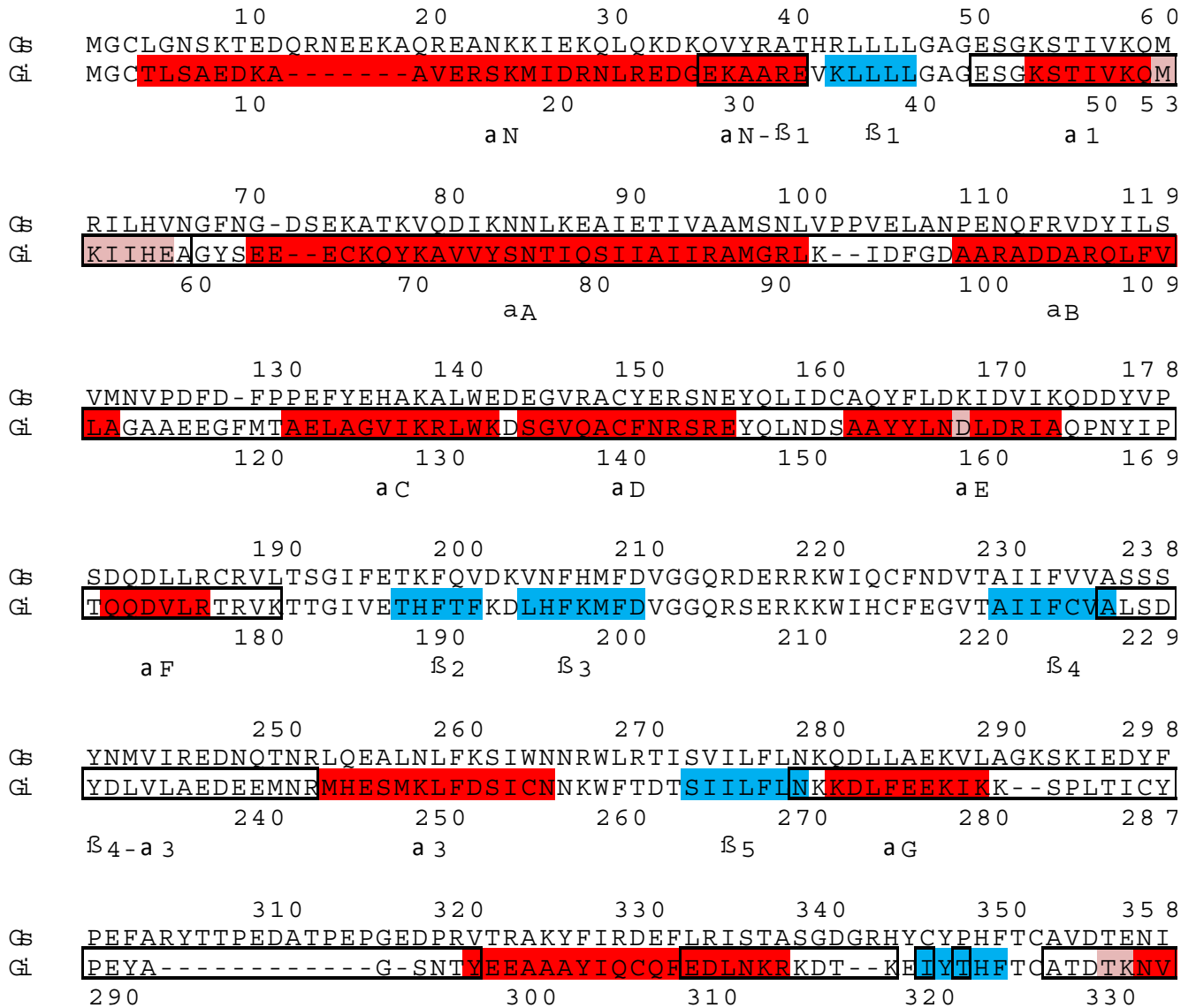


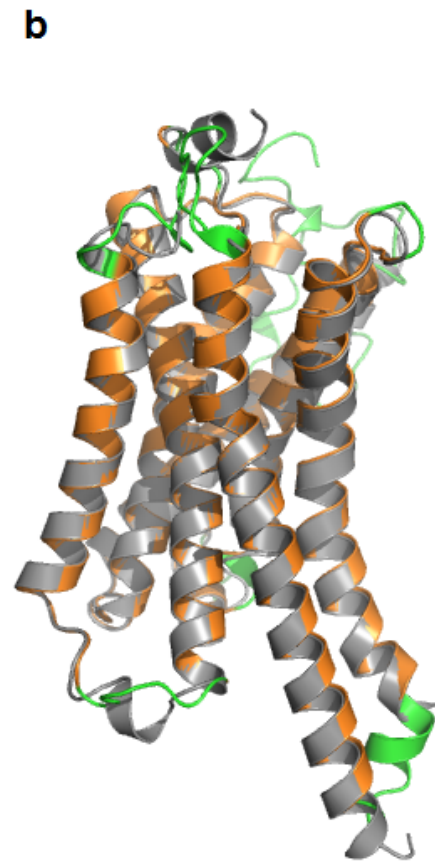
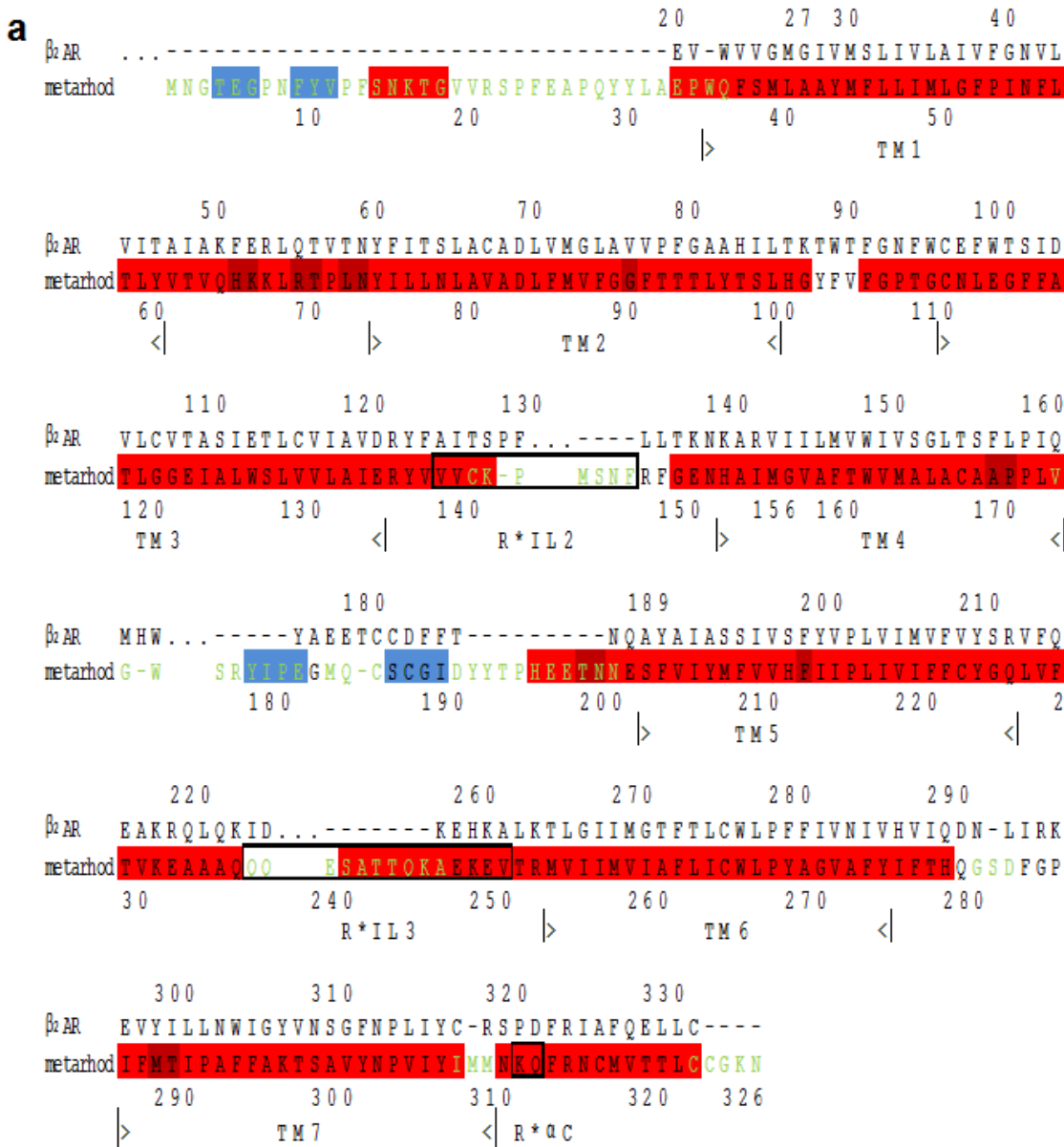
Energetic analysis of the R*-G complex links the $\alpha 5$ helix to GDP release and domain opening

Nathan S. Alexander, Anita M. Preininger, Ali I. Kaya, Richard A. Stein, Heidi E. Hamm, and Jens Meiler

