



Public Data-based Report



Validation Report Service

Cryo-EM Map Validation Report

Report to assess Cryo-EM Volume Map at Level(s) A, 0

This report has been generated based on data publicly available at [EMDB](#).

Basic Entry Information:

EMDB ID: [EMD-23324](#)

PDB ID: [7lgh](#)

Title: Phage Qbeta small prolate particle

Authors: [See EMDB entry link](#)

Deposited on: 2021-01-20T00:00:00

Reported Resolution: 8.9 Å

Contact Us:

Instruct Image Processing Center ([I²PC](#))
Biocomputing Unit ([BCU](#))
i2pc@cnb.csic.es
[VRS Website](#)

National Center for Biotechnology (CNB)
St/ Darwin, 3 (Autonomous University of Madrid)
28049 Cantoblanco, Madrid (Spain)

Last update: **September 14, 2026, 12:58am**

Context

Cryo-electron microscopy is currently one of the most active techniques in Structural Biology. The number of maps deposited at the [Electron Microscopy Data Bank](#) is rapidly growing every year and keeping the quality of the submitted maps is essential to maintain the scientific quality of the field. The ultimate quality measure is the consistency of the map and an atomic model. However, this is only possible for high resolution maps. Over the years there have been many suggestions about validation measures of 3DEM maps. Unfortunately, most of these measures are not currently in use for their spread in multiple software tools and the associated difficulty to access them. To alleviate this problem, we made available a validation grading system that evaluate the information provided to assess the map.

This system grades a map from 0 to 5 depending on the amount of information available. In this way, a map could be validated at Level 0 (the deposited map), 1 (two half maps), 2 (2D classes), 3 (particles), 4 (... + angular assignment), 5 (... + micrographs and coordinates). In addition, we can have three optional qualifiers: A (... + atomic model), W (... + image processing workflow), and O (... + other techniques). To know more about this service read this [paper](#)

This Validation Report Service uses Scipion (see this [link](#) for more detail) as workflow engine and ChimeraX (see this [link](#) for more detail) to generate the 3D views. For more information about the different methods and softwares used for this report, see the references [here](#).



Summarized overall quality

The map seems to be well centered. There seems to be a problem with the suggested threshold (see Sec. [2.2](#)). There seems to be a problem with the map's background (see Sec. [2.3](#)). According to phenix, it seems that there might be some mismatch between the map and its model (see Sec. [4.1](#)).

The average resolution of the map estimated by various methods goes from 7.8Å to 11.4Å with an average of 9.2Å. The resolution reported by the user was 8.9Å.

The overall score (passing tests) of this report is 1 out of 4 evaluable items.

0.a Mass analysis	Sec. 2.1	OK
0.b Mask analysis	Sec. 2.2	1 warnings
0.c Background analysis	Sec. 2.3	2 warnings
0.d B-factor analysis	Sec. 2.4	Does not apply
A.a Phenix validation	Sec. 4.1	1 warnings
A.d Map-Model Guinier analysis	Sec. 4.2	Does not apply
A.e MapQ	Sec. 4.3	Does not apply
A.f EMRinger	Sec. 4.4	Does not apply
A.g DAQ	Sec. 4.5	Does not apply

Summary of the warnings across sections.

Section 2.2 (0.b Mask analysis)

1. **There might be a problem with noise and artifacts, because the average noise blob has a volume of 15.625000 Å³.**

Section 2.3 (0.c Background analysis)

1. **The null hypothesis that the background mean is 0 has been rejected because the p-value of the comparison is smaller than 0.001**
2. **There is a significant proportion of outlier values in the background (cdf5 ratio=20659.62)**

Section 4.1 (A.a Phenix validation)

1. **The resolution reported by the user, 8.9 Å, is significantly smaller than the resolution estimated between map and model (FSC=0.5), 11.4 Å**

Contents

1	Input data	6
2	Level 0 analysis	13
2.1	Level 0.a Mass analysis	13
2.2	Level 0.b Mask analysis	14
2.3	Level 0.c Background analysis	17
2.4	Level 0.d B-factor analysis	19
3	Atomic model	20
4	Level A Analysis	21
4.1	Level A.a Phenix validation	21
4.2	Level A.d Map-Model Guinier analysis	28
4.3	Level A.e MapQ	29
4.4	Level A.f EMRinger validation	29
4.5	Level A.g DAQ validation	30

1 Input data

Input map: emd_23324.map

SHA256 hash: 256a5eddc5026d31c0105f13a89e910fe665c675cd2a1e61c4703d04e1b03f77

Voxel size: 2.500000 (Å)

Visualization threshold: 0.025000

Resolution estimated by user: 8.9

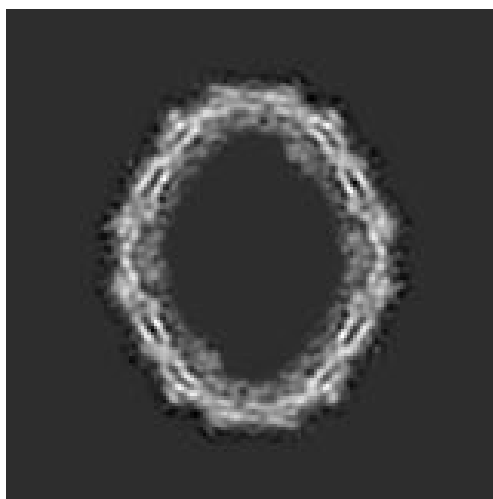
Orthogonal slices of the input map

Explanation:

In the orthogonal slices of the map, the noise outside the protein should not have any structure (stripes going out, small blobs, particularly high or low densities, ...)

Results:

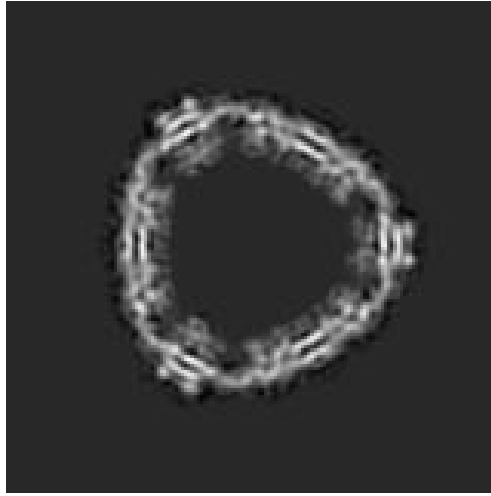
See Fig. 1.



