

PHASING WITH THE MOLECULAR REPLACEMENT METHOD.

For phasing, crystallographic data should be used after scaling and merging, in order to have a list of unique reflections with respective intensities. To apply the Molecular Replacement method (MR), a model protein with known structure should be identified. Various resources are available to determine the best protein model, among which: (a) the UniProt online data bank [1] to obtain the primary sequence of the protein; (b) the online software Blast [2] to search for proteins with similar sequence and known structure; (c) the Protein Data Bank [3] to download the 3D structure of the selected protein; (d) the MOLREP software [4] of the crystallographic suite CCP4 [5] to solve the phase problem with MR; (e) the software Refmac [6] for the rigid body refinement and the determination of R_{work} e R_{free} values for the MR solution; (f) the Coot software [7] to visualize model and electron density obtained by Fourier transform using phases determined through MR.

Selection and preparation of the model structure.

If the primary sequence of the protein is now yet available, it can be obtained from the UniProt data bank. In the example, we search for the Hen Egg White Lysozyme (<https://www.uniprot.org/uniprot/P00698>) (1). The databank contains a lot of information, among which the sequence (2) and the post-translational modifications (PTM/processing, 3).

UniProtKB - P00698 (LYSC_CHICK) 1

Protein: Lysozyme C
Gene: LYZ
Organism: Gallus gallus (Chicken)
Status: Reviewed - Annotation score: ●●●●● - Experimental evidence at protein level¹

Function¹
Lysozymes have primarily a bacteriolytic function; those in tissues and body fluids are associated with the monocyte-macrophage system and enhance the activity of immunogens. Has bacteriolytic activity against M.luteus. PROSITE-ProRule annotation 1 Publication

Miscellaneous
Lysozyme C is capable of both hydrolysis and transglycosylation; it shows also a slight esterase activity. It acts rapidly on both peptide-substituted and unsubstituted peptidoglycan, and slowly on chitin oligosaccharides.

Catalytic activity¹

Sequence status¹: Complete.
Sequence processing¹: The displayed sequence is further processed into a mature form.

P00698-1 [UniParc] FASTA Add to basket

Length: 147
Mass (Da): 16,239
Last modified: July 21, 1986 - v1
Checksum¹: 81E85743FF579468

BLAST GO 5

PTM / Processing 3

Sequence 2

Position(s)	Description	Actions	Graphical view	Length
49	A → V in CAA23711 (PubMed:6934509). Curated			1
121	N → D AA sequence (PubMed:14063294). Curated			1
124	N → S in CAA23711 (PubMed:6934509). Curated			1
132	R → S in AAA48944 (PubMed:383714). Curated			1

Considering the information available on the databank, the mature form of the protein lacks the first 18 residues of the sequence, which constitute the signal peptide and which are removed by proteolysis during protein maturation. The protein sequence in *Fasta* format can be obtained with the suitable button (4), it can be copied and the first 18 residues can be manually removed. From the UniProt webpage, the software Blast (5) can be opened to search for proteins with similar primary sequence.

A new Blast window opens (6) and the primary sequence of the protein in *Fasta* format can be pasted after removing the signal peptide residues (7). Among the options in the lower part of the window, it is advisable to select only the Protein Data Bank as target database (8), so that the proteins identified will have a known structure. The database search is started with the button "Run BLAST" (9).

UniProtKB | Advanced | Search

BLAST | Align | Retrieve/ID mapping | Peptide search | SPARQL | Help | Contact

BLAST (6)

How to use this tool

The Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) finds regions of local similarity between sequences, which can be used to infer functional and evolutionary relationships between sequences as well as help identify members of gene families.

1. Enter either a protein or nucleotide sequence or a UniProt identifier (e.g. P00750 or A4_HUMAN or UPI0000000001) into the form field.
2. Optionally, change the program parameters with the dropdown menus under the form.
3. Click the *Run BLAST* button.

Help | BLAST help video | Other tutorials and videos | Downloads

```
KVFGRCLELAAMKRHGLDNYRGYSLGNVWCAAKFESNFNTQA
TNRNTDGGSTDYGLQINSRWWCNDGRTPGSRNLCNIPCSALLSSDITASVNC AKKIVSDG
NGMNAWVAWRNRCKGTDVQAWIRGCR|
```

Target database: ...with 3D structure (PDB) (8) | E-Threshold: 10 | Matrix: Auto | Filtering: None | Gapped: yes | Hits: 250

Run BLAST in a separate window.

Clear | Run BLAST (9)

Tools | Core data | Supporting data | Information

At the end of the search, the software shows a list of proteins with a sequence similar to the query (10), together with protein alignments (11) and identity percentage (12) between the query and the identified protein.

