

# US-align: universal structure alignments of proteins, nucleic acids, and macromolecular complexes

**First Author:** Chengxin Zhang  
**Published:** August 29, 2022, in *Nature Methods*

**Paper Presenter:** Xinyu Wang

Article | Published: 29 August 2022

## US-align: universal structure alignments of proteins, nucleic acids, and macromolecular complexes

[Chengxin Zhang](#), [Morgan Shine](#), [Anna Marie Pyle](#) & [Yang Zhang](#) ✉

*Nature Methods* **19**, 1109–1115 (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

**10k** Accesses | **101** Citations | **31** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

OXFORD  
ACADEMIC

Journals

Books



Nucleic Acids Research

JOURNAL ARTICLE

## TM-align: a protein structure alignment algorithm based on the TM-score

[Yang Zhang](#) ✉, [Jeffrey Skolnick](#)

*Nucleic Acids Research*, Volume 33, Issue 7, 1 April 2005, Pages 2302–2309,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gki524>

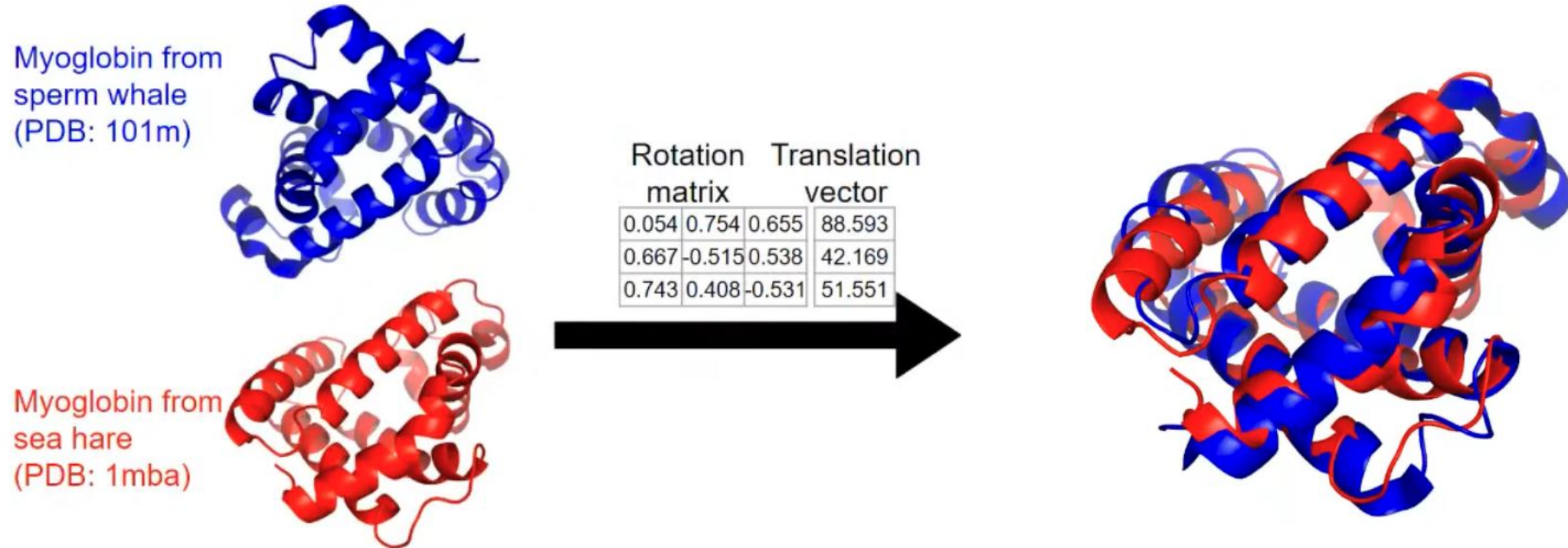
**Published:** 01 January 2005 [Article history](#) ▾

