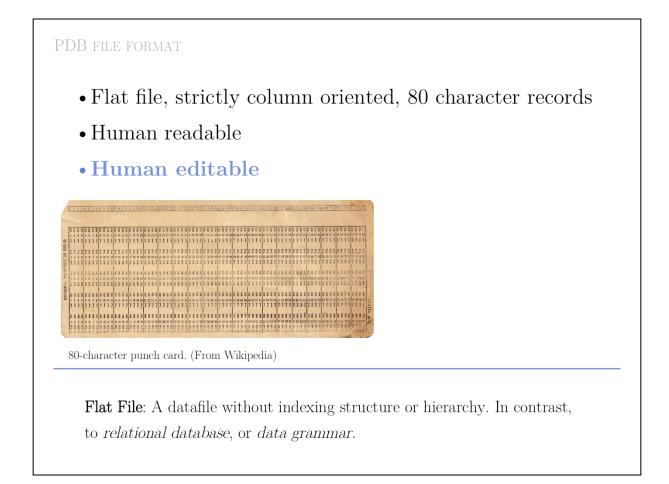


...the **PDB** (Protein structure DataBase) is **the** central repository for 3D structural data of proteins and nucleic acids. RCSB is the Research Collaboratory for Structural Bioinformatics.

If you look closely at the screenshot, you will see that the PDB held 123,456 coordinate files (as of October 16. 2016). That's the actual number, not a placeholder. How cool is that! (Aplogies for this completely useless bit of trivia. It's 134,091 in October 2017.)



The "PDB" file format is the most widely used format to exchange structure data. It is a keyword controlled, column-oriented, fixed-width flat file format, derived from the information processing constraints of computer punch cards.

For decades, some researchers have been advocating for a more rigorous and flexible XML based data gramar, but the existing solutions have never been widely adopted.

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PDB FILE FORMAT COMPONENTS: HEADER
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AUTHOR
        B.STEIPE, R.HUBER
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REMARK
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        1 AUTH B.STEIPE, A.PLUCKTHUN, R.HUBER
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                   REFINED CRYSTAL STRUCTURE OF A RECOMBINANT
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   [...]
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The header section of a PDB file.

PDB FILE FORMAT COMPONENTS: SEQUENCE

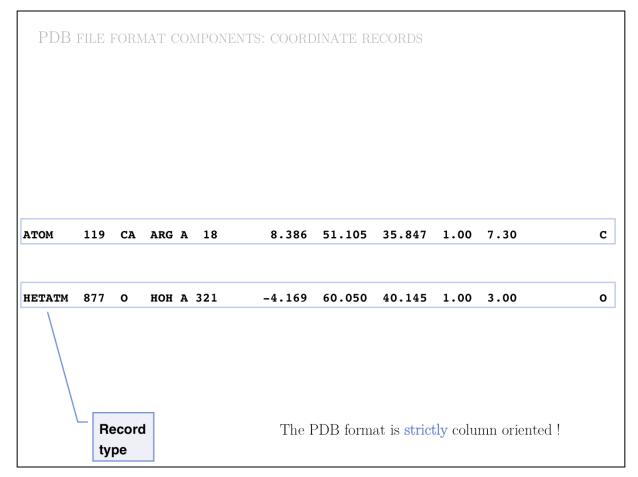
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SEQRES	3	114	GLN	SER	LEU	LEU	ASN	SER	GLY	ASN	GLN	LYS	ASN	PHE	LEU	2IMM	37
SEQRES	4	114	ALA	TRP	TYR	GLN	GLN	LYS	PRO	GLY	GLN	PRO	PRO	LYS	LEU	21MM	38
SEQRES	5	114	LEU	ILE	TYR	GLY	ALA	SER	THR	ARG	GLU	SER	GLY	VAL	PRO	21MM	39
SEQRES	6	114	ASP	ARG	PHE	THR	GLY	SER	GLY	SER	GLY	THR	ASP	PHE	THR	21MM	40
SEQRES	7	114	LEU	THR	ILE	SER	SER	VAL	GLN	ALA	GLU	ASP	LEU	ALA	VAL	21MM	41
SEQRES	8	114	TYR	TYR	CYS	GLN	ASN	ASP	HIS	SER	TYR	PRO	LEU	THR	PHE	2IMM	42
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Always be extremely cautious with sequence numbers! There is no well defined starting point for numbering sequence!! The numbers you count in a FASTA file and the numbers you read in a PDB record may be totally different!!!

