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Chemistry and Biology of Metals laboratory
and Visiting Scientist at the ESRF



MX BAG Meeting, Monday 8th February 2021

The High Pressure Freezing Laboratory for Macromolecular Crystallography (HPMX) is a service proposed in complement to diffraction experiments on MX beamlines (ESRF). Protein crystals are frozen in pure gas atmospheres at high pressures to :

- to introduce gases in macromolecules,
- to avoidance cryo-protection of crystals.

Gas derivatization of bio-crystals allows to answer specific scientific questions in structural biology, or is used in methodological applications.

LIGHT GASES LIGANDS IN PDB STRUCTURES

RCSB PDB Deposit Search Visualize Analyze Download Learn More MyPDB

WORLDWIDE PDB PROTEIN DATA BANK EMDataResource NUCLEIC ACID DATABASE Worldwide Protein Data Bank Foundation

Celebrating 50 YEARS OF Protein Data Bank

Search History Browse Annotations MyPDB Help

QUERY: Chemical Search = Kr WHERE Query Type = Formula AND Match Subset = false

Open In Query Builder JSON MyPDB Login

Advanced Search Query Builder

Chemical

AND O2, CO, NO, Xe

Query Type Formula Match Subset

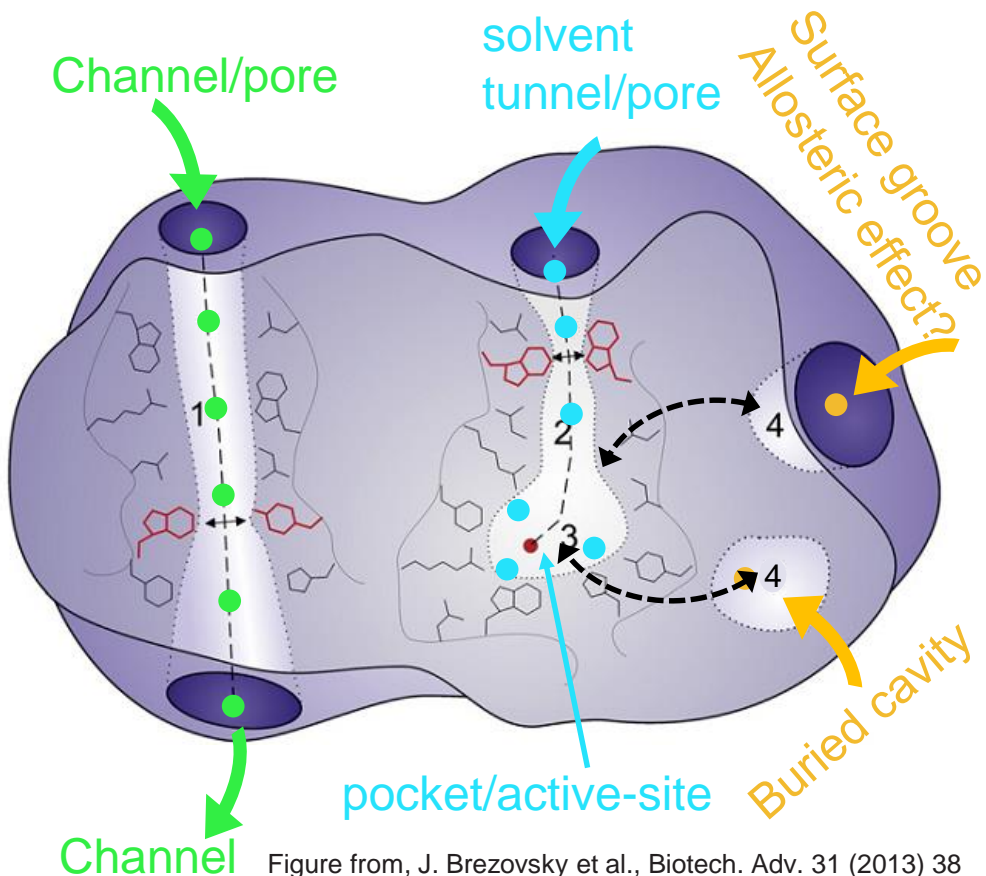
Count Clear

- 498 PDB structures with O2 (OXY, PER) → Oxidoreductases: oxygenases, oxidases
 - 386 PDB structure with CO (CMO) } → Hemoproteins
 - 166 PDB structures with NO } → Carbonic anhydrases, carboxylases
 - 86 PDB structures with CO2 } → Nitrous oxide reductases
 - 17 PDB structures with N2O } → Nitrogenases
 - 8 PDB structures with N2 (HDZ)

 - 138 PDB structures with Xenon } chemically inert but with many biological & medical
 - 28 PDB structures with Krypton } properties : analgesia, anaesthesia, neuroprotection...
 - 20 PDB structures with Argon } Used in methodological applications
- Many structures crystallized with ligands
 - HP service allows to produce the derivatives

THE USE OF GAS DERIVATIVES IN STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY

Xe/Kr/Ar labelling + Software tools (Caver/Mole)



- 1- Reveal surface entrance pores and detect functional channels through protein (e.g. transport proteins pumps)
- 2- Reveal functional tunnels, pathways for substrates and products between active-sites and solvent.
- 3- Map pockets of active sites
- 4- highlight buried cavities and surface grooves/excavations (potentially functional, allosteric effect)

Figure from, J. Brezovsky et al., Biotech. Adv. 31 (2013) 38

THE USE OF GAS DERIVATIVES IN STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY

He HP-Freezing

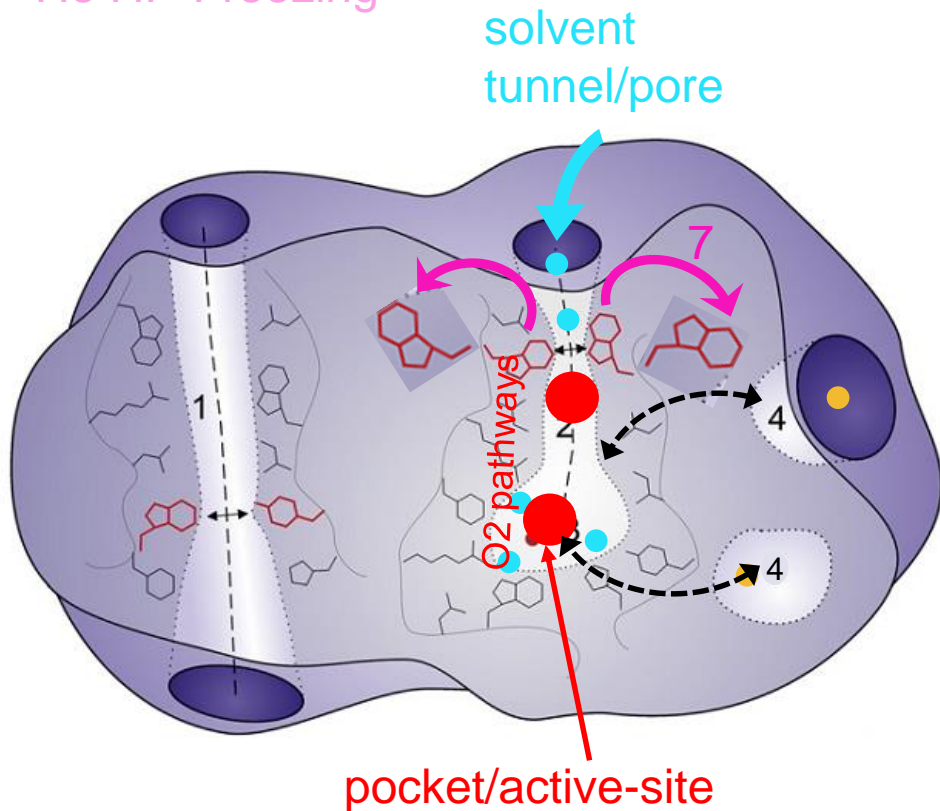
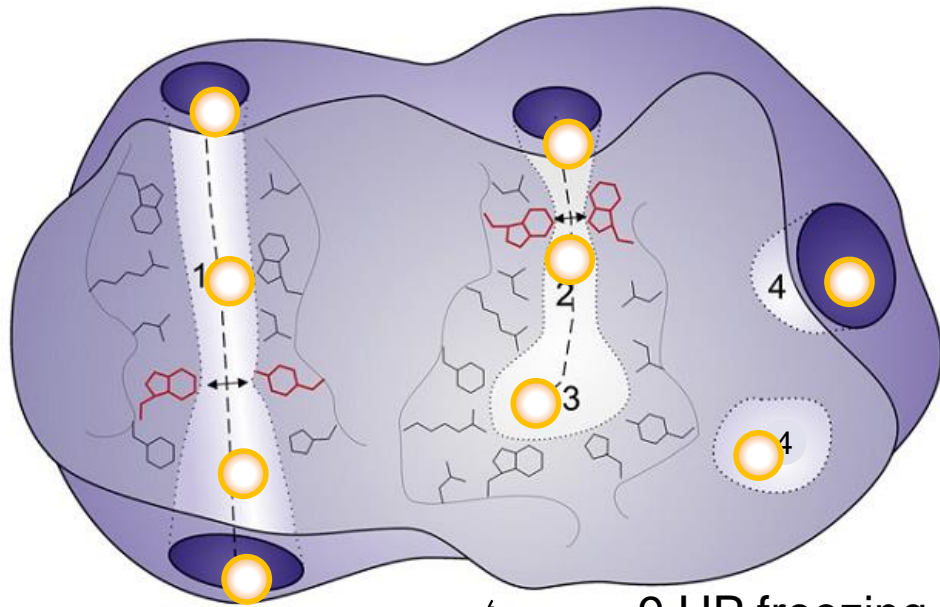


