

Ionization of Amino Acids

- Amino acids contain at least two ionizable protons, each with its own pK_a .
- The carboxylic acid has an acidic pK_a and will be protonated at an acidic (low) pH: $-\text{COOH} \leftrightarrow -\text{COO}^- + \text{H}^+$
- The amino group has a basic pK_a and will be protonated when basic pH (high) is achieved: $-\text{NH}_3^+ \leftrightarrow -\text{NH}_2 + \text{H}^+$
- At low pH, the amino acid exists in a positively charged form (cation).
- At high pH, the amino acid exists in a negatively charged form (anion).
- Between the pK_a for each group, the amino acid exists in a **zwitterion** form, in which a single molecule has both a positive and a negative charge.

Amino Acids Carry a Net Charge of Zero at a Specific pH (the pI)

- Zwitterions predominate at pH values between the pK_a values of the amino and carboxyl groups.
- For amino acids without ionizable side chains, the **Isoelectric Point** (equivalence point, **pI**) is:

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

- At this point, the net charge is zero.
 - AA is least soluble in water.
 - AA does not migrate in electric field.

Amino Acids Can Act as Buffers

Amino acids with uncharged side chains, such as glycine, have two pK_a values:

- The pK_a of the α -carboxyl group is 2.34.
- The pK_a of the α -amino group is 9.6.

As buffers prevent change in pH close to the pK_a , glycine can act as a buffer in two pH ranges.

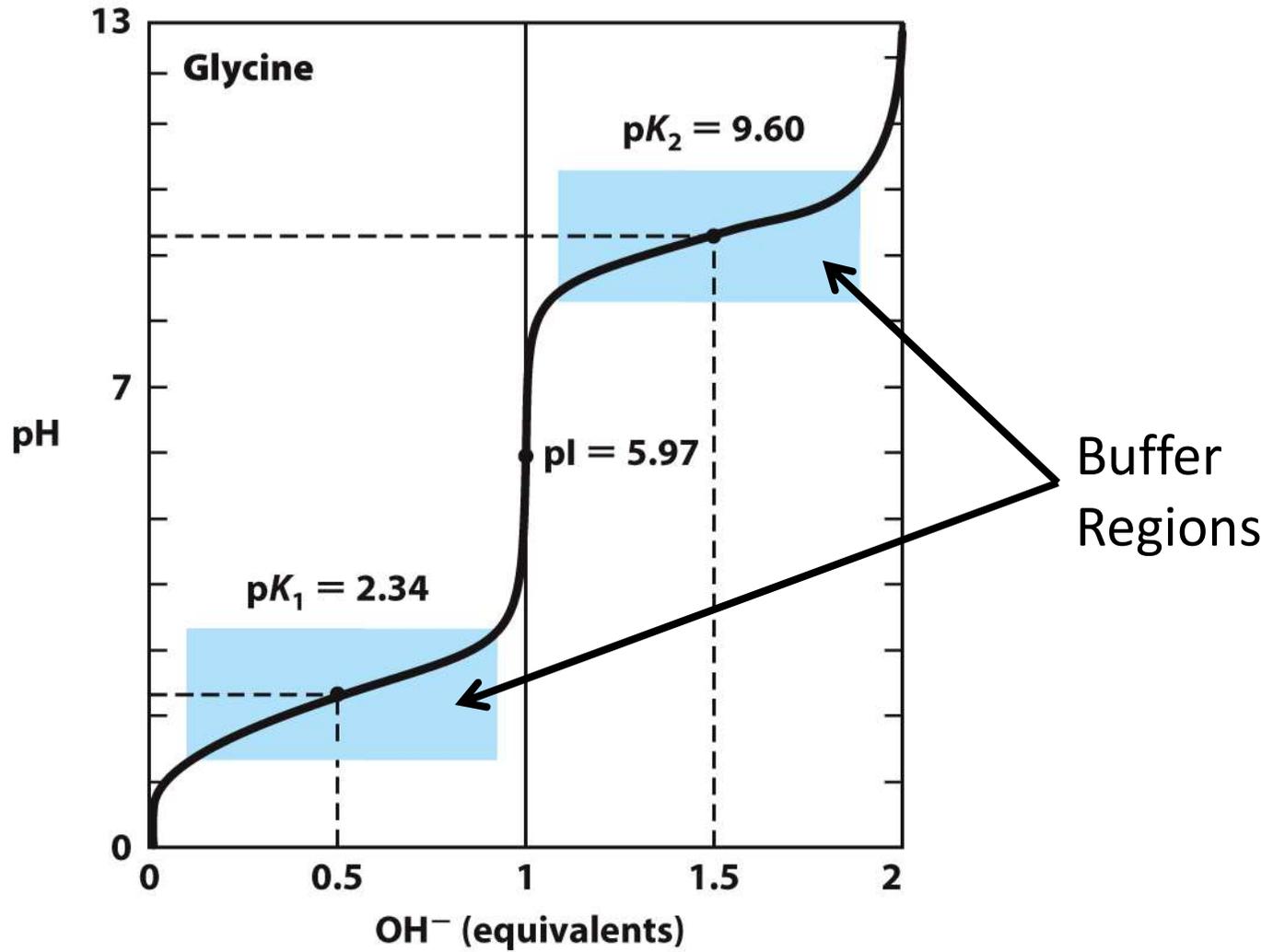
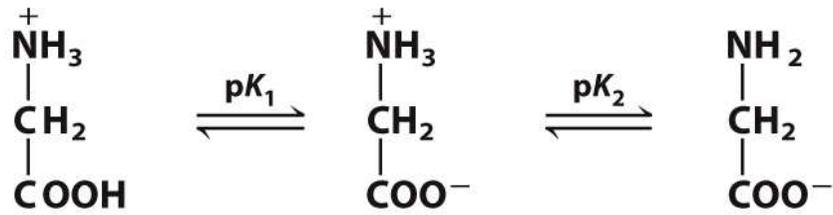
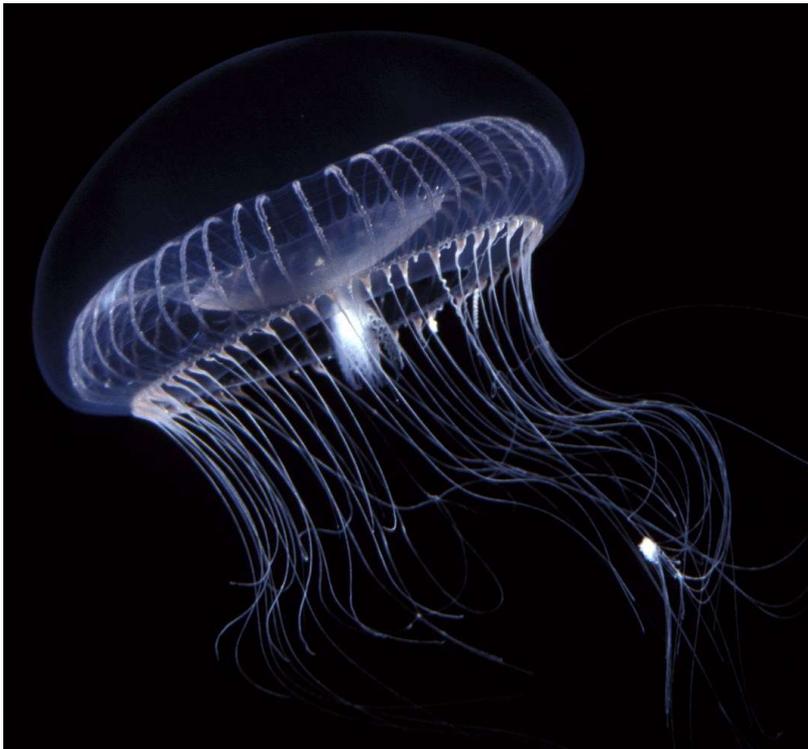


