

## Improving molecular replacement with morphing

*NECAT Workshop on Advances in Moderate to Low Resolution  
Phasing and Refinement  
Sept. 19, 2011, Rockefeller University*

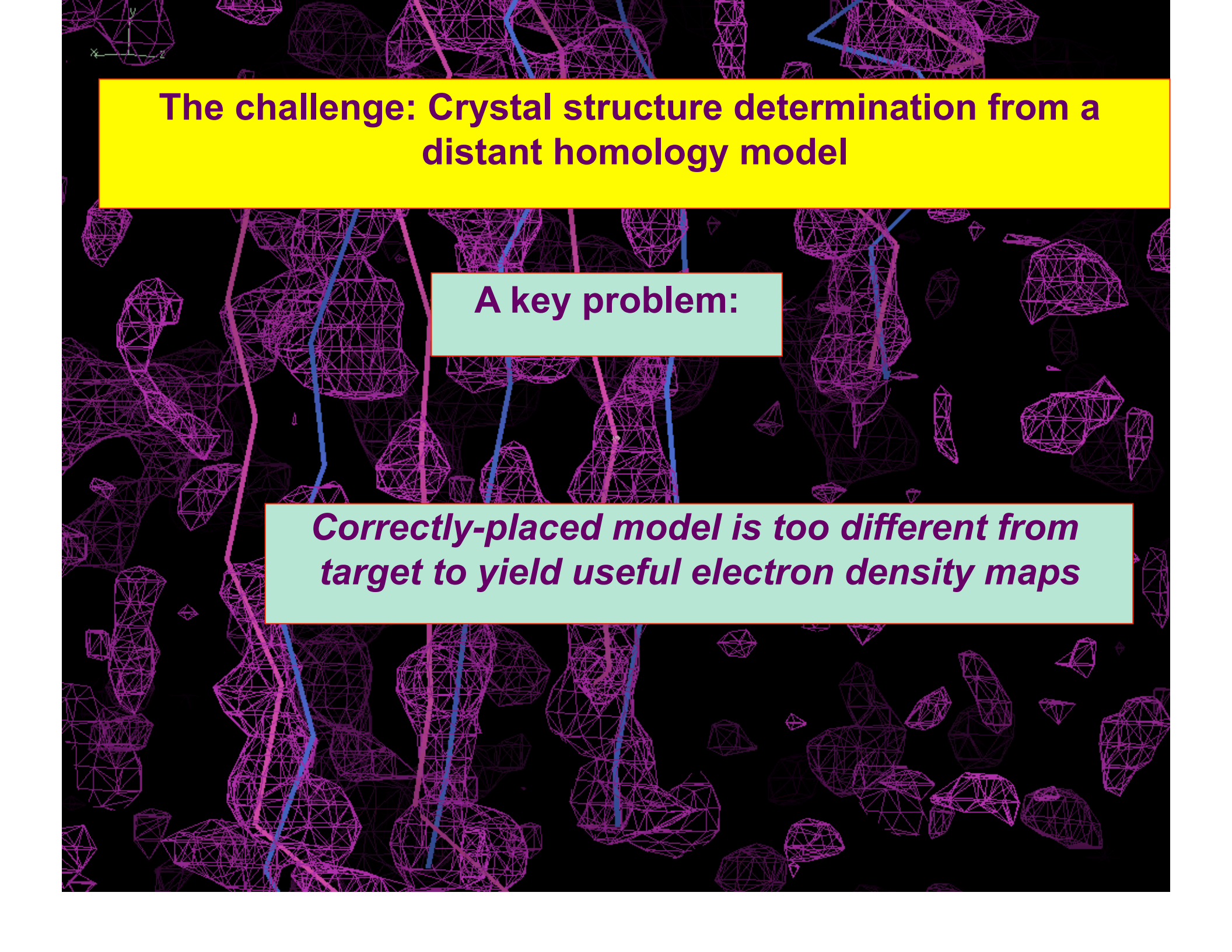
Tom Terwilliger (Los Alamos National Laboratory)

Randy Read (Cambridge University)

Paul Adams (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory)

Axel Brunger (Stanford University)

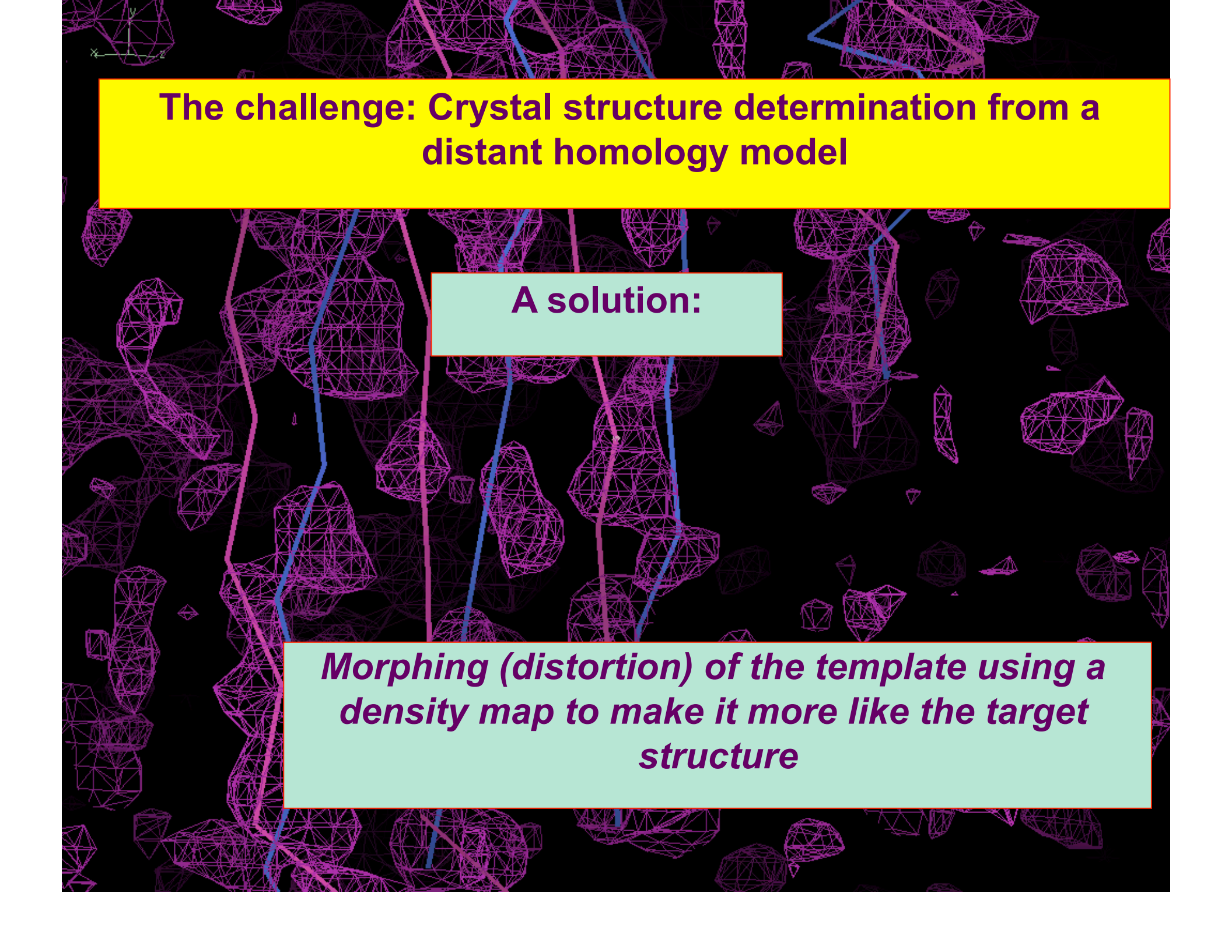




**The challenge: Crystal structure determination from a distant homology model**

**A key problem:**

***Correctly-placed model is too different from target to yield useful electron density maps***



**The challenge: Crystal structure determination from a distant homology model**

**A solution:**

***Morphing (distortion) of the template using a density map to make it more like the target structure***

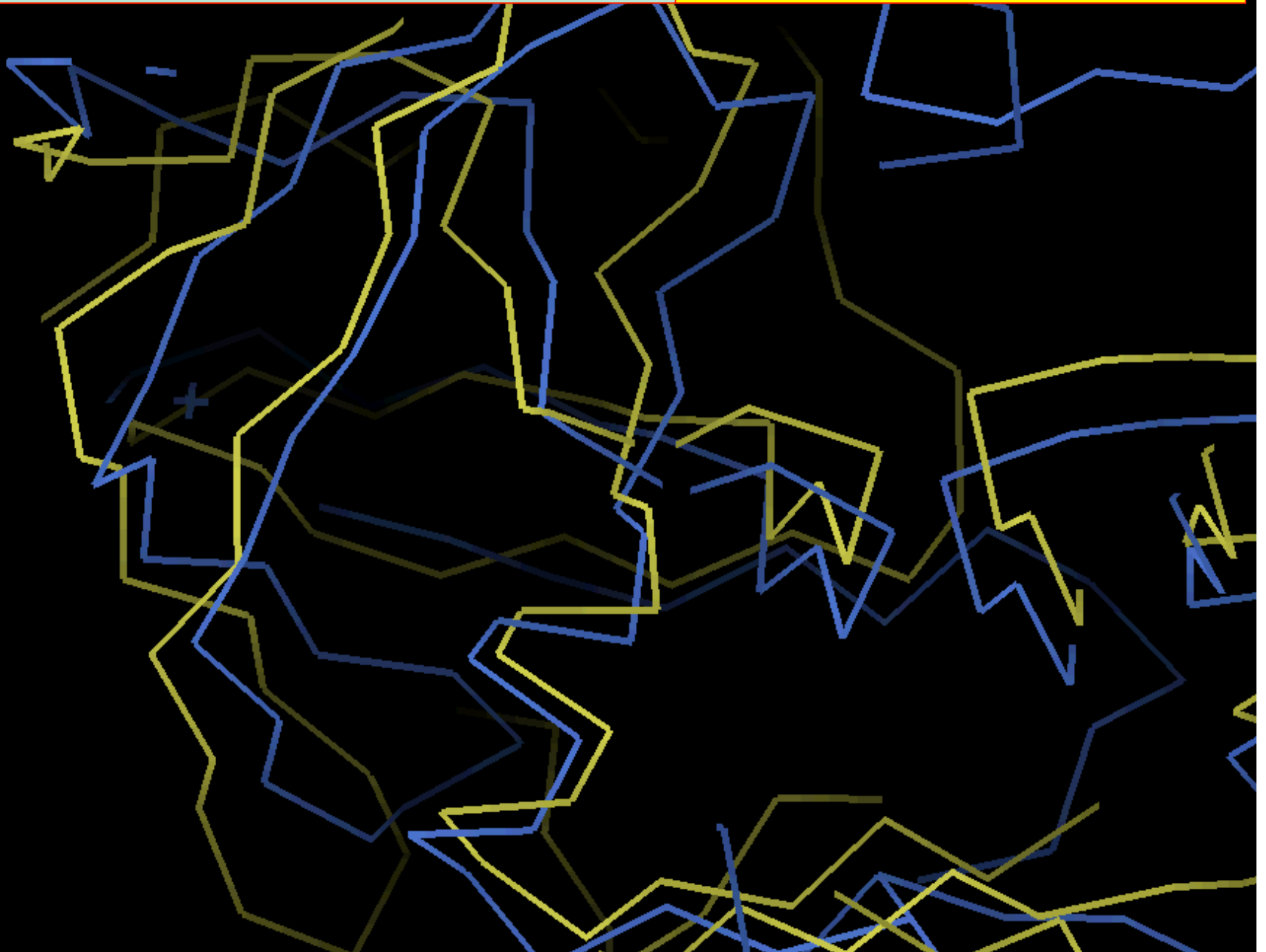
Related structures often have high local similarity

*ag9603*; approximate NMR model as template in pink



Related structures often have high local similarity

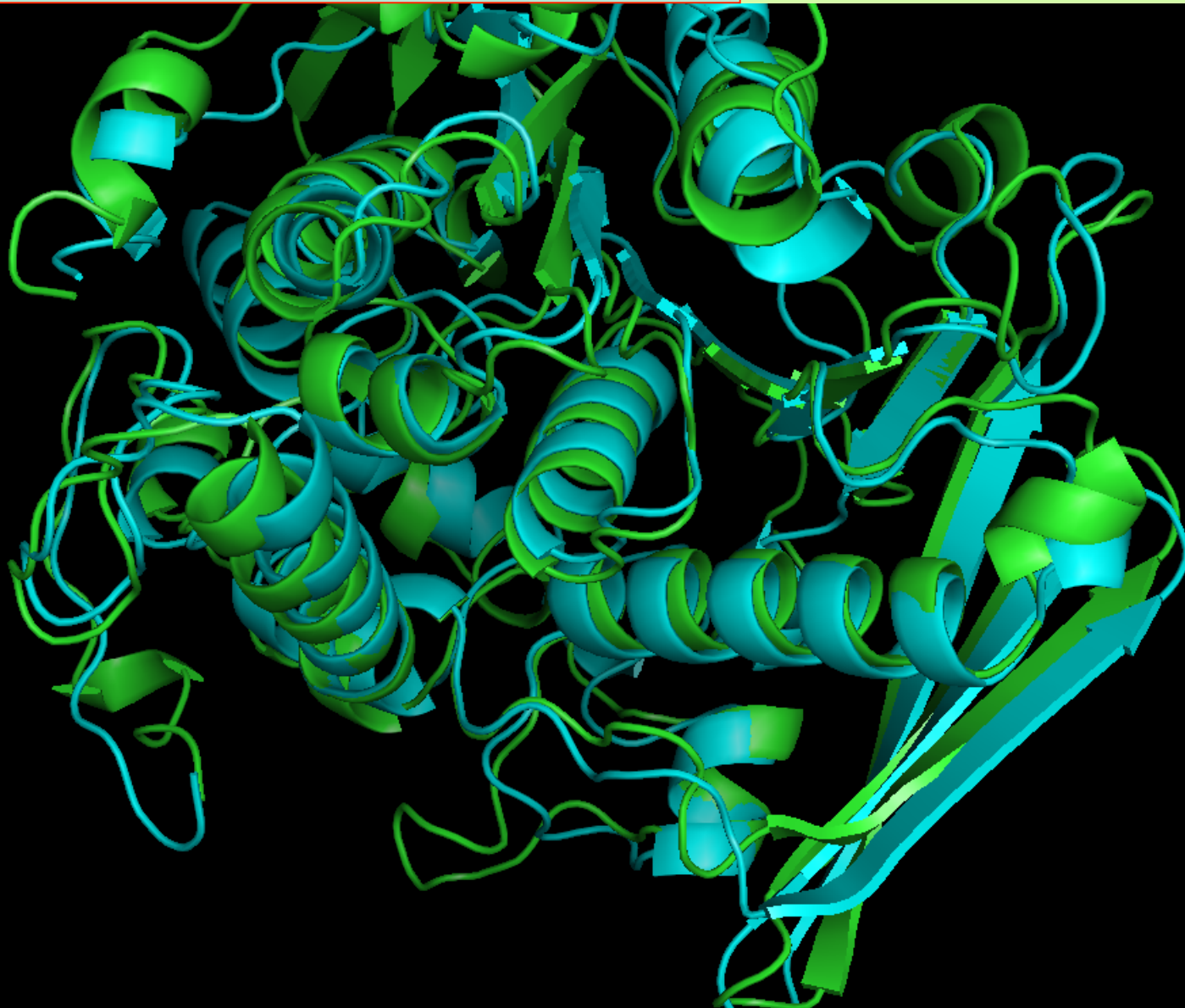
*XMRV PR*, 30% identity template (2hs1) in blue



**Related structures often have high local similarity**

***cab55348***

*32% identical template (Cip2)  
in blue*



Taking advantage of local similarities  
of homologous structures

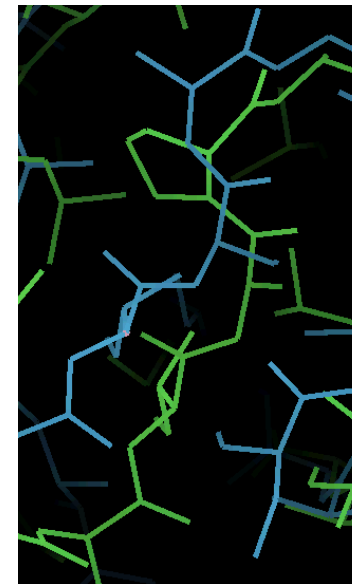
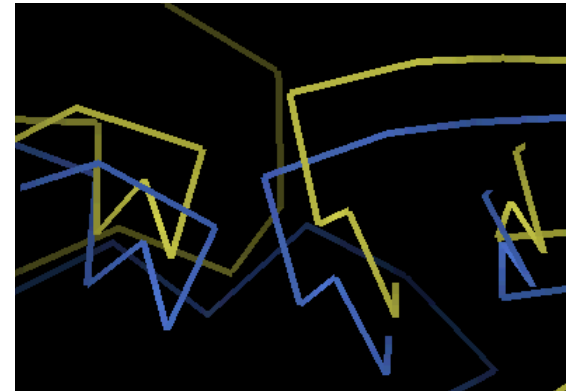
Rigid-body refinement of segments

