

Modèles génératifs pour les séquences de protéines

Generative models for protein sequences

Marion Chauveau

Thesis advisors: Ivan Junier and Olivier Rivoire

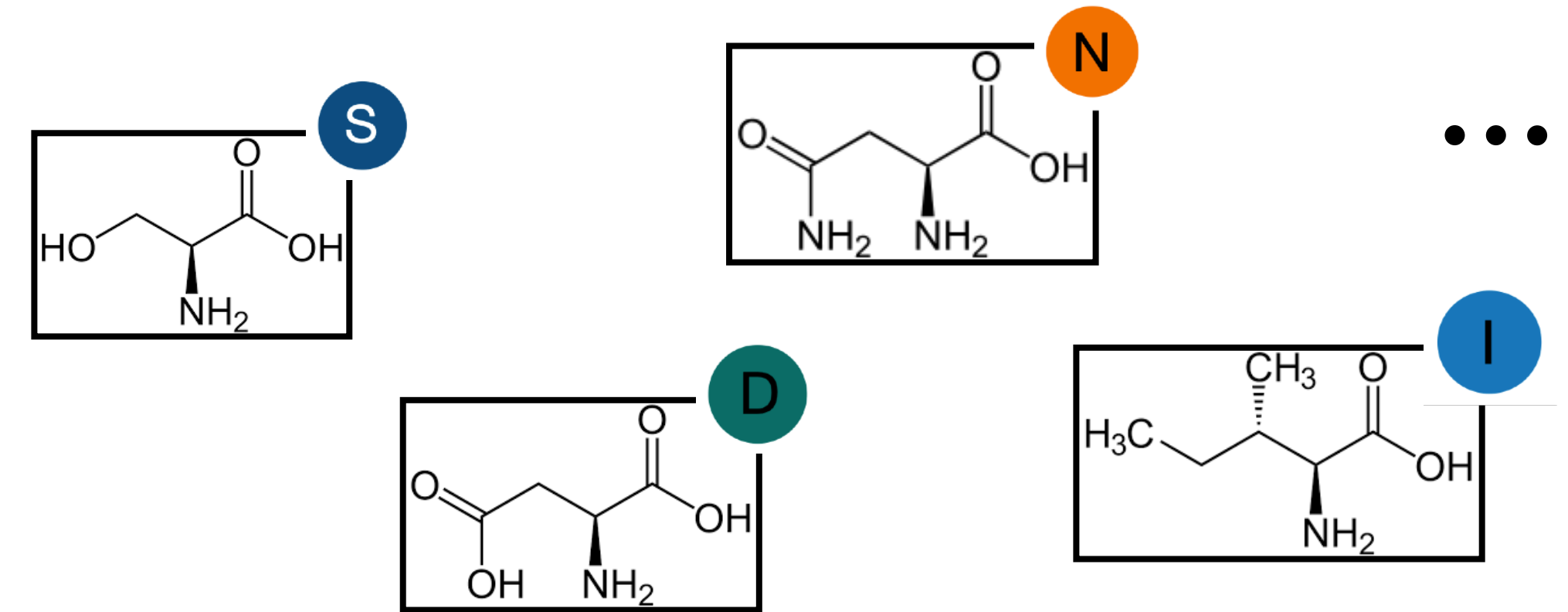
PhD Thesis Defense | October 1st, 2025 | ESPCI Paris



Proteins

The basics

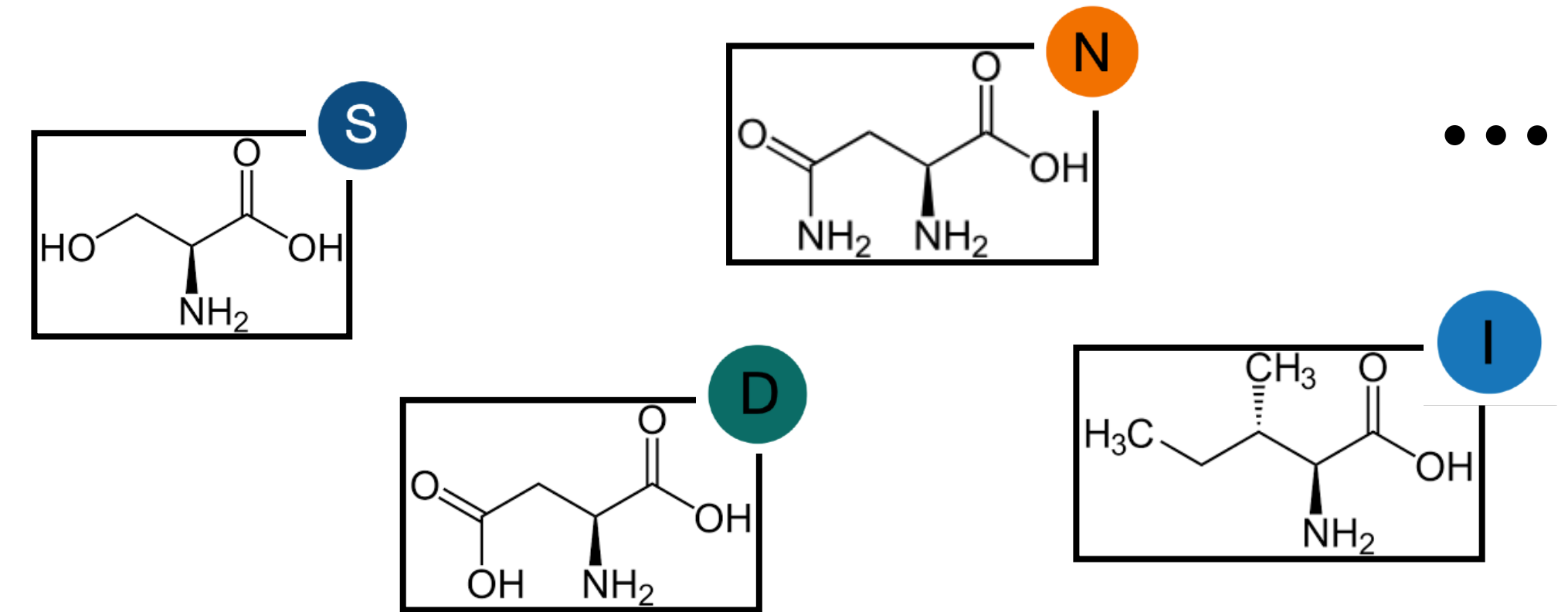
- 20 building blocks: amino acids



Proteins

The basics

- ▶ 20 building blocks: amino acids
- ▶ Assembled into chains
- ▶ Sequence encoded in the DNA



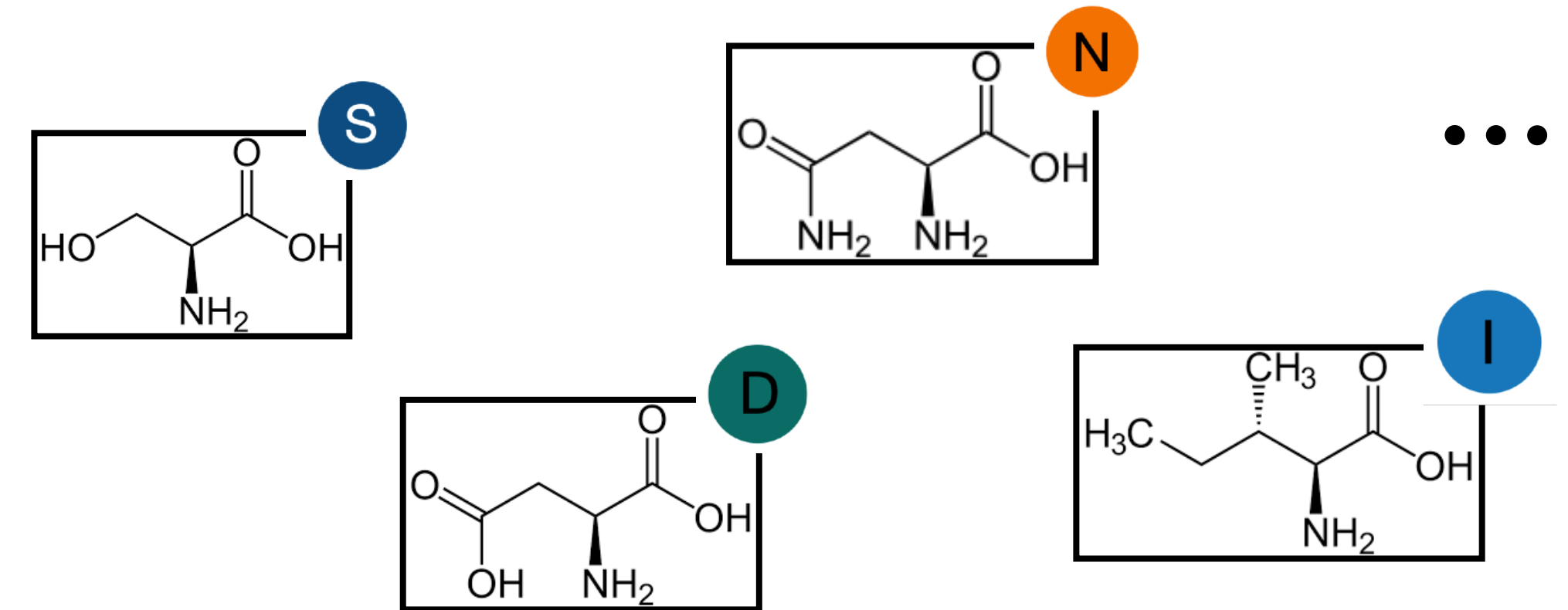
A protein sequence

IVGGYTCQ ... CNYVDWIQ

Proteins

The basics

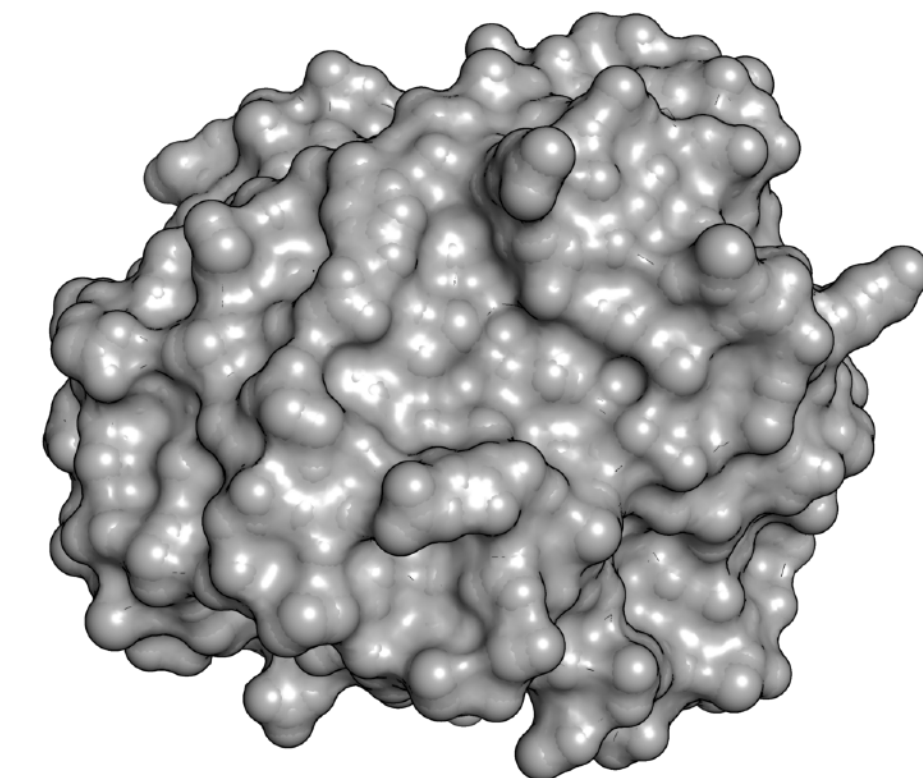
- ▶ 20 building blocks: amino acids
- ▶ Assembled into chains
- ▶ Sequence encoded in the DNA
- ▶ Non-trivially ordered matter
- ▶ Life's essential machines (catalysis, transport, signaling, immune defense, structure...)



A protein sequence

IVGGYTCQ ... CNYVDWIQ

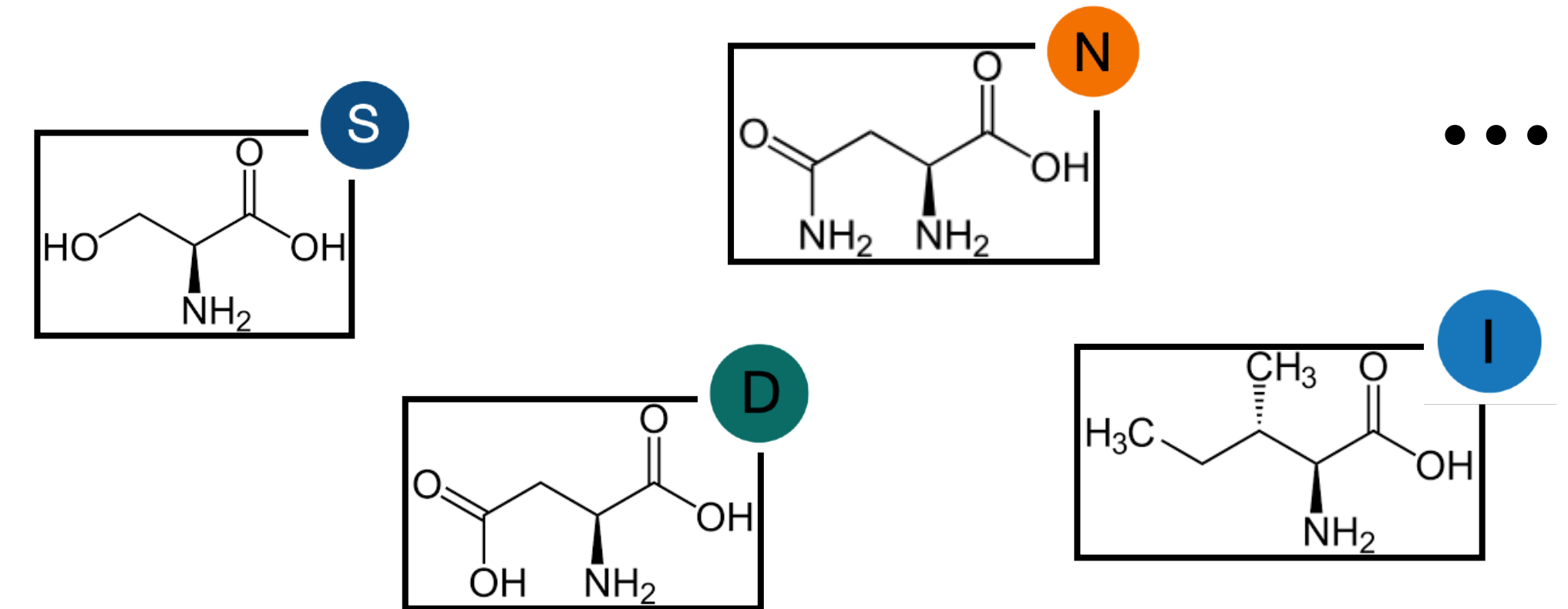
A protein structure representation



Proteins

The basics

- ▶ 20 building blocks: amino acids
- ▶ Assembled into chains
- ▶ Sequence encoded in the DNA
- ▶ Non-trivially ordered matter
- ▶ Life's essential machines (catalysis, transport, signaling, immune defense, structure...)



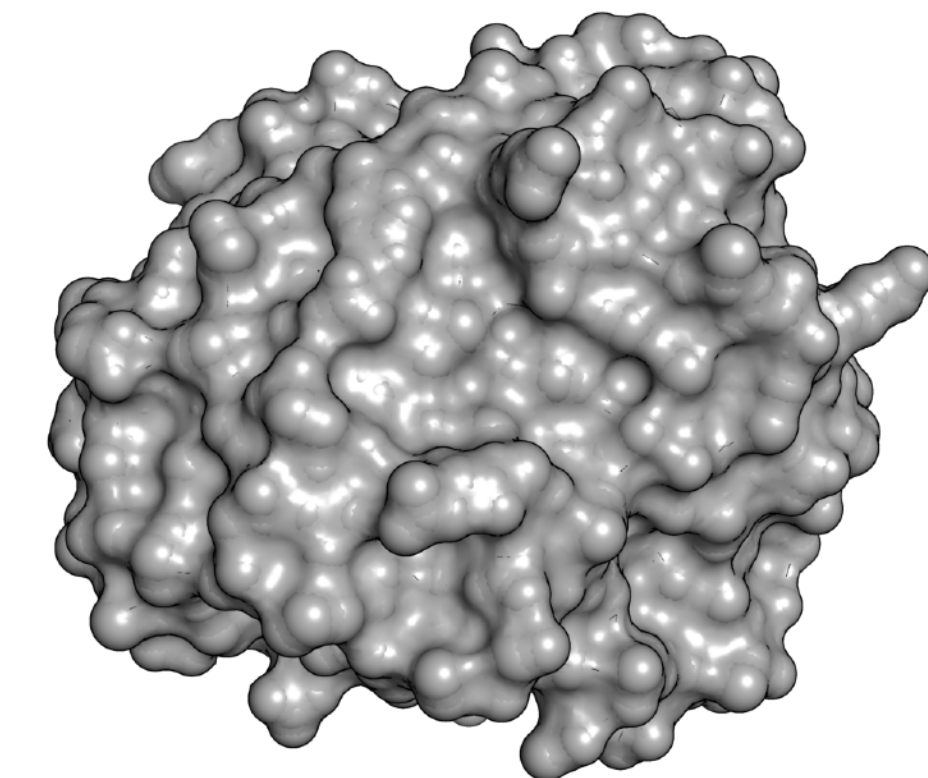
A protein sequence

IVGGYTCQ ... CNYVDWIQ

Performance & adaptability

- ▶ High catalytic efficiency (enzymes)
- ▶ Specific interaction with target molecules
- ▶ Capacity to evolve new functions

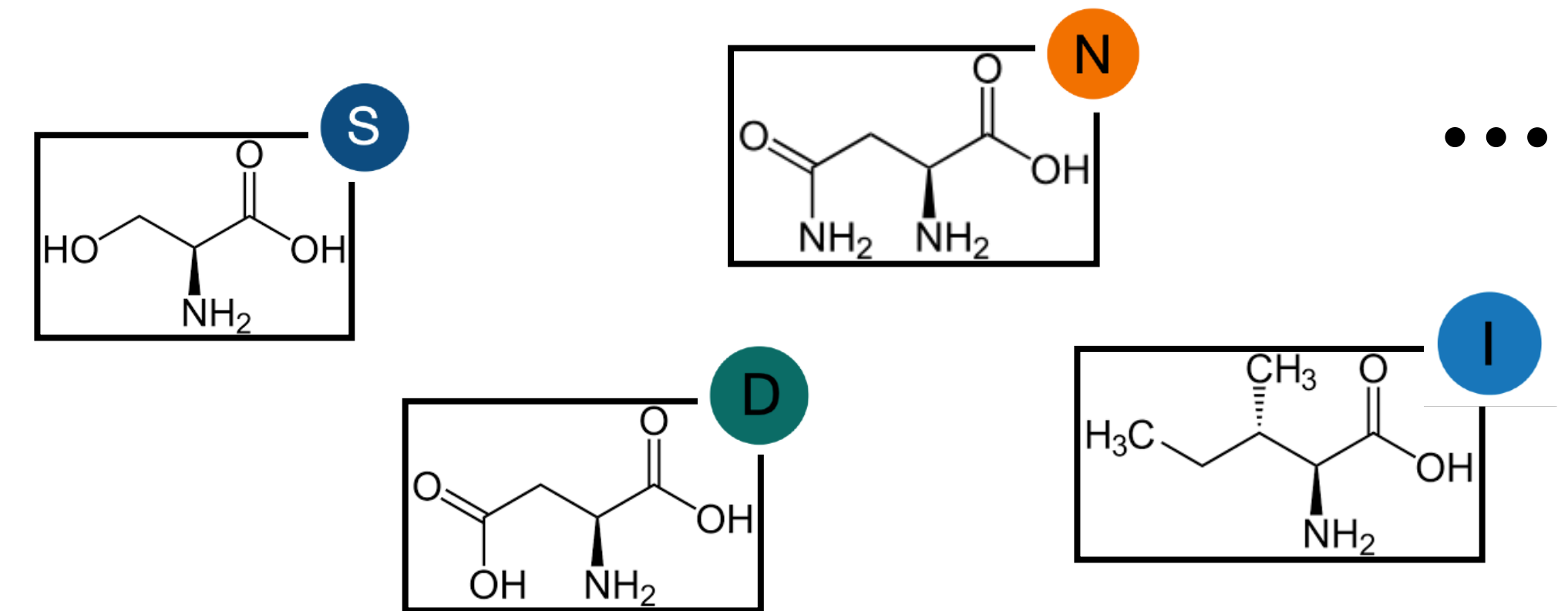
A protein structure representation



Proteins

The basics

- ▶ 20 building blocks: amino acids
- ▶ Assembled into chains
- ▶ Sequence encoded in the DNA
- ▶ Non-trivially ordered matter
- ▶ Life's essential machines (catalysis, transport, signaling, immune defense, structure...)



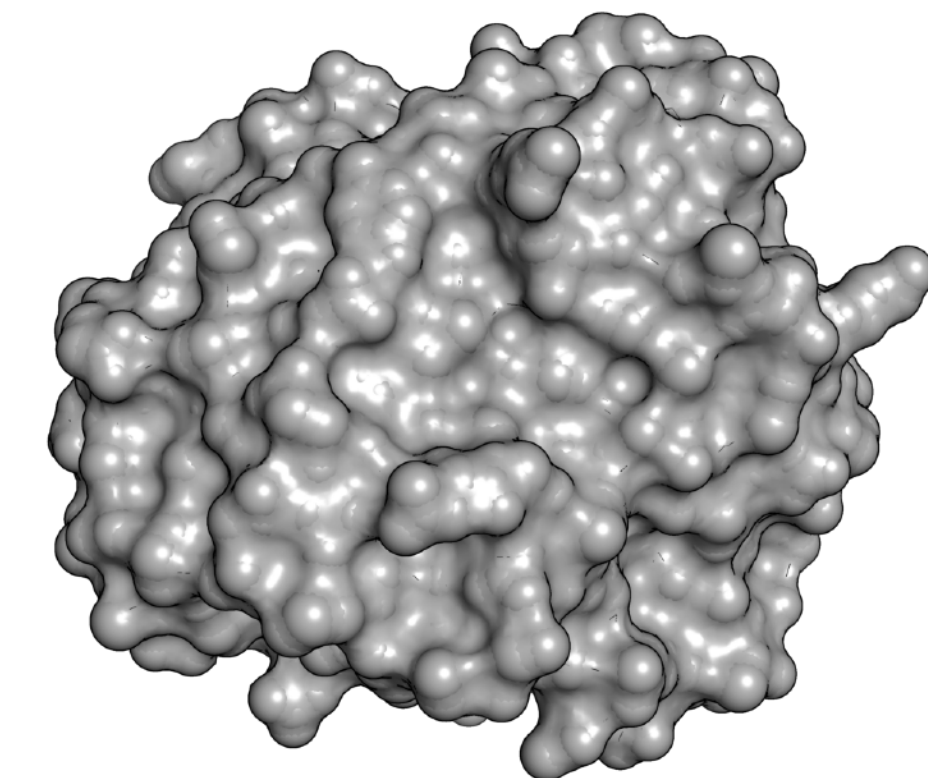
A protein sequence

IVGGYTCQ ... CNYVDWIQ

Performance & adaptability

- ▶ High catalytic efficiency (enzymes)
- ▶ Specific interaction with target molecules
- ▶ Capacity to evolve new functions

A protein structure representation



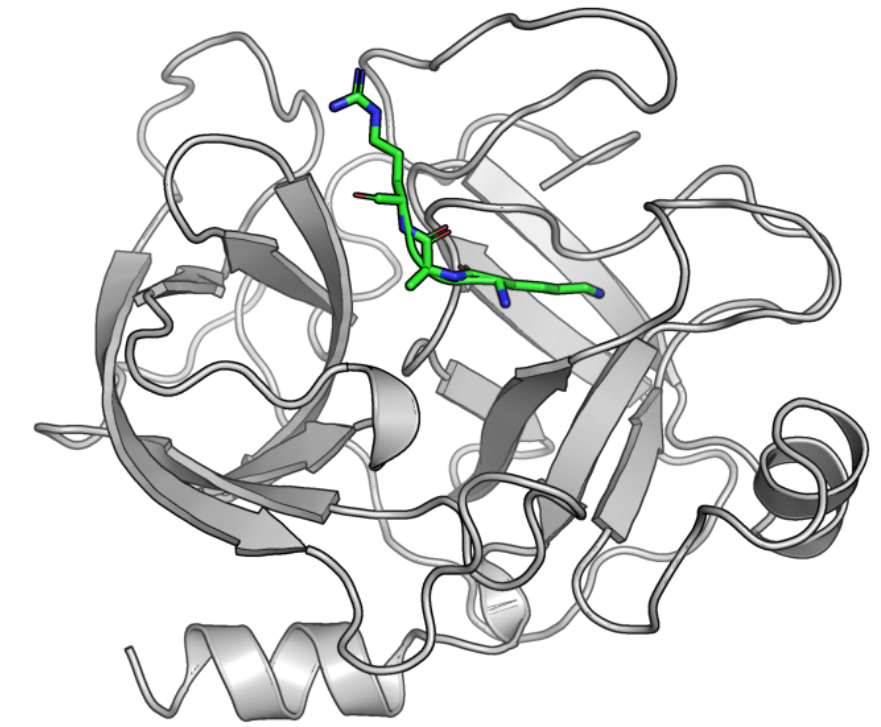
Why are proteins worth studying?

- ▶ Understand how proteins work
- ▶ Applications in medicine, industry...

Study proteins by learning from evolution

Different approaches

- ▶ Observe their structure (X-ray crystallography...)
- ▶ Simulate them using structure (Molecular Dynamics...)
- ▶ Modify them (mutational scans...)
- ▶ **Learn from evolution (statistical models...)** Etc...

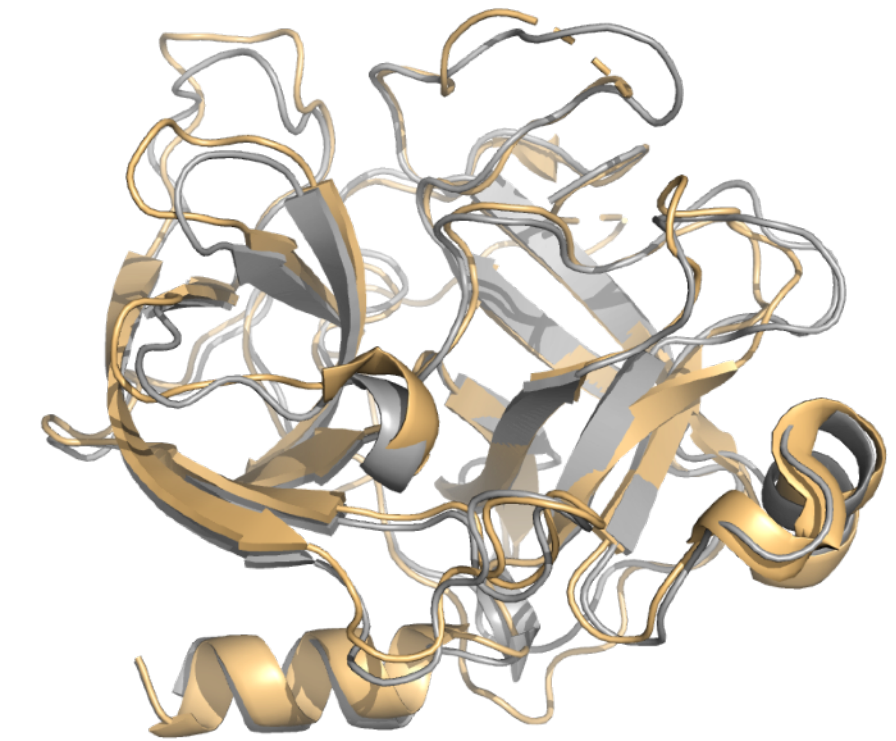


Rat Trypsin structure

Study proteins by learning from evolution

Different approaches

- ▶ Observe their structure (X-ray crystallography...)
- ▶ Simulate them using structure (Molecular Dynamics...)
- ▶ Modify them (mutational scans...)
- ▶ **Learn from evolution (statistical models...)** Etc...



Why statistical models?

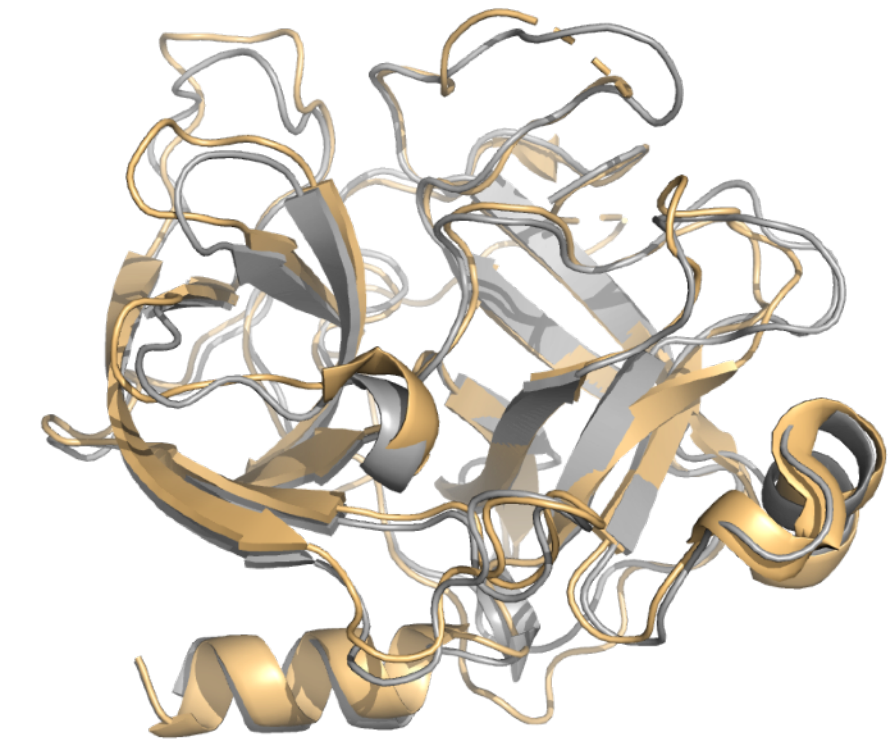
- ▶ Protein sequences are shaped by evolutionary pressure
- ▶ Many sequences can have similar structure and function: family

 IVGGYTCQ ... CNYVDWIQ
 IVGGR--R ... AQFVNWID

Study proteins by learning from evolution

Different approaches

- ▶ Observe their structure (X-ray crystallography...)
- ▶ Simulate them using structure (Molecular Dynamics...)
- ▶ Modify them (mutational scans...)
- ▶ **Learn from evolution (statistical models...)** Etc...



Why statistical models?

- ▶ Protein sequences are shaped by evolutionary pressure
- ▶ Many sequences can have similar structure and function: family

 IVGGYTCQ ... CNYVDWIQ
 IVGGR--R ... AQFVNWID

How?

- ▶ Collect sequences with shared structure and function
- ▶ Build a Multiple Sequence Alignment (MSA)
- ▶ Look for statistical signatures

Multiple Sequence Alignment

	Positions		
	1	5	260
Sequences	1	IVGGYTCQ	... CNYVDWIQ
	2	IVGGR--R	... AQFVNWID
	3	IIGGH-AK	... STFLSWIK
		⋮	⋮
		ITNGAYDG	... TSQLNWIR
		VNGNFDCG	... GLYSGWIQ

Study proteins by learning from evolution

Different approaches

- ▶ Observe their structure (X-ray crystallography...)
- ▶ Simulate them using structure (Molecular Dynamics...)
- ▶ Modify them (mutational scans...)
- ▶ **Learn from evolution (statistical models...)** Etc...

Why statistical models?

- ▶ Protein sequences are shaped by evolutionary pressure
- ▶ Many sequences can have similar structure and function: family

How?

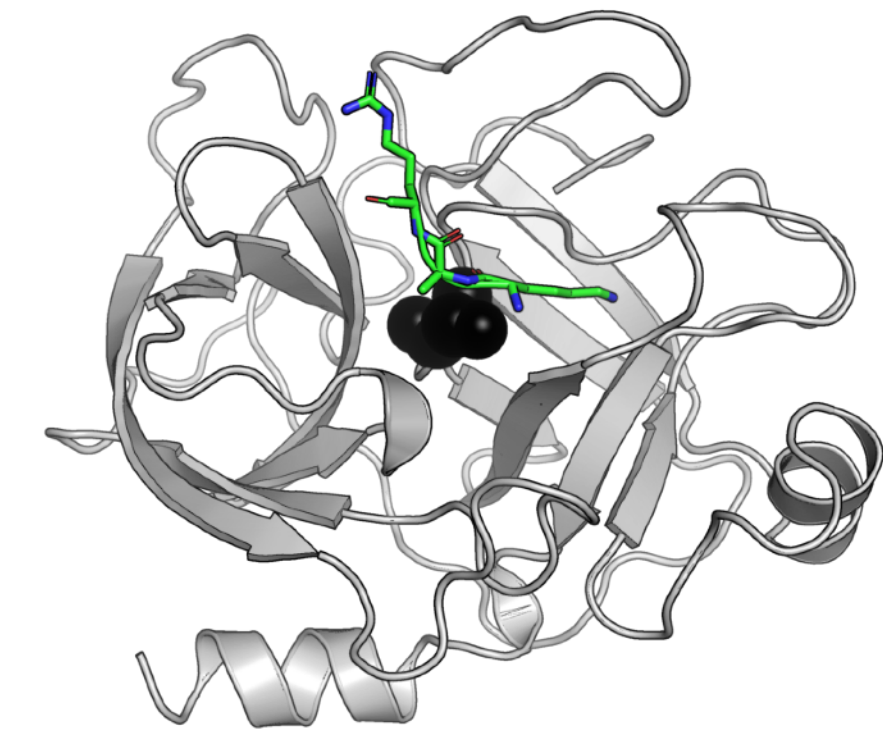
- ▶ Collect sequences with shared structure and function
- ▶ Build a Multiple Sequence Alignment (MSA)
- ▶ Look for statistical signatures

To find

- ▶ Conservations (important amino-acids)
- ▶ Correlations (important interactions)

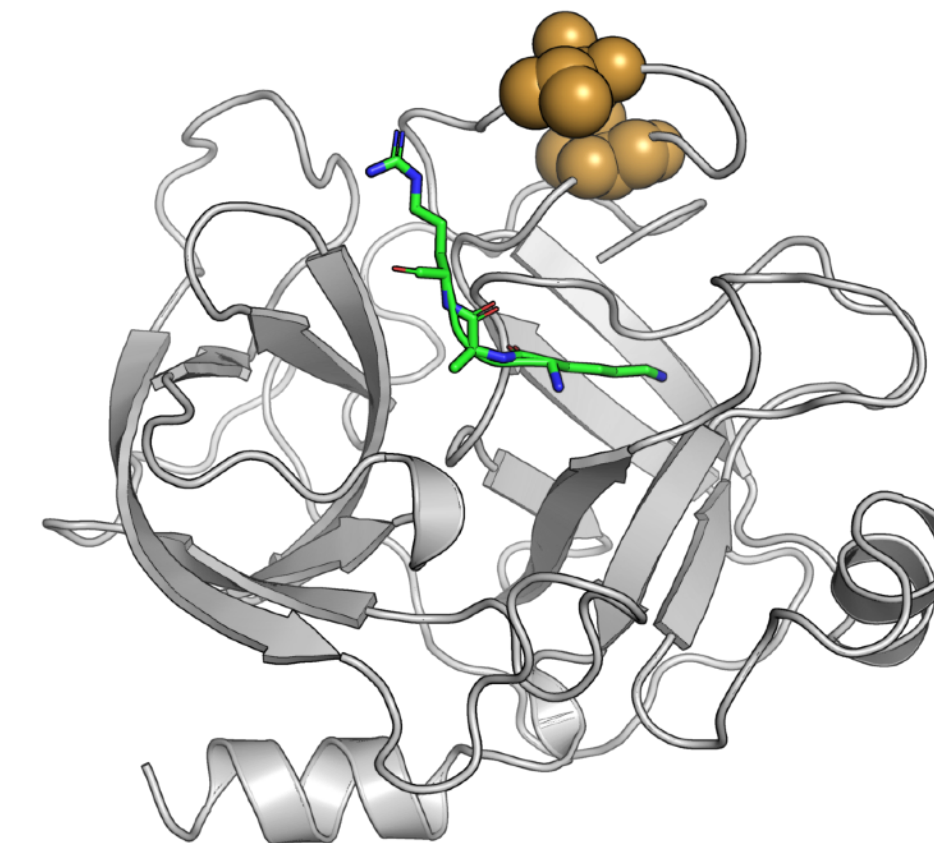
Conservation

	Positions
Sequences 1	... C Q G D S G G P ...
2	... C N G D S G A S ...
3	... C T G D S G G P ...
4	... G Y G D S G G P ...
5	... C Q G D S G G P ...



Correlations

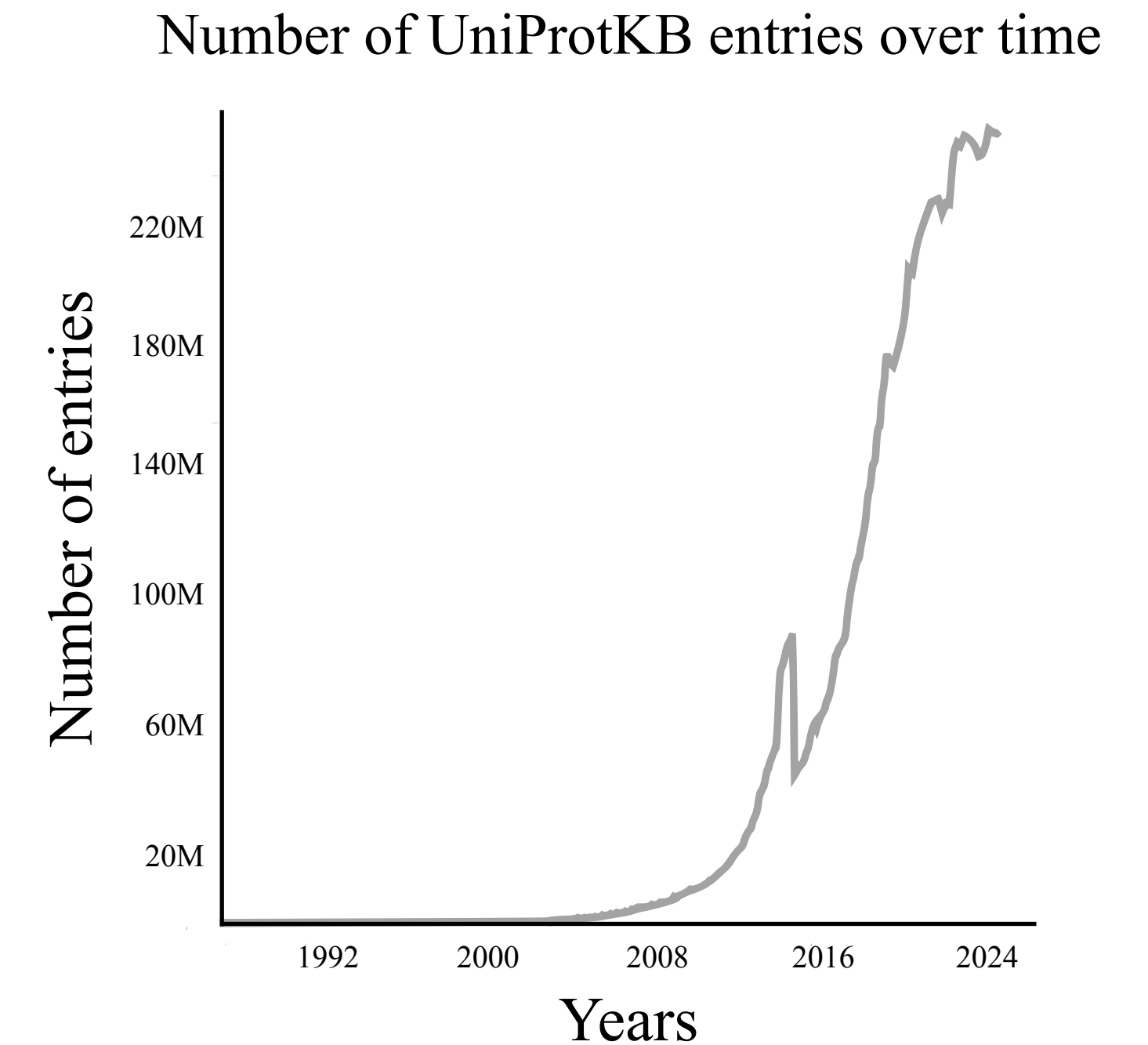
	Positions
Sequences 1	... S N G D I Y S S ...
2	... G L G N S F S G ...
3	... N N I D I D N D ...
4	... N L I D I L N N ...
5	... N L G G I D S R ...



Statistical learning on a protein family

Enough data for advanced methods

- ▶ Massive expansion of available sequences in the last two decades
- ▶ Approaches grounded in statistical physics
- ▶ Deep learning methods



Statistical learning on a protein family

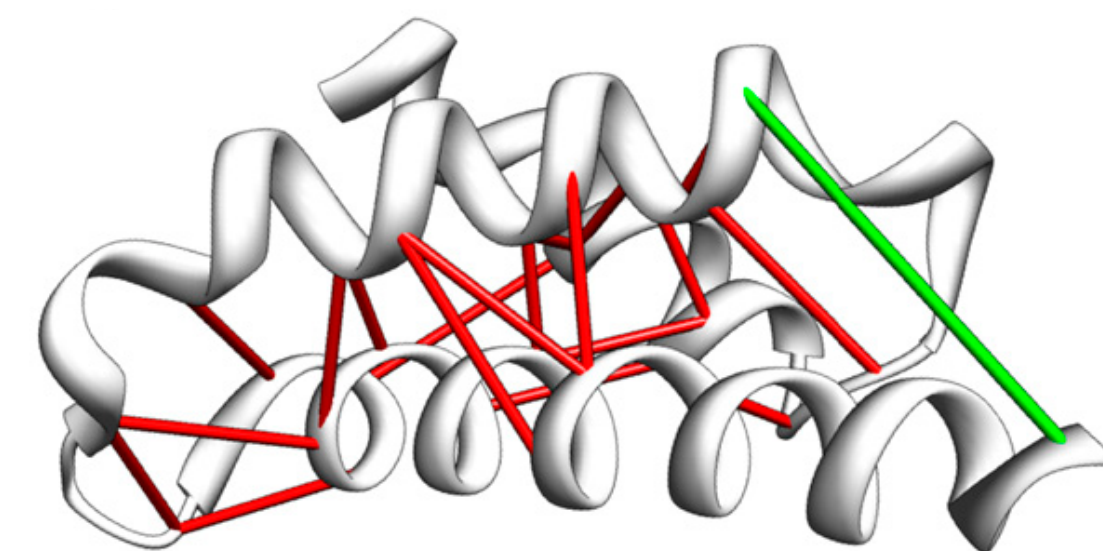
Enough data for advanced methods

- ▶ Massive expansion of available sequences in the last two decades
- ▶ Approaches grounded in statistical physics
- ▶ Deep learning methods

Different methods capture different interaction scales

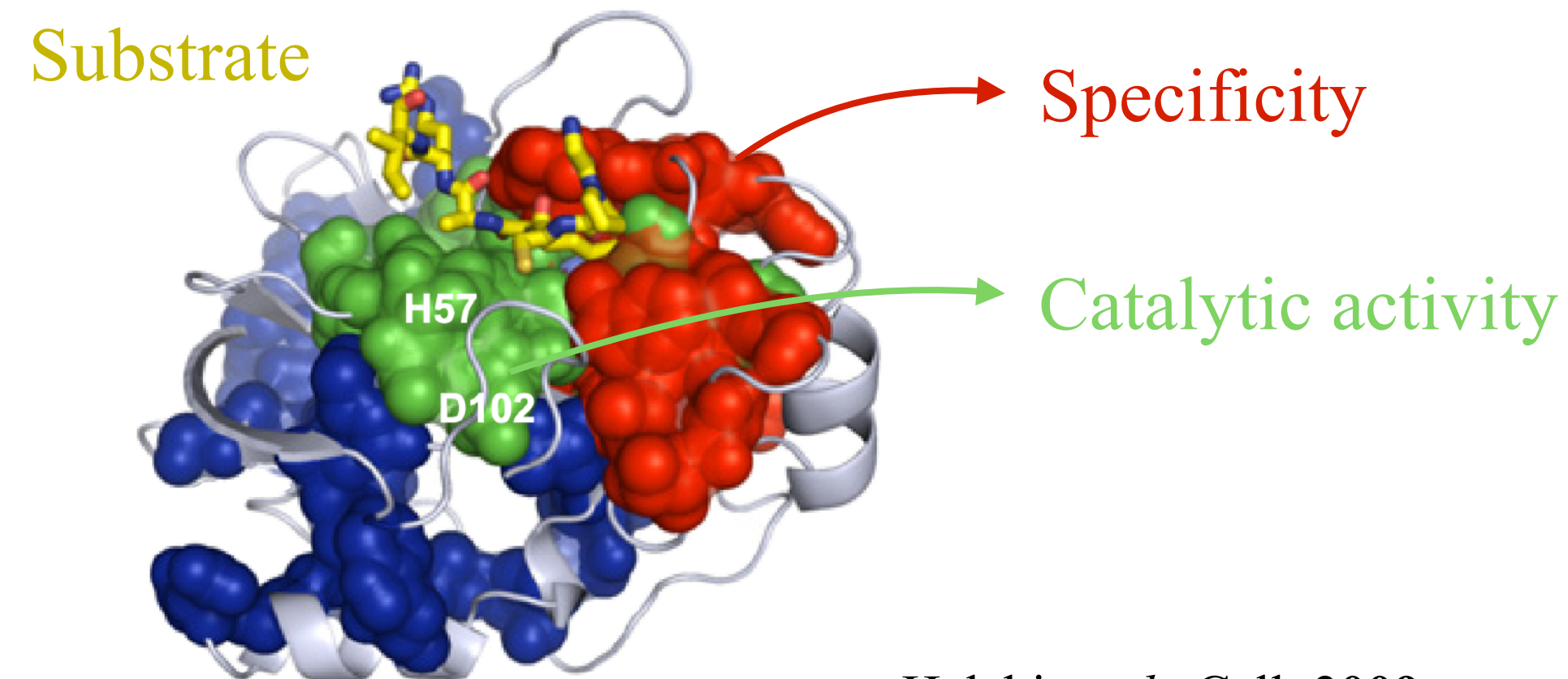
- ▶ From contacting pairs (ex: Direct Coupling Analysis)
- ▶ To coevolving groups (ex: Statistical Coupling Analysis)

Contact prediction



Morcos F *et al.*, PNAS, 2011

S1A sectors mapped onto rat trypsin structure



Halabi *et al.*, Cell, 2009

Statistical learning on a protein family

Enough data for advanced methods

- ▶ Massive expansion of available sequences in the last two decades
- ▶ Approaches grounded in statistical physics
- ▶ Deep learning methods

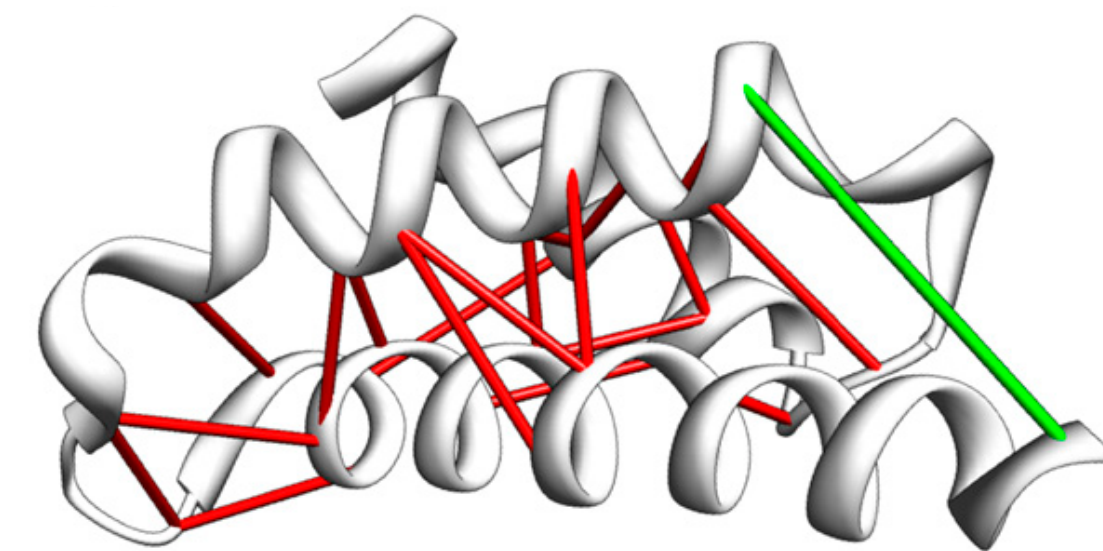
Different methods capture different interaction scales

- ▶ From contacting pairs (ex: Direct Coupling Analysis)
- ▶ To coevolving groups (ex: Statistical Coupling Analysis)

Statistical Coupling Analysis applied to S1A family

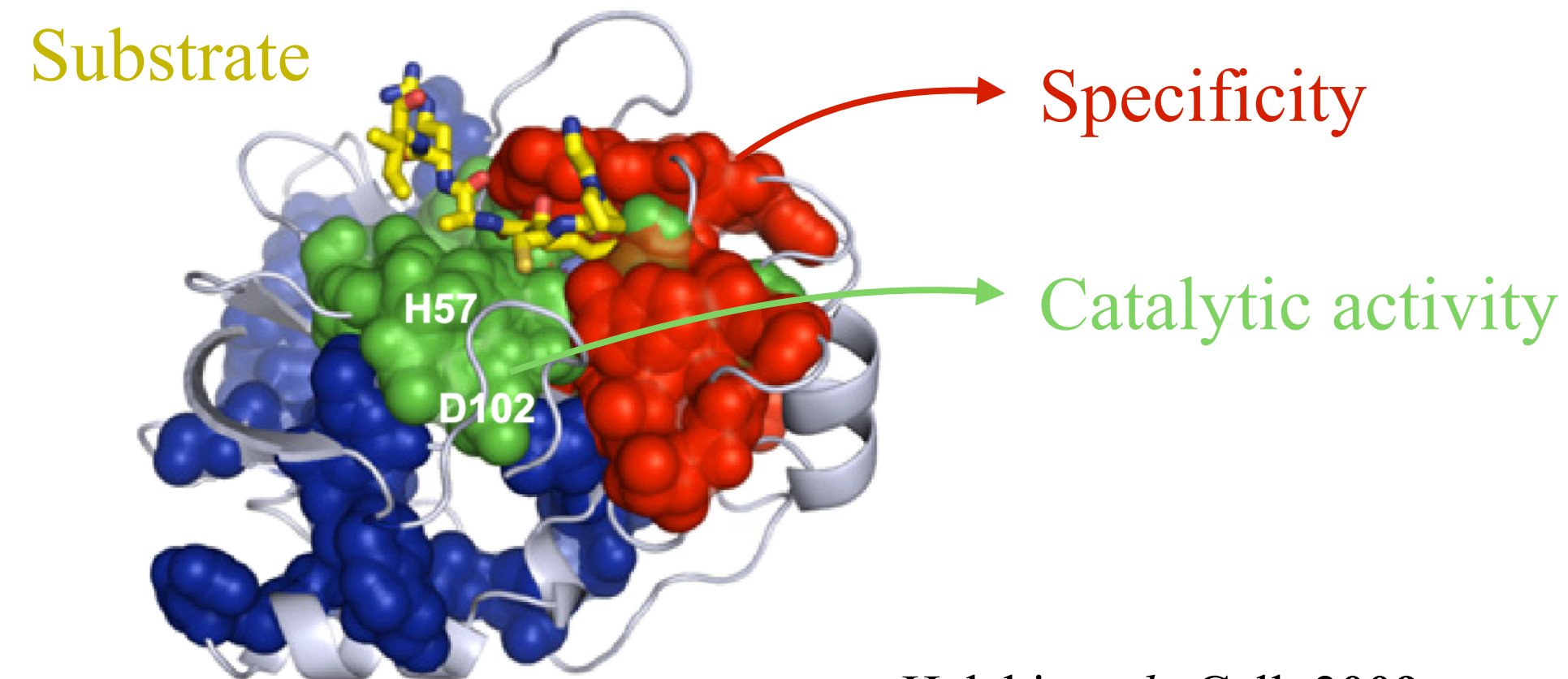
- ▶ 3 coevolving groups (sectors)
- ▶ Structurally connected
- ▶ Functionally independent (mutagenesis experiments)

Contact prediction



Morcos F *et al.*, PNAS, 2011

S1A sectors mapped onto rat trypsin structure

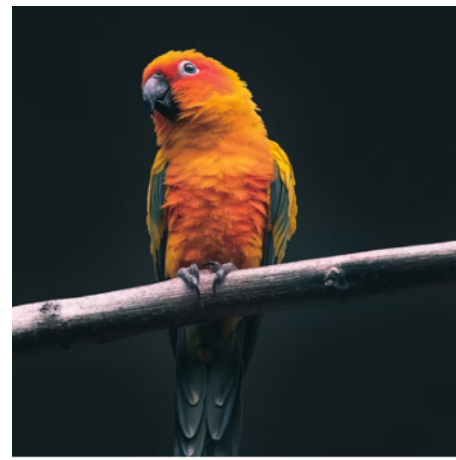


Halabi *et al.*, Cell, 2009

Generative models for protein sequences

6

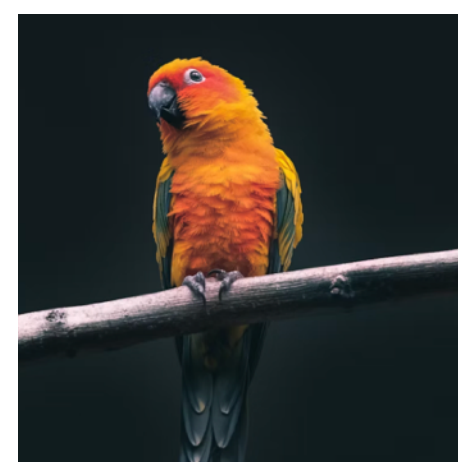
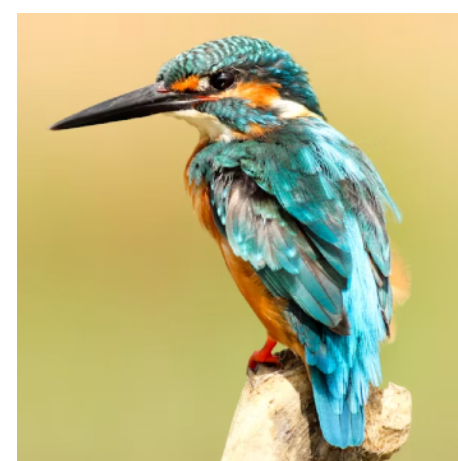
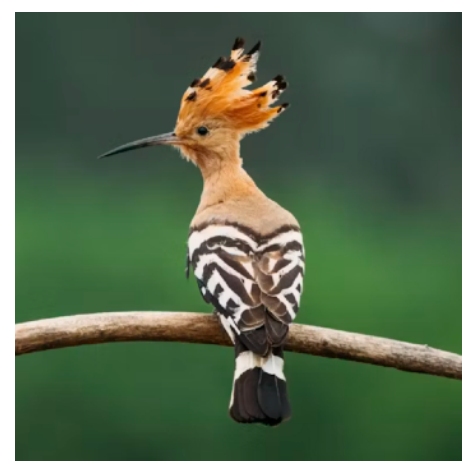
Training data



Generative models for protein sequences

6

Training data



Train

Generative
model

Generative models for protein sequences

Training data



Train
▶-----▶

Generative
model

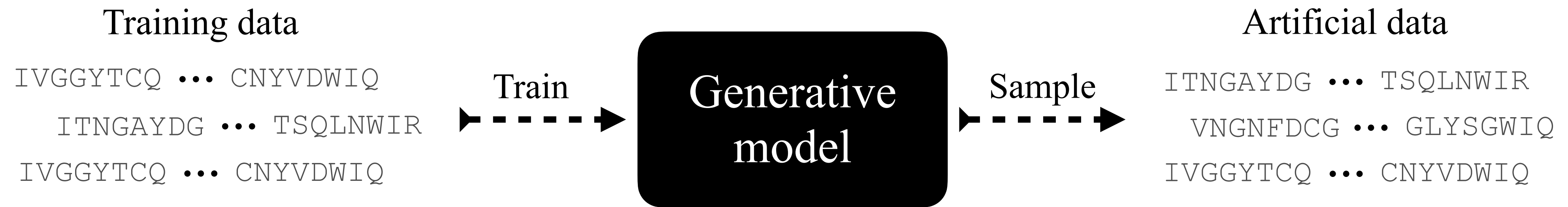
Sample
▶-----▶

Artificial data



Generative models for protein sequences

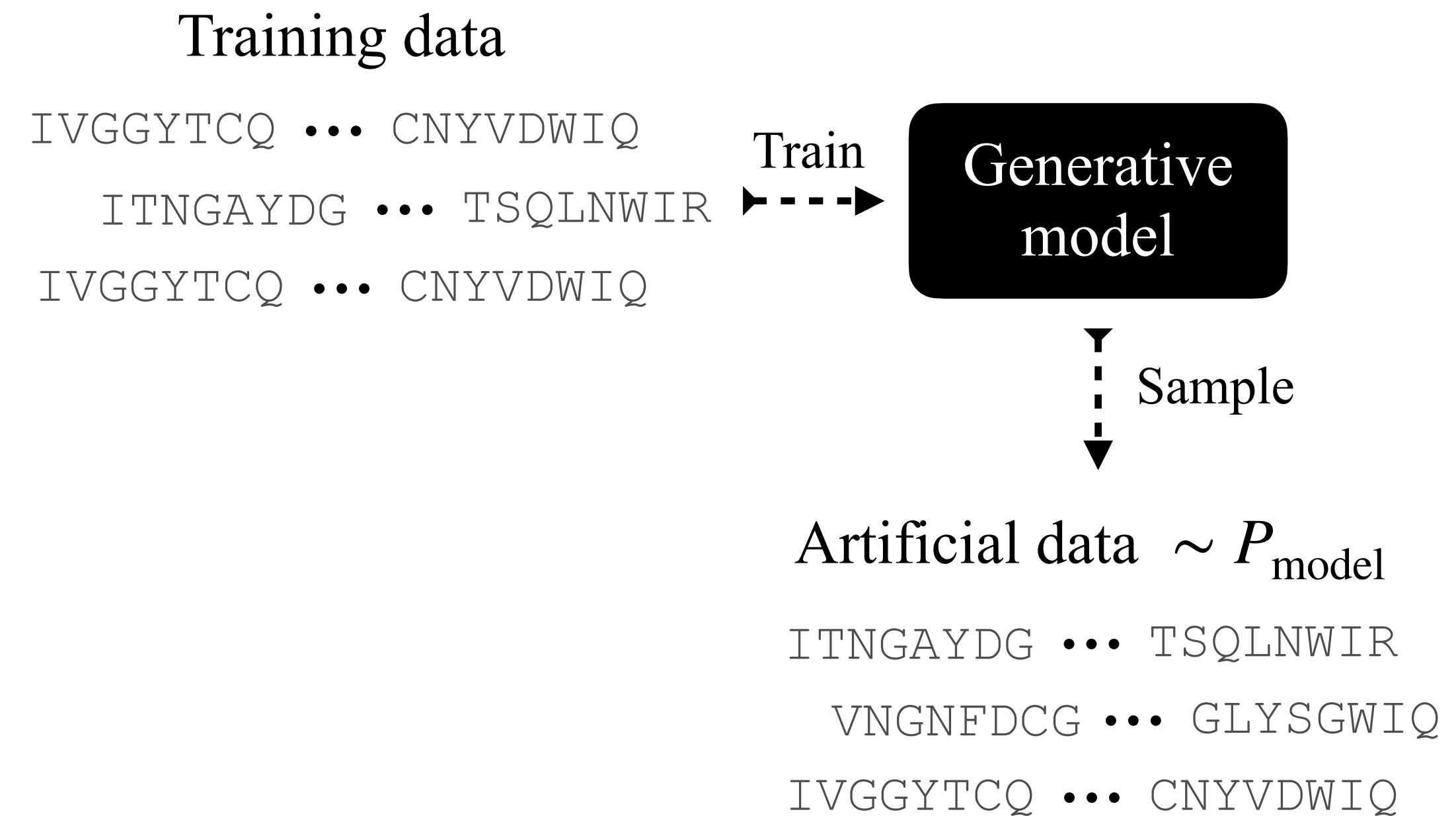
6



Generative models for protein sequences

Principle

- Probability distribution over protein sequences



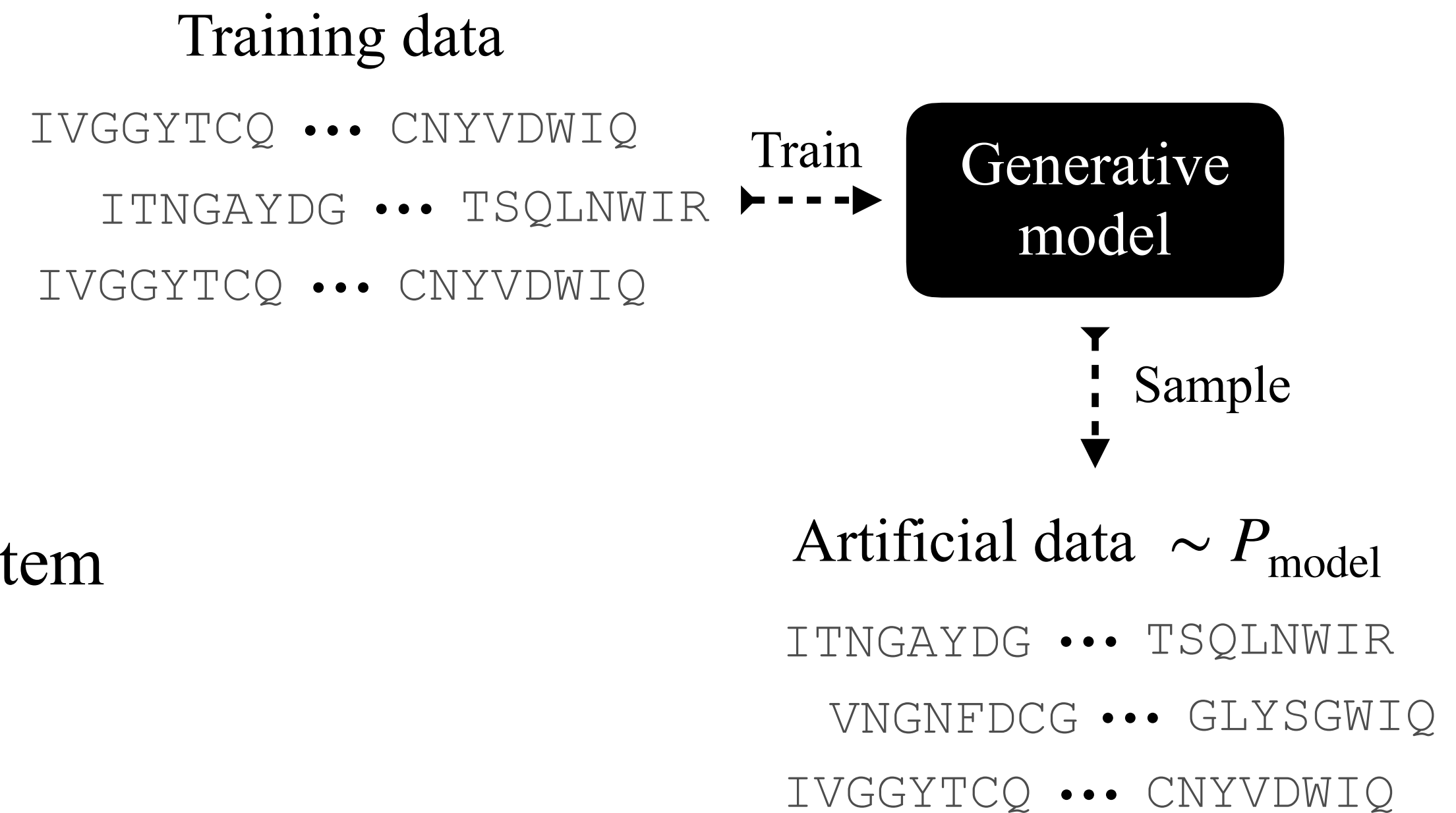
Generative models for protein sequences

Principle

- ▶ Probability distribution over protein sequences

For what?