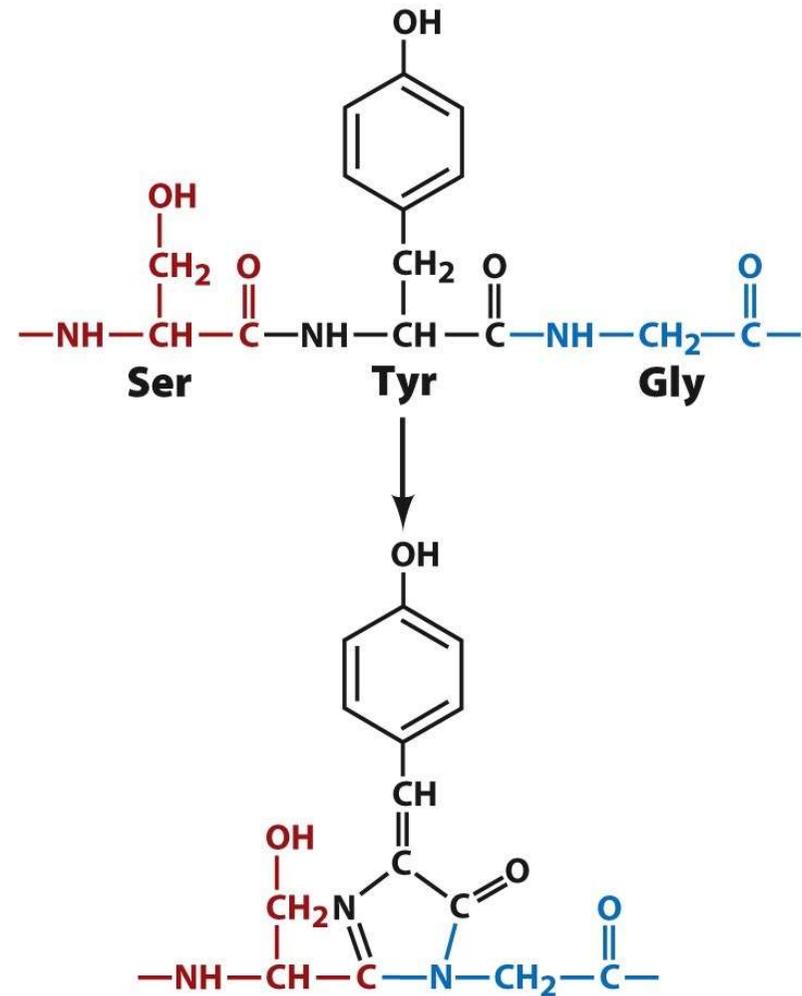
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Green Fluorescent Protein



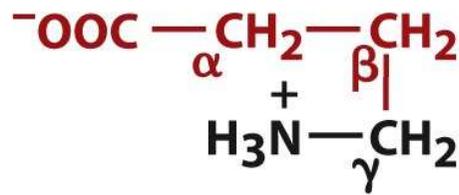
Box 4-3a
Dr. Kevin Raskoff

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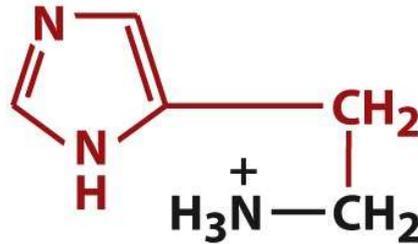


Fluorophore of green fluorescent protein

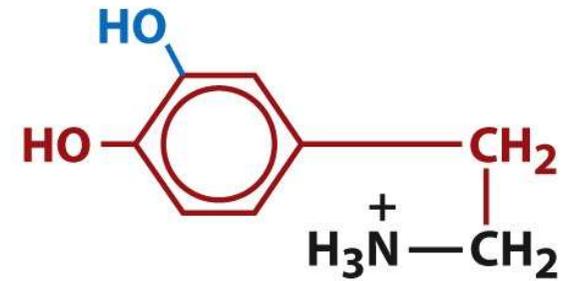
Biologically Active Amino Acid Derivatives



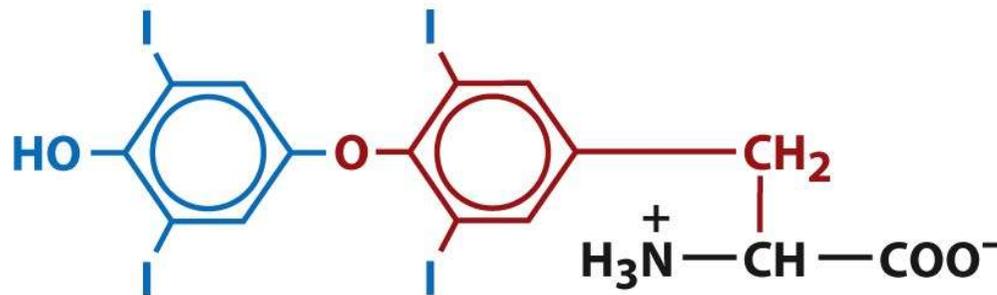
γ -Aminobutyric acid (GABA)



Histamine



Dopamine



Thyroxine

Figure 4-15

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Common Questions About Peptides and Proteins

What is its **sequence and composition**?

What is its **three-dimensional structure**?

How does it **achieve its biochemical role**?

How is its **function regulated**?

How does it **interact with other macromolecules**?

How is it **related to other proteins**?

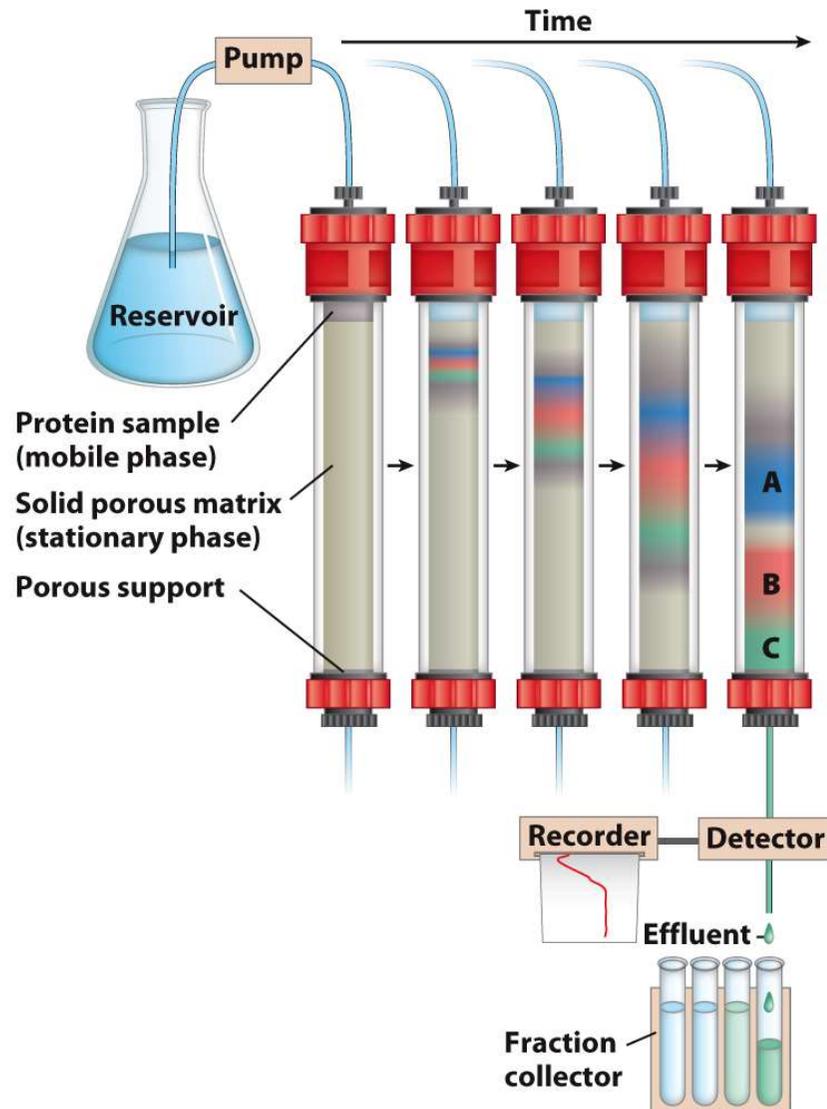
Where is it **localized within the cell**?

