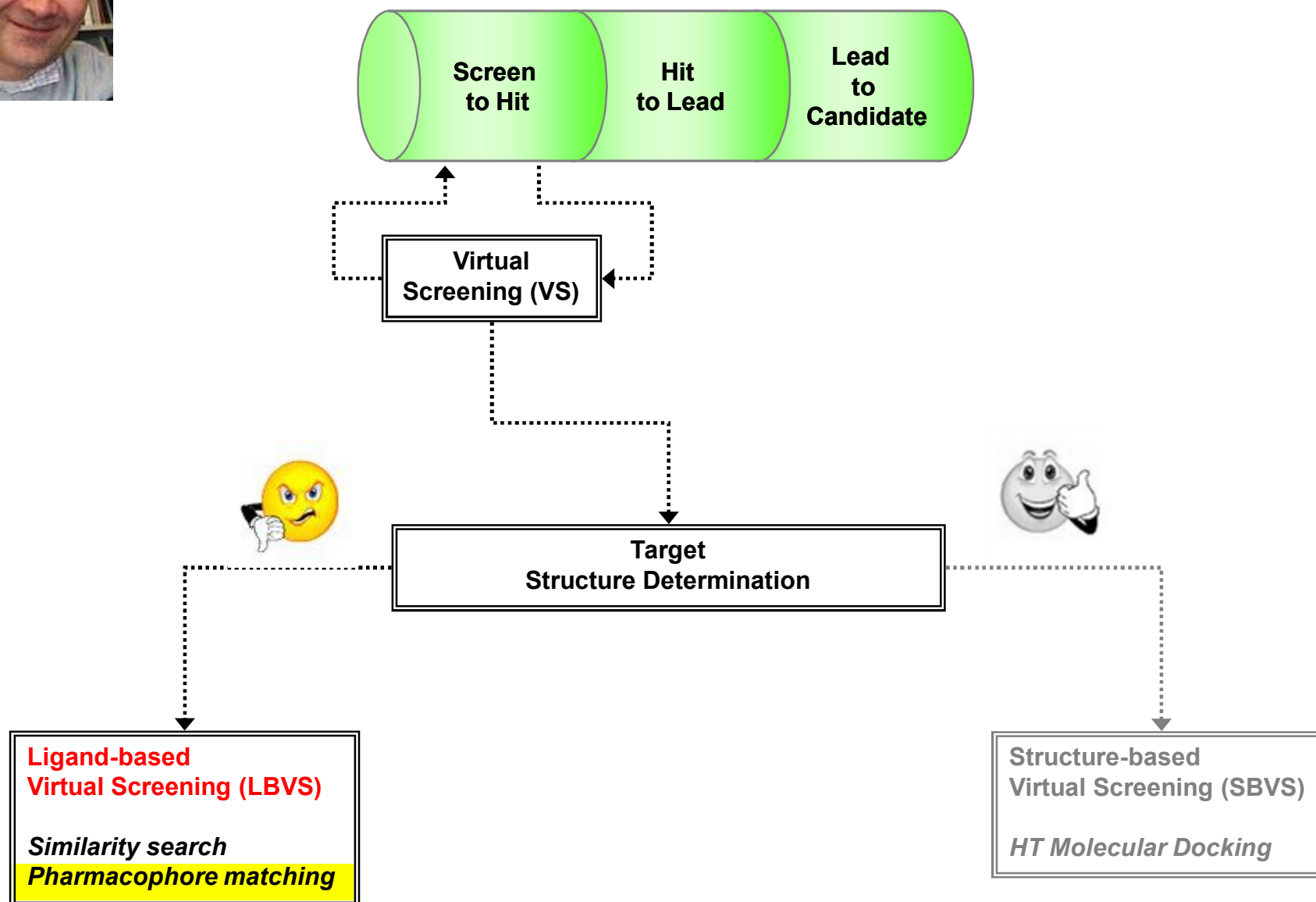




here we are again:





Pharmacophore definition:

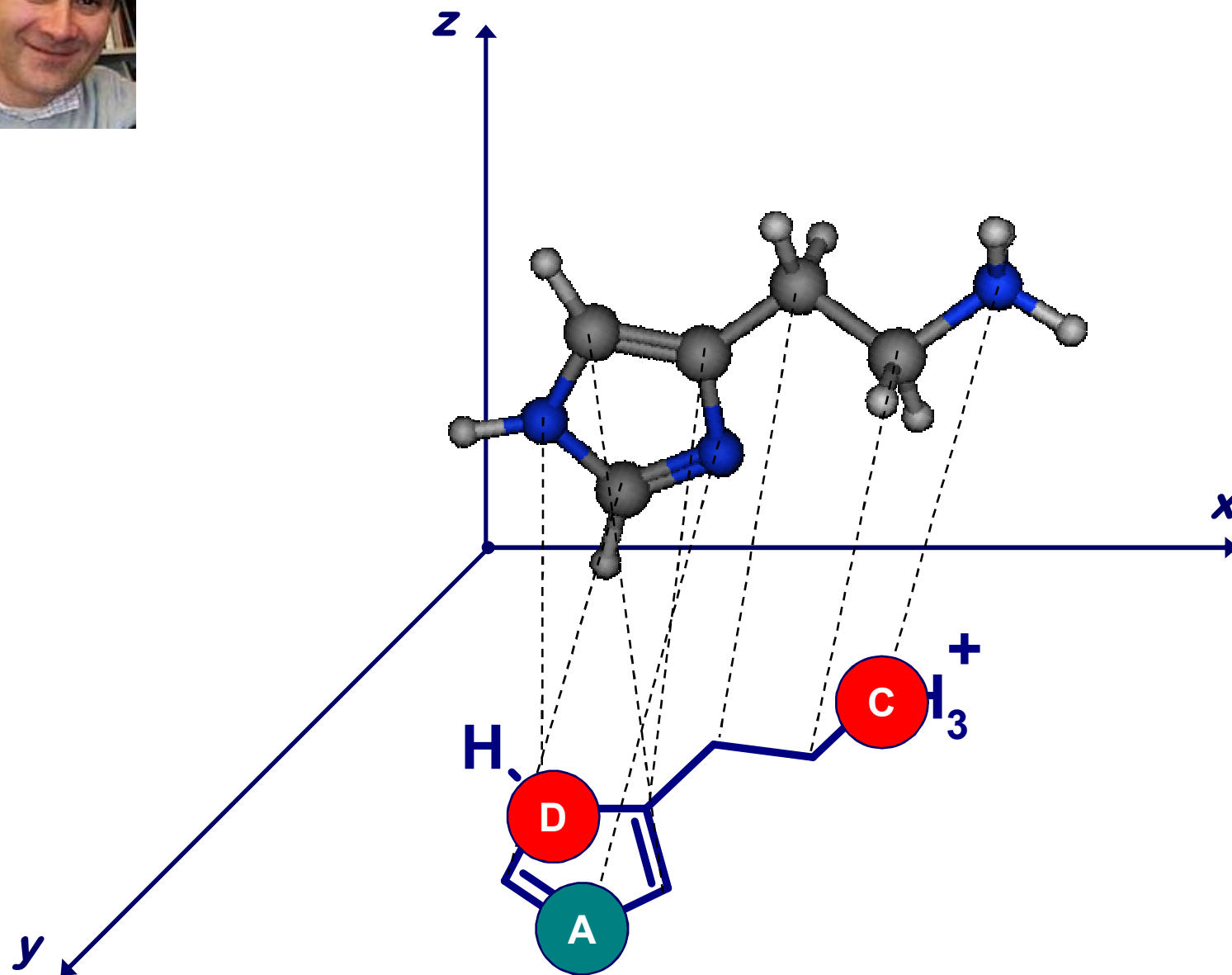
A "**pharmacophore**" is a three-dimensional substructure of a molecule that carries ("**phoros**") the essential features responsible for a drug's ("**pharmacon**") biological activity. Alternatively described as an ensemble of interactive functional groups with a defined geometry. Basically, one tries to talk the protein language by finding the "structural and chemical complementaries" (pharmacophore hypothesis) to target receptors.

**... a quick refresh: what is
the goal of every SAR study?**

**The generation of
pharmacophoric hypothesis
(models)!!!!**



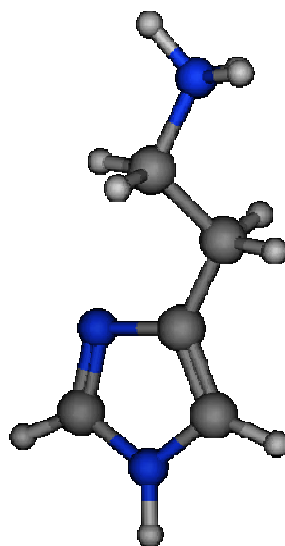
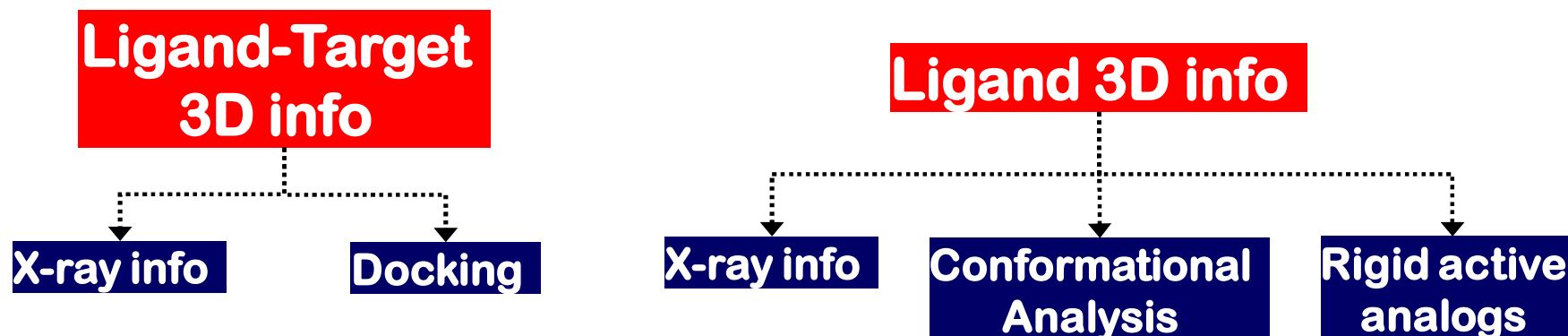
the shadow of the reality:





Pharmacophore definition:

1. *conformational selection*





Two very interesting concepts:

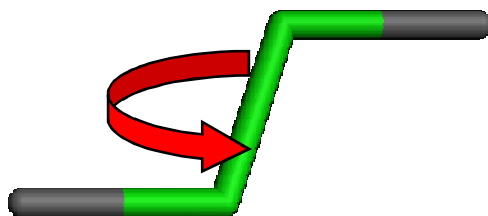
Stability as a measure of the geometrical deformability of an object;

Rigidity as a measure of the reduction degree of the geometrical deformability of an object.



An easy way to determine *molecular rigidity*.

A **rotatable bond** is defined as any single non-ring bond, attached to a non-terminal, non-hydrogen atom. *Amide C-N bonds are not counted because of their high barrier to rotation.*



... and it is easily countable!!!