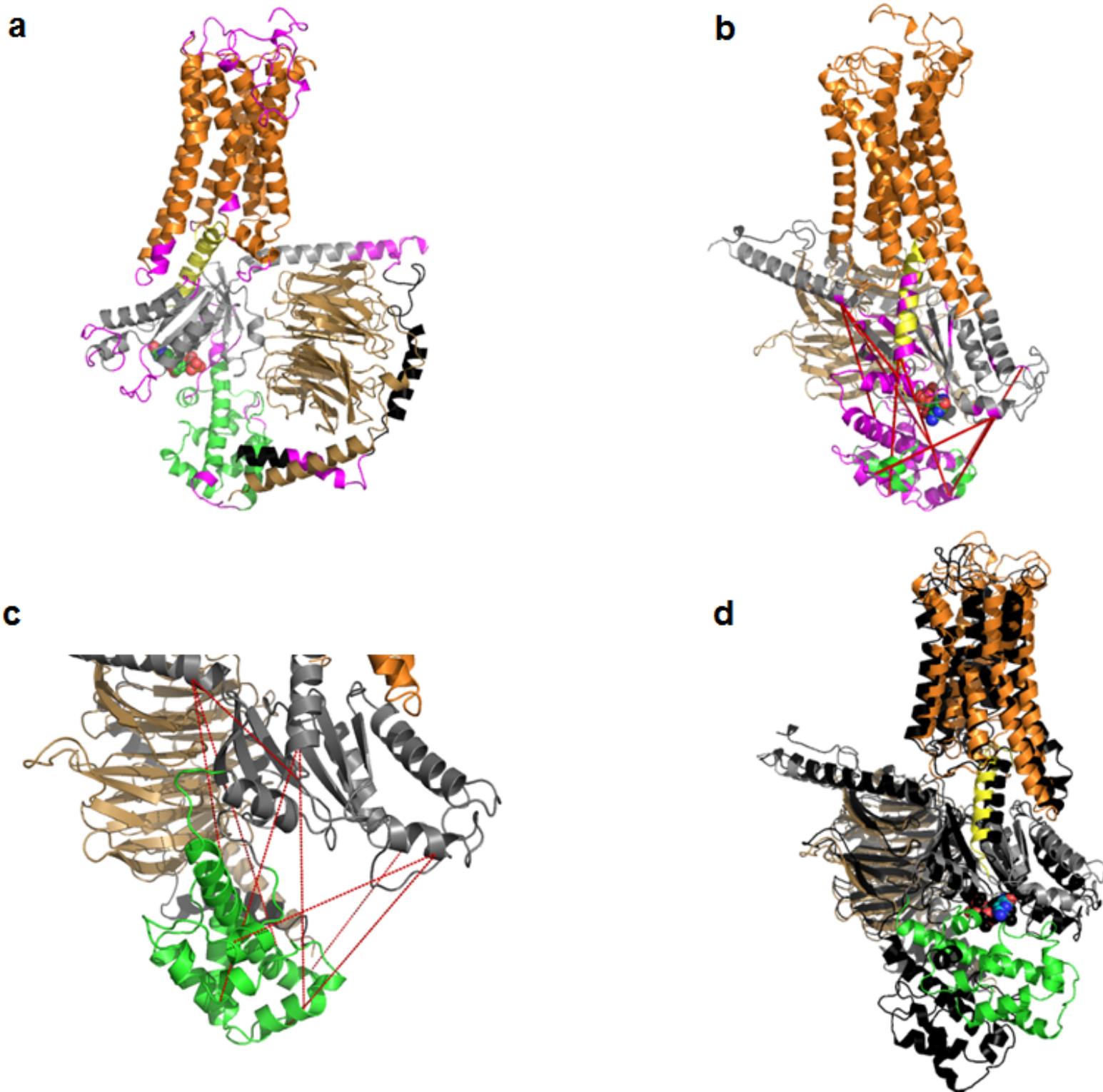
Supplemental Figures



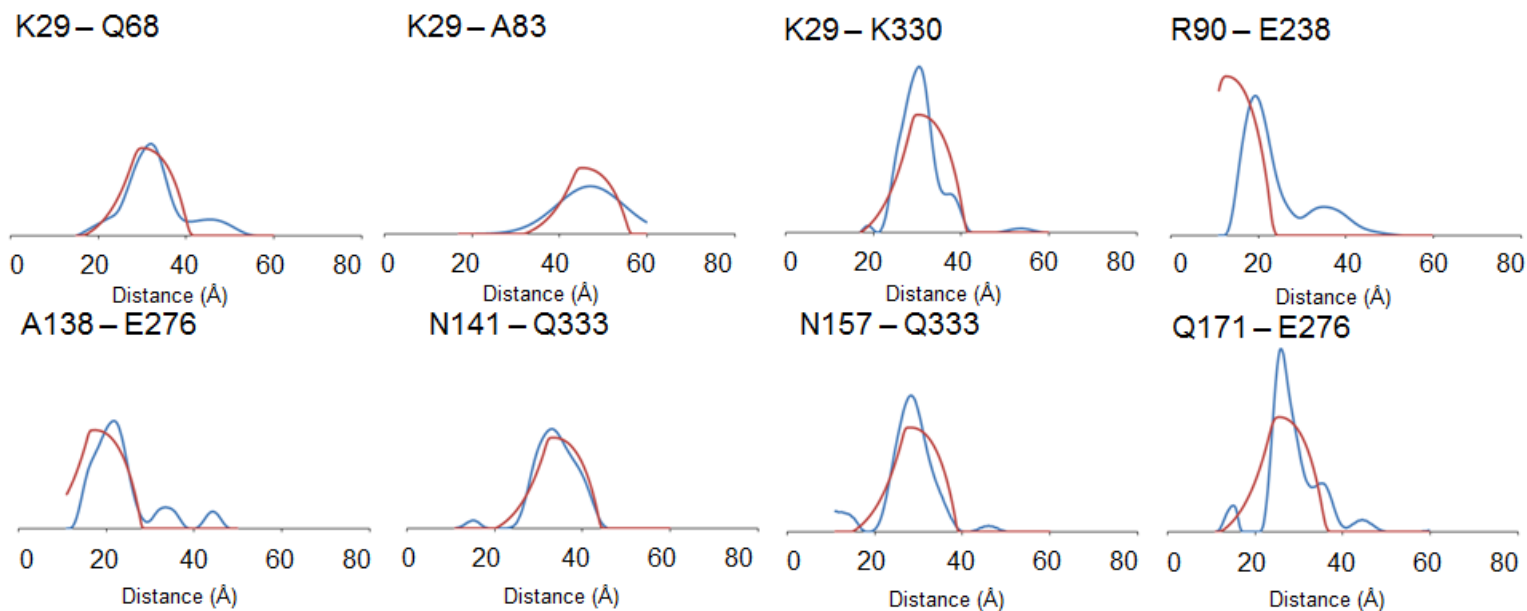
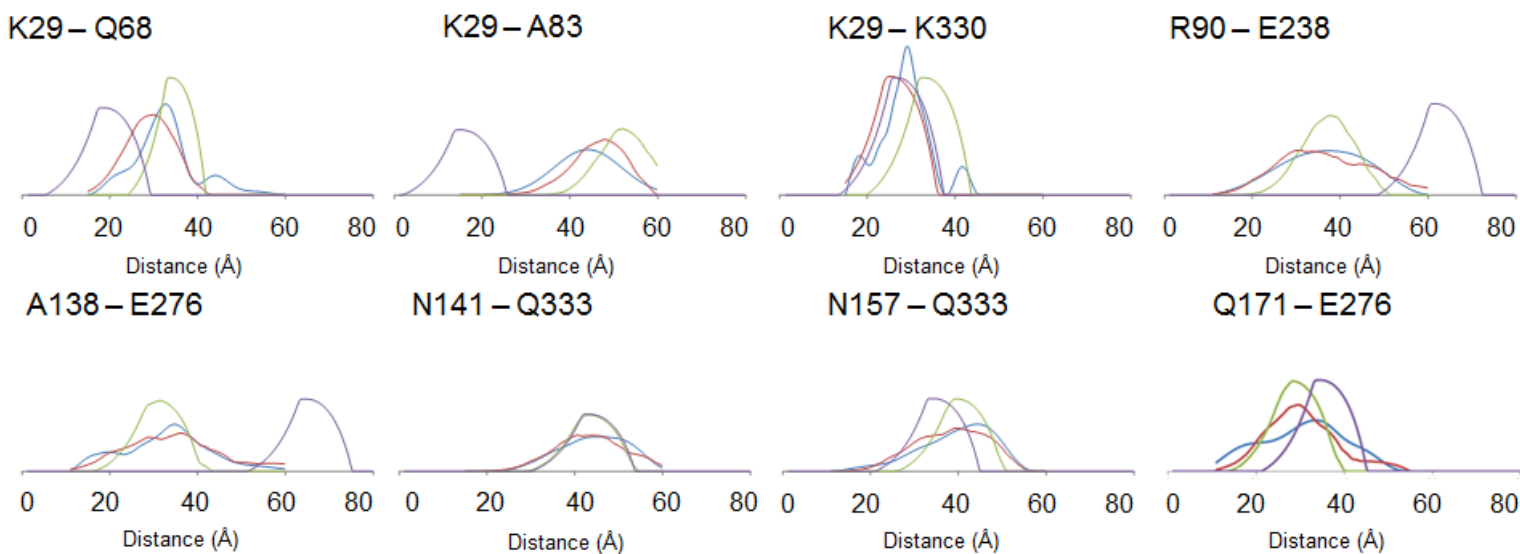
Supplemental Figure 1 Alignment of G_{αi} and G_{αs} sequences used for construction of the initial comparative model of the R*-G_{αi} complex. Alignment is from¹. α-Helices are labeled in red. β-strands are labeled in blue. All secondary structure elements are labeled according to convention in the manuscript. Residue ranges critical for the energetic analysis are framed and named according to convention in the manuscript.



