

# AMINO ACIDS, PEPTIDES AND PROTEINS

المرحلة الثالثة / قسم الكيمياء / الفصل الثاني  
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# Introduction to Peptide Structure Determination:

## Protein Structure:

*primary (1°) structure*: the amino acid sequence

**This sequence of amino acids is called the *primary structure*. It is responsible for the specific biological function of the protein. Even one amino acid incorrectly placed in a protein can alter its biological activity**

*secondary (2°)*: frequently occurring substructures or folds.

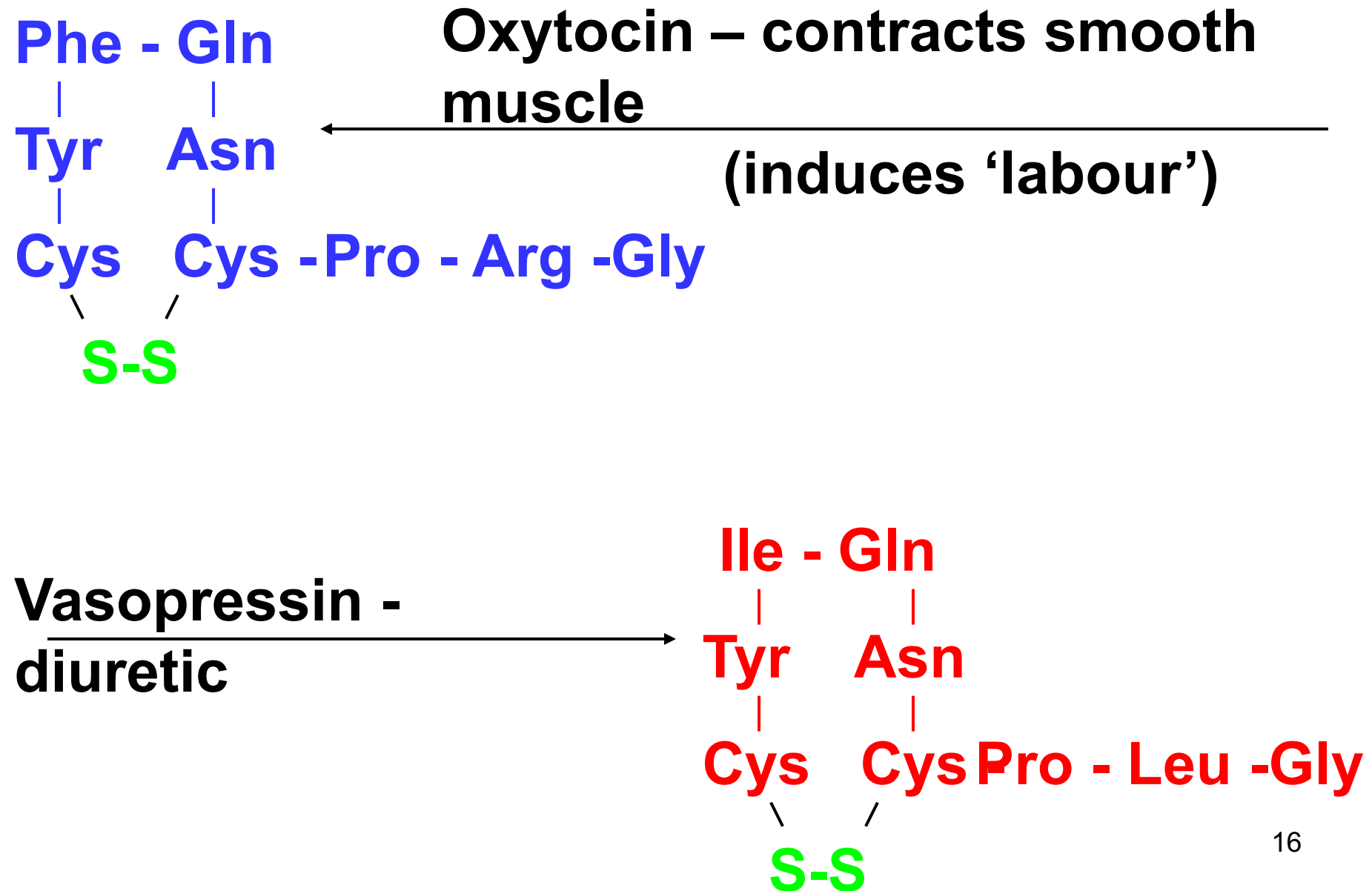
*tertiary (3°)*: three-dimensional arrangement of all atoms in a single polypeptide chain.