The *explicit* sequence is found in the SEQRES section of the PDB file. This corresponds to what the crystallographer put into the experiment and it is in general the sequence that is recorded as the PDB-sequence for the purpose of database searches.

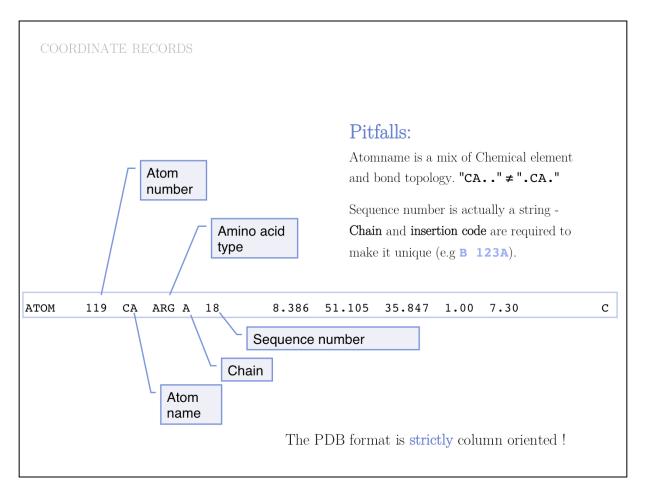
The *implicit* sequence can be derived from the actual coordinates. It is frequently not the same because flexible, disordered termini and loops are not recorded.

Additional complications arise from "insertion codes". These are letters that allow the insertion of residues for a common numbering scheme for families of homologous sequences. In principle this is a good idea, since this makes comparison of residues much easier. But strings such as "23A" can no longer be treated as sequence *numbers* - they are sequence *labels* and using them correctly can be a challenge. The existence of insertion codes breaks common assumptions that novice programmers make about the structure of PDB files.



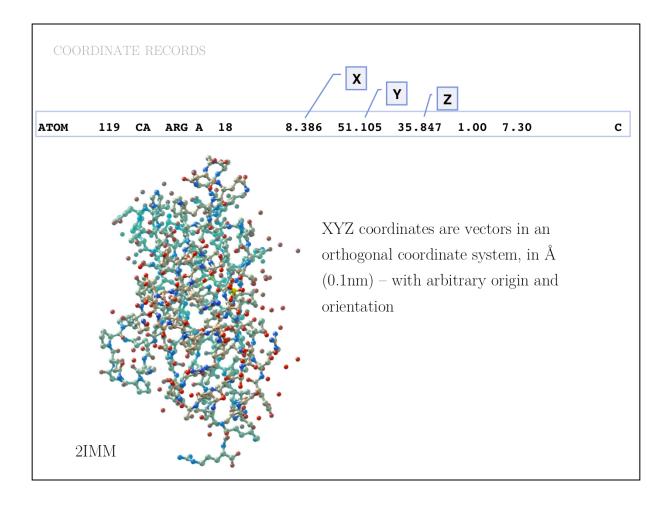
The coordinate records contain the actual 3D-data. Their structured is the same for ATOM (protein and DNA components) and HETATM records (ligands, cofactors, solvent etc.).

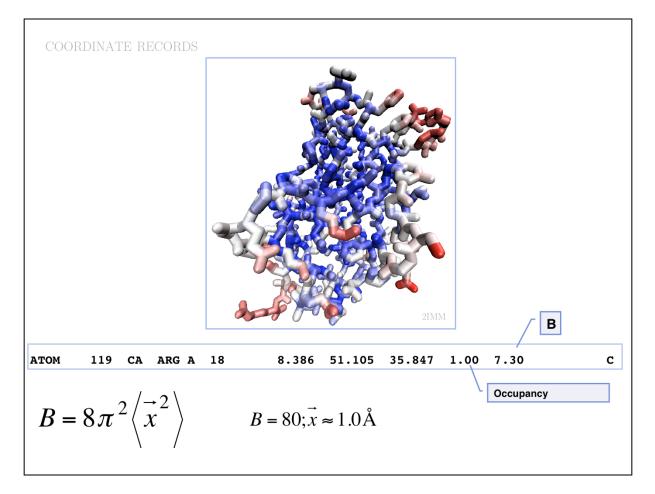
Read the Coordinate section of the PDB format specification. (http://www.wwpdb.org/documentation/file-format)



