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Highly accurate protein structure prediction with AlphaFold

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Proteins are essential to life, and understanding their structure can facilitate a mechanistic understanding of their function. Predicting the three-dimensional structure that a protein will adopt based solely on its amino acid sequence—the structure prediction component of the ‘protein folding problem’—has been an important open research problem for more than 50 years. AlphaFold, a novel machine learning approach developed at DeepMind, demonstrated accuracy competitive with experimental structures in a majority of cases and greatly outperformed other methods, and has since been recognized as “Method of The Year 2021” by Nature Methods. In this talk I will outline the problem, describe the AlphaFold method and our engineering approach, discuss applications in biology, and sketch possible future directions and connections.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-03819-2>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-03828-1>

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