Figure from, J. Brezovsky et al., Biotech. Adv. 31 (2013) 38

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- 2- Reveal functional tunnels, pathways for substrates and products between active-sites and solvent.
- 3- Map pockets of active sites
- 4- Label buried cavities and surface grooves/excavations (potentially functional, allosteric effect)
- 6- Reveal “binding sites” of gas ligands, substrates or products (e.g. O₂, CO₂, NO, CO), O₂ pathways, reactivity studies (intermediates, enzymatic mechanisms)
- 7- Pressure (He 2000 bar) induce local structural modifications, exploration functional conformational fluctuations. Limited

THE USE OF GAS DERIVATIVES IN STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY

Methods Xe/Kr/Ar/He HP-Freezing



-1- Reveal surface entrance pores and detect functional channels through protein (e.g. transport proteins pumps)

-2- Reveal functional tunnels, pathways for substrates and products between active-sites and solvent.

-3- Map pockets of active sites

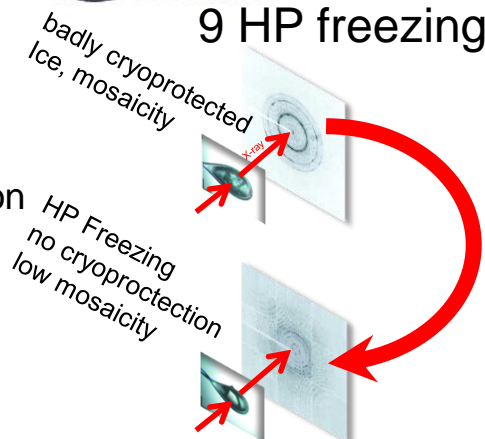
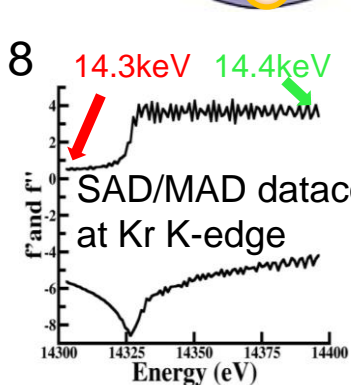
-4- Label buried cavities and surface grooves/excavations (potentially functional, allosteric effect)

-6- Reveal “binding sites” of gas ligands, substrates or products (e.g. O₂, CO₂, NO, CO), O₂ pathways, reactivity studies (intermediates, enzymatic mechanisms)

-7- Pressure (He 2000 bar) induce local structural modifications, exploration functional conformational fluctuations. Limited

-8- Use noble gases (Xe, Kr, Ar) as heavy atoms for protein structures determination

-9- Crystals freezing at High pressure (He 2000 bar) without cryoprotection. solving cryoprotection issues: ice, broken crystals, high mosaicity



PROPERTIES OF LIGHT AND NOBLE GASES FOR STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY

Noble gases	He	Ne	Ar	Kr	Xe
vdW radius Å	1.40	1.54	1.88	2.02	2.16
Polarizability Å ³	0.21	0.40	1.64	2.48	4.04
Solubility H[P](mM/bar)	0.39	0.46	1.40	2.51	4.34
Highest pressure (bar)	2000	NA	2000	150 (->500)	NA (55 RT)
Collect X-ray λ(Å)	NA	NA	1.77 SAD	0.87 MAD	1.77 SAD
Anomalous f'(e)	NA	NA	1.1	3.8	9.2

Probe size vdW radius
Tunnel size

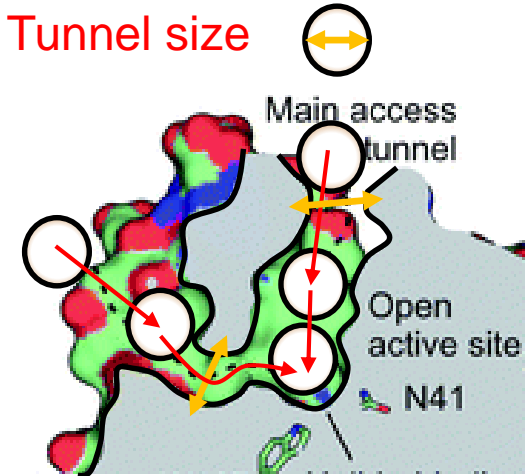
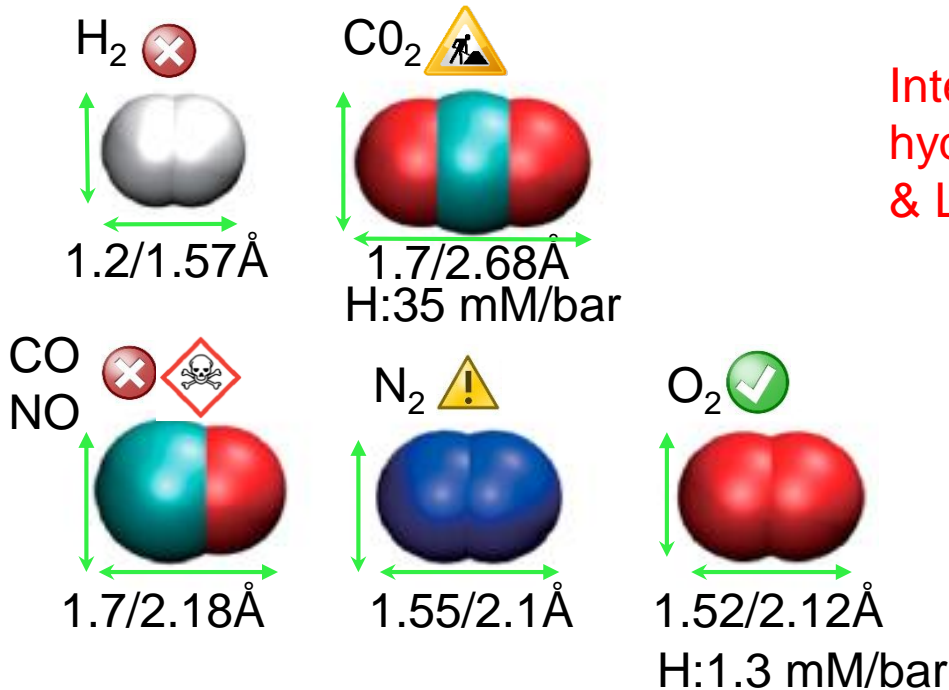
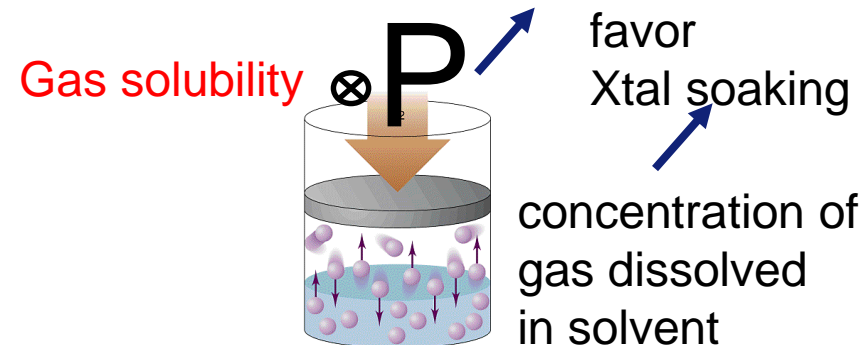
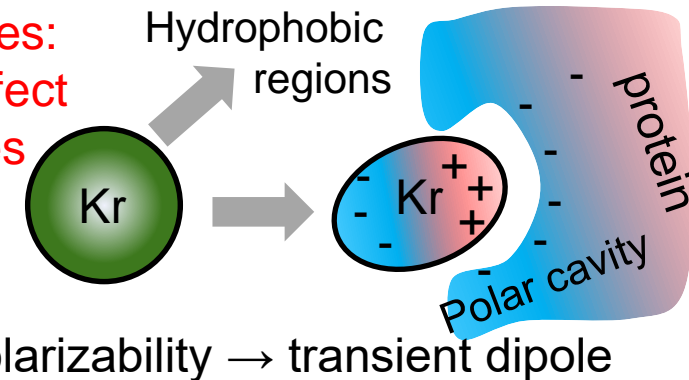