A golden rule in pharmacophore depiction:

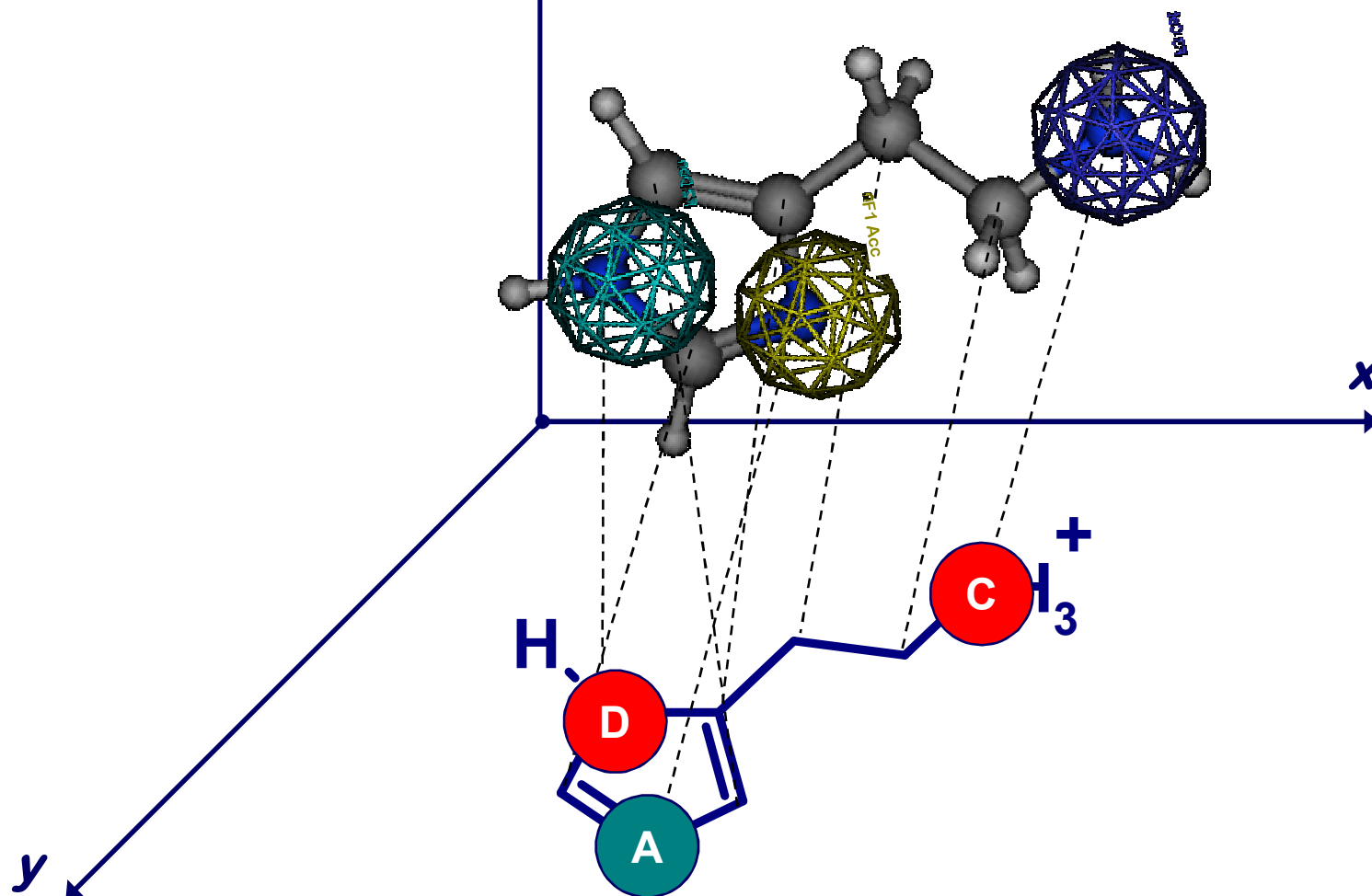
**Among all the active compounds
always choose the more rigid!**





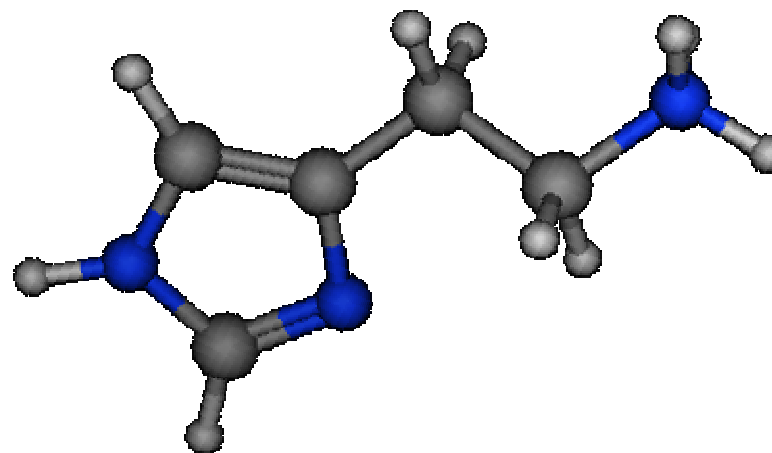
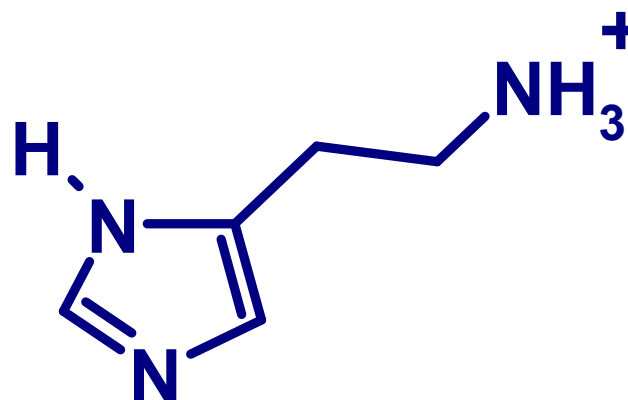
Pharmacophore definition:

2. *Pharmacophoric keys selections*





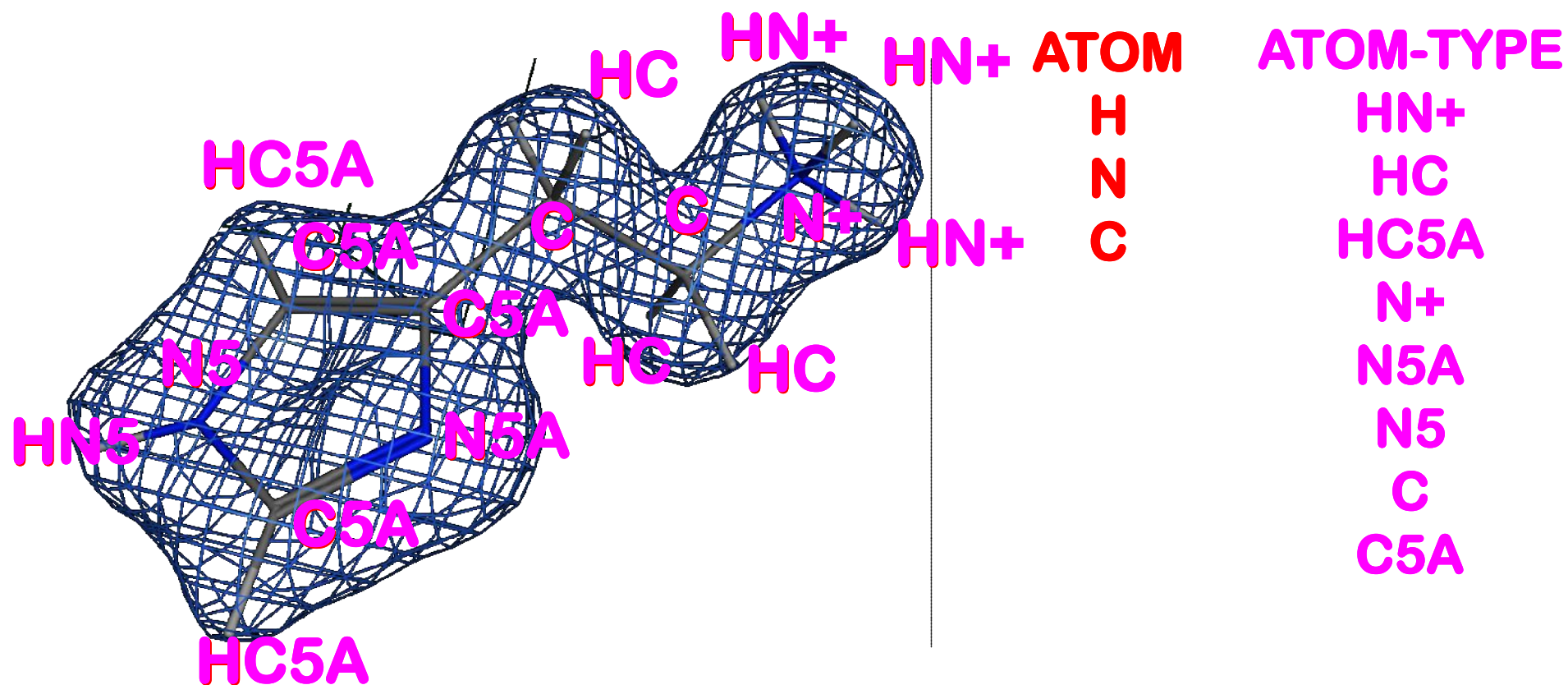
First of all... let's convert!



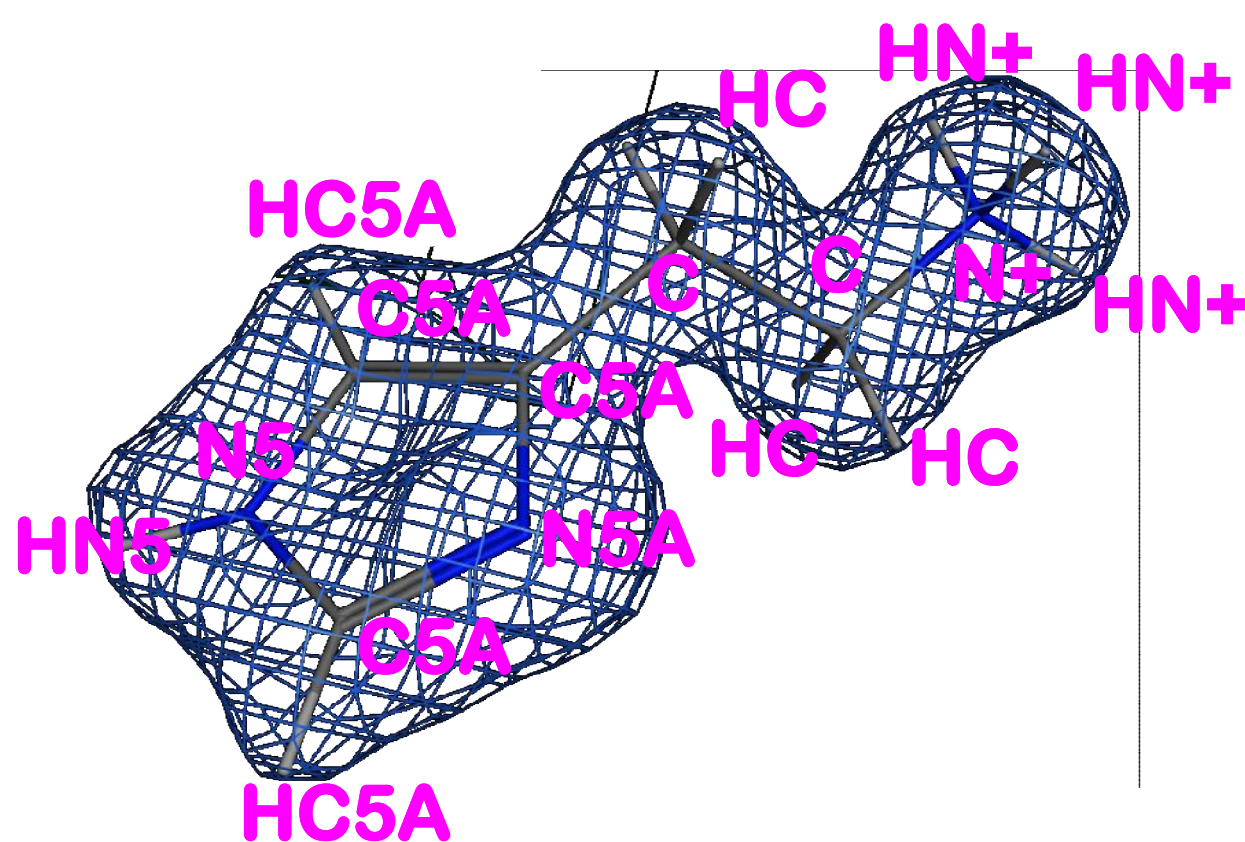


How? But learning from crystallographer, of course!

