

# Graph Denoising Diffusion for Inverse Protein Folding

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# Outline

- Introduction
- Protein Graph Representation & Inverse Folding
- Graph Denoising Diffusion for Inverse Protein Folding (GraDe-IF)
- Experiment & Evaluation

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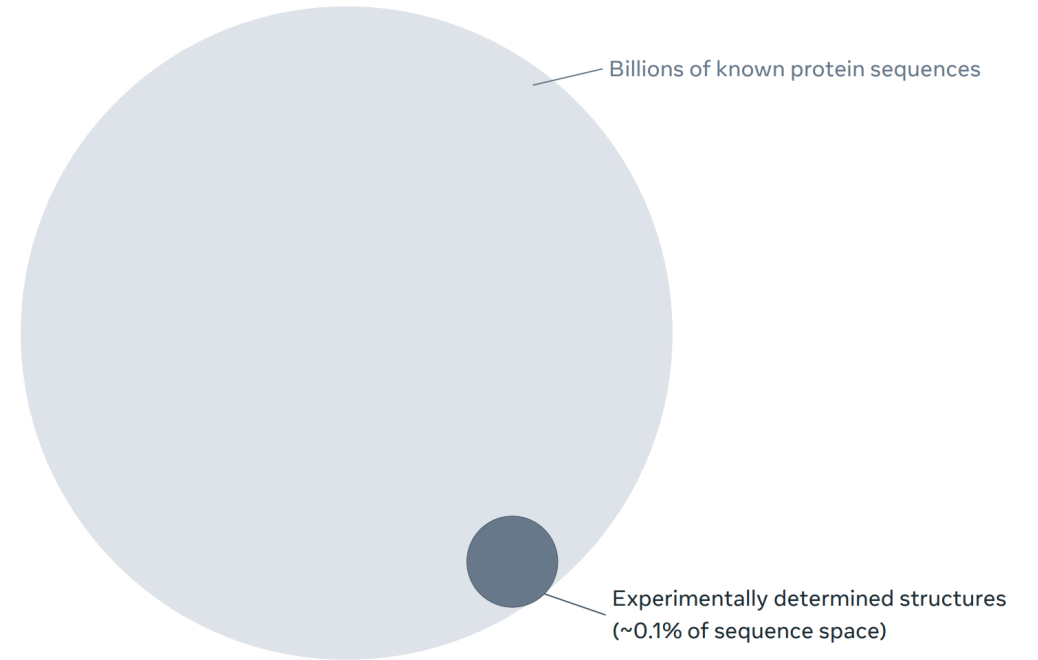
# Introduction



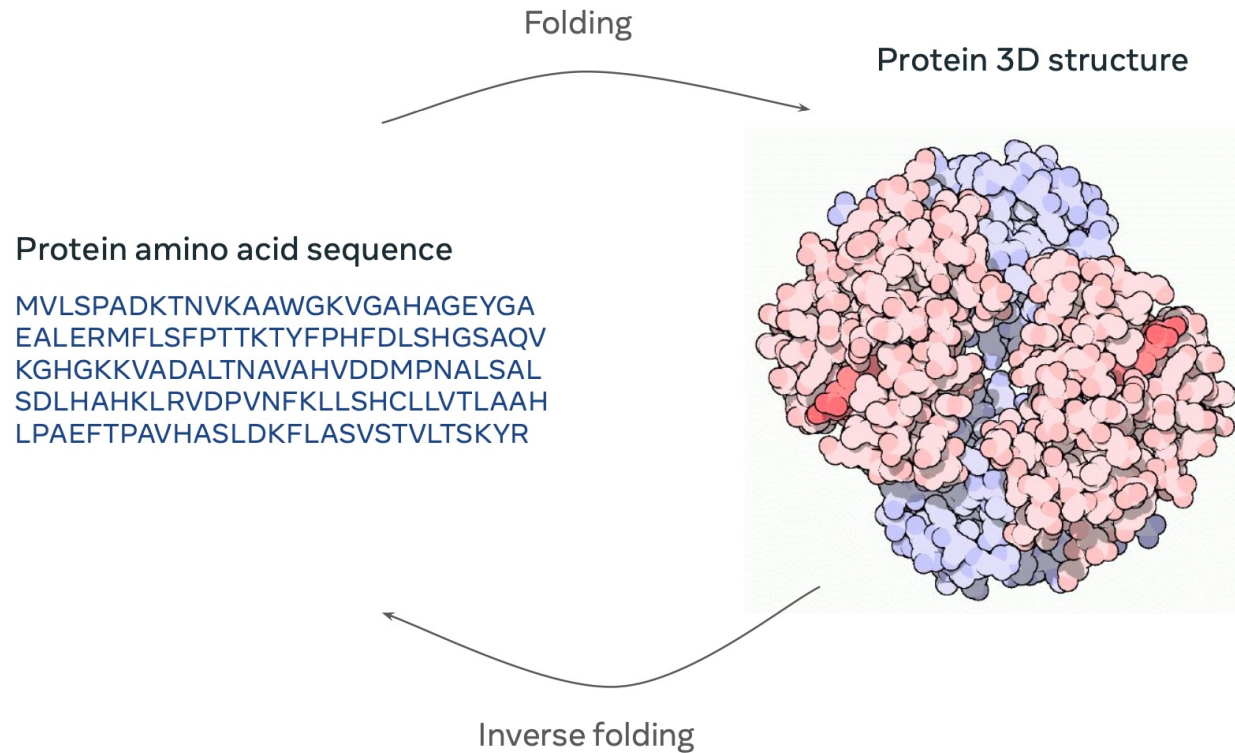
AlphaFold2 (2021)



