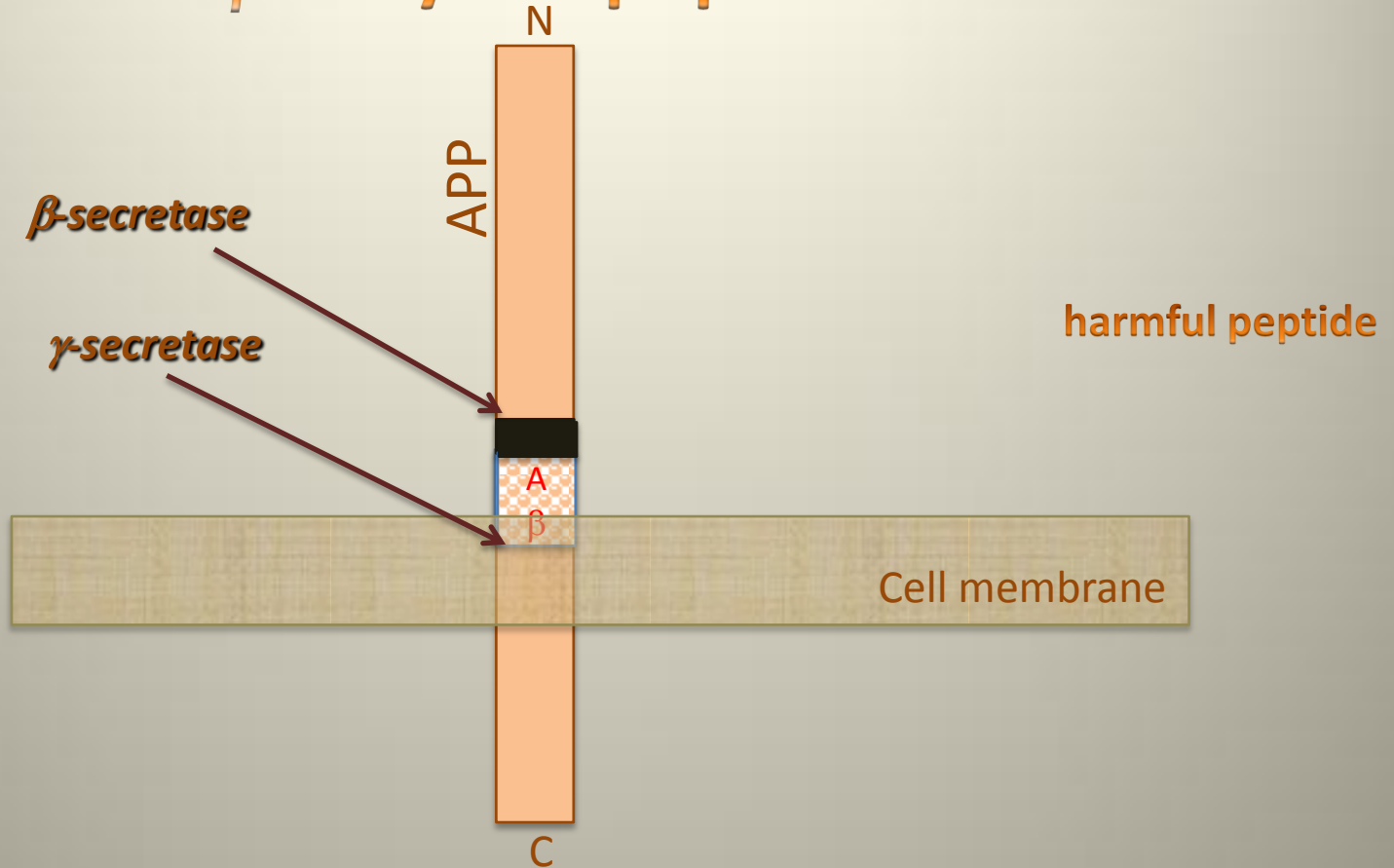


Zn induced structural aggregation patterns  
*of  $\beta$ -amyloid peptides*  
by  
*first-principle simulations*  
and  
*XAS measurements*

P Giannozzi, K Jansen, G La Penna, V Minicozzi, S Morante, GC Rossi, F Stellato

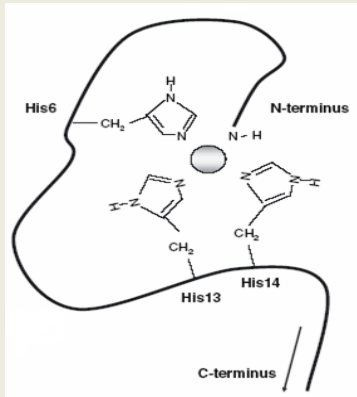
# $\beta$ -amyloid peptides



APP: transmembrane 770 a.a.'s protein



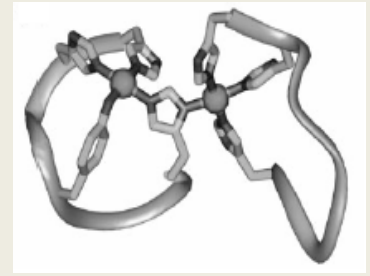
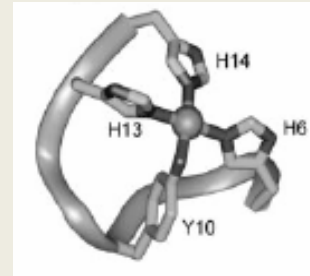
**Cu<sup>2+</sup>**