UniProtKB | Advanced | Search

BLAST | Align | Retrieve/ID mapping | Peptide search | SPARQL | Help | Contact

BLAST

Filter by: (10)

Reviewed (31) | Unreviewed (7)

With 3D structure (38)

Popular organisms: Human (2), Mouse (4), Rat (1), Bovine (2), CHICK (1)

Map to

Overview

Entry	Protein names	Match hit	Identity
P00698	Lysozyme C (Gallus gallus)	100.0%	100.0%
P00700	Lysozyme C (Colinus virginianus)	96.9%	96.9%
P00701	Lysozyme C (Coturnix japonica)	95.3%	95.3%
P00703	Lysozyme C (Meleagris gallopavo)	94.6%	94.6%

Alignments

Among the protein sequences, we select a protein with about 80% identity (13) (in a real case, using the sequence with the highest identity value ensures a higher success probability for the MR search). For the selected sequence, the alignment details can be analyzed in a separate browser window (14 and 15). By clicking on the identification code of the sequence (in the example P00705, 16), the user can open the UniProt page of the protein identified as probe (17, opening the link in a separate browser window).

In this UniProt page, the Structure tab can be selected from the left menu (18), showing all the 3D structures corresponding to the primary sequence of the model protein, including structures determined using computational software such as AlphaFold. Among these structures, the user will choose the preferred for the MR step (for example the structure with PDB code 5V94). The second link on the right (19) opens the Protein Data Bank page of the structure (20).

UniProtKB - P00705 (LYSC1_ANAPL) 17

Basket

Display

BLAST Align Format Add to basket History

Help video Add a publication Feedback

Entry

Protein **Lysozyme C-1**

Publications

Gene *N/A*

Feature viewer

Organism *Anas platyrhynchos (Mallard) (Anas boschas)*

Feature table

Status Reviewed - Annotation score: - Experimental evidence at protein level¹

Function

Lysozymes have primarily a bacteriolytic function; those in tissues and body fluids are associated with the monocyte-macrophage system and enhance the activity of immunogens.

Miscellaneous

Lysozyme C is capable of both hydrolysis and transglycosylation; it shows also a slight esterase activity. It acts rapidly on both peptide-substituted and unsubstituted peptidoglycan, and slowly on chitin oligosaccharides.

The sequence of the DL-2 variant of lysozyme C from Pekin duck is shown. As only one lysozyme, or any combination of 2 lysozymes, but never all 3, occurred in one egg, the existence of 3 alleles at one locus has been suggested.

The amino acid compositions of DL-1, DL-2, and DL-3 are identical with those of lysozymes A, B, and C, respectively. DL-1 and DL-2 are electrophoretically and immunologically indistinguishable from lysozymes A and B, respectively.

- Function
- Names & Taxonomy
- Subcellular location
- Pathology & Biotech
- PTM / Processing
- Expression
- Interaction

Display

Structure 18

Entry

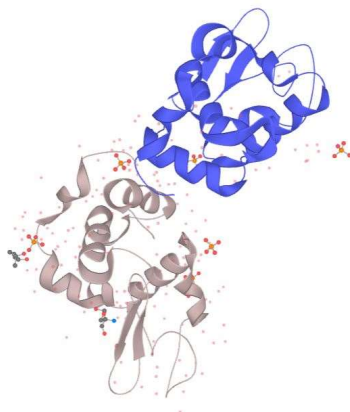
Publications

Feature viewer

Feature table

None

- Function
- Names & Taxonomy
- Subcellular location
- Pathology & Biotech
- PTM / Processing
- Expression
- Interaction
- Structure
- Family & Domains
- Sequence
- Similar proteins
- Cross-references
- Entry information



PDB Entry	Method	Resolution	Chain	Positions	Links
5V8G	X-ray	1.20 Å	A	19-145	PDB RCSB ... PDBj PDBsum
5V92	X-ray	1.11 Å	A/B	19-147	PDB RCSB ... PDBj PDBsum
5V94	X-ray	1.65 Å	A/B	19-147	PDB RCSB ... PDBj PDBsum
6D9I	X-ray	1.15 Å	A/B	19-147	PDB RCSB ... PDBj PDBsum

19

Secondary structure



RCSB PDB Deposit Search Visualize Analyze Download Learn More MyPDB

164391 Biological Macromolecular Structures
Enabling Breakthroughs in Research and Education

Advanced Search Browse Annotations

Structure Summary 3D View Annotations Sequence Experiment

Biological Assembly 1

3D View: Structure | Electron Density

5V94 20

Pekin duck egg lysozyme isoform III (DEL-III), cubic form

DOI: 10.2210/pdb5V94/pdb

Classification: **HYDROLASE**

Organism(s): *Anas platyrhynchos*

Mutation(s): No

Deposited: 2017-03-22 Released: 2017-11-15

Deposition Author(s): Langley, D.B., Christ, D.

