



# Probing the solution structure of the pentameric ligand-gated ion channel GLIC by small-angle neutron scattering

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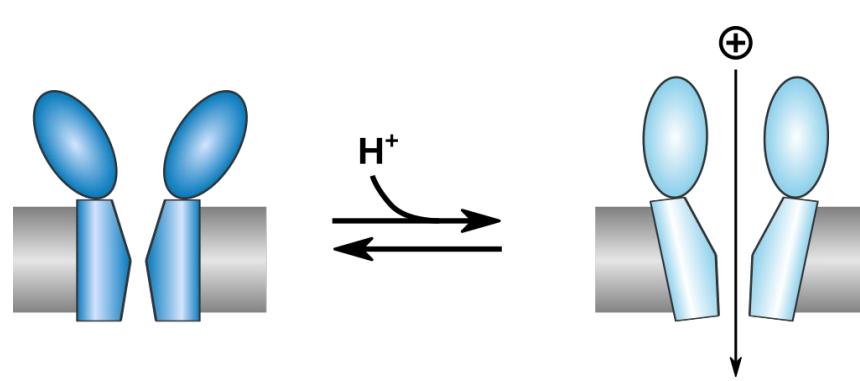
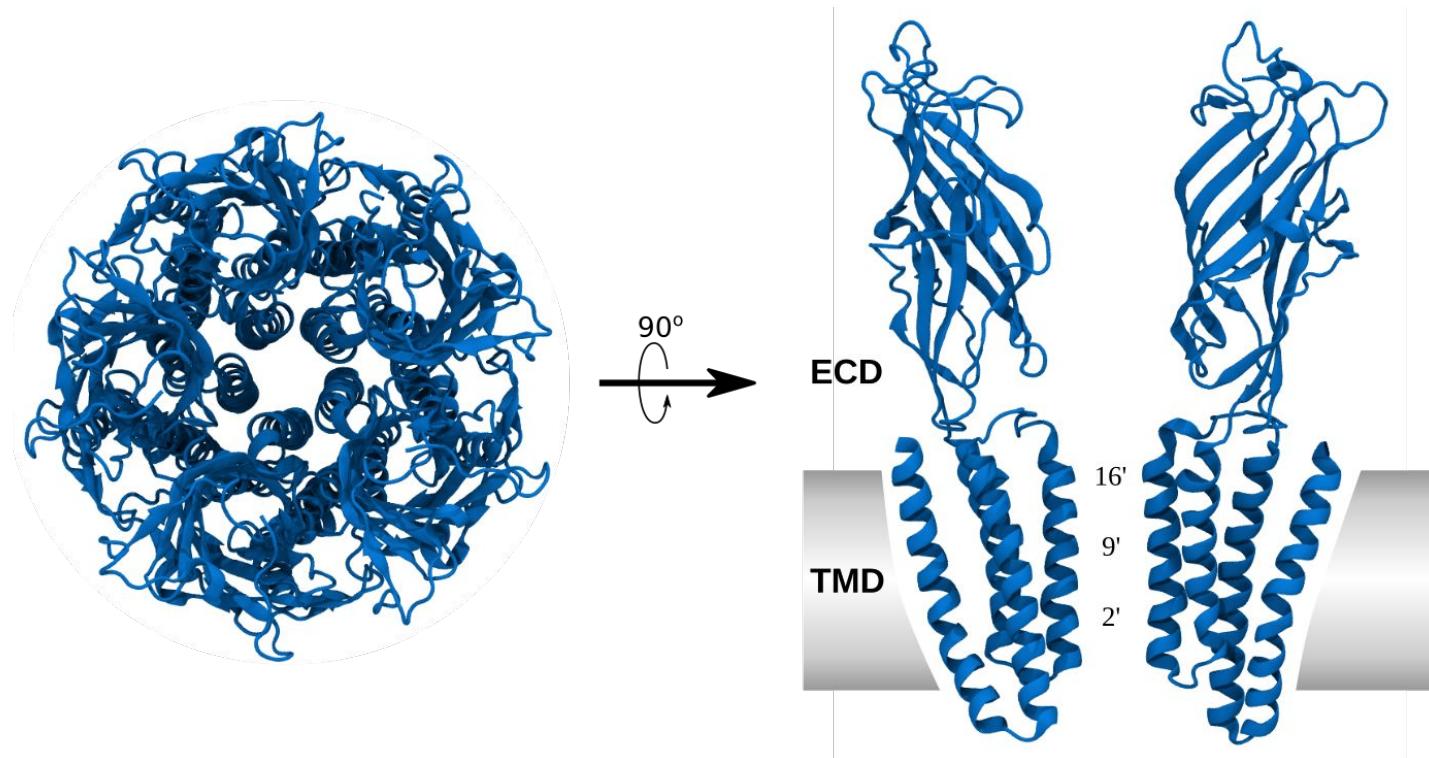


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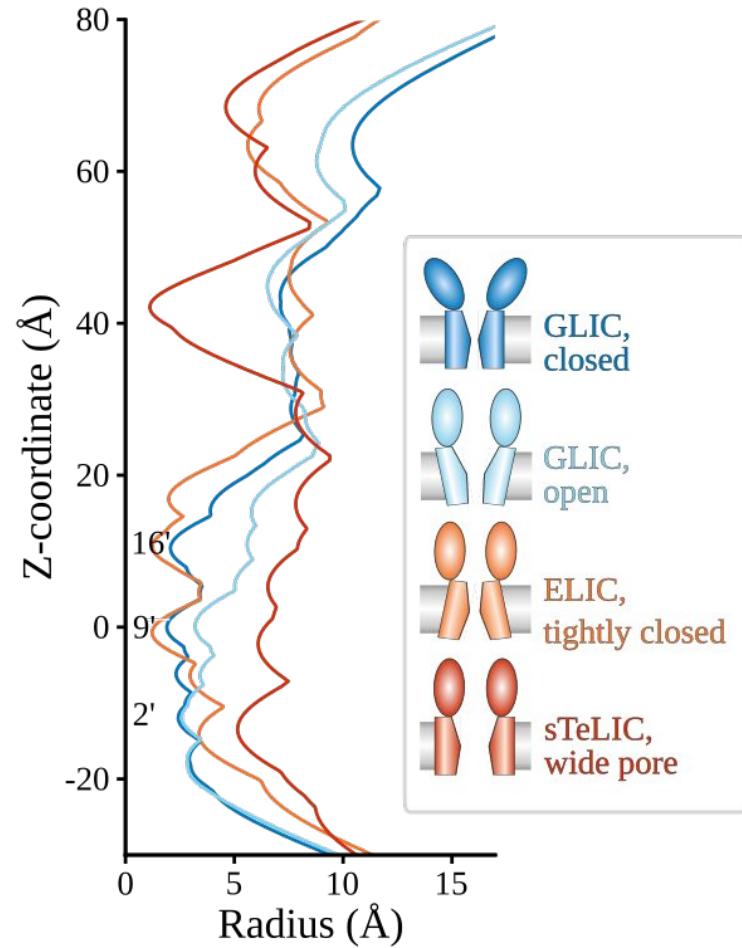
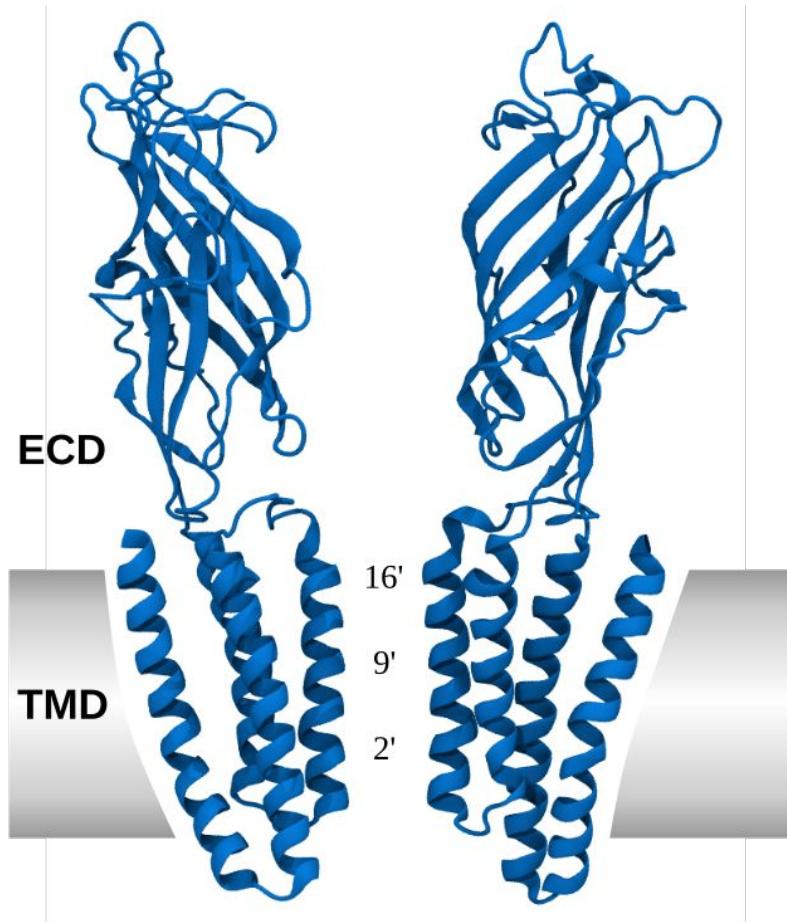
Swedish Neutron Week  
May 10th 2021

