

Generative modeling of RNA switches with RBMs

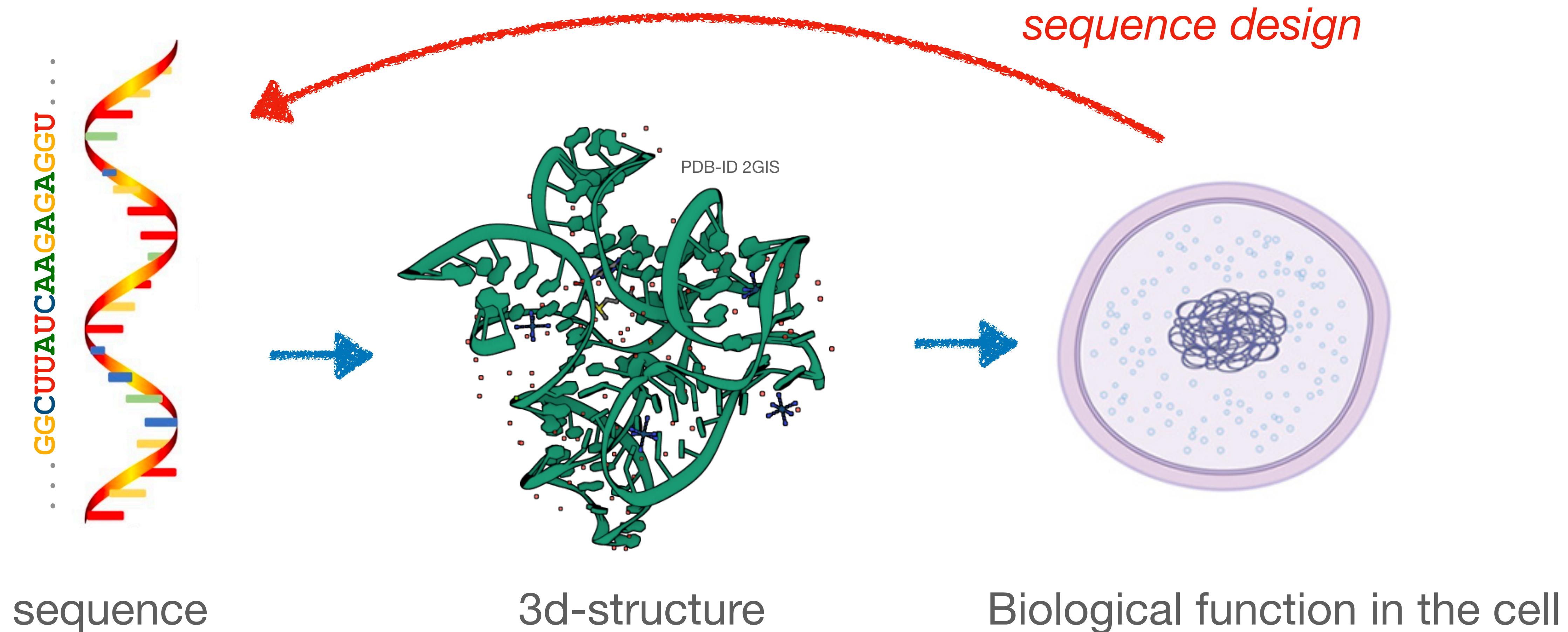
Jorge Fernandez-de-Cossio-Diaz

Paris, ENS

In collaboration with: P. Hardouin, F.-X. Lyonnet du Moutier, A. Di Gioacchino, B. Marchand, Y. Ponty, B. Sargueil, R. Monasson, S. Cocco

Computational approaches to RNA structure and function
Centro de Ciencias de Benasque
2024-07-24

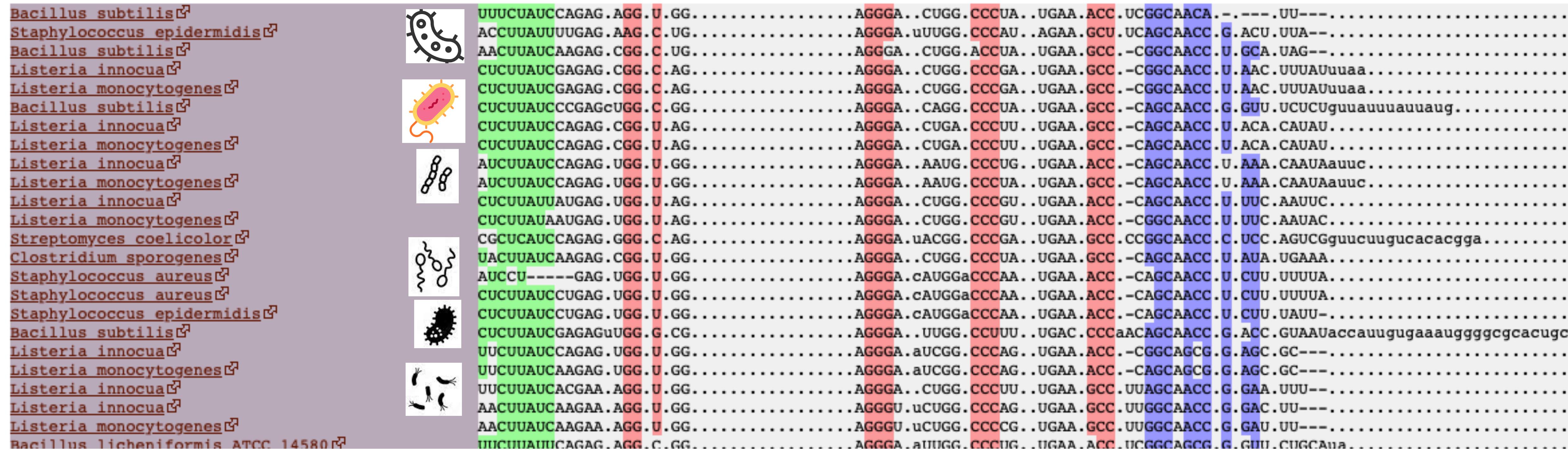
Structure and function of non-coding RNA molecules



Problem: $\text{sequence} \leftrightarrow \text{function}$ mapping

(Sequence) data-driven approach

Multiple sequence alignment (MSA) of homologs are rich in evolutionary information:
Conservation, covariation, ...



*Models trained on MSA data can infer constraints necessary for function.
We can then test (experimentally) their **generative** capabilities.*

SAM-I riboswitch aptamer domain

Upstream of coding part of mRNA.

Recognizes a metabolite (SAM) specifically

SAM = S-adenosyl methionine

Regulates methionine metabolism in bacteria

Model system for *riboswitches*, which regulate gene expression in bacteria and eukaryotes, in response to specific metabolites

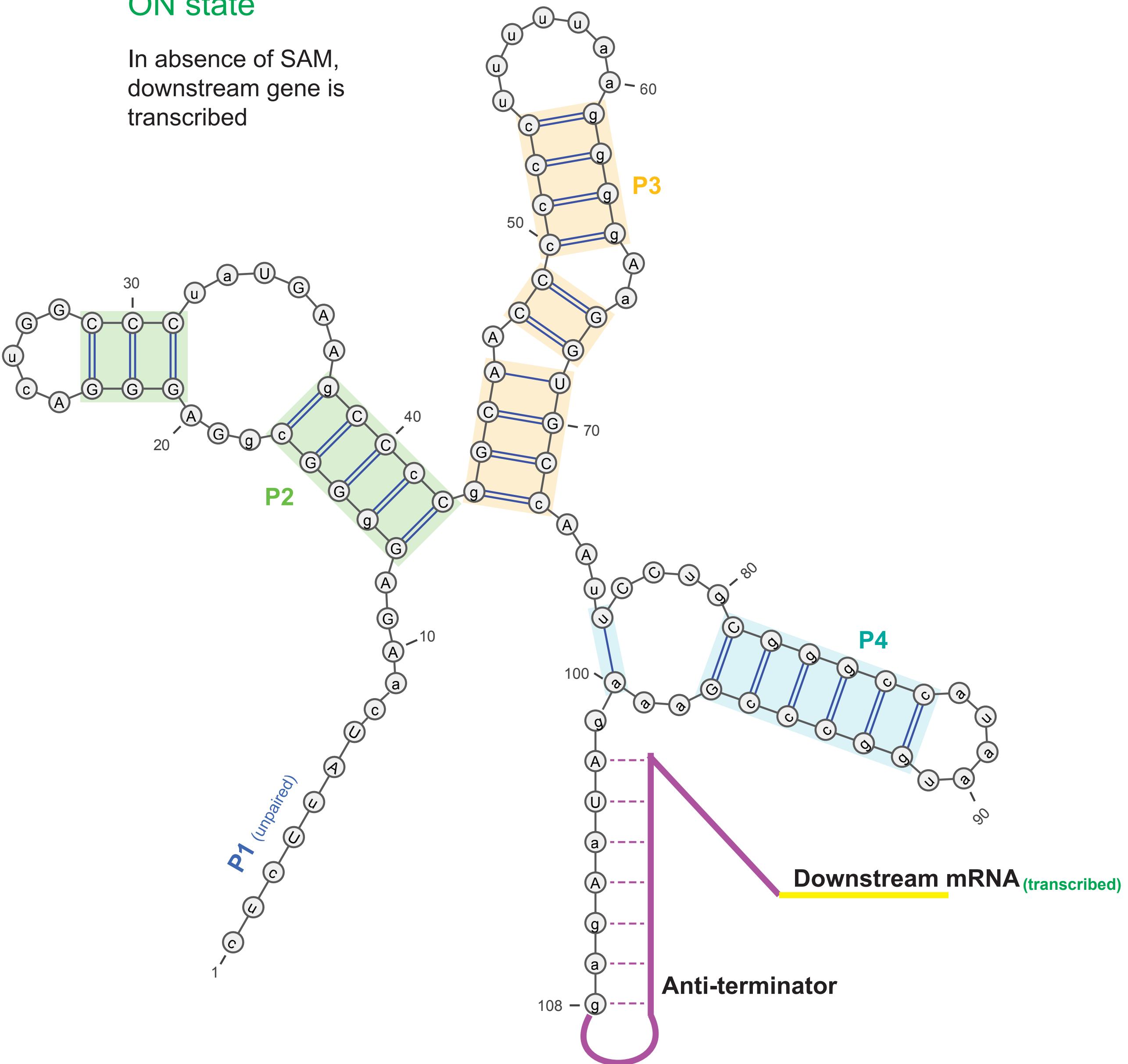


SAM-I riboswitch aptamer

SAM-I riboswitch aptamer domain

ON state

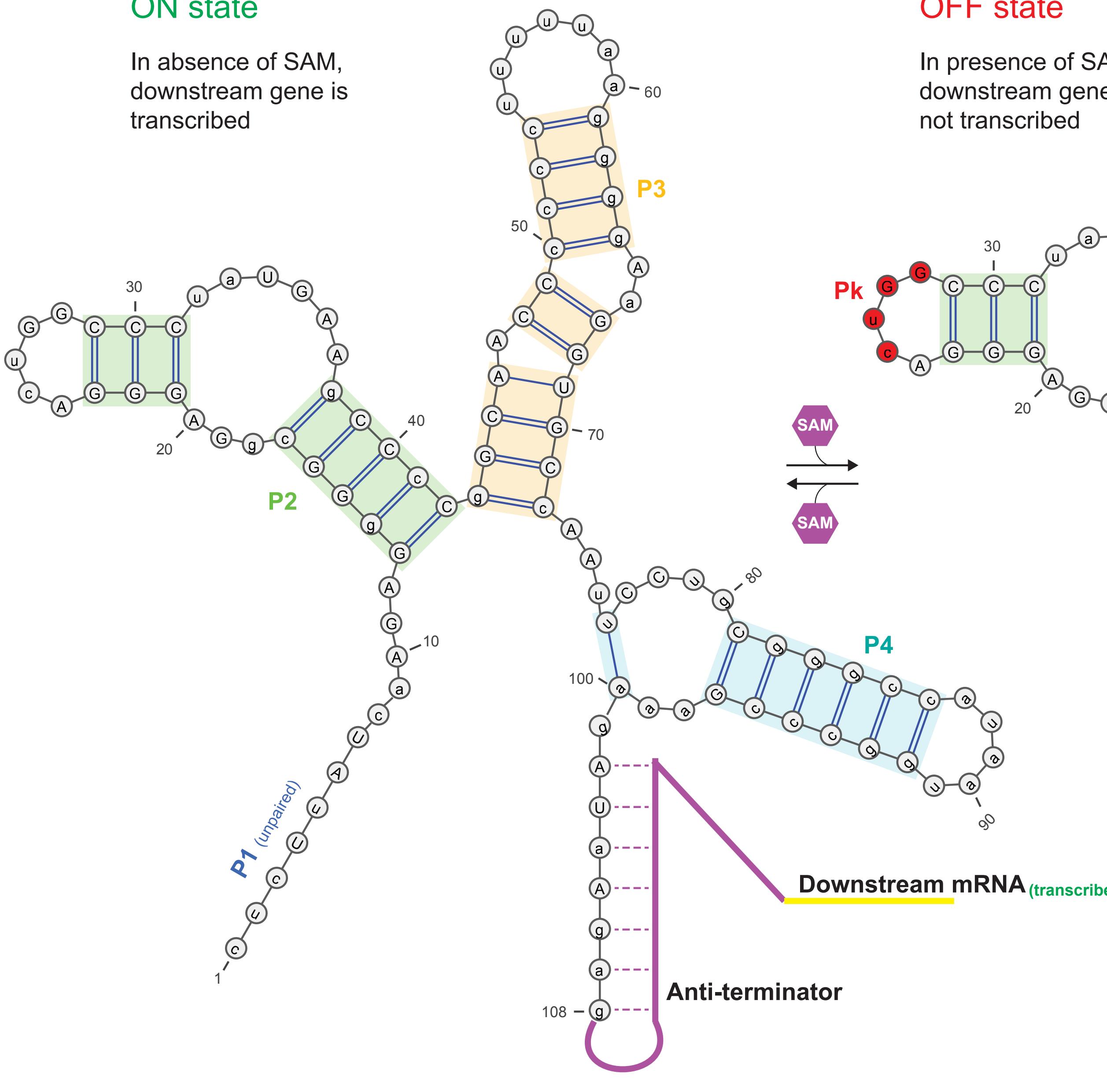
In absence of SAM,
downstream gene is
transcribed



SAM-I riboswitch aptamer domain

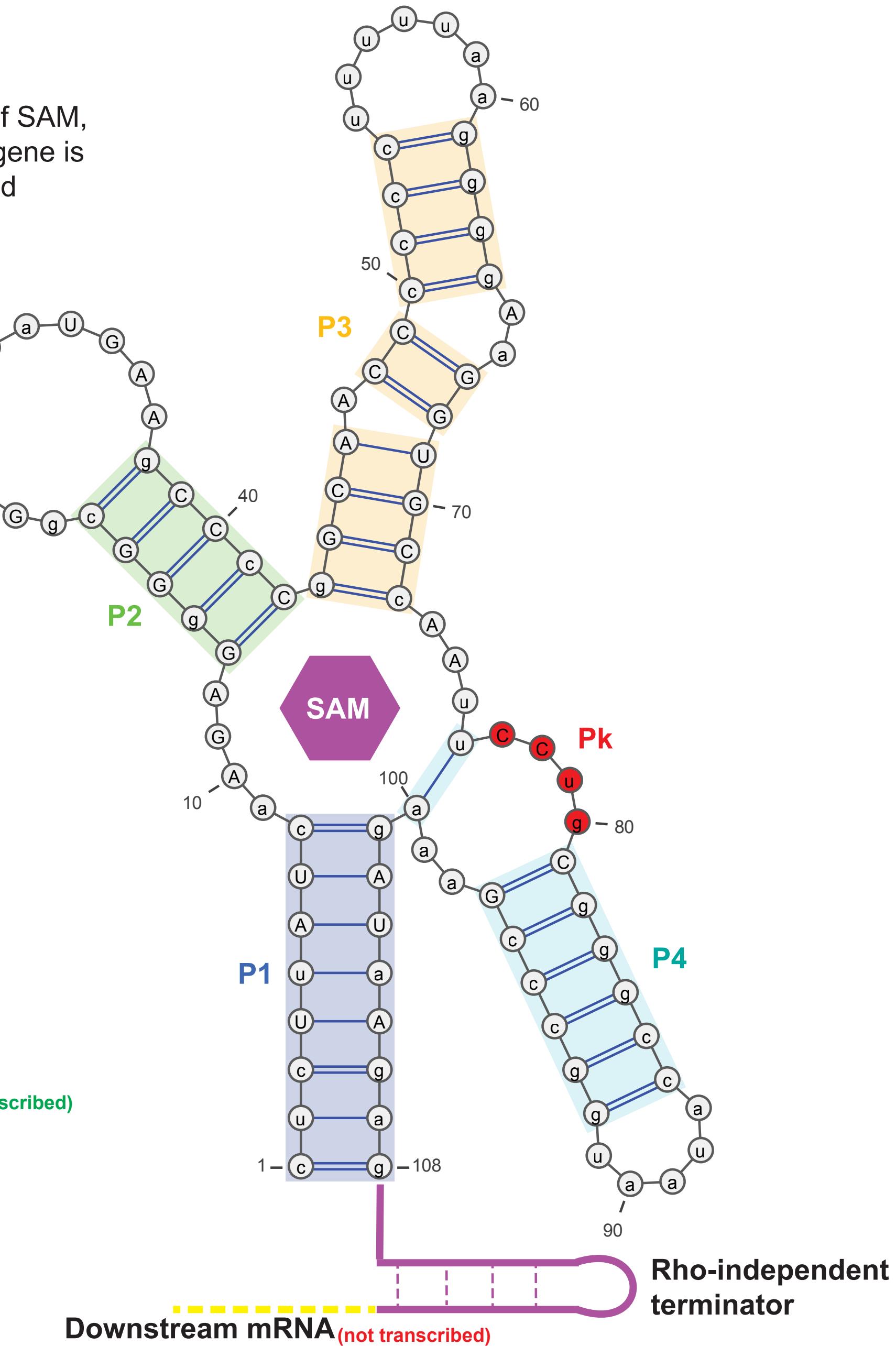
ON state

In absence of SAM,
downstream gene is
transcribed



OFF state

In presence of SAM,
downstream gene is
not transcribed



SAM-I riboswitch aptamer domain

Challenges for successful riboswitch regulatory function:

- network of **tertiary contacts**
- specific **ligand** binding
- **switch** between competing conformations in response to the ligand
- combinatorially large space of possible sequences ($5^{108} \sim 10^{75}$) and structures \Rightarrow **difficult to design**

SAM-I riboswitch homologs are found in many different organisms



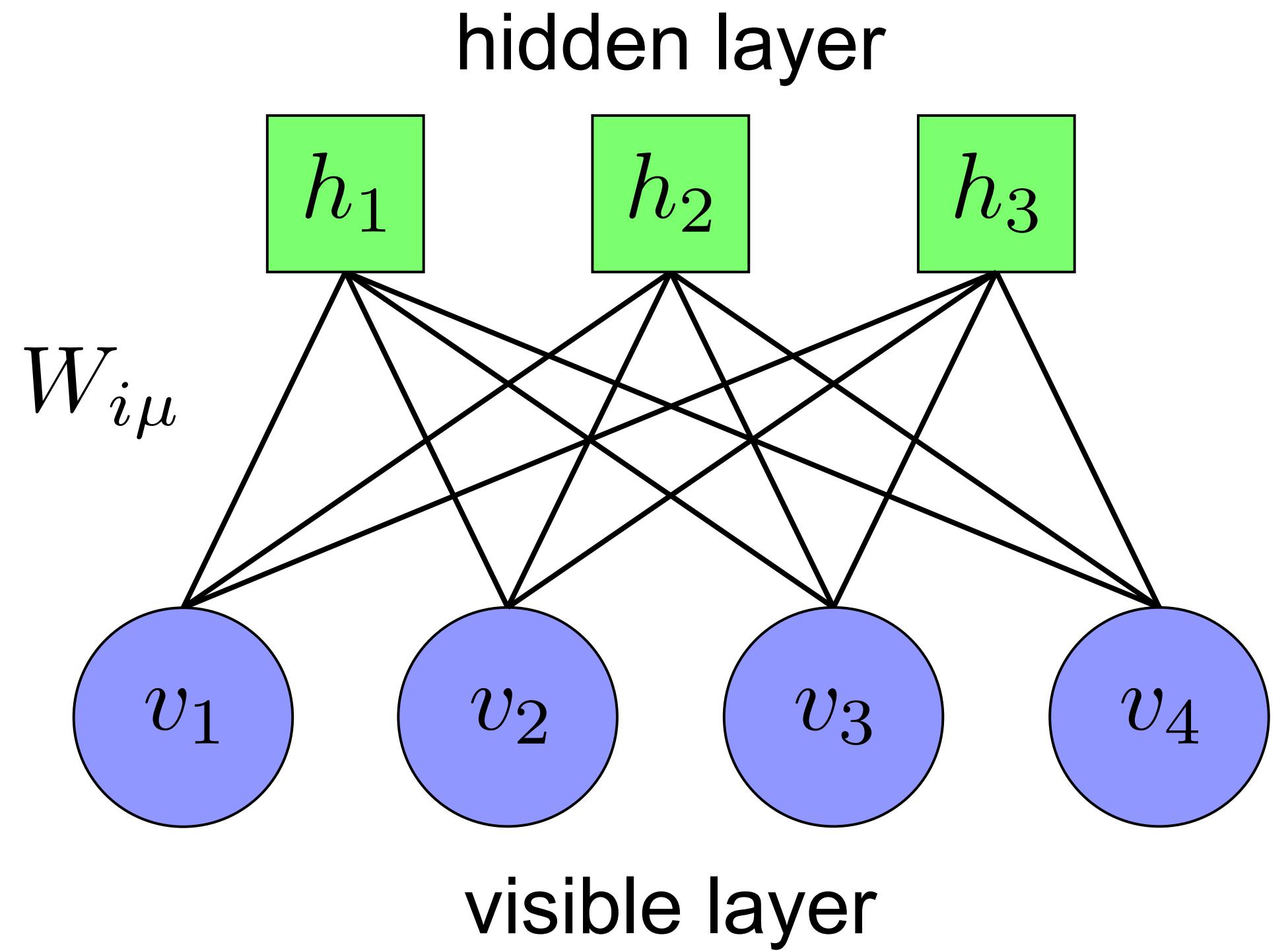
RF00162 aptamer domain family

Multiple Sequence Alignment (MSA), consisting of:

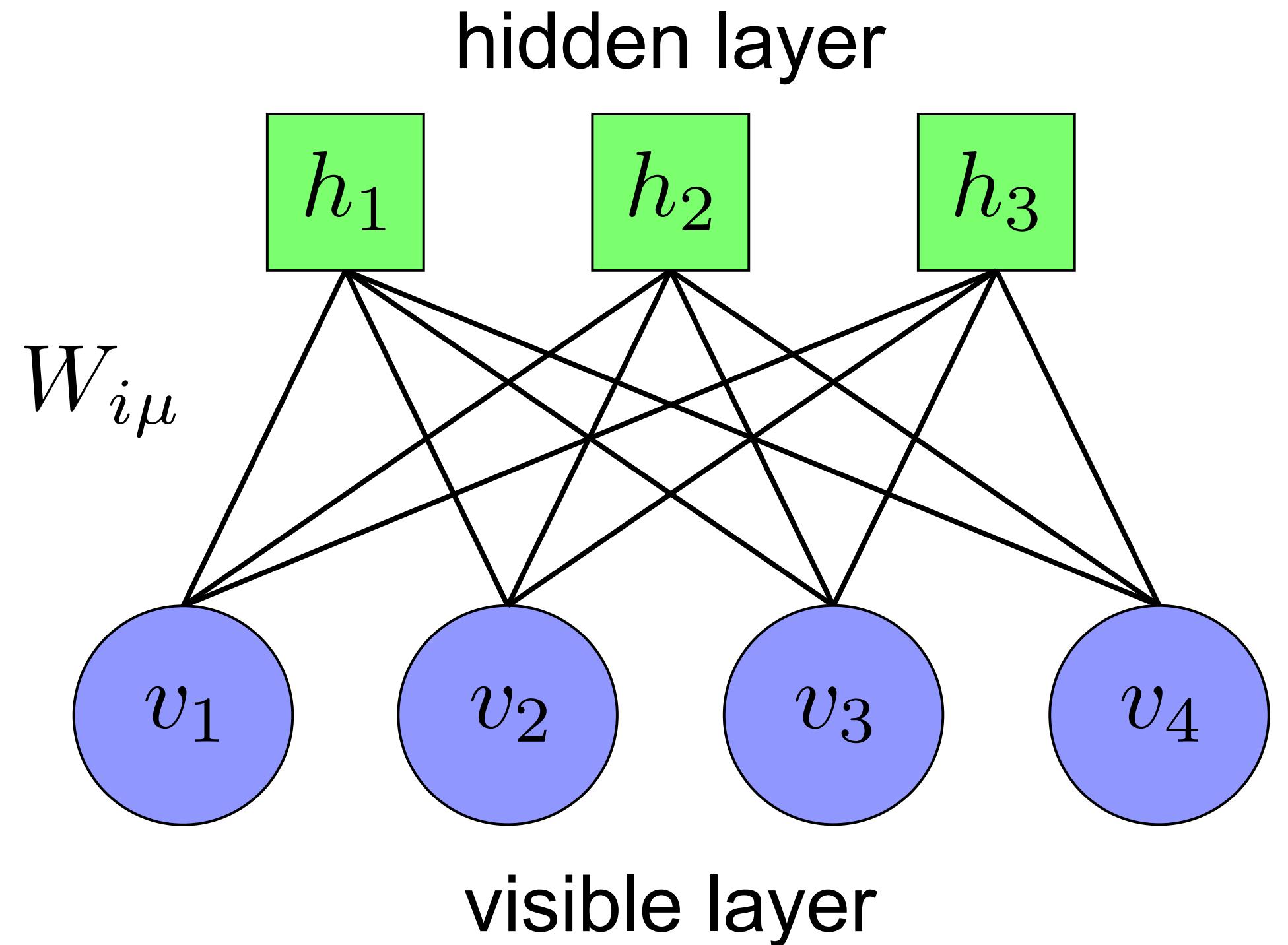
6161 sequences, 108 aligned positions

<https://rfam.org>

Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)



Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)



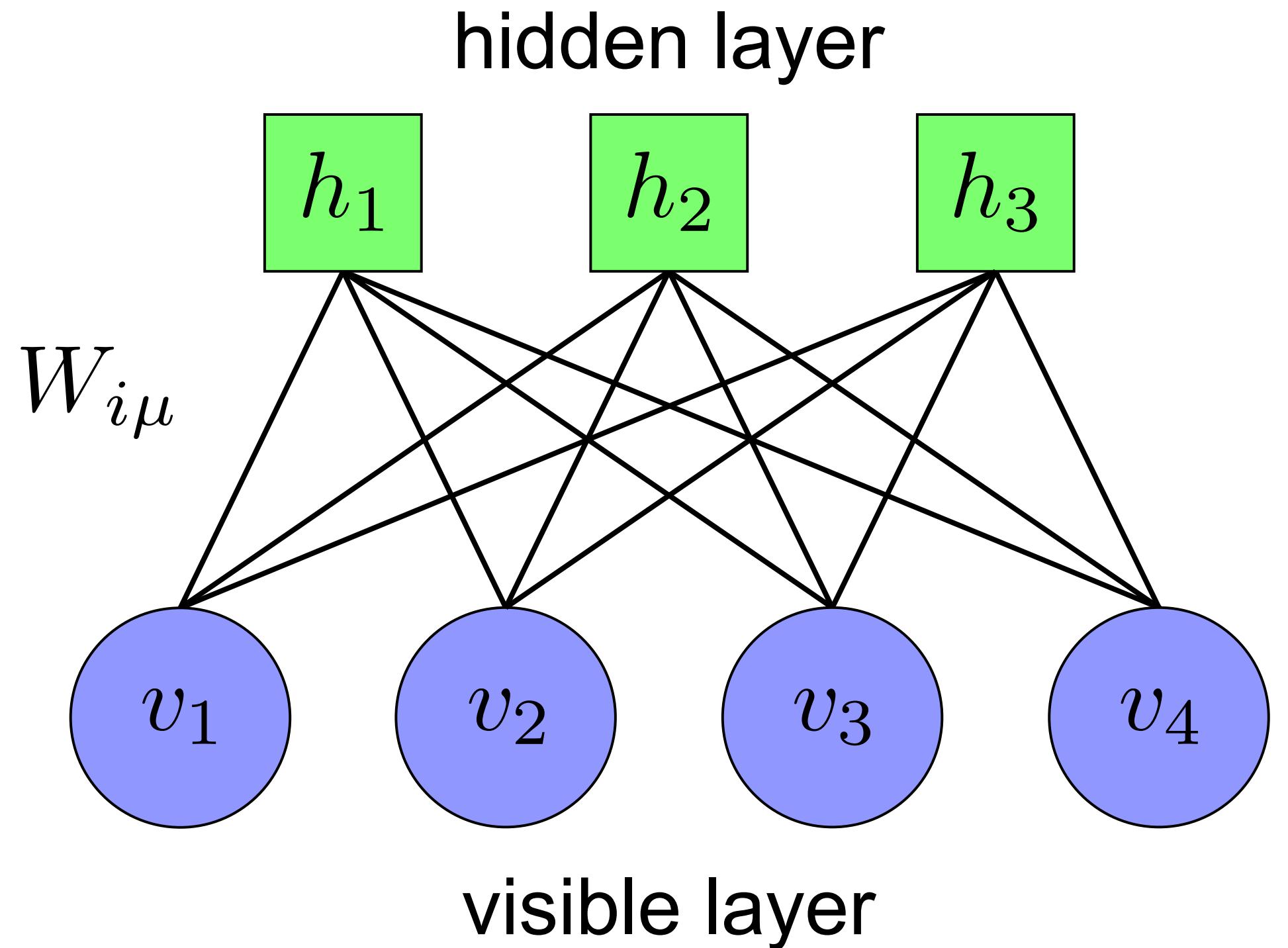
$\mathbf{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_N)$ = the RNA sequence

$\mathbf{h} = (h_1, \dots, h_M)$ = latent variables (features)

Energy function:

$$E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h}) = \sum_i \mathcal{V}_i(v_i) + \sum_\mu \mathcal{U}_\mu(h_\mu) - \sum_{i\mu} W_{i\mu} v_i h_\mu$$

Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)



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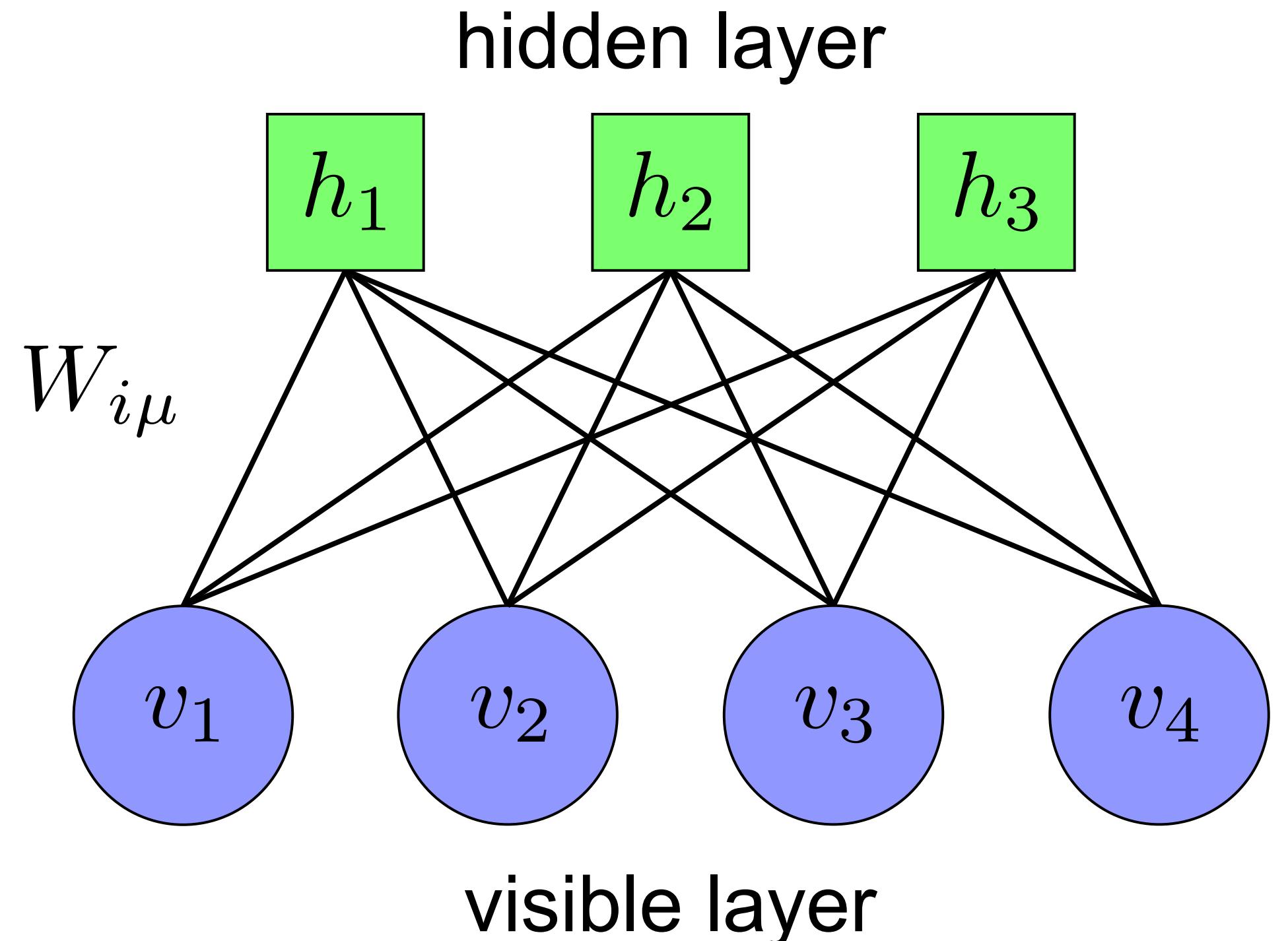
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Boltzmann law:

$$P(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h}) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h})}$$

Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)



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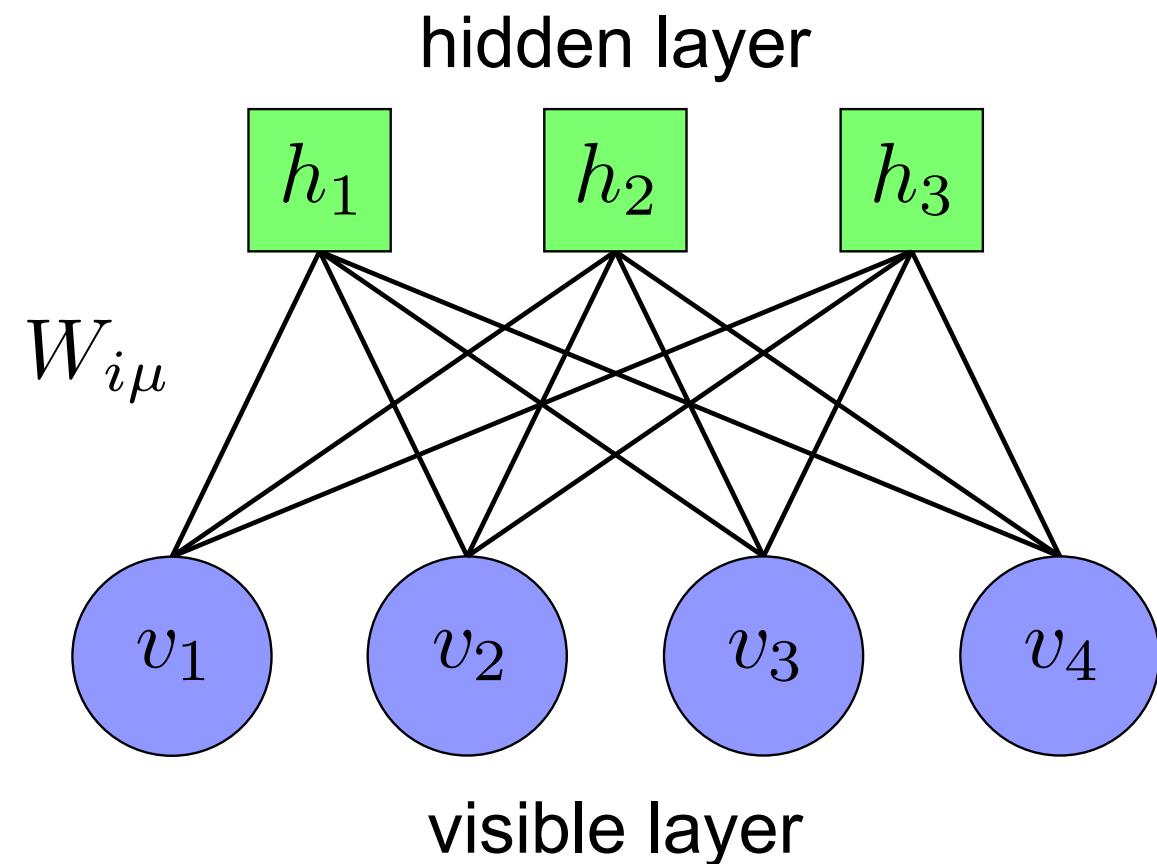
$$P(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h}) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h})}$$

