

# Membrane Protein Bioinformatics

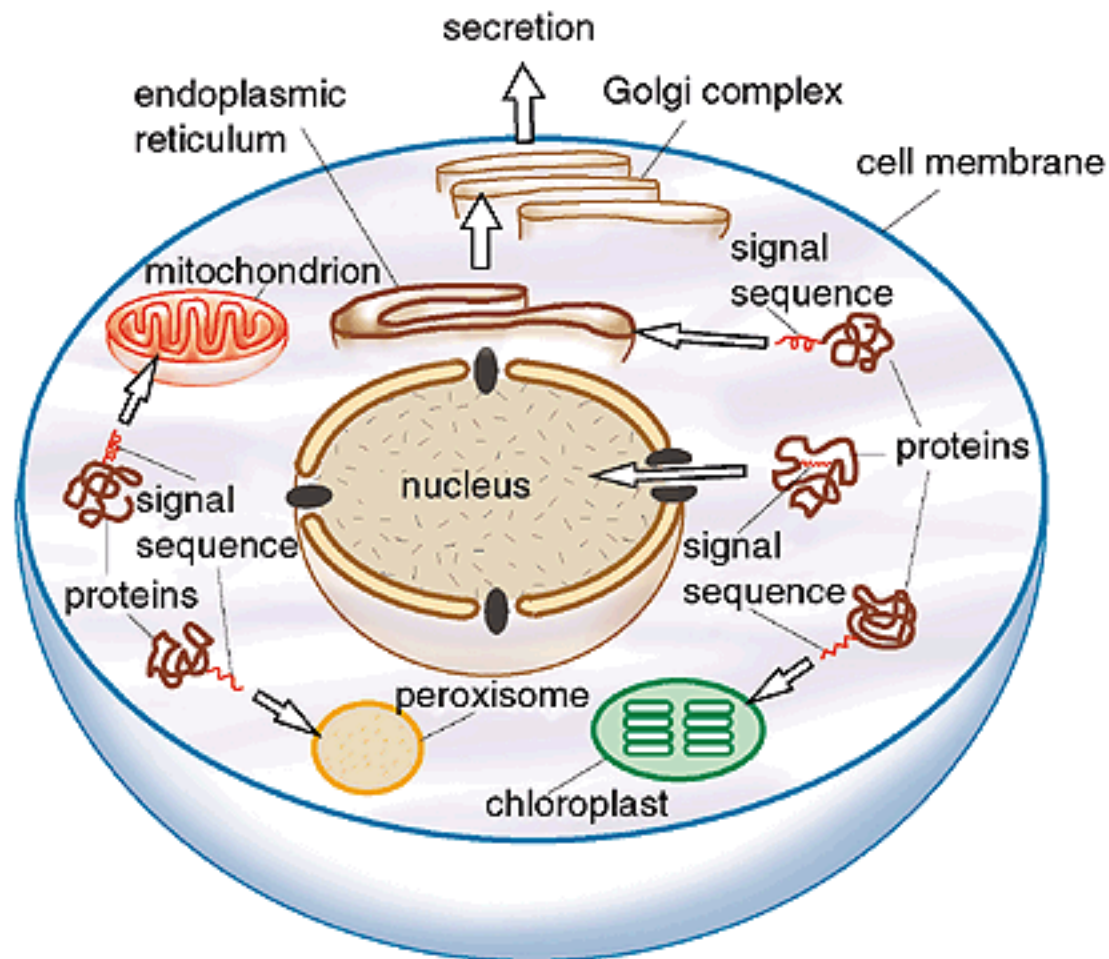
Gunnar von Heijne

Center for Biomembrane Research  
Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics  
Stockholm University

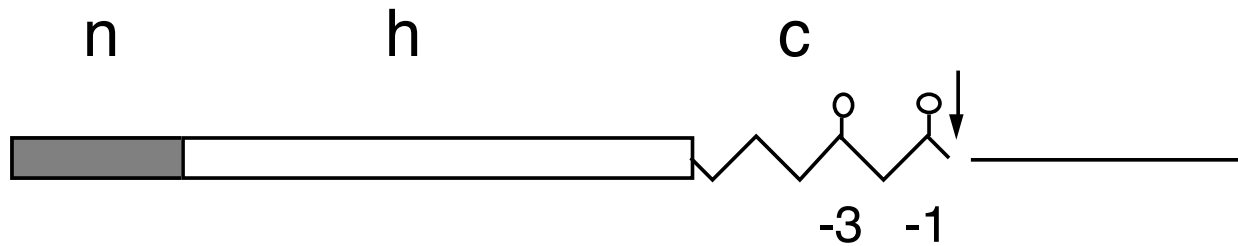


Center for Biomembrane Research

# Protein sorting in a eukaryotic cell



# The signal peptide



n-region: positively charged

h-region: hydrophobic

c-region: more polar, small residues in -1, -3

# An early signal peptide predictor

Volume 14 Number 11 1986

Nucleic Acids Research

---

## A new method for predicting signal sequence cleavage sites

---

Gunnar von Heijne

---

Research Group for Theoretical Biophysics, Department of Theoretical Physics, Royal Institute of Technology, S-100 44 Stockholm, Sweden

---

Received 5 March 1986; Revised and Accepted 5 May 1986

---

### **ABSTRACT**

A new method for identifying secretory signal sequences and for predicting the site of cleavage between a signal sequence and the mature exported protein is described. The predictive accuracy is estimated to be around 75-80% for both prokaryotic and eukaryotic proteins.

# An early signal peptide predictor

Volume 14 Number 11 1986

A new method for predicting signal sequence cleavage sites

Gunnar von Heijne

Research Group for Theoretical Biophysics, Department of Technology, S-100 44 Stockholm, Sweden

Received 5 March 1986; Revised and Accepted 5 May 1986

## ABSTRACT

A new method for identifying secretory proteins and the site of cleavage between a signal sequence and the mature protein is described. The prediction is 75-80% for both prokaryotic and eukaryotic proteins.

**Table 1 Amino acid counts for eukaryotic signal sequences**  
The average composition (last column) is from Ref.(10)

	-13	-12	-11	-10	-9	-8	-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	+1	+2	Expected
<b>A</b>	16	13	14	15	20	18	18	17	25	15	47	6	80	18	6	14.5
<b>C</b>	3	6	9	7	9	14	6	8	5	6	19	3	9	8	3	4.5
<b>D</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	5	0	10	11	8.9
<b>E</b>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	7	0	7	0	13	14	10.0
<b>F</b>	13	9	11	11	6	7	18	13	4	5	0	13	0	6	4	5.6
<b>G</b>	4	4	3	6	3	13	3	2	19	34	5	7	39	10	7	12.1
<b>H</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	5	0	0	6	0	4	2	3.4
<b>I</b>	15	15	8	6	11	5	4	8	5	1	10	5	0	8	7	7.4
<b>K</b>	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	2	0	11	9	11.3
<b>L</b>	71	68	72	79	78	45	64	49	10	23	8	20	1	8	4	12.1
<b>M</b>	0	3	7	4	1	6	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	2.7
<b>N</b>	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	3	0	10	0	4	7	7.1
<b>P</b>	2	0	2	0	0	4	1	8	20	14	0	1	3	0	22	7.4
<b>Q</b>	0	0	0	1	0	6	1	0	10	8	0	18	3	19	10	6.3
<b>R</b>	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	4	0	15	0	12	9	7.6
<b>S</b>	9	3	8	6	13	10	15	16	26	11	23	17	20	15	10	11.4
<b>T</b>	2	10	5	4	5	13	7	7	12	6	17	8	6	3	10	9.7
<b>V</b>	20	25	15	18	13	15	11	27	0	12	32	3	0	8	17	11.1
<b>W</b>	4	3	3	1	1	2	6	3	1	3	0	9	0	2	0	1.8
<b>Y</b>	0	1	4	0	0	1	3	1	1	2	0	5	0	1	7	5.6

# An early signal peptide predictor

Volume 14 Number 11 1986

Nucleic Acids Research

A new method for predicting the location of the signal sequence in a protein

Gunnar von Heijne

Research Technology

Received September 1, 1986

**ABSTRACT**  
A new signal peptide predictor has been developed. It is based on the analysis of the amino acid composition of signal sequences from a large number of proteins. The average composition (last column) is from Ref. (10).

**Table 1 Amino acid counts for eukaryotic signal sequences**  
The average composition (last column) is from Ref. (10)

	-13	-12	-11	-10	-9	-8	-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	+1	+2	Expected
A	16	13	14	15	20	18	18	17	25	15	47	6	80	18	6	14.5
C	3	6	9	7	9	14	6	8	5	6	19	3	9	8	3	4.5
D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	5	0	10	11	8.9
E	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	7	0	7	0	13	14	10.0
F	13	9	11	11	6	7	18	13	4	5	0	13	0	6	4	5.6
G	4	4	3	6	3	13	3	2	19	34	5	7	39	10	7	12.1
H	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	5	0	0	6	0	4	2	3.4
I	15	15	8	6	11	5	4	8	5	1	10	5	0	8	7	7.4
K	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	2	0	11	9	11.3
L	71	68	72	79	78	45	64	49	10	23	8	20	1	8	4	12.1
M	0	3	7	4	1	6	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	2.7
N	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	3	0	10	0	4	7	7.1
P	2	0	2	0	0	4	1	8	20	14	0	1	3	0	22	7.4
Q	0	0	0	1	0	6	1	0	10	8	0	18	3	19	10	6.3
R	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	4	0	15	0	12	9	7.6
S	9	3	8	6	13	10	15	16	26	11	23	17	20	15	10	11.4
T	2	10	5	4	5	13	7	7	12	6	17	8	6	3	10	9.7
V	20	25	15	18	13	15	11	27	0	12	32	3	0	8	17	11.1
W	4	3	3	1	1	2	6	3	1	3	0	9	0	2	0	1.8
Y	0	1	4	0	0	1	3	1	1	2	0	5	0	1	7	5.6

Convert to a weight-matrix:

$$W(a,i) = \ln(N(a,i) / \langle N(a) \rangle)$$

Scan W along the sequence. For each position of W, sum the weights  $W(a,i)$  corresponding to the sequence. The position with the maximum score is the predicted cleavage site.

