

## phenix.polder – short tutorial

A tool for calculating omit maps  
around atom selections by excluding  
the bulk solvent mask

Dorothee Liebschner

# Example 1: Ligand density

**Goal:** Learn how to calculate a polder map with the Phenix GUI

The first example of this tutorial shows how to compute a polder map

It shows improved density of a MES molecule in structure 1ABA.

To reduce file size of the data, the resolution is limited to 2.5 Å. As a practice, it can be useful to download the original data and to recalculate the examples from this tutorial.

Easy way to get data from the PDB via command line:

```
phenix.fetch_pdb --mtz 1aba
```



Quit



Preferences



Help



Citations



Coot



PyMOL



KING



Other tools



Ask for help

Actions Job history

**Projects**

Show group:

All groups

Manage...

Select

Delete

New project

Settings

ID	Last modified	# of jobs	R-free
test	May 18 2016 11:39 ...	5	---
polder_test_tom	May 18 2016 01:07 ...	4	---
pka-compare	May 18 2016 12:42 ...	0	---
polder_tutorial	May 18 2016 01:20 ...	0	---

**Favorites**

Data analysis

Experimental phasing

Molecular replacement

Model building

Refinement

Validation

Ligands

Reflection tools

Maps

Model tools

Other utilities

Current directory: /Users/dcliebschner/Desktop/Projects/1\_polder/polder\_tutorial

Browse...





Quit



Preferences



Help



Citations



Coot



PyMOL



KING



Other tools



Ask for help

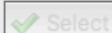
Actions Job history

**Projects**

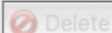
Show group:

All groups

Manage...



Select



Delete











New project



Settings

ID	Last modified	# of jobs	R-free
test	May 18 2016 11:39 ...	5	---
polder_test_tom	May 18 2016 01:07 ...	4	---
pka-compare	May 18 2016 12:42 ...	0	---
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> polder_tutorial	May 18 2016 01:20 ...	0	---

Create 1D-1D map from isomorphous datasets

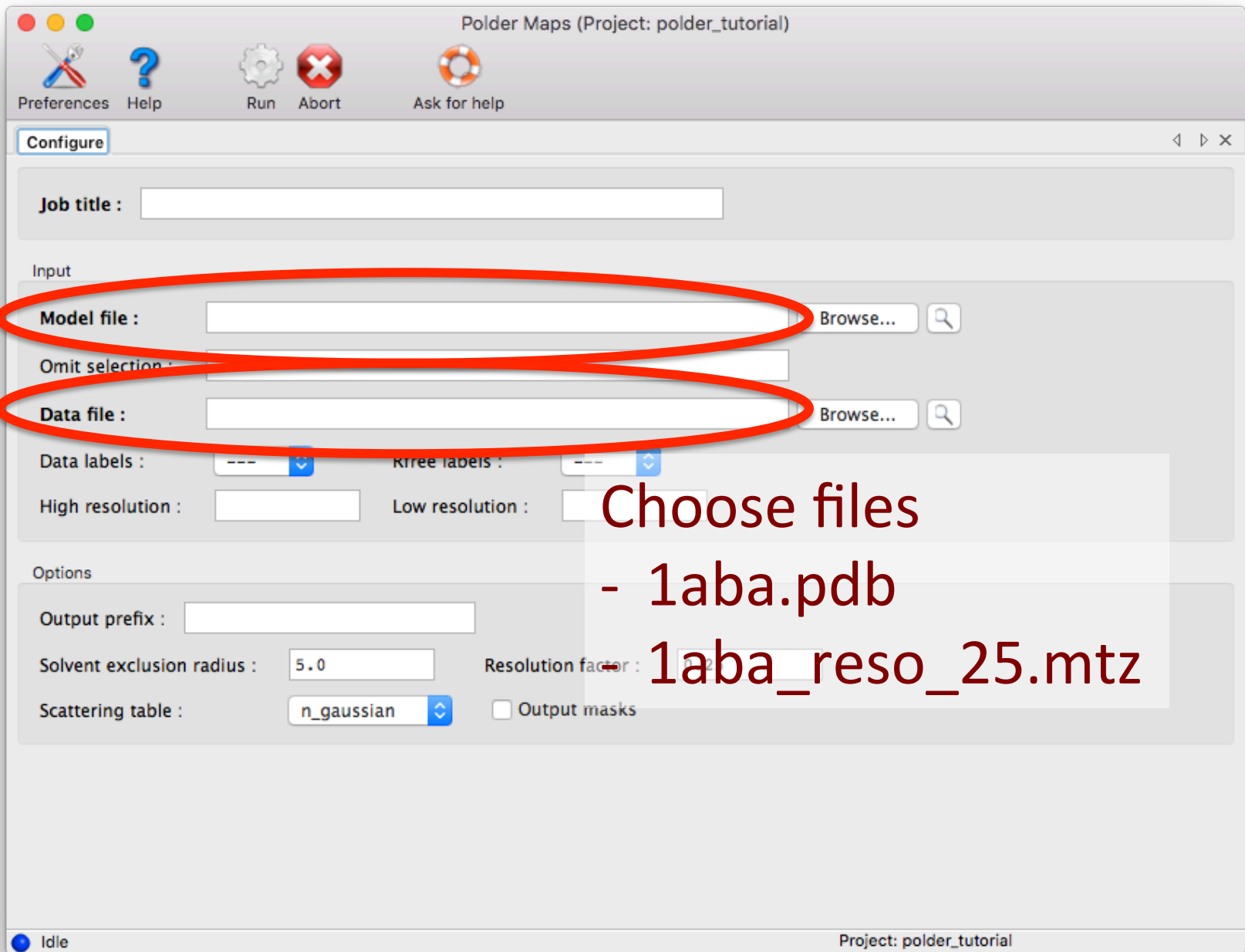
**Superpose maps** Superpose two PDB files and transform the associated map coefficients to the new orientation**Cut out density** Extract an arbitrary user-defined region from map coefficients file**Multi-crystal averaging** Density modification with multi-crystal averaging of maps**Find difference map peaks and holes** Identify local maxima and minima in mFo-DFc map (and anomalous map if available) and flag waters with excess density**Create maximum entropy map** Statistical map modification procedure to remove artifacts due to missing data**Create feature-enhanced map** Calculate a 2mFo-DFc map locally scaled and density-modified to enhance fine details**Map Comparison** Tool for calculating equivalent sigma levels when visually comparing two maps**Polder Maps** Tool for calculating Polder maps**Model tools****Other utilities**

