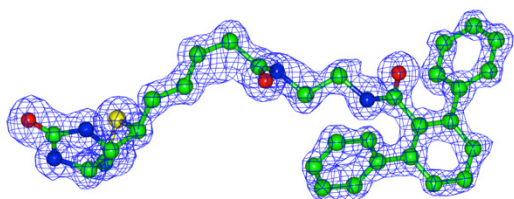
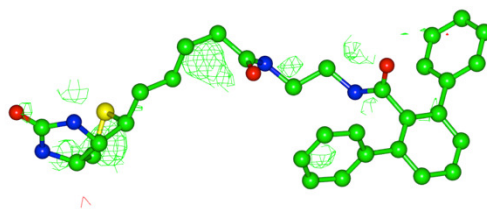


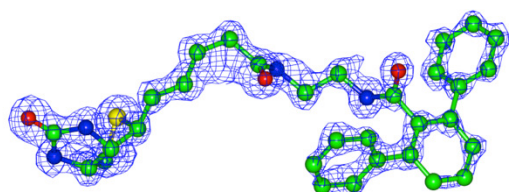
A



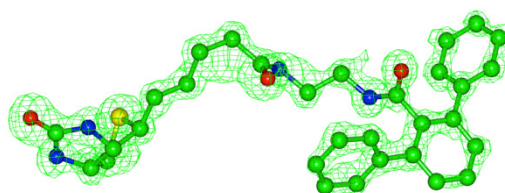
B



C

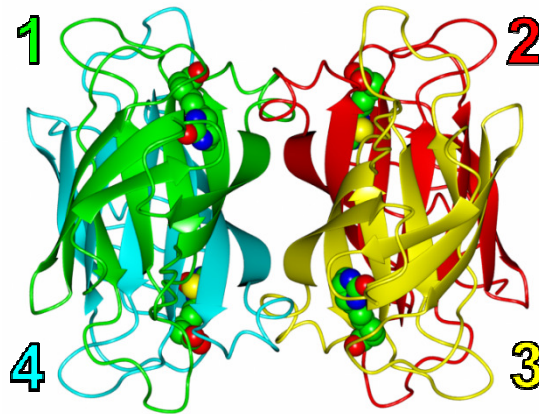


D

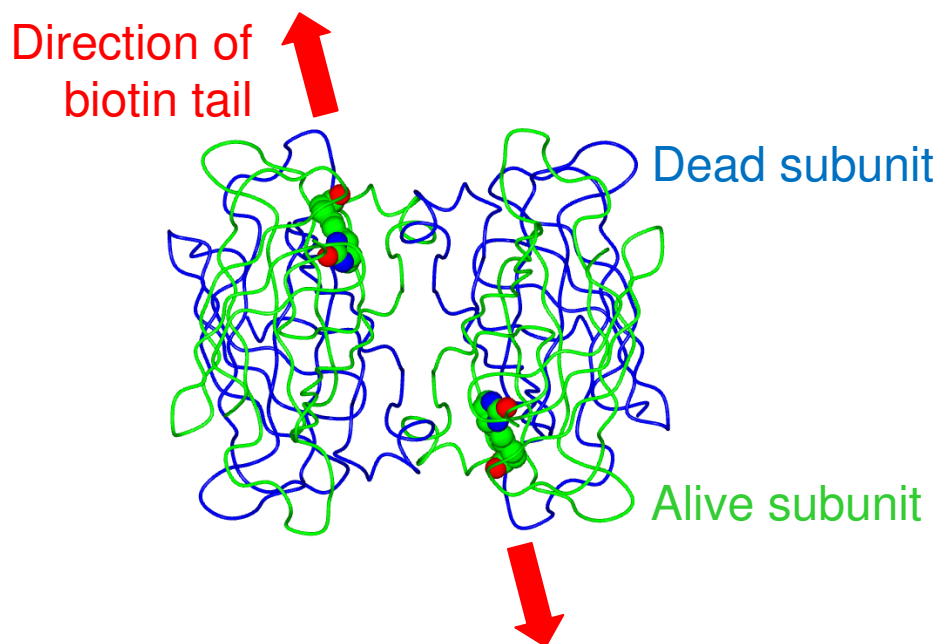


**Figure S1.** Electron density around the LH1 ligand in streptavidin (chain B of the crystal structure). (A) The 2mFo-DFc map contoured at 1  $\sigma$ . (B) The mFo-DFc map with negative (red) and positive (green) density contoured at 3  $\sigma$ . (C) The 2mFo-DFc simulated annealing omit map contoured at 1  $\sigma$ . (D) The mFo-DFc simulated annealing omit map with negative (red) and positive (green) density contoured at 3  $\sigma$ .