*quaternary (4°)*: overall organization of non-covalently linked subunits of a functional protein.

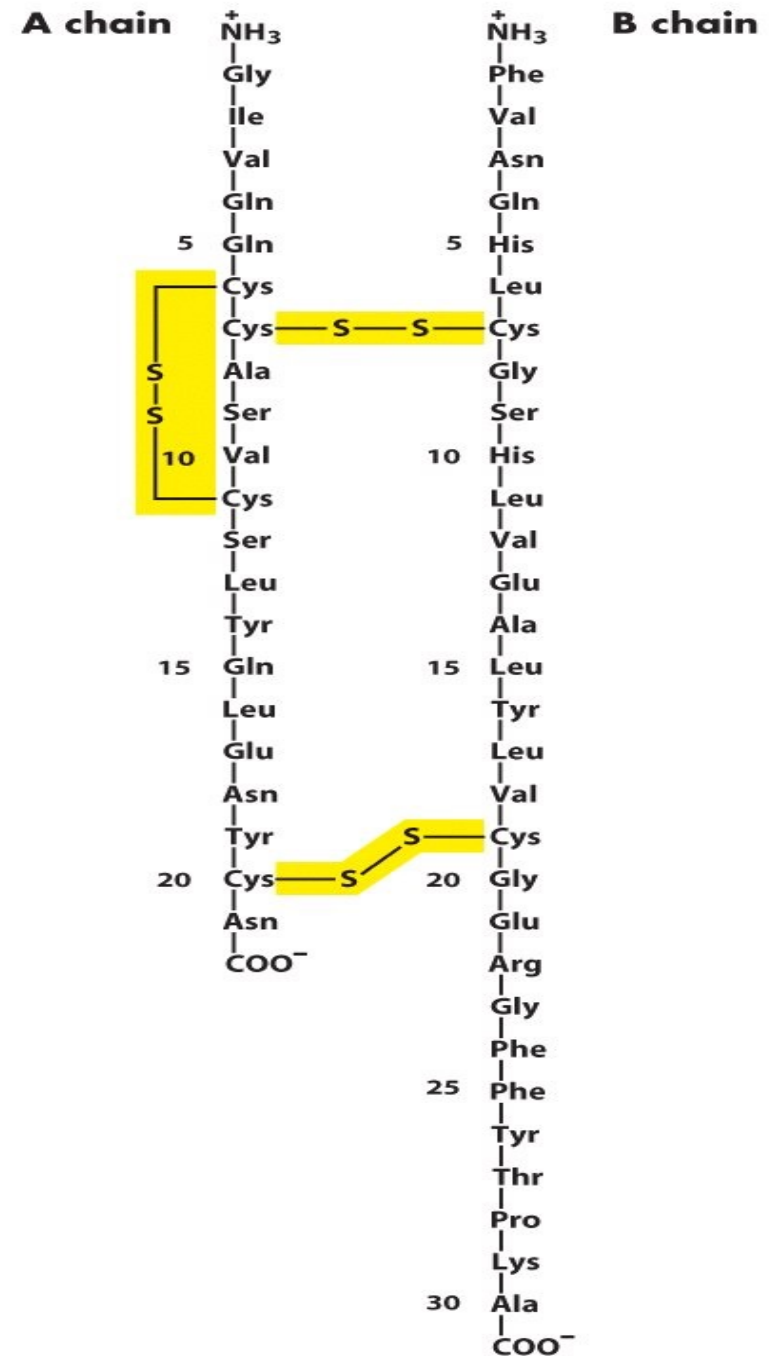
**all the necessary information as to how a protein folds is encoded into the primary sequence!**