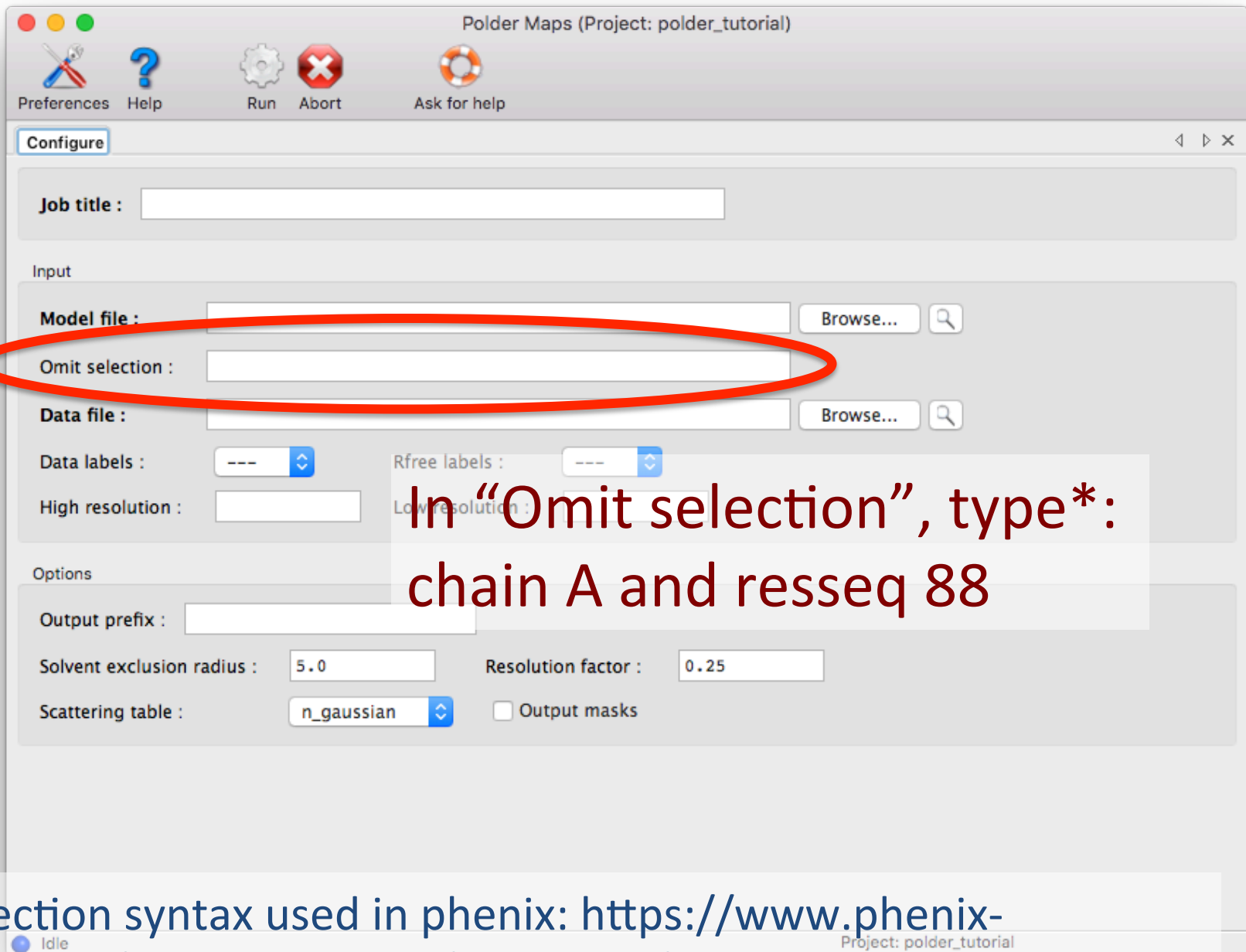
Current directory:

/Users/dcliebschner/Desktop/Projects/1\_polder/polder\_tutorial

Browse...





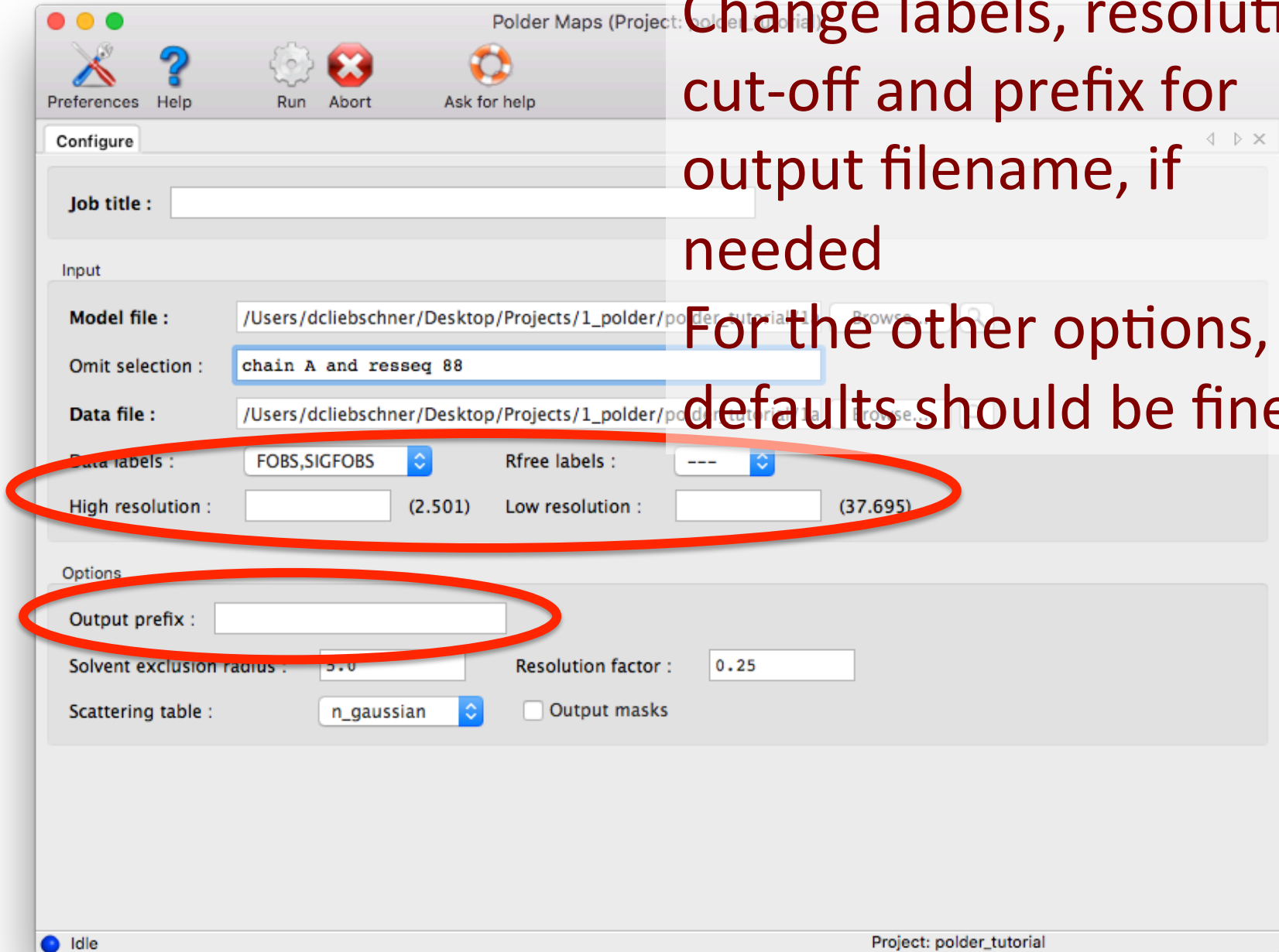


In "Omit selection", type\*:  
chain A and resseq 88

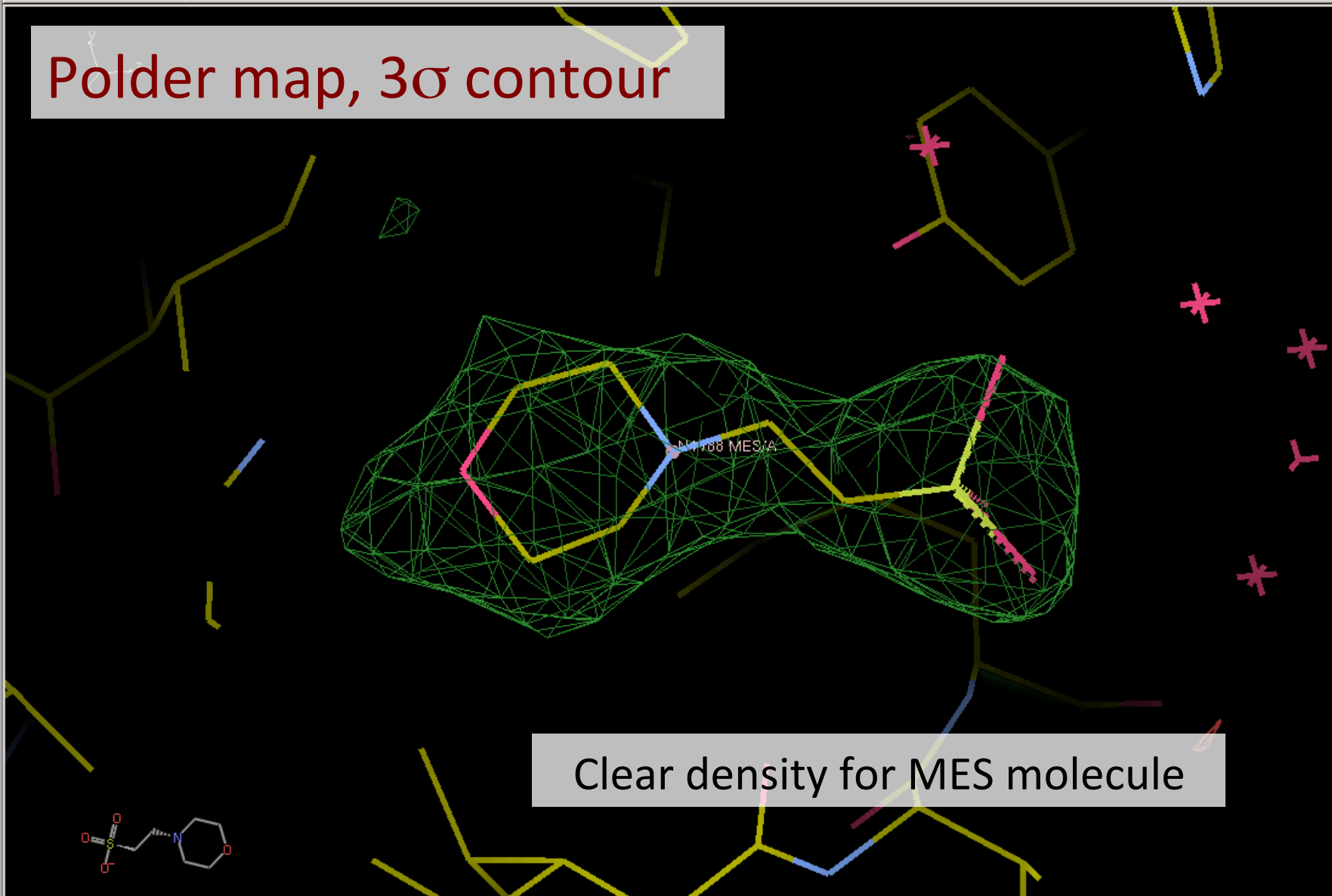
\*Selection syntax used in phenix: [https://www.phenix-online.org/documentation/reference/atom\\_selections.html](https://www.phenix-online.org/documentation/reference/atom_selections.html)