**NMR**

J. Danielsson et al. (2007) *FEBS* 271:1-6

**Cu<sup>2+</sup>** *dimer*

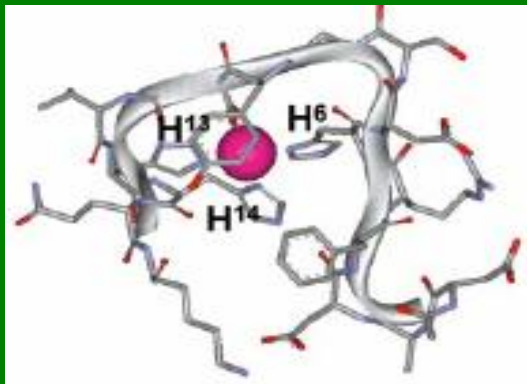


**EPR**

A.K. Tickler et al. (2005) *JBC* 280:13355

# XAS

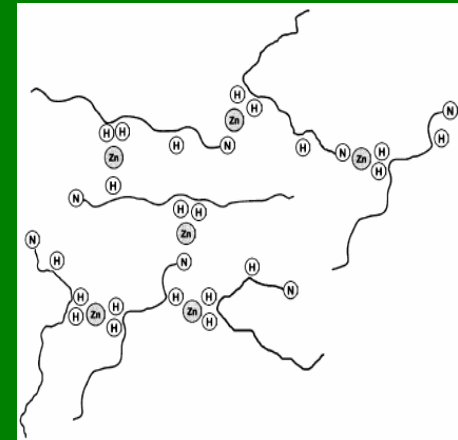
**Zn<sup>2+</sup>**



**NMR**

S. Zirah et al. (2006) *JBC* 281:2151

**Zn<sup>2+</sup>**



**NMR**

Syme & Viles (2006) *BBA* 1764:246



Amino acidic sequence of the five measured Aβ fragments

Oligopeptide	a.a. Sequence
Aβ <sub>1-16</sub>	H <sub>3</sub> N <sup>+</sup> -DAEFRHDSGYEVHHQK-COO <sup>-</sup>
Aβ <sub>1-28</sub>	H <sub>3</sub> N <sup>+</sup> -DAEFRHDSGYEVHHQKLVFFAEDVGSNK-COO <sup>-</sup>
Aβ <sub>5-23</sub>	H <sub>3</sub> N <sup>+</sup> -RHDSGYEVHHQKLVFFAED-COOH <sub>3</sub> N <sup>+</sup>
Aβ <sub>17-40</sub>	H <sub>3</sub> N <sup>+</sup> -LVFFAEDVGSNKGAIIGLMVGGVV-COO <sup>-</sup>
Aβ <sub>1-40</sub>	H <sub>3</sub> N <sup>+</sup> -DAEFRHDSGYEVHHQKLVFFAEDVGSNKGAIIGLMVGGVV-COO <sup>-</sup>



containing all three His's



containing no His



hydrophobic region



N-terminal region

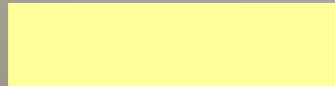
# XAS results

$\text{Cu}^{2+}/\text{Zn}^{2+}-\text{A}\beta_{17-40} = \text{Cu}^{2+}/\text{Zn}^{2+}-\text{buffer}$

$\text{Cu}^{2+}-\text{A}\beta_{1-16} = \text{Cu}^{2+}-\text{A}\beta_{1-28} = \text{Cu}^{2+}-\text{A}\beta_{1-40}$

$\text{Zn}^{2+}-\text{A}\beta_{1-16} = \text{Zn}^{2+}-\text{A}\beta_{1-28} = \text{Zn}^{2+}-\text{A}\beta_{5-23} = \text{Zn}^{2+}-\text{A}\beta_{1-40}$

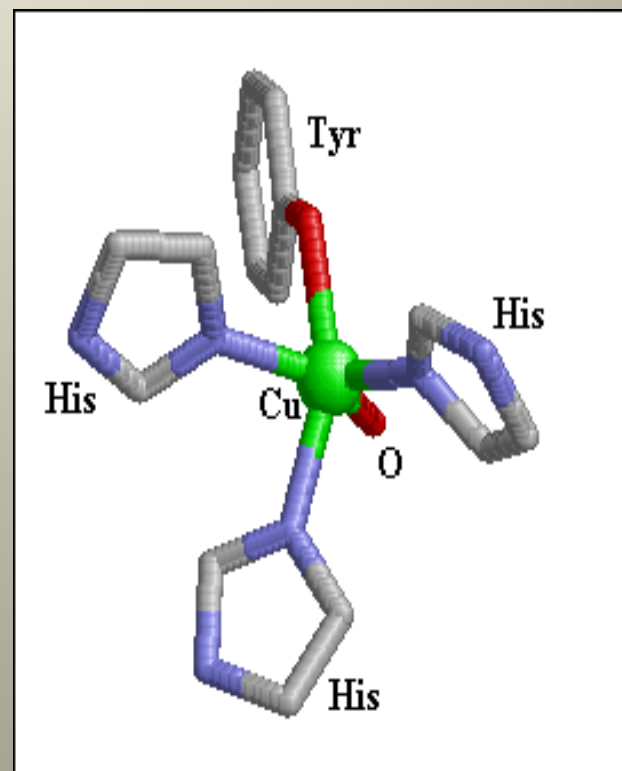
$\text{Cu}^{2+}-\text{A}\beta_{5-23} \neq \text{Cu}^{2+}-\text{A}\beta_{1-40}$



fitted spectra

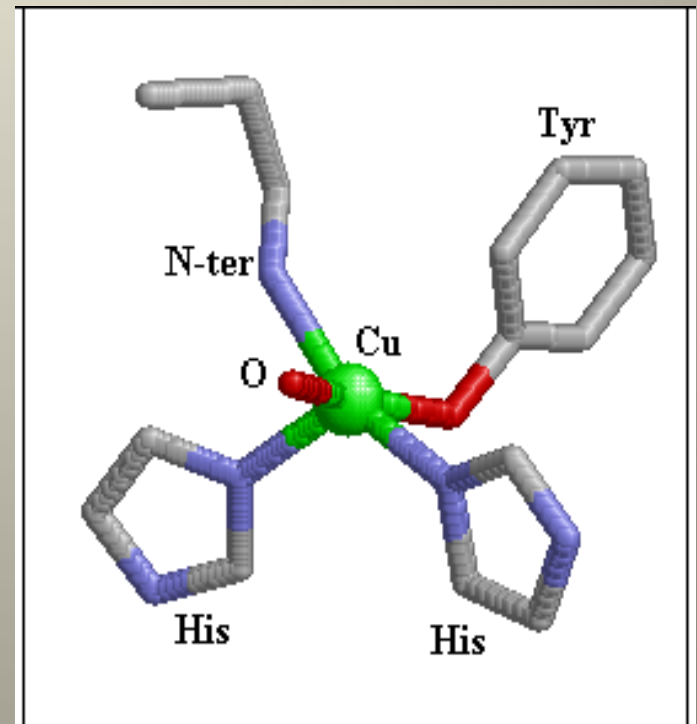
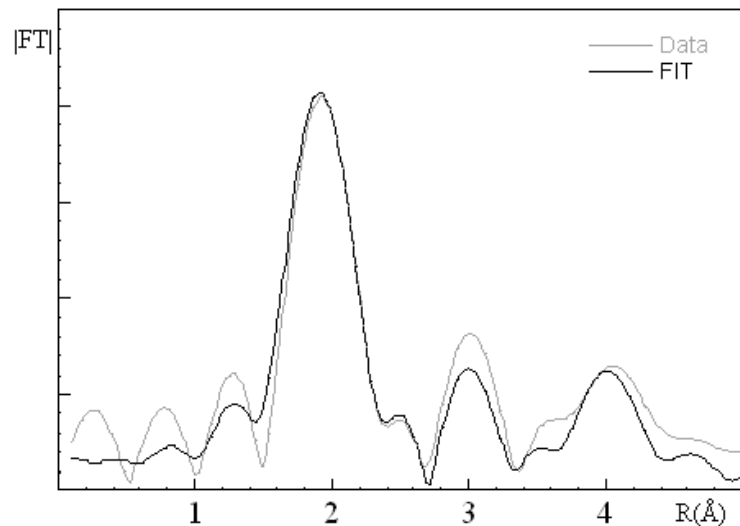
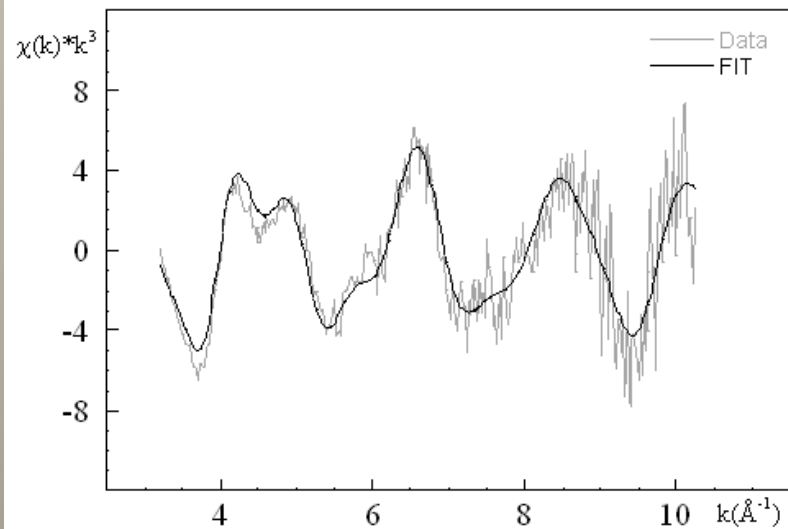
# Cu- $\text{A}\beta_{1-16}$