- ▶ Design-oriented goal: make new proteins
- ▶ Framework for understanding: parametrization of the system



Hawkins-Hooker *et al.*, *PLoS CB*, **2021**

Repecka *et al.*, *Nature Machine Intelligence*, **2021**

Sgarbossa *et al.*, *Elife*, **2023**

Watson L *et al.*, *Nature*, **2023**

Generative models for protein sequences

Principle

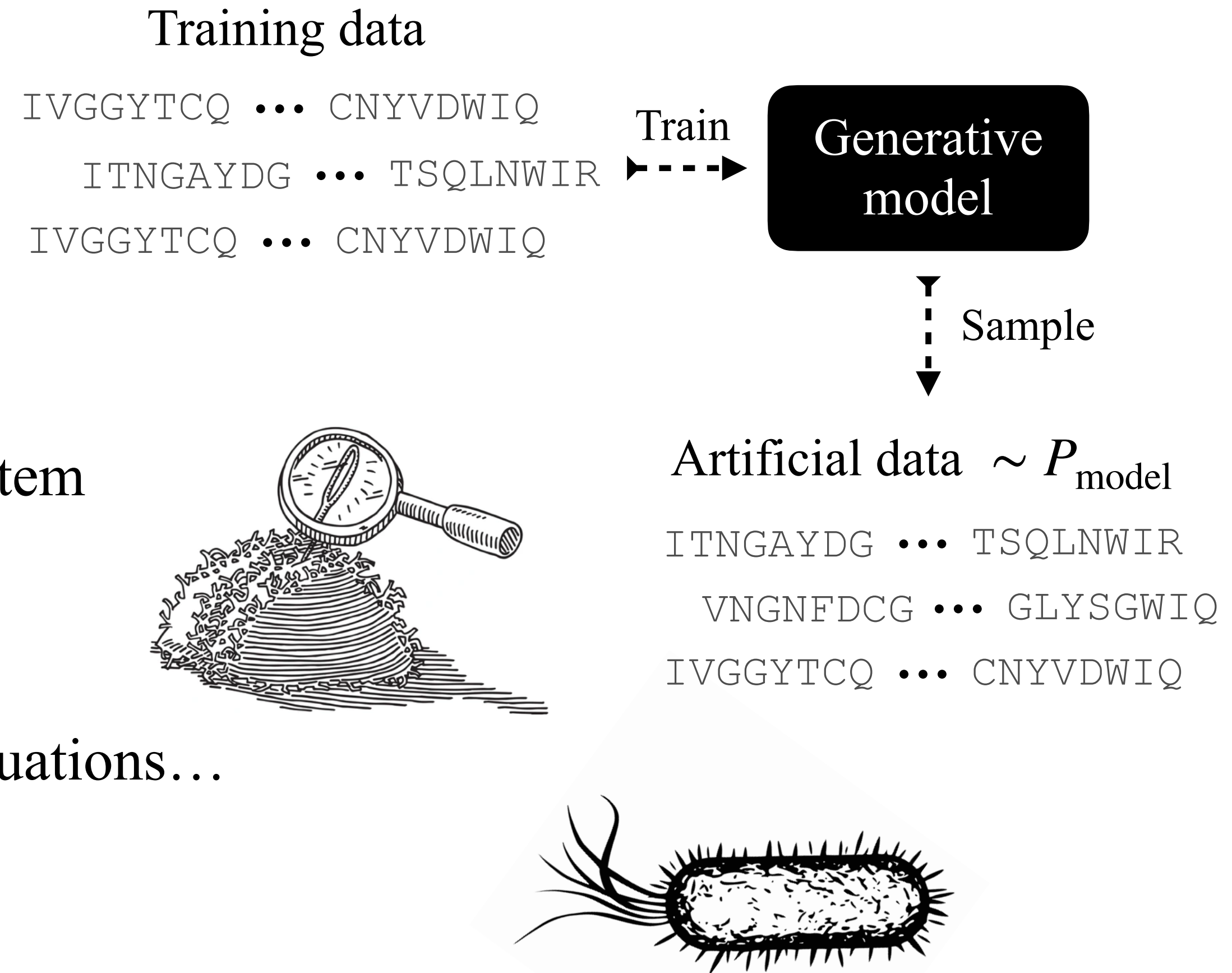
- ▶ Probability distribution over protein sequences

For what?

- ▶ Design-oriented goal: make new proteins
- ▶ Framework for understanding: parametrization of the system

Modeling a protein family

- ▶ High dimensional sequence space $\sim 10^{66} - 10^{650}$
- ▶ Model evaluation: wet-lab characterization, in silico evaluations...



Generative models for protein sequences

Principle

- ▶ Probability distribution over protein sequences

For what?

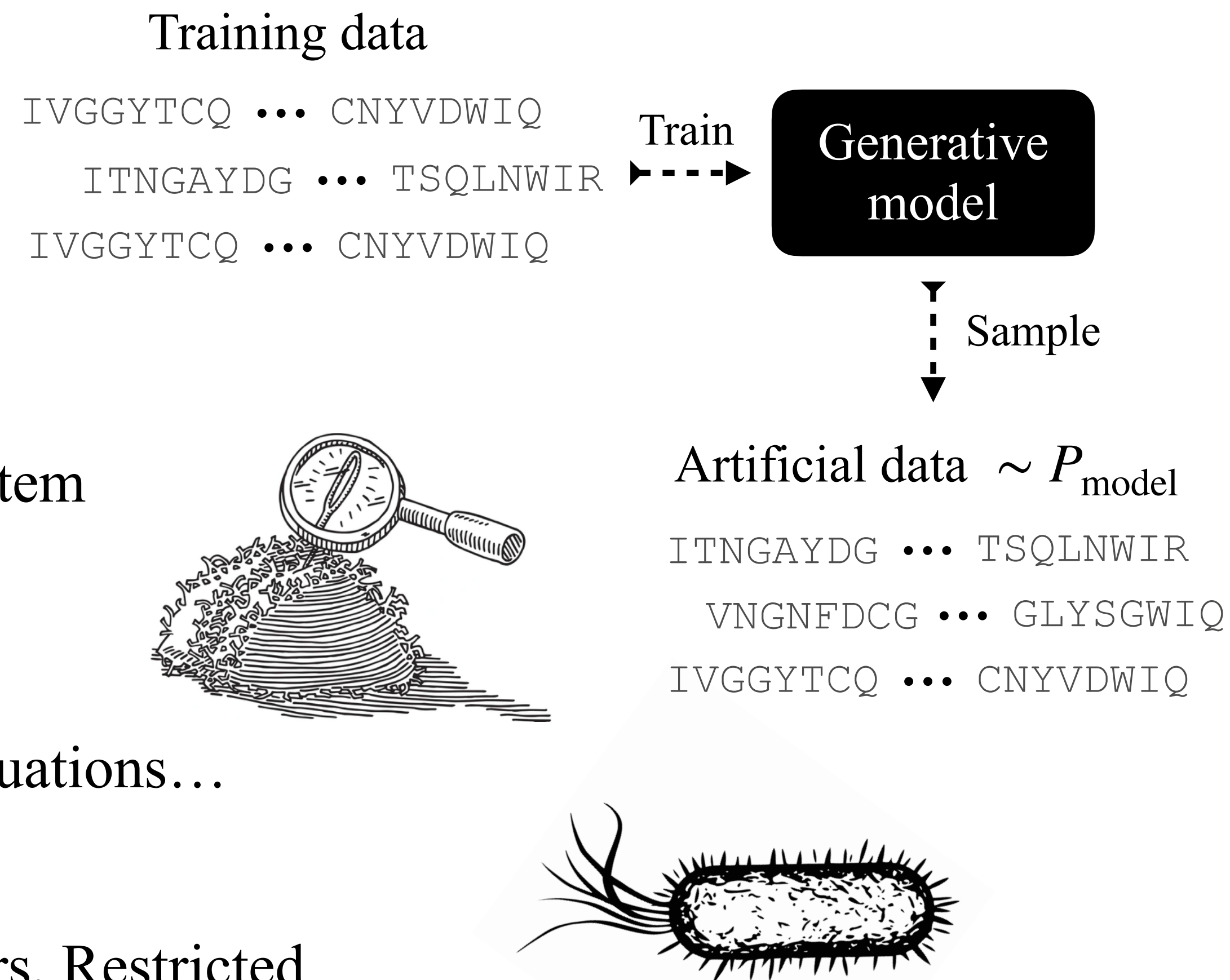
- ▶ Design-oriented goal: make new proteins
- ▶ Framework for understanding: parametrization of the system

Modeling a protein family

- ▶ High dimensional sequence space $\sim 10^{66} - 10^{650}$
- ▶ Model evaluation: wet-lab characterization, in silico evaluations...

Model

- ▶ Variational Autoencoders, Diffusion models, Transformers, Restricted Boltzmann Machine, **Boltzmann Machine**...



Generative models for protein sequences

Principle

- ▶ Probability distribution over protein sequences

For what?

- ▶ Design-oriented goal: make new proteins
- ▶ Framework for understanding: parametrization of the system

Modeling a protein family

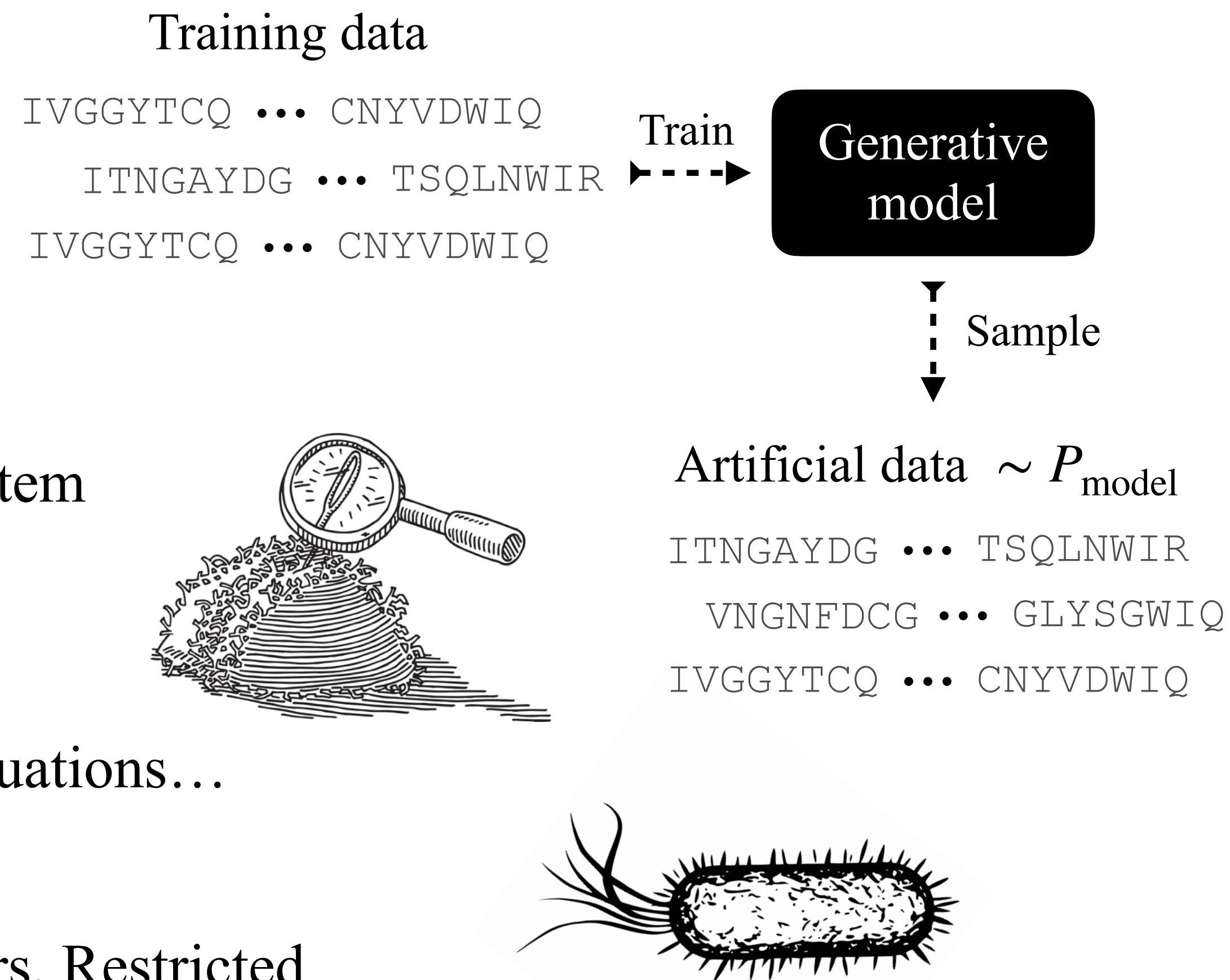
- ▶ High dimensional sequence space $\sim 10^{66} - 10^{650}$
- ▶ Model evaluation: wet-lab characterization, in silico evaluations...

Model

- ▶ Variational Autoencoders, Diffusion models, Transformers, Restricted Boltzmann Machine, **Boltzmann Machine**...

Boltzmann Machine

- ▶ Interpretability
- ▶ Mapping with other models
- ▶ Generative capacity experimentally tested (Russ *et al.* 2020)



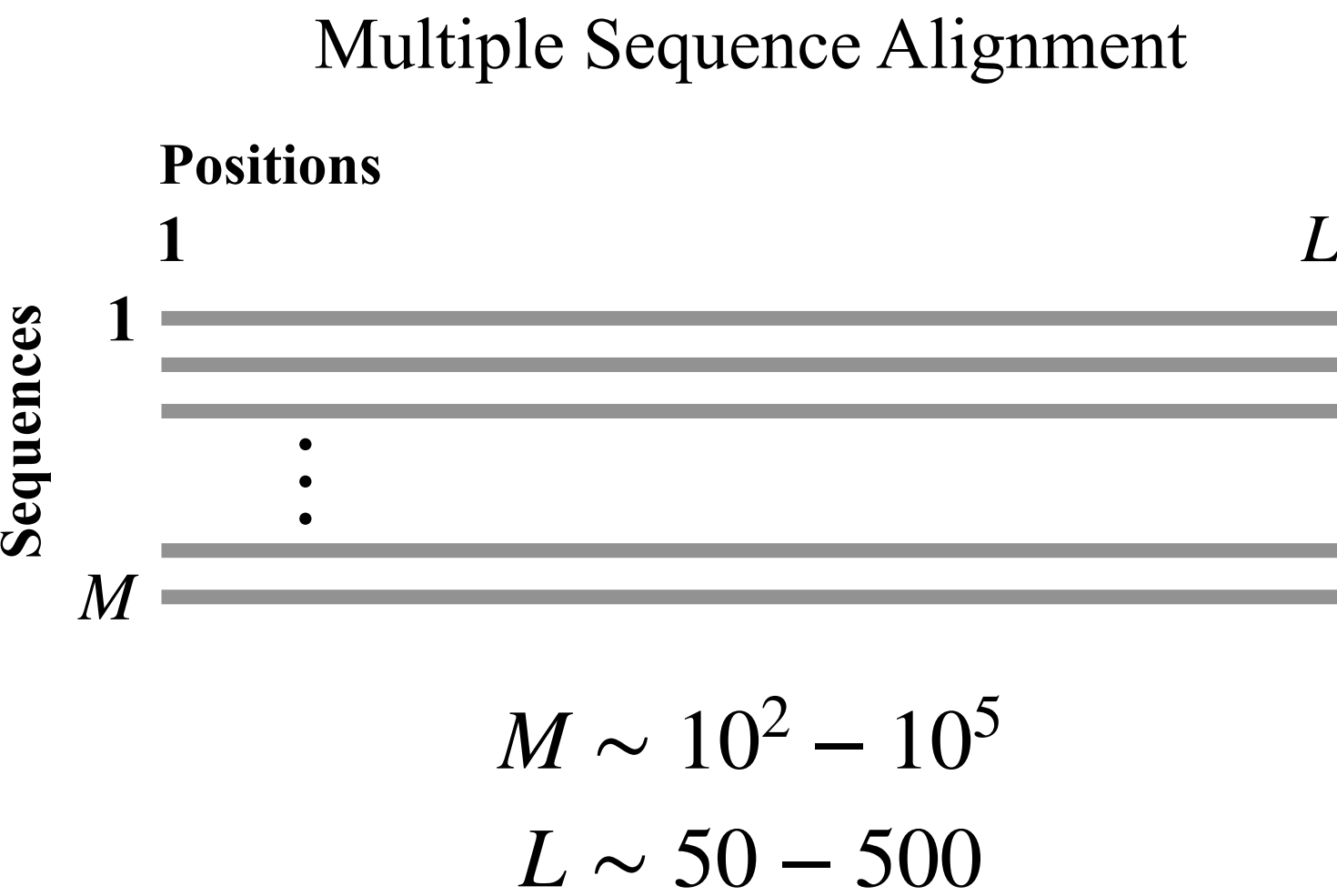
Hawkins-Hooker *et al.*, *PLoS CB*, 2021
 Repecka *et al.*, *Nature Machine Intelligence*, 2021
 Sgarbossa *et al.*, *Elife*, 2023
 Watson L *et al.*, *Nature*, 2023

Modeling a protein family with a Boltzmann Machine

Modeling a protein family with a Boltzmann Machine (BM)

Principle

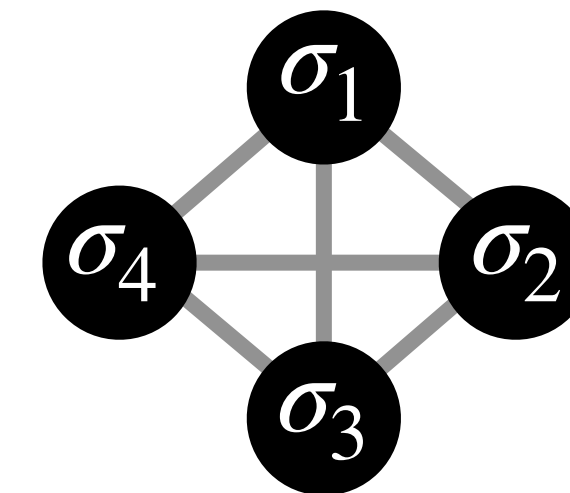
- Modeling of a protein family



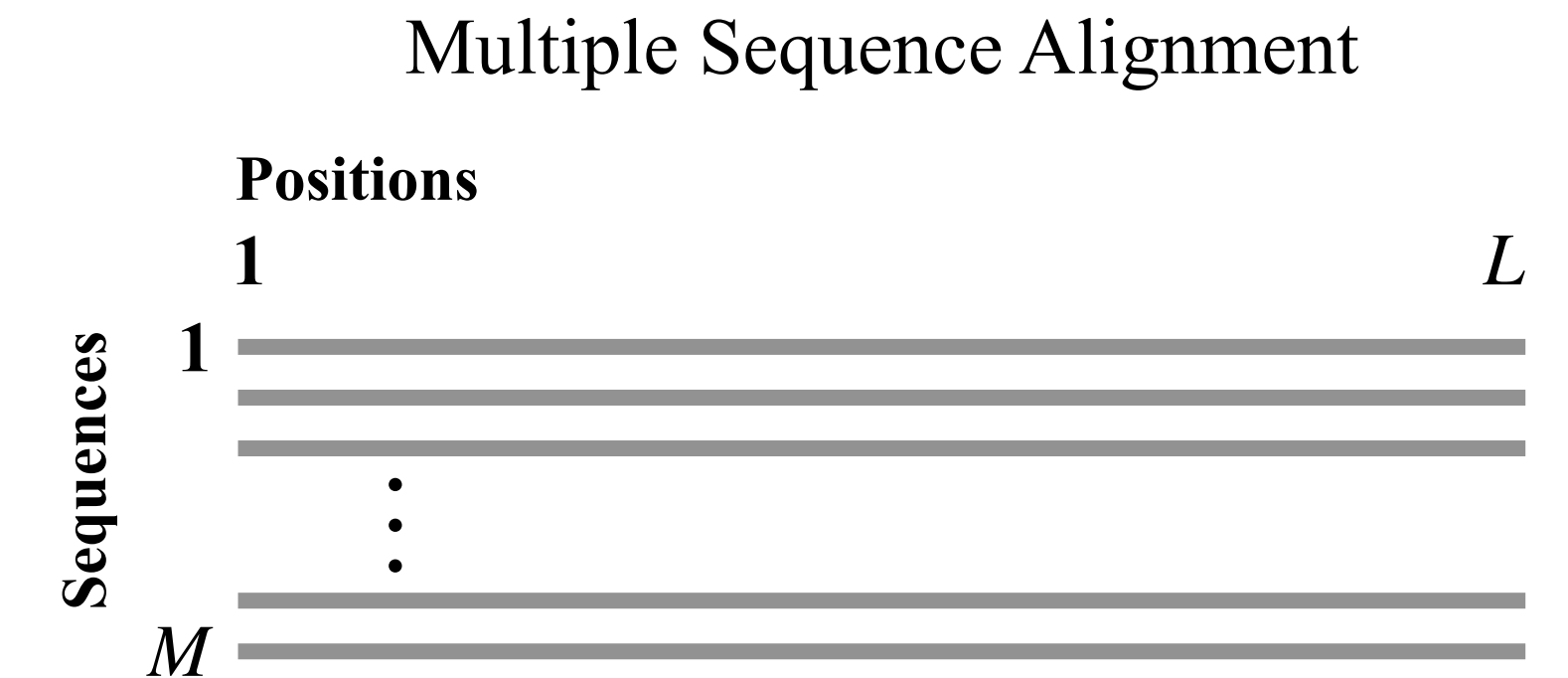
Modeling a protein family with a Boltzmann Machine (BM)

Principle

- ▶ Modeling of a protein family
- ▶ Graphical model: fully connected graph



$$P(\{\sigma_i\}_{i=1,\dots,L})$$



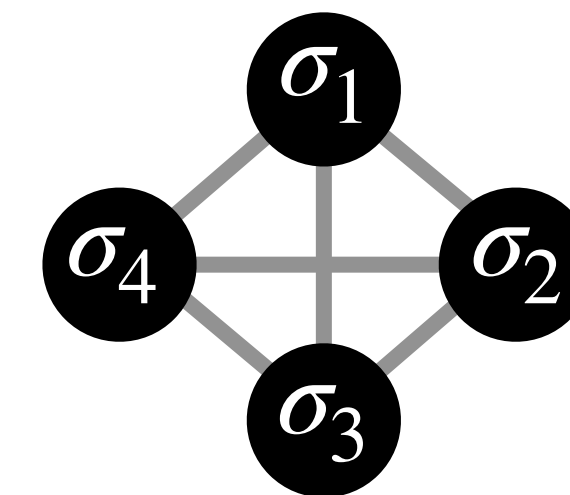
$$M \sim 10^2 - 10^5$$

$$L \sim 50 - 500$$

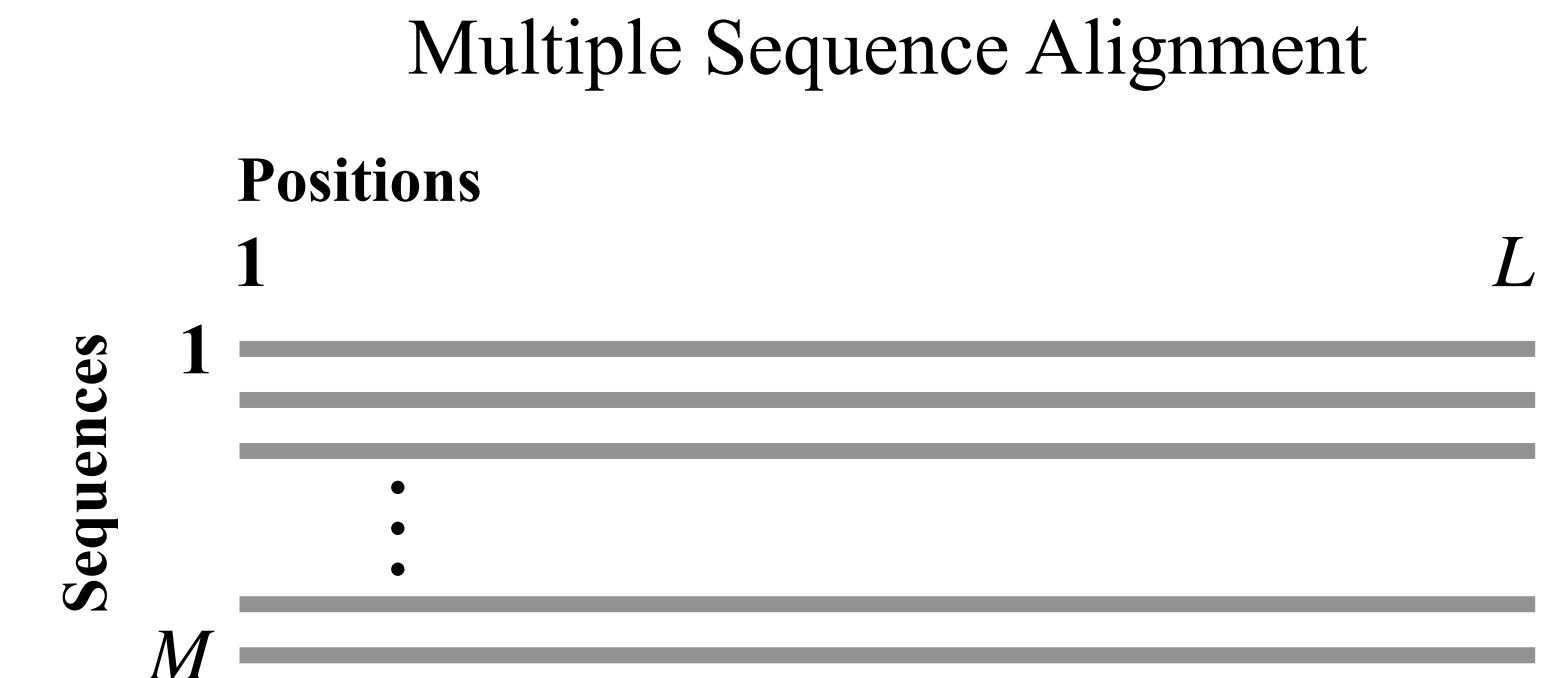
Modeling a protein family with a Boltzmann Machine (BM)

Principle

- ▶ Modeling of a protein family
- ▶ Graphical model: fully connected graph
- ▶ Potts model



$$P(\{\sigma_i\}_{i=1,\dots,L})$$

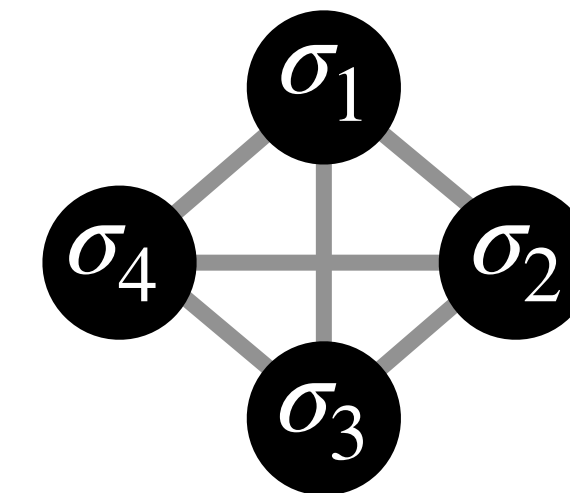


$$P(\{\sigma_i\}_{i=1,\dots,L}) = \frac{e^{\sum_{i=1}^L h_i(\sigma_i) + \sum_{i<j} J_{ij}(\sigma_i, \sigma_j)}}{Z}$$

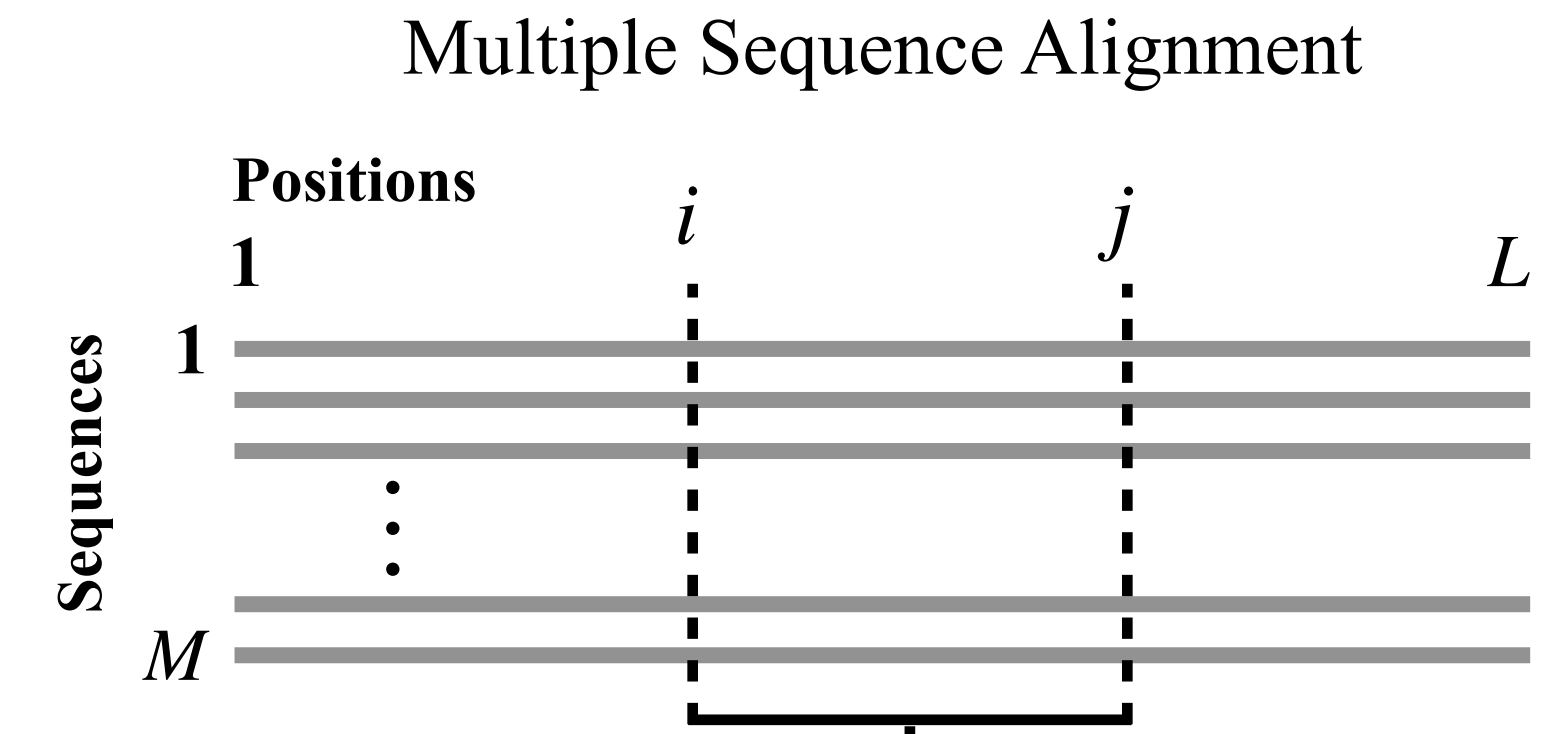
Modeling a protein family with a Boltzmann Machine (BM)

Principle

- ▶ Modeling of a protein family
- ▶ Graphical model: fully connected graph
- ▶ Potts model
- ▶ Trained to capture frequencies and pairwise frequencies (Maximum entropy approach)



$$P(\{\sigma_i\}_{i=1,\dots,L})$$



$f_i(a)$, $f_{ij}(a, b)$

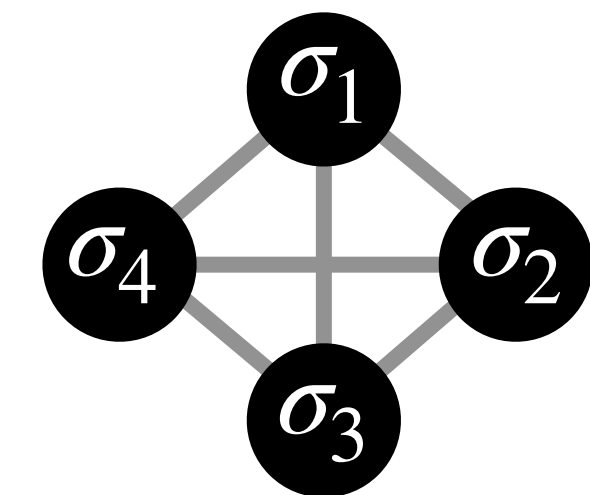
Fields Couplings

$$P(\{\sigma_i\}_{i=1,\dots,L}) = \frac{e^{\sum_{i=1}^L h_i(\sigma_i) + \sum_{i<j} J_{ij}(\sigma_i, \sigma_j)}}{Z}$$

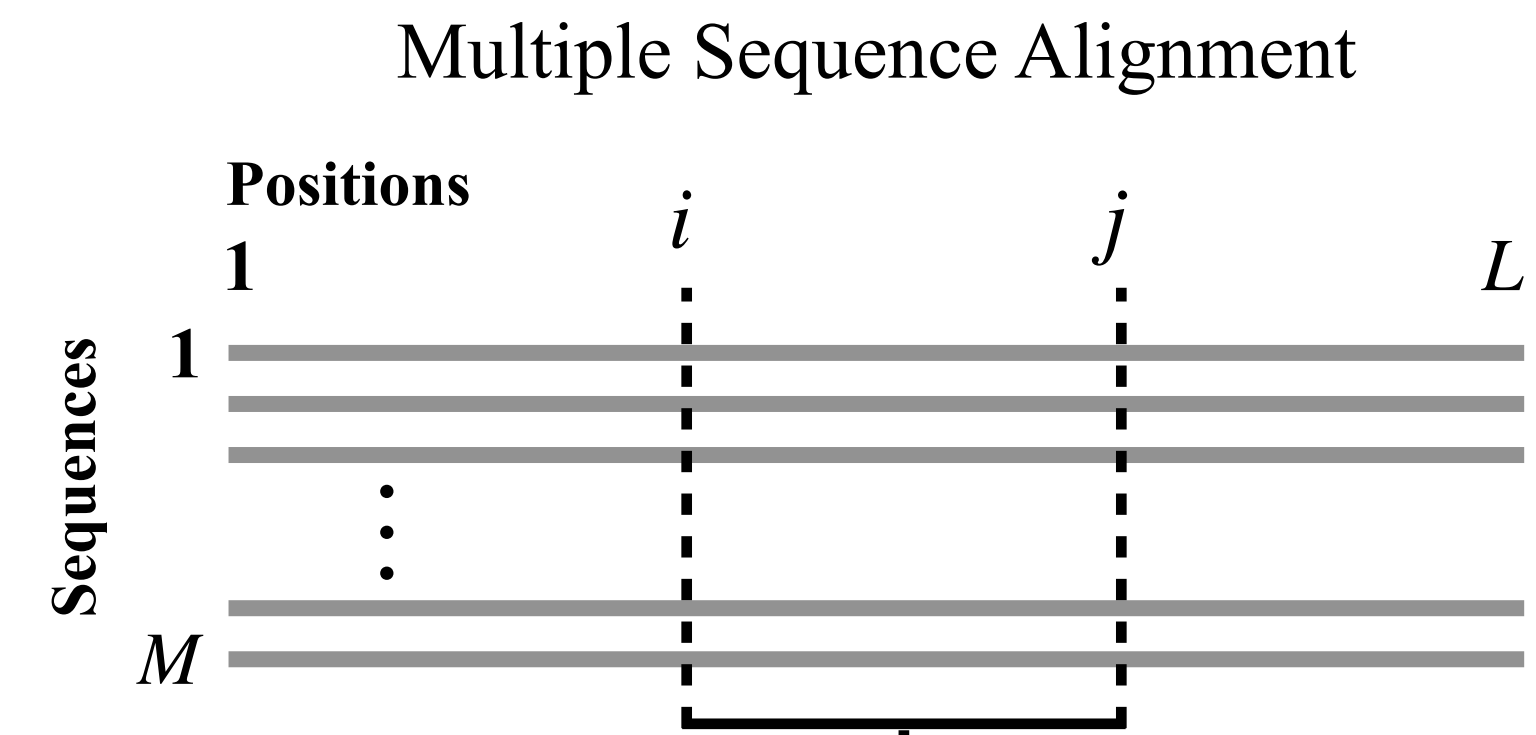
Modeling a protein family with a Boltzmann Machine (BM)

Principle

- ▶ Modeling of a protein family
- ▶ Graphical model: fully connected graph
- ▶ Potts model
- ▶ Trained to capture frequencies and pairwise frequencies (Maximum entropy approach)



$$P(\{\sigma_i\}_{i=1,\dots,L})$$



$$f_i(a), f_{ij}(a, b)$$

Fields

Couplings

$$P(\{\sigma_i\}_{i=1,\dots,L}) = \frac{e^{\sum_{i=1}^L h_i(\sigma_i) + \sum_{i<j} J_{ij}(\sigma_i, \sigma_j)}}{Z}$$

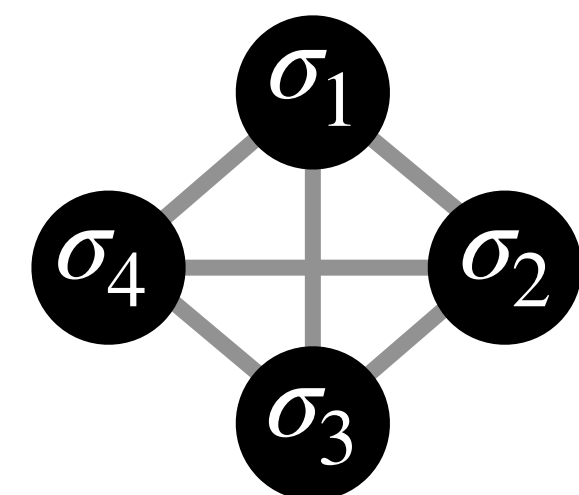
Inference

- ▶ Parameters that maximize the probability of natural sequences (MLE)
- ▶ Other methods: Mean field, Pseudo-likelihood maximization, Autoregressive model...

Modeling a protein family with a Boltzmann Machine (BM)

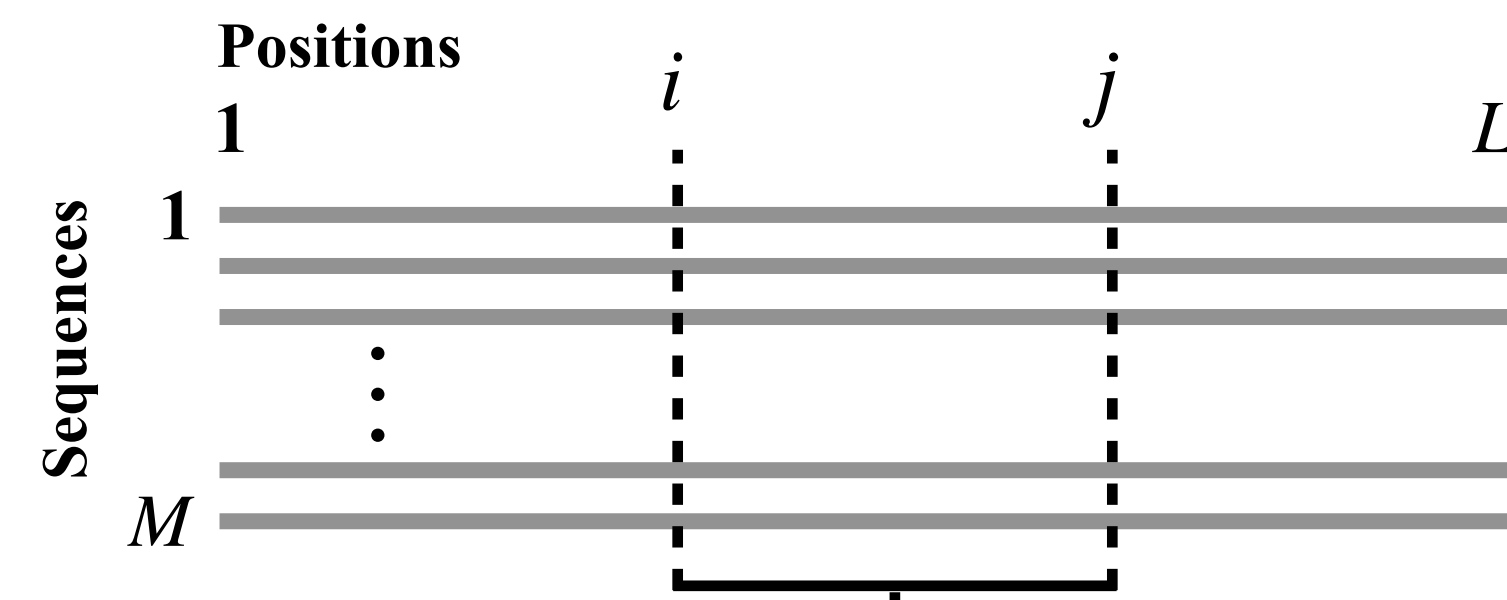
Principle

- ▶ Modeling of a protein family
- ▶ Graphical model: fully connected graph
- ▶ Potts model
- ▶ Trained to capture frequencies and pairwise frequencies (Maximum entropy approach)



$$P(\{\sigma_i\}_{i=1,\dots,L})$$

Multiple Sequence Alignment



$$f_i(a), f_{ij}(a, b)$$

Fields

Couplings

$$P(\{\sigma_i\}_{i=1,\dots,L}) = \frac{e^{\sum_{i=1}^L h_i(\sigma_i) + \sum_{i < j} J_{ij}(\sigma_i, \sigma_j)}}{Z}$$

Inference

- ▶ Parameters that maximize the probability of natural sequences (MLE)
- ▶ Other methods: Mean field, Pseudo-likelihood maximization, Autoregressive model...

Results

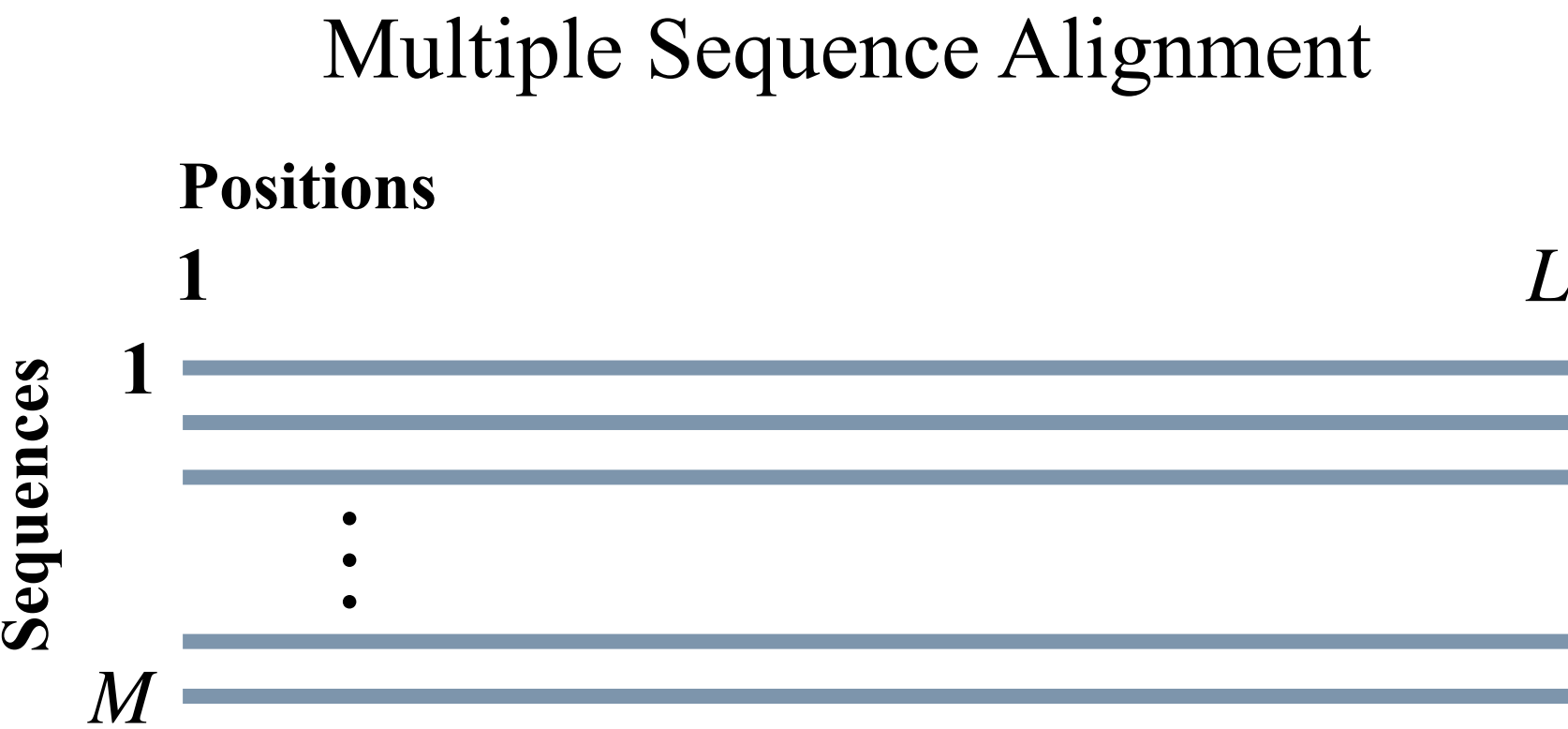
- ▶ Predict structural contacts
- ▶ Predict mutational effect
- ▶ **Generative with low-temperature sampling** (Russ et al., 2020)

$$P(\{\sigma_i\}_{i=1,\dots,L}) \sim e^{-\frac{E(h,J)}{T}} \text{ with } T < 1$$

The undersampling problem

Problem

- ▶ # parameters $\sim 10^5 - 10^7 \gg$ # sequences $\sim 10^2 - 10^5$
- ▶ Extreme statistics from undersampling $\rightarrow$ infinite parameters



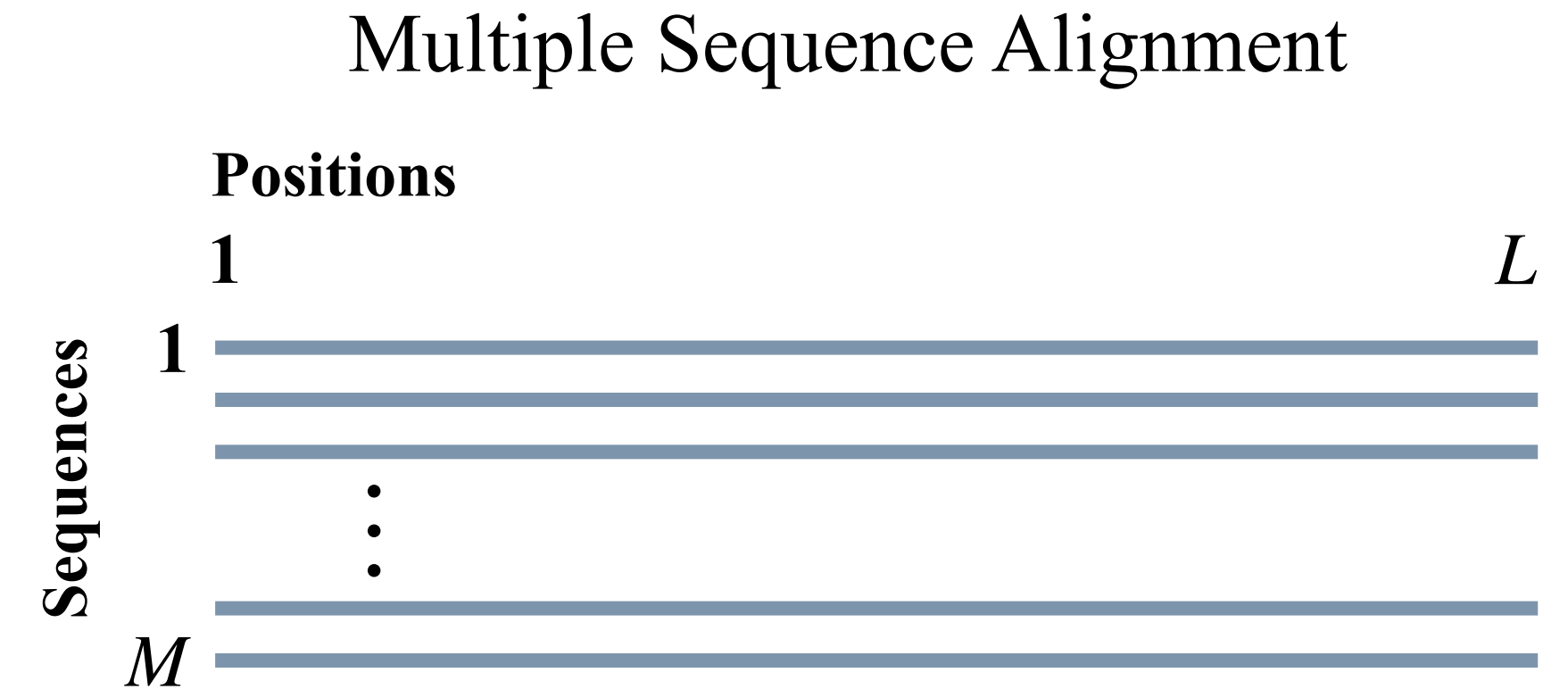
The undersampling problem

Problem

- ▶ # parameters $\sim 10^5 - 10^7 \gg$ # sequences $\sim 10^2 - 10^5$
- ▶ Extreme statistics from undersampling $\rightarrow$ infinite parameters

Regularization methods

- ▶ Remove parameters (Pruning, Alphabet reduction...)
- ▶ Modify statistics (pseudo-counts)
- ▶ Constrain parameters during optimization (L_p norm...)



The undersampling problem

Problem

- ▶ # parameters $\sim 10^5 - 10^7 \gg$ # sequences $\sim 10^2 - 10^5$
- ▶ Extreme statistics from undersampling $\rightarrow$ infinite parameters

Regularization methods

- ▶ Remove parameters (Pruning, Alphabet reduction...)
- ▶ Modify statistics (pseudo-counts)
- ▶ Constrain parameters during optimization (L_p norm...)

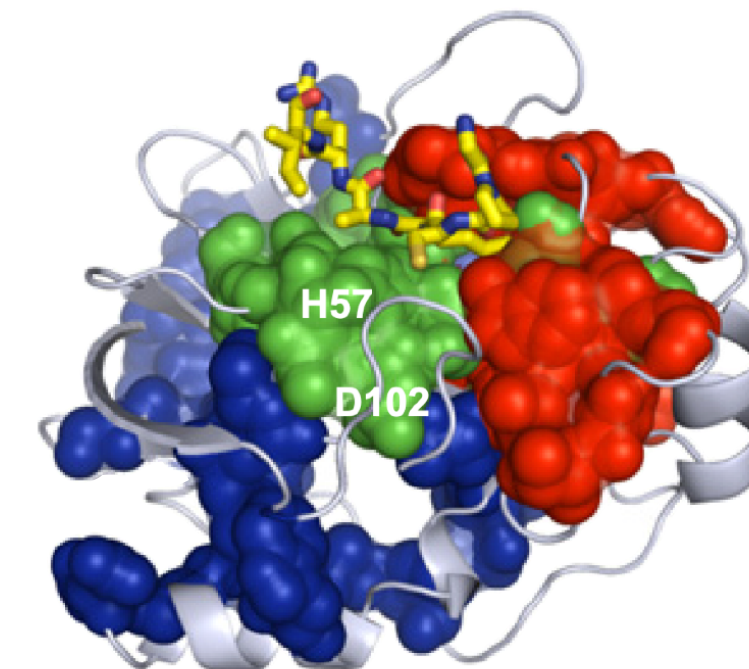
Importance of data's statistical structure

- ▶ Real data often have rich statistical structure
- ▶ Proteins: Correlated units of different sizes, magnitude...
- ▶ Uneven impact of undersampling on different statistical signatures (Kleeorin *et al.* 2023)

Multiple Sequence Alignment



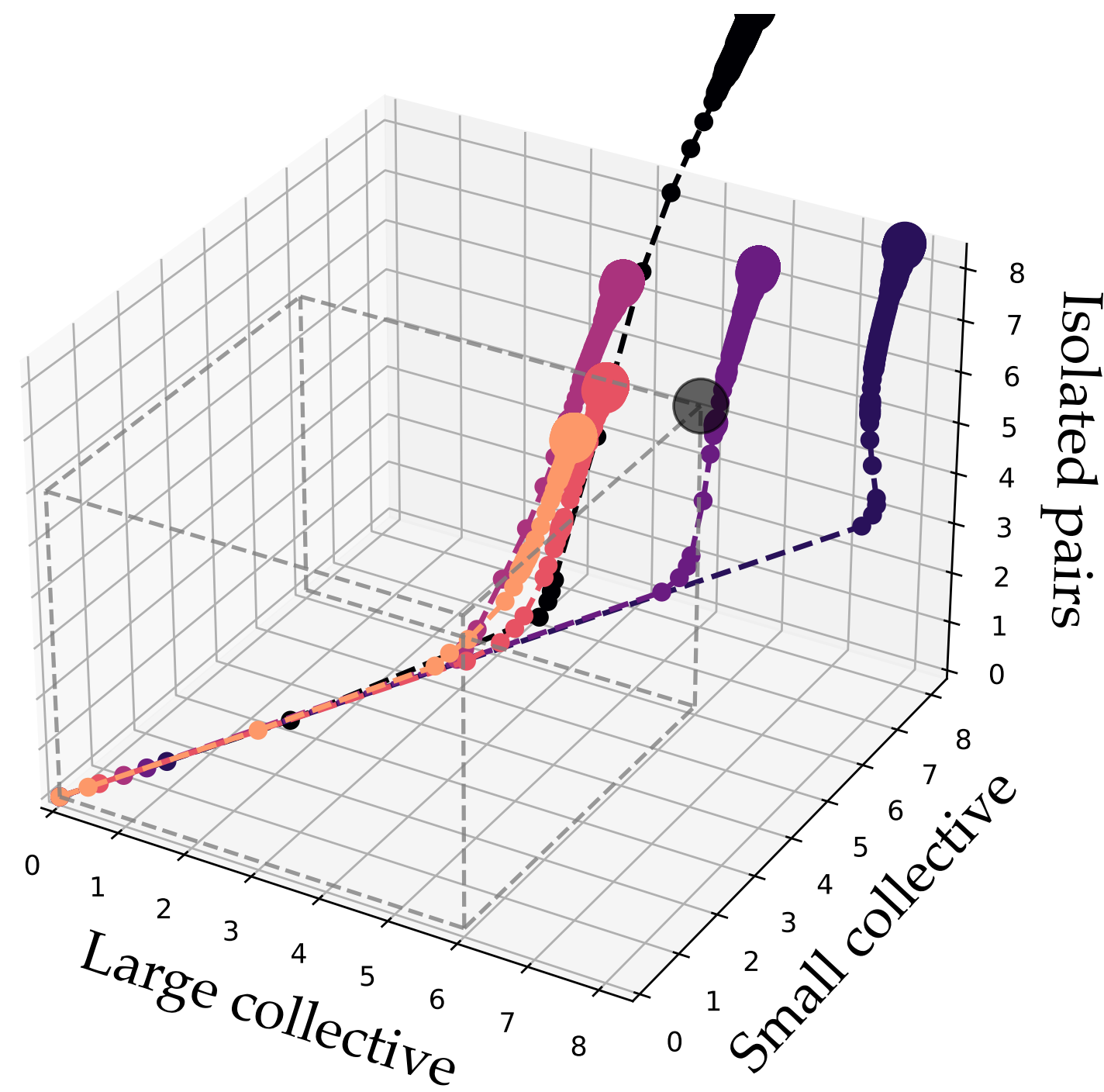
Morcos *et al.*, PNAS, 2011



Halabi *et al.*, Cell, 2009

The undersampling problem

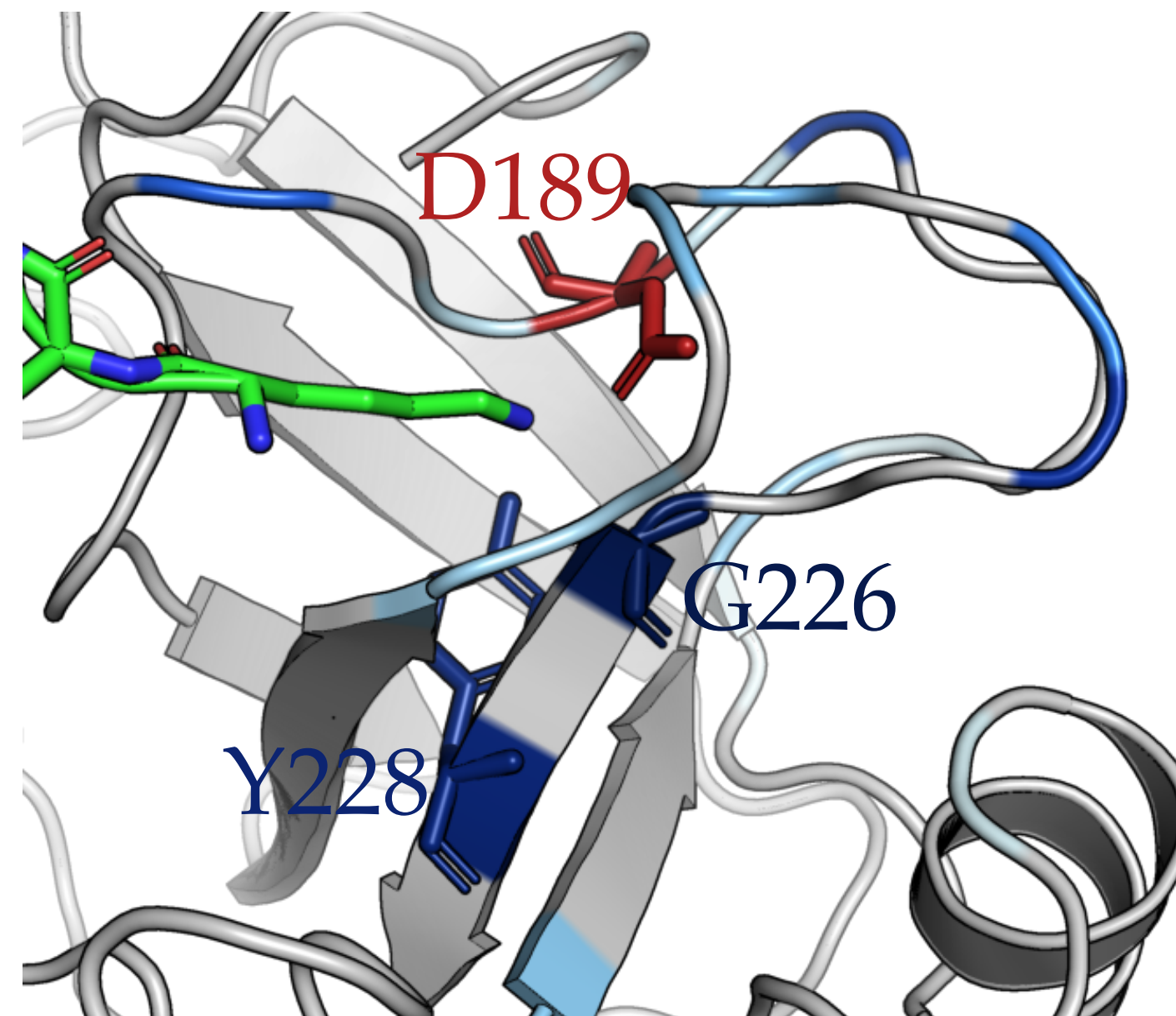
Overcoming undersampling
induced biases



In collaboration with Emily Hinds, Yaakov Kleeorin, Rama Ranganathan (University of Chicago, USA)

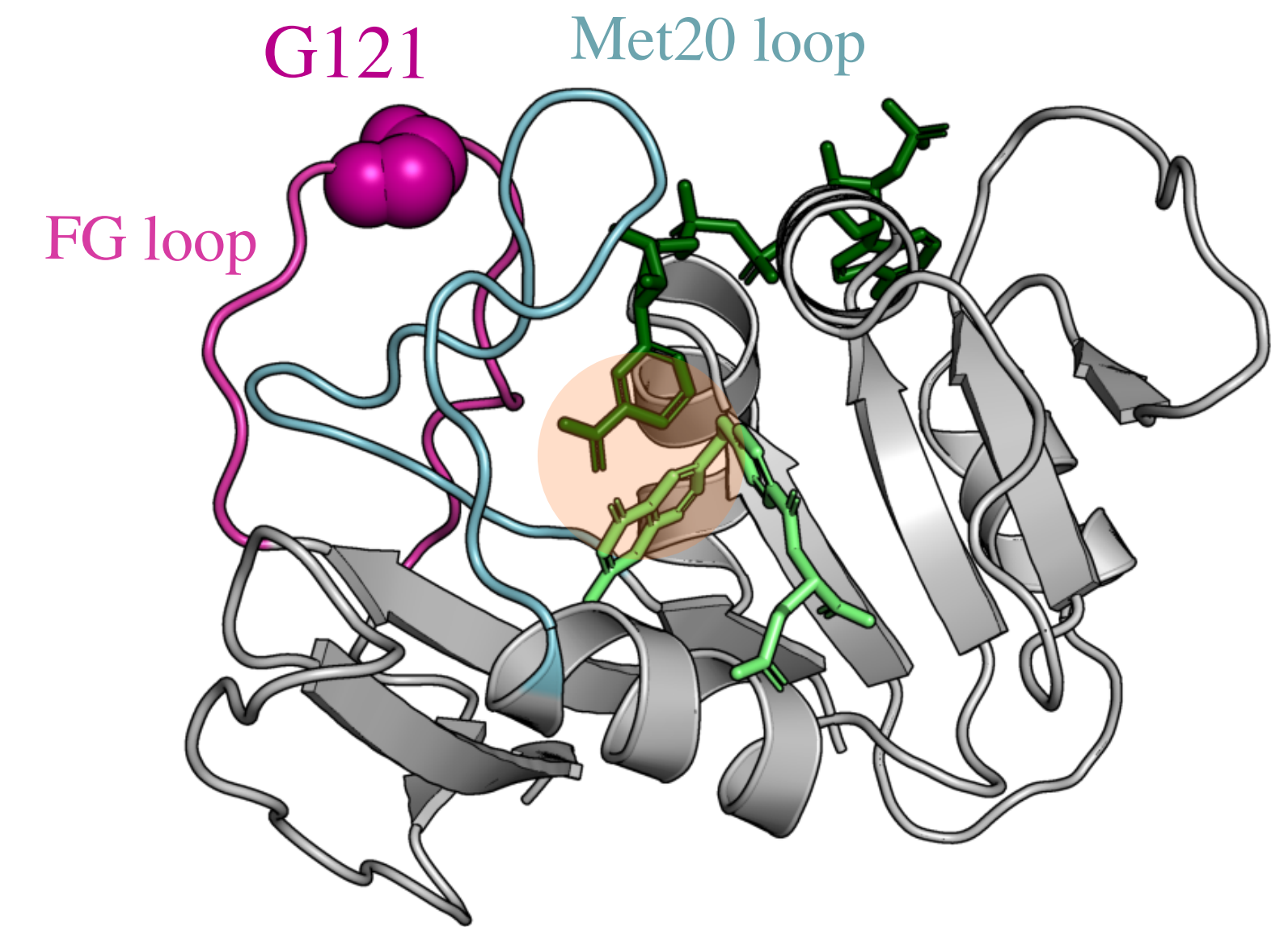
Investigate protein properties with statistical learning