Partition function (normalization constant)

$$Z = \sum_{v_1, \dots, v_N} \int dh_1 \dots dh_M e^{-E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h})}$$

Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)

Sampling



Energy

$$E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h}) = \sum_i \mathcal{V}_i(v_i) + \sum_\mu \mathcal{U}_\mu(h_\mu) - \sum_{i\mu} W_{i\mu} v_i h_\mu$$

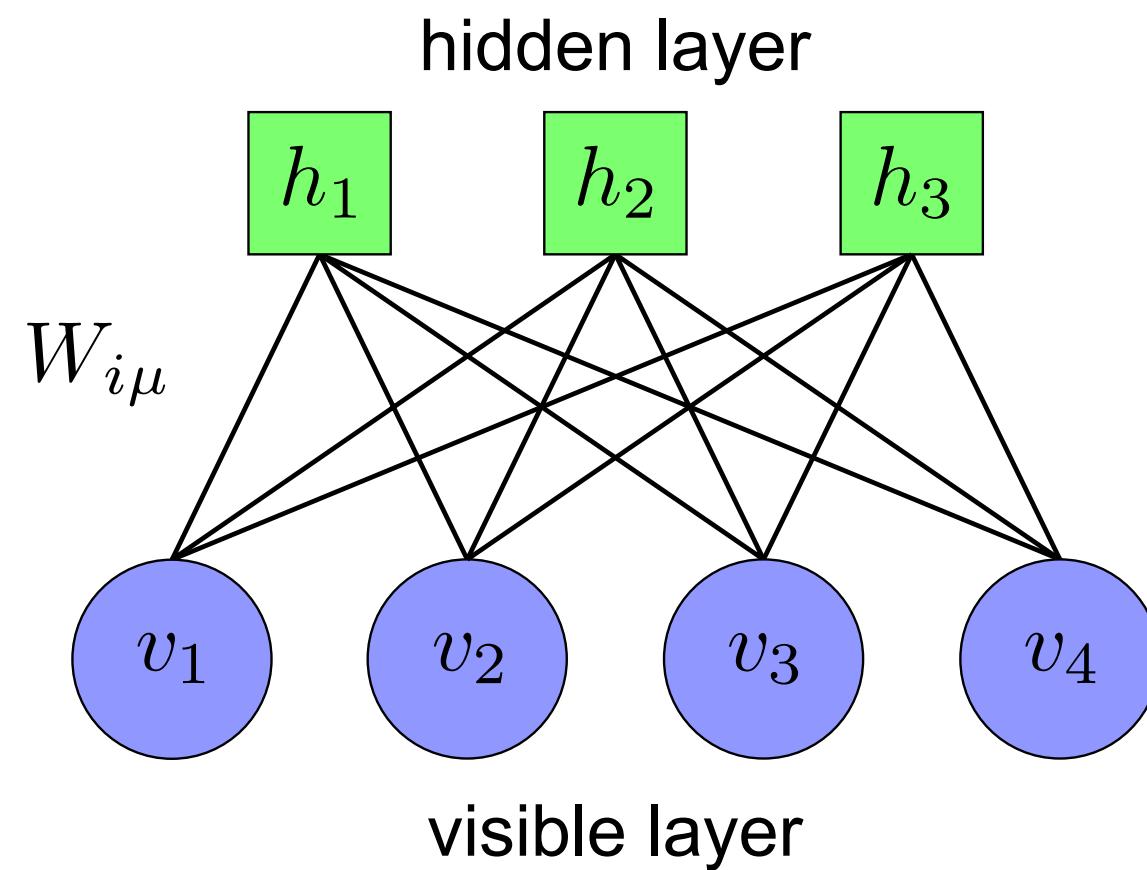
Conditional probabilities factorize

$$P(\mathbf{v} | \mathbf{h}) = \prod_i P(v_i | \mathbf{h})$$

$$P(\mathbf{h} | \mathbf{v}) = \prod_\mu P(h_\mu | \mathbf{v})$$

Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)

Sampling



Energy

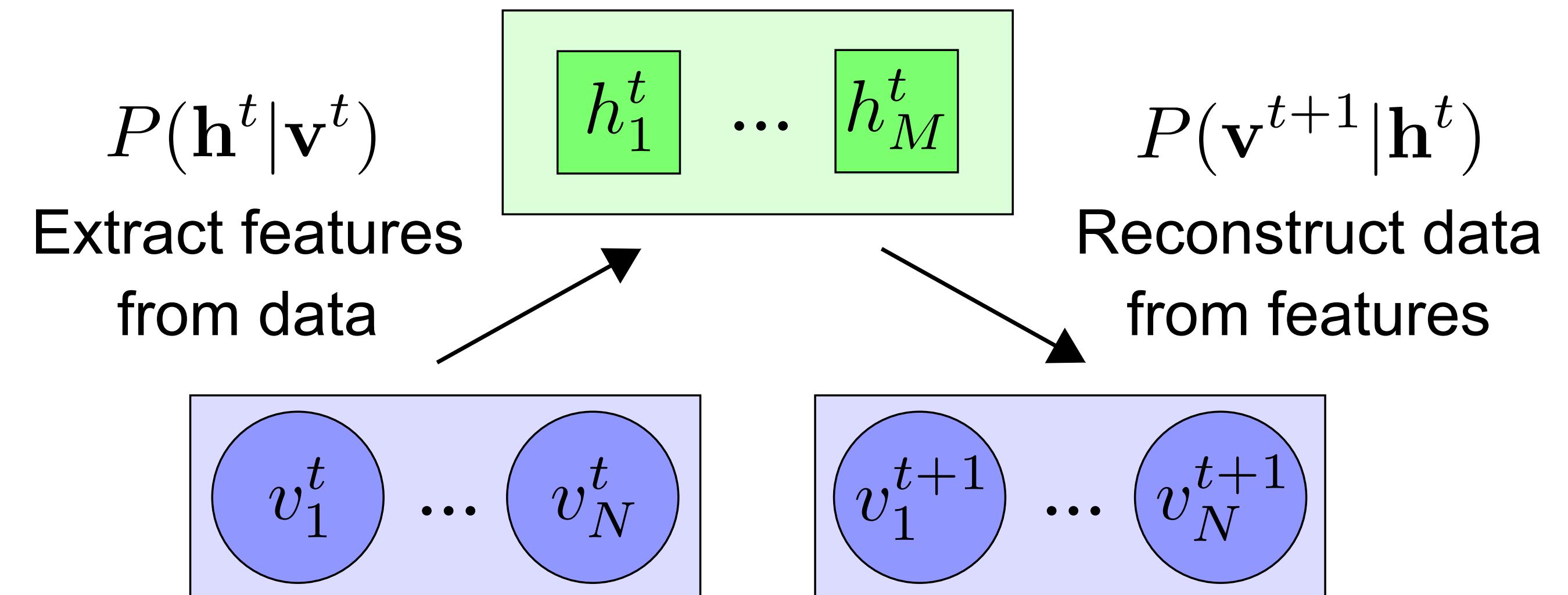
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$$P(\mathbf{v} | \mathbf{h}) = \prod_i P(v_i | \mathbf{h})$$

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Gibbs sampling



Converges to equilibrium samples from the model

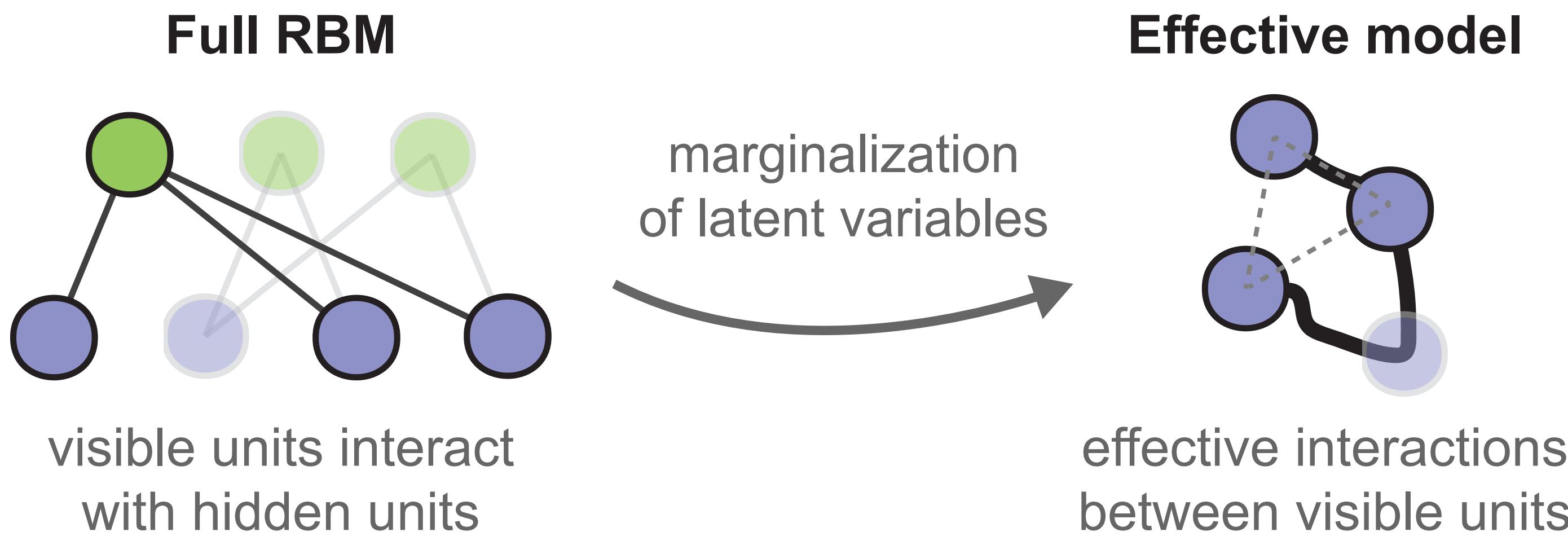
Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)

Likelihood:

$$P_v(\mathbf{v}) = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{\mathbf{h}} e^{-E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h})} = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-E_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{v})}$$

where:

$$E_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{v}) = \sum_i \mathcal{V}_i(v_i) - \sum_{\mu} \ln \int e^{\sum_i W_{i\mu} v_i h_{\mu} - \mathcal{U}_{\mu}(h_{\mu})} dh_{\mu}$$



Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)

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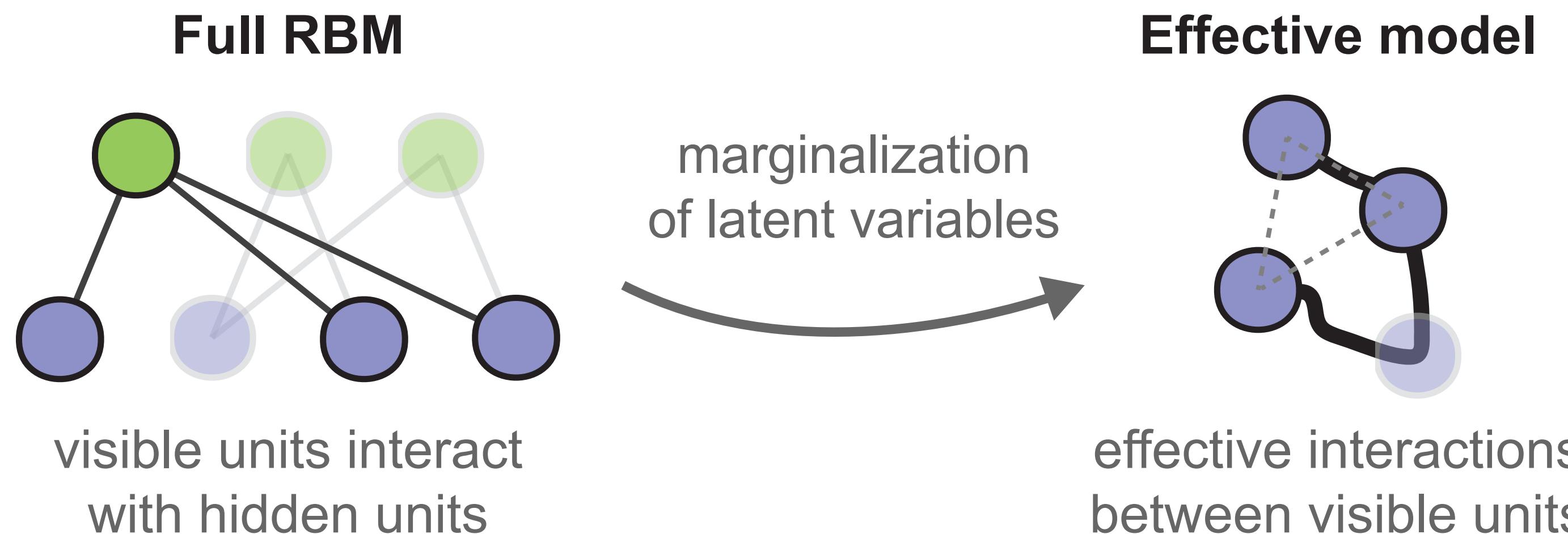
RBM are universal approximators:

They can model arbitrarily complex functions, provided they have enough hidden units

where:

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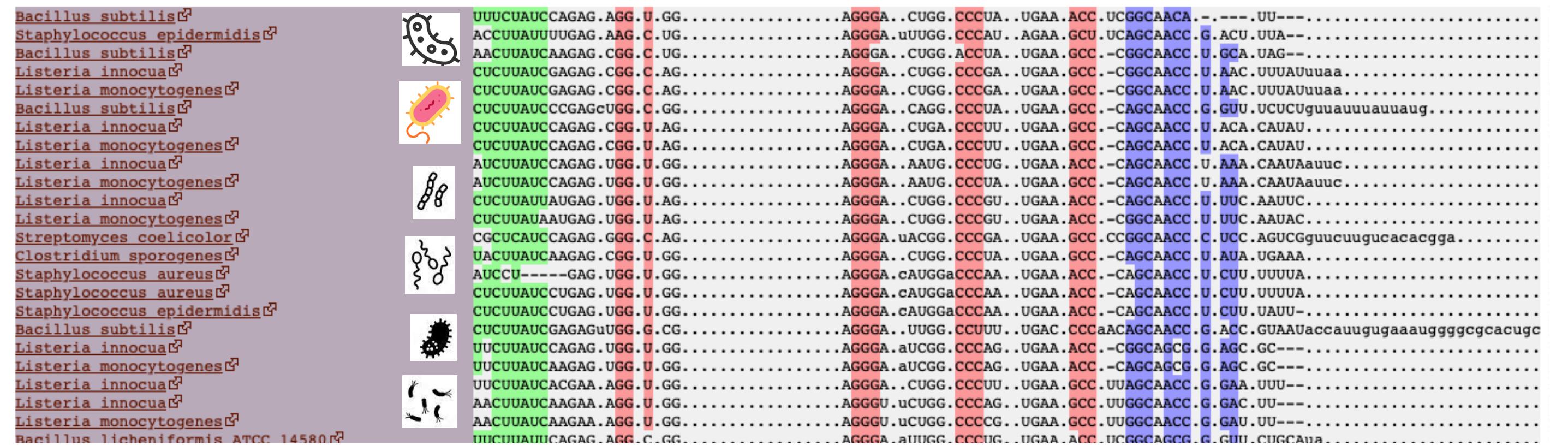
Le Roux, Nicolas, and Yoshua Bengio. *Neural computation* 20.6 (2008): 1631-1649.



Montufar, Guido, and Nihat Ay. *Neural computation* 23.5 (2011): 1306-1319.

Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)

MSA (training data):

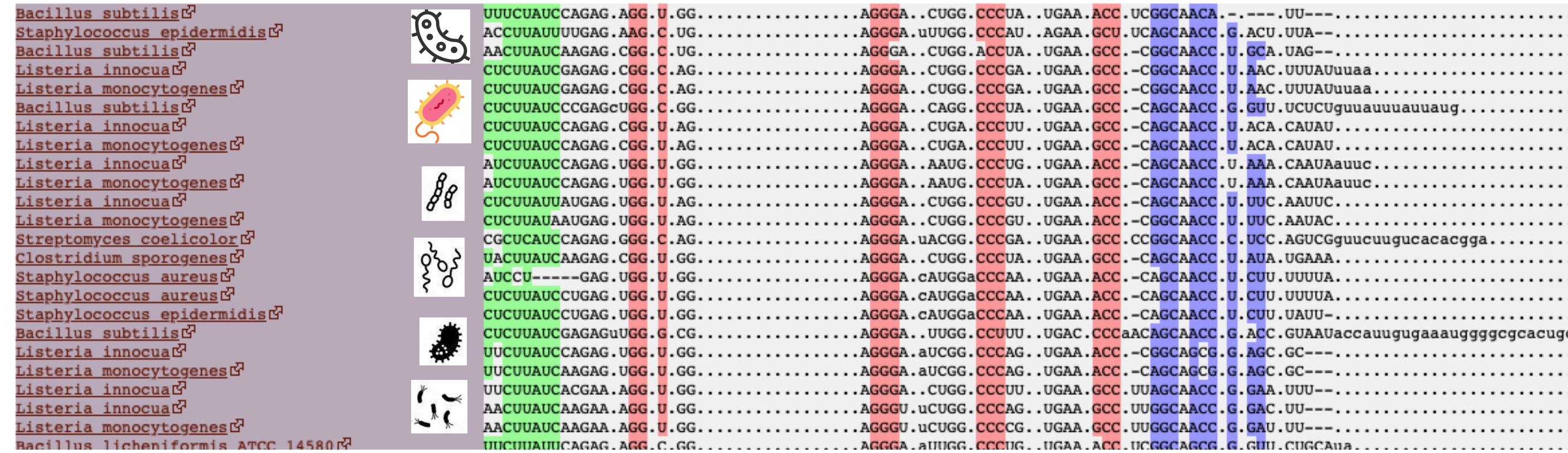


Likelihood of training data:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{\#\text{MSA}} \sum_{s \in \text{MSA}} P_v(\mathbf{v}^{(n)})$$

Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)

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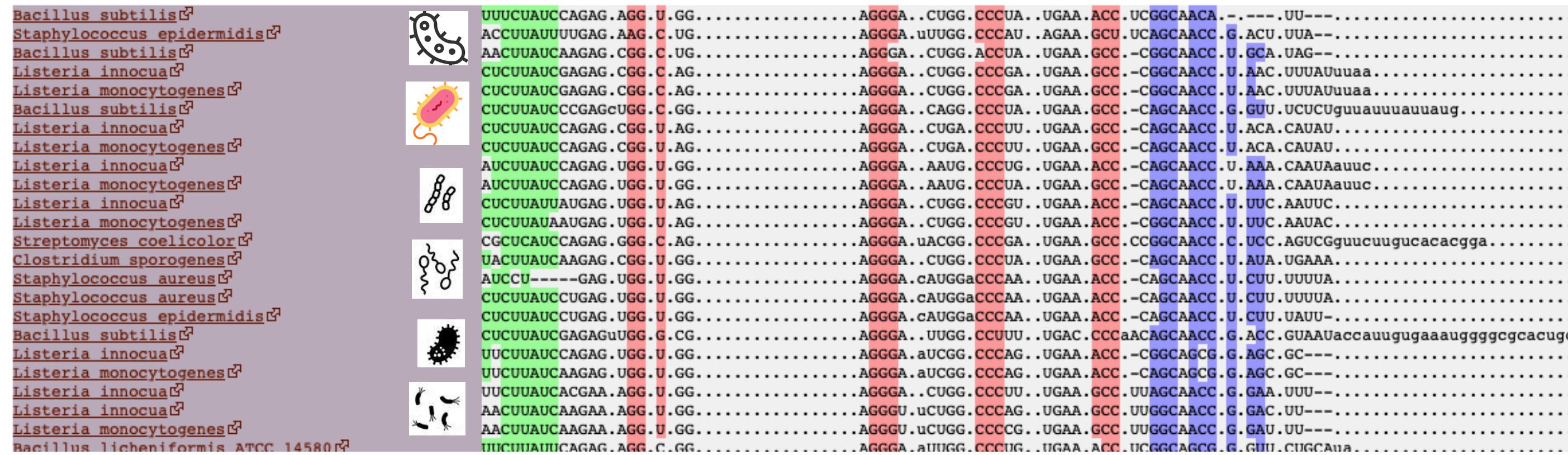
$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{\#MSA} \sum_{s \in MSA} P_v(\mathbf{v}^{(n)})$$

Model is trained, by finding parameters that maximise the likelihood of the data:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \omega} = \underbrace{\left\langle \frac{\partial(-E_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{v}))}{\partial \omega} \right\rangle}_{\text{positive gradient}}_{\text{MSA}} - \underbrace{\left\langle \frac{\partial(-E_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{v}))}{\partial \omega} \right\rangle}_{\text{negative gradient}}_{\text{RBM}}$$

Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)

MSA (training data):

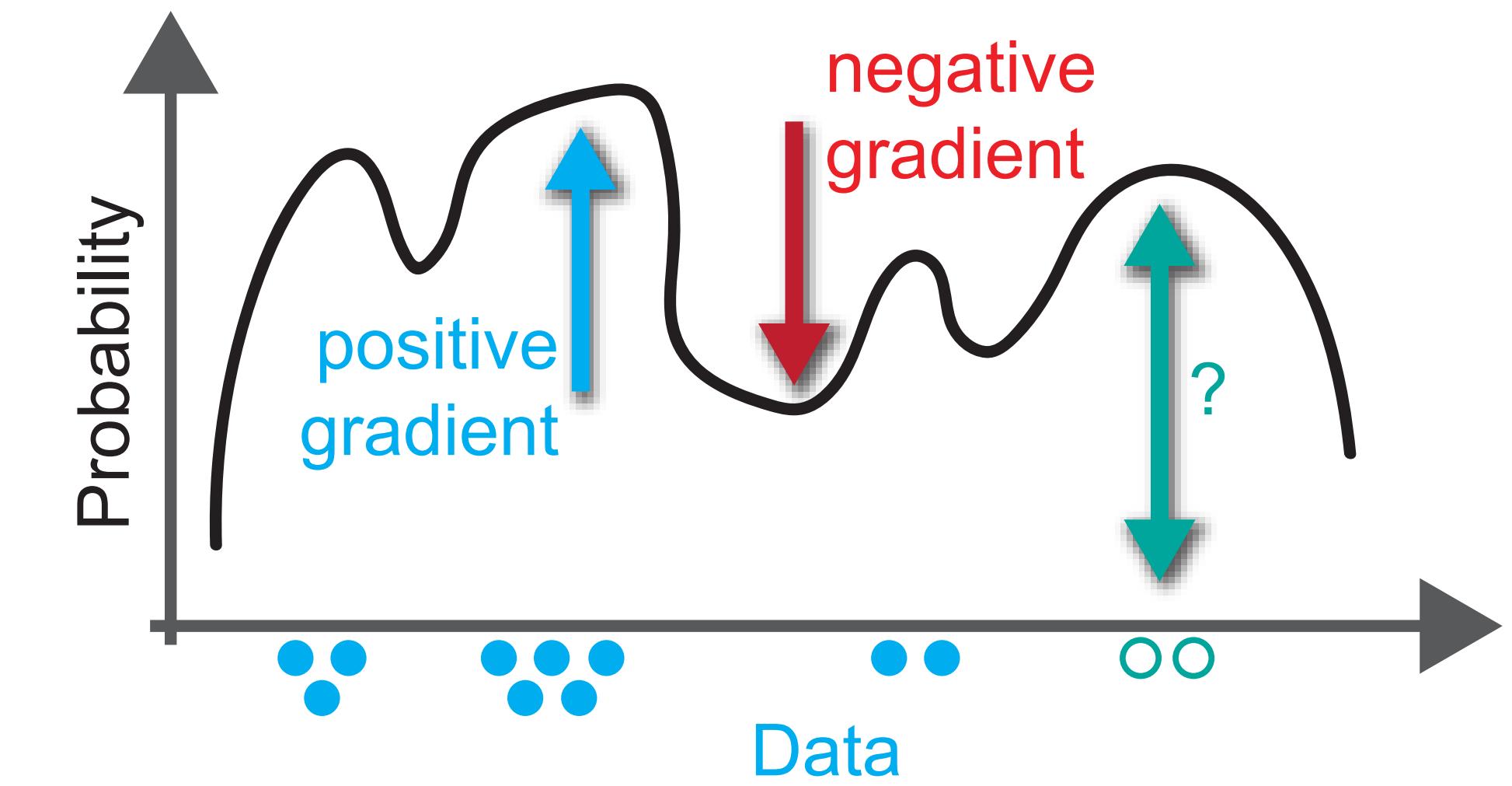


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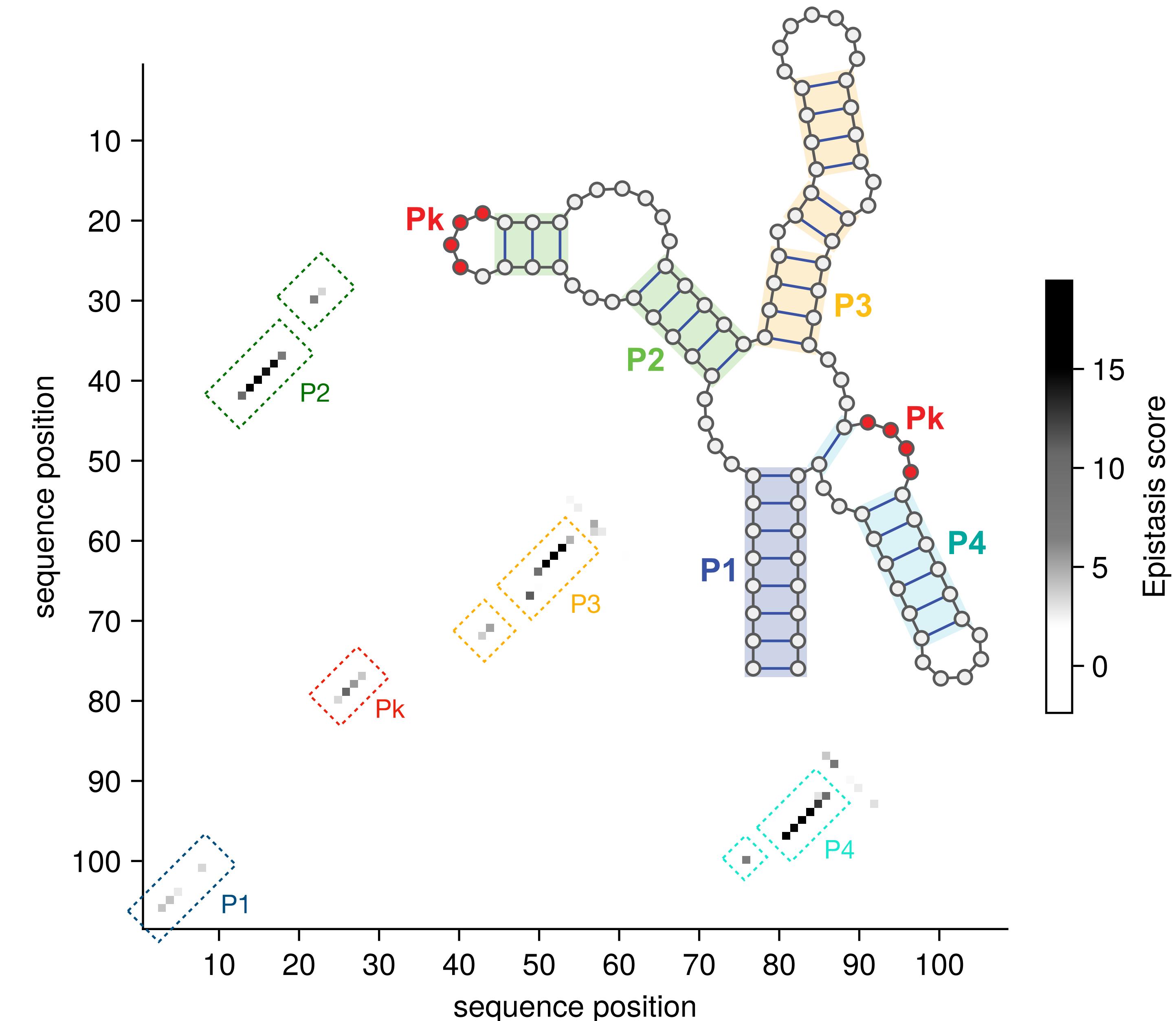
RBM is compatible with structural constraints

	seq.	prob.
wild type	GAUAAAG	$P(.,.)$
single & double mutants	G GUAAAG	$P(G,.)$
	GAUAC G	$P(.,C)$
	GGUACG	$P(G,C)$

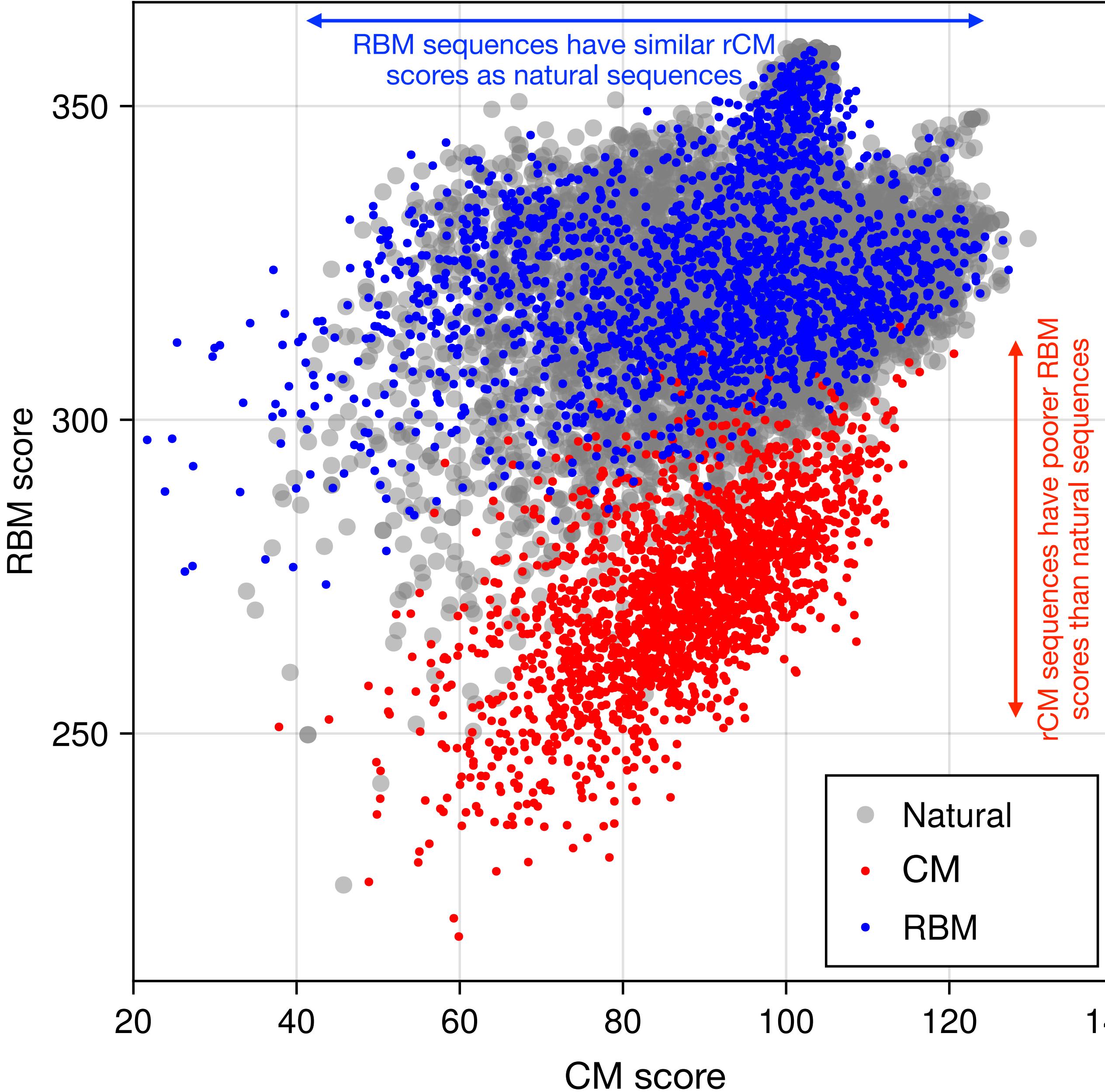
epistatic score

$$\frac{P(.,.)P(G,C)}{P(G,.)P(.,C)}$$

- De Leonardis, et al. "DCA of nucleotide coevolution facilitates RNA secondary and tertiary structure prediction." NAR 43.21 (2015): 10444-10455.
- Weinreb, et al. "3D RNA and functional interactions from evolutionary couplings." Cell 165.4 (2016): 963-975.
- Tubiana, et al. "Learning protein constitutive motifs from sequence data." Elife 8 (2019): e39397.