Funding Organization(s): National Health and Medical Research Council (NIH)

Experimental Data Snapshot

Method: X-RAY DIFFRACTION

Resolution: 1.65 Å

R-Value Free: 0.214

R-Value Work: 0.187

R-Value Observed: 0.189

wwPDB Validation

Metric	Score
Rfree	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, white);"></div>
Clashscore	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, white);"></div>
Ramachandran outliers	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, white);"></div>

Display Files

Download Files

- FASTA Sequence
- PDB Format 21
- PDB Format (gz)
- PDBx/mmCIF Format
- PDBx/mmCIF Format (gz)
- PDBML/XML Format (gz)
- Biological Assembly 1
- Biological Assembly 2
- Structure Factors (CIF)
- Structure Factors (CIF - gz)

On the PDB page, the user can download the file containing atomic coordinates of the selected structure (21). Such file should be opened with a text editor (22) to manually edit the residues following the previous alignment (15). In particular, a common modification that yields good results is the removal of side chains (23) of residues that differ between the two protein sequences. In addition, only a single protein sequence should be included in the model file, while multiple chain should be removed together with water molecules, ions, ligands or other molecular species present in the 3D structure. The edited file is saved in *pdb* format. The edited structure can be visualized using a suitable software, such as PyMOL.

*5v94.pdb - Blocco note di Windows

File	Modifica	Formato	Visualizza	?								
ATOM	100	NZ	LYS	A	13	-26.219	3.088	-10.644	1.00	22.54	N	
ANISOU	100	NZ	LYS	A	13	2863	2780	2921	196	401	354	N
ATOM	101	N	ARG	A	14	-21.459	0.682	-6.099	1.00	16.18	N	
ANISOU	101	N	ARG	A	14	1819	2007	2321	-47	306	235	N
ATOM	102	CA	ARG	A	14	-20.029	0.908	-6.405	1.00	17.62	C	
ANISOU	102	CA	ARG	A	14	1950	2160	2584	-67	343	270	C
ATOM	103	C	ARG	A	14	-19.401	-0.324	-7.006	1.00	17.65	C	
ANISOU	103	C	ARG	A	14	1941	2196	2567	-40	366	302	C
ATOM	104	O	ARG	A	14	-18.528	-0.221	-7.901	1.00	19.61	O	
ANISOU	104	O	ARG	A	14	2170	2422	2858	-24	432	355	O
ATOM	105	CB	ARG	A	14	-19.321	1.292	-5.118	1.00	19.05	C	
ANISOU	105	CB	ARG	A	14	2079	2326	2831	-126	290	229	C
ATOM	106	N	LEU	A	15	-19.834	-1.495	-6.554	1.00	16.56	N	
ANISOU	106	N	LEU	A	15	1817	2107	2368	-30	322	275	N
ATOM	107	CA	LEU	A	15	-19.308	-2.774	-6.998	1.00	17.04	C	
ANISOU	107	CA	LEU	A	15	1871	2196	2406	-3	338	297	C
ATOM	108	C	LEU	A	15	-19.983	-3.323	-8.258	1.00	17.10	C	
ANISOU	108	C	LEU	A	15	1943	2214	2339	53	374	317	C
ATOM	109	O	LEU	A	15	-19.721	-4.438	-8.632	1.00	18.55	O	
ANISOU	109	O	LEU	A	15	2137	2418	2493	79	384	325	O
ATOM	110	CB	LEU	A	15	-19.331	-3.786	-5.858	1.00	18.06	C	
ANISOU	110	CB	LEU	A	15	1983	2363	2516	-21	274	262	C
ATOM	111	CG	LEU	A	15	-18.332	-3.494	-4.740	1.00	18.99	C	
ANISOU	111	CG	LEU	A	15	2036	2477	2703	-66	234	249	C
ATOM	112	CD1	LEU	A	15	-18.651	-4.349	-3.508	1.00	19.52	C	
ANISOU	112	CD1	LEU	A	15	2106	2583	2727	-75	166	212	C
ATOM	113	CD2	LEU	A	15	-16.905	-3.755	-5.193	1.00	20.71	C	
ANISOU	113	CD2	LEU	A	15	2191	2683	2994	-63	272	294	C
ATOM	114	N	GLY	A	16	-20.849	-2.549	-8.880	1.00	15.53	N	
ANISOU	114	N	GLY	A	16	1790	2001	2108	74	388	321	N
ATOM	115	CA	GLY	A	16	-21.402	-2.890	-10.209	1.00	15.67	C	
ANISOU	115	CA	GLY	A	16	1873	2025	2052	133	418	343	C
ATOM	116	C	GLY	A	16	-22.624	-3.762	-10.239	1.00	15.15	C	
ANISOU	116	C	GLY	A	16	1849	1994	1911	151	362	304	C