Potential pitfalls (very incomplete list):

- Record type: changes not consistently applied for modifications
- Atom number: rarely used and a nuisance to update when changing.
- Atom name: be careful about columns " CA " is C^{α} , but "CA " is calcium. Usually this is obvious from context though.
- Amino acid type: careful about non-natural amino-acids e.g. selenocysteine, selenomethionine etc. Some very old files use TRY for TRP.
- Chain: may be blank (" ") in older files. Recently was changed to ("A") even in files that contain only a single chain.
- Alternate location: only sometimes given in very high resolution structures.
- Sequence number might not be unique if insertion codes are used.
- X, Y, and Z are given in Å; $(10^{-10}m = 0.1 \text{ nm})$ values in a cartesian (i.e. orthogonal) coordinate system; but origin and orientation is arbitrary!
- Occupancy can describe: special locations, partially bound ligands, unobserved fragments of structure...
- B-values, (also called temperature factors) are a measure of the volume of space around into which a given electron density is distributed. Usually considered to be isotropic!





Occupancy describes the fraction of sites that are occupied by that atom in the crystal. Occupancy can be less than 1.0 for ligands of partially occupied sites, or for atoms in special crystallographic positions – e.g. on a two-fold axis of symmetry. Modelled coordinates that are not supported by electron density from the experiment and have only been added for cosmetic reasons are usually given an occupancy of 0.0

B factors describe the thermal fluctation of atoms and can be interpreted as a mean coordinate displacement IF the thermal fluctuation were isotropic (the same in each direction). A *B* factor of 80 is approximately what you would expect of bulk, disordered solvent, it corresponds to a mean displacement of approximately one Å. *B* factors are commonly very low in the well-ordered and conformationally constrained core of a protein, they are high at the surface, esepcially for side-chains and flexible loops.

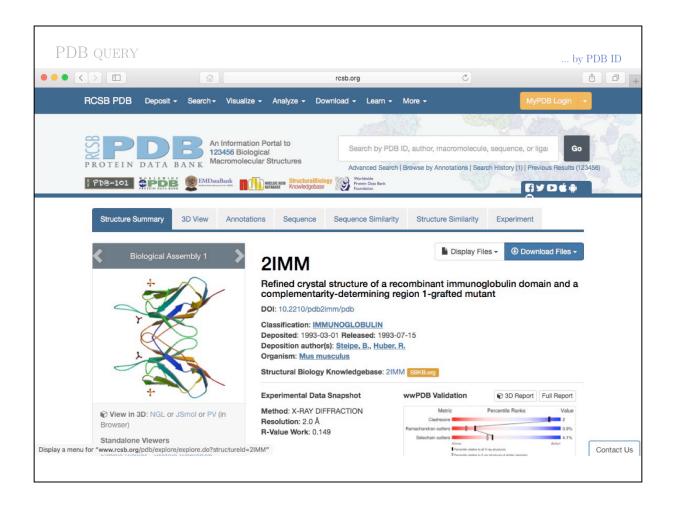
The interpretation of B factors is not entirely straightforward, because poor quality crystals can give rise to higher values, actual movement in proteins is anything but isotropic, and static disorder / alternate conformations are modelled through increased B factors as well.

A PDB FILE CONTAINS

Contents of a PDB file:

- Polypeptide Chain(s)
- Nucleic Acid(s)
- Heteroatoms e.g. prosthetic groups, cofactors, ligands \ldots
- Typically, H-Atoms are invisible ...

Structures are in a crystal lattice, have crystal contacts.Asymmetric units are not guaranteed to be biological units.Origin of the coordinate system and rotation is arbitrary.Coordinates are time- and population- averaged experiments.



