Advanced](#) [Help](#)

GenPept

## DNA topoisomerase II, partial [Homo sapiens]

GenBank: CAA78815.1

[Identical Proteins](#) **FASTA** [Graphics](#)

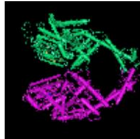
[Go to:](#) ☐

LOCUS	CAA78815	400 aa	linear	PRI 25-JUL-2016
DEFINITION	DNA topoisomerase II, partial [Homo sapiens].			
ACCESSION	CAA78815			
VERSION	CAA78815.1			
DBSOURCE	embl accession <a href="#">Z15111.1</a>			
KEYWORDS	.			
SOURCE	Homo sapiens (human)			
ORGANISM	<a href="#">Homo sapiens</a> Eukaryota; Metazoa; Chordata; Craniata; Vertebrata; Euteleostomi; Mammalia; Eutheria; Euarchontoglires; Primates; Haplorrhini; Catarrhini; Hominidae; Homo.			
REFERENCE	1			
AUTHORS	Chung,T.D., Drake,F.H., Tan,K.B., Per,S.R., Crooke,S.T. and Mirabelli,C.K.			
TITLE	Characterization and immunological identification of cDNA clones encoding two human DNA topoisomerase II isozymes			
JOURNAL	Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 86 (23), 9431-9435 (1989)			
PUBMED	<a href="#">2556712</a>			
REMARK	(sites)			
REFERENCE	2			

**Analyze this sequence**

- [Run BLAST](#)
- [Identify Conserved Domains](#)
- [Highlight Sequence Features](#)
- [Find in this Sequence](#)

**Protein 3D Structure**

 Human topoisomerase II beta in complex with DNA  
PDB: 5ZAD  
Source: Homo sapiens, synthetic construct  
Method: X-ray Diffraction  
Resolution: 2.54 Å

[See all 7 structures...](#)

**Articles about the TOP2B gene**

## DNA topoisomerase II, partial [Homo sapiens]

GenBank: CAA78815.1

[GenPept](#) [Identical Proteins](#) [Graphics](#)

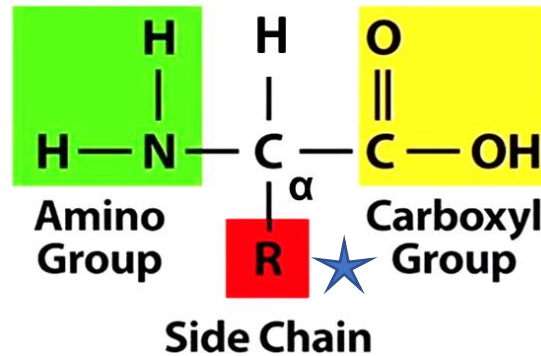
```
>CAA78815.1 DNA topoisomerase II, partial [Homo sapiens]
MAKSGGCGAGAGVGGNGALTWNNAAKKEESETANKNDSSKKLSVERVYQKKTQLEHILLRPDTYIGSV
EPLTQFMWVYDEDVGMNCREVTFVPGLYKIFDEILVNAADNKQRDKNMTICKVSIDPESNIISIWNNGKG
IPVVEHKVEKVYPALIFGQLLTSSNYDDDEKKVTGGRNGYGAKLCNIFSTKFTVETACKEYKHSFKQTW
MNNMMKTSEAKIKHFDGEDYTCITFQPDLSKFKMEKLDKDI VALMTRRAYDLAGSCRGVKVMFNGKKLPV
NGFRSYVDLYVKDKLDETGVALKVIHELANERWDVCLT LSEKGFQQISFVNSIATTKGGRHVDYVVDQVV
GKLIEVVKKKNKAGSVKPFQVKNHIWVFINCLIENPTFDSQTKENMTLQ
```

# Outline

1. Chemical structure of amino acids
2. Classification of amino acids according to "R group"
3. Chemical properties of amino acids
4. Peptides
  - Definition
  - Reaction, chemical properties, and benefits
  - Nomenclature
  - Biological roles of peptides
5. Levels of protein structure
6. Conjugated proteins
7. Functions of proteins
8. Protein denaturation
9. Protein structure determination

# Classification of amino acids according to "R group"

8



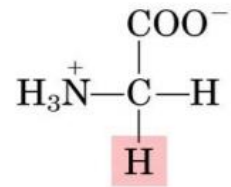
1. Nonpolar, aliphatic R groups
2. Polar, uncharged R groups
3. Positively charged R groups
4. Negatively charged R groups
5. Aromatic R groups



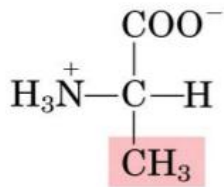
# Classification of amino acids according to "R group"

9

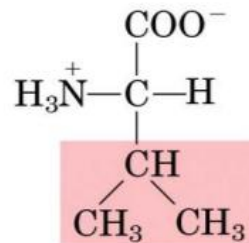
## 1. Non-polar, aliphatic R groups



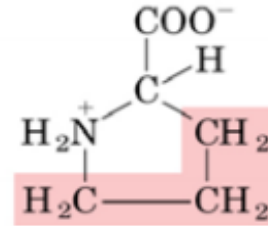
Glycine



Alanine

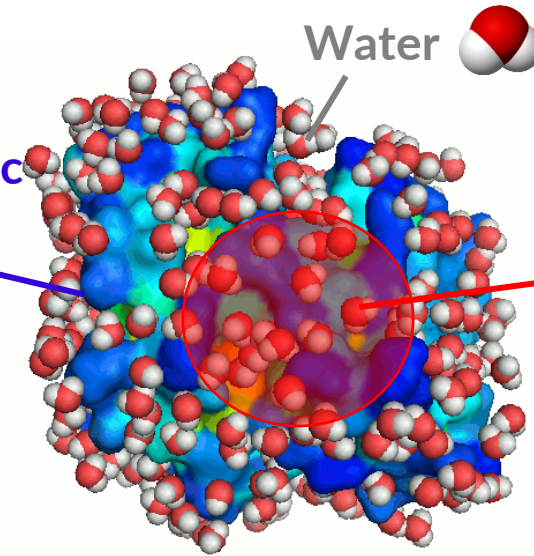


Valine

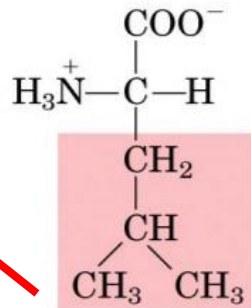


Proline

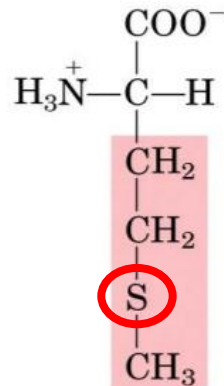
Hydrophilic surface



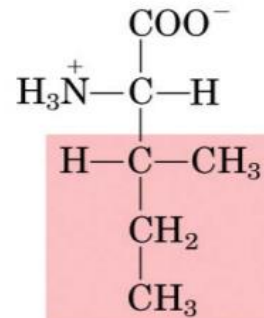
Hydrophobic core



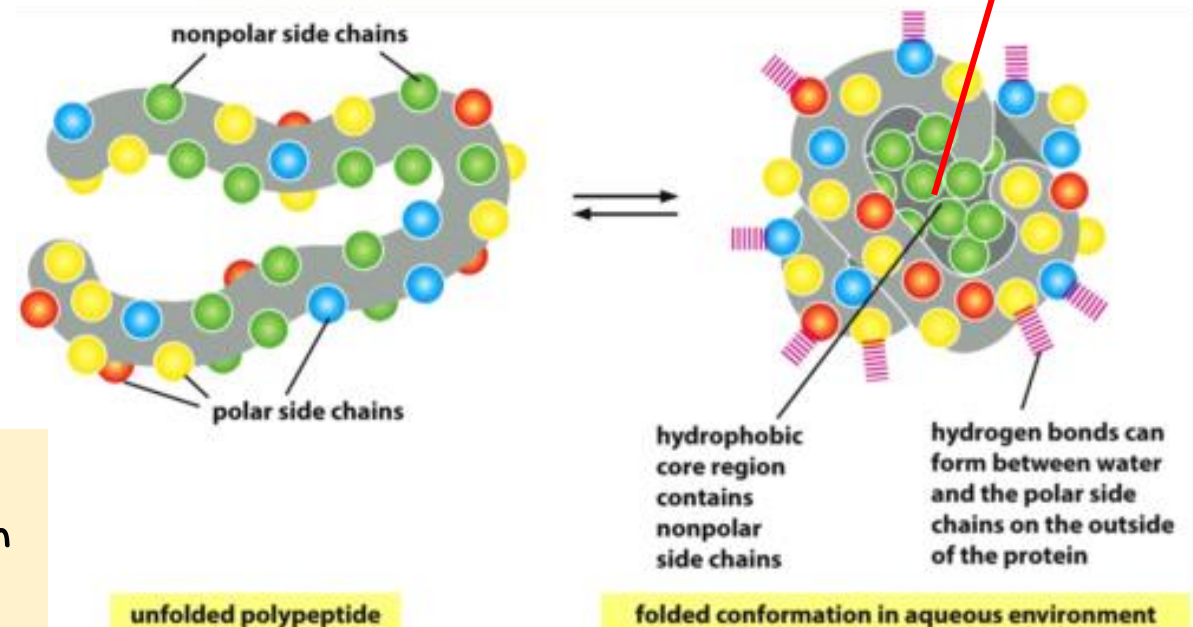
Leucine



Methionine



Isoleucine

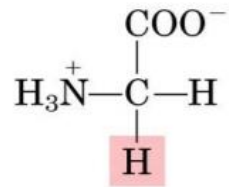


- This group consists of 7 amino acids
- The **hydrophobic -R group characteristic** leads them to cluster within the protein structure through **hydrophobic interactions**, evading contact with water.

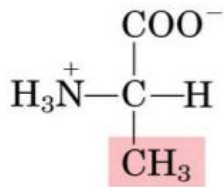
# Classification of amino acids according to "R group"

10

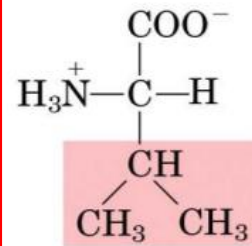
## 1. Non-polar, aliphatic R groups



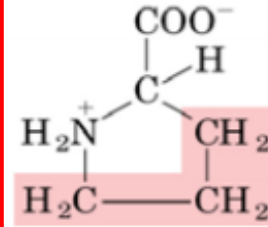
Glycine



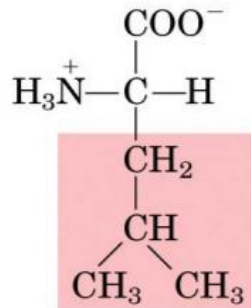
Alanine



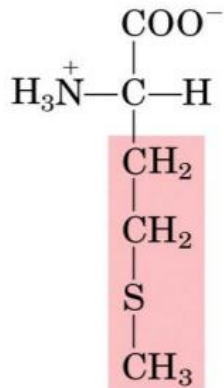
Valine



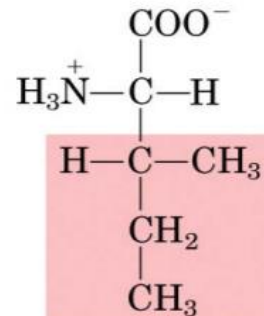
Proline



Leucine



Methionine



Isoleucine

## Branched-Chain Amino acids (BCAAs)

- Amino acids that have a branched structure
- Essential amino acids
- Consisting of **Leucine**, **Isoleucine**, and **Valine**
- BCAAs play a crucial role in the body as they constitute **35% of muscle protein** and represent **40% of the essential amino acids** required by the body
- Found in foods such as meat, dairy products, eggs, and soy products

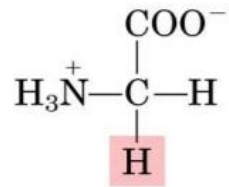


<https://fitbod.me/blog/natural-food-sources-of-bcaa/>

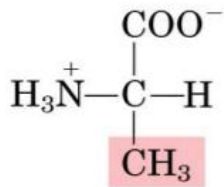
# Classification of amino acids according to "R group"

10

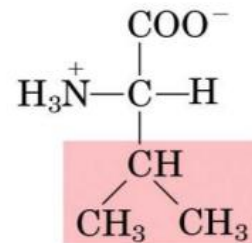
## 1. Non-polar, aliphatic R groups



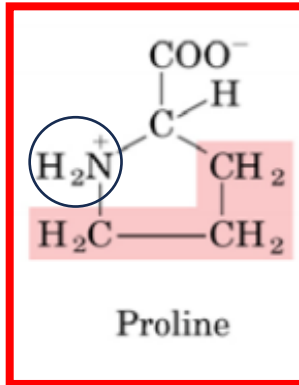
Glycine



Alanine



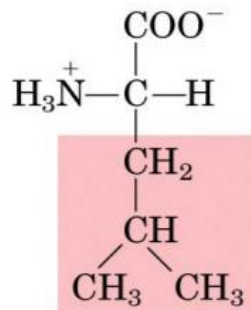
Valine



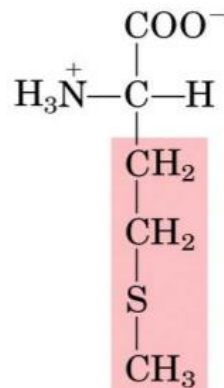
Proline

Proline has special characteristics:

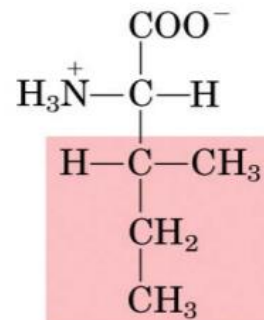
- No free amino group >> Imino group >> Imino acid
- R group is **cyclic** → When forming a peptide bond, it causes a **bend** in the amino acid chain
- Commonly positioned in the **turns/loops region**, since it causes a change in the direction of the polypeptide chain, leading to a more compact folding of the polypeptide chain.



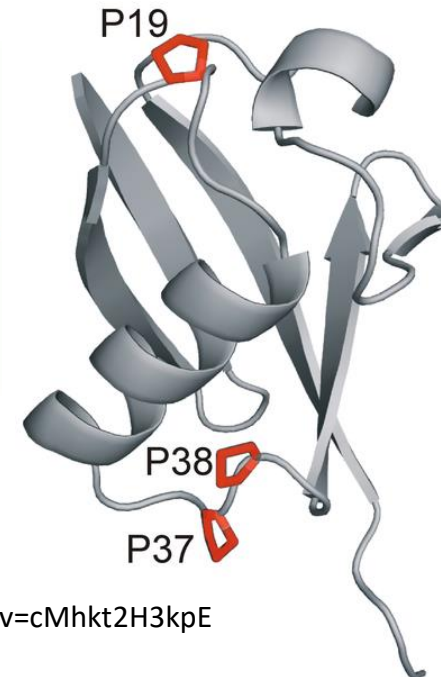
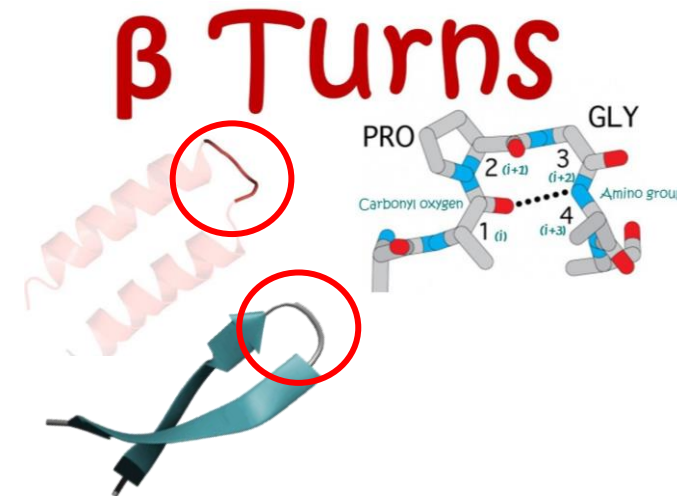
Leucine



Methionine



Isoleucine

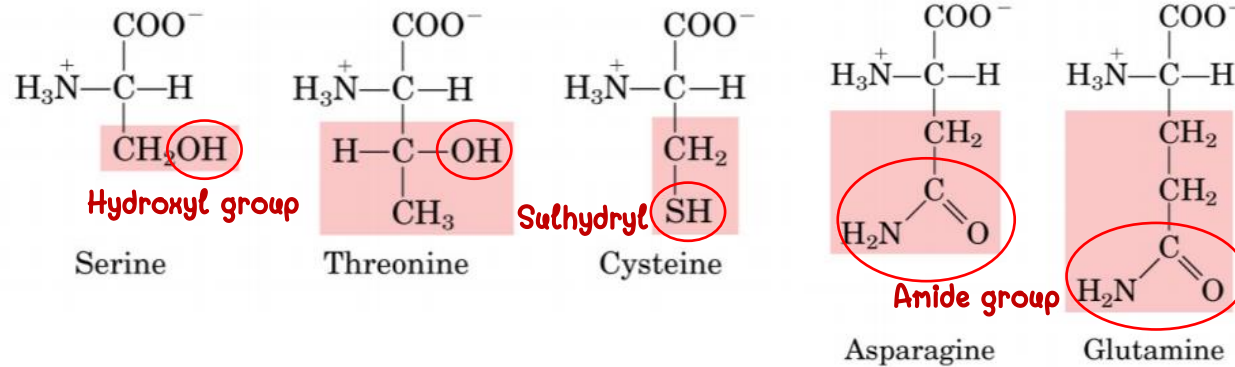




# Classification of amino acids according to "R group"

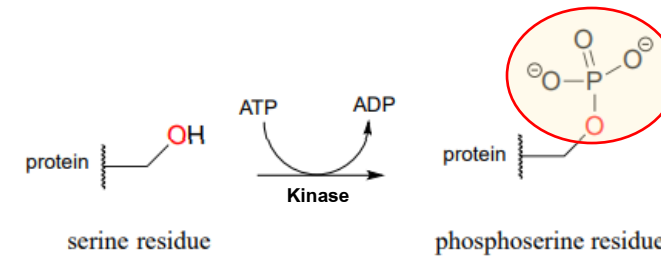
11

## 2. Polar, uncharged R groups

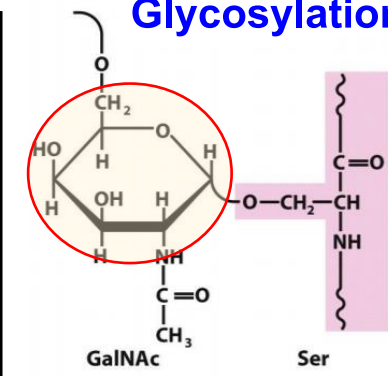


- The  $-\text{OH}$  group of Serine and Threonine can be phosphorylated and glycosylated

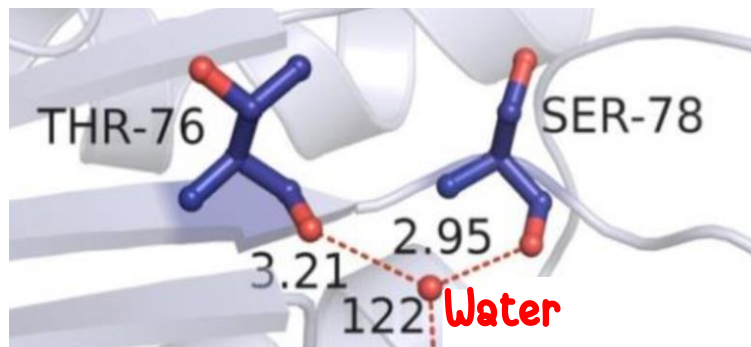
### Phosphorylation



### Glycosylation

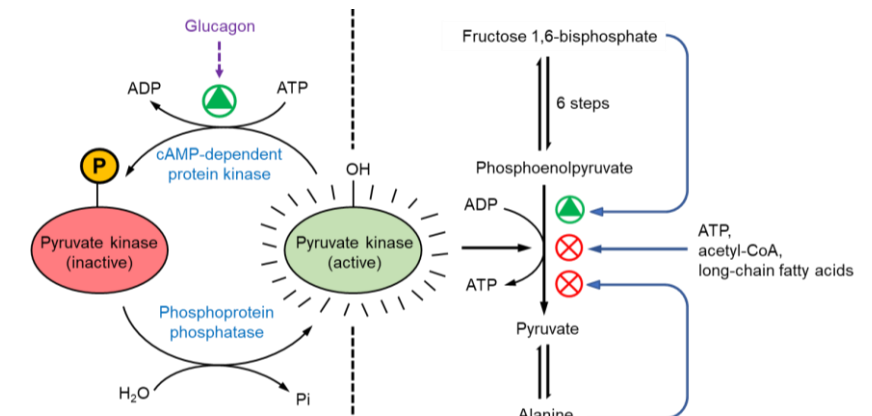


- This group consists of 5 amino acids
- The polar nature of R-groups allows them to engage in hydrogen bonding with other polar molecules.



Molecules 2018, 23(9), 2321

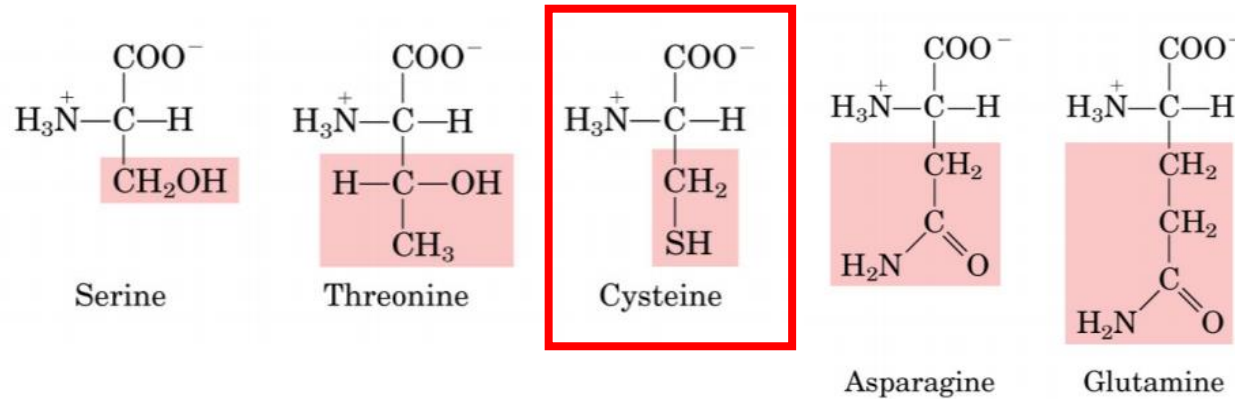
"Post-translational modifications" → Control the function of proteins



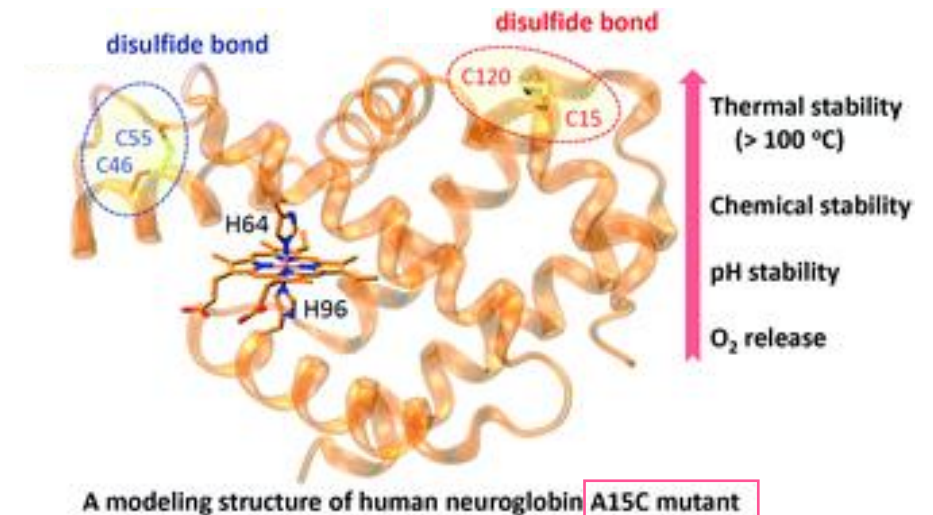
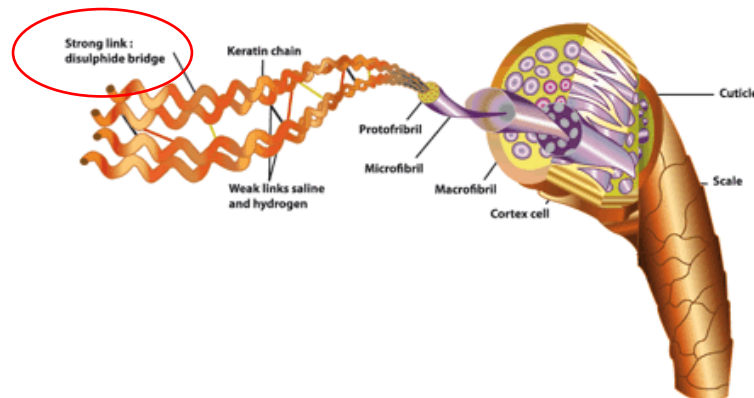
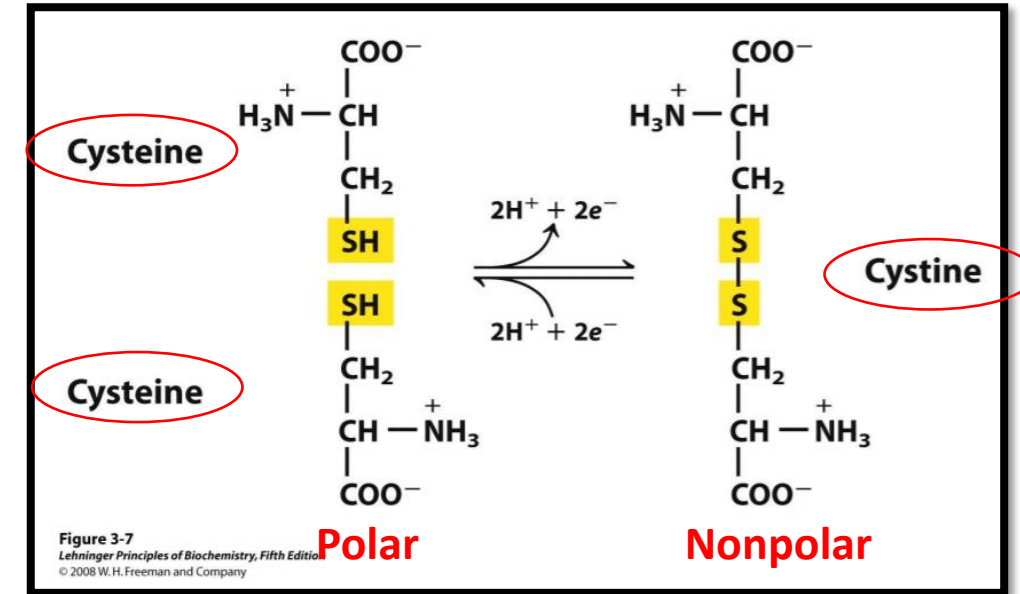
# Classification of amino acids according to "R group"

12

## 2. Polar, uncharged R groups



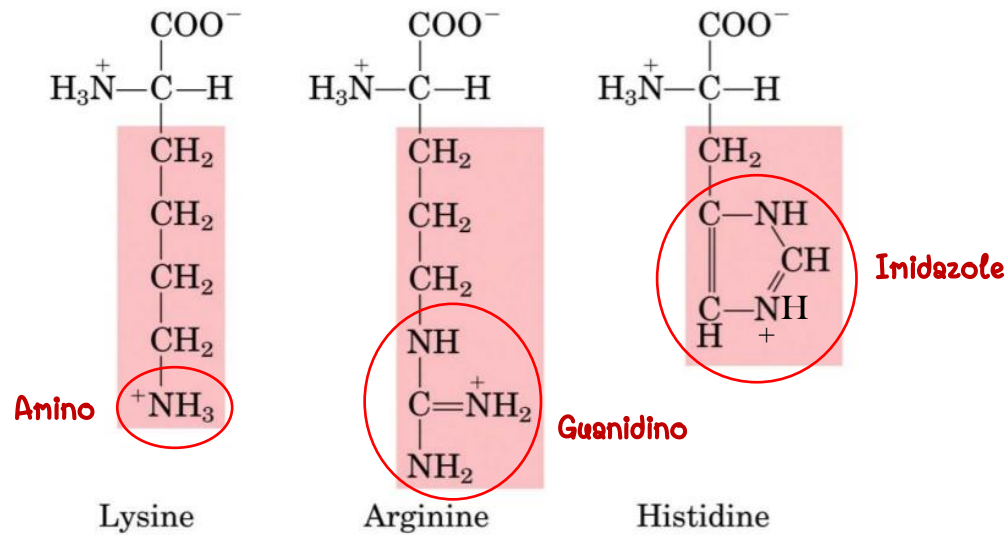
- The sulfhydryl (-SH) group in two cysteine molecules can form covalent bond, known as a **disulfide bond or S-S bond**, enhancing the strength of the protein structure.



