

# Rhodopsin

Ariadna Gispert, Marina Lleal and Marta Puig

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- Introduction
- Main features of rhodopsin structure: inactive vs. active
  - Changes in conformation after photoactivation
  - Interaction with G-protein
- Sequence comparisons:
  - Rhodopsin from different animal species
  - Bacteriorhodopsin
- Structure comparisons: squid rhodopsin
- Conclusions

# Introduction

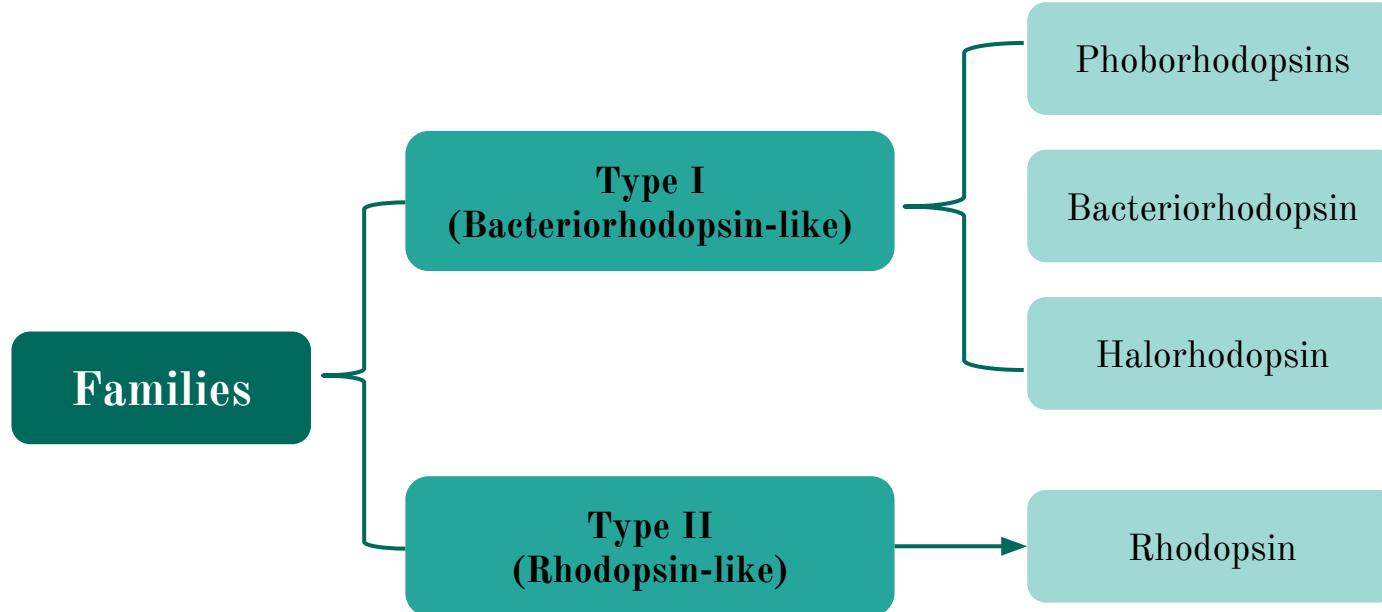
## Rhodopsin

- G-protein coupled receptors family (GPCR)
- Membrane protein with 7 transmembrane helices
- 2 parts
  - Apoprotein (opsin)
  - Prosthetic group (cromophore) → RETINAL
- Function → Phototransduction of the visual perception
- Found in rod cells

# SCOP Classification

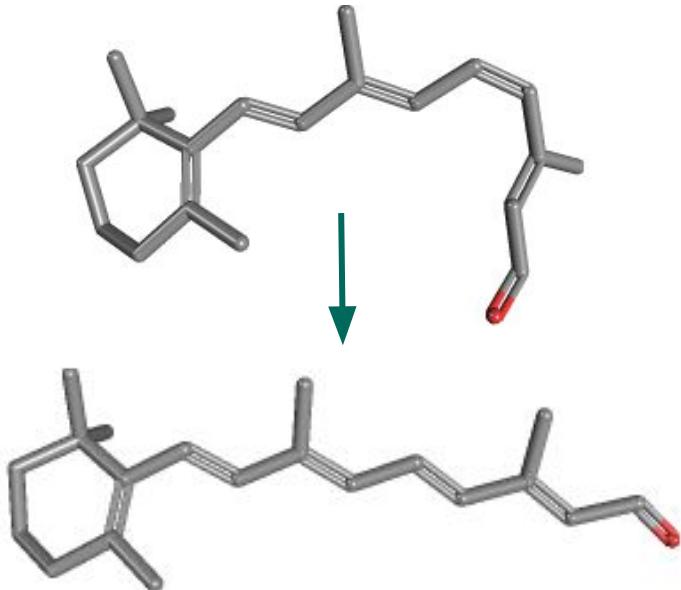
|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Class</b>       | Membrane and cell surface proteins and peptides |
| <b>Fold</b>        | A G-coupled receptor-like                       |
| <b>Superfamily</b> | Family A G-coupled receptor-like                |
| <b>Family</b>      | Rhodopsin-like                                  |
| <b>Protein</b>     | Rhodopsin                                       |

# Classification

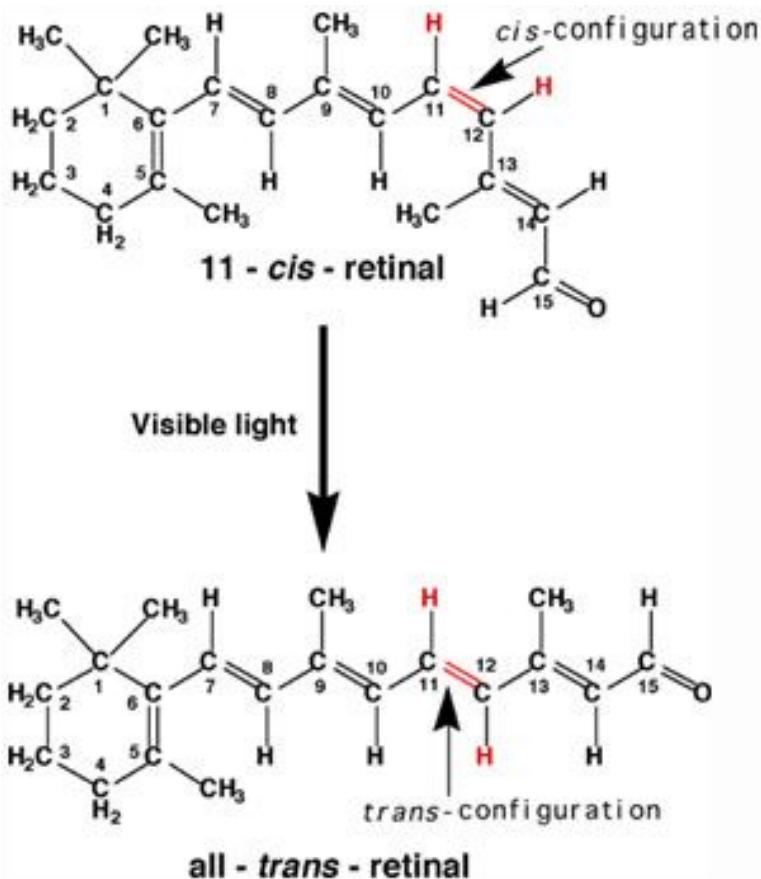


# Rhodopsin ligand: retinal

Upon light absorption, a cis-trans isomerization occurs. This isomerization changes the retinal:

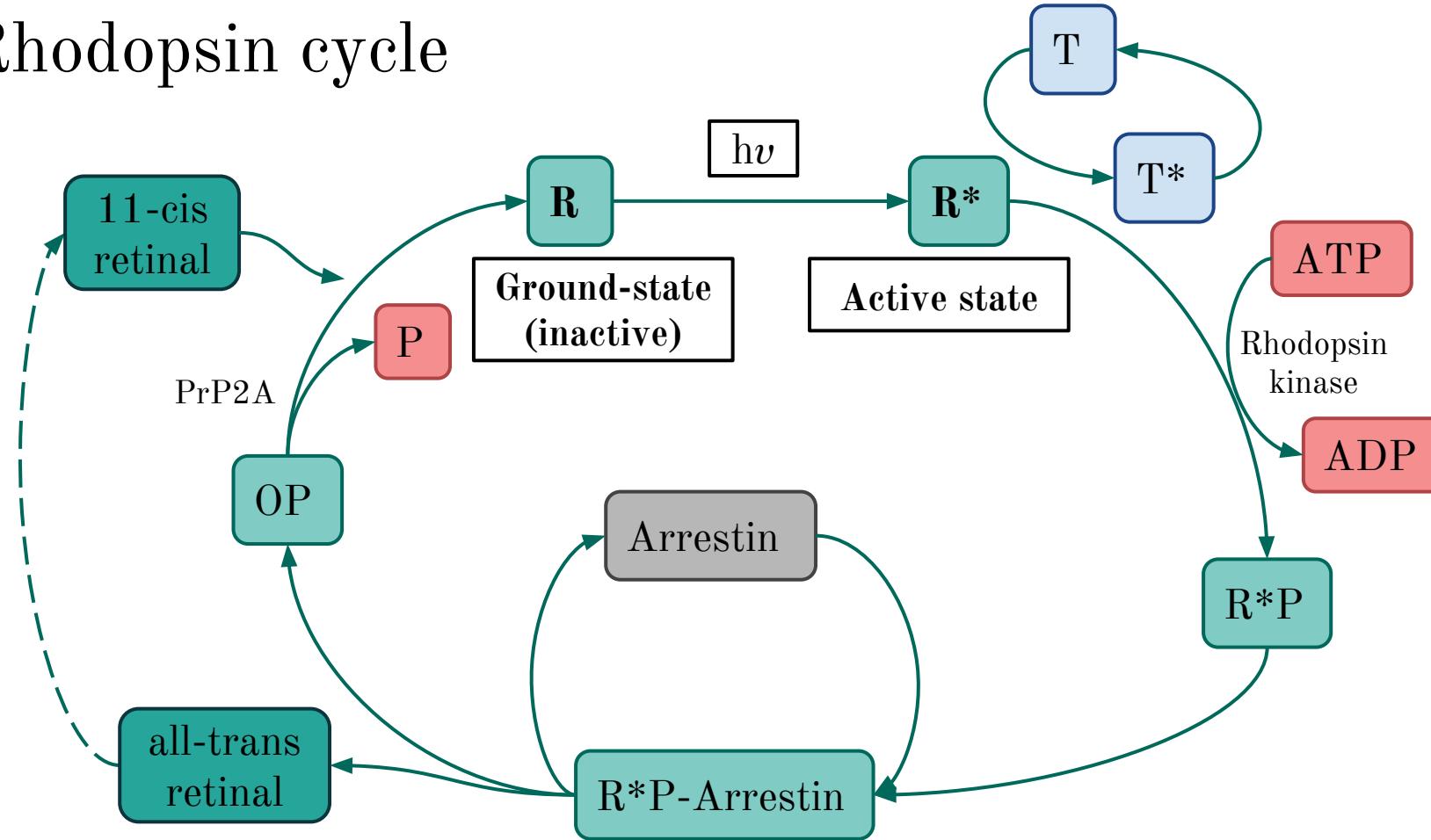


Images from PubChem



Extracted from Cassiday R, Frey, R, 2000

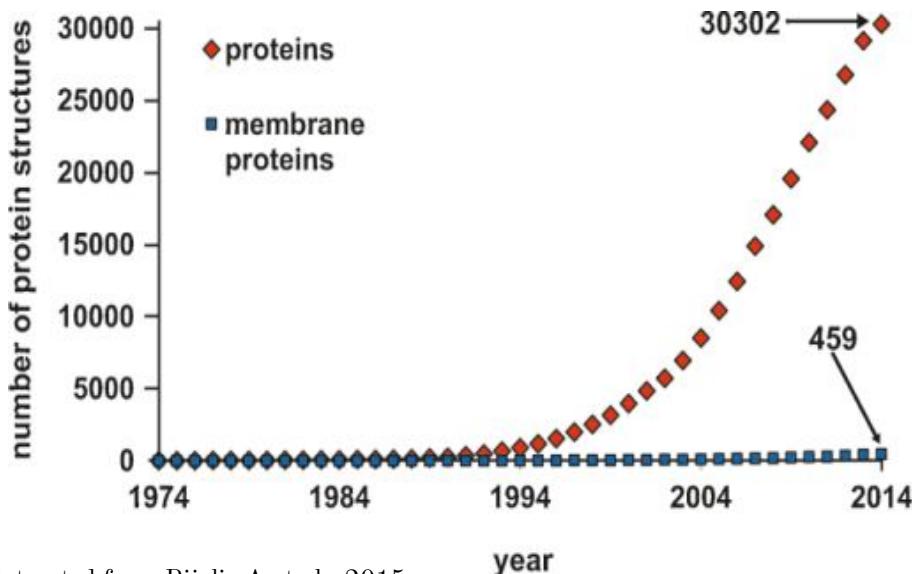
# Rhodopsin cycle



# Difficulties in rhodopsin crystallisation

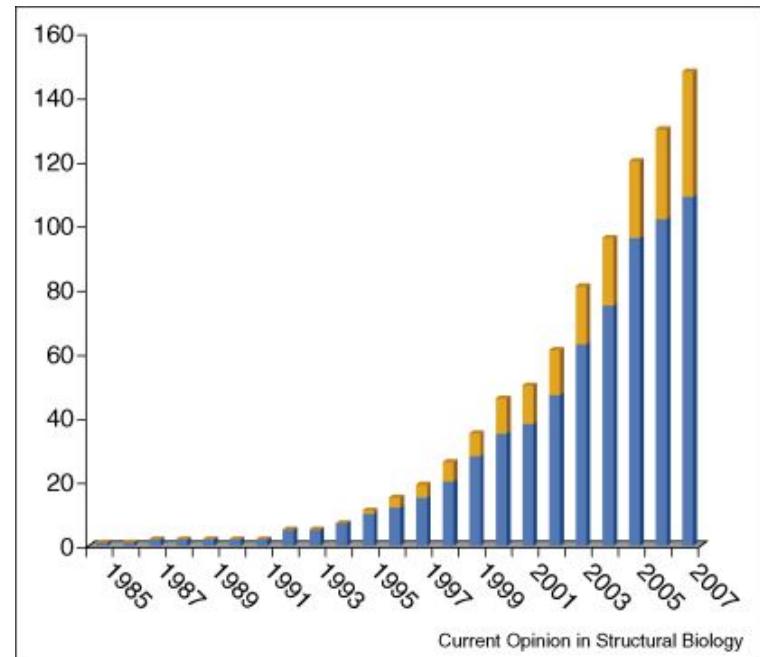
Low number of available structures

Number of total proteins in PDB vs. membrane proteins



Extracted from Bijelic A et al., 2015

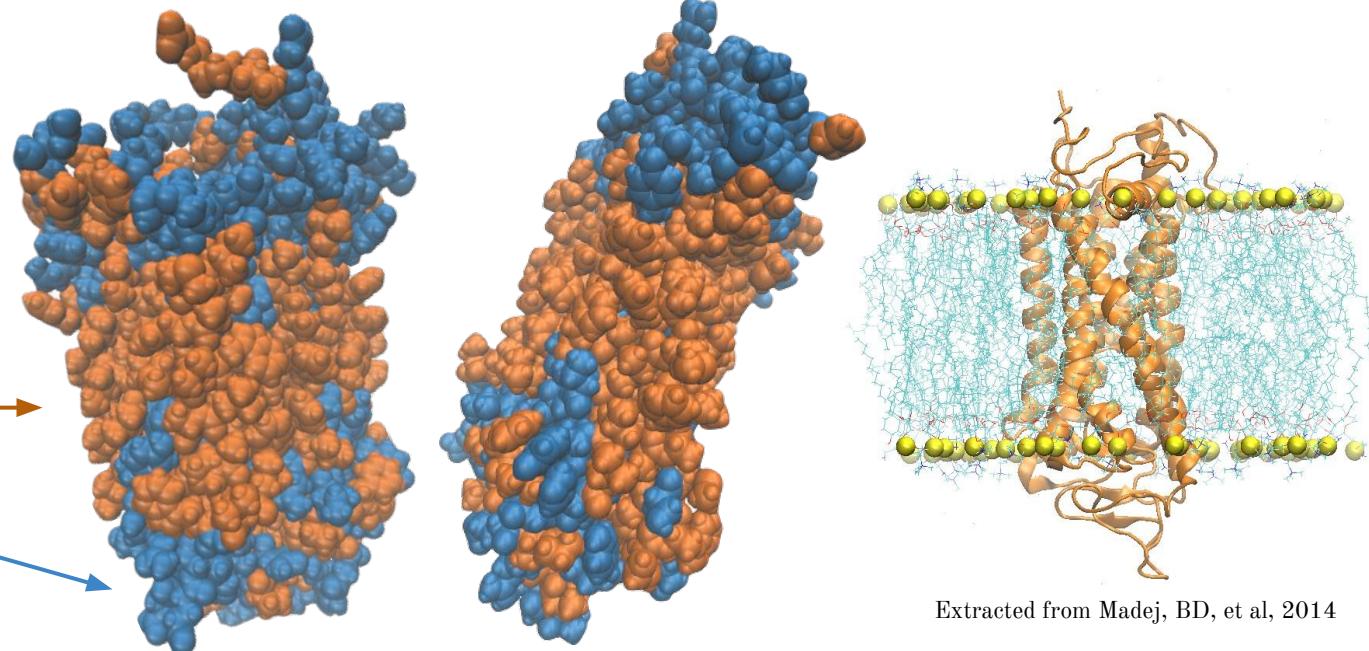
Prokaryotic (blue) vs. eukaryotic (yellow) membrane proteins in PDB



Extracted from Carpenter EP et al., 2008

# Rhodopsin structure: hydrophobicity

Hydrophobic residues



Extracted from Madej, BD, et al, 2014

# Rhodopsin structure: X-ray crystallisation

PDB structures:

**1U19**  
INACTIVE

**3PQR**  
ACTIVE



Bovine rhodopsin

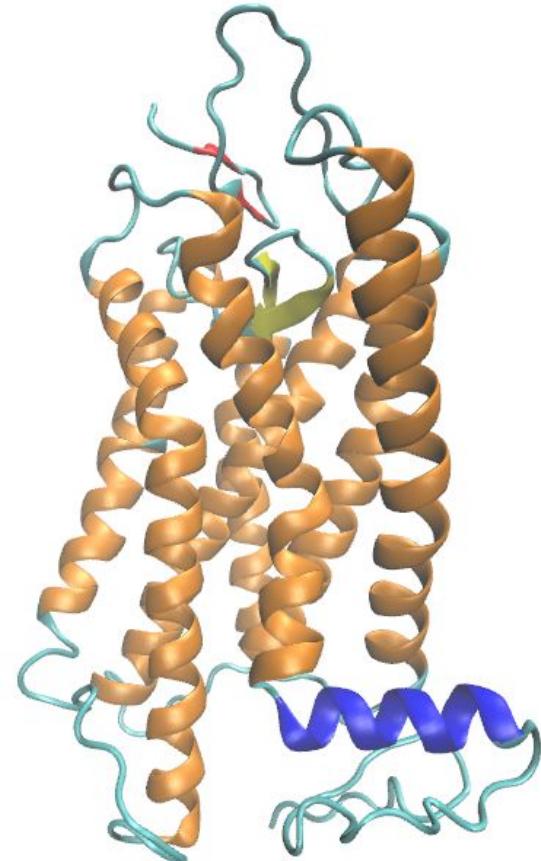
Extracellular N-terminus

3 extracellular loops

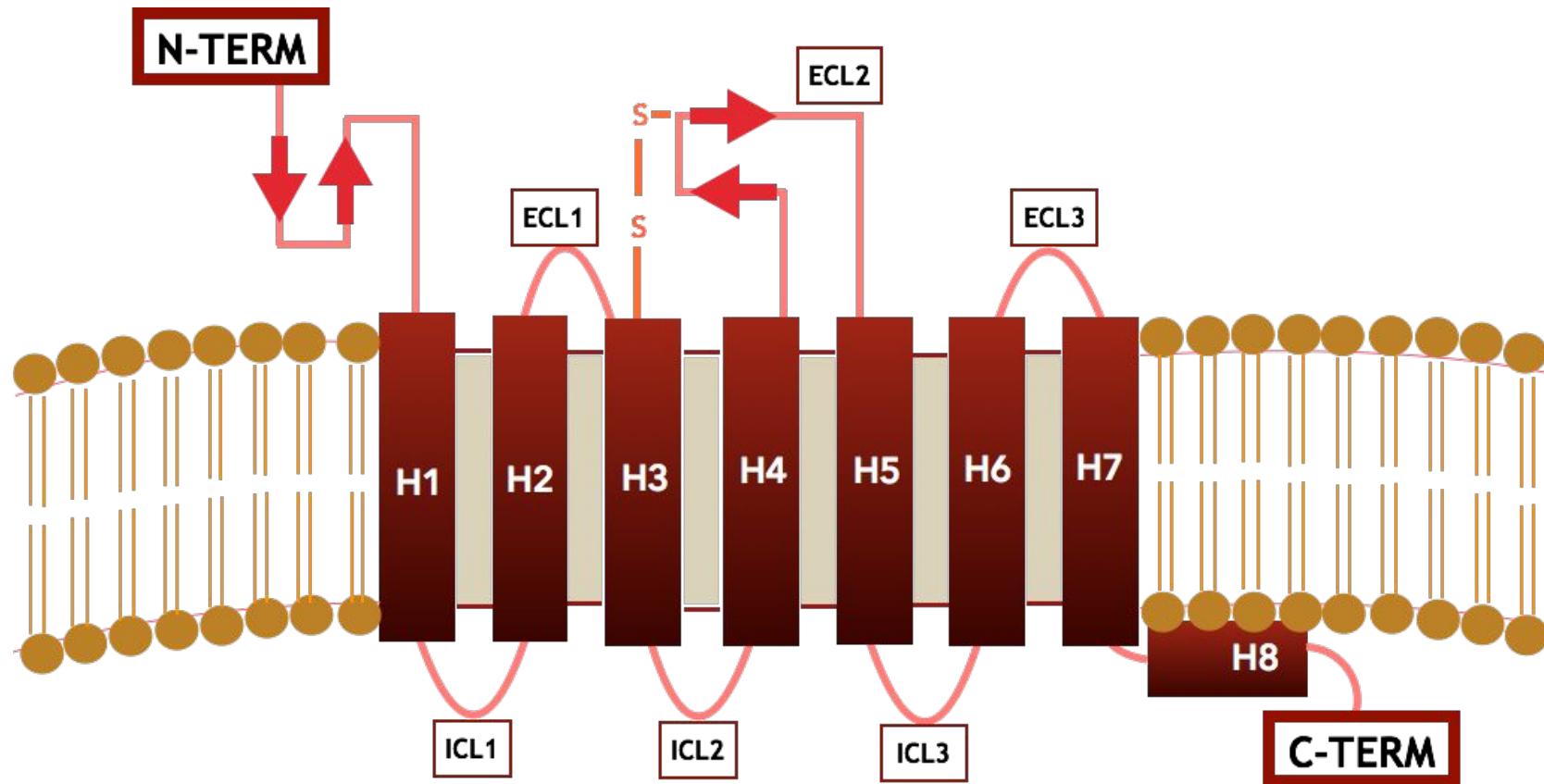
7 transmembrane helices

3 intracellular loops

Intracellular C-terminus  
with a short helix



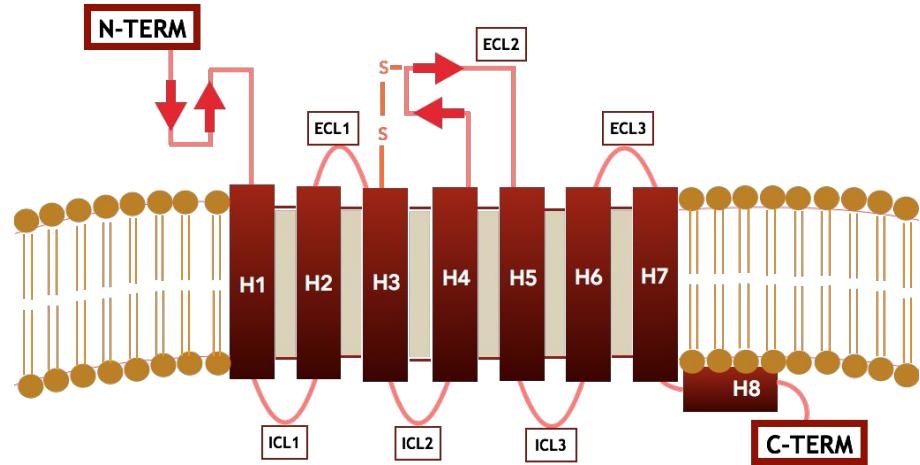
# Rhodopsin structure: 2D representation



# Rhodopsin structure: outline

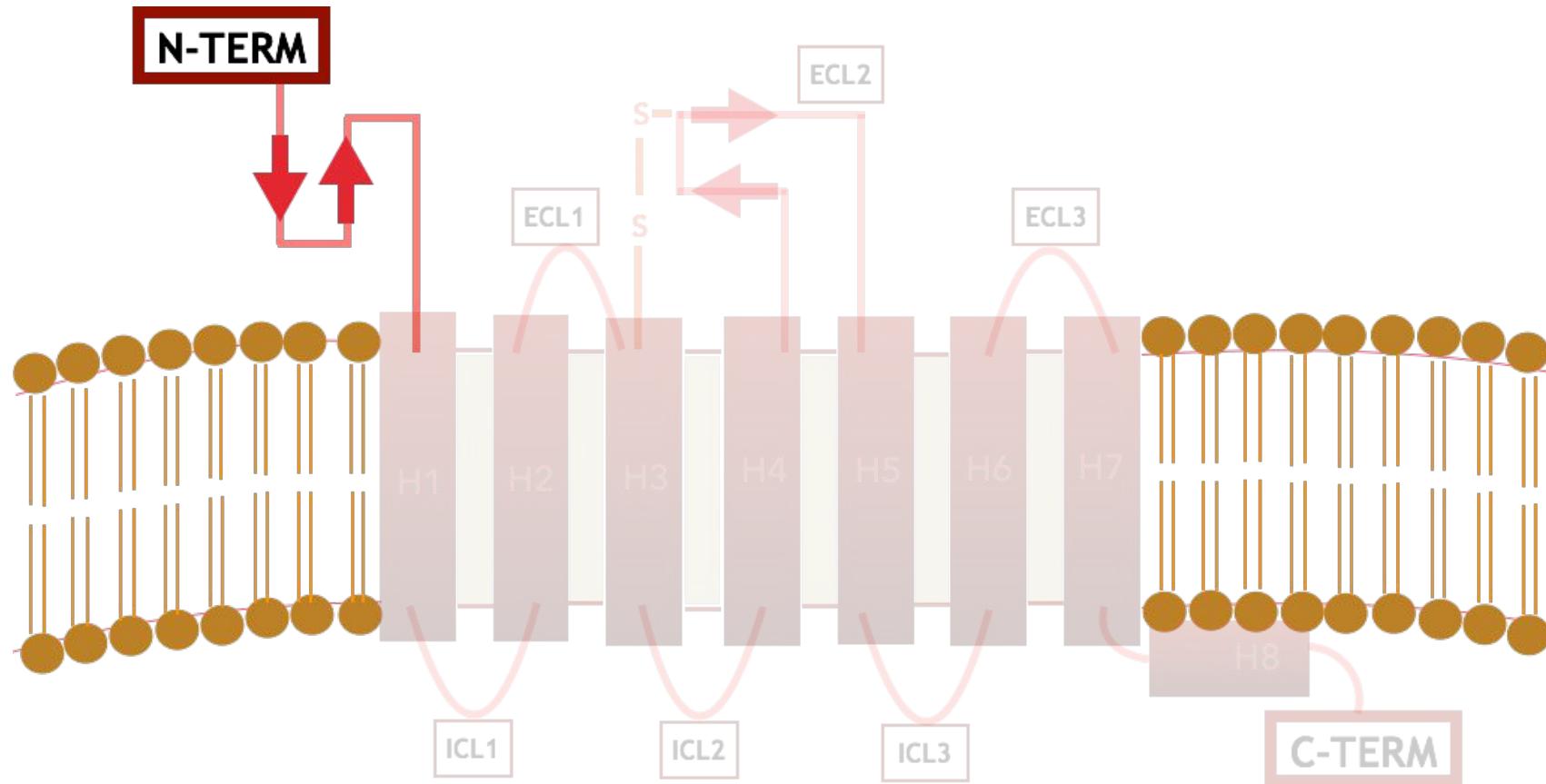
Most relevant areas:

- N-terminus
- Second extracellular loop (ECL2)
- Ligand binding site
- 7TM domain
- Third intracellular loop (ICL3)
- C-terminus