What are its **physico-chemical properties**?

A Mixture of Proteins Can Be Separated

- Separation relies on differences in physical and chemical properties:
 - charge
 - size
 - affinity for a ligand
 - solubility
 - hydrophobicity
 - thermal stability
- Chromatography is commonly used for preparative separation in which the protein is often able to remain fully folded.

Column Chromatography



- Column chromatography allows separation of a mixture of proteins over a solid phase (porous matrix) using a liquid phase to mobilize the proteins.
- Proteins with a lower affinity for the solid phase will wash off first; proteins with higher affinity will retain on the column longer and wash off later.

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Separation by Charge: Ion Exchange

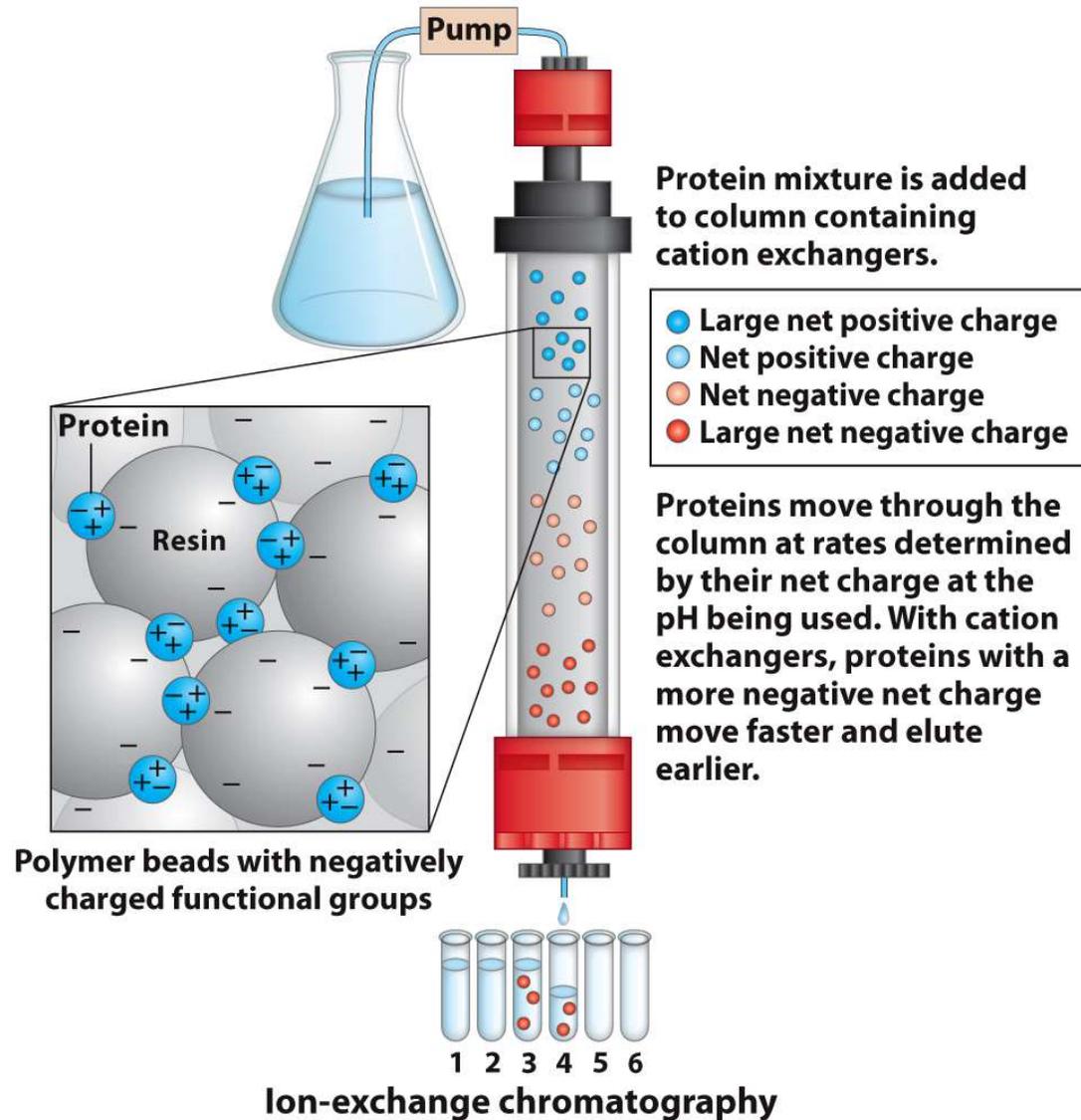


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Separation by Size: Size Exclusion

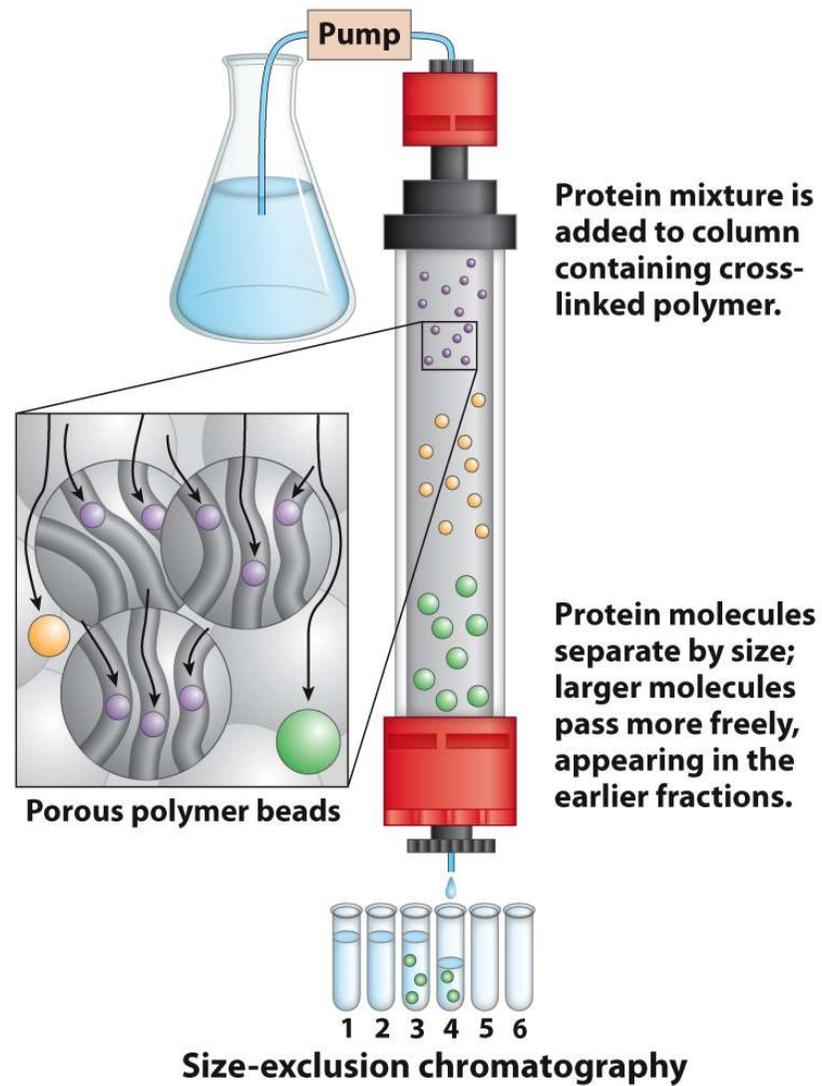


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Separation by Binding: Affinity