Linea 778, colonna 1 100% Unix (LF) UTF-8

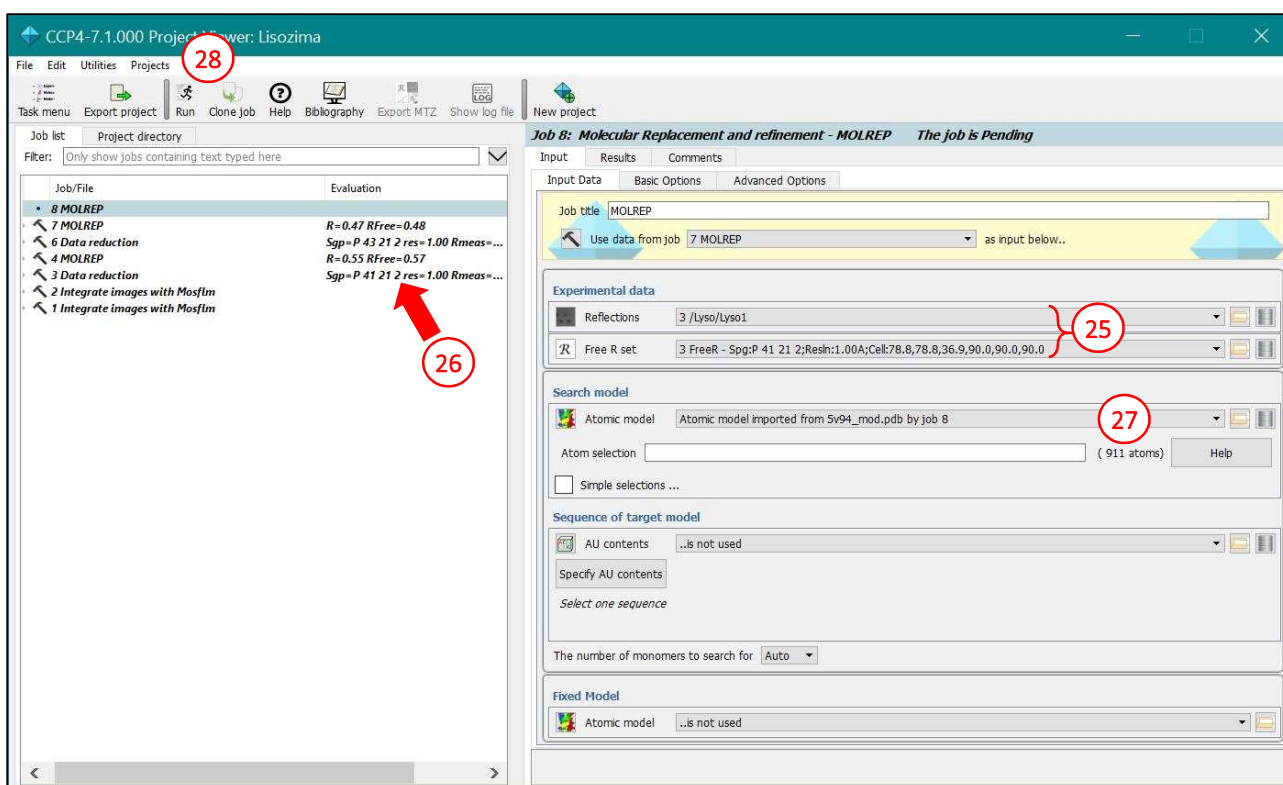
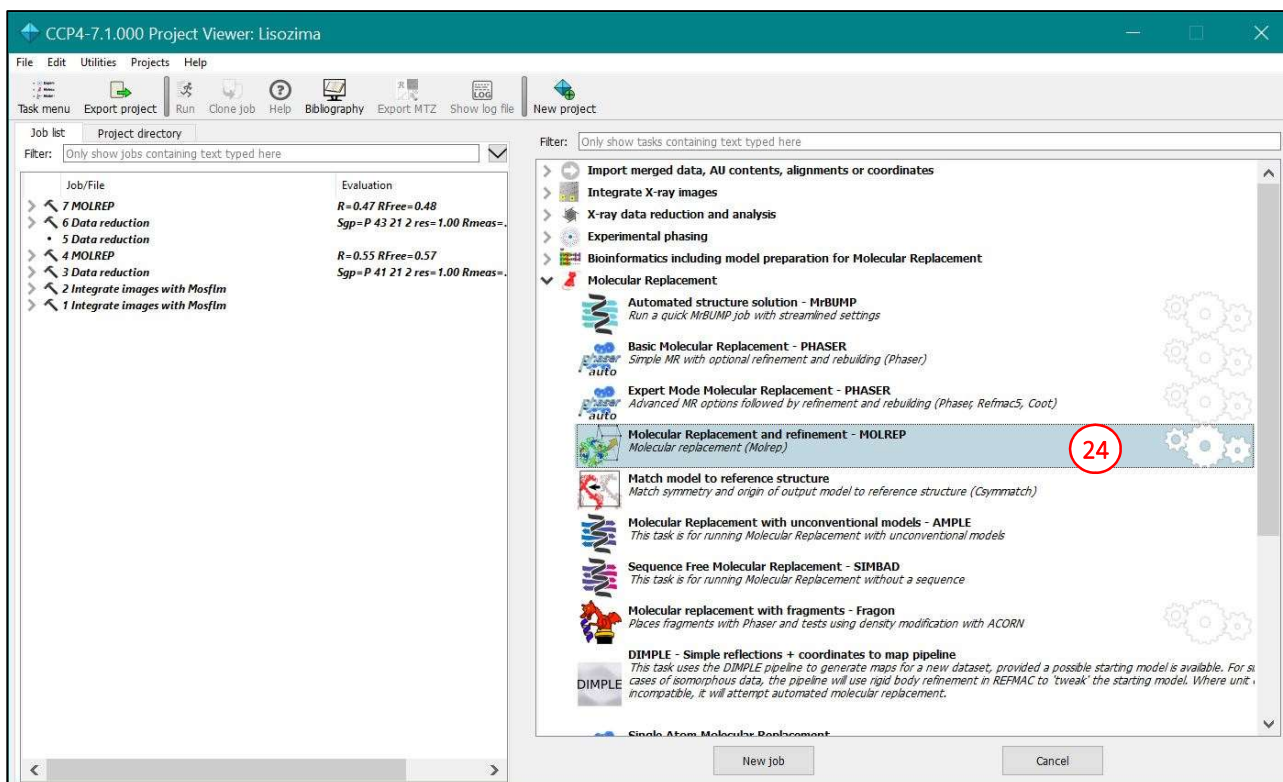
Phasing using the Molecular Replacement method with the MOLREP software.