Article

## A unified approach to sequential and non-sequential structure alignment of proteins, RNAs, and DNAs

[Chengxin Zhang](#) <sup>1 2 3</sup>, [Anna Marie Pyle](#) <sup>1 2 4 5</sup> ✉

# Introduction: structure superimposition and alignment



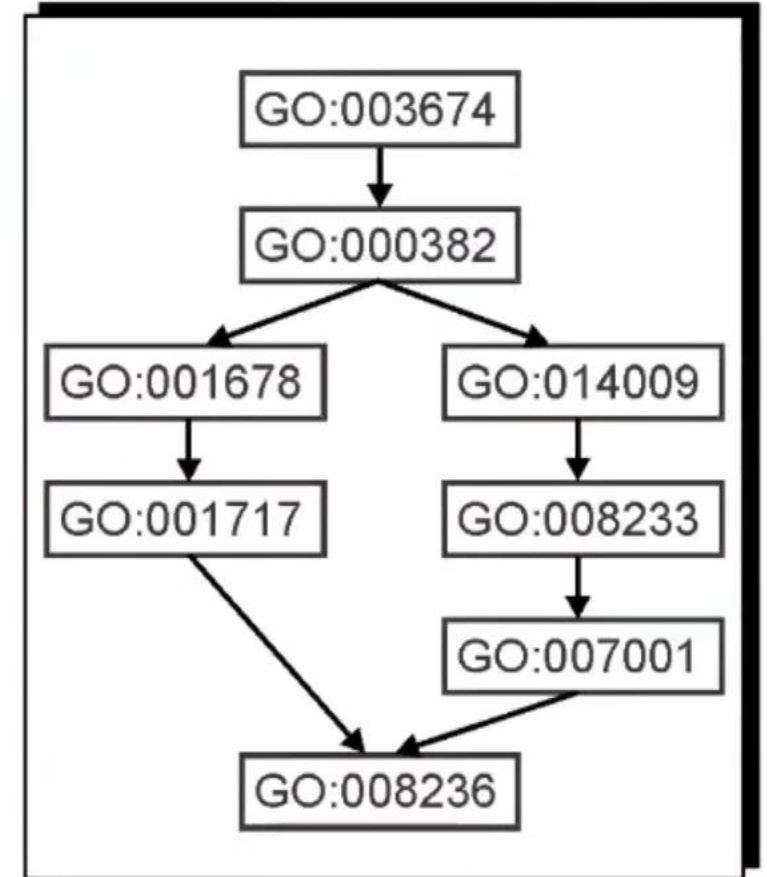
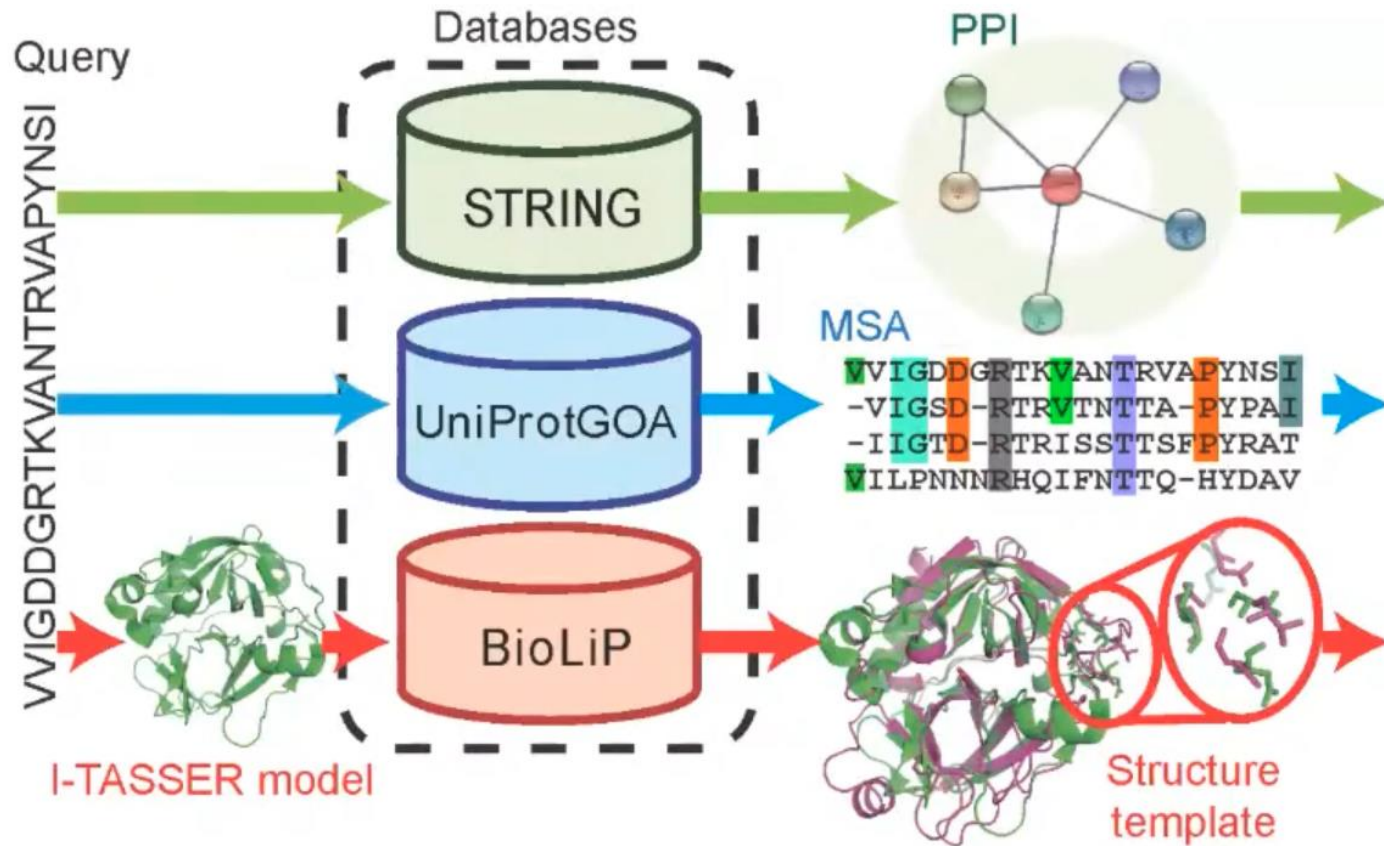
>101m

MVLSEGEWQLVLHVWAKVEADVAGHGQDIILRLFKSHPETLEKFDRVKHLKTEAEMKASEDLKKHGVTVLTA LGAILKKK--G-  
HHEAELKPLAQSHATKHKIPIKYLEFISEAIIHVLHSRHPGNFGADAQGAMKALELFRKDIAAKYKELGYQG

>1mba

-SLSAAEADLAGKSWAPVFANKANGLDFLVALFEKPDSANFFADFKGKS-VADIKASPQLRDVSSRIFTRLNEVNNAANASSKM  
SAMFAKEHV--GFGVGSQAQFENVRSMPGFVASVAA--PPAGADAAWTKLFGLIIDALKA-A-----GA

# Why structure alignment



# Metrics for Structure Similarities

$$RMSD = \sqrt{\frac{1}{L_{ali}} \sum_{i=1}^{L_{ali}} d_i^2}$$

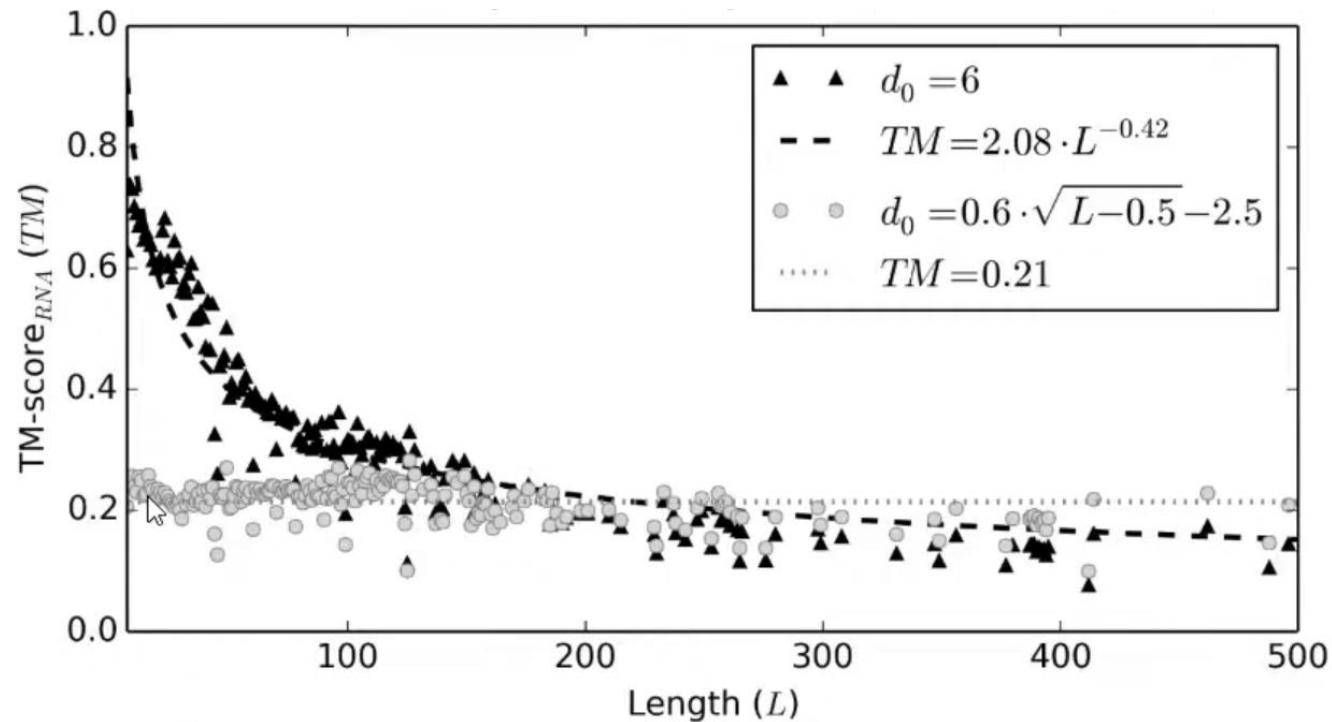
- $L$  - Total number of residues
- $L_{ali}$  - Number of aligned residues
- $d_i$  - Distance between the  $i$ -th aligned residue pair