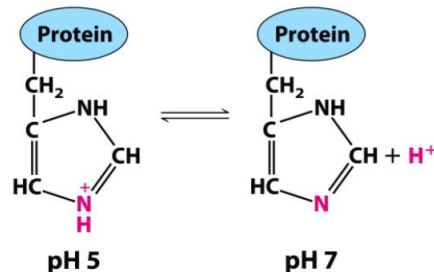
# Classification of amino acids according to "R group"

13

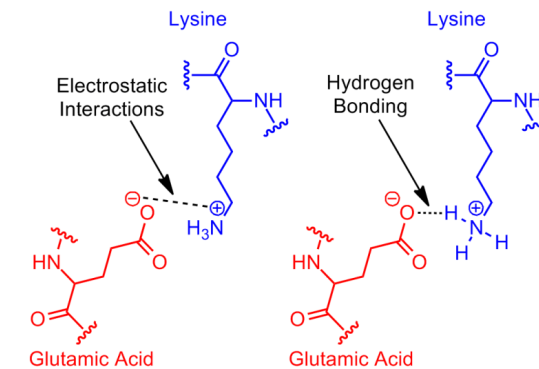
## 3. Positively charged R groups



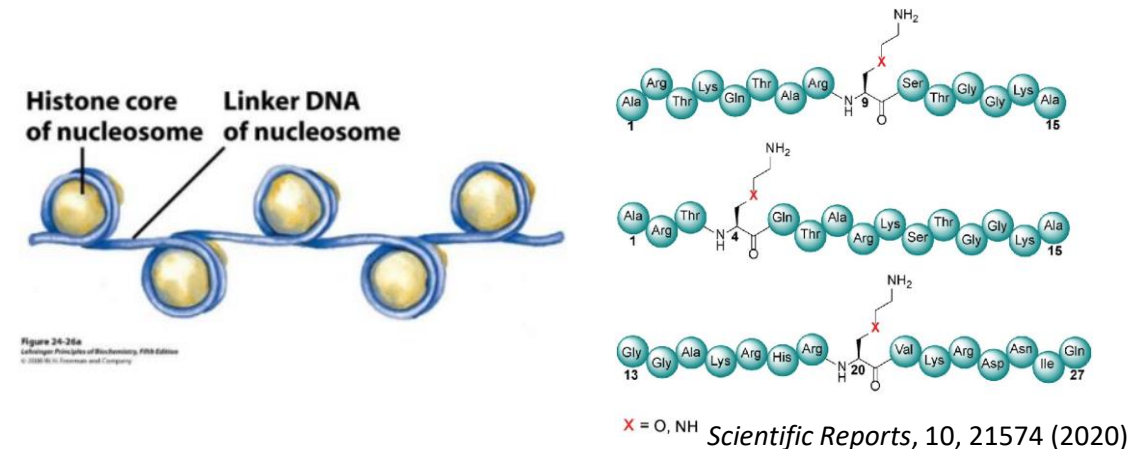
- This group consists of 3 amino acids
- At physiological pH (7.4) **Lys** and **Arg** have a positive charge
- At pH < 6 **His** has a positive charge



- The positively charged nature of R-groups allows them to engage in **salt bridge/electrostatic interaction** and **Hydrogen bonding** with other charged molecules.



- This group is an important component of **histone proteins**.

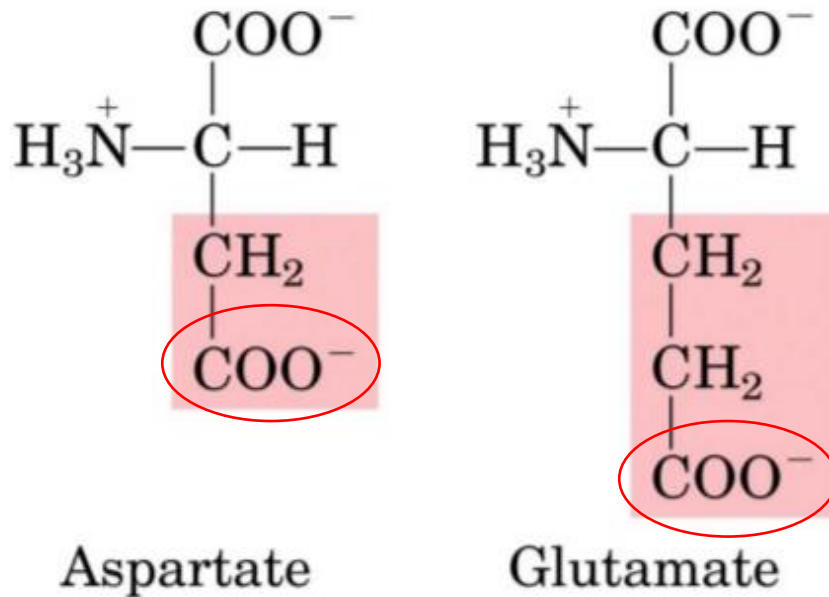




# Classification of amino acids according to "R group"

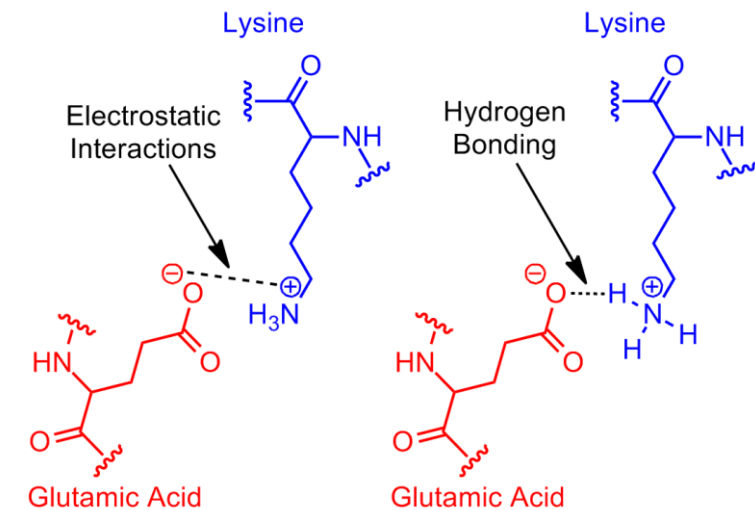
14

## 4. Negatively charged R groups

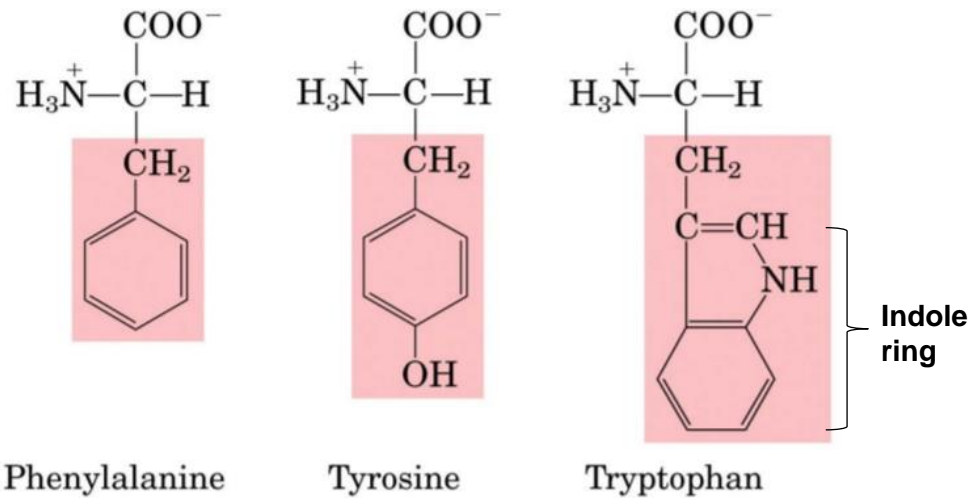


- This group consists of 2 amino acids
- At physiological pH (7.4), both amino acids have a negative charge

- The negatively charged nature of R-groups allows them to engage in salt bridge/electrostatic interaction and Hydrogen bonding with other charged molecules.



## 5. Aromatic R groups



- The aromatic ring can absorb UV light at a wavelength of 280 nm, enabling a rough quantification of the protein

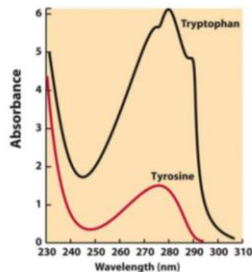
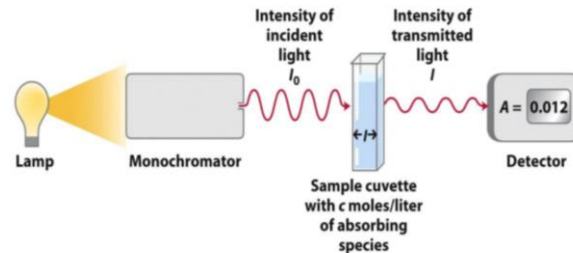
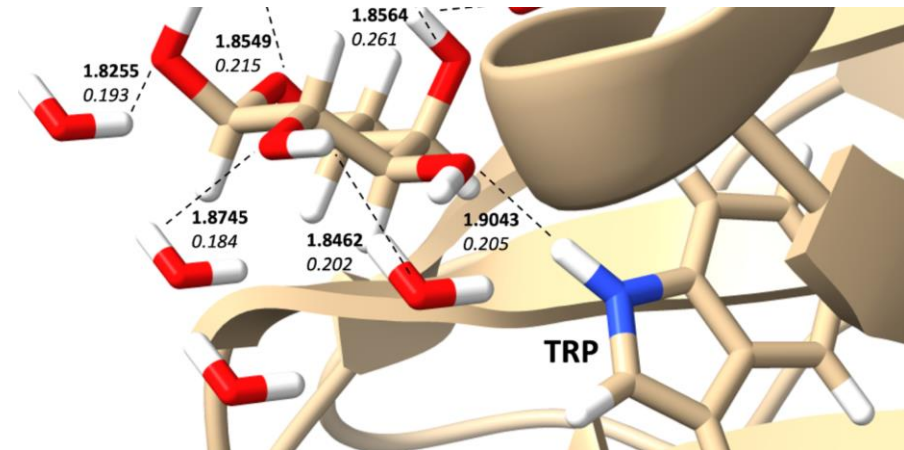


Figure 3-8  
Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry, Fifth Edition  
© 2008 W. H. Freeman and Company



Box 3-1 figure 1  
Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry, Fifth Edition  
© 2008 W. H. Freeman and Company

- The hydrophobic -R group in phenylalanine can form **hydrophobic interactions** with other non-polar molecules
- Tyrosine and tryptophan contain polar groups ( $-\text{OH}$ ,  $-\text{NH}$ ), allowing them to engage in **hydrogen bonding** along with **hydrophobic interactions**



*Int. J. Mol. Sci.* **2023**, *24*(7), 6311

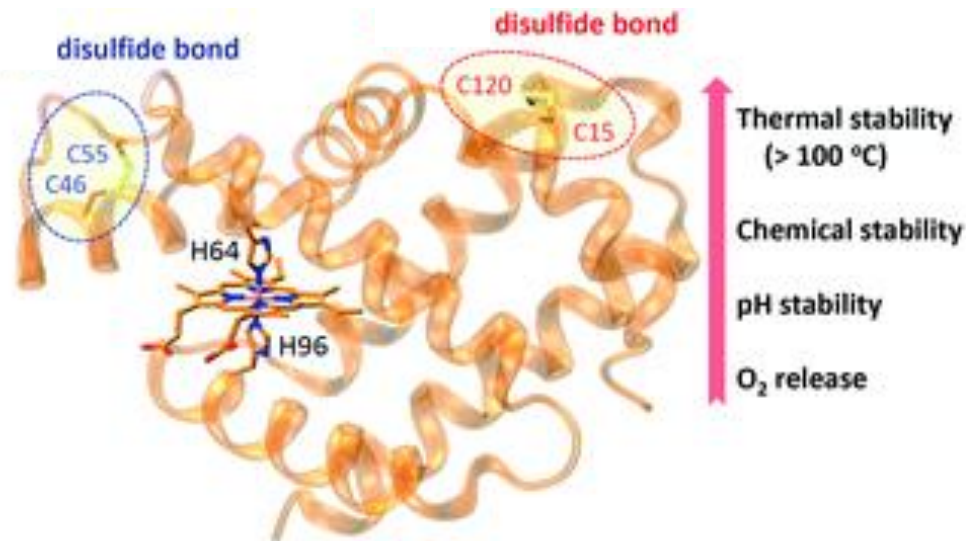
# Summary

- The smallest amino acid and does not contain carbon =
- Amino acids that contain sulfur =
- Amino acids that can form disulfide bonds =
- Amino acids with aromatic rings =
- Amino acids without a free amino group =



# Applications

## Protein design



A modeling structure of human neuroglobin **A15C mutant**

*RSC Adv.*, 2019,9, 4172-4179

## Drug design

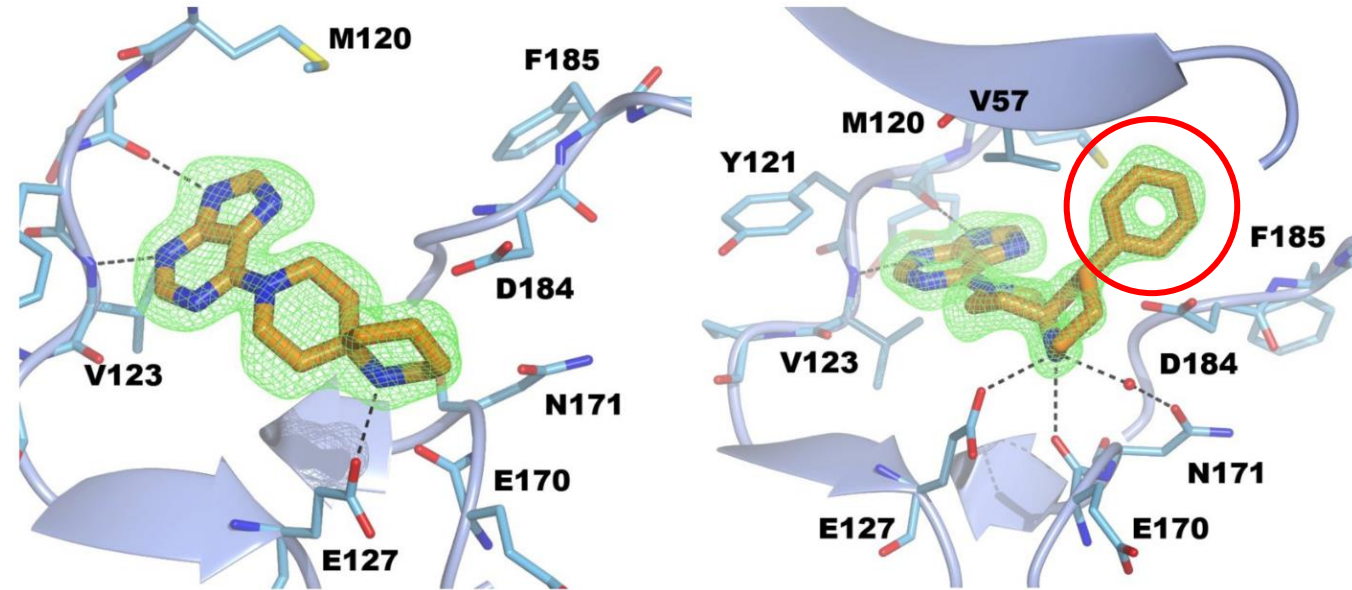


Figure 3: Crystal structures of PKA in complex with two different spirocycle-based inhibitors.

cAMP-dependent protein kinase A (PKA)

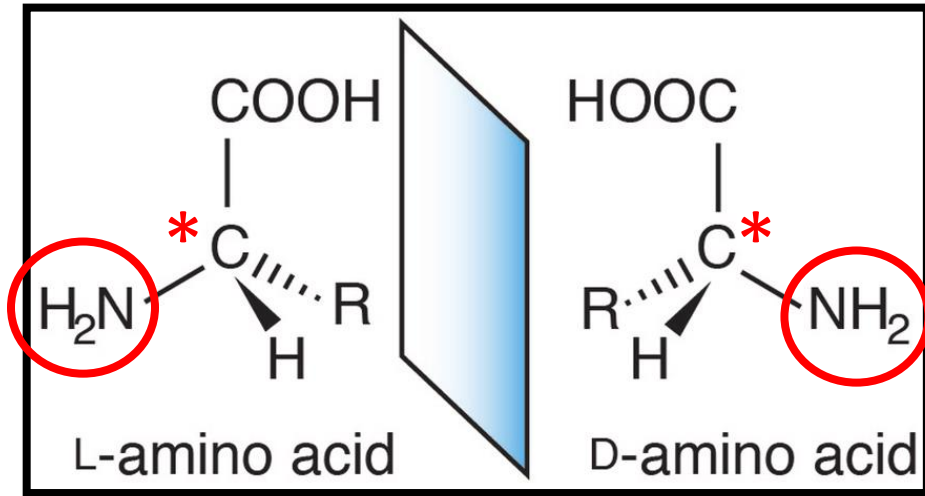
Just introducing phenyl ring > #H-bonds ↑



# Outline

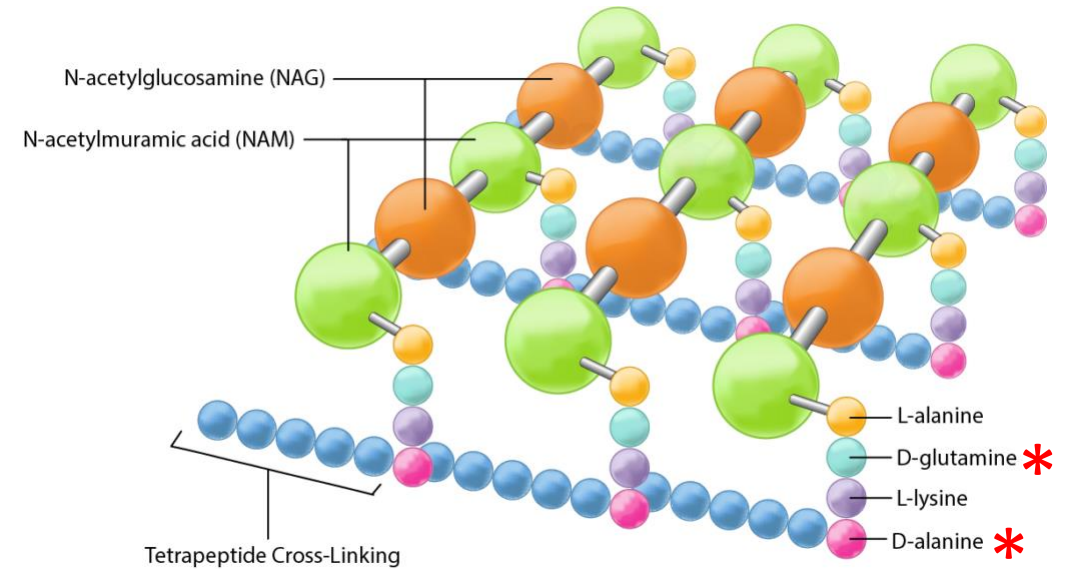
1. Chemical structure of amino acids
2. Classification of amino acids according to "R group"
3. Chemical properties of amino acids
4. Peptides
  - Definition
  - Reaction, chemical properties, and benefits
  - Nomenclature
  - Biological roles of peptides
5. Levels of protein structure
6. Conjugated proteins
7. Functions of proteins
8. Protein denaturation
9. Protein structure determination

## 1. Enantiomer (mirror images of one another but cannot be superimposed)



- Since the **alpha carbon ( $\text{C}_\alpha$ )** is **asymmetric**, there are two possible, non-superimposable, mirror images of the amino acids: **D-amino acids** & **L-amino acids**
- **L-amino acid** are abundant in nature, serving as components of protein structures. In contrast, D-amino acids are less common and are frequently found in bacterial cell walls

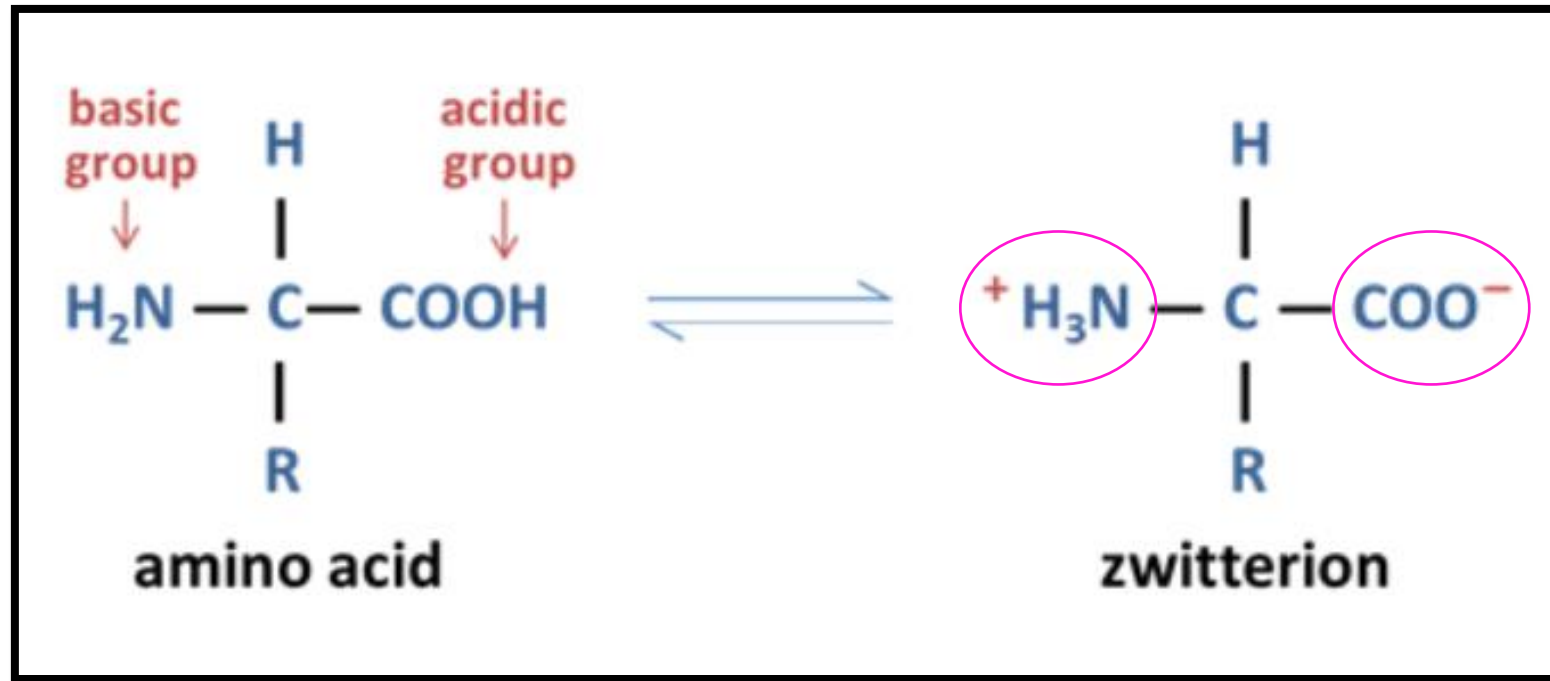
### Bacterial cell walls



$\text{NH}_2$  is on the "right" = D-form  
 $\text{NH}_2$  is on the "left" = L-form