RBM is compatible with structural constraints



RBM “score”:

$$\ln P_v(v) = -E_{\text{eff}}(v) + \text{const.}$$

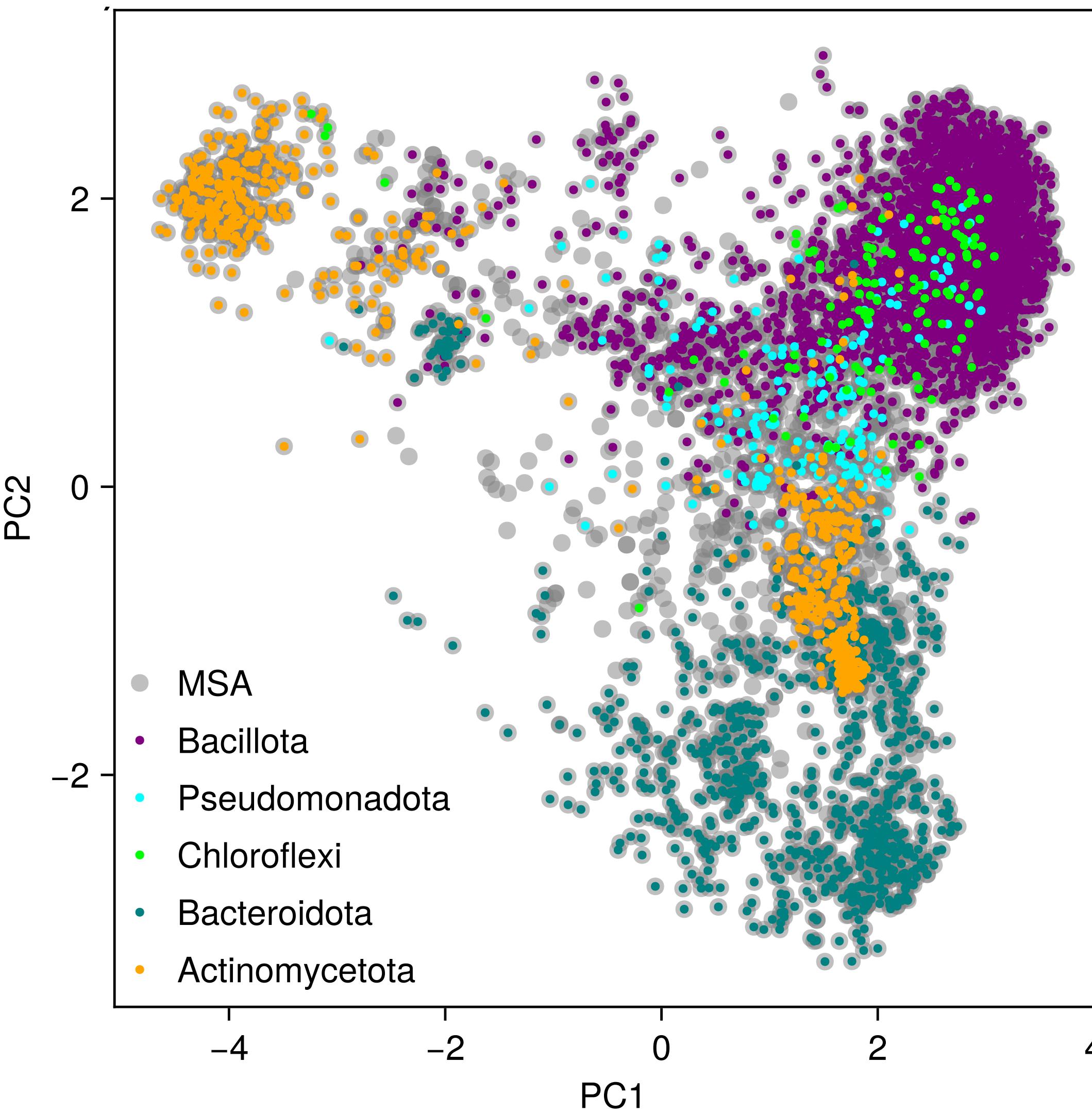
CM score:

log-prob. of sequence under covariance model
(consensus secondary structure)

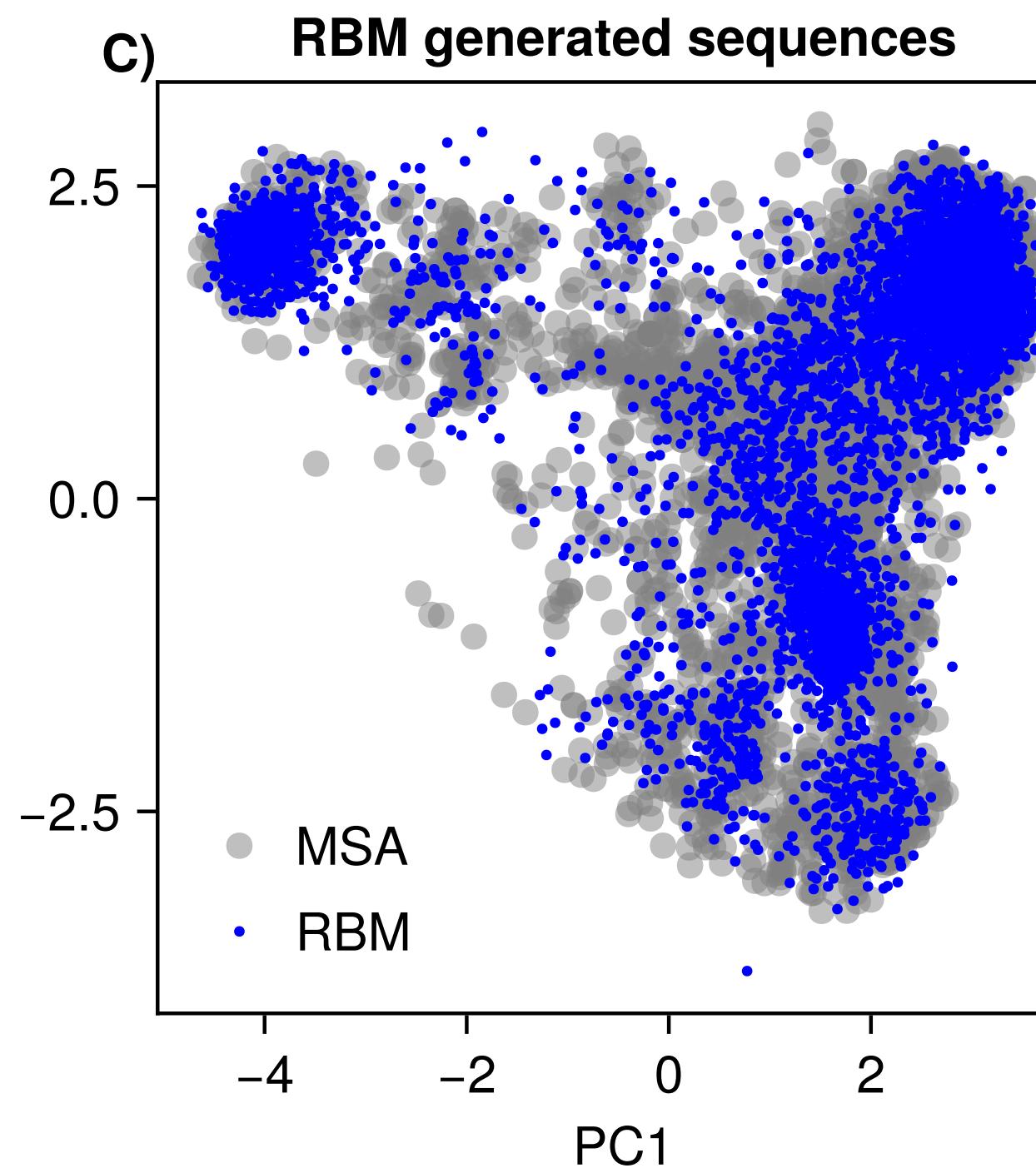
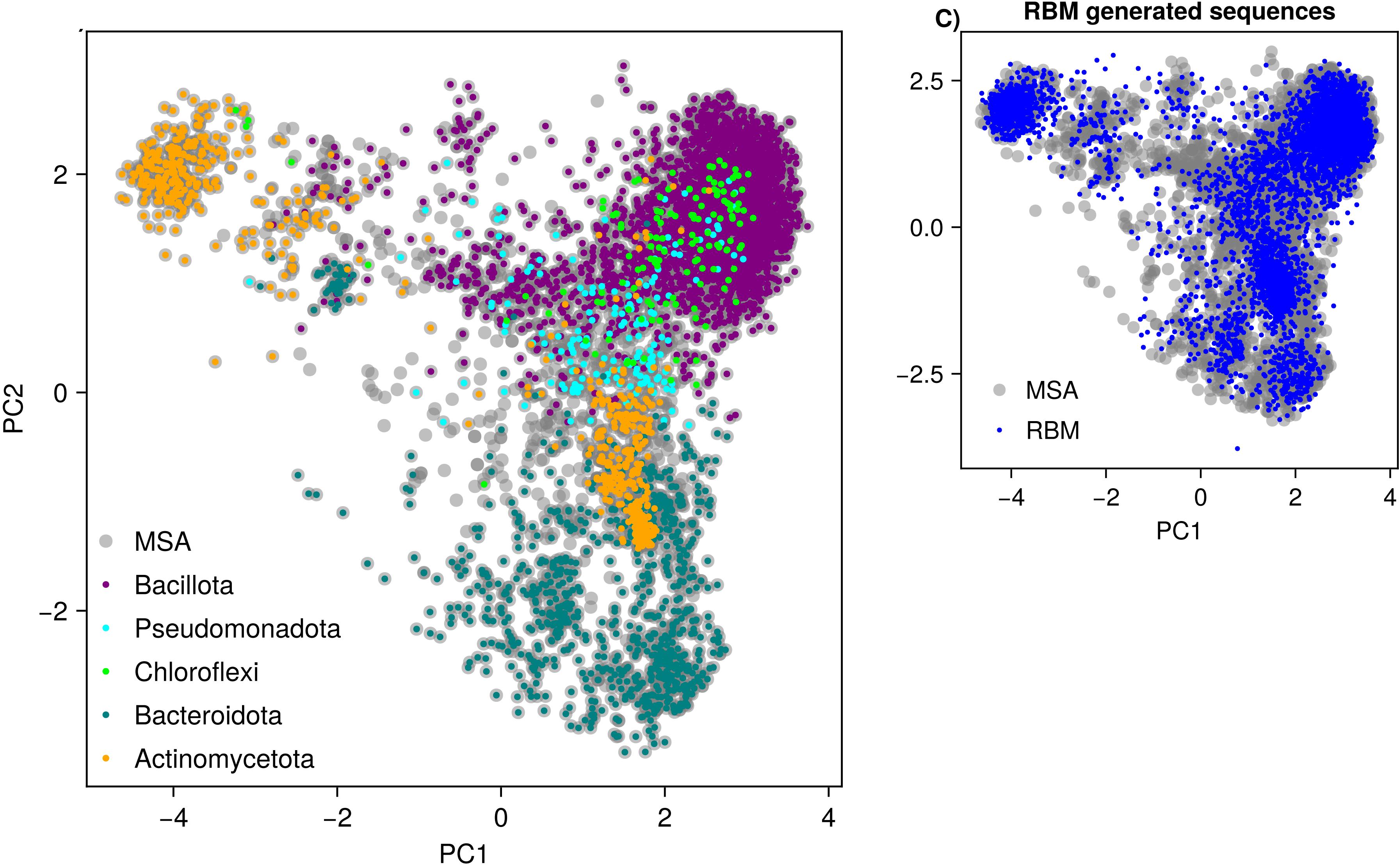
Nawrocki, Eric P., Diana L. Kolbe, and Sean R. Eddy.
"Infernal 1.0: inference of RNA alignments." *Bioinformatics* 25.10 (2009): 1335-1337.

Eddy, Sean R., and Richard Durbin. "RNA sequence analysis using covariance models." *Nucleic acids research* 22.11 (1994): 2079-2088.

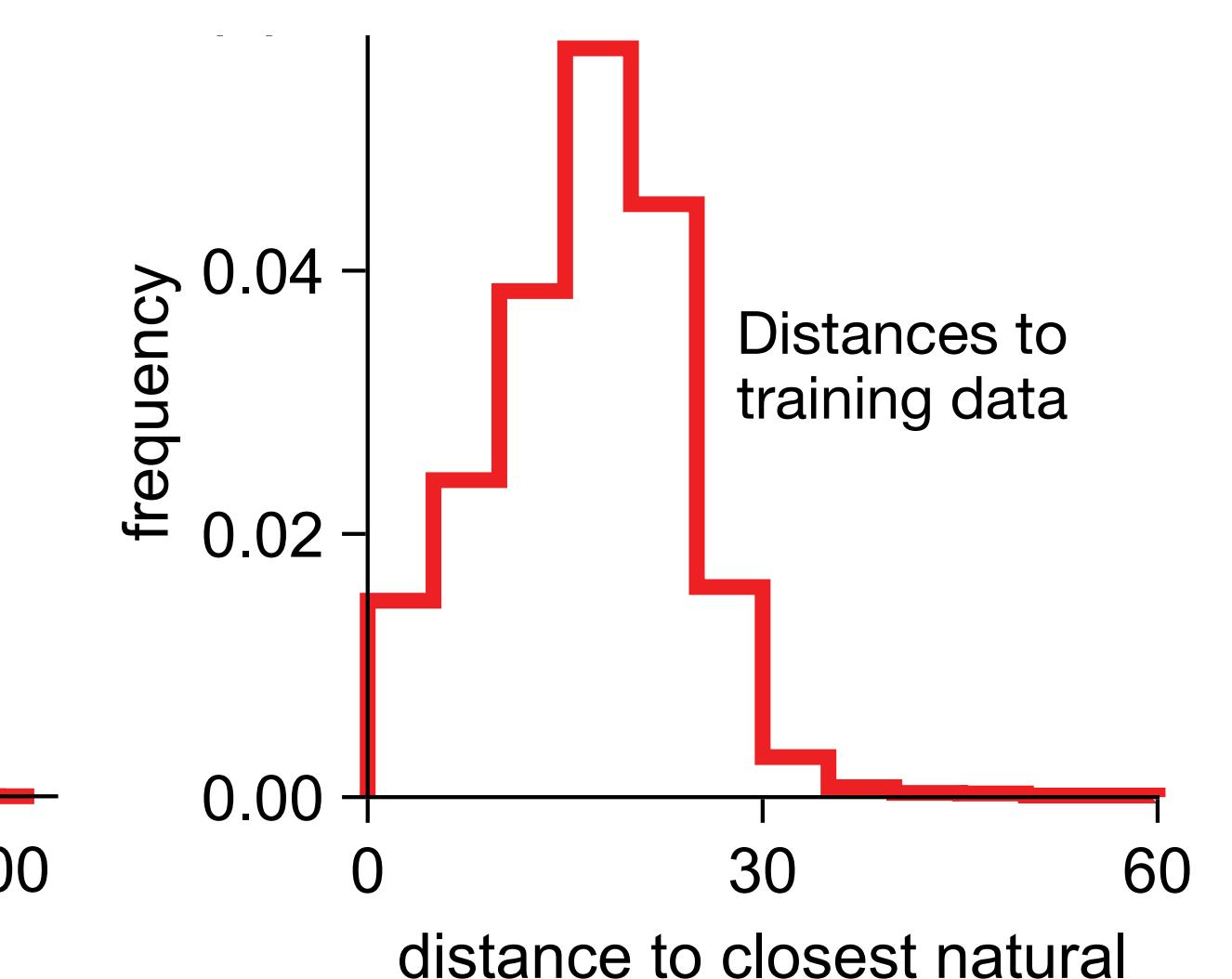
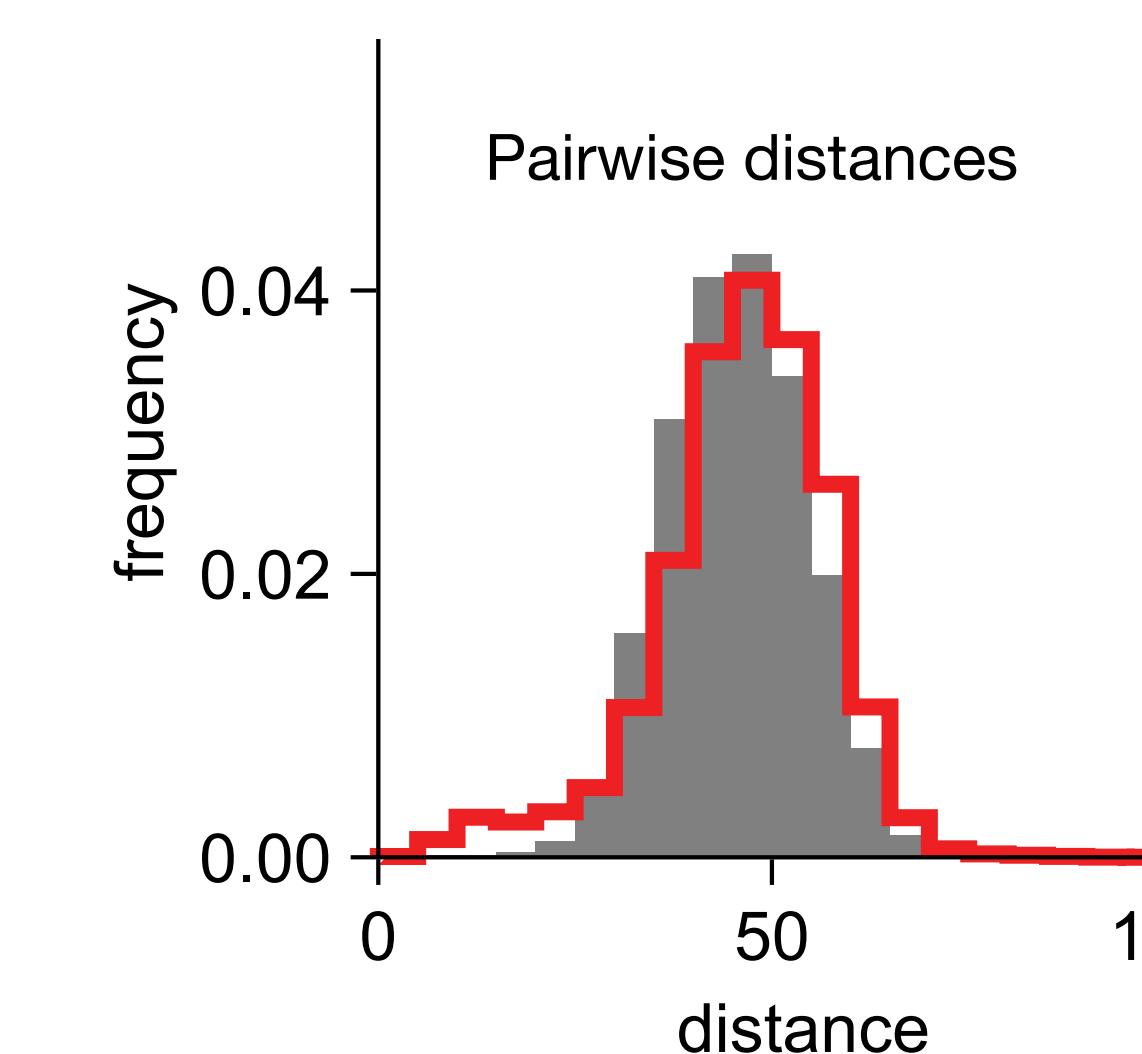
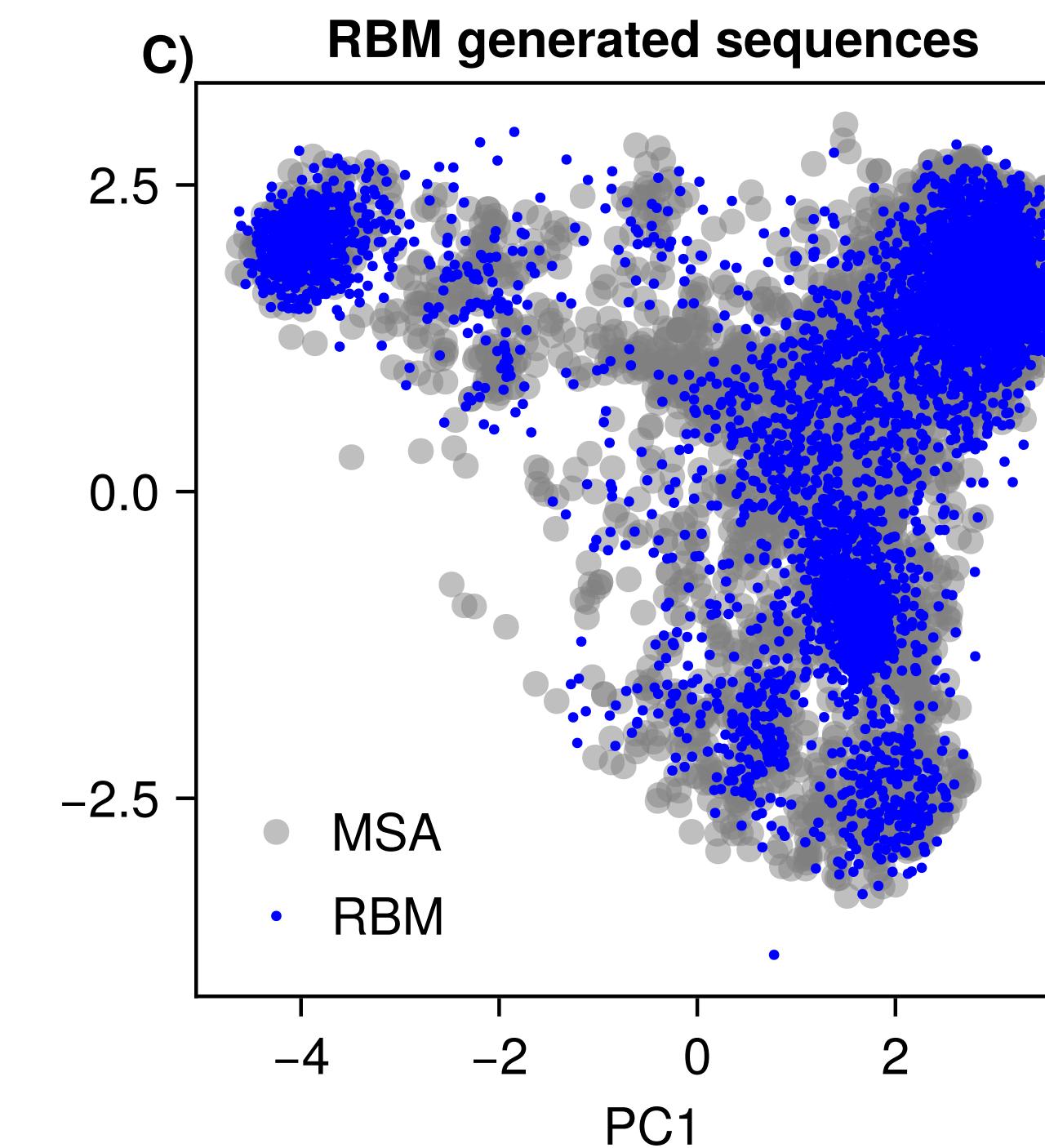
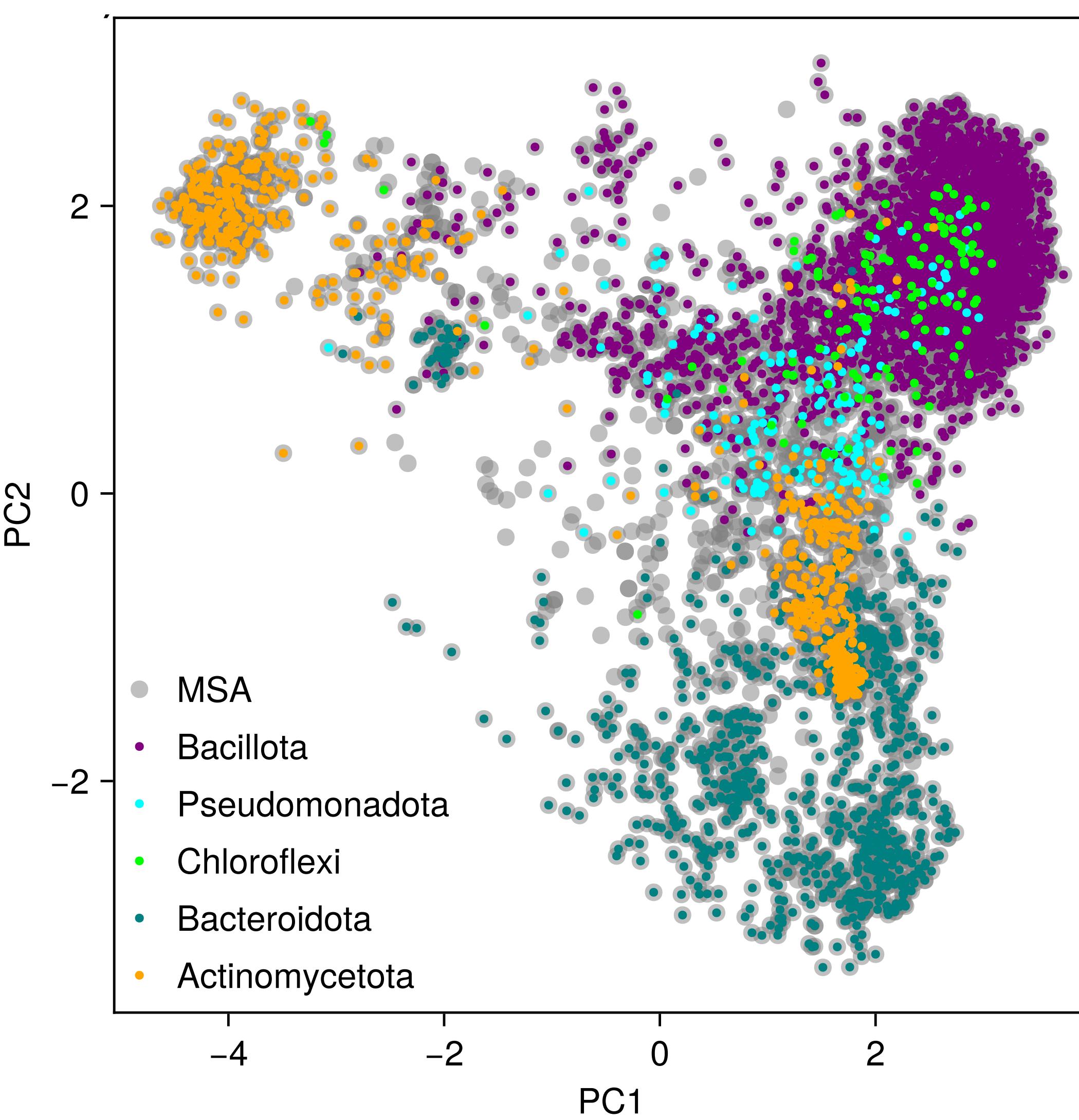
RBM generates diverse novel sequences



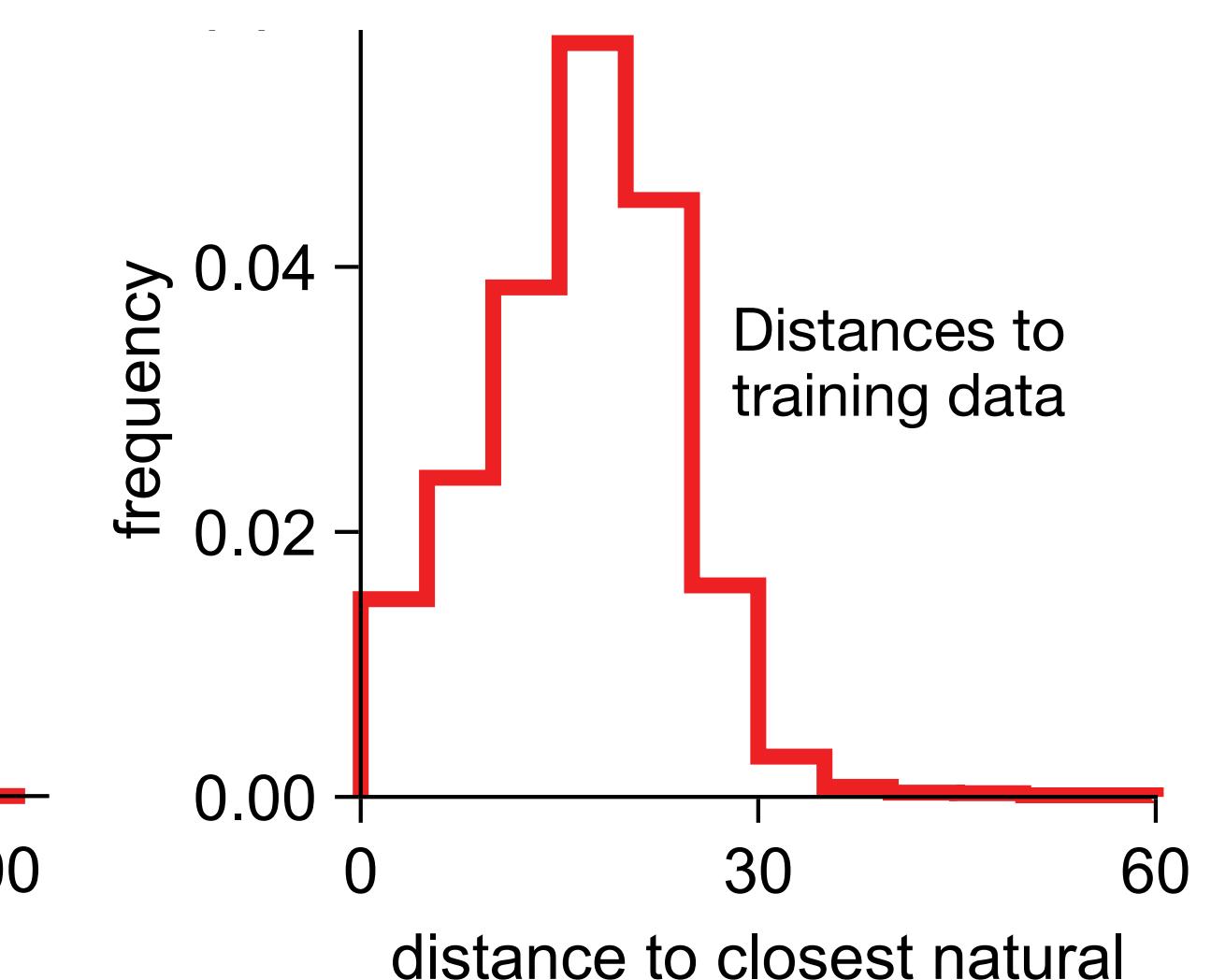
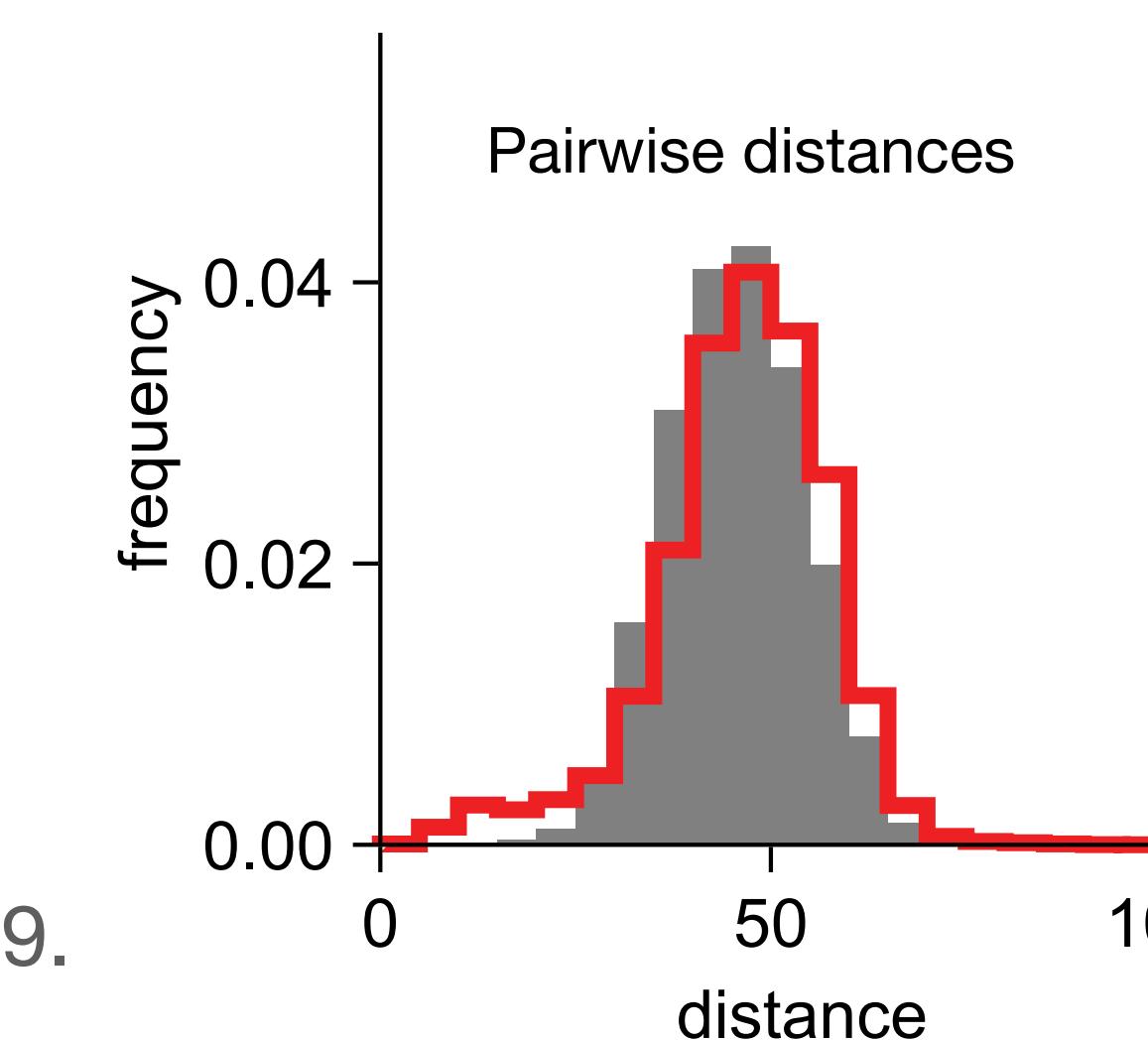
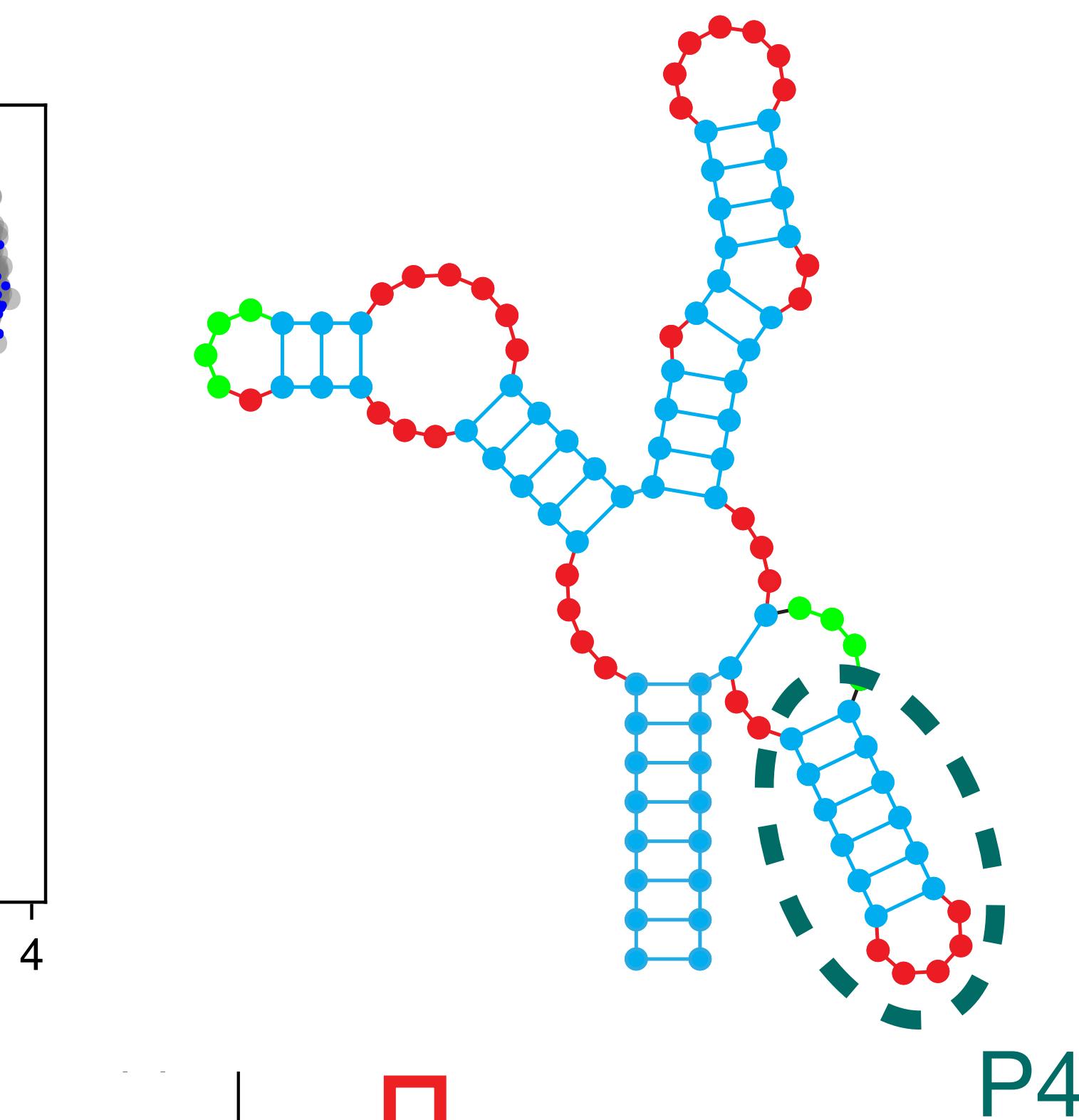
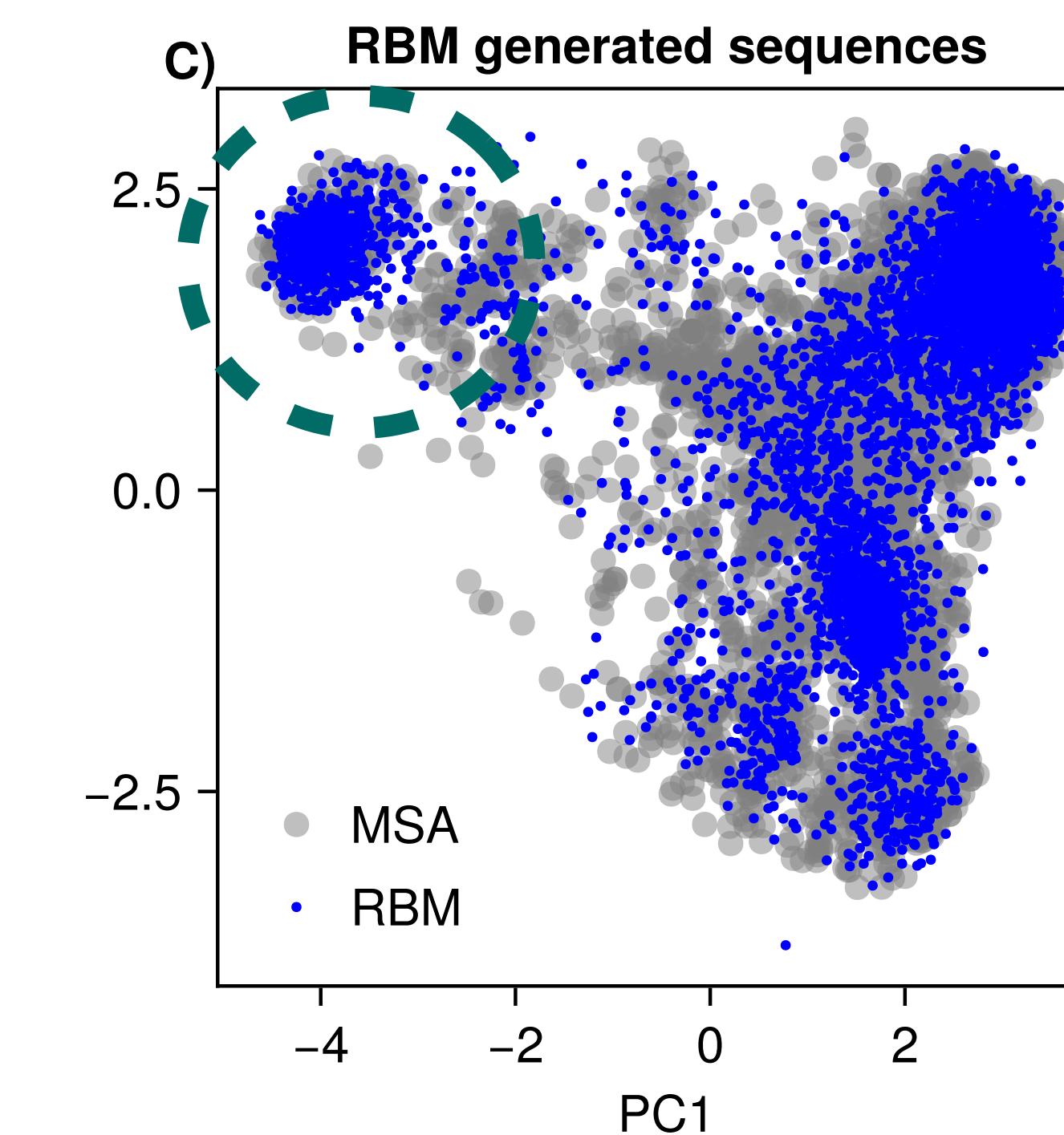
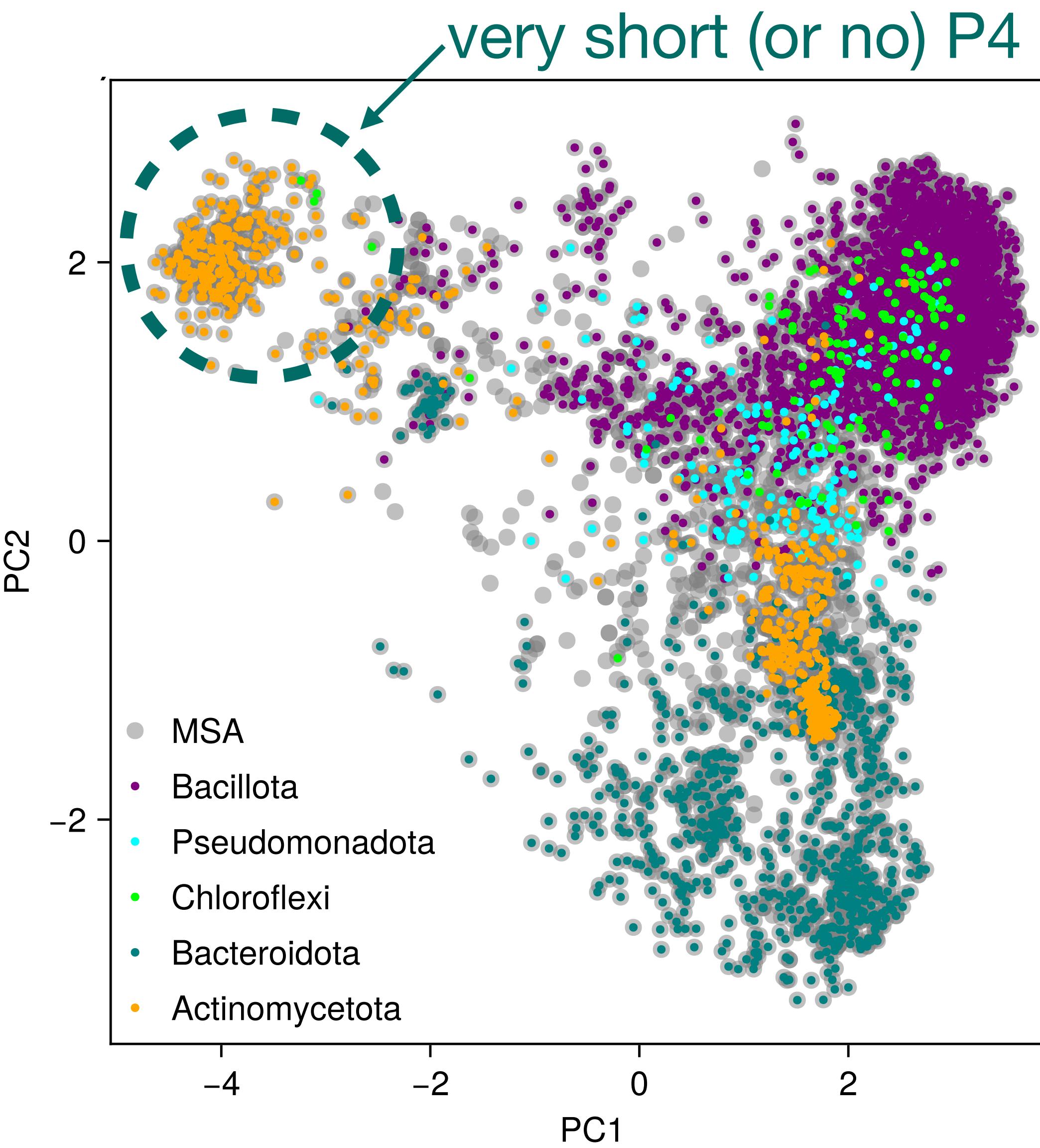
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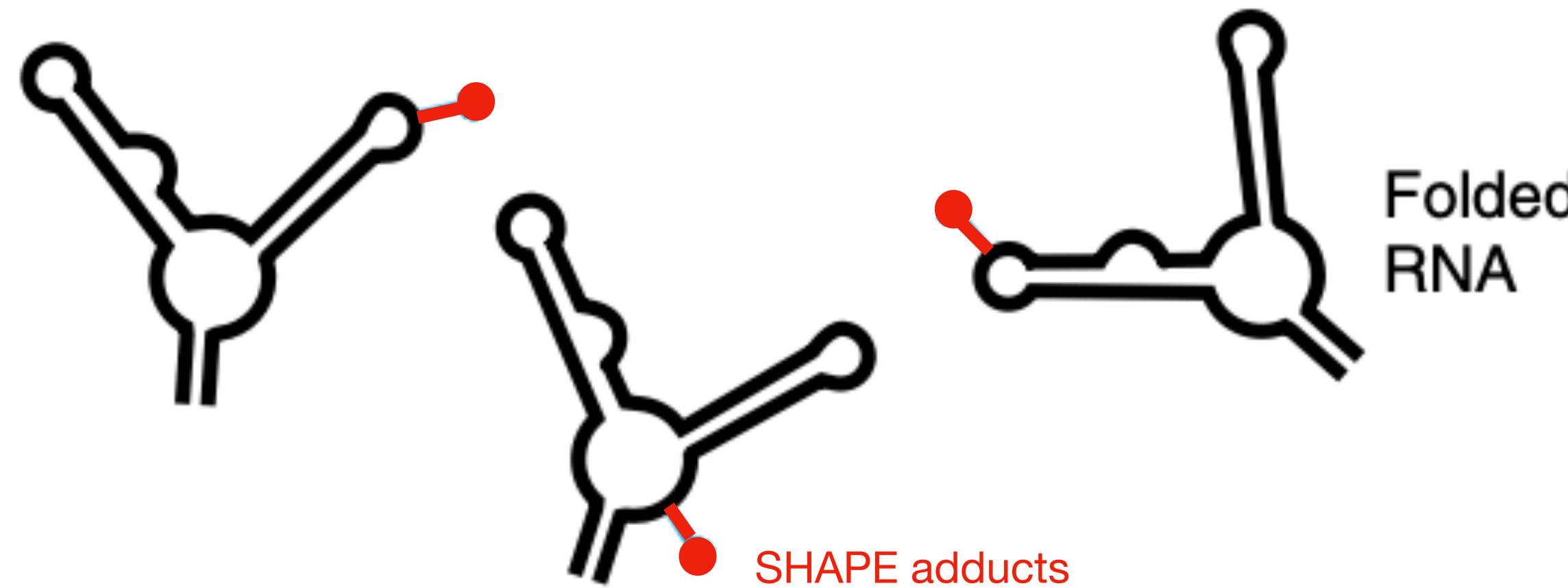