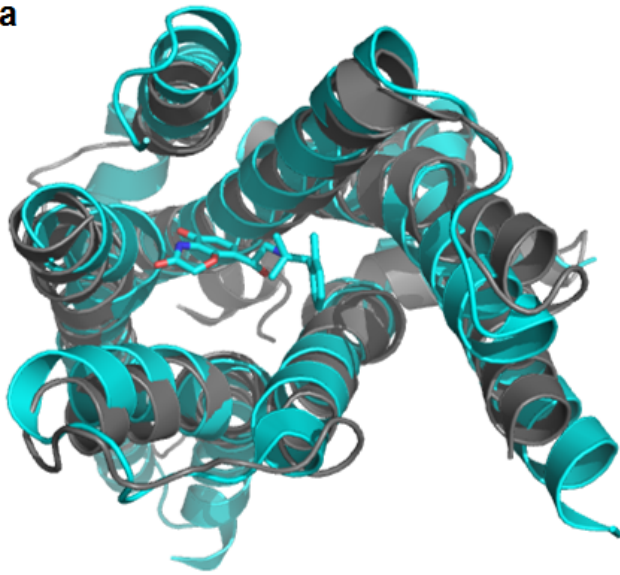
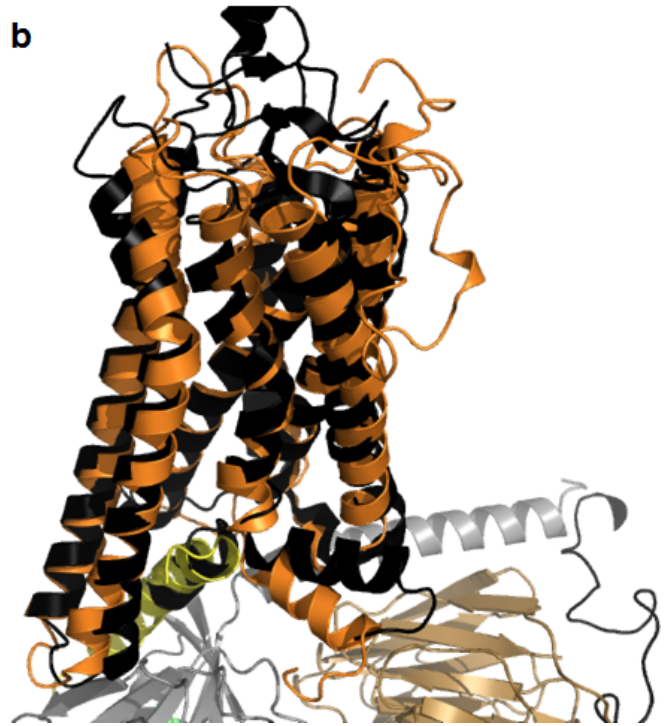
Supplemental Figure 2 Receptor comparative model construction. **(a)** Alignment of B₂-adrenergic receptor with metarhodopsin as performed by MUSTANG². Amino acids groups for the energetic analysis are outlined in bold and named according to sequence location. Strands are highlighted in blue. Helices are highlighted in red; dark red is used to separate consecutive helices. Residues with green text were rebuilt using the Rosetta loop building protocol. **(b)** Superimposition of the receptor comparative model (orange/green) overlaid on the template structure B₂-adrenergic receptor (grey). Residues rebuilt using the Rosetta loop building protocol are colored in green.



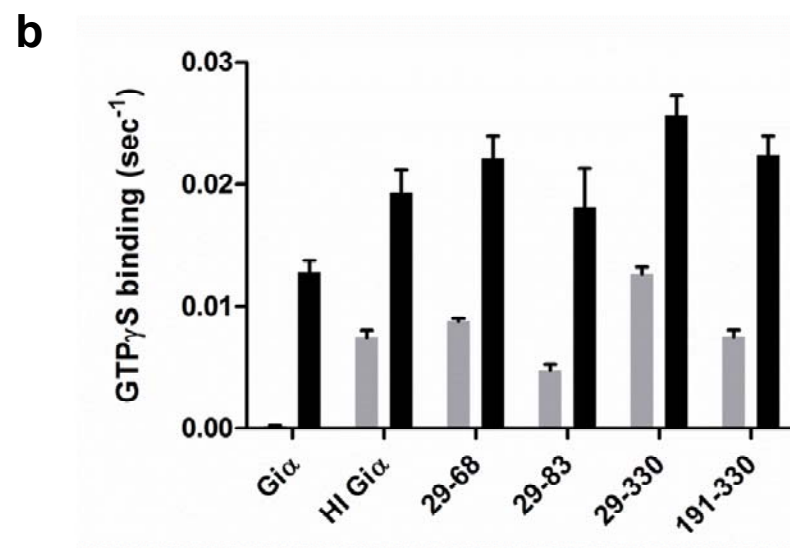
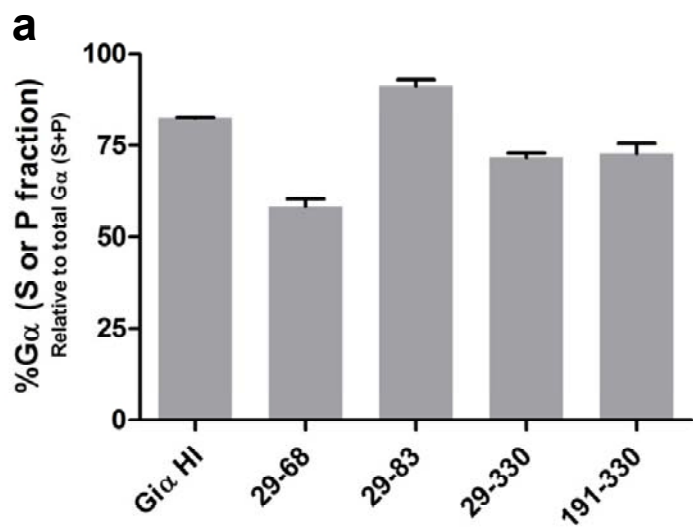
Supplemental Figure 3 Residues of the model construction basis. **(a)** Residues rebuilt using the Rosetta loop building protocol are shown in magenta coloring. **(b)** Residues with experimental data are shown in magenta coloring. Regions not rebuilt using the Rosetta loop building protocol are structured as from the template 3sn6, with the exception of the helical domain (green) which undergoes rigid body movements. In (b) DEER distances measured are shown as red lines. **(c)** Distances measured in $G\alpha$ by DEER. **(d)** In black is the model before relaxation, which is compared to the colored model after relaxation. The rmsd between them is 4.1Å, excluding the helical domain residues 57-180. This shows that the relaxation protocol is a small perturbation protocol.

a**b**

Supplemental Figure 4 DEER distributions compared to model and experimental structures. **(a)** Comparison of the experimental distance distribution as observed in EPR DEER measurements (blue) with the predicted distribution computed from the ensemble model of receptor unbound $G\alpha_i$ (red). **(b)** Comparison of the experimental distance distribution as observed in EPR DEER measurements (blue) with the predicted distribution computed from the ensemble model of the R^*-G_i complex (red). In green we show the distance distribution of our previous model which reproduces average distance accurately but not the distance distribution³. In magenta we display the distance distribution based on the crystal structure⁴.

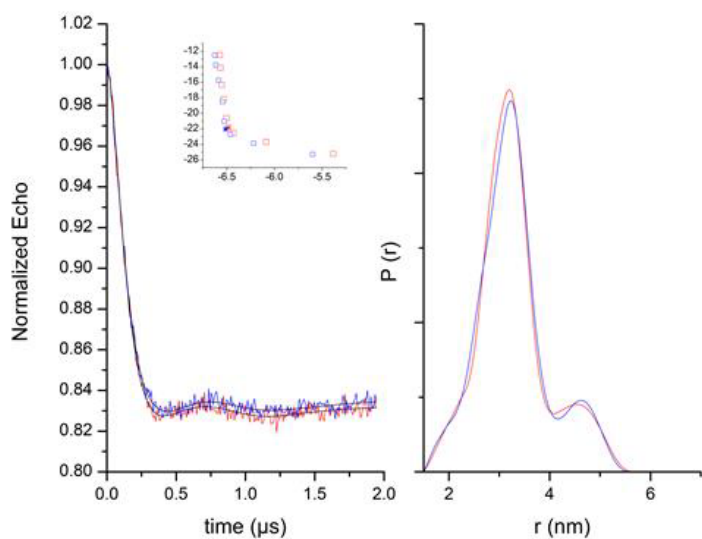
a**b**

Supplemental Figure 5 Comparison of receptor structures. **(a)** Comparison of the activated rhodopsin structure (3DQB, grey) with the β_2 AR (cyan). The ligand does not significantly perturb the structure. **(b)** Comparison of model receptor (salmon) with activated rhodopsin structure (3DQB, black).

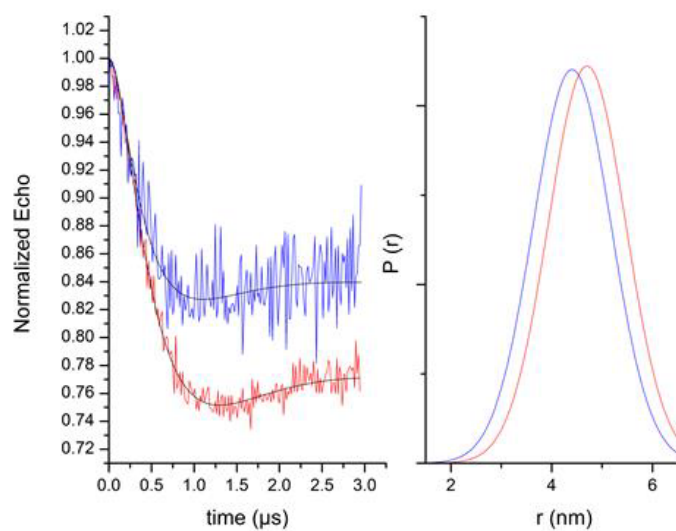


Supplemental Figure 6 Characterization experiments of double mutants. **(a)** Binding of doubly spin-labeled mutant G proteins to rhodopsin in disc membranes. **(b)** Basal (grey) and receptor (black) catalyzed nucleotide exchange rates for the doubly spin-labeled mutant α -subunit. Bars represent the mean of a minimum of three independent experiments, and error bars show standard error of the mean.

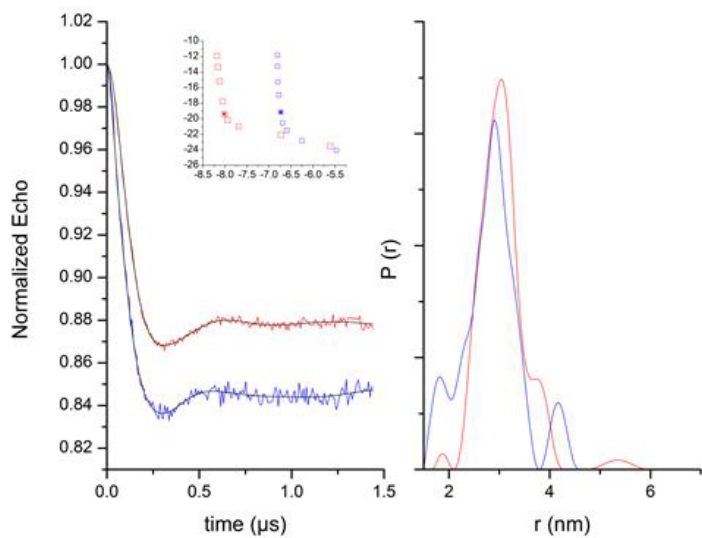
029 - 068



029 - 083



029 - 330



Supplemental Figure 7 DEER echo decays and the corresponding distance distribution fits.