- 3 Histidines
- 1 Tyrosine
- 1  $\text{OH}^-$



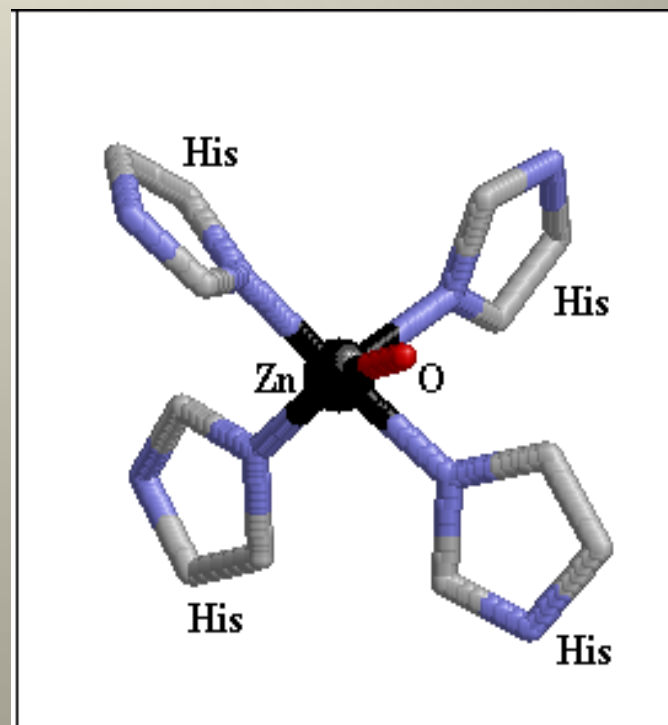
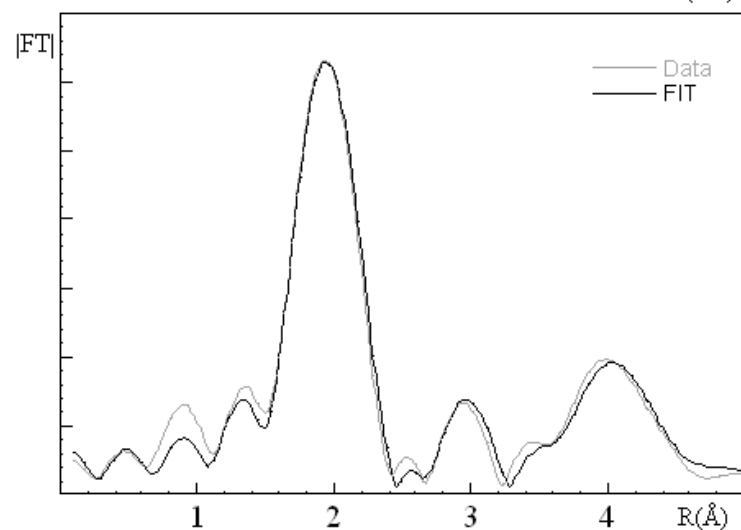
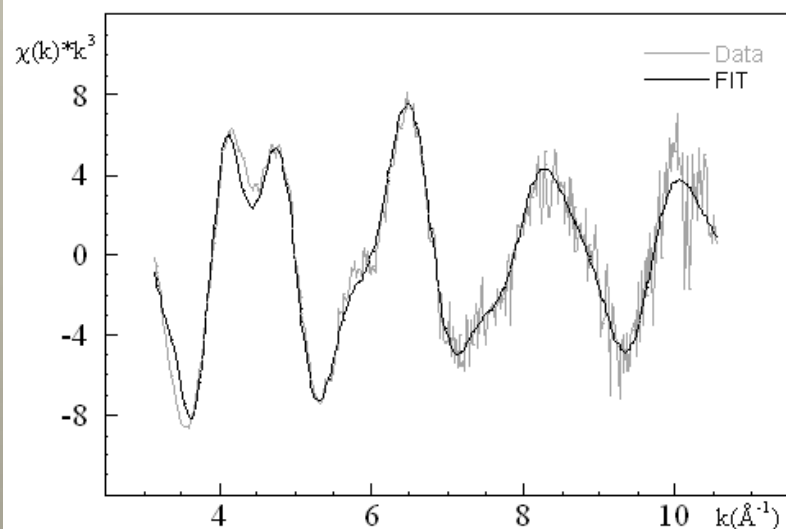
# Cu-A $\beta$ <sub>5-23</sub>