Figure from K. Markova et al., Chem Sci (2020)



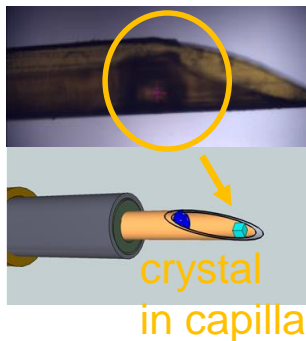
Interaction forces:
hydrophobic effect
& London forces



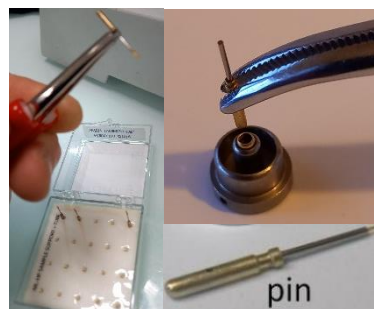
“SOAK AND FREEZE” METHOD, FREEZING CRYSTAL UNDER HIGH PRESSURE

Users bring their samples in trays 


Light gases of bio interest
O₂, He, Ar, Kr, ...

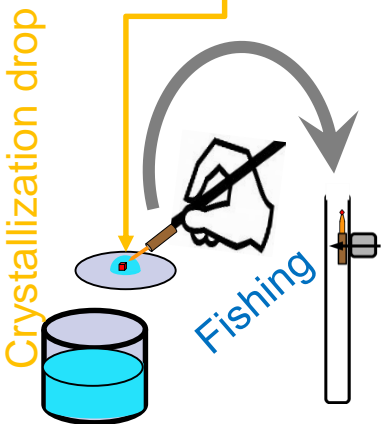


crystal in capillary

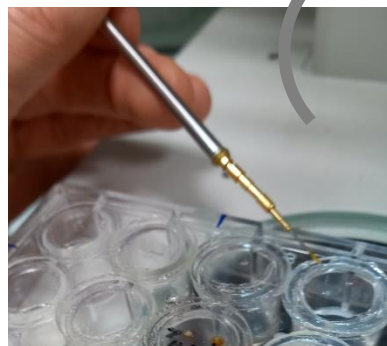


pin

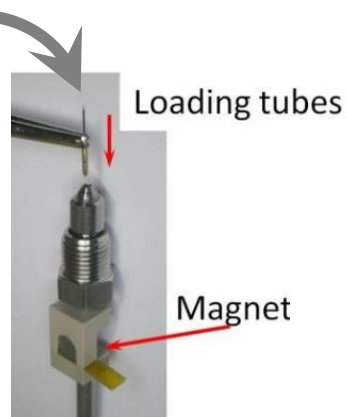
MX-HP-Cool base & Support-pin from MiteGen 