- **1° sequence dictates 2° and 3° structure**

# Some Protein Sequences



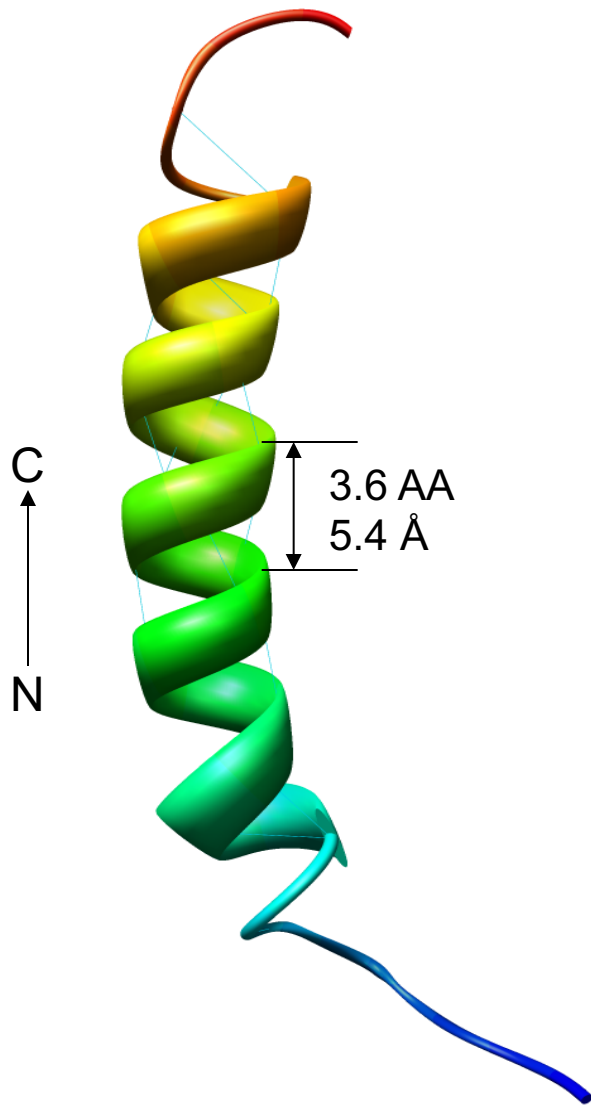
**Insulin.** Insulin has two peptide chains (the A chain has 21 amino acids and the B chain has 30 amino acids) held together by two disulfide linkages.



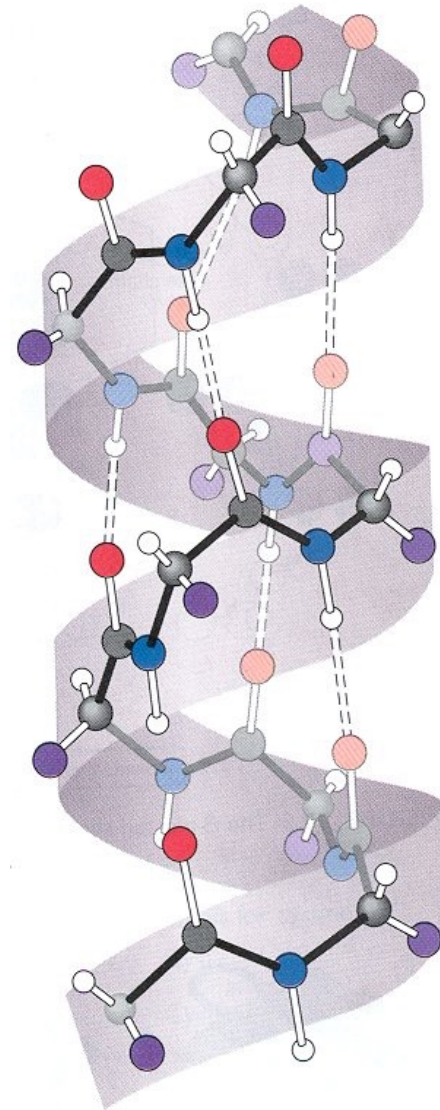
# Secondary structure of Proteins

- Is the fixed arrangement of amino acids resulting from interactions between amide linkages that are close to each other in the protein chain
- Interactions can be hydrogen bonds (~ 5 kcal/mol each)
- Many H bonds are sufficient to define the shape