- 2 Histidines
- 1 N-term
- 1 Tyrosine
- 1 OH<sup>-</sup>



# Zn-A $\beta$ <sub>1-16</sub>

- 4 Histidines
- 1 OH<sup>-</sup>

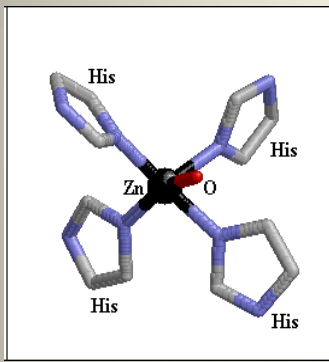




# Conclusions from XAS data analysis

- Metal binding site lies within the first **16** aminoacids
- **Cu<sup>2+</sup>** and **Zn<sup>2+</sup>** have different binding geometry
- **Cu<sup>2+</sup>-A $\beta$**  intra-molecular binding
- **Zn<sup>2+</sup>-A $\beta$**  inter-molecular binding, suggesting aggregation
- **Very crowded Zn coordination**

- Stellato et al., *Eur Biophys J* (2006) **35**: 340
- Minicozzi.V. et al., *J Biol Chem* (2008) **283**:10784



**DAEFRHDSGYEVHHQKLVFFAEDVGSNKGAIIGLMVGGVVIA**

Which structure stabilizes this (very crowded) 4 His's coordination?

Out of 5854 PDB entries containing at least one Zn  
only in

- 1PB0 (monomer)
- 1HWT and 1QP9 (dimer)

Zn is coordinated to 4 His's

In our case two pairs of consecutive His's residues  
from two adjacent A $\beta$ -peptides

**Cu,Zn-superoxide dismutase (Cu,Zn-SOD)**

- XAS data provide structural information only within about 5-6 Å from the absorber
- *numerical* simulations can give information about the whole system

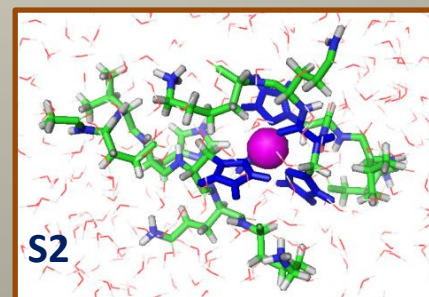
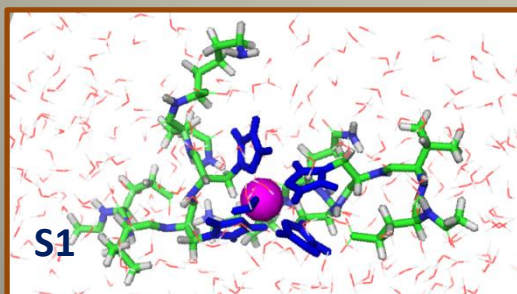
## Building a model system

- 4 initial configurational models, formed by
- 2 identical  $A\beta_{1-16}$  chains, A&B, with Zn bound to N $\delta$  of His14<sup>(A)</sup>&His14<sup>(B)</sup>
- all others dihedral angles are randomly tried (MCRW)
- many configurations produced, few selected ← structural constraints
- configurations with “bad” contacts automatically discarded

Name	Starting configuration

S1 and S2: 11-16 truncated peptide chains  
+ 376 TIP3P water molecules

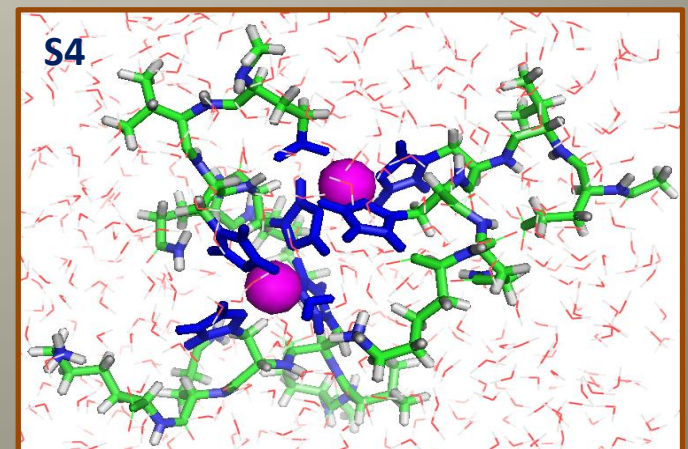
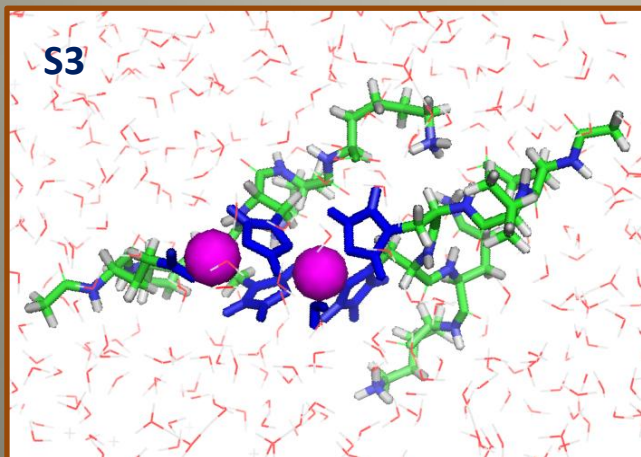
S2: (3+½) His



