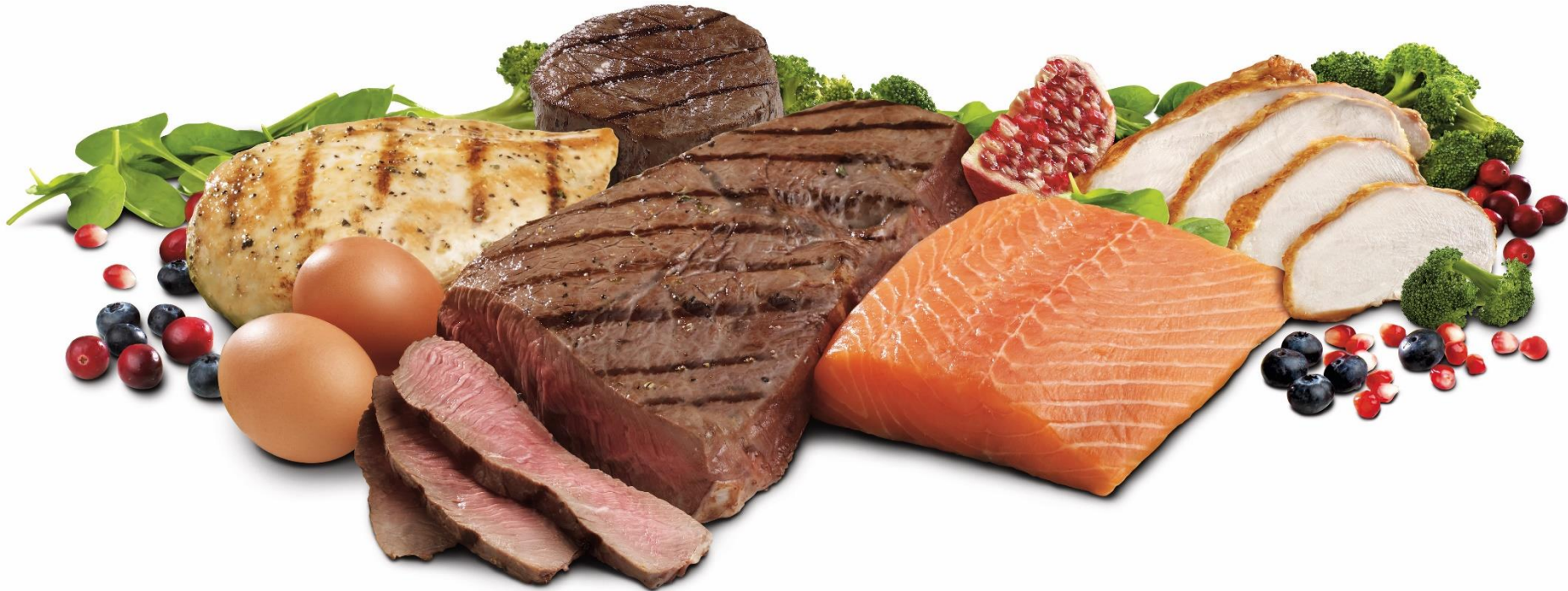


Proteins



Learning Outcomes

- 1(e)iii. Describe the **structure** and **properties** of **amino acids** (in proteins)
- 1(f)iii. Describe the **formation** and **breakage of a peptide bond**.
- 1(k) Explain **primary** structure, **secondary** structure, **tertiary** structure and **quaternary structure of proteins**, and describe the **types of bonds** that hold the molecule in shape (hydrogen, ionic, disulfide bonds and hydrophobic interactions).

Learning Outcomes

1(l) Explain the **effects of temperature** and **pH** on protein structure.

1(m) Describe the molecular **structure** of the **haemoglobin** protein and explain how its **structure** relates to its **function** in transport

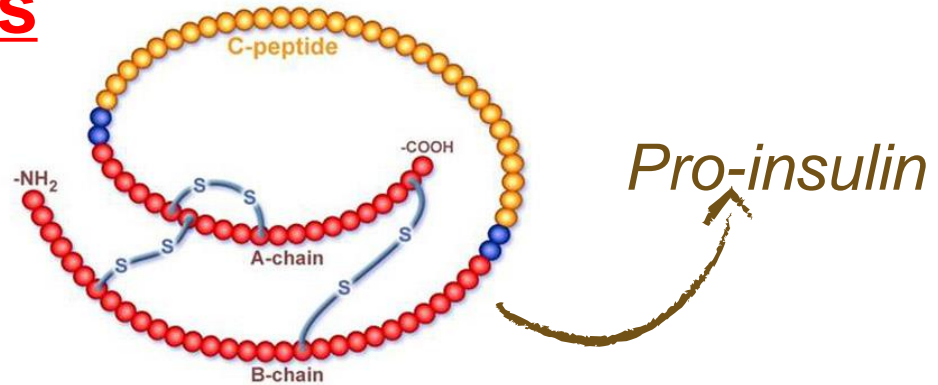
1. Amino acids
2. Formation of peptide bonds
3. Levels of organisation in proteins
 - A. Primary Structure
 - B. Secondary Structure
 - C. Tertiary Structure
 - D. Quaternary Structure
4. Case Studies: Haemoglobin

**WHAT YOU
NEED TO KNOW**



Introduction

- ✦ Made up of the elements carbon, hydrogen & oxygen, nitrogen and sometimes sulphur
- ✦ Building blocks of proteins are monomers called amino acids



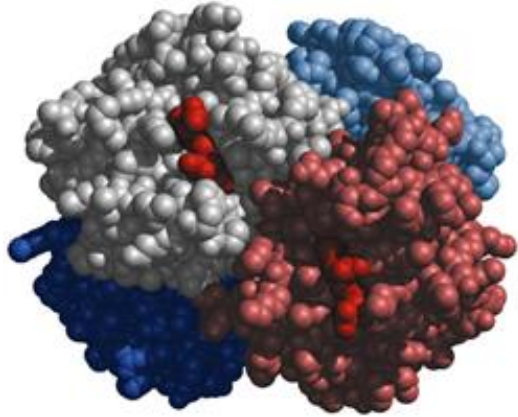
Functions of Proteins

Table 5.1 An Overview of Protein Functions

Type of Protein	Function	Examples
Structural proteins Collagen	Support	Insects and spiders use silk fibers to make their cocoons and webs, respectively. Collagen and elastin provide a fibrous framework in animal connective tissues. Keratin is the protein of hair, horns, feathers, and other skin appendages.
Storage proteins Ovalbumin	Storage of amino acids	Ovalbumin is the protein of egg white, used as an amino acid source for the developing embryo. Casein, the protein of milk, is the major source of amino acids for baby mammals. Plants have storage proteins in their seeds.
Transport proteins Haemoglobin	Transport of other substances	Hemoglobin, the iron-containing protein of vertebrate blood, transports oxygen from the lungs to other parts of the body. Other proteins transport molecules across cell membranes.
Hormonal proteins Insulin / glucagon	Coordination of an organism's activities	Insulin, a hormone secreted by the pancreas, helps regulate the concentration of sugar in the blood of vertebrates.
Receptor proteins GPCR / RTK	Response of cell to chemical stimuli	Receptors built into the membrane of a nerve cell detect chemical signals released by other nerve cells.
Contractile proteins Actin	Movement	Actin and myosin are responsible for the movement of muscles. Other proteins are responsible for the undulations of the organelles called cilia and flagella.
Defensive proteins Antibodies	Protection against disease	Antibodies combat bacteria and viruses.
Enzymatic proteins DNA polymerases, lipase	Selective acceleration of chemical reactions	Digestive enzymes catalyze the hydrolysis of the polymers in food.

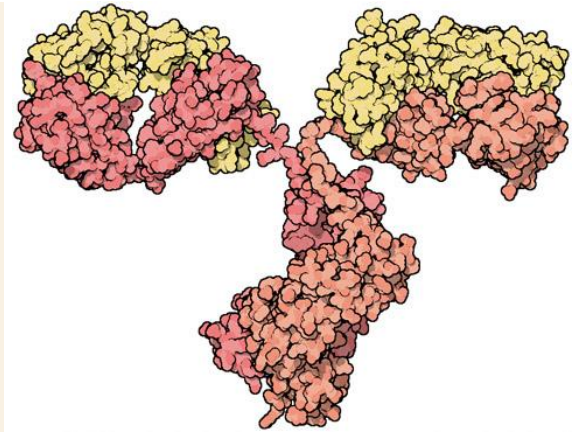


***Collagen –
cartilage & tendons***

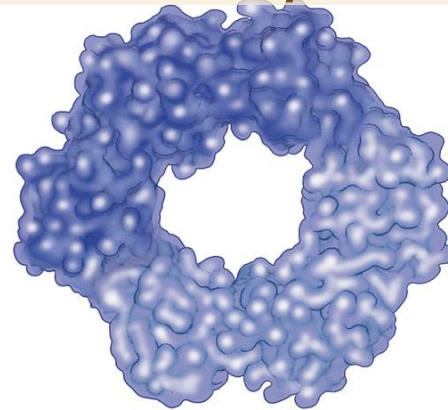



Haemoglobin

Antibody



***DNA polymerase III
– DNA replication***



- 
- 1. Amino acids
 - 2. Formation of peptide bonds
 - 3. Levels of organisations in proteins
 - A. Primary Structure
 - B. Secondary Structure
 - C. Tertiary Structure
 - D. Quaternary Structure
 - 4. Case Studies: Haemoglobin

**WHAT YOU
NEED TO KNOW**

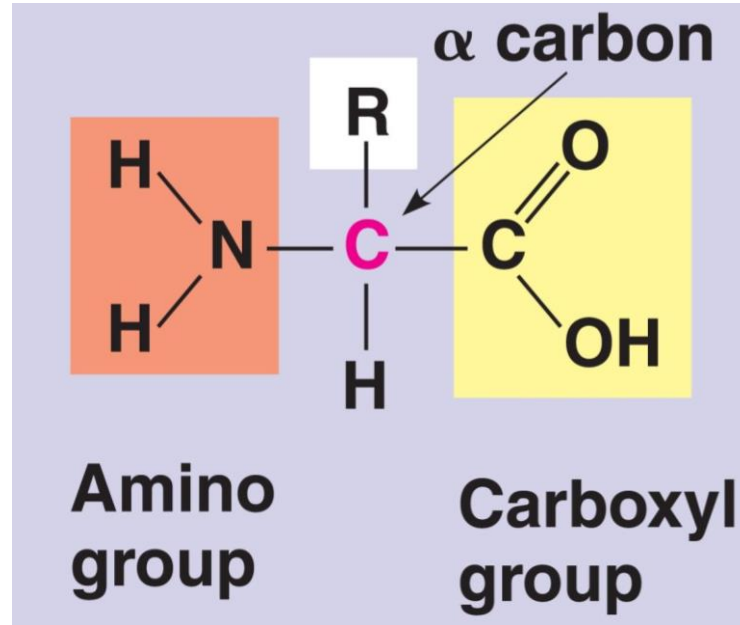


Learning Outcome

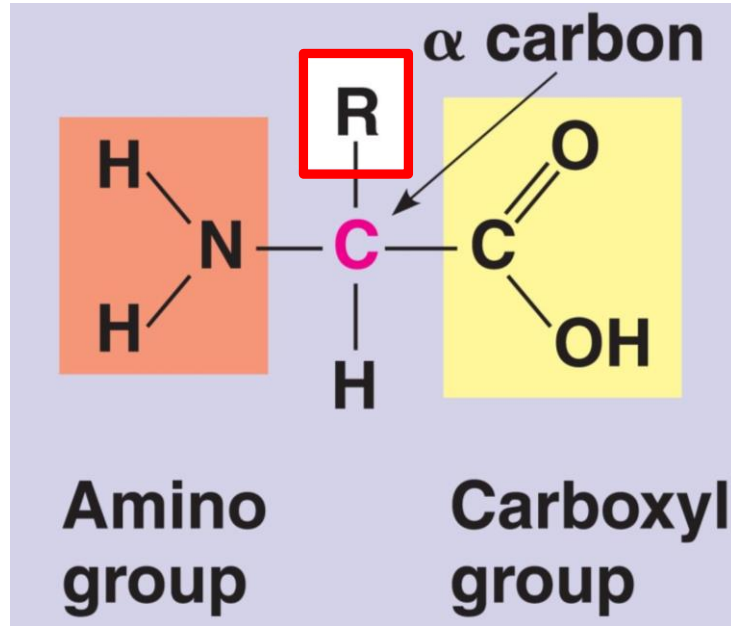


1(e)iii. **Describe** the **structure** & **properties** of amino acids

Structure of an amino acid

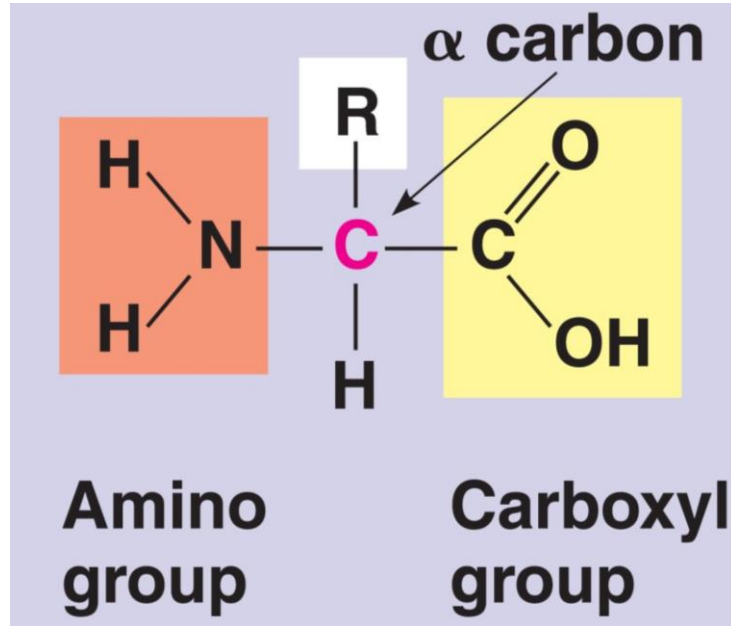


Types of amino acids



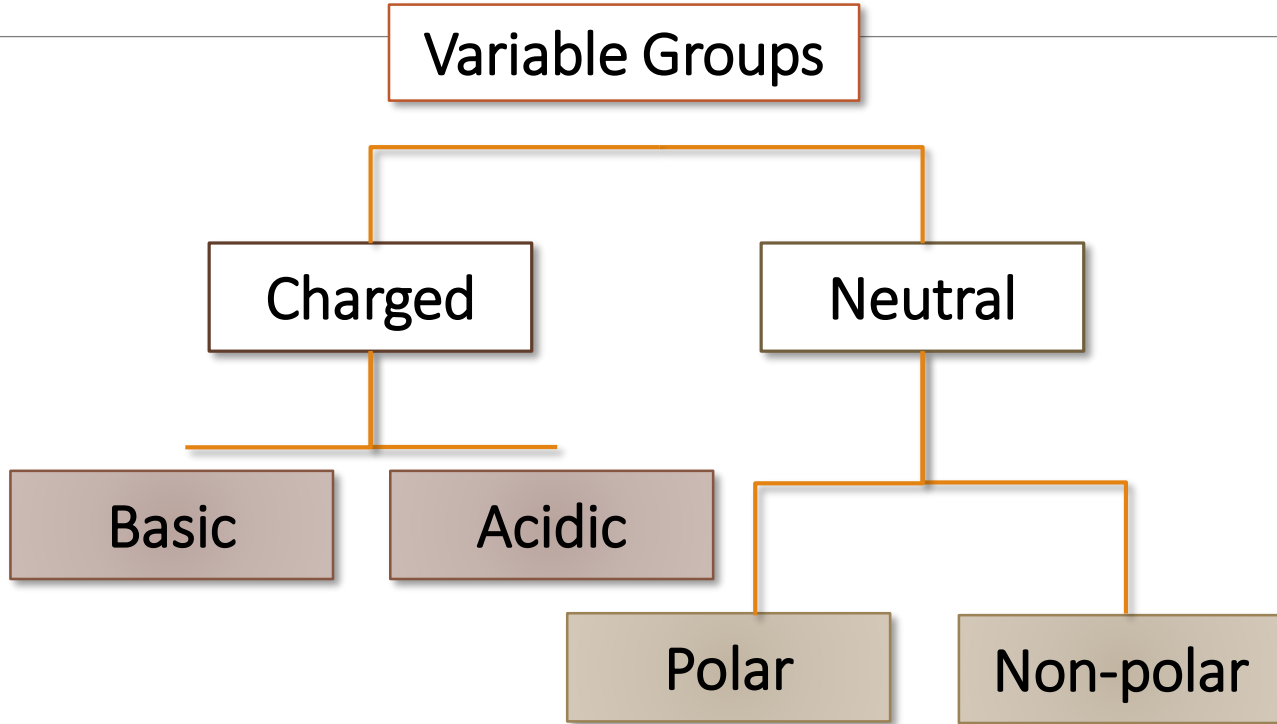
- ✦ 20 different amino acids found in proteins
- ✦ Differs only in **R groups**

Types of amino acids



Classified based on the different chemical properties of the **R groups**

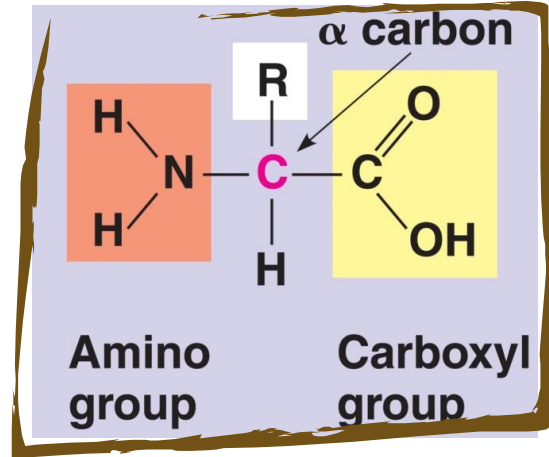
What variable groups (**R groups**) are there?



Classification of amino acids

Amino acids may be:

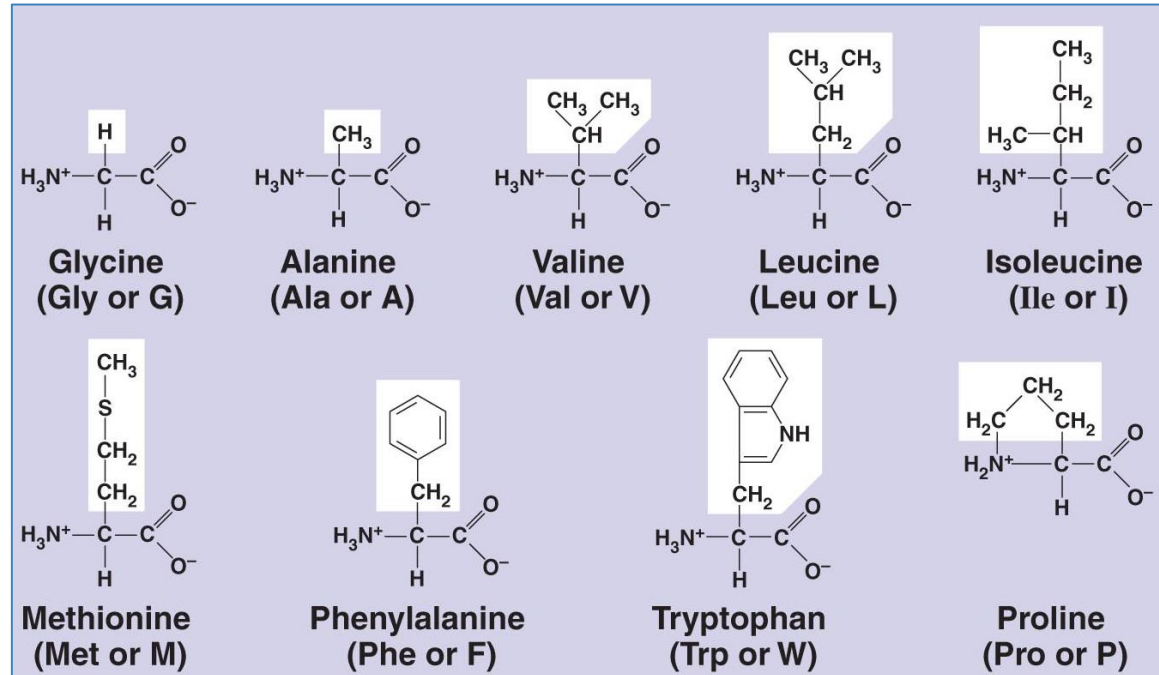
1. Non-polar
2. Polar
3. Charged
 - Acidic
 - Basic



Non-polar amino acids

Side chains with hydrophobic properties:

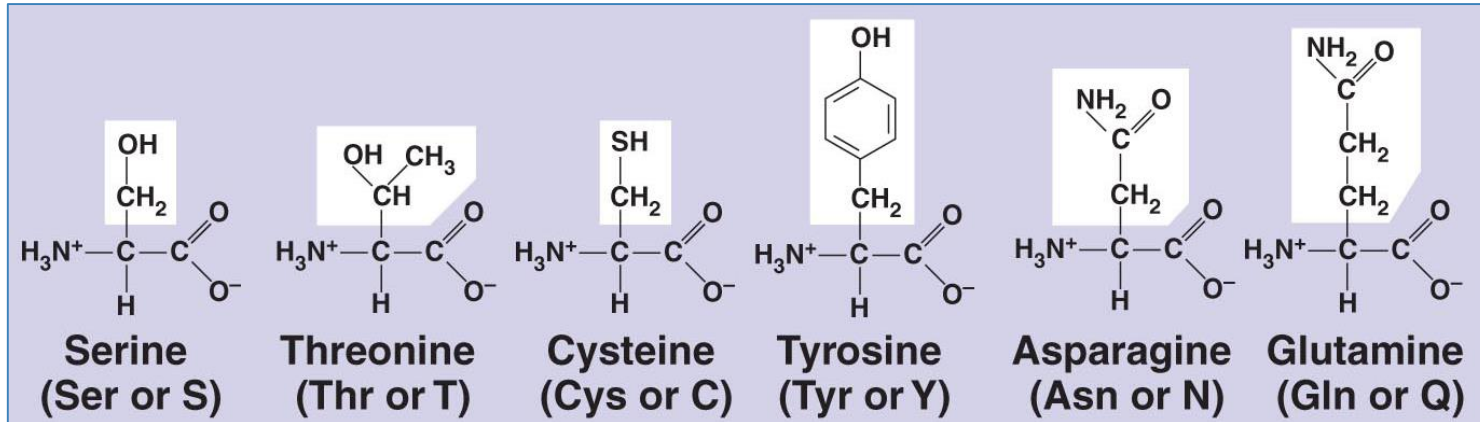
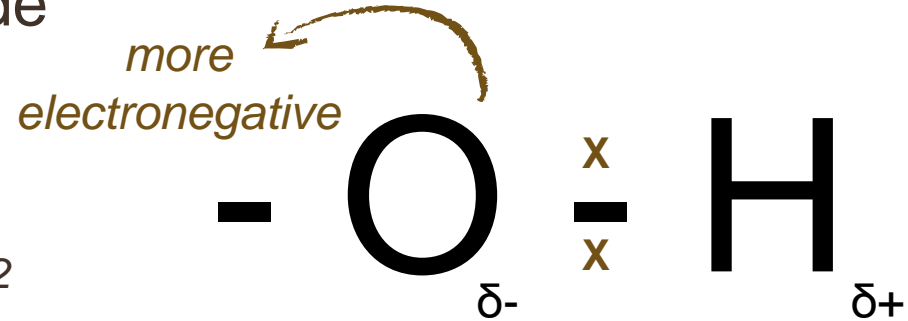
- ※ Pure hydrocarbon alkyl groups or
- ※ Aromatic (benzene) rings