The MOLREP software can be started from the CCP4i2 interface (24). In the window that opens after selecting the program, the input diffraction data, i.e. the *mtz* file containing scaled intensities, can be selected.

Considering the enantiomorphism of the space group, the phasing protocol should be tested for both possible solutions. The first test is conducted with intensities scaled in the *P 41 21 2* space group (25) during the previous “job 3” (26). The menu on the right reports the space group, allowing the user to check the correctness of the desired scaling procedure.

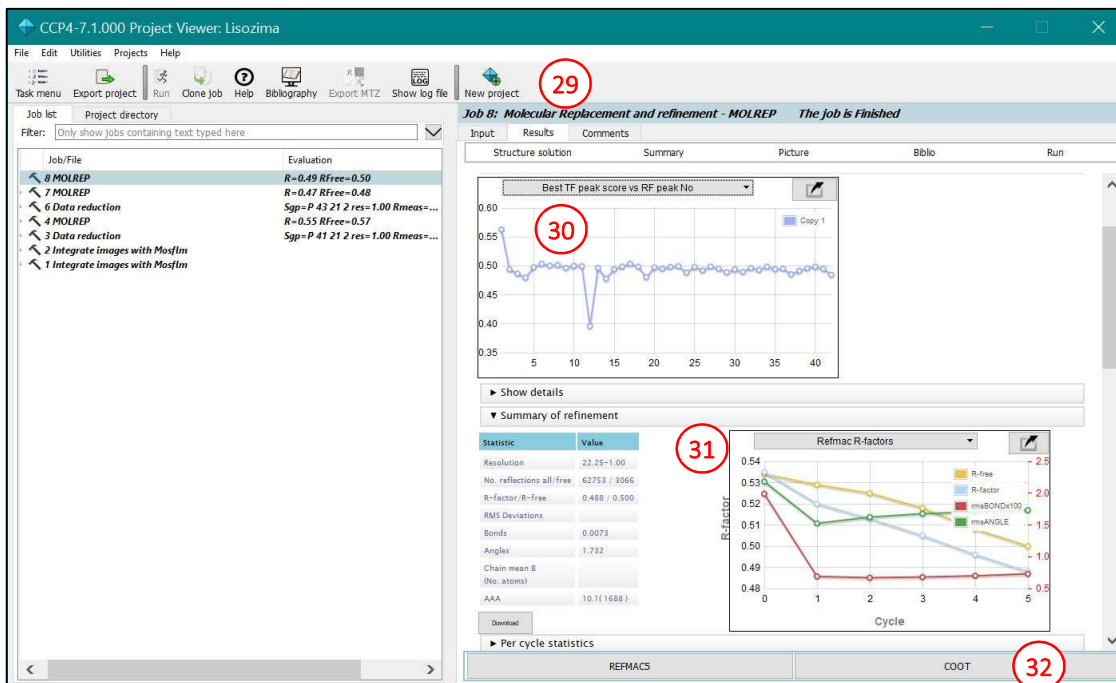
In order to perform the MR search, a second input is required, namely the model previously prepared. The edited *pdb* file is selected in the appropriate space (27).

The MR search, corresponding to a rotation matrix and a translation vector search, can be can be started with the “Run” button (28).