Specificity mechanism in S1A
family



In collaboration with Amaury Pavéyranne, Timothé Lucas, Shoichi Yip, Clément Nizak (LJP, Sorbonne University, France)

Allosteric network of
E. Coli DHFR



In collaboration with Paul Guenon, Damien Laage, Guillaume Stirnemann (ENS, France), Clément Nizak (LJP, France), Karolina Filipowska, Kim Reynolds (University of Texas, USA)

The Undersampling problem

*In collaboration with Emily Hinds, Yaakov Kleeorin,
Rama Ranganathan (University of Chicago, USA)*

I. Undersampling-induced biases (Kleeorin *et al.*, Cell system, 2023)

II. Generative Capacity of the Boltzmann Machine (Russ *et al.*, Science, 2020)

III. New inference method: Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

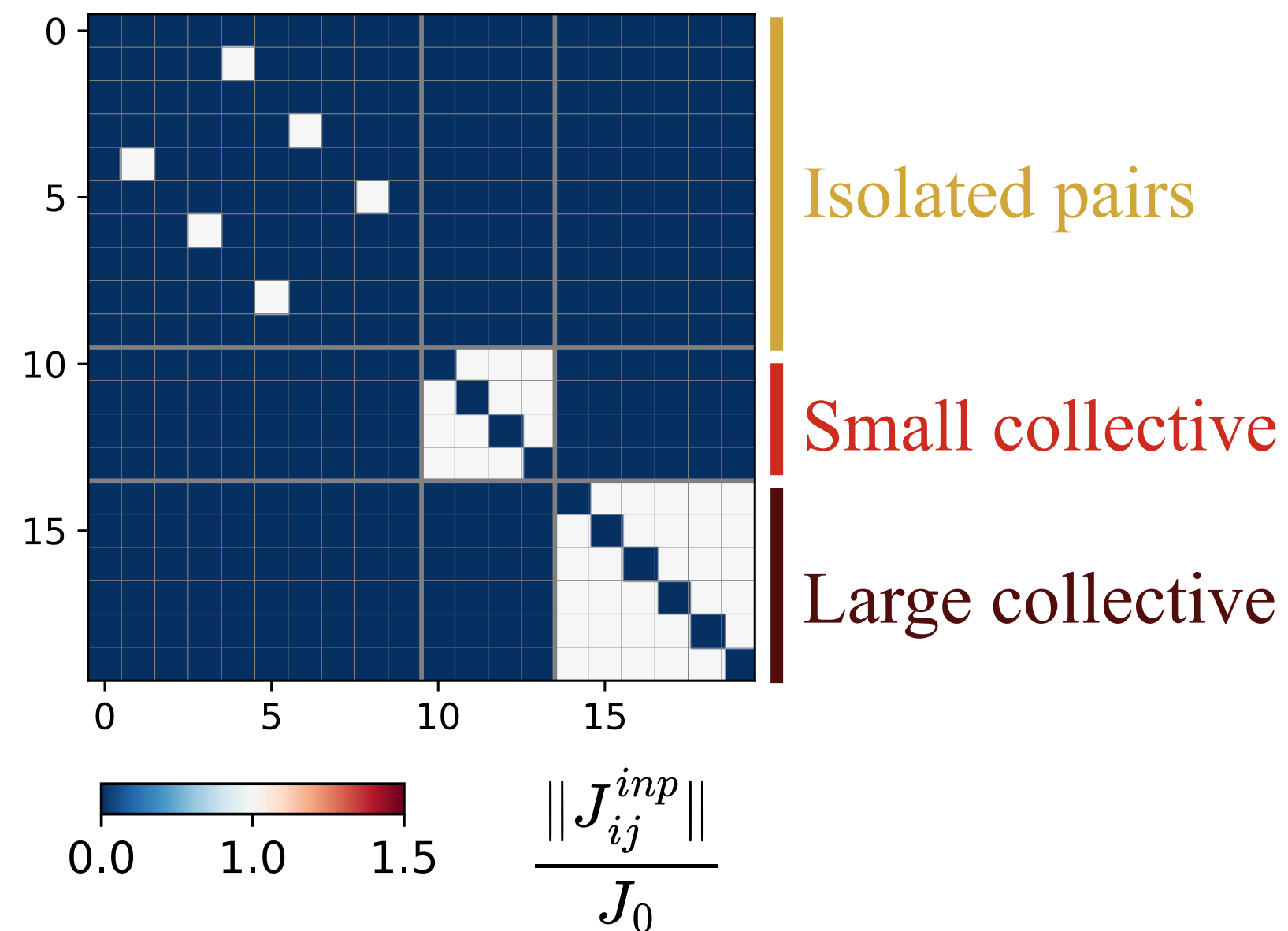
I. Undersampling-induced biases (Kleeorin *et al.* 2023)

Assess model performance with a toy model

Toy model features

- ▶ Boltzmann Machine model
- ▶ Correlated units of different sizes

$$P(\{\sigma_i\}_{i=1,\dots,L}) = \frac{e^{\sum_{i=1}^L h_i(\sigma_i) + \sum_{i<j} J_{ij}(\sigma_i, \sigma_j)}}{Z}$$



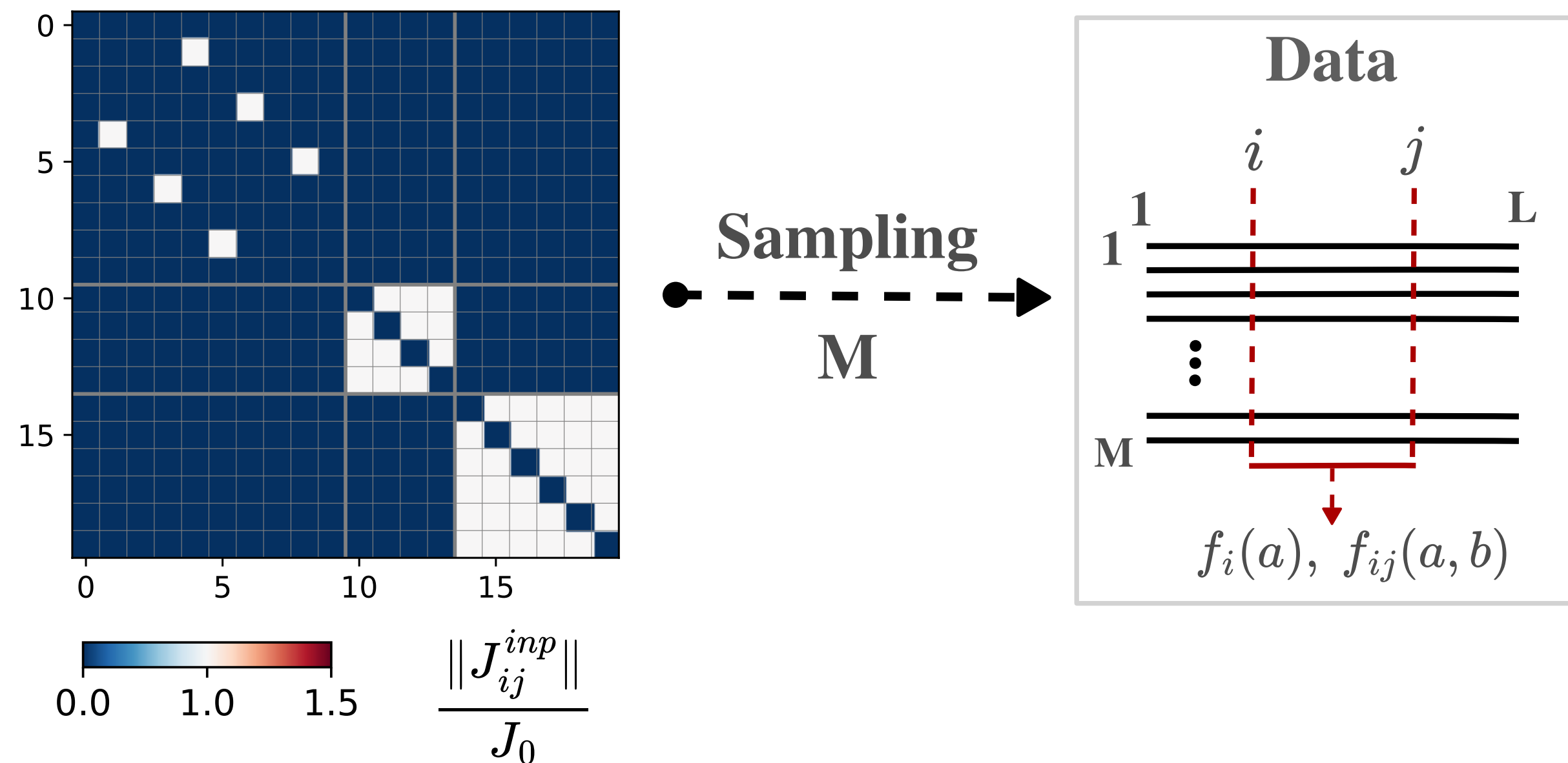
I. Undersampling-induced biases (Kleeorin *et al.* 2023)

Assess model performance with a toy model

Toy model features

- ▶ Boltzmann Machine model
- ▶ Correlated units of different sizes

$$P(\{\sigma_i\}_{i=1,\dots,L}) = \frac{e^{\sum_{i=1}^L h_i(\sigma_i) + \sum_{i<j} J_{ij}(\sigma_i, \sigma_j)}}{Z}$$



I. Undersampling-induced biases (Kleeorin *et al.* 2023)

Assess model performance with a toy model

Toy model features

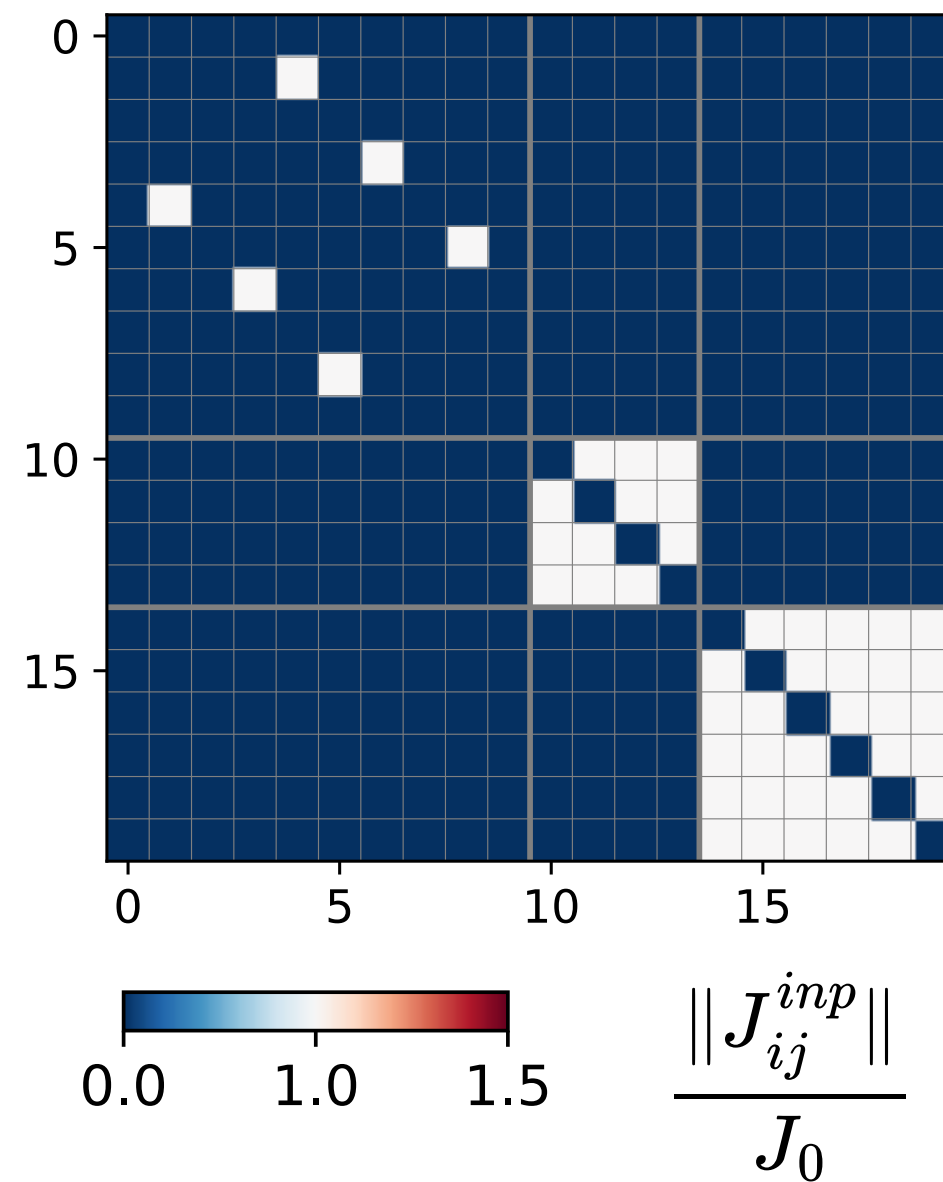
- ▶ Boltzmann Machine model
- ▶ Correlated units of different sizes

$$P(\{\sigma_i\}_{i=1,\dots,L}) = \frac{e^{\sum_{i=1}^L h_i(\sigma_i) + \sum_{i<j} J_{ij}(\sigma_i, \sigma_j)}}{Z}$$

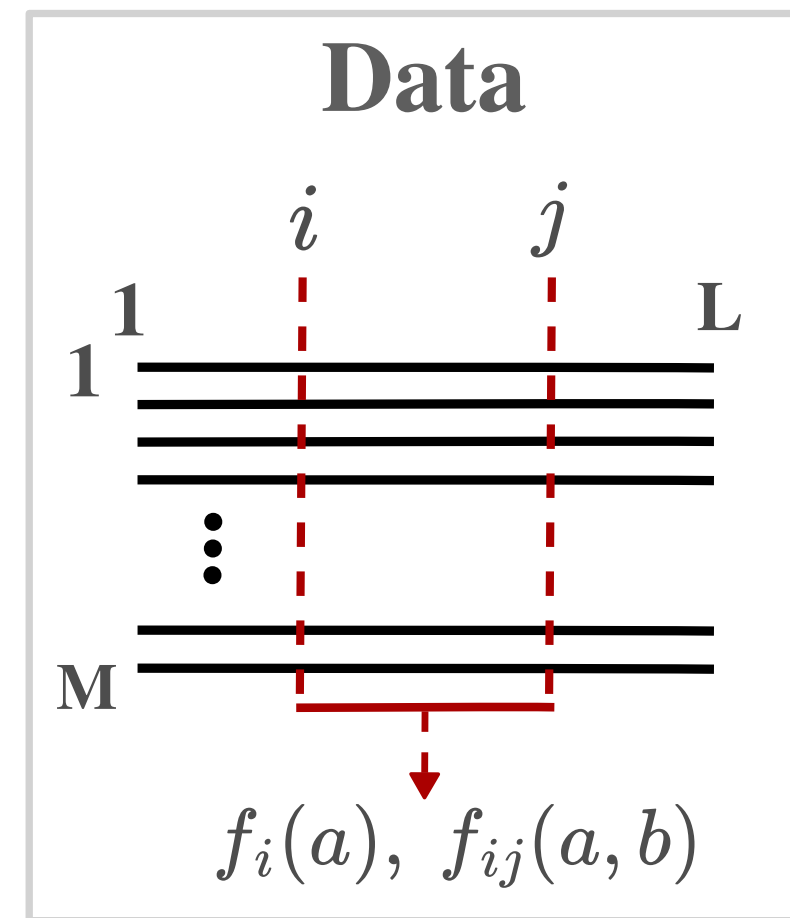
Inference:

- ▶ Undersampling regime
- ▶ Log-likelihood maximization with L_2 regularization

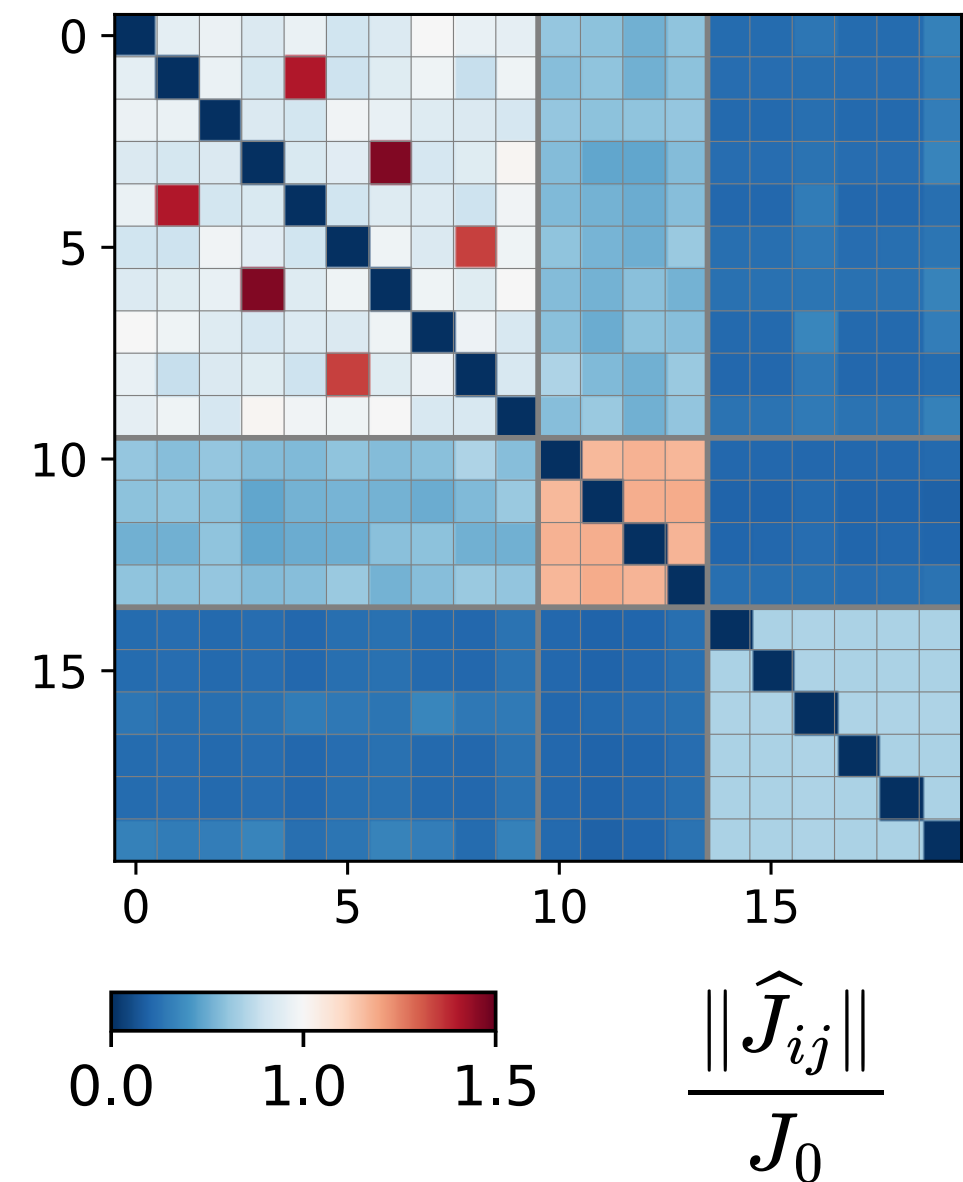
$$\theta^* = \arg \max_{\theta} \left[\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \log P(\sigma^{(m)} | \theta) - \lambda_J \|\mathbf{J}\|^2 - \lambda_h \|\mathbf{h}\|^2 \right]$$



Sampling
M

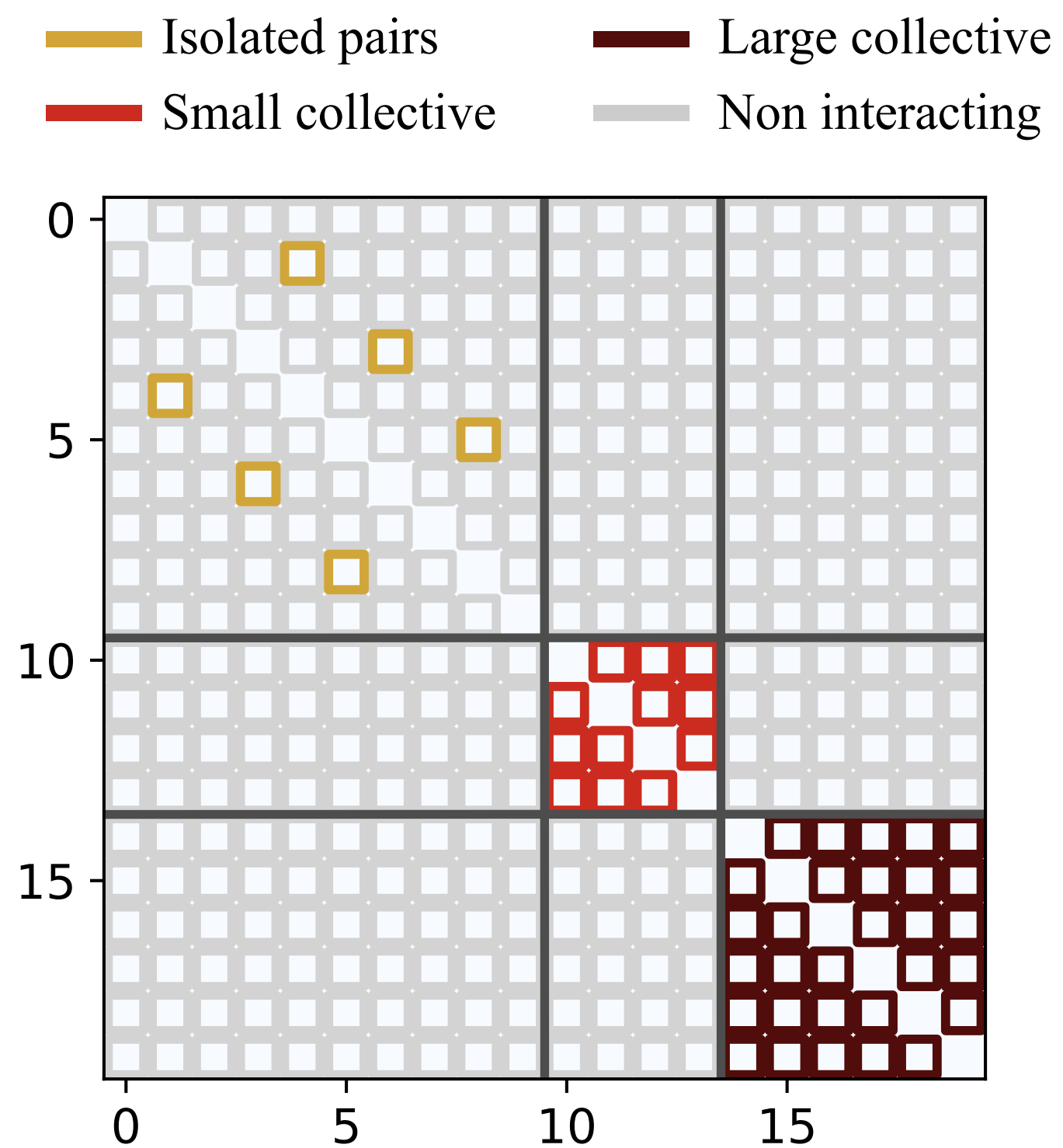


Inference



I. Undersampling-induced biases (Kleeorin *et al.* 2023)

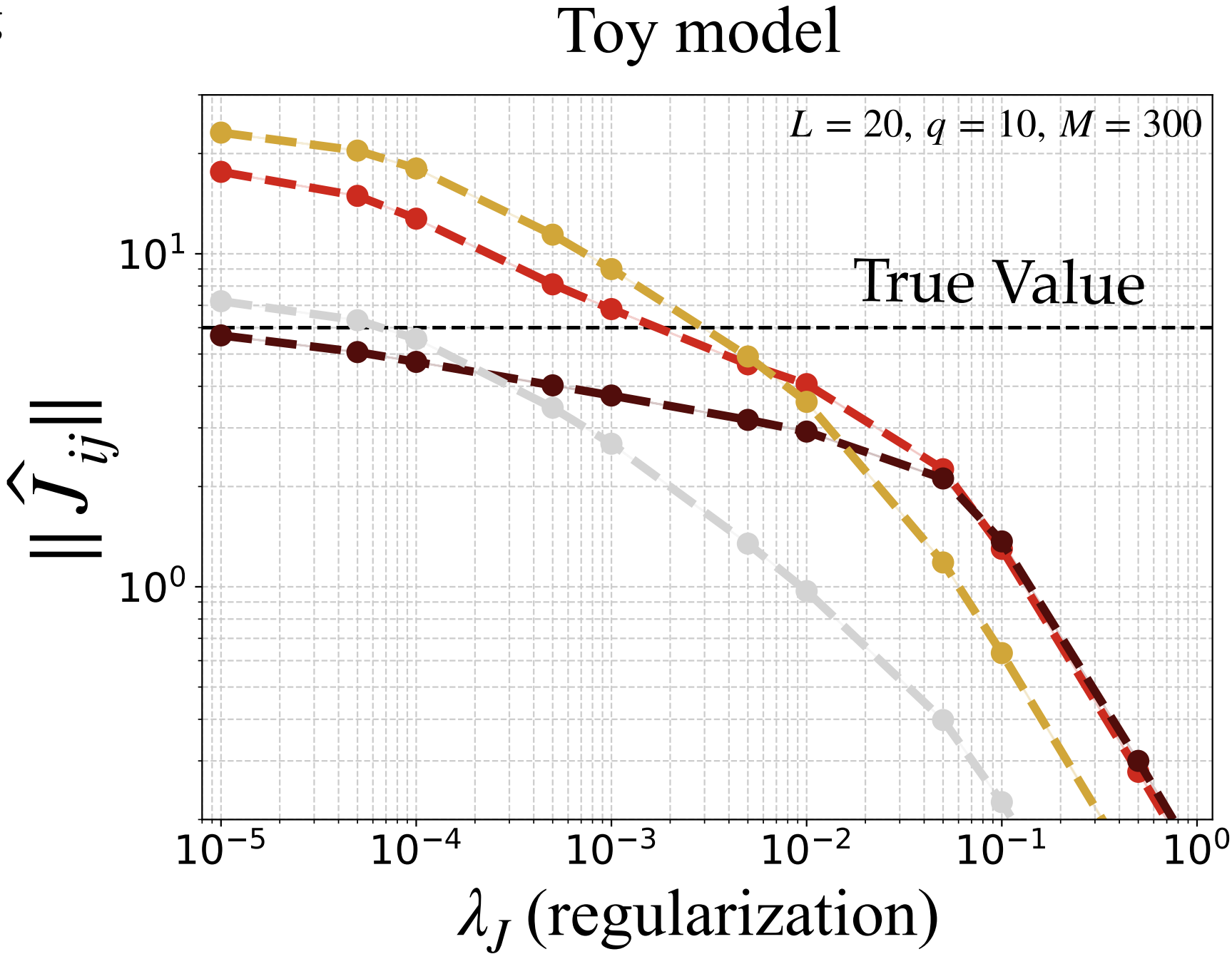
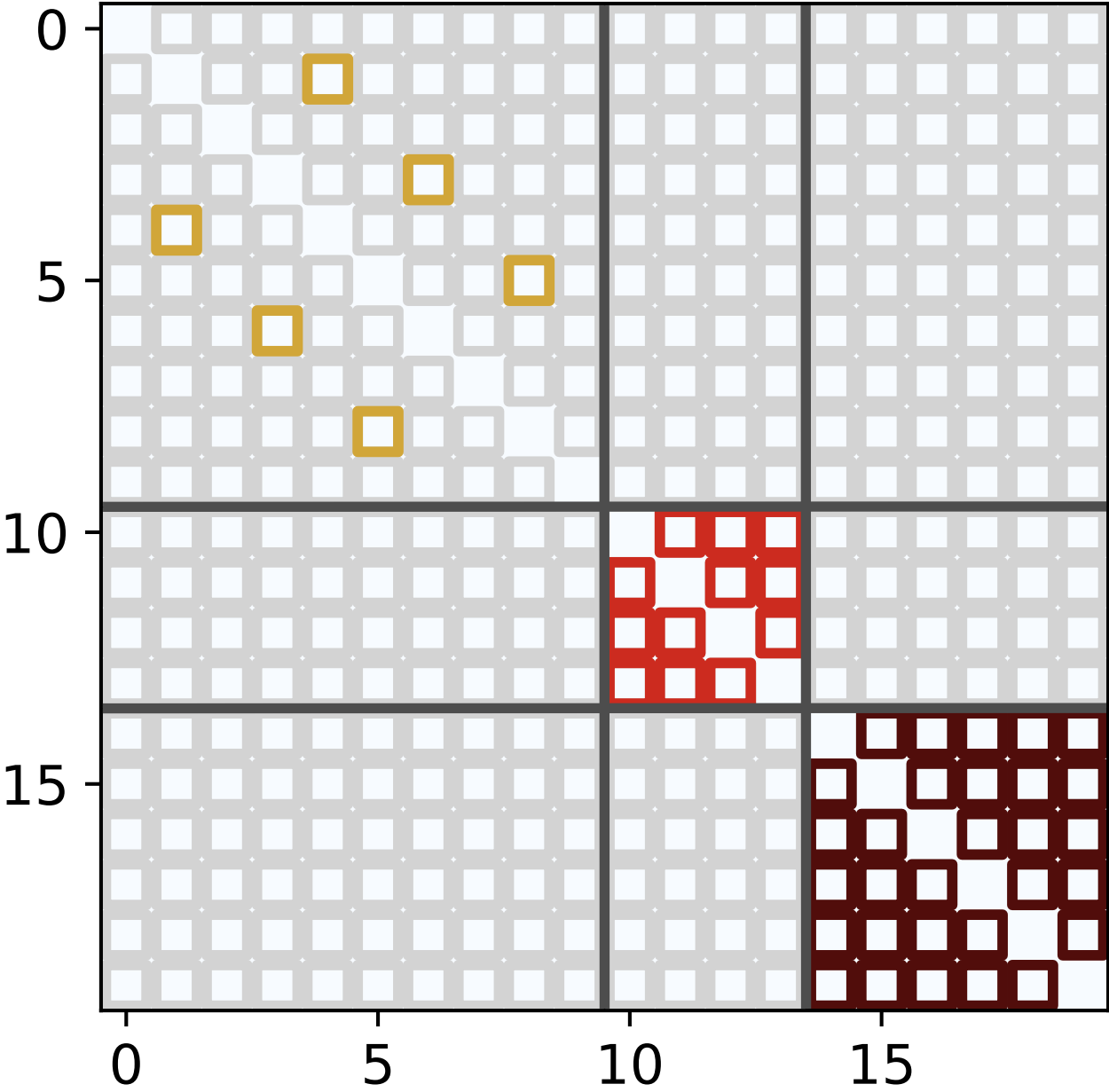
Inference as function of regularization strength



I. Undersampling-induced biases (Kleeorin *et al.* 2023)

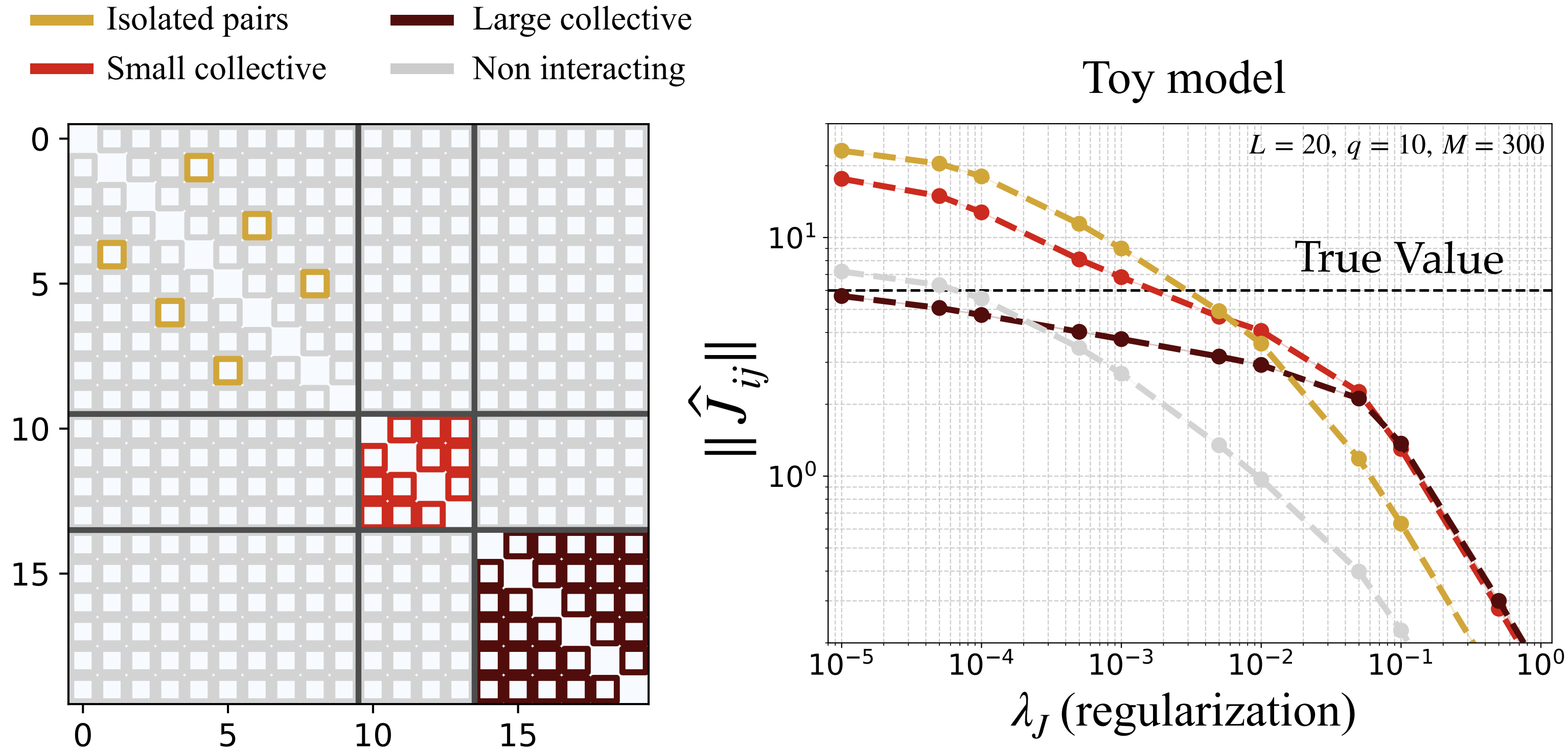
Inference as function of regularization strength

Isolated pairs Large collective
Small collective Non interacting



I. Undersampling-induced biases (Kleeorin *et al.* 2023)

Inference as function of regularization strength

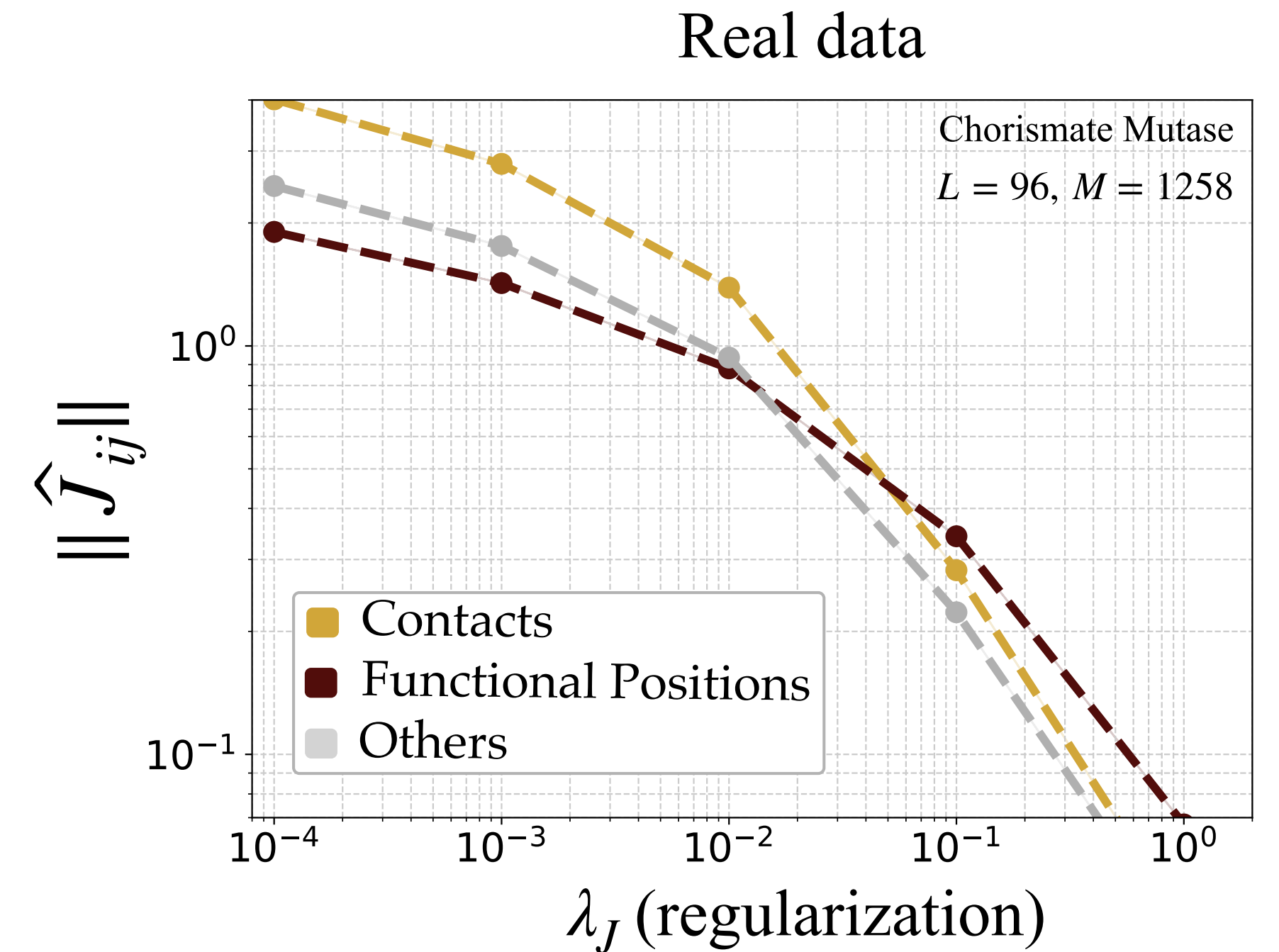
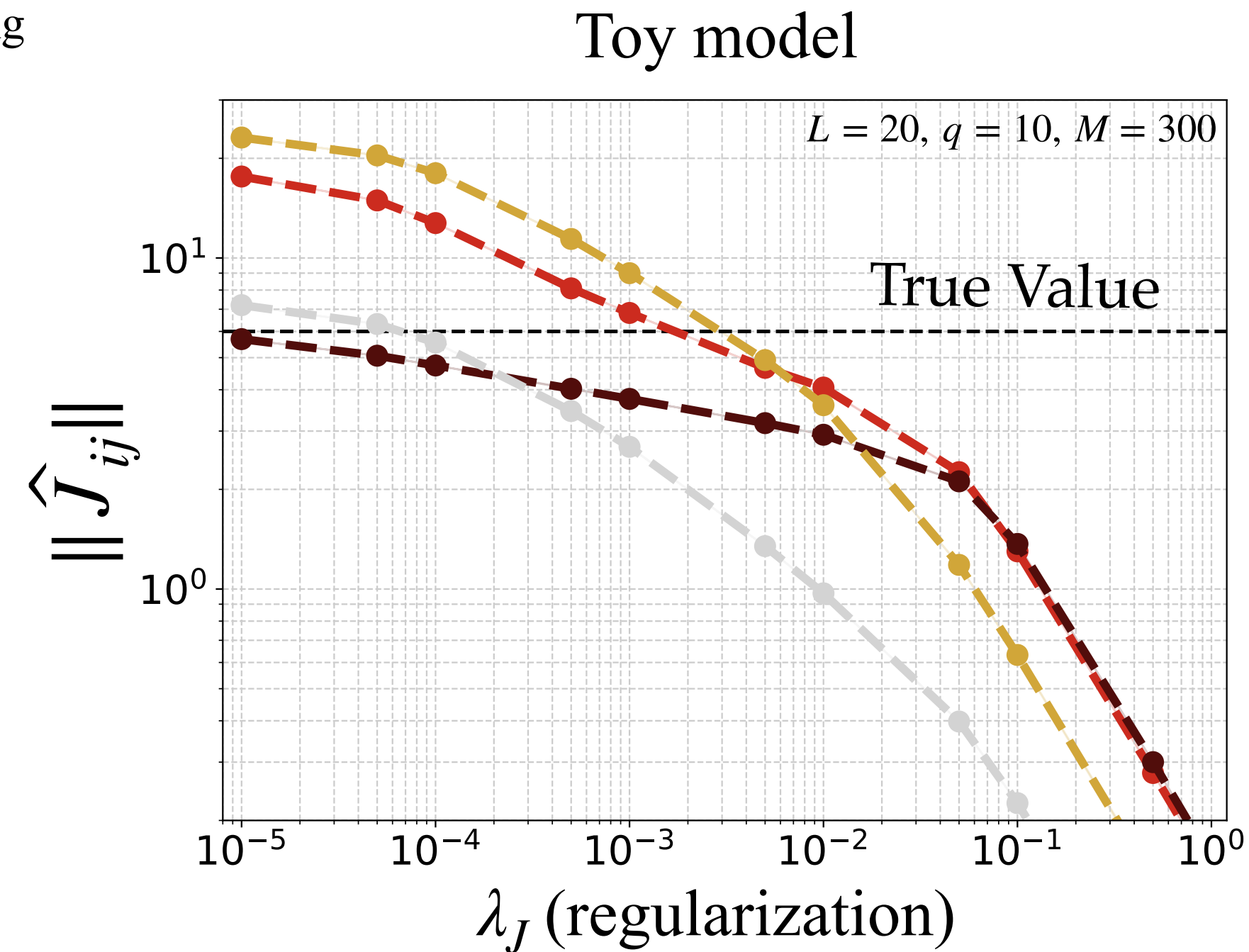
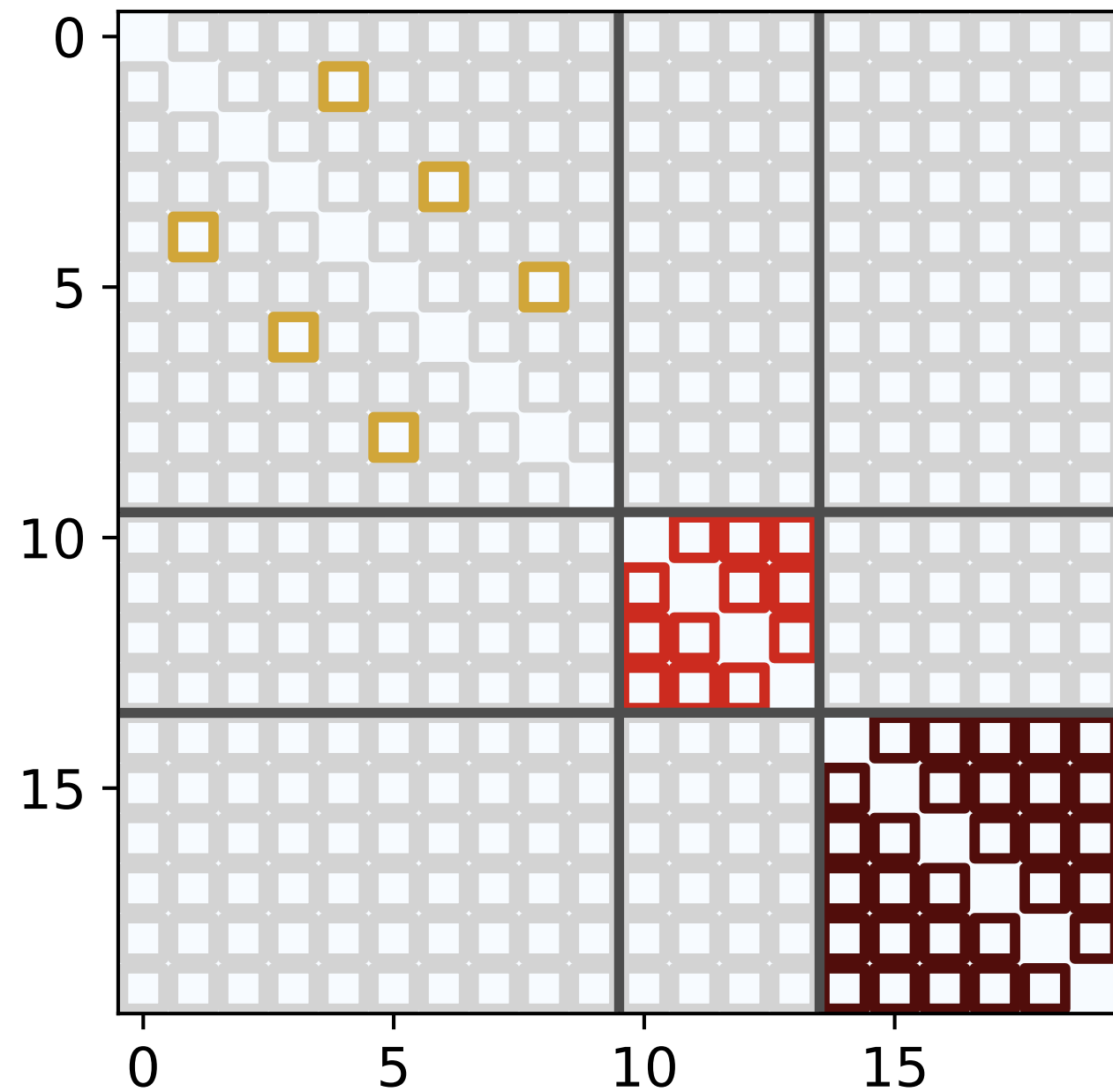


► **Systematic bias** between the estimation of collective modes and isolated interactions

I. Undersampling-induced biases (Kleeorin *et al.* 2023)

Inference as function of regularization strength

■ Isolated pairs ■ Large collective
■ Small collective ■ Non interacting



- ▶ **Systematic bias** between the estimation of collective modes and isolated interactions
- ▶ Relevance for real protein data

Generative Capacity of the Boltzmann Machine (Russ *et al.* 2020)

16

Application to the Chorismate Mutase family

Fidelity

*Do the artificial proteins
share key properties with
those observed in the
training data?*

Novelty

*How much do the artificial sequences
differ from the training data?
→ Generalization capacity*

Diversity

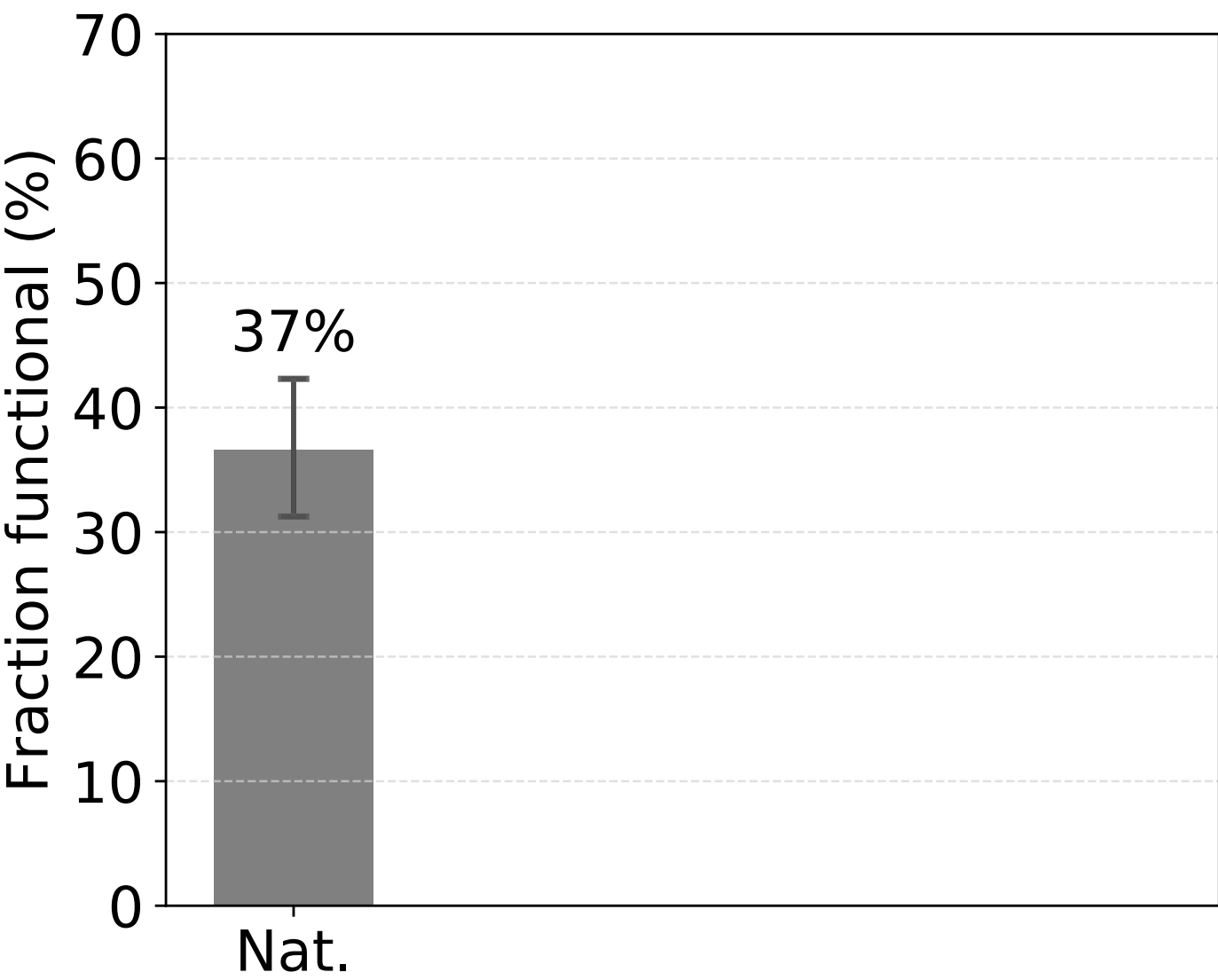
*Do the artificial sequences
span the same range of
variability as the training
data?*

II. Generative Capacity of the Boltzmann Machine (Russ *et al.* 2020)

Application to the Chorismate Mutase family

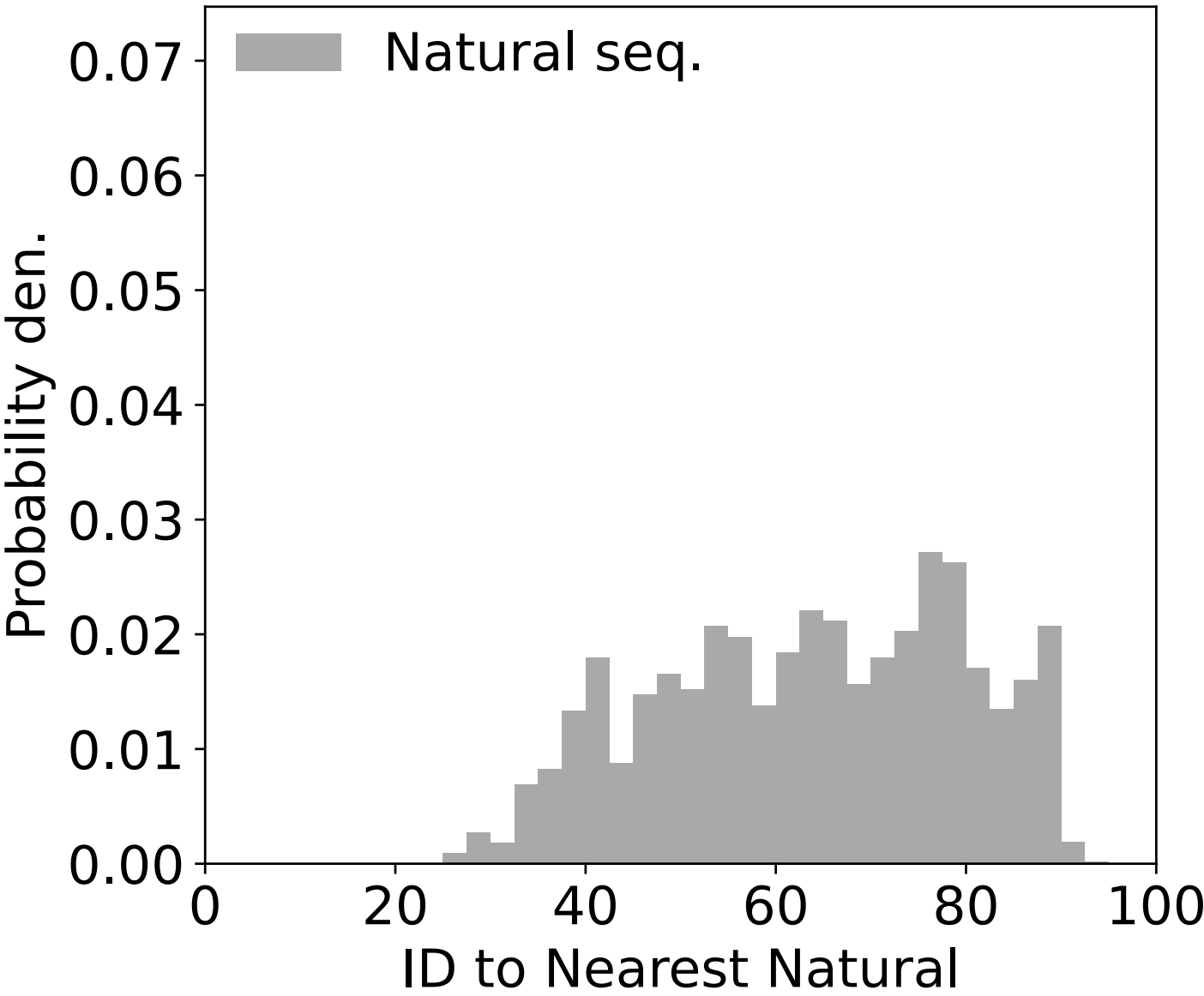
Fidelity

Fraction of functional sequences



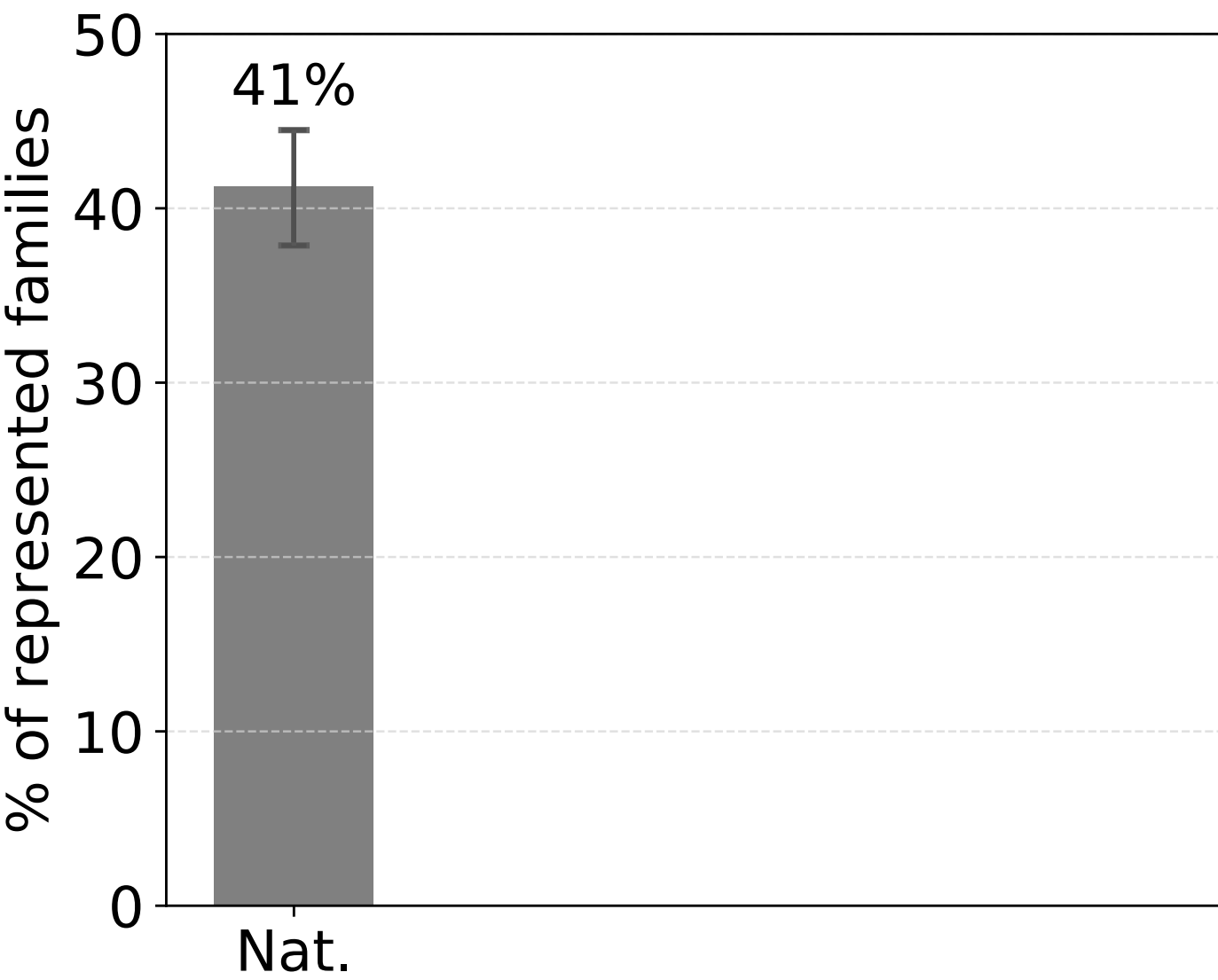
Novelty

Distribution of identity to the nearest natural sequence



Diversity

% of taxonomic families represented



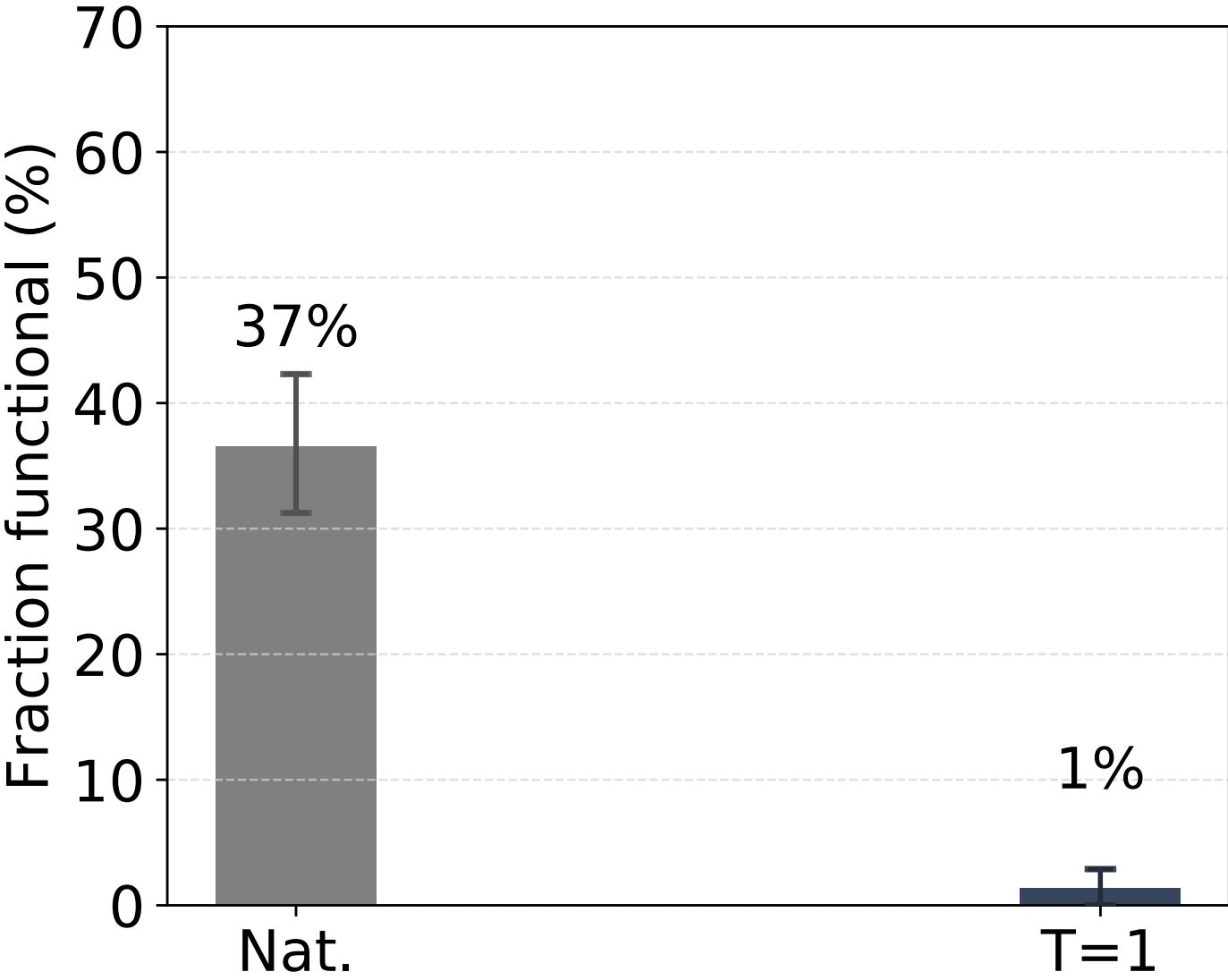
L₂ regularization: $\lambda = 0.01$
Figures made from Russ et al., *Science* **2020** data (sequences tested in *E. Coli*)