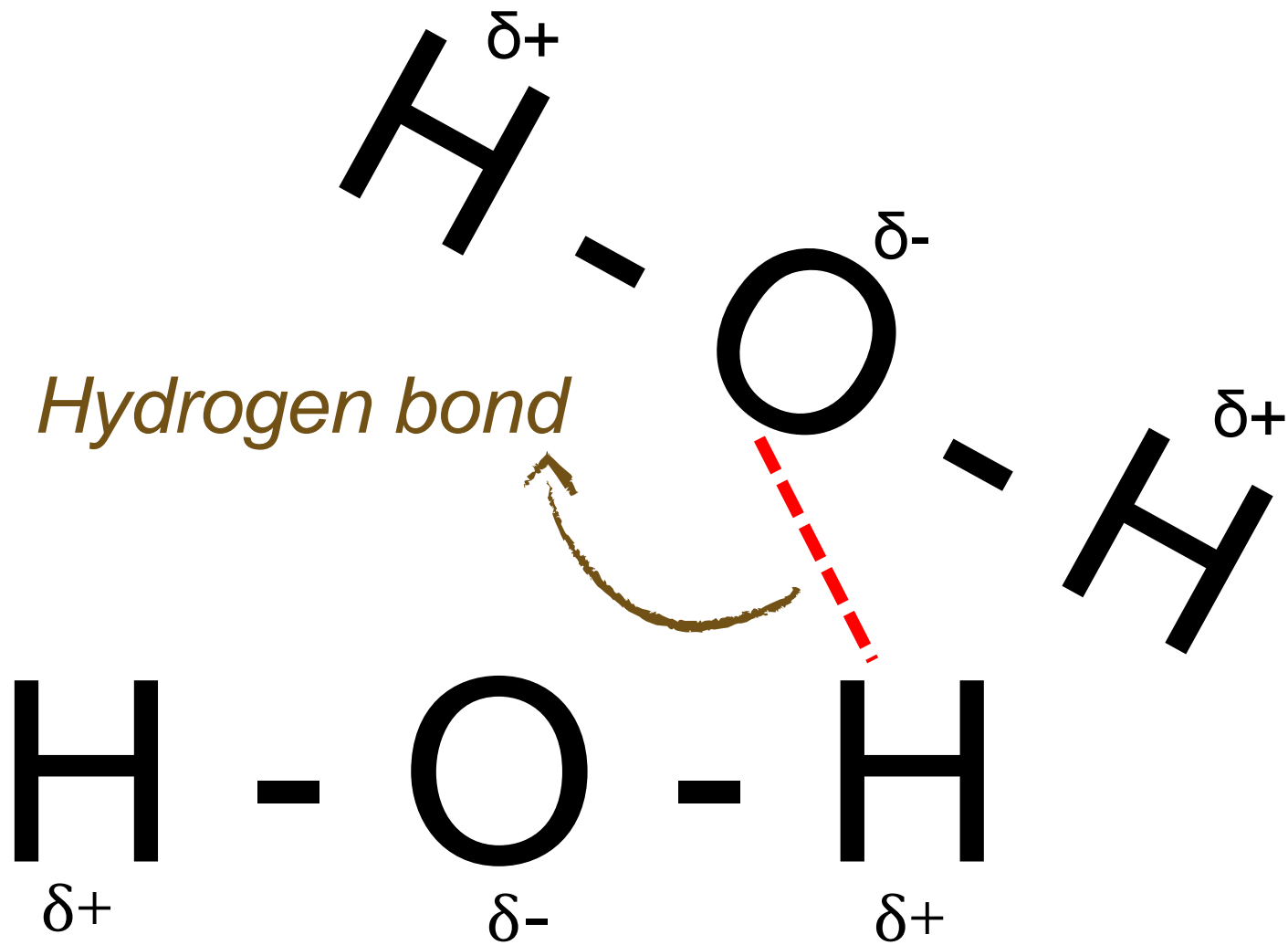


Polar amino acids

✦ Has **hydrophilic** side chains of various functional groups

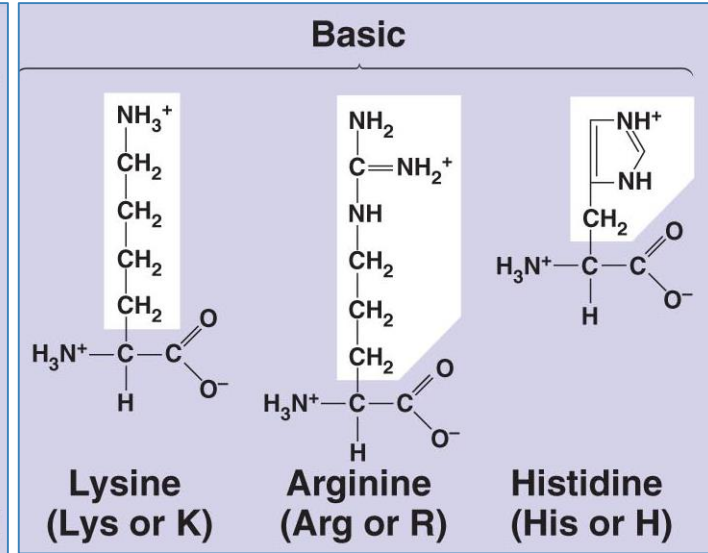
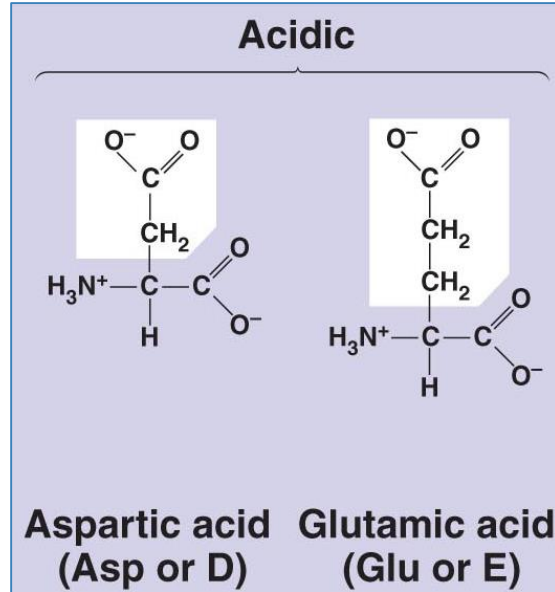
✦ e.g. $-OH$, $-SH$, $-NH_2$



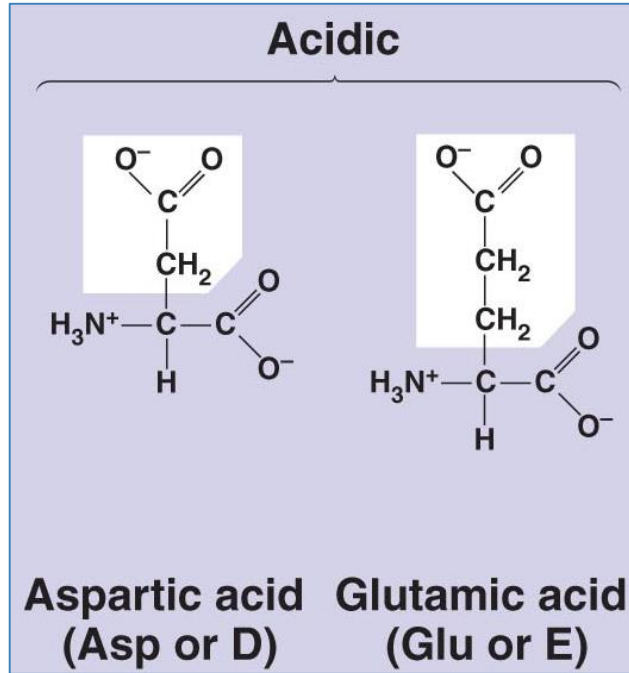


Charged amino acids

✦ Determined by the **acidic** or **basic** functional groups of the side chain

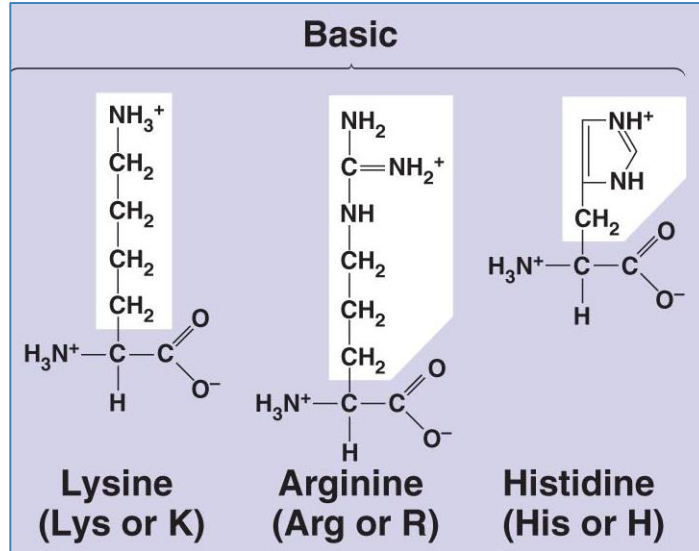


Acidic amino acids



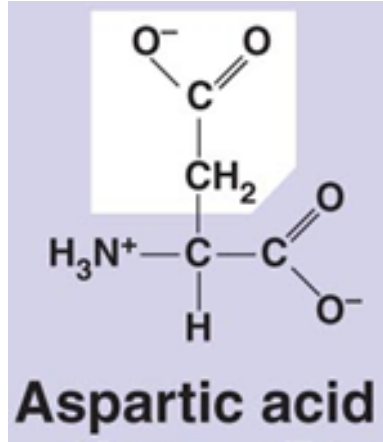
- ✦ Have **additional -COOH** groups
 - ✦ which ionize in aqueous environment to produce **COO⁻** groups
- => Forming an **acidic** solution

Basic amino acids

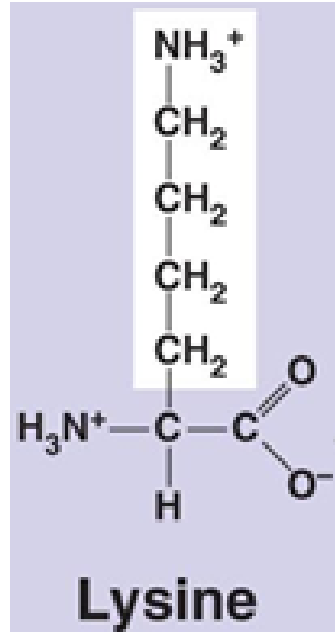


- ✦ Have **additional -NH₂** groups
 - ✦ which ionize in aqueous environment to produce **NH₃⁺** groups,
- => forming a **basic** solution

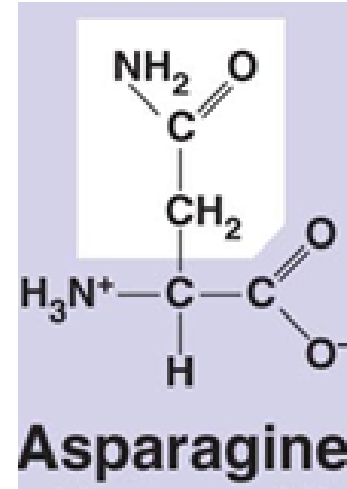
Spot the difference



Acidic



Basic

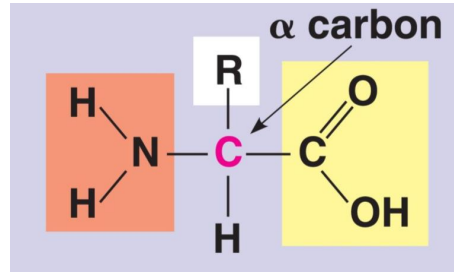


Polar
(uncharged)

Quick Check



✦ Describe the structure of the amino acid.



✦ What are the 4 types of amino acids?

1. Non-polar
2. Polar
3. Charged Acidic
4. Charged Basic

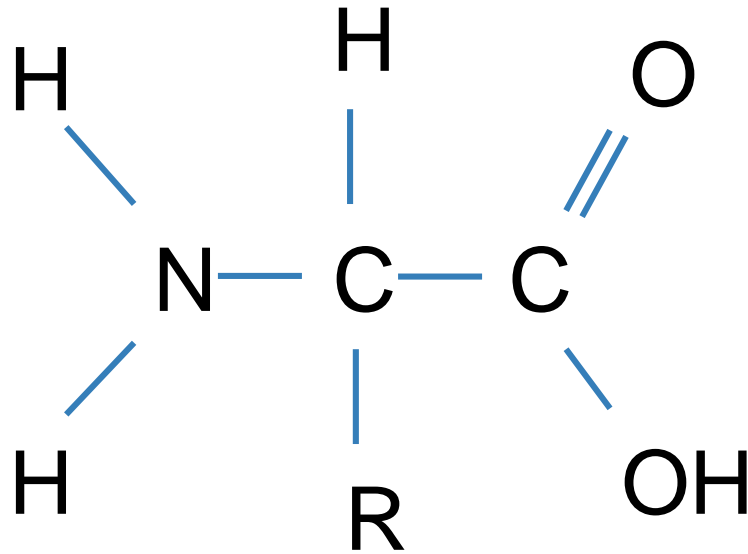
VIDEO: AMINO ACIDS

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/652GRZPLKPS](https://youtu.be/652GrZPLKPs)

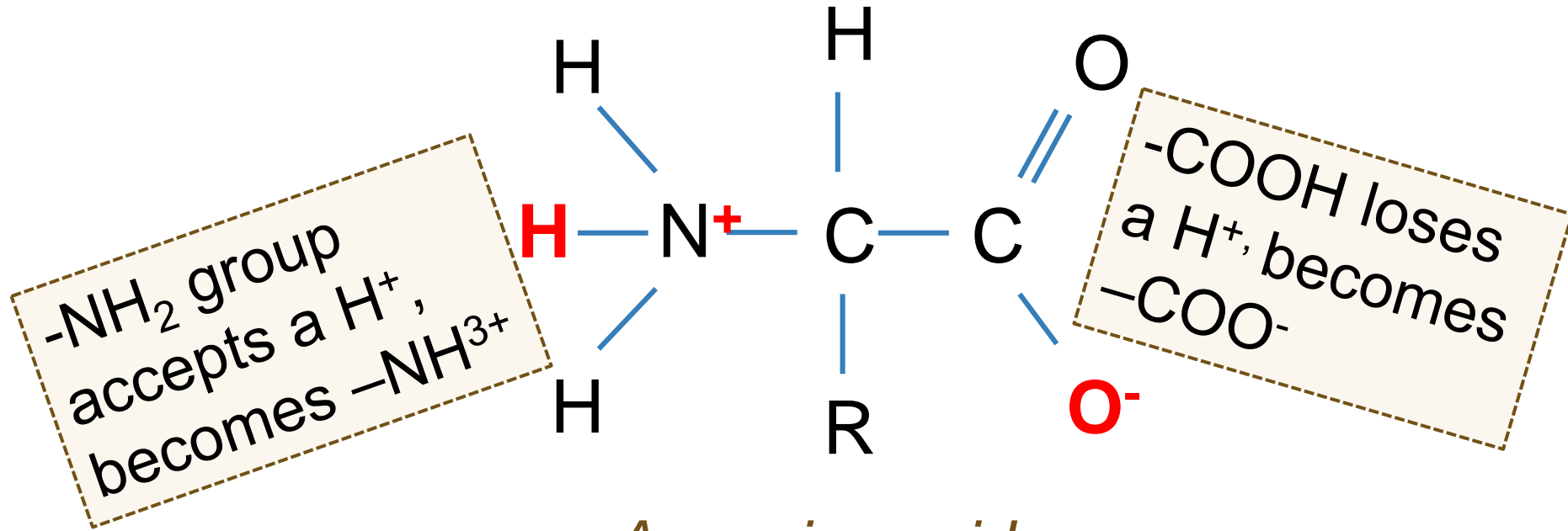
Properties of amino acids

Soluble in water but insoluble in organic solvents

Dissolve in water to form ions



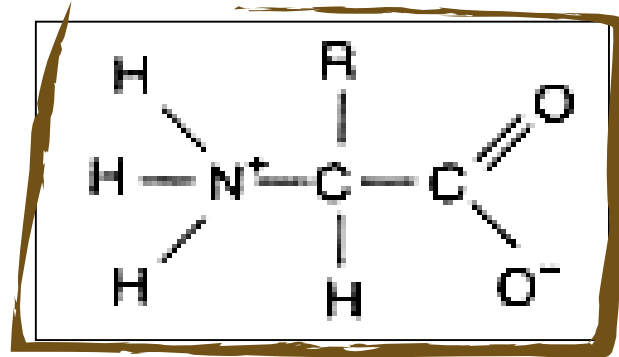
*An amino acid
(powdered)*



*An amino acid
(dissolved)*

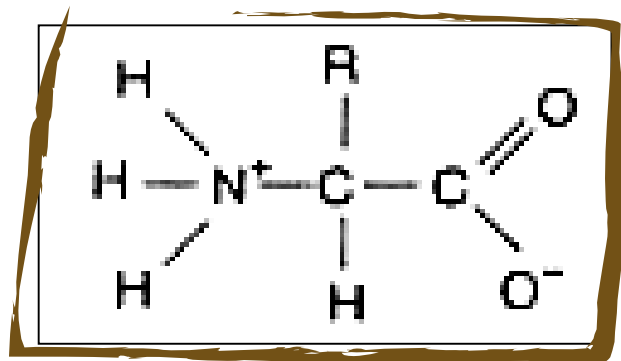
Properties of amino acids

Amino acid that has both positive & negative charges
→ known as a **zwitterion**



Properties of amino acids

The **pH** at which an amino acid is a zwitterion is its **isoelectric point**



Properties of amino acids

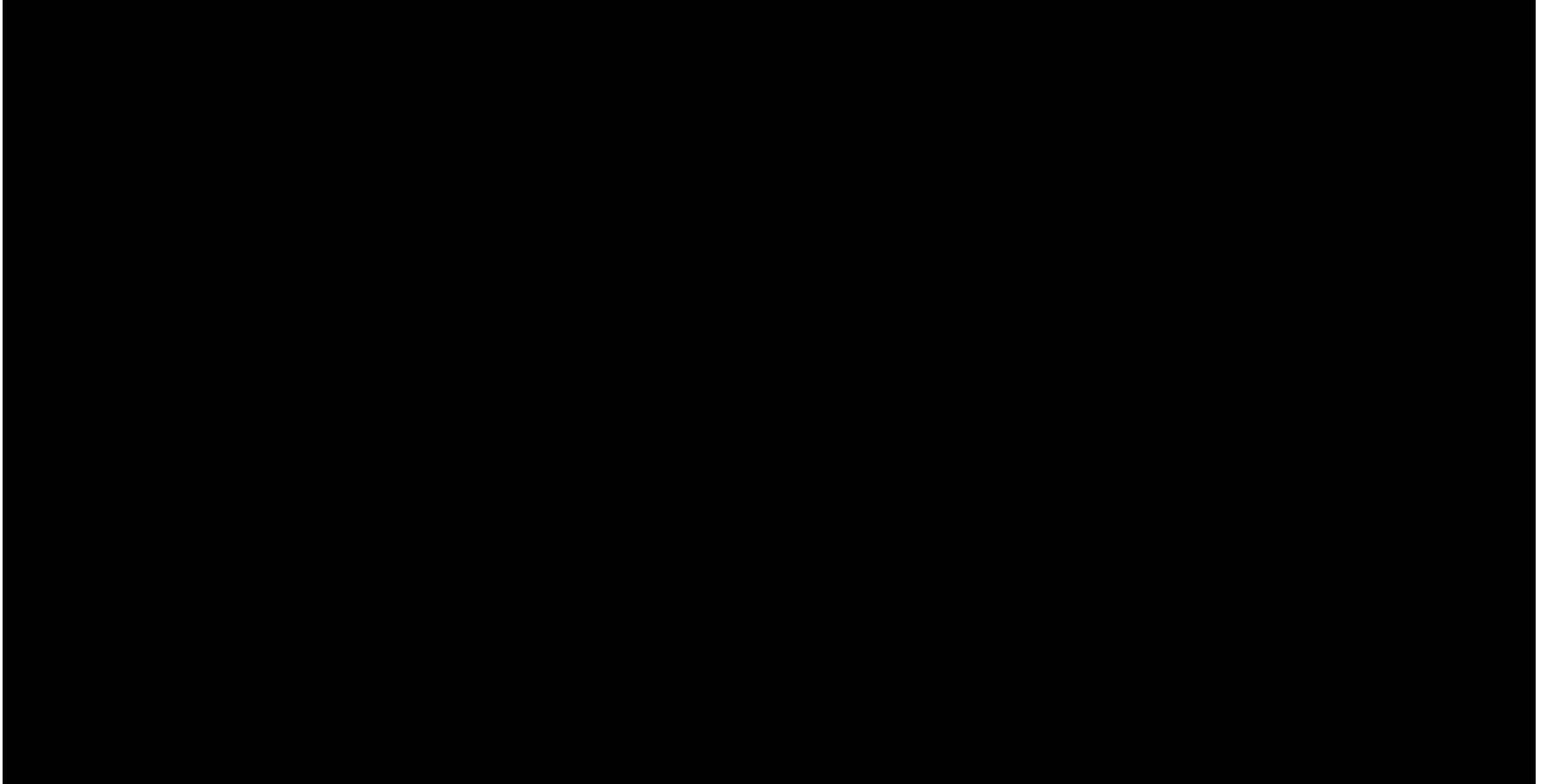
- ✦ All amino acids can act as either acids or bases (i.e. amphoteric)
- ✦ Can act as pH buffers in solutions

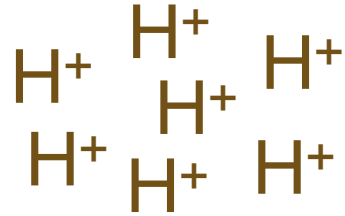


Able to resist changes in pH when a small amount of acid/base is added

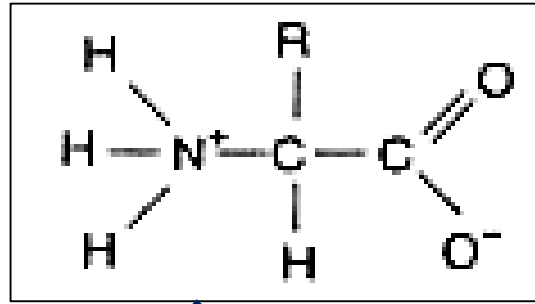
VIDEO: AMINO ACIDS AS PH BUFFERS

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/FHOSQQECJN4](https://youtu.be/FHOSQQECJN4)

