Theoretical Calculations to Assist Experimental Crystal Form Screening



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Crystal Structure Prediction: Basics



Why Force Fields Do not Work





Force fields... RMS = 0.497 Å PredictedExperiment





Force fields... RMS = 0.497 Å Predicted
Experiment





Pure DFT... RMS = 0.833 Å





Force fields... RMS = 0.497 Å Predicted
Experiment



- PAW potentials
- Plane-wave basis set
- GGA PW91 / GGA PBE
- 520 eV enery cut-off
- 0.07 Å⁻¹ k-point spacing

- Pair potentials
- Element dependent
- Hybridisation dependent

• - $C_6 \cdot r^6$

"0 K" calculations, no free energies

M. A. Neumann & M.-A. Perrin (2005) *J. Phys. Chem. B* **109**, 15531-15541 G. Kresse & J. Hafner (1993) *Phys. Rev. B* **47**, 558-561

Crystal Structure Generation

Parallel tempering Monte-Carlo algorithm

Tailor-made force field: accurate force field, fitted to artificial DFT-D reference data for each compound

One and two independent molecules in all 230 space groups

M. A. Neumann (2008) J. Chem. Phys. B 112, 9810-9829

Examples: Blind Tests

Crystal Structure Prediction Blind Tests:

Blind Tests in 1999, 2001, 2004, 2007 and 2010

Good compounds for validation

G. M. Day et al. (2009) Acta Cryst. B65, 107-125

Previous Blind Test Compounds



Ranking Results (NOT Full Studies)



A. Asmadi, M. A. Neumann, J. Kendrick, P. Girard, M.-A. Perrin & F. J. J. Leusen (2009) *J. Phys. Chem. B* **113**, 16303-16313

Previous Blind Test Compounds

Conclusion

Dispersion-corrected DFT appears to work well for energy-ranking crystal structures (80% success rate)





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Experimental polymorph screen by Dr Eva Dova (Avantium) Scan of patent literature by Dr Menno Deij (Avantium)

> The 24 forms boil down to eight distinct forms: A, B, C, D, E, F, H1, N

Efavirenz (Z=1-2)



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Efavirenz (Z=1-2)





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Form B is disordered, four orientations of the cyclopropane group are found in the search (ranks 20, 27, 40, 57)

Disorder means that our 0 K energies are not reliable

S. Cuffini, R. E. Howie, E. R. T. Tiekink, J. L. Wardell & S. M. S. V. Wardell (2009) *Acta Cryst.* E65, o3170-o3171



- Form N is *Z*=2
- One axial $-CF_3$, one equatorial $-CF_3$
- Requires fully flexible search with Z=2

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Rietveld refinement with TOPAS for form N (Z=2)



We can solve structures from poor quality laboratory powder patterns, scanned from a patent: low resolution, preferred orientation.

What about Forms A, D & E?



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- A Z=3/Z=6[1]
- B Found, Disordered [2]
- C Found
- D Solvate (from TGA)
- E ?
- F Found [3]
- H1 Found
- N Found

[1] S. Mahapatra, T. S. Thakur, S. Joseph, S. Varughese & G. R. Desiraju (2010) *Cryst. Growth Des.* **10**, 3191-3202
[2] S. Cuffini, R. E. Howie, E. R. T. Tiekink, J. L. Wardell & S. M. S. V. Wardell (2009) *Acta Cryst.* E**65**, o3170-o3171
[3] K. Ravikumar & B. Sridhar (2009) *Mol. Cryst. Liq. Cryst.* **515**, 190-198

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Conclusions

- Real life very complicated:
- -*Z*>2
- Disorder: entropy contribution
- Solvates
- Form E ambiguous
- Crystal structures from very poor quality powder patterns: use crystal-structure prediction

- No more stable form found: it is unlikely that one turns up in the future

Current complexity limit



- Six months on a 64 CPU quad-core Xeon or Opteron cluster
- Quasicomplete screen for Z=1 in 230 space groups
- 50 90 % complete screen for Z=2 in 230 space groups

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