Abstract

Summary: The WD40-repeat proteins are a large family of scaffold molecules that assemble complexes in various cellular processes. Obtaining their structures is the key to understanding their interaction details. We present WDSPdb 2.0, a significantly updated resource providing accurately predicted secondary and tertiary structures and featured sites annotations. Based on an optimized pipeline, WDSPdb 2.0 contains about 600 thousand entries, an increase of 10-fold, and integrates more than 37 000 variants from sources of ClinVar, Cosmic, 1000 Genomes, ExAC, IntOGen, cBioPortal and IntAct. In addition, the web site is largely improved for visualization, exploring and data downloading.

Availability and implementation: http://www.wdspdb.com/wdsp/ or http://wu.scbb.pkusz.edu.cn/wdsp/.

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Supplementary information: Supplementary data are available at Bioinformatics online.

1 Introduction

The WD40-repeat proteins are a subfamily of β-propellers, and their sequence and structure relationships and association with diseases have been widely studied (Kopec and Lupas, 2013; Paoli, 2001; Pons et al., 2003; Song et al., 2017). As one of the most popular interactors in protein–protein interaction (PPI) networks, they act as scaffolds to assemble various molecular machineries, and play versatile roles in fundamental biological processes including signal transduction, ubiquitination, cell cycle control, etc. (Stirimann et al., 2010; Xu and Min, 2011). Obtaining their structural information is the key to revealing their interacting details and thus to understanding their biological functions and to obtaining insights to the underlying pathogenic mechanisms, but available experimental structures are heavily lacked regarding their abundance in eukaryotic proteomes.

WDSPdb (Wang et al., 2015) is a database providing accurate structure predictions and featured sites annotations specifically for WD40 domains, based on the WDSP tool (Wang et al., 2013). WD40 domains, as a type of β-propellers, are composed of several repeated β-sheet units with a circular layout. WDSPdb offers the boundaries of β-strands for each repeat unit, and affords thermal-stabilizing hydrogen bond network sites and potential interaction hotspots. These data are deficient in general-purpose domain databases, but are indispensable to understand the functional roles of WD40 proteins. Since its publication, WDSPdb 1.0 has served the scientific community frequently. However, its contents are currently heavily lagged compared to the rapid increase of protein sequences in public databases, and the data coverage is relatively small due to its over-strict criteria of data inclusion. In this work, we have optimized the overall curation pipeline, and then applied it to a more...
We deployed the updated WDSP tool with options of parameter for downloading the secondary structure annotations. In addition, and smoother operation. A REST service has also been implemented tool to NGL viewer (Rose and Hildebrand, 2015) for faster loading download in multiple formats, and has replaced the visualization powerful table plug-in that enables customized data display and cleaner and more organized browsing experiences. It adopts a regarding the record number and annotation information.

APAF1. Taken together, WDSPdb 2.0 is much more comprehensive that are widely considered as WD40 proteins but absent in WDSPdb 1.0 have been included in WDSPdb 2.0, such as LRRK2, PALB2 and new pipeline has adopted looser inclusion criteria. Many proteins added entries are assigned to other confidence categories, since the main belongs to the ‘High’ confidence category, and most newly highly recurrent, PPI-influencing or neutral. WDSPdb 2.0 comprises almost all of the entries in WDSPdb 1.0, and only a few entries are exclusive in WDSPdb 1.0 due to entry merging, removing and renaming in the process of UniProtKB updates (Fig. 1B and Supplementary Material). As expected, the intersection of WDSPdb 2.0 and 1.0 mainly belongs to the ‘High’ confidence category, and most newly added entries are assigned to other confidence categories, since the new pipeline has adopted looser inclusion criteria. Many proteins that are widely considered as WD40 proteins but absent in WDSPdb 1.0 have been included in WDSPdb 2.0, such as LRRK2, PALB2 and APAF1. Taken together, WDSPdb 2.0 is much more comprehensive regarding the record number and annotation information.

We re-implemented the web interface using Django to provide cleaner and more organized browsing experiences. It adopts a powerful table plug-in that enables customized data display and download in multiple formats, and has replaced the visualization tool to NGL viewer (Rose and Hildebrand, 2015) for faster loading and smoother operation. A REST service has also been implemented for downloading the secondary structure annotations. In addition, we deployed the updated WDSP tool with options of parameter tuning (the searching database and the iterative times), which would provide predictions for users’ own sequences.

### 3 Conclusion and discussion

WDSPdb 2.0 has incorporated significant improvements. The version 1.0 is confined to typical WD40 proteins only, but users have frequently requested annotations of atypical ones. This update recorded as many as possible putative WD40 proteins with more accurate structure predictions, and has assigned confidence levels to meet requirements of customized usages. The integration of variant data will enable the direct and intuitive exploring of the relationship between variants and featured sites in the structural context. The web interface is also largely enhanced for better browsing, visualization, and downloading. We will regularly update WDSPdb to continuously benefit the researchers in the fields of repeat proteins, PPIs and genetic variants interpretation.

### Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank all the WDSPdb users for their helpful feedback and suggestions. They also thank the anonymous reviewers for the valuable advice of improving the manuscript and the web server.
**Funding**

This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China [31471243]; and the Shenzhen Basic Research Program [JCYJ20170818085409785 and JCYJ20170412150507046].

**Conflict of Interest**: none declared.

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