(1) loading



Fishing tool



Loading tubes

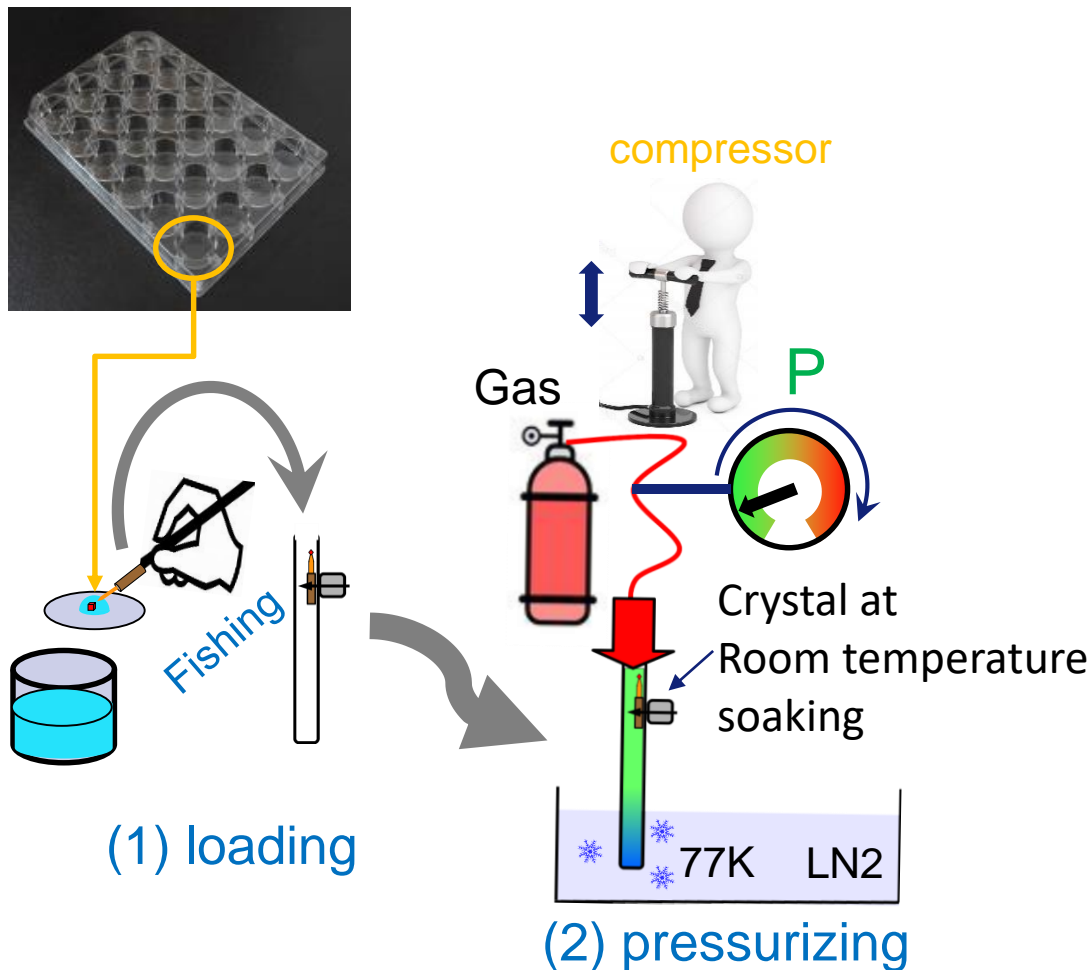
Magnet

Pressure tube

B. Lafumat *et al*, J. Applied Cryst. (2016)

“SOAK AND FREEZE” METHOD, FREEZING CRYSTAL UNDER HIGH PRESSURE

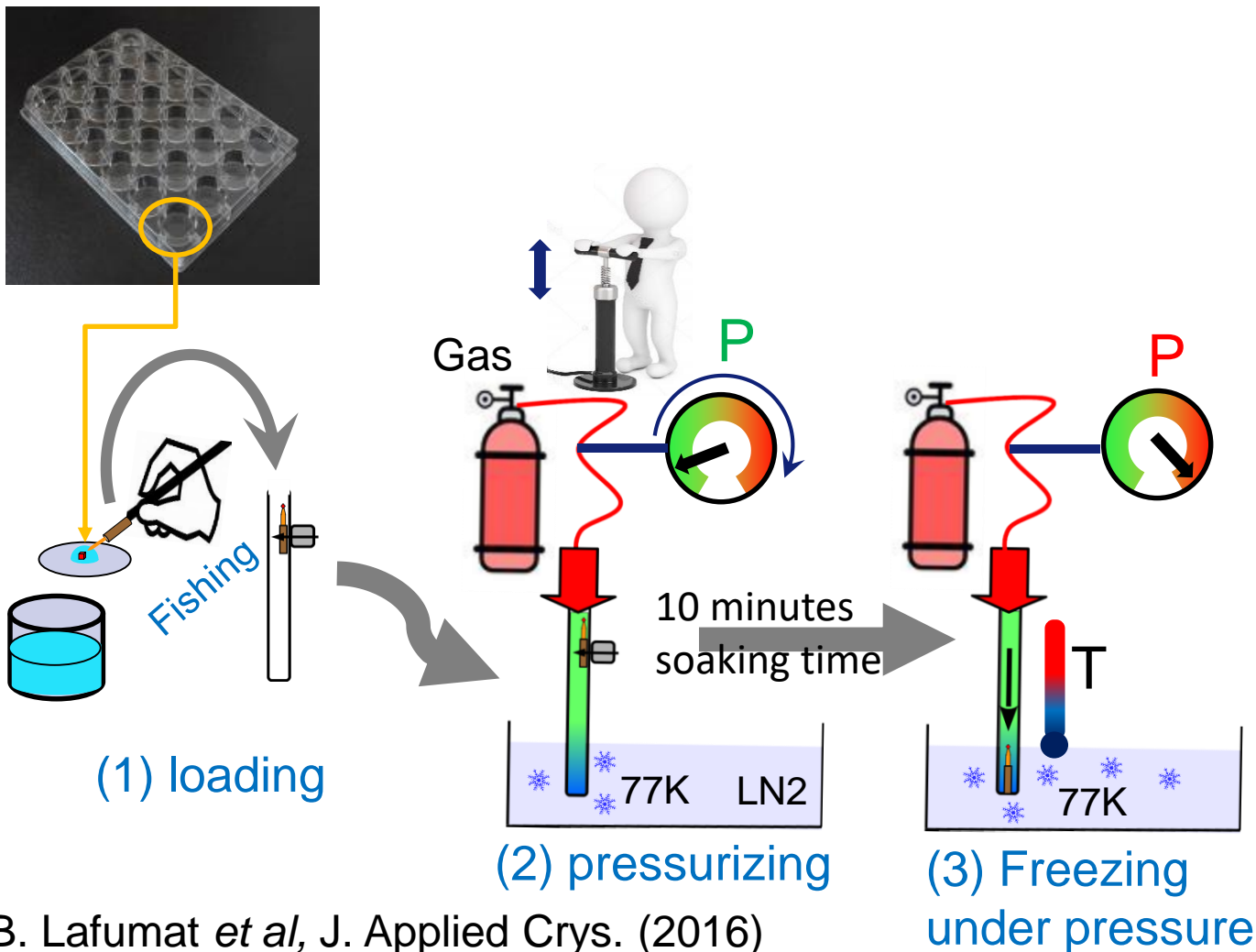
Light gases of bio interest
O₂, He, Ar, Kr, ...



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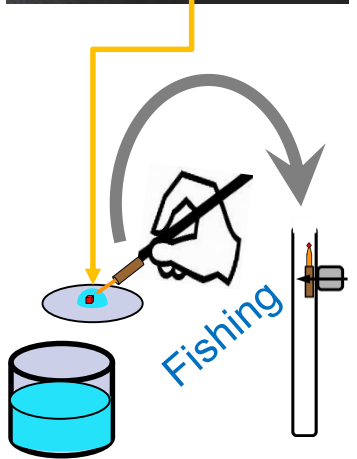
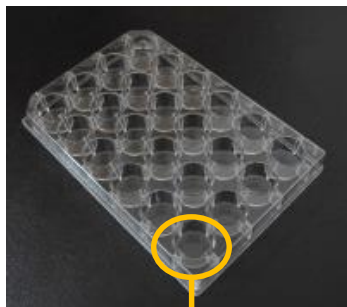


B. Lafumat *et al*, J. Applied Crys. (2016)

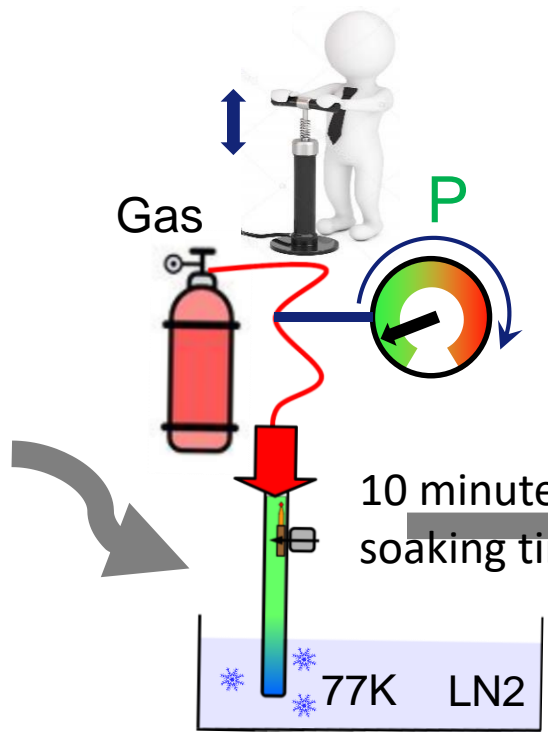
“SOAK AND FREEZE” METHOD, FREEZING CRYSTAL UNDER HIGH PRESSURE

Light gases of bio interest
O₂, He, Ar, Kr, ...

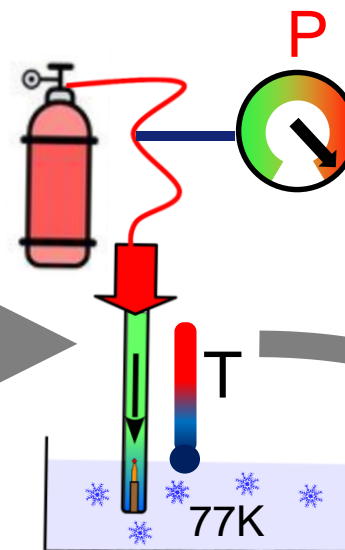
2 / 4 EMBL pucks per day ⚠



(1) loading



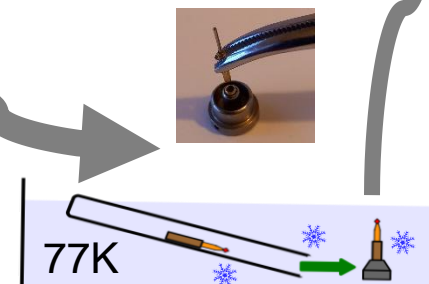
(2) pressurizing



(3) Freezing under pressure

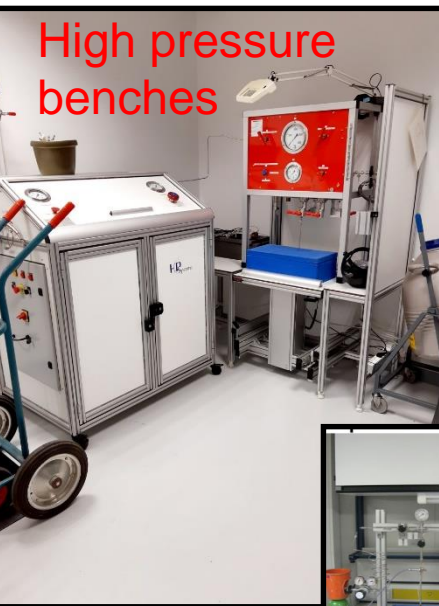
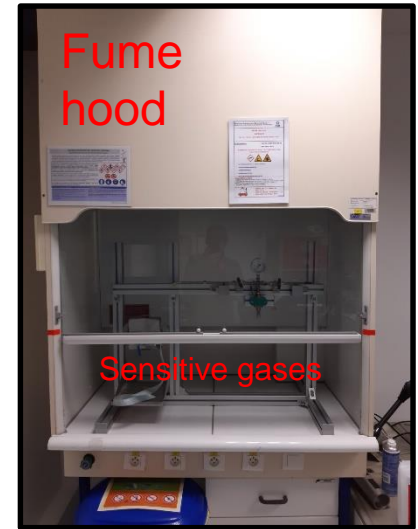
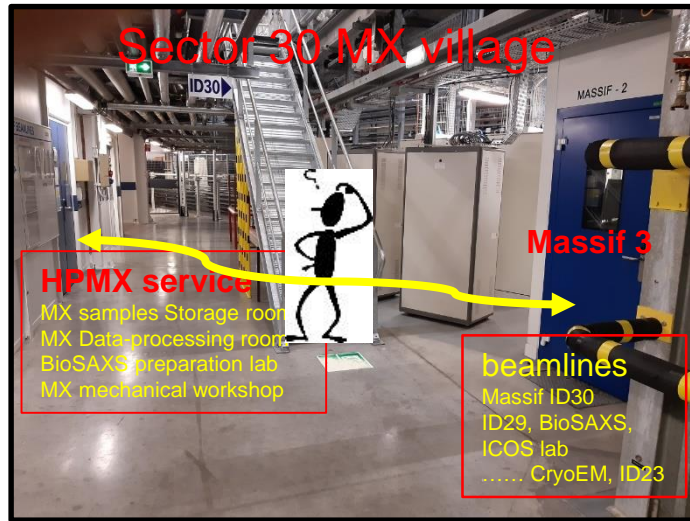


