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# Using predicted models in Phenix



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# The Phenix Project

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An NIH/NIGMS funded  
Program Project

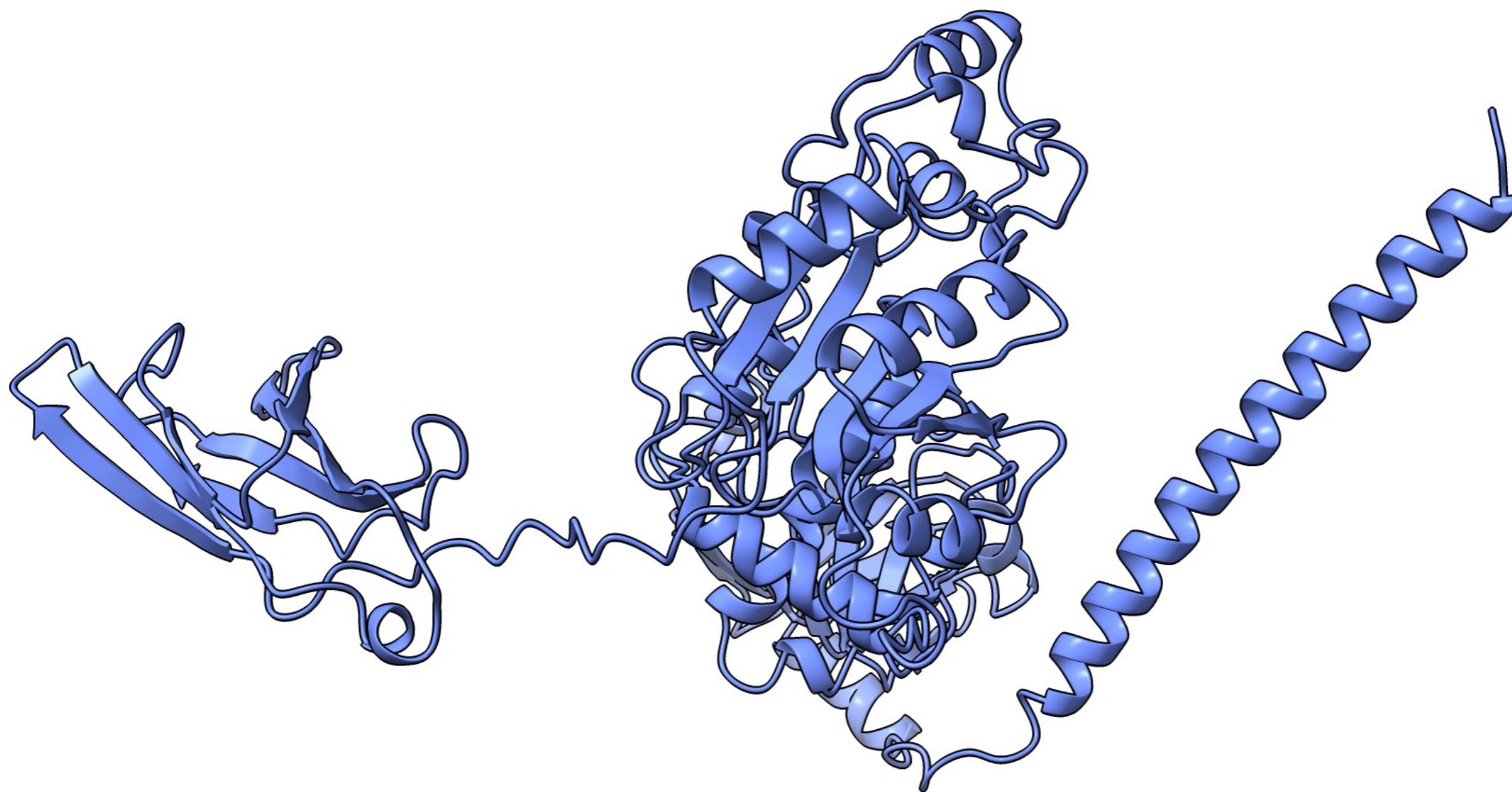
Liebschner D, *et al.*, Macromolecular structure determination using X-rays, neutrons and electrons: recent developments in *Phenix*. *Acta Cryst.* 2019 **D75**:861–877

# Example for a prediction (POMGNT2)

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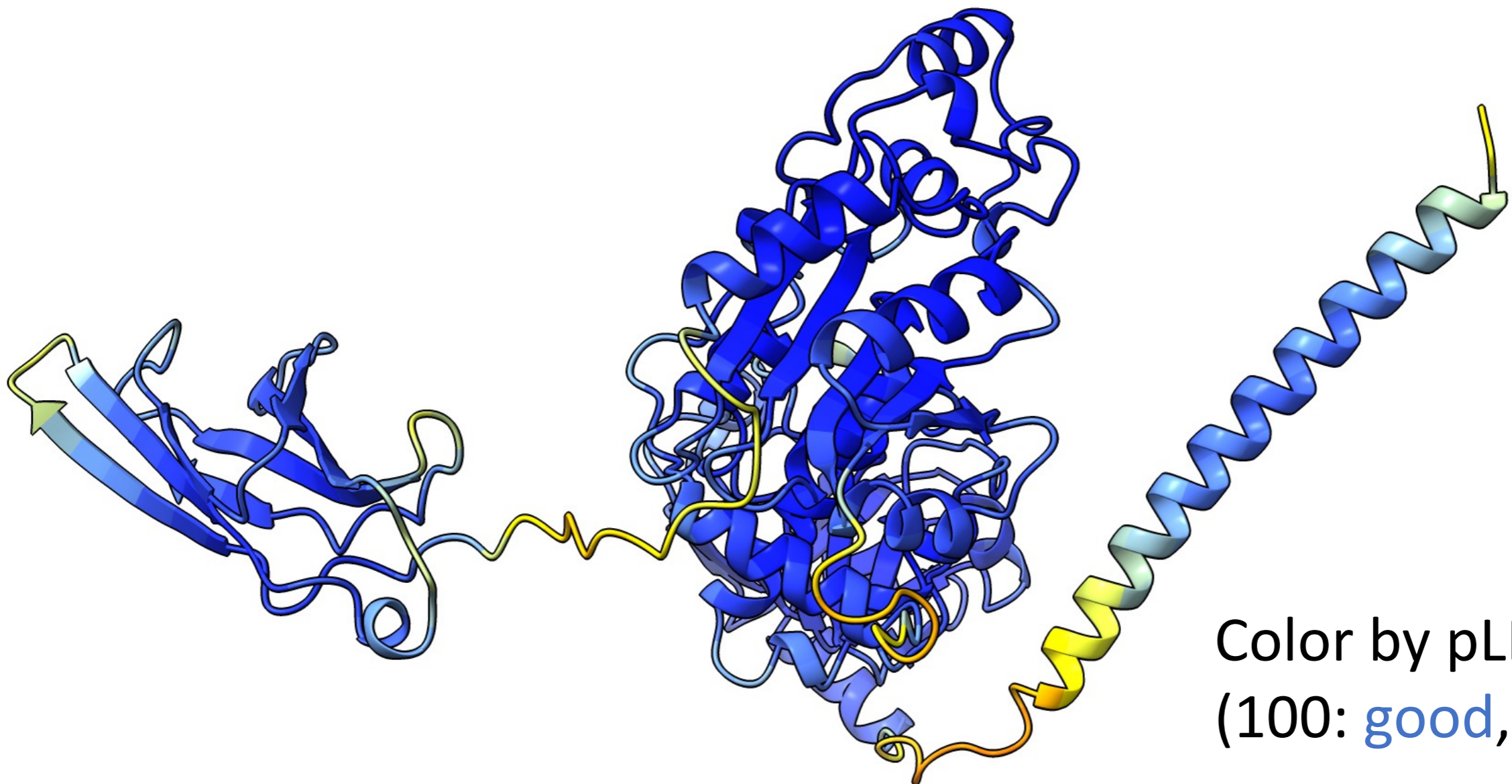
<https://alphafold.ebi.ac.uk/entry/Q8NAT1>

(Example from Phenix AlphaFold MR tutorial)



## 1. pLDDt (predicted Local Distance Difference Test)

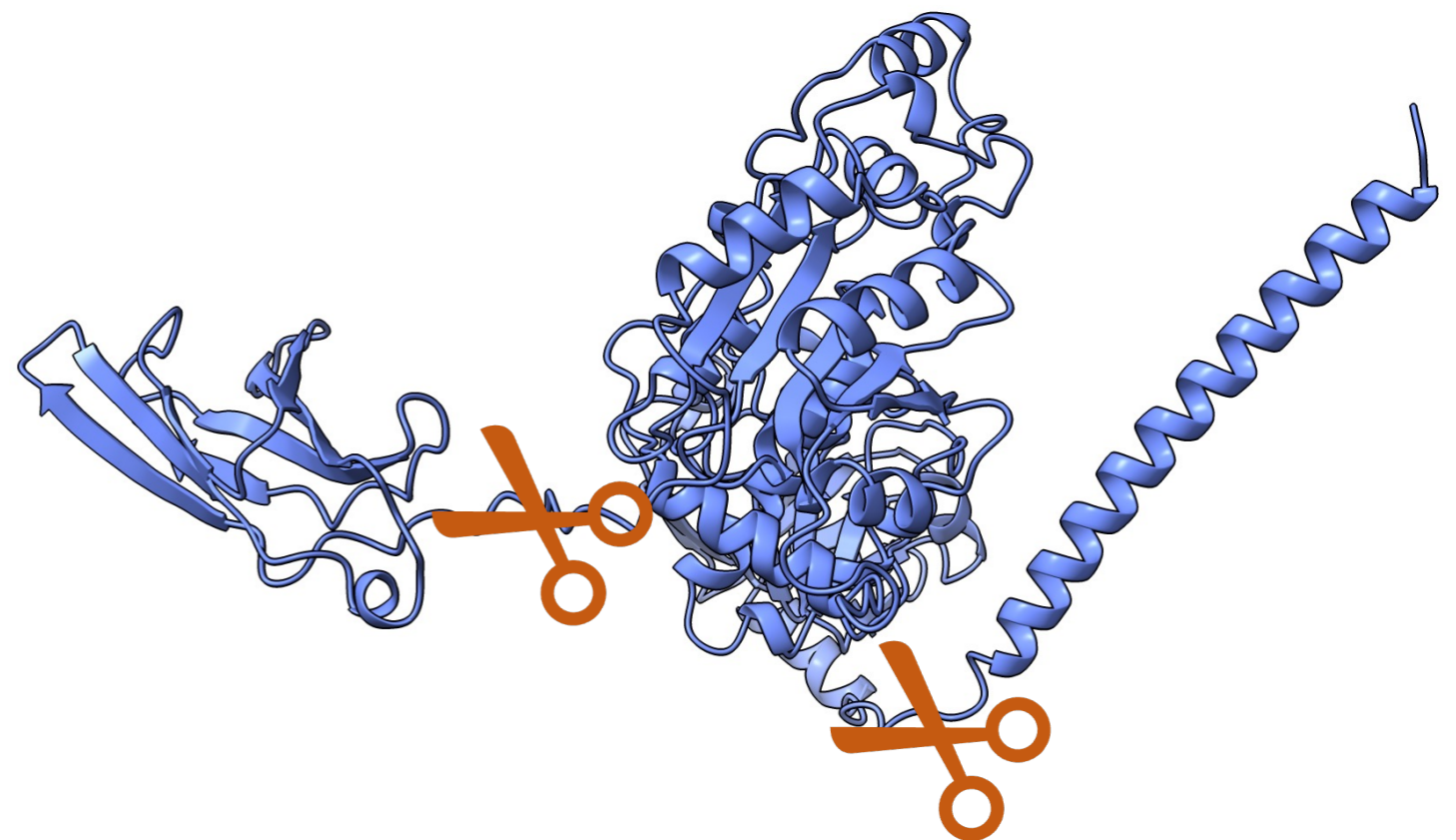
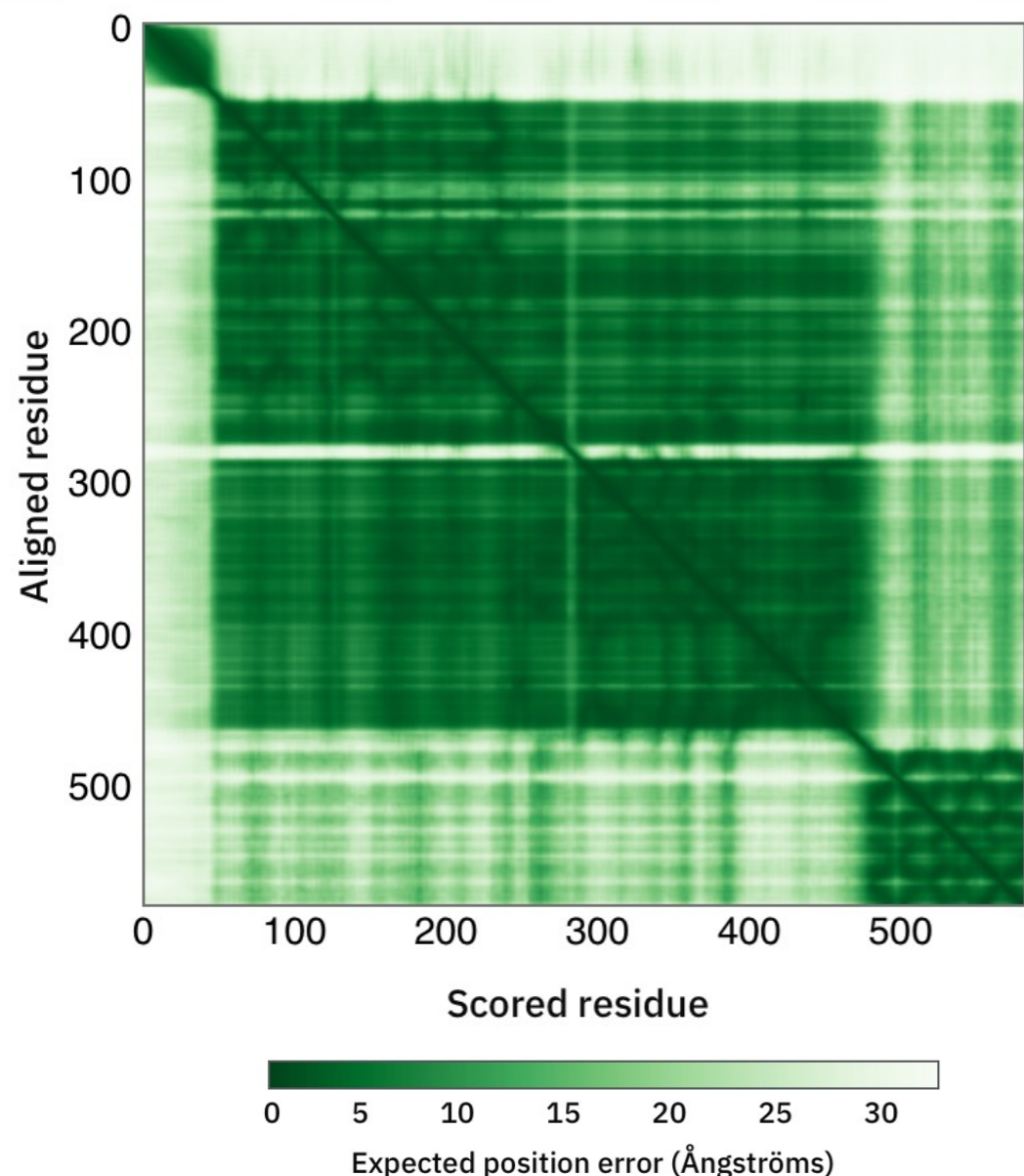
- per-residue confidence measure
- scales from 0 – 100
- pLDDt > 90: predicted with high accuracy



