Table 3 Examples of common supersecondary structures/motifs

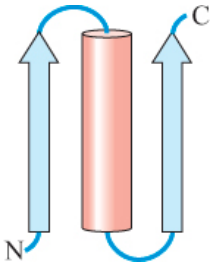
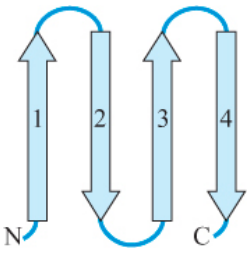
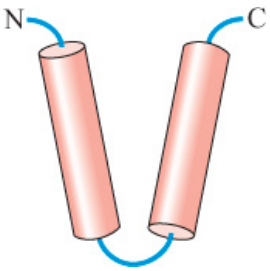
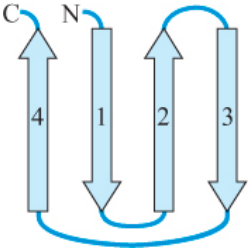
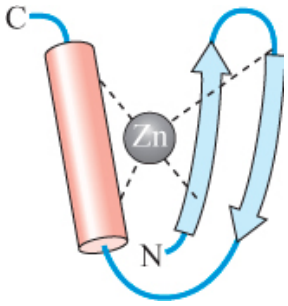
Motif	Schematic	Description	Comments	Examples
βαβ		An α helix connects parallel β strands in β sheets. Hydrophobic surfaces on the helix and β sheet interact.	Residues in the first loop (C-terminal end of the β strand) often contribute to the active site in enzymes.	triose phosphate isomerase (a glycolytic enzyme) (pdb file 1tim)
β meander		Antiparallel β sheets are linked sequentially by short loops or hairpins consisting of two, three or four residues.	Basic antiparallel β pleated sheet.	
helix–turn–helix		In the simplest arrangement, two helices lie antiparallel, connected by a short loop.	Energetically favourable interactions between side-chains are accommodated by the relative positioning of the helices (usually at ~20° to each other).	Rop (an RNA binding protein) (pdb file 1rop)
Greek key		Antiparallel β sheet with longer loop connections between some strands.		gamma crystallin (a protein of the eye lens) (pdb file 1gcs)

Table 3 (continued) Examples of common supersecondary structures/motifs

Motif	Schematic	Description	Comments	Examples
coiled-coil		Two α helices are wrapped around each other. Strips of hydrophobic side-chains along the length of each helix interact with each other.		myosin (a motor protein); α-keratin (a structural protein, e.g. in skin and hair)
zinc finger		An α helix and two short antiparallel β strands are held together by a zinc ion, which forms coordinate bonds with side-chains in the polypeptide.		Xfin (*Xenopus* DNA binding protein with a role in embryogenesis) (pdb file 1znf; single zinc finger from this protein)