(a) X Slice 80



(b) Y Slice 80



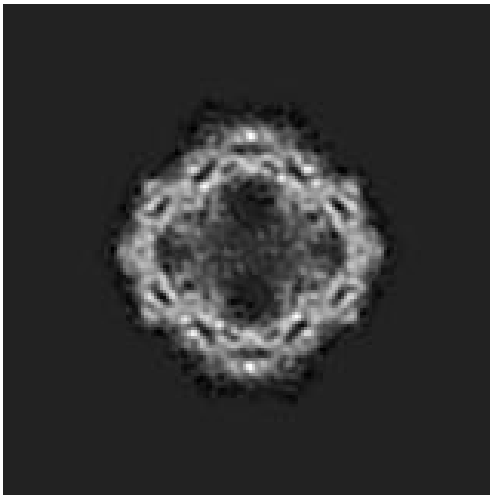
(c) Z Slice 80

Figure 1: Central slices of the input map in the three dimensions

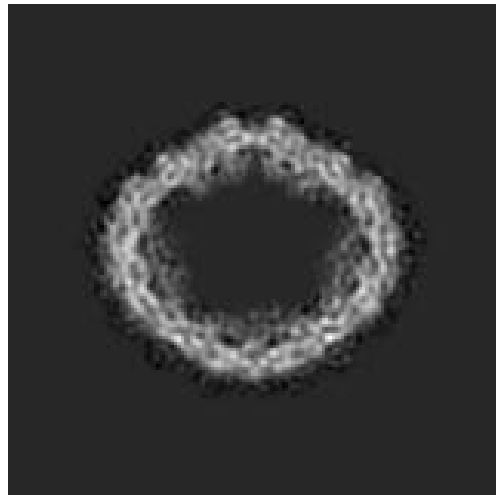
Orthogonal slices of maximum variance of the input map

Results:

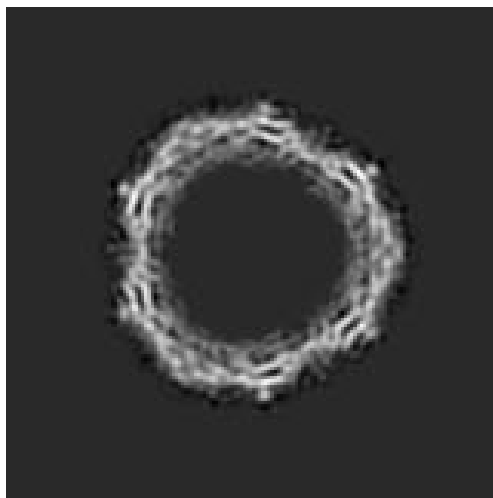
See Fig. 2.



(a) X Slice 52



(b) Y Slice 100



(c) Z Slice 87

Figure 2: Slices of maximum variation in the three dimensions

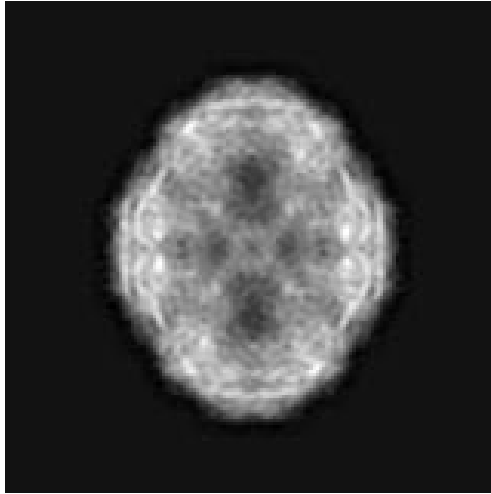
Orthogonal projections of the input map

Explanation:

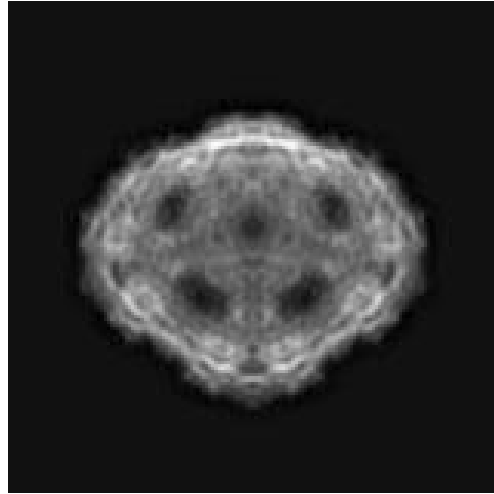
In the projections there should not be stripes (this is an indication of directional overweighting, or angular attraction), and there should not be a dark halo around or inside the structure (this is an indication of incorrect CTF correction or the reconstruction of a biased map).

Results:

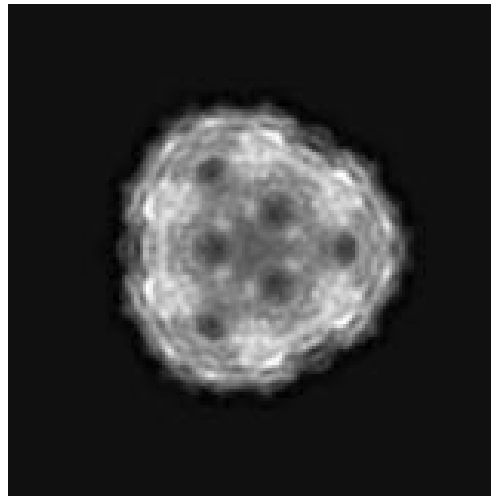
See Fig. [3](#).



(a) X Projection



(b) Y Projection



(c) Z Projection

Figure 3: Projections in the three dimensions

Isosurface views of the input map

Explanation:

An isosurface is the surface of all points that have the same gray value. In these views there should not be many artifacts or noise blobs around the map.

Results:
See Fig. 4.

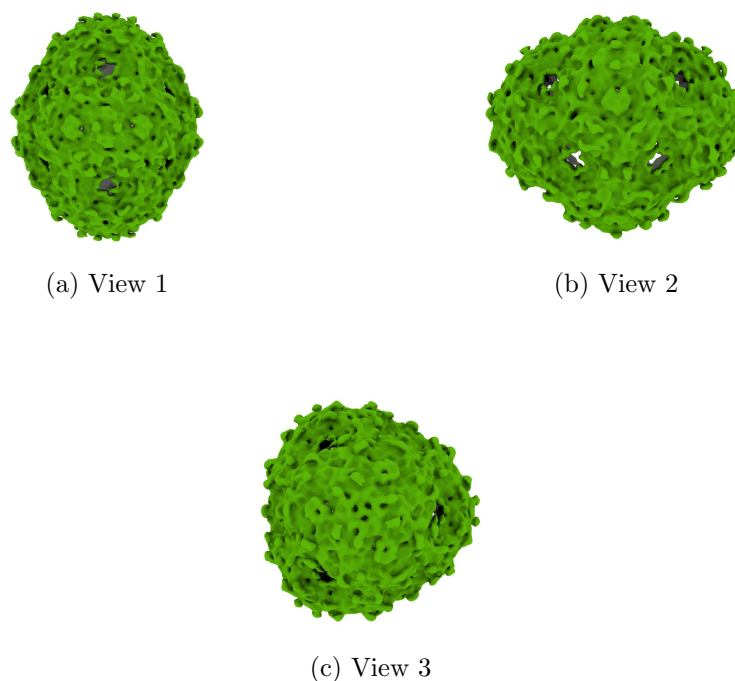


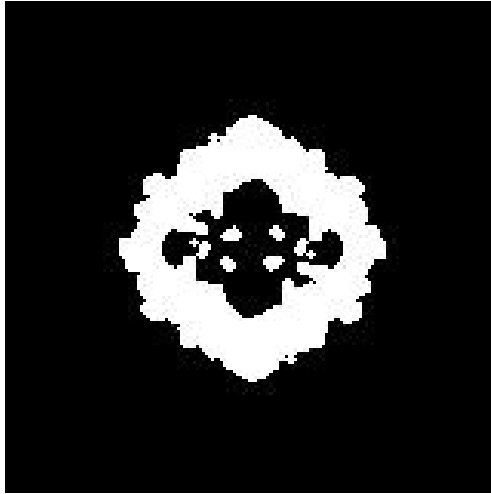
Figure 4: Isosurface at threshold=0.025000. Views generated by ChimeraX at the following X, Y, Z angles: View 1 (0, -90, -90), View 2 (-90, 0, -90), View 3 (0, 0, 0).