Fragment searches (FFFEAR, ESSENS)

DEN or jelly-body refinement

Rosetta modeling

Morphing

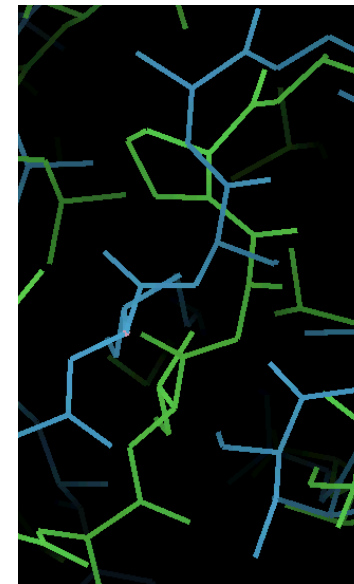
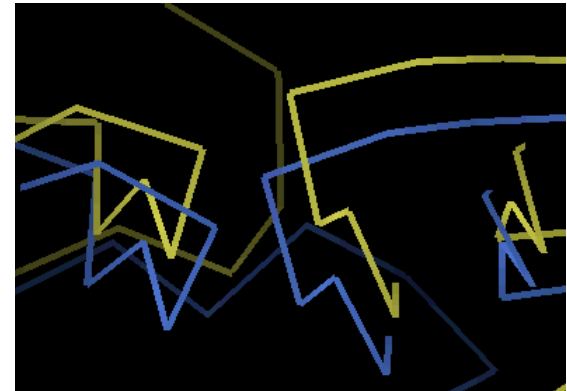


## Morphing

Local structures may superimpose very closely

The position of a large group of atoms can be identified accurately with a poor map

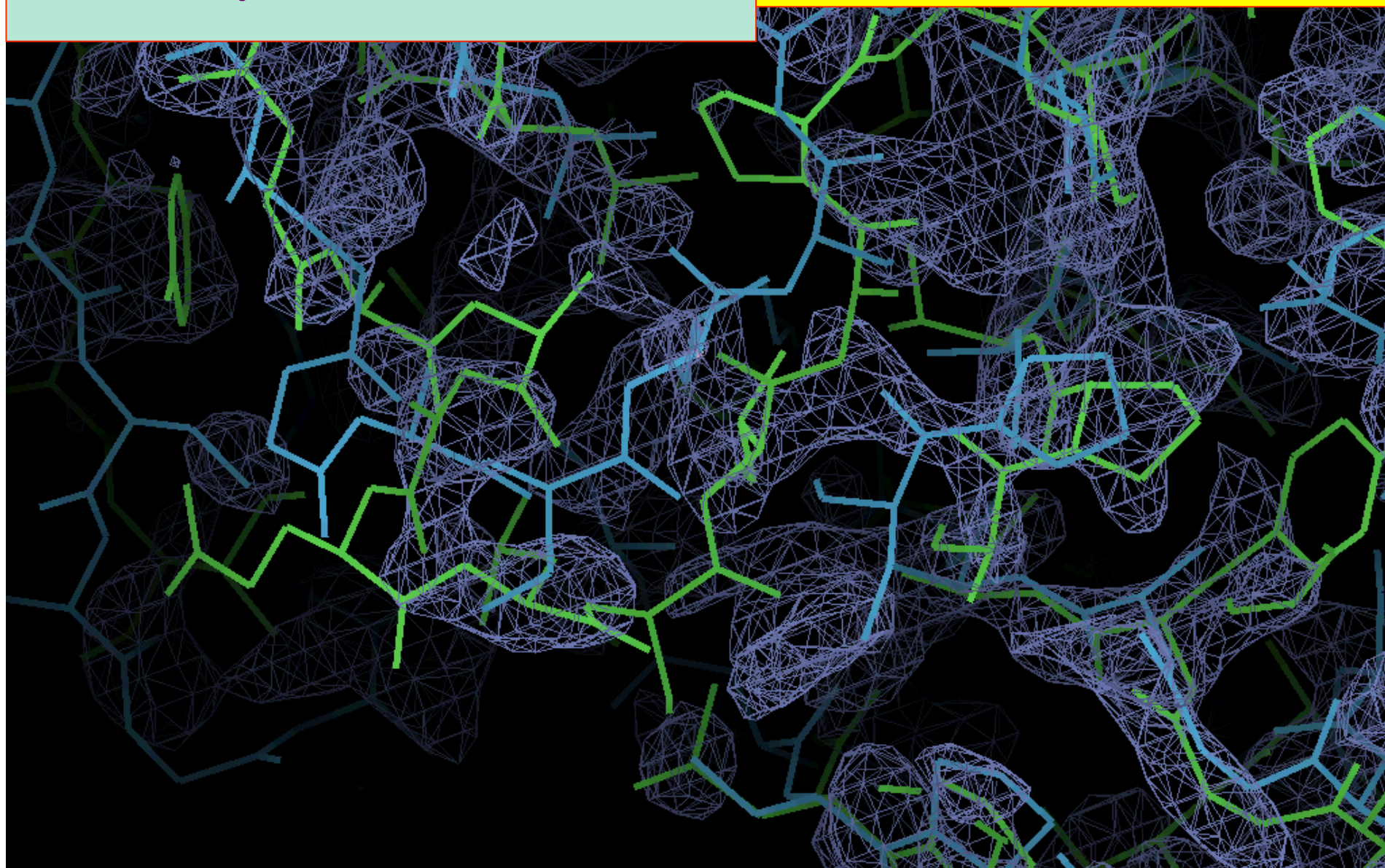
Relationship between structures may be a simple distortion





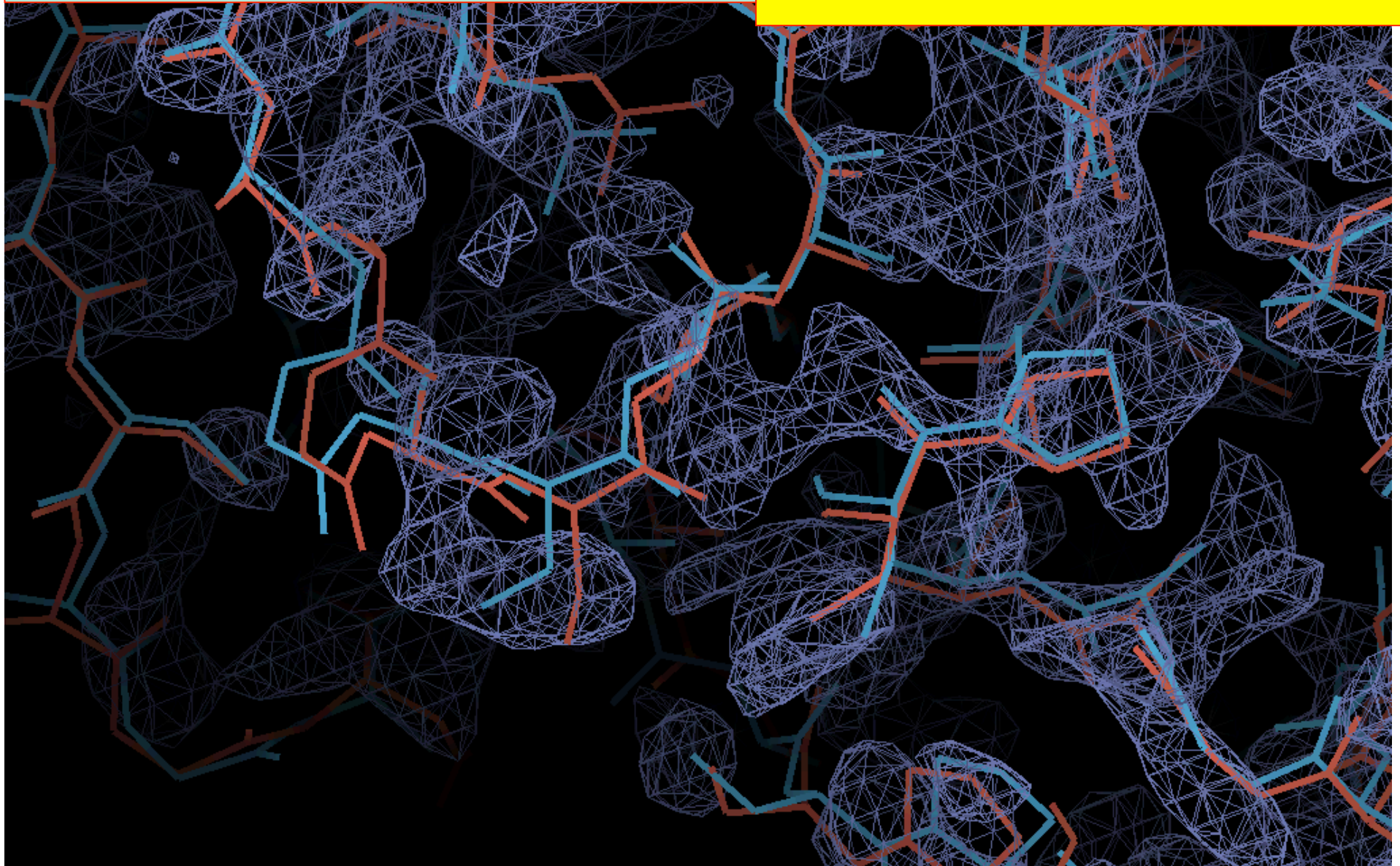
*A challenging morphing problem:*  
How can we use this map to identify the shifts needed?

*cab55342: final model green*  
*3PIC (32% identity) in blue*



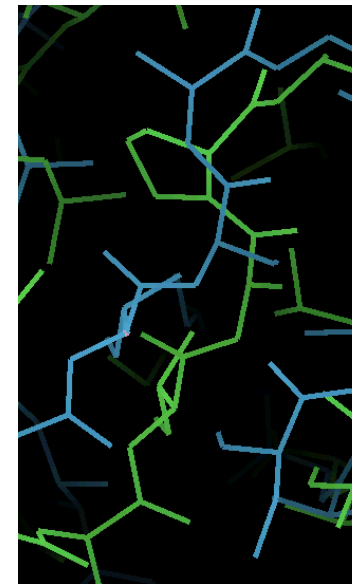
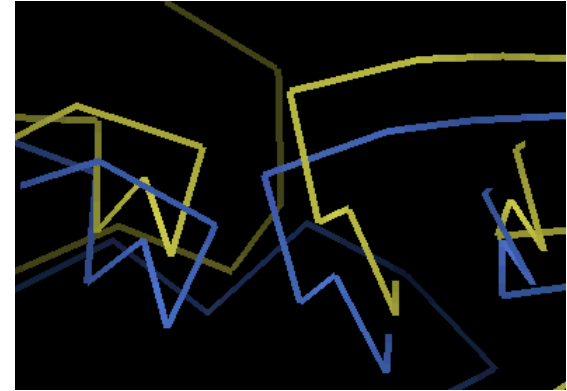
*Standard refinement does not  
move the structure very much..*

*cab55342:  
3PIC (32% identity) in blue  
Refined template in orange*



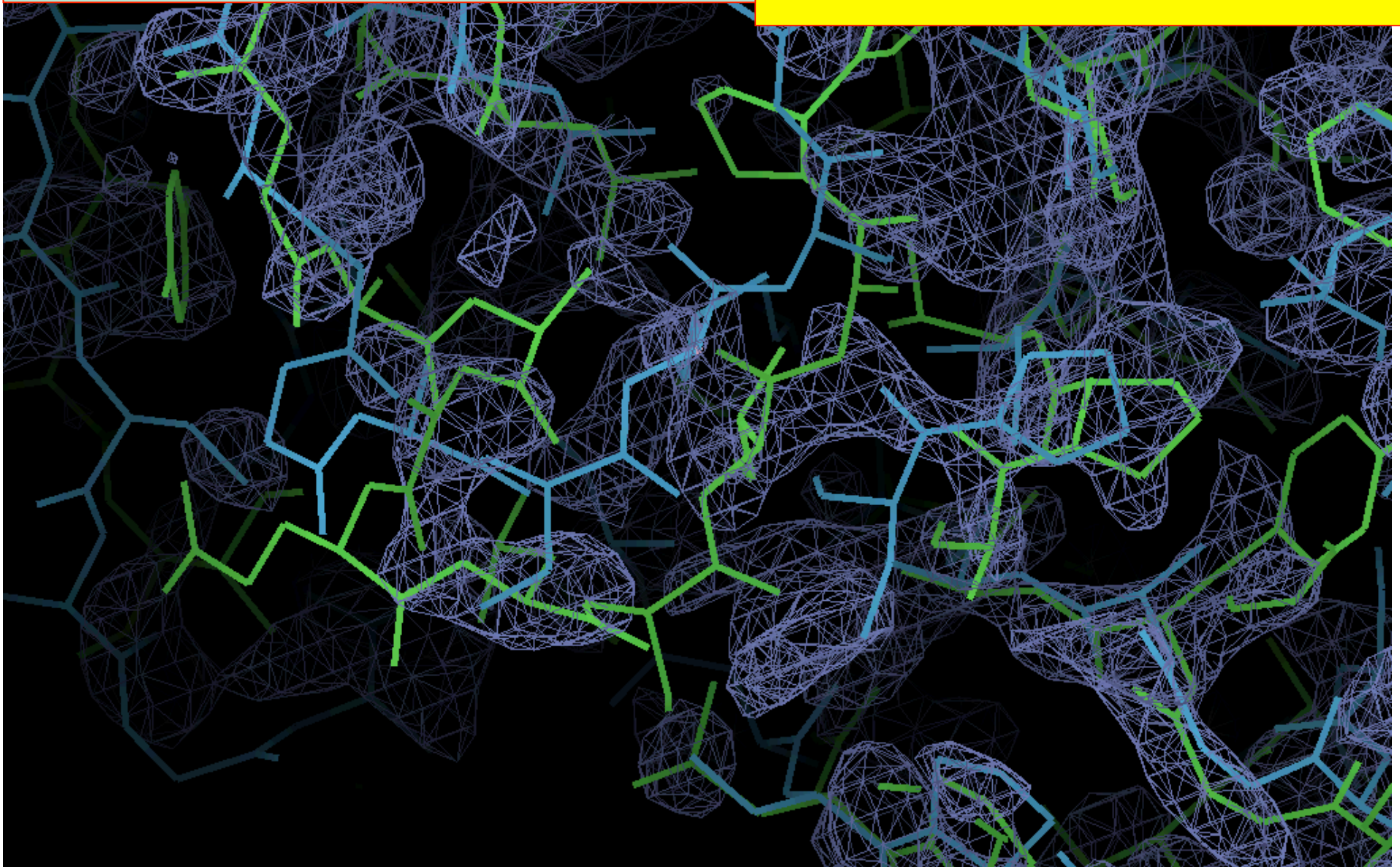
## Steps in morphing

- A. Identify local translation to apply to one  $C_{\alpha}$  atom and nearby atoms
- B. Smooth the local translations in window of 10 residues
- C. Apply the smoothed translation to all atoms in the residue