$$Coverage = \frac{L_{ali}}{L}$$

$$TM_{score} = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{i=1}^{L_{ali}} \frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{d_i}{d_0}\right)^2}$$

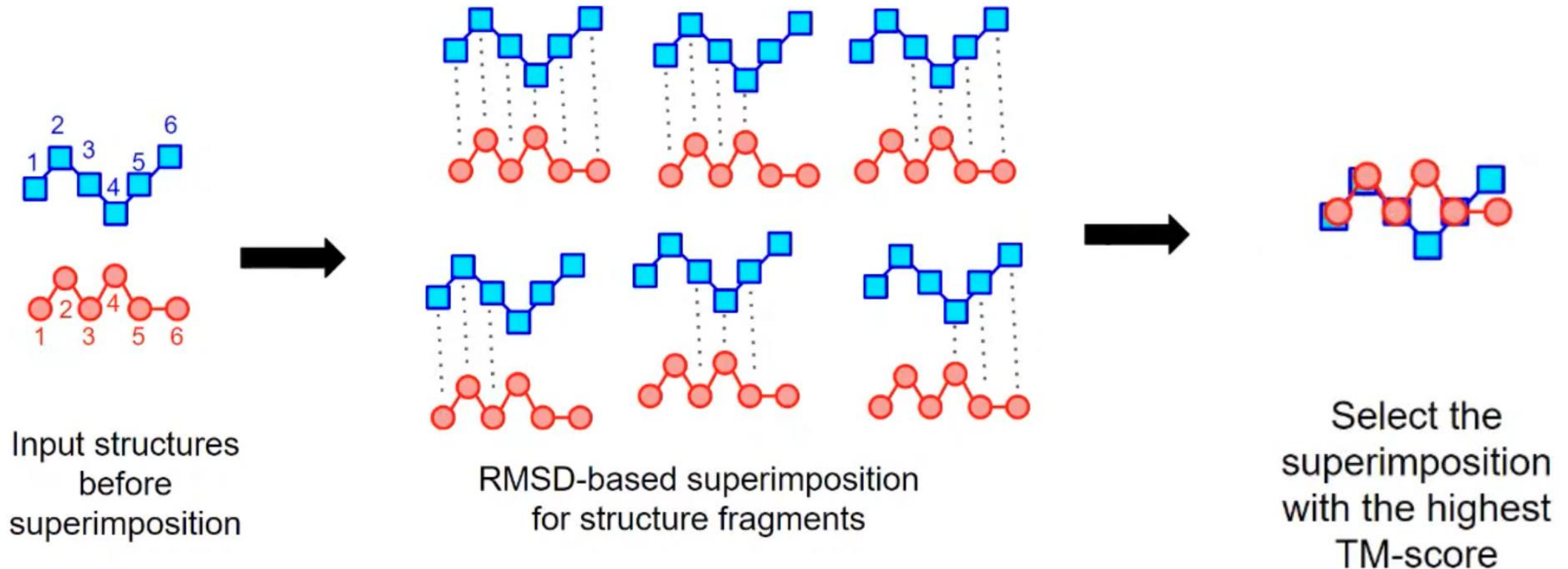
$$d_0 = \begin{cases} 1.24 \cdot \sqrt[3]{L - 15} - 1.8, & \text{for proteins} \\ 0.6 \cdot \sqrt{L - 0.5} - 2.5, & \text{for RNA} \end{cases}$$

# Size independency of TM-score Similarity

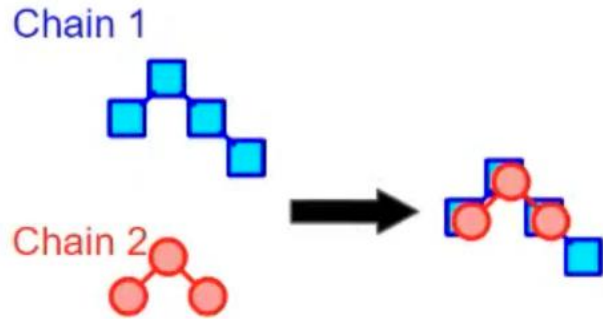


$$TM_{score} = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{i=1}^{L_{ali}} \frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{d_i}{d_0}\right)^2} \quad d_0 = \begin{cases} 1.24 \cdot \sqrt[3]{L - 15} - 1.8, & \text{for proteins} \\ 0.6 \cdot \sqrt{L - 0.5} - 2.5, & \text{for RNA} \end{cases}$$

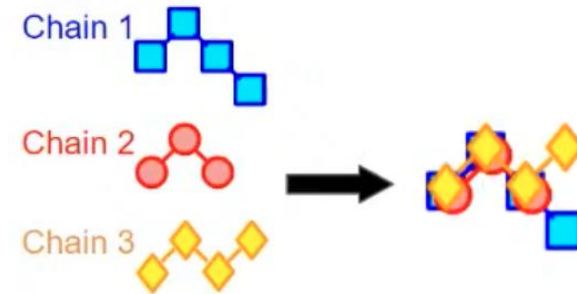
# Heuristic approach to optimize TM-score