# An early signal peptide predictor

Volume 14 Number 11 1986

Nucleic Acids Research

A new method for predicting the location of the signal sequence in a protein.  
**Table 1** Amino acid counts for eukaryotic signal sequences  
 The average composition (last column)

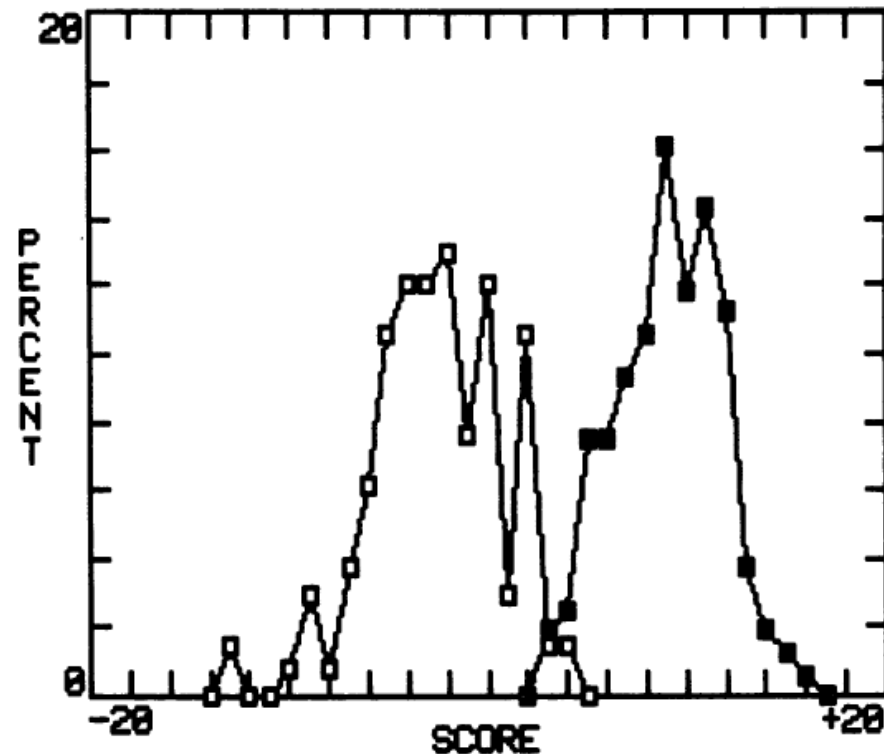
	-13	-12	-11	-10	-9	-8	-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2
A	16	13	14	15	20	18	18	17	25	15	47	6
C	3	6	9	7	9	14	6	8	5	6	19	3
D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	5
E	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	7	0	7
F	13	9	11	11	6	7	18	13	4	5	0	13
G	4	4	3	6	3	13	3	2	19	34	5	7
H	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	5	0	0	6
I	15	15	8	6	11	5	4	8	5	1	10	5
K	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	2
L	71	68	72	79	78	45	64	49	10	23	8	20
M	0	3	7	4	1	6	2	2	0	0	0	1
N	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	3	0	10
P	2	0	2	0	0	4	1	8	20	14	0	1
Q	0	0	0	1	0	6	1	0	10	8	0	18
R	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	4	0	15
S	9	3	8	6	13	10	15	16	26	11	23	17
T	2	10	5	4	5	13	7	7	12	6	17	8
V	20	25	15	18	13	15	11	27	0	12	32	3
W	4	3	3	1	1	2	6	3	1	3	0	9
Y	0	1	4	0	0	1	3	1	1	2	0	5

Gunnar v

Research  
Technology

Received 5

**ABSTRACT**  
 A new  
 the si  
 protein  
 75-80%



**Distribution of maximum scores for signal sequences and cytosolic proteins.** Open squares: cytosolic proteins; solid squares: signal sequences.

# A modern predictor: SignalP

CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL SEQUENCE ANALYSIS CBS

EVENTS

NEWS

RESEARCH GROUPS

CBS PREDICTION SERVERS

CBS DATA SETS

PUBLICATIONS

EDUCATION

STAFF

CONTACT

ABOUT CBS

INTERNAL

CBS BIOINFORMATICS TOOLS

CBS COURSES

OTHER BIOINFORMATICS LINKS

CBS >> CBS Prediction Servers >> SignalP

SEARCH

## SignalP 4.1 Server

SignalP 4.1 server predicts the presence and location of signal peptide cleavage sites in amino acid sequences from different organisms: Gram-positive prokaryotes, Gram-negative prokaryotes, and eukaryotes. The method incorporates a prediction of cleavage sites and a signal peptide/non-signal peptide prediction based on a combination of several artificial neural networks.

View the [version history](#) of this server. All the previous versions are available on line, for comparison and reference.

**New:** SignalP has been updated to version 4.1 with two new features:

- an option to choose a D-score cutoff that reproduces the sensitivity of SignalP 3.0 (this will make the false positive rate slightly higher, but still better than that of SignalP 3.0)
- a customizable minimum length of the predicted signal peptide (default 10).

Additionally, the documentation has been rewritten. The [Instructions](#) page is expanded, the [Output format](#) page has been clarified, and there are new [Performance](#) and [FAQ](#) pages.

FAQ

Article abstracts

Instructions

Output format

Performance

Data

### SUBMISSION

Paste a single amino acid sequence or several sequences in [FASTA](#) format into the field below:

Submit a file in [FASTA](#) format directly from your local disk:

Välj fil ingen fil vald

**Organism group** ([explain](#))

- ☒ Eukaryotes
- ☐ Gram-negative bacteria
- ☐ Gram-positive bacteria

**D-cutoff values** ([explain](#))

- ☒ Default (optimized for correlation)
- ☐ Sensitive (reproduce SignalP 3.0's sensitivity)
- ☐ User defined:

0.45

D-cutoff for SignalP-noTM networks

0.50

D-cutoff for SignalP-TM networks

**Graphics output** ([explain](#))

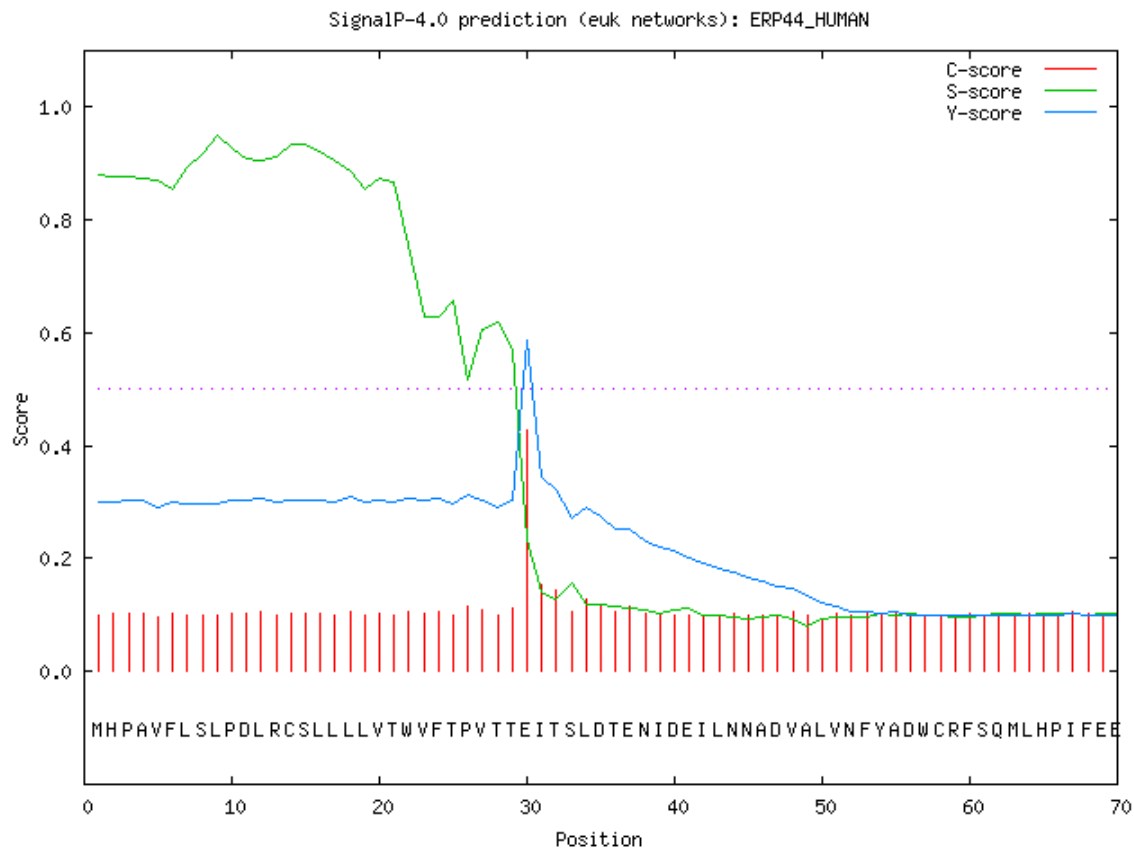
- ☐ No graphics
- ☒ PNG (inline)
- ☐ PNG (inline) and EPS (as links)

www.cbs.dtu.dk

CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL SEQUENCE ANALYSIS ■ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF DENMARK DTU



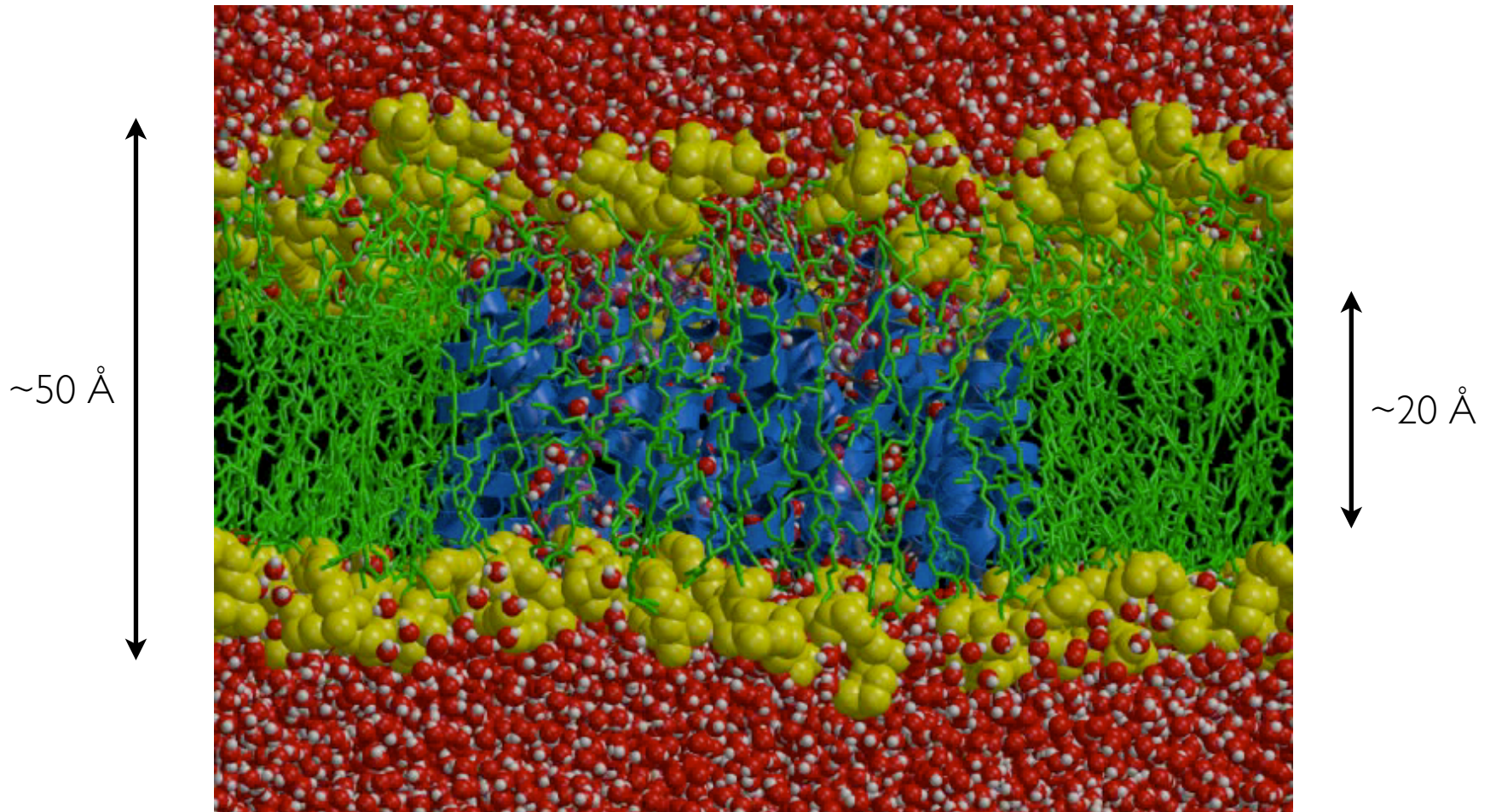
# A modern predictor: SignalP



#	Measure	Position	Value	Cutoff	signal peptide?
1	max. C	30	0.427		
2	max. Y	30	0.586		
3	max. S	9	0.950		
4	mean S	1-29	0.821		
5	D	1-29	0.713	0.450	YES