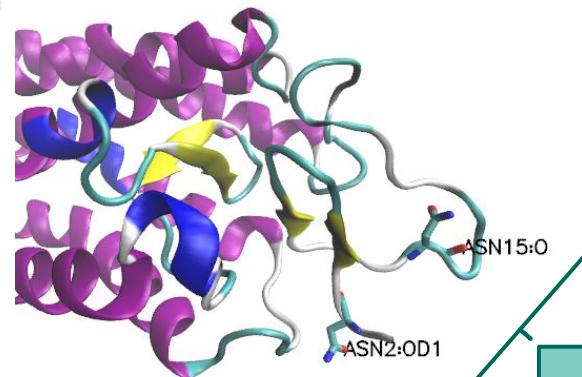
Comparison: INACTIVE vs ACTIVE

# N-terminus

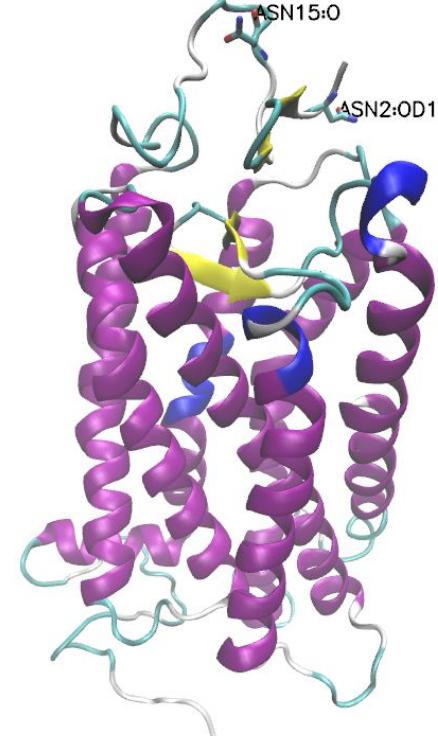


# N-terminus

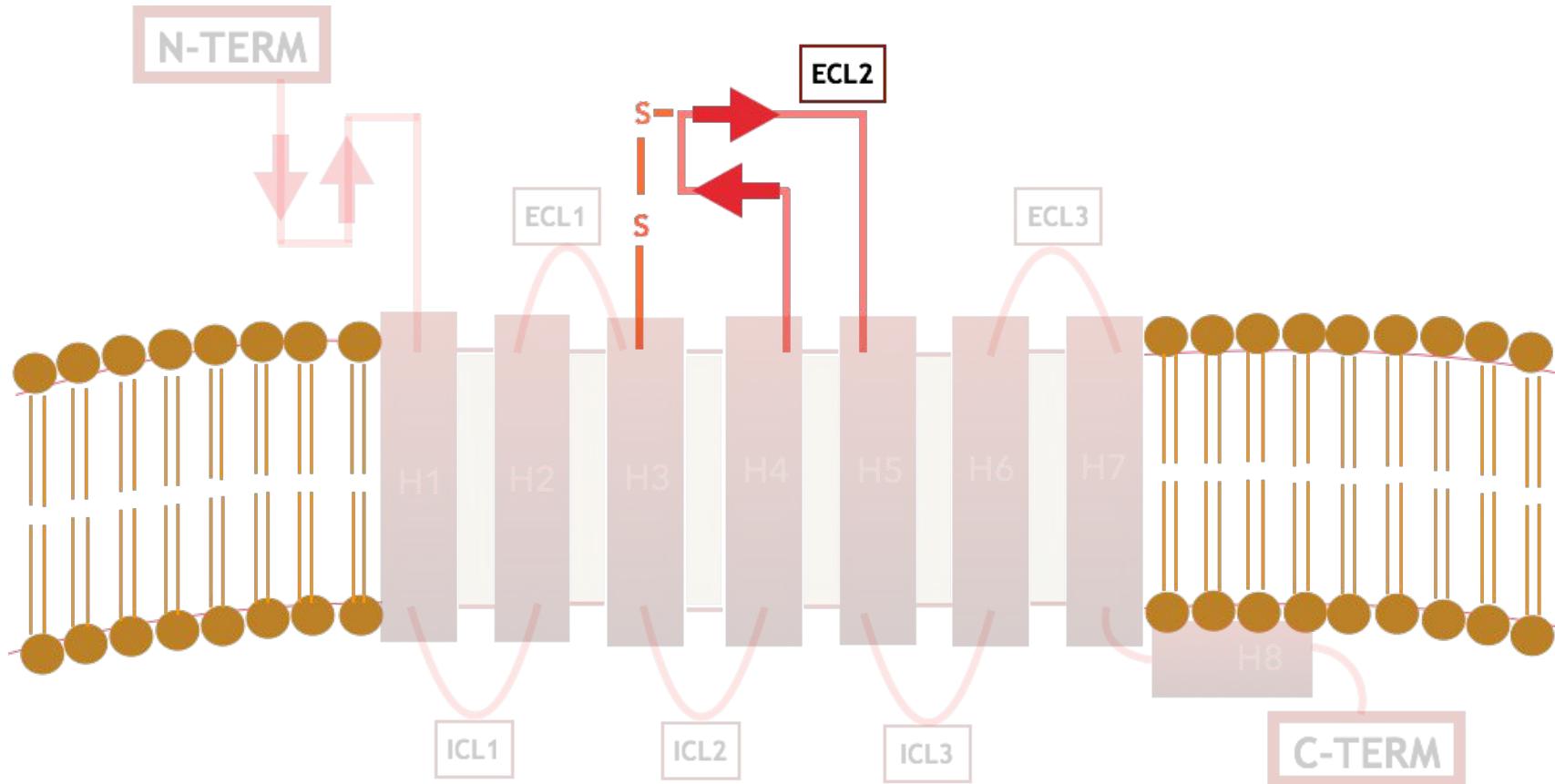
- Extracellular side
- Two-stranded  $\beta$  sheet
- Glycosylation sites → Asn2 and Asn15



Essential role  
in function

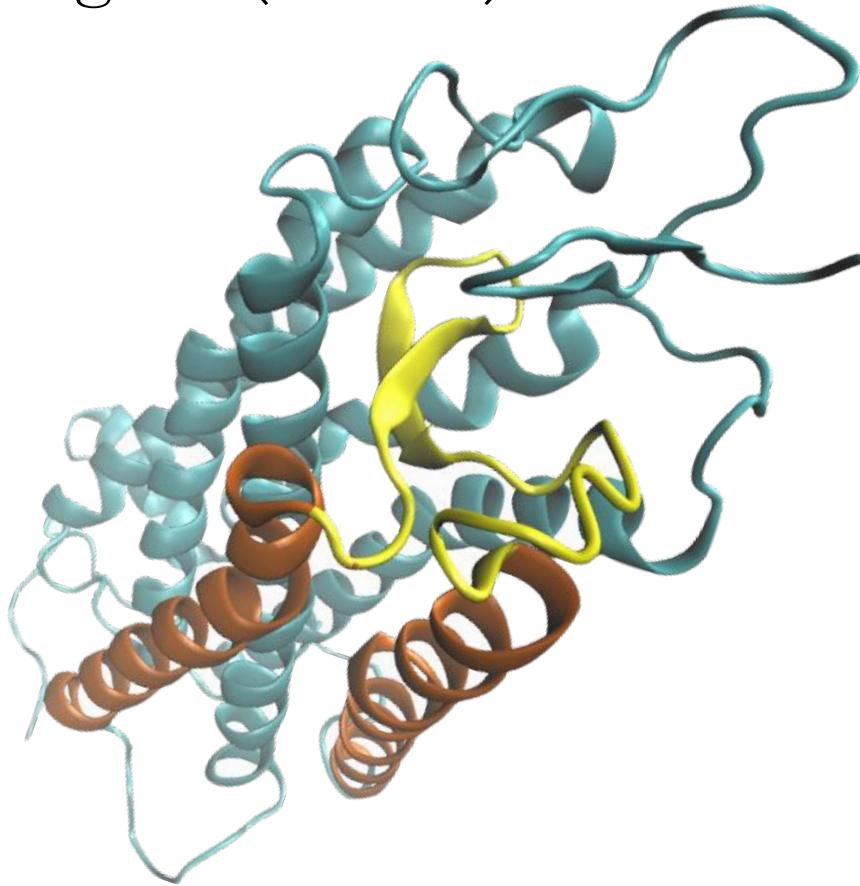


# Second Extracellular Loop (ECL2)



# Second Extracellular Loop region (ECL2)

- Essential for {  
Folding  
Ligand binding  
Biological function
- Connects H4 and H5
- Twisted two-stranded  $\beta$ -sheet
- Blocks rapid exit of the ligand (retinal) from the binding site

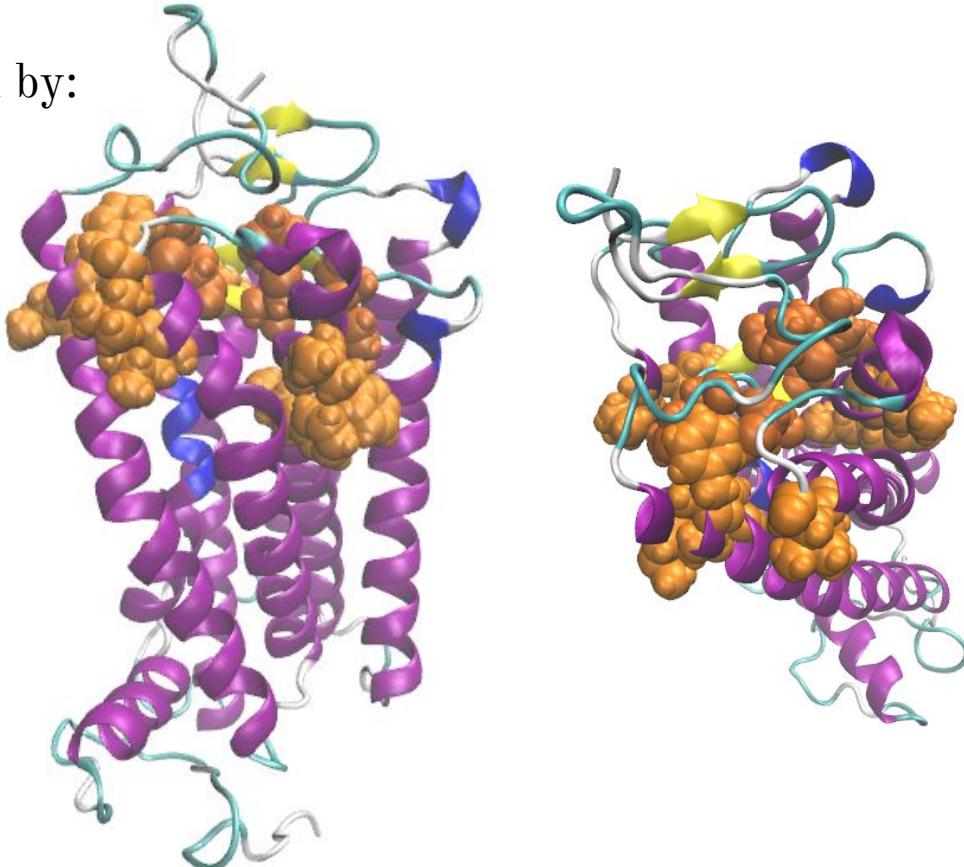


# Second Extracellular Loop (ECL2)

The position of this  $\beta$ -sheet is stabilized by:

- **Hydrophobic interactions**
- Disulfide bond
- Hydrogen bonding network
- Salt bridge

Surrounding residues  
of the helix bundle,  
especially those from  
H1, H2, H3, and H7



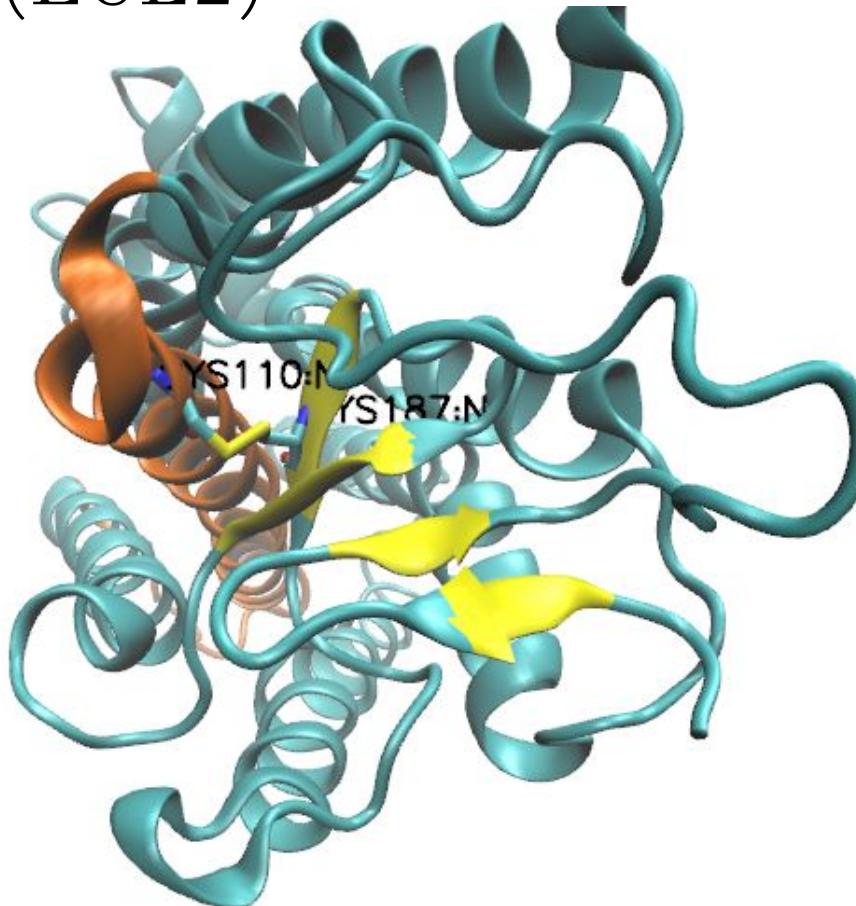
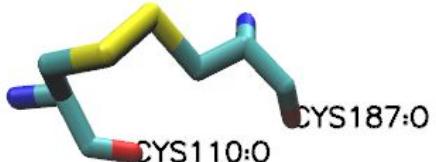
# Second Extracellular Loop (ECL2)

The position of this  $\beta$ -sheet is stabilized by:

- Hydrophobic interactions
- **Disulfide bond** → Highly conserved
- Hydrogen bonding network
- Salt bridge

Cys110 - Cys187

H3 — ECL2



# Second Extracellular Loop (ECL2)

The position of this  $\beta$ -sheet is stabilized by:

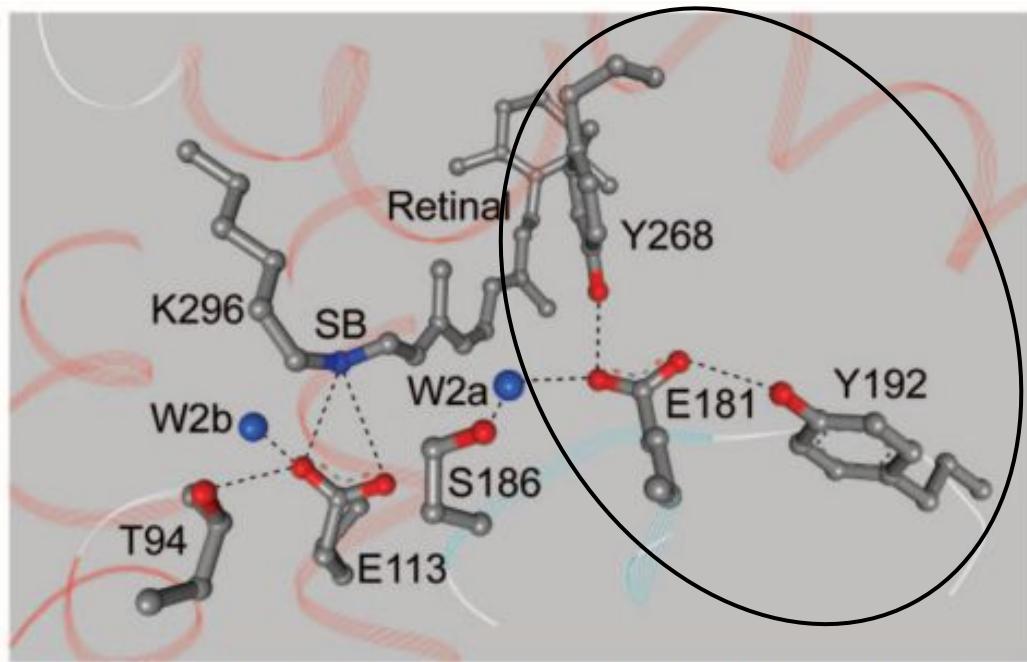
- Hydrophobic interactions
- Disulfide bond
- **Hydrogen bonding network**
- Salt bridge

Glu181 - Tyr192

ECL2

Tyr268

H6



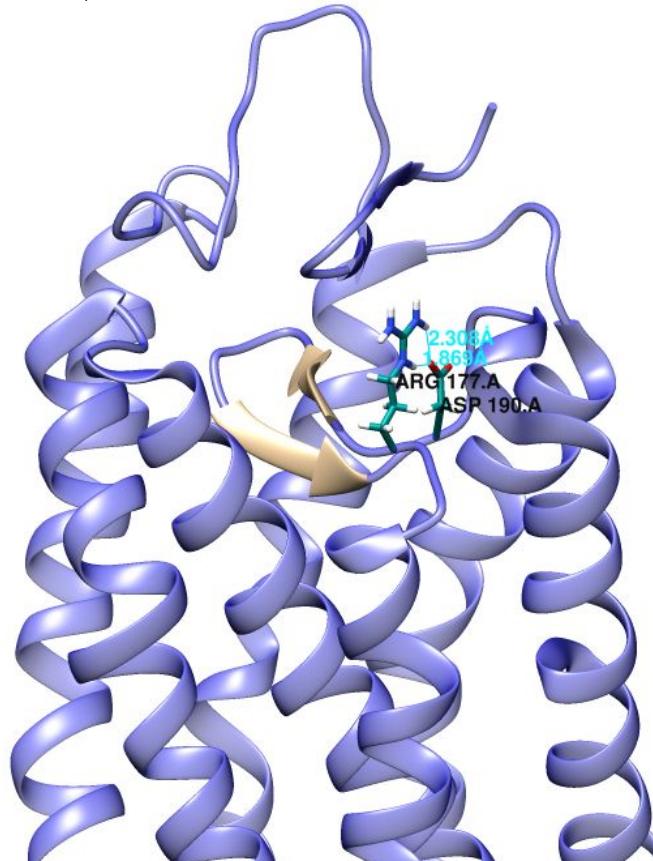
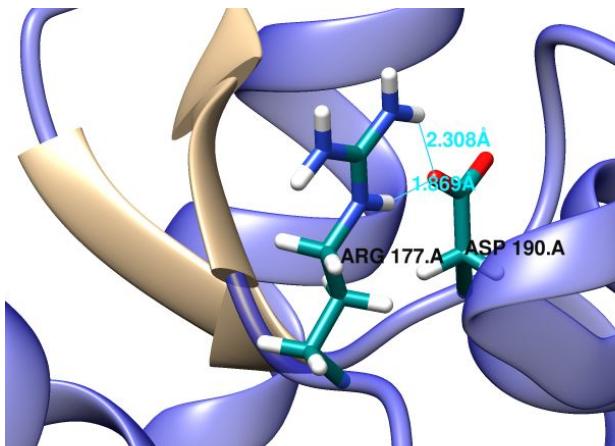
Extracted from Janz JM et. al., 2004

# Second Extracellular Loop (ECL2)

The position of this  $\beta$ -sheet is stabilized by:

- Hydrophobic interactions
- Disulfide bond
- Hydrogen bonding network
- **Salt bridge**

Arg177 - Asp190



# Second Extracellular Loop (ECL2): ACTIVE

ECL2 is part of the retinal binding site

- Conformational changes in key residues:

Glu 181

Ser 186

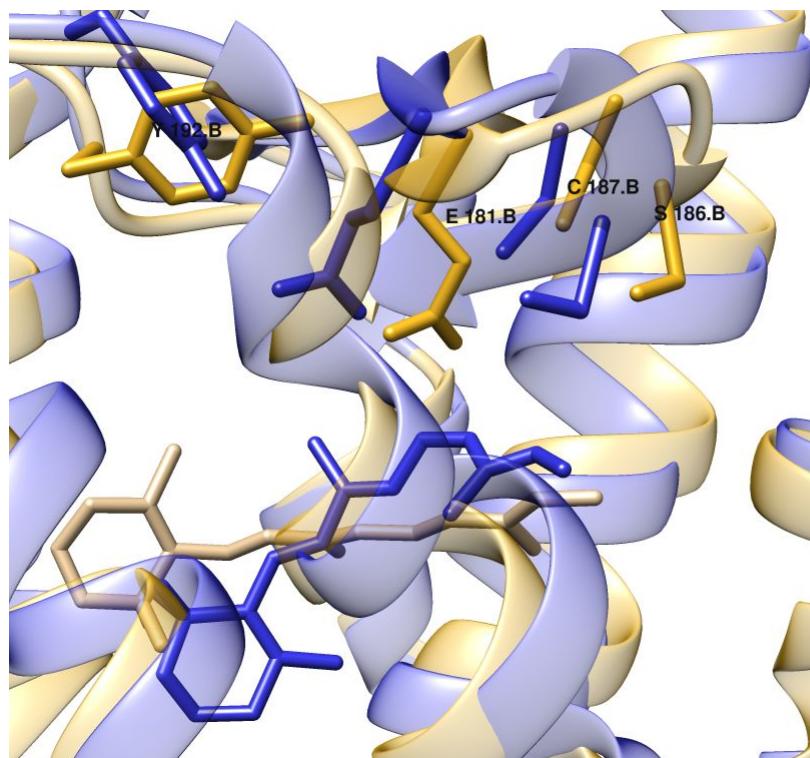
Cys 187

Tyr 192

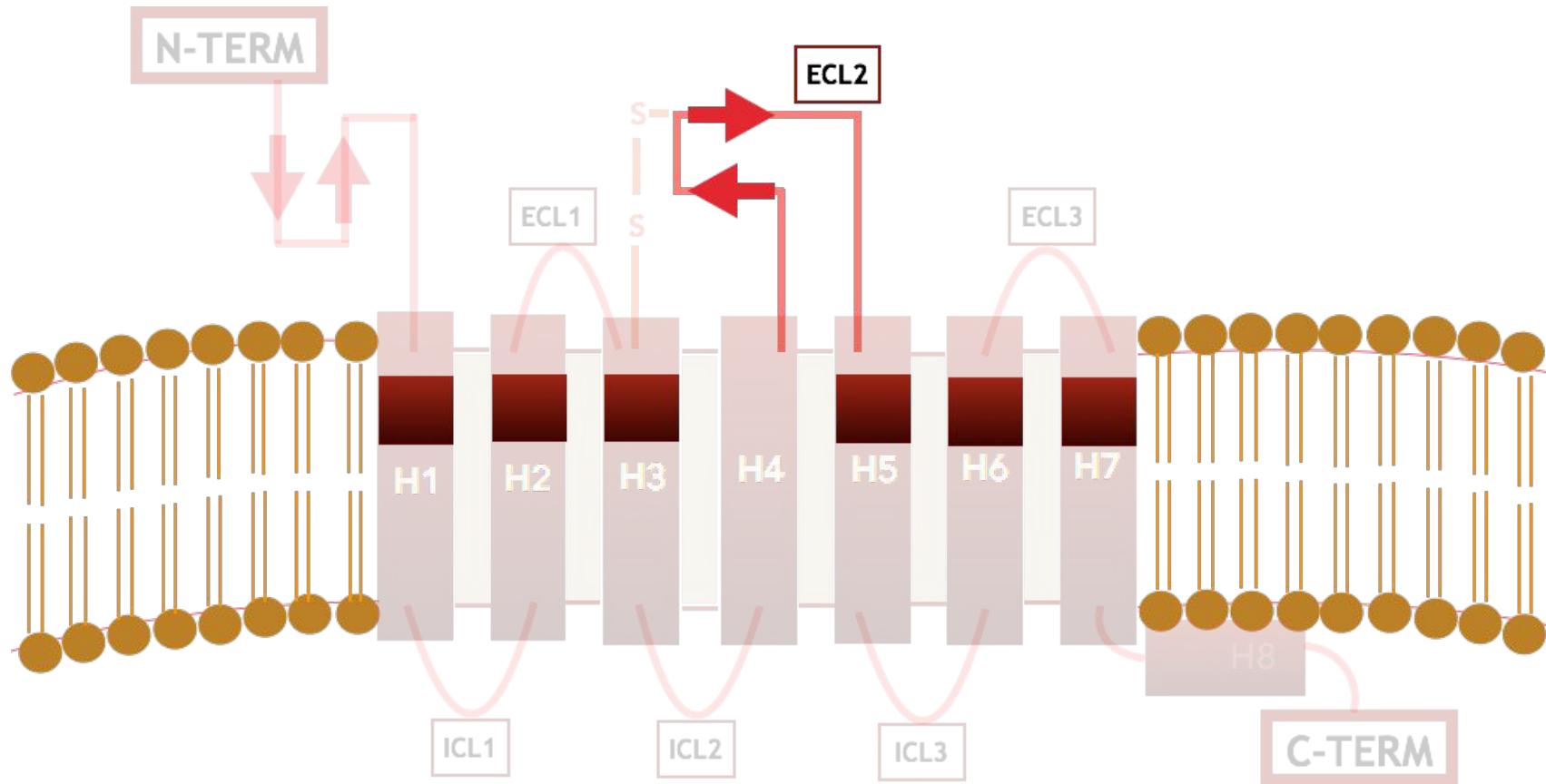
These residues are in contact and covering the retinal molecule

ACTIVE

INACTIVE

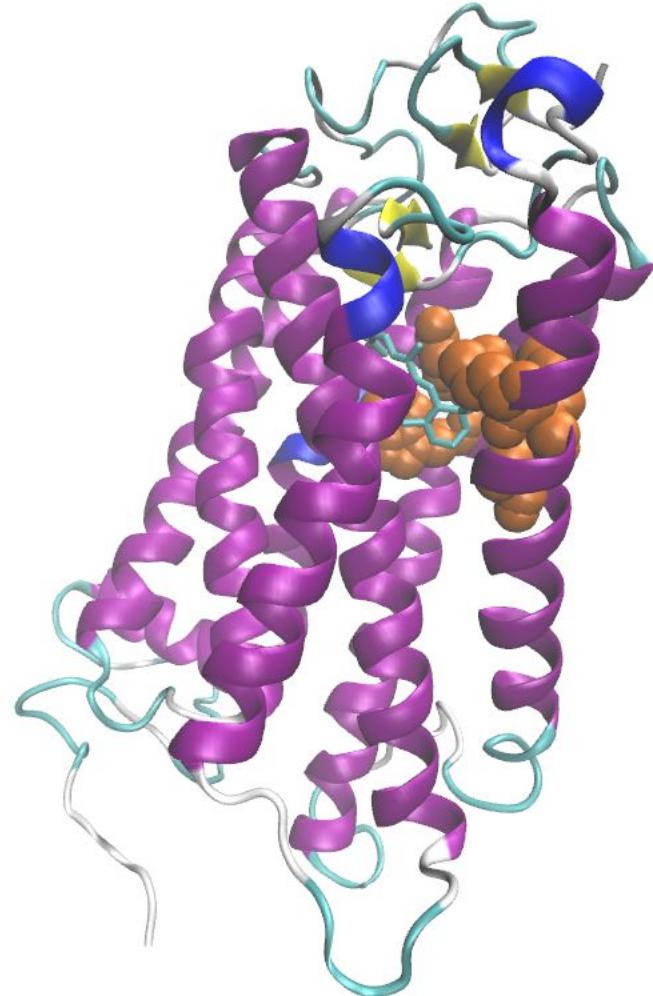
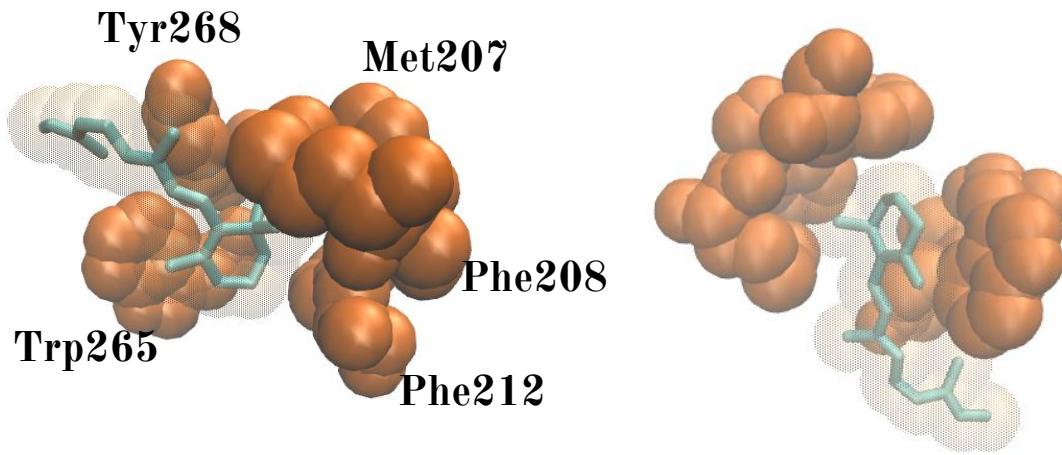