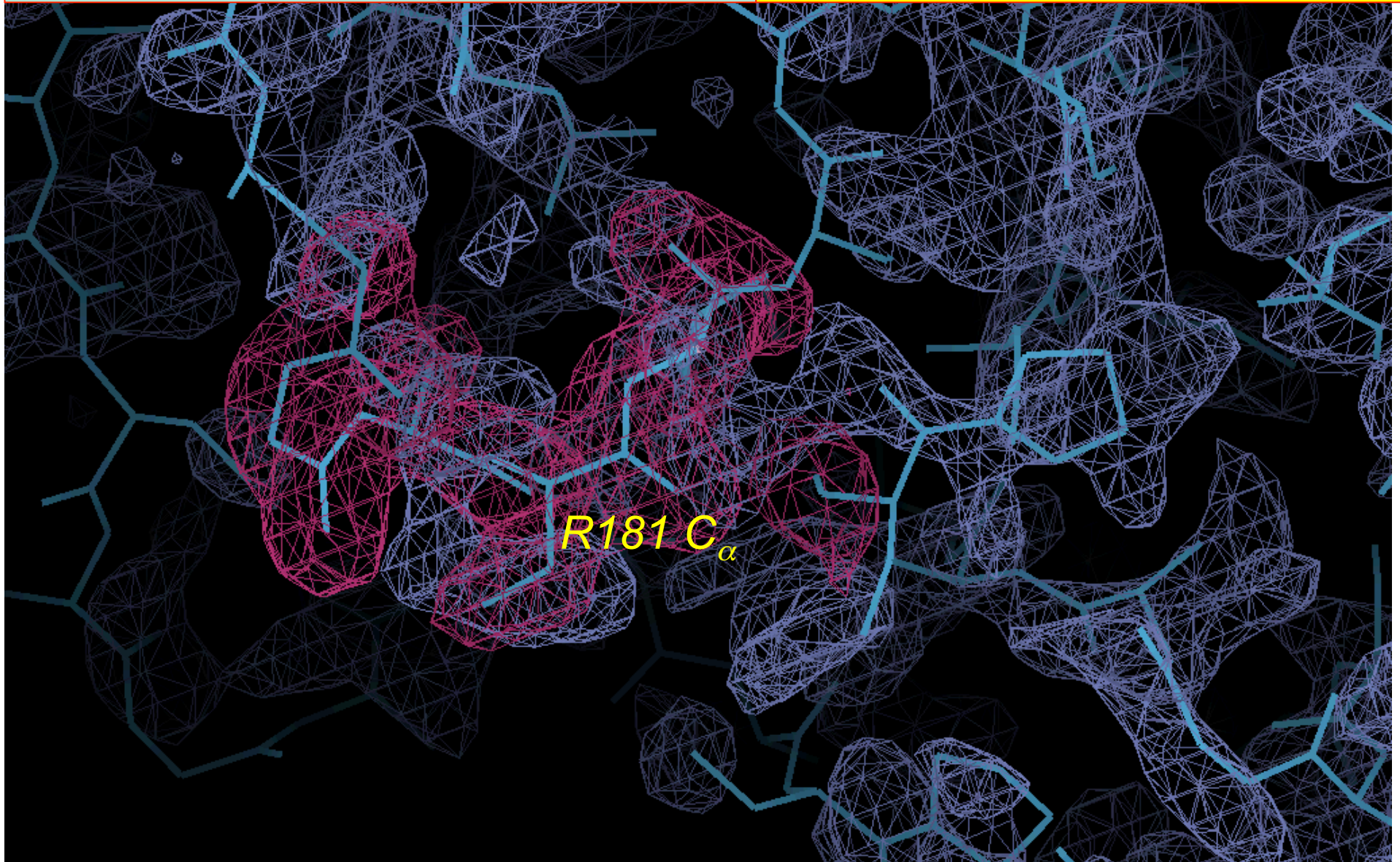
*Identify local translation to apply to one  $C_{\alpha}$  atom and nearby atoms*

*cab55342: final model (green)  
3PIC (32% identity, blue)  
prime-and-switch map (blue)*



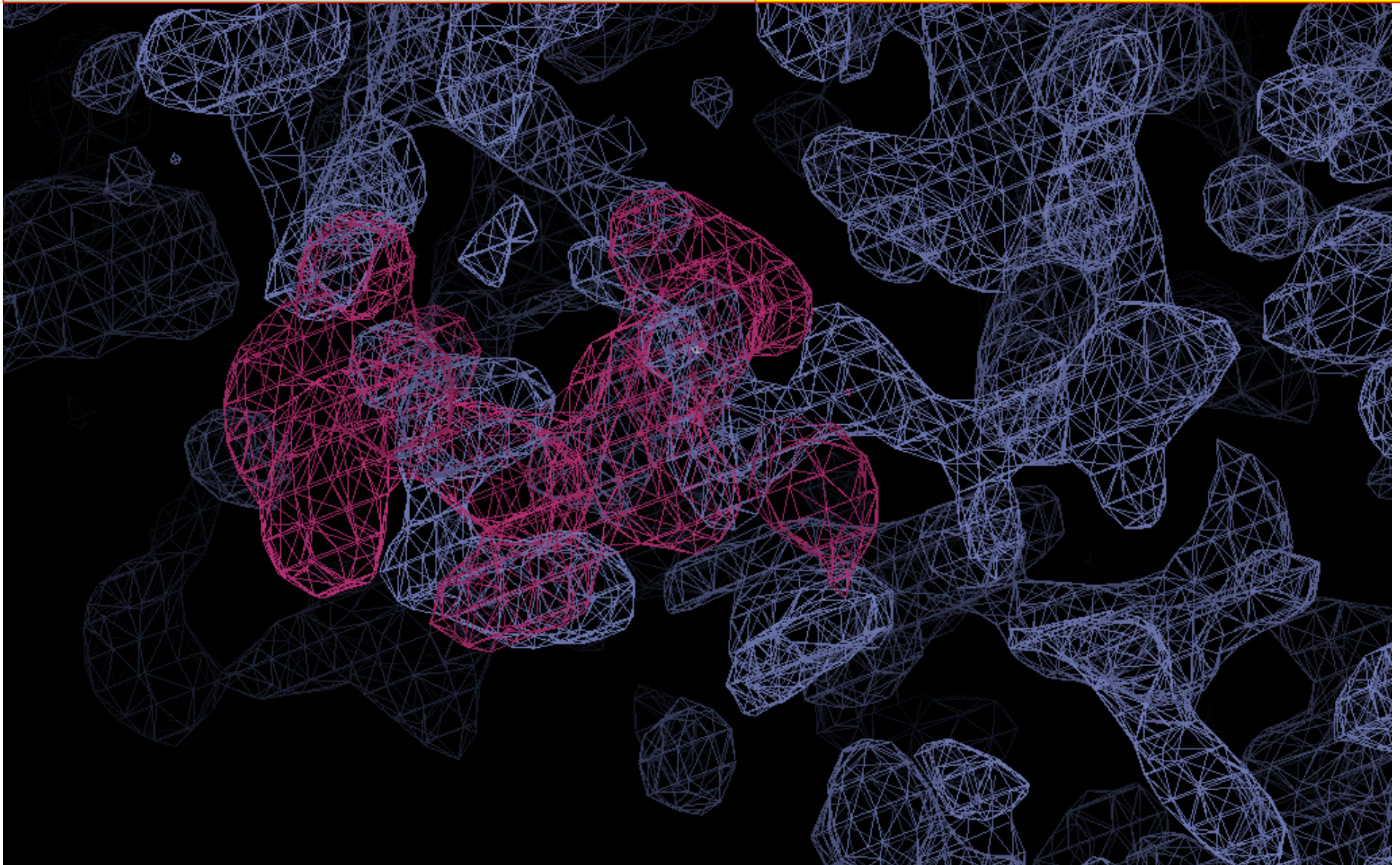
Identify local translation to apply to  
one  $C_{\alpha}$  atom and nearby atoms  
*Model density in red*

*cab55342:*  
*3PIC (32% identity, blue)*



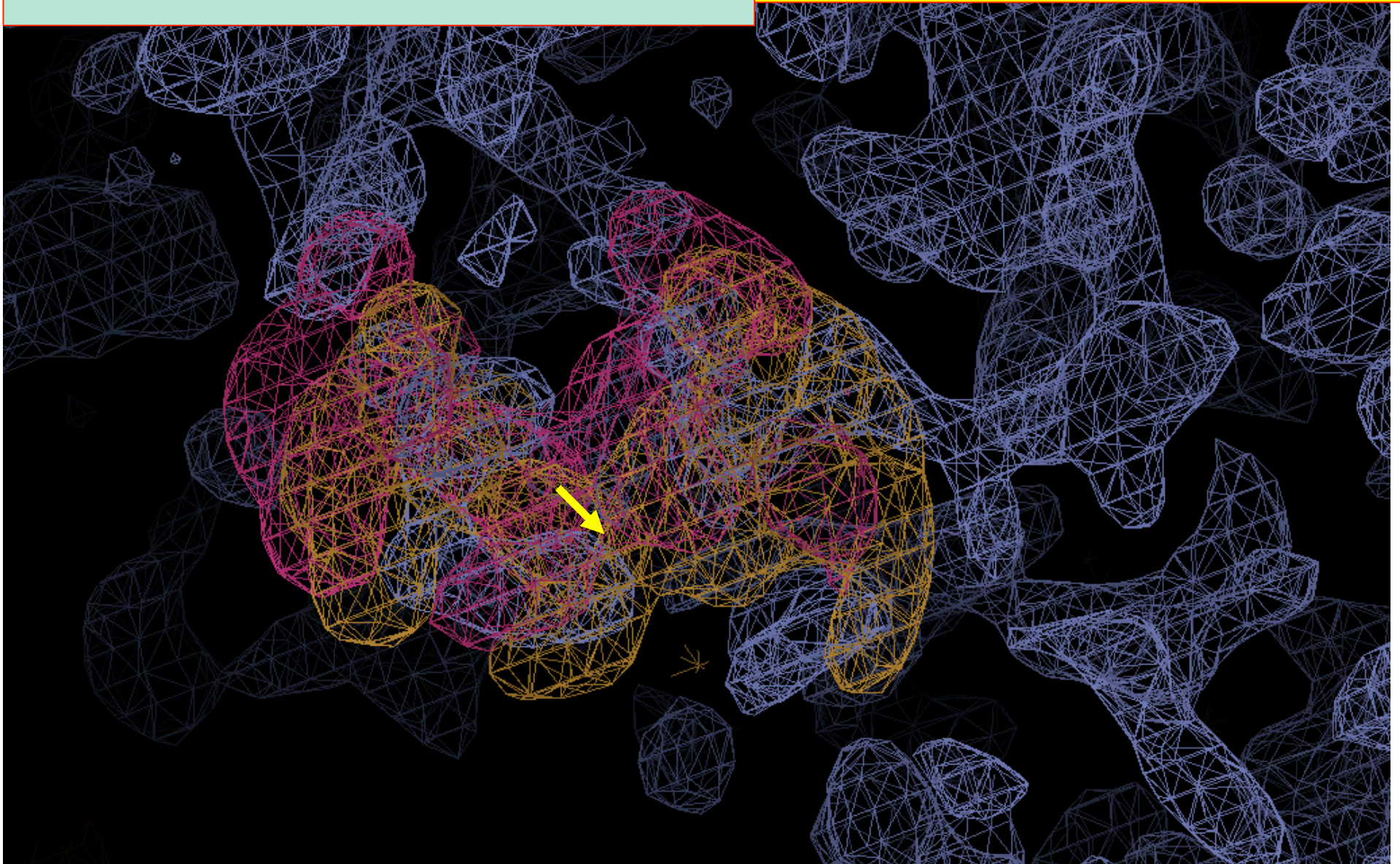
Identify local translation to apply to  
one  $C_{\alpha}$  atom and nearby atoms  
*Model density in red*

*cab55342:*  
*3PIC (32% identity, blue)*



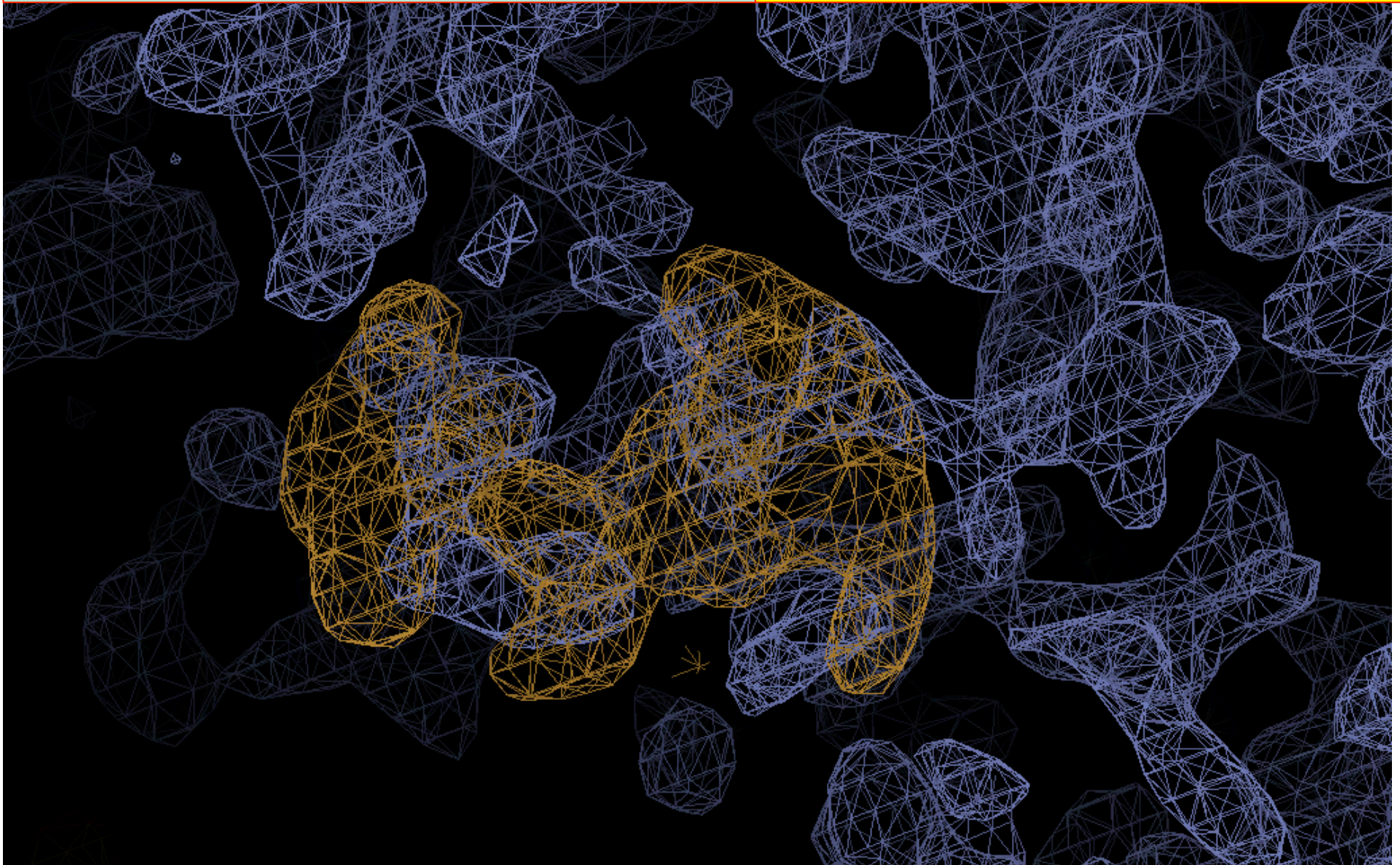
*Identify local translation to apply to  
one  $C_{\alpha}$  atom and nearby atoms  
Model density offset to match map*

*cab55342:  
3PIC (32% identity, blue)*



*Identify local translation to apply to  
one  $C_{\alpha}$  atom and nearby atoms  
Model density offset to match map*