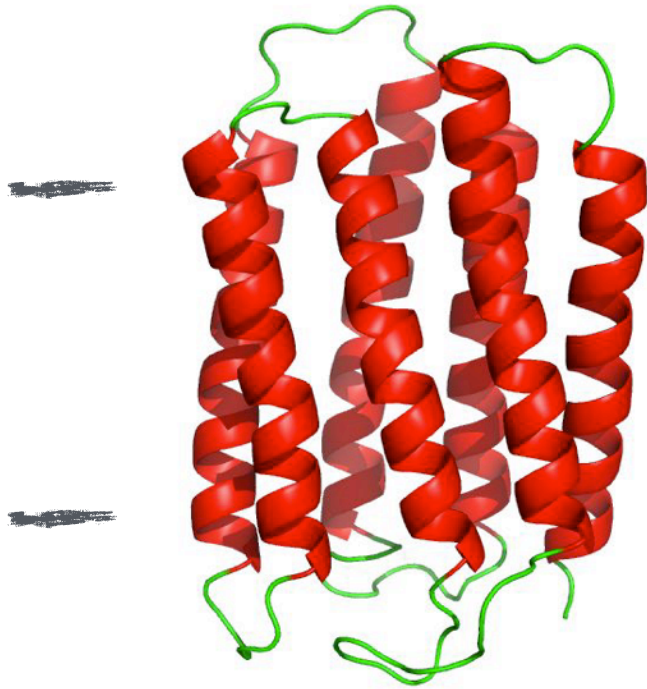
Name=sp\_Q9BS26\_ERP44\_HUMAN      SP='YES' Cleavage site between pos. 29 and 30: VTT-EI

# A lipid membrane

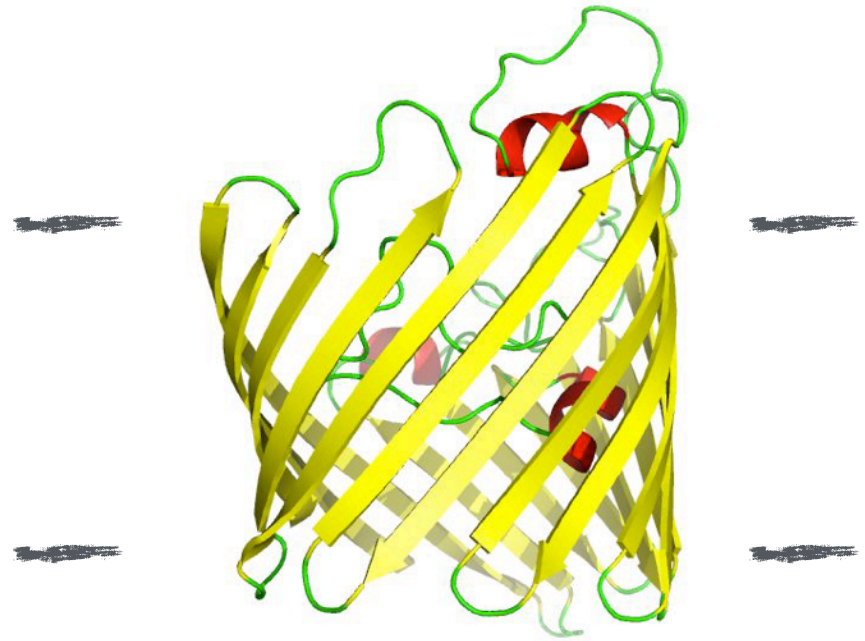


# Two architectures

(Quart.Rev.Biophys. 32:285)