$\alpha$ -helix: 3.6 amino acids per coil, 5.4 Å



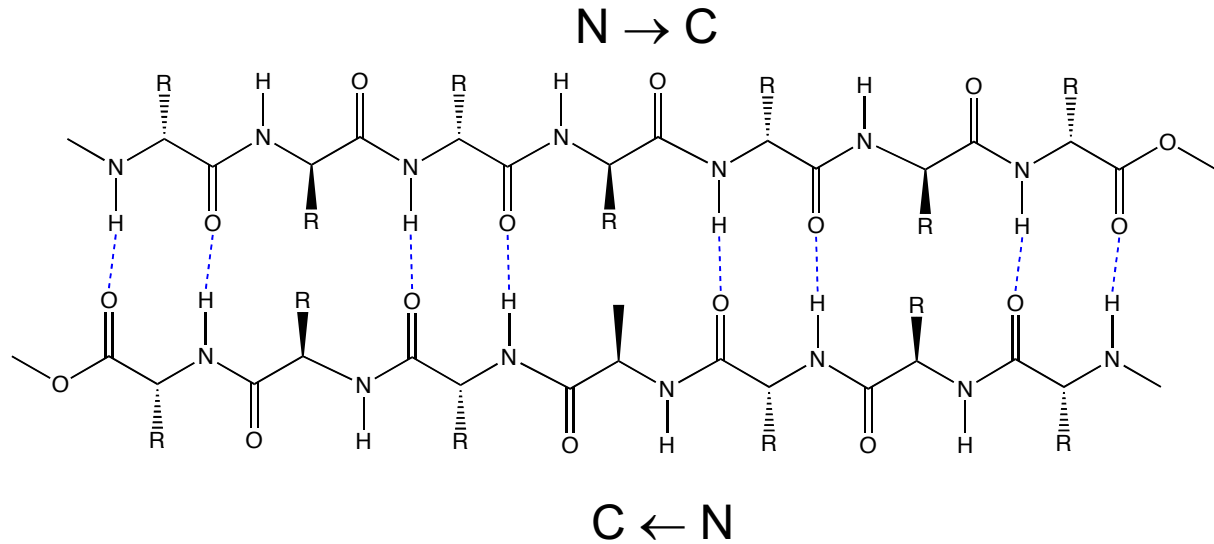
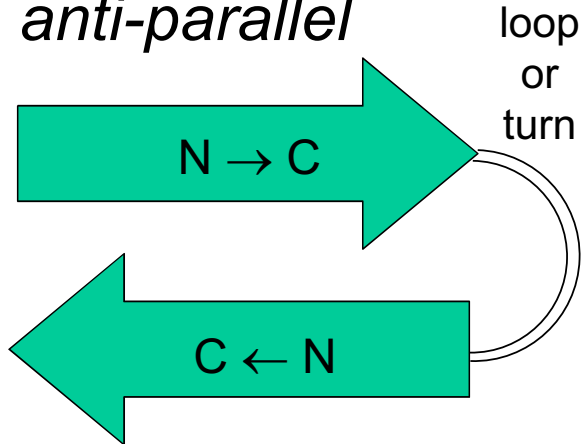
**H-bonding -  
intramolecular**