Color by pLDDt  
(100: **good**, 0: **bad**)

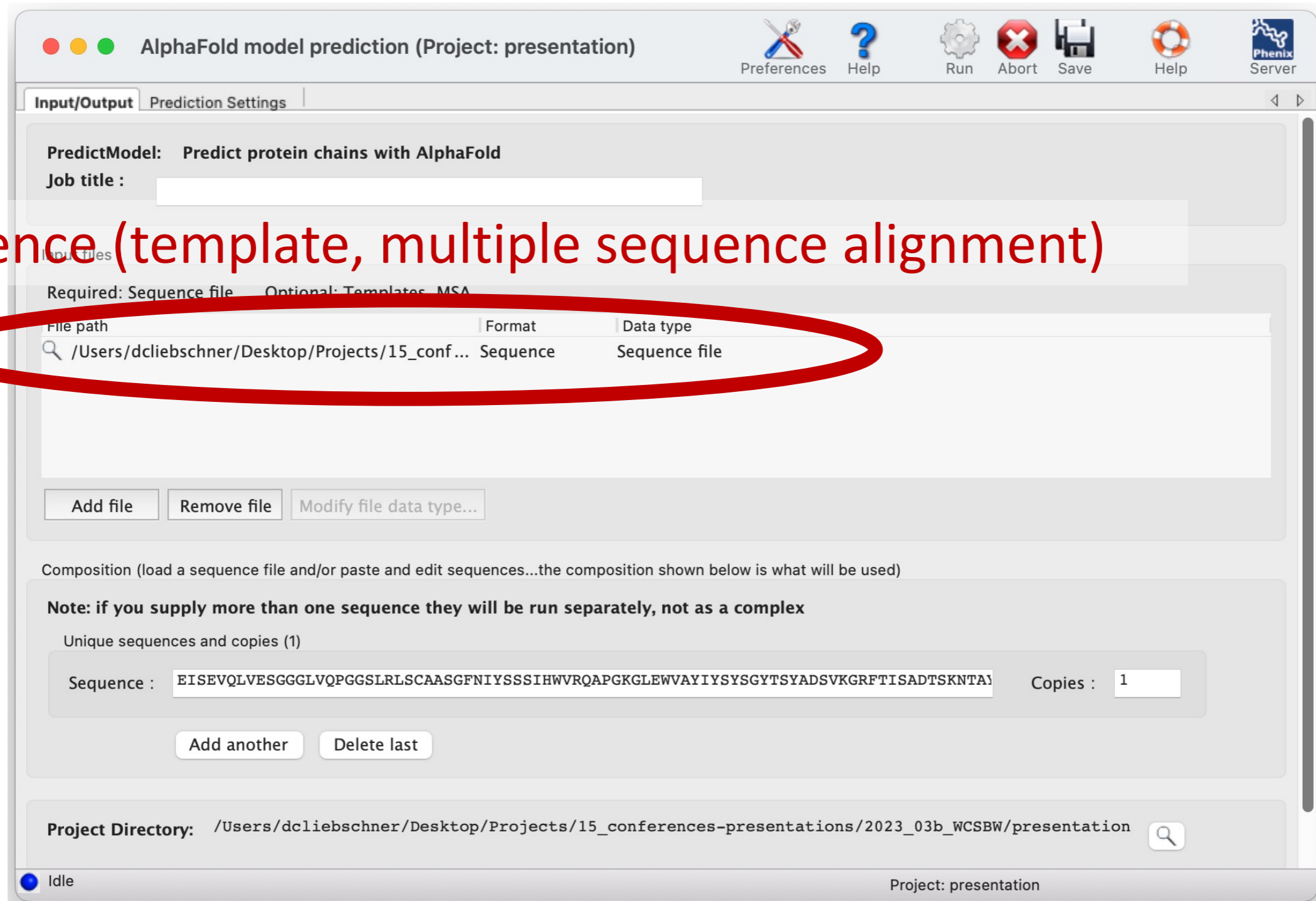
## 2. Predicted aligned error (PAE)

- Relative domain positions → Large-scale topology
- Dark green: the predicted relationship between this pair of residues is likely to be accurate



- Suggests 3 domains
- Mutual configuration is not clear

# Predicting a model in Phenix



The screenshot shows the Phenix software interface for AlphaFold model prediction. The window title is "AlphaFold model prediction (Project: presentation)". The interface includes a menu bar with "Preferences", "Help", "Run", "Abort", "Save", and "Help" (with a lifebuoy icon). Below the menu bar, there are tabs for "Input/Output" and "Prediction Settings". The main area is divided into sections: "PredictModel: Predict protein chains with AlphaFold", "Job title:" (with a text input field), "Required: Sequence file" (with a text input field), and "Optional: Templates, MSA" (with a text input field). A table below these fields lists the selected file path, format, and data type. The table has three columns: "File path", "Format", and "Data type". The first row shows the file path "/Users/dcliebschner/Desktop/Projects/15\_conf...", the format "Sequence", and the data type "Sequence file". Below the table are buttons for "Add file", "Remove file", and "Modify file data type...". The "Composition" section includes a note: "Note: if you supply more than one sequence they will be run separately, not as a complex". It also shows "Unique sequences and copies (1)" with a "Sequence:" input field containing "EISEVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFNIYSSSIHWVRQAPGKLEWVAYIYSYSGYTSYADSVKGRFTISADTSKNTA" and a "Copies:" input field set to "1". There are "Add another" and "Delete last" buttons below the sequence input. The "Project Directory:" is "/Users/dcliebschner/Desktop/Projects/15\_conferences-presentations/2023\_03b\_WCSBW/presentation". The status bar at the bottom shows "Idle" and "Project: presentation".

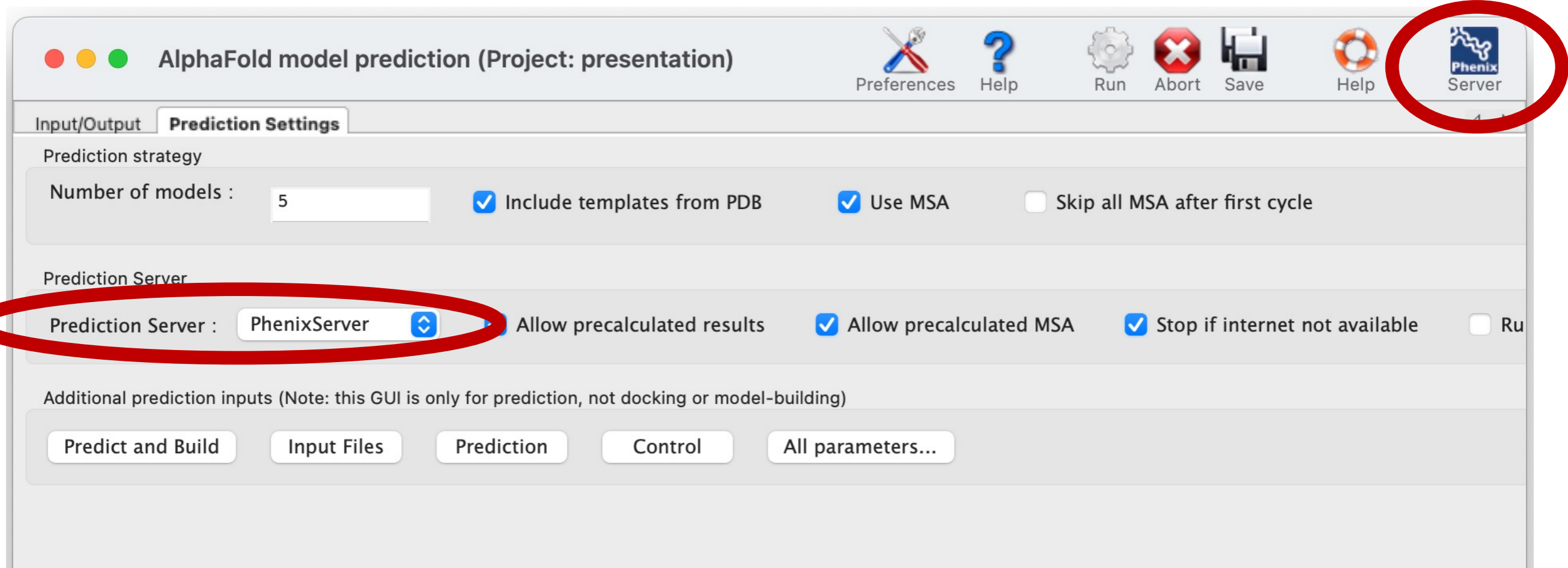
File path	Format	Data type
/Users/dcliebschner/Desktop/Projects/15_conf...	Sequence	Sequence file

Sequence (template, multiple sequence alignment)

Do I need to install AlphaFold?