samples in pucks



(4) depressurizing handling 77K

THE HPMX LAB LOCATION AND OVERVIEW



The HPMX lab is

- located the the MX village next to ID30A-3, room 30-0-08
- Equipped with different types of pressure cells to introduce light gases in protein crystals
- Equipped with a samples preparation benches and tools



THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF CRYOGENIC PRESSURE CELLS

- Cryogenic high pressure bench He 2000 bar, crystals without cyoprotection.
- or Ar 2000 bar, crystals with reduced cryo

1

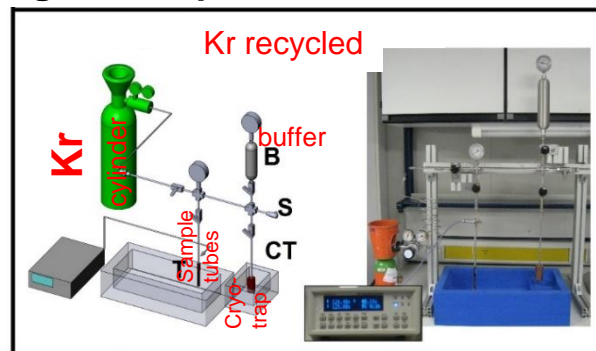
He
Ar

2014
2019

compressor
Bench
He/Ar partially recycled

Cryogenic Kr pressure cell 150 bar
Cryogenic Xe pressure cell 100 bar ?

2

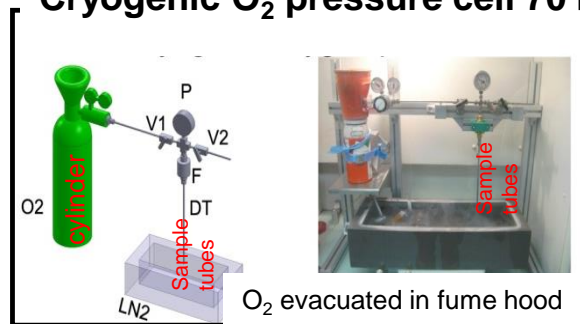


Kr
Xe?

2015

Cryogenic O₂ pressure cell 70 bar

3



O₂

2016

Cryogenic Kr pressure cell 500 bar

4

soon

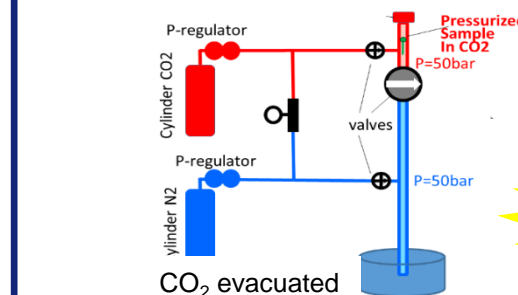
2021

cylinder
Kr
buff
Sample tubes
Cryo-trap
Kr totally recycled

Kr

Cryogenic CO₂ pressure cell 50 bar

5



CO₂

Project disgn
2022

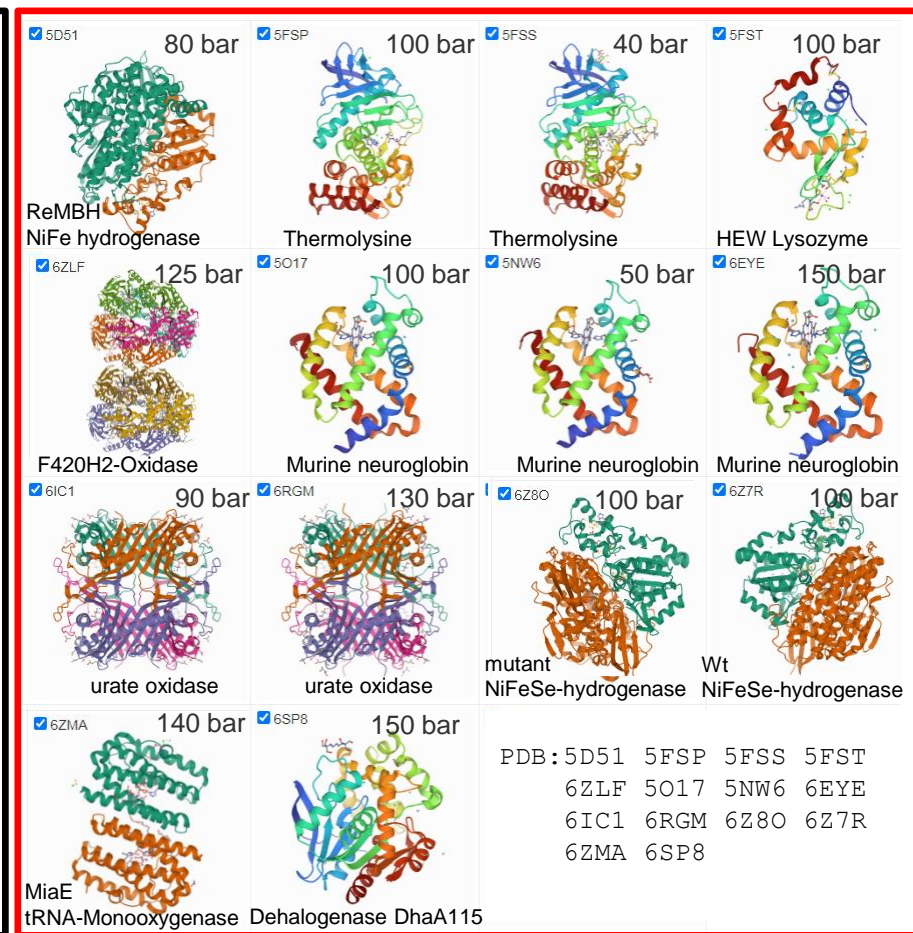
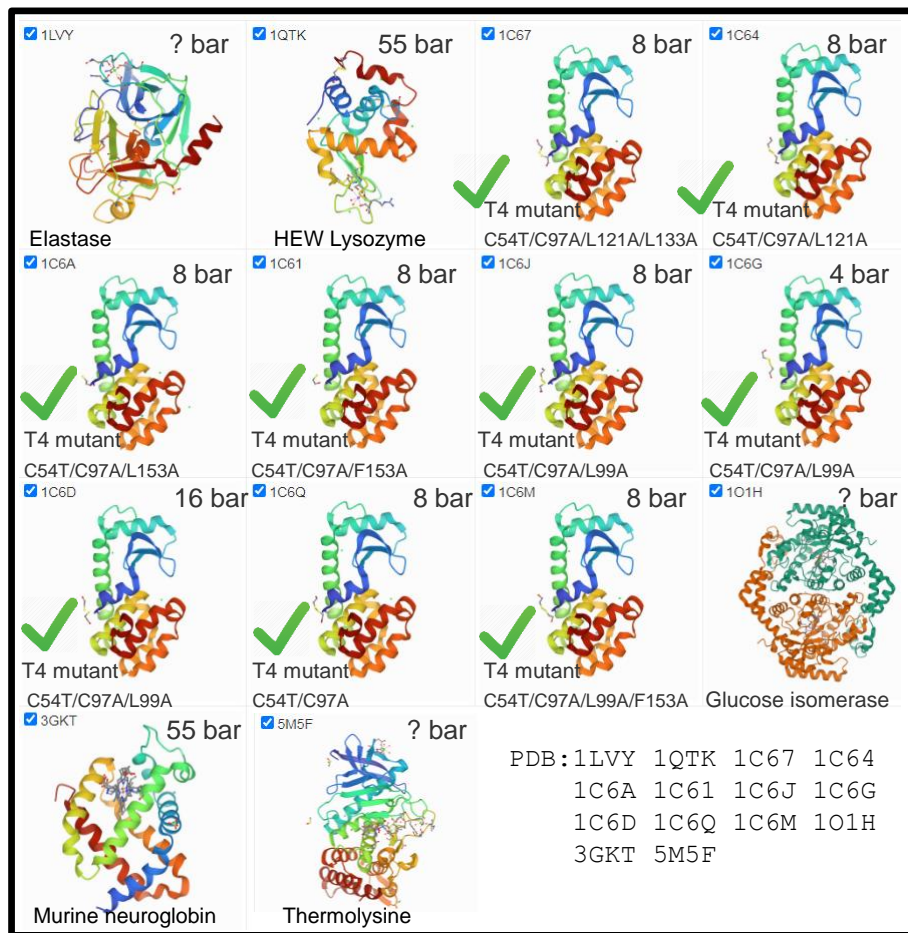
6

