

**Additional file 6** The motif specification created from pdb id 2dpo, with distance constraints generated only for distances between C $\alpha$  atoms, and with delta-constraints between motif-residues Ile and Ala as well as Ala and the last Val loosened by permitting deviations of  $\pm 25$  from the corresponding sequence separation of the motif in pdb id 2dpo.

```
#SEARCH3D
# pattern defined from: 2DPO
# list of residues
# GroupNum allowed_kind allowed_Sec_Struct ; name chain num
GROUP    0 V      s      ; 'VAL' 'A' '9  '
GROUP    1 I      s      ; 'ILE' 'A' '11 '
GROUP    2 A      h      ; 'ALA' 'A' '22 '
GROUP    3 V      s      ; 'VAL' 'A' '32 '
GROUP    4 L      s      ; 'LEU' 'A' '34 '
# distances constraints
# (FromGrp FromAtom ToGrp ToAtom minDist optimalDist maxDist)
DIST     0 CA     1 CA     5.7    6.7    7.7
DIST     0 CA     2 CA     7.5    8.5    9.5
DIST     0 CA     3 CA     3.9    4.9    5.9
DIST     0 CA     4 CA     7.7    8.7    9.7
DIST     1 CA     2 CA     5.8    6.8    7.8
DIST     1 CA     3 CA     6.2    7.2    8.2
DIST     1 CA     4 CA     4.0    5.0    6.0
DIST     2 CA     3 CA     5.3    6.3    7.3
DIST     2 CA     4 CA     6.3    7.3    8.3
DIST     3 CA     4 CA     5.3    6.3    7.3
# backbone separation
# (FromGrp ToGrp min max)
DELTA    1     0     2     2
DELTA    2     1     1    36
DELTA    3     2     1    35
DELTA    4     3     2     2
# END
```