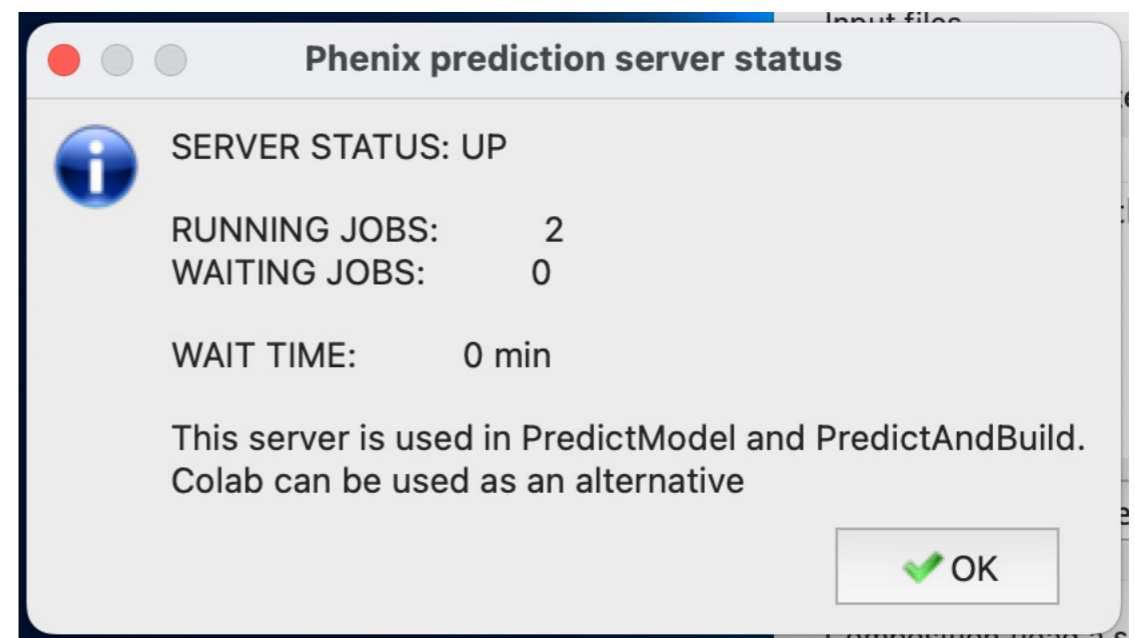


# Phenix Server or Colab for running AlphaFold



## Run AlphaFold on

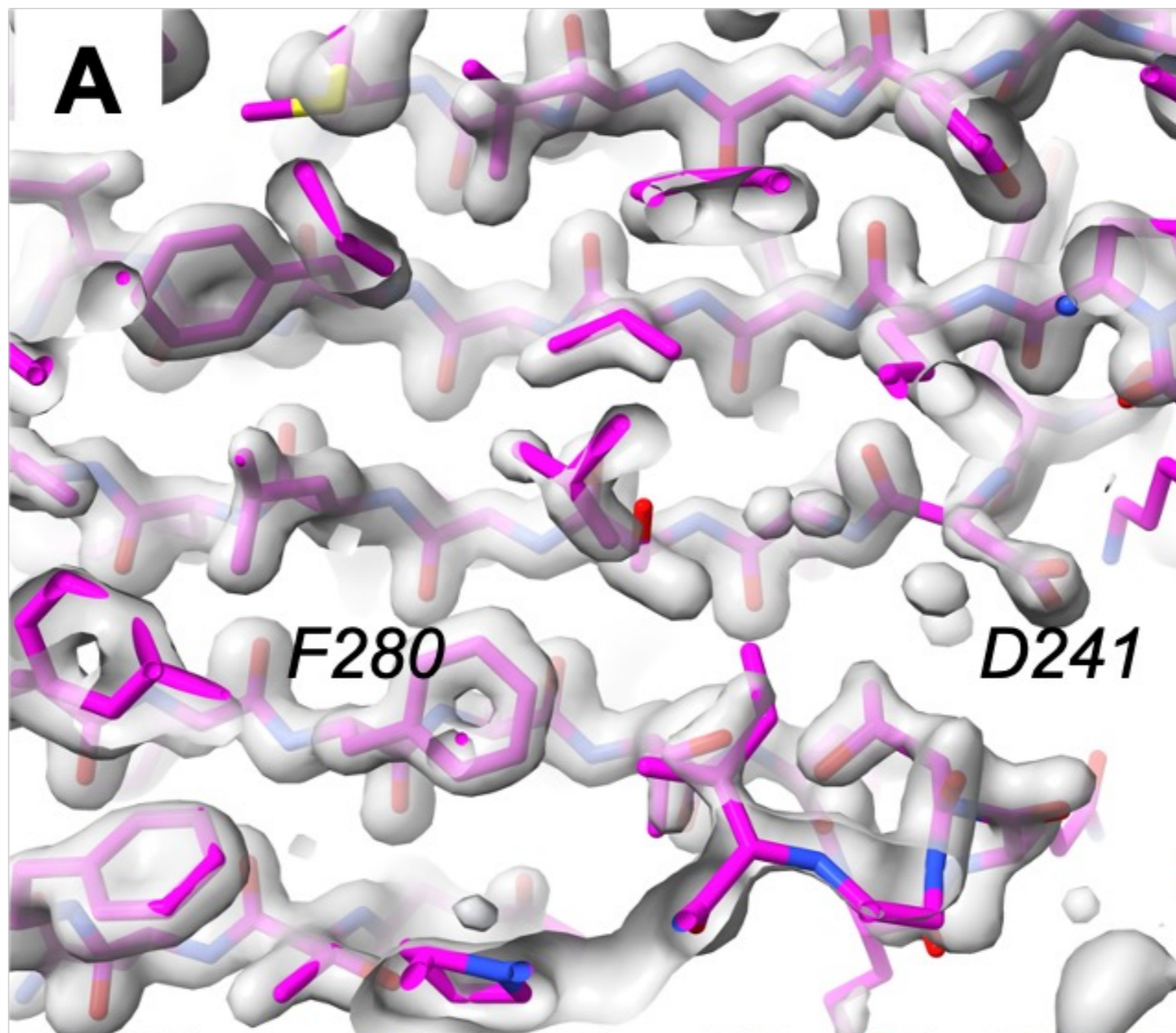
- Phenix Server
- Colab



# Predicted models are great hypotheses...

7s5L, 1.58 Å, X-ray diffraction

AlphaFold  
model

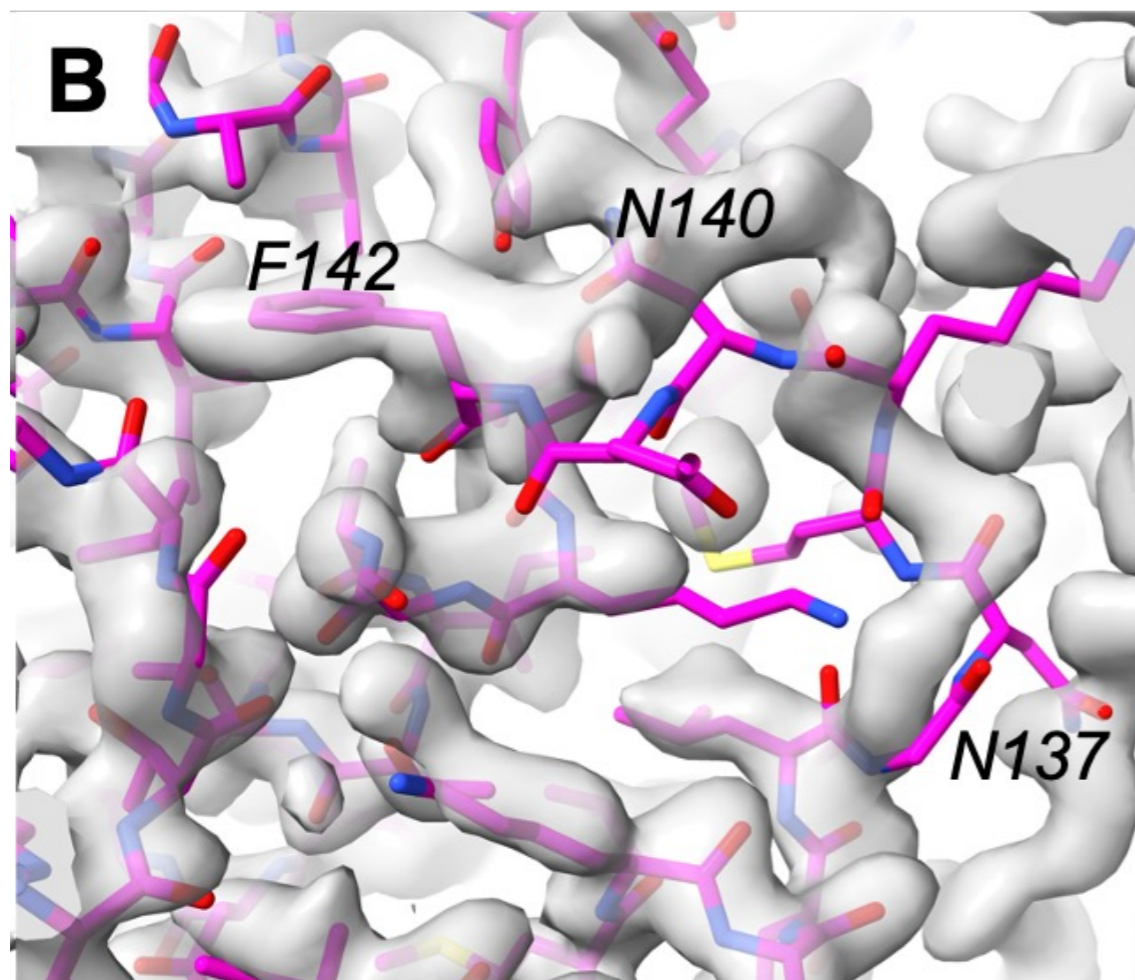


**Predictions can be very accurate.**



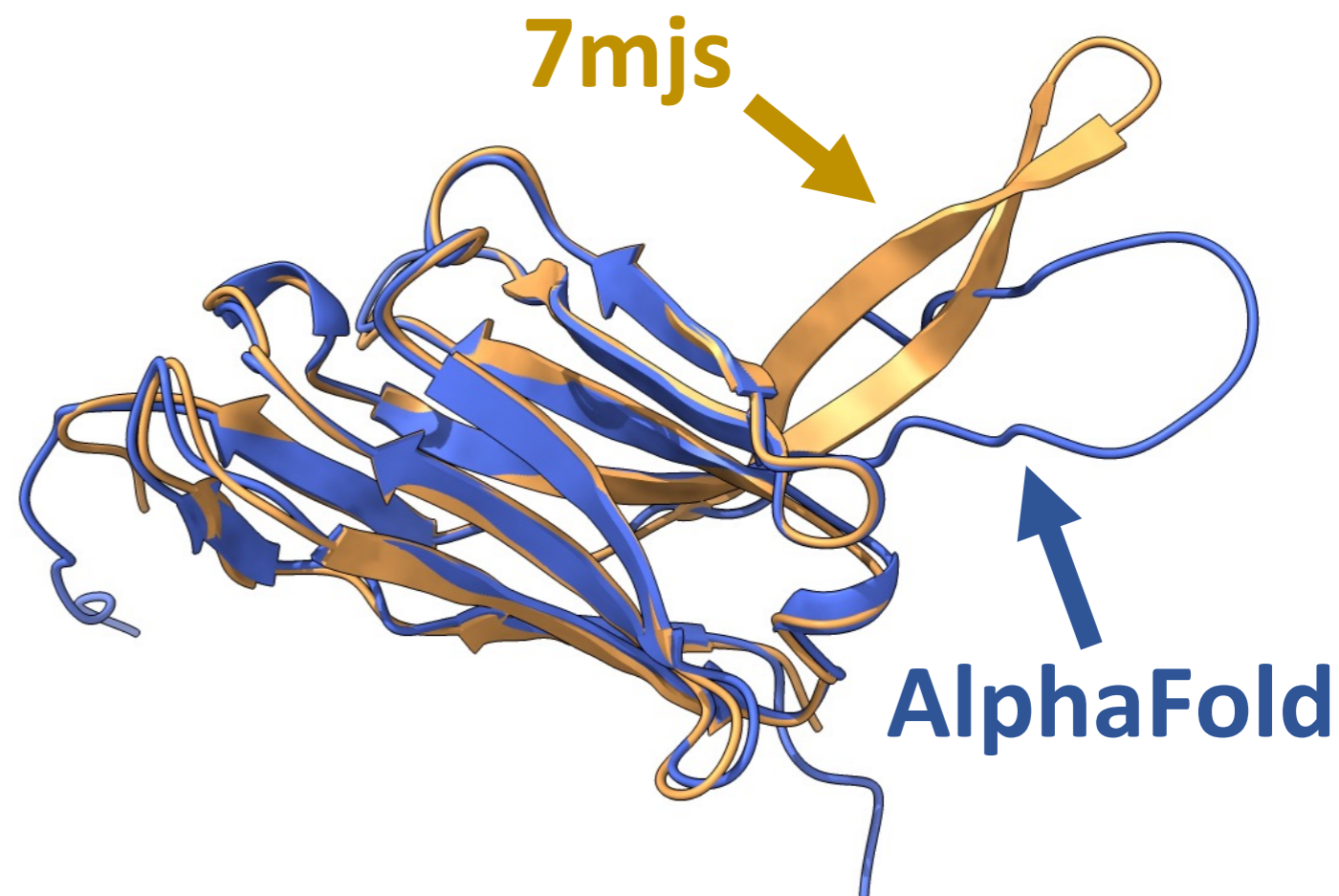
# ...but (still) no match for experiment

7s5L, 1.58 Å, X-ray diffraction



AlphaFold model

**Some parts may be inaccurate**  
(even when predicted with high confidence)



**Parts may be distorted**



# ...but (still) no match for experiment

---

Predicted models can disagree globally and locally with experimental structures.