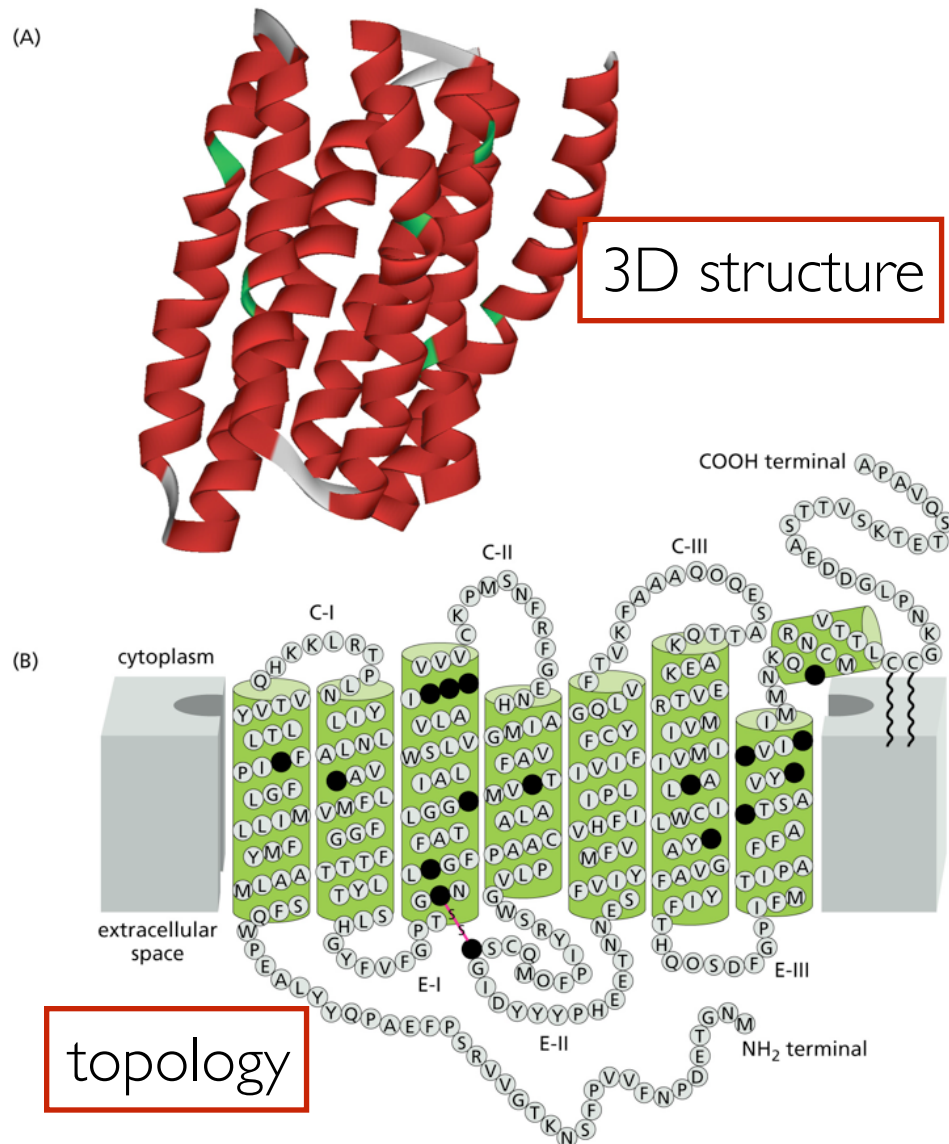


Helix bundle



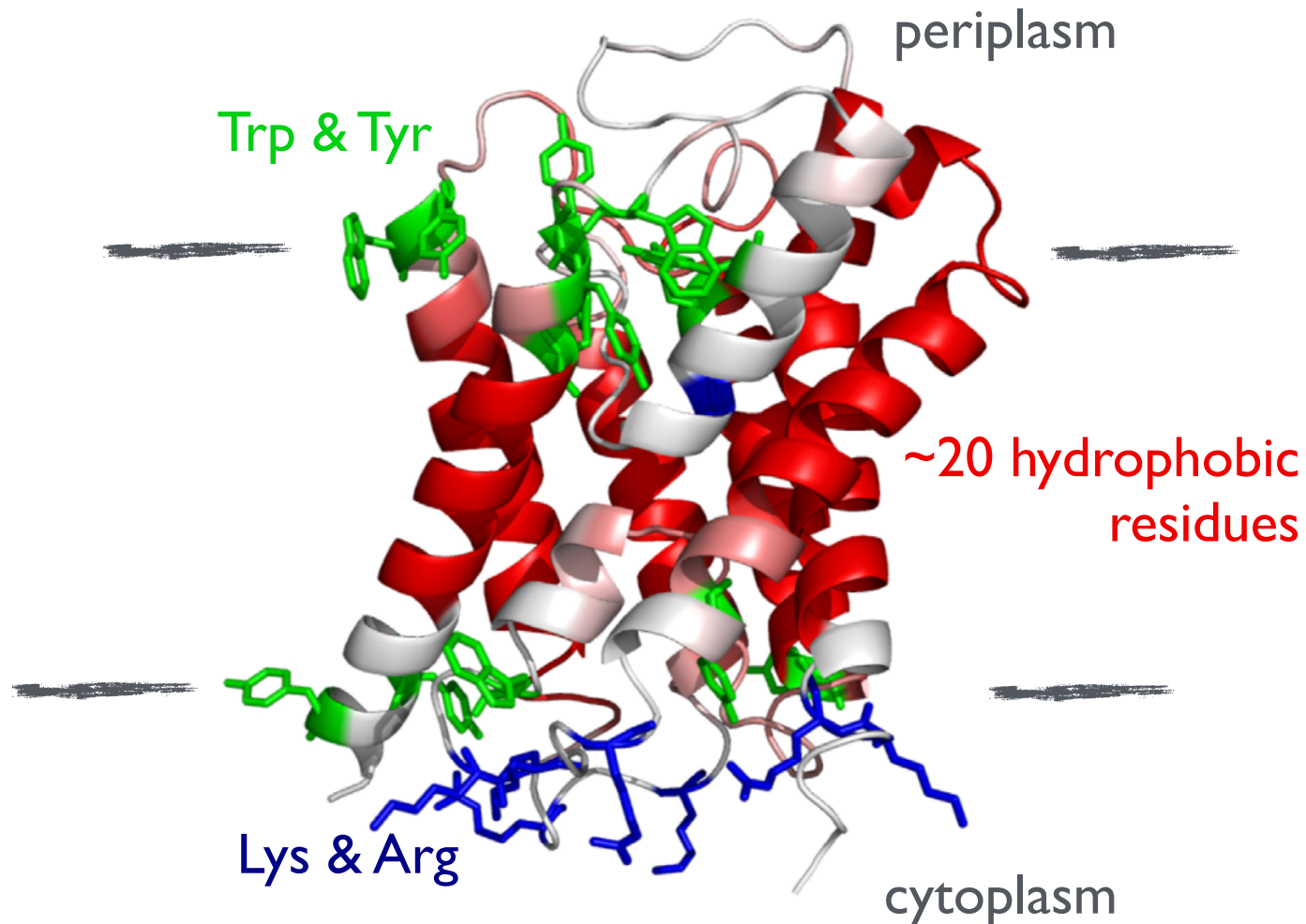
$\beta$ -barrel

# A helix-bundle membrane protein

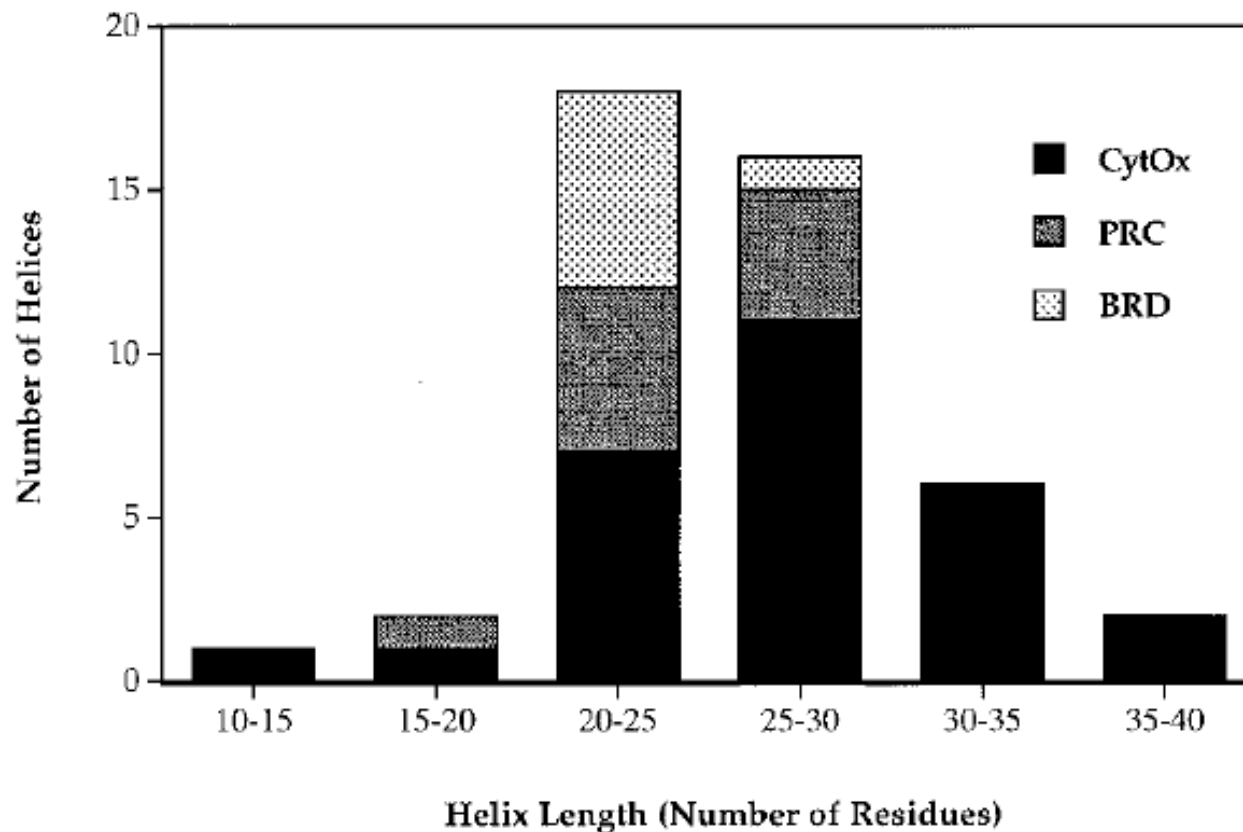




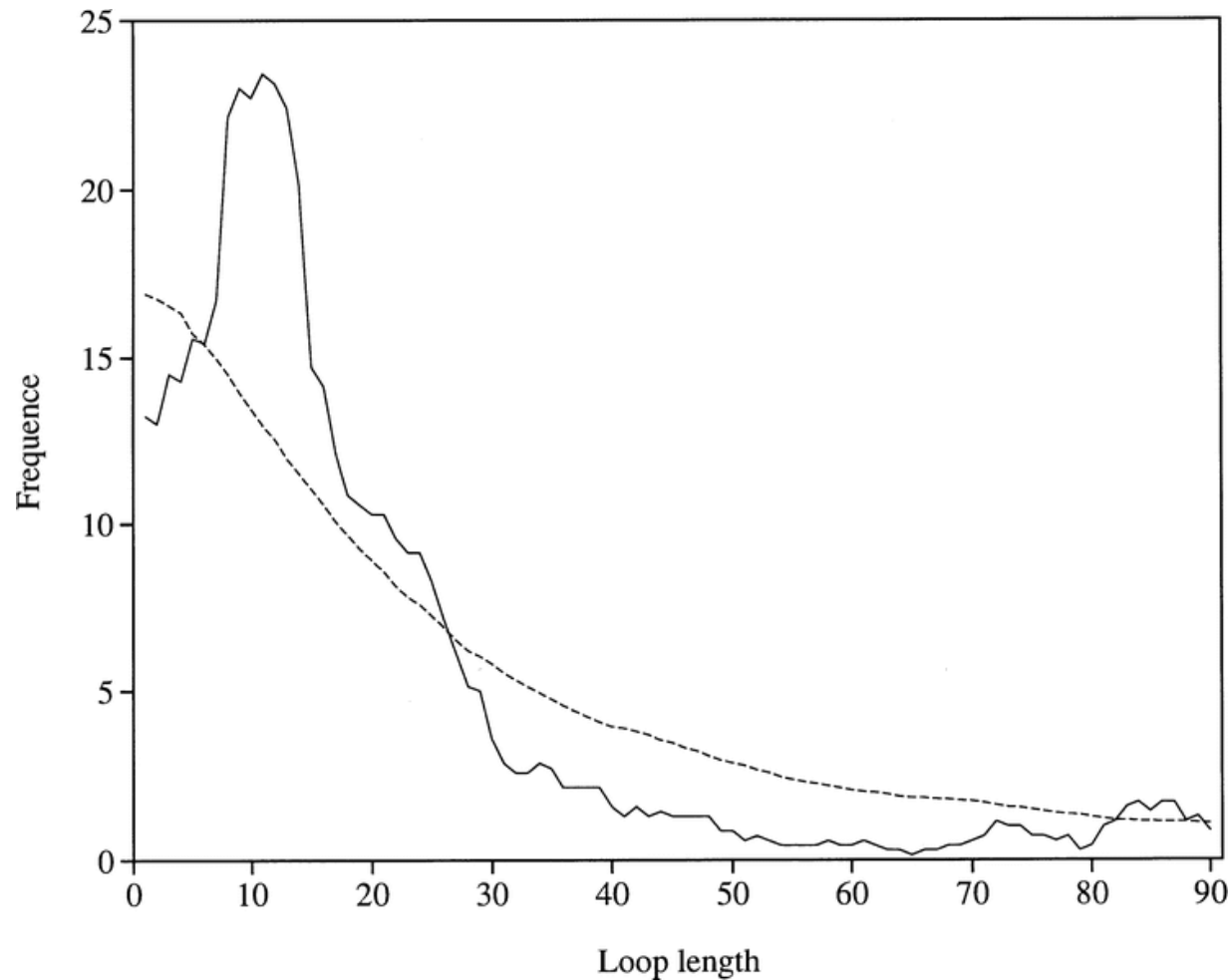
# Three important characteristics of the helix-bundle membrane proteins



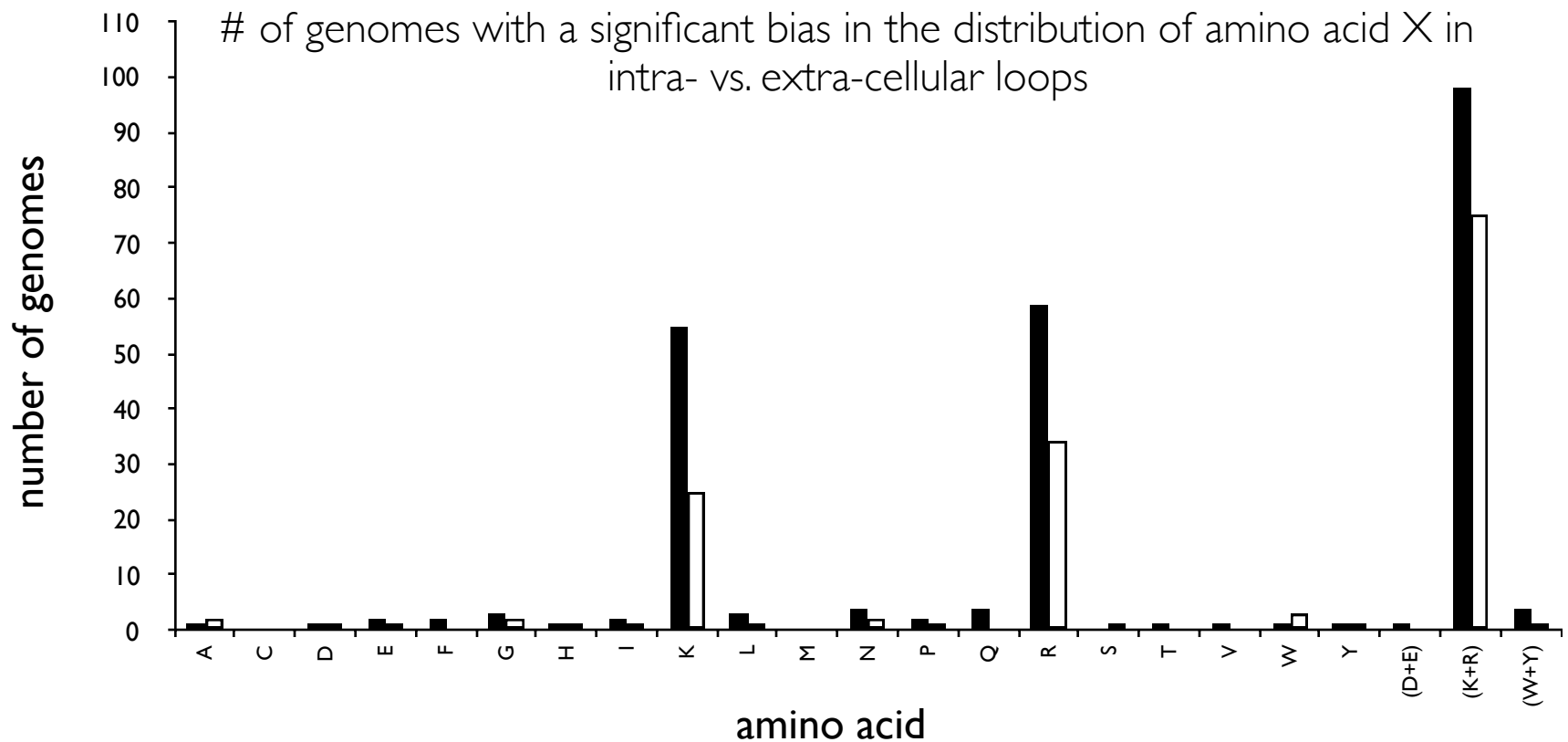
TM helices are typically 20-30 residues long