II. Generative Capacity of the Boltzmann Machine (Russ *et al.* 2020)

Application to the Chorismate Mutase family

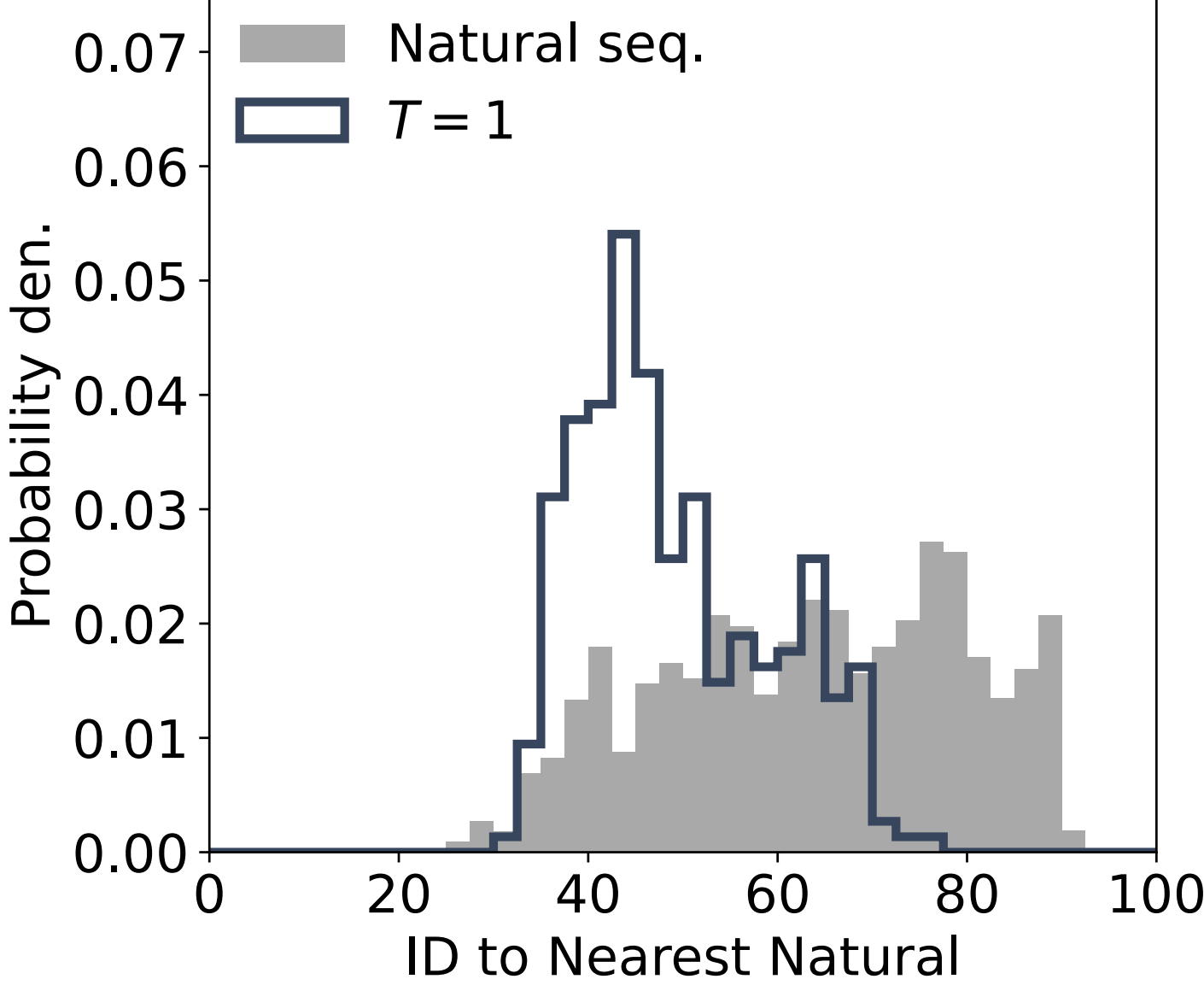
Fidelity

Fraction of functional sequences



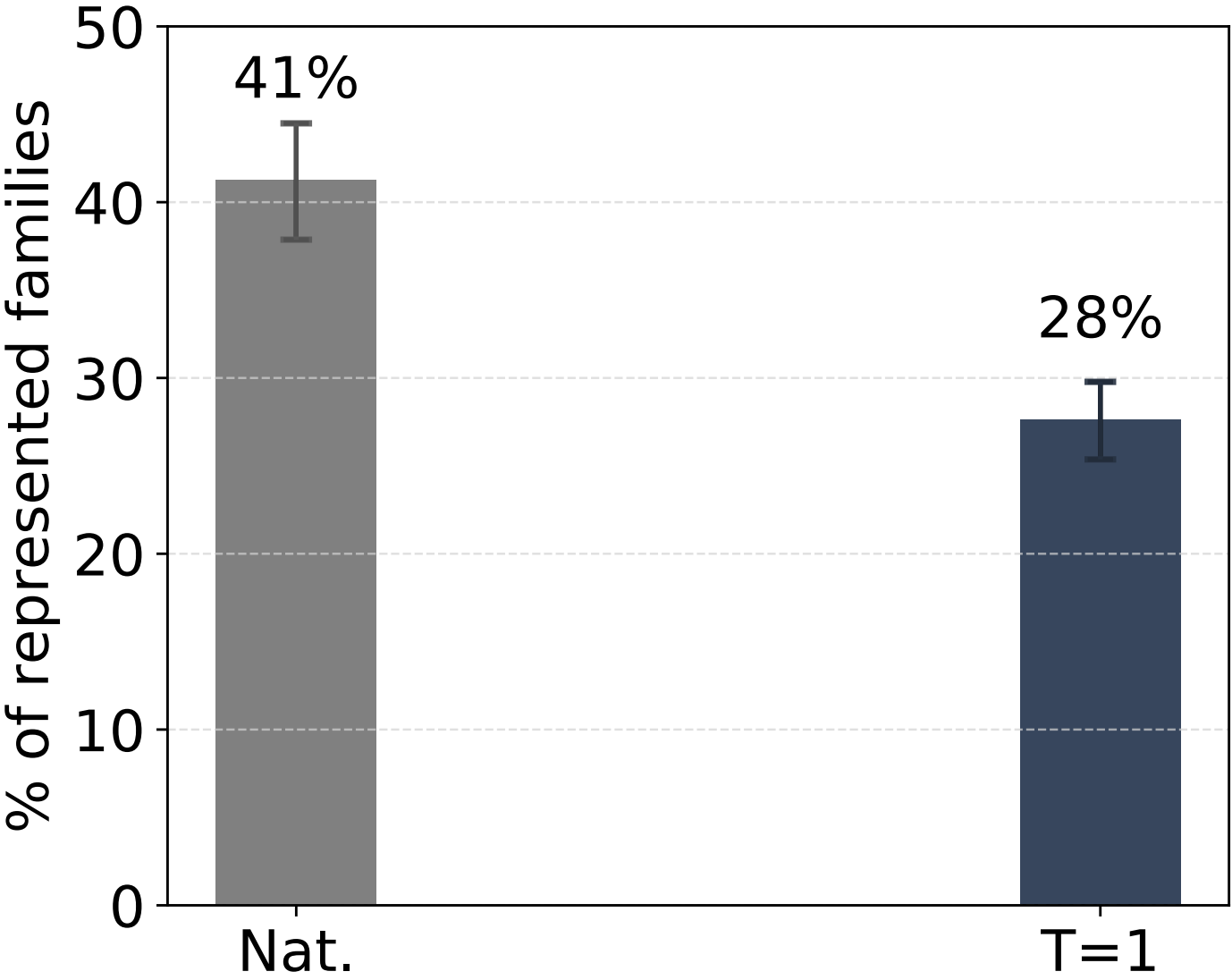
Novelty

Distribution of identity to the nearest natural sequence



Diversity

% of taxonomic families represented



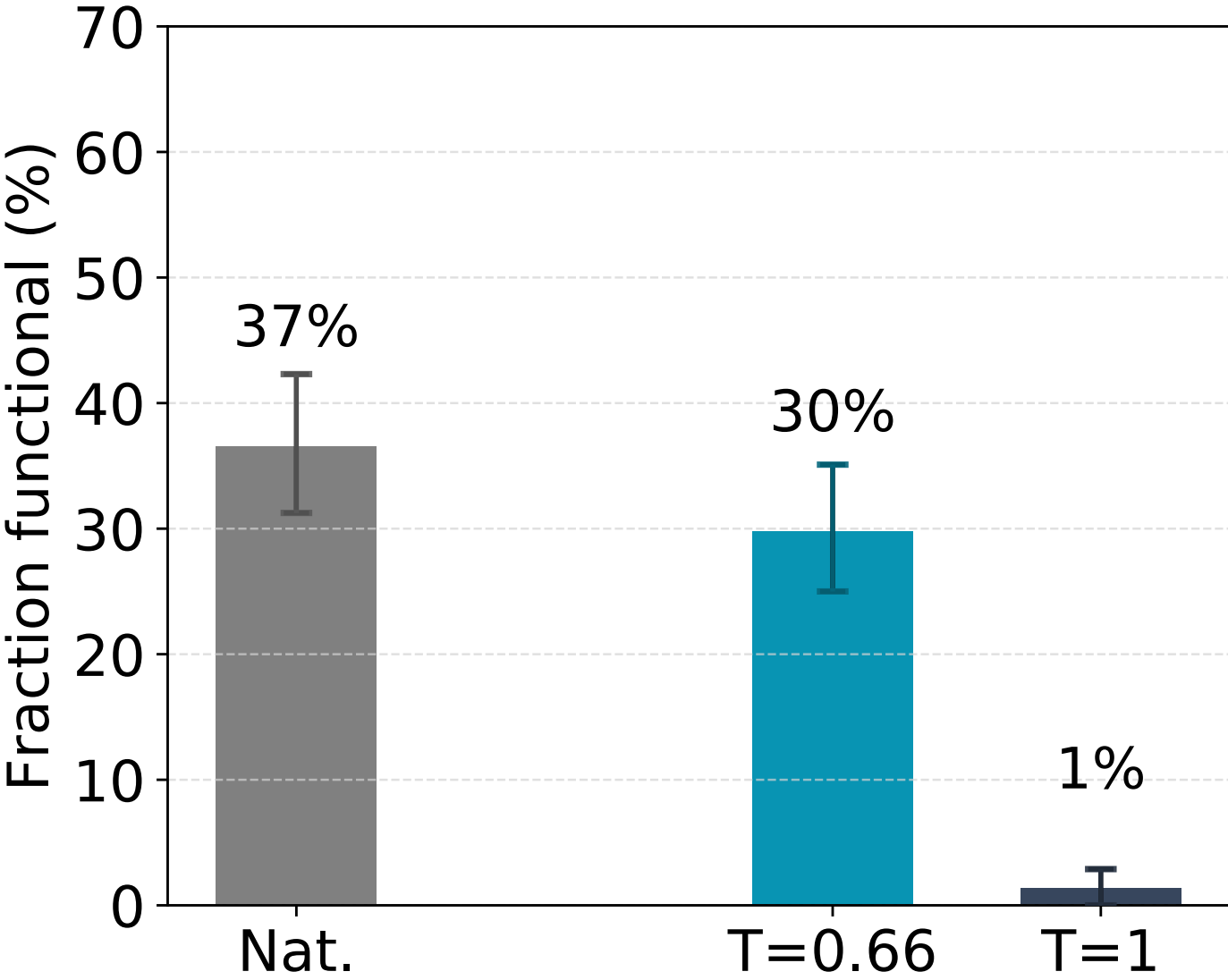
L₂ regularization: $\lambda = 0.01$
Figures made from Russ et al., *Science* **2020** data (sequences tested in *E. Coli*)

II. Generative Capacity of the Boltzmann Machine (Russ *et al.* 2020)

Application to the Chorismate Mutase family

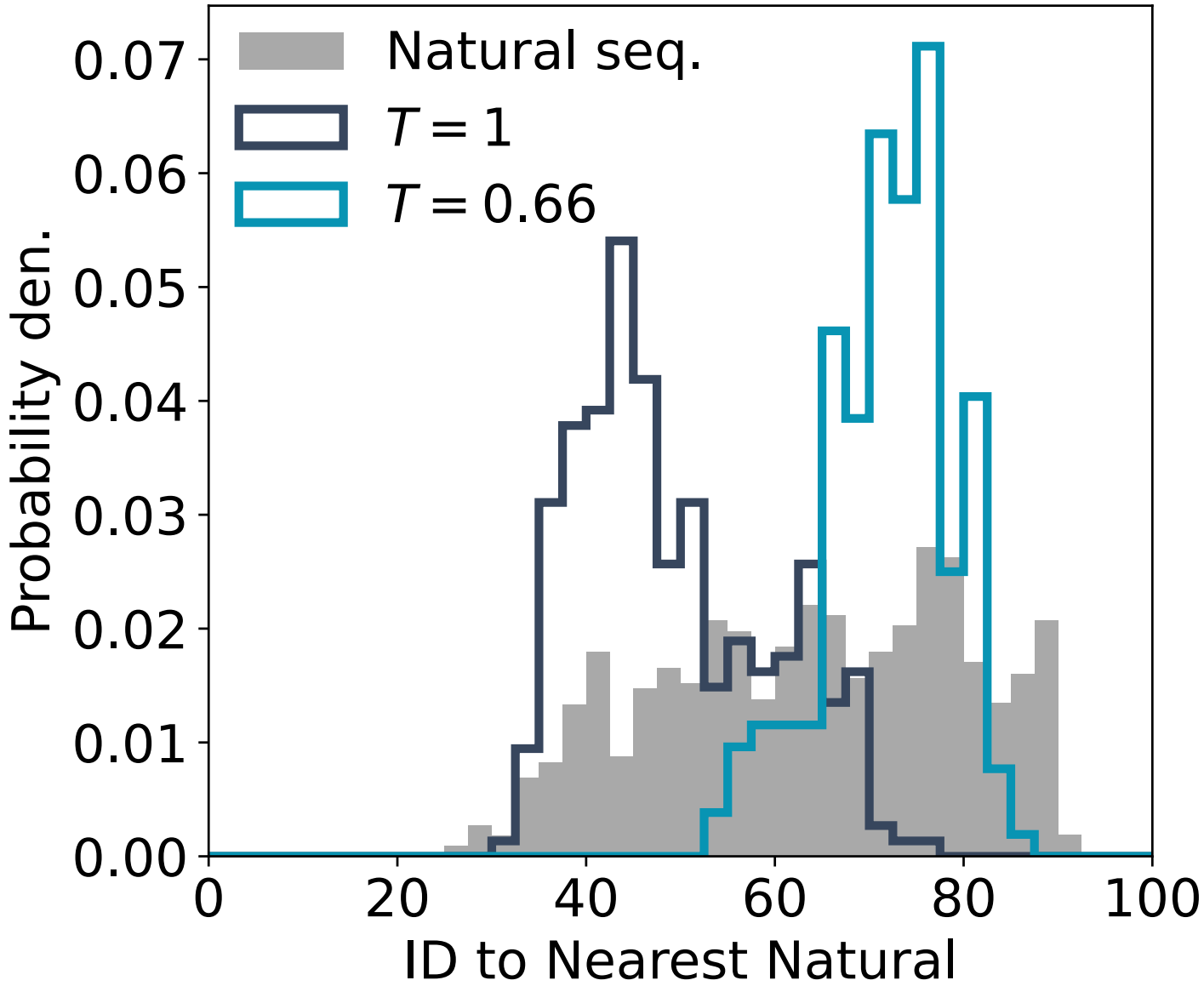
Fidelity

Fraction of functional sequences



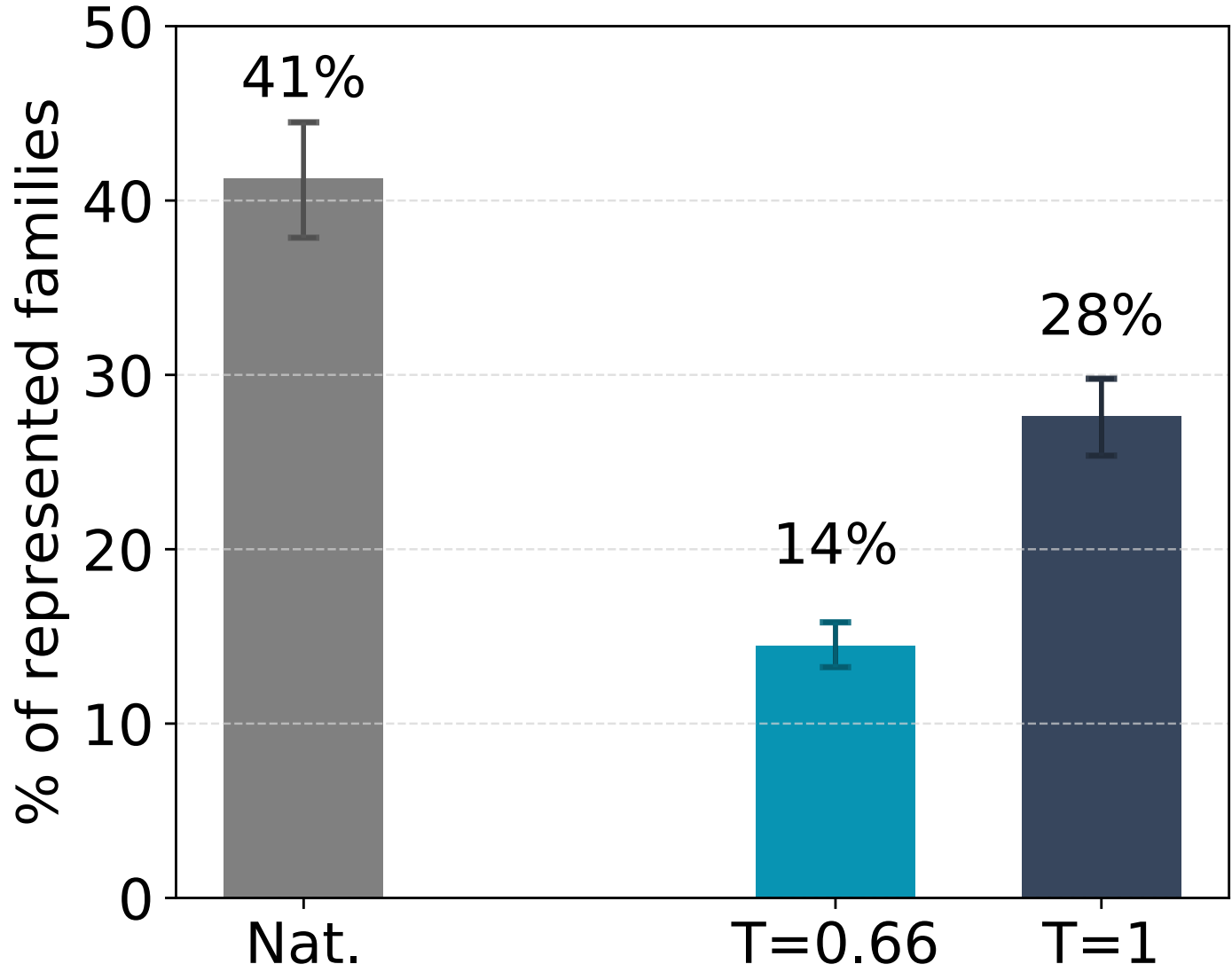
Novelty

Distribution of identity to the nearest natural sequence



Diversity

% of taxonomic families represented



L₂ regularization: $\lambda = 0.01$
Figures made from Russ et al., *Science* **2020** data (sequences tested in *E. Coli*)

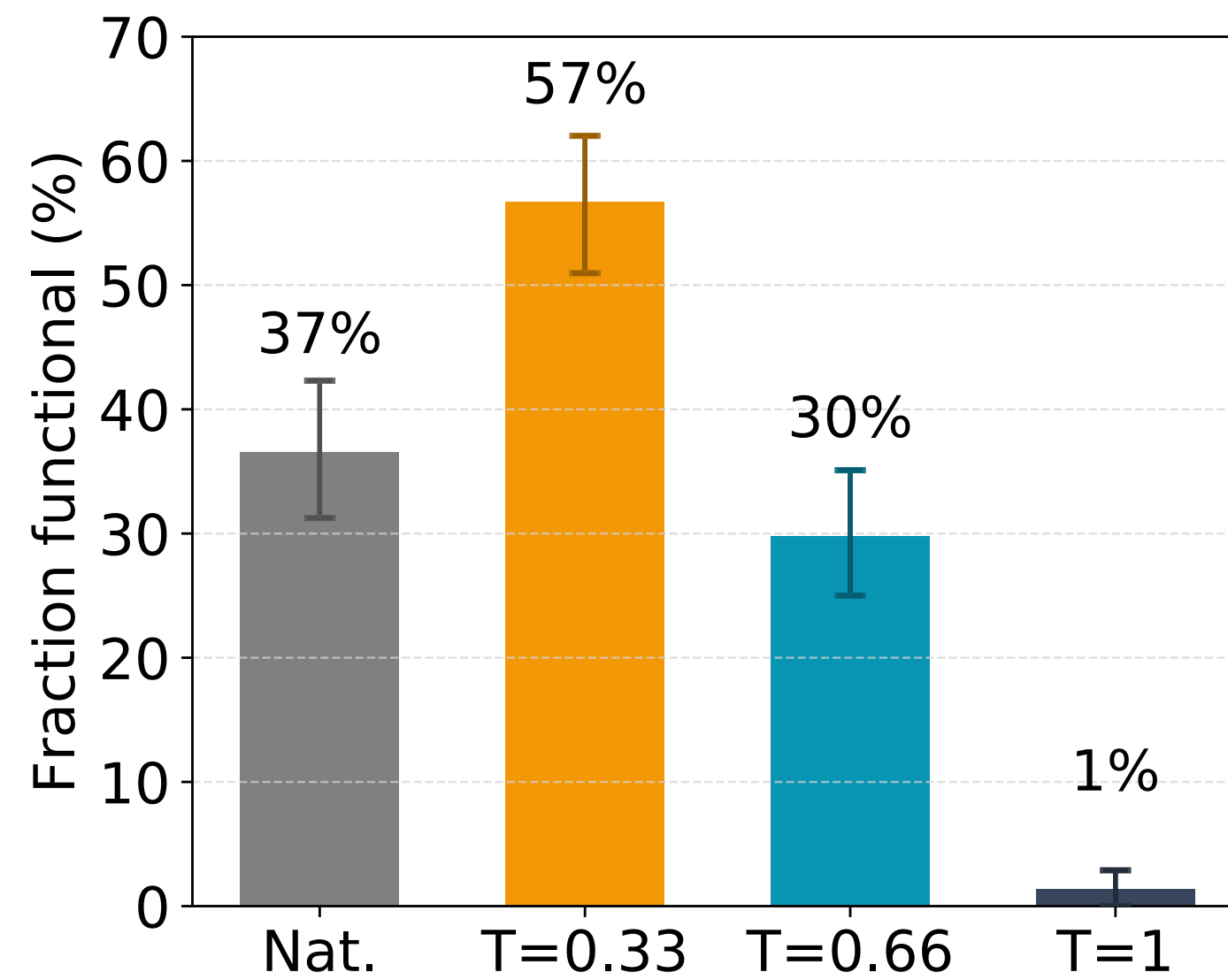
II. Generative Capacity of the Boltzmann Machine (Russ *et al.* 2020)

17

Application to the Chorismate Mutase family

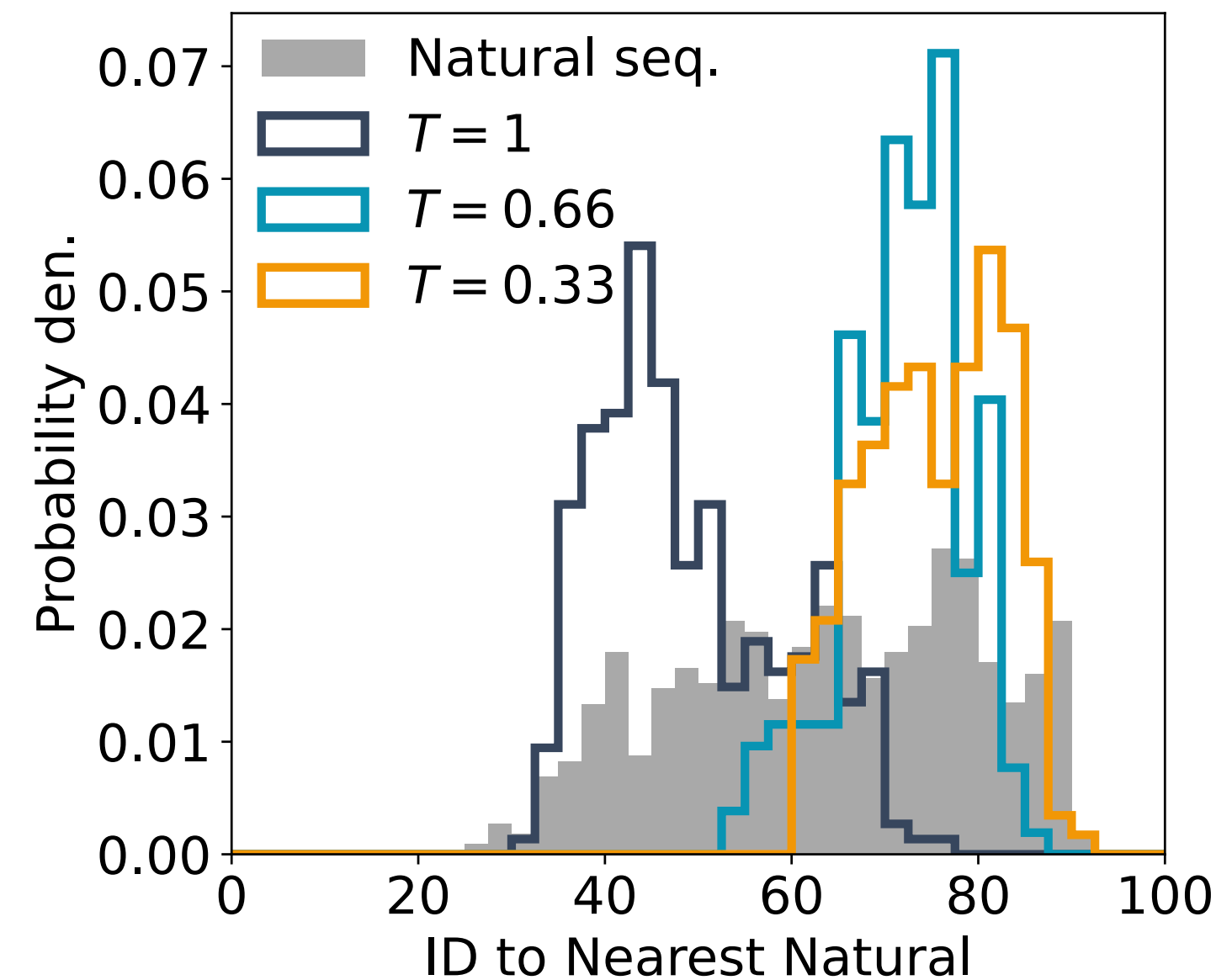
Fidelity

Fraction of functional sequences



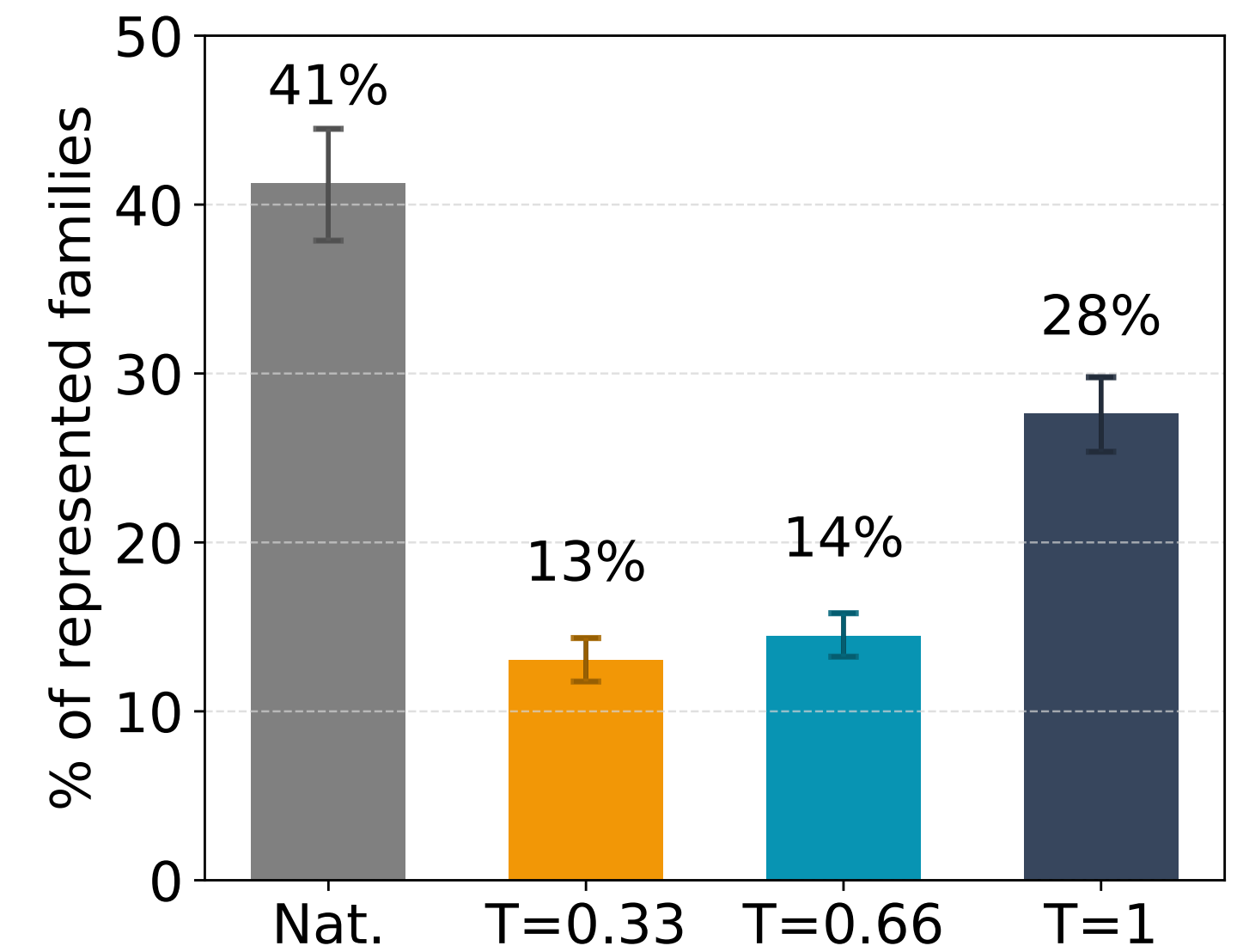
Novelty

Distribution of identity to the nearest natural sequence



Diversity

% of taxonomic families represented



- ▶ Functional sequences requires low-temperature sampling: $P(\{\sigma_i\}_{i=1,\dots,L}) \sim e^{-\frac{E(h,J)}{T}}$ with $T < 1$
- ▶ The gain in functionality comes at the cost of **reduced diversity** and **novelty**

L₂ regularization: $\lambda = 0.01$

Figures made from Russ et al., *Science* **2020** data (sequences tested in *E. Coli*)

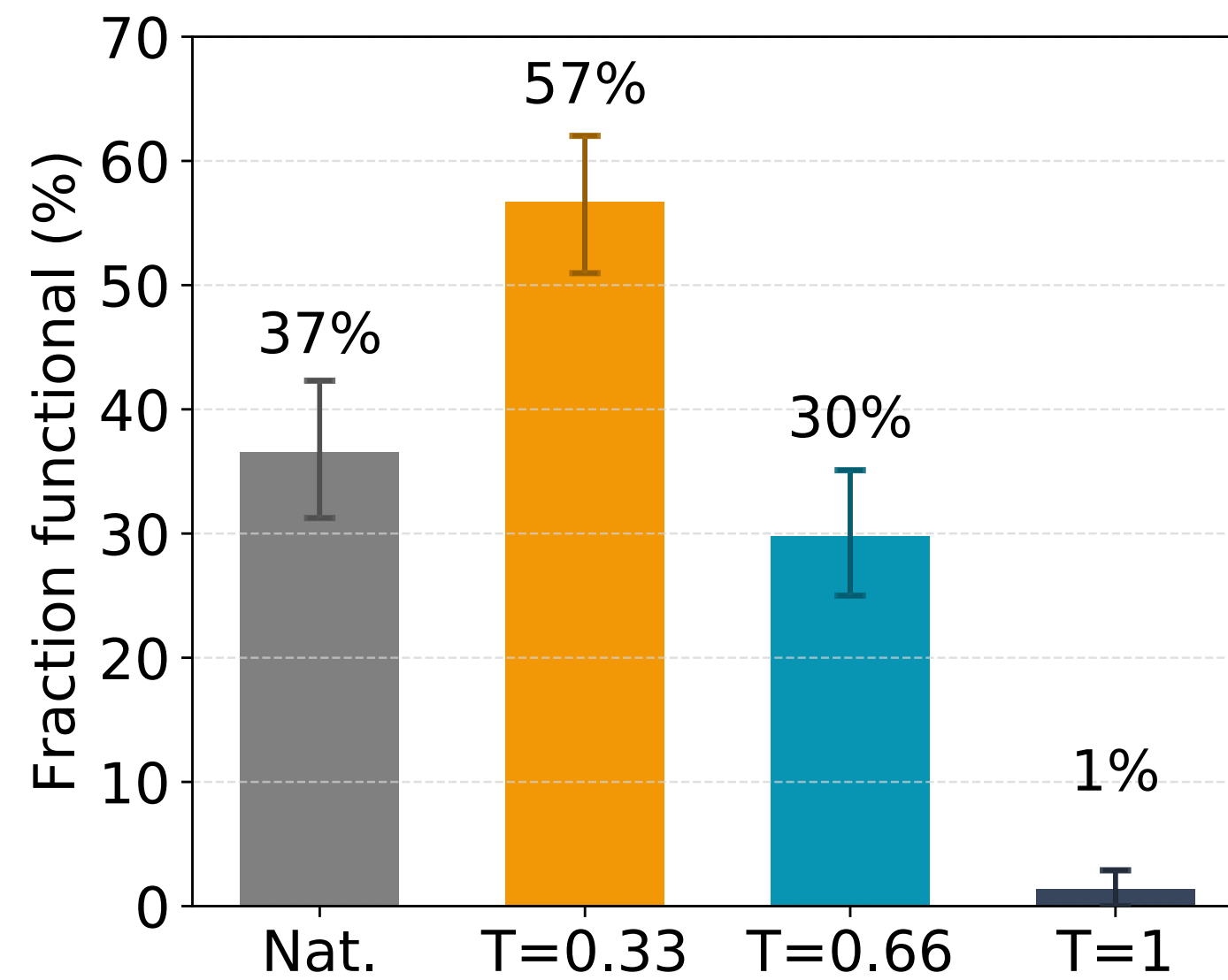
II. Generative Capacity of the Boltzmann Machine (Russ *et al.* 2020)

17

Application to the Chorismate Mutase family

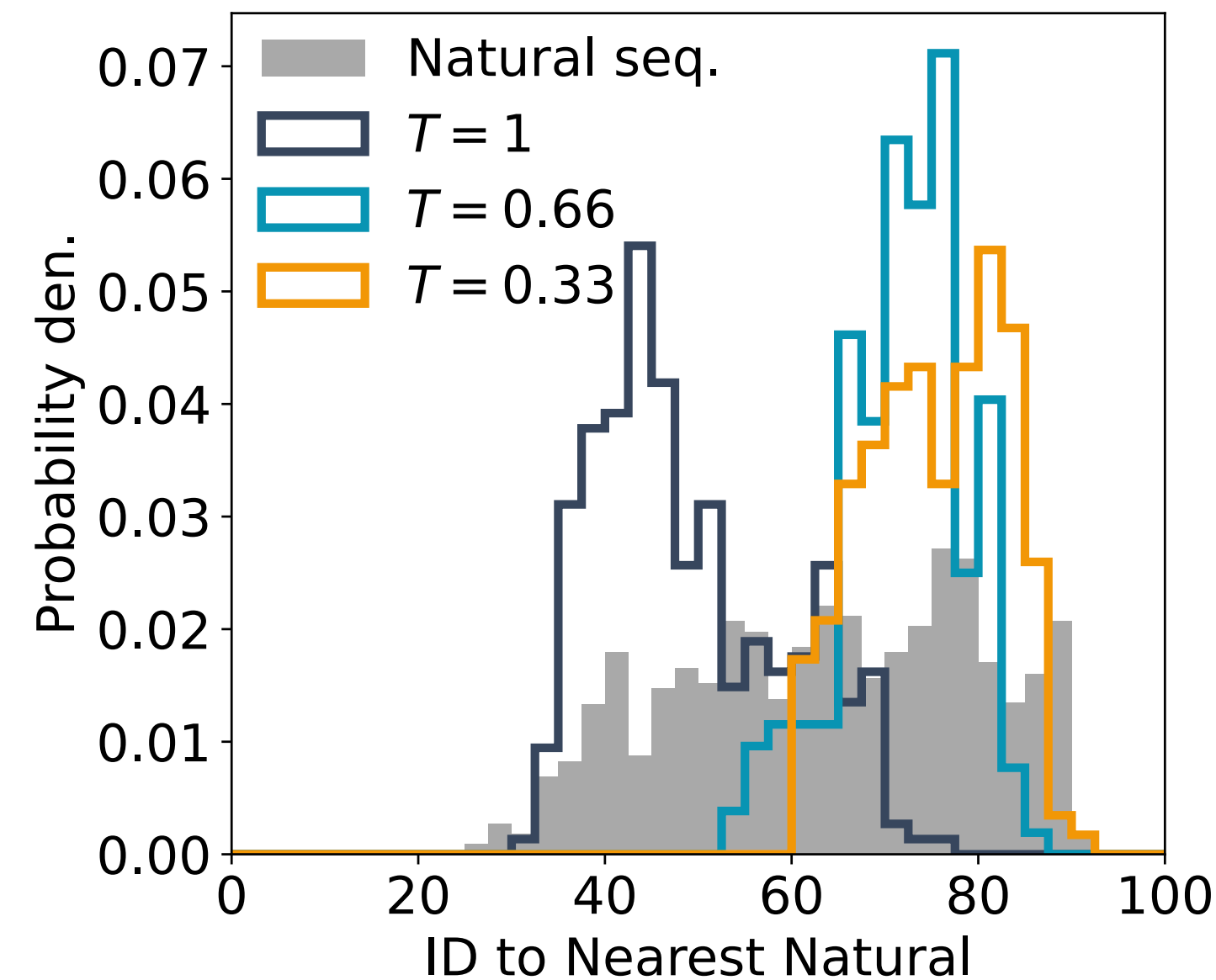
Fidelity

Fraction of functional sequences



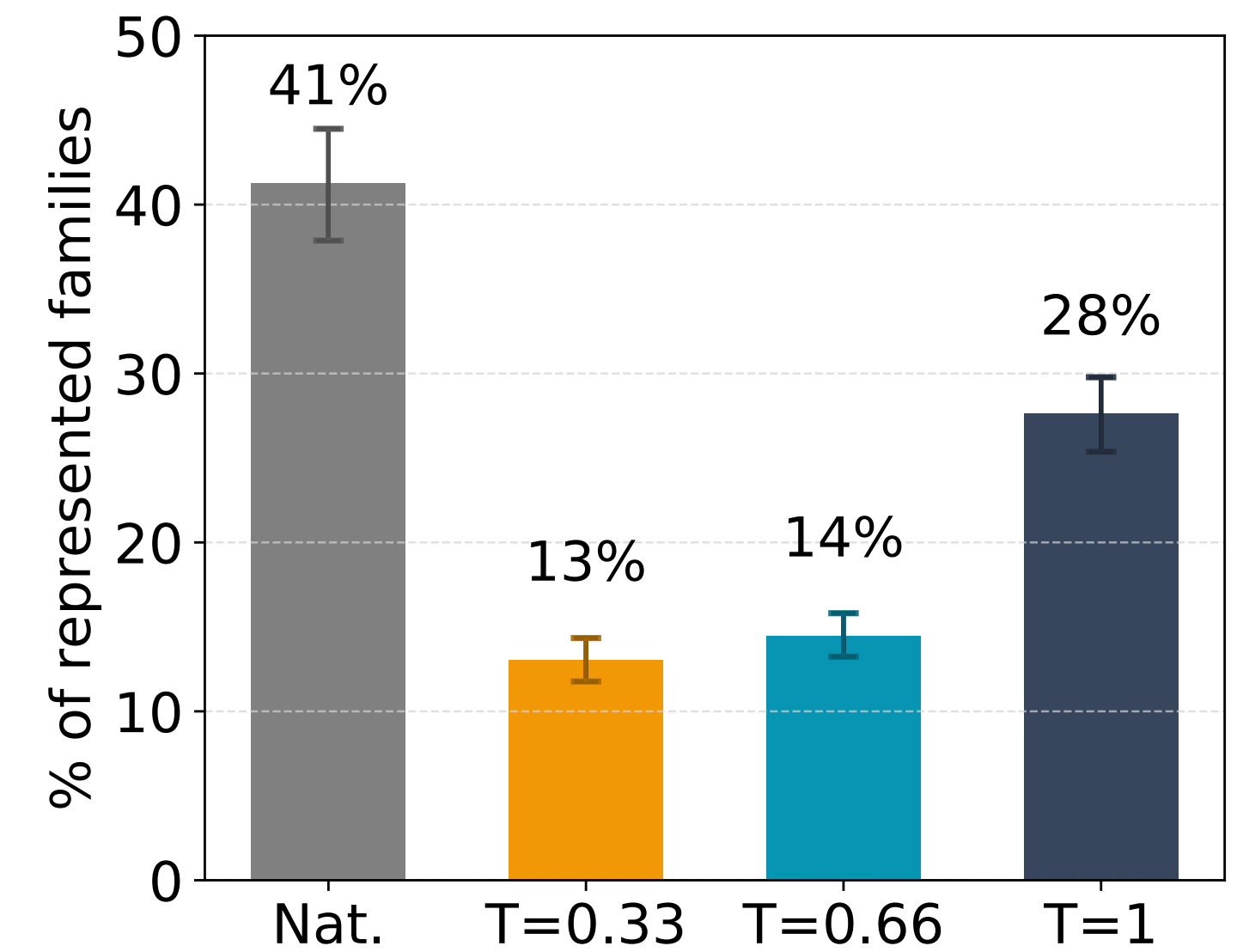
Novelty

Distribution of identity to the nearest natural sequence



Diversity

% of taxonomic families represented



- ▶ Functional sequences requires low-temperature sampling: $P(\{\sigma_i\}_{i=1,...,L}) \sim e^{-\frac{E(h,J)}{T}}$ with $T < 1$
- ▶ The gain in functionality comes at the cost of **reduced diversity** and **novelty**
- ▶ Success may depend on the experimental assay

L₂ regularization: $\lambda = 0.01$

Figures made from Russ et al., *Science* **2020** data (sequences tested in *E. Coli*)

III. Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

Assess model performance with a toy model

$$\boldsymbol{\theta} = \{\boldsymbol{J}, \boldsymbol{h}\} \quad f(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \log P(\boldsymbol{\sigma}^{(m)} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}) - \lambda_J \|\boldsymbol{J}\|^2 - \lambda_h \|\boldsymbol{h}\|^2$$

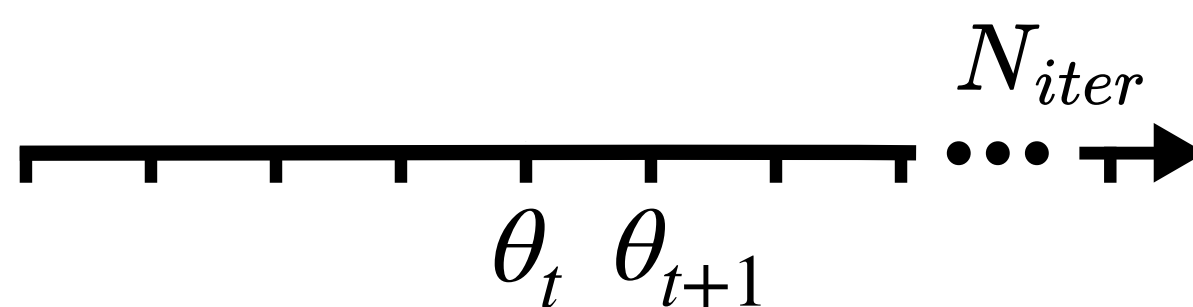
III. Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

Assess model performance with a toy model

$$\boldsymbol{\theta} = \{\mathbf{J}, \mathbf{h}\} \quad f(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \log P(\boldsymbol{\sigma}^{(m)} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}) - \lambda_J \|\mathbf{J}\|^2 - \lambda_h \|\mathbf{h}\|^2$$

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{t+1} = \boldsymbol{\theta}_t - \eta_t \mathbf{p}_t$$

$$1^{st} \text{ order: } \mathbf{p}_t = -\nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$$



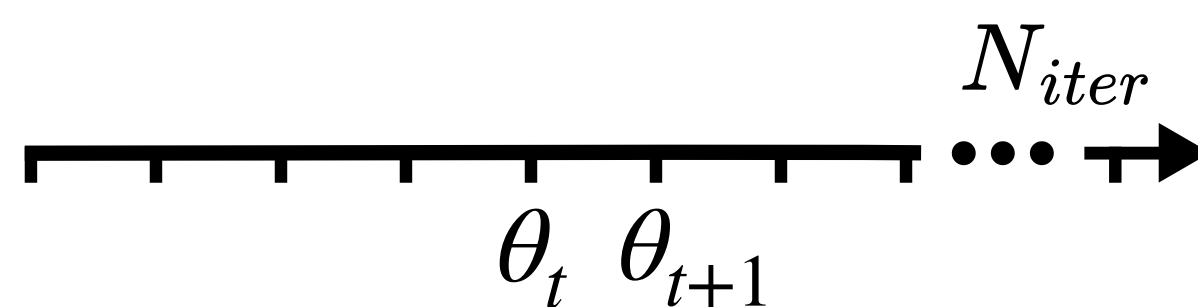
III. Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

Assess model performance with a toy model

$$\boldsymbol{\theta} = \{\mathbf{J}, \mathbf{h}\} \quad f(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \log P(\boldsymbol{\sigma}^{(m)} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}) - \lambda_J \|\mathbf{J}\|^2 - \lambda_h \|\mathbf{h}\|^2$$

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{t+1} = \boldsymbol{\theta}_t - \eta_t \mathbf{p}_t$$

$$1^{st} \text{ order: } \mathbf{p}_t = -\nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$$

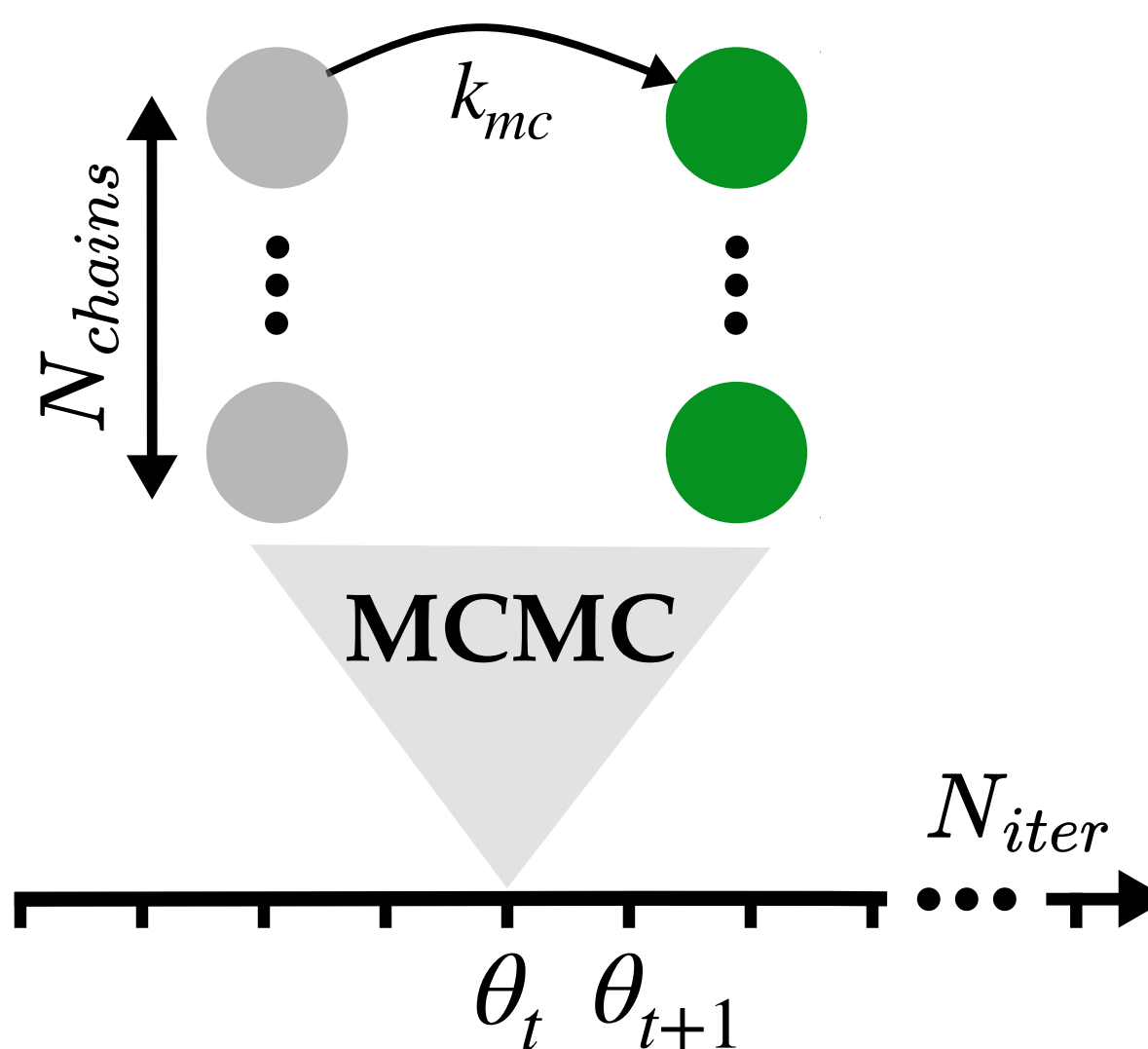


$$\frac{\partial f(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial J_{ij}(a, b)} = \underbrace{f_{ij}(a, b)}_{\text{Empirical}} - \underbrace{\langle \delta(\sigma_i, a) \delta(\sigma_j, b) \rangle}_{\text{Model}} + \lambda_J J_{ij}(a, b)$$

III. Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

Assess model performance with a toy model

$$\boldsymbol{\theta} = \{\mathbf{J}, \mathbf{h}\} \quad f(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \log P(\boldsymbol{\sigma}^{(m)} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) - \lambda_J \|\mathbf{J}\|^2 - \lambda_h \|\mathbf{h}\|^2$$



$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{t+1} = \boldsymbol{\theta}_t - \eta_t \mathbf{p}_t$$

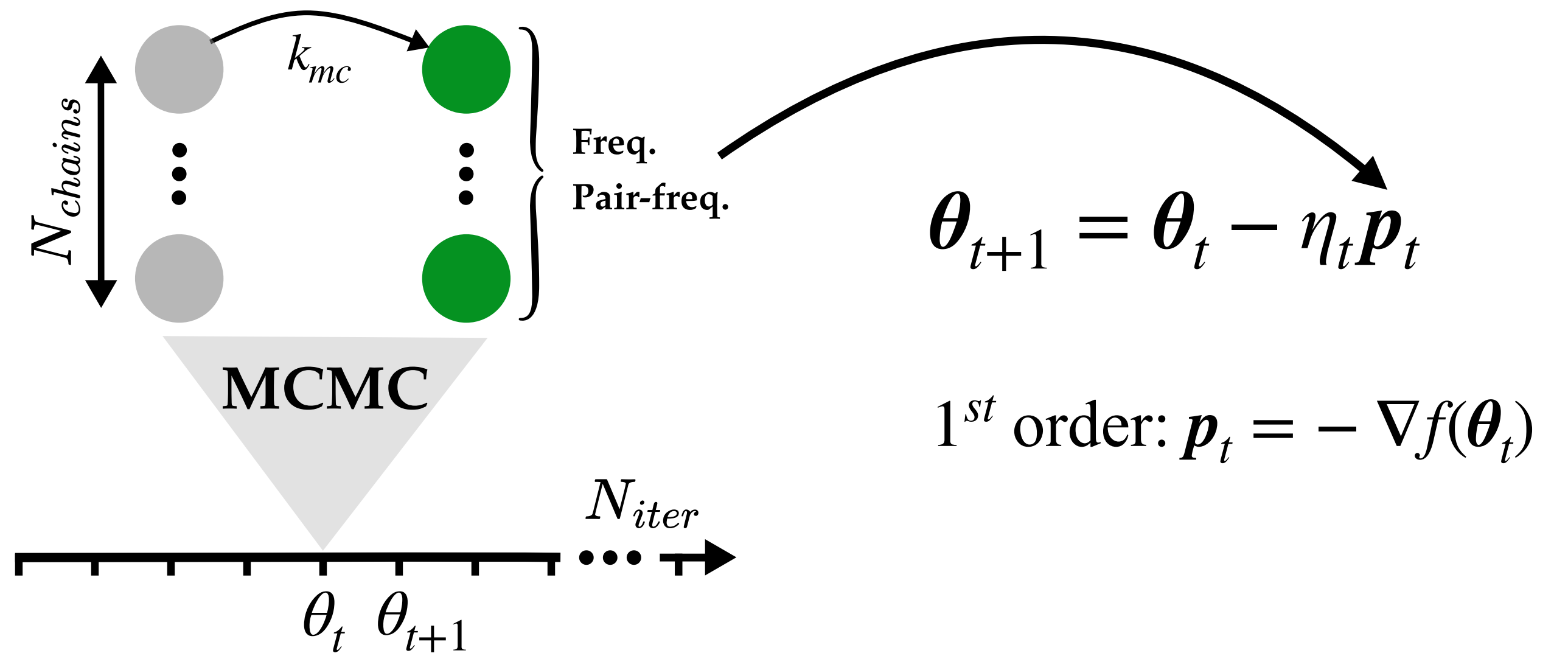
$$1^{st} \text{ order: } \mathbf{p}_t = -\nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$$

$$\frac{\partial f(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial J_{ij}(a, b)} = \underbrace{f_{ij}(a, b)}_{\text{Empirical}} - \underbrace{\langle \delta(\sigma_i, a) \delta(\sigma_j, b) \rangle}_{\text{Model}} + \lambda_J J_{ij}(a, b)$$

III. Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

Assess model performance with a toy model

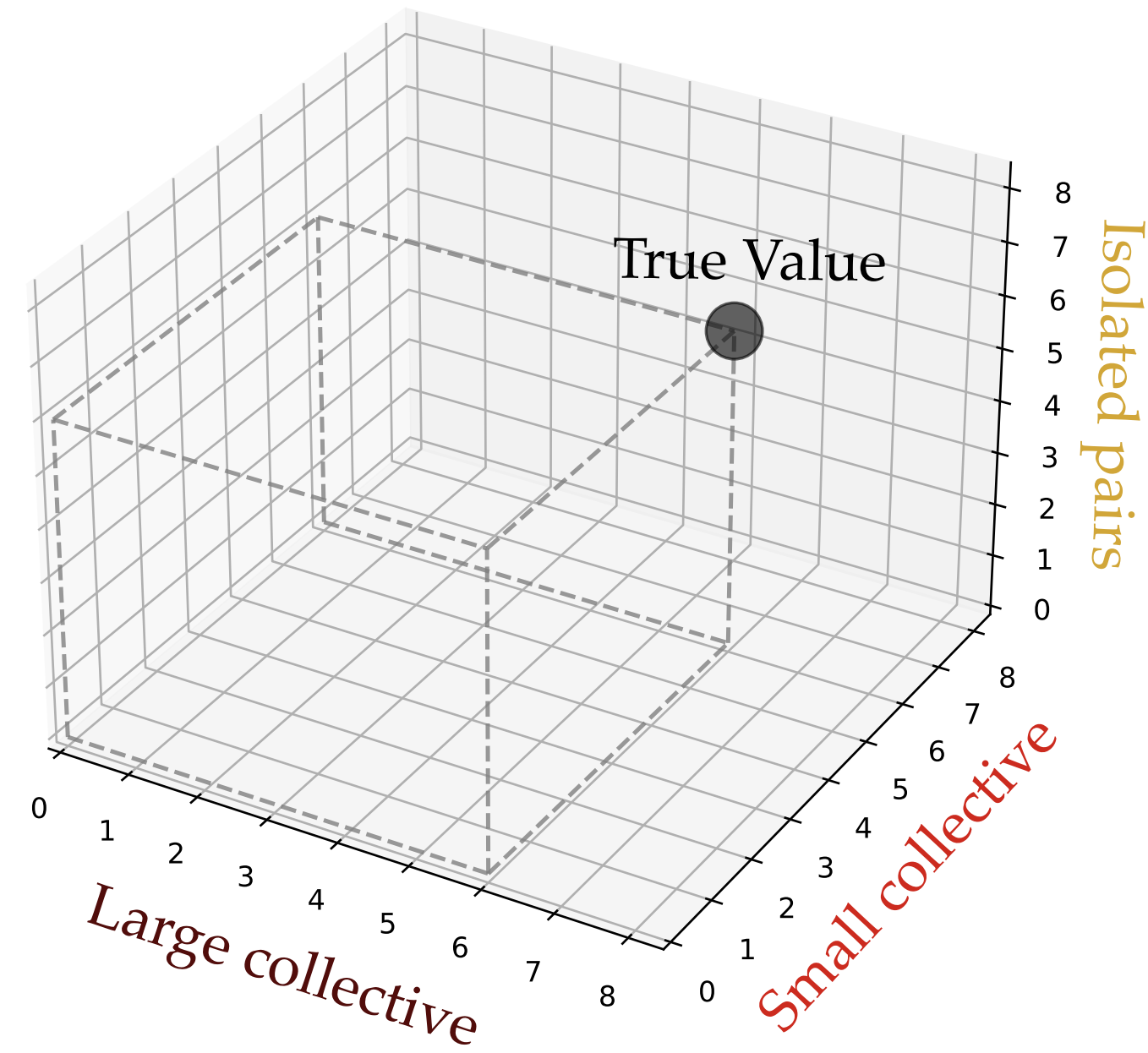
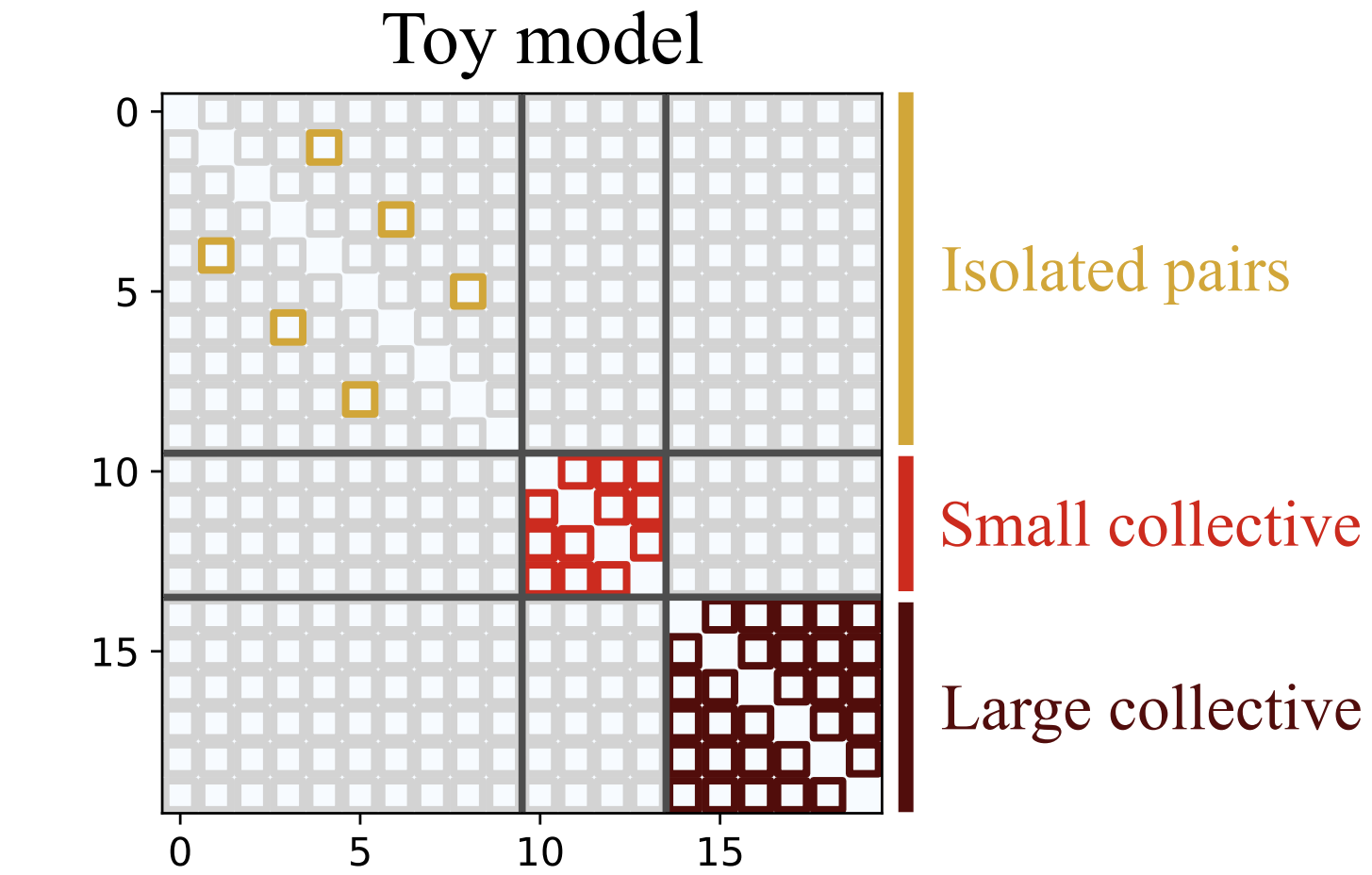
$$\boldsymbol{\theta} = \{\mathbf{J}, \mathbf{h}\} \quad f(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \log P(\boldsymbol{\sigma}^{(m)} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) - \lambda_J \|\mathbf{J}\|^2 - \lambda_h \|\mathbf{h}\|^2$$



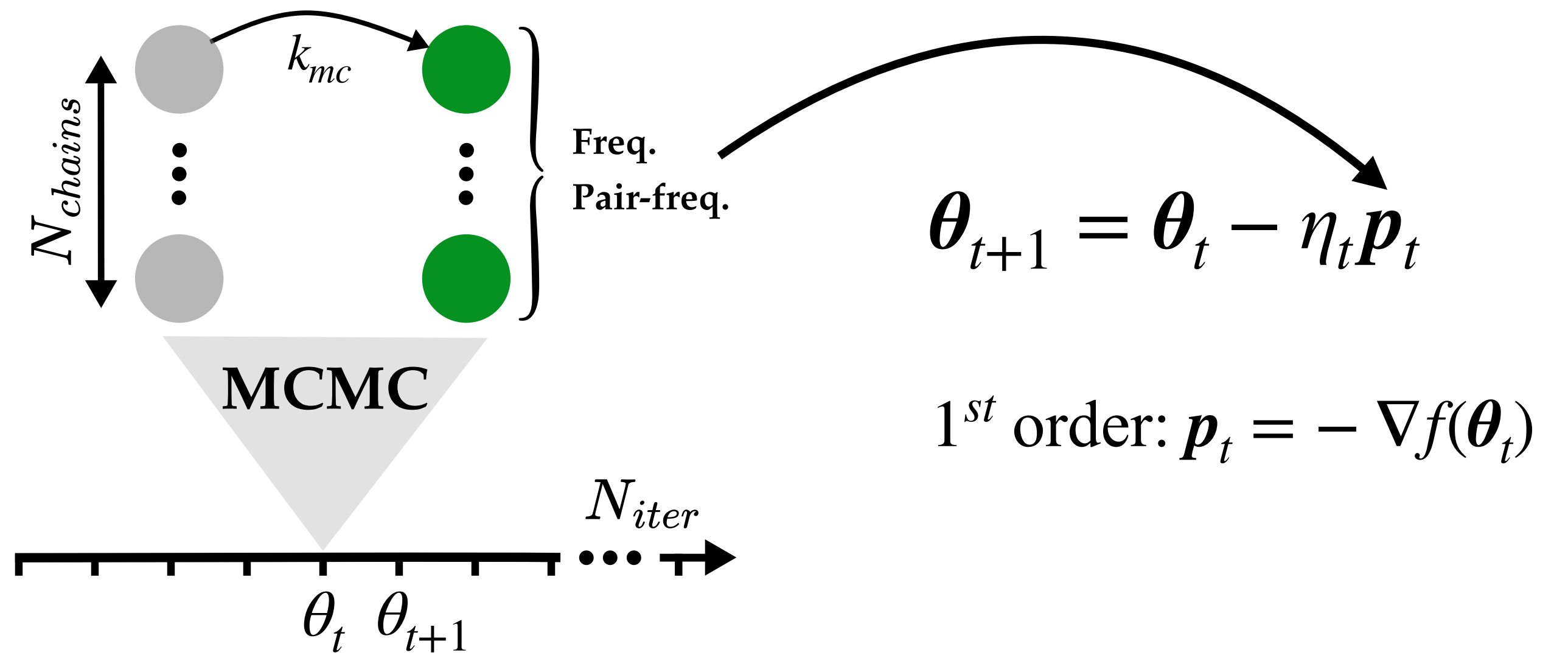
$$\frac{\partial f(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial J_{ij}(a, b)} = \underbrace{f_{ij}(a, b)}_{\text{Empirical}} - \underbrace{\langle \delta(\sigma_i, a) \delta(\sigma_j, b) \rangle}_{\text{Model}} + \lambda_J J_{ij}(a, b)$$

III. Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

Assess model performance with a toy model



$$\theta = \{J, h\} \quad f(\theta) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \log P(\sigma^{(m)} | \theta) - \lambda_J \|J\|^2 - \lambda_h \|h\|^2$$



$$\frac{\partial f(\theta)}{\partial J_{ij}(a, b)} = \underbrace{f_{ij}(a, b)}_{\text{Empirical}} - \underbrace{\langle \delta(\sigma_i, a) \delta(\sigma_j, b) \rangle}_{\text{Model}} + \lambda_J J_{ij}(a, b)$$