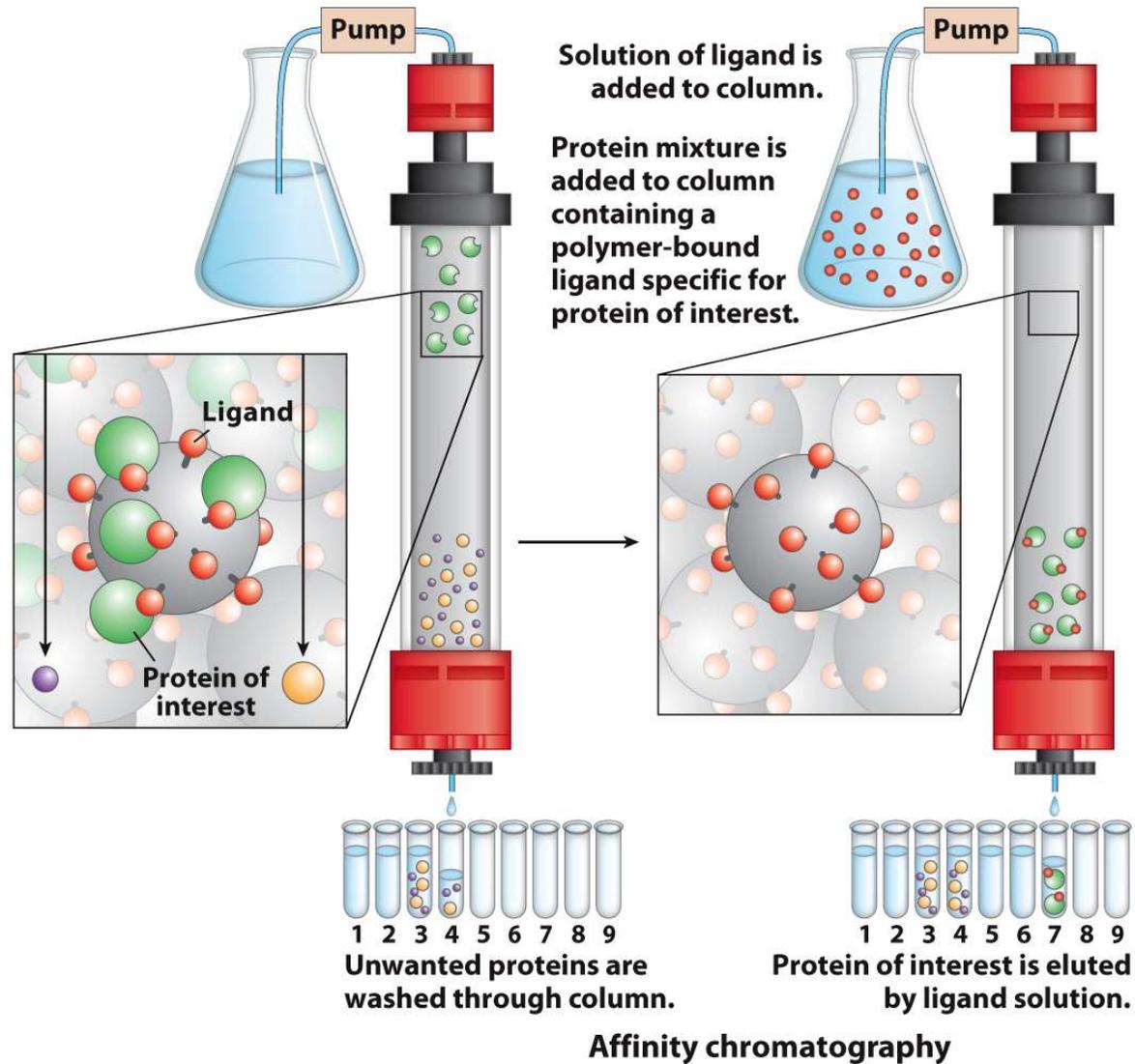


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The Three-Dimensional Structure of Proteins

- Structure and properties of the peptide bond
- Structural hierarchy in proteins
- Structure and function of fibrous proteins
- Structure analysis of globular proteins
- Protein folding and denaturation

Structure of Proteins

- Unlike most organic polymers, protein molecules adopt a specific **three-dimensional conformation**.
- This structure is able to fulfill a specific **biological function**.
- This structure is called the **native fold**.
- The native fold has **a large number of favorable interactions** within the protein.
- There is an entropy cost to folding the protein into one specific native fold.

Favorable Interactions in Proteins

- **Hydrophobic effect**
 - The release of water molecules from the structured solvation layer around the molecule as protein folds increases the net entropy.
- **Hydrogen bonds**
 - Interaction of N–H and C=O of the peptide bond leads to local regular structures such as α helices and β sheets.
- **Van der Waals force**
 - Attraction between all atoms contributes significantly to the stability in the interior of the protein.
- **Electrostatic interactions**
 - long-range strong interactions between permanently charged groups
 - Salt bridges, especially those buried in the hydrophobic environment, strongly stabilize the protein.

yggfmsseks qtplvtlfkn aiiknahkkg q (31 aa)

