

Search in protein data using AI

T. Slaninakova, M. Antol

Správa dat pro umělou inteligenci a strojové učení z pohledu výpočetního prostředí a uživatelských požadavků,

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Context

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2024



Ill. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize
Outreach
David Baker
Prize share: 1/2



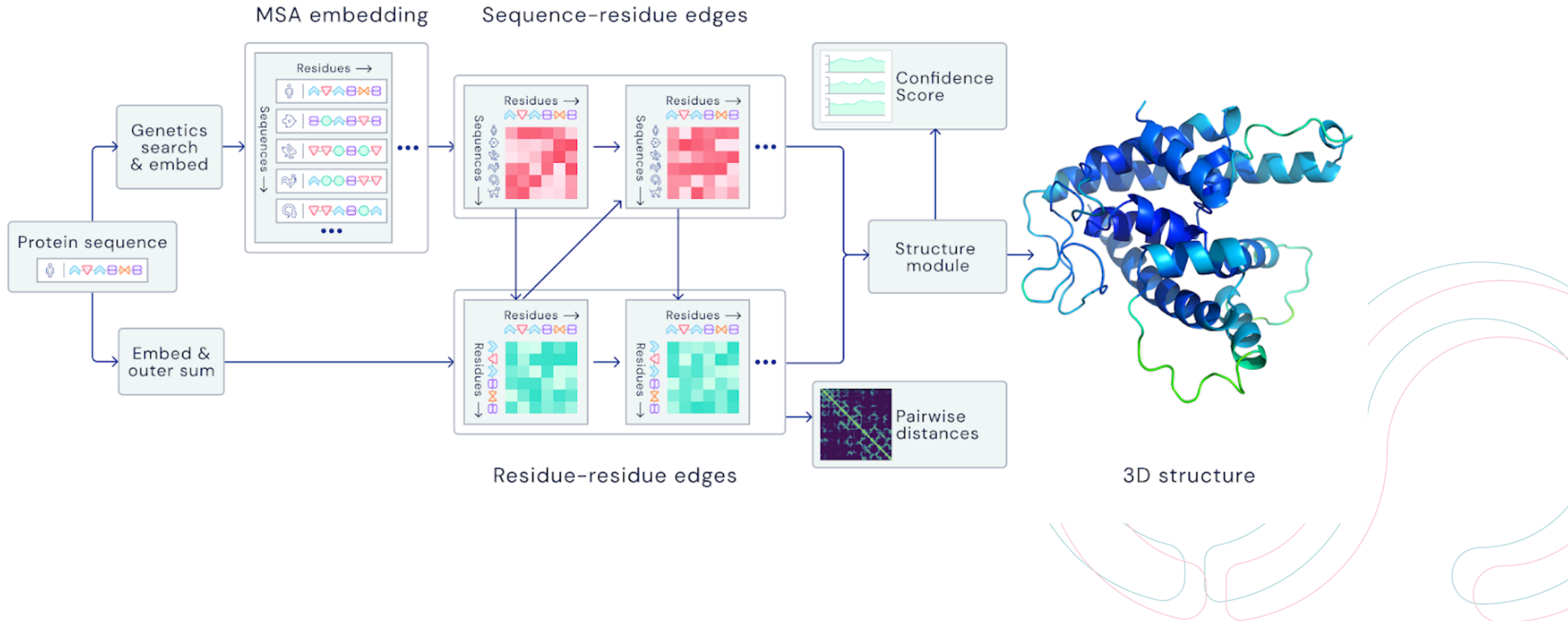
Ill. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize
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John Jumper
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*for computational protein design, for protein structure
prediction*

AlphaFold (2)