# Ligand binding site



# Ligand binding site

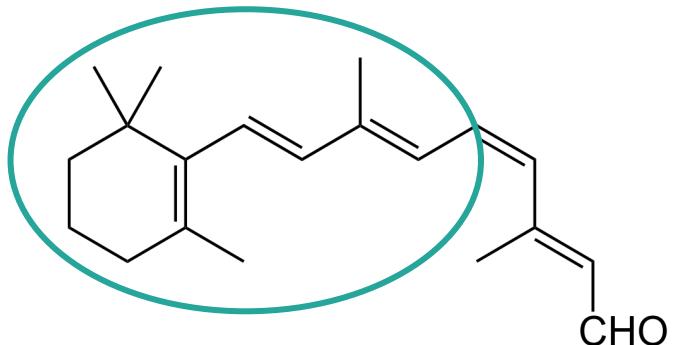
- Extracellular side of the transmembrane bundle
- Mostly surrounded by hydrophobic residues
- Stabilizes retinal
- Dynamic changes during photoactivation



# Ligand binding site

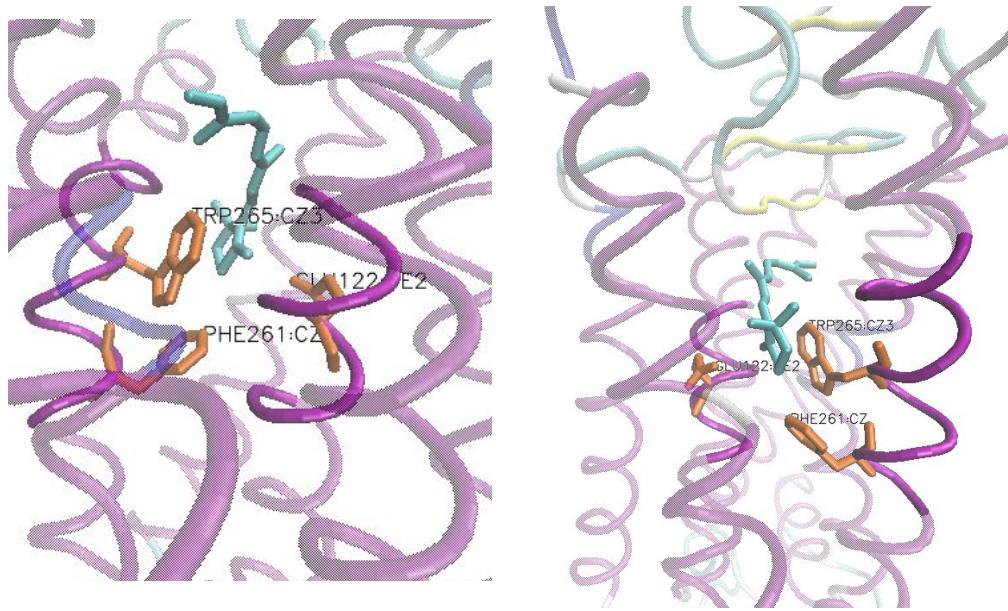
Retinal: cis-conformation

$\beta$ -ionone ring



Position of  $\beta$ -ionone ring:

→ **covered** from the cytoplasmic side  
by residues from H3 and H6



Glu122, Phe261, and Trp265

# Ligand binding site

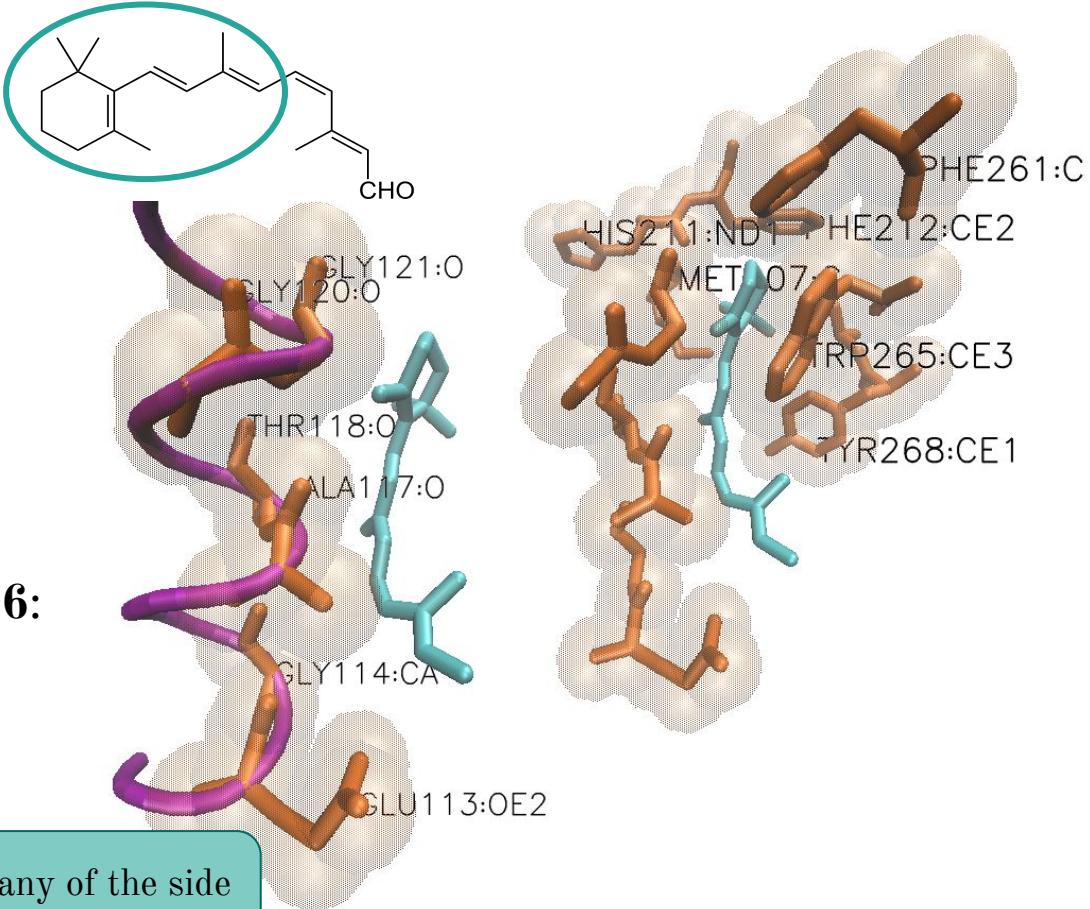
Retinal: cis conformation

## $\beta$ -ionone ring

From the  $\beta$ -ionone ring to C11, the retinal runs **parallel to H3**

Side chains, mostly from **H5 and H6**:

- Surround the  $\beta$ -ionone ring
- Restrict its orientation



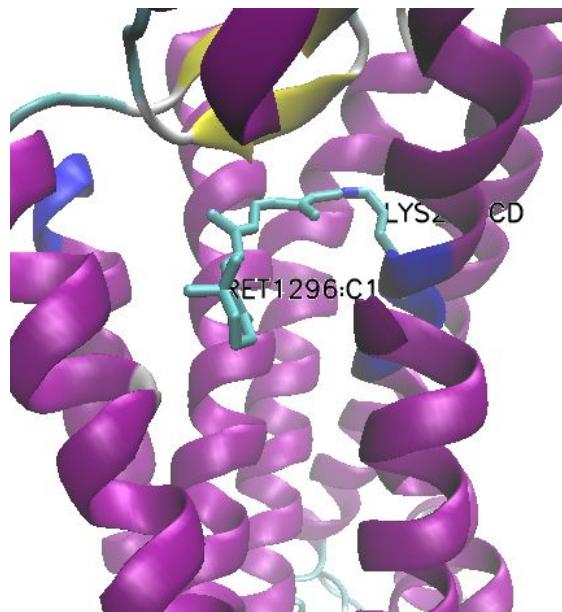
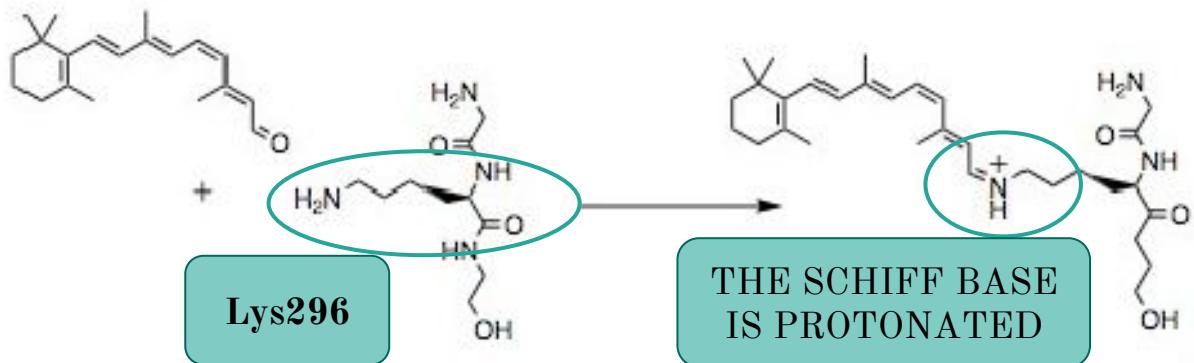
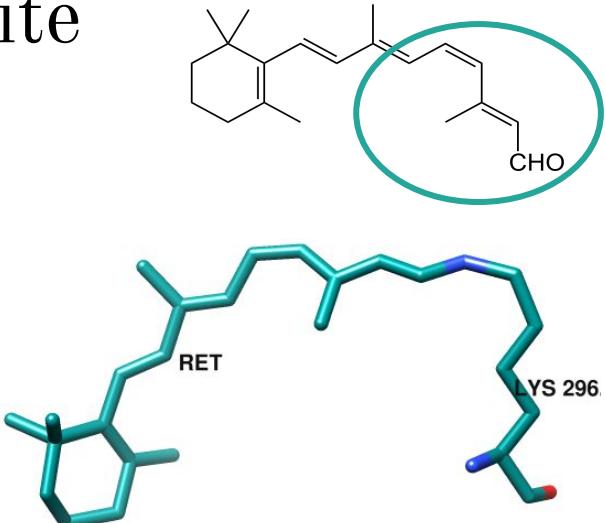
H3 provides many of the side chains for the binding site

# Ligand binding site

Schiff base



Retinal binds covalently  
to Lys296 (H7)



# Ligand binding site

## Schiff base: hydrophobic interactions

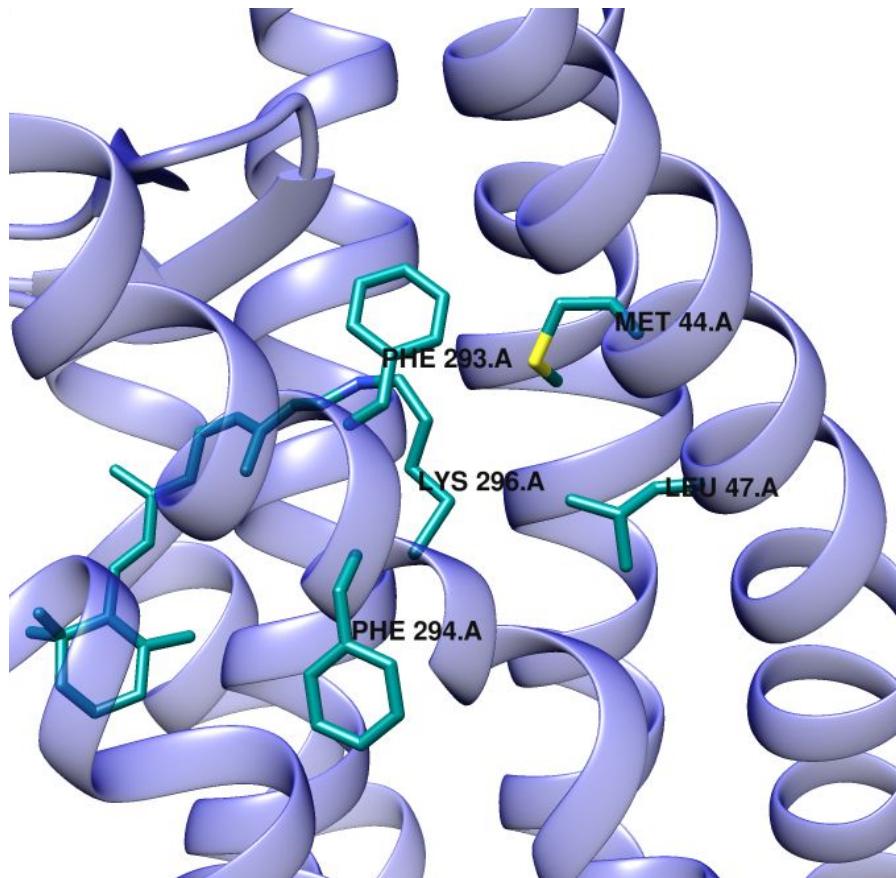
Side chain direction of Lys296 is supported by:

- A nearby peptide bond

**Phe293 and Phe294**

- Hydrophobic side chains in H1

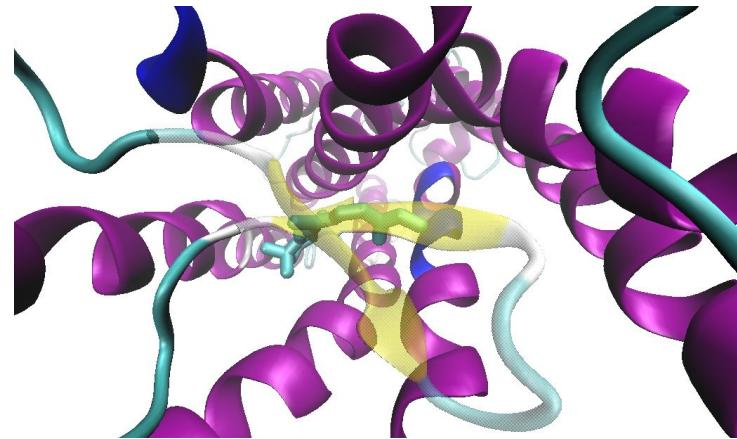
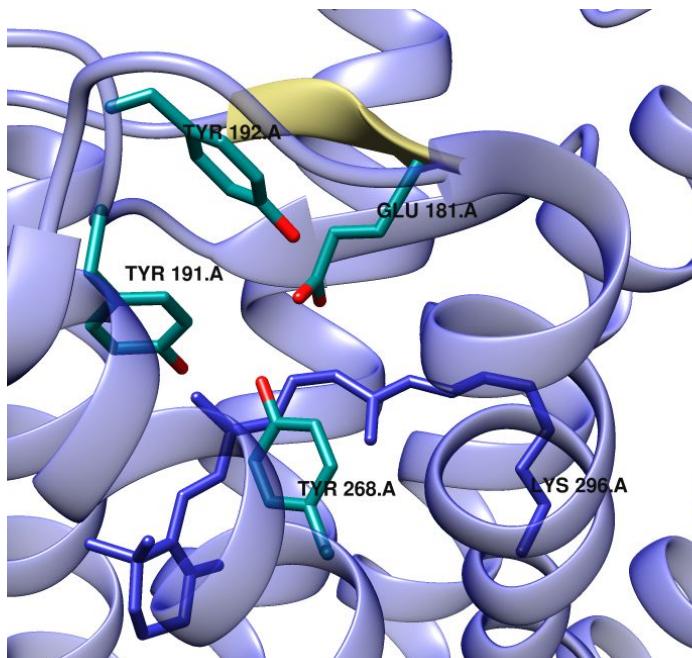
**Met44 and Leu47**



# Ligand binding site

Schiff base: extracellular site

→ covered by  $\beta 4$  sheet from ECL2



Glu181  
( $\beta 3$  sheet)

Side chain points  
towards the retinal

Surrounded by a cluster of  
3 polar residues

Tyr191

Tyr192

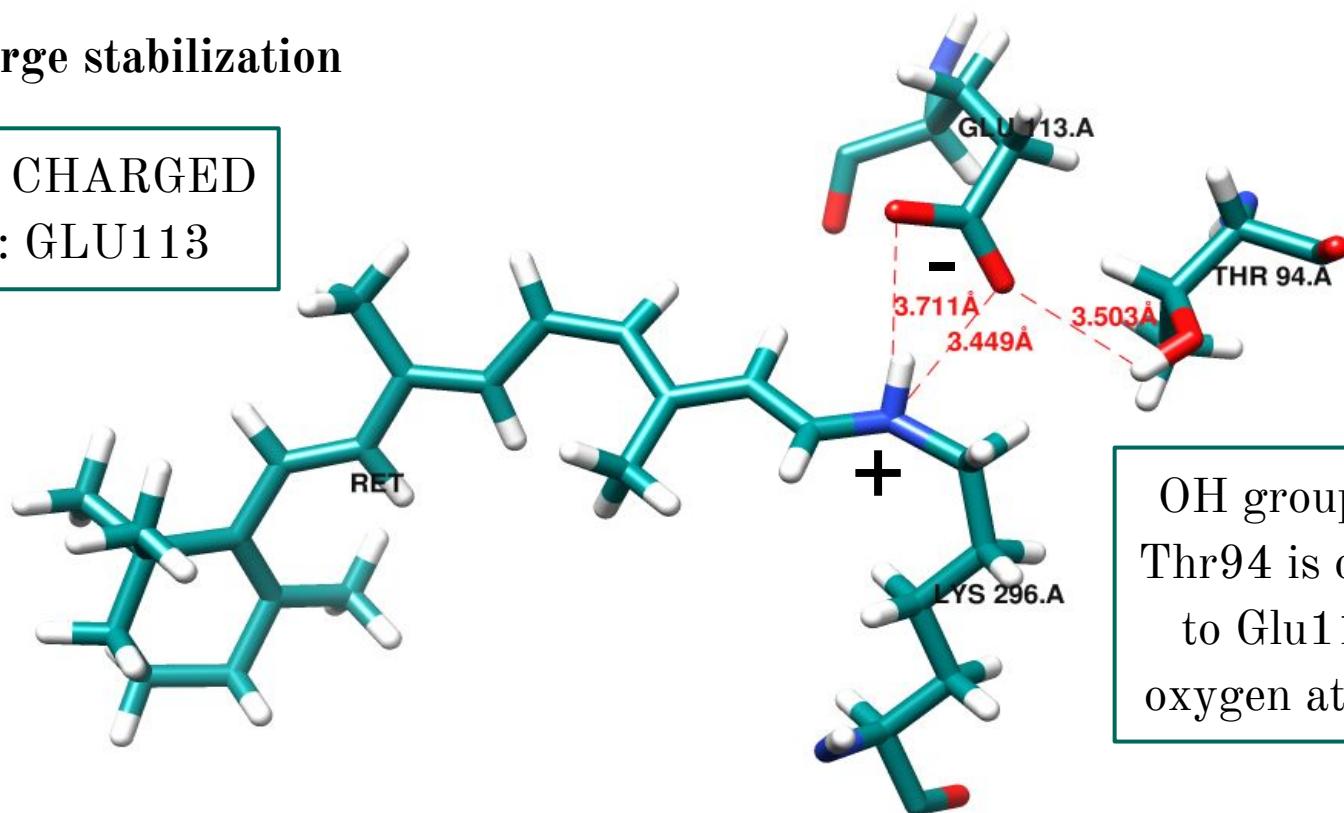
Tyr268

Their OH groups cover part of the  
retinal binding site

# Ligand binding site

Schiff base: charge stabilization

NEGATIVELY CHARGED  
COUNTERION: GLU113



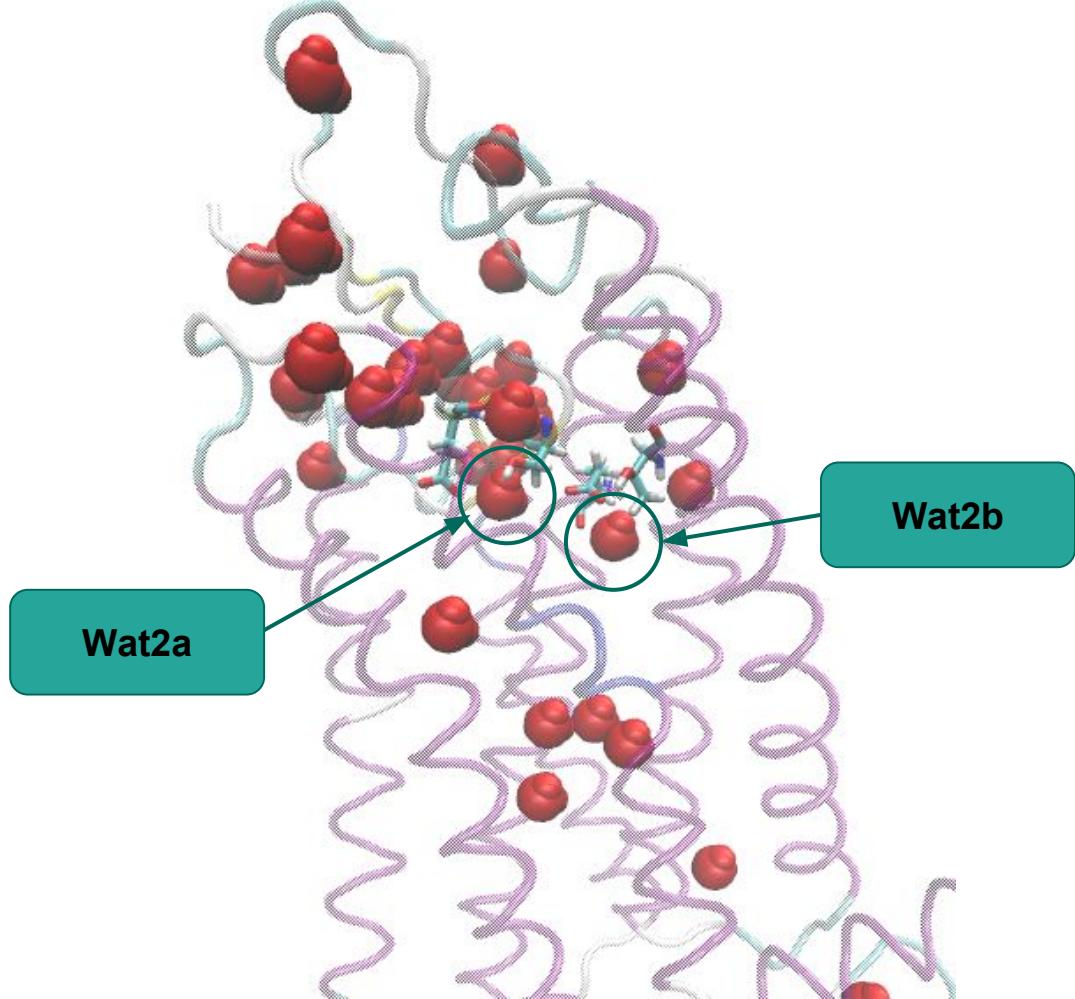
# Ligand binding site

Hydrogen bonding network



Important water molecules

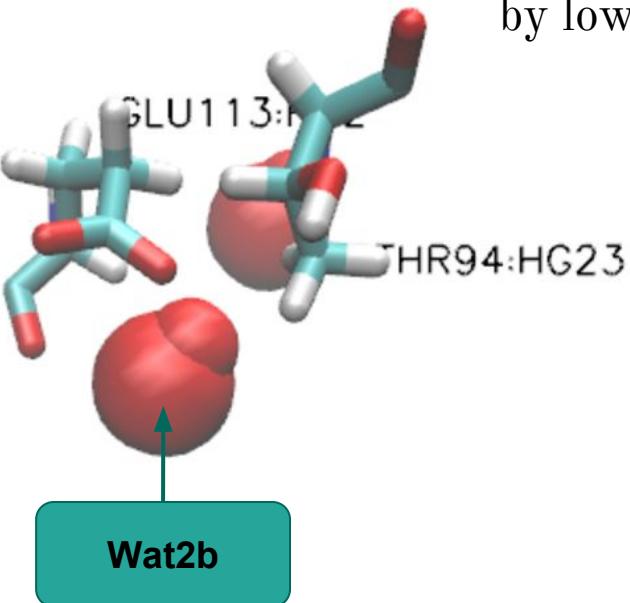
Same position in all crystals



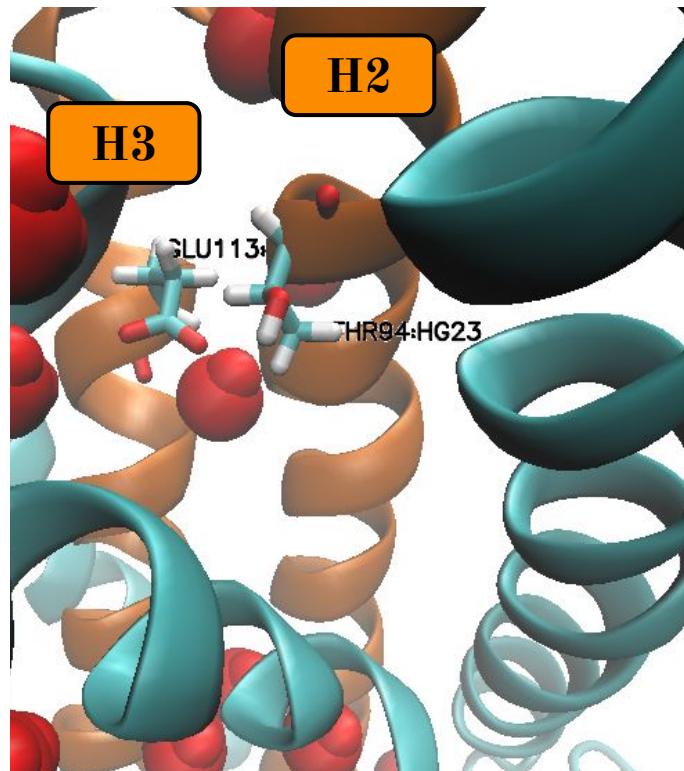
# Ligand binding site

## Hydrogen bonding network

Wat2b → Near Glu113: stabilizes salt bridge by lowering its pKa



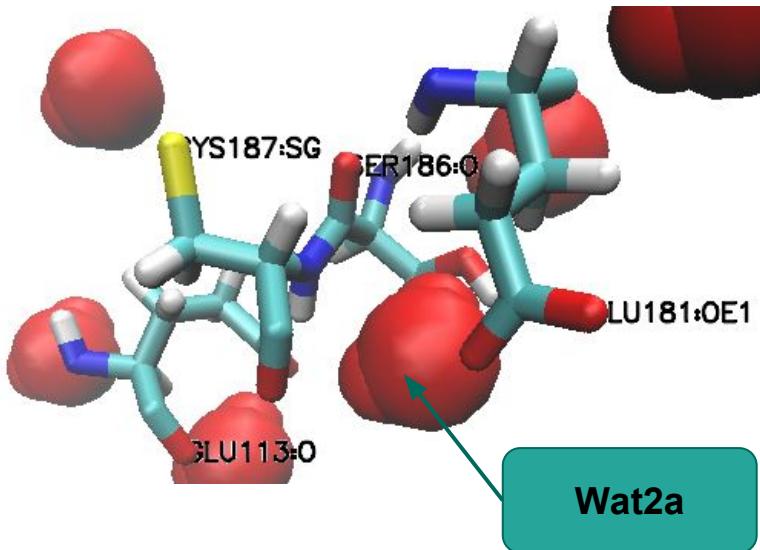
Fills a spatial gap between H2 and H3 at the retinal-binding site



