

Fig. S1.



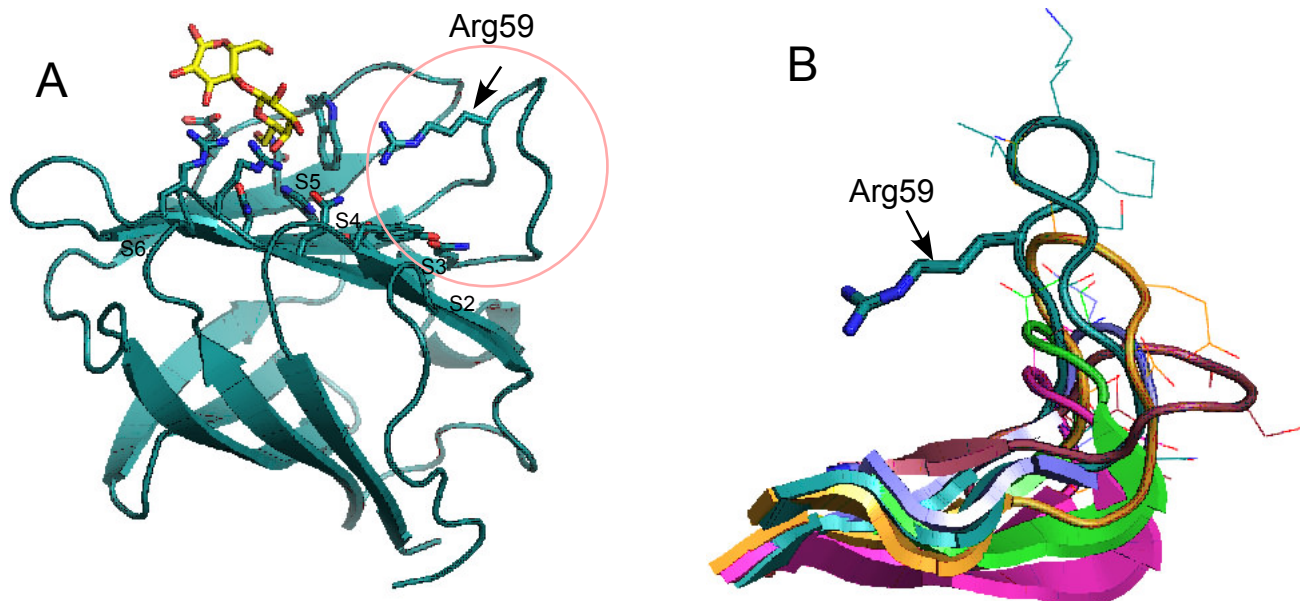


Fig. S2.