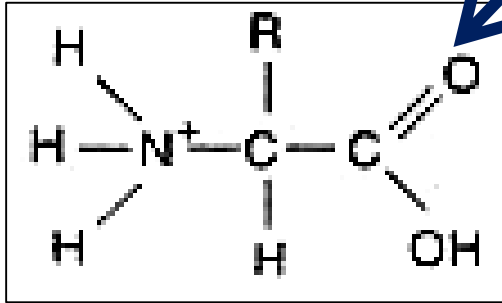




acidic medium

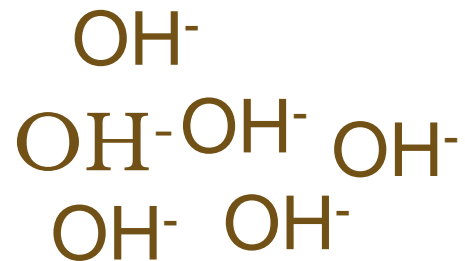
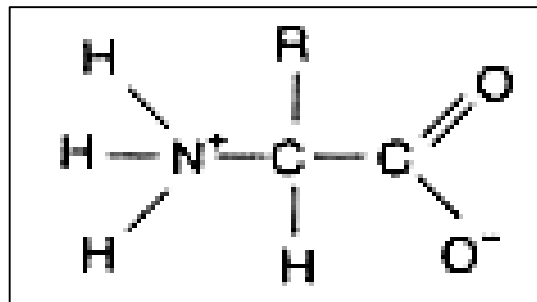


zwitterion

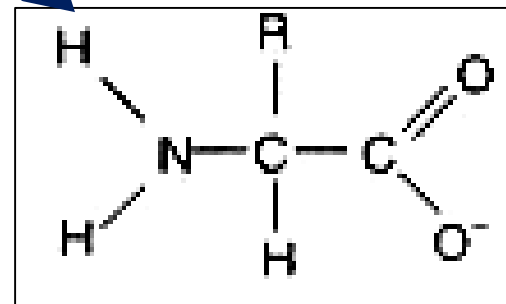


- Amino acid behaves as a base
- -COO^- gains a H^+ & becomes -COOH

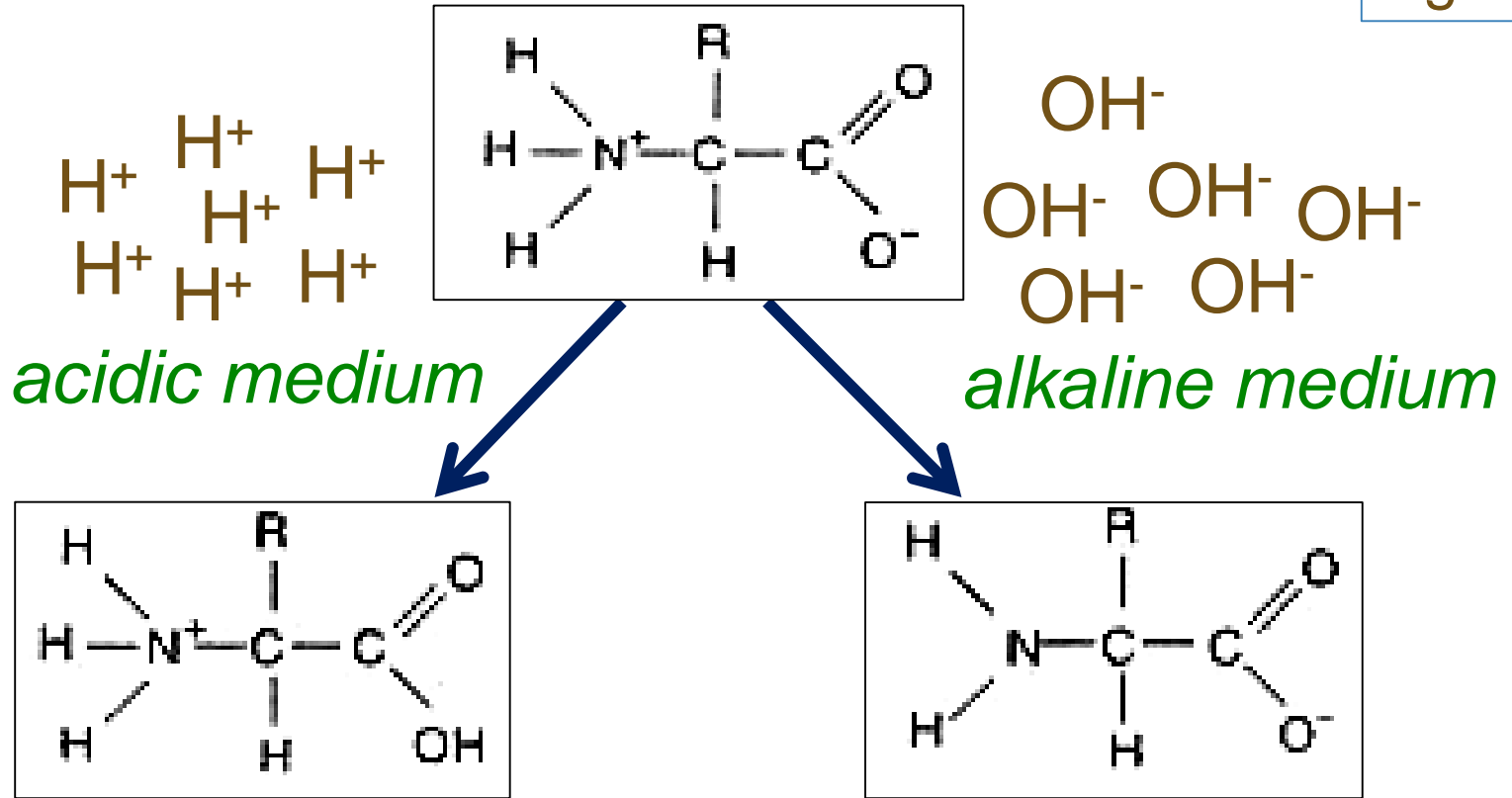
zwitterion



Alkaline medium



- Amino acid behaves as an acid
- -NH^3+ loses a proton and becomes -NH_2



Quick Check



✦ What are some properties of an amino acid?

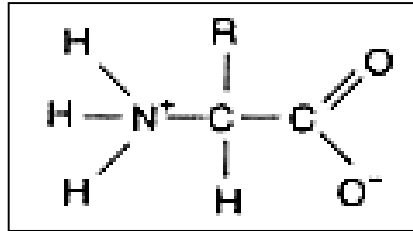
- Soluble in water
- Exist as Zwitterions
- Amphoteric → Can act as buffers

Quick Check



✚ In aqueous medium, an amino acid can become a zwitterion. What is a zwitterion?

An Amino acid with both positive and negative charges



✚ What is isoelectric point?

pH at which an amino acid is a zwitterion is its isoelectric point



1. Amino acids
2. Formation of peptide bonds
3. Levels of organisations in proteins
 - A. Primary Structure
 - B. Secondary Structure
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4. Case Studies: Haemoglobin

**WHAT YOU
NEED TO KNOW**



Learning Outcome



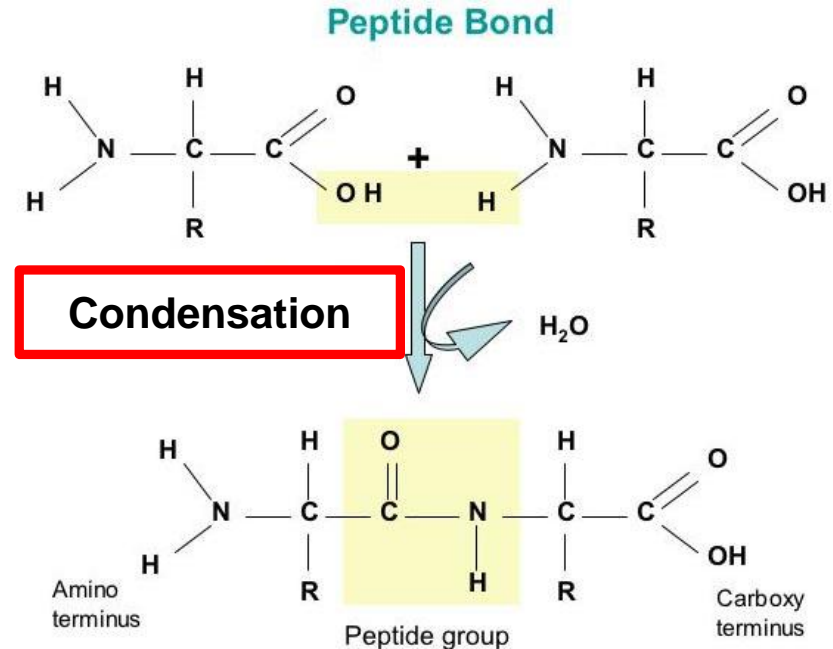
1(f)iii. Describe the formation & breakage of a peptide bond

Formation of peptide bonds

Amino acids are linked by **peptide bonds**

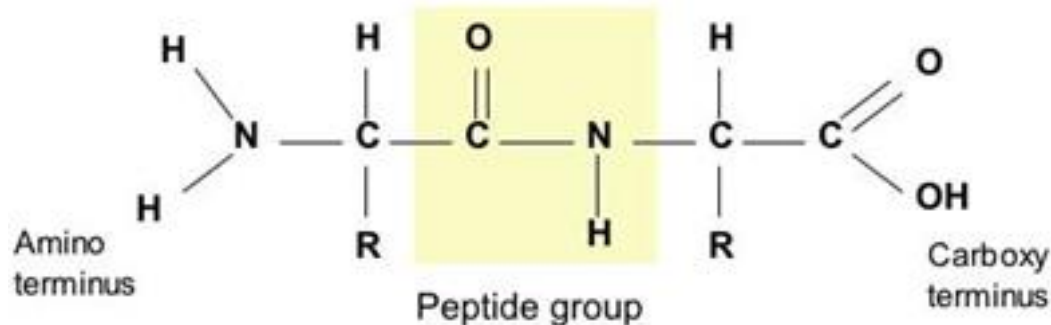
A **covalent** bond formed between **-COOH** group of one a.a. & the **-NH₂** group of the next a.a.

A water **molecule** is released



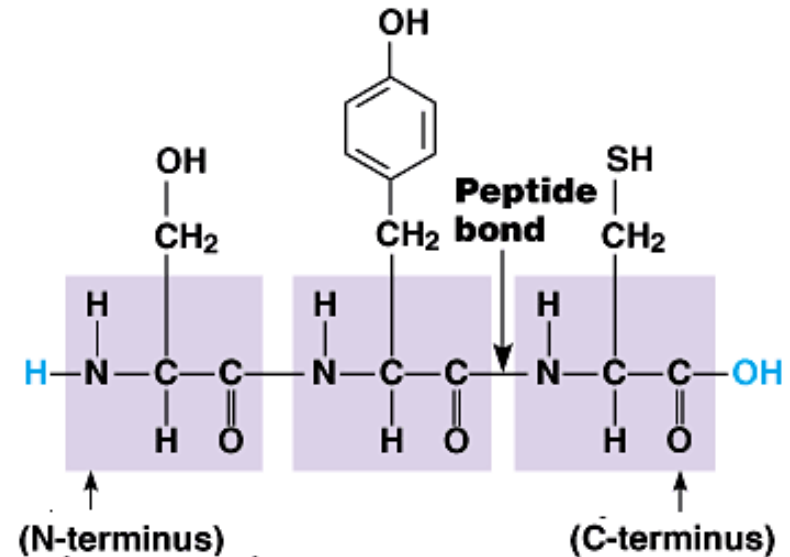
Formation of peptide bonds

- ✦ Once 2 a.a. are joined via a peptide bond, a dipeptide is formed
- ✦ Has a **free NH_2** at one end & a **free COOH** at the other



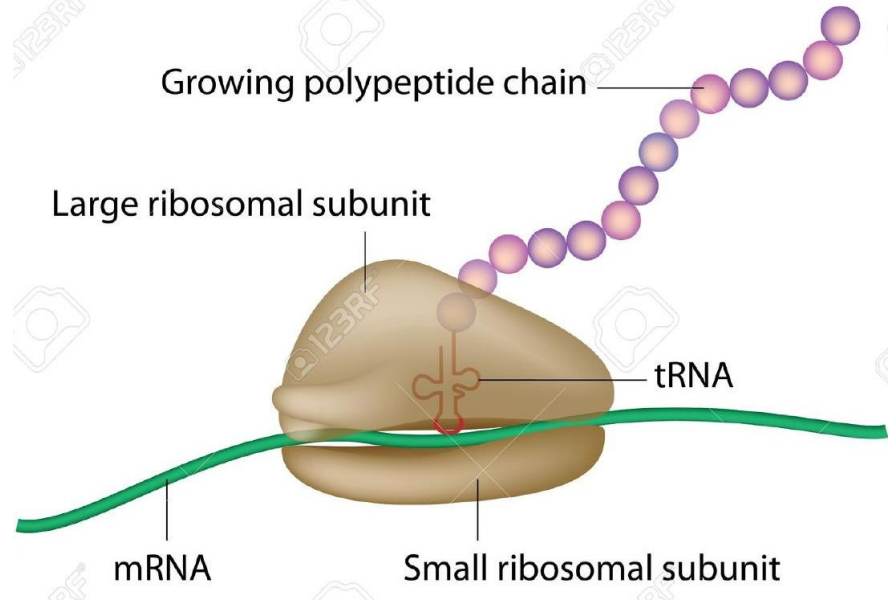
Formation of peptide bonds

Continued condensation leads to formation of a long chain of a.a. called a polypeptide.



Formation of peptide bonds

Occurs at ribosomes during translation, catalyzed by **peptidyl transferase**

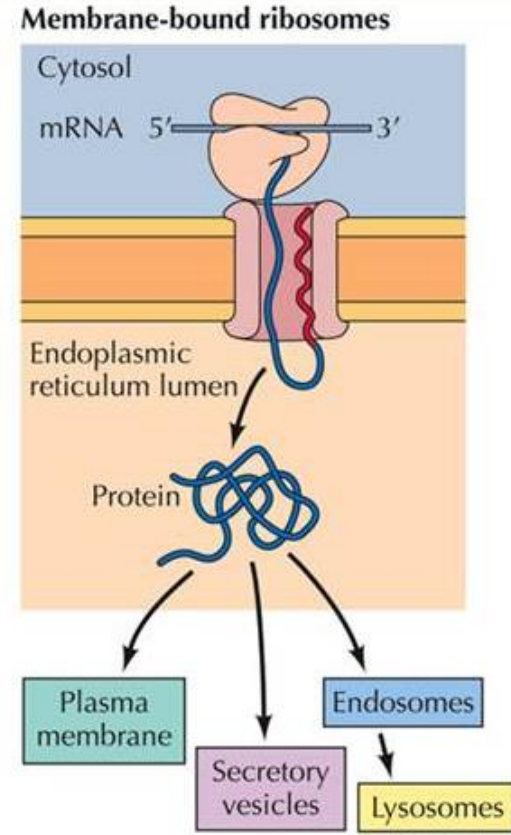


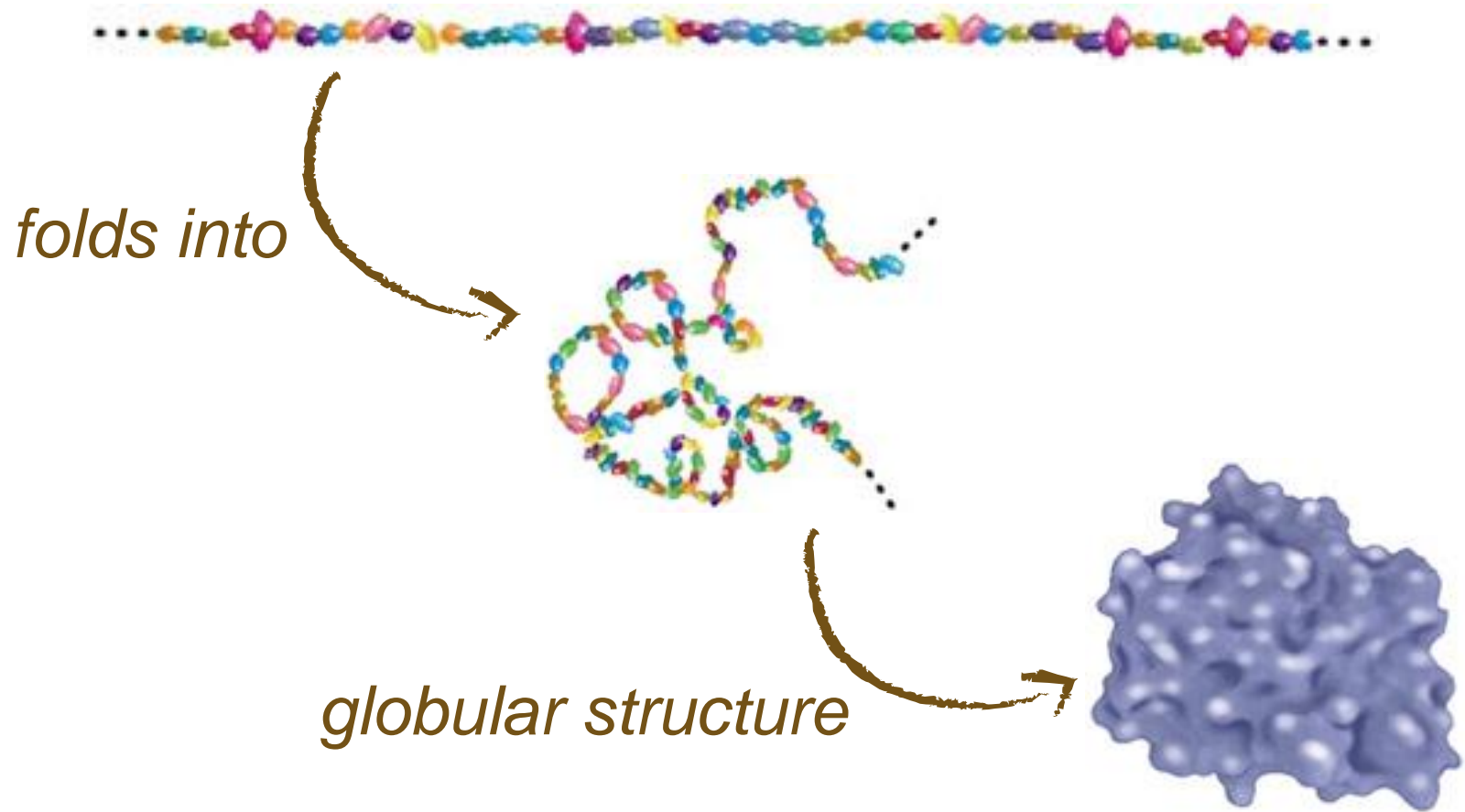
Formation of peptide bonds

Linear polypeptide will then fold, coil, or attach to other polypeptide chains to form a functional protein.

Occurs in ↙

RER & Golgi body





Are these two tripeptides the same?



N - alanine – lysine – serine - C

N - serine – lysine – alanine - C

- A polypeptide has direction
- N-terminus is the beginning of the polypeptide
- C-terminus is the end

Hydrolysis of peptide bonds

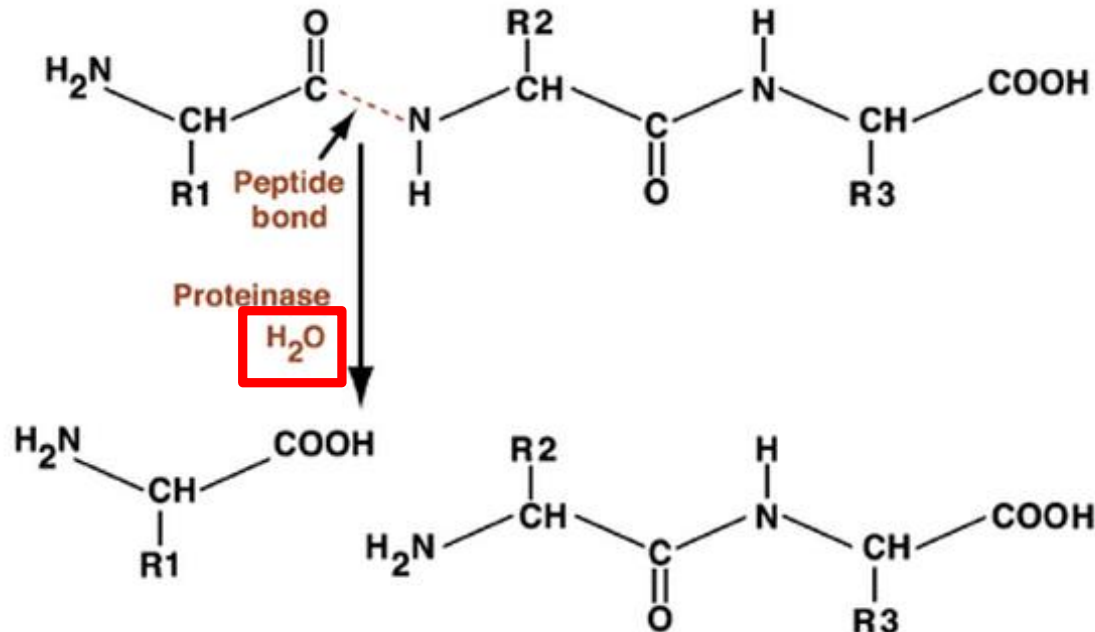
✦ Add one H_2O across each peptide bond

Can be catalysed
by enzymes
(e.g. protease)



At high
temperature,
with acid

Hydrolysis of peptide bonds



Learning Outcomes



1(e) iii. Describe the **structure** and **properties** of **amino acids** (in proteins)



1(f) iii. Describe the **formation** and **breakage of a peptide bond**.

1(k) Explain **primary** structure, **secondary** structure, **tertiary** structure and **quaternary structure of proteins**, and describe the **types of bonds** that hold the molecule in shape (hydrogen, ionic, disulfide bonds and hydrophobic interactions).



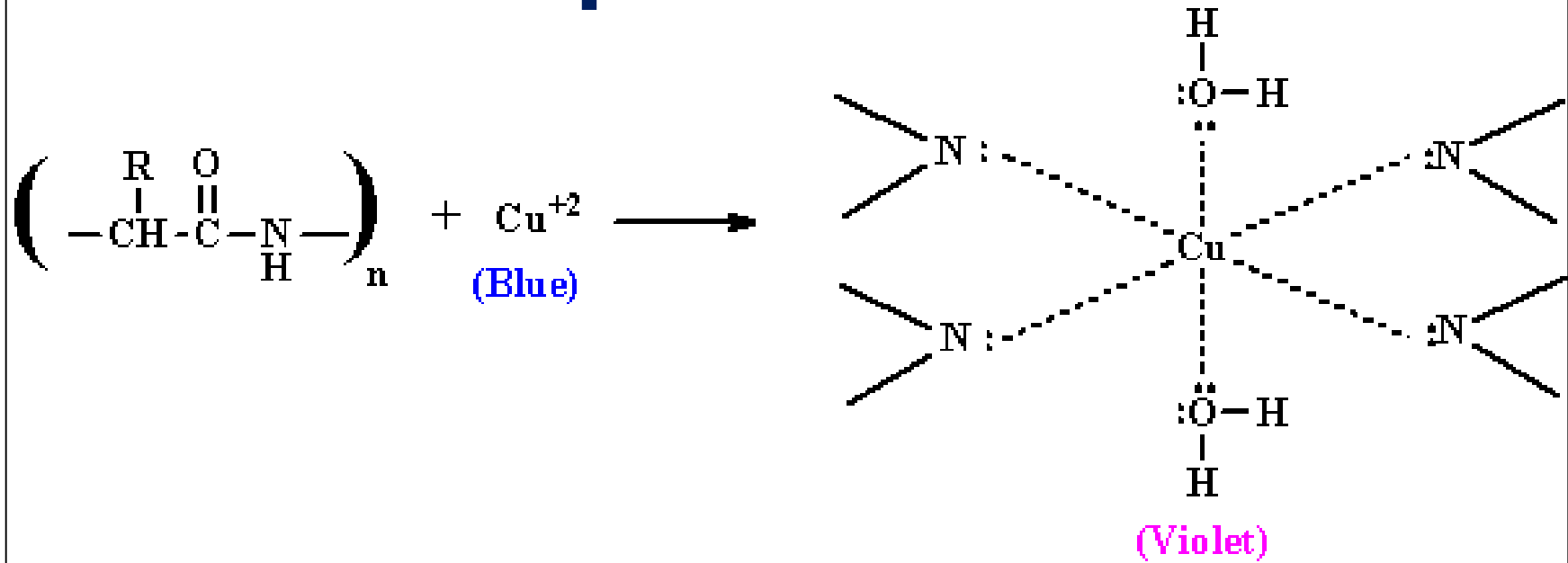
Biuret test for proteins

- ✦ Add an equal volume of Biuret's solution to sample solution.
- ✦ Shake to mix contents thoroughly.
- ✦ Add dilute CuSO_4 **drop by drop**, shaking after every drop





Biuret test for proteins



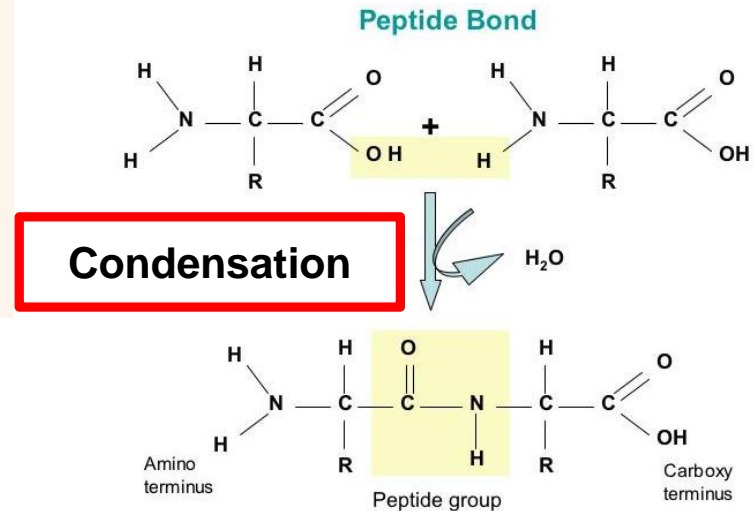
Quick Check



✦ Describe how two amino acids are joined together.

