

chem.soton.ac.uk) is establishing a network of such crystallographic data repositories across an international group of laboratories. Data is being harvested by CCDC and the CDS and the project is working with IUCr, RSC, Chemistry Central and Nature to establish protocols for scaleable harvesting mechanisms across the network. By engaging data centres, librarians, researchers, publishers and information providers we are developing approaches to the preservation and curation of scientific data in open repositories (the UK Digital Curation Centre is a partner). A demonstration and strategies for installation and population of eCrystals repositories at new sites will be outlined, based on experiences of early adopter sites.



Keywords: publishing, database preparation, software for crystallography

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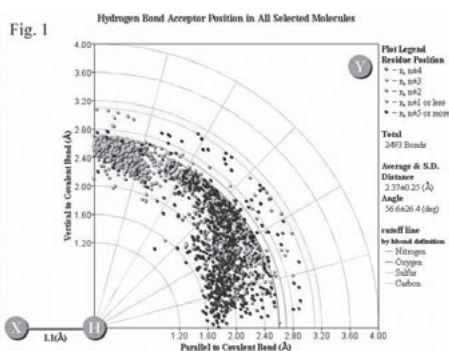
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Development of hydrogen and hydration database for biomolecules (HHDB)

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In protein molecules, key energetic contributors are solvation, desolvation and hydrogen bonding. They contribute protein folding, dynamics and molecular recognition. As a result, more elaborate studies of hydrogen atoms will be great help to recognize protein structures and obtain new findings of them. However, we do not have system which dedicated to characterization and analysis of hydrogen bonding. Therefore, we have developed a database for hydrogen and hydration water molecules. That database named Hydrogen and Hydration Database for Biomolecules (HHDB; <http://hhdb.tokai-sc.jaea.go.jp/>). Hydrogen bond data stored to HHDB use hydrogen atom coordinates determined directly by neutron diffraction and certain extremely high resolution x-ray diffraction. HHDB provides graphical user interface, users can use it through web browser. HHDB can visualize hydrogen atom positions in protein and



solvent, and hydrogen bonding interactions. Figure 1 shows HHDB plot example. In this plot, hydrogen atom is placed at the origin, and each point represents hydrogen bond distance and angle. We are improving the web user interfaces and the performance for usability.

Keywords: neutron diffraction, protein, hydrogen bond

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Protein-protein interactions: Structural features and empirical estimation of free energy of binding

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An analysis of protein-protein complexes has shown that the average interface area (the accessible surface area, ASA, on the two components that gets buried on complex formation) is $\sim 2000 \text{ \AA}^2$ [1] and that the interface can be dissected into core and rim regions with the former being composed of residues that are more conserved than those in the latter [2]. There is an approximate linear relation between the change in the surface area buried (δASA) and the change in free energy of binding ($\delta\delta G$) obtained from alanine scanning mutagenesis. This relationship has now been used to predict the free energy of binding (δG). The experimental δG varies linearly with the interface area (or the number of atoms buried in the complex), but plateaus off beyond $\sim 1600 \text{ \AA}^2$, indicating that the energy gained from burying additional surface area is used for conformational changes associated with larger interfaces. Further, the interface can be dissected into secondary structural segments [3]. The β and NR-classes of interfaces have a relatively lower δG than α - and $\alpha\beta$ -classes.

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Defining a protein: Mining the protein structure database

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Rapid increase of structural information expressed in the explosive growth of the PDB allows for rigorous studies of two links in a central biology paradigm: a sequence-structure and a structure-function relationship. We constructed a database of redundant protein structures by application of sequence-based methods (CD-HIT). Subsequently, we clustered the structures belonging to a single protein sequence by structural methods (BOSV3) and derived a global