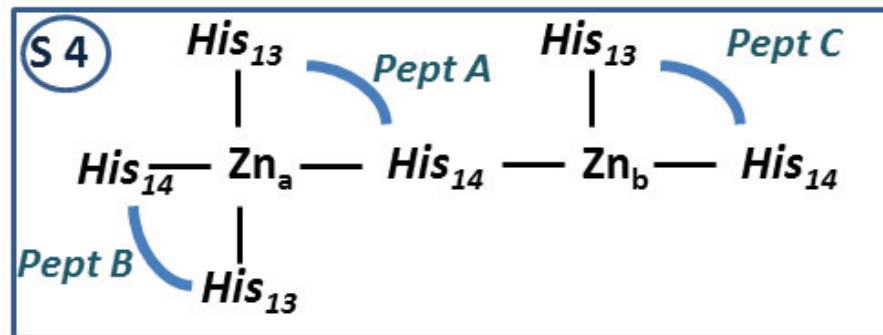
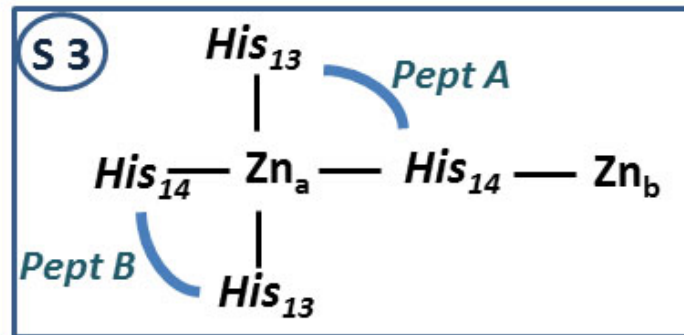
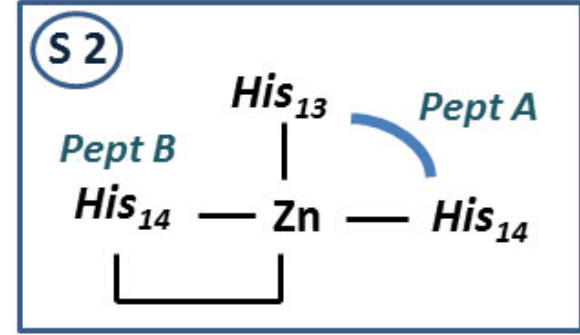
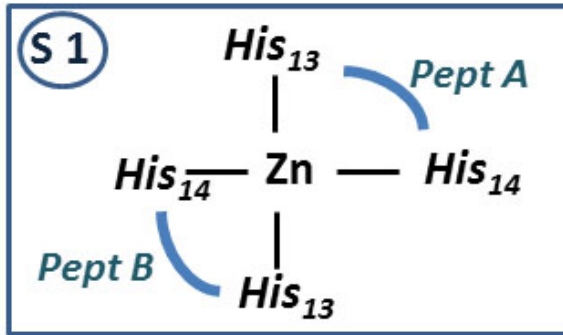
Name	Starting configuration
S3	$Zn_a: 4N_{His} + 1O_W$ $Zn_b: 1N_{His} + 2O_{Glu}$

S3: from S1  $\rightarrow$  replace H $\epsilon$  of His 14<sup>(A)</sup>  $\rightarrow$  Zn<sub>b</sub>

S4: from S3 add an extra chain C (11-16 fragment)

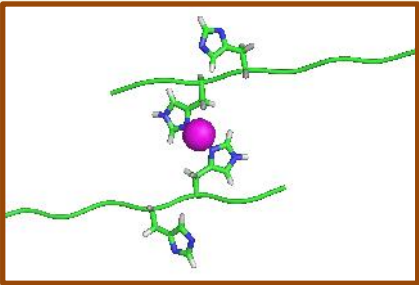


# In summary



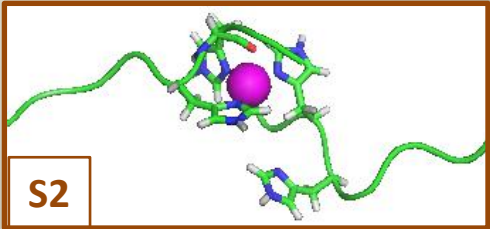
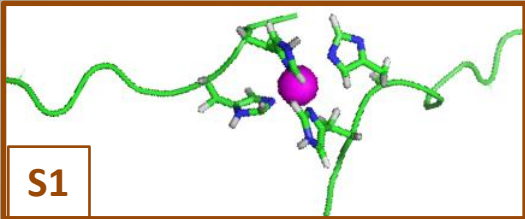
# Simulation strategy

## S1 and S2 models



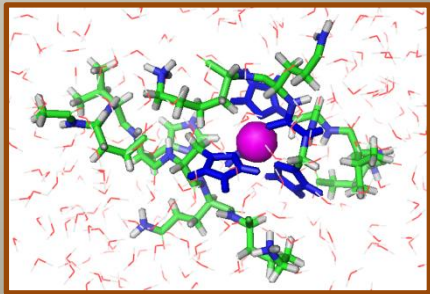
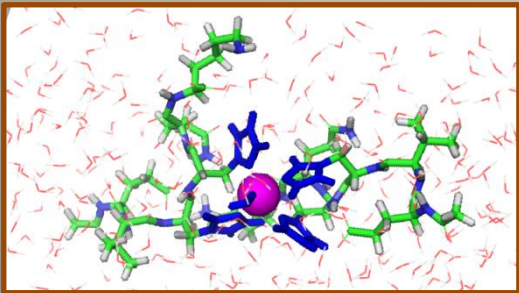
MD

MC



MD

MD



MD to relax water

MD to relax water

TB & BOMD

TB & BOMD

CPMD

CPMD

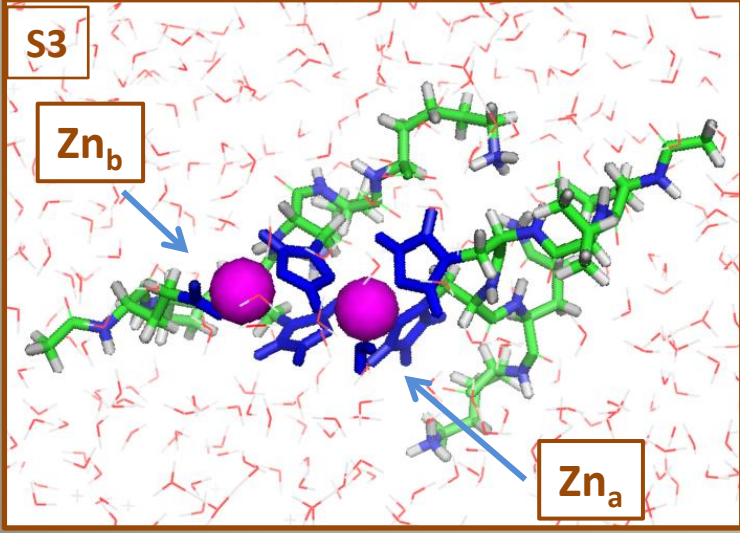
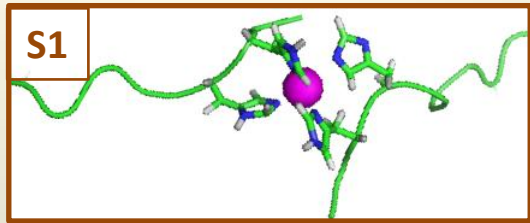
Step 1

