Prediction of Metal Coordination by Data Mining of experimental Crystal Structures (D.W.M. Hofmann)





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Definition of Atom Groups

FlexCryst did work in the past strictly with rigid molecules. They are several reasons to change this:

- Polymers are infinite, if they are not divided in finite moieties
- Small changes in the conformation have large effects in elongated molecules on distant moieties
- The number of reasonable conformations growth exponentially with number of degrees of freedom



The picture shows an elongated molecule from the last blind test on crystal structure prediction at Cambridge. Small errors in the indicated torsion angle fail a correct prediction of the crystal structure.



The picture shows highly flexible molecule from the last blind test on crystal structure prediction at Cambridge. It has seven degrees of freedom, which is presently considered as a maximum for feasible structures. Assuming for any degree of freedom 4 possibilities, one obtains in total 4⁷=16384 conformations.

Li(Cp) serves as test, if the molecule can be divided in moieties and a Data Mining Force Field can be derived, which will correctly describe the .structure

Definition of the Atom Types

The atom types are assigned in systematic way and in case of multiple choice the more strong rule has priority. The rules are in the following order:

> If the atom belongs to a special molecule, it get its own type (presently this concerns water, H2O and OH2)

If the atom is frequent (C, H, D, N, O, S, F, and Cl) and is bonded only to one other frequent atom, it get his own chemical symbol followed by the symbol for the second atom (e.g. NC for cyanid or ON for nitro compounds)

If the atom is frequent, it get his own chemical symbol followed by the number of bonded atoms to it (e.g. C4 for sp3-carbon atoms or Cl0 for chlorid ions)

In all other cases the atom type is identical to the chemical symbol

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Effective Central Force Field

Commonly the force fields divide the interactions in intra- and intermolecular interactions. The intermolecular interactions are described by spherical functions, e.g. Lennard-Jones, Buckingham, etc., and the intramolecular interactions are described by energy functions for the bond distance, the bond angle, the torsion angles, etc. This breakdown of the problem is not furthermore feasible for organometallic and inorganic crystals. Simple rules for bond angles and torsion angles are non-existent for the coordination around metals.

Therefore we used the approach of effective spherical energy functions, known as central force field. The main features of central force field:

The central force model was introduced for water (J. Chem. Phys. (1975) 62, 1677)

The potentials reproduce experimental data rather than to provide a physical interpretation

The molecular interactions do not broken down in inter- and intra-molecular interactions.
The energy function might have several minima.

The interaction between two molecules I an J is divided in atom pair energies g(i,j,r):

 $G_{IJ} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_I} \sum_{i=1}^{N_J} g(type_i, type_j, r_{ij})$

Any force field can be transformed to a central force field by an series expansion, e.g by the inverse Taylor series:

$$g_{mnr} = \sum_{1=1}^{\infty} a_{mn} / (r^k)^i$$

Radial Distribution Function (RDF) and Energy

In the central force field the energy of a molecule can be easily visualized. The energy is the scalar product between the occurring distances and the energies of the relevant atom pair function. The sum of all occurring atom pair distances is commonly named pair correlation function in molecules and radial distribution function in liquids.



In this picture the energy calculation is demonstrated for crystal of BOXGAW. The energy is given as

$$G_{IJ} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_I} \sum_{j=1}^{N_J} g(type_i, type_j, r_{ij}) = \vec{g} \cdot \vec{f} + \vec{g} \cdot \vec{f} + \vec{g} \cdot \vec{f}$$

Flowchart of the Force Field Derivation

In the past we observed three main problems for FlexCryst in the crystal structure prediction:

- The energy is not accurate enough. It is to simple, if it does not differentiate between atom types.
- ➤ The restriction to rigid molecules does not allow the prediction of large molecules. Even small changes in bond angles or torsion angles have a big effect on distant atom groups.
- ➤ The optimization procedure of the potentials depends strongly on the initial potential.



Anomaly Detection

A first step in data mining is always the cleaning of the data base by anomaly detection. For this purpose we plot all occurring atom distances and look for unusual distances. The structures with unusual distances are eliminated from the future process.



In this figure we performed an analysis of the structure with FlexCryst. We plotted the frequency of the contacts for all Ni-compounds. While the peaks around 2 A for the radial distribution function of Ni reflect the nickel bonds to carbon and nitrogen, the RDF's of hydrogen-hydrogen and hydrogen—oxygen shows unusual contacts at short distances. We received for four structures a warning:

CSD:	HIXJEF	HC	HC contact with a gap, d=1.82
CSD:	QOXCIP	HC	HC contact with a gap, d=1.78
CSD:	SUYBOE	HC	OC contact with a gap, d=1.85
CSD:	YEHMAZ	HC	HC contact with a gap, d=1.81



The structure SUYBOE with an unusual hydrogen-oxygen contact

Force Field by Singular Value Decomposition

Any experimental crystal structure is a local minimum. This means that the gradient referring to the elongation or rotation of any molecule or atom must be zero. This gives us a large number of equations. If in addition the model is linearized by dividing the atom pair potentials of interest in piecewise linear sections, we obtain an overdetermined linear equations system. For this kind of systems an optimal solution can be obtained by singular value decomposition.