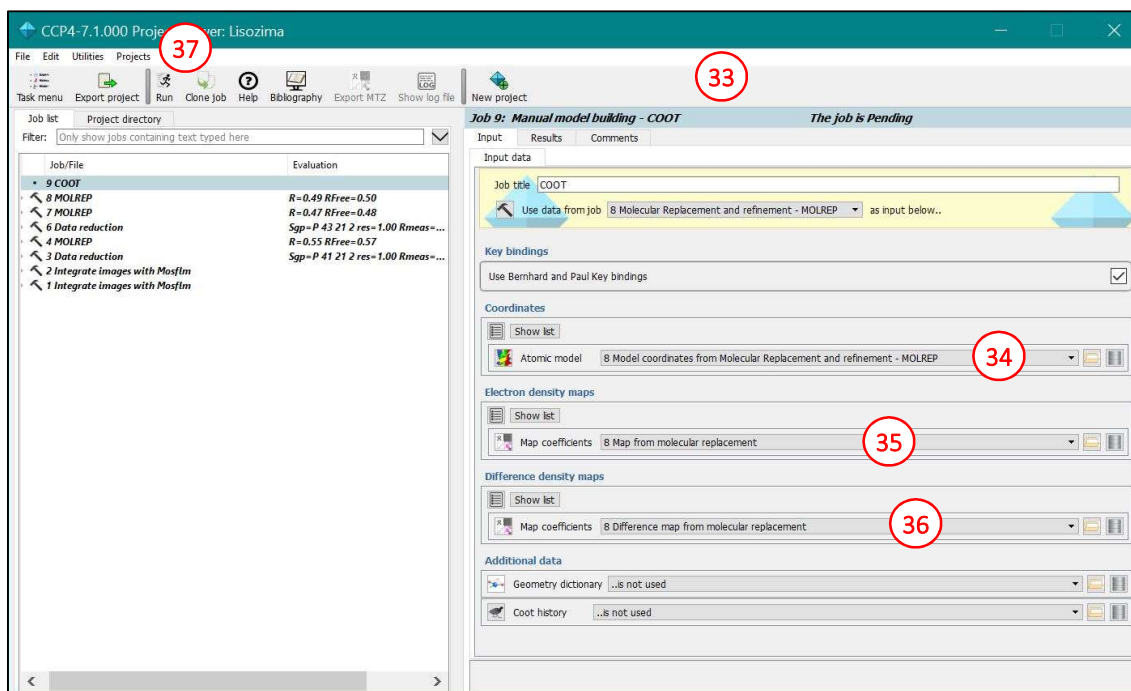


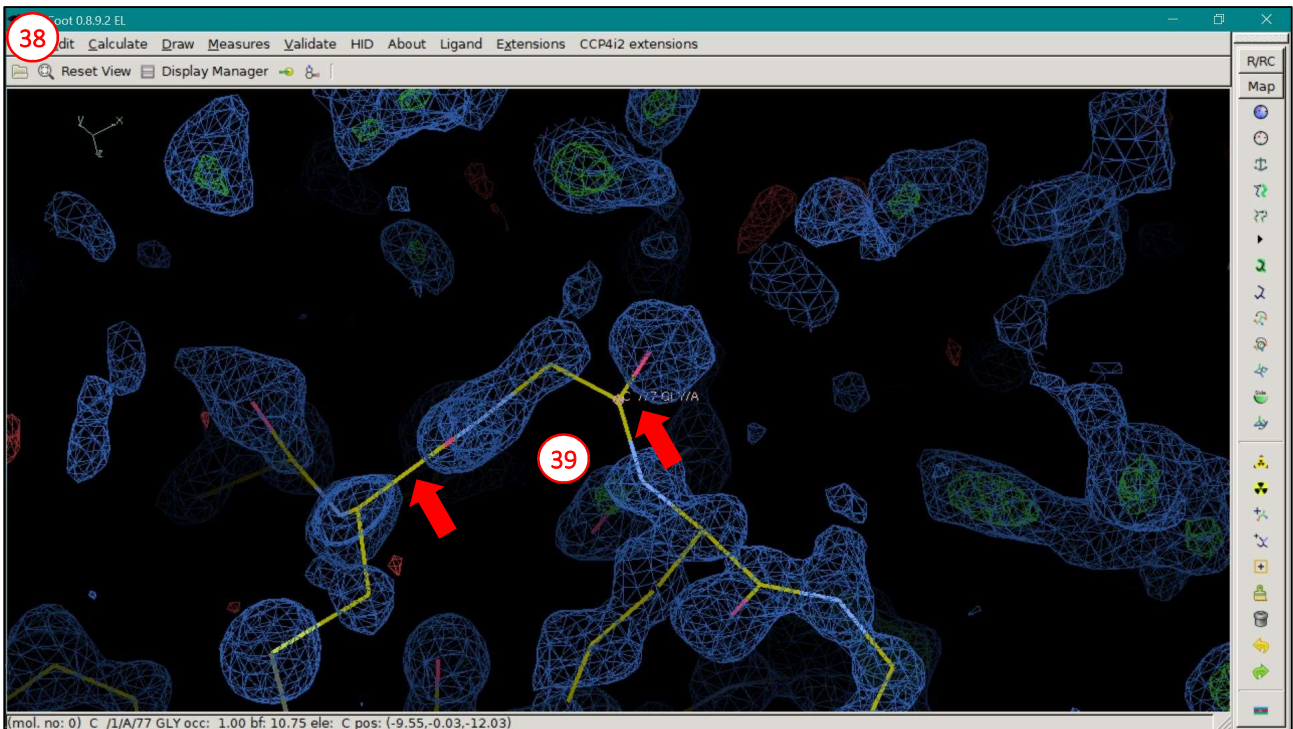
At the end of the calculation, the software provides the best solution identified for the model positioning in the unit cell (29). The graph on the right side of the window show the quality of the MR solution. In particular, graph 30 reports the quality of the best translational solution for each of the rotational solutions and, in the example, shows no optimal solution. The software automatically performs a rigid body refinement of the best solution (i.e., refining only the position of the whole protein structure, with no modification allowed on reciprocal positions of the atoms and residues), by recalling the Refmac software. This program yields also