Experimental validation with SHAPE-MaP

Probed ~500 sequences

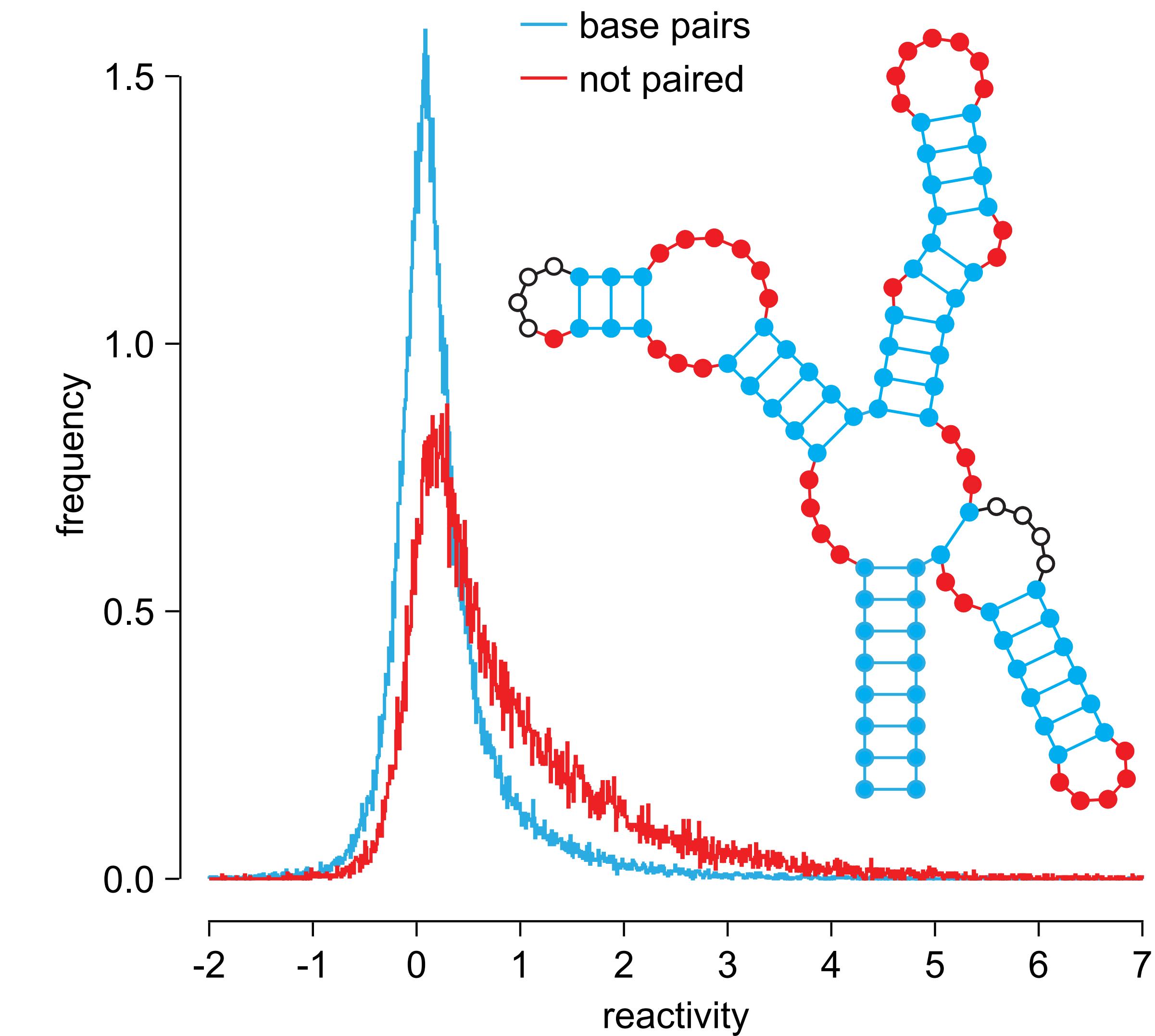
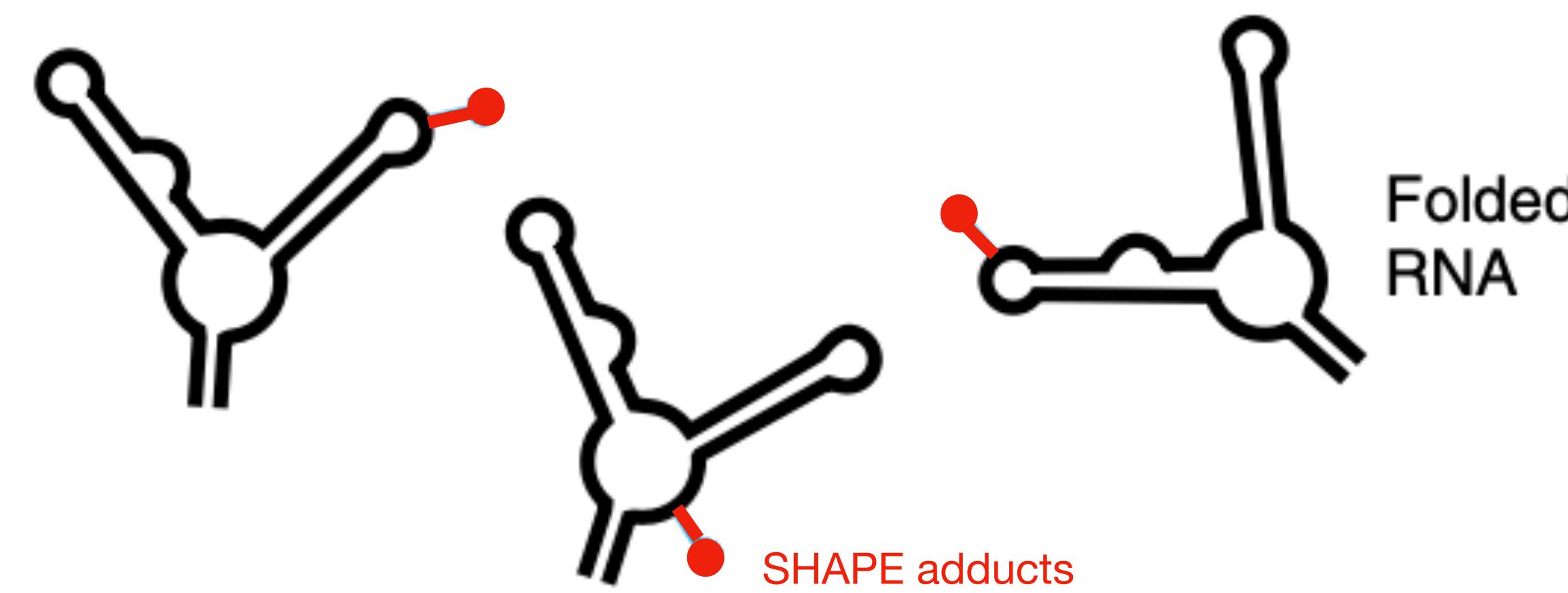
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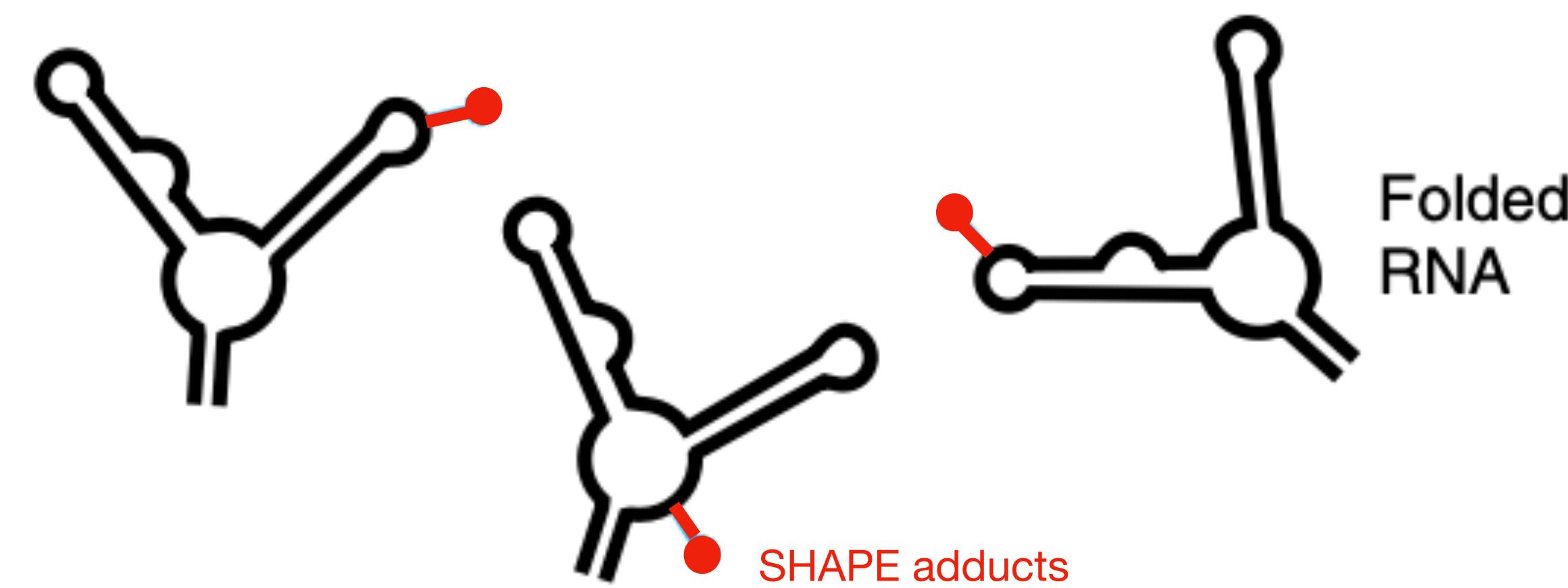


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PARIS
DESCARTES

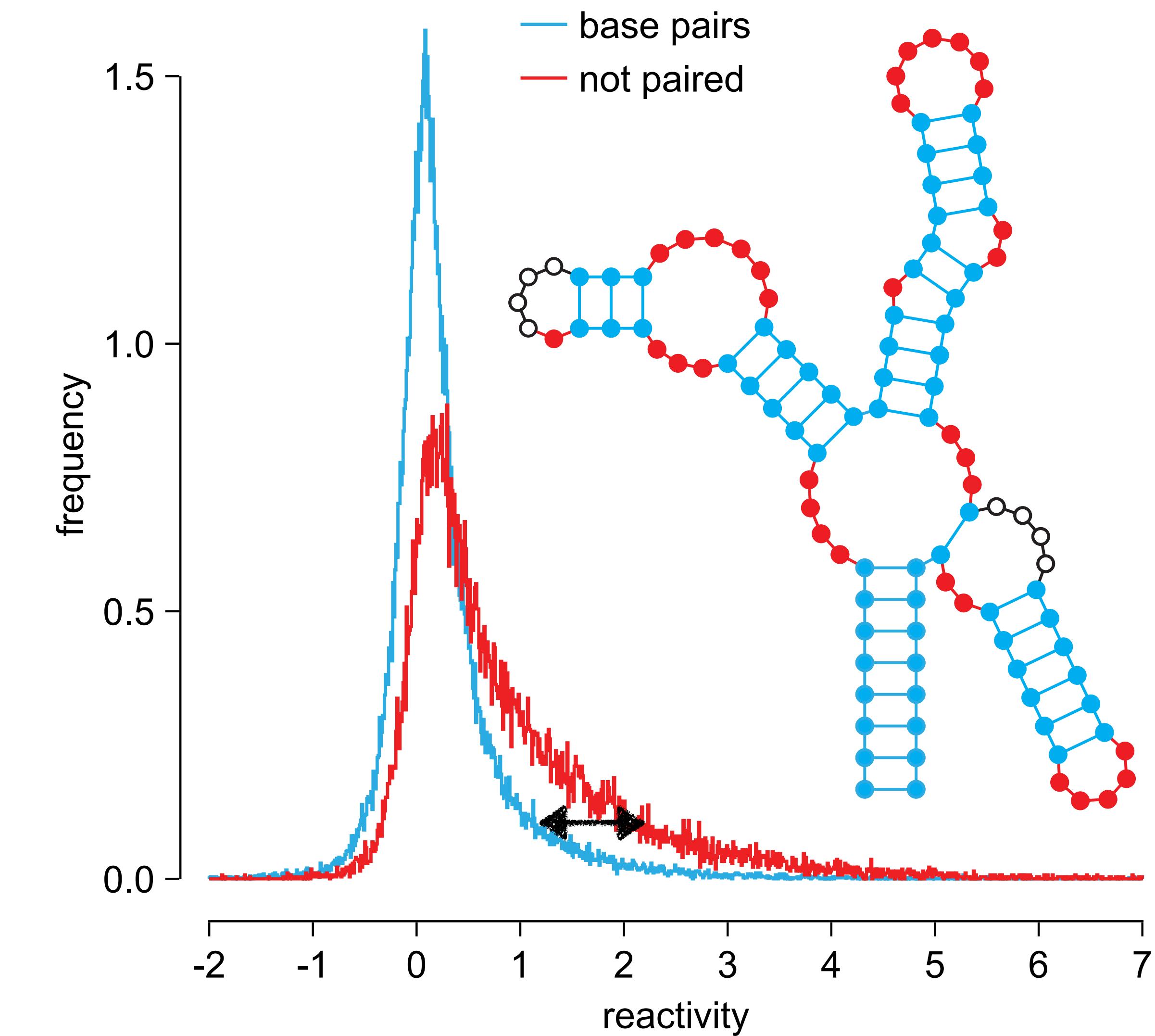
with P. Hardouin, F.-X.
Lyonnet, B. Sargueil

Experimental validation with SHAPE-MaP

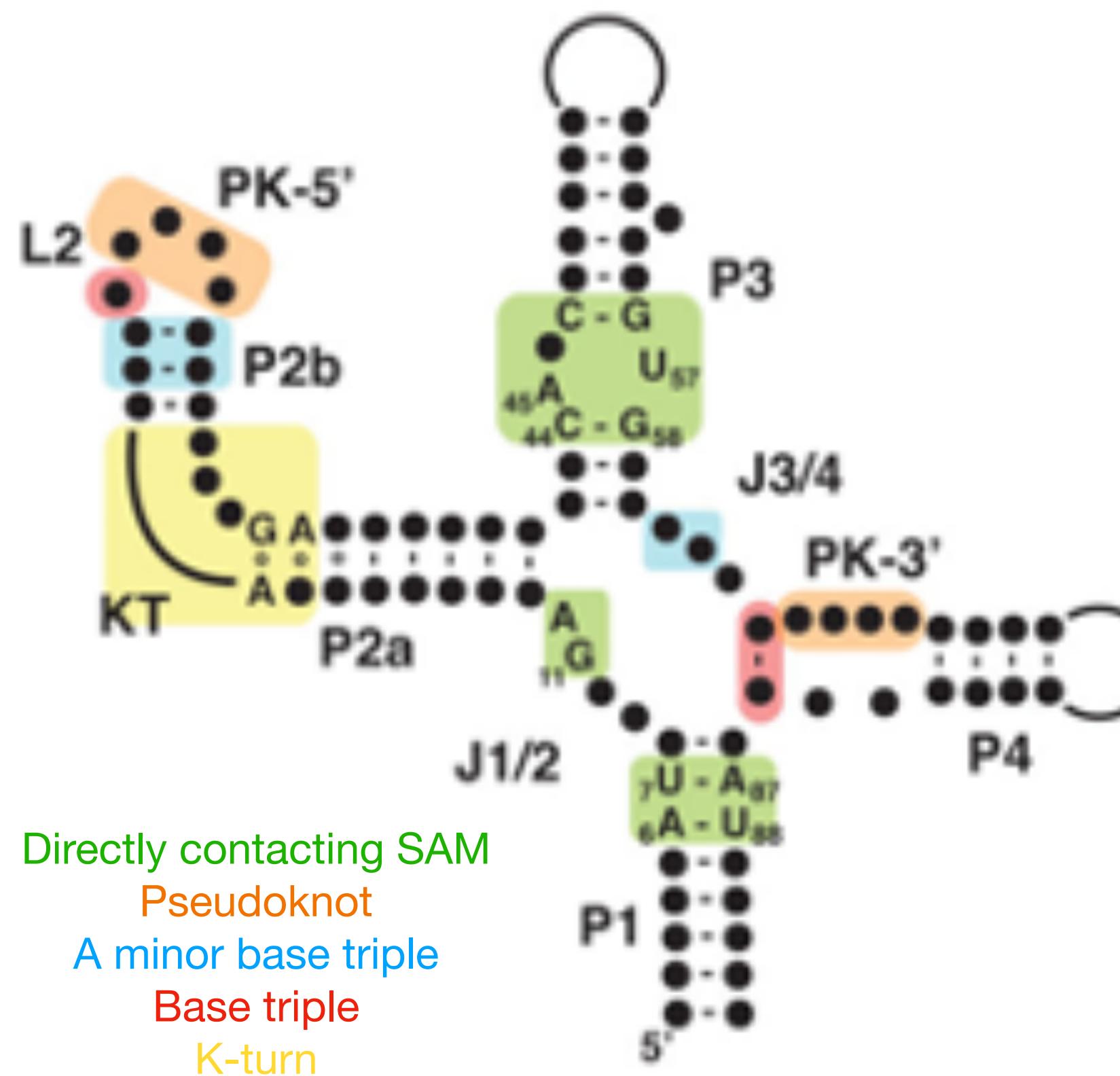
Probed ~500 sequences



SHAPE reagent reacts preferentially with flexible (unpaired) RNA sites



SHAPE reactivities reflect expected structural changes in response to SAM



- Reactivity changes (SAM vs. no SAM) indicate SAM binding
- Consistent with previously reported structural responses in natural sequences

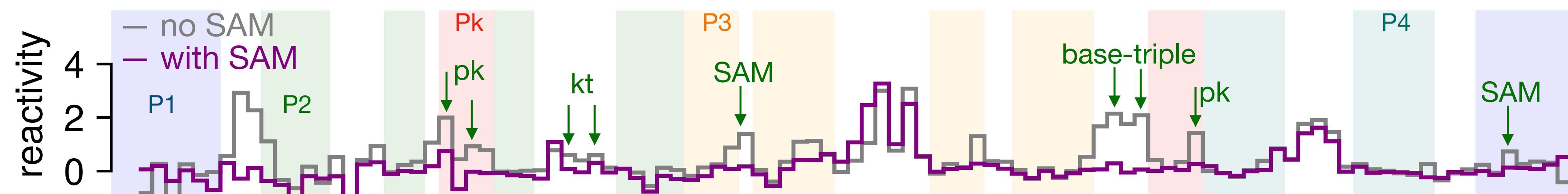
Trausch, Jeremiah J., et al. PNAS 111.18 (2014): 6624-6629

Hennelly, Scott P., Irina V. Novikova, and Karissa Y. Sanbonmatsu. NAR 41.3 (2013): 1922-1935.

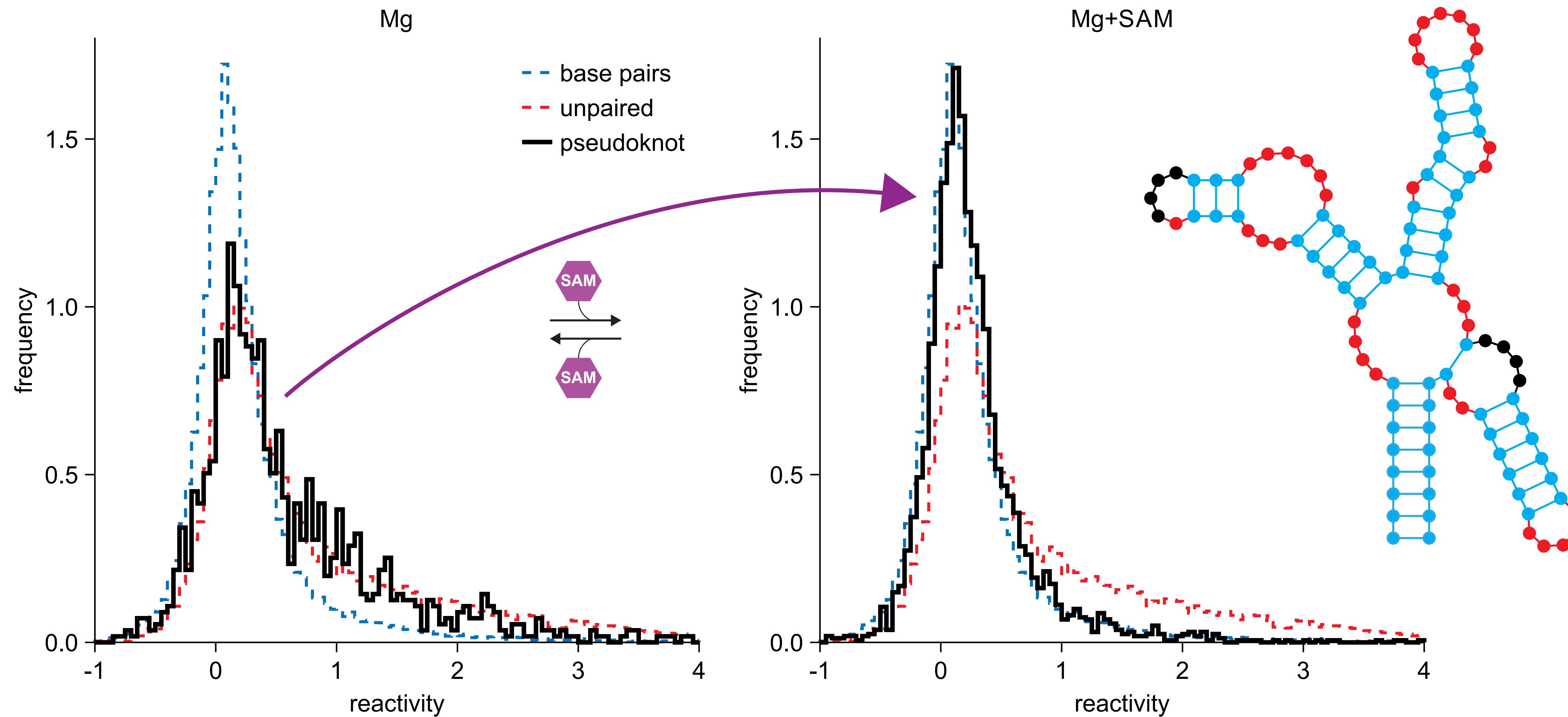
Heppell, Benoit, et al. "Molecular insights into the ligand-controlled organization of the SAM-I riboswitch." Nat. Chem. Biol. 7.6 (2011): 384-392.

Example:

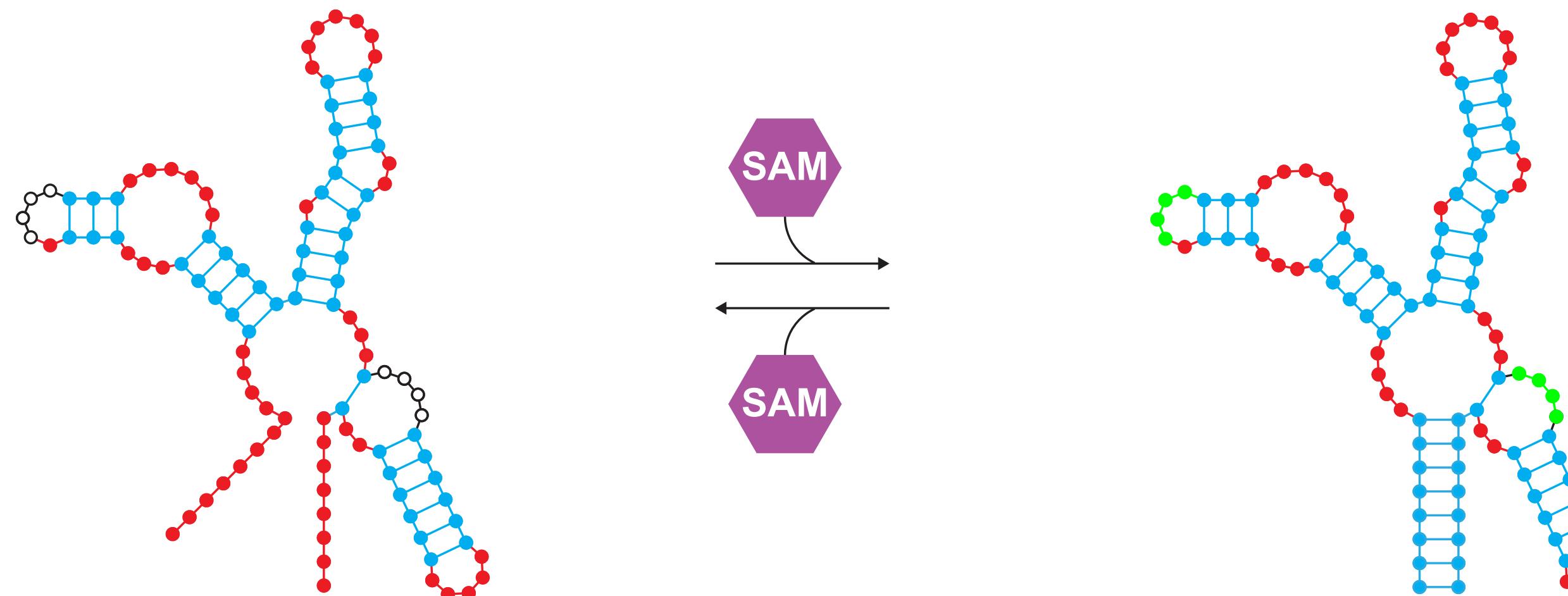
IPANEMAP: Saaidi, Afaf, et al. NAR 48.15 (2020): 8276-8289.