RoseTTAFold (2021)



# Introduction



- Structure determine function
- Many sequence can fold on one similar structure (524 different sequence fold into 1MBN)
- Diffusion model can generate diverse sample given the same input

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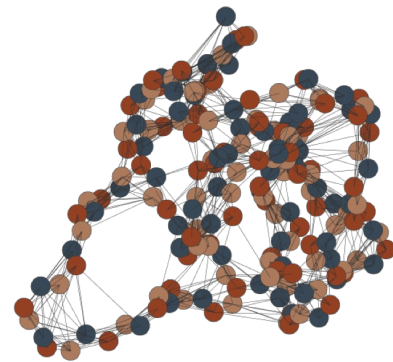
# Protein Representation



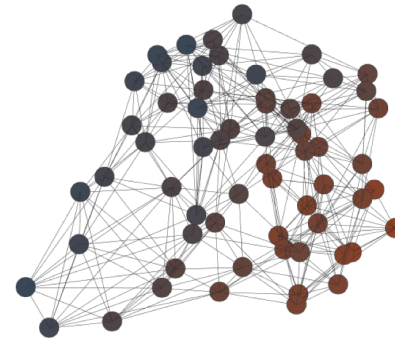
**Tertiary Structure**

**Sequence**

DTCGSGYNVDQRRRTNSGCKAGNGDRHFCGCDR  
TGWECKGGKWTEVQDCGSSSCKGTSNGGATC

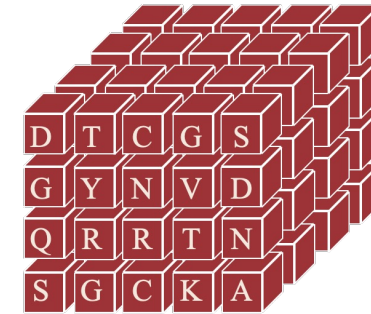


**Atom Graph**



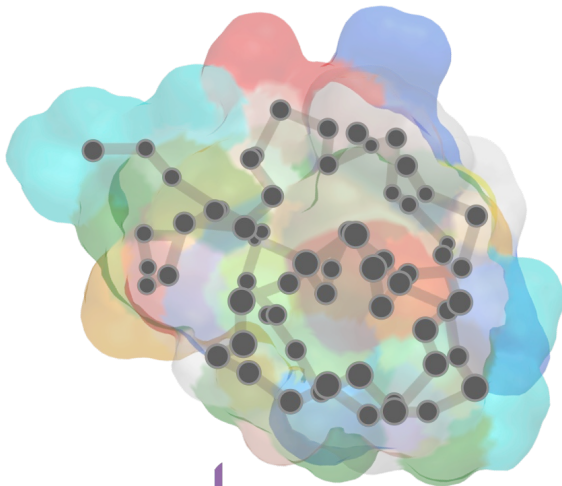
**Residue Graph**

**Topology**

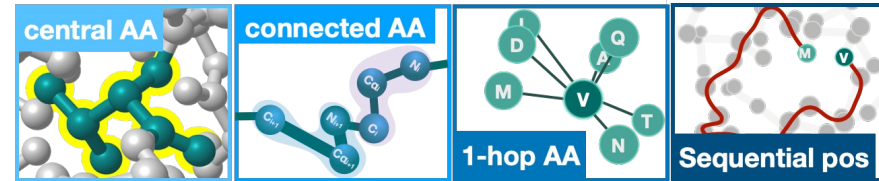


**3D Geometry**

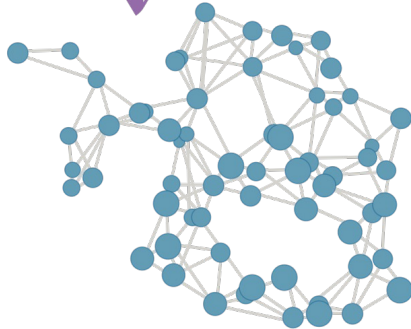
# Protein Graph



*multi-scale  
microenvironment  
features*



*kNN  
graph*



$$\mathcal{G} = \{X, A, E\}$$

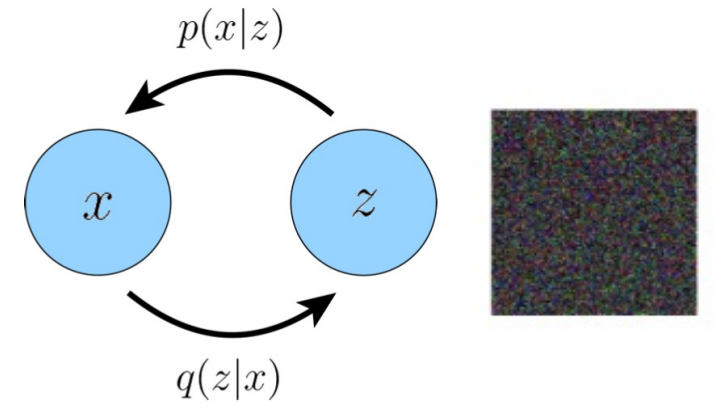
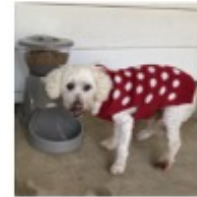
Inverse Folding:

$$p(X^{aa} | X^{pos}) = p_{\theta}(X^{aa} | A, E) \quad \text{where} \quad X^{aa} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times 20}$$



# Diffusion Generative Model

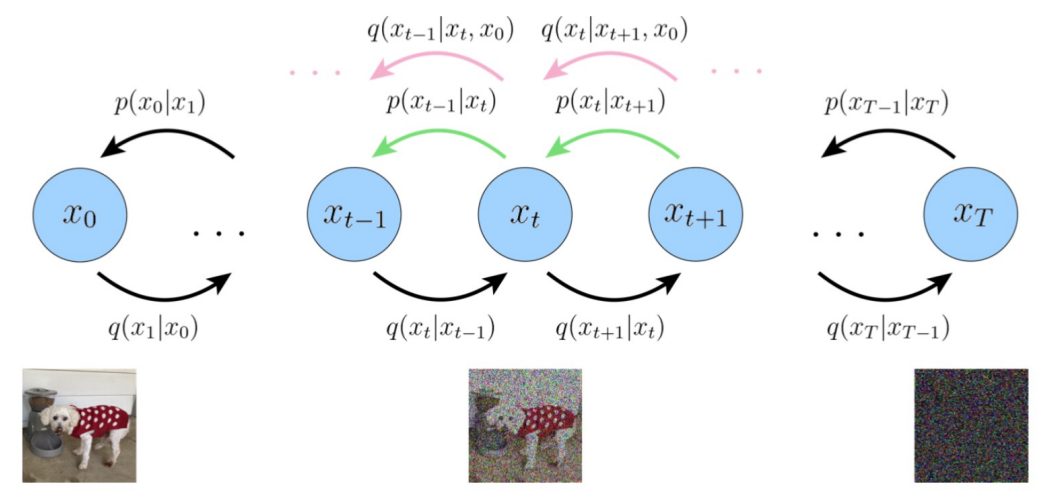
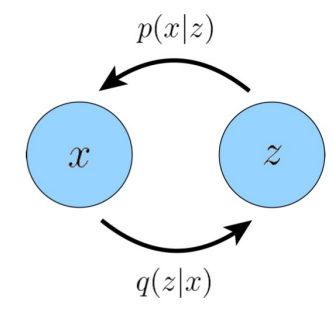
$$\begin{aligned}\log p(\mathbf{x}) &= \log \int p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) d\mathbf{z} \\ &= \log \int \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) q_\phi(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x})}{q_\phi(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x})} d\mathbf{z} \\ &= \log \mathbb{E}_{q_\phi(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x})} \left[ \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})}{q_\phi(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x})} \right] \\ &\geq \mathbb{E}_{q_\phi(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x})} \left[ \log \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})}{q_\phi(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x})} \right] \\ &= \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{q_\phi(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x})} [\log p_\theta(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{z})]}_{\text{reconstruction term}} - \underbrace{D_{KL}(q_\phi(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x}) \parallel p(\mathbf{z}))}_{\text{prior matching term}}\end{aligned}$$



# Diffusion Generative Model

$$\log p(\mathbf{x}) \geq \mathbb{E}_{q_\phi(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})}[\log p_\theta(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{z})] - D_{KL}(q_\phi(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x}) \parallel p(\mathbf{z}))$$

$$\begin{aligned} \log p(\mathbf{x}) &= \log \int p(\mathbf{x}_{0:T}) d\mathbf{x}_{1:T} \\ &= \log \int \frac{p(\mathbf{x}_{0:T}) q(\mathbf{x}_{1:T} | \mathbf{x}_0)}{q(\mathbf{x}_{1:T} | \mathbf{x}_0)} d\mathbf{x}_{1:T} \\ &= \log \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{x}_{1:T}|\mathbf{x}_0)} \left[ \frac{p(\mathbf{x}_{0:T})}{q(\mathbf{x}_{1:T} | \mathbf{x}_0)} \right] \\ &\geq \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{x}_{1:T}|\mathbf{x}_0)} \left[ \log \frac{p(\mathbf{x}_{0:T})}{q(\mathbf{x}_{1:T} | \mathbf{x}_0)} \right] \\ &\dots \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{x}_1|\mathbf{x}_0)} [\log p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_0 | \mathbf{x}_1)] - D_{KL}(q(\mathbf{x}_T | \mathbf{x}_0) \parallel p(\mathbf{x}_T)) - \\ &\quad \sum_{t=2}^T \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_0)} [D_{KL}(q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_0) \parallel p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_t))] \end{aligned}$$