AlphaFold data

~1980s – now

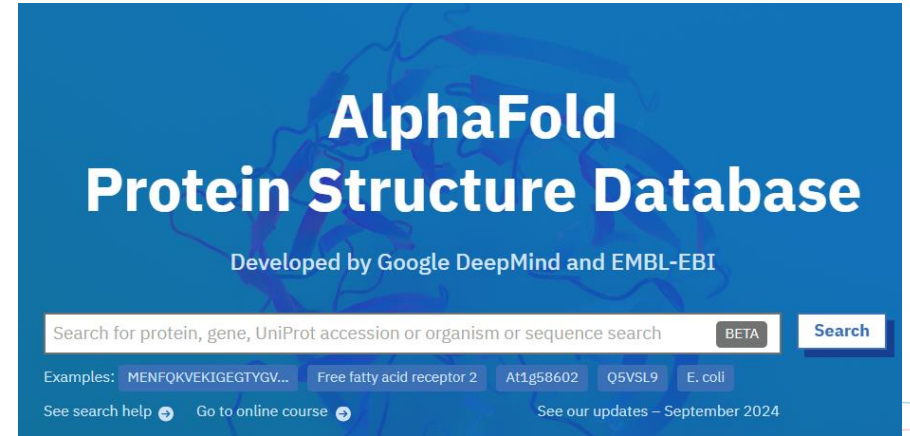


PDB

~180k proteins
~0.5 TB total size

2022 – now

AFDB
~214M proteins
~8 TB of protein data



JOURNAL ARTICLE

AlphaFold Protein Structure Database in 2024: providing structure coverage for over 214 million protein sequences

Mihaly Varadi, Damian Bertoni, Paulyna Magana, Urmila Paramval, Ivanna Pidruchna, Malarvizhi Radhakrishnan, Maxim Tsenkov, Sreenath Nair, Milot Mirdita, Jingi Ye, Oleg Kovalevskiy, Kathryn Tunyasuvunakool, Agata Laydon, Augustin Židek, Hamish Tomlinson, Dhavanthi Hariharan, Josh Abrahamson, Tim Green, John Jumper, Ewan Birney, Martin Steinegger, Demis Hassabis, Sameer Velankar

Nucleic Acids Research, Volume 52, Issue D1, 5 January 2024, Pages D368–D375, <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkad1011>

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Insights within the AlphaFold data

Why study protein data?

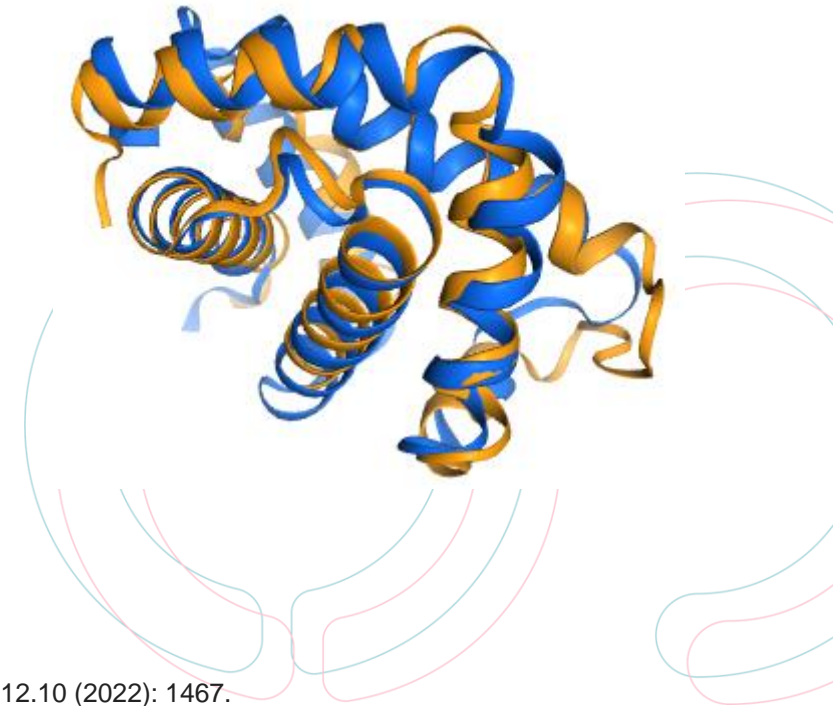
- information about functions, interactions, mechanisms (binding, folding), cellular processes
- play crucial roles in several disease processes
 - structure-based drug discovery¹

How does AlphaFold data help?