Room temperature cell I. Melnikov beamline
X-ray
O₂/Kr

PDB OF KRYPTON DERIVATIVE CRYSTALS

1995/2017 PDB standard

2016/2020 PDB at the HPMX



Krypton volatile, classical cell pressures too low

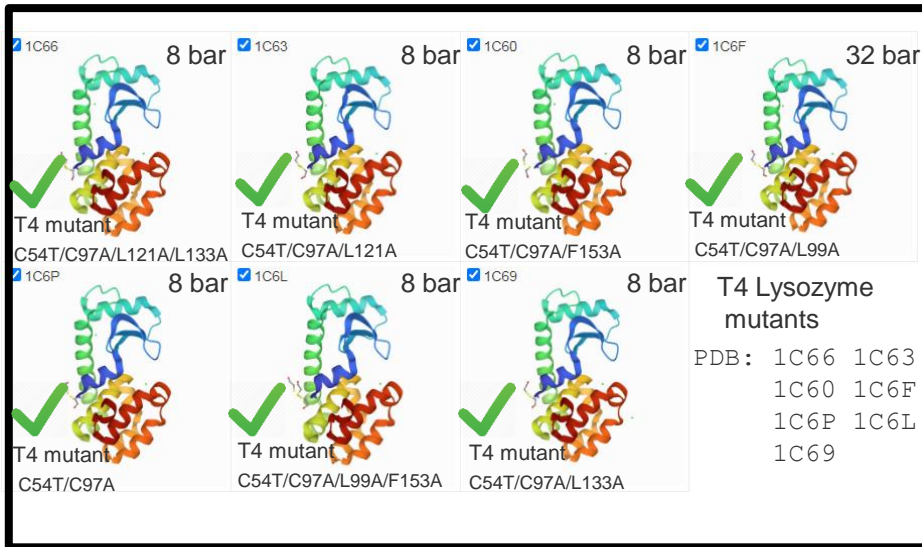
Soak end freeze: higher pressures



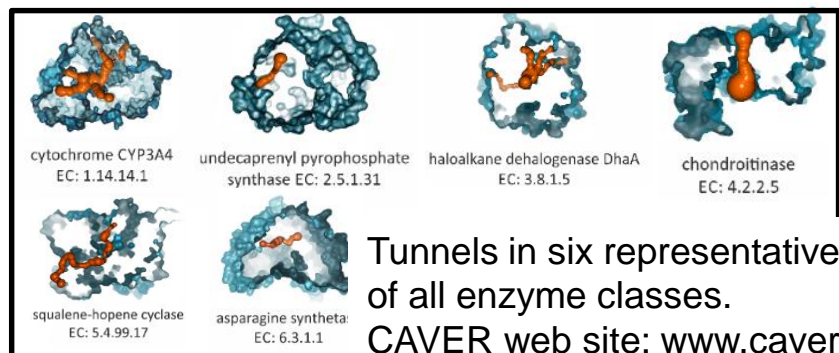
- 6 Hydrolases EC3
- 6 Oxidoreductases EC1
- 1 Ligase EC6
- 1 O₂ storage protein

PDB OF ARGON DERIVATIVE CRYSTALS

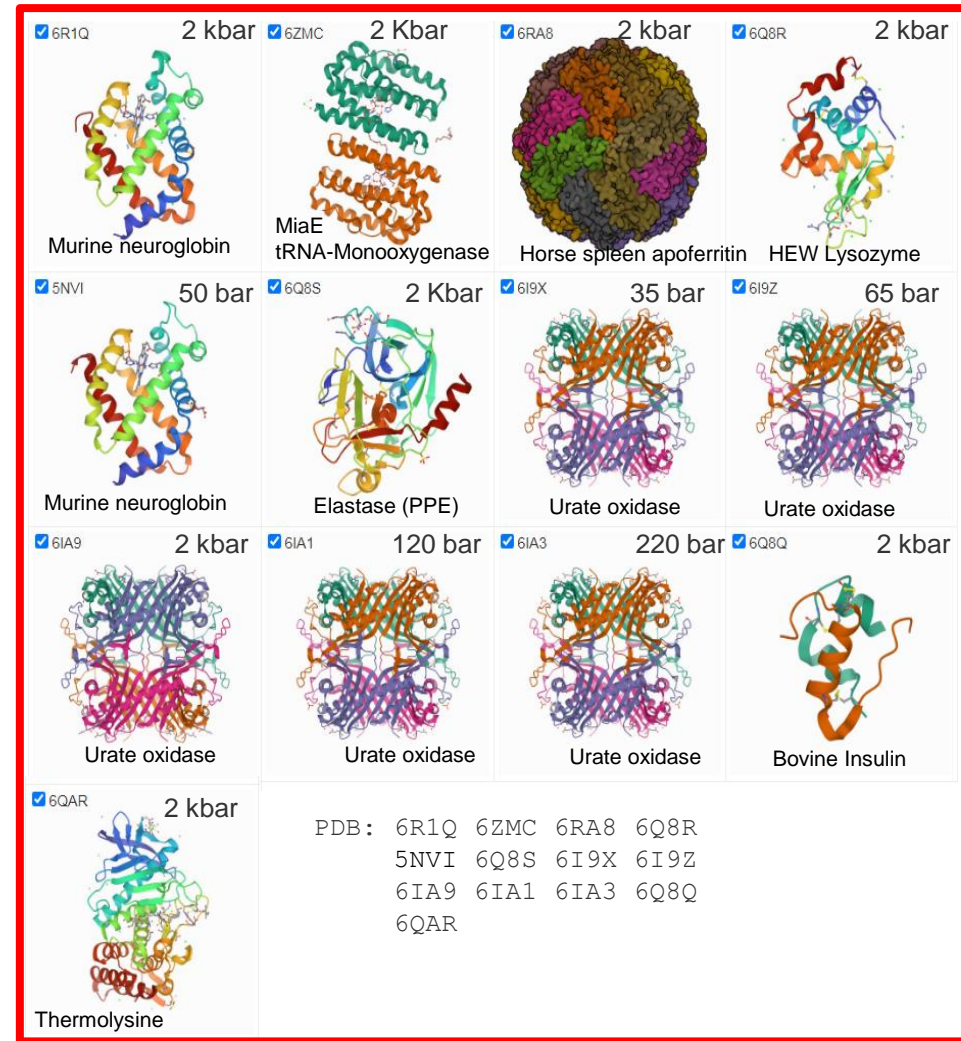
2000/2015 PDB standard



- 4 Hydrolases EC3
- 2 Oxidoreductases EC1
- 1 Fe transport protein
- 1 O₂ storage protein
- 1 Hormone



