

X-ray crystallography of biological macromolecules

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Crystals

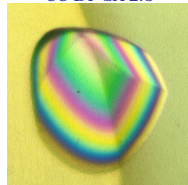
They are beautiful, aren't they?



Pyrite, by CarlesMillan - CC BY-SA 3.0

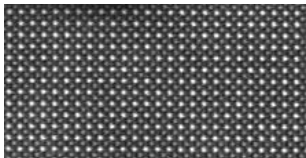


Quartz, by JJ Harrison
CC BY-SA 2.5

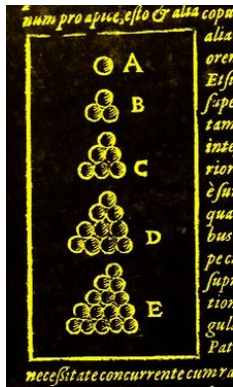
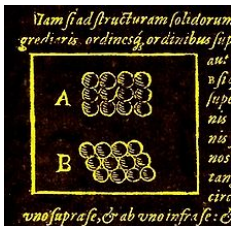


Cfr10I protein, by S.G.

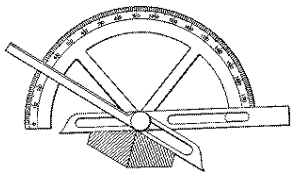
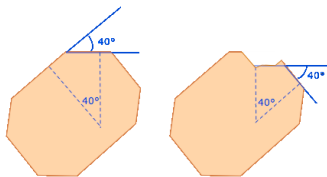
Explanation of the crystal form



Johannes Kepler,
year 1611 "Strena
Seu de Nive
Sexangula" (A New
Year's Gift of
Hexagonal Snow)



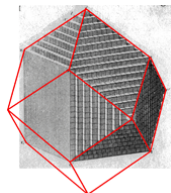
The law of constant angles



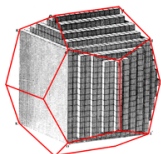
Nicolas Steno, year 1669 “De solido intra solidum naturaliter contento”

Images taken from
<http://www.chem1.com/acad/webtext/states/crystals-ext.html>

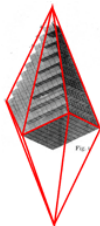
The inner structure of crystals



Rhomb-dodecahedron



Pentagon-dodecahedron



Scalenoedron



René Just Haüy *Traité de minéralogie*
(5 vols, 1801)

Images taken from
<http://xrayweb.chem.ou.edu/notes/symmetry.html>

What would we like to know?



What would we like to know?



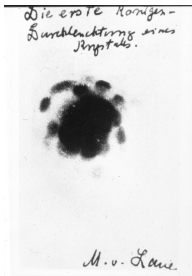
Material properties

- A given chemical compound always contains its component elements in fixed ratio (by mass) and does not depend on its source and method of preparation (*Proust's law*)
- Chemical compounds are not a random cluster of atoms and functional groups, but rather had a definite order defined by the valency of the atoms composing the molecule (*Butlerov's law*)

X-rays



Wilhelm Conrad
Röntgen The first
Nobel prize in
physics, 1901

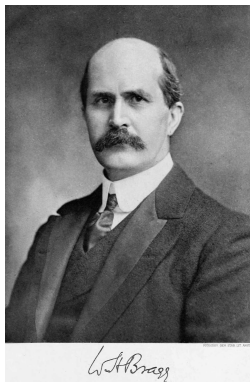


Max von Laue,
Nobel prize, 1914

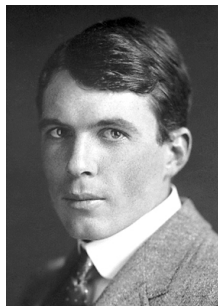


Explanation of X-ray diffraction

William and Lawrence Bragg, father and son



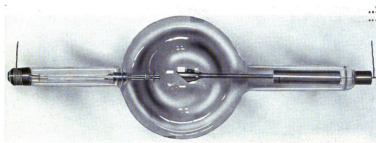
Sir William
Henry Bragg OM
KBE PRS



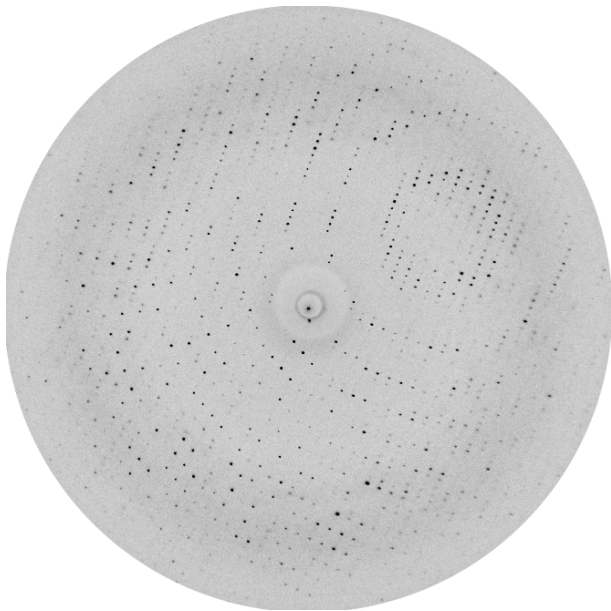
Sir William
Lawrence Bragg,
CH, OBE, MC, FRS

Nobel prize in physics, 1915.