Orthogonal slices of maximum variance of the mask with hard borders

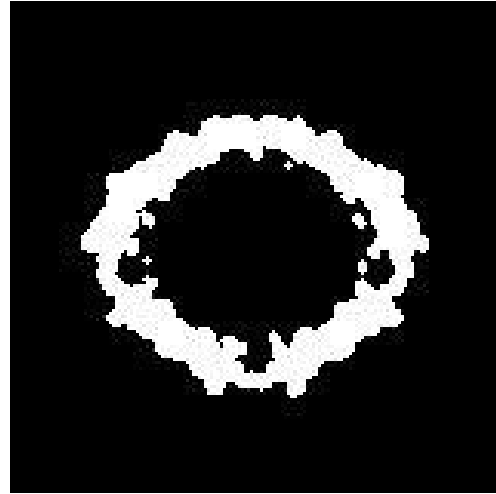
Explanation:

The mask with hard borders has been calculated at the suggested threshold 0.025000, the largest connected component was selected, and then dilated by 2Å.

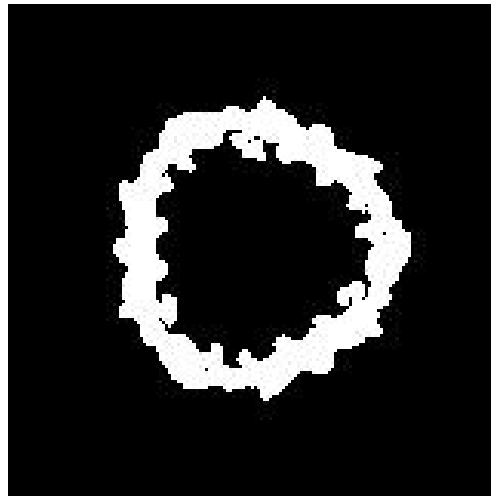
Results:
See Fig. 5.



(a) X Slice 51



(b) Y Slice 66



(c) Z Slice 85

Figure 5: Slices of maximum variation in the three dimensions of the mask with hard borders

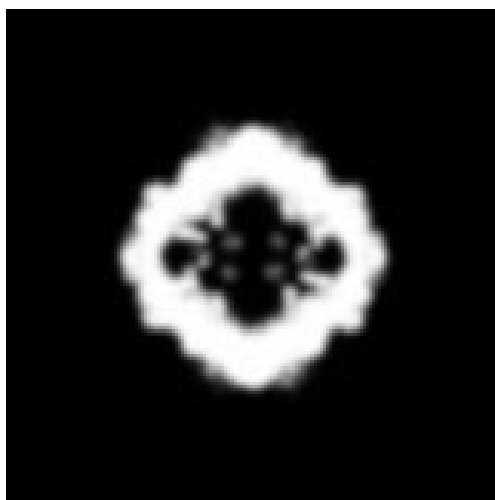
Orthogonal slices of maximum variance of the mask with soft borders

Explanation:

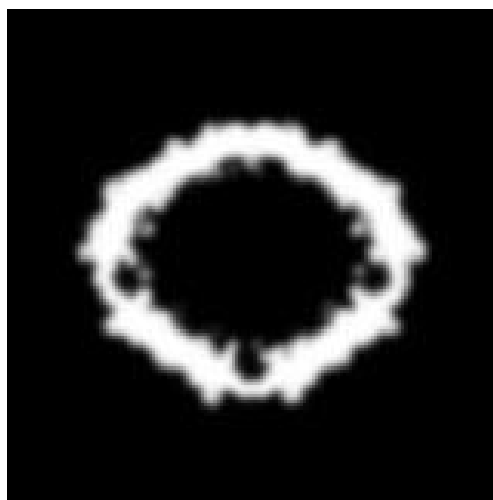
The mask with soft borders has been calculated at the suggested threshold 0.025000, the largest connected component was selected, and then dilated by

2Å.

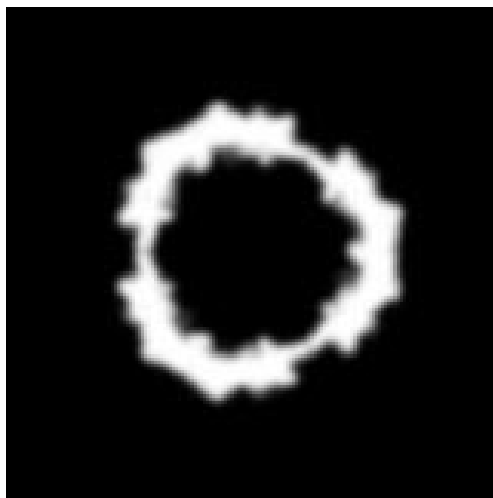
Results:
See Fig. 6.



(a) X Slice 52



(b) Y Slice 94



(c) Z Slice 66

Figure 6: Slices of maximum variation in the three dimensions of the mask with soft borders

2 Level 0 analysis

2.1 Level 0.a Mass analysis

Explanation:

The reconstructed map must be relatively well centered in the box, and there should be at least $30\text{\AA}$ (the exact size depends on the CTF) on each side to make sure that the CTF can be appropriately corrected.

Results:

The space from the left and right in X are 85.00 and 70.00 $\text{\AA}$, respectively. There is a decentering ratio $(\text{abs}(\text{Right-Left})/\text{Size})\%$ of 3.75%

The space from the left and right in Y are 77.50 and 77.50 $\text{\AA}$, respectively. There is a decentering ratio $(\text{abs}(\text{Right-Left})/\text{Size})\%$ of 0.00%

The space from the left and right in Z are 57.50 and 62.50 $\text{\AA}$, respectively. There is a decentering ratio $(\text{abs}(\text{Right-Left})/\text{Size})\%$ of 1.25%

The center of mass is at $(x,y,z)=(79.99, 80.00, 79.00)$. The decentering of the center of mass $(\text{abs}(\text{Center})/\text{Size})\%$ is 0.01, 0.00, and 0.62, respectively.

Automatic criteria: The validation is OK if 1) the decentering and center of mass less than 20% of the map dimensions in all directions, and 2) the extra space on each direction is more than 20% of the map dimensions. For local reconstruction, focused refinement, or similar, warnings are expected.

STATUS: OK

2.2 Level 0.b Mask analysis

Explanation:

The map at the suggested threshold should have most of its mass concentrated in a single connected component. It is normal that after thresholding there are a few thousands of very small, disconnected noise blobs. However, their total mass should not exceed 10%. The raw mask (just thresholding) and the mask constructed for the analysis (thresholding + largest connected component + dilation) should significantly overlap. Overlap is defined by the overlapping coefficient $(\text{size}(\text{Raw AND Constructed})/\text{size}(\text{Raw}))$ that is a number between 0 and 1, the closer to 1, the more they agree.