Supplemental Tables

Supplemental Table 1 Agreement of unified model with EPR DEER distance measurements								
Mutants	Receptor Unbound Distance (Å)			Receptor Bound Distance (Å)			β_2 AR-Gs ^a	Source
	DEER	Unified Model $\mu \pm \sigma$		DEER	Unified Model $\mu \pm \sigma$			
29-68	31.3	28.7	± 0.6	32.0	26.8	± 2.6	17.3	new data
29-83	48.7	44.0	± 0.4	45.4	44.1	± 3.9	13.7	new data
29-330	29.7	29.1	± 0.3	28.6	24.0	± 0.3	25.4	new data
90-238	19.2	11.5	± 0.4	38.0	34.5	± 9.4	60.4 ^b	³
138-276	20.0	16.1	± 0.1	34.0	32.8	± 10.4	63.2	³
141-333	33.0	32.2	± 0.2	46.0	41.4	± 6.6	41.8	³
157-333	28.0	26.9	± 0.2	45.0	36.0	± 6.6	32.9	³
171-276	26.0	24.2	± 0.5	34.0	28.1	± 6.5	33.2	³

^a β_2 adrenergic receptor-Gs complex structure from reference⁴

^b Corresponding residue is not resolved in reference⁴. Residue 240 in G_{ci} is used (263 in G_s)

Supplemental Table 2 Agreement ^a of unified model with EPR DEER distance distributions

Mutants	Receptor Unbound	Receptor Bound	β_2 AR-Gs ^b	Previous Ensemble	Source
29-68	0.06	0.11	0.37	0.17	new data
29-83	0.05	0.08	0.65	0.24	new data
29-330	0.05	0.08	0.04	0.19	new data
90-238	0.23	0.02	0.53 ⁴	0.08	³
138-276	0.12	0.03	0.60	0.11	³
141-333	0.02	0.03	0.07	0.07	³
157-333	0.04	0.04	0.16	0.08	³
171-276	0.07	0.05	0.15	0.11	³
Sum	0.65	0.45	2.57	1.06	

^a Calculated as the cumulative EUCLIDIAN distance⁵, where a perfect fit would give a score of 0.0. For each distance within a model, the cone-model probability distribution⁶ is applied to relate the C β -C β distance into a distribution of probable spin label distances. This can then be directly compared to the measured EPR distance probability distribution

^b β_2 adrenergic receptor-G_s complex structure from reference⁴

^c Structural ensemble from reference⁷

Supplemental Table 3 Agreement of unified model with changes in accessibility observed by EPR CW measurements^a

entity	amino acid	CW EPR	Δ exposure	Z-score
α 1	V050	-1 ⁸	-1.0 \pm 0.5	-0.3
α F	Q171	1 ⁸	4.1 \pm 1.5	1.4
switch1	V179	1 ⁸	-3.4 \pm 1.4	-1.1
switch1	K180	2 ⁸	-3.1 \pm 2.2	-1.1
switch1	T182	0 ⁸	2.8 \pm 1.4	1.0
switch1	I184	0 ⁸	2.8 \pm 1.8	0.9
switch1	E186	2 ⁸	-1.5 \pm 0.5	-0.5
switch1	T187	0 ⁸	-1.1 \pm 0.4	-0.4
GTPase	F191	2 ⁹	-1.7 \pm 0.3	-0.6
GTPase	L194	-1 ⁹	-0.7 \pm 0.3	-0.3
switch2	S206	1 ¹⁰	9.3 \pm 0.8	3.2
switch2	K209	0 ¹⁰	0.0 \pm 0.1	-0.0
switch2	W211	0 ¹⁰	0.4 \pm 0.3	0.1
switch2	C214	1 ¹⁰	0.0 \pm 0.2	0.0
switch2	G217	-1 ¹⁰	1.9 \pm 0.7	0.6
α G	L273	2 ⁹	0.6 \pm 0.2	0.2
α 4	A300	-1 ¹⁰	1.1 \pm 0.1	0.4
GTPase	E318	-2 ⁹	-6.3 \pm 0.2	-2.2
GTPase	Y320	-2 ⁹	-3.5 \pm 0.1	-1.2
α 4- β 6	T321	1 ⁹	-2.2 \pm 0.2	-0.7
β 6- α 5	K330	-2 ⁹	-2.0 \pm 0.4	-0.7
β 6- α 5	N331	-2 ⁹	-1.4 \pm 0.2	-0.5
α 5	Q333	0 ⁹	1.0 \pm 0.1	0.3
α 5	F334	-1 ⁹	-2.7 \pm 0.1	-0.9
α 5	T340	0 ⁹	1.3 \pm 0.2	0.4
α 5	V342	-2 ⁹	-2.4 \pm 0.3	-0.8
α 5	I344	-2 ⁹	-3.1 \pm 0.3	-1.1
α 5	K349	-2 ⁹	-2.5 \pm 0.1	-0.9

^a Categorization was done manually using the difference in peak width between receptor bound and receptor unbound CW-EPR measurements. An increasing width going from receptor unbound to the receptor bound state indicates a decrease in mobility, while a decreasing spectral width indicates an increase in mobility¹¹. Here, we use mobility as an indicator of exposure.

Exposure changes going from the receptor unbound to receptor bound state fall into five categories: 2 = large increase; 1 = small increase; 0 = neutral; -1 small decrease; -2 = large decrease.

Supplemental Table 4 Agreement of unified model with changes in dynamics observed H/D exchange measurements

entity	amino acid	H/D exchange ^a	Δ exposure $\mu \pm \sigma$	Z-score
GTPase	A033-Q038	2	-0.4 \pm 0.4	-0.3
α 1	A041-Q052	2	0.8 \pm 1.3	0.6
α 1/helical	M053-I081	1	0.2 \pm 1.9	0.2
helical	I082-A087	0	-0.4 \pm 0.6	-0.3
helical	F095-A099	1	0.0 \pm 0.5	-0.0
helical	A101-A104	1	0.2 \pm 0.2	0.1
helical	Q106-L110	0	0.4 \pm 1.0	0.3
helical	A111-A114	0	0.9 \pm 2.5	0.7
helical	E116-M119	0	-1.4 \pm 2.4	-1.1
helical	E122-L123	0	1.0 \pm 0.2	0.8
helical	V126-G135	0	0.3 \pm 0.6	0.2
helical	I127-F140	0	0.1 \pm 0.5	0.1
helical	L148-A153	2	0.4 \pm 0.9	0.3
helical	N157-I168	0	-0.5 \pm 1.2	-0.3
helical	T170-L175	1	2.2 \pm 1.9	1.7
helical/switch1	T177-V185	2	0.3 \pm 3.7	0.2
GTPase	H188-F196	1	-1.0 \pm 0.8	-0.7
switch2	F199-C214	1	0.6 \pm 2.5	0.5
GTPase	G217-A220	0	-0.1 \pm 1.3	-0.1
β 4- α 3	A226-L232	2	3.6 \pm 2.6	2.8
β 4- α 3/ GTPase	A235-L249	1	0.6 \pm 1.1	0.4
GTPase	S252-W258	0	-0.5 \pm 0.7	-0.4
GTPase	F259-S263	0	-0.9 \pm 0.8	-0.7
GTPase	I264-L268	0	-0.4 \pm 0.7	-0.3
α G	N269-L273	2	0.9 \pm 0.5	0.7
α G	F274-I278	1	0.3 \pm 0.8	0.2
α G	E289-Y290	0	-1.0 \pm 0.2	-0.8
α G	A291-N294	0	-1.1 \pm 2.5	-0.9
GTPase	T295-Y302	0	-0.3 \pm 0.9	-0.2
GTPase	E297-Y302	0	-0.3 \pm 0.8	-0.2
GTPase	Q304-E308	0	-1.5 \pm 1.3	-1.2
α 4-b5	L310-Y320	1	-3.3 \pm 2.9	-2.5
GTPase	H322-A326	1	1.8 \pm 2.4	1.4
β 6- α 5	D328-Q333	2	1.0 \pm 2.2	0.7
α 5	F334-T340	0	-1.3 \pm 1.7	-1.0
α 5	D341-F354	-2	-3.6 \pm 2.4	-2.8

^a Data from ¹²

Supplemental Table 5 Interaction energies across selected interfaces in free and R* bound G_{ai}