 SciLifeLab

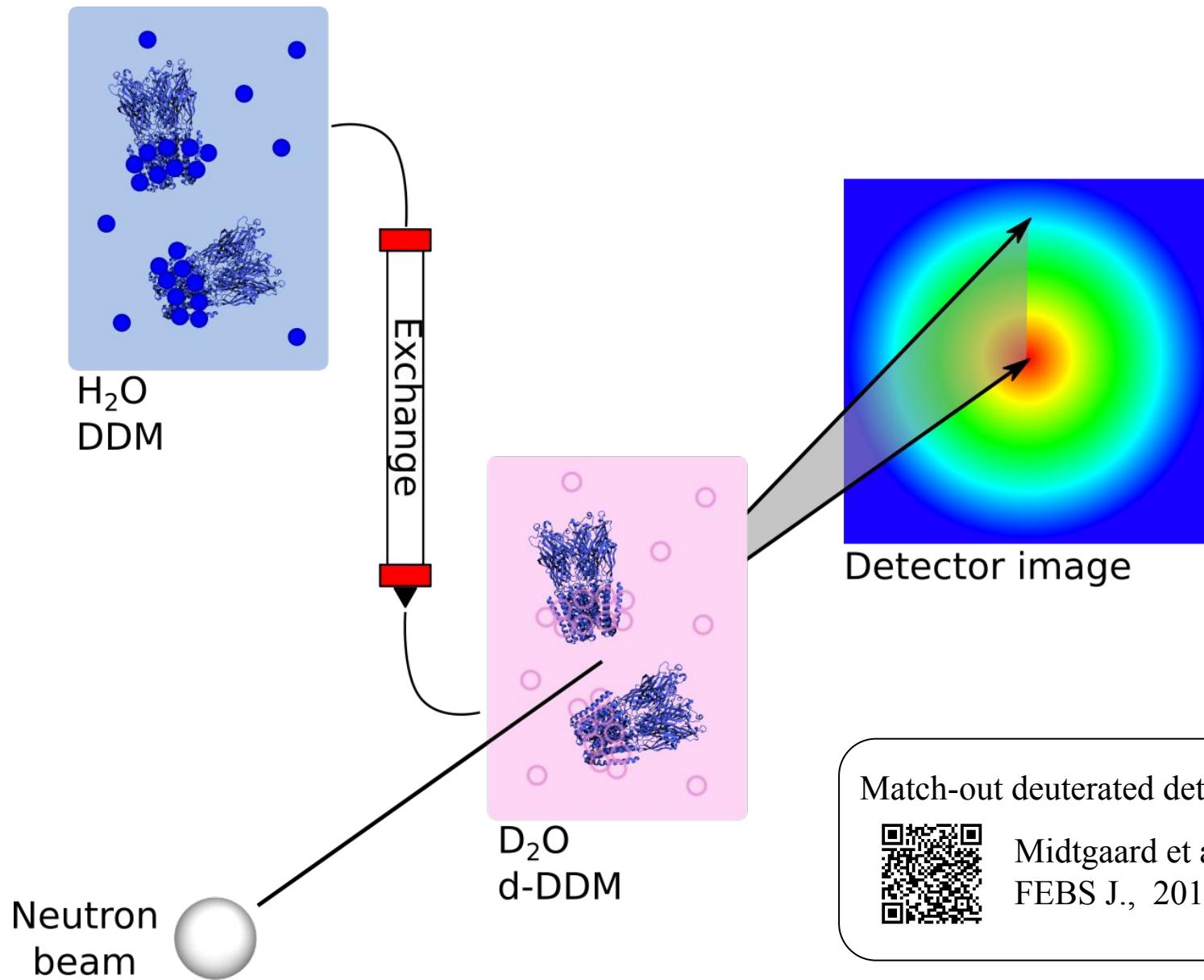
# GLIC - a model system for pentameric ligand-gated ion channels