Step 2

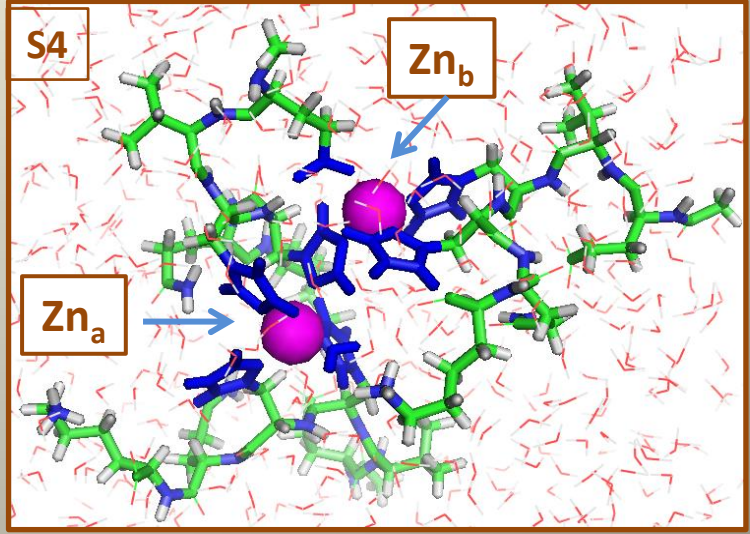
Step 3

# Simulation strategy

## S3 and S4 models



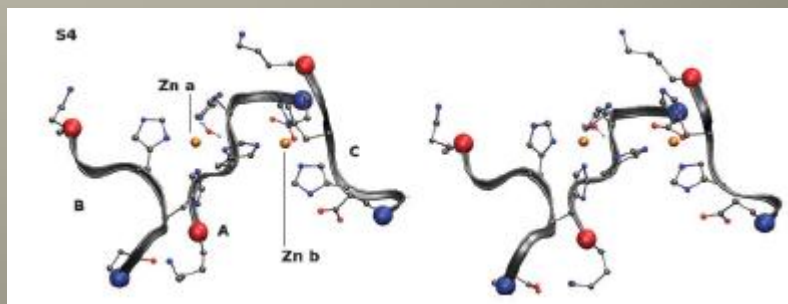
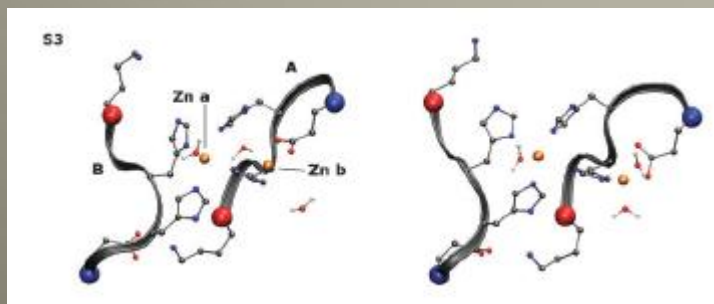
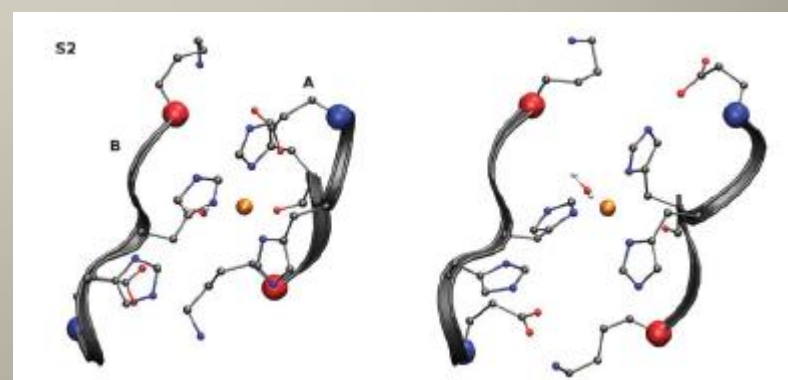
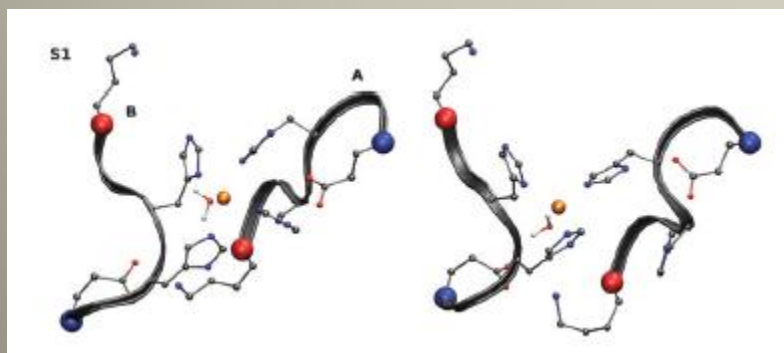
↓  
MD to relax water  
↓  
TB & BOMD  
↓  
CPMD

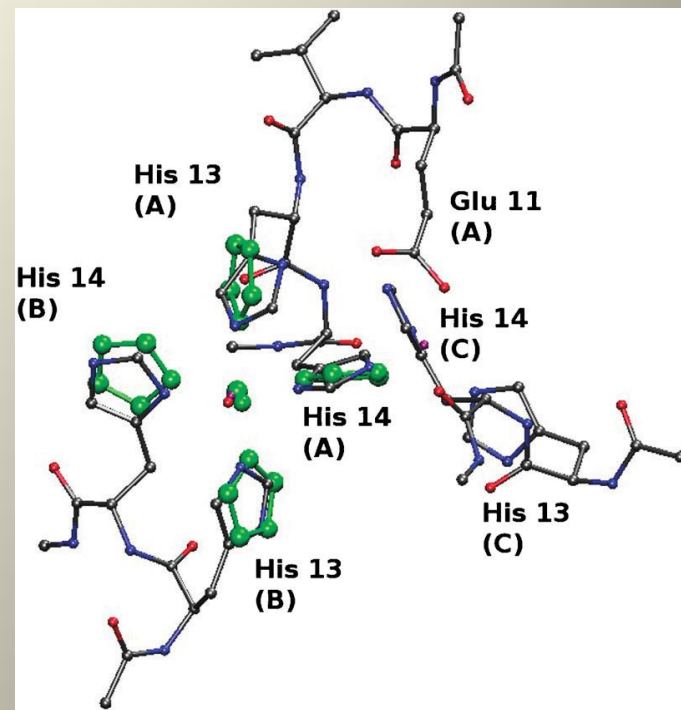
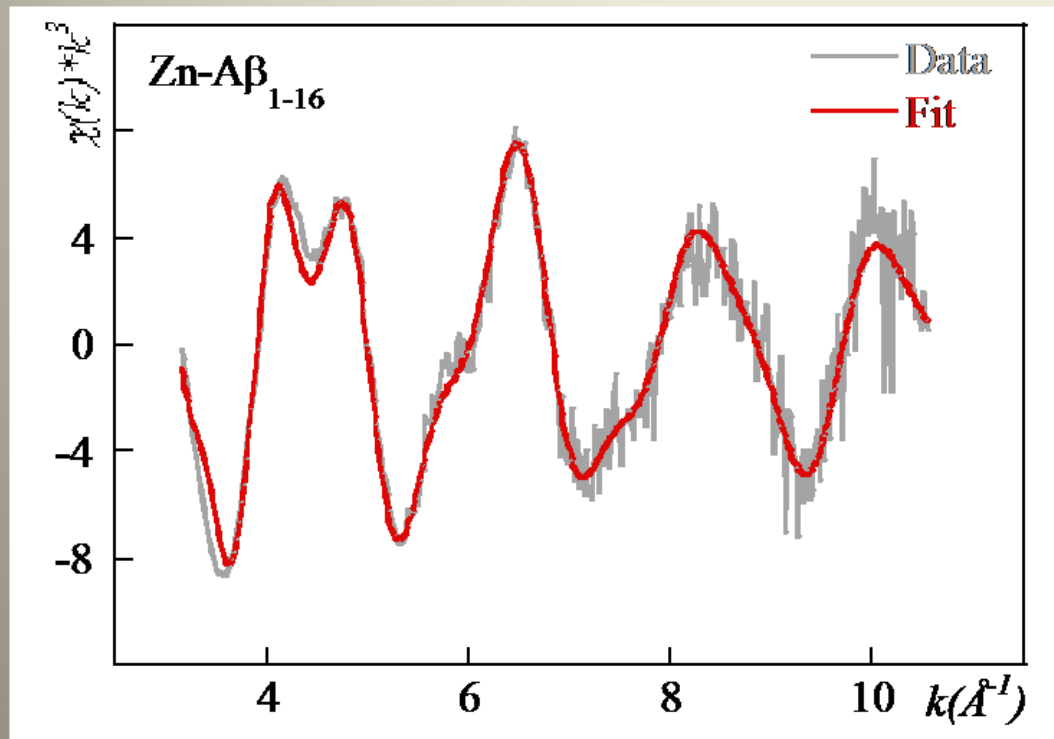