Four Levels of Protein Structure

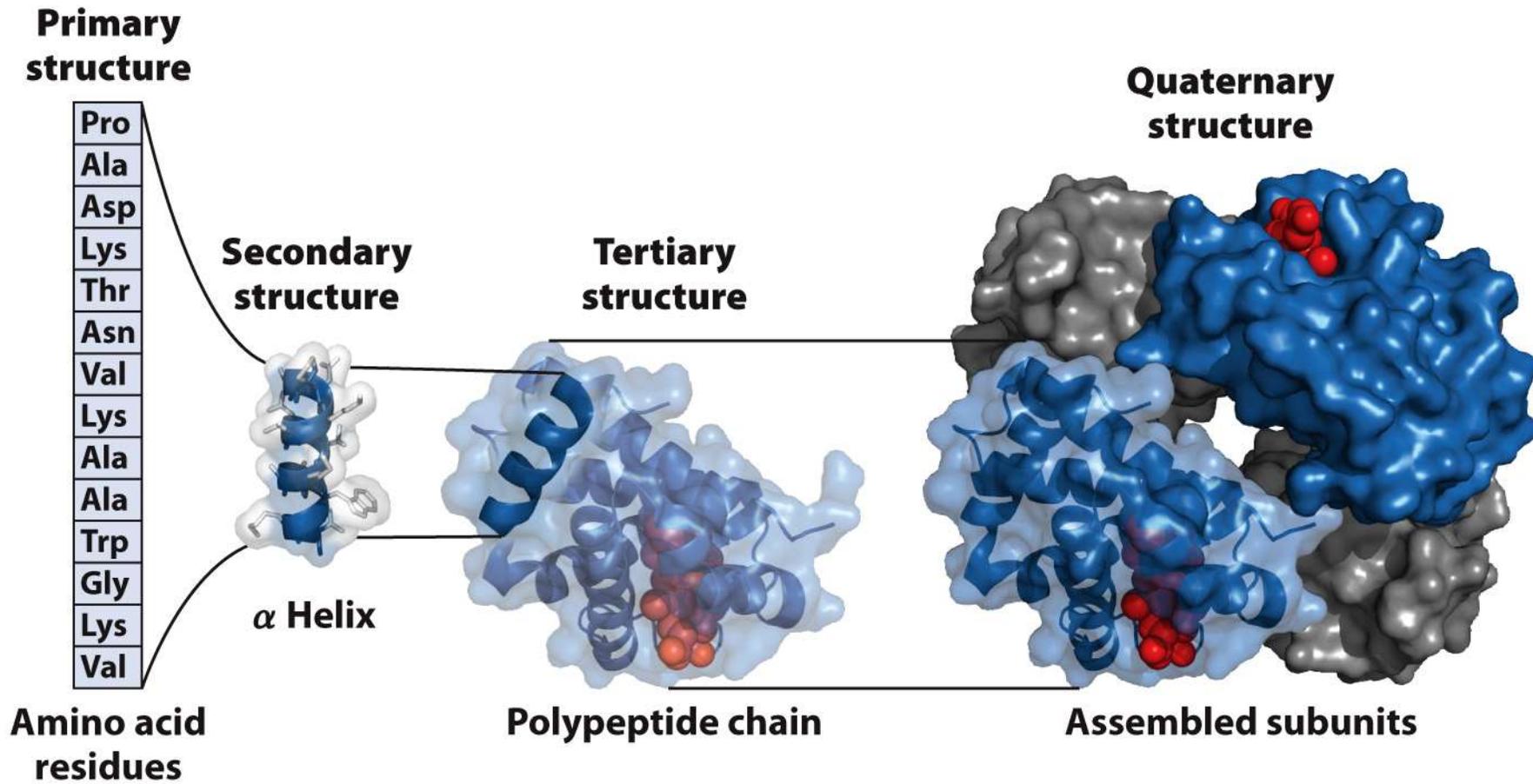


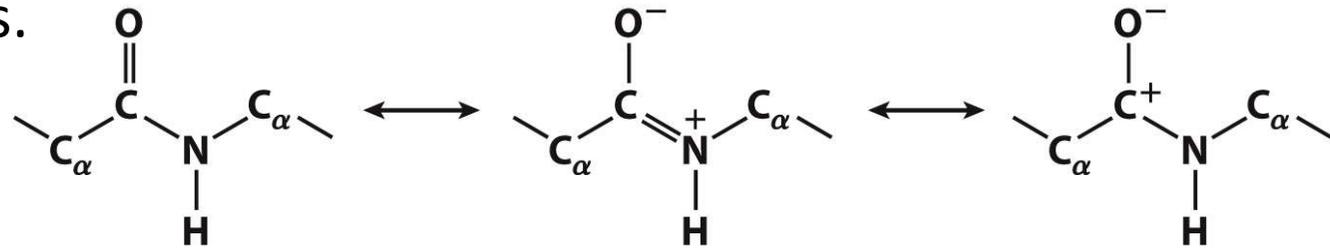
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Primary Structure: The Peptide Bond

- The structure of the protein is partially dictated by the properties of the peptide bond.
- The peptide bond is a resonance hybrid of two canonical structures.



- The resonance causes the peptide bonds:
 - to be less reactive compared with esters, for example
 - to be quite **rigid** and nearly **planar**
 - to exhibit a large dipole moment in the favored trans configuration

The Rigid Peptide Plane and the Partially Free Rotations

- Rotation around the peptide bond is not permitted due to resonance structure.
- Rotation around bonds connected to the α carbon is permitted.
 - ϕ (phi): angle around the α carbon—amide nitrogen bond
 - ψ (psi): angle around the α carbon—carbonyl carbon bond
- In a fully extended polypeptide, both ψ and ϕ are 180° .

The organization around the peptide bond, paired with the identity of the R groups, determines the secondary structure of the protein.

The Polypeptide Is Made Up of a Series of Planes Linked at α Carbons

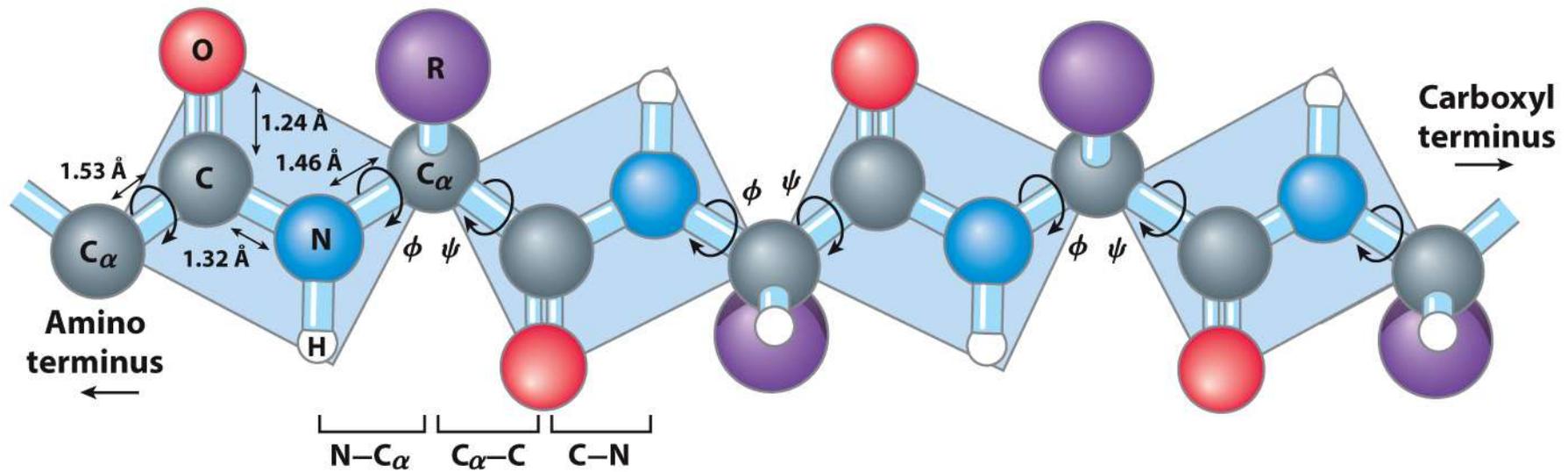


Figure 4-2b

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Distribution of ϕ and ψ Dihedral Angles

- Some ϕ and ψ combinations are very unfavorable because of **steric crowding** of backbone atoms with other atoms in the backbone or side chains.
- Some ϕ and ψ combinations are more favorable because of chance to **form favorable H-bonding interactions** along the backbone.
- **A Ramachandran plot shows the distribution of ϕ and ψ dihedral angles that are found in a protein:**
 - shows the common secondary structure elements
 - reveals regions with unusual backbone structure