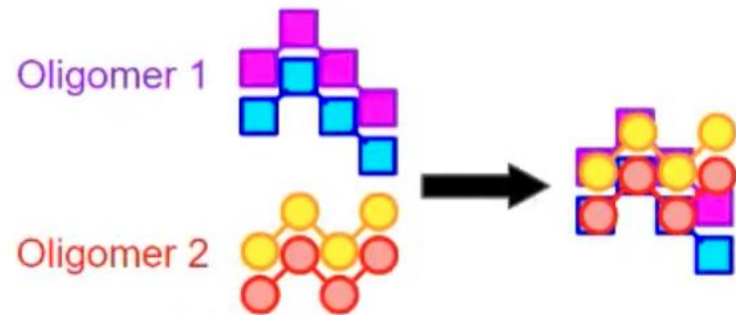
# Different alignment modes



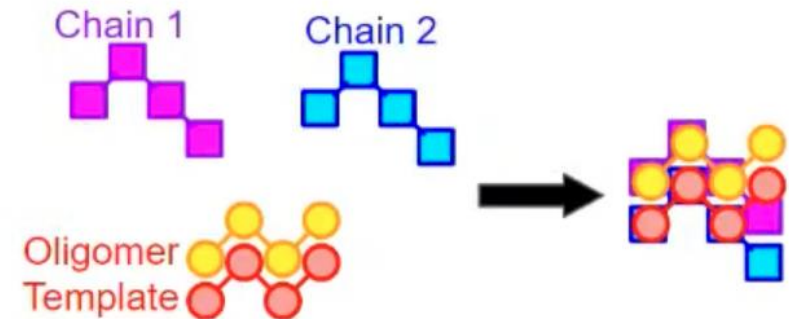
Pairwise monomer structure alignment



Multiple structure alignment  
( $\geq 3$  monomers)



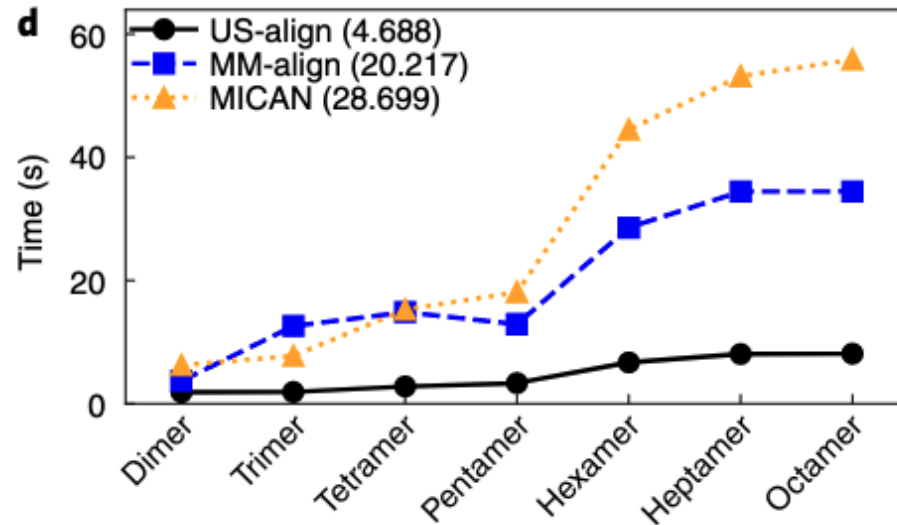
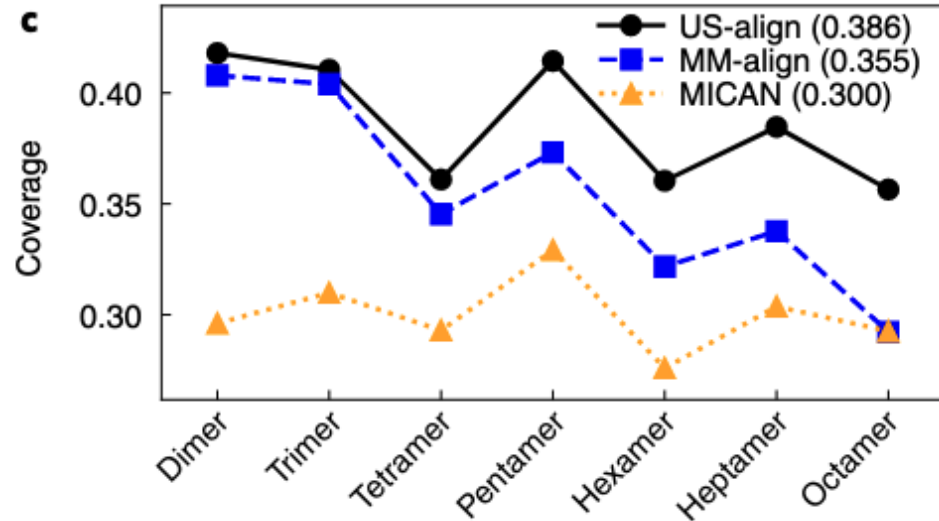
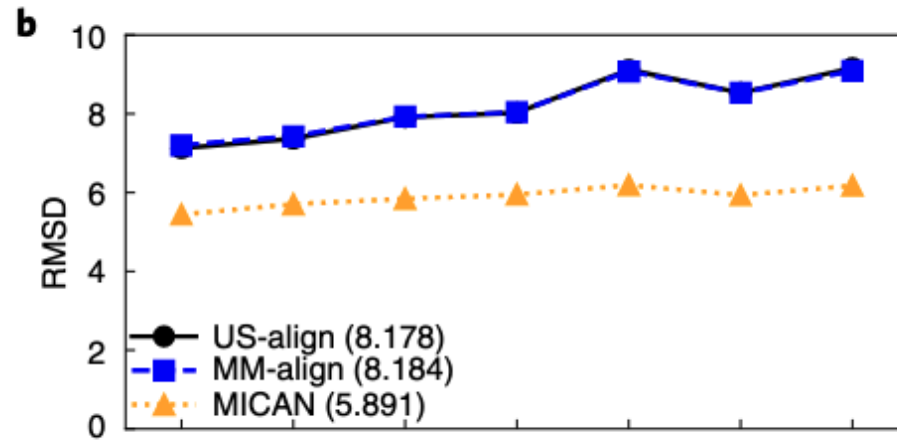
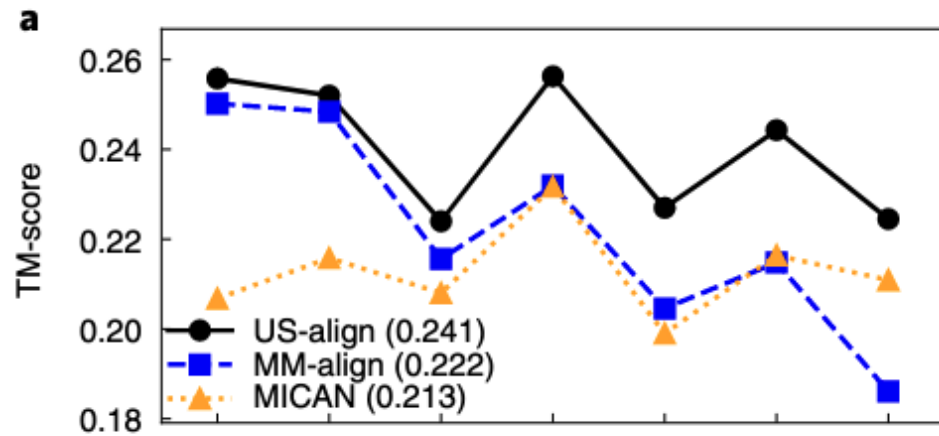
Oligomer structure alignment  
(2 oligomers with unknown  
residue/chain correspondence)



