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Protein domains

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Introduction

Protein domains are structural units (average 160 aa) that share:

Function

Folding

Evolution

Proteins normally are multidomain (average 300 aa)



Introduction

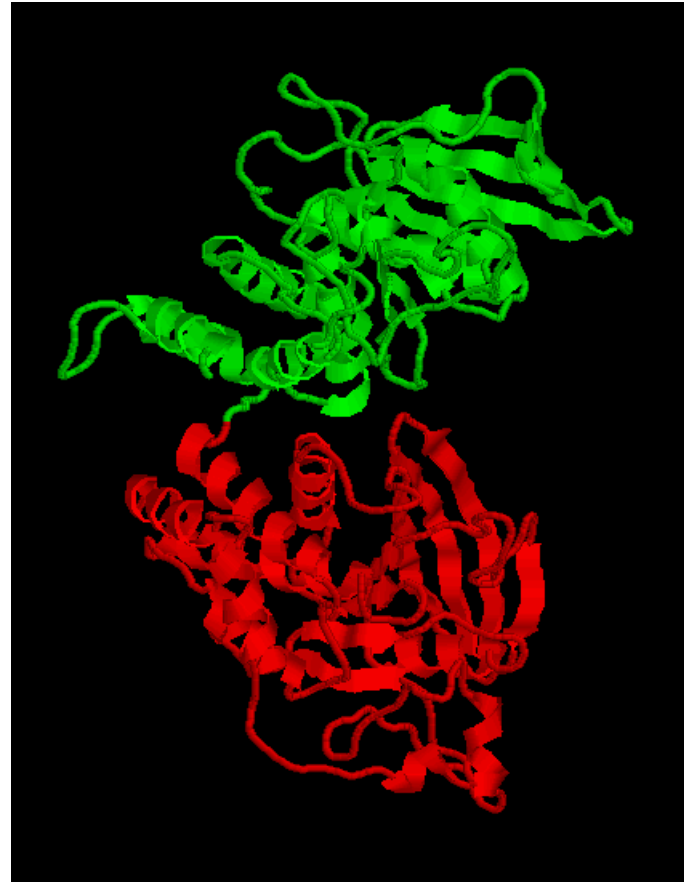
Protein domains are structural units (average 160 aa) that share:

Function

Folding

Evolution

Proteins normally are multidomain (average 300 aa)



Domains

Why to search for domains:

Protein structural determination methods such as X-ray crystallography and NMR have size limitations that limit their use.

Multiple sequence alignment at the domain level can result in the detection of homologous sequences that are more difficult to detect using a complete chain sequence.

Methods used to gain an insight into the structure and function of a protein work best at the domain level.

Domain databases

SMART

Peer Bork

<http://smart.embl.de/>

Manual definition of domain (bibliography)

Generate profile from instances of domain

Search for remote homologs (HMMer)

Include them in profile


Iterate until convergence

Schultz et al (1998) *PNAS*

...

Letunic et al (2020) *Nucleic Acids Research*

Domain databases



Schultz et al. (1998) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 95, 5857-5864
Letunic et al. (2012) *Nucleic Acids Res* , doi:10.1093/nar/gkr931

HOME SETUP FAQ ABOUT GLOSSARY WHAT'S NEW FEEDBACK

SMART MODE:
NORMAL
GENOMIC


Simple
Modular
Architecture
Research
Tool

keywords...
Search SMART


Sequence analysis

You may use either a [Uniprot/Ensembl](#) sequence identifier (ID) / accession number (ACC) or the protein sequence itself to perform the SMART analysis service.

Sequence ID or ACC

Examples: #1, #2 

Protein sequence



Examples: #1, #2


HMMER searches of the SMART database occur by default. You may also find:

[Outlier homologues](#) and homologues of known structure


Architecture analysis

You can search for proteins with combinations of [specific domains](#) in different species or taxonomic ranges. You can input the domains directly into "Domain selection" box, or use "GO terms query" to get a list of domains.