# Multiple conformations are known from crystal structures



# Invisible detergent & the SEC-SANS approach

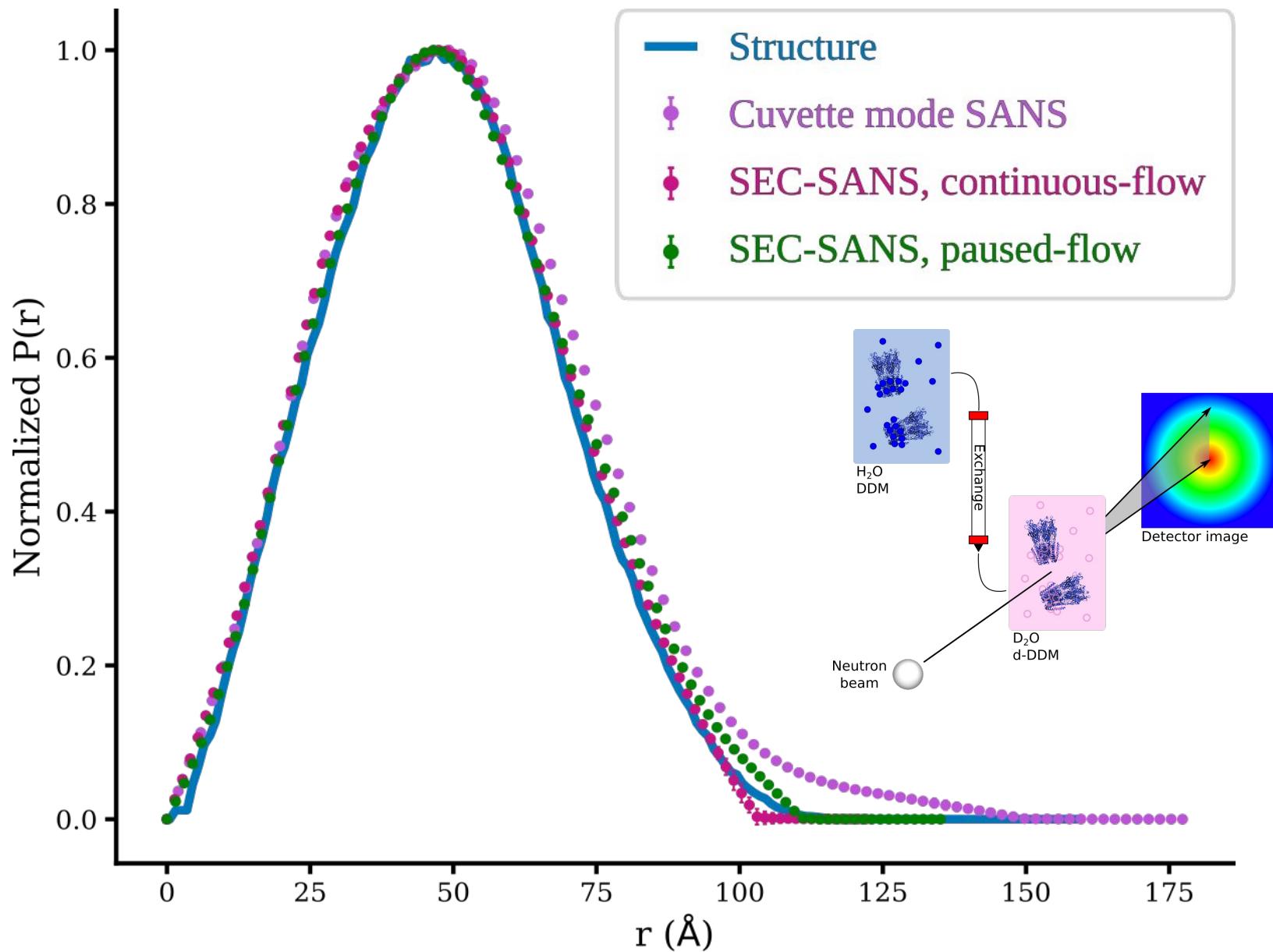


Match-out deuterated detergent:

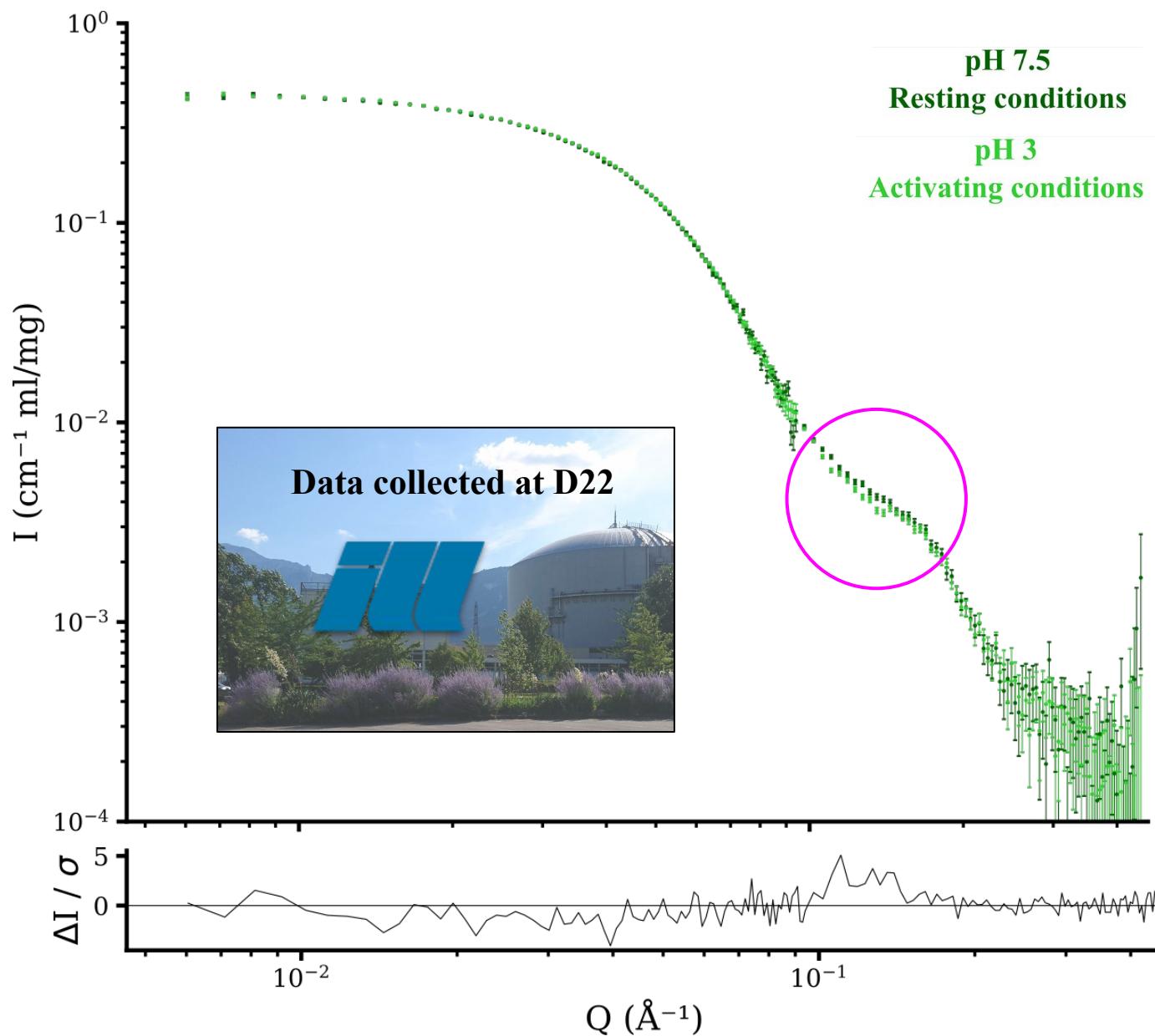


Midtgård et al.,  
FEBS J., 2018

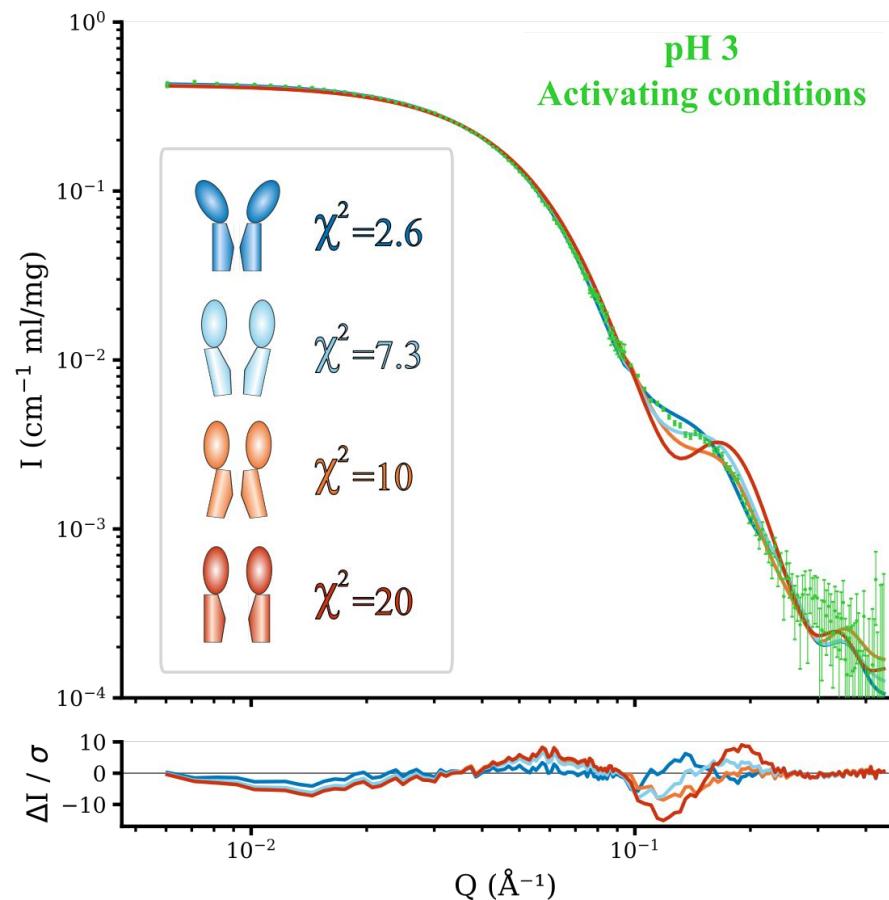
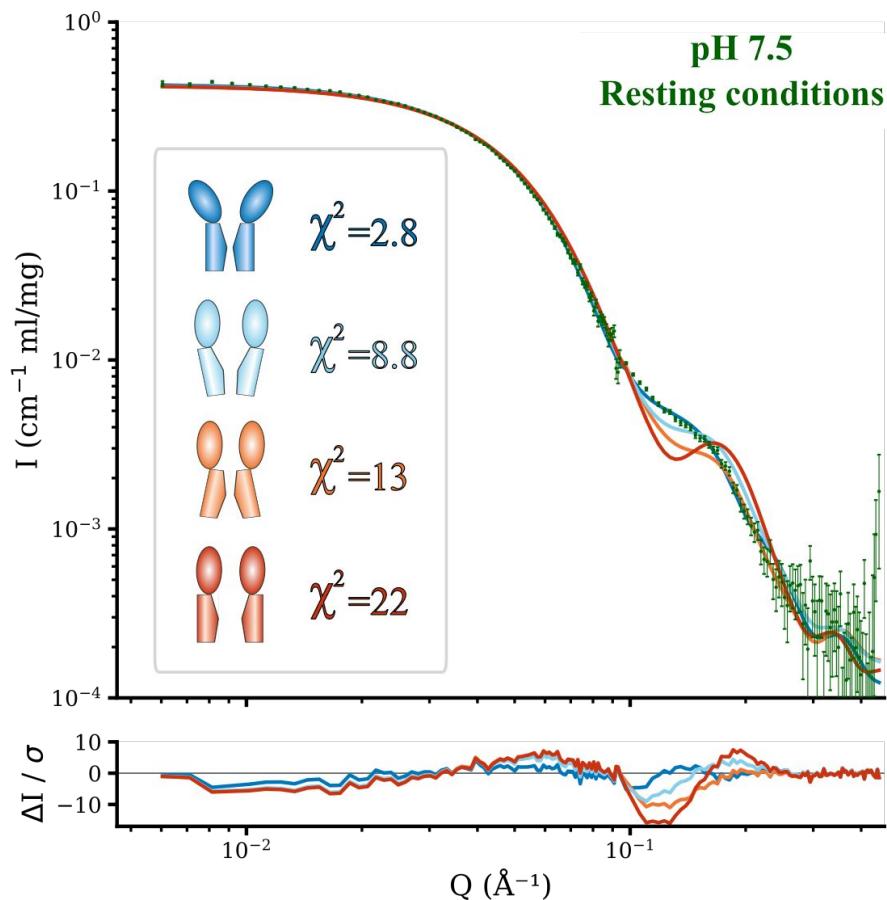
# Paused-flow SEC-SANS maintains monodisperse protein



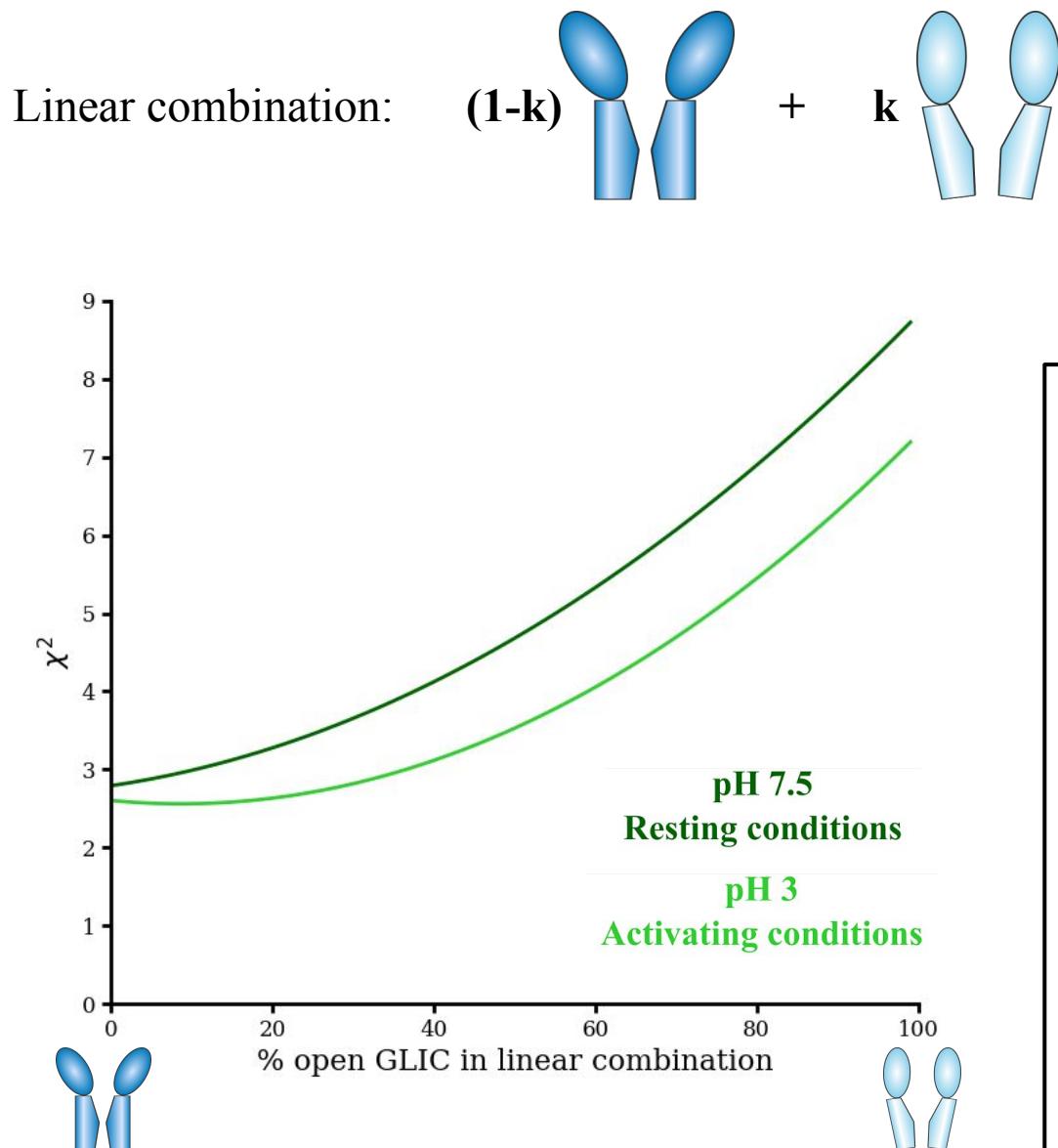
# SANS data collected under resting and activating conditions



# Solution scattering corresponds to the closed X-ray structure



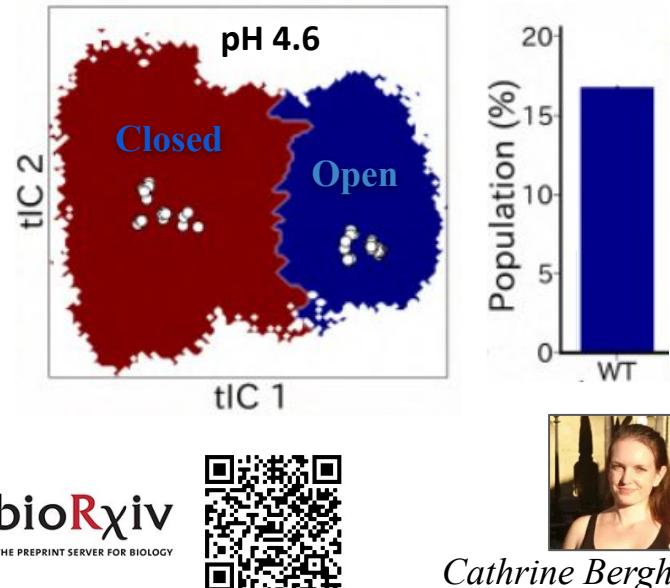
# Linear combination reveals the amount of open population tolerated by the fit