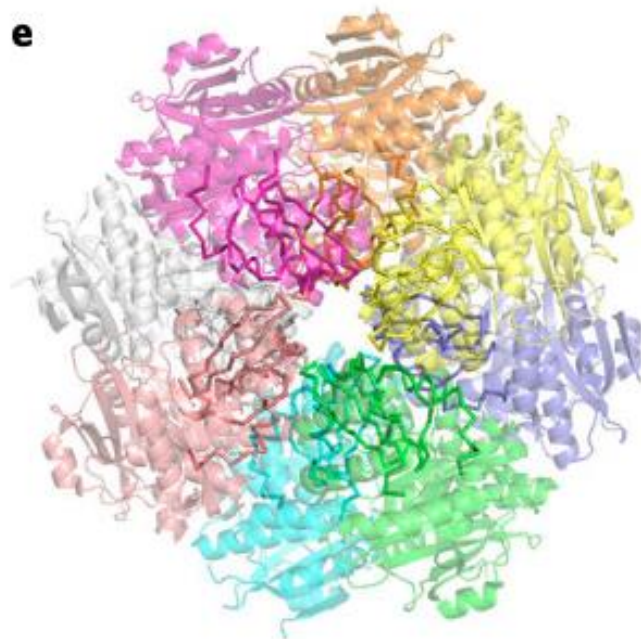
Template-based docking  
(a set of chains and an oligomer structure template)



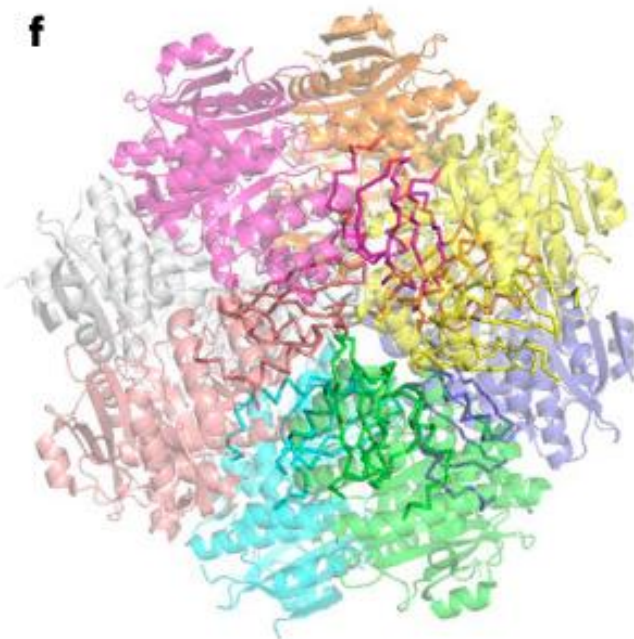
# Oligomer structure alignment Performance



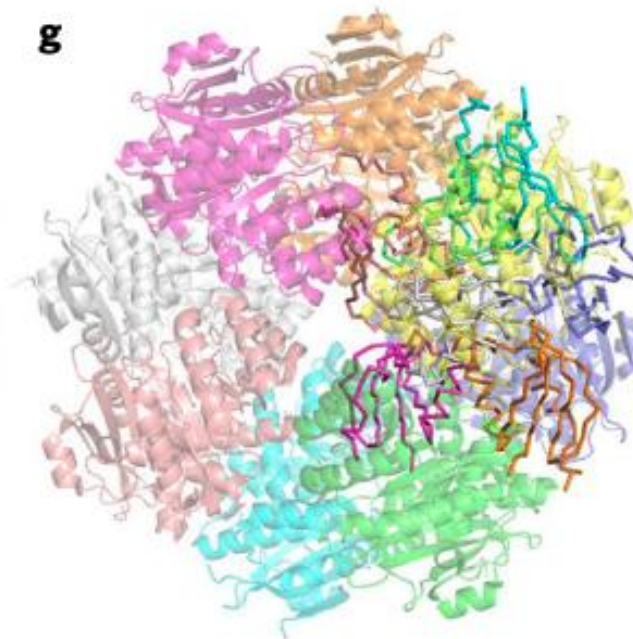
# Case study: 4jhm



US-align: TM-score = 0.540;  
RMSD = 6.84; Coverage = 0.816.