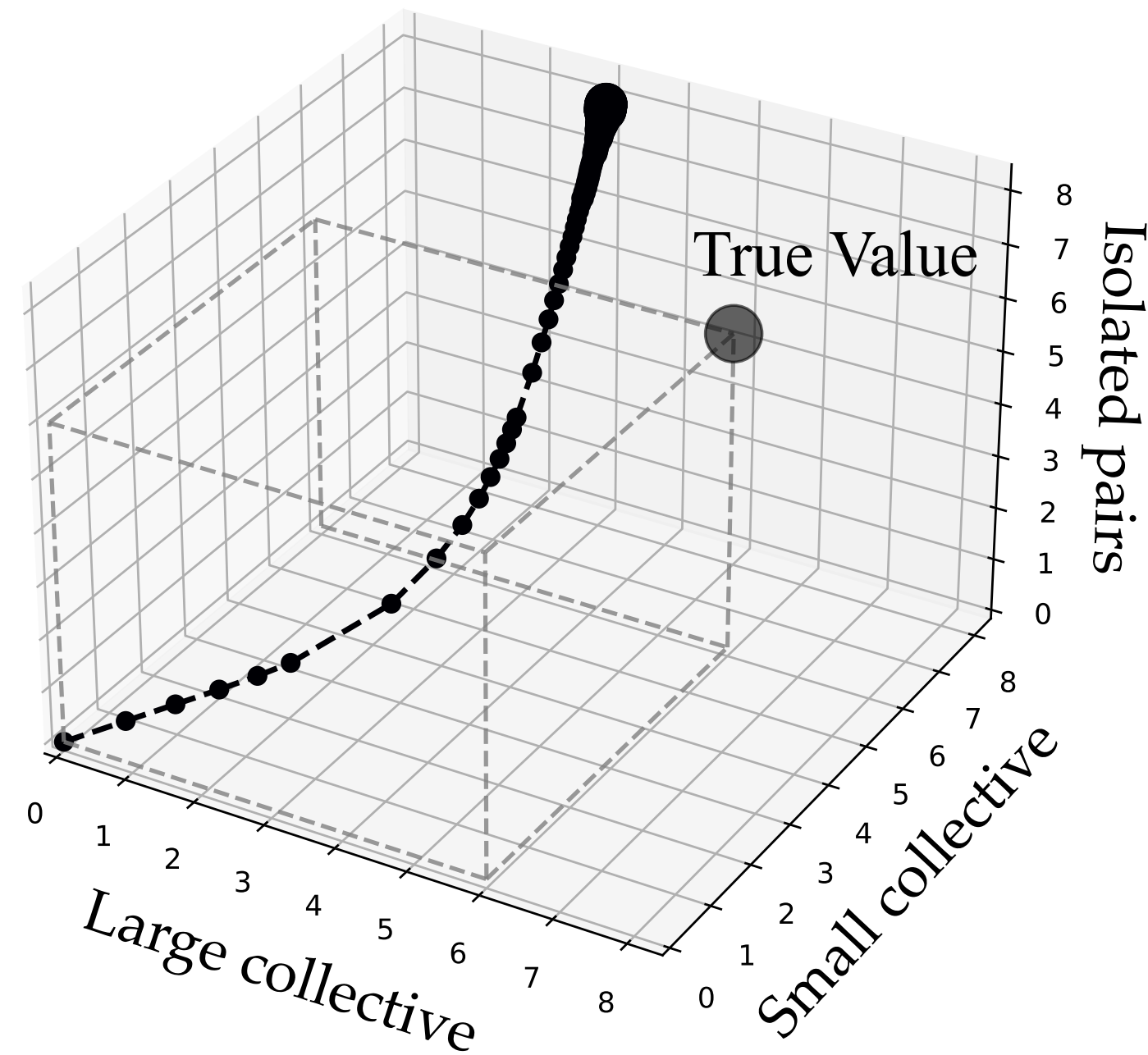
III. Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

Assess model performance with a toy model

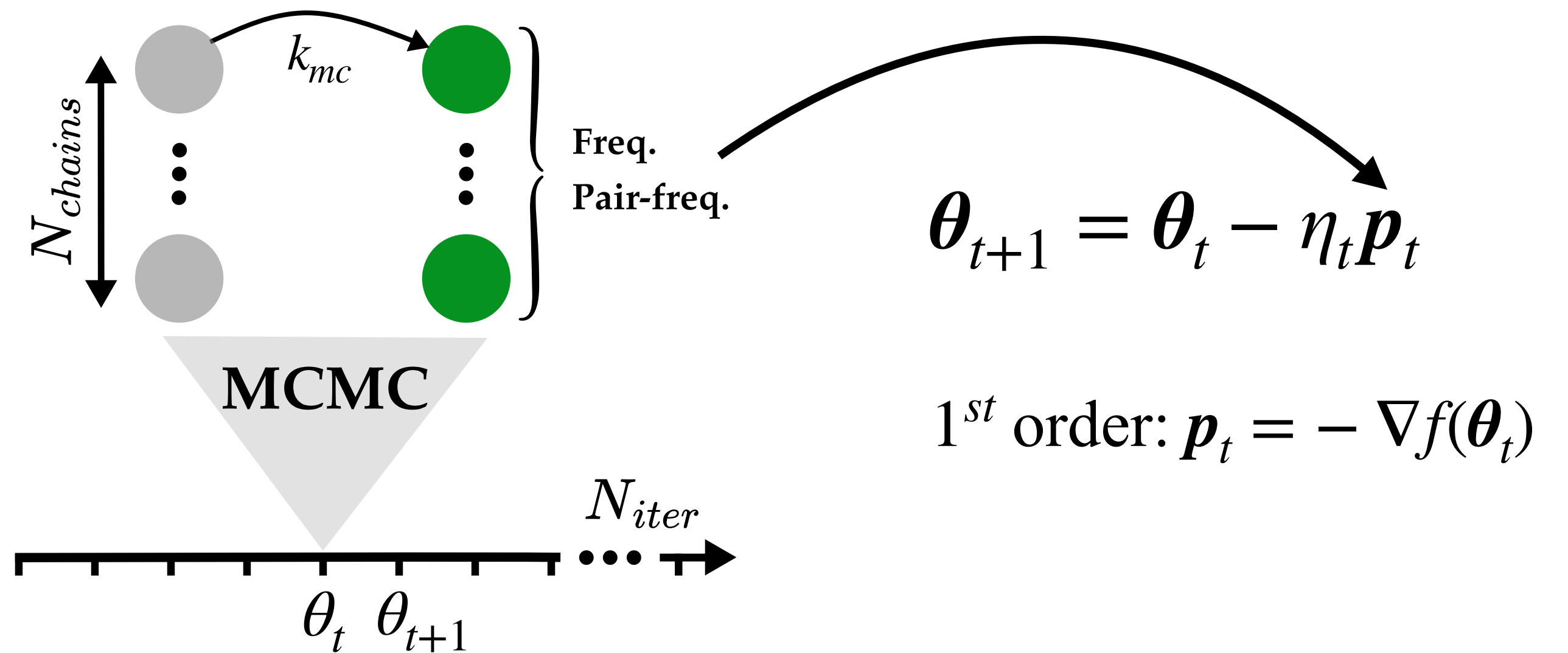
BM

L_2 regularization

1st order: $\mathbf{p}_t = -\nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$



$$\boldsymbol{\theta} = \{\mathbf{J}, \mathbf{h}\} \quad f(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \log P(\boldsymbol{\sigma}^{(m)} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) - \lambda_J \|\mathbf{J}\|^2 - \lambda_h \|\mathbf{h}\|^2$$



$$\frac{\partial f(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial J_{ij}(a, b)} = \underbrace{f_{ij}(a, b)}_{\text{Empirical}} - \underbrace{\langle \delta(\sigma_i, a) \delta(\sigma_j, b) \rangle}_{\text{Model}} + \lambda_J J_{ij}(a, b)$$

All models are inferred with $k_{mc} = 10^5$, $N_{iter} = 5000$

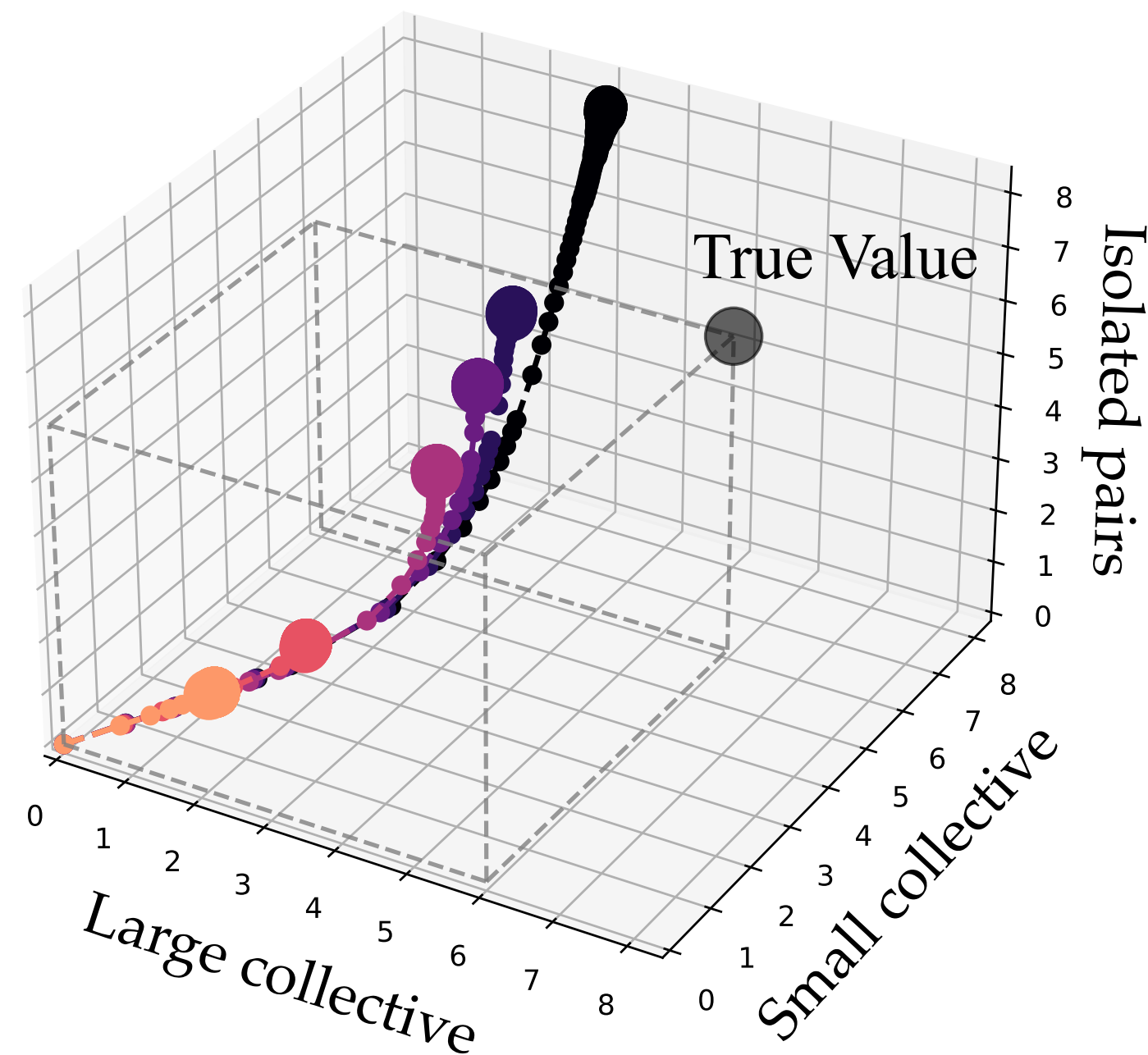
III. Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

Assess model performance with a toy model

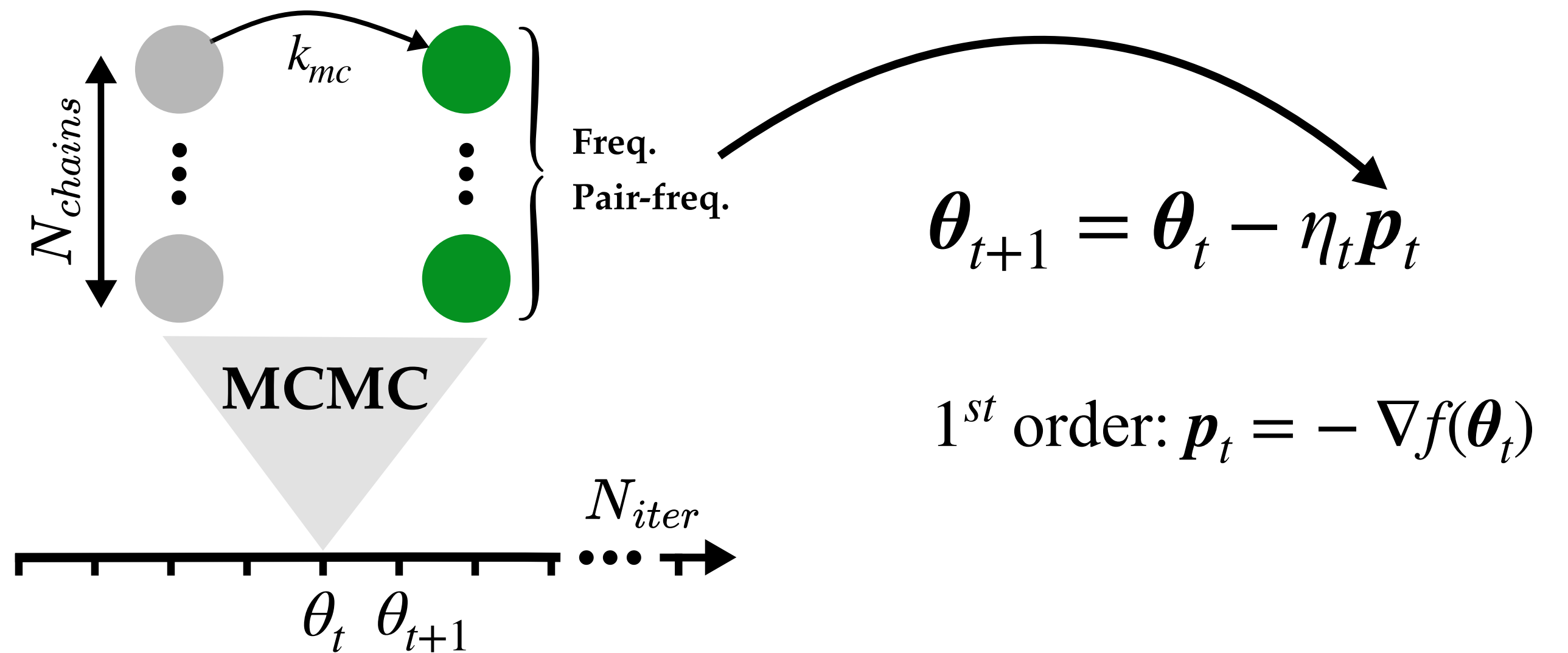
BM

L_2 regularization

1st order: $\mathbf{p}_t = -\nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$



$$\boldsymbol{\theta} = \{\mathbf{J}, \mathbf{h}\} \quad f(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \log P(\boldsymbol{\sigma}^{(m)} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) - \lambda_J \|\mathbf{J}\|^2 - \lambda_h \|\mathbf{h}\|^2$$



$$\frac{\partial f(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial J_{ij}(a, b)} = \underbrace{f_{ij}(a, b)}_{\text{Empirical}} - \underbrace{\langle \delta(\sigma_i, a) \delta(\sigma_j, b) \rangle}_{\text{Model}} + \lambda_J J_{ij}(a, b)$$

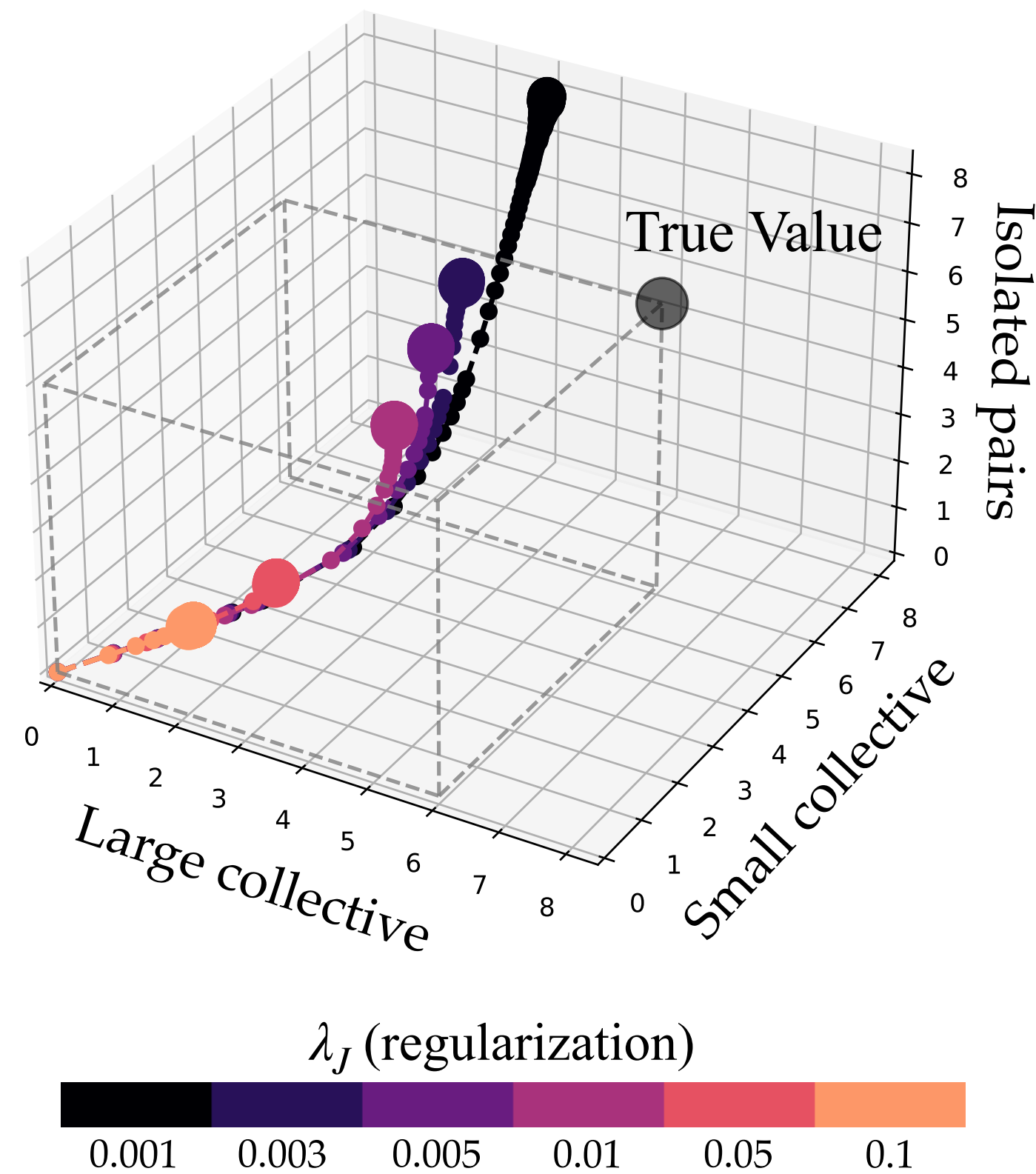
All models are inferred with $k_{mc} = 10^5$, $N_{iter} = 5000$

III. Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

BM

L_2 regularization

1st order: $\mathbf{p}_t = -\nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$



BM

L_2 regularization

2nd order: $\mathbf{p}_t = -\mathbf{B}_k^{-1} \nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$

L-BFGS algorithm

Why?

- ▶ High dimensional space $\sim 10^4$
- ▶ 1st order suboptimal because of anisotropic curvature

How?

- ▶ Curvature information from the m most recent iterations

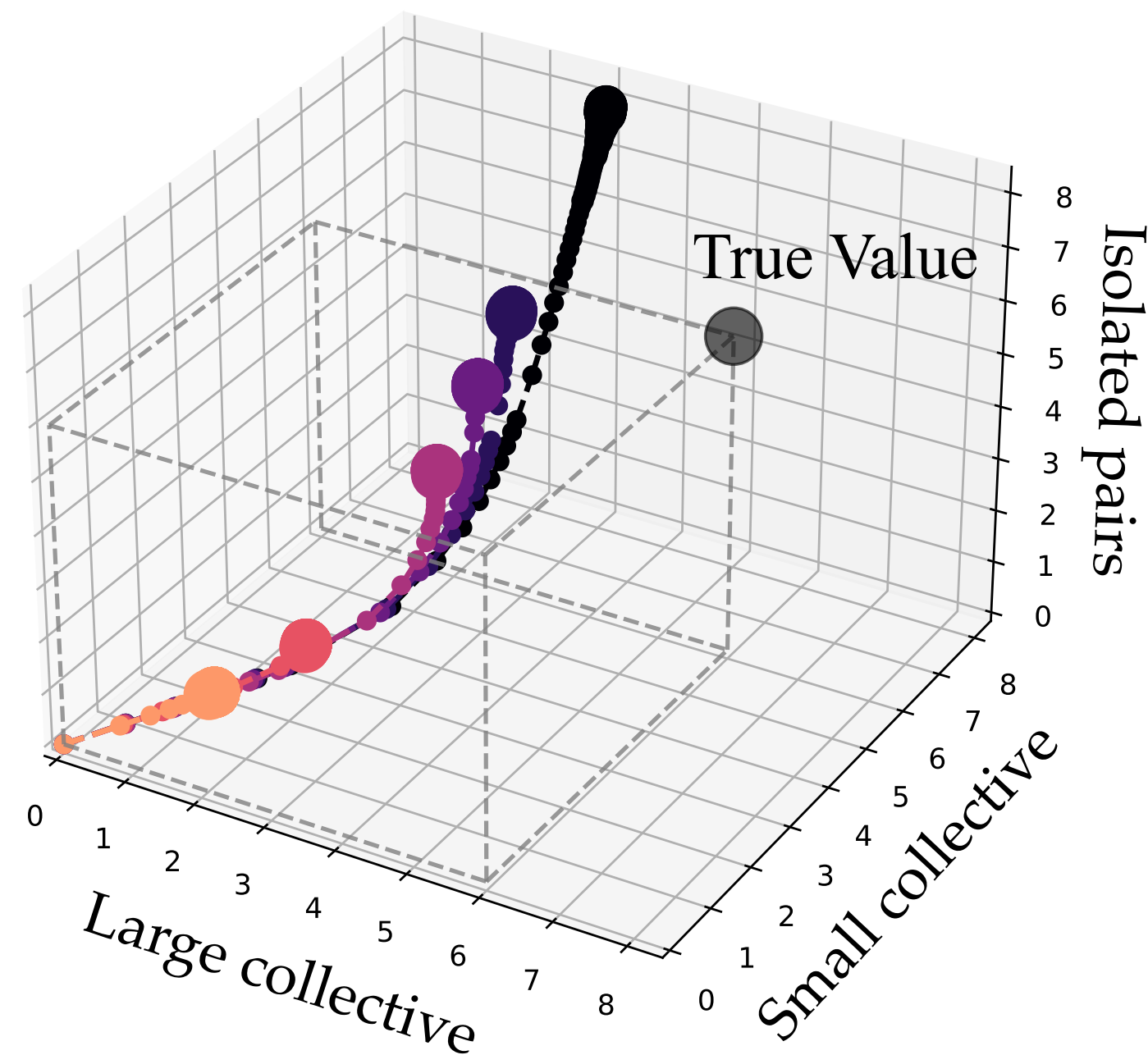
$$\mathbf{p}_t = -\mathbf{B}_k^{-1} \nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$$

III. Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

BM

L_2 regularization

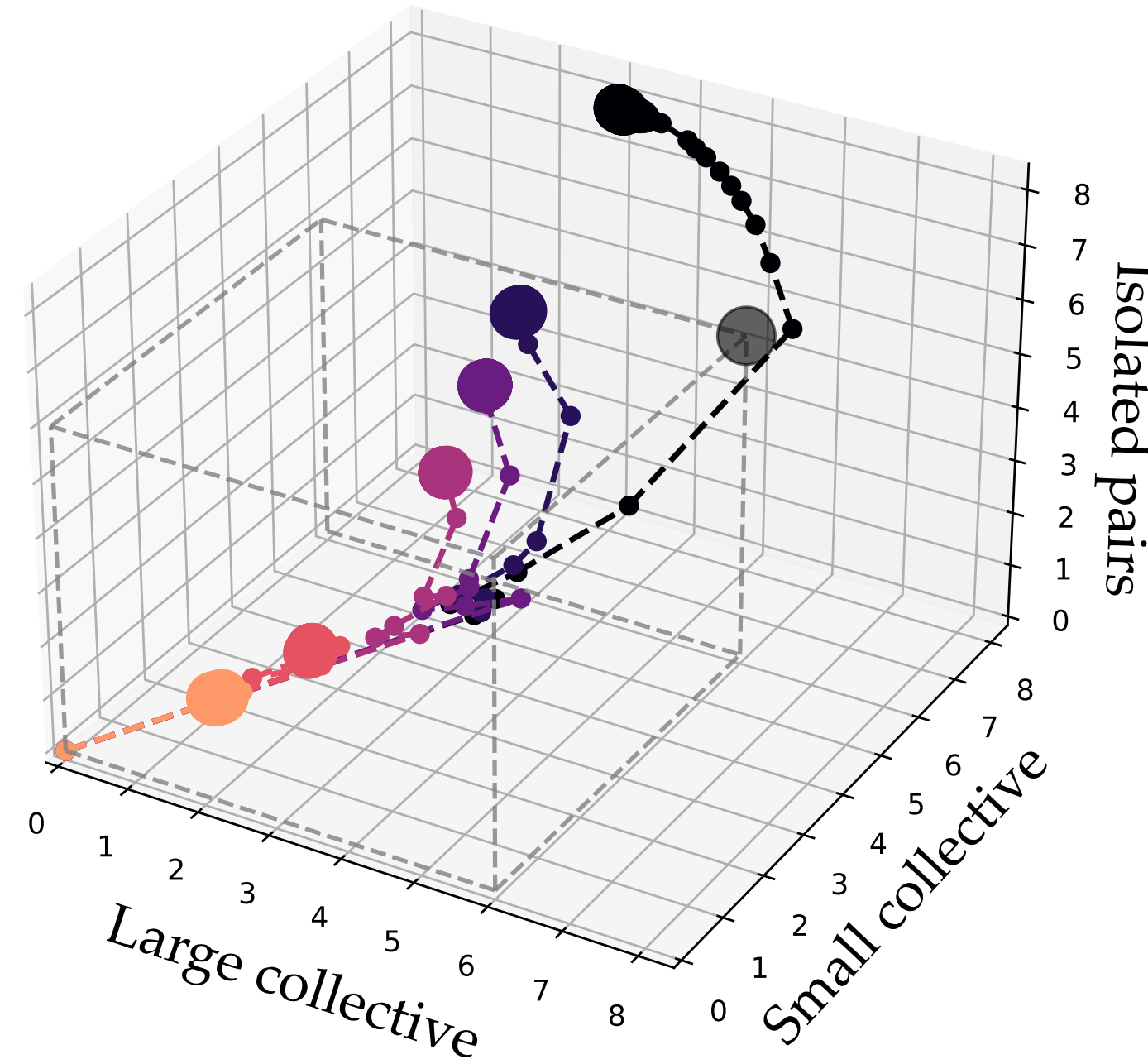
1st order: $\mathbf{p}_t = -\nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$



BM

L_2 regularization

2nd order: $\mathbf{p}_t = -\mathbf{B}_k^{-1} \nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$



L-BFGS algorithm

Why?

- ▶ High dimensional space $\sim 10^4$
- ▶ 1st order suboptimal because of anisotropic curvature

How?

- ▶ Curvature information from the m most recent iterations

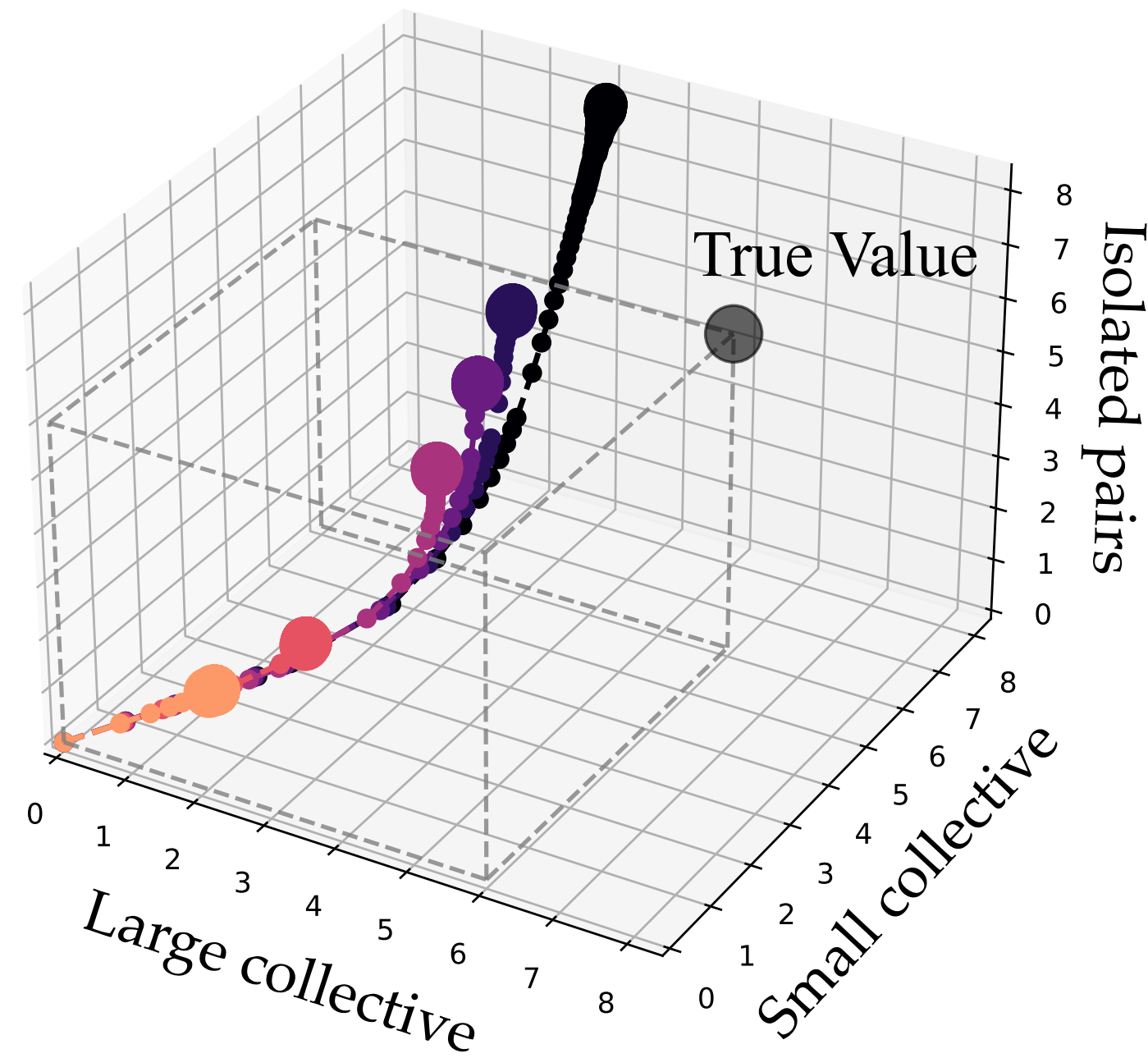
$$\mathbf{p}_t = -\mathbf{B}_k^{-1} \nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$$

III. Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

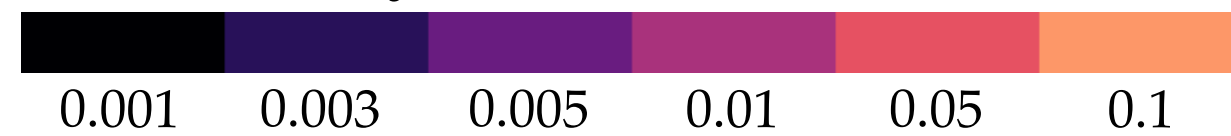
BM

L_2 regularization

$$1^{st} \text{ order: } \mathbf{p}_t = -\nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$$



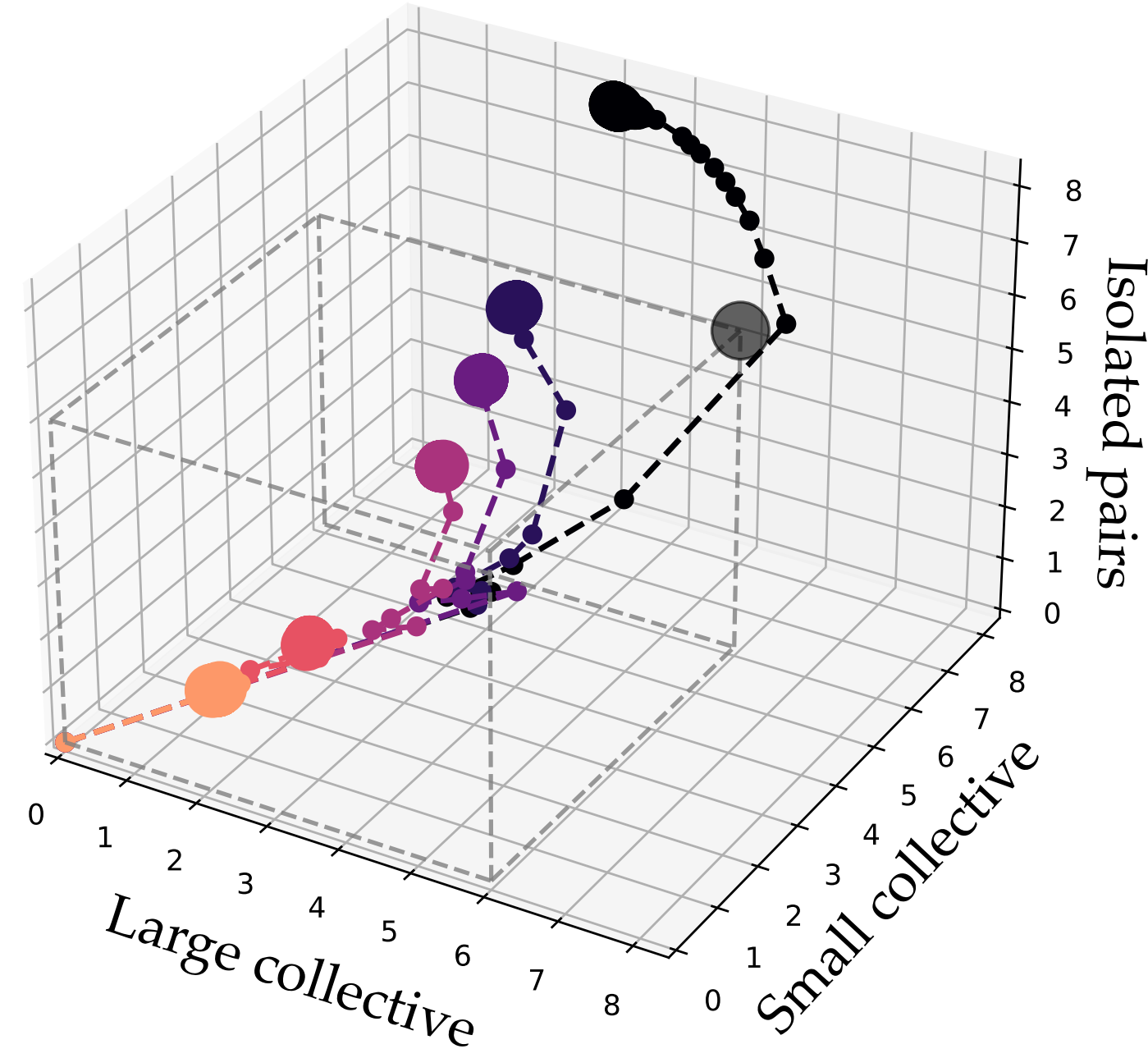
λ_J (regularization)



BM

L_2 regularization

$$2^{nd} \text{ order: } \mathbf{p}_t = -\mathbf{B}_k^{-1} \nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$$



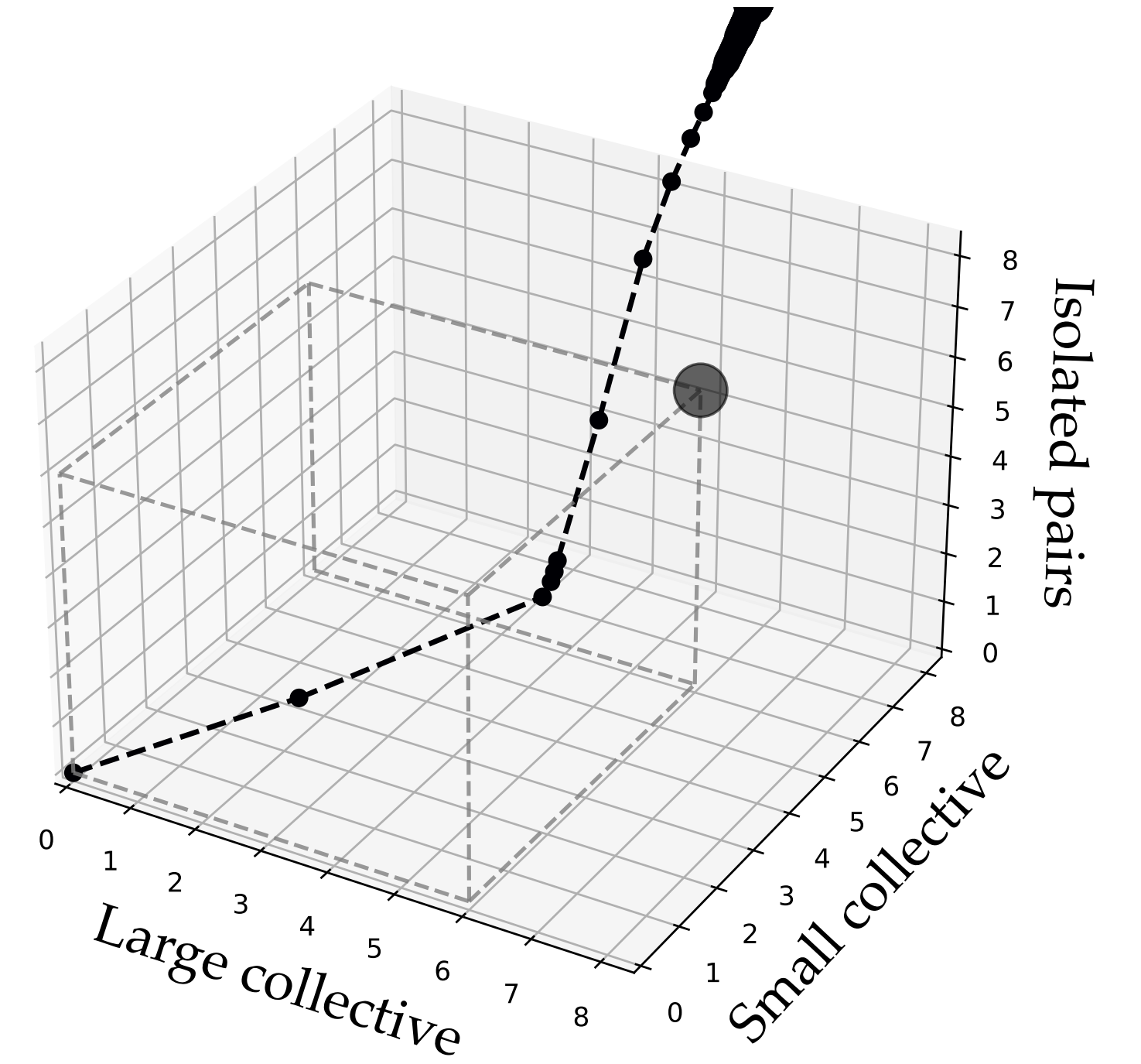
λ_J (regularization)



Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

L_2 regularization

$$2^{nd} \text{ order: } \mathbf{p}_t = -\mathbf{B}_k^{-1} \nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$$



N_{chains} (regularization)

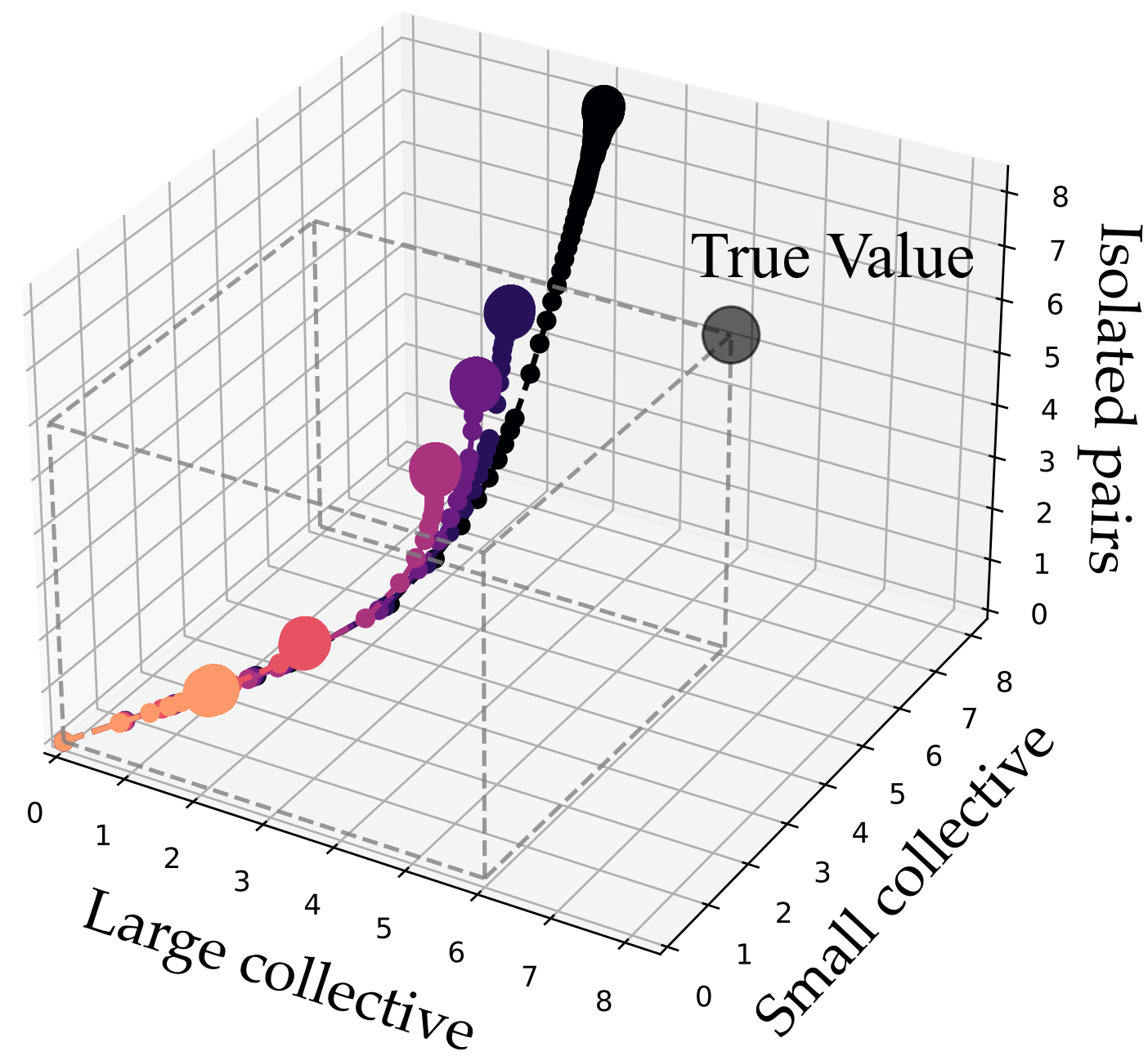


III. Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

BM

L_2 regularization

1st order: $\mathbf{p}_t = -\nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$



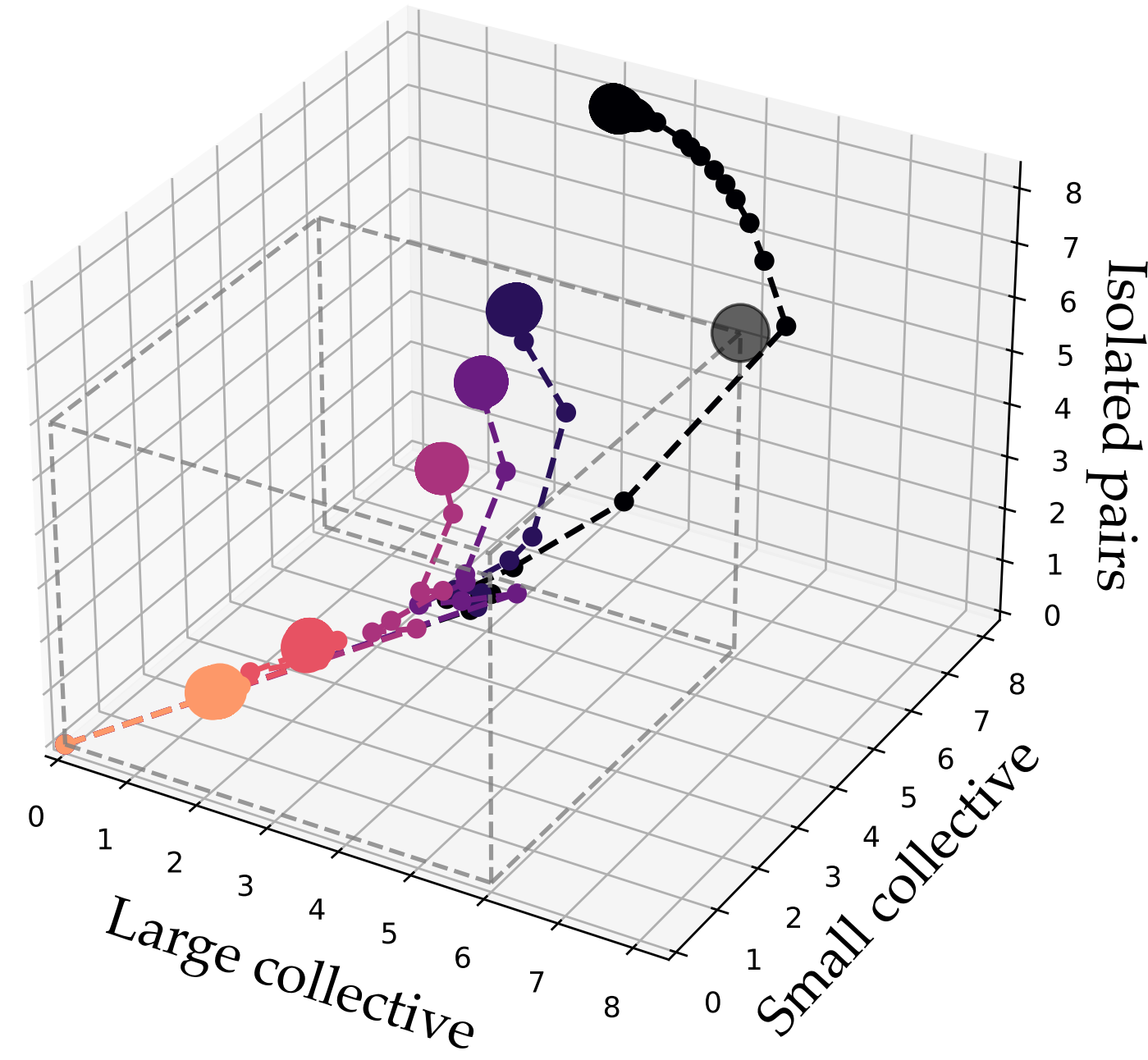
λ_J (regularization)

0.001 0.003 0.005 0.01 0.05 0.1

BM

L_2 regularization

2nd order: $\mathbf{p}_t = -\mathbf{B}_k^{-1} \nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$



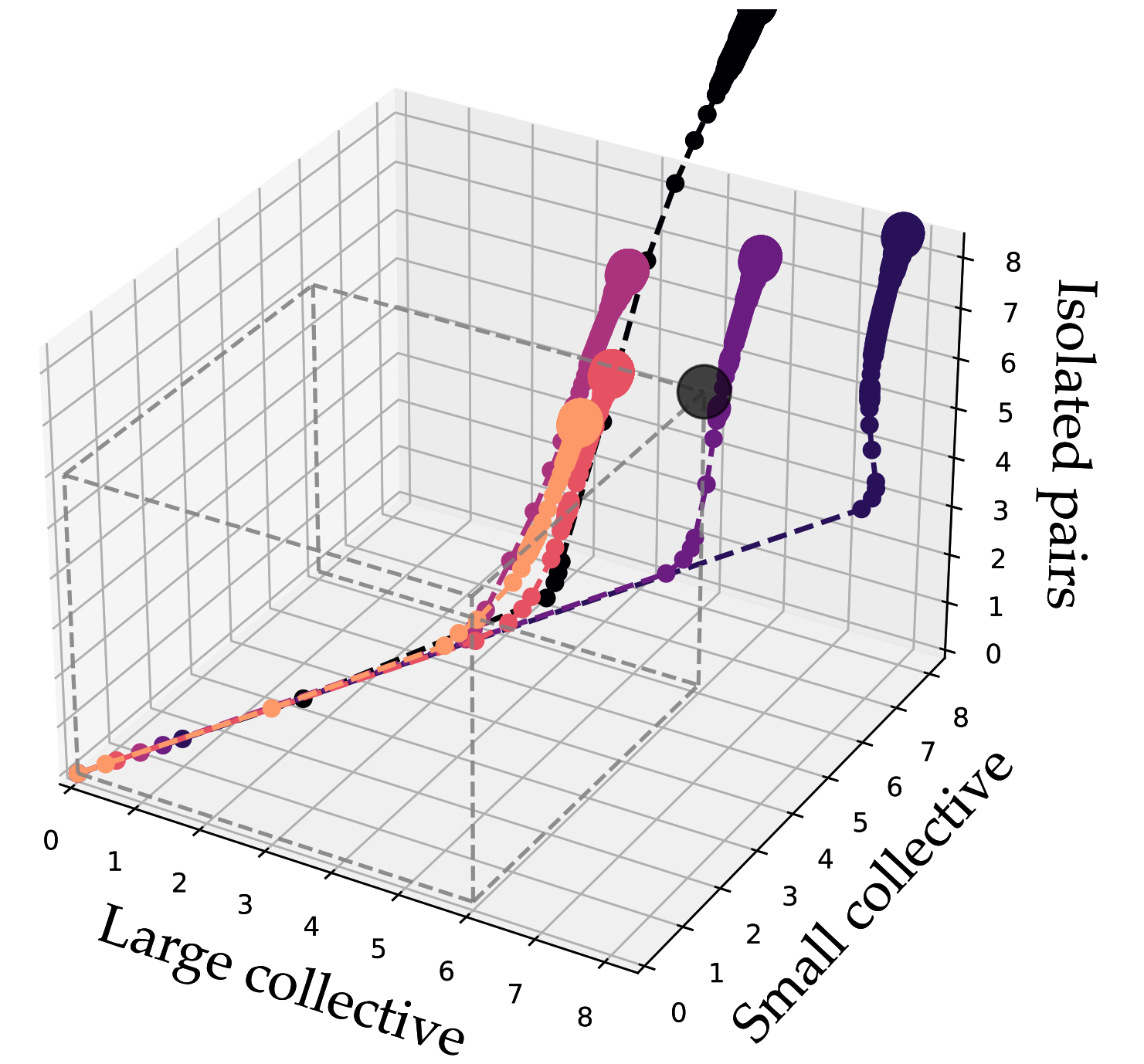
λ_J (regularization)

0.001 0.003 0.005 0.01 0.05 0.1

Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

L_2 regularization

2nd order: $\mathbf{p}_t = -\mathbf{B}_k^{-1} \nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$



N_{chains} (regularization)

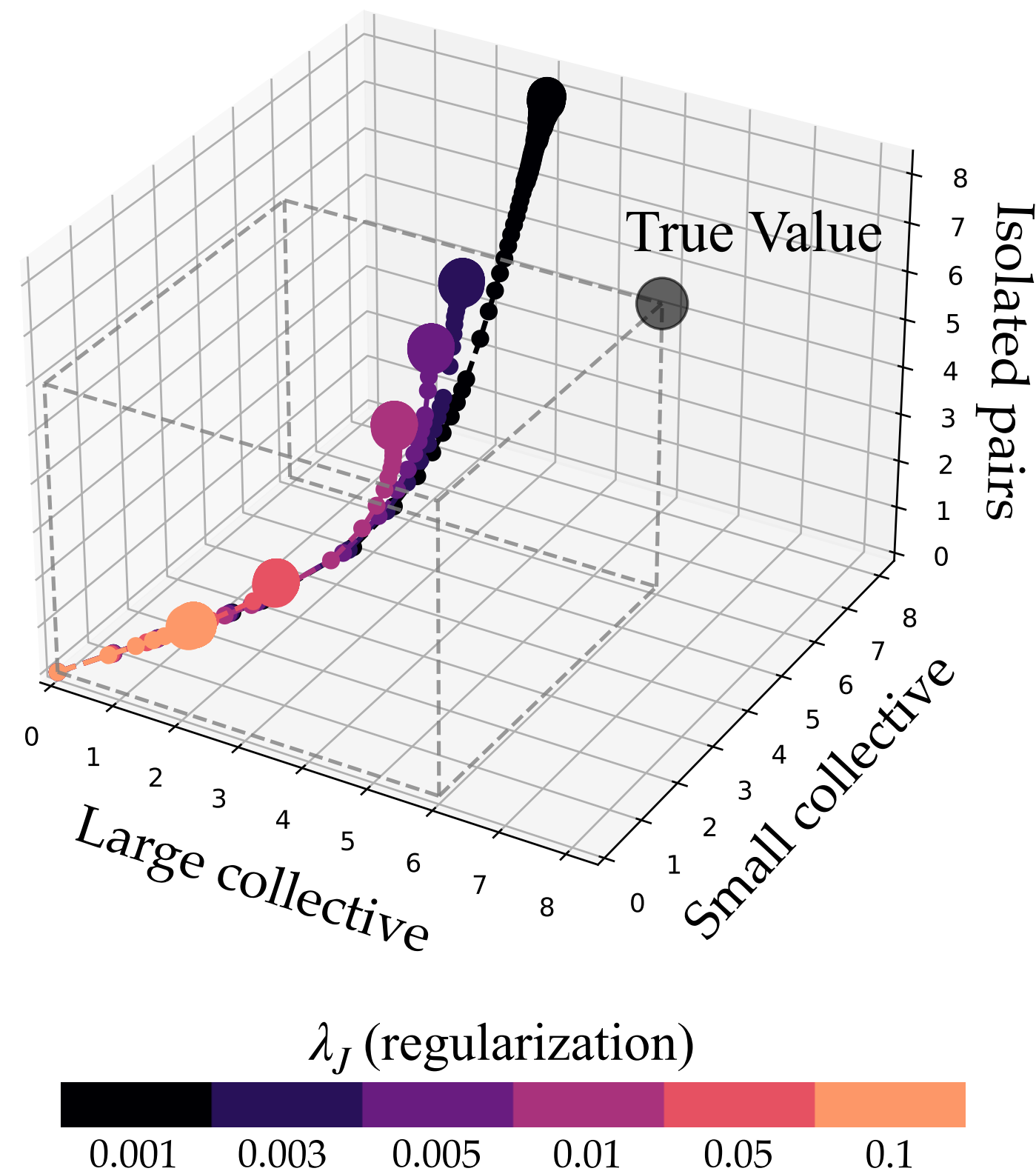
500 200 100 150 50 30

III. Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

BM

L_2 regularization

1st order: $\mathbf{p}_t = -\nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$



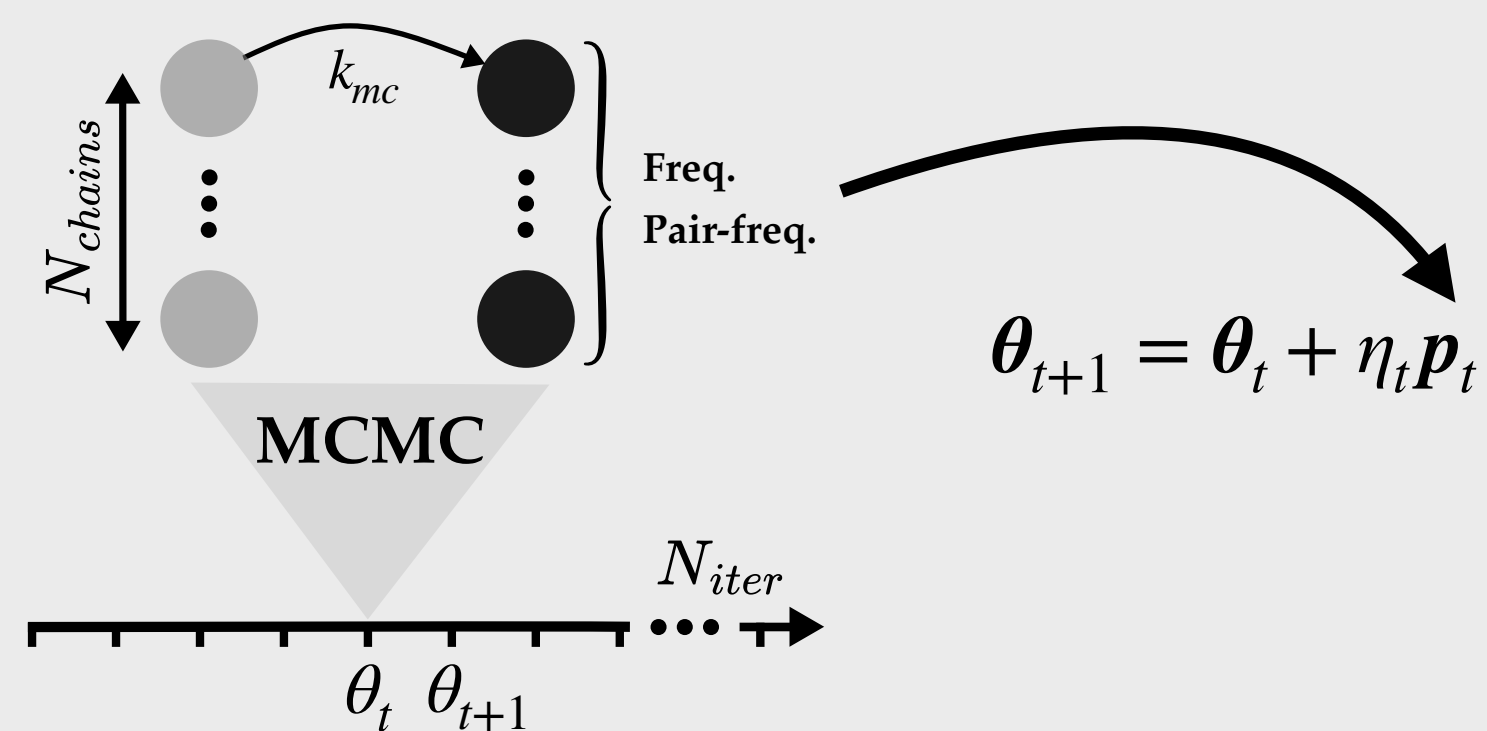
Lowering N_{chains}

Observation

- ▶ Training BM: capture statistics
- ▶ But statistics lack reliability because of undersampling

Strategy

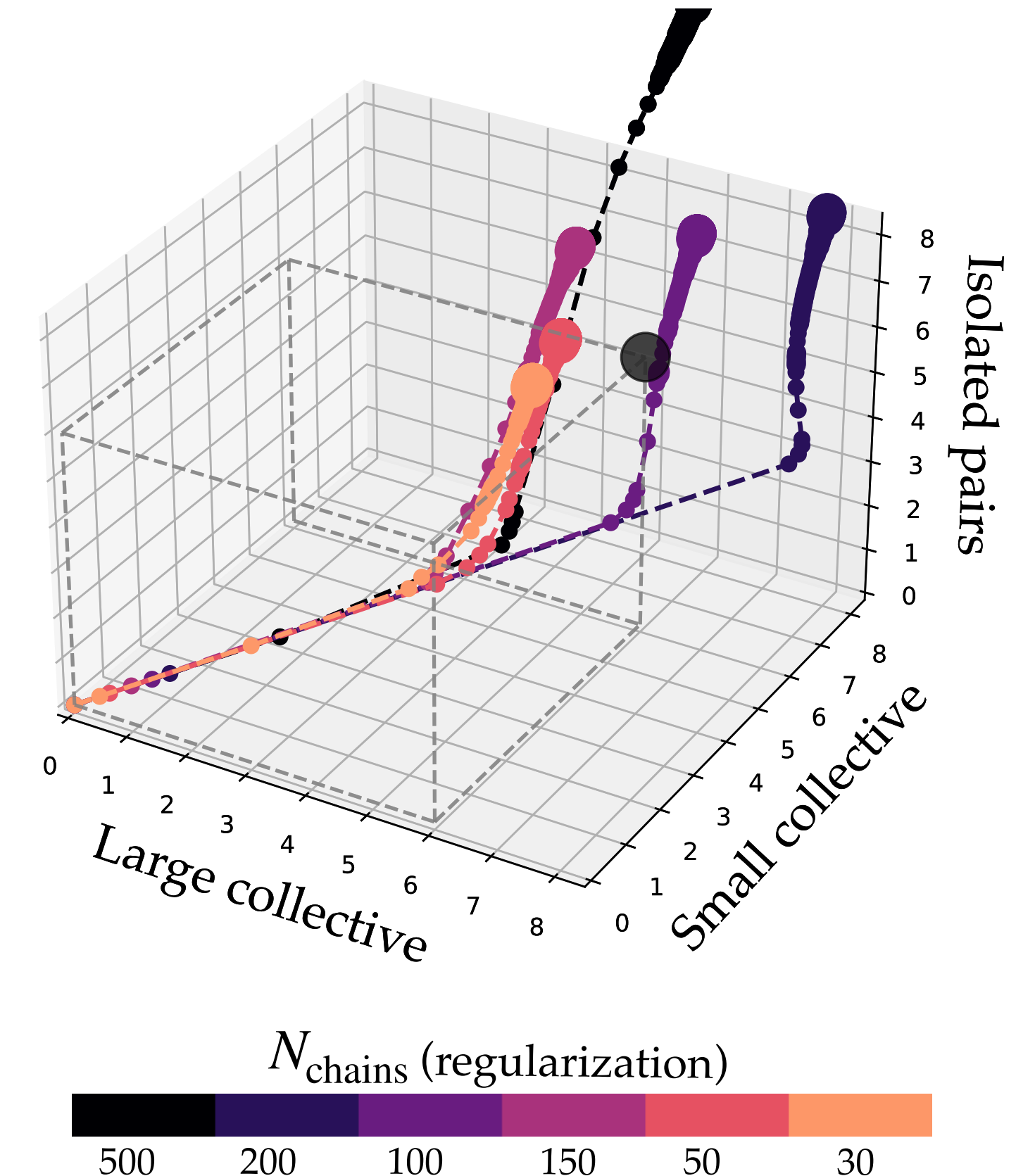
- ▶ Intentionally undersample the model to mirror data undersampling



Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

L_2 regularization

2nd order: $\mathbf{p}_t = -\mathbf{B}_k^{-1} \nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$