SHAPE reactivities reflect expected structural changes in response to SAM

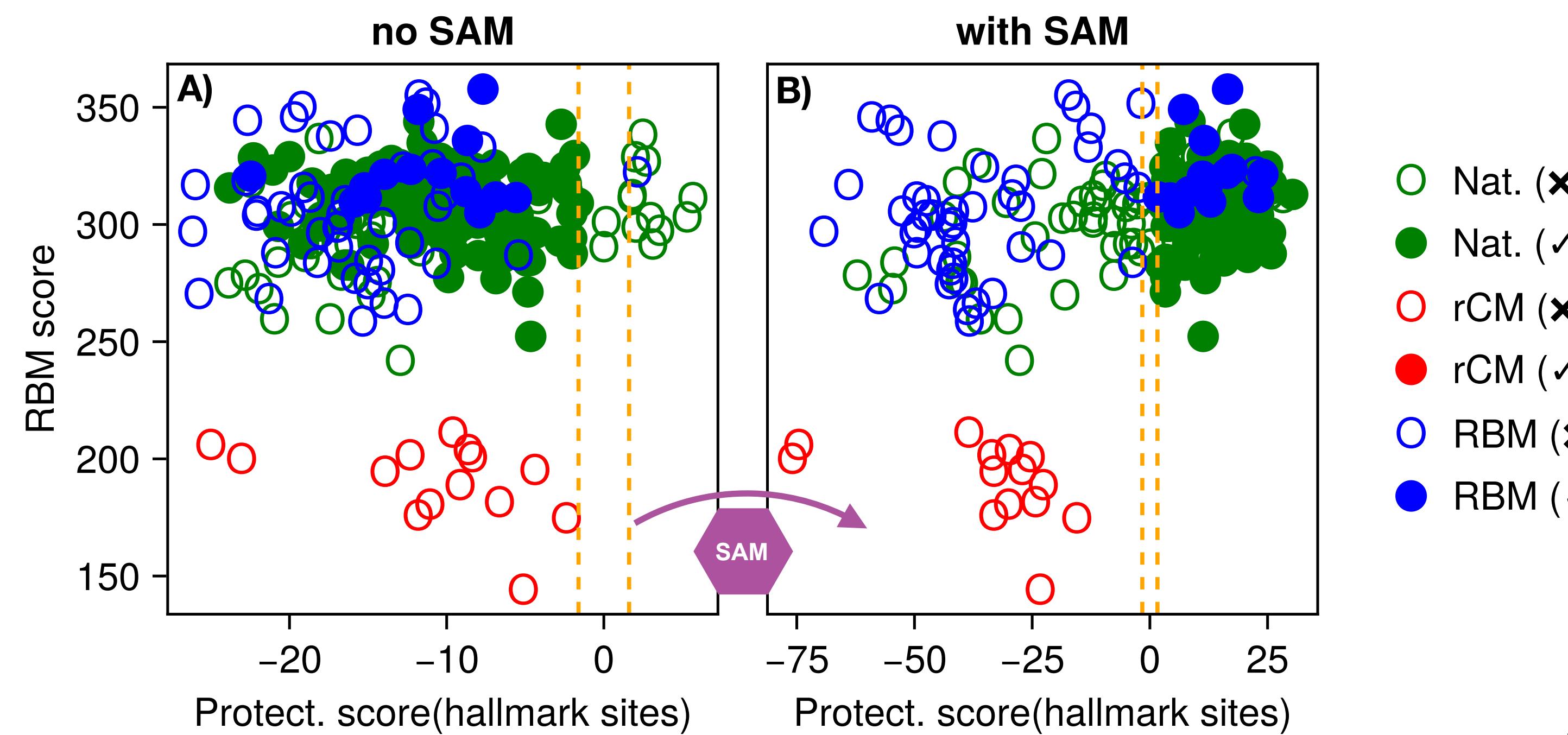


SHAPE reactivity response to SAM in generated sequences

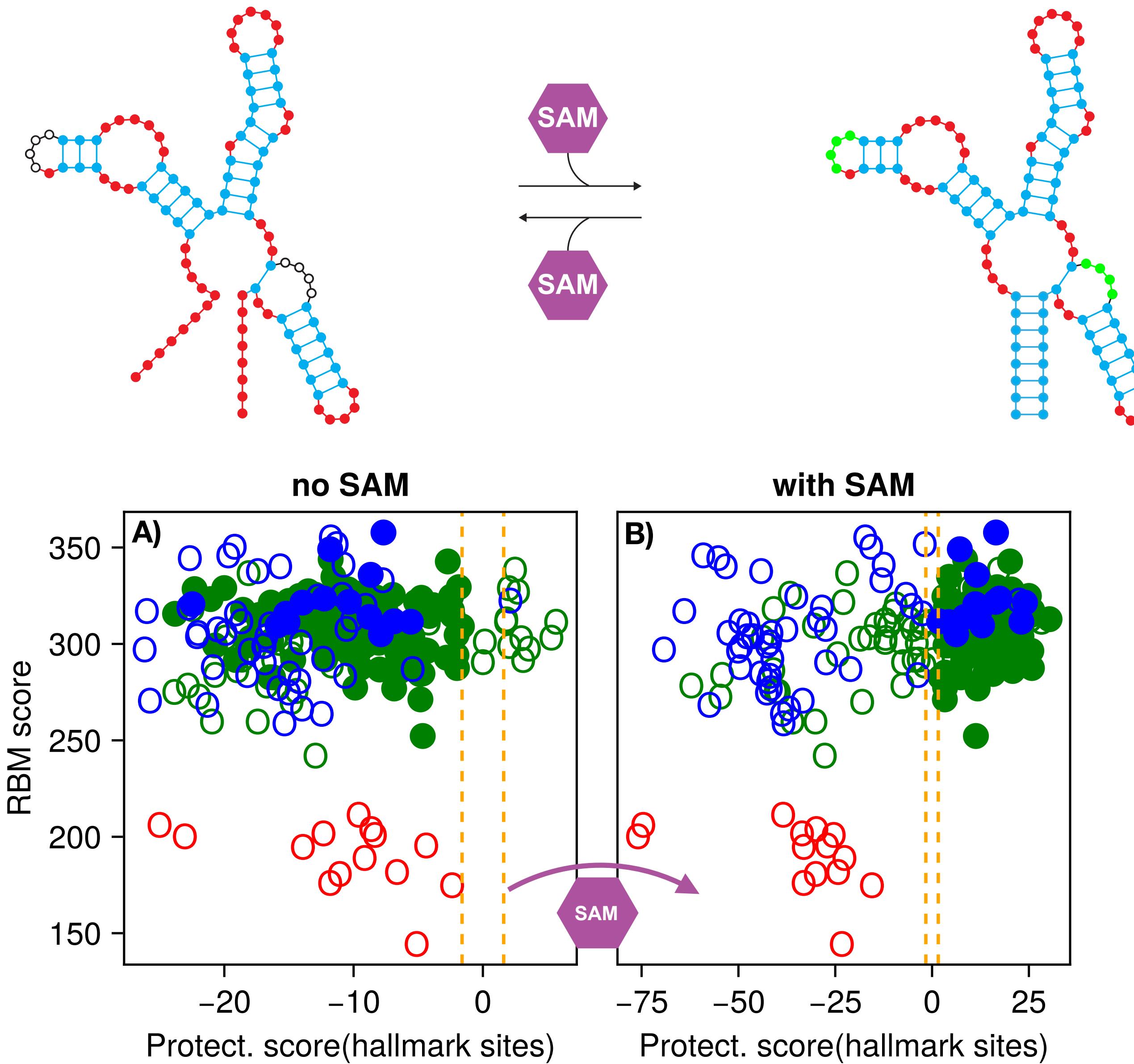


Sequences probed

476 RBM, 206 natural



SHAPE reactivity response to SAM in generated sequences



Sequences probed

476 RBM, 206 natural

Results:

22 % to 38 % of RBM generated sequences exhibit expected structural responses to SAM

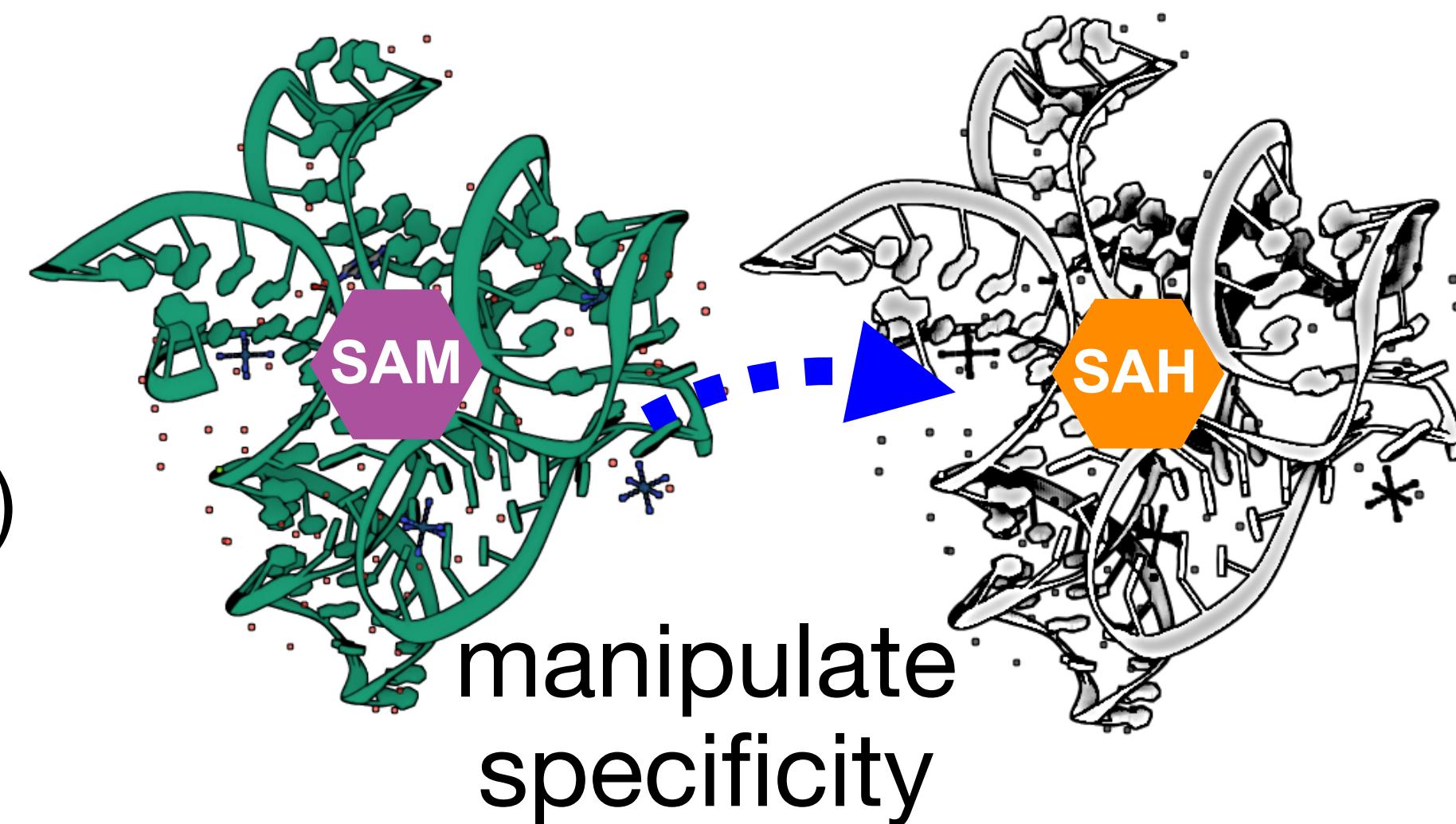
with 10 – 40 % divergence from natural sequences and high diversity (e.g. no P4)

These results support RBM as generative model

Next: Manipulate properties of generated sequences with representation learning

Different properties of natural riboswitches:

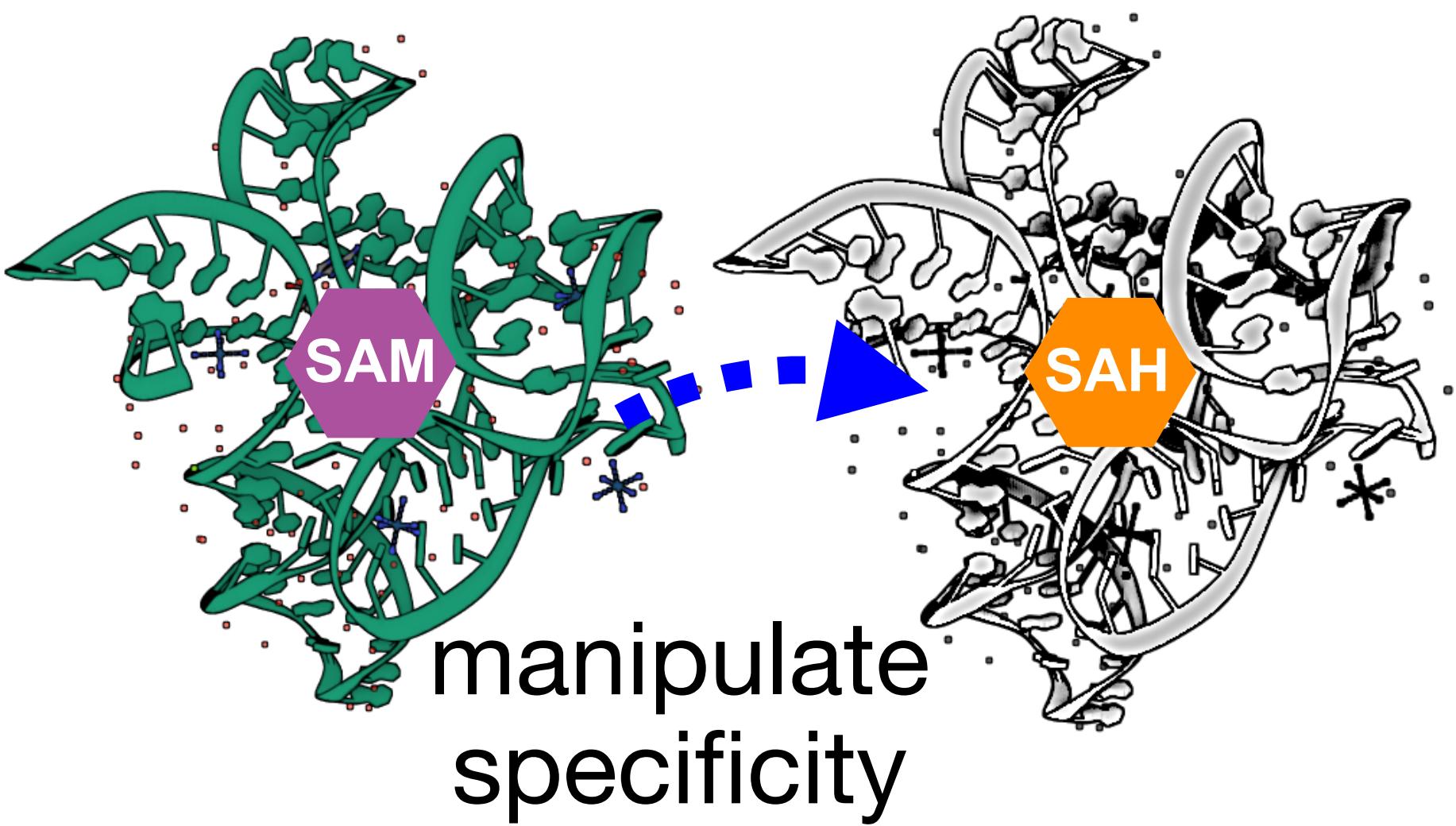
- specificities (**SAM** vs. **SAH**)
- ligand affinity (0.13 – 20 μ M)
- thermostabilities



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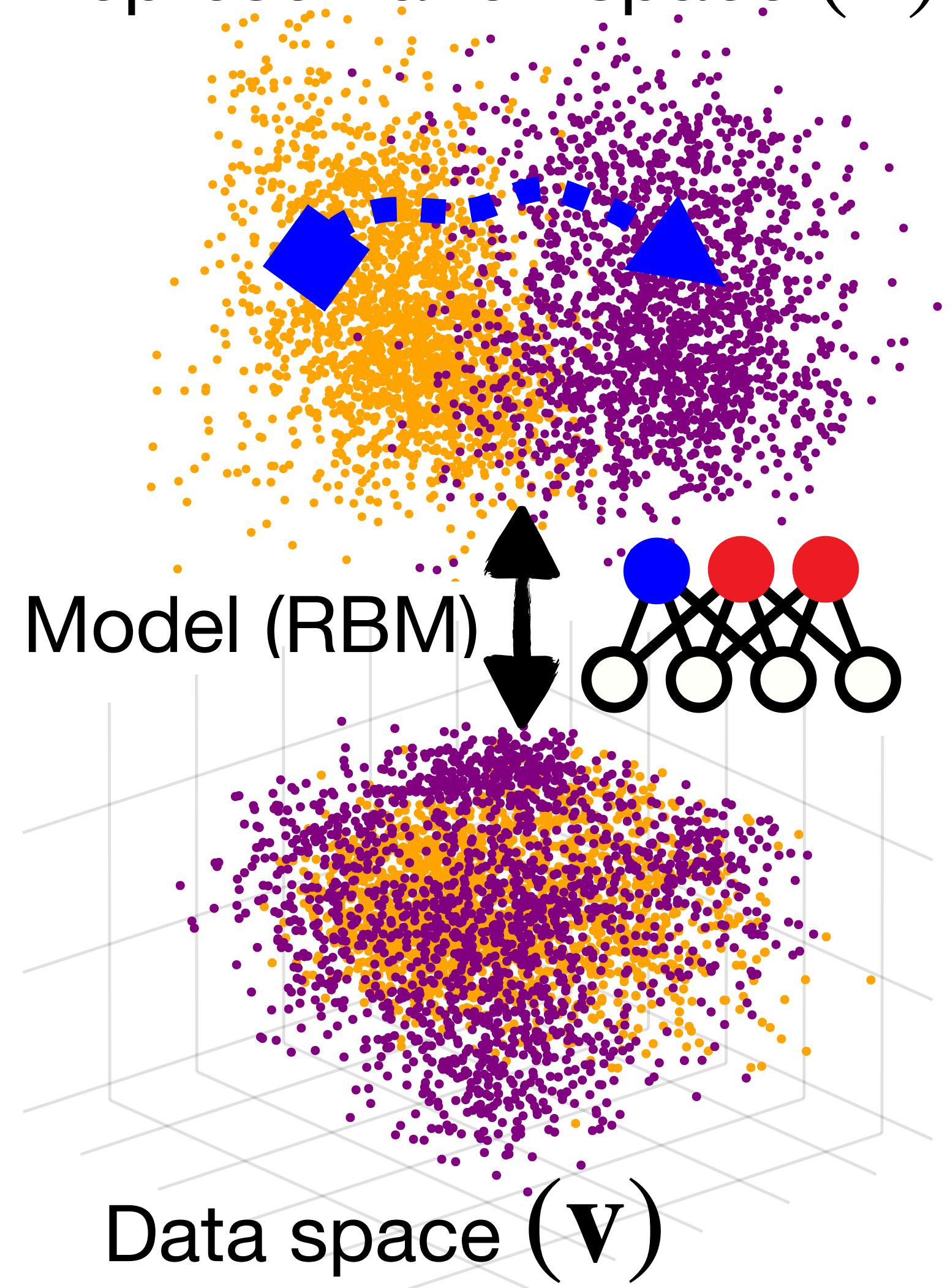
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Representation space (**h**)

Model (RBM)

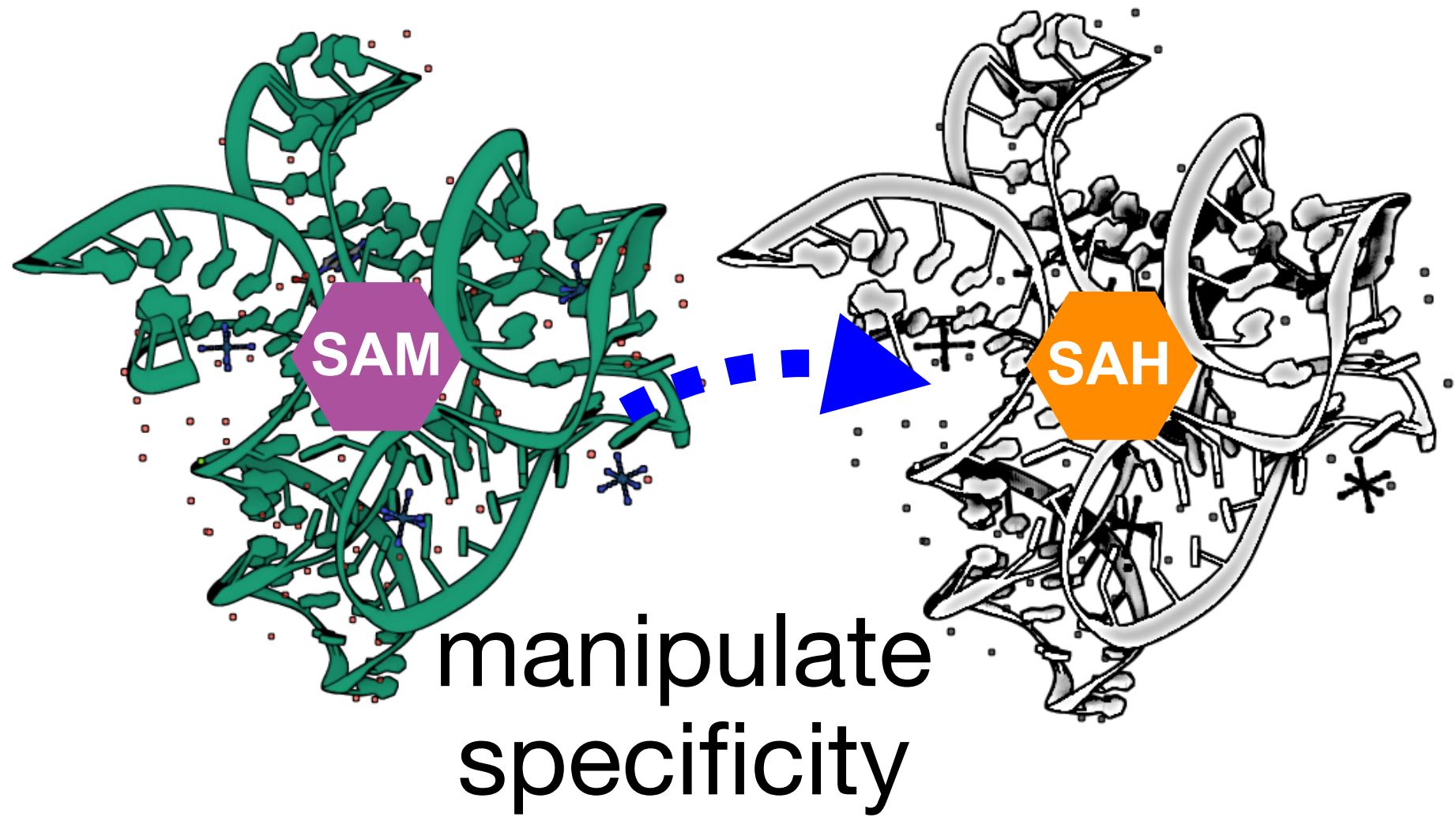
Data space (**v**)



Next: Manipulate properties of generated sequences with representation learning

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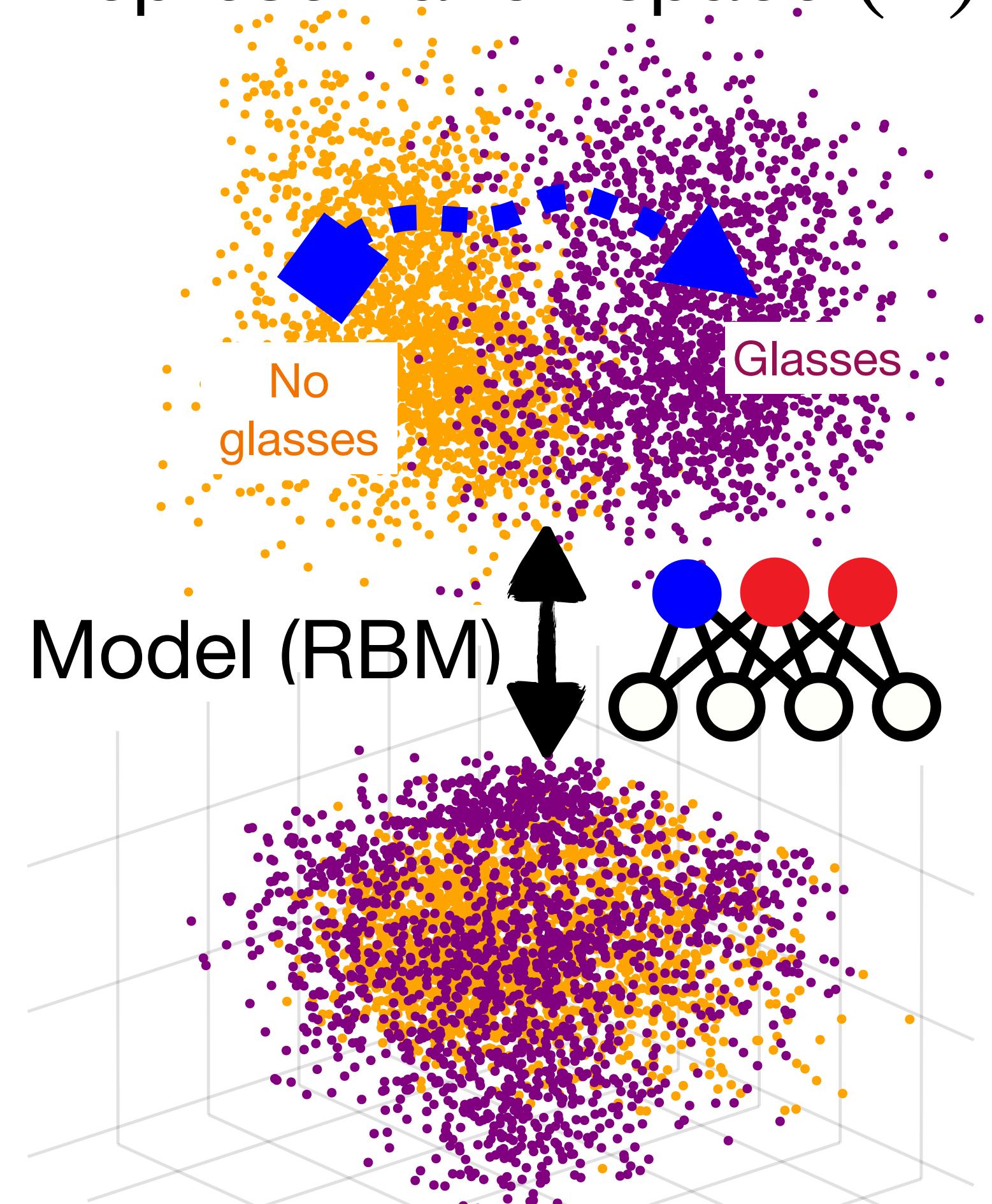


[JFdCD et al PRX'2023]

Representation space (**h**)

Model (RBM)

Data space (**V**)



Thank you

ENS, Paris

Andrea Di Gioacchino
Rémi Monasson
Simona Cocco

CitCOM, Université Paris Cité

Pierre Hardouin
Francois-Xavier Lyonnet
Bruno Sargueil

LIX Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau

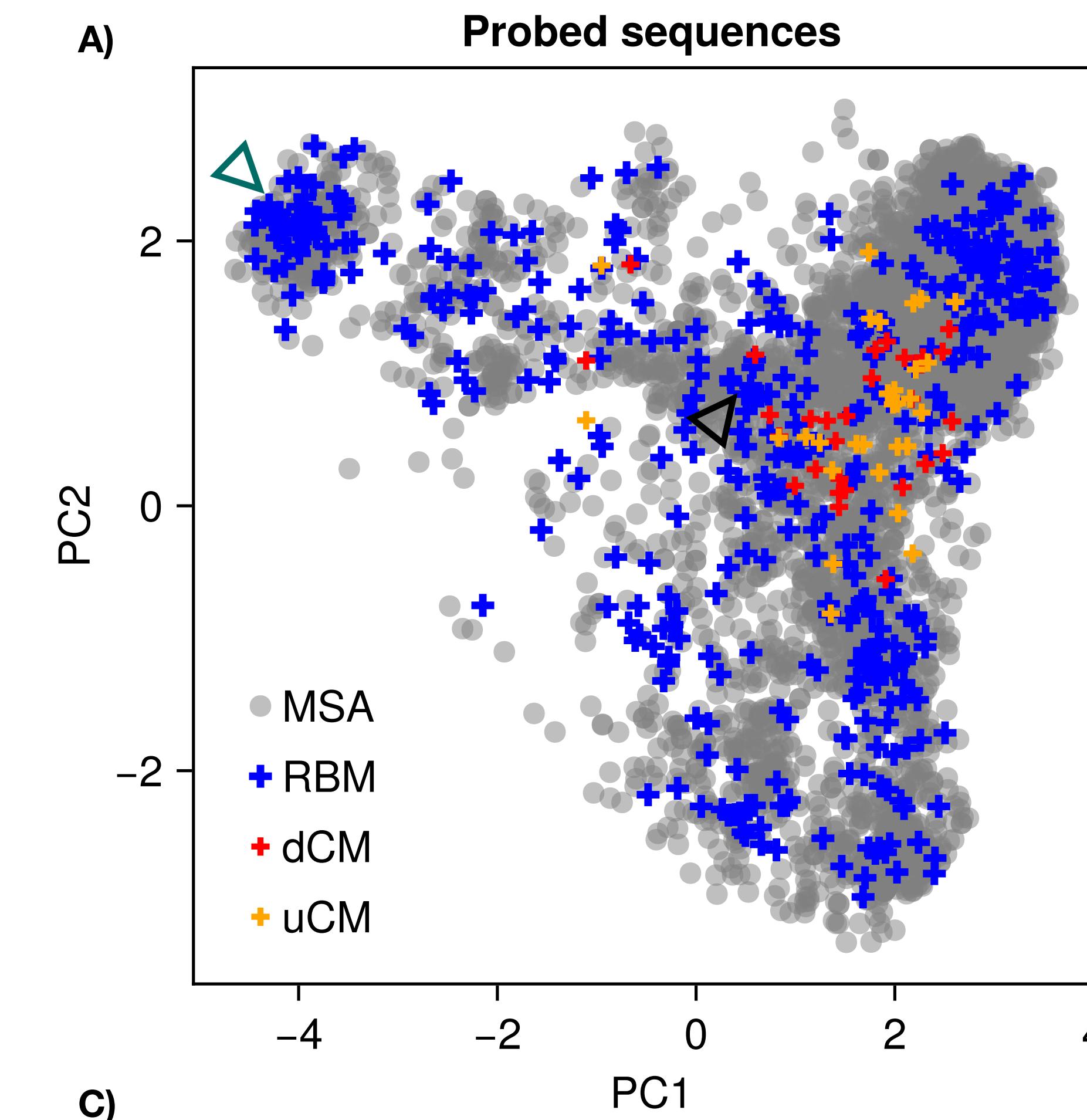
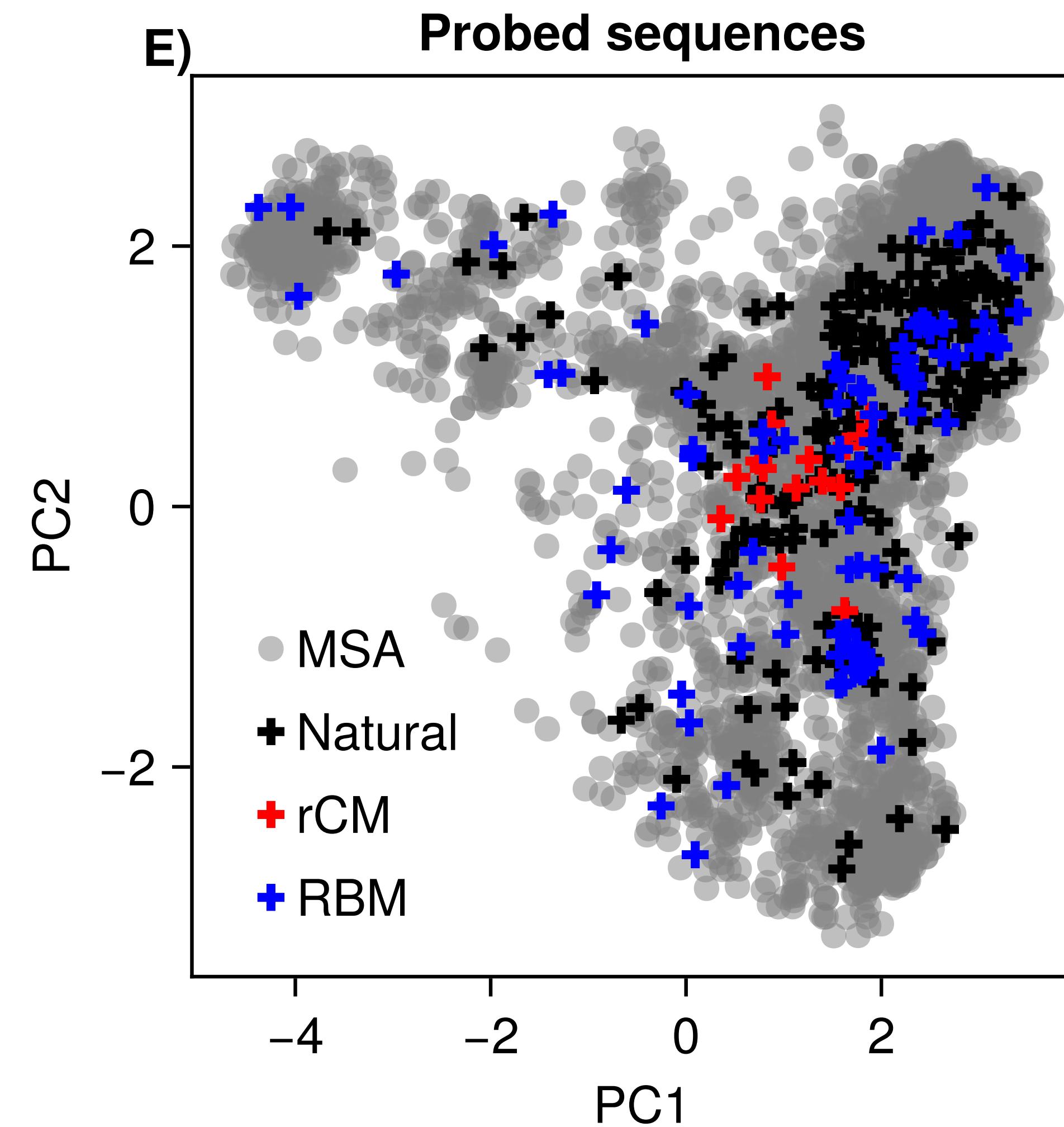
Bertrand Marchand
Yann Ponty



JFdCD et al bioRxiv:2023.05.10.540155

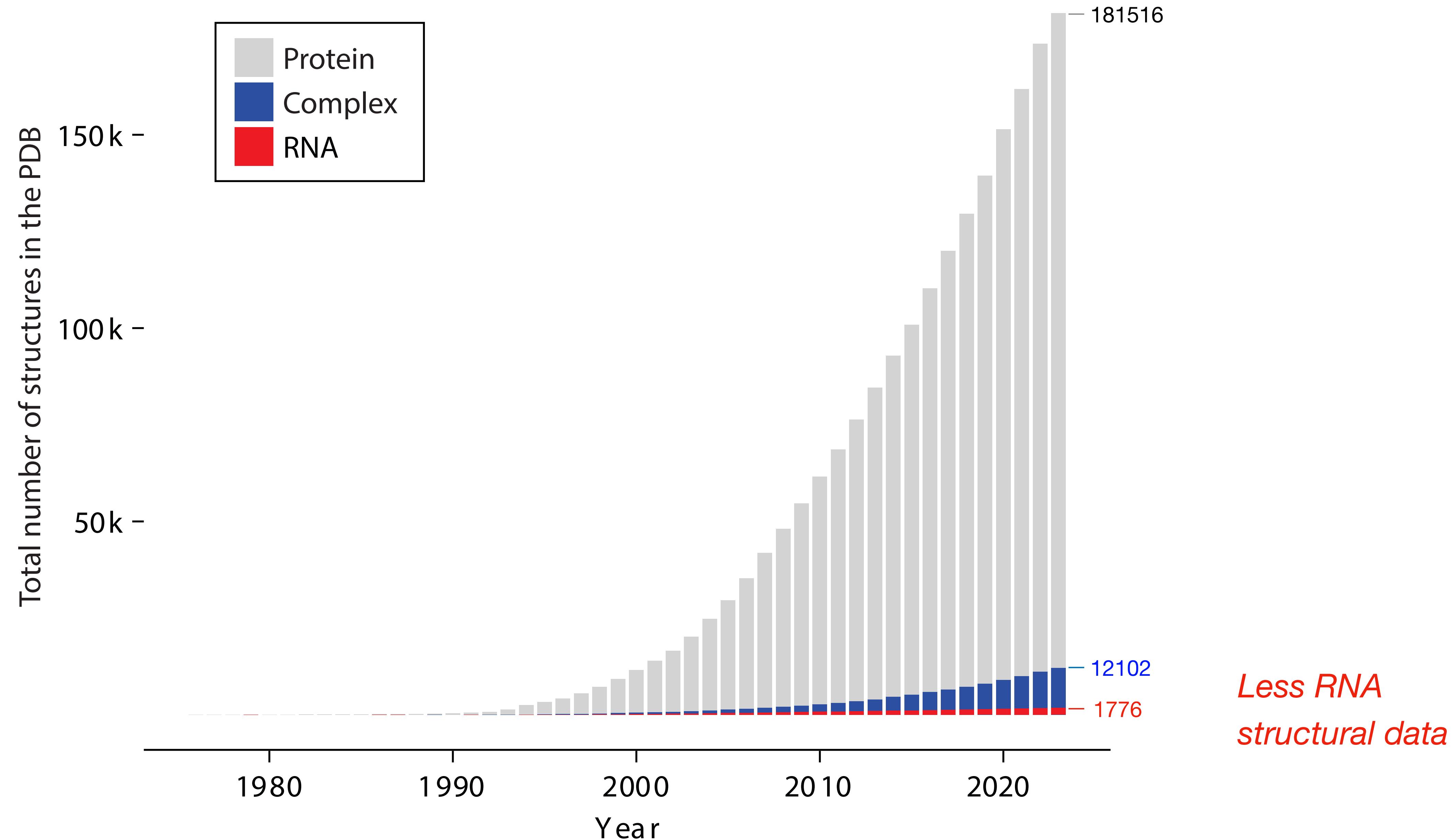
Backup

PCA projections of probed sequences



C)

Structure and function of non-coding RNA molecules



Structure and function of non-coding RNA molecules

RNA: linear chain of nucleotides (four types: A,U,C,G)

... **GGCUUAUCAAAGAGAGAGGGU** ...

Central dogma: DNA → mRNA → protein
*role as
information
carrier*

Tinoco, Bustamante. How RNA folds. *J Mol Biol.* 1999

Large fraction of RNA is non-coding

rRNA 80-90% of cell RNA content

tRNA 10-15%, mRNA 3-7%

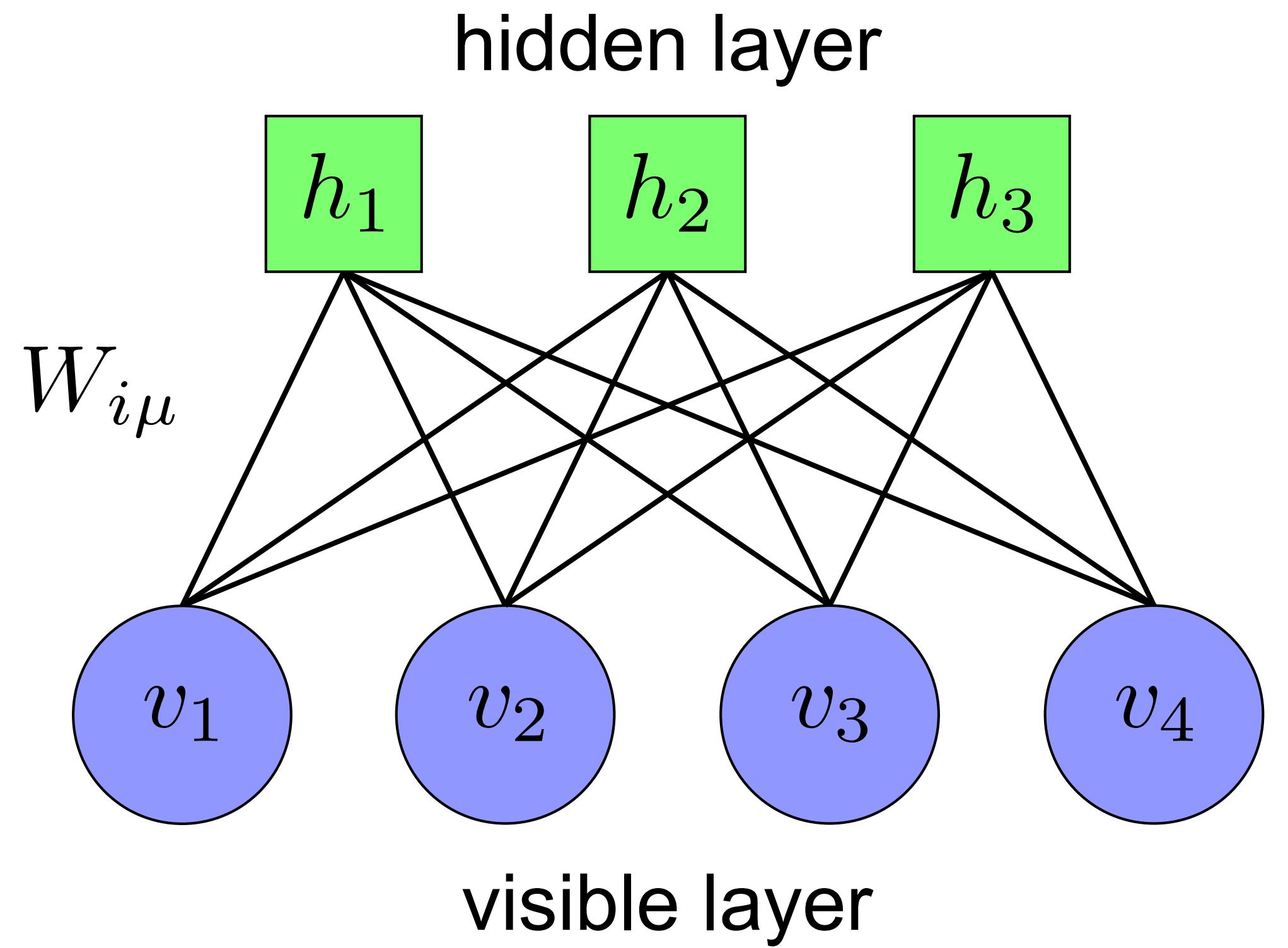
Many ncRNA functions:

Rybozymes, riboswitches,
T box, potential role in
origin of life, ...