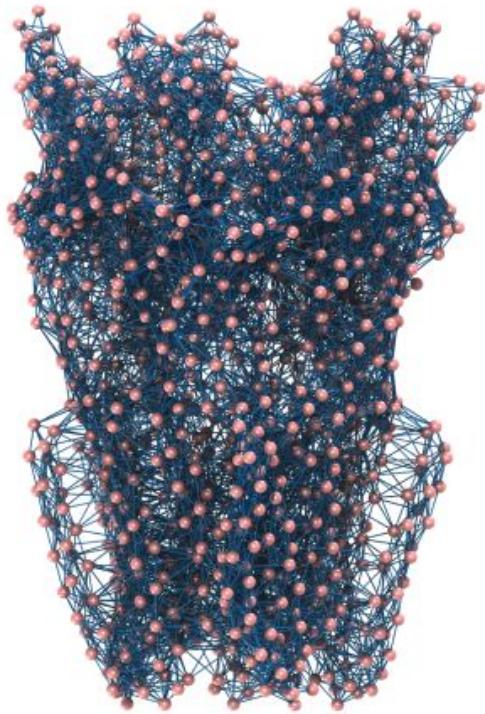
At **pH 3**, the linear combination gives as good fit as **Closed** up to **18% Open** included

In extensive MD simulations

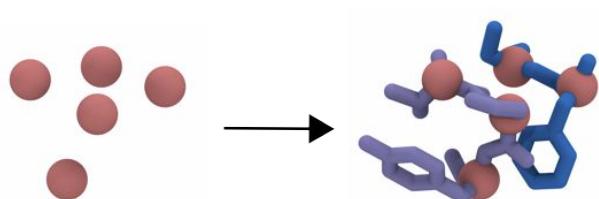
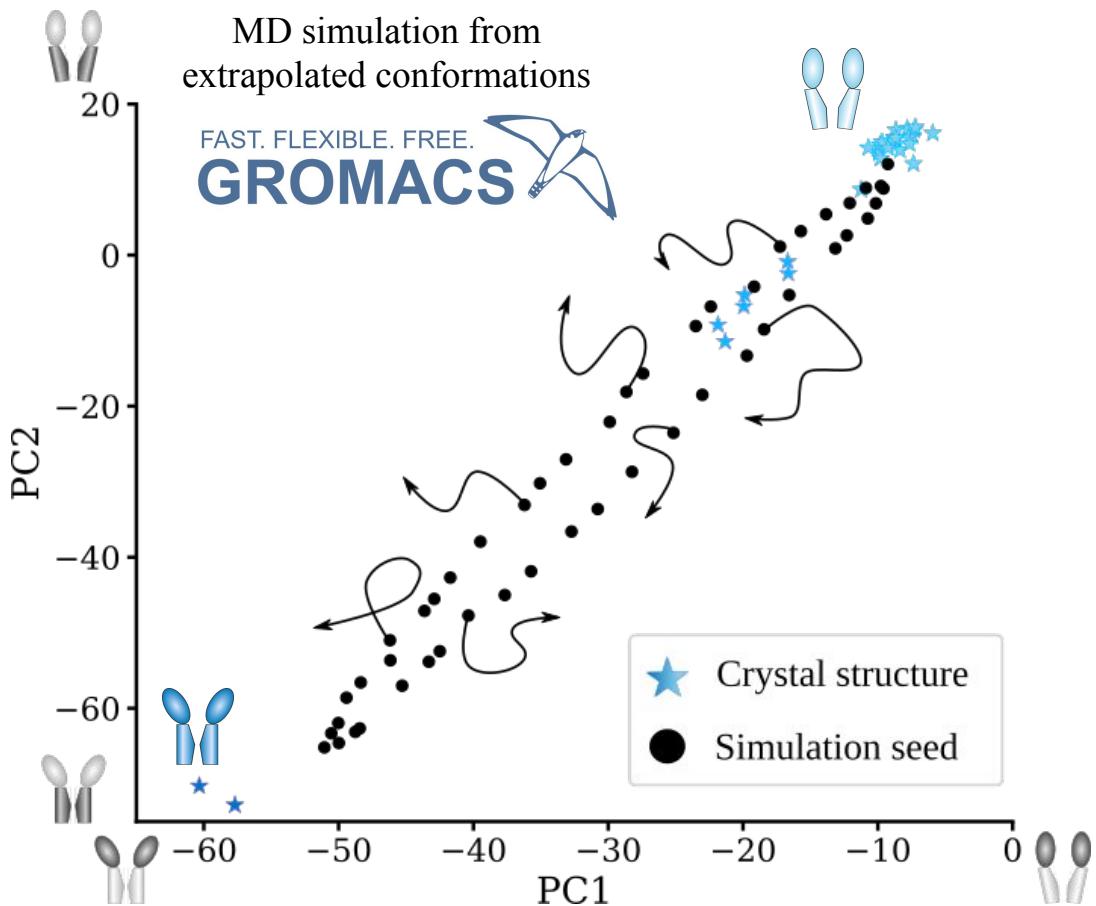
**17% Open** at **pH 4.6**