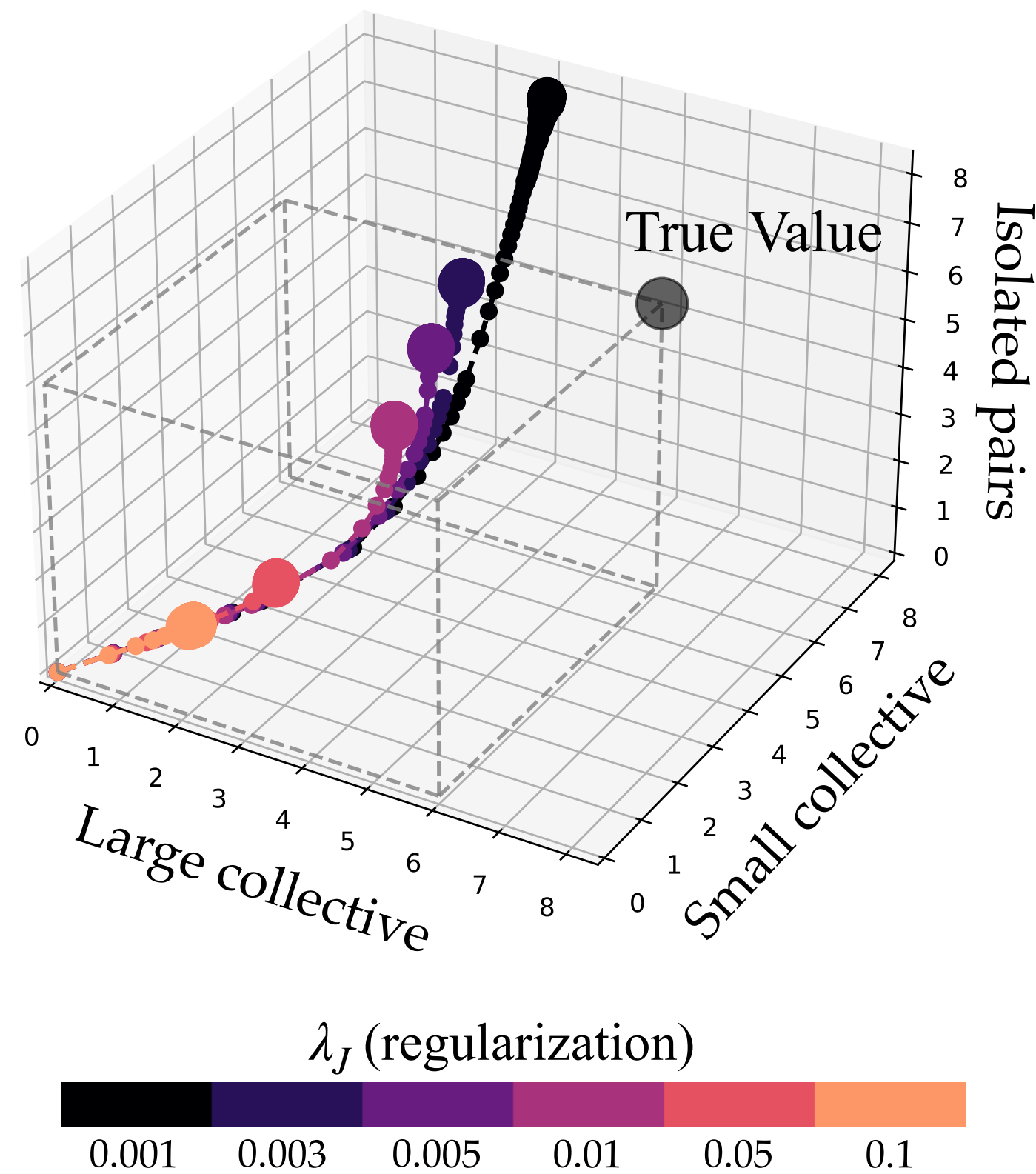


III. Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

BM

L_2 regularization

1st order: $\mathbf{p}_t = -\nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$



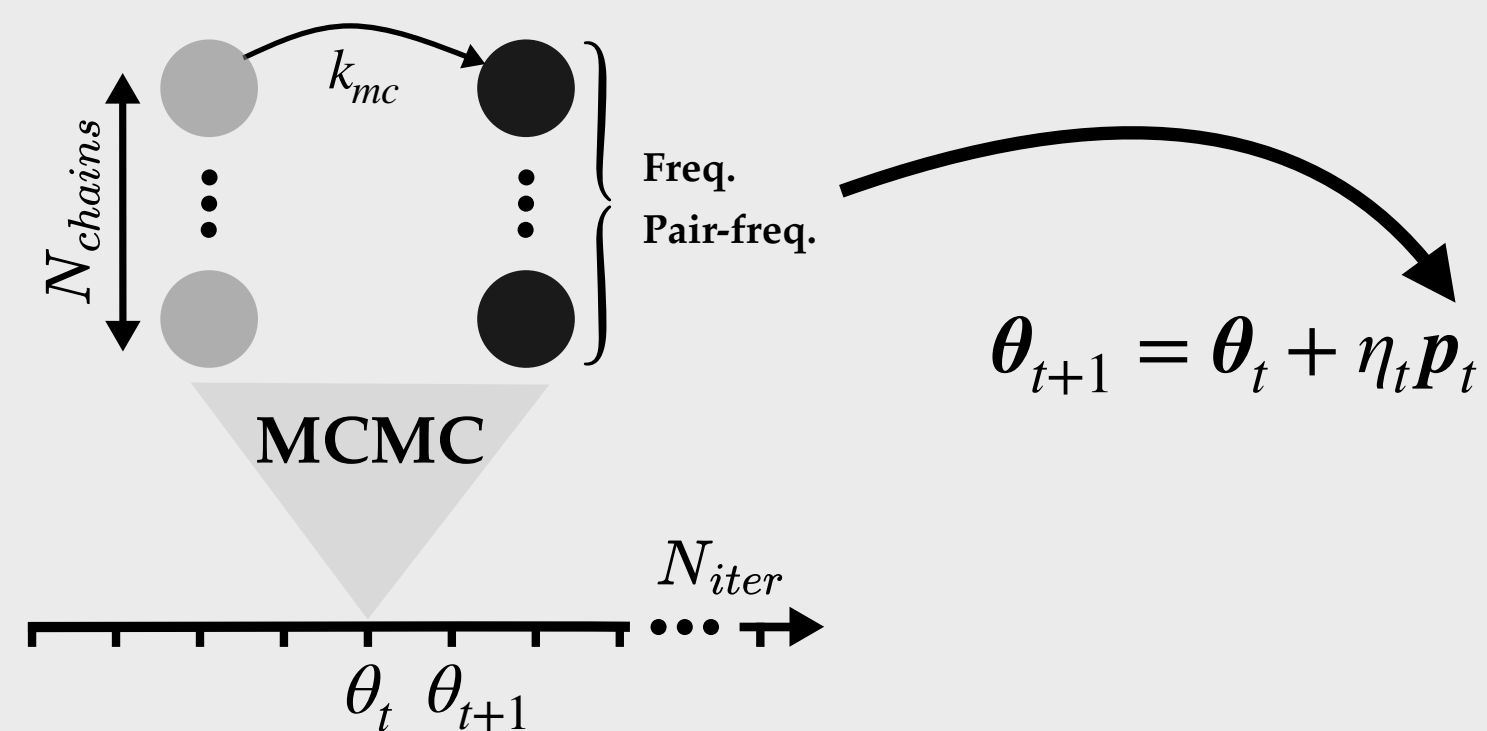
Lowering N_{chains}

Observation

- ▶ Training BM: capture statistics
- ▶ But statistics lack reliability because of undersampling

Strategy

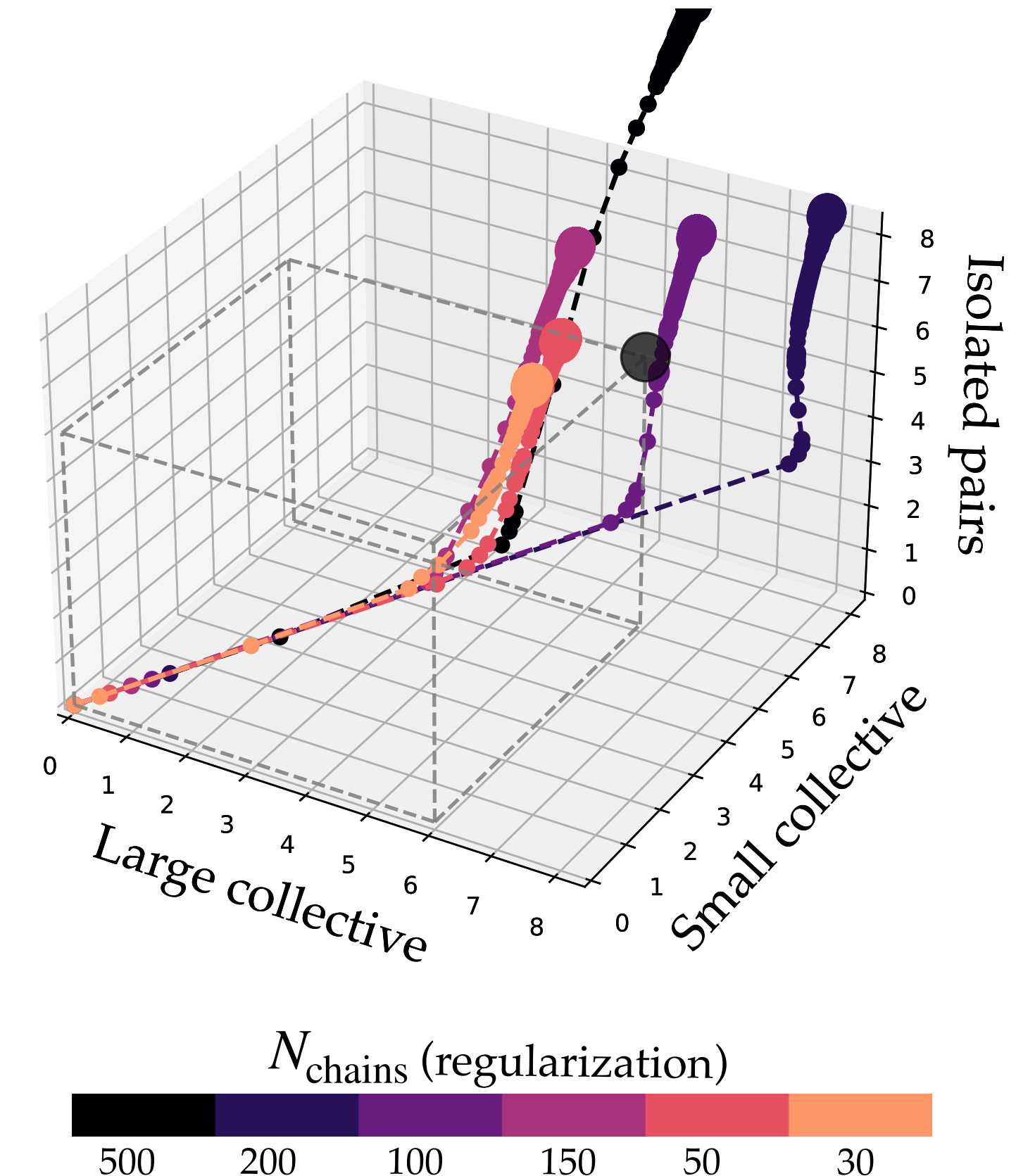
- ▶ Intentionally undersample the model to mirror data undersampling



Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

L_2 regularization

2nd order: $\mathbf{p}_t = -\mathbf{B}_k^{-1} \nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$



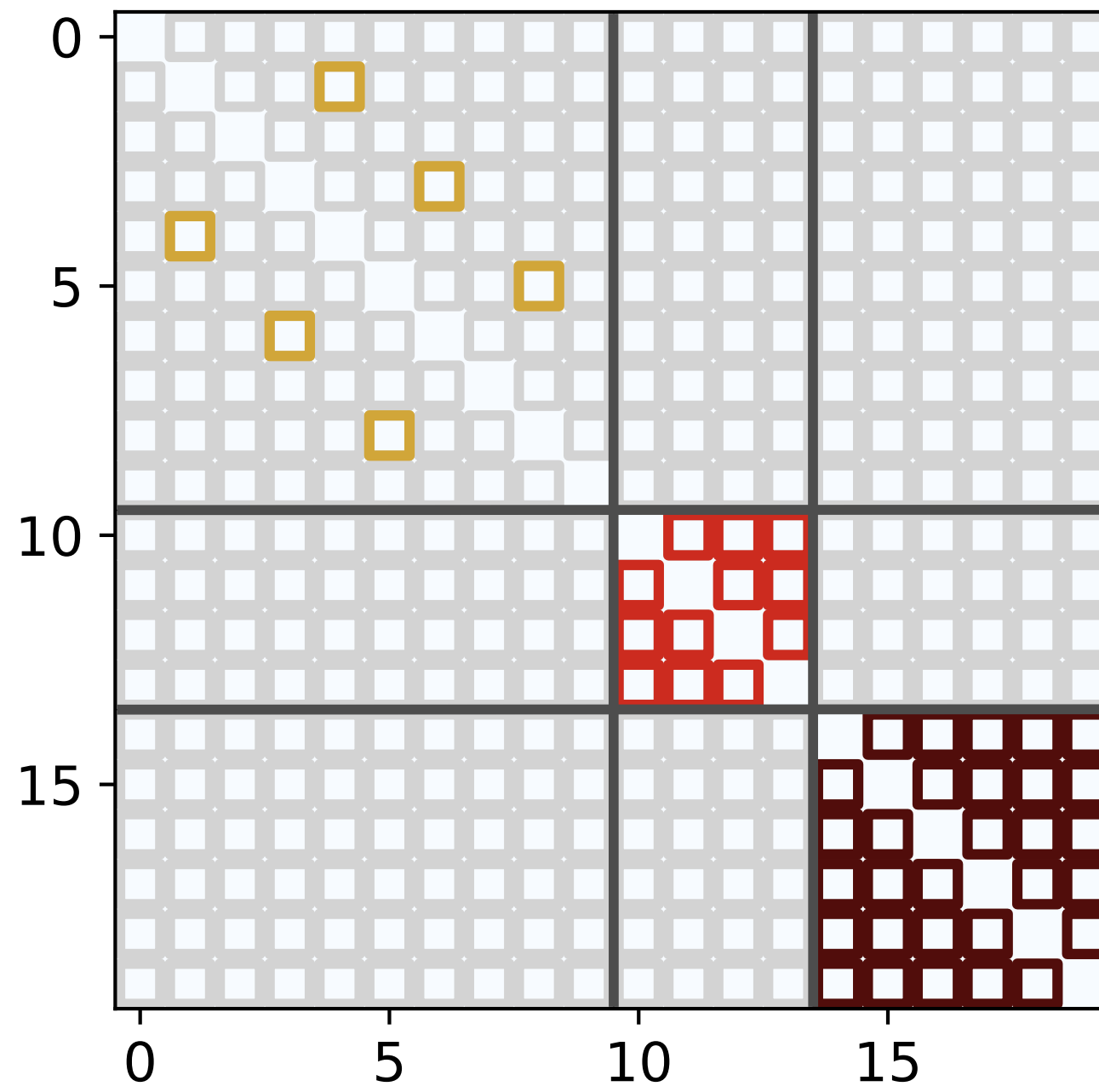
- ▶ Model undersampling: N_{chains}
- ▶ Slow down convergence: $m \sim 1$
- ▶ Early stopping: N_{iter}

All models are inferred with $k_{\text{mc}} = 10^5$, $N_{\text{iter}} = 5000$

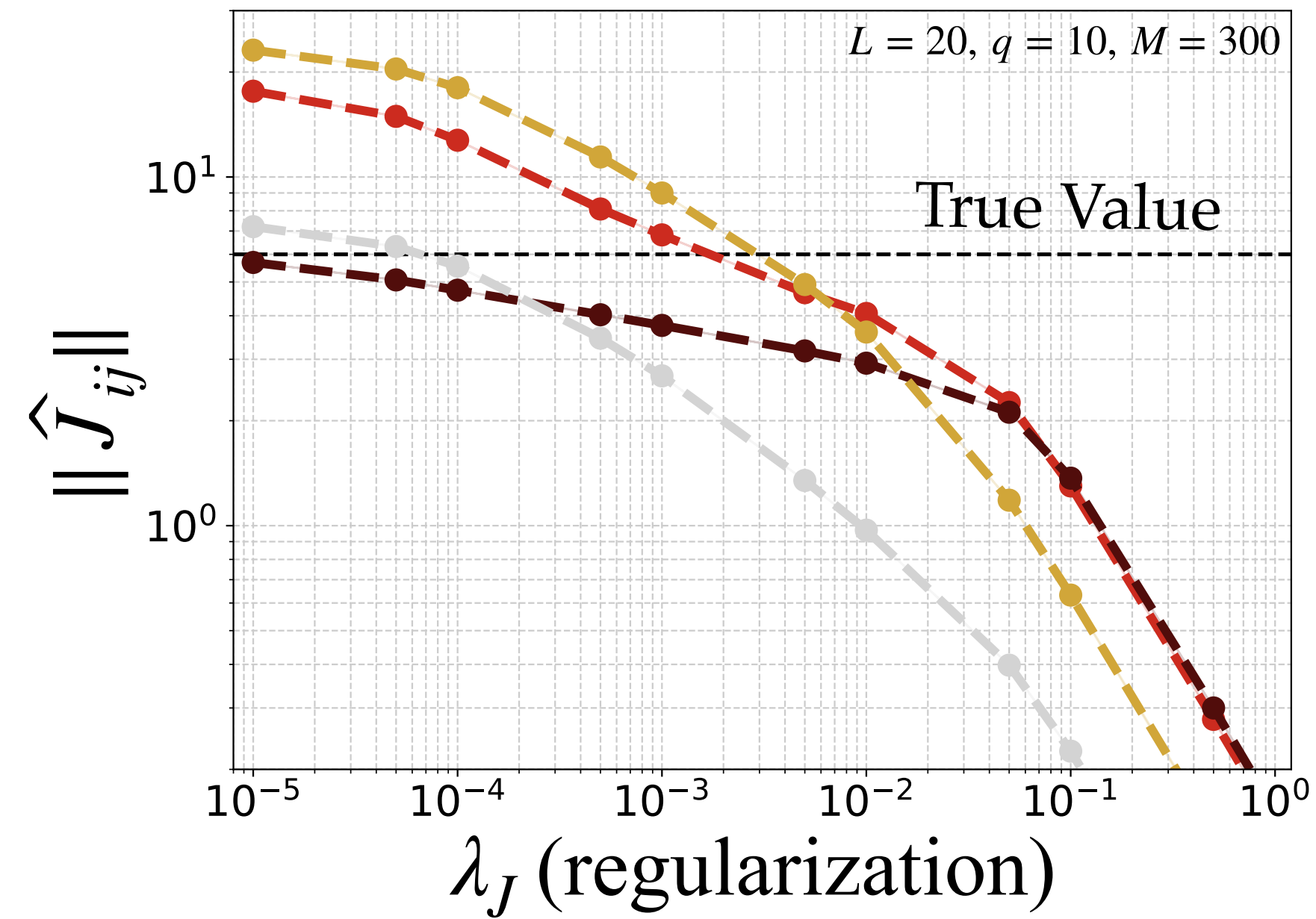
III. Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

Assess model performance with a toy model

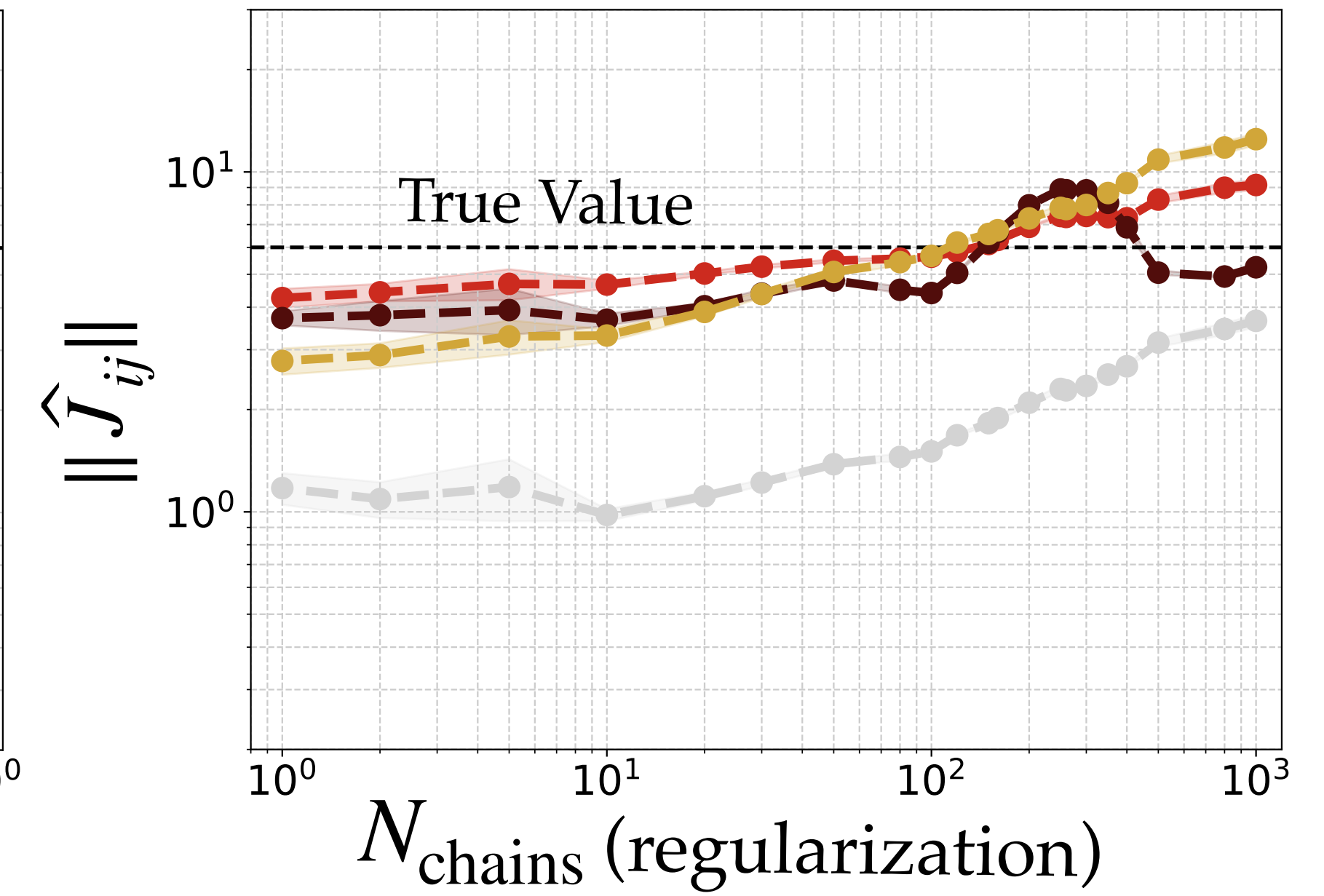
— Isolated pairs — Large collective
— Small collective — Non interacting



BM



SBM



Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

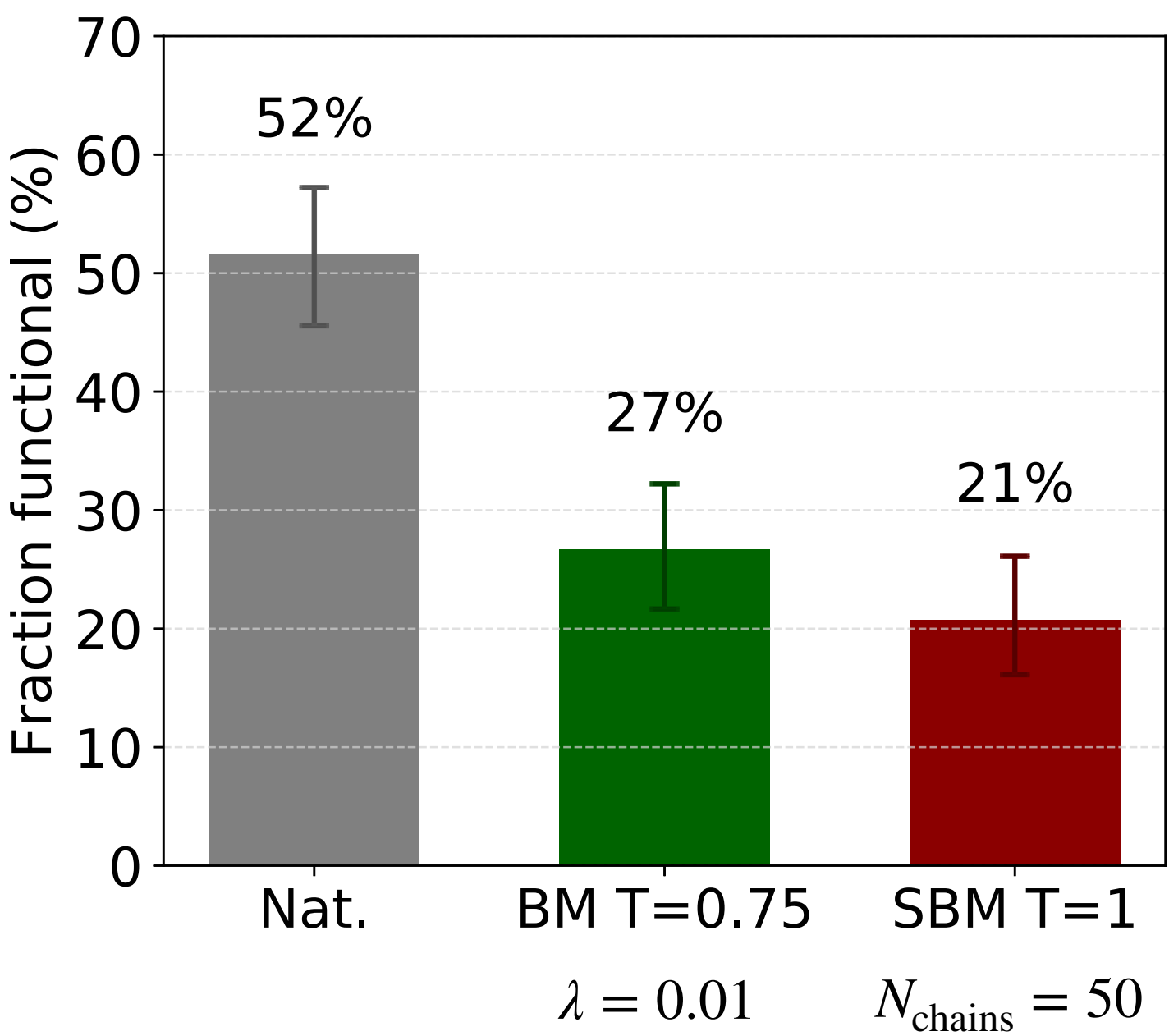
- ▶ Toy model: correct undersampling-induced biases
- ▶ Real data?

III. Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

Relevance to real proteins: application to the chorismate mutase family

Fidelity

Fraction of functional sequences



Novelty

Distribution of identity to the nearest natural sequence

Diversity

% of taxonomic families represented

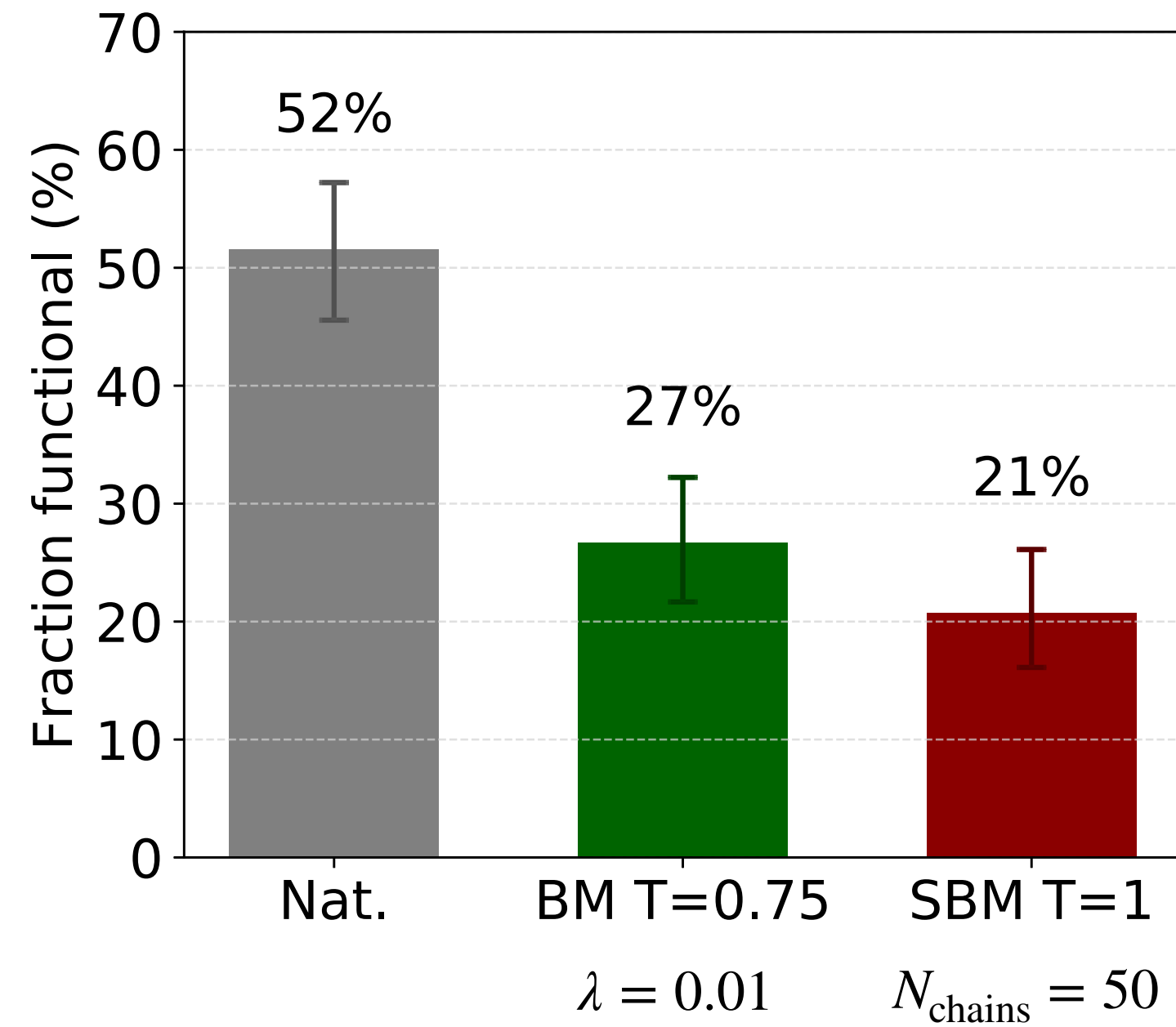
The experiments were performed by Emily Hinds
The models are inferred with $k_{\text{mc}} = 10^5$, $N_{\text{iter}} = 400$, $\theta = 0.3$
890, 193 and 180 sequences were tested for the natural dataset, the SBM and the BM models respectively

III. Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

Relevance to real proteins: application to the chorismate mutase family

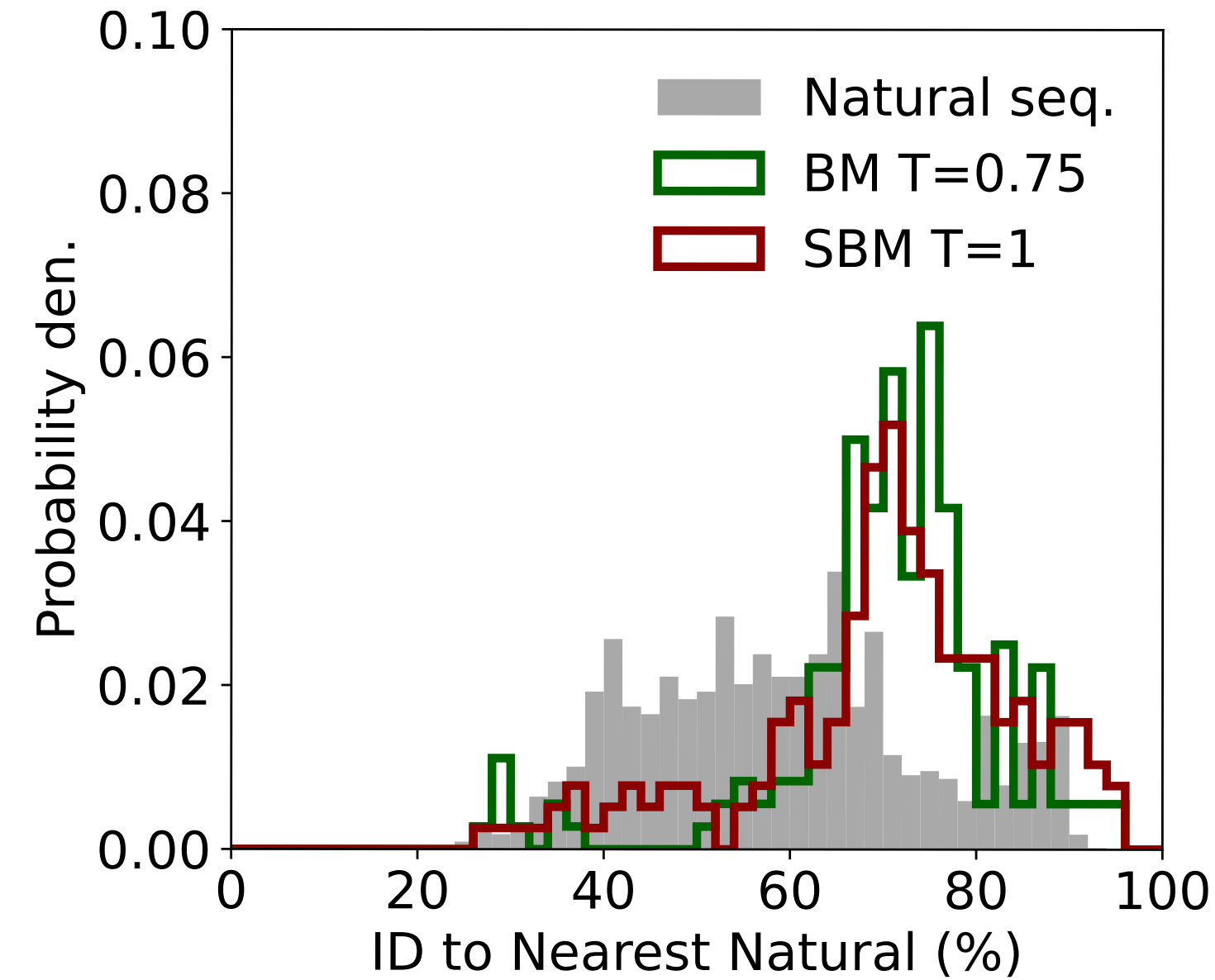
Fidelity

Fraction of functional sequences



Novelty

Distribution of identity to the nearest natural sequence



Diversity

% of taxonomic families represented

The experiments were performed by Emily Hinds

The models are inferred with $k_{\text{mc}} = 10^5$, $N_{\text{iter}} = 400$, $\theta = 0.3$

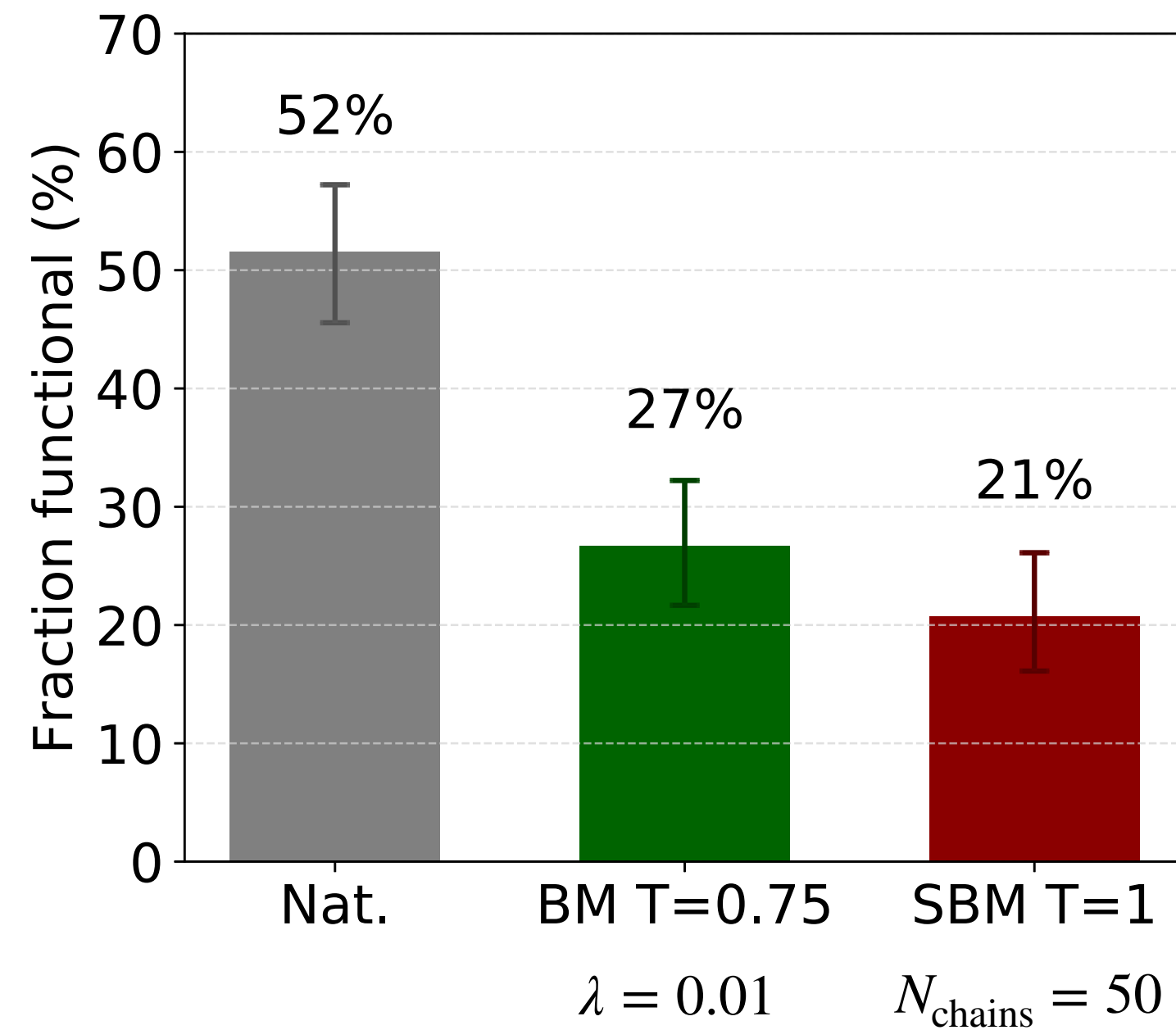
890, 193 and 180 sequences were tested for the natural dataset, the SBM and the BM models respectively

III. Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

Relevance to real proteins: application to the chorismate mutase family

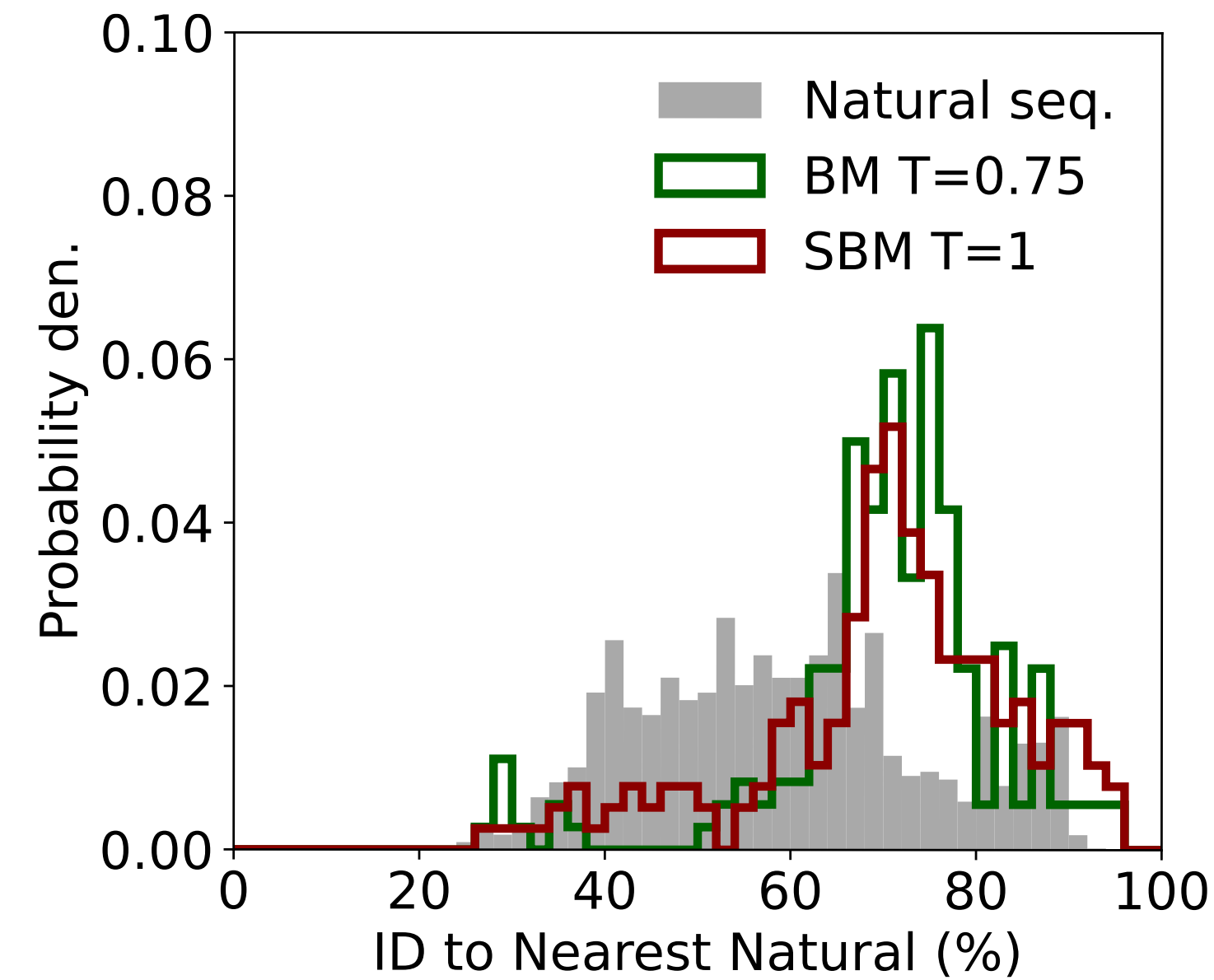
Fidelity

Fraction of functional sequences



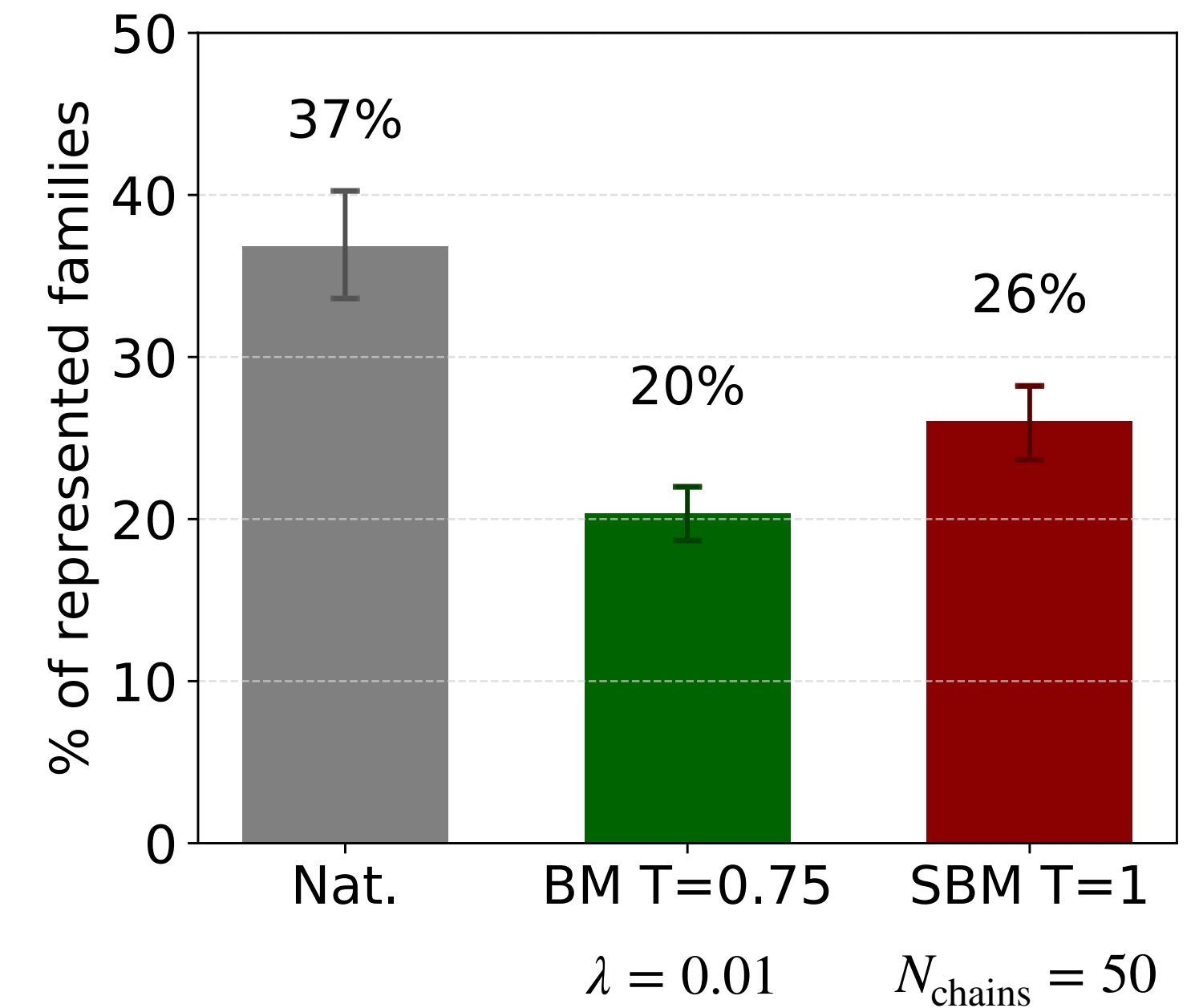
Novelty

Distribution of identity to the nearest natural sequence



Diversity

% of taxonomic families represented



Stochastic Boltzmann Machine

- ▶ Toy model: correct undersampling-induced biases
- ▶ Real data: generative without low-temperature sampling

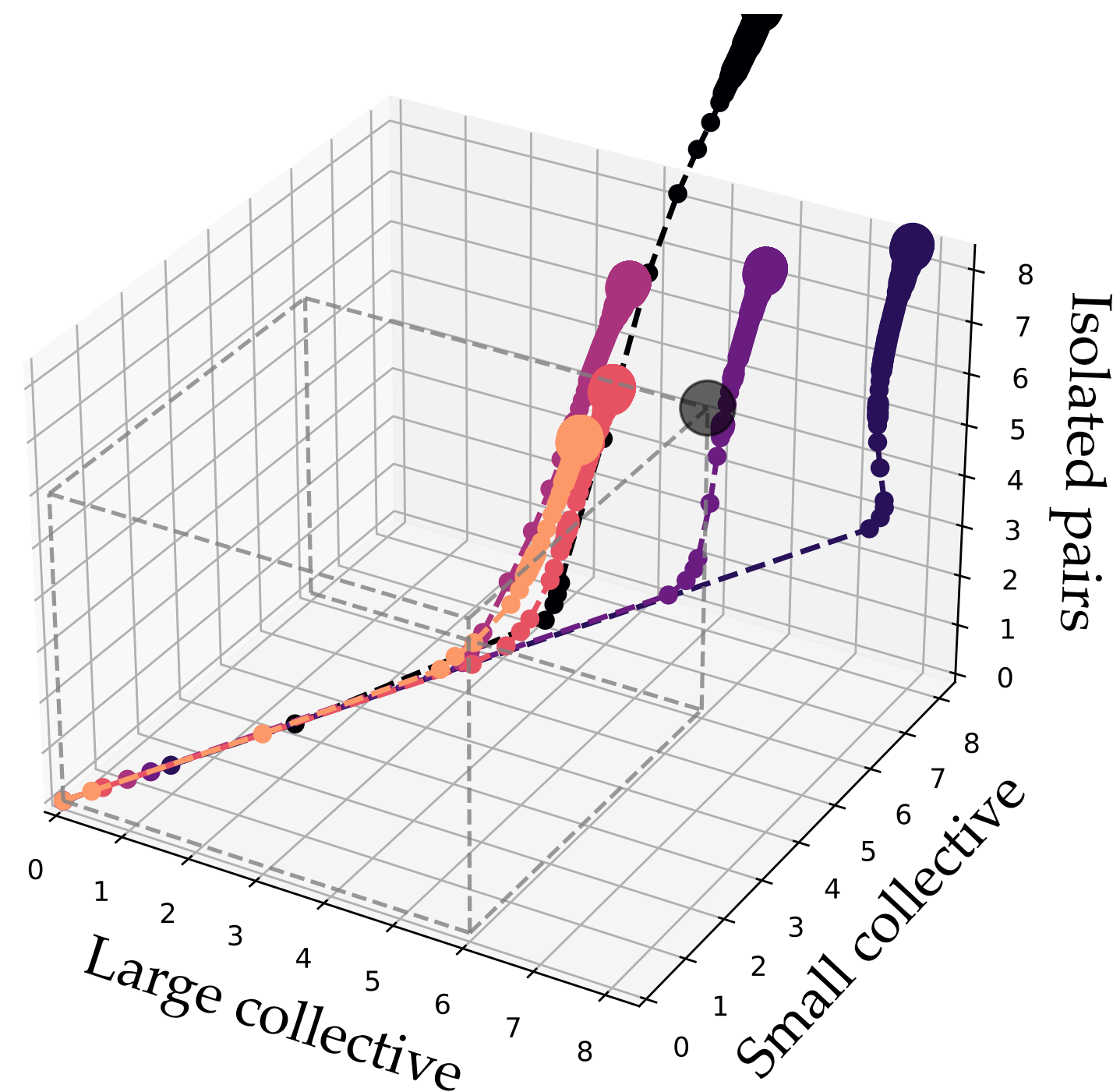
The experiments were performed by Emily Hinds

The models are inferred with $k_{\text{mc}} = 10^5$, $N_{\text{iter}} = 400$, $\theta = 0.3$

890, 193 and 180 sequences were tested for the natural dataset, the SBM and the BM models respectively

The undersampling problem

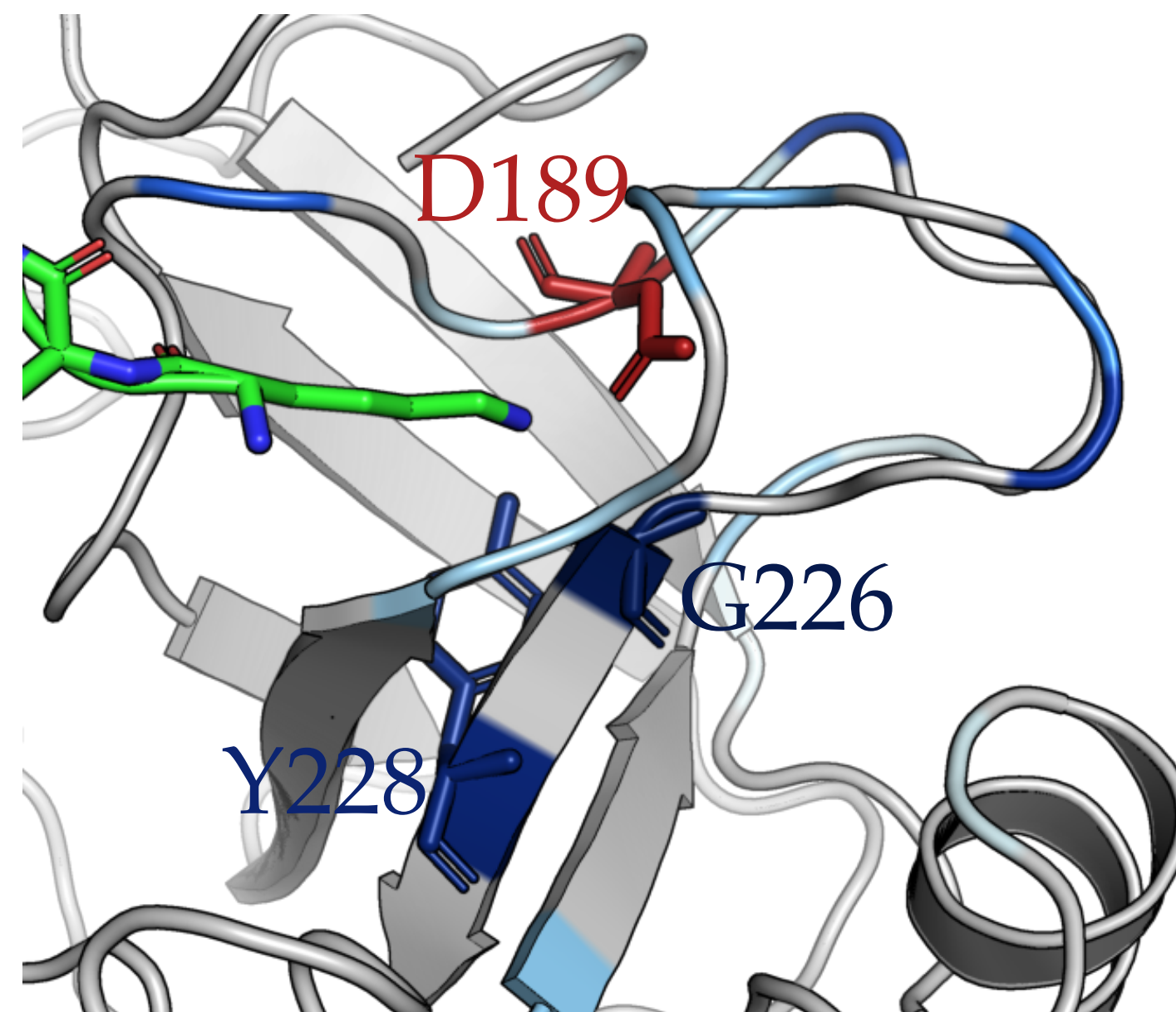
Overcoming undersampling
induced biases



In collaboration with Emily Hinds, Yaakov Kleeorin, Rama Ranganathan (University of Chicago, USA)

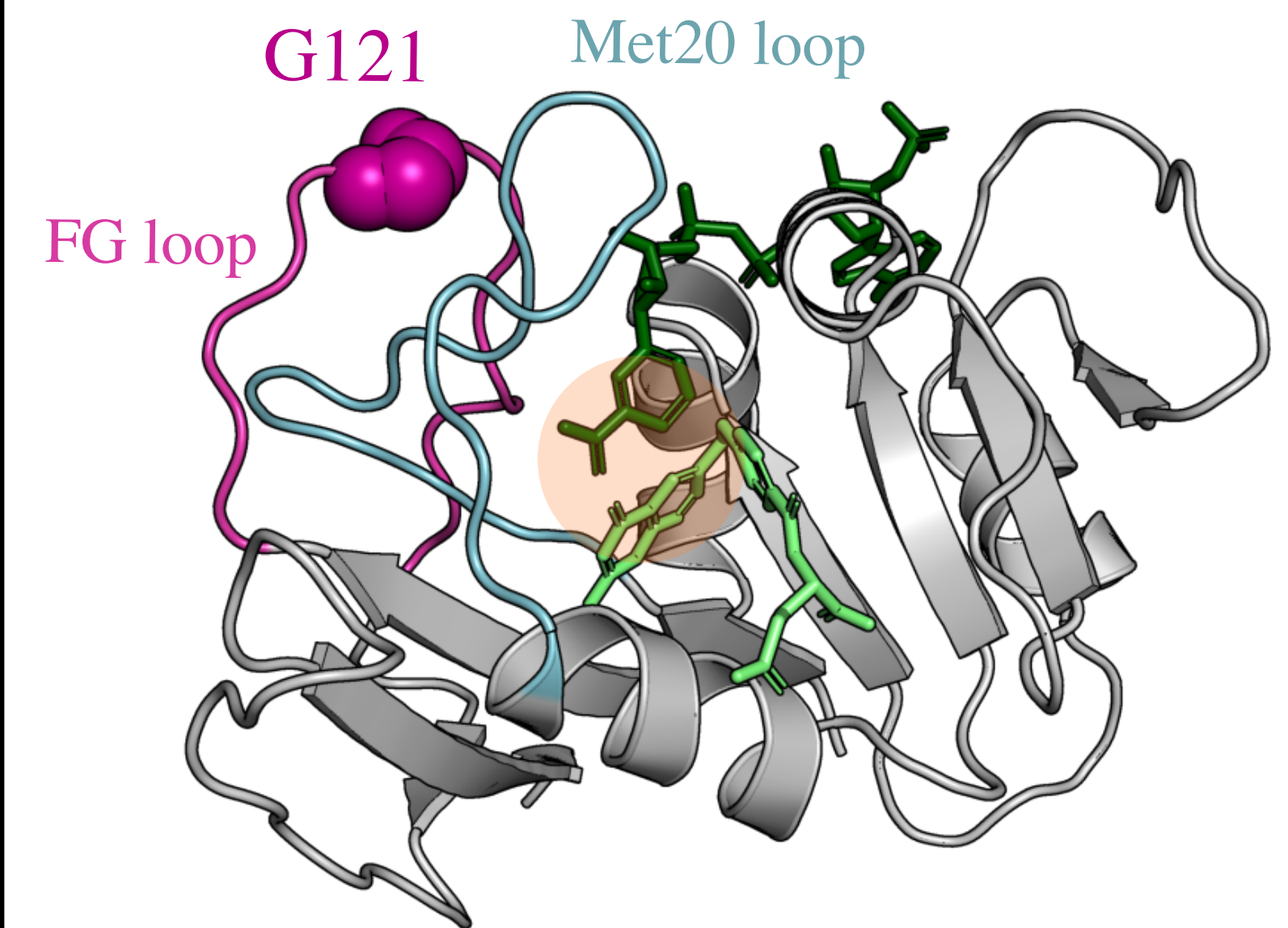
Investigate protein properties with statistical learning

Specificity mechanism in S1A
family



In collaboration with Amaury Pavéyranne, Timothé Lucas, Shoichi Yip, Clément Nizak (LJP, Sorbonne University, France)

Allosteric network of
E. Coli DHFR



In collaboration with Paul Guenon, Damien Laage, Guillaume Stirnemann (ENS, France), Clément Nizak (LJP, France), Karolina Filipowska, Kim Reynolds (University of Texas, USA)

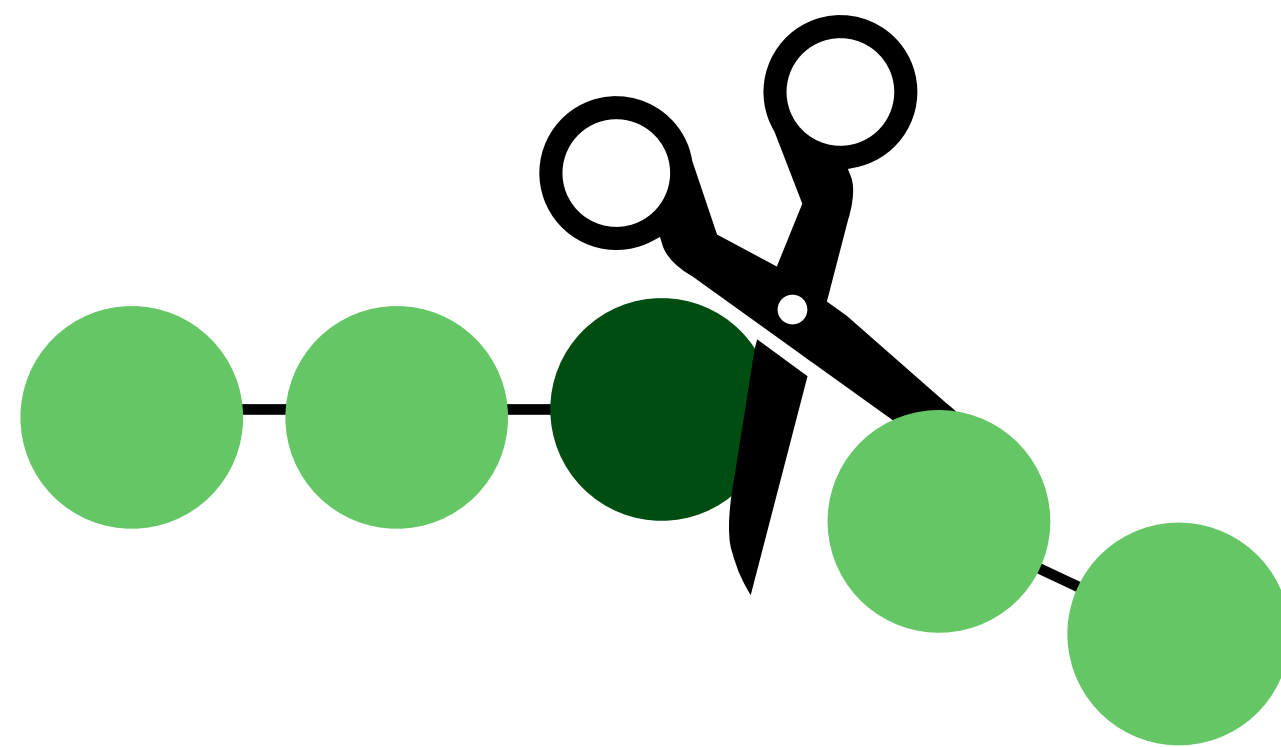
Investigate the determinant of specificity within S1A family

*In collaboration with Amaury Paveyranne, Timothé Lucas,
Shoichi Yip, Clément Nizak (LJP, Sorbonne University, France)*

S1A serine proteases protein family

The basics

- ▶ Catalyzes peptide bond hydrolysis
- ▶ Many substrate specificities



Trypsin

Positively
charged

Chymotrypsin

Aromatic

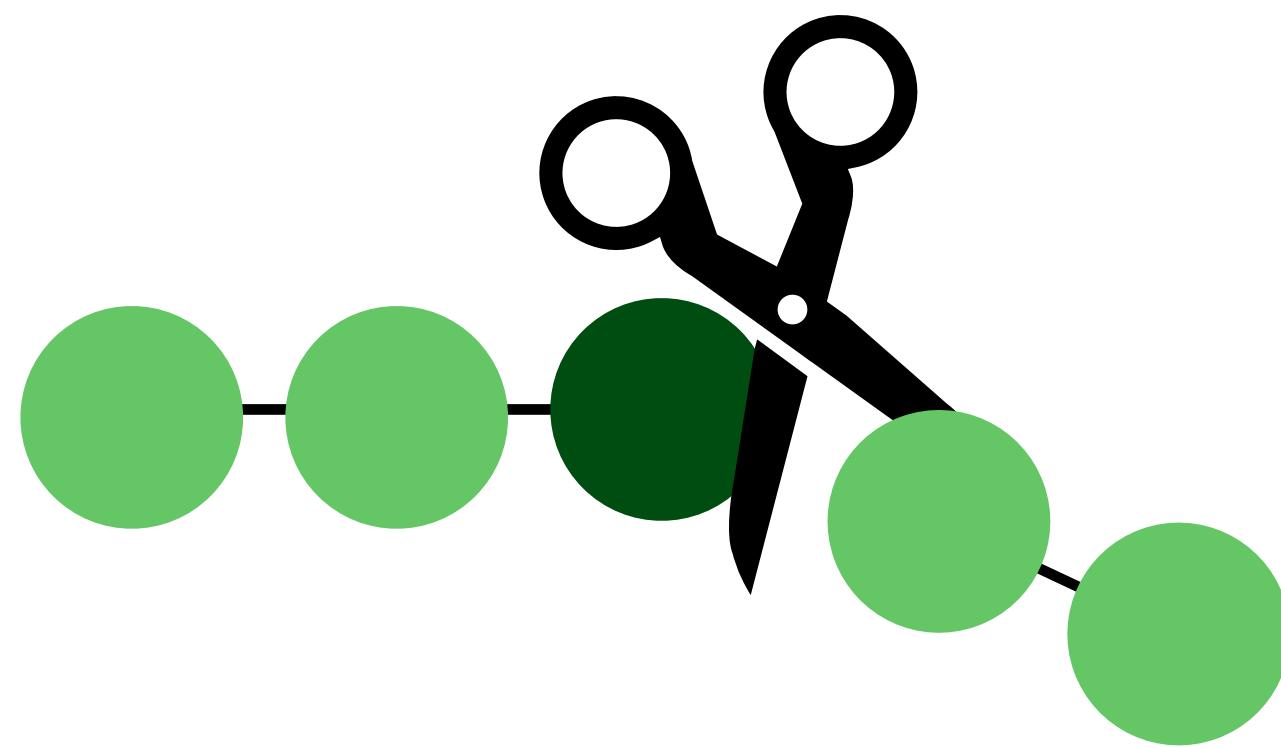
S1A serine proteases protein family

The basics

- ▶ Catalyzes peptide bond hydrolysis
- ▶ Many substrate specificities

Specificity

- ▶ Cleavage after a specific amino-acid
- ▶ Efficiency can vary up to 10^5 -fold depending on the amino acid
- ▶ Mechanism not fully understood