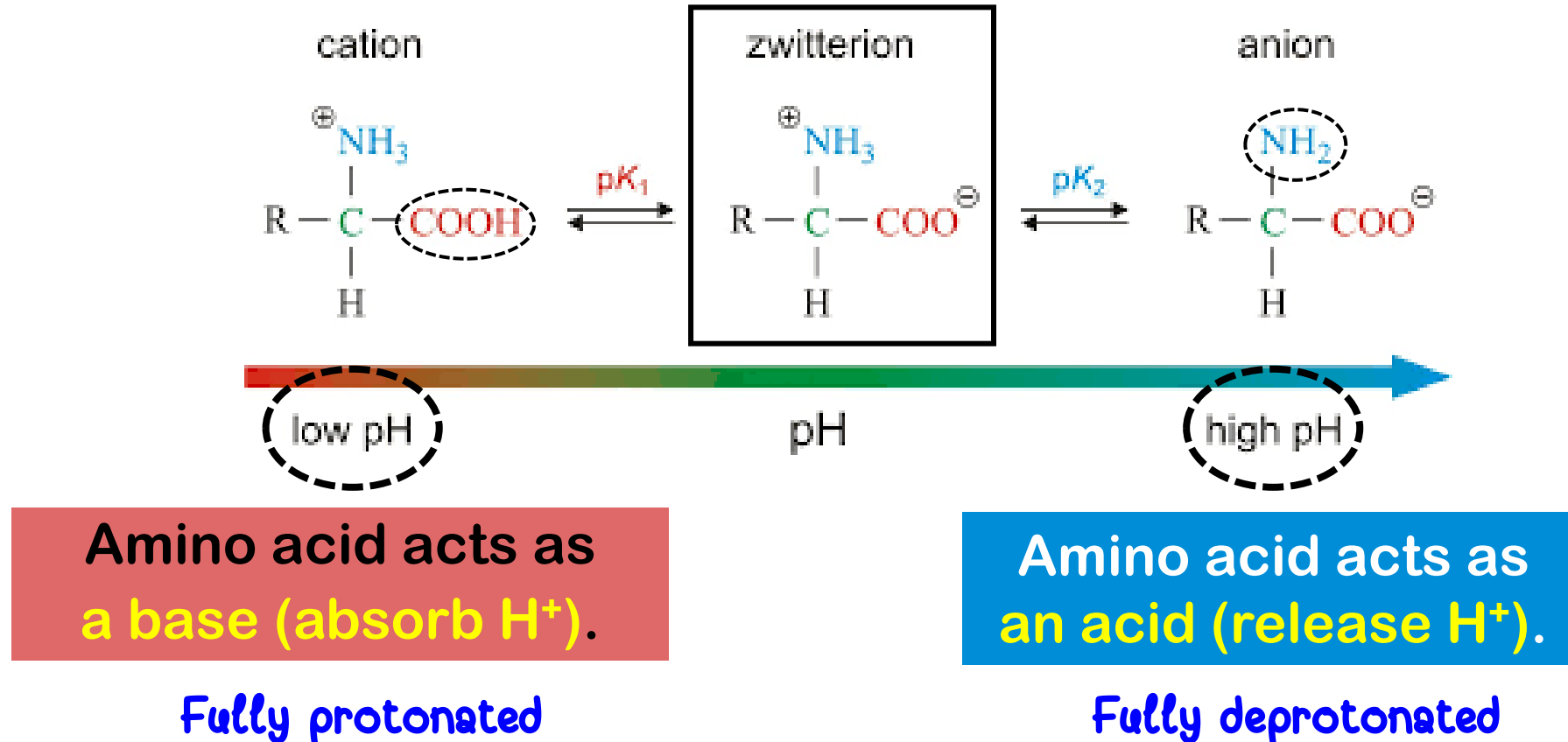
## 2. Zwitterionic property (Dipolar)



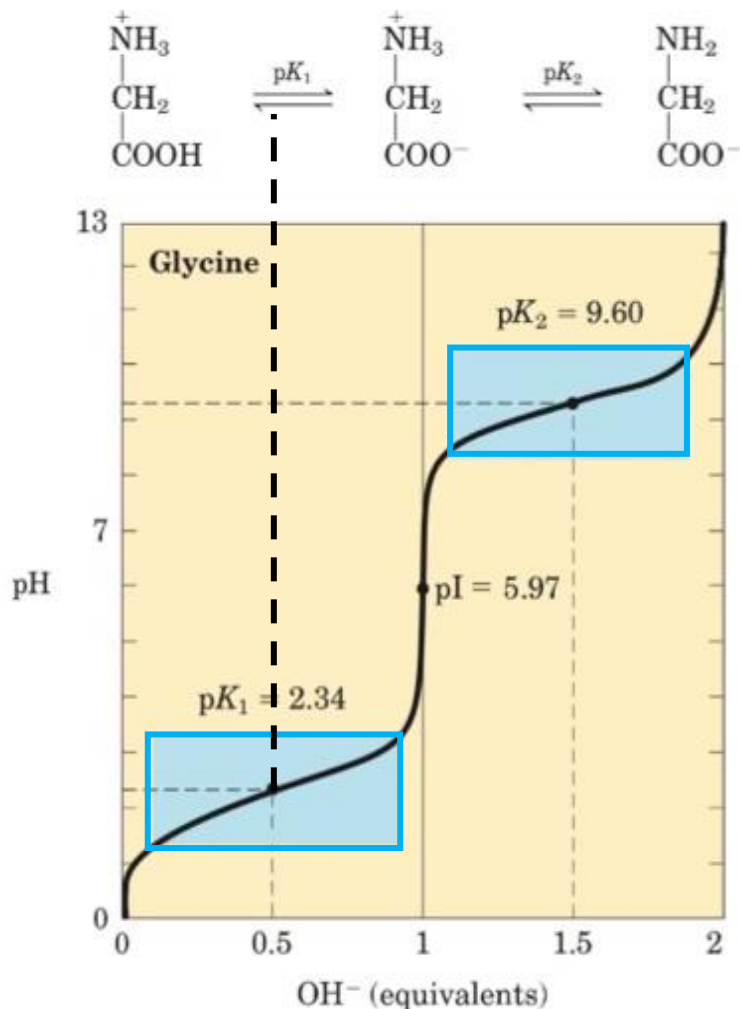
When amino acids with a non-ionizable R group dissolves in water at neutral pH, they undergo ionization, forming a dipolar molecule containing both positive and negative charges within the same molecule

## 3. Amphoteric property

They act as both acid and base due to the presence of amino and carboxylic groups.



## 4. Buffer Amino acids are able to maintain pH levels because they can act as both acid and base



❖ Glycine functions as a buffer at 2 Buffering regions

1.  $\text{pK}_1 \pm 1$

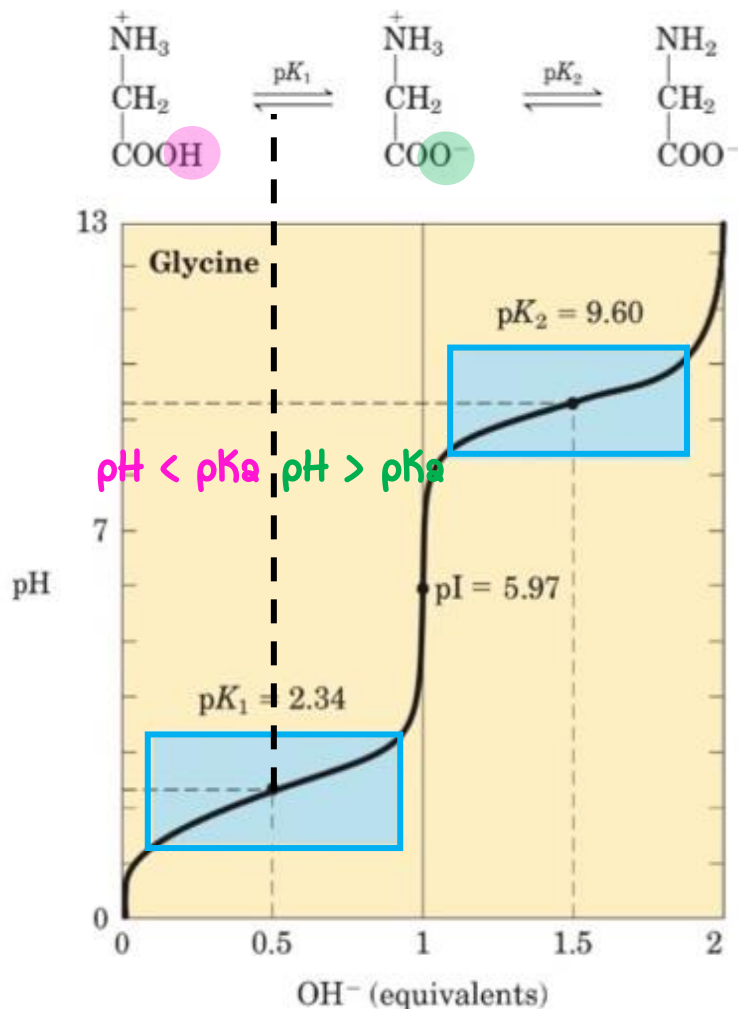
2.  $\text{pK}_2 \pm 1$

Henderson-Hasselbalch Equation

$$\text{pH} = \text{pK}_a - \log \frac{[\text{HA}]}{[\text{A}^-]}$$

Because there are 2 groups that can give  $\text{H}^+$ :  $\text{COOH}$  &  $\text{NH}_3^+$

## 4. Buffer Amino acids are able to maintain pH levels because they can act as both acid and base



### ❖ Glycine functions as a buffer at 2 Buffering regions

1.  $pK_{a1} \pm 1$

2.  $pK_{a2} \pm 1$

Henderson-Hasselbalch Equation

$$pH = pK_a - \log \frac{[HA]}{[A^-]}$$

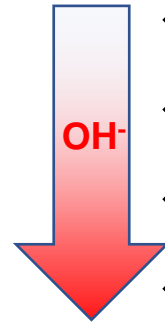
❖ at low pH Protonated form (H)

❖ at  $pH < pK_{a1}$  Protonated form (H) > Deprotonated form (-)

❖ at  $pH = pK_{a1}$  Protonated form (H) = Deprotonated form (-) \*\*\*

❖ at  $pH > pK_{a1}$  Protonated form (H) < Deprotonated form (-)

❖ at  $pH = 5.97$  Deprotonated form (-)



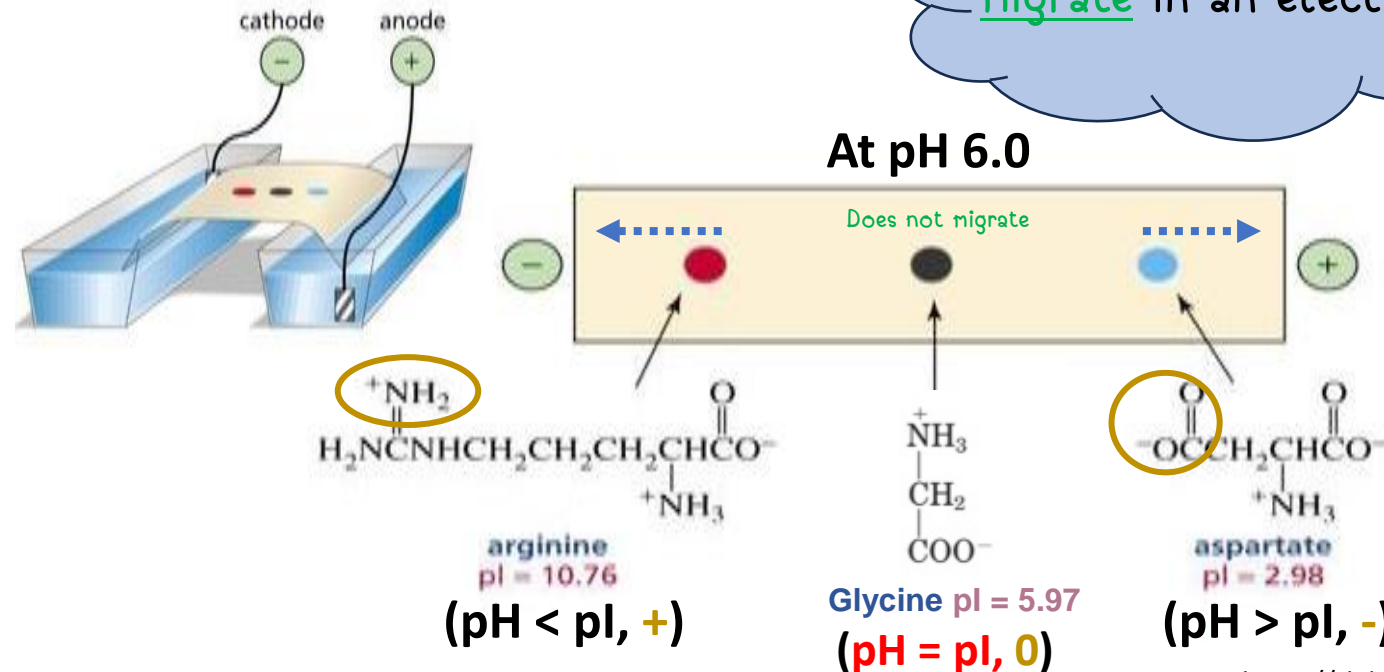
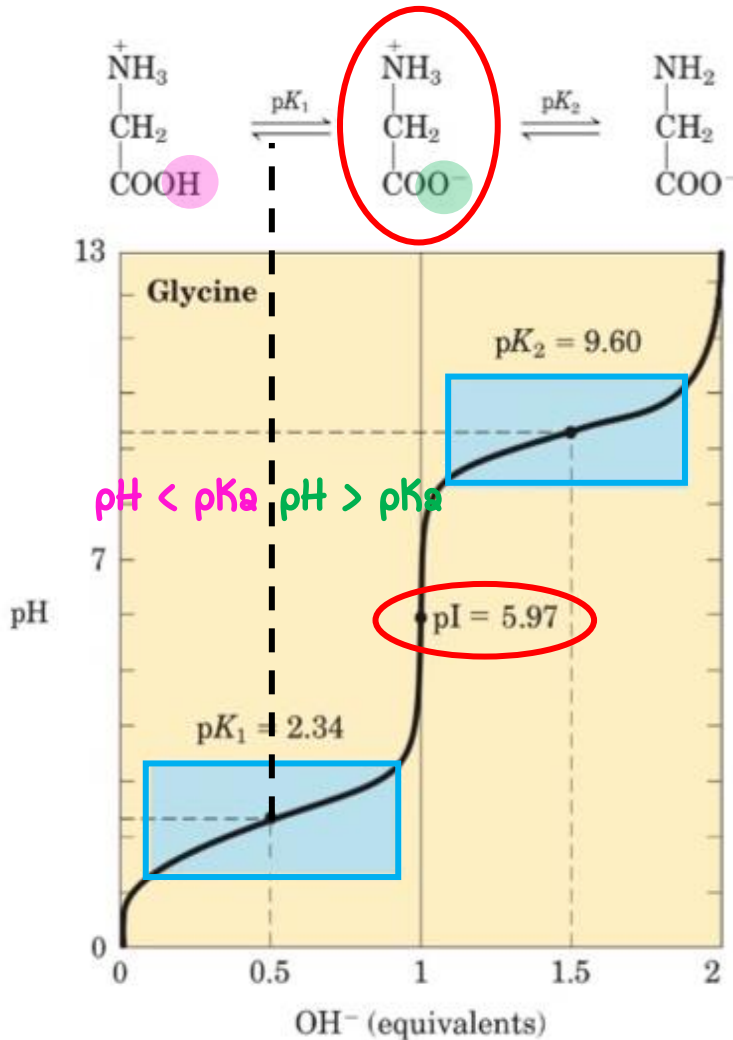


## 4. Buffer Amino acids are able to maintain pH levels because they can act as both acid and base

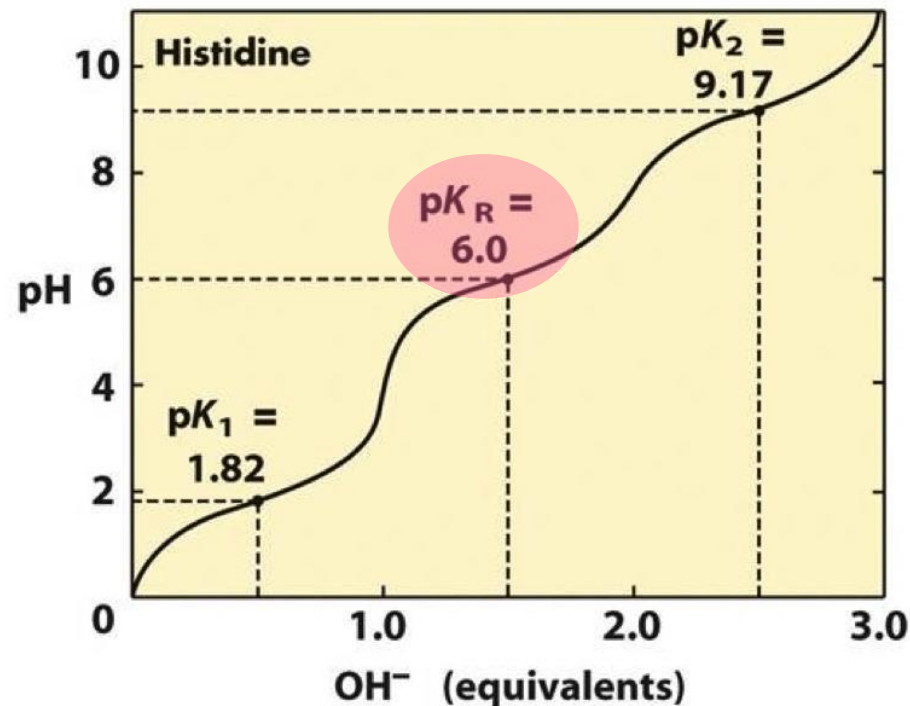
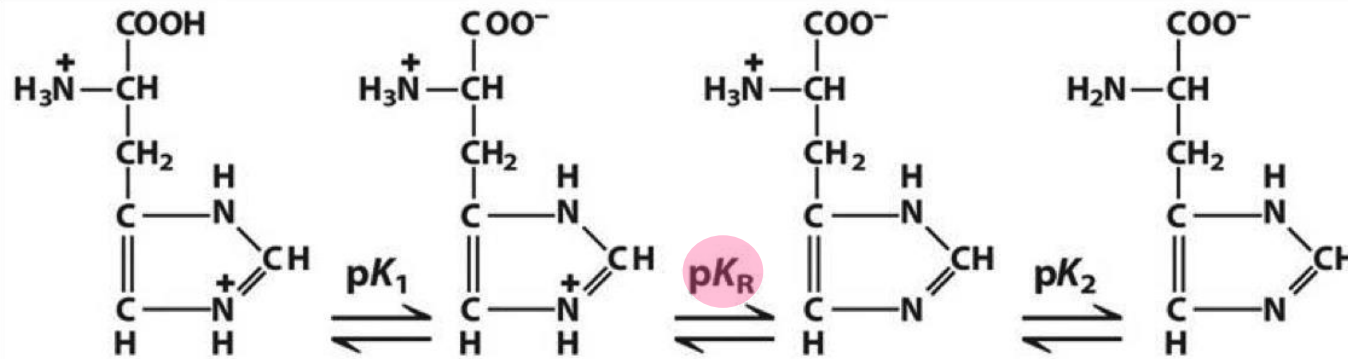
❖ **Isoelectric point (pI)** the pH at which the net charge of a protein molecule is zero

$$pI = \frac{(pK_1 + pK_2)}{2}$$

Amino acid does not migrate in an electric field.



## 4. Buffer



His is an amino acid that acts as a good buffer in the human body because the  $pK_a$  of its imidazole ring is = 6, which is close to the physiological pH value of 7.4 in the human body

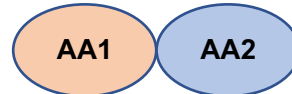
# Outline

1. Chemical structure of amino acids
2. Classification of amino acids according to "R group"
3. Chemical properties of amino acids
4. Peptides
  - Definition
  - Reaction, chemical properties, and benefits
  - Nomenclature
  - Biological roles of peptides
5. Levels of protein structure
6. Conjugated proteins
7. Functions of proteins
8. Protein denaturation
9. Protein structure determination

# Peptides are chains of amino acids)

- When 2-20 amino acids are joined by peptide bonds, the structure is called "**Oligopeptide**".

- Dipeptide**



Dipeptide  $\neq$  2 peptide bonds

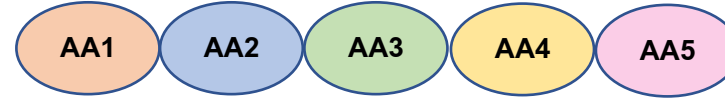
- Tripeptide**



- Tetrapeptide**



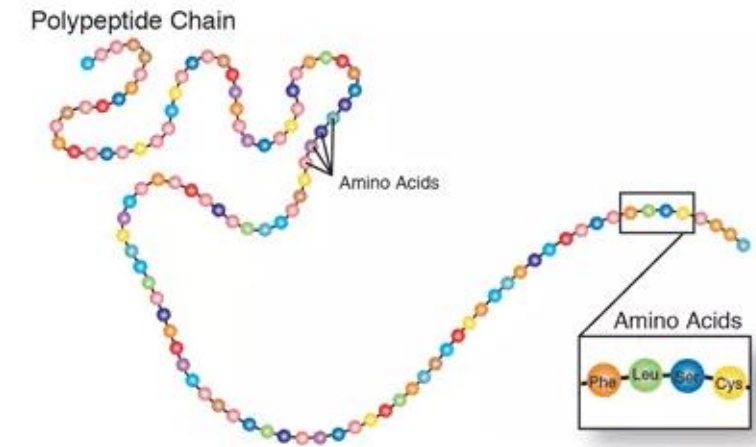
- Pentapeptide**



- When >20 amino acids are joined by peptide bonds,

- MW <10 kDa  $\rightarrow$  "**Polypeptide**"

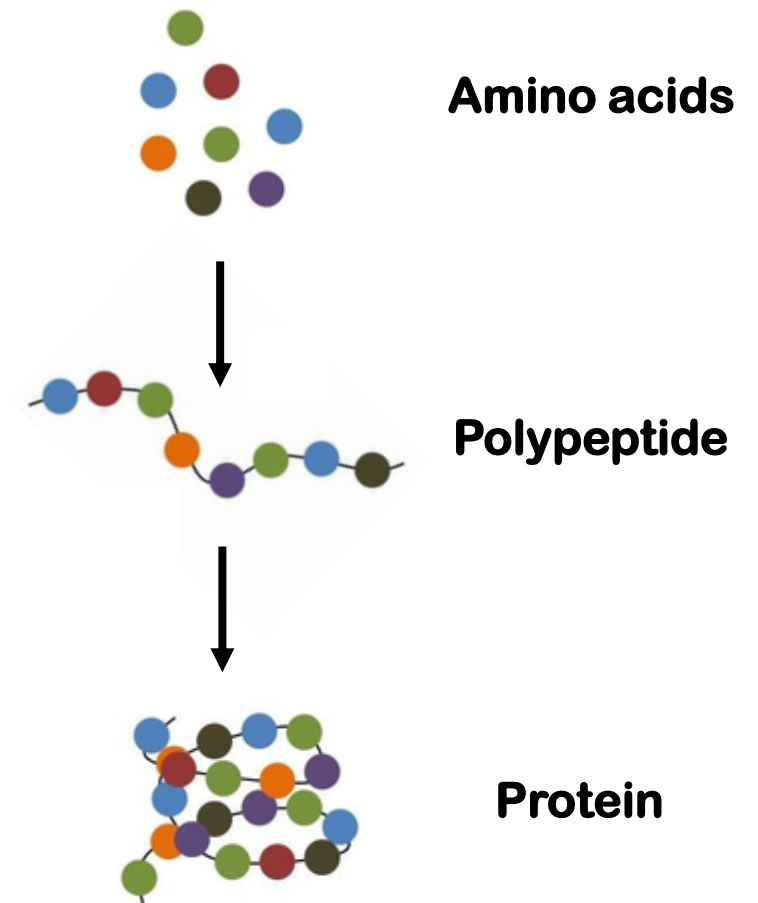
- MW >10 kDa  $\rightarrow$  "**Protein**"