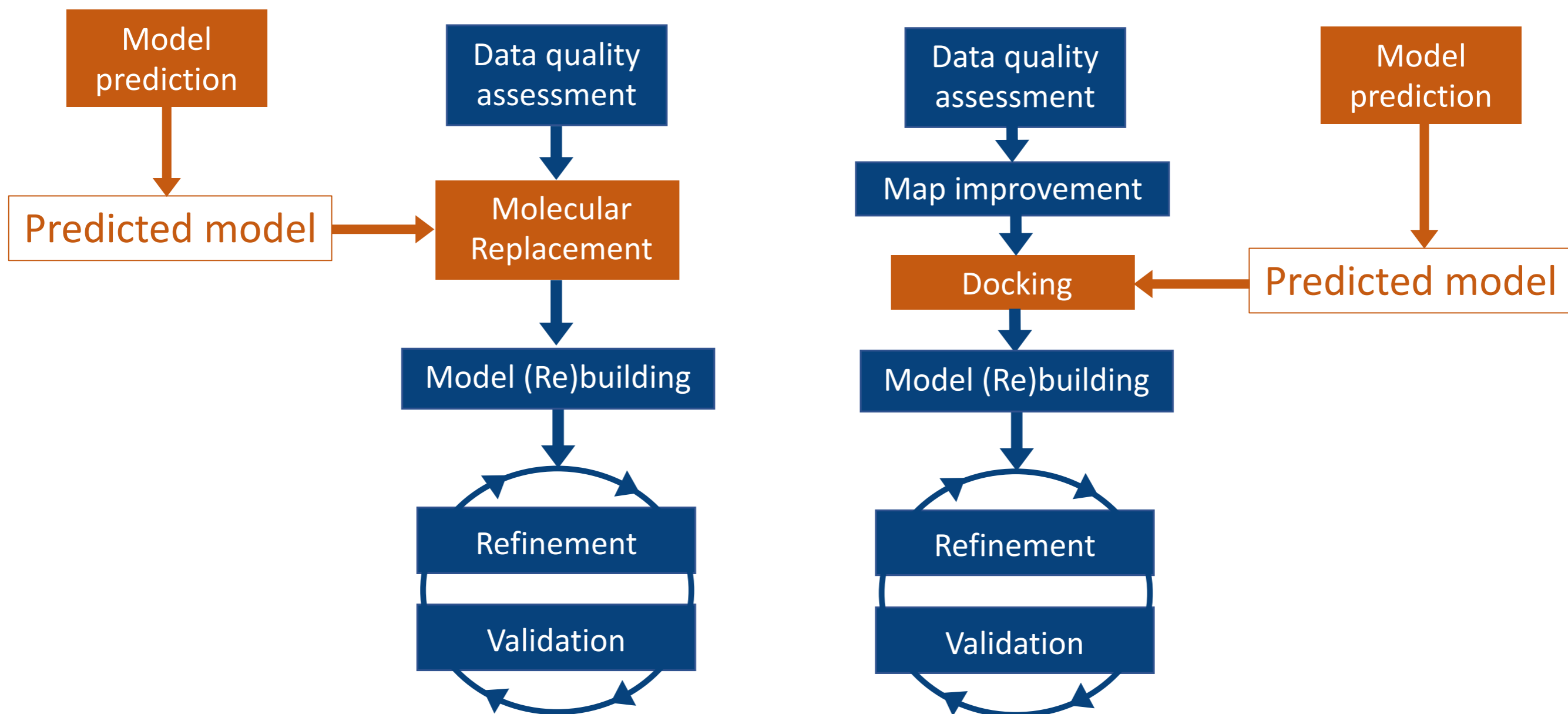
Only ~40% of residues in the human proteome are modeled with high confidence (pLDDt).

# How to use predictions?

Incorporate predictions into the “conventional” structure determination workflow.

## Crystallography

## Cryo-EM



# How to use predictions? (cryo-EM)

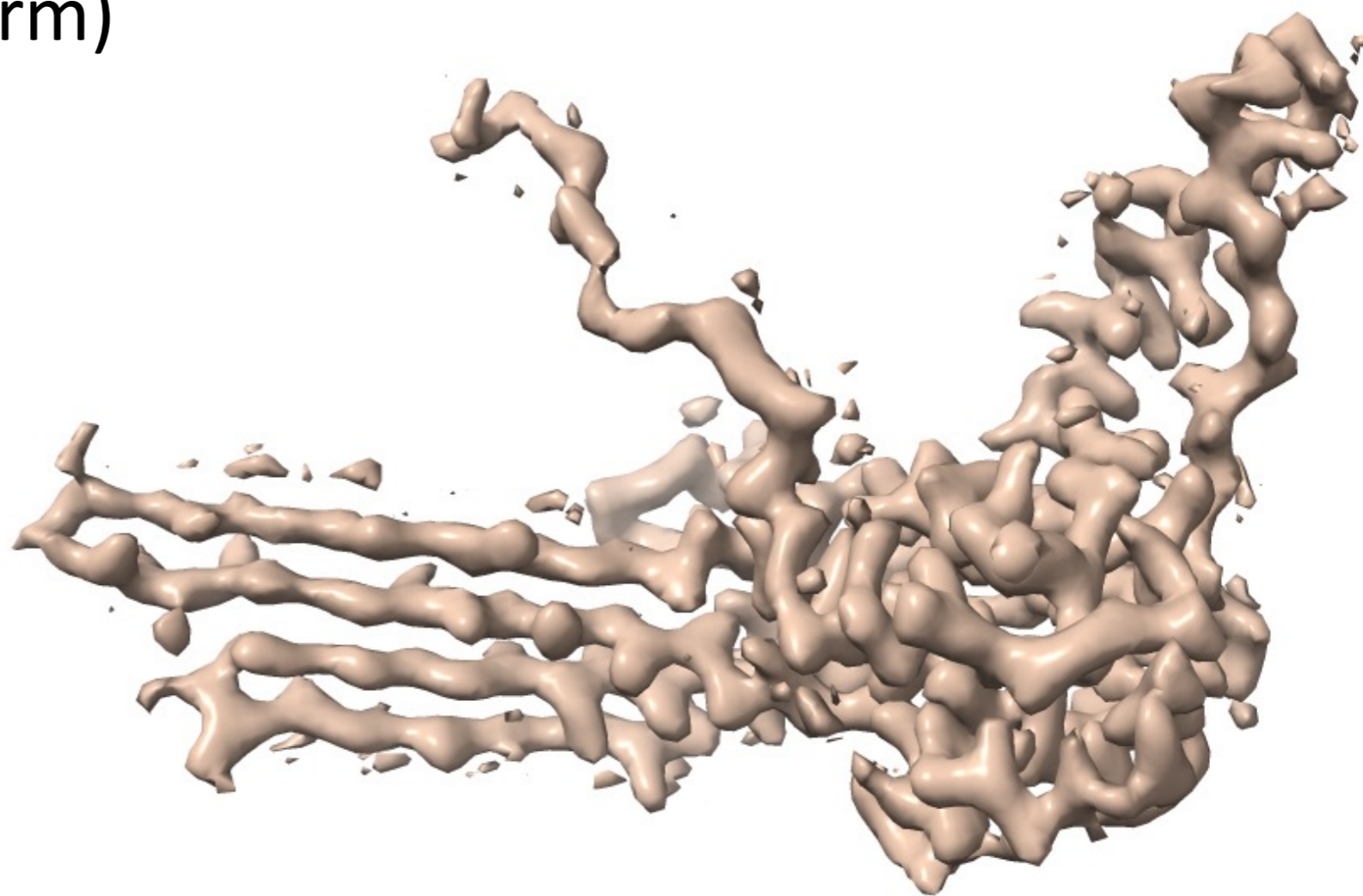
Incorporate predictions into the “conventional” structure determination workflow.

Example:

Cryo-EM map (30160 – 7brm)

```
>chain ' A'  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXCLTAPPKEAARPTLMPRAQSYKDLTHLPAP  
TGKIFVSVYNIQDETGQFKPYPASNFSSTAVPQSATAMLVTALKDS  
RWFIPLERQGLQNLNLERKIIRAAQENGTVAINNRIPLQSLTAAN  
IMVEGSIIGYESNVKSGGVGARYFGIGADTQYQLDQIAVNLRVWN  
VSTGEILSSVNTSKTILSYEVQAGVFRFIDYQRLLEGEVGYTSNE  
PVMLCLMSAIETGVIFLINDGIDRGLWDLQNKAEQNDILVKYRH  
MS
```

sequence

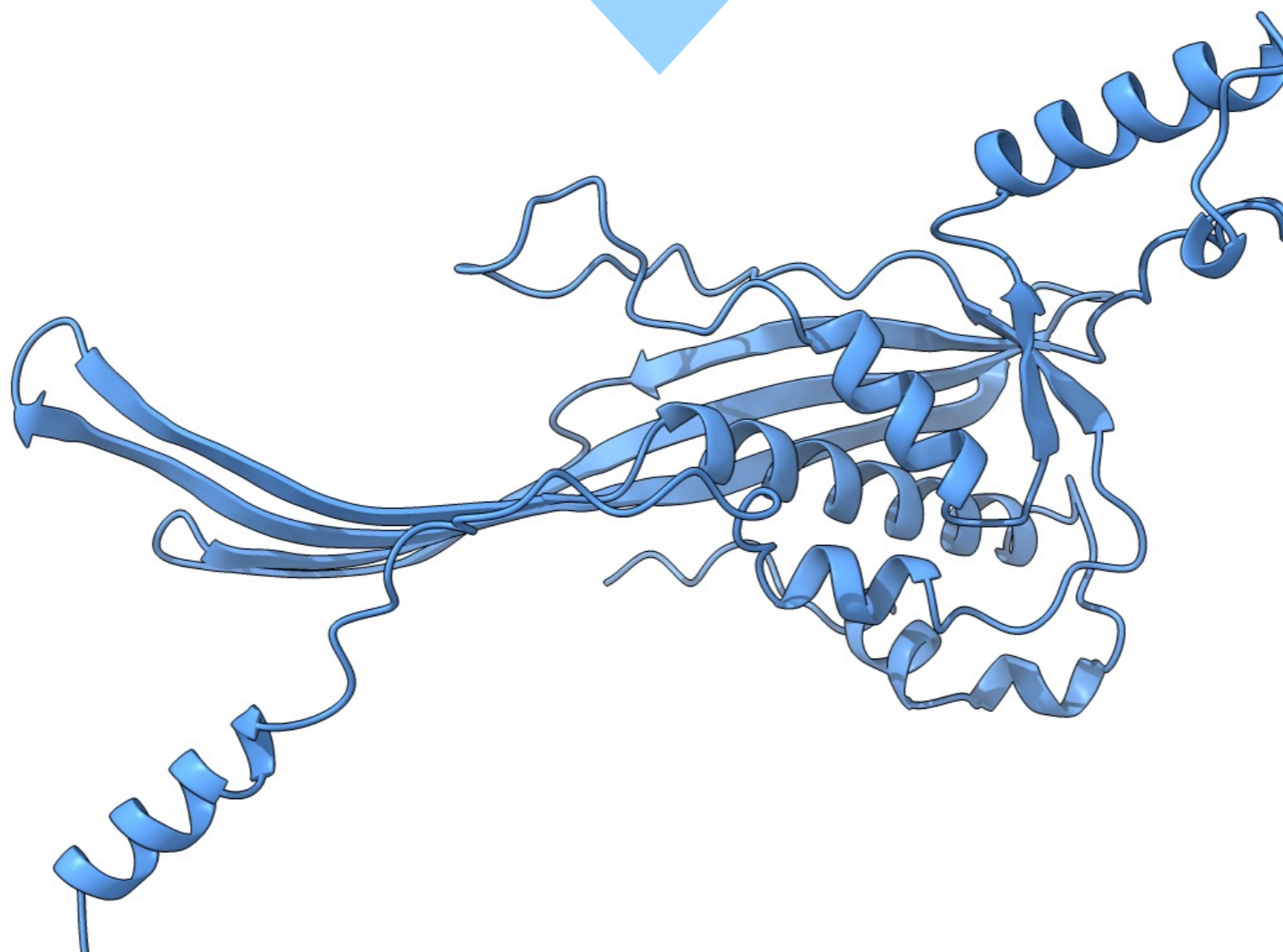


cryo-EM map (3.6 Å)