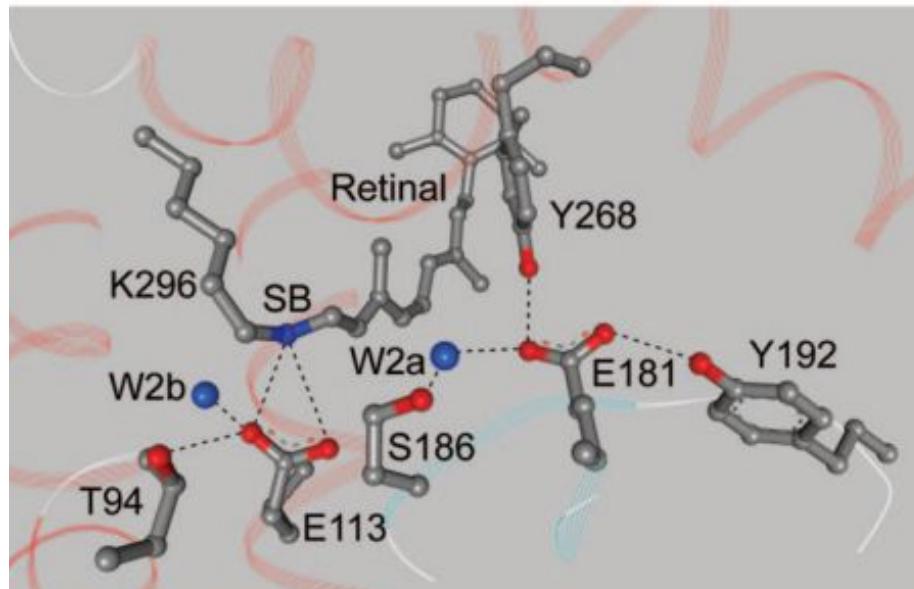
# Ligand binding site

## Hydrogen bonding network

Wat2a → H bonds: Ser186,  
Cys187 and Glu181



H-bonding network postulated on the basis of QM/MM modelling and MD simulations



Extracted from Janz JM et. al., 2004

# Ligand binding site

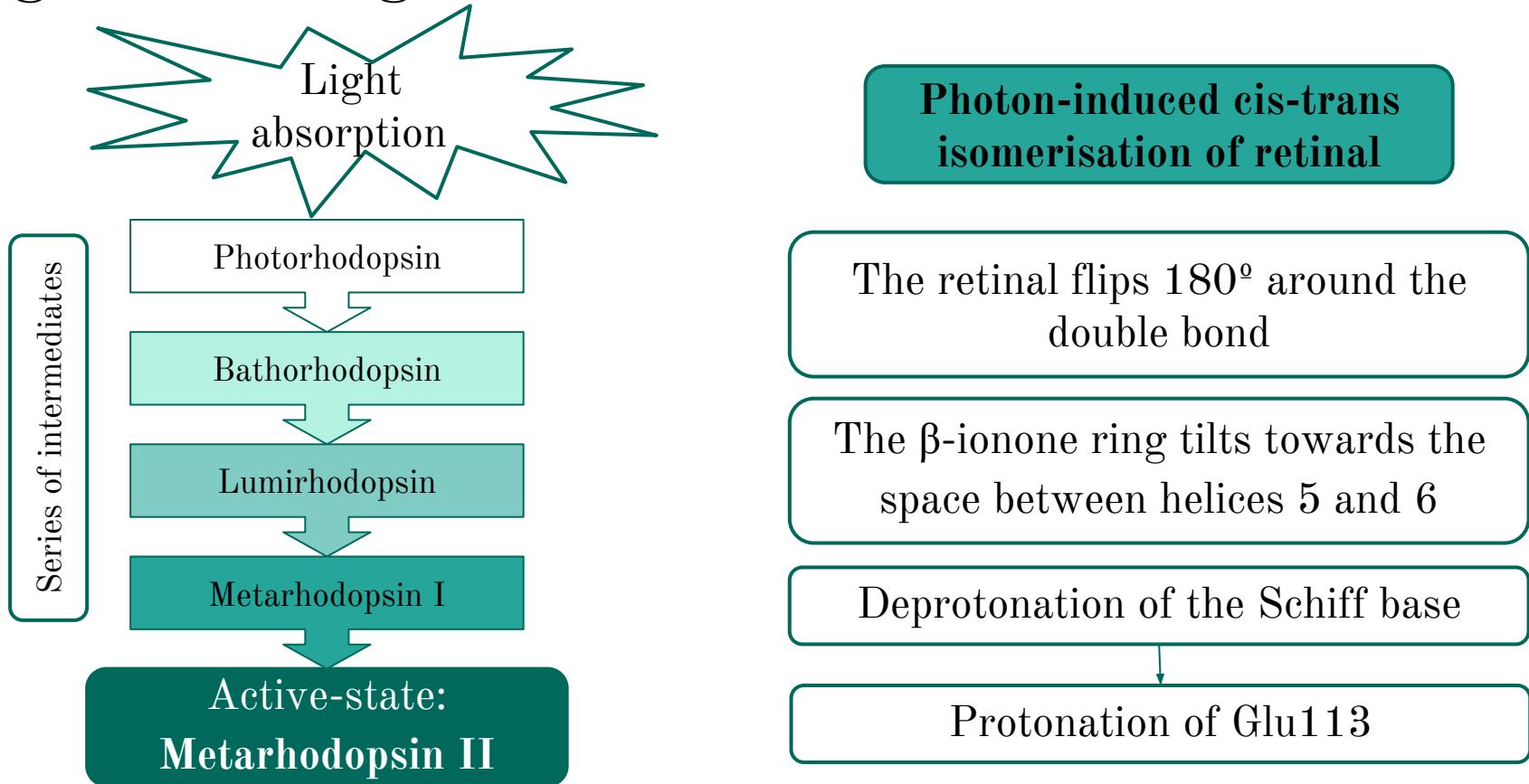
Factors contributing to the stability of the protonated Schiff base:

- Negatively charged Glu113 at a very short distance from the Schiff base
- Hydrogen bonding network:
  - Reduces Glu113 basicity
  - Thr94 and Wat2b involved

The proton is kept at the Schiff base nitrogen atom rather than at the carboxylate oxygen atom

CHANGES IN  
PHOTOACTIVATION

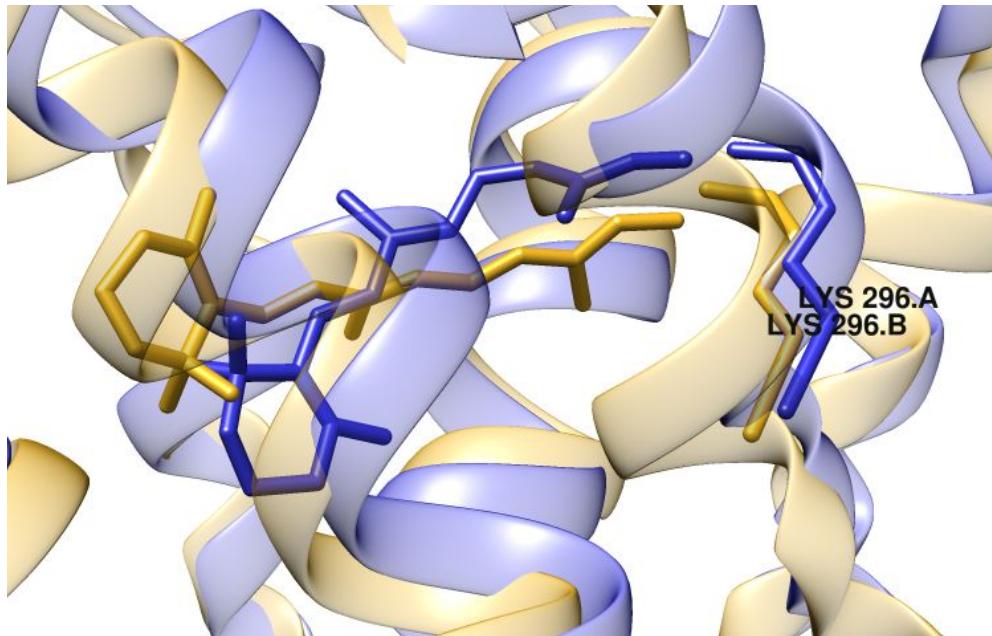
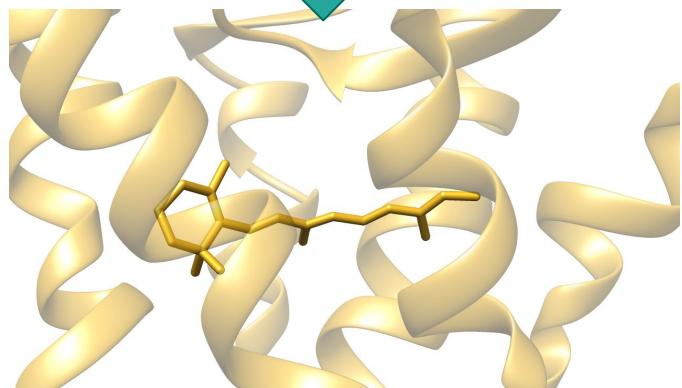
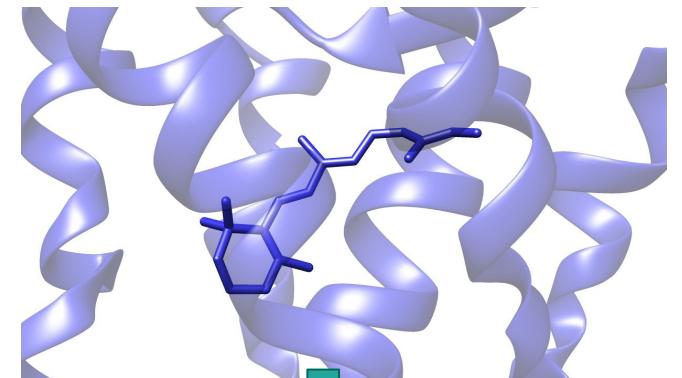
# Ligand binding site: **ACTIVE**



# Ligand binding site: ACTIVE

ACTIVE

INACTIVE



# Ligand binding site: ACTIVE

ACTIVE

INACTIVE

The arrangement around the Schiff base is of particular interest in terms of understanding the mechanism of the photoactivation of rhodopsin.

Presence of retinal causes adjustment of side chains:

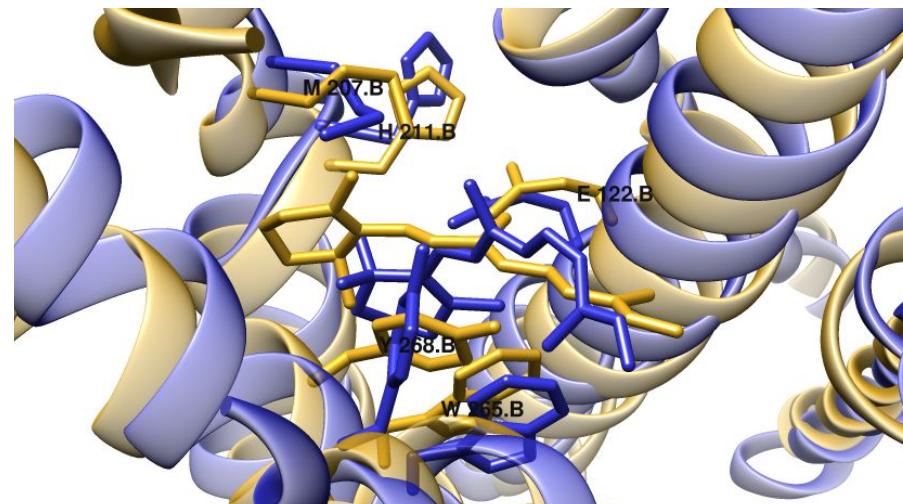
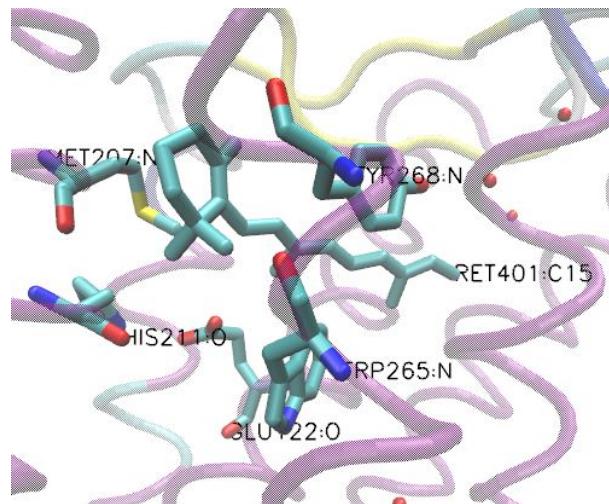
Met207

His211

Glu122

Trp265

Tyr268



# Ligand binding site: ACTIVE

ACTIVE

INACTIVE



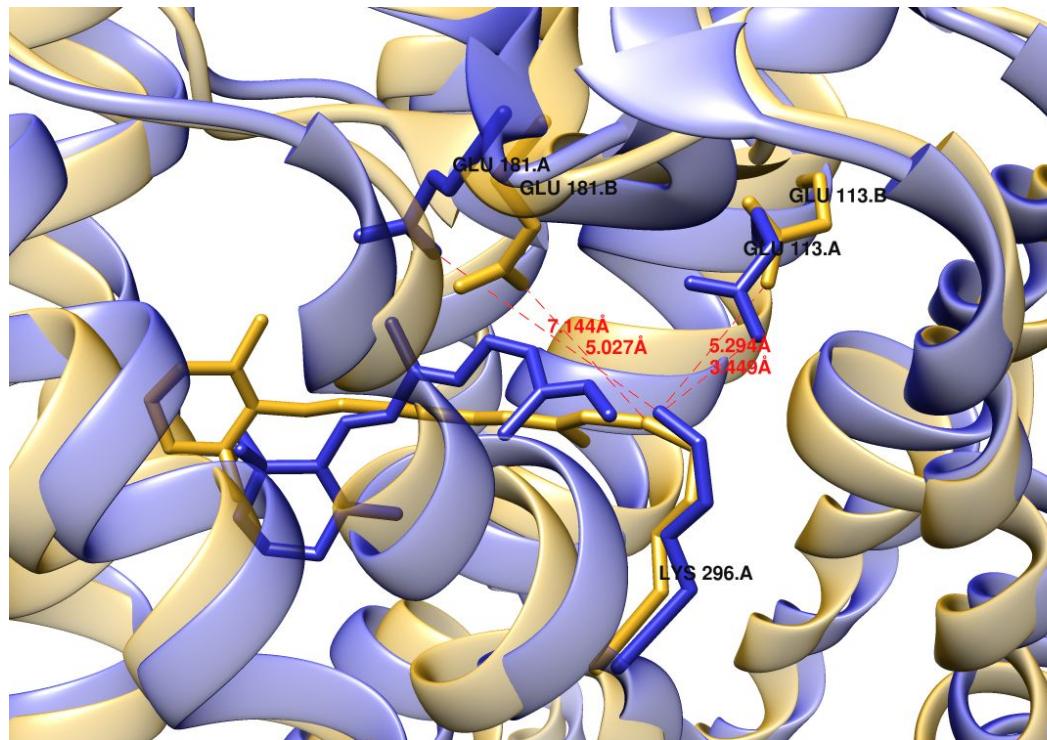
Distance between Schiff base  
and side chain carboxyl group  
of Glu113

3,4 to 5,3 Å



Distance between Schiff base  
and Glu181

7,1 to 5,0 Å



# Ligand binding site: INACTIVE vs. ACTIVE

## INACTIVE

→ Protonated Schiff base

→ Short distance between Schiff base and Glu113 (counterion)

→ Complex hydrogen bonding network around ligand binding site

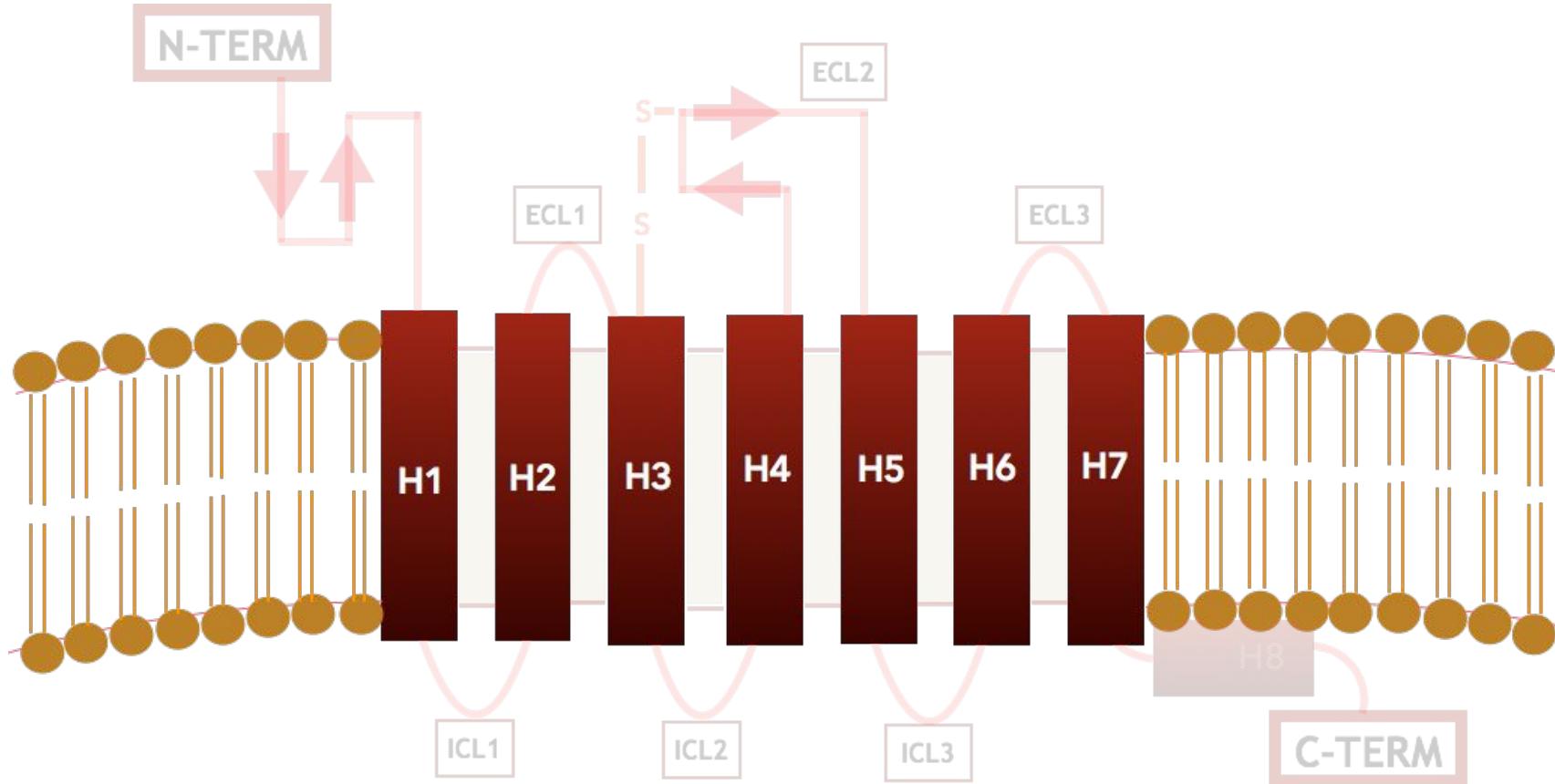
## ACTIVE

→ Deprotonated Schiff base

→ Elongation and torsional motions of retinal polyene chain and  $\beta$ -ionone ring

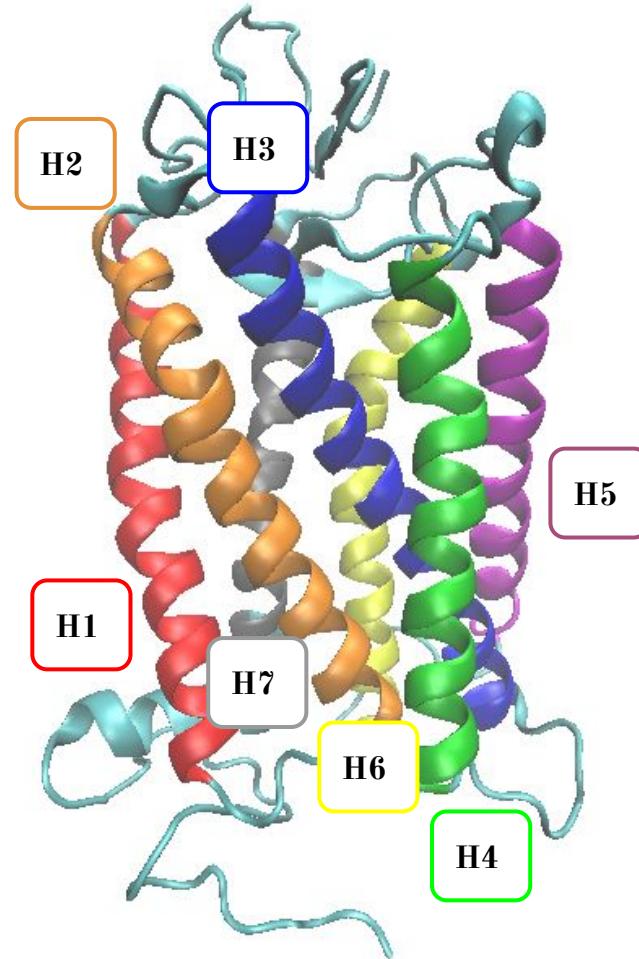
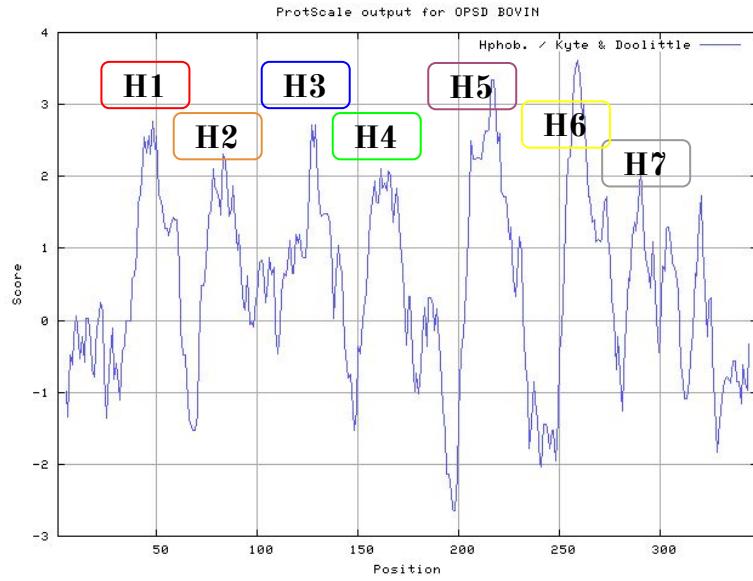
→ Changes in the H-bonding network

# 7TM domain



# 7TM domain

- Common in all GPCR
- 7 transmembrane helices



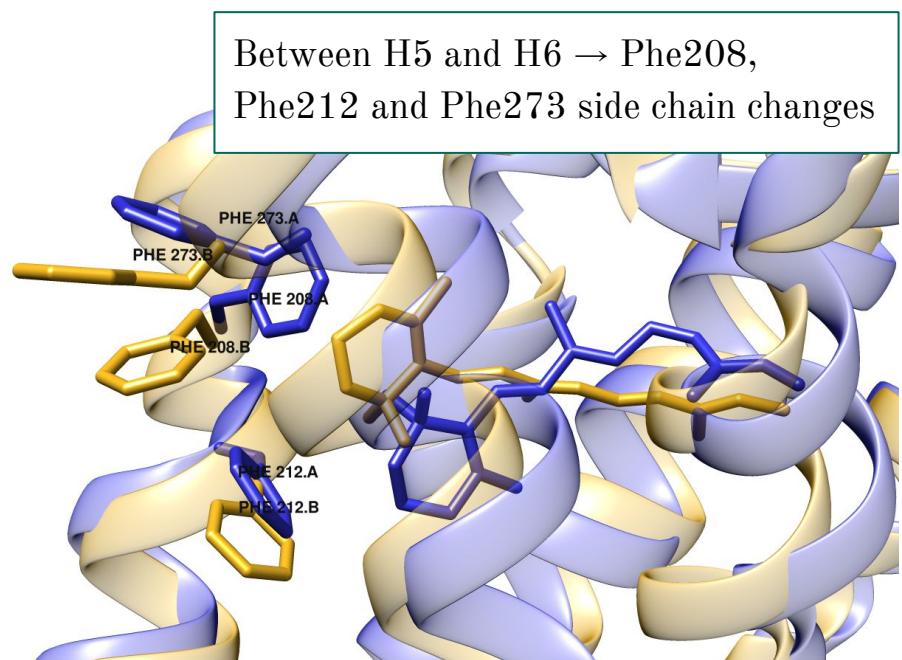
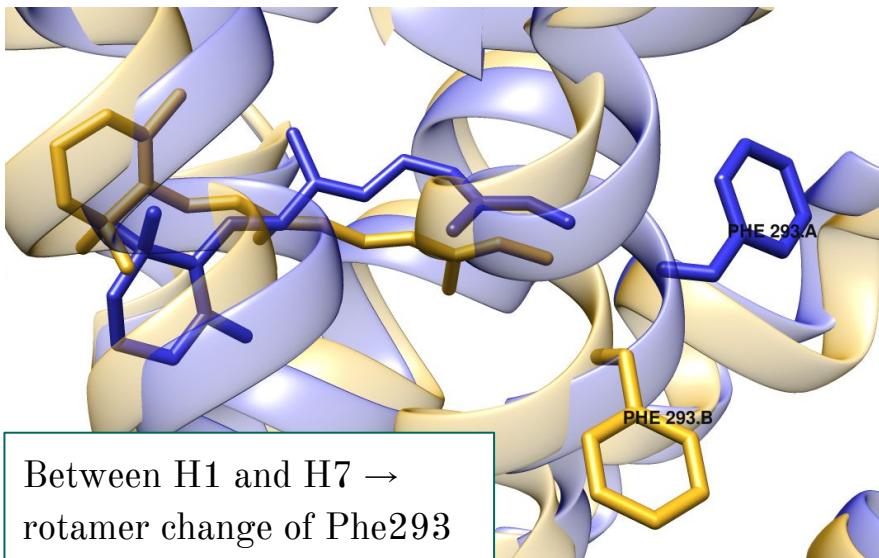
# 7TM domain: ACTIVE

ACTIVE

INACTIVE

## Conformational changes after photoactivation

Two openings of the retinal binding site:



# 7TM domain: ACTIVE

ACTIVE

INACTIVE

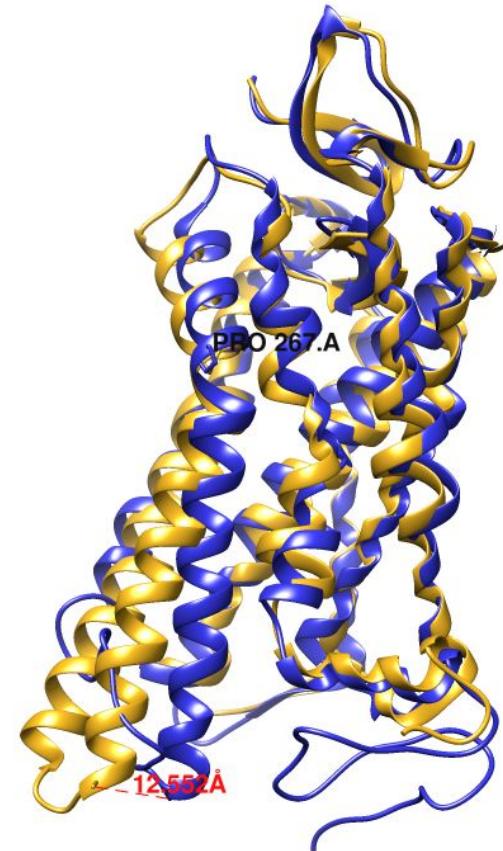
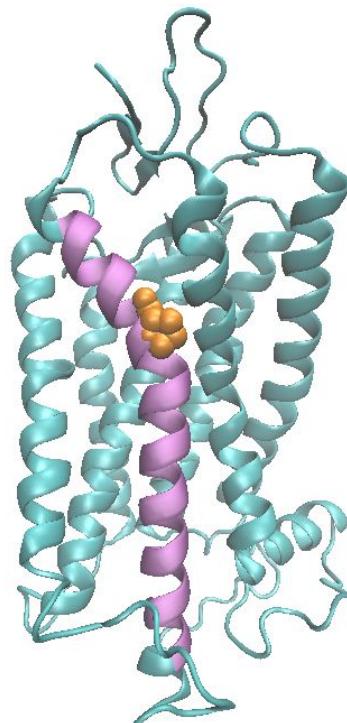
Conformational changes after photoactivation

Pro267 acts as a hinge in H6

H6 bends away from the core

A crevice in the cytoplasmatic side is created

G-protein interaction and signal transduction



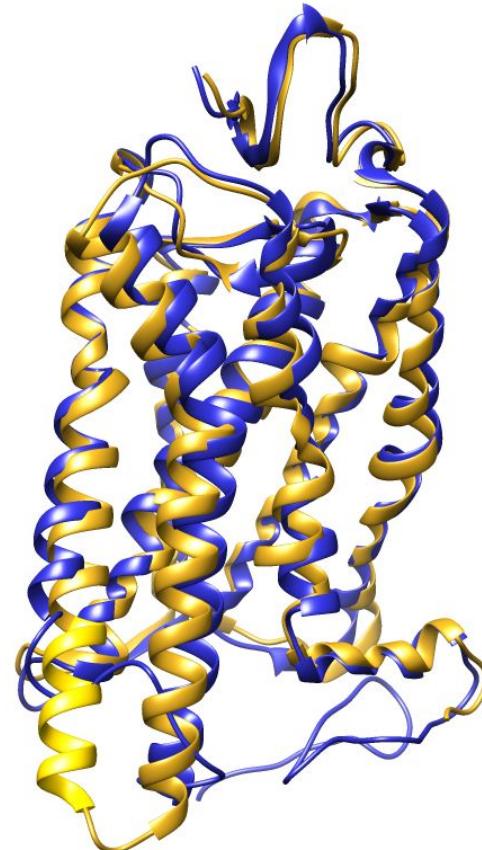
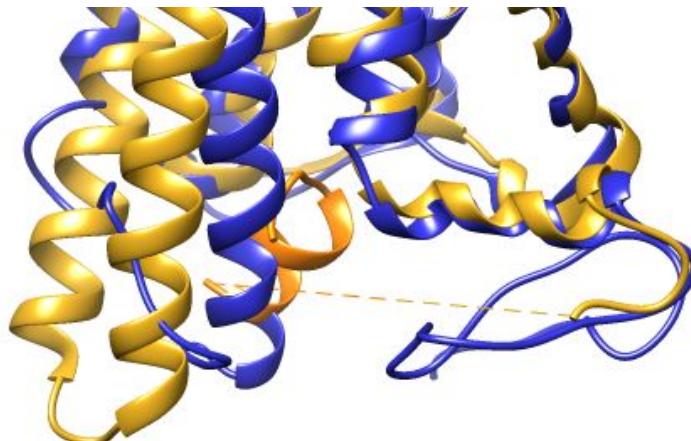
# 7TM domain: ACTIVE