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# Define Diffusion Process in Discrete Space

$$\log p(\mathbf{x}) \geq \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{x}_1|\mathbf{x}_0)}[\log p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_0 | \mathbf{x}_1)] - D_{\text{KL}}(q(\mathbf{x}_T | \mathbf{x}_0) \parallel p(\mathbf{x}_T))$$
$$- \sum_{t=2}^T \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_0)}[D_{\text{KL}}(q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_0) \parallel p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_t))]$$

$$\arg \min_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{t \sim U\{2, T\}} \left[ \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_0)} [D_{\text{KL}}(q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_0) \parallel p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_t))] \right]$$

- $q(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_0)$  requires a closed form
- $q(\mathbf{x}_T)$  should independent with  $x$
- $q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_0)$  should have closed form

# Define Diffusion Process in Discrete Space

Diffusion Process:

$$q(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}^{aa}) = \mathbf{x}^{aa} \bar{\mathbf{Q}}_t \quad \bar{\mathbf{Q}}_t = \mathbf{Q}_1 \mathbf{Q}_2 \dots \mathbf{Q}_t \quad \mathbf{x}^{aa} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 20}$$

Transition Matrix

$$\mathbf{Q}_t = \alpha_t \mathbf{I} + (1 - \alpha_t) \mathbf{1}_d \mathbf{1}_d^\top / d \quad (\text{Uniform Diffusion Kernel})$$

	C	S	T	A	G	P	D	E	Q	N	H	R	K	M	I	L	V	W	Y	F
C	9																			
S	-1	4																		
T	-1	1	5																	
A	0	1	0	4																
G	-3	0	-2	0	6															
P	-3	-1	-1	-1	-2	7														
D	-3	0	-1	-2	-1	-1	6													
E	-4	0	-1	-1	-2	-1	2	5												
Q	-3	0	-1	-1	-2	-1	0	2	5											
N	-3	1	0	-2	0	-2	1	0	0	6										
H	-3	-1	-2	-2	-2	-2	-1	0	0	1	8									
R	-3	-1	-1	-1	-2	-2	0	1	0	0	0	5								
K	-3	0	-1	-1	-2	-1	1	1	0	-1	2	5								
M	-1	-1	-1	-3	-2	-3	-2	0	-2	-2	-1	-1	5							
I	-1	-2	-1	-1	-4	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	1	4						
L	-1	-2	-1	-1	-4	-3	-4	-3	-2	-3	-3	-2	2	2	4					
V	-1	-2	0	0	-3	-2	-3	-2	-2	-3	-3	-3	1	3	1	4				
W	-2	-3	-2	-3	-2	-4	-3	-2	-4	-2	-3	-3	-1	-3	-2	-3	11			
Y	-2	-2	-2	-2	-3	-3	-3	-2	-1	-2	2	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	2	7		
F	-2	-2	-2	-2	-3	-4	-3	-3	-3	-3	-1	-3	-3	0	0	0	-1	1	3	6

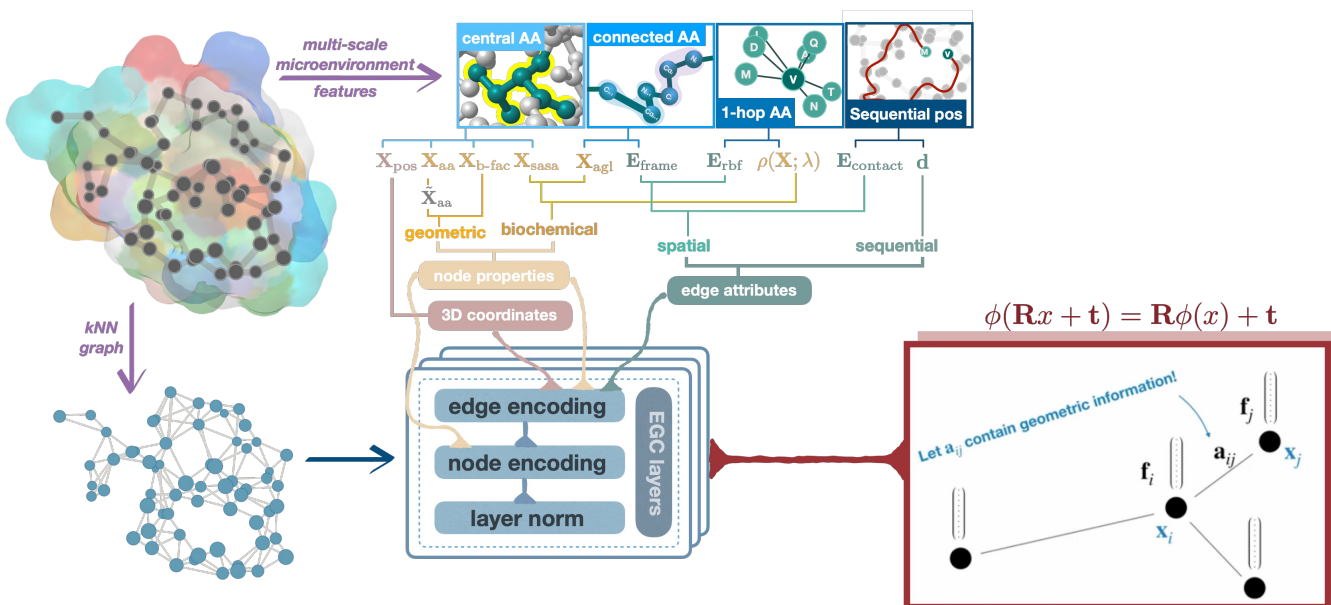
(BLOSUM Matrix)