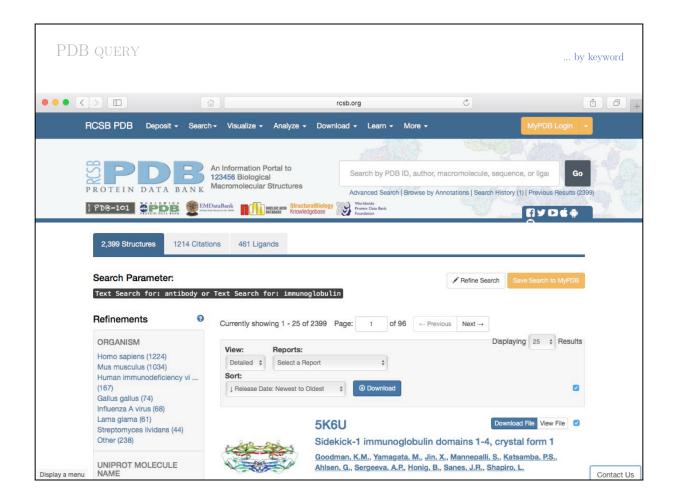
The most straightforward access to a coordinate set in the PDB is to enter the fourcharacter PDB ID into the search field. PDB IDS have a digit as the first character, then three (letter/digit)s. Thus the keyspace is 10x36x36x36 = 466,560. At the time the PDB was created with seven structures in 1971, each of which took years to complete in a herculean effort, no one could foresee that we would run out of IDs! Lesson learned.

PDB	QUERY				11	
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	ORGANISM Mus musculus (957) Homo sapiens (915) Human immunodeficiency vi (167) Gallus gallus (70)	View: Reports: Detailed Select a Report Sort: Release Date: Newest to Oldest	+	Displa	aying 25 + Results	
	Influenza A virus (66) Lama glama (60) Streptomyces lividans (44) Other (94)	Sr Sr		Down on of a Single-stranded RN thetic Antibody Fragment	A Sequence by	
Display a menu	UNIPROT MOLECULE NAME Ig kappa chain C region (120)	Sh Ko		n, D., Li, N.S., Koide, A., Staley, J.F	?, <u>Koide, S.</u> ,	Contact Us

Keyword searches are useful, but unreliable. Antibody? Immunoglobulin? Fab fragment? Bence-Jones protein?

PDB QUERY	Y			by keywo
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There are 1,869 structures annotated with they keyword "antibody" and 717 structures annotated with "immunoglobulin".

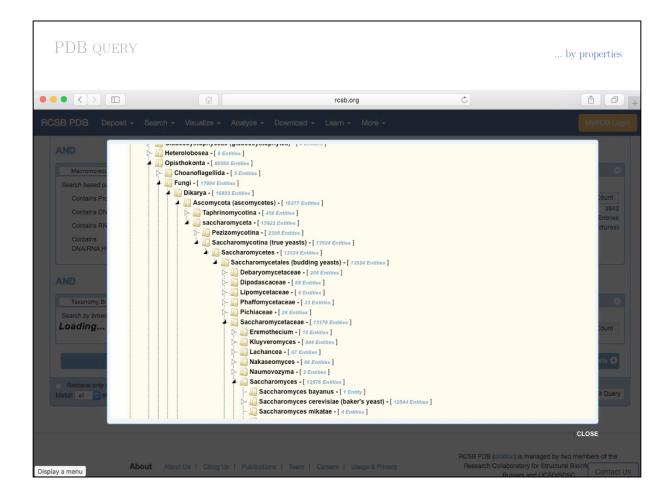


Note that the number of results -2,399 structures - is not the same as the sum of the two individual keyword searches. 1,869 "antibody" structures plus 717 "immunoglobulin" structures would have given 2,586 structures.