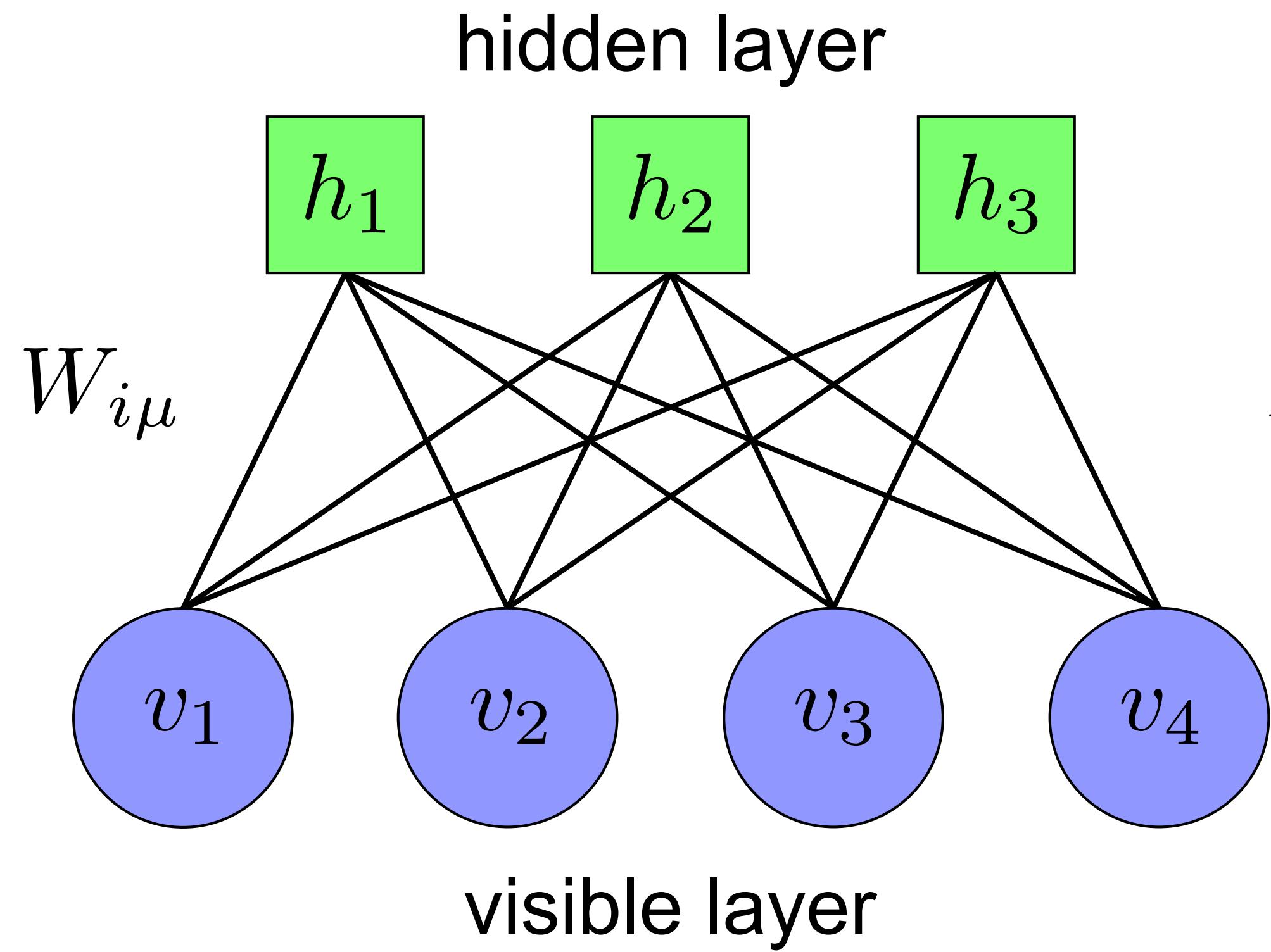


SAM riboswitch

Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)



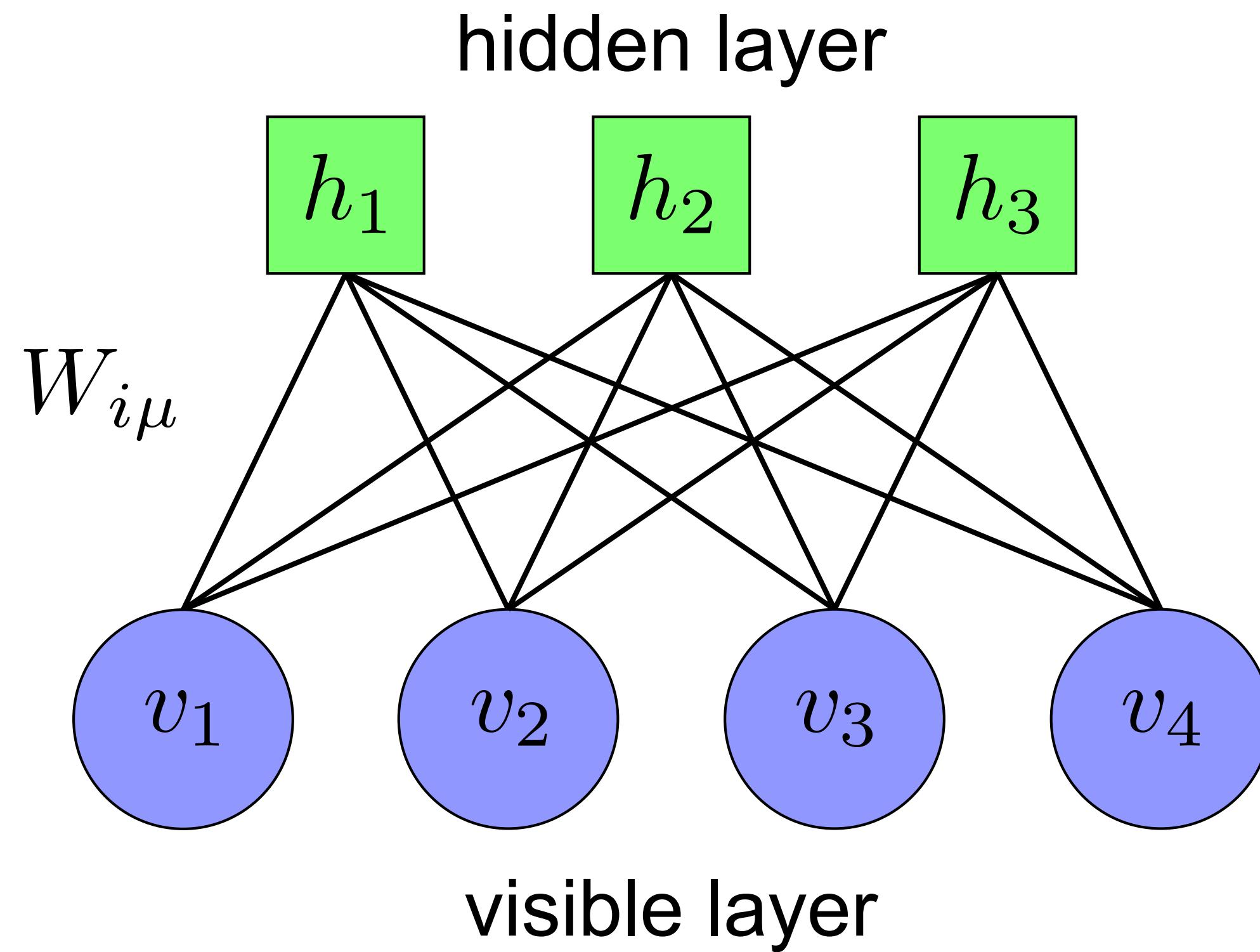
Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)



Energy

$$E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h}) = \sum_{\mu} \mathcal{V}_i(v_i) + \sum_{\mu} \mathcal{U}_{\mu}(h_{\mu}) - \sum_{i\mu} w_{i\mu} v_i h_{\mu}$$

Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)



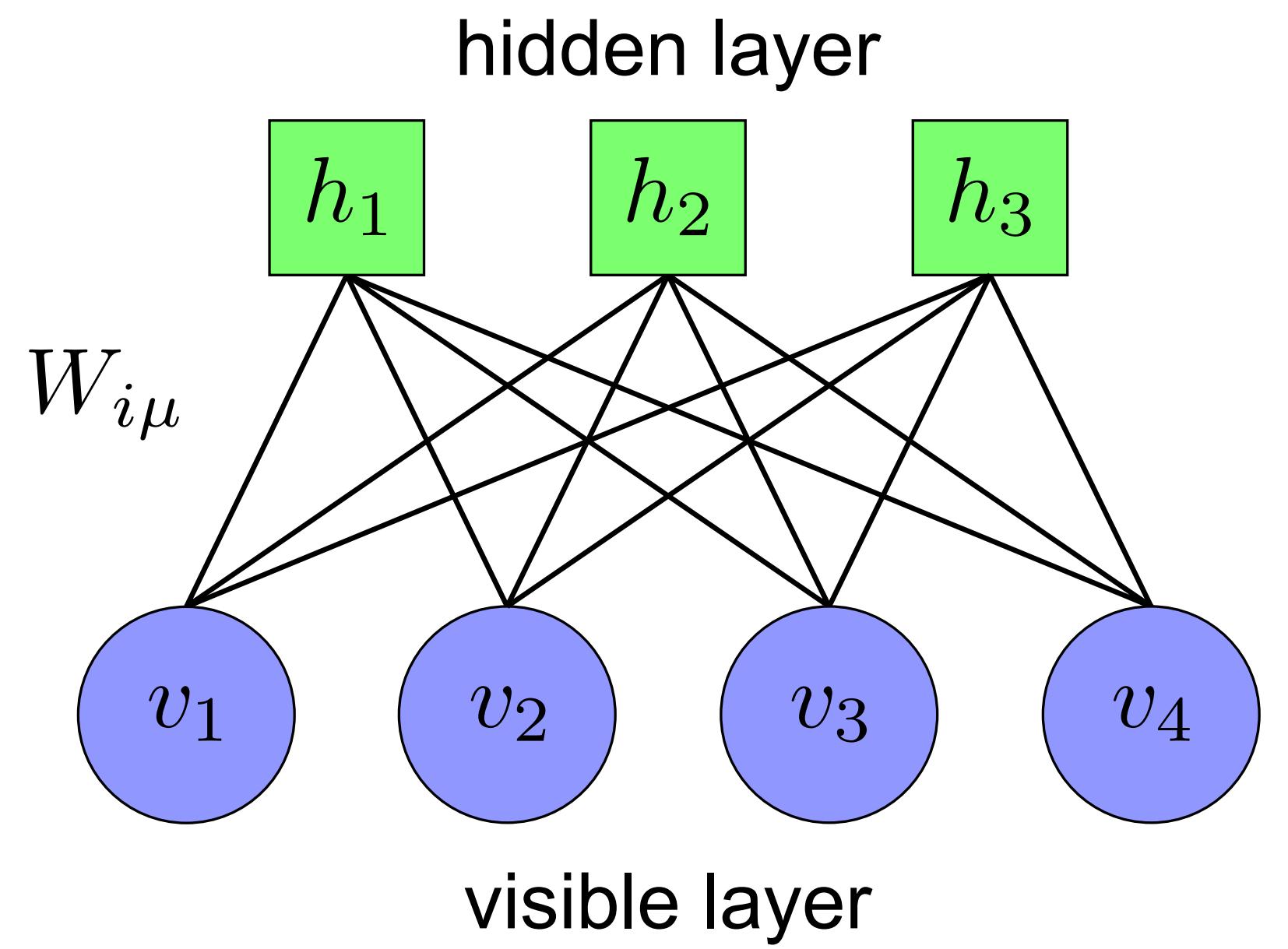
Energy

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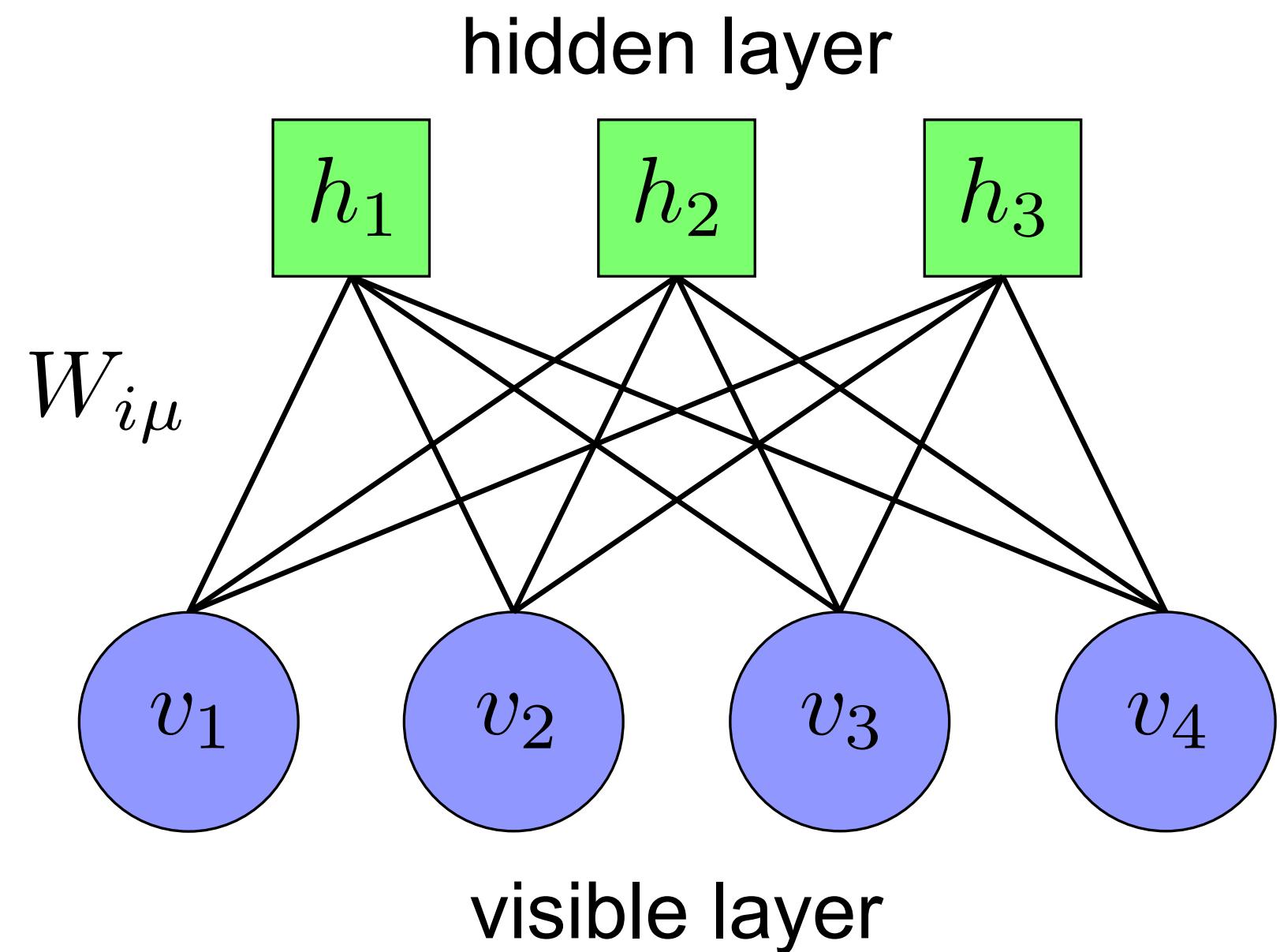
Boltzmann probability law

$$P(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h}) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h})}, \text{ where } Z = \sum_{\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h}} e^{-E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h})} \text{ is the partition function.}$$

Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)



Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)

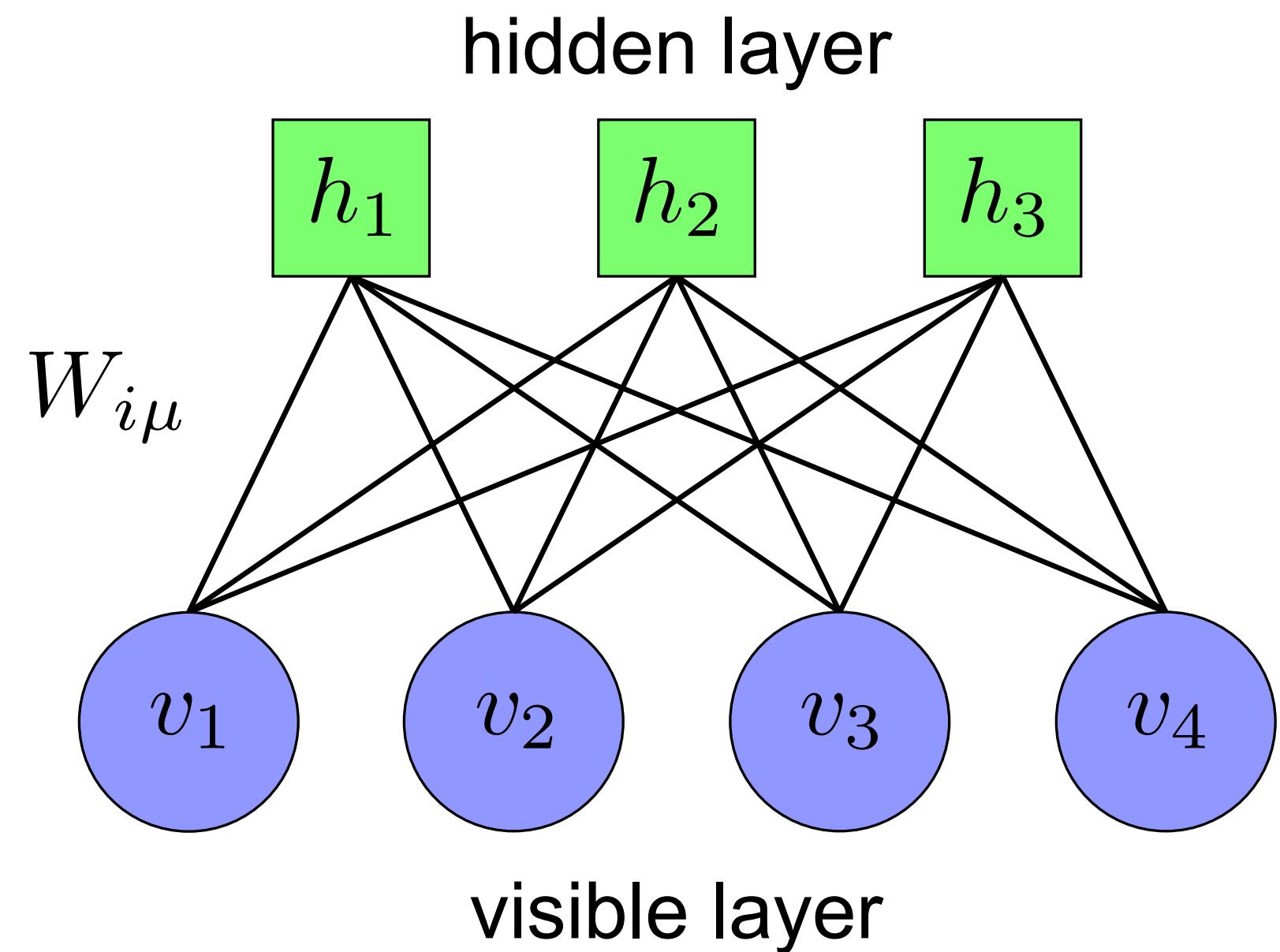


\mathbf{v} = the RNA sequence; \mathbf{h} = latent variables (features)

$$\text{Likelihood: } P_v(\mathbf{v}) = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{\mathbf{h}} e^{-E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h})} = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-E_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{v})}$$

$$\text{where: } E_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{v}) = \sum_i \mathcal{V}_i(v_i) - \sum_{\mu} \ln \int e^{\sum_i w_{i\mu} v_i h_{\mu}} - \mathcal{U}_{\mu}(h_{\mu})$$

Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)

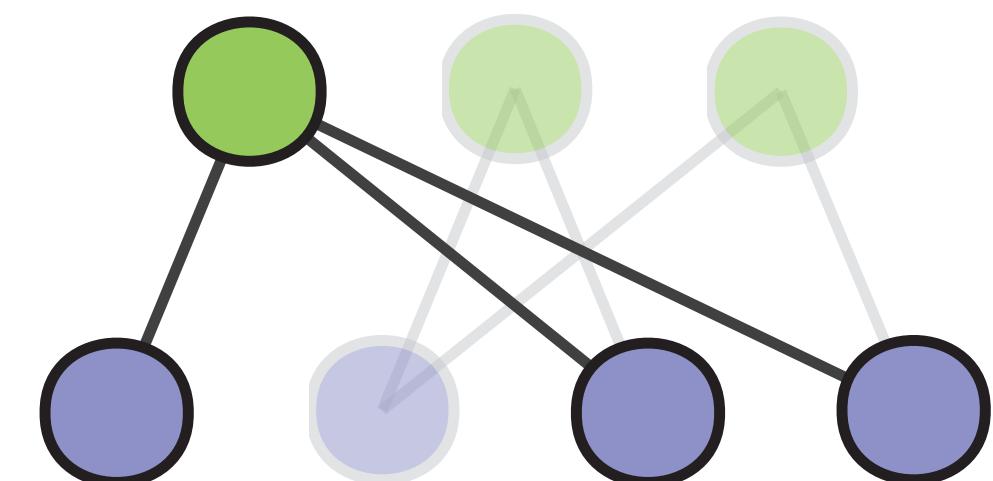


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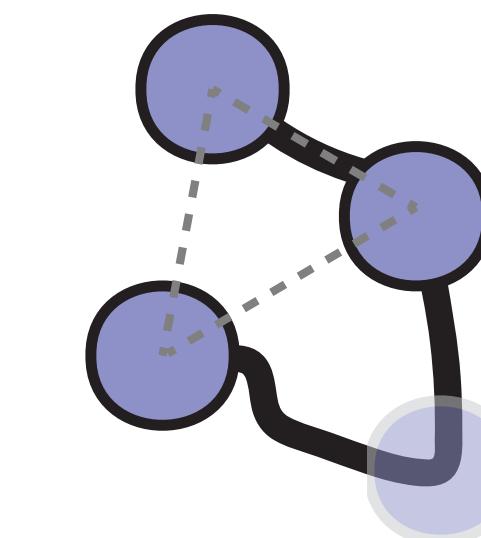
Full RBM



visible units interact
with hidden units

marginalization
of latent variables

Effective model



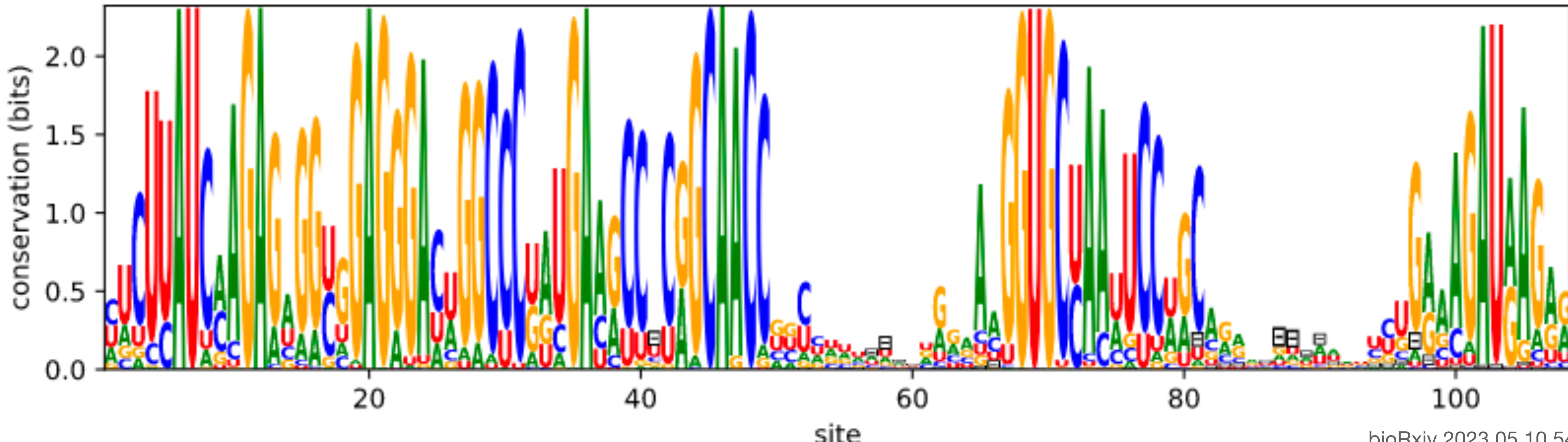
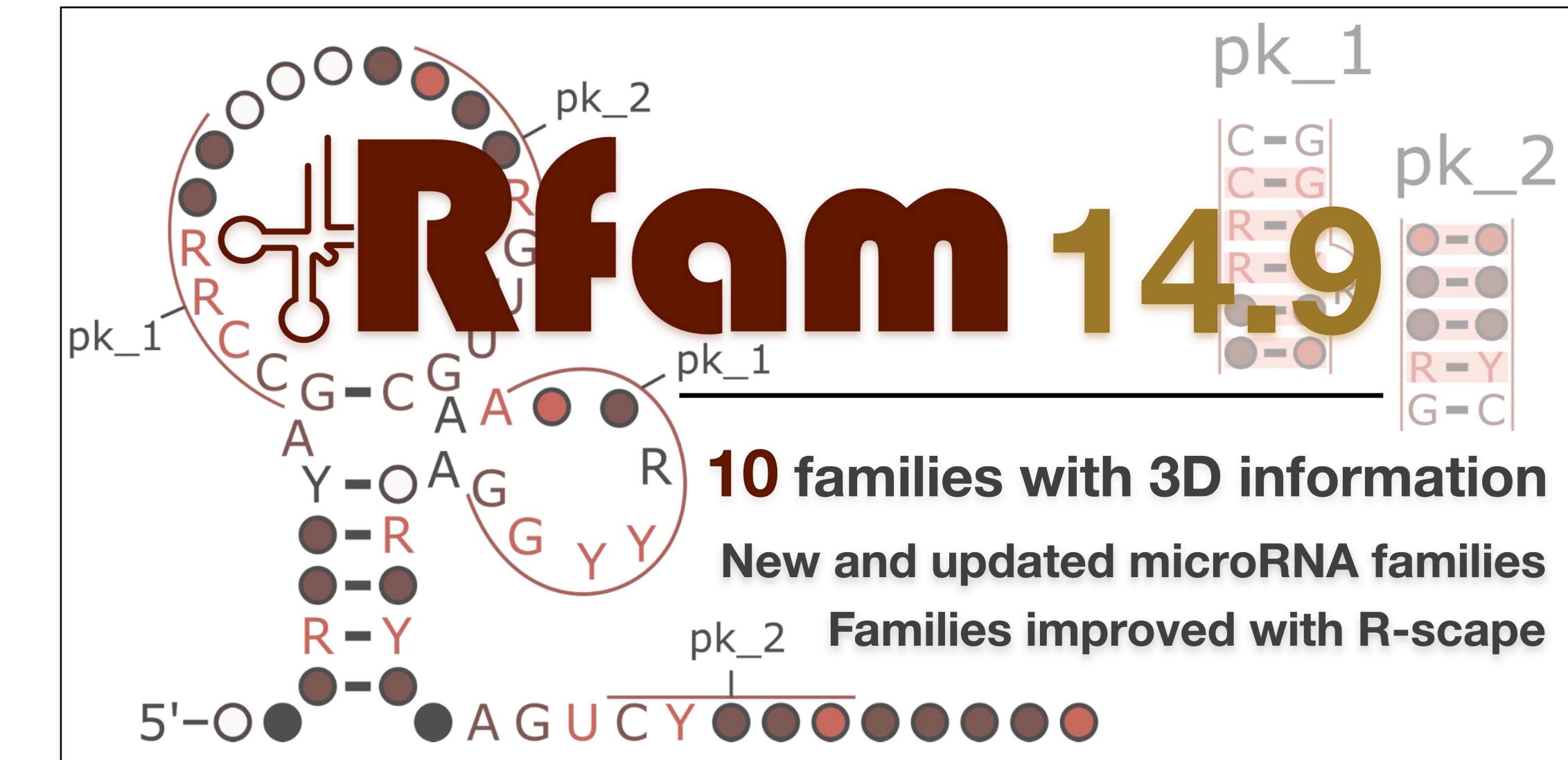
effective interactions
between visible units

The SAM-I aptamer domain family

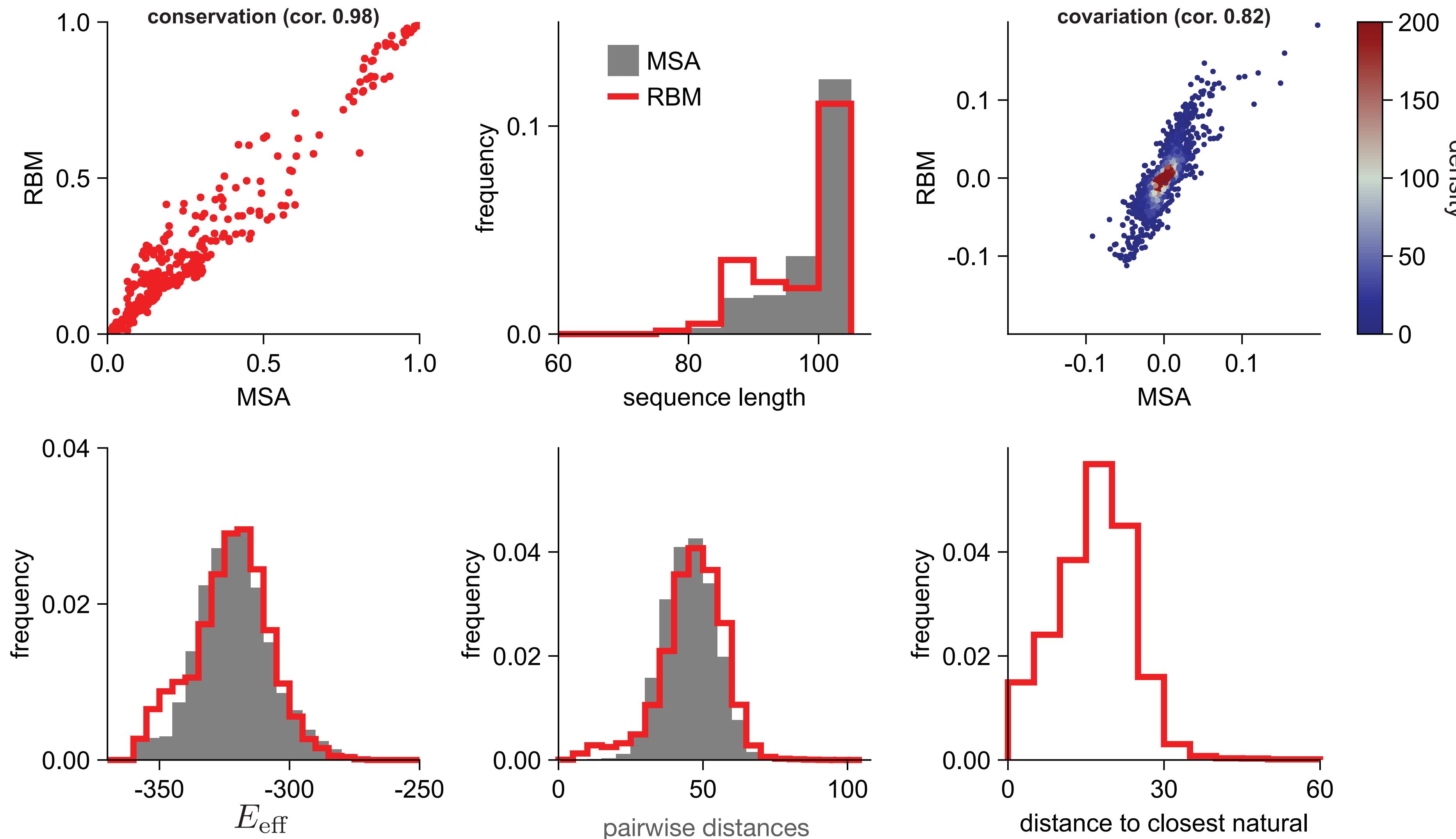
SAM-I riboswitch aptamer domain RNA family (RF00162)