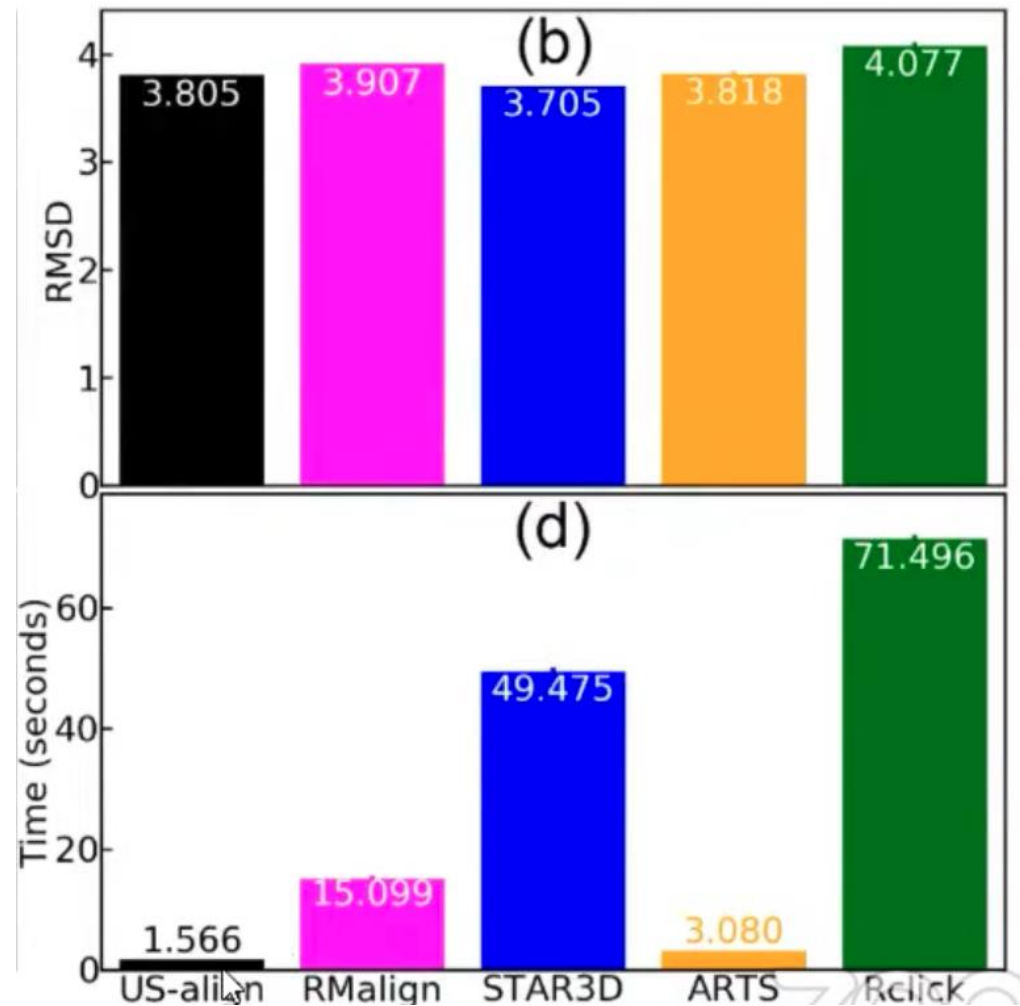
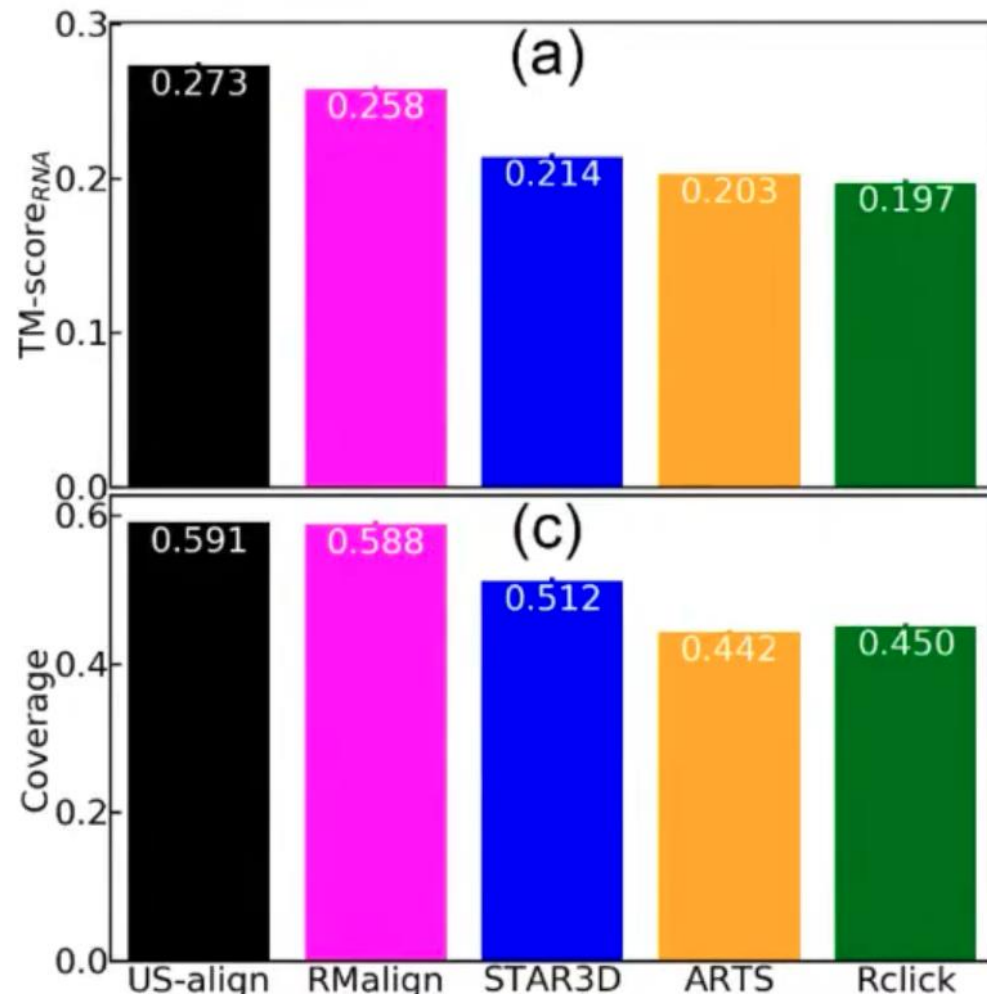


MM-align: TM-score = 0.239;  
RMSD = 7.48; Coverage = 0.383.