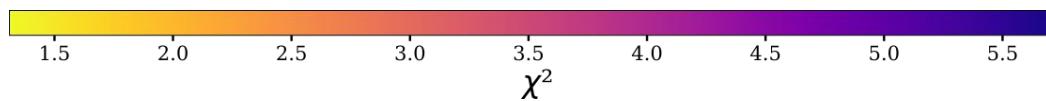
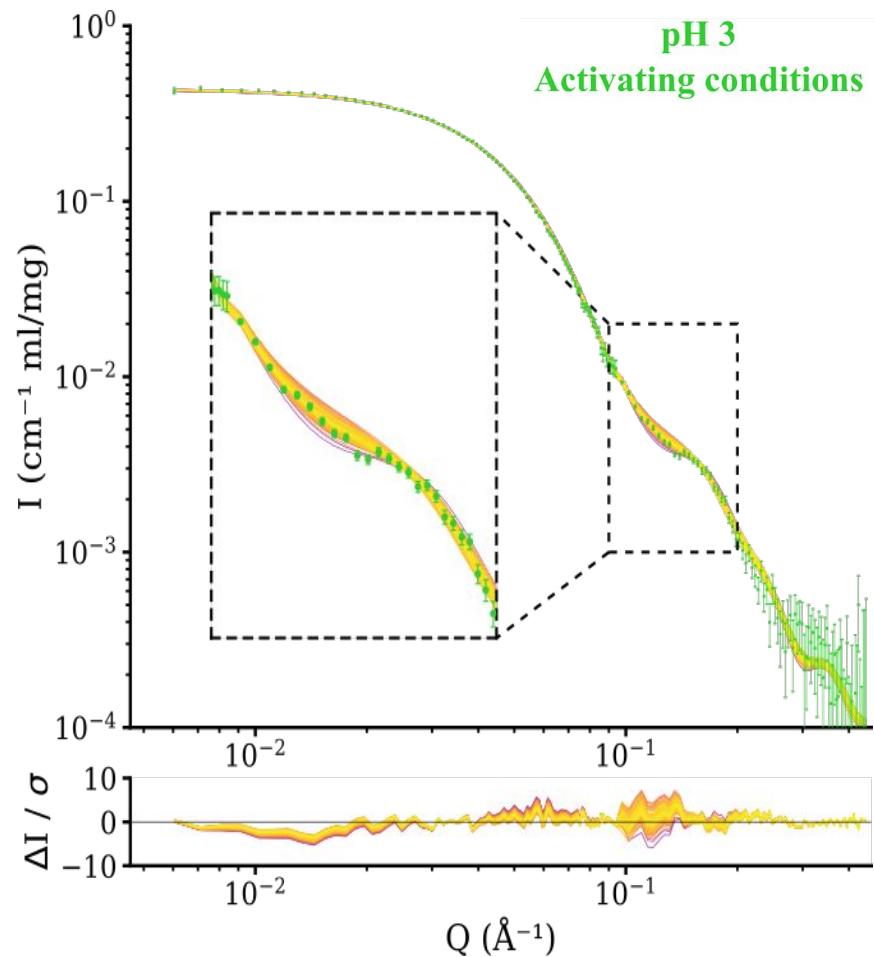
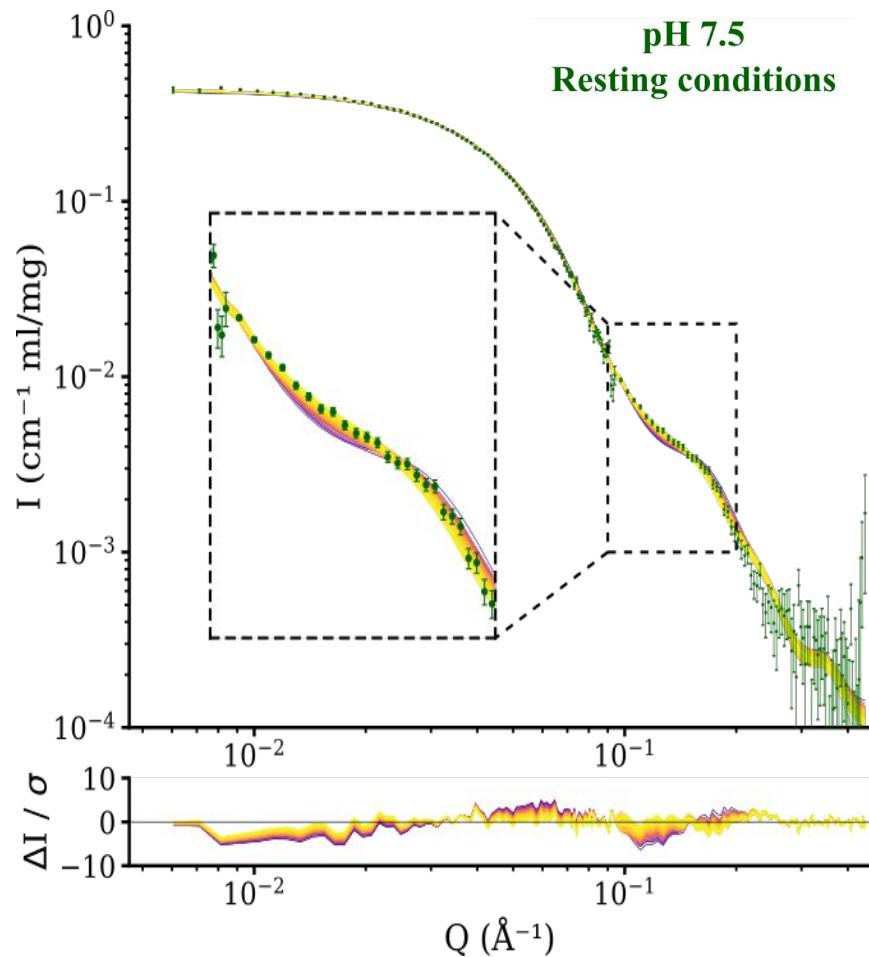
# Coarse grained extrapolation & all-atom Molecular Dynamics simulations



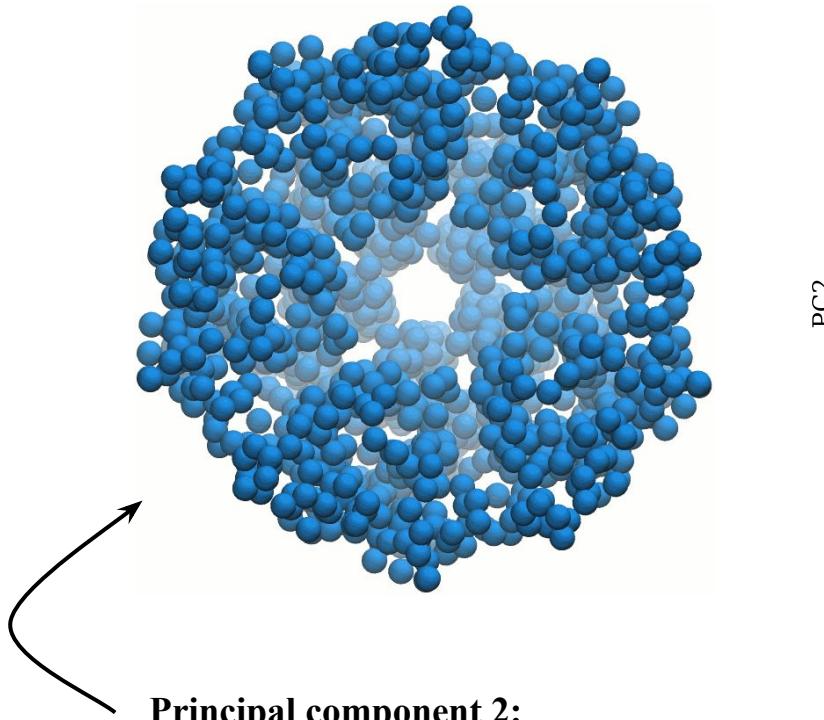
Coarse grained extrapolation using eBDIMS  
<https://ebdims.biophysics.se/>



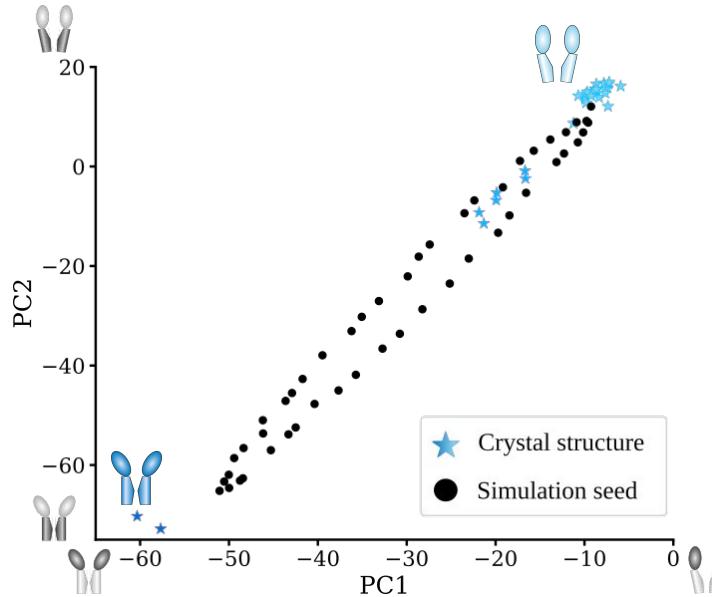
# Improved fit using models from MD simulations



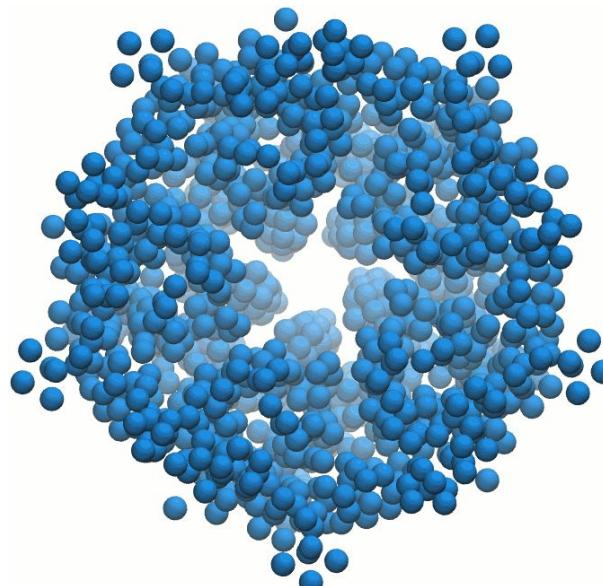
# Conformational landscape as described by principal components