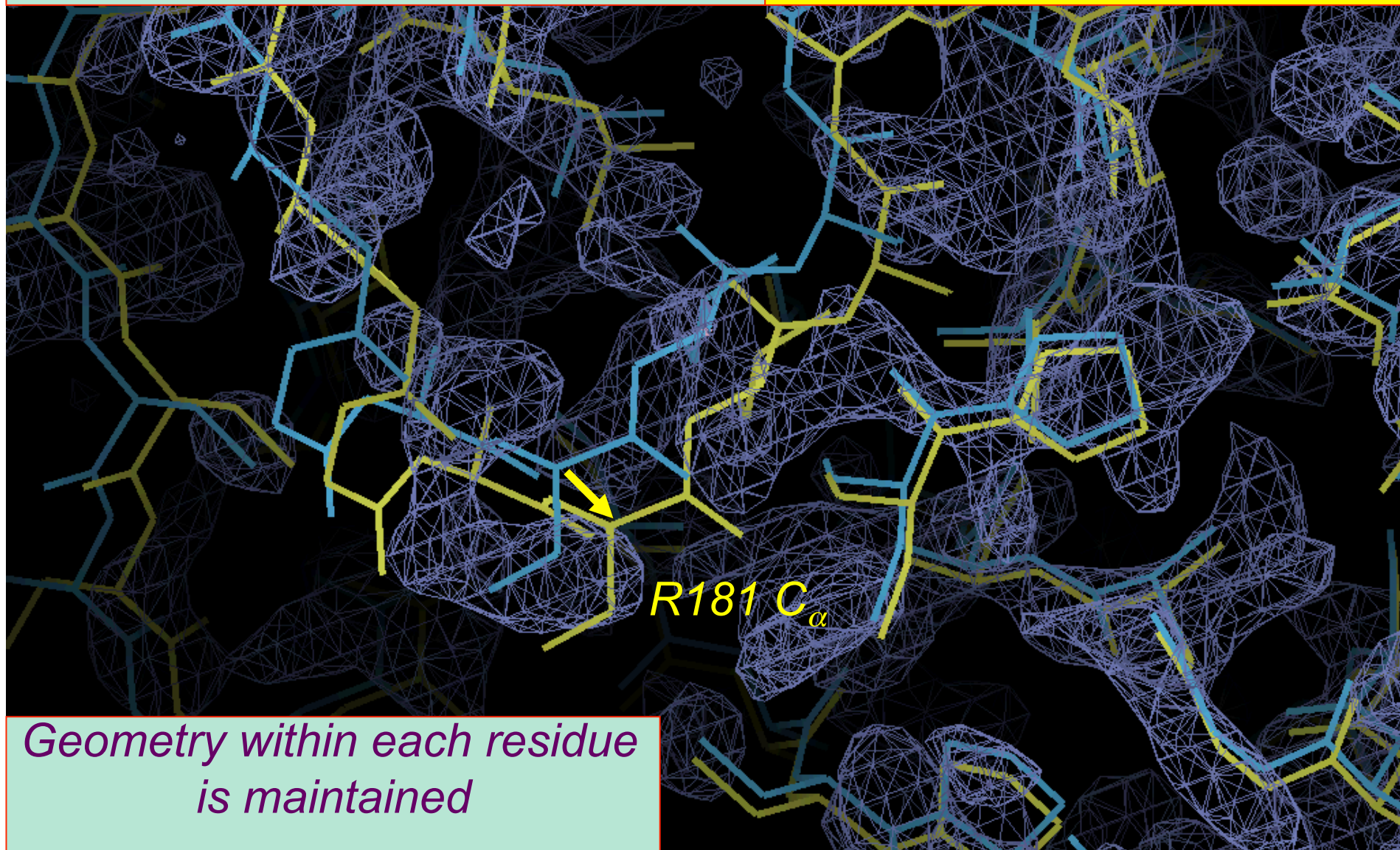
*cab55342:  
3PIC (32% identity, blue)*





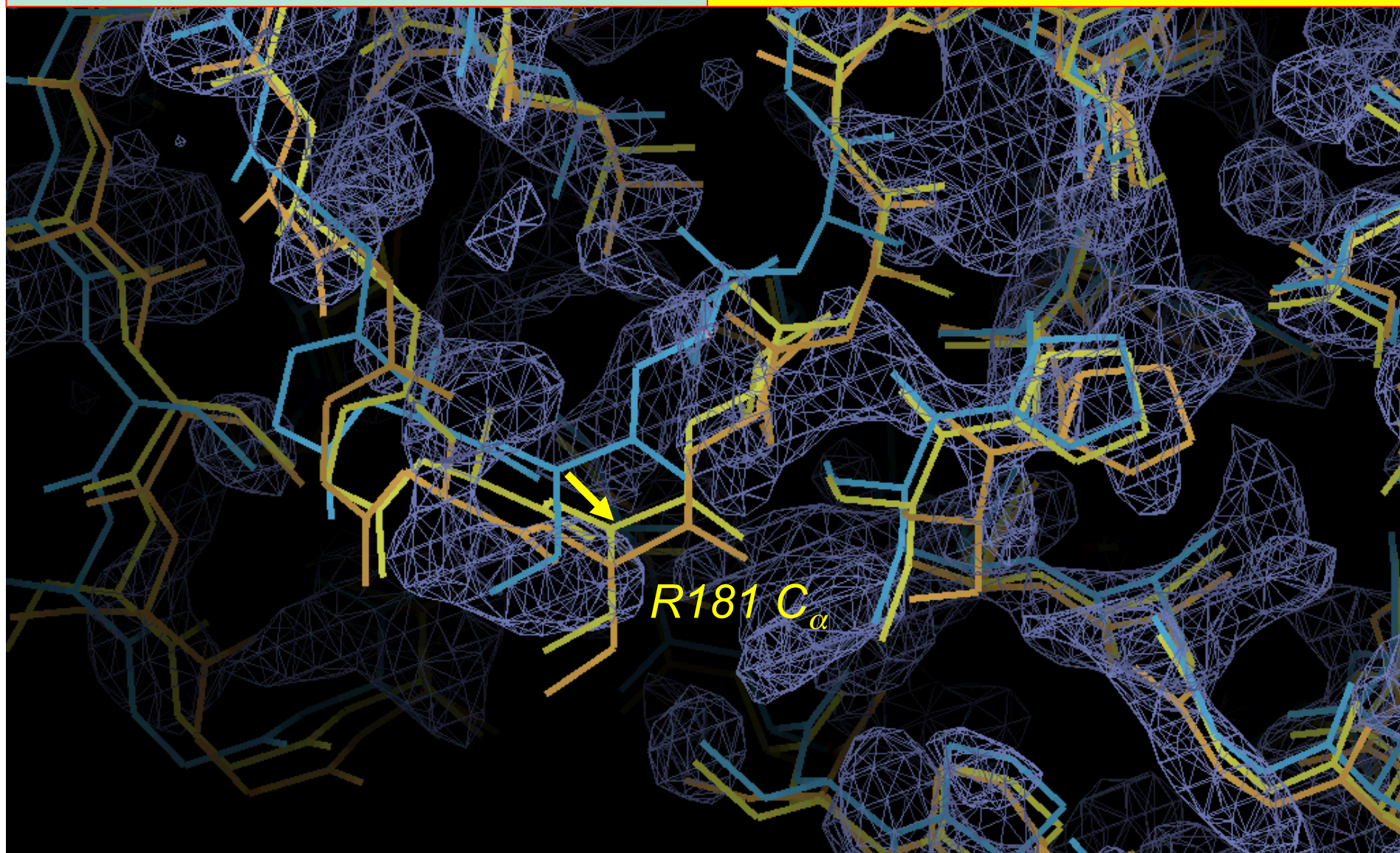
*Smooth offset over nearby residues and apply to all atoms in the residue*

*cab55342:  
3PIC (32% identity, blue)  
Morphed model (yellow)*



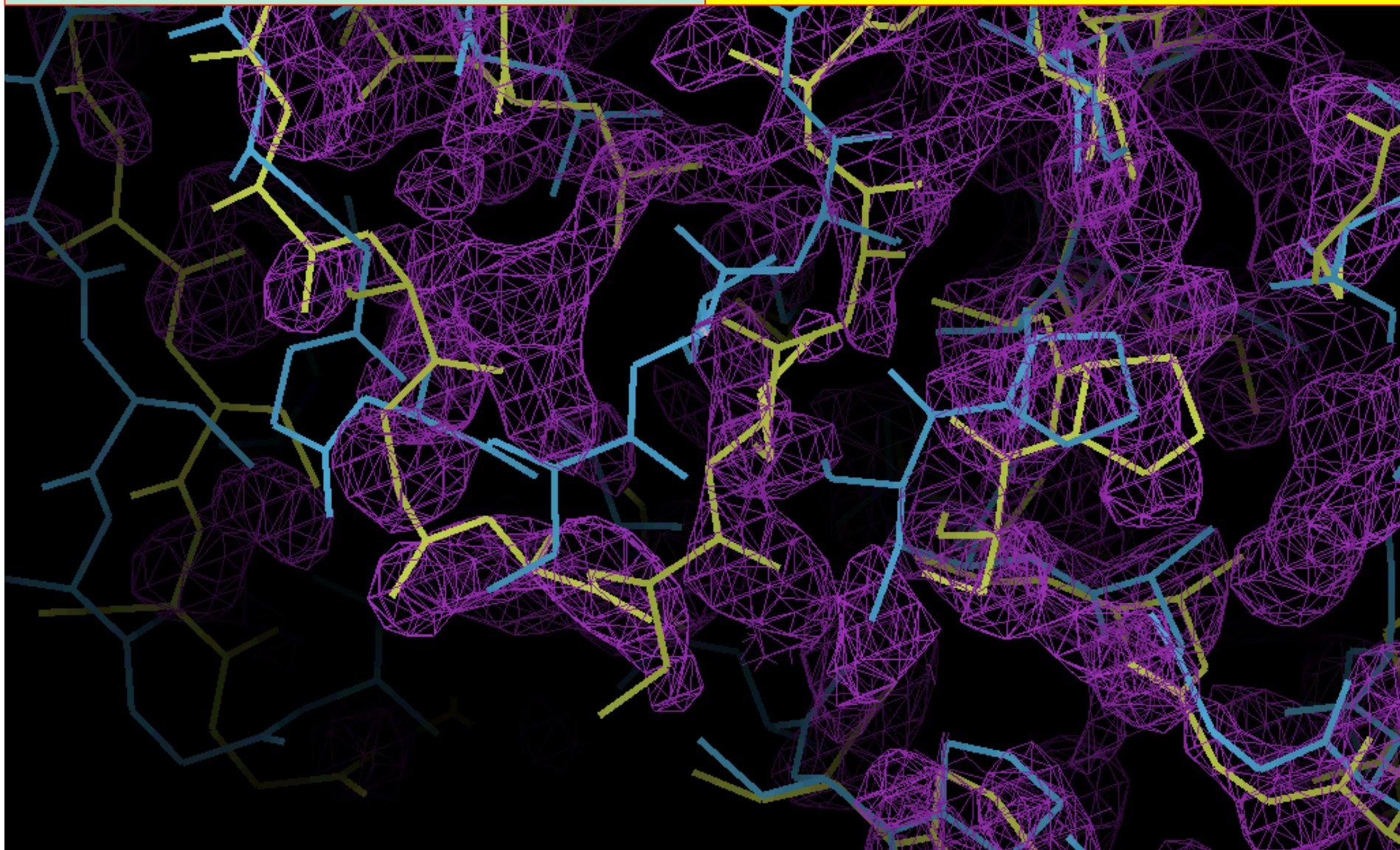
*Refine morphed model*

*3PIC (32% identity) in blue*  
*Morphed model (yellow)*  
*Refined morphed model (orange)*

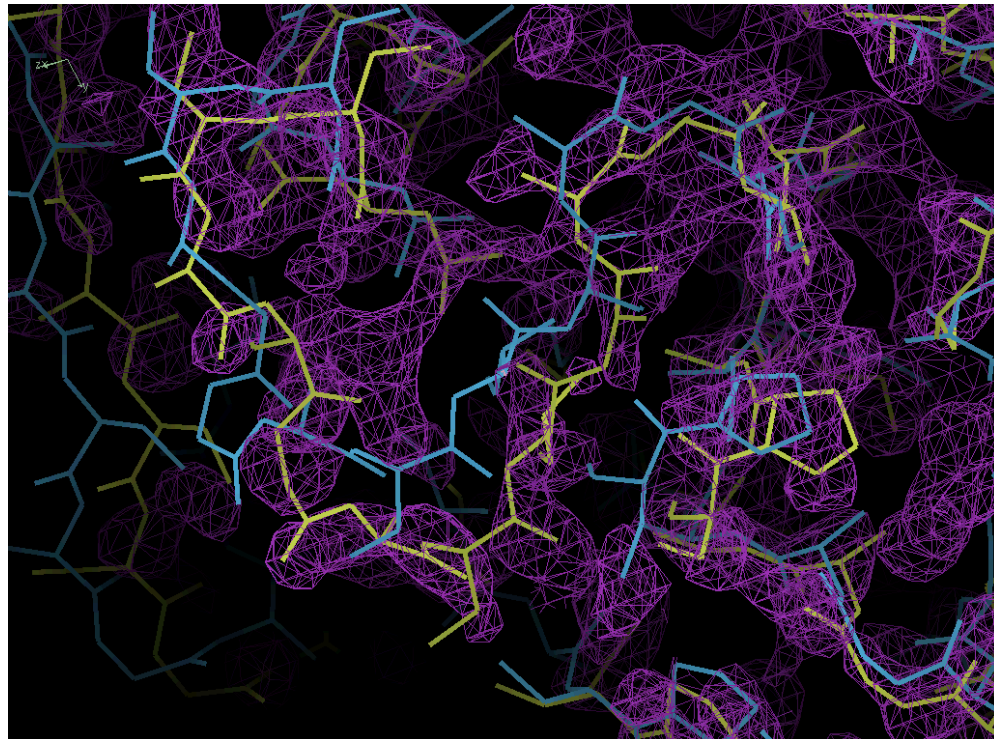
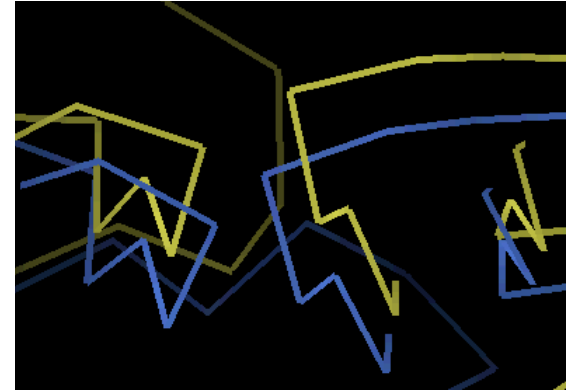


*Get new map  
Repeat morphing 6 times...*

*3PIC (32% identity) blue  
Refined morphed model (yellow)  
prime-and-switch map (purple)*