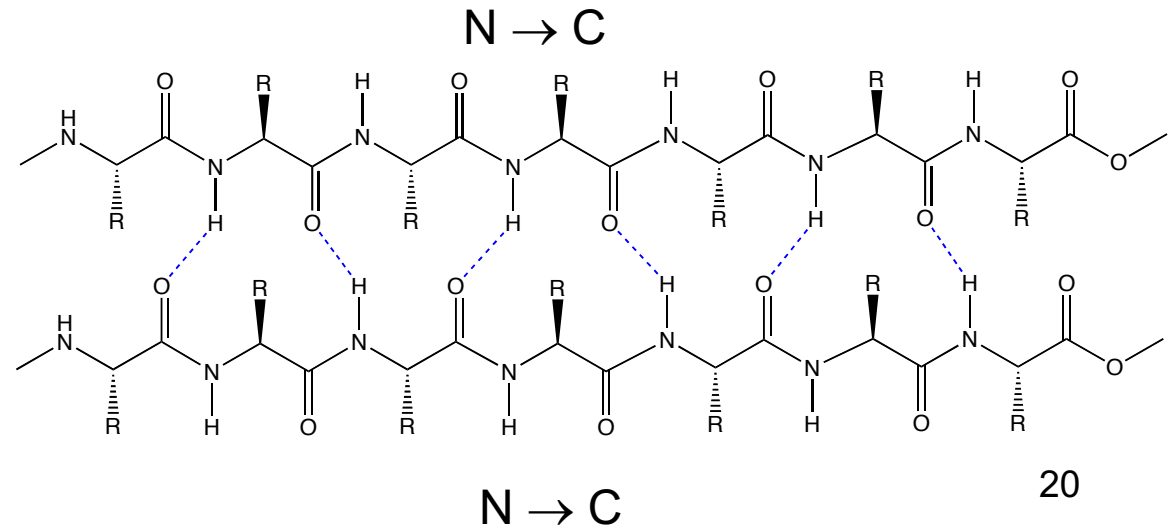
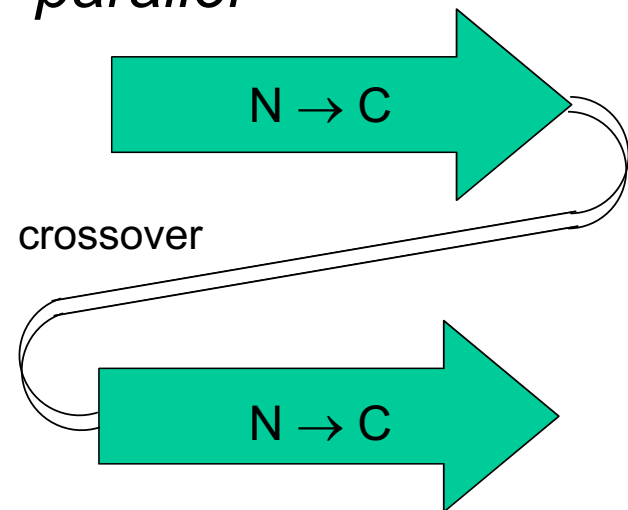
## $\beta$ -sheet:

Two or more extended peptide chain, in which the amide backbones are associated by hydrogen bonded

*anti-parallel*



*parallel*



## **TERTIARY STRUCTURE (3° )**

- Global 3-dimensional arrangement of ALL atoms in a protein

Includes:

**2° structural elements (alpha helices and beta sheets) Amino acid side chains**

### **Prosthetic groups**

- Small organic molecule or metal ion associated with a protein

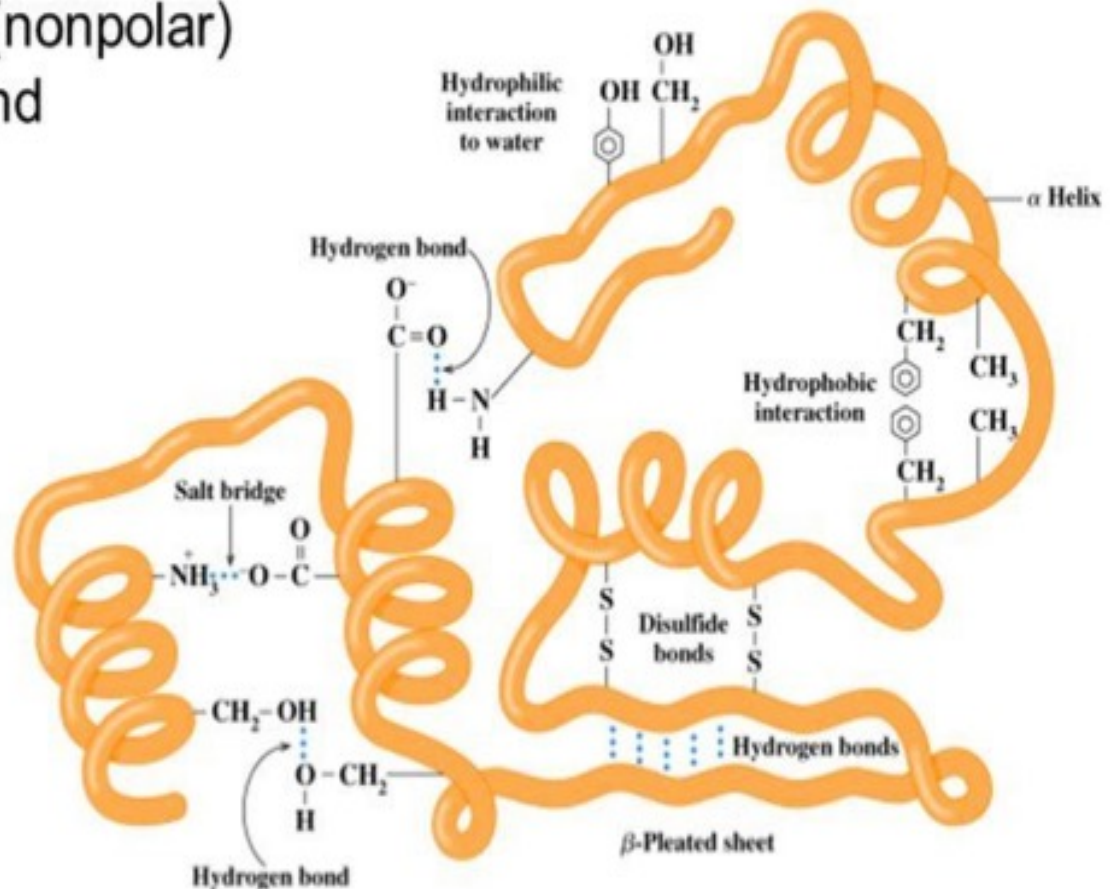
Regions of SECONDARY structure INTERACT to give a protein its TERTIARY structure