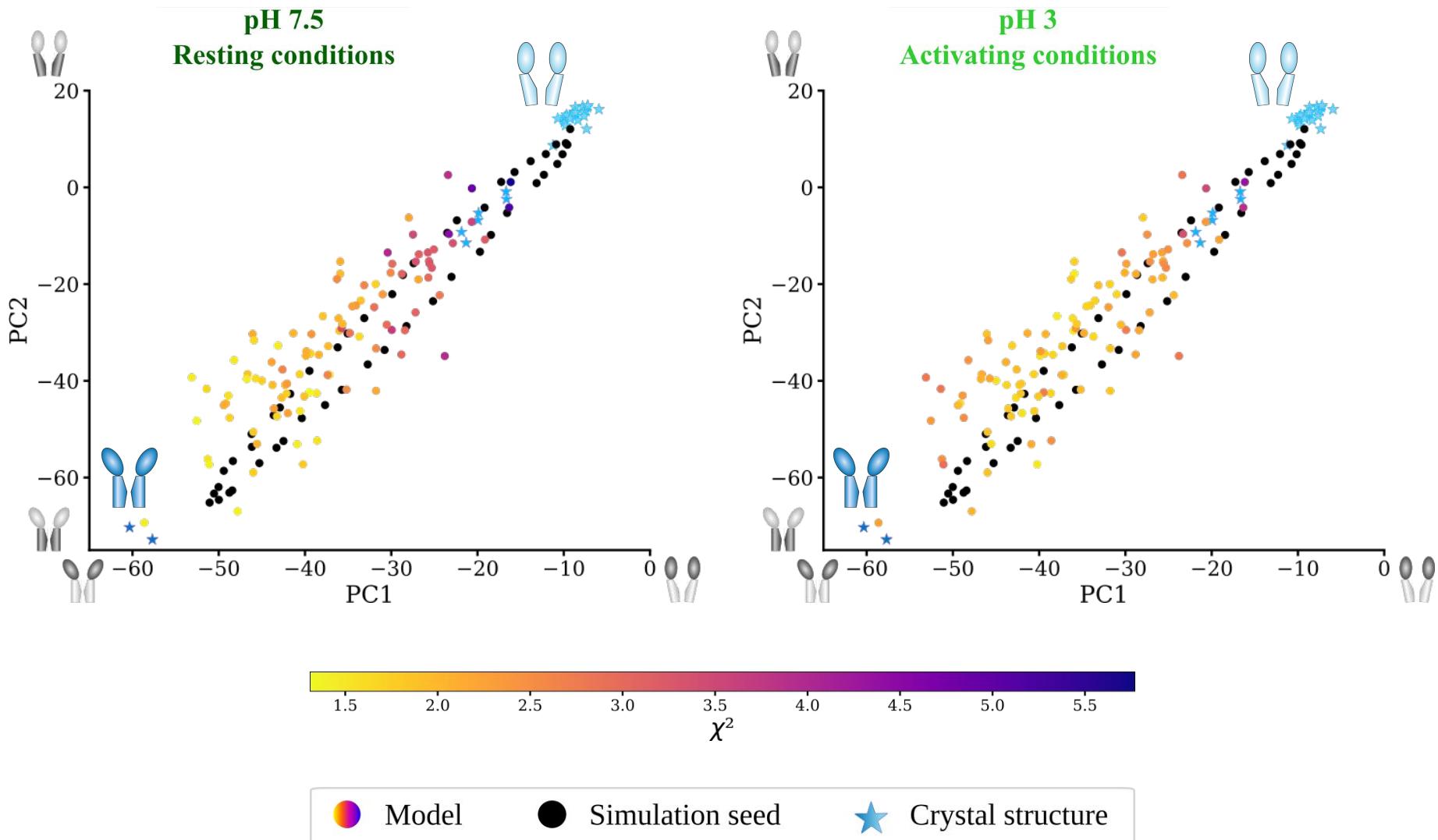
**Principal component 2:**  
Contraction of pore lining helices



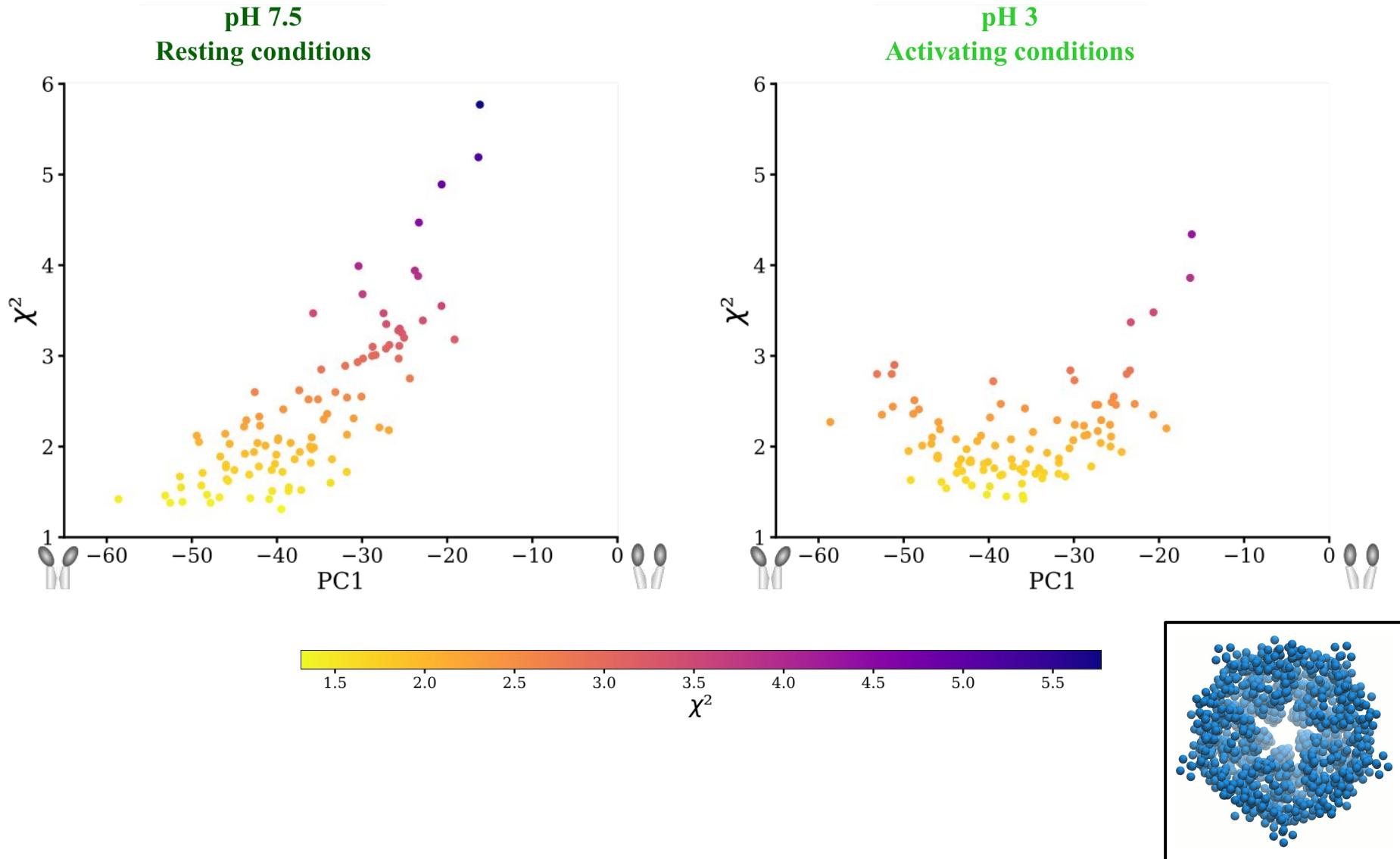
**Principal component 1:**  
Expansion of ECD domain