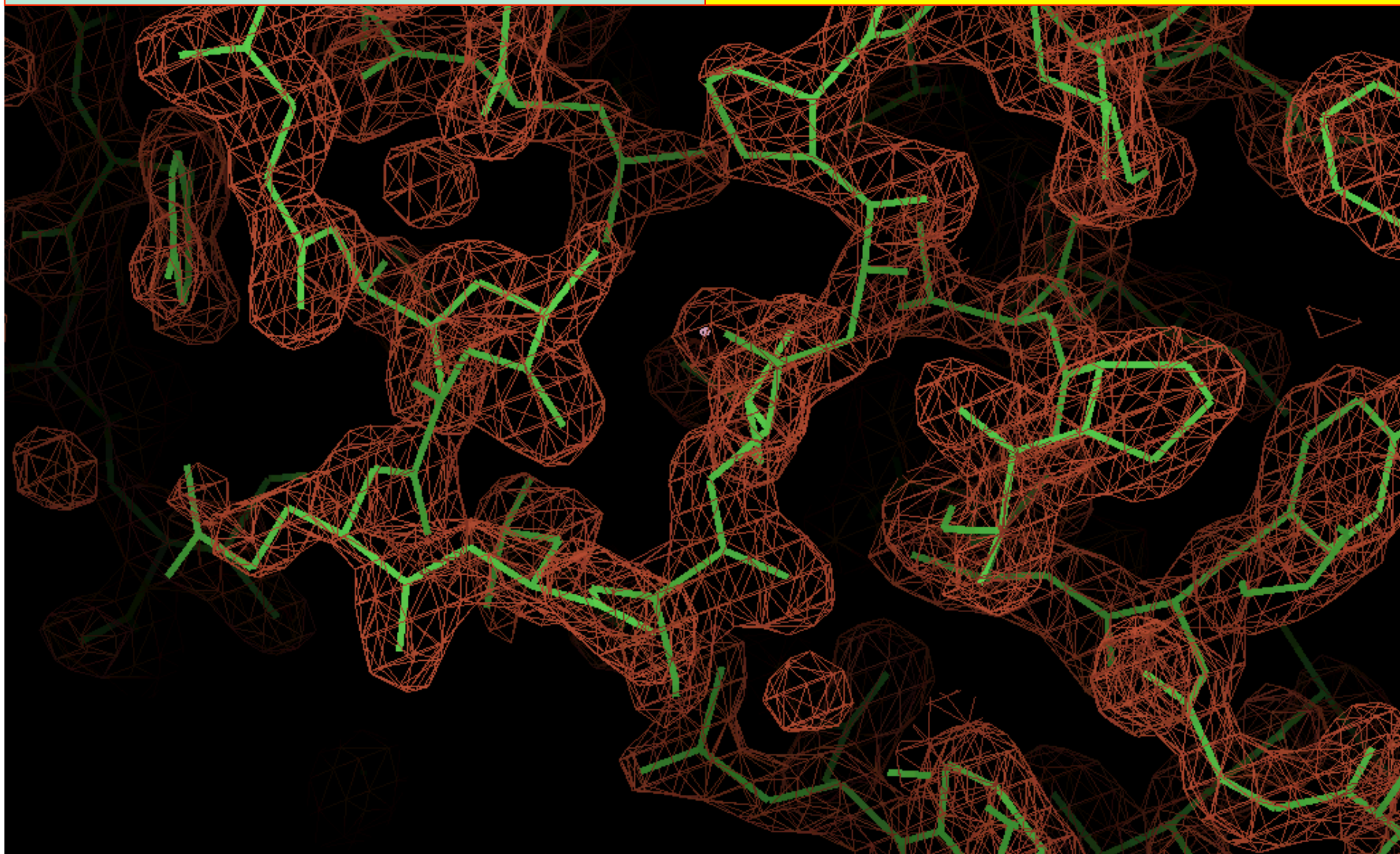


Autobuilding after morphing



*Autobuilding starting with  
morphed model*

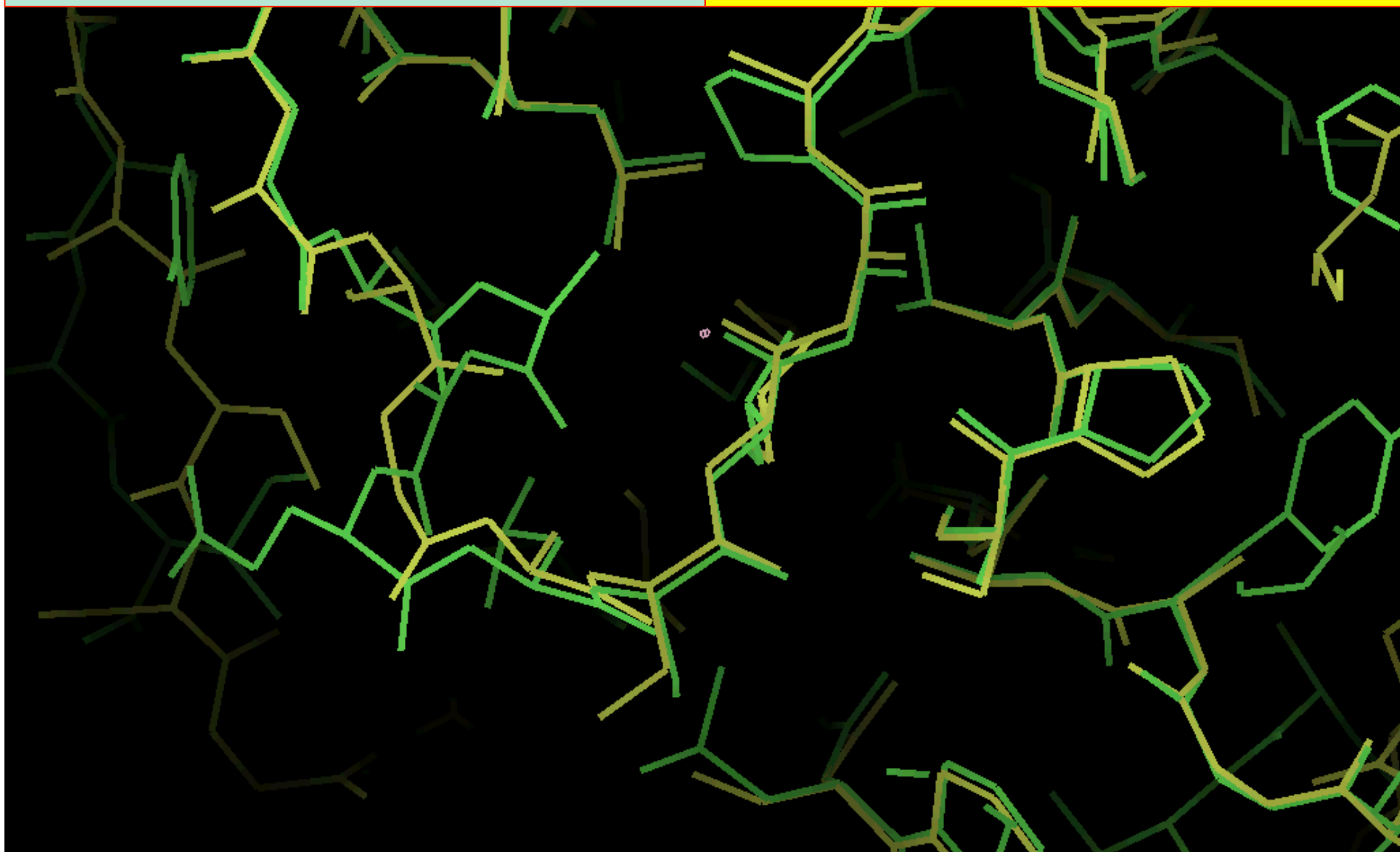
*cab55342  
Autobuild model  
Density-modified map*



*Autobuilding starting with  
morphed model*

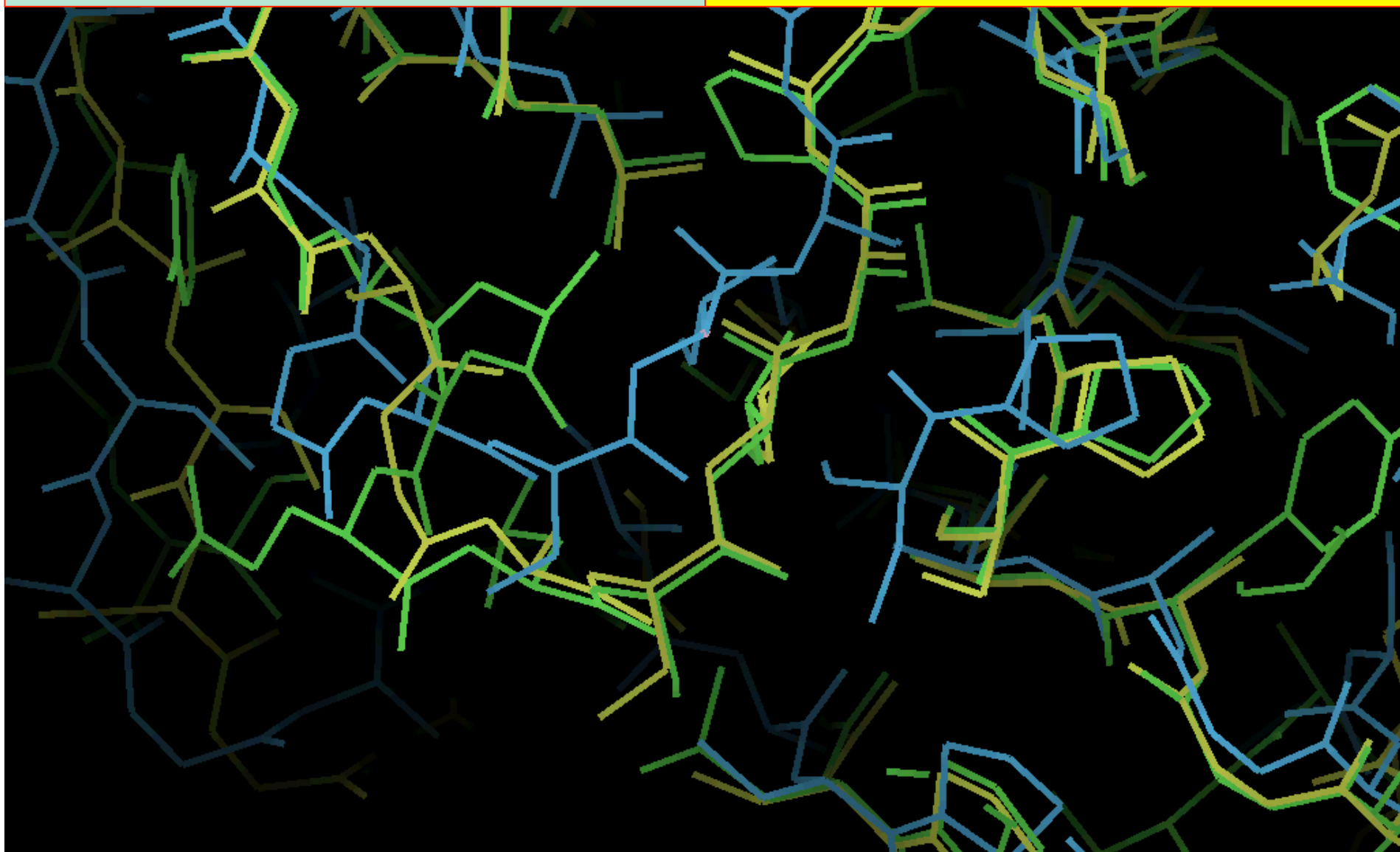
*cab55342*

*Morphed model (yellow)  
Autobuild model (green)*



*Autobuilding cab55342 starting  
with morphed model*

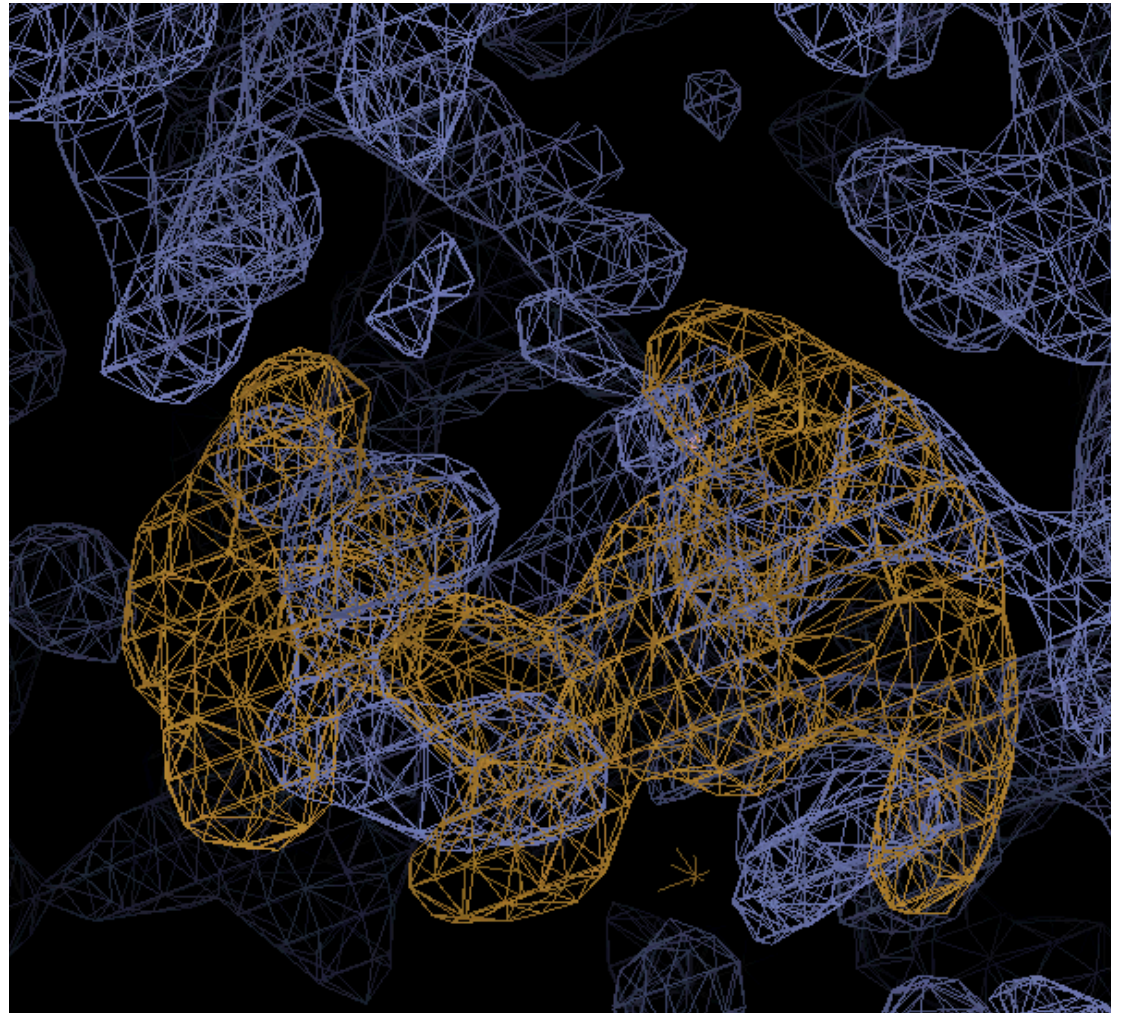
*3PIC (32% identity, blue)  
Morphed model (yellow)  
Autobuild model (green)*



What is the best map for  
morphing?

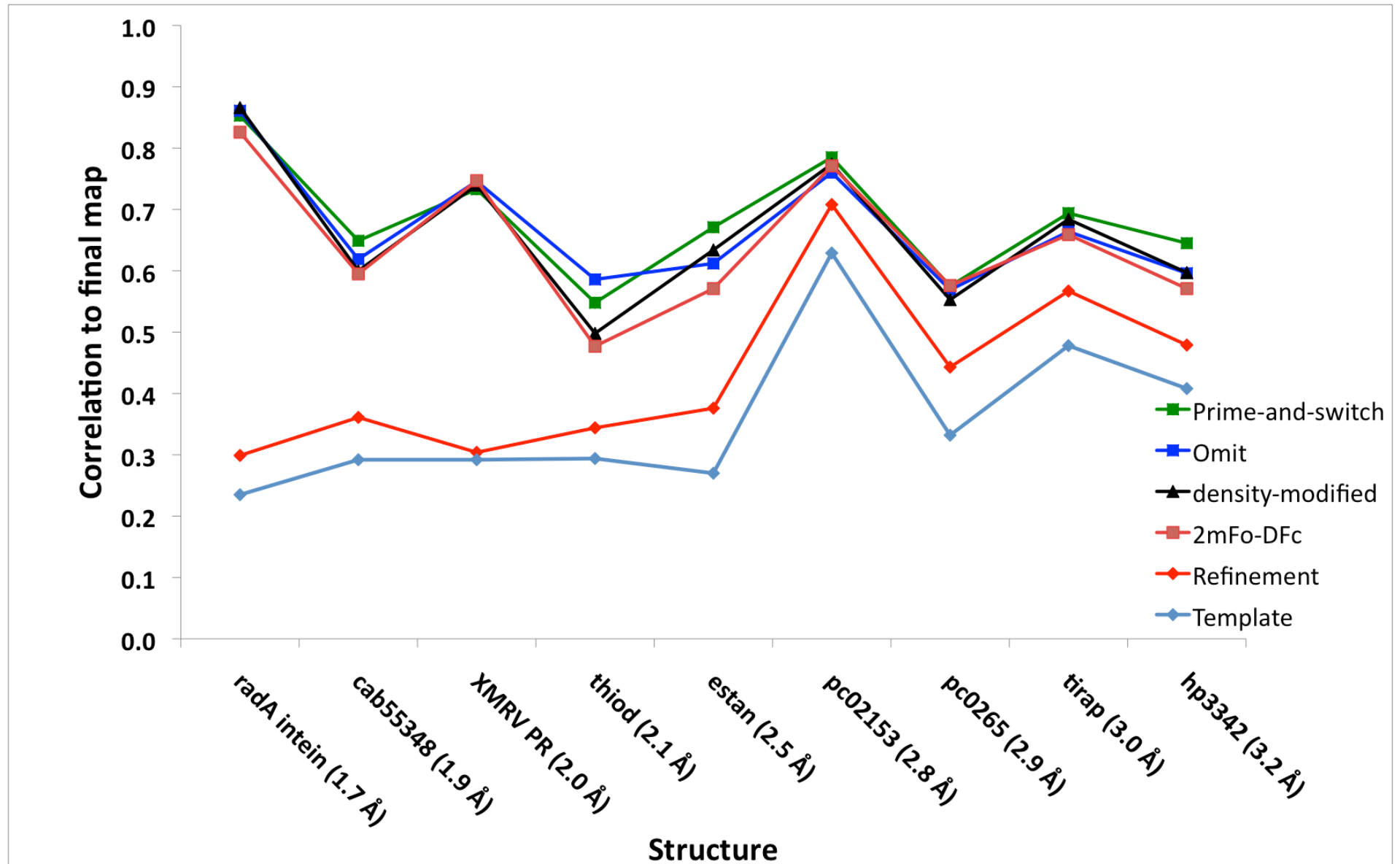
Test structures from DiMaio et al.  
(2011). *Improving molecular  
replacement by density and energy  
guided protein structure optimization.*  
*Nature* 473, 540-543.