- 3D structure for almost all known proteins
 - Some are difficult to capture in a lab
- Allows for wide-scale proteomics, genomics and transcriptomics studies

Crucial operation: protein similarity

- Identify conserved regions across different proteins
 - Essential functional parts, evolutionary relationships, mutual interactions
- Point to unique structural regions – specific functions/adaptations



[1] Bruley, Apolline, et al. "Digging into the 3D structure predictions of AlphaFold2 with low confidence: disorder and beyond." *Biomolecules* 12.10 (2022): 1467.

AlphaFind: Similarity search in AlphaFold DB

<https://alphafind.fi.muni.cz/>

AlphaFind Manual

Search with UniProt, PDB ID or Gene Symbol

Query: P69905

Name: Hemoglobin subunit alpha

Organism: Homo sapiens

P69905 in UniProt (316)

Search Time: 0.125 s

Query metadata

Experimental Structures

Experimental structures (PDB) corresponding to P69905:

1A00
1A01
... (316)

Most similar proteins to P69905 (showing 50 filtered out of 50)

Organism Filter	UniProt ID Filter	Global Similarity		Local Similarity		Superposition
		TM-Score ⁽⁷⁾ ↓	RMSD (Å) ⁽⁷⁾	Aligned Residues	Sequence Identity ⁽⁷⁾	
> (2) Macaca mulatta	P63108	0.9999	0.050	100%	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	🔍
> (6) Homo sapiens	D1MGQ2	0.9999	0.050	100%	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	🔍
> (3) Equus caballus	P01958 (20)	0.9986	0.170	100%	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	🔍
> (1) Alphaproteobacteria bacterium	A0A3M1M8B2	0.8172	1.940	93.7%	<div style="width: 93.7%;"></div>	🔍

Most similar proteins to P69905 (showing 1000 filtered out of 1000)

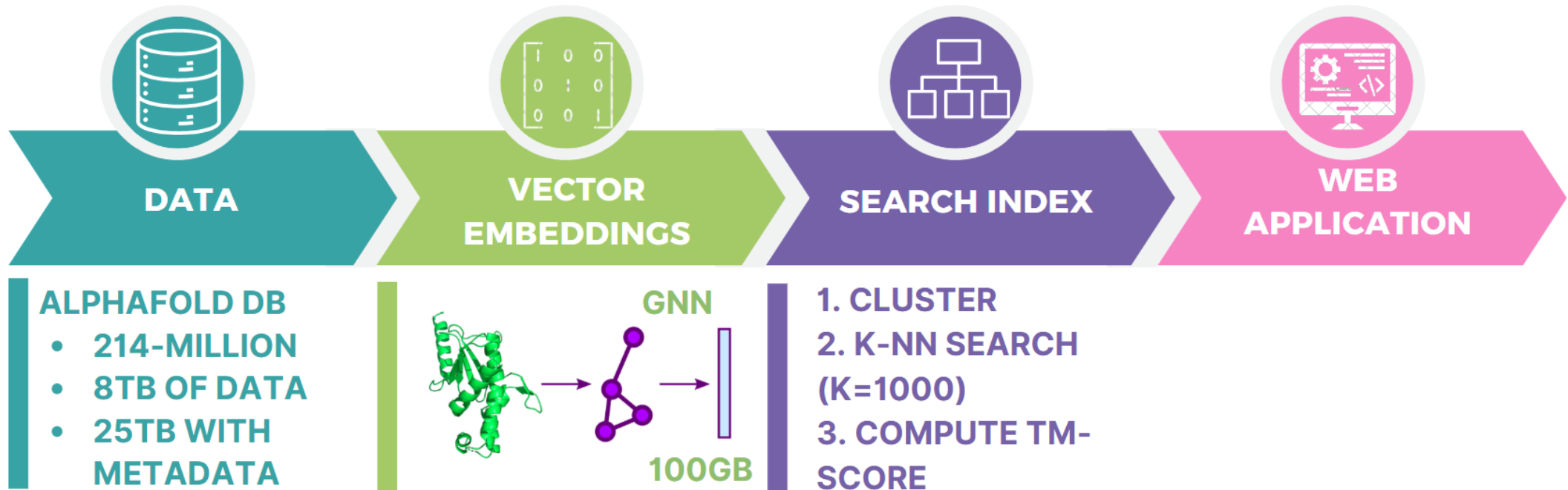
<https://alphafind.fi.muni.cz/search?q=P69905&limit=1000>

Bookmark + access anytime. Results will be accessible immediately (caching).