6161 sequences

108 aligned positions

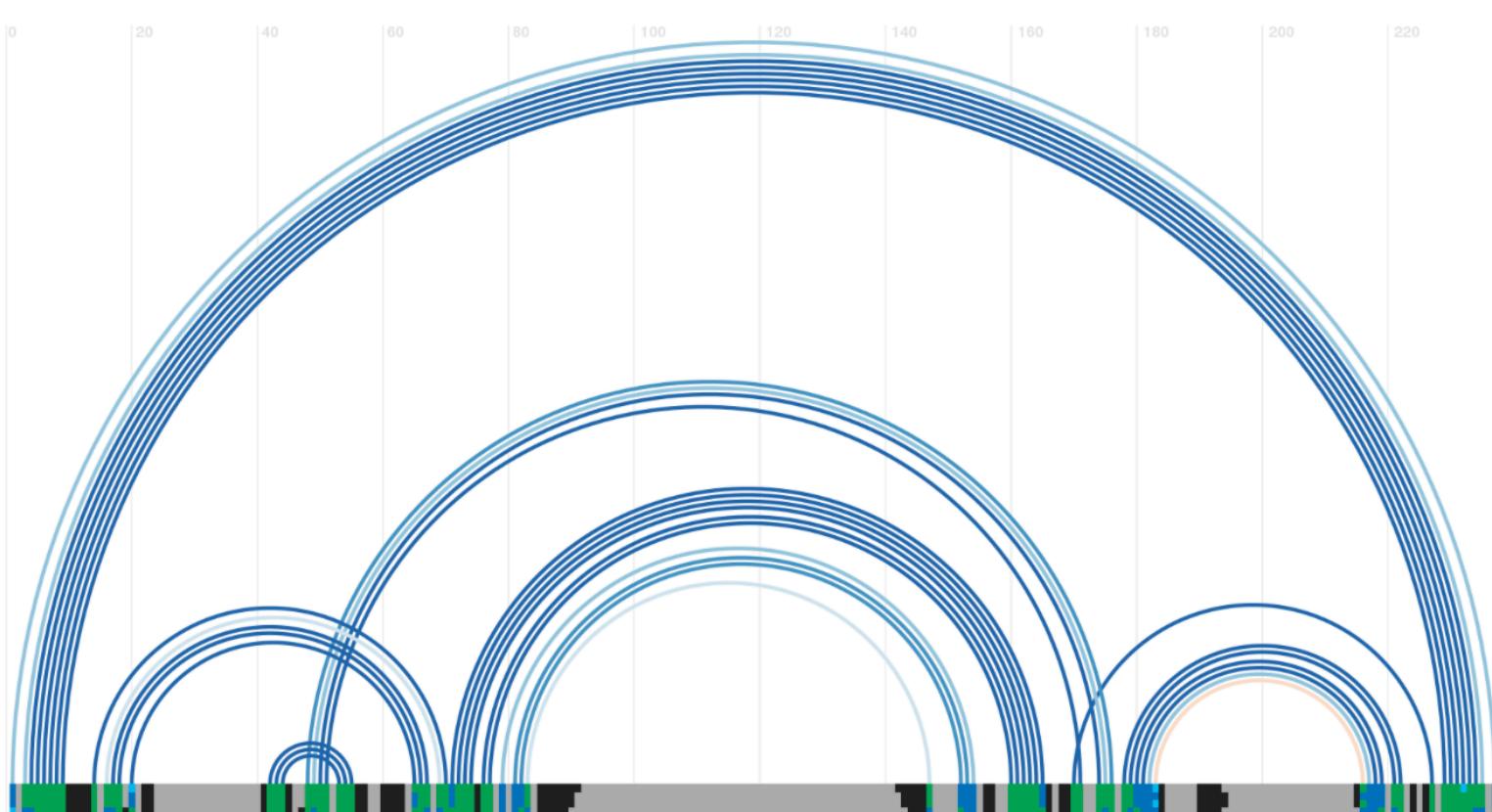


RBM reproduces statistics of SAM family

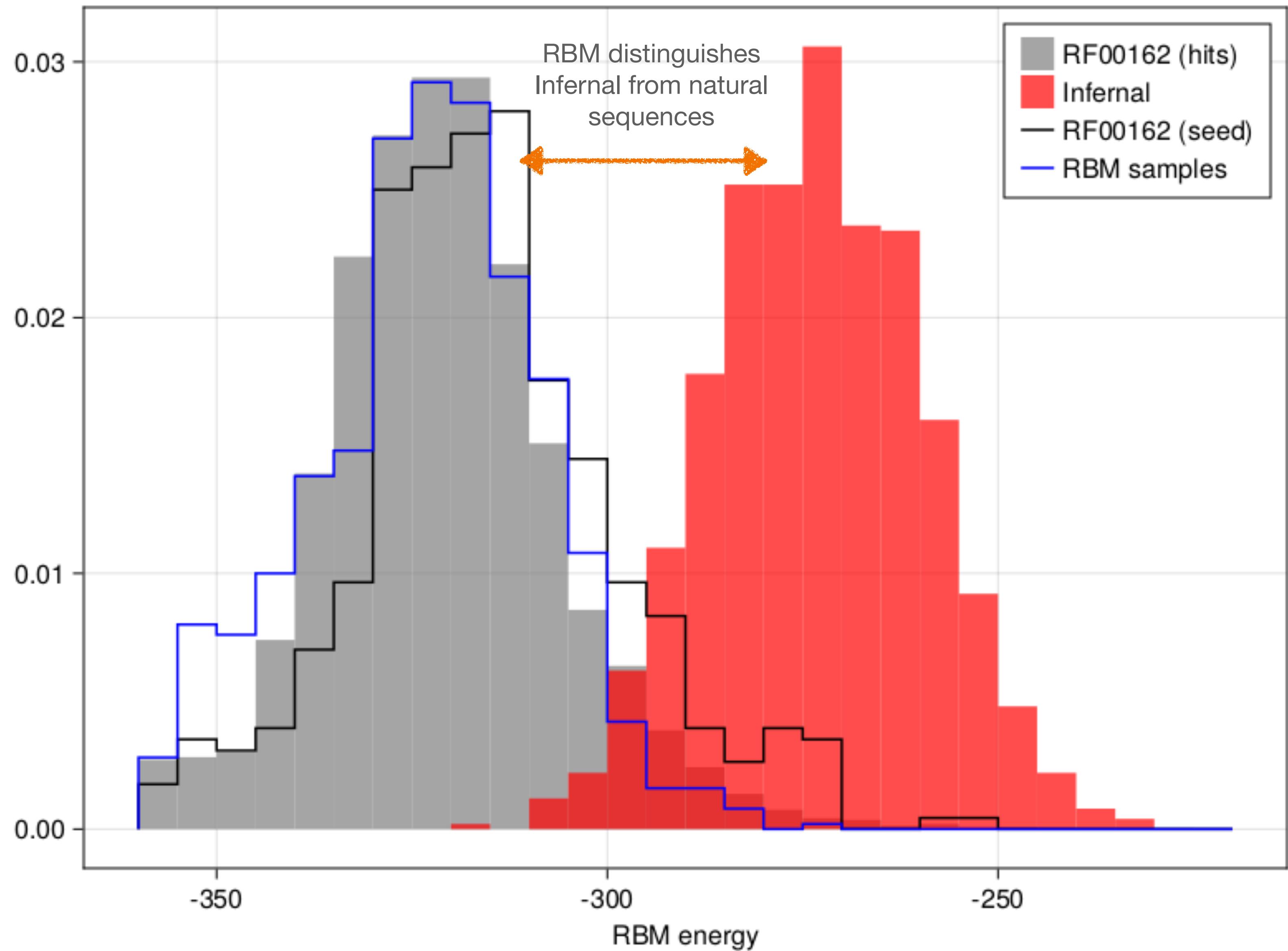


Secondary structure is not sufficient

Compatibility with secondary structure

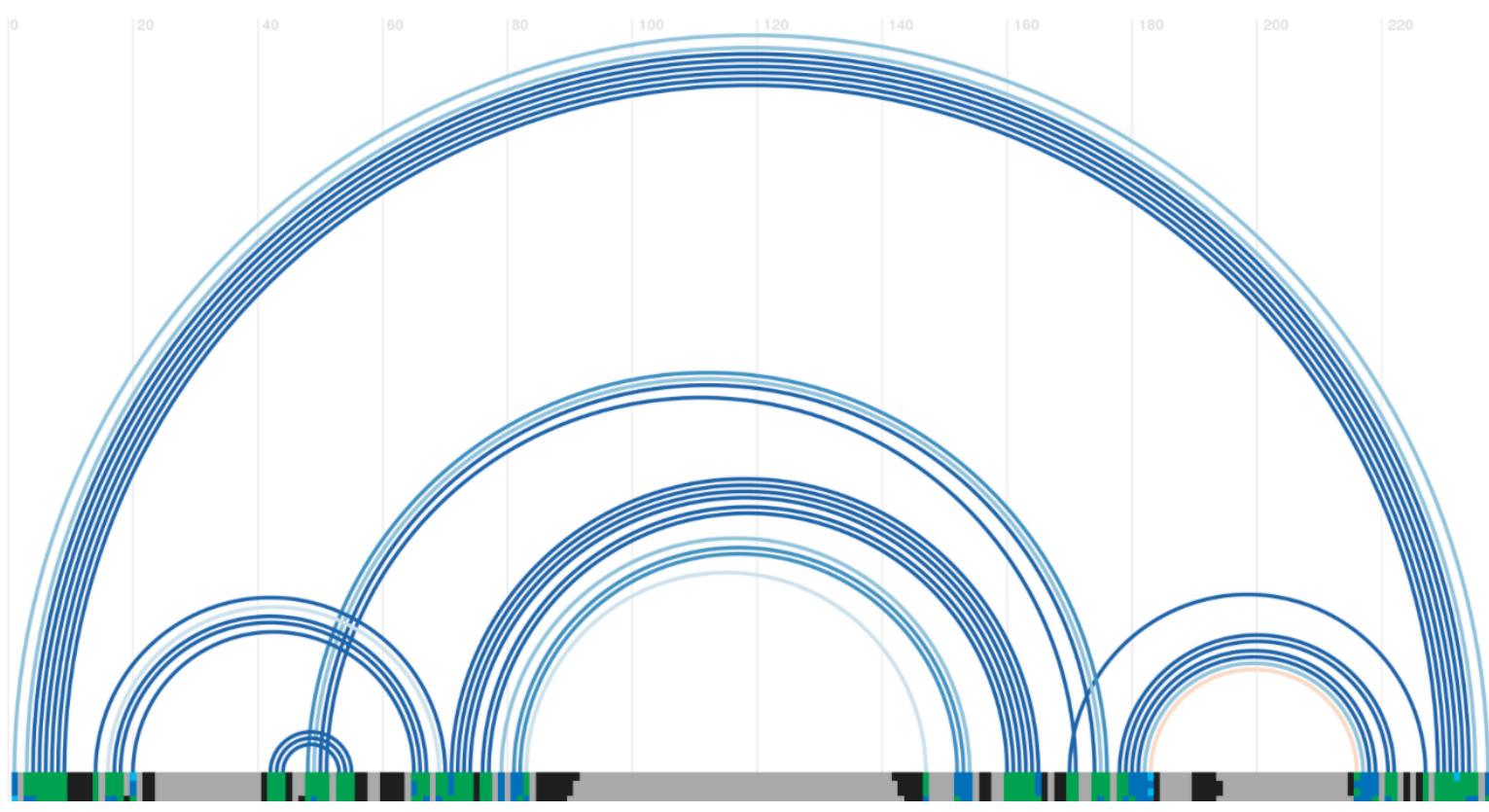


Infernal (Covariance model)

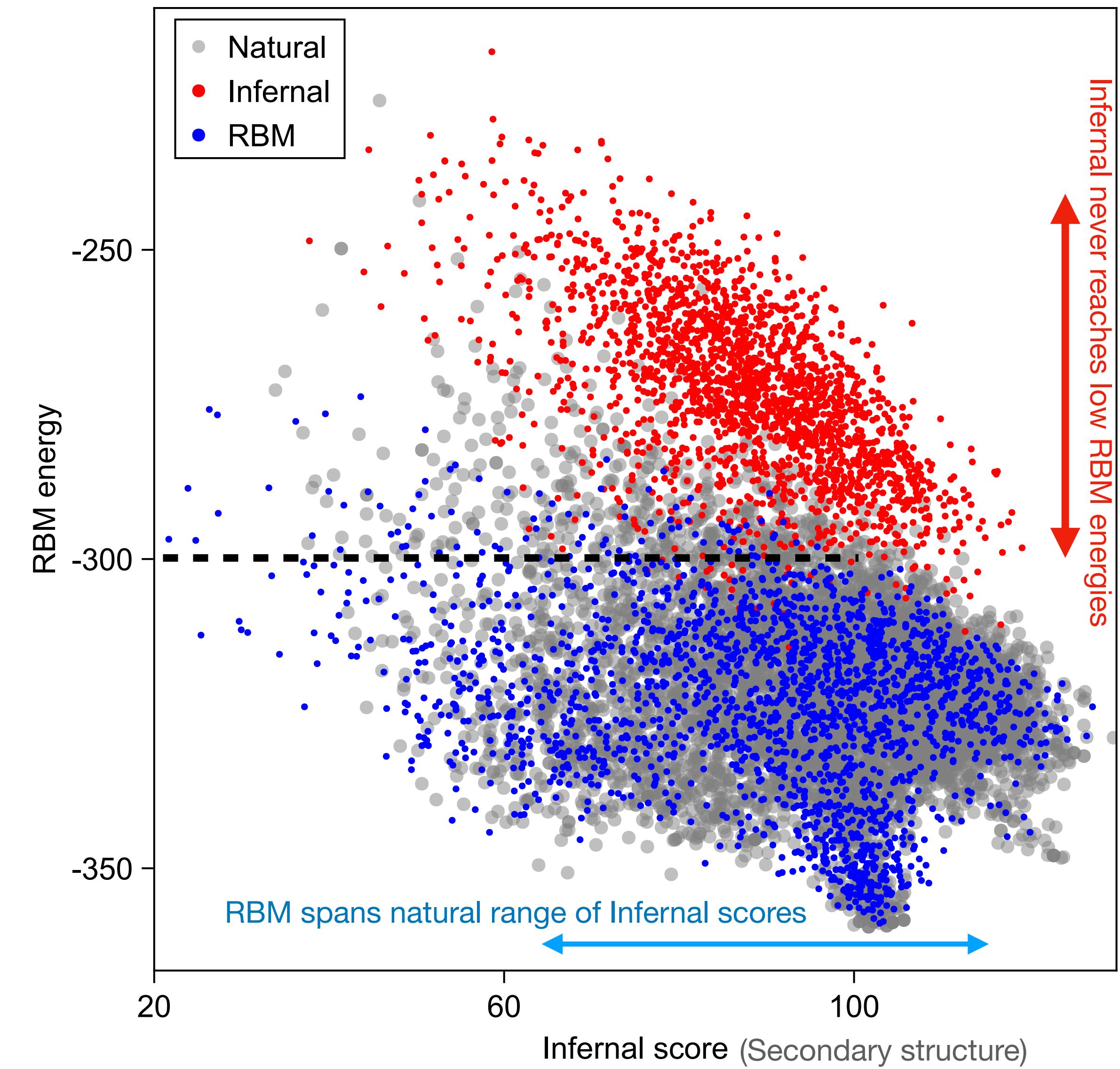


RBM samples are compatible with secondary structure

Compatibility with
secondary structure



Infernal (Covariance model)



Experimental validation with SHAPE-MaP

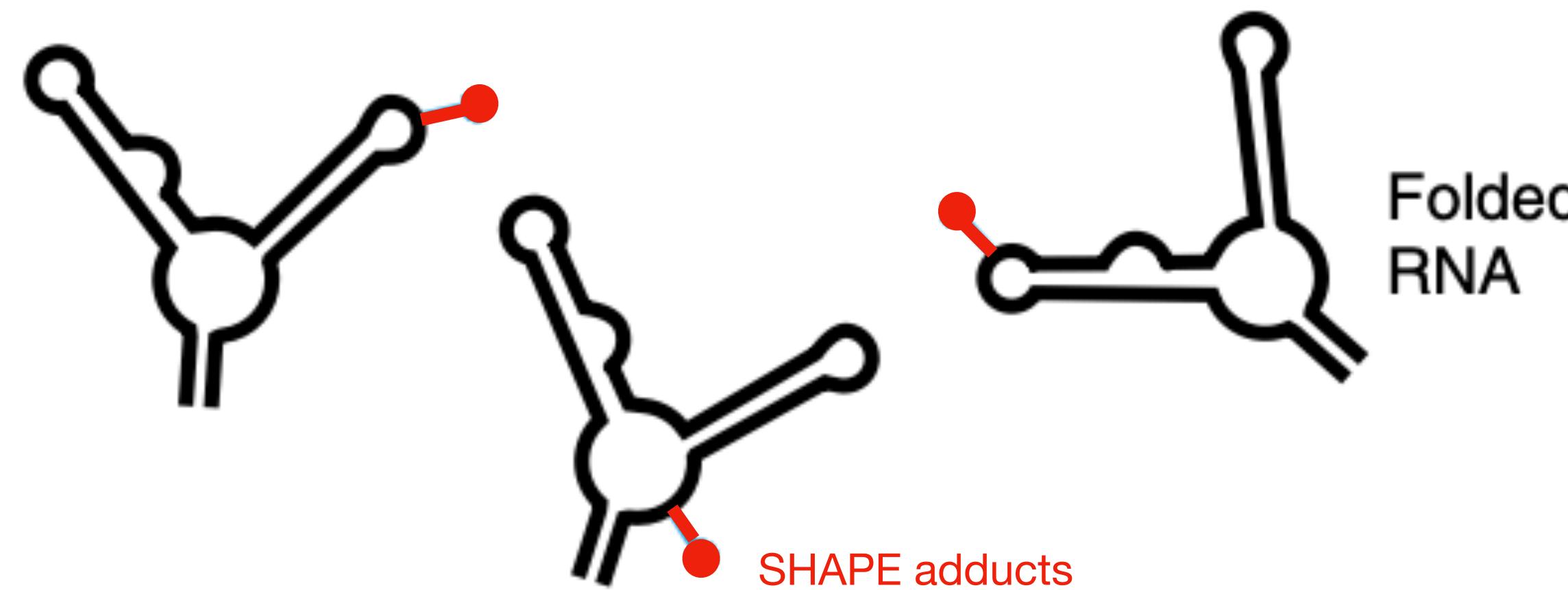


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with P. Hardouin, F.-X.
Lyonnet, B. Sargueil

Wilkinson, KA et al. "SHAPE: quantitative RNA structure analysis at single nucleotide resolution." Nature Protocols 1.3 (2006): 1610-1616.

Experimental validation with SHAPE-MaP

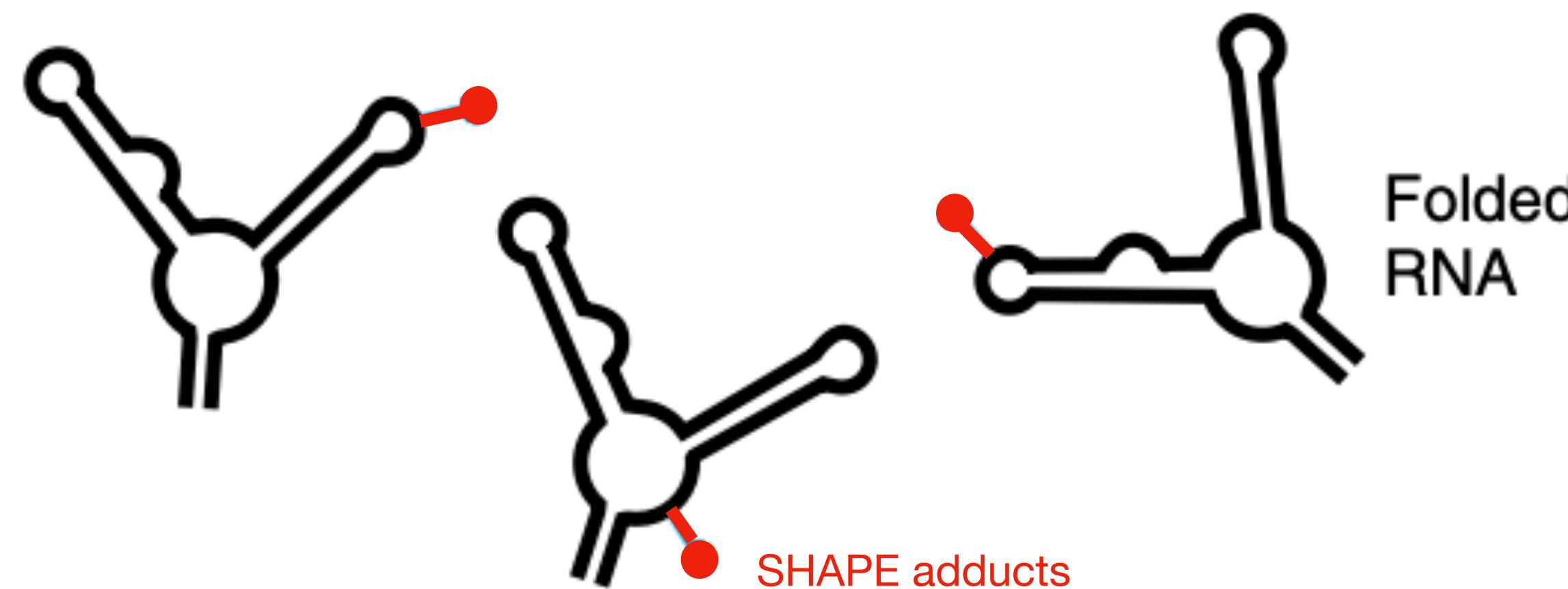


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Experimental validation with SHAPE-MaP



After adding the probe, the RNA molecules are sequenced. The probe results in sequencing errors.

Reactivity: $r = \frac{m - u}{d}$, where

m = mutation rate with probe

u = mutation rate without probe
(cancel seq. error biases)

d = mutation rate in denatured state
(cancel site-dependent biases)

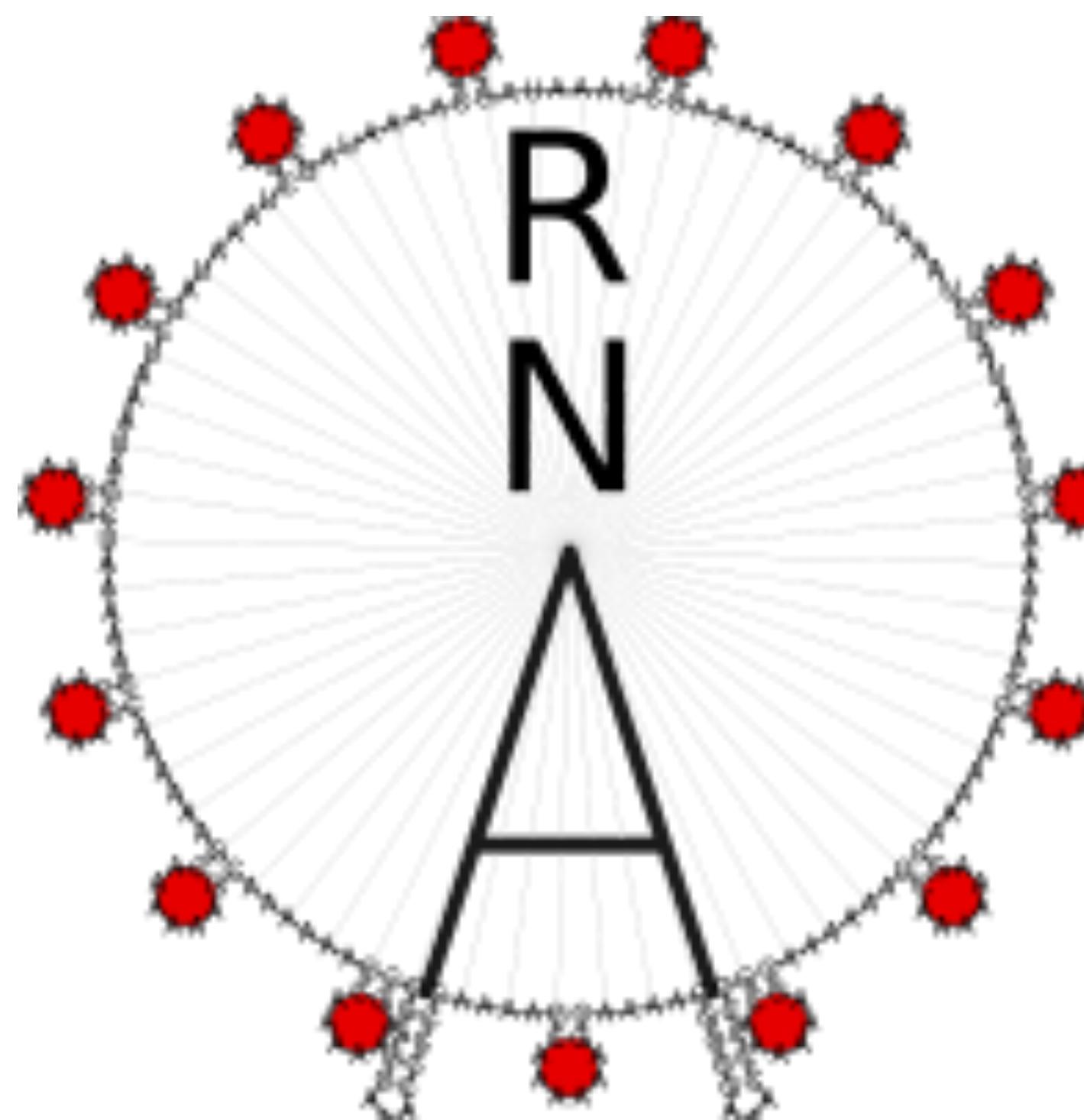


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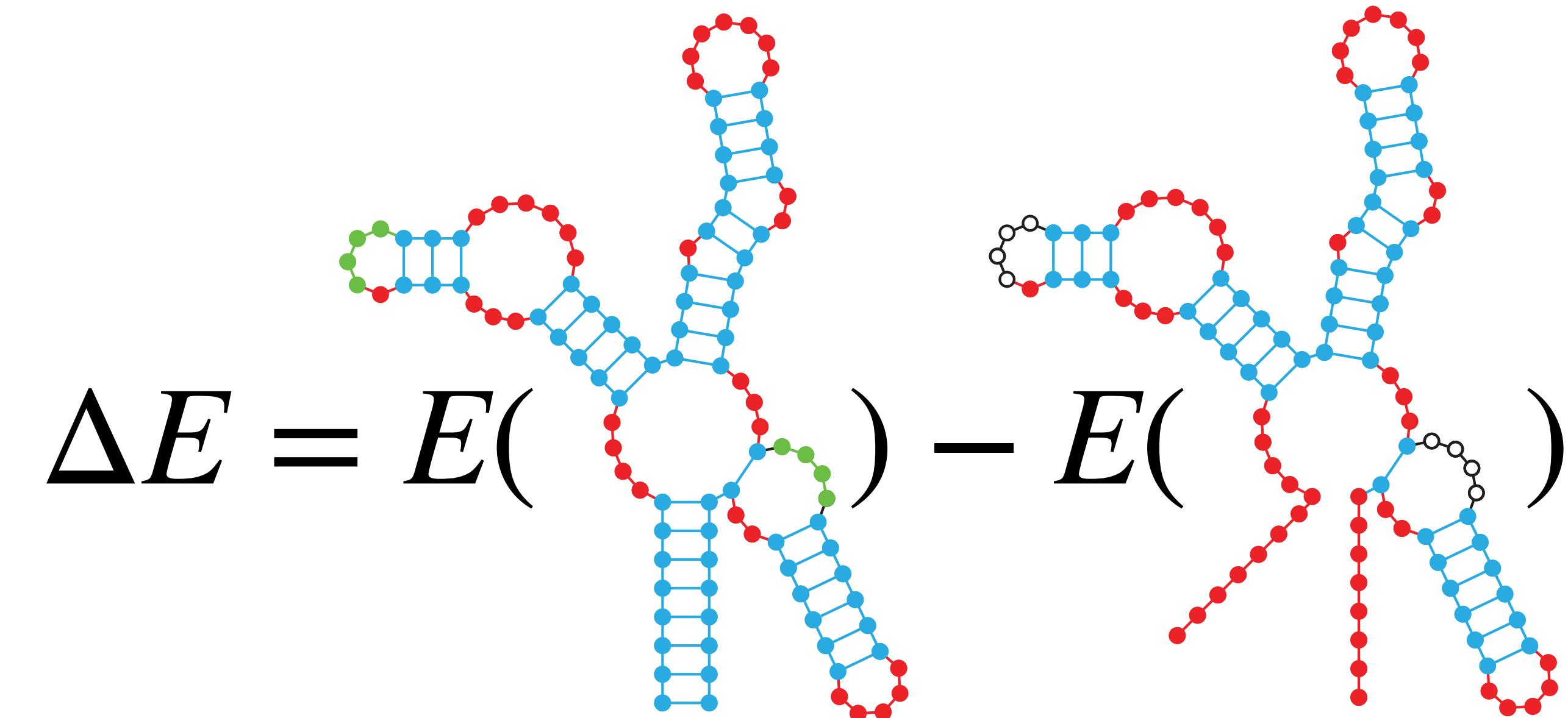
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Structural flexibility requires moderate binding energies



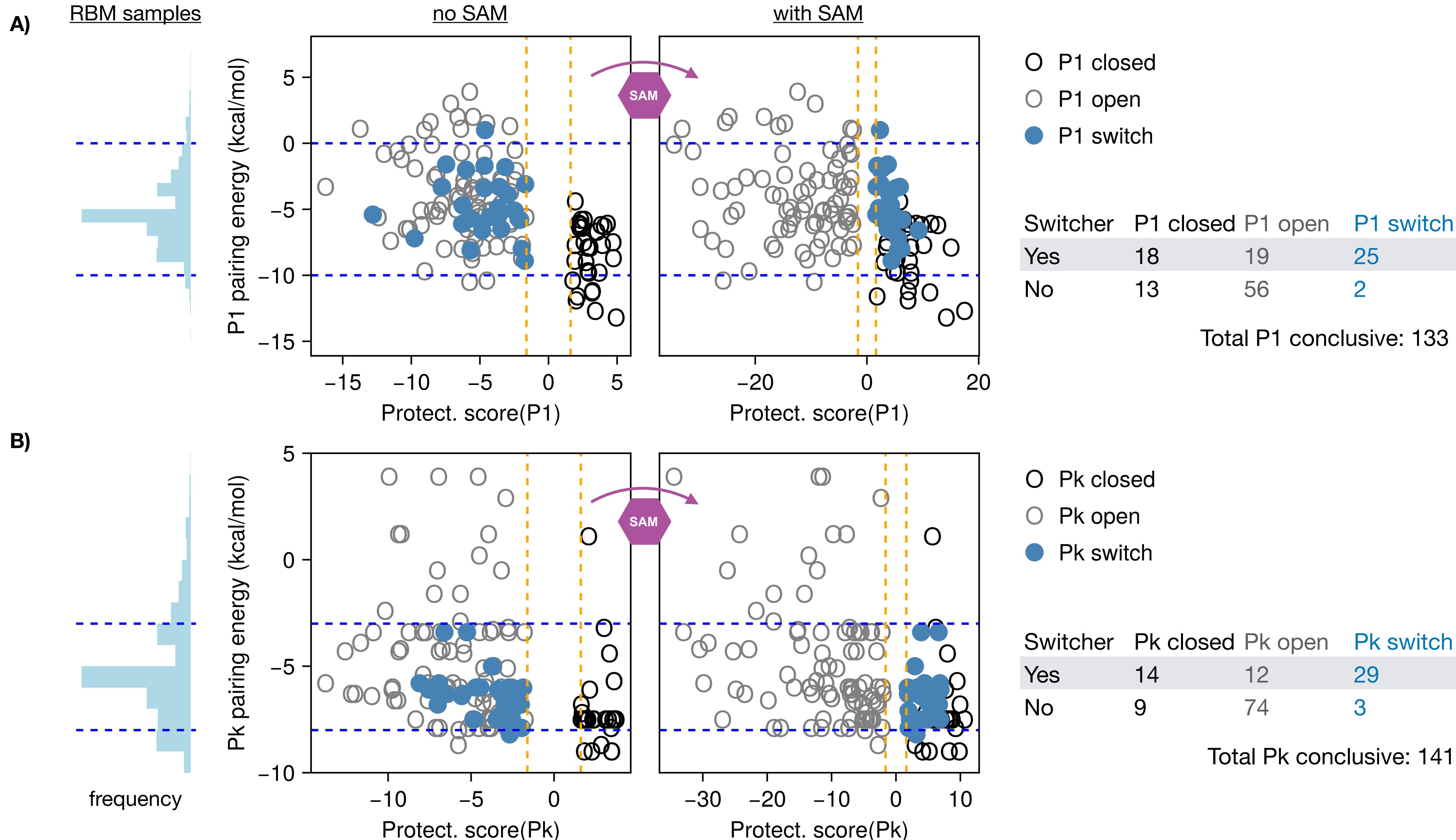
ViennaRNA: Energy calculations of RNA secondary structures, based on the Turner model.



ViennaRNA

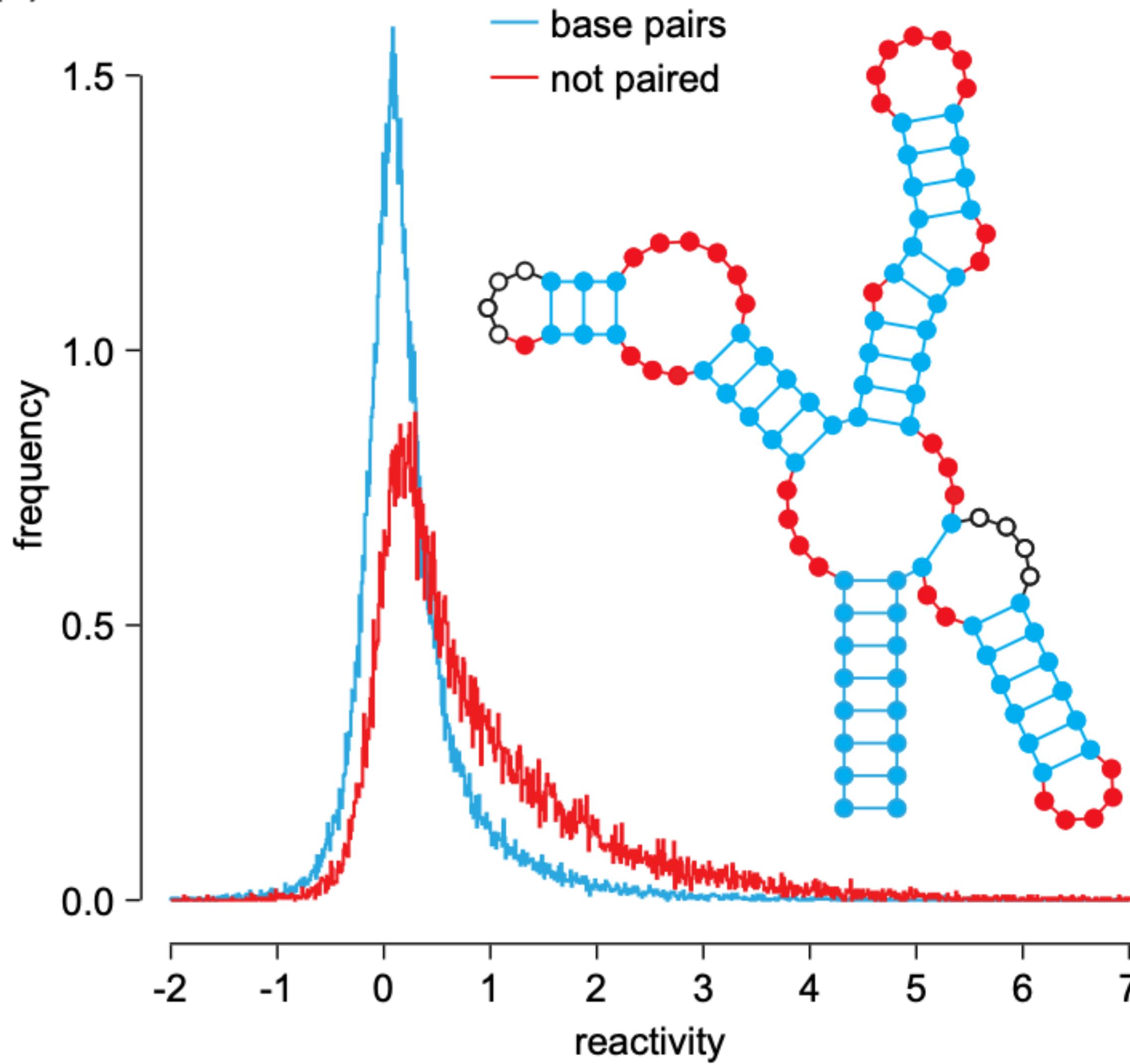
- Lorenz, R., Bernhart, S.H., Höner zu Siederdissen, C. et al. ViennaRNA Package 2.0. *Algorithms Mol Biol* 6, 26 (2011). <https://doi.org/10.1186/1748-7188-6-26>
- Mathews, D.H., et al. "Incorporating chemical modification constraints into a dynamic programming algorithm for prediction of RNA secondary structure." *PNAS* 101.19 (2004): 7287-7292.