Trypsin

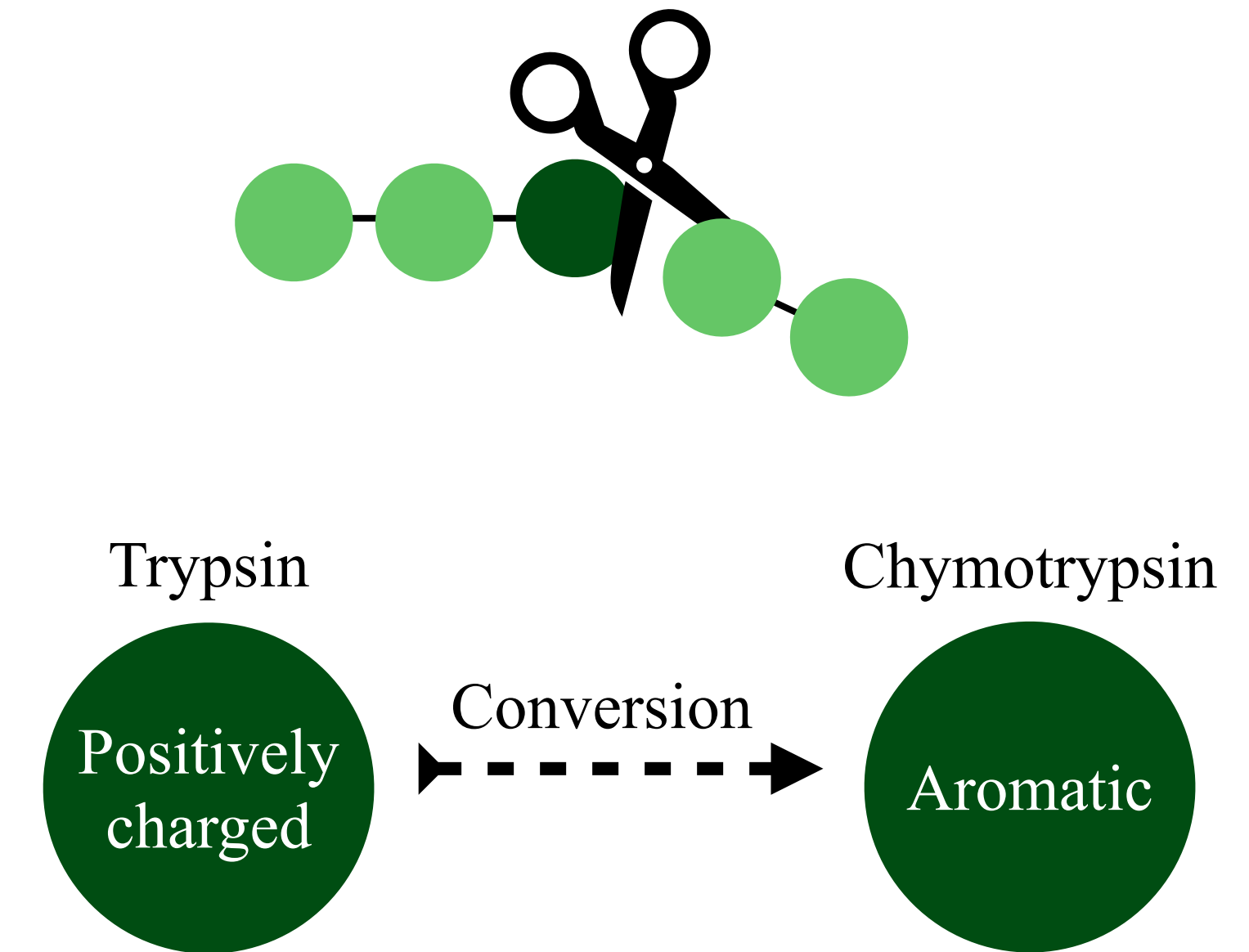
Positively
charged

Chymotrypsin

Aromatic

A rare success in specificity conversion: Trypsin → Chymotrypsin

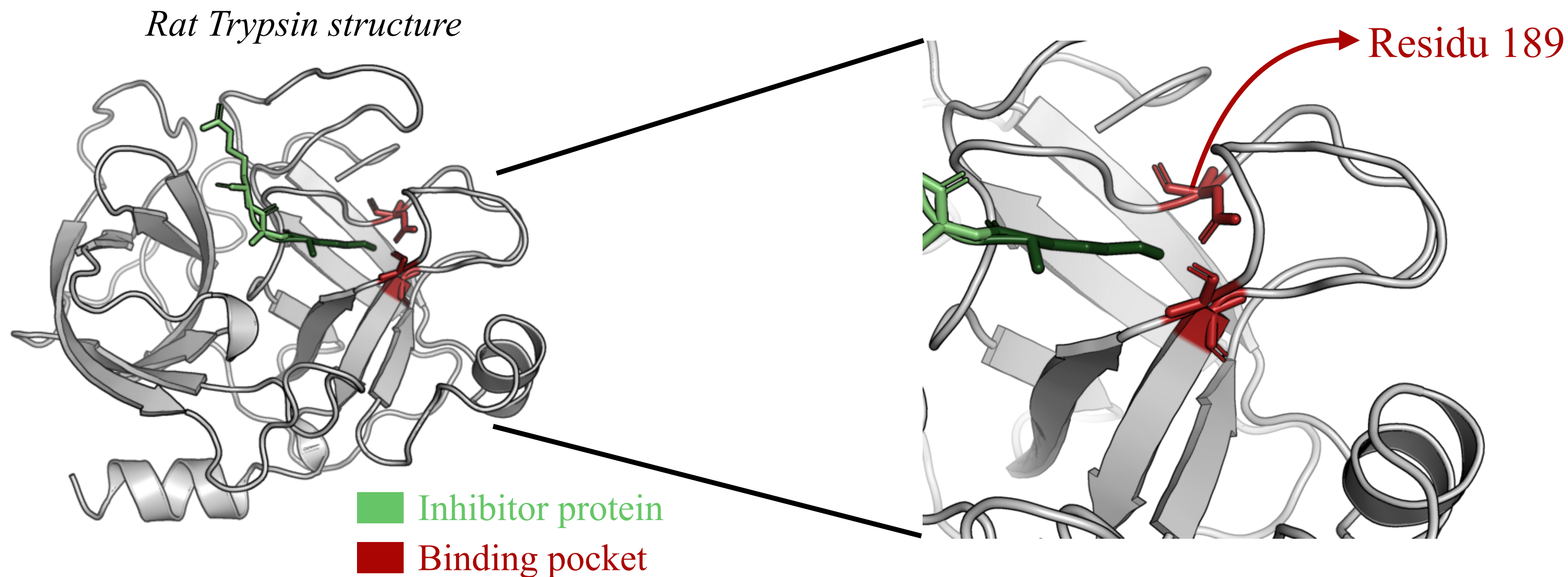
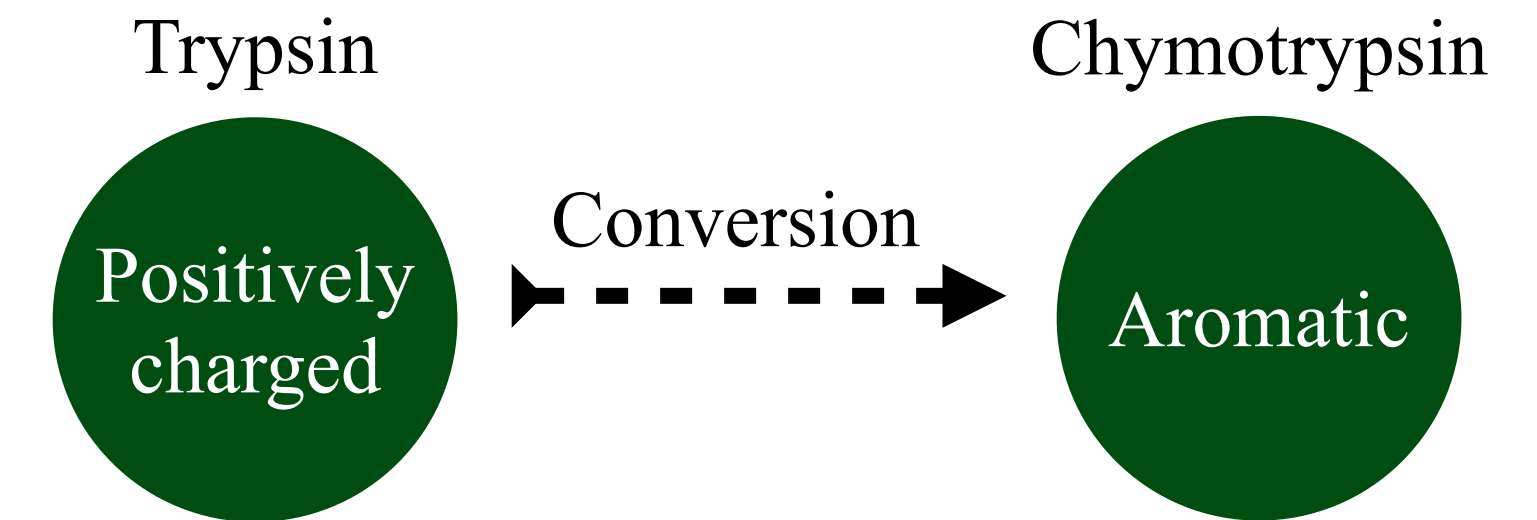
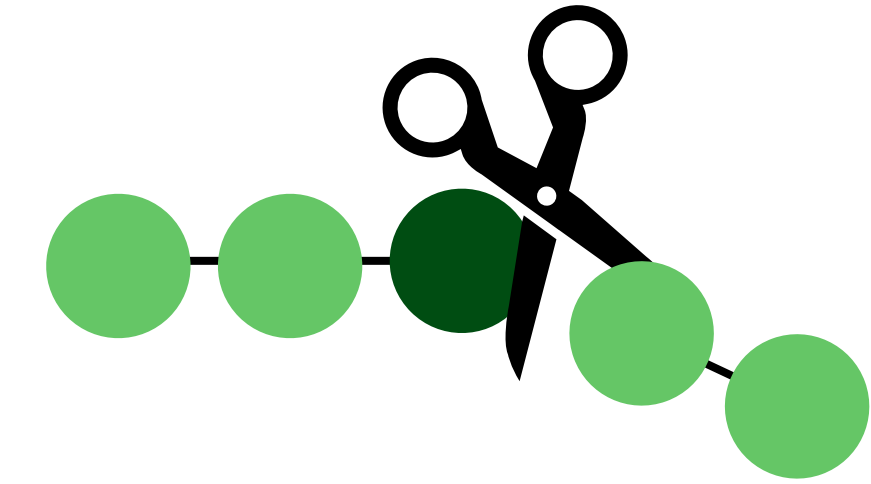
27



A rare success in specificity conversion: Trypsin → Chymotrypsin

Structural approach

- ▶ Focus on binding pocket
- ▶ **Residu 189** sufficient to convert specificity? No (Gráf *et al.* 1988)



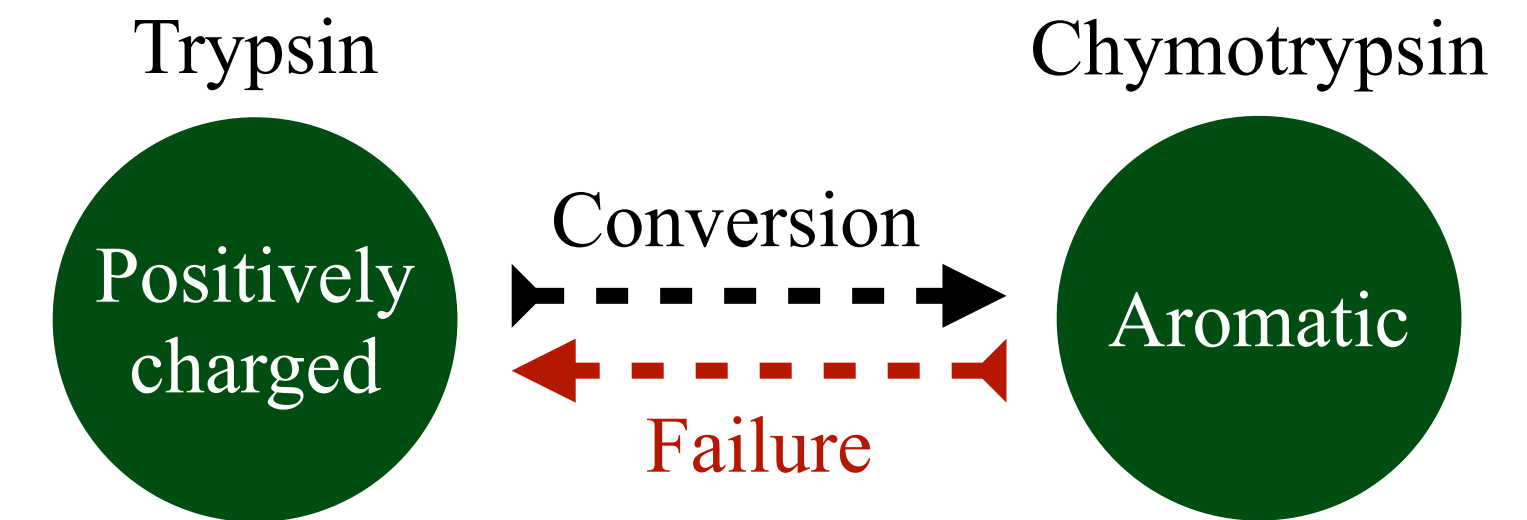
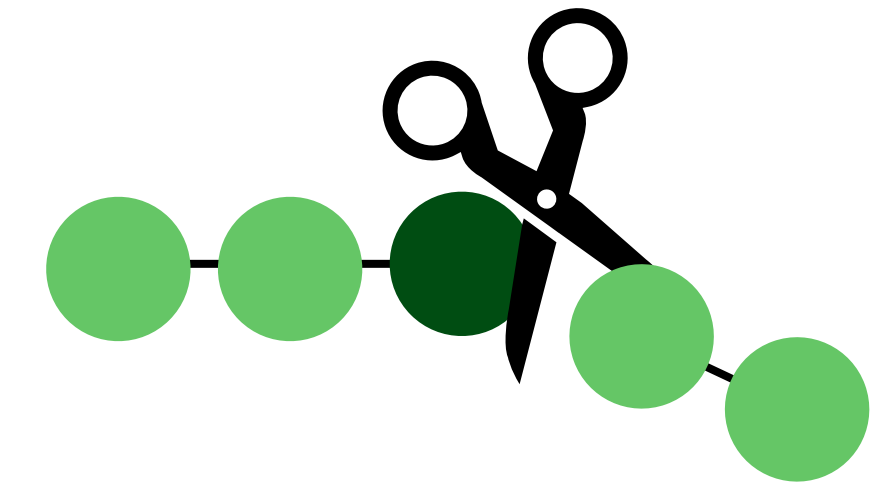
A rare success in specificity conversion: Trypsin → Chymotrypsin

Structural approach

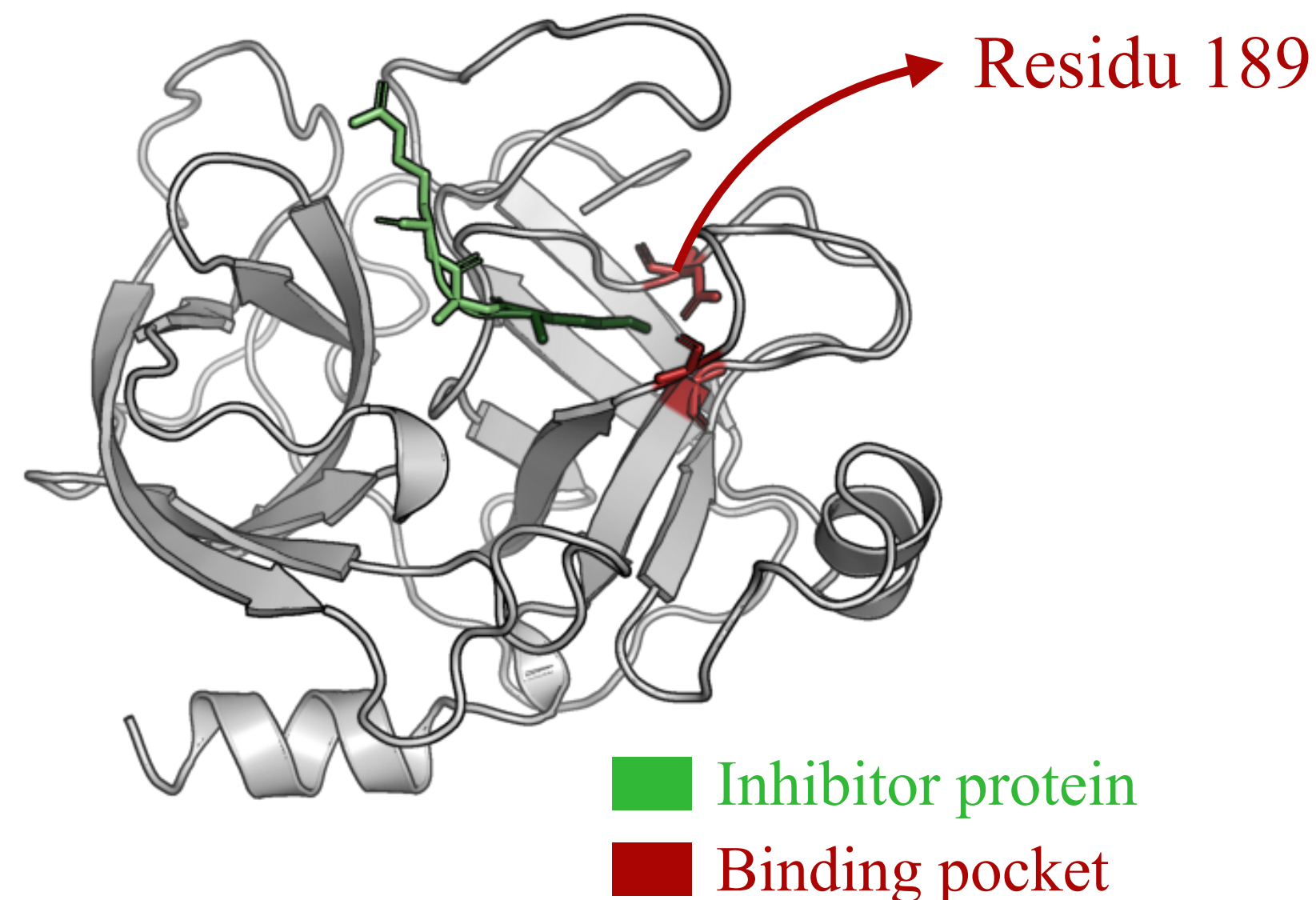
- ▶ Focus on binding pocket
- ▶ **Residu 189** sufficient to convert specificity? No (Gráf *et al.* 1988)

Evolutionary approach

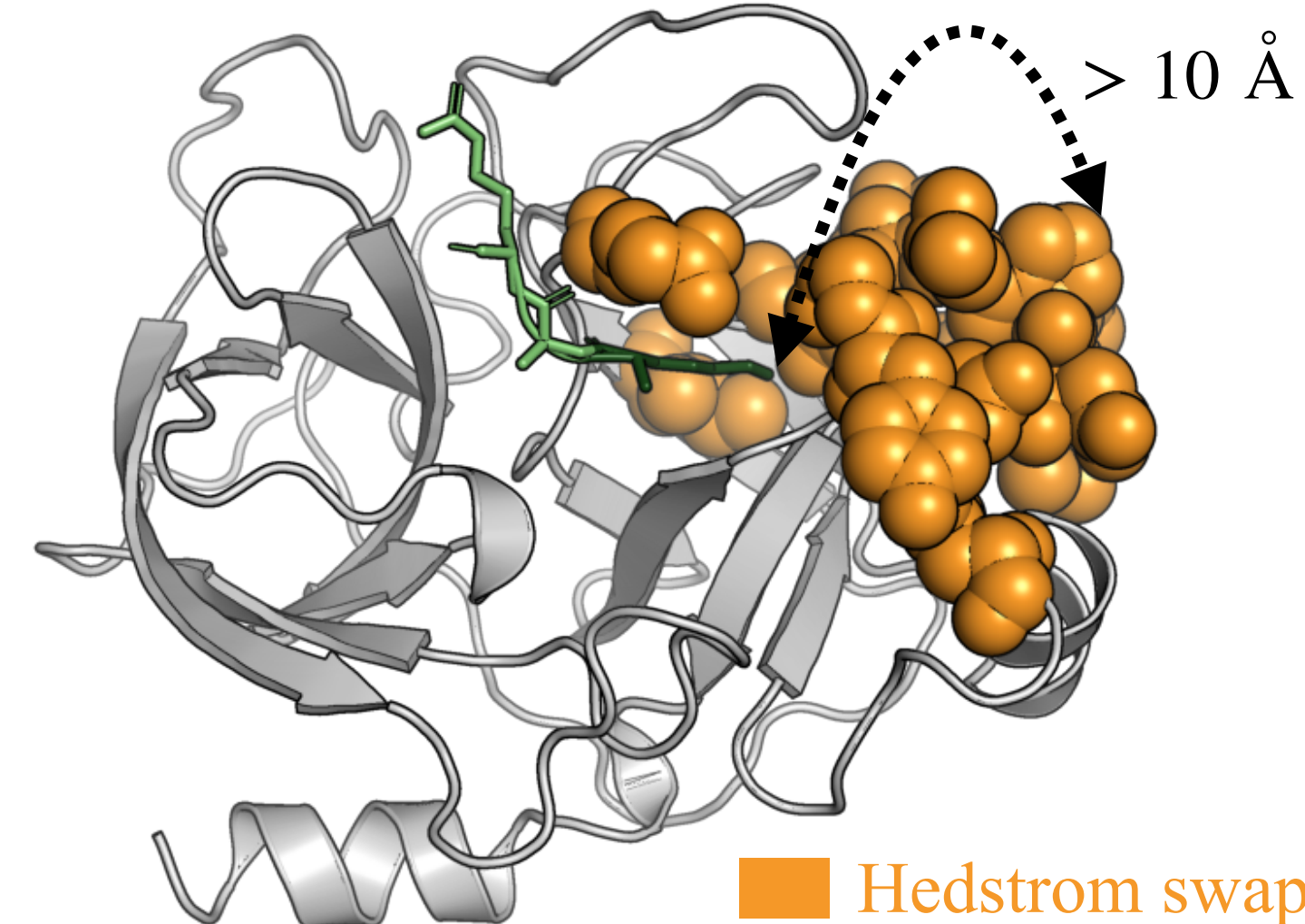
- ▶ Analysis of trypsin and chymotrypsin sequences
- ▶ Conversion with **16 mutations** (Hedstrom *et al.* 1994)



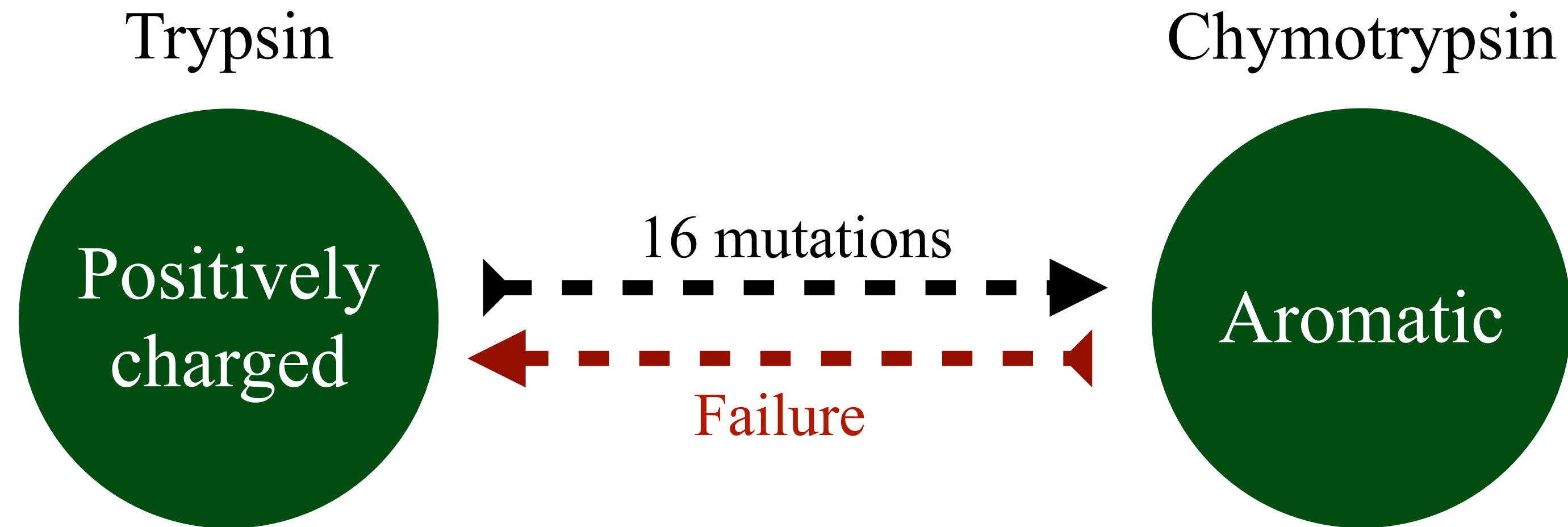
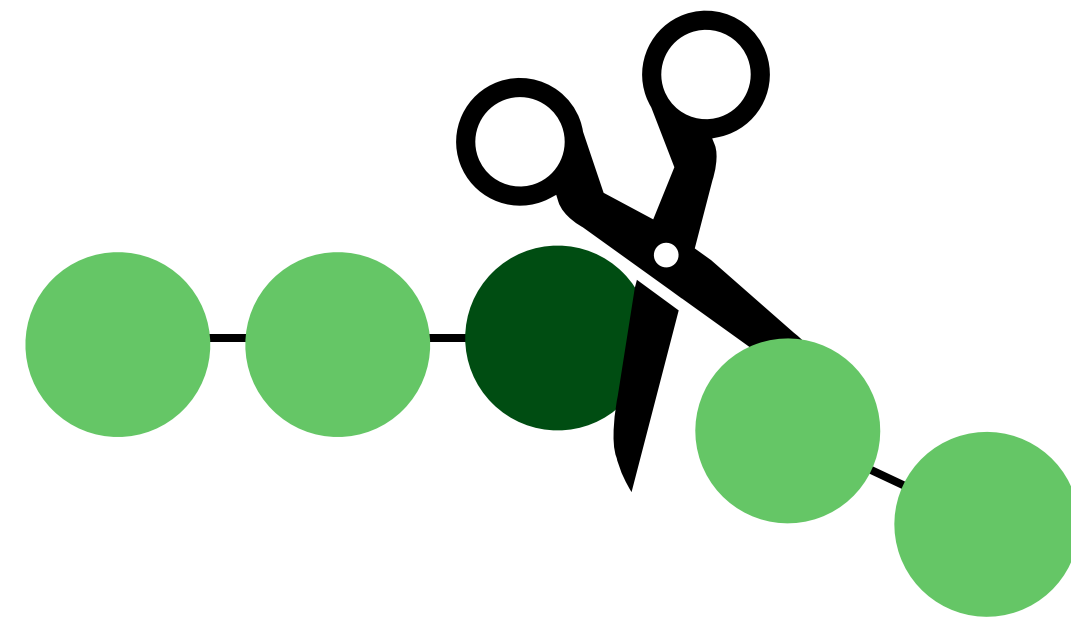
Rat Trypsin structure

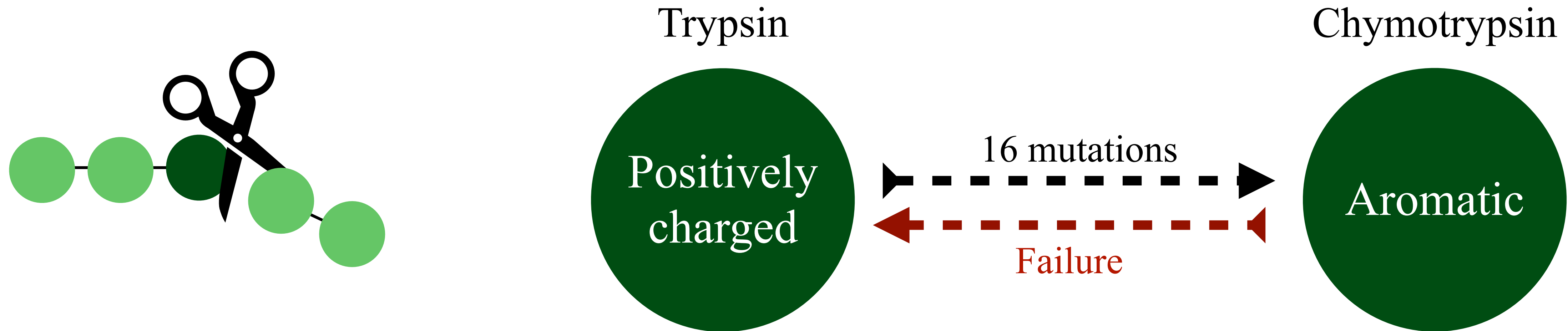


Rat Trypsin structure



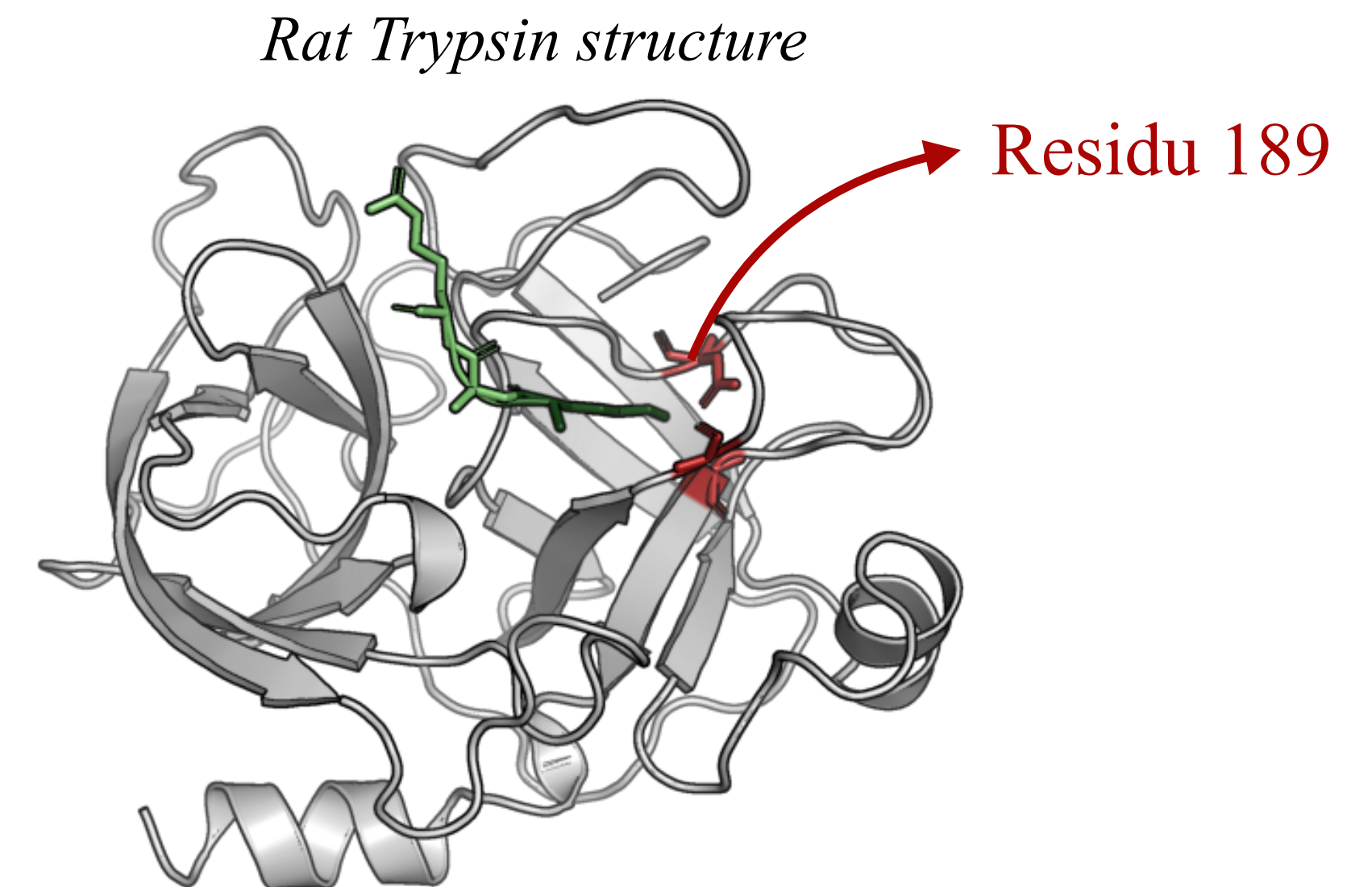
Gráf *et al.*, PNAS **1988**
 Hedstrom *et al.*, *Science* **1992**
 Hedstrom *et al.*, *Biochemistry* **1994**



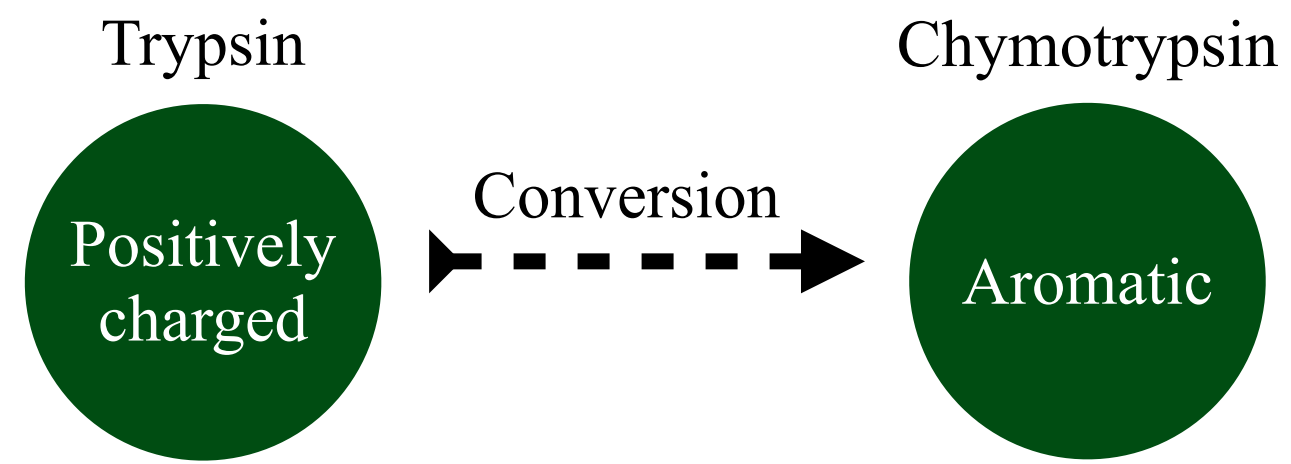


Our approach

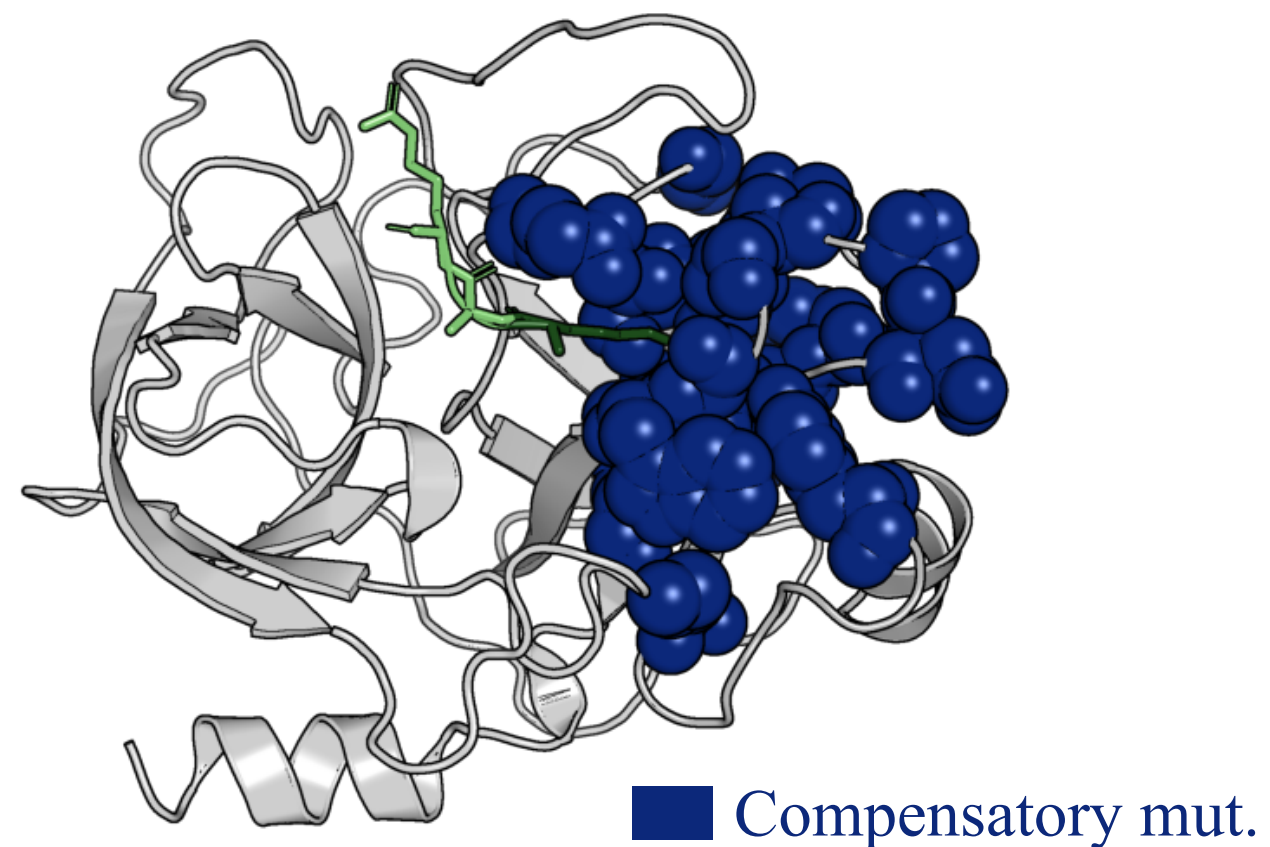
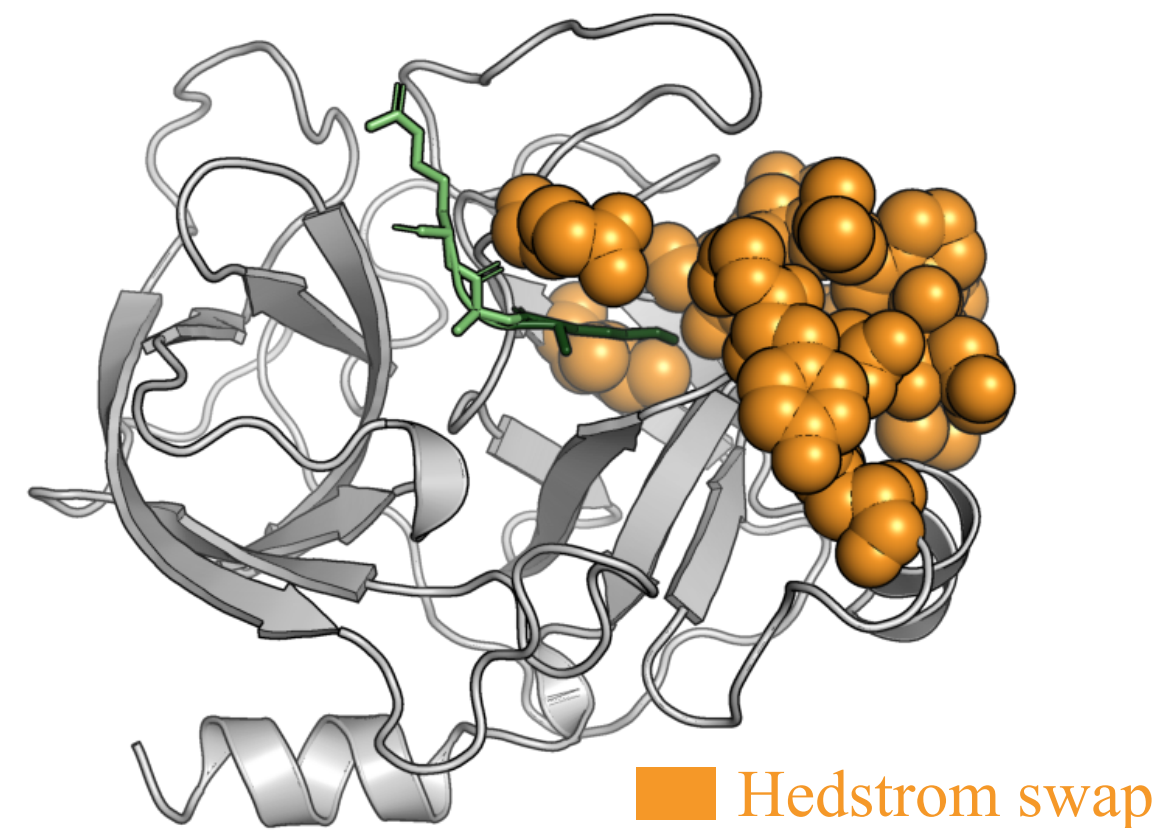
- ▶ Impose a mutation at site 189
- ▶ Predict compensatory mutations using Boltzmann Machine model
- ▶ Identify positive epistatic interactions using model couplings



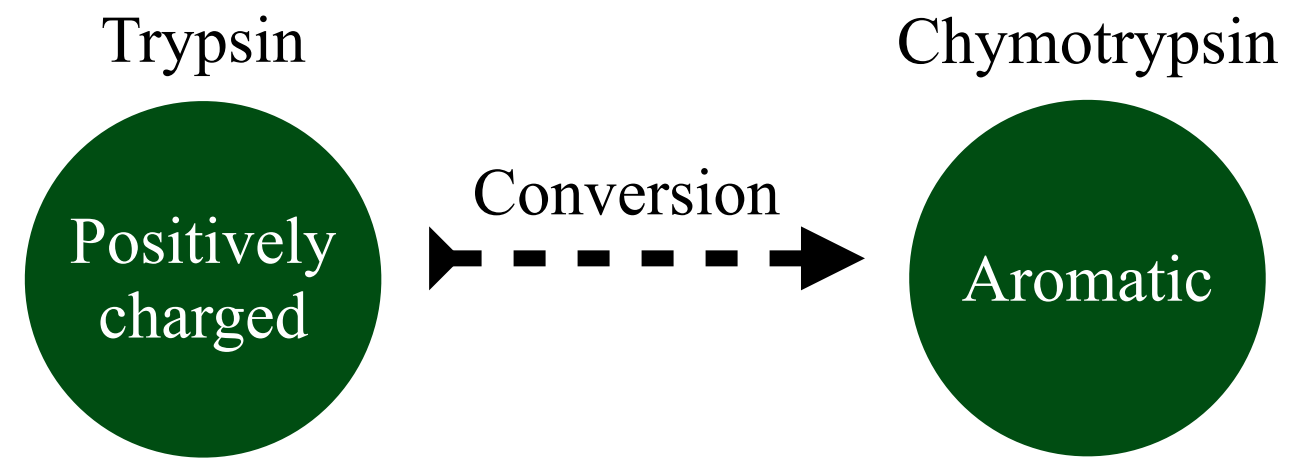
Boltzmann Machine-guided specificity conversion



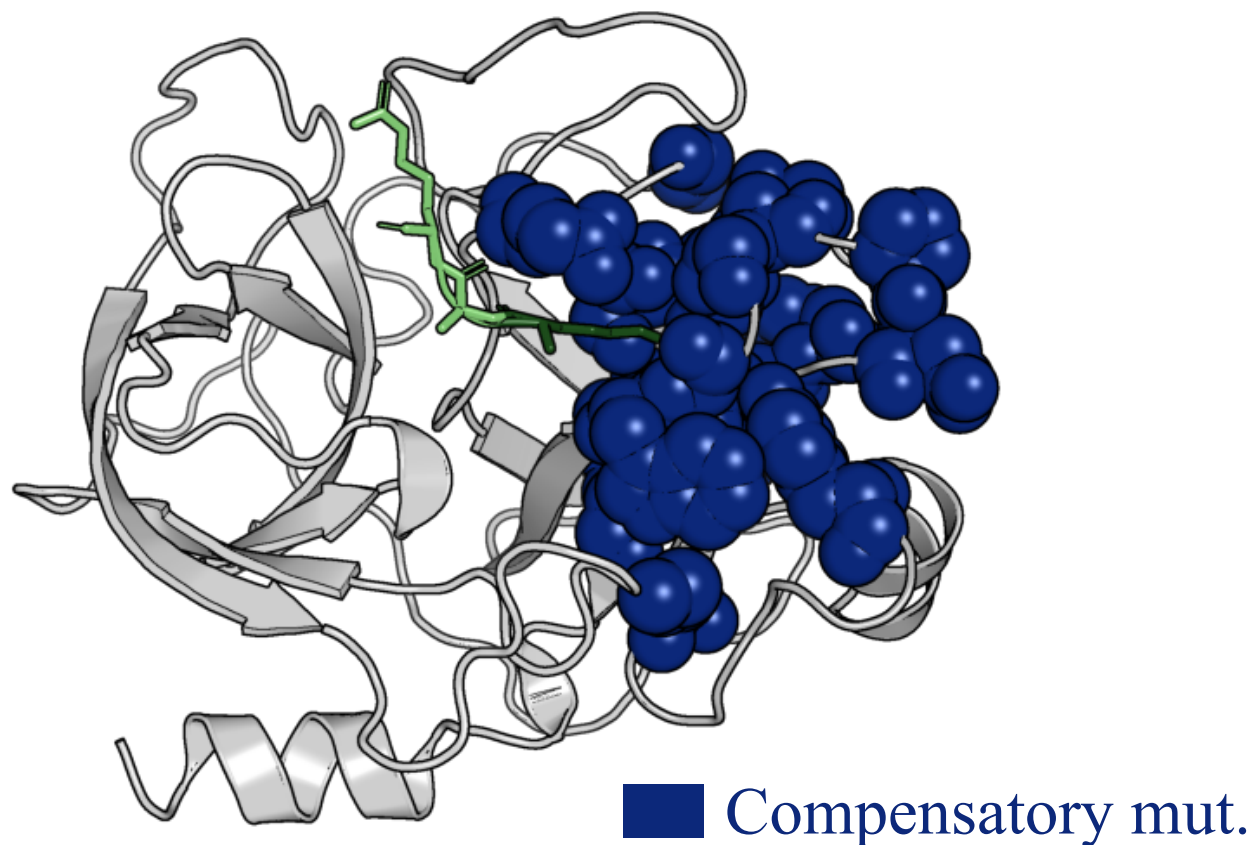
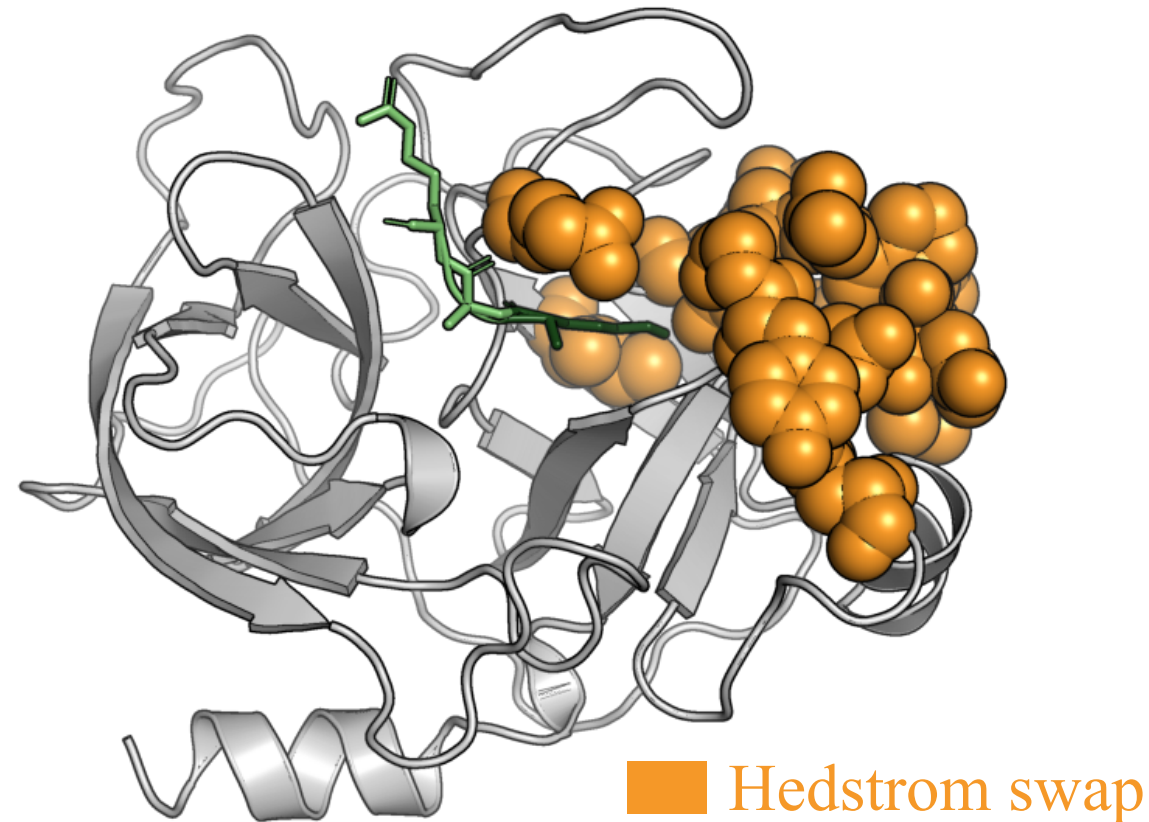
In silico comparison with Hedstrom



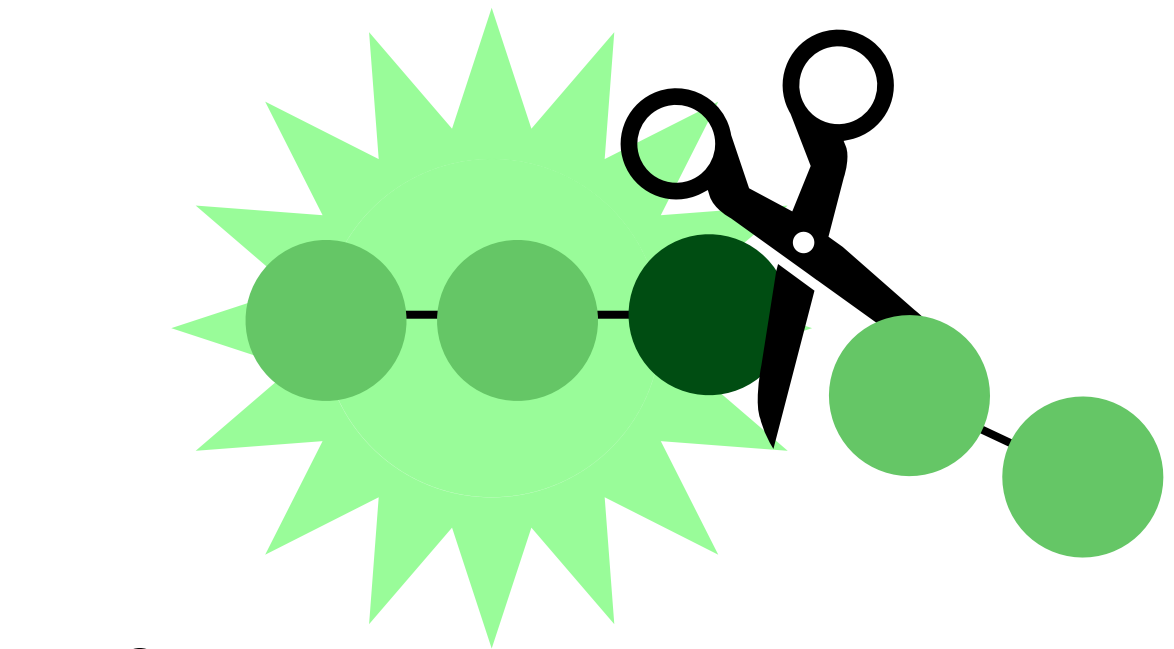
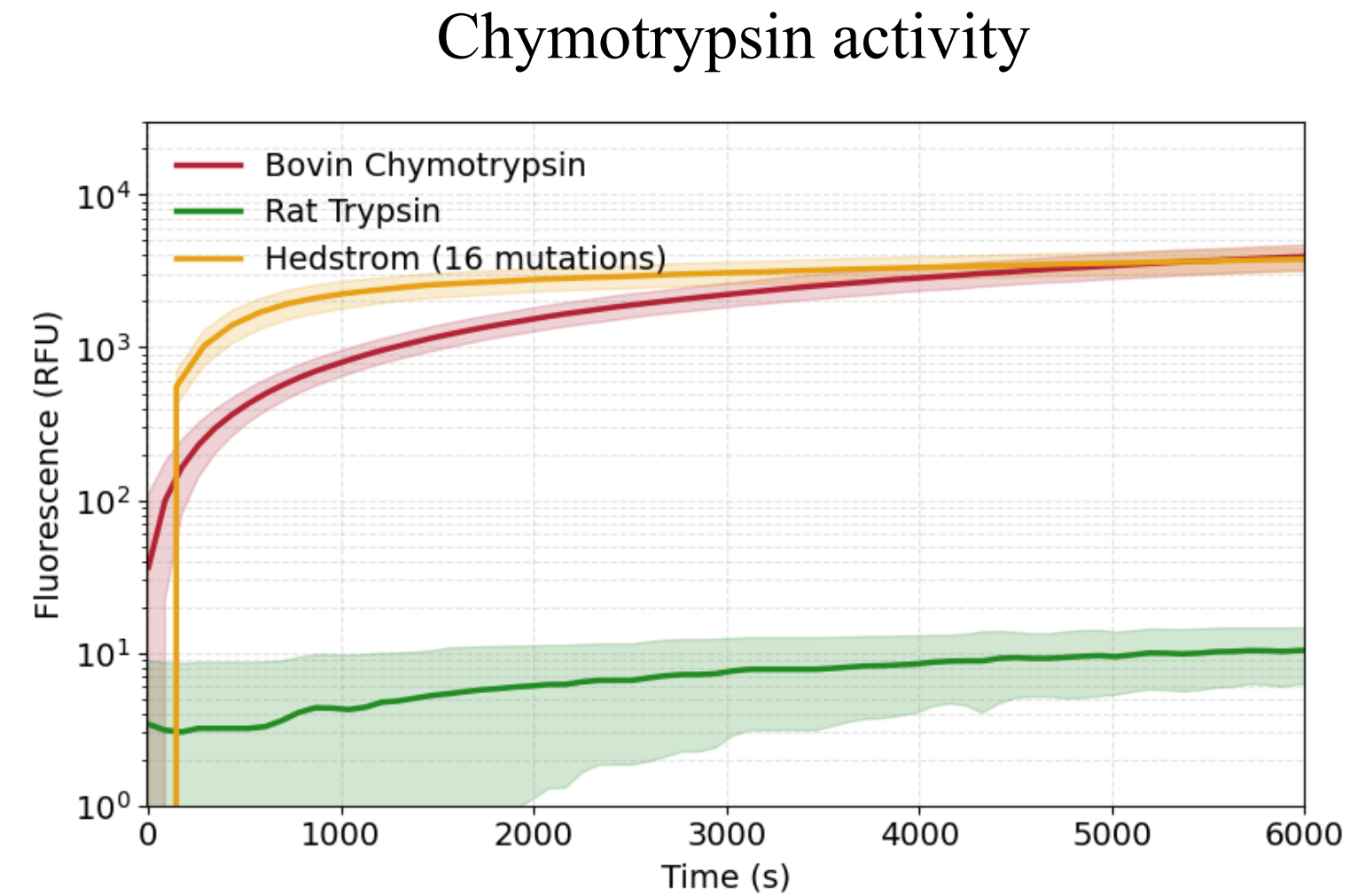
Boltzmann Machine-guided specificity conversion



In silico comparison with Hedstrom

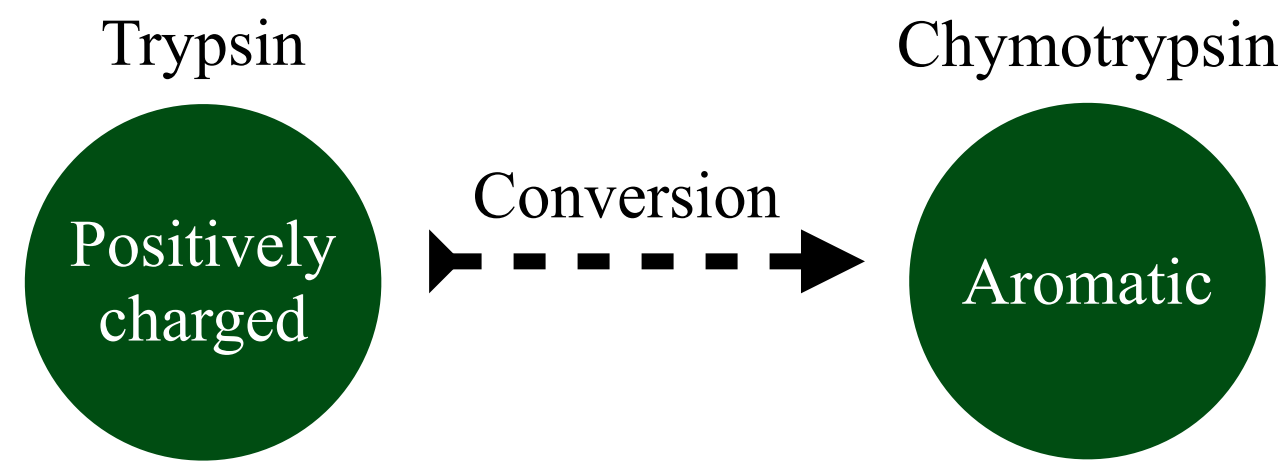


Preliminary experimental results

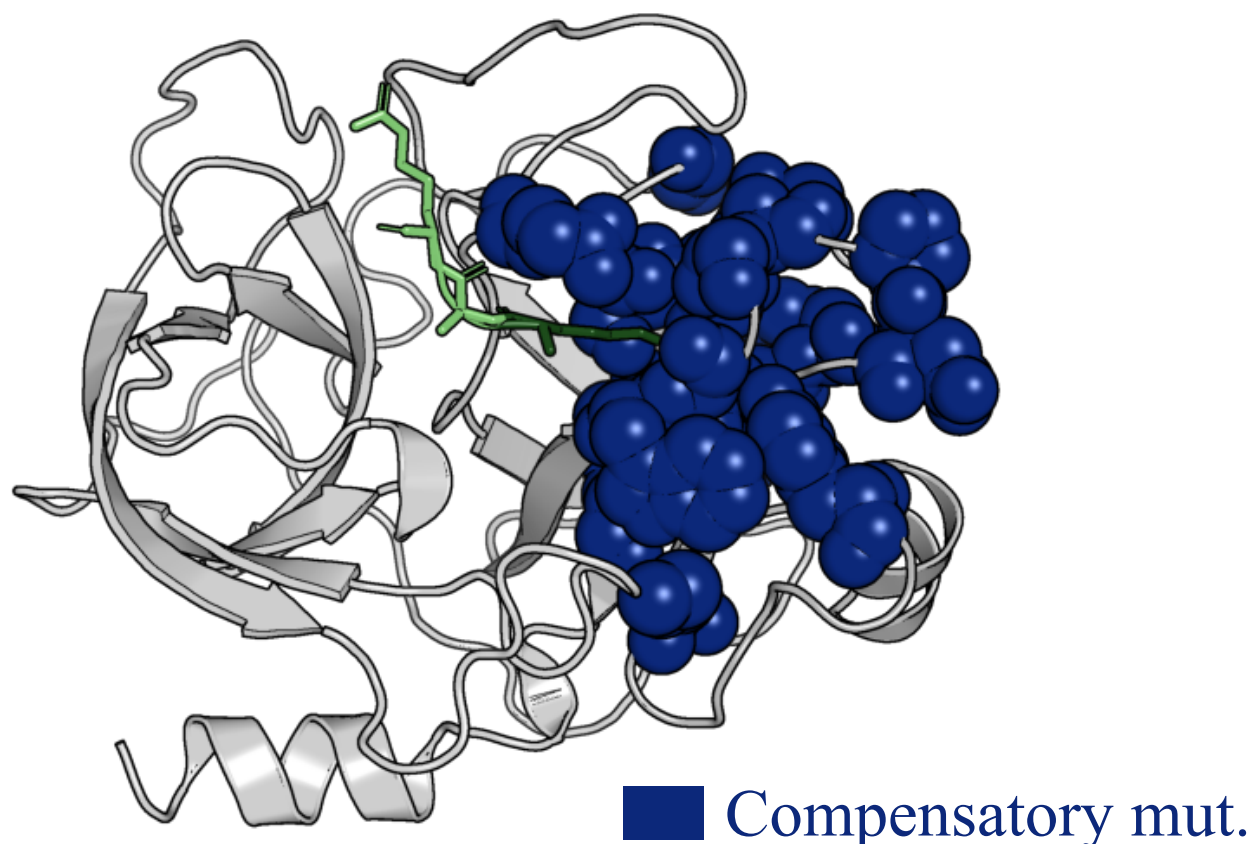
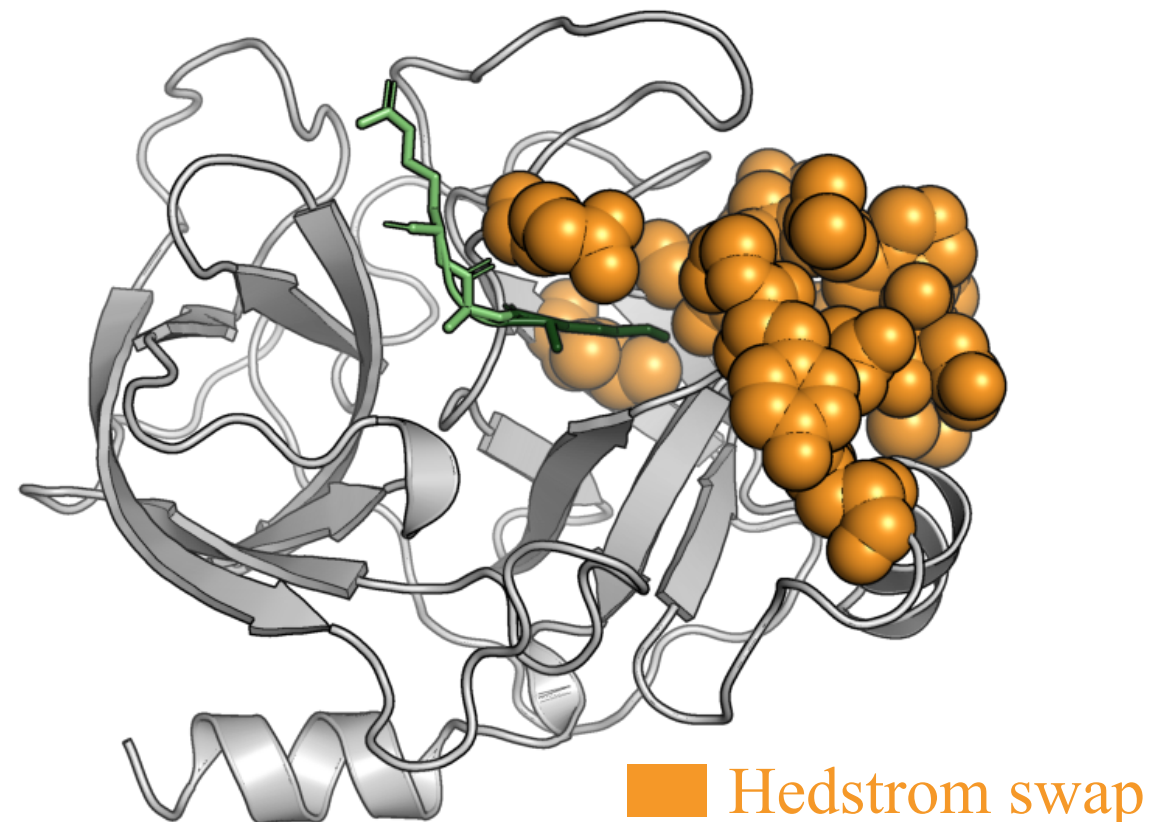