free G _{ai}					R*-G _{ai} complex				
GDP G _{ai} interface					R* G _{ai} interface				
entity	amino acid	energy in REU		(Z-score)	entity	amino acid	energy in REU		(Z-score)
GDP		5.1	±0.2	(21)	R* IL2	V138	0.6	±0.0	(21)
α1	S044	1.0	±0.0	(27)	R* IL2	V139	0.8	±0.0	(18)
α1	S047	0.8	±0.0	(24)	R* IL2	K141	0.6	±0.0	(15)
α1	T048	0.9	±0.1	(19)	R* IL2	F146	2.0	±0.1	(25)
helical	Y154	0.8	±0.0	(25)	R* IL3	Q237	1.8	±0.1	(14)
β6- α5	T327	0.5	±0.0	(21)	R* IL3	S240	1.3	±0.0	(50)
α1	cumulative	3.1			R* IL3	T242	1.4	±0.1	(25)
helical	cumulative	0.8			R* IL3	E249	1.0	±0.0	(23)
β6- α5	cumulative	0.9			R* IL3	V250	0.6	±0.1	(14)
αG	cumulative	1.0			R* αC	K311	1.0	±0.2	(5)
					R* αC	Q312	1.4	±0.2	(8)
					R*	cumulative	17.2		
helical domain G _{ai} interface									
entity	amino acid	energy in REU		(Z-score)	αN- β1	R032	1.4	±0.1	(21)
helical	E065	0.9	±0.1	(8)	α4- β6	E308	2.1	±0.0	(49)
helical	R090	0.5	±0.4	(1)	α4- β6	D315	0.6	±0.2	(4)
helical	R144	0.8	±0.1	(15)	α4- β6	K317	0.8	±0.1	(9)
helical	Q147	1.2	±0.1	(9)	α4- β6	T321	1.7	±0.1	(14)
helical	D150	1.5	±0.2	(8)	α5	I344	0.9	±0.1	(19)
helical	Y154	0.8	±0.0	(21)	α5	N347	0.8	±0.0	(21)
helical	Q171	0.5	±0.2	(3)	α5	L348	0.8	±0.1	(15)
helical	L175	1.3	±0.1	(16)	α5	D350	1.8	±0.1	(18)
helical	R178	1.0	±0.1	(15)	α5	C351	0.6	±0.0	(19)
helical	cumulative	10.1			α5	L353	1.4	±0.1	(22)
α1	E043	1.0	±0.1	(16)	α5	F354	0.7	±0.1	(13)
α1	T048	0.7	±0.1	(14)	αN- β1	cumulative	2.2		
α1	K051	0.8	±0.1	(9)	α4- β6	cumulative	5.6		
α1	K054	1.4	±0.1	(19)	α5	cumulative	8.2		
α1	I055	0.7	±0.2	(4)					
β4- α3	V233	0.5	±0.0	(15)					
β4- α3	E238	0.6	±0.4	(1)					
αG	K270	0.8	±0.0	(21)					
αG	K277	0.5	±0.2	(2)					
GDP		2.0	±0.1	(18)					
α1	cumulative	5.5							
β4- α3	cumulative	2.5							
αG	cumulative	1.8							
α5 G _{ai} interface					α5 R*-G _{ai} interface				
entity	amino acid	energy in REU		(Z-score)	entity	amino acid	energy in REU		(Z-score)
β6-α5	A326	2.4	±0.1	(39)	β6-α5	A326	-0.2	±0.1	(5)
β6-α5	T327	1.1	±0.1	(13)	β6-α5	T327	0.0	±0.1	0
β6-α5	D328	0.4	±0.0	(39)	β6-α5	D328	0.4	±0.3	(2)
β6-α5	T329	0.8	±0.0	(40)	β6-α5	T329	0.4	±0.2	(2)
β6-α5	K330	0.0	±0.0	(3)	β6-α5	K330	0.7	±0.3	(3)
α5	N331	0.2	±0.1	(2)	α5	N331	1.7	±0.1	(20)
α5	V332	0.9	±0.0	(27)	α5	V332	1.8	±0.1	(13)
α5	Q333	0.5	±0.0	(32)	α5	Q333	0.5	±0.0	(19)
α5	F334	0.0	±0.0	(0)	α5	F334	1.0	±0.1	(11)
α5	V335	1.1	±0.1	(9)	α5	V335	1.6	±0.1	(32)
α5	F336	2.2	±0.1	(34)	α5	F336	1.9	±0.0	(46)
α5	D337	0.2	±0.0	(13)	α5	D337	0.1	±0.0	(6)
α5	A338	0.2	±0.0	(14)	α5	A338	1.2	±0.0	(35)
α5	V339	1.0	±0.1	(21)	α5	V339	1.4	±0.0	(41)
α5	T340	0.5	±0.0	(17)	α5	T340	0.2	±0.0	(6)
α5	D341	0.0	±0.0	(2)	α5	D341	0.5	±0.1	(5)

$\alpha 5$	V342	0.6	± 0.1	(7)	$\alpha 5$	V342	0.5	± 0.0	(12)
$\alpha 5$	I343	1.1	± 0.0	(42)	$\alpha 5$	I343	0.2	± 0.0	(8)
$\alpha 5$	I344	0.3	± 0.2	(2)	$\alpha 5$	I344	0.9	± 0.1	(19)
$\alpha 5$	K345	0.0	± 0.0	(0)	$\alpha 5$	K345	0.1	± 0.2	(1)
$\alpha 5$	N346	0.1	± 0.1	(1)	$\alpha 5$	N346	0.1	± 0.0	(8)
$\alpha 5$	N347	0.0	± 0.0	(2)	$\alpha 5$	N347	0.8	± 0.0	(21)
$\alpha 5$	L348	0.0	± 0.0	n.d.	$\alpha 5$	L348	0.8	± 0.1	(15)
$\alpha 5$	K349	0.1	± 0.1	(1)	$\alpha 5$	K349	0.7	± 0.5	(1)
$\alpha 5$	D350	0.2	± 0.0	(4)	$\alpha 5$	D350	1.8	± 0.1	(18)
$\alpha 5$	C351	0.0	± 0.0	n.d.	$\alpha 5$	C351	0.6	± 0.0	(19)
$\alpha 5$	G352	0.0	± 0.0	n.d.	$\alpha 5$	G352	0.5	± 0.0	(28)
$\alpha 5$	L353	0.0	± 0.0	n.d.	$\alpha 5$	L353	1.4	± 0.1	(22)
$\alpha 5$	F354	0.0	± 0.0	n.d.	$\alpha 5$	F354	1.3	± 0.1	(23)
$\beta 6$ - $\alpha 5$	cumulative	4.7			$\beta 6$ - $\alpha 5$	cumulative	1.2		
$\alpha 5$	cumulative	9.2			$\alpha 5$	cumulative	21.1		
$\alpha 1$	T048	0.8	± 0.0	(23)	$\alpha 1$	T048	0.0	± 0.1	(0)
$\alpha 1$	Q052	1.5	± 0.0	(39)	$\alpha 1$	Q052	1.0	± 0.1	(16)
$\alpha 1$	M053	0.5	± 0.1	(10)	$\alpha 1$	M053	0.6	± 0.0	(24)
$\alpha 1$	I056	1.1	± 0.0	(32)	$\alpha 1$	I056	0.0	± 0.0	n.d.
GTPase	F191	0.9	± 0.0	(21)	GTPase	F191	1.8	± 0.1	(14)
GTPase	K192	0.2	± 0.1	(3)	GTPase	K192	0.8	± 0.0	(20)
GTPase	L194	0.2	± 0.1	(3)	GTPase	L194	0.5	± 0.1	(8)
GTPase	F196	0.8	± 0.1	(16)	GTPase	F196	1.0	± 0.0	(26)
GTPase	I265	0.6	± 0.0	(28)	GTPase	I265	0.8	± 0.1	(14)
GTPase	F267	0.6	± 0.1	(7)	GTPase	F267	0.9	± 0.1	(18)
GTPase	E318	0.0	± 0.0	(0)	GTPase	E318	0.8	± 0.3	(2)
GTPase	Y320	0.6	± 0.1	(10)	GTPase	Y320	1.2	± 0.2	(6)
GTPase	H322	0.7	± 0.1	(9)	GTPase	H322	0.8	± 0.1	(12)
					R* IL2	V138	0.6	± 0.0	(21)
					R* IL2	V139	0.8	± 0.0	(18)
					R* IL2	K141	0.6	± 0.0	(15)
					R* IL3	E249	0.7	± 0.1	(15)
					R* IL3	V250	0.6	± 0.1	(14)
					R* aC	K311	0.7	± 0.1	(8)
					R* aC	Q312	1.4	± 0.2	(9)
GDP		1.4	± 0.1	(11)	GDP		0.2	± 0.0	(5)
$\alpha 1$	cumulative	5.0			$\alpha 1$	cumulative	2.2		
GTPase	cumulative	6.4			GTPase	cumulative	10.3		
R*	cumulative	0.0			R*	cumulative	8.6		

Supplemental Table 6 Comparison of inter-residue distances^a within the β_2 adrenergic receptor-Gs complex structure and model structures at the R* | G_{ai} interface

G _α	R* 138	R* 139	R* 249	R* 250	R* 311	
32	-0.8	-1.3	4.5	2.1	0.2	0.3
308	0.1	0.9	4.2	1.8	6.1	0.1
317	-1.9	0.4	8.2	4.8	3.1	0.1
321	1.0	1.5	4.3	2.4	5.1	0.1
344	1.0	3.5	7.5	6.4	3.4	0.1
347	4.3	3.7	4.4	3.6	2.1	0.0
348	-4.6	-1.2	8.7	6.3	5.3	0.0
350	2.0	-0.3	-0.7	-2.6	5.3	0.1
	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	Models' Distances Std. Dev.^b

^a values are crystal structure distance minus the average model distance, therefore blue indicates larger model distances, red indicates larger crystal structure distance
^b for model structures, the average of the standard deviation of distances between the given residue and the residues of the opposing interface, indicating the amount of residue-residue interaction variation within the ensemble of models

Supplemental Table 7 Comparison of inter-residue distances^a within the β_2 adrenergic receptor-Gs complex structure and model structures at the $\alpha 5$ | R*-G_{ai} interface