Results:

Raw mask: At threshold 0.025000, there are 95 connected components with a total number of voxels of 133398 and a volume of 2084343.75 Å³ (see Fig. 7). The size and percentage of the total number of voxels for the raw mask are listed below (up to 95% of the mass or the first 100 clusters, whatever happens first), the list contains (No. voxels (volume in Å³), percentage, cumulated percentage):

(132584 (2071625.00), 99.39, 99.39)

Number of components to reach 95% of the mass: 1

The average size of the remaining 94 components is 8.66 voxels ($15.62 \text{ \AA}^3$). Their size go from 132584 voxels ($2071625.00 \text{ \AA}^3$) to 1 voxels ($15.62 \text{ \AA}^3$).

The slices of the raw mask can be seen in Fig. 7.

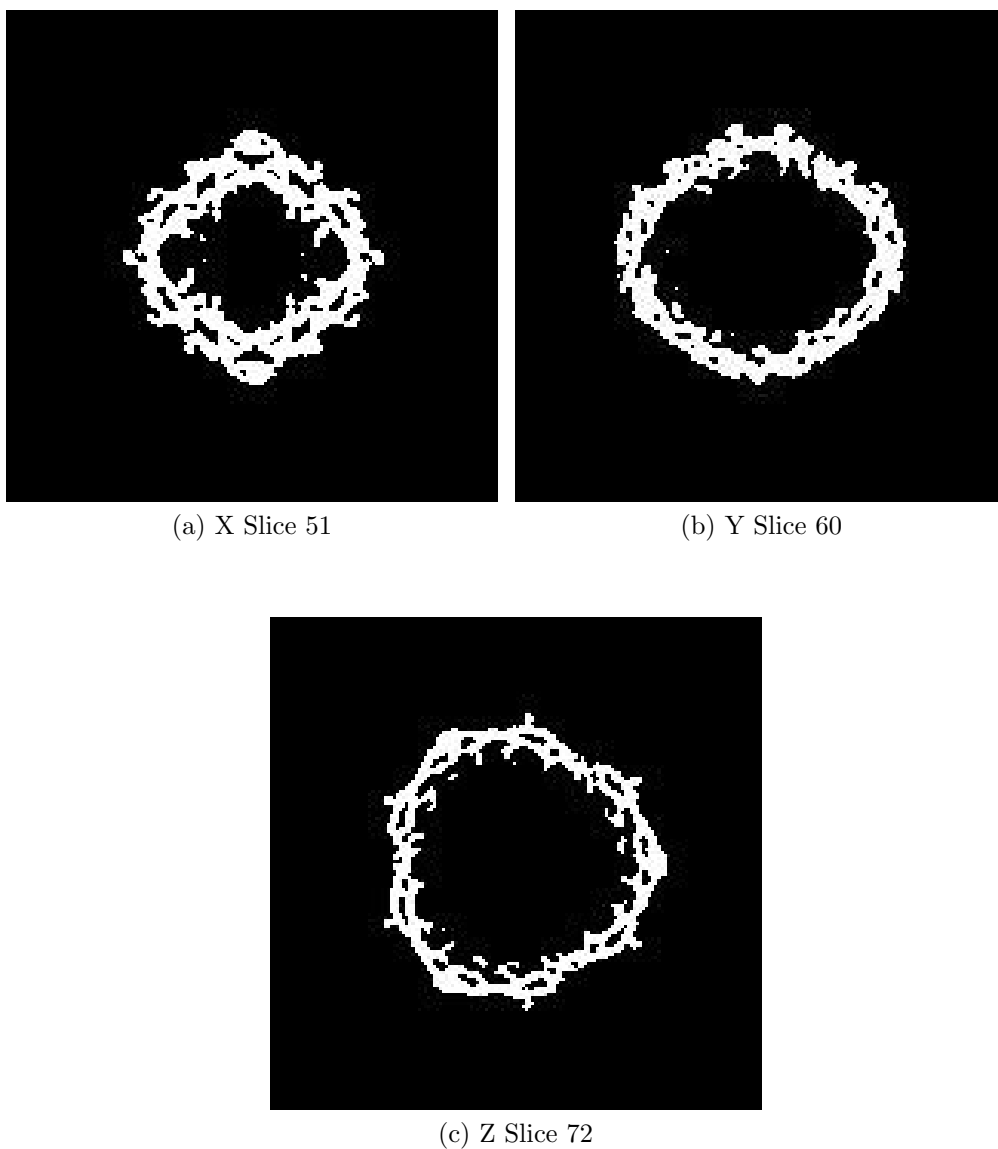


Figure 7: Maximum variance slices in the three dimensions of the raw mask

The following table shows the variation of the mass enclosed at different thresholds (see Fig. 8):

Threshold	Voxel mass	Molecular mass(kDa)	# Aminoacids
0.0028	347127.00	4493.67	40851.54
0.0056	311932.00	4038.06	36709.63
0.0084	282392.00	3655.65	33233.22
0.0112	254844.00	3299.04	29991.24
0.0140	228114.00	2953.01	26845.53
0.0168	202414.00	2620.31	23821.03
0.0196	177851.00	2302.34	20930.34
0.0224	154740.00	2003.16	18210.53
0.0251	132307.00	1712.76	15570.51
0.0279	110702.00	1433.07	13027.93
0.0307	89832.00	1162.90	10571.85
0.0335	70254.00	909.46	8267.82
0.0363	52764.00	683.05	6209.52
0.0391	37982.00	491.69	4469.90
0.0419	26076.00	337.56	3068.75
0.0447	16847.00	218.09	1982.63
0.0475	10171.00	131.67	1196.97
0.0503	5830.00	75.47	686.10
0.0531	2981.00	38.59	350.82
0.0559	1364.00	17.66	160.52
0.0587	592.00	7.66	69.67
0.0615	217.00	2.81	25.54
0.0643	76.00	0.98	8.94
0.0671	36.00	0.47	4.24

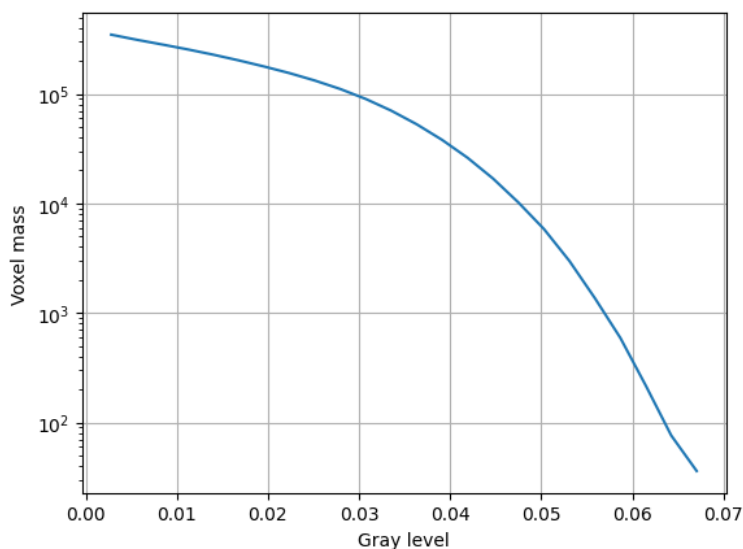


Figure 8: Voxel mass as a function of the gray level.

Constructed mask: After keeping the largest component of the previous mask and dilating it by $2\text{\AA}$, there is a total number of voxels of 244081 and a volume of $3813765.62 \text{ \AA}^3$. The overlap between the raw and constructed mask is 0.99.