values for the R_{work} e R_{free} factors after refinement. The graph **31** shows the variation of these indexes in the refinement cycles. In this case, the MR solution in the $P 4_1 2_1 2$ space group yields an R_{work} value of 0.49 and an R_{free} value of 0.50 at the end of the 5th rigid body refinement cycle. These unsatisfactory values are indicative of a possible mistake in the space group choice, but this hypothesis can be confirmed only by testing the MR solution in the other enantiomorphic space group.



A further indication that the solution obtained is wrong comes from the direct observation of the calculated electron density, compared with the protein model used in the MR. The Coot software, that allows for the electron density inspection, can be started from the CCP4i2 interface (**32**). In the right window (**33**), the user can select both the model protein (**34**) and the data from which electron density (**35**) and difference electron density (**36**) are obtained. The "Run" button (**37**) opens the Coot window (**38**).



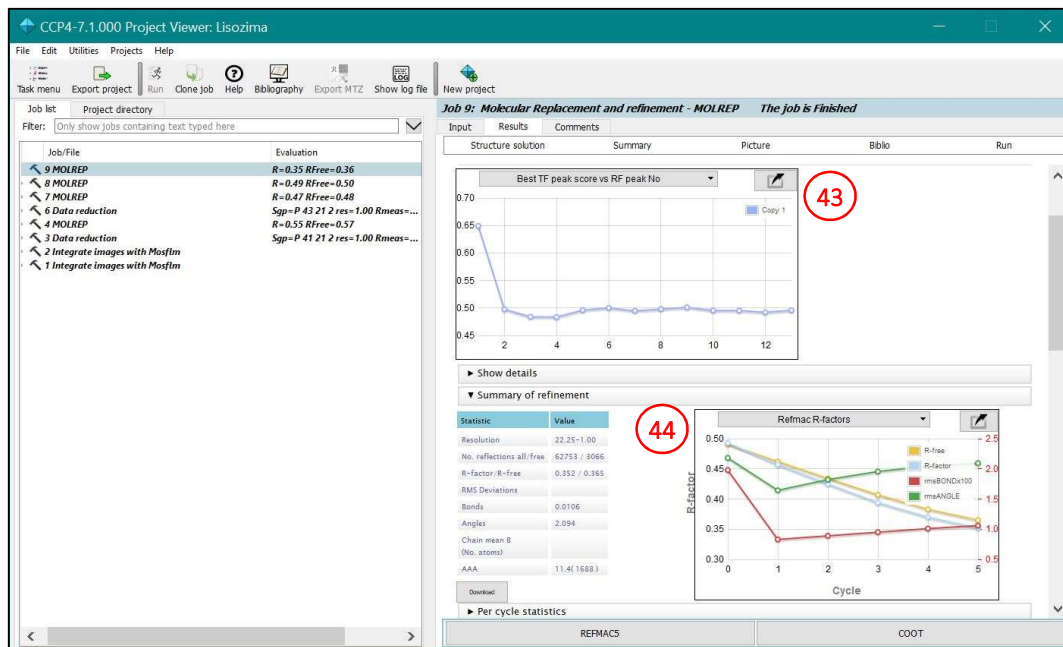


Despite the fact that the $P 4_1 2_1 2$ is the wrong space group, the user can mistakenly think that there is a similarity between the electron density and the model. This apparent similarity is due to model bias. However, a more careful inspection shows that the density is not continuous, particularly in the main chain (39).