# Loops connecting the TM helices tend to be short



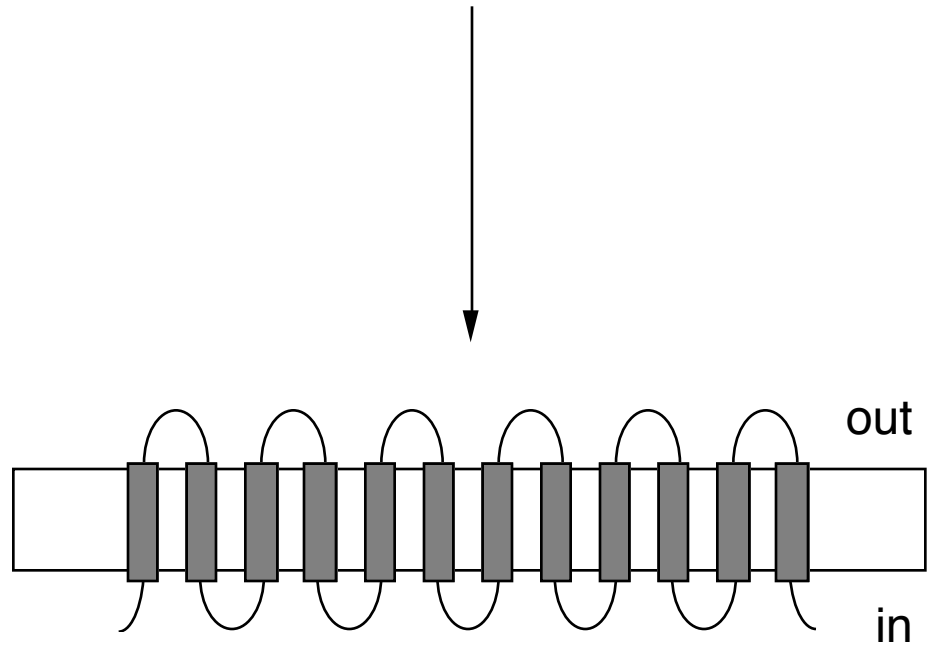
# The positive-inside rule applies to all (?) organisms





# Topology prediction

MDSQRNLLVIALLFVSFMIWQAW... .

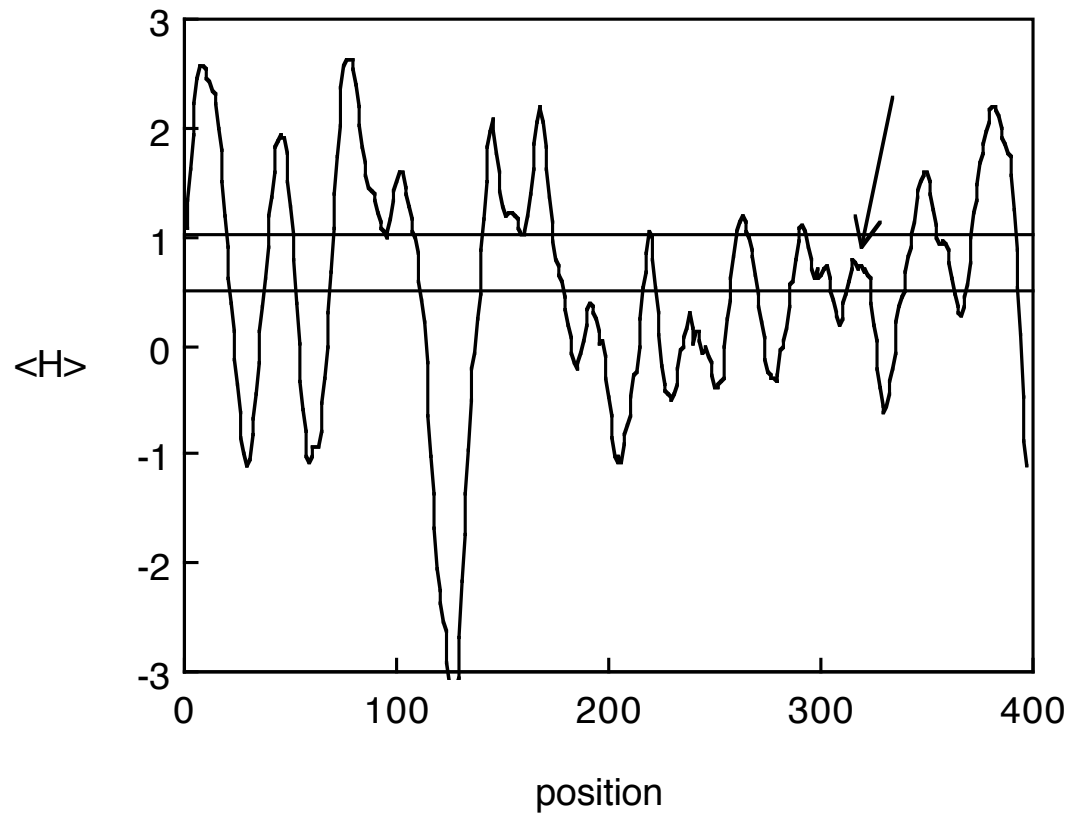


# Popular topology predictors

TMHMM (HMM)  
HMMTOP (HMM)  
Prodiv-TMHMM (MSA, HMM)  
Phobius (HMM)  
MEMSAT (MSA, dynamic programming)  
TOPCONS (consensus method)  
....  
SCAMPI (h-plot, PI-rule)  
PHD (MSA, NN, PI-rule)  
TopPred (h-plot, PI-rule)  
....  
Kyte & Doolittle (h-plot)  
SOAP (h-plot)

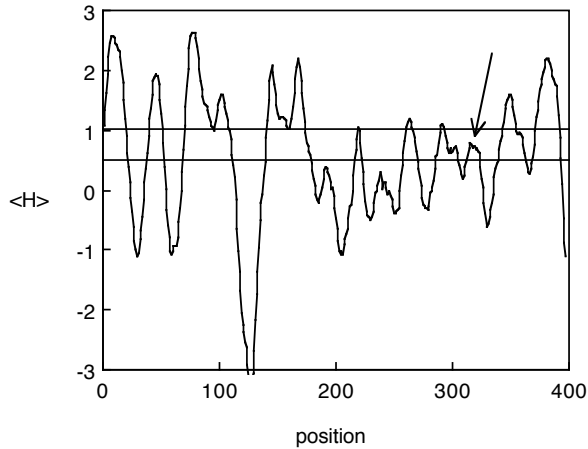
# TopPred

Step 1: Make a hydrophobicity plot



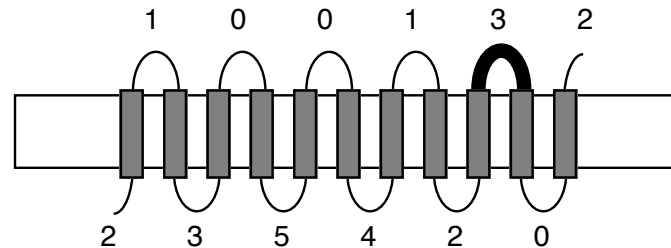
*E. coli* LacY

# TopPred

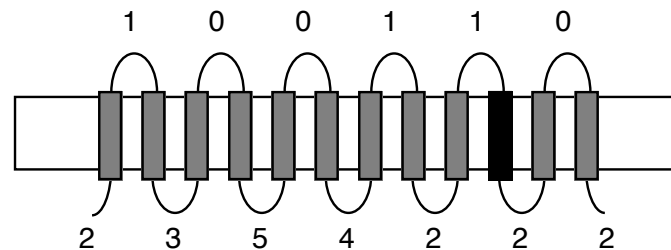


Step 2:

- construct all possible topologies
- rank based on  $\Delta+$



$\Delta+ = 9$

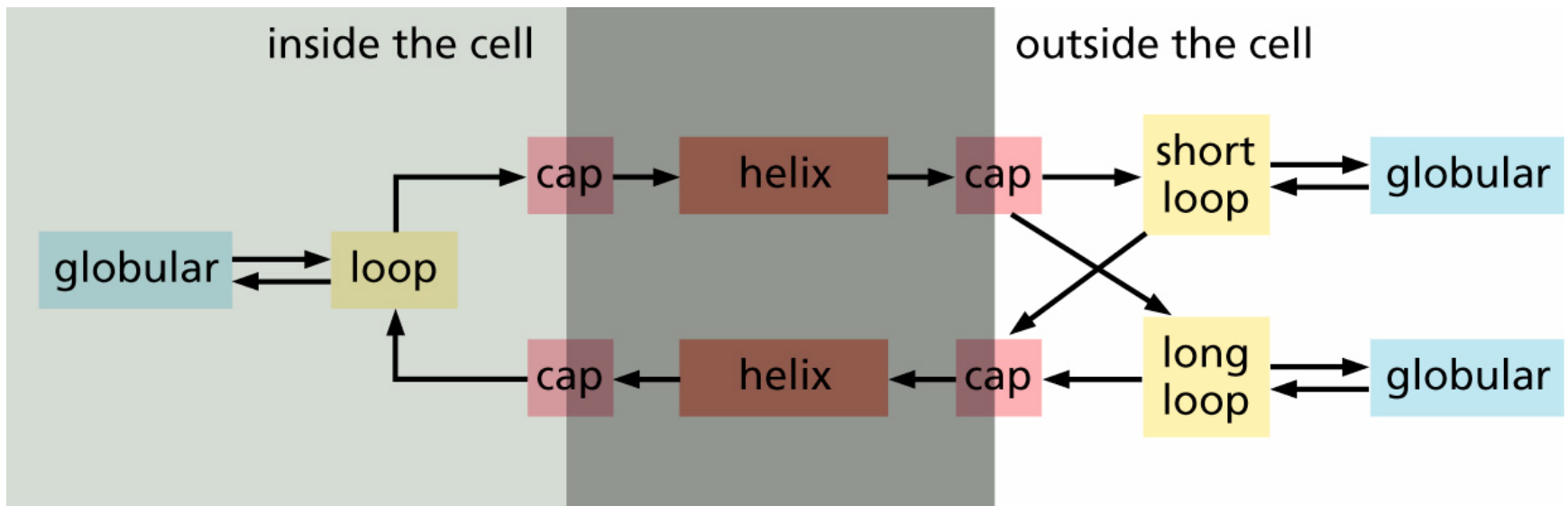


$\Delta+ = 17$

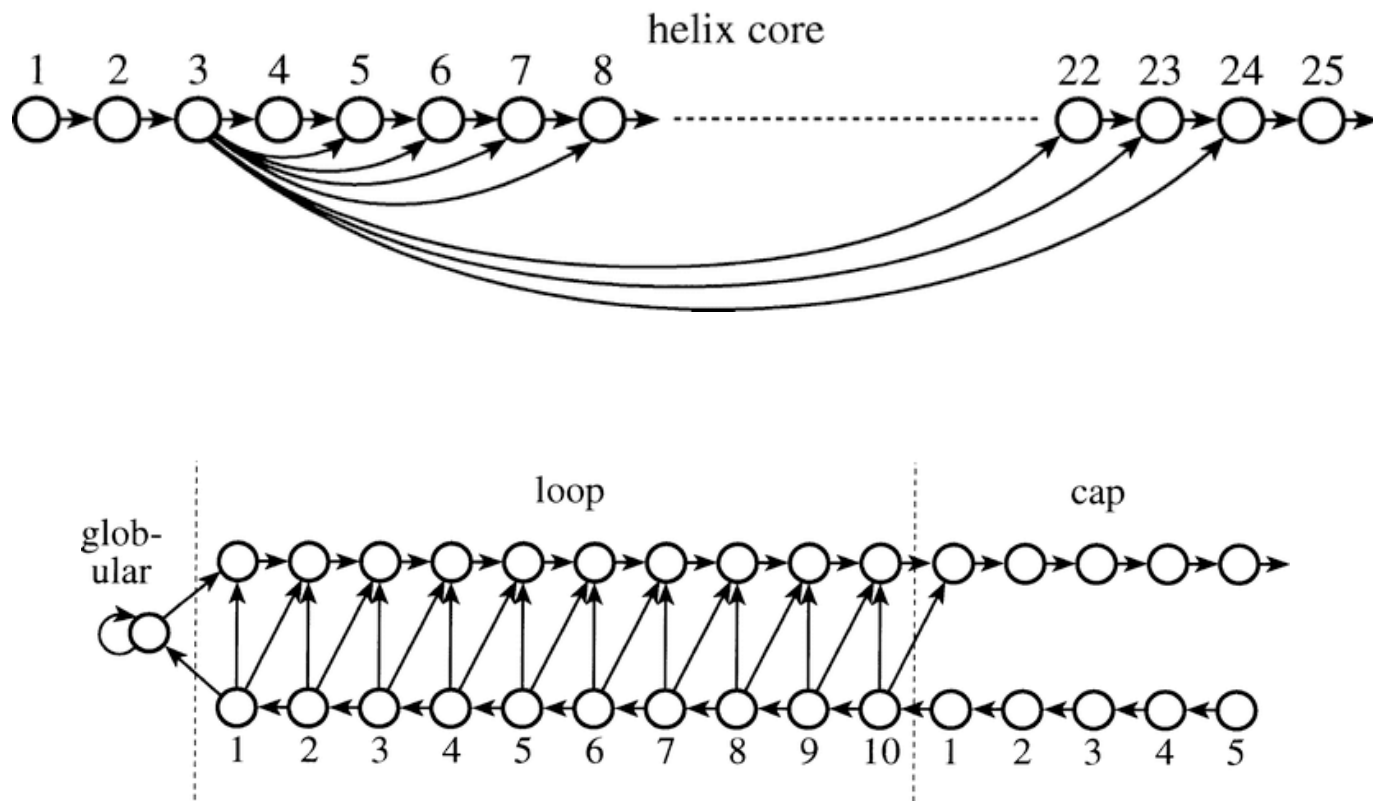
# TMHMM



A hidden Markov model (HMM)



# Helix and loop models in TMHMM



# TOPCONS

TOPCONS: Consensus prediction of membrane protein topology

http://topcons.cbr.su.se/

DN.se - Nyheter Nyheter GvH bookmarks Google Entrez Browser Apple .Mac Login Apple SU mail PubMed: membra... MP book

**TOPCONS** Sunday, September 13 2009

**TOPCONS**

**Main Menu**

- New query
- SCAMPI
- OCTOPUS
- ΔG-scale
- ZPRED
- PRO/PRODIV
- Help

**Consensus prediction of membrane protein topology**

For large benchmark sets and full proteome scans, use the [SCAMPI server](#) instead. This server is free for academic use.

Enter one amino acid sequence in [FASTA](#) format

**Restraintment options** ▶

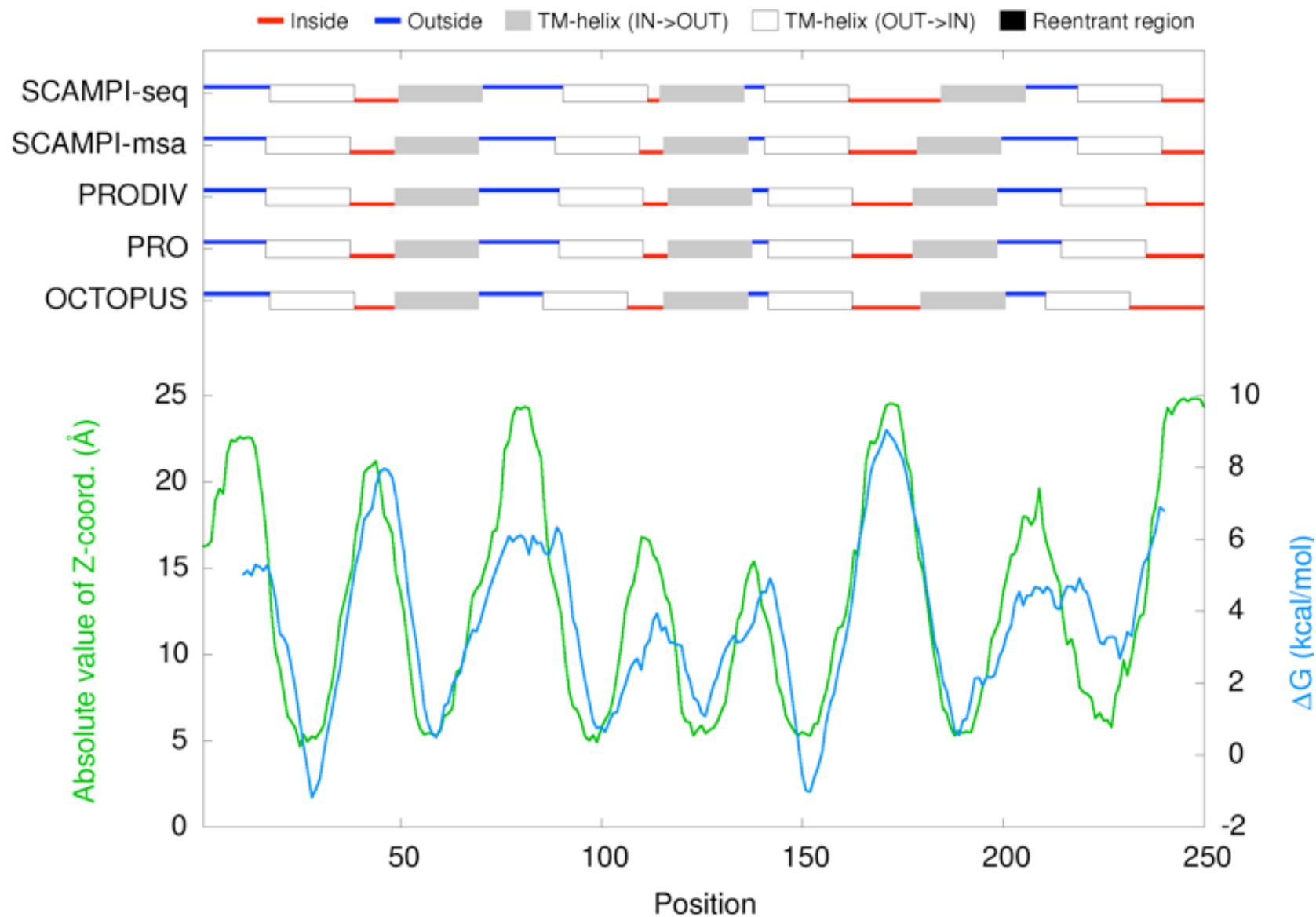
**References**

**TOPCONS:**  
TOPCONS: Consensus prediction of membrane protein topology. A Bernsel, H Viklund, A Hennerdal and A Elofsson (2009) *Nucleic Acids Research* in press