Automatic criteria: The validation is OK if 1) to keep 95% of the mass we need to keep at most 5 connected components; and 2) the average volume of the blobs outside the given threshold has a size smaller than $5\text{\AA}^3$; and 3) the overlap between the raw mask and the mask constructed for the analysis is larger than 75%.

WARNINGS: 1 warnings

1. **There might be a problem with noise and artifacts, because the average noise blob has a volume of $15.625000 \text{ \AA}^3$.**

2.3 Level 0.c Background analysis

Explanation:

Background is defined as the region outside the macromolecule mask. The

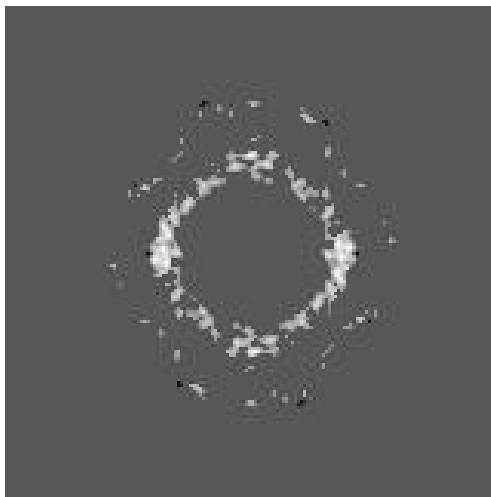
background mean should be zero, and the number of voxels with a very low or very high value (below 5 standard deviations of the noise) should be very small and they should be randomly distributed without any specific structure. Sometimes, you can see some structure due to the symmetry of the structure.

Results:

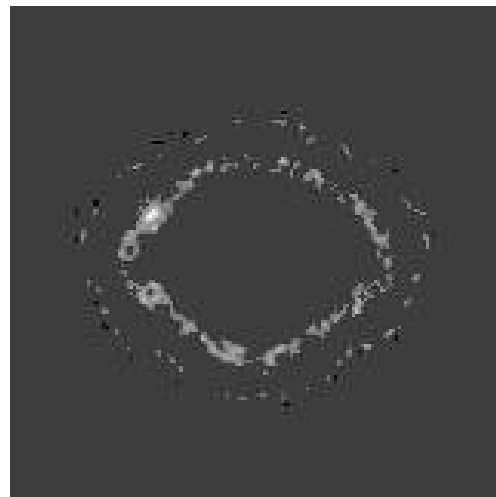
The null hypothesis that the background mean is 0 was tested with a one-sample Student's t-test. The resulting t-statistic and p-value were 176.09 and 0.000000, respectively.

The mean and standard deviation (σ) of the background were 0.000169 and 0.001884. The percentage of background voxels whose absolute value is larger than 5 times the standard deviation is 1.18 % (see Fig. 9). The same percentage from a Gaussian would be 0.000057% (ratio between the two percentages: 20659.621955).

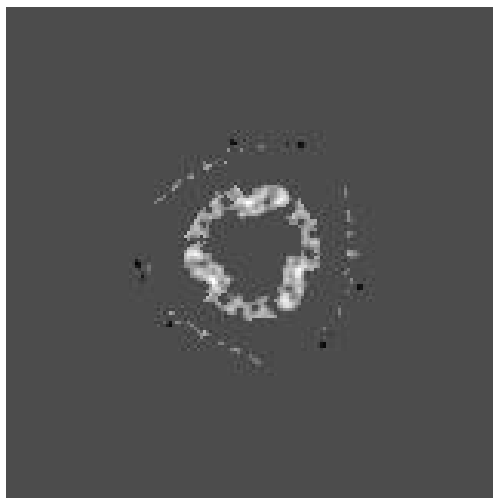
Slices of the background beyond 5σ can be seen in Fig. 9.



(a) X Slice 60



(b) Y Slice 89



(c) Z Slice 111

Figure 9: Maximum variance slices in the three dimensions of the parts of the background beyond 5*sigma

Automatic criteria: The validation is OK if 1) the p-value of the null hypothesis that the background has 0 mean is larger than 0.001; and 2) the number of voxels above or below 5 sigma is smaller than 20 times the amount expected for a Gaussian with the same standard deviation whose mean is 0.

WARNINGS: 2 warnings

1. **The null hypothesis that the background mean is 0 has been rejected because the p-value of the comparison is smaller than 0.001**
2. **There is a significant proportion of outlier values in the background (cdf5 ratio=20659.62)**

2.4 Level 0.d B-factor analysis

Explanation:

The B-factor line (see this [link](#) for more details) fitted between 15Å and the resolution reported should have a slope that is between 0 and 300 Å².

Results:

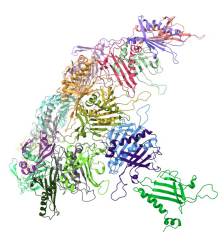
This method cannot be applied to maps with a resolution worse than 8Å.

STATUS: Does not apply

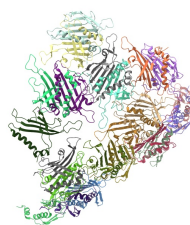
3 Atomic model

Atomic model: 7lgh.cif

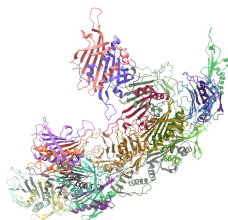
See Fig. 10.



(a) View 1



(b) View 2



(c) View 3

Figure 10: Input atomic model Views generated by ChimeraX at a the following X, Y, Z angles: View 1 (0, -90, -90), View 2 (-90, 0, -90), View 3 (0, 0, 0).

4 Level A Analysis

Map and model seem to be properly aligned.

4.1 Level A.a Phenix validation

Explanation:

Phenix provides a number of tools to assess the agreement between the experimental map and its atomic model (see this [link](#) for more details). There are several cross-correlations to assess the quality of the fitting:

- CC (mask): Model map vs. experimental map correlation coefficient calculated considering map values inside a mask calculated around the macromolecule.
- CC (box): Model map vs. experimental map correlation coefficient calculated considering all grid points of the box.
- CC (volume) and CC (peaks) compare only map regions with the highest density values and regions below a certain contouring threshold level are ignored. CC (volume): The map region considered is defined by the N highest points inside the molecular mask. CC (peaks): In this case, calculations consider the union of regions defined by the N highest peaks in the model-calculated map and the N highest peaks in the experimental map.
- Local real-space correlation coefficients CC (main chain) and CC (side chain) involve the main skeleton chain and side chains, respectively.

There are also multiple ways of measuring the resolution:

- d99: Resolution cutoff beyond which Fourier map coefficients are negligibly small. Calculated from the full map.
- d_model: Resolution cutoff at which the model map is the most similar to the target (experimental) map. For d_model to be meaningful, the model is expected to fit the map as well as possible. d_model (B factors = 0) tries to avoid the blurring of the map.
- d_FSC_model; Resolution cutoff up to which the model and map Fourier coefficients are similar at FSC values of 0, 0.143, 0.5.

In addition to these resolution measurements the overall isotropic B factor is another indirect measure of the quality of the map.

Results:

To avoid ringing in Fourier space a smooth mask with a radius of 17.8 Å has been applied.