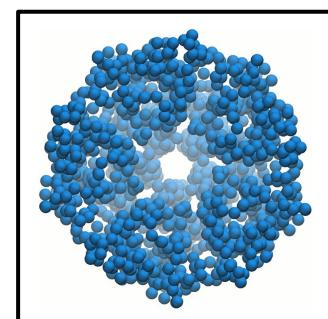
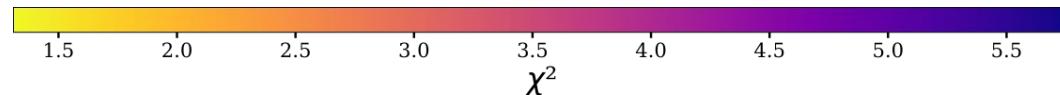
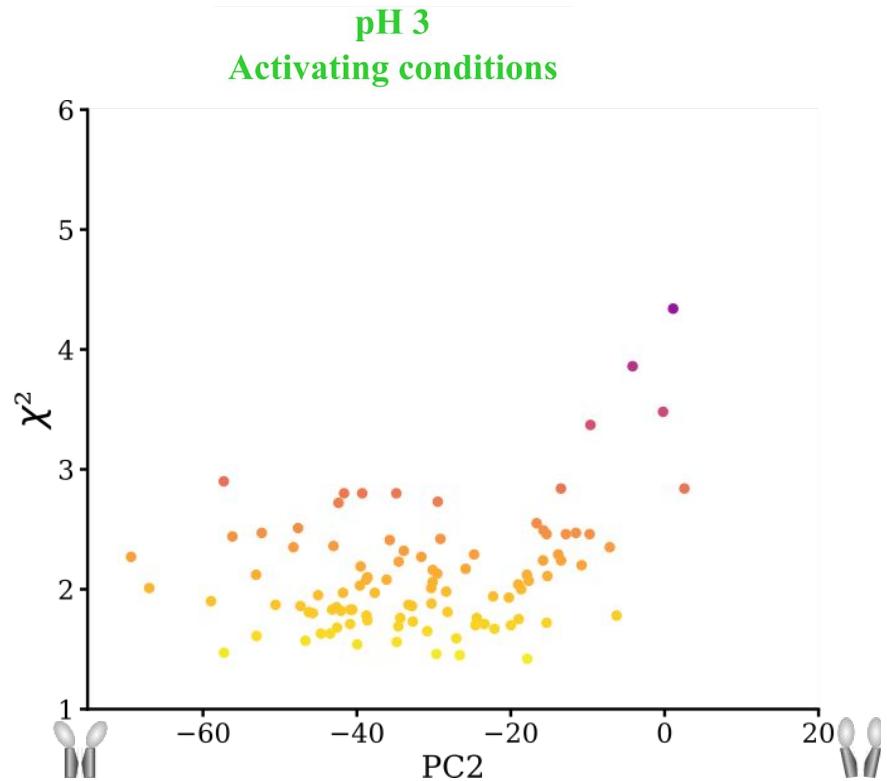
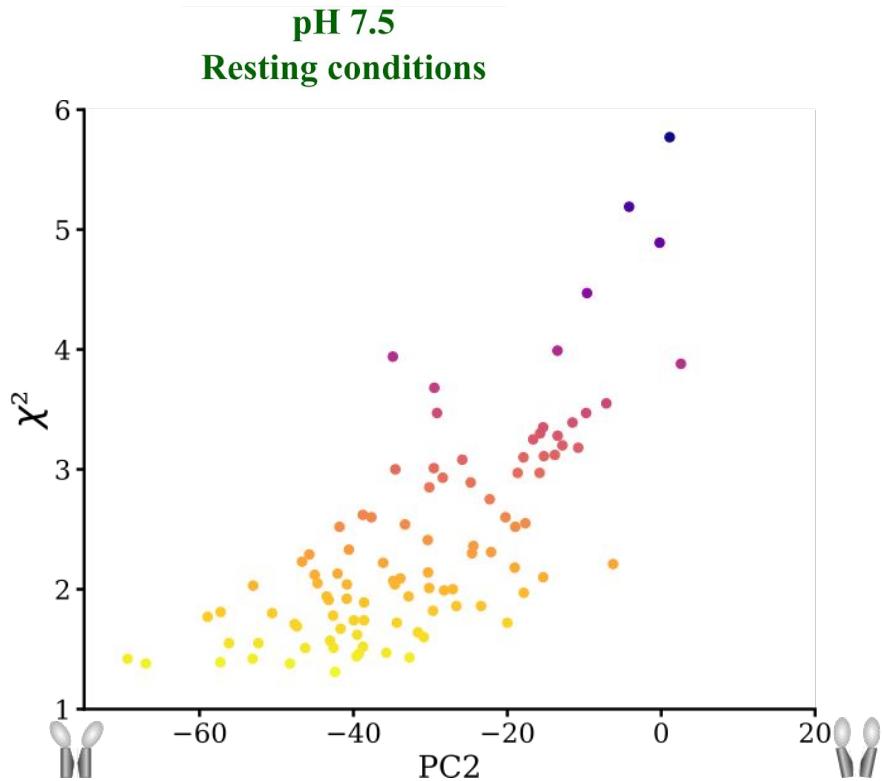
# Best fitting population shifts between the experimental conditions



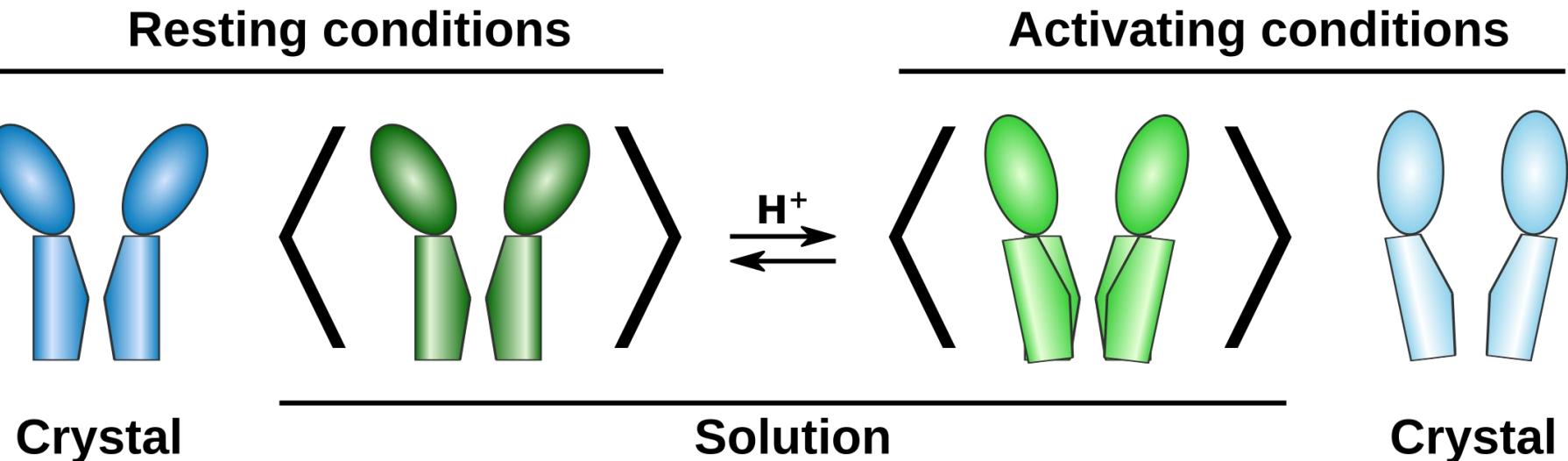
# Expanded and intermediate ECD conformations give best fits



# Multiple pore conformations are tolerated at activating conditions



# The **average** solution structure of GLIC



Mainly resting state

Expanded ECD

Contracted pore

Likely mix of states

Intermediate ECD

Variable pore



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