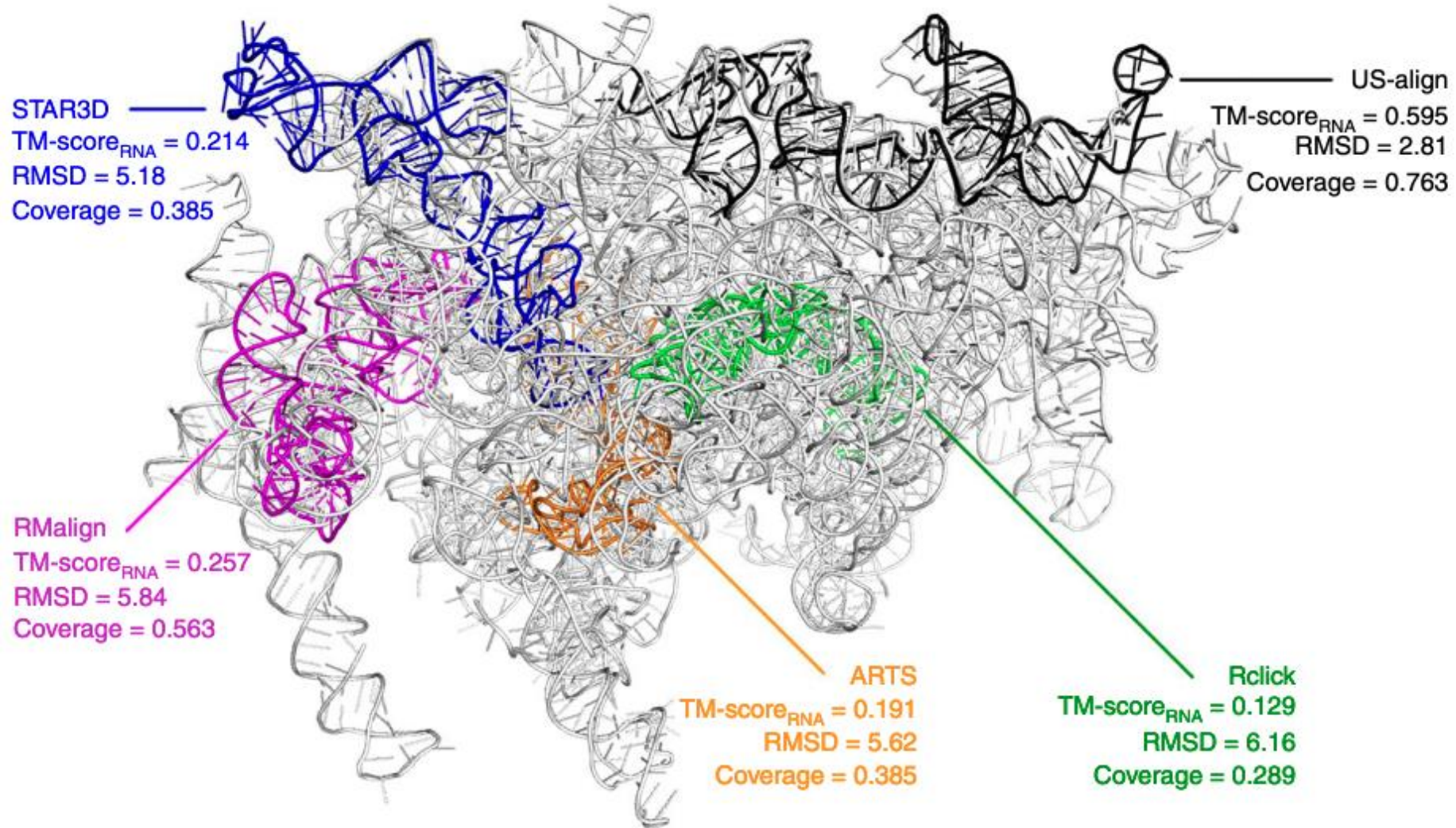


MICAN: TM-score = 0.289;  
RMSD = 6.57; Coverage = 0.436.

