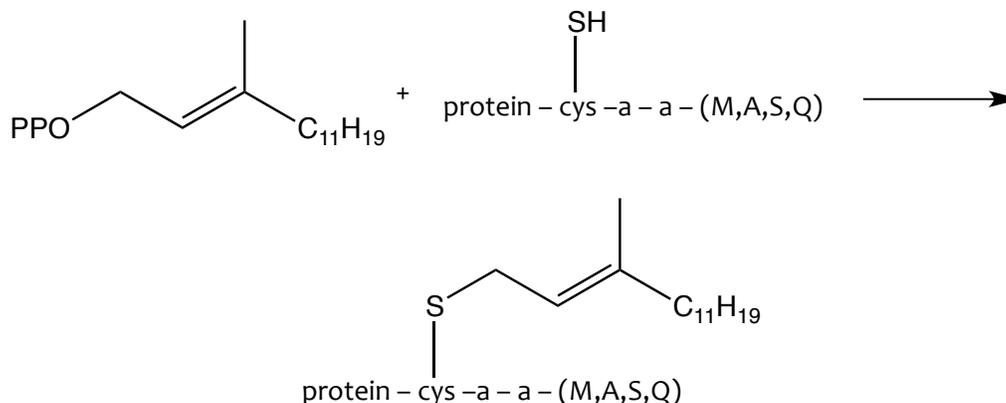


Study Question 3: Chimera Exploration of Protein Farnesyl Transferase

Go to the PDB site and fetch the entry 1JCQ. This is the structure of protein farnesyl transferase which adds a farnesyl group to the cysteine side chain of certain protein sequences. The reaction is shown below. Whether or not a protein is farnesylated is important in the initiation of certain cancers.



Answer the following questions about the structure by exploring with Chimera. Most of the tools you will need will be under the *Select* or *Action* menus; explore the various options and suboptions available. Open the file you downloaded and select *Preset* → *Interactive 1* to get started.

1. What kind of reaction is occurring? What are the possible mechanisms that should be considered?
2. Balance the reaction above, and label any nucleophiles, electrophiles and leaving groups.
3. Describe the general structure of this protein. One subunit, more than one, if more than one, are they identical, are there β sheets and/or α helices?
4. How many farnesyl pyrophosphates are bound to this protein? Give the complete structure of FPP. Identify by name and identifier at least two amino acids that interact with the FPP.
5. This particular structure contains an inhibitor that resembles typical peptide substrates but does not react. The inhibitor in this case is called 739.
 - (a) Draw the structure of this inhibitor.
 - (b) On your drawing from (a), draw in several amino acid side chains that interact with the inhibitor to hold it in the active site. Give their names and identifiers. Show the intermolecular forces accurately.
 - (c) What 3 amino acids appear to be represented in this inhibitor, that is, what are $-a-a-(M,A,S,Q)$ by analogy to the typical peptide sequence given above?
6. There is an ion at the active site.
 - (a) What metal is it?
 - (b) List all the amino acid side chains that are complexed to the ion (name and identifier).
 - (c) What appears to be the geometry of these ligands around the metal? State how you determined this, preferably with supporting data.
7. Examine the location of the nucleophile relative to the electrophile in this reaction.
 - (a) Comment on what you see.
 - (b) Give the distance, in \AA between these two groups.
8. There appears to be a cation-pi interaction adjacent to the active site. Give the names and identifiers of the amino acids involved in this interaction.