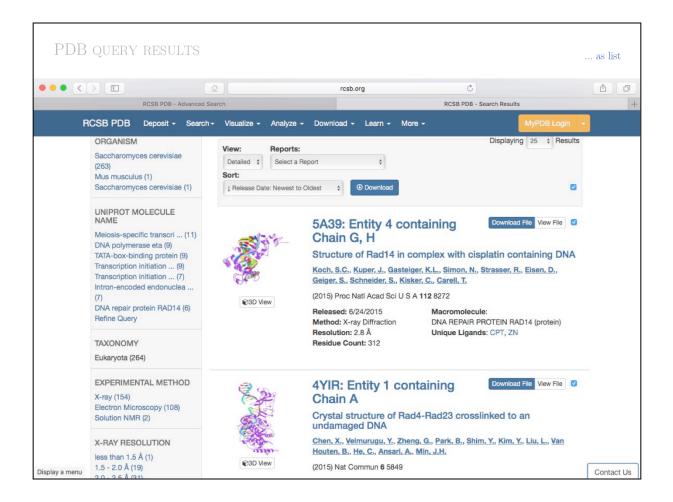
Keyword searches are good to find *some* structures, but they will virtually never find *all* structures of a desired type.

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The Advanced Query interface is a flexible and powerful search tool for more sophisticated queries. Here a search for potential transcription factor/DNA complexes.



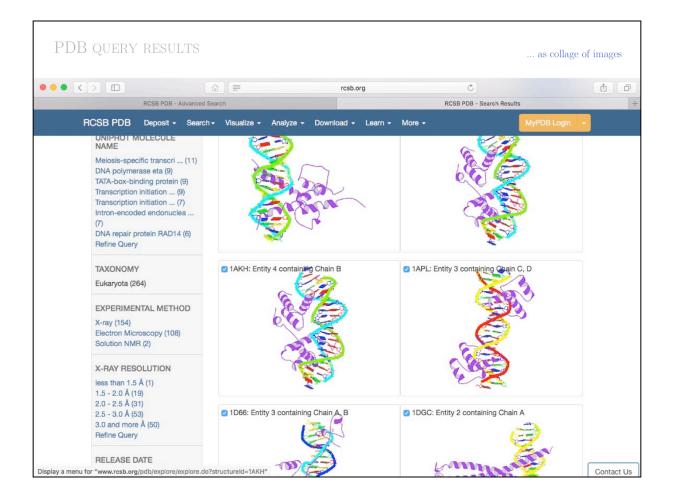
You can search for structures from specific species via the taxonomy browser.



Output can be in list format ...

		ESULTS					as rej
$\langle \rangle$		<u> </u>		rcsb.org		C	
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1	1A0A	PHOSPHATE SYSTEM POSITIVE REGULATORY PROTEIN PHO4/DNA COMPLEX	2.80		0.284		
2	1AKH	MAT A1/ALPHA2/DNA TERNARY COMPLEX	2.50		0.302		
3	1APL	CRYSTAL STRUCTURE OF A MAT- ALPHA2 HOMEODOMAIN- OPERATOR COMPLEX SUGGESTS A GENERAL MODEL FOR HOMEODOMAIN-DNA INTERACTIONS	2.70				
4	1D66	DNA RECOGNITION BY GAL4: STRUCTURE OF A PROTEIN/DNA COMPLEX	2.70				

 \ldots customizable tables \ldots



 \ldots or a gallery overview that allows you to quickly scan for the type of structure you want to consider.

LIMITATIONS

In principle, structures can be obtained at **atomic resolution**. This means we can identify the location of individual water molecules!

In practice, structures are **time-averaged and population averaged**. We see atomic resolution only for well-ordered atoms.

Experimental artefacts are possible, in particular crystal packing artefacts.

Experimental errors are possible, in particular when modeling disordered structure (B-factors!); *fraud is uncommon but has occurred at times.*

All (refined) structures combine experimental information with idealized stereochemistry.

Fortunately, experience shows that structures obtained with different experimental methods are very similar.

Quality metrics exist, but are not trivial to interpret.