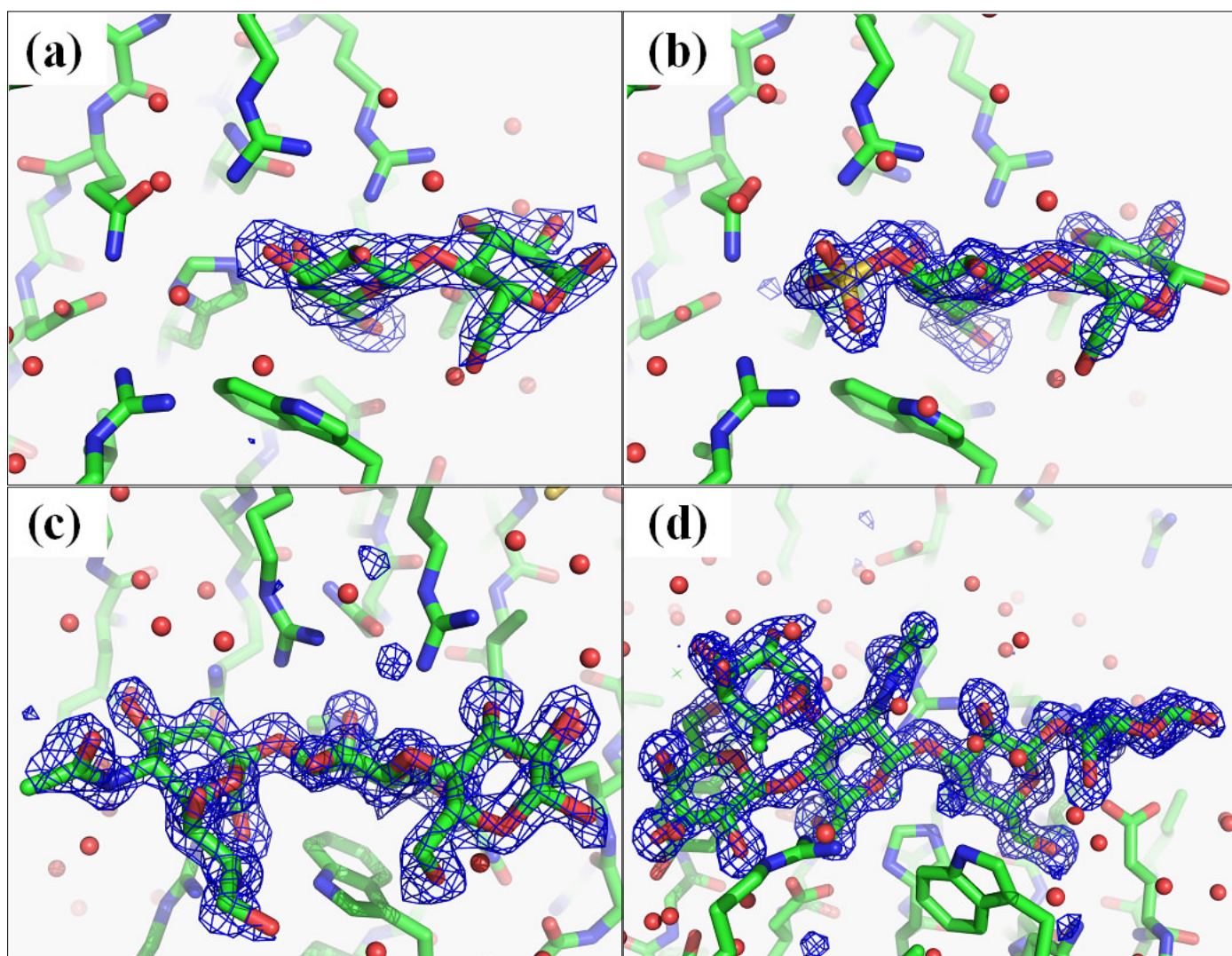


Fig. S3.