Amino acids are linked by peptide bonds

A covalent bond formed between -COOH group of one a.a. & the -NH₂ group of the next a.a. and a water **molecule** is being released

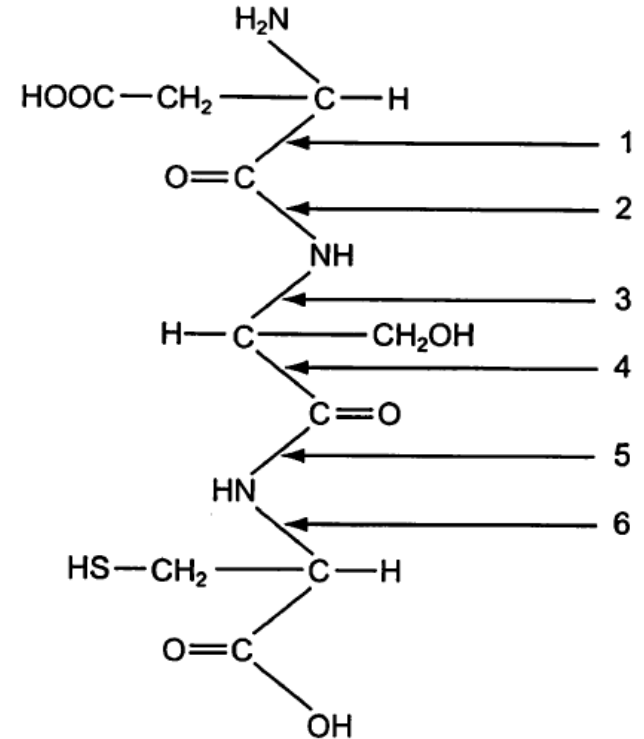


Tutorial 2: Proteins MCQ 3

✦ The diagram represents a tripeptide.

✦ At which bonds does hydrolysis occur to release the amino acids from the tripeptide?

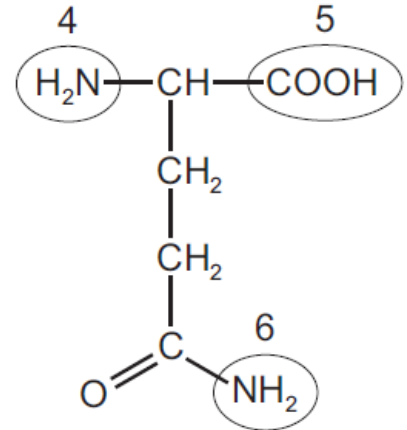
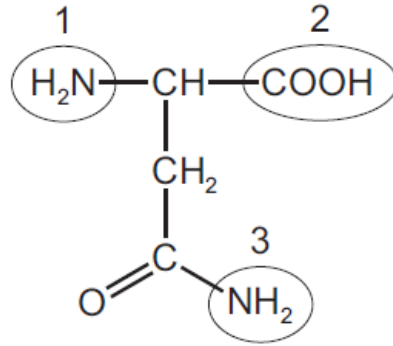
A	1 and 4
B	2 and 5
C	2 and 6
D	3 and 6



Tutorial 2: Proteins MCQ 4

The diagrams show the structures of two amino acids, each of which has two amino (-NH_2) groups. A peptide bond is formed between the two amino acids. Which groups form the peptide bond?

A	1 and 4
B	1 and 5
C	2 and 6
D	3 and 5



1. Amino acids

2. Formation of peptide bonds

➔ 3. Levels of organisations in proteins

A. Primary Structure

B. Secondary Structure

C. Tertiary Structure

D. Quaternary Structure

4. Case Studies: Haemoglobin

**WHAT YOU
NEED TO KNOW**

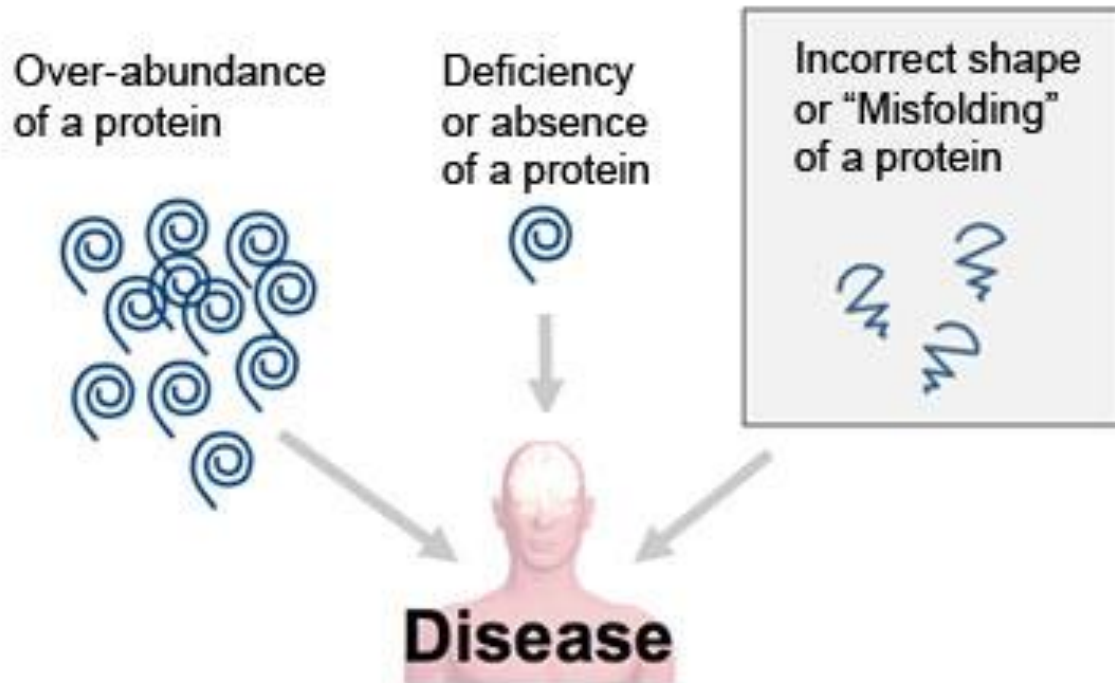


Learning Outcome

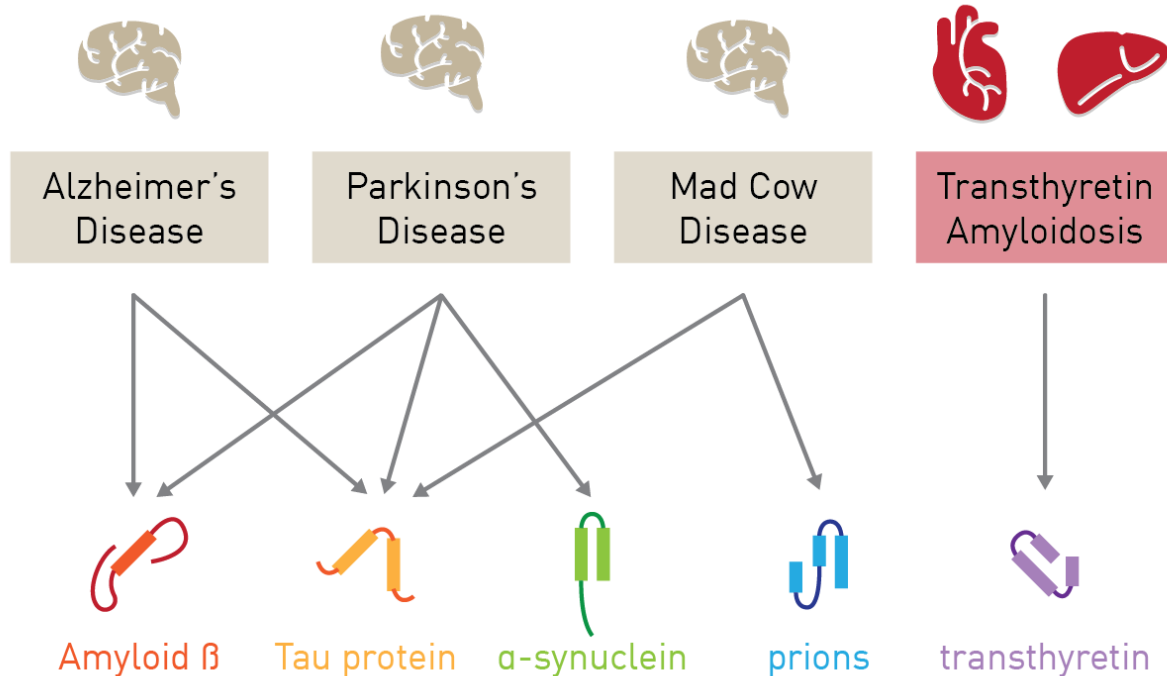


1(m) *Explain the meaning of the terms primary, secondary, tertiary & quaternary structure of proteins & describe the types of bonds which hold the molecule in shape.*

Why is protein folding important?



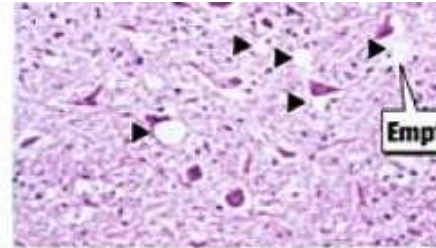
Some diseases caused by protein misfolding



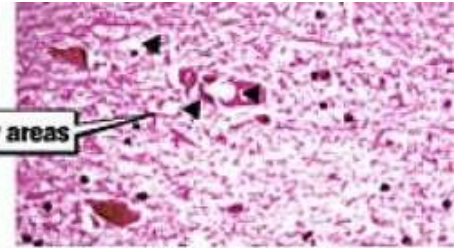
Some Diseases CAUSED BY ABNORMAL proteins

What causes fatal mad cow disease?

- 1 A cow eats feed supplemented with sheep bone meal containing infectious proteins called prions. There has been a ban on such rendered feed since 1997.
- 2 The prions are suspected of corrupting normal protein production.
- 3 Prions are absorbed by the stomach and are thought to travel along nerve fibers to the brain stem, destroying brain tissue.



Cow brain tissue showing bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)



Human brain tissue showing Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)

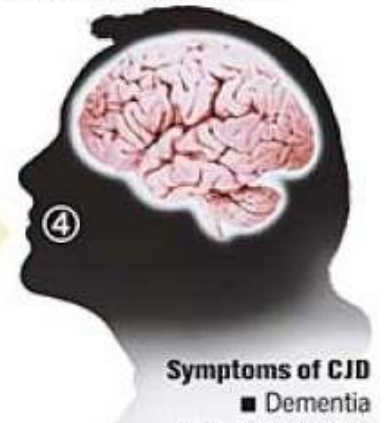


Symptoms of BSE

- Disorientation
- Fearfulness
- Wobbly movement

Sources: UCSF, World Health Organization

- 4 When humans eat processed meat products that might contain prion-infected tissues, they too can come down with a similar fatal syndrome, dubbed variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. All the various bans on cattle and beef products are designed to eliminate human consumption of the tainted meat.



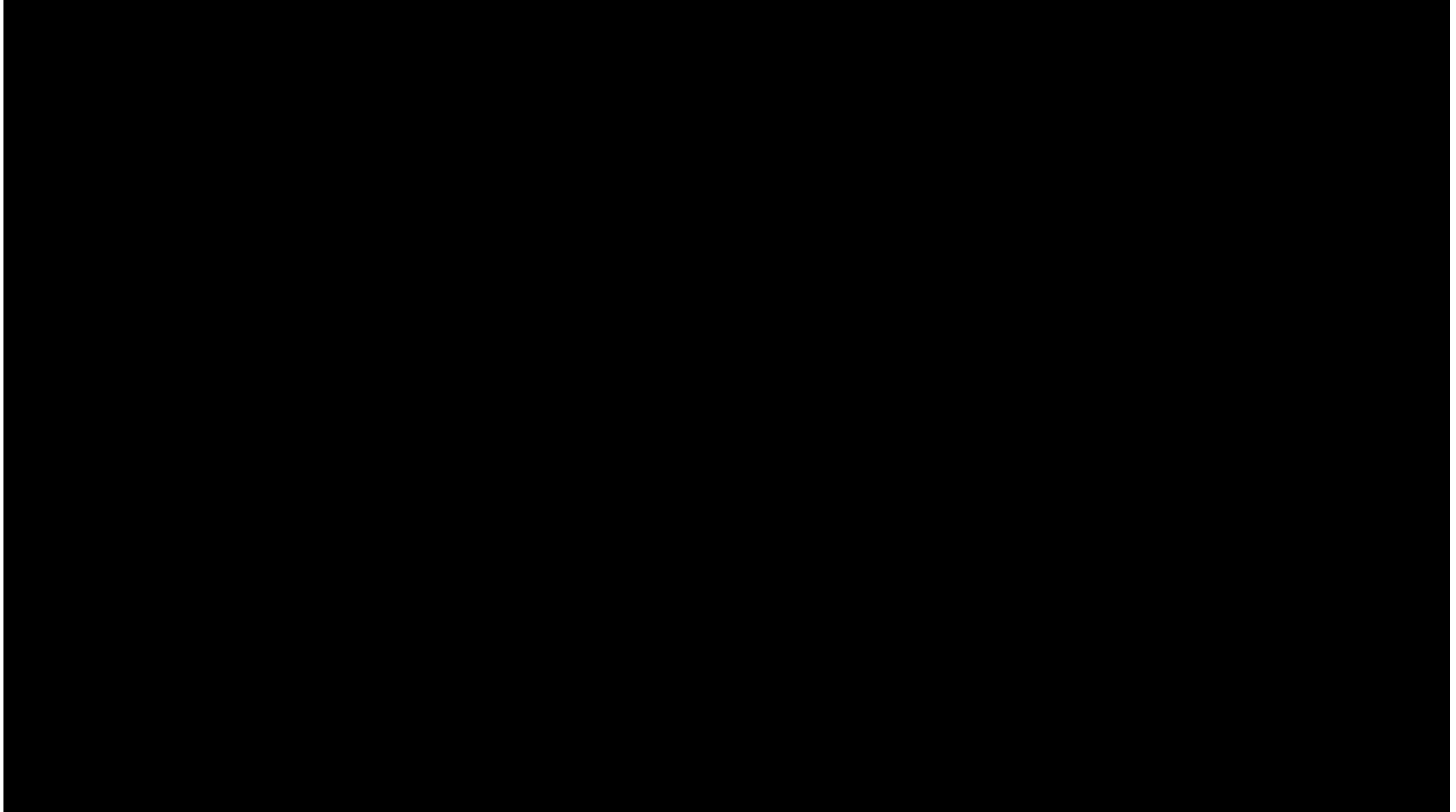
Symptoms of CJD

- Dementia
- Sleep disorders
- Schizophrenia-like symptoms

Cumulatively, through the end of 2015, more than **184,500 cases of BSE** had been confirmed in the United Kingdom alone in more than 35,000 herds

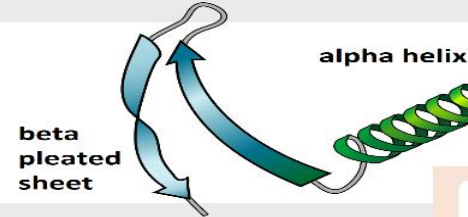
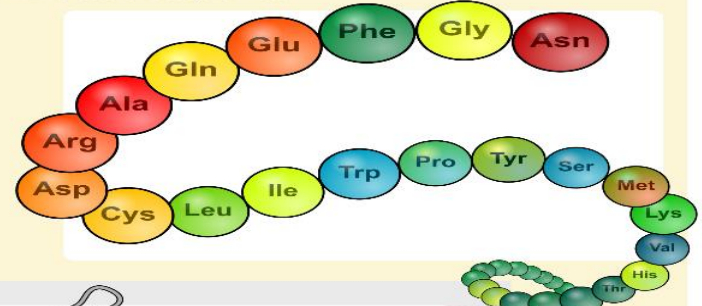
VIDEO: WHY STUDY PROTEIN FOLDING?

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/KPEDMJDRTPY](https://youtu.be/KPEDMJDRTPY)

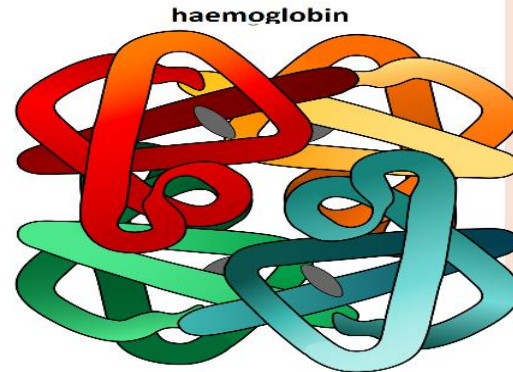


4 levels of protein folding

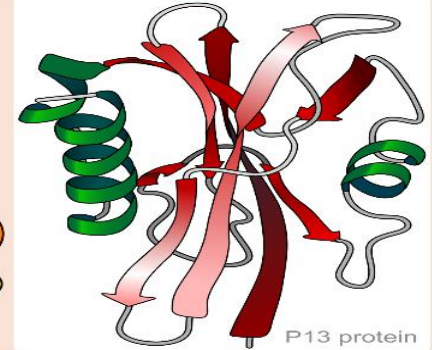
Primary structure
amino acid sequence



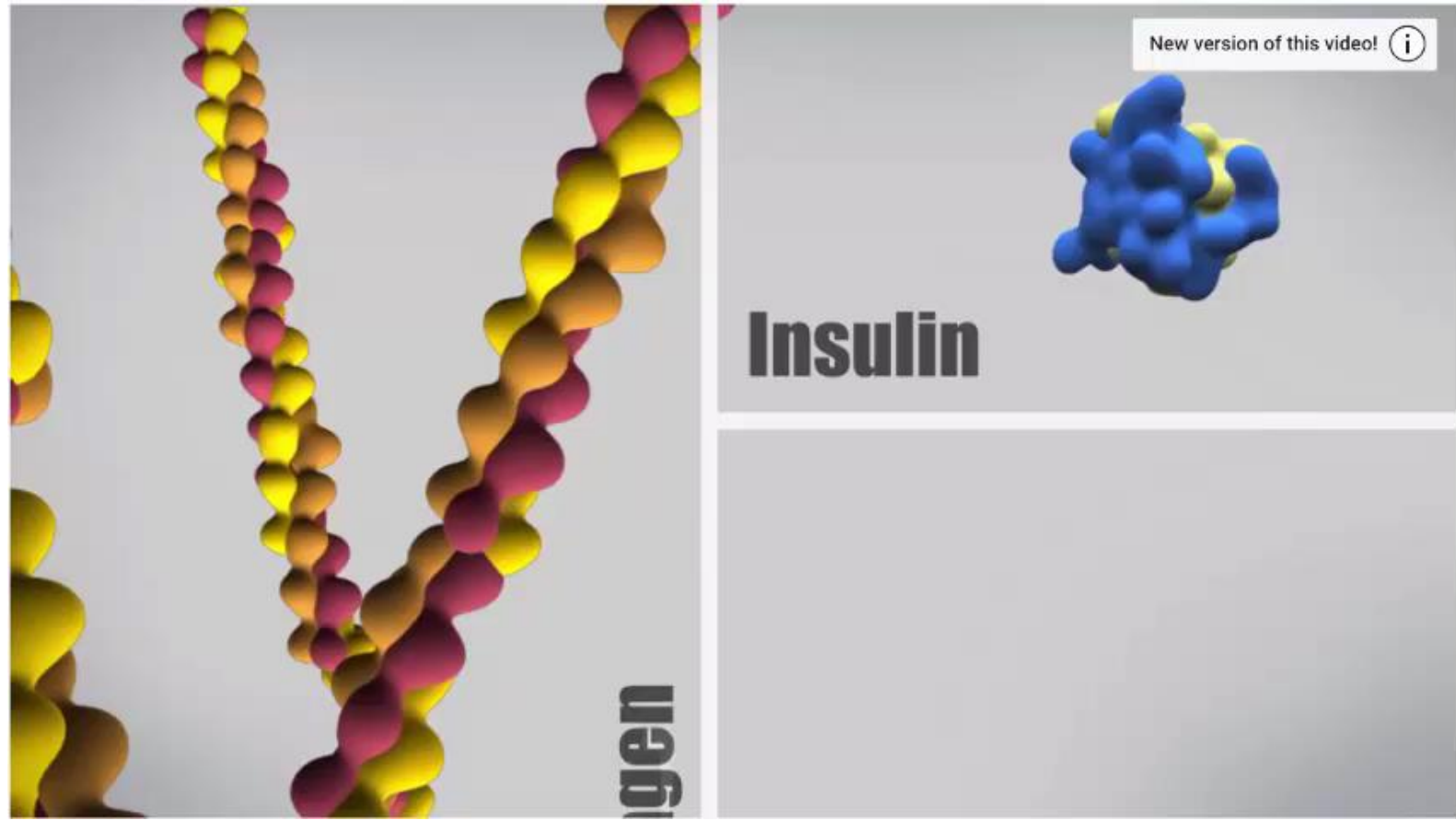
Secondary structure
regular sub-structures



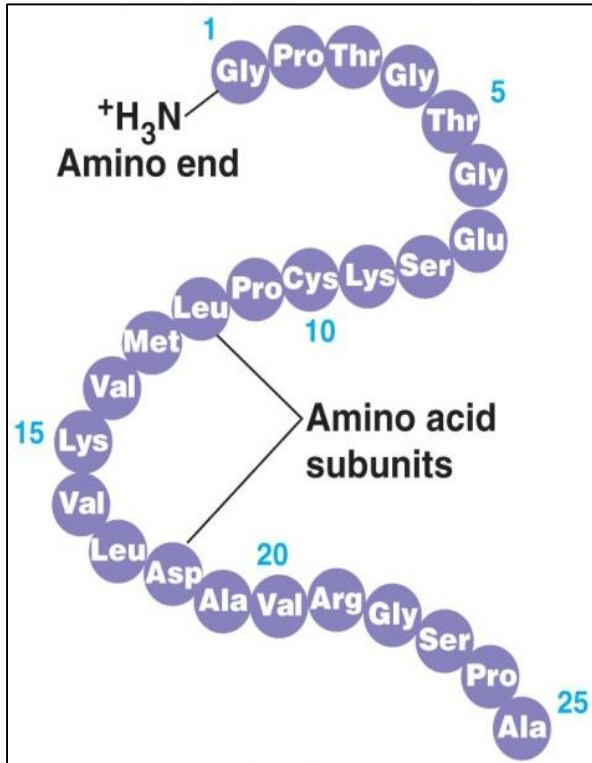
Quaternary structure



Tertiary structure
three-dimensional structure



Primary structure

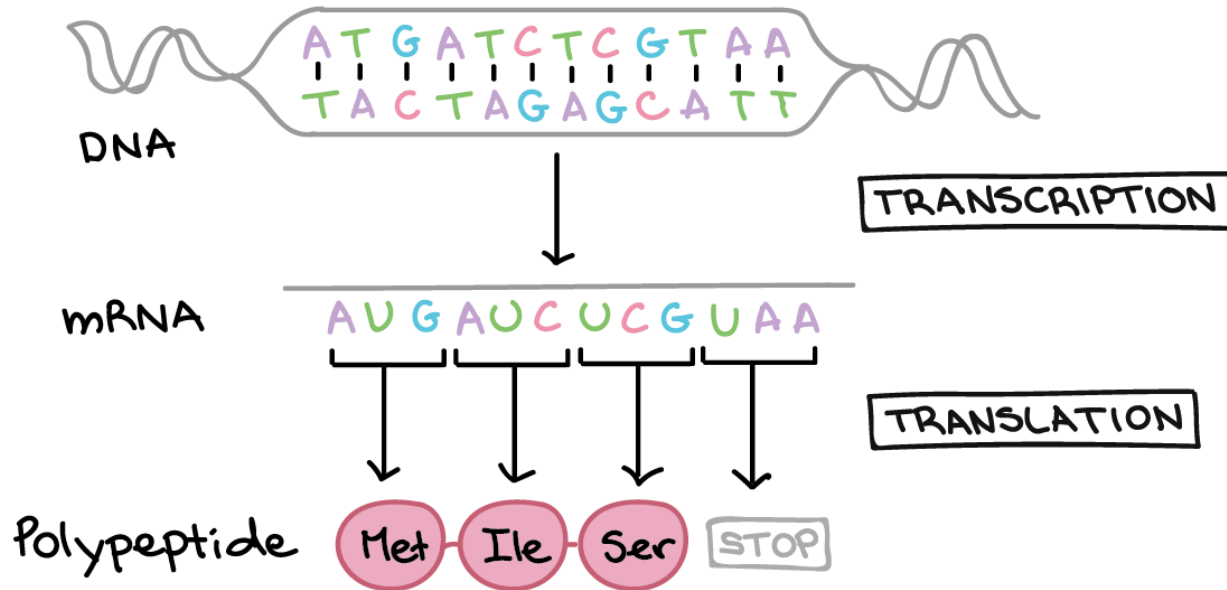


Refers to the number, sequence & type of a.a. in a **linear** polypeptide chain.