Posterior Distribution

$$\begin{aligned} q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}^{aa}) &= \frac{q(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \mathbf{x}^{aa}) q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}^{aa})}{q(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}^{aa})} \\ &= \text{Cat} \left( \mathbf{x}_{t-1} \mid \frac{\mathbf{x}_t \mathbf{Q}_t^\top \odot \mathbf{x}^{aa} \bar{\mathbf{Q}}_{t-1}}{\mathbf{x}^{aa} \bar{\mathbf{Q}}_t \mathbf{x}_t^\top} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Parameterized Generative Process :  $p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_t) \propto \sum_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}^{aa}} q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}^{aa}) \hat{p}_\theta(\mathbf{x}^{aa} | \mathbf{x}_t)$

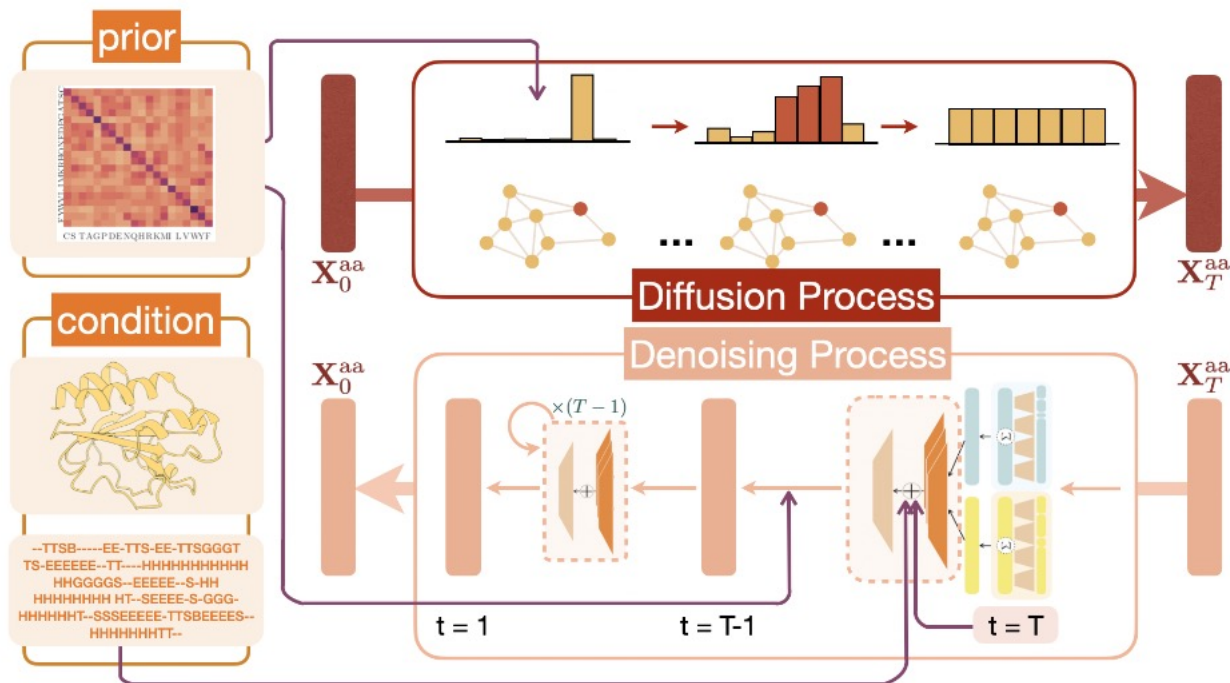
# Denoise Neural Network



## Algorithm 1 Training

- 1: **Input:** A graph  $\mathcal{G} = \{\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{E}\}$
- 2: Sample  $t \sim \mathcal{U}(1, T)$
- 3: Compute  $q(\mathbf{X}_t | \mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}}) = \mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}} \bar{Q}_t$
- 4: Sample noisy  $\mathbf{X}_t \sim q(\mathbf{X}_t | \mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}})$
- 5: Forward pass:  $\hat{p}(\mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}}) = f_\theta(\mathbf{X}_t, \mathbf{E}, t, ss)$
- 6: Compute cross-entropy loss:  $L = L_{\text{CE}}(\hat{p}(\mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}}), \mathbf{X})$
- 7: Compute the gradient and optimize denoise network  $f_\theta$