ACTIVE

INACTIVE

## Conformational changes after photoactivation

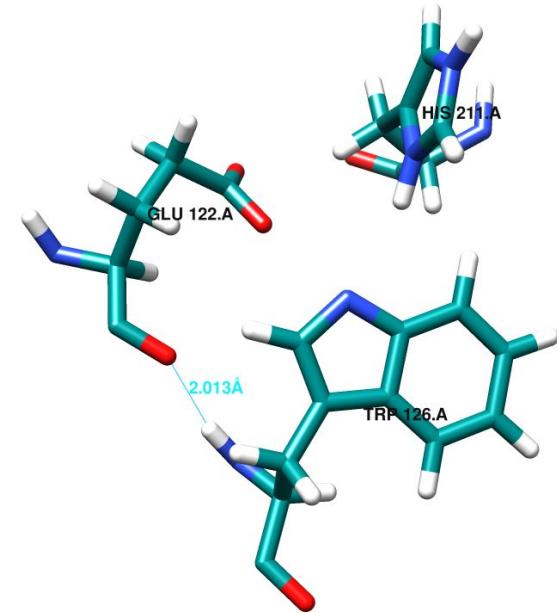
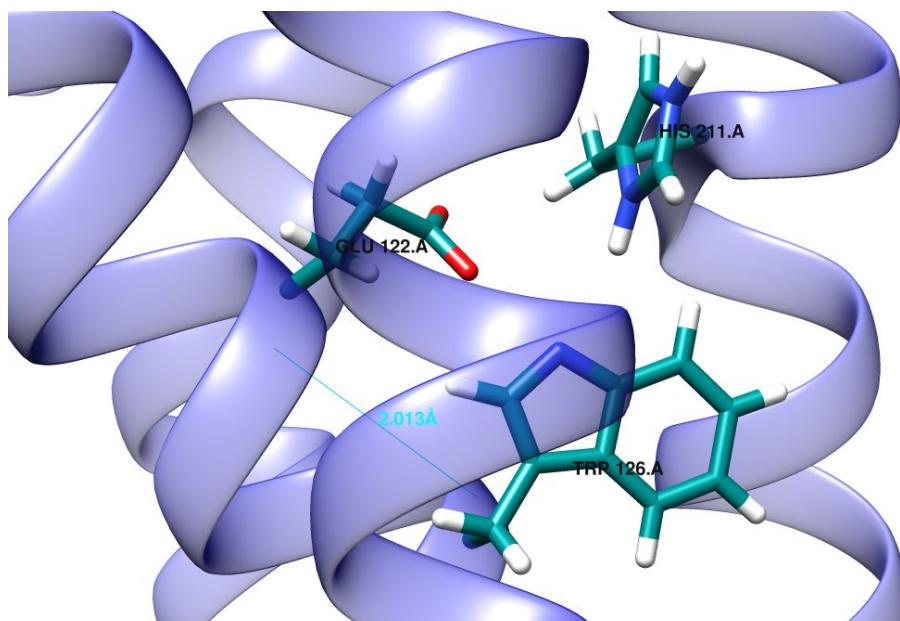
- 8-residue elongation of H5
- Expansion of the interface for G protein interaction
- Higher binding affinity for G protein



# 7TM domain

## Conformational changes after photoactivation

Motion of H5 towards H6 → changes in the H3-H5 H bonding network



Glu122 - Trp126

H3

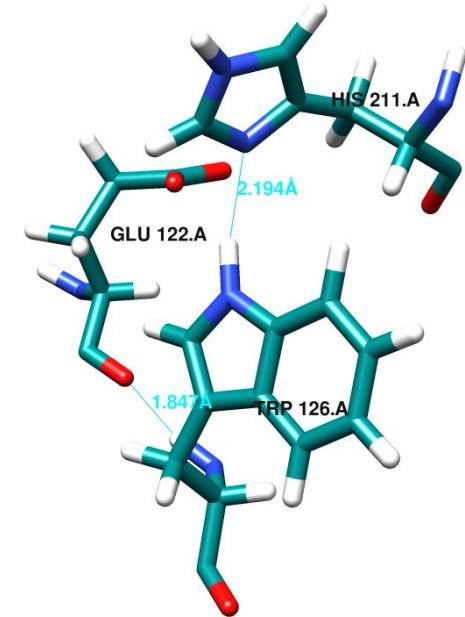
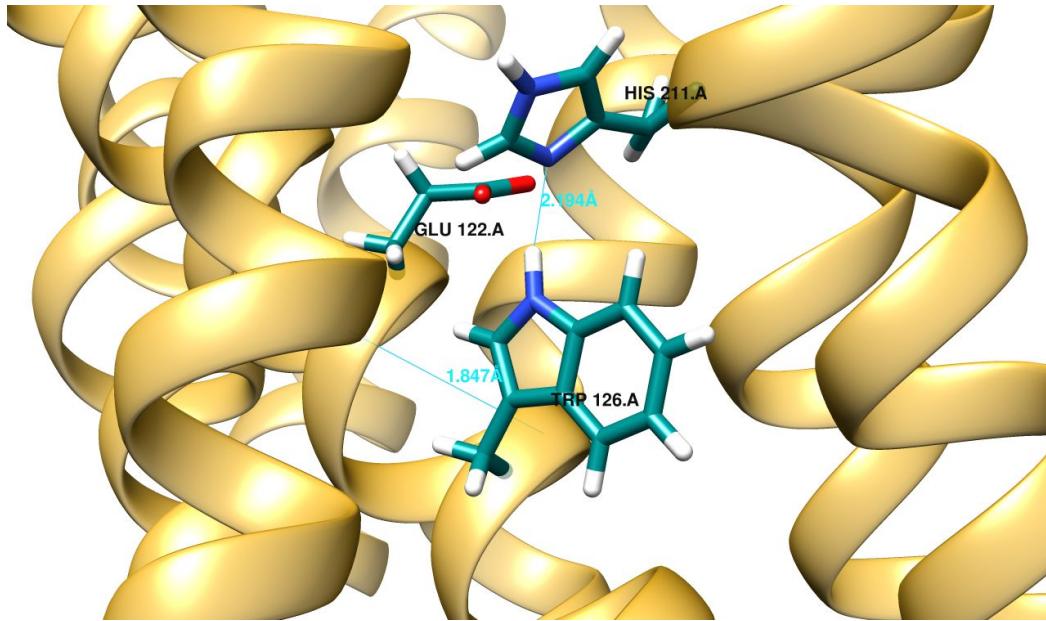
His211

H5

# 7TM domain: ACTIVE

## Conformational changes after photoactivation

Motion of H5 towards H6 → changes in the H3-H5 H-bonding network



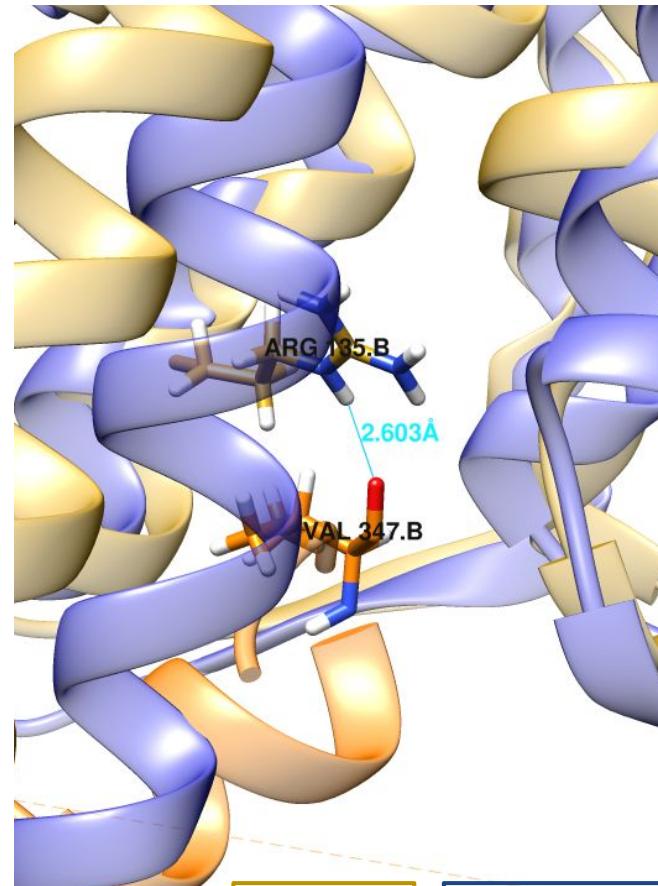
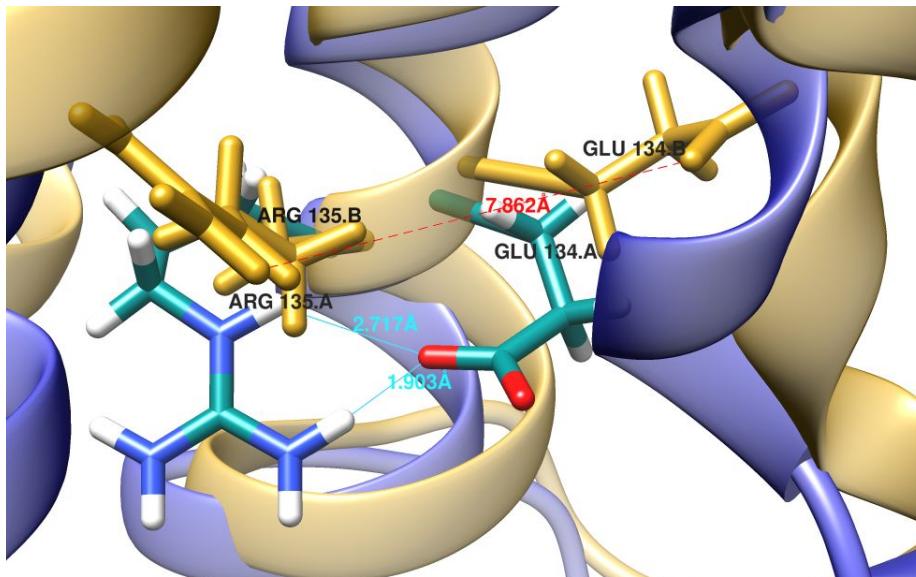
Glu122 - Trp126 - His211



# 7TM domain: ACTIVE

## Conformational changes after photoactivation

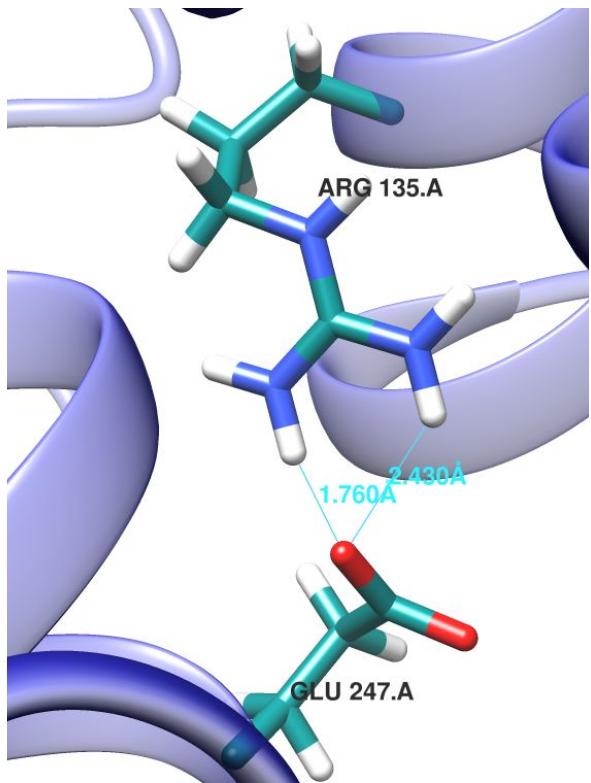
- Glu134-Arg135 interaction in H3 is lost (ERY motif)
- H bond between Arg135 and G $\alpha$  C-term (Val)



ACTIVE

INACTIVE

# Ionic lock



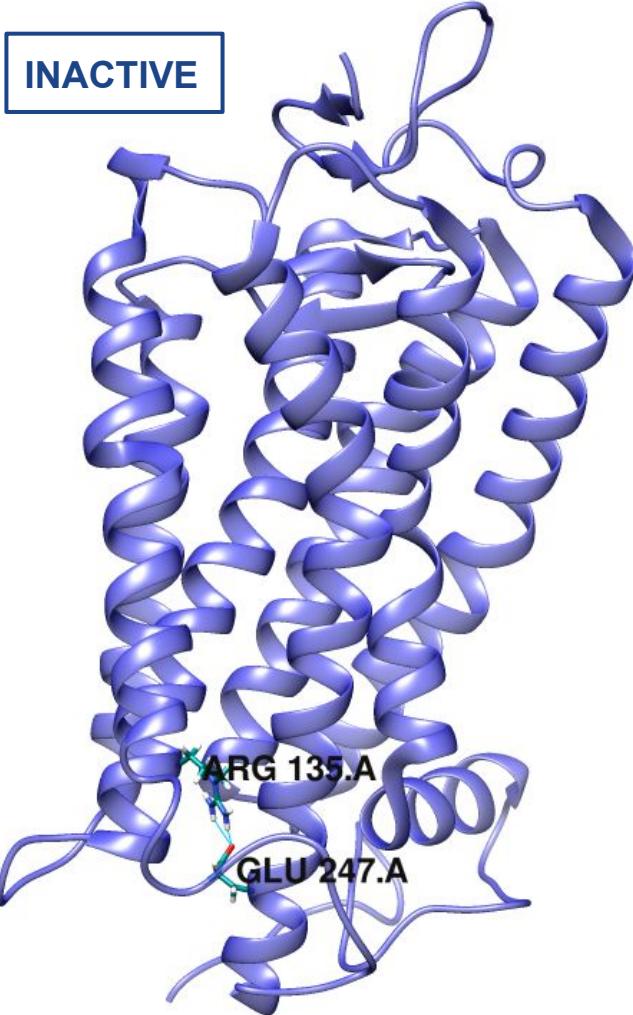
Salt bridge

Arg135 - Glu247

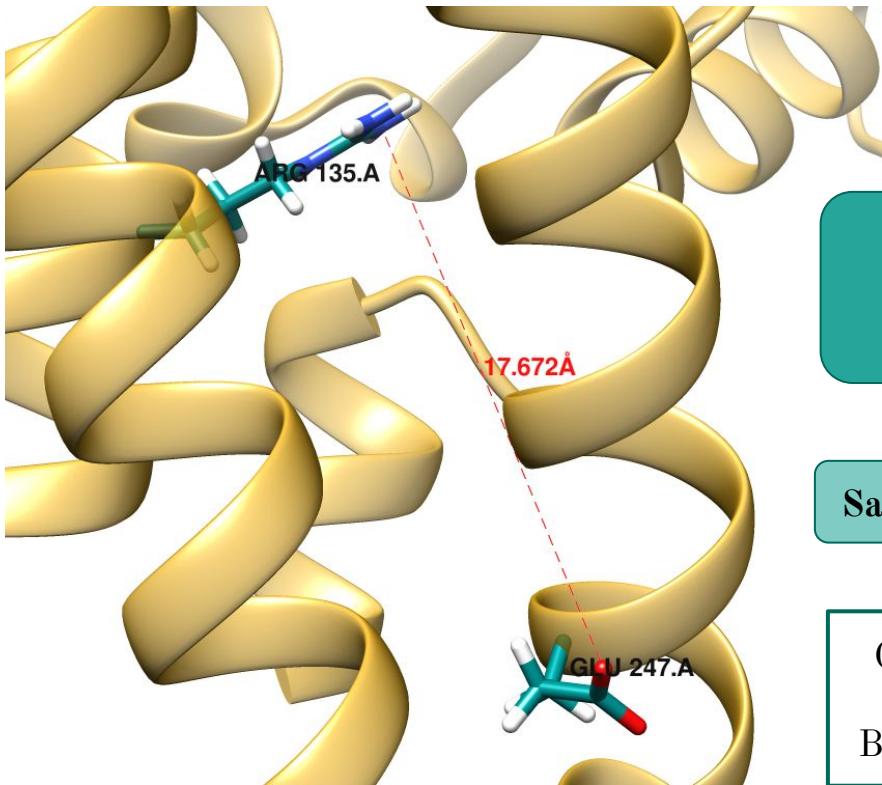
H3 — H6

G-PROTEIN  
BINDING SITE  
IS BLOCKED

E(D)RY motif + E247:  
Conserved in GPCRs



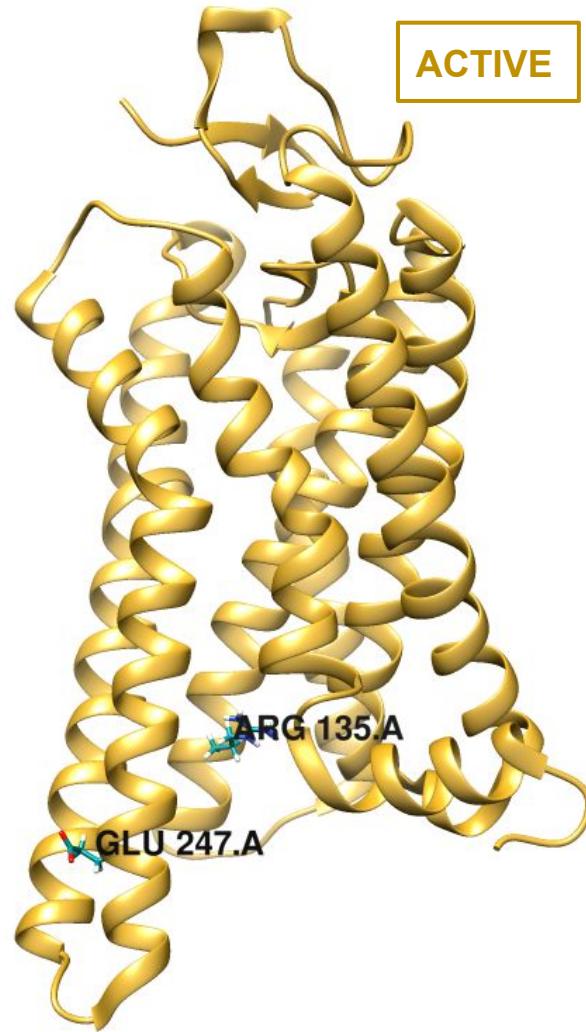
# Ionic lock: ACTIVE



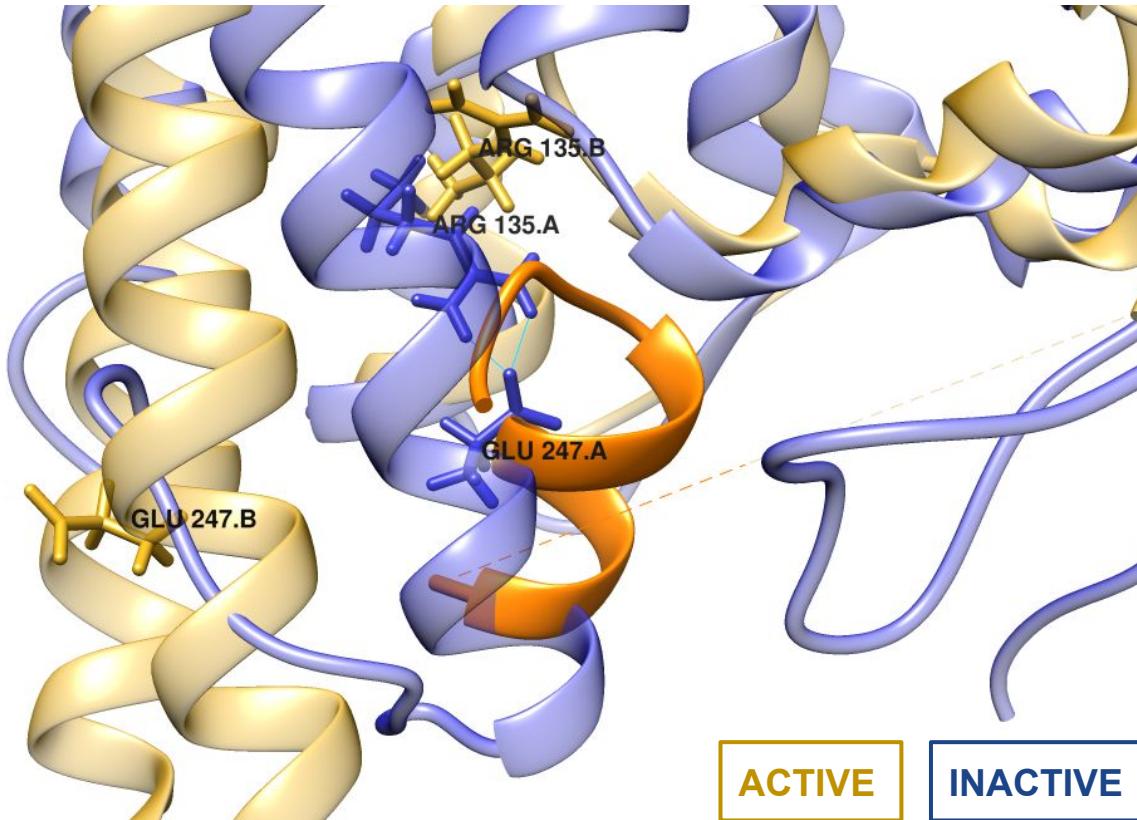
H6 bends away from the core

Salt bridge breaks

OPENING OF G-PROTEIN BINDING SITE

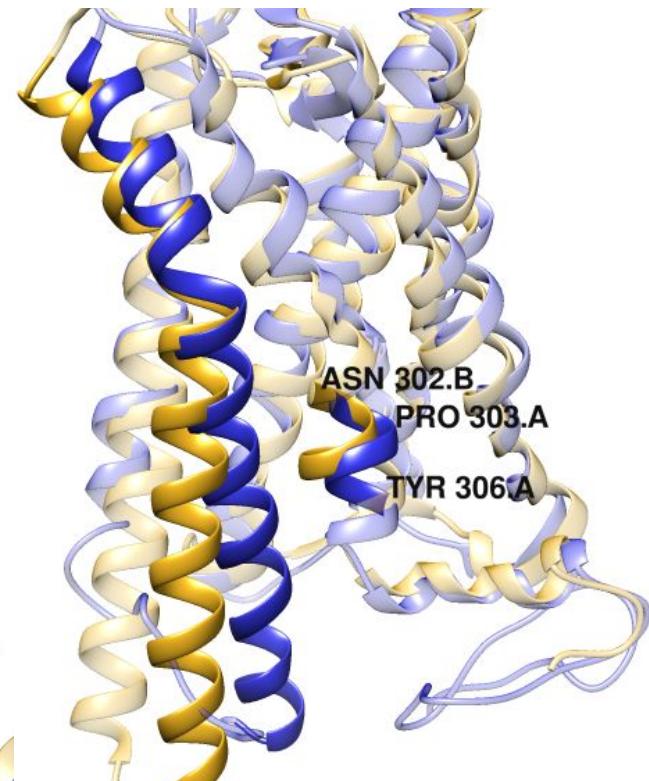
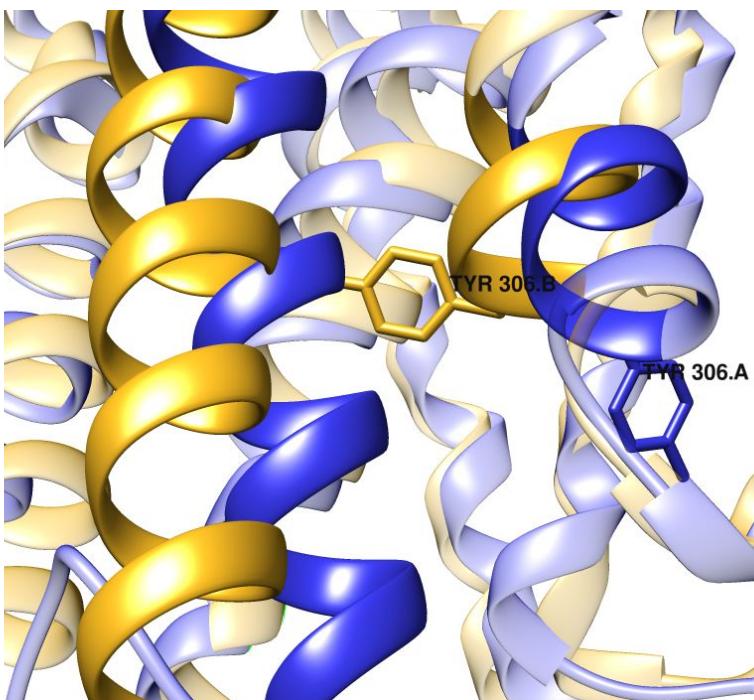
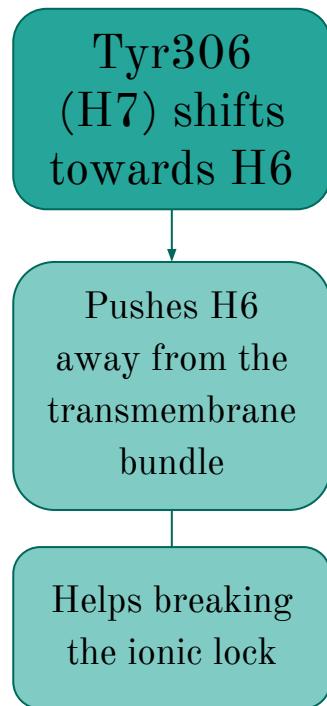


# Ionic lock: INACTIVE vs. ACTIVE



# NPXXY motif

Conformational changes after photoactivation:



Common to all GPCRs

# 7TM domain and ionic lock: ACTIVE

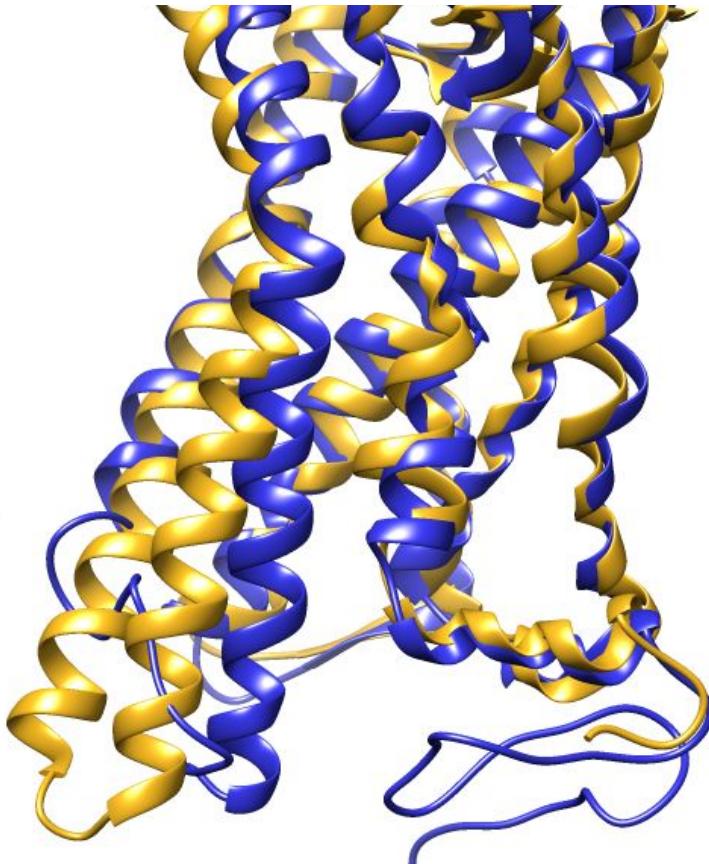
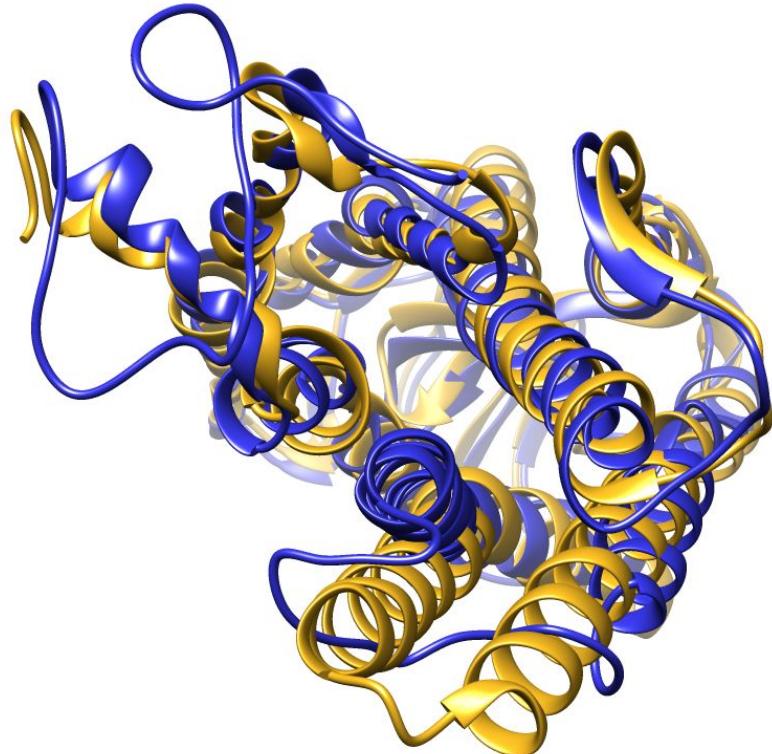
ACTIVE