# Get a prediction

sequence

```
>chain ' A'  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXCLTAPPKEAARPTLMPRAQSYKDLTHLPAP  
TGKIFVSVYNIQDETGQFKPYASNFSSTAVPQSATAMLVTALKDS  
RWFIPLERQGLQNLNLERKIIRAAQENGTVAINNRIPLQSLTAAN  
IMVEGSIIGYESNVKSGGVGARYFGIGADTQYQLDQIAVNLRVVN  
VSTGEILSSVNTSKTILSYEVQAGVFRFIDYQRLLEGEVGYTSNE  
PVMLCLMSAIETGVIFLINDGIDRGLWDLQNKAEQNDILVKYRH  
MS
```



AlphaFold  
model

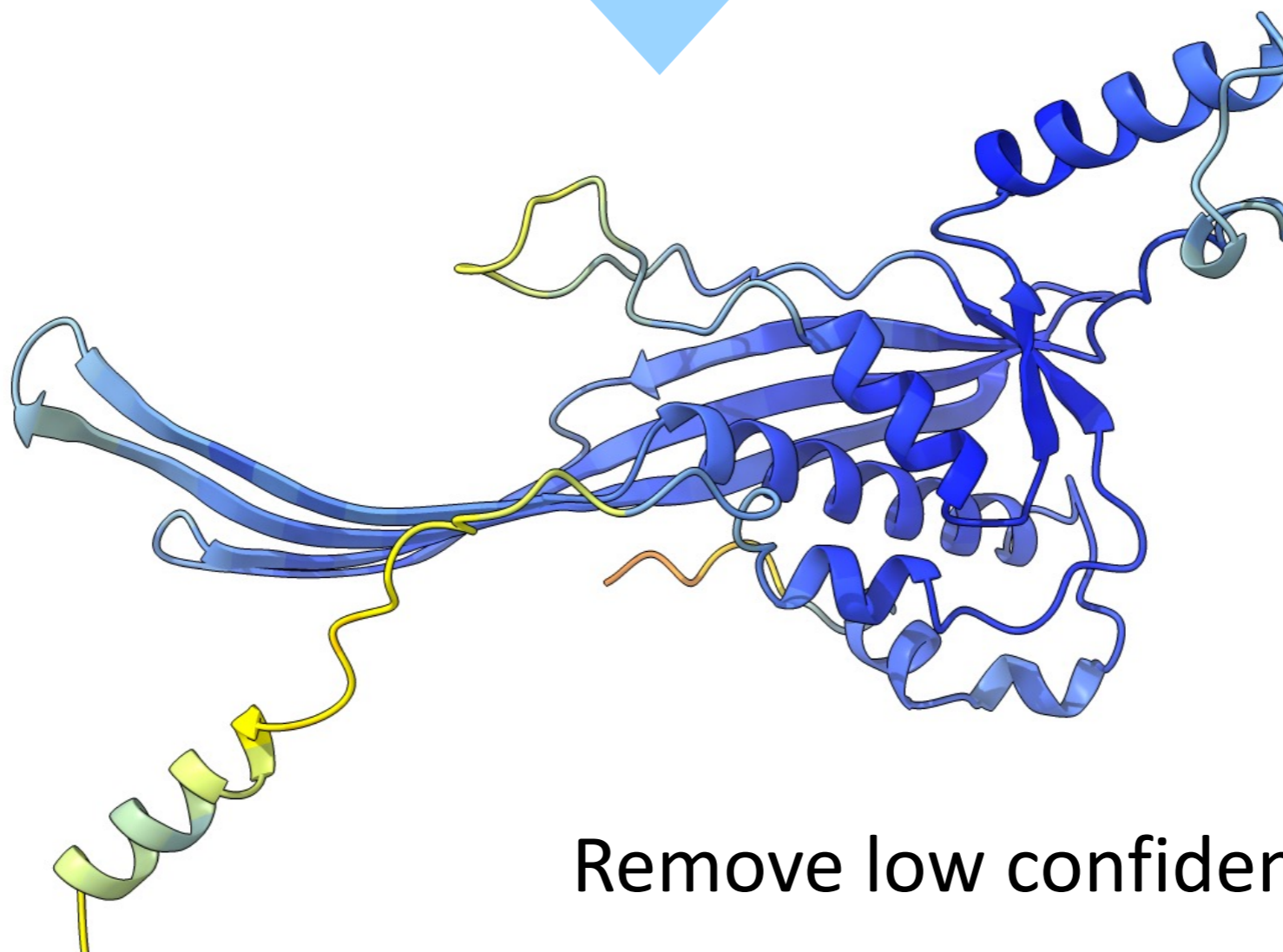
# Process prediction

sequence

```
>chain ' A'  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXCLTAPPKEAARPTLMPRAQSYKDLTHLPAP  
TGKIFVSVYNIQDETGQFKPYASNFSSTAVPQSATAMLVTALKDS  
RWFIPLERQGLQNLNLERKIIRAAQENGTVAINNRIPLQSLTAAN  
IMVEGSIIGYESNVKSGGVGARYFGIGADTQYQLDQIAVNLRVVN  
VSTGEILSSVNTSKTILSYEVQAGVFRFIDYQRLLEGEVGYTSNE  
PVMLCLMSAIETGVIFLINDGIDRGLWDLQNKAERQNDILVKYRH  
MS
```