- TM-Score** - a global measure of similarity between two protein structures, computed by US-align [Zhang2022]
- RMSD (Å)** - a local measure of distance between the 3D coordinates of the aligned Ca atoms -- the unaligned portions of the structures are disregarded
- Aligned Residues** - portion of the aligned residues relative to the total length of the query protein
- Sequence Identity** - portion of identical amino acid residues within the two aligned sequences relative to the length of the query protein.

AlphaFind: discover structure similarity across the proteome in AlphaFold DB. *Nucleic Acids Research*, gkae397. Procházka, D., Slanínáková, T., Olha, J., Rošinec, A., Grešová, K., Jánošová, M., ... & Antol, M. (2024).

The pipeline



What was needed

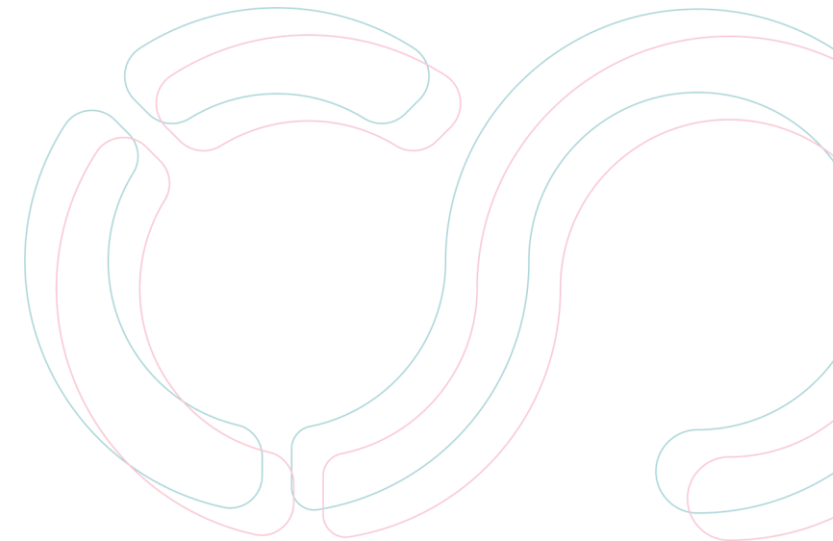


DATA

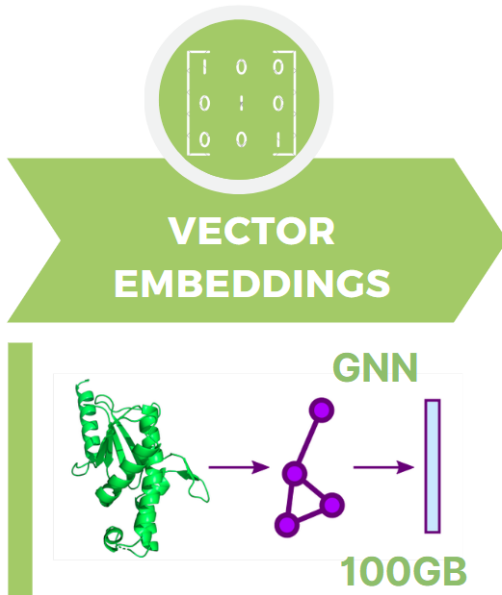
ALPHAFOLD DB

- 214-MILLION
- 8TB OF DATA
- 25TB WITH METADATA

- **Downloaded, easily accessible (from jupyterhub, kubernetes, metacentrum)**
- **25TB is a lot, 2M+ tars in one folder – strain on the filesystem**
- ***index.csv* – which .tar files contain which proteins**



What was needed



- **Running a lot of inference**
 - **GPUs? Ideally yes, but we needed to occupy them for a long time + many in parallel, decided to go with CPUs**
- **Kubernetes' jobs to do the computation (batching, jinja templates)**
- **Storage to save the computed embeddings**