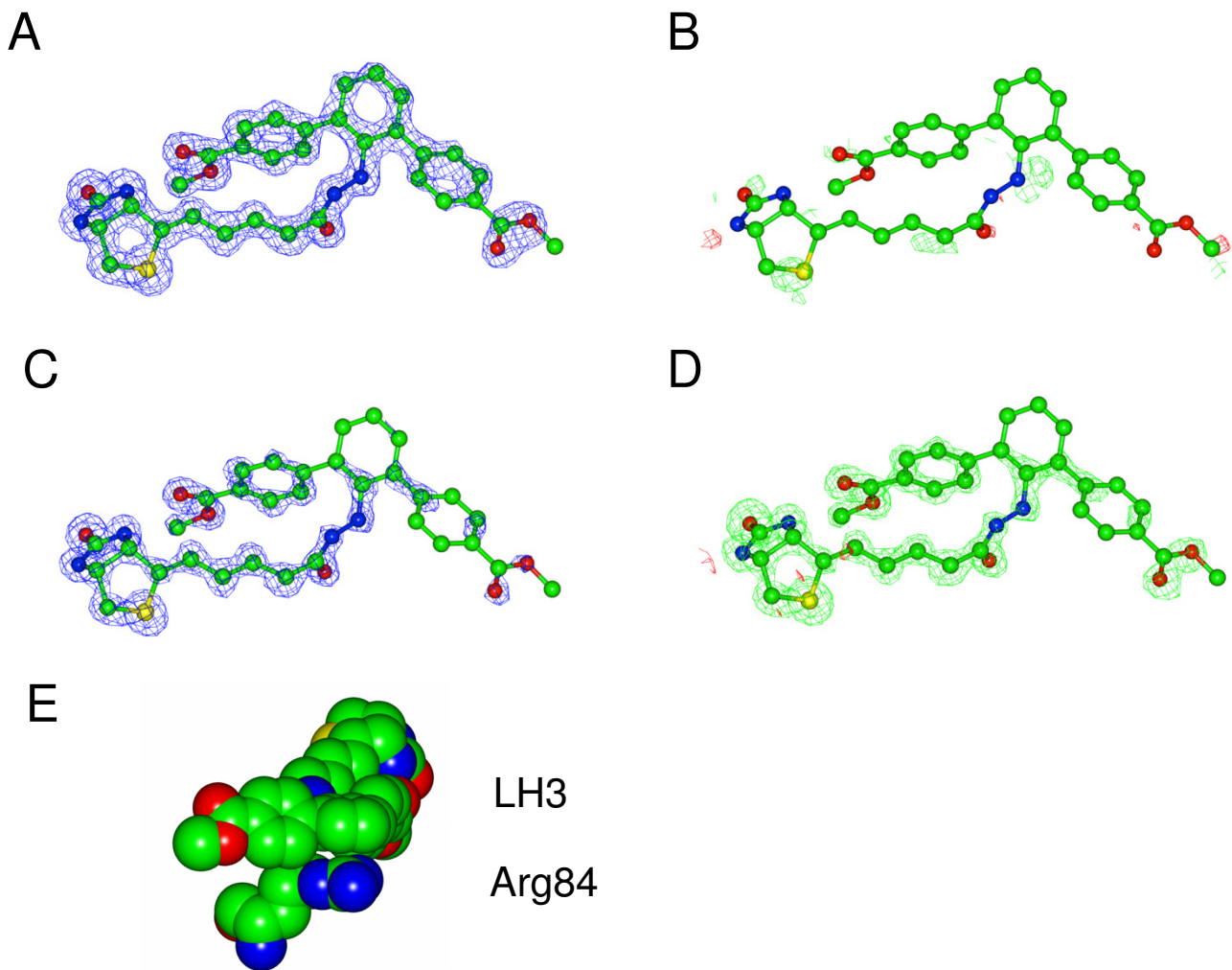
A Wild-type Streptavidin (tetravalent)