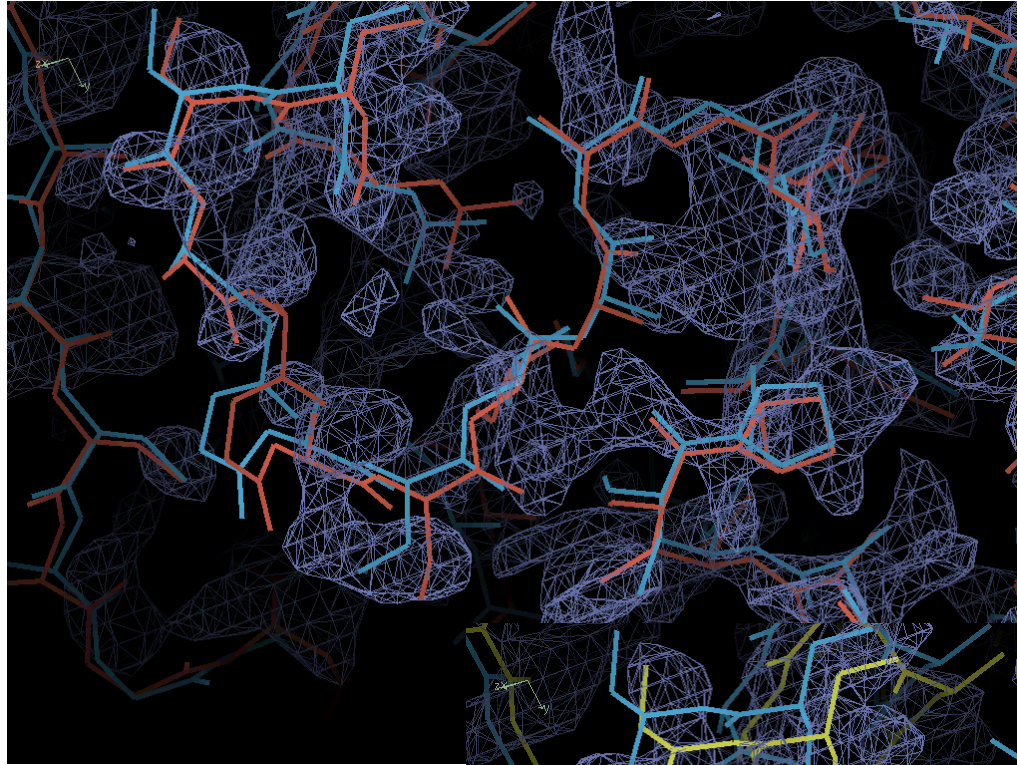
(Structures that could be solved  
by AutoBuild excluded)



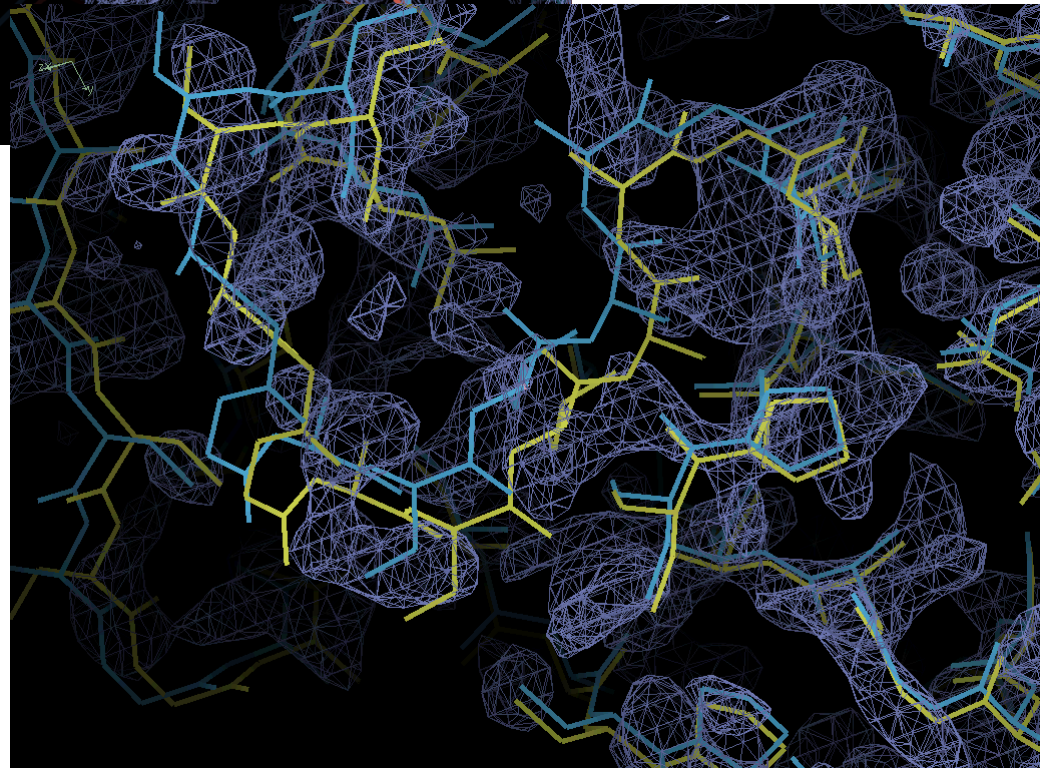


## Comparison of maps for morphing



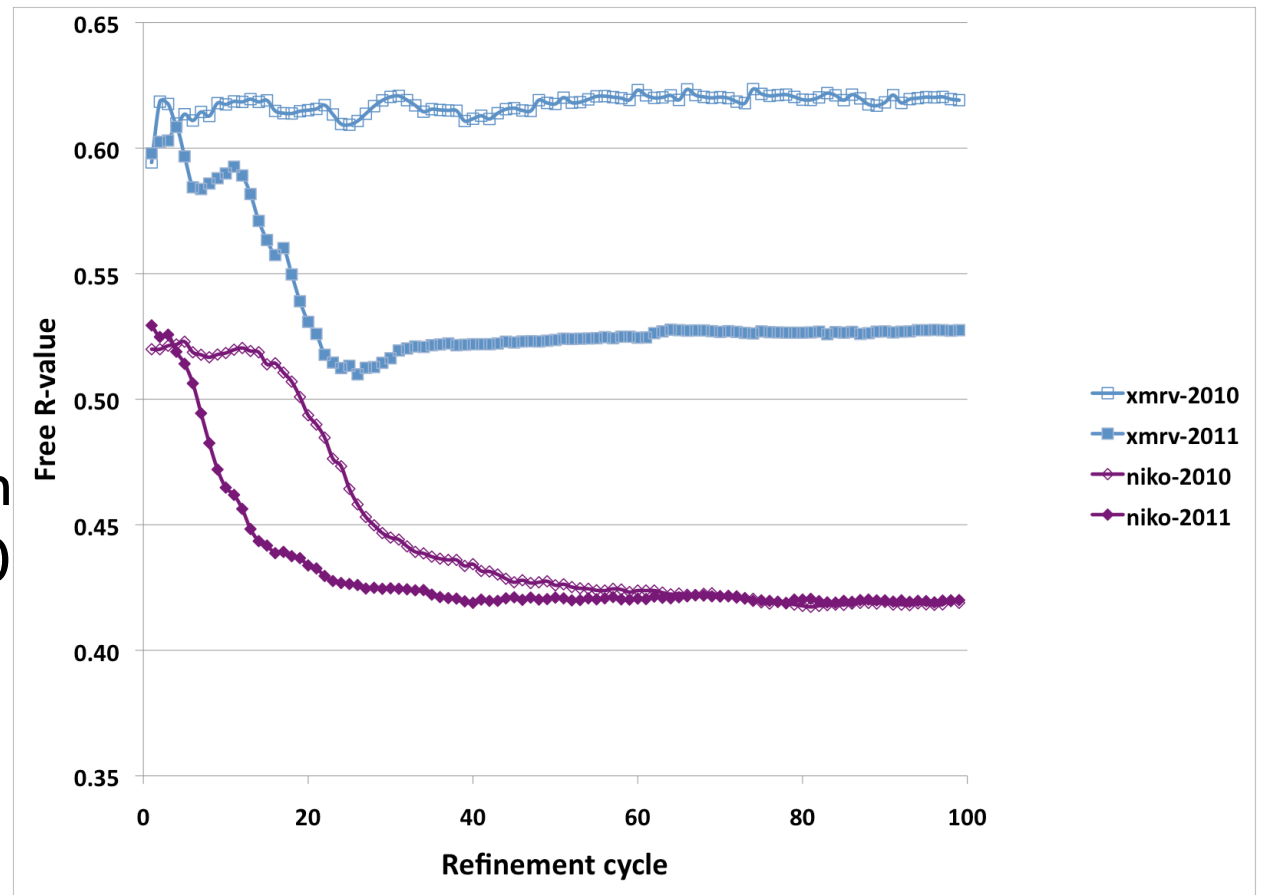


Comparing morphing  
and refinement

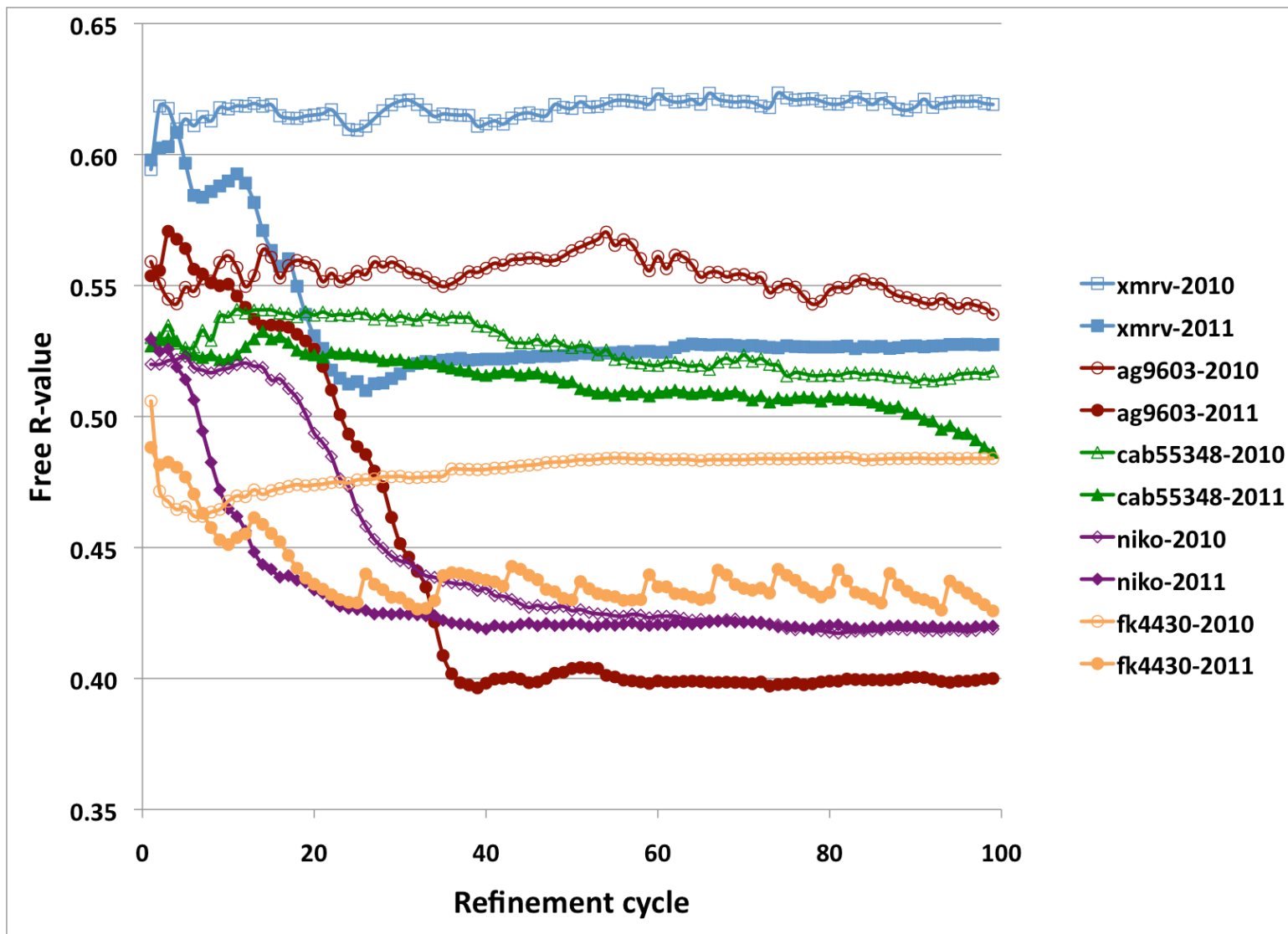


What to use as a  
baseline?

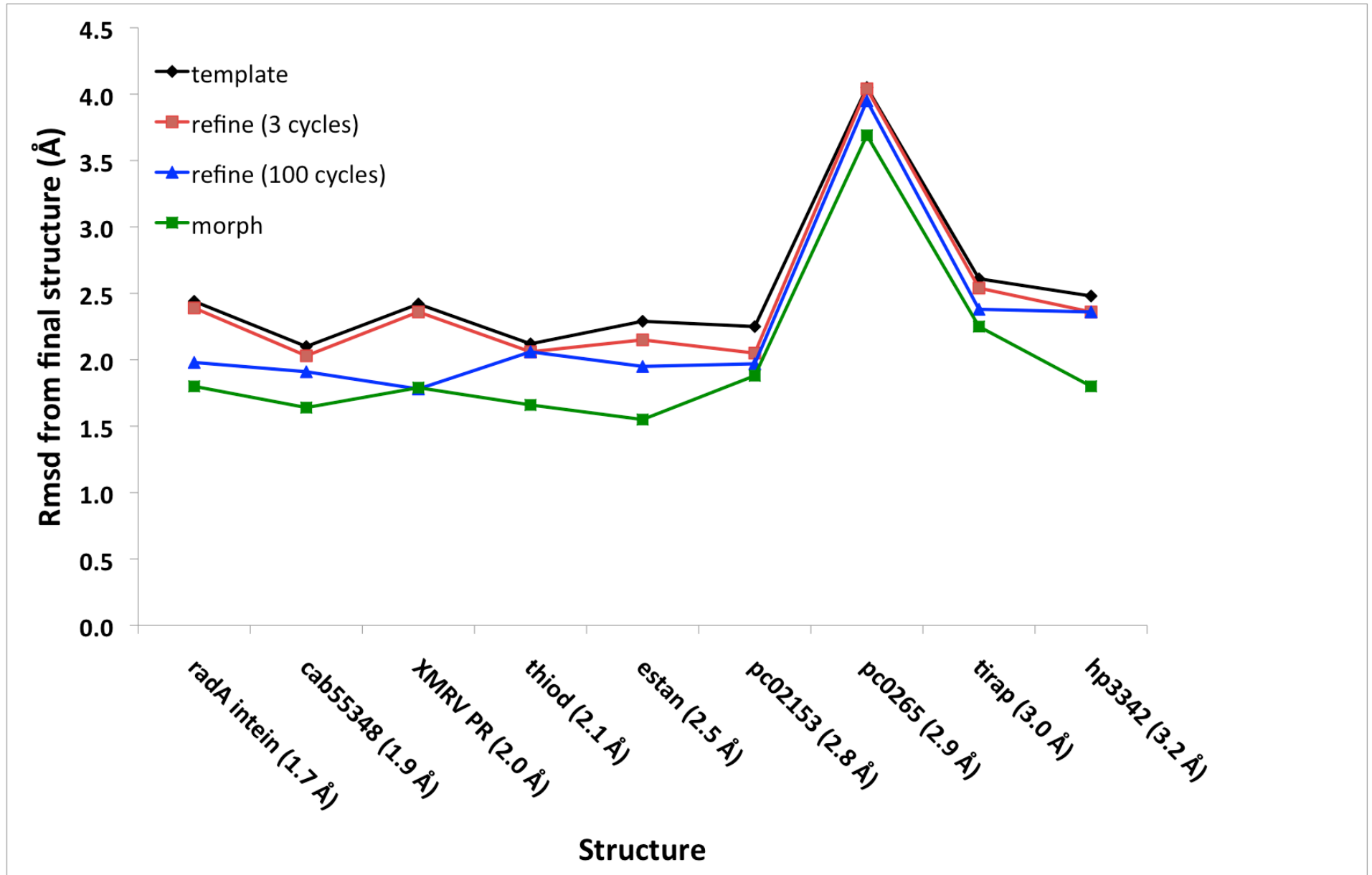
Major improvements in  
*phenix.refine* since 2010