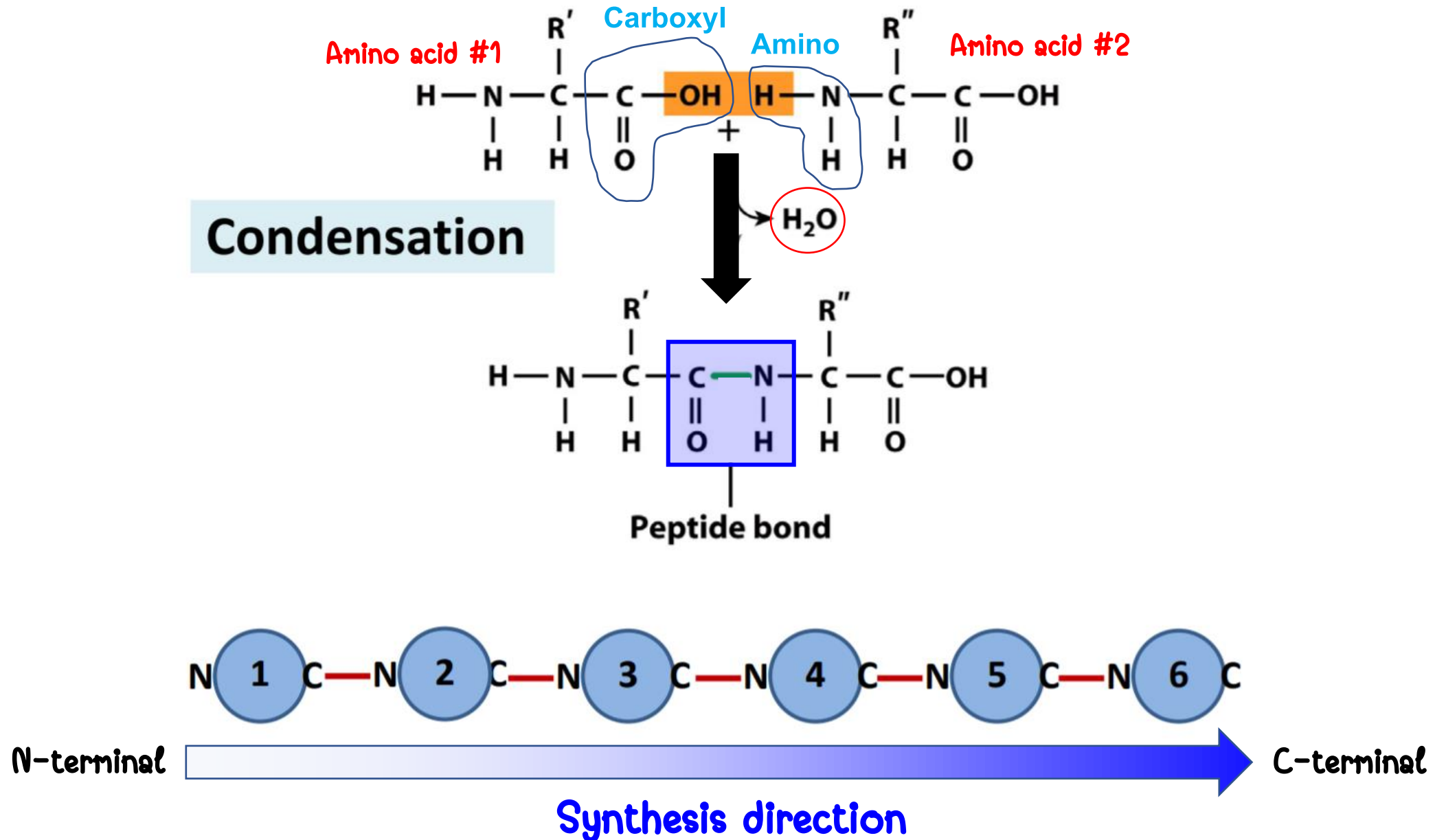


## POLYPEPTIDE VERSUS PROTEIN

Polymer with a defined simple chain of amino-acids.	Complex molecule of <u>folded</u> polypeptides.
Amino-acids linked with covalent peptide bonds.	<u>Nonycovalent weak bonds</u> (hydrogen bonds, ionic bonds, and van der Waal bonds) between the folding polypeptides.
One polypeptide backbone.	<u>One or more</u> polypeptide backbones.
Characterizes the primary structure of a protein.	Can exist as <u>secondary, tertiary, or quaternary structure.</u>
Lacks functional properties due to its simple structure.	Functionally complex and active molecule with the presence of specific <u>ligand-binding sites</u> formed on its surface by the folding of the polypeptide chains.

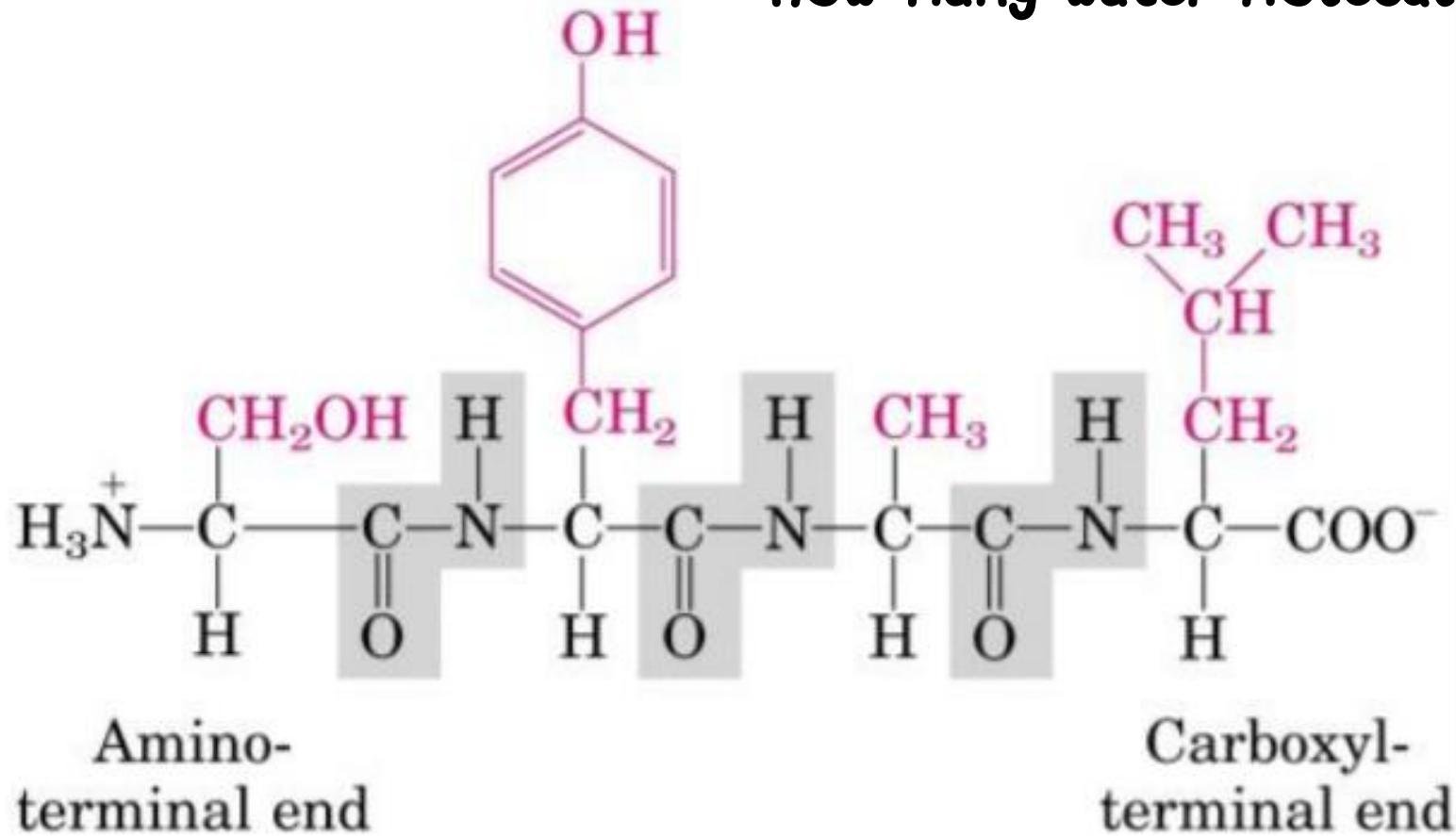


Peptide bonds are formed by condensation reactions between two amino acids <sup>29</sup>

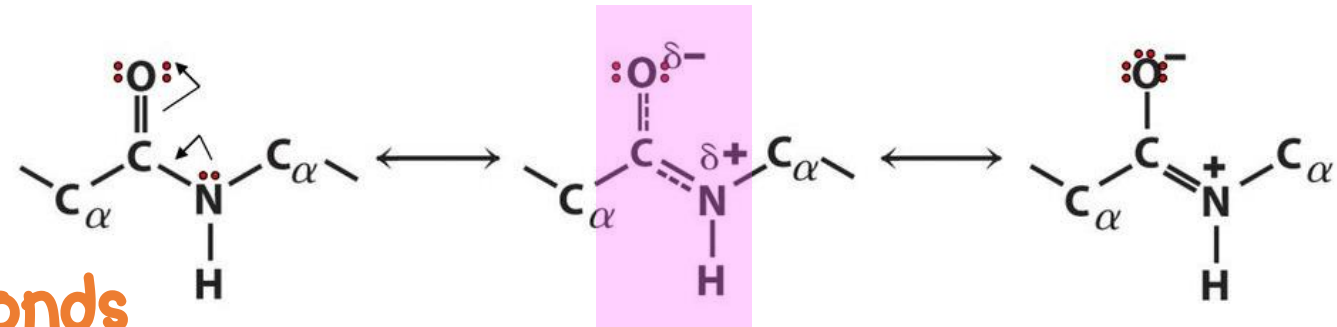


Peptide bonds are formed by condensation reactions between two amino acids <sup>30</sup>

When 4 amino acids are joined together,  
how many water molecules will be lost?



Peptide bonds are formed by condensation reactions between two amino acids <sup>31</sup>



## Chemical properties of peptide bonds

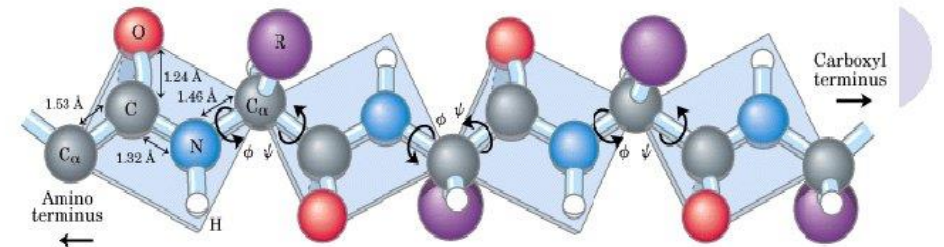
1. Partial double bond (C $\equiv$ N) due to resonance in a structure

2. Planar

3. Rigid (unable to rotate freely)

4. Bond length: C—N > C $\equiv$ N > C $\equiv$ N

5. Bond strength: C $\equiv$ N > C $\equiv$ N > C—N

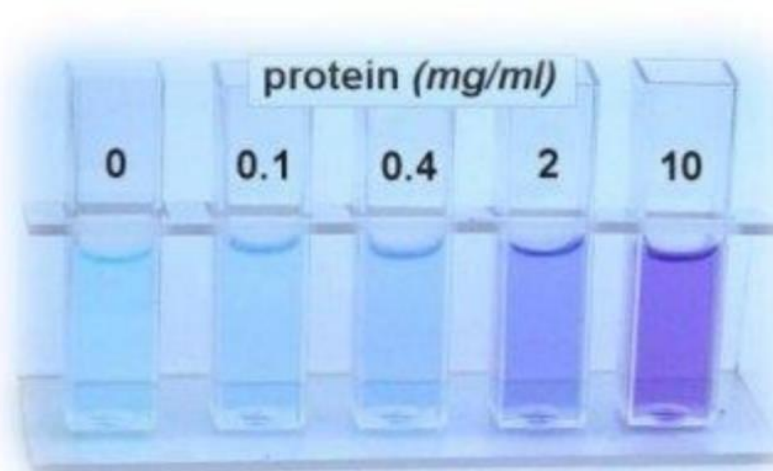
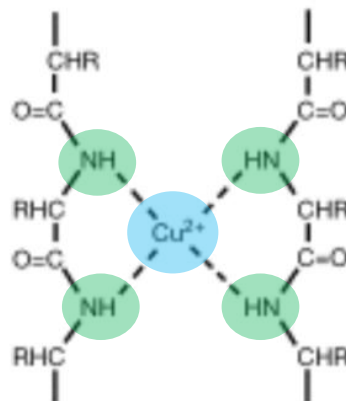




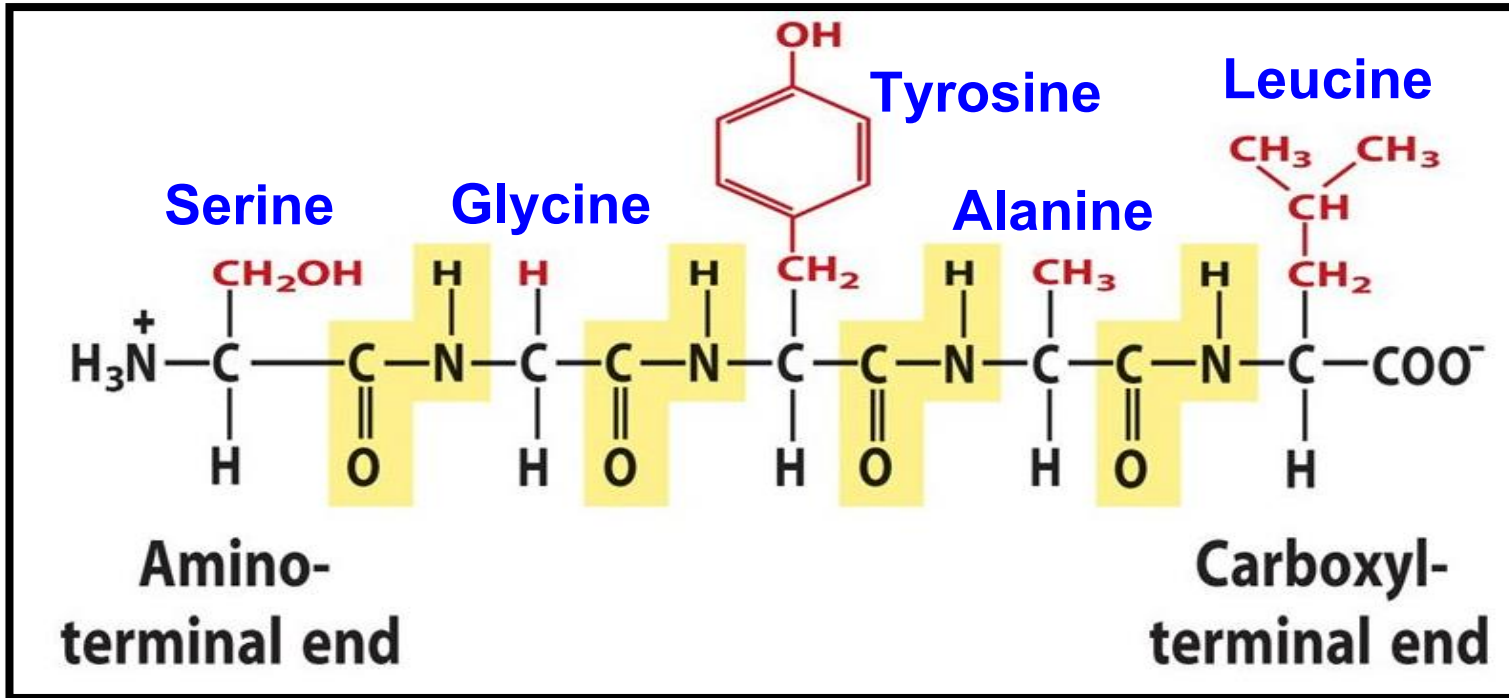
# Benefits of peptide bonds

## Used to find "protein concentration"

- "Biuret test" is the test used to detect the presence of peptide bonds in the sample
- Biuret reagent contains  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  ions that can react with the peptide bonds in the protein to form a purple-colored complex
- The intensity of the purple color is directly proportional to the protein concentration in the sample



# Peptide nomenclature



## Nomenclature

Amino Acid	3 letter code	1 letter code	Amino Acid	3 letter code	1 letter code
Glycine	Gly	G	Threonine	Thr	T
Alanine	Ala	A	Cysteine	Cys	C
Valine	Val	V	Tyrosine	Tyr	Y
Leucine	Leu	L	Asparagine	Asn	N
Isoleucine	Ile	I	Glutamine	Gln	Q
Methionine	Met	M	Aspartic Acid	Asp	D
Proline	Pro	P	Glutamic Acid	Glu	E
Phenyl alanine	Phe	F	Lysine	Lys	K
Tryptophan	Trp	W	Arginine	Arg	R
Serine	Ser	S	Histidine	His	H

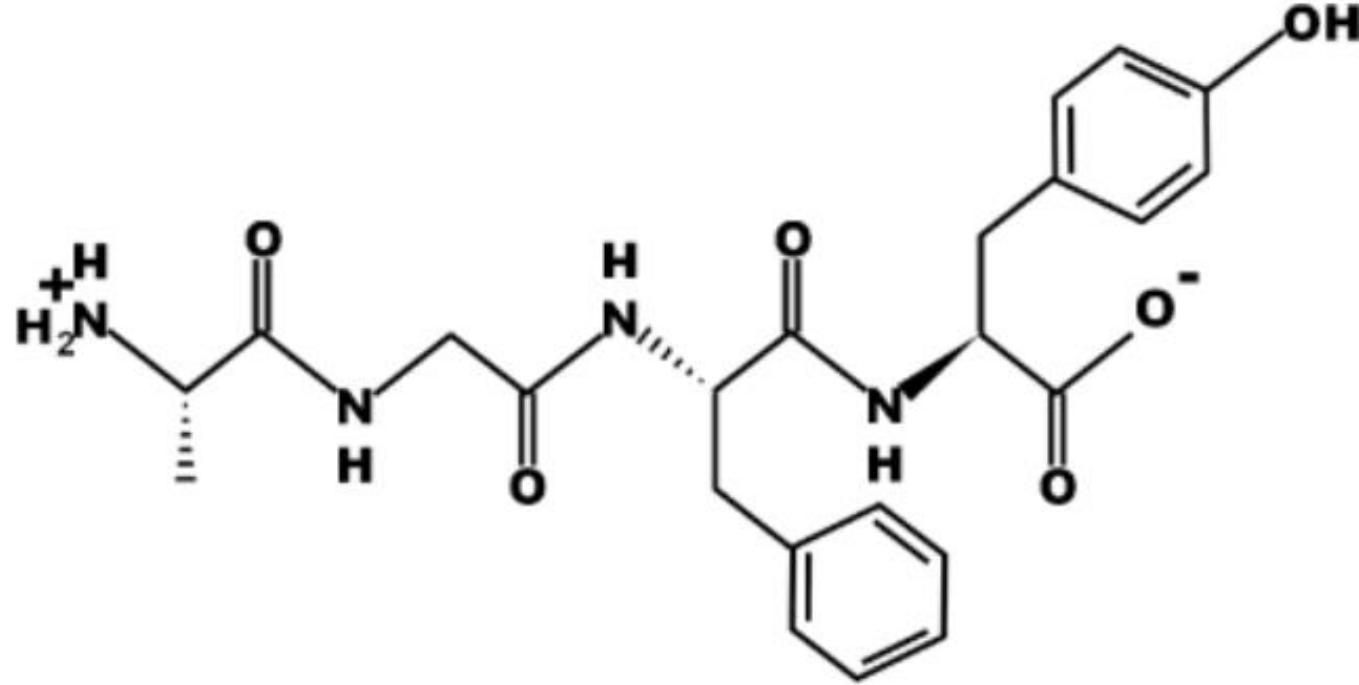
Nomenclature#1 **Serylglycyltyrosylalanyl**leucine

Nomenclature#2 **Ser-Gly-Tyr-Ala-Leu**

Nomenclature#3 **SGYAL**

Change the suffix from '**-ine**' to '**-yl**'  
without changing the name of the last  
amino acid

## Exercise 1.



How many amino acids? .....

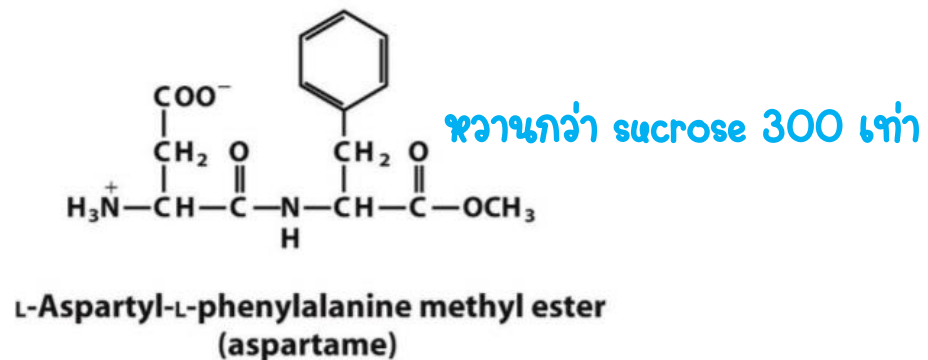
Nomenclature#1 .....

Nomenclature#2.....

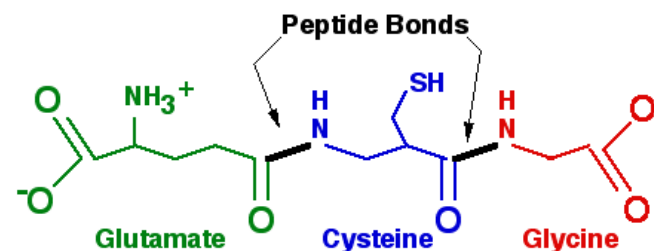
Nomenclature#3.....



**Aspartame**



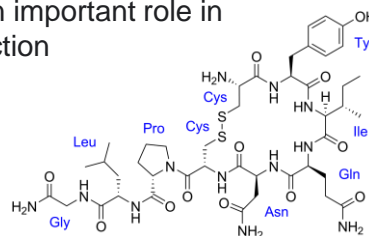
**✦ GSH (glutathione)**



**Oxytocin**

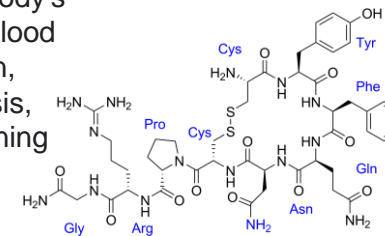
**Oxytocin**

- neurotransmitter in the brain
- plays an important role in reproduction



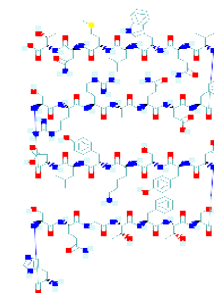
**Vasopressin**

**Vasopressin**  
play essential roles in  
the control of the body's  
osmotic balance, blood  
pressure regulation,  
sodium homeostasis,  $H_2O$   
and kidney functioning



## Glucagon

- regulate the blood sugar (glucose) levels in the body



 **Glucagon**



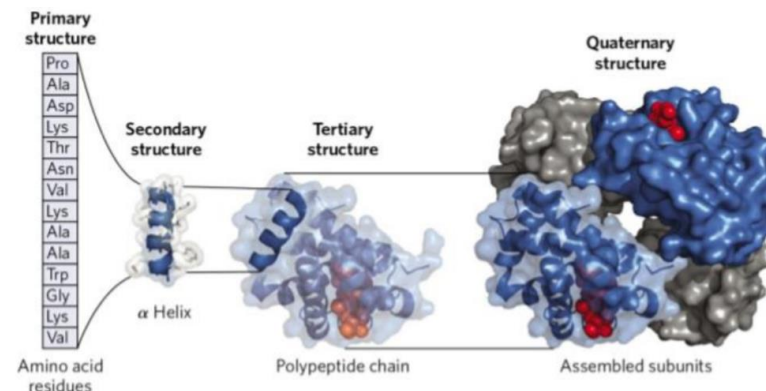
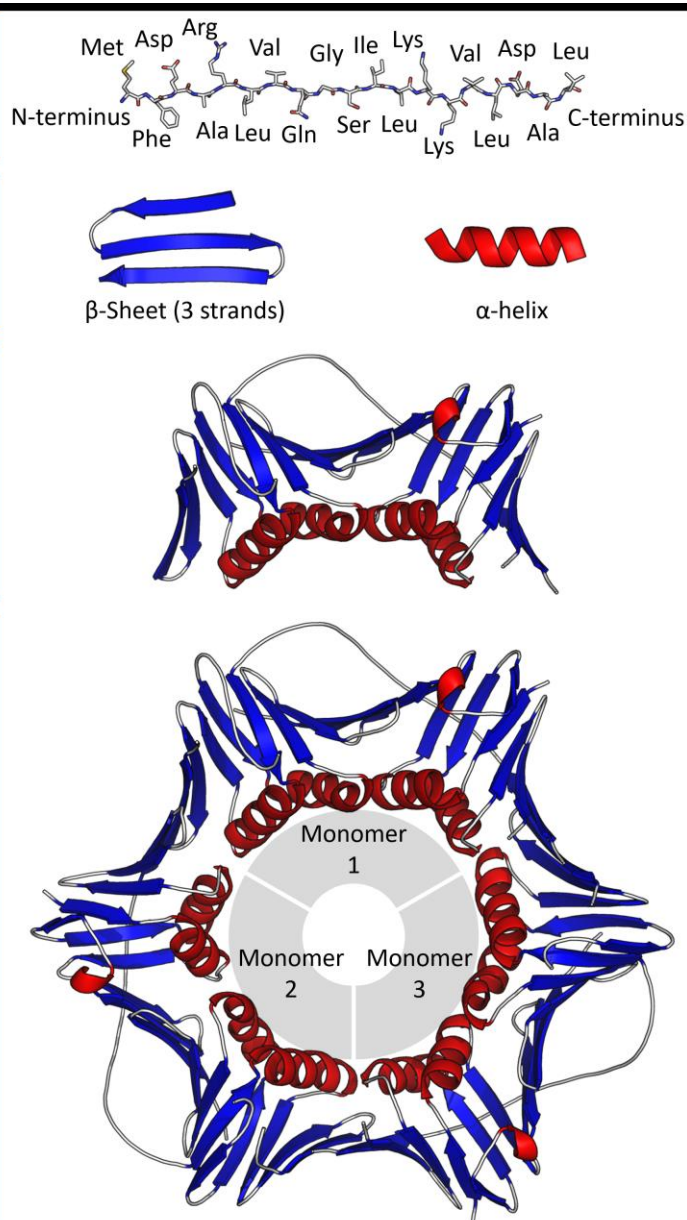
# Outline