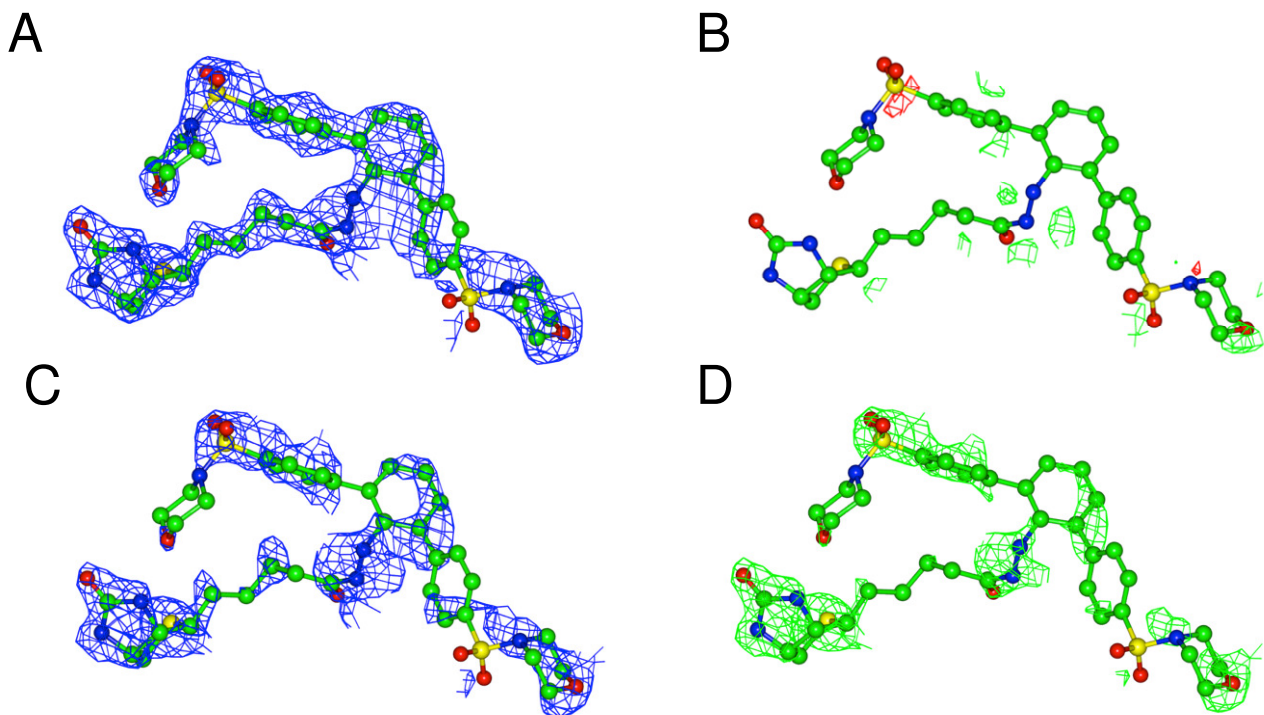
B Trans-divalent (1,3)



