
Subject: Generate 2D atom coordinates gives overlapping atoms

Posted by [mcmc](#) on Tue, 31 Jan 2023 11:01:26 GMT

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I have some bridged piperazines that get redrawn in a way that atoms are overlapping with the attached heterocycle upon generating 2D atom coords (which I do to superimpose the compounds in a set).

Hard to explain in words, but picture attached.

If these overlapping atoms could be avoided, that would be much appreciated.

File Attachments

1) [bridged ring funky.jpg](#), downloaded 953 times

Subject: Re: Generate 2D atom coordinates gives overlapping atoms

Posted by [nbehrnd](#) on Thu, 02 Feb 2023 19:37:30 GMT

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Hello mcmc,

your question does not describe how the piperazines on the left are generated in first place. Is it a SMILES string, a .sdf file you import? Do you draw them with DW's sketcher? Opting for the latter, starting to draw the molecule from the right, the furopyrazole, to which I added piperazine, and lastly, the bridge to piperazine, I did not observe the overlap you describe.

Regards,

Norwid

DW for Linux/MacOS version 5.5 with updates published by 2023-01-18 in Linux Debian 12/bookworm.

File Attachments

1) [piperazine.png](#), downloaded 355 times

2) [piperazine.dwar](#), downloaded 1775 times

Subject: Re: Generate 2D atom coordinates gives overlapping atoms

Posted by [mcmc](#) on Fri, 03 Feb 2023 09:51:31 GMT

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Ah, no I didn't. They were either uploaded as SDF (V3000), or as SDF coming out of Chemdraw drawings.

I should also add, I modified the right-hand side from a different fused bicycle, for the purpose of this post. I did not want to disclose the actual molecules we are working on.

Also, the bridged piperazine is treated as substituent in generating the coords. The core (bicycle) is the constant part

I am surprised that this matters, as this module generates new 2D coords. But your observation is interesting, and I'll see if I can tune things a little. Maybe the size/depth of the bridge decides whether the 6- or 5-membered ring gets prioritised.

At any rate, it's a pity that overlapping atoms are generated in the first place, but maybe that's anyway not due to Datawarrior code.

Subject: Re: Generate 2D atom coordinates gives overlapping atoms

Posted by [nbehrnd](#) on Fri, 03 Feb 2023 21:32:10 GMT

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Dear mcmc,

I speculate an underlying contribution to the issue is the discrepancy between identifying a good orientation for a 3D object in space for a 2D projection, on one hand, and retaining a consistent pattern of single / double / triple bond lengths, on the other. A substituted bridged piperazines may be an example where a chemist might consider to draw one single bond longer, than others to move and rearrange a (sub) motif on the paper/black board further away from the centre of the molecule to keep all well intelligible. On the other hand, a computer algorithm (like the one in DW, but equally in Marvin) may yield overlaps. The approach starting from 2D and a sketcher like ChemDraw/ChemDoodle is different as all work is in 2D only.

Because you mentioned the structure import into DW used .sdf, it was possible to identify COD 1513802 of the Crystallographic Open Database as an entry where DW faces a similar problem to the one reported by you. But it isn't unique to DW; the same structure eventually imported into Marvin equally has no orientation without a (partial) overlap of the atoms.

With regards,

Norwid

File Attachments

1) [1513802_DW.png](#), downloaded 901 times

2) [2023-02-03_DW_2D_overlap.zip](#), downloaded 459 times

Subject: Re: Generate 2D atom coordinates gives overlapping atoms

Posted by [mcmc](#) on Fri, 10 Feb 2023 15:43:03 GMT

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Thinking about this a little more, maybe it would be useful if there were a module that could reorient compounds, without completely redrawing them. I merely want to rotate and translate. Ah well, thanks for thinking along!

Subject: Re: Generate 2D atom coordinates gives overlapping atoms

Posted by [nbehrnd](#) on Fri, 10 Feb 2023 22:00:35 GMT

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Dear mcmc,

I do not recall if one can toggle on/off the stereochemical descriptors in DW's sketchers. If absent temporarily, the representation of the example from COD would be even lighter / less stuffed, than now (compared to the result by MarvinJS).

On the other hand, departing from a 3D structure imported by read of a .sdf, picking the best perspective to flatten the representation into 2D possibly stays a difficult task (option a, the example with MarvinJS). On the other hand, I speculate shredding the 3D information about coordinates to obtain a reduced representation as a string (e.g., SMILES, or DW's idnode) as an intermediate which subsequently is used to sketch the molecular structure from scratch may yield less overlaps (option b). Based on the comparison of the results, possibly DW takes this second route b.

For the COD compound, DW assigns

CN(C)S(NC(c(cc1)cc2c1c(C1CCCCC1)c(-c(cc1)c([C@@H]3C4)cc1OC)[n]2C[C@]34C(N1[C@@H]2C[NH](C)C[C@H]1CC2)=O)=O)(=O)=O.[O].[Cl] as SMILES string. Depending if CIP labels are enabled, or not; and groups are abbreviated, or not (e.g. cyclohexyl as Cy), the implemented algorithm by CDK Depict yields

Obviously, the structure formula includes an overlap, though the absence of the wedges is indicative enough to recognize that this. Bond lengths are not uniform. The project's choice for «smart chiral Hydrogens» arguably keeps the inner of the cyclopropane moiety and bridged piperazine less crowded.

With regards,

Norwid

Web site: <https://www.simolecule.com/cdkdepict/depict.html>

source code: <https://github.com/cdk/depict>

File Attachments

1) [color_no_CIP_smart_chiral_H_abbreviated_groups.png](#),
downloaded 338 times

2) [color_CIP_smart_chiral_H_no_abbreviation.png](#), downloaded
757 times