1. From what we observe, we learn.

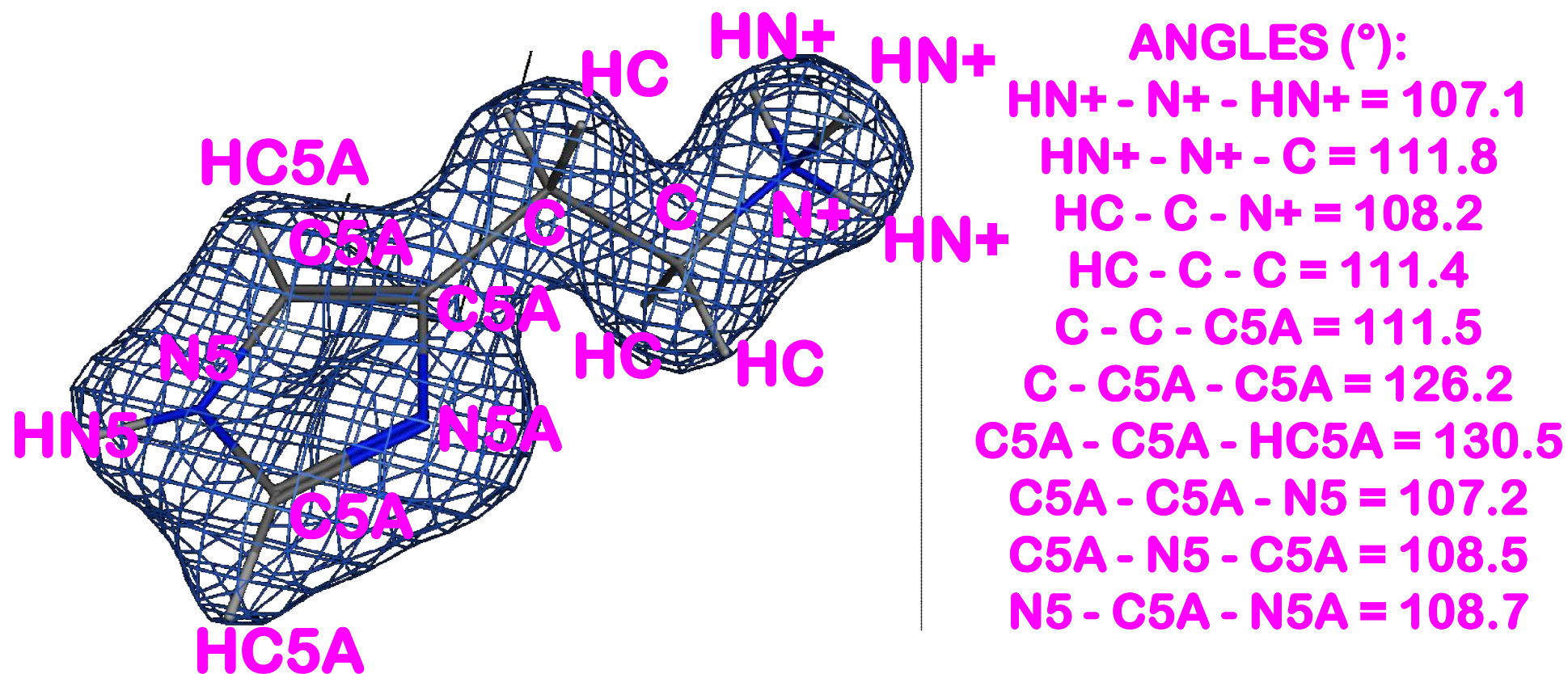


1. From what we observe, we learn.

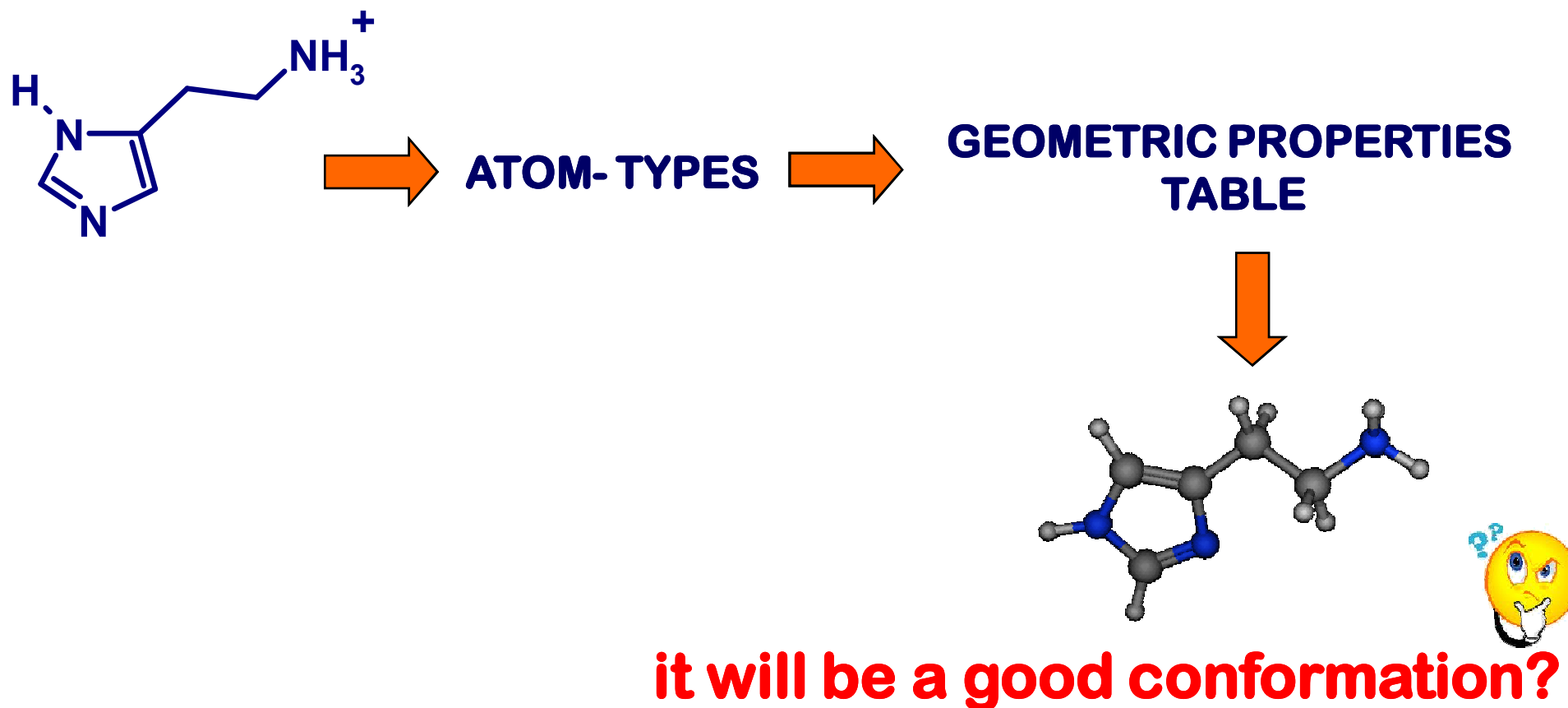


DISTANCES (Å):
HN+ - N+ = 1.03
HC - C = 1.10
HC5A - C5A = 1.08
HN5 - N5 = 1.01
N+ - C = 1.46
C - C = 1.52
C - C5A = 1.51
C5A - C5A = 1.38
C5A - N5A = 1.35
C5A - N5 = 1.35

1. From what we observe, we learn.



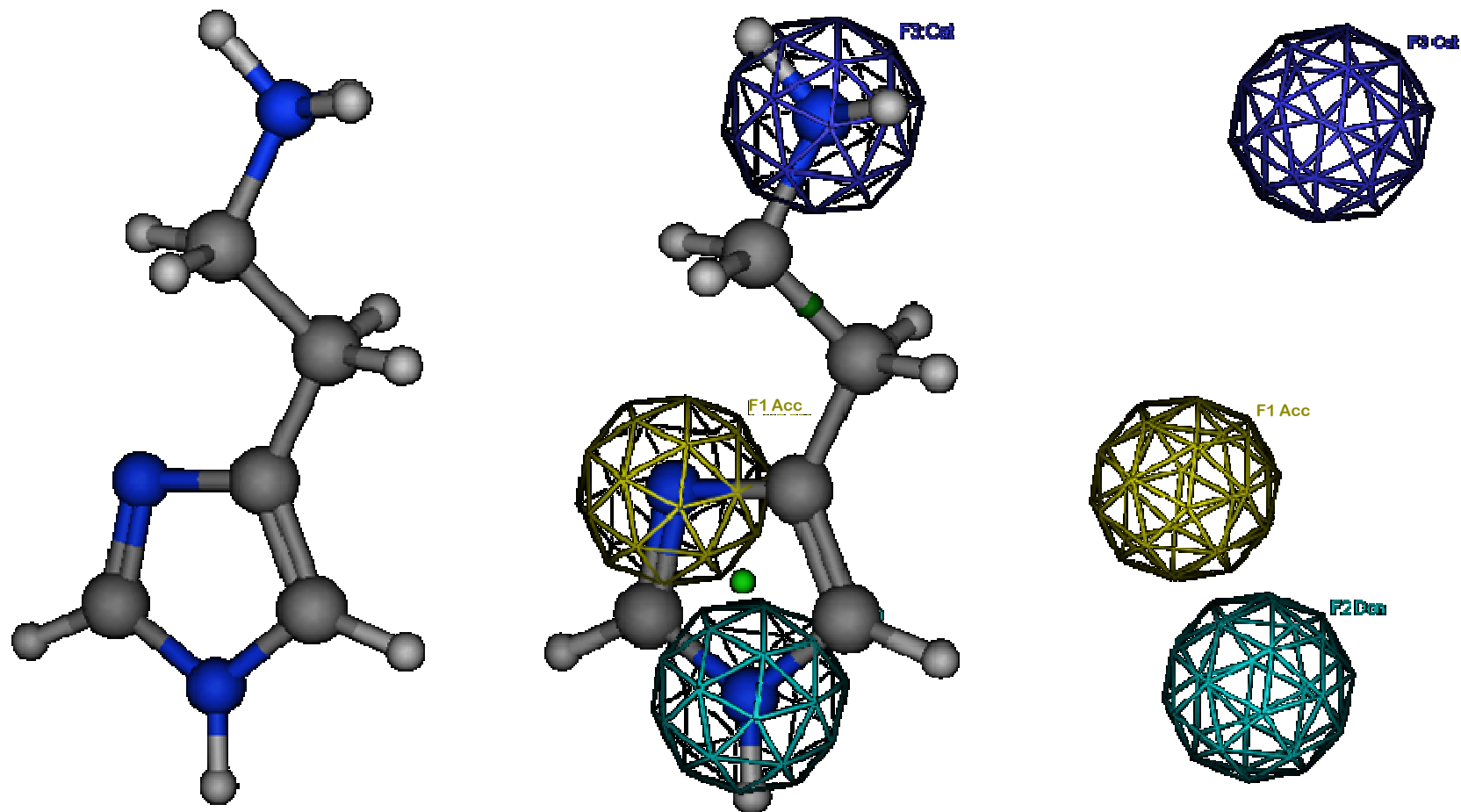
2. ... and ones learned, we can repeat!