# Graph Denoising Diffusion for Inverse Protein Folding



## Algorithm 1 Training

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- 2: Sample  $t \sim \mathcal{U}(1, T)$
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- 6: Compute cross-entropy loss:  $L = L_{\text{CE}}(\hat{p}(\mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}}), \mathbf{X})$
- 7: Compute the gradient and optimize denoise network  $f_\theta$

## Algorithm 2 Sampling (DDPM)

- 1: Sample from uniformly prior  $\mathbf{X}_T \sim p(\mathbf{X}_T)$
- 2: **for**  $t$  in  $\{T, T-1, \dots, 1\}$  **do**
- 3:     Predict  $\hat{p}(\mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}} | \mathbf{X}_t)$  by neural network  $\hat{p}(\mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}} | \mathbf{X}_t) = f_\theta(\mathbf{X}_t, \mathbf{E}, t, ss)$
- 4:     Compute  $p_\theta(\mathbf{X}_{t-1} | \mathbf{X}_t) = \sum_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}^{\text{aa}}} q(\mathbf{X}_{t-1} | \mathbf{X}_t, \hat{\mathbf{X}}^{\text{aa}}) \hat{p}(\mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}} | \mathbf{X}_t)$
- 5:     Sample  $\mathbf{X}_{t-1} \sim p_\theta(\mathbf{X}_{t-1} | \mathbf{X}_t)$
- 6: **end for**
- 7: Sample  $\mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}} \sim p_\theta(\mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}} | \mathbf{X}_1)$

# Generative Process

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## Algorithm 2 Sampling (DDPM)

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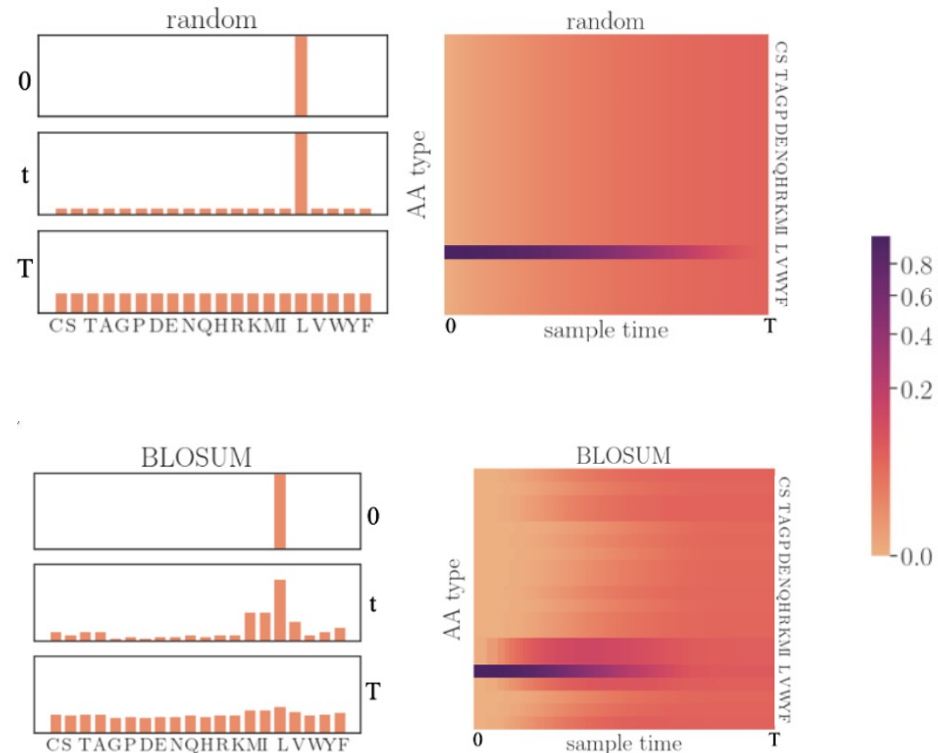
- 1: Sample from uniformly prior  $\mathbf{X}_T \sim p(\mathbf{X}_T)$
  - 2: **for**  $t$  in  $\{T, T-1, \dots, 1\}$  **do**
  - 3:   Predict  $\hat{p}(\mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}} | \mathbf{X}_t)$  by neural network  $\hat{p}(\mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}} | \mathbf{X}_t) = f_\theta(\mathbf{X}_t, \mathbf{E}, t, ss)$
  - 4:   Compute  $p_\theta(\mathbf{X}_{t-1} | \mathbf{X}_t) = \sum_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}^{\text{aa}}} q(\mathbf{X}_{t-1} | \mathbf{X}_t, \hat{\mathbf{X}}^{\text{aa}}) \hat{p}(\mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}} | \mathbf{X}_t)$
  - 5:   Sample  $\mathbf{X}_{t-1} \sim p_\theta(\mathbf{X}_{t-1} | \mathbf{X}_t)$
  - 6: **end for**
  - 7: Sample  $\mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}} \sim p_\theta(\mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}} | \mathbf{X}_1)$
- 