$\alpha 5$	R* 048	R* 194	R* 196	R* 265	R* 267	R* 318	R* 320	R* 322	R* 138	R* 139	R* 249	R* 250	R* 311	
328	3.7	3.5	3.5	0.6	0.0	-1.3	-0.5	-1.4	1.9	0.9	2.8	1.0	4.3	0.1
329	-3.3	3.9	1.7	1.6	-0.2	1.5	2.6	1.9	4.9	4.9	7.6	6.2	6.4	0.1
330	1.4	6.0	5.4	1.8	-0.2	0.6	1.0	-0.9	4.6	3.3	5.3	3.5	6.6	0.1
331	5.2	0.4	2.0	5.1	6.1	3.5	4.2	4.2	1.4	0.9	6.8	3.7	6.9	0.1
332	-0.3	5.4	4.8	-1.7	-4.5	-1.8	-2.2	-4.7	2.7	1.4	3.4	1.5	3.9	0.1
333	-1.1	-0.6	-3.3	-0.2	-0.3	0.3	1.6	1.9	1.6	1.9	6.2	4.4	3.8	0.1
334	4.1	-1.8	-0.4	4.9	5.5	3.2	5.0	5.9	0.3	0.2	6.6	3.6	6.4	0.1
335	2.9	4.5	5.9	1.4	-0.7	-0.1	-1.0	-3.6	2.2	0.5	3.7	1.0	5.7	0.1
336	-2.0	4.5	0.0	-4.2	-4.7	-2.2	-2.3	-3.1	3.1	2.4	4.4	3.0	3.1	0.1
337	0.4	-3.4	-4.4	0.7	0.9	1.4	3.0	2.9	0.9	1.6	7.0	5.0	4.8	0.1
338	4.0	-0.7	1.3	5.1	3.5	3.2	4.6	2.6	0.0	-0.8	5.5	2.1	6.9	0.1
339	0.8	5.4	4.4	-3.0	-3.3	-2.4	-4.7	-4.6	3.0	1.0	3.0	0.7	5.0	0.1
340	-1.4	0.6	-3.6	-3.8	-3.0	-1.9	-1.5	-1.2	2.9	3.0	5.5	4.2	2.9	0.1
341	1.9	-4.1	-3.0	1.8	1.8	3.2	3.8	2.7	-0.7	0.0	7.5	4.8	6.2	0.1
342	2.9	1.9	2.8	1.0	0.2	0.6	-1.1	-1.4	0.9	-1.3	3.2	-0.4	6.8	0.1
343	-1.3	3.3	0.0	-5.1	-4.5	-4.9	-4.7	-3.8	4.8	2.9	3.2	1.8	3.3	0.1
344	-0.4	-3.1	-4.6	-1.9	-1.2	0.0	0.4	0.6	1.0	3.5	7.5	6.4	3.4	0.1
345	2.5	-2.8	-1.4	1.5	1.5	3.9	2.0	1.4	-2.6	-3.2	7.0	2.8	7.8	0.1
346	1.6	2.4	2.2	-1.4	-1.6	-2.8	-2.9	-2.5	1.9	-1.1	0.8	-2.3	6.0	0.1
347	-1.4	-0.3	-2.7	-3.8	-3.4	-3.2	-2.7	-2.1	4.3	3.7	4.4	3.6	2.1	0.1
348	1.5	-3.3	-3.1	0.3	0.9	2.4	1.8	1.9	-4.6	-1.2	8.7	6.3	5.3	0.1
349	2.8	-1.1	0.3	0.8	0.8	2.2	0.2	0.1	-3.1	-4.9	3.3	-2.3	9.5	0.1
350	-0.2	1.0	0.1	-3.1	-3.2	-3.8	-3.7	-3.3	2.0	-0.3	-0.7	-2.6	5.3	0.1
	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	Models' Distances Std. Dev.^b

^a values are crystal structure distance minus the average model distance, therefore blue indicates larger model distances, red indicates larger crystal structure distance

^b for model structures, the average of the standard deviation of distances between the given residue and the residues of the opposing interface, indicating the amount of residue-residue distance variation within the ensemble of models

Supplemental Table 8 Average and S.E.M. (in parentheses) of nucleotide exchange rates ($\times 10^{-3} \text{ sec}^{-1}$) for basal and stimulated states

	Gai	M53C	F196C	E308C	F336C
basal	0.636 (0.077)	1.713 (0.109)	1.547 (0.067)	0.632 (0.027)	10.694 (0.292)
stimulated	11.278 (1.220)	8.115 (0.604)	6.116 (1.086)	4.358 (0.167)	4.453 (0.660)

Supplemental Table 9 Crystal contacts in 3SN6 as determined by COOT ¹³

Helical Domain	PRO 122	GLN 337	Receptor
Helical Domain	Lys 151	SER 352	GTPase Domain
Helical Domain	GLU 164	ASN 31	Nanobody
Helical Domain	ARG 165	ASN 268	Beta Subunit
Helical Domain	ASP 180	SER 64	Nanobody

Supplemental Note

Receptor unbound model of G_i

A comparative model of G $\alpha_i\beta\gamma$ was constructed based on the PDB coordinates 1GOT^{3, 14}. The β sequence was set to bovine G β_1 (UniProt ID 62871), and the G γ sequence was set to G γ_1 (UniProt ID 02698). The model of the receptor unbound state was then subjected to 100 independent relaxation trajectories that iterate between backbone perturbation, fast side chain optimization using a rotamer library¹⁵, and all atom gradient minimization in ROSETTA full-atom force field¹⁶. The command line used for relaxation was:

```
relax.linuxgccrelease -database rosetta-3.3/rosetta_database/ -  
in:file:s start_structure.pdb -out:file:fullatom -out:prefix m_16_ -  
run::constant_seed -run::jran $seed_number -nstruct 2 -  
in:file:fullatom -use_input_sc -relax:fast -in:file:extra_res_fa  
GDP_1gp2.params
```

The ten models with lowest ROSETTA energy form the conformational ensemble representing G $\alpha_i\beta\gamma$ in the receptor unbound state. GDP was present throughout all steps of the protocol.

Receptor bound model R*-G_i

We focus on the receptor – G protein interface and the helical domain of G α , which correspond to two regions of the β_2 AR-G_s crystal structure exhibiting weak electron density. It is because of the weak electron density and the resulting placement of the helical domain in an orientation unanticipated by our previous modeling efforts that the helical domain of G α was one point of focus. Our model seeks to add detail to these regions deriving a model that can be interrogated.

The allosteric mechanism by which this causes GDP release is unknown and of critical importance for understanding the GPCR-G protein system. It is therefore unfortunate that this region also exhibits weak electron density. However, the crystal structure is extremely suitable for our modeling efforts. The crystal structure is used as a template to build a homology model of the rhodopsin-transducin complex. During model construction, only the backbone coordinates of the template crystal structure are used as a starting point. This means that any errors in the placement of crystal structure side chains will not be propagated into our model. The accuracy of Rosetta's scoring functions is the key to mitigating the effects of errors and weak electron density in the crystal structure on our modeling efforts. It has been shown that the scoring functions of Rosetta are able to accurately identify the native structure of a given protein sequence to an accuracy which resolves the proper orientation of the side chains¹⁶.

The weak electron density could not only result in incorrect side chain orientations in the crystal structure but also incorrect positioning of backbone coordinates. Further, it is our objective to model R*-G_i complex which will deviate from the β_2 AR-G_s complex in important details. Therefore, we use the backbone coordinates of the crystal structure as the starting point for our homology model. However, the Rosetta structural refinement protocol utilized in our manuscript has been shown to be able to drive a protein into the native structure for its sequence, when the starting structure is within 3-4Å of the native structure. We, therefore, do not require that the template structure provides the exactly correct structure for its sequence, or the sequence for which we are building our homology model. We require only that the template structure provides starting coordinates near to our target sequence's native structure.

The crystal structure of the β 2AR-Gs protein complex (PDB 3SN6¹⁷) is used as the template for constructing a comparative model for the rhodopsin bound state of $G\alpha_i\beta\gamma$. The $G\alpha_i$ sequence of *Rattus norvegicus* (UniProt ID 10824) is used and threaded onto the G_s sequence according to the sequence alignment of¹. The BioChemical Library (BCL) was used to perform the threading according to the command line:

```
bcl.exe TemplateModel -alignment sequences/ratgai1_3sn6A_reallyA.pir -
inputformat pir -start_model 3sn6A.pdb -prefix chain_a_thread_ -
write_zero_coordinates -print_problem_αAs -message_level Debug
```

Next, the helical domain of $G\alpha$ is placed in the average position derived from previous EPR DEER data³. This was accomplished by superimposing the nucleotide binding domains of the threaded $G\alpha_i$ structure and the bound state model from³ using the “super” command in PYMOL¹⁸. The helical domain of the threaded $G\alpha_i$ was then moved into the same relative position as the previously published model using the “super” command in PYMOL.

Missing regions of $G\alpha_i$ were reconstructed using the ROSETTA loop building protocol. The command line used was:

```
loopmodel.linuxgccrelease -fa_input -database rosetta-
3.2/rosetta_database/ -loops::input_pdb
chain_a_thread_threaded_3sn6A.pdb -out:prefix decoys/chain_a_01_ -
nstruct 1 -loops::loop_file chain_a.loops -loops::frag_sizes 9 3 1 -
loops::frag_files αArgai109_05.200_v1_3 αArgai103_05.200_v1_3 none -
loops::build_initial -loops::remodel quick_ccd -loops::refine no -
loops::relax no -out::file::fullatom
```

The regions that were built included residues 1-12, 52-66, 88-97, 116-120, 178-185, 227-241, 280-283, 286-295, and 314-318.

The receptor sequence was aligned using structure-structure alignment of 3SN6 with the structure of metarhodopsin 3PQR¹⁹ using MUSTANG²⁰. The metarhodopsin sequence was then threaded onto the 3SN6 structure using the BCL command line given above for $G\alpha_i$. Missing residues were added using the command line below:

```
loopmodel.linuxgccrelease -loops::input_pdb
receptor_threaded_3sn6O.pdb -out:prefix receptor_O_ -nstruct 1 -
file:spanfile 3pqrO.spanfile -fa_input -database rosetta-
3.2/rosetta_database/ -loops::loop_file 3pqrO.loops -loops::frag_sizes
9 3 1 -loops::frag_files α3pqrO09_05.200_v1_3 α3pqrO03_05.200_v1_3
none -loops::build_initial -loops::remodel quick_ccd -loops::refine no
-loops::relax no
```

The residues that were modeled during loop building included residues 1-33, 34-36, 140-146, 173-181, 183-185, 190-200, 237-246, 280-282, 307-309, and 322-326. The contents of the span file used are given below, where spanning definitions are taken from the PDB-TM:

```
TM region definition for LeuT from PDB-TM 3pqr
7 326
antiparallel
n2c
    40    65    40    65
    69    96    69    96
```

113	137	113	137
149	172	149	172
203	228	203	228
250	274	250	274
290	311	390	311

The sequence of G β and G γ were modeled as G β_1 (Uniprot ID 02693) and G γ_1 (UniProt ID 02693). For G β_1 , this entailed only changing the first residue in the 3SN6 structure to a methionine. For G γ_1 , a blast alignment was performed between the G γ_2 sequence (UniProt ID 63212) of 3SN6. Threading and loop building were performed as described above. The residues that were built to complete the sequence included 1-5, 15-28, and 65-74.