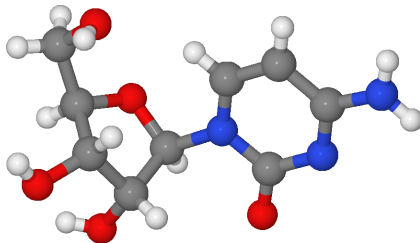
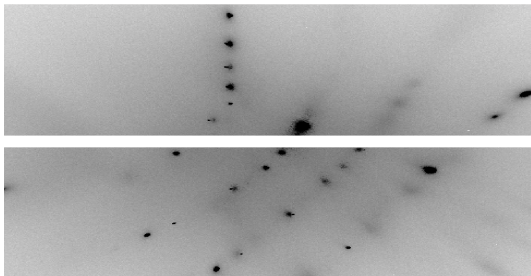
X-ray tubes and diffractometers



X-ray diffraction



Molecular structure determination



Difficulties obtaining data

Proprietary licenses – a constant headache in the XXI century...

- CCDC Access Structures Terms and Conditions: “These services must not be used to systematically download or redistribute these structures, data or associated information. Programmatic access to these services is not permitted.”
(<https://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/access-structures-terms/> last accessed 2018-02-09)
- “In the specific case of the article in question, /.../ a small molecule 3-D structure predictor and Web server (COSMOS) /.../ [t]he CCDC vigorously intervened to prevent distribution of such a tool. The statement in the CCDC’s letter that “express permission was immediately granted” is simply false. A dozen librarians and other staff from the University of California (UC) had to intervene under the threat of losing a system-wide license to the CSD.” [Baldi, 2011]

The COD project

But what if crystallographers work together to establish a public domain database with all relevant crystallographic data? This would not only overcome the current situation with 'fragmented' databases, it would also prevent for becoming dependent from monopolists.

What would be needed?

1. A small team of engaged scientists with some experience in database and software design to coordinate the project.
2. The authors (i.e. the scientific community = YOU) who provides the project with database entries (note, that if you have'nt sold your experimental results exclusively, you are free to distribute the data to such a database, even if they have already been part of a publication - and a lot of good data have never been published).
3. Free software a) for maintaining the database, b) for data evaluation and calculation of derived data (e.g. calculated powder pattern from crystal structures for search-match purposes), c) for browsing and retrieval.