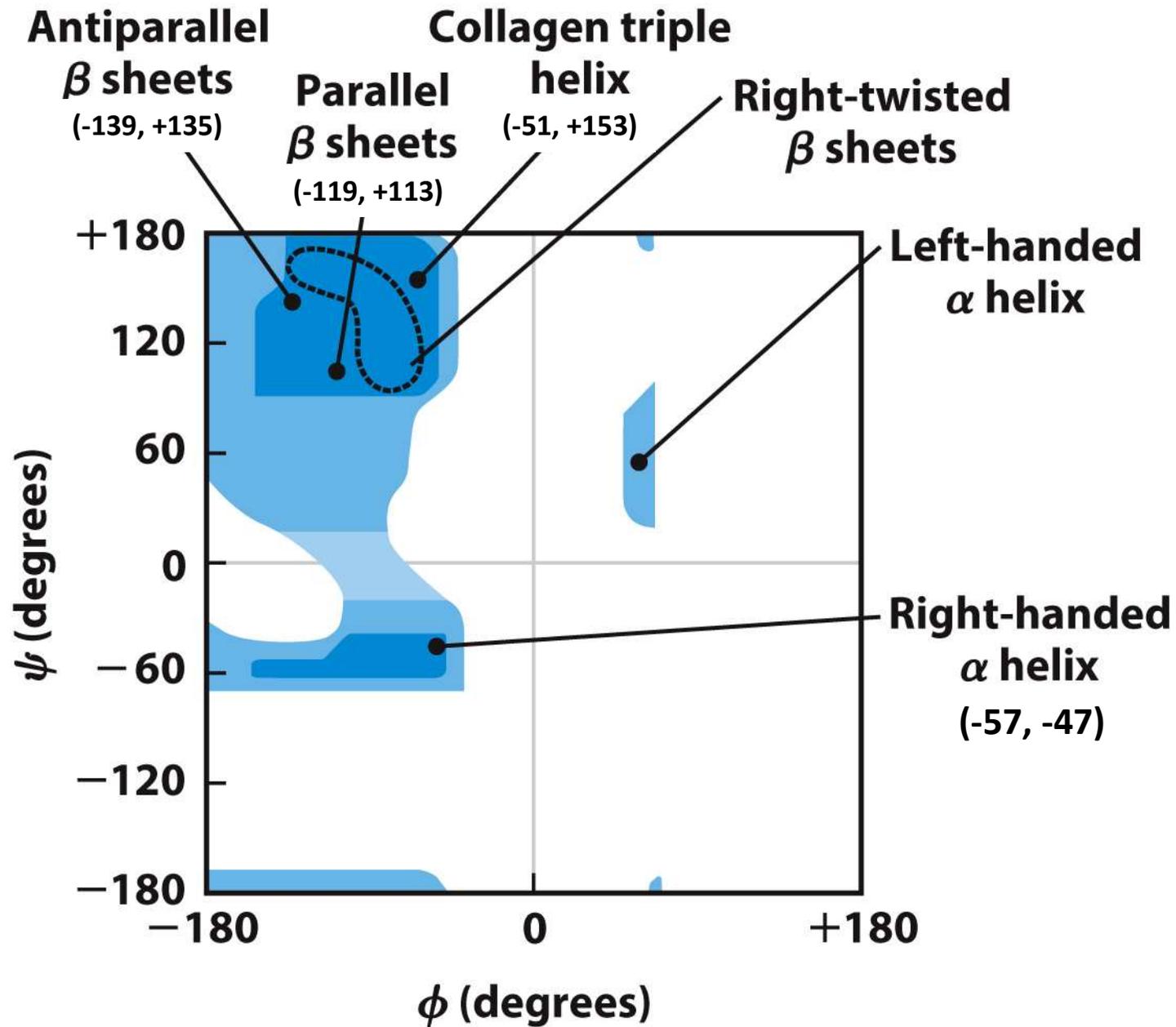


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Secondary Structures

- Secondary structure refers to a local spatial arrangement of the polypeptide backbone.
- Two regular arrangements are common:
 - the α helix
 - stabilized by hydrogen bonds between nearby residues
 - the β sheet
 - stabilized by hydrogen bonds between adjacent segments that may not be nearby
- Irregular arrangement of the polypeptide chain is called the random coil.

The α Helix

- Helical backbone is held together by hydrogen bonds between the backbone amides of an n and $n + 4$ amino acids.
- It is a **right-handed helix** with 3.6 residues (5.4 \AA) per turn.
- Peptide bonds are aligned roughly parallel with the helical axis.
- Side chains point out and are roughly perpendicular with the helical axis.

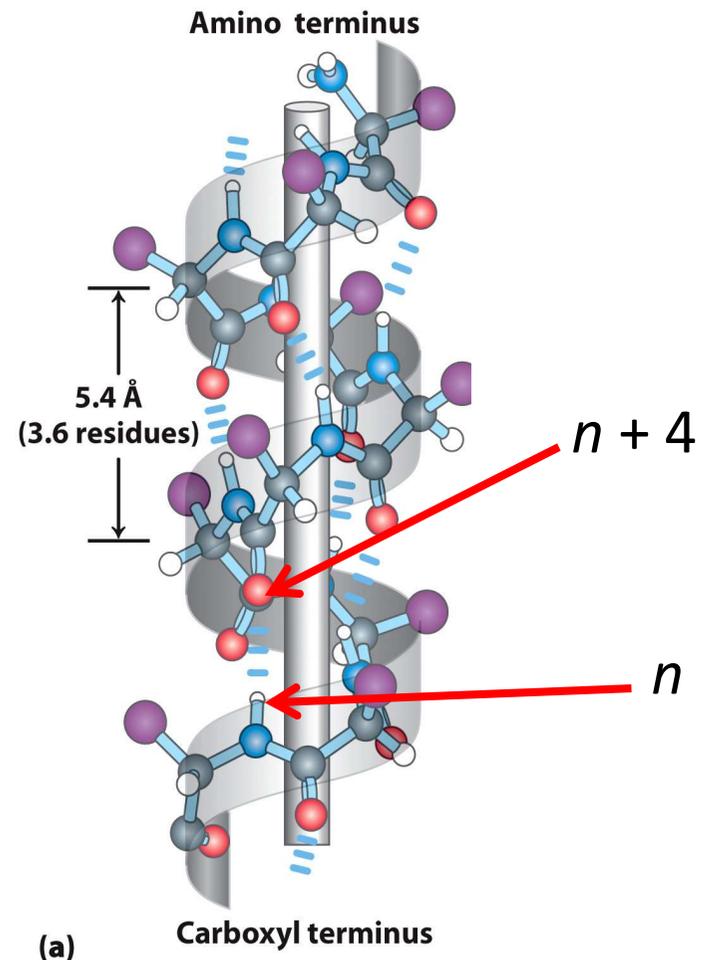
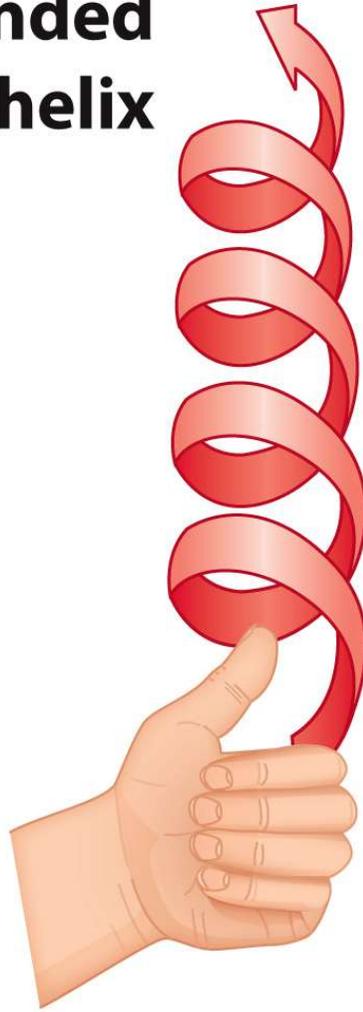


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What Is a Right-Handed Helix?