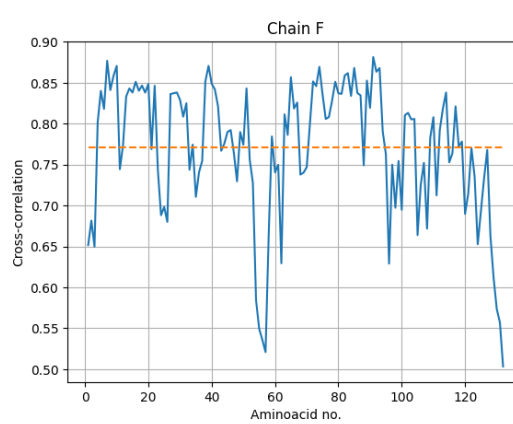
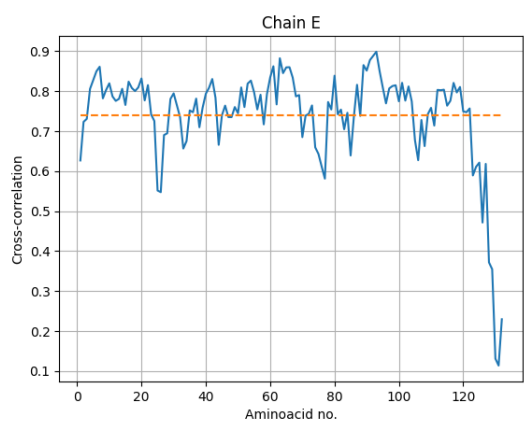
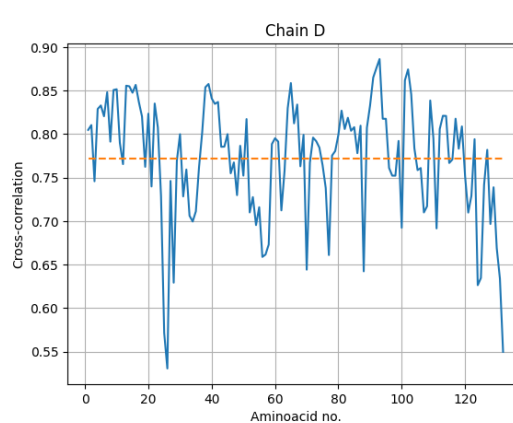
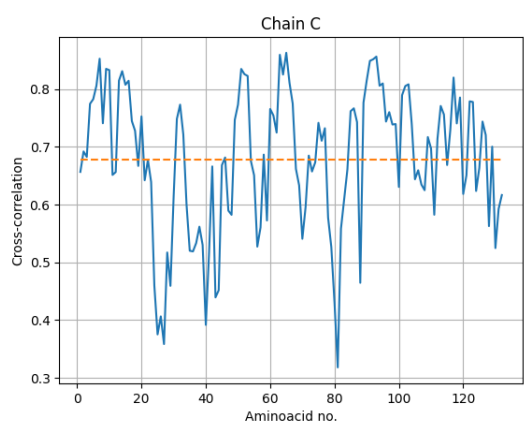
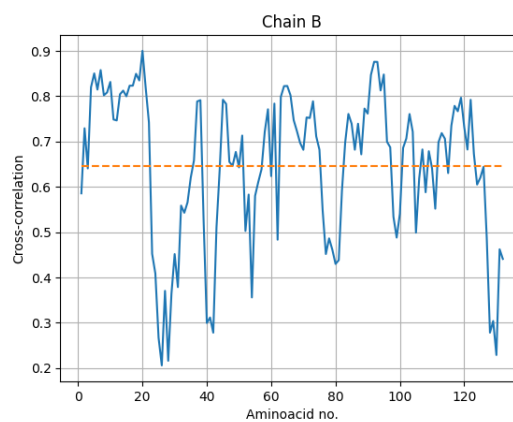
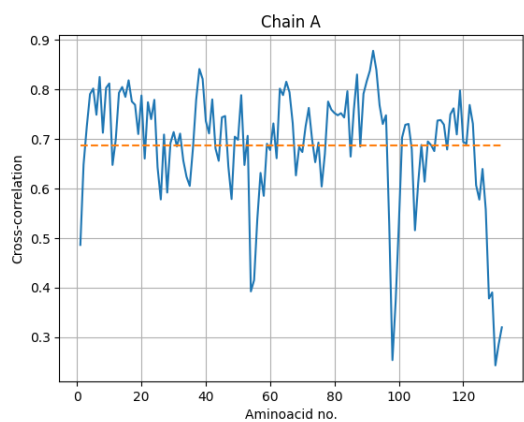
Overall correlation coefficients:

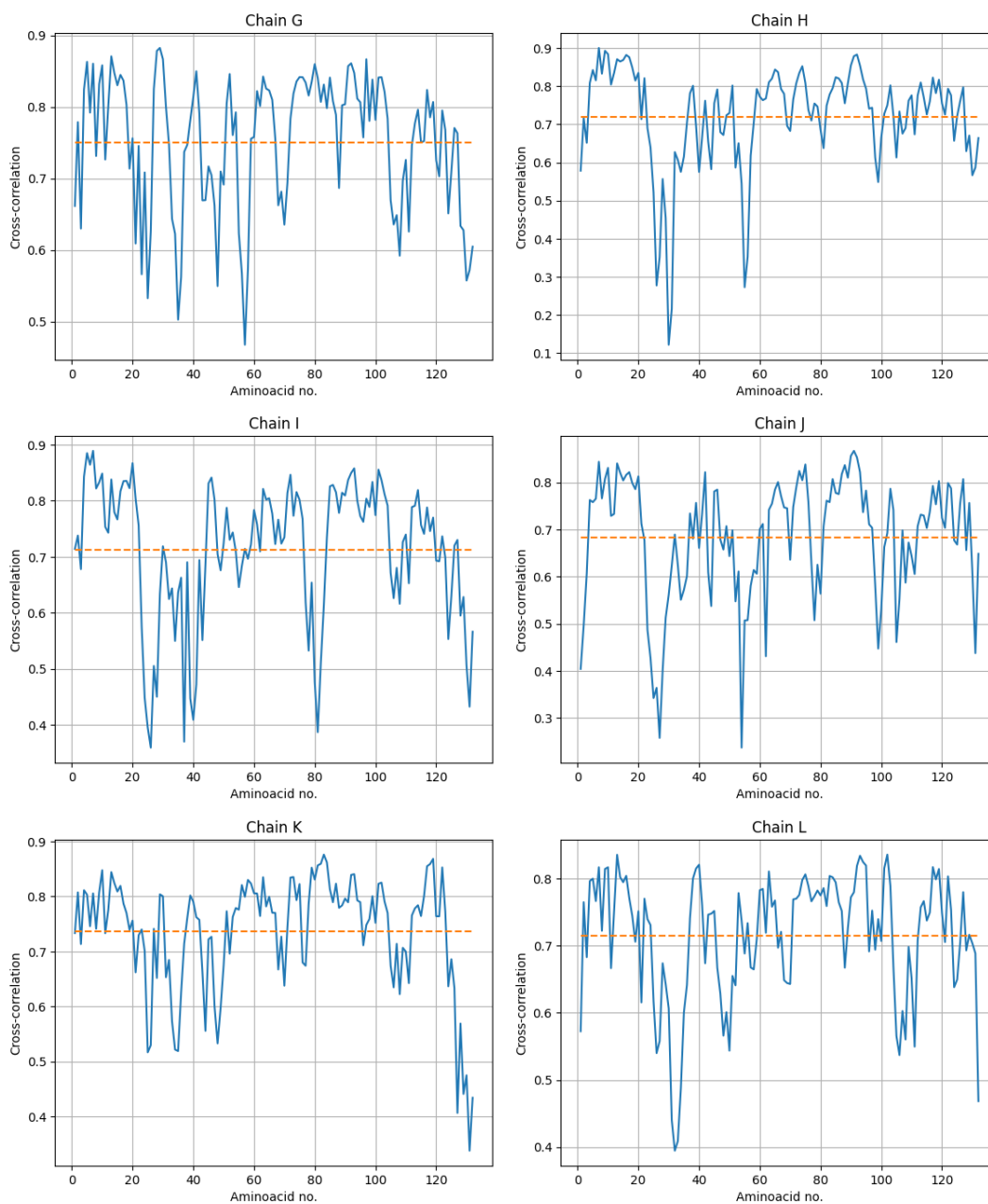
CC (mask) =	0.648
CC (box) =	0.559
CC (volume) =	0.617
CC (peaks) =	-0.015
CC (main chain) =	0.697
CC (side chain) =	0.688