Peptide bonds are involved

Primary structure

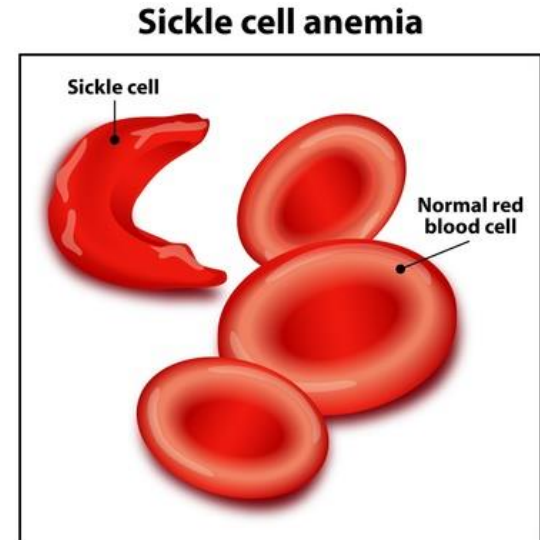
Seq. of a.a. is determined by **seq. of nucleotide bases** in the **gene** encoding the protein.



Primary structure

✦ A change in the DNA seq. may change the polypeptide sequence & can affect a protein's 3D conformation & function

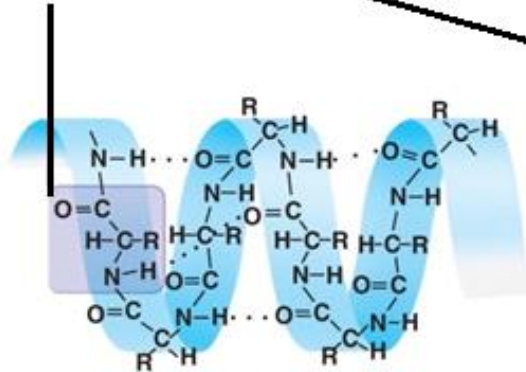
✦ e.g. sickle cell anaemia



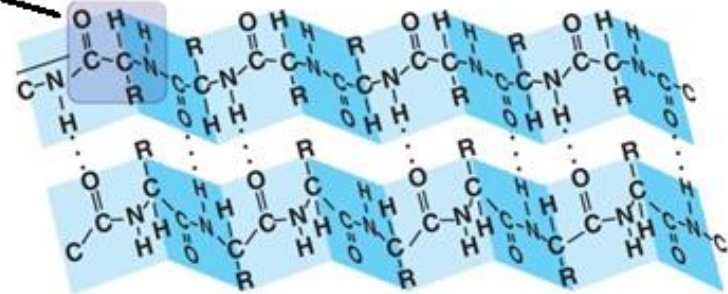
Secondary structure

Refers to the folding of polypeptide chain into regular structures such as α -helices & β -pleated sheets

Examples of
amino acids

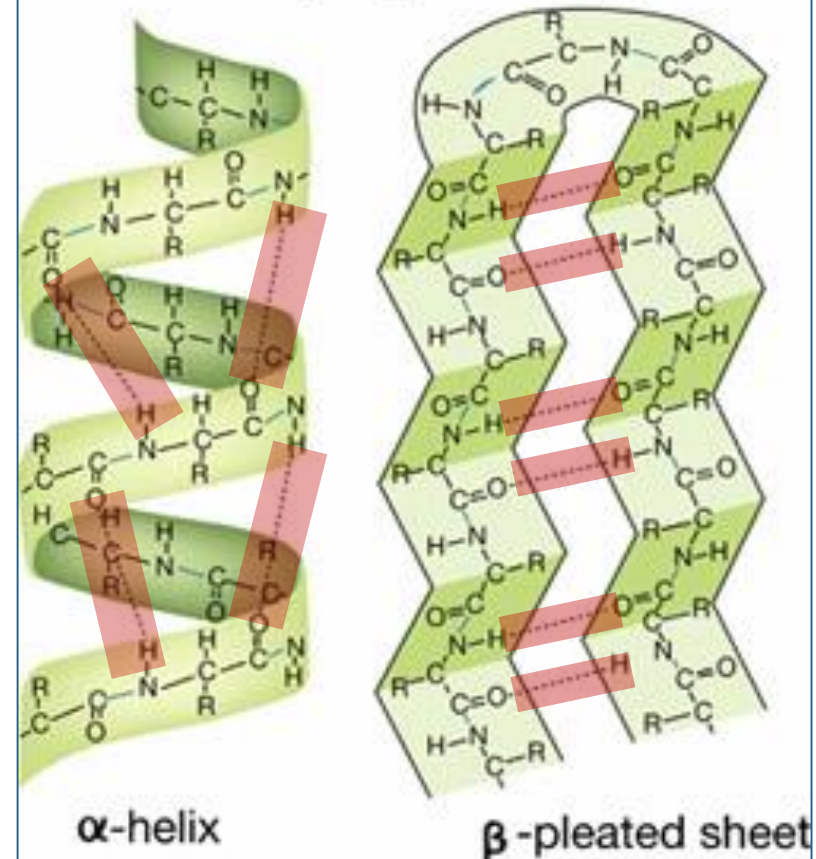


α helix



β pleated sheet

Secondary structure is the result of hydrogen bonding



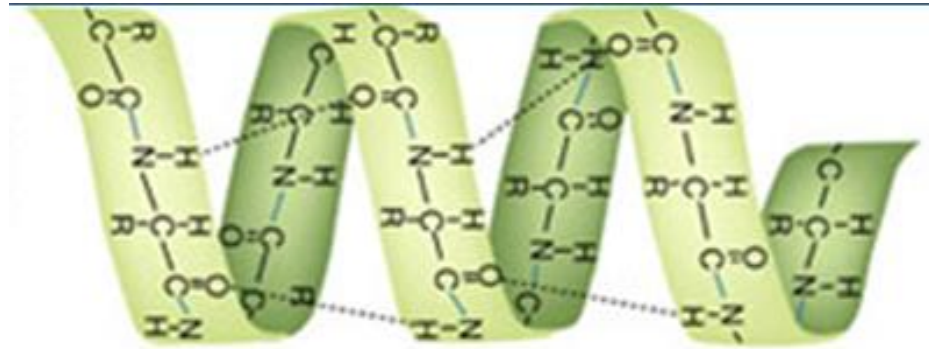
Bonds involved:

Hydrogen bonds form between $-\text{CO}$ group of a **peptide bond** on one a.a. & the $-\text{NH}$ group on a peptide bond of another a.a. in the **same** polypeptide chain.

 *hydrogen bonds*

α -helix

Coiling of polypeptide chain into a **helical** conformation



α -helix

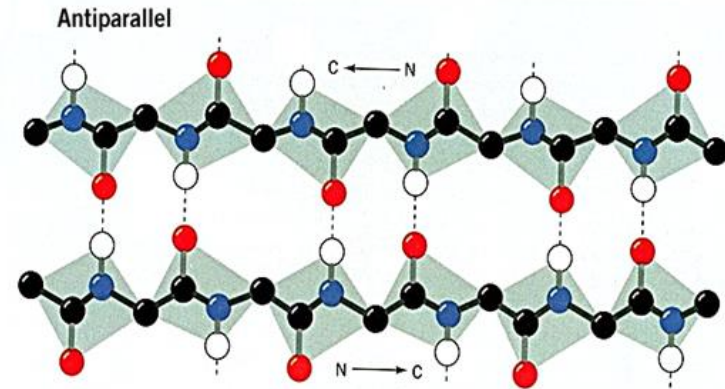
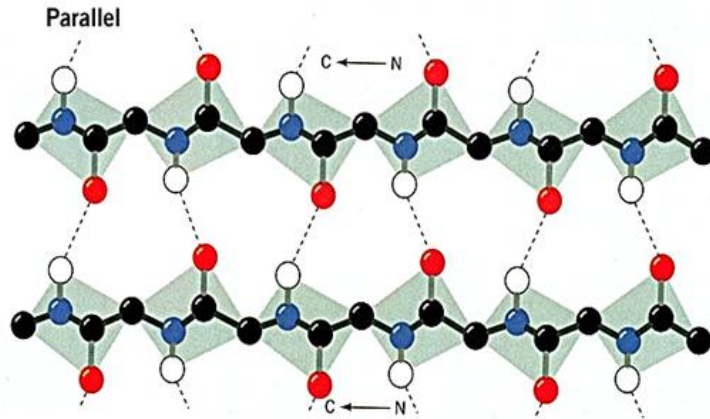
Carbonyl oxygen (**C=O**) of each a.a. in the peptide bond is **hydrogen bonded** to the hydrogen on the amino group (**N-H**) of the a.a. that is **four a.a. away** in the linear sequence

e.g. keratin

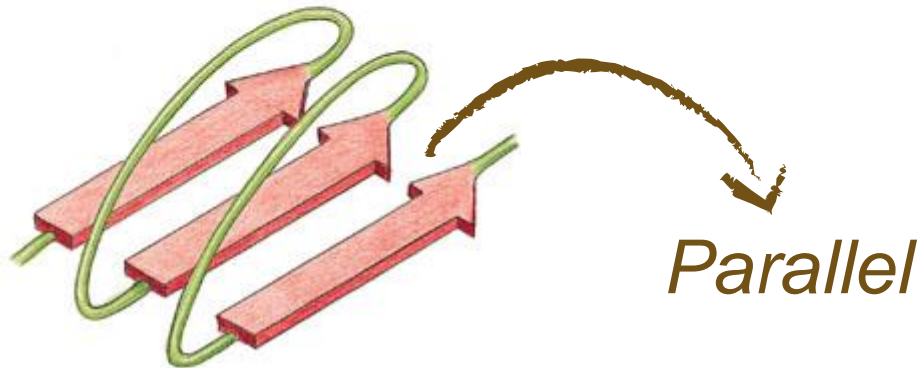


β –pleated sheets

Made up of different sections of a single polypeptide running parallel or anti-parallel to each other

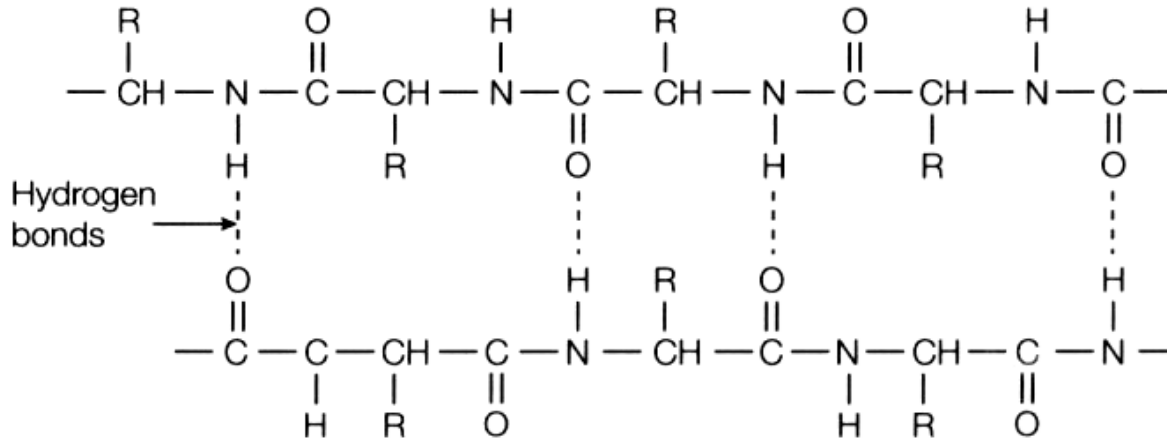


β –pleated sheets



β –pleated sheets

Stabilised by hydrogen bonds formed between the peptide bonds in different sections of the same polypeptide chain.



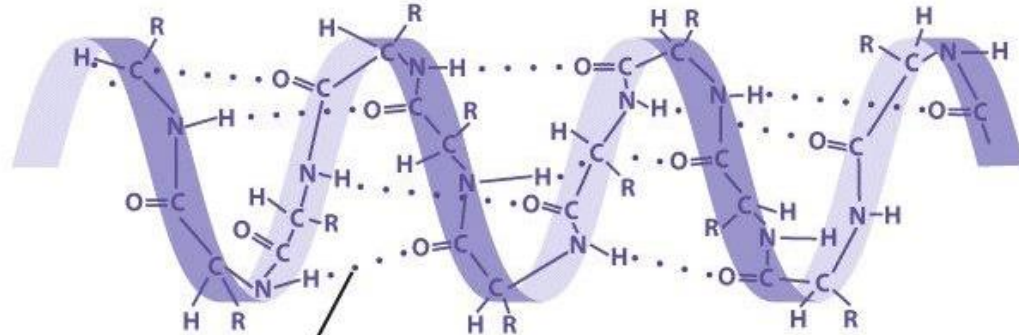
β –pleated sheets

- ✦ Multiple β –pleated sheets provide **strength & resilience** in many structural proteins
- ✦ e.g. silk fibroin consists of stacks of antiparallel β –pleated sheets



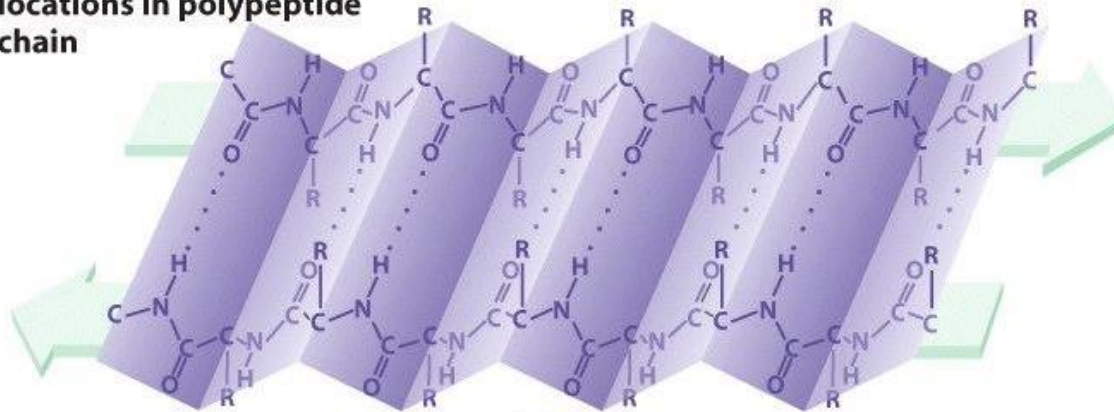
Compare

(b) Secondary structure



Hydrogen bonds between amino acids at different locations in polypeptide chain

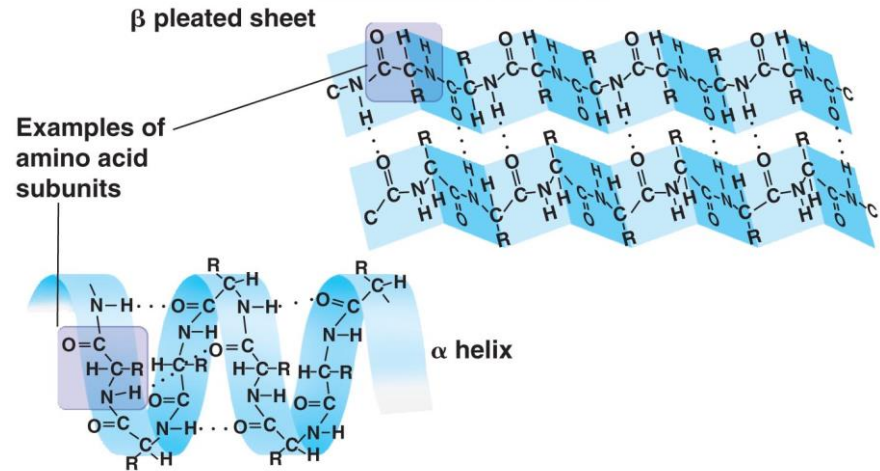
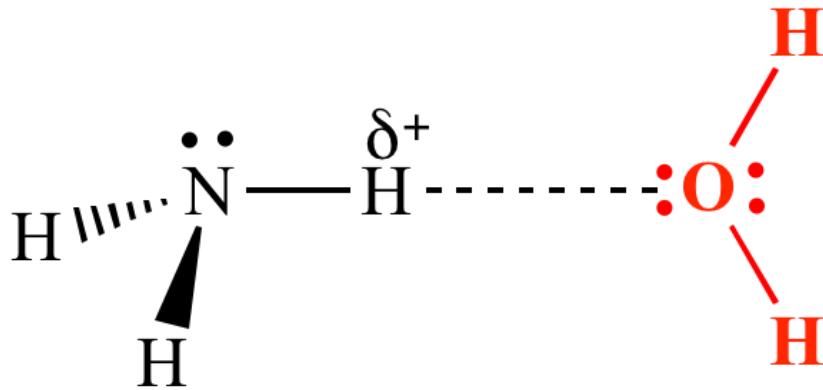
α helix



Pleated sheet

Are Hydrogen Bonds Strong Bonds??

Ans: While each hydrogen bond is very weak, the large number of such bonds means that they play an important role in maintaining the shape and stability of a polypeptide molecule.