The picture shows the radial distribution function and the obtained potentials by singular value decomposition. While the solution is the optimum from the mathematical point of view, it gives unreasonable solutions for rare atom distances and needs further improvement.

Refinement of the Force Field by Classification

The parameters **a** of an arbitrary (energy) function can be determined by supervised learning. Aim of the minimization problem is to optimize the separation between the two classes and to keep the error for the outliers as small as possible. For any experimental structure the function should assign a negative energy and difference between for any experimental and virtual structure a positive energy.

> experimental $G_{km}^{virtual} - G_{k}^{experimental}$ $G = \sum g_{mn}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{\vec{a}}) * frequency_{mnr}$

For the solution of the problem can be used for instance a support vector machine.

D.W.M. Hofmann Data Mining in in Organic Crystallography Structure and Bonding 134, Springer Verlag (2010)



(descriptor 1)

One powerful tool of data mining is the classification. By classification correct and incorrect crystal structures are separated. We can assume that experiment is always right and theory has always some (small) error. Aim of the classification is to divide by classification the structures in the two classes, experimental structures and predicted structures.

Atom Pair Potential Functions

The obtained atom pair functions include the inter- and the intra-molecular interaction, including the metal bonds.



As result the optimization gives the force field

HC HC 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 -8615.24 0.00000 0.00000 59906.6 0.00000 -48.7769 0.00000 2077.90 HC HN 0.00000 -18.7752 0.00000 0.00000 850.977 0.00000 0.00000 -7924.71 0.00000 27008.6 0.00000 0.00000 -13959.1 HC HO 0.00000 0.00000 -28.2835 0.00000 0.00000 1304.60 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 63901.5 HC C2 0.00000 0.00000 51.1560 0.00000 0.00000 -1608.55 0.00000 0.00000 1434.66 0.00000 0.00000 255009. HC C3 0.00000 0.00000 -29.9645 0.00000 0.00000 2160.24 0.00000 0.00000 -18434.0 0.00000 0.00000 130629. 3885.00 HC C4 0.00000 0.00000 -49.91900.00000 0.00000 0.00000 0.00000 -68015.40.00000 0.00000 403546.

1428 structures have been used to derive the potential. 48831 decoys have been generated for the training. 105 potentials with 388 have been derived. The mean error for any decoy 0.12 % of the total energy. 6.5% of the structures are outliers. The largest outlier contributes to 1.3 % to the total error.

One of the structures studied in detail is the structure QEPSEK. It is a nickel-complex coordinated with a pyridine and tridental chelate ligand.

Validation by Minimizing

The most simple way for the validation of a force field is the minimization of experimental structures with it. The structure should change only a few since the force field should have a local minimum for any experimental structure. We check the change in the density, in the energy, and in the overlay of the structure.

Reference code	BIWYUD	QEPSEK	KONBOE	NIBSEV
Estimated density	0.986	1.52	1.41	1.03
Experimental density	0.944	1.58	1.42	1.06
Minimized density	0.992	1.58	1.44	1.24
Error in the density	-4.94	-0.03%	-1.44%	-15.1%
Experimental energy	-251.91	-934.08	-1692.4	-489.39
Minimized energy	-270.97	-954.31	-1702.8	-505.13
Error in the energy	2.54%	1.95 %	0.53%	3.03%



The relative error is defined slightly different as usual. In this way the absolute value is invariant against the exchange of a and b (necessary for clustering).

$$\eta = \frac{a-b}{\sqrt{(a^2+b^2)/2}}$$

For the minimization the space group symmetry is lowered from Pnma to P21/a to avoid molecules on specific positions, For the visualization the Li has been replaced by He, since Mercury do not allow for polymers in the module "crystal packing similarity".

Prediction of the Coordination

In all predictions we find the experimental structure between the first one hundred proposed structures. In simple cases as Li(Cp) the correct structure is ranked the first, in more complex structures this is presently not the case.



The picture shows the superposition of the experimental and the predicted coordination of the Li-atom for the crystal NIBSEW. All predicted structures have this coordination.



For the chelate-pyridin-nickel complex QEPSEK of nickel we find the experimental coordination on rank 6.

Another example is the structure BIWYUD. The tert-Butyllithium is stabilized by three coordination bonds. We find the experimental staggered configuration (rank 117) as well as the eclipsed conformation (rank 15).

Prediction of the Crystal Structure



four times on rank 18, 19, 20, and 22. This becomes obvious by a clustering of the simulated powder diagrams.

D.W.M.Hofmann and L.N.Kuleshova, New similarity index for crystal structure determination from X-ray powder diagrams J. Appl. Cryst. (2005) 38, 861.



Thanks for your Attention





Aragonite in the cave of Is Zuddas (Sardegna, Italy)

Calcite in the cave of Su Mannau (Sardegna, Italy)