Domain selection


Examples: #1, #2 

GO terms query

Examples: #1, #2 

Taxonomic selection

Select a taxonomic range via the selection box or type it into the text box below: 

All 

Examples: #1, #2

You can try an [Advanced Query](#) if you're familiar with SQL.

Domain databases

SMART

Domains detected by SMART

SH3

Src homology 3 domains



SH3

SMART
accession
number:

SM00326

Description:

Src homology 3 (SH3) domains bind to target proteins through sequences containing proline and hydrophobic amino acids. Pro-containing polypeptides may bind to SH3 domains in 2 different binding orientations.

Interpro
abstract
([IPR001452](#)):

SH3 (src Homology-3) domains are small protein modules containing approximately 50 amino acid residues [([PUBMED:15335710](#)), ([PUBMED:11256992](#))]. They are found in a great variety of intracellular or membrane-associated proteins [([PUBMED:1639195](#)), ([PUBMED:14731533](#)), ([PUBMED:7531822](#))] for example, in a variety of proteins with enzymatic activity, in adaptor proteins, such as fodrin and yeast actin binding protein ABP-1.

The SH3 domain has a characteristic fold which consists of five or six beta-strands arranged as two tightly packed anti-parallel beta sheets. The linker regions may contain short helices. The surface of the SH3-domain bears a flat, hydrophobic ligand-binding pocket which consists of three shallow grooves defined by conservative aromatic residues in which the ligand adopts an extended left-handed helical arrangement. The ligand binds with low affinity but this may be enhanced by multiple interactions. The region bound by the SH3 domain is in all cases proline-rich and contains PXXP as a core-conserved binding motif. The function of the SH3 domain is not well understood but they may mediate many diverse processes such as increasing local concentration of proteins, altering their subcellular location and mediating the assembly of large multiprotein complexes [([PUBMED:7953536](#))].

The crystal structure of the SH3 domain of the cytoskeletal protein spectrin, and the solution structures of SH3 domains of phospholipase C (PLC-y) and phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase p85 alpha-subunit, have been determined [([PUBMED:1279434](#)), ([PUBMED:7684655](#)), ([PUBMED:7681365](#))]. In spite of relatively limited sequence similarity, their overall structures are similar. The domains belong to the alpha+beta structural class, with 5 to 8 beta-strands forming 2 tightly-packed, anti-parallel beta-sheets arranged in a barrel-like structure, and intervening loops sometimes forming helices. Conserved aliphatic and aromatic residues form a hydrophobic core (A11, L23, A29, V34, W42, L52 and V59 in PLC-y [([PUBMED:7681365](#))] and a hydrophobic pocket on the molecular surface (L12, F13, W53 and P55 in PLC-y). The conserved core is believed to stabilise the fold, while the pocket is thought to serve as a binding site for target proteins. Conserved carboxylic amino acids located in the loops, on the periphery of the pocket (D14 and E22), may be involved in protein-protein interactions via proline-rich regions. The N- and C-termini are packed in close proximity, indicating that they are independent structural modules.

GO function:

protein binding ([GO:0005515](#))

Domain databases

SMART

Sequence analysis

You may use either a [Uniprot/Ensembl](#) sequence identifier (ID) / accession number (ACC) or the protein sequence itself to perform the SMART analysis service.

Sequence ID or ACC

Examples: [#1](#), [#2](#)



Protein sequence

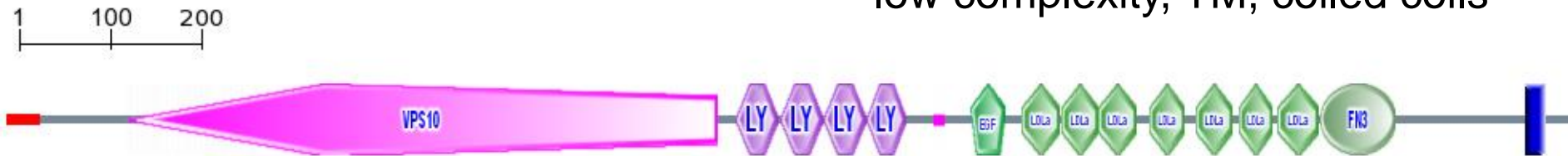
Examples: [#1](#), [#2](#)