↓  
MD to relax water  
↓  
TB & BOMD  
↓  
CPMD IF NEW MACHINE!



Name	Starting configuration	Zn-binding modification		Final Zn coordination
		0 - 250 K	300 K	
S1	Zn: $4N_{\text{His}} + 1O_{\text{W}}$	$-1N_{\text{His}}$	none	3N1O
S2	Zn: $3N_{\text{His}} + 1O_{\text{His}} + 1O_{\text{W}}$	$-1O_{\text{His}}$	none	3N1O
S3	Zn <sub>a</sub> : $4N_{\text{His}} + 1O_{\text{W}}$ Zn <sub>b</sub> : $1N_{\text{His}} + 2O_{\text{Glu}}$	Zn <sub>b</sub> : $+1O_{\text{W}}$	Zn <sub>b</sub> : $-1O_{\text{Glu}} + 1O_{\text{W}}$	Zn <sub>a</sub> : 4N1O Zn <sub>b</sub> : 1N3O
S4	Zn <sub>a</sub> : $4N_{\text{His}} + 1O_{\text{W}}$ Zn <sub>b</sub> : $3N_{\text{His}} + 1O_{\text{Glu}}$	none	none	Zn <sub>a</sub> : 4N1O Zn <sub>b</sub> : 3N1O





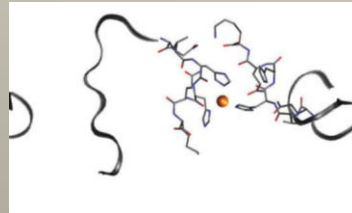
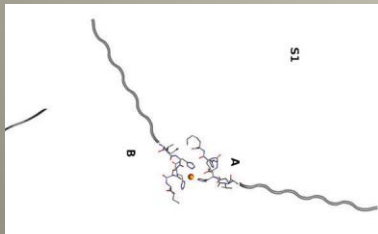
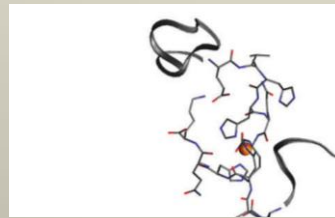
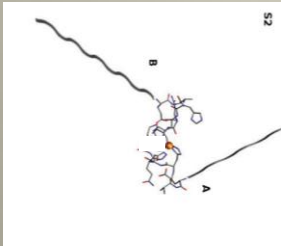
# Effects of the long-range coordination topology