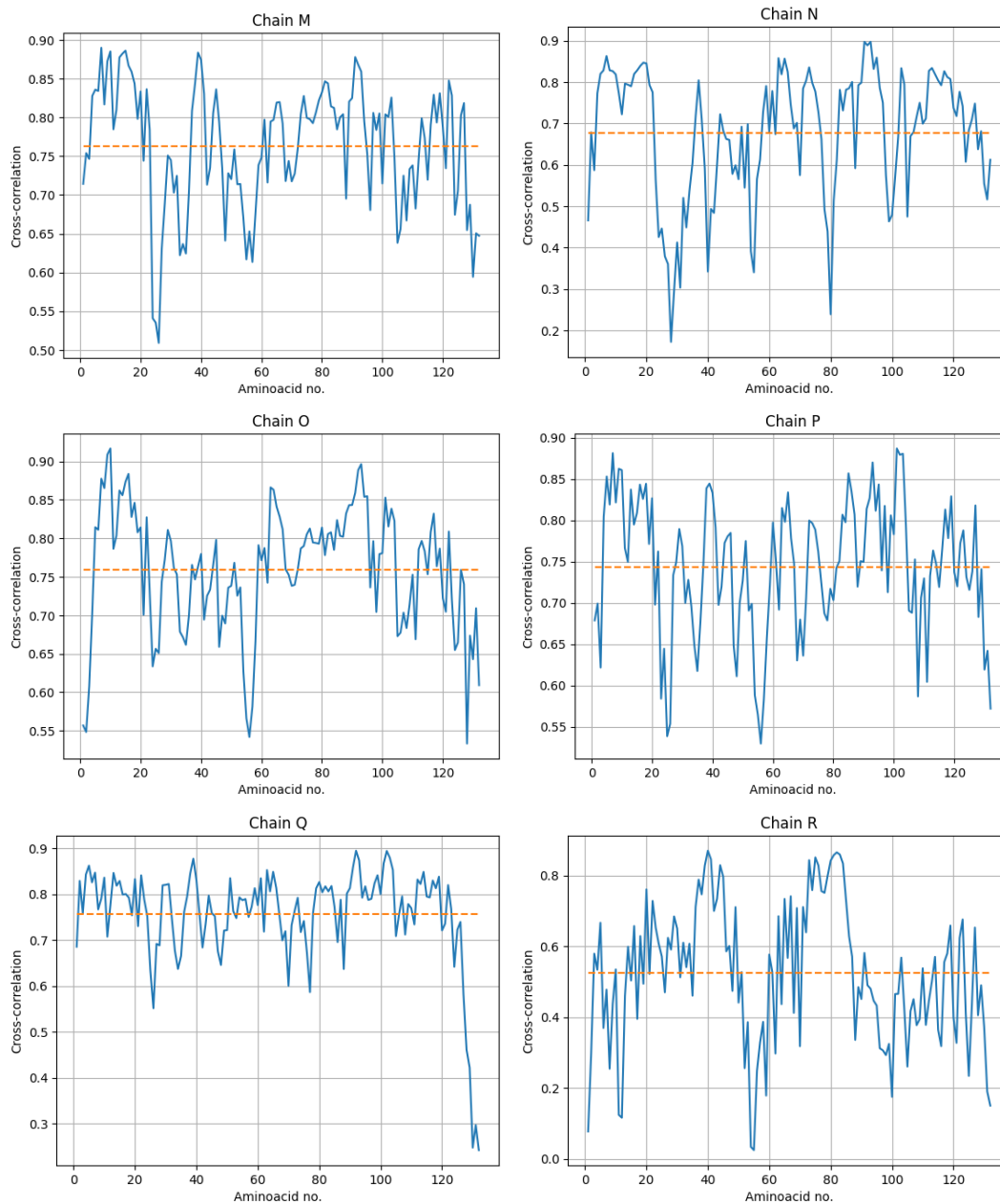
Correlation coefficients per chain:

Chain	Cross-correlation
A	0.675239
B	0.601279
C	0.704850
L	0.776413
D	0.810392
M	0.808430
E	0.749202
N	0.677055
F	0.815763
O	0.811011
G	0.816662
P	0.809674
H	0.719747
Q	0.760762
R	0.510251
I	0.729714
S	0.798256
J	0.682084
T	0.752041
U	0.459935
K	0.767430
V	0.683378

We now show the correlation profiles of the different chain per residue.







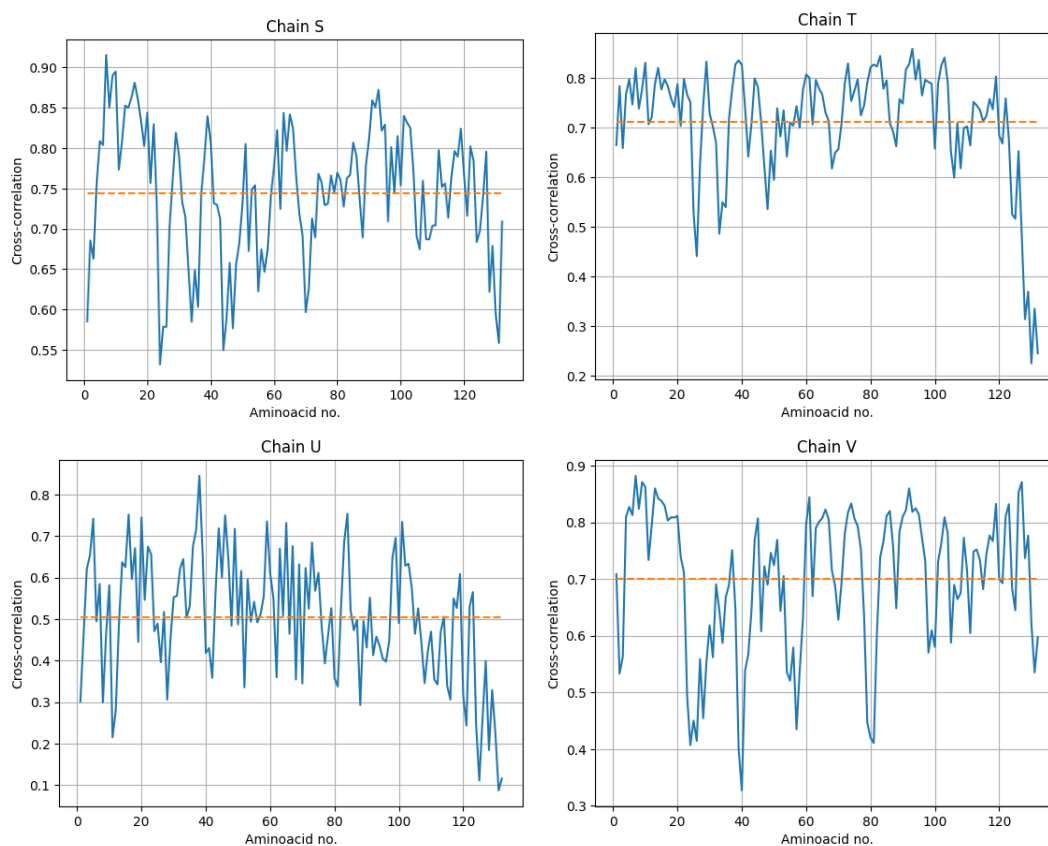


Fig. 11 shows the histogram of all cross-correlations evaluated at the residues. The percentage of residues whose correlation is below 0.5 is 9.2 %.