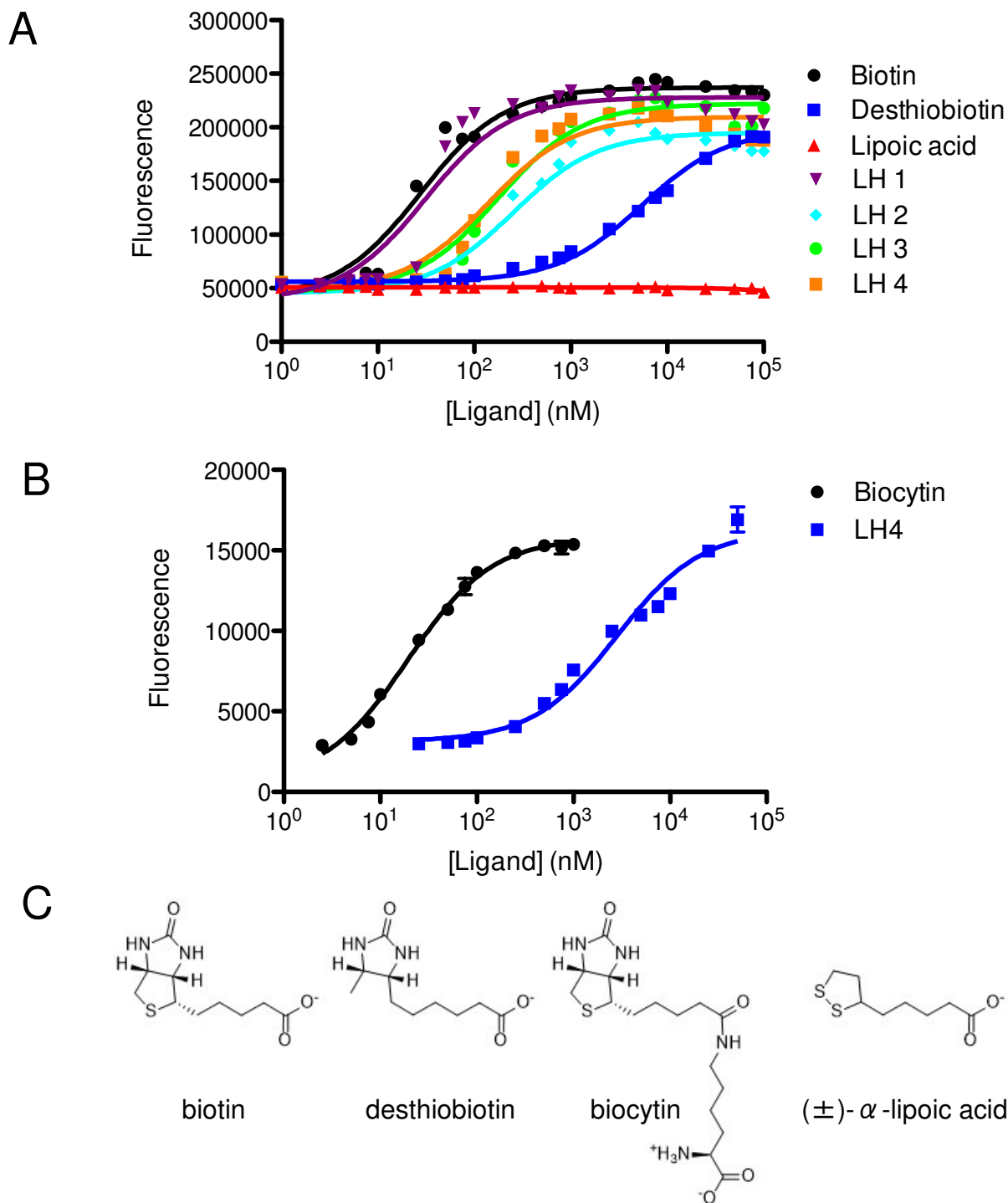
**Figure S2.** Organization of streptavidin tetramer. (A) Numbering of streptavidin subunits, with each subunit in a different color in cartoon format and with biotin shown in spacefill. (B) Organization of biotin in 1,3 trans-divalent streptavidin. Alive subunits at the 1 and 3 positions are in green ribbon format, Dead subunits at the 2 and 4 positions are in blue ribbon format, and biotin is in spacefill. Structures based on PDB 3RY2.