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## Algorithm 3 Sampling (DDIM)

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- 1: Sample from uniformly prior  $\mathbf{X}_T \sim p(\mathbf{X}_T)$
  - 2: **for**  $t$  in  $\{T, T-k, \dots, 1\}$  **do**
  - 3:   Predict  $\hat{p}(\mathbf{X}_0 | \mathbf{X}_t)$  by neural network  $\hat{p}(\mathbf{X}_0 | \mathbf{X}_t) = f_\theta(\mathbf{X}_t, \mathbf{E}, t, ss)$
  - 4:   Compute  $p_\theta(\mathbf{X}_{t-k} | \mathbf{X}_t) = \sum_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}^{\text{aa}}} q(\mathbf{X}_{t-k} | \mathbf{X}_t, \hat{\mathbf{X}}^{\text{aa}}) \hat{p}(\mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}} | \mathbf{X}_t)$
  - 5:   Sample  $\mathbf{X}_{t-k} \sim p_\theta(\mathbf{X}_{t-k} | \mathbf{X}_t)$
  - 6: **end for**
  - 7: Sample  $\mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}} \sim p_\theta(\mathbf{X}^{\text{aa}} | \mathbf{X}_1)$
- 





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- **Experiment & Evaluation**

# Experiment & Evaluation

Table 1: Recovery rate performance of **CATH** on zero-shot models.

Model	Perplexity ↓			Recovery Rate % ↑			CATH version	
	Short	Single-chain	All	Short	Single-chain	All	4.2	4.3
STRUCTGNN [17]	8.29	8.74	6.40	29.44	28.26	35.91	✓	
GRAPHTRANS [17]	8.39	8.83	6.63	28.14	28.46	35.82	✓	
GCA [41]	7.09	7.49	6.05	32.62	31.10	37.64	✓	
GVP [19]	7.23	7.84	5.36	30.60	28.95	39.47	✓	
GVP-large [16]	7.68	6.12	6.17	32.6	39.4	39.2		✓
ALPHADESIGN [8]	7.32	7.63	6.30	34.16	32.66	41.31	✓	
ESM-IF1 [16]	8.18	6.33	6.44	31.3	38.5	38.3		✓
ProteinMPNN [5]	6.21	6.68	4.61	36.35	34.43	45.96	✓	
PIFOLD [9]	6.04	6.31	4.55	39.84	38.53	51.66	✓	
<b>GRADE-IF</b>	<b>5.49</b>	<b>6.21</b>	<b>4.35</b>	<b>45.27</b>	<b>42.77</b>	<b>52.21</b>	✓	

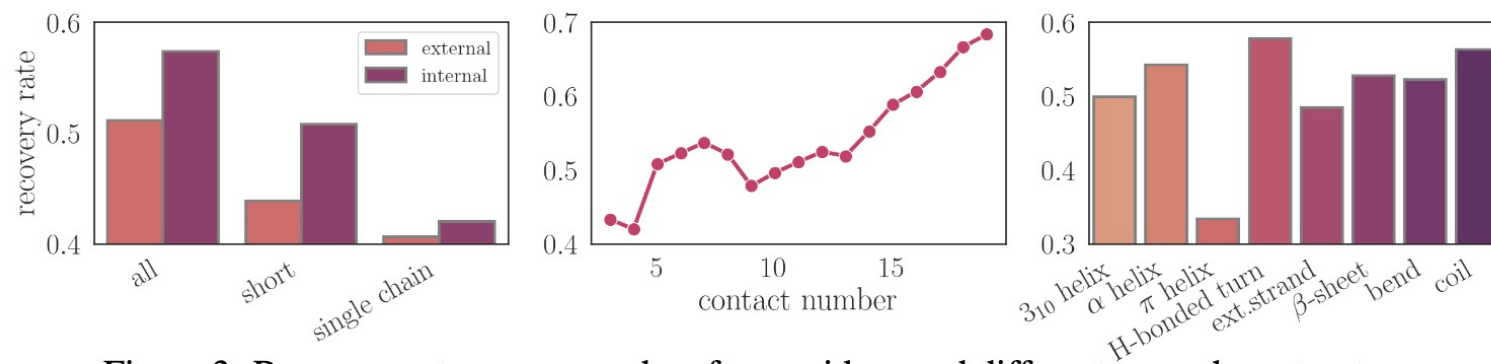


Figure 3: Recovery rate on core and surface residues and different secondary structure