**SCAMPI:**  
Prediction of membrane-protein topology from first principles. Andreas Bernsel, Håkan Viklund,

Klar

# TOPCONS



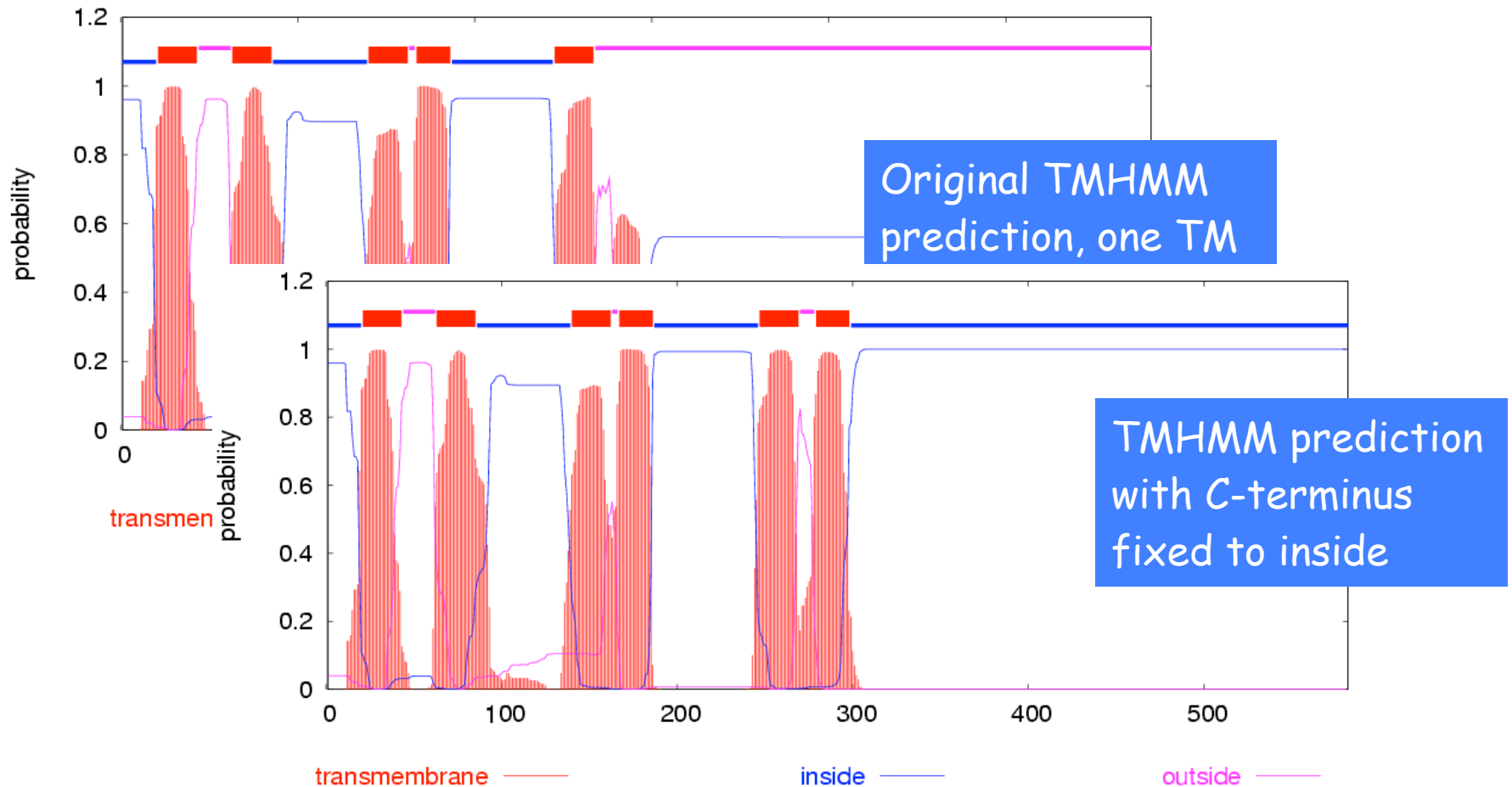


# How good are topology predictors?

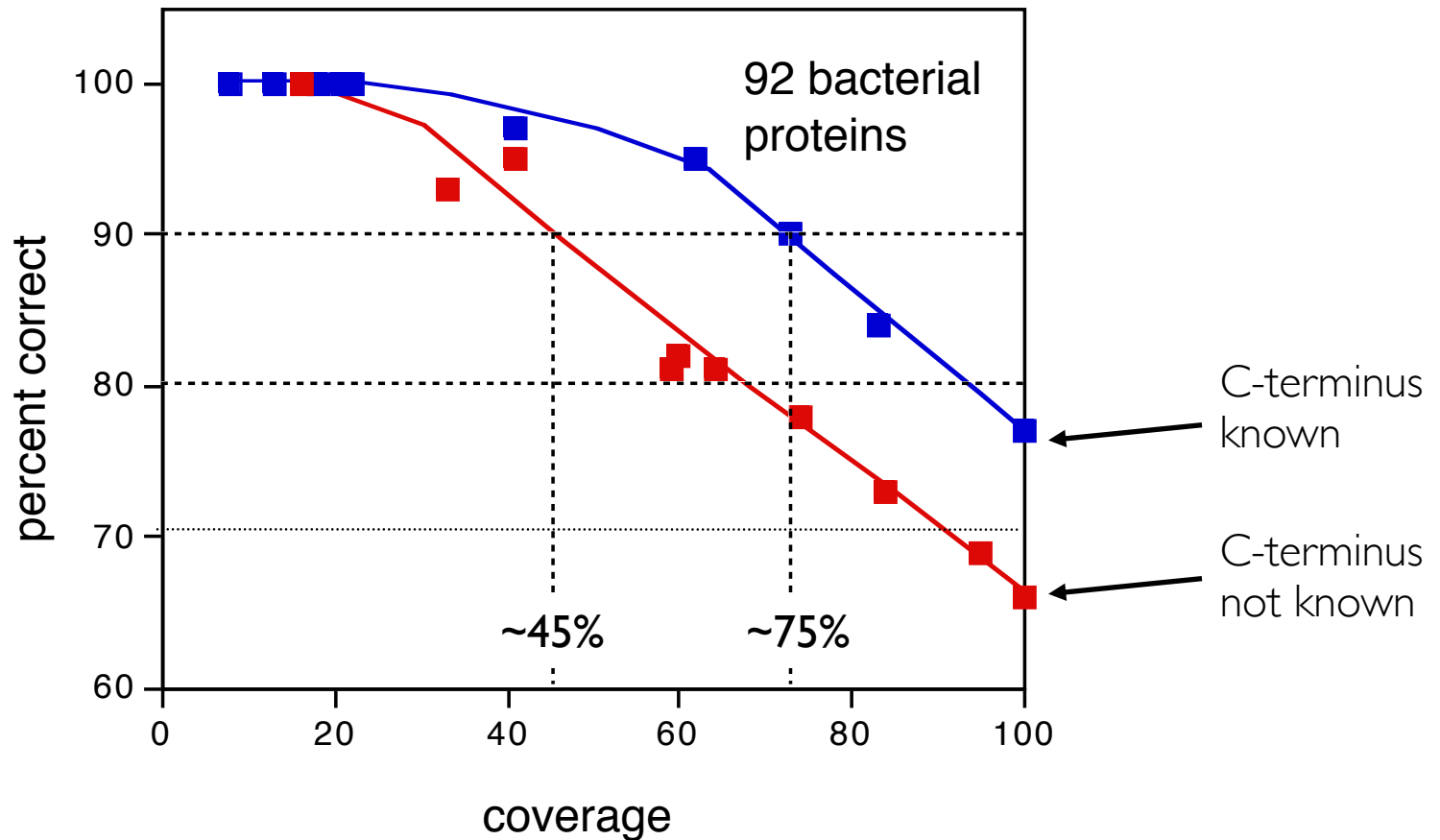
Discrimination membrane/soluble: sensitivity 97%; specificity 95%