Domain databases

SMART

Extra features:
Signal-peptide,
low complexity, TM, coiled coils



Confidently predicted domains, repeats, motifs and features:

Name	Begin	End	E-value
signal peptide	1	36	-
VPS10	125	741	0.00e+00
LY	761	806	2.88e+00
LY	807	851	3.94e-04
LY	852	896	5.31e-10
LY	897	939	1.76e-15
low complexity	968	979	-
EGF	1006	1042	1.87e+01
LDLa	1059	1098	2.69e-10
LDLa	1100	1138	1.62e-13
EGF_like	1138	1177	5.24e+01
LDLa	1139	1178	1.46e-11
LDLa	1193	1230	2.07e-11
LDLa	1240	1278	2.91e-06
LDLa	1286	1321	3.21e-08
LDLa	1326	1369	1.27e-06
FN3	1370	1448	1.36e-03
transmembrane	1584	1606	-

Additional information

[Display](#) other IDs, orthology and alternative splicing data for this sequence.

Domain architecture analysis

This domain architecture was probably invented with the emergence of [Hydra viridis](#).

[Display](#) all proteins with similar domain [organisation](#).

[Display](#) all proteins with similar domain [composition](#).

Domain databases

SMART

The following proteins have the same domain **composition** as your query protein.

You can of or selected (below) proteins.

If you want only single domain sequences in the fasta file, type domain name here:

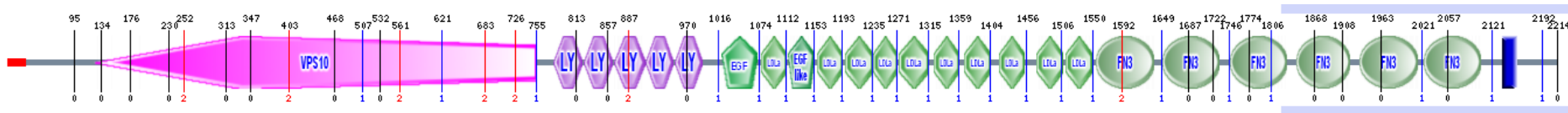
Taxonomic tree of query results.

- Eukaryota (17)
 - Metazoa (17)
 - Arthropoda (5)

Protein	UPI000013D0B1 (source)
Description	Sortilin-related receptor precursor (Sorting protein-related receptor containing LDLR class A repeats) (SorLA) (SorLA-1) (Low-density lipoprotein receptor relative with 11 ligand-binding repeats) (LDLR relative with 11 ligand-binding repeats) (LR11).
Species	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
Domain architecture invented in	Eutheria
Representative of protein cluster	CLUST_UPI000013D0B1

1 100 200

Due to overlapping domains, there are 4 representations of the protein



Domain databases

PFAM

Erik Sonnhammer/Ewan Birney/Alex Bateman

<http://pfam.xfam.org/>



[HOME](#) | [SEARCH](#) | [BROWSE](#) | [FTP](#) | [HELP](#) | [ABOUT](#)



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Pfam 33.1 (May 2020, 18259 entries)

The Pfam database is a large collection of protein families, each represented by **multiple sequence alignments** and **hidden Markov models (HMMs)**. [More...](#)

QUICK LINKS

[SEQUENCE SEARCH](#)

[VIEW A PFAM ENTRY](#)

[VIEW A CLAN](#)

[VIEW A SEQUENCE](#)

[VIEW A STRUCTURE](#)

YOU CAN FIND DATA IN PFAM IN VARIOUS WAYS...

Analyze your protein sequence for Pfam matches

View Pfam annotation and alignments

See groups of related entries

Look at the domain organisation of a protein sequence

Find the domains on a PDB structure

Sonnhammer et al (1997) *Proteins*

...