Not possible to make quantitative comparisons here

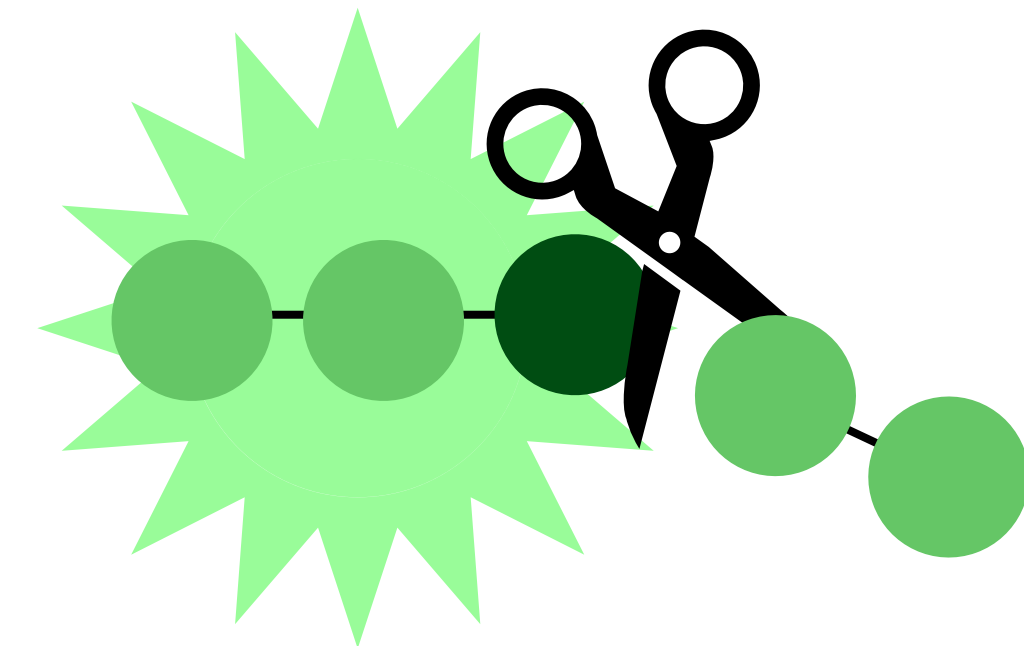
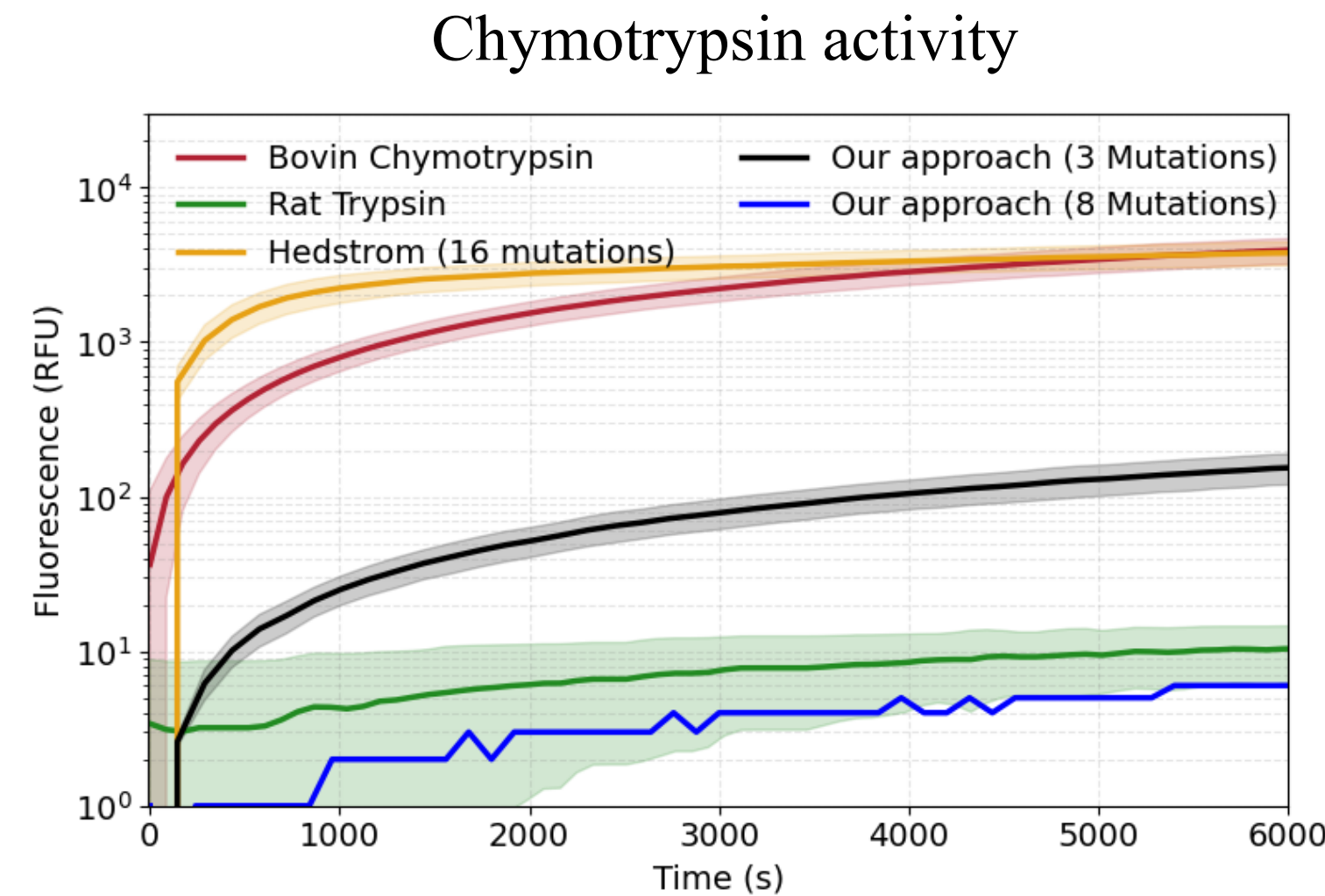
Boltzmann Machine-guided specificity conversion



In silico comparison with Hedstrom



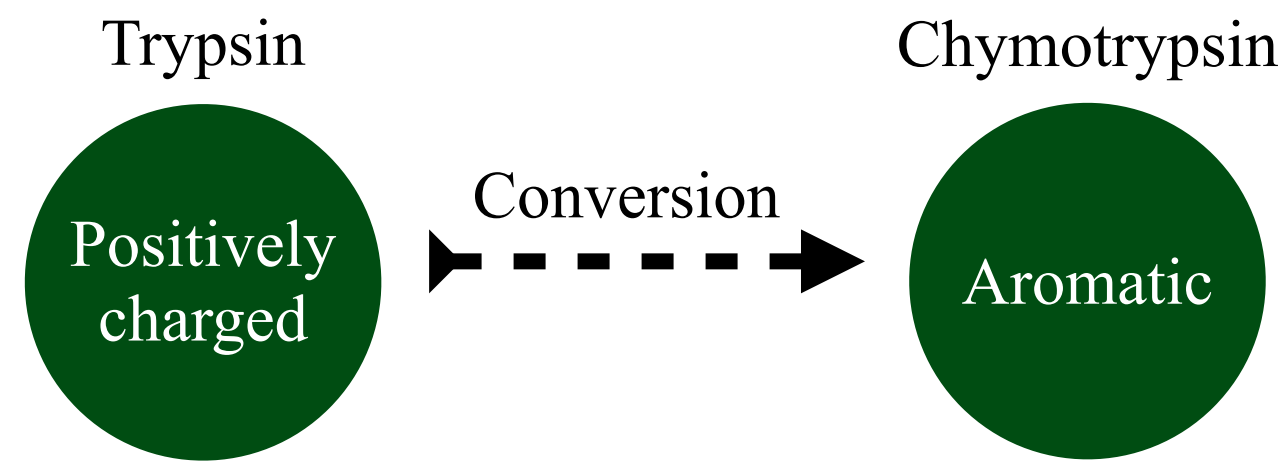
Preliminary experimental results



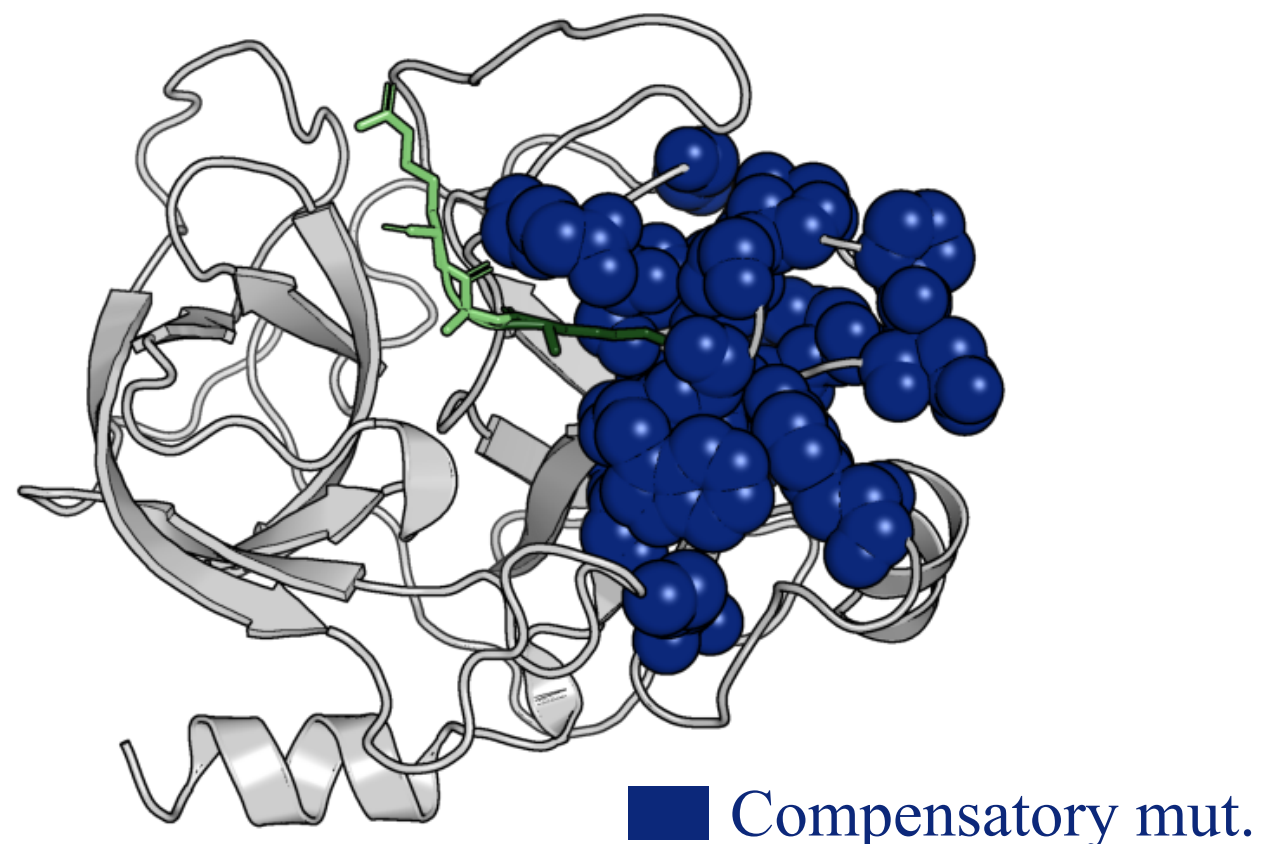
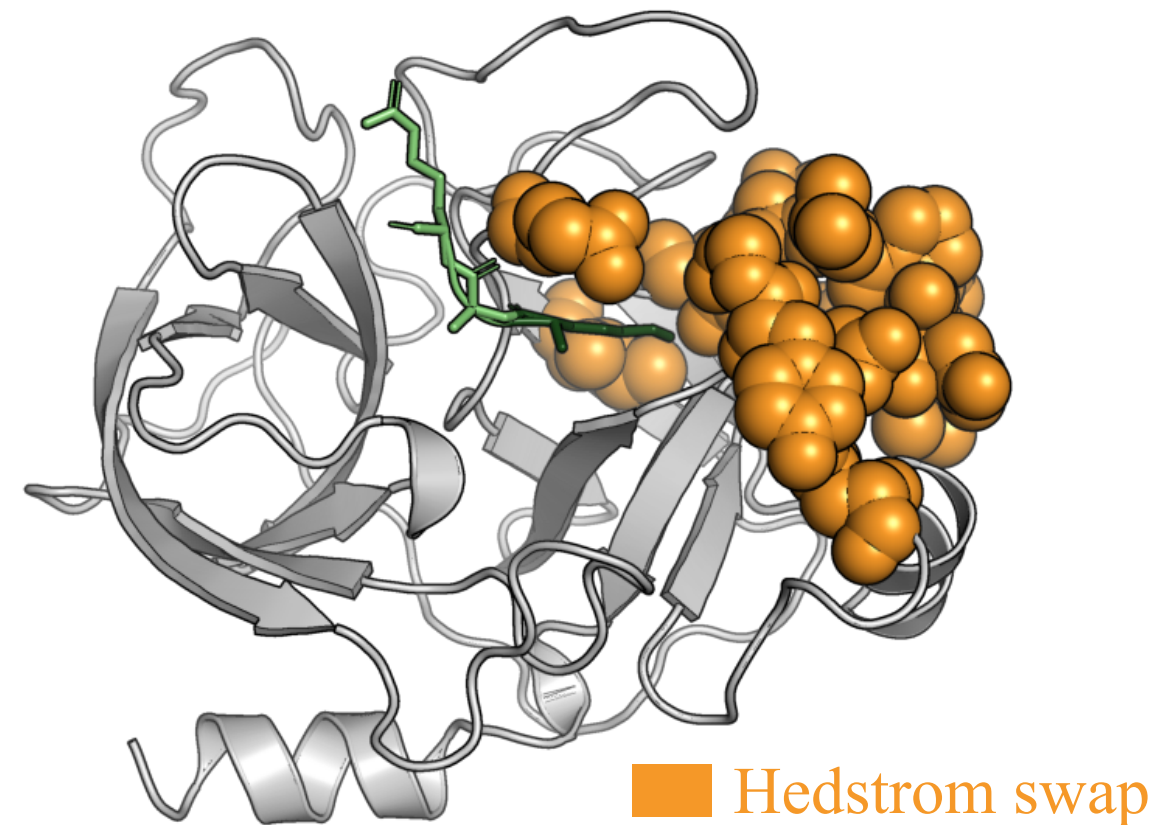
Not possible to make quantitative comparisons here

- Evidence of chymotrypsin activity 3 mutations away from rat trypsin

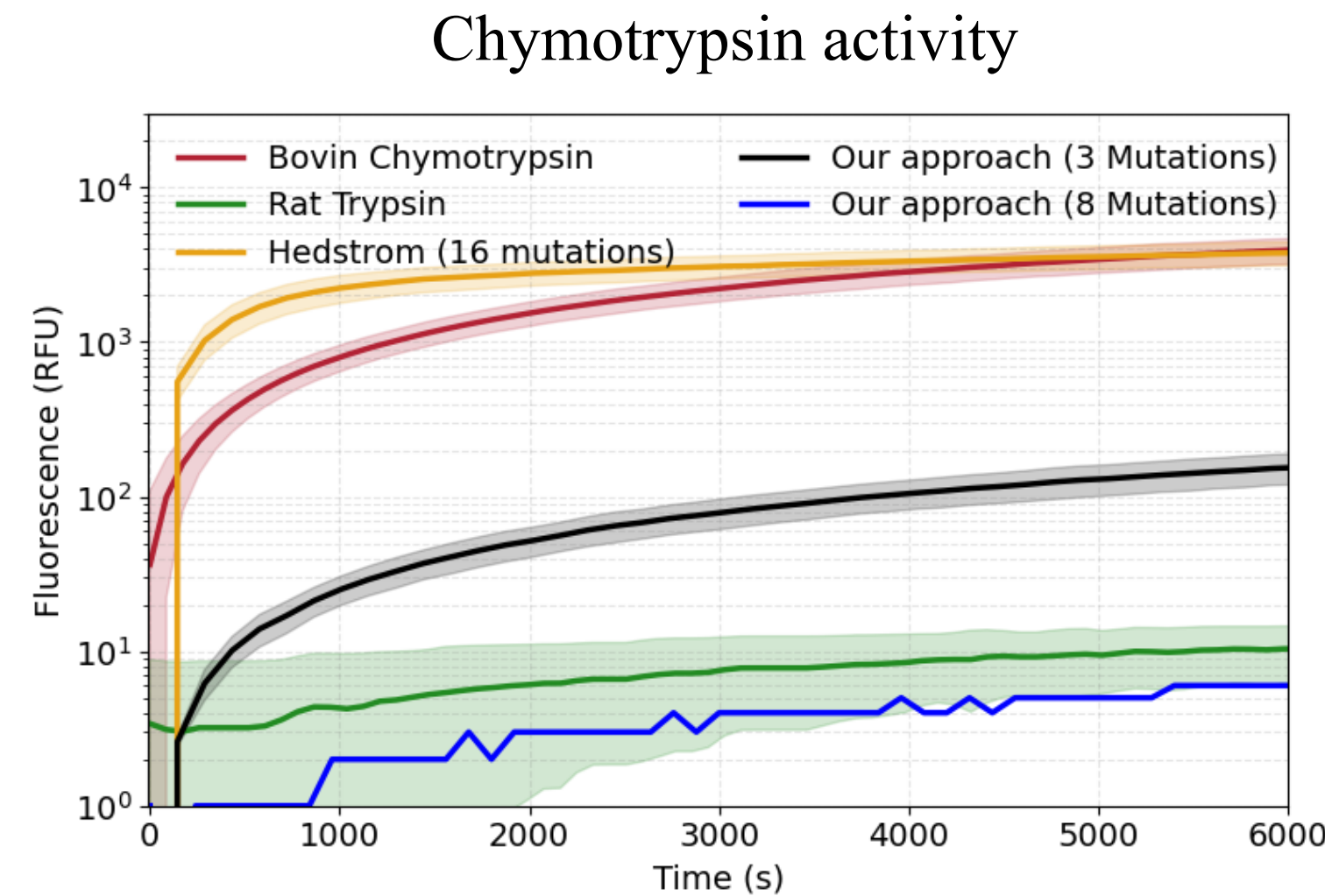
Boltzmann Machine-guided specificity conversion



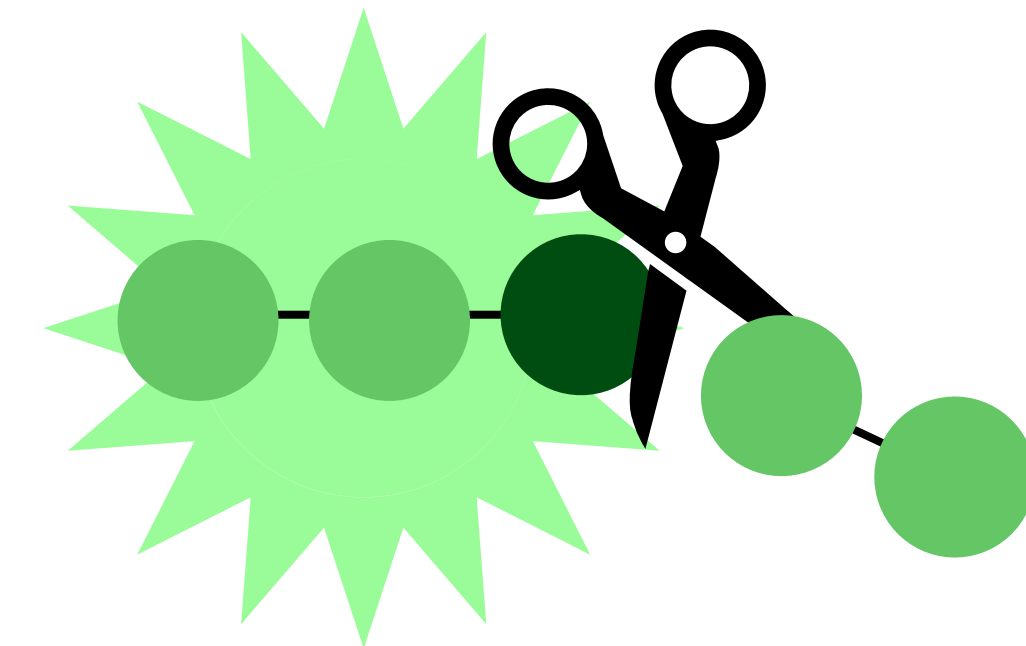
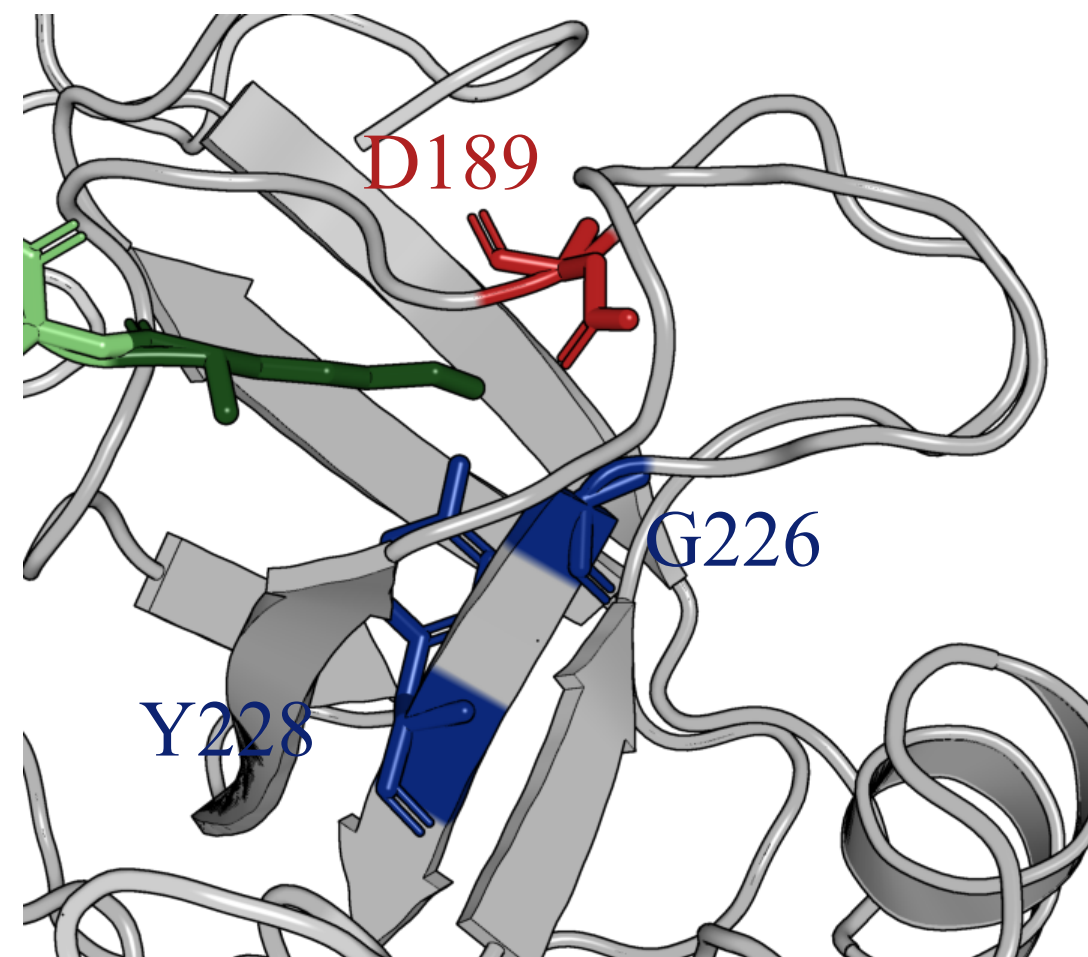
In silico comparison with Hedstrom



Preliminary experimental results



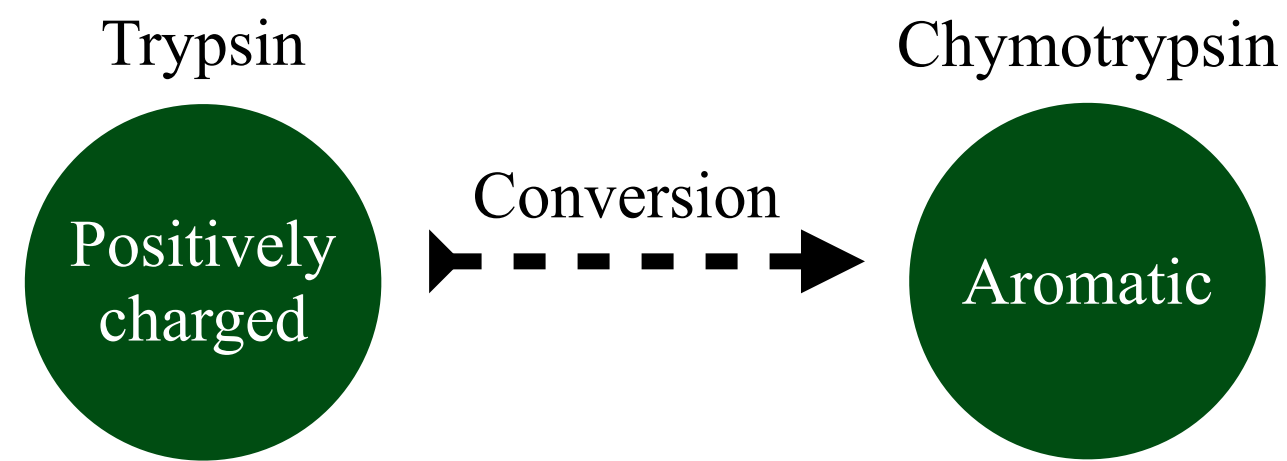
Zoom on the binding pocket



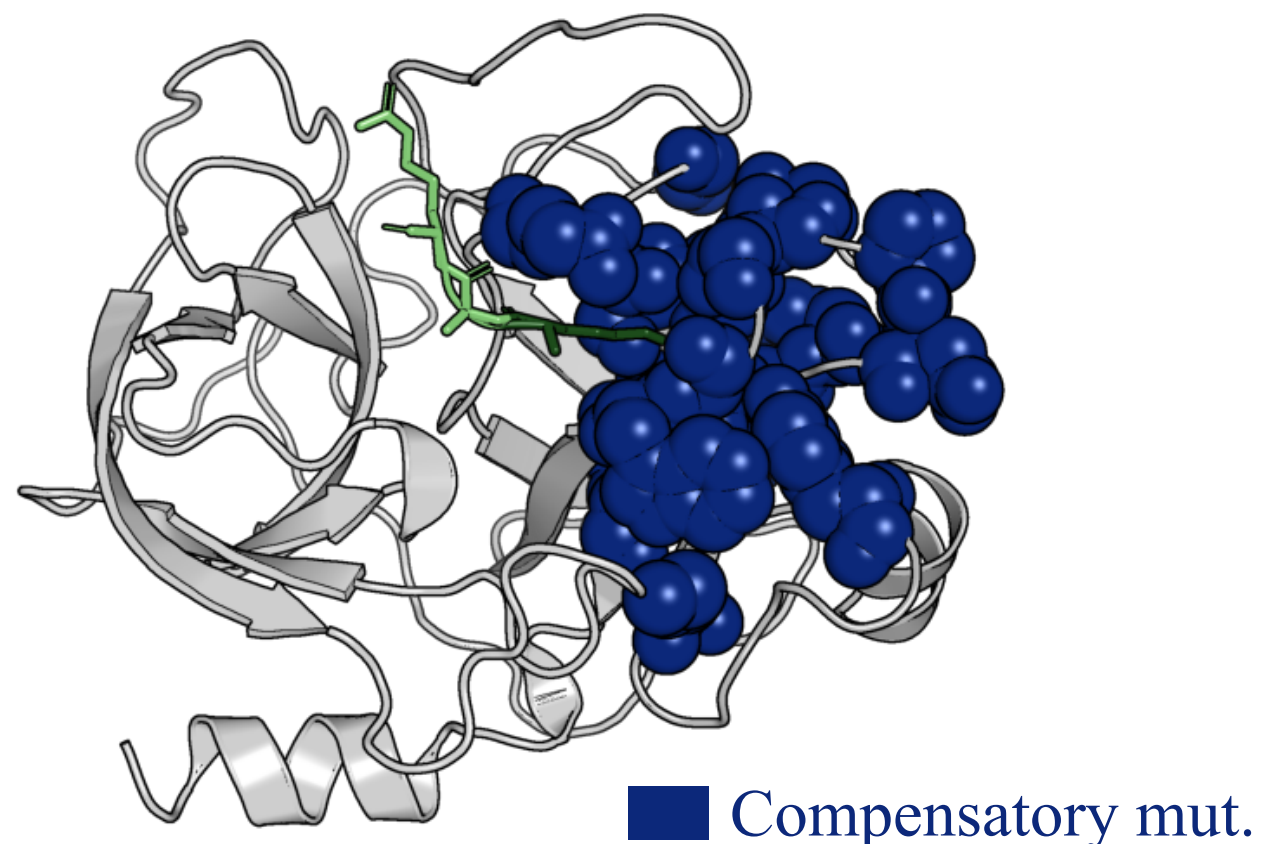
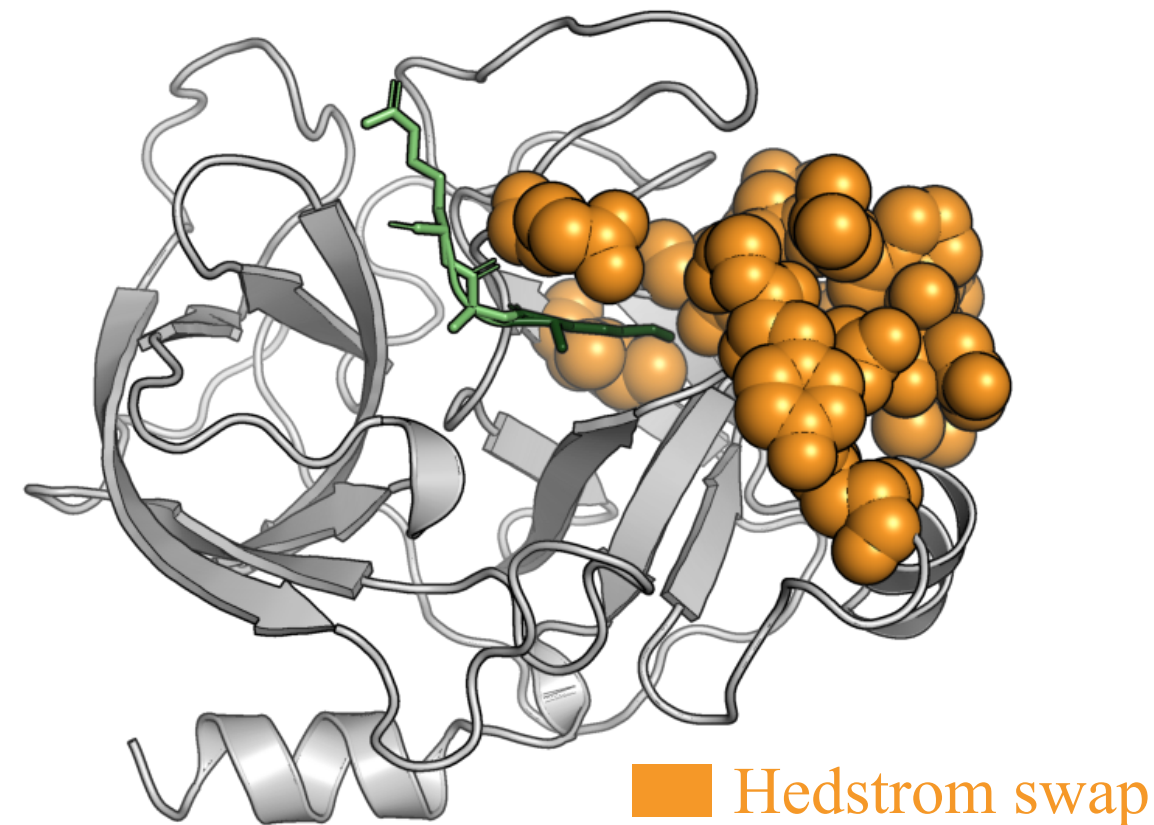
Not possible to make quantitative comparisons here

- ▶ Evidence of chymotrypsin activity 3 mutations away from rat trypsin
- ▶ Mutations located in the binding pocket

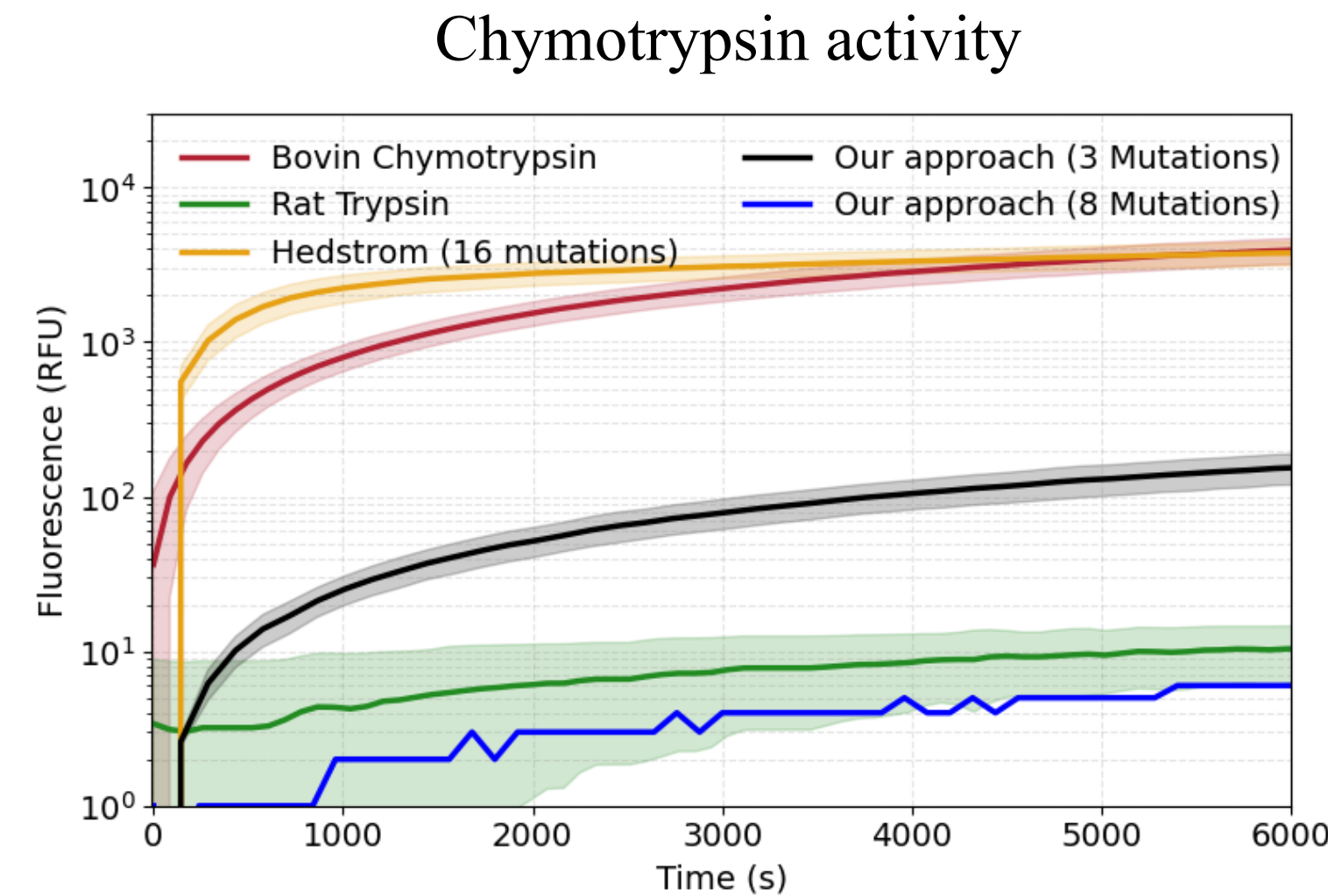
Boltzmann Machine-guided specificity conversion



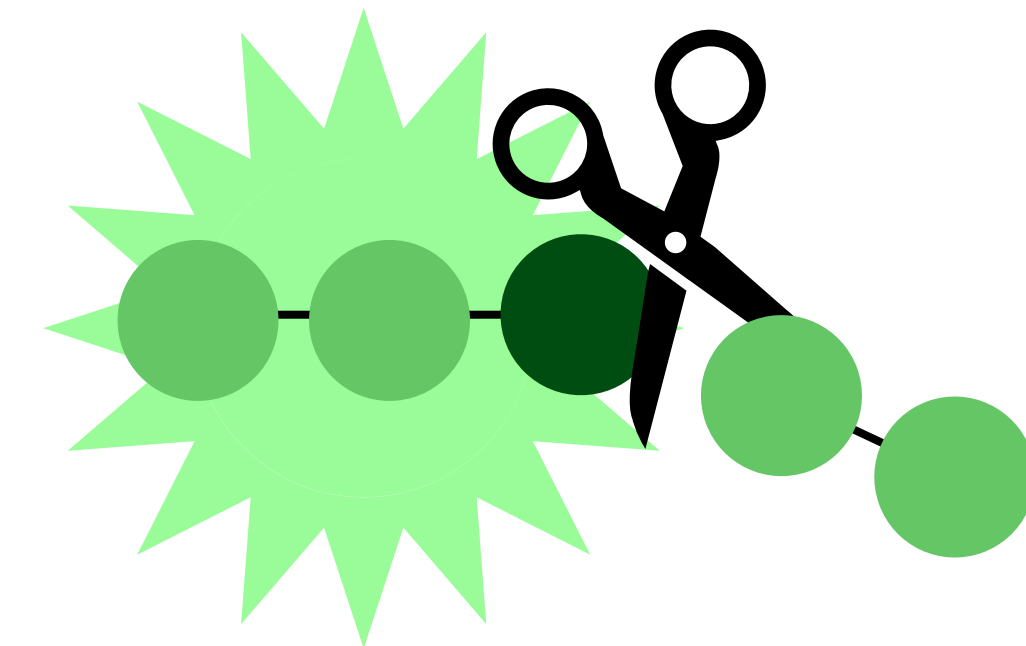
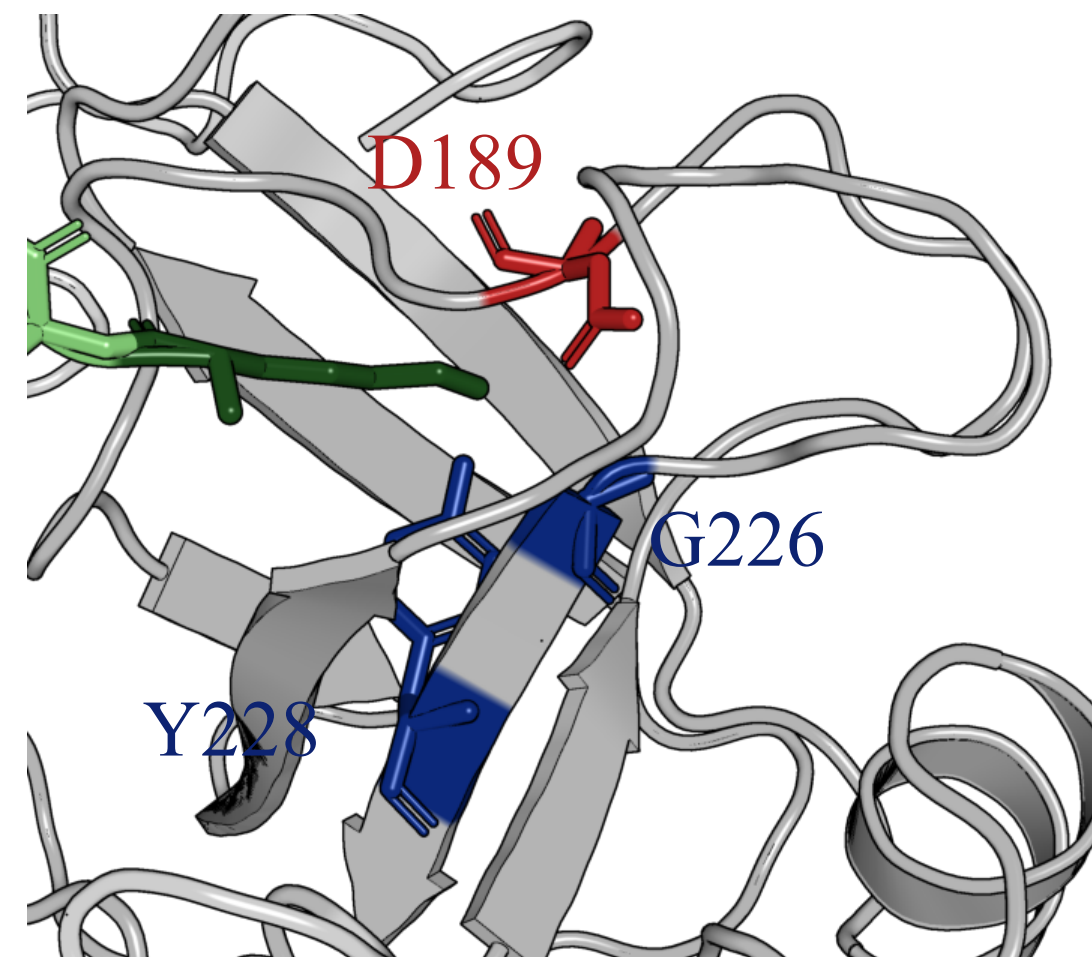
In silico comparison with Hedstrom



Preliminary experimental results



Zoom on the binding pocket



Not possible to make quantitative comparisons here

- ▶ Evidence of chymotrypsin activity 3 mutations away from rat trypsin
- ▶ Mutations located in the binding pocket

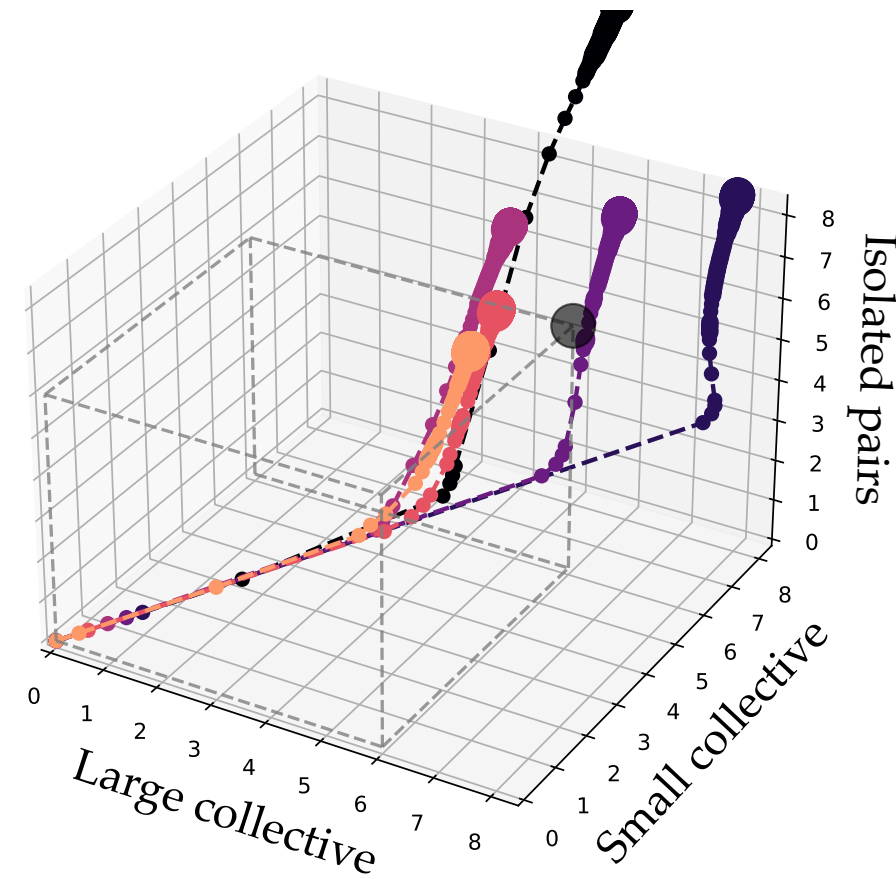
Other results & next steps:

- ▶ More precise characterization of functional mutants
- ▶ Other conversions

The undersampling problem

How to infer rich statistical structure from limited data?

Stochastic Boltzmann Machine



Toy model: correct undersampling-induced biases

Real data: model generative without modification

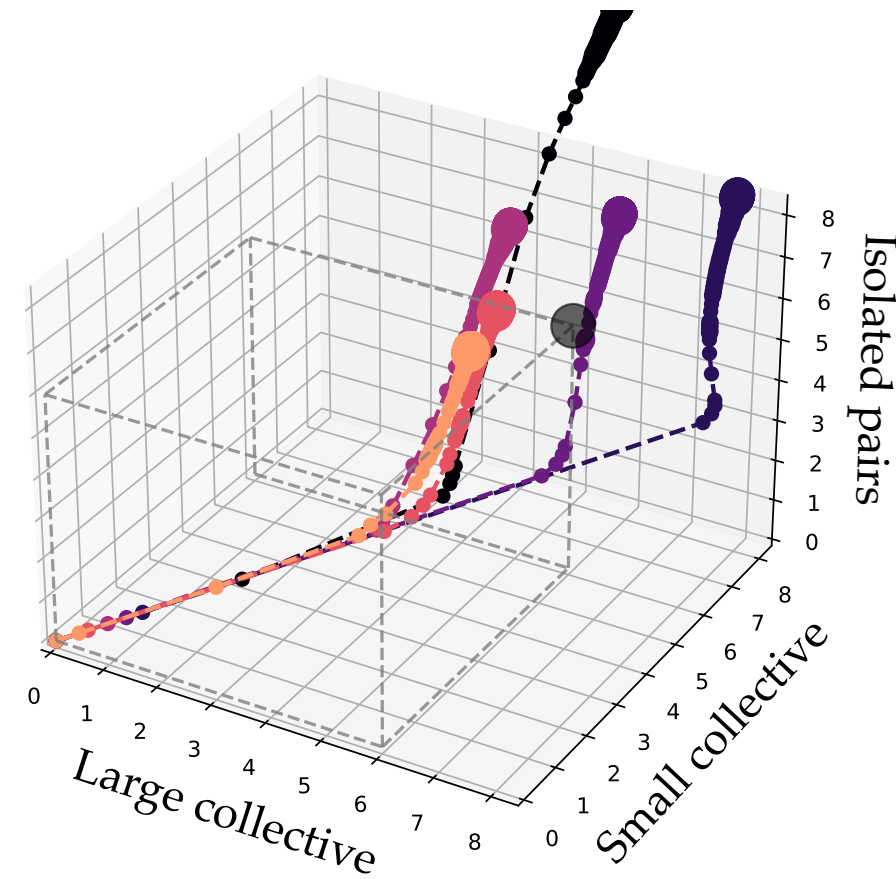
Theoretical understanding?

In collaboration with Emily Hinds, Yaakov Kleeorin, Rama Ranganathan (University of Chicago, USA)

The undersampling problem

How to infer rich statistical structure from limited data?

Stochastic Boltzmann Machine



Toy model: correct undersampling-induced biases

Real data: model generative without modification

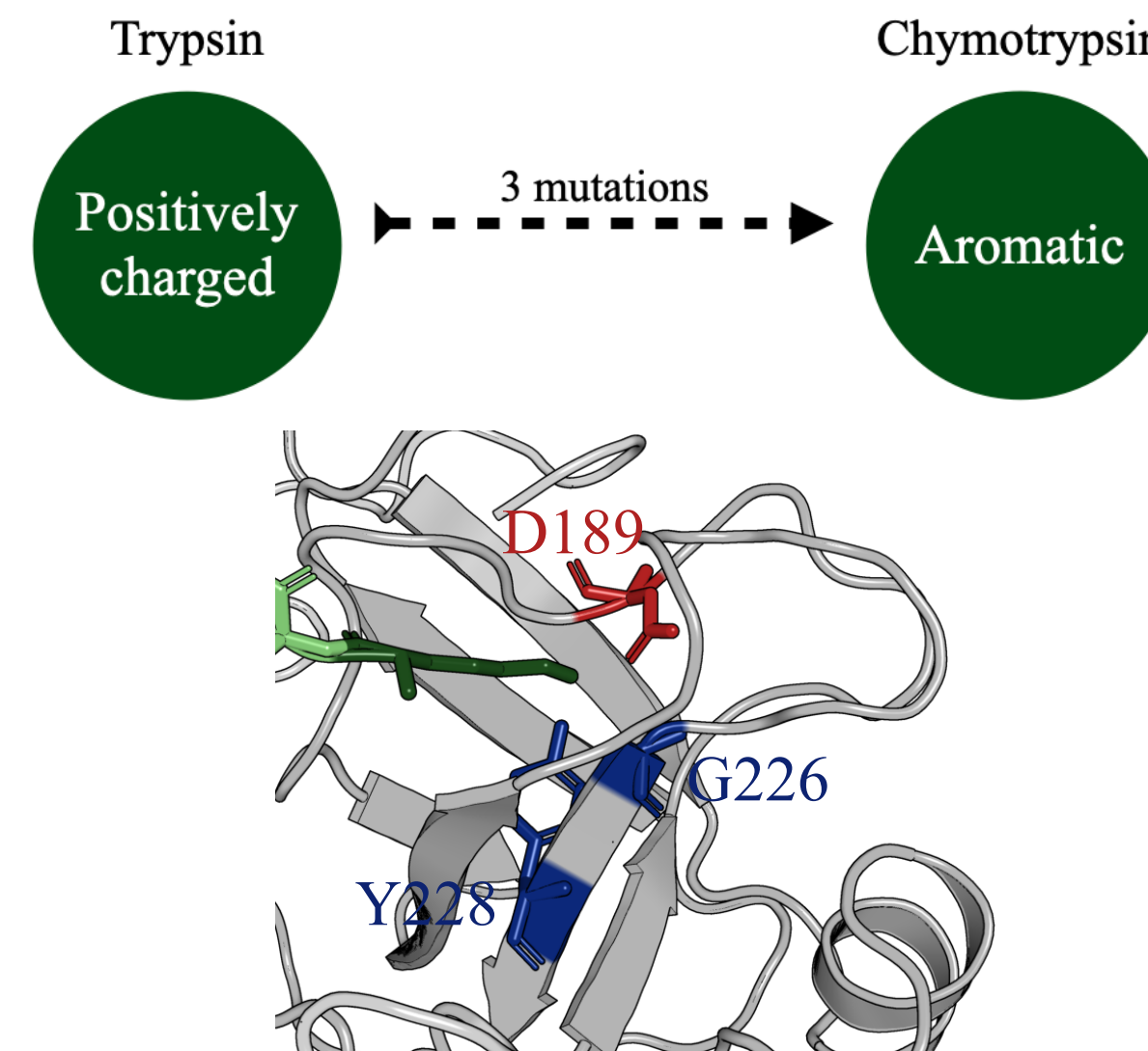
Theoretical understanding?

In collaboration with Emily Hinds, Yaakov Kleerorin, Rama Ranganathan (University of Chicago, USA)

Investigate protein properties with statistical learning

Specificity conversion in S1A family?

Predict compensatory mutations with Boltzmann Machine



Evidence of chymotrypsin activity
3 mutations away from rat trypsin

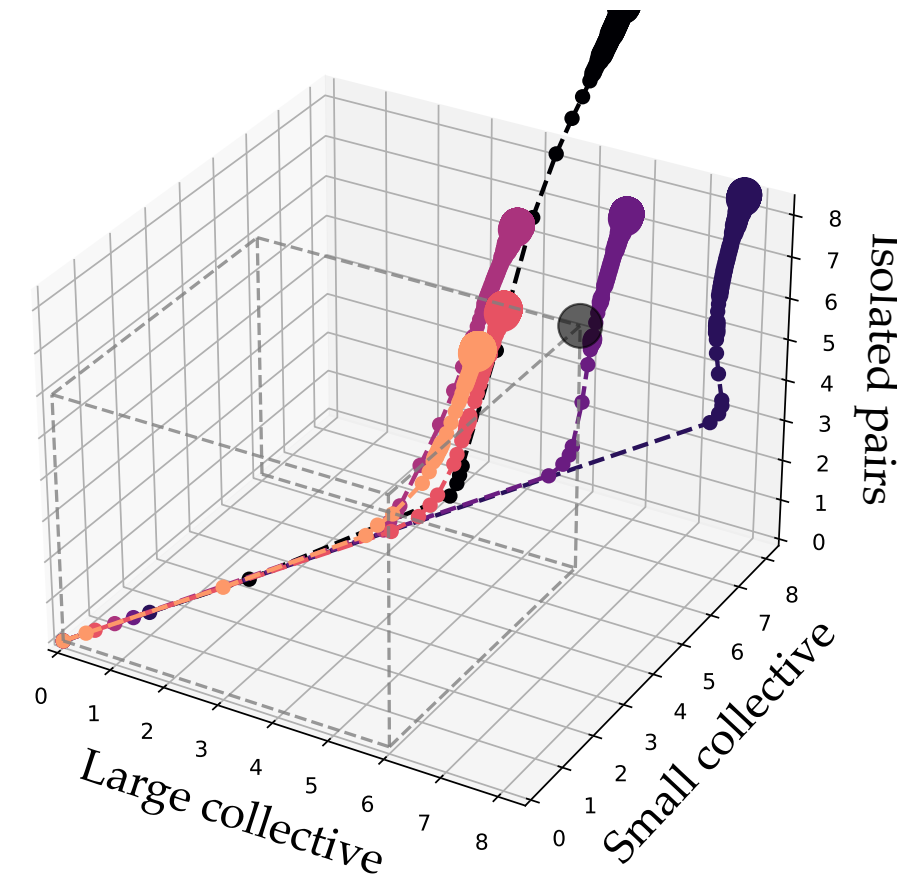
Better experimental characterization

In collaboration with Amaury Pavéyranne, Timothé Lucas, Shoichi Yip, Clément Nizak (LJP, Sorbonne University, France)

The undersampling problem

How to infer rich statistical structure from limited data?

Stochastic Boltzmann Machine



Toy model: correct undersampling-induced biases

Real data: model generative without modification

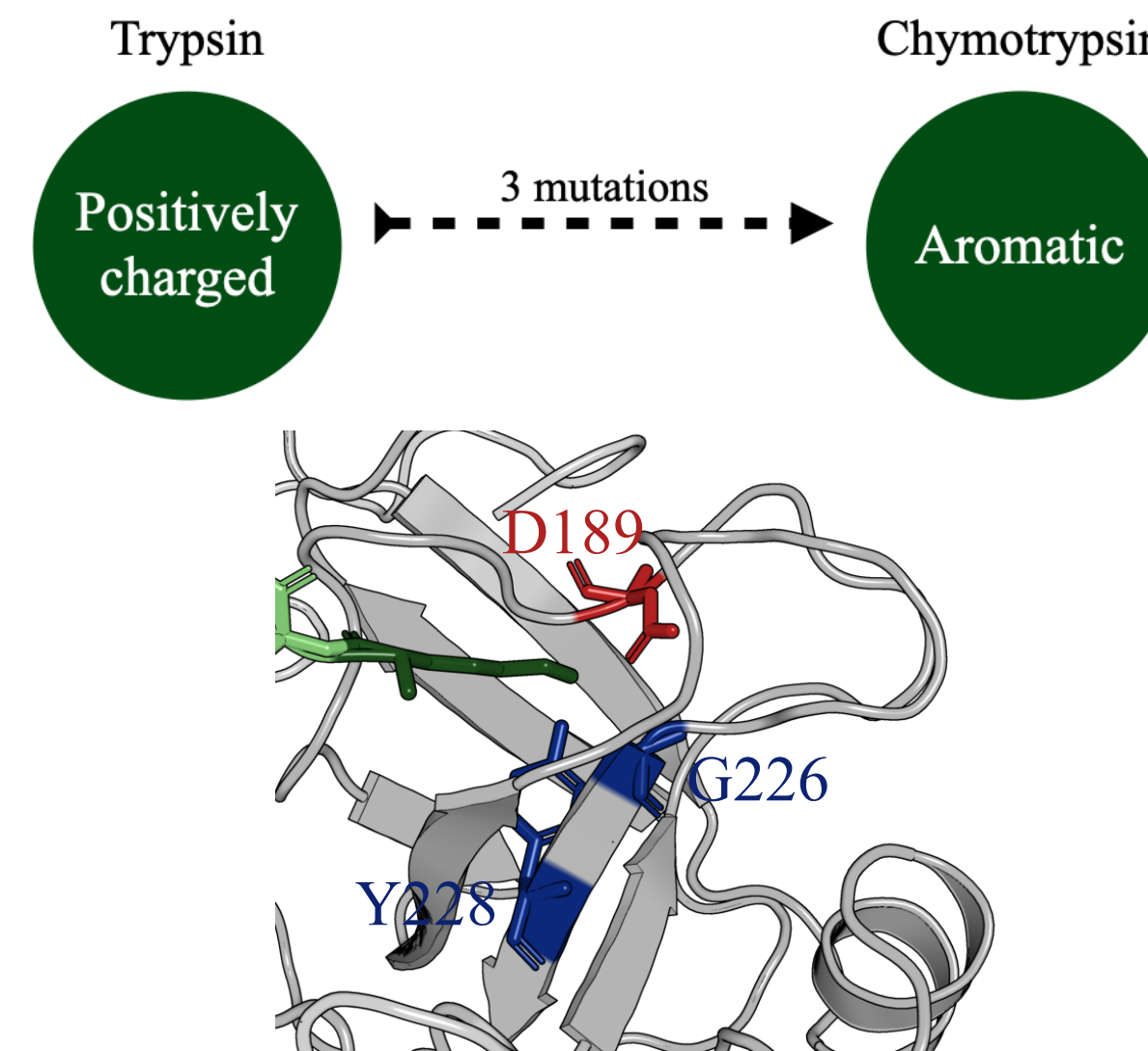
Theoretical understanding?

In collaboration with Emily Hinds, Yaakov Kleerorin, Rama Ranganathan (University of Chicago, USA)

Investigate protein properties with statistical learning

Specificity conversion in S1A family?

Predict compensatory mutations with Boltzmann Machine

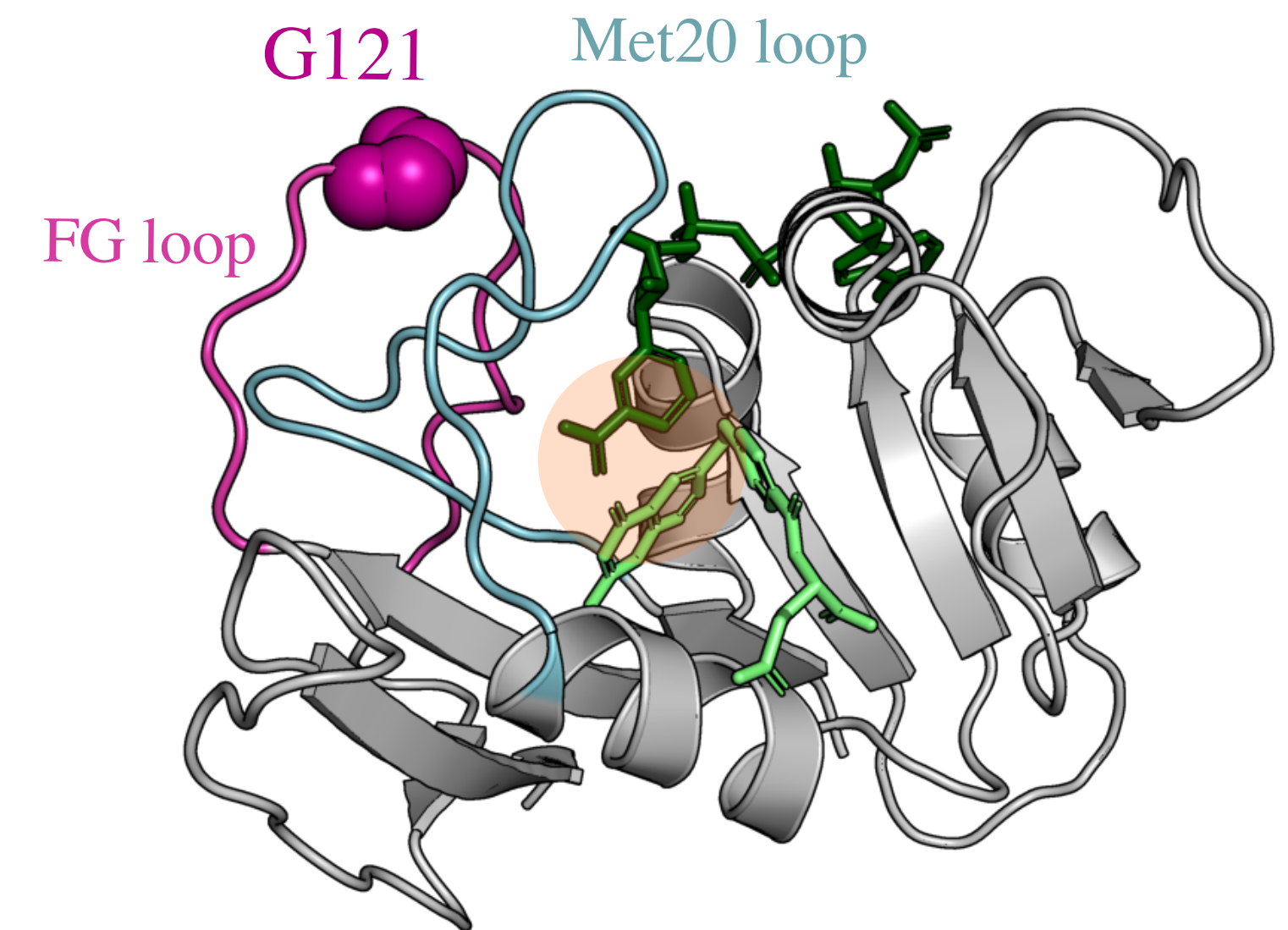


Evidence of chymotrypsin activity
3 mutations away from rat trypsin

Better experimental characterization

In collaboration with Amaury Pavayranne, Timoth  Lucas, Shoichi Yip, Cl ment Nizak (LJP, Sorbonne University, France)

Allosteric network of *E. Coli* DHFR



Support for an allosteric mechanism obtained through molecular dynamics simulations

In collaboration with Paul Guenon, Damien Laage, Guillaume Stirnemann (ENS, France), Cl ment Nizak (LJP, France), Karolina Filipowska, Kim Reynolds (University of Texas, USA)

Collaborators

Rama Ranganathan
Emily Hinds
Nadav Benhamou Goldfajn
Miranda Moore
Yaakov Kleeorin
Amaury Paveyranne
Timothé Lucas
Shoichi Yip
Clément Nizak
Paul Guenon
Damien Laage
Guillaume Stirnemann
Karolina Filipowska
Kim Reynolds

Nantes & co
Ma famille, mes amis
Les p’tits lapins
Les colocs
Snoopy, Sido, Pinpin

Directeurs de thèse

Ivan Junier
Olivier Rivoire

Jury

Anne-Florence Bitbol
Cyril Furtlehner
Thierry Mora
Marco Ribezzi

Paris

Le laboratoire Gulliver
Le bureau 414 du LJP

Grenoble

Le laboratoire TIMC
L'équipe TrEE

Chicago

Ranganathan Lab’

Merci