Experimental validation with SHAPE-MaP



Statistical inference of base-pairs from SHAPE data

(A)



SHAPE log-odds score

$$\mathcal{S}_n(i) = \ln \frac{P_{ni}(\tilde{r}_{ni} | \text{bp})}{P_{ni}(\tilde{r}_{ni} | \text{np})}$$
$$= \ln \frac{\int P(r | \text{bp}) P_{ni}(\tilde{r}_{ni} | r) dr}{\int P(r | \text{np}) P_{ni}(\tilde{r}_{ni} | r) dr}$$

$P_{ni}(\tilde{r}_{ni} | r)$ prob. of measuring \tilde{r}_{ni} given underlying reactivity r (account for sampling error during sequencing)

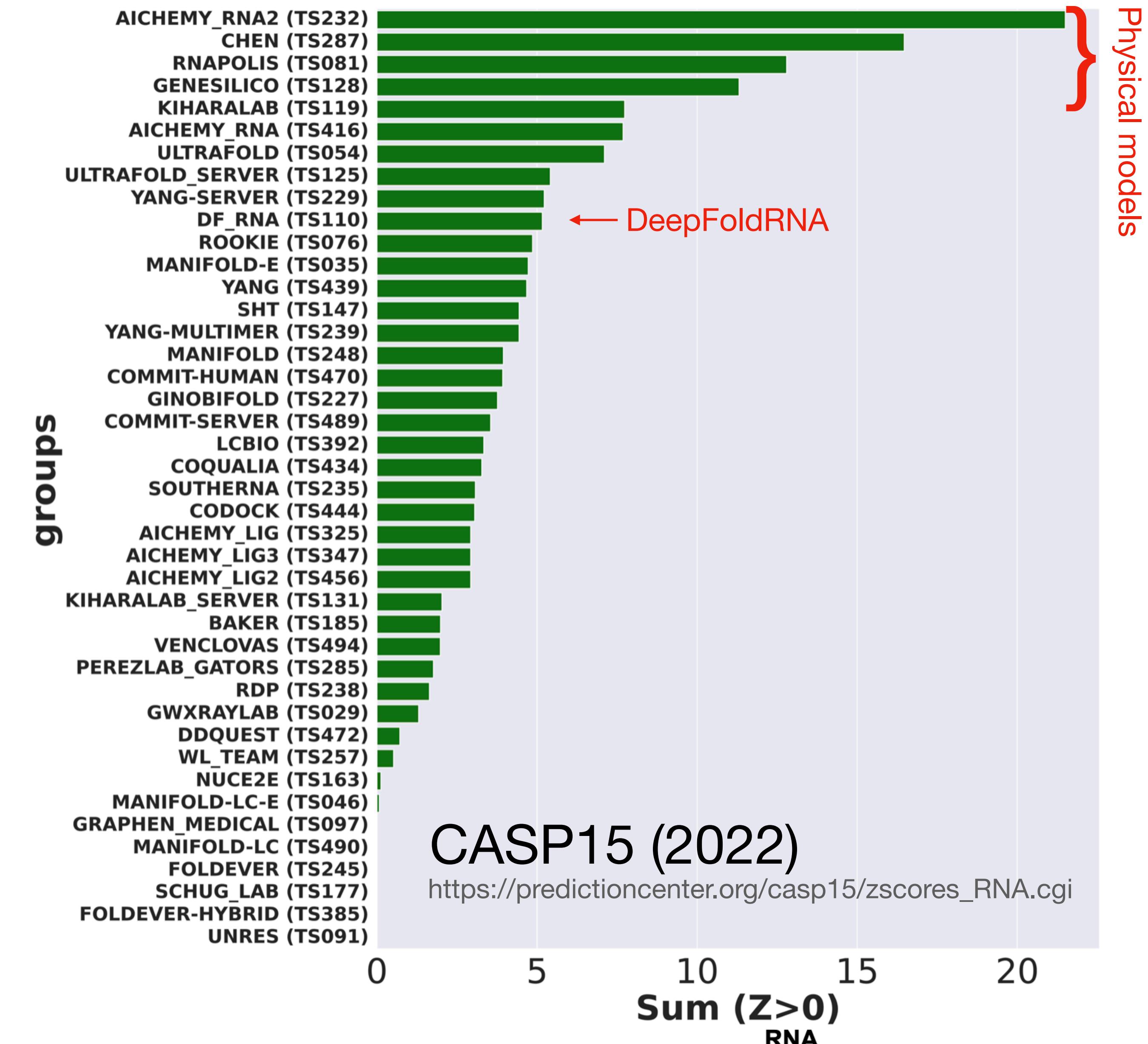
$P(r | \text{bp})$ prob. of reactivities of base-paired sites

Structure and function of non-coding RNA molecules

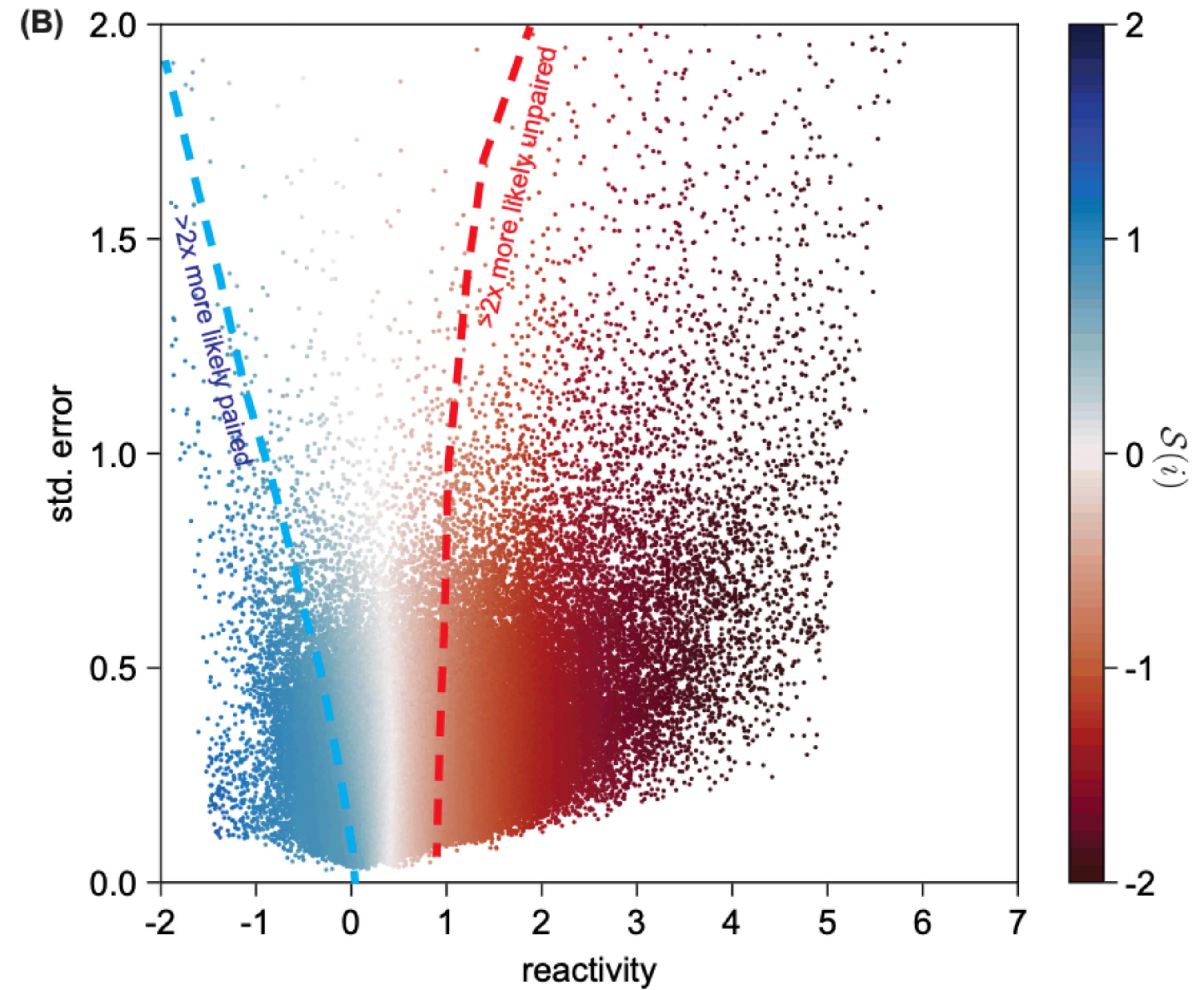
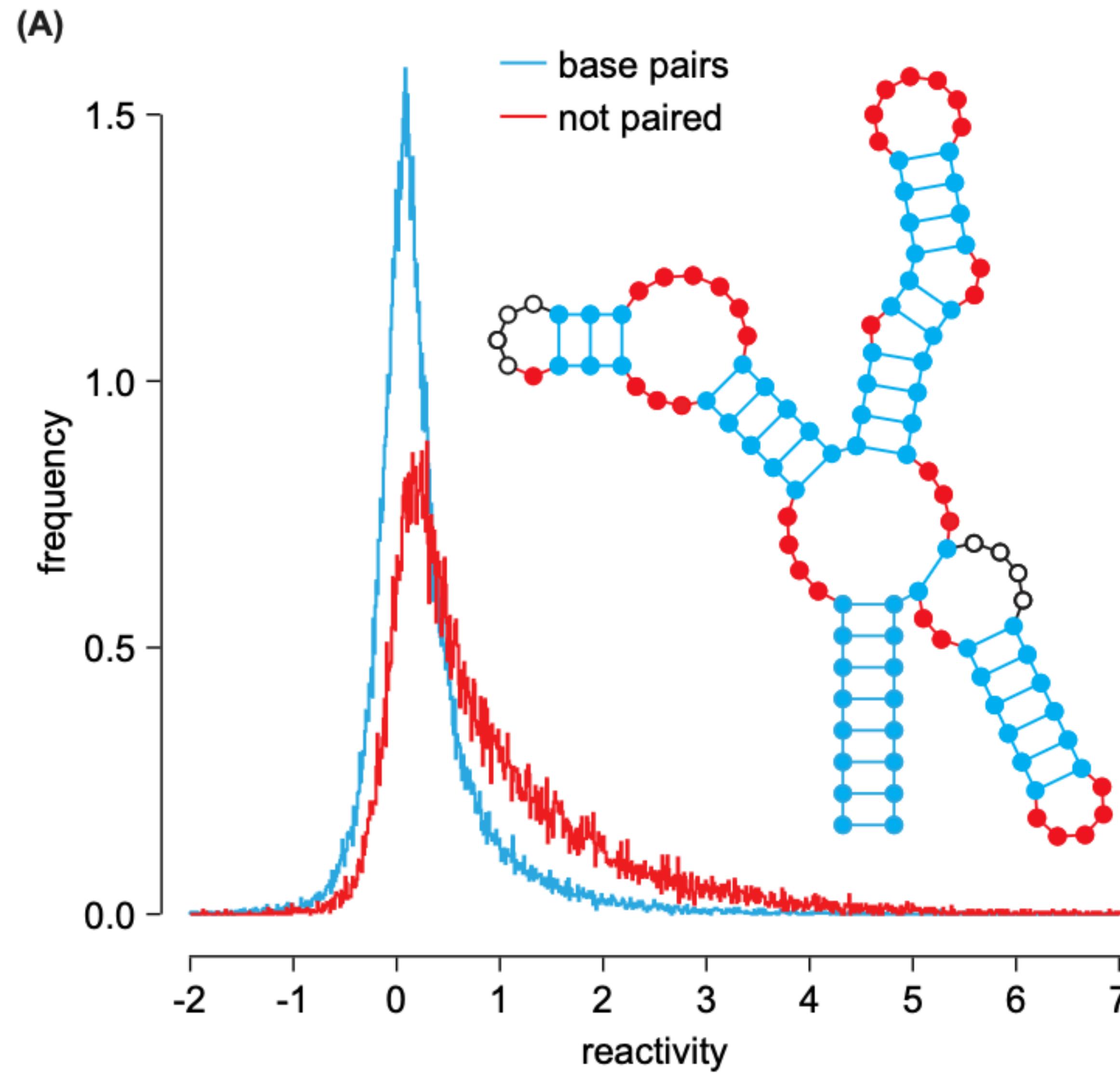
Top model performers in CASP15 (2022) RNA structure prediction competition are “physical models”

AlphaFold-derived attempts (e.g., DeepFoldRNA) generalize poorly to new sequences

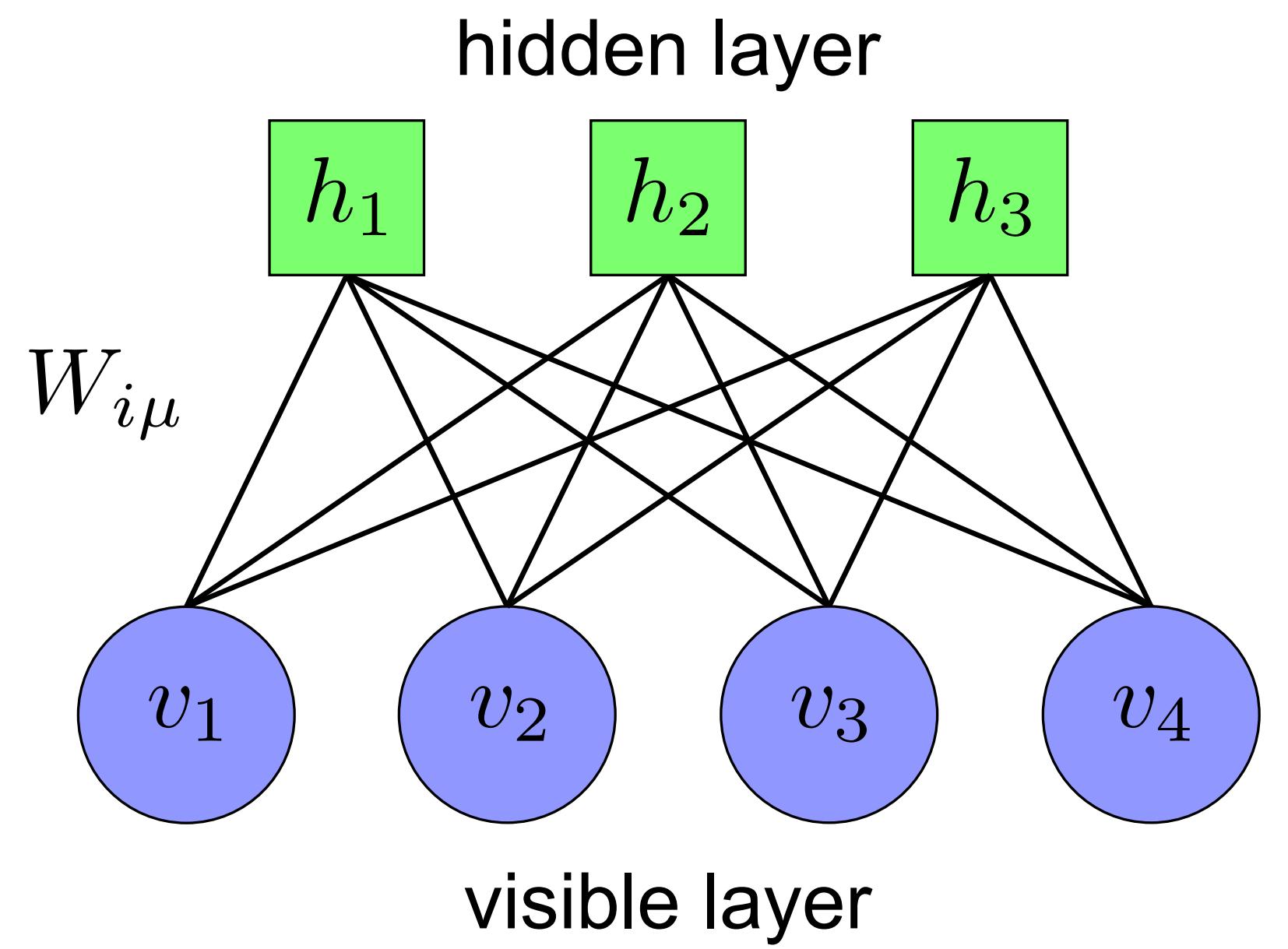
Qiu, PLoS Comp. Biol (2023)



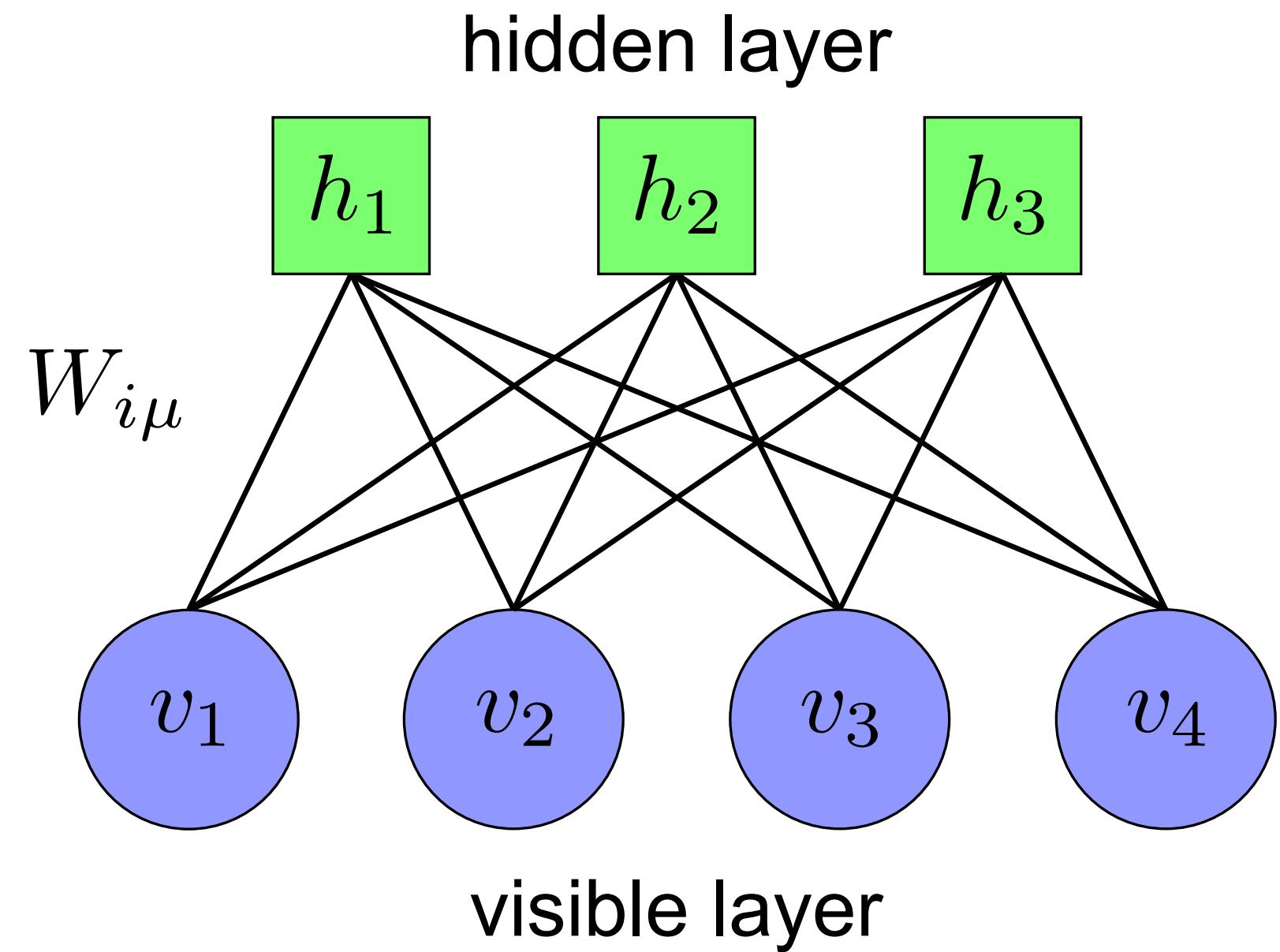
Statistical inference of base-pairs from SHAPE data



Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)



Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)

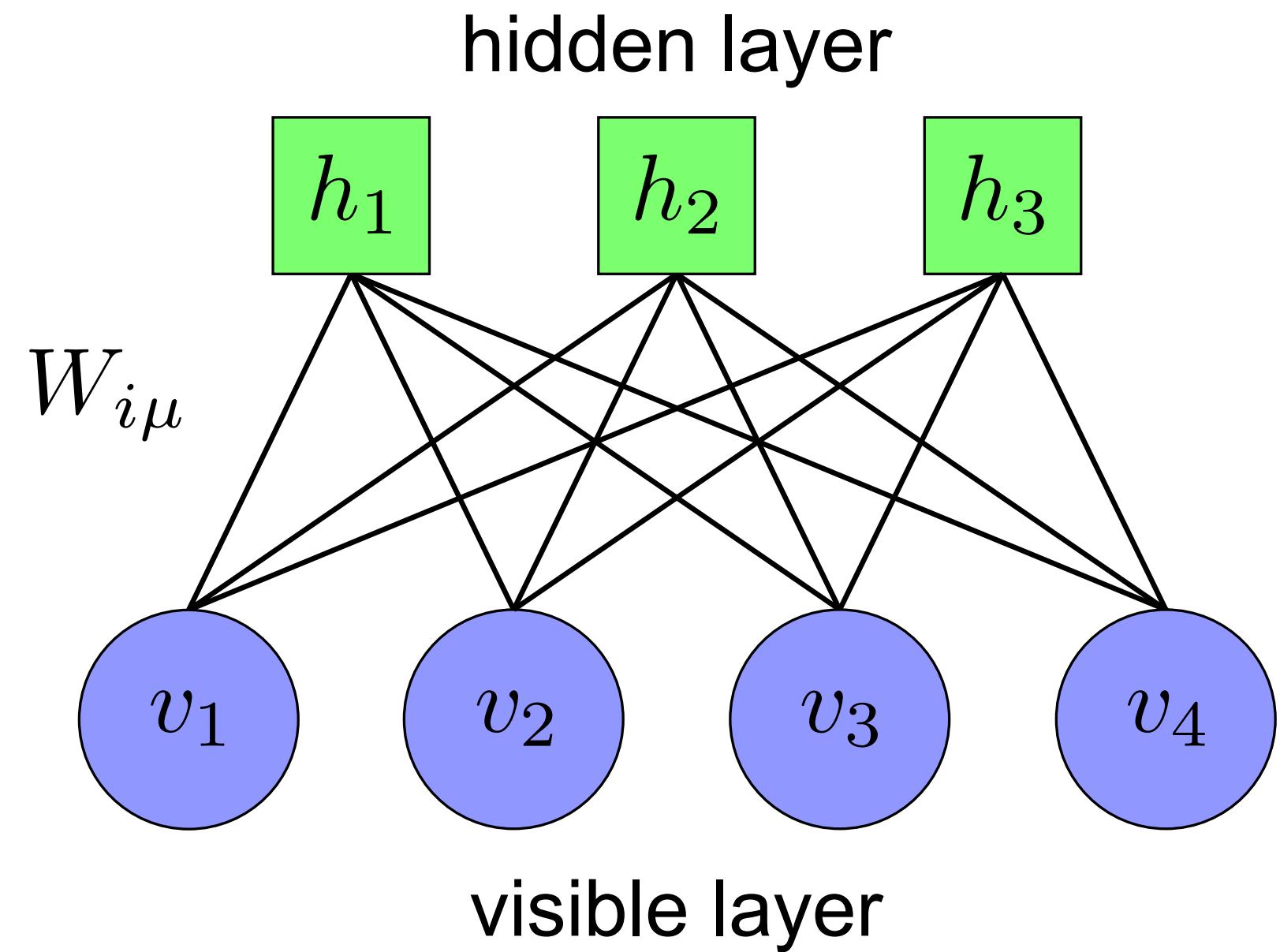


Likelihood: $P_v(\mathbf{v}) = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{\mathbf{h}} e^{-E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h})} = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-E_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{v})}$

where $E_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{v}) = \sum_i \mathcal{V}_i(v_i) - \sum_{\mu} \ln \int e^{\sum_i w_{i\mu} v_i h_{\mu}} - \mathcal{U}_{\mu}(h_{\mu})$

\mathbf{v} = the RNA sequence

Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)



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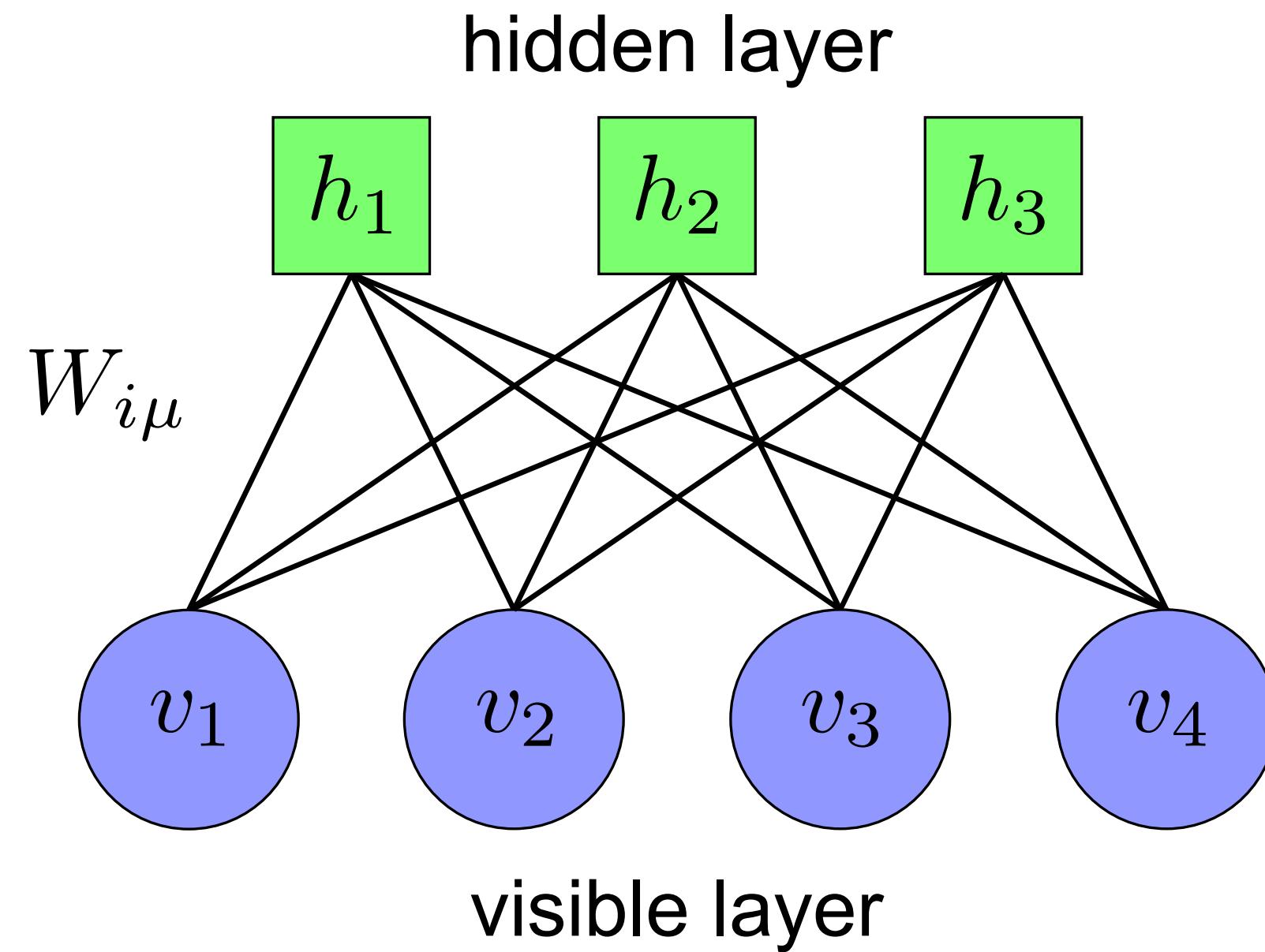
where $E_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{v}) = \sum_i \mathcal{V}_i(v_i) - \sum_{\mu} \ln \int e^{\sum_i w_{i\mu} v_i h_{\mu}} - \mathcal{U}_{\mu}(h_{\mu})$

\mathbf{v} = the RNA sequence

Model is trained, by finding parameters that maximise the likelihood of the data MSA

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \omega} = \underbrace{\left\langle \frac{\partial(-E_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{v}))}{\partial \omega} \right\rangle}_{\text{positive gradient}}_{\text{MSA}} - \underbrace{\left\langle \frac{\partial(-E_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{v}))}{\partial \omega} \right\rangle}_{\text{negative gradient}}_{\text{RBM}}$$

Restricted Boltzmann Machines (RBM)



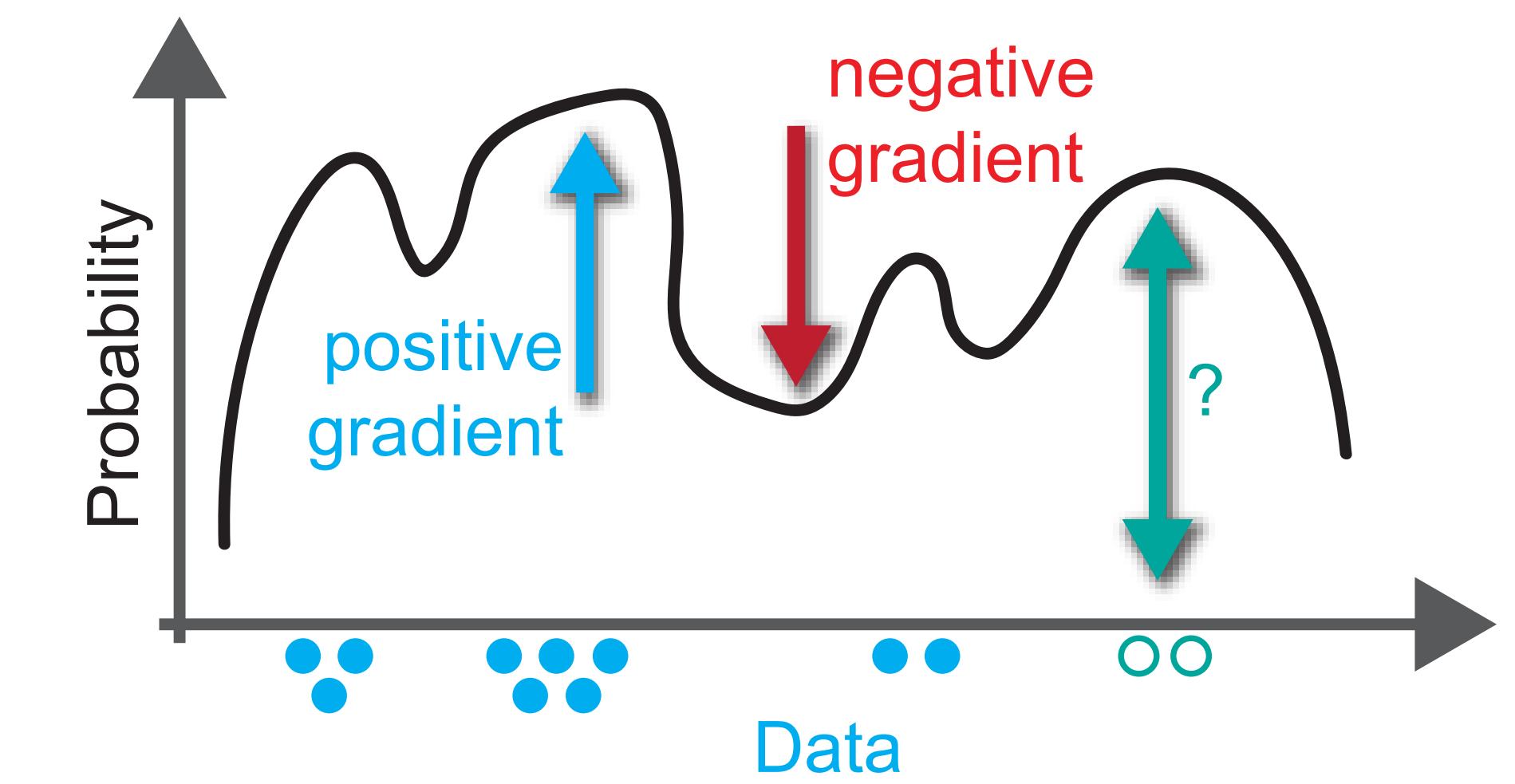
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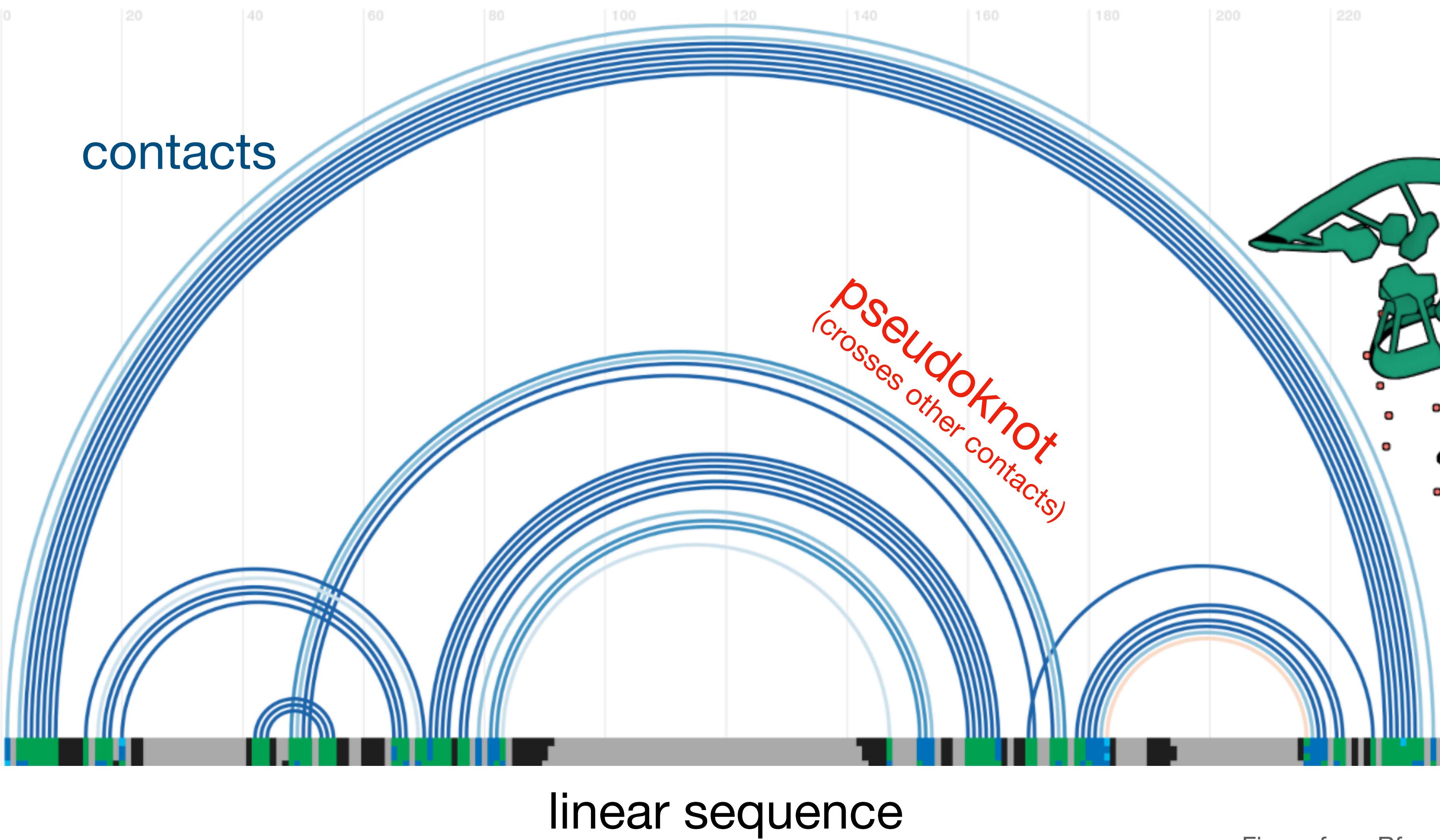
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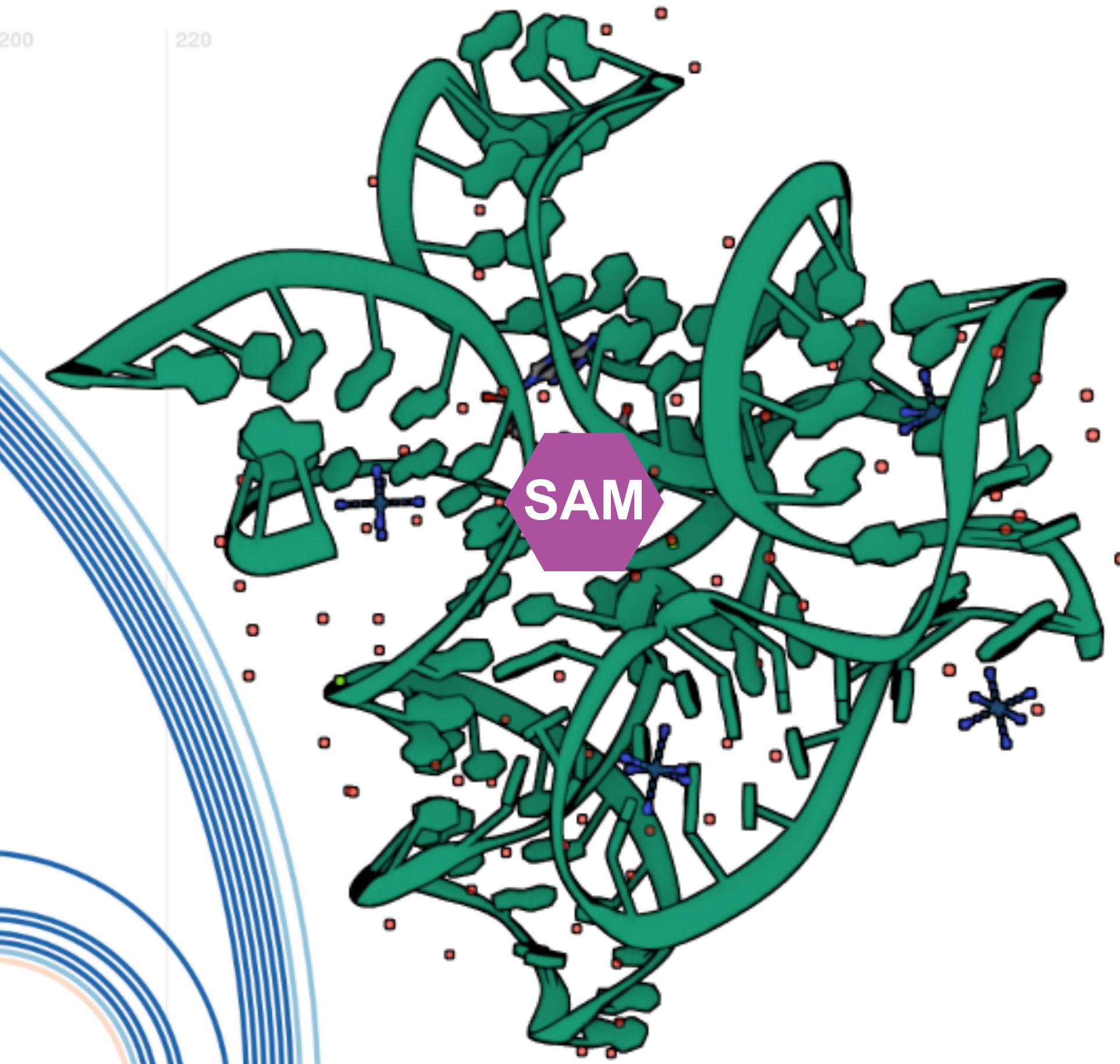


SAM riboswitches

Arc diagram



3D structure



PCA of RF00162 MSA