**Left-handed
helix**



**Right-handed
helix**



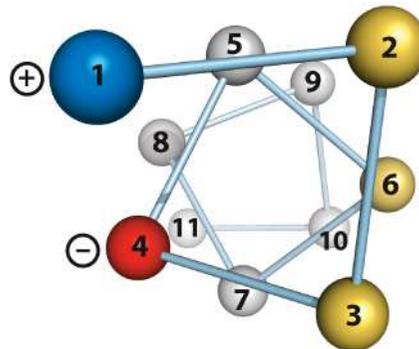
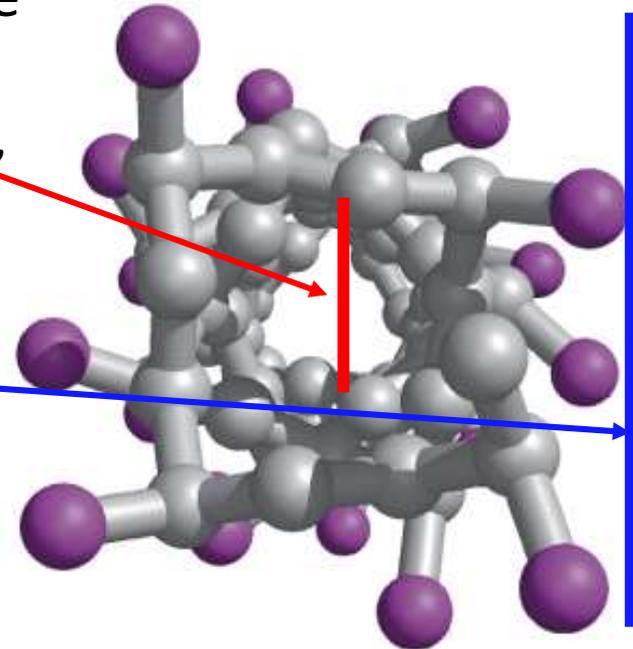
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The α Helix: Top View

- The inner diameter of the helix (no side chains) is about 4–5 Å.
 - too small for anything to fit “inside”
- The outer diameter of the helix (with side chains) is 10–12 Å.
 - happens to fit well into the major groove of dsDNA
- Amino acids #1 and #8 align nicely on top of each other.



Sequence Affects Helix Stability

- Not all polypeptide sequences adopt α -helical structures.
- Small hydrophobic residues such as **Ala** and **Leu** are strong helix formers.
- **Pro** acts as a helix breaker because the rotation around the N-C _{α} (φ -angle) bond is impossible.
- **Gly** acts as a helix breaker because the tiny R group supports other conformations.
- Attractive or repulsive interactions between side chains 3 to 4 amino acids apart will affect formation.

The Helix Dipole

- Recall that the peptide bond has a strong dipole moment.
 - C–O (carbonyl) negative
 - N–H (amide) positive
- All peptide bonds in the α helix have a similar orientation.
- The α helix has a **large macroscopic dipole moment** that is enhanced by unpaired amides and carbonyls near the ends of the helix.
- Negatively charged residues often occur near the positive end of the helix dipole.

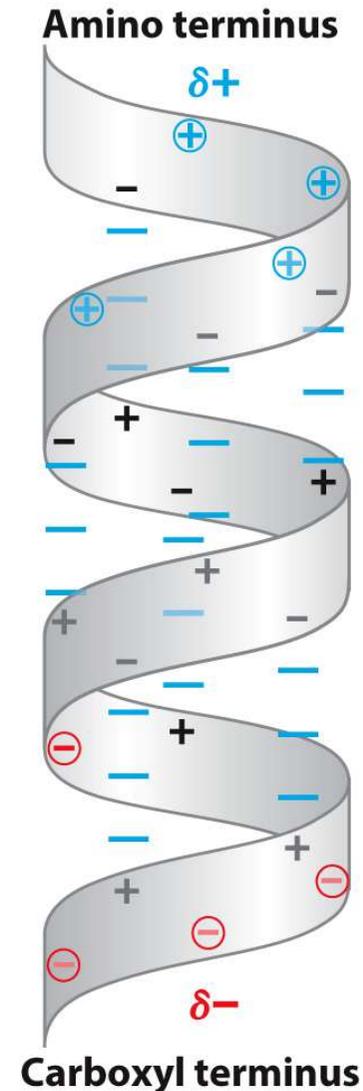


Figure 4-5

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β Sheets

- The planarity of the peptide bond and tetrahedral geometry of the α carbon create a **pleated sheet-like** structure.
- Sheet-like arrangement of the backbone is held together by hydrogen bonds between the backbone amides in different strands.
- Side chains protrude from the sheet, alternating in an up-and-down direction.

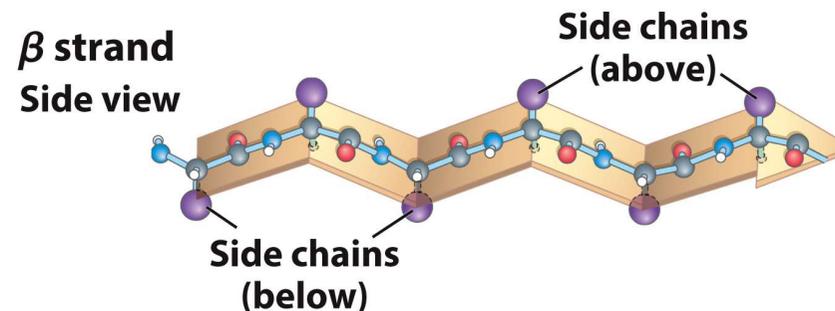


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Parallel and Antiparallel β Sheets

- Multi β -strand interactions are called sheets.
- Sheets are held together by the hydrogen bonding of amide and carbonyl groups of the peptide bond from opposite strands.
- Two major orientations of β sheets are determined by the directionality of the strands within:
 - Parallel sheets have strands that are oriented in the same direction.
 - Antiparallel sheets have strands that are oriented in opposite directions.

In **parallel** β sheets, the H-bonded strands run in the **same direction**.

- Hydrogen bonds between strands are bent (weaker).