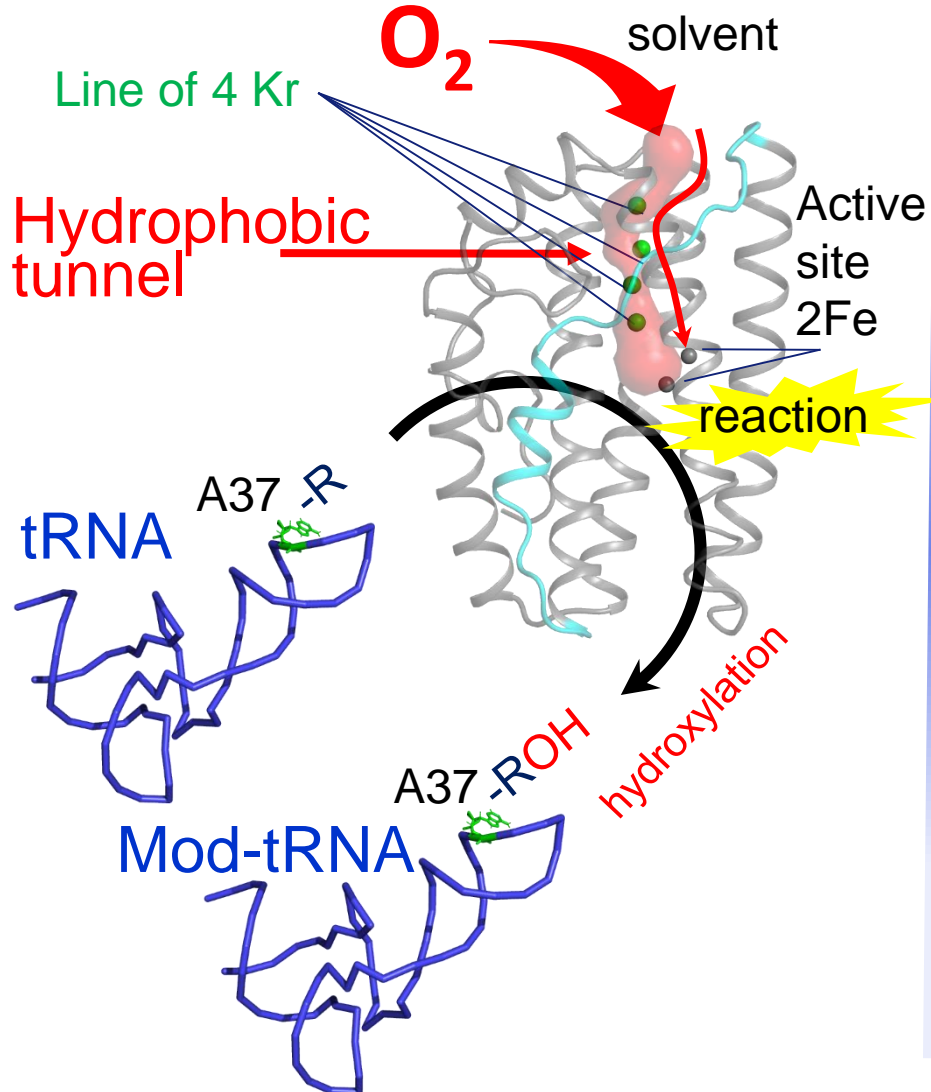
2019/2020 PDB at the HPMX



Effective Ar derivatives HP 2000 bar

EXAMPLES OF USE

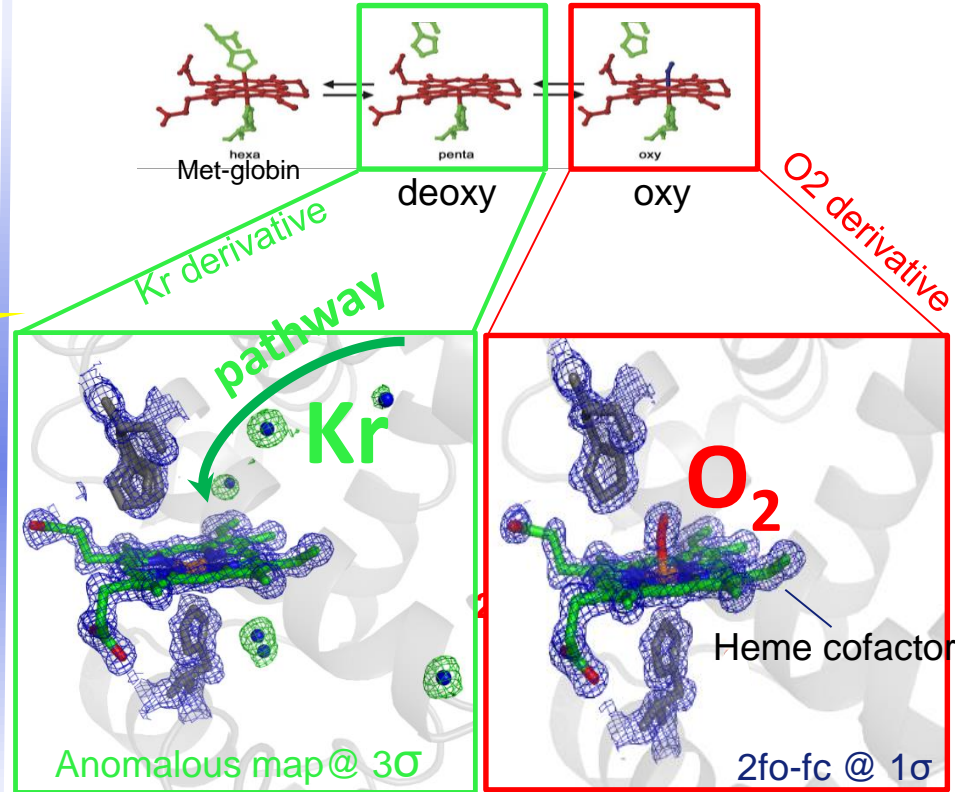
Kr probes the O₂ tunnel in the redox diiron tRNA modifying enzyme MiaE (using Kr at 140 bar)



P. Carpentier *et al*, Nucleic acids research (2020)

Kr probes tunnels Krypton at 140bar and O₂ binds Hemes in globins (oxygen at 65bar)

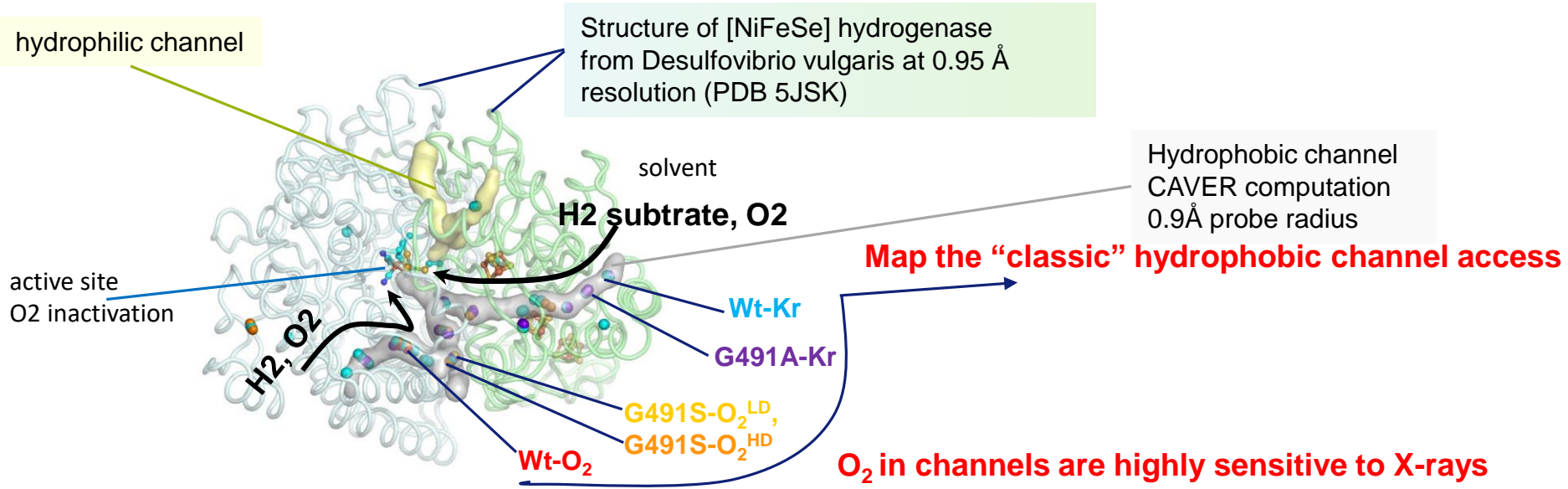
Figure from M. Brunori *et al.*, Cell. Mol. Life Sci. 2007