Mistri et al (2021) *Nucleic Acids Research*

Domain databases

PFAM

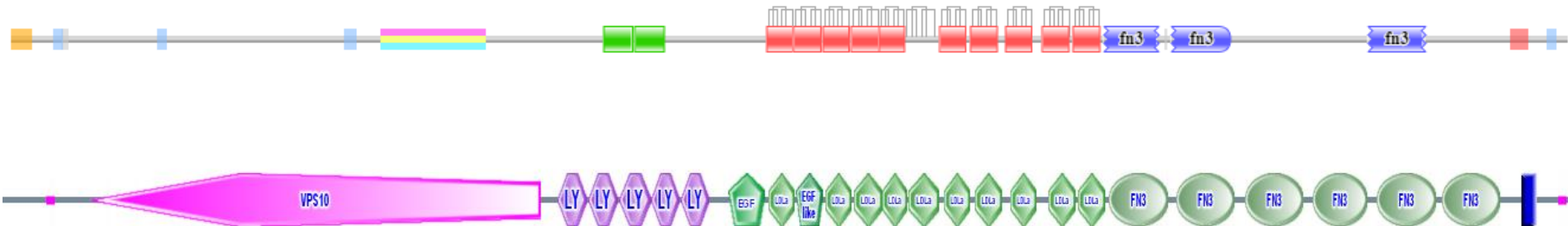
This is the summary of UniProt entry [SORL_HUMAN](#) (Q92673).

Description:	Sortilin-related receptor
Source organism:	Homo sapiens (Human) (NCBI taxonomy ID 9606) View Pfam proteome data.
Length:	2214 amino acids

Please note: when we start each new Pfam data release, we take a copy of the UniProt sequence database. This snapshot of UniProt forms the basis of the overview that you see here. It is important to note that, although some UniProt entries may be removed *after* a Pfam release, these entries will not be removed from Pfam until the next Pfam data release.

Pfam domains

This image shows the arrangement of the Pfam domains that we found on this sequence. Clicking on a domain will take you to the page describing that Pfam entry. The table below gives the domain boundaries for each of the domains. [More...](#)



Domain databases

PFAM

Family: *fn3* (PF00041)

3078 architectures 58087 sequences 10 interactions 1986 species 274 structures

- Summary
- Domain organisation
- Clan
- Alignments
- HMM logo
- Trees
- Curation & model
- Species
- Interactions
- Structures

Summary: Fibronectin type III domain

Pfam includes annotations and additional family information from a range of different sources. These sources can be accessed via the tabs below.

Wikipedia: [Fibronectin type III domain](#) Pfam InterPro

Wikipedia rules!

This is the Wikipedia entry entitled "[Fibronectin type III domain](#)". [More...](#)

Fibronectin type III domain Summary

The **Fibronectin type III domain** is a protein domain found in fibronectin protein in which long and possesses a beta sheet structure widely distributed in animals.

PDB entry 1k85

Human proteins containing this domain

ABI3BP; ANKFN1; ASTN2; CNTN5; CNTN6; COL12A1; EGFLAM; EPHA1; EPHA10; FANK1; FLRT1; FLRT2; FLH1; HCF1; HCF2; HUGO; IFIT1; IL31RA; IL6R; IL6ST; IL7R; LRIT1; LRRN1; LRRN3; MYOM3; NCAM1; NCAM2; PTPRB; PTPRC; PTPRD; RIMBP2; ROBO1; ROBO2; TRIM36; TRIM42; TRIM46

Solution structure of the fibronectin type iii domain from bacillus circulans wl-12 chitinase a1.


Experiment type:	NMR
Deposition date:	23-OCT-01
Authors:	Jee, J.G., Ikegami, T., Hashimoto, M., Kawabata, T., Ikeguchi, M., Watanabe, T., Shirakawa, M.
Species:	n/a
PubMed reference:	11600504

See also[edit]

- Monobody, an engineer

References[edit]

- Bazan, J. F. (1990). "Structure of the fibronectin type III domain". *National Academy of Sciences* **87**: 1155–1159. [PMID 2992939](#).
- Little, E.; Bork, P.; Doolittle, R. F. (1988). "Evolution of the fibronectin type III domain: evidence for a common ancestor". *Journal of molecular evolution* **28**: 1–10. [PMID 2992939](#).
- Kornblihtt, A. R.; Umezawa, K.; von Figura, K.; Parafin, L. E. (1995). "Primary structure of human fibronectin. Differential splicing may generate at least 10 polypeptides from a single gene". *The EMBO journal* **4** (7): 1755–1759. [PMID 2992939](#).