AlphaFold  
model

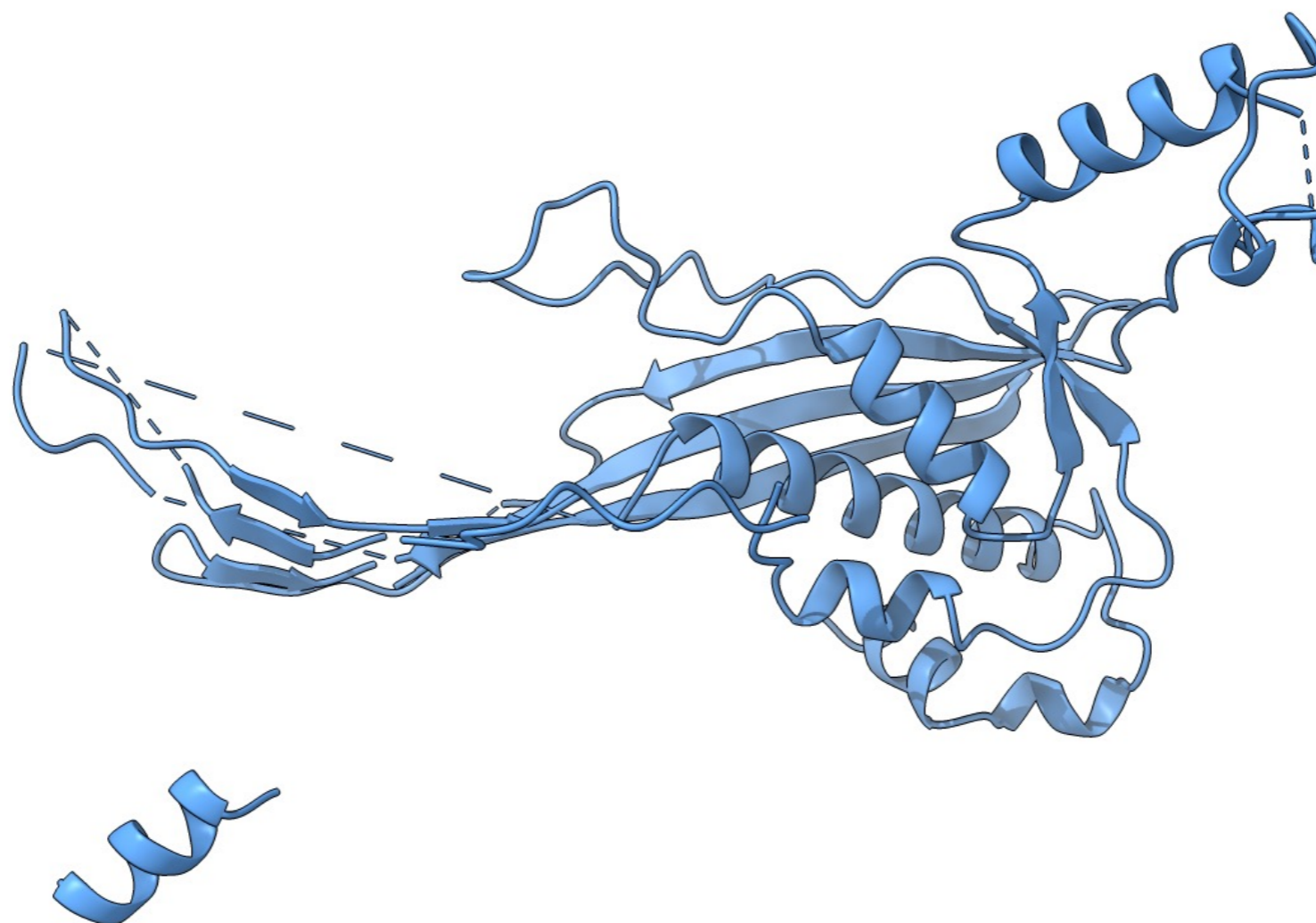


Remove low confidence parts

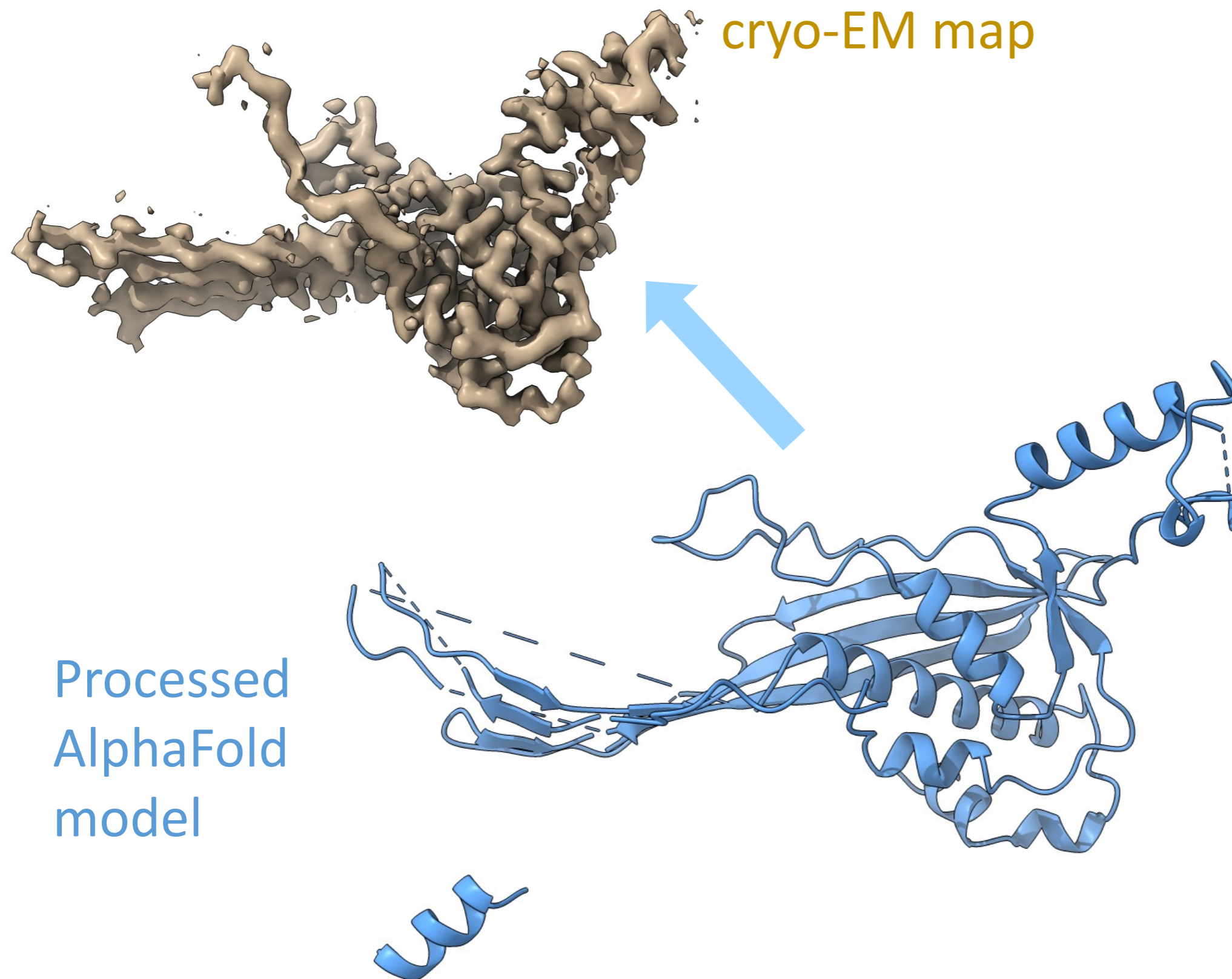
# Process prediction

---

Processed  
AlphaFold  
model

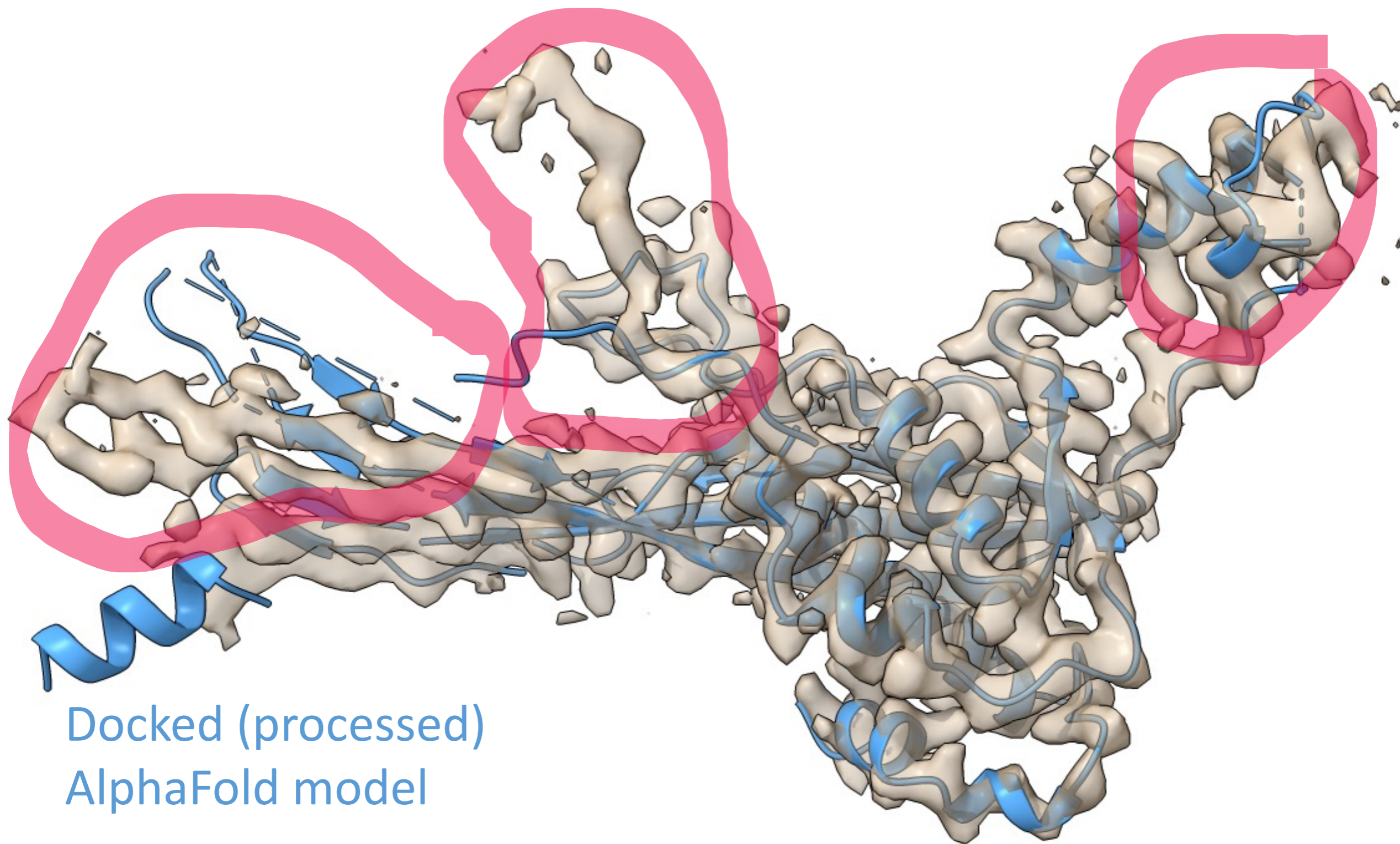


# Dock processed model





# Dock processed model

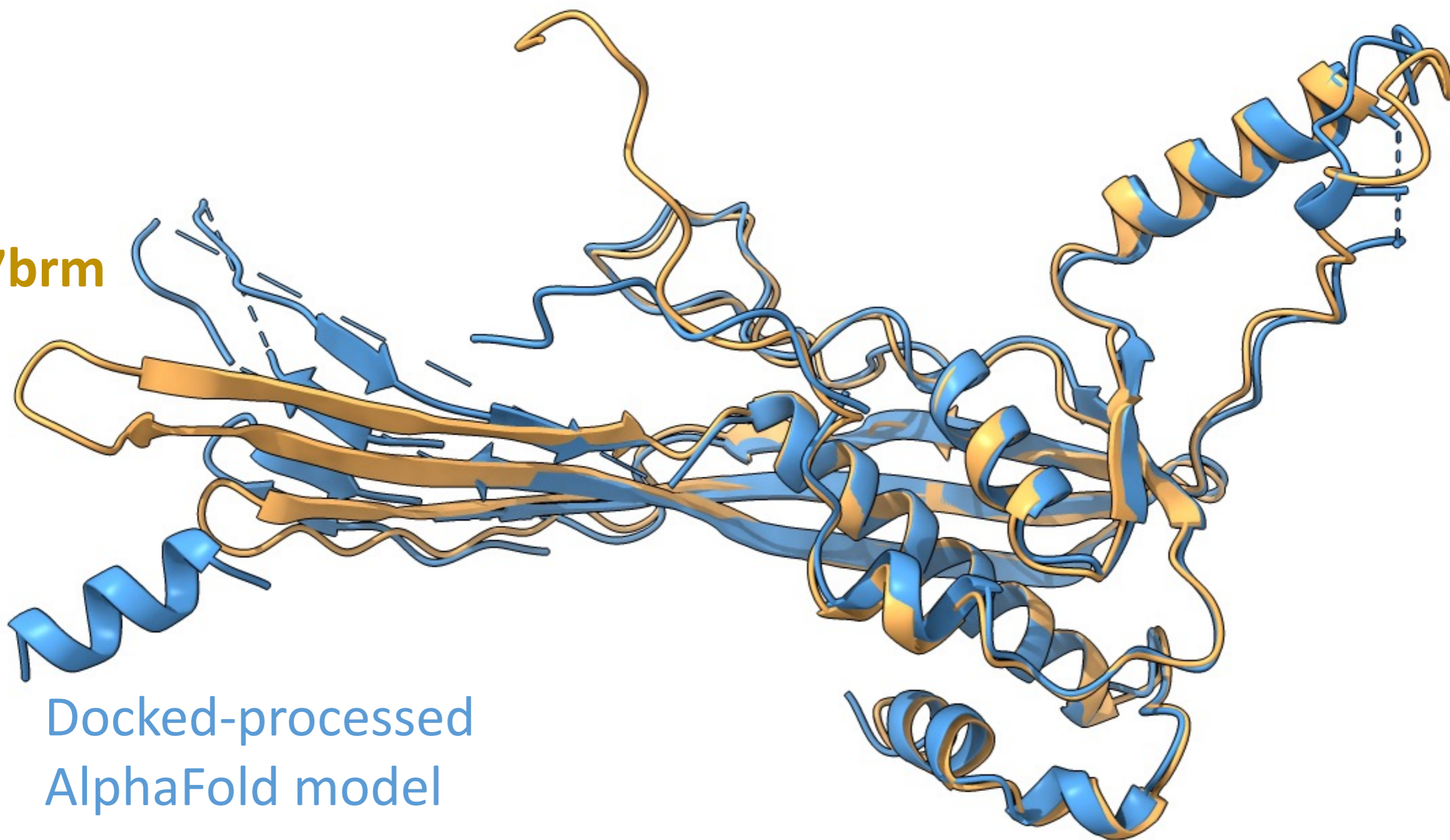


Docked (processed)  
AlphaFold model

Some parts don't fit into the map

# Dock processed model

7brm

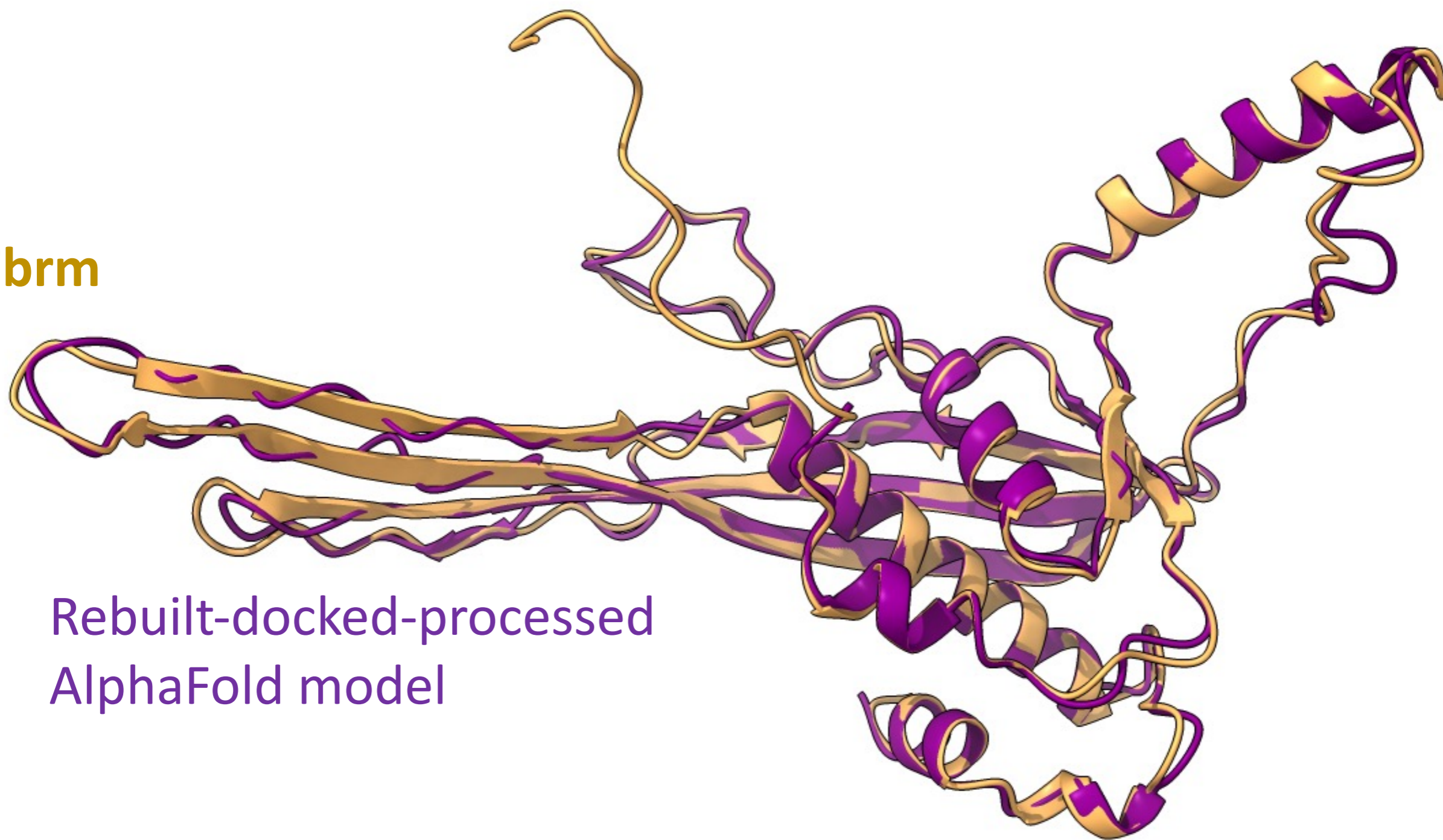


Docked-processed  
AlphaFold model

Some parts don't fit into the map → fit loops and rebuild

# Fit loops and rebuild

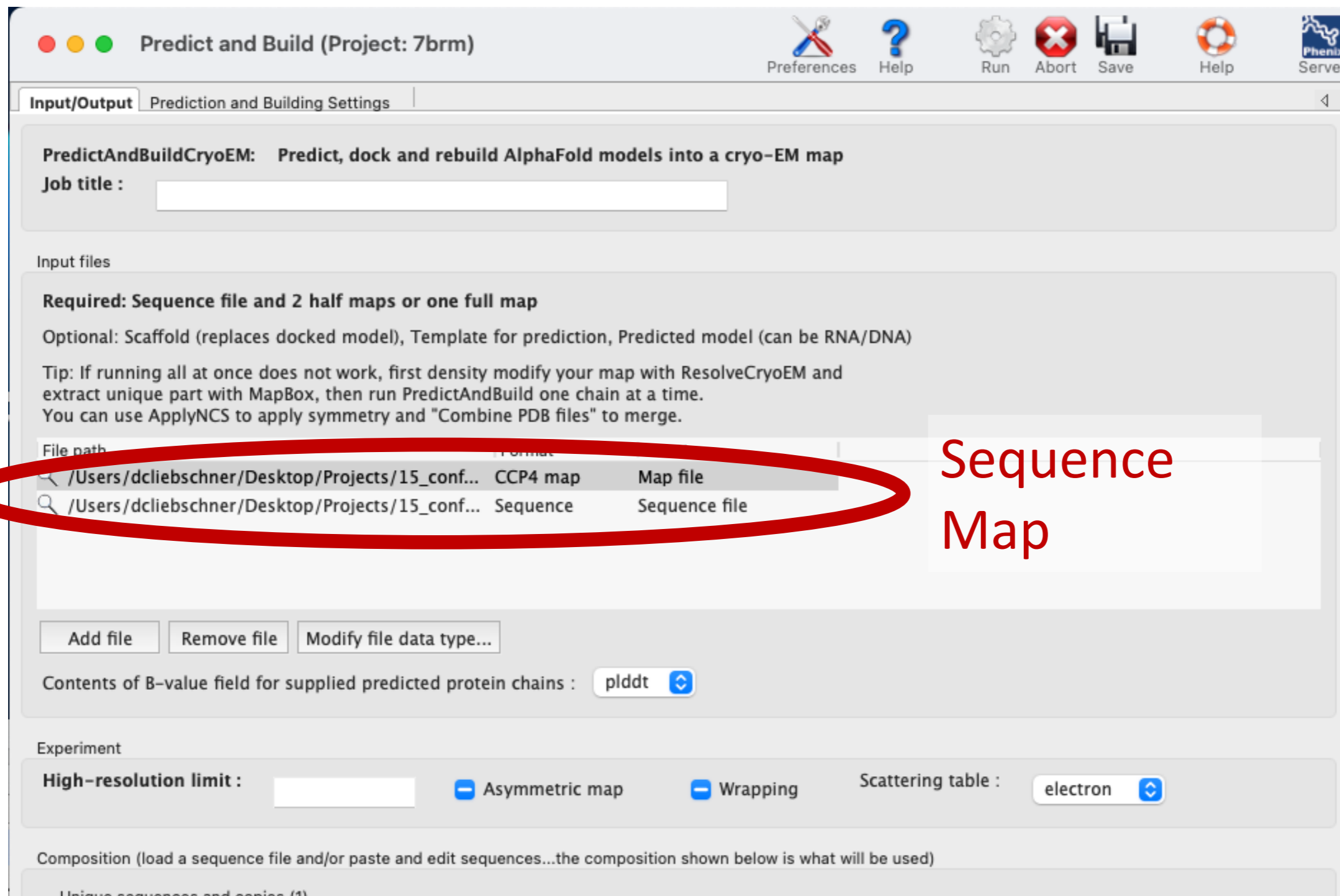
7brm



Rebuilt-docked-processed  
AlphaFold model

This model is close to the deposited model.

# Fully automatic: predict and build



The screenshot shows the Phenix Predict and Build interface. The window title is "Predict and Build (Project: 7brm)". The main panel is titled "Prediction and Building Settings". The "PredictAndBuildCryoEM" section is active, with the description "Predict, dock and rebuild AlphaFold models into a cryo-EM map". Below this, there is a "Job title" field. The "Input files" section contains instructions: "Required: Sequence file and 2 half maps or one full map" and "Optional: Scaffold (replaces docked model), Template for prediction, Predicted model (can be RNA/DNA)". A tip is provided: "Tip: If running all at once does not work, first density modify your map with ResolveCryoEM and extract unique part with MapBox, then run PredictAndBuild one chain at a time. You can use ApplyNCS to apply symmetry and 'Combine PDB files' to merge." A table lists input files:

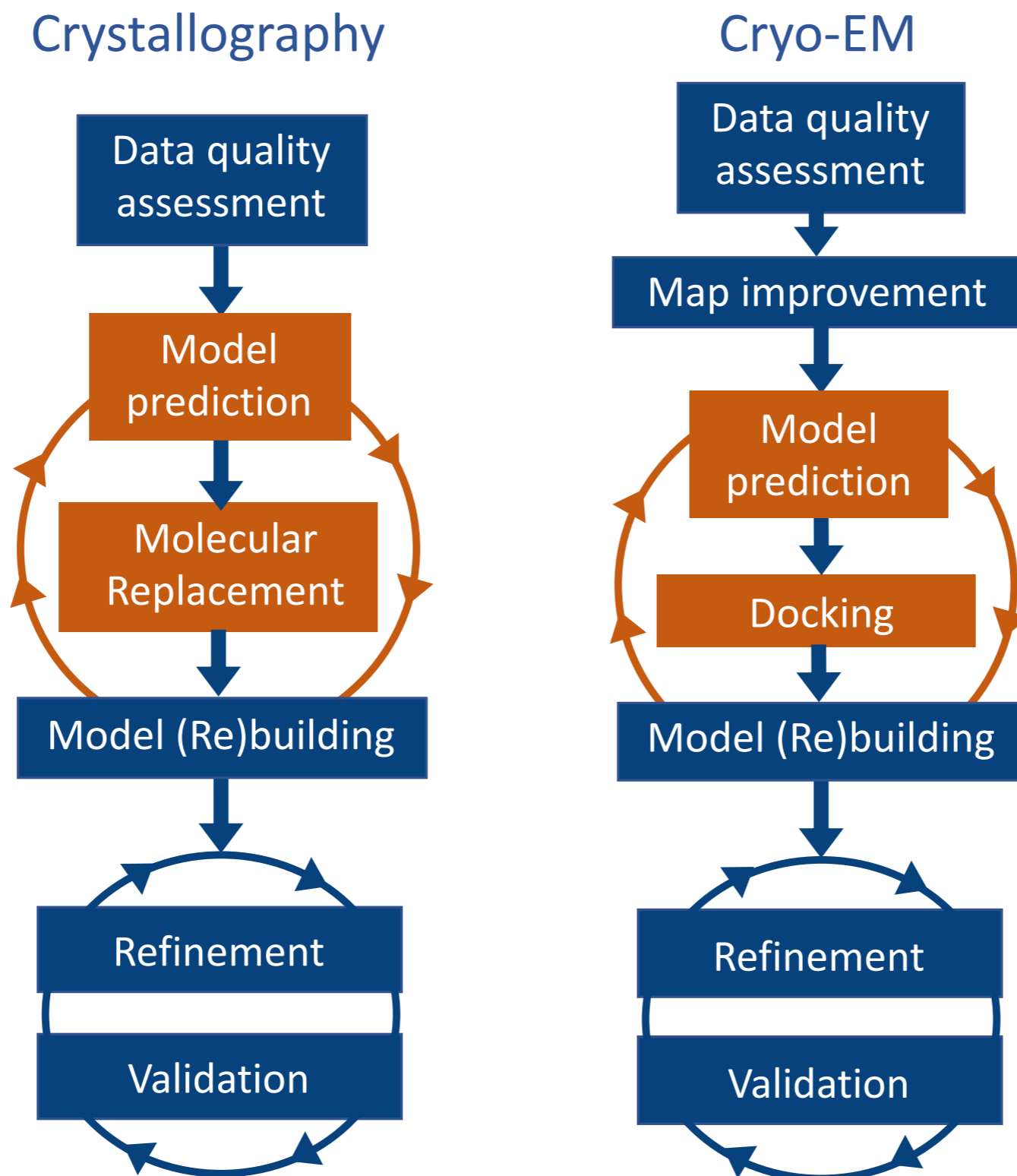
File path	Format	File type
/Users/dcliebschner/Desktop/Projects/15_conf...	CCP4 map	Map file
/Users/dcliebschner/Desktop/Projects/15_conf...	Sequence	Sequence file

The "Sequence" file entry is circled in red. A red text box labeled "Sequence Map" points to this entry. Below the table are buttons for "Add file", "Remove file", and "Modify file data type...". The "Contents of B-value field for supplied predicted protein chains" is set to "plddt". The "Experiment" section includes "High-resolution limit", "Asymmetric map" (checked), "Wrapping" (checked), and "Scattering table" set to "electron".

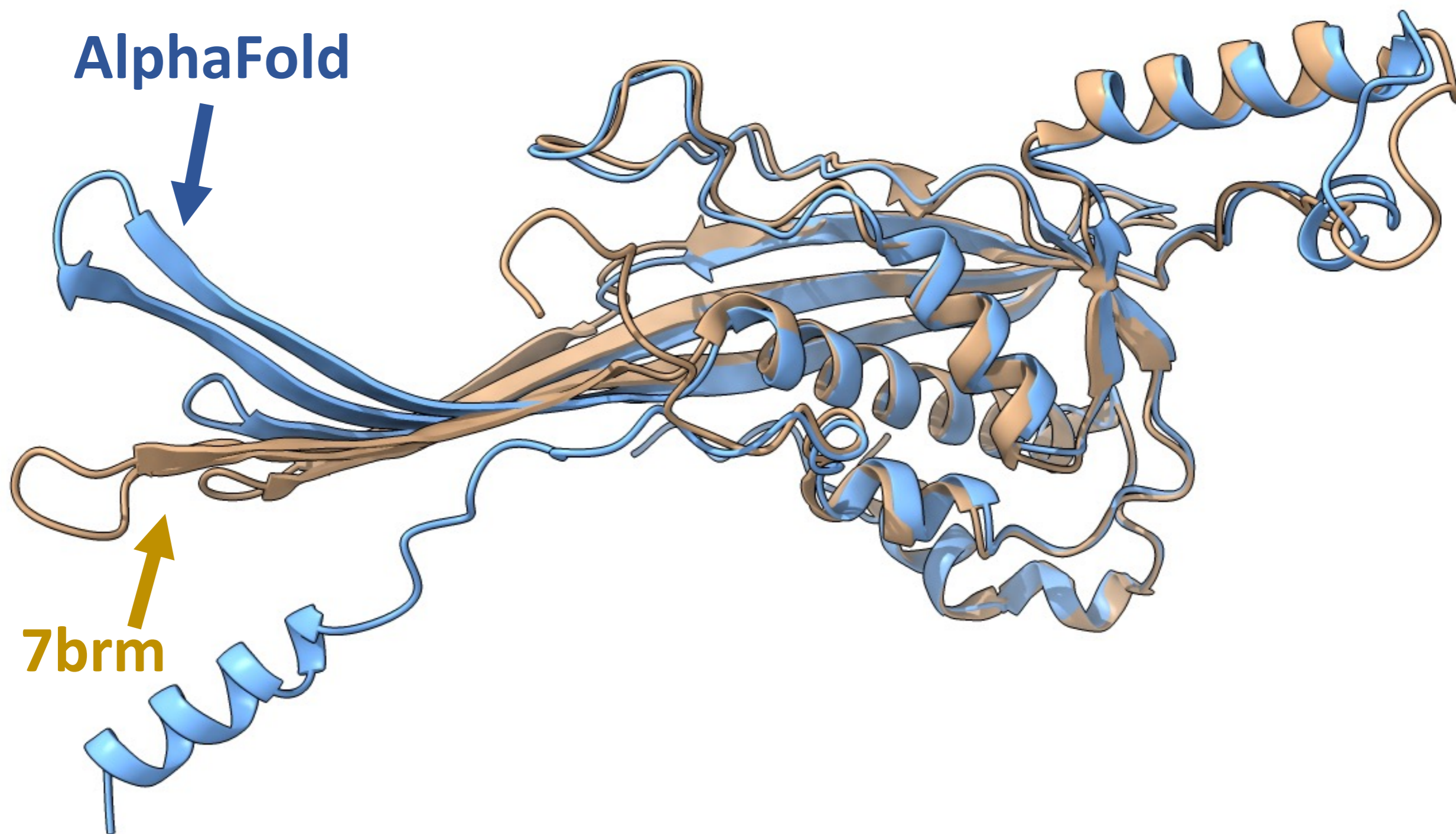
Will perform all the steps automatically.