# Experiment & Evaluation



Recovery Rate: 0.612  
RMSD: 0.915  
avg. pLDDT: 0.841



Recovery Rate: 0.547  
RMSD: 1.021  
avg. pLDDT: 0.835

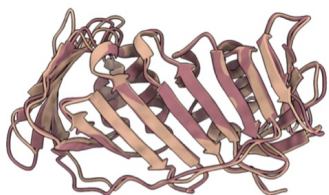


Recovery Rate: 0.540  
RMSD: 0.999  
avg. pLDDT: 0.830

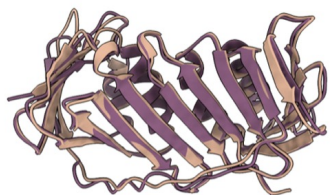
Figure 6: Folding prediction of generated protein sequence by GRADE-IF with respect to the native protein (PDB ID: 3FKF, colored in nude).

# Experiment & Evaluation

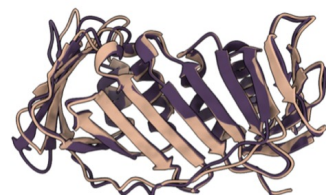
PDB ID: 1ud9A00  
pLDDT: 0.835



Recovery Rate: 0.593  
RMSD: 0.819  
avg. pLDDT: 0.841

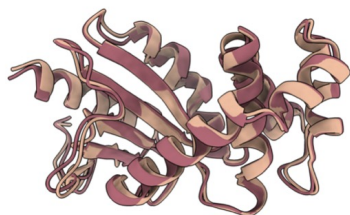


Recovery Rate: 0.535  
RMSD: 0.955  
avg. pLDDT: 0.824

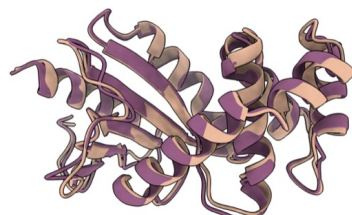


Recovery Rate: 0.494  
RMSD: 0.864  
avg. pLDDT: 0.785

PDB ID: 2remB00  
pLDDT: 0.879



Recovery Rate: 0.538  
RMSD: 0.914  
avg. pLDDT: 0.791

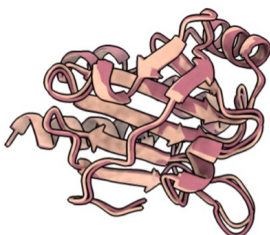


Recovery Rate: 0.505  
RMSD: 0.827  
avg. pLDDT: 0.780

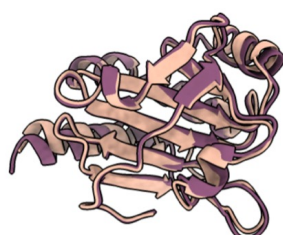


Recovery Rate: 0.500  
RMSD: 0.953  
avg. pLDDT: 0.780

PDB ID: 3drnB00  
pLDDT: 0.8465



Recovery Rate: 0.624  
RMSD: 0.730  
avg. pLDDT: 0.750



Recovery Rate: 0.490  
RMSD: 0.810  
avg. pLDDT: 0.735



Recovery Rate: 0.470  
RMSD: 0.829  
avg. pLDDT: 0.746

**Table 2.** Average RMSD and pLDDT across 42 protein structures (folded by AlphaFold2) with model-generated sequences.

Model	avg. pLDDT	avg RMSD
PiFold	$0.847 \pm 0.160$	$1.530 \pm 0.928$
ProteinMPNN	$0.881 \pm 0.084$	$1.499 \pm 0.816$
GraDe-IF	$0.892 \pm 0.106$	$1.284 \pm 0.747$

**Table 4.** TM score comparison. Each protein backbone generates 30 sequences.

Protein	GraDe-IF	ProteinMPNN	PiFold
1ud9.A	$0.97 \pm 0.01$	$0.95 \pm 0.04$	$0.94 \pm 0.04$
2rem.B	$0.96 \pm 0.01$	$0.94 \pm 0.01$	$0.93 \pm 0.01$
3drn.B	$0.96 \pm 0.01$	$0.95 \pm 0.01$	$0.95 \pm 0.01$
3fkf.A	$0.76 \pm 0.03$	$0.67 \pm 0.01$	$0.64 \pm 0.02$

**Table 5.** TM score comparison on 42 protein backbones, with each backbone generating 1 sample. A sequence is considered foldable if its TM score > 0.5.

Method	Success	TM score
PiFold	37	$0.83 \pm 0.21$
ProteinMPNN	39	$0.82 \pm 0.16$
GraDe-IF	39	$0.87 \pm 0.17$

# Reference

Yi, Kai, et al. "Graph Denoising Diffusion for Inverse Protein Folding." *arXiv preprint arXiv:2306.16819* (2023).

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