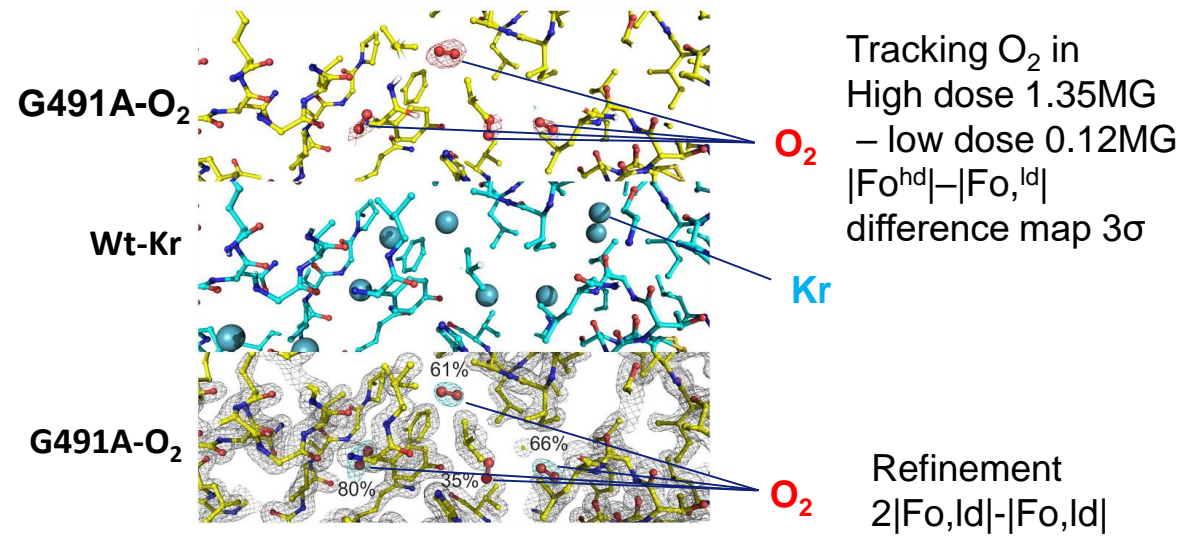
Crystal structure of O₂ and Kr derivatives of myoglobin crystals
S. Popov & G katchalova published soon

EXAMPLES OF USE

Study of Gas Access Routes in a [NiFeSe] Hydrogenase using Kr at 100 bar and O₂ at 75 bar



P. Matias Lab ITQB Portugal
S Zacarias *et al*, Journal of Biological Inorganic Chemistry (2020)





<https://www.esrf.eu/home/UsersAndScience/Experiments/MX/HPMX.html>

STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY

HPMX - THE HIGH PRESSURE FREEZING LABORATORY

Overview

The High Pressure Freezing Laboratory for Macromolecular Crystallography (HPMX) is a service offered to ESRF users as a complement to diffraction experiments on the Structural Biology beamlines. The laboratory uses gases at high pressure to either allow cryo-protectant free cooling of macromolecular samples or the introduction of gases in macromolecules. The laboratory is equipped with and provides different types of pressure cells to introduce gases (e.g. noble gases, oxygen, CO₂ etc.) in crystals to answer specific scientific questions in structural biology.

As mentioned above, we also offer to prepare and freeze cryoprotectant-free crystals of macromolecules or complexes thereof, under He or Ar pressure at 200 to 2000 bar (see figure below) prior to cryo-cooling and subsequent collection of diffraction data. This high pressure treatment is an alternative to the classical preparation of samples using cryoprotectant prior to cryo-cooling at home laboratories. The HPMX laboratory is located within the MX village and in close proximity of ID30A-3 in the room 30-0-08.

CONTACTS

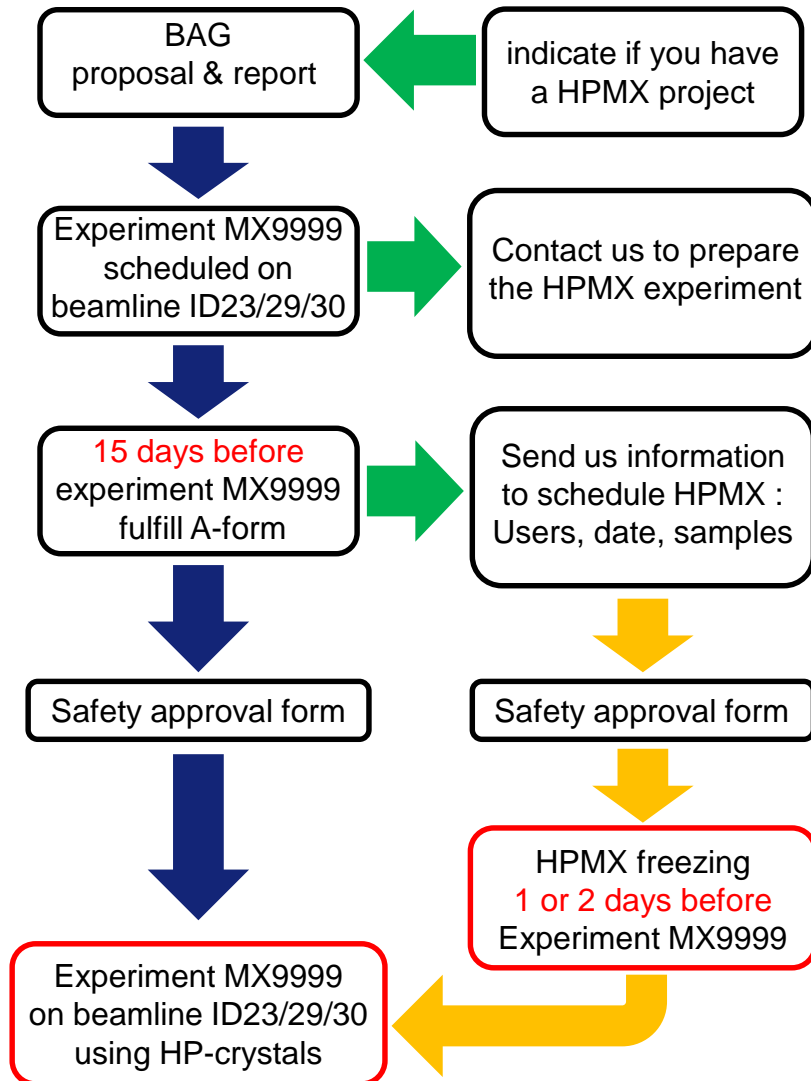
Tel: +33 (0) 470 99 4444
 Laboratory 4002
 Philippe Carpentier
 Scientist in charge
 David Flot: 1763
 BLOM SB Group

Everything you need to know about the HPMX lab

- Aim/description of the service
- Examples of use
- How to access the service
- Contacts

for any questions for applications please contact either Philippe Carpentier (philippe.carpentier@esrf.fr), David Flot (flot@esrf.fr), Peter van der Linden (vanderli@esrf.fr) or Christoph Mueller-Dieckmann (mueller@esrf.fr)

Users access to the HPMX service



HPMX lab

Web pages:



<https://www.esrf.eu/home/UsersAndScience/Experiments/MX/HPMX.html>

Selected Papers:

▪ HPMX reference papers

- Towards a high-throughput system for high-pressure cooling..., P. Linden *et al*, J. Applied Crystallography 47 (2), 584 (2014)
- Gas-sensitive biological crystals processed in pressurized..., B. Lafumat *et al*, J. Applied Crystallography 49 (5), 1478 (2016)

▪ Paper using HP krypton

- Decoding the intricate network..., K. Markova *et al*, Chemical Science 11 (41), 11162 (2020)
- Krypton-derivatization highlights..., S. Engilberge *et al*, Chemical Communications 56 (74), 10863 (2020)

▪ Paper using HP Krypton and Argon

- P. Carpentier *et al*, Nucleic acids research 48 (17), 9918 (2020)

▪ Papers using HP Krypton and Oxygen

- Tracking the route of molecular oxygen..., J. Kalms *et al*, PNAS, 115 (10), E2229 (2018)
- Exploring the gas access routes..., S Zacarias *et al*, JBIC Journal of Biological Inorganic Chemistry 25 (6), 863 (2020)

Technical support:

- Fabien Dobias
- Thierry Giraud
- John Surr
- Hugo Caserotto
- Jonathan Gignes

Contacts:

for any questions or for any projects of application please contact (15 days before the HP experiment for safety and preparation)

- Philippe Carpentier (philippe.carpentier@esrf.fr),
- David flot (flot@esrf.fr),
- Peter van der Linden (vanderli@esrf.fr)
- Christoph Mueller-Dieckmann (muellerd@esrf.fr)