

Supplementary Information

1. Molecular geometry

Table S1. XPac comparison of the *molecular* geometries present in forms **I-V** of sulfathiazole at 150 K (see Table 1). An average deviation δ_{mol} (in °) in corresponding internal coordinates (angles) is generated from 16 non-hydrogen positions. The very low deviations occurring in the group of **III-V** (underlined entries), indicate a high degree of similarity.

Form ↓	→ Mol. → ↓	I 1	I 2	II 1	II 2	III 1	III 2	IV	V
I	1		2.0	5.0	3.6	4.6	4.0	4.4	4.2
I	2			5.9	3.9	4.4	3.9	4.1	4.0
II	1				2.9	3.9	3.6	3.7	3.7
II	2					2.2	1.9	2.0	1.9
III	1						<u>0.9</u>	<u>0.5</u>	<u>0.6</u>
III	2							<u>0.5</u>	<u>0.4</u>
IV									<u>0.3</u>
V									

2. Crystal packing

Table S2. The XPac dissimilarity index Δ (°) was computed according to Eq. 4 of ref. 5 on the basis of 16 non-hydrogen positions as corresponding points. Table entries are coloured according to which SC (Fig. 6) they refer to, **dimer** (Fig. 5), **monolayer** (Fig. 1a), **bilayer A** (Fig. 1b) or **bilayer B** (Fig. 1d). Note that the $Z' = 2$ form **II** has two independent dimers, while the $Z' = 2$ polymorph **III** has just one. The monolayer and bilayer SCs of **III-V** exhibit a very high degree of similarity ($\Delta < 1^\circ$) with corresponding low δ_{mol} values between 0.3° and 0.6° (Table S1). Δ results from packing differences in addition to any conformational differences (δ_{mol}).

Using an analogous procedure, the *internal* dissimilarity index $\Delta_{\text{int}} = 1.3^\circ$ was computed for **III** as a measure of the imperfectness of the non-crystallographic symmetry elements present in the monolayer SC (see Figs. 1a, f). The corresponding δ_{mol} value in Table S1 is 0.9° .

Form ↓	→ Mol. ↓	III	IV	V
II	1	4.3	4.5	4.1
II	2	2.6	2.5	2.3
III			<u>0.8</u>	<u>0.8</u>
IV				<u>0.6</u>