Change labels, resolution cut-off and prefix for output filename, if needed

For the other options, defaults should be fine.



# Polder map, $3\sigma$ contour

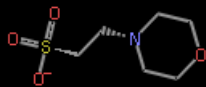




Omit map,  $3\sigma$  contour

N4 /1/A/88 MES/A

Only partial density for MES molecule  
(C atoms' density is missing)



# Example 1: Side chain density

**Goal:** Calculate polder map for a residue

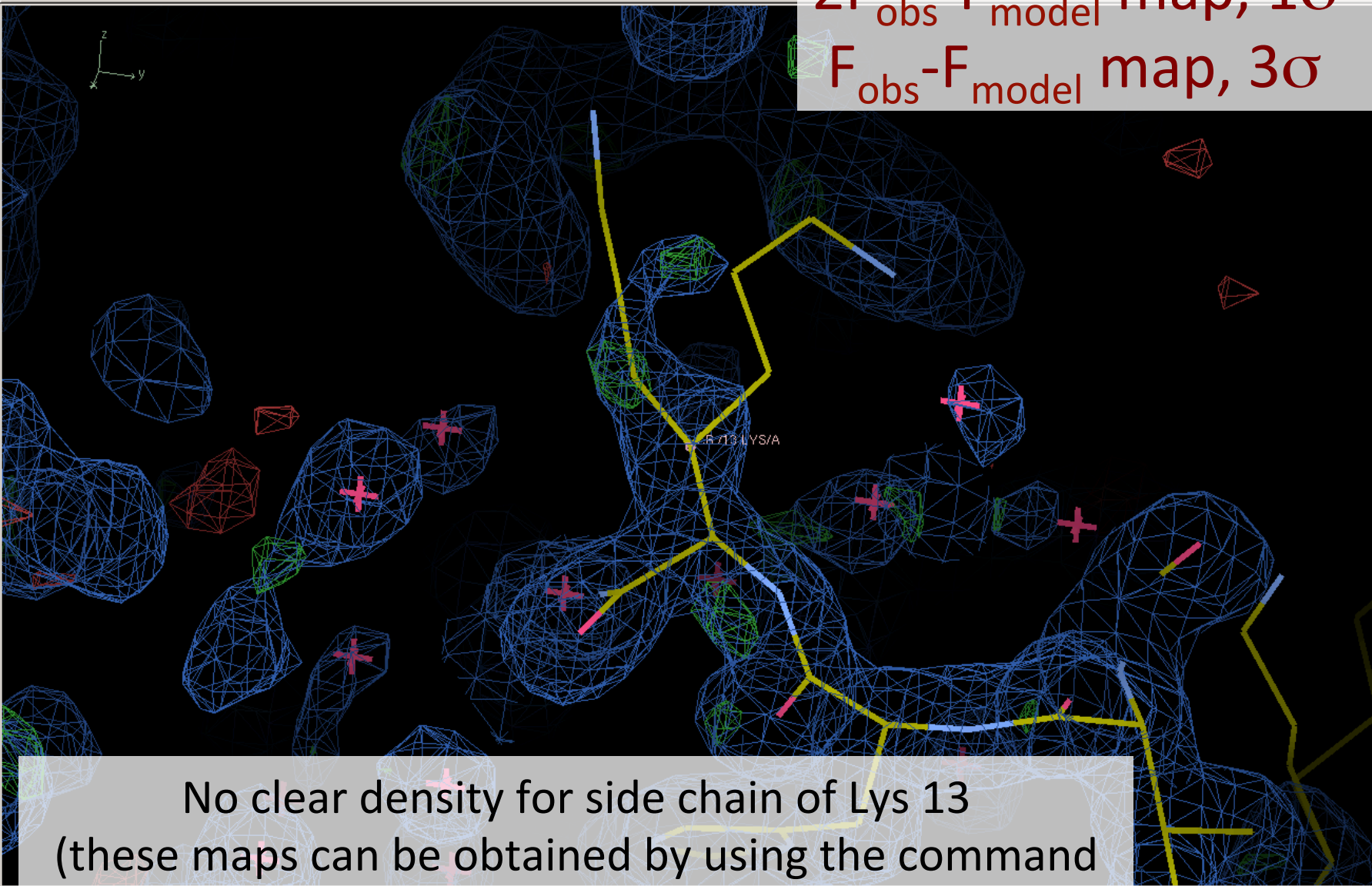
Side chains density of residues located at the surface of the protein (i.e. which are exposed to solvent), are often disordered. It can be therefore difficult to model their orientation.