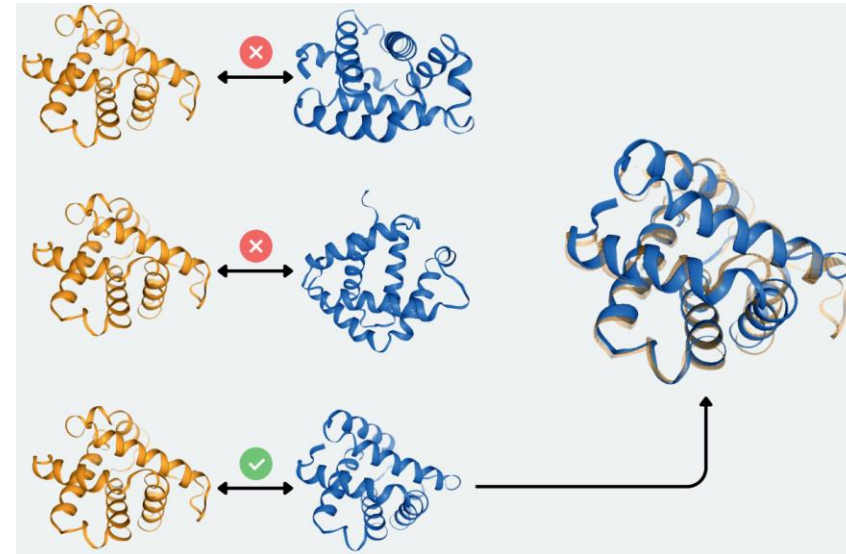
What was needed



SEARCH INDEX

1. CLUSTER
2. K-NN SEARCH
(K=1000)
3. COMPUTE TM-
SCORE

- **Preparing the index**
 - **Clustering + training a shallow MLP**
- **TM-Score = ground truth of protein similarity**
 - **No pre-computed test set exists for AFDB**
 - **~30 seconds for 1k proteins with parallel execution on 16 CPUs**

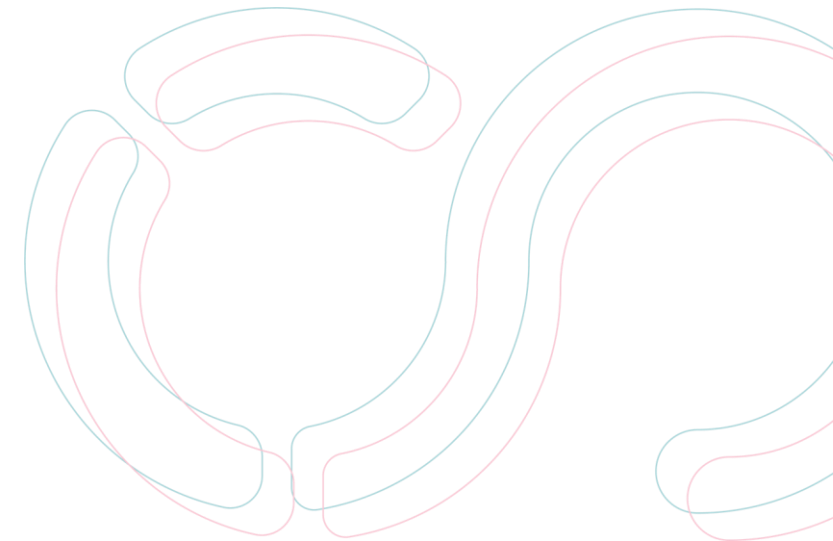


What was needed



WEB APPLICATION

- **Deployment of back-end and front-end– Kubernetes**
- **CI/CD – GitLab**
- **Monitoring - Matomo**



Next steps + How can AI/e-infra help

Goals:

- **Precising the search**
 - **Error in the data**
 - **Evaluation**
 - **Embeddings**
- **Speeding up the search**
 - **Architectural re-design**
- **New functionalities**
 - **Protein complexes of multiple chains + other molecules**
 - **Tunnels**

What we'd need from AI/ML group:

- **AI experts to help us with improving our computational pipelines:**
 - **Running inference of a neural network with a lot of data objects**
 - **Training our own embedding model**
- **MLOps for index training**
 - **E-infra-native services like wandb?**

From infrastructure in general:

- **Ground truth computation**
 - **Supercomputer?**
- **Help with the Architectural design of a resource-intensive web application**
 - **Monolith -> microservices**

Thanks for your attention

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