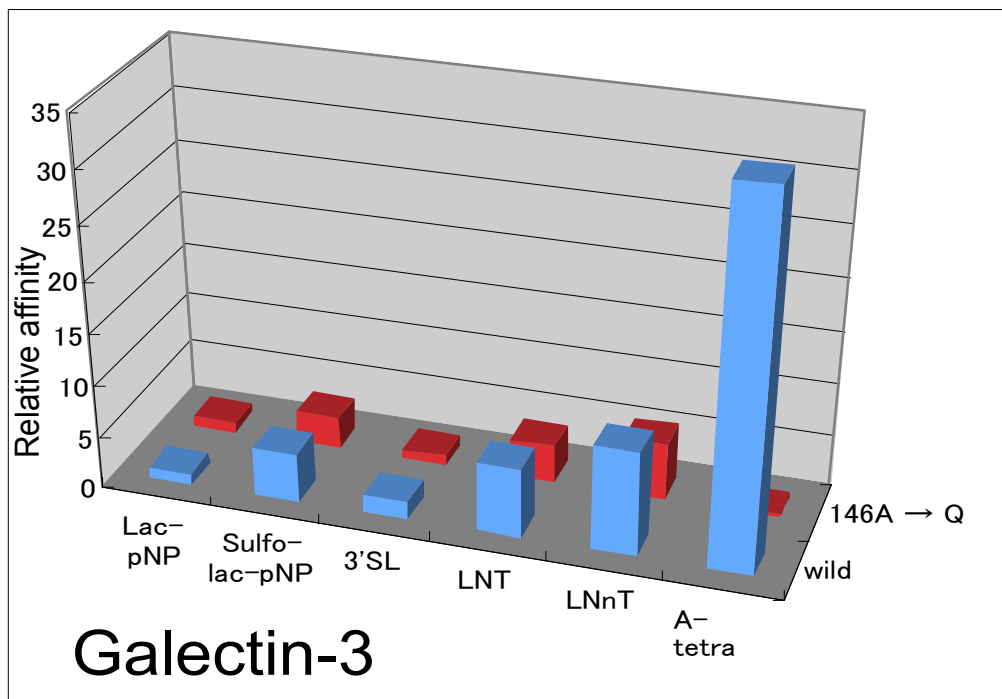
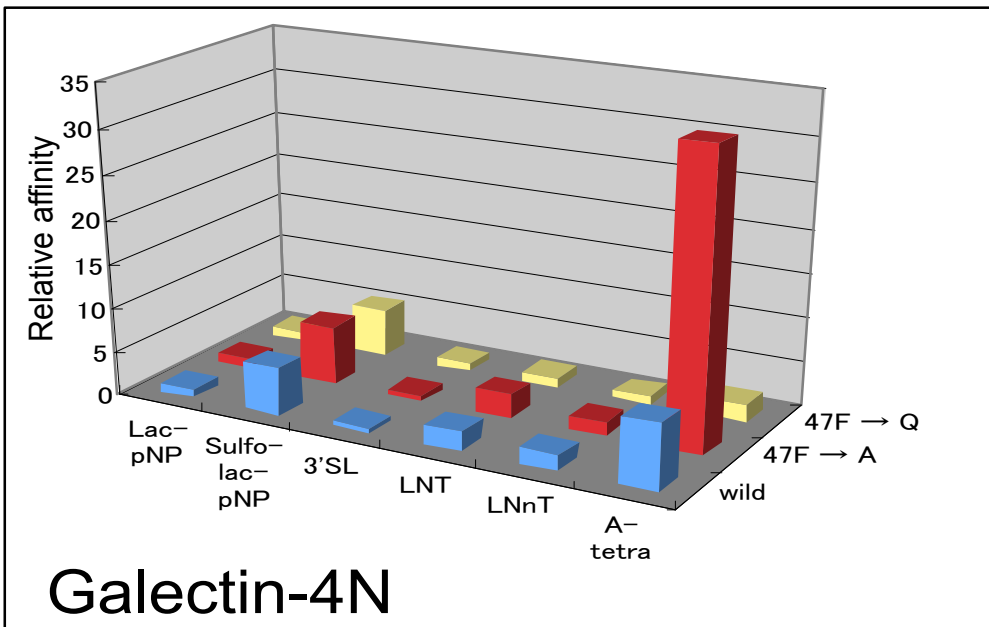
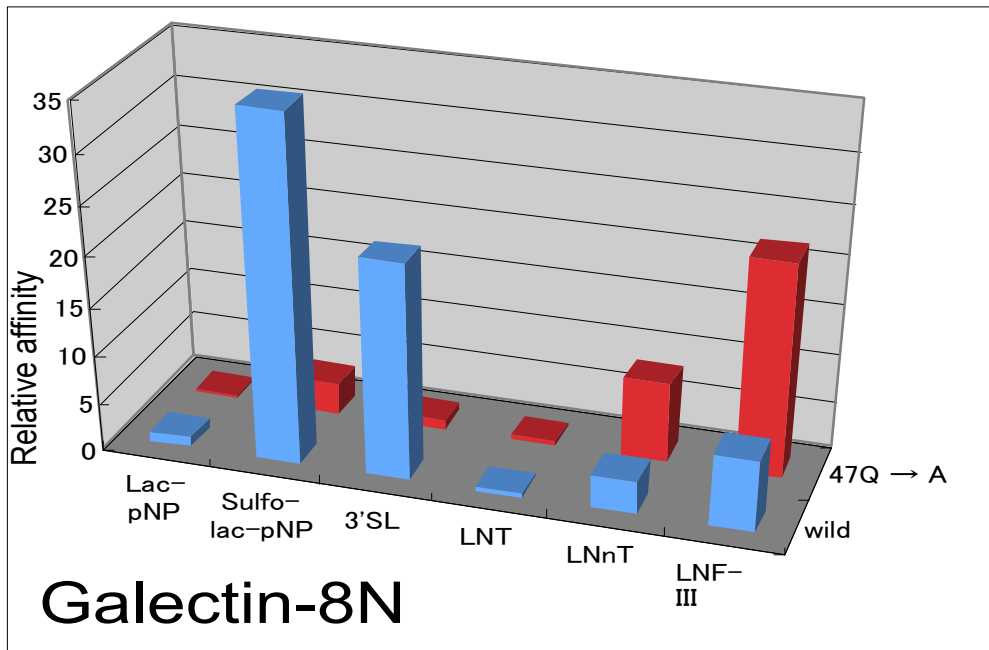


