Carlo simulated annealing [3, 4]. The prediction has been performed for nitrobenzenes with a following second substituent: hydroxyl, amino, nitro or methyl group or chlor, brom, iod atom. The calculations have been carried out for a standard choice of space groups. The *Polymorph Predictor*, module of *Cerius*^{2} program was used [5].

The predicted structures are compared with our experimental results or with crystal structures retrieved from CSD [6]. The polymorph structures are analysed in terms of molecular interactions that influence nucleation, crystallisation and stability of polymorphs.

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Keywords: crystal structure prediction, nitrobenzene derivatives, polymorphs

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Structural Modeling of Sterol Carrier Protein-2 from Plants
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Sterol carrier protein-2 (SCP-2) is a small, cytoplasmic protein that was originally described as a cholesterol transfer protein. Later it has been shown that SCP-2 binds a variety of lipids but its actual biological function remains unclear. SCP-2-like proteins have been found in various organisms from vertebrates to bacteria, and recently also in plants. In order to characterize SCP-2 from the plants *Arabidopsis thaliana* (AtSCP-2) and *Euphorbia lagascae* (ElSCP-2) we have built structural models of the two proteins in apo and ligand-bound conformation [1] based on the known crystal structures of rabbit SCP-2 [2], the SCP-2 like domain of human D-bifunctional enzyme [3] and the yellow fever mosquito SCP-2 [4]. Although the sequence identity between AtSCP-2 and ElSCP-2 is high (67.5%), they preferably bind different lipids. We have examined the ligand-binding cavities of the AtSCP-2 and ElSCP-2 structural models in apo and ligand-bound conformations in order to find out structural properties, which would explain the differences in ligand binding.

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Keywords: protein modelling, protein-lipid complexes, protein structure comparison

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Powder Diffraction and Crystal Structure Prediction: A Two-Way Relationship?
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The most common complementary use of theoretical and experimental methods is structural rationalization from crystal structure prediction and X-ray powder diffraction techniques[1]. This aids both the rationalization of crystal structures generated in a prediction, and the characterization of solids from powder data that precludes indexing or structure solution.

Powder data from the prediction is often compared visually or purely on a fingerprinting basis with the experimental, and there are only a few cases of organic materials in which the predicted structures have been used as a starting point for Rietveld refinement[1,2]. One possible reason for this is that even though the variation in lattice parameters between the experimental and calculated structures is relatively small, the difference in the respective patterns often makes automated quantitative comparison difficult and attempts at refinement unsuccessful. As prediction calculations search for the energetically optimal packing at 0 K, use of low temperature powder data would enable a more meaningful comparison of the two profiles.

We will present our results from the study of several organic materials at low temperatures and their subsequent comparison to the predicted structures using a number of quantitative guides.

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Keywords: structure prediction, powder diffraction, low-temperature structures

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Can a Computational Search Predict Complications in Single Crystal Growth?
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To study the variation in possible crystal packing of structures with respect to the relative positions of functional groups, five dichloronitrobenzenes have been studied both experimentally and computationally. A manual polymorph screen has been carried out for each compound using a variety of solvent methods and sublimation to grow crystals.

The experimental search found considerable difficulty in growing crystals suitable for single crystal X-ray diffraction with many exhibiting multiple domains and plate-like morphologies. Redeterminations have been carried out at low temperature but have not shown a marked improvement on the published refinements.

The computational searches found the known structures as the global minimum in a few cases. For each compound, though, there were many hypothetical structures within a small energy range of that minimum with many of these being variants on the experimentally observed sheet structures.

The predicted low energy structures illustrate variations in the sheet packing which could be indicative of, for example, slippage between the layers or disorder in the stacking. A possible link between this phenomenon and the problems associated with crystal growth and structure determination will be discussed.

Figure 1. Two variations on the stacking of sheets related by slippage along c.
Keywords: prediction, crystal growth, organic compounds

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Binding Pocket Shape Analysis for Protein Function Prediction
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We present a novel method for the comparison of protein binding pockets and ligands. An increasing number of protein structures are being determined for which no biochemical characterisation is available. The analysis of protein structure and function assignment is becoming an unexpected challenge and major bottleneck towards the goal of well-annotated genomes. As shape plays a crucial role in biomolecular recognition and function, shape techniques are likely to be of prime importance for understanding protein structure-function relationships.

A highly efficient shape comparison technique based on a real spherical harmonics expansion is presented for protein function prediction from structure. Our approach identifies the active site by a geometrical surface analysis method combined with an evolutionary trace technique. The binding pocket is then placed into a standard frame of reference using a heuristic that employs the first three moments of the spatial extent of the shape to find the orientation. The method uses the coefficients of a real spherical harmonics expansion to describe the shape of a protein's binding pocket. Shape similarity is computed as the Euclidean distance in coefficient space and is