1–10 regions in the *all-trans* configuration is added

in vacuum

11–16 peptides and Zn atoms → were kept fixed

A few ps of classical simulations



S1

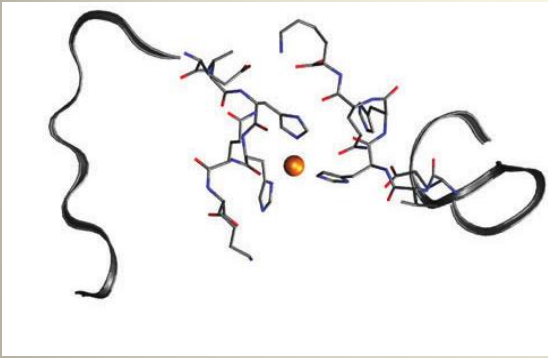
Low mutual interaction

Intra-peptide collapse

S2

S4

enhanced chance of interaction

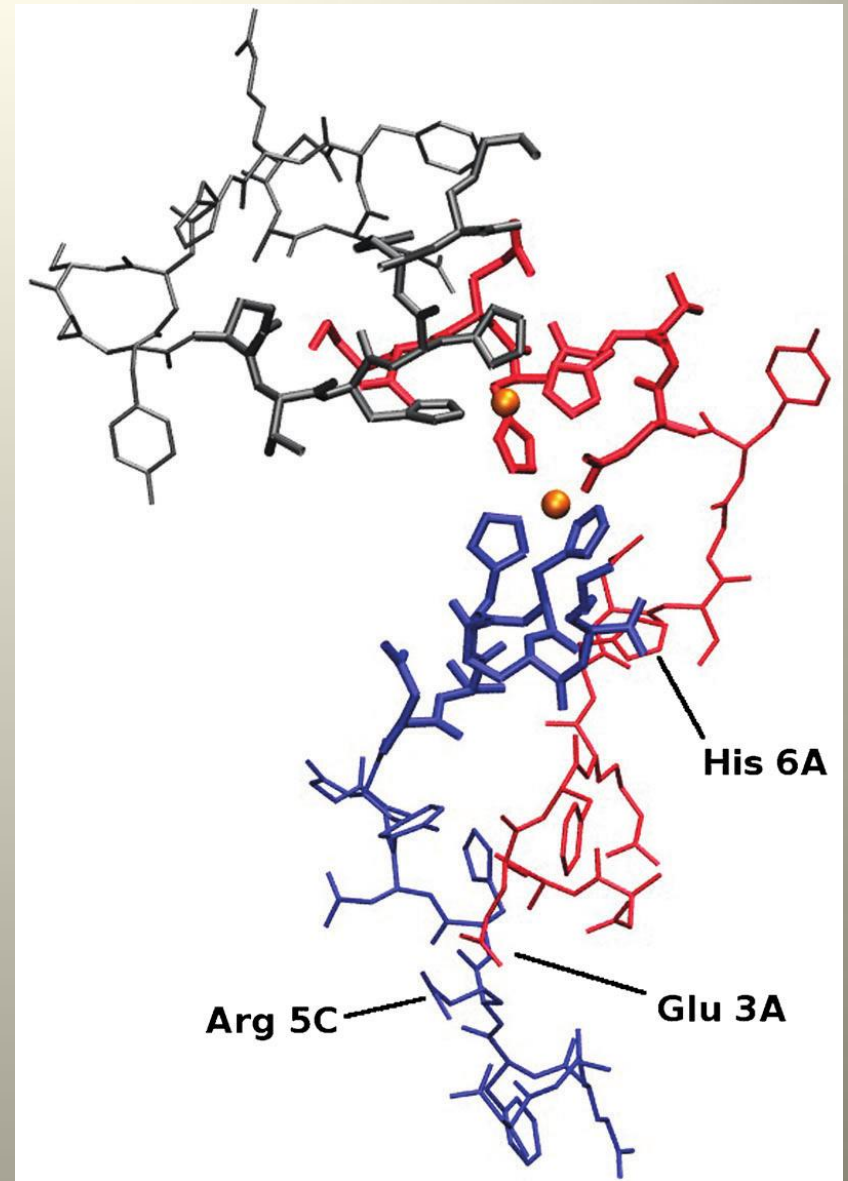


1739 empirical water molecules

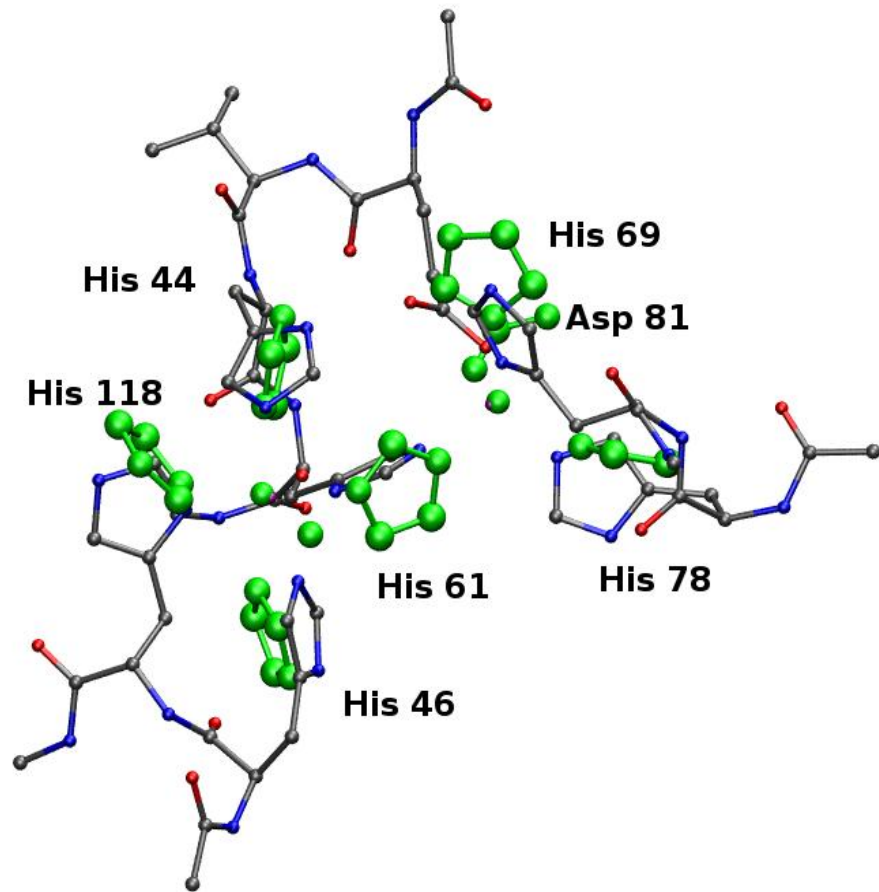
500 ps at  $T = 300\text{ K}$

simulations confirm  
what was found in vacuum

quite strong interactions stabilize  
the mutual wrapping configuration  
of two of the three chains



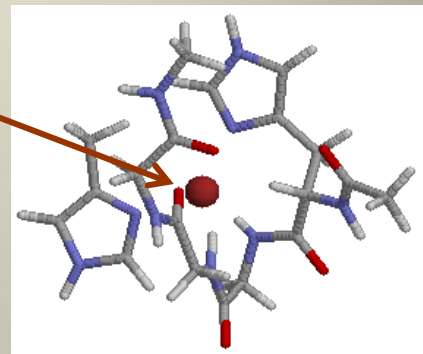
Stable structure is similar to that of Cu(I),Zn-SOD



Comparison between the atomic structure of **reduced bovine SOD enzyme** (PDB 1SXA), in green, and the last S4 configuration

# Conclusions

# XAS - EXAFS



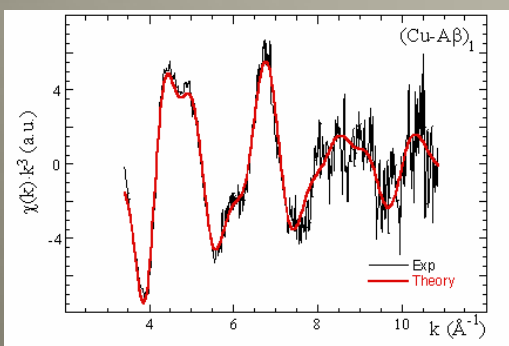
Data analysis



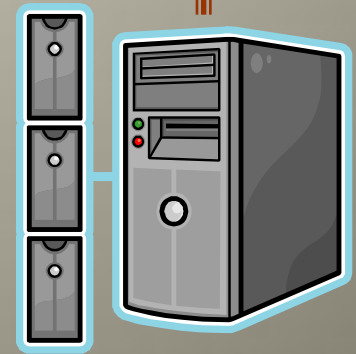
Data refinement

Structural information

Structural model



Ab initio calculations



**Thank you**