PDB entry 1k85: SOLUTION STRUCTURE OF THE FIBRONECTIN TYPE III DOMAIN FROM BACILLUS CIRCULANS WL-12 CHITINASE A1. [Enlarge image.](#)

This page is based on a [Wikipedia article](#). The text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution/Share-Alike License](#).

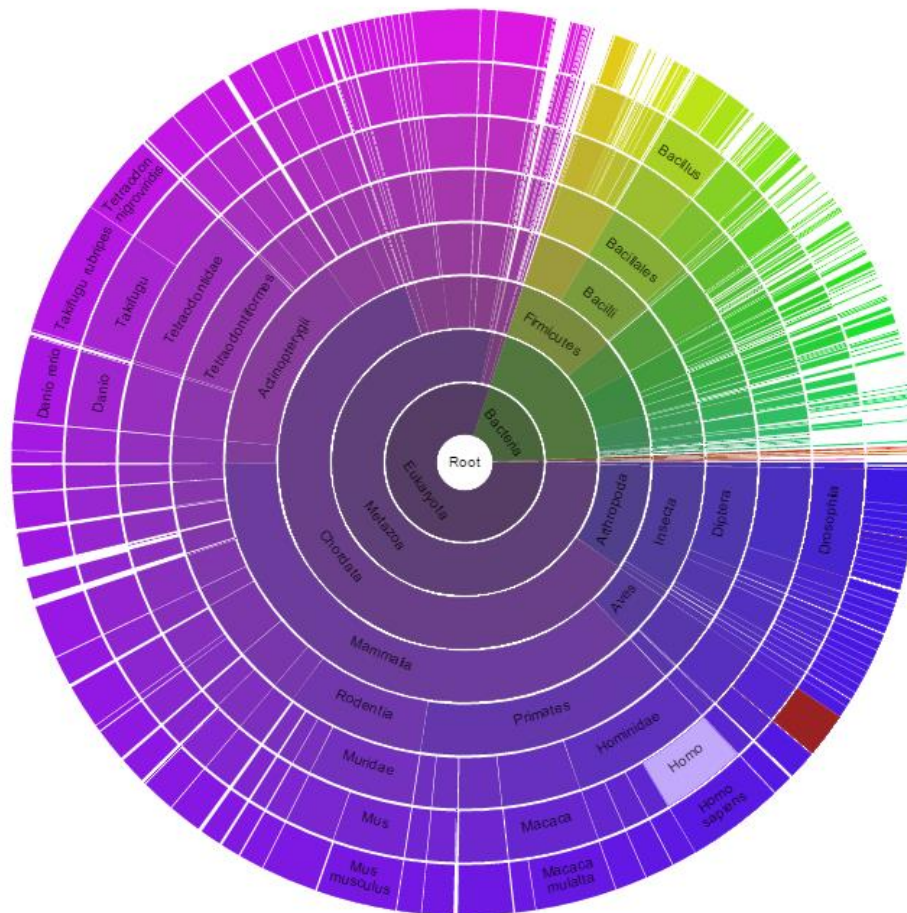
Domain databases

PFAM

Species distribution

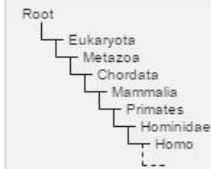
Sunburst Tree

This visualisation provides a simple graphical representation of the distribution of this family across species. You can find the original interactive tree in the [adjacent tab](#). [More...](#)



Sunburst controls Hide

Homo



Weight segments by...