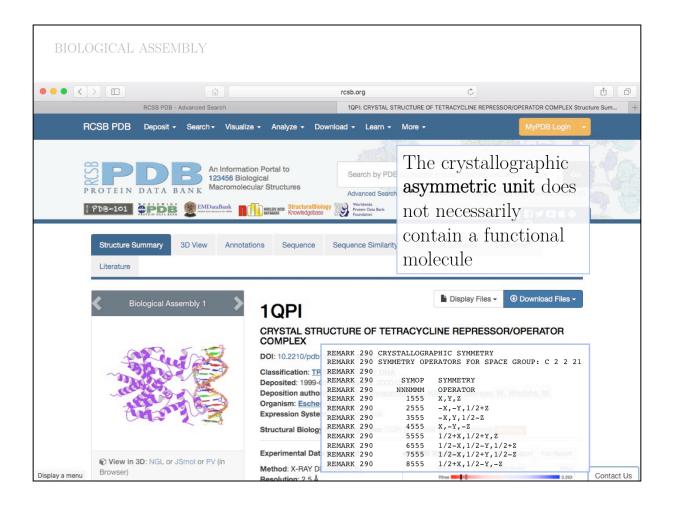
Biological relevance has to be taken into account.

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In the example above, only one chain of the tet-repressor dimer is seen bound to only one strand of B-DNA. The second chain and strand can be generated through a symmetry operation (180° rotation and translation), thus it contains the same coordinate information and does not need to be separately stored.

However, in order to study the functional molecule, the redundant coordinates have to be combined to a homodimer. The term **biological unit** describes a coordinate set that (presumably) depicts a homooligomer in its *functional* state.

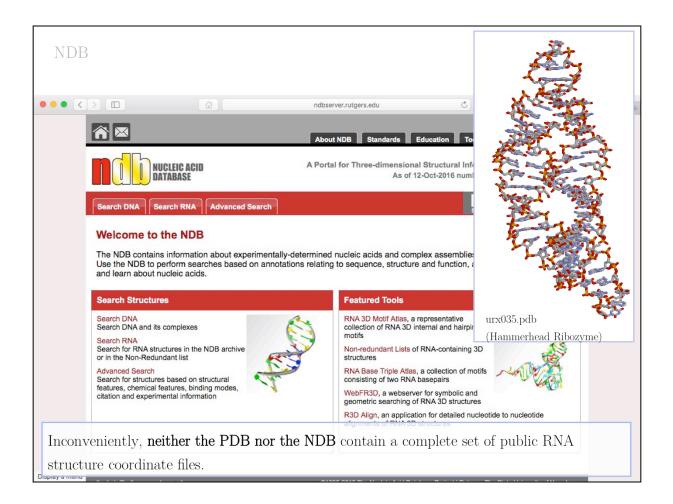
All molecules in the crystal lattice can be generated from the crystallographic symmetry operations specified in a PDB file, for the space group of the crystal. But it may not be obvious which of the symmetry replicates might actually be involved in a physiological interaction and which ones have only been induced by the crystallization process. In the tet-repressor example, the crystallographic space group has eight(!) symmetry related monomers in the unit cell of the crystal lattice.



The "Biological Assembly" complements the single chain to a complete repressor homodimer/double-stranded DNA complex.

STRUCTURE AT THE NCBI	
CBI	/docs/mmdb_how_to.html C
Structure Climits Advanced search	Search
ucture Group ▼ 3D Macromolecular Structures ▼ Conserved Domains ▼ PubChem ▼ Bio Macromolecular Structures	OVERVIEW SEARCH HOW TO HELP NEWS FTP PUBLICATIONS DISCOVE
Retrieve specific subsets of resolved structures            Find 3D structures bound to a specific chemical (e.g., aspirin).             Find 3D structures bound to a specific small biopolymer (e.g., a peptide).             Find 3D structures for a specific small biopolymer (e.g., a peptide).             Find 3D structures for a specific small biopolymer (e.g., a peptide).             Retrieve 3D structures for a specific type of molecule, such as protein, RNA, DNA, protein+chemical, etc.             Retrieve all structures from a particular source organism or taxon.             Find structures that are similar in 3D shape (using VAST)             Find structures with similarly shaped proteins or 3D domains, regardless of their degree of sequence simila             Find structures with similarly shaped proteins or 3D domains, regardless of their degree of sequence simila             Find structures with similarly shaped proteins or 3D domains, regardless of their degree of sequence simila             Find structures with similary shaped proteins or 3D domains, regardless of their degree of sequence simila             Find structures with similary shaped proteins or 3D domains, regardless of their degree of sequence simila             Find structures with similary shaped proteins or 3D domains, regardless of their degree of sequence simila	
View 3D structures <ul> <li>Interactively view a 3D structure and its corresponding sequence data to examine sequence-structure relat</li> </ul>	

Structure services exist at the NCBI and the EBI with distinct services. Explore.