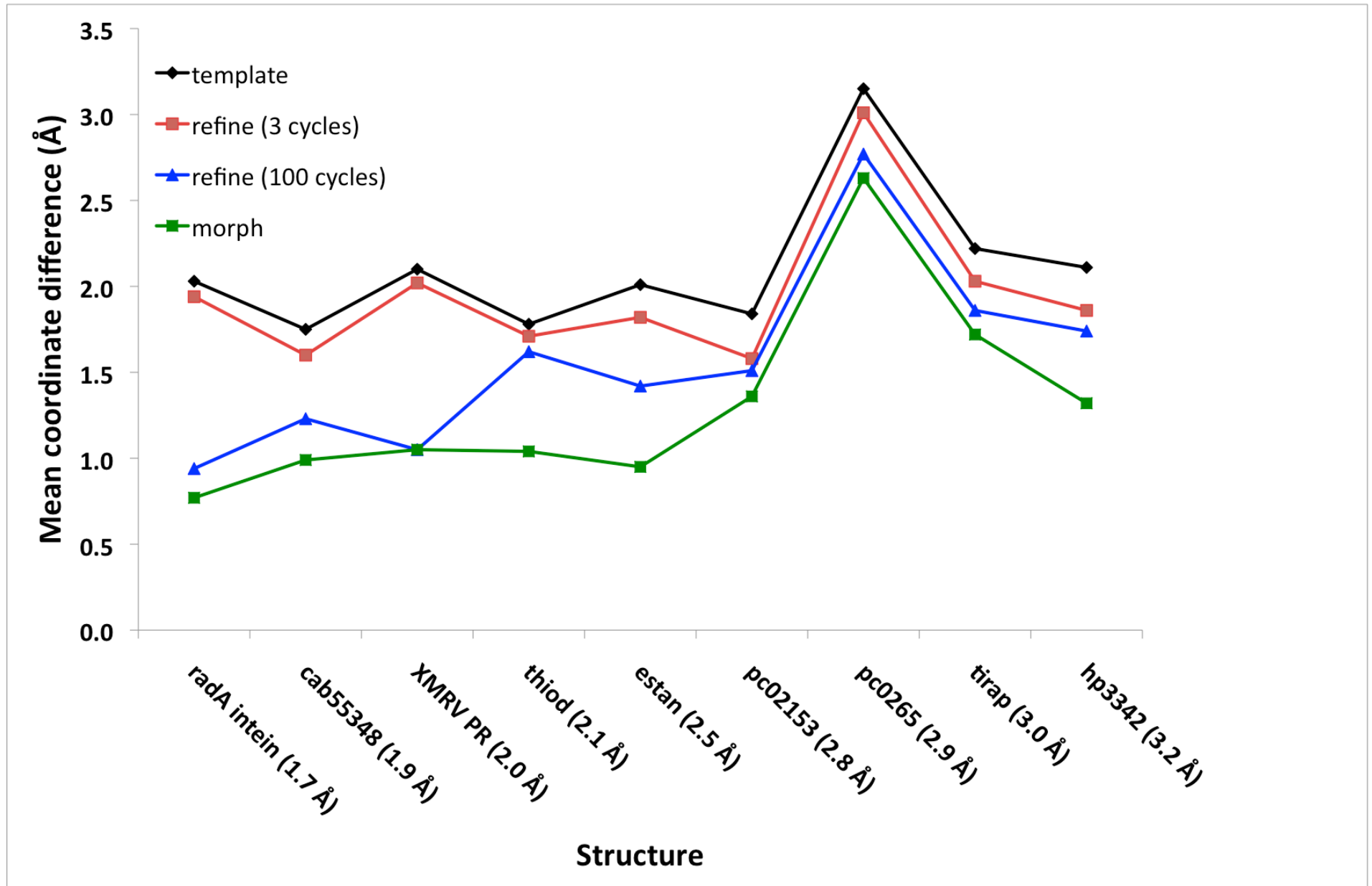
## Extensive refinement can be effective



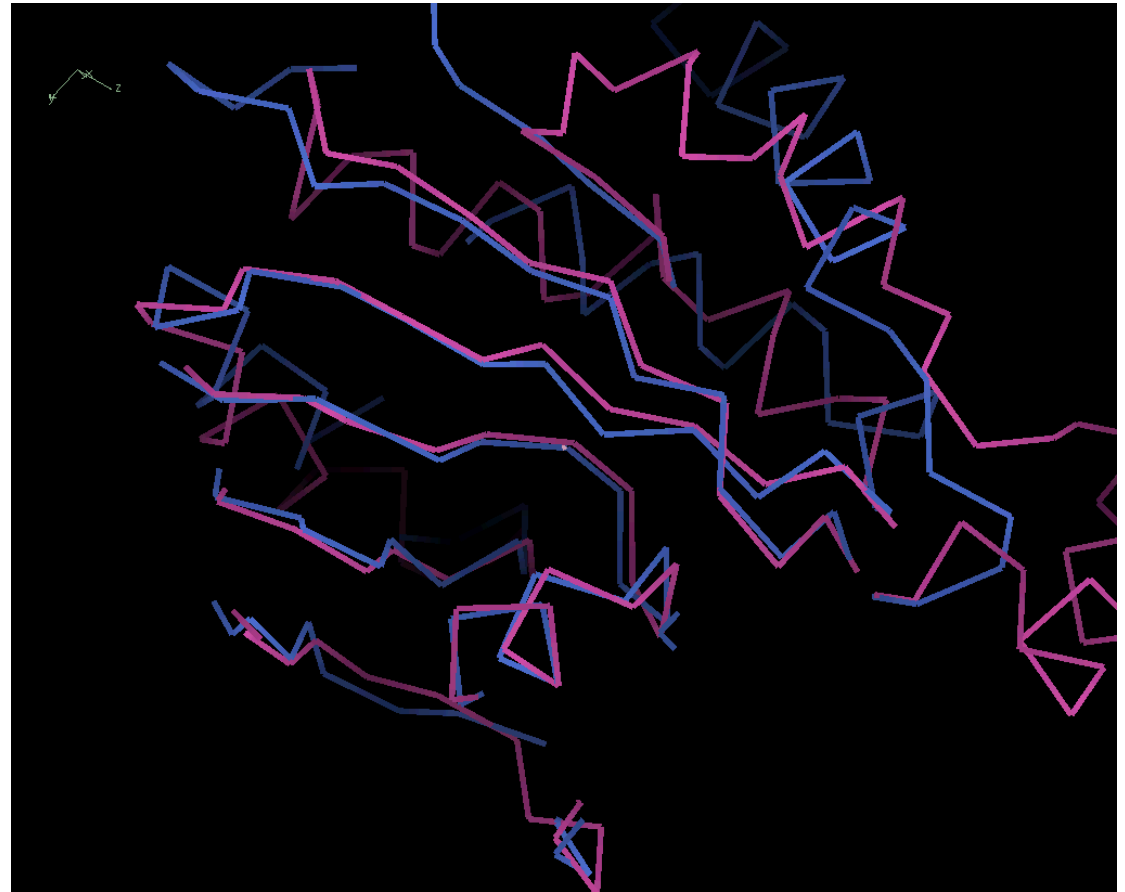
## Morphing compared to refinement



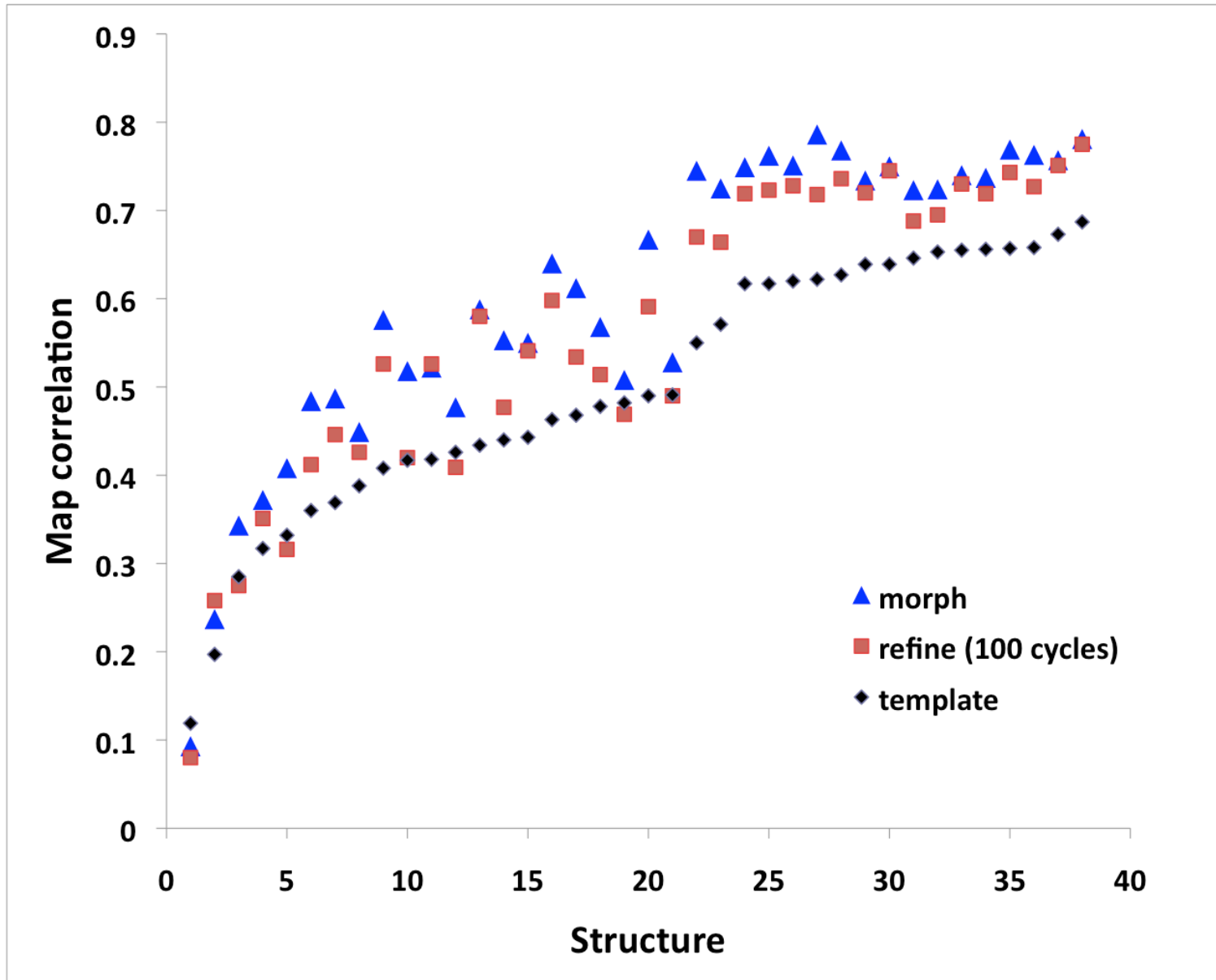
## Morphing compared to refinement



Tests of morphing with  
a series of templates  
with varying similarity  
to target structure



