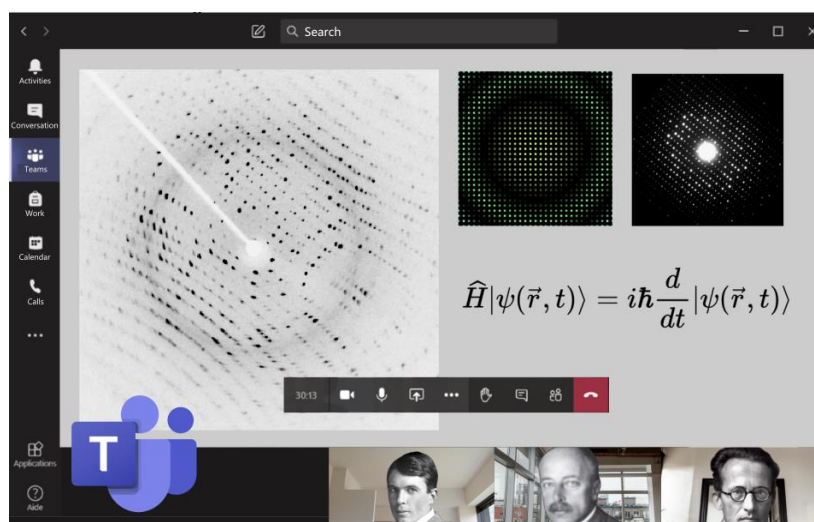




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Substitution of S by Se. Supramolecular Insight.

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The study includes the crystallographic analysis of interactions of S and Se from Cys, Met, Sec and Mse side chains, based on crystal structures from the Cambridge Structural Database (CSD), and quantum-chemical insight in the strength of their individual interactions.

CSD statistical analyses have shown a similar tendency of sulfur and selenium atoms towards the specified types of interactions. The most numerous are C–H...Se (for Se fragments) and C–H...S (for S fragments) interactions (~80%), while the second group in numerosity are structures with Se...Se and S...S interactions (~5%). The results of quantum-chemical calculations have revealed that C–H...S and C–H...Se interactions (about –0.8 kcal/mol) are weaker than the most stable parallel Se/Se interaction (about –3.3 kcal/mol) and electrostatic Se/Se interaction of σ/π type (around –2.6 kcal/mol). The numerosity of C–H...S and C–H...Se interactions was explained by an abundance of CH groups compared to the numbers of Se and S atoms in the analyzed crystal structures. The substituents bonded to Se or S atom sterically reduce the possibilities of Se and S atoms to interact with species from the environment. The numerosity of crystal structures explains the lower values of O–H...Se (around –4.4 kcal/mol) and N–H...Se interactions (around –2.2 kcal/mol).

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