Pharmacophore definition:

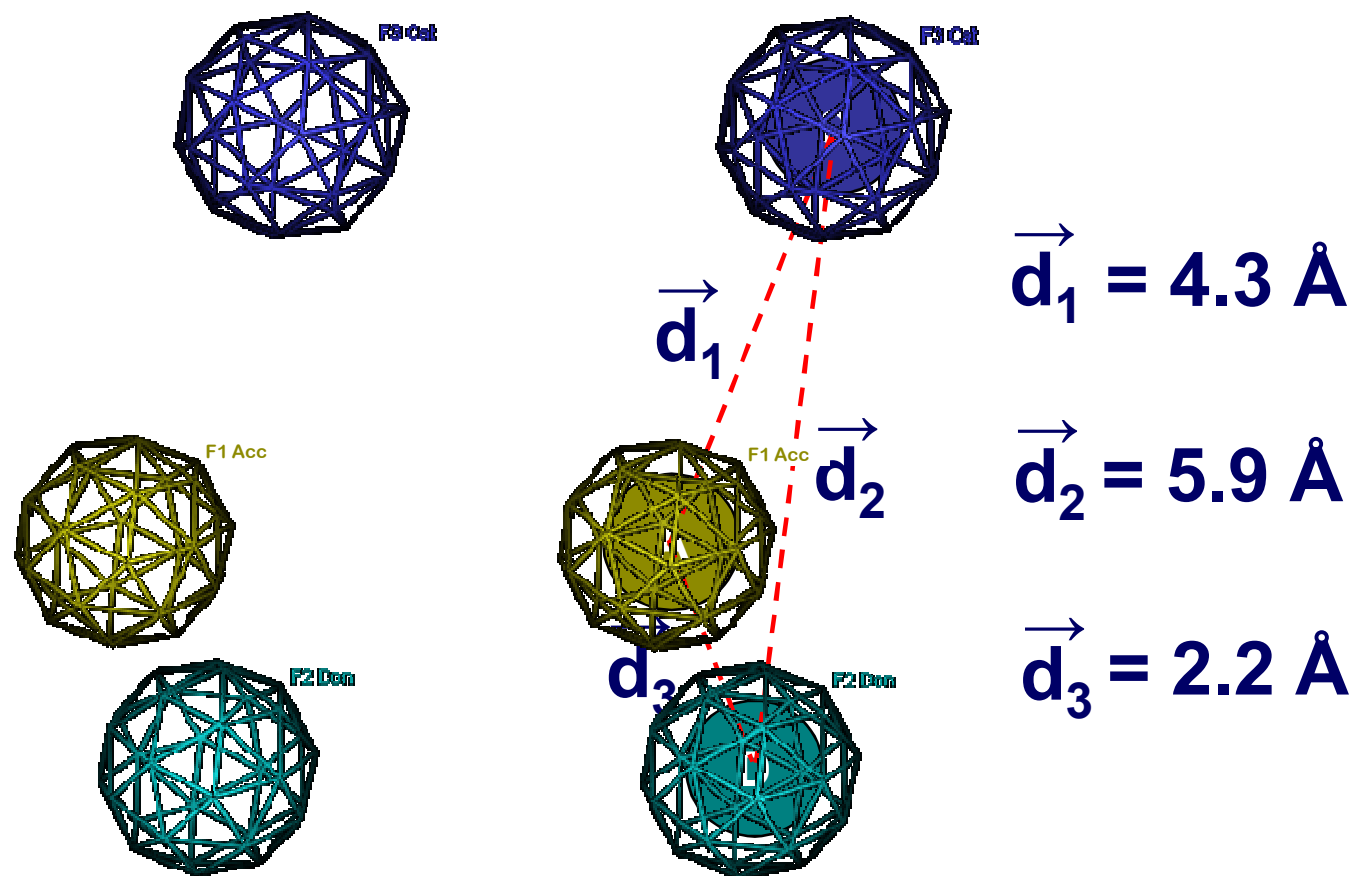
2. *Pharmacophoric keys selections*





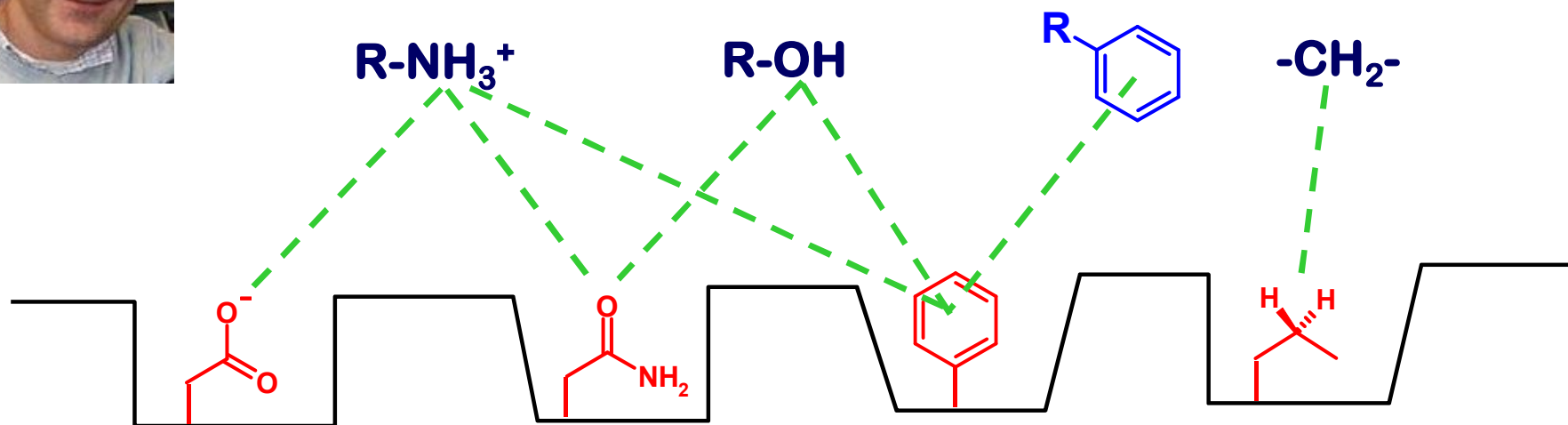
Pharmacophore definition:

3. *Interaction triangle*





Do you remember...



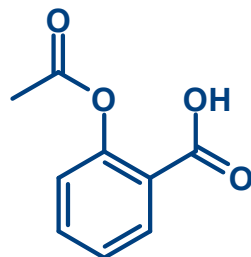
charge-charge interaction (*ionic bond*):
 charge-dipole interaction:
 charge- π interaction:
 hydrogen bond:
 charge transfer interaction:
 π - π interaction:
 dipole-dipole interaction (van der Waals):

	(kcal/mol)
$-\Delta G^0 \approx$	5 ÷ 10
$-\Delta G^0 \approx$	1 ÷ 7
$-\Delta G^0 \approx$	8 ÷ 10
$-\Delta G^0 \approx$	1 ÷ 7
$-\Delta G^0 \approx$	1 ÷ 6
$-\Delta G^0 \approx$	1 ÷ 2
$-\Delta G^0 \approx$	0.5 ÷ 1



Pharmacophore definition:

4. *From structural key to pharmacophoric key*



			Ar-OH				
1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ar	Ac	H	D	A	A	A	H

Ar = aromatic

Ac = acid

H = hydrophobic

D = H-bonding donor

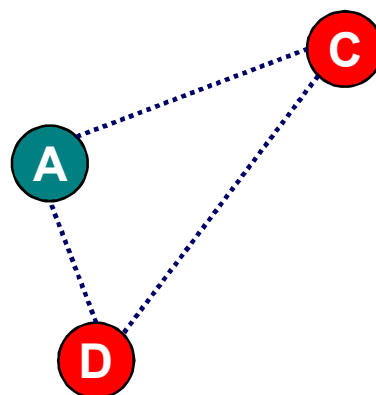
A = H-bonding acceptor

C = cation

An = anion



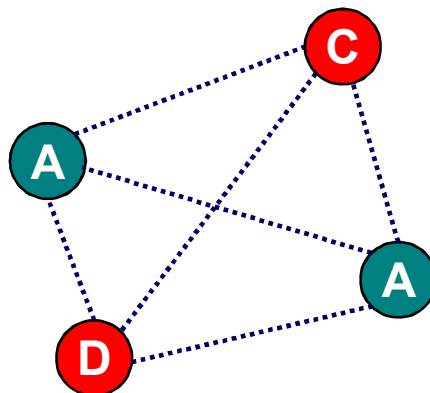
The triangle saga :



Any pharmacophoric triangle can be described as a three characters string: **ACD**

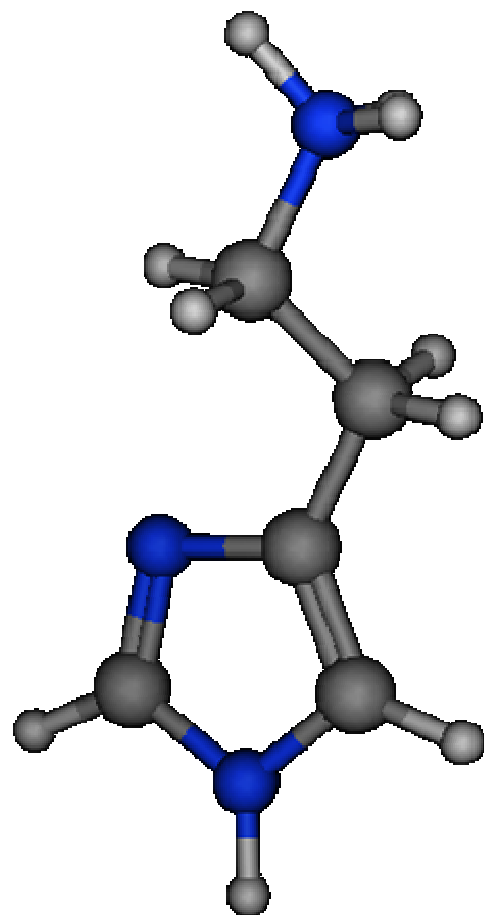
For any triangle we can calculate numerical descriptors: **perimeter, sides length.**

Any polygons can be subdivided into a sum of triangles:

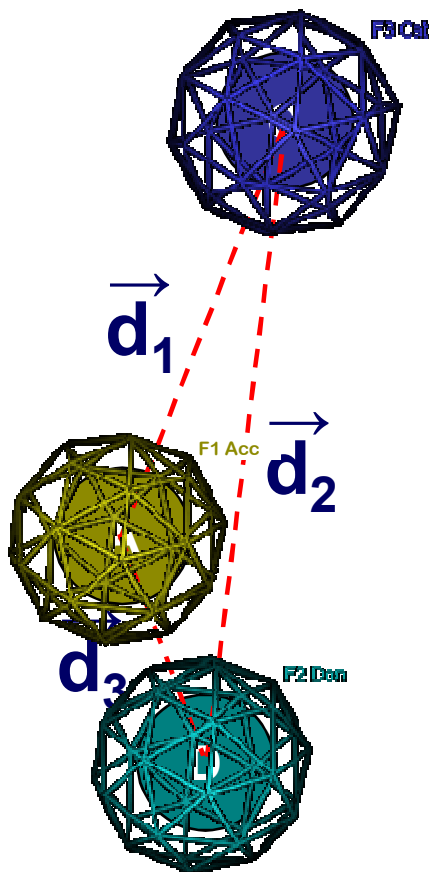




Here is another interesting 3D→1D chemical representation transformation!