INACTIVE

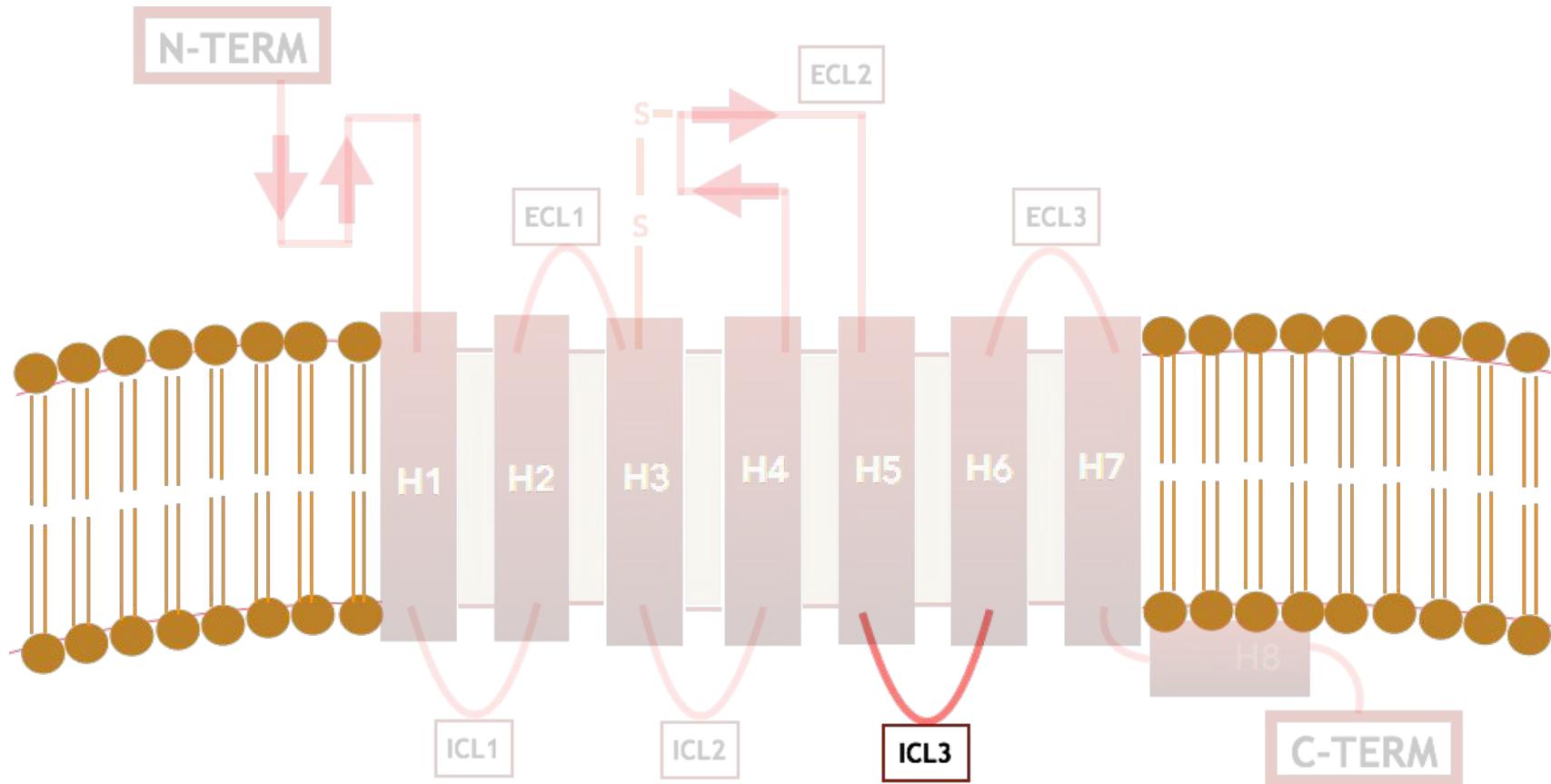
## Conformational changes after photoactivation

Rotational tilt  
of H6

Motion of its  
cytoplasmic end  
away from H3

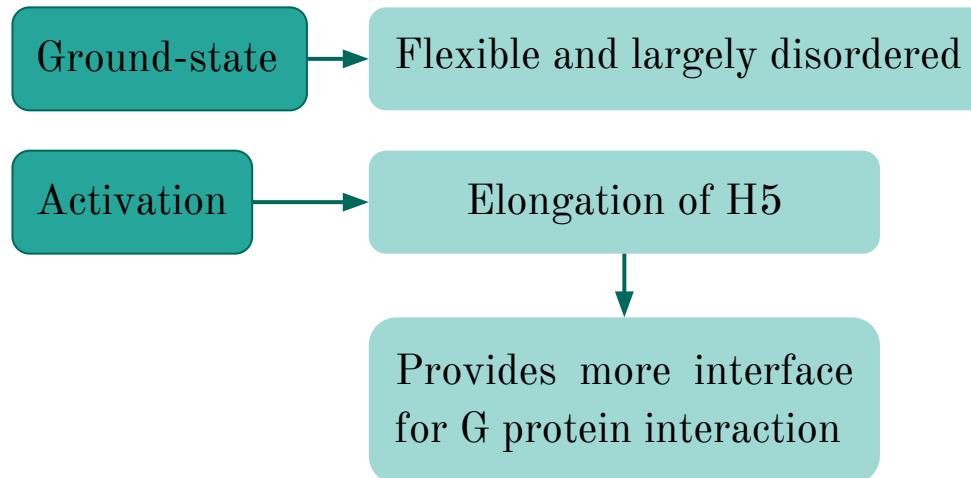


# Third Intracellular Loop (ICL3)

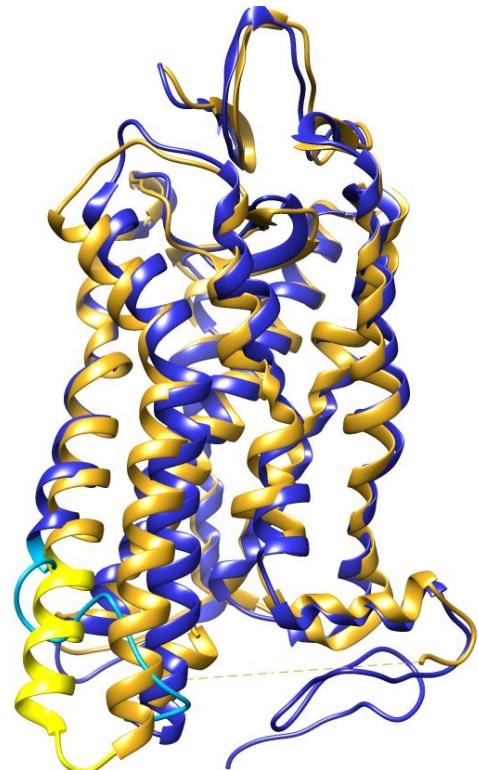


# Third Intracellular loop (ICL3)

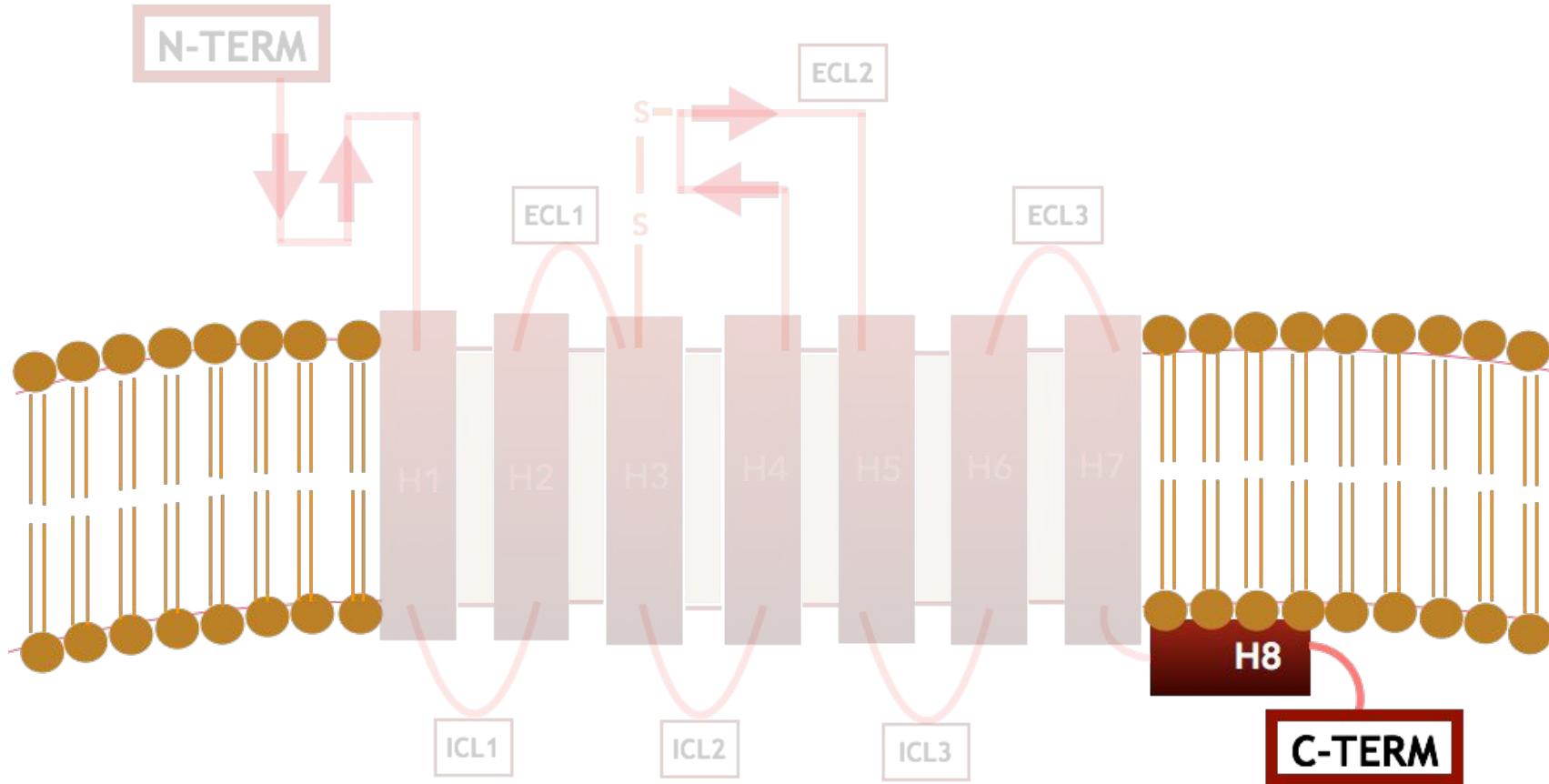
Loop region between helices 5 and 6



ACTIVE      INACTIVE

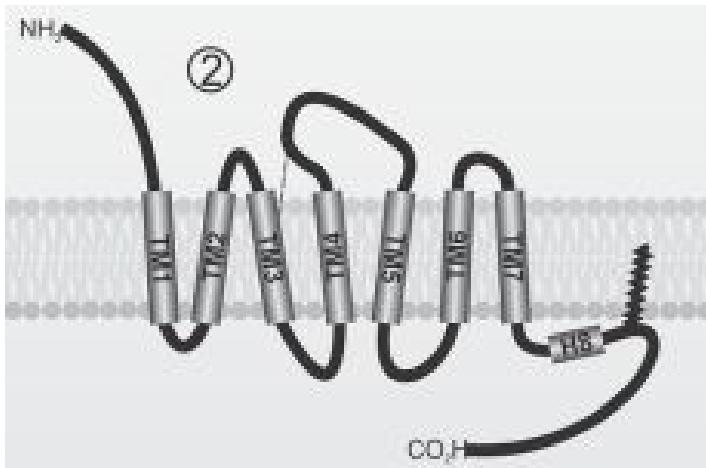


# C-terminus

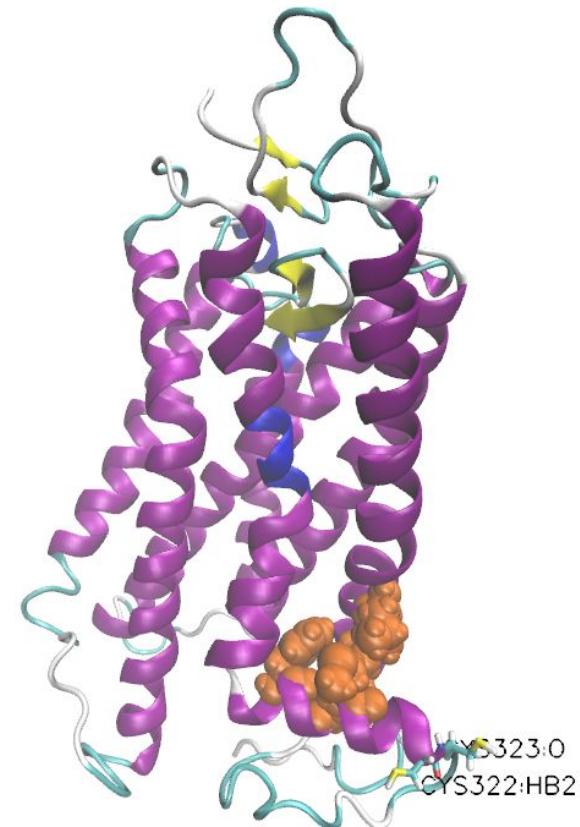


# C-terminus

- On the cytoplasmic side
- Short amphipathic helix (H8) perpendicular to H7
  - Hydrophobic interactions with H1 and its following loop
- Palmitoylation of 2 Cys → anchored to membrane



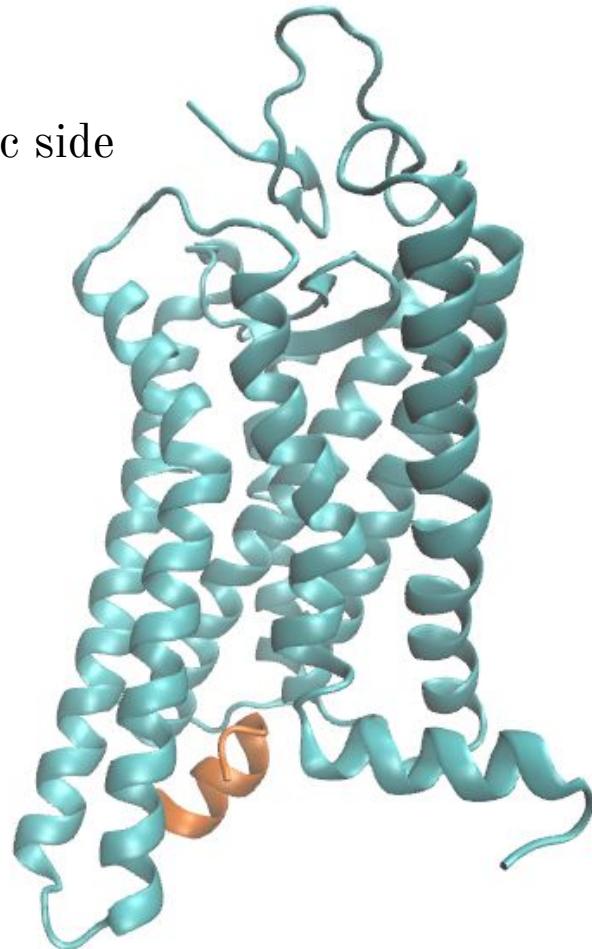
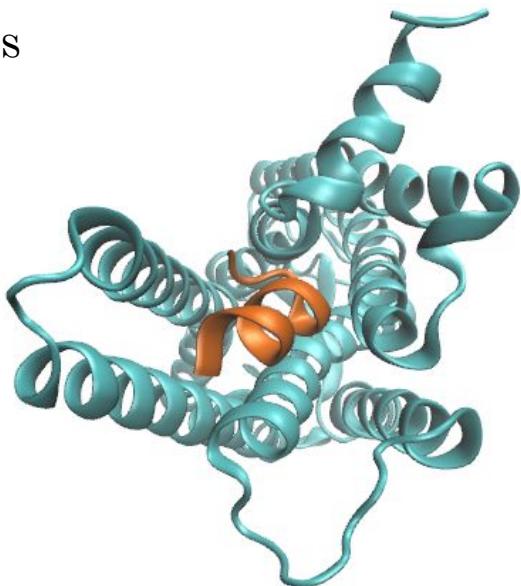
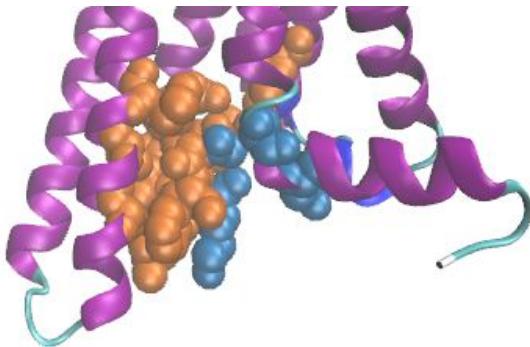
Extracted from Adams MN et. al., 2011



# G protein interaction

Binding of the  $G\alpha$  peptide of G protein on the cytoplasmic side of rhodopsin facilitated by two sets of interactions:

1. Hydrophobic interactions
2. Polar interactions



# G protein interaction

## 1. Hydrophobic interactions between:

Leu 341

Leu 344

Val 347

Phe 350

Leu 349

G protein residues:

Ala 246  
(H6)

Val 250  
(H6)

Met 253  
(H6)

Rhodopsin side-chains:

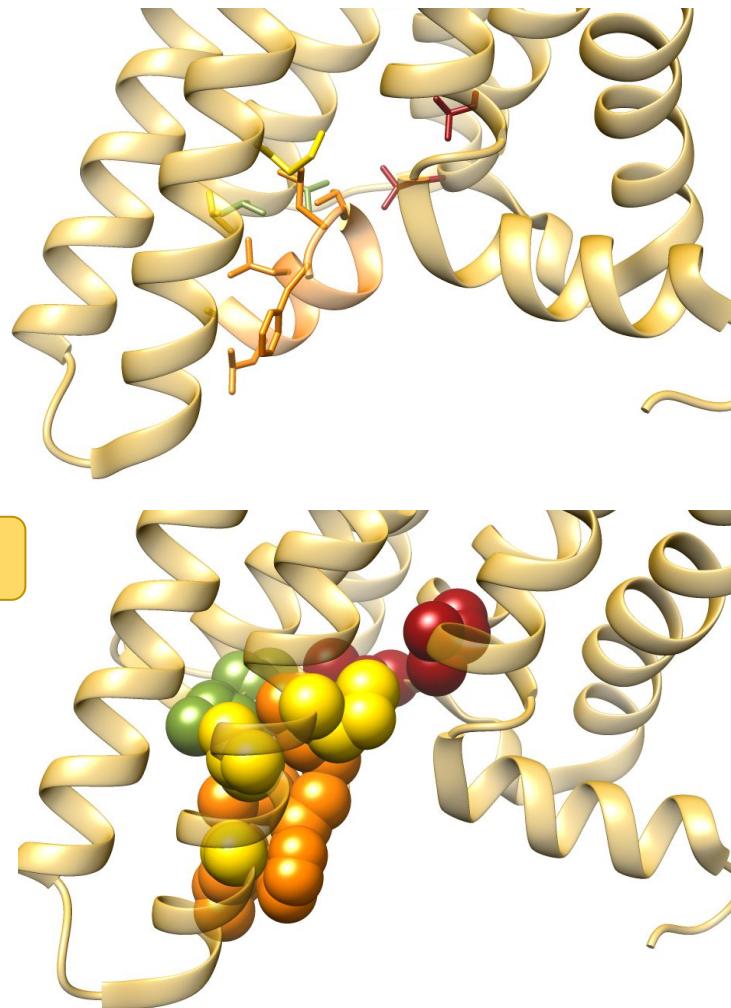
Val 138  
(H3)

Val 139  
(H3)

Rhodopsin backbone:

Leu 72  
(H2)

Leu 76  
(H2)



# G protein interaction

## 2. Polar interactions between:

G protein carbonyl groups:

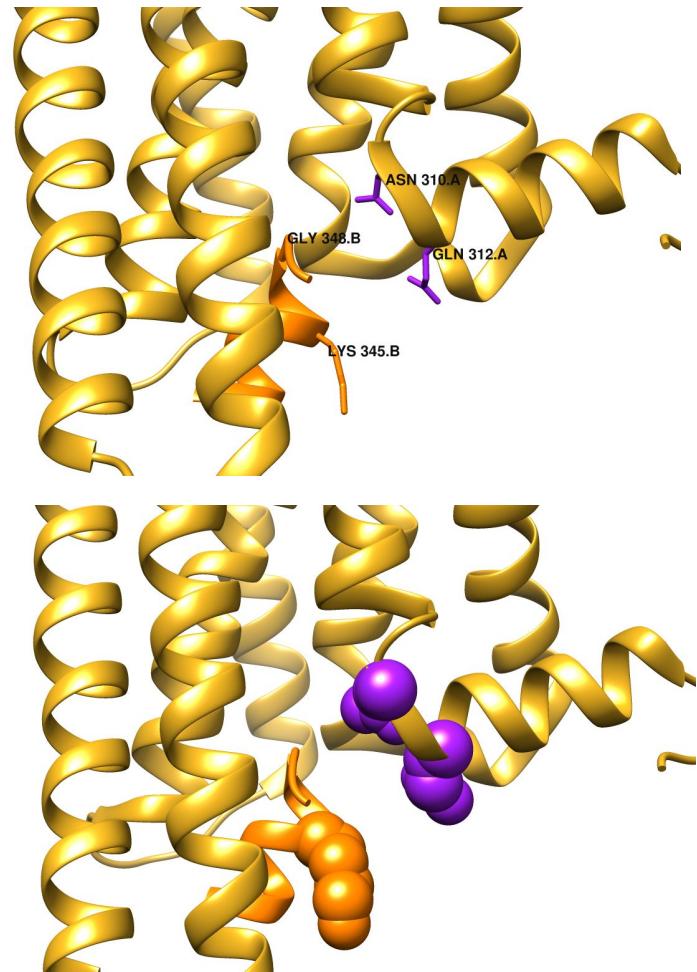
Lys 345

Gly 348

Rhodopsin residues:

Asn 310  
(H8)

Gln 312  
(H8)



# Rhodopsin: sequence alignment

## Rhodopsin-like family

Human (*Homo sapiens*)

**Bovine (*Bos taurus*)**

Mouse (*Mus musculus*)

Chicken (*Gallus gallus*)

Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*)

African clawed frog (*Xenopus laevis*)

Common fruit fly (*Drosophila melanogaster*)

Japanese flying squid (*Todarodes pacificus*)

Tiger wandering spider (*Cupiennius salei*)

Whiteleg shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*)

## Bacteriorhodopsin-like family

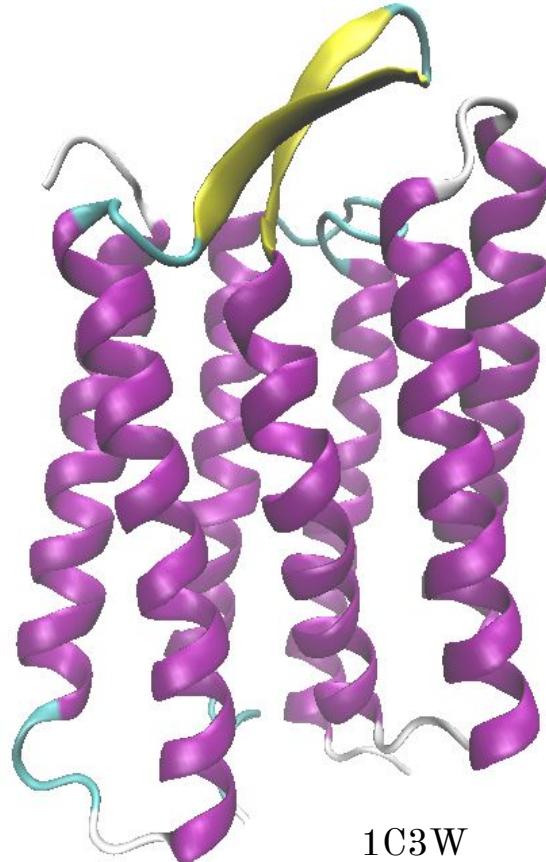
*Halobacterium salinarum*

*Nostoc sp.*

Sequence alignment  
with PFAM 7TM  
domain HMM profile

# Bacteriorhodopsin

- Light driven ion pump
- Retinal changes from 13-cis to all-trans conformation
- First crystallised in the late 90s
- Now more than 100 structures in PDB
- 7 transmembrane alpha helices



# Rhodopsin: sequence alignment

|          |         |           |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----------|---------|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1        | 2       | 3         | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Variable | Average | Conserved |   |   |   |   |   |   |

|               | 151                   | 161                 | 171                 | 181                   | 191                 |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Homo          | l i i v l g f p i -   | N F L T L Y V T V Q | H K K L R T P L N Y | I L L N L A V A D L   | F M V L G G - F T S |
| Squid         | g i c g i i g c g G   | N G I V I Y L F T K | T K S L Q T P A N M | F I I N L A F S D F   | T F S L V N g F P L |
| Spider        | m i l g i i s v c G   | N G I V L Y L M A T | C K N L R S P N N L | L V M N L A F S D F   | C M M A F M - M P T |
| Drosophila    | i m i g m i s w c G   | N G V V I Y I F A T | T K S L R T P A N L | L V I N L A I S D F   | G I M I T N - T P M |
| Xenopus       | i l i i l g l p i -   | N F M T L F V T I Q | H K K L R T P L N Y | I L L N L V F A N H   | F M V L C G - F T V |
| Danio         | f l i i i t g f p v - | N F L T L Y V T I E | H K K L R T P L N Y | I L L N L A I A D L   | F M V F G G - F T T |
| Mus           | i l i i v l g f p i - | N F L T L Y V T V Q | H K K L R T P L N Y | I L L N L A V A D L   | F M V F G G - F T T |
| <b>Bos</b>    | i l i i m l g f p i - | N F L T L Y V T V Q | H K K L R T P L N Y | I L L N L A V A D L   | F M V F G G - F T T |
| Gallus        | m l i i l g f p v -   | N F L T L Y V T I Q | H K K L R T P L N Y | I L L N L V V A D L   | F M V F G G - F T T |
| Crustacean    | v i m g c l s i a G   | N F V V I W V F M N | T K S L R S P A N L | L V V N L A F S D F   | L M M L T M - F P P |
| Nostoc        | r a k t r t q s s -   | - - - - - - - - -   | - - - - - - - - -   | - - - - - - - - -     | - - - - - - - - -   |
| Halobacterium | g a l t k v y s y -   | - - - - - - - - -   | - - - - - - - - -   | - - - - - - - - -     | - - - - - - - - -   |
|               | 201                   | 211                 | 221                 | 231                   | 241                 |
| Homo          | T L Y T S L H G Y F   | V F G P T G C N L E | G F F A T L G G E I | A L W S L V V V L A I | E R Y V V V C K P M |
| Squid         | M T I S C F L K K W   | I F G F A A C K V Y | G F I G G I F G F M | S I M T M A M I S I   | D R Y N V I G R P M |
| Spider        | M A A N C F A E T W   | I L G P F M C E I Y | G M F G S L F G C G | S I W S M V M I T L   | D R Y N V I V R G M |
| Drosophila    | M G I N L Y F E T W   | V L G P M M C D I Y | A G L G S A F G C S | S I W S M C M I S L   | D R Y Q V I V K G M |
| Xenopus       | T M Y T S M H G Y F   | I F G P T G C Y I E | G F F A T L G G E V | A L W S L V V V L A V | E R Y I V V C K P M |
| Danio         | T M Y T S L H G Y F   | V F G R L G C N L E | G F F A T L G G E M | G L W S L V V V L A I | E R W M V V C K P V |
| Mus           | T L Y T S L H G Y F   | V F G P T G C N L E | G F F A T L G G E I | A L W S L V V V L A I | E R Y V V V C K P M |
| <b>Bos</b>    | T L Y T S L H G Y F   | V F G P T G C N L E | G F F A T L G G E I | A L W S L V V V L A I | E R Y V V V C K P M |
| Gallus        | T M Y T S M N G Y F   | V F G V T G C Y I E | G F F A T L G G E I | A L W S L V V V L A V | E R Y V V V C K P M |
| Crustacean    | M V V S C Y W Q T W   | T L G A L F C E I Y | A F F G S L F G C A | S I W T M V F I T A   | D R Y N V I V K G V |
| Nostoc        | - - - - - - - - -     | - - - - - - - - -   | - - - - - - - - -   | - - - - - - - - -     | - - - - - - - - -   |
| Halobacterium | - - - - - - - - -     | - - - - - - - - -   | - - - - - - - - -   | - - - - - - - - -     | - - - - - - - - -   |