# Using predicted models

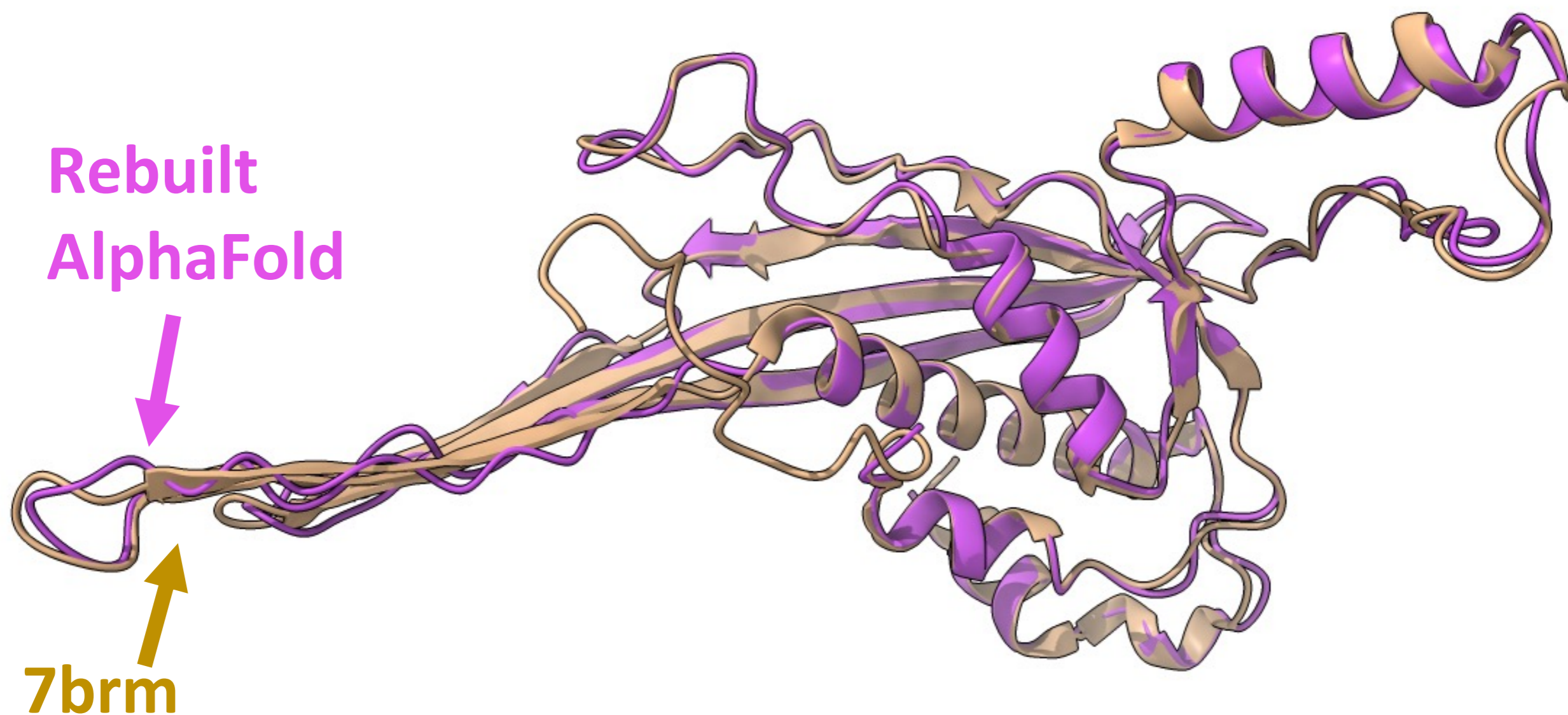
## New approach: Iterate prediction and model building



# Improving prediction

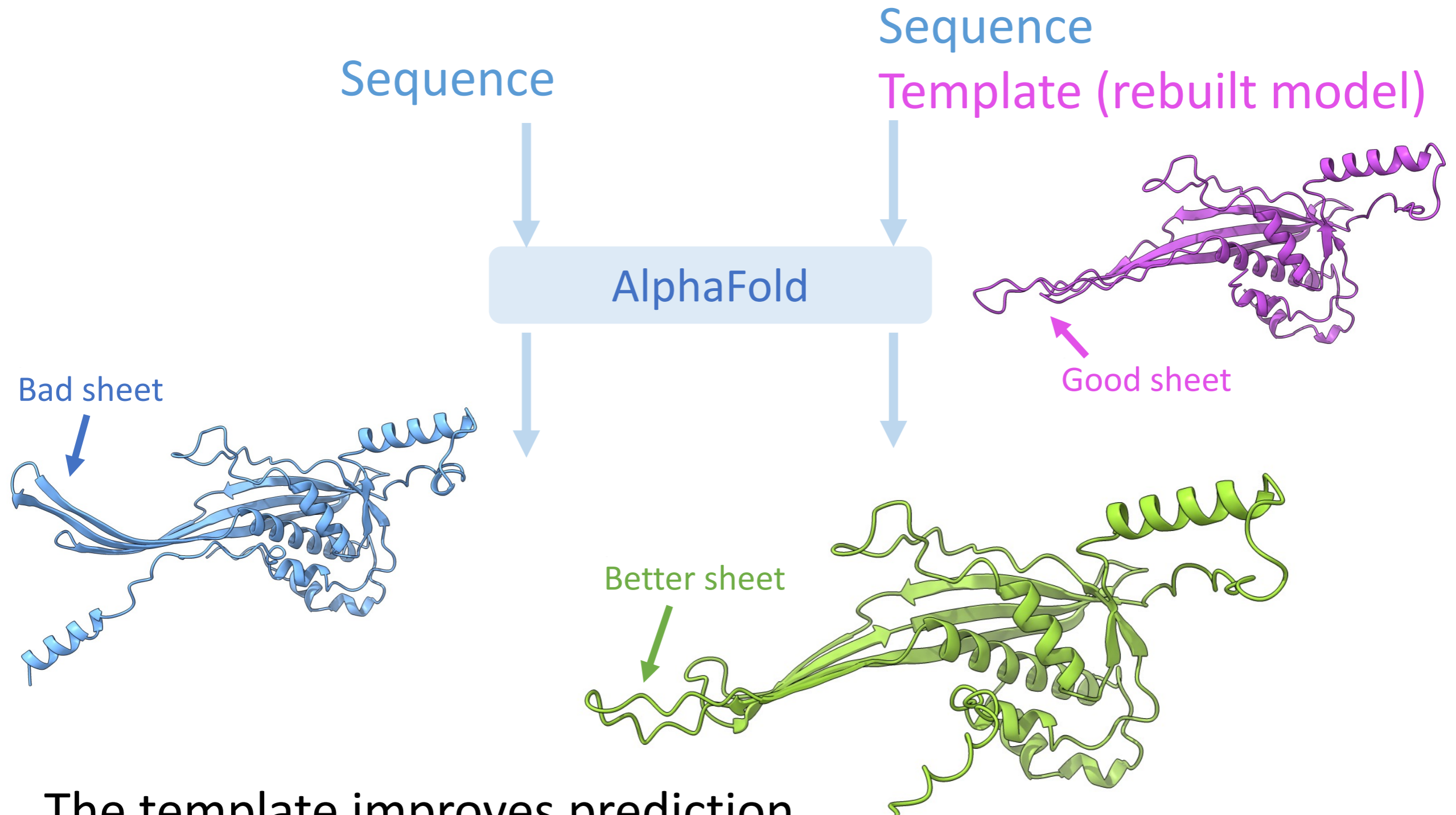


# Improving prediction



What happens if we use the rebuilt model as template for AlphaFold?

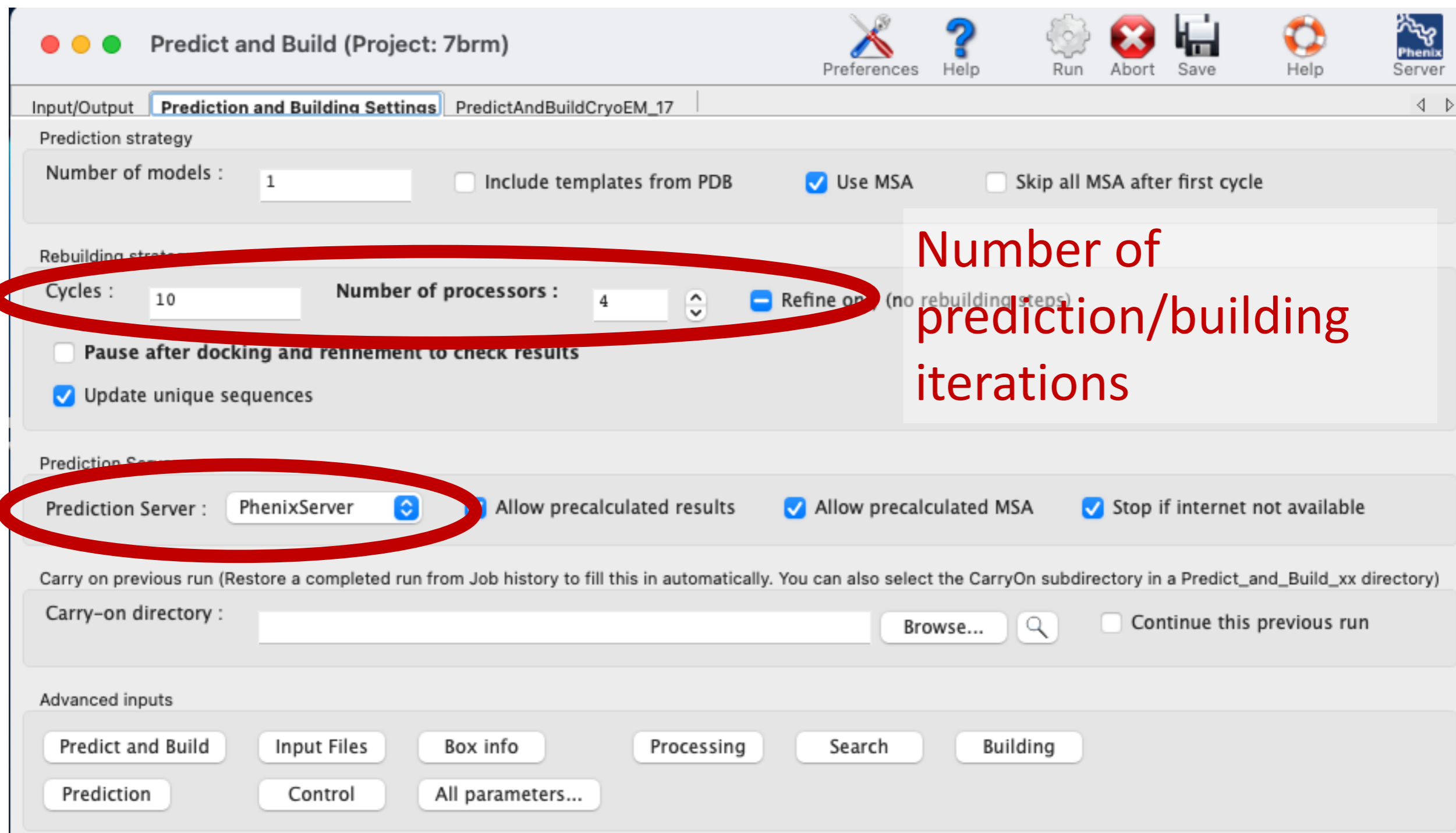
# Improving prediction



- The template improves prediction
- New prediction can be even better than the template



# Iterate with Predict and Build



The screenshot shows the Phenix Predict and Build interface for a project named '7brm'. The window title is 'Predict and Build (Project: 7brm)'. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Prediction strategy:** Number of models: 1, Include templates from PDB (unchecked), Use MSA (checked), Skip all MSA after first cycle (unchecked).
- Rebuilding strategy:** Cycles: 10, Number of processors: 4, Refine on (no rebuilding steps) (checked), Pause after docking and refinement to check results (unchecked), Update unique sequences (checked).
- Prediction Server:** Prediction Server: PhenixServer (selected), Allow precalculated results (checked), Allow precalculated MSA (checked), Stop if internet not available (checked).
- Carry-on directory:** Carry-on directory: [empty], Browse... button, Continue this previous run (unchecked).
- Advanced inputs:** Buttons for Predict and Build, Input Files, Box info, Processing, Search, Building, Prediction, Control, All parameters...

Two red ovals highlight the 'Cycles' field (set to 10) and the 'Prediction Server' dropdown (set to PhenixServer). A red text box on the right side of the interface contains the text: 'Number of prediction/building iterations'.



# Predicting a model (AlphaFold)

Amino acid sequence

## 1) Multiple sequence alignment (MSA)

- find AA more likely to mutate
- find similar structures (“templates”)
- guess which AA are likely to be in contact with each other

*Residues that **co-vary** are probably close in 3D structure*

```
EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFNIIYSSSIHWVRQAPGKGLEWVAYI
.....F.....M.....Q.....
.....K.....Y.....L.....A.....
.....A.....A.....V.....
.....A.....L.....V.....E.....
.....A.....Q.....
```

## 2) Neural networks:

Which parts of the MSA are more informative?

Build a model

Structural model