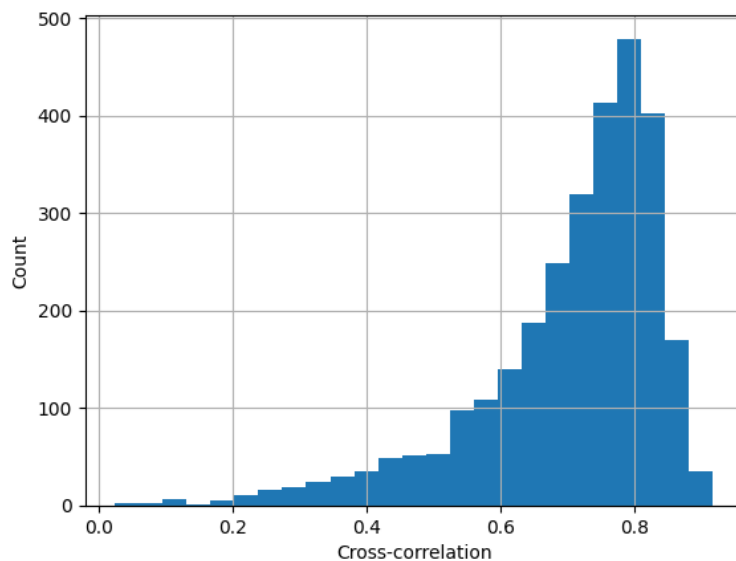


Figure 11: Histogram of the cross-correlation between the map and model evaluated for all residues.

Resolutions estimated from the model:

Resolution (Å)	Masked	Unmasked
d99	9.2	8.9
d_model	8.6	8.6
d_model (B-factor=0)	10.0	10.0
FSC_model=0	7.8	7.9
FSC_model=0.143	8.2	8.5
FSC_model=0.5	11.4	7.4

Overall isotropic B factor:

B factor	Masked	Unmasked
Overall B-iso	495.0	495.0

Fig. 12 shows the FSC between the input map and the model.

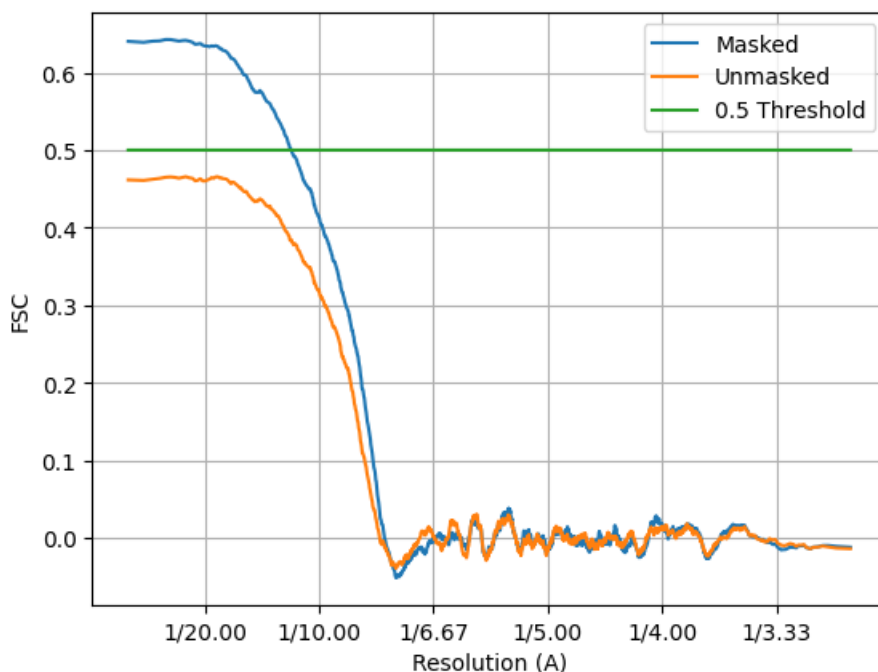


Figure 12: FSC between the input map and model with and without a mask constructed from the model. The X-axis is the square of the inverse of the resolution in Å.

Automatic criteria: The validation is OK if 1) the percentage of residues whose correlation is smaller than 0.5 is smaller than 10%, and 2) the resolution reported by the user is larger than 0.8 times the resolution estimated between the map and model at FSC=0.5.

WARNINGS: 1 warnings

1. **The resolution reported by the user, 8.9 Å, is significantly smaller than the resolution estimated between map and model (FSC=0.5), 11.4 Å**

4.2 Level A.d Map-Model Guinier analysis

This method cannot be applied to maps with a resolution worse than 8Å.

STATUS: Does not apply

4.3 Level A.e MapQ

Explanation:

MapQ (see this [link](#) for more details) computes the local correlation between the map and each one of its atoms assumed to have a Gaussian shape.

Results:

This method cannot be applied to maps with a resolution worse than 5Å.

STATUS: Does not apply

4.4 Level A.f EMRinger validation

Explanation:

EMRinger (see this [link](#) for more details) compares the side chains of the atomic model to the CryoEM map. The following features are reported:

- Optimal Threshold: Electron potential map cutoff value at which the maximum EMRinger score was obtained.
- Rotamer Ratio: Fraction of rotameric residues at the Optimal threshold value.
- Max Zscore: Z-score computed to determine the significance of the distribution at the Optimal threshold value.
- Model Length: Total of non-gamma-branched, non-proline aminoacids with a non-H gamma atom used in global EMRinger score computation.
- EMRinger Score: Maximum EMRinger score calculated at the Optimal Threshold.

A rotameric residue is one in which EMRinger peaks that fall within defined rotamers based on chi1, this often suggests a problem with the modelling of the backbone. In general, the user should look at the profiles and identify regions that may need improvement.

Results:

This method cannot be applied to maps with a resolution worse than 5Å.

STATUS: Does not apply

4.5 Level A.g DAQ validation

Explanation:

DAQ (see this [link](#) for more details) is a computational tool using deep learning that can estimate the residue-wise local quality for protein models from cryo-Electron Microscopy maps. The method calculates the likelihood that a given density feature corresponds to an aminoacid, atom, and secondary structure. These likelihoods are combined into a score that ranges from -1 (bad quality) to 1 (good quality).

Results:

This method cannot be applied to maps with a resolution worse than 5Å.

STATUS: Does not apply