- number of sequences
- number of species

Change the size of the sunburst

Small Large

Colour assignments

- Archea
- Bacteria
- Viruses
- Viroids
- Eukaryota
- Other sequences
- Unclassified
- Unclassified sequence

Selections

- [Align](#) selected sequences to HMM
- [Generate](#) a FASTA-format file
- [Clear](#) selection

Currently selected:

- 274 sequences
- 1 species

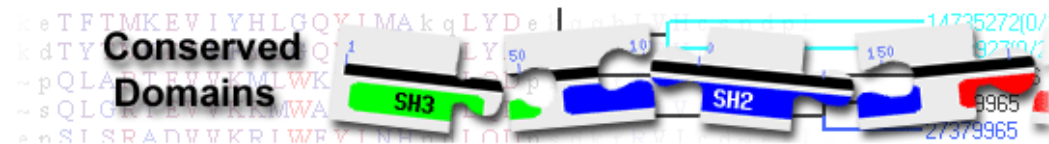
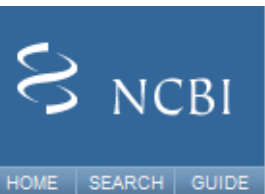
Note: selection tools show results in pop-up windows. Please disable pop-up blockers.

Domain databases

CDD

Stephen Bryant

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/cdd>



HOME SEARCH GUIDE

Structure Home

3D Macromolecular Structures

Conserved Domains

Search for Conserved Domains within a protein or coding nucleotide sequence

Enter **protein** or **nucleotide** query as accession, gi, or sequence in [FASTA format](#). For multiple protein queries, use [Batch CD-Search](#). [?](#)

OPTIONS

- Search against database [?](#): ▼
- Expect Value [?](#) threshold:
- Apply low-complexity filter [?](#)
- Composition based statistics adjustment [?](#)
- Force live search [?](#)
- Rescue borderline hits Suppress weak overlapping hits
- Maximum number of hits [?](#)
- Result mode Concise [?](#) Standard [?](#) Full [?](#)

Submit

Reset

[Help](#)

Lu et al (2020) *Nucleic Acids Res*

Domain databases

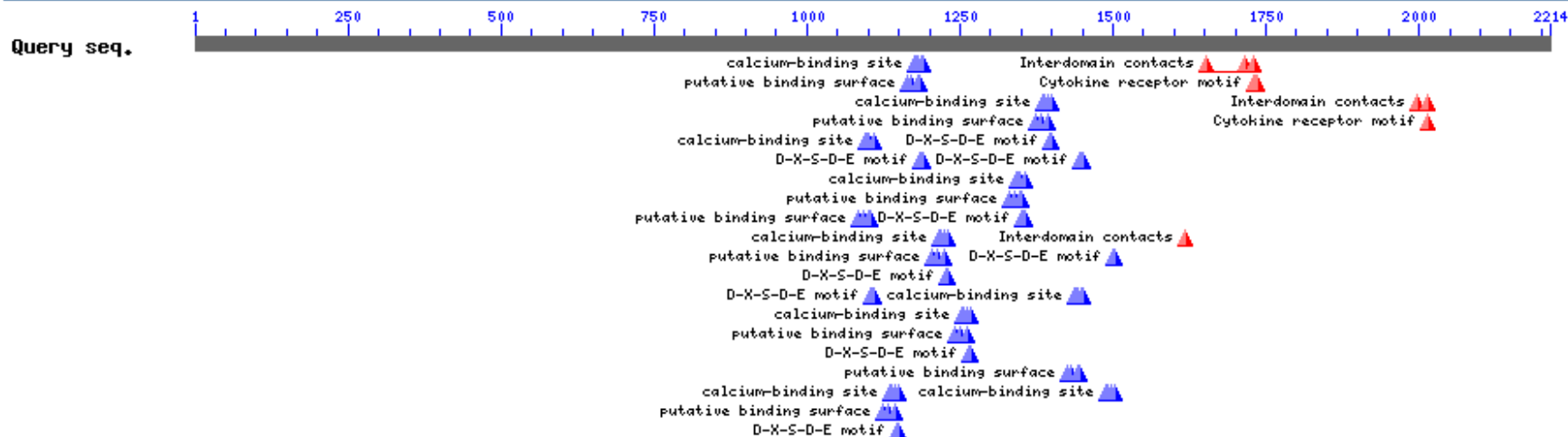
CDD

Conserved domains on [cl|seqsig_bd11f632eb7f5e37972cc8f915d494b1]