With the same files (i.e. structure + data from 1ABA), calculate a polder map using the following selection:

```
chain A and resseq 13
```

Then open the polder and the omit maps in COOT.

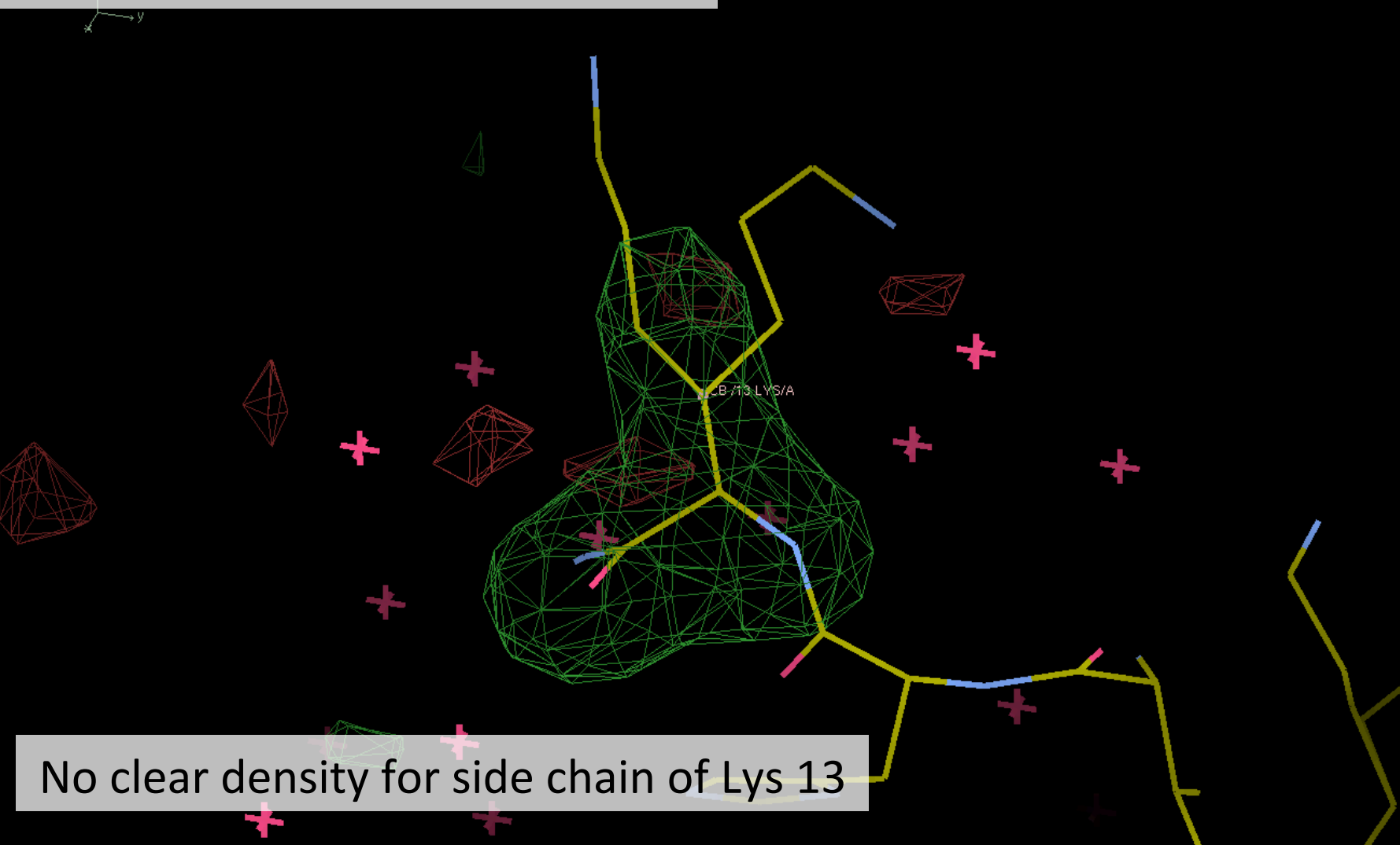
$2F_{\text{obs}} - F_{\text{model}}$  map,  $1\sigma$   
 $F_{\text{obs}} - F_{\text{model}}$  map,  $3\sigma$