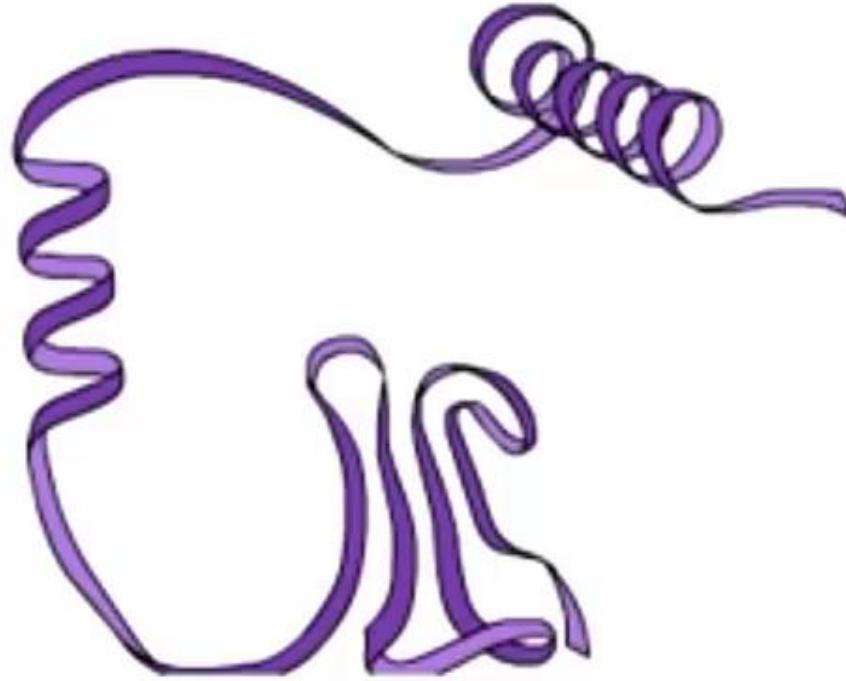


- 1. Amino acids
- 2. Formation of peptide bonds
- 3. Levels of organisations in proteins
 - A. Primary Structure
 - B. Secondary Structure
 - C. Tertiary Structure
 - D. Quaternary Structure
- 4. Case Studies: Haemoglobin

**WHAT YOU
NEED TO KNOW**



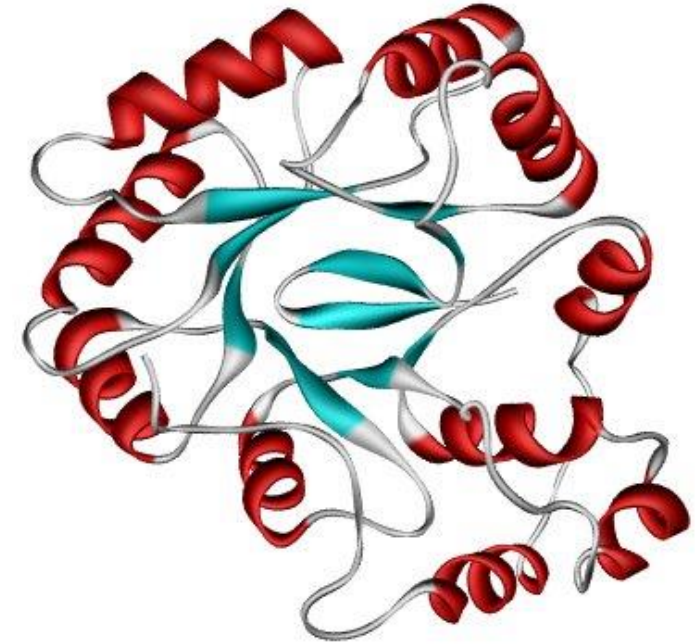
Video: Tertiary structure



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Tertiary structure

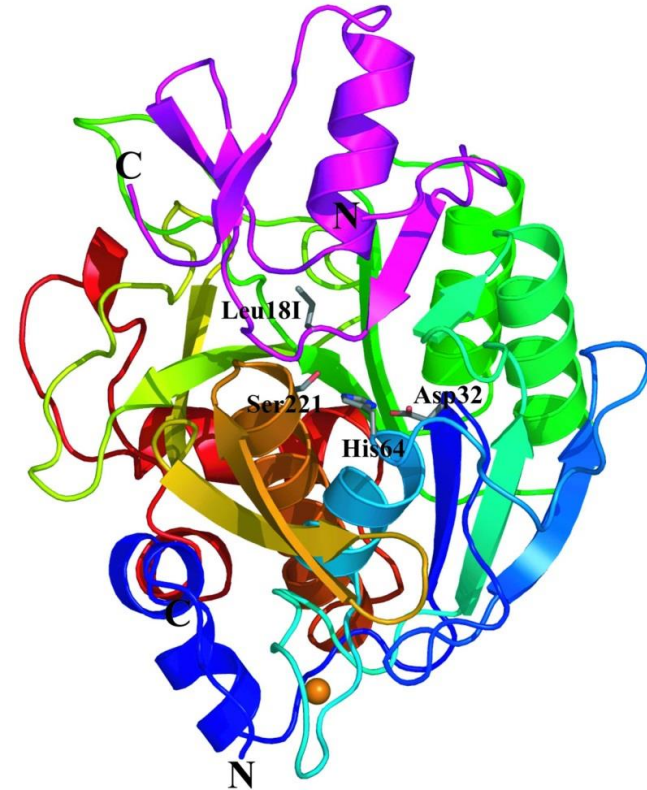
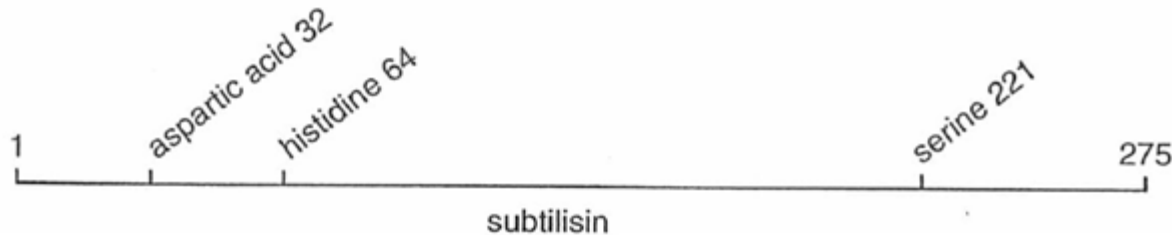
Refers to the folding of the polypeptide chain into its unique 3D globular conformation



Folding from primary to secondary to tertiary structure

Tertiary structure

Refers to the relationship of a.a. residues that are **far apart in the linear sequence**



Bonds in 3° structure

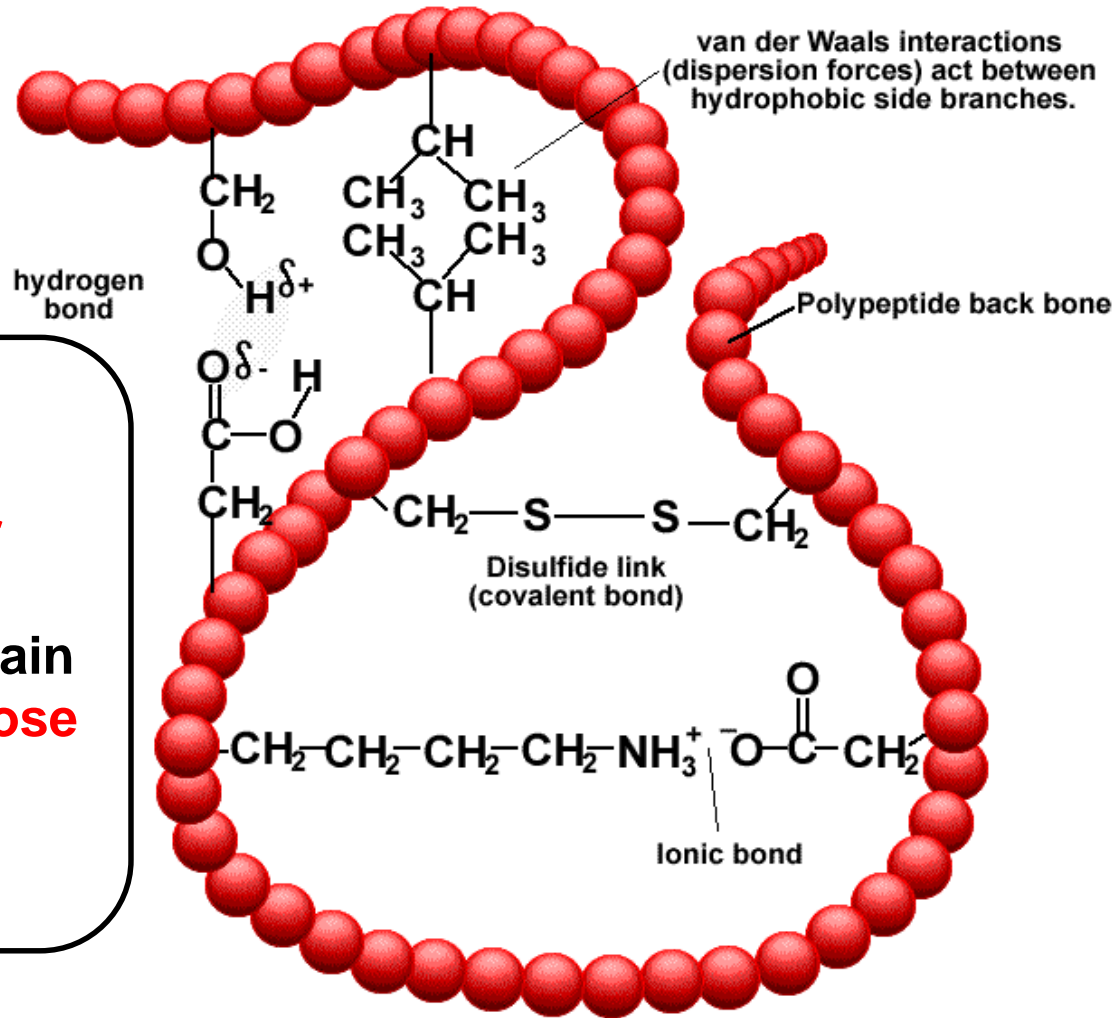
Hydrogen
bonds b/w
polar R groups

Ionic bonds b/w
acidic & basic
R groups

Disulfide
bonds b/w -SH
groups of
cysteine

Hydrophobic
interactions b/w
non-polar
R groups

Interacting R groups may be located **very far apart** in the **polypeptide chain** and **brought close together** by the **folding** of the polypeptide.



Tertiary structure

Water-soluble globular proteins fold spontaneously

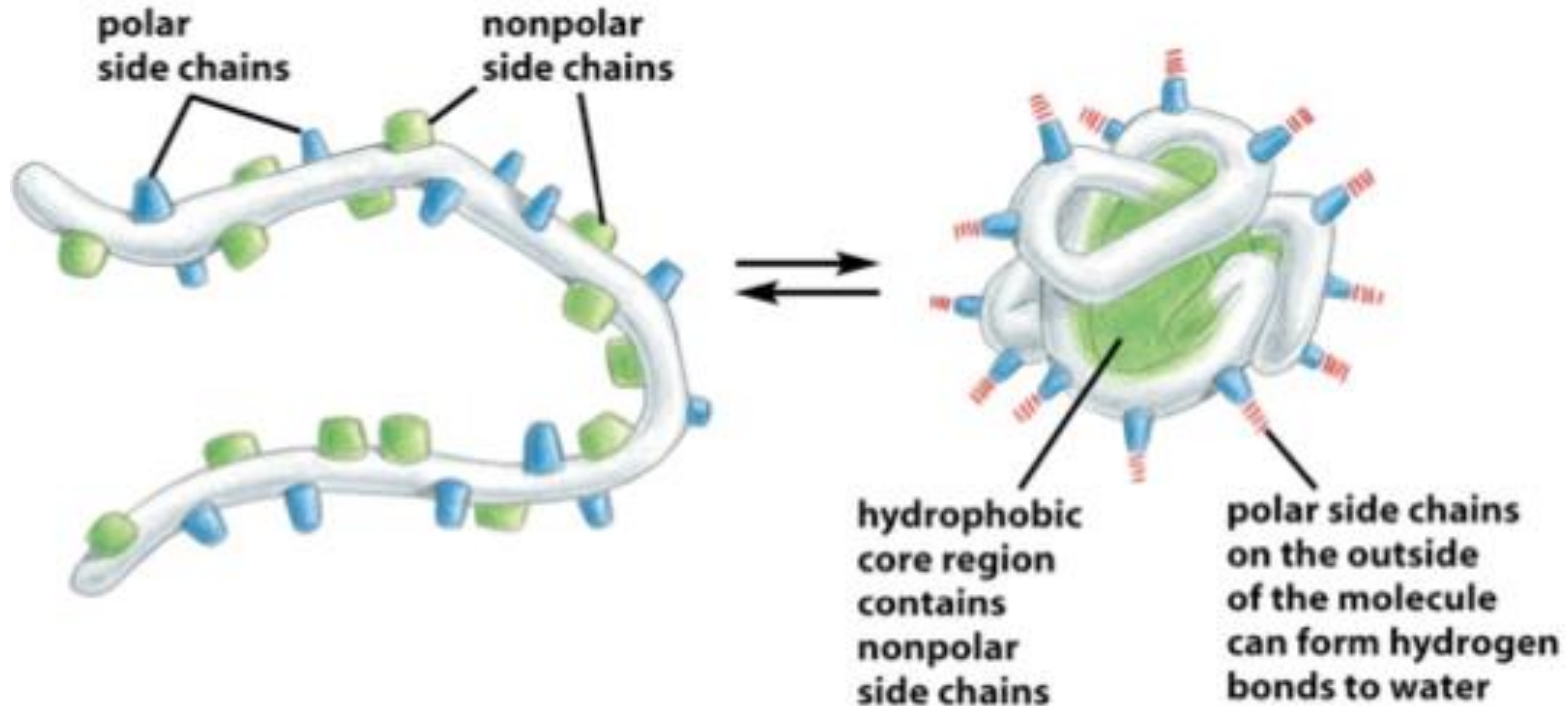
so that



majority of its
hydrophobic side chains
of non-polar a.a are
buried in the interior

majority of polar,
charged side chains of
polar and charged a.a.
are on the surface

Tertiary structure



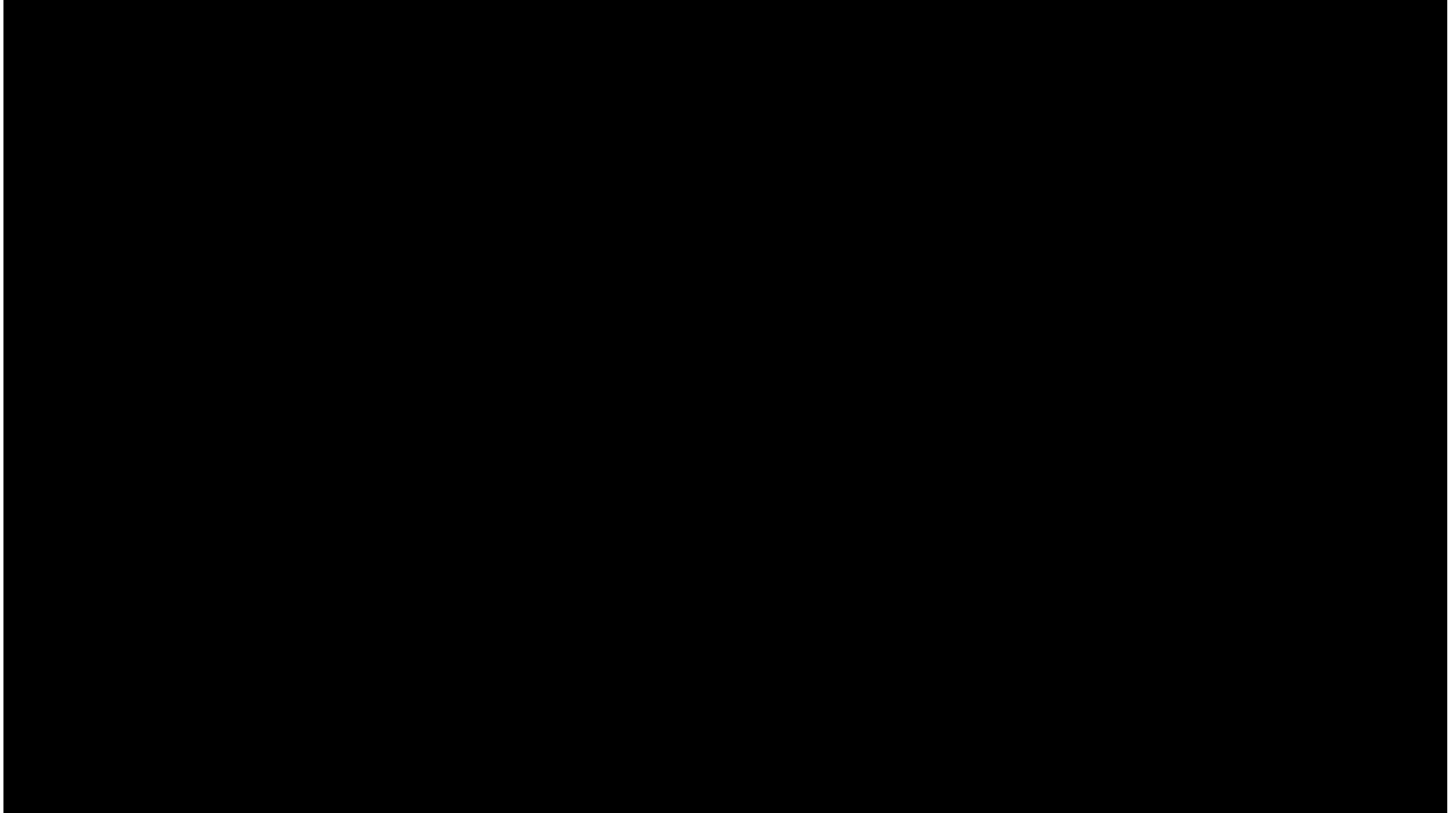
Tertiary structure

Once folded, the 3-dimensional biologically active conformation of the protein is maintained by the **four types of bonds**

What are they? 

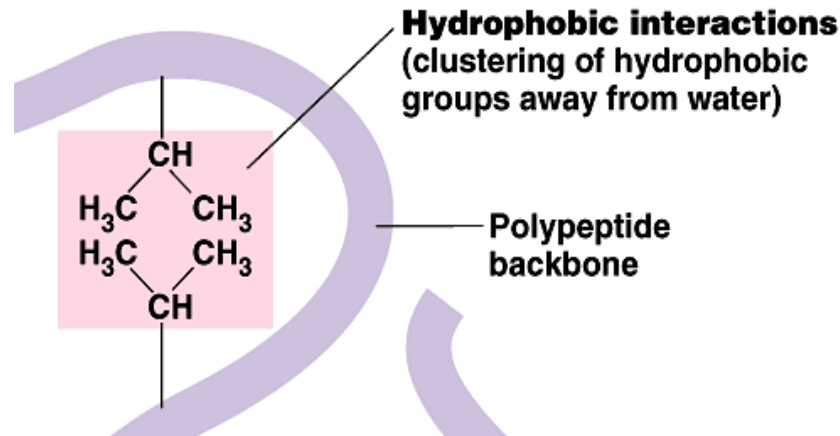
VIDEO: PROTEIN FOLDING

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/HOK2HYED9GO](https://youtu.be/hok2hyed9go)



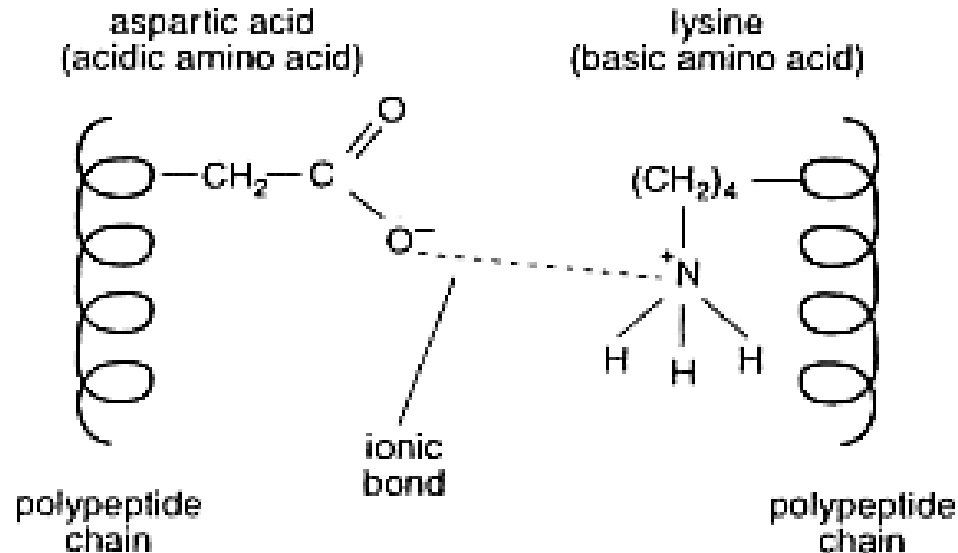
Hydrophobic interactions

During polypeptide folding, hydrophobic R groups will cluster at interior of protein, out of contact with water



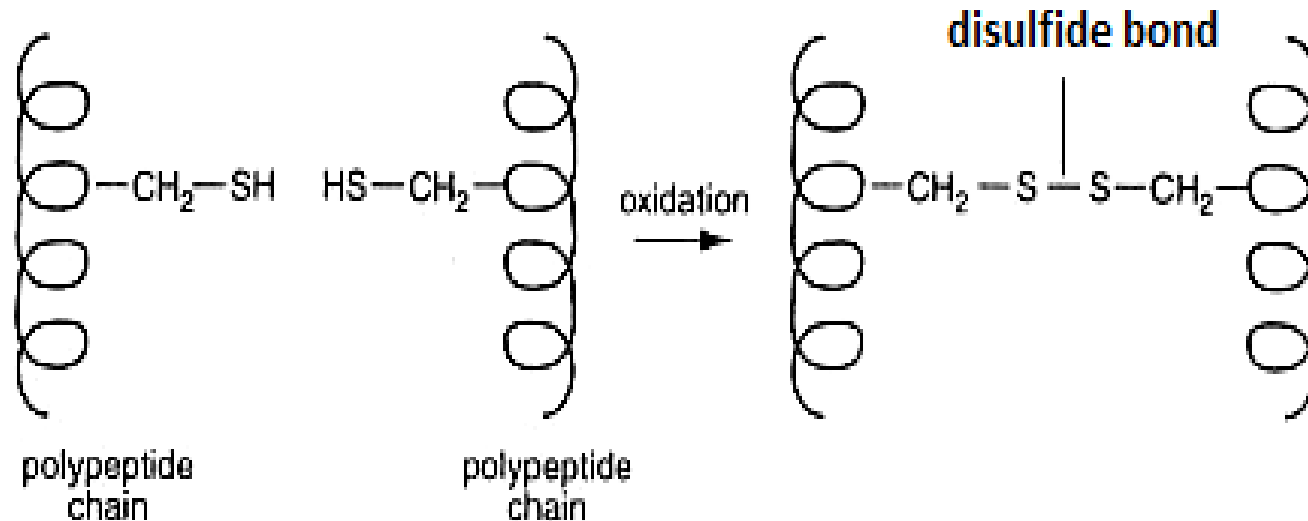
Ionic bonds

Formed between acidic (-ve) & basic (+ve) R groups

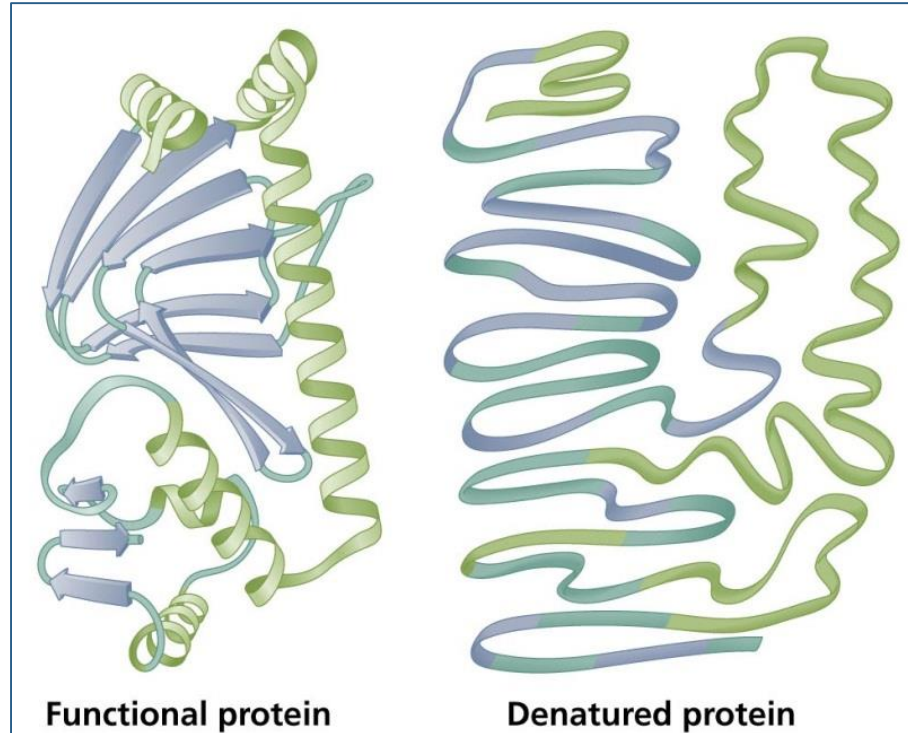


Disulfide bonds

Formed between two -SH groups of cysteine residues



Denaturation



Denaturation

- ✦ Loss of / alteration of the **specific 3D conformation** of a protein molecule
- ✦ May be permanent or temporary
- ✦ 1° structure remains unchanged
- ✦ Once denaturation occurs, the protein molecule unfolds & loses normal biological function.