1. Chemical structure of amino acids
2. Classification of amino acids according to "R group"
3. Chemical properties of amino acids
4. Peptides
  - Definition
  - Reaction, chemical properties, and benefits
  - Nomenclature
  - Biological roles of peptides
5. Levels of protein structure
6. Conjugated proteins
7. Functions of proteins
8. Protein denaturation
9. Protein structure determination

# Levels of protein structure

## 4 Levels of Protein Structure

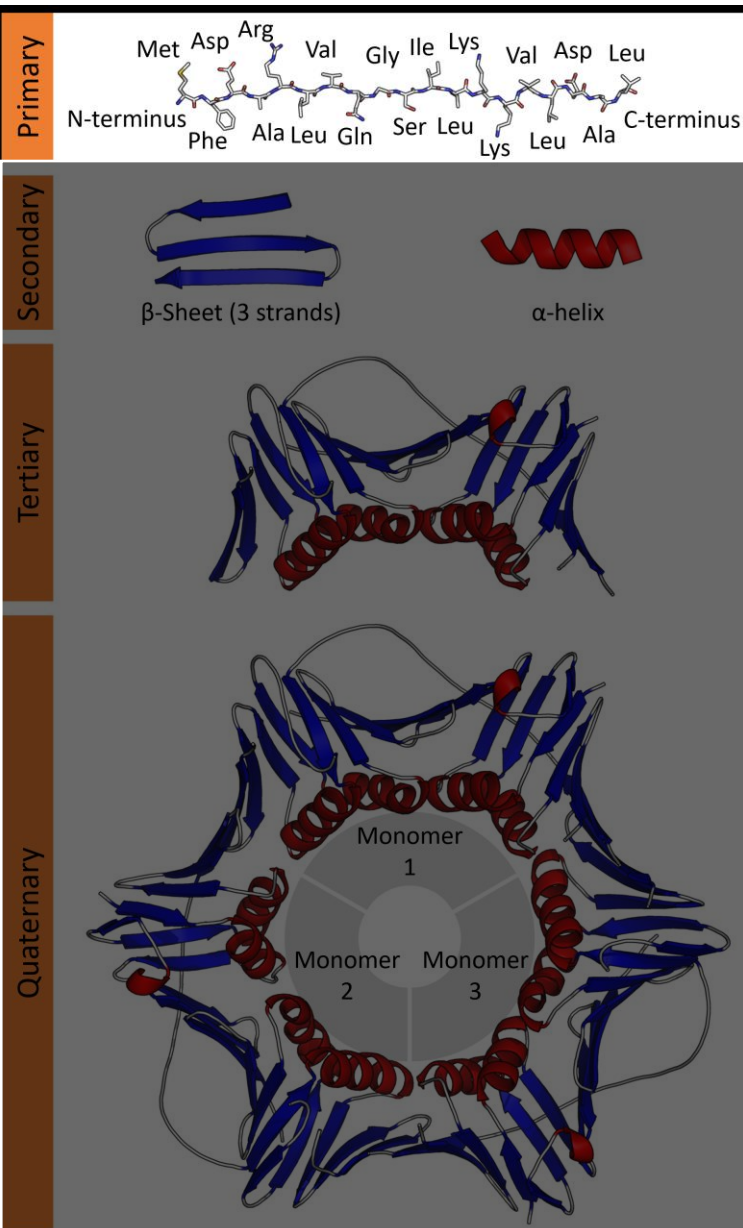
1. **Primary structure**: the sequence of amino acids in a polypeptide chain
2. **Secondary structure**: the local folded structures that form within a polypeptide due to **hydrogen bonding** between atoms of the backbone
3. **Tertiary structure**: the overall folding of the polypeptide chains due to **interactions** between the R groups of the amino acid
4. **Quaternary structure**: some proteins are made up of **multiple polypeptide chains (subunit)**



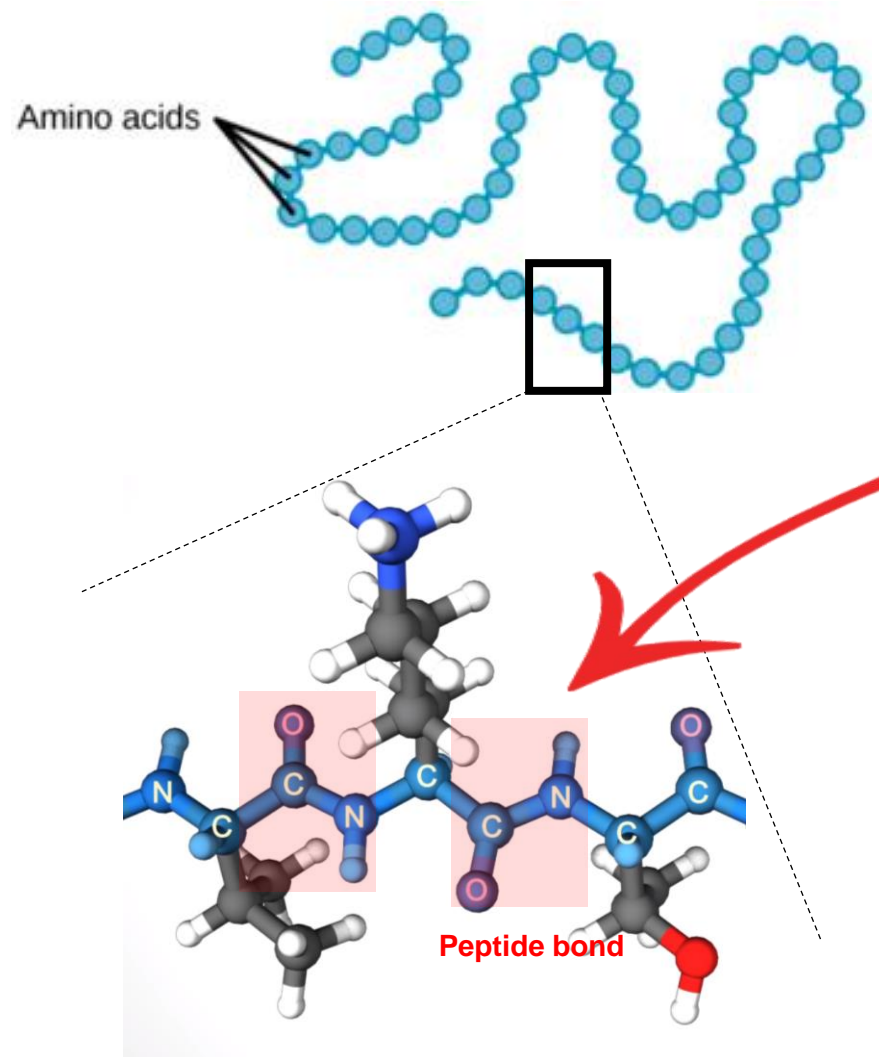


# Levels of protein structure: 1° structure

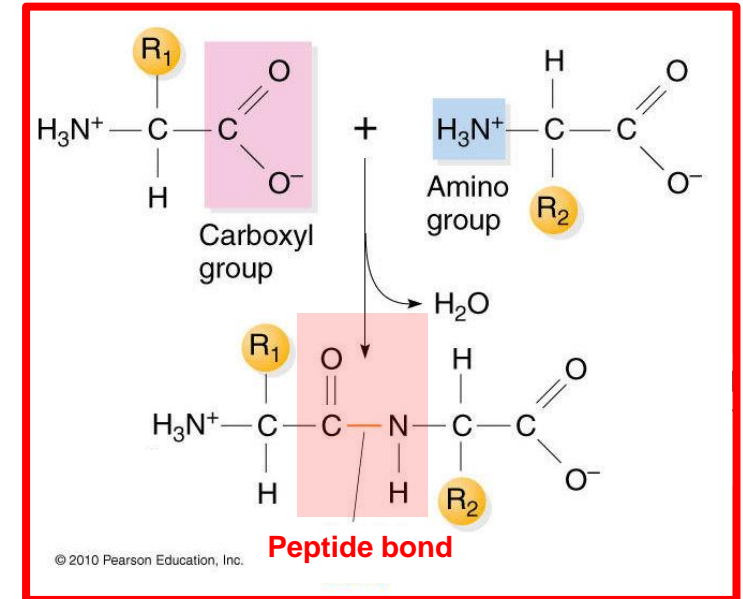
39



1. **Primary structure**: the sequence of amino acids in a polypeptide chain

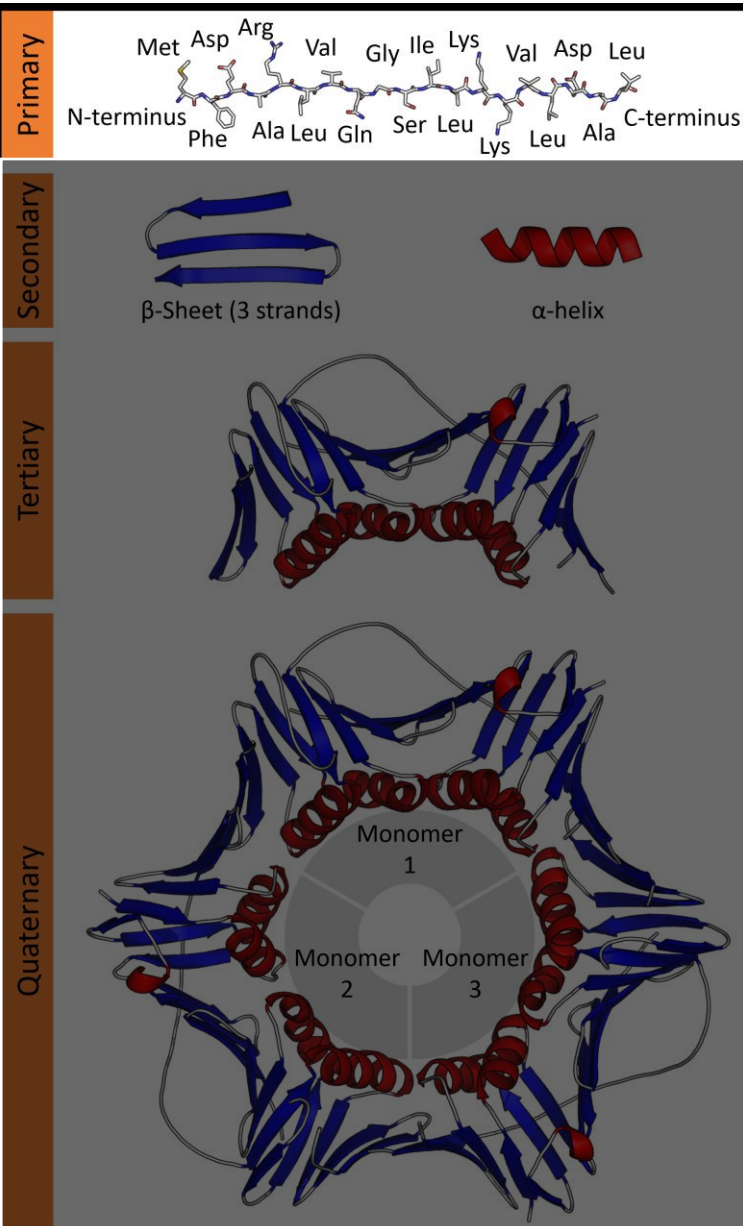


## Peptide bond formation

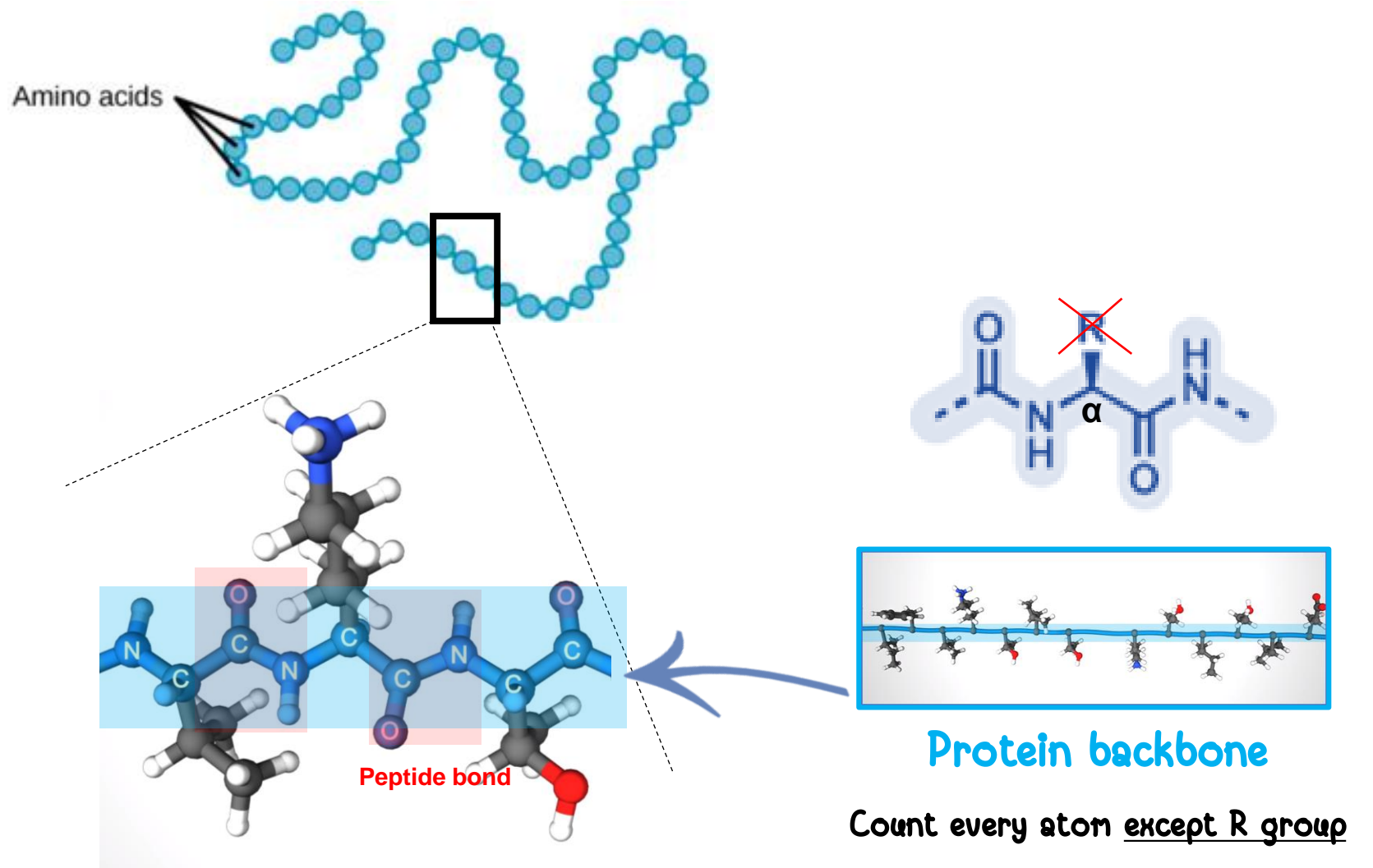


# Levels of protein structure: 1° structure

40



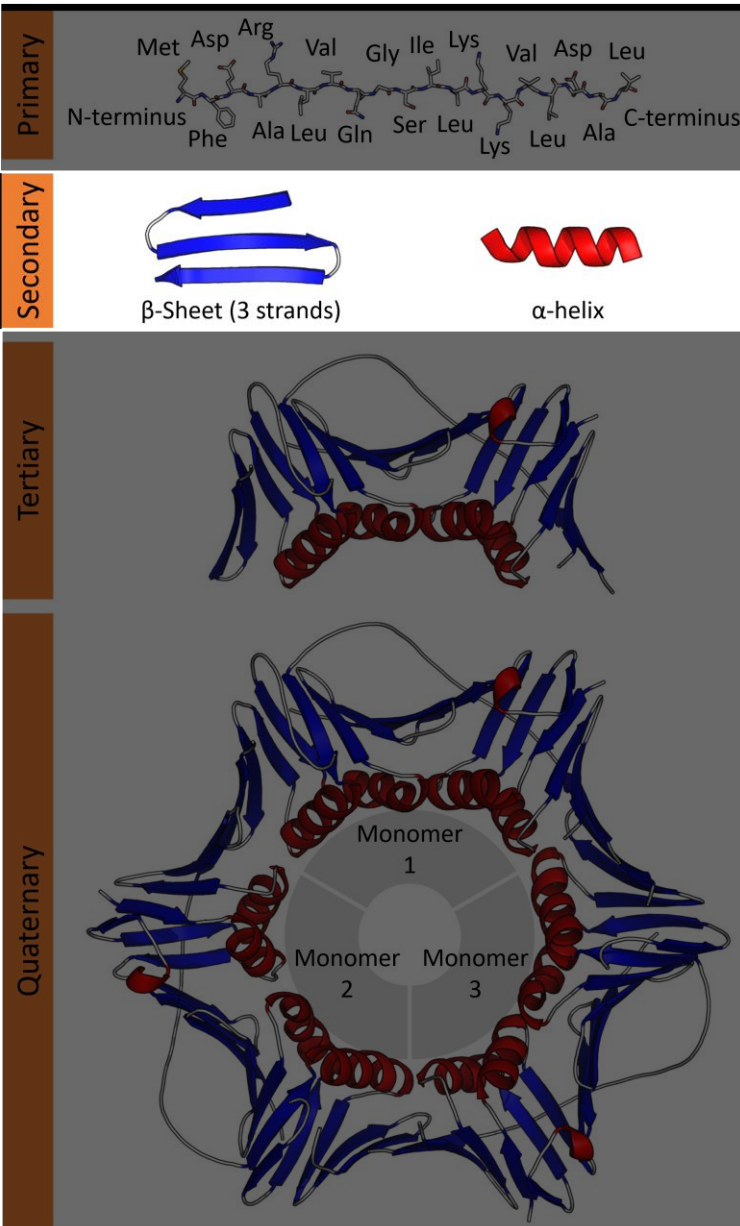
1. **Primary structure**: the sequence of amino acids in a polypeptide chain



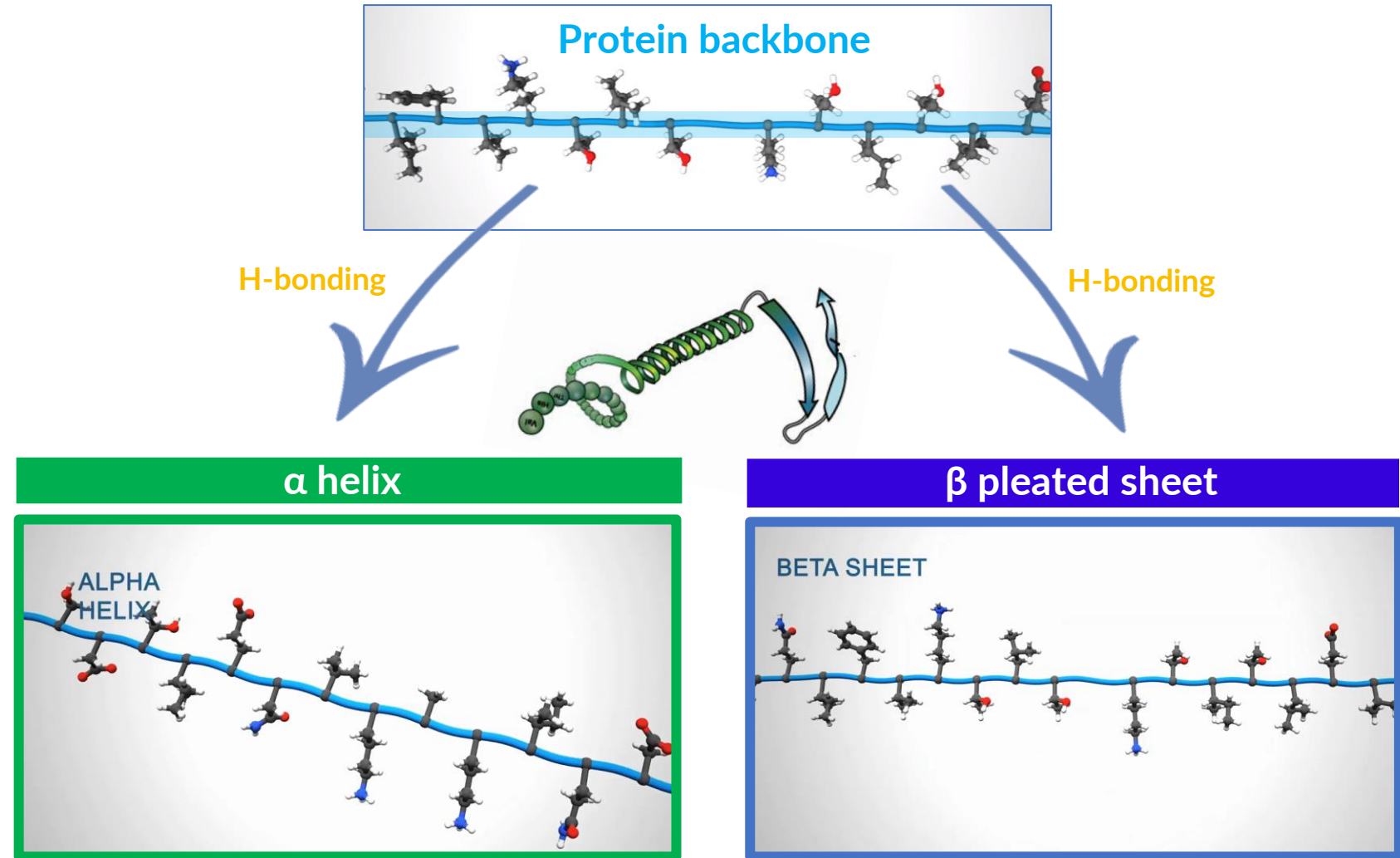


# Levels of protein structure: 2° structure

42



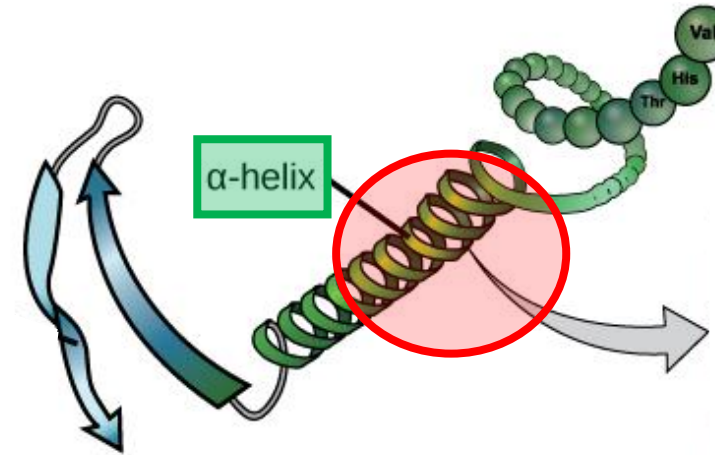
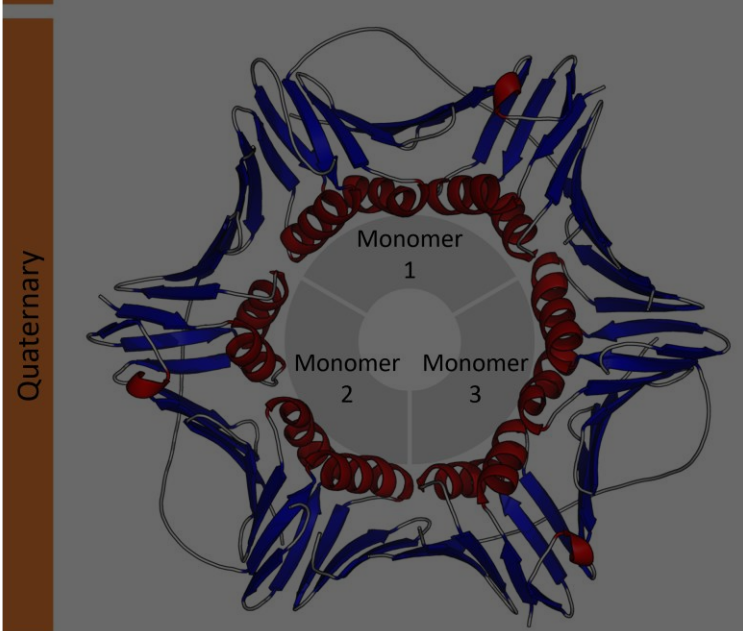
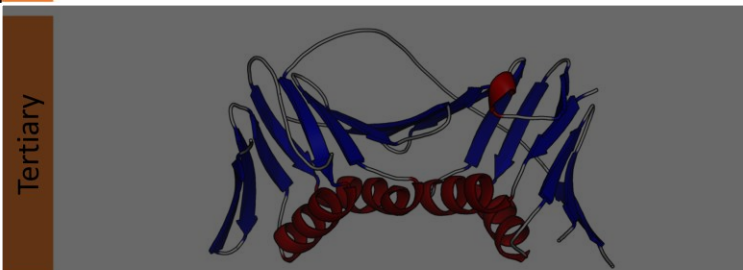
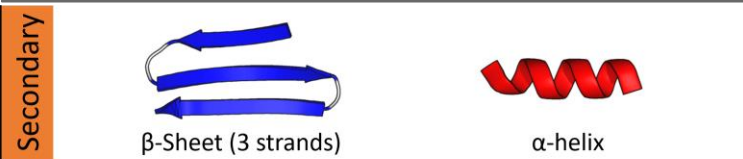
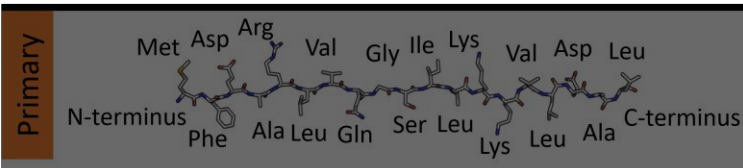
2. **Secondary structure**: the local folded structures that form within a polypeptide due to **hydrogen bonding** between atoms of the backbone