[View full result](#)

Local query sequence

Graphical summary [show options](#)



Specific hits

Superfamilies



Multi-domains

VPS10

[Search for similar domain architectures](#)

[Refine search](#)

Domain databases

SORLA/SORL1 from *Homo sapiens*

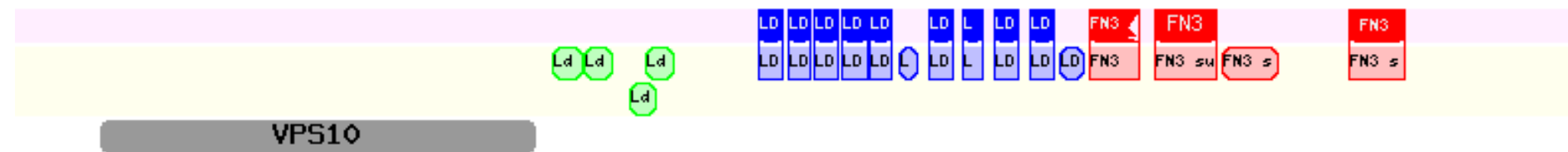
SMART



PFAM



CDD



Exercise 1

Examine a UniProt Entry and find related PDBs

- Let's see whether human myosin X (UniProt id Q9HD67) or its homologs have a solved structure. Go to PDB Advanced Search page:

Menu > Search > Advanced Search

<https://www.rcsb.org/search/advanced>

- Obtain from UniProt the protein sequence "Q9HD67" and paste it the Sequence window (only sequence – no header).
- In "Display Results as" select option "Polymer entities"

Exercise 1

Examine a UniProt Entry and find related PDBs

RCSB PDB MyPDB ▾

Deposit ▾ Search ▾ Visualize ▾ Analyze ▾ Learn ▾ More ▾ Documentation ▾

Advanced Search Query Builder

Attribute ?

Add Field Add Subgroup Remove Group

Add Group

Sequence ?

Paste sequence here

AND KRIREQFPGSEMEKYALFTYESLKKTKCREFVPSRDEIEALHRQEMTSTVYCHGGGSKITINSHTTAGEVVEKLIRGLAMED
SRNMFALFEYNHGHVDKAIERSRTVVADVLAKFEKLAATSEVGDLPWKFYFKLYCFLDTDNVPKDSVEFAFMFEQAHEAVIHGHH

PDB ID Target ? E-Value Cutoff ? Count Clear

Identity Cutoff % (Integer only) ?


Sequence Motif ?

Structure Similarity ?

Structural Motif ?

Chemical ?

Select display option here

Display Results as ? Count Clear 

Exercise 1

Examine a UniProt Entry and find related PDBs

- Considering that your query was a human myosin X, can you interpret the first three hits? Which part of your query was matched? Which protein was hit in the database?
- What about the 4th hit?

Exercise 1

Examine a UniProt Entry and find related PDBs

- Considering that your query was a human myosin X, can you interpret the first three hits? Which part of your query was matched? Which protein was hit in the database?
- What about the 4th hit?
- Can you find a hit to a protein that is not human myosin X? Which part of your query was matched?

Exercise 2

Analyse domain predictions with PFAM

- Let's look at the domains predicted for human myosin X. Go to PFAM: <http://pfam.xfam.org/>
- Select the option VIEW A SEQUENCE
- Type in the window the UniProt id of the protein sequence "Q9HD67" and hit the Go button.
- Compare the positions of the domains predicted with the ranges of the matches in PDB from the previous exercise.

Which domains were matched in the human myosin X by each of those hits?

Exercise 3

Examine domains in Chimera

- Open the structure of the 3rd hit (3PZD) in Chimera

Now colour the fragments corresponding to the PFAM domains MyTH4 (in orange), RAS associated (in pink) and FERM_M (in blue).

How do the PFAM annotations fit the structure?

How many more domains can you identify visually?

- Chain B in this structure is a small peptide. Which part of the human myosin X is interacting with this peptide in relation to the domains you have coloured? And what about the glycerol?