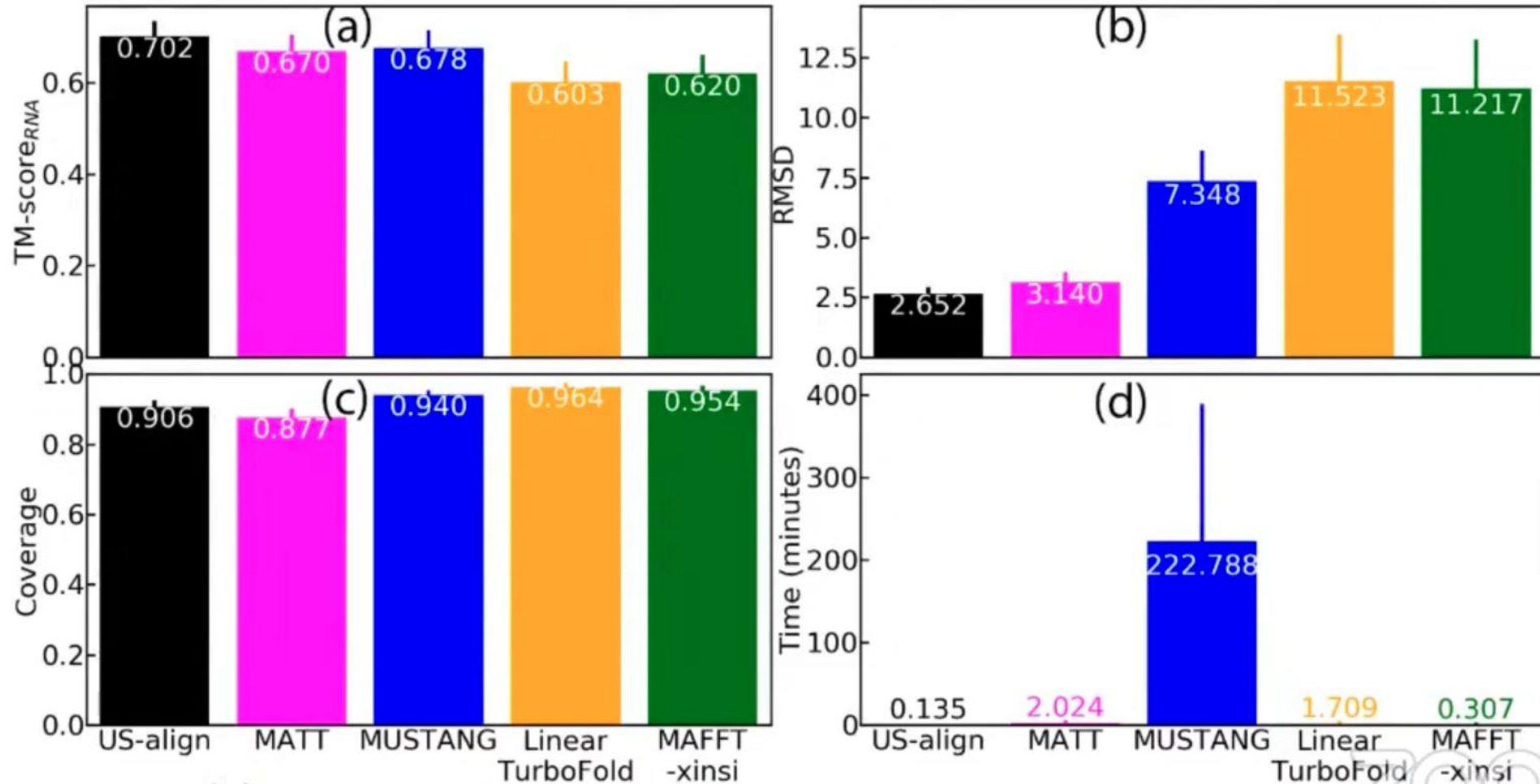
# Monomeric RNA structure alignment



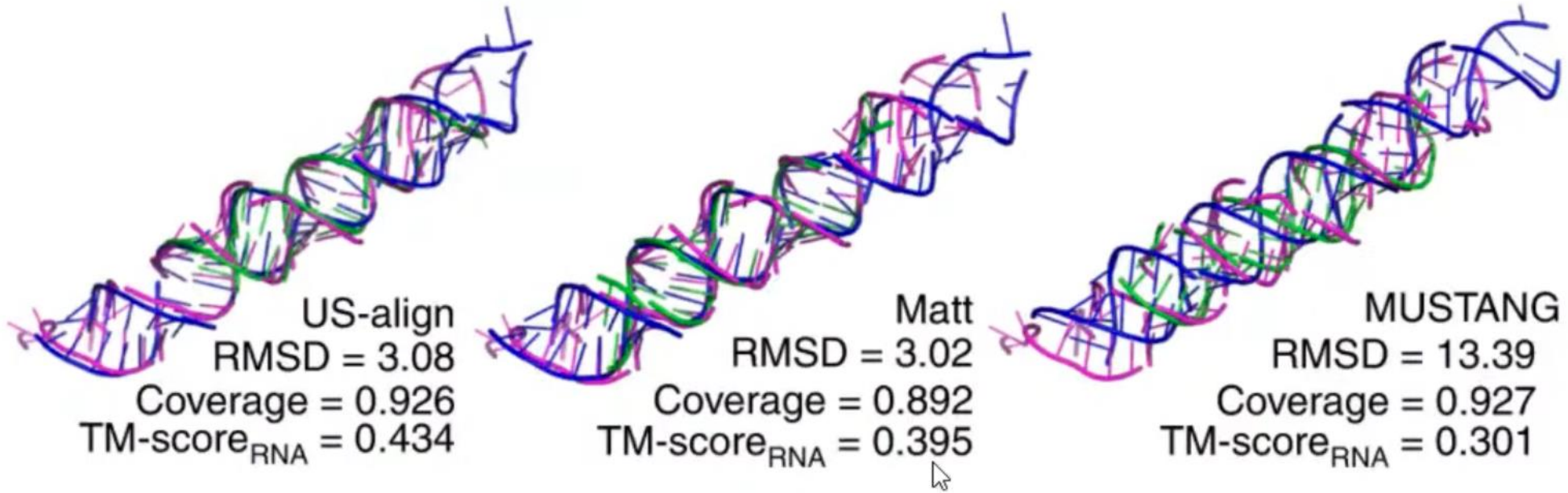
# Case study: 6y2l



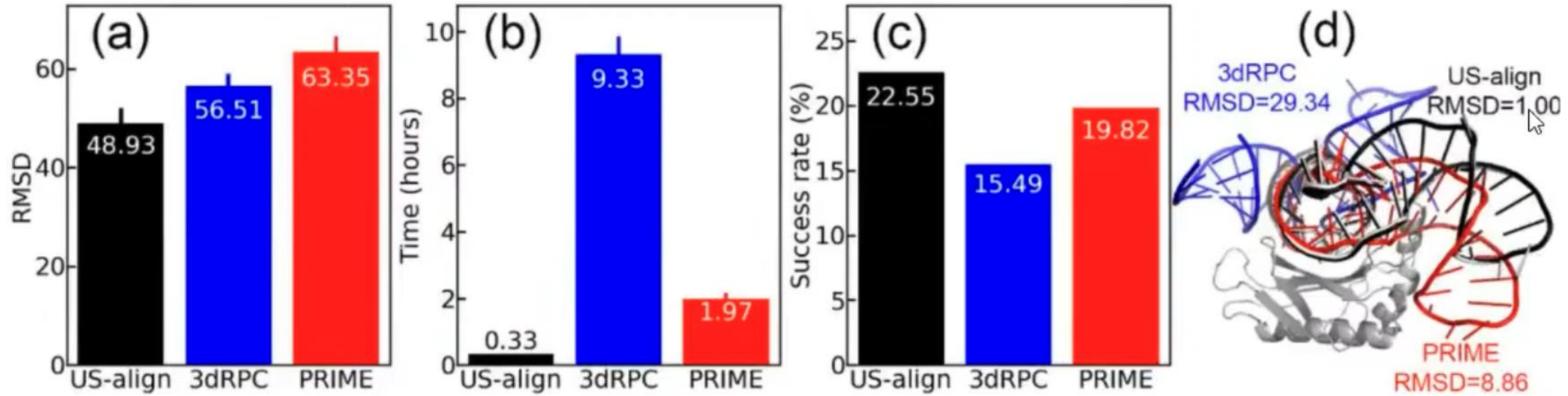
# RNA multiple structure alignment



# Case study:6v5b



# RNA-Protein docking

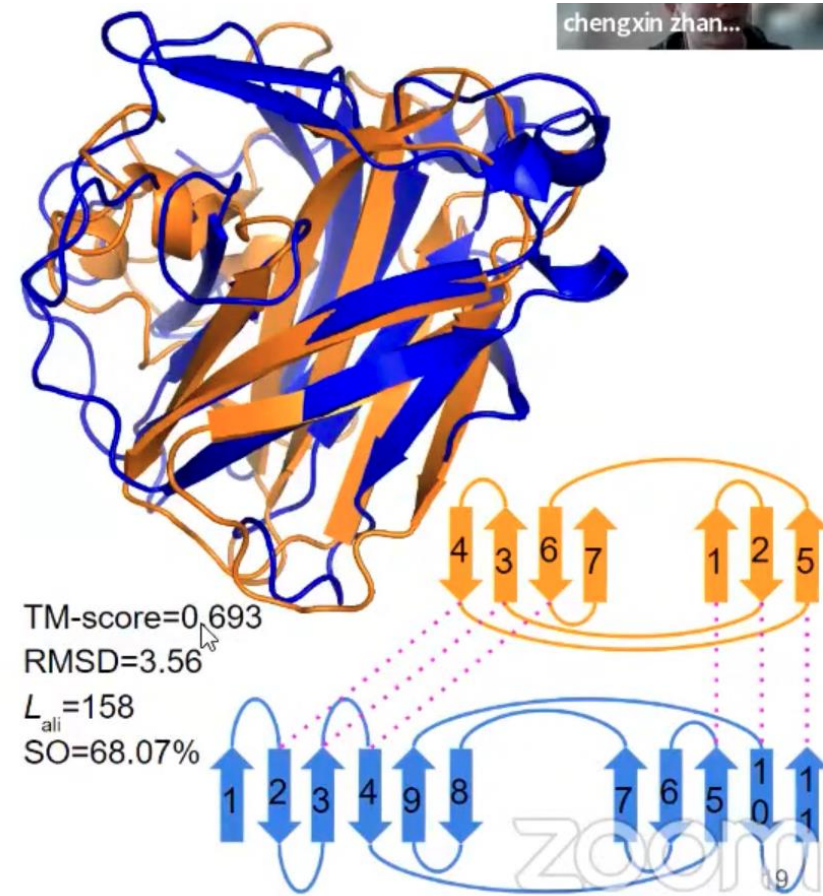


# US-align2

- Structure alignment for proteins, nucleic acids, and macromolecular
- Similar structure=sequential?
- Usalign2-non-sequential



# Sequential alignment vs non-sequential alignment





Questions