# Levels of protein structure: 2° structure

43

2. **Secondary structure**: the local folded structures that form within a polypeptide due to **hydrogen bonding** between **atoms of the backbone**



## α-helix

- a right-handed helix
- has 3.6 residues per turn
- are stabilized by hydrogen bond formation

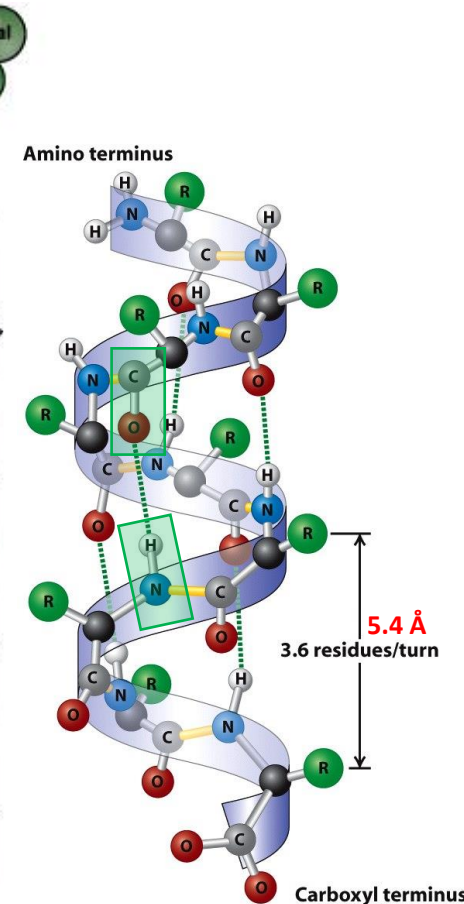
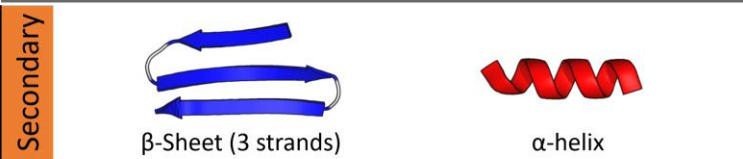
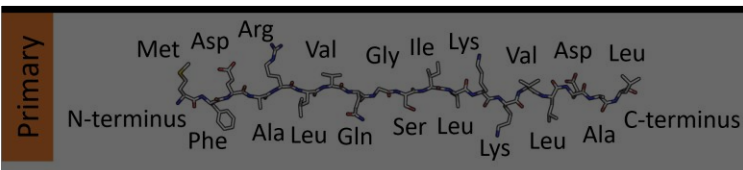


Figure 3-4  
Molecular Cell Biology, Sixth Edition  
© 2008 W. H. Freeman and Company

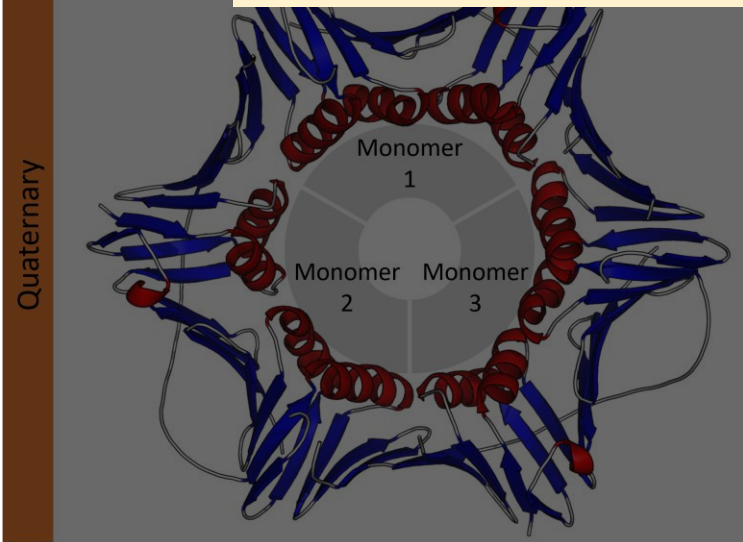
# Levels of protein structure: 2° structure

44

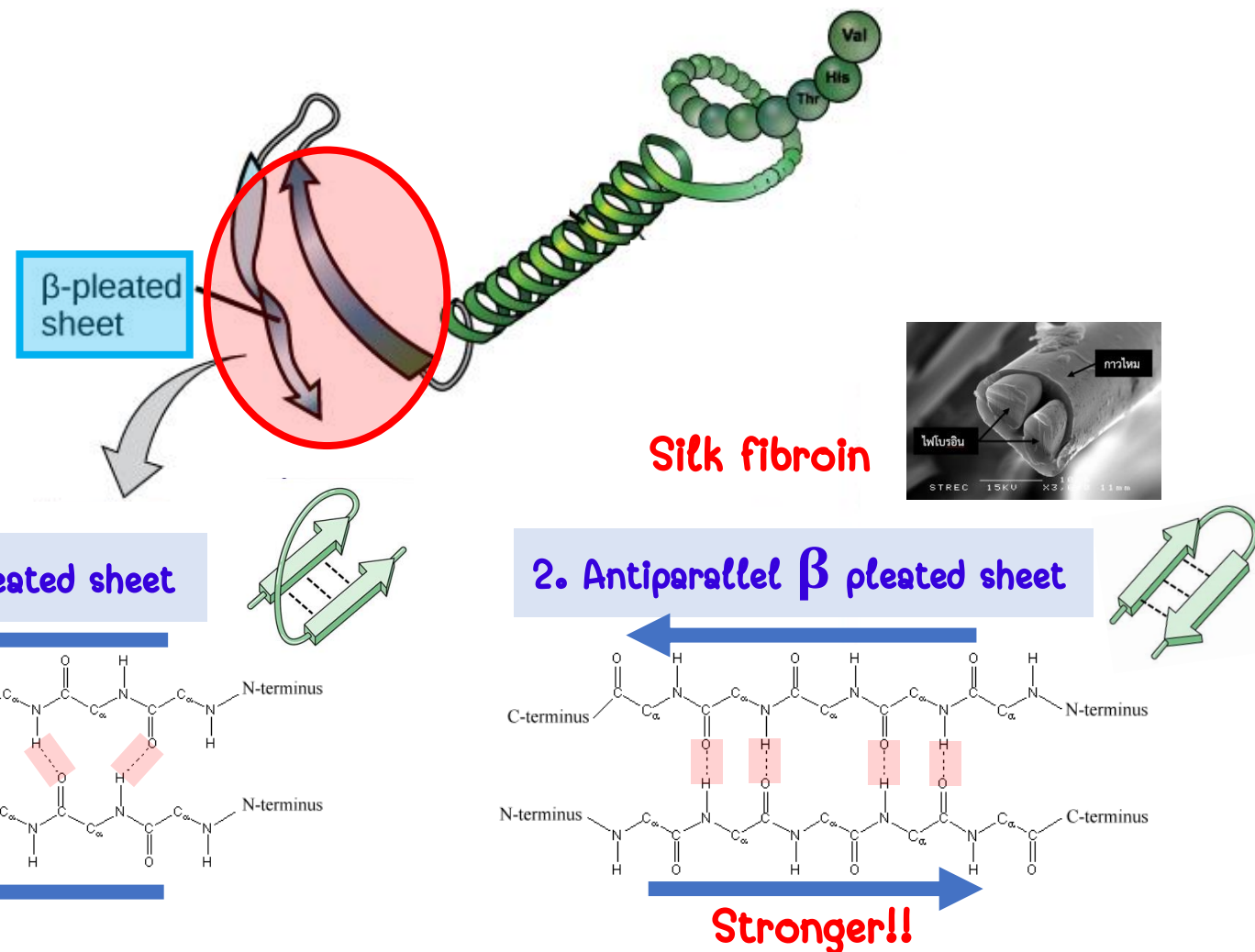


Tertiary

In α-helix, the polypeptide chains are stabilized by intramolecular hydrogen bonding, whereas β pleated sheet is stabilized by intermolecular hydrogen bonding



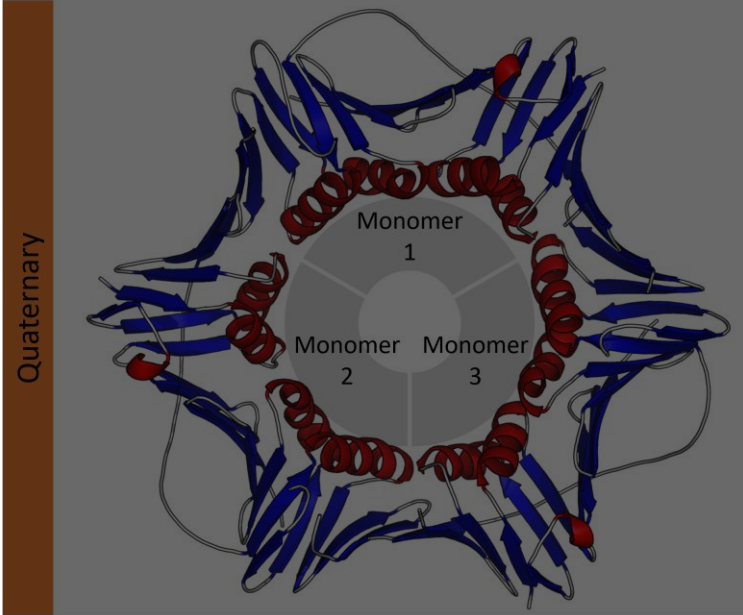
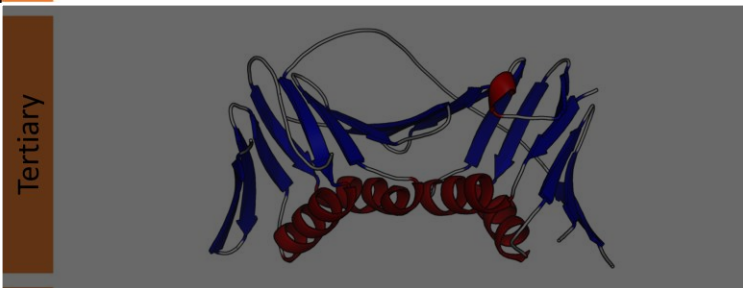
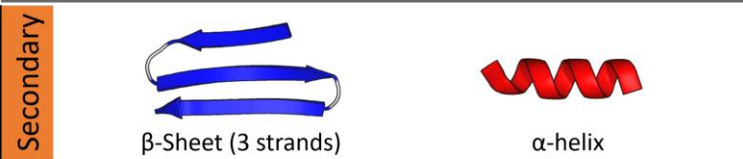
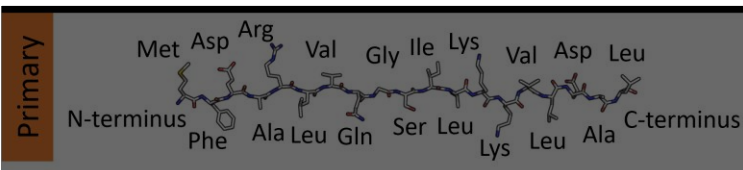
2. **Secondary structure**: the local folded structures that form within a polypeptide due to **hydrogen bonding** between atoms of the backbone



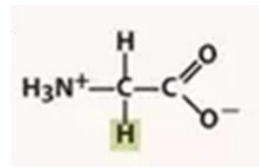


# Levels of protein structure: 2° structure

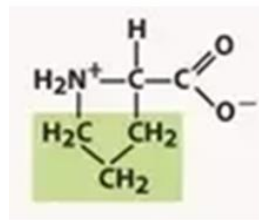
45



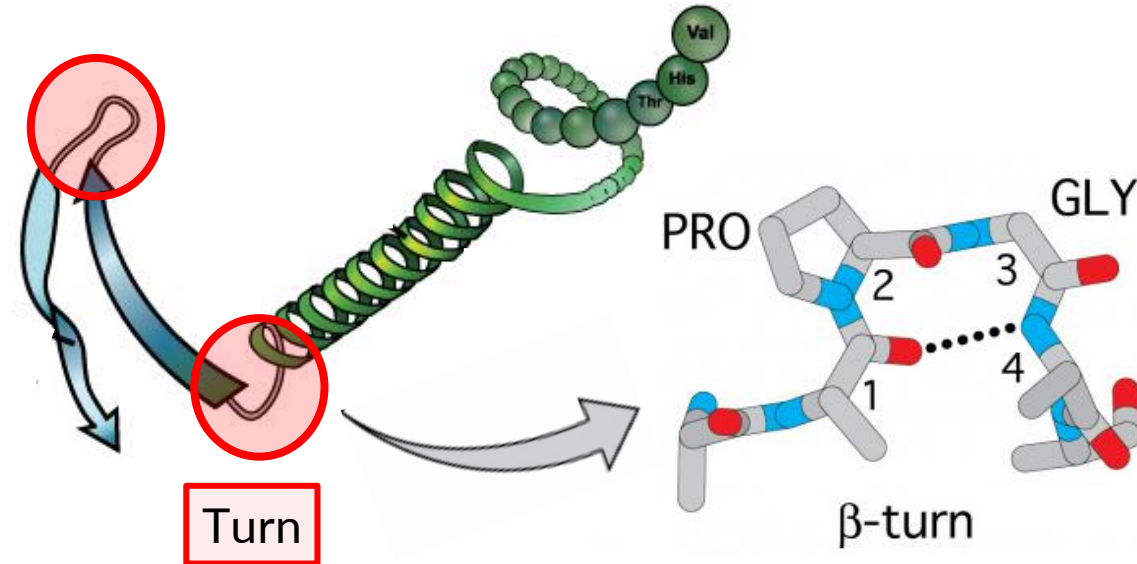
2. **Secondary structure**: the local folded structures that form within a polypeptide due to **hydrogen bonding** between **atoms of the backbone**



Glycine (Gly)

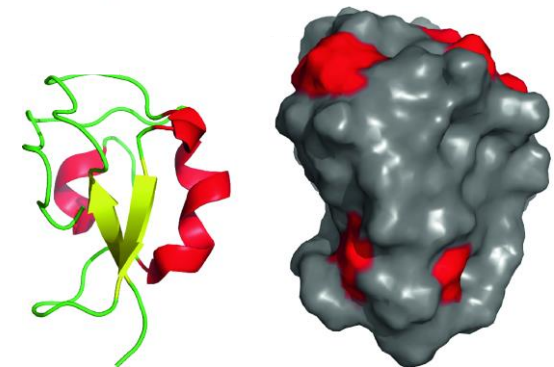


Proline (Pro)

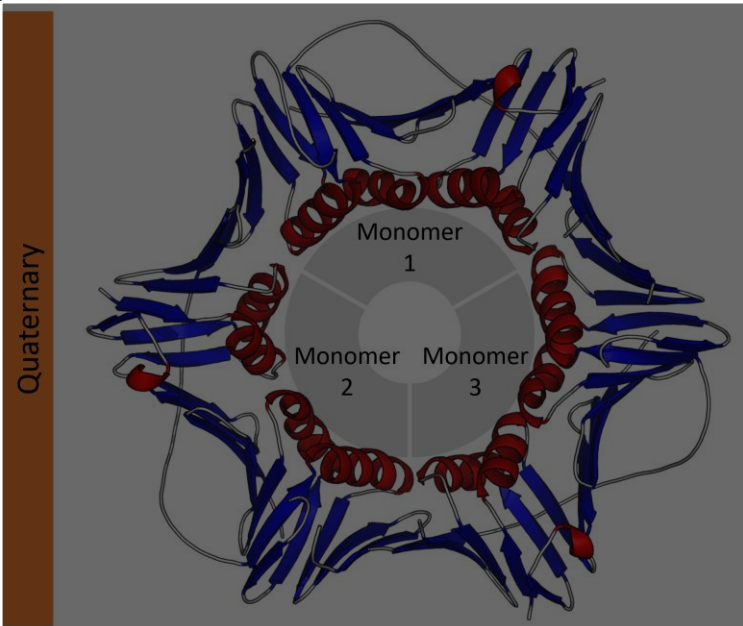
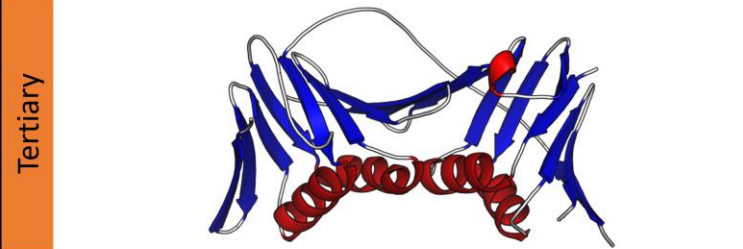
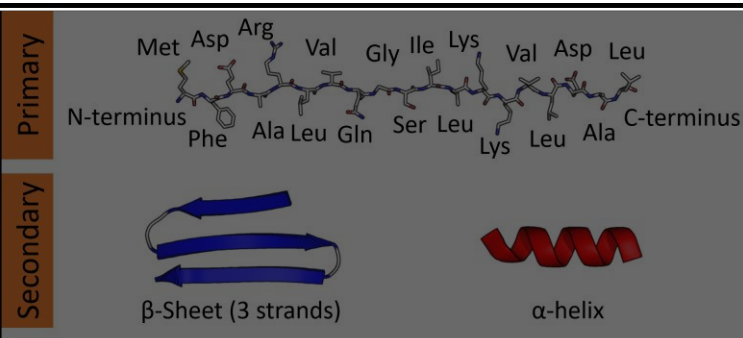


## Turn

- Its role involves altering the direction of the polypeptide structure or linking the alpha helix and beta pleat, leading to a more compact folding of the polypeptide chain
- Pro and Gly residues are favored in  $\beta$ -turns due to the cyclic structure of Pro and the flexibility of Gly
- very abundant in **globular protein**

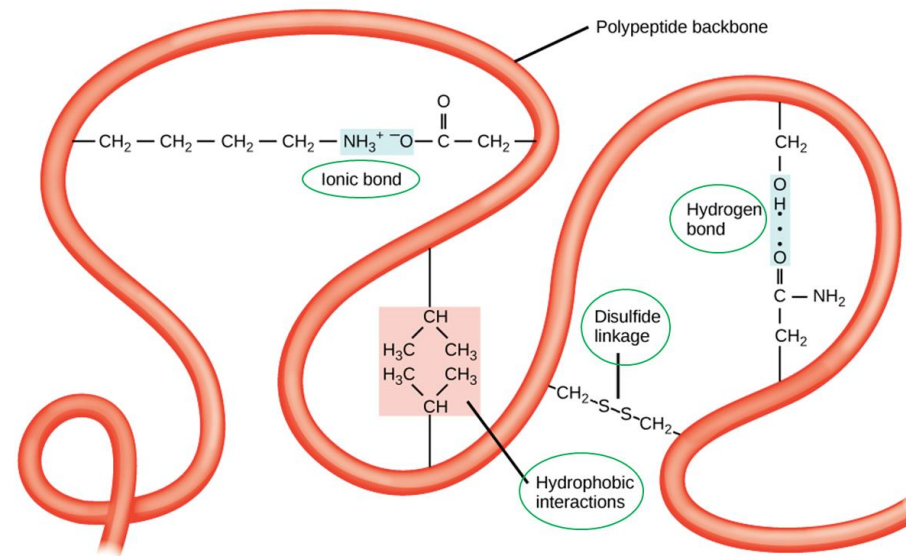






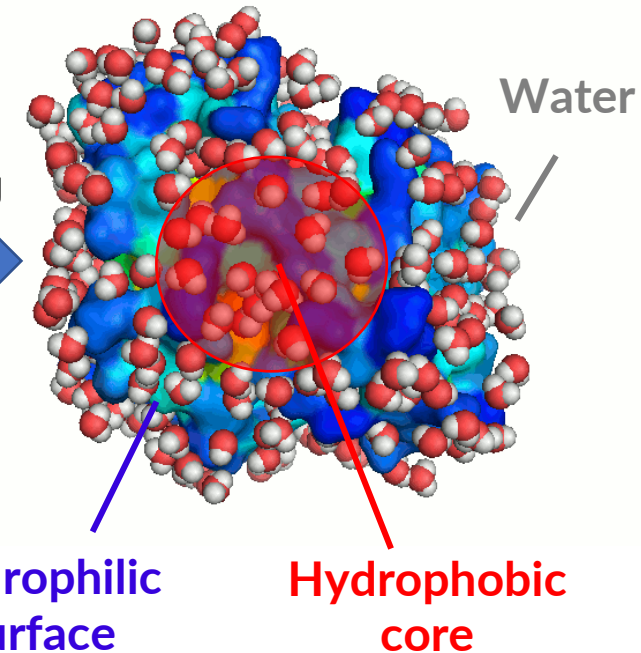
**3. Tertiary structure:** the overall folding of the polypeptide chains due to interactions between the R groups of the amino acid

- Ionic bond (electrostatic interaction)
- Hydrophobic interaction
- H-bond
- Disulfide linkage



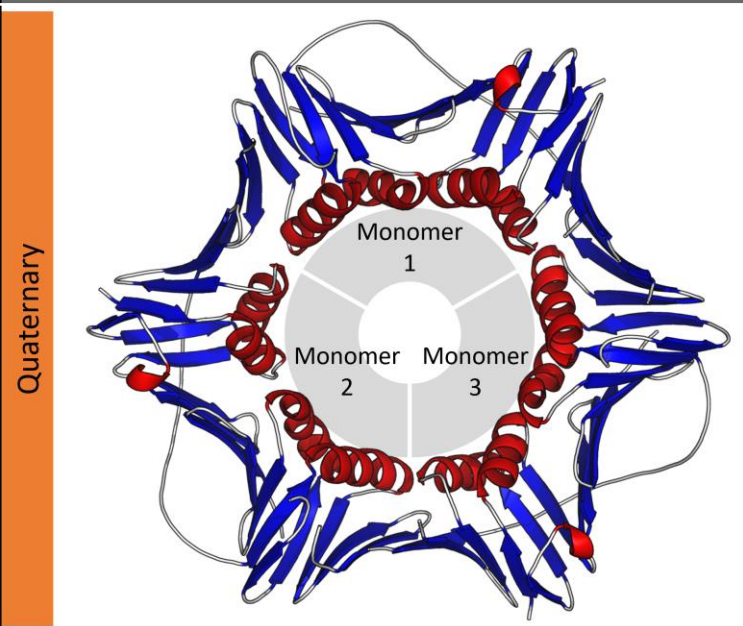
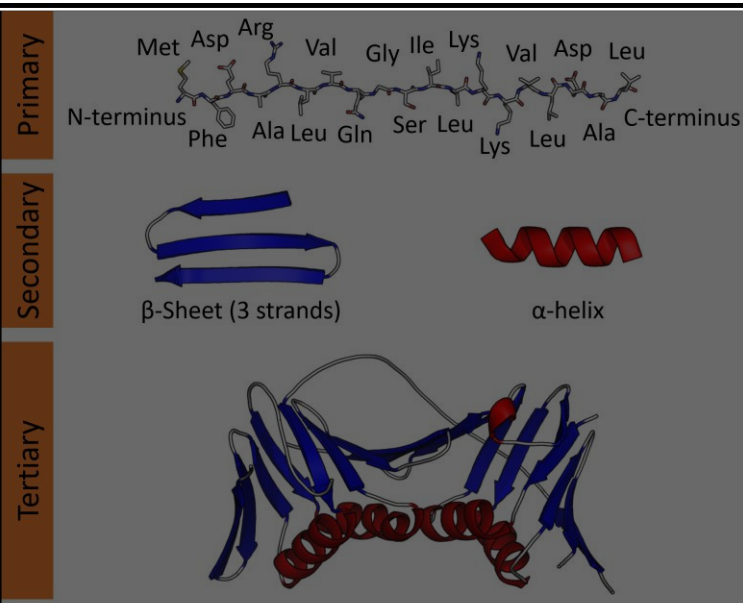
**Folding**