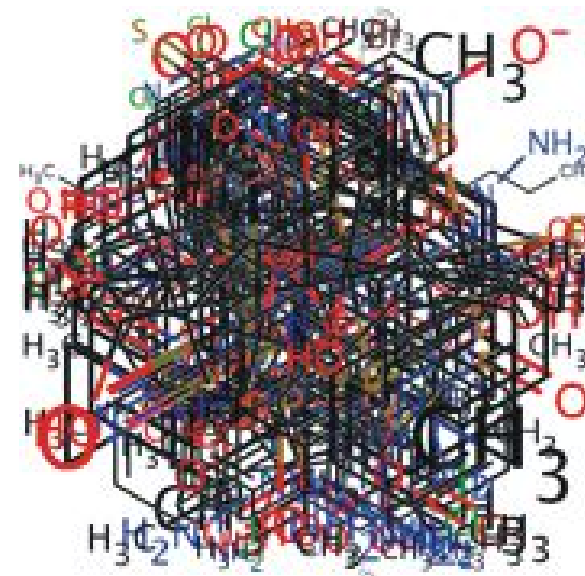
3D



2D

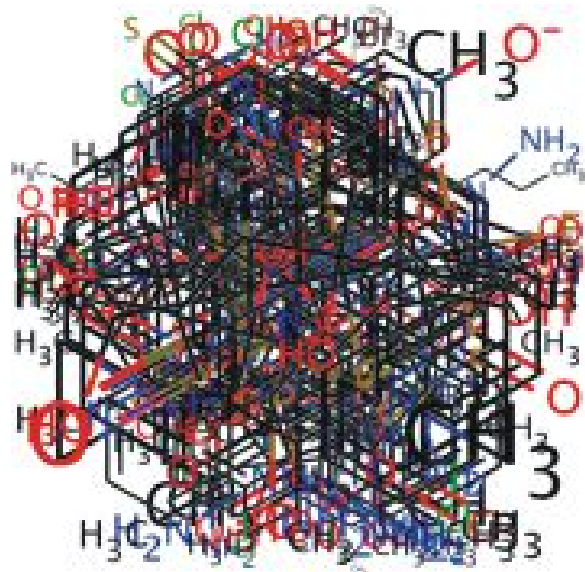
ACD 462 12

1D





What we need for a good fishing?



① generation of a collection of good conformers for each chemicals;

② generation of all plausible pharmacophoric hypothesis;

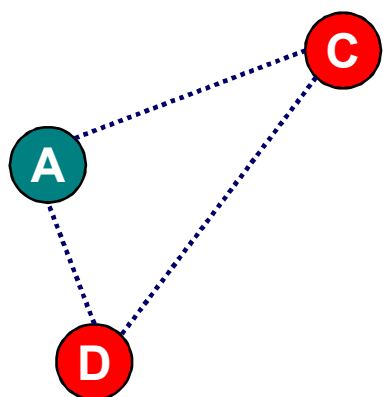
③ generation of all possible pharmacophoric triangles;

④ generation of all possible pharmacophoric strings.




a bit of combinatorial calculus:

Hypothesis: consider a pharmacophoric model with three plausible 'features' (interactors) how many pharmacophoric triangles can be generated?



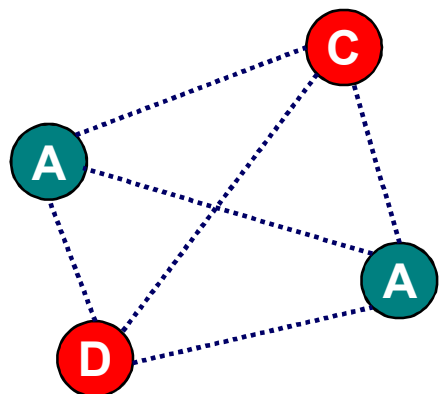
This is a “*simple disposition – without repetitions*” of n elements grouped k per time:

$$C_{3,3} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!} = \frac{3!}{(3-3)!} = 6$$


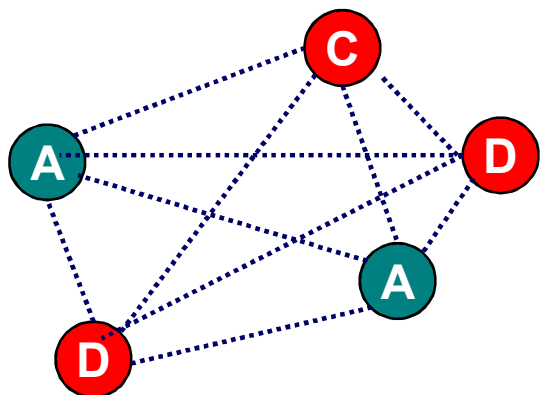


a bit of combinatorial calculus:

Now is easier:



$$C_{4,3} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!} = \frac{4!}{(4-3)!} = 24$$

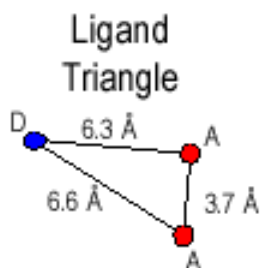


$$C_{5,3} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!} = \frac{5!}{(5-3)!} = 60$$



Pharmacophore definition:

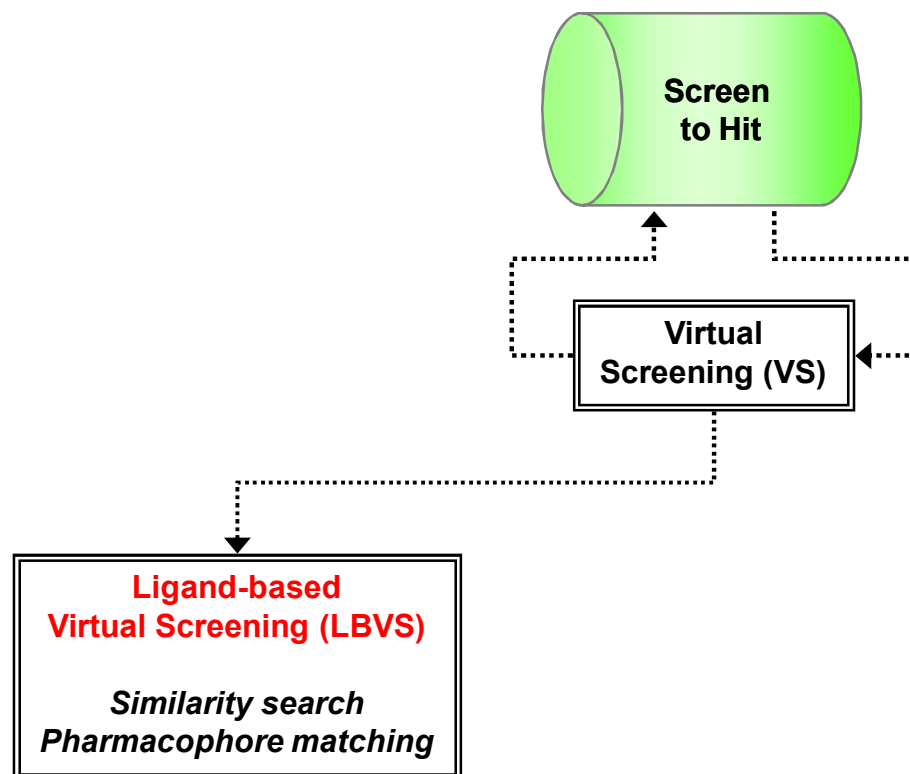
5. *Geometric hashing scheme*



D = HBond Donor
A = HBond Acceptor
H = Hydrophobic Point

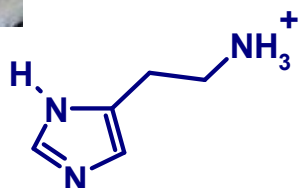


Here is a possible work-flow:

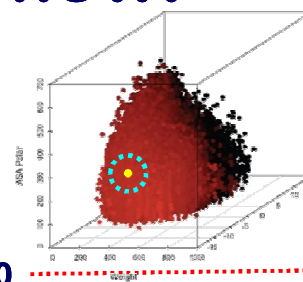




Here is a possible work-flow:

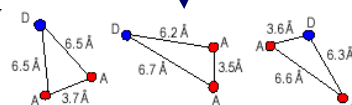
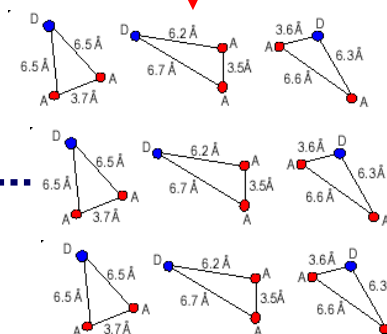
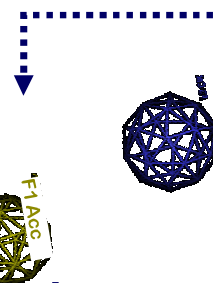
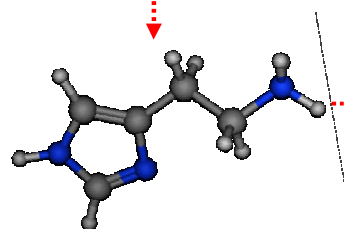


000011111001010101010



$$\frac{A \cap B}{A_{solo} + B_{solo} + A \cap B}$$

 MMscore: 0.99 tanimoto score: 0.99	 MMscore: 0.99 tanimoto score: 0.99	 MMscore: 0.99 tanimoto score: 0.99	 MMscore: 0.99 tanimoto score: 0.99
 MMscore: 0.98 tanimoto score: 0.98	 MMscore: 0.98 tanimoto score: 0.98	 MMscore: 0.98 tanimoto score: 0.98	 MMscore: 0.98 tanimoto score: 0.98
 MMscore: 0.99 tanimoto score: 0.99	 MMscore: 0.99 tanimoto score: 0.99	 MMscore: 0.99 tanimoto score: 0.99	 MMscore: 0.99 tanimoto score: 0.99



 MMscore: 0.99 tanimoto score: 0.99	 MMscore: 0.99 tanimoto score: 0.99	 MMscore: 0.99 tanimoto score: 0.99	 MMscore: 0.99 tanimoto score: 0.99
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The real drama of pharmacophore fishing:

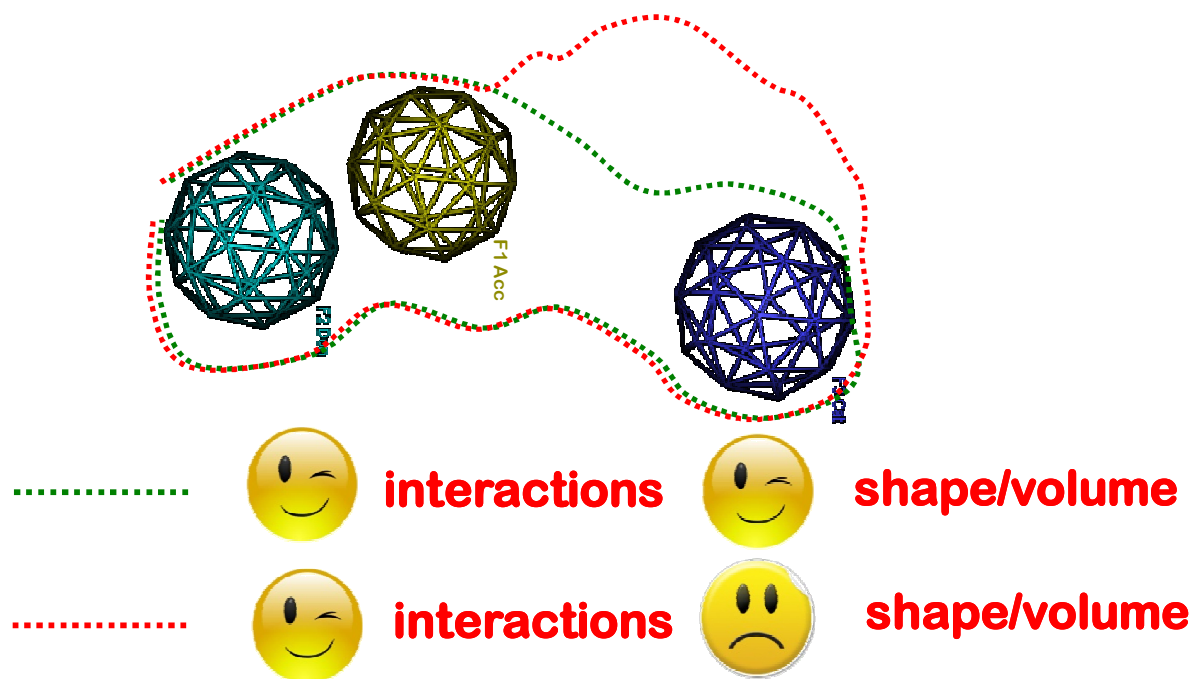
**This fishing is inevitably rich
of false positives!!!**

Generally speaking, there may be many compounds that have a common pharmacophoric hypothesis but, at the level of their recognition site, they miss the proper topological complementarity (shape and volume).



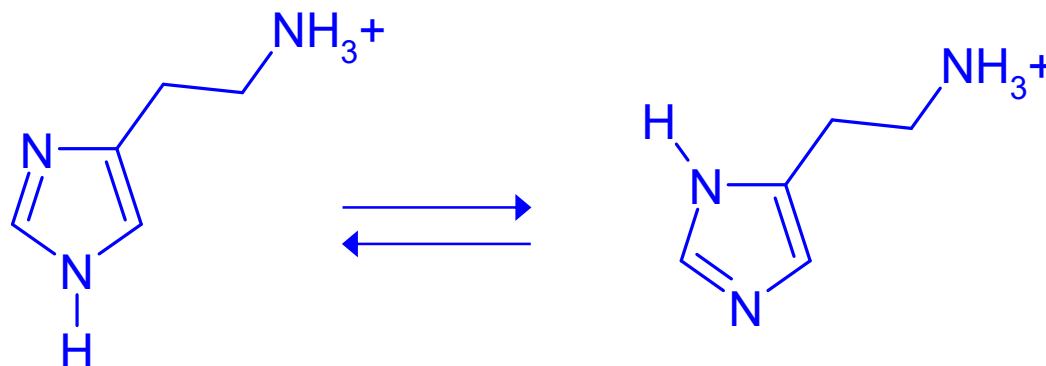
The real drama of pharmacophore fishing:

This fishing is inevitably rich of false positives!!!

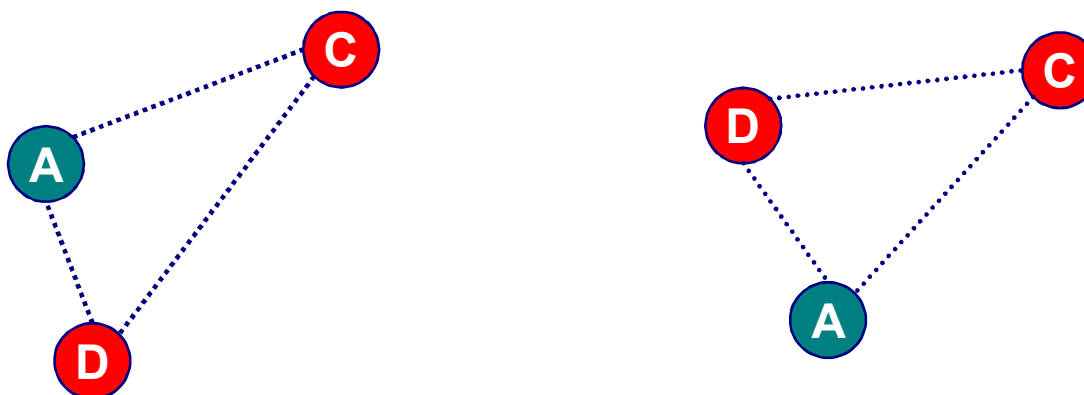




... and if I deal with more than ONE pharmacophore hypothesis?

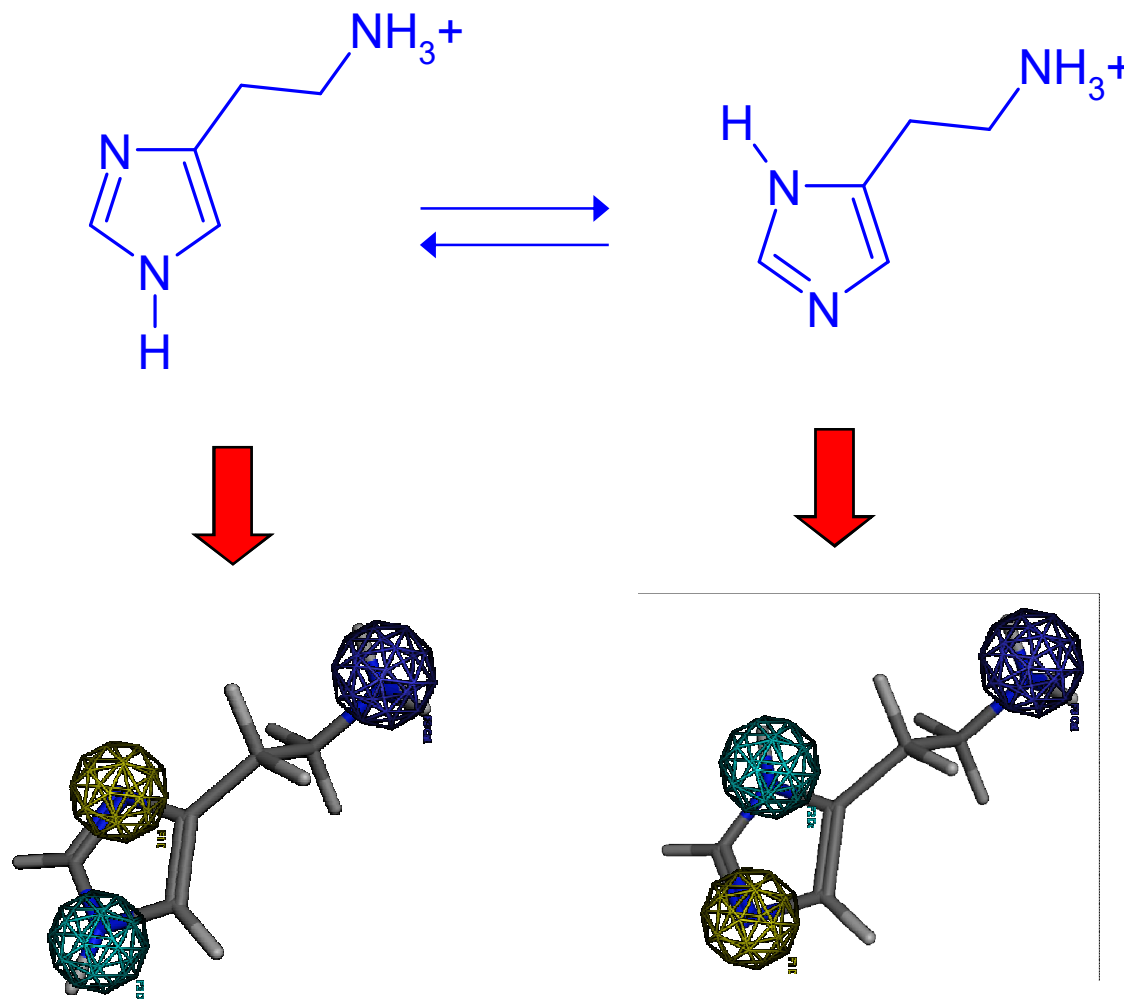


do you remember this equilibrium?





My warm suggestion is to build up more than ONE pharmacophore hypothesis!





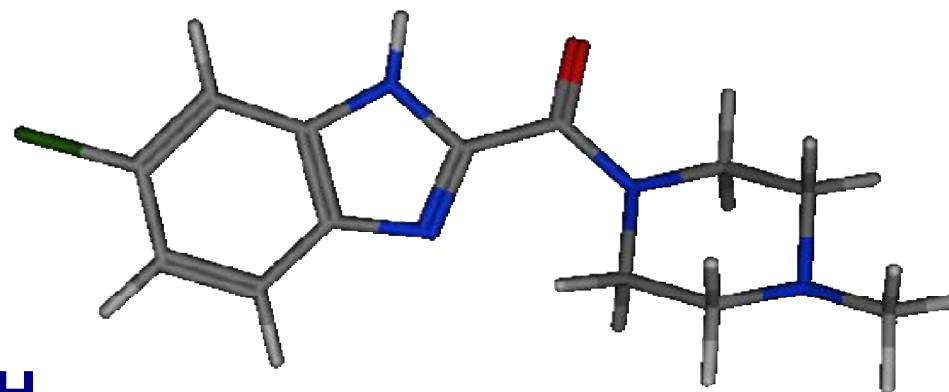
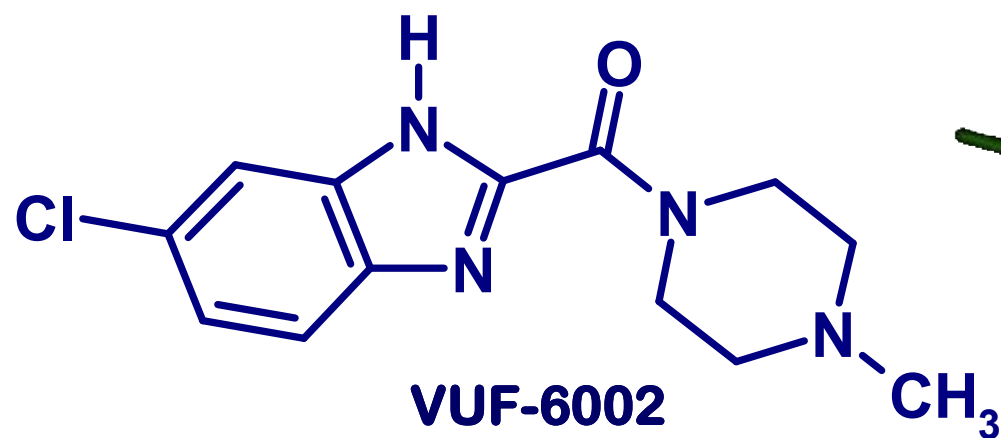
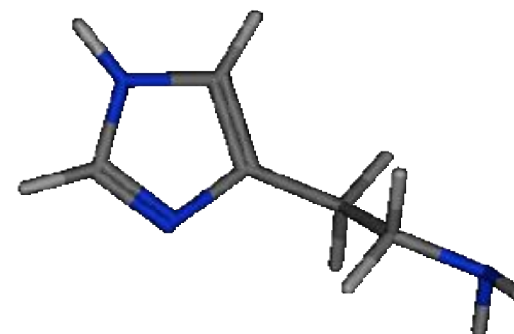
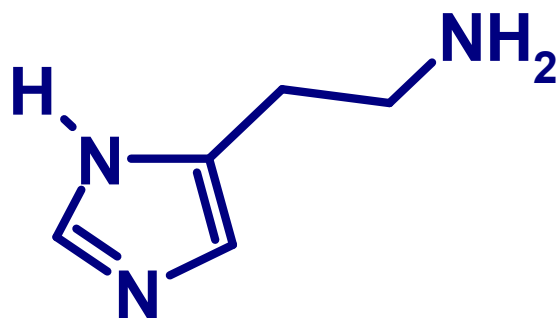
What we are still orphans:

- Virtualize molecular topology (shape and volume);
- Virtualize the generation of alternative conformers;
- Virtualize the evaluation of the stability of each conformer.