Fig.S4

### Supplemental Figure Legends

**Fig. S1.** The backbone structures are shown in a ribbon model and amino acids involved in carbohydrate recognition are shown in a stick model. Galectin-8N is shown in blue-green and other galectins are shown in different colors (galectin-1: pink, galectin-2: yellow-green, galectin-3: blue, galectin-4: red, galectin-7: ocher). Amino acids that directly interact with lactose are shown in red, and amino acids that interact with lactose via water-mediated hydrogen bonds are shown in blue. (a) Comparison with galectin-1 [PDB-ID: 1GZW, (1), RMSD: 0.32 Å] (b) Comparison with galectin-2 [PDB-ID: 1HLC, (2), RMSD: 0.50 Å]. (c) Comparison with galectin-3 [PDB-ID: 1KJL, (3), RMSD: 0.29 Å] (d) Comparison with galectin-4 [PDB-ID: 1X50 (4), RMSD: 1.50 Å.] (e) Comparison with galectin-7 [PDB-ID: 4GAL, (5), RMSD: 0.42 Å].

**Fig. S2. Comparison of the crystal structures of galectin-1, -2, -3, -4, -7, and -8N** A, overall structure of galectin-8N. The loop region between S3 and S4 is indicated by the pink circle. The bound lactose is shown in yellow in the stick model. B, Comparison of the loop-region crystal structures. Superimposition of the backbone structures of galectin-8N (blue green), galectin-1 (pink), galectin-2 (yellow green), galectin-3 (light blue), galectin-4N (red), and galectin-7 (orange). Arg59 of galectin-8N is shown in the stick model. Amino acids in the loop region are shown in the line model.

**Fig. S3. The omit electron-density maps with the bound (a) lactose, (b) 3'sulfoL, (c) 3'SL and (d) LNF-III.** Contours are shown at  $3.0\sigma$  level. Carbon, oxygen, and nitrogen atoms are shown in *green, red, and blue* respectively.

**Fig. S4. Relative binding abilities of the wild and mutant galectin-8N, galectin-4N, and galectin-3 for various oligosaccharides.** The relative binding abilities of the wild and mutant galectin-8N were calculated by dividing the  $K_D$  value between Lac-O-pNP and galectin-8N by the  $K_D$  values for the oligosaccharides. The relative binding abilities of galectin-4N for oligosaccharides were calculated in the same manner. The relative affinities of galectin-3 were calculated by dividing the concentration (M) of lac-pNP yielding 50% inhibition by the concentration (M) of the oligosaccharides yielding 50% inhibition.

### Supplemental references

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