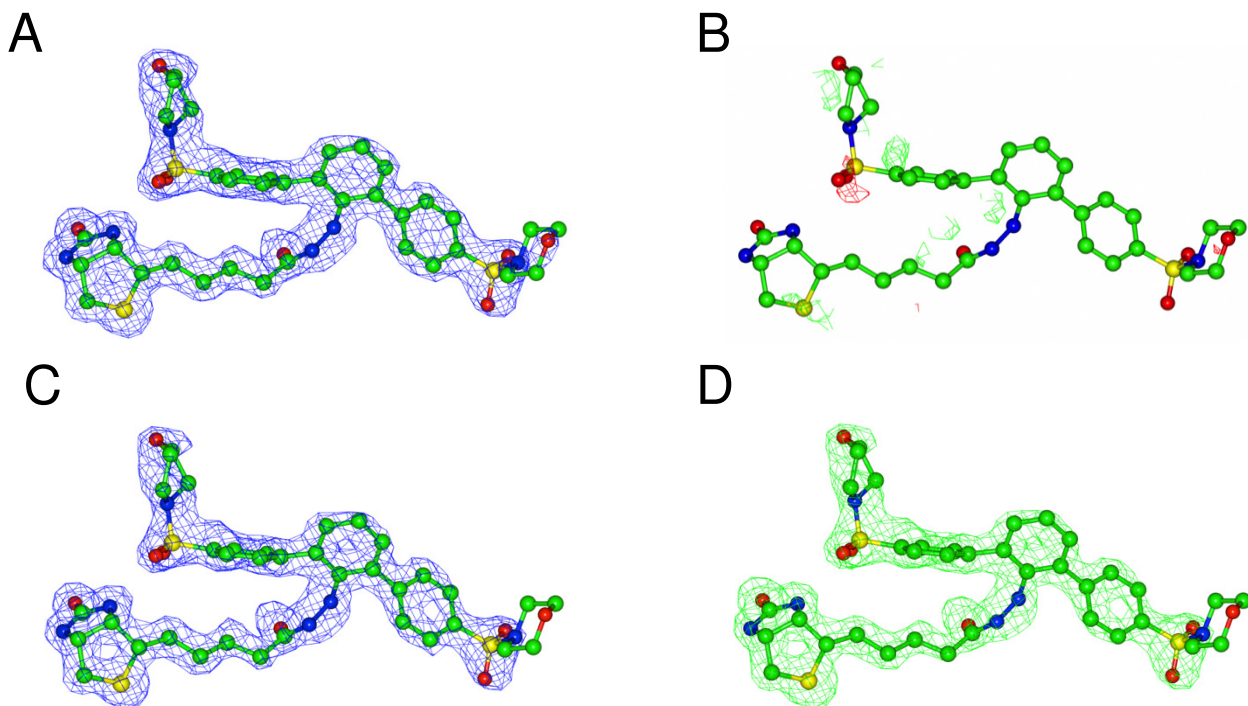
**Figure S3.** Electron density and contacts around the LH3 ligand in streptavidin (Chain B of the crystal structure). **(A)** The 2mFo-DFc map contoured at 1  $\sigma$ . **(B)** The mFo-DFc map with negative (red) and positive (green) density contoured at 3  $\sigma$ . **(C)** The 2mFo-DFc simulated annealing omit map contoured at 1  $\sigma$ . **(D)** The mFo-DFc simulated annealing omit map with negative (red) and positive (green) density contoured at 3  $\sigma$ . **(E)** Putative cation- $\pi$  interaction of Arg84 of streptavidin with LH3, shown as the van der Waals surface.



**Figure S4.** Electron density around the LH4 ligand in trans-divalent streptavidin (Chain C of the crystal structure). (A) The 2mFo-DFc map contoured at 1  $\sigma$ . (B) The mFo-DFc map with negative (red) and positive (green) density contoured at 3  $\sigma$ . (C) The 2mFo-DFc simulated annealing omit map contoured at 1  $\sigma$ . (D) The mFo-DFc simulated annealing omit map with negative (red) and positive (green) density contoured at 3  $\sigma$ .



**Figure S5.** Streptavidin-binding properties of ligands. (A) 10 nM biotin-4-fluorescein was incubated with 50 nM monovalent streptavidin and the indicated concentration of each ligand for 48 h at 37 °C and fluorescence was measured. (B) Titration as for (A) except using A86D monovalent streptavidin, showing mean of triplicate  $\pm$  1 s.d. Some error bars are too small to be visible. (C) Chemical structure of biotin alongside desthiobiotin, biocytin and ( $\pm$ )- $\alpha$ -lipoic acid.



**Figure S6.** Electron density around the LH4 ligand in streptavidin A86D (Chain D of the crystal structure). (A) The 2mFo-DFc map contoured at 1  $\sigma$ . (B) The mFo-DFc map with negative (red) and positive (green) density contoured at 3  $\sigma$ . (C) The 2mFo-DFc simulated annealing omit map contoured at 1  $\sigma$ . (D) The mFo-DFc simulated annealing omit map with negative (red) and positive (green) density contoured at 3  $\sigma$ .

## SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

### Love-Hate ligands for high resolution analysis of strain in ultra-stable protein:small molecule interaction

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# $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of purified compounds