After loop construction, the model was relaxed in ROSETTA 46 times. To accommodate the receptor, the relaxation utilized ROSETTA's full atom membrane potential²¹. The relax command line used was:

```
relax.linuxgccrelease -/rosetta-3.3/rosetta_database/ -in:file:s
bound_gdp.pdb -out:file:fullatom -out:prefix m_0_ -run::constant_seed
-run::jran $seed_number -nstruct 1 -in:file:fullatom -use_input_sc -
relax:fast -relax:membrane -score:weights membrane_highres.wts -
membrane:normal_cycles 100 -membrane:normal_mag 15 -
membrane:center_mag 2 -file:spanfile 3pqr_renum.span -
constraints::cst_fa_file bound.cst -constraints::cst_fa_weight 12 -
constraints::epr_distance -in:file:extra_res_fa GDP_lgp2.params
```

The contents of the restraint file were:

```
AtomPair CB 90 CB 238 SPLINE EPR_DISTANCE 38 1.0 0.5
AtomPair CB 157 CB 333 SPLINE EPR_DISTANCE 45 1.0 0.5
AtomPair CB 171 CB 276 SPLINE EPR_DISTANCE 34 1.0 0.5
AtomPair CB 141 CB 333 SPLINE EPR_DISTANCE 46 1.0 0.5
AtomPair CB 138 CB 276 SPLINE EPR_DISTANCE 34 1.0 0.5
```

The contents of the span defining TM regions was derived from the PDB-TM:

```
TM region definition for 3pqr
7 1095
antiparallel
n2c
808 833 808 833
837 864 837 864
881 905 881 905
917 940 917 940
971 996 971 996
1018 1042 1018 1042
1058 1079 1058 1079
```

The model with lowest ROSETTA energy was used as the starting point for further modeling of the R*-G_i complex.

Helical domain position sampling

The BioChemicalLibrary (BCL) was used to perform rigid body conformational sampling of the helical domain in G α relative to the nucleotide binding domain. EPR distance restraints will be used for filtering models in a later step and therefore are not used here in order to sample the largest conformational space. The BCL command line used for sampling was:

```
bcl.exe Fold -protocols Default Dock -mutate_protocols Default Dock -  
score_protocols Default Dock -prefix m_356 -nmodels 2 -native  
m_12_bound_gdp_0001.pdb -start_model m_12_bound_gdp_0001.pdb -  
use_native_pool -mc_number_iterations 750 500 -min_sse_size 0 0 0 -  
 $\alpha$ Aclass AABackBone -mc_temperature_fraction 0.5 0.2 -quality RMSD -  
domain_specify helical_bound_23.domain -random_seed $seed_number
```

The maximum translation and rotation of the helical domain allowed to occur in a single Monte Carlo step was 10.0Å and 60°, respectively. The residues 58-62 and 178-185 linking the helical domain to the nucleotide binding domain were removed to allow free movement of the helical domain. In addition, to ensure the helical domain could again be reconnected to the nucleotide binding domain, the loop closure tolerance was set to zero.

Models were filtered to remove those with clashes and 743 remained after filtering. Each of the models underwent four independent ROSETTA loop building trajectories to reconnect the helical and nucleotide binding domains of G α . Residues 57-63 and 177-186 were built using the following command line:

```
loopmodel.linuxgccrelease -loops::input_pdb bcl.pdb -out:prefix m_0 -  
nstruct 4 -loops::loop_file chain_a.loops -run::constant_seed -  
run::jran $seed_number -fa_input -database rosetta-  
3.2/rosetta_database/ -loops::frag_sizes 9 3 1 -loops::frag_files  
 $\alpha$ Argai109_05.200_v1_3  $\alpha$ Argai103_05.200_v1_3 none -loops::build_initial  
-loops::remodel quick_ccd -loops::refine no -loops::relax no -  
out::file::fullatom
```

After modeling the missing residues, each model was relaxed in ROSETTA. The command line for relaxation includes:

```
relax.linuxgccrelease -database rosetta-3.3/rosetta_database/ -  
in:file:s m_0S_0004.pdb -out:file:fullatom -out:prefix m_0_ -  
run::constant_seed -run::jran $seed_number -nstruct 1 -  
in:file:fullatom -relax:fast -relax:membrane -score:weights  
membrane_highres.wts -membrane:normal_cycles 100 -membrane:normal_mag  
15 -membrane:center_mag 2 -file:spanfile 3pqr_renum.span -  
in:file:extra_res_fa GDP_1gp2.params -constrain_relax_to_start_coords
```

The best relaxed model according to ROSETTA score for each model was determined. These were then used for finding subsets of models which agree with experimentally measured distance probability distributions.

An ensemble of helical domain positions consistent with EPR distance restraints

The BCL was used to perform the Monte Carlo optimization of finding a set of models which reproduce the EPR measured distance probability distributions. The double mutant EPR measurements that were used included 90-238, 138-276, 141-333, 157-333, and 171-76. Each distribution was trimmed to a maximum of under 60Å. The command line for optimization was:

```
bcl.exe FitEPRDistribution -exp_hist_list epr_distributions_trimmed.ls
-exp_hist_data_columns 0 1 -model_list relaxed_best_renum_full.ls 0 -
num_fits 1000 -start_size_range 5 20 -prefix fit_01/ -
terminate_criteria 0.1 2500 -use_pdbid_numbering -message_level
Standard
```

The protocol for the minimization is as follows. An initial ensemble with between 5-20 models is randomly selected from the pool of all models. Next, a maximum of 2500 Monte Carlo steps occurs, where a step includes the removal, addition, or swapping of a model in the current ensemble of models. Changes to the ensemble are scored and accepted or rejected based upon the cumulative EUCLIDIAN distance. For each distance distribution, the cumulative EUCLIDIAN distance is calculated between the experimental distribution and the distribution derived from the current ensemble of models. The total score of the current ensemble is the sum of the cumulative EUCLIDIAN distances. This procedure was performed in 1000 independent trajectories. The ensemble with the smallest total cumulative EUCLIDIAN distance score is used as the representative model of the R*-G_i complex.

Comparing EPR CW observed changes in exposure with models of free G_i and R*-G_i

Using CW-EPR, the mobility of a side chain can be measured, and it is assumed that the mobility of the side chain indicates its exposure. Buried residues will have many neighbors and be immobile, while exposed side chains will have fewer neighbors and be more mobile. This correlation has been demonstrated experimentally but is imperfect²². To avoid over-interpretation of the experimental data, we manually classified the experimental measurements into five categories depending on the magnitude and sign of exposure change: strong decrease (-2) to strong increase (+2) (Supplemental Table 2).

For our models of free G_i and R*-G_i we calculated solvent accessibility in the ensembles using a neighbor count measure that is optimized to correlate with relative solvent accessible surface area (rSASA)²³. The accessibility change between the unbound and bound states predicted by the model was calculated. This was accomplished by taking all residues and calculating their neighbor count in the receptor bound (RB) and unbound (RU) and states²³. The change in neighbor count between the two states is summarized for the ensemble of models by the average and standard deviation (Supplemental Table 2 and Supplemental Table 3). The average change in neighbor count for an individual residue is calculated as $\overline{\Delta NC} = \frac{\sum_i \sum_j (NC_i^{RB} - NC_j^{RU})}{N_{RB} * N_{RU}}$, where NC_i^{RB} and NC_j^{RU} are the receptor bound and receptor unbound neighbor counts of a residue of interest in models i and j , respectively. N_{RB} and N_{RU} are the number of models in the receptor bound and receptor unbound ensembles, respectively. As expected, model and experiment agree in the direction of change for the majority (61%) of the cases yielding a moderate correlation coefficient of 0.33.

To plot differences between predicted and experimentally observed exposure changes, the $\overline{\Delta NC}$ for each residue is converted to a z-score relative to the other residues of interest as $Z_{\overline{\Delta NC}} = \frac{\overline{\Delta NC}}{\sigma_{\overline{\Delta NC}}}$, where $\sigma_{\overline{\Delta NC}}$ is the standard deviation of all $\overline{\Delta NC}$. The z-score indicates the number of standard deviations of a given $\overline{\Delta NC}$. In Figure 3, the difference between experimental classification and model z-scores are plotted.

The command line used for analysis of mobility measurements is given below:

```
bcl-all-static.exe AnalyzeRestraintAgreement -pdb_list
bound_ensemble.ls -analysis_prefix analysis -analysis_type_enumerated
```

```
'AccessibilityChange
(filename_postfix=.AnalyzeAccessibilityChange,start_ensemble_filename=
unbound_ensemble.ls,experimental_data_filename=data_formatted.cst,mean
_min_cutoff=0,mean_max_cutoff=9999,zscore_min_cutoff=0,zscore_max_cuto
ff=9999,pymol_output_filename="accessibility.pml",ensemble_representat
ive_index=0,ensemble_representative_from_start_ensemble=1,gradient_min
=-4,gradient_max=4,direct_relation=0)'
```

Comparing H/D exchange observed changes in exposure with models of free G_i and R^*G_i

Using H/D exchange experiments the solvent accessibility of amino acids can be measured. Buried residues will be difficult to access and experience little H/D exchange as compared to solvent exposed ones²⁴. The protein is digested and the ratio of H/D exchange is determined for the resulting peptides using mass spectrometry. To avoid over-interpretation of the experimental data, we manually classified the experimental measurements into five categories depending on the magnitude and sign of exposure change: strong decrease (-2) to strong increase (+2) (Supplemental Table 2).

Per residue exposure changes were computed as discussed above. The exposure change for stretches of amino acids was predicted by averaging $\overline{\Delta NC}$ over the respective residues. As expected, model and experiment agree in the direction of change for the majority (72%) of the cases yielding a moderate correlation coefficient of 0.56.

The command line used for analysis of H/D exchange measurements is given below:

```
bcl-all-static.exe AnalyzeRestraintAgreement -pdb_list
bound_ensemble.ls -analysis_prefix hd_exchange -
analysis_type_enumerated 'AccessibilityChange
(filename_postfix=.AnalyzeAccessibilityChange,start_ensemble_filename=
unbound_ensemble.ls,experimental_data_filename=data_uniq.cst.bak,mean_
_min_cutoff=0,mean_max_cutoff=9999,zscore_min_cutoff=0,zscore_max_cutof
f=9999,pymol_output_filename="accessibility_hdexchange.pml",ensemble_r
epresentative_index=0,ensemble_representative_from_start_ensemble=1,gr
radient_min=-4,gradient_max=4,direct_relation=0)'
```

Energetic analysis of key interfaces in the complex

The Rosetta $\Delta\Delta G$ protocol²⁵ is used to calculate the interaction energies of four interfaces in the $G\alpha_i$ and $R^*G\alpha_i$ complex. These interfaces included: $G\alpha_i$ -helical domain| $G\alpha_i$ -GTPase domain interface, GDP| $G\alpha_i$ domain interface, R^* | $G\alpha_i$ domain interface, and C-terminal helix $\alpha 5$ | $G\alpha_i$ domain.