Denaturation

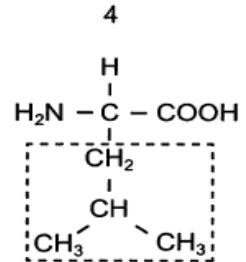
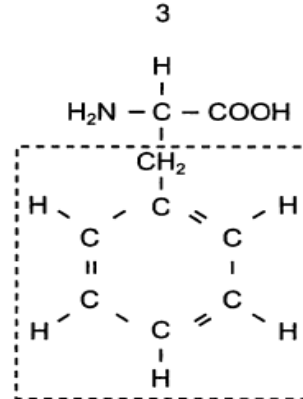
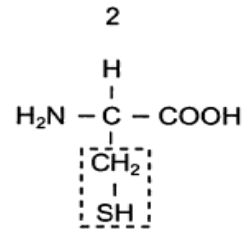
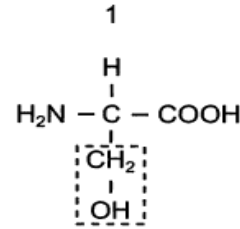
Caused by the following factors :

- ※ **High temperature**
- ※ **pH alteration**
- ※ **UV irradiation**
- ※ High ionic concentration
- ※ **Heavy metals**
- ※ Organic solvents

Tutorial 2: Proteins MCQ 1

The diagram shows four different amino acids, each with a different R group (side chain).

Which amino acids could form a hydrophobic interaction between their R groups?



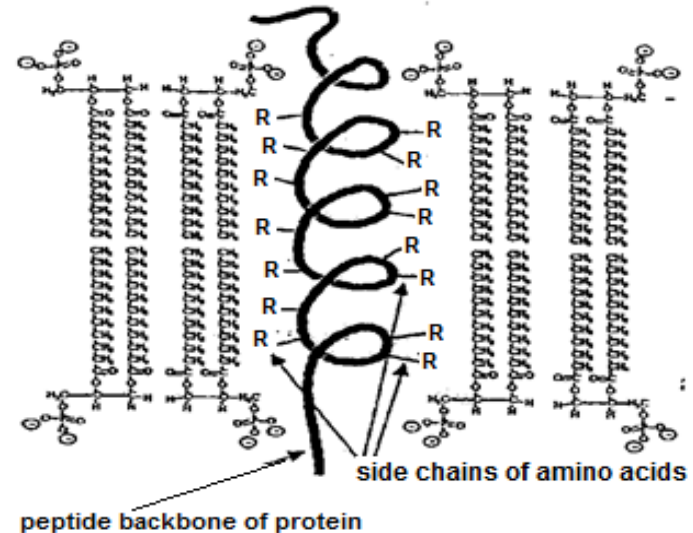
Tutorial 2: Proteins MCQ 1

Which amino acids could form a hydrophobic interaction between their R groups?

A	1 and 2
B	1 and 3
C	2 and 4
D	3 and 4

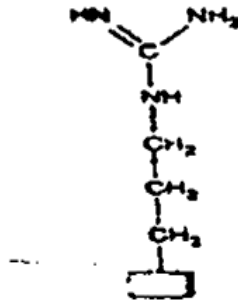
Tutorial 2: Proteins MCQ 2

✦ With reference to the figure, which one of the following amino acids, with only the side chains indicated, is likely to be found at any of the positions protruding from the peptide backbone of the protein?

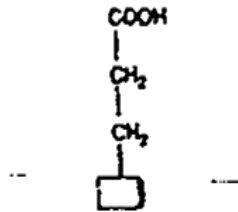


Tutorial 2: Proteins MCQ 2

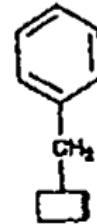
A	Arginine
B	Glutamate
C	Phenylalanine
D	Serine



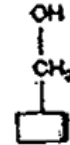
Arginine



Glutamate



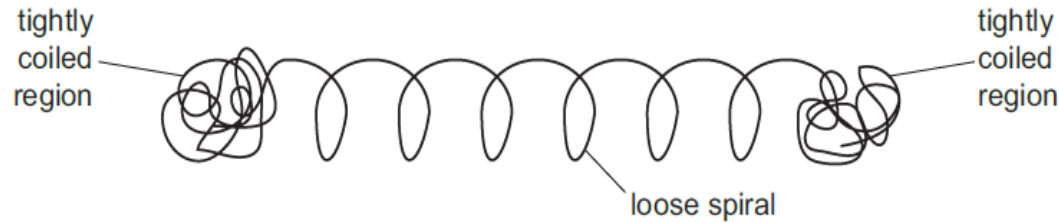
Phenylalanine



Serine

Tutorial 2: Proteins MCQ 5

✚ The protein glutenin gives bread dough its elasticity. The diagram represents a polypeptide of glutenin.



✚ What describes the structure of glutenin?

A	secondary structure because the loose spiral is an α -helix
<input checked="" type="radio"/> B	tertiary structure because the different regions form a 3D shape
C	quaternary structure because there are both globular and fibrous regions
D	quaternary structure because there are both spiral and tightly coiled regions

Learning Outcome



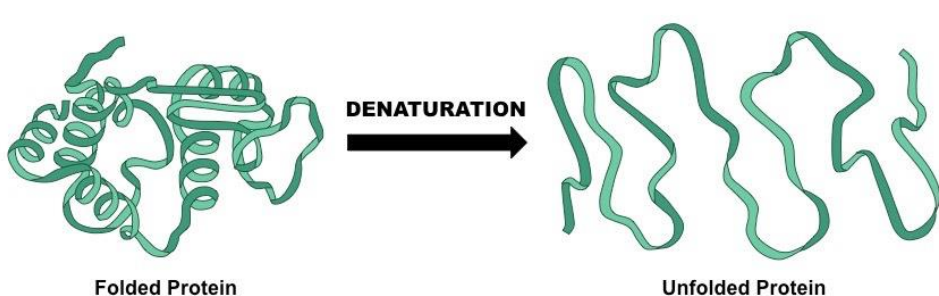
1(l) **Explain** the effects of **temperature** and **pH** on protein structure.

Denaturation by high temperature

At high temperature, protein gains **kinetic energy**

Thermal agitation disrupts **hydrogen, ionic bonds & hydrophobic interactions**

Loses specific 3D conformation & biological function




Denaturation by alteration of pH

Δ in pH alters $[H^+]$ & $[OH^-]$ in environment

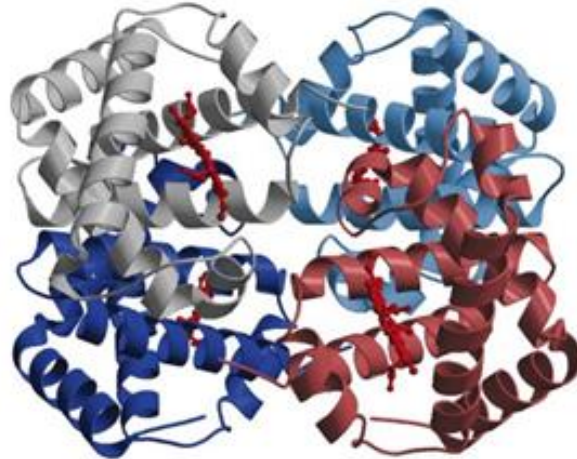
 **Alters ionic charges** of acidic & basic R groups

→ **disrupts ionic & hydrogen bonds**

 Loses specific 3D conformation & biological function

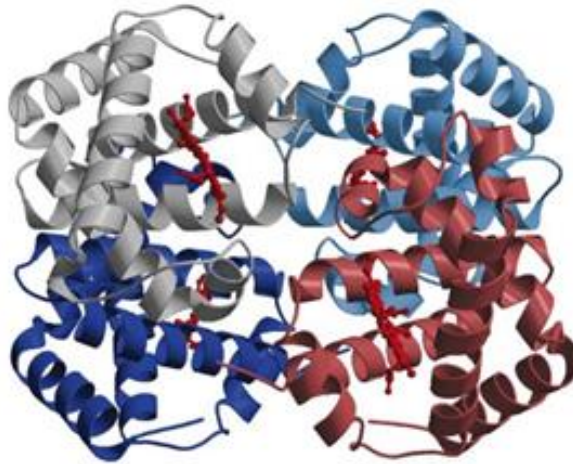
Quaternary structure

Refers to arrangement of polypeptide subunits within a protein that is made up of **more than one polypeptide chains**



Quaternary structure

i.e. spatial arrangement of **more than one polypeptide chain**



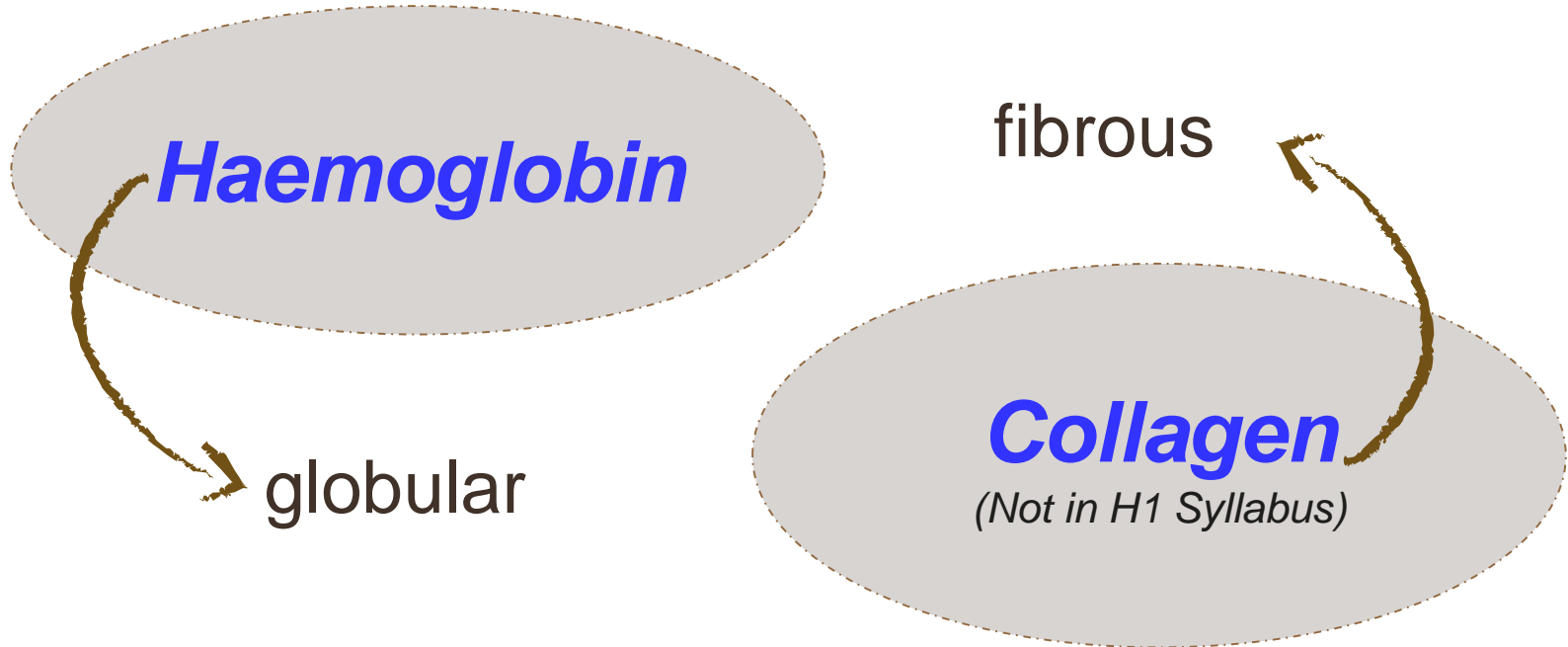
Quaternary structure

Bonds involved :

- ✖ Same as those in tertiary structure
- ✖ But they form between R groups of **different polypeptide chains in the same protein**

Quaternary structure

Examples:





Quick summary

Level of organisation	Bonds holding molecule in shape	Formed between ...
Primary	Peptide bonds	NH ₂ & COOH groups of adjacent amino acids
Secondary	Hydrogen bonds	-CO & -NH of peptide bonds
Tertiary	Ionic bonds Hydrogen bonds Disulfide bonds Hydrophobic interactions	R groups of amino acids within same polypeptide
Quaternary	Ionic bonds Hydrogen bonds Disulfide bonds Hydrophobic interactions	R groups of amino acids of different polypeptides

1. Amino acids

2. Formation of peptide bonds

3. Levels of organisations in proteins

A. Primary Structure

B. Secondary Structure

C. Tertiary Structure

D. Quaternary Structure

→ 4. Case Studies: Haemoglobin

**WHAT YOU
NEED TO KNOW**



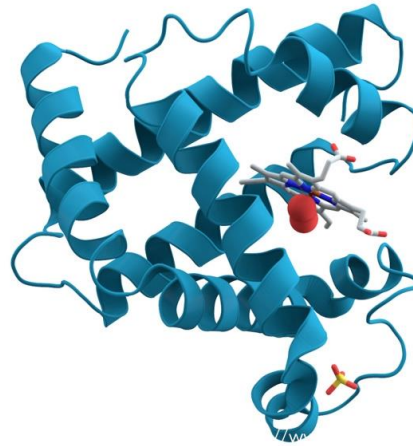
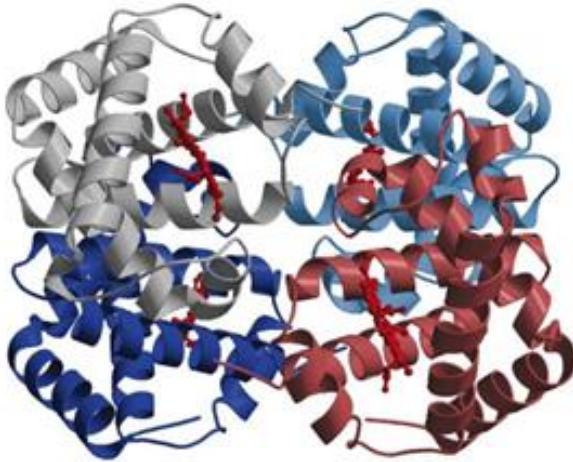
Learning Outcome



1(m) Describe the **molecular structure** of the **haemoglobin** protein and explain how its structure relates to **its function** in transport

Haemoglobin

- ✦ Haemoglobin is one of two oxygen-binding **proteins** found in vertebrates.
- ✦ It is found exclusively in **red blood cells**.

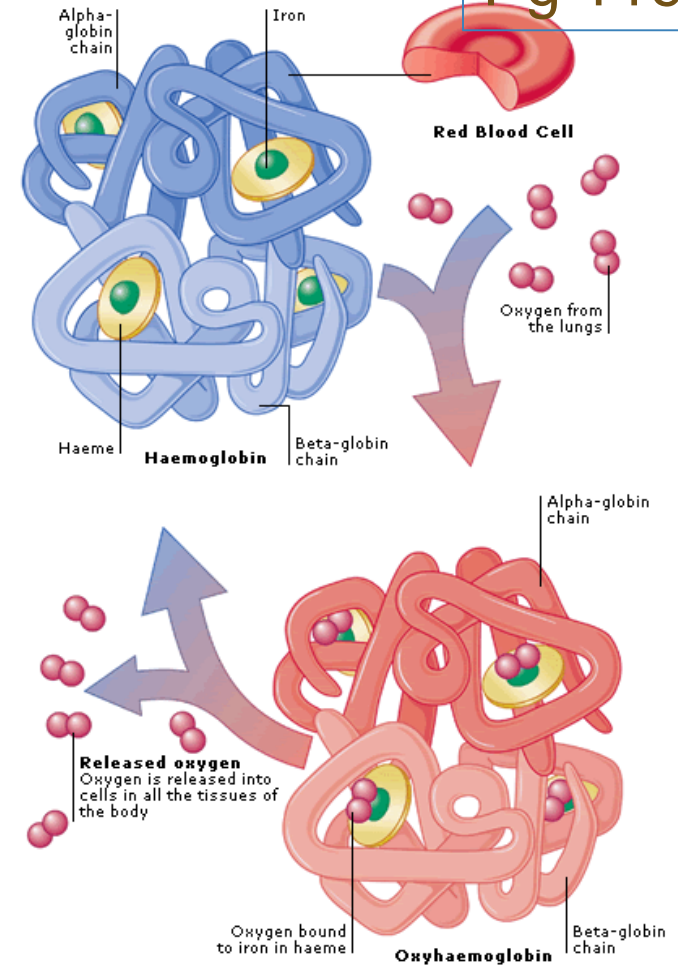


Myoglobin

Haemoglobin

Function:

A transport protein, it **carries** **O₂** in the blood from the lungs to the capillaries of tissues, in order to supply cells with O₂.

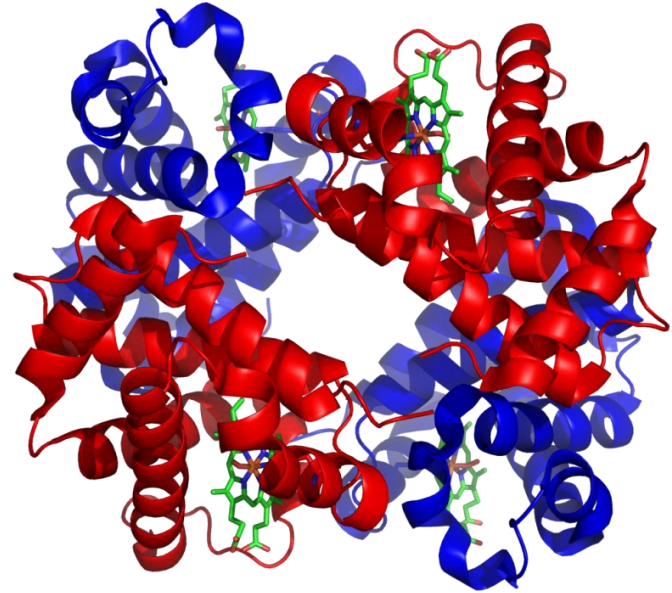


Haemoglobin Structure

Quaternary – 4 subunits (each subunit has tertiary structure)

2 α -chains & 2 β -chains subunits

Each chain is primarily α -helical



RECAP

Primary
structure

Secondary
structure

α -helix, β -pleated sheets

Tertiary
structure

*2 or more
subunits*

*Specific 3D shape,
4 types of bonds*

Quaternary
structure

Haemoglobin Structure

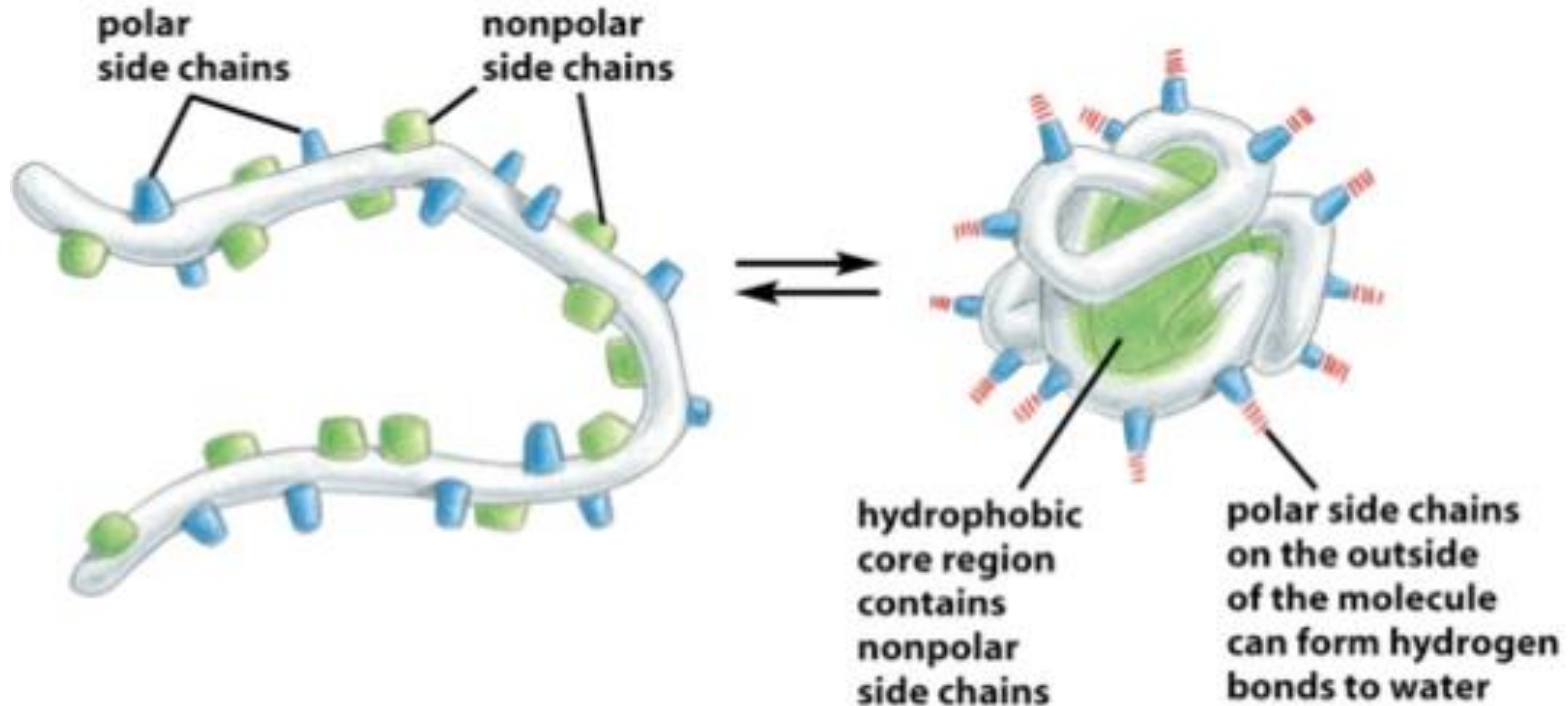
Each polypeptide has hydrophobic & hydrophilic a.a. residues

3° structure folded so that **non-polar** R groups are buried in the **interior**