Major forces stabilizing tertiary structure are hydrophobic interactions among nonpolar side chains in the compact core of the proteins.



## Tertiary Structure

- (1) Disulfide (-S-S-)
- (2) salt bridge (acid-base)
- (3) Hydrophilic (polar)
- (4) hydrophobic (nonpolar)
- (5) Hydrogen bond

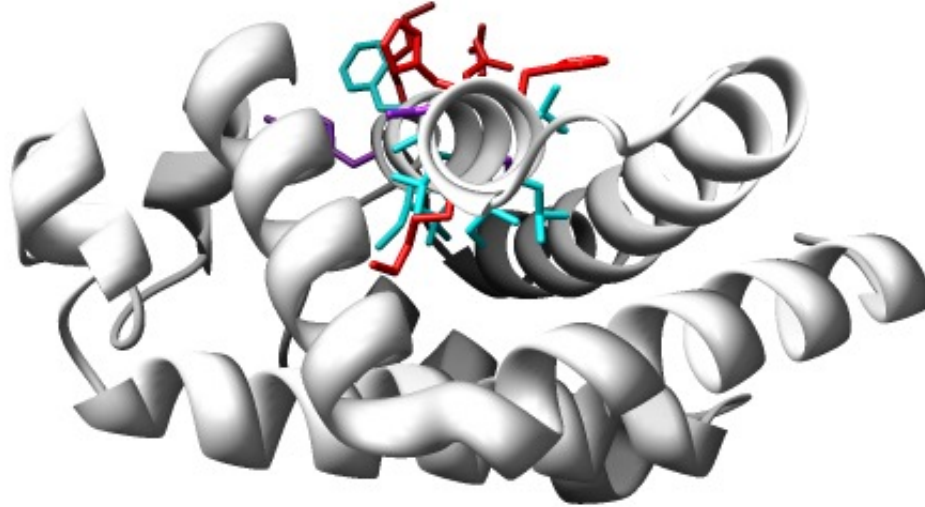


# Tertiary Structure of polypeptides and Proteins.

***Fibrous.*** Polypeptides strands that “bundle” to form elongated fibrous assemblies; insoluble.

***Globular.*** Proteins that fold into a “spherical” conformation.

***Hydrophobic effect.*** Proteins will fold so that *hydrophobic* amino acids are on the inside (shielded from water) and *hydrophilic* amino acids are on the outside (exposed to water)