The $G\alpha_i$ -helical domain| $G\alpha_i$ -GTPase domain interface involves residues in $G\alpha_i$ and is most relevant for the receptor unbound state of $G\alpha_i$. The $G\alpha_i$ -helical domain is considered to be residues 61-180. The $G\alpha_i$ -GTPase domain is considered to be residues 1-60 and 181-354. The protocol keeps $G\alpha_i$ -GTPase and GDP in place while moving the $G\alpha_i$ -helical domain away to calculate the change in energy.

The GDP| $G\alpha_i$ domain interface $\Delta\Delta G$ calculation includes all residues of $G\alpha_i$ and the bound GDP molecule and is most relevant for the receptor unbound state of $G\alpha_i$. The GDP is moved away from its binding pocket to calculate the change in energy.

The R*|G α_i domain interface involves interactions between the receptor and G α_i . The protocol calculates the energy differences at the interface of G α_i and the receptor between when the receptor is bound and unbound.

The C-terminal helix $\alpha 5$ |R*-G α_i domain interface examines interactions of the C-terminal $\alpha 5$ helix of G α_i . The C-terminal helix is considered to be residues 325-354. The energetic of this interface can be calculated in the receptor unbound G α_i state and the R*-G α_i state. During the $\Delta\Delta G$ calculation the C-terminal helix of G α_i is moved away from its native position. This protocol gives information about the key interactions $\alpha 5$ makes with G α_i when not receptor bound, and how those interactions change as a result of receptor binding. It also gives key interactions of $\alpha 5$ with the receptor.

For each interface, the individual residues were examined that contribute to the total $\Delta\Delta G$. The receptor unbound and bound states are represented as ensembles of structures, so the $\Delta\Delta G$ for a residue is the average $\Delta\Delta G$ seen for that residue over the ensemble. A residue is considered to be important to the interface if the mean $\Delta\Delta G$ is more than 0.5 REU. In addition, the standard deviation of $\Delta\Delta G$ over the ensemble must be less than half the mean $\Delta\Delta G$ (i.e. Z-score greater than 2); this ensures that the $\Delta\Delta G$ is consistently seen across the ensemble.

The difference in the energy values between the unbound and bound states for a given interface indicates changes in key interactions. Calculations were conducted over the ensembles for the receptor unbound and bound states to compute mean $\Delta\Delta G$ and standard deviations. Only statistically significant contributors (Z-score larger than 2) that are large ($|\Delta\Delta G| > 0.5$ REU) were considered for further analysis.

A sample command line for calculating $\Delta\Delta G$ is given below.

```
rosetta_scripts.static.linuxgccrelease -database rosetta_database/ -
in:file:extra_res_fa gdp.params -parser:protocol interface.xml -
in:file:1 pdbls.ls -out:prefix ddgs/ -score:weights
membrane_highres.wts -membrane:normal_cycles 100 -membrane:normal_mag
15 -membrane:center_mag 2 -file:spanfile 3pqr_renum.span
```

The protocol file includes the following options:

```
<ROSETTASCRIPITS>
  <MOVERS>
    <ddG name=ddgy jump=5 symmetry=0 per_residue_ddg=1
repack=0 scorefxn=score12/>
  </MOVERS>
  <PROTOCOLS>
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G protein activation pathway by energetic analysis

Recent successes in modeling membrane proteins^{26,27,28} accurately suggest that computational methods are becoming capable of adding atomic detail in regions where experimental information is not at high resolution. Here we present a model of receptor-mediated changes in a G protein that lead to its activation. The unified model combines experimental data from orthogonal methods such as CW-EPR and DEER, steady-state fluorescence, cryo-EM, and H/D exchange experiments. New insights include: The structural dynamics of the helical domain is

defined through a realistic ensemble. The model takes into account receptor-mediated translocation of the C terminus, which is communicated both through the GTPase domain and across the helical domain to lead to domain opening and GDP release. Furthermore, a quantitative energetic analysis details the residues which are predicted to be important in the inactive heterotrimer as well as receptor-bound states. This model helps reconcile the crystal structure with the available experimental data.

The activated receptor R^* interacts with $G\alpha_i$ through three major pathways: the high affinity C terminus of α_5 (~1/2 of energetic contribution), the interaction of R^* IL 3 with α_4 - β_6 loop (~1/3 of the energetic contribution) and through the interaction of R^* IL 2 with the α_N - β_1 loop (~1/6 of the energetic contribution). The consequences of receptor binding the high-affinity C terminus of α_5 include a 5.7Å and a 63° rotation of α_5 (Supplemental Movie 8).

The interaction of α_5 with the GTPase β -sheet shifts from one energetic minimum (6.4 REU) to a second, deeper energetic minimum (10.3 REU) upon receptor activation, breaking interactions and forming new ones. This conformational change is captured by crystallography⁴ and was previously deduced from CW-EPR mobility studies¹⁰. The interaction between I343 and β_2 , β_3 is destabilized. This residue is part of a hydrophobic cluster with F191 and F196, an interaction that is weakened in the R^* state. F191 and F196 as well as the outmost tips of the β -sheet at K192, E318, and Y320 rearrange and engage in improved, tighter contacts with α_5 .

The energetic stabilization of the C terminus of α_5 and its interaction with the β -sheet drive the conformational reorientation of this helix. The rotation and shift of α_5 causes residues A326-T329, to lose contacts with the rest of G_i . Specifically, the interaction energy of this region decreases from 4.7 REU to 1.0 REU, which brings energetic changes induced by receptor binding from the C terminus of α_5 towards the GDP binding site. Residues T329-V332 of the α_5 helix unwind, loosening attractive interactions with GDP (1.4 REU to 0.2 REU). More importantly, an exquisitely strong interaction of α_5 with α_1 is also weakened (5.0 REU to 2.2 REU) leading to its structural destabilization. This is also indicated by the absence of crystallographic coordinates for the C terminus of α_1 in the crystal structure of the β_2AR - $G\alpha_s\beta\gamma$ protein complex¹⁷. Note that α_1 links to the helical domain so that weakening of its interaction with α_5 ultimately contributes to the release of the helical domain as discussed below.

In addition to α_1 , the helical domain is anchored through a network of polar interactions between the α_A helix, α_D - α_E loop, α_F - β_2 loop on the helical domain and the β_5 - α_G - α_4 loop and β_4 - α_3 loop on the GTPase domain (4.3 REU). These interactions need to be broken for the helical domain to be released. We hypothesize that two mechanisms contribute to this event: firstly, unwinding of residues T329-V332 in α_5 lengthens the β_6 - α_5 loop leading to loss of its interaction with the guanine ring of GDP. The loop adopts a different conformation and requires extra space, thus exerting force on α_G . Secondly, we hypothesize that the interaction of R^* IL 3 with α_4 - β_6 loop is propagated to α_G and possibly the β_4 - α_3 loop. Our models show an 11° rotation of α_G that shifts the C terminus of α_G accompanied by conformational changes in the respective loop regions connecting α_G . Our unified model also shows an attractive interaction between R^* IL 2 with the α_N - β_1 loop. This signal could be propagated via the GTPase domain β -sheet to α_5 , α_1 , or the switch regions – a process difficult to track given the small amplitude of this interaction.

Once released, the helical domain samples a wide but well-defined space which is somewhat less dramatic than that observed in the crystal structure of the β_2AR - $G\alpha_s\beta\gamma$ protein complex¹⁷ but consistent with cryo-EM studies²⁹. All of these studies are qualitatively consistent in terms of the flexibility of the helical domain. Since crystallization represents the lowest energy structure, it may be just one possible conformation among many, influenced by both crystal contacts as well as stabilizing proteins required to obtain this structure. Indeed, based on the β_2AR - G_s

structure ⁴, the helical domain makes crystal contacts with the helical domain, receptor, GTPase domain, nanobody, and beta subunit (Supplemental Table 9). Ideally, resolution of structures of other receptor-G protein complexes without accessory proteins should clarify the importance of this conformation.

Supplemental Movies

Supplemental Movie 1 Modeled interaction of activated rhodopsin (R^*) with G_i . The receptor starts in the non-activated conformation (red) and then moves into the activated state (orange). Upon receptor activation, the $\alpha 5$ C-terminal helix of $G\alpha_i$ (yellow, blue) binds to R^* . The helical domain (green) opens away $G\alpha_i$ -GTPase (grey) and GDP is released (spheres). $G\beta$ is shown in brown; $G\gamma$ shown in black.

Supplemental Movie 2 Agreement of unified model with single particle EM class averages, relating to Figure 3A.

Supplemental Movie 3 Energetics of helical domain| $G\alpha_i$ interface in free $G\alpha_i$, relating to Figure 4A.

Supplemental Movie 4 Energetics of the GDP| $G\alpha_i$ interface in free $G\alpha_i$, relating to Figure 4B.

Supplemental Movie 5 Energetics of R^* | $G\alpha_i$ interface in the R^* - $G\alpha_i$ complex, relating to Figure 4C.

Supplemental Movie 6 Energetics of the interface between $\alpha 5$ | $G\alpha_i$ -GTPase in the basal state, relating to Figure 5A.

Supplemental Movie 7 Energetics of the interface between $\alpha 5$ | $G\alpha_i$ -GTPase in the R^* - $G\alpha_i$ complex, relating to Figure 5B.

Supplemental Movie 8 Rotation of the $\alpha 5$ C-terminal helix of $G\alpha_i$ upon receptor binding. As $\alpha 5$ binds to activated rhodopsin (R^*), $\alpha 5$ undergoes a 63° rotation $G\alpha_i$ -GTPase. Asparagine 341 is shown as sticks for reference.

Supplemental Data

Supplemental Data 1 Ten model structures representing the receptor unbound model of $G\alpha_i\beta\gamma$ and corresponding summary PDB validation reports.

Supplemental Data 2 Nine model structures representing the R^* -Gi complex and corresponding summary PDB validation reports.

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