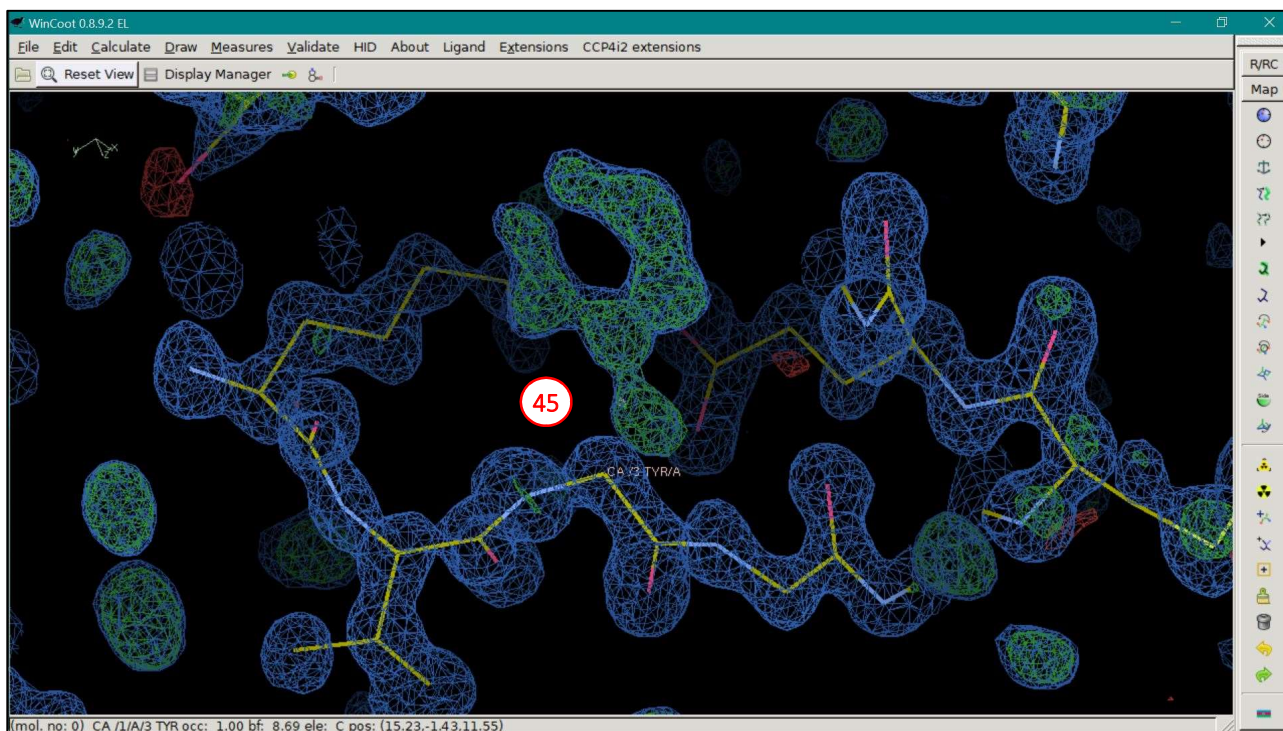
The same steps performed for the $P 4_1 2_1 2$ solution will be repeated using data scaled in the $P 4_3 2_1 2$ space group (40). In this case, data selected are those obtained after scaling in “job 6” (41 e 42).

Job/File	Evaluation
9 MOLREP	
8 MOLREP	R=0.49 RFree=0.50
7 MOLREP	R=0.47 RFree=0.48
6 Data reduction	Syp=P 43 21 2 res=1.00 Rmeas=...
4 MOLREP	R=0.55 RFree=...
3 Data reduction	Syp=P 41 21 2 1.00 Rmeas=...
2 Integrate images with Mosflm	
1 Integrate images with Mosflm	

The MR solution obtained by the MOLREP software for this space group is of higher quality. The graph 43 relative to the best translational solution shows that the best solution stands out among the other, with a significant difference. The presence of a clear optimal solution is an indication that the model has been correctly positioned in the unit cell. In the graph 44, values of R_{work} and R_{free} (0.35 and 0.36, respectively) indicate a good fitting between model and experimental data, confirming the correct space group choice.



The analysis of the electron density with the Coot software shows a continuous electron density in the main chain. In addition, the calculated electron density predicts the mutation of some residues that differ from the model probe used in MR. For example, a tyrosine in position 3 was removed from the model, due to its mutation to phenylalanine in the analyzed protein. The electron density, 45, shows the features of the aromatic ring, predicting the correct mutation.



References.

- [1] The UniProt Consortium, "*UniProt: a worldwide hub of protein knowledge*". **Nucleic Acids Res.** **2019**; 47, D506-515.
- [2] S. McGinnis, and T.L. Madden, "*BLAST: at the core of a powerful and diverse set of sequence analysis tools*". **Nucleic Acids Res.** **2004**; 32, W20-W25.
- [3] H.M. Berman, J. Westbrook, Z. Feng, G. Gilliland, T.N. Bhat, H. Weissig, I.N. Shindyalov, and P.E. Bourne, "*The Protein Data Bank*". **Nucleic Acids Res.** **2000**; 28, 235-242.
- [4] A.Vagin and A.Teplyakov, "*MOLREP: an automated program for molecular replacement*". **J Appl Cryst.** **1997**; 30, 1022-1025.
- [5] M. D. Winn et al., "*Overview of the CCP4 suite and current developments*". **Acta Cryst.** **2011**; D67, 235-242.
- [6] G.N. Murshudov, A.A. Vagin, and E.J. Dodson, "*Refinement of Macromolecular Structures by the Maximum-Likelihood method*". **Acta Cryst.** **1997**; D53, 240-255.
- [7] P. Emsley, B. Lohkamp, W.G. Scott, and K. Cowtan, "*Features and Development of Coot*". **Acta Cryst.** **2010**; D66(Pt 4), 486-501.