**3D structure**



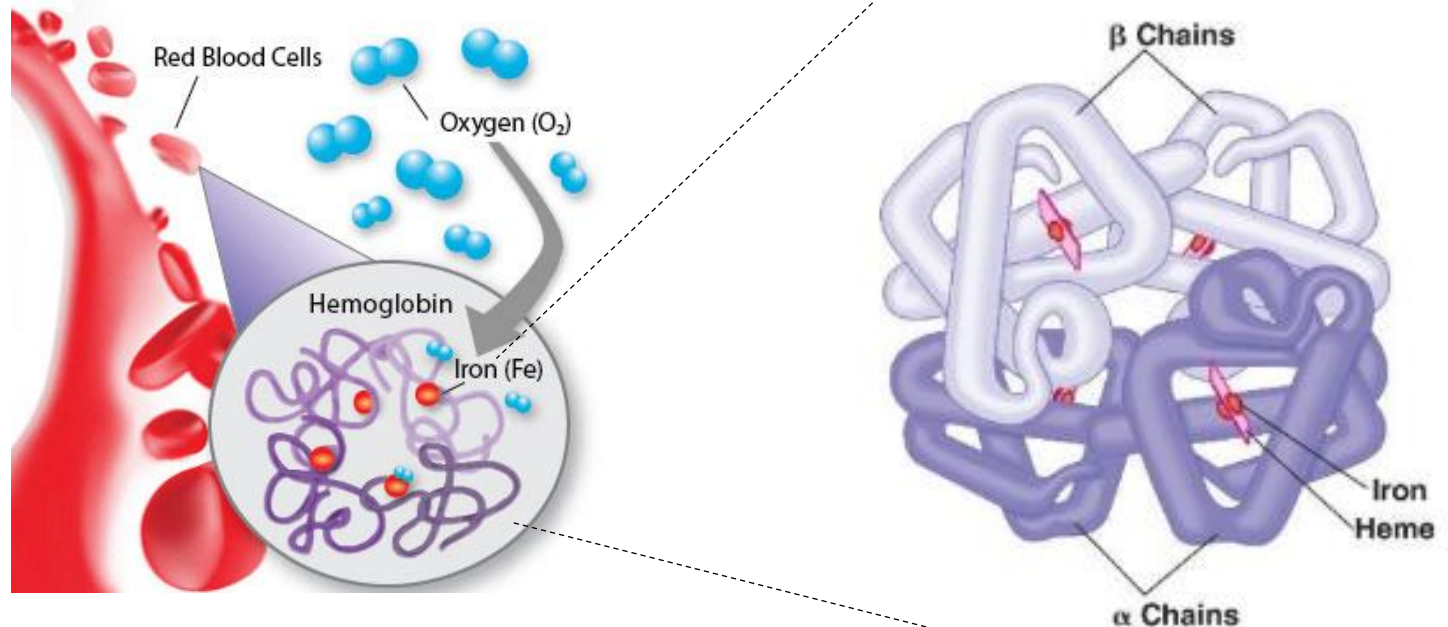
# Levels of protein structure: 4<sup>o</sup> structure

47

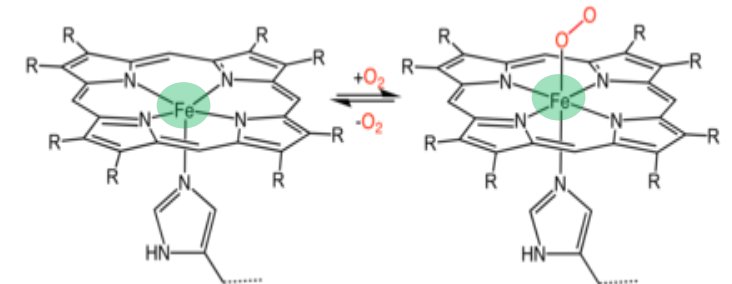


4. **Quaternary structure**: some proteins are made up of multiple polypeptide chains (subunit)

## Hemoglobin



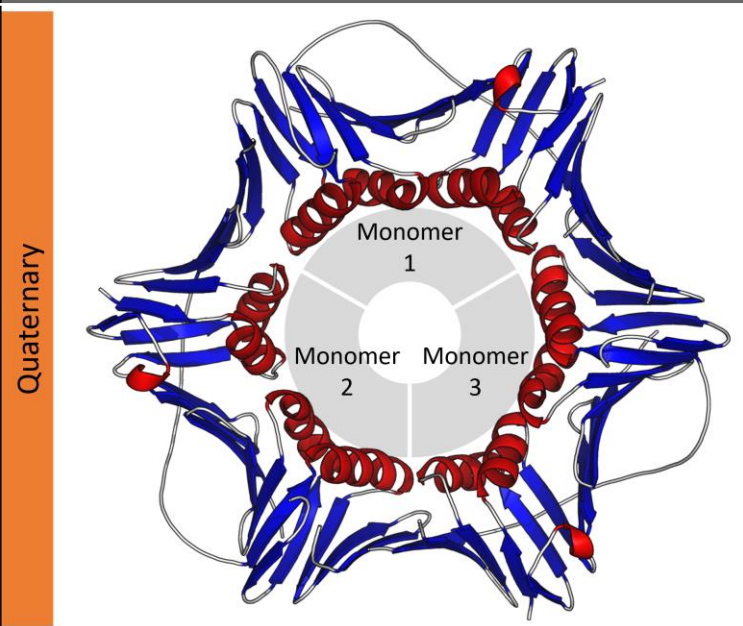
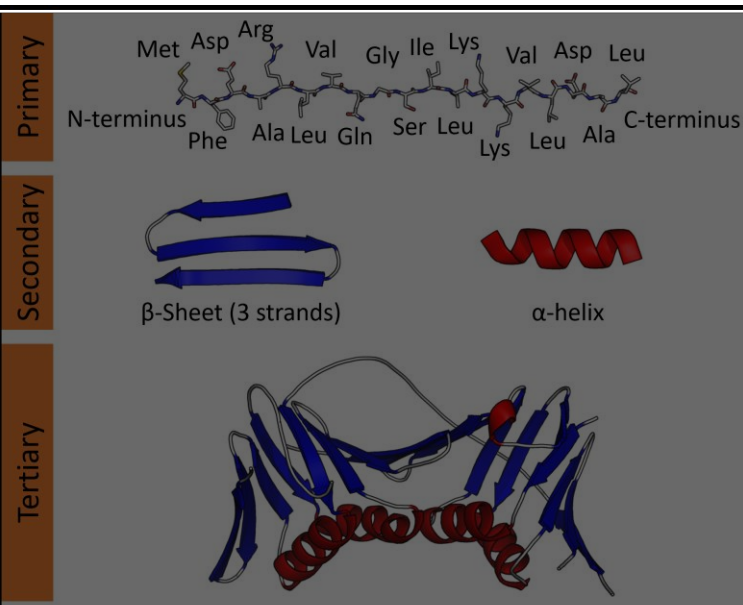
- A hemoglobin molecule is made up of **four polypeptide chains**:
  - 2 Alpha-globin chains
  - 2 Beta-globin chains
- Each chain contains a **heme molecule** which binds to **oxygen**





# Levels of protein structure: 4<sup>o</sup> structure

48



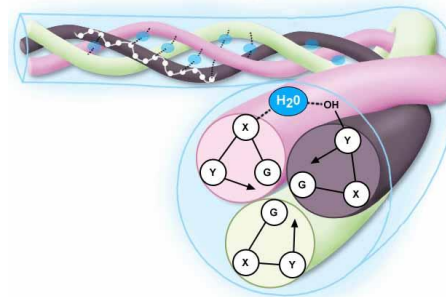
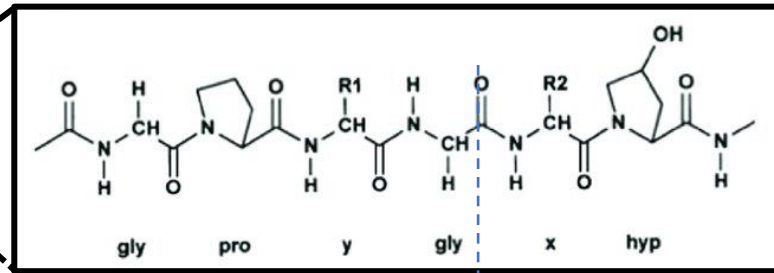
4<sup>o</sup> **Quaternary structure**: some proteins are made up of multiple polypeptide chains (subunit)

- Collagen is made up of three polypeptide chains called a **triple helix**
- Each chain is made from  $(G-X-Y)_n$

G = glycine, X = Proline, Y = hydroxyproline (Hyp)

\*Hyp is produced by hydroxylation of proline by **prolyl hydroxylase**

\***L-ascorbic acid** is an essential coenzyme of prolyl hydroxylase



Collagen  
(fibrous protein)



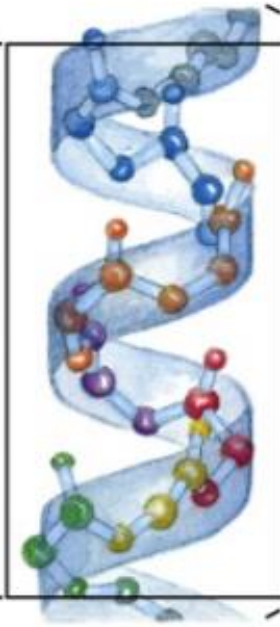
Collagen is a protein found in connective tissue, skin, tendon, bone, etc.

Primary structure



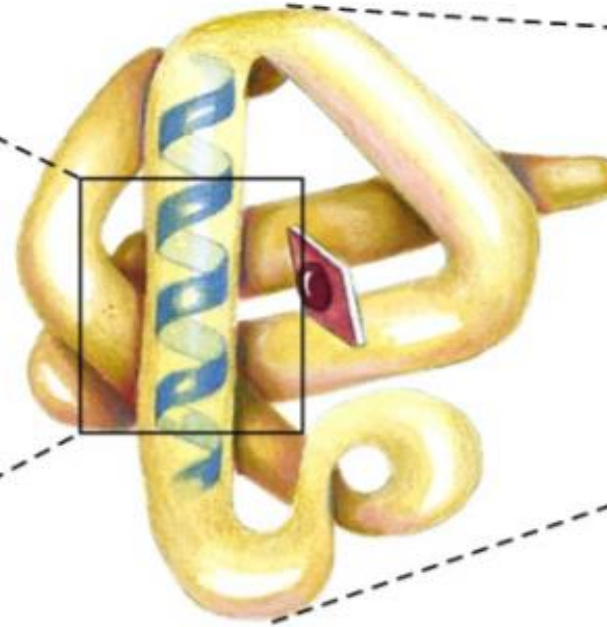
Amino acid residues

Secondary structure



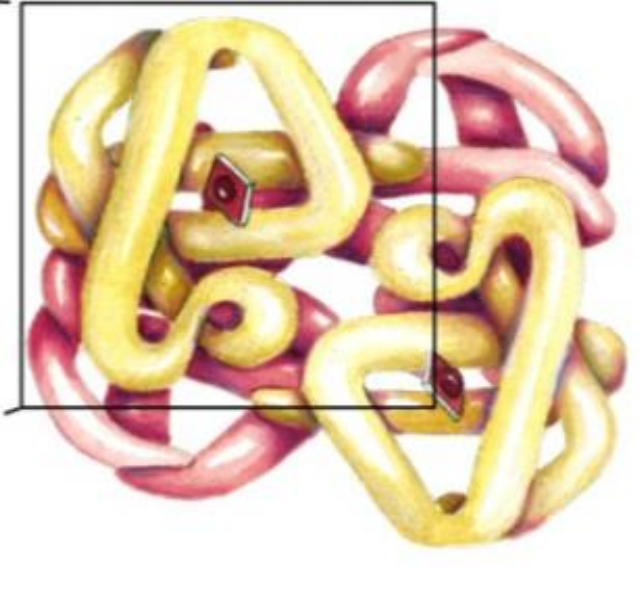
$\alpha$  Helix

Tertiary structure



Polypeptide chain

Quaternary structure



Assembled subunits

Amino acids are linked by  
Peptide bond

Hydrogen bond  
between Protein  
backbone

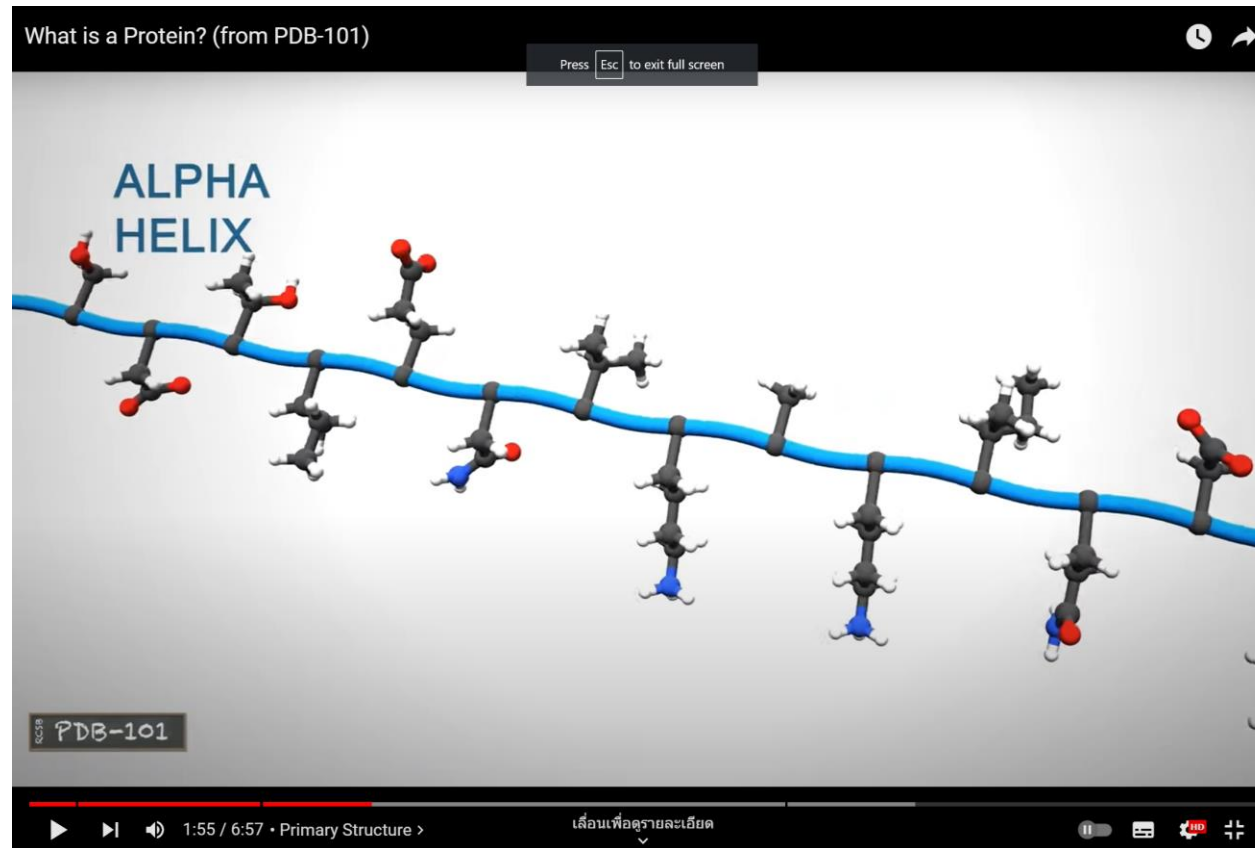
Interactions (hydrophobic, Ionic bond,  
H-bond, disulfide bond) between  
R-group of amino acids in the same  
polypeptide chain

Interactions (hydrophobic, Ionic bond,  
H-bond, disulfide bond) between  
R-group of amino acids in another  
polypeptide chain



# 4 levels of Protein Structure

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvTv8TqWC48&t=124s>



# Outline

1. Chemical structure of amino acids
2. Classification of amino acids according to "R group"
3. Chemical properties of amino acids
4. Peptides
  - Definition
  - Reaction, chemical properties, and benefits
  - Nomenclature
  - Biological roles of peptides
5. Levels of protein structure
6. Conjugated proteins
7. Functions of proteins
8. Protein denaturation
9. Protein structure determination

# Conjugated proteins

A protein to which another chemical group (e.g., lipids) is attached by either covalent bonding or other interactions

TABLE 3-4 Conjugated Proteins		
Class	Prosthetic group	Example
Lipoproteins	Lipids	$\beta_1$ -Lipoprotein of blood
Glycoproteins	Carbohydrates	Immunoglobulin G
Phosphoproteins	Phosphate groups	Casein of milk
Hemoproteins	Heme (iron porphyrin)	Hemoglobin
Flavoproteins	Flavin nucleotides	Succinate dehydrogenase
Metalloproteins	Iron	Ferritin
	Zinc	Alcohol dehydrogenase
	Calcium	Calmodulin
	Molybdenum	Dinitrogenase
Metalloproteins	Copper	Plastocyanin

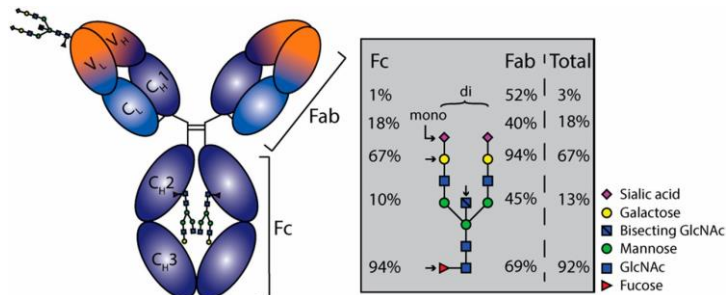
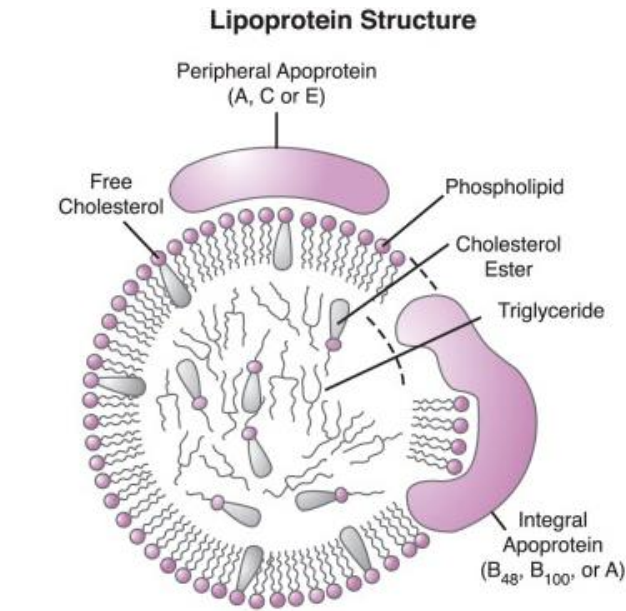
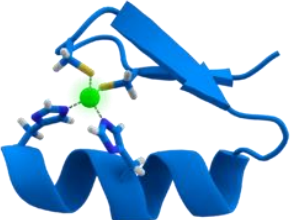
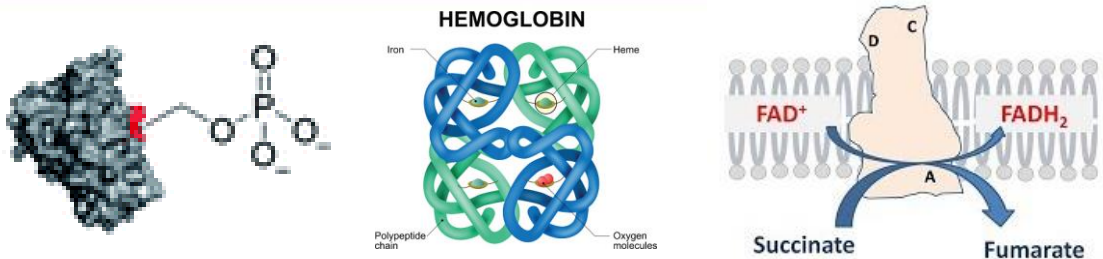


Table 3-4  
Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry, Fifth Edition  
© 2008 W. H. Freeman and Company





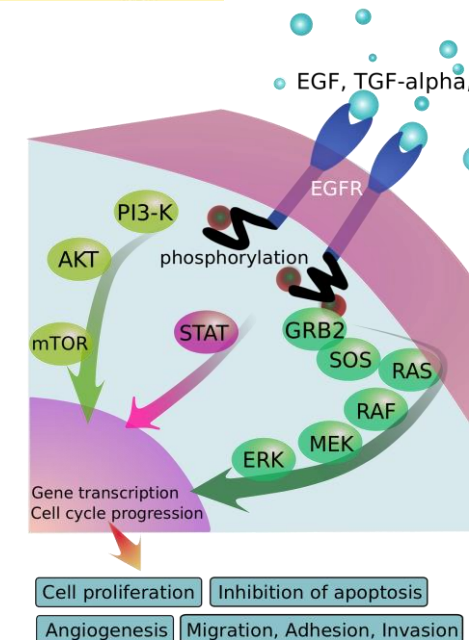
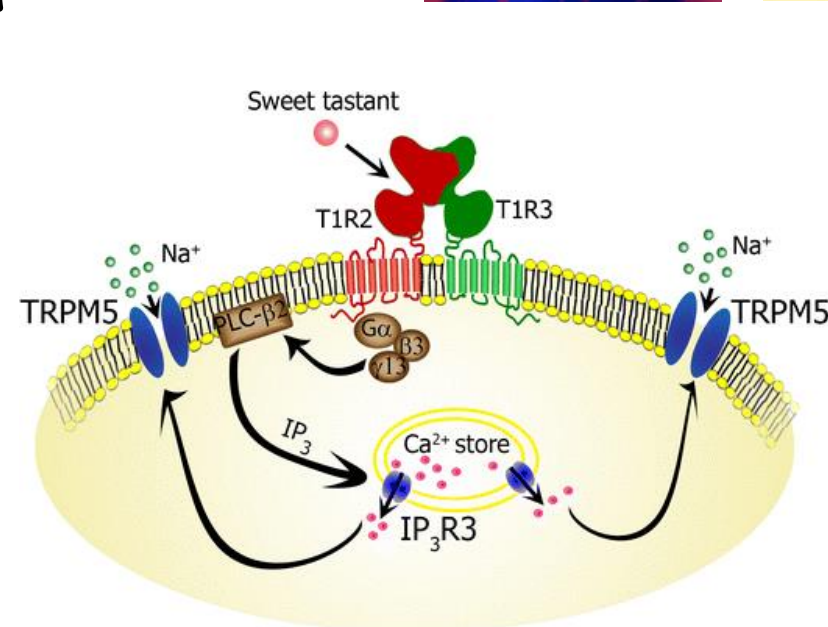
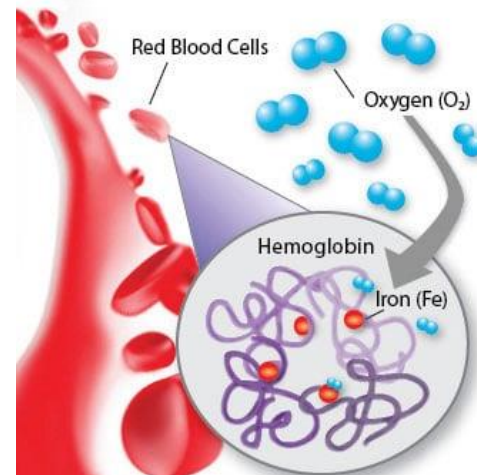
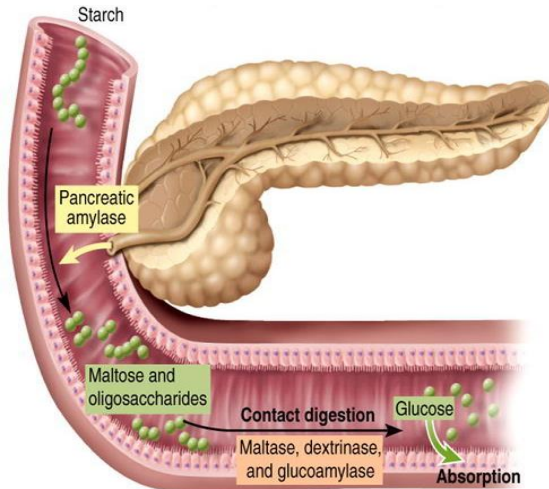
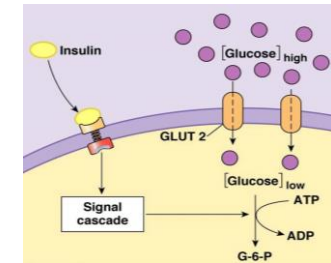
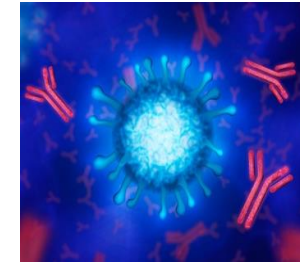
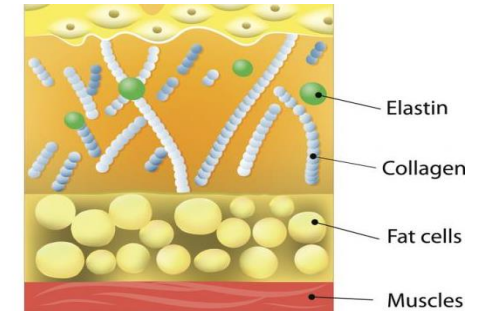
# Outline

1. Chemical structure of amino acids
2. Classification of amino acids according to "R group"
3. Chemical properties of amino acids
4. Peptides
  - Definition
  - Reaction, chemical properties, and benefits
  - Nomenclature
  - Biological roles of peptides
5. Levels of protein structure
6. Conjugated proteins
7. Functions of proteins
8. Protein denaturation
9. Protein structure determination



# Functions of proteins

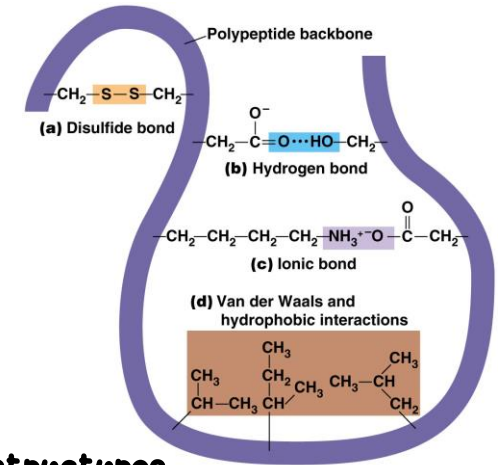
1. Enzyme: Amylase, Lipase, Protease
2. Oxygen transport: Hemoglobin
3. Structural protein: Collagen, Keratin
4. Immunity: Immunoglobulin
5. Hormone: Insulin, Glucagon
6. Sensation: T1R2/T1R3 sweet receptor
7. Cell proliferation: EGFR



# Outline

1. Chemical structure of amino acids
2. Classification of amino acids according to "R group"
3. Chemical properties of amino acids
4. Peptides
  - Definition
  - Reaction, chemical properties, and benefits
  - Nomenclature
  - Biological roles of peptides
5. Levels of protein structure
6. Conjugated proteins
7. Functions of proteins
8. Protein denaturation
9. Protein structure determination