gemstonede (Dr. Michael BERNDT) Fri Feb 14, 2003 1:26 pm

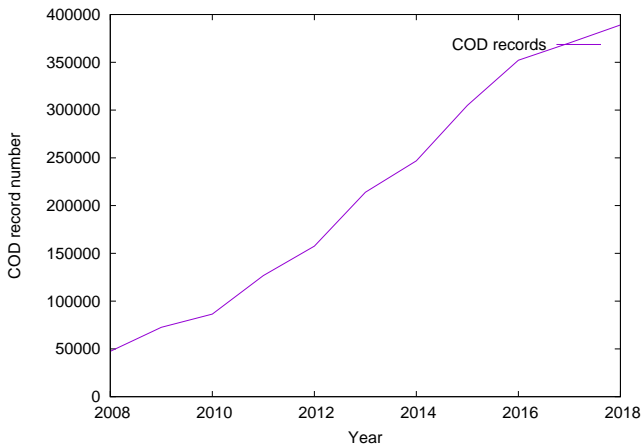
The COD

The Crystallography Open Database

<http://www.crystallography.net/cod>

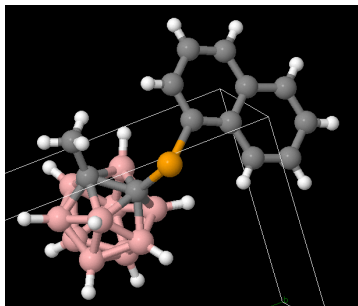
The screenshot shows the homepage of the Crystallography Open Database (COD) in a Mozilla Firefox browser. The browser's address bar displays the URL www.crystallography.net/cod/. The page features a navigation menu on the left with sections: COD Home (Home, What's new?), Accessing COD Data (Browse, Search, Search by structural formula), Add Your Data (Deposit your data, Manage depositions, Manage/release prepublications), and Documentation (COD Wiki, Obtaining COD, Querying COD, Citing COD, COD Mirrors, Advice to donators, Useful links). The main content area includes the COD logo (three spheres: cyan, green, pink) and the title "Crystallography Open Database". Below the logo, it states: "Open-access collection of crystal structures of organic, inorganic, metal-organic compounds and minerals, excluding biopolymers. Including data and software from CrystalEye, developed by Nick Day at the department of Chemistry, the University of Cambridge under supervision of Peter Murray-Rust." It also notes: "All data on this site have been placed in the public domain by the contributors. Currently there are 390417 entries in the COD. Latest deposited structure: 1548806 on 2018-01-26 at 14:12:42 UTC." A "CIFs Donators" section is visible at the bottom, featuring logos for various institutions including the University of Cambridge and IUCr. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows several open windows and the system clock indicating the date 2018-01-26 at 16:24.

COD growth

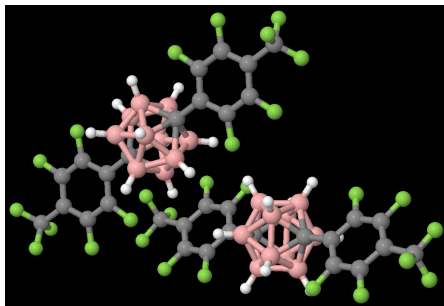


Carboranes

6-valent carbon?



COD 7015488



COD 7015654



Crystallography Open Database

COD Home

Home
What's new?

Accessing COD Data

Browse
Search
Search by structural
formula

Add Your Data

Deposit your data
Manage depositions
Manage/release
prepublications

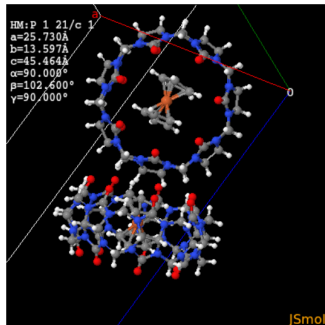
Documentation

COD Wiki
Obtaining COD
Querying COD
Citing COD
COD Mirrors
Advices to donators
Useful links

Information card for entry 4111922

[4111921](#) << [4111922](#) >> [4111923](#)

Preview



COD 4111922

Applications of the COD

Material identification

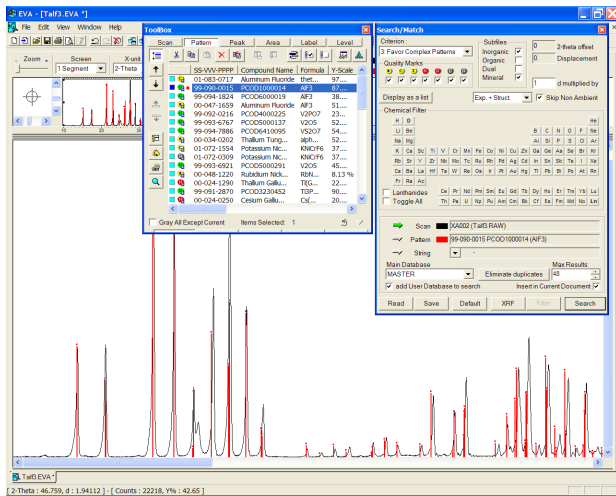


Image courtesy
Armel Le Bail
[Le Bail, 2008]

Acknowledgements

VU Institute of Biotechnology

Virginijus Siksnys
(*head of the dept.*)

Andrius Merkys
Antanas Vaitkus

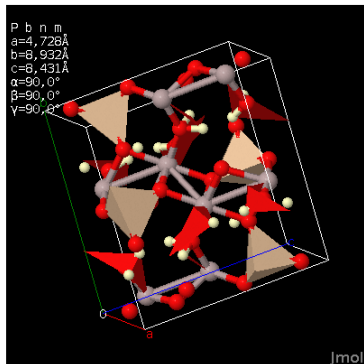
COD Taryba (Advisory board)

Daniel Chateigner
Robert T. Downs
Werner Kaminsky
Armel Le Bail
Luca Lutterotti
Peter Moeck
Peter Murray-Rust
Miguel Quirós

Ačiū! Thank you!



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topaz>



Coordinates

[2207377.cif](http://www.crystallography.net/2207377.cif)

Original IUCr paper

[HTML](http://www.crystallography.net/2207377.html)

<http://www.crystallography.net/2207377.html>

References I



Baldi, P. (2011).

Data-driven high-throughput prediction of the 3-D structure of small molecules: review and progress. A response to the letter by the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre.

Journal of chemical information and modeling, 51:3029.



Le Bail, A. (2008).

Frontiers between crystal-structure prediction and determination by powder diffractometry.

Powder Diffraction Suppl., pages S5–S12.