Parallel β sheet

Top view

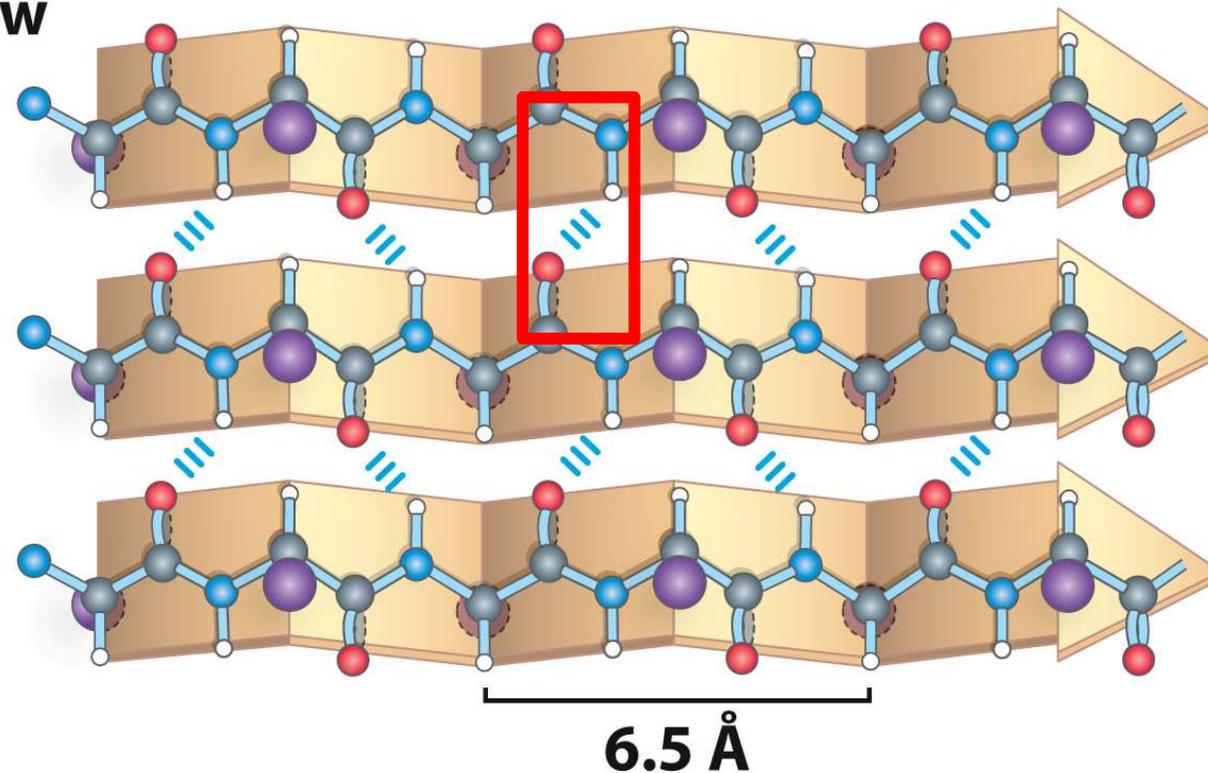


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In antiparallel β sheets, the H-bonded strands run in opposite directions.

- Hydrogen bonds between strands are linear (stronger).

Antiparallel β sheet

Top view

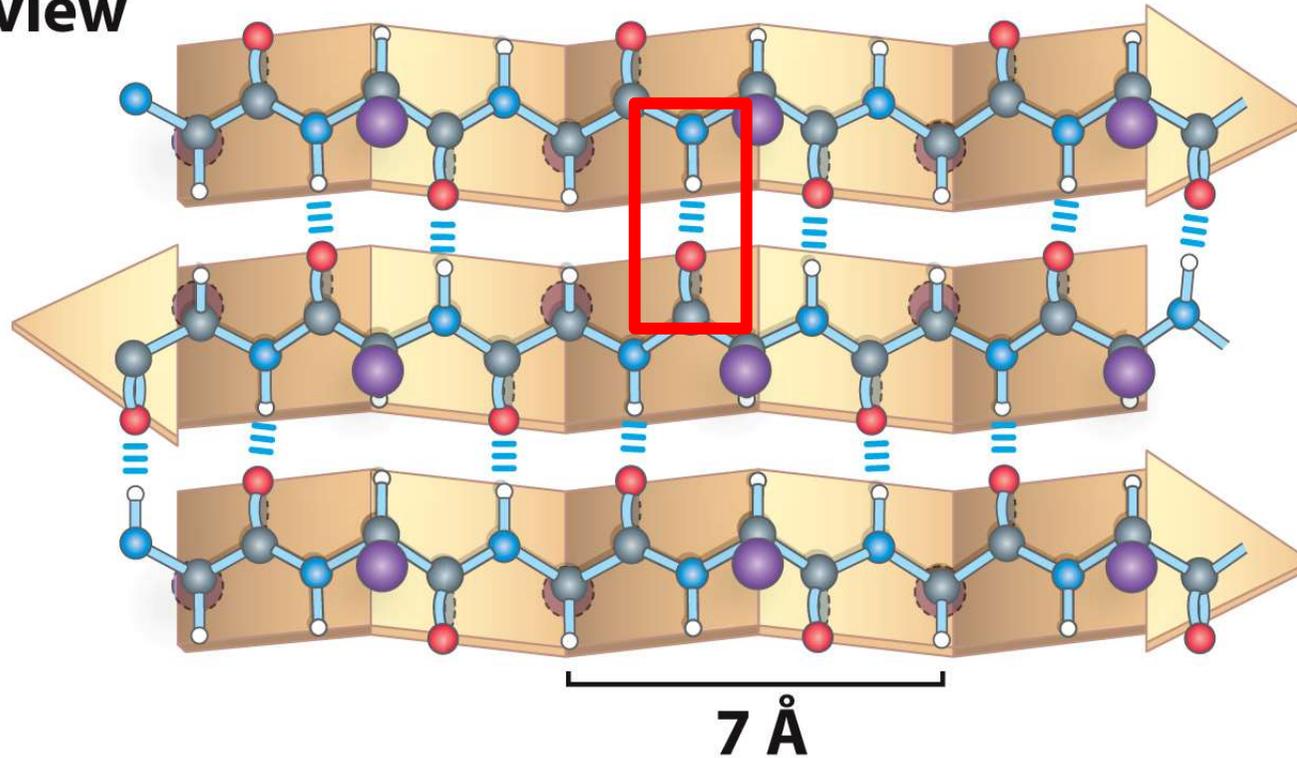
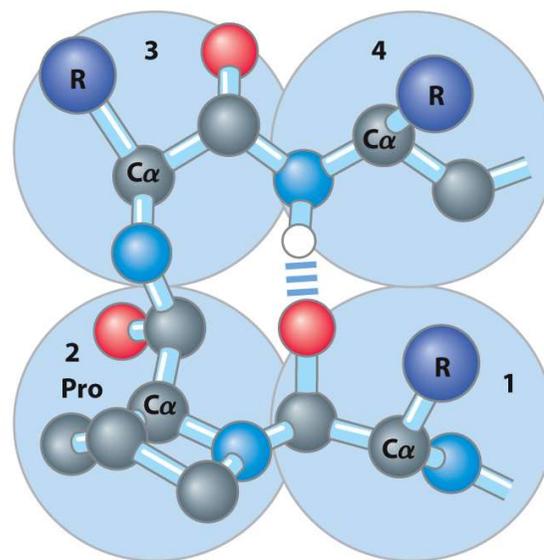


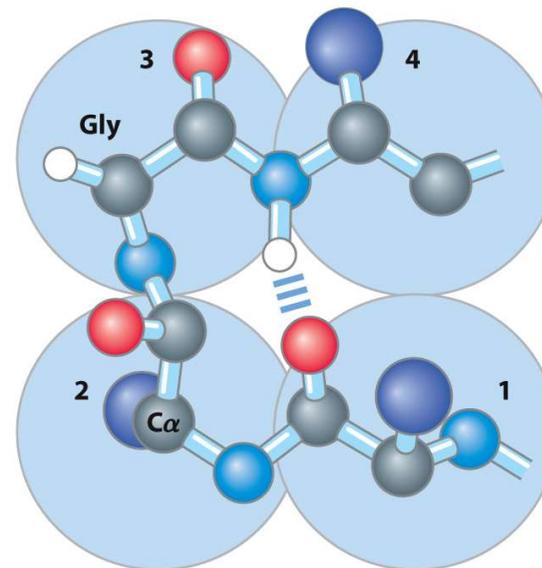
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β Turns

- β turns occur frequently whenever strands in β sheets change the direction.
- The 180° turn is accomplished over four amino acids.
- The turn is stabilized by a hydrogen bond from a carbonyl oxygen to amide proton three residues down the sequence.
- **Proline** in position 2 or **glycine** in position 3 are common in β turns.



Type I β turn



Type II β turn