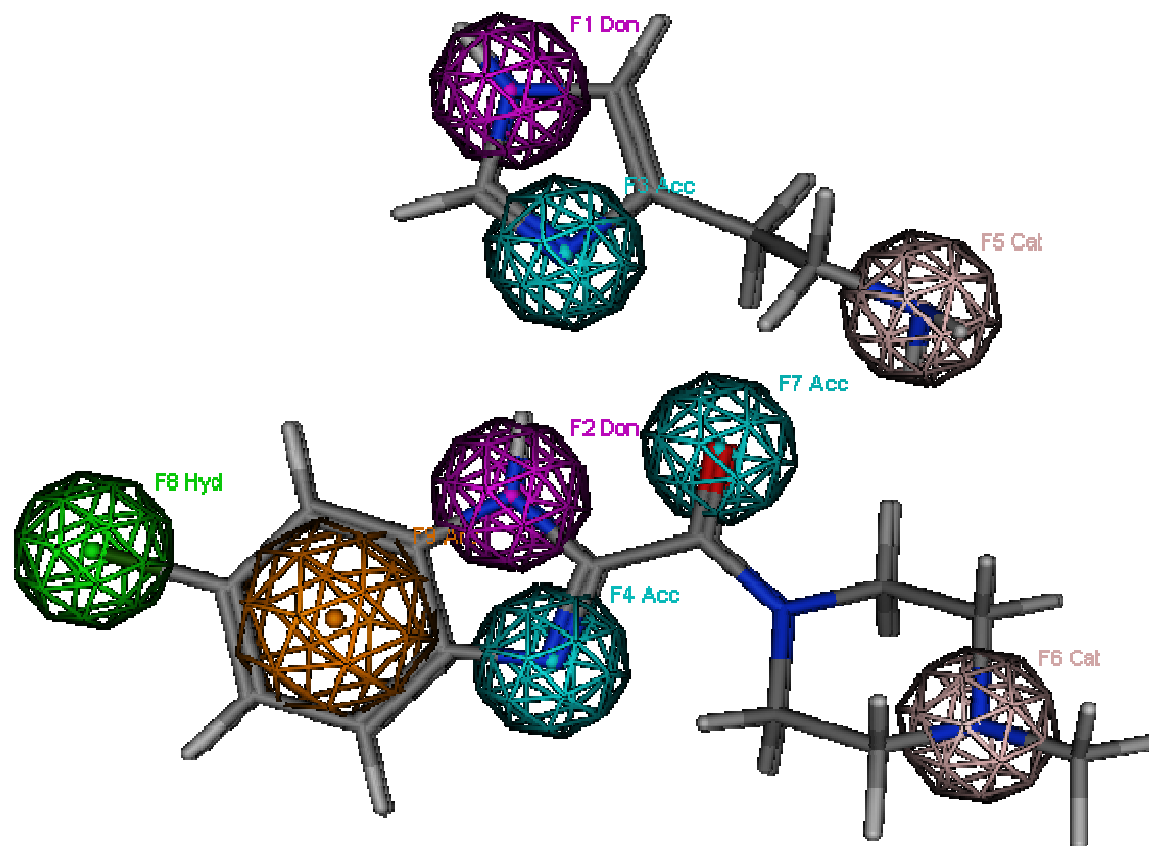


Ed ecco un'altra interessante applicazione!
Immaginiamo che:

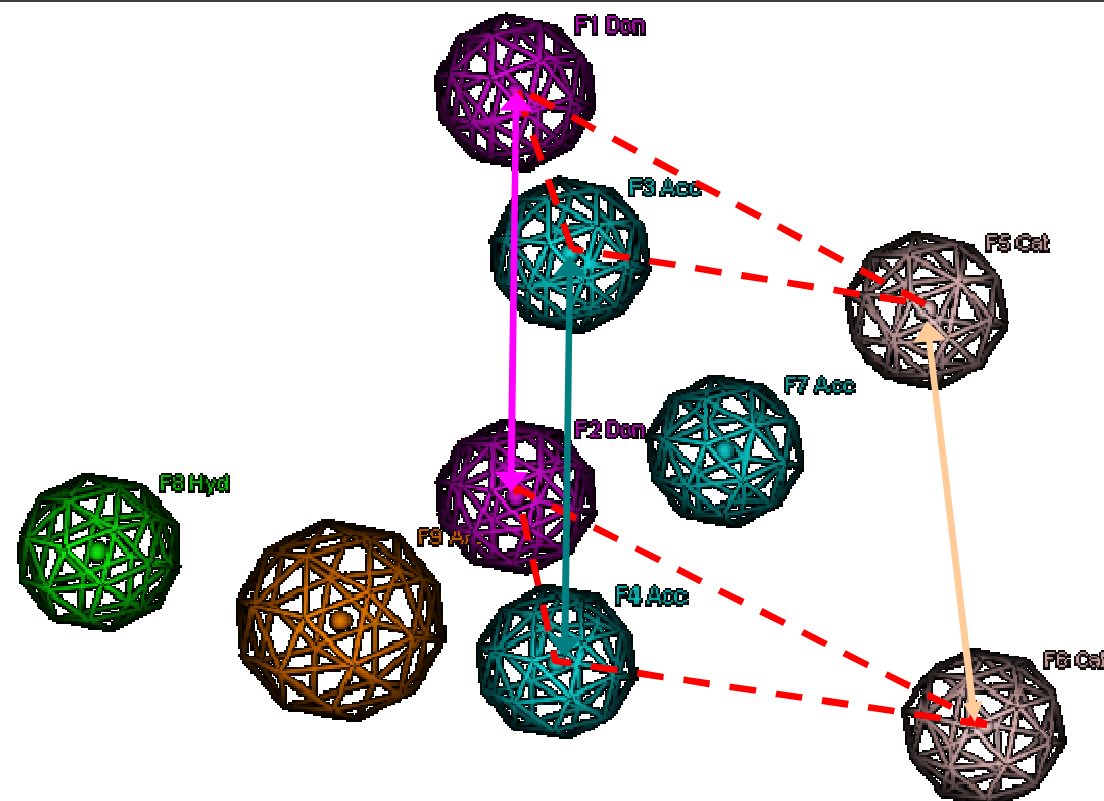




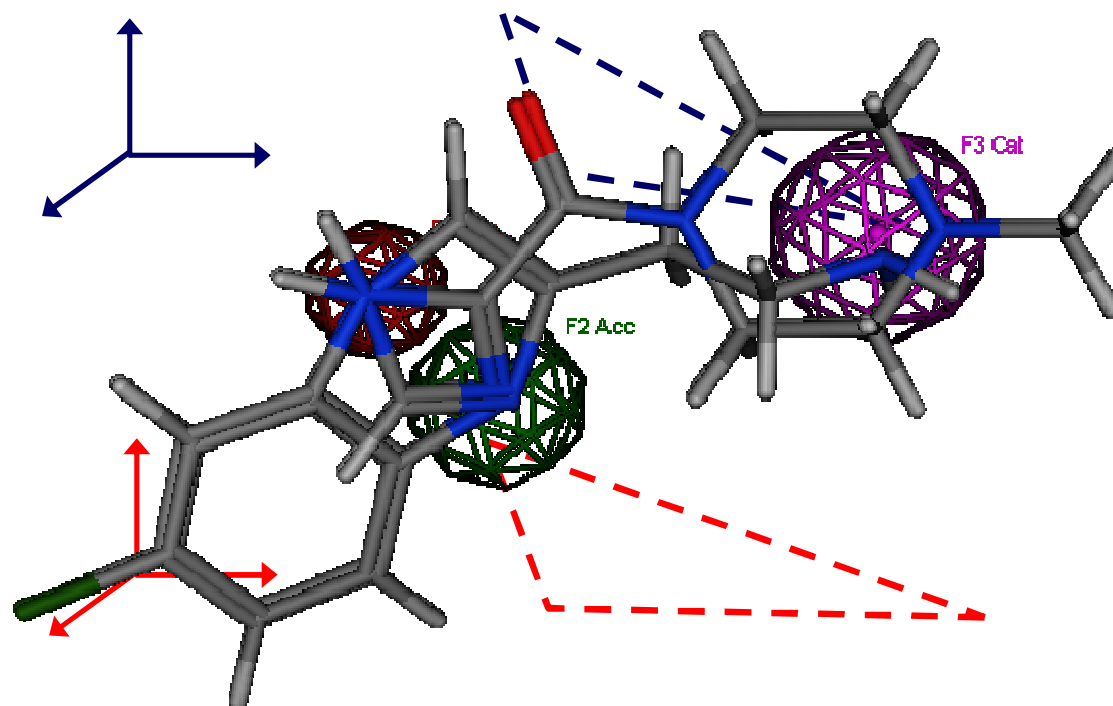
Sovrapponiamo?



Identifichiamo gli interattori



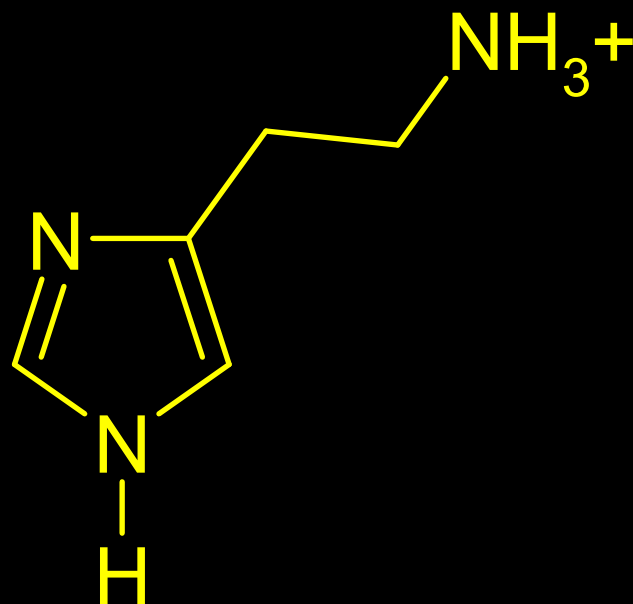
Identifichiamo i triangoli farmacoforici
Identifichiamo le distanze da “minimizzare”
Minimizziamo!