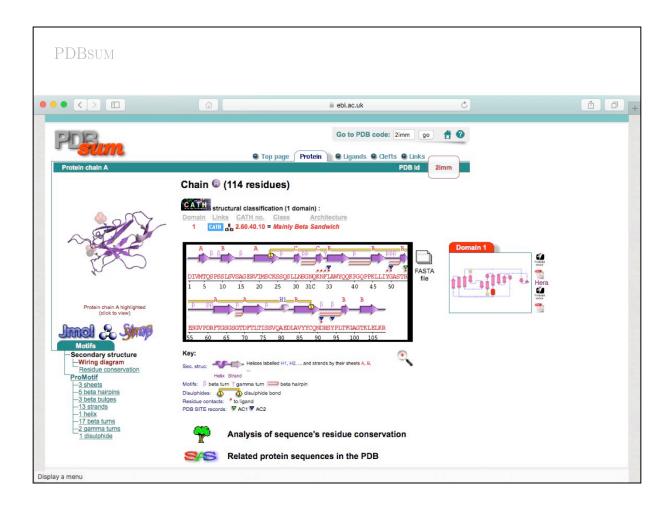
The Nucleic Acid Structure Database

http://ndbserver.rutgers.edu/

PDBsum		
EMBL-EBI	thtps://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbsum/      Services Research Training About us	1 D
PDBsur	Databases > Structure Databases > PDBsum	Contents (* PDBsum contains
<ul> <li>Browse options:</li> <li>List of PDB codes</li> <li>Het Groups</li> <li>Ligands</li> <li>Drugs</li> <li>Enzymes</li> </ul>	PDBsum is a pictorial database that provides an at-a-glance overview of the contents of each 3D structure deposited in the Protein Data Bank (PDB). It shows the molecule(s) that make up the structure (is protein chains, DNA, ligands and metal ions) and schematic diagrams of the interactions between them.       Read more         PDB code (4 chars)       Find       Example: "Iktv"	126,889 entries, including 2,433 superseded Last update: 15 October, 2016 In-house version
<ul> <li>Generate</li> <li>Figures from Papers Gallery</li> <li>Figure stats</li> <li>Documentation</li> </ul>	Text search Scans all TITLE, HEADER, COMPND, SOURCE and AUTHOR records in the PDB (eg to find a given protein by name).	In-house version for companies to process own structures (see below left)
<ul> <li>Downloads</li> <li>Contact us</li> </ul>	Search by sequence	Related databases
	Search Perform FASTA search vs all sequences in the PDB to get a list of the closest matches.	Enzyme 3D structures organized by the E.C. numbering hierarchy.
	UniProt id:         Pfam id:         Ensembl id:           Search by         (eg P03023, LACL_ECOLI, etc)         (eg P07992)         (eg ENSC000006E005, ENS 700000256999)           Search         Search         Search         Search	Structures of drugs and their target proteins in the PDB.
1kfv		<b>845</b> •

**PDBsum** is a secondary database that stores analysis and interpretation information for PDB coordinate sets.

http://www.ebi.ac.uk/thornton-srv/databases/pdbsum/



Schematics like this "wiring diagram" help to get an overview of protein topology and sequence organization. I find the high-level descriptions in PDBsum very useful to begin the study of a particular protein.

## http://steipe.biochemistry.utoronto.ca/abc

 $\label{eq:bound} B \ O \ R \ I \ S \ \ . \ \ S \ T \ E \ I \ P \ E \ @ \ U \ T \ O \ R \ O \ N \ T \ O \ . \ C \ A$ 

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY & DEPARTMENT OF MOLECULAR GENETICS UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, CANADA