# Rhodopsin: sequence alignment

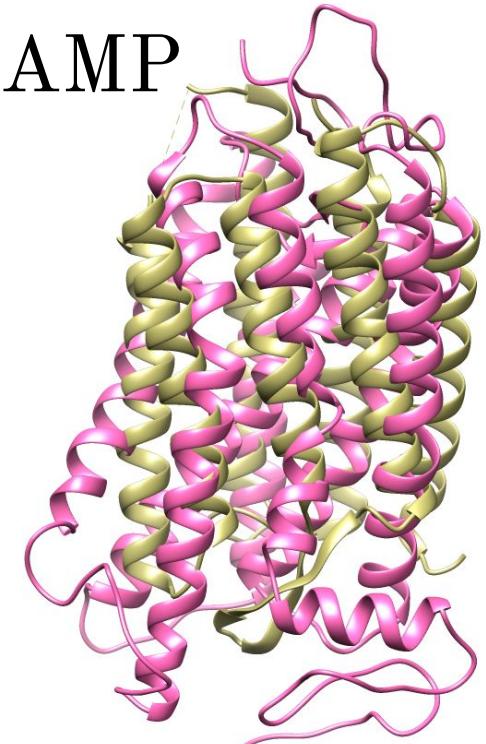
|               | 251                 | 261                 | 271                 | 281                   | 291                 |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Homo          | S N F R F - - G E N | H A I M - g V A F T | W V M A L A C A A P | P L A G W S R - - -   | Y I P E G L Q C     |
| Squid         | A A S K K m s H R R | A F I M - - I I F V | W L W S V L W A I G | P I F G W G A - - -   | Y T L E G V L C     |
| Spider        | A A K P L - - T R T | R A V M - n I L F V | W V Y A V G W T I T | P M Y G W S R - - -   | Y V P E G A M T     |
| Drosophila    | A G R P M - - - T I | P L A L g k I A Y I | W F M S S I W C L A | P A F G W S R - - -   | Y V P E G N L T     |
| Xenopus       | A N F R F - - G E N | H A I M - g V A F T | W I M A L S C A A P | P L F G W S R - - -   | Y I P E G M Q C     |
| Danio         | S N F R F - - G E N | H A I M - g V A F T | W V M A C S C A V P | P L V G W S R - - -   | Y I P E G M Q C     |
| Mus           | S N F R F - - G E N | H A I M - g V V F T | W I M A L A C A A P | P L V G W S R - - -   | Y I P E G M Q C     |
| <b>Bos</b>    | S N F R F - - G E N | H A I M - g V A F T | W V M A L A C A A P | P L V G W S R - - -   | Y I P E G M Q C     |
| Gallus        | S N F R F - - G E N | H A I M - g V A F S | W I M A M A C A A P | P L F G W S R - - -   | Y I P E G M Q C     |
| Crustacean    | S A E P L - - T S G | G A M L - r I A G T | W A F T L A W C L P | P F F G W N R - - -   | Y V P E G N M L     |
| Nostoc        | - - - - -           | - - - - -           | - - - - -           | - - - - -             | - - - - -           |
| Halobacterium | - - - - -           | - - - R F V W       | W A I S T A A M L Y | I L Y V L F F g f t   | s K A E S M R P E V |
|               | 301                 | 311                 | 321                 | 331                   | 341                 |
| Homo          | S C G I D Y y t l k | p e V N N E S F V I | Y M F V V H F T I P | M I I I F F C Y G Q   | L V F T V K E - - - |
| Squid         | N C S F D Y i s - - | r d S T T R S N I L | C M F I L G F F G P | I L I I I F F C Y F N | I V M S V S N H E K |
| Spider        | G C T V D Y i s - - | t e P N P L S Y L I | A Y A V A V Y F V P | L C T M I Y C Y T F   | I V M Q V A S H E K |
| Drosophila    | S C G I D Y i e - - | r d W N P R S Y L I | F Y S I F V Y Y I P | L F L I C Y S Y W F   | I I A A V S A H E K |
| Xenopus       | S C G V D Y y t l k | p e V N N E S F V I | Y M F I V H F T I P | L I V I F F C Y G R   | L L C T V K E A - - |
| Danio         | S C G V D Y y t r t | p g V N N E S F V I | Y M F V V H F F I P | L I V I F F C Y G R   | L V C T V K E - - - |
| Mus           | S C G I D Y y t l k | p e V N N E S F V I | Y M F V V H F T I P | M I V I F F C Y G Q   | L V F T V K E - - - |
| <b>Bos</b>    | S C G I D Y y t p h | e e T N N E S F V I | Y M F V V H F I I P | L I V I F F C Y G Q   | L V F T V K E - - - |
| Gallus        | S C G I D Y y t l k | p e I N N E S F V I | Y M F V V H F M I P | L A V I F F C Y G N   | L V C T V K E - - - |
| Crustacean    | A C G T D Y i t - - | e t E L S R S Y L Y | V Y S V W V Y L F P | L A Y I I Y S Y T F   | I V K A V A A H E K |
| Nostoc        | - - - - -           | - - - - -           | - - - - -           | - - - - -             | - - - - -           |
| Halobacterium | A S T F - - - -     | - - - - -           | - - - - -           | - - - - -             | - - - - -           |

# Rhodopsin: sequence alignment

|               | 351                   | 361                 | 371                 | 381                 | 391                   |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Homo          | - - - - -             | - - - - -           | - - - - -           | - - - - -           | - - - - -             |
| Squid         | E M A A M A K R       | - - - - -           | A A A Q Q Q         | E S A T T Q K A E K | E V T R M V I I M V   |
| Spider        | Q - - - L R D Q A K   | K M N I A S L R A N | K A Q A G A N A E M | R L A K I S I V I V | S Q F L L S W S P Y   |
| Drosophila    | A M R E Q A K         | - - - - -           | K M N V K S L R S   | S D N Q K T S A E I | R L A K V A L M T V   |
| Xenopus       | - - - - -             | - - - - -           | A A A Q Q Q         | S E D A E K S A E G | I L W F M A W T P Y   |
| Danio         | - - - - -             | - - - - -           | A A A Q Q Q         | E S E T T Q R A E R | T L W F M A W T P Y   |
| Mus           | - - - - -             | - - - - -           | A A A Q Q Q         | E S A T T Q K A E K | E V T R M V I I M V   |
| <b>Bos</b>    | - - - - -             | - - - - -           | A A A Q Q Q         | E S A T T Q K A E K | E V T R M V I I M V   |
| Gallus        | - - - - -             | - - - - -           | A A A Q Q Q         | E S A T T Q K A E K | E V T R M V I I M V   |
| Crustacean    | G M R E R A K         | - - - - -           | K M G V K S L R S   | E E A Q K T S A E C | R L C K V A L M T V   |
| Nostoc        | - - - - -             | - - - - -           | - - - - -           | - - - - -           | - - - - -             |
| Halobacterium | - - - - -             | - - - - -           | - - - - -           | - - - - -           | - - - - -             |
|               | 401                   | 411                 | 421                 | 431                 | 441                   |
| Homo          | A S V A F Y I F T H   | Q G S - - N F G P I | F M T I - P A F F A | K S A A I Y N P V I | Y i m m n k q f r n   |
| Squid         | A V V A L L A Q F G   | P L E W - - V T P Y | A A Q L - P V M F A | K A S A I H N P M I | Y s v s h p k f r e   |
| Spider        | L T L A F A G V F T   | D R F H - - V T P M | S T I W - G S V F A | K A S A C Y N P I V | Y g i s h p k y r a   |
| Drosophila    | L V I N C M G L L F K | F E G L - T P L N T | I W - - G A C F A   | K S A A C Y N P I V | Y g i s h p k y r l   |
| Xenopus       | A Y Y V A F Y I F T H | Q G S - - N F G P V | F M T V - P A F F A | K S S A I Y N P V I | Y i v l n k q f r n   |
| Danio         | A G V A - W Y I F T   | H Q G S - E F G P V | F M T L - P A F F A | K T S A V Y N P C I | Y i c m n k q f r h   |
| Mus           | A S V A F Y I F T H   | Q G S - - N F G P I | F M T L - P A F F A | K S S S I Y N P V I | Y i m l n k q f r n   |
| <b>Bos</b>    | A G V A F Y I F T H   | Q G S - - D F G P I | F M T I - P A F F A | K T S A V Y N P V I | Y i m m n k q f r n   |
| Gallus        | A S V A F Y I F T N   | Q G S - - D F G P I | F M T I - P A F F A | K S S A I Y N P V I | Y i v m n k q f r n   |
| Crustacean    | F V I N W G G M F N   | K P I V - - - T P   | L F S I w G S V F A | K A N A V Y N P I V | Y a i s h p k y r a   |
| Nostoc        | - - - - -             | - - - - -           | - - - - -           | - - - - -           | - l a n l y d k l i v |
| Halobacterium | - - - - -             | - - - - -           | - - - - -           | - - - - -           | - k v l r n v t v v   |

# Rhodopsin vs. bacteriorhodopsin: STAMP

|      |   |  |
|------|---|--|
| 1c3w | TGRPEWIWLALGTALMGLGTLYFLVKGMGVSDPDAK---                     | KFY-AITT-LVPA-IAF-TMY                          |
| 1u19 | -MNGTEGPNFYVPFSNKTGVVRSPFEA-PQYYL--                         | AEPWQ-FSML-AAY-MFLL-IMLGF                      |
| 1c3w | LSMLLGYG-LTM-----   | VPFGGEQN-P-I--YWA-RYADWLFTTPLLL                |
| 1u19 | DLALLVDADQG   | PINFL--TLYVTVQHKKL---RTPLNYILLNLAVA-D-----     |
| 1c3w | TILALVGADGIMIGTGLVGALT                                      | KVSYRFVWWAISTAAMLYI                            |
| 1u19 | LYVLFFGFSMRPEVASTF  | -----  |
| 1c3w | KVL-----  | RNV-TVVL-WSAYPVVWLIGSEG-----                   |
| 1u19 | -----LFMVFGGFTT   | TLYTSLHGYFVFGPTGCNLEG-FFAT-LGGEIALWSLV--LAIERY |
| 1c3w | -----AGIV-PLNI-ETLL-FMVL-DVSAKVG-F-----                     | GLILLRSRAI                                     |
| 1u19 | VVVCKPMNSNFRFGENHAIMGV--AFT-WVMA-LACA-A---PPLVGWSRY--I---PE |  |
| 1c3w | -F-----   |  |
| 1u19 | GMQCSCGIDYYTPHEETNNESFVIYMFVVHFI                            | PLIVIIFCYGQLVFTVKEAAAQQQESA                    |
| 1c3w | -----G-----   |  |
| 1u19 | TTQKAEKEVTRMVIIMVIAFLICWL                                   | PYAGVAFYIFTHQGSDFGP                            |
| 1c3w | -----   | IFMTIPAFFAKTSAVY                               |
| 1u19 | NPVIYIMMNKQFRNCMVTTLCCGKNPLGDDEAST                          | TVSKTETSQVAPA                                  |



| No.                                     | Domain1 | Domain2 | Sc   | RMS  | Len1 | Len2 | Align | NFit | Eq.  | Secs. | %I    | %S     | P(m)     |           |
|---|---------|---------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|--------|----------|-----------|
| Pair                                    | 1 1c3w  | 1u19    | 0.29 | 2.08 | 222  | 348  | 376   | 12   | 8    | 0     | 12.50 | 100.00 | 1.00e+00 | LOW SCORE |
| Reading in matrix file rhodopsin.mat... |         |         |      |      |      |      |       |      |      |       |       |        |          |           |
| Doing cluster analysis...               |         |         |      |      |      |      |       |      |      |       |       |        |          |           |
| Cluster:                                | 1 (     | 1c3w    | &    | 1u19 | )    | Sc   | 0.29  | RMS  | 2.08 | Len   | 376   | nfit   | 12       | LOW SCORE |

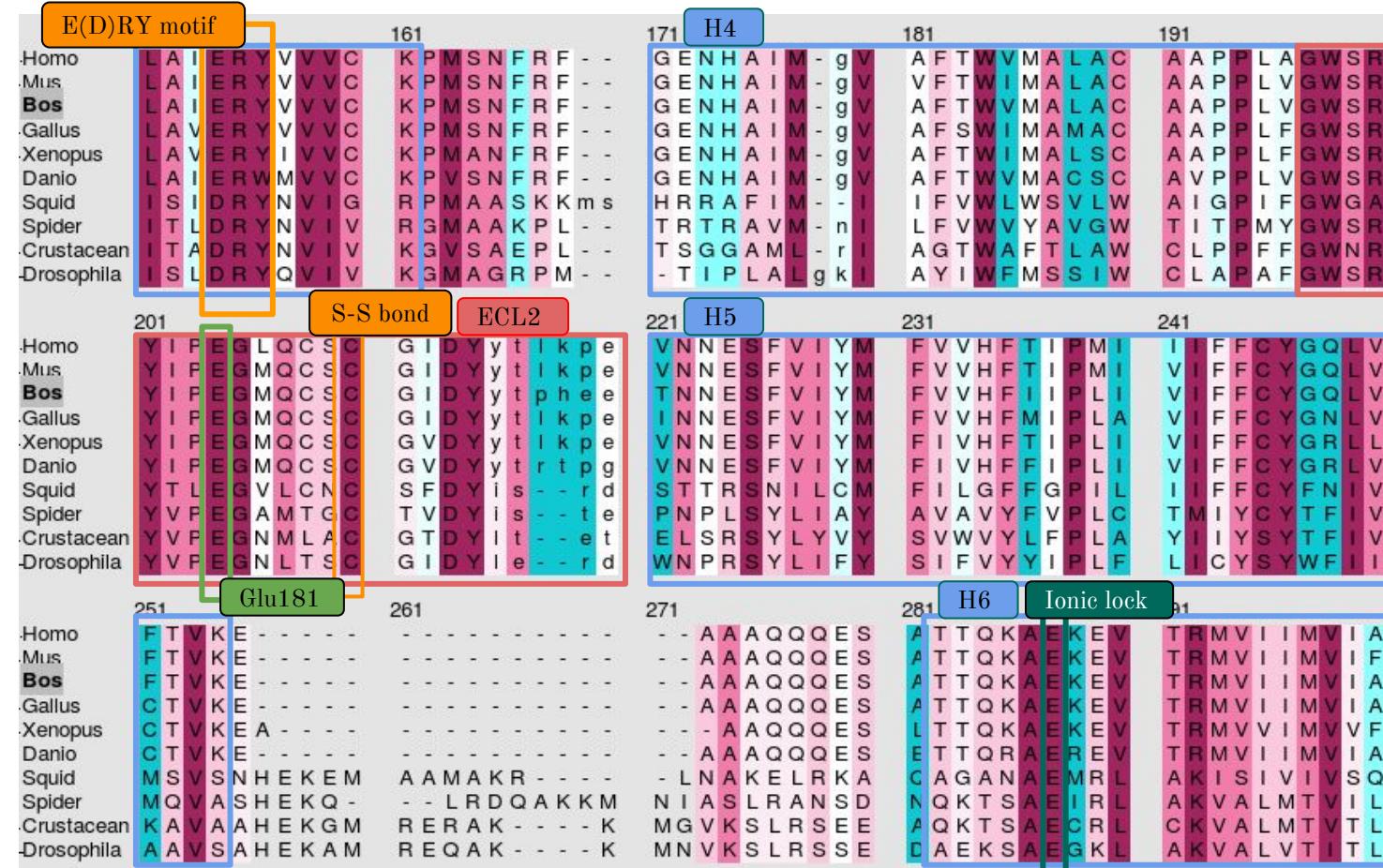
# Rhodopsin: conservation in sequence alignments

VERTEBRATES

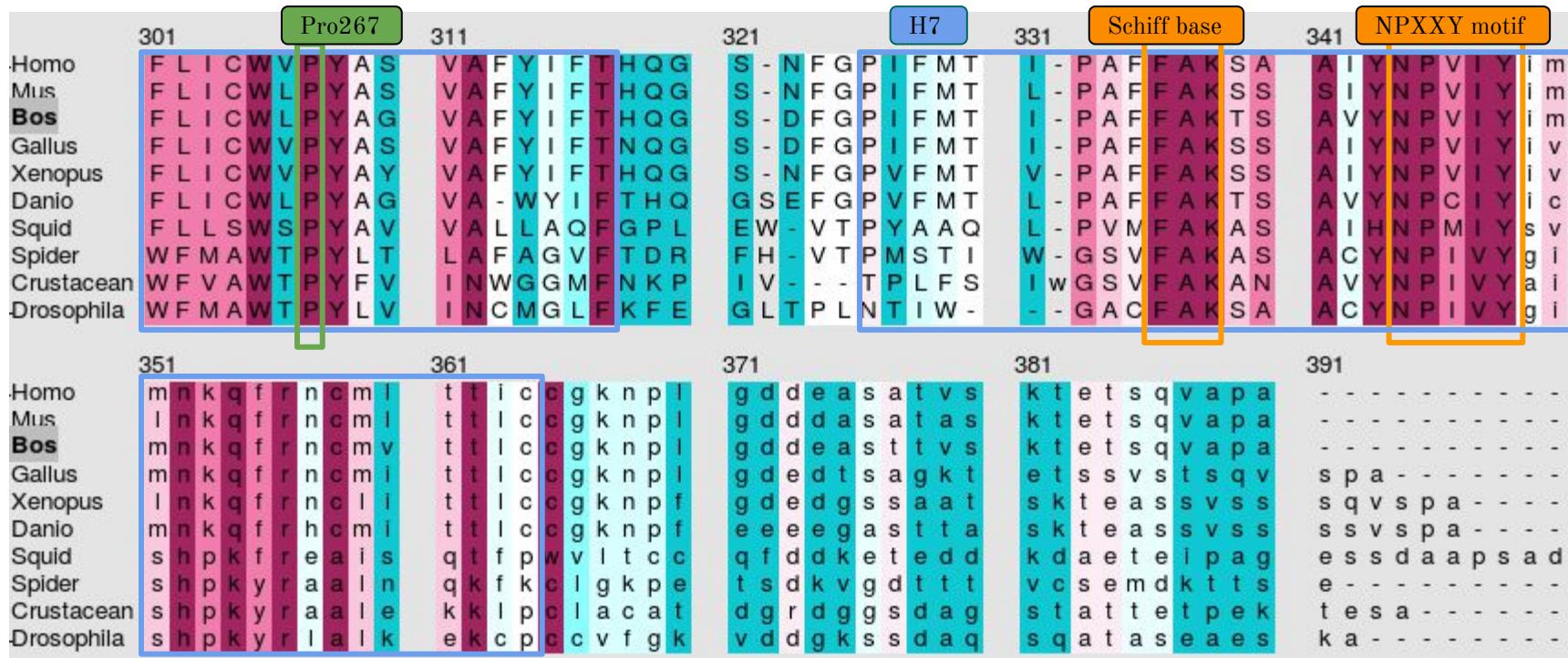
INVERTEBRATES

|            |                       |                       |                     |                     |                     |     |
|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----|
| Homo       | 1                     | 11                    | 21                  | 31                  | 41                  |     |
| Mus        | -                     | -                     | g t e g p n f y v p | f s n a t g v v r s | p f e y p q y y l a |     |
| <b>Bos</b> | -                     | -                     | g t e g p n f y v p | f s n v t g v v r s | p f e a p q y y l a |     |
| Gallus     | -                     | -                     | g t e g q d f y v p | m s n k t g v v r s | p f e y p q y y l a |     |
| Xenopus    | -                     | -                     | g t e g p n f y v p | m s n k t g v v r s | p f d y p q y y l a |     |
| Danio      | -                     | -                     | g t e g p a f y v p | m s n a t g v v r s | p y e y p q y y l v |     |
| Squid      | -                     | -                     | - - m g r d l r d n | e t w w y n p s i v | v h p h w r e f d q |     |
| Spider     | m i q p m m m p h a   | e k l s l s e m f s   | d p y e r n a s i i | d a l p e s m l p m | i h e h w y g f p p |     |
| Crustacean | -                     | - - r g t q l e s     | t n p y g n y t v v | d t a p k e i l h m | v h e r w y q f p p |     |
| Drosophila | -                     | - - m e s f           | f a p l s n g s v v | d k v t p d m a h l | i s p y w n q f p a |     |
|            |                       |                       |                     |                     |                     |     |
|            | 51                    | H1                    | 61                  | 71                  | 81                  | H2  |
| Homo       | e p w q f s m l a a   | y m f l l i v l g f   | p i - N F L T L Y V | T V Q H K K L R T P | L N Y I L L N L A V |     |
| Mus        | e p w q f s m l a a   | y m f l l i v l g f   | p i - N F L T L Y V | T V Q H K K L R T P | L N Y I L L N L A V |     |
| <b>Bos</b> | e p w q f s m l a a   | y m f l l i m l g f   | p i - N F L T L Y V | T V Q H K K L R T P | L N Y I L L N L A V |     |
| Gallus     | e p w k f s a l a a   | y m f m l l i l l g f | p v - N F L T L Y V | T I Q H K K L R T P | L N Y I L L N L V V |     |
| Xenopus    | e p w q y s a l a a   | y m f l l i l l l g l | p i - N F M T L F V | T I E H K K L R T P | L N Y I L L N L V F |     |
| Danio      | a p w a y g l l a a   | y m f f l i i t g f   | p v - N F L T L Y V | F T K T K S L Q T P | L N Y I L L N L A I |     |
| Squid      | v p d a v y y s l g   | i f i g i c g i i g   | c g G N G I V I Y L | M A T C K N L R S P | A N M F I I N L A F |     |
| Spider     | m k a a w h y i l g   | v t i m l l g i i s   | v c G N G I V I Y L | F M N T K S L R S P | N N L L V M N L A F |     |
| Crustacean | m n p l w y g l v g   | f w m v i m g c l s   | i a G N F V V I W V | F A T T K S L R T P | A N L L V V N L A F |     |
| Drosophila | m d p i w a k i l t   | a y m i m i g m i s   | w c G N G V V I Y I | A N L L V I N L A I |                     |     |
|            |                       |                       |                     |                     |                     |     |
|            | 101                   | 111                   | 121                 | H3                  | S-S bond            | 141 |
| Homo       | A D L F M V L G G -   | F T S I L Y T S L H   | G Y F V F G P T G C | N L E G F F A T L G | G E I A L W S L V V |     |
| Mus        | A D L F M V F G G -   | F T T T L Y T S L H   | G Y F V F G P T G C | N L E G F F A T L G | G E I A L W S L V V |     |
| <b>Bos</b> | A D L F M V F G G -   | F T T T M Y T S M H   | G Y F V F G P T G C | N L E G F F A T L G | G E I A L W S L V V |     |
| Gallus     | A D L F M V F G G -   | F T T T M Y T S M N   | G Y F V F G V T G C | Y I E G F F A T L G | G E I A L W S L V V |     |
| Xenopus    | A N H F M V L C G -   | F T V T M Y T S M H   | G Y F I F G P T G C | Y I E G F F A T L G | G E V A L W S L V V |     |
| Danio      | A D L F M V F G G -   | F T T T M Y T S L H   | G Y F V F G R L G C | N L E G F F A T L G | G E M G L W S L V V |     |
| Squid      | S D F T F S L V N g   | F P L M T I S C F L   | K K W I F G F A A C | K V Y G F I G G I F | G F M S I M T M A M |     |
| Spider     | S D F C M M A F M -   | M P T M A A N C F A   | E T W I L G P F M C | E I Y G M F G S L F | G C G S I W S M V M |     |
| Crustacean | S D F L I M M L T M - | F P P M V V S C Y W   | Q T W T L G A L F C | E I Y A F F G S L F | G C A S I W T M V F |     |
| Drosophila | S D F G I M I T N -   | T P M M G I N L Y F   | E T W V L G P M M C | D I Y A G L G S A F | G C S S I W S M C M |     |

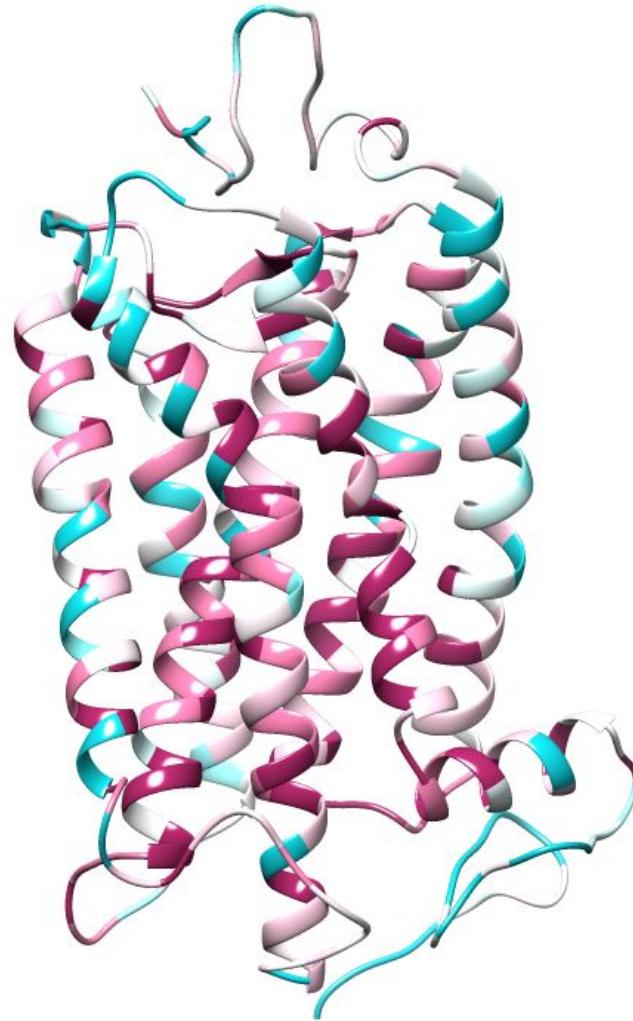
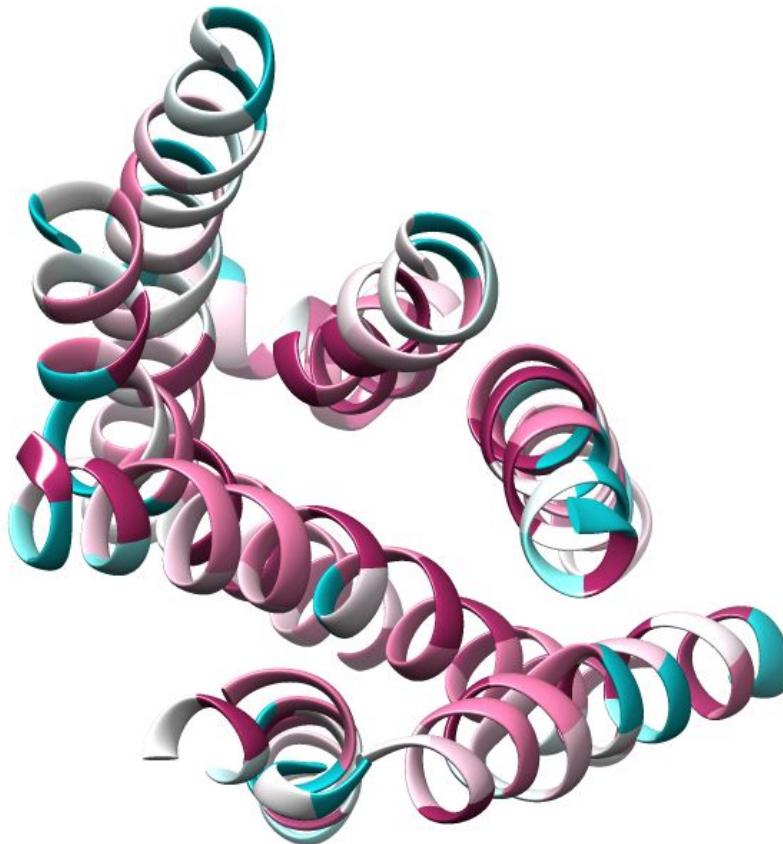
# Rhodopsin: conservation in sequence alignments