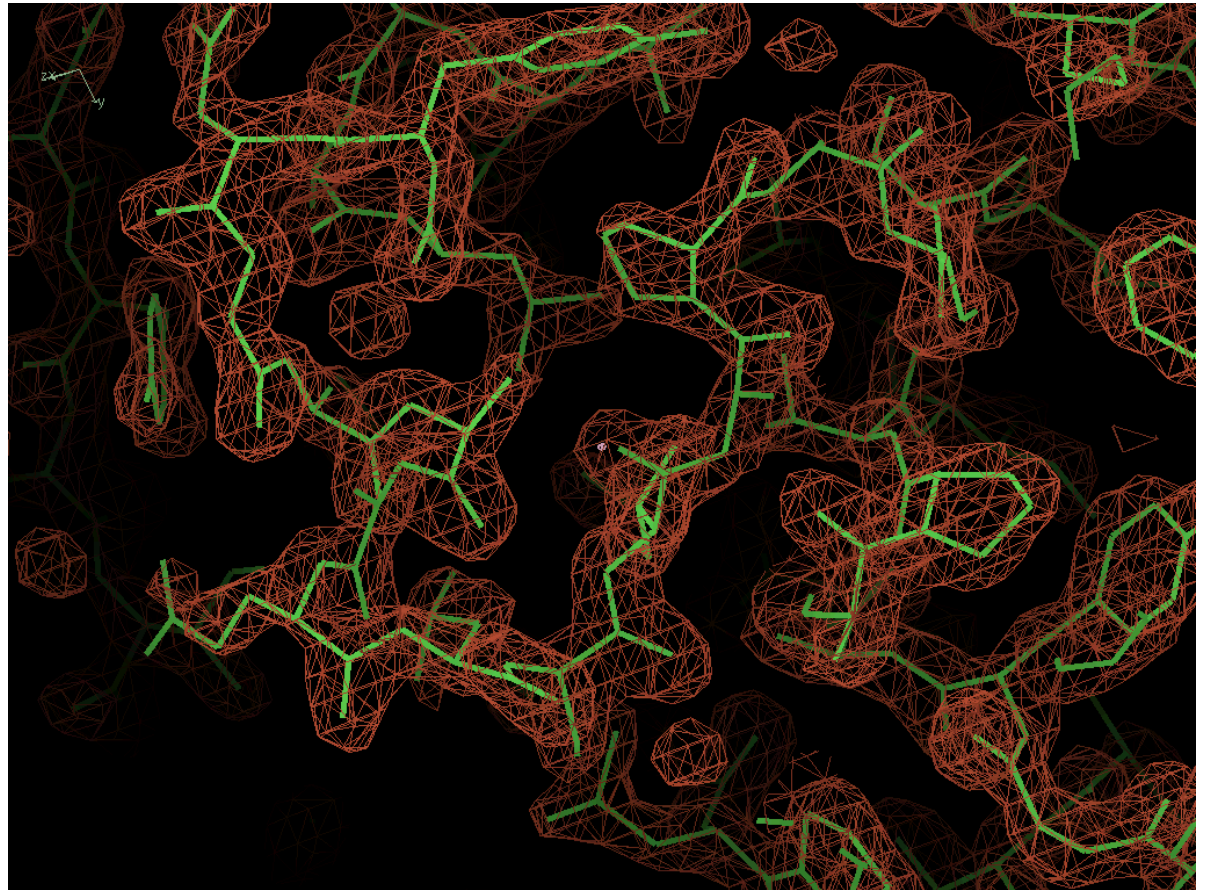
## Morphing on a series of templates



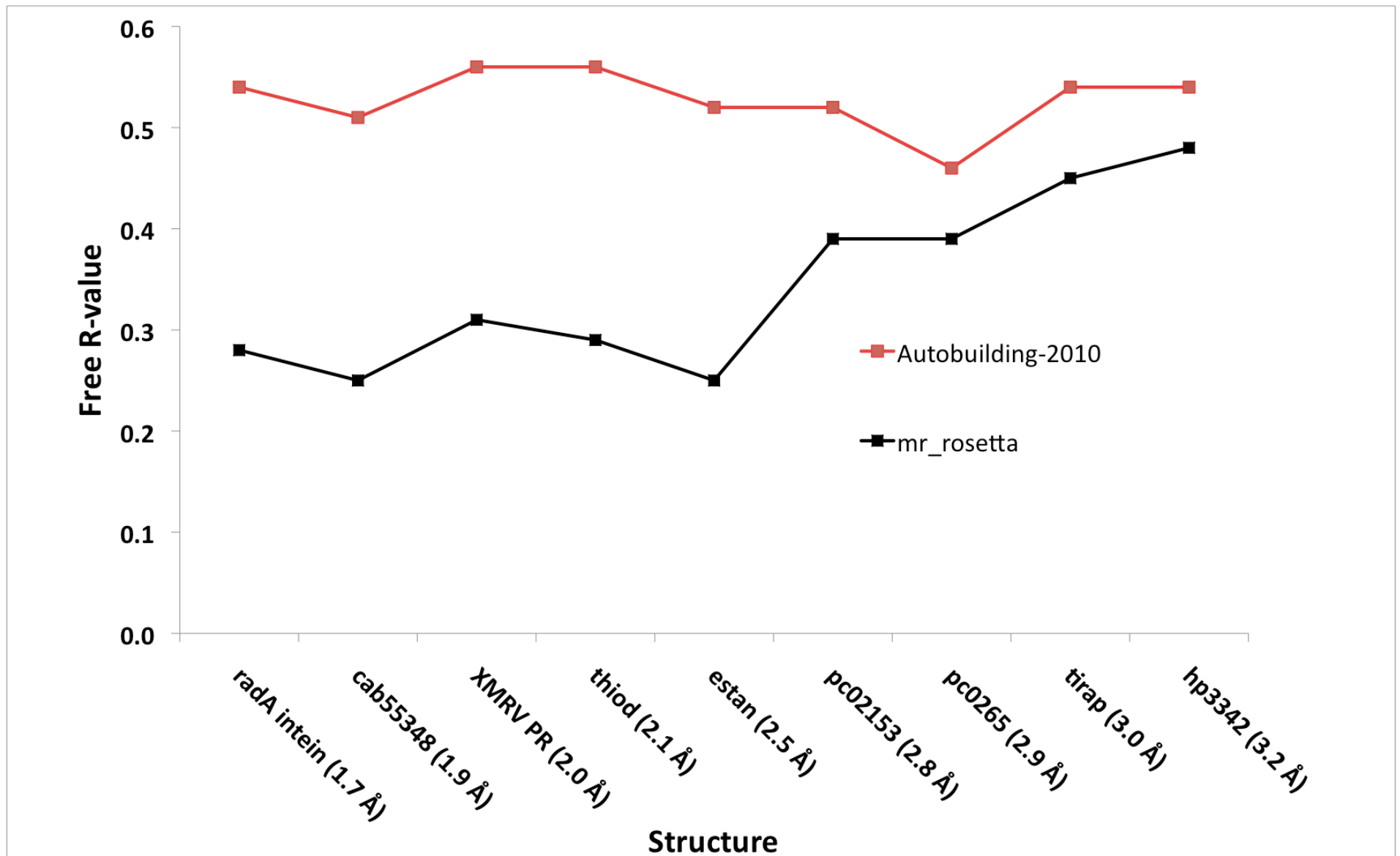


Tests of Autobuilding  
after morphing

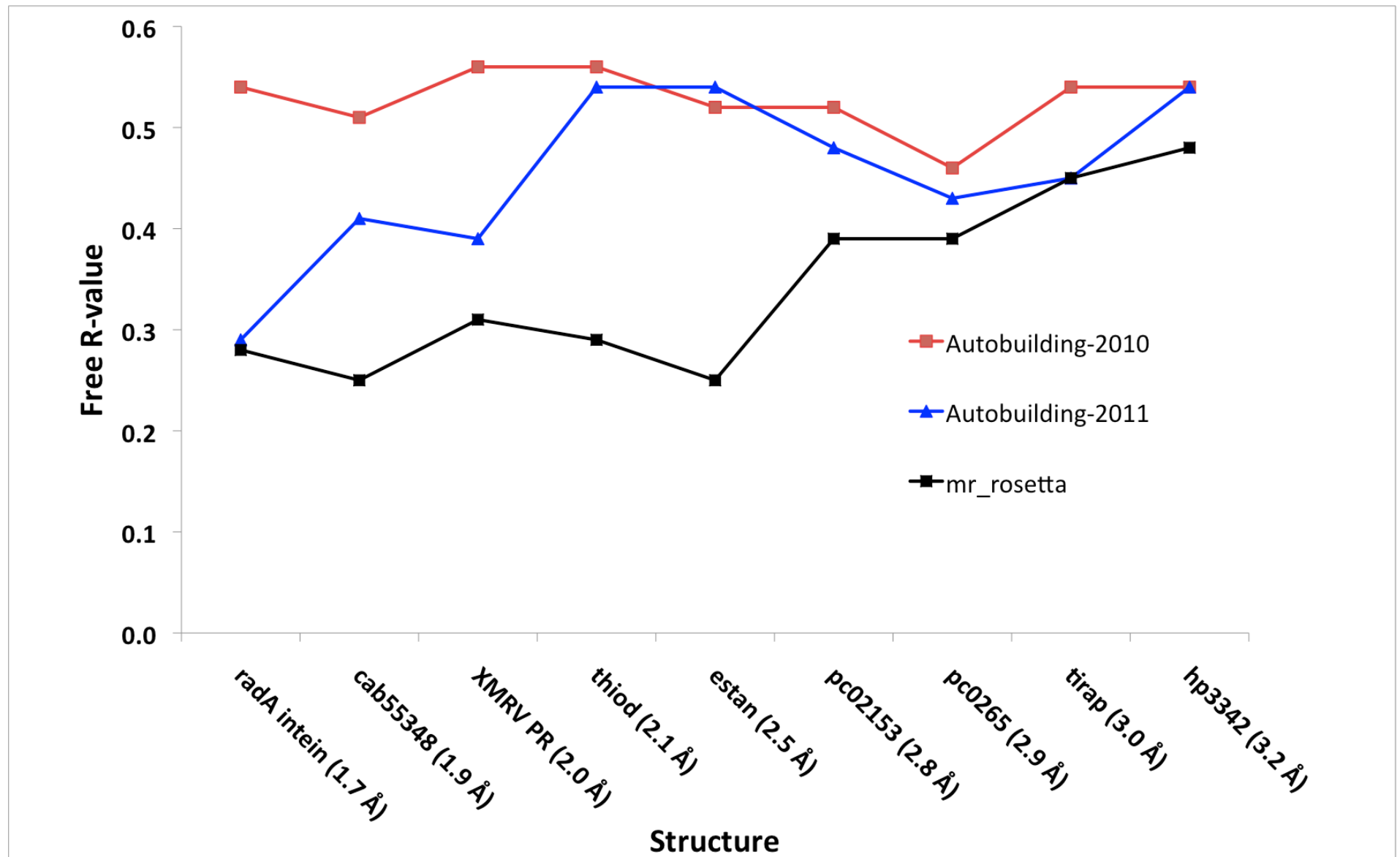
Comparison with  
*phenix.mr\_rosetta*



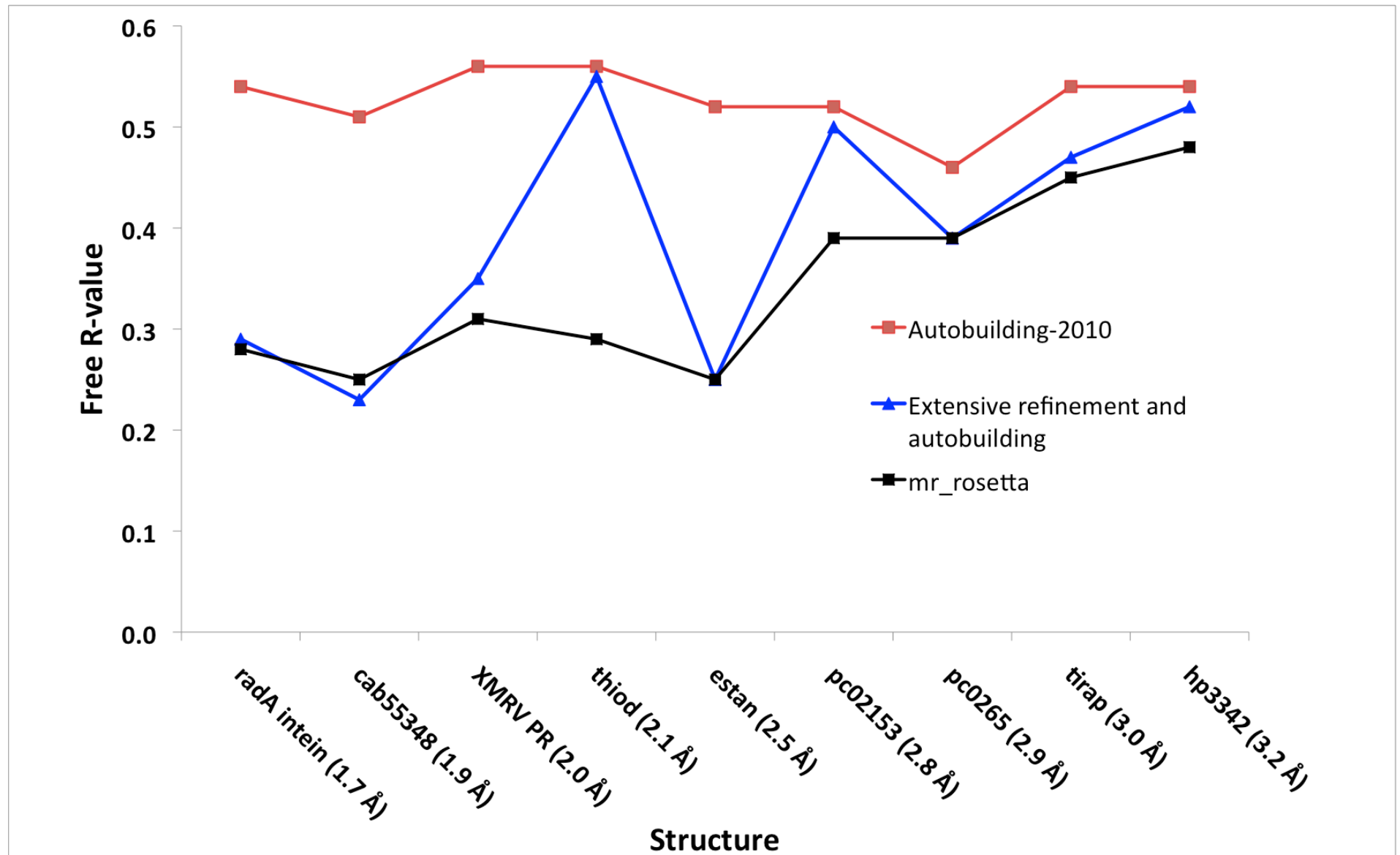
## Morphing combined with autobuilding



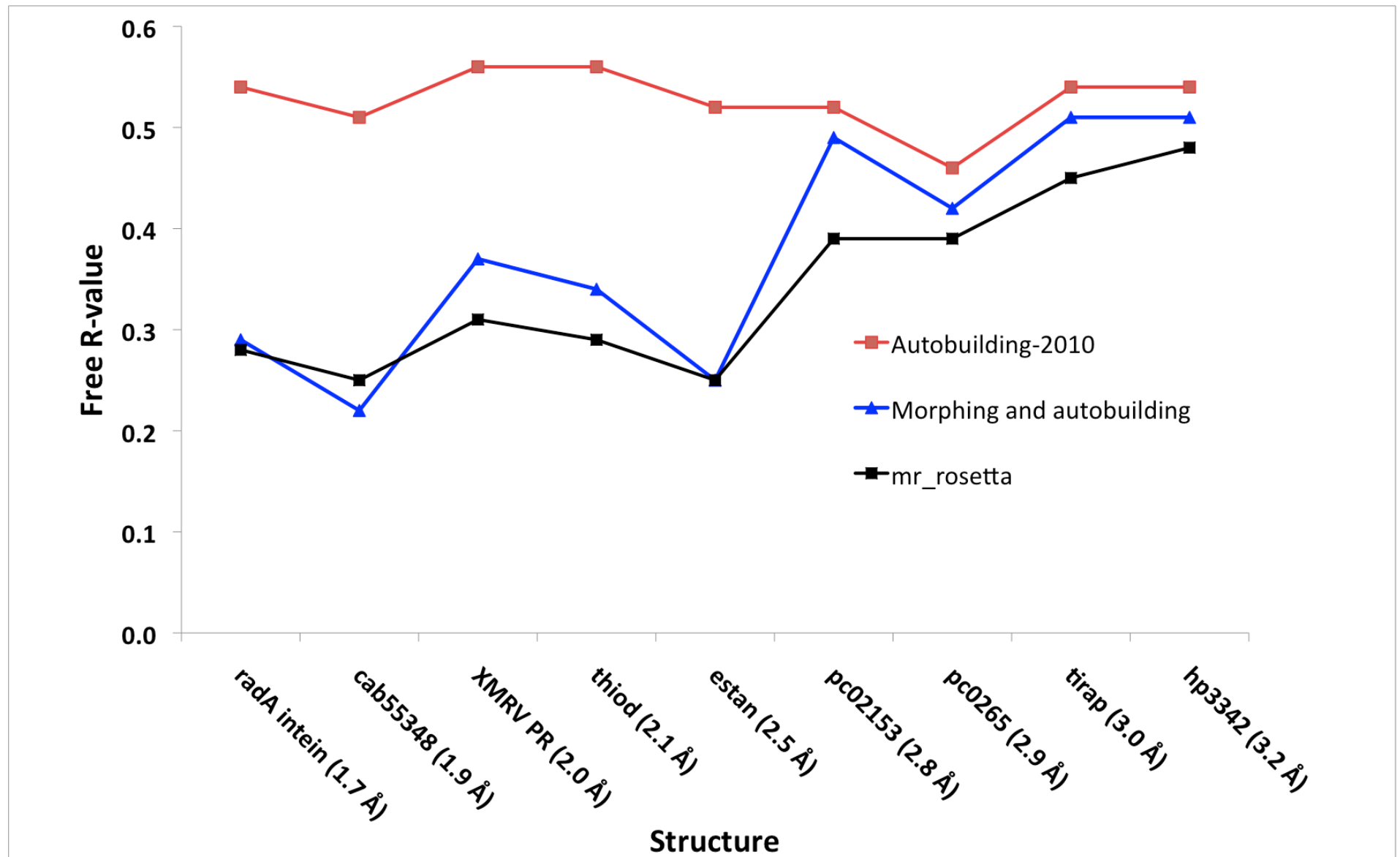
## Morphing combined with autobuilding



## Morphing combined with autobuilding



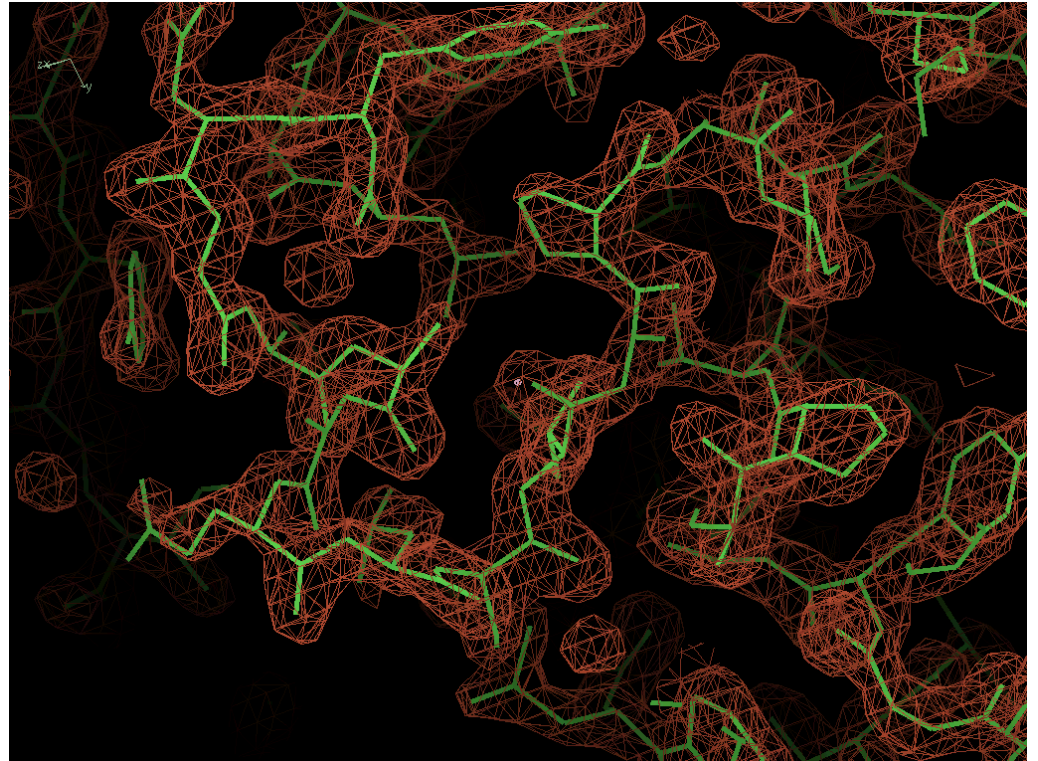
## Morphing combined with autobuilding



## Applications for morphing

Molecular replacement  
templates that close but  
distorted

Building models into  
experimental electron density  
maps when a distant related  
structure is available



## Thanks for data to...

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Sergey M. Vorobiev, NESG

Hideo Iwai, Univ. of Helsinki

P. Raj Pokkuluri, Argonne National Laboratory



Scripts and documentation for  
phenix.morph\_model are available at...

<http://www.phenix-online.org>



# The PHENIX Project



## *Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory*

*Paul Adams, Ralf Grosse-Kunstleve, Pavel Afonine, Nat Echols, Nigel Moriarty, Jeff Headd, Nicholas Sauter, Peter Zwart*



## *Los Alamos National Laboratory*

*Tom Terwilliger, Li-Wei Hung*



*Randy Read, Airlie McCoy, Gabor Bunkoczi, Rob Oeffner*

## *Cambridge University*



## *Duke University*

*Jane & David Richardson, Vincent Chen, Chris Williams, Bryan Arendall, Swati Jain, Bradley Hintze*



*An NIH/NIGMS funded  
Program Project*