Polar & charged R groups are on the **surface**

Tertiary structure



Haemoglobin Structure

Within & between the 4 subunits

Hydrophobic
interactions, ionic &
hydrogen bonds

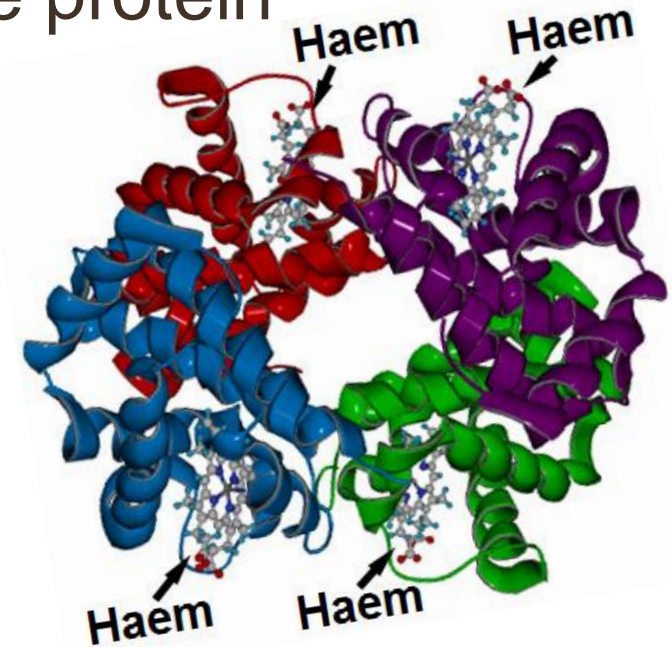
Held together by

*No
disulfide
bonds!!*

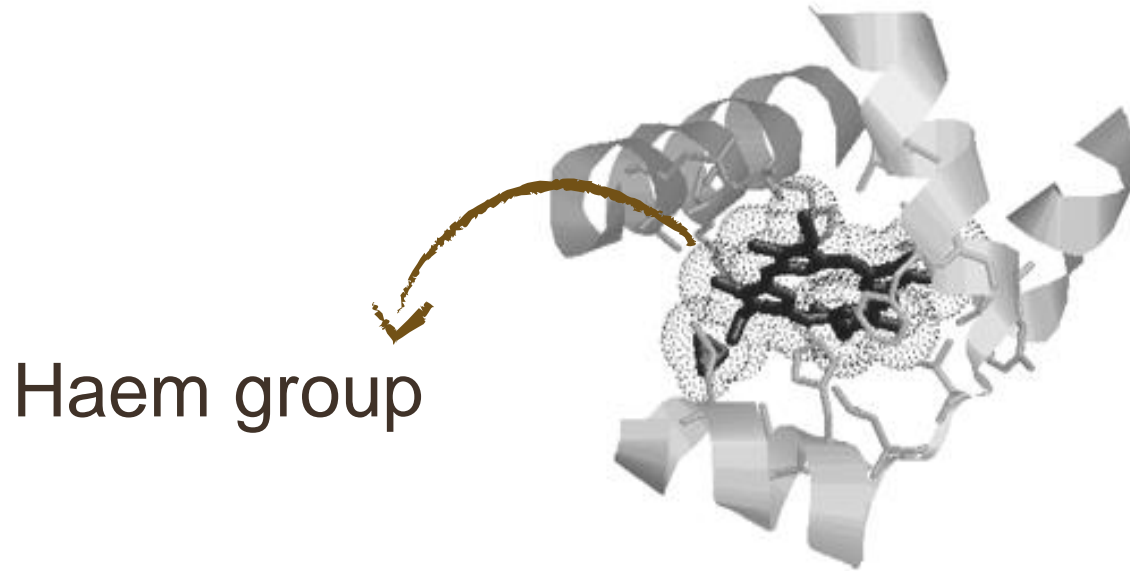
Haemoglobin Structure

Each subunit is a conjugate protein

Contains **haem**
prosthetic group

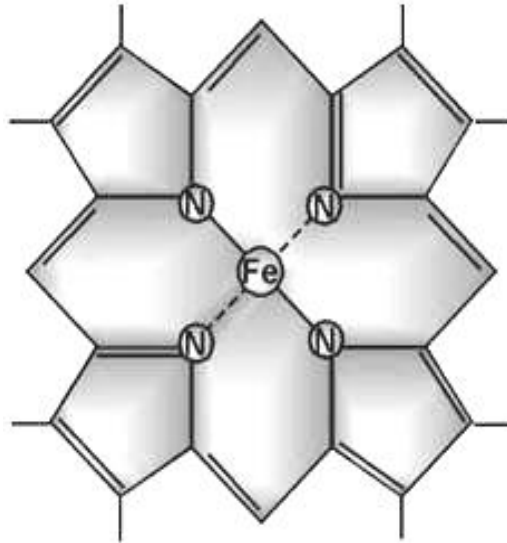


Haem-binding site



Porphyrin ring & Fe^{2+}

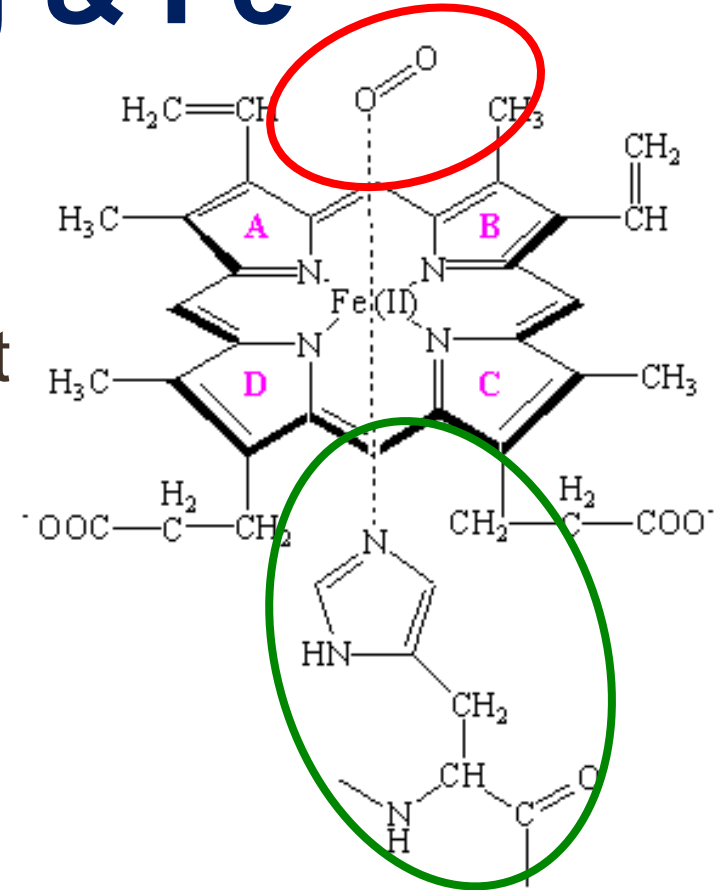
Haem group = a porphyrin ring + Fe^{2+}



Porphyrin ring & Fe^{2+}

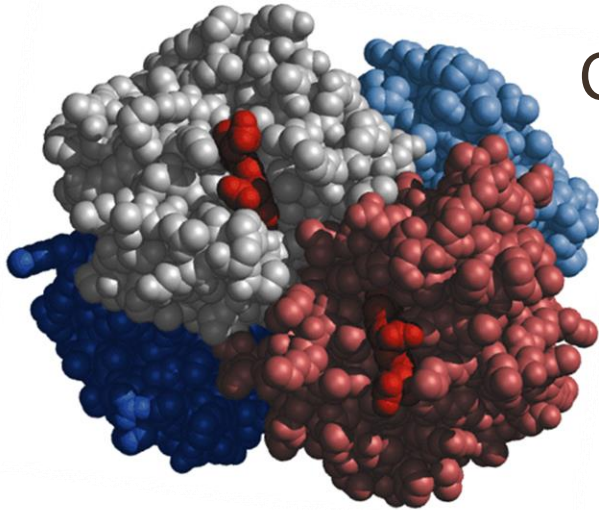
Fe^{2+} is at the center of the planar porphyrin ring.

The haem is orientated so that its Fe^{2+} on **one face is complexed to an a.a. residue**, while the **other face is accessible for O_2 binding**.



Haemoglobin Structure

Globular
structure



Compact

hence

Many Hb molecules can be
packed into a RBC

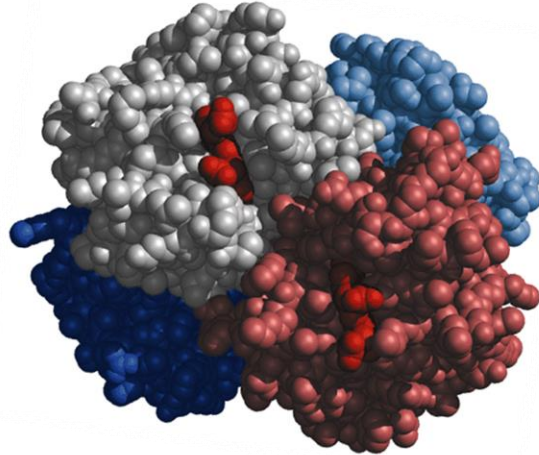


More oxygen transported

Haemoglobin Structure

4 subunits

Each bind 1 oxygen molecule



Increases capacity for transport of oxygen.

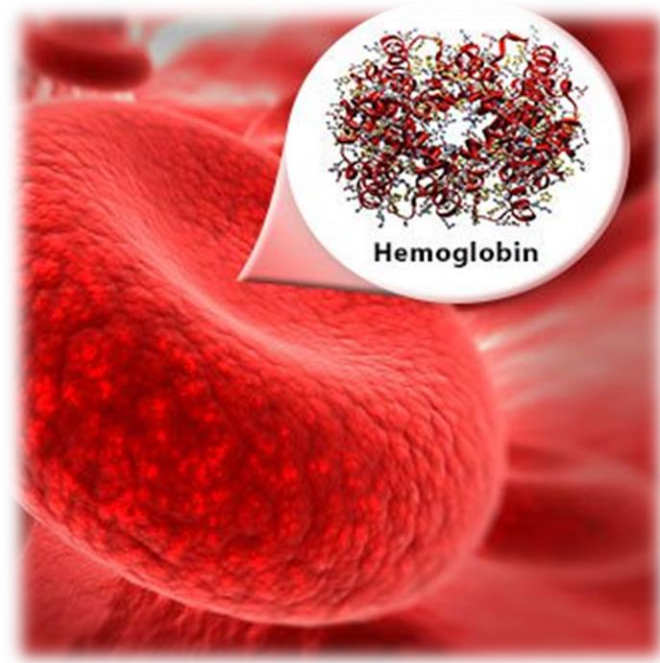
More oxygen transported

Haemoglobin Structure

Globular structure with a hydrophobic core and a hydrophilic exterior.

Hb soluble in RBC cytoplasm

A good transport protein for O_2 in blood



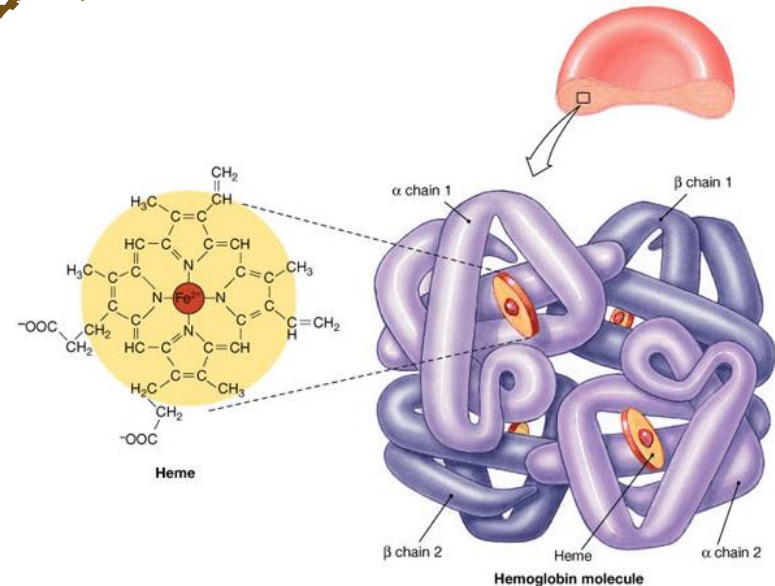
Haemoglobin Structure

Haem-binding site in each subunit

Haem group
(hydrophobic)

for binding of

Lined with non-polar a.a.
residues



Haemoglobin Structure

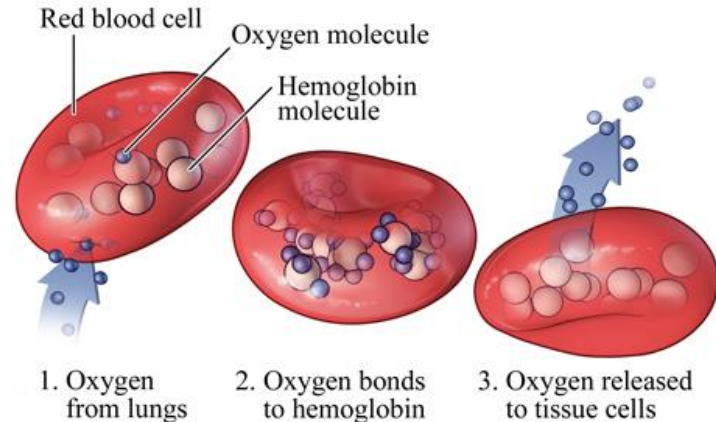
Haem group
(hydrophobic)



porphyrin ring
bound to an iron ion

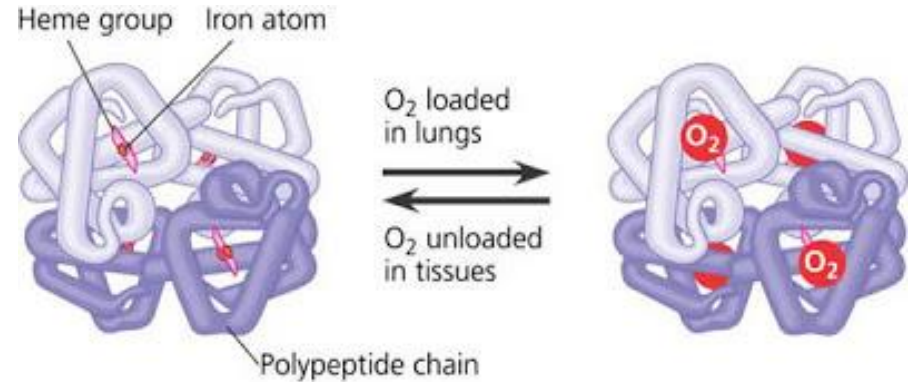


Allows **reversible binding of oxygen**, enhancing release in metabolically active tissues



Cooperative binding

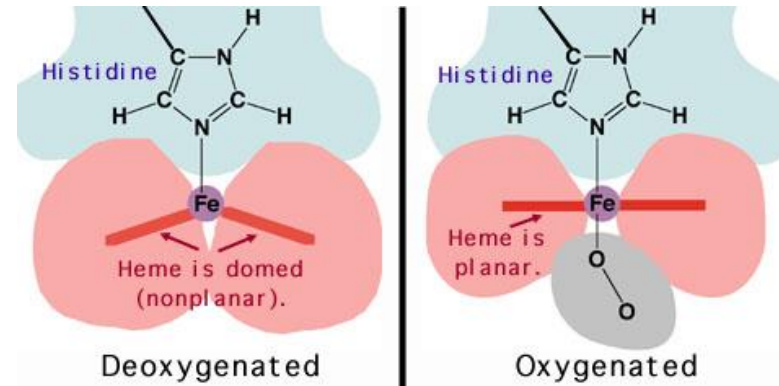
- ✦ Each Hb molecule consists of four subunits, each capable of binding one O_2
- ✦ This greatly facilitates transport of O_2 by Hb.



Cooperative binding

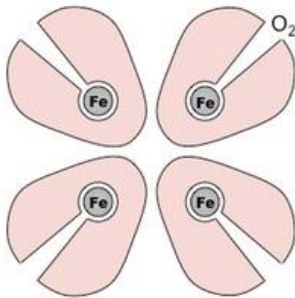
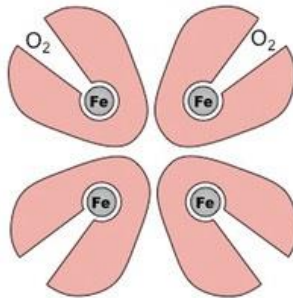
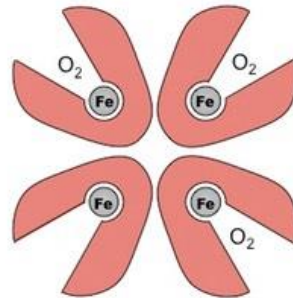
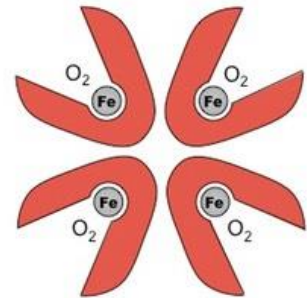
Binding of one O_2 molecule to one subunit induces the remaining unfilled subunits to **change their shape slightly** so that their **affinity for O_2 increases**.

Loading of the first O_2 molecule results in rapid loading of 3 more O_2



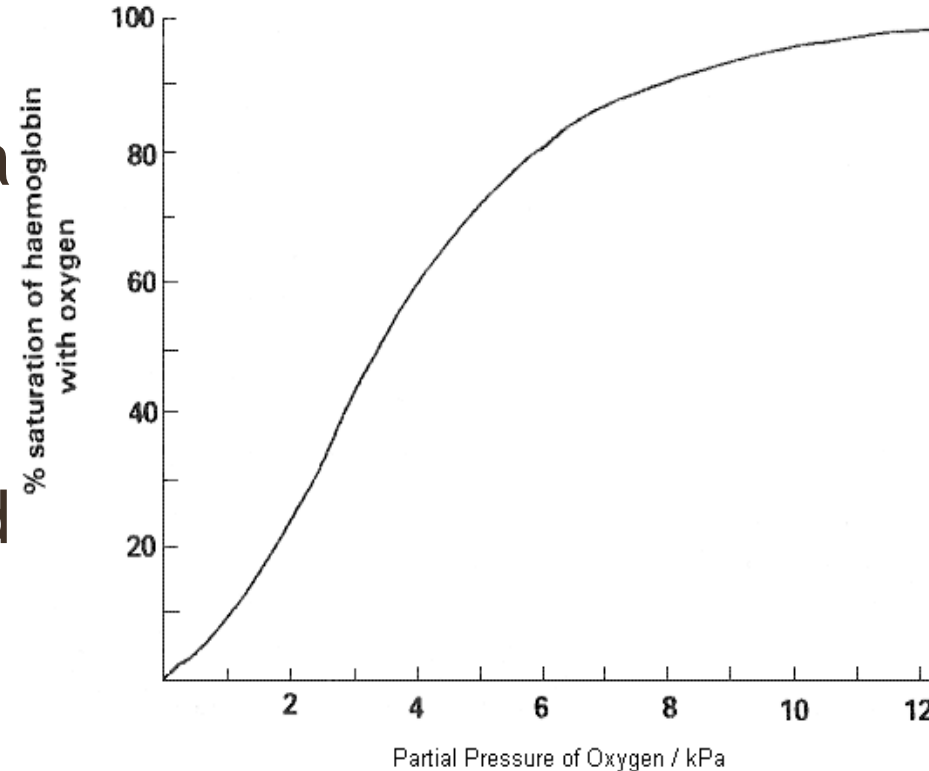
Cooperative binding

- ✦ Binding of O_2 to haemoglobin is said to be cooperative
- ✦ Conversely, when one subunit unloads O_2 , the other three more readily unload as a conformation change lowers their affinity of O_2 .

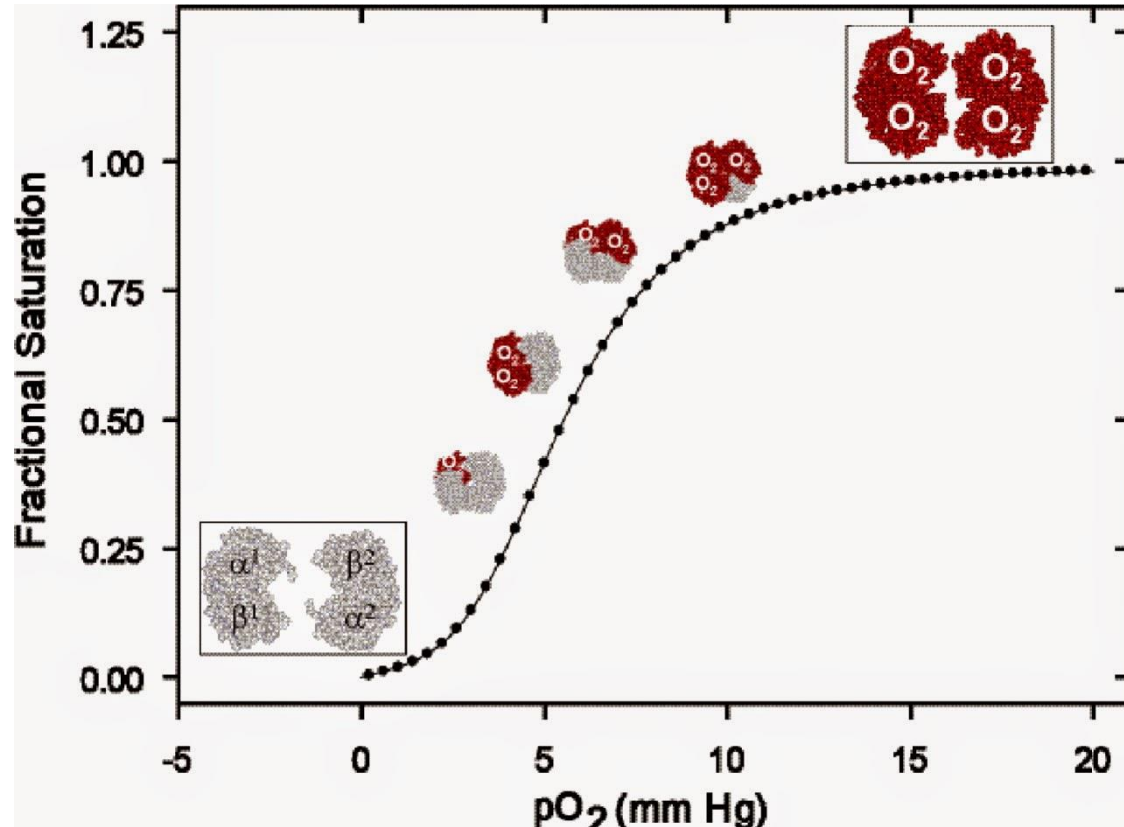
**HbO₂****HbO₄****HbO₆****HbO₈**

Cooperative binding

The oxygen dissociation curve of haemoglobin has a steep slope (**S-shaped or sigmoid**), as even a slight change in the $[O_2]$ causes haemoglobin to load/unload a substantial amount of O_2

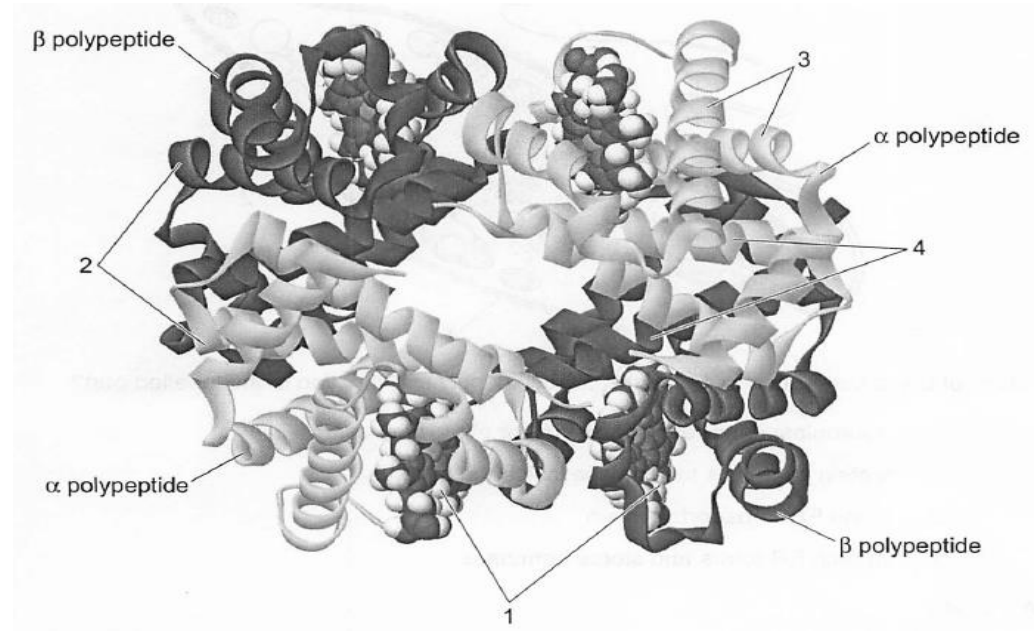


Cooperative binding



Tutorial 2: Proteins MCQ 6

- ✦ The diagram shows a haemoglobin molecule.
- ✦ Which identifies the different parts of the molecule?



Tutorial 2: Proteins MCQ 6

Which identifies the different parts of the molecule?

	1	2	3	4
A	alpha helix	beta pleated sheet	binding site	hydrophobic amino acids
B	hydrophobic amino acids	beta pleated sheet	prosthetic group	binding site
C	prosthetic group	hydrophobic amino acids	alpha helix	hydrophilic amino acids
D	prosthetic group	hydrophilic amino acids	alpha helix	hydrophobic amino acids

Video