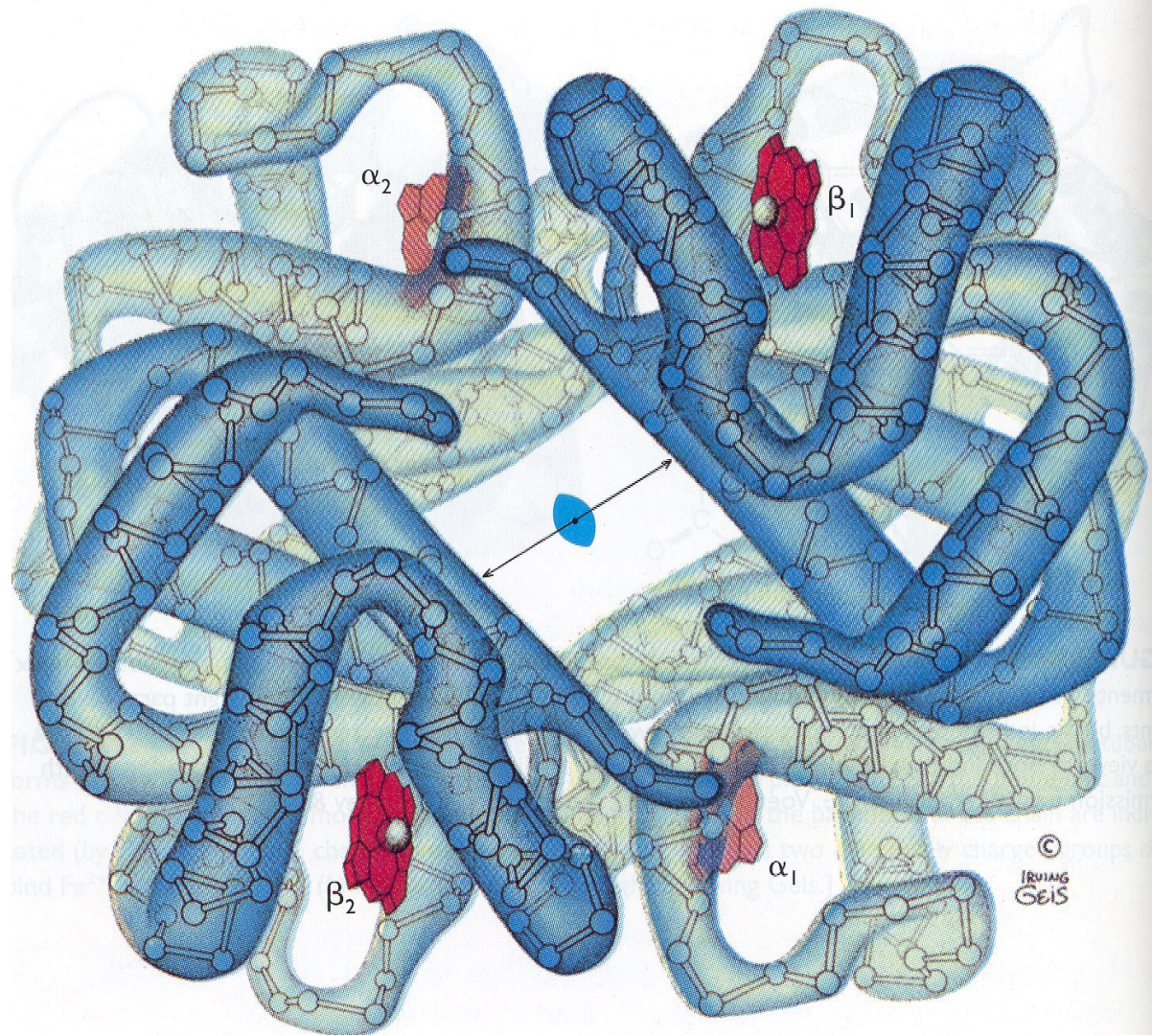


Pro • Ile • Lys • Tyr • Leu • Glu • Phe • Ile • Ser • Asp • Ala • Ile • Ile • His • Val • His • Ser  
• Lys



# Tertiary Structure (3<sup>0</sup>) - braids & globs

collagen



hemoglobin<sub>24</sub>

## **QUATERNARY STRUCTURE (4° )**

**Arrangement of multiple protein molecules into  
COMPLEXES**

**The three dimensional structure of a protein made of >1  
polypeptide**

**Complexes of 2, 3, 4 etc... protein molecules are called  
dimers, trimers, tetramers...oligomers**

- Oligomers may be:**

**Formed with identical protein monomers = HOMO**

**OLIGOMER Formed with different protein monomers =  
HETERO OLIGOMERS Example: Hemoglobin:**

**2 alpha subunits**

**2 beta subunits**

- Protein subunits of oligomers interact through NON-  
COVALENT interactions**

# Hemoglobin(H) and Myoglobin (M)

- H has 4 polypeptide chains : carries  $O_2$ ,  $CO_2$  and  $H^+$  in the blood, and possesses quaternary structure
- M has a single chain of 153 amino acids: carries  $O_2$  from the blood vessels to the muscles and stores it until needed.
- Both have Fe II containing heme unit in each chain that binds  $O_2$ .