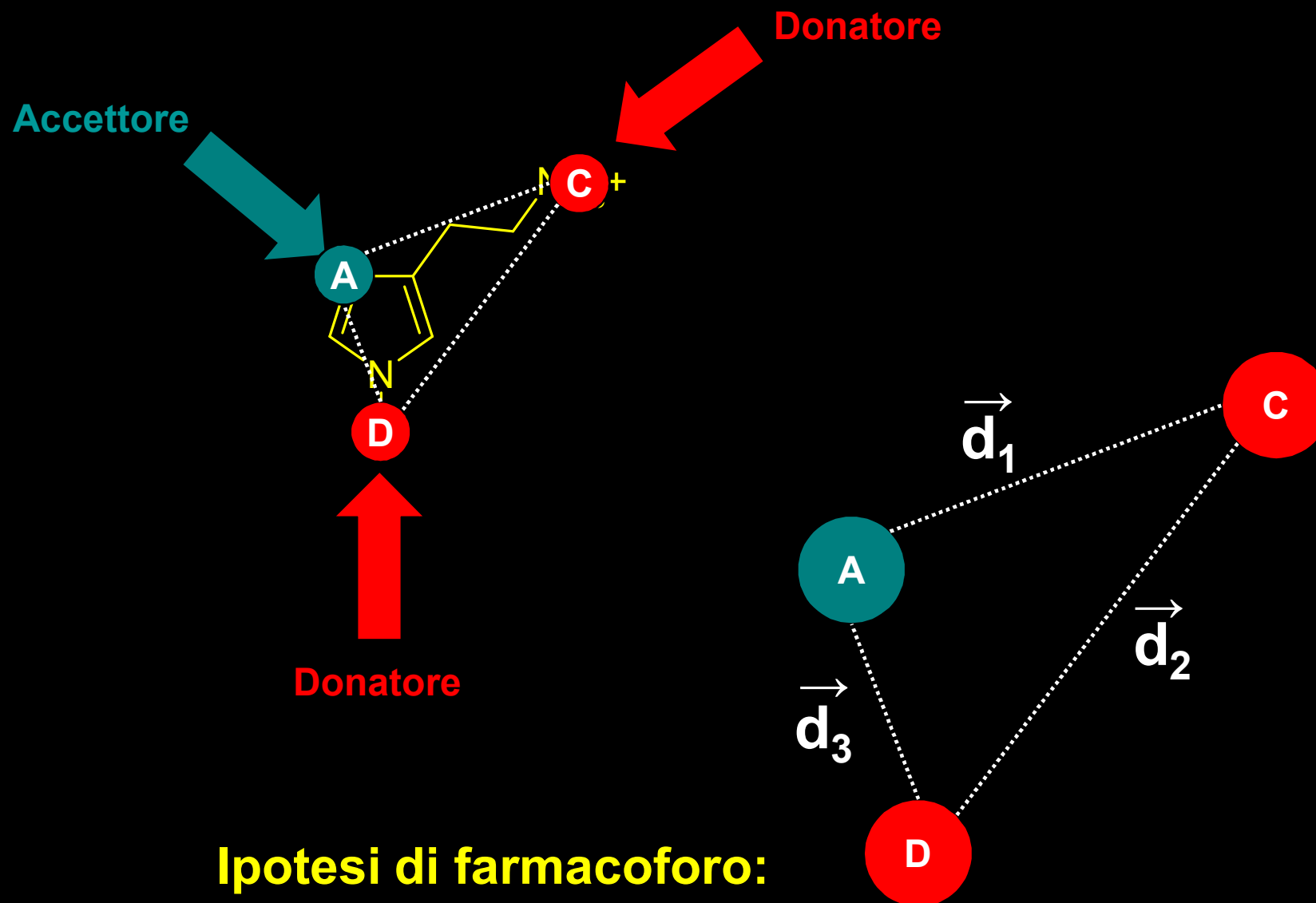
**Uniformiamo il sistema di riferimento
Roto-trasliamo affinché le distanze farmacoforiche
hanno raggiunto il loro minimo di intensità
Sovrapposto!!!**

Provocazione n. 1 :

Sareste in grado di proporre un ragionevole modello farmacoforico per la struttura molecolare qui sotto riportata?

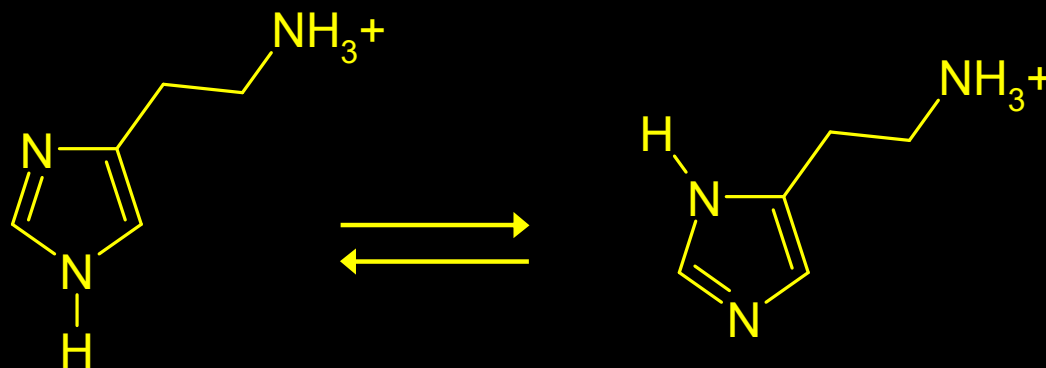


... beh, proviamo a definirlo?



Ipotesi di farmacoforo:

... siamo proprio sicuri?

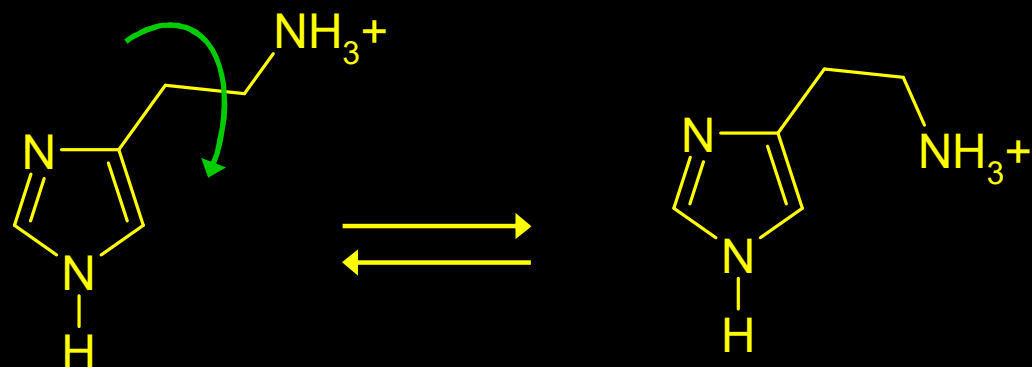


ci ricordiamo dell'equilibrio tautomerico?!?!

ed il farmacoforo allora?

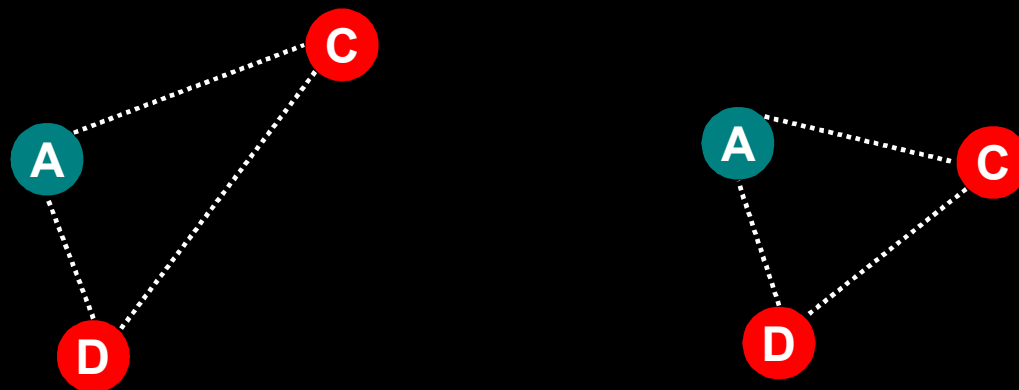


... siamo tranquilli?

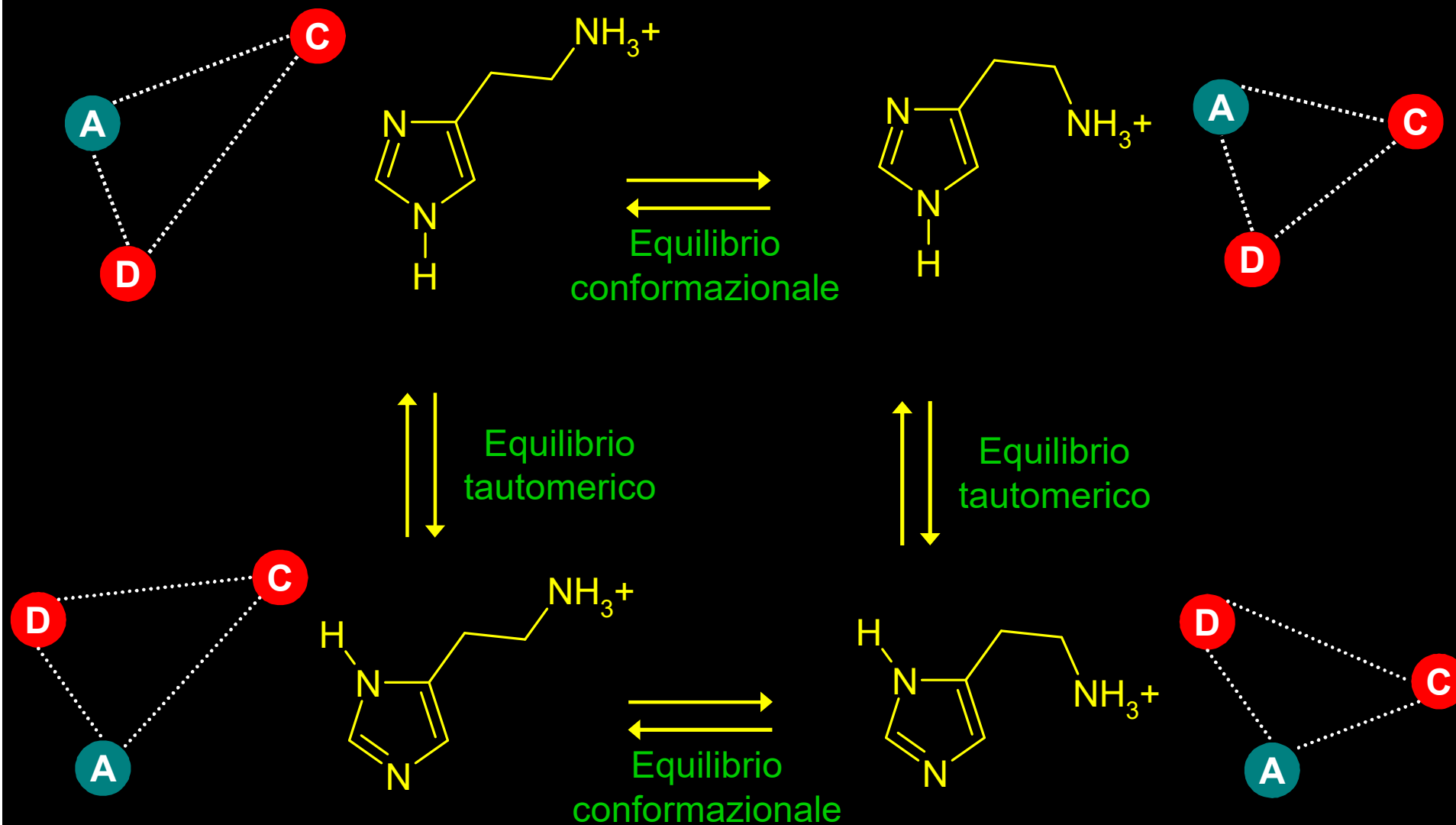


ci ricordiamo dell'equilibrio conformazionale?!?!

e quindi?



... ma quanti farmacofori abbiamo?



... capito il problema, però?