# Rhodopsin: conservation in sequence alignments

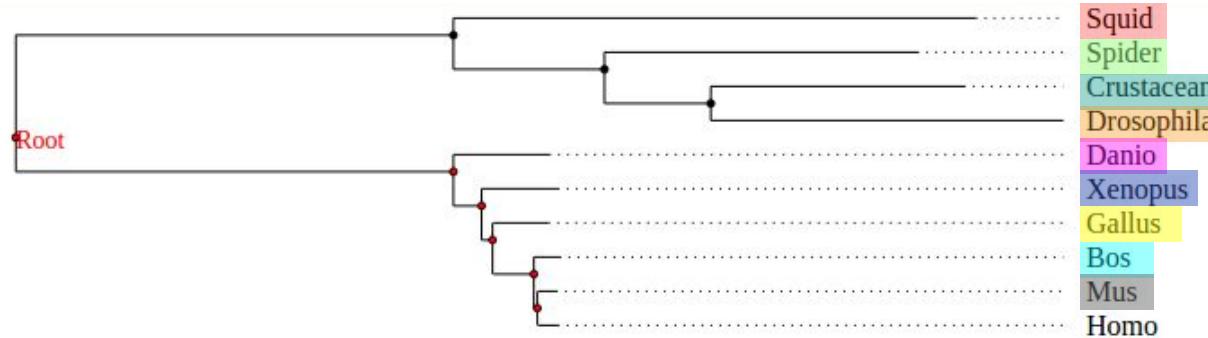


# Rhodopsin: conserved residues

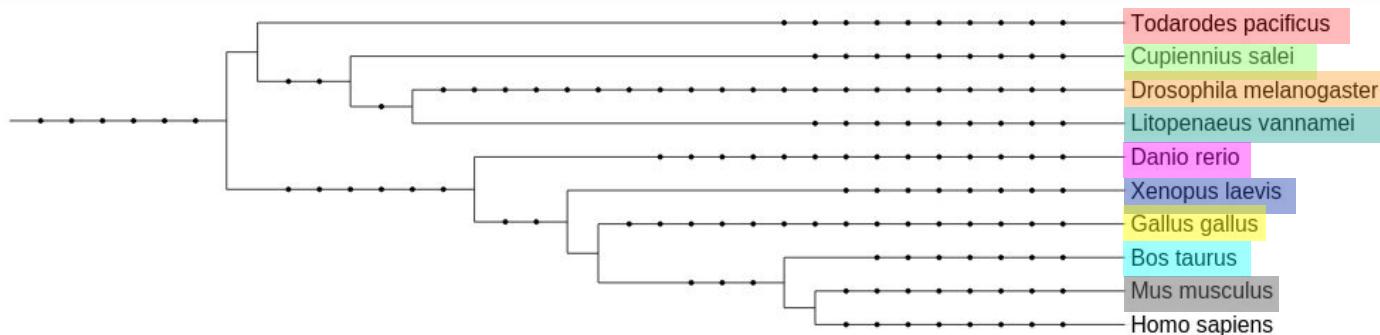


# Rhodopsin: sequence alignment

Phylogenetic tree obtained from rhodopsins alignment

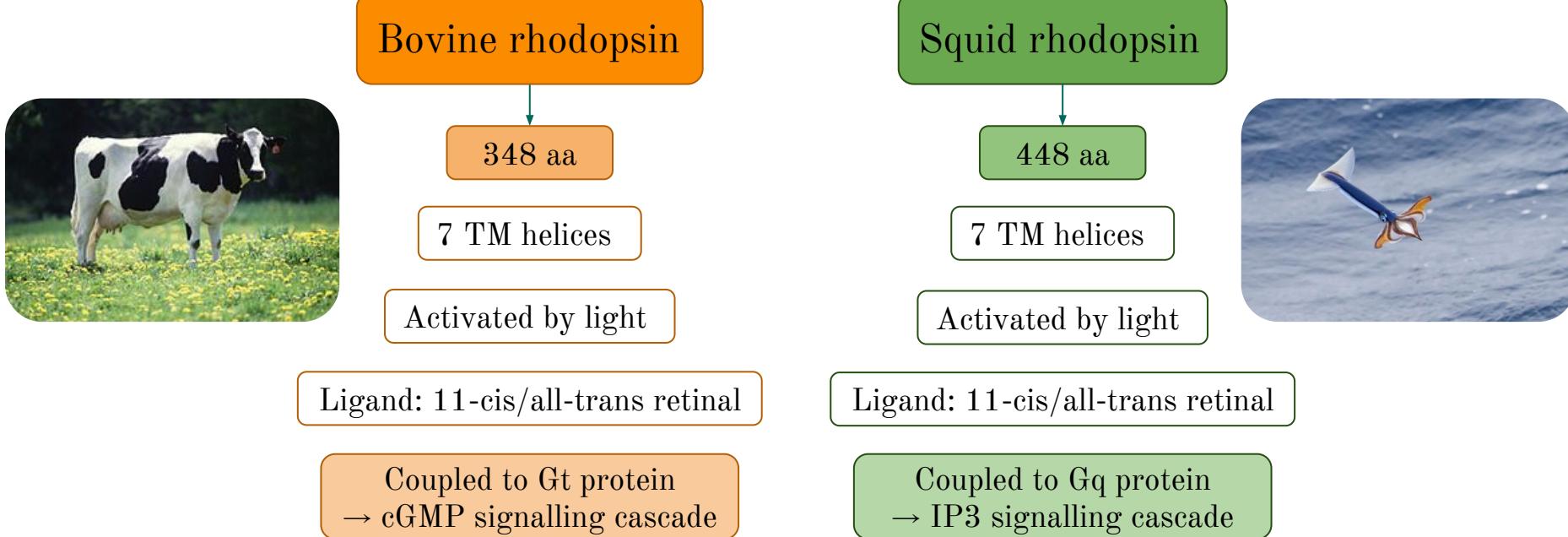


Phylogenetic tree obtained from iTOL (interactive tree of life)



# Rhodopsin orthologues: bovine vs. squid

Only another GPCR-rhodopsin crystallised → Japanese flying squid (2Z73)



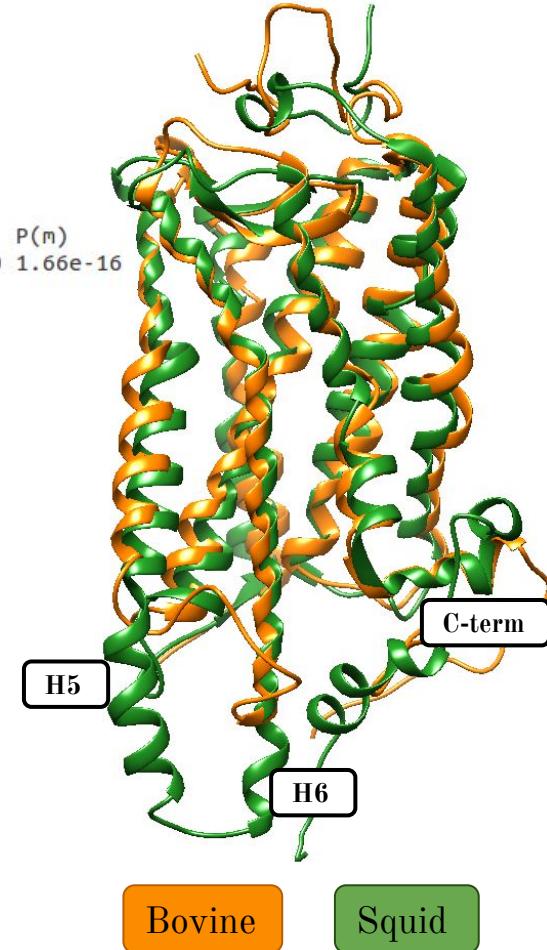
# Bovine vs. squid rhodopsin: STAMP

```
No. Domain1          Domain2          Sc    RMS    Len1  Len2  Align  NFit Eq.  Secs.  %I    %S    P(m)
Pair  1  1u19          2z73          5.86  1.52   348   350   386   268  260    0  28.08 100.00 1.66e-16
Reading in matrix file rhodopsin.mat...
Doing cluster analysis...
Cluster: 1 (  1u19  &  2z73 ) Sc  5.86 RMS  1.52 Len 386 nfit 268
```

Low RMSD value → High structural similarity

- Conserved 7TM domain
- H5 and H6 extended to the cytoplasmic side
- Extended C-term

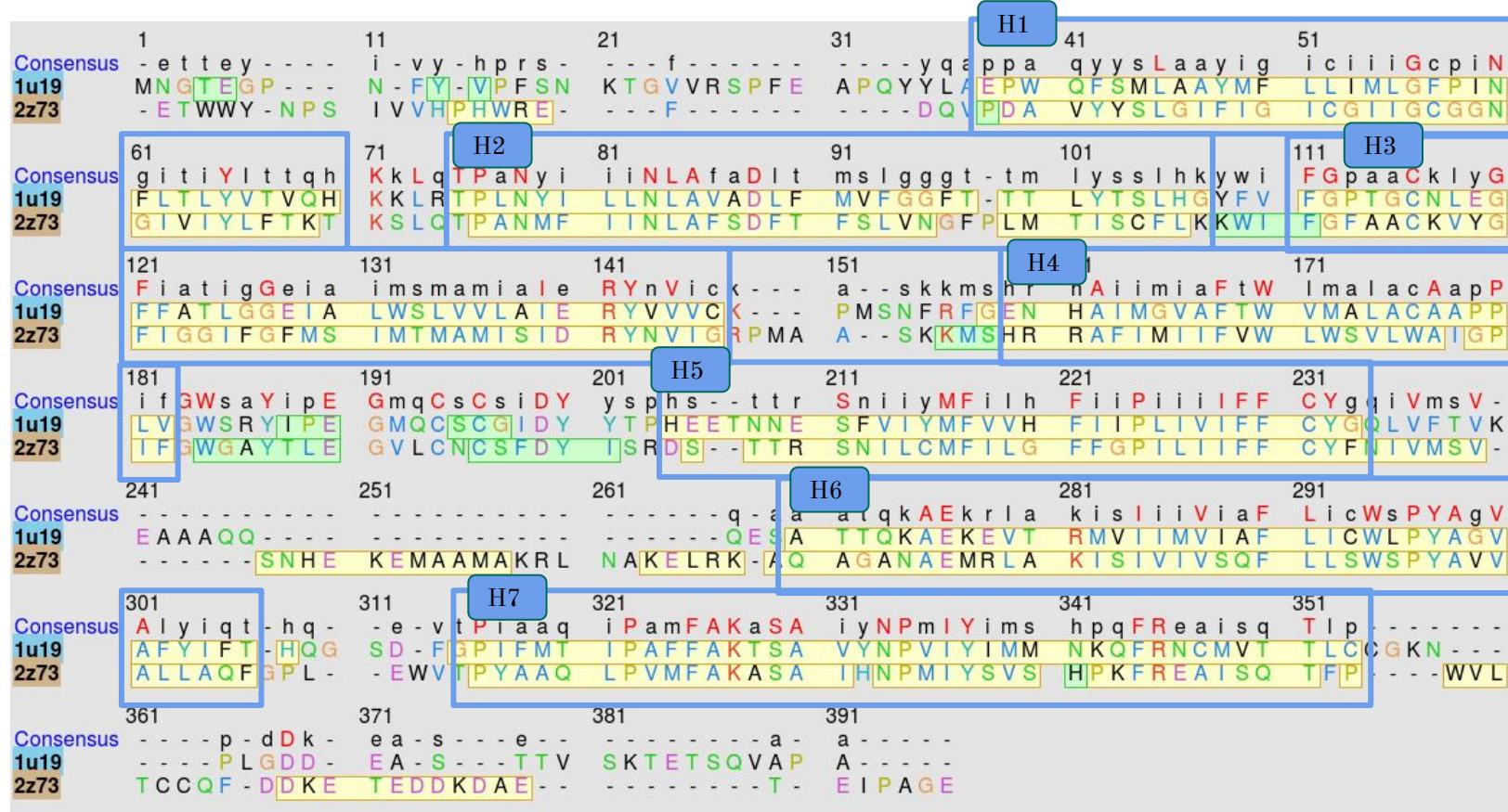
By means of  
its longer  
sequence



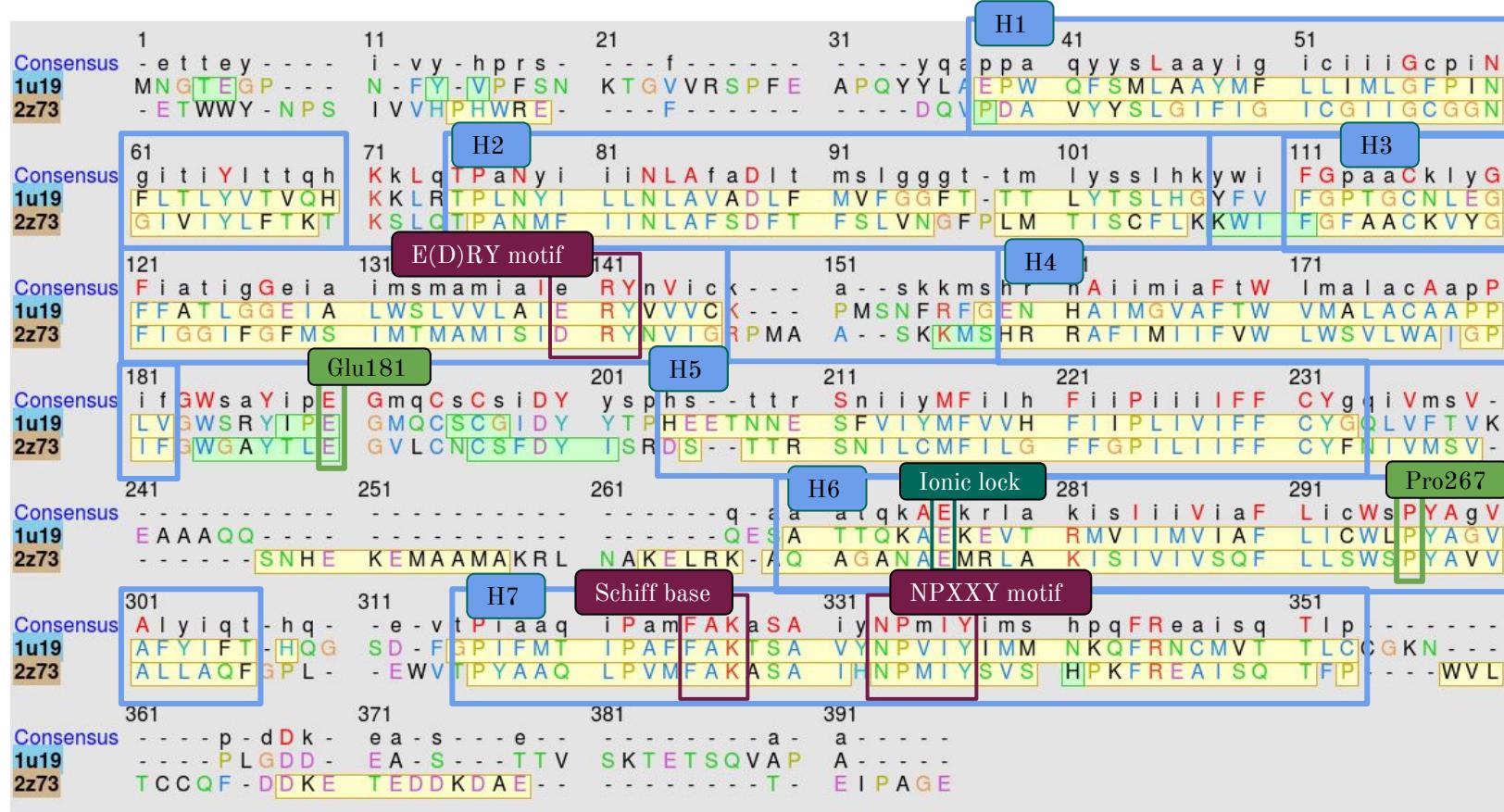
# Bovine vs. squid rhodopsin: structure alignment

|           | 1                     | 11                          | 21                  | 31                    | 41                  | 51                    |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Consensus | - e t t e y - - -     | i - v y - h p r s -         | - - - f - - -       | - - - y q a p p a     | q y y s L a a y i g | i c i i i G c p i N   |
| 1u19      | M N G C T E G P - -   | N - F Y - V P F S N         | K T G V V R S P F E | A P Q Y Y L A   E P W | Q F S M L A A Y M F | L L I M L G F P T N   |
| 2z73      | - E T W W Y - N P S   | I V V H P H W R E -         | - - - F - - -       | - - - D Q V P D A     | V Y Y S L G I F I G | I C G I I G C G G N   |
|           |                       |                             |                     |                       |                     |                       |
| Consensus | 61                    | 71                          | 81                  | 91                    | 101                 | 111                   |
| 1u19      | g i t i Y l t t q h   | K k L q T P a N y i         | i i N L A f a D l t | m s l g g g t - t m   | l y s s l h k y w i | F G p a a C k l y G   |
| 2z73      | F L T L Y V T V Q H   | K K L R   T P L N Y I       | L L N L A V A D L F | M V F G G F T - T T   | L Y T S L H G Y F V | F G P T G C N L E G   |
|           | G I V I Y L F T K T   | K S L Q T P A N M F         | I I N L A F S D F T | F S L V N G F P L M   | T I S C F L K K W I | F G F A A C K V Y G   |
|           |                       |                             |                     |                       |                     |                       |
| Consensus | 121                   | 131                         | 141                 | 151                   | 161                 | 171                   |
| 1u19      | F i a t i g G e i a   | i m s m a m i a l e         | R Y n V i c k - - - | a - - s k k m s h r   | h A i i m i a F t W | I m a l a c A a p P   |
| 2z73      | F F A T L G G E I A   | L W S L V V L A I E         | R Y V V V C K - - - | P M S N F R F   G E N | H A I M G V A F T W | V M A L A C A A P P   |
|           | F I G G I F G F M S   | I M T M A M I S I D         | R Y N V I G R P M A | A - - S K   K M S H R | R A F I M I I F V W | L W S V L W A I G P   |
|           |                       |                             |                     |                       |                     |                       |
| Consensus | 181                   | 191                         | 201                 | 211                   | 221                 | 231                   |
| 1u19      | i f G W s a Y i p E   | G m q C s C s i D Y         | y s p h s - - t t r | S n i i y M F i l h   | F i i P i i i I F F | C Y g q i V m s V -   |
| 2z73      | L V G W S R Y   T P E | G M Q C   S C G   D Y       | Y T P H E E T N N E | S F V I Y M F V V H   | F I I P L I V I F F | C Y G Q L V F T V K   |
|           | T F G W G A Y T L E   | G V L C N C S F D Y         | S R D S - - T T R   | S N I L C M F I L G   | F F G P I L I I F F | C Y F N I V M S V -   |
|           |                       |                             |                     |                       |                     |                       |
| Consensus | 241                   | 251                         | 261                 | 271                   | 281                 | 291                   |
| 1u19      | - - - - -             | - - - - -                   | - - - - -           | q - a a               | a t q k A E k r l a | k i s l i i V i a F   |
| 2z73      | E A A A Q Q - - -     | - - - - -                   | - - - - -           | Q E S A               | T T Q K A E K E V T | R M V T I M V I A F   |
|           | - - - - -             | S N H E K E M A A M A K R L | N A K E L R K - A Q | A G A N A E M R L A   | K I S I V I V S Q F | L I C W L P Y A G V   |
|           |                       |                             |                     |                       |                     |                       |
| Consensus | 301                   | 311                         | 321                 | 331                   | 341                 | 351                   |
| 1u19      | A l y i q t - h q -   | - e - v t P i a a q         | i P a m F A K a S A | i y N P m I Y i m s   | h p q F R e a i s q | T l p - - - - -       |
| 2z73      | A F Y I F T - H Q G   | S D - F G P I F M T         | P A F F A K T S A   | V Y N P V I Y I M M   | N K Q F R N C M V T | T L C C G K N - - -   |
|           | A L L A Q F G P L -   | - E W V T P Y A A Q         | L P V M F A K A S A | H N P M I Y S V S     | H P K F R E A I S Q | T F P - - - - - W V L |
|           |                       |                             |                     |                       |                     |                       |
| Consensus | 361                   | 371                         | 381                 | 391                   |                     |                       |
| 1u19      | - - - p - d D k -     | e a - s - - e -             | - - - - - a -       | a - - - -             |                     |                       |
| 2z73      | - - - P L G D D -     | E A - S - - T T V           | S K T E T S Q V A P | A - - - -             |                     |                       |
|           | T C C Q F - D D K E   | T E D D K D A E             | - - - - - T -       | E I P A G E           |                     |                       |

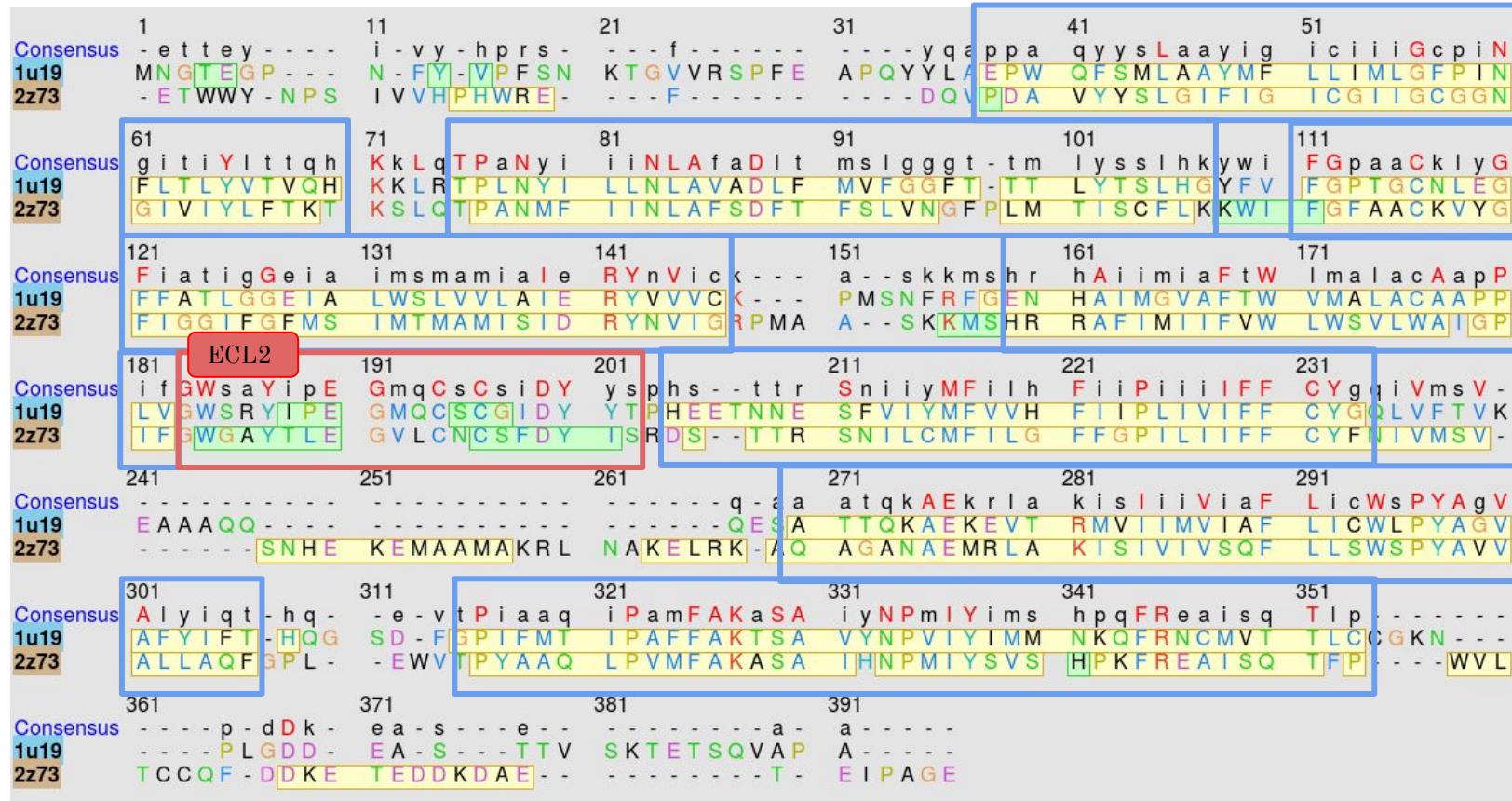
# Bovine vs. squid rhodopsin: structure alignment



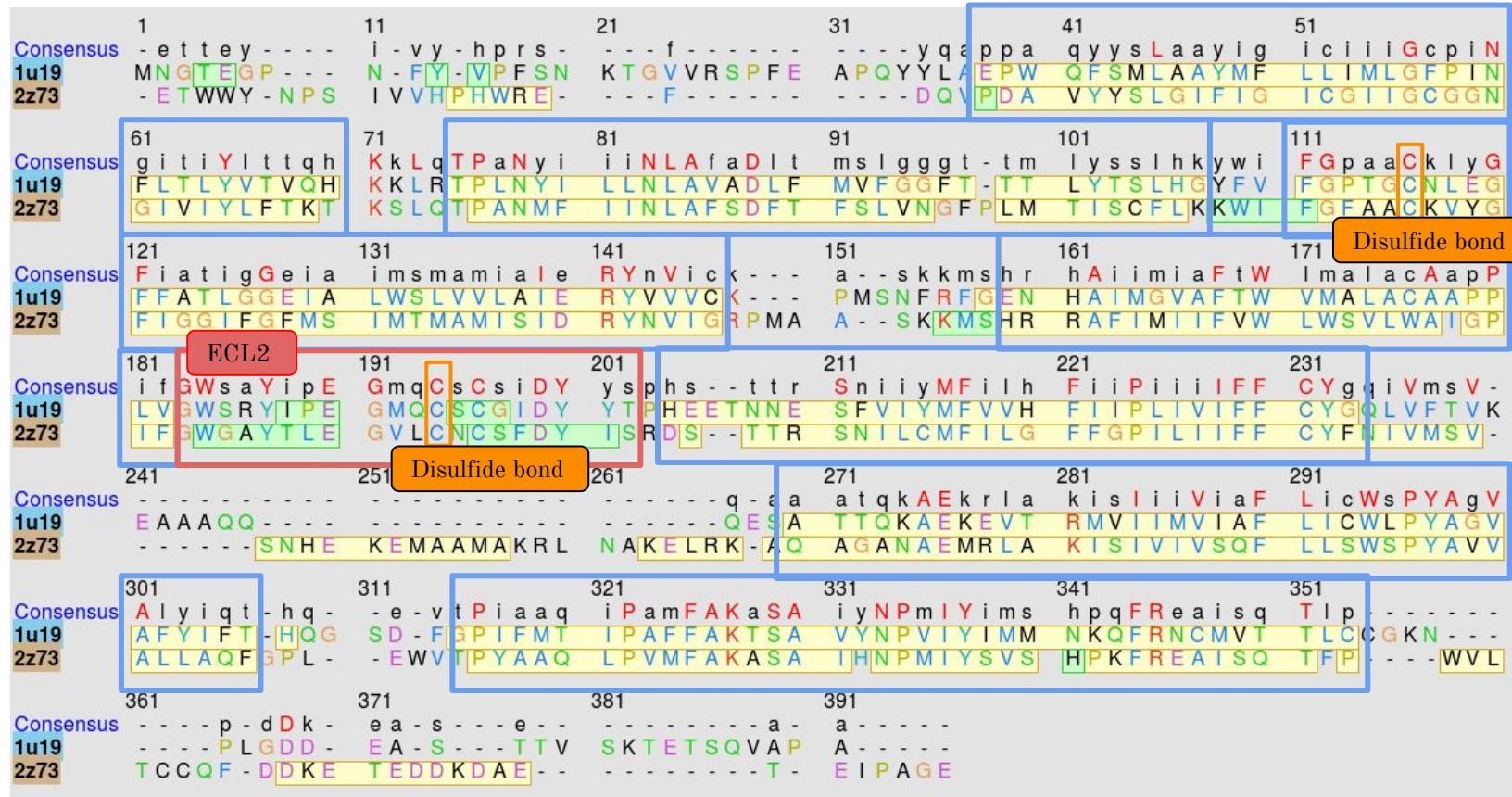
# Bovine vs. squid rhodopsin: structure alignment



# Bovine vs. squid rhodopsin: structure alignment



# Bovine vs. squid rhodopsin: structure alignment



# Conclusions

- Since transmembrane proteins are difficult to crystallize, bovine rhodopsin is one of the few structures that exist
- Bovine rhodopsin is used as a model to study rhodopsin structure and function due to:
  - Difficulties in transmembrane protein crystallization
  - Particularities of the extraction procedure
- Upon photoactivation, retinal undergoes a cis/trans isomerization and the Schiff base is deprotonated
- Light induces conformational changes in rhodopsin structure:
  - Bending of H6 → opening of a crevice → G protein binding and activation
- Most of the residues involved in the interaction with G protein are conserved
- The binding of retinal to the Lys forming the Schiff base is conserved

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# Multiple Choice Questions

1. How is rhodopsin activated?
  - a. By ligand binding
  - b. By light exposure
  - c. It is always active
  - d. By a second messenger
  - e. By dimerisation
2. Identify the correct sentences
  - a. Rhodopsin is a membrane receptor with 7 transmembrane helices
  - b. Membrane proteins are difficult to crystallize
  - c. a and b are correct
  - d. Rhodopsin signals through a G protein
  - e. a, b and d are correct

# Multiple Choice Questions

3. Regarding rhodopsin structure

- a. It contains 5 domains
- b. It does not have beta-sheets
- c. It has 7 transmembrane helices
- d. It is highly polar
- e. It is a globular protein

4. After light exposure, which protein does rhodopsin activate?

- a. G protein
- b. MAP Kinase
- c. Cycline
- d. Phosphatase
- e. Peptidase

# Multiple Choice Questions

5. Which of the following sentences are true?

- a. There are not many rhodopsin PDB structures
- b. It is not located in the eyes
- c. a and b are true
- d. The formation of a salt bridge between Phe235 and Phe236 is crucial for its activation
- e. a, b and d are true

6. Which of the following sentences are false?

- a. There are 2 SCOP families: Bacteriorhodopsin-like and Rhodopsin-like
- b. Bacteriorhodopsin is an ion pump
- c. Bacteriorhodopsin has been crystallized
- d. Bacteriorhodopsin is highly similar to bovine rhodopsin
- e. All of them are false

# Multiple Choice Questions

## 7. Regarding rhodopsin structure

- a. Its characteristic fold is a TIM barrel
- b. Water molecules are not relevant for its structure
- c. Retinal is bound to rhodopsin through a Schiff base
- d. Helix 8 is a transmembrane helix
- e. There are not glycosylation sites in rhodopsin

## 8. Identify the correct sentences:

- a. Light inactivates rhodopsin
- b. The creation of a crevice is necessary to allow G protein binding
- c. a and b are correct
- d. Arg134-Lys256 interaction is very conserved
- e. a, b and d are correct

# Multiple Choice Questions

## 9. Choose the correct sentence

- a. G protein is always bound to rhodopsin
- b. The cis conformation of retinal activates rhodopsin
- c. The ligand binding site is located at the cytoplasmic side of rhodopsin
- d. In rhodopsin, loops are only found in the extracellular side
- e. The Lys involved in Schiff base formation in the ligand binding site is conserved

## 10. Choose the correct sentence

- a. Rhodopsin has 8 alpha-helices
- b. Rhodopsin has 2 two-stranded beta-sheets
- c. A Schiff base is involved in retinal binding to rhodopsin
- d. The retinal isomerization produced by light activates rhodopsin
- e. All of them are correct

# Rhodopsin

**Ariadna Gispert, Marina Lleal and Marta Puig**