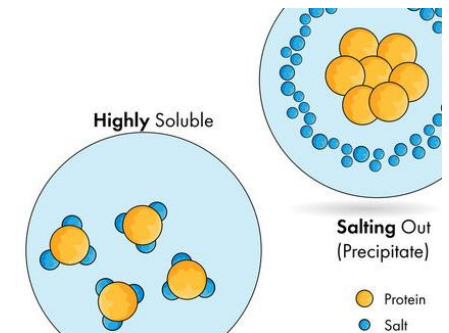


- ## Reversible denaturation

- Proteins can return to work
- Such as salting out (using high concentrations of salt to precipitate proteins in the solution)

## Irreversible denaturation

- 



<https://stock.adobe.com/th/search/images?k=solubility>

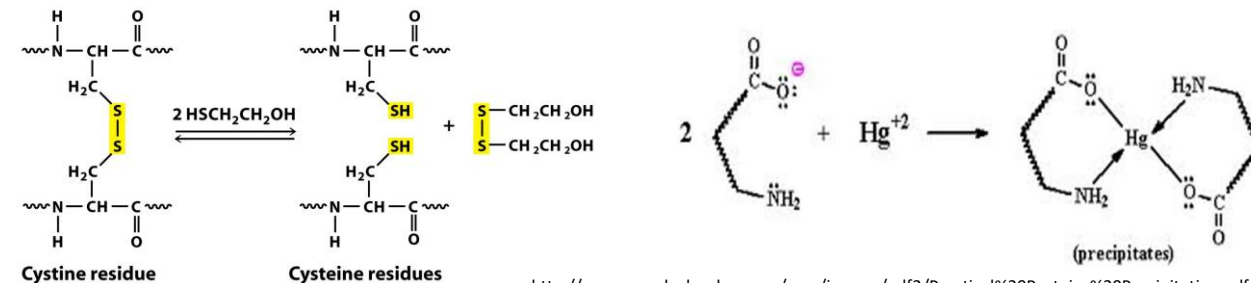
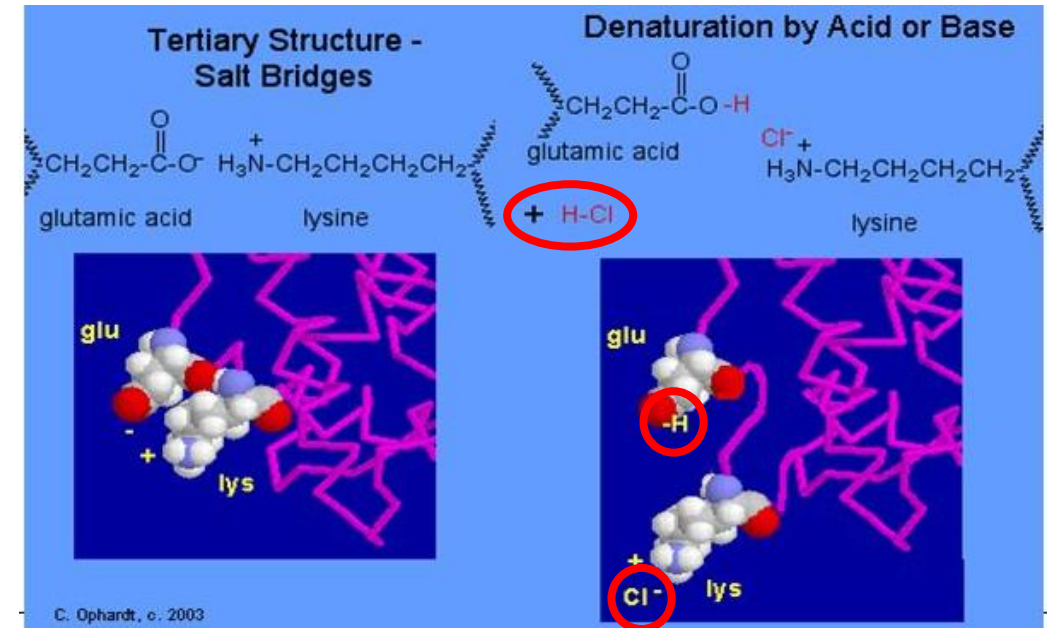
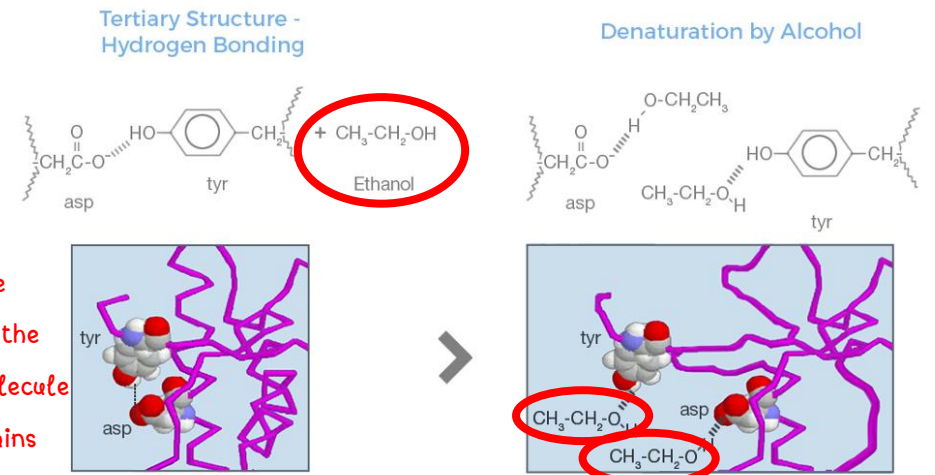


# Factors causing protein denaturation

58

- ❖ **Heat** destroys H-bonds and hydrophobic interactions
- ❖ **Organic solvents** destroy H-bonds and/or hydrophobic interaction (in case of solvent with very low polarity)
- ❖ **Acids/Bases (extreme pH)** destroy H-bond and ionic bond between R- of polar amino acids
- ❖ **Reducing agent** e.g.,  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol destroys disulfide bond between two cysteine residues
- ❖ **Heavy metals** e.g.,  $Hg^{2+}$ ,  $Ag^+$ ,  $Pb^{2+}$  bind to carboxylate group ( $-COO^-$ ), leading to an insoluble metal protein salt

New hydrogen bonds are formed instead between the new organic solvent molecule and the protein side chains





# Outline

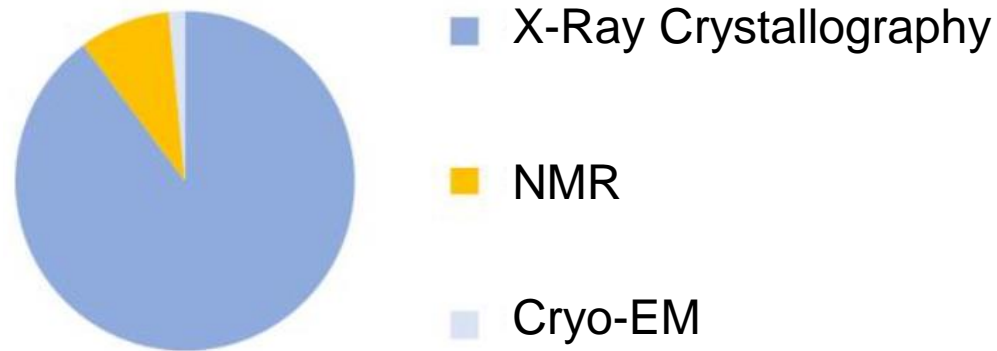
1. Chemical structure of amino acids
2. Classification of amino acids according to "R group"
3. Chemical properties of amino acids
4. Peptides
  - Definition
  - Reaction, chemical properties, and benefits
  - Nomenclature
  - Biological roles of peptides
5. Levels of protein structure
6. Conjugated proteins
7. Functions of proteins
8. Protein denaturation
9. Protein structure determination

To understand the functions of proteins at a molecular level, it is often necessary to determine their three-dimensional structure!

- How proteins interact with other molecules
- How they perform catalysis (in the case of enzymes)
- Misconducting and/or misfolding of proteins associated with diseases



- X-Ray Crystallography
- Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR)
- Cryo-Electron microscopy (Cryo-EM)

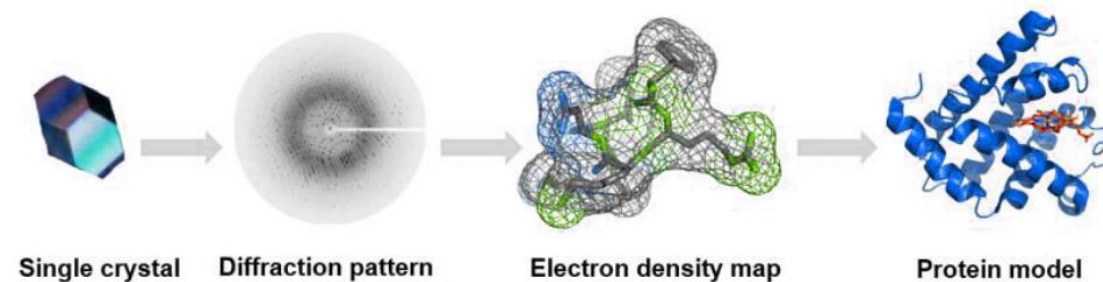


According to the statistics of PDB (<https://www.rcsb.org/>), more than 120,000 protein structures resolved by X-Ray crystallography, accounting for nearly 90% of the total.

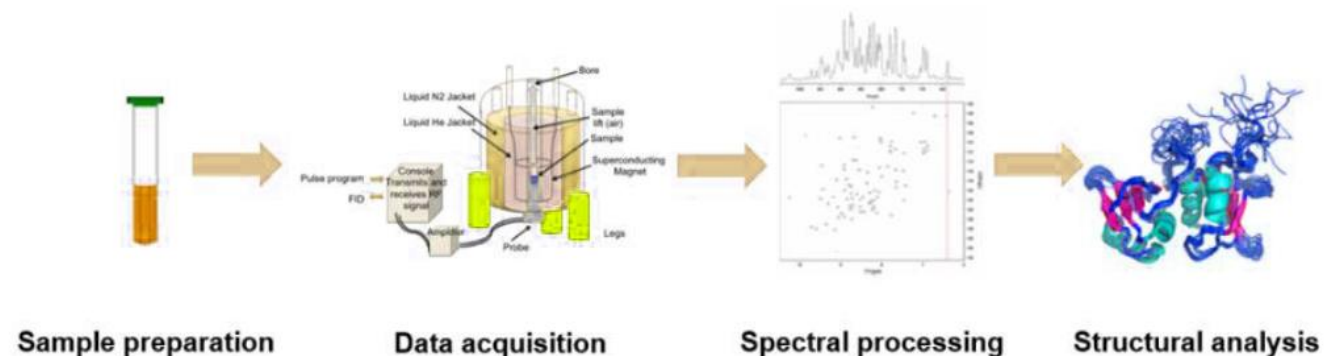
# Techniques for protein structure determination

60

- **X-ray crystallography** uses X-ray to determine the position and arrangement of atoms in a crystal
- Based on this electron density map, the average position of atoms in the crystal, chemical bonds, and various information can be determined

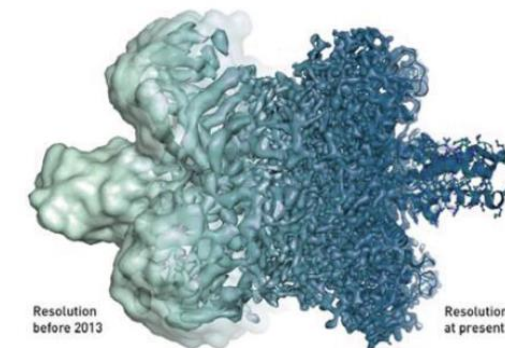
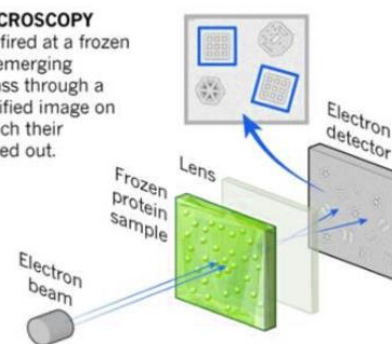


- **NMR analysis** is performed on aqueous samples of protein with high purity, high stability, and high concentration
- NMR structure is calculated from magnetic properties of several nuclei



- The essential mechanism of **Cryo-EM** is electron scattering
- The coherent electrons are used as a light source to measure the sample
- After the electron beam passes through the sample, the lens system converts the scattered signal into a magnified image recorded on the detector
- Signal processing is performed to obtain the three-dimensional structure of the sample

**CRYO-ELECTRON MICROSCOPY**  
A beam of electron is fired at a frozen protein solution. The emerging scattered electrons pass through a lens to create a magnified image on the detector, from which their structure can be worked out.





# Techniques for protein structure determination

61

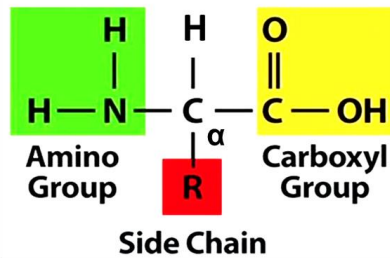
	Advantages	Disadvantages	Objects	Resolution
X-ray Crystallography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well developed ✱</li> <li>• High resolution ✱</li> <li>• Broad molecular weight range ✱</li> <li>• Easy for model building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult for crystallization ✱</li> <li>• Difficult for diffraction ✱</li> <li>• Solid structure preferred</li> <li>• Static crystalline state structure ✱</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crystallizable samples ✱</li> <li>• Soluble proteins, membrane proteins, ribosomes, DNA/RNA and protein complexes</li> </ul>	High
NMR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High resolution</li> <li>• 3D structure in solution ✱</li> <li>• Good for dynamic study ✱</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for high sample purity</li> <li>• Difficult for sample preparation ✱</li> <li>• Difficult for computational simulation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MWs below 40–50 kDa</li> <li>• Water soluble samples</li> </ul>	High
Cryo-EM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy sample preparation ✱</li> <li>• Structure in native state ✱</li> <li>• Small sample size</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relatively low resolution ✱</li> <li>• Applicable to samples of high molecular weights only</li> <li>• Highly dependent on EM techniques</li> <li>• Costly EM equipment ✱</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;150 kDa ✱</li> <li>• Virions, membrane proteins, large proteins, ribosomes, complex compounds</li> </ul>	Relatively Low ✱ (<3.5 Å)

Table 1 The comparison of X-ray crystallography, NMR and Cryo-EM

# Summary

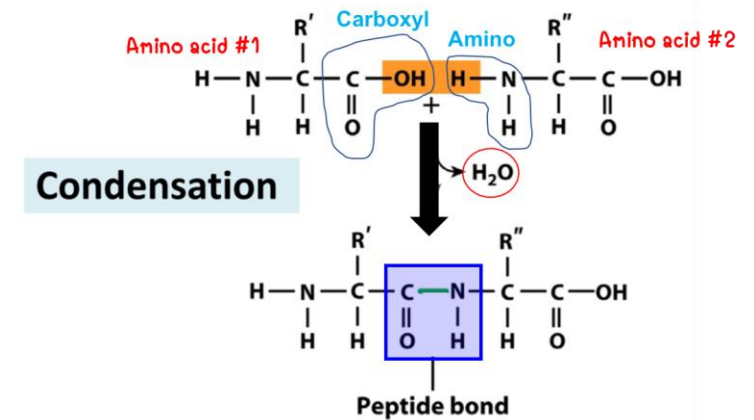
## Structure of amino acid

1. Alpha carbon ( $C_\alpha$ )
2. Amino group
3. Carboxyl (Acid) group
4. R group (side chain)



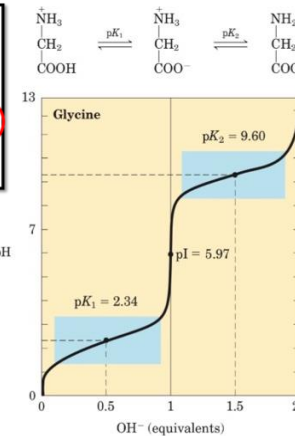
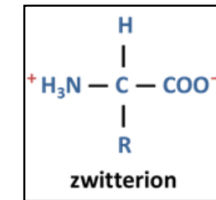
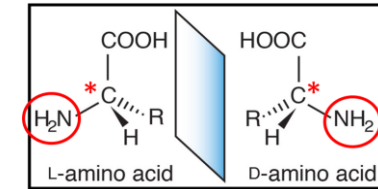
\*\*\*R group determines the differences in each amino acid

- When 2-20 amino acids are joined by peptide bonds, the structure is called "**Oligopeptide**".
- When >20 amino acids are joined by peptide bonds,
  - MW < 10 kDa → "**Polypeptide**"
  - MW > 10 kDa → "**Protein**"



## Chemical properties of Amino Acids

1. Enantiomer (Mirror image)
2. Zwitterionic property (Dipolar +, -)
3. Amphoteric property (Acid+Base)
4. Buffer (maintain pH)

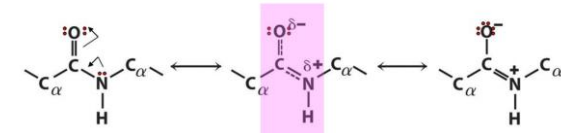


## Classification of amino acids according to "R group"

1. Non-polar, aliphatic R groups: Ala, Val
2. Polar, uncharged R groups: Ser, Asn
3. Positively charged R groups: Lys, Arg
4. Negatively charged R groups: Asp, Glu
5. Aromatic R groups: Phe, Tyr, Trp

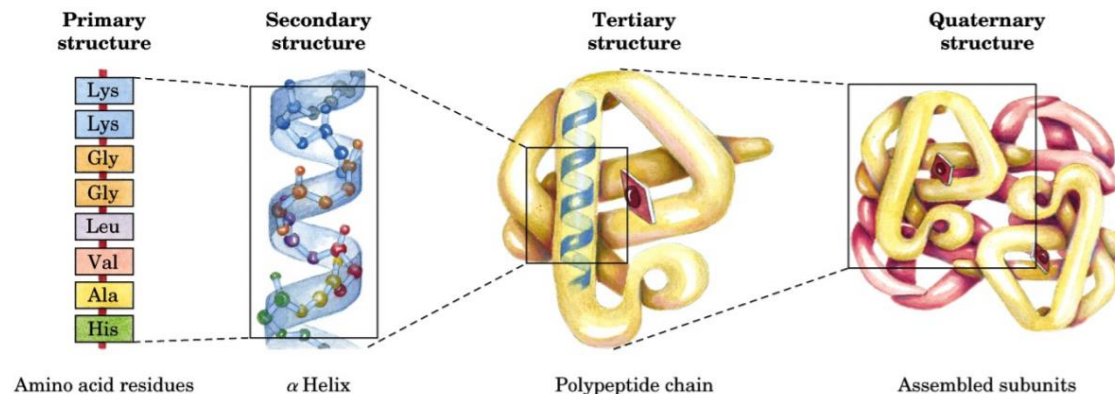
## Chemical properties of peptide bonds

1. Partial double bond ( $C \cdots N$ ) due to resonance in a structure
2. Planar
3. Rigid (unable to rotate freely)
4. Bond length:  $C-N > C \cdots N > C \equiv N$
5. Bond strength:  $C \equiv N > C \cdots N > C-N$



## 4 Levels of Protein Structure

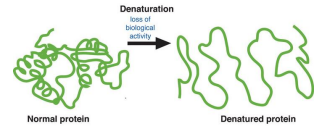
1. **Primary structure**: the sequence of amino acids in a polypeptide chain
2. **Secondary structure**: the local folded structures that form within a polypeptide due to hydrogen bonding between atoms of the backbone
  - 2.1 Alpha helix
  - 2.2 Beta pleated sheet (Parallel, Antiparallel)
  - 2.3 Turn
3. **Tertiary structure**: the overall folding of the polypeptide chains due to interactions between the R groups of the amino acid
  - 3.1 Hydrophobic interaction
  - 3.2 Ionic bond
  - 3.3 Disulfide bond
  - 3.4 Hydrogen bond
4. **Quaternary structure**: some proteins are made up of multiple polypeptide chains (subunit)



## Functions of proteins

1. **Enzyme**: Amylase, Lipase, Protease
2. **Oxygen transport**: Hemoglobin
3. **Structural protein**: Collagen, Keratin
4. **Immunity**: Immunoglobulin
5. **Hormone**: Insulin, Glucagon
6. **Sensation**: T1R2/T1R3 sweet receptor
7. **Cell proliferation**: EGFR

## Protein denaturation



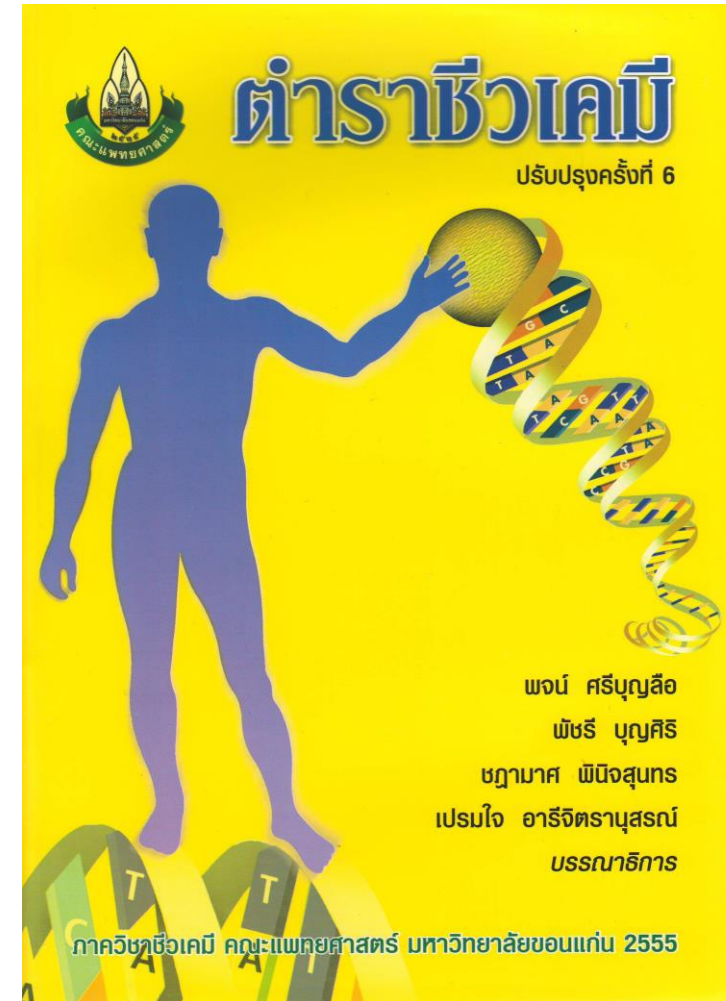
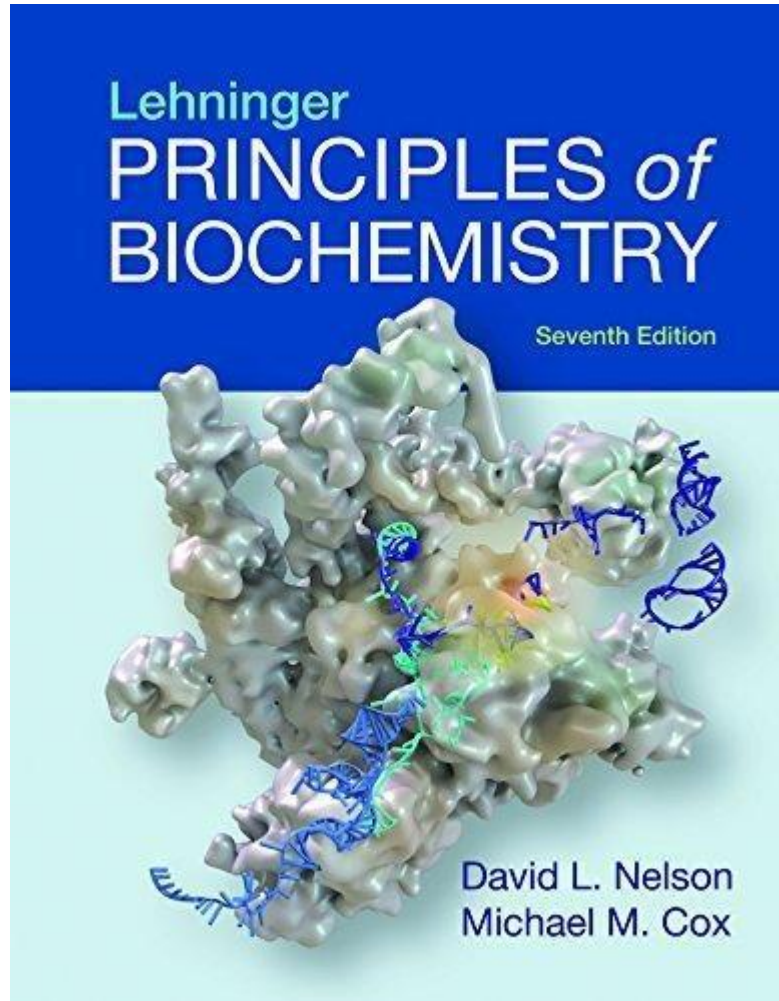
The process by which a protein undergoes the loss of its quaternary, tertiary, and secondary structures, becoming a primary structure (a long chain of amino acids) without breaking the peptide bond

## Protein structure determination

- X-Ray Crystallography
- Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR)
- Cryo-Electron microscopy (Cryo-EM)



# Suggested books





ANY  
QUESTIONS?

E-mail: [panupma@kku.ac.th](mailto:panupma@kku.ac.th)