No clear density for side chain of Lys 13  
(these maps can be obtained by using the command

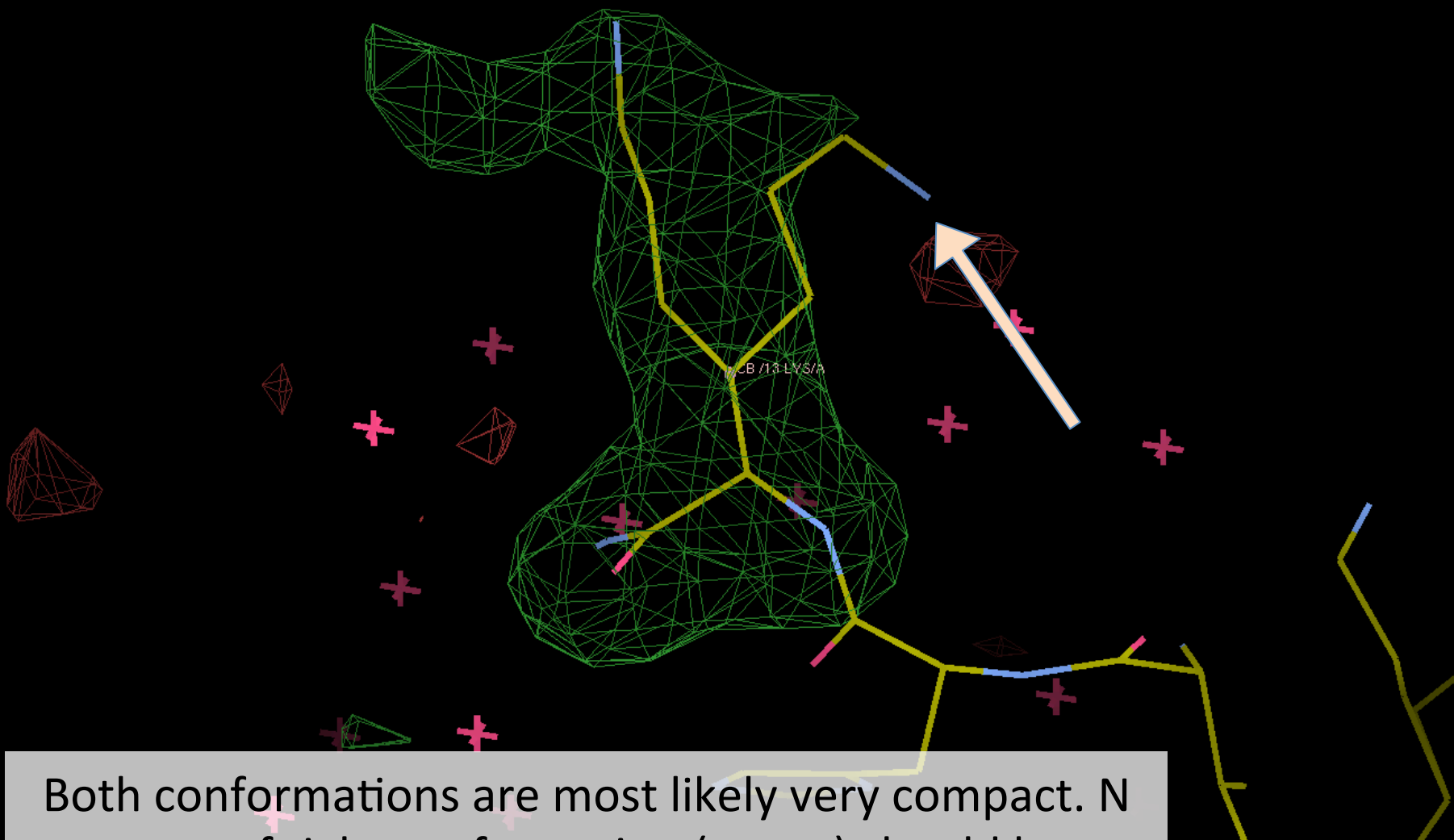
`phenix.maps 1aba.pdb 1aba.mtz`)