Topology: single sequence 70-75%; multi-sequence 80-85%

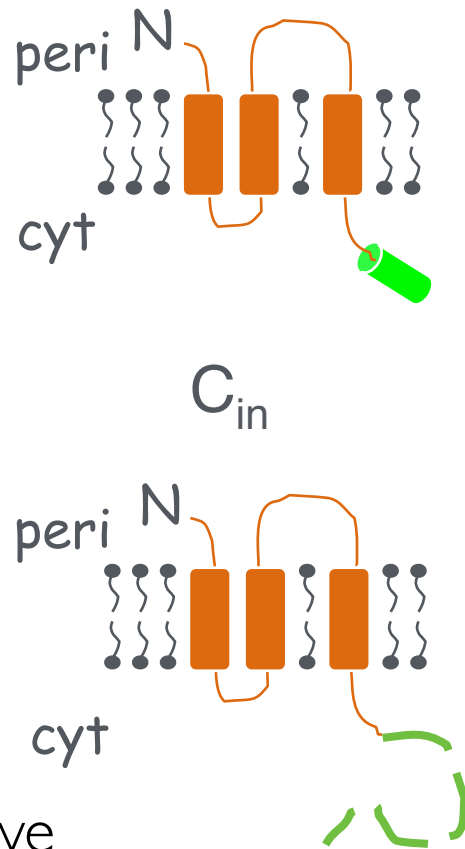
# Experimental constraints help



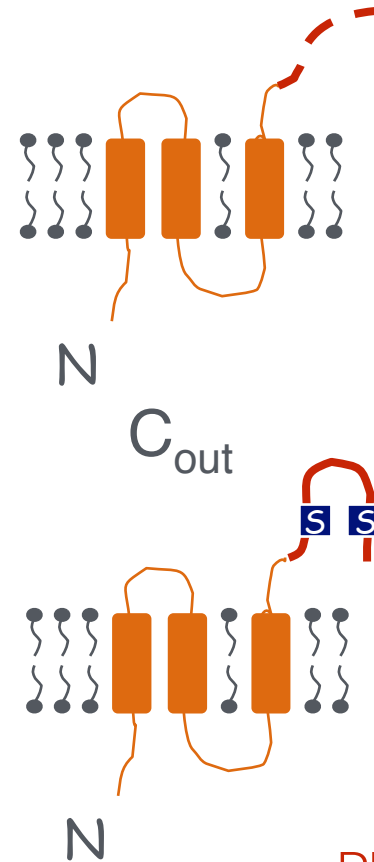
# Experimental constraints help



# Experimental constraints help

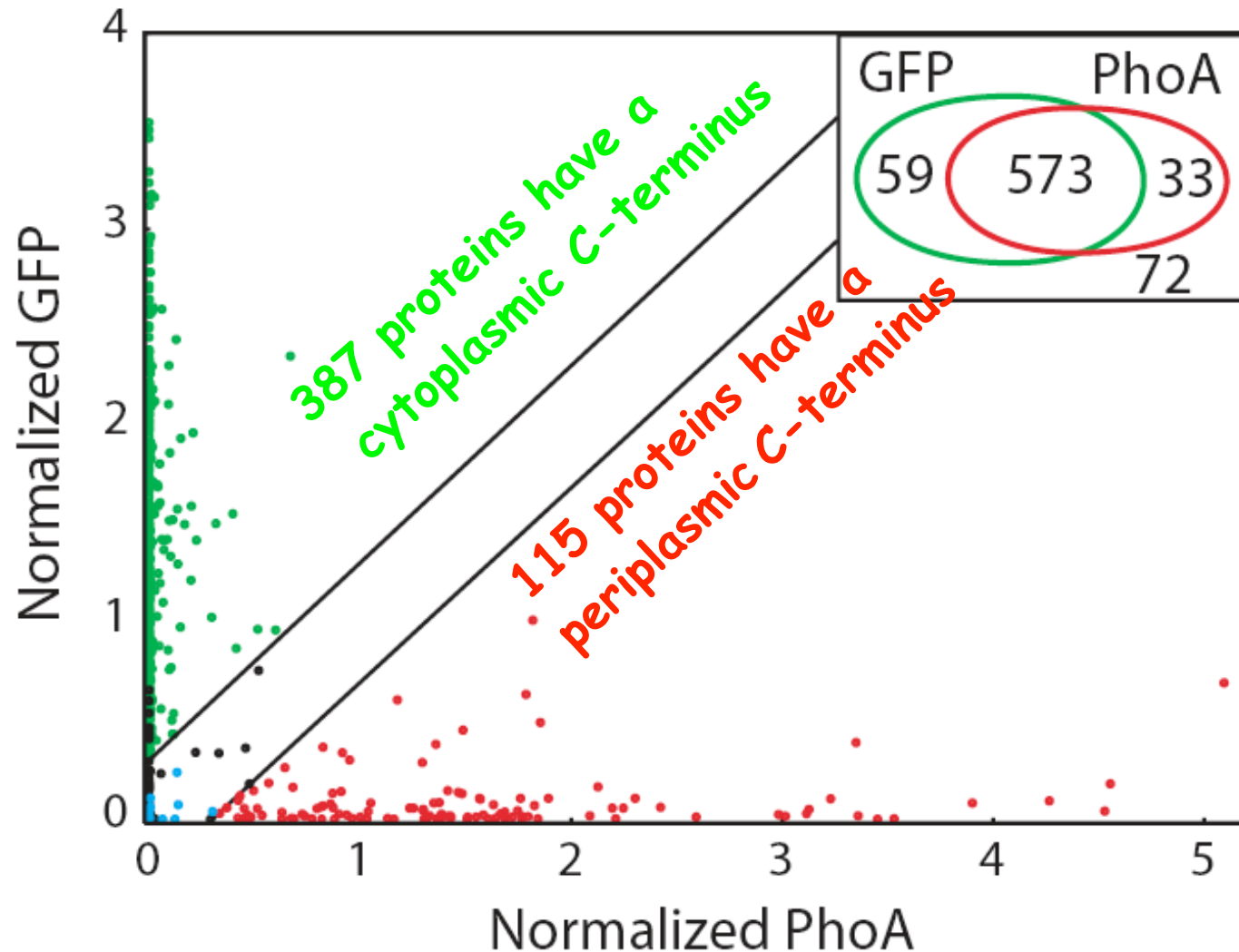


GFP is only active  
in the cytoplasm

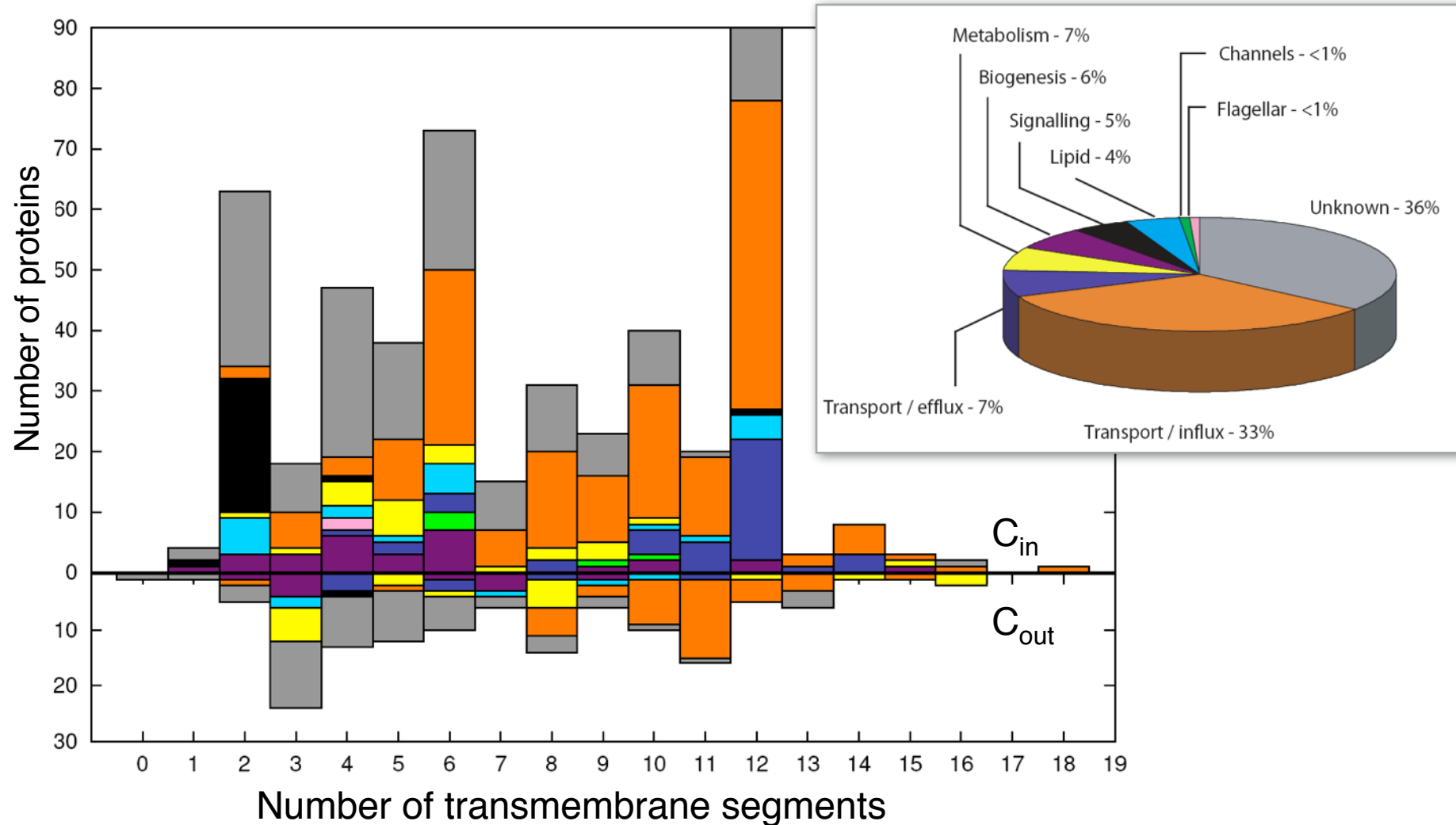


PhoA is only active  
in the periplasm

# Experimental constraints help



# Experimental constraints help

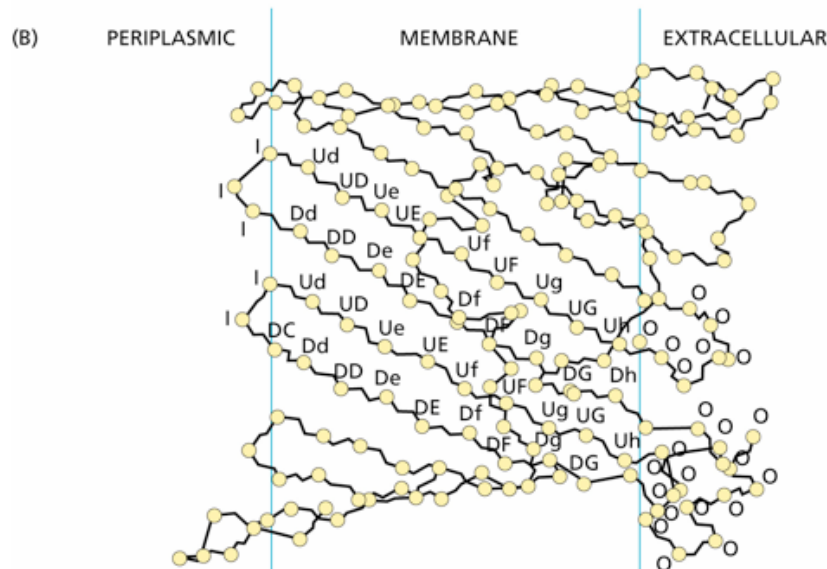
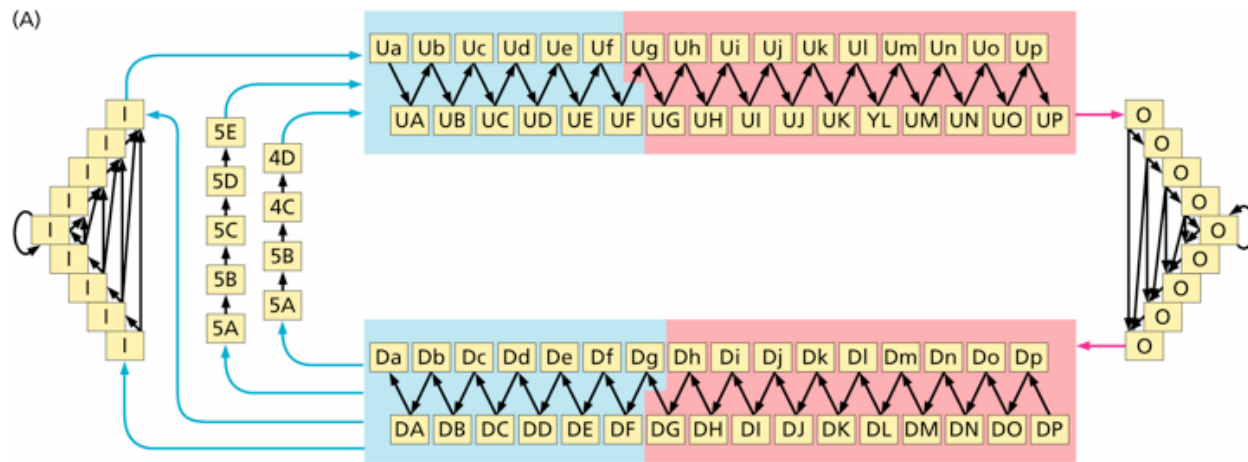


# 'Exporting' experimental constraints using alignments



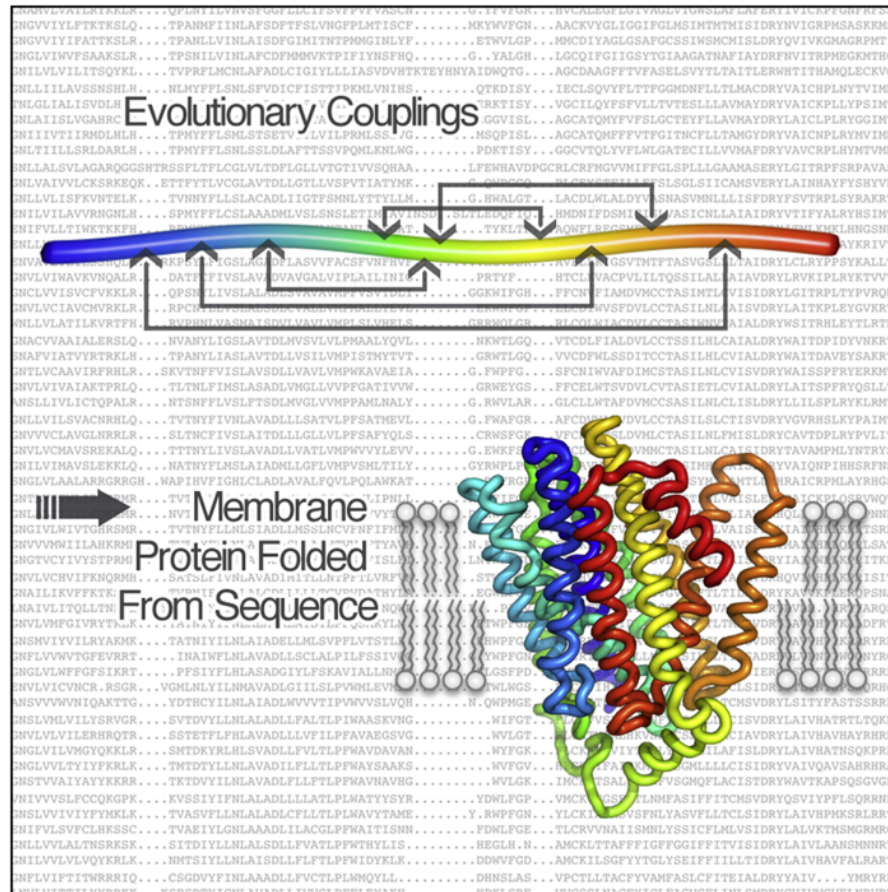
225/38 bacterial/eukaryotic genomes  
158 k/139 k predicted membrane proteins  
51.000/15.000 assignments

# A HMM for $\beta$ -barrel membrane proteins





# 3D structure prediction by co-evolving residues (Hopf et al., Cell 149: 1607)



# Don't forget...

Signal peptide prediction: SignalP

Two architectures: helix bundle and  $\beta$ -barrel

Hydrophobic transmembrane helices

Alternating (Hyf-X)  $\beta$ -strands

The positive-inside rule

TopPred

TMHMM

TOPCONS

Experimental constraints help

3D structure prediction possible for large  
protein families