# Omit map, $3\sigma$ contour



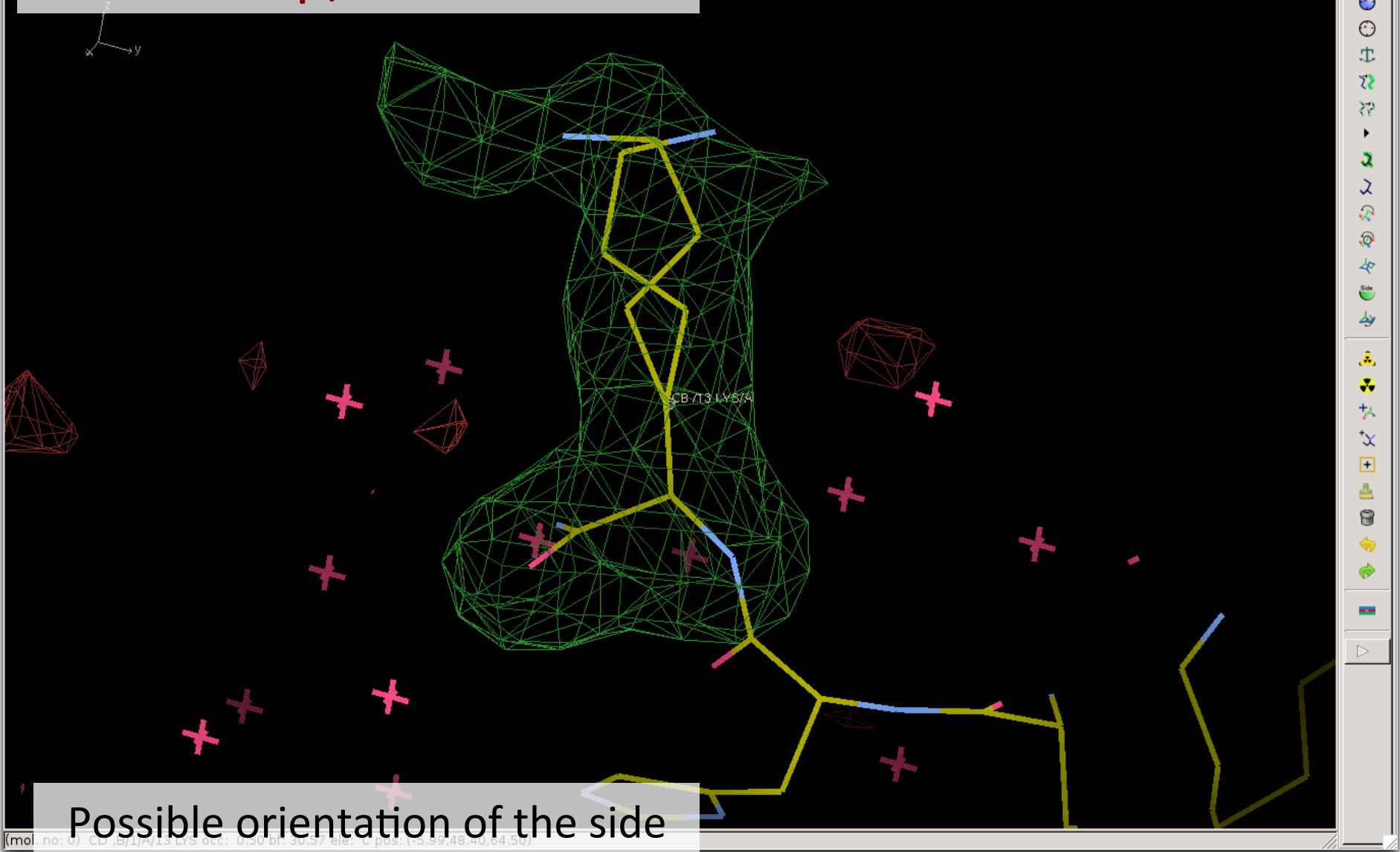
No clear density for side chain of Lys 13

# Polder map, $3\sigma$ contour



Both conformations are most likely very compact. N atom of right conformation (arrow) should be modeled inside the difference density.

# Polder map, 3 $\sigma$ contour



Possible orientation of the side chains of Lys 13